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Steve Rutledge

GCA Journal

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Garand Collectors Association

Deadlines

Issue:	Deadline:
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Chairman's Column



As this issue goes to the printer, we are busy putting the finishing touches on the 2009 GCA Convention. As you know, the GCA was invited by the CMP to their facility at Anniston, Alabama. The response was overwhelming to say the least. Unfortunately, the CMP had to limit the number of attendees due to the size of their facility, and we were unable to accommodate everyone who wanted to attend. Orest Michaels set an absolute limit of 250, thus we had to turn away approximately 120 members. In the past, we never exceeded 170 attendees at our convention. We regret having to disappoint those who were too late to make the cutoff.

The election of a new GCA Board of Directors is upon us. We have reduced the number of board members to nine from thirteen. We feel that a smaller board will be more efficient and effective. A nominating committee was formed and you will see a slate of candidates recommended by the committee presented in this *Journal*. We have several new faces who have volunteered to serve the GCA, while several current board members have decided not to run again. I urge you to vote for the nine candidates you favor.

The National Matches are behind us and the results of the GCA team effort will be the subject of a forthcoming *GCA Journal* article. Without GCA Board member Jim Adell, GCA team participation would not be possible at Camp Perry.

The GCA Journal continues to be our most valuable asset. I am always amazed at the quality of the articles, the photography and the presentation. I haven't seen another firearms collecting organization that puts out a product to equal the GCA's.

Some of the items on the table are changes to our web site. We would all like to see a snazzier product with more timely information for our members. A GCA web forum for the membership is also being discussed. While there are plenty of good sites out there, this would allow the GCA membership to communicate directly with each other and share information, ask questions and other things we do via the Internet. We expect committees to be formed in early 2010 to address these ideas.

I hope everyone had a great summer and got some shooting in or visited some good gun shows. As cooler weather approaches, now might be a good time to write a GCA article. Our editors are standing by to give you a hand. Just get your idea on paper and they will do the rest.

If you have any questions about the GCA, please don't hesitate to contact me or Tony Pucci. We are always available to the membership. If you are having trouble with your account or *GCA Journal* delivery, our team at Attaché is always ready to give you a hand.

Regards,

Steve Rutledge
President and Managing Director

GCA Journal

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Front Cover:

Joe Roberts of Wilbraham, MA at the MLR with his M1C during the Korean War. See the article on Page 14.

Back Cover:

Photo by Mike Popernack.



FEATURED

Rifle

Gas Trap Rifle 1630

By Bob Seijas and Col. Curt Cheeseman

Col. Curt Cheeseman is stationed at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, right alongside the Army Heritage and Education Center. The AHEC is essentially a museum and records depository dedicated to preserving and exhibiting the history and heritage of the Army since the Revolutionary War. Since the *GCA Journal* published his article on his DCM M1 2970563 as the Featured Rifle in the Fall 2007 issue, Curt has been on the lookout for another rifle that readers might enjoy. In October 2008 he found one: original Gas Trap #1630 in the AHEC collection!

Interestingly, Bob Seijas has a Gas Trap in his collection that is reportedly #1684; “reportedly” because the heel has been ground and polished, obliterating the logo and the serial. Member Kevin Donohue, a pilot with excellent eyesight, insists he can see most of the number when the rifle is held at just the right angle in direct sunlight, and that the first two digits are definitely 1 and 6. He believes the third digit is an 8 and the last might be 4, but that one is the hardest to see. Bob can see the first two, but not the second two. The story on the rifle is that it was presented to a retiring Colonel at Springfield Armory in 1938, and the heel was ground at that time. It rings true because the rifle is in new condition and carries all of the very earliest, very rare parts, including the welded seam op rod, numbered gas plug, and numbered follower arm. A comparison of “1684” and 1630 is interesting and revealing.

Army Heritage and Education Center’s rifle 1630 is instructive, and many details merit discussion. First is the fact that the rifle appears to be substantially original to the 1938-1939 time period, despite showing some significant differences from 1684 and a few minor replacement parts. For one, it has the unrelieved Gas Trap op rod D 35382-0 marked on the handle as the earliest “new” op rods were, versus the D 28296-0 welded rod on 1684. There are two good explanations for how this might have occurred. One is the serial number dispersion of receivers used in the first production order. Records show that the order for the first 1,500 rifles was begun on July 28, 1937 and, because it was essentially an “educational order” during which Springfield worked out the procedures for mass production, it was not completed until April 28, 1938, a full nine months later.

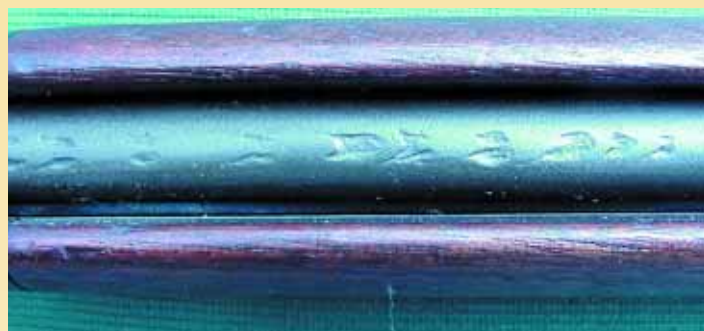


Ground, polished, and lightly blued heel of 1684.

Moreover, many receivers and rifles were rejected for deficiencies and recycled during that order. For example, the first rifle #81 did not pass ballistics testing, and rifle #87 was actually the first rifle successfully completed. No attempt was made to assemble those first 1,500 guns in serial number order, the objective was only to deliver 1,500 completed rifles. Thus we find that serial numbers used in the first contract probably ran as high as the 2100 range. Completed rifle #2194 was sent to Ballistics for an endurance test on May 4, only five days after the first production order was completed.



1630 Operating Rod



Welded seam of the D 28296-0 rod on 1684.

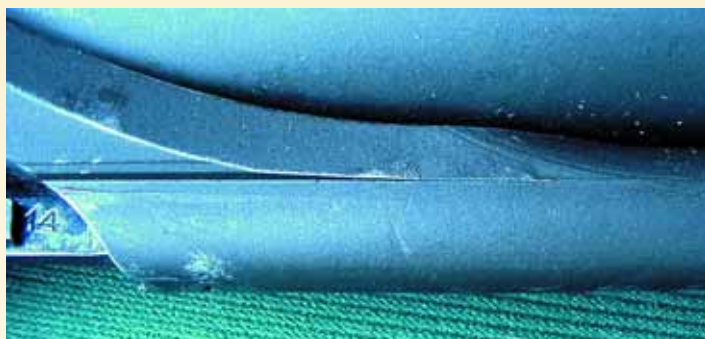
The welded op rod was a troublesome part and was *very* short-lived. It was made from a single piece of stock in which the handle was machined and the tube was formed from the flattened front portion wrapped around a mandrel and welded closed along its entire length. The welding operation was contracted out to a welding shop in West Springfield. When the first lot was returned to the Armory, the rods were found to be unsatisfactory because the welds were lumpy. Most bulged into the interior of the tube and rubbed against the operating spring, requiring Springfield machinists to ream and polish them smooth. This held up the assembly of the first rifles for several days. As can be seen, this critical part was quite difficult to make, and the improved type in which the handle was brazed to a section of preformed tubing was quickly brought on line. The welded seam type was quickly replaced, almost certainly before about serial 2000, and was probably limited to the first production order.

From these two facts, it is impossible to be certain whether 1630 was assembled in the first production order or the second. If it was part of the second order, then the D 35382-0 rod it carries is original to its assembly.

Another possible explanation has to do with the history of 1630. Records show that it was returned to SA from Ft. Benning on December 30, 1938 because of deep pitting in the bore. The barrel was sliced in two so this pitting could be examined, and a new barrel was installed. It was sent back to Benning, but was again returned for repair on March 22, 1939 when another new barrel, a stacking swivel, and a screw were installed. It could have had the operating rod replaced during either of those repairs, either because it had the obsolete welded seam rod or simply as part of the reassembly process in which any rod was used. Whichever is the case, the op rods are different on 1630 and 1684.



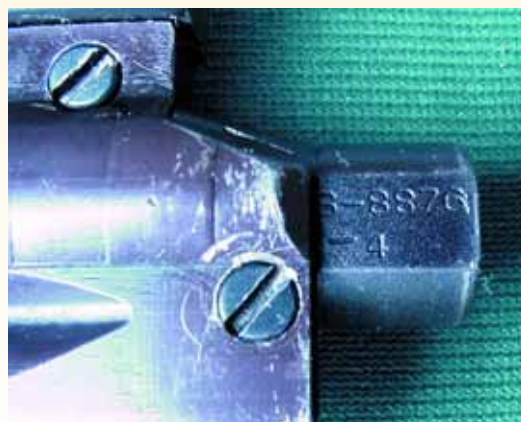
The "new" rod with tubing brazed to the handle.



The 28296 rod is a one-piece construction.



1684 Welded Seam rod. Note that the drawing number is not perfectly aligned, the D 282 is slightly higher than the 96-0. This same uneven stamping is found on the D 28296-0 rod on #81 at SANHS.



1684 Plug



1630 Plug marked only 0 on top.

Another difference is the gas plug. The plug was also a troublesome part that eventually turned out to be the cause of major accuracy problems with the rifle. It was obviously worked on and modified several times in the first few weeks of production, as only a literal handful of rifles were assembled with the unmodified B-8876 plug, and only #81 has been actually seen with it. The next version seems to be the B-8876-4 plug, and even that is a very rare part that was used on only the earliest rifles. The -4 revision number indicates that two earlier revisions were designed, although -2 and -3 plugs have never been seen, either on rifles or loose, and there doesn't appear to be room to fit them into the production history. This marked plug also seems to be gone by around serial 2000 or perhaps slightly later. Rifle 1684 has the -4 plug, 1630 does not. The explanation for this is the same as for the welded seam op rod.



The same rod on 1684.

The third rare and short-lived part, the C-46014 numbered follower rod, is found on both rifles. This numbered version seems to have lasted slightly longer than the op rod and plug described above, but not by much. It is extremely scarce. The more common, unnumbered Gas Trap rod appears to be the same part, but the number has been dropped. This might indicate that 1630 was indeed part of the first production order, and the rod was not one of the parts changed when the rifle was rebarreled in 1938. It might also mean that it was assembled early in the second production order while the numbered rod was still being used.

The compensating spring found on 1630 is unusual and different from both the spring on 1684 and the common comp spring usually seen. Note that the coils are very flat, have no finish, and look slightly tighter and fatter than the common spring. Bob has had a loose spring like this in his collection for a very long time and was suspicious of it until encountering the same type on 1630. This suggests it is a legitimate but uncommon variation of the comp spring. Since 1684 does not carry it, we might speculate that it was used briefly in the late 1938 to early 1939 period when 1630 was returned to SA for repair.

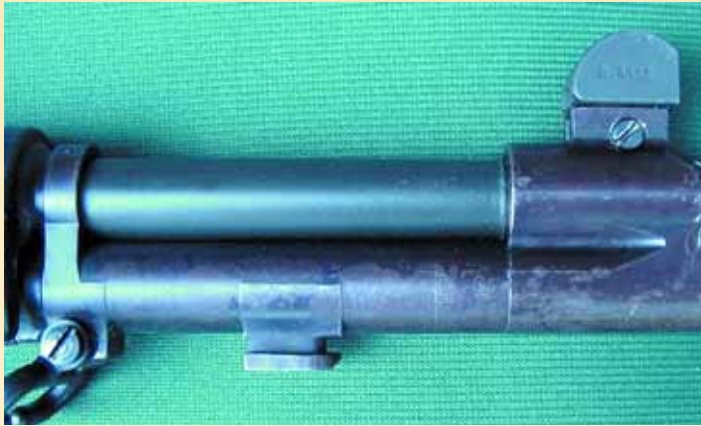
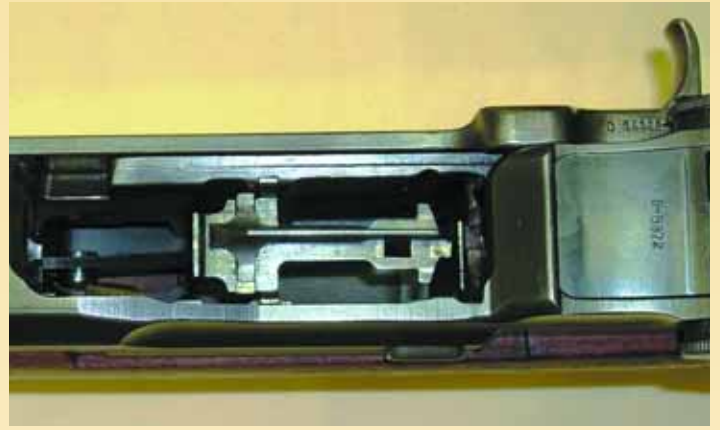
Many other early parts are common to both rifles. The D 28289 gas cylinder and B 8882 front sight with vertical ears, for example, are the same on both. The cylinder on 1630 has lost most of its finish and is shiny, while 1684 retains all of the original finish that has aged to the typical plum brown. As the photos show, 1630 has again lost the stacking swivel that was replaced in 1939.



1630 numbered follower rod.



Note the bright compensating spring.



Receiver

The receivers on both rifles are practically identical, the only difference is the small view mark 7 on 1630's receiver leg that is not found on 1684. As can be seen, these receivers were made during the period when SA dropped the heat lot marking for a year from about March 1938 to March 1939 (serial numbers from about 750 to about 9500). No information has been found on this change -, it is known only from receiver observations. As can be seen from the heel photo at the top of the article, the finish on 1630 is lighter and smoother than the closeted 1684, no doubt from handling and exposure to sunlight. The underlying color can be seen as medium gray on both, although 1630 has a very slight green tinge that 1684 does not.

The bolts on both rifles bear the same no-dash drawing number with punch mark above, but the heat lots are different: 1630 carries J 1 while 1684 shows C 1. Both these lots are the earliest in their series, and illustrate that more than one batch of bolts was often used concurrently in assembly. Rifle #642 in the Rock Island museum carries a J 1 bolt. In addition, 1630's bolt bears the stamp R37 at the rear. Nothing is known of this mark, but several similar R-numbers have been observed on loose early bolts, all reading from the rear. Note that 1684 has R35 stamped on the bayonet lug.

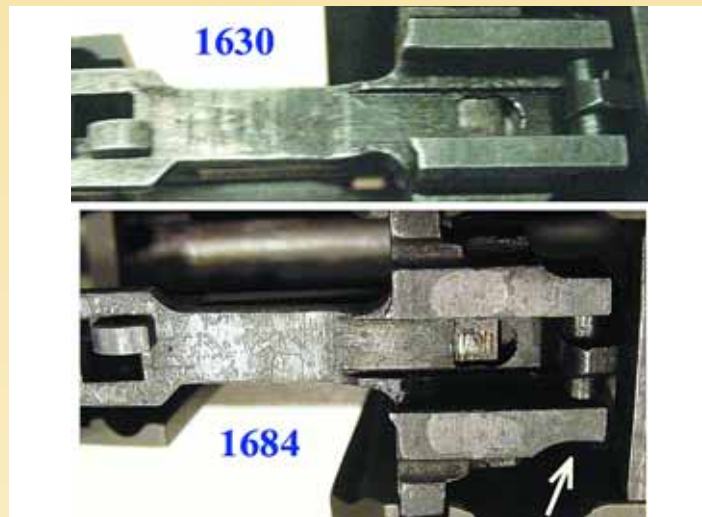




Loose bolts observed with R-numbers.



The follower on 1630 is early but unmarked and retains the long-nosed slide with steep back. The slide dismount hole is the early keyhole shape. The follower on 1684 shares those same characteristics but is a bit unusual, in that it has a different contour between the legs and the body. The bullet guide on 1630 is a replacement, and the op rod catches on both guns are unmarked but have 0-marked accelerators.



Note the scallop cut at the front of the bottom flats on 1684's follower, versus the straight rectangular shape of the flats in 1630. Both followers are quite early and unnumbered, but have several minor differences.

Rear Sights

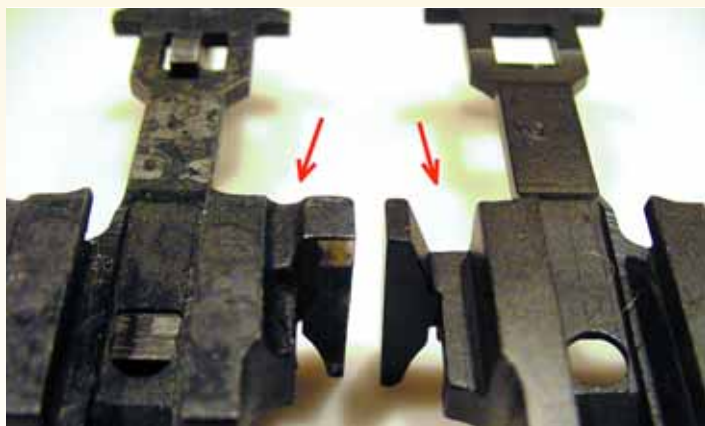
The rear sight knobs on both rifles are the early checkered type with flush nut. Rifle 1630 has probably been fired in some competition or test, as there is a paint mark on the windage knob and receiver to allow quick alignment. The style of the arrowheads is identical on both rifles: very tiny closed heads on the elevation knob and very small open ones on the windage knob. Both the pinion and the elevation cap are numbered on 1684, but 1630 was not disassembled to verify those parts. Museum curators are always *very* reluctant to allow screw drivers and tools anywhere near rifles in their collections.



1630 follower.

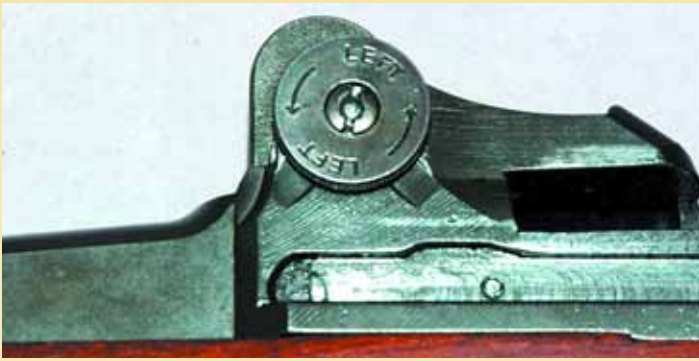


1630 Rear Sight.



1684 follower on left compared to a follower similar to 1630's. Note different machining between the legs and the body.





Wood

The wood on 1630 is of particular interest, but also presents some puzzles. For example, several of the metal parts have been replaced with late versions: The lower band is a late, flat type, as is the upper hand guard clip, and the stock carries a late front ferrule. Yet the wood is very early, the color match is excellent, and it appears original. The stock, for example, is the very early pattern with the curved profile in the pistol grip area, the same pattern as the stock on 1684.



Top 1684, Bottom 1630.

In addition, 1630 has the large hole over small hole butt and is numbered, the same as 1684. The SA/SPG cartouche is clear and completely struck. Rifle 1684 has the circle P denoting proof firing, but, as expected, has no cartouche since it was never accepted as government property.

The butt plates on both rifles are also very early and obviously descended from the Model Shop rifles. Note that there is a clear border around a slightly raised panel of checkering. This scarce early part was superseded relatively quickly by the more common solid plate without border. Winchester retained both the border on the butt plate and the curved pistol grip profile of the stock.



1630.



(Bottom) 1630 with worn finish and slightly flattened diamonds
(Top) 1684 with sharp diamonds and all original finish.



1630 stock drawing number.

The hand guards on 1630 bear discussion as well. The upper is numbered C46005 but the clip has been replaced with a late flat type. This is difficult to rationalize, as are the modern lower band and stock ferrule. Why replaced these items years later on the original wood that is obviously in good condition? What could have happened to those small metal parts that did not affect the wood or the rest of the rifle? The front hand guard is not numbered and is broken, yet the lip type front ferrule remains. These alterations do not lend themselves to an easy explanation.

Both guards on 1684 are numbered: The rear shows C-46005 with dash, while the front shows C46006 without dash. Gas trap rifles have been observed with and without dashes in the hand guard part number, but no inviolate pattern is evident.



1630 numbered upper handguard.



Trigger Group

The trigger group on 1630 appears to be the original 1938 assembly and, except for the hammer, is the same as 1684. The hammer on 1684 is unmarked and has the characteristics of a Model Shop hammer. There is no question that it is the original hammer assembled on the gun. Other than that part, both rifles have the no-dash D 28290 housing without the pad in the upper left inside corner. The “hammer stop” pad was added quite early, but the presence of a no-pad housing on both rifles indicates it lasted longer than collectors generally think. Both rifles also carry the C 46025 trigger guard with rings around the grasping hole and the C-46015 flat top safety.



1630 hammer with -1 added by hand to the C 46008 drawing number.



The hammer on 1684 is probably Model Shop.



These two rifles were a treat to compare side-by-side, especially since 1684 is such a benchmark of the first production order at Springfield Armory. Those many parts that were the same on both served as excellent confirmation of the details of very early production, and the differences were fun to try to explain and theorize over. The added information on 1630's repair history provides interest and much food for thought. It should be added that it wound up at Aberdeen Proving Ground at some point in its life and remained there until it was transferred to The Army Heritage Center relatively recently. Veteran readers might recall that it was written up while at Aberdeen by Dave Clark in an older issue of the *Journal*, but was not able to be examined in the same detail that was available to us this time. At the time of our visit, the AHEC was preparing a display to be set up at the Pentagon in Washington, and will include 1630 as one of the artifacts. It is expected to remain there for at least two years.



The authors with the respective rifles. Note the current location of Col. Cheeseman's rank badge velcroed in the center chest area. Other patches and insignia are removable, as well.

We would like to thank all the people at The Center who allowed us such freedom to examine and photograph this most interesting rifle. Special thanks must go to Chris Semancik, the Weapons Curator, for both his help and hospitality in this project. We found the Army Heritage and Education Center to be an extremely interesting and educational facility for the student of Army history and weapons. It is not well known or often visited, except by accomplished authors and historians who know about it. The facility includes several acres of outdoor displays, including Civil War campsites, World War I trenches, a World War II barracks complex and a Viet Nam firebase. We plan a special feature on the Center in the future.



Weapons Curator Chris Semancik watches while Bob shoots 1630.



Top 1630, Bottom 1684.





1684



1630



1630



Top 1630, Bottom 1684.

DATA SHEET GARAND RIFLES <small>(Official Data Sheet of the USCAR)</small>		SERIAL NUMBER <u>1630</u>	MANUFACTURER <u>Springfield Armory</u>
RIFLE TYPE MI	1938 Production	ORIGINAL? 95%	PHOTO OR REMARKS Army Heritage Center collection
LEVER RIGHT FRONT OF RECEIVER 		OTHER MARKS AND LOCATIONS OR REMARKS [ne = not examined]	
BARREL (Bolt) 		BOLT D 28287 EXTRACTOR ne GAS CYLINDER D 28289 no finish PLUG 0 on top	
TOP (under handguard) ne		FOLLOWER no nbr, D dismount hole BULLET GUIDE replaced OP ROD CATCH no nbr, accelerator 0 FOLLOWER ARM B 8869 FOLLOWER ROD C-46014 comp spring OP ROD SPRING keystone LOWER BAND replaced CLIP LATCH round nose OP ROD D 35382 - 0 on handle BUTT PLATE no trap, border LONG SCREW ne SHORT SCREW ne	
REAR SIGHT Aperture B-8868-1 Cover B-8872 Base ne Pinion short, flush not Windage checkered, small open arrows Elevation checkered, very small solid arrows		FRONT SIGHT B-8882 vertical ears	
TRIGGER HOUSING D 28290 no pad TRIGGER GUARD C 46025 with rings TRIGGER ne RELEASE C 46008-1 marked on side, -1 added SAFETY C-46015		PURCHASE DATE PURCHASED FROM VALUE DATE VALUE DATE VALUE DATE	
STOCK Remarks curved profile from pistol grip to mag well FRONT PLATE replaced SLING ne SPOON ne UPPER JETTY or SHAPER ALIGNMENT		BEAR HAND GUARD C 46005 Clip replaced no FRONT BAND GUARD no marks, broken Formed lip type Spacer ne	

DATA SHEET GARAND RIFLES		SERIAL NUMBER <u>1684</u>	MANUFACTURER <u>Springfield Armory</u>
RIFLE TYPE Gas Trap MI	March, 1938 production	ORIGINAL? 100%	PHOTO OR REMARKS Presented to retiring Colonel Condition about mint
LEVER RIGHT FRONT OF RECEIVER 		OTHER MARKS AND LOCATIONS OR REMARKS no heat lot Receiver logo and serial ground off, heel polished S S 50 stamped under rear sight base	
BARREL (Bolt) 		BOLT D 28287 C 1 EXTRACTOR blued GAS CYLINDER D 28289 original finish PLUG B-8876 -4 R35 on lug	
TOP (under handguard) J 11 D 28286 chamber length? yes		FOLLOWER no nbr D dismount hole BULLET GUIDE B-8875 OP ROD CATCH no nbr, accelerator 0 FOLLOWER ARM B 8869 double bevel FOLLOWER ROD C-46014 comp spring OP ROD SPRING Keystone LOWER BAND C-46000 CLIP LATCH 0 round nose OP ROD D 28296-0 welded seam BUTT PLATE no LONG SCREW no SHORT SCREW blue	
REAR SIGHT Aperture B-8868-1 -1 added Cover B-8872 Base C46001 C-46009 Pinion very small open arrows Windage C 46002 tiny closed arrows Elevation		FRONT SIGHT B 8882 straight ears Screw blued	
TRIGGER HOUSING D 28290 no pad TRIGGER GUARD C 46025 with rings TRIGGER C-46020 with hole RELEASE no number, possibly Model Shop SAFETY C-46015		PURCHASE DATE PURCHASED FROM VALUE DATE VALUE DATE VALUE DATE	
STOCK Remarks large hole over small hole BEAR HAND GUARD C-46005 Clip groove Clip Rod Chamber Cut? no FRONT BAND GUARD C46006 Female lip type, blue Spacer no nbr, no holes		BUTT PLATE C-46012 Raised Border LONG SCREW B-8881 narrow slot SHORT SCREW blue	
OTHER DATA Stacking Swivel B-8891		PURCHASE DATE PURCHASED FROM VALUE DATE VALUE DATE VALUE DATE	



THE FURAX CONNECTION



Stephen L. Kanne

GCA member Steve Kanne has written his first novel, and it's terrific. The bulk of the story takes place at Ft. Leonard Wood in early 1950, as the main character goes through basic training. Billy Rosen is not your typical recruit, he is a graduate of Harvard and has volunteered for the draft. In addition, he is pressured to accept OCS but refuses. Because Billy has spent his whole life surrounded by the well-to-do, he wants to sort out his future with real-world experience. The reader suspects that this may be at least partly autobiographical.

There are two important subplots running through the story. The first is that Billy has been identified as a potential "Water Walker" by a shadowy organization within the military. This is a secret society like Skull and Bones whose objectives are not known. Part of the testing process is to subject him to as much pressure as possible to see if he will crack. Suffice it to say that basic training is not a walk in the park for Billy.

Book Review

The Furax Connection

by Steve Kanne

Fireside Publications, 2009

The second, and perhaps an eventual main theme, is the criminal enterprise Furax Unlimited that is bilking the military by purchasing food purported to be stale and past its useful life. Furax buys it at a deep discount, then sells it back to the military at full price as fresh. The network of bribery and extortion that underlies the scam is far-reaching and touches Billy in ways he does not yet know.

Of particular interest to GCA members is the extensive training Billy receives on the M1 and his natural marksmanship ability. The many sequences on the Garand are spot-on and authentic and will ring true to anybody who was trained on it. The reader suspects that Kanne has pulled an M1 trigger a time or two. In addition, the details of basic at Leonard Wood in the 1950's are equally accurate and evocative. These sequences will bring back memories to anyone who trained there.

The Furax Connection is a fascinating novel that is both suspenseful and exciting. It is clearly only the first chapter in Billy Rosen's story, and ends with the major themes unresolved. We do not yet learn what secret plans the puppet masters behind the scenes have for him, or the future maneuvers of the gangsters at Furax. The story concludes with the North Korean invasion of the South and the flurry of military activity that ensues. We suspect that Billy is headed there, and given the early allied defeats, it promises to be exciting. If the author maintains the same attention to accurate detail as this novel, readers will be treated to lots more good M1 stories!

The Furax Connection may be purchased on Amazon.com, in local bookstores (depending upon availability), or by visiting the publisher's website, www.firesidepubs.com. Fireside will give GCA members a special discount price of \$15.95 if ordered directly and paid by check to Fireside Publications, 13539 SE 87th Circle, Summerfield, FL 34491.



Joe Roberts with his M1C in 1953.

JOE ROBERTS

Sniper

By Bob Seijas and Anthony Pucci, Jr.

Joe Roberts of Wilbraham, Massachusetts, was an Infantryman and a sniper in the Korean War. One of his sniper weapons was the M1C Garand. In May 2009 the authors visited and interviewed him.

Background

When the Japanese surrendered in 1945, they had troops in many far-flung areas of Asia, including Korea. In a purely organizational decision, it was decided that any Japanese below latitude 38 which bisected the Korean peninsula should surrender to the Americans and any above the 38th parallel should surrender to the Russians. The Americans just wanted to go home, but the Russians were maneuvering to shape the post-war world in their favor. They quickly fortified the division line and installed a Communist government they called the People's Republic of North Korea. North Korea began building an army around a vast number of Russian tanks.

On June 25, 1950, they suddenly invaded South Korea and overwhelmed the ROK Army and its few American advisors. By the middle of August, the Communists had driven the Allies into a

small perimeter around Pusan at the southern tip of the peninsula, and threatened to drive them into the sea.

On September 15th General Douglas MacArthur invaded the North with an amphibious landing at Inchon near the 38th parallel. At the same time, the reinforced U.S. forces counter-attacked out of the Pusan perimeter, and the North Korean Army fled north in disarray. UN forces pursued the defeated remnants in a headlong advance to try to end the war by Christmas 1950.

The Chinese, however, had secretly infiltrated 300,000 troops into North Korea, and launched a massive attack in the last week of November, surprising and defeating the strung-out U.S. Army and ROK forces. They drove the allies back below the 38th parallel before General Matthew Ridgeway was able to stabilize the lines in January 1951. In February he counter-attacked and began to drive the enemy north again. Two major Chinese offensives were defeated with enormous enemy casualties, and the Chinese were fleeing under relentless assault.

As the UN army drove through the 38th parallel, President Harry S Truman ordered U.S. forces to halt and establish a defensive Main Line of Resistance. Communist forces fortified their side of the MLR, and a stalemate resulted. Truce talks began on July 10. These negotiations dragged on for two years, as the Chinese broke off talks and then returned to the table several times. During that period some of the bloodiest battles occurred as the Communists jockeyed for advantage at the conference table. Pork Chop Hill, Bloody Ridge, and Old Baldy are some of the well-known names. On July 15, 1953 the cease-fire was finally signed three years after the war had begun.

Joe Roberts

In 1949 Joe graduated high school in Springfield, Massachusetts, and after a few months went to work at Springfield Armory. His first job there was "coffee man," pushing the coffee cart from one department to another. Interestingly, he remembers that Springfield was building a lot of M1 Rifles at that time, a fact not generally known by collectors. He recalls watching the machinists, and was particularly impressed by the milling of the long op rod channel on the outside of the receiver.



He was soon promoted to the heat treating department, and clearly describes bathing newly machined receivers in Oakite to degrease them, then suspending them from wires before dunking them in a very hot solution. These receivers had logos and serial numbers, but unfortunately for us, he did not pay any attention to the serial range. He also treated most of the internal parts like trigger guards and followers.

With the Korean War in full swing, Joe left the Armory and joined the Army in October 1951. He took his Basic Training at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, earning the bracelet for the high score in rifle qualification. He ascribes this to his hunting experience as a boy when he used his .22 rifle to hunt rabbits and squirrels to help feed the family in those lean years. After basic, Joe was assigned to radio school but purposely failed the test to return to the Infantry. Advanced infantry training lasted through the spring of 1952, and then it was off to Korea.

He arrived at Inchon harbor on the Fourth of July and immediately boarded a train heading north to a replacement depot. He was assigned to Charlie Company, 17th Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division that was manning the MLR in the Kumwha Valley, and was quickly sent to a front-line bunker. This was exactly one year after the peace talks had started and was characterized by small unit attacks along the fortified line. Joe's first assignment was to lay barbed wire across a ravine on a foggy morning two days later. Unfortunately, the fog lifted and the Chinese began to mortar the detail. They dived behind a paddy dike and escaped injury, but it was an exciting baptism of fire for Joe.

During those first weeks on the line, Joe was frequently shelled by Chinese mortars and artillery, but he learned from the many World War II combat vets how to survive. They also showed him the ropes until he could remain cool in tough situations. Joe says, "Actual combat was a whole lot more dangerous and nerve-racking than the war stories I had heard. The stories were a long way from reality. Probably *"Saving Private Ryan"* and *"Band of Brothers"* are as close as anything I have seen in the movies that gives a good representation of actual combat."

"I was personally armed with an M1 rifle, serial number 1054940, and hand grenades. On night combat ambush patrols, I carried a Thompson submachine gun, hand grenades, and a knife. About three weeks after I arrived in Korea, I saw dead Americans and dead enemy for the first time. I felt bad about the American dead, but not so for the enemy dead. Later on, I got so used to seeing dead bodies it didn't affect me much. I lived with three dead Chinese soldiers in a bunker on Pork Chop Hill for two days. I recall walking down a deep trench and smelling something foul. It was two leg bones sticking out of the trench wall about three feet from the top."



Spring on the MLR

"During the first three months, we moved on a regular basis and never spent two weeks in one place. On the central front, we were on hills with names such as T-Bone, Three Sisters, Hill 200, Spud Hill, Tap-Tap-San-Dong, Eerie Outpost, Arsenal Outpost, and others. An outpost was a hill out in front of the MLR with a fortified bunker on top. During this period I was assigned to my first Listening Post or LP, a very dangerous and scary job: Go out into the valley at night in front of the MLR with a coil of commo wire and a field phone. You are out there alone, sitting in tall grass listening to every sound. Everything sounds like someone is sneaking up on you. The quad .50 fires harassing fire every 15 or 20 minutes, and the tracers going over cast some light, so that every shadow seems to move. Every half hour you have to blow into the phone to check in to the MLR. I was very relieved when at dawn I was able to return to my nice (?), safe (?) bunker."

"After making Assistant Squad Leader, I went on night patrols and led four of them as point man. These were platoon-sized

patrols looking for contact, or setting up an ambush, or trying to capture an enemy. As point, I walked about 30 yards in front of the main body so that an enemy ambush would only get me and alert the rest. What a great feeling."

Editors Note: These patrols are described in detail in "The Last Parallel" (Martin Russ, Rinehart & Co., 1957). Since the front had been static for more than a year, the entire area was covered by pre-registered mortar concentrations. If a patrol was seen or heard, the observer could call for "Concentration B-1" (or the Chinese equivalent), and immediately bring down a storm of fire on it.

Pork Chop Hill

"I was never involved in hand-to-hand combat as some in other companies were, because the Chinese got knocked off before they got close enough for that kind of fighting. However, among the battles I was in during 1952-53 were those to take or hold Pork Chop Hill on the central front and Heartbreak Ridge, Eerie and Arsenal Outposts, and Jane Russell. The peace talks were under way, and those areas were just bargaining chips for the enemy. Each battle for these "bargaining chips" still stands out in my mind after all these years. Pork Chop Hill was especially gruesome. The Chinese had retaken it, and my company was ordered to take it back again. As we assaulted up the hill just before dawn, we received no fire, the Chinese had taken it, but withdrawn. Probably their casualties were too heavy to hold it."

"I was again on point, and the first thing I encountered was an American running down the hill, I almost shot him. He ran right into me and knocked me down, he was terrified. A little farther up the hill I stepped on something soft, which turned out to be a

Chinese body. As it began to get light, the sights were horrible, with American and Chinese dead all mixed together in evidence of the fierce hand-to-hand combat that had occurred. I saw a body that was cut in half, the top half was hanging over the trench and the bottom half was down the hill. His guts were spread all down the slope. Farther on was another guy, a Mongolian, with the top of his head cut cleanly off, like it was done with a machete. Farther along there was a dead Chinese hanging out of a bunker, and inside was a dead American, good looking tall red-headed kid. The Chink had caught him in the bunker. I grabbed the Chinese by the legs to pull him out and his pants came right off, so I left him. Weapons and ammo were strewn all over the hill. Near the top was a sand-bagged emplacement with three dead Chinese in it. Then the Chinese on the next hill saw us and called in mortars. I jumped in the emplacement with the dead Chinks and another guy jumped in with me, as shells began to land all around us. When the barrage stopped, we had taken Pork Chop back."

"While we were holding the hill, I found a bag of Chinese grenades, about 20 of them, the kind with the cap on the handle that you unscrewed and pulled the string that was in there. Just for fun, I began to toss them down the hill. After a few had exploded, the Lieutenant came running up all excited and yelled to knock it off. The whole line thought the Chinks were counter-attacking! We remained on top for maybe 24 hours, then were relieved and went back to our main lines."

Sniper

"One afternoon a runner found me and said, 'The Lieutenant wants to see you.' Oh boy, I thought, what have I done now, but when I got there he told me that I was being assigned to sniper school. He had reviewed the records and seen my basic training rifle scores. I was sent to the rear and received about a week of training, mostly marksmanship with the '03-A4 Springfield and camouflage. I was given a sniper rifle and sent back to the line. I

over and borrow it to shoot at something, and then return it."

"There was a knocked-out North Korean tank perched on the edge of a paddy irrigation ditch in front of our line. One fairly quiet day in summer, I decided to line up the sights on that tank about 600 yards away and fired a few rounds at it. To my amazement, two North Korean soldiers jumped out and dove into the irrigation ditch. I was so surprised; they were gone before I could fire at them. Obviously, they entered it at night and were using the cover to spy on us. They must have thought we saw them, but we didn't, I just used the tank to sight in my rifle. I reported the incident, and the tank was destroyed."

"One day on Outpost Arsenal, my Sergeant came into my bunker and said, 'Go up to that bunker further up the line, there's a Chink digging a trench toward our position, see if you can discourage him.' So I went and, sure enough, there he was about 400 yards away. He was too deep in the trench to see, but I could easily see his shovel throwing out dirt. So I lined up on his shovel and waited until it was at its zenith, then shot holes in it as it stopped momentarily at the top of his swing. It wasn't too difficult. I could hear the rounds hitting it and after about six rounds, he gave up his digging. Being in a forward artillery observation bunker, I then called in four rounds of 155 artillery and buried all his hard work and maybe him also."

Another day up on the line, a buddy and I were manning a bunker with a .50 cal. machine gun used for long range targets, one round at a time (ammo belts were handy if needed). I was watching the Chinese lines through my binoculars, especially a firing port right up on the ridge crest. It was a good 3/4 of a mile away, and you could see daylight behind it. Suddenly the port went dark, and I knew someone was blocking the backlight by looking



As soon as he saw the Springfield, Joe's eyes lit up and he said, "That's it! I haven't held one of these in a long time!" '03-A4 author's collection]

kept my regular M1, too – the sniper rifle was extra."

"After only a few weeks with the Springfield, somebody came up to the line, took it back and gave me an M1C. I liked it and found it quite accurate, although not quite as accurate as the '03. At that time there wasn't much call for rifle sniping, since both sides knew enough to stay out of sight during the day. Every so often, however, the Lieutenant or the Platoon Sergeant would come



The same pose as the one at the top of the article, but 55 years later. When asked if the M1C retained its zero when the scope was removed, Joe said, "I never took the scope off of my M1C, I had my M1 for close targets. I never used the flash hider, either." M1C author's collection.



Joe relives old memories.

out. We lined up on it as close as we could figure the range and fired one round. The guy didn't move, so we adjusted up a couple of mils and fired again. This time the backlight reappeared, a close hit? About 10 minutes later, he was back, and we readjusted again and fired a round. The port went light almost immediately. Did we get him? Not sure, but no one blocked the port light for the rest of the day.

Joe's M1 Rifle



A souvenir of Korea.

One of the stacks of letters Joe wrote home from Korea and that his family saved. They are full of details of his tour.

During the many e-mail discussions with Joe prior to our visit, he remarked about his faithful M1, serial 1054940, and wondered what had ever happened to it. It clearly held a special place in his heart, and he had remembered the serial number all these years. Unknown to him, we checked with the Civilian Marksmanship Program on the very long chance that they had it in their records (CMP will check any serial for a \$25 research fee). Orest Michaels reported that we had won the lottery...they had it in the latest batch of returns from Greece! At that time, Orest didn't know where it was; only that they had it somewhere, and that it might take as much as three months until they came across it. The GCA made arrangements to purchase it and have it shipped to Tony Pucci, Jr., at Orion 7.

After interviewing Joe and taking the MIC photos, we told him we had another M1 for him to look at. We took it out of the trunk



of the car, and then out of the case, took off the trigger lock required in Massachusetts, and handed it to him. Once again, his eyes lit up as he shouldered an M1 for the first time in many, many years. "Ah, the M1," he said, "I put a lot of miles on mine." Then he looked at the serial and immediately got very emotional. So did we. "It's my rifle!" he said.

Joe was astonished that we had found it after all these years, and wouldn't put it down. He said, "If you knew what this rifle and I had been through together." We think we knew. It was a thrill for us to be able to present it to him and share the moment of reunion. Nobody talked for several minutes as Joe rubbed it, turned it over, looked at the serial again, and rubbed it some more.



Tony Pucci makes the presentation. Joe is having trouble believing it.



"It looks a lot nicer now, it was pretty beat up when I turned it in in Japan."

After our visit with Joe, we drove over to West Springfield and left Joe's rifle with Mike Veilleux, owner of Guns and Gun Parts. He would handle the transfer for us and keep it until Joe was able to get over there. Joe was there bright and early Monday morning to fill out the paperwork and take his rifle home. The authors left with a real glow and a pride in the GCA for what it had accomplished for a combat veteran of the Korean War. Every GCA member was part of this project and should feel a well-deserved share of that pride.

On May 27, 2009, North Korea suddenly announced that it was no longer bound by the 1953 cease-fire, and that the war was active again. Although it appears to be typical North Korean bluff and bluster, we know a man in Wilbraham who is ready if he is needed.



Bob Seijas shares the moment with Joe as he enjoys holding 1054940.

ELECTION

GCA Board of Directors

Fellow GCA Members – Please Read Before Voting

We are fortunate to have a selection of quality candidates for GCA Board elections. However there are only nine positions available for the 12 candidates. After careful deliberation, candidates shown with an * (asterisk) after their names have been endorsed by the GCA Nominating Committee as the best choices to govern the GCA now and into the future. Please vote for no more and no less than nine candidates in total. **Votes for more than nine candidates will be considered invalid.** Due to publication deadlines, **your voting envelope must be postmarked by October 10, 2009.** Those postmarked after that will also be considered invalid. Please use only the ballot and addressed envelope provided.

Jim Adell *

I became a member of the GCA in 1987 and am a current member of the Board of Directors. I have contributed articles to the GCA Journal each year since 2002 and have attended five of the last nine GCA conventions (and plan to attend this year's convention at Anniston). I have provided GCA members with a free verification service for Secretary of the Navy Trophy rifles since 1998 and have run four CMP-sanctioned Garand Matches each year for the past nine years at my local club.



I'm a retired Naval Reserve Commander and served two tours in Vietnam, including firing an M1 in combat. My first high-power rifle was an M1 that my father purchased for me in my sophomore year of high school. The Navy match-conditioned this rifle for me, and I used it and other Navy-owned M1 rifles to achieve Distinguished Rifleman and President's Hundred designations. I was the Team Captain/Officer in Charge of the United States Naval Reserve Rifle Team from 1976 to 1996. The M1 was the Navy's standard service rifle until the summer of 1973 and the primary competitive rifle until 1980, and I have fired over 30,000 rounds through Garands. I am currently a member of the United States Rifle Team for International Long Range Competition and plan to compete in the next world championship in Australia in October 2011. I was a firing member of the Silver Medal team in the World Long Range Championship at Bisley, England in June 2003. Mike Gingher and I have managed the GCA Teams firing their M1 rifles at Camp Perry for the last four years. My principle M1 interests are Secretary of the Navy Trophy Rifles, National Match, and early International Harvesters.

** Endorsed by GCA Nominating Committee*

Andrew Hall *

I am a Life NRA member and staunch supporter of Second Amendment. I believe in continuing the mission of the GCA to promote collecting, shooting and studying the M1 Garand. I was a competitive rifle shooter in high school, college and the U.S. Marines. I have competed in several John C. Garand Matches at Camp Perry and placed as high as third. I previously served as a Harrier pilot in the U.S. Marines, including flying missions during Desert Storm. I retired as a lieutenant colonel in the Tennessee Air National Guard, having served as a C-130 pilot in both Iraq and Afghanistan. I am currently employed as a captain flying for Federal Express based in Memphis, Tennessee. I live in Nashville with my wife of 20 years and young son.

Endorsed by GCA Nominating Committee



Walt Kuleck *

Walt formalized his interest in firearms with a Marksmanship Merit Badge from the Boy Scouts during the Eisenhower Administration, when facility with the current U.S. service rifle was both encouraged and applauded. Walt's collecting and shooting interests have evolved through a charter membership in the Ruger Collectors' Association, a life membership in the Ohio Gun Collectors Association, and more recently, his membership and



board service with the Garand Collectors Association. In the early days of the reconstituted Civilian Marksmanship Program, Walt "interpreted" many hundreds of GCA Garands via the rec.guns newsgroup on the Internet, and continues to interpret Garands for GCA members and anyone who "comes calling" on the World Wide Web. Walt also serves as the unofficial "Technical Questions Answer Man" for the GCA web site.

Walt is a Benefactor Life member of the NRA and the author of four books, including "The M1 Garand Complete Assembly Guide" and many GCA Journal articles. He has written for American Rifleman and presented a workshop on the history of the Garand at a recent NRA annual meeting. He looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the Garand collecting community, including as a board member of the Garand Collectors Association.

Endorsed by GCA Nominating Committee

Dave McClain *

I am a retired metals manufacturing engineer residing in New Jersey and enjoying my retirement with my wife. I am currently a member of the GCA Board of Directors and am principally involved with technical advisory, publication and coordinating the publication the GCA Journal while writing the occasional article. I formerly served as Chairman of



the Board of the GCA from 2003 to 2007 and have been a GCA Charter member since 1986. I also served as the GCA Journal Marketplace editor for nine years and continue a free service verifying M1C sniper rifles for everyone and for GCA members in particular. My historical and collecting interest in the M1 Rifle and other U.S. weapons has spanned 35 years.

My enjoyment includes U.S. Military archival research, assisting and advising those new to the hobby of collecting the M1 rifle, its caveats and pitfalls while serving GCA members when needed with any issues that may arise. I am a 30-year life member of the NRA, Ohio Gun Collectors Association life member (OGCA) for 26 years and the Forks of the Delaware Weapons Collectors Association (FDWCA) life member for 30 years in Pennsylvania.

If reelected, I will continue to assist all members when needed, along with contributing the efforts required making our GCA Journal publication and organization the best it can be.

** Endorsed by GCA Nominating Committee*

Eric Nicolaus *

I spent two years in Marine Corps JROTC at Rockdale County High School in Conyers, Georgia. I was on the rifle team - we shot five days a week - man, it sure was fun! I gained a very real appreciation for personal firearms ownership, the U.S. Military, and especially the USMC. Most importantly, I learned how to shoot straight.



I am a retired U.S. Coast Guard Captain/O6 (25+ years' active duty); a service connected, Gulf War incurred, disabled veteran; and an Arabian / Persian Gulf Veteran. I am a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, and U.S. Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, California.

I am the owner of Nicolaus Associates. I author, edit, and publish military technical publications and posters, including: "U.S. Rifle, Cal. .30, M1: Diagrams & Pictures."

My most important job is raising my three sons to be productive U.S. citizens who believe in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. In my job, I deliver the water bottles during school test week, bring in the pizza on a special occasion at school, and coach little league baseball.

** Endorsed by GCA nominating committee*

Tony Pucci Jr. *

I am 53 and reside on the North Fork of Long Island, New York with my wife Elena, son Michael and daughter Leah. I am CEO of Orion 7 Enterprises Inc. a successful mail order and retail store specializing in rifles, parts, and accessories for the M1 Garand and other military rifles. I have over 25 years experience building and servicing M1 rifles.



I have been a GCA member for 20 years and currently serve on the Board of Directors as Chairman. During this tenure I have served on the committees that authored our bylaws and the newly formed Nominating Committee. Steve Rutledge and I currently co-chair the Executive Committee, which oversees the day-to-day business activities of the GCA.

I have authored over 100 M1 Garand-related articles published in several periodicals, including the GCA Journal. My current firearm interests include prewar and early World War II-issue M1s, M1 Carbines, Civil War cavalry carbines, and 1911 automatic pistols.

I wish to continue serving The Garand Collectors Association as a board member by offering my good financial skills, business sense and experience. As a member of the board, I will assure a strong continued relationship with both Attache' International and the Civilian Marksmanship Program. I will continue to support our activities at Camp Perry, uphold our charter and bylaws and ensure that our GCA Journal remains the premier publication that its members currently receive.

** Endorsed by GCA nominating committee*

Bill Ricca *

I joined the army after high school and served in Vietnam as a member of the Long Range Patrol (LRP) platoon of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, receiving the Combat Infantryman Badge and Bronze Star. As some readers might remember, I was actually shot at by a VC with an M1 Rifle. Fortunately, the round hit my rifle and not me.



Upon discharge, I worked in a warehouse and was eventually promoted to a management and supervisory position. I also attended Rutgers University at night, studying marketing and advertising. My fascination with weapons and equipment, however, led me to begin bidding on small government surplus sales and attending gun shows on weekends. This soon became a passion, and I left Rutgers nine credits short of a degree to start my own full-time surplus business. Since 1976 I have set up at over 1,200 gun shows. In 2001 I built a website and continue to manage it.

Currently, I am President of Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society and website and advertising manager. I am also fighting for Second Amendment rights as a web manager and officer of the Eastern Pennsylvania Firearms Coalition. I am a longtime member of the GCA and have written a number of articles for the GCA Journal. One of my personal goals is to keep the history of Ordnance production accurate and prevent its distortion by fakers and dishonest dealers. I personally collect small arms accessories.

** Endorsed by GCA nominating committee*

Steve Rutledge *

I currently serve as the President and Managing Director of the GCA. I have been an elected board member since 2000. My goals, if elected to serve again, are to see that the publishing of a quality GCA Journal continues. I feel this is the most important thing we do as it documents the history of the Garand in a permanent medium that others will be able to reference long after we are gone. I am also in favor of funding independent study of the rifle in the forms of selected grants to individuals/institutions.



The GCA's relationship with the CMP is very important to me, and I intend to see that continue. I am currently employed as a civilian intelligence specialist with the U.S. Coast Guard. Prior to this, I was a special agent with the U.S. Secret Service for 25 years and a local law enforcement officer prior to that. I have an 18-year-old son who will be playing college lacrosse next year, and my spare time is spent watching games. My wife and I live in Memphis, Tennessee.

** Endorsed by GCA Nominating Committee*

Gary Wilk *

I'm Gary Wilk. I've been a lifelong resident of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, except for my four years in the U.S. Marine Corps. I served with the Second Marine Aircraft Wing as an avionics technician maintaining and repairing communications gear for the AV8A Harrier. I've been employed for the last 25 years as a clerk for the U.S. Postal Service. I



also work part time for a local radio station where I have been able to produce Memorial and Veterans Day programs.

I am a benefactor member of the NRA and serve as Chairman of the Berkshire County Friends of NRA Banquet Committee. I am on the board of directors of the NRA's state organization in Massachusetts, Gun Owner's Action League, and volunteer on the production crew of our community TV program, the G.O.A.L. Show. I am a volunteer for the National Park Service at Springfield Armory National Historic Site and a member of The Friends of Springfield Armory Museum. I also belong to the Colt Collectors Association, the Marine Corps League, and many other organizations that preserve and promote our nation's history. I would be honored to serve on the board of directors of the GCA.

** Endorsed by GCA Nominating Committee*

Mike Burduck

Currently residing in Cookeville, Tennessee, I joined the GCA in 1988, and from 1989-2001 helped GCA founder Richard Deane copy edit the Association's quarterly Journal. In 1994 I assisted with the installation of the John Garand bust at the Springfield Armory. With the exception of the first annual get-together, I have attended all of the GCA's conventions and have served as master of ceremonies at three of those conventions. In 2005 I helped gather and edit candidates' biographies for the 2005 Board of Directors election. I also coordinated the editorial process for The Best of the GCA Journal, Volume 1 (2007). A Life Member of the National Rifle Association, I collect M1 rifles (especially Winchesters), early SMLEs, pre-64 Winchester Model 70s, P.38s, and Colt "Hammerless" Pocket Pistols. I look forward to serving one more term on the GCA's Board of Directors. If re-elected, I will continue to serve the best interests of the GCA's membership by offering assistance to promote the publication of our top-notch journal, advocating responsible use of GCA funds, encouraging further improvement of our annual conventions, and continuing our relationship with the Civilian Marksmanship Program.



Mike D. Gingher

From February, 1961, Mike served a total of almost 31 years in the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserve. He was trained as a 2112 Team Armorer and was assigned to the Marine Corps Rifle Team from September of 1974 until September of 1976, and in May of 1977 was assigned to the MCR Rifle Team.



On active duty for Desert Storm, he served as the NCOIC of the rifle range at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia. In May 1991 he rejoined the USMCR Rifle Team, retiring as a Master Sergeant in December 1991.

He retired after 31 years from General Electric Co. as a tool room machinist in September 1997. Mike obtained an associates degree in machine tool technology in 1987. He taught part time at IVY

Tech. He worked for CMP at Camp Perry part time as a contract armorer. One assignment took him to Denmark to inspect M1 rifles the Danes had on loan and wanted to return. He was also involved in organizing the first John C. Garand match at the National Matches, and since being elected to the GCA board, Mike has assisted Jim Adell with managing the GCA teams at the National Matches. He is also the coach for Team Hornady.

He wrote and taught a small arms maintenance course for the Royal Saudi Air Defense Force in Jedda, Saudi Arabia. Mike currently works for Armalite, Inc. as an instructor and armorer during the National Matches.

Mike is a Benefactor Member of the NRA, a life member of the Marine Corps League and the Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Assoc., an associate member of the Marine Corps Scout Sniper Assoc., a member of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and a member of the Garand Collectors Association.

David Kaczmarek

Currently residing with my wife in Leaf River, Illinois, I have been a GCA member since 1986 and a director for the past 20 years. During my tenure as a director, I have authored GCA Journal articles, coauthored current association bylaws, and have activity participated in numerous initiatives resulting in today's premier organization.



I am also a National Rifle Association life member and hold memberships in the Illinois Shooting Association, NAPCA, Carbine Club, United States Naval Institute and other professional collecting organizations. As a retiree, my primary focus is the preservation of World War II history and the collection and preservation of associated period military memorabilia. If elected, I will continue to dedicate my considerable business experiences and energies towards the objective of continuing the current premier status of the GCA.

REMEMBER

Your voting envelope must be postmarked by
October 10, 2009.

GCA Sponsors Margaret O'Brien In National History Day Competition

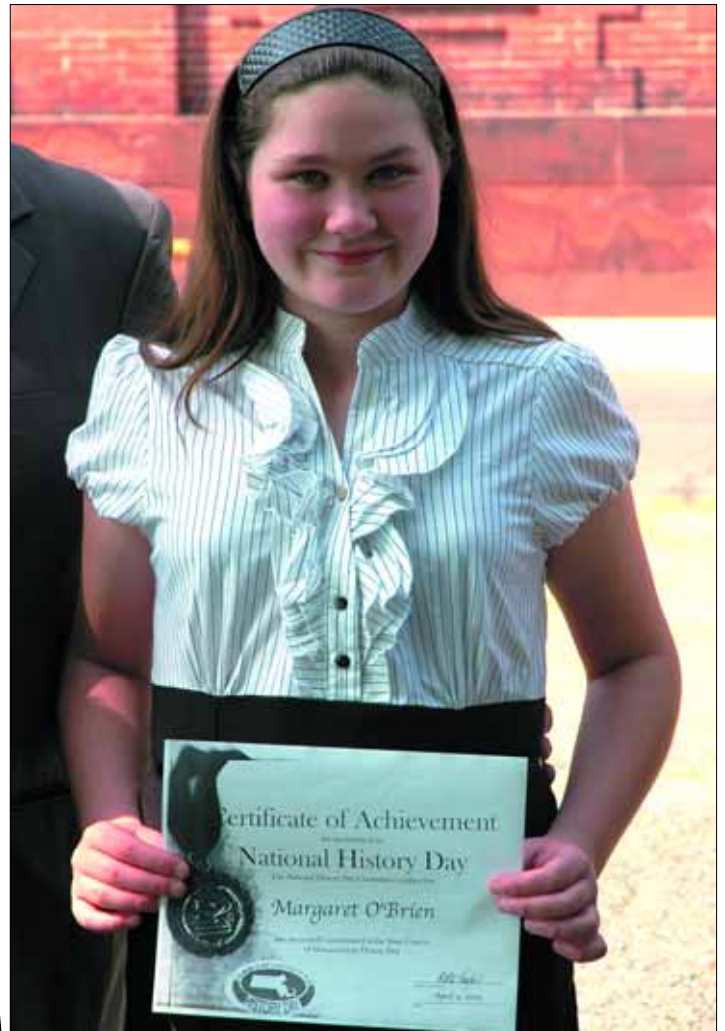
In April of this year, our office in Kansas City, Missouri received an interesting request for help from a 12-year-old student in Massachusetts. Attaché International President Jim Spawn passed it along to the Executive Committee of the GCA for consideration.

Margaret O'Brien is one of the 600,000 students nationwide who participated in National History Day's annual essay competition. The topic this year was "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies," and some examples suggested were George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, and Mahatma Gandhi. Since Margaret lives in Ware, a town about 25 miles from Springfield, Massachusetts, and her father is a former GCA member, she chose John Garand. The judging criteria are:

60% - Historical quality: the student's success at conducting historical research, interpreting it, and drawing conclusions.

20% - Effectiveness of the presentation

20% - Relationship of the topic to the theme, and the student's understanding of the significance of the topic in history. The entry should answer the question, "So what? Why was this important?"



**Margaret O'Brien in front of Springfield Armory NHS
with a copy of her award certificate.**

Her paper and responses to questions from the judges about it won the Junior (grades 6-12) local competition, and qualified her for the regionals held at Springfield Technical College. She won again and her paper was submitted to the state finals at Clark University in Worcester. Guess what? She won again!

The state victory qualified Margaret for the national finals held at the University of Maryland in June. At that competition the finalists are questioned about their submissions and judged by a panel of professional historians and educators.

In these tough times, however, Margaret and her family needed some financial help to attend the Maryland event and, since she is home-schooled, she had no PTA or other organization to which she could turn. At her father's suggestion, she wrote to the GCA in hopes of a contribution to help defray some of the expense for travel, lodging, and the like. That was the letter Attaché received and passed on.

April 10, 2009

Garand Collectors Association
P.O. Box 7498

N. Kansas City, MO 64116

Dear Members of the Garand Collectors Association,

My name is Margaret O'Brien and I am a twelve-year-old homeschooler from Ware, Massachusetts. I have been selected, in a statewide competition held at Clark University on April 4, to participate in the National History Day Competition, which is being held at the University of Maryland, from June 14-18. I was awarded first place in the Junior historical paper category. The theme this year was "The Individual in History," and I chose to write an historical paper on John Garand: Inventor of the M1 Rifle. I chose this topic because I enjoy shooting (I am on the junior rifle team at Nenameseck Sportsman's Club in Palmer, Massachusetts) and because I live only 6 hours away from Springfield Armory, which is where Garand worked. I used a great deal of primary source material from the Springfield Armory museum, and received a special award from the National Archives for the best use of sources. I learned a lot about the M1 and John Garand, and the impact the semiautomatic rifle had on the outcomes of World War II and Korea.

My participation in the National History Competition depends on whether I can raise enough money in scholarships and sponsorships to cover the travel expenses for me and my mother, who also happens to be my teacher. Since I am homeschooled, I do not have a school system to sponsor my trip, and am now trying to find sponsors to help me pay for the registration fee, transportation, food, and lodging costs. Because my paper focuses on the importance of M1 Garand in the history of America, I am hoping that the Garand Collectors Association can assist me with the costs.

I would be happy to send along any other information you need. If you are interested in finding out more about National History Day, you may visit www.nhd.org. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Margaret O'Brien
109 Greenwich Plains Rd.
Ware, MA 01082



GCA Chairman Anthony Pucci, Jr. presents the check to Margaret on behalf of all the members of the GCA.



The O'Brien family in front of SANHS on May 16, 2009.

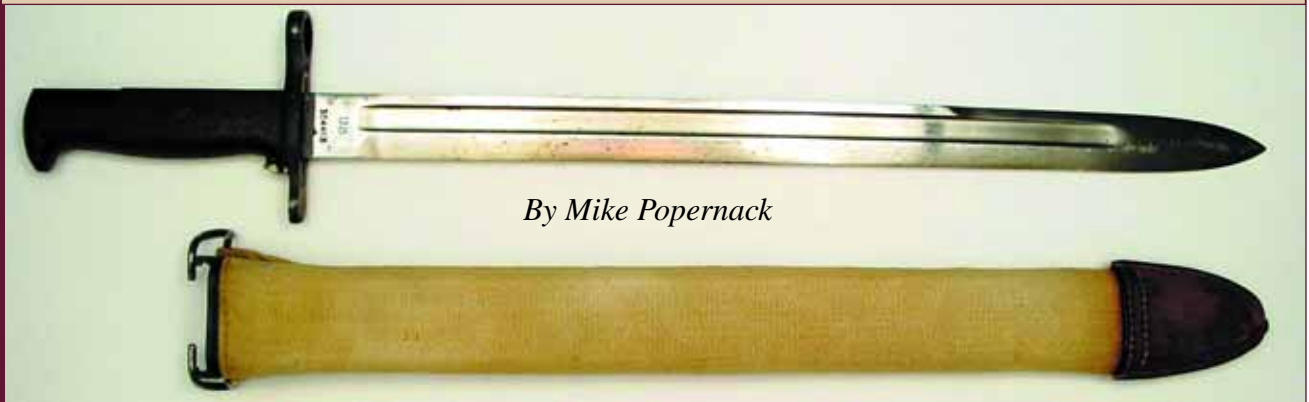
The Executive Committee voted to assist this worthy effort, especially since it exactly fit one of the central tenets of the GCA's Statement of Purpose: *To publicize and preserve the history of the M1 Rifle and its inventor John C. Garand.* Chairman Anthony Pucci, Jr. volunteered to take charge of the project and contacted the O'Briens. After investigating and verifying the details, he asked them for an estimate of the cost of the trip to Maryland. The total came to \$1,200, and he recommended that the GCA fund the entire amount. The committee unanimously agreed.

Tony Pucci and Bob Seijas then traveled to Springfield and met Margaret and her family at SANHS, where she was presented with a check for the full amount. Both Tony and Bob were extremely pleased to offer Margaret the sponsorship of the membership of the GCA in such a worthy project. She and her family expressed their gratitude for the generosity of the membership and hoped to make us proud of Margaret. It was too late for that - we were beaming with pride at what she had already accomplished.

Margaret did extremely well in the National Finals of the National History Day competition, placing 10th in the nation. There were 80 papers submitted in her category, and the competition was very tough. Although she did not win, she was very effective on a subject that might be controversial in the minds of some educators. One of the judges commented that he was impressed with her explanation of the difference between the operation of a bolt-action and a semi-automatic. Her effective presentation and poise under pressure fully justified our faith and pride at being part of her effort. This is a young woman who is a role model at a very early age, and we wish her continued success in the future. Way to go, Margaret, we got our money's worth!



BAYONETS



By Mike Popernack

During the M1 Garand's long service life, a wide variety of bayonets were issued. A martial arms collector could limit his or her collection to just the many manufacturing variants and still have dozens of examples. What follows is a brief survey of the most representative types of bayonets and scabbards used with the M1 Rifle.

The M1905 Bayonet

When the Garand was adopted as our new infantry rifle in 1936, the standard bayonet was the M1905. It was originally designed for the M1903 rifle and was produced by Springfield Armory and Rock Island Arsenal from 1906 to 1922. The M1905 bayonet had a blued handle and a 16" bright, bare metal blade until 1918. Briefly in 1918, the M1905 was completely blued, and was later completely Parkerized from 1918 until the end of production. The grips were black walnut. Many early M1905's were rebuilt and refinished after WWI. According to the War Department's 1933 Mobilization Plan, 581,000 M1905 bayonets were stored in serviceable condition. Given the small size of the Depression era military, these were adequate for the first few years of the Garand's service.

By early 1939, war clouds were gathering over Europe, and the War Department devised a "Protective Mobilization Plan." The stockpile of leftover WWI era bayonets was to be supplemented with perhaps 100,000 to 300,000 new production bayonets, and contracts were being negotiated by late 1941. The December attack on Pearl Harbor showed how fortuitous that planning was. The new, second production period M1905 bayonet is sometimes erroneously called the "M1942" bayonet by collectors. It has a 16" Parkerized blade similar to the 1918-1922 production bayonets. Instead of walnut, the grips are usually black or sometimes brown plastic. Six civilian firms produced 1,540,578 M1905 bayonets from April 1942 to May 1943:

- Wilde Drop Forge & Tool (WT)
- Utica Cutlery (UC)
- Union Fork & Hoe (UFH)
- Pal Blade & Tool (PAL)
- Oneida (OL)
- American Fork & Hoe (AFH)



Scabbards for the M1905 Bayonet

When the Garand was adopted, the standard scabbard was the M1910. It was made of wood covered with canvas and had a leather tip. The 1933 Plan lists only 180,660 of these scabbards in serviceable condition. To help make up for the shortfall, the War Department listed the M1917 and M1905 Modified scabbards as substitute standard.

The M1917 was originally designed for the M1917 bayonet used on the M1917 rifle and various trench shotguns. It was also found to be suitable for the M1905 bayonet and was considered an acceptable substitute if a M1910 scabbard was not available. The 1933 Plan lists 1,691,048 M1917's on hand, but deterioration of the leather bodies made many unserviceable.

Before 1910, the M1905 bayonet was issued with the M1905 scabbard. It had a wood body covered with leather and a hanger designed to fit the M1903 cartridge belt. When the M1910 cartridge belt was adopted, many M1905 scabbards were converted with a new style belt hanger and were re-designated M1905 Modified. The 1933 plan lists 6,848 M1905 and 99,030 M1905 Modified scabbards available. Like the M1917 scabbards, many were unserviceable due to leather deterioration.



M1905 (Top) M1905 Modified (Center) M1917 (Bottom).

When the second production period for M1905 bayonets began, a new M3 scabbard was introduced to replace the complex and fragile earlier types. It had a resin-impregnated, cotton duck fabric body painted green and had a metal throat. Two contractors, Beckwith Manufacturing and Detroit Gasket & Manufacturing produced 3,030,223 M3 scabbards between January 1942 and February 1943.



Beckwith scabbard mark.



1942 Production M1905 with M3 scabbard.

The M3 was the most widely issued scabbard for the M1905 bayonet during WWII, but period photographs show the M1910 scabbards continued to see service throughout the war. Even the substitute standard scabbards like the M1917 were widely used in state-side training and early combat in the Pacific and North Africa.

M1 Bayonet

In order to produce a more practical weapon and conserve steel, a new bayonet was adopted in 1943. The M1 bayonet was basically a shorter M1905 with a 10" rather than 16" blade. Five of the original six civilian manufacturers producing M1905 bayonets converted to M1 bayonet production. Wilde Drop Forge & Tool Co. discontinued its production. From April 1943 through August 1945, some 2,948,649 M1 bayonets were produced.



M1 bayonet with M7 scabbard.



M3 scabbard markings: Beckwith Mfg, (Left) Detroit Gasket (Right).



Typical makers mark on M1 bayonets.

The M7 scabbard, essentially a shorter version of the M3, was adopted for the M1 bayonet. Beckwith Manufacturing Co. produced 2,112,672 from April 1943 to August 1945. Detroit Gasket & Mfg. Co. did not produce M7's.

M1 Bayonet (Converted)

With the decision to adopt the M1 bayonet, Ordnance developed a program to convert the older 16" M1905 bayonets to the new 10" standard. Springfield Armory and the five civilian manufacturers converted M1905 bayonets returned from stateside and overseas units. The 16" blades were cut down and the points reground. The point was usually a "spear" style like the original bayonet, but a "knife" style was occasionally used. The knife point was an attempt to compensate for the thin, fragile steel left in the deep, square fuller of early production M1905's.

Most "cut down" bayonets were marked by the company that did the modification, and no special effort was made to segregate the bayonets by original manufacturer. Any manufacturer's M1905 bayonet, including Rock Island or Springfield, could be converted by any other manufacturer. Frequently, the company doing the modification marked the bayonet. A total of 1,007,671 M1905 bayonets were converted to M1's during WWII. Ordnance made no distinction in basis of issue or nomenclature between an original production M1 bayonet and one converted from a M1905.



1942 Utica M1905 converted to M1 by Pal.



Converted point types: knife (top), spear (center), original M1 (right).



1943 AFH M1905 converted to M1 by AFH.



"February 3, 1944 ad: Some months ago, when the Army reduced the length of the U.S. bayonet from 16 to 10 inches we had thousands of completed bayonets which we were instructed to shorten. Because of the great demand for tools among home victory gardeners, permission was given us to mate those 6-inch bayonet points into much needed hoes."

Shortened bayonet blades were not wasted! Photo from Clint Simpson.

M1905 and M1 Bayonet Production by Manufacturer

The U.S. government facilities at Springfield Armory and Rock Island Arsenal kept fairly accurate production records, but exact production data is not available for the WWII civilian manufacturers. Most of these companies are no longer in existence, and it is impossible to determine exact production quantities. We have estimated second production period M1905 and M1 bayonet production based on known government acceptances and the relative monthly production capacities of the manufacturers. For M1 bayonets produced by converting M1905's, the collector can assume that the surviving original manufacturers' markings are roughly proportional to the relative quantities of the original M1905 manufacturers, except for a large number of SA and RIA bayonets lost during WWI and the early WWII defeats in the Philippines and Wake Island.

Springfield Armory (SA) Springfield, MA.

Springfield Armory produced 1,196,000 M1905 bayonets between 1906 and 1922. They never produced M1 bayonets but did modify M1905's to M1's during WWII.

M7 Scabbard (Converted)



M1 Converted bayonet with M7 Converted scabbard.

Similar to the conversion of M1905 to M1 bayonets, there was a wartime program to shorten M3 scabbards to M7 length. The scabbards were disassembled, the body shortened and the metal throat reattached. These converted scabbards can be identified by the different style of crimp attachment where the body joins the throat. There were 1,846,768 M3 scabbards converted to M7's in WWII, and Ordnance made no distinction in nomenclature between original and converted scabbards.



Rock Island Arsenal (RIA) Rock Island, IL.

This arsenal has a long history of US equipment production ranging from mess kits to artillery. It produced a total of approximately 430,000 M1905 bayonets from 1906 to 1914 and 1916 to 1920. It also produced M1905 and M1910 scabbards and converted M1905 scabbards to M1910 Modified types. Although the arsenal did not produce new bayonets during the Garand's period of service, many RIA M1905 bayonets were converted to M1 bayonets by other manufacturers.

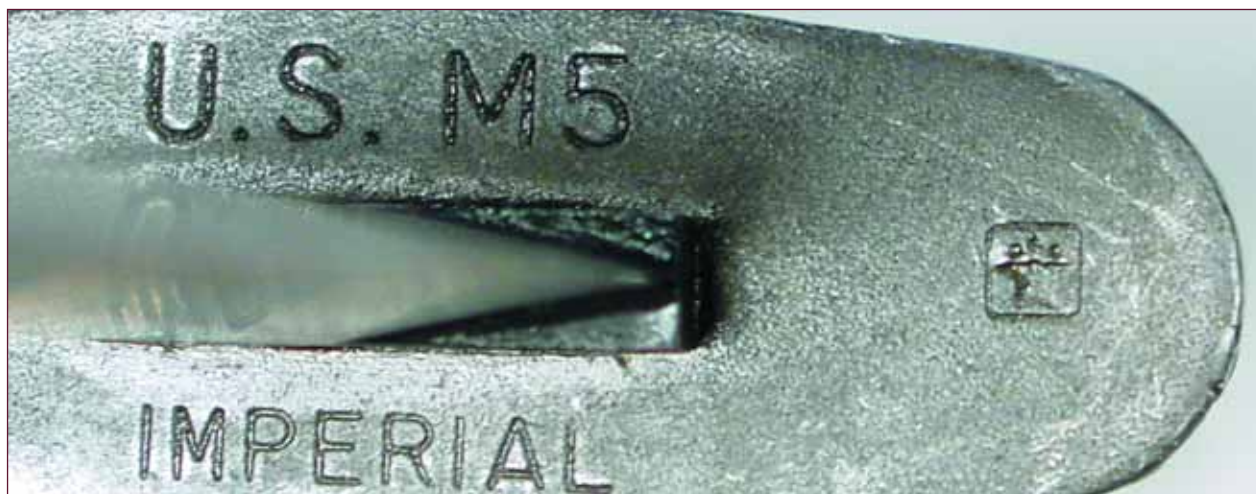
Wilde Drop Forge & Tool (WT), Kansas City, MO.

Wilde was a small hand tool manufacturer that received a government contract for M1905 bayonets. It had tremendous difficulties meeting their production quotas and was dropped from the bayonet program in February 1943, before M1 production began. Wilde Drop Forge and Tool produced an estimated 60,000 M1905 bayonets from 1942 to 1943. Low production numbers make them difficult to find and expensive today.



M7 (left) and converted M7 (right).

Note the configuration of the metal where it joins the body.



Imperial M5 maker mark and Defense Acceptance Stamp.

Utica Cutlery (UC), Utica, NY.

Utica, a major utensil and cookware manufacturer, was awarded one of the original three contracts for M1905 bayonets. The company produced 200,000 M1905 bayonets and 880,000 M1 bayonets from 1942 to 1945. During the Korean War, it produced an additional 75,000 M1 bayonets. Because of its relatively large volume of WWII production and the 1950's contract, Utica M1 bayonets are often found in good condition.

Union Fork and Hoe (UFH), Columbus, OH.

This tool and farm implement manufacturer produced from 1942 until 1944 and delivered 430,000 M1905 and 460,000 M1 bayonets.

American Fork and Hoe (AFH), Geneva, OH.

This conglomerate of many small hand tool and farm implement companies was the most prolific bayonet manufacturer, producing 400,000 M1905 and 1,015,000 M1 bayonets from 1942 to 1945.

Oneida, Limited (OL), Oneida, NY.

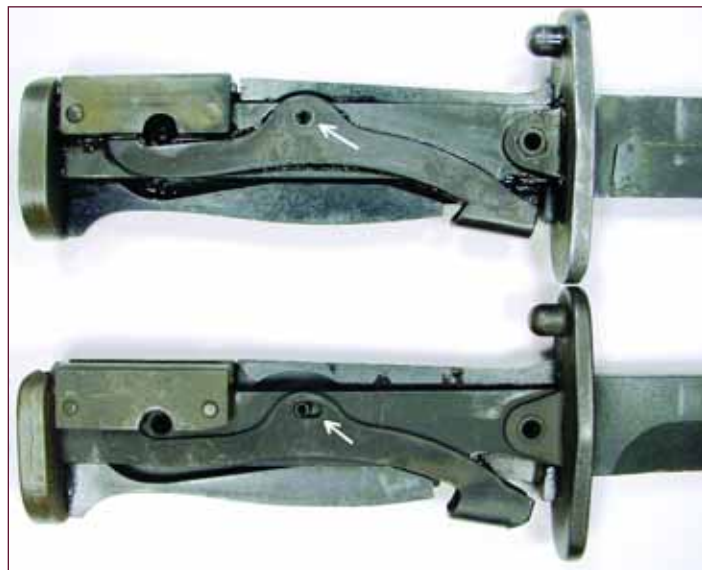
This silverware company produced 150,000 M1905 and 250,000 M1 bayonets in 1942 to 1943 before converting to subcontractor work on M1 Carbine parts. Oneida produced a finely finished and well-made bayonet that is prized by collectors.

Pal Blade and Tool (PAL), Plattsburg, NY.

This kitchen cutlery manufacturer had substantial quality control problems early on, but overcame them to produce 210,000 M1905 and 340,000 M1 bayonets from 1942 to 1944.

M5 Bayonet

Near the end of the Korean War, a new bayonet was designed for the Garand that was a complete departure from earlier bayonets. Just as the M4 bayonet was essentially a WWII M3 Trench Knife modified into an M1 Carbine bayonet, the M5 bayonet was an M3-style knife blade adapted to fit the Garand. The M5 bayonet guard had a stud that fit into the gas cylinder screw, similar to the M7 series of grenade launchers, rather than the traditional barrel ring. It soon became apparent there were difficulties mounting and dismounting the M5 bayonet from the rifle while wearing gloves. The M5A1 bayonet was quickly adopted, which had minor improvements to the catch design and was easier to use.



M5 and M5A1 latch configurations. Note the oval shape of the pivot pin hole and the larger finger piece on the M5A1



M5 with early M8A1 scabbard.

Utica Cutlery, Aerial Cutlery, Imperial Knife, J & D Tool, and Columbus Milpar manufactured an unknown quantity of M5 and M5A1 bayonets beginning in the mid-1950s. Most M5A1 bayonets are actually marked M5-1, a technically incorrect Ordnance nomenclature that was commonly used. Utica, Aerial and J & D Tool M5's are relatively rare; Milpars and Imperials are more common. The M5 series of bayonets was copied by many U.S. allies who used Garands. These foreign variants are an interesting field of collecting in their own right, but beyond the scope of this article.



J&D Tool M5A1 markings.

M8A1 Scabbard



M5A1 bayonet with late, long throat M8A1 scabbard.



1950's production M8A1 by Victory Plastics.

The M5 series of bayonets was issued with the M8A1 scabbard originally designed for the M3 trench knife and M4 bayonet. This scabbard was produced from 1944 until the 1980s and also used for the M14's M6 bayonet and the M16's M7 bayonet. During WWII, Beckwith Manufacturing (B.M. CO.) produced over 3 million M8A1's and its subsidiary, Victory Plastics (V.P.

CO.), produced tens of thousands more in the mid-1950's. These scabbards used a resin-impregnated cotton duck body with a metal throat attached to a cotton web hanger. In 1955 a metal reinforcing tip was added to the scabbard without a change in designation. Over time, additional manufacturers were awarded contracts, and millions with many minor variations have been produced over the decades. Much research remains to be done on this long-serving piece of U.S. equipment.

Editor's note: GCA Director Dave Kaczmarek wrote an excellent article on bayonets for the Garand way back in 1989 (Vol.4, No.1 Winter). That article was extremely well researched and thorough, but did not include photos. In those early days, the GCA Newsletter was not as photograph-oriented as today's GCA Journal.

Transitional M1 Bayonets



Transitional UFH M1s with standard fuller (left), and long irregular fuller (center); PAL M1 with hand-ground fuller (right).

An interesting sub-field of bayonet collecting is identifying early M1 bayonets produced in the transition from M1905 production. The earliest M1 bayonets were marked with the 1943 date of production, similar to M1905 bayonets. The vast majority of M1 bayonets, however, were not marked with the year of production. Additionally, collectors have identified M1 bayonets with irregularly shaped fuller grooves at the point end. Sometimes these show hand grinding marks, and sometimes there are irregular dimensions that some collectors hypothesize resulted from partially finished 16" blades being re-forged to the new 10" length. There is still a lot of work to be done in this field.

Special thanks to Scott Duff and Harlan Reinfeld for their assistance with this article. To learn more about Garand bayonets, see *American Bayonets of the 20th Century* by Gary M. Cunningham. I also welcome any information from the membership on production contracts or original bayonet packaging contract numbers, especially for M5 series bayonets and M8A1 scabbards, so we can better understand the history of these important weapons. I can be contacted via my website at www.popernack.com.

Bayonet Model	Collector's Conventions	Characteristics	Manufacturers	Years Produced	Quantities and Remarks
M1905	• Type I • First production period M1905	Walnut grips Bright blade Blue handle	SA, RIA	1906-1917	950,000
M1905	• Type II • First production period M1905	Walnut grips Blue blade and handle	SA, RIA	1917-1918	150,000
M1905	• Type III • First production period M1905	Walnut grips Parkerized blade and handle 1*	SA, RIA	1918-1922	525,000
M1905	• Type IV • Second production period M1905 • "M1942"	Plastic grips Parkerized blade and handle 1*, 2*	UFC, AFH, WT, OL, AFH, UC	1942-1943	1,540,578
M1		Plastic grips Parkerized blade and handle 1*	UFC, AFH, OL, AFH, UC	1943-1953	2,948,649 in WWII and at least 75,000 for Korean War
M1	• M1 (Converted) • M1905E1 • "Cut down"	Usually plastic, occasionally wood grips Parkerized metal 1*	ANY	1943-1945	1,007,671 Converted from M1905s
M5		Plastic grips Parkerized metal	UC, Aerial, Imperial, J & D Tool,	1954-195?	Unknown
M5A1		Plastic grips Parkerized metal	Aerial, Imperial, J & D Tool, Milpar	195?-19??	Unknown

1* Some small parts continued to be blued

2* Many OL bayonets were originally completely blued.

Scabbard Model	For Bayonet Model	Characteristics	Manufacturers	Years Produced	Quantities
M1905	M1905	Leather covered wood body Hanger for M1903 series Cartridge Belts	RIA	1906-1911	750,000 Estimated
M1905 Modified	M1905	M1905 scabbard modified with M1910 belt hanger	RIA	Converted 1910-1920s	Unknown quantity converted
M1910	M1905	Canvas covered wood body	RIA	1910-19??	At least 900,000
M1917	M1905 M1917	Leather body	RIA Jewell G & K	1917-1918	3,483,256
M3	M1905	Resin impregnated cotton duck body	Beckwith Mfg. Detroit Gasket	1942-1943	3,030,223
M7	M1 M1 (Converted)	Resin impregnated cotton duck body	Beckwith Mfg.	1943-1953	2,112,672
M7 (Converted)	M1 M1 (Converted)	Converted by shortening M3 Scabbards	Beckwith Mfg. Detroit Gasket	1943-1945	1,846,768
M8A1	M5 M5A1	Resin impregnated cotton duck body Web hanger	B.M. Co., V.P. Co. Many others	1944-1980s	Unknown



M1 National Match Rifle Auction From James E. "Mac" McCollum Collection To Benefit NRA Foundation

There will soon be an opportunity through the NRA Foundation to honor a GCA member and collector, an M1 researcher, a Distinguished Rifleman, and to support the Youth Shooting Sports Program. Our fellow GCA member, James E. "Mac" McCollum passed away on June 12, 2009. Mac served in the Alabama Army National Guard (ALARNG) for 41 years. He shot with and coached the Alabama National Guard and All Guard high power rifle teams and attended the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio for over 50 years as a competitor and coach. Mr. McCollum was a lifelong supporter of the NRA, purchasing 22 NRA Life memberships for his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He spent countless hours supporting the youth shooting sports as an instructor and coach. In his memory, his family has donated an M1 National Match rifle from his collection to be auctioned on Gunbroker (www.gunbroker.com/) with 100 percent of the proceeds of the sale donated to the NRA Foundation's Youth Shooting Sports Endowment.

Author Scott A. Duff, a longtime friend of Mr. McCollum and a dealer in collectible Garand rifles, is handling the auction. Details may be found on his Web site at www.scott-duff.com. This is an opportunity to own a beautiful M1 National Match rifle, to honor Mac's many contributions to our knowledge of M1 rifles, and to support the NRA Foundation's Youth Shooting Sports Program.



Shifty Powers (C) rifle presentation. Photo from Jim Radel (L).

Darrell "Shifty" Powers Passes At Age 86

A recent article by Neil Harvey of the Roanoke (Virginia) Times called him a hero on the battlefield and to his family. An article by Jim Radel in the Spring 2007 GCA Journal described some of Shifty's exploits and the presentation to him of an M1 Rifle by the Northumberland Point Township Sportsman's Association, Northumberland, Pennsylvania.

According to Harvey, Darrell "Shifty" Powers talked about some of his experiences during WWII in a 2001 *Times* story. He was an Army paratrooper and sharpshooter, and served with Easy Company, part of the legendary 101st Airborne Division. He recalled a bitterly cold day in the Battle of the Bulge when he was able to draw down on a German sniper, sighting on the misty cloud of the man's breath. He killed him with one shot.

"Right there," he said, touching his forehead, "between the eyes."

Powers, who got the nickname "Shifty" playing basketball as a youngster, served three years in the Army during WWII and worked as a machinist for Clinchfield Coal after the war. He became famous when his military experiences were depicted in the Stephen Ambrose book *"Band of Brothers"* and the Steven Spielberg/Tom Hanks TV series of the same name.

"He actually hadn't talked about his war years until the book came out," said his daughter-in-law, Sandy Powers.

"For me and my kids, it's just amazing that our regular, sweet uncle was such a hero," said his niece, Cheryl Gilliland of Roanoke.

One of his closest friends, Earl McClung, of Colorado, in 2001 called Darrell Powers "a heck of a good soldier and a heck of a good shot."

Powers' sister, Gaynell Sykes, said, "He was a great brother. I know he was great at a lot of other things, too — great father, great son, great husband.



Peter Youngblood Hills
cast as Shifty Powers, "Band of Brothers."

M1 MEMBER MEMORIES



The photo on the left was taken at the Springfield Armory in late 1945 or early 1946 showing a group of females enlisted from the Marines, Army, and Navy visiting the Armory. I have visited the Armory in the past was impressed with the "Organ of Rifles." which even today is a highlight of their tour.

Little did I know I had another connection to the Armory besides my love of the Garand. You see, that is my mother, Marine Private Marguerite 'Mickey' Finn (third in line) receiving a briefing on the rifles in the photo with S/Sgt Enid Mancuso and PhM3 Rose Dagradi.

Hope you enjoy seeing these!

Mike Rioux

GCA members are invited to submit photographs for this *GCA Journal* feature that spotlights member activities. These photos can be anything of interest: you at the range, your favorite M1, your collection, you and your buddies at CMP, the deer you got with an M1, your child holding or shooting an M1, or historical photographs. The Editor will publish these photos as space allows and will choose what to publish. Not all photos may be used.

Professionally developed prints are preferred, however, digital images can be submitted also. Digital photographs require high resolution for commercial printing. If at all possible, resolution should be 300 dpi or higher. Large digital photos at lower resolution can be used. Physical photographs can be returned to you by sending a self-addressed stamped return envelope. Do not submit computer generated digital photo printouts by mail.

Also include some details about the photograph: who is it, when and where it was taken, etc.

Mail your photographs to:

M1 Member Memories

P.O. Box 7498

N. Kansas City, MO 64116

Email digital files as an attachment to: info@thegca.org



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