

## Deep South Region



### Skirmish Results February 2021

Steve Sheldon

The 2021 skirmish season opened up still under the cloud of Covid. It has now been a year that the world has struggled with this pandemic. Many places in the country are still not allowed to host skirmishes. The Alabama Safer At Home Order has provisions for athletic events, and so we adhered to those rules so that we could have an event as safely as possible and follow the law.

One thing that never changes is the Deep South's usual skirmish site, Brierfield Ironworks State Park. The site is steeped with Civil War history, with the centerpiece being the ruins of the furnace that was once the heart of the Bibb County Iron Company. This company produced high-quality steel for the Confederacy and was forced into acquisition by the Confederacy in 1863, becoming the only ironworks owned by the Confederacy. The output of the ironworks was sent to the Selma Arsenal, where it was used to produce Brooke naval rifles (artillery pieces) as well as plate armor for ironclad ships. The ironworks was destroyed in 1865 by the 10<sup>th</sup> Missouri Volunteer Cavalry during Wilson's Raid. The ironworks was re-opened after the war, co-owned by the former Chief of Confederate Ordnance, Josiah Gorgas. The furnace went out for good in 1894. During the WWII era the furnace was pillaged for brick, resulting in its deteriorated condition today.

Today, the park boasts a large covered range and a field that extends to nearly 100 yards. Combined with the attached campground and cabins for rent, it's a perfect skirmish location and it is thus no wonder that most of the Deep South Region's skirmishes are held there.



Photo credits: Left: State Archive. Right: tripadvisor.com



The week leading up to the skirmish weekend was absolutely beautiful, with clear skies and temperatures in the 60s. But fate turned against us, as on Thursday morning a powerful thunderstorm rolled through the area, and rain and low temperatures followed. Things were looking grim as we set up target frames in the rain on Thursday. Thursday night the forecast was still calling for up to 70 percent chances of rain all weekend long. But when we woke up on Friday morning, miraculously the chance of rain dropped below 20% for the rest of the weekend! It was still a cold, grey weekend, however, as the skies stayed overcast and temperatures struggled to reach the mid-forties.

The smoke started happening on Friday around noon with the start of Individuals. There were 15 individual entrants this weekend. Bob Kelley sold and scored targets on Friday, and Lethrenn Sheldon took over on Saturday, with help from Bob and Michael Maroney. Jim Wood and Mark Hubbs also pitched in, helping safety and wherever else a hand was needed. Bob also worked his charcoal wizardry cooking up hamburgers and hotdogs Saturday and Sunday. Tara and Balian Sheldon worked the kitchen all weekend, cooking up all-you-can-eat pancakes with sausage for breakfast, and hotdogs and hamburgers for lunch. Ice-cold sodas weren't in much demand this weekend, but hot chocolate and coffee sure were!



*4<sup>th</sup> Louisiana host staff hard at work!*

This year we again had a disappointing turnout for the "Can't Miss 'Em" Revolver Match, with only two teams showing up for it. This tradition may have run its course, and we probably will go back to individuals all morning on Saturday next year. The ad hoc First Irregulars came in first with a time of 139.3, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Mississippi came in second with a time of 382. The First Irregulars were made up of pickups Eddie Lawley, a visitor all the way from Florida, Bob Peloquin, and a first-time skirmisher, Steve Wells. Congrats to them!





*The 14<sup>th</sup> Mississippi and some Irregulars get ready for the Can't Miss 'Em Revolver Match!*

After the Revolver match, we set the field back up for Individual shooting, which continued until just after noon, whereupon people set down their muskets and picked up hamburgers and hot dogs that were almost as long as a musket!



*Individual competition.*

With Individual shooting concluded for the weekend, the Team events started with the Carbine match. When all was said and done Forrest's Escort took first place, followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia in second place, and the 44<sup>th</sup> Georgia bringing up the rear in third place.



*Carbine action!*

After the Carbine match the Smoothbore shooters had their turn. After the smoke cleared, the 44<sup>th</sup> Georgia took first place, followed by Forrest's Escort A second place, and finally the 14<sup>th</sup> Mississippi in third.



*Smoothbore action!*

Sadly, due to Covid we opted not to have our traditional pot-luck buffet dinner this year. Hopefully we will end Saturday skirmishing next year to the smell of jambalaya and pulled pork once again!

Sunday morning began with the opening ceremonies. Hoot Gibson led the invocation. The skirmish director, Steve Sheldon, thanked everyone for braving the dire weather forecast and coming out anyway. Roger Hansen of the 20<sup>th</sup> Georgia reminded everyone of their skirmish coming up next month. Then the troops were dismissed to go pick up their muskets for the last event of the weekend.



*Opening Ceremonies on the firing line.*

We had six teams on the line for the musket match. Forrest' Escort A team came out on top, followed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia in second, and finally the 14<sup>th</sup> Mississippi coming in third.





*Musket action!*

The awards ceremony began as soon as the final scores were tallied. This year we had a special award for the Grand Aggregate winner – a custom laser-engraved revolver display stand! And continuing from last year we are giving out custom laser-engraved “medals” also!



*A quick maskless picture with the Grand Aggregate winner and his prize!*

The next skirmish will be hosted by the 20<sup>th</sup> Georgia, March 12-14, at Brierfield. The Alabama Safer At Home Order will likely still be in effect, which will mean masks are required unless on the firing line (when you are directly involved in the athletic activity).

If you are in a state that has shut down skirmish activities, consider making the trip down south to Brierfield. Brierfield has a wonderful campground and cabins for rent. Our schedule for the rest of the year is:

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

## Team Event Results

	Smoothbore	Carbine	Musket	Revolver
1 <sup>st</sup>	44 <sup>th</sup> Georgia	Forrest Escort A	Forrest Escort A	1 <sup>st</sup> Irregulars
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Forrest Escort A	3 <sup>rd</sup> Georgia	3 <sup>rd</sup> Georgia	14 <sup>th</sup> Mississippi
3 <sup>rd</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup> Mississippi	44 <sup>th</sup> Georgia	14 <sup>th</sup> Mississippi	<i>SLACKERS!</i>

## Individual Event Results

Smoothbore	25 Yard		50 Yard		Aggregate	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bob Peloquin	47	Charlie Bondurant	48	Charlie Bondurant	94
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Charlie Bondurant	46	Jim Koch	47X	Jim Koch	92XX
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jim Koch	45X	Bob Peloquin	45X	Bob Peloquin	92X

Carbine	50 Yard		100 Yard		Aggregate	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bob Peloquin	47X	Charlie Bondurant	45	Charlie Bondurant	91X
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Charlie Bondurant	46X	Lani Harrison	40	Bob Peloquin	85XX
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lani Harrison	43	Jim Koch	40	Lani Harrison	83

Musket	50 Yard		100 Yard		Aggregate	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Charlie Bondurant	46XX	Charlie Bondurant	44	Charlie Bondurant	90XX
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bob Peloquin	45XX	Bob Peloquin	43	Bob Peloquin	88XX
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jim Koch	43	Jim Koch	43	Jim Koch	86

Revolver	25 Yard		50 Yard		Aggregate	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bob Peloquin	47	Bob Peloquin	39	Bob Peloquin	86
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lani Harrison	44	Steve Wells	36	Steve Wells	79X
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Steve Wells	43X	Charlie Bondurant	31	Charlie Bondurant	72

Musket / Carbine Agg		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Charlie Bondurant	181XXX
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bob Peloquin	173XXXX

Breechloader	50 Yard		100 Yard		Aggregate	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Charlie Bondurant	39	Charlie Bondurant	37	Charlie Bondurant	76

Grand Agg		
1 <sup>st</sup>	Charlie Bondurant	181
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jim Koch	170

