

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique Arms
Association Wellington Branch Inc.

P.O. Box 14-029

Kilbirnie

WELLINGTON.

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AUGUST 7th MEETING.

The August meeting was well attended even though only three weeks after our annual auction. The letter "H" theme brought out a good selection of exhibits including the following.

- A comprehensive display including a Hollis & Sons percussion Trade Musket for the Hudson Bay Company from about 1860. Wolsley brass bell mouthed flare pistol, Mauser 7.65mm 1910 Model Pocket Semi Auto Pistol, Nickel plated H&R five shot revolver in .32S&W cal, a 9mm Luger Model 08 pistol complete with holster, Colt and Smith & Wesson service type .45 cal revolvers, a rare Chicago Palm Squeezer pistol plus several others I could not identify.
- Holsters - a selection of holsters from Military to Cowboy action shooting. Including a Webley 1910 Model Semi Auto Pistol in .380 Cal. There was also a very nice 1898 Model Colt six shot single action revolver in .44-40 Cal with the unusual marking of "Frontier Six Shooter" on the barrel. The Colt was London Proofed which was something of a rarity for this model and as well as this, the original Cowboy

holster and belt of the period was displayed along with a Colt book open at the illustration of the exact rig. Just like something out of a Western movie.

- Helmets – M1 style from 1940-1990. A well set out display of some fifteen different examples from various countries.
- Hellis & Son – 12g Double barrel hammerless shotgun, cased with usual accessories. Inside of the case lid had an excellent and unusual trade label attached.
- Issac Hollis Pryse Type six shot revolver in .380 Cal – cased and complete with cleaning rod, pewter oil container etc.
- Cogswell & Harrison shotgun case – for a 12g double barrel shotgun. No gun but many accessories.
- Handcuff collection consisting of around 15 different types and makes all very well documented but also including one pair marked New Zealand Police that had been cut open, presumably by an escaped prisoner at some stage. Pity there wasn't some known history about this particular set.
- Helmet and protective fittings of Persian Kulah Khud extraction from about 1650. A very old exhibit with an early type mail chain vest.
- History – A newspaper photo of Antique Arms members at a Club shoot and a copy of the 1st Newsletter of Arms & Armour Society from around
- A Snider Carbine – either a Cavalry or a Yeomanry type. The owner said it was given to him as a schoolboy 45 or more years ago and he made several missing parts at College metalwork classes. Imagine taking along a Snider to a school metalwork class now-a-days, you would probably be arrested before the session was over. I have seen the days when a hunter would buy a rifle from one of the two well known gun retailers in Willis Street Wellington of those times, then walk off down the city with it slug over his shoulder. Probably had a box of ammo in his pocket as well. Gun bags were not all that common 50 years ago either.
- Hunting rifles - a Lee Enfield type sporting Carbine by BSA in .303 cal and another rifle of similar appearance by Remington Lee also in .303cal.
- Basket hilt Scottish type Broadsword with relevant literature. It looked very old and had seen better days and could have been 200 or more years old.
- Hats and holsters with examples from China, Russia, NZ as well as a Davy Crocket type Coon Skin Cap.
- Husqvarna semi auto pistol in 9mm cal with WW1 markings on the holster.
- Husqvarna semi auto pistol in 9mm Long
- Haenel vest pocket semi auto pistol in .25 ACP

- Height Gauge. Mitutoyo 12" vernier height gauge. A precision measuring instrument used by engineers and toolmakers.
- Helmet Plates an interesting selection of brass helmet plates that included NZ Volunteers of 1895 and 1901. Wellington West Coast 2nd Battalion Rifle Volunteers, Wellington East Coast Rifle Volunteers, New Zealand Artillery Volunteers.
- Hussar Officer's Tunic – pre WW1
- Helmet 1915 Prussian Cavalry type. A sort after type of spike top helmet that has proved to be very collectible.
- Half Moon Clips designed to hold 3 .45 ACP rimless cartridges to fit in the S&W .455 cal revolver which fired a rimmed cartridge. While apparently designed to overcome supply problems of different cartridges in War, this is possibly also one of the earlier means of speed loading six shot revolvers.
- Hawksley powder flask – a shotgun type decorative copper and brass flask with spout measure adjustable for 2 to 2 ¾ drams of black powder.
- Alexander Henry Rifle in calibre .577/450 manufactured by Westley Richards from 1870. Initially chambered for a .450 x 3 ½" cartridge but after 1877 these rifles were made for the Martini-Henry cartridge and earlier made rifles rechambered. A rifle that was superceded by the Martini Henry which had a much better and stronger action, few moving parts and an improved cartridge extraction system.
- Horse Pistol. English made flintlock pistol. Approx .550 cal, Tower Lock with brass furniture. Circa 1800.
- Harrington & Richardson – five shot revolver in .32 S&W cal. A good example of a small nickel plated Ladies purse type hammerless revolver manufactured from 1878 until the late 1930's.

All in all a very interesting selection of exhibits that had a lot of history behind them.

Ed



Top right. Handgun display including a rare Colt Frontier revolver.

Lower right. Hollis Trade musket and a large selection of handguns.

Left. Hussar Tunic with Prussian 1915 spiked helmet



For Valour

Members may recollect an article in the Dominion Post of 9th outlining the story of how the retiring ACT MP Richard Prebble had become emotional about an old shell case presented to a Sergeant Bill Prebble in recognition of his bravery in the battle of Crete. It appears that this particular man was not a direct relation of Richard Prebble but his research established he was from Christchurch and was killed near Monte Cassino, he had also lost a brother at El Alamein. Richard learned that the man was considered a hero by his troops and they had recommended him for a Victoria Cross but because no Officer had witnessed his bravery there could be no such medal issued. The men were evidently disappointed with this ruling and in true DIY fashion they made a presentation of an engraved and polished shell case and conducted their own ceremony for Sgt Bill Prebble.

Well it is very pleasing to read that Kiwis took the initiative when they were thwarted by Military rules and regulations but wait, there is another twist to this story.

Some years ago, quite a few in fact, when our Branch used the Lodge Hall in Johnsonville for meetings, a brass shell case came up for sale at one of our Mickey Mouse auctions. Michael Dobson purchased this with a view to using it for a trophy at his then fledgling Service Rifle Club. However, Michael advised that when he saw the inscription and the name Prebble on the shell he thought it might be worth a call to Parliament to check it out with Richard Prebble and from there the story began.

Just goes to show what might turn up at our auctions, this is not the first example of a historically important item surfacing at our Branch.

Ed



WW1 9mm Husqvarna Semi Auto pistol with original holster



A cased 12g double barrel hammerless shotgun by Charles Hellis & Sons London.



Trade label in the above shotgun case



A selection of interesting Helmet Plates



Hunting Rifles. Lee-Enfield and Remington-Lee rifles in .303cal offered by BSA. Note the Lee-Diss magazine on the lower rifle.



Basket hilt Scottish type Broadsword



Hispano 20mm Cannon shells and clips etc.



Helmet, Cap, Hat, Holster and military belt with buckle.



A well presented collection of military helmets



Husqvarna Semi Auto pistol in 9mm Long, Haenel .25ACP Semi Auto Vest Pocket Pistol and a Height Gauge - vernier type.

Trans-Tasman Black Powder Championship – Shooting Competition.

Over the week 22nd July to 31st July 2005 three members of our branch were in the NZ Shooting Team in the Trans-Tasman Black Powder Championships. (Gary Howatt was the Match Director, and Tony Bruce and Alan Colville were competing) These events are held bi-annually, alternating between Australia and NZ. This year they were held in Rotorua. This is not a single event (like a rugby game), but has events shot over a number of classes of firearm over several days. It is a very historically based competition, with the rules stating that the firearms must be exact copies of the originals. Therefore any accessory or setup must be a documented as being used at that time. This makes the shooting very even, and it is a test of the shooters ability with that gun rather than a modern accessory helping. Plus there are very tight gun handling and safety requirements on the range which must be complied with. (Thus there has never been an injury or death at any Black Powder competition in NZ).

Recognising that not all muskets are equal, the MLAIC (Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee) as the World Body controlling the sport, have set the competition classes as:

- Matchlock rifle and pistol (circa 1650)
- Flintlock and Percussion shotgun (circa 1750 - 1840)
- Flintlock smoothbore single shot pistol (circa 1750 - 1820)
- Percussion rifled single shot pistol (circa 1820 - 1860)
- cap and ball revolver (circa 1850 - 1870)
- Flintlock smoothbore musket, (circa 1750 - 1840)
- Flintlock rifled musket (circa 1750 - 1840)
- Military Musket (circa 1850-1870)
- Free Rifle (musket with target sights) (circa 1750 - 1870)
- Black Powder Cartridge gun. (circa 1865 - 1900) (This is a NZ event outside the MLAIC)

There were 26 members of the NZ Team , and many shooters competed in 3 or 4 classes over the week.

We were competing as individuals and as 3 man teams in each of the competitions.

Results:

Alan

50m Vetterli	Individual Bronze
100m Prone	Team Gold
100m 3 Position	Team Silver
100m Minnie	Individual Gold
100m Minnie	Team bronze
200m 3 Position	Individual Silver
200m 3 Position	Team Gold
200m prone Free Rifle	Team Gold
200m Breech Loader	Individual Bronze

Tony

25m Perc SS Pistol	Individual Bronze
25m Perc SS Pistol	Team Silver
100m Prone	Team Bronze
100m 3 Position	Team Bronze

Overall it was a fun and very successful week, with practice days on Monday and Tuesday, 200m Silhouettes shot on Wednesday; and the competition proper ran from Thurs to Sunday, shooting from 9:00am till 3:30pm (when the light started to fail). The prize giving happened on Sunday afternoon, with NZ winning about ¾ of the medals. Afterwards both teams celebrated at the Skyline Restaurant.

Tony Bruce

Coming events

Our Branch is hosting a Meeting and Luncheon with **Ian Skennerton** (who is a recognised World Authority on British Military Firearms & Accoutrements)

on Saturday 3rd September

at the Petone Workingmen's Club

Udy Street, Petone. Display set up 10am.

Entry is by ticket only and these may be purchased by contacting Steve or Tim.

Some door sales may be available on the day, but late fence sitters are requested to advise Steve if you wish to attend as we need to know numbers for catering purposes.

This should be a very interesting and enlightening session which has taken a lot of effort to arrange. We would appreciate members showing enthusiasm by producing displays of British Military items particularly, New Zealand marked.

Next Meeting Sunday 4th September

Our usual monthly meeting

At Petone Workingmen's Club from 1pm.

This is to be a Buy, Sell Swap meeting but any displays will be welcome.