

# Battle of Prairie Grove 2024 - Update #2

## *Union Army - West of the River*



A correction on the original U.S. Command staff. We forgot to include our Chief of Engineers Major Scott House. It was a mistake and he is a part of our command staff. Our apologies on missing you Maj. House!

### 1. U.S. Federal Command Staff

- Brigadier General James Crofutt – Overall U.S. Commander
- Col. Devin Wielar – Chief of Staff
- Lt. Col. Don Waymack – Artillery Coordinator & Aid De Camp
- Lt. Col. Mike Shafto – Generals horse & Chief of couriers.
- Major Edward Cuneo – Provost Marshal
- 6. Joe Schlageck – Chief of Medical
- Col. Tom Wing – Overall Federal U.S. Artillery
- Cody Faber – Overall Cavalry Coordinator (both U.S. & C.S.)
- Major Scott House – Chief of Engineers



### **Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park**

162<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Reenactment  
December 7-8, 2024

**Participant Rules and Expectations**



- **This is from the Park**

1. The goal of this event is to create a realistic presentation of actions which took place during the Battle of Prairie Grove on December 7, 1862. By so doing, it is our belief that the general public will enjoy an experience that is both educational and entertaining. In that spirit, nothing should be done that would sully the memory of the men and women who fought and endured the Civil War. Each unit and individual reenactor is expected to present him or herself, through conduct and appearance, in such a manner as to bring credit to their unit, the event as a whole, and most importantly, to the memory of those whose lives and deeds we so earnestly endeavor to portray.
2. All participants are required to register.
3. All vehicles must be removed from the camps by 9 a.m. Saturday. They will not be allowed to return until 3:30 p.m. Sunday.
4. Reenactor vehicles must be parked in designated reenactor parking areas.
5. All campfires must be above ground. The digging of fire pits is not permitted.
6. Please return unused firewood to the wood pile.
7. Please place all trash in trash receptacles.
8. Participants must be at least 14 years old to carry a long arm or pistol; 16 years old to load and fire a long arm; 18 years old to load and fire a pistol. Artillerymen in positions 1 through 4 must be at least 17 years old.
9. Please keep modern equipment out of sight.
10. All participants must affiliate with a unit. This means they will be under the control of, camp with, be inspected with, and fall in with that unit.
11. Weapons safety inspection will take place each day prior to the battle.

Good evening, gentlemen!

We are just shy of two weeks out, but there's still a need to get critical information disseminated out to you. Feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any questions or concerns. I will do my best to help.

I want to thank Tom for a productive call today. I think we made some great strides towards ensuring the safety of our volunteers, staff and park guests. I've attached our park directive and have highlighted the artillery section below. Our SPSO's in black powder – Randall Watts and John Morrow – are going to be your greatest resource and will work closely with you and your designees at the event. They will be present for the artillery inspections and responsive to any issues that arise. They will also be present while the infantry commanders inspect their troops.

We will be distributing 3# of BP on Saturday and 2# of BP on Sunday for each of the registered batteries participating each day. These will be in 1# cans. For planning purposes, it would be helpful to have an estimate of guns planning to attend for US and CS. Mattison reports there are 19 + our 2 state park guns, but Tom only knows of 9 of them. Will someone please confirm?

I'm putting together additional communication to ensure everyone is on the same page regarding the scenarios, registration, etc. This may be a series of group emails or perhaps a zoom call at the beginning of next week if we can coordinate a time. **Either way, we will have our customary 9 pm meeting at the Latta Barn on Friday night.** Please invite anyone you think needs to attend as we will be discussing scenario plans, safety and expectations. If you would like me to include any additional staff in these group emails, please send me their contact information.

Thank you all for your time and efforts, but more importantly for your dedication. It is appreciated. Again, feel free to reach out to me directly anytime.

#### V. RULES FOR ARTILLERY

- A. Artillery - Only Full-scale reproductions of period and theater appropriate artillery pieces are permitted. Scale reproductions may be accepted for demonstrations on a case by case basis and only by invitation of event organizers.
- B. Inspections - Satisfactory evaluation at an artillery inspection conducted by a State Parks Safety Officer is mandatory for participation. It is the responsibility of the respective crews to ensure that they submit to inspection in a timely manner.
- C. Gun Standards - All iron or steel cannon barrels must be manufactured or retrofitted with an inner liner or sleeve. The liner must be smooth and free of pits. Carriage construction shall be authentic in detail (if authenticity is questioned, Mordecai specifications will be controlling). All implements and accoutrements shall be properly constructed to maintain an authentic appearance.

All artillery pieces must have an Artillery Inspection Checklist completed prior to participating in events (see appendix III).

Each muzzle-loading gun will require the following tools and equipment:

1. Sponge bucket
2. Sponge-wool shearling or other natural fiber with a thick nap in good condition with intact seams
3. Rammers-the back end shall be tapered to the diameter of the rammer staff to prevent loss of hand in case of accidental misfiring
4. Priming wire-pick made of brass or bronze
5. Worm-double-edged and fitting the bore properly
6. Thumbstall-or leather glove for thumbing vent
7. Priming Pouch
8. Gunner's Pouch-or haversack
9. Heavy Leather Gauntlets-or gloves
10. Ammunition Chest
11. Vent Brush
12. Gimlet
13. Lanyard-five feet minimum
14. Hearing protection

Artillery firing will only take place during the scheduled times on an appropriate blank firing range (see appendix VI).

- D. Ammunition - Blank rounds for artillery should be constructed of heavy duty aluminum foil, no plastic baggies, and powder charges shall not exceed 3 oz. of Cannon Grade black powder per inch of bore. One randomly selected round will be submitted to a SPSO for inspection.
- E. Crew Standards - A gun crew shall consist of at least three trained people consistent with the time period being portrayed and the type of piece. And at least this number will be present during the firing of the piece. As stated under the General Rules above, all men in positions #1 through #4 and Gunner shall be at least 17 years old. No pistols shall be carried by positions #1 through #8.
- F. Safety Standards - The maximum rate of fire shall not exceed one round per three-minute interval. Under no circumstances will artillery fire more than one round per three minutes. The Gunner of each piece is responsible for keeping time. Individual gun commanders may invoke a longer waiting period than the 3-minute rule, regardless of orders, if they feel that it would compromise safety to fire at a faster rate.
  1. All artillery pieces will cease firing when their troops advance forward of the muzzle of that piece. Likewise, artillery crews will cease firing when opposing troops advance to within 50 yards of their piece.
  2. The loading and servicing of the piece will be performed in accordance with the artillery practices of the period **MODIFIED FOR SAFETY**. The gun commander shall regulate the correctness and rate by which the crew serves the piece. The bore shall be wormed and thoroughly wet sponged after each round. The vent shall be stopped with a proper thumbstall or glove from the time any implement enters the bore until the rammer is removed from the bore after the charge is rammed. **NO DOUBLE TAPPING OF CHARGES IS PERMITTED!** Charges should be rammed with one firm stroke.
  3. In the event of a Level I misfire the Misfire Procedures for Artillery will be performed after notifying an SPSO and the appropriate time limit has elapsed. Level II misfires must be supervised by an SPSO after the event has ended. This will be covered during safety inspections (see appendix II).

**APPENDIX III**

**MUZZLE-LOADING ARTILLERY INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bore in inches: \_\_\_\_\_

Weapon: \_\_\_\_\_  
S/N or Gun# \_\_\_\_\_

**The Tube:**

- The tube is clean and free of rust and corrosion
- No sign of external damage or strain (dents, cracks, etc.)
- Inside of bore is relatively smooth
- No internal signs of damage (bulges, pits, lodgments, scale, etc.)
- On iron guns with liners/sleeves, the liner/sleeve is secure
- The vent is clear and of acceptable size (not exceeding .280")
- No signs of stress around trunnions
- No signs of weakness at the chaplets on bronze tubes

**The Carriage:**

- Wheels are tight and free of rot or insect infestation
- Body of carriage is free of rot or insect infestation
- No parts are missing, cracked, bent, or damaged
- Wheels move freely
- Elevating mechanism works smoothly and properly
- None of the ironwork is loose
- Tube rotates freely on its trunnions
- Trunnion caps fit snugly and are properly keyed
- Lids of limber chest and/or side boxes fit securely
- Wood is generally free of serious checking or splintering
- Wheel hub does not gouge the end of the axle tree
- Linchpin is not digging into wheel hub

**Equipment:**

- All necessary equipment is present
- Sponge is in good condition and fitted to bore
- Rammer head is secure and free of cracks
- Prongs of the worm are sharp and not bent
- Small items in good condition (thumb stall, tube pouch, etc.)
- Leather gauntlets in good condition
- Limber box and haversack is clean and free of spilled powder
- The gun book is up to date

THIS WEAPON: Passed \_\_\_\_\_ Failed \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Effective until superseded \_\_\_\_\_ -11- PD 3230

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**Free Dinner for Reenactors**

**Mattison Griffin**

Sun, Nov 24, 3:34 PM (5 days ago)

to Devin, me, gordomondo@yahoo.com, Ralph, trishhasenmueller@gmail.com, Susan

Good afternoon. I wanted to reach out and let you all know that on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, there will be a free dinner provided to all the reenactors. We have been able to get in touch with someone from Prairie Grove (Steve Bartholomew) and his crew to cook beans and potatoes for the reenactors on Friday night. The food will be served in the Latta Barn starting at 6 pm. Please send this information down the chain to the units and other reenactors you know are coming to the event. Thank you.

**MATTISON GRIFFIN**

Park Interpreter

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*PDF Attachment added to this email on Historic Weapons inspections. - Please see Attached PDF file!*

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