



VIRGINIA GUN COLLECTORS ASSOC., INC.

WWW.VGCA.NET

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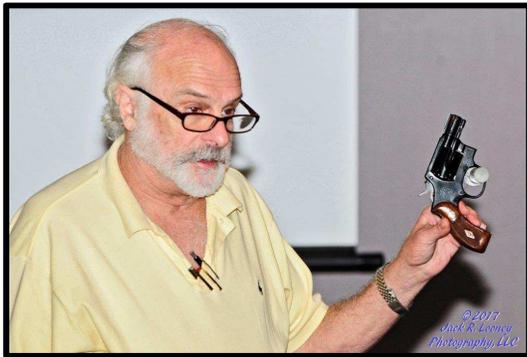
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September 2017 VGCA Newsletter

♣ **August Presentation:** The presentation at our last membership meeting was by none other than our very own author, recognized Smith and Wesson expert, and VGCA Vice President, Mr. Rick Nahas. The topic was Smith and Wesson “Airweights”.

Airweights were originally developed to meet a U.S. Air Force requirement for a light weight defensive firearm in the event of bailing out over hostile territory. The first examples were made with aluminum frames (as well as other parts). Modern commercial variants have been made of titanium and scandium.



Rick explained how the S&W “X-Book” contains a record of all experimental and prototype S&W guns made from 1940 to 1997. In it, the first mention of an aluminum frame is in February 1951. The very earliest examples are 5-shot, 5-screw J-frames made that same year. There are two known examples. In 1952, 605 “Aircrewman” 4-screw aluminum J-frames were made. There are 13 known survivors, plus 4 at the Springfield Armory.

Others were made on the K-frame, of which there are 7 in the hands of collectors, plus 4 at the Springfield Armory.

Rick passed around original rough castings and de-milled frames and he shared several rare pieces from his personal collection. He noted how to detect counterfeit examples (of which there are many – probably more than actual surviving originals) with the trick being to know the serial number and assembly number ranges.

In addition to the military service revolvers, Rick described the many modern commercial lightweights. We learned that the “PD” in PD series stands for “Personal Defense” and the “NG” in the NG series represents “Night Guard.” He briefed us on errors in S&W markings (only Rick would count electrons) and noted that scandium, while light and strong, is also brittle.



Rick provided photograph after photograph of rare and exotic pieces. This presentation by such a noted expert was indeed a special treat!



✦ **August Business:** President Ernie Lyles brought the August membership meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led us through the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 49 members and guests in attendance.

Dave Litchfield gave a status update of Ed Johnson and Richard Fierman, both long-time VGCA members. There were “Get Well” cards available to sign in the back of the auditorium.

Dave Litchfield also mentioned he is interested in putting together a display of military sniper rifles for our November Gun Show, and asked for assistance from the membership if they had examples that they could contribute.

Rick Nahas provided a show update. We have 13 tables available for the November Gun Show.

Joe Roberts asked for security volunteers and passed around a sign-up roster.

Bernie Breighner presented the theme for our September Membership Meeting. It will be a “Three Favorites” theme. We are asking members to bring three items that exemplify their collections (they do not necessarily have to be firearms). The items will be set up on a table and owners will talk about them as other members walk from table to table. Now is the time to show off your items without having to build a formal presentation. This should be a great event!

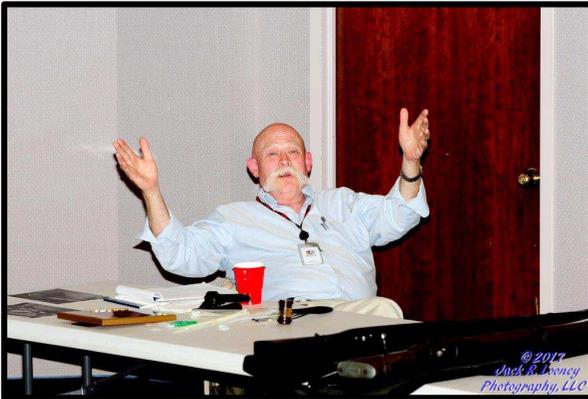
Shannon Zeigler gave a treasury update – we are good financial shape with no major expenses to

Speak of this month. That will change as we approach our fall show.

Rob Becker gave an update on our “For Sale” section in the VGCA Newsletter. He asks that you send your items for sale via email to rpebecker@verizon.net no later than the second Sunday of each month. Please include the item description, price, and contact info. The ad will run for one month and must be re-submitted each following month.

Bill Chronister gave a membership update and had badges for our newest members. Please see the Membership Report below for additional details.

Finally, Marc Gorelick reported that the Potomac Arms Collectors Association will not have their annual show this fall.



Left: President Ernie Lyles demonstrates his unrivaled leadership skills during the August membership Meeting!

🕒 **Upcoming September 28th Meeting:** We will be trying something different for our September Meeting. Please bring “Three Favorites” from your collection to talk about with your fellow members. Details are above in the “August Business” section.

As always, get there early for social time (and pizza) at 6 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7 p.m.

President’s Comments

VGCA Members,

I am sorry to say we lost three of our members in the last few weeks. Ed Johnson, our first President and founder of VGCA, Harrison McConnell, and John Courtwright – all long-time members. They will be sorely missed.

This month’s meeting should be interesting with members bringing special guns or items from their collections to chat about them, but without the need to draft a formal presentation. Let’s have a good turnout!

--Ernie Lyles

IN MEMORY

Mr. Ed Johnson, founder and first President of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, passed away at home on 28 August 2017.

Mr. Harrison Fargo McConnell, VGCA member and noted collector, passed away on 1 September 2017.

Colonel John Courtwright, USA Retired, long-time VGCA member, passed away on 16 September 2017.

The Passing of a Legend

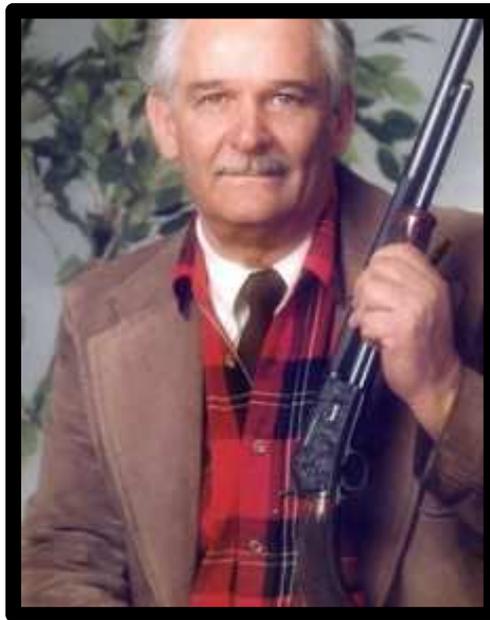
Edward Johnson

President Emeritus, VGCA and NORVA Member

May 16, 1929 — August 28, 2017

A tribute commemorating his most full and interesting life from a few of his many close friends.

By Addison Hurst



Our very close and dear friend, fellow collector, and shooter-- Ed Johnson -- died at home on August 28 at age 88. He was born on May 16, 1929. As a tribute to his memory, several of his close friends wish to share with you a few of our thoughts about his full and amazing life.

As a young man, Ed drove a school bus on Sudley Road (Route 234) when it was a dirt road. He lived in the Independent Hill area. He also struggled working on local farms for just pennies an hour. He would save his money and order guns from Bannerman's for perhaps \$12.00 or so. He would walk to the Railway Express Office in Manassas- some twelve miles away- to pick up the gun and pay the \$2.00 freight charge. He then walked twelve miles home. He never stopped collecting guns all through his life. I have often heard it said that true collectors are born to collect. I think this is true and Ed was a prime example.

Years later Ed and I and others had many conversations about founding a true gun collector club and he started VGCA in his living room in 1983. I will never forget that initial meeting. Dorothy fixed great food for us — including some world class brownies.

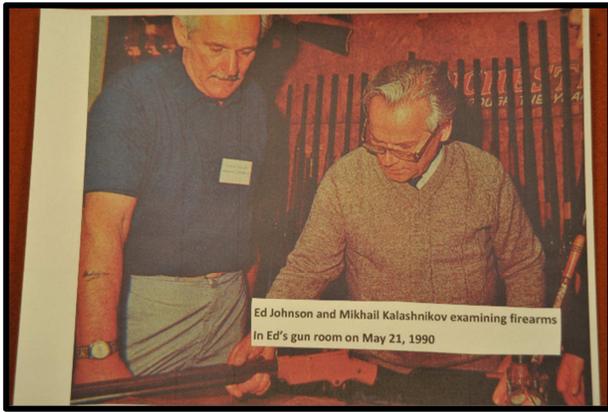
Ed and many of us enjoyed the good years in organizing and running VGCA — and we endured some bad times as well. We moved the venue sites of our gun shows a few times and we finally settled into Hugo's Skating Rink facility in Bealeton, VA. We had many very popular and successful shows there for several years. The Bealeton property sold and we moved to the Prince William County Fair Grounds where we continue to have the VGCA shows to this day. Ed continued to lead and VGCA endures to this day. It remains his legacy.

Ed founded Johnson Tool and Die (JTD) in Manassas — he was an incredibly gifted machinist — who was well known locally and by the federal government for the very special products he was able to produce over the years.

Ed was a very gifted and advanced gun collector who amassed one of the most incredible privately owned gun collections I have ever seen. His collector knowledge base was second to none. His son Keith and a friend built an incredible 19th Century "Saloon" in his basement that was just as amazing as his gun collection. When he showed the "saloon" to General Mikhail Kalashnikov (MTK), the designer of the AK-47, the General was amazed as he was quite familiar with the American Old West and many of the guns in the collection and the saloon. Ed said he and the General had a drink or two of whiskey in the saloon and they enjoyed the day! (a circa 1990 Photo enclosed is enclosed of Ed and MTK in the gun room). As machinists and mechanics, they were kindred spirits and they soon became close lifetime friends.

He married the love of his life, Dorothy, in May 1953 (photo enclosed) and many of us attended their 50th anniversary celebration in May 2003. Dorothy passed November 9, 2014. It was, in my opinion, the greatest loss Ed ever sustained. His life was never the same without her. If you knew Dorothy, you can fully understand this. They were very, very close. All of us are diminished greatly by the loss of both Ed and Dorothy.





Ed was among the fortunate group who got to know Gen. Mikhail Kalashnikov (MTK) and his family quite well. Ed hosted them when they visited the US and he went with our group to Russia to visit the General where we got to shoot AK-47s and all manner of other Russian firearms. We got to see many museums and other incredible sights. Ed described our visits there as the most incredible thing he had ever seen.

Ed also enjoyed getting to know Gene Stoner, the inventor of the M16 rifles for the US. NORVA hosted both of them and Ed was simply amazed that our NORVA gun club was hosting the two most famous living firearms designers of the 20th century at the same time. All had a fantastic time. As a gifted machinist, he was very impressed with the technical /machinist knowledge our two noted guests who changed the world with their inventions. They were also very impressed with Ed's machinist and mechanical skills as were all of us privileged to know Ed. We had world class interpreters so there were no language barriers. Ed was a country boy who "made good" and he was highly respected by many -- including the two world class firearms designers. All things considered, it was an amazing collection of talent together at the NORVA lodge. Ed loved it and we had great times and we ate very, very well thanks to a group of very helpful and understanding wives who were also excellent chefs. The coordinator of this meeting was a delightful person - Ed Ezell - who was the Director of the Smithsonian Institution's Firearms Museum in Washington DC.

Ed was a Korean War Navy veteran (a machine repair specialist) and he told us many interesting stories about his experiences there. I recall one funny incident — he lowered the bucket on a big machine he was working on and managed to drive his M1 carbine in the ground!!! He never disclosed how much trouble he got into for this.

Over many years Ed was a well-known competitive shooter in the North-South skirmish matches. Insofar as I know, he did not destroy any of his muskets by any violent means as he did in Korea. If he did, he never mentioned it. He was a member of the 17th Virginia Infantry. He participated in the 100th anniversary re-enactment of the 1st Battle of Manassas in 1961. He was honored by the City of Manassas who made him one of the Grand Marshalls in one of their Veterans Day Parades some 5-8 years ago. Ed's relatives were from Nelson County VA and some of his relatives fought in southern regiments in our civil war.

Ed was also well known as a BBQ chef and grill master and he often stayed up all night at the NORVA facility cooking amazing BBQ for the annual NORVA picnics/shoots. He never wrote down the recipes for the BBQ but Lantz Simons and I and Lee Turner and many others helped him many times and I can testify that the end BBQ product was to die for!!! General Kalashnikov assisted him on some occasions and described the BBQ as some of the best he ever tasted.

The General returned the favors when he hosted Ed and all of us to spectacular banquets and events when we visited him and his wonderful family in eastern Russia. We were invited to many of the big ceremonies as he was promoted over the years to the equivalent rank of Lt. General. The visits with Ed to Russia were no doubt the high water mark of my life.

I will never forget a small sideline on one of the trips to Russia. Ed got very sick and I had stockpiled a lot of medications just in case any of our group got sick -- since we were about 10,000 miles from home. Good thing I did... I practiced some very illegal medicine but Ed got better with the right medications and the Russians did not seem to care about my unlawful medical practice. (We did not exactly let them know about this.) Ed always said I saved his life. I hope this is true-and it may well be. I cannot think of a better person to have saved. Medivac to the states from eastern Russia (Udmurtia) would have been difficult. Ed often told me that he was very glad I was a medic in Viet Nam. When we finally made it home, he required some considerable medical/surgical care. But we at least got him home OK. I loved the man like a brother. I would have given my life for him. I am glad that this was not needed!

In reflecting on my long 75 years, I think it true that Ed Johnson was, without question, the most amazing and talented person I have ever known.

I thought of one very short incident that showed his sense of humor. Several years ago, his firm got a NASA contract to build a docking collar that would enable the Russian Soyuz spacecraft to connect to our Apollo spacecraft. He told me it was a tricky and difficult thing to make and there was only one. The Russians would not divulge their thread size data as it was a secret! He eventually got it done and it was delivered to NASA. He got a call from a senior engineer from NASA who was quite impressed with his work. This person said it looked perfect according to the specs but how did Ed know it would work. Ed laughed and told this person it would work just fine — because “I made it”. Typical comment by Ed. Turned out he was right — it worked perfectly. Such was Ed’s skills and subtle and gentle sense of humor.

Ed was a man of many interests. He loved restoring cars and old tractors. He collected Frederick Remington bronzes as you know if you ever visited his study/den and saw the famous “Coming Through the Rye” bronze. He related several years ago that he heard of some originals of Remington bronzes that were for sale at auction somewhere in Europe or Japan. His attention to detail paid off. He traveled there with a million dollar letter of credit in his pocket. When he examined them, he determined they were very well-executed fakes. He said they were so good that they could have easily passed for originals. Ed returned to the US with his letter of credit and no fake Remingtons. Such was his level of knowledge and attention to detail. I often observed his uncanny laser-like vision to spot a fraudulent firearm or person. He did not miss much. Many people knew of his expertise and often brought firearms to him for evaluation at our many gun shows over the years.

Bill York related another funny incident. Ed had an original Jeep that went ashore on D Day in 1944. He loved it and drove it parades and took several of us for rides in it. He knew everything about this model of Jeep. During a visit to the Russian Great Patriotic War Museum in Moscow, we visited an incredible and realistic display/diorama depicting a horrible battle of World War II. In this display there was an identical Jeep to his. He sought permission to examine this Jeep and announced to his Russian hosts that the Jeep was totally “correct” except for one thing-- the shovel on the back was incorrect! Only Ed had that knowledge and that level of attention to detail. How the Russians received this information is unknown!

The brief stories are but a few of the hundreds of things that occurred during the 30-40 years we knew Ed and Dorothy. He had a tremendous sense of humor and was, in my humble view, a true man of the Renaissance. There will never be another Ed Johnson. We were lucky to know him and we will always miss him.

When Bill York contacted our Russian friends of Ed’s passing, Elena Kalashnikov cried while on the phone. Ed was loved by many in Russia as he was here. One of our good friends, Anatoly Fillipenko —

who acted as our incredible interpreter -- sent condolences and made a comment I had not heard before — the Russian version of our stated wish “to rest in peace.” It was “May earth be like a feather bed to you.”

To summarize, here is my partial list of Ed’s accomplishments during his rich and very full life:

- World-class arms collector and recognized collecting authority.
- World-class master machinist and mechanic who produced many products that contributed to the benefit and defense of America.
- Collector of art treasures.
- Civic Leader in Manassas, Virginia.
- Collector and restorer of tractors and many vehicles.
- Founder of VGCA and long term member of NORVA.
- Accomplished chef and BBQ Pit Master.
- Dedicated husband and father to his family.
- 33rd degree Mason.
- Korean War veteran.
- Dedicated North-South skirmish competitive shooter and all around target shooter of many types of arms.

He was a gentle, kind, polite and patient person with a very keen sense of humor and he possessed great humility and intellect. Often during the thirty five years I knew him, I felt that he suffered fools rather too gladly at times. But that was Ed. He was a very keen observer of the human condition. His absolute honesty was well known to all who knew him over his life.

I think this is an amazing inventory of remarkable accomplishments in one life.

These few thoughts were compiled over time by Ed and Carol Costello, Bill York, Monna and Addison Hurst, Lantz Simons, Janet and Gary Holderman, Lee Turner, Veronica and Mike Orsinger, The late General Mikhail Kalashnikov, Elena Kalashnikov, the late John Wallace, Sasha Morozov, Jim Land, the late Gene Stoner, Addison Wright, Val Shilen, Anatoly Fillipenko, the late Marty Eakes and countless others.

Ed will never be forgotten and his legacy of good work will always endure.

**Rest in Peace, our beloved friend, and,
“*May Earth be like a Feather Bed to You.*”**

Other News!

✪ NOTICE TO MEMBERS: New e-mail distribution provider

The Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) has moved to a new e-mail distribution system to contact the membership and distribute the Monthly e-Newsletter, electronic Ballots for Elections, and other important Association news. With this system we are able to more effectively reach our membership who provided e-mail addresses. These communications are sent via Constant Contact, Inc., an internet mailing firm. The mailings will always appear in your e-mail program as “From:” Virginia Gun Collectors Association <vgca.1983@gmail.com <mailto:vgca.1983@gmail.com> >.

Only key members of the Virginia Gun Collectors Association, Inc., have access to the Constant Contact, Inc. account and the e-mailing list. No information beyond your name and e-mail address has been entered into Constant Contact. This information is only available to the VGCA and will only be used for providing VGCA members with information about Association activities. Keep in mind that many organizations and companies also use Constant Contact, Inc. for contacting their members and customers. Getting another e-mail from a Constant Contact, Inc. user account is NOT due to the VGCA using the services of Constant Contact, Inc. Remember, VGCA e-mails will always appear in your e-mail program as "From:" Virginia Gun Collectors Association <vgca.1983@gmail.com <mailto:vgca.1983@gmail.com> >.

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🔴 **Membership Report for September 2017:** Please welcome our new Annual Members.

- **Mark Bonanno** of Alexandria, VA was sponsored by **Wesley Chappell** and **Phil Hill**.
- **Ethan Kauffman** of Alexandria, VA was sponsored by **Shannon Zeigler**.

Gentlemen, welcome aboard and congratulations. We hope to see you at our next Monthly Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2017.

🔴 **New Member Applications:** The VGCA has received Membership Application(s) from the following individual(s) for your review. The applicant's information and sponsor's name is published below for the review of the VGCA membership. If there are any comments, please notify an Officer or Director before the September Membership Meeting.

- **Nick Pietrzak** of Fairfax, VA is sponsored by **David Litchfield**

IMPORTANT: Keeping your contact information and addresses current: If you are not receiving newsletters or the recent Election Ballot, or have changed either your USPS mailing address or your e-Mail address, please provide corrected information ASAP to Membership Chair, Bill Chronister at vgca_membership@cox.net (note underscore between *vgca* and *membership*). For e-mail non-receipt, *FIRST CHECK* your SPAM folder or ISP settings. While convenient, using work e-Mail addresses may affect your receipt of newsletters or ballots due to enhanced security and attachment restrictions often used in corporate or government systems. Thanks!!!

Show-n-Tell



Member 1 started our Show-n-Tell with several Cold War pieces from the “other side.” He had

Member 1 continued his Russian theme with a very nice Type 45 SKS carbine. Acquired at the last Chantilly Gun Show, this answers the question about whether you should make the effort to attend Chantilly when they open on Friday afternoons. This SKS was made at Tula in 1954, and has not been through an arsenal refurbishment (unlike most Russian SKSs imported years ago). And it was not for sale on Saturday, because Member 1 jumped on it on Friday!

recently acquired both a Soviet Russian AK bayonet (made at the Tula Arsenal – see picture at left) and, from a recent trip to Canada, a high polish Russian SKS carbine bayonet. Unlike most SKS bayonets you see at gun shows, this one had been cut off of its Type 45 carbine and was still attached to its barrel lugs!



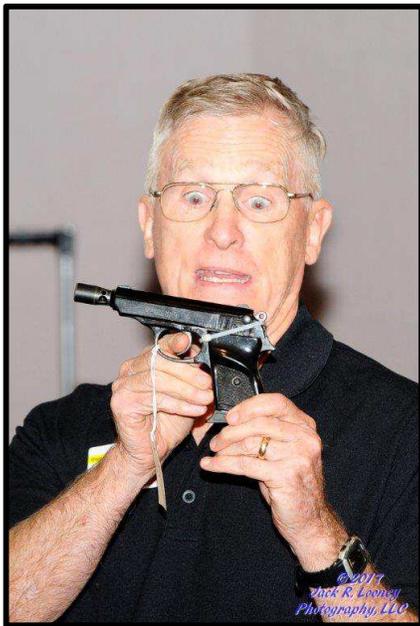
Member 2 presented a North American Arms “Mini” 5-shot revolver in .22 Long Rifle. This model is so small that an accessory belt buckle “holster” is made for it. Member 2 acquired this diminutive handgun at a Dale City Gun Show in 2012 and has outfitted it with an equally small bayonet!



Member 3 presented several unique and unusual items. The first was a spare parts kit for a Ljungman AG-42 rifle (Sweden's first semi-automatic service rifle, adopted in 1942). Previously unidentified, Member 3 was able to find out what he had through the help of fellow VGCA members. The second item presented was an Anschutz pellet gun in .177 caliber. This highly-sought-after spring-loaded pellet gun was only made in 1929 through 1939. The third item was a Rhoner SM-10 gas/starter pistol (see picture at right). This German-made semi-automatic "handgun" was chambered in a 8mm caliber and could be used to shoot tear gas, flares, or blanks (as a starter pistol).

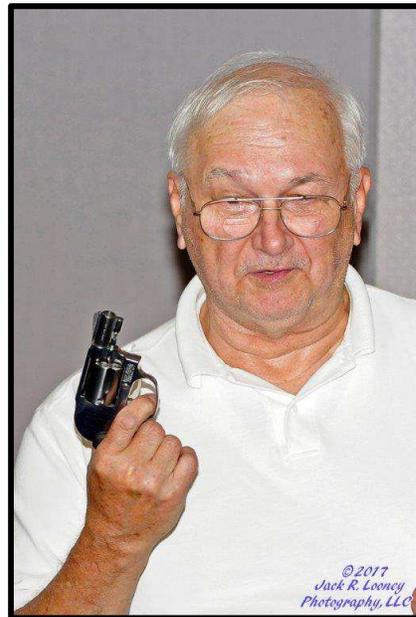


it too can be used to fire CS (tear) gas, flares, or fire blanks. This particular model is still in production today.



The last item shown by Member 3 was a Turkish EKOL. This semi-automatic looks like a Walther "PPK" (see photograph at left) but performs the same functions as the previously described Rhoner. Chambered in a 9mm caliber,

Member 4 shared a Smith & Wesson 649-2 “Standard Weight” revolver. This stainless steel 5-shot is chambered in .38 Special and rated for “+P” ammunition. It has a 2 inch barrel and “very smooth double action trigger.” This model was produced in 1990-1996, with this particular example made in the first year of production. Pleasant to shoot, its owner assured the membership that he was “gonna hang on to this one!”



Finally, member 5 presented two rifles he recently acquired. The first was an Enfield No. 4 Mark I produced by Savage in 1942 (picture at

left). Chambered in .303 British and intended for British Empire/Commonwealth use, this rifle was an early production example in very nice condition. The vast majority of the Savage production was the later No. 4 Mark I*, which incorporated several design features to reduce production time/costs. Member 5 presented a second WWII rifle, this one a Mosin-Nagant 91/30 rifle chambered in 7.62x54r. Made at the Soviet Arsenal at Izhevsk in 1939, this rifle has the “SA” stamp denoting capture and use by Finnish forces. It is stamped not just once, but twice! Did this rifle “swap sides” multiple times? The stock also features “gear” stamp.

In Review

The "In Review" section of 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 newsletter editor at rpebecker@verizon.net.

🔗 Museum

A Trip to the Museum **KING'S MOUNTAIN and COWPENS: Battlefield Museums**

By Marc Gorelick, VGCA

Photos courtesy of National Park Service

The National Park Service operates 25 National Military Parks and National Battlefields around the United States. These are "sites where historic battles were fought on American soil during the armed conflicts that shaped the growth and development of the United States...." While many include Civil War Battles, a number include battles from the Revolutionary War. The visitor centers usually have displays and exhibits that are often of museum quality.



Two of the most decisive and bloody battles fought during the American Revolution were at King's Mountain and Cowpens, both in South Carolina. Both were American victories that were critical in stopping British General Sir Henry Clinton's campaign to reconquer the southern colonies and end the revolution. On October 7, 1780 a colonial army, made up of militia, mostly from the Carolinas and Virginia, defeated Major Patrick Ferguson's force of 1,000 Loyalist militia and 100 red-coated Provincials at King's Mountain. Many of the colonial Patriot "over-mountain men", commanded by Virginia Colonel William Campbell, were armed with long rifles while the Tories were largely armed with smoothbore flintlock muskets. Ferguson, who is best known among gun collectors as the inventor of the breech loading Ferguson Rifle, was killed during the bloody battle. Several months later, on January 17, 1781, General Daniel Morgan led an army of tough Continentals and backwoods militia to a brilliant victory over a crack British force, commanded by the infamous Colonel Banastre Tarleton, at Cowpens.



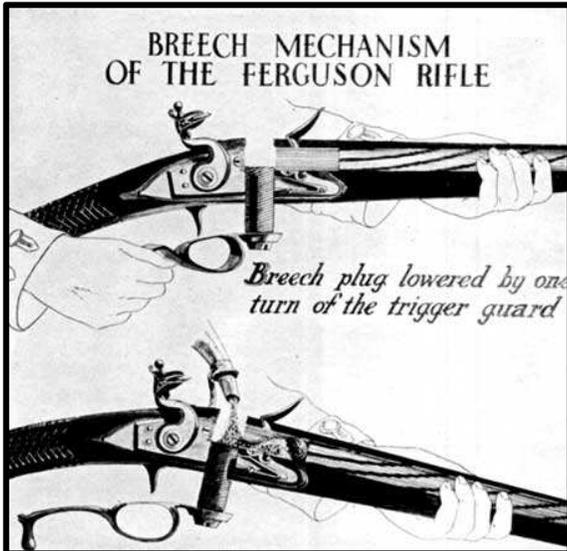
The museum in the Visitor Center at King's Mountain is especially noteworthy for gun collectors. Like all such museums it puts the battle into historical context as well as providing a detailed and fair rendition of contemporary life, the campaign, battle and the personalities involved. The museum has many original period firearms and edged weapons on display, including the British "Brown Bess," American long rifles of various Pennsylvania, Virginia and Carolina schools, pistols, and swords. However, the centerpiece of the exhibits is one of the few remaining original Ferguson Rifles in the United States. The display about Ferguson and his rifle is comprehensive to say the least, going into not only Ferguson's life but also covering the reasoning behind the design, and construction, of his rifle. The exhibit is enhanced by two cut down reproductions of the actions that clearly show how this unique breech loader was operated.



rifle.

Ferguson promoted the adoption of his rifle by the British Army. He was given command of a special experimental rifle corps in 1777 that was equipped with his rifle. The unit fought at the Battle of Brandywine where Ferguson was severely wounded. During his recovery, the unit was disbanded and the rifles put in storage. It is not known if any Ferguson rifles were with him at Kings Mountain, as he commanded new troops in the South. His death at the battle ended efforts to promote the

Ferguson designed his breech loading flintlock rifle to increase firing speed, improve accuracy and cut down on fouling. During a demonstration in wind and rain, he fired a series of four shots per minute while walking and six shots per minute while standing still, hitting the bulls eye five times out of six shots at 100 yards. He received the Crown patent in 1776 and only 100-200 rifles, in sporting, infantry and officer's models, were produced. It is believed that less than 10 original rifles exist today. The one on display at King's Mountain is an officer's model made by F. Innes, of Edinburgh, Scotland. It is in outstanding condition, having much of the original metal finish, and is without replacements. The rifle is 4 feet 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches long and weighs 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. The 37 inch long barrel, slightly belled at the muzzle and not designed to carry a bayonet, is rifled with 8 grooves, and takes a ball of .655 caliber. The full length combed walnut stock has three brass thimbles and an engraved butt plate.



Ferguson's breech loading system, an improvement over the earlier Isaac de la Chaumette design, is simple. A plug screws into the breech perpendicular to the barrel. The trigger guard is attached to the bottom of the plug and serves as a handle. To open the action, the triggerguard is turned clockwise one revolution until the top of the plug is flush with the bottom of the chamber, opening a hole on the top of the chamber. The barrel is lowered slightly and a ball dropped into the hole. A charge of gunpowder is poured into the hole behind the ball. The plug is closed and the chamber sealed by turning the triggerguard one turn counter-clockwise. No wadding or patch is used. Then the gun is primed, cocked, aimed and fired.

The museum in the Visitors Center at Cowpens is smaller than King's Mountain but has its own charm and features. It also goes into the background of the campaign, battle and personalities of the participants. It has a number of period guns and other weapons on display, including a British field piece with all its equipment. It also has numerous exhibits of authentic uniforms, accoutrements and gear worn and used by the soldiers of both sides. Militaria enthusiasts will be pleased to see the uniforms and equipment of Tarleton's British Legion, the 16th Light Infantry, the 7th Royal Fusiliers, the 71st Highlanders, 17th Light Dragoons and the Royal Artillery on the British side, and the Continental Line Infantry, 3rd Continental Dragoons and militia on the American side.

Display at Cowpens Visitor Center Museum. British 3-pounder "grasshopper" cannon used to support infantry.

Both Visitor Centers feature have gift shops. The larger King's Mountain museum has interactive displays. The staff at both parks are extremely knowledgeable and friendly. Both Visitor Centers feature films, maps and interactive displays that bring the battles to life. Many of the weapons in the exhibits are documented to individuals who fought in the battles. Visitors are able to walk the battlefields and both battlefields feature reenactments.



Both battlefields are a short distance from Interstate 85 in South Carolina. To get to Kings Mountain get off I-85 at exit 2 and go east on Route 216. Follow the signs. To get to Cowpens from I-85 take exit 92 at Gaffney and go west toward Chesnee on Hwy 11. The park is about 10 miles on the left.

📖 Book

Training Rifles of Third Reich Germany

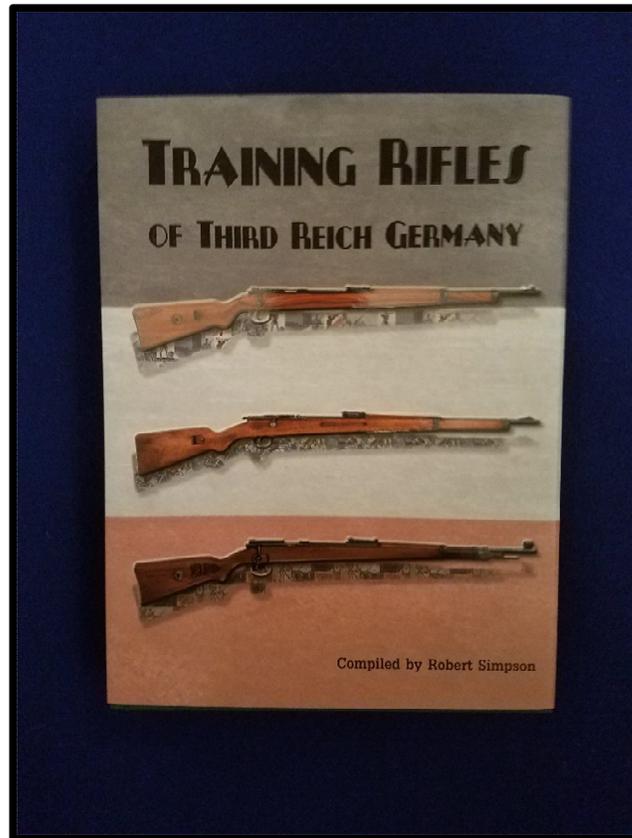
By Robert Simpson

Brad Simpson Publishing, 750 pages

Review by Rob Becker

Earlier this month, several VGCA members made the trek to central Ohio for the latest Ohio Gun Collectors Association gun show. At that show, Bob Simpson was selling this, his latest book. No less than three VGCA members parted with their hard-earned cash to bring copies of the **Training Rifles of Third Reich Germany** back home to Virginia. I admitted last month that I rarely see a gun book that I don't like and perhaps my reviews are not the most objective. Well, the book being reviewed this month has proven to be very popular with collectors other than just yours truly!

This is a big book! With 750 beautifully illustrated pages, it could easily be mistaken for a coffee table book – displayed with some fan-fare but not read in depth. That would be unfortunate, as it contains a wealth of knowledge on German training rifles from the Third Reich era (1933-1945).



These training rifles were designed to train German youth on a rifle chambered in .22LR that both resembled and functioned like the Mauser K98k primary service weapon but without the recoil and expense of shooting service 7.9x57 ammunition. The initial design, adopted in 1934, was designated the Deutsches Sportsmodell, or DSM. As many as 16 different manufacturers produced the DSM – and each has their own chapter in the book. In 1938, an improved model was adopted as the Kleinkaliberwehrsportgewehr, or KKW. There were also models made in 4mm for indoor use. There were models that mounted the ZF-41 scope. There were Kar.98a and Gew.98 conversions to both 4mm

and .22LR. There were captured trainers pressed into service as well as newly manufactured trainers from many of the German-occupied countries (to include Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France Poland, Hungary, the Netherlands, and Russia). There were trainers used by neutral countries and German allies (Italy, Spain, Sweden, Portugal, and Japan). Accessories are documented. The rifle competitions are covered, as are the various awards and medals. All are documented and beautifully photographed in Simpson's book – to include many period pictures and posters. Conservatively, there are probably over 3000 photographs in **Training Rifles of Third Reich Germany**.

The vast knowledge contained inside its covers does not come cheap. Available from on-line sources for \$90 (\$150 for a deluxe edition limited to 100 copies), this book will appeal to those that collect German weapons, military trainers, or WWII firearms. Needless to say, I like it!

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.

VIRGINIA 2017

- **Sept 29-Oct 1, 2017 - Chantilly, VA** – Dulles Expo Center – *Showmasters and C&E*
NOTE: The Garand Collectors Association will have their Convention Sep 28-Oct 1, 2017 at the Fairfax Marriott at Fair Oaks, Fairfax, VA. They will also have displays at the Chantilly Show.
- **Oct 4-8, 2017 - Winchester, VA** – Ft Shenandoah – The Fall National Matches of the North-South Skirmishers Association. (*Be sure to check out the antique and reproduction guns, parts, etc. on Sutler's Row. Details can be found at www.n-ssa.org*)
- **Oct 7-8, 2017 – Dale City, VA** – Dale City VFW – *Showmasters/Old Dominion*
- **Oct 7-8, 2017 – Harrisonburg, VA** – Rockingham County Fairgrounds – *C&E*
- **Oct 14-15, 2017 – Virginia Beach, VA** – Virginia Beach Convention Center – *SGK*
- **Oct 21-22, 2017 – Doswell, VA** – Farm Bureau Center at Meadow Event Park - *SGK*
- **Oct 21-22, 2017 - Roanoke, VA** – The Berglund Center - *Showmasters*
- **Oct 28-29, 2017 – Fredericksburg, VA** – Expo and Conference Center – *SGK*
- **Oct 28-29, 2017 – Salem, VA** – Salem Civic Center - *C&E*
- **Nov 4-5, 2017 – Manassas, VA** – PWC Fairgrounds – *VGCA (our show!)*
- **Nov 4-5, 2017 – Norfolk, VA** – Norfolk Scope - *Showmasters*
- **Nov 4-5, 2017 – Winchester, VA** – Body Renew Fitness & Family Sports Center – *SGK*

MARYLAND 2017

- **October 13-15, 2017 – Bel Air, MD** – American Legion Harford Post #39 – ?
- **October 21-22, 2017 – Timonium, MD** – Timonium Fairgrounds – *Appalachian Promotions*

PENNSYLVANIA 2017

- Sept 30-Oct 1, 2017 – Matamoras, PA – Best Western Hotel – *Northeast Gun Shows*
- October 21-22, 2017 – Allentown, PA – Allentown Fairgrounds - *Forks of the Delaware*
- Oct 6-8, 2017 – Oaks, PA – Expo Center – PAGCA Antique Gun Show – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 7-8, 2017 – East Berlin, PA – 1808 Fish & Game Rd – *East Berlin Fish & Game*
- Oct 14-15, 2017 – Mount Joy, PA – 85 Range Road – *Local*
- Oct 21-22, 2017 – Monroeville, PA – Monroeville Convention Center - *Showmasters*
- Oct 21-22, 2017 – Bloomsburg, PA – Fairgrounds – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 28-29, 2017 – Allentown, PA – Econolodge Conference Center – *Eagle Arms*
- Oct 28-29, 2017 – York, PA – Fairgrounds Memorial Hall – *TheGunShows.com*
- Nov 4-5, 2017 – Lebanon, PA – Lebanon Valley Expo Center – *Eagle Arms*

SPECIAL NOTE – OHIO - 2017

- November 18-19, 2017 – Wilmington, OH – The Roberts Centre – *Annual Meeting and Directors Elections*

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.

🔪 **Cadet Rifles**

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|---------------------------------------|----------|
| 69 Gras Mle 1874 Cadet | \$650.00 |
| 7 Lebel School Rifle/ Trainer (.22lr) | \$600.00 |

Chassepot Converted to Gras

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|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 81 Gras/Chassepot, 1866/74 M80 Rifle | \$625.00 |
| 86 Gras/Chassepot, 1866-74 M80 Rifle | \$750.00 |

Gras Rifles and Carbines

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|---|----------|
| 5 Gras, Mle 1874-80 Carbine, Foot Gendarmerie | \$650.00 |
| 39 Gras, Mle 1874-80 Artillery Carbine | \$525.00 |
| 54 Gras Mle 1874-80, Calvary/ Mounted Gendarmerie Carbine | \$800.00 |

Lebel

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| 98 Lebel, 1886/93/M27 Trials Rifle, (7.5 x 54) | \$3,200.00 |
| 7 Lebel School Rifle/ Trainer (.22lr) | \$600.00 |

MAS Rifles

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|---------------------------|-----------|
| 78 MAS 36 CR39 | \$2600.00 |
| 00 MAS Mle 1936 Cut A Way | \$1600.00 |

Muskets

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| 46 Mle 1842 Musket, Shows US Civil War use | \$1250.00 (Includes Bayonet) |
| 57 Mle 1836 Lancers Musketoon | \$1100.00 |

Tabatiere Rifle

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|--------------------------|------------|
| 75 Tabatiere, 1867 Rifle | \$1,950.00 |
|--------------------------|------------|

Rolling Block Rifle

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|--|------------------------------|
| 96 Remington Mle 1915 Rolling Block (1901 #5 in 8mm Lebel) | \$1800.00 (includes Bayonet) |
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If interested, please contact Hank at:

Phone: 434-983-1941

E-Mail: RedOctopus@juno.com

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.

WANT-TO-BUY:

★ Member Kim Walton is interested in buying Newton and Meeker rifles. If you have one to sell, please contact him at (210)-602-0506 or copo6970@yahoo.com

The e-mail address for any Newsletter related matters or a submission 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 Larry Hare.