

# ***Civil War in Northwest Arkansas Discovery Box and Guidebook Index***

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## **Civil War in Northwest Arkansas** **Artifact Guide**

### **1 and 2. Soldiers' caps (1 Union, 1 Confederate):**

Caps, belt buckles, and badges were among the items with markings which distinguished the allegiance of soldiers. As the war progressed, ragged soldiers often removed shoes, pants, jackets, and other items from the dead of both sides on battlefields. This meant that such markings became increasingly important if a soldier was not to be mistakenly shot by his own troops in the heat of battle.



### **3-5. Civil War Clothing (Shirt, pants, and shoes):**

Civil War soldiers of both sides usually had one pair of pants and one shirt which had to do them through winter and summer, marching and battle. Civil War uniforms came in many different colors, so Federal troops were not always in blue or Confederates in gray. Many Southern soldiers had homemade clothes which often had a butternut color from the ground nut shell used to dye them. Union soldiers were usually better outfitted than the Confederate men, especially as the war progressed.



### **6-9. Eating Accoutrements (Tin plates, tin cup, spoon, collapsible cup):**

Many soldiers started out with a full set of eating accoutrements, including a tin plate, tin cup, and steel knife, spoon, and fork. However, many soon discarded all but the spoon and cup to lighten their loads as they marched. Soldiers became adept at improvising both with ingredients and the manner in which they were prepared. Bayonets, for instance, saw more action as spits on which to cook bacon and other meats than as weapons in battle.



**10. Canteen:** This tin canteen is typical of those used by soldiers of both sides during the Civil War. Without a canteen, soldiers had to rely on springs, creeks, wells, and other water sources they might happen upon, thus putting themselves at great risk for water-transmitted disease.



**11. Corn meal:** Edible food supplies were a huge problem for soldiers on both sides during the Civil War. Cornbread was the staple in the diet of the Southern soldier, who received a daily issue of corn meal, the quality of which became so poor as the war progressed as to be virtually inedible. Other common provisions on both sides included fresh or pickled meat and hardtack, usually made most unappetizing by the presence of worms and decay. Most soldiers found that their best chance for a good meal lay in foraging from the countryside where they marched and camped. By doing so, however, soldiers subjected local families, including women, children and the elderly, to great deprivations.



**12. Rolled tobacco:** Many soldiers from both sides smoked. There were no preformed cigarettes, or cigars, so they carried raw tobacco, and usually smoked it in a pipe.



**13. Coffee beans:** It was generally agreed that a soldier could go without food as long as he had coffee. Coffee beans were issued to the soldier, who had to roast and grind them himself. Grinding was usually accomplished by using the butt of his gun or a rock. When coffee supplies ran low for the blockaded South, soldiers and civilians alike had to turn to substitutes made from peanuts, potatoes, peas, and corn.



**14. Buckeyes:** Carried for good luck.



**15. Hard tack:** A flour and water biscuit often became infested with maggots and weevils after storage.



**16-18. Armaments (Bullets, minie balls, and cannonball fragment):** One of the factors which made the Civil War so costly in the number of lives lost were some key developments in armaments at the war's beginning.

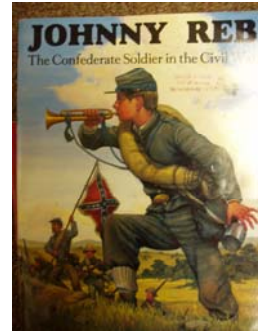
Old-fashioned muskets which were carried by many men, particularly on the Confederate side, fired the round buck and ball bullet. Accuracy and distance were greatly increased, however, with the invention of a new bullet by a Frenchman named Minie. This ball is shaped like a small torpedo with grooves that cause it to spin when fired, increasing velocity and distance. However, unlike the buck and ball, which generally lodges or passes through the body, the minie ball flattens out as it strikes, causing severe damage as it travels, often shattering bone, and a large wound where it exits. The Minie ball and the weapons that fired it may be blamed for most amputations during the war, many of which resulted in lethal infections due to unsanitary conditions in military hospitals. The cannonball fragment has with it two pieces of shot. The shot would spread out and make for a more lethal weapon. **\*Please note: Do not remove from cases. They are made of lead, so if they are removed for some reason, persons touching them should wash their hands as soon as possible.**



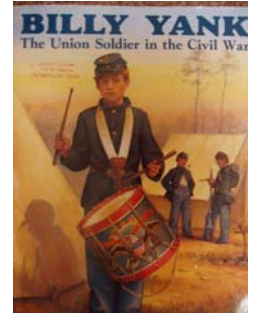
**19. Tintype:** The Union soldier on the left was Charles Edwin Fessenden, who enlisted in Wisconsin. At the war's end he was 17, and later became a doctor. He died in New England in the 1890s. His daughter eventually moved to Northwest Arkansas. Note the painted backdrop behind the soldiers.



**20. *Johnny Reb: The Confederate Soldier in the Civil War* by Alan Archambault** This book includes not only information about the Confederate Soldier and his life during the Civil War, but pages that can be copied and colored by your students.



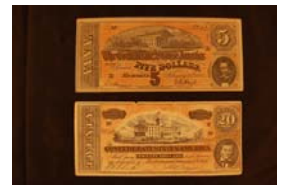
**21. *Billy Yank: The Union Soldier in the Civil War* by Alan Archambault** This book includes not only information about the Union Soldier and his life during the Civil War, but pages that can be copied and colored by your students.



**22. *If you Lived at the Time of the Civil War* by Kay Moore** This book offers a view of daily life for people who lived during the Civil War.



**23. Replica Confederate Banknotes (2)** When the Civil War began, each State had its own banking system, and each bank made its own currency. When the Confederate States of America seceded from the Union they started printing their own banknotes and minting their own coinage. As the Civil War progressed the value of Confederate currency dropped steeply and was practically worthless by the end.



**24. Replica Union Banknote** The Union banknote was called a 'greenback' because the back was green! Eventually, the 'greenback' became the prototype of the official U.S. banknotes we use today.

