



# DELTA RIFLE'S DISPATCH



January 2013

## Cedartown: A Day of Thunder

The Delta Rifles recently sponsored the first 2013 Deep South Skirmish at Leonard Draper's property near Cedartown, GA. The event was scheduled to be a one day affair featuring a musket team shoot followed up by cannon and mortar competition. The Delta Rifles had a good turnout of 7 team members to support this event with the set up and conduct of the range. Those members in attendance besides our host Leonard Draper included Cmdr Bob Kelly, Jim Woods, Mike McAlpin, Steve Sheldon, Ken Thornbury, Leighton Young, and Mike Langston.

Setting up for this event was a little challenging. The weather for most of the area experienced a lot of rain during the week leaving the grounds wet and in some places muddy. The weather forecast for Saturday's events called for partly cloudy skies, a chance for rain, and above average temperatures.

The morning skies for Saturday's event were, as promised, partly cloudy, but not a drop of rain. With the clearing weather, we were confident that we would have a good turnout for the first skirmish of the year. The invitation for the event called for there to be 5 shooter musket teams to compete at 10 am. Well, by 9am, we were disappointed by the sparse turn-out. The only unit to field a musket team was the 37<sup>th</sup> Georgia. The 20<sup>th</sup> Georgia had one shooter Bob France show up, but together with 2 team members from the 4<sup>th</sup> Louisiana and 1 from the 37<sup>th</sup> Georgia made up another team to compete against the 37<sup>th</sup> remaining 4 man team. The 37<sup>th</sup> Georgia won 1<sup>st</sup> place and received traditional heavy weight Deep South Regional medals.

For the cannon shoot, three cannons were brought up to the firing line. The firing line consisted of a Confederate Mountain Rifle, a British 6-pounder smoothbore both owned by Leonard Draper, and a 3-inch Ordnance Rifle owned by Tom Bailey of the 37<sup>th</sup> GA.

Each of the three teams had 60 minutes to put all their rounds downrange into their targets. After the 60 minutes of continuous fire and after waiting for the smoke to clear, the 1st place

medals went to the Mountain Rifle, 2nd place to the Ordnance Rifle, and 3rd to the 6-pound smoothbore.



Setting up for the cannon shoot required preparing the cannon balls and rifle rounds to be sized and weighted. Jim Wood and Ken Thornbury are pictured above filing and sizing projectials.



Si Pickens, loader on the mountain gun is pictured above rolling rounds the for Leonard's cannons.



Tom Bailey of the 37<sup>th</sup> GA is pictured sighting in the ordinance rifle.



Leonard Draper Firing his smoothbore



The firing line

### *Civil War Trivia and Facts?*



1. *There are many antebellum homes in the South. What does antebellum mean?*
2. *What was a "fireball" in the South during the war?*
3. *What is the story of the "Jinx Horse?"*
4. *Who was the worst dressed officer in the conflict?*
5. *When Gen. Robert E. Lee crossed the Pennsylvania line into the now ill fated Gettysburg venture, he had 51 generals among his ranks. How many did he return with?*

*Answers on the last page*

After the Battle of Gettysburg, the discarded rifles were collected and sent to Washington to be inspected and reissued. Of the 37,574 rifles recovered,

approximately 24,000 were still loaded; 6,000 had one round in the barrel; 12,000 had two rounds in the barrel; 6,000 had three to ten rounds in the barrel. One rifle, the most remarkable of all, had been stuffed to the top with twenty-three rounds in the barrel.

Did you know that President Lincoln had a mild form of smallpox called arioloid while he gave the Gettysburg Address. On the train back to Washington he quipped, "Now I have something that I can give everybody."

## Upcoming SKIRMISHES

Host Team	Location	Date
37th GA	Brierfield, AL	February 22-24, 2013 Not Gonna Happi
20th GA	Brierfield, AL	March 15-17, 2013
14th MS	Brierfield, AL	April 26-28, 2013
Spring Nationals	Winchester, VA	TBD
4th TN	Smokey Bottom, TN	Jun 7-9, 2013
3rd GA	Brierfield, AL	August 24-25, 2013
Fall Nationals	Winchester, VA	TBD
Forest Escort	Eva, TN	November 1-3, 2013

Cmdr Bob Kelley recently emailed out an invitation and the itinerary for the 24<sup>th</sup> Georgia Vol Infantry's upcoming skirmish March 1 - 3, 2013 in Denhamville, GA. This would be a great opportunity for the team to participate in a skirmish outside the Deep South Region. If you think there is likelihood that you can attend this event, please let Cmdr Kelley know as soon as practical.

Oh, don't try to Goggle map Denhamville, GA - you won't find. That bastard Sherman burned it down. The address of the range is in Eatonton, GA. See previous invitation for directions.

Answers: 1. *It is Latin, meaning "before the war," and the term used in the United States, means specifically, "before the Civil War."*, 2. *With the shortage of coal to heat their homes, Southerners mixed coal dust, sawdust, sand and wet clay into hardened lumps for burning and heat*, 3. *Three members of the Guillet family were killed riding a horse, then three officers of the Ohio Ninety-Eight regiment were killed, then a fourth so seriously wounded in the arm, he would suffer for life - all while riding the same horse*. 4. *Brig. Gen. William E. Jones, Confederacy. He dressed in jeans, hickory shirt and homespun coat*, 5. *Thirty-four, the rest were killed or captured*