

Children's Guidelines

Time frame is Jun-July 1864, Elmira, NY

Elmira is a typical New York State community of roughly 8000. Just a mere 4 miles north of the Pennsylvania border, it is one of the larger towns in Chemung County, although not yet incorporated as a city. Its inhabitants range from lumber tycoons to the rough & tumble canal & woolen mill workers, in addition to the residents of the County maintained Poor House. Your children can be dressed to the nines or as grubby as you would like, so long as your family impression is consistent.

If you have any questions please contact the civilian coordinators.

*****CAUTION*****

The event will be held on adjacent to the Chemung River. The river current can be swift and deceptively strong. The river banks can be quite slippery. The area is frequented by large populations of Canada geese that are quite a magnetic draw & children have been known to chase them to the water's edge. Please keep your children under observation at all times.

The following is applicable to boys and girls of all ages.

Fabrics:

Several dry goods merchants peddled a wide range of ready-made or tailored clothing and fabrics, so cotton, wool, linen or any combination weave of those three are acceptable. Silk is appropriate for children of higher social standing.

Shoes:

Rapidly growing feet are an economic nightmare. All we ask is that you do your best to present a period appearance. Dark colored paddock boots, low side elastic/front lacing boots or an oxford are acceptable styles.

Undergarments

Everyone should wear drawers of some kind. No, we are not going to check, but remember achieving period shape and silhouette is difficult without them.

Eyewear

Another economic nightmare for parents. A little preplanning when choosing modern eyewear can go a long way to helping your child present a reasonable appearance. Sunglasses are discouraged unless medically necessary.

GIRLS under 18

Undergarments: petticoats, chemises & upper body support garments. Corded petticoats or small hoops for "lift"

Dresses: Back closing, closed with buttons or hook/eye. No zippers. Styles can follow adult women's.

Necklines: High jewel or open boatneck/bateau necklines, as well as anything in between are acceptable.

Hemlines: Drop with age.

< 13 mid-calf

13-15 lower calf to mid shin

15-18 hand span of the ankle bone

> 18 adult women's length & front opening

Headgear: Slat bonnets, corded bonnets, fashion bonnets, quilted bonnets or hats

BOYS

Boys that have not been toilet trained are to be dressed in frocks or smocks and petticoats. These same frocks and smocks may be worn over trousers for toilet trained boys.

Trousers & Shirts: Follow adult men's styling

Coats: Sack coats similar in pattern to adult men

Headgear: Caps or hats