



Flint & Cap

A monthly publication of the New Zealand Antique and Historic Arms Association (Wellington Branch) Incorporated

Website: <http://www.WellingtonAntiqueArms.org.nz>

Coming Events:

Next Meeting: 3 April 2016

Theme: Military History—All forces. ANZAC Day

Letters: L and M

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Kaitoke Range:

No Range day until September 2016

May Meeting: 1st May 2016

June Meeting: 5th June 2016

Contacts:

Branch President: Pat

Telephone:

Email:

Branch Vice President: Alwyn

Telephone:

Branch Secretary / Treasurer: Margaret

Telephone

Email: secretary@nzahaa.org.nz

Flint & Cap Editor: Margaret

Telephone:

Email: secretary@nzahaa.org.nz

Branch Auction Convenor: Steve

Telephone:

Email: info@nzahaa.org.nz

Branch Committee:

Terry:

Telephone: Confidential

Email: Confidential

Vic:

Telephone:

Email:

Glenn

Telephone

Email:

Steve:

Telephone

Email:

NZAHAA National Office:

President: Steve

Telephone:

Email:

National Secretary: Katrina

Address: P O Box 694, Rangiora 7440

Telephone:

Email: nzahaa.secretary@gmail.com

Gazette Editor:

Phil:

Telephone:

Email:

From the Branch President:

As the incoming branch President I would just like to say thank you to Alwyn for steering the branch for so many years through some interesting times. We seem to have some more coming with first the 15 dollar admission fee being put in place to visit the Dominion Museum World War 1 display now which was previously free, and now a firearms review and recent shootings in the news which I am sure will see much debate in official circles.

As I mentioned at the AGM please think about writing short articles for inclusion in the F & C and send them to Margaret by e-mail, post or give them to her at the meetings; remember the club is only what we the members put into it and you would be surprised what is of interest to members.

It was great to see the Buy, Sell and swap going well. If this proves popular we can have it as a normal feature of the meetings as it allows members to re-home small items instead of waiting for the Branch auction.

Pat

What's happening in the Branch:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, 3rd April 2016 at the Petone Workingmen's Club. **Remember the clocks change!**

Theme: MILITARY HISTORY—ALL FORCES—FOR ANZAC DAY

Letters: L —L1A1, L1AF, LAC, Lahti, Lancaster, Lancer, Lang, Le Mat, Lead, Lebeda, Lebel, Le Fauchaux, Le Page, Lee, Lefever, Lever-action, Liberator, Lindner, Lohner, Lombard, London, Lovell, Lowell

M—Manton, Marlin, Mass Arms Co, Matchlock, Maynard, Merrimac, Merwin, Model, Monitor, Moore, Morris, Morse, Muff, Multi, Muzzle-loading,

Kaitoke Range: Branch shoot:

No shooting until September

Annual Branch and National Fees:

Majority of fees now paid –27 to come –so thank to everyone for their diligence with this. Saves time for other matters. Overdue invoices with this F & C or in the post.

Branch Calendar:

Reminder: Your Committee has decided to produce a NZAHAA Wgtn branch calendar for the 2017 year (next year) to be sold nationally. This will require your input to produce really great pictures that everyone will want on their walls.

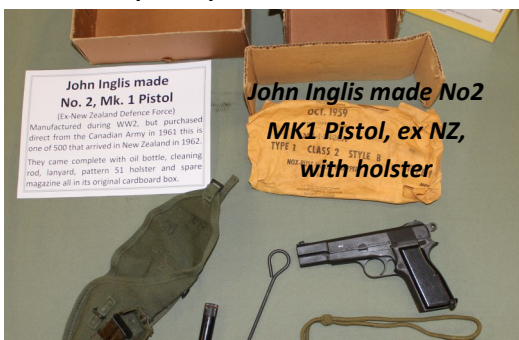
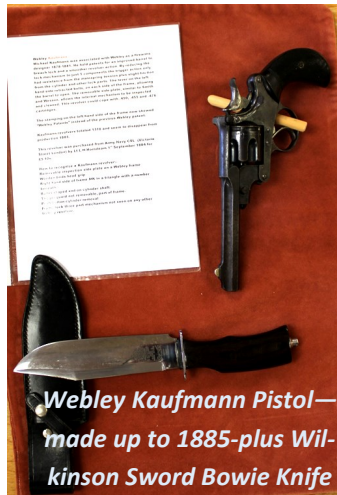
In order to get this done if you feel that you have some choice items that we can photograph over the year. Please let Pat know for consideration and photography, we can then discuss this at any of the meetings and make a suitable time to come to your home. The final selection of 12 photos will be made about October so we have time to print and sell them.

Branch Website:

Pleased to advise that the upgrade and refurbishment is almost complete. Happy to add photos to the Gallery if you have something you would like to add.

From the March Branch meeting:

The Branch AGM was well attended and, perhaps, the finger-food lunch help to attract the members. Some good displays based on the J & K letters and some Buy, Sell, Swap—and even Give-away options on hand.



National Association: Annual General Meeting:

Northland's turn to host the meeting and the auction that is usually run in conjunction with the meeting. The catalogue has been emailed to those in the Branch who have given us an email address. If you have an email address but still do not want your F & C by email, we can make sure you are included in these extra benefits.

Steve Privett is nominated for President again and

Alwyn will be representing the Branch at the AGM and the Management Committee. No information about what is being presented to the meeting so we will have to wait until afterwards.

What's happening in other Branches:

Plenty of things going on around the country and details can be found in the e-Gazette which is now on our Website. Next event:-

2 April Northland Branch Auction and NZAHAA AGM, Whangarei

It Happened This Month in 1881 by Des Perado.



Samuel M "Doc" Cummings, sheep raiser, restaurant and hotel owner, law officer and J P was brother in law to Texas gunman and lawman Dallas Stoudenmire and on the 17th of April 1881 was accompanying the marshal as he made his evening rounds of El Paso, Texas. Stoudenmire had enemies in the town and tension had been in the air for some time. An ambush had been planned to rid the town of the marshal and a man named Bill Johnson appeared on top of a pile of bricks and with a shotgun let go with wild load of buckshot at the pair. Stoudenmire and Cummings both returned fire with their six guns and Johnson took several slugs which opened up his chest and severed his testicles."Oooooogh". He dropped dead on the spot. A few shots came from the other side of the street but the marshal scattered the would be assailants by charging straight at them firing as he ran. Less than a year later Cummings life came to a violent end but that's another story.



Vic presented with the Perham

Medallion for Loyalty and service to the Branch

Vic joined the Branch in 1990 and managed to avoid the committee until 1997 when his good friend, Ron Stewart, persuaded him to join. Vic has served on the committee, non stop, ever since and has held the position of Vice President for some years but could not be persuaded to the top job.

Vic is well known for his ammunition collection as well as his abiding appreciation for Snider rifles.

Well done Vic, a recognition that is well overdue.

Branch Annual General Meeting:

March is the time when we draw all the previous year's financial information together and present it, to the Annual meeting. A healthy surplus of \$23,174.97 which contributed to the welfare and interests of the Branch membership for yet another year.

Committee for 2016:

For the first time in about 6 years we have a new President. Pat has taken over the reins from Alwyn who will remain as Vice President for the coming year.

Margaret was elected Treasurer and will continue in the role as Secretary with a view to handing over those reins to Mary in the next few months.

We welcome Tony back to the committee as well as Steve who is joined by Glenn, Vic and Terry.

Farewell to James who is undertaking University Studies and our thanks for your contribution over the last 2 1/2 years.

Benefits of being a Wellington Branch member:

This was raised at the AGM in March and it is worth covering again as the Wellington Branch do make an effort to ensure that the membership are well catered for.

I guess it began with the proposal that the Branch fees be raised to \$30.00. There was some support for this I have to say. So let's have a look at what sort of 'bang' you get for your buck.

\$25.00 is considered to be rather light for a subscription and it has remained this way for as many years as I can recall.

November Luncheon: Bring your wife/Partner at \$40.00 per head: Let's say, \$80.00

Flint & Cap each month. Based on last year's amount

\$17.00 per member

11 Branch meetings a year, that works out to \$13.00 per member. The display prizes not included in this.

2 Lunches—December and March. This works out to \$3.65 per member.

Trips away. The Waiouru Trip last year and [possibly the Omaka trip this year.](#) We do try and recover the actual cost of these but they do take some organising.

So, just working on the return for your \$25.00 each year we have a tally of \$113.65 per member so not a bad return. This is where the auction plays a part. So remember, when you are carrying the lots to the tables and wrapping the postals, this is helping to keep your Branch fees at the long held, low rate.

Have a tale to tell? This is a good one and there are many more like it 'out there'. Send your 'story' to the Branch. You don't have to include your name but you could inspire someone else....

Sword Collecting

I became interested in swords at an early age, I guess it was those early robin hood and King Arthur movies, forerunners to Lord Of the Rings, however it wasn't until I was 14 that I first purchased one. Like any new collector I purchased the first one I saw in a second-hand shop, with no regard for condition or quality, in fact not even knowing what it was I was buying.

It wasn't until several years later, when I was at a Militaria display in Kapiti, that I spoke to other collectors and was invited to join the Antique arms, it was then I discovered that there were dozens of collectors just like me.

This takes us back to how does someone start a collection?

The first sword I brought was a British Artillery officers sword, so by default I had started to collect British military. However, there is huge variety of swords, from different countries and armies to collect, it is a matter of not making your collecting field too wide, like swords of the world, as it would be impossible to collect every specimen, or making your field too narrow, where a sword from your field turned up every few years.

The best way to start is by reading books on militaria or swords, then you will have some idea of what you are looking at, and what you may wish to collect. Books can also tell you what to look for in a sword, and also how to spot fakes.

The question now is where do I get my collection from? Back in those early days, the only places to buy swords was from auctions, antique shops or from other collectors, now we also have the internet and it has opened up a whole new world of collecting, you can buy a sword from a collector in England from the comfort of your lounge. However, there is nothing that compares to examining that item first hand.

Swords can be put into two main types military and civilian. Civilian swords, can be court, diplomatic or masonic swords, that were used for ceremonial purposes, or the Japanese Samurai swords, which were often handed down through the family.

Military swords generally conform to approved patterns for either army, navy etc, and every few years a new pattern was introduced. Swords for troopers were generally plain, whereas officers' swords will often be numbered and marked with the owners' name, regiment and royal cyphers.

Officers swords made by Wilkinson sword, were numbered, and they have records going back to 1855, although Wilkinson ceased making swords last year, their records are still available, and a copy of the original receipt will reveal the date made, the purchaser and his regiment. With this information you can then write to the British Army Museum and obtain service records, and the history of your swords can be built up.

The Wellington Branch Auction:

This is a time when all those long months and cold nights for a few of the members, sitting writing up catalogue descriptions for the catalogue, the typing and checking of the spelling and descriptions, sorting out items to be photographed, taking great care to ensure that all items are securely and safely stored and then the long process of locating each item based on their Vendor Code in order to attach a lot number for the final journey to the Auction floor. If you have not been involved with any of this process then spare a thought for those who do this year after year. There is a great sense of both achievement and relief when those catalogues are finally taken to the Post Office.

This is a Branch activity and the Branch Committee and the Auction Convenor rely on the involvement of the members to set up the hall on the weekend of the auction and to help with the process through to the Monday when the successful postal items are wrapped for their final delivery.

Each person attending the auction is asked to pay the \$10.00 entry fee at the door. This helps to cover the tea and coffee, the lunch on the Friday, the meal on the Saturday evening. For those members who assist, the committee has always recognised that participation by way of a contribution towards the cost of petrol in getting to the venue and any other incidental costs they may have.

After all without that help we would not be able to give our members such a great 'bang' for their 25 bucks.