



*Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association  
Official Publication*

VOLUME NO. 36

ISSUE NO. 1

JANUARY 2023



**The Female Hunter**

**Lucy Ann Dubdell Slater**

**See page 14 for the story.**

# M • W • C • A News

VOLUME NO. 36

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January 2023

## Official Publication of the Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

PO Box 662 • Hopkins MN 55343 • [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org) • 612-721-8976

Staff ..... Dale Peterson, Mike Foster

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Editor's Note:  
Thank you to  
all the MWCA  
members that  
contributed to  
this edition.

### GUESS THE GUN!



Good luck on this issue's "Guess the Gun" and remember that the first 5 correct entries will receive a FREE business card ad (\$25 value) in the next MWCA News. Call Dale at 763-753-1663

### *Last Issue's Guess the Gun*



Smith & Wesson Model 3 Russian, 3rd Model, 60,638 Manufactured 1874-78. Commonly known as "New Model Russian." Models were owned by Sheriff Pat Garrett and Outlaw Sam Wells, aka Charlie Pitts.

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# The President's Shot

MWCA Membership,

## 2023 President's Shot



It is an honor and a privilege to be your MWCA President for 2023.

One of my fondest childhood memories is going to a MWCA show back in 1974. My father took me, I was 12, and I was hooked. I have been attending our shows for 49 years. Later in life after my children were more independent, I crossed the table and became a dealer. It has been a very rewarding experience. The depth of knowledge that exists at a show is phenomenal. One of the best aspects of the shows is most dealers and customers are willing to share their years of research and knowledge. What an informative and pleasant environment.

MWCA has survived a lot of changes in the last 3 years. The COVID shutdown of 2020, losing the four State Fairgrounds shows, retiring the St. Paul River Center show, and the Show Director did not renew his contract. There have been a lot of positives. We have added 2 shows at the Adrenaline Sports Center in Ramsey, the Graham Arena Show in Rochester, and moved the St. Cloud show to the St. Cloud National Guard Armory. We will be having 2 shows a year at the St. Cloud Armory. We are pleased to announce that, in 2022, we hired a new show Director, Tracey Darwin. I believe Tracey will be a valuable asset to the club.

This club has come thru adversity and survived. Congratulations to the Board members that put forth the extra effort to make this happen. The Board is working hard to make sure the club keeps going. We are looking for new show locations; please contact a Board member if you know of any.

If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me at the shows or thru our website.

Hoping you have a Safe and Healthy 2023.

Marty Brady

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MWCA Membership,

## 2022 Parting President's Shot



We have made it through another year as we have gradually come out of the restrictions of Covid. We were able to put on 6 shows this year, to include our first Trophy show at the Adrenaline Sports Center in Ramsey since 2019. This year the board hired a new Show Director to oversee setting up and running the shows. Her name is Tracey Darwin who most of you have seen at many of the shows in the past.

There are some new venues that we have planned for 2023 and we encourage you to view these on our web site at ([www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org)). Currently there are 6 shows planned for 2023 but we are constantly looking for additional venues to put on at least 2 more shows a year. If you know of any place that we could add another show just let one of the board members know.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president this past year and I hope to see you at a future show. I want to thank our members for their continued support during these trying times.

Jim Wright

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Letter to the MWCA membership:

I attended my first MWCA gun show at the Old Stagecoach Museum in 1962 and caught the "Gun Collecting Bug." I joined the organization shortly after that. In the past 60 plus years I have served on and off the Board of Directors, and as the Club Historian for over 35 years. Later on, I served as editor of the annual publication with the help and organizational skills of Mike Foster. This publication will be the 45<sup>th</sup> edition I have edited and the last one I will be working on as I have decided to retire from this and as a board member and Historian. I appreciate all the members support and friendship over the past years.



My board position has been filled and the organization is presently looking for a Historian and Editor. If you so desire to fill either of these positions please contact any board member.

Thank you,

Dale H Peterson "Retired"

MWCA News



# Annual Trophy Show

By Dale H Peterson

The Annual Trophy was held at the Adrenaline Sports Center in Ramsey, MN. It is a great place to have a gun show as there is plenty of FREE parking and comfortable walking with the padded grass floor and a very congenial host who manages the building. We had nine displays this year with a good variety of fine collectable guns and related items. There is always room for more displays so dust off your favorite SHOOTIN' IRONS and set up a display for next year; as a bonus you may even win a few bucks.

MWCA Board member Ed Pohl organizes the trophy show and is always looking for knowledge individuals to help with the judging. If you see Ed at one of the shows stop and thank him for all the work he puts into the show to make it a success.



Don Johnson grabbed 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Military category with his fine M-1 Garand collection.



2<sup>nd</sup> in the Military category went to Mark Phemmer for his Machine Gun Bunker Display. I bet those sand bags were heavy.

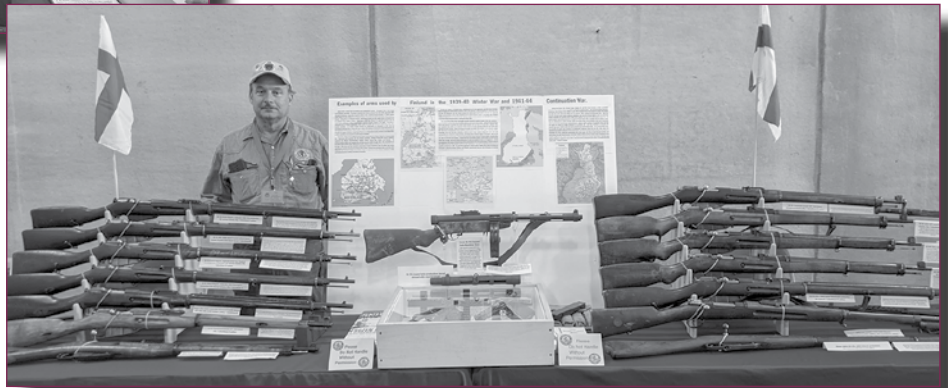




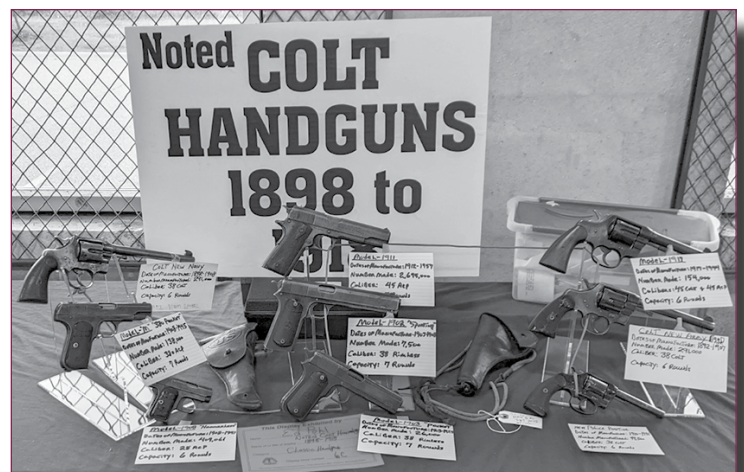
## Annual Trophy Show, continued



Brian Carlson Received 3<sup>rd</sup> Place for his “Finish Rifles” display



Rick Simenson’s display of GIBBS rifles built by his ancestries bagged a 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Antique Long Gun category.



1<sup>st</sup> in Classic Hand Guns went to Ed Pohl for his Colt Hand Guns 1898 to 1911.



Ed Pohl’s Flame Throwers of the Eastern Front received 2<sup>nd</sup> in the related category.



## Annual Trophy Show, continued



Ed Pohl received 2<sup>nd</sup> in Antique Long Guns for his Big Game guns of the West.



“The Frontiersman” display received a 1<sup>st</sup> place in the related category for Jim Buelow. The tall cowboy with him is Rick Pasche.



Dale H Peterson received 1<sup>st</sup> Place for his Pearl Handled Revolvers in the Antique Handgun category.

# Jess Sweeten - Texas Lawman

*By Rick and Kathy Simonson*

The Jess Sweeten Story deserves to be told. Jess came from men made of iron and steel. His grandfather and father were both US Deputy Marshals in Indian Territory. So, you can see being a lawman was in his blood.



How my collection began on Sheriff Jess Sweeten, Henderson County, Texas. It all started with me acquiring a nickel-plated Colt single action that belonged to Sheriff Jess Sweeten. Along with my purchase came the first book written about him by Allan Sigvard Lindquist. I read it cover-to-cover. How could I not become hooked on the colorful story of this depression-era, Henderson County sheriff, Special Texas Ranger and mayor of Athens, TX. He was known to many as the seven-foot sheriff; he stood six-foot-four; add in his cowboy boots and his hat, and Sheriff Jess Sweeten stood seven feet. He was 225 pounds and Sweeten gained a reputation as a hard-nosed investigator and a crack shot.

Jess Sweeten solved 2 mass-murder cases, dozens of felonies, survived 11 gun battles, 5 assassination attempts, 3 car wrecks, 1 running gun battle with the "Dallas Kid," over 150 bare-knuckle fist fights, and he left office with no unsolved murder cases. Raymond Hamilton, a criminal that ran with Bonnie and Clyde told a Dallas newspaper that Bonnie and Clyde always avoided Henderson County because of Sweeten's reputation.

Shortly after reading the book, I contacted Jessie Nell Sweeten, Jess' daughter and, over a period of months and many conversations, we became friends. I made a trip to Athens Texas to meet Jessie Nell in person. I acquired many more items to add to my collection, and the highlight was Jesse Nell telling me that the first gun I acquired, the Colt Single Action, belonged to Sheriff Sweeten's father John who carried it as a US Deputy Marshall. He passed it on to his son Sheriff Jess Sweeten in 1931.

Jess' entire gun collection went to auction in 1996. This date was before I became aware of Jess and the story of his interesting life. So, my quest was to find more of his guns. I scoured gun sites, auction houses, and gun shows. I was lucky enough to find his most prized guns which I displayed at the April 2022 Texas Gun Collector's Association show in San Marcos, TX. The display included his sheriff badge, special Texas Ranger badge, his gun belt, holsters and many of his guns.

My Sweeten display was first showcased in Minnesota at the Weapons Collectors Association show in March of 2015. The display won first place which gave me the opportunity to take the display to the 144th NRA Annual Meeting & Exhibits in Nashville, TN in April 2015.



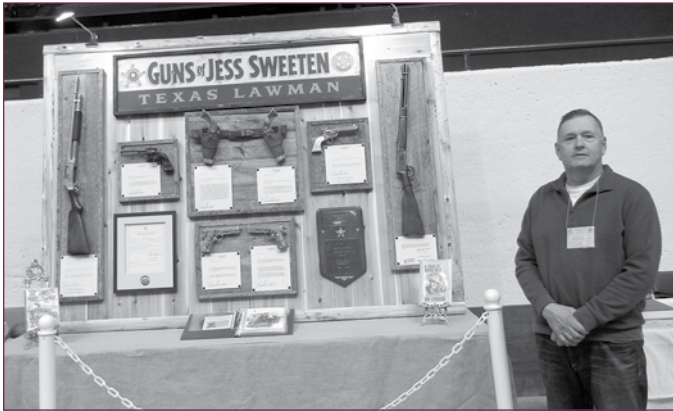
Colt SAA belonged to Sweeten's father.



Two Smith & Wesson .44 Specials carried by Sweeten.



## *Jess Sweeten - Texas Lawman, continued*



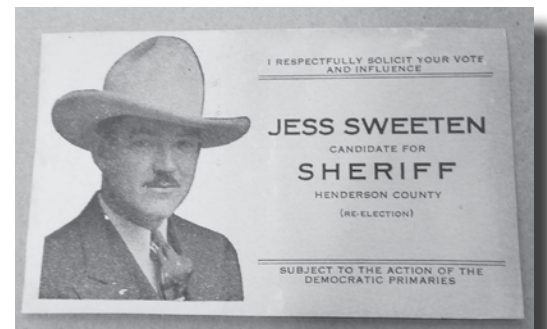
First time displayer Rick Simonson was the big winner in 2015, taking both the "Best of Show" and the "O.K. Judges" award for his "Guns of Jess Sweeten, Texas Lawman."

I've noted below some interesting historical highlights of Sheriff Sweeten's career.

Jess Sweeten (1905-1980), the colorful Henderson County sheriff, Special Texas Ranger, and mayor of Athens, was born on May 7, 1905 in Enterprise near Stigler, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). He was the son of John and Nell (Davis) Sweeten. Jess was educated in the public schools of Johnson and Wampatuck counties before joining his father on a cattle ranch in Cole County, Oklahoma. In 1922 Sweeten moved to Kansas City, Kansas, to work for the Otis Elevator Company. He was transferred in 1926 to Dallas, where he lived and worked for the next several years.

In 1930 Sweeten was appointed deputy constable at Trinidad, Texas and the following year was promoted to deputy sheriff. In 1932 he ran successfully for the Henderson County Sheriff's office, becoming the youngest sheriff in Texas, and served for the next 22 years.

The six-foot-four, 225 pound Sweeten gained a reputation as a hard-nosed investigator and a crack shot. During his tenure he shot 9 men, killing 3, including Gerald Johnson, the so-called "Dallas Kid" who Sweeten gunned down after a high-speed car chase through Athens. He also solved numerous high-profile crimes, including the murders of the McGehee family and Mr. and Mrs. W. T. German, both of which attracted the attention of the national media. In one instance, he reportedly interviewed a suspect in a kidnapping case for 16 days and nights without letup.



1932 Jess Sweeten Candidate for Sheriff Card.

Not surprisingly, Sweeten's tough methods elicited both praise and criticism. In the 1960s, in the wake of civil rights reforms, he once said: "I broke 21 murder cases and sent 3 to the electric chair... but if I had to work under the conditions I'd have to work under today, I doubt if I could have broken all those cases." If you questioned a suspect like that now, he continued, "The Supreme Court would have put the sheriff in jail." In 1954 Sweeten stepped down from the sheriff's office to work for Mobil Oil Company in Right of Way and Claims and as Special Texas Ranger.

An expert marksman, he conducted shooting exhibitions for schools and civic clubs throughout his career, shooting at cigars and other objects held up by his one-armed assistant Gus Sowell. On one occasion, Sweeten reportedly fired 3,700 rounds in 7 hours, shooting up some 600 pounds of potatoes. In 1969 Sweeten was elected mayor of Athens, serving until June 1970 when he resigned due to business commitments. During the 1970s he served as a special investigator for the local district attorney's office.

Sweeten married Hazel Potter, a native of Goldthwaite, in Athens on April 2, 1933. The couple had two daughters. He died in Athens on November 16, 1980 and was buried in Oaklawn Memorial Park.



# Cartridge “Picture Boxes”

By Dale H Peterson

In today’s advertising world the product being sold is occasionally pictured on the TV screen, billboard, and bottle or on the box. The early manufactures of cartridges used the same method to sell their product, in this case “cartridges”. Therefore we have cartridge boxes showing the gun that used that particular ammunition. This goes back as far as the 1860s.

Winchester was a major producer of ammunition. Starting in the 1860s when they produced their Henry rifles and in the 1870s for their 1873 Winchester. This was one of their most successful endeavors.

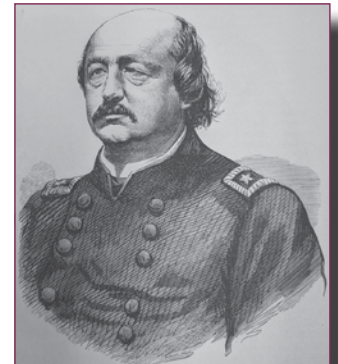


Winchester 1873 Saddle Ring Carbine.



Other cartridge manufactures:

- Union Metallic Cartridge Co. Started in 1867 by Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, in a New York Sporting Goods Company, where they purchased two, small New England ammunition manufacturers in 1866.
- Dominion Cartridge Co. in 1885 started producing military ammunition and later on produced sporting ammunition in 1886.
- Peters Cartridge Co. Started in 1887 by Gresham Moore Peters in Kings Mill, Ohio until 1934 when it was purchased by the Remington Arms Company.
- American Metallic Cartridge Co. Started by Civil War General, Benjamin Butler in 1869.

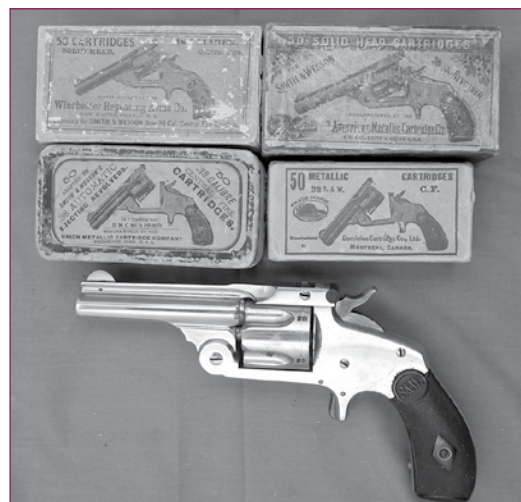


General Benjamin Butler

Pictured below are a few of the “PICTURE BOXES” that I have gathered over the past few years.

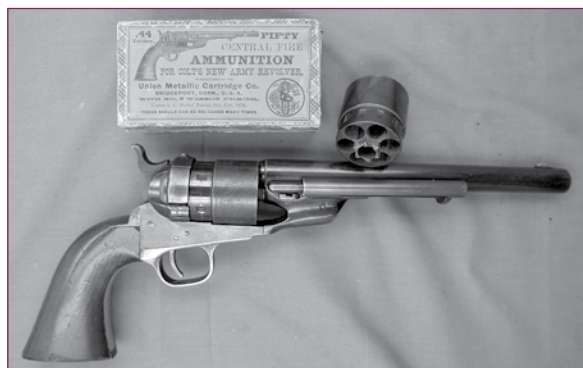


Smith & Wesson Model 1 1/2 2nd Issue

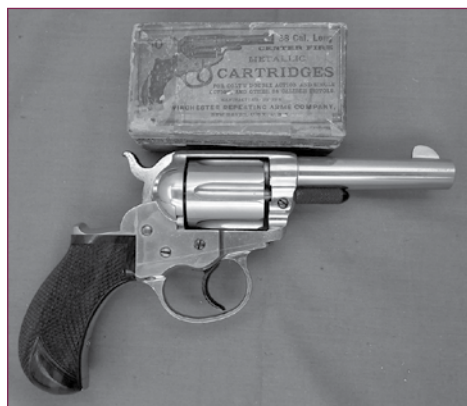


Smith & Wesson 2nd Model 38 Single Action

## Cartridge “Picture Boxes,” continued



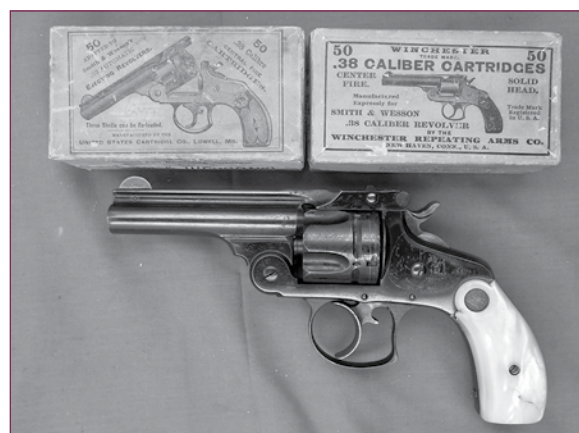
1860 Army Colt Richards Mason Conversion  
shown with the 12 notch cylinder as on the box.



1877 Colt Lightning “Store Keepers” Model



Marlin XXX Standard 1873

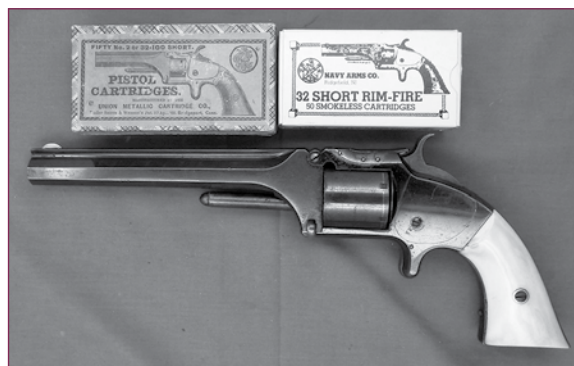


Smith & Wesson .38 D.A. 2nd Model.

The 41RF box pictured below displayed the “Remington Model 1895 Derringer” and the 32 RF box showed the “Smith & Wesson NO. 2 Army”. These two boxes were manufactured by Companhia Brasileira de Cartuchos in Brazil and were marketed by the Navy Arms Company. I believe these were available in the 1970s and 1980s.



Remington “Double Derringer”.



Smith & Wesson #2 Army. Also illustrated  
on the old box is a 4” barrel model.



## Cartridge “Picture Boxes,” continued

Around the turn of the century, there was a picture of the cartridge that came in the box. This practice continued into the 1940s and 1950s and in some cases later.



Boxes today are not as attractive, with the exception of those with game scene or the animal they are used for. Box collectors today are still on the hunt for specialty subjects, such as .22 caliber boxes, Shot shell boxes, empty or full. Use the shells and save the box. It's not too late to start a collection.



33<sup>rd</sup> Annual

## Heritage Arms Society's Antique Arms Collectors Show

Saturday, March 28, 2023 • 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Public Welcome - Admission \$5.00 (Age 16 and under free with adult)

Friday, March 17, 2023 • 12:00 - 6:00 PM  
(members & exhibitors only)

Minnesota's longest-running show is dedicated exclusively to antique sporting arms, accouterments, ammunition, edged weapons and military items dating from before 1960.

This vetted quality arms show is sponsored and attended by leading collectors who offer and display historical, antique & collectable arms & related items.

**Only legal historic arms and related items in production before 1960 are allowed.**

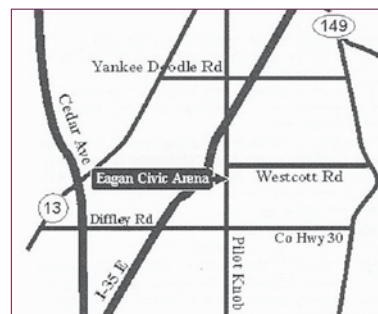
Expert appraisals available.

For more info: [www.heritagearmsociety.org](http://www.heritagearmsociety.org)

Eagan Civic Arena

3830 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan, MN 55123

One mile South of 35E on Pilot Knob Road.  
(3 miles South of 494)



**Future HAS Date:  
March 10, 2024**

# *The Newhouse Animal Trap*

*By Jeff Stricker*

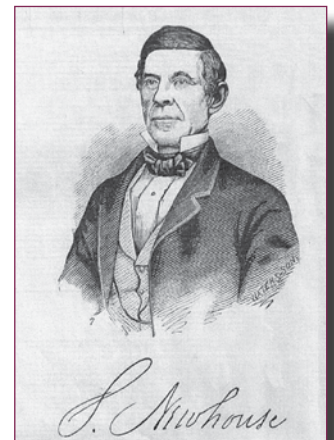


From religious commune to the biggest trap company in the world. Oneida Community, today a national historic landmark.

This later became known as The Oneida Community, self-styled religious perfectionists adhering to the principles of Bible Communism. As a typical commune, they existed as one family governed by a four man association committee. This communal way continued until about 1880.

In the early 1850s this membership grew to about 150 men, women, and children. During this period it became clear their leaders saw their dependence on horticulture wasn't going to be good enough to sustain their need for essentials such as food and clothing. This meant they had to turn to some other form of profitable industrial undertaking. They started making sellable articles such as brooms, saddle bags, slippers, rustic furniture, etc, and traveling to larger cities like St. Louis, St. Paul, and Chicago, to name a few. Some of these were successful, some were not, but of them all trap making was the biggest in dollar return.

Enter Sewell Newhouse. Sewell Newhouse was born in Brattleboro, Vermont in 1806. His family moved to Oneida County, New York when he was 14 years old. As a young man, he spent most of his time in the woods becoming well acquainted with the local Native tribes. Under their guidance, he became a well-rounded woodsman, especially knowledgeable about the pursuit and capture of wild animals. In 1823, as a 17-year old lad, he began making traps at Oneida Castle, New York following the 1768 English trap design. They were crudely fashioned from scrap metal found in his father's blacksmith shop. These traps were used by him, testing their design, function and quality, thereafter selling the traps to the Oneida Indians for \$.62 apiece. Prior to 1848, Newhouse and his assistant John Eddy were making 1,000 to 2,000 traps a year, all hand forged!



Oneida Community Trap Factory, Oneida NY

As a young man, he then decided to marry Eveliza Hyde. In 1848 Sewell Newhouse, his wife and small son joined the Oneida Community, The experiment in communal living at Kenwood, and shortly thereafter the steel trap business, was financed by the Community, supervised by Newhouse, and really got underway. The Newhouse trap was put on a mass production basis. By 1855, the demand for the Newhouse steel trap had grown to such an extent that the Oneida Community leaders decided to begin manufacturing on a much larger scale. It became a major part of the business dealings of the Community.



## *The Newhouse Animal Trap, continued*

Later a factory was built at Sherrill, New York, and between 1864 and 1872 production of traps by the Community ran over the three-quarter million mark.

The Newhouse trap provided trappers with a standard pattern in sizes, a product of precision work, light in weight, durable and reliable. Every trap a perfect trap, that was the Newhouse watchword.

In 1880 the Community was forced by pressure of public opinion to break up and re-organize minus the controversial communal aspects under the name of Oneida Community, Ltd. Newhouse died December 18, 1888, but the manufacturing of traps continued to flourish.



Oneida Community - Newhouse Trap Works at Sherrill, NY. Circa 1860

A Canadian factory was built in 1896 with Oneida expansion into the mouse and rat trap business in 1906. Peak production of Oneida was reached in 1910, when 6,812,000 traps were made.

After the first World War Oneida decided that the trap business had served its purpose well, but the future looked brighter in other fields. It sold its mouse and rat trap business in 1924 to The Animal Trap Company of America, organized that year at Lititz, PA. In 1925 Oneida sold out its entire trap line to the same company. Oneida today is known as Oneida Ltd, makers of fine silver.

Sewell Newhouse ran the company with an iron fist. So much so, employees often improvised tactics that streamlined production, improved the product and provided more profit.

What stands out about Newhouse traps was their unqualified guarantee. It was the only one like it in the trapping industry. Sewell was so confident his traps were the best on the market (many hard core trappers would agree) that he actually demanded if a Newhouse product had a faulty part the trap be returned and would be replaced free of charge.

“No professional trapper would look at anything else,” a member of the Oneida Community remembered, “and its adoption by the great Hudson Bay Company placed it on a safe footing. There was but one trap on the market and its name was ‘Newhouse.’”



# *The Female Hunter*

## *Lucy Ann Dubdell Slater*

*By Richard R. Pasche*



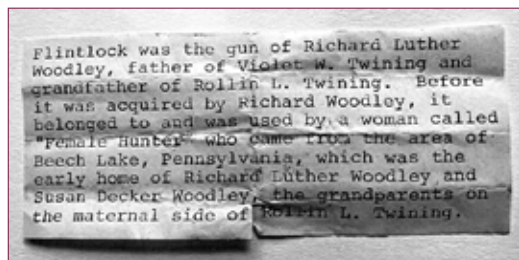
Several years ago a Pennsylvania long rifle was offered for sale in an online auction held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In the long history of gun making, the Henry name stands out. The lock marked “JJ Henry and Sons” flags the rifle as



Lock marked “JJ Henry & Sons”

made between 1831 and 1836 by John Joseph Henry and son James, at their factory called Boulton. As presented, the lock was converted to percussion and the barrel shortened.

Dale Grasdalene, who lives here in Minnesota, won the bid and the rifle was shipped to his attention. Little did he know at the time the rifle had a history of being in Minnesota before. In our conversation, Dale would mention a note stored in this patch box about a previous owner known as “The Female Hunter.” She came from an area known as Beech Lake, Pennsylvania. At some point I told Dale I was buying a story and the gun would come with it.



Note found in patch box.

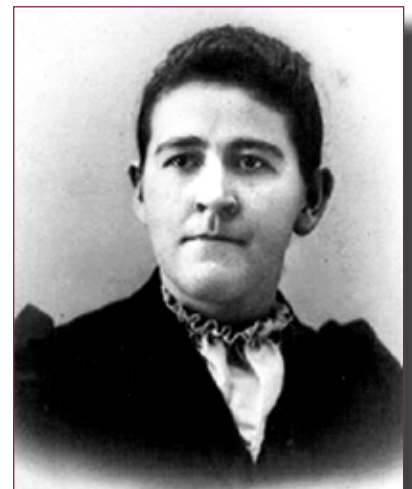
A search for Beech Lake in Pennsylvania on maps and computer references proved to be fruitless. I did find a location named Beach Lake in Wayne county Pennsylvania. I called the Wayne County Historical Society. The phone rang, but no one answered. So, I left a message. A week later I received a phone call and apology for the delay. Wayne County had been snowed in and no one was able to return my call. The caller started telling me they knew about the female hunter. Her given name was Lucy Ann Dubdell. With the name and place in hand, Lucy’s story and life began to unfold before me.

Lucy Ann Dubdell was born December 2nd, 1829, to Sarah (Sally) and James Dubdell of Westerlo, New York. Lucy never knew her older sister who died in infancy. Lucy would be joined by John (born 1832), sister Mary (born 1836), and sister Sarah (born 1838). Westerlo was located 11 miles southwest of Albany, 2,000 ft above the Hudson Valley.

Lucy’s grandfather had built a grist mill in 1795 on Basic Creek. The mill was successful and others followed. The Dubdells farmed on the rocky soil which was very difficult, so her father James sought work in the local Mills. He sold lumber to the asheries. They remained on the family farm until the 1850s.

When Lucy was just a toddler and left unattended she would wander into the woods and get lost. It happened often, so her mother attached a bell to her. Lucy would go to a one-room school in Westerlo, New York. There she learned to read and write.

When a teen, she was adventurous and a daydreamer. Lucy was very confident in subjects such as school, young men, and her outdoor skills. At age 14 she wrote, “When at school she possessed a temperament which made foremost in mischief and study about equal .” Lucy tells of being in charge of some hundred chickens, turkeys, and geese. They were raised and sold as well as tending the dairy. She was proud of making money raising





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## *The Female Hunter, continued*

calves and poultry to pay for her schooling and all the expenses incurred while going to school. She talked of living with her aunt. Self-reliant and determined, Lucy entered into Cocksackie School in Greene County, New York, some 20 miles from home.

In consequence of keeping poultry she learned to shoot her father's rifle. She had taken the hawk, the weasel, the mink, and even down to the rat. As she grew older she worked at her brother's lumber mill and could swing an ax well as any man. Your family life and schooling would guide her moral life and thinking. At school she learned music. She would sing and become an accomplished violinist.

In the 1850s girls were expected to marry at the age 17. Although Lucy focused on her education, she was preoccupied with the boy who briefly courted her back home. When they first met George Washington Slater seemed like a quiet agreeable young man. Lucy decided to befriend George and they kept each other company for nearly 6 months. When George fell ill at one point Lucy tells of dressing in her brother's clothes and writing on her father's horse to check on his well-being. This is the first time Lucy would tell of dressing in men's clothing to avoid detection as a woman riding alone at night. This would not be the last time she would dress as a man to achieve a practical goal. Most important to our understanding of Lucy is the central Quaker belief in the equality of all people. Men and women were perceived as equal in all respects. This belief is seen not only in their practices but also their political and social influence. They devoted their lives to work and worship.

At 18 years old Lucy returned to Cocksackie School. From there she tells her father of a dream she has had of the Delaware River and the vast Virginia woodlands "selling cheap." The upper Delaware River was home to a busy logging industry. So James, like other farmers, sold his farmland and moved to the forest. The Dubdells found a place in Rock Valley a few miles southeast of Hancock, New York. James had realized enough money by selling the farm to buy land and build a sawmill. James' real estate at Westerlo was valued at \$2,000 in the 1850s. Delaware and Sullivan counties were untouched and the land was wild. Hancock was a river port and the Dubdell lumber mill had direct access to New York City and Philadelphia. Like always, Lucy was there to help support the family. She labored with ax and saw while father James was teaching brother John the lumber business.

As time went by, social pressure was on Lucy to marry. Any of the young men in Rock valley would have married her but George Slater, now an accomplished rafter, was her choice. George asked for her hand in marriage and Lucy accepted. They tried to begin a life together on the Delaware, but knew few people outside her close family. To build a support system she turned to the church.

Lucy speaks of her belief in God and attended the service of a local Methodist preacher. When asked if anyone would like to rise and have the brethren pray for him George arose and, as Lucy recounts, "I also rose on seeing his wish to become a Christian." Lucy's background, which was based on Quaker/Shaker beliefs, made the Methodist teachings confrontational at best. At home George started drinking and playing cards with his lumberjack friends. It seems that George expected Lucy to play her violin for his friends and one time he called her "his little white slave." In anger, Lucy burned the violin.

In less than a year, George Slater would desert Lucy and their new baby daughter. Unable to support herself making \$1 a week doing domestic work, Lucy and her baby returned to her parent's home in Rock Valley. On returning to her parent's home, she would labor doing men's work at the sawmill, working the farm and, as usual, hunting with her father's rifle.

Unfortunately, her pleasant pastime was soured by an account published in the Bridgeport standard on February 1853. In it, a traveling peddler named Talmage described a female dressed in men's clothing with remarkable marksmanship. Talmage was invited to the Dubdell home where he witnessed what he called "The Maiden Hunter." He went on to say, "Although I cannot give a very clear idea of her appearance, I will try to describe her dress. The only article of female apparel visible was a close-fitting hood upon her head, such as is often worn

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## *The Female Hunter, continued*

by deer hunters. With an India rubber overcoat, her nether limbs were encased in a pair of snug fitting corduroy pants, and a pair of Indian moccasins were upon her feet. She had a good looking rifle upon her shoulder, and a brace of double barreled pistols in the side pockets of her coat, with a most formidable hunting knife suspended by her side. She smiled and said that she was as good a shot as anyone in the woods. She boasted of having shot any quantity of squirrels, partridge, and other small game. After chatting for some time, we shortly came to her father's house. After introducing her family, she brought a violin from a closet and played 15 or 20 tunes. She also sang a few songs, accompanying herself on the violin in a style that showed she was far from destitute of musical skills. Lucy would later write, 'For after the work of Mr. Talmage, the peddler, came before the public in 1854, my hunting grounds were infested with hunters, and thus I was obliged last winter to hunt but little!'"

By 1855 Lucy had several reasons for leaving home. First, her father was lame and inconsequential. She had worked indoors and out. As hard times were crowding in upon them, she made up her mind to dress in men's attire to seek labor as she was used to men's work and getting men's wages. She resolved to try after hearing that Mr. Slater was coming to get work away among strangers. During this time, she found her way to the small village of Bethany in Wayne County, Pennsylvania, about 30 mi northeast of Scranton. Assuming the name Joseph Israel Dubdell, she began to present herself as a man for the first time. She found work at a music school, where she gave singing lessons. She was held in high regard and was called "professor" by her students.

With few prospects in New York and Pennsylvania, 1856 finds Lucy headed west to the Minnesota Territory. Land in the new territory was quickly being staked out by homesteaders and timbering companies. Lucy arrived in St. Paul as "La-Roi" and befriended Edwin Gribble, a homesteader with a claim on the north shore of Lake Minnetonka. The two became friends and lived together on the lake over the summer. Edwin Gribble at no time suspected La-Roi was a woman. Instead he only knew La-Roi as a young man from back east looking for employment and a claim of his own. Lucy soon got a job as a claim guard. Growing tired of waiting for the claim owner to return, Lucy sold her right to the soil to Gribble for a \$75 rifle, and then traveled west for some 70 mi before stopping at a wintering place near the future site of the town of Kandiyohi, Minnesota. She was soon employed to reside on and hold possession of the town site by some Minneapolis proprietors. The winter of 1856-57 was very bad and Lucy nearly starved.

By 1857, Lucy arrived in Manannah Meeker County, a small town about 25 mi east of Kandiyohi. Here she worked odd jobs, lived in a local boarding house, still assumed the name La-Roi and dressed in men's attire. Lucy would live there for about a year before being arrested on the criminal charge of impersonating a man. Reverend and Justice of the Peace John Robson presided over her case. Lucy's defense entered a not guilty plea. Following her trial Robson cited the Sixth-Century code of Justinian in ruling: "The plea of not guilty was interposed and the legal evidence to prove the necessary fact could not easily be obtained, and was left in doubt. The court, after the case under advisement, finally ruled that the right of a female to wear pants had been recognized from the time of Justinian, and that the doctrine was too well settled to be upset in the case at bar, and Mrs. Slater was therefore discharged. Meeker county would pay the expenses necessary for her to return to her family in Rock Valley under the custody of a captain, AD Pierce. Lucy suffered another devastating mental breakdown and at times seemed completely deranged. Lucy was still under the direction of Captain Pierce, who was under the impression he would be signing over Lucy's custody to her parents. Lucy refused to stay with her parents and asked Pierce to give her custody over to the Delhi Poor House, where she was admitted as an inmate. Lucy's choice of the Poor House over her own parent's house is rather troubling and gives possible insight into her mental state at this time. Lucy, still residing at the Delhi poor house, soon befriended Maria Louise Perry.

Census data from 1865 reveals that Lucy and Maria lived for a time at James Dubdells's house in Rock Valley. However, Lucy and Maria would soon find themselves living a nomadic life in the woods of Pennsylvania on the other side of the Delaware River. Newspapers paint a varied picture of Lucy's life between 1865 and 1880, describing her as everything from a preacher to a lunatic.



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## *The Female Hunter, continued*

Lucy was admitted to the Willard Asylum for the Chronic Insane in Ovid, New York on October 12, 1880 where she would live for the next 10 years. After 1890, Lucy's care would be transferred to Binghamton State Hospital, the first institution designed to treat alcoholism as a mental disorder when it opened in 1864. It soon became a general asylum for any patient suffering from mental illness. There she would remain for 19 years, 7 months and 27 days before her death on May 28, 1912 at the age of 83.

It is said that in 8 years Lucy had killed 150 deer, 11 bear, a panther, numerous wild cats and foxes, besides hundreds of mink and other fur bearing animals. She had hand to hand contests with both wounded deer and bear, and had very ugly seams and scars on her body.

Sources:

Wayne County Historical Society, Pennsylvania

Meeker County Historical Society, Minnesota

The Internet

The Narrative of Lucy Ann Dubdell - Editor Lisa Macchia Ohliger

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## **2023 Show Schedule**

### **Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association**

**Celebrating 69 Years!**

**January 28 - 29 Mayo Center, Rochester MN**

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**February 24 - 25 St. Cloud National Guard Armory, St. Cloud MN**

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**April 22 - 23 Adrenaline Sports Center, Ramsey MN**

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**August 26 - 27 2023 Graham Arena, Rochester MN**

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**September 30 - October 1 Adrenaline Sports Center, Ramsey MN**

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**December 9 - 10 St. Cloud National Guard Armory, St. Cloud MN**

**Tentative Schedule. Please check [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org) web site for changes.**

**BUY, SELL, TRADE**

**\$10 admission for  
general public**

**Show Hours:**

**Saturday 9am - 5pm**

**Sunday 9am - 3pm**

**Visit [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org)**

**And Facebook.**

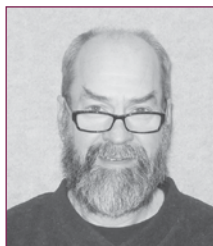


## Meet Your 2023 Board Of Directors

Marty Brady - President, David Hinrichs - Vice President, John Ophein - Secretary, and Brian VanKleek - Treasurer. If you have any questions and/or suggestions about MWCA policies, show rules etc., they will be glad to answer them.



**Marty Brady**  
President



**David Hinrichs**  
Vice President



**John Ophein**  
Secretary



**Brian VanKleek**  
Treasurer



**Jim Wright**  
Past President



**Ed Pohl**  
Trophy Show Coordinator



**John Chappuie**  
Director



**Dave Feinwachs**  
Director



**Jim Walters**  
Director

John Opheim (2023 Secretary) was selected by the MWCA Board of Directors to fill the vacant spot of one retiring board member.

## New MWCA Show Director



**Tracey Darwin**  
MWCA Show Director

I grew up in SE Minnesota, Lanesboro to be exact. I went to community college in Rochester and spent 26 years working for Mayo Clinic as a medical secretary and later doing transcription at home. In 2013 I moved to Foley to be with my now husband, Derick; and together we own and operate Midland Armory. I “retired” from Mayo in 2018 and we started operating Midland Armory more than just at gun shows. My husband still works a “day job” as a machinist, so I am in the gun shop during the day while he is at work. Chances are some of you have seen me at gun shows, and now I will be on the other side of the tables.

I am excited to be more involved in the MWCA and look forward to seeing you at the shows!

## In Memoriam

The MWCA donates \$100.00 to the NRA for each member who has passed. If members know of any members passing please advise a Board member so that they can be listed in this Memoriam Section in the next MWCA News.



## Harvey Oberg

Harvey was MWCA President in 1970.



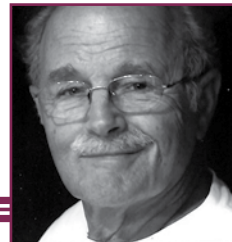
# Wanted

MWCA Historian and Editor for the annual publication.

Job does not pay any money and hours are long, but there is a great feeling of satisfaction when the job is complete.

No health plan, no annual salary, no age requirement. Applicants will have assisted training.

Contact any MWCA Board Member or call:  
Dale H Peterson, “Retired”  
763-753-1663  
dacopete@aol.com



## Staff Note, by Mike Foster:

Dale joined the MWCA in 1962. Since then, he has served the MWCA as Historian, content creator and editor of this publication, collection exhibitor, board member and President (1980). He has always emphasized the critical importance of “collecting” as the foundation of the Minnesota Weapons ‘Collectors’ Association. Dale has shared his knowledge with countless collectors, new and experienced, over all these years.

I’ve thoroughly enjoyed working with Dale on MWCA News Publications.

*MWCA News issues going back to the early days of the MWCA can be found and enjoyed on the association’s web site [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org)*

**“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”**



“No man’s life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session.” (Attributed to Mark Twain.)

# **Consider becoming a member of the Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association!**

- **Responsible firearms ownership.**
- **The enjoyment of collecting.**
- **Firearms safety.**
- **Hunting and shooting sports.**

**Without involvement of our current members and the encouragement of new members of all ages to join the MWCA, the enjoyment of firearms and interest in ownership that brings you to our shows will not continue to grow.**

**Help us to promote safe and rewarding firearms use and to contribute funds to other organizations that share and teach the same values.**

**As you can see from reading this publication, there are many reasons to become a MWCA member.**

**Visit our membership table at a show or our website [www.mwca.org](http://www.mwca.org) for more information about the benefits of joining the MWCA!**

*MWCA is the largest and oldest weapons collectors group in the state of Minnesota.*