November / December 2013

## CANADIAN \*

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# FIREARMS JOURNAL

## **Lest We Forget:**

Our Firearms
Heritage &
The Great War

ARMING AND
DISARMING
A History Of Gun
Control In Canada

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## CANADIAN \* FIREARMS JOURNAL

## On the Cover

Lest We Forget

## From the Editor's Desk

Changes Are Afoot Sean G. Penney

## Letters to the Editor

## President's Message

A Summer of Discontent / Un été de M écontentement Sheldon Clare

## Vice-President's Message

The Policies of Smart Meters and the Firearms Act Blair Hagen

## Team NFA

Team NFA Members on Their Way to Gold Grayson Penney

## Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

The Great War - Lest We Forget Gary K. Kangas

## **Politics and Guns**

Banning Guns And The Order-in-Council Conundrum Sean G. Penney

## Arming and Disarming

A History Of Gun Control In Canada R. Blake Brown, Reviewed by Gary Mauser

## Classic Firearms

Late-War German Volkspistole Michael Heidler

## Soapbox

The Prejudice Against Gun Owners Chris McGarry

## Guns 'N' Gear

LaRue Tactical SPR/M4 1.93-inch mount QD LT135 Sean G. Penney

#### 40 The International Front

Feminism and Misandry Gary Mauser

## The Western Lawmen

John Joshua Webb and the Dodge City Gang - Part One Jesse Wolf Hardin

#### 46 NFA Bookshelf

The Brown Bess Wm Rantz





#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Canada's National Firearms Association exists to promote, support and protect all safe firearms activities, including the right of self defense, firearms education for all Canadians, freedom and justice for Canada's firearms community and to advocate for legislative change to ensure the right of all Canadians to own and use firearms is protected.

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## On the Cover

Photo by RyersonClark/instock

Lest We Forget



Canada has both a long and proud military and firearms heritage. Our nation was founded by good men and women, who built our great country out of savage wilderness with their blood, sweat and tears, musket and rifle by their side. At Vimy Ridge, we came of age as a nation and earned our place on the world stage, stepping out of Britain's shadow in the process. Through force of arms and uncompromising bravery and valour, Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen earned the universal respect of both allies and enemies alike. Through two world wars, Korea, Desert Storm, Afghanistan and a multitude of smaller actions all around the world as peacekeepers, or engaged in humanitarian relief, the men and women of our uniformed services have done us all proud and continue to do so to this very day. On this Nov. 11, please be sure to take a moment to recognize and reflect on the enormity of the debt we owe them. Lest We Forget!

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The Official Magazine of



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## From the Editor's Desk

Sean G. Penney

Changes Are Afoot

As you will have already discovered, there are many design changes and tweaks to be found within the pages of your latest issue of Canadian Firearms Journal.

Production and design of the CFJ will now be entrusted to Outdoor Group Media. You may already be familiar with Outdoor Group Media and their work with Canada's Outdoor Sportsman, which you receive as part of your membership in Canada's National Firearms Association.

We're now entering what should prove an extremely crucial period in the NFA's continued evolution. We're enjoying greater political access to the halls of power and pushing back on multiple fronts, both politically and legally, while demanding that the federal government rein in rogue gun control bureaucrats and put an end to the deliberate targeting of law-abiding gun owners by the Government of Alberta and Canadian law-enforcement, as we saw in High River.

Our enemies remain legion and Wendy Cukier, president for the Coalition of Gun Control, isn't going away, as demonstrated by her recent outrageous demands for Ottawa to prosecute High River gun owners to the full extent of the law for improper storage of their firearms in the emergency flooding situation. Obviously, the forces of civil disarmament in Canada pay only lip service to the idea of enhanced public safety as such demands clearly demonstrate only the true vindictive nature of their movement. They seem more interested in punishing responsible firearms owners for not only having the audacity to own legal firearms, but also for compounding their crimes by attempting to save their guns from the rising waters of the swollen rivers. That moving their firearms to higher ground in their own, secured homes was wholly understandable and reasonable under such extreme circumstances matters not at all to Cukier. Obviously, such demands are ludicrous, but given a federal government sufficiently agreeable, hundreds of otherwise law-abiding High River gun owners could very well have found themselves facing large fines, criminal prosecution and forfeiture of their firearms. Imagine how things would've played out with the NDP or Liberals holding the reins of power.

The only way to rectify such potential miscarriages of justice and perhaps put an end, however temporary, to the illogical ranting of Cukier and others of her ilk is to finally deal with the outstanding issue of S. 91 and S.92 of the Criminal Code of Canada. The federal government needs to act decisively and finally remove legal firearms ownership from the purview of criminal law. Repeal the Firearms Act now. Mr. Prime Minister.



They seem more interested in punishing responsible firearms owners for not only having the audacity to own legal firearms, but also for compounding their crimes by attempting to save their guns from the rising waters of the swollen rivers.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor.

It's really refreshing to see someone stand up and admit that they made a mistake as you did about the photo of a blue jay from a previous issue. Too often in Canada we immediately deny fault as soon as guestioned about a subject. The RCMP in High River could stand to review your editorial and hang their heads, as the problem is not so much that they made a mistake but they continue to deny, deny, deny, to the point where no one trusts anything they say. There are several other well-known incidents where lying seems to be the choice of our national police force. Not to be outdone by the Mounties, some of our senators have gone beyond the "pale" and right to the trough as well, padding their expense reports and lying about it when caught. Honesty and integrity are qualities that we must demand of our public servants and deserve to receive. Unfortunately, the current reality is something much different. Regardless, thanks for your honesty and don't worry too much - if you are not making a mistake or two, you are not doing anything.

John T.

#### Dear John.

Many thanks for your kind words of support. I couldn't agree more with you on the issues of honesty and integrity. The system cannot function if our public servants, especially those tasked with enforcing our gun laws, are permitted to ignore those they disagree with or fabricate their own without the advice and consent of Canadian parliamentarians. Rest assured that your National Firearms Association is working hard to drive home these points to the Harper government.

- Editor

Dear Editor.

I writing you today for a couple of reasons. First, I'd like to congratulate and thank all involved in the NFA organization for all their hard work. I felt the need to express thanks and let you guys know I renewed my membership to the NFA because I truly believe in what you are doing.

To all directly involved in the creation of our members' magazine, thanks for the hard work and dedication too; it is reflected in the content and quality of the *Canadian Firearms Journal*. I enjoy reading *CFJ* very much, and, more often than not, feel the same way about the many issues at hand and that are discussed within its pages.

Secondly, I was looking closer at the RCMP actions in High River, Alta., and made it a point to read any articles and watch all newscasts that covered the event. As more information has come to light, I have come to the conclusion that the RCMP have lied about the events in High River and continue to lie about many things.

I'm afraid that if allowed to pass unchallenged, such police action will set a frightening precedent. And as someone who lives in rural northern Ontario, and under the ever-possible threat of forest fire, it could be me ordered out of my home by law enforcement one day. I'd like to think if I lock my doors on the way out, the last guys I should be worrying about is provincial or federal law enforcement busting down my doors, damaging and stealing my private property while I'm gone.

I believe the recent and ever-ongoing re-classifications, combined with the High River firearms thefts and vandalism, have shown that the RCMP can't be trusted to police us, let alone administer the firearms program in this country.

It would also seem some politicians are part of the problem in Canada, as well. For Alberta it's Alison Redford. She does not seem interested in the illegal actions of the RCMP, however, even she must realize someone has to answer for this latest misguided police action, and I'm counting on the NFA to help the people of Canada get answers and perhaps help the people of High River get compensation. Thanks again!

Jason I.

#### Dear Jason,

Thank you for your letter and the kind words. In the months following the High River flooding event, we've been inundated by letters, e-mails and faxes by members such as yourself who have expressed much the same fears and disappointments in the actions of the RCMP and their elected representatives.

Canada's NFA is working this file very hard and currently have four Access to Information requests in process with the RCMP, related to just their actions in High River this spring. NFA has also retained the services of a specialist company to analyze video and audio we've obtained of RCMP in action in High River. The results are rather disturbing and there is a very good indication that High River gun owners were specifically targeted via federal databases.

Last month, the NFA was front and centre at the town hall meeting organized by Danielle Smith, who is the MLA for the High River area in the Alberta legislature and leader of the Wildrose Party. Dennis Young, NFA director for Alberta, represented the organization and took the RCMP to task for their questionable actions in High River. The national



press corps were in wide attendance and Dennis was successful in raising over two dozen questions that remain to be answered or explained by the RCMP. In the weeks that have followed that meeting, national columnists, such as Lorne Gunter and Brian Lilly, have raised these very same points, shining a very bright light on the High River fiasco.

The Conservatives seem to be listening, and just last week NFA Executive Vice President Shawn Bevins was in Ottawa and made a well-received presentation to key decision makers at Public Safety on this issue, and several others.

I assure you, Canada's NFA is on mission, but we still need help from members like you. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership today, buy one for a friend or family member and make a donation to our lobby fund.

- Editor

Dear Editor,

I have given this a lot of thought and as a law-abiding firearm owner I have come to the conclusion that I am being bullied. There is no doubt in my mind that I am being consistently bullied by the provisions of the Liberal's failed C-68 gun control regime on a daily basis. I am not alone and, in fact, I believe all firearm owners are being bullied by the C-68 Firearms Act and the bureaucrats that enforce it in direct contravention of the laws of natural justice.

Think about it. No other Canadian has a hobby or a sport where their rights are so regularly abused and trampled on as gun owners. Government bureaucrats and police don't automatically view someone with suspicion just because they own a golf club, tennis racquet or hockey stick, but look out if we're talking about a deer rifle or duck gun. It doesn't matter that gun owners and our shooting sports are statistically much safer than any of those other activities or pastimes.

A clear case of such bullying is the recent firearm seizures at High River, Alta. These were a gross violation of civil property rights and, for that matter, the *Criminal Code of Canada*. There must be a realization that firearm owners are being bullied, because there is no justification to separate us from any other group in society.

I am not aware of a crackdown on skiers or snow machine operators, whose death toll seems to increase annually. Neither has the federal government opted to outlaw backyard swimming pools, despite the fact that many times more children die each summer in accidental drowning than from a firearm. If saving lives is the primary driving force behind such nanny-state legislation, then it is time to outlaw downhill skiing, snowmobiling, recreational swimming, golf and a host of other activities that regularly cause many more innocent deaths each year than legal firearms ever have.

But that isn't going to happen. Instead, responsible firearms owners will continue to be demonized in the press for being gun owners and their legally purchased firearms vilified for simply existing, while our rights are trampled on by a faceless gun control bureaucracy.

To reiterate, Canadian firearms owners are bullied. If we're going to have to endure such treatment, we might as well own it and use it as a line of defence. I believe most politicians would drop their gun-grabbing ways if they were accused of bullying firearm owners. Bullying is a hot topic in Canada today - let's get it front and centre. There are hundreds of examples of bullying, the most recent and glaring example was at High River. It is time we went on the offensive. We are the most law-abiding sporting group in the country. The real problem is gangs, drugs and illegal weapons smuggling, not to mention the revolving-door legal system we have for career criminals.

Given the absolute disrespect our governments and gun-control bureaucrats regularly display toward firearms owners and the shooting sports, I am beginning to wonder why I served Canada for 25 years in the Canadian Forces, and another 15 as a civilian police officer. When will I get to enjoy the freedom that I helped protect and preserve?

Grant P., CD

Dear Grant,

First, let me thank you for your 40 years of service to our country. You raise some valid points and Canada's NFA has made the same arguments to the Harper government. Our current political system is rife with doublestandards and unrecognized hypocrisy from the "progressive" left. The NFA is working hard to draw attention to such hypocrisy and make our position quite clear. The current FA needs to be replaced. End of story. As long as the current FA exists, the mere act of owning a firearm is one of criminality, and that is patently unjust and clearly contravenes the intent of centuries of English common law that has always recognized the right to own and use firearms.

As a result of a lack of political oversight and a deeply instilled anti-gun institutional ethos found within the C-68 firearms bureaucracy, you are entirely right when you say Canadian oun owners are the victims of bullying. Unfortunately for us, many of the worst perpetrators are those paid to administer and oversee Canada's gun control program. There are clear conflicts of interest at play here and the NFA has worked hard to drive home this point to the Harper government and Minister of Public Safety, Stephen Blaney. We shall see just how willing they are to permit such bullying to continue in the days and weeks ahead.

- Editor



## President's Message

Sheldon Clare

#### A Summer of Discontent

want to take this opportunity to say thank you. Yes, thanks for supporting the National Firearms Association by writing letters and meeting with your elected representative and otherwise doing what you can locally to stick up for your rights - please keep at it! It is starting to work and with your continued efforts in support of your NFA executive and directors I am convinced we will prevail in our struggle for justice and fair treatment.

Firearms owners should no longer accept that their innocent activities are regulated under the criminal code. That is the key element that must change. As well, thanks very much to those dedicated people who have been spending their time distributing information, working the gun shows and encouraging others to get involved. At times, many of us have felt that ours were merely voices in the wind, but those efforts have

POSTMEDIA NEWS, O.CANADA.COM

High River residents were furious after learning the RCMP had entered private property during the 2013 flood evacuation and confiscated firearms.

and continue to be the essence of what is making the NFA work.

We have been making progress with our lobbying efforts and we expect that we will be contributing to some real changes in the *Firearms Act* soon. It has taken a lot of hard work, over a long time, but it is becoming clear that there is real potential to make changes to our terrible firearms laws. We are a truly national organization that is prepared to fight for civil rights for all responsible firearm owners in every part of Canada, and that success is due to you. However much more remains to be done, I am very grateful to count on your efforts to build on our successes.

An effort that is working well for us is our newfound success with social media, particularly Facebook. Hundreds of thousands of people have become acquainted with our efforts through this media. In addition, we have been sending out an NFA news bulletin to help distribute news reports related to firearms issues. So far this has been working fairly well due to the efforts of our dedicated and efficient office staff.

It has truly been a summer of discontent - the High River debacle continues with more and more indications that police have access to the former long gun firearms registry records, probably through communication with Quebec, which holds an existing version of the database, though not updated with records from outside of Quebec. The kicked-in doors and ruined property that happened during this travesty when protection turned to property destruction and confiscation is an issue that will continue to raise concern with all who care about civil liberties and the rule of law.

Even "I Love Guns and Coffee" has taken a hit, with Starbucks asking firearms owners not to bring their firearms into Starbucks. It's not a ban, but it is far short of their "live and let live" policy that refused to knuckle under the pressure tactics of the gun grabbers. One wonders who got to their board of directors.

Recently I spoke at the Gun Rights Policy Conference in Houston, Texas, to share with the supporters of the Citizen's Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and the Second Amendment Foundation some of the situations that have been happening in Canada. Americans have their legislative troubles with the gun grabbers, but they look at where our laws are and just shake their heads. I hope that with your continued efforts I can give our friends around the world news of

improvements in future conferences.





# Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Un été de Mécontentement

Je tiens à profiter de cette occasion pour vous remercier. Oui, merci d'appuyer l'ACAF en rencontrant et en écrivant à vos élus et pour toutes les autres activités que vous faites au niveau local pour promouvoir le maintien de vos droits. Je vous en prie, continuez! Car vos démarches commencent à porter fruits. Grâce à votre encouragement constant envers les représentants et directeurs de l'ACAF, je suis convaincu que nous gagnerons enfin la lutte pour obtenir justice et d'être enfin traité équitablement. Les propriétaires d'armes à feu ne doivent plus accepter que leurs activités inoffensives soient règlementées par le Code Criminel. Cet élément crucial doit changer. Un autre gros merci à tous ceux qui se sont dévoués à transmettre des informations, à travailler dans les expositions d'armes à feu et à encourager d'autres personnes à s'impliquer. Plusieurs d'entre nous pensions que nous prêchions dans le désert mais les efforts du passé et ceux de l'avenir sont l'essence du succès de l'ACAF.

Notre lobbying fait sont chemin et nous prévoyons pouvoir contribuer à de réels changements à la Loi sur les Armes à Feu bientôt. Ce fût un dur travail de longue haleine mais il semble qu'il y ait une ouverture pour effectuer des changements à nos affreuses lois sur les armes à feu. Nous sommes une véritable organisation nationale prête à se battre pour les droits civils de tous les propriétaires d'armes à feu responsables, dans toutes les régions du Canada. Cette réussite est grâce à vous. Il reste encore beaucoup à faire et je suis reconnaissant de pouvoir compter sur vous pour continuer de progresser en conservant nos acquis.

Nous avons enfin réussi à utiliser les médias sociaux, dont Facebook en particulier. Des centaines de milliers de personnes ont découvert nos activités grâce à Facebook. Nous avons aussi commencé à transmettre un bulletin de nouvelles via l'internet qui énumère tous les reportages publiés dans différents médias au sujet des armes à feu. Ce bulletin de nouvelles est diffusé sur une base régulière grâce à notre personnel de bureau dévoué et efficace.

Ce fût vraiment l'été du mécontentement - La débâcle de High River continue. Plus le temps avance, plus il semble que la GRC ait eu accès aux données du défunt registre des armes longues, probablement en communiquant avec le Québec qui détient une version de cette banque de données, quoiqu'elle n'ait pas été mise à jour pour les autres Provinces. Les portes défoncées, les propriétés détruites durant cette travestie de "protection" qui fut plutôt un festival de confiscation et de destruction, font que cet événement demeurera un sujet d'inquiétude pour tous ceux qui se préoccupent de libertés civiles et du maintien du droit.

Les cafés Starbucks aux États-Unis avaient une promotion intitulée "I

love guns and coffee". Récemment, la compagnie a demandé aux propriétaires d'armes à feu de ne plus apporter leurs armes chez Starbucks. Ce n'est pas une interdiction totale mais c'est un changement drastique lorsque l'on compare cette nouvelle politique à celle du vivre et laissez vivre qu'ils pratiquaient avant, en refusant de plier sous la pression des groupes anti-armes. Nous pouvons nous questionner à savoir comment leurs directeurs ont été influencés.

J'ai récemment eu l'occasion de m'adresser au Gun Rights Policy Conference à Houston au Texas. (Conférence des politiques sur les droits aux armes à feu)

J'ai énoncé les situations que nous vivons ici au Canada au Comité de citoyens pour le droit de posséder et de porter des armes et aux membres de la Fondation du 2e amendement. Les Américains ont leurs problèmes législatifs à cause des groupes anti-armes, mais lorsqu'ils apprennent où en sont rendues nos lois, ils sont renversés. Je souhaite vivement, que grâce à vos efforts soutenus, je pourrai un jour transmettre lors de conférences futures à tous nos amis au niveau mondial, la nouvelle que notre situation s'est améliorée.



## Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

The Politics of Smart Meters and the Firearms Act

The provinces of Ontario and British Columbia have recently started a new program by which conventional electricity meters are replaced by Smart Meters, devices that are advertised as more accurately measuring energy use in private residences.

The programs are controversial. There are allegations that Smart Meters can be used as intelligencegathering devices to record activity beyond mere energy use, allegations of billing issues and that they may even have public health ramifications. Provincial utilities have basically asked homeowners to simply trust that any information gathered will not be misused in any way.

Furthermore, the installation of Smart Meters themselves is controversial as it involves public utility workers often entering private property without the knowledge or consent of property owners.

The excuse used by public utilities is that since the utility, and not the homeowner, owns electricity meters, this gives them the right to access them for any reason. In the past, this usually involved a meter reader entering private property and recording the data supplied by the meter.

But the fact is that these programs are controversial with homeowners, and BC Hydro - the power authority in British Columbia - has been recently forced to review the program and potentially offer alternatives to those opposed to Smart Meters.

What does this have to do with firearms you may ask?

Well, there have recently been two high profile cases in Vancouver, BC, that vividly illustrate just how the 1995 Liberal C-68 Firearms Act can be used to seize firearms and create firearms disabilities for their owners, based on incidents created by the introduction of such government programs as Smart Meters, and of course many others such as domestic situations or other civil disagreements.

Two gentlemen, Madeson Chase and Len Miller, of Vancouver, recently had their firearms seized as a result of their disagreements with the Smart Meter program. Miller, a well known opponent of Smart Meters and a retired Vancouver Police Detective, found a BC Hydro crew on his property, preparing to install a Smart Meter on his house. Miller informed them that they were trespassing, that he did not wish to have a Smart Meter installed and ordered them off the property. Miller then called Vancouver Police, informed them of the trespass and requested their assistance.

When the police arrived, they asked Miller if there were any firearms in his home. When Miller responded that there was, the firearms were seized under the excuse that since Miller was angry and upset at the trespass on his property, he and his firearms represented a danger to public safety and the safety of the Smart Meter installers.

Madeson Chase, also of Vancouver, had a similar experience with Smart Meters. Another vocal opponent, Chase went to the trouble to post notices on his property announcing that he did not give permission for BC Hydro to replace his meter with a Smart Meter and that any BC Hydro employees entering his property to do so were in fact trespassing.

He also constructed a cage around his meter and locked it to prevent it from being removed.

On his notices, Chase also announced that he owned a shotgun and a hunting rifle.

When Chase found out that BC Hydro employees had entered his property when he was not present, destroyed the lock and cage that he had constructed around his meter and that they had done so with the assistance of Vancouver Police, he was understandably upset.

He called Vancouver Police and attempted to have them investigate the trespass, but was informed that it was a civil matter between himself and BC Hydro and that he could expect no assistance from them.

A short time later, his firearms were seized based on the opinion of a police officer that due to his vehement opposition to Smart Meters and



the fact that they were installed on his property without his permission, he and his firearms represented a danger to public safety and BC Hydro. Vancouver Police have reported this to the BC Chief Firearms Officer, who is pursuing a firearms license revocation and five-year firearms prohibition against Chase.

In both cases, there was no brandishing of firearms and no direct threat of violence against anyone. There was no complaint of any threat against any individual's life or well being.

To be in possession of any firearm today, you must have a valid firearms license. There are no exceptions, it is a mandatory license for simple ownership or possession of any firearm and it can be compromised by any ill-informed or vexatious individual, police officer or firearms officer and can be revoked by the Chief Firearms Officer if it is decided that it is not "in the interest of public safety" for you to possess it or your property.

The provisions facilitating search and seizure of firearms are manifold, but it is the issue of "public safety" which, more and more, is being used as an excuse to seize firearms and manufacture firearms prohibitions against otherwise law-abiding individuals who are involved in civil issues or dis-

PRIVATE PROPERTY

NO TRESPASSING

VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED

Property owners in BC are claiming BC Hydro workers have trespassed, to install Smart Meters the homeowners don't want. And when these homeowners were found to be in legal possession of firearms, the police provided no assistance.

putes, rather than criminal activity where search and seizure of firearms has more expedient necessity and credibility.

Many people involved in these situations find that they have no other alternative but to accept the firearms prohibition or abandon the legal process necessary to recover their property. The legal system and the FA are a maze that few individuals can navigate alone and this demands that you have a lawyer to do so.

If you are in compliance with the firearms licensing laws, you are vulnerable to this. This was NFA's prediction right from the beginning. Those that snickered, "You need a license to drive a car, why shouldn't you have a license to own a gun?" deliberately glossed over the nature of the C-68 mandatory firearms license and it's ramifications, and hoped you did too.

Canada's National Firearms Association, and the millions of Canadians who elected the Conservative Government in 2006 on their promise of firearms law reform, didn't miss this part of C-68 and are all too aware that it remains law today.

It is absolutely essential that the Government of Canada effect firearms licensing and regulatory reform to remove the possibility of the legal and economic abuse of lawabiding individuals and their property. Firearms licensing remains the most dangerous part of the Liberal 1995 C-68 FA and the Conservative Government has made no indication and given no opinion on where they currently stand on this.

Canadians cannot continue to be deprived of their rights and property without due process, according to the dictates of the civil disarmament lobby.

Blair

## Team NFA Update

#### **Grayson Penney**

Team NFA Members On Their Way To Gold

#### **ROB ENGH**

I'm happy to report that Rob has been cleared to once again compete in officially sanctioned IPSC competition. Rob is happy to put the matter behind him and remains extremely grateful that he can once again compete in the sport he loves.

In this respect, Rob made a special request that I express his thanks for what he called "the tremendous amount of support" he's received from National Firearms Association members and readers of the Canadian Firearms Journal. Such a level of support was both very surprising and very much appreciated. Rob also expressed his thanks for all the kind words of encouragement he's received over the last year. In his own words, "... they really mean a lot, and I hope I get a chance to thank each of you personally one day."

At last report, Rob had just attended a small, independent pistol competition and won the Production Division. With the scores merged, he ended up second in the Open, behind one of the top Open Division shooters in the country, Chris Yang, at 88 per cent. As Rob good-naturedly noted, "I can live with that."

Unable to compete in IPSC during the first part of the season, the downtime gave Rob greater opportunity to focus on training and practice. Rob's shooting classes have apparently grown exponentially since last year and he may be moving to a two-night system to handle the numbers. This summer, Rob spent a lot of extra time at the range with students who were competing and the extra attention has paid off in a huge way.



Shooting while on the move is a difficult skill to learn and perfect.



As Rob noted, pushing students to really be aggressive in their movement and shooting and making them think outside the box when it comes to strategy, as well as making them shoot faster, not only helped grow their confidence and skills, but was also tons of fun. Movement in particular was something Rob stressed this summer for everyone - simply learning how to shoot while moving can be a real game-changer in his estimation. And Rob isn't talking about having students move, shoot, and then move again, but rather shooting the entire stage while in movement.

When not focusing on movement and shooting drills, Rob took time to focus on cadence and how each student might best keep their splits down during transitions. Through all of this practice, a number of students ended up finishing way above their classifications at the provincials. Rob is justifiably proud of their accomplishment, hard work and dedication to the sport. He says he's really looking forward to competing against them in the near future.

On a more personal note, Rob revealed to me that this summer he was also diagnosed with Keratoconus in both of his eyes, with his left eye needing surgery immediately. Keratoconus is a degenerative disorder of the eye in which structural changes within the cornea cause it to thin and change to a more conical shape than its normal gradual curve. (Sourced from Wikipedia.)

Rob is taking things in stride, musing to me that he supposes it's a good thing he wasn't competing in IPSC this summer, as this would have really put a damper on his season - he couldn't actually see the targets properly. Thankfully, Rob's first surgery was a success, and some three weeks after it Rob reported that the vision in his left eye is miles ahead of where it was before the surgery.

Rob went into surgery with 20/200 vision in the eye and now has apparently seen dramatic improvements, with vision in the eye sitting around 20/50, with a bandage lens slightly obscuring his vision. Once that comes out, Rob says he should see improvements in his vision to as much as 20/30, and over the next year his doctors are hopeful that his post-surgery vision will stabilize to 20/20 or thereabouts. Rob has been invited to compete in Russia in December and is currently actively fund raising for the trip. We wish him a speedy recovery and the best of luck!

To finish off his block, Rob asked that I leave you with the following warning. In Rob's own words: "Do not ignore your eyes, don't figure it's just age affecting your vision and that those cheap glasses from the pharmacy will help you. Get in to your eye doctor and get them checked. It just might save your vision."

#### MATT NEUMANN

Matt spent the latter part of the summer and early fall training in Europe for the upcoming start of the 2013/2014 Cup season and preparing for the Olympic qualifiers. Matt is focused on making the Canadian Olympic team at the end of December and is hard at work training for Sochi. Rather than focus on the finer points involved in Matt's current training regime, he asked that I run a personal letter in this update, addressed to all members of Canada's National Firearms Association.



Rob, demonstrating proper stance and technique for IPSC competition.

#### Personal Letter from Matt to all NFA members:

Aug. 29, 2013 **Dear NFA**,

Thank you once again for your continued support. I work part time to fund my expenses, but I rely on vour sponsorship to train at an elite level. The NFA's support has allowed me to train at a professional level for the past five years and for this I am very grateful. I would also like to emphasize that my goals reach beyond results, as I am adamant on giving back to the community that gave to me. By persisting towards my goals in sport, I intend to set an example for young shooters and skiers to realize the possibilities in their talent. Although I am chasing my goals competitively, I try to convey to young athletes that for most people, sport is simply an important part to getting out and living a healthy, balanced lifestyle. Of course there are multiple, competitive paths to follow, as well. I am also able to introduce marksmanship to many new people and emphasize the safety in the sport for those who may think otherwise. I am sincere on using your support to better the shooting community and promote biathlons and marksmanship in Canada.

I can never repay the difference you have made in my biathlon career. The NFA team has stood by my goals without question and it is humbling to have your trust and support. I have named the NFA on my website, www.biathlete. blogspot.com, as my biggest major sponsor and I will be quick to mention the NFA's sponsorship in media opportunities and interviews. This year, I will also have new Team NFA stickers on my rifle, which will receive international exposure. I proudly represent the NFA logo as they help me chase my Olympic aspirations. Thank you!

Sincerely, Matt Neumann



Matt, firing his Anshutz from the prone position during a recent training exercise.

#### **MEGAN HEINICKE**

Megan has had an extremely busy summer and fall training schedule to follow, as she prepares for the upcoming Sochi Olympics. In August, she was in Switzerland for another high-altitude training camp. Early August saw Megan making the long drive to Realp, where she took up residence in the Hotel Tiefenbach at an elevation of 2100 metres. The first week was all about the long, easy work outs, followed by training sessions of increasing intensity starting in week two, as she became better acclimated to the mountains and high elevation again.



Megan is pictured roller skiing in the Alps this past summer, as part of her training.



After roller skiing to the range, Megan takes the prone position to fire.

According to Megan, training alongside her was a rather large group of 17 athletes. The extra competition helped with the training and, according to her, she was able to almost double the training hours she had posted in June. Megan is convinced that the Realp camp was without a doubt the toughest, and one of the best, training camps she has ever experienced.

As the summer began to wind down and the promise of alpine snow grew even closer, the focus on running and cycle training was replaced by a renewed emphasis on roller skiing. When not skiing, Megan worked on improving her technique and hit the shooting range four to five times a week. New and better roller skis, and the opportunity to train with the Canadian men, all contributed to a very successful high-altitude camp.

After a week off to recover from the mountains, it was back to work for Megan as the fall crept onward. In September, Megan and company headed to Langdorf, Germany, for three races – her first real test of just how effective the new training regime was.

The Langdorf competitions were coincidentally part of the German National Team trials, so Megan had an opportunity to test herself against many of the same competitors she will face in Sochi. The first race was a relay. Despite feeling tired and being unhappy with her shooting, Megan tells me that she was shocked to learn that she had placed third out of 30 women. Megan followed her podium-winning performance with a sixth

place finish in the next day's sprint. While Megan was feeling confident about her ski speed at the start of the race, as she was clearly in better shape than she had realized, she would need to step up her shooting after posting two misses.

During the final race, a 10-kilometre Pursuit, Megan tells me she finally put it all together and after a 19-out-of-20 shooting performance it all came down to a sprint for the finish line. That last, all-or-nothing effort saw her place second by about a metre, and in the neutralized trials results was ultimately ranked first.

As always, Megan is her own worst critic, but she says Langdorf was a lot of fun and the results confirmed that she was on track for potentially her best winter season yet.

Clearly, Megan has made dramatic improvements in her skiing speed, so after recovering from the race weekend, she plans on spending some extra hours on the shooting range, focusing on fast shooting, especially her range entrance and exits.

In October, a couple of shorter training camps, in an indoor ski tunnel, are planned to get her used to training on snow as soon as possible. The rest of the fall will see her training hours shifting more and more towards ski-specific strength training and running. To minimize wear and tear, the plan is to thereafter train slightly less hours, but with a much higher intensity over the following two months leading up to the start of the new race season. Getting back and training on real snow and under actual race conditions is of key importance prior to the start of the new Cup circuit.

To all NFA members and supporters, Megan asked that I express her appreciation for all that we've done to support her. In her words, "I cannot thank you enough for the training opportunities that your support has made, and is making, possible for me!"

# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

The Great War – Lest We Forget

The year 2014 will mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of hostilities in Europe and the start of the Great War, alternatively known as World War One, the First World War or the War to End All Wars. It was a conflict that exceeded the scope of any known before, in terms of lives lost and destruction wrought. Startling advances in the technology of modern warfare, including the advent of fully automatic firearms, machine guns, artillery and the introduction of weapons of mass destruction, like poison gas, all contributed to the unimaginable destruction, devastation,

Major Alexander Boswell Stafford, from southern Alberta. Major Stafford was killed at Vimy Ridge on June 24, 1917. Photo courtesy of the Hedberg family collection.

death and mass displacement of noncombatant populations.

The roots of the conflict lay within the quagmire of competing European imperial/political, social and economic interests that dated back to the latter half of the 19th century. Over the period of several decades, this competitive and antagonistic environment gave birth to the grand European system of alliances that effectively saw most of the western world split into opposing camps. By the start of the war, England, France and Russia, the major powers forming the Triple Entente Alliance, found themselves effectively forced into armed conflict with the rival Triple Alliance, comprised of the Central Powers of Europe. The latter alliance included the German, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Turkish empires and their assorted peripheral, regional allies, including the Balkans.

In 1914, the Balkans were, perhaps, the most politically volatile and unstable region in all of Europe. Both the Triple Entente and Central Powers alliances had mutual defense pacts with the various state actors of the region. Described by many as the "Balkan powder keg," the

region was literally roiling with ethnic hatred. Alas, the major powers, at the time, had given little consideration to the political and military ramifications of signing mutual defense pacts with such ethnically motivated antagonists.

The spark that lit the fuse of the Balkan powder keg was struck one sunny, June morning on a guiet street in Sarajevo, Bosnia. Six assassins had been stationed on a motorcade route from the local railway station to a reception at City Hall being held in honour of the visiting Austro-Hungarian Archduke and his wife. The assassins' mission was to kill Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Each of the assassins was equipped with a hand grenade, Model 1910 Browning .380 ACP pistol, manufactured by Fabrique Nationale, and a cyanide pill. The conspirators were Serbians, who were driven by radical nationalism and outrage over the Austro-Hungarian annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was their hope



An FN Model 1910 Browning .380 pistol, similar to the one pictured from the author's collection, was used to kill Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914.



the Archduke were dispatched

from this Earth, the subsequent political fallout would convince the Austrians to cede Bosnia and Herzegovina back to Serbia. The unintended consequences of their actions were never considered.

Four of the conspirators were young, ethnic zealots, ranging in age from 19 to 20 years; three of who had tuberculosis and believed they did not

have long to live. Their rash actions would ultimately blow the Balkan powder keg apart and lead to a global conflagration and the deaths of millions.

The morning of June 28, 1914, saw Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, Duchess of Hohenberg, accompanied by sundry politicians, military officers and police, on their way to a reception at City Hall in Sarajevo. The entourage formed a motorcade of six automobiles that would proceed from the railway station to City Hall.

The attack did not go as planned for the Serbian conspirators, as the Archduke's car safely drove past the first two assassins. While the first two gunmen had failed to act, the third assassin was quick to execute his part of the attack. As the motorcade approached his position, the assassin seized his opportunity, throwing a hand grenade toward the rear seat of the Archduke's automobile, where Ferdinand and his wife rode. Seated in the front were the Provincial Governor and a Serbian military officer.

The assassin's hand grenade was deflected wide, bouncing off the tightly folded top of the Gräf & Stift Double Phaeton touring car in which the Archduke was riding. The luxury touring car's top acted as a trampoline of sorts, launching the bomb away

from the occupants. Missing the Archduke, the grenade landed in front of the fourth car, rolling underneath, detonating and injuring a reported 20 individuals. The rest of the motorcade sped away. The per-

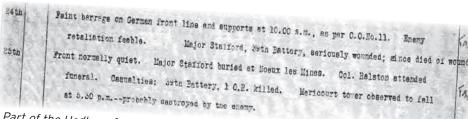
The world was now plunged into war. The two super powers of the time, Britain and Germany, with their allies, confronted each other. England's empire followed. Australians, New Zealanders, East Indians, Gurkhas, South Africans and Canadians answered the call. Young men joined by the thousands.

petrator, Nedeljko Cabrinovic, bit his cyanide pill and ran. However, the pill only made him throw up; he was captured, beaten and arrested. The other three conspirators were not able to make an attempt as the motorcade passed them at high speed.

The remaining five cars arrived at City Hall for the scheduled reception without further incident. The passengers were understandably shaken, but the Archduke regained his composure and the planned speeches were delivered. Afterward, the Archduke's schedule was hastily re-organized to facilitate the royal couple's visit with bombing casualties at the hospital. The newly reconstituted motorcade departed City Hall just before 11 am, with a bodyguard now stationed on the running board of the Archduke's touring car.

One of the Serbian gunmen, Gavrilo Princip, had been informed that the attempt on the life of the Archduke had failed. Dejected, he had made his way to a local delicatessen on Franz Joseph Street to assess the failure. That is when fate seemingly intervened, as the Archduke's driver made a wrong turn onto the same street as the deli being patronized by the assassin. The driver, realizing his mistake, put the car into reverse and started to back up. Unfortunately, in the process, he accidentally stalled the car. Princip, seeing the hated Archduke and his wife sitting in the now stationary auto, almost as if waiting for him to act, bolted from the deli toward the stationary vehicle intent on fulfilling his mission. The Gräf & Stift likely did not have a self-starter, as very few of the cars of that era did, so the chauffer would have had to exit the car and crank it to make it start.

Taking full advantage of his stroke of good luck, Princip drew his FN Model 1910 Browning .380 pistol and fired twice, striking the Archduke near the heart and Sophie in the stomach. In a desperate act of love, the Duchess had thrown her-



Part of the Hedberg family collection, pictured is a section of Ralston's war diary where the combat death of Major Stafford was recorded.

self in

front of Princip's pistol in the vain attempt to protect her husband. Within 10 minutes, the wounds inflicted by the assassin's bullets would prove fatal.

In a very short time, riots broke out in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while anti-Serbian sentiment became even more fervent and widespread. A virtual tidal wave of ethnic hatred and rage was subsequently unleashed with a fury that was almost to defy belief. In the wake of the assassination, the Austrians opted to declare war on Serbia the following month, when their demands were not met. In response to the threat against their ally, the Russians had begun mobilizing for war by the end of July. As the summer of 1914 wound down, the world careened toward war and no one seemed willing or able to stop it. By Aug. 4, 1914, England, her allies, along with most of Europe, found themselves in a war that no one had planned for or wanted.

In the global conflict that ensued, the two super powers of the day, Britain and Germany, along with their allies, threw the entire weight of their empires against one another. Where England led, the Empire followed, and Australians, New Zealanders, East Indians, Gurkhas, South Africans and Canadians answered the call. Young men joined by the thousands.

It was a mass mobilization unlike any that had come before. Many years ago, seniors from Salt Spring Island, BC, shared with this author their recollections of the exodus. One gentleman noted, "Salt Spring Island, 1914,



A collection of First World War artifacts, from the author's collection.



The empire lost nearly an entire generation of young men. Not only that, many middle aged, skilled, well educated and successful individuals also stepped forward. The sense of duty in the early 20th century was very strong.

the dock was covered with bicycles that were left by the willing, many never to be reclaimed."

On the prairies, homesteaders sold their livestock, locked their doors and told their neighbors to keep an eye on the place - again, many to never return.

The Empire lost nearly an entire generation of young men. Not only that, many highly skilled, well-educated and successful middle-aged men also joined up. The sense of duty to King and country in the early 20th century was very strong.

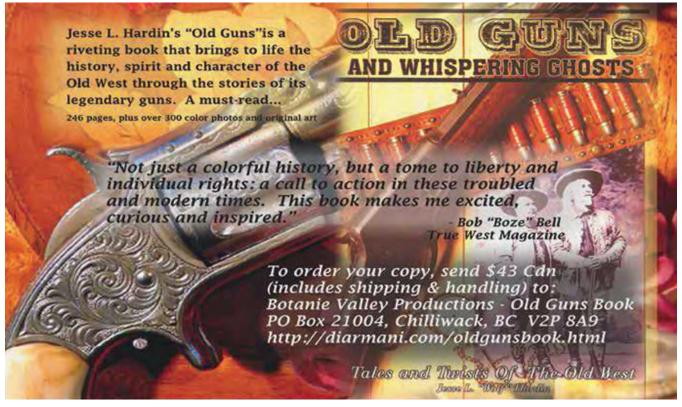
One of these courageous men to answer the call was Alexander Boswell Stafford. Born into a hard working, entrepreneurial ranching family in southern Alberta, Alexander was something of an adventurer. At age 20, he headed north to the Klondike, where he and his brother Richard staked a claim on Sulpher Creek. They enjoyed some success and in 1898 sold the claim, returning to Lethbridge, where Alexander, or A.B. as he was known, went into the furniture and hardware business.

Respected and prosperous, A.B. Stafford was commissioned on Dec. 1, 1915, as a 38-year-old major assigned to the 39th Battery of the Canadian Field Artillery. Major Stafford was to serve with distinction, even being mentioned in despatches (MiD). He was killed at Vimy Ridge on June

24, 1917. He was just 40 years old. Despite his sacrifice, a terse note in the war diary of Ralston's 10th Brigade, made the following day, is all that acknowledged his passing.

The Great War ultimately raged on for another year and four months, as thousands more like Major Stafford were asked to make the ultimate sacrifice. We owe them all our deepest gratitude and respect. This author believes they saw it was their sacred duty to defend our freedom and democracy, no matter the cost.

The end of the Great War marked the closing of another chapter in our proud firearms heritage, and the start of yet another. Many believe that the Great War was a baptism by fire for the young nation of Canada and marked our coming of age as true nation-state. This Remembrance Day, we salute Major Stafford and all who served beside him in the Great War, and in the many conflicts that have followed, and offer our thanks to all who have ever worn or continue to wear the uniform.



## Politics & Guns

#### Sean G. Penney

## Banning Guns and the Order-In-Council Conundrum

This past spring the RCMP revealed it would be re-examining the popular Swiss Arms family of semiauto sporting arms. They are trying to determine if the rifles in question had been improperly classified, when they were first approved for import more than a decade ago. If that turns out to be the case, the RCMP will almost certainly re-classify the entire family as prohibited. Current owners will be required to surrender their guns for destruction or have them de-activated. There is a third option, but so far the Harper government has displayed zero interest in extending grandfathered privileges to owners of recently reclassified, military-style firearms like the SSD BD-38 or BD-3008.

Most Swiss Arms rifles are currently classified as non-restricted, and include the Blue Star, Red Devil, Heavy Metal, Classic Green and Black Special. Less numerous are their restricted brethren, including the Classic Green CQB and Carbine, which are restricted by barrel length. While they may appear to externally resemble the Swiss SG 550 rifle, the Canadian Swiss Arms models are actually based upon an earlier design, the Swiss SG 540.

The fate of the Swiss Arms in Canada hinges on the whether or not the RCMP deem it a SG 550 variant. This model, and all its variants, were prohibited by name in the 1990s via an order-in-council, or OIC.

Many gun owners remain oblivious to the fact that current Canadian firearms control regime comprises three parts - the Firearms Act, the sections of the Criminal Code of Canada (including Chapter 39) that

affect firearms and related orders-in-council specifically affecting firearms. The ultimate fate of the Swiss Arms rifle in Canada is dependent upon the latter facet of Canadian firearm control laws.

Orders-in-council are quasi-anachronistic holdovers of our British parliamentary roots and are devices by which a sitting government may circumvent the authority of Parliament. At the federal level, OICs do not depend on any sort of statue for their legal authority, but typically take the form of a document issued by the Governor General-in-council, by and with the advice and consent of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada. In practical terms, either the federal cabinet, or a committee of the cabinet formulates the desired order, which is then placed before the Governor Generalin-council for approval. While a sitting governor general has the power to deny approval, the long-standing convention is that any such request is automatically honoured.

Only about a third of OICs involve legislative changes, such as the prohibition of certain military-style firearms like the SG 550. Most are made under authority specifically granted to the minister/cabinet by an act of Parliament. However, the OICs themselves are not debated by Parliament, unlike most statues and acts that form our system of laws; nor do they receive any outside scrutiny from elected representatives prior to their entry into force. Occasionally, a government may overstep and exceed the authority granted by a specific act, allowing the courts to intercede. However, for the most part, there is little recourse or remediation to be had once a bad OIC is signed by the Governor General-in-council.

Herein lies the danger, one that firearms owners in Canada ignore at their peril, because the minister responsible is granted near omnipotent powers to legally deem just about anything he or she wants to be a prohibited firearms or device.

> Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. - Lord John Dalberg-Acton

## **Chapter 39, section 117.15:**

117.15 (1) Subject to subsection (2), the Governor in Council may make regulations prescribing anything that by this Part is to be or may be prescribed.

(2) In making regulations, the Governor in Council may not prescribe anything to be a prohibited weapon, a restricted weapon, a prohibited device or prohibited ammunition if, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, the thing to be prescribed is reasonable for use in Canada for hunting or sporting purposes.

These few lines grant the Minister of Public Safety, formerly known as the Minister of Justice, the authority to act unilaterally, without any advice or consent from the House of Commons or Senate, and with minimal input from the cabinet, to issue new OICs deeming any firearm, device or ammunition to be prohibited if, in the opinion of the Governor-in-council, using the opinion provided him by the Minister for Public Safety, they have no reasonable hunting or sporting purpose.

Now imagine a freshly minted and extremely anti-gun Liberal or NDP minister, looking to make his bones, taking over the portfolio in 2015, following a hypothetical Conservative electoral defeat. With the stroke of a pen he/she can prescribe and ban virtually any firearm via OIC that he views as having no reasonable sporting purpose. All that matters is that one person's subjective opinion and, by convention, the sitting Governor General will almost certainly honour the request by the minister.

As such, owners of AR-15s and other so-called assault rifles could very easily find themselves forced to surrender their legally purchased property for destruction. Just such a scenario played out some 20 years ago when law-abiding owners of suddenly "prescribed weapons," like the Franchi SPAS-12 shotgun and Calico nine-millimetre carbine, had their firearms confiscated via OIC.

Had the Chretien government listened to the advice of the House and Senate committees that reviewed the proposed legislation, the additional phrase under section 117.15 (2) "...in the opinion of the Governor in Council..." should have been deleted in the interests of fairness and natural justice. If deleted, affected gun owners would have had the option of appealing to the courts for a ruling on what was a "reasonable" hunting or sporting purpose. For instance, I personally use my black rifles, like the TAVOR and Swiss Arms, to hunt coyotes, which would appear to be a reasonable sporting use of said firearms. If the government moved to ban them via OIC, owners would have had at least some legal alternatives to exploit and challenge such a ban.

## One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors. - Plato

However, the Chretien government ignored both committees, along with the recommendations and advice of scores of other pro-firearm rights stakeholders, to delete the offending phrase. Instead, they deliberately retained it, ensuring that Canadian gun owners would have little legal recourse in the face of unfair and punitive OICs. Under Canadian law, the courts cannot substitute its own opinion for that specified in the pertinent legislation, including OICs - they can only interpret, not overturn.

In effect, that one phrase, in a single subsection of Chapter 39, grants the minister the de facto powers of a dictator - one who is indebted to no one and subject to no oversight, except his own council, and perhaps that of the Prime Minister's office and his peers in cabinet.

Given that simple, unassailable truth, if you are a legal gun owner, now is the time to get politically motivated and demand real change of the Con-

servative government on this issue. The gun control lobby is ramping up efforts in Canada and they've circled the wagons in the aftermath of Bill C-19. Canada's National Firearms Association has come under fire by the usual suspects, like the Coalition of Gun Control, for our part in scrapping the long gun registry, but we're facing new and more vocal opposition from new quarters, including internationally, as the International Action Network on Small Arms, Project Ploughshares and Amnesty International and other rabidly anti-gun non-government officials and alleged not-for-profits jump on the international civil disarmament bandwagon.

We're just a couple of years from the next federal election and the re-election of another Conservative majority government is by no means assured. We need to drive home the point that they need us, just as much as we need them to honour their past promises. I can't think of another piece of federal legislation that is in so desperate a need for repeal and/or replacement than the current FA and Chapter 39 of the CCC. At the very least, the Conservatives must address Chapter 39, section 117.15 of the Code and the issue of OICs and the potential for further arbitrary reclassifications because of it. You can rest assured that if modern sporting rifles like the Swiss Arms are reclassified and banned, the gun grabbers will not stop there. Canadian gun owners must realize that we're all in this fight together. As for the Conservatives, they have claimed the mantle of defender of fair play and natural justice; now is the time for them to prove it.

# ARMING AND DISARMING

## A History Of Gun Control In Canada

Written by R. Blake Brown Reviewed by Gary Mauser





Gun control is an issue that provokes fierce debate because it touches on a sensitive political guestion: should individual liberty be sacrificed for promises of increased security? R.B. Brown is to be commended for writing the first, comprehensive history of gun control in Canada. He shows how governmental attempts to manage access to firearms predate Confederation. Many will be surprised to learn that, for most of its history, Canadian authorities actively encouraged men to arm themselves. Beginning early in the 17th century, authorities promoted the ownership and use of firearms by "trustworthy" citizens, despite periodically taking steps to disarm ethnic groups deemed "suspicious" or "threatening." I was, however, disappointed that Brown fails to properly appreciate the enduring importance of individual liberty in a free society, including the right to bear arms.

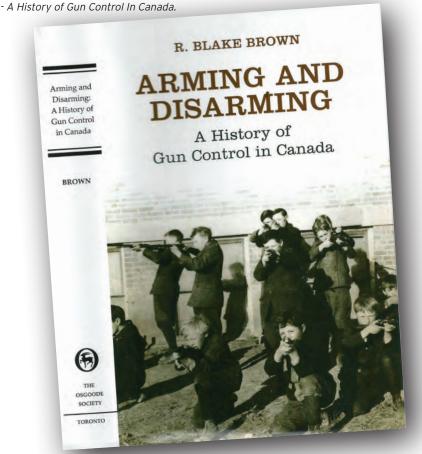
Ever since the European Enlightenment in the 17th and 18th centuries, it has been widely accepted that individuals enjoy natural rights that governments should respect, such as political and religious freedom. Drawing on John Locke, the English Bill of Rights in 1689 affirmed, among other things, that the Crown was required to seek the consent of the people in passing legislation and that individuals, or at least some classes, had the right to bear arms. Nineteenth century Canadian politicians, including Sir John A. Macdonald, Edward Blake and Robert Baldwin, argued strongly that disarming Canadians infringed upon their rights as English subjects. Curiously, present-day Canadian progressives do not fear governmental limitations on classic individual political freedoms, such as firearms rights or free speech; rather, they limit their concerns to freedoms of personal expression, hence protesting restric-

tive drug laws or governmental limitations on abortion rights or samesex marriage.

Arms are problematical for government because they provide both benefits and liabilities. For centuries, governments have feared the armed people they relied upon. Indeed, the nobles who imposed the English Magna Carta upon the Crown were armed. The hue and cry was a vital part of English justice, at least as early as the 13th century, and citizensoldiers were responsible for defending the realm. The importance of an armed populace may have declined since the 19th century, because of the rise of professional police and military, but armed citizens still play a vital role in modern nations. Most western nations depended upon men who were familiar with firearms as a source of skilled soldiers throughout the 20th century, as well as during the recent Afghanistan involvement. Even in the 21st century, countries as diverse as Switzerland, Singapore and Israel continue to count on citizen soldiers to guard their sovereignty. Armed individuals, both men and women, continue to play a vital role in protecting themselves and their families from violence. On a more mundane level, hunters in North America help to control burgeoning wildlife populations, such as deer, geese and bears, even paying for the privilege, and they contribute disproportionately to conservation.

Whatever benefit arms may offer, an armed populace poses an existential threat to any regime. Every government, historical or modern, must successfully deal with challenges from uprisings and even revolution. History is replete with examples of states that have not managed to do so. Maintaining power is much more important to a regime than is suppressing criminal violence, or preventing the relatively rare multiple-victim killing, no matter how well publicized. This is not to say that public safety is unimportant to the authorities. Shocking criminal violence can be

R. Blake Brown's book, Arming and Disarming



useful in provoking public demand for additional governmental powers. In the 21st century, converging social trends have increased governmental concerns about the unreliability of the general populace. For example, terrorism, high levels of urbanization and immigration and the deinstitutionalization of mental patients have led to the modern surveillance state.

In the first few chapters of *Arming and Disarming*, Brown does an excellent job in placing gun use and firearm regulations in the political contexts existing in British North America, beginning in the early French and British settlements through Confederation and up until the end of the 19th century. He emphasizes that throughout this period, authorities encouraged able-bodied Englishmen to acquire and use firearms, doing so primarily to help defend the country from

external threats. Brown observes that firearms were indispensible, particularly during early centuries, for providing food, shooting pests and for personal defense. However, he may not appreciate the full importance of civilian firearms ownership in the 18th and 19th centuries because of the difficulty of estimating household firearms stock. Canadian historians have not analyzed wills and estate records to the extent that American scholars have done so.

Brown deserves praise for pointing out the racist roots of Canadian gun laws. Despite vigorously promoting the use of firearms by men they considered loyal, in times of crisis colonial governments passed laws specifically designed to disarm groups seen as suspicious or threatening. The earliest such laws targeted Aboriginal peoples, and, after the British conquest, the resident

French population. Later in the 18th century and throughout the 19th century, authorities occasionally reacted with gun laws from fears concerning Irish labourers, Italian immigrants and Métis. Laws disarming threatening groups were episodic and typically were ignored after the crisis had passed. In the 20th century, governmental concern shifted to disarming alleged Bolsheviks and enemy aliens. During the First World War, Canada disarmed or incarcerated eastern Europeans, especially Ukrainians, and during the Second World War, authorities disarmed or incarcerated Japanese, German and Italian Canadians. In British Columbia, all persons of Asian descent were disarmed, including Chinese who were born in Canada even though China was a wartime ally of the British Commonwealth.

Brown unequivocally aligns himself as a progressive in the introduc-

## Deutsche Fertigungskennzeichen bis 1945 German Secret Armament Codes Until 1945

"If you are interested in
German firearms and any
other militaria from that time
you need Deutsche
Fertigungskennzeichen bis
1945 - German Secret
Armament Codes Until 1945.

It is a remarkable reference
work that will add much detail
to the understanding of
interwar and wartime German
economic and military
history."

- NFA President Sheldon Clare

Purchase an autographed copy direct from the author for only \$67\_USD includes registered and insured airmail from Germany to the US and Canada.

Contact Michael Heidler: GGBuch@web.de

or via mail:

Michael Heidler Eschenweg 45, 89555 Steinheim, Germany



Visier Edition, 2008. ISBN-13; 978-3-9811018-7-4 & ISBN-10; 3-9811018-7-1. 506 pages.



tion, by citing approvingly such controversial icons as Michael Bellesiles and even Michael Moore. The claims of both have now been thoroughly discredited. Brown seems not to realize that staking out such a posture undermines his criticism of scholars who allow their personal biases to shape their research. Unfortunately, Brown's ideological biases lead him to ignore or misrepresent important historical events and positions, such as the American Second Amendment. Too often he seems satisfied with stereotypes. Brown also makes minor errors regarding firearms, such as referring to revolvers as pistols and confusing semi-automatic and fully automatic firearms.

I was disappointed that Brown adopts the notion, popularized by the now disgraced Bellesiles, that arms manufacturers were the driving force in artificially transforming guns into symbols of masculinity during the 19th century. This is a profound misunderstanding as it exaggerates the powers of marketing and devalues the deep attachment to British Imperialism felt by Canadians, as well as the fierce emotional pull of the wilderness and the frontier across North America. Brown's prejudices as a progressive lead him to fundamentally misconstrue the motivations of firearms owners. His musings about gun ownership deriving from feelings of insecurity derive from a misreading of Freud.

Brown's pose of evenhandedness by and large works well, but it subtly minimizes or devalues support for positions he does not endorse. Delegitimizing the opponents of gun control does a disservice to Canadian history. Scholars agree that the founders of both Canada and the US believed they inherited the rights of Englishmen, including the right to bear arms. While Brown cites the reluctance of some colonial leaders, such as the first Canadian prime minister, Sir John A. Macdonald, to impose gun controls on the grounds that doing so would violate their rights as English subjects, he

does not appreciate the enduring importance of individual freedom in democratic societies.

Brown rightly deplores the government's use of "racist, ethnocentric and xenophobic rationales" to disarm potentially "untrustworthy" citizens, but he does not seem to realize the full implications for contemporary gun laws that encompass everyone, not just a vulnerable minority. Using the power of the criminal code to impose a draconian regulatory system on ordinary people sends a powerful message that the state views everyone as untrustworthy or threatening. Such views have troubling implications in a democracy. Ironically, progressives support the heavy hand of the state falling on groups whose threat they exaggerate, such as rural men who own guns. Contemporary gun laws demonize males by adopting the radical feminist argument that men by their very nature endanger women.

Brown's progressive biases taint his discussion of the debate over modern gun laws. After 1990, he relies too heavily upon Toronto progressive newspaper columnists without availing himself of more diverse sources, such as studies by criminologists, conservationists and economists. Statistics or evaluations that are inconsistent with his prejudices are put in critics' mouths as mere claims. This has the effect of delegitimizing the opposition to additional gun laws and avoiding the key question of whether gun controls are effective in reducing criminal violence. In lieu of evidence that the proposed gun laws will save lives, Brown merely quotes the claims of their supporters. Had he dug more deeply, he would have discovered that no methodologically sound studies exist supporting the effectiveness of general firearms laws. Curiously, Brown recognized the importance of objectively evaluating the effectiveness of the provincial hunter safety regulations introduced in the 1960s and 1970s.

Brown's treatment of the parliamentary opposition to Bill C-68 illustrates his bias. It is a minor but revealing example. While he observes that the Reform Party fought the Liberals' 1995 gun law, he fails to mention that two of the three other opposition parties joined the Reform in condemning the proposed legislation. (The Bloc Quebecois joined the Liberals in voting for Bill C-68.) Brown entirely ignored the principled opposition to the bill by the Progressive Conservatives.

Brown notes the drop in the number of gun owners with the introduction of licensing and registration in 1998, but he erroneously assumes that this was solely due to people who disarmed themselves. In 1999, the Justice Minister conservatively estimated there were 3.8 million firearms owners and 11 million firearms. By July 2003, only 2.1 million Canadians had applied for a license, and 6.3 million firearms were registered. Millions of guns disappeared. There is no evidence that they were surrendered to the police or exported. Undoubtedly, many Canadians did disarm, but an unknown number did not. As with drug laws, when people decide a law is unreasonable, they simply do not comply.

To sum up, Arming and Disarming is the first comprehensive history of gun control in Canada that extends from the colonial period to the 21st century. This is must reading for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding of the debate over firearm regulations in Canada. Brown deserves praise for attempting such a daunting task. That his reach exceeds his grasp is disappointing but only to be expected, since he has chosen a difficult challenge. Understanding the reasons behind political battles requires a deep understanding of culture, politics and economics.

Gun control endures as a robust perennial because it reflects the unresolved tension beindividual tween liberty and governmental power. Without convincing evidence, promises that draconian gun laws will improve public safety merely offer false hope while encouraging government to grow ever more intrusive. Organizations like the Fraser Institute, the NRA and other civil rights groups are a needed corrective for the arrogance of the modern bureaucratic state.

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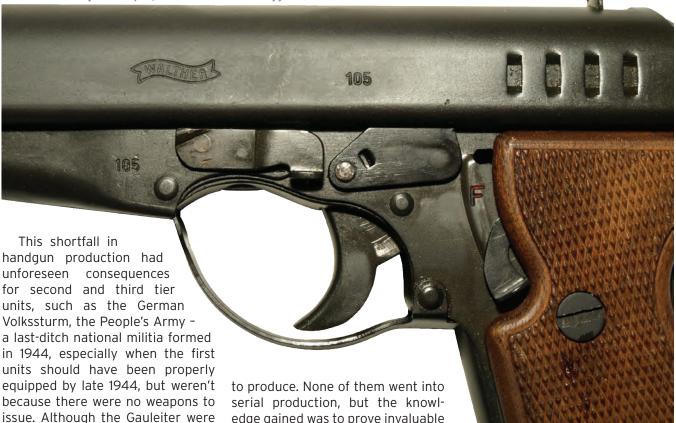




by Michael Heidler

of the German Wehrmacht was the Walther P38 in calibre production began in 1939 by Walther, followed by Mauser (1941) model P38 was thought to replace the standard pistol model P08, time-consuming to manufacture. But due to the circumstances of be implemented completely. In the first half 1944, German troops and this number rose to 282,701 handguns in the second half combined production of all three manufacturers could not compensate for such high losses.

The slide bears the Walther trademark and the serial number (105). The safety is marked with the letters S for safe and F for fire. For disassembling the weapon, the lever above the trigger has to be lowered. Then the barrel can be withdrawn.



Volkssturm. Starting in early 1944, Walther and Mauser began trying to simplify their weapons designs and to develop new models that were easier

authorized to receive weapons from

armament factories in their dis-

tricts, these weapons had to come

from production over-runs or had to

be made after an official Army con-

tract had ran out. But this alterna-

tive was complete fiction. German

weapons manufacturers at the time

had their hands full attempting to

fulfill war-critical contracts to arm

front-line troops. At the end of the

day, there was nothing left for the

edge gained was to prove invaluable when the call came for a new, simplified "people's pistol" at year's end. With the war going badly and possible defeat looming, it was necessary for German weapons makers to exponentially increase the speed of production, while substantially reducing costs. Any new design, however, had to utilize the standard P38 magazines and be accurate enough to hit a 20-by-20-centimetre target at 25 metres.

On Nov. 30, 1944, there was a meeting between the Haupt-Dienststellenleiter Saur, SS-Obergruppenführer Gottlob Berger and other members of the Technisches Amt

Only very few parts, like the exposed hammer, were made from solid steel. The slide housing is made of two sheet metal half shells, which are held together at their rear by the clenching of the stamped-in grasping grooves into slots in the

inner shell.





Five simple stamped-out areas on each side replaced the traditional machined guide rails on the receiver.

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The barrel of the Volkspistole is held in place by a hardened cylindrical plug, which engages the blind hole at the underside of the barrel.

(Technical Department). In the process, Saur got the promise for a monthly supply of 20,000 Volkspistolen (people's pistols) model Walther. The following day, Berger sent an official contract to SS-Standartenführer and Wehrwirtschaftsführer, leader of defense economy, Erich Purucker, who in turn forwarded it to the Walther Company as War-Order No.1005 Waffen SS on Jan. 4, 1945.

For Walther, the new order was extremely problematic. There

The machined bolt is held in place inside the slide by only two lugs. They take all the recoil forces when shooting.

is little question that by this point in the war that the company's production capacity was stretched almost to the breaking point simply meeting demands for war-critical weapons like the P38, K43, VG1 and other military equipment. Compounding the problem was the increasing scarcity of necessary raw materials, such as steel. In response, director Fritz Walther wrote a letter to Purucker on Jan. 24, 1945:

"I confirm the receipt of the above-mentioned war-order. In the meantime a decree of the OKH (Wa A Az. 72-b-35 Wa Chef Ing 4 VIa2) for procuring raw materials and supply and an order for setting up a production facility for the Volkspistole (handwritten added: 9mm)

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have arrived. [...] Serial production is not possible before the production facility is set up. The compulsory dates of delivery February 1945, March 1945 etc. cannot be confirmed. The raw materials request to the Hauptausschuß Waffen (Main Committee for Weapons) in Berlin is released today. Please influence the Committee to allocate the required supply-rights for iron and sheet metal as quickly as possible. The order SS-4924 is classified as Dringlichkeitsstufe 1 (top priority). My other productions run in the precedence rating level O and 1 have all sorts of difficulties in obtaining the raw material. And therefore I fear

As a result of this letter, Walther received a message on Feb. 10, informing him that the project had been re-prioritized and was now classified at the highest level - "Führer-Notprogramm" (Führer Emergency Program).



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siderably more difficult."

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The busy end of the Volkspistole shows the electro-penciled real serial number 12.

A view of the magazine well. Even the eyelet for the sling was made of stamped sheet metal.



However, it remains questionable whether this higher priority had any sort of positive impact on Volkspistole production. The few surviving pistols do not suggest the start of a large-scale serial production before the U.S. Army occupied the Zella-Mehlis area, where the Walther plant was located, on April 4th.

With so many documents lost or destroyed in the war, today not much is known about German attempts to increase production efficiency by simplifying the P38 design. However, a few experimental examples survived the war and allow us to trace the ancestry of the "people's pistol," the Volkspistole. The two surviving models both make great use of fast-to-manufacture stamped sheet metal parts and are rather similar to the earlier American Colt 1911 in some ways. Other innovations, such as a rotating barrel, cannot be found on the cruder Volkspistole.

Externally, the real Volkspistole looks similar to these experimental pistols, but internally relies on a conventional single-action blowback operating system. Almost the whole gun is made of stamped sheet metal, except for barrel, bolt head, springs, grip-plates and a few other small parts. Almost everything is joined together with bolts and rivets, and the spotwelded points have been reduced to a minimum. Only the wooden grip-plates are still attached with common

screws. The weight of the complete gun is 1.086 kilograms.

The whole range of simplification becomes obvious when disassembling the Volkspistole: The barrel is retained in the frame by a hardened cylindrical plug, which engages the blind hole shown in the underside of the barrel breech. When lowering the lever on the left side of the frame above the trig-

ger, the plug retracts and the barrel can be withdrawn forward. Afterwards the slide can be removed.

The slide housing is made of two sheet metal half shells, riveted together at the front. At the rear end they are held together by the clenching of the finger grips into slots in the inner shell. The slide housing is then positioned around a machined bolt that's only connected by two lugs on the top surface of the bolt. These lugs take all the recoil forces generated by each shot fired by the Volkspistole.

On the phosphate surface, there are only a few markings visible. The slide bears the Walther-trademark ("Walther-Schleife") on the left side and the safety is marked with the letters "S" (Sicher/Safe) and "F" (Feuer/Fire). Only two surviving Walther Volkspistole are known today: serial numbers 6 and 12. The former is mismatched with the barrel of Ser. No. 4. The "105" is a postwar number, presumably to register the weapon. The other pistol has the number "14" stamped on it in the same way.

P.38

аc

In the 1970s, pistol No. 12 found its way back to the collection of the Walther Company in Ulm, to where the former Thuringian company had moved after the war. The late-war German Volkspistole: yet another classic firearm that helped shape history and the history of firearms design.

#### **Technical Data**

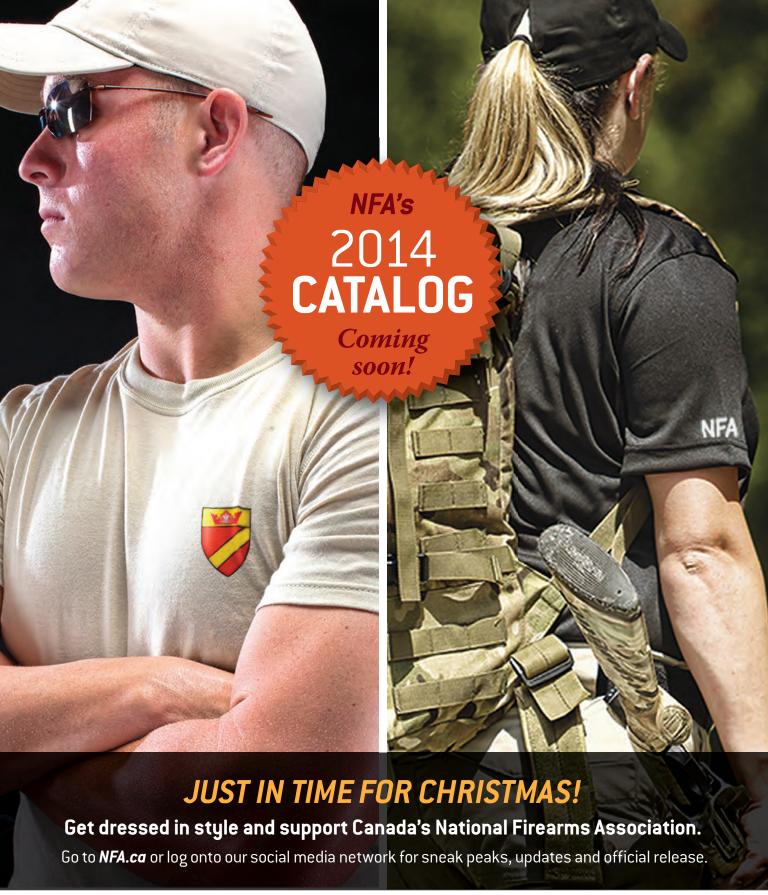
Length: 215 millimetres (8.5 inches)
Height: 140 millimetres (5.5 inches)
Width: 30 millimetres (1.2 inches)

Weight with empty magazine: 1.088 kilograms (two pounds, 5.4 ounces)
Weight without magazine: 1.007 kilograms (two pounds, 3.5 ounces)

Barrel length: 128 millimetres (five inches)

#### Special thanks to:

Mr. Werner Hampel / Carl Walther GmbH Sportwaffen, Ulm/Germany and Mr. Darrin Weaver, Texas.





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## MEMBER'S SOAPBOX

#### Chris McGarry

## The Prejudice Against Gun Owners

For decades, Canada has been viewed by countless oppressed peoples, and the citizens of more autocratic sovereign states around the world, as a shining beacon of hope, with enshrined human rights and offering a truly progressive way of life, while also boasting magnificent scenery, a country rich in natural resources and one that upholds the liberties and freedoms of all its citizens, regardless of creed or political persuasion.

While not totally off the mark, such an idealized reality doesn't quite jive with the de facto reality Canadian gun owners have been contending with since the 1960s. There is no question that successive Liberal and Tory governments, aided by their allies in the mainstream media, have made concerted, dedicated efforts to accommodate and enshrine into law the protection of human rights for minority groups, such as feminist organizations and the gay lobby, along with that of the majority.

Hypocritically, while working to protect the rights of minorities, these same governments actively worked to vilify and constrain the rights of Canada's largest minority group: law-abiding gun owners. Many would argue that such actions were more akin to state-directed persecution than anything else. Somewhere along the way, the idea that gun ownership is and had always been "un-Canadian" became the accepted mantra of the progressive left and this bias against guns became an ingrained part of the left's social re-engineering strategy.

However, despite the lies spouted by left-wing politicians and anti-gun

activists, Canada does indeed have a strong culture of responsible gun ownership dating back at least 400 years. And like our brothers-in-arms in the United Kingdom, Australia and even the US, we too have been battling a vicious assault against our gun rights in recent decades.

Though they had occasionally been looked upon with quiet derision, for at least a couple of decades prior, mainly by the suburban and inner-city dwellers of growing urban centers, it wasn't until the 1990s that Canadian gun owners found themselves the overt targets of open discrimination and harassment by the anti-gun media, radical feminist groups and, more worrisome, by increasingly anti-gun law enforcement agencies that saw their operating budgets grow exponentially to deal with the perceived out-of-control gun problem in Canada.

Advancing the left's anti-gun agenda became a growth industry of sorts for the RCMP and Sureté du Quebec. The result was sweeping changes to Canadian gun laws, aimed at restricting ownership and making it much more difficult for anyone, especially potential new gun enthusiasts, to become legal firearms owners. In essence, gun owners become the new class of second-class citizens – social pariahs to be disparaged and avoided at all cost.

In 1995, with the stroke of a pen, the peaceful possession of firearms in Canada, without special permission from government bureaucrats, turned into a crime. Though a mere high school student at the time, I vividly recall then Justice Minister Allan Rock, along with his counterpart, Annie "Get Your Guns" McClellan, peddling this travesty of a gun control bill to naive SUV-driving, suburban soccer moms and latte-sipping, urbane intellectuals as a "public safety measure."

If one is required by law to register vehicles and obtain a driver's license, they reasoned, then it only makes sense to compel gun owners to do the same. It's a nice analogy, but horribly flawed, as failing to register a car usually results in a fine, not a criminal conviction. And that's the problem with C-68. Private ownership of firearms was effectively outlawed. However, the federal government, in its benevolence, was willing to issue a stayout-of-jail card to those willing to submit to invasive background checks, have their private relationships and finances investigated and take a government-mandated safety course, at great personal expense, and obtain a firearms license. Allow your license to expire, you immediately become a paper criminal.

## Canada does indeed have a strong culture of responsible gun ownership dating back at least 400 years.

To continue to compare a firearms license to a driver's license is simply ridiculous. If you allow your driver's license to expire, the worst you will get is a fine and an admonishment to get your license renewed. Allow your firearms license to expire and you are potentially staring down the barrel



of a not-so-friendly date at your local courthouse and a three-year term in federal prison if convicted. Your firearms will be seized, and eventually destroyed, and upon your release you will not be permitted to acquire any new firearms. Imagine the outcry if police were allowed to seize and destroy the vehicles of every person they found driving or in possession of a vehicle with an expired driver's license? Why is one act of state-directed theft socially acceptable and the other not?

Overindulged, anti-gun yuppies take note: once a government has the authority to steal citizens' property without compensation, all of our hard-earned possessions are fair game. To quote former US president Ronald Reagan, "The government that's big enough to give you everything you want is also big enough to take it all away."

Another awfully appalling section of the current *Firearms Act* many Canadians have only become aware of in recent years, due primarily to increased media coverage, are orders-in-council and their potential for misuse. Previous anti-gun Tory and Liberal governments have both used OICs to re-classify and ban previously legal firearms. Using powers granted to them under the *Firearms Act*, the RCMP continues this process, seemingly having been given free rein to re-classify any firearm they darn well choose to, seizing said firearms from their law-abiding owners, often without recompense, and under clear threat of criminal prosecution. Doesn't sound too fair, does it? If this isn't a reason to enshrine property rights in our already terribly inconsistent constitution, then I really don't know what is.

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors. - Plato

While violent criminals and sexual predators are left largely to their own devices, gun owners who've chosen to obey the law and obtain a license are subject to intense scrutiny by a domineering, gun-control bureaucracy. It may come as a surprise to the unwashed masses (or maybe not) but the Canadian Firearms Centre in Mirimachi, NB, constantly runs checks on already-vetted license holders in an intrusive snooping venture that could rival operations carried out by the Stasi in the former East Germany.

What's truly sad about unjust laws, such as the *Firearms Act*, is that instead of decreasing crime, all they've done is drive a massive wedge between law enforcement agencies and the firearms community, who have traditionally been the biggest supporters of the police. And if this once-great relationship hasn't been frayed enough already, it was further eroded this past June when the RCMP seized firearms from evacuated homes in High River, Alta.

From what I've seen, while generally well-educated and willing to take a stand for what they believe in, far too many Canadians have failed to take the time to learn the origins of their rights – yes, I mean inalienable rights, not privileges – and, more importantly, scratch beneath the surface of feel-good government propaganda and fully appreciate just how dangerous laws such as the *Firearms Act* are, not only for farmers and sportsmen, but for every citizen of Canada.

Contrary to what people may think, governments in Canada have a long history of violating civil rights. From the shame of this country's aboriginal residential school system to the internment of citizens of Japanese descent during the Second World War, things have not always been rosy and Canada hasn't lived up to that beacon-of-light mantle assumed by the progressive left. What's even worse today is that many younger Canadians have become smug and unworried about the horrors of the past and fail to realize just how important firearms ownership is to a free and democratic society. I don't mean to get carried away with the quotes, but to cite Winston Churchill, another upstanding statesman, "Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it." Sadly, too few have learned those all-important lessons.

Over the past four or five decades, several minority groups in Canada, such as First Nations, gay and lesbian citizens and Francophones, have fought against prejudicial and discriminatory laws to achieve liberty. We must follow their example. Although it's taken a lot for them to get active, a growing number of Canadian gun owners have stopped taking abuse and have joined the fight to protect and preserve their rights as law-abiding firearms owners.

Make no mistake, we have a long, tough road to travel, but the destination is so worth it. The right to own and use firearms is critical to the protection of all other inalienable human and civil rights. Even the Magna Carta, the foundation upon which our entire system of laws is based, recognizes the importance of protecting the rights of the individual to arms. It effectively differentiates a citizen from a subject and the sooner the public wakes up to this fact, the better off we all will be, no matter if you are a gun owner or not.

# Guns 'n' Gear

Sean G. Penney

LaRue Tactical SPR/M4 1.93-inch Mount QD LT135. MSRP: \$232

Texas-based LaRue Tactical is known worldwide for producing extremely high quality sniper targets, precision tactical rifles built upon the AR-15 platform and innovative optical mounting solutions. You have to pay for quality and all LaRue products tend to command a premium price.

Demand for LaRue products has been simply tremendous for the past decade and has only increased in recent years as action carbine, 3-Gun and CQB-type shooting competitions have exploded in popularity across North America. The rise of the "tactical hunter" has also contributed to the ever-increasing demand for high-quality, tactical optic mounts and accessories. Alas, the result is a hard-to-find product that commands a premium price, especially here in Canada.

## LT135 design and features

LaRue currently manufacturers an entire line of SPR cantilever picatinny scope mounts, including several ring heights that should meet almost every potential user's needs. Our review mount is the tallest in the SPR series and places the centerline of the mounted optic 1.93 inches above the rail.

Originally designed with a military end-user in mind, the LT135 allowed mounted optics, like the S&B Short Dot, to clear top-mounted PEQ-2 and PEQ-15 laser/illuminators. The mount has also gained popularity with civilian users for much the same reason. However, rather than needing their mounted optic to clear a PEQ-2 laser designator, civilian users have taken advantage of the LT135's height to clear

higher back-up iron sights (BUIS) or fixed rear sights found on many modern military-style sporting rifles, such as the Swiss Arms family of 5.56mm rifles. If you do not need the extra height, LaRue offers the shorter LT104 mount in the SPR series.

The cantilever design of the LT135 allows users to position their optic in a variety of positions in order to clear BUIS or achieve proper eye relief, assuming there is sufficient picatinny real estate available. For AR-15 users, the design eliminates the need to span between receiver and picatinny handguard, and for most applications the standard flat top AR receiver offers plenty of space to comfortably position the mount for proper eye relief. This advantage works equally well for rifles like the fixed sight Swiss Arms Classic Green, Black Special or Blue Star, which require the installation of a non-integrated picatinny rail in order to permit mounting optics. Unfortunately, as fantastic as the Swiss Arms dioptre sights are, they do present a fairly substantial obstacle when it comes to mounting optics. The LT135 is the solution.

The LaRue name brings with it a certain cachet and amongst the "tacticool" crowd it is king, but for those of us most interested in performance, what is most attractive about the LT135 is its robustness and repeatability. The LT135 is built like a tank and can take almost anything the user can throw at it. Best of all, the quick detach (QD) lever design of the mount will allow the user to remove and re-install the optic in seconds with essentially no loss of zero. Such consistency is due in no small part to the mount's innovative design that incorporates a solid backbone that connects the split vertical rings. Not only does this yield a stronger mount, but it also eliminates the necessity of lapping the rings, as they've already been precisionmachined to the highest possible tolerances. While the mount is available with 35-millimetre, 34-millimetre, 30-millimetre or one-inch rings, users do not need to buy a second mount if they opt to go with larger or smaller diametre tube. All that needs replacing is the ring halves, which can be ordered separately from your LaRue dealer. That is a major savings and selling point in itself.

Both the rings and base are precision-machined from high-strength aluminum and anodized a matte black. However, the design also incorporates threaded steel inserts in the rings. Steel is also used for the speed cam levers that securely lock the mount to the chosen firearm's rail system. LaRue guarantees that any optic properly mounted in one of their mounts can be dismounted and re-installed without any loss of zero.

In testing, I found this to be true, with the logical caveats that the mount must be returned to the same slot in the picatinny rail and that, when installing it, the same order is used when closing and locking the cam levers. I'm not entirely positive, but I'm assuming this is related to a need to consistently apply the same amount of torque to the mounting system and in the same order. This ability grants the shooter a lot of versatility. In CQB situations or hunting in dense cover, your irons are probably the best option. With the LaRue, just a few seconds are needed to dismount your optic



and put your irons back into action. When shooting a different stage or hunting at longer ranges, simply plop your optic back onto the rail and lock it down using the LaRue speed levers. Once locked, you can start shooting, completely confident that you're still properly zeroed.

#### **Installation and testing**

LaRue ships the LT135 SPR 1.93-inch with a complete parts kit that includes the rings, screws, and two small wrenches that are required to adjust and install the optic and mount properly. There is a very handy video tutorial available on the LaRue website, www.LaRueTactical.com, if you're interested in the details of how to mount a scope.

Following receipt of my new mount, initial assembly and adjustment took less than five minutes total for the mount itself. Be aware, however, that LaRue strongly recommends that users not disassemble the mount entirely and remove the locking hex nut. Actually mounting an optic in the rings was much simplified by virtue of not having to lap them and being assured that both the front and back rings were in perfect alignment thanks to the solid





LaRue Tactical's QD LT135 mount sets optics 1.93 inches above the rifle's rail.



LaRue Tactical's mount with a Nightforce scope, fully mounted.

base design. Even the most novice of shooters should have little difficulty in successfully mounting their optic in under 15 minutes.

I wanted to see if the LaRue mount was really worth the premium it commands, so I fielded it under the worst possible conditions imaginable to a civilian hunter. Over the past vear it has been exposed to direct salt water immersion during open-boat spring seal-hunting trips, days of cold, torrential November rains that Newfoundland is so well known for and the constant freeze/ thaw cycles of our damp, bone-chilling north Atlantic winters. Yet, other than some slight wearing along the edges of the mount in the matte black anodized finish, no other ill effects could be discerned. Amazingly, after a full year of pushing the bush, climbing cliffs, being banged against rocks and exposed to the north Atlantic, the LT135 still looks almost showroom ready. That is impressive! All it really required was an occasional cleaning and light coating of oil to keep it looking new.

#### **Conclusion**

During the course of my background research on the LaRue mount, I encountered anecdotal tales of LaRue QD mounts causing damage to picatinny rails and receivers. To test this for myself I mounted and removed my LT135 from a variety of firearms, including multiple AR-15s, two Swiss Arms rifles, one sporting an OEM picatinny rail and the other an aftermarket rail, a TAVOR and several Remington 700 rifles with picatinny rails from TPS, EGW, Millet and Talley & Badger. There was a good mix of both aluminum and steel rails tested. After mounting and removing the LaRue from each rail a total of 10 times, I found no discernible damage, other than the expected finish wear or light marring, with the EGW and the Millet having the most noticeable evidence of the latter. No rails or slots were ruined or irrevocably damaged.

My only real complaints about the LaRue are the price and the lack of easy availability. There have been some rumblings recently that a steady Canadian importer and distributor system is in the works. If so, my latter complaint will have been satisfied. As for the former, no shooter wants to pay more than they have to, but I also recognize that included in that price is a lot of quality and versatility that many lesser products simply do not offer.

Before taking the plunge, potential buyers really need to assess their needs and decide if their current shooting demands require spending the extra coin for the LaRue. If you're looking for a new mount for a safe queen or a range rifle that may only see use once or twice a year, you're probably much better served paying \$70 or \$80 for a Burris PEPR or B-Square mount. If you're looking for a hard-use mount that will stand up to the tests of time, go with the LaRue.

# the International Front

#### **Gary Mauser**

#### Feminism And Misandry

Overheard at a gun range, "Back in the '50s, gays were in the closet and gun owners walked around proudly. These days, gun owners are in the closet." How can we understand this cultural shift in how gun owners are seen? If we expect to make any headway, we must come to grips with the forces that rule us.

Any incident involving firearms seems to prompt scandalized attention by the media. Firearms accidents, anywhere, are portrayed as disasters, while accidents at work, which kill more people annually, are routinely ignored. The police are infected as well. A dispute with a neighbour over an errant pile of doggy dung seems all too readily to escalate into a heavily armed police presence, if one of the neighbours has a firearms licence.

Why are gun owners demonized? Feminism.

Feminism has morphed from a concern with women's rights back in the 1960s, to today's misandry. Misandry is a hatred of men, as misogyny is a hatred of women. Feminism drives this perpetual scapegoating of men, viewed as violent, and the accompanying push for disarming men. At its black heart, feminism assumes men are oppressors and women victims. Always. Women can never be aggressors, since they are merely the powerless victims of the patriarchy. Ever since the 1960s, society has gradually adopted more and more of this misandry. Don't blame Alan Rock or the CBC - they are just sock puppets. Misandry has become what historians call zeitgeist, or the mood or spirit of the times. It has

become an unexamined presumption of politicians, judges and journalists in Europe, the antipodes and North America to automatically blame men for a variety of social ills, from domestic violence to war. Feminism dictates the solution: women can only be empowered by disempowering men, since women are victims, by definition. In other words, men should be disarmed, not women armed.

By "feminism," I mean radical feminism. Feminism, like any widespread belief system or religion, has many variants. Radical feminists aren't the common, garden-variety feminist, who is interested in replacing the word "man" with the word "person," or who wants women hired in non-traditional jobs like firefighters (note they are not called "firemen" any longer.) For radical feminists, the goal is nothing less than transforming society. And, to a surprising degree, their social engineering goals have already been successful.

How did feminism manage to triumph? First, they conquered the university. This was helped along by the Vietnam War, which drove the 1960s radicals to hide in the universities. Later, as they became tenured professors, even deans, their counter-cultural ideas, such as feminism, came to dominate. In the past few decades, to be acceptable at a university means to accept feminist claims. Feminism has almost become a cult. Everyone had to genuflect. Universities aren't educational institutions, but temples of indoctrination. The catechism is: men are violent, women are nurturing. The sports men enjoy should be discouraged, as they are violent. Guns symbolize the patriarchy. It is no surprise that surveys show that support for virtually any gun-control scheme increases with higher levels of formal education.

# Why are gun owners demonized? Feminism.

The virus continued to spread through the decades. As more and more graduates of the feminized curriculum entered society, they accepted work in government bureaucracies and the media. The disease of misandry continued to spread and has now become accepted as gospel. To be considered educated means accepting the feminist tenets that men are violent, especially armed men, and women are help-less victims.

So, don't blame Allan Rock or John Howard in Australia for the draconian gun laws they brought in. They're just surfing the zeitgeist. Politicians and police are merely taking advantage of the public's mood to grab what power and influence they can. That's just politics. The Left worries that Christians or gun owners control the Conservatives. As if. The truth is that feminists have captured both the NDP and the federal Liberals, so their leaders must play to their base by blaming men for family violence and advocating ever more gun controls.

What about domestic violence? The facts refute the radical feminists'

claim that nearly one in three Canadian women is a victim of spousal abuse. This was invented by ideologues and has been repudiated by solid research. A recent review of five years of spousal assault by Statistics Canada found that eight per cent of women and seven per cent of men reported being victimized by their spouse. Many of these victims are probably abusers as well. As professor Dutton, at the University of British Columbia, has shown, domestic violence often stems from dysfunctional relationships. Research shows that female and male partners initiate violence about equally. The facts refute these simplistic claims of female victimization by the male patriarchy.

Each December, the domestic violence industry enjoys waving the bloody blouse of the victims at the Ecole Polytechnique back in 1989. Feminists exploit this event, claiming that all women are potential victims of violent men. They will not admit that the killer, Gamil Gharbi, was a lone psychopath and not a typical man. The feminists' blatant misandry is not limited to blaming gun owners. It pervades the entire industry around domestic violence. The National Post columnist, Barbara Kay, sums it up this way: "There are innumerable tax-funded shelters for abused women, none for abused men, unlimited funds for campaigns to raise consciousness around abused women, none for abused men. There is not a single social services agency or charity in Canada advertising family services that offers counseling, shelter or legal services for men who have been physically abused by women."

Getting back to gun owners. The facts show that responsible, law-abiding gun owners are less likely to commit homicide than other Canadians. This should not surprise. As I testified to the Canadian Senate, Statistics Canada data shows that licensed gun owners have a homicide rate of 0.60 per 100,000 licensed gun owners between 1997 and 2010. This homicide rate is based on a Special Request I made to Statistics Canada. The data show that 164 licensed gun owners were accused of committing murder over the 14-year period, from 1997 to 2010, which gives an average of 11.7 owners per year. With just under two million licensed owners, this gives a homicide rate of 0.60 per 100,000 licensed gun owners. Over the same period, the average national homicide rate was 1.85 per 100,000. Thus, Canadians who have a firearms licence are less than one-third as likely to commit murder as other Canadians.

To sum up, gun ownership isn't the problem; it's misandry. Being a male, in itself, needs to be defended. We must work to refute the claims that men are oppressors and women inevitable victims. Unfortunately, the forces denigrating gun owners have burrowed deep into society. Gun owners need allies. Neither the NFA nor CILA can do it alone or in tandem. We must reach out beyond the usual hook and bullet groups. Some potential allies are: Real Women, the Fraser Institute, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation and various social conservative groups. Sound like quite a challenge? It is. But, in another 60 years the world will be quite different. What do you want it to look like?

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# Western Lawmen

Jesse Wolf Hardin

John Joshua Webb And The Dodge City Gang - Part One

J.J. Webb was an Old West officer of the law, known for "working both sides" of it. Already well versed at both, once in Dodge City, Kan., he sold his services as a hired gun and rode with rustlers, yet also rode with Bat Masterson to bring other miscreants to ground. Moving on to the southwest, he used his marshal's office to shield the criminal acts of his larcenous associates.

My home state of New Mexico has distinguished itself with a history of official corruption far less subtle than the national average, being at times and in certain venues blunt and obvious enough to almost qualify as honest. From the machinations of the Santa Fe Ring that manipulated both politics and commerce in the 1870s and '80s, to the more recent senatorial scandals of the state "Roundhouse," various cabals have used positions of power and prominence to ensure the security and profits of its privileged members, with little visible attempt to conceal their methods or motives. Land belonging to the poor and uneducated has been repeatedly seized by large ranchers and developers who could count on the support of the local courts, monopolies have been enforced by driving out competition and otherwise well meaning laws have been enforced unevenly in order to protect the elite and rid the territory of any who might challenge their rule or method.

That said, never has there been an association of office holders and thieves more forthright than the Dodge City Gang, during the period in which they ran roughshod over the population of Las Vegas, N.M., and its surrounding countryside.

Situated in the northeast guadrant of the state, this Las Vegas existed 70 years before mobster Dutch Schultz launched Nevada's now world-famous capital of gambling, and for a time it was the most populated city between California and Missouri. It lay nestled between two ecosystems - the pine covered Sangre de Christo Mountains and the Great Plains, christened Nuestra Senora de los Dolores de Las Vegas Grandes (Lady of Sorrows of the Grand Meadows) in the 1600s. In 1834, it became the last Spanish colony in North America when so chartered by Spain. It served both as a trading centre and fort in cases of Apache attack, quickly growing to several thousand residents, including adventurers, entrepreneurs and desperadoes, all looking for new venues and experiences, business opportunities or easy pickin's. Water issues, as well as land issues, marked this as a land of conflict from the start, exacerbated by the mixed-blessing arrival of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad on July 4, 1879.

The trains brought with them not only chances for increased prosperity and exchange, but also camps full of railway workers and the prostitutes to



John Joshua Webb worked both sides of the law in the 1880s, though always to his own benefit and gain.



John Henry "Doc" Holliday is seen here in a less familiar studio pose. The tubercular dentist wasn't a great shot but he was always willing and ready to shoot, including in the scrap that resulted in him selling his half interest in a Las Vegas saloon to his partner Webb.



tend their needs, carloads of land sharks and outlaws on the lam. At one time or another, Billy the Kid, Hook-Nosed Jim, Doc Holliday and Big-Nosed Kate, Cock-Eyed Frank, Vincente Silva and the White Caps Gang, Monte Verde, The Durango Kid, Bob Ford and even Jesse James himself either visited or resided in Las Vegas, referred to in the New York newspapers as "the baddest of the bad" towns. The tracks were laid through the eastern end of town, bypassing the old downtown and its plaza in the west end, the western section being comprised mainly of peaceful residents and the east with its railway development became the headquarters for thuggery. Conflicts between the two communities and crimes in the east half had turned so bloody in the months following the railway's arrival that citizen vigilance committees were formed.

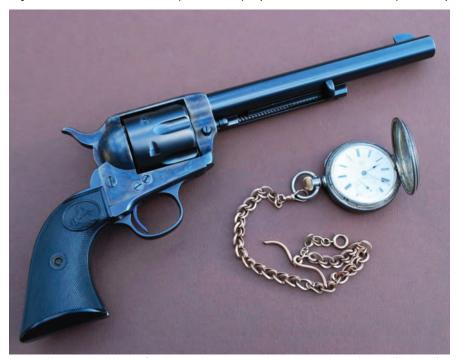
Officially commissioned to uphold the law and protect the citizensof East Las Vegas was Marshal, Joe Carson. He was soon followed by fellow lawman John Joshua Webb. In reality, the only law they upheld was what the mayor of East Las Vegas wanted upheld. The "boss" of East Las Vegas, Hyman Neill, know best as "Hoodoo" Brown, also served as Justice of the Peace and coroner. The power granted by virtue of his multiple offices allowed Brown and his cohorts to prey on the town with impunity.

Webb was born in the not-so-west state of Iowa, in Keokuk County on Feb. 14, 1847. His parents took him to Nebraska in 1862 and he left the Midwest for good in 1871, working as a surveyor, buffalo hunter, teamster and then police officer in eastern Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Kansas and New Mexico.

While of average height, his strong build, chiseled facial features and forceful nature marked him as someone to be reckoned with. Early on he grew a trademark long beard and mustache, while keeping the sides of his face cleanly shaved, and preferred a dapper jacket and waistcoat to the work clothes more common to the area. As with other notables such as Tom Horn, Pat Garrett and Buckshot Roberts, it was his willingness and ability to wield a gun that earned him the most respect and largest cheques. Besides performing secretive hits for various private employers, he was also often picked by

the authorities to ride with their posses when on especially dangerous missions. In 1877, he was deputized by Ford County Sheriff Charlie Bassett and sent with undersheriff Bat Masterson on a futile search for the train robber Sam Bass.

Soon after Bat was elected to replace Sheriff Bassett, in 1878, Webb was again deputized to assist with hunting down another batch of train robbers, including Edgar West and "Dirty Dave" Rudabaugh. Four days later, the posse cornered the gang and Webb supposedly got the drop on Rudabaugh, just as he reached for his revolver. Dave was said to have proved how "dirty" he was by turning informant the same day he got locked into his cell, spilling the beans on their remaining accomplices in exchange for his release, and promising to go straight. Straight he went - straight to New Mexico and yet another series of crimes, and this time in league with Webb instead of being hunted by him. Does that make you wonder whether both the arrest and release might have been staged for some reason?



The Colt SAA was the by far the most common, beloved and employed sidearm in the Old West, usually in .45 or .44 WCF (.44-40) calibres.



Webb arrested "Dirty Dave" Rudabaugh, but they later worked crimes together.



Hyman "Hoodoo Brown" Neill was the boss of the Dodge City Gang that briefly ruled and terrorized the citizens of Las Vegas, New Mexico. While unable to find a photo of Hoodoo, we see in this illustration from a gun video game that his formidable persona remains alive in our imaginations.



"Mysterious Dave" Mather was another lawman known to also work the outlaw trail. He was an accomplice of Webb's, both in Dodge City and later.

In the fall of 1878, Webb was commissioned by the commander of Fort Dodge, Lieutenant Colonel William Henry Lewis, to join the famous man hunter Bill Tilgham and other frontiersmen on a scout for hostile Indians who had escaped the reservation. Chief Dull Knife's intentions were only to get back to their homelands, not to raid white settlements, and the impromptu scouts, including Webb, were soon mustered out.

In early 1879, Webb was one of many notorious gunmen hired by the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe to enforce a right-of-way through Colorado's Royal Gorge, claimed by the rival Denver and Rio Grande Railway. Each side fielded a few dozen well armed denizens of the west to shoot the piss out of each other should the negotiations fail, but were sent back with their rifles unfired once peace was arranged. In spite of having failed to earn their bonuses, Webb somehow found the money to purchase a Las Vegas saloon on Center Street only a few months later, in partnership with the equally shady, but far more elegant, dentist, gambler and gunman John Henry "Doc" Holliday.

# The (men of Las Vegas) are as tough a bunch of bad men as ever gathered outside a penal institution! - Miguel Otero, Territorial Governor, New Mexico

What wasn't known was that Webb and Holliday had the backing of Webb's Dodge City cohort, Hoodoo Brown, along with some of the most powerful figures in the county. Webb was, by that time, a full-fledged member of the Dodge City Gang, the coalition of well-heeled scoundrels that included not only rustlers, robbers and gunmen, but also well-placed judges and lawyers, money-laundering bankers, regional real estate moguls and the marshal, all with connections to Dodge City. Its leader, Hoodoo Brown, made management decisions as the east side's mayor, jailed his enemies and exonerated his cohorts as Justice of the Peace and as coroner was the one who determined whether or not a gunshot victim had been killed in "self defense." His appointed City Marshal was Joe Carson, his right-hand man, assisted by Deputy US Marshal "Mysterious Dave" Mather, special policeman Webb and a host of professional gunmen and thieves, including Selim K. "Frank" Cady, William P. "Slap Jack Bill" Nicholson, "Dutchy" Schunderberger, John "Bull Shit Jack" Pierce and Dave Rudabaugh. Yes, this is the same Dirty Dave that Webb was said to have earlier arrested, with both of them now working for the same ambitious boss.

Hyman "Hoodoo Brown" Neill hailed from Missouri, but ran away to Kansas as a young man to haul lumber and hunt buffalo like Webb, and creatively tried his hand at managing a traveling opera company in old Mexico. Some said that Neill got his name, "Hoodoo Brown," from one of his girls-of-the-line, and that it referred to the bad luck that he brought with him. Others asserted that it referred to his dabbling in the occult dark arts to ensure the success of his foul deeds. Whatever else he was up to, Hoodoo Brown is known to have led the Gang in the commission of well-planned burglaries, extortion, train and stagecoach robberies and even murders throughout 1879 and 1880.

Meanwhile, on July 19, 1879, Mike Gordon, a well liked but love-drunk resident of west Las Vegas, made the mistake of trying to coax one of Webb and Holliday's ladies of the night into leaving with him, claiming that the intimacy of the paid-for pokes were somehow evidence of her hidden affec-



The good folks of Las Vegas decided to take the law into their own hands. They ran the Dodge City Gang out of town, after hanging a fair number of them from this conveniently stout windmill.

tions. Webb ordered the drunken Gordon to leave the saloon, whereupon the darkly gallant, 100-pound Holliday followed him out and administered a drawl-filled tongue-lashing. Doc taunted the sodbuster Gordon until he pulled his revolver and let off a wild shot, after which the homicidal tooth-puller pulled his own handgun and sent three, far more accurate, rounds into the frustrated suitor's belly. Threats of a hanging by west Las Vegas vigilantes reached the saloon keepers within hours of the deed, prompting Holliday to transfer his share of the business to Webb and then follow his friend, the bunko artist Wyatt Earp, to Tombstone and what would, only two years later, be the "shootout at the O.K. Corral."

Webb managed the saloon by himself until early 1880, at which time Marshal Joe Carson was shot and killed in an altercation in the Close and Patterson Variety Hall. On Jan. 22, cowboys John Dorsey, James West, William Randall and T.J. House had been out having a good time "shooting the moon" when they decided to enter the hall and join the dance that was in progress there. The gang member and marshal somewhat hypocritically demanded that they obey the new gun control ordinance and turn in their weapons, a demand that apparently went over like a lead balloon. In the melee that followed, Carson was killed with a shot to the head, as Undersheriff "Mysterious" Dave Mather put holes in two of the opposing revelers. Mather was appointed as marshal immediately thereafter, and Webb was named city policeman.

House and the wounded Dorsey escaped out the door, but on Feb. 5, Hoodoo learned they were laying low north of the city in Buena Vista,

at the casa of one Juan Antonio Dominguez. He instructed Webb to lead a posse, including Dirty Dave and five others. Surrounding the pair, Webb promised them safe passage and a fair trial. They were, however, broken out of the jail and hung from the town's infamous and ever-busy windmill gallows, by masked men who may have belonged to the vigilance committee based in west Las Vegas, but who were more likely were in Hoodoo's employ. Carson's enraged widow was said to have taken pot shots at the doomed men, though whether before or after they were strung up was never made clear.

We will conclude the story of John Joshua Webb And The Dodge City Gang in the next issue.

- Editors



# NFA Book Shelf

Wm. Rantz

#### The Brown Bess:

An Identification Guide and Illustrated Study of Britain's Most Famous Musket

Authors: Erik Goldstein and Stuart Mowbray Mowbray Publications 2010 Soft cover, 160 pages, 959 colour photographs ISBN: 1-931464-44-8

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An Identification Cuide and Illustrated
Study of Britain's Most Famous Musket

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The mere mention of the famous Brown Bess rifle may cause an avid firearms enthusiast to envision lines of red-coated British soldiers aiming their long and heavy flintlock rifles at enemy warriors, the smoke-filled air smelling rank of sulphur from burnt black powder; screams of commanding officers and wounded soldiers would be heard between deafening volleys as the battle raged.

Erik Goldstein and Stuart Mowbray have co-authored *The Brown Bess* in order to clarify the confusion that collectors and historians face when attempting to accurately identify a Brown Bess rifle. A commonly accepted approach to identification would be based on recognizable features of a specific firearm. However, this situation is greatly complicated by the fact that histori-

cally military firearms were routinely repaired using a variety of parts and re-issued to fight another battle. Adding to the confusion is the recent restoration of many Brown Bess rifles by those who, for a variety of reasons, have attempted to improve upon the condition of a particular Bess.

Goldstein and Mowbray have placed a 10-page chapter titled *Brown Bess Basics* at the beginning of their book. Fully comprehending the information presented in this chapter is necessary in order to gain the greatest knowl-

edge from the remainder of The Brown Bess.

The authors have relied upon a chronological order, developed by famed firearm historian De Witt Bailey, in order to divide Brown Bess rifles into 14 patterns. It is explained that the military of the 18th century did not use this system when naming variations. Some of these variations are supported by old documents, but may be considered as hypothetical since no examples have been located to this date.

Rifles of the Brown Bess era were not mass produced with easily interchangeable parts. Independent contractors produced parts, which were purchased by the military and used as needed to assemble or repair damaged rifles. Individual Brown Bess rifles may have evolved to their current state after many years of military service and several visits to the armoury.

Contractors and the British Ordnance carefully stamped rifles with a variety of marks, which will still be located on

original Brown Bess rifles. These may include the famous King's mark, as well as assembly numbers, inspector marks and store markers. Individual rifles may also bear the name or number of the regiment, company and even a weapon number. The authors of *The Brown Bess* fully explain these markings, which enables the reader to gain insight into the history of a particular Bess.

Goldstein and Mowbray present their findings in 14 chapters, each dedicated to a specific variation, from the initial Pattern 1730 Long Land Musket up to the Pattern 1809 Musket. Almost 1,000 colour photographs of the highest possible quality, accompanied by detailed captions, enable the reader to closely examine each rifle. Minute but relevant details are shown in crystal-clear enlargements.

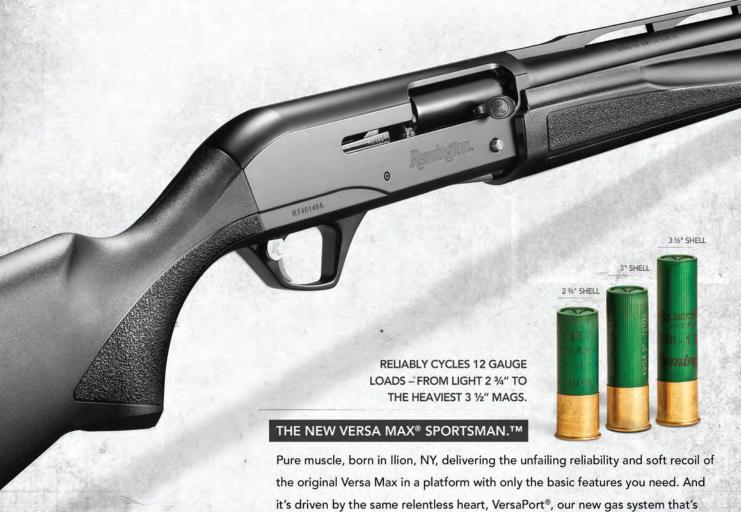
The Brown Bess encourages the reader to appreciate the development of the Bess as one of history's most recognizable firearms. Anyone fortunate enough to own an original Brown Bess will use this book to research and understand the history of their treasured rifle. Collectors and dealers will have a valuable reference on their bookshelf to assist them when assessing a potential purchase.

My only concern is that the publisher chose to print such an incredible publication with an inexpensive binding and soft cover, rather than a quality hard cover with a dust jacket. *The Brown Bess* is the most up to date reference on this subject and the purchase price of \$39.99 is quite fair considering the vast research by the authors.



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