



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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September 2019 VGCA Newsletter

President's Comments

Hi everyone!

This summer has brought terrible events in terms of gun violence in America Unfortunately; some politicians are pushing for further restrictions on the rights of law-abiding citizens. In particular, some elected officials in Virginia are proposing radical gun bans, magazine limits, and other measures aimed squarely at gun owners. This election in November is critical to all gun owners in VA. If anti-gun legislators are elected, there will be restrictions placed upon almost all modern firearms being sold. Please take a moment to pass this along to friends and family so that we can maintain our rights. The November election is critical.

On a happier note, the November gun show is coming up and we have only two tables remaining. It will be a sellout thanks to everyone's hard work. We will also be having sign-up sheets for security and set-up volunteers at the September and October members meeting. Our organization is great because of our volunteers.

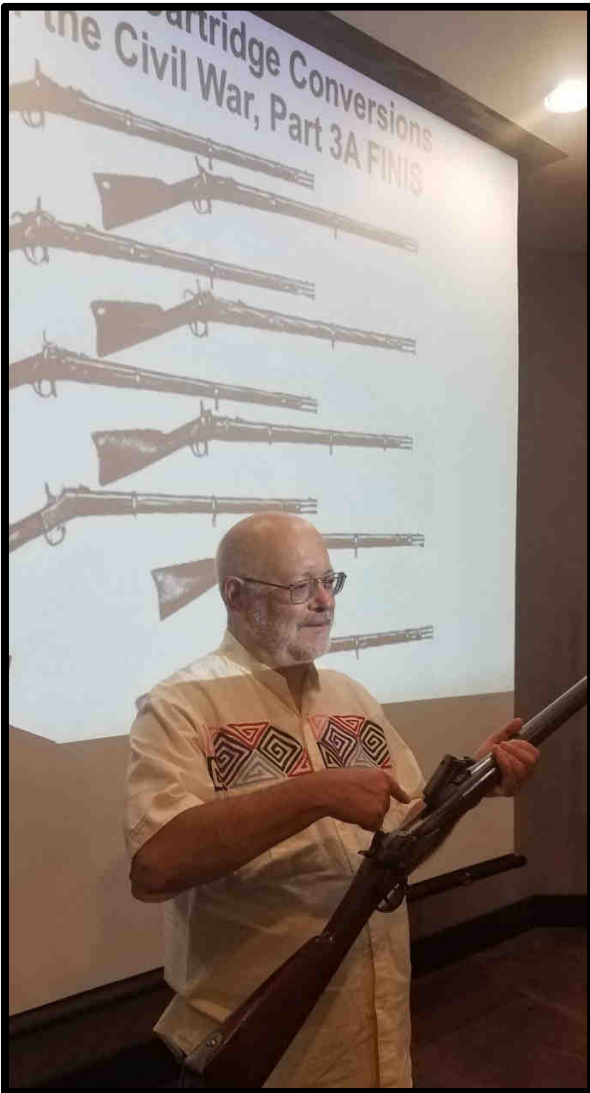
I look forward to seeing everyone at the September members meeting.

--*Bernie Breighner*, VGCA President

★ August Presentation ★

Percussion Conversions to Metallic Cartridge Breechloaders

This was the second of three presentations on percussion conversions to metallic cartridges by VGCA member Marc Gorelick this year. The first, in January, was on Pre-Civil War and Civil War era conversions while the August and September presentations cover the post-Civil War period.



Marc (*at left*) explained that immediately after the American Civil War (aka War of Southern Rebellion – or War of Northern Aggression, depending on your point of view), the Union had over 1,000,000 percussion muzzle and breech loading rifles and carbines. Every one of those weapons was obsolete, as metallic cartridge breechloaders had already demonstrated their superiority. Shortly after the war, on December 4th, 1865, General A.B. Dyer, Chief of Ordnance, wrote to Edwin M. Stanton, the Secretary of War on December 4, 1865:

“The experience of the war has shown that breech loading arms are greatly superior to muzzle loaders for infantry as well as cavalry, and that measures should immediately be taken to substitute a suitable breech loading musket in place of the rifle musket which is now manufactured at the National Armory and by private contractors for this Department ...”

Unfortunately, few of the existing breech loading systems were entirely suitable to be primary infantry weapons. For instance, the Sharps was expensive to manufacture. The Henry was considered too fragile to be used as a general infantry weapon. The Spencer and Henry gave good service during the war but their cartridges were underpowered when compared with the 60-grain powder charge used in the standard .58 caliber rifle-musket.

Additionally, there was no money available to re-equip the Army with new weapons. Therefore, any transition to metallic cartridges would, by necessity, involve converting some of the current firearms already in the Army’s inventory as opposed to purchasing new guns.

As early as 1864, Erskine Allin (*at right – photo courtesy of the Springfield Armory NHS, US NPS*), Master Armorer at the Springfield Armory, worked to develop a system to convert percussion muzzle loaders to a breech loaders. After the war, the Army convened several Ordnance Boards first to determine the best method of converting the surplus arms to breech loaders, to determine the best breech-loading weapon for both infantry and cavalry, and to determine the best ammunition.



The **Laidley Board** convened on January 4, 1865 and after tests and examinations of over 65 breech loading rifles and carbines, and systems for altering the Springfield rifle-musket the board selected the Allin, Berdan, Yates, Roberts and Remington for further trials. For unknown reasons, the Secretary of War changed the Board’s recommendation to the

Allin, Peabody, Laidley, Remington and Sharps.

Next, the **Hancock Board**, under Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, was convened in March 1866 to examine and recommend:

- What form and caliber of breech loading arm should be adopted as a model for future construction of muskets for infantry?
- What form and caliber of breech loading arm should be adopted as a model for future construction of carbines for cavalry?
- What form of breech-loading arm should be adopted as a model for changes of muskets already constructed to breech loading muskets?

In its official report in June 1866, after 55 days of testing many weapons, the Hancock Board recommended “the plan of alteration submitted by H. Berdan. This gives the stable breech pin, secures the piece against premature discharge, and involves only a slight change of our present pattern of arms. The bore of our present barrel (as has been proved by experiment before the Board) can be reduced to the desired caliber by reaming out the grooves and inserting a tube.”

Besides the Berdan, the Hancock Board also recommended the Yates, the Remington, the Roberts and the Allin for further testing. Despite these recommendations, no further action was taken.

The Army convened another Ordnance Trials Board in St. Louis in June 1870 under Major General John Schofield. Arms manufacturers and designers submitted 35 rifles and 8 carbines for consideration. Several were conversions of Springfield rifle-muskets. The Board recommended the Remington Rolling Block, Springfield (Allin), Sharps, Morgenstern, Martini-Henry and Ward-Burton.

Finally, the Army convened the **Terry Board** under Brig. Gen. Alfred Terry in 1872 to pick a common rifle and carbine for the army and standard ammunition. That Board examined 99 rifles and carbines, including a number of conversions and seven foreign rifles that were in general service. As a result of the Terry Board, the army adopted the Springfield Model 1873 in .45-70 caliber. This cartridge Board (*at right*) was brought in by a VGCA member and shows several of the post-Civil War cartridges discussed by Marc.



Marc proceeded to cover the:

- 1st and 2nd Model Allins
- Miller Conversion
- Roberts Conversion
- Peabody Conversion
- Sharps Carbine and Rifle Conversions



1st Model Allin – Allin was granted a patent for his method of conversion on September 19, 1865, which he then sold to the United States for \$1.00. Springfield converted 5,005 .58 caliber M1861 muzzle-loading rifles to M1865 breechloaders chambered in .58 Rimfire (480-grain bullet with 60 grains of black powder). Model 1865 is simple in principle but extremely complex with many small, delicate parts. The breech section is milled out of an original .58 caliber Springfield Model 1861 musket barrel by cutting away the rear upper end of the barrel, just ahead of the breech screw, and a breechblock is inserted into this opening (the original “trapdoor”) and pinned at its upper end so that it swings upward and forward when opened. The breechblock and hinge are supported at their forward end by a strap, which is mounted to the top of the barrel. There is a cam at the rear of the breechblock, which fits into a crevice in the breech screw thus locking it in place. The face of the breech plug was modified to provide a locking surface for the locking cam. The thumb latch fits neatly into the recess in the lockplate where the drum and nipple of the percussion rifle-musket had been. A long firing pin slants downward and inward through the breechblock to hit the top center rim of the cartridge. The conversion included 38 new parts and five existing musket parts that had to be modified. Troop trials started in June 1866 and the results were generally unfavorable. The M1865 was long, heavy,

experienced extractor problems, and the ammunition proved unreliable. Conversions shown in the picture (*at left*) from lower right to upper left, are the M1865 (1st Allin), the M1866 (2nd Allin), the Miller, and the Roberts.

The M1866 conversion (2nd Model Allin) was similar to the M1865 but included a barrel liner that reduced the bore from .58 to .50 and chambered in the centerfire .50/70/450 (.50 caliber with 70 grains of powder and a 450-grain bullet). The breechblocks were longer and narrower than the model 1865 and configured for the .50-70 centerfire cartridge with the spring-loaded firing pin running diagonally through it. The cam latch, breechblock, and hinge strap were altered. The Model 1866 was first issued to the troops of the 5th Infantry in the spring of 1867. By the end of June 1867, over 4,600 were listed in field service. The M1866’s baptism of fire took place in July and August 1867 in the famous “Wagon Box Fight” and “Hay Field Fight” in Wyoming Territory.

- In the “Wagon Box Fight,” a party of 27 soldiers and 4 civilians on a wood-cutting detail from Ft. Phil Kearny, Wyoming Territory, were attacked by about 1,000 Oglala Sioux. The troops turned the wagon boxes of their wagons into an impromptu field fortification. The Sioux were expecting to face slow reloading muzzleloaders and were unpleasantly surprised at the volume of fire. They withdrew with heavy losses when reinforcements arrived from the fort.

- In the “Hayfield Fight,” about 600-800 Sioux braves attacked a party of 21 soldiers and 9 civilian employees from Ft. C.F. Smith who were mowing hay. The soldiers took cover and repulsed repeated Indian charges until a relief column arrived from the fort. The Indians, who were used to facing and taking advantage of slow volley fire, were again unpleasantly surprised at facing the relatively heavy fire of breechloaders.

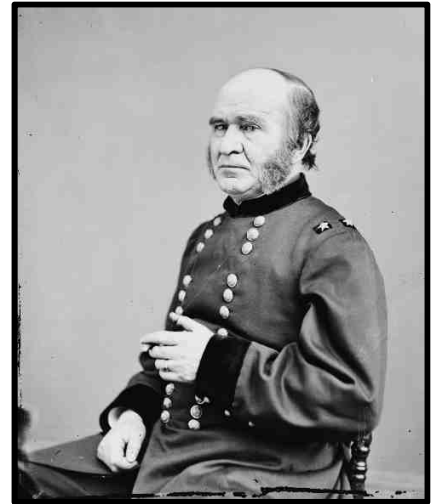
Over 52,000 M1863 and M1864 rifles were converted to M1866s and it remained the standard rifle of infantry and artillery regiments until early 1871.



Miller Conversions took place concurrent with the Allin conversions. Approximately 2,000 M1861 muskets were converted by Meriden Manufacturing Company from 1865 to 1867. They were chambered in .58 Rimfire. The rifle was altered to breechloader by cutting the back of the barrel and attaching a new breechblock unit to the top of the barrel (*top view at left*). The breechblock was hinged at the front, similar to the Allin.

The side hammer struck the firing pin, which was angled diagonally through the breechblock. Opening the breechblock operated the extractor. The stock, barrel, furniture, finishes and other details remain the same as for the original standard M1861. The lockplate markings most often encountered are Parker-Snow & Co., Meriden, Conn, indicating that most of the M1861s converted were Parker-Snow contract rifle muskets. Though rejected by the U.S. Army, records indicate that the Miller Conversions were used in small numbers by the Maryland and New York militias. As a side note - the Parker, Snow firm continued manufacturing arms for many years and became known as Parker Brothers, who in 1868 began producing the internationally renowned Parker Shotguns.

Roberts Conversion - Patented by Brig. General Benjamin Stone Roberts (*photo at right*), on Feb. 27, 1866, about 5,000 Roberts conversions were manufactured in 1869-1870 by the Providence Tool Co., Providence, RI. Providence Tool Co. made the Roberts by altering M1861 and M1863 rifle-muskets as well as British Pattern 1853 Enfields. The Roberts resembles the Peabody conversion, which is no surprise, since Providence also manufactured Peabody Conversions and there was probably "cross-fertilization" of ideas. The alteration was made by cutting off the breech of the .58 caliber percussion rifle-musket and inserting the Roberts breech in its place. The firing pin runs from the right side of the breechblock through the breechblock and recoil plate to the center for centerfire cartridges, or through a groove on the side for rimfire cartridges. The Roberts was not adopted by the U.S. Army, with one primary reason being that it used the proprietary .58 Roberts centerfire cartridge instead of the Army's .50-70.



To operate the Roberts, a short lever at the tang was raised and pushed forward, which dropped the front of the breechblock downward, exposing the chamber and allowing a round to be inserted. Raising the lever also puts the hammer at half-cock. A groove on the top of the breechblock helped guide the cartridge into the chamber. The breech was closed by cocking the hammer. The Roberts was selected by the New York State Trials Board in 1867 as the standard arm for New York militia and National Guard. New York signed a contract with Roberts to convert 10,000 M1861/1863 rifle-muskets then in state militia armories. The Providence Tool Co had already made 2,000 conversions when the New York legislature refused to appropriate funds for the contract. Roberts then contracted with South Carolina, which purchased 5,000 conversions in 1870 to arm all of its 13 National Guard regiments. The rifles experienced heavy use and were phased out of service between 1879 and 1890. Collectors today rarely find a Roberts conversion in very good condition.

Another conversion manufactured by the Providence Tool Co. was the Peabody conversion. Henry O. Peabody's original 1862 breechloader design, with its metal breech-frame and lever under the stock, was not readily adopted to converting muzzleloaders to breechloaders. Although the original rifle-musket

could be cut in half and the Peabody breech-frame inserted in place of the original lock and barrel breech, the cost of this conversion method was considerably more than competing designs. Providence also manufactured the Roberts conversion and there are similarities between the two designs. The breechblock was hinged at the rear and dropped down at the front.

To operate, a short lever with a loop at the tang was raised, dropping the front of the breech downward and exposing the chamber, allowing a round to be inserted. A groove in the top of the breechblock facilitates loading a cartridge into the chamber. Raising the lever also extracts and ejects any fired cartridge. The breech was closed by lowering the lever and cocking the hammer in one movement. Peabody claimed that the loading and firing could be accomplished in four movements and that the entire breech mechanism consisted of only eight parts and was easy to clean. The Peabody conversion did not find favor with any U.S. Ordnance Trials Boards and was not adopted by any state.

Sharps Carbine and Rifle Conversions. The Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company had started to work on a metallic cartridge conversion for the Sharps percussion action as early as 1858. In 1861, the company presented an altered New Model 1859 rifle in .56 caliber rimfire to the Navy Bureau of Ordnance for trials. It was found to be generally satisfactory but was not adopted. Sharps continued to experiment with cartridge conversions during the Civil War and shortly before the war ended the Army Ordnance Department became interested in a Sharps metallic cartridge conversion. After the Civil War, the War Department had over 50,000 Sharps percussion rifles and carbines in storage or issued to troops and decided to alter those that were still serviceable. The Sharps was one of the arms selected for conversion and a contract was signed with the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company in November 1867 to alter weapons of their manufacture at a price of \$4.50 each.

The New Models 1859, 1863, and 1865 Rifles and Carbines were chosen as best for conversion and 31,098 carbines and 1,086 rifles were converted. The earlier "slant breech" models were deemed too difficult to convert. Conversion of Sharps percussion carbines and rifles to centerfire ammunition was not easy. The hammer was located high on the right side of the action while the breechblock was very short and the hammer blow had to be transmitted to a firing pin in the center of the breechblock. Most other conversions used a long breechblock with a diagonal firing pin but the Sharps breech was too short for this solution. After a series of experiments, Sharps designed a new breechblock with an "S" shaped firing pin. One end of the "S" was a bar that took the blow of the hammer on the right side of the breechblock. The body was a bar that went from the right side to the centerline of the breechblock and the other end of the "S" was the point of the firing pin. The government allowed all bores less than .5225 to remain unlined. All bores over that size were re-lined to .50 caliber. The converted Sharps were of three major types:

- "Model 1867" type .52-70 conversion using a spring-loaded firing pin and 6-groove original barrels. Although the bore was .52 caliber, it was intended to chamber the 50-70 center-fire cartridge. About 1,900 were made and most converted from the Model 1863. The Model 1867 conversion required nine new parts, including the new breechblock and firing pin.
- "Model 1868" type .52-70 conversion with a cam type firing pin and the original 6-groove rifling. It also chambered the .50-70 centerfire round.
- "Model 1868" type .50-70 centerfire with cam type firing pin and 3-groove lined barrel. About 27,000 were made. The Model 1868 conversion required eight new parts.

All the 1,086 converted rifles were altered to .50-70 centerfire and received the 3-groove relined barrels. About 300 conversions that retained the original stock had the original patchbox. Conversions were refinished by the factory and when the original stock had to be replaced, it was replaced by a new stock with no patchbox, whether the original model had one or not.

The first of the newly converted carbines were shipped to Leavenworth Arsenal in October 1868. The converted Sharps carbines saw extensive service on the Western Frontier in the Indian Wars. At one time, they armed most cavalry regiments, and were on regimental inventories even after the Springfield

Trapdoor .45-70 became the standard cavalry carbine in 1873. As late as 1882, the Secretary of War reported to Congress that 250 Sharps carbines were still on the regimental rolls of the regular cavalry. They were also used by Indian Scouts, civilian employees and were issued to State Militias. New Mexico still armed one of its militia cavalry troops with Sharps carbines as late as the Spanish American War.

Most of the troops liked the Sharps conversions. During the 8-month long Modoc War the cavalymen found that the centerfire Sharps never misfired. In one engagement in the lava beds, 1st Cavalry troops armed with Spencers were issued a bad lot of rimfire cartridges that misfired. They would have been overrun except that the troopers next to them, who were armed with Sharps carbines, kept up a steady fire and broke the Modoc attack.

In addition to the conversions by the Sharps Company, Springfield Armory converted 700 rifles and 300 carbines using salvaged New Model 1863 actions, receivers, hammers and locks to make the U.S. Model Sharps Rifle Musket, Experimental Model 1870 in .50-70 caliber. All other parts were new-made at Springfield. Springfield also made 300 Model 1870 Type II rifles that were built using an entirely new Sharps action that was specifically designed for metallic cartridges. You can differentiate between the company converted Sharps rifles from the Springfield manufactured Model 1870 Sharps rifles at a quick glance because the company conversions have 3-barrel bands and no ramrod while the Springfield fabricated rifles have two barrel bands and the Model 1868 ramrod.

Our thanks go to Marc for this terrific presentation! Marc will complete his presentation on cartridge conversions at the September membership meeting. Hope to see you there!



✪ **August Business:** President Bernie Breighner called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Mr. Jim Burgess led the membership in reciting the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence for those who gave all in the defense of our country. There were 59 VGCA members and guests in attendance and the guests were introduced to the membership by their sponsors/hosts.

Bernie initiated a short business meeting. He introduced Jim Feirman, son of long-time VGCA life member Richard Feirman who has recently passed away (see June Newsletter for additional details). Jim wanted to pass along how much his father enjoyed his time with the VGCA membership.

It appears the VGCA, with the confirmation of the latest group of membership applicants, has reached its 2019 goal of 500 members!

Bernie announced the addition of some advisory (non-voting) positions to the VGCA Board, including:

- Legislature Awareness – George Dungan has volunteered to keep us abreast of federal and state gun law proposals
- “Minister of Merchandise” – we are still looking a volunteer to coordinate purchases/sales of VGCA merchandise (such as shirts, hats, lanyards, etc.)
- Road sign Director – we are also looking for someone to be in charge of distribution, placing, and recovering our Gun Show road signs

If you are interested in volunteering for any position, please contact one of our officers or directors Shannon Zeigler provided the Treasurer’s Report

- The VGCA is currently in the process of shifting our funds from Bank of America (BoA) to Burke & Herbert Bank
 - This change was directed by the VGCA Executive Committee (EC) in response to the recent anti-gun stance taken BoA
 - Funds should be completely transferred by the end of the year

- The Executive Committee will review the 2020 budget at the September EC meeting

Rick Nahas provided an update on our November Gun Show

- There are just 6 (possibly 9) Tables available
- The EC approved an updated Security and Safety Manual, which will be in place for the November Gun Show. Special thanks are extended to Steve Gomes for leading this effort!
- Members are reminded that ALL guns (to include black powder, air guns, and flare guns) will be secured/tied at the show
- Members were also reminded that table holders will set up between 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. on the Friday before the show. **Please do NOT attempt to set up your table prior to 2 p.m.**

Congratulations were extended to the new Directors – Marc Gorelick, Dave Litchfield, and Ian Wulf

Ian Wulf and TJ Parmele will be running our social media accounts, at least for the near term. If someone is interested in assisting, please let them know.

Bernie announced that we are planning a VGCA Picnic at the NORVA range for this fall

- Tentatively scheduled for 19 October 2019 at the NORVA range but still needs to be approved by the NORVA Board - **UPDATE – The picnic has been postponed until next spring**

PLEASE HELP!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE VGCA TABLE AT THE NEXT CHANTILLY GUN SHOW

The next Chantilly show at the Dulles Expo Center is coming up (September 27-29) and we are looking for a few volunteers for the VGCA promotional table. This is an opportunity to spend a few hours with fellow gun collecting enthusiasts, meet new people, help the club, and get free admittance into a big show!

Our objective is to have two or more folks assigned throughout each day. This gives everyone the opportunity to walk the show while others are promoting the club. If you want, you can work more than one day and shift.

Remember - volunteers who help us at the table get into the show for free. This is significant when the admission price keeps going up. It is now \$16 for 1-day and \$22 for a 3-day pass. Volunteers are needed for Friday (3 - 8 p.m.), Saturday (9 a.m. - 5 p.m.), or Sunday (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.). If interested, please contact Marc Gorelick or any VGCA Officer / Director.

🌟 **Upcoming September 26th Meeting:** Join us as Marc Gorelick will give the third and final presentation in his series on U.S. metallic cartridge conversions. He will cover a pivotal period in firearms development. He will describe one of the most significant post-Civil War percussion muzzleloader conversions to a cartridge breechloader - the rare Remington Rolling Block Transformed Rifle. He will also cover some of the more obscure, but mechanically fascinating conversions - the Remington Trapdoor, the Needham, the Milbank, and Berdan, the Burton, Merlett, Sharps and Hankins, and Brown-Merrill. If you have one in your collection, please bring it in to share!

Social time begins at 6 p.m. (with pizza!) in the NRA Headquarters Conference Room, followed by the meeting beginning at 7 p.m.

🌟 Other News! 🌟

★ Membership Chairman's Report – September 2019:

New Members: Please welcome our new Annual Members -

- **Frank Cambria** of Broad Run, VA was sponsored by **Bernie Breighner**
- **John Elliott** of Fairfax, VA was sponsored by **J. Craig Peters**
- **Reuben Hunter** of Herndon, VA was sponsored by **Mike Halpeny**
- **Paul T. Jobson** of Sterling, VA was sponsored by **Matthew Gminski**
- **Jacob Krahenbill** of Palmyra, VA was sponsored by **Kasev Sundar**
- **Michael "John" Pankow** of Purcellville, VA was sponsored by **Bill Chronister**
- **Wayne Spellman** of Warrenton, VA was sponsored by **Marc Gorelick** and **Chris Britton**
- **Kenneth T. Stallings** of Alexandria, VA was sponsored by **Jim Frigiola**

Gentlemen, Congratulations and welcome aboard. Your Annual Membership IDs will be brought to the September 26th membership meeting. If you are unable to make the meeting, the ID card will be mailed to your home address on your membership application soon after the meeting.

New Applications for Membership: We have one applicant for membership who attended the August Meeting, and later applied by mail. The applicant's information and his sponsors' names are published below.

- **Thomas Ciarula** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **Bill Chronister** and **Rob Becker**

If there are any comments or questions on any applicant, please notify an Officer or Director, and the Membership Chair before June 22, 2019. For questions, please email **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net or call me at 703-204-0138.

New Member IDs: Prospective members are announced in the VGCA Newsletter for member review. If there are no issues, the membership is effective 30 days after publication in the newsletter. Membership IDs are prepared and brought to the Monthly Membership Meeting. If the new member is not present, the ID is mailed to their mailing address a few days after the meeting. If you did not get an ID or renewal sticker please let me know by E-mail. Make sure you provide your full mailing address, contact info so I can verify the mailing address, and get an ID or renewal sticker to you. Please send an E-mail to **Bill Chronister, Membership Chair** at vgca_membership@cox.net.



Speakers and Trips in 2020!

Newly elected Director Dave Litchfield has volunteered to coordinate both the speakers at our monthly VGCA membership meetings as well as any planned trips next year. If you would like to make a presentation in 2020 or have an idea for firearms-related road trip, please contact Dave at one of our meetings or call him at 703-624-8696.



N-SSA Fall National Matches



The North-South Skirmish Association (N-SSA) Fall National Matches will be held October 2-6, 2019 (Wednesday - Sunday) at "Fort Shenandoah" in Gainesboro, VA (off Rt. 522 north of Winchester, VA). The N-SSA promotes the competitive shooting of Civil War firearms and artillery while encouraging the preservation of battlefields, artifacts, clothing and

venerable M1 Garand to the next level, the Advanced Maintenance Class (AMC) offers students a unique opportunity to receive unparalleled training from the CMP's knowledgeable Custom Shop staff. Participants in the three-day course are exposed to all information required to safely assemble and maintain a complete M-1 Garand rifle under the direct supervision of the CMP's expert gunsmiths.

The class, which is only given at the CMP Custom Shop at Anniston, Alabama, is intended for individuals interested in knowing how the M1 Garand rifle functions in detail as well as for those wishing to know how to properly perform advanced maintenance procedures to their personal rifle(s). The class involves classroom lecture as well as hands-on shop time. Tools will be provided for use during the class. The class is not intended for gunsmiths or students with advanced knowledge of the M1 rifle, and no prior armorer or shooting experience is required. As part of the class each student will assemble from parts his or her own M-1 Garand, which they will have purchased from the CMP. Students have an option of purchasing and building either **Field Grade Specials** or **CMP Special** rifles. Some of the class's key components are:



- Component purpose and function
- Use of gauges
- Commercial barrel installation, chambering and headspace
- Component selection and inspection
- Fitting and proper assembly of a complete Field Grade Special or CMP Special rifle
- Discussion of malfunctions and their remedies
- Accurizing techniques for the M-1 Garand

Each class has a capacity of only 20 students. There were 14 classes scheduled this year- registration for 2019 is now closed and registration for 2020 will probably be in November 2019. Selection is by lottery and individuals can register for specific class dates that they can attend. Applicants will be randomly drawn to attend the class or be placed on a waitlist. Registration for multiple classes is permitted but applicants will be selected for only one slot. No former AMC participants may register. Students will only need to bring themselves, safety glasses and a shop apron. Total cost for the 2019 AMC is \$1,868.50 or \$2,068.50, depending upon rifle selection (Field Grade or CMP Special). Breakdown of cost includes a \$1018.50 course tuition fee, plus a rifle purchase fee of \$850 for Field Grade Specials or \$1,050 for CMP Specials. The costs for 2020 may be different. Students must arrange their own lodging in Anniston. The CMP can provide information about area lodging and there is a special CMP rate. For additional information about the AMC go to the CMP website at: <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/advanced-maintenance-class/>.



Your Club Needs You!



We are looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

- VGCA Website update and maintenance – we are looking for a dedicated individual (or individuals) to assist with updating and maintaining the VGCA Website. This is often the first impression that the general public gets of the VGCA and it requires regular attention. Please contact Ian Wulf (ic.wulf@gmail.com) or Wes Chappell (wesley@chappellfam.com) if interested.
- Gun Show Road sign Director – Our road signs have historically been an important element of advertising for our two gun shows every year. We need someone to coordinate volunteers to put out and pick our road signs. Please contact any officer or director if interested.
- Merchandise Director (aka “Minister of Merchandise”) – we need someone to take the lead on researching, securing orders, collecting money, and distributing VGCA merchandise. The sky is the limit here – items could include shirts, hats, lanyards, coffee mugs – just about anything with a VGCA logo. If interested, please contact any officer or director.



REMINDERS!

To assist with maintaining a safe and secure environment, the following rules will be enforced during gun show set up on November 1st:

1. Only table holders and set up/security volunteers will be allowed in the building.
2. Volunteers and table holders must wear their membership/table holder badges.
3. No one is to start setting up their table(s) until AFTER 2 p.m.

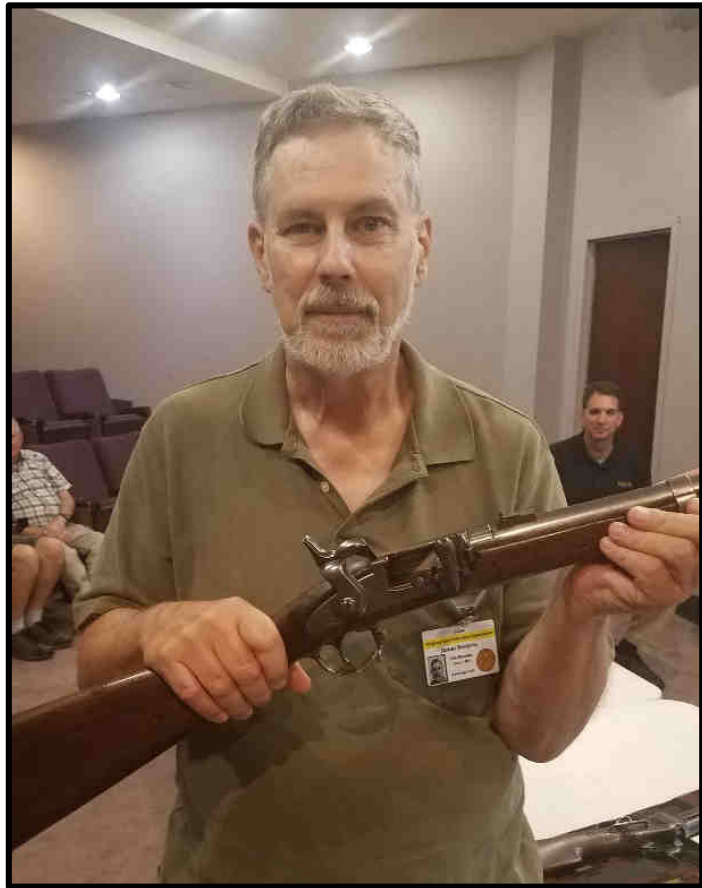


★ Show-n-Tell ★

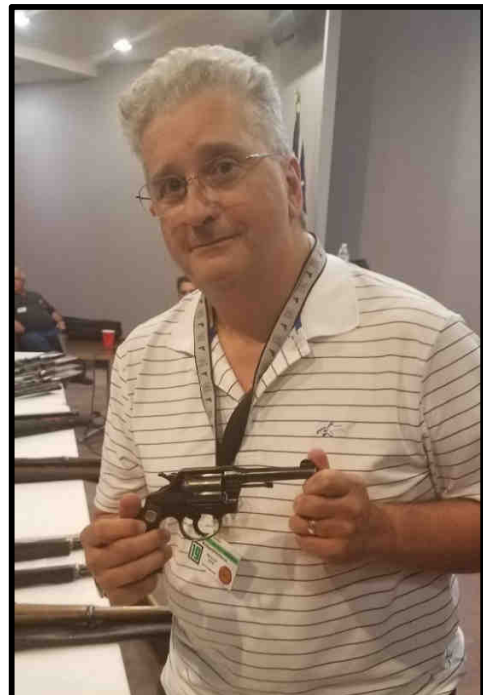
NOTE: Anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell, please hold them up so the members can see it. This will also help your Volunteer Photographer get a decent photograph of the special item you brought to show, and people who could not attend the meeting can see it clearly in the newsletter. Thank you!

Member 1 shared an Alfred Jenks & Sons contract M1861 rifle (at right) converted to a breechloader. This rifle-musket was originally manufactured at the Bridesburg Armory in 1862. In 1867, in Trenton, N.J., it was converted from a .58 caliber muzzleloader to a .58 Centerfire breechloader by way of adding a side-swinging Needham breechblock. Approximately 5,000 such conversions were made.

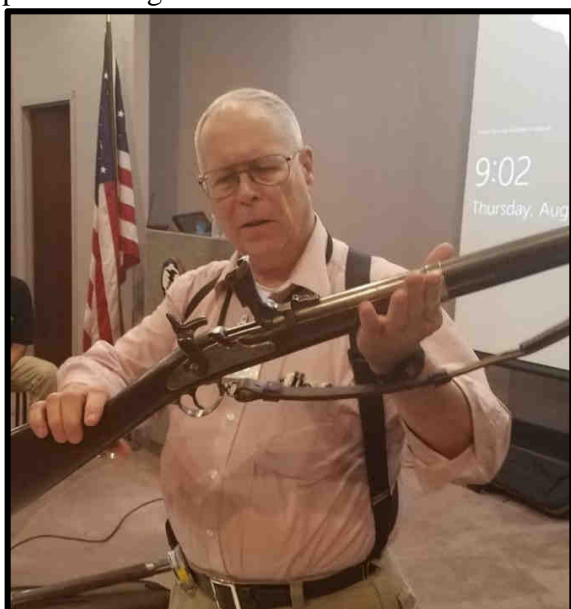
What is interesting is that breechloading conversions like this one were made for the “Fenian Brotherhood.” The Fenian Brotherhood was an Irish Republican organization founded in the U.S. in 1858. Dedicated to throwing the English out of Ireland, the Fenian Brotherhood sought to conduct an armed invasion of Canada and then exchange the occupied Canadian land back to England in exchange for a free Ireland. Though they organized and conducted several raids into Canada starting in 1866, they were never much more than a nuisance and were not successful in their ultimate goal. What is ironic is that rifles selected by the Fenians utilized the Needham conversion - which was designed by an Englishman!



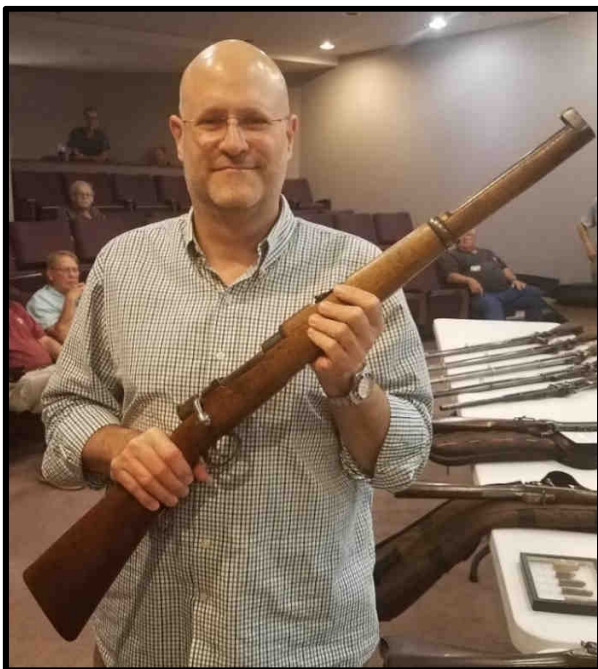
Member 2 brought in a Colt Police Positive (at right) with an interesting back-story. This double action 6-shot revolver chambered in .38 Special does not appear out of the ordinary except for being stamped “Property of United Airlines.” Early regulations required that airline pilots carrying U.S. air mail be armed and this handgun (manufactured in 1929) was purchased by United Airlines for that purpose. This example came with a factory letter showing delivery to the Von Lengerke & Antoine (VL&A) Sporting Goods Company in Chicago, IL. VL&A was located just a few blocks from the United Airlines headquarters.



Member 3 shared two pieces in line with the night's presentation – a M1865 and M1866 Allin conversions. The M1865 “1st Model Allin” in .58 Rimfire (*below left*), as our speaker tonight explained, was too complex and fragile for hard military use. The M1866 (2nd Model Allin) conversion in .50/70 Centerfire (*below right*) included a barrel liner taking the original .58 caliber down to .50. As Member 3 noted, this liner added significant weight to an already long and heavy rifle. Perhaps the greatest contribution of the M1865 and M1866 was that they were developmental stepping-stones to perfecting the “trapdoor” design and the ultimate success of the U.S. M1873 and later rifles and carbines.

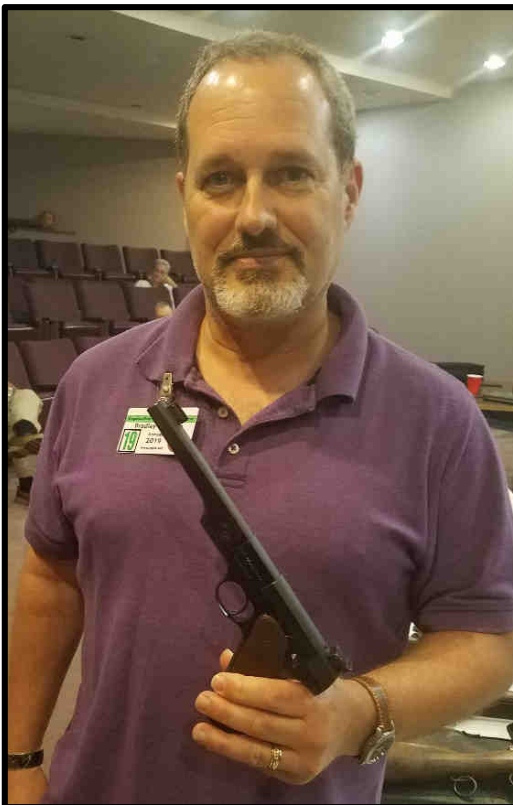
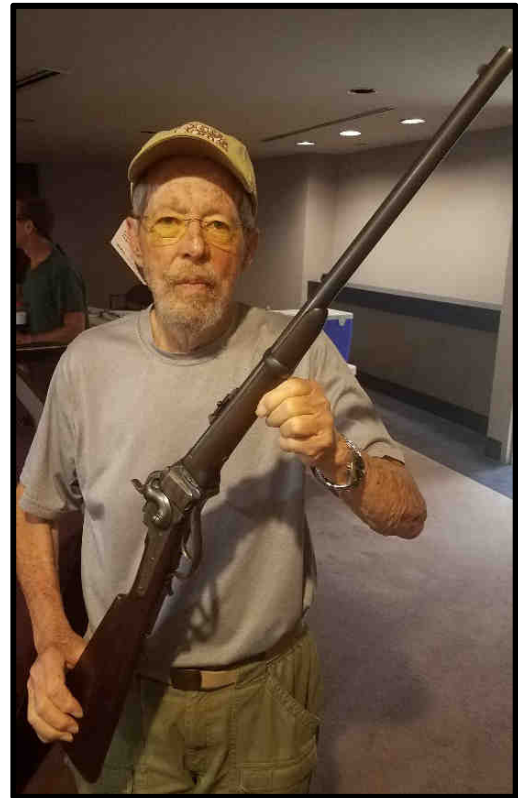


Member 4 (*right*) brought in and shared his Romanian PSL (PSL is an abbreviation for the Romanian designation which translates as “scoped semi-automatic rifle”). Chambered in 7.62x54R and adopted in 1974, the PSL bears a resemblance to the Soviet SVD Dragunov sniper rifle, but its design is actually based on a scaled-up RPK light machine gun rather than the Dragunov. The project to develop the PSL began after the Soviet Union stopped sharing technical information and exporting modern military equipment to Romania (including the Dragunov rifle) after Romania’s refusal to join in the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. In service in Romania and several other countries around the globe since the 1970s, the PSL has gained some notoriety for its bolt carriers cracking when subjected to a steady diet of heavy ball (147 grain or heavier bullets) ammunition in conjunction with a suppressor. The skeleton stock is short for the average American shooter as it is designed for use by Romanian soldiers wearing heavy coats in the winter. In the summer, rubber spacers are added to the butt to increase the length of pull. The 4x24 LPS scope is also made in Romanian. The PSL features a 10-round magazine and has an effective range of 800-1,000 meters. This example was manufactured at Cugir and imported by Century Arms International.



Member 5 (*left*) shared his Spanish Model 1895 Carbine. This is the carbine version of the famous Spanish Model 1893 Mauser that faced U.S. troops during the Spanish American War. Fabrica Nacional de Armas, Oviedo manufactured about 22,000 M1895s between 1896 and 1915. The M1895 is a bolt action carbine that features the “small ring” action and is chambered in the excellent 7x57 Mauser round. This example was made in 1904.

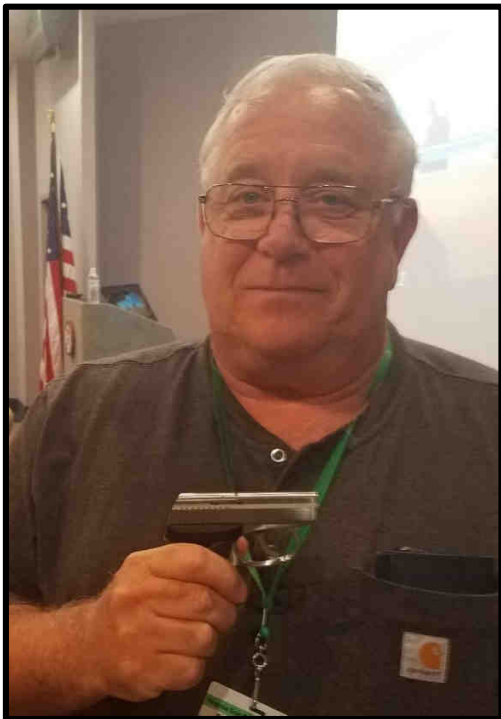
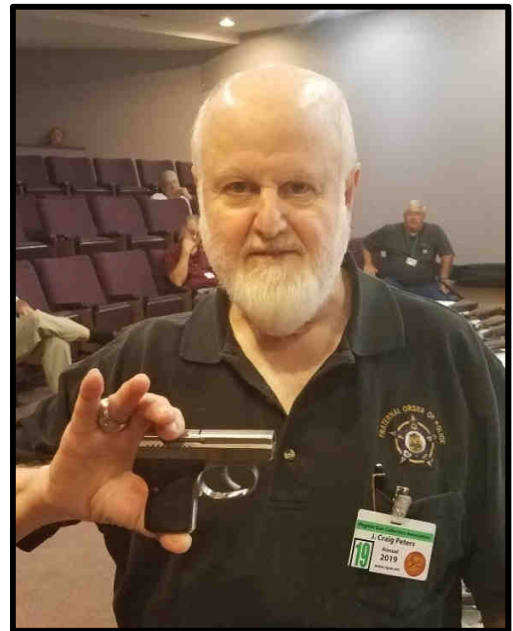
Member 6 brought in a Model 1868 Sharps (*at right*). This is one of the 31,098 Sharps carbines that was converted to fire a metallic cartridge – in this case, .50/70 centerfire. All 31,000 conversions were done between February 1868 and October 1868. This example is marked “New Model 1863” behind the rear sight. It also features a buttstock that was replaced during the conversion (has no patch box, which is obviously not needed in a cartridge gun). This carbine appears to be unfired since the conversion.



Member 7 shared his Colt Woodsman Match Target pistol (*left*). Designed by John M. Browning and chambered in .22 LR, the semi-automatic Woodsman was produced from 1915 through 1977. More than 690,000 Woodsman were produced during that time. This particular example was one of 2,928 delivered as part of a government contract during WWII, was made in 1944, and marked “PROPERTY US GOVERNMENT.”

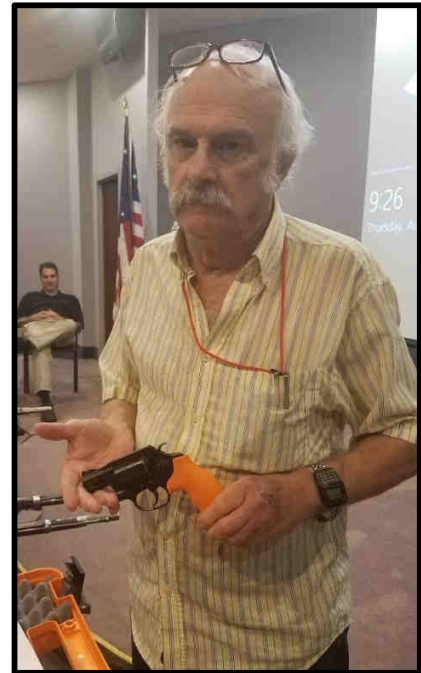
The Match Target model was cataloged starting in 1938 and featured a heavier barrel and one-piece wrap-around grips that extended downward and were known as “elephant ear grips.” A “Bullseye” was rollmarked into the slide that resulted in it earning the unofficial moniker “Bullseye Match Target.” FYI – if you are interested in adding one of these fine pistols to your collection and you want to shoot it, original magazines can cost upward of \$300!

Member 8 showed us his Seecamp carry gun (*at right*). Though this U.S. made pocket pistol is designed for concealed carry and does not even have any sights, it is most decidedly NOT a “Saturday Night Special!” The L.W. Seecamp (*LWS logo in center of page*) company started out as a pistol smith in 1973 specializing in converting 1911 pistols from single-action to double-action. In 1978, LWS started making miniature pistols. Only in 1981 did Seecamp start manufacturing actual firearms. It started with the LWS-25, which was similar to the CZ45 (due to the restrictions of the Gun Control Act of 1968, the CZ45 was banned from import into the U.S.). All Seecamp pistols are double-action only and come in three models – the LWS-25 (in .25 ACP), the LWS-32 (in .32 ACP), and the LWS-380 (in – you guessed it - .380 ACP). This example is a stainless steel LWS-32 and served as a personal carry gun for 20 years.



Member 9 shared another Seecamp, this one an LWS-380 (*left*). The semi-automatic LWS-380 is the same size as the LWS-32, but packs seven rounds of .380 ACP. Indeed, it is the smallest 7-shot .380 on the market. Shooters with large hands will often “get bit” by the hammer or slide. Designed to be carried a lot and shot little, the manual recommends putting a bandaid on your trigger finger before practicing at the range. It is also recommended to swap out the springs every 200 rounds or so. Seecamp production transferred to Whalley Precision in 2014. Until then, demand for these high quality pistols exceeded supply and it was not unusual to wait months or even years for your order to be filled.

Our final Show-n-Tell item in August was a Smith & Wesson Model 360 displayed by Member 10 (*at right*). This particular J-Frame 5 revolver is chambered in .357 Magnum and is part of a factory Survival Kit. The “hunter orange” gun case contains, in addition to the 5-shot revolver with matching orange grips, a fire starter, emergency whistle, first aid kit, signal mirror, a ParaShovel PRO with cutting edge and 4” trowel, waterproof notebook, and flashlight – just about everything short of food and water that a person could need in a survival situation. As far as the S&W 360 goes – the barrel and cylinder are made from stainless steel while the frame is made from a lightweight scandium alloy. Member 10 recently purchased this particular kit at Green Top in Ashland, Virginia.



2nd AMENDMENT SYMPOSIUM

The NRA-ILA will hold its annual **2nd Amendment and Firearms Law Symposium** Saturday, October 5th, at the Doubletree Hilton Richmond-Midlothian. **This important event is timely considering current gun control proposals in Congress and the Virginia legislature.**

Focusing on recent developments in our nation’s courts and legislatures regarding the Second Amendment, the event will feature top Second Amendment attorneys covering topics that range from recent, critical court decisions, federal and state level updates, as well as critical legislative and political updates on defending and advancing gun owners' civil rights in Virginia.

Each registrant will receive valuable information including panelists’ written materials on their respective subjects—an excellent source for future reference. For guests who are attorneys, this year’s event may once again meet state requirements for continuing legal education. *The event, including all materials and lunch, is free. RSVP is required.*

Saturday, October 5, 2019
1021 Koger Center Blvd.
North Chesterfield, VA 23235
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Registration 9:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.)

Go to https://www.nrailafrontlines.com/2019_law_symposium for additional info and to RSVP/register.

★ 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: **JOHN M. BROWNING FIREARMS MUSEUM**

Marc Gorelick, VGCA

The John M. Browning Firearms Museum housed in Ogden, Utah’s Union Station, is a paean to a man who, is arguably, the greatest firearms inventor of modern times. The museum, which can be considered a place of pilgrimage for firearms collectors and shooters and historians, tells the story of John Moses Browning, the genius whose weapons armed the armed forces of the United States and many other countries, as well as legions of civilian shooters and hunters.



Union Station in Ogden, Utah; home of the John M. Browning Firearms Museum. Photo – Tricia Simpson



John Moses Browning was one of twenty-two children born to Mormon Jonathan Browning, himself a pioneering gunmaker who settled in Ogden, Utah. John and three brothers formed a partnership and from their gun shop, they produced firearms designs that revolutionized the gun industry. Browning was awarded 128 firearms patents and his designs have been the basis for many of the models manufactured by Winchester, Colt, Remington, Stevens, and Fabrique National (FN) of Belgium. Many of these timeless classics, such as the 1911 pistol and the M2 .50 caliber machine gun are still in widespread use. Indeed, the 1911 is still going strong more than a century after it was introduced.

The firearms in the museum came from the Browning factory reference collection before passing to the Utah National Guard in 1959 and on to the current Browning Museum in 1978. Prototypes and original models of firearms designed by John M. Browning are displayed in the museum. These include rifles, shotguns, pistols, machine guns, and cannons. However, the museum covers more than John M.'s inventions. Four generations of Brownings are represented in the museum. From Jonathan M. Browning, the father, there is the "Harmonica" rifle and a revolving cylinder rifle. "Harmonica" rifles were made by Jonathan when he was in Illinois during the 1840's and early 1850's. They are extremely rare today and most are encountered with little original conditioning. According to one source, prices for one in average condition range from \$40,000 to \$65,000. John M.'s son, Val, did a lot of the early work on the superposed shotgun. Moreover, his grandson Bruce is also an inventor and designer of Browning firearms.



Jonathan M. Browning's percussion "Harmonica" rifle. Five shot manual magazine, .45 cal.

The comprehensive exhibits highlight not only representational examples of the many production versions of different Browning guns, but the cases contain original "in the white" prototypes of Browning's classic designs as well as experimental models that were never put into production.



Many of the tool room examples have the visible file and tool marks on them. These include prototypes of the 1878 High Wall Single Shot Rifle (his first design that he sold to Winchester) and the Model 1895 Winchester lever action rifle. On display are Browning's original gas-operated and blowback-operated pistol prototypes, as are some of his early recoil-operated prototypes, including a rotating barrel pistol. Other prototypes include the

FN Model 1900 pistol and the Auto-5, semi-automatic shotgun, which was produced by FN Herstal.



The exhibits include some rare pieces that never reached production, including the toggle-locked 1900 design, which was not produced for fear of infringing on Borchartd's toggle-locking patents. This was the shotgun design that led to Browning's divorce from Winchester after 18 years of collaboration.

Photo – Ogden City

One of the more significant rifles on display is one of Browning's original gas-operated rifle

demonstrators. This design would be the basis for Browning's Colt 1895 machine gun, as well as many other gas-operated rifles. During a demonstration for the US Navy, Browning fired his .45-70 cal. experimental prototype (on display) sending 1,800 rounds down range in three minutes. While Browning was not the first to develop gas-operation (there were earlier European designs), his work was probably the most influential. Browning was also a pioneer in recoil and inertia mechanisms. Some of the other prototypes on display are the Model 8 semi-automatic rifle, Browning's earliest machine gun, the Colt Model 1895 machine gun, the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle), and the tool room prototype of a 37mm automatic cannon that when produced would arm P-39 Airacobra fighters during WW2.

The display cases are well lit and the items are easy to see. In fact, many of the display cases are freestanding so you can see the item from all angles – front, back and sides.

The museum's exhibits include an extensive collection of working miniature firearms. The miniature displays depict the development of firearms from flintlocks through percussion and early metallic cartridge to today's modern firearms.



Photo – Ogden City



Part of miniature firearm collection. Photo – Ogden City

Ogden Union Station is located at 501 Wall Avenue, Ogden, Utah 84401. The John M. Browning Firearms museum is located on the second floor at the north end of Union Station; there is access by elevator and stairs. Other museums in Union Station are the Utah State Railroad Museum, Browning-Kimball Classic Car Collection, and the Utah Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. It is normally open Monday through Saturday, 10:00am to 5:00pm. Closed on Sunday. Tickets (\$7 adults, \$5 seniors) can be purchased in the Gift Shop in the Grand Lobby and includes entrance to all the museums in the complex. There is also a restaurant and research library. For more information, visit the Ogden Union Station website at: <http://theunionstation.org/main/>. It is not to be missed.



BAR enlarged Training Model. Photo – Ogden City.

★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: There are sometimes changes in schedules by gun show promoters or errors on websites. Members are strongly encouraged to verify before driving to a show. These dates have been published as of this writing, but are not guaranteed. If you have a favorite show you would like to tell other members about, please email the Editor with a short review, including the show content, i.e., modern, new, collectible or antique, and I will include it as room permits. **Yellow** = Collector organizations or shows.

VIRGINIA - 2019

- ⇒ Sep 27-29, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Oct 2-6, 2019 - Winchester, VA – Fort Shenandoah (Sutler Row) – *140th National Skirmish by the North-South Skirmish Association*
- ⇒ Oct 12-13, 2019 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- ⇒ Oct 12-13, 2019 – Warsaw, VA – 4298 Richmond Rd – *RCVFD*
- ⇒ Oct 19-20, 2019 – Roanoke, VA – The Berglund Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Oct 19-20, 2019 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- ⇒ Oct 26-27, 2019 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- ⇒ Oct 26-27, 2019 – Woodstock, VA – Moose Lodge – *Sporting Shows Unlimited*
- ⇒ Nov 2-3, 2019 – Manassas, VA – Prince William County Fairgrounds – *VGCA (our show!)*
- ⇒ Nov 2-3, 2019 – Weyers Cave, VA – Weyers Cave Community Center – *Sporting Shows Unltd*
- ⇒ Nov 9-10, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Nov 16-17, 2019 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show – MK Shows*
- ⇒ Nov 16-17, 2019 – Woodstock, VA – Shenandoah County Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Shows*
- ⇒ Nov 22-24, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Nov 30-Dec 1, 2019 - Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- ⇒ Dec 7-8, 2019 - Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Dec 14-15, 2019 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center – *SGK*
- ⇒ Dec 21-22, 2019 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW Post 1503 - *Showmasters*
- ⇒ Dec 21-22, 2019 – Salem, VA - Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- ⇒ Dec 27-29, 2019 - Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*

MARYLAND - 2019

- ⇒ Oct 11-13, 2019 – Bel Air, MD – American Legion Harford Post #39 – *Michael Collins*
- ⇒ Oct 19-20, 2019 – Timonium, MD – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- ⇒ Nov 9-10, 2019 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds - *Silverado*

PENNSYLVANIA - 2019

- ⇒ Sep 18-22, 2019 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Ohio Valley Military Society (The MAX Show)*
- ⇒ Sep 21, 2019 – Marysville, PA – Marysville Lions Club – *Central Penn Antique Arms Association*
- ⇒ Sep 21-22, 2019 – Split Rock, PA – 100 Mossywood Road - *Eagle Arms*
- ⇒ Sep 21-22, 2019 – Washington, PA – Washington County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2019 (continued)

Sep 28-29, 2019 – Allentown, PA - Econo Lodge –*Eagle Arms*

- Sep 28-29, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Oct 4-5, 2019 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 12-13, 2019 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 12-13, 2019 – Grove City, PA – Grove City Masonic Hall – *Masonic Hall*
- Oct 12-13, 2019 – Mount Joy, PA – Mount Joy Sportsmen’s Assn - *Mount Joy Sportsmen’s Assn*
- Oct 19-20, 2019 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- Oct 19-20, 2019 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 19-20, 2019 – Quarryville, PA – Solanco Fairgrounds – *SLCF-SA*
- Oct 26-27, 2019 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 2-3, 2019 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 2-3, 2019 – Kittanning, PA – 592 Pony Farm Road - *Pony Farm and Trap Gun Club*
- Nov 9-10, 2019 - Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 16-17, 2019 – Hermitage, PA – Hickory Post VFW - *LR Gun Shows*
- Nov 16-17, 2019 – Split Rock, PA – 100 Mossywood Road - *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 23-24, 2019 – Wind Gap, PA – Plainfield Fire Company – *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 23-24, 2019 – Carlisle, PA – Carlisle Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Nov 23-24, 2019 - Philadelphia, PA – National Guard Armory – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Nov 30-Dec 1, 2019 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center – *Showmasters*
- Dec 14-15, 2019 – Harbor Creek, PA – Harbor Creek Fire Dept Social Hall – *IRSporting Events*
- Dec 14-15, 2019 - Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Dec 20-22, 2019 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Dec 28-29, 2019 – Allentown, PA - Econo Lodge –*Eagle Arms*
- Dec 28-29, 2019 – York, PA – York Fairgrounds-Memorial Hall - *Appalachian Promotions*

SPECIAL NOTE – 2019

- Oct 11-12, 2019 – West Point, KY – Knob Creek Gun Range – *Machine Gun Shoot and Military Gun Show*
 - Nov 9-10, 2019 – Tulsa, OK – Tulsa Fairgrounds (Expo Square) – *Tulsa Arms Collector Association – aka Wanenmacher’s (world’s largest gun show – over 4200 tables!)*
 - Nov 23-24, 2019 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Ohio Gun Collector’s Association*
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FOR SALE:

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

If you would like to list an item (or items) in the VGCA Newsletter, please send your description, price, and contact information to rpebecker@verizon.net. 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:

★ Springfield Model 1903 Mark I in .30/06 made in 1919 for Pedersen device. Excellent 24" barrel (dated October 1919) w/excellent bore. Good wood – overall VGC. Cost is \$1195.00
Negotiable/BO

★ Walther Model 8, 25acp. 8-shot magazine, 2nd variation, WW2 German officer bring back, w/ rare, reduced size, custom C96 Broomhandle-type holster. EC. \$1495

★ Smith and Wesson 1912 38 S&W New Departure or Lemon Squeezer, 5-shot revolver, rare 4 inch barrel, sharp nickel plating, minty bore, pearl grips and original factory letter. EC. \$749

★ LC Smith 20ga. 1940's classic field grade Featherweight SxS sidelock, 28-inch barrels, excellent bores and casehardening (80%), 2-3/4 inch chambers, extractors, DT VGC+. \$2150

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

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