

## **Living History Committee**

The Living History Committee is composed of Corporation Members and Associate Members who portray specialty civilian and/or military impressions. Individuals within the Committee may choose to portray a given period life-style/occupational impression, or an actual personality of the Civil War era. The Committee has had from time to time individuals who portray a civilian school teacher, mortician, politician, a military surgeon or staff, and medical aides. Notable people from the Civil War era have also been and are currently being portrayed. It is important to note that should some well known person be chosen to be portrayed, that the person be accurately portrayed. The person's life history should be studied to allow an accurate and correct portrayal. Also it should be noted that portraying a notable individual may limit one to reenactments where that person actually was. An example would be, should a person portray General U.S. Grant, it would not be appropriate for him to have been associated with the Army of the Potomac in the eastern theater until 1864. Any time before 1864 General Grant would have been in the western theater.

Requirements in terms of clothing, uniform, equipment and accessories are specific to each impression and, therefore, cannot be listed here. Individuals choosing to portray a specialty civilian or military living history impression are requested to thoroughly research the specific life-style/occupation or personality so as to ensure an accurate portrayal.

Individuals interested in portraying a specialty living history impression should contact the New Member's Chairperson to determine who the current Chairperson is for the Living History Committee.

New members should make an effort to study the mannerisms and customs of the Victorian age as well as study information on the life and times of ordinary people of the time. See Chapter 8 Resource Directory for references. First person impressions (portraying or acting the part of a soldier or civilian from 1861 to 1865) are difficult to do, but can be a rewarding and challenging aspect of the hobby. There is nothing that ruins an impression more at a re-enactment for fellow reenactors and the public than for modern anachronisms (coolers, modern cigarettes, beer cans, modern eye glasses, automobiles in camps, etc) to be visible and apparent. New reenactors are encouraged to be discreet with modern anachronisms and to try to conduct a first person impression.