



# VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

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Est. 1983 (A Not-for-Profit Organization)

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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## March-April 2020 VGCA Newsletter

### President's Comments

To All VGCA Members,

2020 has been a challenging year so far, to say the least! Between the Virginia Legislature's assault on gun rights and the COVID-19 virus, we have been kept on its toes! I am hoping that this newsletter finds all VGCA members safe and well.

The VGCA Officers and Board met last week and, based on our governor's decision to ban all public gatherings of over 100 people, canceled our March and May gun shows. We have called all table holders to tell them of the cancellations. We still have tables available for the November show if you are interested.

We have also canceled our April and May VGCA Membership meetings. The National Rifle Association where we meet has closed its facilities. We hope to resume our monthly meetings beginning in June. This is all subject to change.

We are also postponing the VGCA officer elections. Normally held in May, we need to entertain nominations from the floor during a membership meeting before finalizing the ballot. With our membership meetings in doubt, we are unable to do that. Right now, we are looking at August for the election. We are still looking for officer candidates and currently do not have any one running for Vice President.

Please stayed tuned to the VGCA website, Facebook account, and emails sent through Constant Contact. Our plan is to send messages via all platforms to alert members of future changes/cancellations.

To close on a happy note, you may want to take advantage of the warmer weather and low traffic to spend some time at your favorite outdoor range (maintain safe social distancing, of course). Take care and I hope to see you all soon!

—*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President



# IT IS (ALMOST) TIME TO ELECT VGCA OFFICERS!



## WE WANT YOU!

**In even numbered years (like 2020), the VGCA holds an election for its four officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary). If you are interested in helping run the VGCA and would like to “throw your name in the hat” for one of these positions, please contact Emory Hackman or one of the current officers or directors. We will need a short biography and photograph for the ballot and newsletter. As Bernie announced in his words to the membership, the elections - which normally occur in May with the results announced in June – has been postponed until the fall. That gives everyone plenty of time to think about running for an office. Please consider supporting the VGCA by pursuing an officer position. Good luck!**



## ★ February Presentation ★

# The Philippine Scouts



VGCA life member Nelson Hufano (*at left*) provided an enthralling presentation on little-known subject (at least here in the U.S.) – the United States Army Philippine Scouts (PS).

Nelson explained that he had a strong personal connection with the PS – his great grandfather was a PS. His grandfather met his grandmother in the PS. Being a member of the Philippine Scouts was considered a great honor for both the Philippine members as well as the U.S. officers appointed to command them.

Nelson began his presentation with some history of the Spanish-American War. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1898, U.S. Admiral Dewey (of “You may fire when you are ready, Gridley” fame) achieved a decisive victory against an over-matched Spanish fleet at the Battle of Manila Bay. At the conclusion of the war, the United States acquired Spanish territories in the Philippines, Guam, Cuba, and Puerto Rico.

Spain had ruled the Philippine Islands for over 300 years. And for years before 1898, Philippine insurgents had been fighting for their independence. Nelson brought up an analogy with our own revolution. The French, a major power and peer with the British, came to our aid and were a significant factor in American independence. The Philippine people initially welcomed U.S. aid against the Spanish, but many thought U.S. forces would leave and the Philippines would gain independence. However, unlike the French in North America, the U.S. did not leave. Thus began Philippine insurgency against American troops.

The next four years (1898-1902) would become known as the Philippine-American War. The Philippine insurgents quickly learned that the U.S. Army was better trained and had artillery, so they quit the battlefield to fight a guerilla war. The American forces were aided by the local “Macabebe Scouts” from the municipality of Macabebe. It was the Macabebe Scouts that first taught the Americans the water “cure” (better known today as water boarding), called the “cure” because it was said to cure amnesia in prisoners!

The Philippine Scouts were created by Congressional Act in 1901. The PS were to be led by U.S. officers who were at least 2 year veterans, unmarried, and of “good moral character.” The scouts were armed with Springfield Trapdoor Rifles chambered in .45/70 and were to be paid half of what a U.S. soldier was paid. Enlistment in the PS was considered an honor.

Also in 1901, U.S. General Funston and the Macabebe Scouts captured Philippine President Emilio Aguinaldo, greatly reducing the insurgency. Between 1902 and 1913, opposition against U.S. forces was reduced to bandits, secular fanatics, and the Moros.

Moros were the original “suicide bombers.” They would tightly bind their arms and legs to reduce blood loss if shot and, armed with knives and encouraged by narcotics, would prove nearly unstoppable. The standard Army .38 caliber revolvers were not up to the task of stopping these attackers. Old Colt Model 1873 Single Action Army revolvers in .45 Colt were pressed into service and 4,600 Colt Model 1902 revolvers in .45 were purchased for the Philippine Constabulary. The Army would go on to develop the Model 1911 in .45 ACP based on lessons learned from fighting the Moros. The first time the PS fought in battle was against the Moros at Bud Bagsak in June 1913.

Starting in 1910, one outstanding PS soldier per year was sent to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. When U.S. Army troops left the Philippines to fight in Europe during WWI, the PS stayed behind to defend the islands. In 1919-1920, the PS companies were reorganized into regiments in the U.S. Army. They were designated the 43<sup>rd</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments, the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiments, the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, and the 91<sup>st</sup> and 92<sup>nd</sup> Coast Artillery Regiments. In the inter-war years, members of these units regularly participated in the National Rifle Matches at Camp Perry. In 1937, in preparation for Philippine Independence, these units were used to train the new Philippine Army. These units were equipped with M1918 Browning Automatic Rifles (BARs), semi-automatic M1 Garand Rifles, and M1928 Thompson Submachine Guns (U.S. Army units sent to reinforce the Philippines immediately before WWII were still armed with M1903 Springfield bolt action rifles).

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1941, just 10 hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (but one day later due to the International Date Line), the Japanese invaded the Philippines. Like Pearl Harbor, the U.S. fighter and bomber aircraft were caught on the ground and largely destroyed. Without air cover, the remaining U.S. Naval Forces withdrew to Java. Manila was declared an Open City to prevent its destruction by the Japanese. U.S. and Philippine ground forces fought a delaying action on the Bataan Peninsula. During this action on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1942, the 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry made the last cavalry charge in U.S. history. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1942, commanding general Douglas MacArthur was ordered to leave the Philippines so he could later lead the counter-attack against Japan. He vowed to return! After months of fighting, low on food and supplies, and subject to a massive Japanese artillery barrage, 76,000 U.S. and Philippines troops on the Bataan peninsula surrendered on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1942. This is considered the greatest defeat in U.S. history.

After their surrender, many PS and Philippine Army soldiers were paroled – and quickly drifted into the hills. They fought a guerilla war against the Japanese for the next three years. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1944, General MacArthur made good on his promise and returned – this time at the head of an unstoppable force. Former PS, Philippine Army, and civilian guerillas joined with the Allied troops and became the “New Scouts.” The Japanese fought desperately (kamikaze suicide planes were introduced at this time) and Manila was not retaken by the Allies until March 1945.

The time period immediately after WWII was spent rebuilding the Philippine Army. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1946, the Philippines were granted their independence by the United States. With independence, the scouts were in a unique situation – they were members of the U.S. Army but were also citizens of a foreign nation. The United States offered Philippine Scouts full U.S. citizenship. It is believed that ~1,000 accepted and served in other units to finish their military careers. The PS were officially disbanded in December 1948.





Nelson provided a detailed and entertaining look into a little-known (at least it is little-known here in the U.S.) subject. He shared some delicious food and displayed his collection of PS uniforms (*above*). It was a superb presentation enjoyed by all present!

## ★ February Meeting ★

★ **February Business:** VGCA President Bernie Breighner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Member Jim Burgess led those assembled through the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance. There were 85 members and guests in attendance. Guests were introduced by their sponsors/hosts or introduced themselves.

*Many of the attendees at our February Membership Meeting are shown at right.*



One special guest was Mr. Jim Supica (*at right*). Jim was curator of the National Rifle Association's firearms museums and is also a published author (to include four editions of the *Standard Catalog of Smith & Wesson*, together with our very own Rick Nahas). Jim has given several presentations over the years to the VGCA and the VGCA Officers and Directors recently voted to confer an honorary membership to Jim. I stated that Jim "was" the curator of the NRA museums – he announced that he was going to retire on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. God speed to you, sir!



President Breighner announced that the VGCA Officers and Directors had voted to donate \$3000 to the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL). The VCDL has led the fight against anti-gun legislation in Virginia for many years, and none were as important as their efforts this year. Bernie announced that we would examine possible additional donations to the NRA, Gun Owners of America (GOA), and the Virginia Shooting Sports Association (VSSA). In these times of near constant attacks on our right to keep and bear arms, it is imperative that VGCA do its part to preserve these rights in Virginia and across the nation!

It was announced that Dave Litchfield was trying to work a group rate for the VGCA Tour of the Armour Museum in Danville in April. **UPDATE: TOUR HAS BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19.**

Bernie provided an update on our March Gun Show (Rick Nahas was out of town). **UPDATE: BOTH THE MARCH AND MAY GUN SHOWS WERE CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19.**



VGCA Treasurer Shannon Zeigler (*at left*) provided our updated financial position. He reminded everyone that our gun shows provide the funds for our annual operating budget. Customer surveys at our shows consistently show that our most effective means of advertising is word-of-mouth. He asked everyone to invite their friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to our March Show. **UPDATE: THOUGH THE SPRING SHOWS HAVE BEEN CANCELED, THIS IS STILL EXCELLENT ADVICE FOR OUR NOVEMBER SHOW!**

Bill Chronister stated that he had new ID Cards for the members that joined in December and for the new life members.

It was announced that we needed volunteers to man the VGCA table at the April Chantilly Gun Show. If interested, please contact Marc Gorelick. **UPDATE: THE APRIL CANTILLY GUN SHOW HAS BEEN CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19. THOUGH THE JUNE CHANTILLY SHOW IS STILL "ON THE BOOKS," THE DULLES EXPO MART HAS RECENTLY BEEN DESIGNATED AS THE LOCATION OF AN EMERGENCY HOSPITAL (WITH A 6-WEEK TIMELINE FOR CONVERSION), SO ALL SPRING/SUMMER SHOWS AT THAT LOCATION ARE IN DOUBT.**

Emory Hackman announced that officer elections are coming up. He asked that the members consider running for office and that we would entertain nominations from the floor at the April Membership meeting. **UPDATE: DUE TO THE CANCELATION OF BOTH THE APRIL AND MAY**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS, ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL THE FALL. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NEXT AVAILABLE MEETING.**



★ **Upcoming April and May Membership Meetings:** Both the April and May VGCA Membership Meetings have been **CANCELED**. In addition to Virginia’s ban on gatherings of more than ten people, the NRA has closed its facilities. Please stay tuned to our website as well as Facebook and email notices via Constant Contact for news and updates on the June Membership Meeting.

## **AAF Museum Tour Update**



### **THE VGCA FIELD TRIP TO THE AAF TANK MUSEUM HAS BEEN POSTPONED!**

Due to the on-going concerns about the spread of COVID-19 and the need to self-quarantine, the trip to the AAF Tank Museum in Danville, VA planned for 10-11 April 2020 has been postponed. It will be rescheduled, probably for this fall. If you have any questions, please contact the trip coordinator **Dave Litchfield**; 703-624-8696, [litchfdave@gmail.com](mailto:litchfdave@gmail.com)



## **★ Other News! ★**

### **★ Membership Chairman’s Report – March-April 2020:**

**Membership Chairman’s Report March 2020 - New Members:** Please welcome new Annual Members.

- **Thomas Evans** of Fairfax, VA was sponsored by **Match Gorelick**
- **Barry Glover** of Winchester, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Nancy Hand** of Alexandria, VA was sponsored by **Monty Hand**
- **Garry James** of Haymarket, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Stephen J. Kirkwood** of Falls Church, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Kurt D. Kroencke** of Warrenton, VA was sponsored by **Travis Jones** and **Jim Burgess**
- **Kirk M. Norbo** of Waterford, VA was sponsored by **Michael Orsinger** and **Addison Hurst**
- **Warren “Tom” O’Hara** of Dumfries, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**
- **Nathan Parshall** of Fairfax, VA was sponsored by **David Litchfield** and **Jim Burgess**

Congratulations and welcome aboard. Your Annual Membership ID will be mailed to your home address.



**New Applications for Membership:** For February, we had 3 new applicants for membership. 2 applied at the February membership meeting, and one was submitted via the US mail. The applicants' information and their sponsors' names are published below.

- **Robert A Kendall** of Alexandria, VA is sponsored by **Mark DiSilvestro**
- **Derek McFarland** of Culpeper, VA is sponsored by **Wayne Sinclair**
- **Chad Stachowiak** of Arlington, VA is sponsored by **Marc Gorelick**

If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before March 22, 2020. For questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at [vgca\\_membership@cox.net](mailto:vgca_membership@cox.net) or call me at 703-204-0138.

**Notice to New Member Sponsors:** VGCA is discontinuing hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters after June 2020. *Please make sure your prospective applicants **include an email address** if at all possible. Without an email address these new members will NOT receive any newsletter or VGCA announcements. Limited hard copies of the current month's newsletter may be available for pick up at the membership meeting.*

**Annual Membership Renewals and Life Membership Upgrades:** *New member 2020 badges for those who applied in Dec 2019-February 2020 and new Life Membership badges are currently in production and will be mailed when completed.*



## CMP UPDATE

*By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison*

The Civilian marksmanship Program (CMP) has announced the cancellation of numerous upcoming events and activities due to increased health concerns brought on by the COVID-19 virus outbreak.

### CMP CANCELLATIONS

As of March 16 the following events have been cancelled or postponed:

- **Advanced M1 Rifle Maintenance Class in Anniston, AL**  
The M1 rifle maintenance class dates canceled are March 31 through April 22. Additional classes are scheduled beyond April 22 in various locations going forward and the CMP will advise the public when more information is available about their status.
- **JROTC National Championships at Camp Perry, OH** scheduled for March 19-22.
- **Rifle Match and Open Practice on Mondays at Petrarca Range at Camp Perry, OH**  
The rifle match scheduled for Saturday, April 5 at the electronically scored targets at Petrarca Range at the Ohio National Guard Joint Training Site have been canceled. Petrarca Range open dates on Mondays for practice have also been canceled until further notice.



- **CMP Camp Perry Store Grand Opening and Days of Operation are Undetermined**  
The grand opening and normal store operation dates are delayed until further notice.
- **CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park** – Talladega, AL  
Outdoor activities are open at this time but that may change. Stay tuned for future announcements regarding park opening status.
- **The CMP Western Games 800 Aggregate Rifle Matches and Team Match** at Ben Avery Shooting Facility in Phoenix, AZ scheduled for March 18-22 have been canceled.
- **Civilian Marksmanship Centers** at Camp Perry, OH and Anniston, AL are closed until further notice. All weekly open public marksmanship sessions are canceled.
- **CMP Monthly Airgun Matches** – Camp Perry, OH & Anniston, AL – All match events and related activities will be postponed until further notice.
- **Eastern CMP Games & CMP Highpower Rifle Matches** – Camp Butner, NC – All match events and training courses related to the Eastern Games scheduled for April 24 – May 3 have been cancelled.

Additional CMP activities are on the watch list for cancellation. For updated information about cancellations go to the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/>.

## CMP GARAND SALES

Each M-1 Garand rifle sold by the CMP is an authentic U.S. Government rifle that has been inspected, headspaced, repaired if necessary and test fired for function. Every rifle is shipped with safety manual, one eight-round clip and chamber safety flag. Orders are filled on a first-come first serve basis and rifles of all grades are packed for shipment purely by “luck of the draw”. Rifles do not have import marks. Prices are subject to change. If the price has changed after an order has been received, customers will be notified before new prices are charged. They are shipped free in CMP hard rifle cases.



As of this writing, the CMP has a number of M-1 Garands for sale. These include: Field Grade Garands between \$650 and \$980; Service Grade \$750 (luck of the draw for Springfield or Harrington & Richardson manufacturer); Special Grade completely or partially refurbished rifles for \$650 to \$1,050; and M1C Sniper rifles for \$2,255 and \$3,055 without scope mounts, scopes or cheek pad but does have the receiver base installed.

For additional information about the Garands for sale go to the CMP website <https://thecmp.org/sales-and-service/m1-garand/>.

## CMP M-1917 SALES

*There are currently no M-1917 rifles for sale. The CMP continues to receive a few dozen of these rifles each year. All of these rifles have been on loan from the U.S. Army to chartered veterans' organizations for use in honor guards, funerals, and other ceremonial purposes. All are mix-masters, none are in*

*original condition and are usually in overall poor condition. All sales are as-is with no returns or exchanges.*

### **CMP M-1903 and M-1903A3 SALES**

*The CMP does not expect to ever again receive large quantities of these models. Currently, M-1903 and M-1903A3 models are not available, and CMP is not accepting orders. When it does have them all sales are as-is with no returns or exchanges.*

### **CMP M-1911 SALES**

**The CMP has not received any information about the future release of M-1911 and M-1911A1 pistols. When it does receive information it will be posted on its website.**

### **CMP M-1 CARBINE SALES**

Each M1 Carbine rifle sold by CMP is an authentic U.S. Government rifle that has been inspected, headspaced, repaired if necessary and test fired for function. Every carbine is shipped with safety manual and chamber safety flag. **Carbines will not be sold or shipped with magazines, slings or oilers.** *Due to limited quantities that the CMP comes across, M-1 Carbines, M-1 Carbine barreled receivers, Bavaria-marked M-1 Carbines and M-1A1 paratrooper carbines will be offered on the CMP Auction Site - [https://thecmp.org/cmp\\_sales/guns-on-auction/](https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/guns-on-auction/). The CMP also sells M-1 Garands on the auction site.*

### **CMP AIR GUN AND .22 RIFLE SALES**



The CMP has a number of air rifles, air pistol and .22 caliber target rifles for sale. Many of the air rifles and pistols are precision high quality items used in matches. For information about the guns being offered please go to the CMP website at

[https://thecmp.org/cmp\\_sales/rifle-sales/](https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/rifle-sales/).

The VGCA is affiliated with the CMP and VGCA members in good standing are eligible to purchase M-1 Garands and other arms from the CMP. The VGCA affiliate number is **026160**. Go to the CMP website for instructions and eligibility requirements for ordering from the CMP.



## **★ VGCA Gun Show and Meetings Update ★**

Based on the Virginia Governor's Executive Order No. 55 banning public gatherings through June 10<sup>th</sup>, the VGCA Executive Committee voted to officially cancel both our March and May Gun Shows. Also, the VGCA Membership Meetings for April and May have also been canceled.



**🌟 ATTENTION MEMBERS: Have you the authored a book/magazine article, or published research on Firearms, Gun Collecting, History, or related subjects?**

The VGCA is fortunate to have a diverse membership with a large amount of expertise, experience, and knowledge! If you are - or know any member who is - a published author or researcher, please know that the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc. wants to feature your works on the VGCA website, at gun shows, in the VGCA newsletters (see the FOR SALE section of this newsletter), and/or at VGCA meetings. We also invite you to consider giving a presentation on your works at one of our meetings. If you have any questions or wish to be included, please direct any information, including titles, publishing information, or contact information to: Bill Chronister, Membership Chairman at [vgca\\_membership@cox.net](mailto:vgca_membership@cox.net) or at home on 703-204-0138.



**★ Show-n-Tell ★**

**NOTE: Anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell, please hold them up so the members can see it. This will also help your Volunteer Photographer get a decent photograph of the special item you brought to show, and people who could not attend the meeting can see it clearly in the newsletter. Thank you!**

The first item displayed for Show-n-Tell was a very rough-looking Colt Model 1873 Single Action Army (*right*). This revolver was shared by the NRA’s National Firearms Museum and had a direct link to the night’s presentation on the Philippine Scouts. This particular handgun was captured in 1912



by a Second Lieutenant from the 18<sup>th</sup> Company, PS, from a Moros warrior on Mindanao. It has a coin dated 1884 in the left grip. Its serial number places production near the end of 1878. If only this gun could talk!





The second item shared was a snub-nose Smith & Wesson Model 15 in .357 Magnum with night sights (*at left*). What make these night sights unique is that they actually light up! Developed by a California Police Officer and an engineer in the early 1970s, they were marketed as L-Tronic sights by Cap Cresap and were approved for service use by the Los Angeles Police Department. A small red light projected onto white paint around the rear sight notch while a equally small red light was inlet into the front sight blade. Both were powered by a rechargeable battery inside the grip frame that was good for 6 months or about 1000 activations. The battery could then be recharged with a 9 volt battery without removing the grips (*see the second photo below*)! When introduced, this simple and robust system only cost \$53 to install. To see this set up in person was very impressive!







Member 2 (*above*) shared his B&T GHM9 Generation 2 compact pistol. This semi-automatic blow back pistol is available in 9mm Parabelum (aka 9x19 or 9mm Luger), .45 ACP, or .300 Blackout. B&T is a Swiss company that is known for buying the patents of out-of-production firearms and then producing them. The GHM9 is also called the “Grasshopper Mouse,” named after a ferocious little African rodent noted for eating scorpions! The GHM9 is made to compete against the Czech Scorpion and so is apply named! Upon disassembly, there is even an engraving of a grasshopper nose inside the lower receiver.

This example is a pistol chambered in 9mm Parabelum. It has an arm brace (not a butt stock) and transfers like any other pistol. As such, it is not a short barreled rifle and does not require a \$200 tax stamp and 6+ month wait for approval.

Pistol caliber carbines (or in this case, a pistol with an arm brace) are a hoot to shoot. There is little felt recoil given the weight of the gun and relatively low power cartridges and they are easy to keep on target for quick follow-up shots. Member 2 highly endorses the GHM9 for its extreme “fun factor” at the range!



Member 3 (*above*) brought in his newly acquired M1903A4 snipe rifle. Remington produced between 28,365 and 29,964 from January 1943 until February 1944. The M1903A4 rifle was based on the M1903A3 bolt action rifle and chambered in the same .30/06 caliber. Remington set aside 20,000 receivers in January 1943 for use in building sniper rifles. There were no special accuracy requirements as the M1903A4 was only intended as a stop-gap measure until the M1C sniper was available. Issues and delays associated with M1C meant that the M1903A4 ended up serving in every theater during WWII and indeed continued to serve during the Korean War and Vietnam as well. In addition to mounting a scope, modifications include no open sights and a change in position of the serial number on the receiver so it wouldn't be covered by the front scope base. This example is from the first block of M1903A4 serial numbers and was made in March 1943. It features a 4-groove barrel, the correct M73B1 scope (the military designation for the Weaver 330 2.5 power scope), correct Redfield mounts, and a sling dated 1944. At some point after WWII it went through the Benicia Arsenal in California and received a replacement C-stock.

**NOTE – the rest of the Show-n-Tell items from the February Membership Meeting will be described in the May VGCA Newsletter.**





## ★ In Review ★

The “In Review” section to the newsletter includes VGCA member reviews of guns shows, books, and museums. If you would like to submit a review, please send it to the editor at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net).

### Museum

## *A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM:* **THE HERMAN P. DEAN FIREARMS COLLECTION** **at the HUNTINGTON GALLERIES MUSEUM OF ART**

*By Marc Gorelick and Bill Chronister*

Tucked away in the hills and hollows of Huntington, West Virginia, just off Exit 8 on Interstate 64, is an underappreciated gem of a firearms collection that is available for public viewing. I visited the museum twice, the first time while returning from the NRA Annual Meetings in Louisville, Kentucky, with Bill Chronister and his lovely wife Judy, and the second time in February 2020 while on the way to the Show of Shows in Louisville. The visit to the Huntington Museum was a welcome break in the drive and a rewarding experience both times.

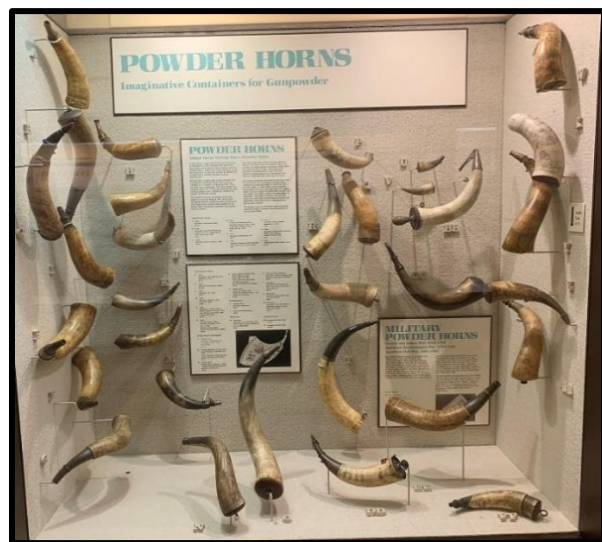


The Huntington Museum’s firearms exhibit features the private collection of noted firearms expert Herman P. Dean, one of the founders of the Huntington Galleries. As one of the museum’s permanent exhibitions, it is of historic significance, stature and range. For the collector historic arms and enthusiast of master gunsmithing the exhibit is a must see if you are traveling through the area.

An avid collector, hunter and traveler, Herman P. Dean was born in 1897 and died in 1978. The collection, which he donated to the Huntington Galleries is the result of a lifetime of traveling and collecting. It starts with the crossbow and traces the manufacture and use of firearms from the earliest hand cannon through the machine-made weapons of the 19th century that used metallic cartridges. It is arranged in an easy to follow, well documented, and educational layout that physically leads the visitor through a chronological survey of historical firearms, with an emphasis on firearms and accoutrements of the American frontier.

The logically organized display cases are well-lit and the easy-to-read signage is excellent. Each case has an overriding theme: Tracing the Craft and History of Early Firearms; Firearms Invention: Early Developments in Igniting the Powder, Improvements in the Lock, Mechanism, Refinements and Diversity; The Pioneer: The Kentucky Rifle - Symbol of the American Frontier; Powder Horns: Imaginative Containers for Gunpowder; The Golden Age: Kentucky Rifles and Pistols – Triumphs of Craftsmanship; Westward Expansion: Traders and Trappers and the Buffalo Rifle; Decline of an Era: Kentucky Rifles and Pistols – Converted from Flintlock to Percussion; English Arms in America: A Basis for Later Gun Design; Martial Arms: Firearms Used in American Wars; Men Who Made the Gun: U.S.

Leadership in Gun Invention and Manufacture; Gunmaker as Craftsman: Firearms as Examples of Fine Design and Skilled Workmanship; Target and Hunting Guns: Developing Skill in Marksmanship; and Tools of the Trade: Gun Making Tools and a 19th Century Rifling Bench.



*Herman Dean Collection Displays. Photos – Marc Gorelick*

The collection contains many firearms of historical significance, beautiful design and decoration, and unique one-of-a-kind-examples from matchlocks and wheellocks through flintlocks, percussion and early metallic cartridge guns. Indeed, some of the guns on display represent the pinnacle of artistic endeavor as well as masterpieces of the gunmakers trade. The examples of the gunsmith's skill and decorative arts are stunning – especially the early wheellocks from Europe and the Middle East with their bone, ivory and pearl inlays and etched steel engraving.



The collection also has a special regional focus on the evolution of the Pennsylvania long rifle carried west to Kentucky and beyond, and contains some of the finest surviving examples. Two historically significant examples are attributed to famous American frontiersmen Simon Kenton and Daniel Boone. The exhibit of carved and engraved powder horns contains beautiful pieces that are true American works of art.



*Powder Horn, 1760. Photo - Huntington Museum of Art*

Occupying almost 70,000 square feet, the Huntington Museum is the largest art museum in West Virginia. The museum's campus is also home to nature trails and a subtropical plant conservatory. Besides the firearms collection, the museum's collections also American and European paintings, sculptures, prints, and drawings, as well as an extensive collection of glass sculpture and glass pieces manufactured in West Virginia and the Ohio Valley, American folk art, Chinese and Japanese decorative items, Haitian art, and objects from the Near East. It has an outstanding collection of lesser-known works by major artists, including Renoir, Winslow Homer, and others, along with a building by internationally acclaimed architect Walter Gropius. There is also a small but quality gift shop.



*Combination Pin-fire Revolver & Sword, France, Casimir and Eugene LeFauchaux, 1820-1871.  
Photo – Marc Gorelick*



*Henry Nock Coaching Blunderbuss with spring bayonet, 1741-1804. Photo – Marc Gorelick*

The Huntington Museum of Art is located at 2033 McCoy Road, Huntington, WV 25701. It is open Tuesday through Sunday:

Tuesday, 10AM-9PM

Wednesday–Saturday, 10AM-5PM

Sunday, 12 Noon-5PM

Admission is \$5 per person, except on Tuesday when admission is free.

Admission is free to children younger than 18; active duty military personnel and their immediate families; and veterans and their immediate families.

For additional information, call (304) 529-2701 or visit the museum website at <https://www.hmoa.org/>.



*Close-up of the butt of an Italian matchlock musket. The stock is sheathed in plates of mother-of-pearl and green ivory engraved in different scenes, armorial bearings and conventional floral design devices. Although each area is a separate composition they comprise an elaborate unified whole.*

*Photo – Marc Gorelick*





## ★ 2020 Presentation List ★

Scheduled presentations for our upcoming membership meetings:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PRESENTATION</u>	<u>PRESENTER</u>
<del>April 23<sup>rd</sup></del>	<del>Guns of the FBI</del>	<del>CANCELED</del>
<del>May 28<sup>th</sup></del>	<del>Colt Walker Revolvers</del>	<del>CANCELED</del>
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Gun Buying Lessons Learned	VGCA Members
July	No membership meeting scheduled due to summer break	
August 27 <sup>th</sup>	Engraved Colt Pistols	Phil Hill
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	My Favorite Gun	VGCA Members
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	German Weapon Markings and Proofs	Dave Litchfield
November	No membership meeting scheduled due to our Fall Gun Show	
December TBD	Holiday Pot Luck and Annual Swap Meet	Show-n-Tell Only



## ★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

**PLEASE NOTE:** There are no shows scheduled in April 2020 due to COVID-19 Quarantines. The May shows listed have not yet canceled, but members are strongly encouraged to verify before driving to a show. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed.

### VIRGINIA – 2019-2020

➤ May 16-17, 2020 – Winchester, VA – Winchester Sportsplex – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*

### MARYLAND – 2020

➤ May 16-17, 2020 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promo*

### PENNSYLVANIA – 2019-2020

➤ May 2-3, 2020 – Philadelphia, PA – Philadelphia Nat’l Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promo*

➤ May 16-17, 2020 – Carlisle, PA – Carlisle Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*

➤ May 30-31, 2020 – Oaks/Phoenixville, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*

### SPECIAL NOTE – 2020

➤ The NRA Annual Membership Meetings in Nashville, TN have been canceled

## LOOKING FOR:

Member Jack Looney is trying to get in touch with Gunsmith Robert (Mike) Ahlfeld. If you know Mr. Ahlfeld, or have contact with him, please inform Jack at [looney.house@verizon.net](mailto:looney.house@verizon.net) or have Mr. Ahlfeld contact Jack.

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## FOR SALE:

The "For Sale" section of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) Newsletter is provided as a service exclusively to the members of the VGCA. The VGCA, its officers, and directors are not responsible for any listings made in any VGCA Newsletter. We are not responsible for the accuracy (condition, value, etc.) of any listings. All buyers, traders, and sellers agree to comply with all local, state, federal, and international laws in regards to items sold via the VGCA Newsletter. It is their duty and responsibility to ensure the quality and value of the transaction and that all such laws are followed at all times. Buy, sell, or trade at your own risk.

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net). I must receive your material no later than the second Sunday of the month for it to be included in that month's newsletter. Unless other arrangements are made, items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

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### FOR SALE:

- ★ Star Super Model B, 9mm Luger, EC overall. \$549
- ★ Original Colt 1862 Pocket Navy, 5-shot .36 caliber. VGC. Includes original Colt bullet mold, Colt screwdriver and nipple wrench, original period powder flask, Eley cap tin and Taylor display case. \$2750
- ★ Walther Model 8, 25acp. 8-shot magazine, 2nd variation, WW2 German officer bring back, w/ rare, reduced size, custom C96 Broomhandle-type holster. EC. ~~\$1495~~ Now \$1295
- ★ Smith and Wesson 1912, .38 S&W New Departure or Lemon Squeezer, 5-shot revolver, rare 4 inch barrel, sharp nickel plating, minty bore, pearl grips and original factory letter. EC. \$749
- ★ LC Smith 20ga. 1940's classic field grade Featherweight SxS sidelock, 28-inch barrels, excellent bores and casehardening (80%), 2-3/4 inch chambers, extractors, DT VGC+. ~~\$2150~~ Now \$1950
- ★ LC Smith 12ga. with vent rib in similar condition. \$1295
- ★ Marlin Over/Under 20 Gauge, excellent bores. ~~\$750~~. Now \$695

If interested, call 571-308-4978 or send email to [jrbzn13@aol.com](mailto:jrbzn13@aol.com)

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### FOR SALE:

★ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has recently published his book "**Guns of the FBI**". This book is available at GunDigest.com or can be purchased directly from Bill by calling 703-626-2975. He is more than happy to sign a copy for you. Cost is \$50.00.

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### FOR SALE:

★ VGCA member Charlie Pate has four books that he has authored for sale, at discounted prices to VGCA members. These include:

- "**U.S. Handguns of World War II**" - \$45.00
- "**The Smith & Wesson American Model**" - \$55.00
- "**U.S. Military Arms Inspector Marks**" - \$45.00
- "**The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver**" - \$60.00

If interested, please contact Charlie at [usarmsresearch@gmail.com](mailto:usarmsresearch@gmail.com)

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**FOR SALE:**

★ Clarke Custom Ruger Mk II, .22 LR, 5.5" Heavy Barrel, Weaver/Picatinny rail, (2) Magazines, with Custom Thumb Lever Magazine Release, (Pistol built in 1991), \$695.00

★ Mike Ahlfeld\* Custom Ruger Mk I, .22 LR, 5.5" Heavy Barrel, Weaver/Picatinny rail, (2) Magazines, (Pistol built in 1980), \$675.00 \* Mike Ahlfeld is a Virginia-based custom gunsmith

Contact Jack for details at [looney.house@verizon.net](mailto:looney.house@verizon.net)

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**FOR SALE:**

★ S&W Model 4013 TSW in .40SW, 3 DOT Tritium Night Sights, Walt Freer Trigger Job, Hoge Grips, new Milt Sparks Black Leather Holster, new Mixon Black Leather 2-Mag Belt Pouch, 2 x 12-round S&W Magazines, 8 x 9-round S&W Magazines, soft side pistol bag, and over 300 rounds of .40SW ammo. Entire Package \$600.00

Buyer must have a Virginia CHP, be a credentialed LEO, or submit to a Virginia State Police background check. If interested, call John at 703-281-2478.

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The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is [Newsletter@vgca.net](mailto:Newsletter@vgca.net) - or you can reach the editor directly at [rpebecker@verizon.net](mailto:rpebecker@verizon.net). Feel free to e-mail items for inclusion in the newsletter. For changes of address or non-receipt of the newsletter, either via e-mail or the mailed hard copy, please contact Rob Becker or Bill Chronister.