



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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October 2020 VGCA Newsletter

President's Comments

To my fellow VGCA members--

It's hard to believe but our November gun show is almost upon us! It has been a long road since our last show in November 2019. We are really excited to have it and see everyone again. The Board of Directors has looked at all current gun shows and came up with best practices for our show. There will be some new rules that will be strictly enforced for the safety of everyone. Please see below for all the new rules.



We look forward to seeing everyone at the show. Please take precautions for your own safety and do not attend if you have overriding health concerns.

On a few other topics, we still do not have access to the NRA building. All of our monthly meetings have been canceled through December 2020. I hope to make a decision in another 45 days or so to start the meetings again. It will depend upon the NRA building being open, the status of COVID-19, and a vaccine for it.

The other issue of the day is the November election. Please vote as our gun rights are being threatened again on a national level.

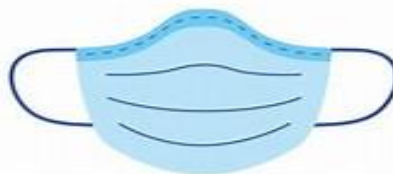
I really appreciate everyone's support and patience in getting through this. I look forward to seeing everyone in a couple of weeks!

—Bernie Breighner, VGCA President

LIST OF COVID-19 GUN SHOW RULES

- 1. All attendees (customers and vendors) will have their temperatures scanned before entering the show. Anyone with a fever over 100 degrees will not be allowed to enter.**
- 2. All attendees (customers and vendors) must wear face masks covering their nose and mouth at all times.**
- 3. All attendees (customers and vendors) will maintain 6 feet of separation between individuals.**
- 4. Attendance is limited to 50% of normal capacity. The fairgrounds building has a normal capacity of 500 people, so our show will limit customers to a maximum of 250 at any one time. A VGCA member will be posted at the entrance to count people entering and exiting the facility to ensure we stay below the 250 person restriction.**

Anyone failing to comply with these rules will be asked to leave the show.



GUNS OF DISTINCTION

By Marc Gorelick

GERMAN FLINTLOCK TURNING O/U SHOTGUN



Johann Heinrich Albrecht OF Darmstadt, Germany is recorded from 1667 until 1711 as gunmaker by appointment to the courts of the Dukes of Solms-Braunfels and the Landgraves of Hesse-Darmstadt. This 54.3" long, two-barrel over/under flintlock shotgun is one of his finest creations. The two .95 caliber barrels rotate around a common axis and while there is only one cock, each barrel has its own pan and frizzen. When one barrel is fired the barrels are rotated and the next is ready for firing. The sliding trigger guard acts as a bolt for the rotating disc.



The 38.4" long smooth barrels have three stages: octagonal at the breech, then after a small flute they become round with a flat top and then slightly swamped at the muzzle. They are engraved with the maker's name, a sunburst and an effigy of Pallas Athena, and have a brass front bead and dovetailed iron rear sight.



The bright metal of the gun is decorated with fine engraving throughout. The muzzles are engraved with foliate scroll; the bright action frame and flat raised lock-plate are engraved with beadwork and mythical figures fighting a dragon; the flat cock is engraved; and the delicately pierced counter lock-plate depicts serpents and a sphinx. The full walnut stock has slight foliage carving and the sliding patchbox lid has rocaille and scallop carving. The iron furniture is also engraved – the iron butt-plate engraving depicts a resting classic warrior and the pierced escutcheon on the stock wrist depicts a cherub. The hardwood ramrod has an iron tip.



★ **Next Membership Meeting:** As noted above, the NRA facilities remain closed to all but essential personnel. With no place to meet and COVID-19 quarantine restrictions on public gatherings still in place, all VGCA membership meetings between now and the end of the year have been canceled. As of now, our next scheduled membership meeting is not planned until January 2021. If the situation changes, the VGCA Executive Committee agreed to re-address this decision. Please stay tuned to our website as well as Facebook and email notices via Constant Contact for news and updates on future Membership Meetings and events.



★ **Need Show Security Volunteers:** We need your help! VGCA needs security volunteers for our fall Gun Show to be held on 7-8 Nov 2020. Please consider volunteering for one or more 2-Hour or 4-Hour shifts, especially afternoon/late shifts. If interested, contact Frank Cambria at 703-937-7670 or ftcambria@yahoo.com



★ **Also Need Show Set-up Volunteers:** In addition to show security, we need 8 or more volunteers for show set-up. Set-up starts at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 6 Nov 2020 and lasts until all the tables are in place (generally about 1-2 hours). If you can help, please contact Andrew Woodard at ajw055570@aol.com



★ Other News! ★

★ **Membership Chairman's Report – October 2020:**

We have one new member for October. Please welcome our new VGCA member.

- **Joseph Carson** of Stafford, Virginia was sponsored by **David Litchfield**

New Applications for Membership: Since the last Newsletter, there has been one new applicant.

- **Michael F. Smith** of Mount Holly, North Carolina is sponsored by **Bill Chronister**

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

If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before November 22, 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 at a future date. *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.

Annual Membership extensions: The VGCA Executive Committee extended all Annual Memberships until December 31, 2021. 2021 Validation stickers are being sent. New members from 2020 who have not yet received IDs are being sent 2021 ID cards. You do NOT need a 2021 sticker for the November Show. An email will be sent to annual members as the 2021 stickers and IDs are mailed so you can be on the lookout.



This article was previously published in the September VGCA Newsletter, but with our pending November gun show being our first since the new Virginia laws went in to effect, I felt it was important to remind our members of the changes.

★ **VIRGINIA STATE POLICE BRIEFING ON NEW STATE GUN LAWS**

By Marc Gorelick

During September, the Virginia State Police, Criminal Justice Information Services, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) held a series of joint electronic briefings, or seminars, about the new Virginia gun laws and ATF rules. I (and other VGCA members)



electronically attended the September 10 briefing, and although the seminars were geared towards FFL holders (dealers), it was also useful for gun owners and collectors. In addition to the powerpoint presentations there were question and answer sessions. In an effort to better inform the VGCA membership about the new gun laws I transcribed the State Police powerpoint below. The text is taken directly from the powerpoint. Any comments of mine will be clearly marked.

There have been a number of changes made at the General Assembly this year, most notably, with regards to firearms, are the changes involving Dual Residency, “One Handgun a Month” and Private Sales (Universal Background Checks).

DUAL RESIDENCY

Statutory Requirements

To establish personal identification and dual residency, a dealer shall require any prospective purchaser to present one photo-identification form issued by a governmental agency of the prospective purchaser’s state of legal residence and other documentation of dual-residence within the Commonwealth.

Documentation of dual-residency may include the following:

- Evidence of a currently paid personal property tax or real estate tax
- Current lease
- Utility or telephone bill
- Voter registration card
- Blank check
- Automobile registration
- Hunting or fishing license
- Other current identification allowed as evidence of residency by 27 CFR Section 178.124 and ATF ruling 2001-5
- Other documentation of residence determined to be acceptable by the Department of Criminal Justice Services that corroborates that the prospective purchaser currently resides in Virginia

ONE HANDGUN A MONTH

Introduction – Statutory Requirements

Section 18.2-308.2:2 of the Code of Virginia prohibits the sale or transfer of more than one handgun to any person within any 30-day period, unless specifically exempted by statute or upon the issuance of a Multiple Handgun Purchase Certificate issued by the Department of State Police.

Explanation of the “30-day period”

The 30-day period starts once a transaction has been assessed as approved. For example, subject purchases a handgun on August 1st, goes into a research status and the transaction is completed and marked approved on August 3rd. The 30-day period starts on August 3rd and the subject would be unable to purchase another handgun, barring an exemption, until September 2nd, not August 31st.

Exemptions

Section 18.2-308.2:2 of the Code of Virginia provides for exemptions to the 30-day rule. Please note, these are exemptions only for this specific rule. Purchasers must meet all other requirements including, but not limited to, residency, ability to pass a background check, etc.

Licensed Firearm Dealers

- Under state and federal law, no background check would be required.

Law Enforcement Officer

- A law enforcement officer is defined as any employee of a police department or sheriff's office that is part of or administered by the Commonwealth of Virginia or any political subdivision thereof, and who is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of penal, traffic or highway laws of the Commonwealth.
- In other words, this would have to be a Virginia law enforcement officer/deputy/trooper. This does not apply to law enforcement officers in other states or the federal government nor civilian employees of any law enforcement agency.
- An agency duly authorized to perform law enforcement duties. This also has to be a Virginia agency, not from another state or a federal agency.
- State and local correctional facilities
- A private security company licensed to do business within the Commonwealth

The purchase of antique firearms

The exchange or replacement of a handgun

- An exchange involves a handgun that was purchased within the last 30-day period and must occur with the original seller of the handgun.
- The transaction requires the SP-65 document number of the original transaction.
- There is no restriction to the number of times a person may exchange a handgun.
- The replacement of a single lost or stolen handgun
 - A person whose handgun is stolen or irretrievably lost who deems it essential that such handgun be replaced immediately may purchase another handgun, even if the person has previously purchased a handgun within a 30-day period.
 - The person must provide the firearms dealer with a copy of the official police report or summary on forms provided by the State Police (Lost/Stolen Handgun Report), from the law-enforcement agency that took the report of the lost or stolen handgun.
 - The Lost/Stolen Handgun Report contains the name and address of the handgun owner, the description of the handgun, the location of the loss or theft, the date of the loss or theft, and the date the loss or theft was reported to the law-enforcement agency. The date of loss or theft as reflected on the Lost/Stolen Handgun Report must have occurred within 30 days of the person's attempt to replace the handgun.
 - The firearms dealer shall attach a copy of the report to the original copy of the completed SP-65 and retain it for a period of two years.
- The Trade of a handgun for a handgun
 - Only one transaction of this nature may be completed each day.

A valid Virginia permit to carry a concealed handgun.

- These are permits issued by a Virginia Circuit Court, in the case of Virginia residents or Virginia State Police in the case of non-resident permits. LEOSA permits issued by any Non-Virginia law enforcement agency, do not meet the statutory requirements for exemption.

The Private Purchase of Curios & Relic handgun

- A private sale means purchase from a person who makes occasional sales, exchanges, or purchases of firearms for the enhancement of a personal collection of curios or relics, or who sells all or part of such collection of curios and relics.
- *(COMMENT: During the Q&A session it was explained that the sale must be of a handgun on the C&R list. It can be between C&R holders or C&R and FFL/dealers. END COMMENT.)*

Multiple Handgun Purchase Certificates

- Purchases in excess of one handgun within a 30-day period may be made upon completion of an enhanced background check by special application to the State Police and upon approval by the State Police, in accordance with the regulations governing multiple handgun purchases promulgated by the Department of State Police. Application shall be made in person to State Police Administrative Headquarters, 7700 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, Virginia, a division headquarters, or area office of the Department of State Police.
- The Multiple Handgun Purchase Certificate is valid for seven days from the date of issuance.
- The Multiple Handgun Purchase Certificate must be surrendered by the purchaser to the dealer at the time of transaction and maintained on file by the dealer for not less than two years from the date of transaction.

PRIVATE SALES

Statutory Requirements

No person shall sell a firearm for money, goods, services or anything else of value unless he has obtained verification from a licensed dealer in firearms that information on the prospective purchaser has been submitted for a criminal history record information check as set out in §18.2-308.2:2 and that a determination has been received from the Department of State Police that the prospective purchaser is not prohibited under state or federal law from possessing a firearm or such sale is specifically exempted by state or federal law.

The designated dealer shall collect and disseminate the fees prescribed in §18.2-308.2:2 as required by that section. The dealer may charge and retain an additional fee not to exceed \$15 for obtaining a criminal history record information check on behalf of a seller. *(COMMENT: During the Q&A session it was explained that the charge could actually be up to \$20. For VA residents \$15 plus \$2 = \$17, and for non-residents (out-of-state) \$15 plus \$5 = \$20. END COMMENT.)*

(COMMENT: During the Q&A session it was explained that for C&R holders purchasing a gun on the C&R list, no background check is required if the transaction is between C&R holders or a C&R holder and a FFL/dealer. END COMMENT.)

If you have any questions please call contact the Virginia State Police: Richmond – (804) 200-4141; Roanoke – (540) 983-6944; Falls Church (703) 287-1130.



★ SOLDIERS OF VIRGINIA, 1607-1945 LIVING HISTORY EVENT AT CEDAR MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD, CULPEPER, VIRGINIA

Marc Gorelick

On Saturday, **October 31, 2020**, from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, a special living history event will be hosted at



*Battle of Cedar Mountain, Currier & Ives, 1862
Charge of Crawford's Brigade*

the Cedar Mountain Battlefield, just south of Culpeper, VA. This event, **Soldiers of Virginia** will cover the experiences and weapons of soldiers who served in Virginia, from the first settlement of Jamestown in 1607 up through World War II. During this unique living history event, more than a dozen accurately dressed individuals with appropriate equipment and arms will share stories that bring to life the time period they each represent. There will also be firing demonstrations and an exciting “Mad Minute” in which all of the troops will fire as quickly as they can for sixty seconds.

Cedar Mountain is best known for the Civil War battle that took place there. On the hot afternoon of August 9, 1862 a few miles south of Culpeper, Virginia, Union forces under Major General Nathaniel Banks attacked Confederate troops under Major General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson. The five hour fight saw four Federal brigades advance across corn and wheat fields against three Confederate divisions formed along the road, fence lines, and in the woods. The Federals had almost won the battle but Jackson and General A. P. Hill counterattacked and turned the tide of the battle. The Confederate victory brought a halt to Union General John Pope’s advance on Gordonsville.

The event opens to the public at 10:00am. Visitors are able to meet and chat with soldiers throughout the day, in between the scheduled arms demonstrations.

11:00 am demonstration – **Matchlock to Firelock, 1607-1846**

1:00 pm demonstration – **Caplock to Breechloader, 1846-1865**

2:00 pm demonstration – **Bolt Action on the World Stage, 1898-1918**

3:00 pm demonstration – **Firepower against the Axis, 1941-1945**

4:14 pm demonstration – **The Mad Minute: Rate of Fire through the Ages**

The battlefield is 5 miles south of Culpeper just off US Route 15. The program fee is \$5 per adult in support of Friends of Cedar Mountain educational programs. Children are free. Pets are not recommended as they may be disturbed by the weapons firing. There is free parking. Soldiers of Virginia is an open air event on the battlefield. Please follow current Virginia COVID-19 precautionary

guidelines, such as physical distancing from other visitors while enjoying the demonstrations. In the event of inclement weather, the program will not be held and an update will be posted on the website <https://friendsofcedarmountain.org> and on the Cedar Mountain Battlefield Facebook page. Please direct queries to info@friendsofcedarmountain.org



★ NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO OPEN ON VETERANS DAY

By Marc Gorelick



The National Museum of the United States Army will open its doors on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. A joint effort of the U.S. Army and the Army Historical Foundation, the Museum is an enduring effort to tell the Army's story and honor the accomplishments, sacrifices and commitment of American Soldiers. The 185,000 square foot museum is the first comprehensive and national museum to capture, display and interpret more than 245 years of Army history and will provide a comprehensive portrayal of Army history and traditions through the eyes of the American Soldier.



Entry is free but you must reserve a ticket through the museum's website. These tickets will be required for entry and it is expected that they will be in high demand. Walk-up tickets will not be available. All tickets must be reserved in advance online and there is a limit of 5 tickets per request. Group tickets are not available at this time.

To ensure everyone's safety, the Museum will to open in accordance with CDC guidelines and in consultation with public health experts. Masks are be required. The Museum will promote social distancing by limiting the number of visitors in the building, offering 'grab and go' refreshments in the café, modifying some of the interactive exhibits, and enhancing cleaning procedures.

The museum is located at 1775 Liberty Drive, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060. It is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm seven days a week, except for December 25. Parking is free. For additional information and reserving

tickets visit the museum website at TheNMUSA.org. Or call the museum's customer service number: (800) 506-2672.

★ 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.

★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE – Since we will not have membership meetings until next year, we will not have new material for the Show-n-Tell section of the Newsletter until after that . . . UNLESS . . . members share their recent acquisitions via email. If you would like to feature something new (or old) from your collection, please send 1-2 photos, along with a description of the item to rpebecker@verizon.net. A Show-n-Tell Fact Sheet (below) lists the information we need to 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 his method for firing his French M1866 Chassepot Needle Fire Rifle

Metallic Cartridge Loading for the French M1866 Chassepot Needle Fire Rifle

“The Chassepot was adopted in 1866 and was the primary service arm of the French Army until 1874. About 1 million had been built by the time of the Franco-Prussian war 1870-71. Being a bolt action paper and silk cartridge breechloader with a rate of fire of 8-15 rounds per minute, it was great improvement over any muzzle loader. My example was made in Liege, Belgium, is in generally fair condition externally, but has a very good bore. I acquired it for a nominal sum at an estate sale many years ago. On a side note my Great Grandmothers first husband was a Sergeant in the Franco Prussian war. He died shortly after they married, as did her second husband. The third lasted long enough to make it into the bloodline.”



Member 1’s ancestor’s Franco-Prussian war service certificate (*at upper right*).

“I am inclined to resolve every problem with a machine shop solution. Accordingly, when looking to shoot my French needle fire (*at lower right*), I made no attempt to roll paper and silk cartridges, and went straight to my machine shop.”



“The cartridge is a simple lathe turning from brass, with a step in front to serve as a bullet stop (*at left*). And a hole in the back that will accept a backwards facing musket cap. The cap is backwards so that when the needle (firing pin) strikes it, the needle will crush the compound against the top of the cap and ignite the compound.

Additionally, the cap is filled with 2.5 gr of FFF blackpowder (the blackpowder is retained by a small piece of clear tape). When the blackpowder in the cap ignites, it blows thru the top of the cap and ignites the charge in the case. The cases hold 33 grains of FFF which is a light but functional load.



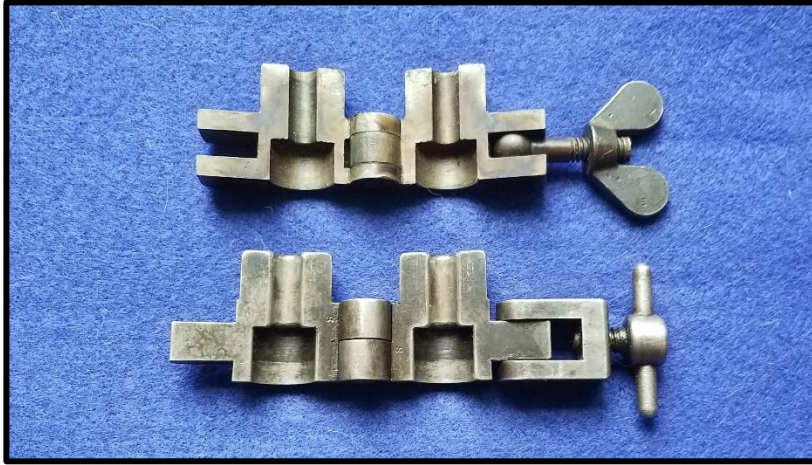


The original breech seal was dried and shrunken to the point of providing no gas seal at all. So I returned to my trusty lathe and made a brass bushing that has two grooves for rubber o-rings (*left*). This works well and I have had no gas leakage. In testing and firing the shells work well and are reloadable at the range. And another antique rifle is returned to use.”

Member 1 also shared several cut-away/“window” shotgun shells that he made as a “retirement/COVID project” (*photos below*). Nicely done sir!



Member 2 shared photos of two muzzle protectors for English “Long Lee Enfield” rifles. They are intended to protect the rifle’s muzzle from wear caused by cleaning rods or pull-throughs. They will also fit on the No. 3 or Pattern 14 rifles (better known as the Model 1917 Rifle when built in .30/06 for the U.S. Army during WWI). They will not work on the Short Magazine Lee Enfield (SMLE – aka the “Smelly”) as there isn’t enough barrel extending beyond the nose cap for the muzzle protector to clamp on.



The top variant (*at left*) is marked “PH” for Parker Hale, the number “3” and has a broad arrow military acceptance stamp. It still exhibits excellent case hardening colors. The bottom one is marked with an “H” in a circle, “MR” (maker unknown), and the number “2”. It shows wear from considerable use!

At right you can see a top view of the two muzzle protectors in the closed position (as they would appear on the rifle’s muzzle), with the Parker Hale on the left and the MR on the right.

Both of these interesting accessories were recently acquired from BRP Corp (<https://brpguns.com>).



★ 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.

Museum

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM:

THE LIEGE ARMS MUSEUM IN THE GRAND CURTIUS MUSEUM



Custom flintlock 14-barrel rifle made in London in 1800. Photo – Grand Curtius Museum

By Marc Gorelick



When one ranks world class firearms museums, the Grand Curtius Museum, formerly the Arms Museum at Liege, or the Musée d’Armes, stands at the pinnacle. Opened in 1885, the Arms Museum was one of the oldest museums in Liège. It was created by the municipal authorities and a local arms producer, Pierre-Joseph Lemille, to provide the city with a permanent institution entirely dedicated to one of its most important industries – weapons. After all, Liège, Belgium was one of the principal cities in the world for the production of small arms.

Photo left – Grand Curtius Museum in Liege, Belgium

The arms collection was integrated into the Grand Curtius Museum complex in 2009. It is housed in the Curtius Palace, which was built around 1600 by wealthy arms and gunpowder merchant **Jean de Corte, known as Curtius, who was also an ammunition officer for the Spanish Army. This setting is appropriate for one of the world's premier gun collections.**

The arms collection contains several thousand firearms of all types, as well as innumerable edged and hand weapons such as swords, halberds, axes, spears, and so on. Spanning over 700 years of firearms history, the arms collection, covers every period in the history of firearms from the beginnings of gunpowder to the latest technology. It is a major resource for scholars and collectors as it covers arms from historical, technical, and aesthetic points of view. The collection contains many truly rare and unique, one-of-a-kind, pieces, as well as many exceptionally beautiful pieces, some of which are breathtaking masterpieces of various applied decorative arts (engraving, chiseling, inlaying, etc.). It includes not only weaponry made in Belgium but firearm masterpieces of historical and technical significance from all over the world.



Wheellock rifle made for William IV, Duke of Bavaria in 1532 by Ambrosius Gemlich of Munich. It is one of the oldest wheellocks that bears a date. Photo – Grand Curtius Museum

Given the historical significance and cultural wealth of the collection, the Arms Museum started a major renovation and expansion in the presentation of its collections. In the first phase in 2018, some 600 of the finest examples of the gunsmith's work from the 16th to the 21st centuries were put on display on the first floor of the Curtius Palace. These are primarily civilian hunting and sporting guns, as well as pistols and revolvers. Subsequent phases of the renovation will see the installation of displays of military firearms, edged arms and armor, and ethnological weapons on the 2nd and 3rd floors until between two and three thousand weapons are on display on the first three floors of the Curtius Palace. Ceremonial weapons as well as flags and decorations of all kinds will complete this representative overview of the exceptional richness and diversity of the Curtius arms collection and the history of firearms. It is not known how much the coronavirus pandemic has affected the renovation schedule.

When a visitor enters the imposing medieval courtyard of the Curtius, he or she is greeted by several cannon dating back to the earliest days of artillery when they were employed to breach castle walls.

Inside, display cases of matchlocks, wheel locks, snaphaunces, flintlocks, swords, bayonets, and intricately engraved presentation pieces give way to more modern firearms as the visitor journeys through the history and development of projectile weapons. Some of the artifacts on display are examples of plain service weapons. Others are stunning artistic masterpieces, ornately engraved, intricately inlaid, and stocked with the finest exotic woods. Some came from the workshops of the companies in the city of Liege that would eventually band together to form Fabrique National.



Luxurious Michele Battista rifle made at the state owned Fabbrica Reale di Napoli (Naples Royal factory) in 1775. The exquisite decorations show hunting scenes and the general style of the decoration is Italian-Spanish, due to the Iberian influence that had long been present in southern Italy. Note the Italian style of the miquelet lock. Photo – Grand Curtius Museum

The displays are well lit and the items are easy to see. It is obvious that great care was taken in selecting these items and maintaining them in outstanding condition. The exhibits are well thought out and a number of the display cases are free standing, so you can view the items from all sides. The displays are all labeled in French and in perfect English. The signage describes how the weapons work, how they evolved, the advantages/disadvantages of each and their historical, technical and/or artistic significance. The signage is informative without being overwhelming.



Liege-produced double rifle made specifically for display at the 1855 Universal Exhibition in Paris. The ornate decoration is characteristic of the "Napoleon III" style, which dominated luxury arqueuserie in France, Belgium and elsewhere for more than twenty years. Photo – Grand Curtius Museum

Some of the many historically and technically significant firearms on display are: an ornately decorated wheellock rifle made by Ambrosius Gemlich of Munich in 1542; a 6-barrel Claxton mechanical machine gun made in Liege in 1868; one of the two surviving examples of a 7-barrel flintlock machine gun made by Joseph Chambers of Pennsylvania for the US Navy and Marines in the War of 1812; a gorgeous Michele Battista flintlock rifle made in Naples, Italy in 1775; highly decorated presentation rifles made specifically for various World Exhibitions, and a unique 14-barrel rifle, custom made in 1800. Many of the guns belonged to noblemen and royalty and tell a story, such as the reduced size “Prince Imperial” Chassepot rifle that was given as a present to the 12-year old Eugène Louis Napoléon, son of the French Emperor, Napoléon III. The heir to the French throne left it behind when his family fled into exile in 1871. He died eight years later while fighting the Zulus with the British Army in South Africa. The museum also has an extensive collection of guns from the First and Second World Wars, as well as guns made by Fabrique National (FN). The modern FN firearms that are on display include some of their most recent models.



Matched set of ivory mounted flintlock pistols. Ivory mounted guns were a specialty of the gunsmiths of Maastricht from 1650-1675 and are characterized by butts sculpted in the form of human heads.

Photo – Grand Curtius Museum

The Grand Curtius is not just a gun museum. It also houses extensive world renowned collections of glass, religious and mosan art (a regional style of art from the Meuse valley), decorative arts and archeological artifacts.

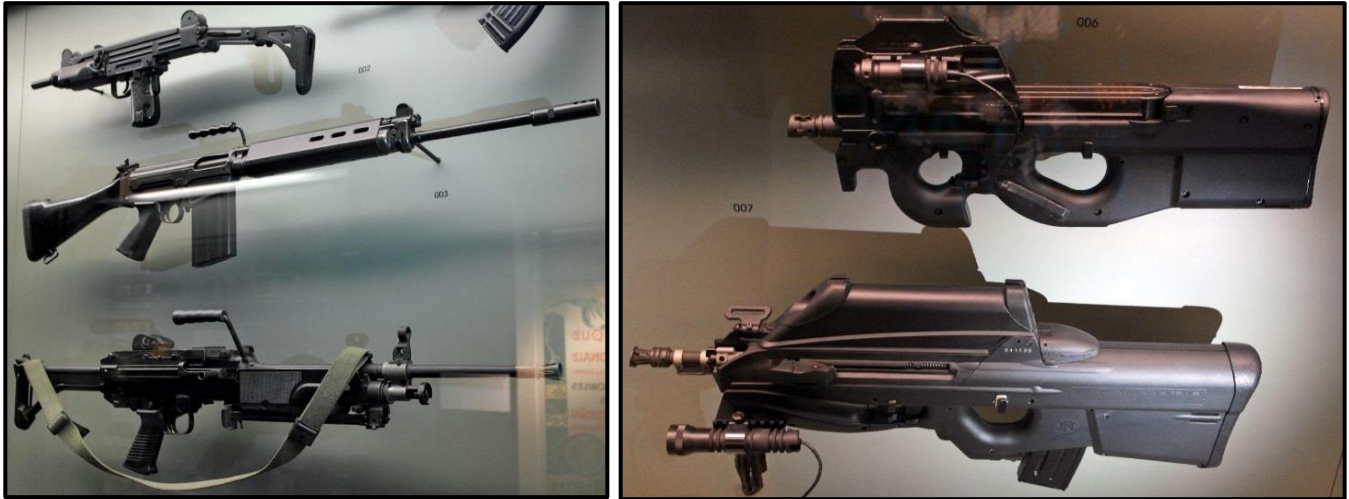


German Gewehr 43 (G43), 8mm, found on the Ardennes battlefield during the winter of 1944-45.

Photo – Grand Curtius Museum

The museum is located at
Le Grand Curtius
Féronstrée, 136 - 4000 Liège, Belgium

The telephone number is: +32 (0)4 221 68 17 and the e-mail address is infograndcurtius@liege.be. It is open Wednesday through Monday from 10:00am to 4:00pm, closed on Tuesday. Admission is 9 Euros for adults, 5 Euros for seniors and groups, and free entry for those under 16. It also has free entry the first Sunday of the month. The museum has a gift shop and a café. According to some reviews, the food in the café is pretty good..



*Photo left from top, Uzi, FN FAL, FN Minimi. Photo right from top P90, F2000.
Photos by Kleon3*

The museum is in the heart of Liege and is easy to find. You can get there by taking the Number 1 or Number 4 bus lines and getting off at “Place St-Barthélemy,” which is only about 150 feet from the Grand Curtius. It is also accessible by train and river shuttle. The museum is next to the Meuse River and a river shuttle, used by many to tour the city, runs from April 1 to November 4. There is plenty of parking nearby for those who drive. For additional information visit the museum website at: <https://www.grandcurtius.be/index.php/en>.



Not a gunsmith's joke or nightmare. Twin percussion pocket pistols manufactured in Liege, probably for the South American trade. Because gun laws were different for each country and frequently changed, the Liège manufacturers often took the precaution of leaving it to their on-site representatives to cut the barrel of the imported weapons to the length prescribed by local laws and regulations in effect at that time. Photo – Grand Curtius Museum.

★ 2020 Presentation List ★

All membership meetings for 2020 have been canceled

★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: Gun Shows are returning in our area after a several month hiatus due to COVID-19 Quarantines. 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 – 2020-2021

- Oct 24-25, 2020 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *Showmasters*
- Nov 7-8, 2020 – Doswell, VA – Meadow Event Park – *SGK*
- Nov 7-8, 2020 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *VGCA (our show!)*
- Nov 14-15, 2020 – Richmond, VA - Richmond International Raceway – Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show - *MK Shows*
- Nov 14-15, 2020 – Richmond, VA – Old Kmart (4715 Nine Mile Road) - *Showmasters*
- ~~Nov 14-15, 2020 – Woodstock, VA – Woodstock Moose Lodge – **Cancelled**~~
- Nov 20-22, 2020 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Nov 28-29, 2020 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 5-6, 2020 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Dec 12-13, 2020 - Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- Dec 19-20, 2020 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW – *Showmasters*
- Dec 19-20, 2020 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- Jan 1-3, 2021 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Jan 9-10, 2021 – Richmond, VA - Richmond International Raceway – *Showmasters*
- Jan 30-31, 2021 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*

MARYLAND – 2020-2021

- Nov 14-15, 2020 – Easton, MD – Talbot County Community Center - *Eastern Shore Arms Collectors – Annual Show*
- Nov 14-15, 2020 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Dec 12-13, 2020 – West Friendship, MD – Howard Cnty Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Mar 20-21, 2021 – Timonium, MD – Maryland State Fairgrounds – *Maryland Arms Collectors Association*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2020-2021

- Oct 23-24, 2020 – Shippenville, PA – Oak Grove Events Building – *Brimstone Arms*
- Oct 23-25, 2020 – Phoenixville, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*

⇒ Oct 24-25, 2020 – Gettysburg, PA – All-Star Events Complex – Gettysburg Civil War, Antique Gun & Militaria Show - *North-South Trader's Civil War Magazine*

⇒ Oct 24-25, 2020 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Econo Lodge – *Eagle Arms*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2020-2021 (continued)

⇒ Oct 24-25, 2020 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall and Club – *Jaeger Arms*

⇒ Oct 24-25, 2020 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds - *Appalachian Promotions*

⇒ Oct 25, 2020 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*

⇒ Oct 30-Nov 1, 2020 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Center – *Eagle Arms*

⇒ Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020 – East Stroudsburg, PA – VFW Post #2540 – *Jaeger Arms*

⇒ ~~Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – Cancelled~~

⇒ ~~Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center & Fairgrounds – Cancelled~~

⇒ Nov 7, 2020 – Greencastle, PA – Allison-Antrim Museum – Greencastle Antique Arms Show – *Allison-Antrim Museum*

⇒ Nov 7-8, 2020 – Lake Harmony, PA – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Arms*

⇒ Nov 7-8, 2020 – Brookville, PA – Jefferson County Fairgrounds – *Jefferson County Gun Show*

⇒ Nov 14-15, 2020 – Hazleton, PA – Genetti's Hotel – *Jaeger Arms*

⇒ Nov 14-15, 2020 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market - *Appalachian Promotions*

⇒ ~~Nov 14-15, 2020 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Township Volunteer Fire Co. – Cancelled~~

⇒ Nov 15, 2020 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Co. #1*

⇒ ~~Nov 21-22, 2020 – Philadelphia, PA – Philadelphia Nat'l Guard Armory - Cancelled~~

⇒ Nov 21-22, 2020 – Stroudsburg, PA – Jackson Township Volunteer Fire Co. – *Jaeger Arms*

⇒ Dec 5-6, 2020 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of Delaware Historical Arms*

⇒ Dec 5-6, 2020 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*

⇒ Dec 12-13, 2020 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Arms*

⇒ Dec 12-13, 2020 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E*

⇒ Dec 18-20, 2020 – Phoenixville, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*

⇒ Dec 19-20, 2020 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VFW Hall and Club – *Jaeger Arms*

⇒ Jan 9-10, 2021 – Washington, PA – Washington County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*

⇒ Jan 16, 2021 – St Thomas, PA – St Thomas VFD – *Izaak Walton League (New Show)*

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:

✪ 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~~ Now \$2595

✪ 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

✪ Anthony Vanderlinden autographed book “**FN Mauser Rifles-Arming Belgium and the World**” \$100.

✪ Factory lettered Antique Smith & Wesson Revolvers

a. 1865 Model 1-1/2 First Issue .32rf 5-shot nickel plated, rosewood grips matching numbers including grips. Smaller version of Army #2. \$795

b. .38cf 1877 Baby Russian 5-shot, rare 4 inch barrel, matching numbers including grips, early block lettered monogrammed grips, nickel plated. \$1750.

c. Unique MODEL of 1891 w/ scarce 5 inch barrel, nickel plated 5-shot, .38cf, full triggerguard, pearl grips, shipped from factory in 1893. \$2350.

If interested, call 571-308-4978 or send email to jrbzn13@aol.com

FOR SALE:

✪ VGCA member Terry Philippy offered up this book for 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?crid=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:

✪ Hi-Standard Derringer, blued, .22 Magnum, with case, instructions, and warranty card.
\$400.00 firm

✪ Remington Model 48 "Sportsman," 16-ga, 26" barrel with Poly-choke plus a 25-round box of Federal ammo. \$375.00

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

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~~ Now \$550.00!

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.

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.