

The Potomac Arms Collector's Association



P. O. Box 1812
Wheaton, MD 20915

Established
July 16, 1955

NRA Affiliate Collectors' Club # G8031

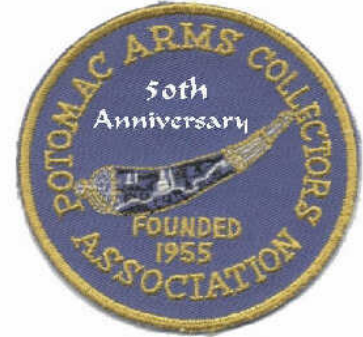
Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Assoc. Affiliate

NRA Club - Meritorious Achievement Award, 1989

NRA Gun Collectors' Org. Achievement Award, 1992

NRA Outstanding Newsletter Awards, 1994 & 1998

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February, 2005

News Notes

The February 17th meeting will feature Mr. Chris Murphy, noted expert on foreign arms imported during the Civil War, who will discuss *The Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle*. Members are encouraged to bring related weapons for Show and Tell or expert comment by Chris.

A big vote of thanks to new member Charlie Rathell for his interesting and historically informative presentation on Queen Anne style British flintlock turn off barrel pistols. Jim Vaughan

The "New Improved" PACA GUN SHOW: The PACA Show Committee (Tom Moynahan, Chair) has received Board of Directors approval for the following significant changes for the 2005 show:

- **New Date** – *June 11-12, 2005*- few, if any, competing local gun shows.
- **Expanded venue** – we will have *up to 180 tables in Buildings 9 and 12 (building 12 is directly across from building 9's entrance)*.
- **We will be joined by the National Air Gun Collectors** who will be primarily concentrated in bldg. 12. This is a mutually beneficial arrangement that will increase table sales and hopefully increase attendance.
- **What's not new** – PACA still needs a high level of member participation by distributing flyers, renting tables, exhibiting educational displays and helping to staff the show!

Welcome aboard to provisional member Dan DeCamp. Dan has been a frequent guest of Marvel Freund at PACA meetings and has happily decided to make it official. Dan hasn't yet decided on a specific area of collecting – perhaps the presentations and interaction with members at the meetings will help. We all look forward to your continued involvement in PACA activities.

P.A.C.A. Roster: Please make the following additions/corrections to your rosters:

- Marvel Freund's Email address is mrfreund@erols.com
- Dan DeCamp's roster entry is: 2002 Wyman Way, Germantown, MD 20874 (301) 972-2393 shimperdan@aol.com

Membership Reminders:

- **Wicked Weather** – Once again, if the Montgomery County Snow Emergency Plan is in effect, the PACA meeting will be cancelled and not re-scheduled for that month. The next meeting will be held on our normally scheduled date the next month.
- **If you haven't yet paid your dues (now \$30.00)**, please bring to the meeting or send to Treasurer Dale Maschino, 7710 Falstaff Court, McLean, VA 22102 at your earliest convenience.
- **Contact John Vagnetti** by the end of this month if you want to order any "Sackups".

Show Calendar

February 11-13 - Chantilly VA: C&E Gun Shows - Dulles Expo Center

February 11-13 - Timonium MD: Camrod Hunting Club - 2200 York Rd

February 18-20 - Harrisonburg VA: Old Dominion Gun Shows – Rockingham Co. Fairgrounds

February 26-27 - Bealeton VA: Old Dominion Gun Shows - Hugo's Show Hall

March 5 - 6 - Pikesville MD: Camrod Hunting Club - 610 Reistertown Rd

March 19 -20 - Timonium MD: Maryland Arms Collectors Assoc Inc – MD State Fairgrounds

Collectors' Corner

This year is the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Model 1905 Bayonet, so I will be featuring articles on this bayonet throughout the year. I would be pleased to include any contributions from PACA members, particularly those with a passion for U.S. bayonets.

Wilde Drop Forge and Tool Company, By Gary Cunningham from *Gary Cunningham's Bayonet Points* at www.usmilitaryknives.com.

**Recently seen on eBay: Un-issued Wilde Tool 16" Bayonet in Cosmoline,
M1905 Springfield bayonet scabbard w/ repro leather.**



Wilde Drop Forge and Tool Company

By Gary Cunningham from *Gary Cunningham's Bayonet Points* at www.usmilitaryknives.com

Gary is the author of [American Bayonets of the 20th Century](#): following is information that he learned after the book was published. *Ed.*

The company was started in circa 1927 by Otto P. Froeschl and Paul Froeschl (brothers) at 27th and Fairmont in Kansas City Missouri. One source states it was named for Henry Wilde (pronounced Wild-ee) who provided the startup financing. Paul's sons Paul Jr. and Phil took over the company in the 1950s. Floods in 1953 and 1954 damaged the plant, and it has since moved to Hiawatha, Kansas and is still in business today.

Purchase order #870 was issued for 60,000 M1905 bayonets to Wilde Drop Forge and Tool Company on September 27, 1941 at a price of about \$3.34 per bayonet. This is based on the \$200,000 contract amount as shown in the Alphabetical Listing of Major War Supply Contracts and confirmed by the Register of Prices Paid for Small Arms Items dated August 20, 1942. This was a considerably lower price than was paid to the other contractors, most of who received about \$4.00 per bayonet.

As with all the makers, Wilde had great problems in starting production, both in obtaining the proper steel and in heat treatment. Although it was planned for deliveries to begin in late 1941 or early 1942 and to be completed by June 1942, first deliveries were not made until the late summer of 1942. The Register of Prices Paid mentioned above show no deliveries as of August 20, 1942. The order for 60,000 was completed around March or April of 1943, but because of the difficulties involved, they and the Ordnance Department agreed not to extend the contract. Wilde was producing other hand tools which were needed in industry, and the bayonet contract seriously interfered with their ability to make their regular product line. They also had a later contract with the Navy for hand pliers

The bayonets appear roughly made, as Wilde's machinery was not set up for this type production and finishing, but they were serviceable. The low contract price probably also meant that Wilde could not spend much time on final finishing. The marking used in 1942 is crude in appearance and used the older style Ordnance Shell and Flame with the flames separated at the top. The 1943 mark is neater in appearance and uses the shell with the flames coming to a point that is common for World War Two. Red grips with a black center panel are most commonly associated with Wilde production. These grips are unmarked on the inside.

M1905 Bayonets Being Sold By IMA

My thanks to Dick Newcomer who was kind enough to send one of these for my examination and sold it to me for my reference collection. It is marked with the standard US and Ordnance Shell and Flame, but the maker is M.D.C.O, obviously a fantasy item. One of the giveaways of these bayonets is a mark on the other side of the ricasso from the maker marks - a poor copy of the Ordnance Escutcheon that is found on some of the early M1905 bayonets made in 1942. This is sometimes called the crossed cannon mark, and on US made bayonets is often lightly stamped and hard to read. The mark on the IMA version is deeper and distinctly different from the regular mark. The internal design is similar to the US made M1905, but is cruder and shows evidence of quite a bit of hand fitting.

There have been 4 different markings reported to me so far on these bayonets. Two are fantasy markings, the M.D.C.O in an oval mark and a U.S.M.C. mark also in an oval. The other two are copies of regular US marks, PAL and OL. The PAL mark is fairly crude and should not be confused by anyone familiar with the standard marking. The oval around the PAL is closer to a circle, and the A in PAL is a totally different shape. The OL marking however is closer to the real thing and could be confusing. There are some minor differences when compared carefully, but nothing that really stands out by itself. Things such as the detailing in the flames, the shape and thickness of the line in the letters, and the 1 in 1942 can be seen to be different. Fortunately, at least on the ones I have seen, the reproduction of the Ordnance Escutcheon mark is so distinctive that there ought to be no problem in detecting the fakes.

Rare Un-issued WILDE TOOL 16" Bayonet in Cosmoline!

TRULY A REMARKABLE FIND HERE IN THIS UNISSUED MODEL 1942 BAYONET WITH 1943 DATE! NOT ONLY IS THIS BAYONET BY THE RAREST MAKER "WILDE TOOL & DROP FORGE", BUT IT'S STILL IN THE ORIGINAL COSMOLINE AND WAX PAPER WRAP! AS YOU MAY KNOW, IN LATE 1942 THE GOVERNMENT ORDERED THESE 16" BAYONETS CUT DOWN 6", WHICH PROBABLY EXPLAINS WHY THIS ONE SURVIVED IN ITS CURRENT STATE. ANYWAY, I OBVIOUSLY HAD TO PEEL BACK THE PAPER AND COSMO TO SEE WHO MADE IT...AND WAS GLAD I DID. THE BAYONET IS IN PERFECT CONDITION AND SHOWS AREAS OF WHERE THE PAPER AND COSMOLINE HAVE WORN OFF FROM TIME AND HANDLING. THE PHOTOS BELOW WILL SHOW THAT JUST ABOUT ALL OF THE COSMOLINE & COVERING STILL REMAINS. I MUST SAY IT WAS TEMPTING TO TAKE THE LAQUER THINNER TO THIS PIECE, BUT HOW COULD I EVEN CONSIDER THAT. THERE IS NO SCABBARD WITH THE BAYONET AS IT WAS NEVER IN ONE. YOU RARELY SEE A WILDE TOOL OFFERED FOR SALE, LET ALONE A TREASURE LIKE THIS ONE. THE ULTIMATE PIECE FOR THE MOST ADVANCED COLLECTOR.

After 17 bids, the winner paid \$585.75 for this M1942 Bayonet. I hope that it's still perfect after the Cosmoline is removed!



US WW1 M1905 Springfield bayonet scabbard repro leather



M-1905 type scabbard for the Springfield M1905 bayonet. Leather over rawhide body, metal throat and swiveling belt spring clip. Made by a well respected and world-class producer of repro equipment. Excellent new made reproduction, no rips, tears or repairs.

*With a minimum opening bid of \$ 39.99,
there are no takers.*