Clean your rifle after battle. Leave a used cap on the cone, with the hammer down. This will prevent water from dribbling out onto your lockplate and stock. Rinse the barrel with warm water until it drains clean. You can used the ramrod to churn the crusty bits loose. Use the bore scraper to fully clean the bottom of the bore. Hang or rest the rifle, barrel down, for about 10 minutes. Slide a dry cleaning patch through the ramrod. I recommend you do not wrap the patch around the ramrod tip. The ramrod tends to get stuck if you do.

Swab the bore with clean dry patches until the bore is dry. Run a final slightly greased or oiled patch down the barrel. Use grease and oil sparingly. Powder will mix with the oil to form a sludge that causes misfires.
To properly maintain your rifle, you’ll need a basic tool kit.

Multiple sizes of flat blade screwdrivers. Always use the proper driver for a given screw

Fine file

Cone (Nipple) wrench

Drill bit or welding tip cleaner that will fit the hole in the cone. Depending on where you buy the cone, the hole may be a different size.

Bore Scraper – Your ramrod most likely has metric threads. Order your tools appropriately.

Worm- Order the proper thread to mate with your ramrod.

Bore brush

Spare cone.

000 Steel wool

Grease

Bore cleaning patches. I prefer round shotgun patches
After a wet event, rust comes quickly
Stripping the rifle

Begin by setting the hammer to half cock, and removing the cone (nipple). Use only a proper cone wrench. The steel is soft. Any other tool will most likely round off the cone and you’ll never get it off. Next, remove the screw that holds the barrel to the stock. Do this before you remove the barrel bands, to prevent damage to the stock. Place all of the parts in a tray so you don't lose them. Work over a table or a tarp, so when you do drop a part, you can find it.
Loosen the screw securing each barrel band. Do not remove the screws. It’s one more thing to lose.

Slide the barrel band off the end of the barrel
You will notice that the barrel band is rusted inside.
Gently separate the barrel from the stock.

Remove the sight from the barrel. Use the proper size screwdriver to prevent damage to the screw head. Lift the sight straight up off the barrel. There is a pin opposite the retaining screw that will prevent you from sliding it off. Watch the orientation of the leaf spring so you know how to replace it.
Use 000 (fine) steel wool to remove rust from all parts. Do not use sandpaper or power tools. Any scratches left behind will be a rust accelerant. If your barrel is “blued”, the finish will help prevent rust. It will eventually rust though. The steel wool should be used gently...it will also remove the bluing. Not to worry. The barrel can be re-blued, or you can remove the bluing entirely.

Steel wool the rust off of the leaf spring in the middle of the stock. This spring is used to secure the ramrod.
Don’t forget to use steel wool on the ramrod too.

Clean debris from the touch hole that enters the bore just beneath the cone.

Run the drill or welding tip cleaner through the hole in the cone as well.
Finally, oil the stock...inside and out. I recommend boiled linseed oil, available at most arts and crafts stores.

Oil or grease all metal parts. Gun oil or grease is recommended, though anything will do in pinch. I’ve used bacon grease in the field.

Reinstall the sight
Replace the barrel in the stock
Attach the barrel bands
Replace the screw that secures the barrel to the stock
Lightly grease the threads on the cone. Do not allow grease to enter the hole. It will cause a misfire.
Replace the cone and tighten gently. Again, the steel is soft. You can strip the threads. Finger tight with the wrench will do.
Grease the ramrod and replace it in the stock.

Doublecheck to make sure you don’t have any parts left over.
Ping test with the ramrod to verify there is nothing in the barrel.
Fire one cap to clear any grease or oil from the cone and touch hole.