



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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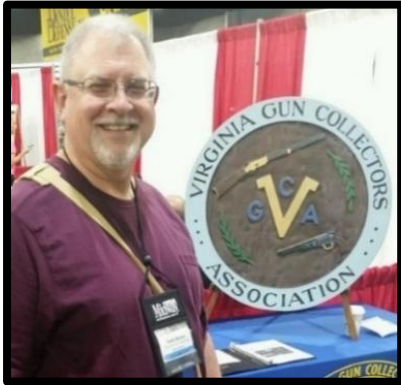
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July 2025 VGCA Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Greetings, Members – I hope you are having a great summer!

First and foremost, I want to remind everyone that we will meet in July – this Thursday, July 24th to be exact. I know we typically take the month of July off from having a meeting, but we always seem to lose some momentum and drop in attendance in the next couple of months after skipping July. Having a meeting this month is another experiment (like the recent May

meeting on Saturday) to see if there is any impact on attendance in August and September. How this meeting goes will determine if we repeat having a July meeting next year. Let us know what you think. The July Meeting will be all Show-n-Tell, with a theme of “Guns of the Old West.” Please bring one or two of your favorite lever guns or single-action revolvers of the period to share with the group.

We are still waiting for confirmation of both a joint VGCA-NORVA Picnic and Schutzenfest as well as a Field Trip to the Smith & Wesson factory in Tennessee this fall. We will pass along updates and any details as soon as they become available.

Finally, we are looking for volunteers. First, we are seeking people to make presentations at our membership meetings in 2026. All months are currently open, so let Director Chris Britton know if you are interested in giving a presentation. Second, we are looking for a new newsletter editor. Let yours truly know if you are interested or have any questions.

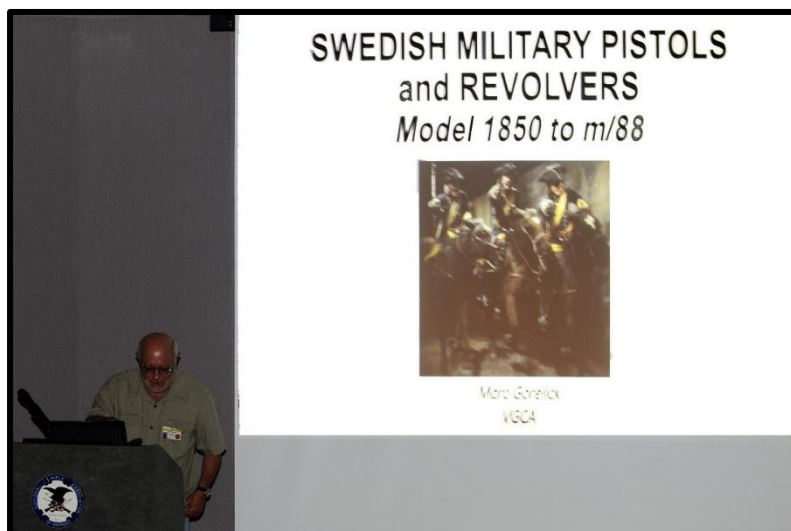
I hope to see you on Thursday!

Rob Becker, VGCA President

★ June Presentation: Swedish Military Pistols and Revolvers: M/1850 to m/88

Marc Gorelick (*right*), VGCA Life Member and long-time member of the VGCA Board of Directors, gave an excellent presentation on Swedish Military Pistols and Revolvers.

Marc opened by explaining that the Swedish military began to re-equip its forces with up-to-date small arms starting in the mid-nineteenth century. For handguns, this began with the cavalry Model 1850, a .58 caliber rifled percussion single-shot muzzle-loader. Known as the “Studsarpistol,” the Model 1850 remained in use until 1879.



The Model 1850 was followed by the Model 1863. The m/1863 was essentially the open-top, single-action, 6-shot 12mm pinfire revolver recently adopted by the French Navy. Sweden purchased 2,000 m/1863s from Lefrauchoux of Paris. Of these, 1,065 were issued to the Swedish artillery and 890 went to the Swedish Navy. The m/1863 was followed by the m/1871. The m/1871 was solid frame, double-action, 6-shot revolver chambered in 11mm centerfire. By 1872, Sweden had ordered 6,000 m/1871s from Francotte & Company of Liege, Belgium. The Swedish firm of Husqvarna would also produce some m/1871s. As the 11mm centerfire round proved superior to the 12mm pinfire, Sweden converted almost every m/1863 to the newer cartridge and gave the converted revolvers the designation m/63/79.

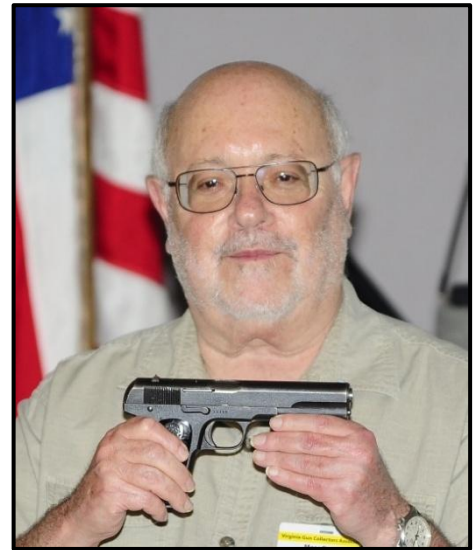


The Swedish Navy wanted a more robust revolver and in 1884 adopted the French designed Chamelot-Delvigne Model 1873 (then in use by the French Army) as the Swedish M/1884. The M/1884 was a solid-frame, double-action, 6-shot chamber in 11mm centerfire (11x17) and 1,000 were ordered from two French manufacturers.

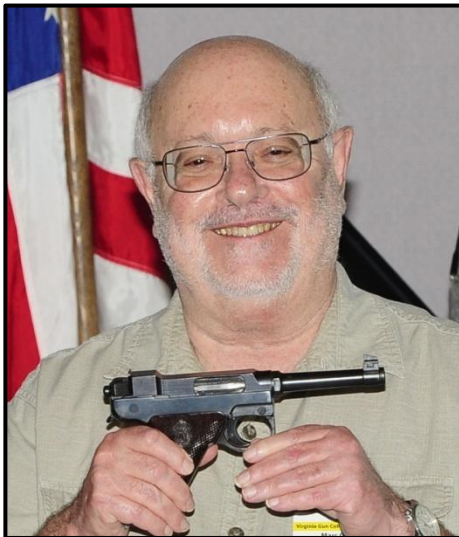
The M/1884 was followed just three years later by the Swedish adoption of the double-action 6-shot Nagant revolver in 7.5mm Swiss caliber (7.5x22). Designated the m/1887 (*shown at left*), 2,000 were purchased for the Swedish Army and 480 for the Swedish Navy. Another 14,084 were produced by Husqvarna between 1897 and 1905. The m/1887 remained in Swedish service through both World Wars and even into the 1960s. During the 1950s a Swedish para-military unit called the

Verkskyddet was issued refurbished m/1887s for guarding institutions like the post office, railways, power plants, bridges ferries and major factories. Some were even converted to shoot .32 ACP and were used to fire blanks in training police and military dogs.

Sweden's first semi-automatic military handgun would be the FN Browning Model 1903, adopted as the m/07 (*at right*). Chambered in 9mm Browning Long (9x20) and with a 7-round magazine, the m/07 beat out the Luger Model 1900 in trials due to its reliability. Fabrique Nationale produced the first 10,000 for Sweden, which was followed by another 89,231 military and 7,000 civilian m/07s made by Husqvarna between 1917 and 1943. Many of those subsequently imported into the U.S. were converted to shoot .380 ACP by having a barrel liner installed. The m/07 was the standard Swedish military pistol until the adoption of the m/40 Lahti in 1940.



The German Walther P38, a double-action/single-action pistol in 9mm Parabellum (9x19), was briefly adopted by Sweden in 1939,



but Germany cancelled their export to Sweden after the initial order of 1,500 due to their own domestic demand for this pistol. Refused a license to manufacture the m/39 in Sweden, that country turned to its neighbor Finland to replace the Walther design.

Sweden was interested in the Finnish L35 Lahti, a single-action pistol which, like the P38, was also chambered in 9mm Parabellum. Sweden acquired the production rights to the Lahti, made some minor changes to the design, and adopted it as the m/40 (*left*). Among those changes was eliminating the loaded chamber indicator and not using nickle steel in the slide and frame. Unfortunately, the latter change would lead to a drastically reduced life for the m/40 of just 3,000 rounds. Husqvarna would produce between 83,000 and 85,000 m/40s.

In the late 1950s, the Smith & Wesson Model 10 would be adopted by the Swedish police and the Air Force as the m/58. The m/58 was a 6-shot double-action/single-action revolver chambered in .38 Special. 1,500 revolvers were purchased from S&W in 2-inch (Air Force), 4-inch, and 6-inch lengths.

The last model of Swedish military sidearm that Marc discussed was the polymer-framed double-action, 9mm Parabellum Glock Models 17 and 19, adopted as the m/88 series. The m/88 was the Generation 1 Glock 17 (Army), the m/88B was the Gen 2 Glock 19 (Air Force), the m/88C was the Gen 2 Glock 17 (Army), the m/88C2 was the Gen 3 Glock 17 (Home Guard), and finally, the m/88D was the Gen 3 Glock 19 (Air Force). The m/88 family continues to serve Swedish military services to this day.

Be sure to thank Marc for this superb presentation the next time you see him!

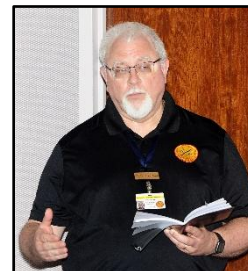
If you are interested in learning more about Swedish Military Pistols and Revolver, Marc has published two excellent articles on the subject on our VGCA website at https://www.vgca.net/article_hlist. They are titled ***Swedish Military Pistols and Revolvers*** and ***Swedish m/1887 Revolver***.



★ June Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by VGCA President Rob Becker at 7:00 p.m. VGCA Secretary Bruce Buchner led the Pledge of Allegiance, with 41 members and guests in attendance and 8 more participating remotely via webinar. Guests and new members were introduced.

Rob Becker (*right*) gave a report on a recent meeting with the NORVA Rod and Gun Club Board of Directors, which had as its purpose renewing the joint NORVA-VGCA Picnics/Schutzenfests. The intent is to try to have a picnic and shoot at the NORVA facilities this fall. The first step is to gauge interest in the VGCA and get an estimate of how many of our members will participate. Look for a survey to come out soon via Constant Contact. UPDATE: This survey was sent out on July 2, 2025.



Rob also noted that this year, unlike previously, we have a membership meeting scheduled for July. This is another scheduling experiment intended to improve overall meeting attendance. Though we typically haven't had a July meeting due to people taking vacations, it is thought that taking a month off may cause us "to lose steam" which impacts attendance in the following months. We will not have a feature presentation but will instead have an expanded Show-n-Tell with attendees asked to bring one or two of their favorite guns of the "Old West." See details on page 9.

We started using Webinar to have remote meetings during the COVID Quarantine and have continued to do so to accommodate members who cannot get to our meetings in person, but the cost has risen to almost \$130 per month for this service. We will try a new service in July called JITSI. See details on page 9.

Founding VGCA member and President Emeritus Ed Costello has four tables reserved for the July 18-20 Chantilly Gun Show which he is unable to use. If interested in taking one or more of these tables for \$100 each, please contact Jim Burgess or George Dungan at george@eccominv.com.

As a reminder, we are still looking for a newsletter editor. If you are interested in some (like writing a summary of the monthly presentation) or all of the duties, please contact any of the officers or directors.

Vice President George Dungan announced that we have flyers available for our Fall Gun Show.

Director Chris Britton is organizing our Recruiting Table for the July 18-20 Chantilly Gun Show. Please contact him at cbritton1@verizon.net if you are interested in working a shift.

Member Clayton Vieg announced that Virginia and Pennsylvania now recognize each other's Concealed Carry Permits.

Member Bryan Pelton reminded everyone that there were still a few VGCA Tee-shirts left in sizes Medium and Large. The price has been reduced to \$10 each.

Finally, Gun Show Director Andrew Woodard gave an update on our November show. There are still 55 tables available and only one display announced. Remember, VGCA members can reserve up to two display tables at no cost.



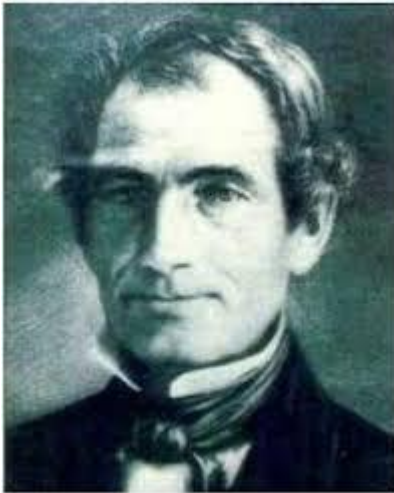
Brevet-Brigadier General George C. Talcott and his Square Back “Deringers”

By Mike Revesz

Reprinted with the permission of the Pennsylvania Antique Gun Collectors Association.

Originally published in the February 2024 issue of the PAGCA Bugle.

On November 10, 1863, Nathaniel Holland filed suit for Henry Deringer against A.J. Plate in the



Henry Deringer (1786-1868)

Supreme Court of California alleging infringement by Plate of Deringer's trademark on derringer pistols being sold by Plate in his San Francisco shop. Plate was an authorized dealer of authentic Philadelphia Deringer pistols but possibly felt that Deringer's production was too slow for the demand and his price too high. To solve the production and price problems, Plate contracted with the Slotter Brothers (former workers from Deringer's Philadelphia shop) to make derringer pistols for his shop, many of which were stamped "DERINGER PHILADELA". Plate, between 1860 and 1865, bought a total of 428 pairs of these pistols from the Slotter brothers at \$18 per pair with approximately 75% having the "DERINGER/PHILADELA" stamping with the final letter "A" being smaller. After appeals, Henry Deringer eventually won this trademark infringement suit in 1871 with his estate being awarded \$1770 as Henry himself died in 1868.

One of the most informative parts of the suit was Deringer's own deposition about the how the "Deringer" pistol came about. In his own words:

"The genuine Deringer pistols are manufactured by me in the rear of my said dwelling No. 612 North Front Street, Philadelphia, and nowhere else.... (I) Have been engaged in the manufacture of said pistol since the year 1825, and always at Philadelphia... This pistol first came into notice in the following way: I made a pair of them for Major Armstrong, who was then Governor of some of the Indian tribes west of Arkansas. He was much pleased with the weapons and introduced them among the Indian Chiefs, and subsequently among the heads of Departments at Washington, the members of Cabinet, etc., and they soon acquired a high reputation. Major Armstrong gave the pistols the name of the "Deringer Pistol," and by it they have ever since been known."



The first model "Deringers" or Armstrong pistols were actually larger, almost coat style percussion pistols, roughly 8 inches long with front action locks (main spring to the right of hammer). (See photo on left)

Between 1828 and 1830 Deringer switched to back action locks (main spring behind the hammer) which eventually allowed his pistols to

shrink significantly in size. For 10 years after 1828 “Deringer” pistols went through a slimming down which eventually led to the small classic pistol we know today as a derringer. In addition to back action locks, Deringer’s second generation of pistols began the extensive use of German silver (nickel) for furniture including side plates, fore caps wedge escutcheons and thumb plates. Trigger guards initially remained iron but those too eventually were switched to German silver. Over time Deringer also offered furniture in higher grade materials, at added price, including silver and even some gold and gold wash and combinations there-of.

The second generation “Deringers” also started to include octagonal barrels and the rare combination octagonal and round barrels. Barrel striping was introduced and for a small group of “Deringers”, square back trigger guards were used although still in iron. The only known pair of 2nd generation “Deringers”, and possibly the most famous pair of “Deringers” are the Talcott “Deringers”. This pair of “Deringers” are believed to have been made between 1828 and 1830 and today represent the best of the second generation of the Henry Deringer shop’s work.



The Talcott 2nd generation “Deringer” circa 1828-1830. Note the back action locks and the shorter part-round, part octagonal barrels.

The Talcott pistols have barrels that are 3 ½ inches long (4 3/16 inches overall with case hardened breeches), and attractive brown striping on the part round part octagon barrels. Each barrel is .34 caliber with 7 groove rifling and a small German silver blade front site. The breach top flat is marked DERINGER / PHILA and the side flats are engraved in a leaf pattern. The tang screws and tangs are also engraved and provide a small “V” notch site. German silver is used for the fore caps and wedge escutcheons, side plates and butt caps. The stocks are a varnished, better grade walnut with checkered and bag shaped grips. Rosewood ramrods are used and thumb plates are engraved *Col. G. Talcott*.



The Talcott 2nd generation "Deringer" circa 1828-1830. Note the brown striping on the part-round, part octagonal barrels, and the thumb plates that are engraved "Col. G. Talcott."



George C. Talcott, (b.1786 - d.1862), (portrait to left) entered the Army as a 3rd Lieutenant in 1813 and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in July 1813 in the 25th Infantry Regiment and was stationed on the islands in New York harbor. He transferred to Ordnance with the rank of 1st Lieutenant in August 1813. In 1821 he transferred to the 2nd Artillery. He was promoted to brevet-Major 1823 and commanded Watervleit Arsenal from 1824 to 1832; when he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in May 1832. He became Acting Chief of the Ordnance Bureau in 1839 and was promoted to Colonel and Chief of Ordnance in 1848. In 1849 Talcott was promoted to brevet-Brigadier General for his outstanding efforts during the Mexican War.

In the summer of 1851, General Talcott was relieved of his duties and court-martialed at the direction of Secretary of War Charles Conrad following a dispute with the Secretary over the awarding of ammunitions orders to a Southern contractor. His dismissal was upheld following appeals although many felt that his dismissal from the army was unjustified. Note: the "Deringer" pair are believed to have been given to Col. Talcott in 1848, 20 years after being made although he may have gotten them as a Lt. Colonel in 1832.



Left - One of the Talcott "Deringer's" thumb plates engraved with "Col. G. Talcott."

▼ ▼

★ NORVA-VGCA Picnic/Schutzenfest

We are awaiting word back from the NORVA Rod & Gun Club Board of Directors on whether they approved our proposal to restart the annual NORVA-VGCA Picnic and Schutzenfest this fall. We will provide details on this event as soon as they are available.

★ S&W Factory Tour Update



Smith & Wesson®

Our second Field Trip of 2025 is tentatively scheduled to go to the Smith & Wesson Factory in Marysville, Tennessee. While the date has not been solidified yet, we are looking at Fridays in September. We will let you know and start signing people up as soon as the trip and exact date are confirmed.

★ How to watch the July Meeting from Home

JITSI is our new free service, replacing our previous Webinar “Go to meeting.” You can join via your phone through the app or via your browser on the computer. Neither requires an account. All you need to join a JITSI meeting is a link, like the one below. Simply click the link.

Click the following link to join the meeting: <https://meet.jit.si/vgca-meeting-july2025>

You will be asked to enter your name. You can enter your actual name or use a pseudonym. It will then prompt you to allow access to camera and microphone, which you also do not need to gain access to the meeting. Then click “Join” – it is as simple as that!

Just want to dial in on your phone? Dial: 1-512-647-1431. Enter PIN: 2358585332 followed by #. Click this link to see the dial in phone numbers for this meeting <https://meet.jit.si/static/dialInInfo.html?room=vgca-meeting-july2025>

★ VGCA Membership Dues Going Up in 2026

The VGCA Executive Committee recently approved an increase in membership dues for next year. Effective on January 1st, 2026, Annual Membership costs will increase to \$40 (from the current \$30) per year and Life Memberships will increase to \$250 (from the current \$150). These increases, the first in over 30 years, are necessary to help cover the costs associated with membership.

★ We need your help with our Newsletter!

Do you love history and firearms, are reasonably organized, have a decent command of the English language, possess fair computer skills, and can dedicate a few hours each month to the VGCA? Then you may be just the person to take over as our newsletter editor! Rob Becker will continue as our editor through the December 2025 issue but is looking for some relief. If you think this is something you would be willing to take on – in whole or in part - please contact any of the officers or directors.

VGCA GUNS OF DISTINCTION: GERMAN PERCUSSION SHOTGUN BY KOPPE

By Marc Gorelick

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



This side by side, 16 gauge, muzzleloading percussion shotgun by Heinrich Köppe of Cologne, Germany is indicative of the fine craftsmanship and decoration that went into many of the firearms made for the European middle to upper classes in the first half of the 19th century. Although it is a utilitarian gun, the exquisite patterns on the Damascus barrels, and engraved sideplates and hammers, and carving on the stock, set it apart from more mundane weapons.



The double barrel shotgun is 47 inches (119cm) long with 30 inch (76cm) long Damascus barrels and weighs 6.39 pounds (2.9kg). Made around 1850, it has the maker's name inlaid in gold on the rib. The locks and hammers are engraved, the back action lockplates with hunting scenes. The safety levers are also engraved as are other metal parts. The trigger guard and hand rest are carved from horn. The

beautifully grained walnut stock with its German cheek piece and iron buttplate has delicately carved arabesques and checkering in the stock wrist area. It also has an intricately carved scene of hunting dogs on the left side of the stock near the butt. The barrels have a distinctive visually striking spiral pattern of a Damascus barrel.



Floral arabesque carving and checkering on right side of stock wrist.

Heinrich Köppe worked as a gunsmith in the Cologne armory around 1846-1850. As a historical side note, the Cologne armory was created in 1594/1606 and until recently the building housed the City Museum.



Left side of stock with carving of hunting dogs.



Heinrich Köppe's name, inlaid in gold on the rib. Note the spiral patterns on the barrels and the engraving on the rib between the barrels.



Top view showing engraving.



Bottom of the forestock. Note the engraving on the inlaid furniture.



Above and below – close-ups of engraved furniture on bottom of stock. Note the grotesque faces that are engraved into the metal.



This interesting example of the 19th century continental gunmaker's art was offered at Joh. Springer's 39th Classic Auction on May 4, 2023, with a starting price of only \$550 (500) euros and sold for a mere \$2,638 (2,400 euros).



★VGCA Social Media Accounts★

Our Instagram account

[@vaguncollectors](https://www.instagram.com/vaguncollectors)

has **768** followers as of **20 Jul 2025!**

Follow us for a regular dose of interesting gun-related content!

Our VGCA youtube.com channel

[@vgca-virginiaguncollectorsasso](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvGca-virginiaguncollectorsasso)

Troy Blackwood started this effort on the 11 Mar 2025. We have **12** videos (including our recent presentations on the Winchester Winder Musket and the Winchester Models 1894 and 94) and **68** subscribers as of **20 Jul 2025**.

The VGCA Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaGunCollectorsAssoc/>

has **1800** followers as of **20 Jul 2025**



ARMY PLANS TO CLOSE MANY MUSEUMS

By Marc Gorelick

The US Army announced on June 4 that it will close about 29 museums on military bases and other facilities during the next three years as part of a major overhaul of the Army Museum system. These museums showcase the history and legacies of major historic units, branches, bases and weapons.

The Army plans to reduce its roster of 41 museums and other facilities — 38 of which are on or near bases inside the U.S. with three overseas — by closure and consolidation to a mere 12 museums by 2028.

Army museums are overseen by the Center of Military History, under its Army Museum Enterprise directorate, and take several forms: 33 traditional museums open to the public with curated displays; four



Rock Island Arsenal Museum. Photo – US Army

properties dubbed training support facilities, which are generally attached to major training schools and open to soldiers while training in major disciplines like artillery or infantry; and two major warehouses in Alabama and Virginia which house the vast majority of the system's 540,000 artifacts — the historical weapons, uniforms, vehicles and other objects with educational value or historical value. The museums also oversee a collection of 60,000 archived documents. Only about 1% of the Army's artifacts are on display at any time in the museums and historians and curators regularly create exhibits from the vast pool of stored artifacts. The National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, is also overseen by the Center of Military History, but its budget, staffing and exhibit spaces supposedly will not be affected by the round of closures.

Army officials claimed that increasing maintenance costs and aging buildings — but not DOGE — are behind the Army plan. James Vizzard, the deputy executive director of the Army Center for Military History at Fort McNair stated that “We have more museum footprint than we can support and that is the bottom line. We can keep the museums open, but we cannot present a museum experience our visitors deserve and, frankly, our workforce deserves.”

“Part of the problem is that [each museum] can afford to hire a couple of curators, but every museum should also have education specialists. That's what museums are for,” said Vizzard. “You need to have exhibit technicians and educators and those are where we tend to skimp, frankly, and that gets back to that museum experience. You're not getting the right museum experience if you just have curators.”

One of the driving factors in the reduction plan is the state of the aging facilities and the increasing costs associated with maintaining them. Many Army museums, explained Vizzard, occupy older buildings on a base, leading to high maintenance costs. If the Army were to repair and update the over 100 buildings that Army museums now occupy, Vizzard stated, the cost could run to \$65 million. By comparison, the

total annual operating budget for all 41 museums, he said, is \$35 million. Leaky roofs and bad HVAC, he said, make for bad experiences for visitors and also can damage exhibits.

Under the Army's plan, some museums will be closed outright and others will be consolidated. For example, three smaller museum facilities currently in Virginia will be consolidated while a fourth is closed. The U.S. Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, the Quartermaster Museum and the Ordnance Training Support Facility at Fort Gregg-Adams near Richmond will be consolidated in a single facility under the theme of Army Sustainment at Fort Gregg-Adams. The U.S. Army Women's Museum at Gregg-Adams will be closed and its exhibits might be sent to other museums.

Public-private partnerships are also being considered. These may follow the model of the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia.



Unfortunately, Rock Island, with its superb small arms collection, is on the chopping block, despite having reopened in 2023 after an extensive renovation and upgrading. The Rock Island Arsenal Museum originally opened on July 4, 1905, as The Ordnance Museum at Rock Island Arsenal. It is the nation's second oldest Army Museum after West Point,

*Left – Rock Island Arsenal Museum.
Photo – US Army*

According to a draft proposal obtained by TASK and PURPOSE (<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/army-museums-closing/>):

Bases and facilities where the Army is proposing to keep museums open:

The U.S. Military Academy at West Point
U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii in Honolulu
Fort Gregg Adams, Virginia
Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Fort Cavazos, Texas
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
Fort Campbell, Kentucky
Fort Jackson, South Carolina
Fort Benning, Georgia
Fort Novosel, Alabama
Fort Sam Houston, Texas
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Museums set to close at these bases:

Fort Huachuca, Arizona
Fort Lewis, Washington
White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico
Fort Carson, Colorado
Fort Riley, Kansas
Fort Bliss, Texas
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
Fort Knox, Kentucky
Fort Stewart, Georgia
Fort Drum, New York
Fort Hamilton, New York
Rock Island, Illinois
Fort Eustis, Virginia
Camp Humphreys, South Korea
Vilseck, German



★ Membership Chairman's Report – July 2025

Please welcome the following new members to our group:

- Neil Hammerstrom of Alexandria
- Georgette Phillips of Fredericksburg

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining our organization, please invite them to a meeting or to our upcoming VGCA Gun Show. **If you sponsor a candidate, either at one of our membership tables or elsewhere, please make sure that you fill in and sign the Sponsor page.**

Notice to New Member Sponsors: VGCA has discontinued hard copy versions of the VGCA Newsletters. Please ensure your prospective applicants provide a legible email address and telephone contact number if possible. Also, please make sure your name is clearly written on the sponsorship form. Without a valid email address, new members will not receive the newsletter or VGCA announcements.

Membership Numbers: There are currently 452 Life members and 75 Annual Members for a total of 527 members in the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc.

Recruiting: Thank you to everyone who has worked our membership tables in the past and those of you who have signed up new members. Your efforts bring more knowledge to our organization through the new members who have an interest in gun collecting. Membership in the VGCA is a great way for people with an interest in the history, development, and use of firearms to broaden their knowledge and share what they know with others. It also offers the opportunity to network with individuals who have similar interests. To facilitate new memberships, we have a Membership Table at every Chantilly gun show, as well as at our own VGCA gun shows.

Membership Renewal: Dues for 2025 are now past due. If you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter, getting into the VGCA gun shows for free, and other benefits that come with membership please update your dues payment. You can renew annually for \$30 or \$150 for life. Please use the form below to renew and either mail it in or bring it to a meeting and give it to either George Dungan or Bruce Buchner. If you are unsure of your membership status email george@ecominv.com and I will let you know.

George Dungan, Vice President and Membership Chair



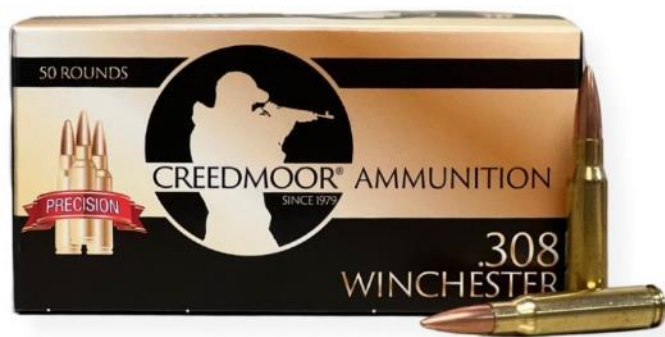


CMP UPDATE

By Marc Gorelick, CMP Liaison

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

CMP AMMUNITION SALES



The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) announced that it is collaborating with Creedmoor Sports to sell match ammunition. This ammunition is specifically engineered for precision rifle competition and consistent high accuracy performance. It will be available only through the CMP.

The ammunition is loaded by Berger Ammunition and features Lapua's superior brass and Vihtavuori clean burning and temperature stable powder. According to the CMP, all three loads are safe to use with the M1 Garand and have been specifically developed for competition shooters. This ammunition will be on sale at the CMP eStore and in its physical stores.

The updated Creedmoor Ammunition lineup includes:

- .308 Winchester 167 Gr Lapua Scenar
- .30-06 Springfield 167 Gr Lapua Scenar
- .30-06 Springfield 150 Gr Berger Open Tip Match (OTM)



The CMP also has Ely Standard and Ely Club .22 caliber ammunition, as well as a large variety of other types and calibers of rifle and pistol ammunition on sale. Brands include Armscor, Creedmoor, CCI Blazer, Eley, Federal, Hornady, Magtech and Remington. For additional information, including ordering

forms, go to the CMP eStore website at https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/ammunition/. To see the inventory and prices go to <https://shop.thecmp.org/browse/Ammo>.

The CMP ammunition sales program offers affiliated organizations and individuals an opportunity to purchase, at special prices, surplus and commercial ammunition. **To order surplus ammunition**, individuals must provide proof of membership in a CMP-Affiliated Club and proof of citizenship. **To order commercial ammunition**, individuals do not need to provide proof of membership in a club or proof of citizenship. You can order on the CMP eStore or use the CMP's Universal Order Form (only page 3A is needed for Commercial Ammunition orders). *The limit for any surplus ammunition is 2,000 rounds/caliber/customer/calendar year.*



The CMP announced a new M1 Garand sales program. Beginning **Thursday, July 17, 2025**, CMP will begin offering **legacy, non-reclaimed M1 Surplus Rifles** for direct sale through a new **“Buy Now” feature** on its CMP Auction website. These non-reclaimed rifles will also be offered at the **exact same prices** as the CMP’s reclaimed rifles.

Every Thursday at **9:00 AM Eastern Time**, newly listed M1 rifles will be available for **immediate purchase** at a set price (consistent with the reclaimed variants). Quantities will be limited so the CMP encourages customers to act quickly. To ensure fairness and availability, purchases will be limited to **one rifle per customer per month**.

These M1 rifles are sourced from **original U.S. military surplus stocks** and have not undergone reclamation or modification, making them especially appealing to collectors seeking true, legacy examples of the iconic service rifle.

For more information visit the CMP at https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/guns-on-auction/ or access the CMP Auction website directly at <https://cmpauction.thecmp.org/> to participate in this new sales format.

REVISED CMP SURPLUS RIFLE SALES POLICY & PROCEDURES

The CMP announced that it has revised its surplus rifle sales policy and procedures in order to improve its business model, increase inventory and sales of surplus rifles. Visit the CMP at <https://thecmp.org/cmp-reclaimed-receivers-revised-sales-policy-and-procedures/> for additional information.



★ In Review ★

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

A TRIP TO THE MUSEUM: **THE AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM** **Tanks! Tanks! Tanks! And Much More!**

By Marc Gorelick
All photos by the author



Boston, Massachusetts and the surrounding area are replete with historical sites, monuments and museums that are important in American history. Just a short drive west of Boston, and west southwest of Concord, about mid-way between Boston and Worcester, is the American Heritage Museum. This museum is a World War 2 armor lover's dream, as well as a historical aircraft and racing car lover's dream. The museum is a program of the Collings Foundation, a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 organization. It features the Jacques M. Littlefield Collection of armored fighting vehicles and explores America's major conflicts ranging from the Revolutionary War until today, but with a heavy focus on World War 2. The superb armor collection and displays contain numerous examples of both famous and little-known rare armored fighting vehicles of both the United States and our allies and enemies.



This relatively new museum is housed in a 67,000 square foot building located at the Collings Foundation's headquarters in Hudson, Massachusetts. The concept of the American Heritage Museum

began when the Foundation was selected to receive the massive collection of tanks, armored vehicles and military artifacts from the family of Jacques M. Littlefield. Littlefield, who died in 2013, had established the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation in Portola Valley, California to house his collection of armored fighting vehicles, believed to be the world's largest privately held collection with well over 200 working tanks and military vehicles.



British Mk. VIII Cromwell cruiser tank and Churchill Crocodile flamethrower tank. The Cromwell, the fastest British tank during WW2, is one of only two Mk VIII Cromwell tanks in the Western hemisphere. The Churchill Crocodile is one of only two on display in the U.S.

The Collings Foundation designed the American Heritage Museum around Littlefield's collection to fully engage visitors in the displays so that they are immersed in understanding our past, and the role of armor and other weapons in our wars. It does this very well through outstanding exhibits where the visitor can get up right close to the vehicles and equipment and person, interactive displays and a chronologically arranged series of dioramas and exhibits where you can literally walk around the vehicles and equipment to view them from any angle and get close enough to breathe on them.



British Mk. II "Matilda" Infantry Tank

Among the staggering number and variety of rare vehicles and equipment, the Museum features over fifteen tanks and artifacts that are the only ones on public display in North America. These include: a M1A1 Abrams tank, a Russian T-34/85 tank, a Kommandogerratt 40 German Rangefinder, a Leichter Panzerspähwagen SdKfz 222 armored vehicle, a British Matilda MK.II Tank, a Jumbo Sherman tank, a Soviet IS-2 Tank, a British Vickers Mk. VI A, a German Panzer 1 Tank, an Iraqi SCUD B Missile and Launcher, a rarer than hens' tooth Japanese Ho-Ro self-propelled artillery (believed to be the only one on public display in the world) and many more. There is even a 1903-1910 Deutsche Reichsbahn Rail Cattle Car believed to have been used to transport prisoners to concentration camps.

The main building houses the armor displays and dioramas that are arranged in 19 chronologically and geographically arranged exhibits. These start with the interactive World War 1 trench and video display

through the 13 World War 2 displays (starting with pre-war and ending with the Pacific War), through the Korean War, the Cold War, Vietnam, the Gulf War and 9/11 and the War on Terror. The Vietnam area has a life-like immersive recreation of the notorious Hanoi Hilton.



German Panzer V Panther Ausf. A tank. Surviving Panther tanks are very rare. This Panther is one of only six world-wide in working order and the only one on display in North America.



Russian T-34/85 Model 44 medium tank with a Higgins Boat (LCVP) in the left background. Introduced in 1944, The T34/85 was an up gunned version of the T-34/76. Not many Higgins boats survived until today. This example was discovered in Normandy and was probably used during the D-Day, Normandy invasion.

The lighting was adequate and illuminated many exhibits well but could have been much better on a few of the artifacts, specifically the British Vickers Mk. VIA and German Panzer 1, both extremely rare. On the other hand, the hatches were open on these restored early World War 2 AFV's so you can just about stick your head inside to see their well-lighted interiors. Also, the museum's display designers seemed to like illuminating some of the displays with colored lights, possibly for dramatic effect. The signage was excellent, not only giving you the specifics and specifications of every vehicle, plane or piece of equipment, but also explaining how, when where, and why it was used, thus putting it into context. The well-written signage is easy to read, being at a good height and uses large letters, and personal stories of

people who used the weapons helped make the static displays come alive and meaningful. And, there were plenty of friendly and knowledgeable docents to explain things and answer questions.



German Jagdpanzer 38 Hetzer Tank Destroyer with its 75mm Pak 39 / L48 gun.



Left – US M8 75mm Self Propelled Howitzer. Right – US M4A3E2 Sherman “Jumbo” Heavy Assault Tank, a rare up-armored version of the M4 Sherman. One of the first Jumbos produced, it still shows battle damage on the front transmission housing. A Sherman Jumbo was the first tank to reach the besieged 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

There are a few aircraft on display in the main building, including a German ME109, a Curtiss P-40B Warhawk (the only surviving fighter that was at the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941), a Grumman FM-2 (F4F) Wildcat next to its successor Grumman F6F-3N Hellcat, and a Vietnam War era F-105D Thunderchief (“Thud”). Prior to delivery to the Navy, the Hellcat on display was test flown by Cecil “Teddy” Kenyon, one of three female test pilots employed by Grumman during World War 2. However, the vast majority of aircraft were in other buildings. The aircraft collection (about 140 on and

off site according to a docent) is divided into several areas – Early Aviation, World War 2, Korean War, Vietnam War and those undergoing restoration. According to a docent, almost all the aircraft on-site are flyable and many were flown into a nearby airfield. Most are scarce survivors that are rarely seen by the public today. And many of the individual aircraft have interesting stories. For example, the World War 2 L-4 Grasshopper on display, nicknamed “Rosie the Rocket,” had six M6A# HEAT rocket launchers attached to its wings. The pilot, Major Charles Carpenter and aircraft were credited with destroying six German Panzers and other armored fighting vehicles during World War 2. The plane was found in an Austrian flying club, purchased and brought back to the US where the museum restored it. The museum also houses an extensive collection of racing cars (including Sprint and Indy cars) and other historical automobiles, such as Al Capone’s original 1940 Cadillac V16 limousine. Unfortunately the Aircraft Hanger and Car Collection are open only on special event weekends or for special tours and are not part of general admission.



Extremely rare Japanese Type 4 Ho-Ro Self-Propelled Howitzer with a 150mm gun. Only 12 Ho-Ros were produced. This one was captured in Luzon, Philippines and is the only Ho-Ro still in existence..



For the ultimate immersive experience, the American Heritage Museum offers tank riding and driving programs from April through October. For a fee visitors can ride or even drive (after some training) one of three American World War 2 tanks – a M4A3 Sherman Medium Tank, a M24 Chaffee Light Tank, or a M36 Jackson Tank Destroyer. See the website for details.

Left - Russian ZSU-23-4M Shilka radar directed Self-propelled Anti-Aircraft Gun with its 4 -23mm cannon. This example was built in the 1970's and saw combat in the Yom Kippur War, Iran-Iraq War, and Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The museum is usually open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00am to 5:00pm.

General admission is \$23 but is \$2 less if you purchase tickets on-line. Senior, active-duty military and veteran admission is \$20. World War 2 and Korean War veterans get in free.



US Curtiss P-40 B Warhawk Fighter Aircraft. This P-40B is the sole surviving fighter in existence from the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941). It was in a hangar at Wheeler Army Airfield during the attack.



The American Heritage Museum is located at:
 568 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749
 The phone number is (978) 562-9182. The e-mail
 address is: admin@americanheritagemuseum.org.
 Additional information can be found on the
 museum's excellent website:
<https://www.americanheritagemuseum.org/>.

*Left – L-4 Grasshopper Liaison and Reconnaissance
 Plane “Rosie the Rocketeer” in the aircraft hangar.
 Note the three rocket launch tubes under the left wing.*

There is no café or dining at the museum, but there are snack and
 drink machines, and there also are plenty of restaurants nearby
 Hudson. The museum has a well-stocked gift shop and there is
 plenty of free parking.

This museum is well worth a visit by those interested in US military
 history, tanks and armored fighting vehicles or big weapons. One
 can easily spend two-to three hours in the main armor building alone.

*Photo right – German 17cm (170mm) mittlerer Minenwerfer (Middle
 Mortar) from World War I. A muzzle-loading rifled mortar originally
 developed in 1905 for the Russo-Japanese War for the destruction of
 bunkers and field fortifications. It fired a 170mm, 110-pound high
 explosive shell with an effective range of 325 yards. This example is one of
 only 11 still in existence world-wide out of 2,361 that were manufactured.*



★ Show-n-Tell ★

NOTE: For anyone bringing in items for Show-n-Tell - please hold the item up so the members in attendance can see it. This will also help your photographer get a sharp picture and allow people who cannot attend the meeting to see it clearly in the newsletter. We also ask that you provide a Fact Sheet (copies of the one below will be provided at the meeting) to assist the newsletter editor in accurately describing your item. Thank you!

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): _____

A message from your VGCA Photographer--

I ask those who bring items in for Show-and-Tell to PLEASE hold the item UP and in view of the audience so that they can be seen clearly, and so that I might be able to get a decent picture for the newsletter. PLEASE stand behind the tables and simply hold the item at chest or waist level, face forward, stand still, and give me a five or six seconds to grab a decent photograph of the Show-and-Tell item.

If you do not want your Show-and-Tell item to be shared with other VGCA members, just tell me in advance and I will not attempt to take a photo of it.

I do photography for the VGCA and its' members, not for myself, and not for any personal gain. Your assistance in documenting your items will be a great help. I spend an average of five hours editing the pictures for the newsletter and not having a clear view of the subject has been a great and constant frustration for me.

Your help will assist in making a better newsletter for all VGCA members. Thank you!

Jack Looney

Member 1 brought in a Venezuelan Mauser FN Model 24/30 carbine (*right*). Chambered in 7mm Mauser (7x57mm), this little carbine is complete with matching



bolt and receiver, has a 5-round internal magazine, and a short 16.5-inch barrel. It carries an intact full Venezuelan crest (*detail at left*) on the receiver. It was a well-made, compact, handy weapon used by the Venezuelan rural police forces.



Member 1 also brought in an Egyptian Hakim rifle (*at left*). The Hakim rifle is a gas-operated semi-automatic rifle originally designed in Sweden by Erik Eklund and produced there as the Ag m/42 in 6.5x55 caliber for the Swedish Army. The tooling and design were sold to Egypt, where it was slightly modified to become the Hakim.

"Hakim" is an Arabic term signifying "judge, ruler, or governor." Changes to the original design included adding an adjustable gas system (which the Ag m/42 lacked) and changing the caliber to 8mm Mauser (7.92x57). This increase in caliber was to take advantage of a huge stockpile of surplus 8mm Mauser ammunition in Egypt and required the addition of a permanent, non-removable muzzle brake to help reduce the resulting increased recoil.

The Hakim is operated by direct gas impingement, whereby the flow of gas impacts directly on the front face of the bolt carrier, propelling it to the rear, which unlocks and moves the bolt as it does so. It features a tipping bolt system similar to the FN-49, SKS and MAS-49 rifles and uses a 10-round detachable magazine intended to be loaded from the top breech via 5-round stripper clips. It is possible to modify magazines designed for the MG13 to fit and be used in the Hakim, bringing its capacity to 25.

About 70,000 Hakims was produced in Egypt during the 1950s and early 1960s. It was replaced in the mid-1960s by the Maadi AK-47 and were made.



Member 2 shared a Soviet SVT-40 semi-auto rifle chambered in 7.62x54R (*left*). This example was produced by the Tula Arsenal in 1941 and was subsequently captured by the Finnish Army during the Continuation War. Finland captured over 15,000 SVT-40s from the USSR between June 1941 and September 1944. This is one of Member 2's favorite guns!

Member 2 also brought in a semi-automatic Walther PPK pistol that his grandfather brought back after WWII (*inset at right*). This is a pre-war (made in 1939) PPK is chambered in 7.65mm (.32 ACP).



His grandfather also brought back a Waffen-SS jacket (*Member 2 shown holding a picture of the jacket at right*) belonging to one of Hitler's personal guards, a member of the *Leibstandarte-SS Adolf Hitler*. Member 2 sold this jacket for quite a sizeable sum!





Member 3 brought in a Hanyang Arsenal produced Mauser Type 24, also known as the Model 1935 (*above*). This bolt action short rifle is chambered in 8mm Mauser (7.92x57). About two million of these rifles were made in China from 1935 to 1949. China set up three factories using Mauser produced machinery and under German supervision and made a copy of the Mauser standard model rifle. Also known as the Chaing Kai Shek rifle, it has a Sumerian swastika (arms go opposite direction to the Nazi version) on the receiver as a good luck symbol (*above right*). This example was made in 1937 and featured a militia

cartouche in the stock (*at right*). It was purchased at our gun show last April.



Member 3 also shared a rare (at least in the U.S.) Spanish Astra 800 "Condor" pistol (*left*). It is a civilian semiauto blowback pistol chambered in 9mm Parabellum (9x19) and only 11,432 were manufactured between 1958 and 1968. They were based on the Astra Model 600 but with an external hammer and no grip safety. They are known for their exquisite blueing but very few were imported to the US.

Member 4 shared two recently acquired Yugoslavian Zastava M88 pistols (*at right*). Chambered in 9mm Parabellum (9x19), the M88 is a compact redesign of the Zastava M57 pistol. The M88 is a semi-automatic pistol produced by Zastava Arms starting in 1987. The M88A features an added slide-mounted safety and an internal firing pin block. These pistols were hand-picked at DK Firearms in Bowling Green, Virginia earlier this month. While currently very reasonably priced at \$239, these pistols are not yet Curio & Relics.



Member 5 also shared a pair of Zastava M88s (*one shown at left*) purchased during the same visit to DK Firearms as Member 4's. The M88 is a short recoil actuated, locked breech, single action pistol and features an 8-round magazine. Though these examples were chambered in 9mm Parabellum, Zastava also made the M88 in .40 S&W.

Editor's Note: One of my collecting axioms is that imported surplus arms will never be cheaper than when they are first imported. Always get the best condition examples you can find and if you can afford it, buy two!



Member 6 shared a Spanish War Industries of Catalonia ISARD pistol (*left*). The War Industries Commission (CIG) was a body set up by the Generalitat de Catalonia in August 1936 with the purpose of organizing and coordinating the efforts of all local Catalanian production facilities to supply weapons to the Republican forces during the Spanish Civil War. CIG was only in operation for about 2 years before being dissolved.

The ISARD is a blowback semi-auto pistol with a threaded barrel in 9mm Largo (also known as the 9mm Bergmann-Bayard, 9mm Bayard Long, and 9x23) that was manufactured in 1938. Only 206 were produced for the use of the personal guard of the President of the Generalitat of Catalonia during the Spanish Civil War. Needless to say, it is a rare collectible!

Member 6 also brought in an Astra Unceta Model 400 Target Pistol (*at right*). It too is a blowback, semi-auto pistol chambered in 9mm Largo. Only about 200 of the 105,000 model 400s were target models. All are Navy models with magazine catches like the Astra 600. This is one of six made especially for the Spanish Army Target Competition Team. It features a set trigger and beautiful bluing. This may be the only example of this type in the United States.



Member 7 brought a 1942 Finnish Mosin-Nagant M91 bolt action rifle (*right*). This is a Finnish Emergency Wartime Production rifle made during the Continuation War with the USSR. Total wartime production was 82,500 (Tikkakoski 45,000; VKT ~31,000; with 8,500 using Belgium-made barrel blanks). The receiver of this example was manufactured at the Sestroyetsk Imperial Russian Arsenal in 1898 and, based on the barrel date, was remanufactured in 1942. Like most Mosin-Nagants, the M91 is chambered in 7.62x54 Rimmed and has a 5-round magazine. This example is one that was remanufactured with a Belgian “B” barrel.

Significance: Due to delays in deploying the Finnish M39 rifles, the dire need for small arms during the Continuation War, and the large number of available spare parts, Finland decided to resume production of ‘new’ M1891 Rifles. Production started with new-made barrels from Tikkakoski, VKT, and with barrel blanks purchased from the firm of L.Lochet-Habron in Liege, Belgium. The Belgian-sourced barrel blanks were marked with a capital “B”.

This rifle is a late example of a Finnish M91 with one of the 8500 B barrels. It shows a “B” marking, a 1942 date, and on the visible barrel partially below the wood line, a VKT proof mark, indicating VKT used the Belgian blank and proofed the barreled action which was then sent to one of the Finnish arsenals for final assembly and stocking. It also bears the Finnish Army boxed “SA” property mark. The 2-part spliced Finnish arctic birch stock shows the circle “Z” stamp of the stock maker, and Finnish metal sling loop and sight modifications. B-marked Belgian barrels were also modified for use in later production M39 rifles. This rifle, with its obviously used, but sharp, shiny rifling, and due to its excellent+ condition may not have been used in the war or may have been refurbished at a later date and stored. It is one of the less common Finnish 1891 variants.



Members seeking info are HIGHLY recommended to obtain new “must have” resource book: **FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT - Three-Line Rifle to Ukko-Pekka**, authored by VGCA member Matt DiRisio and published by Wet Dog Publications. See the ad on page 40. The list price is \$99.95.



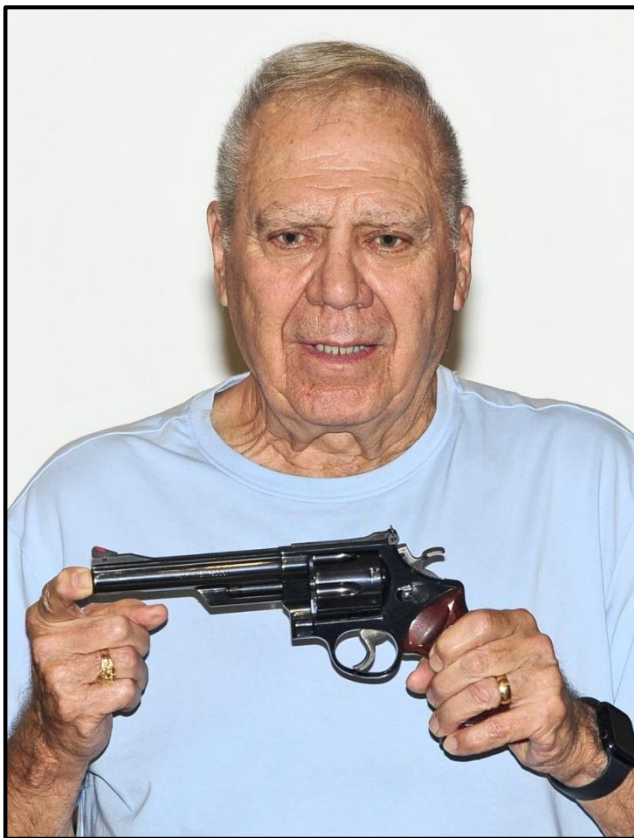
Member 8 brought in a couple of items. First was a Grand Power Stribog SP9A1 semi-automatic Personal Defense Weapon (PDW) chambered in 9mm Parabellum (*above*). This gun is technically a pistol that is fitted with a pistol brace. The brace gives the gun the near functionality of a Short Barreled Rifle (SBR) without the associated forms and \$200 tax levied on an item covered by the National Firearms Act (NFA). This particular example was made in 2020 and purchased from DK Firearms in the same year.

The second item was a Turkish MEK MP5K semiauto, also in 9mm Parabellum (*left*). It is a clone of the Heckler & Koch MP-5K submachine gun, which Member 8 has always been interested in but could never justify the H&K's price. Per Member 8, this is also a pistol version fitted with a pistol brace and "is a fun

gun!" This example was produced in 2023.

Note Member 8's shirt, which was purchased during last fall's VGCA Field Trip to the Institute of Military Technology in Florida.

Member 9 shared a B&T APC-9 carbine (right). The B&T APC (Advanced Police Carbine) is a family of submachine guns, assault rifles and battle rifles produced and manufactured by B&T (formerly known as Brügger & Thomet) of Switzerland. Announced in 2011, the APC-9 standard series was designed to compete against the H&K MP5 and is chambered in 9mm Parabellum (APC-9), .40 S&W (APC-40), 10mm Auto (APC-10), and .45 ACP (APC-45). The APC-series is direct blowback and is fitted with a Hydrolic buffer. This example is semiauto only, has a Glock magazine lower and a pistol brace, and is mounting a B&T 3D printed titanium flow-through suppressor.



Member 10 brought in an immaculate Smith & Wesson Model 57 revolver in .41 Magnum (left). The Model 57 was made from 1964 to 1993 on the S&W N-frame to provide police officers with a caliber more powerful than the .357 Magnum and with less recoil than the .44 Magnum. The Model 57 had a 6-inch barrel, adjustable sights, and a target trigger, but was never very popular as the N-frame proved to be too heavy for most police officers.

This example is a Model 57 “no dash” and appears to be unfired since it left the factory. It has a pinned barrel and recessed chambers (features that were later eliminated). It was produced in 1979.



★ Upcoming Events and Shows ★

PLEASE NOTE: VGCA members are strongly encouraged to verify shows before driving to an event. These dates were confirmed when this newsletter was written but are not guaranteed. Shows highlighted in **yellow** are shows with a collector focus.

VIRGINIA – 2025

- Jul 26-27, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- Aug 23-24, 2025 – Richmond, VA – Richmond Raceway Complex – *Showmasters*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Fishersville, VA – Augusta Expo – *Showmasters*
- Sep 13-14, 2025 – Hampton, VA – Hampton Roads Convention Center – *SGK*
- Sep 26-28, 2025 – Chantilly, VA – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters*
- Oct 4-5, 2025 – Salem, VA – Salem Civic Center – *C&E*
- Oct 11-12, 2025 – Virginia Beach, VA – Virginia Beach Convention Center - *SGK*
- **Nov 1-2, 2025 – Dale City, VA – Dale City VFW Post 1503 – *VGCA (Our Show!)***
- Nov 1-2, 2025 – Harrisonburg, VA – Rockingham County Fairgrounds - *Showmasters*
- Nov 8-9, 2025 – Fredericksburg, VA – Fredericksburg Fairgrounds – *SGK*

MARYLAND – 2025

- Aug 23-24, 2025 – Frederick, MD – Frederick Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Aug 30, 2025 – Parkville, MD – Baltimore County Game & Fish – *Baltimore Co Game & Fish*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Easton, MD – Easton Vol. Fire Dept. – *Eastern Shore Arms Collectors*
- Oct 25-26, 2025 – West Friendship, MD – Howard County Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promo*
- Sep 20-21, 2025 – Crownsville, MD – Anne Arundel Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2025

- Aug 2-3, 2025 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Aug 8-10, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 16, 2025 – Greencastle, PA – Greencastle Sportsman's Assoc – *Izaak Walton Franklin Co.*
- Aug 16-17, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 16-17, 2025 – Lewis Run, PA – Lewis Run VFD Station 6 – *Lewis Run VFD*
- Aug 16-17, 2025 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- Aug 23-24, 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Aug 30-31, 2025 – Harrisburg, PA – PA Farm Show Complex – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Aug 30-31, 2025 – Sellersville, PA – Forrest Lodge VTW245 – *Jaeger Arms*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Washington, PA – Washington PA County Fairgrounds – *ARH Sport Shop*
- Sep 6-7, 2025 – Williamsport, PA – Liberty Arena – *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 13, 2025 – Wampum, PA – Chewton VFD Hall – *Ellwood Wampum Rod & Gun Club*
- Sep 13-14, 2025 – Union City, PA – UCVFS Social Hall – *Randy Peterson*
- Sep 14, 2025 – Portland, PA – William Pensyl Social Hall – *Portland Hook & Ladder Comp #1*
- Sep 20-21, 2025 – Morgantown, PA – Morgantown Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Allentown, PA - Parkview Inn - *Eagle Shows*
- **Sep 27-28, 2025 – Gettysburg, PA – Redding Auction Hall – *Central PA Antique Arms Assoc.***
- Sep 27-28, 2025 – Leesport, PA – Leesport Farmers Market – *Appalachian Promotions*
- Oct 4-5, 2025 – Trevoise, PA – Radisson Philadelphia Northeast – *Eagle Shows*
- Oct 11-12, 2025 – Bloomsburg, PA – Bloomsburg Fairgrounds – *C&E Gun Shows*
- Oct 11-12, 2025 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- Oct 17-19, 2025 – Oaks, PA – Greater Philadelphia Expo Center – *Eagle Shows*

PENNSYLVANIA – 2025 (continued)

- **Oct 18-19, 2025 – Allentown, PA** – Allentown Fairgrounds – *Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society*
- **Oct 24-25, 2025 – Shippenville, PA** – Oak Grove Events Building – *Allegheny Log Homes*
- **Oct 25-26, 2025 – Lake Harmony, PA** – Split Rock Resort – *Eagle Shows*

SPECIAL EVENTS / SHOWS – 2025

- **Jul 19-20, 2025 – Doswell, VA** – Meadow Event Park – *North South Trader Shows – National Civil War and Antique Arms Show*
- **Aug 3, 2025 – Woodbridge, VA** – Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton VFD Firehall – O-W-L / Belvoir Militaria Show – *Fort Belvoir ASMIC* – Free admission – No Guns
- **Aug 9-10, 2025 – Springfield, OH** – Clark County Fairgrounds – *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- **Sep 20-21, 2025 – Ladson, SC** – Exchange Park Fairgrounds – *South Carolina Arms Collector Association*
- **Sep 27-28, 2025 – Cleveland, OH** – I-X Center – Annual Display Show - *Ohio Gun Collectors Association*
- **Oct 1-5, 2025 – Winchester, VA** - Fort Shenandoah – *151st National Skirmish – N-SSA*
- **Oct 18-19, 2025 – Statesville, NC** – Statesville Civics Center – *North Carolina Gun Collectors Association*
- **Nov 2, 2025 – Woodbridge, VA** – Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton VFD Firehall – O-W-L / Belvoir Militaria Show – *Fort Belvoir ASMIC* – Free admission – No Guns
- **Nov 8-9, 2025 – Tulsa, OK** – Expo Square (Tulsa Fairgrounds) – *Wanenmacher – World's Largest Gun Show* – 4200+ tables!
- **Nov 22-23, 2025 – Ladson, SC** – Exchange Park Fairgrounds – *South Carolina Arms Collector Association*
- **Nov 28-29, 2025 – Nashville, TN** - Franklin/Cool Springs Marriott Hotel – *Tennessee Military Collectors Association*

NOTE: OGCA Gun Shows are not open to the public – they are restricted to members and invited guests only. Several VGCA members are also members of OGCA and can sponsor you if you are interested in attending.

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 and is intended for listing firearms and firearm related items. 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 regard 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. Items will be listed for one issue of the Newsletter.

VGCA Logo Available at Lands' End

Here's how to order your apparel:

1. Go to the VGCA store on Lands' End business:
<https://business.landsend.com/store/vgca>
 - a. It must be the URL shown above. **Do not** go to the regular Lands' End website. It will not show our logo options.
2. Above the photo on the home page click on "Men" or "Women"
3. On the drop-down menu select what you are interested in. For example, Men>Activewear >Tops gives you 19 different styles and fabrics of men's shirts. When you have selected an item click on it and select your color, size and quantity. Then on the lower right-hand corner of the screen click on the blue "Apply Logos" button.
4. On the next screen click on the VGCA logo to choose it and it will open the "select a Location" menu showing where you can have the VGCA logo embroidered. Choose a location and then scroll down to the "Apply Logo" button in the lower right corner and click it. It will return you to your garment page.
5. If you are satisfied with your garment, color, size and logo location click on the "Add to Bag" button in the lower right corner.
6. Then you can then go to checkout or continue shopping. When you checkout it will show an additional \$8.95 for embroidery.



If you have any questions, you can reach Bruce Buchner at 703-339-8212 or Buchnerb@cox.net

FOR SALE:

✦ **FINNISH MOSIN-NAGANT** is authored by VGCA member Matt DiRisio and published by Wet Dog Publications. The list price is \$99.95. It is 584 pages long with over 1,500 color and black and white photographs.

For ordering information go to the Wet Dog Publications website at:

<https://www.fnbrowning.com/book-finnish-mosin-nagant>.

FOR SALE:

✦ After more than two and a half years of research, VGCA member Bill Vanderpool has 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 for 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:

★ VGCA member Larry Babcock has published a companion piece to his earlier book **M1 Garand Photo Essay**. This second book, titled **M1 Garand Photo Essay Volume II** covers all new material, to include the M1C and M1D sniper rifles as well as a myriad of M1 accessories. Best of all, both books are offered at a discount to VGCA members. Volume I is normally priced at \$69 and volume II lists for \$49, VGCA members can buy them directly from Larry for \$60 and \$40 each respectively - or \$90 total if you buy both. Look for Larry Babcock set up near the VGCA recruiting table at the next Chantilly Gun Show or order from him directly at larrybab@comcast.net / or text to 703-856-2561.

FOR SALE:

VGCA member Peter O'Connor has the following six vintage firearms for sale that may well be of interest to collectors. Photo sets available upon request to help assess the finish and features on each firearm.

1. “(BISLEY MODEL) 45 COLT” left side barrel: serial #250487 on butt plate, frame, and trigger guard frame; year of manufacture 1904; 6 screws visible; 7 1/2” barrel; hard rubber grips with prancing pony on both; aged finish but no nicks or scratches on steel or grips; bore is clear; stiff cycling but fully functional. \$950.



2. “COLT ARMY 38 SPECIAL” left side barrel; serial #374372; year of manufacture 1929; 3 screws visible; 6” barrel; hard rubber grips with COLT on both; “CITY OF BWS NEW YORK” markings on left panel identifying it was issued to the NYC Bureau of Water Supply Police; cycling functionality is sharp and precise. \$775.



3. “COLT AUTOMATIC CALIBER 25” right side of slide; full nomenclature: Colt Model 1908 .25ACP Vest Pocket Hammerless; serial #404612; year of manufacture 1937; 2” barrel; single action; comes with original box and one 6-round magazine; in very good condition; prancing pony medallions on both checkered walnut grips, which are in excellent condition; fully functional. \$550.

4. “38 S&W SPECIAL CTG” right side barrel; serial #333424; year of manufacture of this 4th Model published as 1895-1909 with serial number indicating a likely manufacture date of 1895 based on an analysis of 4th Model serial numbers and production numbers; 5 screws visible; 6” barrel; stiff cycling but fully functional; finish looks to be nickel; no S&W logo – not uncommon for the era. \$475.



5. “CAL 6.35MM [.25ACP] ARSENAL VIENNA, AUSTRIA” left side slide: OWA is abbreviation for Austrian Works Arsenal; serial #21283; year of manufacture 1922; produced 1921-1924; 2” barrel; single action; has a pivoting top barrel assembly in a blowback design; checkered hard plastic grips with OWA logo; comes with one 6-round magazine; imported into Virginia by L. Oppelman as listed in his 1930 Imported & Gun Catalog; appears to be functional but the operation of this collectable is certainly different. \$325.

6. WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO. MODEL 69-22 – SHORT-LONG-AND LONG RIFLE” left side barrel; no serial #; 25” barrel; one 5-round magazine; blade front sight and buckhorn rear open sight drift-adjustable for windage; walnut stock; date of manufacture estimated to be 1935-1936 when the model 69-22 first came out - estimation based on major changes to this rifle that occurred in 1937 that are not evident in this model 69-22 for sale; fully functional. \$425.



If you are interested and want additional photos of a listed firearm, please contact Peter at oconnorhome@cox.net.

WANT TO BUY:

★ Browning lever action Gold Medallion, short action, blue or silver.

Also: Browning lever action with pistol grip and take down. Prefer .308 but any considered. Call King at 703 576-7016, if there is no answer leave name and number with a brief description.

Thank you, King von Schilling

WANT TO BUY:

★ Seeking a Bagnold Sun Compass, used during WWII by British desert troops. It was mounted on their vehicles. Must be complete and in working order. Contact Jack via email to looney.house@verizon.net or text to 703-999-9458.



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 George Dungan.