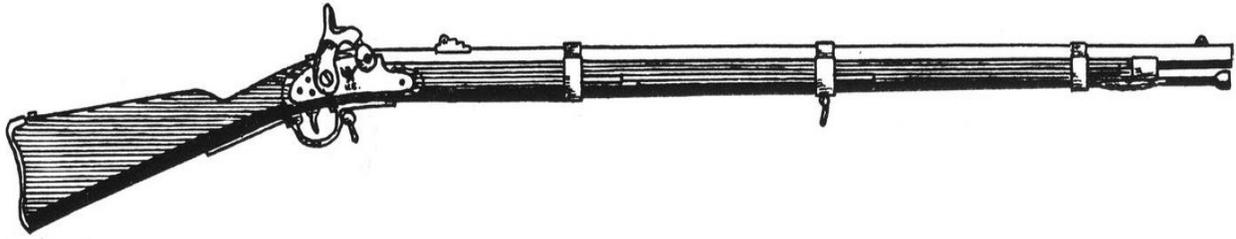


## Deep South Regional Report



**November 2020**

Steve Sheldon

The first full weekend of November provided the perfect ending for the final skirmish of an otherwise subdued skirmish year. Everyone in the Deep South Region has been itching for some black powder therapy as all of our skirmishes have been cancelled since March due to Covid-19. The weather was perfect, with clear skies and shirtsleeve weather all weekend long.

As usual, Forrest's Escort does the honors with the Deep South Region's only skirmish not held at Brierfield Ironworks. Instead, it is held at Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park in Eva, TN. The park encompasses Forrest's area of operations during the [Battle of Johnsonville](#). During this battle, Forrest shelled a Union supply depot on the opposite side of the Tennessee River. The attack destroyed several Union boats and panicked the Union forces to the point that they abandoned the depot and retreated, abandoning or burning millions of dollars of supplies. As Forrest departed from the confrontation, he noted, "By night the wharf for nearly one mile up and down the river presented one solid sheet of flame. ... Having completed the work designed for the expedition, I moved my command six miles during the night by the light of the enemy's burning property."

First established in 1929, the park has very nice amenities, with a 64-person lodge, kitchen, RV campground, primitive camping, and rental cabins. It also features boat ramps and over 30 miles of hiking trails.



*Credit: Brian Stansberry via Wikipedia*



*Credit: Thomas R Machnitzki via Wikipedia*

Eva is only about an hour away from Union City, which is the home of Dixie Gun Works. Heading to the Eva skirmish is a great excuse to drop by this venerable vendor of all things black powder. They have a large collection of original and reproduction antique firearms, as well as an attached "Car Museum", which also houses a reconstructed log cabin gunsmith shop from 1850!



*Some of the treats you'll find inside Dixie Gun Works.*

The event began Friday afternoon with individual competitions. Sadly, Daylight Savings Time had ended the weekend prior, so the sun retreated behind the trees much sooner than we all would have liked. But Individuals picked up again first thing Saturday morning.



*Beautiful fall weather for individual shooting.*

A local food truck stopped by to provide vittles at the lunch hour, and then folks got ready for team events. The firing lines were well marked for each team, with individual marks painted on the ground to ensure good social distancing between teammates. These days, we use paint to enforce social distancing. Our ancestors got to the point a bit more directly. 😊



*Nothing says "social distancing" quite like cold steel.*

First up was the Carbine event. 9 teams took to the field, the 46<sup>th</sup> IL, 4<sup>th</sup> LA, the "Fort Shenandoah Gypsies", the 14<sup>th</sup> MS, the 44<sup>th</sup> GA, the 110<sup>th</sup> OVI, the 6<sup>th</sup> KY, the 3<sup>rd</sup> GA, and Rockbridge. This year the

vaunted 110<sup>th</sup> OVI was displaced for first place by the “Fort Shenandoah Gypsies”. The 110<sup>th</sup> took second place, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia coming in third.



*Carbine action!*



*The Deep South Region's youngest carbine shooter with her first hit. Lethrenn Sheldon – 14 years old.*

After the Carbine event came the Smoothbore competition. Here 8 teams took the field, with the 4<sup>th</sup> Louisiana sitting out the late afternoon's efforts. Somebody has to drink the beer before 5 pm, you know. 😊 When the smoke cleared the “Fort Shenandoah Gypsies” again held against all comers with first place, with the 110<sup>th</sup> OVI coming in second, and the 44<sup>th</sup> Georgia slinging pumpkins for third place.

Saturday evening would normally find everyone at the lodge for supper and the awards ceremony, but this year these things were not held out of an abundance of caution to not have everyone packed into the dining hall. Instead, awards were handed out Sunday morning after the Musket match.

The Deep South Regional commanders gathered for the annual planning meeting. After 8 years of service, Hoot Gibson has handed the Regional Commander duties over to Charlie Bondurant. Lani Harrison will serve as Deputy Commander. Carlton Payne remains the Regional Paymaster, and Eddie Lawley will remain as Regional Inspector. The Deep South schedule for next year is tentatively:

February 12-14 4<sup>th</sup> LA - Brierfield Ironworks State Park  
March 12-14 20<sup>th</sup> GA - Brierfield Ironworks State Park  
April 23-25 14<sup>th</sup> MS - Brierfield Ironworks State Park  
August 27-29 3<sup>rd</sup>/44<sup>th</sup> GA - Brierfield Ironworks State Park  
November 5-7 Forrest's Escort - Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park

Of course the shadow of Covid hangs over everything, and while the prospects of vaccines seem imminent, currently the numbers are rising and so it's anyone's guess what restrictions Alabama and Tennessee will have in place when these skirmishes come up. So be sure to keep your eye on the [National Calendar](#) for up-to-date information.

Sunday morning found everyone back on the field for Opening Ceremonies. Then, after a brief commander's meeting, it was on to the Musket Match!





*You couldn't ask for better weather for a skirmish!*



*The 4<sup>th</sup> Tennessee musket team gets some help from Indiana ladies!*

The musket match saw ten teams on the line. The 46<sup>th</sup> IL, 4<sup>th</sup> LA, the “Fort Shenandoah Gypsies”, the 14<sup>th</sup> MS, the 44<sup>th</sup> GA, the 110<sup>th</sup> OVI, the 6<sup>th</sup> KY, Rockbridge, 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia, and the 4<sup>th</sup> TN. The Union carried the day with the “Fort Shenandoah Gypsies” taking first place again, followed by the 110<sup>th</sup> OVI in second, and the 46<sup>th</sup> IL in third.

With this, the medals were handed out, teams cleaned up the debris under the frames, and everyone said their goodbyes and headed home for the holiday season. Here’s to everyone having safe and happy holidays.

The Deep South Region’s 2021 skirmish season starts February 12-14, 2021, at Brierfield Ironworks State Park. We hope to see everyone there!



## Team Event Results

	Smoothbore	Carbine	Musket
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ft. Shenandoah Gypsies	Ft. Shenandoah Gypsies	Ft. Shenandoah Gypsies
2 <sup>nd</sup>	110 <sup>th</sup> OVI	110 <sup>th</sup> OVI	110 <sup>th</sup> OVI
3 <sup>rd</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup> GA	3 <sup>rd</sup> GA	46 <sup>th</sup> IL



## Individual Event Results

Smoothbore	25 Yard		50 Yard		Aggregate	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Harold Lawrence	48X	Jerry Smith	46	Jerry Smith	92X
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lani Harrison	47X	Lonnie Smith	43	Lani Harrison	89X
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hoot Gibson	46XX	Greg Ogdon	43	Lonnie Smith	88X

Carbine	50 Yard		50 Yard Reduced		Aggregate	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Harold Lawrence	47	Jerry Smith	43	Jerry Smith	89
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Raymond Smith	47	Lonnie Smith	42X	Colin Scanlin	86
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jerry Smith	46	Tim Scanlin	42X	Tim Scanlin	84X

Musket	50 Yard		50 Yard Reduced		Aggregate	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Scott Harris	48XX	Tim Scanlin	45X	Tim Scanlin	90XX
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Colin Scanlin	47	Steve Sheldon	42	Scott Harris	90XX
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tim Scanlin	45X	Scott Harris	42	Colin Scanlin	89

Breechloader	50 Yard		50 Yard Reduced		Aggregate	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lani Harrison	45	Tim Scanlin	41X	Tim Scanlin	85X
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Tim Scanlin	44	Kevin Herrick	39	Lani Harrison	82
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brian Tucker	43X	Lani Harrison	37	Larry Baird	68

Revolver	50 Yard		50 Yard Reduced		Aggregate	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lani Harrison	43X	Lani Harrison	32	Lani Harrison	75X

Grand Agg		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Tim Scanlin	260XXX
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Colin Scanlin	248
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lani Harrison	245XX