



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: 1 May 2016
Theme: Shooting Sports—all disciplines
Letters: N and O

Kaitoke Range:
No Range day until September 2016

June Meeting: 5th June 2016

July Meeting: 3rd June 2016
July Auction:
Friday, 15th to Sunday 17th

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From the Branch President:

Hi All

As ANZAC day comes around again my thoughts turn to the sacrifices our nation has made in foreign wars not of our making. I think of the members of my family who served overseas such as my father and grandfather who came back and my great uncle who did not. My great uncle, Walter Baken, was one of the first to leave New Zealand on a troop ship in 1914 and was a mounted trooper as was the majority of our troops. Then, he was sent to Gallipoli and survived only to be transferred to the field Artillery and of course France. About three months before the armistice he was killed in a

German advance and is buried in France with a grave stone bearing the silver fern. I hear the oft quoted phrase "Lest we Forget" but unfortunately successive governments since then still send our soldiers off to useless foreign wars that do not benefit New Zealand in a tangible way and we do forget as a nation except on one day please remember when you vote as to your local politicians motives.

Pat

What's happening in the Branch:

Next Meeting:

Sunday, 1st May 2016 at the Petone Workingmen's Club.

Theme: SHOOTING SPORTS—ALL SPORTS—ALL DISCIPLINES

Pistols, Rifles, Shotguns, Archery, Medals and awards, Trophies – Hunting & Shooting

Letters: N—National Arms, Navy, Needle-Fire, New, Nipple,
O—Oerlikon, Open, Oberndorf, Original, Owen,

Annual Branch and National Fees:

Majority of fees now paid –18 still to come. If it is your intention to not re-join please advise the Secretary. After this issue of Flint & Cap those who have not paid will be taken from the mailing list and assumed not re-joining. We will miss you!

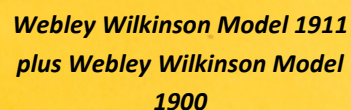
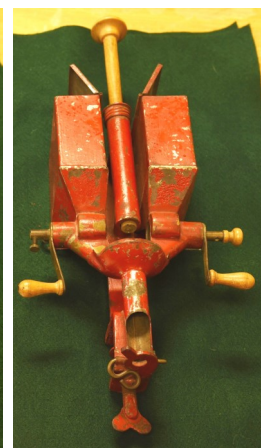
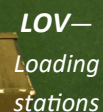
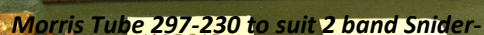
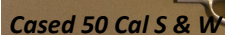
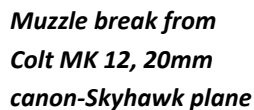
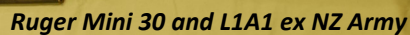
Trip to Ruahine Gun Show:

Date: 28th May 2016. The club is looking to hire a van to take members up. \$20.00 per head but we need to know numbers. We have 3 on the list already. The van is a 10 seater so room for some more. Good day out with some good people. Take a display and join in. Please advise Pat or Margaret so we know if we are hiring a van or not.

Trip to Omaka in Blenheim:

Following on from a very successful day out a year or two back the club is looking to repeat the day. It involves flights on the Soundz Air planes from Wellington to Omaka and costs could be around the \$200.00 mark. This is still to be confirmed. The prime focus is to visit the Peter Jackson display at the airfield but we have been able to have some very interesting 'add-ons' previously. Who would be interested in going? We have about 18 people so far. Add your name to the list at the next meeting. This trip will not happen until well after winter is over.

The theme letter of L and M along with the Army theme brought out some good displays. I will not be able to include all of the photos but have tried to add a good cross section. Sometimes you need to be at the meeting to read the write ups. Perhaps some of these could be sent for inclusion in the newsletter !



From the National President

Well the NZAHAA AGM has come and gone, with myself and Andrew Edgecombe being re-elected as President and Vice President respectively. Northland Branch hosted a great event, where, after the Friday meeting, the management committee and the entire Northland branch were invited to a spit roast at Barry's farm where his excellent collection was on display, and the Branch presented him with a Perham for his contribution to the association. The AGM on Saturday was held in the local rugby club, where, after the formalities, a great selection of items was on offer in the auction.

Over the last couple of years, the NZAHAA has been progressing well with 89 new members joining our ranks in 2015. At the 31st of December 2015 we had cash reserves of \$122649 and we have been recording budget surpluses. Because of that I put forward a proposal that the discount on our subscriptions be increased. The Management Committee approved this so next year subs will be \$70 reduced to \$55 if paid by the 28th of February.

Our membership growth is attributable to the work done at branch level with auctions and Gunshows. I have attended as many as could around the country and the displays and items have been world class. The centenary of WW1 has also generated a lot of interest in collecting and hopefully capitalizing on this will ensure the future of our organization.

We are privileged to have our organization recognised by the police, and to have representation on the Police firearms community forum. Andrew does a great job on this committee and COLFO.

The Gazette and E Gazette which is produced by Phil is a credit to him he works very hard trying to source articles.

Once again I would like to thank Northland for their hospitality

Steve Privett NZAHAA President

It Happened This Month in 1881 by Des Perado.



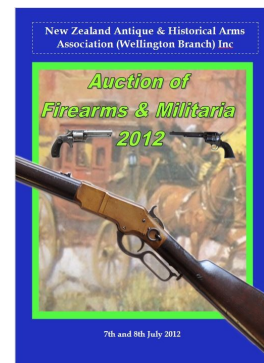
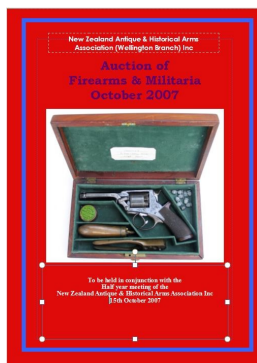
Thomas L "Tip" McKinney was a member of a noted Texas family and in the late 1870's helped his father drive a herd of horses to Palo Pinto county where they traded the horses for a herd of cattle.

They then drove the herd to the Seven Rivers country of New Mexico and became involved in fighting with the "Seven River Warriors". Tip eventually settled in Roswell and was made Deputy Sheriff by Pat Garrett and was with Garrett when "Billy the Kid" was killed. Tip tracked a group of four rustlers led by Bob Edwards who had stolen twenty-one horses from John Slaughter's Arizona ranch. Edwards was located at a ranch on the Black River near Rattlesnake Springs and Tip rode up close to Edwards, who was also on horse back, with the intention of apprehending him but was quickly fired upon. Tip returned several shots with his six shooter one of which ploughed into Edwards' head and he was dead almost before he hit the ground. This took place two months before the famous killing of "Billy the Kid" but that perhaps could be another story.

2016 Auction—Friday the 15th July to Sunday 17th July:

The Branch is now at the 'sharp' end of the catalogue construction. With the descriptions for about 2000 items now complete the task is to identify items for photography and assemble the photographs in the colour pages. Not as straight forward as it sounds and very time consuming.

At this stage we are planning to have the catalogue in the mail in the first week of June. There is a small group of people who will be pleased to see it go and turn their attention to hauling all the items out again in order to attach the lot numbers to the tags. We are always looking for help with this so please see Steve if you can give a hand with this task.



Collecting Militaria—just a small glimpse:

This is an excellent place to start your journey into the 'rarefied' world of collecting. Your own interest in history can help you to decide what to collect. If there is a particular war and theatre of operations that have always interested you, consider collecting things from that area. You would be surprised at how many people collect German World War II militaria because "that's what lots of other people collect" and yet their own historical interest is something else – maybe the Vietnam War, or the British in World War I. Collect what already interests you. One of the main reasons German military antiques are so popular is that a large amount of them were brought back from World War II (and also World War I) and the general lack of standardization meant that German uniforms and equipment exhibited a great deal of variety. These two factors help to sustain interest in that particular genre of collecting, however many militaria collectors are interested in more than one nationality. For example, many people who collect German helmets also tend to collect American helmets.

As for how to collect, that partially depends on where you live and what you are interested in collecting. Do understand that some items that are rare are also going to be expensive. But not everything is rare and it is usually not good for beginners to become infatuated with rare items. Some people have commented recently on the high prices of militaria, but in reality the rare items have always been expensive. But still, broadly speaking rare things will cost a lot and popular things cost extra over and above their respective level of rarity.

Items that are available through auctions, Trade-Me and antique shops:



WWI Silk Postcards

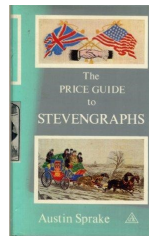


Some examples of Trench Art

WWI offers a real wealth of interesting items to collect. The range is endless and includes books produced in the era to keep spirits up, Crested China, Silk postcards, Trench Art made in the trenches to keep minds off their miseries. Buttons, medals, badges, uniforms, bayonets, knives and so the list goes on.

Do your homework

Now comes the part that requires some homework: Authentication. Fortunately, things that are genuinely old have ways of aging that are difficult to recreate. Some people try to recreate aging and some do a very good job. But still, artificial aging looks different than real aging. That is in your favour. But you do need to look at and handle genuinely old items first in order to develop a good sense of what is old and real.



The best way to learn about your field of interest is to invest in available specialty books that have been created by people who spent considerable time and effort examining and categorizing the very items you wish to study. Learn everything you can about the subject that interests you.

You can learn more directly from the militaria collecting community. Joining organisations like the NZ Antique Arms Association and other similar organisations can give you access not only to the items you are interested in but also the people who have a wide depth of knowledge from collecting themselves. Just talk to the people at the meetings, you will be surprised just how close the nearest expert is.



Well, if yer knows of a better 'ole, Bert, go to it...

(Bruce Bairnsfather's famous cartoon from WWI)

Medals, Badges and buttons:



Best place to start is Grandad or Dad's wartime ditty box if one exists. Who knows what already exists in the family. Just finding out about family participation can start an amazing journey into regiments, war conditions etc and begin a wonderful accumulation of medals and badges. There is always a wealth if items for sale and waiting to be found