

MUSKET FIRING SAFETY PROCEDURES

To fire a color guard musket, an individual must be a member of the Louisville-Thruston Chapter and a member of the color guard. He must also have completed the following:

- Have a copy, read, and understand the musket firing commands and firing procedures, as well as the manual of arms contained in the Operations Manual.
- Complete the training course conducted by LTC Bill Manby or other qualified teacher, including a live demo firing of the musket.
- Follow all safety precautions by staying mentally focused at all times.
- Finally, he must sign the chapter release waiver accepting responsibility for any carelessness.

If the waiver is not signed by the individual, he shall not fire a musket. There are to be no exceptions! No one shall have the authority to waive the need for the signed release form. Black gunpowder is a Type A explosive, which demands serious handling and the full respect and attention of the user.

A maximum of 150 grains of black gunpowder charge shall be used per musket firing. If possible, either Bill Manby and/or Terry Brown should be present at any musket firing program as extra eyes to insure safe operation, since the commander is frequently busy with the many other arrangements required to be made.

All muskets used for firing must have hammer stall and flash guard installed or they shall not be used. No exception!

Never join a group of re-enactors that do not use hammer stalls and flash guards. There is a great danger of the "man to the right" receiving a face full of hot powder burns.

Never point the musket toward an individual or group, especially while loading the musket.

Do not accept a loaded musket from another unless you observed the loading of it.

Never place your trigger finger on the trigger until you are ready to fire.

NEVER remove the hammer stall from the frizzen until you are ready to fire!

It is recommended the muskets not be fired with bayonets in place or mounted, because it interferes with the ramming of the ramrod, as well as the fact that black gunpowder residue will pit the bayonets in time.

It is recommended the musket not be fired with gloves on, because they can interfere with feel and control.

Chapter muskets shall not be loaned to others because of the loss of control as to who might try to fire them.

These safety procedures are primary for safe operation, as well as limiting liability.

This policy is necessary to safeguard all from the results of a careless act.

Henry Head,
Chapter President