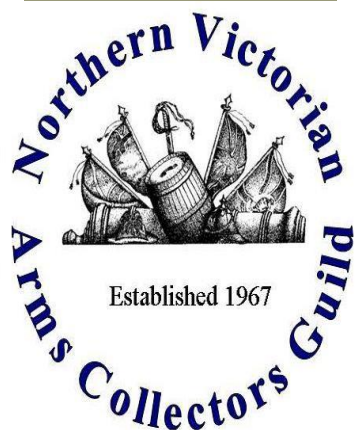


# More Majorum

April – June 2018

2/18



*Inside this issue:*

- Presidents Report 2
- Around the traps 3
- News and Events 3
- Recent meetings 4



The 67th Foot taking the Taku Forts during the Second Opium War, 1860

# N.V.A.C.G Presidents Report:

Hi Members.

Guild Membership. As at December 1995 Guild Membership total was 168 Members. Then came the 1996 Port Arthur massacre the aftermath of which were many draconian changes to Federal and State Firearms Acts culminating in a ban on general ownership of semiautomatic shotguns, rifles and pump action shotguns. The collector suffered change to category of collectable firearms, with some exempt categories now requiring registration and post 1946 manufactured handguns now being banned. (John Howards buy back of surplus firearms was a sweet plum to keep all ex-owners happy. "Pigs Bottom") As a result of the 1986 and 1996 legislative changes to firearms ownership Guild membership started to decline, by 2010 membership struck rock bottom at 89 active members. Slowly but surely through many ventures and promotions membership has grown to 145 members and is still growing. Word of mouth appears to be the most effective and least expensive recruiting medium.

The Antique Arms and Militaria Expo at East Bank Centre, Shepparton over the weekend of the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> of March, 2018 was a moderate success. All went to plan; the Guild made a profit, traders seemed overall to be happy, however, the public attendance is still in decline, public attendances (Paying customers through the door) are very important in order to offset the operating costs in running the Expo. At the same time, the Guild needs to attract sufficient customers to meet the traders' expectations. At this stage the 21st Expo 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2019 is still ON.

Melbourne Arms and Militaria Fair, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> of April, 2018. A small bus (FREE) was arranged and although well, advertised only the usual 7 or 8 members made an effort to attend. Probably the 6AM blast off deterred any member outside Shepparton City. Any way their report is that they had a good time.

The legislative scene is relatively quiet for the legitimate firearms owner/collector. Amendments to the Firearms Regulations (Vic) are acceptable and as yet to be ratified by the Department of Justice.

An ever rising problem is Security. I sympathize with our Law Enforcement Agencies, in their efforts to suppress the many diverse and unrelated criminal gangs and their thirst for firearms. My advice to members is play your cards close to the chest, make sure your security is spot on. If you have what the crooks target keep your name out of the media, and be careful of to whom and where you broadcast your interests and details of what you have. (Remember the WW2 slogan 'Loose Lips Sink Ships')

All the best in collecting. "Seek with tenacity of a Jack Russell, alert, tail up, nose down completely concentrated and don't miss anything."

John F. McLean

President NVACG

# From The Editor:

## Greetings Members,

This year is flying by so please make sure you all remember the upcoming Guild AGM and to have your membership dues in nice and early. If anyone has anything they would like to submit for publication in your Guild newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I know there are some experts out there with some very interesting items within their collections, which I am sure many of the other collectors would love to see. A few lines describing the item and a photo or two are all we need, but if you want to go in depth we don't mind that either.

Your Editor

Matthew Wilson. (mawilson85@gmail.com)

We advise that, as always, any articles published are for the general information of members, who are invited to form their own opinion.

No liability is offered or accepted by the NVACG Inc., its Office Bearers.

## Around The Traps:

### ATTENTION:

Please take note that the NVACG will have its AGM on Friday 10 August, 2018 at 8pm.

Memberships are coming up for renewal at the end of June, so please have them in by the allotted date. Thank you.



Some of you may not know but the NVACG has its own [website](http://www.nvacg.org.au/).

Here you will find all the news and details for coming guild events and information for prospective members.

<http://www.nvacg.org.au/>



We are also on [facebook](#) under "Shepparton Collectables Antiques Militaria Expo"

## 7 Unusual Firearms People Actually Used.

By Adam Wears

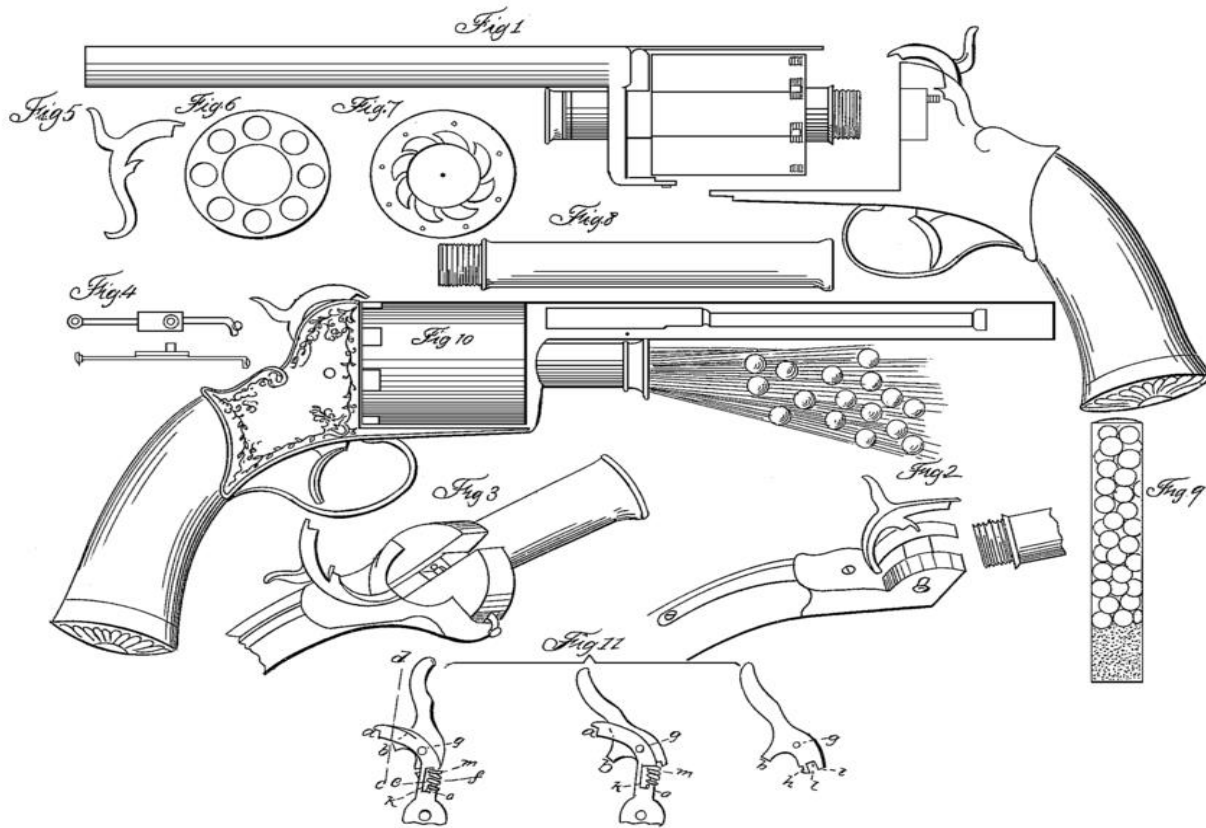
Continued from last edition.....

### 5. The LeMat Revolver.

What's the biggest problem with firearms in general? That's right; you just can't hold as many as you want. Enter the LeMat revolver: Invented in 1856 by Jean LeMat, a New Orleans, the LeMat was actually two guns in one: The top barrel fires .42 caliber pistol rounds, while the second, smaller barrel on the bottom holds a load of buckshot. When he was all finished packing guns into his guns, LeMat brought the prototype to his cousin, a U.S. Army major named Beauregard. Beauregard also thought the gun was a great idea, and tried unsuccessfully to get the U.S. Army to equip all of their cavalymen with it. Though it was powerful, the LeMat was deemed too superfluous and not reliable enough for field use. Not to be dissuaded LeMat and Beauregard joined forces and with the advent of the War Between the States the partnership successfully pitched the revolver to the Confederate Army who did see a use for it and eventually ended up with 2,500 of the revolvers.



In addition to General Beauregard and Colonel LeMat, LeMat's revolver was used by such famous Confederate officers as Major Generals Braxton Bragg, J. E. B. Stuart, Richard H. Anderson, and Major Henry Wirz. Confederate Major General J. E. B. Stuart, was known to favor the LeMat revolver. General Beauregard's personal engraved LeMat, which he carried throughout the war, is preserved at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia



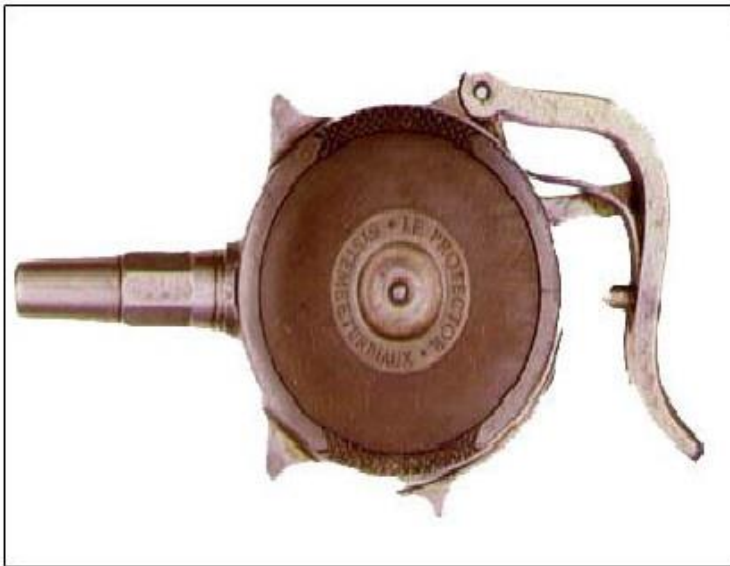
No. 15,925.

A. LEMAITRE.  
Revolver.

Patented Oct. 21, 1856.

#### 4. The Turbiaux Palm-Squeezer Pistol

The French love their tiny, tiny pistols, presumably because they enjoy the sophisticated dichotomy of adorableness and lethality. One of the smallest ever made was the Turbiaux Palm-Squeezer: Designed mostly for ease of concealment rather than range or stopping power, the Palm-Squeezer was meant to be held with the barrel in between your fingers and the trigger squeezed with the palm. The Turbiaux could hold anywhere from eight to 10 bullets in its "turret cylinder," which, combined with its stealthy nature, would seem to make it one hell of an assassin's weapon.



However, the Turbiaux's bullets fell much closer to the "cute" axis of the French Firearms Scale of Preciousness and Death, so shooting a fellow with it was more a means of expressing your general displeasure with his choice of hat than a viable method of actual assassination. Plus, if the victim didn't die from the initial hail of micro-bullets, you had to fully dismantle the gun just to reload. So if you combine all of those facets -- limited lethality, easy to conceal in the palm, practically zero range -- it wasn't really a gun at all. It was more of a precursor to the joy buzzer, back in an era when men were men, bullet wounds were a funny prank and electricity only happened when God was displeased with something.

### 3. Harmonica Pistol

The 19th century lunatic musician had a tough choice to make: play an instrument, or shoot folks in the face. Now, it used to be that you had to play the people a nice harmonica solo first and then riddle them with bullets while they were clapping, but no longer! Enter the harmonica pistol.

The quest for a repeating handgun took some strange turns on the way to the revolving cylinder.

This particular oddity is known as a Harmonica Gun, because of the distinct appearance of a steel slide that contained a number of chambers.

It's a firearm innovation that preceded the perfection of the centerfire cartridge. On the earliest models, each chamber was breech-loaded with a powder charge, projectile, and percussion cap. You could say this design's heart was in the right place, but it just didn't quite get there as a practical repeater.

The slide was inserted into the breech. After firing a round, the shooter released a camlock to advance the slide through the gun. The problem was, each chamber had to be lined up with the barrel and hammer by hand. There were no indexes or mechanism to progress the slide. On later models, this was rectified, with some double-action models produced that advanced the slide through the gun to a new chamber as the trigger was pulled. But it was still bulky and awkward.

A famous maker of harmonica guns was Jonathan Browning, the father of even-more-famous John Moses Browning. He began making the guns in 1834 in Quincy, Illinois, along with more conventional revolving rifles.

Concluded next edition....



# Recent Meetings...



# Westy's Ivory Handled Knife

William Childs **Westmoreland** (March 26, 1914 – July 18, 2005) was a United States Army general, who most notably commanded U.S. forces during the Vietnam War from 1964 to 1968. He served as Chief of Staff of the United States Army from 1968 to 1972. Westy as he was affectionately called, was often photographed wearing a Ivory handled knife. The knife was assumed to be a "Randall Made Knives" Model #1 All Purpose Fighting Knife made famous during WWII and privately purchased by many Officers and enlisted men with financial means to purchase a custom made knife.



Randall Made Knives" Model #1 All Purpose Fighting Knife

The knife was recently discovered by a Randall Knife collector in a display of Westmorland's personal items at the South Carolina Military Museum in Columbia SC. Turned out the knife was actually a Randall Made Knives Model #5- 6" inch, Camp and Trail Model. Bo Randall presented General Westmoreland with this knife, as a gift to congratulate his 4 Star General promotion in 1964. There is no written history as to the "why" this model was chosen but it is assumed that the explanation could be as simple as, Bo saw this blade, it was available, and hence, it was the one.



The knife was forged using O1 Swedish tool steel, it has a nickel silver double hilt, red, white and blue spacers were installed in the pattern of the day, i.e.: red, white, red, blue, red, white, red. The handle is a superb example of elephant ivory. The sheath is a Maurice Johnson Model A sheath, with a tight-stitched, butterfly, roughback. A grey stone is stored on the front panel's hone pocket.

There are only minor differences between a Randall Made Knife Model # 1 and Model #5. The #1's blade is razor sharp on the top bevel to make for a better stabbing blade and has a finger scallop in the spine of the blade just forward of the hilt.

The Model #5 has a straight spine, an unsharpened bevel and normally comes with a single hilt. It was developed as an outdoor knife when combat knives were no longer in demand.



# About Us.....

## Our Meetings

The Guild meets at the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) Shot Gun Club's Club Rooms.

These are located at the SSAA Shooting Range, Midland Highway, Pine Lodge.

Just drive for 20 minutes or so from Shepparton along what we call Benalla Road, and there you will find the Range, on your right hand side, in a former quarry. The site is well signed, and is the Guild 'returning home' to what was Paul Gribben's other favourite club.

*General Meetings* are held here on the second Friday evening of the month.

*Meetings commence: from 8 p.m.*

## Our Background

The Northern Victorian Arms Collectors Guild Inc. had its origins in August 1967, under the guidance of the late Paul Gribben—still regarded as one of Australia's most advanced firearms collectors.

His fondness for Manton shotguns (and other lesser examples of the gunsmiths and engravers art), was equaled only by his love of history, and enthusiasm in sharing this with others.

Our Guild continues this tradition, and caters to those interested in the preservation and restoration of all Antique and Historic Arms, Accessories, Militaria, Australiana, and other Heritage items.

*New Members are Most Welcome!*



P.O. Box 985  
Shepparton 3632

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