

M·W·C·A

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association Official Publication

VOLUME NO. 26

ISSUE NO. 1

WINTER 2012



“I Don’t Need Any Stinkin’ Holsters”

See page 13 for the rest of the story.

2012 Trophy Show Issue

M • W • C • A News

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Official Publication of the Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

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Staff.....Dale Peterson, Stan Nelson, Mike Foster

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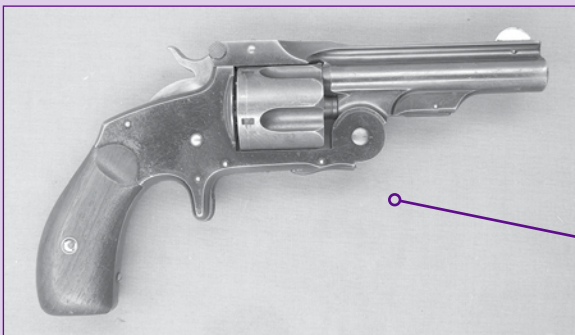
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GUESS THE GUN!

Win a FREE business card size ad (\$25 value).

First five correct entries win!

Call Dale at 763-753-1663

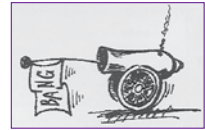


We had two members identify last issue's "Guess the Gun." They are Bruce Kenniberg and Richard Resseman. It was a Forehand & Wadsworth Old Model Army, 44 Russian caliber, manufactured in the 1870s, with less than 1,000 produced.



Good luck on this issue's gun and remember the first 5 winners will receive a FREE business card ad.

The President's Shot



This coming year will be a challenging one for the firearms industry and collecting fraternity. Due to the recent mental health tragedies which unfortunately included the misuse of firearms, there will be an impact. Our government will most likely try to enact new restrictions which will, in one way or another, adversely affect our association. Please rest assured that your association and your Board of Directors will continue to promote the collecting of, and commerce in, weapons of all sorts. Being a non-profit, with a significant bottom line, we will continue to assist and support many youth oriented firearms activities such as, but not limited to, Boy Scouts, 4H, hunter safety training, junior clubs, etc. Let's all look toward the coming year with a positive attitude.

Good luck and great finds,
John Chappuie
2013 MWCA President

Simply horrific. These are the words I use to describe the actions of a coward on December 14, 2012. As always, people are quick to blame inanimate objects when they are used in a cowardly, criminal way. This individual committed a criminal act by murdering his mother in her sleep. After committing numerous capital crimes he took the coward's way out when the authorities responded to calls for help.

After reflection, after several weeks of political grandstanding and numerous hysterical news anchors, we are close to the showdown. As always, it is easy to pass troubled kids through our schools; "Our hands are tied by state and federal regulations; what can we do?" say those responsible for this. Also indifferent parenting that takes the position "It's just a phase; he'll grow out of it."

Let's not punish law abiding collectors and shooters in the interest of "crime control." Remember, once criminals are in jail, they can't do it again until they get out. Now, more than ever, we must stand together or eventually they will come for all your guns. All of them. Let us remind them we pay taxes and we vote.

Thank you,
Brian VanKleek
2012 MWCA President



2013 Show Dates

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association

JANUARY 12 - 13, Rochester Mayo Civic Center

JANUARY 26 - 27, St. Paul RiverCentre

MARCH 16 - 17, MN State Fair COLISEUM Building

APRIL 20 - 21, MN State Fair EDUCATION Building

AUGUST 17 - 18, Buffalo MN Civic Center

SEPTEMBER 28 - 29, MN State Fair EDUCATION Building

OCTOBER 26 - 27, MN State Fair COLISEUM Building
Annual Trophy Show

DECEMBER 14 - 15, St. Paul RiverCentre

MWCA 2012 Trophy Show

On October 27-28, 2012 we held our annual Trophy Show in conjunction with the Gun show at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds. We were graced with a dandy fall day and had a busy crowd for the two day show.

There were 14 displays with a variety of collectors items for the judges to appraise and select the winners. Let's thank the judges who gave their time to visit with the displayers and pick the best in each category.

The 2012 Winners were as follows:



"Best of Show" was awarded to the "22 Caliber Counter" display by Ron Lough



Jim Moore received 1st place in Antique Handguns with his display of Colt Revolvers.



Vern Berning won 1st place in Antique Long guns and Best of Show with his 1876 Winchesters.



1st place in Related Items went to Dale H Peterson for his interesting display of Old Gun Leather.



John Park's "Knife Collector" display.

MWCA 2012 Trophy Show, continued



Ed Pohl received 2nd in Related Items for his "Special Weapons of the 3rd Reich" and the OK Award.



Fred Vandersnick's fine factory engraved Model 12 Winchester gathered in the 1st place for Modern Long Guns.



Alvin Olson received 1st place in Modern Hand guns also 2nd place for Modern Long guns. He showed some very nice engraved firearms by Neil Hartliep.



Bob Rolander won in two categories with his fine display of Modern Handguns and Military handguns.



Mike Splittgerber's display of hand made knives paid tribute to passed member John Fuchs.



Rob Pfeffer received 1st place for the "Cacano Rifles & Carbine" display.

MWCA 2012 Trophy Show, continued



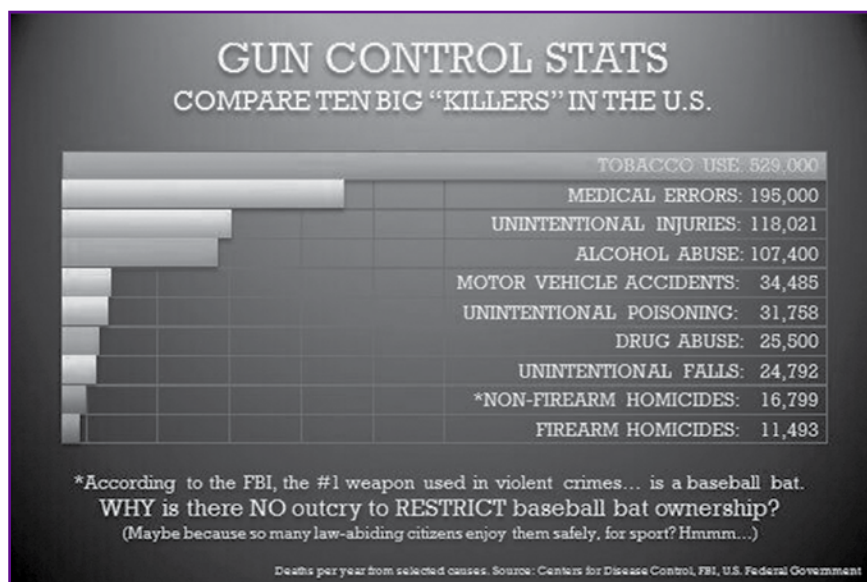
3rd in the Related category went to Al Boehne's "Springfield U.S. Military.



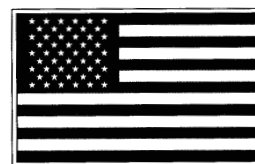
Again, a big "Thank You" to the displayers and the judges. Without these gentlemen this show would not be a success.

We have approximately 1000 members so it would be appreciated if some more of you collectors dig out your favorite pieces and let the rest of the members enjoy them too. I've displayed for years, as some of the other displayers have, and it is truly a rewarding experience. ... Dale Peterson

The 2013 Trophy Show will be held October 26 - 27 at the Minnesota State Fair Coliseum Bldg.



Support The NRA!



Support Our Troops!

2012 NRA Convention

by Dale H. Peterson

2012 NRA Annual meeting was held on April 12-15, 2012 in St. Louis, MO at the 340,000 square foot America's Center. There were over 73,700 attendees to see the 517 exhibits from the hunting and outdoor industries. Many of our national political leaders appeared before a crowd of 6,000 NRA members and pledged to defend our Second Amendment freedoms without apology or compromise. Those on the speakers platform were Governors Mitt Romney, Rick Perry, Scott Walker, Bobby Jindal and Senators Charles Grassley, Rick Santorum, Roy Blunt; Eric Cantor with speeches also by Newt Gingrich, Ken Blackwell, Darrell Issa, John Bolton and Lt. Col. Oliver North. They kept the members fired up with their commitment to the constitution, liberty and the NRA.

"Collectors Row," where the individual collectors groups display, was a buzz of activity with the many fine displays of early American 1900 firearms. One of the highlights on Collector's Row was the MWCA's display "Engraved Guns" which included Ira Paine's engraved Smith & Wesson .44 Frontier revolver. It received a silver medal, one of the ten given away for best gun at the show.

I had a series of pictures ready for this article explaining the set up at a NRA show but I downloaded them on my computer and it CRASHED the next day - and I lost everything. One of the pictures lost was of the MWCA president laying carpet in the booth. I still don't know where it came from and he wouldn't say. Another picture was of the wives rearranging the entire booth after Alvin and I had it set up. To bad I didn't get a picture of that because I have to say it looked a lot better when they finished.

The Annual NRA meeting is quite an event which I have attended several times, and I thank the MWCA Club for this privilege.

An entire aisle of the multi-acre Exhibit Hall floor was devoted to gun collecting with a wide range of exhibits including "Westward ... ever Westward!" the Contemporary Longrifle Association's display of original and modern longrifles illustrating the expansion of the American frontier during the early 19th century by gun makers such as Jacob and Samuel Hawken. The Minnesota Weapons Collectors presented "Engraved Guns," which highlighted, among many others, exhibition shooter Ira Paine's Smith & Wesson Model No. 3 Frontier revolver, Serial No. 1653, shipped from the factory on Feb. 17, 1887, to Paine in Rhode Island.

MWCA did get recognition in the August 2012 American Rifleman regarding the Ira Paine revolver.



NRA Director Jim Sepica awarding Dale H Peterson one of the silver medals for the Ira Paine Revolver.



Alvin Olson giving Director Jim Sepica a MWCA donation check.

Thanks to Steve Fjestad from the Blue Book for the photos.

Minnesota Weapons Collectors Association Promotional Video

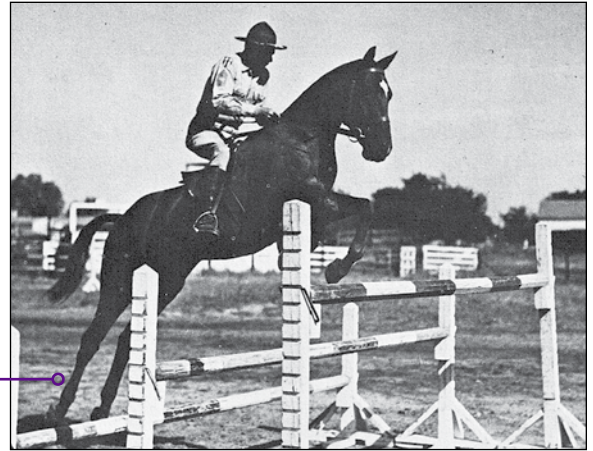
The MWCA promotional video was produced in 2012 and mailed to each organization that received funds from MWCA. We are now in the process of putting the video on YouTube and linking to it on our web site www.mwca.org. Check it out!



Why The Sabre?

By Stan Nelson

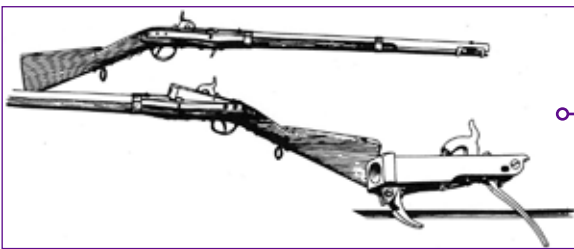
I do not collect “cold steel” myself, having a preference for the dispensers of “hot lead”. Nevertheless over the years I have had an interest in the American Cavalry sabre which was issued to our mounted troops for an unbelievable 101 years; from 1833 to 1934. Actually my interest lies more in the details of its longevity than in the weapon itself. Back in the 1930s my favorite uncle served in the U.S. Cavalry stationed alternately at Ft. Meade, So. Dakota or Ft. Robinson, Nebraska. Being good with horses he spent a lot of time at the latter doing farrier work and breaking horses and mules for training. I was just a kid, but still remember his stories of green recruits and the tough cavalry training routine, especially mounted drill with the heavy model 1913 Patton sabre and the occasional accident involving an unfortunate horse. Now after a lifetime of reading and some personal military experience myself, I marvel that an ancient weapon like the sabre remained an issued piece of equipment into an era of tanks and aeroplanes. In this essay I have sought some understanding of this seeming anomaly.



Training for horse and rider, Fort Robinson, Nebraska, 1932.

Most historians agree with Maj. Albert G. Brackett in his *HISTORY of the UNITED STATES CAVALRY*, N.Y.,1865, wherein he states (p 154) “our mounted service in the Revolutionary War accomplished no very notable work.... this also holds true in our second War with England.” If we consider on the conventional war of infantry and artillery against British Regulars this seems a just opinion. However, in the perpetual irregular warfare against England’s many Indian allies the mounted militia from Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee (The Long Knives) played an important role in forcing final English withdrawal and establishing a tradition in their method of Indian fighting. (See John Grenier’s *THE FIRST WAY OF WAR*, N.Y.,2005.) Some of these difficulties with Indians dissatisfied with treaty terms were settled the hard way well into the 19th Century, mostly by short term volunteers, some of whom were to become regulars.

Despite the findings of Lewis and Clark, the small United States Army maintained no mounted force after the War of 1812 and westward bound adventurers were on their own until political pressure from St. Louis merchants engaged in the growing trade with Santa Fe brought results. In 1832 Congress authorized the formation of a Battalion of Mounted Rangers, an elite group which was enlarged the following year into the First Dragoon Regiment. This was the first permanent mounted unit in the perpetually undermanned United States Army and its roster of office was impressive; Col. Henry Dodge, Lt. Col. Stephen Watts Kearney, and a couple of Lts.. who would make their mark, Philip St. George Cooke and Edwin V. Sumner. The Regiment was



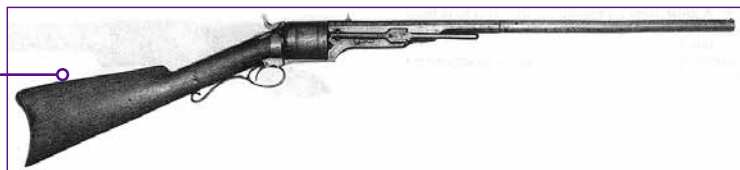
Model 1833 Hall carbine-sketch by Randy Steffen.

originally armed with horse pistols and a heavy Prussian style sabre, but when at Fort Gibson, Arkansas Territory in 1834 they were issued the innovative Model 1833 Hall-North carbine, the first breech-loading percussion weapon officially adopted by the U.S.(or any other) Gov’t, and though a smoothbore it was a quick to load handy weapon for mounted troops.

The First Dragoons were to spend most of their field time patrolling the Santa Fe Trail and on lengthy Western expeditions meant to impress various Indian tribes. On the first such trip they were accompanied by the American artist George Catlin, who took the opportunity to paint some of his memorable portraits of Indian tribal leaders. In 1836 a Second Regiment of Dragoons was organized and sent to Florida to deal with uncooperative Seminole Indians. This became a costly six year struggle in swamps, where canoes proved more useful than horses and

Why The Sabre? continued

sabers saw little use. Lt. Col. Wm. S. Harney killed his first Indians here using a Colt new Model 1839 revolving carbine, but no victory was won in this slow war of attrition and on May 29th 1842 the last Companies of the 2nd Dragoons left Florida for good.



Colt Model 1839 percussion carbine.

The annexation of Texas in early 1845 led to boundary



A 2nd Dragoon Sergeant-sketch by Randy Steffen.

disputes with Mexico and soon Gen. Zachary Taylor with about half of the U.S. Army was on the Rio Grande looking across the river at Mexican forces. The inevitable happened, and after a few skirmishes with losses on both sides, War was declared on May 11th, 1846. This was a conventional war with infantry and artillery playing the decisive roles with help from mounted troops. In those days of slow muzzle loaders, the sabre was an offensive weapon for the cavalry as the bayonet was for the infantry, and both saw extensive use in the Mexican War. Some reputations were made or enhanced in this War by seemingly reckless sabre charges against Mexican artillery or lancers, and some paid the extreme price.

In early action 2nd Dragoon Capt. Charles May, a long haired Custer type, led a successful charge into the fire of Mexican artillery at the battle of Resaca. (Brackett, p 5) Wm. Harney, now a Col., won praise for his sabre charge at Cerro Gordo, of which a graphic eye

witness account is found E.D. Mansfield's THE MEXICAN WAR, N.Y., 1848, p 194 "All along the road were bodies of Mexican Lancers and their horses, cut down by Col. Harney's Dragoons almost every man's skull was literally split open with the sabres of our horsemen". In CHRONICLES of the GRINGOS, W.N.M. Press, 1969 ed. by Smith and Judah, is described an incident involving Texas Ranger Capt. Samuel Walker (he of the Walker Colt) using his sabre skillfully in "cutting off the head of a Mexican officer who was about to fire his piece. Walker himself was killed by a lancer shortly after this.



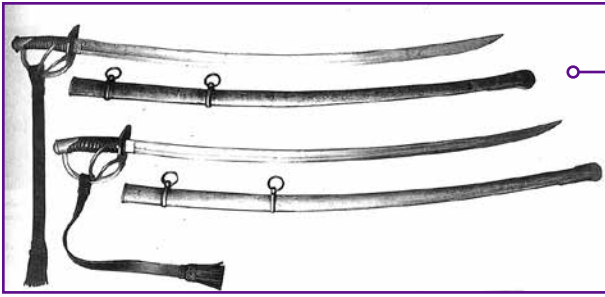
Capt. Walker's death by Mexican lancer.

In these accounts of the use of sabres in the Mexican War, it is obvious that these edged weapons were kept SHARP and the Dragoons were trained their use, factors which became bones of contention in later years. It also obvious that the Dragoons, and later the Cavalry, considered themselves the elite of the

Army and did get more than their fair share of attention in print. As Samuel Chamberlain of E Co., 1st Dragoons put it in his colorful memoir MY CONFESSION, N.Y., 1956, p.68 "No man of any spirit and ambition would join the doughboys and go afoot, when he could ride a fine horse and wear spurs like a gentleman".

With the ending of the Mexican War in 1848 the usual cuts in Federal funding began. Despite the acquisition of a vast new territory and many little known Indian tribes to deal with, the Army was downsized and soon scattered to frontier posts far and wide. Increasing traffic on the overland trails to California and Oregon eventually brought conflict with the Plains Indians, most of whom were averse to treaties. By the mid 1850s the Dragoons were armed with Sharps carbines, Colt .44 revolvers and the 1840 Ames sabre, and after a few skirmishes with horseback Indians some officers were beginning to question the issuing of sabres. The growing Indian problems induced congress to authorize two new cavalry regiments in 1855 and the sabre was still an

Why The Sabre? continued



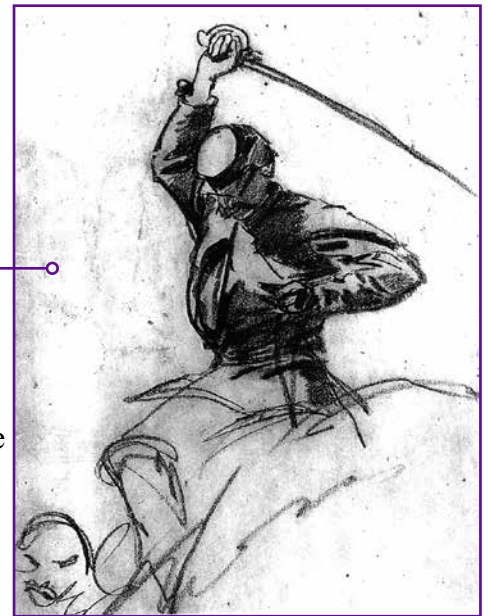
Top 1840 cavalry sabre, bottom new light sabre, 1857.

issued weapon, though by 1858 most mounted troops were carrying the lighter new pattern sabre made by Ames which remained a service weapon until 1914.

There were a number of minor engagements with Indians where sabre use is recorded in the 1850s. In New Mexico on March 9, 1854 Lt. David Bell with a detachment of 2nd Dragoons used sabres in a running fight with Jicari Apaches, killing 5 (Brackett p.135) And on the morning of Jan. 13, 1855 Lt. Samuel Sturgis and a company of 1st Dragoons tangled

with a party of Mescalero Apaches near Galisteo, New Mexico. It was so cold that after firing their Colt .44s “they had to use their sabres, their fingers be too stiff to reload”; they killed 3 and wounded 4 Indians. (Brackett p.137) On July 29th 1857 Col. Sumner and six Companies of the 1st Cavalry met 300 Cheyenne Warriors at Solomon’s Fork in N.W. Kansas. Surprising the Indians (and some of his own men) Sumner ordered a sabre charge which routed the amazed Indians, who lost 9 killed and several wounded. Sumner had 2 men killed and 8 wounded, including Lt. J.E.B. Stuart, who used his sabre on Indian who in turn severely wounded Stuart with an old Allen pepperbox. (See Wm. Y. Chalfant’s *CHEYENNES AND HORSE SOLDIERS*, Univ. OK Press 1989)

Civil War brought radical change to the United States Cavalry. Always a small part of the regular army it had few advocates among the General Staff and lost some of its best officers to the horse loving South. With most city bred volunteers it took two years and many Confederate victories to bring about a competent Union Cavalry, but by 1864 names like Forsyth, Buford, Merritt and Custer were becoming well known under the leadership of General Phil Sheridan. Cavalry units were used as scouts, flankers, quite often dismounted to fight as infantry when needed. Intelligence gathering forays behind enemy positions sometimes resulted in collision with Confederate Cavalry where sabres were freely used. According to the Civil War records those encounters were about the only time that sabres were used. Of interest here are casualty lists in the massive *MEDICAL A. SURGICAL HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR*. (I have the 15 vol. reprint) The grim numbers are; of Union killed, 59,860; wounded, 280,040; missing, 184,791. These are chronological lists compiled from field reports and among the many missing are bodies never found, deaths in Southern prisons and desertions. Confederates kept few records and numbers are educated guesses: est. killed, 51,425; wounded, 227,871; missing, 384,281. (see footnote in vol. 7 p xxvi)



Cavalry soldier on horseback-sketch by Winslow Homer.



Sabre wounds of the head, Civil War.

Among these numbers we find indication of the limited use of sabres in the Civil War. There are 253,152 individual cases listed which have specific information on the cause of a wound, method of treatment, and the follow up to final recovery or death. Though many officers and men of both regular and volunteer cavalry were killed or wounded by gunshot canister, or grape, only 510 sabre wounds are recorded, with 24 deaths, 19 of which were caused by sabre cuts on the head. All of these cases were analyzed and recorded in the Surgeon General’s office during the 1870s. There were also some 27,000 wounded men who, though listed by name and outfit, were apparently treated and released

Why The Sabre? continued

from field hospitals as fit for duty. (See vol. 7 p 2, and vol. 8 p 466) After Appomattox Southerners returned home, many tired of War but bitter in defeat, and prepared for the coming undeclared War of Reconstruction, while in the North the Government started getting rid of a million or so volunteers, made plans for a Freedman's Bureau, and continued the ongoing undeclared War against Western Indians. The Regular Army was downsized to about 26,000 officers and men but did include four new cavalry regiments, two of which, the 9th and 10th, were segregated units with black enlisted men and white officers. The postwar cavalry was armed mostly with Spencer carbines, Colt and Remington revolvers, and the trusty sabre; some Sharps, Maynard, and Burnside carbines were still in use by the older regiments. By 1866 much of the U.S. Cavalry was in the field, riding out to relieve volunteers at old posts on the overland trails and to start construction of new posts in territory claimed by largely hostile Indians. There followed over twenty years of episodic savage warfare as Indians from Texas to Montana fought the inevitable destruction of their way of life and new cavalymen would learn old lessons in fighting the Indian.

As previously noted, the sabre had seen little use in the prewar Indian conflicts and most experienced cavalry officers agreed with Maj. Bracket opinion that "The sabre in fighting Indians is nothing but a nuisance." And, by the time of the Custer disaster ten years later, most cavalry units left their sabres in storage when out looking for Indians. A notable exception is found in the 1866 Fetterman Massacre in Wyoming, a wipeout similar to Custer's, where 2nd Cavalry Lt. G.W. Grummond died with his sabre in his hand. He knew how to use it too; Indians later identified him as the officer on the white horse who cut off a warriors head with a single stroke of his sabre. (See J.D. McDermott's RED CLOUD'S WAR, p.223) Ten days before this he and several other

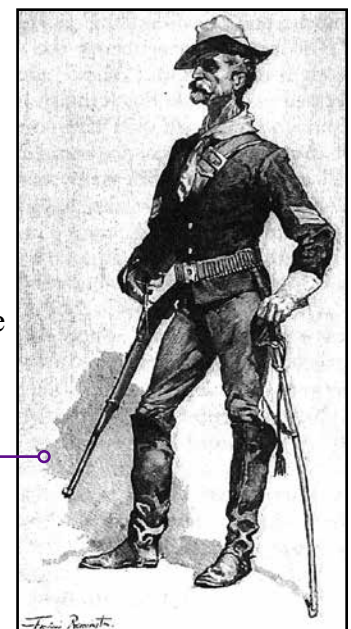


1870s cavalry weapons-Spencer carbine, Colt or Remington revolver and sabre.

2nd cavalymen had used their sabres to slash through a line of Sioux Warriors near Fort Phil Kearny where, despite their sabres, they were later killed. (McDermott, p 189) Perhaps they, unlike most other cavalry regiments, had been trained in the use of the sabre, for like target practice sabre drill was left up entirely to company commanders and thus often ignored. The hit and run tactics of Plains Indians did not offer much opportunity for use of the sabre which led to continuing disagreement on its issue.

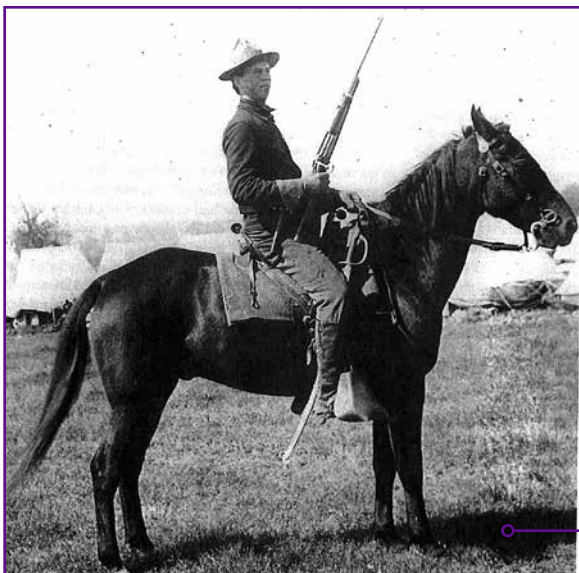
Some of the arguments in favor of keeping the sabre seem more emotional than practical as does this fervid letter published in the Oct, 1876 issue of the popular ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL: "It never misses fire, and who does not believe that the gallant Custer would not have given millions for a hundred sabres when he made his last stand". This was written by Capt. Frederick Whittaker who soon after deified Custer in his A LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE A. CUSTER, N.Y., 1876. On the other side, in a long letter to the Sec. of War (also published in the ARMY & NAVY JOURNAL) Chief Ordnance Officer Stephen V. Benet wrote against the Sabre citing its little use in the War and viewing it as an unnecessary expense "During the War of Rebellion discarding the sabre would have saved the U.S. nearly \$2,500,000, and the load of the cavalymen would have been reduced by 4 1/2 lbs." And so the debate continued.

Finally in March, 1884 a Cavalry Equipment Board was convened and a questionnaire sent to the officers of all ten regiments seeking their views on current cavalry equipment, including the sabre. 134 questionnaires were returned with the personal and at times colorful opinions of these most combat experienced regimental



Cavalry Sergeant, 1880s sketch by Frederic Remington.

Why The Sabre? continued



Cavalry weapons 1896, 5 shot Krag carbine, 6 shot Colt .38 double action revolver, and sabre.

officers. Said 10th Cav. Major Anson Mills, "The sabre is not only an encumbrance but an unbearable nuisance", which expressed the feelings of most 9th and 10th cavalry officers. 3rd Cav. Col. David Clendenen thought "The sabre is a thing of the past". 5th Cav. Capt. Charles King said, perhaps in jest "The sabre is too long for a scalp knife". 6th Cav. Capt. Gilbert Overton in similar vein said "Without training, the sabre might better be replaced with a good club". Looking to the future, officers thought the sabre would be useful in controlling riots and labor strikes. But 5th Cav. Capt. Louis Carpenter presented other reasons for keeping the sabre: "It is the traditional arm of the mounted service and essential for maintaining the Esprit de Corps." Echoing this thought is 8th Cav. Capt. James Randlett: "Next to his horse it is the pride of the good cavalry soldier and should be retained". 7th Cav. Capt. Charles DeRudio agreed "A cavalryman without a sabre is but a poor mounted infantryman." And there were quite a few officers who valued the sabre its role in developing expert horsemen with the mounted sabre drill.

Overall, of the officers returning the questionnaire, 57% felt quite positive about retaining the sabre, the power of established tradition perhaps being the deciding factor. The sabre itself did not change much either, in shape or size, from 1833 until 1913 when the "Patton" sabre was adopted. Designed by old "blood and guts" himself, it was a straight, double edged sword worthy of King Richard the Lion Hearted, and no doubt would have taken care of revolting peasants. Though outmoded as a model weapon of war it was cavalry issue until 1934 as my uncle could testify. And the horse, the very heart of cavalry tradition, would not last much longer than the sabre. Although European armies still had masses of cavalry, WW1 had proven that horsemen had no chance against machine guns and moveable armor. In the United States mechanization of the cavalry had begun in the 1930s but was not a priority until Pearl Harbor, Dec.7, 1941.

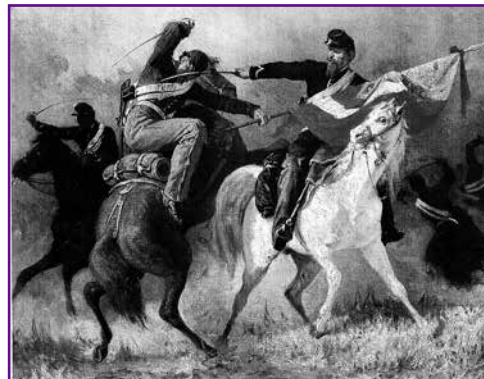


Model 13 "Patton" sabre, issued until 1934.

I was 17 at the time and remember thinking about what I might be doing in another year or so. In late March, 1942 the Government eliminated the Office of Chief of Cavalry, thus abolishing the horse cavalry. Ironically, in that same month, the last unit of American Horse Cavalry to see action came to a tragic end in the Philippines. After being on the move for over a month fighting the Japanese on Bataan, the 26th Cavalry (the Philippine Scouts), being out of Forage for their horses and food for themselves, decided to kill and eat their horses thereby reenacting the scenario performed by Gen. George Crook and his starving troopers during the Sioux War of 1876.

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Final Thoughts On Gun Leather

by Dale H. Peterson

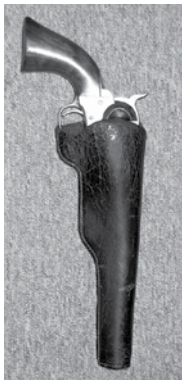
In two earlier articles published in the MWCA Bulletins, Jan 2008, Vol 1, Issue No. 1 and Fall 2008, Vol 2, Issue No. 2, Stan Nelson's article covered the inception of a pistol or revolver on the hip or belt. Included were illustrations of famous or infamous western personalities and their selection of holsters suited to their particular occupations or professions. The second article was on construction of cheaper leather holsters or sometimes called Hardware Holsters. This article will conclude the series on civilian gun leather with the quality made holster and better named leather workers from the late 1850s to the 1930s.

In Richard C. Rattenburg's book "Packing Iron, Gun Leather of the Frontier West" he lists a number of better known makers and their products such as Al Furstnow, R. T. Fraizier, H. H. Heiser, S. D. Myres and others. Many of these gentlemen not only produced gun leather but made saddles, saddle bags, boots, scabbards and a variety of quality leather products. There were also holsters produced by small shops that were not marked as the major makers were, never the less they were a quality product.

One of the biggest differences between the hardware and the brand name holsters was the quality of the leather used as well as the construction and workmanship. There was a real pride in the product they produced.

Prior to and after the Civil War a great number of civilians headed west to seek their fortune or escape their misfortune. Most individuals carried a side arm of sorts, whether it was a percussion or a new cartridge revolver. The majority of these revolvers came in a variety of shapes and sizes so there was a real need for a good quality holster. Unlike the military leather which was covered by regulation, the leather maker could design the holster to fit the style and shape of the revolver. Many of the earlier holsters were designed to be carried on the left side, following the old military tradition, or were designed to be cross draw holsters.

Here are some examples that were designed to fit one and only one particular revolver:



1850s California Style "Slim Jim" holster made to fit the contours of a 1851 Colt Navy, unknown maker.



Transitional Half-Hap holster for a Colt 1849 Pocket Model, quality heavy leather, unknown maker.



Late 1870s holster for a Forehand & Wadsworth "Old Model Army." Size and shape for that particular revolver only, unknown maker.

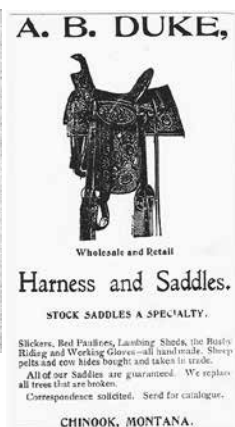


1860s California Pattern double leather with decorative stitching for a Smith & Wesson No. 2 Army, unknown maker.



This "Mexican Loop" pattern is marked "Rerrault Walington & Company, Boise And Weiser, Idaho" several large frame revolvers fit quite well in it. When I purchased it, it was housing an 1858 Remington Conversion.

Final Thoughts On Gun Leather, continued



A. B. Duke, Chinook, Montana single loop holster is for a Colt Lightning. Duke was a saddle maker and specialized in leather products in the 1880s including this combination cartridge and money belt.



“Al Furstnow, Miles City Montana” is the maker of this left-handed holster which is made for a 7 1/2” Colt Single Action. Circa 1880-1890, Furstnow also made other leather goods such as chaps.



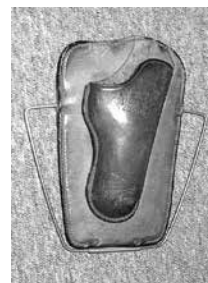
Pocket holster, unmarked, 4 1/2” x 7” made to slide into the back pocket.



Shoulder holster or “Skelton Pattern” by Al Furstnow and is so marked. Circa 1890-1910.



H. H. Heiser, Denver, Colorado is one of the better known producers of leather products. This turn of the century marked holster is for a Colt Lightning.



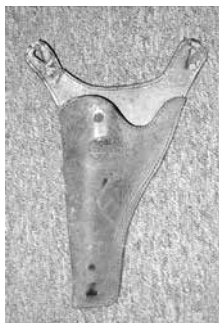
Gaskill's Non-Pull Out holster patented 1908-1914, made for a small automatic-pistol also a pocket holster that would stay secure in the back pocket.



Mexican Loop Pattern by Heiser, circa 1905-1915, a similar Heiser holster with a “Bills-Head” stamped in the big circle sold for \$1.00 prior to World War I.

Attention fellow collectors! We need your help to fill these pages. How about submitting an article on your collection or favorite firearm, reloading or any related item? Contact Dale at 763-753-1663 or any MWCA board member.

Final Thoughts On Gun Leather, continued



Unusual suspender or button holster by "T. Koch, Seguin Texas," soft leather lined construction, circa 1910-1920.



"Texas Jock Strap" holster made by S. P. Myres of El Paso, Texas, Circa 1920-1930. I guess it is quite obvious how it got its name.



Another Quality Heiser holster beautifully carved and made to handle a Early Colt New Service revolver.



Well made "Sewn Loop" holster for a large single action revolver such as this Smith & Wesson Model 1874, unknown maker.

Here are some examples of the holsters that are available today:



Small leather holster made by Bauer Bros. Mfg. Co. of St. Louis, Mo. It will accommodate a small double action revolver of various brands and has a flap on the back that slips under your belt.



Cloth or Nylon holster marketed by Smith & Wesson marked size 24-32; it is made for a double action revolver with up to a 4" barrel and is made to wear on a belt.



Uncle Mike's ad from a recent catalog. As you can see, there are a variety of holsters available and a number of sizes for each style. Typical of the early hardware holsters, "one size fits all."

There has been quite an evolution in the development of holsters, from a simple belt hook that slipped over a waist sash (see Stan Nelson's article in January 2008 MWCA Bulletin) to a one size fits all, to the custom fitting fancy rig and back to the one size fits most or a variety of the same size of different models. I'm a little old fashion and prefer the 1880s style and appreciate the fine craftsmanship that went into making a quality product.

MWCA Contributes

Among the many contributions MWCA makes annually, shaping the future for our youth is of utmost importance. Examples include firearms safety and marksmanship training. We were pleased to contribute a total of \$27,000 to the following organizations during 2012:

- National Rifle Association Museum Fund
- National Rifle Association Acorn Fund
- American Legion Richfield Post 435 Gun Club
- White Bear Lake High School Trap Shooting Program
- Kanabec County 4H Youth Shooting Program
- Red Arrow Camp Youth Shooting Program
- Minnetonka Game and Fish Club
- City of Edina Firearms Safety Classes
- Camp Esquagama
- Minnesota State High School Clay Target League
- Buffalo Conservation Club
- Owatonna Gun Club Youth Programs
- Scott County Youth Firearms Safety
- Minnesota Military Historical Society
- Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America

If you are teaching a youth firearms safety class, we offer a complimentary show pass to each class graduate (and accompanying parents). Please contact the MWCA if you would like more information.

“Women On Target”

Rich Tollefson from the Minnetonka Game and Fish Club at St. Francis, Minnesota accepts a check from MWCA board member Dale H Peterson.

The money was used to provide ammunition and targets for an NRA sponsored event called “Women On Target.” Approximately forty women spent the day at the club learning the safe handling of a variety of firearms.



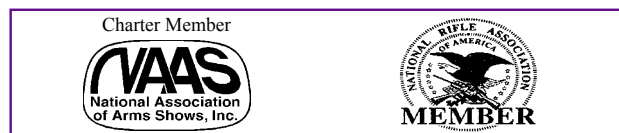
Support The NRA!

Sign up now! Call 800-672-3888 or go to www.nra.org



Support The MWCA!

For membership application call 612-721-8976 or go to www.mwca.org



MWCA Contributes, continued

Minnesota Military Museum

MWCA is proud to be a contributing sponsor of the Minnesota Military Museum.

Established in 1977, the museum vividly interprets the experiences of our state's military men and women. Indoor and outdoor exhibits depict the stories and contributions of Minnesotans who served in all branches of service, in peace and war, from Minnesota's early days through both World Wars and the many recent worldwide deployments. The museum is open to the public year around at Camp Ripley, conveniently located between St. Cloud and Brainerd near a major tourist highway.

The *Minnesota's Two Civil Wars* exhibit gallery opened in 2011. Minnesota was the first state to offer troops to defend the Union and then fought its own civil war in 1862 with Dakota Indians. The ambitious new exhibit features rare artifacts, photographs, and several fully equipped mannequins. It commemorates the heroic role played by Minnesotans of all ages, races and genders in what many consider to be the most significant events in Minnesota's history.



Minnesota and the Civil War

1861 - 1866

*A Special Exhibit commemorating
the 150th anniversary of Minnesota's
role in Civil War and Dakota War*



Aaron Greenwald, Anoka
Killed at Battle of Gettysburg

Minnesota Military Museum
15000 Hwy. 115, Camp Ripley
Little Falls, MN 56345
Phone: 320-632-7374
Email: mnmuseum@yahoo.com



MWCA Contributes, continued

Owatonna Gun Club Youth Program



Post 435 Gun Club



Scott County Firearm Safety Class - Fall 2012



Scott County Youth Firearms Safety Class
Spring 2012




Various firearms safety and marksmanship training photos:



Wanted: Old Guns, Ammo, Military Items, Knives,
Civil War Items, Photographs, and General Antiques.

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CIVIL WAR COLLECTOR

Meet Your Board Of Directors

John Chappuie is the new President, Mark Reese is Vice President, Brian VanKleek is Secretary and Alvin Olson is Treasurer. If you have any question and/or suggestion about MWCA policies, show rules etc. they will be glad to answer them.



John Chappuie
President



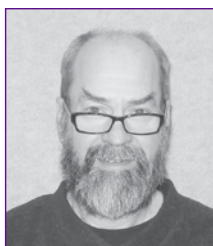
Mark Reese
Vice President



Brian VanKleek
Secretary



Alvin Olson
Treasurer



David Hinrichs



Dale H Peterson



Ed Pohl



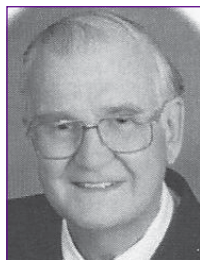
Larry Rogers



Dave Strand

Directors

In Memoriam



Gene Kulzer

Gene was a gentleman with a friendly smile who loved to talk about his elk hunting trips. He was an active member and exhibitor at the MWCA shows who handled quality firearms. He will be missed by many.



John Castor

John Castor was a long time member of the MWCA and was club president in 1971. He was a delightful gentleman who had many projects going up to his passing at the age of 90. John was a good friend and will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.



John Pfiefer

John was a good friend and fellow collector who enjoyed researching old firearms. He was an active member in the MWCA, annually setting up a display of Civil War items at our trophy shows and contributing articles for the MWCA Bulletin. John was a great guy with a ready smile and will be missed by his friends and fellow collectors.

Jim Thomas

Retired Master Sergeant, US Army Special Forces. Awarded the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and two Purple Hearts during his two tours in Vietnam. He accomplished many things in his life, but his service in Vietnam remained one of his proudest achievements. Jim was a talented craftsman, art collector, writer and a weapons enthusiast and collector. He owned a successful business and supported wildlife and nature. He spoke often of the peace he found in the seclusion of being "up north," watching the deer, ducks and other wildlife.

Terry Franey

Terry Franey died on June 18th after a two-year battle with cancer. Terry was an early and very proud member of the MWCA.

Heritage Arms Society's 24th Annual Antique Arms Collectors Show

This is Minnesota's longest-running show dedicated exclusively to antique sporting arms, accouterments, ammunition, edged weapons and militaria produced from pre Colonial days through WW 2. This is a quality arms show sponsored and attended by the area's leading collectors offering historical, antique and collectable arms and related items. Only legal arms produced before 1945 are allowed.

Friday, March 29, 2013 • 12:00 - 6:00 PM (members & exhibitors only)

Saturday, March 30, 2013 9:00 am — 3:00 PM

Public Welcome — Admission \$5.00 — Free Parking all day

For information call evenings (952) 888-1079

Eagan Civic Arena

3830 Pilot Knob Road

Eagan, Minnesota.

One mile South of 35E on Pilot Knob Road

(3 mile South of 494)

Ask for special Gun Show rates:

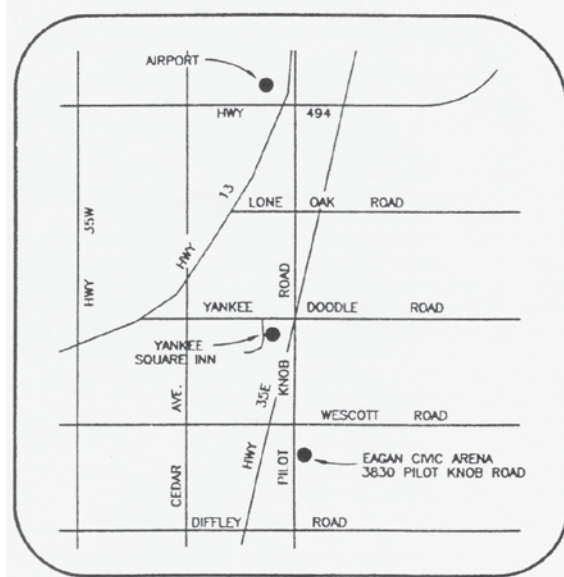
Best Western, 651-454-0100

Yankee Square Inn

3450 Washington Drive, Eagan, Minnesota

Future Show Dates

March 28 - 29, 2014



Heritage Arms Society

Collectors' Arms Show - Space Reservation Application

Exhibitor Badge Rules: Each exhibitor is authorized two badges for the first table and one additional badge for each authorized table. Complete, sign and date this form and return it with your check to Heritage Arms Society, P.O. Box 20532, Bloomington MN 55420.

No space will be confirmed until full payment and signed form is received. All sales and display tables must remain open until 3:00 P.M. Saturday - failure to do so, without prior approval, will exclude you from future tables.

I have read and agree to abide by all show rules:

Signature

of Table Holder _____

Date _____

Additional

Badge Names _____

Reserve _____ sales tables at \$40 per table
(Sales tables for Heritage Arms Society Members are \$30 per table)

Reserve _____ display tables at \$10 per table

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (must accompany application)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

* No refunds will be made for cancellations received later than 7 days prior to the beginning of the show.