

Flint & Cap

Newsletter of The New Zealand Antique and Historical Arms Association

Wellington Branch Inc. P.O. Box 14-029 Kilbirnie, Wellington

<http://www.nzaawgtn.org.nz/>

September 2014

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Half yearly meeting - Christchurch 12, 13, Sept.

I went down to the half yearly meeting that was hosted by the Canterbury branch. We had a management meeting on the Friday. This meeting got underway on time with an enthusiastic team of reps.

Tony Mck, from Whangarei has put a lot of effort into enhancing and updating the associations web site. He has undertaken a massive task, and it is well worth a look. Tony has indicated he has a bit more to do, and will keep articles, features, and information fresh and up to date.

Attracting new members is always a big challenge, and we looked at what many different branches did to attract new people along.

On Saturday, we had our half yearly meeting that was run in conjunction with some displays, sales tables and a Mickey Mouse auction. I guess about 80 to 100 people attended the days events.

We all came away with some food for thought and a few ideas to think about.

Alwyn

Use your Smart phone and this QR code will take you directly to our website



Letters this Month were G & H

Gardner Machine Gun packets etc..

The ANZAC on the wall – A poem about a ANZAC Soldier in a photo

Shrapnel from bombardment of Numer 1914 made into letter openers, plus WWI post cards

Hard to Find and Heavy British Bore sighting device for 7.62mm L1A1 Rifle

East German dress daggers. 2 Gold and 1 Silver

Glock 9mm 17 Shot Pistol – 20 years old

Highland Pipers Regalia Display, including sgian-dubh (meaning black knife) made by Wilkinson Sword

Medals – Campaign Starts of 1939-45, 1939-45. Atlantic, Aircrew, Africa, Pacific, Burma, Italy and France. A German Star plus a collection of NZ and German WWII Medals

7 Grey and Green Maori Adzes of various sizes and colours

Garand Rifles, Springfield, Winchester and IHC Company

German Gew 88 7.92x57, Gold Medallion 30-06 and Husqvarna Model 1907 in 9mm. Hornady .17 Hornet round

HUG Cartridges 12.7x81, 12.7x81SR, 12.7x99, 12.7x108, 12.7x110 etc.. 13 rounds from 12.7 to 15.5

.25 Auto Italian by Galesi, .32 S&W by Harrington & Richards







.25 AUTO ITALIAN
GALES 1

.32 S&W
HARRINGTON & RICHARDS



Rex 's Adventures Continued

One of the drawcards for this trip was to be a visit the Imperial War Museum which had only reopened a few weeks before we arrived in UK after a long period of closure to renew displays about WW1. So accordingly we found our way there and were on site in less than 15minutes after 10am opening time only to discover hordes of others ahead of us. As we entered we were given tickets with a time marked and soon discovered that to enter the new WW1 displays we had to queue for the time slot on the ticket and then they were only letting in 150 persons each 15minutes.

Needless to say it was all rather difficult and although we weren't really pushed the queue was basically a single file and snaked around through the displays. These were mainly photographic and very well done but strongly biased towards the war in Europe and the effects of war on the British public and home front more so than the war in the Middle East and Gallipoli. Photography was permitted but with crowds ahead and behind it was difficult to get an unobstructed view of anything especially if you were like myself being short of stature. There were some amazing displays and excellent exhibits but I thought there was little emphasis on the Anzac contribution to that War and in some respects I was a little disappointed.

After leaving UK we travelled to Canada and Alaska and I had more or less given up on any idea of seeing any more historical arms but this was not to be. On reaching Ketchikan, a historic and isolated community on the inland sea route to Alaska we took a side trip to Potlatch Park, an Indian village in the Tongass National Forest. After being shown around by a guide looking at totem poles and native Alaskan Clan houses as well as a huge modern carving under construction we eventually wound up in the obligatory gift shop, which to my surprise included a small private museum. Well I could hardly believe my eyes, here were around about 60 or 70 unusual and historic firearms that were among some of the best I have seen. These included firearms from when Alaska was owned and settled by Russians and included a rare 1877 Smith & Wesson revolver, various other revolvers and pistols and early rifles from flintlock to cartridge types and even included a YellowBoy Win-

chester and a Tranter revolving rifle. The latter lay casually along with several other unusual rifles on top of a glass case in easy reach if one had the inclination and been permitted to touch. A Gatling Battery Gun in excellent condition formed a centrepiece and apart from an experimental 50cal rifle the most modern military item I could recognise was a water cooled Browning heavy machine gun standing on end in one corner. A well made and most unusual seven barrel goose gun dated 1869 in excellent condition rather took my fancy as the notice said that all barrels were fired simultaneously to guarantee the hunter at least one kill at 150 yards. A Russian gun of 1855 which had a star shaped inner barrel requiring the use of specially designed bullets was said to be one of only five in existence and another turret gun of the same date was claimed to be one of only 10 ever made.

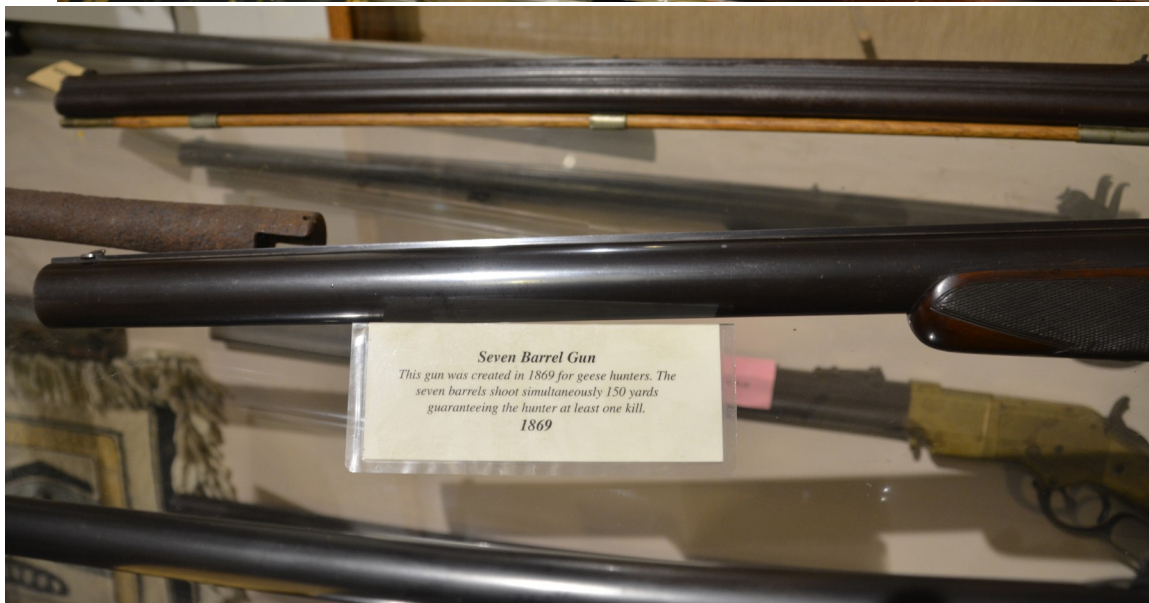
A Shadox rifle of 100 calibre was another of only ten ever made between 1877 and 1886 was designed to hunt dangerous game but the notice stated that the kickback could also severely injure the shooter. There was also a modern experimental rifle that fired a .50cal Browning round with 730gr projectile, this was one of 7 made by A.I. Story and was claimed to be the most powerful sporting firearm in the world. The rifle appeared to be fairly heavy but even so I should imagine the kickback would have been devastating

All in all a wonderful collection and mostly in surprisingly good condition but perhaps not as well displayed as it could have been.



Rex





UPCOMING EVENTS

5th Sept— Ruahine auction

13th Sept— Half yearly meeting

1st Nov—Taranaki Gun Show

CLUB AMMO FOR SALE

There is still a couple of boxes of Winchester .22 ammo for sale.

A box contains 555 rounds @ \$38.00.

Bring \$\$\$, no credit given

It is with sadness we report the passing of Din Collings. Din Passed away over the weekend of 13th--14th September. Din was very well known in gunsmithing and shooting circles. Although he wasn't an antique arms member, he always remembered to stash a few collectable bits and pieces away if he knew what your interest was.

Alwyn.

It Happened This Month in 1867

Cullen Montgomery Baker has been mentioned in a previous article and here is a little more to add to his reputation. On Oct the 10th Baker held up a Government supply wagon and the driver went for his gun but Baker promptly killed him. The four man escort exchanged a few shots as they took off for safer places. Still in October in Boston, Texas, Baker approached an army captain named Kirkham and boldly stated "I am Cullen Baker and I believe you are looking for me." The captain went for his gun but received a bullet to the head and Baker brazenly escaped. However time was running out for

Baker and within a few months he played his last hand. But that's another story.

by Desperado

Letters this month are I and J

Some ideas are: Remember the letters are just a guide and you are welcome to bring anything along from your collection.

Venue is Petone Working Mens Club @ 1:00pm First Sunday of the month. We look forward to seeing you there.