

Hunter Arms Co.
FULTON, N.Y.



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L.C. SMITH

Collectors Association

L.C. SMITH SPEAKS FOR ITSELF



SPECIAL EDITION:
HOMECOMING



The Journal of the
L.C. SMITH
Collectors Association

Winter 2011

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Cover Photo: 50'x15' painting done by the grandson of Charles Jerred, last engraver at Hunter Arms, done in 2009



Special Points of Interest:

- Executive Director article
- From the Records
- Hunters Arms Homecoming
- Future Events

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Executive Director's Page

Autumn Expectations

By Frank J. Finch, Jr.

Autumn is upon us followed all too quickly by the holiday season. As I write this article, my two setters are pacing the yard in eager anticipation of opening day of upland bird hunting in New Jersey. The dogs sense the change in the weather with freshness of the North West breeze and the temperature drop after Hurricane Irene and the "freak" snow storm of October.


As Norman Vincent Peale suggested, "If you paint in your mind a picture of bright and happy expectations, you put yourself into a condition conducive to your goal". Our organization has painted a picture of many fun club events. This fall we began at the Vintage Cup at Pintail Point, followed by the Hunter Homecoming in Fulton and finally the Turkey Shoot at Prince Georges Trap and Skeet. (Summaries of these events are found in this Journal edition.) We speed along from event to event enjoying the camaraderie. A day in the field with our favorite dog and Smith gun, attending a club shoot, visiting a gun show, collecting Smith guns, researching our collection, networking with other Smith enthusiasts are all opportunities to enjoy the essence of a L.C. Smith aficionado's life!

It is my objective as Director of our organization to continue to provide you with something to look forward to and to enjoy with your L.C. Smith gun and fellow members. Our goal for the 2012 Event Schedule (1st Quarter found in this issue) is to balance the opportunities of sharing and collecting Smith guns at gun shows; and shooting our L.C. Smiths at our club events. This preliminary schedule attempts to present new/additional events located around the country. Your BOD is currently reviewing the event schedule to include additional club events based upon suggestions and offers of volunteerism from our membership. Members' willingness to participate at events is crucial to the success of increasing club

events. This is an invitation to you to propose a venue in your area and be a part of the continued expansion of our club.

The accounting firm of "Baumohl and Baumohl" has tabulated the results from BOD election. Chris Baumohl, reports a unanimous vote for Jimmy Baker, Jim Stubbendieck and Frank Finch for the three director positions. We welcome Jimmy Baker to our BOD. The electrets have promised to re-energize our organization as we move forward to accomplish our club's goals and objectives.

Mark your calendar to attend our planned club shoots. The Annual Spring Shoot at Carlisle Fish and Game Club in Carlisle, PA will be held on March 19, 2012. This fun and popular event is a great "warm-up" for the Southern Side by Side in April. For information and reservations, contact Rev. Charlie at Pastorcharlie1949@yahoo or (410-756-2095).

During this holiday season, it is a wonderful time to look forward to enjoying friends and family, to remember our servicemen and women who make huge sacrifices for our freedoms, and to give thanks for the bounty we receive daily. I want to thank each of you for your attitude of expectancy, your camaraderie and the sharing of your sporting time with our organization. 



Election Of Board Of Directors

There were three Board positions up for election this year. Frank Finch, Jim Stubbendieck and Len Applegate. Frank and Jim agreed to run for re-election and Len has decided to step down. All of us in the club owe Len a great deal of thanks for all he has done for our organization. **Thank you** Len!

Jimmy Baker was nominated to fill the spot for Len, and as there were no write-in ballots, it was a unanimous vote.

Ballots were mailed out after the September Journal. 106 ballots were returned out of over 600 sent out.

Congratulations to our new Directors! 





Turkey Tradition

By Roger Domer

The 2011 L. C. Smith Turkey Shoot was another resounding success. We couldn't have ordered a better day. We had 30 shooters.... all using L C Smith shotguns. It's always a thrill to see the beautiful 'Elsies' doing what comes naturally to them.

The High Overall winner was Chuck Brady. Reverend Charlie Brooks won the trap and 5-stand events. Mike Harris won the sporting clays event.

Stiff competition was exhibited in all events. Michael White and Chuck Brady tied Charlie Brooks in 5-stand by hitting 21 of 25 targets, but lost to Charley in the play-off count. Also, Chuck Brady tied Charlie in trap with 22 of 25 targets, but lost in the play-off count.



Frank Finch, Chuck Brady, Roger Domer. High Overall Shooter Award goes to Chuck Brady



L-R Milt Fitterman, Charles Brooks Jr., Daryl Corona, A. Hamilton, Jay Baskette, Steve Arnett, Rev. Charles Brooks Sr., D. Hamilton, Kimball Ferguson

Three turkeys were raffled with the winners being Anne Mauro, Milt Fitterman, and John Rau. Also, two Hunter Arms Company factory bricks were raffled and won by Bill Sank and Gary Dunkelberger.



L-R Mike Harris- High Sporting Clays Shooter, Rev. Charles Brooks Sr.- High Trap and 5 Stand Shooter. Chuck Brady-High Overall Shooter, Roger Domer-coordinator, Frank Finch.

These bricks were acquired on-site in Fulton, NY, at the recent Hunter Arms Homecoming; brass identifier plates were made for these special artifacts.

We had a great time. Many thanks to the folks that helped make this LCSCA traditional event happen, i.e., Bob Trefry, Frank Finch, Charlie Brooks, Sr., Jent Mitchell, Jim Stubbendiek, our L. C. Smith web guys, the three brothers at Three Brothers caterers, several folks at the Prince Georges Trap and Skeet Center (PGT&S) including Mark Biggins, Bill Clark, Don Swan and John Abreau. Last, but not least, I thank our friends and fellow shooters in the LCSCA that support this event every year, and several new shooters. Eleven participants out of thirty came from states outside of Maryland. Thanks to all for coming to our Turkey Shoot.

The next Turkey Shoot will be held on October 27, 2012. We are looking forward to seeing you at PGT&S next year. We are already thinking of new challenges to make the 2012 Turkey Shoot an enjoyable day.



Left - Reverend Charles Brooks Sr, and Frank Finch. High Trap and 5 Stand Shooter Award



Front row-Master Benjamin Hall, Jent P. Mitchell III. Second row-Tom Cutler, Kimball Ferguson, Roger Domer, Bob Skove, Jay Baskette, Gary Dunkelberger, Don Swan. Third row-Jim Hall, Anne Mauro, Rev. Charles Brooks Sr., Bob Trefry, Daryl Corona, John Rau, Bill Sank. Back row- Chuck Brady, Michael J. White, Mike Harris, John Bleimaier, Steve Arnett, Charles Brooks Jr., Chris Jensen, Milt Fitterman, Frank Finch, Roger Sullivan, James Gollmer Jr.





The L.C. Smith Single Trigger

By Jerry Andrews

Not so long ago the Hunter One Trigger really took some bad press. I read an article in a magazine that blasted the trigger in every respect. I found it most odd as I've installed over 50 of those triggers from scratch and never had a complaint about how they worked. As with any mechanical trigger however it's reliability is related directly to it's history. Once opened up and worked on by an incompetent "gunsmith" then "Katie bar the door", anything may happen. A word of caution. You need to be a gunsmith familiar with mechanical procedures or you should be very mechanically inclined. Opening up these old guns can be very difficult and if you don't know what you are doing you can do *way* more damage than good in a very short time. This article is intended for the person with some ability to repair mechanical items smaller than say...a shovel. Parts are scare, expensive and often not available regardless of the amount of money you have in your pocket. So, first order is to "Do no harm". We'll proceed from there.

I use a dummy screw to hold the lock plates in place. Make a dummy screw the *exact* length of the original to use while adjusting and timing these lock plates. Your top tang screw under the top lever must be timed, the slot will run the same direction as your barrels, and the bottom tang screw under your trigger guard should be flush with the frame behind the safety.

The HOT (Hunter One Trigger) depends upon proper tolerances between the knock off block and the sears. The knock off block is that little piece of metal that slides back and forth when you push your selector from right to left and left to right. It slides under the sears when you select one side or the other and when you pull the trigger, that is the piece of metal that actually touches the sear, lifts it and makes the gun fire. With the lock plates off you can see it while moving the selector button.

If all other parts area working the adjustment is fairly simple. I start with one side, permitting that side to function alone and it should work properly regardless of how the trigger is selected. Even if the left lock plate is in the stock and the trigger is selected to fire the right

side, the trigger should still engage the sear. In fact, that's one of the tests that can be done to find out if the trigger is indeed in adjustment. If the opposite side is selected, the trigger should "rise" a bit higher before catching the sear. If it does not, then the sear could be sticking through the sear window too far, or the sear is too low to the trigger mechanism. If it's too low, the selector will not toggle back and forth, another "check" to see if the adjustment is proper.

Once one side works properly, take that lock out of the stock and engage the other lock and make it work independently also. Keep in mind if the selector will not toggle back and forth as freely with the plates engaged as it does with no plates in the stock, then the sears are too low and must be filed or heated and bent back in to place. I do *not* recommend bending any parts without first heating, and only heating an area that does not require a specific hardness. This must all be done slowly and gently.

Once both locks appear to be adjusted independently, then install both locks and the original connector screw to finalize the proper timing. The screw slot will be horizontal to the floor when the gun is shouldered and the screw will be flush to the outside of the right lock plate. If the trigger does not work at this point, some small adjustments will need to be made but they should be minor at this point if the trigger worked before. So here is a rundown of how the trigger adjustment should happen. Before you start to adjust the trigger be sure all your parts are working and nothing is bent or damaged. Refer to any of the L.C. Smith books out there with pictures of the HOT.



- 1 Set top & bottom tang screws to proper depth.
- 2 Make a dummy screw for the side lock connector
- 3 Install one lock with the other lock empty and adjust that lock to work left right or right left. Repeat for the other side. You must have a screw installed connecting the lock plates in order for the trigger to work properly. Holding it in with your hand does not count and is not reliable.
- 4 Make sure the selector button will slide freely under both sears.
- 5 Install original selector screw and make small adjustments from there.
- 6 Sear pull should be crisp with regular pounds of pull on each side.
- 7 If the trigger appears to be out of adjustment still go back and check screw depth and timing.





Hunter Arms Homecoming Friends of History

By J. David Williamson

First, thanks to Bill Winters, Townsend Breeden, Roger Domer and Rich Beyer for making this event happen. Bill spent many hours and trips from Maryland to Fulton, organizing and working along with the staff at the Friends of History at the J.W. Pratt Museum.

Myself and hopefully everyone that attended would like to thank the staff for preparing this event. They went out of their way to accommodate us with tables, table cloths, chairs and whatever we needed. I would also like to thank Alex Seymor for his great job in organizing the L.C. Smith room upstairs. The only thing is Alex, you will be needing a bigger room.

Thanks also to the Pathfinder's Rod & Gun Club for a great event that was put together by Rich Beyer, Townsend and Roger.

The J.W. Pratt Museum is set up in an old home, built in, I believe 1850. It is located on South First Street, right down the road from where the Hunter Arms factory was located. The ceilings are 10 feet tall, the woodwork is gorgeous as are all the rooms. The museum pieces are all about Fulton's history through the years and they have some great artifacts. And talking about artifacts, they have some Hunter Arms things that have never been seen. One is a hand written ledger from A.P. Curtis, books of photographs taken of the buildings. A Hunter bicycle, Hunter Fans, both ceiling and table top models, all in working order. There were some L.C. Smith one of a kind engraving plates, A lunch box special with some elaborate engraving on loan from Gary Smith, whose father was a checker for the L.C. Smith Gun Company from 1949-1950.

As for our trip there. Roger Domer picked me up Thursday morning for our trip North. First to Oswego to get our room. Roger used his Magellan GPS for navigation and everything was fine until we arrived where the Magellan said the Econo Lodge was. Problem is, it wasn't there. We drove down the street until a dead end or any further we would have been in Lake Ontario. Turned around and I went into a Subway to see where it might be. The young man went outside with me and said "I thought it was there", pointing to a Quality Inn sign. I went into the Quality Inn and discretely asked about an Econo Lodge. The girl laughed and said Tuesday the Econo Lodge became Quality Inn.

Settled into the room and looked out the window looking at the Oswego River running down into Lake Ontario. I remember this area from the 1980's coming up here fishing for salmon and steelhead that run out of the lake into the river to spawn.

The steelhead follow to eat the eggs. What a treat to catch a 20+ pound salmon on a fly rod or a 10 pound steelhead that takes you into the backing.

Roger and I had dinner in the restaurant at the Quality Inn and just talked about the upcoming events for the weekend.

The weather on the ride up was cloudy, rain, sunny, rain, cloudy, rain, rain.

Friday morning looked out the window, sunny, great, went and had some breakfast, then went to Fulton 12 miles away on a beautiful 4 lane highway right into Fulton. Went over the bridge and went down South First Street to the Pratt Museum. Unloaded some hammer guns that I was displaying and was given a tour of the museum. Later set-up table and by now it was lunch time. We asked about a place to eat and Sharon Santoro, one of the staff, said there was a place down on the main road called Mimi's. Her husband Dennis, who helps out and did a fantastic job, showed us the way. On the way he stopped along the river on South First Street and showed us a painting done by Charlie Jerred's grandson. Charlie Jerred was one of the last engravers at Fulton and was taught by one of the best engravers in the world then, Albert E. Kraus.

The grandson's painting is stunning, it is the whole side of a building and is our Winters Journal cover. It has to be 50 feet long by 12-15 feet high and was done in 2009.

Friday afternoon there was a trip set up to go Sterling Valley to see the Hunter Homestead. When we arrived, we were introduced to Barbara J. Wadsworth-Rodgers, great-great granddaughter of Verna Irene Hunter-Wadsworth (daughter of John Hunter) and Clair (Waddy) Wadsworth (draftsman for Hunter Arms Co. and the owner of serial number 100 a 28 ga one of a kind ?). Also there was James Hunter, great-great grandson of James C. Hunter (one of the six brothers to run Hunter Arms.) They showed us through the house and answered many hundreds of questions and showed us many photographs of the families and photo albums of some of the brothers hunting. Just too much to take, in such a short time.

The house is as it was when John Hunter lived there. The room furniture, kitchen, bed rooms all left the way they were. Barbara showed us before electricity was there how oil was used to light lamps. Also the radiators, looked to me made of bronze, instead of cast iron. I noticed most of the exposed piping looked to be bronze also. In an upstairs hallway was a cabinet that Barbara said was a steamship trunk that the family used when they traveled abroad. In this was some clothing and in one round cardboard box was the





collars that the gentlemen used around their shirts. These were starched and looked like new. Also on this floor was a cabinet that had a huge Lenox vase that was a trophy presented to Hunter Arms, and one of a kind. The dining room table, huge in itself, had albums, memorabilia, and a gunstock that Barbara found in a drawer just before we arrived. It was a gorgeous checkered and figured stock from an A2. (serial number and grade in trigger guard in-letting)

The Pièce de résistance was when James went to the car and brought in a shotgun that belonged to his great-great grandfather, James C. Hunter. We all drooled over it. It had engraving all over it, not a blank piece of metal without engraving. There was a dogs head on each side of the receiver bottom. A hunting scene on the left lock plate depicting a hunter shooting at two rising snipe/ woodcock with three setters on point. L.C. Smith is in an oval around the hammer axel, scroll work, then an oval with a setter running after a woodcock on the long leg of the side plate, then more scroll, another larger oval with a setter on point, back of lock a woodcock in an oval. Top of lock plate a quail.

Right lock plate, back of lock plate, a quail in an oval, scroll work, a large oval depicting a hunter shooting at a grouse with two setters on point, top of lock plate in corner, a grouse, more scroll below, a setter chasing a bird on the long leg of the lock and then in a larger oval, a setter on point before the hinge pin. All metal engraved. Barrels are Sir Joseph Whitworth Steel and interesting to note, no safety, live pigeon gun or trap gun with two ivory beads, when shouldered, it mounts high for rising birds or clay targets. Also had two gold bars, one where the extension rib is joined and the other one up farther near the tip of the extension rib. Gun was built in 1901. The for-end checkering is outstanding.

When Dr. Jim Stubbendieck arrived with the records Saturday, he confirmed the serial number as being made in 1901 and it was an ME, or Monogram with ejectors. But I believe it is a Monogram + with the engraving on it. The trigger guard has J.C. Hunter in gold. Even though this gun is lettered as a Monogram, it has the engraving pattern of an A2 third variation, but with more engraving. If you think about it, I would almost guarantee that Albert E. Kraus engraved it and knowing it was going to one of the brothers put more engraving on it, wouldn't you over do the engraving?

Thank you James for showing us this. He was also glad to get some information on his great-great grandfather's gun. Dr. Jim S. said he will send a Records Letter to him.

Friday evening, the Friends of Fulton at the Pratt Museum invited us for wine and cheese. We all talked about the different objects in the museum, but mostly it was about the Hunter Arms Co, and the L.C. Smith's they produced. Thanks for a lovely evening.

Oct.1, Saturday morning, cloudy. On our way to Fulton and then to Pathfinder's Rod & Gun Club 2.5 miles outside of town. Naturally by the time we started to shoot skeet it started to lightly rain. Shot the first twenty five with a 6 man squad with the rain

just about stopped. Was getting ready to shoot the next round and had more people join in, now we had a 10 man squad and the rain started again but this time heavier. I left after 50 rounds to go back to the museum to help Bob Trefry answer any questions regarding our displays. Back at the Pratt Museum, people were coming in with their guns and Dr Jim Stubbendieck with his computer and the records, was taking serial numbers and giving information to those who inquired. Some interesting items also came in and one person had a print from Hunter Arms showing an over/under shotgun.

The museum closed at 5:00 p.m. and a few of us, Oddvar Skadberg, Townsend Breedan, Andy Anderson and myself sat around talking and then it was time to go to the Homecoming Banquet and Awards dinner held right down the street at the Tavern on the Lock Restaurant.

Opening Remarks from Wes Weldin, staff member, welcoming the L.C. Collectors Association. From 6:00 to 7:00 pm cash bar then dinner which was a nice welcome after a chilly, rainy day. Followed by coffee and a huge cake with the inscription, Friends of History in Fulton Welcomes the L.C. Smith Collector's Association. The food was excellent and the cake was very good.

After this is was the Awards presentation, and before going any farther, again I would like to thank Bill Winters and Dawn King for these awards. The are outstanding. A beautiful mahogany box approx. 7" long by 4 1/2" wide and 4" high. The top has a round inset with Hunter Arms Homecoming showing the L.C. Smith dog and a shotgun, above that Friends in a banner. Inside is lined with felt, and would make a nice jewelry box or mementos box. This was inside a fitted green cardboard box. Expertly done Bill and Dawn and made in the U.S.A.

Now for the Awards. The Mayor's Award went to a display in the Pratt Museum. The Mayor, Ron Woodward said it was a difficult decision and picked Rich Beyer's display of all L.C. Smith .410's. Along with this, Rich had photo albums of the early Hunter Arms building, painting by Albert E. Kraus, the engraver for Hunter Arms and a great painter. Rich states he has found some of the sites that Kraus used for his paintings.

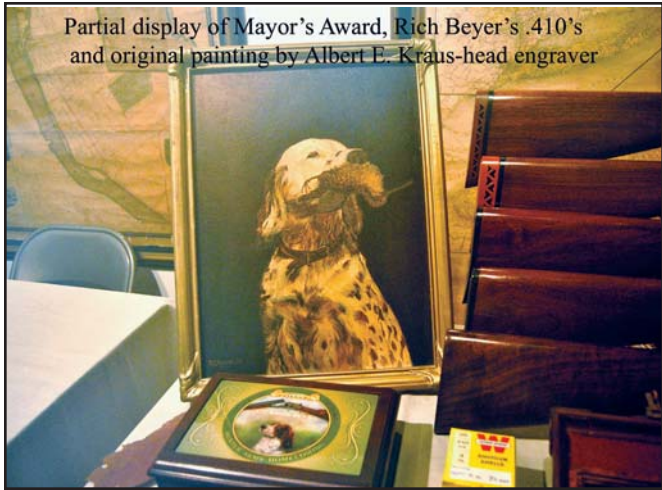
Peoples' Choice Award: This award was from people that came into the museum. Upon entering and paying at the desk, they were given a piece of paper with a number to each of the displays, and to nominate the one that they liked. On the way out they would drop it off in a box.

This Award went to Bob and Silvia Trefry. I really think it should have gone to Silvia as she gave it that woman's touch with some of the add-ons. Great job to both of you.

High Trap Award: Went to Tom Salzar who shot a 48 x 50. Not an easy thing to do with 20-35 mph gusts of wind and rain. Great shooting Tom.

High Skeet Award: This award was won by Don Nickerson who shot a 45 x 50. Again not so easy.





Partial display of Mayor's Award, Rich Beyer's .410's and original painting by Albert E. Kraus-head engraver

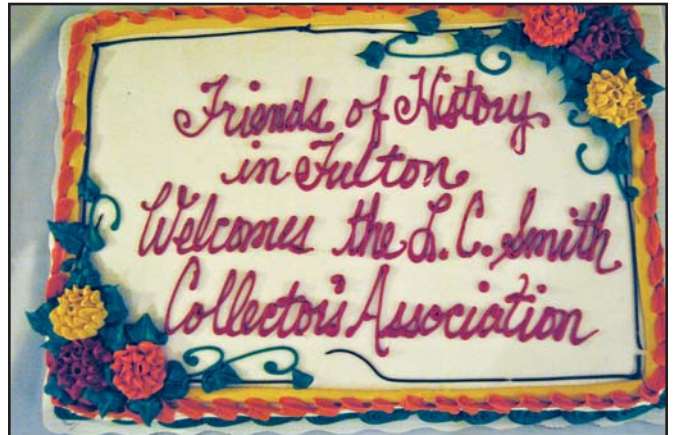


Top Skeet Award
Don Nickerson 45x50



Friends of History-staff

L-R Sarah Conley, Paula Rohn, Stephen Wise, Ginny Seymour, Alice Seymour, Helen Miles, Jean Lewis, Mayor Ron Woodward, missing speaker Les Weldin



Friends of History
in Fulton
Welcomes the L.C. Smith
Collectors Association



Mayor's Award presented to Rich Beyer

Rich Beyer

Mayor-Ron Woodward



Friends of History Staff

L-R Sue Brown, Sarah Conley, Carol Decker, Sharon Santoro, Dennis Santoro and guests, Catherine Greeley, daughter of Ian Nixon next, member L.C.S.C.A.





Awards Dinner





High 5 Stand Award: Went to J.D. Shank. J.D. shot a 45 x 50 in the wind and rain. Also shot the event in shorts, said he didn't like the rain on his knees.

Second Place Trap: J.D. Shank with a 46 x 50.

Second Place Skeet: Jent Mitchell III with a 40 x 50.

Second Place 5 Stand: Don Nickerson 42 x 50.


High Overall Score in the 3 combined shoots: J.D. Shank with 130 x 150.

Closing Remarks, again from Wes Weldin, stating that the Friends of History hope that this could be an annual event with the L.C. Smith Collectors Association and make it Fulton Homecoming 2012. From the members there, it seemed to be a unanimous yes, and hopefully so. Time will tell.

One last note. I started reading the booklet "The John Hunter Family of Sterling Valley, New York" by Richard L. Webb (I take it his grandmother is Anna Isabella Hunter-Webb born Sept. 1872).

Some that went on the tour purchased this great booklet from the Hunter Estate.

On page 49 he describes how the Hunter Arms building was a 3 story building and quote "By 1900 both the fan and shotgun business had grown to a point where the brothers needed to add a fourth floor to the factory."

At the bottom of page 49, he adds that "Although the demand was seasonal, Hunter Fan and Motor likewise had built an international market for its products. Before Hunter Fan and Motor eventually moved into its own factory, a fifth floor was added to the Hunter Arms Factory." Very interesting, and it shows this in an early drawing in which the artist showed this fifth floor. (page before page 1 in L.C. Smith, The Legend Lives. In talking with Rich Beyer, he states the 5th floor was just the artists rendition, as he has photographs showing 3 and then 4 floors. 

Ode to the Tumbled Bricks of Home

by John Kuhn Bleimaier



*Well as for me I'm a hunter, a collector... and a shooter
When it comes to marque, I'm an L.C. Smith rooter.
If you visit my gun room the first thing that you'll see
In the place of honor is a 20 bore piece, we call her Elsie.*

*I might as well tell you right from the start
That this lithe, sweet gal has a very special place in my heart;
In covert, in blind, on moor or at sporting clays station
Elsie's my girl, proud daughter of our American nation.*

*Now all these years
she's been handsomely promenading on my arm
Elsie's been advancing a little agenda of her own
with her own special charm;
You see, she's been patiently waiting
to introduce me to her very own people
The special folks who live in the shadow
of the Fulton, New York church steeple.*


*Well, at last, wouldn't you know,
we decided to go north, northwest
On this most anticipated and exalted family quest.
To Lake Ontario's verdant, alluvial plain
So that Elsie might visit her old home once again.*

*Along the right bank of the broad Oswego at the fall line
There's a scrub brush knoll up from the bank with a view so fine;*

*But today you'd be hard pressed to locate the slightest trace
Of a proud brick structure that once surmounted this place.
When I take thought it gives me a bitter cold chill
To think that here once stood that magnificent mill
From whence as a mighty torrent sprang forth
A range of lively shotguns of inestimable worth.*

*Truly I must acknowledge with a twinge of pain
The verity of the poets words, "You can never go home again."
From Elsie's stoic cheek piece I had to wipe away a tear
It's all gone to rubble, rack and ruin: the greatness of yesteryear.*

*Of course Fulton's fine people are still living there
The descendants of the craftsmen
who toiled with skill, love and care.
But when times turned bad
the investors did not show a stiff upper lip
No, siree Bob, they just cut, ran and literally abandoned ship.*

*Well my Elsie has always happily pointed her barrels
at pheasant, woodcock and grouse
But now she's pining to set her sights
on a fatted, cosmopolite, globalist louse.
Easy now, and don't you worry,
I'm a levelheaded, law abiding sort of guy
So I will lock Elsie in the safe
whenever Wall Street type friends drop by. *





Hunter Arms Company Homecoming

By Frank Finch

As the result of the collaborative efforts of the town of Fulton, Friends of History in Fulton, Pathfinders Rod & Gun, and the L.C. Smith Association members, our participation in the Hunter Arms Homecoming Weekend on September 30th through October 1st, 2011, was a success. A special thanks, Mayor Woodward and the members of the Fulton City Council, for the invitation for us to visit the city, the home of the L.C. Smith shotgun!

Friends of History in Fulton provided a lovely weekend beginning with the opening evening Wine and Hors d'oeuvres at the Pratt Museum, the Saturday morning shoot at Pathfinder R & G, the afternoon Smith gun display at the Pratt Museum. Congratulations to all of the folks who contributed to make the event special, especially from the Friends of History in Fulton. Under your competent leadership of President Paula Rohn, and Event Chairman Sharon Santoro, the weekend event was well organized and a great success! Les Weldin coordinated the shoot, Alec Seymour designed and built the Hunter Arms Gallery, Helen Milam provided administrative support, Richie Beyer organized the shoot and Hunter Estate visit. The folks at the Pratt Museum and Pathfinder R&G greatly contributed to the successful venue.


L.C. Smith Association members display their collections at the museum. A mayor's award and Peoples Choice Award for displays were awarded to respectively to Richie Beyer and Bob Trefry. The initial Homecoming concept and groundwork was

provided by Bill Winter. The event was a memorable experience to all who attended this wonderful weekend to visit Fulton - the makers of the "Gun that Speaks' for itself, the L.C. Smith"!

Many local residents visited the Pratt House to view the displays provided by members of the LCSCA. Jim Stubbiendeck researched production records for 62 local L.C. Smith shotguns and provided their owners with information on manufacturing dates and shipping destinations. Many of these guns were handed down to the current owners from employees of the Hunter Arms Company.

Also, the gracious hospitality given by Jim Hunter and BJ Wadsworth Rodgers at the Hunter Estate in Sterling Valley to the members of LCSCA added to our joy! L.C. Smith members unearthed bricks from the original factory site and carried them home as mementoes to commemorate the event.

The Homecoming Awards Banquet was held at the Tavern on the Lock Restaurant. The top shooting awards went to JD Shank and Don Nickerson. Other winners were Jent Mitchel and Tom Salzer. (Details and validation of these reported results to follow as available.)

The festivities ended on Sunday with the Friends of History hosting a chicken BBQ in the Pavilion in Bullhead Point. This sent all the visitors home full of delicious foods and fond memories of the folks from Fulton! 


Checking Records at the Hunter Homecoming

By Jim Stubbiendeck

Rain was falling when I arrived at the Pratt House in Fulton Saturday morning, but it didn't keep the local people from bringing their L.C. Smith shotguns in to have the serial numbers checked in the records. By mid to late morning, a line formed that stretched into the next room of the museum. The Friends of History can be credited with the excellent turnout. They advertised that the L.C. Smith Collectors Association would be available to check the records during the Homecoming weekend. We looked up 50 shotguns on Saturday and 12 more on Sunday. Other than the 1901 Hunter Monogram with special engraving, only five others were above the Ideal grade. Many were Fulton boxlock shotguns.

Each came with a special story of who in the family originally purchased the shotgun. Many of the original owners had ties to the Hunter Arms Company. One of the highlights occurred

after an elderly gentlemen brought in a Field Grade and said that he had inherited the shotgun from his uncle in 1949. We looked up the serial number and found his uncle's name as the purchaser in 1921. He likely went to the factory and purchased it directly, as few Field Grades can be tied to an individual because over 99% were shipped to distributors, sporting goods stores, and hardware companies.

Thanks to Chris Baumhol, Bill Winter, and Dawn King for helping. I believe that the LCSCA provided valuable assistance and education to those bringing their shotguns to the Pratt House. Most left very pleased with the information. However, one local resident left unhappy when he learned that we could not provide information about his Fox Sterlingworth. 





Chicken Barbeque Sunday October 2, 2011



Rich Beyer's display of .410's & memorabilia
Barbara Wadsworth-Rodgers
James Hunter
Rich Beyer
Frank Finch
Gary Smith



Chicken Barbeque
Sunday Oct 2, 2011

Skeet shooting-Pathfinder's Rod & Gun Club
L-R John K. Bleimzier, score keeper, Townsend Breeders, Roger Dwyer
Rich Beyer, Bob Stewart, J. David Williamson
Photo courtesy: Tom Schuler



Dr. James Stubbendieck ready for serial numbers



Andy Anderson's display of Exquisite Grade 2's and Grade 3's

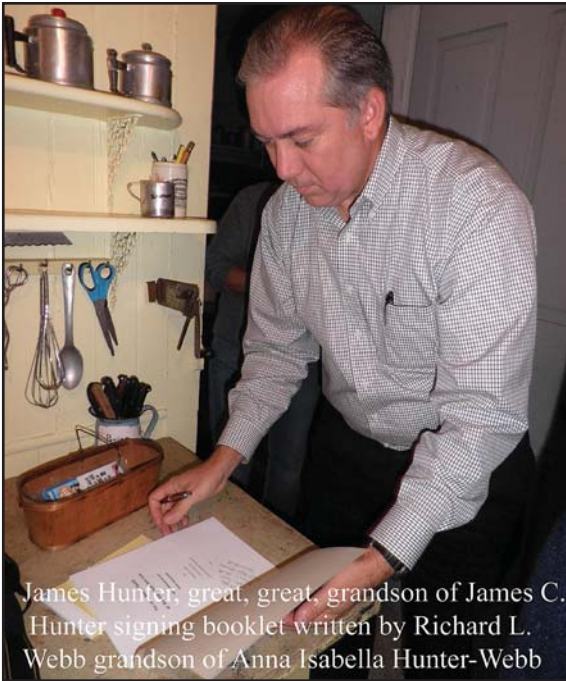
GRADE 2E
GRADE 3E
GRADE 3E
GRADE 2
GRADE 2
L.C. Smiths
Andy Anderson

FOR DISPLAY ONLY. NOTHING FOR SALE.
PLEASE DO NOT HANDLE.



Bob & Silvia Trefny's "People's Choice Award" display





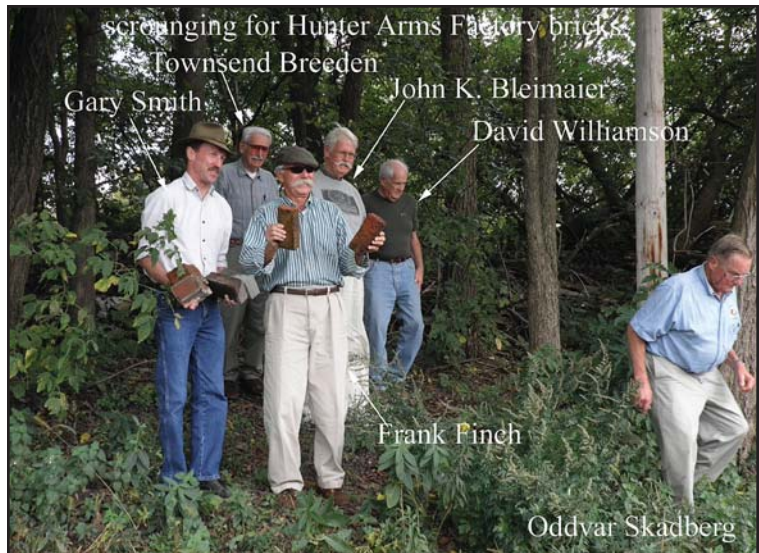
James Hunter, great, great, grandson of James C. Hunter signing booklet written by Richard L. Webb grandson of Anna Isabella Hunter-Webb



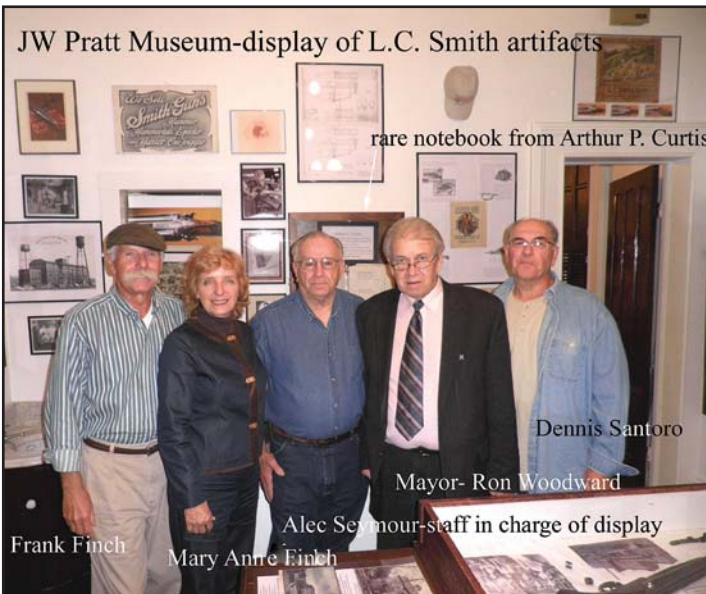
Roger Domer, Andy Anderson, Paul Kinny, Frank Finch, Elsie Baker Stewart, Bob Stewart, Mary Anne Finch, Oddvar Skadberg, John K. Bleimaier, Rich Beyer, Gary Smith, Silvia Trefrey, Townsend Breeden, David Williamson, Barbara-Wadsworth-Rodgers, James Hunter



Hammer Gun display, showing changes made through-out time J. David Williamson



scrounging for Hunter Arms Factory bricks Townsend Breeden, John K. Bleimaier, David Williamson, Gary Smith, Frank Finch, Oddvar Skadberg



JW Pratt Museum-display of L.C. Smith artifacts rare notebook from Arthur P. Curtis Dennis Santoro Mayor- Ron Woodward Alec Seymour-staff in charge of display Frank Finch Mary Anne Finch



Barbara J. Wadsworth-Rogers signing booklet, part written by great great grandmother Verna Irene Hunter Wadsworth in 1994





From the Records

L.C. Smith No. 5 Production

By Jim Stubbendieck

The No. 5 was beginning of the Hunter Arms Company's group of highest quality shotguns with only the Monogram, A2, and A3 priced above it. The most common engraving was a pair of pointers in the field in an oval on the lock plates. A small bouquet of flowers was engraved on the top lever. The frames and the trigger guards were engraved. Originally offered with Damascus Steel barrels, Nitro Steel barrels were introduced in 1895. However, many sportsmen continued to order the Damascus Steel barrels. Stocks were straight or pistol grip and made from nicely figured English or French walnut. While advertised as an automatic ejector shotgun, extractors were fitted into about 14% of No. 5 shotguns. The selective Hunter One-Trigger was a popular option, but the Hunter Arms Company ledgers from this era do not include production information on trigger types. The ledgers do provide data on gauges, barrel lengths, and type of ejectors.

I went through all of the ledgers from 1890 through 1913 and summarized the production information for the No. 5 shotguns (Table 1). Those familiar with production information published by Col. William Brophy and John Houchins will notice a number of differences between the earlier published production data and the information presented here. I found records for 523 No. 5s, 39 more than previously published. I found additional 12 gauge No. 4s (457 vs. 414), but fewer 10 gauge (8 vs. 11) and 16 gauge (36 vs. 37), and an identical number of 20 gauge (21).

Thirty-inches (394) was the most common barrel length. While not advertised as being available, I found one with 24-inch barrels and one with 31-inch barrels.

Production began in 1894 (Table 2), rather than 1892 as previously published, and ended in 1912. Over 19 years, production was never high, but it was steady. The Crown Grade replaced the No. 5 in 1913, and it was nearly identical except for the small gold crown on the opening lever. In 1910, a No. 5 retailed for \$225, \$50 more than the No. 4 and \$150 less than the Monogram Grade. Extractors reduced the price by \$10, and the selective Hunter One-Trigger increased the price by \$25.

SMITH AUTOMATIC EJECTOR

HUNTER ONE-TRIGGER \$25 NET EXTRA

NO. 5 \$225

REGULAR GRADE—WITHOUT EJECTOR, \$215

SPECIFICATIONS

Pistol or straight grip; twenty-six, twenty-eight, thirty or thirty-two-inch barrels; bored any way you choose, from a cylinder to a full choke; ten, twelve, sixteen and twenty-gauge; regular or Monte Carlo stock

OUR No. 5 Smith gun meets the views of the patron who is in need of a gun handsomely finished and elaborately engraved. We embody in this gun much of beauty. This grade has always stood well ahead.

BARRELS—No. 5 Nitro Steel or a very fine Chainette Damascus. Either of these grades of barrels will respond to every demand and cannot but please. The Nitro Steel is very hard, absolutely free from all possibility of flaw. They have become great favorites. The No. 5 Damascus is a fine figured barrel and its appearance is equaled only by its remarkable shooting qualities. Nitro Steel barrels only, used on twenty-gauge.

STOCK—A choice piece of French or English selected walnut. We aim to give beauty in color as well as a fine figure; strength is also a feature of special consideration.

LOCKS—The locks of Smith guns are all the same mechanically, but each grade has a design and finish peculiar to itself. The No. 5 lock is elaborately finished and perfectly constructed, so much so that the sportsman always wants to show it to his friends.

ENGRAVING—The cut shows the engraving. Its richness is evident, the dogs are simply perfect. We are making these guns to suit the taste of the most fastidious. An ever increasing demand shows how well we have succeeded. They are receiving many compliments.

LIGHT-WEIGHTS—We make a ten-gauge, with Nitro Steel barrels, to weigh eight and one-half to ten and three-quarters pounds; in the twelve-gauge six to nine pounds; in the sixteen-gauge six to seven and one-half pounds; in the twenty-gauge five and three-quarters to seven pounds.

Table 2. Production of No. 5 L.C. Smith shotguns by year.

Year	No.	Year	No.
1894	1	1904	32
1895	8	1905	40
1896	23	1906	33
1897	32	1907	26
1898	66	1908	24
1899	26	1909	31
1900	15	1910	19
1901	23	1911	14
1902	40	1912	22
1903	48	Total	523





L. C. Smith Collectors Association

Tenth Annual Spring Shoot

PLACE: Carlisle Fish and Game Association
1421 W. Trindle Road, Carlisle, Pa. 17015

DINNER: Sunday evening, March 18, 2012, 5 pm
Location: T.J. Rockwells
896 W. Grantham Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA
(717) 766-4200
www.tjrockwells.com

SHOOT: Monday, March 19, 2012 9am-3 pm

VENUE: Sporting Clays, Skeet, Wobble Trap, Five Stand

LUNCH: Monday, March 19, 2012 11:30-1:00 pm catered again by Grandpa's Country ButcherShop.

LOCATION: Club House (the club house will be the barn on the right side of the drive-way as you enter. We will be in the large hall in the bottom of the club house). Club House provides:
Registration
Lunch Used guns for sale (space is limited; therefore, please notify Charlie beforehand if you plan to bring

any) Items for sale (LCS related) Gun smiths and gun exhibit RST will again be here supporting us. Thank you RST Restrooms Skeet and Wobble trap will be available if you arrive early on Sunday afternoon at the Carlisle Fish and Game Association.

HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS: There are numerous places to stay in the area. If you would like to stay at the same place our group stayed last year, a block of rooms at the Hotel Carlisle is reserved for a price of \$65.00.

Note: You will need to reserve your room by Feb. 18, 2012 to get this price.

Ask for Rhonda and mention LC Smith Collector's Association for club rate reservation prices.
1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle, PA 17015
Phone: 717-243-1717 ex. 178.

Reservations will be needed for the Sunday dinner as well as Monday's shoot and lunch. Deadline is March 10, 2012.

For all reservations (other than rooms), please contact:
Charles Brooks
Phone: 410-756-2095
E-mail: pastorcharlie1949@yahoo.com





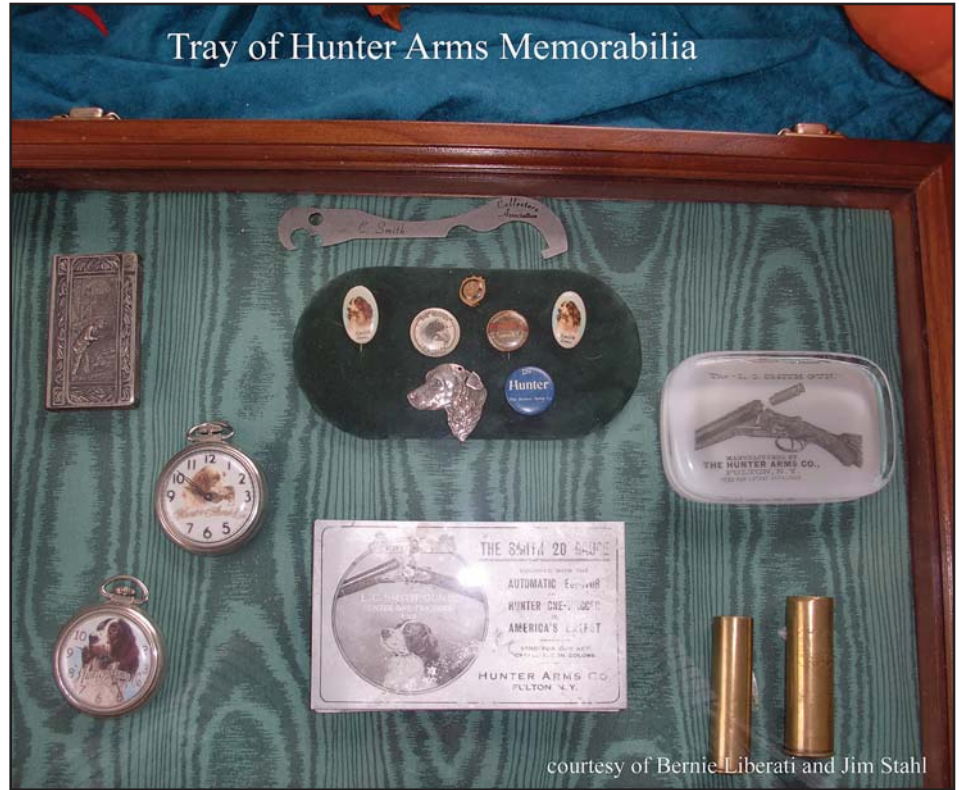
15th Annual Vintage Cup Pintail Point

By Frank Finch

Under rainy conditions again this year, the 15th Annual Vintage Cup World Side by Side Championship was held at Pintail Point in Queenstown, MD, September 22 through 25, 2011. The LCSCA designed a club display titled “The Big and the Small” featuring eight bore and .410 Smith shotguns and various L.C. Smith and Hunter Arms advertising memorabilia. The rack of eight bore guns presented by Jim Stahl and Bernie Liberati, consisted of a Quality 2, consecutive number Grade 2s, a Grade 3, and a Grade 4. The rack of .410 guns presented by Frank Finch, consisted of two Field Grades, two Ideal Grades and a Trap Grade. Mary Anne Finch and Jim Stahl created, as well as, helped man the display. Bernie Liberati was chief club display guardian aided by Frank Finch.

On Friday, the rain was so heavy that three inches of water run under the club display table for several hours. In spite of the weather, many members and guests stopped to view the display and shoot the various venue events throughout the weekend. Next year's Vintage Cup will be held at Addieville East Farm in Mapleville, RI, September 27 to 30, 2012.







The First Fulton Homecoming

By Tom Breeden in Collaboration with Roger Domer and J David Williamson



In January 2011 I received a call from Bill Winter requesting me to join him and Roger Domer in a meeting to discuss a project Bill had in mind. Later in the month the three of us sat down in the meeting room of the Prince Georges County Skeet and Trap Club in Maryland.

Bill unfolded a story that followed several trips and his meetings with a group known as the Friends of History (FOH) in Fulton NY, Inc. As a result of his trips and discussions with FOH personnel he outlined a plan that would include gun displays, a fund raising shoot for the benefit of the FOH, a Saturday night banquet and a Sunday outdoor chicken barbeque. Funds from the shoot, it was stated, would be used to help establish a permanent display of LC Smith memorabilia in a gallery located within the Fulton based John Wells Pratt House Museum operated by the FOH.

Roger and I thought it was a great idea and agreed to serve as co-chairmen in arranging the shooting activities. Bill would manage the remainder of the weekend events which were planned for the last weekend of the following September. After receiving no response to email queries to the New York Delegate of the Amateur Trapshooting Association concerning a nearby shooting facility, the FOH recommended the Pathfinder Fish and Game Club.

Bill's conversations with members of the LC Smith Collectors Association Board of Directors resulted in our association sponsoring a pin celebrating the Hunter Arms Company 2011 Homecoming. The pin was made available to all attendees of the homecoming.

Roger and I sensed that we faced a dilemma: How to arrange a commitment from afar between the FOH and the Pathfinders so that the profits derived from the shoot would be transferred to the FOH. To answer this problem a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was prepared and circulated. The MOU contained an outline of costs and prices covering a venue of 50 trap, 50 skeet and 50 5-stand targets. As a result of the activities surrounding the planning an old friend emerged that would essentially flesh out the whole weekend: Rich Beyer. Rich called and said he was a member of the Pathfinders, was well connected to the FOH and volunteered to coordinate all weekend activities. Rich also asked if there would be any interest in a tour of the Hunter Mansion to which I gave an emphatic affirmative.

For early arrivals the weekend started Friday morning with a tour of the Pratt House and the Hunter Arms/LC Smith Collection. The displays are numerous and consist of a Hunter Brothers bicycle, an array of 8 different side lock engravings, a uniquely engraved shotgun with gold inlay which appears to be a "lunch box" special, various internal parts of the LC Smith shotgun and numerous photographs, posters and papers. Among the latter is a notebook containing the hand written observations of Stephen J. Gilles who was the plant superintendent in the 1920-1939 time frame and later owner before Hunter Arms was sold to the Marlin Firearms Company in 1945. (This notebook should be "mined" by future researchers to determine its contents and to shed more light on the fascinating history of the Hunter Arms Company during the 1920's and 30's.)

At 2 PM a group of about 20 of us assembled at the Pratt house and departed for a tour of the Hunter Mansion 20 miles away in Sterling Valley, New York. During the ride we wondered how the Hunter's commuted that distance and concluded that they must have had in-town accommodations. On the way we stopped and viewed a magnificent 50 x 14 foot mural on an outside building wall two blocks from the Pratt House. The centerpiece of the mural is the Hunter Arms factory as it appeared in its glory days.

The next stop was the Hunter Arms factory site. As the building was razed decades ago there is nothing left except bricks. Of course these are no ordinary bricks to an LC Smith aficionado so the (amusing) scramble was on amongst the weeds for a hard souvenir. All who wanted a piece of history came away satisfied with their spoils.

The tour group was greeted at the mansion by Barbara Wadsworth, a great granddaughter of William Hunter, one of John Hunter's five sons. The wooden sided mansion is two stories with an additional attic and basement and contains the accouterments that one would expect in an 1890's home. An original stand mounted metal disk music box, family portraits and furnishings abound.





A kitchen, dining room, living room, sitting room, bedroom and sewing room (converted to a child's playroom) are situated on the first floor. Ascending the staircase gripping a carved balustrade the tour continued through five bed rooms and a housekeeper's quarters in the rear. I don't believe any of us missed the large Hunter Brothers' vase sitting on a cabinet in the upstairs hallway. Researchers should note that an information treasure may reside within the papers stuffing a large trunk in the attic. The property is managed by a Board of Directors that represents the two hundred or so living descendents of John Hunter Sr.

A pleasant surprise was the appearance of James Hunter, a great, great grandson of John Hunter Sr. Accompanying him on the trip from Michigan for the Homecoming Weekend was an engraved and gold inlaid shotgun, Serial Number 5393. Since the engraving pattern did not resemble any shotgun with which the assembled members could relate, the grade remained a mystery until the serial number was forwarded to Jim Stubbendieck. According to Jim's record check the gun is graded as a Monogram but is unlike any Monogram that has been documented.

Assembling in the kitchen facilitated conversations with James Hunter who invited handling, inspection and photographing of his Monogram. In the adjoining dining room Barbara Wadsworth autographed various pamphlets that were available for purchase that contained genealogy and history records of the John Hunter family.

Upon return to the Pratt House we found that gun displays for the occasion of the Homecoming were being set up on the first floor. Beautiful and comprehensive displays were presented by Bob and Sylvia Trefry, Andy Anderson, Rich Beyer, Don Nickerson and David Williamson. Everyone was careful not to spill wine or cheese, which was made available by the FOH, on the displays.


The Friday night rain continued off and on all day Saturday and was driven by 30-40 mph wind gusts. Although not ideal weather for shooting, brave souls ventured forward with their LC Smith shotguns. The extent of their bravery was apparent by the appearance in the rain of at least one Monogram and a Crown grade SBT gun in the hands of Tom Salzer who turned in a high score that captured the trap shooting trophy.


Although shooters and guns got soaked in the 40ish degree driving rain there were smiles all around at the conclusion. Of course there were a few non-repeatable exclamations on the field as one tried to corral the skewing clay birds.

Returning to the Pratt House after the shoot found Jim Stubbendieck researching records for Fulton denizens. The Thursday and Friday newspaper, "The Palladium Times" contained advertisements for the Saturday Hunter Arms research activity. In response, shotgun wielding citizens were eager to learn more about their coveted Smiths and did not depart disappointed. Jim stated that he researched over 60 guns in the space of several hours. There were no surprise high grade guns brought in.

Attendees of the Homecoming gathered at the bar of the Tavern on the Lock for refreshments before the Saturday evening banquet and awards ceremony. The People's award for the best display went to Bob and Sylvia Trefry. Earlier in the day the mayor of Fulton, The Honorable Ron Woodward, toured the Pratt House gun displays and from his reconnoiter he selected Rich Beyer's prized display of 410 shotguns on which to place the Mayor's award. In addition to Tom Salzer those individuals taking home shooting awards were J. D. Shank, Jent Mitchell, and Don Nickerson.

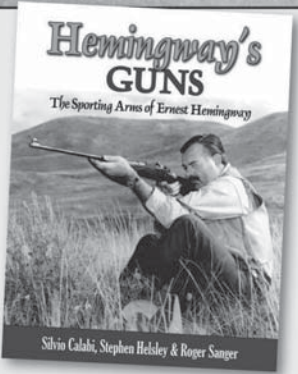
Although the sun tried to break through the Sunday morning clouds the day was still mostly chilly and wet. Undaunted the chicken barbeque at the outdoor Pavilion at Bullhead Point came off without a hitch.

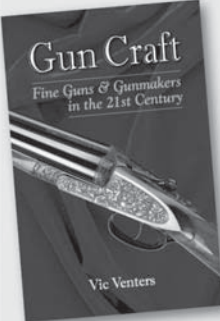
Those who attended this historic weekend, as well as all the members of the LC Smith Collectors Association at large, owe an immense expression of thanks and gratitude to Bill Winter for conceiving the idea and laying the ground work and to Rich Beyer who, with the help of LCSCA members and the FOH, carried forth the concept to reality. Talk at the Saturday evening banquet seemed to indicate that the First Fulton Homecoming may be the first of many but that remains in the hands of our membership indicating their desire to the LCSCA Board of Directors. 



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www.shootingsportsman.com





Tulsa, Oklahoma Gun Show

Jim Stubbendieck



The LCSCA exhibit at the Tulsa Gun Show compared the pre- and post-1913 grades. It is the world's largest gun show, with 5.7 miles of tables. In order to see all of the tables in the 18 hours the show is open, you could spend an average of less than 16 seconds at each.





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For Our March 2012 Firearms Auction (Consignment Deadline January 20, 2012)

Our October 2011 sale was another great success at over \$9.1 Million. The total low estimate of the items sold was \$6,492,000 which generated over \$9.1 Million in sales, approx. \$2.5 Million over low estimate! Our Spring 2012 auction will be a most superlative sale including the extraordinary Wes Adams collection of rare Winchesters, one of the finest Winchester collections ever to be offered at auction; The Dr. Lucie collection of Scagel knives, the largest and finest offering of Scagel knives ever offered in history; a superb single owner collection of rare Civil War and Conf. items; the final collection of Mr. Robert Howard, who originally amassed one of the greatest collections of firearms in the 20th century; and a great collection of Class III. We are most solicitous of quality sporting arms, high-end military, Rev. War, important historical items and all types of desirable antique firearms and accessories.

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2011 Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	POINT PERSON
12/29/11	Post Christmas Shoot	Lehigh Valley Spt Clays Coplay, PA 18037	John Bleimaier
2/7/12	St. Hubertus Luncheon & Smith Display	Los Angeles Men's Club, Los Angeles, CA	Dean Rasmussen
2/8/12	Sporting Clays Shoot, Display & Lunch	Triple B Clays, 831 N. Rosemead Blvd S. El Monte, CA 91733	Dean Rasmussen
3/19/12	10 th Annual Spring Shoot	Carlisle Fish and Game, Carlisle, PA	Charlie Brooks
4/27-4/29/12	Southern Side by Side	Deep River Sht School, 284 Cletus Hall Rd. Sanford, NC 27330	TBD
4/28/12 at 5 PM	Annual Meeting	Deep River Club House, Sanford, NC	Frank

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L.C. Smith Yellow Page

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L.C. Smith Classifieds

The L.C. Smith Collectors Association accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the seller's description. All negotiations are strictly between the buyer and seller. The buyer and seller are responsible for complying with all applicable state and federal laws.

NOTE: Ads are only run for one issue unless the advertiser contacts the publisher (J. David Williamson) to continue to run the ad by the cut-off for the next issue.

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GUN NO.	GRADE	TYPE	GA.	LTB.	GRADES	PROOF T.	PATTERN	FINISHED	SHIPPED	ORDER NO.	PURCHASER
50001	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40156	Baldwin, Newcomb
2	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	39415	St. Anthony's School
3	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40494	Allen W. Amiles
4	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40036	Green, Gordon - Spitz
5	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40036	Green, Gordon - Spitz
6	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40036	Green, Gordon - Spitz
7	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40404	Shapiro, Spitz - Jones
8	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40036	Robinson
9	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40036	Robinson
10	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40096	DeYoung, Newcomb
11	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	39415	St. Anthony's School
12	Field	Lw	20	26	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40036	Green, Gordon - Spitz
13	Field	Lw	20	28	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40315	Shapiro, Spitz - Jones
14	Field	Lw	20	28	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40342	Virginia Carolina
15	Field	Lw	20	28	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40502	Virginia Carolina
16	Field	Lw	20	28	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40097	DeYoung, Newcomb
17	Field	Lw	20	28	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	41179	Restoration
18	Field	Lw	20	28	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	40190	Green, Gordon - Spitz

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The image features two ornate double-barreled shotguns resting in a dark, lined gun case. The shotguns have highly detailed, engraved metal receivers and dark wood stocks. The background of the case is a textured, brownish fabric. To the right, a vertical strip of a landscape photograph shows a calm body of water, a dark shoreline, and a forested hill under a cloudy sky. The entire advertisement is framed by a thin gold border.

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