

L. C. Smith Speaks for Itself

Volume 3, Issue 1

March 2005

Special points of interest:

- Something Old—Something New...
- Early L.C. Smith History uncovered.
- 2005 Directors
- 2005 Spring Events
- L.C. Smith Champion Shooters
- Website brings out the authors

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Something Old—Something New By Frank Finch, Jr., Executive Director of the LCSCA

Wow! It's hard to believe that another year has slipped away so quickly. Time seems so fleeting when we're having so much fun!

The spring brings new beginnings and many of us make lists of things to tackle with re-energized vim and vigor. I have visions of re-energizing our organization as we continue to sprout and grow – both in LC Smith knowledge and in membership.

My vision and wishes for you is to be inspired to create something brand new – learn something new; cultivate a new attitude; maybe even build a better mousetrap. This May at the National Side by Side held at the Northbrook Sports Club in Hainesville, IL, May 13 to 15, 2005, we will sponsor a trophy for the "Best LC Smith" at the Gold Metal Concours.

And then again, take some to remember that sometimes, however, it isn't necessary to re-invent the wheel. Some things are just great the way they are. For this reason, in this issue of our newsletter we are sharing some experiences expressed in letters from our members. They echo our own sentiments about the "good old days shooting our favorite Smith Guns".

In this issue there is a heartfelt article about hunting with a Smith by Bill Jones describing Thanksgiving Day hunts then and now. A very encouraging article is written by a Life Member, Robert Woodward de-

scribing his grandfather and father shooting their way to the top using an LC Premier. The continuation of the very informative and educational series by John Davis on A T Brown's new gun "The LC Smith Gun" made in Syracuse is also included. Don't miss the new section in the newsletter called "Members' Guns" with some very nice Smiths pictured.

My final wish is to invite and encourage YOU to participate in our 2005

events including our LC Smith vs. Parker Challenge Cup at Deep River Shooting School in Sanford, NC on April 23, 2005. This shoot for charity brings out the best in a friendly competition among lovers of our early American shotguns. The sportsmanship and camaraderie shared among all at the event is worth



the journey!

I truly believe every acquaintance we make along life's journey imparts a little something to and from each other. I want to thank you for your camaraderie and sharing your sporting time!

Thank you to all who already renewed your 2005 membership, if you have not already done so kindly consider doing it today! Looking forward to seeing you this spring at the next LC event proudly wearing your new LC shirt and hat (see the ad in this newsletter and website).

Emerson F. Woodward, February 22, 1878—May 24, 1943

ATA Hall of Fame August 24, 1973

By Robert Woodward

Editor's note: Life Member Robert Woodward responded to the Article in DGJ (Autumn 2004) "A Magnificent L.C. Smith" about Frank Troeh's Deluxe with this article about his grandfather and father. His father and grandfather were also champion L.C. Smith shooters. We thank him for sharing his family's history with us.

In 1933 E. F. Woodward of Houston, Texas set a yearly American Trap Association (ATA) of .9950. This was not broken until 1965, and 22 years after his death when power piston ammunition had been developed. Also, he was the singles leader three times before his record-setting year. In 1928 he paced the standings with .9803. Two years later he topped the 16s with .9905 and in 1931 he broke .9881. In a number targets, but not overall, he went 1926 .9729; 1927 .9832; 1932 .9840; 1936 .9875; 1940 .9920. His lifetime average for all registered targets was .9840 – unequaled ever.

Woodward captured the Texas 16 yard title six times, smashing perfect 200 to win in 1931 and 1939, and in 1938, 41 and 42 he tied for the Crown , but waived the shoot-off in favor of the younger shooters. Between victories in 1941 and 1942, Woodward did not shoot a single registered target. Two Crowns, book-ends for the year's absence from shooting. He also won seven all-around titles from 1924 to 1932.

The following was written by F.W. McNier in his autobiography called "Forest McNeir of Texas".

All the Texas shooters went to Oklahoma City that year, where I played host to a lot of them to celebrate my winning the Texas State Championship at Witchita Falls the next week. I was a little too soon, because E.F. Woodward won it.

I don't think there was another man in the world that could have done it the way he did. We used to shoot 100 each day for three days for the 16 yard championship, 300 in all. He and I were tied on 195 after the first two days. We were shooting south inside a baseball park with a high board fence around it. A bad northwester came out about daylight of the third day, blowing forty miles an hour. That is not good for trapshooting. I was in the first squad and went out with 98. Woodward was in the second squad, and the weather was getting worse all the time. When he came up to shoot, the wind was up to fifty miles an hour.

He broke the first 77 straight, and then his gun broke down. All the other squads finished while the worked on Woodward's new C.W. Lindsay hand-made, over and under gun. It could not be made to work, so he borrowed a Remington pump gun he had never shot. By the time it was blowing sixty-five miles an hour, and a shooter could hardly stand up. It had blown all the paper and empty target barrels across the ball park and pasted them up against the south fence. The wind blew some of the shooters half way out to the trap house before they could stop running, and targets were going 75 yards.

Finally, Woodward's squad went up to shoot the last 23 targets. C.G.Spencer, the best pro in the country at that time, only broke 15 of the last 23; Walter Scott, another Winchester pro, got 12; John Clay got 11; I forget what the other fellows got, maybe they didn't get any. But Woodward broke all of

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(E.F. Woodward, ATA Champion Continued from page 2)

them and finished with 100 straight. He had a lighted cigar when he started, but the wind blew it out, and he bit it in two six times before he finished. He shot at those targets about 40 feet from the trap house, and smoked every one of them – 295 x 300. That shooting was the best I have ever seen in all my long life. He was shooting those last ones like Mark Arie used to say, “before they got hard.” He said they were all easy when they first got started.

We were shooting at the Dog Leg River Gun Club. On the last day E.F. wanted to go home when there was still a 50-target handicap to shoot. He had two boxes of those special Roman candles of his that cost him \$62 a thousand, while I paid \$20 for the kind I shot.

“Forest,” he said “you can have these.” He caught a taxi and he and his wife left.

I shot them. They were the best shells I ever shot. I broke 49 and won the handicap. Just about then, here came E.F. back. He had missed the noon train.

“Did you shoot those shells I gave you?” he said. “Yes, I did, and I won the event on 49 alone.” “Not yet, you haven’t,” he said. “Get me some more shells.” All that were left were the little cheap Ranger shells. I got them for him and he went out and broke 50 straight. That shows it is the man behind the gun you have to beat.

E.F. was a beautiful shot. When he threw his head down on that gun stock with that big black cigar unlit in his mouth, his head became part of the gun. He shut one eye, wore a glove on his right hand, stood correctly, and observed every rule. I never heard him complain about any targets. If they were hard he knew the other fellow was having just as much trouble as he was. His unbounded confidence in himself made him what he was – one of the world’s best.

Woodward set two long-run 16-yard records of 517 and in 1930, 606 pre-power piston ammunition. Many achievements are not noted here, but the 1936 Southwestern Zone Shoot deserves mention. Woodward went 200 straight in the 16-yard singles; 97 x 100 doubles and 95 x 100 handicaps (from 25 yards) which gave the All-Around Championship. The Texas State Shoot followed consecutively and Woodward



E. F. Woodward’s Premier: A Champion’s Gun

(Continued on page 4)

(E.F. Woodward, ATA Champion, Continued from page 3)

broke the first 145 16-yard singles before letting a target slip by unscathed. This produced the only headline I have ever seen about missing a target “Woodward Misses One.”

E.F. Woodward was left-handed, but had a right “master eye” hence he taught himself to shoot right-handed.

Most of his shooting was done with a “Premier” grade L. C. Smith. He was always trying to find a better gun. He had an L.C. Smith “Deluxe” made to the exact specifications of his “Premier.” It was a beautiful gun, but just did not feel as comfortable as his faithful “Premier”, so my father wound up with the “Deluxe.” The next gun was a W&C Scott & Son “Imperial Premier” made in Birmingham, England and creating the same results. I wound up with the “Scott.” He then gave up and decided to stick with his



E.F.'s Deluxe

“Premier” which is in mint condition except for the checkering where his right thumb came to rest. The checkering is completely non-existent, absolutely smooth as are his prints on the beavertail fore-arm.

E. F. Woodward’s son (my father) was Harley E. Woodward, born August 22, 1902 in Wanamaker, Ohio. He died March 5, 1936 in an airplane accident. His premature death more than likely kept him from the ATA Hall of Fame too.

Harley won the Texas State Single 16 Yard Championship in 1918 when he was only 15 years old. He captured the Texas 16 Yard Championship in 1928 at the “Grand” and also captured the International Flyer Championship in 1934 with 98x100. Harley, in the 1923 Prairie Zone handicap races, was the only man to capture both the preliminary handicap with 96x100 from 20 yards, following up with winning the handicap busting 99x100 – 20 yard targets. It was a shame to lose such a brilliant shooter through a tragic early death.

Since the above was written by a grandson and son of E.F. and Harley E. Woodward, it would be easy to be suspicious of prejudice rearing its ugly head, but I promise you this is not the case. I have written only that which can be fully verified by records or trophies.

Robert Woodward

L. C. Smith, Maker, Syracuse, New York - Part V

The New L.C. Smith Gun

By John N. Davis

In William Brophy's book, *L. C. Smith Shotguns*, he writes: "Recognizing the weaknesses and lack of competitive appeal in both the Baker three-barrel and double-barrel guns, Alexander Brown designed and patented features of a new double-barrel shotgun which soon replaced the Baker guns. This new gun was first available in 1884 as an exposed hammer gun. It has been called the L. C. Smith shotgun ever since". Col. Brophy goes on to say, "The L. C. Smith Hammer Gun was the beginning of the L. C. Smith shotgun. It was this gun that proved the merit of the rotary locking bolt and other patented features which were eventually introduced into the very successful Hammerless L. C. Smith. It was also this new L. C. Smith Hammer Gun that proved the ability of American enterprise to enter into a previously European-dominated, big business industry and to be successful".

This is basically all that Col. Brophy's book reveals concerning the introduction of the first true Smith gun. However, in 1884, interest was high in anticipation of the unveiling of this newest achievement in the gun maker's art. Once introduced, the New L. C. Smith gun was a great success. This can best be illustrated by a sampling of articles appearing in the *The American Field* in 1884 and 1885.

The first of these articles was written by Old Tuscarawas of New Philadelphia, Ohio, and appeared in the July 5th, 1884, issue of *The American Field*. It is entitled "A New Gun" and reads as follows:

Editor American Field: - Having a few spare moments I thought I would write you a few lines in regard to the opinion of Old Tuscarawas on guns, especially our home manufactured, or, as I call them, the "poor man's guns". We have the Parker, Colt, Remington, Davis, Baker, and several others, which can be bought for fifty dollars upward; all good, serviceable guns for a season or two, until by hard usage they will become loose and shaky in the action, especially if they have been subjected to heavy shooting and constant use. What the poor sportsmen want is a gun which will last, at a reasonable price, and one that will shoot as well.

A few days ago I received a cut of a new gun now in course of construction, invented by L. C. Smith, of Syracuse, N. Y., the maker of the Baker three-barreled gun, and also of the Baker shotgun. It is called the Smith double cross-bolted action, top lever gun. It has low hammers, solid plungers and all modern improvements, and in point of mechanical principle it is the best gun made today. The fastening consists of a solid extension rib brazed in, in length three-fourths of an inch, depth, thirteen-sixteenths and a quarter of an inch thick, this is held in place when closed by a solid steel rotary double bolt extending through and fitting under and into recesses in the frame of the standing breech; these bolts are five-sixteenths by one-fourth inch and are made in one solid piece.

These guns are built with a solid through lug, fifteen-thirty-seconds inch thick, and in depth thirteen-sixteenths, with a patent eccentric joint-check. The ejector is operated by the rotation of the joint-check, and allows the shells to be pressed clean home, if preferred. These guns, I understand, will be on the market in a short time, and I believe today no stronger fastening can be made on any snap-action gun. When closed I can not see how any force could wrench it asunder, and as to shooting qualities, I can say this much, if they shoot like the Baker guns they cannot be beaten, for I am still smarting under the defeat of a favorite gun by a little cheap eight-pound Baker which knocked me out the first round, with a eighth of an ounce less shot than I was using, and beat me both in pattern and penetration. I understand the makers

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(L. C. Smith Maker, Syracuse, N.Y Part V, Continued from page 5)

of this gun are willing to wager a thousand dollars that no firm in the world can equal their guns in shooting qualities, and I believe they do not hesitate to make it a public statement.

The interest I take in this gun is owing to its simplicity and strength of construction and cheapness, making it within the reach of all. I am not acquainted with the manufacturer, nor have I ever met him, but if I ever do, I will give him a hearty shake for introducing to the sportsmen of slim purses, but hearts as big as any, a gun which will wear well, shoot well and be a pleasure to own and use, for a price that can be reached by all, and if I live and money can procure one of these guns, I shall have one, and think by burning on an average fifty pounds of powder a year I will be able in that time to say something about durability. I may be a little enthusiastic on guns and dogs, but I assure you no one can appreciate a good gun or dog better than myself, neither can any one enjoy themselves any better afield with the same.

In the July 26th, 1884, issue of *The American Field*, Sangamon of Ellsworth, Illinois, submitted the following reply:

Editor American Field - I can second Old Tuscarawa's opinion on the new Smith gun. I have made both shotgun and rifle a study from early boyhood to the present - a period of more than thirty-five years. Having been raised on the edge of a large and beautiful grove, skirting the far-famed Grand Prairie of Eastern Illinois, where, previous to the ten years just passed, game, including deer, turkeys, cranes, geese and ducks, were abundant, and when in season the latter, together with the pinnated grouse, Bob White and the squirrel, can yet be found in fair number to afford fine sport. Being a lover of the gun, and in fair practice with the same, I can almost instantly tell with the eye the value of any gun for hunting, whether shotgun or rifle, as soon as I see it; also whether the mechanism of the same will stand the racket. "What the poor sportsman wants is a gun that will last, at a reasonable price, and will shoot as well". Yes, that is it. I am, whether fortunate or not, in that very class of sportsmen. I own a number one, American-made rifle, .40-caliber, seventy grains, ten pounds, good for either squirrels or deer, and I am perfectly satisfied with it. I have a breech-loading shotgun, a good shooter, but find the frame will not stand a thousand years by long odds. Though it was the best I could do, considering means, at the time of purchase. Not being able to dispose of it at a sacrifice, which I would have to do to enable me to possess one of those of recent make, I therefore must hold on to it for a while. Yes, I believe the new Smith to be the ne plus ultra of the poor hunter, and it is no doubt from the cut of its proportions good enough for any sportsman, be he rich or poor. I can also add that L. C. Smith's famous Baker could just hold ahead of any of them, foreign or domestic.

By early August the sportsmen of the country were becoming impatient while awaiting the release of L. C.'s new gun. Buckellew of Flatbush, Long Island, wrote *The American Field* and asked, "How long before L. C. Smith will have his gun on the market? I have most patiently waited May, June and July; have worn out several promises, and still I'm waiting on the stile".

Finally on August 16, 1884, the first advertisement for The Smith Top Action, Double Cross-Bolted, Breech Loading Gun, appeared in *The American Field*.

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L.C. Smith vs. Parker Challenge

By Tom Archer

This is a “heads-up” for all members of the L.C. Smith Collectors Association (LCSCA) who plan, and/or may be contemplating, attendance at the Southern Side by Side Championship in Sanford, North Carolina. The event is scheduled for the weekend of April 22-24, 2005, with the Challenge Cup event scheduled for Saturday, April 23. This will be one of the most enjoyable shotgun events in which you can ever participate, and the Directors of the LCSCA encourage your attendance and participation. Not only is this a fun event, but is also an opportunity to meet and fellowship with other LCSCA members, members of the Parker Collectors Association, explore two large tents jammed full of vintage guns, participate personally in a LCSCA membership meeting, experience Southern hospitality at its best, and use your shooting expertise to keep the Challenge Cup where it RIGHTFULLY belongs! The rules are simple:

- 1) Each shooter must be a member in good standing with current dues paid (a membership roster will be on hand and member names verified). New members can sign-up for the event by joining the LCSCA, but must submit a membership application with sufficient time remaining on the morning of the 23rd in order to shoot in Event 1, the Qualifying Round.
- 2) Each participant in the Challenge Cup Event will pay an entry fee of \$10 with all entry fees being donated to charity after completion of the event. Each participant will pay the cost of each 5-stand round he or she elects to shoot for practice and during the event at the rate established for the event by the Deep River Shooting School (the 2004 rate was \$10/round).
- 3) Competition is open to any hammer/hammerless model or grade Smith gun produced by the original gun works. There is no limitation/restriction on bore size as long as it is a bore size originally produced by Smith. Those would be 8, 10, 12, 16, 20,

and .410 bore. If someone shows up with the original Smith 28 gauge prototype gun, the Directors will make that one exception. Modified/altered Smiths are permitted (cut barrels, altered stocks, restored guns, guns with screw-in chokes; etc.); but guns with after-market tubes (such as Briley, Kohler: etc) and reproductions are prohibited. Also, screw-in chokes cannot be changed once shooting has begun. Finally, professional/sponsored shooters are prohibited.

4) The shooting venue will be a 5-stand layout, and will consist of 25 targets per round. In Event One, each shooter will make his or her best effort to shoot his highest score possible. As five stand facilities at the Deep River Shooting School are limited by property boundaries to just one field; and, as member participation by both organizations for 2004 far exceeded initial projections, the qualifying event will be modified as follows: The 5-stand field will be set aside from 9AM to 12 Noon on Saturday morning the 23rd exclusively for participants in the Challenge Cup event. During this three-hour period, all participants in the L.C. Smith vs. Parker Challenge must shoot their event/stage one qualifying round/score. This format modification has been made by the organizer of the Southern Side x Side, Bill Kempfler, in an effort to eliminate some of the confusion experienced in 2004, and allow the Challenge Cup event to take place on time. Participants who wish to shoot practice rounds prior to the event are therefore encouraged to arrive early on Friday the 22nd, as it will be impossible to shoot practice rounds on Saturday morning.

5) At the conclusion of Event One, the appropriate L.C. Smith and Parker officials will receive the scored results and determine the 10 highest scores from each organization. These 20 individuals will then be notified so that they can prepare for the final Challenge Cup event to begin at 3:30PM. Each

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(L.C. Smith vs. Parker Challenge, Continued from page 7)

shooter is encouraged to come to the respective L.C. Smith/Parker display booths to determine if they are in the final event, as each organization was unable to locate a qualifying shooter last year. In that event, the next highest qualifying shooter will be placed on the team; so, if your score is close, you are advised to double check final team listings.

6) In the final, or Challenge Cup Event, each 10 man team is divided into two squads. A coin flip determines which organization shoots first; and each 5-person team will be scored on 125 targets on a rotating basis(i.e. if Parker wins the toss and elects to field the first squad, the first L.C. Smith team shoots in round two; and vice versa). At the close of competition, the scores for each team are tabulated and the best team score wins the 2005 Challenge Cup for their respective organization.

7) Individual shooter awards will be presented for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place high scores. High scores for each award will be determined by the combined total number of targets broken in Event One and the final Challenge Cup Event. In the event of a tie (and we did have a tie for 3rd place last year), the winner will be determined by the reverse long streak method (count consecutive broken targets from the last target broken back to the last missed target). Last year's Top Gun award score was 41 x 50, and we are all capable of doing better than that!.

8) The Challenge Cup and all individual awards will be presented on the evening of Saturday the 23rd at the Pig Pickin' event. The winning team will receive the Challenge Cup and have the honor of commemorating their accomplishment by engraving the event and date on same. The winning organization will also receive a permanent award in recognition of their achievement. In April, 2006 the winning organization will again be required to defend the cup and their honor at the Southern Side by Side.

We wish to emphasize that this is an event open to all Smith gun fanciers who still like to use their favorite gun, and this venue gives everyone a chance to be on the final team. In last years event, some very average shooters made the final squad, and some very good shooters who shoot on a regular basis are still shaking their heads over their dismal scores. This is an important facet of the event that makes it so much fun! We encourage you to come and participate. Last year's event had 21 Smith shooters and 30 Parker shooters. We were in our infancy last year and we are expecting a much better turn out for this year's event; and so do the Parker shooters! As the Parker shooters may have been just a little embarrassed (?) last year, they are more determined than ever to bring the cup to their table!

For those of you who will be traveling to the event and will need accommodations, you may contact Bill Kempfler at the Deep River Shooting School @ 919/774-7080, or via email at info@deepriver.net to receive complete listings and telephone numbers of all local hotels/motels. Bill will have many other shooting venues over the course of the weekend and will be more than happy for your participation in those also.

Mark your calendars and make sure you make time for some clays practice. Let's determine to defend the honor of ole Elsie and the L.C. Smith Collectors Association!

For additional information and to sign up to shoot, please contact Tom Archer (thomas.archer@charter.net).

(L.C. Smith Maker, Syracuse, N.Y., Part V, Continued from page 6)

THE SMITH TOP ACTION, DOUBLE CROSS-BOLTED BREECH LOADING GUN!
 IT HAS OUR PATENT JOINT CHECK AND OUR PATENT AUTOMATIC JOINT COMPENSATOR.
THE STRONGEST FASTENING KNOWN
 Hammers Below the Line of Sight when Cocked.



EXTRA HEAVY BROAD BREECH DUCKING GUNS A SPECIALTY.
 Send for Illustrated Catalogue containing Full Description.
 31-11.3yr

L. C. SMITH, Maker, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

WEIGHTS:
 No. 10 Gauge, 8 1/2 to 11 lbs.
 No. 12 Gauge, 7 1/2 to 9 1/2 lbs.

By October of 1884, the New Smith Gun was finally in the hands of the American sportsman and its mechanical qualities and sturdiness were a marvel. On October 25th, 1884, there appeared in *The American Field* a letter to the Editor from Warren of Oshkosh. Therein he wrote:

The subject of guns is still before sportsmen, and how fortunate for some (those who read the American Field) that so much valuable space is open to writers on this as well as other subjects. Those who read this journal find very many valuable points. I have followed Mechanic through his series entitled "Facts vs. Theory", and find them interesting, and on some points we agree, but on others we differ, but the discussion of them I shall be obliged to leave to more expert writers than myself. I have also read Mallard's articles and am always pleased when reading an article from his pen. Mechanic must hold very fine on Mallard to bring him down; he flies high, swift and straight to the feeding grounds point. Young America comes to the front again, and still another article, and on a subject interesting to all lovers of the gun - American and English guns.

In purchasing a gun many of the readers of the American Field cannot afford the fine grade and expensive hammerless guns, and consequently look among the dealers for a cheap one. Cheap guns should be classified into good for something and good for next to nothing, and the latter class we find mostly among imported guns, or guns being a foreign maker's name. It is not economy for any one to buy such a gun as the latter. Second thought will convince him that a few dollars added to the price of one of those cheap guns will buy a still cheaper one. L. C. Smith, Parker Bros., Colt, and Remington, all make cheap guns. They are all machine-made guns, too, but are not the class of gun to be out on the field one day and in the shop for repairs the next two. It is economy to buy any one of these, as enough can be saved from the repairing department to more than pay the difference between a cheap Moore, Richards, and other similar, and an American-made gun. These remarks are not intended for those who can afford hammerless guns, but for those, who, from necessity, must use a hammer gun. It may be the thing to own a Purdy, a Greener, a Westley Richards or a Scott, but less money invested in an American-made gun will produce a gun of fine finish, fine work, elegantly engraved, and one to wear out an ordinary sportsman.

I have just examined one of L. C. Smith's new model guns, it is of the E grade, and is certainly very handsomely modeled and evenly balanced. Having seen this gun extensively advertised in the American Field, I took particular pains to compare the actual work with the L. C. Smith catalogue description, and find each and every part just as described, and to perform its work to perfection.

The large hinge-pin, through lump, extension-rib, and double cross bolts, make it a gun strong enough to withstand any charge a sportsman would care to stand behind. The patent joint, check hook in the gun is a very neat contrivance, and a decided point is gained in the automatic extractor, which allow the shells to be pushed home instead of being crowded in by the breech. Very few sportsmen have seen this gun, and as it is new with improvements, I would say to would-be purchasers: Think twice, and compare the American guns with the imported guns at same price, and never regret your decision in favor of American labor and ingenuity.

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(L.C. Smith, Maker, Syracuse, N.Y., Part V, Continued from page 9)

While the next article does not speak directly to the New L. C. Smith, it does address many of its new features. Of particular interest is whom I assume the author to be.

American Field, January 3, 1885

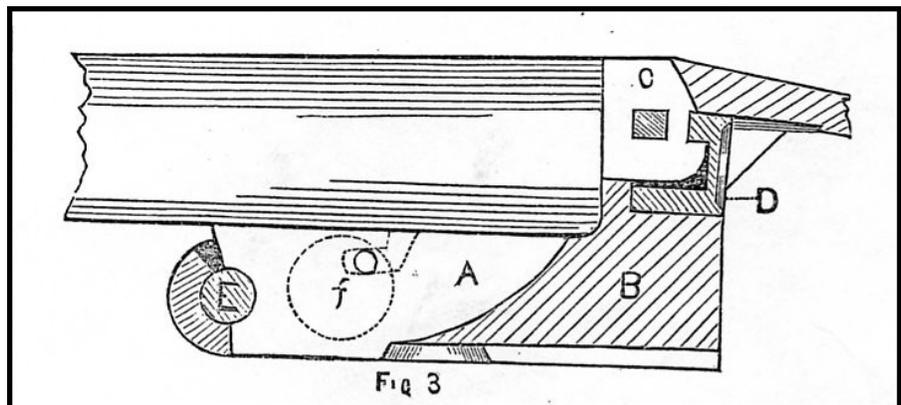
Syracuse, N. Y.

Editor American Field: - I have read the opinions of different writers on the merits and defects of different systems of action and firing mechanism of guns produced by different makers, and furthermore believe that a thorough discussion of the principles involved in the breech-loader would compel makers to correct errors which have been handed down until a gun is not considered perfect without them; I refer principally to the damaging extent to which the multiple fastening has been carried. All gun makers who have made the art a study know that the forward lock, of the regular double bolt is not practical as a holding agent, as in nine cases out of ten, the forward bolt is made to fit so loosely in the slot in the lug that it is useless, and were it a fact that the said forward bolt was mechanically fitted, its bearing is so near the axis of the hinge, that it has but little power to resist the upward motion of the barrel when the explosion takes place, and again to obtain this forward bolt the metal of the frame must be cut away to receive a bolt of sufficient width to straddle the lug. This slot or gain is exactly on a line with the depression in the side of the frame made to receive the lock plates and main springs, this leaving the frame a mere skeleton through its angles, the part which is subjected to a greater strain than any other in firing.

I cannot understand why many of our American makers do not make use of the through lump or lug, as it is such an important mechanical acquisition to a thoroughly serviceable gun, it gives greater wearing surface to the side and forward bearing of the lug. It is my opinion, based upon investigation, that a top fastener constructed upon strictly mechanical principles, is the most reliable and durable fastening that can be made, as it admits of leaving the metal in the angle of the breech or frame where it is most needed. The function of a top fastener should be to hold the standing breech against the breech end of the barrels, as well as to resist the upward motion at the instant of firing. As it is my pleasure, in fact my profession, to investigate certain mechanical principles, and being a thorough lover of a gun, I have taken it up and trust I may be able to draw out others that have, perhaps, gone deeper in the subject than I.

A. T. B. (Alexander T. Brown?)

By mid 1885 the New L. C. Smith gun was being dissected and compared with other American made guns. In the May 23rd issue of *The American Field*, Mechanical Engineer wrote an article entitled "Breech and Bolt Mechanism." Featured in this article were cuts of various American made guns including Parker, Lefever, and Colt. Also featured was the New L. C. Smith.



(Continued on page 11)

(L.C. Smith Maker, Syracuse, N.Y., Part V, Continued from page 10)

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the L. C. Smith gun, showing clearly and faithfully the breech mechanism of this novelty in breech-loading firearms. The construction of this gun conforms so closely to strict mechanical principles that it is a task for a mechanic to write an article that does not seem to be biased in its favor, and if any reader of this article who has made a study of mechanics as applied to gun construction differs with me I should be pleased to have him present his arguments through the columns of the American Field. The frame, B, is of medium length and is considerably lighter in guns of a corresponding weight than either of the preceding arms [Lefever and Parker]. It will be noticed by an examination of B, Fig. 3, that there is plenty of metal in the angle to secure the requisite strength and rigidity and the locking device engages with the extension at a sufficient distance from the hinge joint to reduce the upward strain of the bolt to a minimum.

The sectional cut, Fig. 3, shows the bolt, D, a minute description of which would occupy too much space. I will, however, give a brief explanation of its operation. The bolt, D, is a hollow cylinder, the inner bearing surface being made eccentric with its periphery to take up whatever wear that might occur at this point. It is provided with a lengthwise slot to receive the extension and also a cross slot which forms the forward arm of the bolt. This arm passes through the mortise in the extension and locks well under the metal of the frame on the opposite side, as also does the rear flange which engages with the slot in the end of the extension. This bolt possesses all the elements of strength and efficiency to resist the various strains to which it may be subjected. The bearing surfaces are large and consequently the wear must be slight. Taken as a whole the device is unequaled by any device or combination of devices which it has been my good fortune to examine.

The joint check, f, is a cylinder passing transversely through the lug, A, and has a projecting eccentric pin on either side, which engages with corresponding slots in the frame. This cylinder performs satisfactorily the double office of joint check and ejector. It will be observed that the hinge pin is supported by a section of the frame which assists materially in holding the barrels against their face bearings. The lug, as in the Lefever and Colt, passes down through the frame (technically termed the through lump). This style has some advantages over guns in which the lugs do not reach through the frame, as any dirt or obstruction falls through the frame instead of lodging under the lugs and preventing the gun from closing. It also has the advantage of a larger wearing surface on the side and recoil bearing of the lug.

*I will leave you with this final piece concerning the New L. C. Smith shotgun. It was written by the renowned sportsman, William Bruce Leffingwell, who hailed from Clinton, Iowa. In addition to being an avid hunter and trap shooter, he was also a writer whose books included *Wild Fowl Shooting* and *Shooting on Upland, Marsh and Stream*.*

American Field, May 30, 1885

*Some Remarks About Guns and Loading
Clinton Iowa*

*While I like the Colt, Parker and other hammer guns of American manufacture, the L. C. Smith gun is the one that in my opinion is the most perfect hammer gun in existence. When I use the term *most perfect*, it implies that this gun is the strongest and best for the money in the world. As for shooting qualities, these guns, made by the same party as the wonderful shooting Baker guns, has their great shooting powers, but no defects of the Baker, such as trigger action. These guns as shown by cut in this paper have a top snap extension rib. Compare, if you please, this extension rib with that of other makers. This is an ex-*

(Continued on page 12)

(L.C. Smith Maker, Syracuse, N.Y., Part V, Continued from page 11)

tension rib that is one not only in name, but, in fact. When the gun closes a double cross bolt shoots into and through the holes in the extension rib and the gun goes together with a chuck similar to that of a combination lock. The wear and strain which causes so many guns to become shaky is effectually done away with by the use of their eccentric joint check in connection with the patent fore-end. This does away with the little extension found on most guns, either on the fore-end, or, worse still, on the metal of the frame where it works the extractor and the constant strain of dropping of barrels so frequently breaks it entirely off.

When I say these guns have the shooting powers of the Baker to one who has even shot a Baker this would be sufficient. For the past three years I have used a Baker continuously at the trap, at ducks and geese in Nebraska, and now on the Platte river. You will not find a gun which stands higher for hard hitting and close shooting than the Baker and I could give numerous instances where geese were killed repeatedly at from sixty to eighty yards with these guns. A pair of cranes, one standing the other just rising, were killed dead at one hundred and six paces with No. 2 shot.

As hammerless guns are quite the fashion, should Mr. Smith (if he ever makes one) make as good as he has of hammers, I shall most certainly have one.

Spring Events

By Len Applegate

Date	Event	Location	Arrival Date
2/26 - 2/27/2005	Louisville Gun Show	Kentucky Fair and Expo Center	2/21/2005
3/19- 3/20/2005	Maryland Arms Collectors Show	Maryland State Fairgrounds - Timonium, MD	3/18/2005
3/21/2005	L.C. Smith Sporting Clays Event	Warrington Club, Wellsville, PA	3/21/2005
4/2/ - 4/3/2005	Tulsa Arms Show	Tulsa Fairgrounds—Tulsa, OK	4/1/2005
4/22 - 4/24/2005	Southern Side-by-Side	Deep River Shooting School Sanford, NC	4/21/2005
4/23/2005	Annual Meeting	Sanford, NC	4/23/2005
5/13 - 5/15/2005	National Side-by-Side	Northbrook Sports Club Hainesville, Ill	5/12/2005

It's a busy spring! The L.C. Smith Sporting Clays Event is a great time. Read Charlie's article next. The Southern Side-by-Side is where we hope to retain the L.C. Smith/Parker challenge Cup. Remember all funds raised go to charity. At the National Side-by-Side (a Vintagers Event) we will sponsor the "Best L.C. Smith" trophy at the Gold Medal Concours. Join us at one of the Spring Events.

2005 L.C.S.C.A. Directors

By Len Applegate

Officers and Directors of the L.C. Smith Collectors Association for 2005 with their responsibilities are:

1. Frank Finch—Executive Director and Corresponding Secretary
2. Andy Anderson—Event Coordinator
3. Bob Trefry—Treasurer
4. Jim Stubbendieck—Website Chairman and Club Publisher

5. Tom Archer—L. C. Smith vs Parker Challenge Cup Coordinator
6. Bill Winter—Maryland Arms Collectors Interface
7. Len Applegate—Newsletter editor, Membership Chairman, and Recording Secretary

Contact information for each of us can be found on the enclosed 2005 Membership list. Please check your information and let Len Applegate know if there are errors.

Annual Spring Shoot

By Charlie Brooks

The Third Annual LC Smith Collectors Associations' Spring Shoot will be held March 21, 2005 at "The Warrington Club" in Wellsville, Pa. offering "opportunities" and "enjoyment". These words not only describe our club but also give you an idea of what is in store for you at our spring shoot.

Keeping with the tradition of our spring shoots, this event will be a practice and not a tournament or competition type event. Our main objective is to have fun and fellowship with one another. We hope to possibly learn something new about shooting our LCs that will help us defend the Challenge Cup trophy at Deep River in April shooting against those Parker guys, who I expect will turn out in great numbers and in good form this year. We ask that you shoot only LC Smiths of any gauge in the event. Guests are welcome to shoot or come to watch and enjoy the fellowship.

We are planning to shoot 100 Sporting Clays; however, some shooters may choose to shoot fewer targets. The Sporting Clays course offers a wide variety of targets spread over different terrain. In addition, The Warrington Club offers a nice 5 Stand with a couple of tower shoots that will flex the muscle of your tightest

choked guns. There is also a Wobble Trap that one of our guy's claims can be shot with a perfect score. (Sounds like he has "been there and done that" doesn't).

Around 1:00 PM, we plan on having a complete luncheon for \$12. in the club house with the menu including "Pit Beef", vegetables, soft drinks, coffee and dessert.

In summary – when, where and what:

When – March 21, 2005

Be ready to shoot at 10:00 AM

Where – The Warrington Club (Approx. 1 Hr. North of Baltimore Gun Show)

400 Yeager Road PO Box 3

Wellsville, Pa 17365

Phone 717-432-0643

What – 50 Rounds Sporting Clays+ Luncheon \$30.

100 Rounds Sporting Clays+ Luncheon \$40.

25 Rounds Wobble Trap \$5.

25 Rounds 5 Stand \$5.

Luncheon only \$12.

To answer any questions you may have and to reserve your place at this fun event, please contact Charlie Brooks (410-756-2095) by Wednesday March 16, 2005.

Thanksgiving 2004

By Bill Jones

Editor's note: This was an unsolicited article from a website visitor. There are certainly some great writers visiting www.lcsmith.org

I happened upon your L. C. Smith website this weekend by trying to research a part of my rich family heritage which now involves four generations and something that started on my grandfathers front porch in 1949. It was that year that my father and his three sisters gathered as a family and have done so in our homes for the last 55 years.

My grandfather William Curry Jones was foreman for W.T. Smith Lumber Company in Chapman Alabama for over thirty years raised four children in the small sawmill town. He also raised bird dogs and very well could have been the subject for the cover of an L.C. Smith catalog. I know that he owned at least four of these treasured sporting arms, three of which a twelve, sixteen and a twenty gage were destroyed in a house fire that started from a cinder from a passing train engine on the mainline L&N Railroad. The forth has survived, a Hunter Arms featherweight 12 field grade (#69957) and been passed down to me. This Thanksgiving I discovered the value of an armor steel treasure that my Grandfather Jones must have also loved.

My father W.C. Jones Jr. also raised bird dogs enjoyed the sport of quail hunting until it became very challenging with neighbors concerned about missing table linens and clothes from the Saturday wash and obvious criminals that had escaped the dog yard. Turkey hunting all of a sudden became the game bird of choice. I must admit I have enjoyed the affliction to hunting both incredible game birds. My dad enjoyed many Saturdays with two of his favorite friends Rock and Blaze two English Setters and later a German Short Hair Pointer named Spot that became the neighborhood villain. My dad passed away in 1980 after serving in the Army Corps of Engineers in WWII and 35 years in the timber business in south Alabama.

My Dads Sister Helen Sockwell also raised a hunter and a forester Ty Jr. We call him Uncle Cuz, since he has been the one to continue in the gentleman's sport of Bird Hunting and raising well trained Brittany Spaniels in Shelby County. His son Russ completed his training in Gun Smith School at Trinidad Colorado a few years ago, and seizing the opportunity I asked Ty to have him take a look at Grandpa's old Smith double and get it in good working order.

I can remember growing up using it a few times on a dove field, or seeing my dad take it along on a hunt with Clifford McGowin. But other than that, it pretty much occupied a special place in my dad's gun cabinet, beside more modern repeating shotguns. After completing forestry at Auburn University, getting married and trying to educate three of my own children, the Smith double has spent a lot of time in my closet and being passed over many Saturdays for modern repeating shotguns.

Thanksgiving 2004 changed some things. We, 35 folks in all, the Jones family attended the 55 year ritual of Thanksgiving feast at the Allreds house in Birmingham, minus my dad, Aunt Margaret, a cousin Mae Francis Shuman, a brother in law Stuart Ashbee, who I enjoyed many hunting trips with, all remembered with those family members that have gone before us.

Russ Sockwell, the gunsmith, returned my grandfathers remaining treasure restored to good working condition. Ty Junior, "Uncle Cuz," invited my son Ned Jones, now 14, to join him and his three dogs Dottie, Bell, and Mason for a Saturday morning quail hunt. For Ned it was his first opportunity to get a taste of a great sport that no doubt has become an infectious disease for men and their dogs, but for me it was a Saturday morning to get reacquainted with dad, a grandfather, his L.C. Smith, and a sport that they loved so well. Coaching Ned was the first order of business as Cuz gave some divine guidance on respect to the hunting dog and responsibility to other hunters, as to gun etiquette. Mason got the first order of work,

(Continued on page 15)

(Thanksgiving 2004, Continued from page 14)

with Ty attaching the jewelry, (hot orange collar) around his neck we were walking into the thinned planted pines in search of Ned's first covey rise.

There truly something spectacular about a bird dog when he locks up, nose to the ground frozen in time, just as you kick up a covey of Bob Whites from a brier patch and you are watching your 14 year old for the first time get a little glimpse of what Heaven must be all about. On this Saturday following Thanksgiving 04, it was Mr. L.C. Smith 2, Mr. Remington 1 out of four shots on Ned's first covey rise. Mason picked up our game, and quickly started sorting singles. After a few singles missed, Ned looked at Uncle CUZ a bit confused in search of some serious guidance, take your time Ned and give the bird just a little time before you cover him with the barrel, after all Mason is doing his job and he expects you to do yours and missing the birds ain't exactly part of his strategy. The next few singles flew just right as Ned improved his score and restored some confidence with Mason. I believe this is exactly what my granddad had in mind, for two of his grandsons a great grandson, and his treasured L.C. Smith to enjoy a blustery November morning in search one of God's simplest treasures.

Ty junior and I, took turns sharing a simple tool that was as familiar to our granddad as if it were a tennis racquet. The birds jumped up, L. C. Smith would nock them down as if a magnetic field or a bolt of lightning would gravitate to the winged missiles. By the time we got back to the truck and missing a few birds, to Cuz's disappointment, the clouds had rolled in on a

fast approaching cold front it was spitting rain. Cuz indicated that Dottie still wanted an opportunity to show off just a little we went south into the garden patch and in just a few minutes Dottie had pointed with Mason backing up, six birds from the first covey were up three went down, again Mr. Smith 2, Mr. Remington 1. Dead birds picked up and in our vest, we had one more stop at the kudzu patch, where a couple of singles were still holding out. By this time the weather service had probably already announced weather alerts as the rain intensified. Who said that these birds would not flush in the rain, we picked up three more. Miss Dottie and Mason retrieved our partridges for the thick vines as we made a dash across the cornfield to the truck.

Not even noon and were rained out, and still had part of a box of shells. Cuz indicated that we would have to get together again soon, we said our farewell and went home and dressed 24 quail. If heaven is anything like that Saturday morning near Posey Crossroads, with Cuz and Mr. L. C. Smith, it won't come to soon for a "14 year old boy" that I know. I had the opportunity to research your site and see the interest in these fine Double Shotguns. Only now can I fully appreciate what has been passed down to me. In our Presbyterian Hymnal there is a tune Blest Be the Tie That Binds, it was my dad's favorite after 55 years of Family Thanksgivings, I think I just started to understand why. Thank you Mr. L. C. Smith for joining us at our family reunion this year, it won't take another 55 years to get another invitation. Thanks from your great site dedicated to good sport, and these fine sporting guns.

Bill Jones
Millbrook AL

Member Rich Beyer has published a book on Hunter Arms. It is 80 pages and full of information and photos on Hunter Arms and the employees. Rich has lived in the Sterling valley of Upstate New York near Fulton for a long time and has spent a lot of that time compiling this history and interviewing the few surviving employees of Fulton's most famous employer. He will gladly send you a copy of his book if you send \$20.00 plus \$2.00 shipping to him at 1560 Co. Rt 4, Central Square, NY 13036. I'm going to get my copy signed by the author.

A research Question

By Russell G. Grinnell

Editor's note: Mr. Grinnell sent me a note and pictures of an early hammer gun that he is seeking information. He does not have a computer so I decided to present his question and pictures here. If any members have any information for Russ you can either send it to him directly or to me and I will publish it here. We hope that you will share it with the rest of the members.

I have some questions about one of my L.C. Smith guns. Maybe some of our members can help. It is a field grade type I hammer gun serial number 25298 12 gauge with twist 30 inch barrels.

1. What year was the gun made? Cody has no record. The gun is all original, including the forearm. All numbers match including the barrels. I am assuming this is a Syracuse Gun.
2. Why are the barrels not marked L.C. Smith Maker, Syracuse, NY or Hunter Arms, Ful-

ton, NY?

I am the third owner of this gun and when it was purchased it was furnished with this Bridgeport Gun Implement set which is complete and in the original box.

If there is any information that might help answer my questions, please give me a call.

Russell G. Grinnell
203 N.W. Grinnell Ct
Lake City, FL 32055
(386)758-5527



Editor's Note: The following are my personal opinions. Daryl Hallquist may be able to provide further information. I believe that there were two types of transition guns. Those made by Syracuse after the deal was closed with John Hunter and those that were finished in Fulton after the business was moved there. The one thing that they seem to have in common is that they are engraved and finished similar to Syracuse guns and do not have the manufacturer on the barrels or rib. The earliest recorded hammer gun at Cody is 27766 manufactured in 1893. I have a AA grade 10 gauge serial number 13378 that is marked "L.C. Smith Maker, Syracuse, NY"

As for the hammerless non-ejector I have a Quality 3 10 gauge serial number 23055 with L.C. Smith Maker Syracuse NY on the barrel rib. It also has "John S Clark" on the trigger guard. The barrels are a five wire Damascus steel 32 inch and appear to be finished in the more plumb color. The butt has "L.C. Smith Trap Gun".

I recently purchased a Number 2 serial number 35606 that Waddy confirmed was recorded in book #1 as a 2 12 gauge with 30 inch barrels. It has a 3 wire Damascus steel barrel that has a more black finish. It is engraved exactly like the Quality 2 Syracuse gun shown on page 44 of Mr. Brophy's book. It has no manufacturer mark on the rib; neither "LC Smith Maker Syracuse NY" or "Hunter Arms Fulton, NY". It's forearm is Syracuse style with the thinner cross-section at the tip with the more complicated ebony tip and the dog in the checkering. The butt has a basket weave with dogs in stride in a scene.

South Dakota Hunt

By Steve Gilbert

It could be titled hunting with TWO CLASSICS. The first an Airedale who's ancestors were noted as a "three in one gun dog". Looking back they were the "original three in one gun dog in North America (circa

1900) and the second my Elsie, a 3E, with 30 inch barrels, delivered to her first owner in November of 1897. She is choked tight and tighter which is just perfect for those long shots on prairie grouse and chickens.



HUNTED THE GRASSLANDS FOR A FEW DAYS WITH GREAT RESULTS.



Think those tight chokes will help, Steve? Boy, I hope those prairie chickens can't fly.

Member's Guns



Dick MacGregor writes about his "O" grade that he purchased at a Ohio Gun Collectors Association show several years ago for \$325.00.

The 28 inch damascus barrels were pitted and had several small dents. The stock was cracked in three places. He sent the barrels to Briley to be sleeved to 20 gauge. He used Brownell's "Hot Shot" high tech type glue to repair the stock which stock makers had said would not hold due to the nature of the cracks.

He has put at least 500 rounds of standard 20 gauge skeet loads through the old girl with no cracks as yet reappearing. The gun is extremely well balanced, tight and in short a joy to shoot.

L. C. Smith Yellow Page

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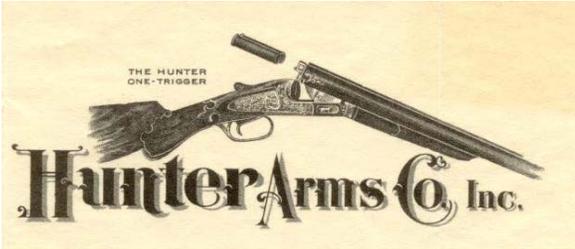
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Greetings L.C. Smith enthusiasts. I'm a great-great-grandson of the Hunter family who owned the Company at the turn of the century, and beginning to do research for our mutual benefit. I would be interested to hear from anyone with historical information and/or memorabilia for this study. I can be contacted at: Ken Baumgardt, 49 N. Old Baltimore Pike, Newark, DE 19702, 302-286-6223 kendig-ger@aol.com

**PUBLICATION OF THE LC SMITH COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION
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www.lcsmith.org



L.C. Smith the gun that speaks for itself

The purpose of The L.C. Smith Collectors Association is:

1. To Stimulate and educate members and the public in their knowledge of the history and production of the L.C. Smith shotgun.
2. To support the Cody Museum in utilization of the surviving L.C. Smith records.
3. To encourage creation of a L.C. Smith museum.
4. To encourage the value of good sportsmanship to members and the public.
5. To promote a positive and responsible use of firearms to members and the public.

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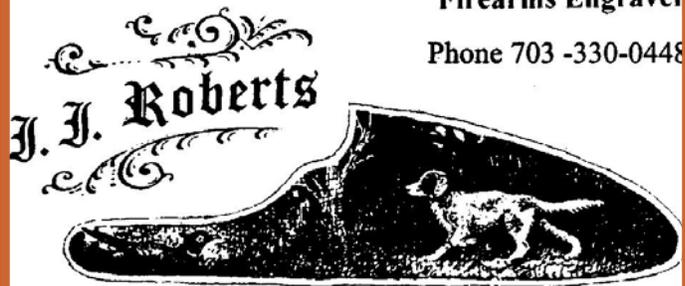
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