



Rebel Underground

Sons of Confederate Veterans
Major John C. Hutto Camp # 443
Jasper, Alabama

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The Major John C. Hutto Camp's July Camp Meeting
will be in Jasper, Alabama on
Sunday 20 July 2025 at 2:00 pm

Camp Quartermaster Billy Kinzalow will be our speaker for July

The SCV Dues Renewal for 2026 will be in the January, April and July
issues of the Alabama Confederate, due by July 31, 2025.
Please help us preserve and honor our Confederate Family & Heroes



Cherokee & Debbie Brasher receive Division level Awards for patriotic and faithful service to the SCV Alabama Division.

Cherokee Brasher is a valuable member of the Major John C. Hutto Camp, Jasper, Ala., and Debbie makes it all possible with her devoted support.

Thank you, Cherokee & Debbie

Springfield Model 1861 Rifle Musket
The Principal Infantry Weapon of the Civil War
Jenny Ashcraft
June 17, 2025

During the Civil War, the Springfield Model 1861 musket was the standard issue rifle-musket for the Union Army. The weapon was also widely used by the Confederate Army, and an estimated one million were manufactured during the war.

The Model 1861 Rifle Musket was a formidable weapon. It measured 56 inches in length with a 40-inch barrel and weighed nearly 10 pounds. It featured iron fittings and a walnut stock, and each unit cost about \$15.00 at the time. Production began at the Springfield Armory, but due to high wartime demand, manufacturing was also outsourced to various contractors.

The musket's rifled barrel gave it significant advantages over earlier smoothbore designs, offering much greater accuracy at long distances. It could be aimed effectively from as far as 400 yards. The iron sights were fixed at 100 yards and included flip-up leaf sights for targets at 300 and 500 yards.



Springfield Model 1861 Rifle Musket

A major innovation in the Model 1861 was the use of percussion caps—small copper cylinders filled with mercuric fulminate. When the hammer struck the percussion cap, it sparked and ignited the powder charge in the barrel. These replaced the older flintlocks, which were unreliable in wet weather.

Despite its effectiveness, the Model 1861 had a drawback: it could only be fired two or three times a minute, reloading after each shot. Breech loaders, however, could be fired about 10 times a minute.

The rifle fired .58-caliber muzzle-loaded Minié balls, named after the French Army officer who developed them. These conical, hollow-based bullets expanded on firing, creating a tight seal in the barrel. This design improved both the range and accuracy compared to earlier round musket balls. However, Minié balls inflicted devastating injuries. Upon impact, they flattened and caused severe bone and tissue damage, contributing to the high number of battlefield casualties.

One striking example of the Minié balls' destructive power is the case of Abraham F. DeBaun, who served in Company I of the Kentucky 1st Volunteer Cavalry. In January 1864, during a skirmish at Fair Garden in East Tennessee, DeBaun was shot in the forehead with a Minié ball. Believed to be dead, he was later found to be alive and taken to a field hospital. Doctors, unaware the bullet was still lodged in his head, bandaged the wound and sent him home to recover. By 1870, the wound had not healed. Upon seeking medical attention, doctors discovered the ball was resting against his brain. After removing it, DeBaun experienced immediate relief.

Remarkably, he lived another 39 years, passing away in Indiana in 1909.

To learn more about the Model 1861 Rifle Musket or other Civil War weapons, search Fold3

DONATION OF 1852 WEDDING DRESS

By Faye Gaston

TO---UDC Alabama Division officers, Directors of Districts, Chairmen of Committees, Presidents of Chapters, members of Admiral Semmes 57 chapter, and Calvin Chappelle.

FROM---Faye Gaston, Chairman of Historical Preservation Committee and Legislative Committee of UDC Alabama Division.

SPECIAL NOTE: CALVIN CHAPPELLE IS PROVIDING UP-DATED BROCHURES ON THE CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL PARK TO DISTRIBUTE AT THE UDC CONVENTION IN SEPTEMBER IN PRATTVILLE. HE SAID THE PARK HAS 30,000 VISITORS ANNUALLY !



Calvin Chappelle, Site Director of Confederate Memorial Park in Marbury, Alabama, picked up an 1852 wedding dress from Faye Gaston in Union Springs on May 22, 2025. More than 25 years ago the dress was given to Gaston by Marianne (Beckham) Smith, great-granddaughter of the bride, Martha A. Baker. She married John Jackson Beverly, who would be a Confederate soldier in the War Between the States (1861-1865). He never returned from the battlefield. Gaston donated the dress to the museum at Confederate Memorial Park as a tribute to all those dedicated wives of Confederate soldiers. (Photo by Jeanette Johnson)

1852 WEDDING DRESS DONATED TO CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL PARK MUSEUM

By Faye Gaston

Featured in the book, "The Heritage of Bullock County, Alabama" that was published in 2004, is an article and photo about the donation by Mariannie (Beckham) Smith of her great-grandmother's 1852 wedding dress to the President of the Bullock County Historical Society, Faye Gaston of Union Springs. The photo showed the display of the treasured wedding dress during a tour of the local 1850 Log Cabin Museum in Union Springs in March 2001.

Gaston kept the wedding dress in a dark closet in her home over 25 years and brought it out for special occasions, such as quarterly meetings of the Bullock County Historical Society, a UDC chapter meeting held in Mariannie's home in 2002, and an Admiral Semmes 57 UDC chapter meeting in 2025. Gaston contacted Calvin Chappelle, Site Director of Confederate Memorial Park in Marbury, Alabama, and offered to donate the dress to the museum there so that the treasured 1852 wedding dress would be preserved in a proper manner and seen by many visitors to the museum. Chappelle said that he could "work it into the home-front exhibit and some temporary exhibits in the future". He picked up the dress from Gaston on May 22, 2025 in Union Springs and they signed documentation to record the transaction.

Mariannie shared the history of the colorful wedding dress of her petite great-grandmother, comparable to a modern dress size 2. She wore this dress when she married John Jackson Beverly on August 14, 1852 in Macon County, Alabama, when she was 23 years old (born April 14, 1829). She made the dress herself, with many tiny stitches. He would be a Confederate soldier in the War Between the States (1861-1865) and never returned from the battlefield. His beaver hat is in the Alabama Department of Archives building in Montgomery. She died at age 82 (October 11, 1911) and was buried in the Aberfoil Family Cemetery in Bullock County.

HUTTO CAMP OFFICERS

Commander	James R. Blackston
1 st Lt. Cmd	Trent Harris
2nd Lt. Cmd	Jeremy Jackson
Adjutant	John McGraw
Chaplain	Larry Elliott
Judge Advocate	Cherokee Brasher
Communications	Tony Pennington
Facebook	Brandon Prescott - Jeremy Jackson
Quartermaster	Billy Kinchelov
Flag Committee Chairman	Trent Harris
Newsletter Editor	James Blackston

Website: www.huttocamp.com

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The Rebel Underground is dedicated to bringing our readers the very best of important news concerning Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We are not ashamed of our Confederate History and Southern Heritage. We dare to defend our rights.