



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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

NRA Affiliate Number G8162

CMP Affiliate Number 026160



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March-April 2021 VGCA Newsletter

President's Comments

Greetings VGCA members,

I am happy to report that we had a very successful spring gun show. We had over 1500 customers come through the two-day event. We also maintained all of the COVID protocols as required by state law. It was one of our most successful shows to date. I want to thank everyone who helped plan and run the show, but especially Rick, Andrew, and Frank. Hats off again to our volunteers who assisted with set up and security.

Many thanks to George Dungan and his outside crew who manned the entrance tables. They ensured we did not exceed our building capacity limit and also helped sell raffle tickets. Yes, VGCA held its first fundraising raffle at the spring show (see the show article on pages 3-9 for more details) and it was extremely successful!

Overall, the show was very busy and I think the vendors did well. I really want to thank our vendors for adhering to the mask rule and helping make the show great. It continues as one of the best quality gun shows in the area. I have received several calls and texts on the quality of the items offered at this show.

We will continue to have virtual membership meetings for the near future. We have lined up some great presentations for the next few months (list is on page 27). Please make sure your email address is current so you can get the link to join the virtual meeting. I still have no updates as to when we can begin to meet in person again.

One last note, Bill Chronister would like to retire from the position as membership coordinator. We are actively looking for a volunteer to take over this critical position. Look for more information on this in future newsletters.

—*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President



★ February Presentation

Member Jim Ashing, a Colt collector for over 40 years, gave a presentation on Colt Boxes, 1870s to early 1970s. He originally built the presentation with the help of members of the Colt Collectors Association and presented this information to that organization in October 2019.

One might ask – why? Who cares about boxes? The simple fact is, original boxes can command high prices by themselves and add significantly to the value of an associated firearm. And as Jim pointed out – there are LOTS of fakes out there! His theme was “Know what right looks like.”

One thing to remember is the timeline of Colt address and company name changes. Another is that the blue label on the end of a box meant the gun inside was blued. A white label with blue printing meant that the firearm was nicked. Even the shade of label or printing is important. In addition to end labels, Jim reviewed and provided photographs of interior labels, interior prints (which replaced interior labels), types of boxes (hinged and “lift off” tops), bottoms. He even provided examples of conversion units and reship/repair return boxes. This detailed presentation was well received by the members present. If you have any questions on the subject, Jim said you could email him directly at jcashing@yahoo.com.

★ February Membership Meeting

★ **February Business:** VGCA President Bernie Breighner called the meeting to order with an announcement that it had been one year since our last VGCA meeting. We will use the “Webinar” platform to conduct on-line meetings at least through this summer. Bernie went on to thank Wes Chappell, Shannon Zeigler, and Andrew Woodard for researching and figuring out how to execute meetings in this new (to us) medium. There were 46 members who participated in this inaugural VGCA on-line meeting.

Bernie noted that, with the continued closure of the NRA facilities, we are not sure when in-person VGCA membership meetings will resume. It won't be before this fall. Similarly, we will postpone officer and director elections until at least this fall as well.

Secretary Rob Becker made a pitch for members to contribute articles, show-n-tell items, or reviews of gun shows, books, or museums for the newsletter. Send articles or photos to rpebecker@verizon.net.

Treasurer Shannon Zeigler provided a quick update on VGCA finances. He noted that the VGCA did not have many expenses in 2020, which is good because we were only able to have one gun show to generate income. The fall gun show was a good one, despite a reduced number of tables to rent (to provide more space in the aisles and for the vendors behind the tables) and added expenses due to COVID-19 precautions. We had 1378 attendees to the show, which was our most-attended fall show in several years.

Membership Chairperson Bill Chronister reported that the VGCA has 414 life members and 96 annual members, for a total of 510. 2021 ID card stickers for the annual members are in the mail.

Show Director Rick Nahas announced that there are only 2 open tables for our March 2021 Gun Show and it will have the same floor plan as the November show. Rick also reported that the Prince William County Fairgrounds have been sold and that it will remain as a fairgrounds venue. The new owner has planned several infrastructure upgrades, some of which may be completed by the time of our fall show. The VGCA has reserved gun show dates through 2024.

★ Spring Gun Show Report

As an initial step forward toward a “return to normalcy,” the VGCA executed their spring gun show during the last weekend in March. After canceling two out of three scheduled shows last year, it was nice to follow up on our highly successful November 2020 show with an equally successful March 2021 show!

Show Director Rick Nahas repeated his new table lay-out that he first used last fall. This lay-out made the aisles wider and also provided more space behind the tables. This new layout reduced the number of tables to 125 (40 less than the 165 tables of our previous shows), but the reduction was necessary to ensure our customers and vendors could maintain the recommended 6 feet of social distancing separation. Like all of our gun shows, this one would not have been possible without our VGCA members volunteering to help set up the tables on Friday and provide security through-out the weekend. If you run across any of the following members, please thank them for their help:

Set up volunteers

Jim Burgess	Al Reid	Dave Murphy	Rich Valenzi
Rick Nahas	Ernie Lyles	Frank Cooper	George Dungan

Our Set Up Chairperson, Andrew Woodard, actually initiated the set up an hour earlier than planned and as a result, was finished sooner than expected. For those who volunteered but arrived after everything was completed – thank you and we will better utilize your talents next time!

Security Volunteers

Keith Simmons	Craig Peters	Sid Rodda	Joe Roberts
Keith Ryan	Bruce Buchner	Art Pence	Dave Gravatt
Rich McCormack	Tor Johnson	Dan Helm	Frank Cambria
Rich Valenzi	Chris Levy		

Continuing a benefit that we have been providing for a couple of years now, set up volunteers and security volunteers that worked at least one 4-hour shift were each given a \$25 gift certificate to be used at the gun show.

Overnight Security

Wes Chappell	Jack Looney
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Over the 2-day event at the Prince William County Fairgrounds, we had approximately 1500 customers pass through the doors. This continues a welcome upward trend in VGCA show attendance that started with our November 2020 show.

President Bernie Breighner put together what was probably the first-ever VGCA fund-raising Raffle. Thanks to generous donations from Dominion Defense, Marc Gorelick, Wes Chappell, George, and others we had six separate raffle prize packages. Tickets were \$5 each (5 tickets for \$20) and sales were brisk - the VGCA was able to net \$1000 after expenses on the raffle. We hope to continue having fund-raising raffles at future shows, starting with this fall.



Our thanks go out to Ed Costello for arranging the electronic sign advertising our show (left) and to Bernie Breighner for collecting the items for our VGCA Fund-Raising Raffle (right)

Raffle Results

Prize	Items	Winner
1 st Prize	5 x Magpul AR15 Magazines and 400 Rounds of .223 Ammo	Austin S.
2 nd Prize	5 x Magpul AR15 Magazines, an SP1 Movie Prop “Gun”, and 150 rds of .223	Gary L.
3 rd Prize	3 x Glock Magazines and 100 rounds of 9mm +P Ammo	Lewis C.
4 th Prize	150 rounds of .223 and 50 rounds of 9mm +P Ammo	Mike V.
5 th Prize	Reproduction Japanese Type 30 Bayonet	Richard E.
6 th Prize	Red Ryder “Heritage Kit” that included two Daisy Carbines	Shawn W.

Members of the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL) were provided a table to recruit new members and were passing out the ever-popular “GUNS SAVE LIVES” bright orange stickers (at right). The VCDL provides an excellent service to its members, warning them of pending gun-related legislation (both good and bad) in the state of Virginia and it does so in a timely manner, allowing its members to contact their legislators before any votes. The VCDL also organizes the annual Lobby Day every January in Richmond. For more details and information, go to their webpage at vcdl.org.





Would anyone really expect former VGCA President Ernie Lyles (at left) to have a face mask without a handlebar mustache?

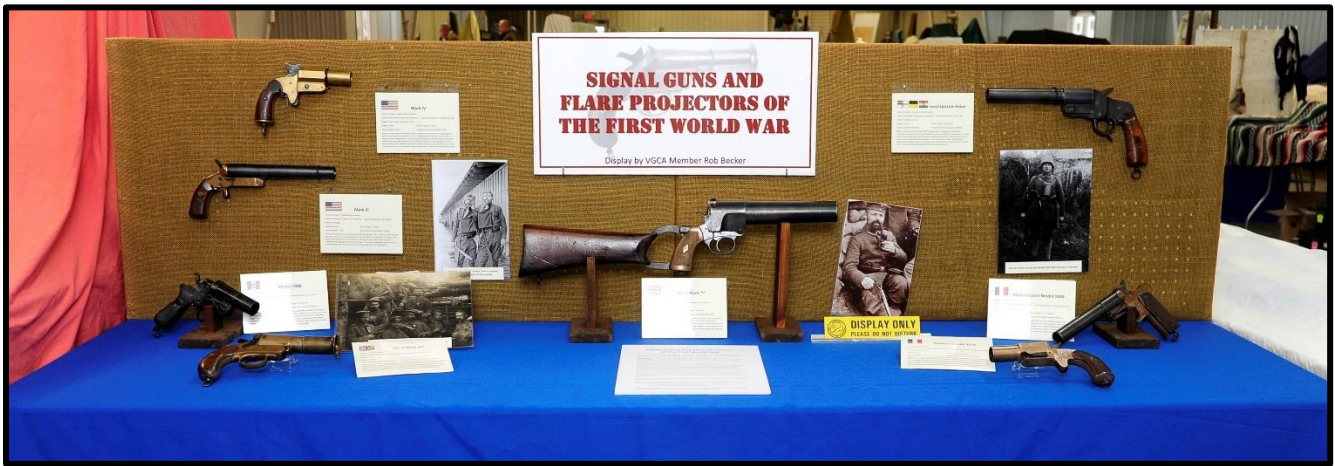


Show vendors consult their references before buying their next treasure (right).

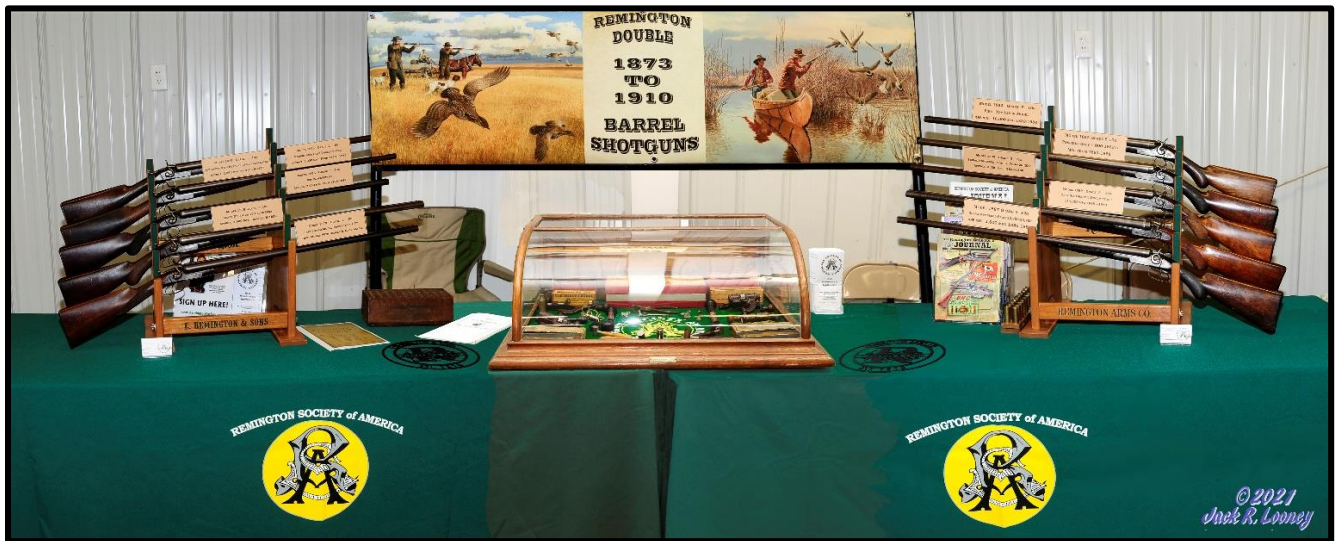


Two features that distinguish our gun show from all others in the area are an Evaluation Table and our Educational Displays. A special thanks goes out to member Jim Burgess (shown above, announcing the display judging results to our exhibitors – left to right – Jim Burgess, Paul Veneziano, Rob Becker, Bernie Breighner, J.J. Roberts, and Mike Alsop) for manning the evaluation table in March, as well as organizing the judging of our displays. We had five superb displays and the judging results are noted below:

DISPLAY TITLE	EXHIBITOR	NOTE
Flare Guns & Signal Projectors of the 1st Word War	Rob Becker	1 st Place
Remington Double Barrel Shotguns, 1873-1910	Mike Alsop	2 nd Place
U.S. Combat Pistols since 1945	Bernie Breighner	3 rd Place
Fox Gun	J.J. Roberts	1 st Judge's Choice
World War I Living History	Paul Veneziano	2 nd Judge's Choice

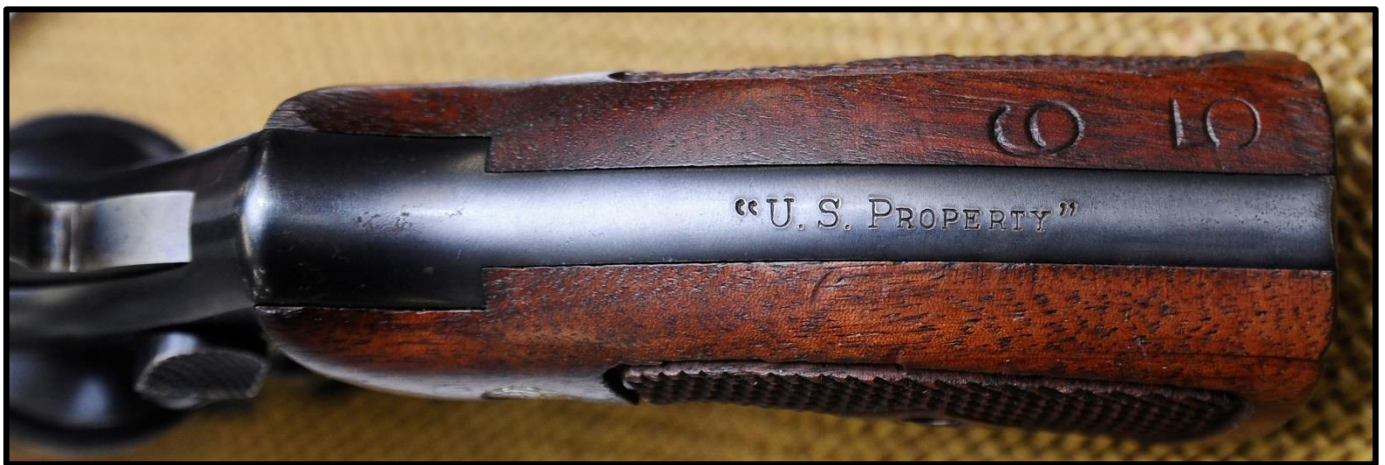


Rob Becker's display of **Flare Guns of WWI** included eight different pieces from five of the combatant nations. Period photographs featured many of the flare guns represented "in the trenches" – including a captured British Mark III* in the hands of a German! This display took 1st Place in very close voting!



Mike Alsop has shared several different displays of Remington firearms over the years, and this was his best yet! Titled **Remington Double Barrel Shotguns, 1873-1910**, this comprehensive collection included some of the finest known examples of very rare models. Especially noteworthy was his collection of reloading and cleaning tools (*at right*), many in their original boxes and all well over 100 years old. Mike garnered a well-deserved 2nd Place for this display!





Bernie Breighner's display of **U.S. Combat Pistols since 1945** contained some very rare examples (including some test articles) not often seen outside of the military. Organized chronologically in four display cases, Bernie included accessories such as holsters, belts, magazines, and ammunition. Period photographs and patches were abundant and provided context. One excellent example is the Smith & Wesson Pre-Model 10 (*shown above with the "U.S. PROPERTY" marking on the back of the grip frame*) that was purchased by the U.S.M.C. in 1953. Overall, this was as complete a collection on the subject as you are likely to see in civilian hands. This display ranked 3rd in the opinion of the judges.

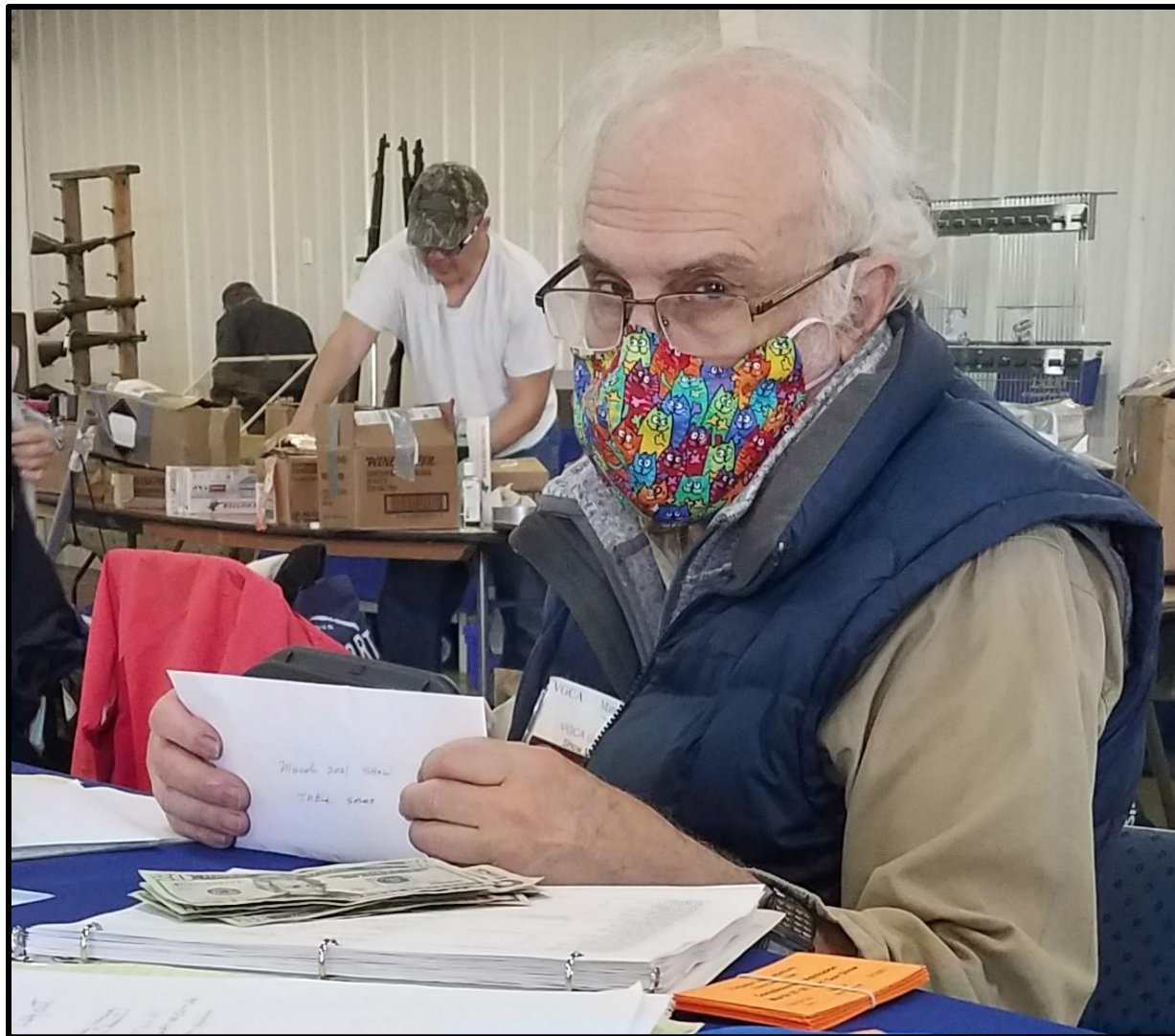


The first of two Judge's Choices went to J.J. Roberts for his display of **A.H. Fox Guns**. It included five classic pieces of fine American hunting firearms.



The second Judge's Choice award went to Paul Veneziano and his **Living History of WWI**. This vast multi-table display covered many aspects of life during the First World War, including weapons (up to and including a mortar), tools, maps, recruiting posters, carts, crates, and web gear – both original examples and reproductions.

To encourage people to take the time and effort to display their collections, the VGCA offers display tables free of charge to our members. The VGCA also offers a one-time stipend of \$100 to members building their first displays (those backboards and gun racks aren't free, you know!). Finally, winning displays receive cash prizes! If interested in learning more about our displays or in asking for help in putting one together, please contact any VGCA officer or director.



Show Manager Rick Nahas (shown above, collecting table rental fees for the November Show) has been organizing and executing our VGCA gun shows for 19 years.

These shows not only provide the operating funds for the VGCA, but also allow our members as well as the public to come together and enhance their collections and knowledge. As always, many thanks go out to our volunteers, without whom these shows could not happen.

Mark your calendars - our fall gun show is scheduled for November 6-7. Hope to see you there!



CHARLES LANCASTER 4-BARREL HOWDAH PISTOL BELONGING TO Lt. Col. GEORGE G.W. CORRIE, RA

By Marc Gorelick

Firearms are an integral part of history and gun collectors prize guns that can be attributed to historical figures, whether well-known or not, or guns that helped change or influence the course of history. Such a gun is the 4-barrel, break action “Howdah” pistol that belonged to Lt. Col. George Gowan Wyatt Corrie of the British Royal Artillery.



*Fig. 1 - Lancaster Howdah of Lt. Col. George Gowan Wyatt Corrie, Royal Artillery.
Photo Joh.Springer*

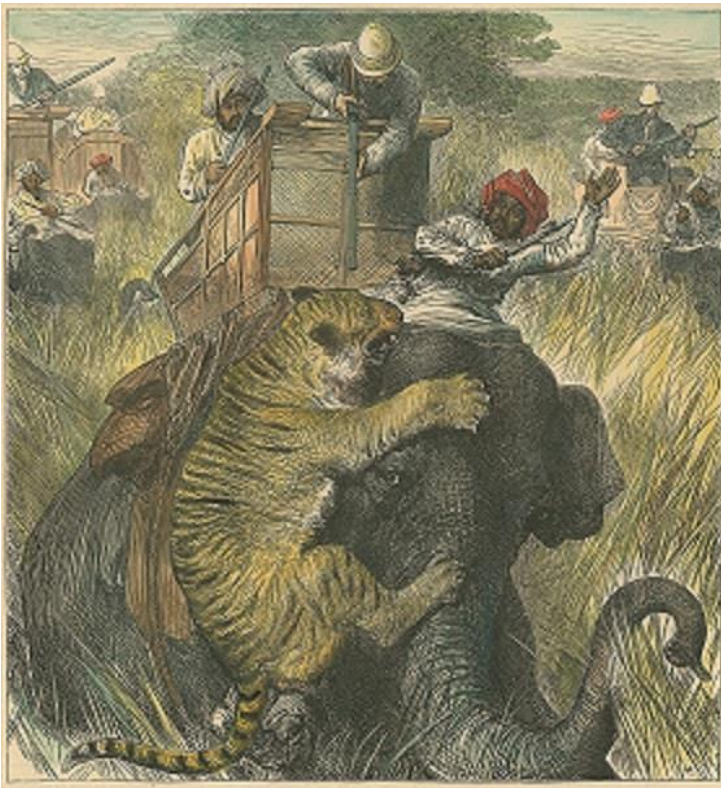
Corrie was born on Sept. 23, 1872 into a Scots family. The Corries were the hereditary keepers of the castle of Loch Doon in Galloway. He joined the British Army Royal Artillery, and after undergoing training, on March 18, 1892 was assigned as a 2nd Lieutenant Ordnance Officer in South Africa. He was promoted to full lieutenant on March 19, 1895, according to the April 2, 1895 issue of the London Gazette. He was seconded to the Indian Army for service with a mountain battery on July 1, 1898. Per the British Army lists, on January 3, 1900 he was promoted to Captain and was serving with the 414 Native Mountain Artillery in India. He either purchased his Charles Lancaster 4-barrel Howdah pistol in London, before embarking for India, or while he was in India. He was then sent back to South Africa where he fought in the 2nd Boer War during 1901-1902, and, according to family tradition, carried his Howdah throughout the war. In March 1906 he was made Supernumerary Captain in the Royal Garrison Artillery. Corrie was promoted to major in the Royal Artillery on October 4, 1912 and fought against the Boche during World War 1. He was promoted to Lt. Colonel on January 5, 1917 and retired on half-pay on January 11, 1921.

While his career was that of the typical British Army officer during the British Empire, his Howdah pistol is anything but typical. The howdah pistol was a large caliber handgun, often with two or four barrels, used in India and Africa from the beginning of the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century. Although intended for close-range defense against lions, tigers and other dangerous animals, British Army

officers carried them in the field as they were deemed more reliable, faster loading, with a higher rate of fire, and having greater stopping power than contemporary revolvers, such as the Adams, Tranter and Enfield.



*Fig. 2 - Lancaster Howdah of George Gowan Wyatt Corrie. Note opening lever on top of left side.
Photo Joh.Springer*



The term "howdah pistol" comes from the howdah, a large platform mounted on the back of an elephant in the Indian British Raj. Hunters used howdahs as a platform for hunting dangerous game. A large caliber pistol was needed for emergency close range protection against animal attacks. There are many instances of an enraged tiger climbing up an elephant to get at the hunters who shot him. Early howdah pistols were flintlock designs, often sawed off rifles or muskets, and later single barrel percussion pistols, and later pin-fires were used. By the 1880s and early 1900s cartridge-firing rifled howdah pistols were standard. All of the big names – Lancaster, Westley Richards, Holland & Holland, and Purdey – made Howdah pistols. One noted hunter said, "To be effective, the muzzle must be placed close to the tiger's head, and care must be taken not to kill the mahout."

Fig. 3 Drawing of Colonel Sir Arthur Ellis at close quarters with a tiger that is attacking an elephant's mahout during a hunt in India. From The Illustrated London News, April 1, 1876



Fig. 4 - Note the lever to open the action, the London proof marks on the barrels and the caliber stamped between the barrels, “.476 CF.” Photo Joh.Springer

The Howdah described and illustrated here was made by the firm of Charles Lancaster of 151 New Bond Street, London, in 1900. Charles Lancaster Sr. operated a gun shop at 151 New Bond Street, London beginning from 1822 to 1854. His son, Charles William Lancaster, apprenticed to his father in 1847, took over the business and designed the Lancaster howdah. Lancaster was a prolific firearms inventor with 20 patents. He was famous for conceiving oval bore rifling for rifles and artillery, and is also known for his pillar breech, gas-check bullet, pepperboxes and howdahs. Under his management, the firm of Charles Lancaster maintained the highest standards, of quality, supplying the finest weapons to the finest families. Henry A.A. Thorn was an apprentice to Charles Lancaster from 1870 to 1876 and he and Lancaster were discussing a partnership when Lancaster died in 1878. Thorn purchased the business in 1879. He continued to operate it under the Lancaster name, and in fact, he practically assumed the name Charles Lancaster. The firm continued under that name until 1932.



Fig. 5 - Top of George Gowan Wyatt Corrie's Lancaster Pistol. Note the company name and address on the rib between the barrels: “CHARLES LANCASTER (PATENT) 151 NEW BOND St LONDON” and the owner's initials, “G.G.W.C.” over “R.A.” behind the rear sight. Photo Joh.Springer.

It was Thorn who invented the Lancaster howdah pistol. His British Patent 1242/1881 covered all his multi-barreled, drop-down firearms as to their unique rotating hammer lock mechanism. His British patent 213/1882 improved on the previous patent and followed the Tranter principle of a double trigger to share the effort of cocking and firing. Patent 3089/1882 covered hammer locks with hinged hammer or tumbler noses to fire double or four barreled guns.



Fig. 6 - Top view of George Corrie's Lancaster pistol. Note the owner's initials, "G.G.W.C." over "R.A." behind the rear sight. Photo Joh.Springer.

The Lancaster has an unusual firing mechanism. The guns used Thorn's revolving striker mechanism of 1881, but later guns used a firing pin integral with the revolving striker to replace the older version of a separate firing pin for each barrel. A grooved cylinder is located inside the frame and the firing pin/striker would follow it to strike the cartridge loaded into each barrel in turn every time the trigger is pulled. This mechanism was relatively simple and robust compared to the more complicated revolvers of the day and was well protected by a rather bulky frame casing. This mechanism was accessible by removing the grips. The grooved cylinder would later appear on the Webley-Fosbery Automatic Revolver.

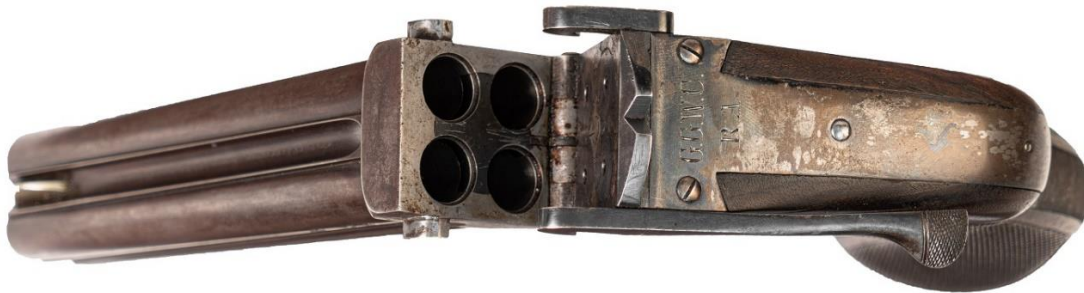


Fig. 7 - George Gowan Wyatt Corrie's Lancaster Pistol open showing four chambers. Note that although the lever for opening the pistol (and a latch and lug for locking it closed) is on the left side, it is connected to similar latch and lug for locking the action on the right side. Note the round edges of the extractor. Photo Joh.Springer.

Chambered for then modern brass center fire cartridges, Lancaster top-break howdah pistols came with either two or four barrels and all were manufactured with Charles Lancaster's oval bores which enabled them to fire .410 or 20 gauge shotgun shells. The oval bores were also better than conventional land and groove rifling for resisting fouling from the black powder cartridges then in use. The break action was hinged underneath the barrels at the point at which they joined the frame. The extractor automatically extracted all four spent cartridges when the pistol was fully opened. This allowed the Lancaster to be reloaded quickly and, when closed, created a virtually air tight seal, imparting greater muzzle velocity and stopping power than contemporary revolvers and making the Lancaster safer to use. It had a faster rate of fire than the standard-issue Adams revolver and the Tranter-type trigger helped to overcome the heavy pull of the revolving striker. It is said that those made with the double trigger had a smooth and light trigger pull, providing accuracy close to that of a target pistol. It was also well liked because the cylinder mechanism or lock work was sealed inside the frame and this protected from fouling, dust and dirt.

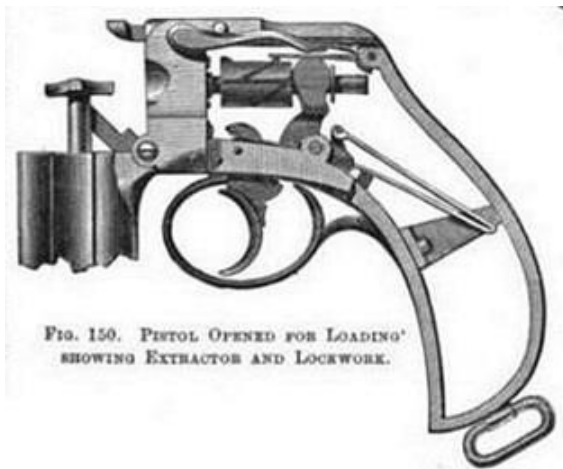
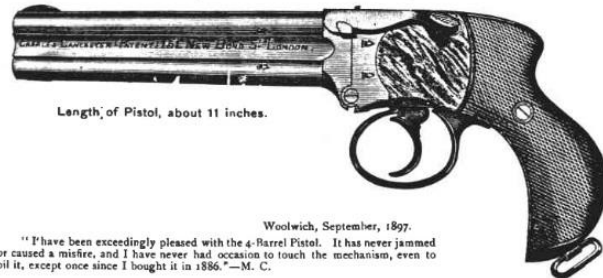


FIG. 150. PISTOL OPENED FOR LOADING*
SHOWING EXTRACTOR AND LOCKWORK.

CHARLES LANCASTER
INVENTOR AND PATENTEE
OF THE
FOUR-BARREL BREECH LOADING HAMMERLESS PISTOL.

Weight about 2 lbs. 6oz. Bore .465, C.F.



Length of Pistol, about 11 inches.

Woolwich, September, 1897.

"I have been exceedingly pleased with the 4-Barrel Pistol. It has never jammed or caused a misfire, and I have never had occasion to touch the mechanism, even to oil it, except once since I bought it in 1886."—M. C.

Fig 8 (Left) - Drawing of Lancaster pistol open for loading showing the extractor and lockwork. The "Modern Sportsman's Gun and Rifle," London, 1883-1884.

Fig. 9 (Right) - Top of page from a Lancaster Catalog of about 1900 showing a 4-Bbl large frame pistol of about 1886-1889.

Lancaster pistols were produced in two and four barrel versions. Starting in 1882, about 712 four-barrel pistols and 234 two-barrel pistols were produced. There were two frame sizes in each type – large frame and small frame. Because Lancaster manufactured pistols to special order, they were made in a large variety of calibers ranging from .320 Rev (special orders) to .577. However the two most common calibers for 4-barrel large frame guns were .476 and .455. The most common calibers for large frame 2-barrel pistols were .577 and 20 gauge shot shell. The small frame 2-barrel pistols were often chambered for .476 and .455 cartridges. They were also made in various barrel lengths.



Fig. 10 (Left) - Holster with 4 cartridge compartments. Photo Joh.Springer.



Fig. 11 (Right) - British Indian Army Mountain Artillery crew assembling a RML 2.5 inch mountain gun, circa 1895. Then Captain George Gowan Wyatt Corrie would have commanded a battery of these guns when he was with the 414 Native Mountain Artillery of the Indian Army.

George Corrie's howdah is a typical Lancaster 4-barrel break action, S/N 8953. It is .476 caliber – Lancaster made only 245 4-barrel pistols in that caliber. The barrels are oval bore and there is a fluted rib inscribed with the Charles Lancaster name and address. It has a nickel silver front sight, an express rear sight, and a color hardened action. The pistol is double-action only with a clockwise rotating firing pin. It has a fluted bird's head walnut grip with fine checkering and a lanyard ring. On the top of the grip, behind the barrels, are the engraved initials "G.G.W.C." above "R.A", (for George Gowan Wyatt Corrie and Royal Artillery) (See Figs. 5 & 6). The barrels have London black powder proofs and in the rib on the left side between the barrels is the caliber, "476 CF" (see Fig. 4).

The pistol came with its original leather holster which has four cartridge compartments. The gun and holster came from George G.W. Corrie's estate and were auctioned by Joh.Springer Erben of Vienna, Austria.

The Lancaster howdah was popular with British officers serving in the colonies and until it was displaced by the Webley revolvers in the late 19th century which were reliable and faster to reload, thus removing many of the advantages of the multi-barrel design. In addition, the advent of smokeless powder and the introduction of reliable semi-automatic pistols seemed to signal the beginning of the end for the Lancaster howdah and the firm, although a few howdahs were still in use as late as World War I.

Sources

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The Royal Greenjackets (Rifles) Museum website
Numerous other websites



GUNS OF DISTINCTION

KORTH GOLD ENGRAVED COMBAT REVOLVER

By Marc Gorelick

Photos courtesy of Joh. Springer's Erben, Vienna, Austria

Korth revolvers have rightly been called the “Rolls Royce of revolvers.” Korth is a high-end firearms manufacturer based in Lollar, Hesse, Germany. Their quality revolvers cost over \$3,377 and their semi-automatic pistols cost over \$4,500. Machined from the finest billet steel, Korths are known for their fine craftsmanship, and unparalleled smoothness, accuracy, durability and reliability.



This Korth revolver is a Combat model manufactured in 1987, according to the German proof marks. The mint condition gun has a 3 inch barrel and is in .38/.357 magnum caliber. It is decorated with gold inlay in a foliate scroll design and is signed on the barrel by the engraver; “Eng. Fa. Ing. Hechtl.”





★ **Next Membership Meeting: April 22nd, 7 p.m. Topic: Guns of the FBI by Bill Vanderpool.** Since the NRA facilities remain closed to the public, we will conduct this meeting as a “webinar” similar to the February VGCA Membership Meeting. A link to access the webinar will be sent to your email account from the VGCA constant contact address approximately 7 days before. We look forward to “seeing” you then!



★ **Other News!** ★

★ **Membership Chairman’s Report – March-April 2021:**

New Applications for Membership: Since the February Newsletter, there have been four new applicants for membership. These applicants came from both the March gun show and via the mail.

- **James Anderson** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **Gary Holderman**
- **Kenneth C. Burgess** of Broad Run, VA is sponsored by **Frank Cambria**
- **J. Reese Duncan, Jr.** of Reston, VA is sponsored by **Edward Costello**
- **J. Patrick Glynn** of Falls Church, VA is sponsored by **James Frigiola**

Thanks to the applicants for their interest in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association and to their sponsors for promoting the VGCA and keeping the membership growing during this hiatus from in-person activity.

If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before May 15, 2020. For questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net or call me at 703-204-0138.

Notice to New Member Sponsors: VGCA will be discontinuing hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters in the near future. *Please make sure your prospective applicants include a legible email address and telephone contact number* if at all possible. Without an email address new members will NOT receive any newsletter or VGCA announcements.

Membership Numbers: There are currently 412 Life members, and 96 Annual Members, for a total of 508 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

Annual Membership extensions: The VGCA Executive Committee extended all 2020 Annual Memberships until December 31, 2021. 2021 Validation stickers were sent in batches beginning February 24, 2021. All Annual Members have been sent their 2021 Validation Stickers that are good until 12/31/2021.

Bill Chronister, Membership Chair



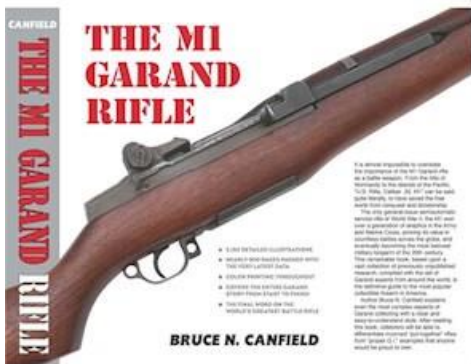


CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

BOOKSTORE, PODCASTS & VIDEOS

The VGCA is a CMP Affiliated club. The VGCA club number is 026160.



CMP BOOKSTORE

The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has an on-line bookstore as well as bookstores at its facilities, such as Camp Perry, Ohio. While it does not have a large inventory, the books that it does have are focused on the guns and activities that the CMP deals with. There are numerous books to satisfy even the most demanding collector and shooter of 20th century US military rifles, specifically the M-1 Garand and the M-1 Carbine. The books about these two iconic guns range from reprints of original military manuals, to shop manuals, to shooting guides to histories,

including what is arguably the definitive work about the M-1 Garand, Bruce Canfield's 872-page tome, ***THE M-1 GARAND RIFLE***. A must for Garand collectors, it is a tour de force of firearms research and scholarship that gives the complete history of the M1 Garand service rifle.

The latest addition to the bookstore is ***THE CMP GUIDE TO TARGET SHOOTING WITH VINTAGE MILITARY RIFLES*** by Gary Anderson, Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Emeritus and two-time highpower rifle Olympic gold medalist. The 284-page, soft-bound, fully-illustrated first edition is a comprehensive guide about the methods of training and competing with popular American and foreign vintage military rifles.

As one would expect, the CMP bookstore also has numerous books and guides for competitive and target shooting, including several guides for rifle, pistol and shotgun written by the coaches and shooters of the US Army Marksmanship Unit. There are also a number of National Match related prints and posters. The e-bookstore can be accessed through the CMP website at <https://estore.thecmp.org/?cat=BKS>.

CMP PODCASTS



The CMP introduced its own podcast series this year. The CMP Podcasts is a digital series of interviews, conversations and classes. The podcast episodes cover a variety of topics, including in-depth looks into CMP departments and upcoming competitions, along with insight directly from the voices of professionals within the marksmanship industry. The CMP podcasts can be accessed or downloaded by going to the CMP website at

<https://thecmp.org/news-media/cmp-podcasts/>. They are free for downloading or sharing either directly or on a number of platforms.

CMP – GCA M-1 GARAND VIDEOS



For those who are really interested in the M-1 Garand, the CMP has posted on its website a number of videos that were produced by the Garand Collectors Association (GCA). The purposes of the GCA is to exchange information and expand knowledge of the U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30, M1; to preserve and publicize the history of the rifle and its inventor John C. Garand; to assist and encourage new collectors; to assist authors in writing new reference works; to assist members in their collecting; and to

encourage competitive and recreational safe shooting of the rifle. The videos do all that and more. They run the gamut from M-1 care and maintenance to detailed technical information to various aspects of the history of the Garand and the men who made it and used it. These videos, which are free for viewing, include:

- ❖ The 7th Round Stoppage
- ❖ From Model Shop to Gas Port: Early M-1 Rifle production at Springfield
- ❖ Limited Technical Inspection, Gage inspection Demonstration
- ❖ The Long Shadow of John Garand
- ❖ The CMP and the Philippine Garands
- ❖ America's Rifle, The M-1 Garand
- ❖ The Greatest Battle Implement Ever Devised: George Patton, Luxembourg and the M1 Rifle

Just go to https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/videos-m1-garand/ to spend a few hours learning about this iconic American rifle.



★ Member Research

My thanks to member Charlie Pate for sharing the attached article from his archival research!

Rank Has Its Privileges The “C&R” of Secretary Baker’s Cordero Revolver

By Charles Pate

We all know it. There are rules for us that don’t always apply to others (meaning those with power and/or influence). Although they were rare, I’ve seen a few incidents like the one described here in official U.S. military records and in recently reviewing some 1921 Army Ordnance Department files I came across this good documented example. Here are my notes on the records:

1/11/1921, National Archives, Record Group 156 (Chief of Ordnance Records), Entry 36A (General Correspondence), File 474.6/1620: The Small Arms Division of the Ordnance Office (OO) wrote the Commanding Officer of Springfield Armory (SA) telling him that a revolver belonging to the Secretary of War (Newton D. Baker, who served from 3/9/1916 to 3/4/1921) was being sent to SA to be “cleaned and overhauled” (usually the term used was “Cleaned & Repaired,” which was often abbreviated to “C&R”). The pistol was to be returned to the OO and the cost of the work was to be charged to “Springfield Armory’s contingent allotment.” SA responded on 2/11/1921 by saying the revolver had been repaired and refinished and, on the previous day, shipped back to the OO by registered mail. However, on 2/9/1921, when the OO had not yet heard from SA, the OO had asked if the revolver had been received and, if so, its status. SA replied on the 11th again saying the revolver had been returned. The file includes a receipt dated 2/14/1921 showing the OO had received one “Revolver “Cordero” Mfr., Cal. .32 Police Cartridge, serial no. 4977, Property of the Secretary of War, which has been cleaned and repaired.”

There are three aspects of this that are out of the norm. One, of course, is the fact that government workmen, facilities and materials had been used to overhaul someone’s private weapon. I believe this was against Army regulations in force at the time. The second is the fact that Secretary Baker did not pay for the work done on the revolver and it was instead charged to SA’s contingency funds. In the few cases where I’ve seen Army officers had their personal arms repaired or refinished by an Army arsenal, all occurred before 1900 and all of the officers paid the government for the work. Lastly, this was not even a U.S. military firearm; in fact it was a Spanish-made copy of a civilian Colt revolver like the one illustrated here.

Admittedly, the fact this occurred will not surprise any of the readers and it is also just a little bit of historical minutiae, but it is extraordinarily well-documented and I hope that the readers will find it of passing interest.



Photo 1 – Secretary of War Newton Diehl Baker Jr. (December 3, 1871–December 25, 1937) was a lawyer and politician who had served as the mayor of Cleveland, Ohio from 1912 to 1915. Baker supported Woodrow Wilson at the 1912 Democratic National Convention, helping Wilson win the votes of the Ohio delegation. He was rewarded with the appointment as Wilson’s Secretary of War. It was he who selected General John J. Pershing to command the American Expeditionary Forces. After leaving office in 1921, Baker returned to the legal practice he had founded. Baker was a candidate for the presidential nomination at the 1932 Democratic National Convention, but the convention chose Franklin D. Roosevelt. Confined to his bed after December 3, 1937, because of a longstanding heart condition, Baker died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Shaker Heights, Ohio, on Christmas Day, 1937, and was buried in the Lake View Cemetery. (Wikipedia)

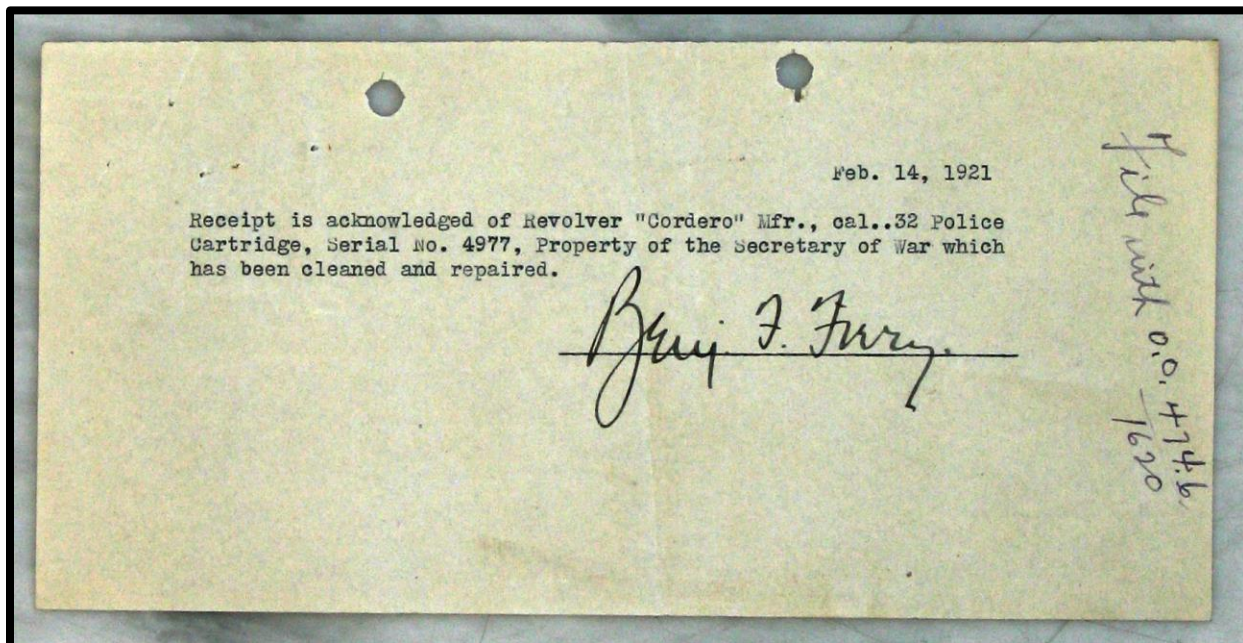


Photo 2 – The receipt showing Baker’s revolver had been returned to the Ordnance Office. Note that it includes the serial number of Baker’s revolver.



Photo 3 – This unusual enclosure is the Springfield Armory shipping label from the box in which Baker’s revolver was returned.



Photo 4 – This example of a .32 caliber Cordero revolver, serial number 18870, is believed to be representative of Secretary Baker’s revolver. (photo courtesy Rock Island Auction Co.)

★ Publication Announcement

Larry Babcock, local author of the “**M1 Garand Photo Essay**,” has just published his “**M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II**”. While his first book, published in 2009, covers primarily the genealogy of manufactured rifle parts, Volume II covers: receiver variations, the M1-C and M1-D, accessory items as grenade launchers and slings, ordnance tools and gauges, enblock clips, cleaning items and bayonets for the M1 Garand. There is additional collector information for the first-time buyer as well as the advance collector. Larry sold several copies of his new book at our VGCA Gun Show last month. Best of all, Larry will be presenting this material at our May Membership meeting, which will be conducted via on-line webinar.

★ ATTENTION MEMBERS: Have you 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 or at home on 703-204-0138.

Final Salute

Kelly Clay Cook Passed away on 12 March 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce that VGCA member Kelly Clay Cook, 72, of Manassas, Virginia, passed away on March 12, 2021. Kelly was born in Kansas to Corlin and Lois Cook. He attended Wichita State University on an athletic scholarship and earned a bachelor's degree in Education. He was a retired Army veteran with over 20 years of service.



An avid gun and knife collector/maker, Kelly was a longtime member of VGCA, NORVA Rod & Gun Club and other gun and knife clubs. He was a fixture at VGCA and other gun and knife shows throughout the east Coast where he invariably had interesting items on his table. His displays of .22 pistols at VGCA shows often won awards. He always had a good word for people and freely gave of his time and expertise. He was an expert knife-maker whose products were eagerly sought after. A well-traveled man, he enjoyed his hunting and fishing adventures with friends and family throughout the United States and around the world. Kelly most of all loved meeting people, making friends, and his grandchildren.

Kelly is survived by his wife, Sharon; son, Clifford Cook; daughter, Natalie Cook; grandchildren, Cyilus Sikes, Leila Craig, and Daxton Cook; brothers, Mike and Riley Cook. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Corlys.

A memorial service will be held at a later date, to be determined, at St. Thomas United Methodist Church in Manassas.



★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE – If you would like to feature something new (or old) from your collection in a future VGCA newsletter, please send 1-4 photos, along with a description of the item to rpebecker@verizon.net. A Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet (below) lists the information we would like in order to adequately describe your prized possessions.

VGCA Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet

Manufacturer: _____

Model: _____ Action Type: _____

Caliber: _____

Years of Production: _____ Total Produced: _____

Year this example was manufactured (if known): _____

Significance: _____

Question(s) for members: _____

Name (optional): _____

Where acquired (optional): _____ When acquired (optional): _____



Member 1 shared this recently acquired British No. 3 Mark II Flare Gun



This single shot, double action only, 1½ inch (37mm) flare gun was designed by Webley & Scott during WWII. It features unique – and apparently short-lived – course threads on the barrel

to screw in to a corresponding port on a vehicle or aircraft. The hook on top of the barrel positions a tab to then lock the flare gun in place. One source says approximately 5000 were manufactured (though this one is serial number 6206) in 1941-1942. It was replaced by the more common No 4 Mark I flare gun that features 4 lugs at the end of the barrel, making it interchangeable with the U.S. AN/M8 Flare Gun and compatible with the M1 Mount. This example is dated 1942 (*markings above*).



A “family portrait” of British WWII 1½ inch flare guns (*right*) shows the earlier No 3 Mark I (*top*) with no method of vehicle attachment, the No 3 Mark II (*center*), and the later No 4 Mark I (*bottom*) with 4 barrel lugs.

★ 2021 Presentation List ★

DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
22 April 2021	Guns of the FBI	Bill Vanderpool
27 May 2021	M-1 Garand Photo Essay Vol 1 and 2	Larry Babcock
24 June 2021	SKS Carbines	Rob Becker
July 2021	No Meeting due to Summer Recess	
26 August 2021	SR-25 Type Rifles	Bernie Breighner
23 September 2021	Art Muskets of the Ottoman Empire	Marc Gorelick
28 October 2021	Colt Walker Pistols	Charlie Pate
November 2021	No Meeting due to Fall Gun Show (6-7 Nov)	
December 2021	No Meeting at this time - NRA Facilities Remain Closed	

★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: Gun Shows are in a state of flux as states re-impose restrictions on public gatherings. Members are strongly encouraged to verify shows before driving to an event. These dates were verified when this newsletter was written, but are not guaranteed.

VIRGINIA – 2021

- ☞ Apr 17-18, 2021 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center - *SGK*
- ☞ Apr 23-25, 2021 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ☞ May 1-2, 2021 - Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- ☞ May 15-16, 2021 - Manassas, VA – PWC Fairgrounds - *SGK*
- ~~☞ Jun 5-6, 2021 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK* - CANCELLED~~
- ☞ Jun 18-20, 2021 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ☞ Jul 10-11, 2021 – Richmond, VA - Richmond International Raceway – *Showmasters*
- ☞ Jul 17-18, 2021 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- ☞ Jul 17-18, 2021 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E Gun Shows*
- ☞ Jul 23-25, 2021 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*

MARYLAND – 2021

- ~~Apr 17-18, 2021 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – Appalachian Promotions – CANCELLED~~
- May 15-16, 2021 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – Appalachian Promotions
- Jul 10-11, 2021 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – Appalachian Promotions
- Jul 17-18, 2021 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - Appalachian Promotions

PENNSYLVANIA – 2021

- Apr 16-17, 2021 – Shipperville, PA – Oak Grove Events Building – Brimstone Arms
- Apr 17-18, 2021 – Centre Hall, PA – Centre County Grange Fairgrounds – Outdoor Sportsman Club

PENNSYLVANIA – 2021 (continued)

- Apr 17-18, 2021 – Gettysburg, PA – All-Star Sports Complex – North South Trader's Civil War Magazine
- Apr 17-18, 2021 – Allentown, PA – Parkview Inn & Conference Center – Eagle Arms
- Apr 17-18, 2021 – Centre Hall, PA – Centre County Grange Fairgrounds – Outdoor Sportsman Club
- Apr 17-18, 2021 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall & Club - Jaeger Arms
- Apr 24-25, 2021 – Lewis Run, PA – Lewis Run VFD Station 6 – Lewis Run Vol Fire Dept
- Apr 30-May 2, 2021 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – Eagle Arms
- May 7-9, 2021 – Long Pond, PA – Pocono Raceway – Tall Timber Tactical
- May 16, 2021 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1
- Jun 4-5, 2021 – Thompson, PA – Thompson Vol Fire Dept - Jaeger Arms
- Jun 12-13, 2021 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – Appalachian Promotions
- Jun 12-13, 2021 – Promised Land, PA – Promised Land Vol Fire & Ambulance - Jaeger Arms
- Jun 19-20, 2021 – Washington, PA – Washington County Fairgrounds – ARH Sport Shop
- Jun 26-27, 2021 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds - Appalachian Promotions
- Jul 10-11, 2021 – East Stroudsburg, PA – VFW Post #2540 - Jaeger Arms

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS - 2021

- May 8-9, 2021 – Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – Ohio Gun Collectors Assoc – Annual OGCA Display Show
- Jul 17-18, 2021 - Wilmington, OH – Roberts Convention Centre – Ohio Gun Collectors Assoc – featuring the Ruger Owners and Collectors Society
- Jul 21-25, 2021 – Louisville, KY – Kentucky Expo Center - OVMS– Show of Shows

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. 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.

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

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.

FOR SALE:

- ★ VGCA member Terry Philippy offered up this book as a tribute to his mother-in-law:
- "The Army Air Corps: Branch Immaterial – A World War II Memoir"

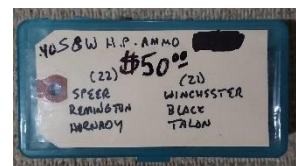
\$16.80 (Amazon) or \$20.95 (Barnes & Noble)

Available on-line at Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Army-Air-Corps-Branch-Immaterial/dp/164416664X/ref=sr_1_1?crd=3I6NIEYEG74BB&dchild=1&keywords=branch+immaterial&qid=1592941069&srefix=branch+imm%2Caps%2C156&sr=8-1

Also available from Barnes and Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-army-air-corps-colonel-w-g-bonvouloir/1131936753?ean=9781644166642>

FOR SALE:

- ★ **.40 S&W:** Winchester Black Talon (21 rounds), Speer/Remington/Hornady (22 rounds), mixed 43 rounds total, in an MTM plastic box \$50.00



- ★ **(14) Bandoliers of Greek .30-06 Ammo** in M1 Garand enblock Clips, 48 rounds per bandolier, \$65.00 each.

- ★ **Madsen Model 50 30-round 9mm Magazine.** \$75.00



- ✪ **7.62x25 Tokarev Ammo.** Eastern Bloc surplus spam can w/ 1224 rounds (dated 1984). \$600
- ✪ **Remington 8mm Mauser Ammo.** 170 gr Core-Lokt. One box \$25.00
- ✪ **Hornady .450 Nitro Express Ammo.** 3 ¼ 450 grain DGX. \$100

Prices firm. Contact Jack for details at looney.house@verizon.net



For Sale: A.E.G. M-14

Bought for photo shoot, never fired. With Charger, Battery, Magazine, Mag Loader, & Assorted pellets

\$150.00

Text name & phone number to **703-999-9458**
with message **"AEG M14"** & I will call you back.

FOR SALE:

✪ One brand new Box of 50 rounds of Winchester .357 Sig Ammo (125 Grain FMJ). Purchased recently at Green Top by mistake - paid \$50 and will take \$50 for it

If interested, call Joe at 571-278-3297.

WANT TO BUY:

✪ Member Joe Carson of Stafford, VA is looking to buy an Enfield No. 4 Mk I or No. 4 Mk I* manufactured by Long Branch. He is looking for VG-Excellent condition rifle that he can use as a shooter. If you have one for sale, please contact Joe at joe31968@yahoo.com

The e-mail address for any Newsletter-related matters is Newsletter@vgca.net - or you can reach the editor directly at 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.