

L. C. Smith Speaks for Itself

Volume 3, Issue 3

September 2005

Thoughts for September By Frank Finch, Jr., Executive Director of the LCSCA

Special points of interest:

- Executive Director article.
- Early L.C. Smith History uncovered.
- A New Fall Event
- Thoughts on The L.C. Smith from Down Under

Inside this issue:

Thoughts for September Frank Finch, Jr Executive Director	1
L. C. Smith Maker, Syracuse, N.Y.—Part VII	2
L.C. Smith from Down Under	5
Syracuse Guns—a Summary	6
National Side-by-Side	9
OGCA Show	11
Moore Outdoors	12
Carolina Classic	13
A Special Classified	14
2005 Election	15
Yellow Page	18
Classified	19

The simple pleasures are naturally abundant in nature for all to enjoy! The plain values that define us as good people and the emotional connections with friends and family fill us with a sense of purpose!

As the hazy, lazy days of summer come to an end, we put away our fishing rods and begin thinking about taking our sweet Elsie's to the shooting range and sporting clays' courses for camaraderie and fellowship with other double gun enthusiasts in some pre-bird season practice shooting. To promote some autumn LC Smith activities, our organization is committed to participate in three scheduled fun-filled shooting venues.

The Order of the Edwardian Gunners will host the 2005 *Vintage Cup* in Millbrook, NY, on September 22 - 25, 2005. Our exhibit, planned by Andy Anderson, will feature the same grade gun from different time periods, i.e. Quality 2, Grade 2 and Specialty Grade guns. Many members will shoot in the various challenging events and attend the banquet. Hope to see you there!

Another venue is the 2nd Annual LCSCA Turkey Shoot which will be held near Glenn Dale, MD at the Prince George's Trap and Skeet range on October 29, 2005. Bill Winter, this event chairman, promises some

new challenges including a hammer gun event.

Our club will exhibit at *The Carolina Double Gun Classic* to be held at the Harris Springs Sportsman's Preserve at Cross Hill, S.C. on November 11 - 13, 2005. Among the various scheduled events, a Five Man Team American Classic 5-Stand Challenge is planned that will allow any American made double gun manufacturer to a field team for qualification and a championship shoot. Our own "Dean" of LC Smith collectors, Cliff White, will coordinate our display and share his extensive knowledge with fellow enthusiasts. I encourage our LC Smith shooters to come on down and join the fun!

I would like to share excerpts from a "thank you" note received from Art Wheaton, Chairman of the Parker Association, thanking our organization for our congratulatory letter on their winning the Challenge Cup. Art captures the feeling of the event so well.

"I am so pleased with the sense of camaraderie that the sprite and intent of good fellowship of our organizations will prove to foster collecting and shoot-

(Continued on page 2)



(thoughts for September, Continued from page 1)

ing fine American doubles. My view is to keep the contest of high standards and we all win – we thank you and your team for classy sportsmanship and a proud spirit”.

I thank all participants for their dedication to making the Challenge Cup a great success! Kindly mark your calendar and participate at the next one during the last weekend in April 2006.

This newsletter contains an article by our noted researcher, John Davis, on the sale of the LC Smith Company; a summary by Russ Ruppel of his efforts in creating a data base of previously undocumented Syracuse

hammer and hammerless guns; two articles highlighting the National Side by Side and Ohio Gun Collectors Association shows; an invitation by Tom Archer to attend the Carolina Classic; an article by Nominating Committee Chairman, Tom Archer which includes Bios of candidates and Ballots for return mailing; and sadly, a “For Sale List” of Dr. Gary Clarabut’s LC Smith gun collection.

I wish you an Autumn that includes some time to take your friends, your family, your hunting dog and your favorite Elsie to the fields! Happiness awaits you through the simple pleasures of nature!

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

The Torch Passes

By John N. Davis

Editor's Note: This, unfortunately, is the last in the series of articles about early L.C. Smith history by John Davis. We thank John for his efforts. He has scoured the pulp of the day, “The American Field”, to find bits and pieces of Smith history and stitched them together into seven informative articles for us to enjoy.

In William S. Brophy’s book, *L. C. Smith Shotguns*, he writes that Lyman Cornelius Smith sold his gun business to John Hunter, Sr. of Fulton, New York, in 1888. He further states, The Hunter Arms Co. was formed to make the L. C. Smith shotgun; however, Mr. Hunter had previously planned to make a shotgun invented and patented by Mr. Harry Comstock of Fulton, New York. In fact, some of Comstock’s patents were assigned to a company which never did make any guns, the Hunter & Comstock Arms Company. Col. Brophy sites a May 15, 1935, article for its historical perspective of the Hunter Arms acquisition of L. C. Smith, Makers. This article relates the events as follows: John Hunter, Sr. became interested in Comstock’s gun and decided to go into the gun business. Shopping for a factory, he started negotiations with the owners of a building and site in Oswego. Being unable to agree on the price, he was determined to locate in Fulton and purchased the site of the present factory which was built in 1888 and 1889. While the Hunters were negotiating with Comstock, the L. C. Smith people in Syracuse were planning to go into the typewriter business and had decided to sell the Smith gun. Hearing of the negotiations in Fulton, they approached John Hunter and eventually sold him the L. C. Smith gun which was extensively known at the time, having been manufactured and sold since 1880. The Comstock gun was not fully developed and would have cost them considerable money in developing, marketing, etc.

The following excerpts from *The American Field* add a link and perhaps even a question or two concerning the acquisition of this great American gun maker.

The American Field, December 7, 1889:

Very many of our readers will be surprised when they know that Mr. L. C. Smith has sold his gun business. The Hunter and Comstock Arms Company have purchased the controlling interest in the business and will move the machinery and tools from Syracuse to Fulton, N. Y. Mr. Smith retains an interest in the business, but will in future devote his time

(Continued on page 3)

(L.C.Smith Maker, Syracuse, NY—Part VII Continued from page 2)

to the manufacture of his Premier typewriter, which, by the way, is the best typewriter we have seen. The same system adopted by Mr. Smith, will be followed by the Hunter and Comstock Arms Company, and the Smith gun will be continued to be made without any changes from its present mode of construction. Mr. Smith has been an advertiser with us many years, and we shall be sorry to lose him, for our relations have been the very pleasantest; but we go from one friend to another. Harry Comstock is an old friend, and if a man wants to be given a high opinion of the AMERICAN FIELD, ask Comstock; and having traveled all over America, he knows what he is talking about. Now that Mr. Smith has retired from the gun business, we can say what we would not have said were he still in it. He never asked us for a notice, never requested us to insert a letter from any one complimenting him and never uttered a word of complaint at the publication of a communication against his gun. He took it as it came. As an advertiser he is a model, and if all men were as pleasant to do business with, business would be a pleasure. We throw an old shoe after you Mr. Smith, with the best of wishes for your future success. Mr. McMurchy does not go with the machinery, but is going to learn to work the typewriter, and is to have the general agency of it.

This article was followed by a response from Mr. Smith.

The American Field, December 14, 1889:

A LETTER FROM MR. L. C. SMITH

Syracuse, N. Y.

Editor American Field: - My attention having been called to an article in your issue of December 7, I take this occasion to thank you most cordially for the complimentary manner in which you speak of me, and I trust that my business methods have been such that I have merited the approbation of all people that I have had the pleasure of doing business with. You are well aware that we have stood by your publication in a most faithful manner; as proof of this I will call to your mind that our advertisement entered the columns of the AMERICAN FIELD about twelve years ago, and up to quite recently we have continued to add to the space that our advertisement occupied. We were stimulated to do this from the fact that in our opinion the AMERICAN FIELD was the best advertising medium in our line that we could obtain. While the AMERICAN FIELD has been a great success to you, Mr. Editor, I wish to call your attention to the fact that it has brought great success to us, and cannot help but benefit all people who are manufacturing goods that the sportsmen consume, providing such manufacturers avail themselves of its advertising columns.

As you have correctly stated, the L. C. Smith gun will be manufactured in the future by the Hunter & Comstock Arms Co. of Fulton, N. Y., and as I am yet interested in the manufacture of the gun bearing my name, it shall be my great effort to see that the gun shall be manufactured upon the same general principle, and we shall most certainly strive to improve the gun in point of workmanship from this time on.

It is due the gun trade as well as our friends who are using the L. C. Smith gun, for me, at this time, to thank them one and all most cordially for the support they have given our production. I wish you a continued journey on the up grade.

(Continued on page 4)

(L.C. Smith Maker, Syracuse, NY—Part VII, Continued from page 3)

L. C. Smith

In the January 4, 1890, issue of *American Field*, Harvey McMurchy added a final piece to the puzzle.

In making mention of the sale of the L. C. Smith gun business, you stated, through having in some way been misinformed, that I was to accept the general agency for the Smith Premier Typewriter. I wish to inform you that I shall remain in the capacity of salesman for the L. C. Smith gun for the new firm, which is The Hunter Arms Co. Mr. Harry Comstock's interest in the Hunter-Comstock Arms Co. having been purchased, he is no longer in any way connected with the new firm. With the improved machinery and largely increased facilities, and decided change in finish, we propose to put and hold the L. C. Smith gun at the top of the heap. The L. C. Smith gun only will be made by the new firm.

Fulton, N. Y.

H. McMurchy.

So, from these articles it would appear that Harry Comstock may actually have been involved at the time of the initial acquisition of L. C. Smith, Maker; and Mr. Smith may initially have kept a piece of the action. I suspect the 1935 article is correct from the stand point that John Hunter knew that the promotion and development of the Comstock gun would be very expensive and time consuming. The Smith gun already had an outstanding and wide spread reputation, with a customer base that rivaled that of Parker Bros. It may be that John Hunter knew Comstock's name had value, at least in the beginning. Comstock was well known in the sporting gun trade and he was already an established personality with the sporting press. The Hunters were new to this world. It was thought, perhaps, that Comstock's name would give a degree of legitimacy to the new company and Mr. Smith's assurance of his continued interest in the gun just might be what the Hunters needed to maintain a commanding presence in the gun market from the very outset of their venture. To add a bit more to the Smith/Comstock connection, consider the following item, which appeared in the November 11, 1882, issue of *The American Field*.

Many Pacific coast friends of Harry Comstock, the well-known commercial traveler, have had the pleasure of greeting him within the last month and enjoying a brief spell in his genial presence. Mr. Comstock is now traveling in the interests of L. C. Smith, of Syracuse, New York, manufacturer of the Baker gun, a weapon that is fast worming itself into the good graces of sportsmen.

So now we see that Harry Comstock had a prior association with Lyman C. Smith. Could this have played a part in the Hunter's introduction to Smith and his Syracuse gun factory? Further research may one day reveal more.

1889 was a milestone year in L. C. Smith history in another respect, for this was the year that W. H. Baker passed on to the great beyond.

American Field, October, 19, 1889:

W. H. Baker, of Baker gun fame, died at his home in Batavia, N. Y., at one o'clock on October 10. He passed quietly away surrounded by his family and many loving friends. The

(Continued on page 5)

(L.C. Smith Maker, Syracuse, NY—Part VII, Continued from page 4)

cause of his death was consumption, with which for the past year or more he had been battling, and during that time had been unable to do any work, beyond offering suggestions on the improvements under way pertaining to the new Baker gun, his brother Dr. E. R. Baker having charge of the gun factory. It is sad to think that after his years of work he should not have lived to enjoy the reward of the labor of his later and riper years, when his inventive genius was bringing a richly merited return. It is another illustration of the fact that most men die when they begin to live.

W. H. Baker was born at Pittsfield, Otsego County, N.Y. in 1835; he was therefore 54 years of age. The remains were interred at Marathon, N. Y.

And what of Mr. Smith?

American Field, July 5, 1890:

Mr. L. C. Smith writes us that the Smith Premier typewriter is booming. The favor it has met with in the short space of time it has been upon the market is much greater than he anticipated, notwithstanding he was fully confident its merits would command for it the recognition of superiority it has received. We imagine Mr. Smith has a premier fortune in his Premier type-writer.

From “Down Under” on the Hunter One Trigger

By Russell Schulz

Hello all fellow U.S.A. L.C. Smith enthusiasts.

Well the great L.C. Smith double is just about as scarce as hens teeth here in Australia but the occasional one does surface from time to time.

In common, I guess, with most other L.C. Smith enthusiasts I marvel at the design genius of Alexander Brown. The fact that in the space of just a few years he developed a cylinder type top hook fastener and unique cocking system for the L.C. Smith double gun surely points to him being one of the most talented gun designers of his time.

However it is to the Hunter One-Trigger that I want to focus particular attention. Here again

we find another design genius in Allen E. Lard at work in the beginning of the twentieth century developing single triggers for double guns. Of the L.C. Smith guns I have owned over a period of time none have sported the one-trigger developed by Lard. Hopefully I will be able to remedy that at some time in the not too distant future. It would be good to have first hand experience in the function of the trigger.

Allen Lard is credited with being one of America's most prolific designers of double gun single triggers and there is ample confirmation of this in Colonel Brophy's book where it is stated that Lard was issued with six patents for his work. Apparently patent No. 747191 granted on December

(Continued on page 6)

(From "Down Under" on the Hunter One Trigger, Continued from page 5)

15,1903, covered the one-trigger as advertised by Hunter Arms in their 1904 catalogues. Hunter Arms claimed that the trigger was simple in design with parts being big and strong. However when I look at parts drawings and illustrations of the assembled mechanism there appears to be quite a number of parts, some of which look rather fragile. Others have made similar observations and concluded that there are too many parts, some of which are too delicate to function reliably for very long, thus resulting in a gunsmith's nightmare.

Patent No. 1147737 issued considerably later to Allen Lard on July 27, 1915, is for an improved trigger. Presumably this later design would have superseded the earlier trigger in subsequent L.C. Smith gun production. I am curious as to what changes were made in the trigger covered by patent No. 1147737 and whether they resulted in some of the earlier problems being overcome.

A friend of mine in the USA who owns a Specialty Grade with the one-trigger says he has not experienced any problems with it. However he considers that the main problem likely to arise would be wear at the junction of the trigger hand and sear arm. He says that the several parts must

mesh accurately there and once worn there is no fixing it other than to bring the parts into specification again.

I did read somewhere that the renowned British gun maker, Westley Richards, adopted a Lard one-trigger patent or a version of it for some of their double guns. I have viewed some Westley Richards boxlock single trigger guns with the inscription 'one-trigger' on the action near the top lever which seems to confirm this.

Perhaps some of our members are able to make further observations into the function of the trigger and indeed whether a good trigger smith can fix it when it malfunctions due to wear. I am particularly interested to hear comments from members on the latter point. Good double gunning all.

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Syracuse Guns: Data Base Summary

By Russ Ruppel & Daryl Hallquist

Russ Ruppel is collecting data on L.C. Smith, Maker, Syracuse, N.Y. hammer and hammerless guns. Likewise, Daryl Hallquist is collecting data on hammer (including three barrel) and hammerless guns made by Baker, W.H. Baker Company, W.H. Baker, and L.C. Smith Maker of the Baker patent gun. Russ has provided a summary of the data collected to date on the L.C. Smith hammer and hammerless guns here for our members. If you have a Baker gun or Syracuse made L.C. Smith gun please enter the data on the web site so we can document as many of our "lost" Smith and Baker guns as possible.

Serial	Grade	ga x length	Hammer	Hammerless	Comments
10377	E	12x30	X		
10782	E	12x23	X		cut---klunker
11228	E	12x30	X		DGJ,V2-4,p95
11236	F	10x24	X		cut
11803	E	12X?	X		
12073	E	10x32	X		barrels only
12174	E	10x32	X		
12338	F	10x30	X		
12352	E	10x31.5	X		
12378	F	10x?	X		stub twist
12822	F	12x29	X		rough
12934	F	10x32	X		
13203	F	10x32	X		M/M forend
13378	AA	10x32	X		Sculpted Balls Gold Firing Pins and triggers and gold script on barrel rib, Gold dog on trigger guard
13511	F	12x30	X		
13681	F	12x30	X		stub twist, nice condition
13717	F	12x32	X		stub twist
14032	F	10x32	X		
14158	F	12X?	X		
14522		12x30			scroll-28LPI
14589	F	12x29	X		
14597	F	12x30	X		twist.orig buttplate
14742	F	10x30	X		
14879	E	8x?	X		DGJ,V2-4,p95
15060	E	10x32	X		
15624	E	12x30	X		DGJ,V2-4,p95
15750	E	10x30	X		
15754	E	10x32	X		poorly fitted butt plate
15996	E	10x32	X		
16XXX	3	10x30		X	on AA.com
16211	2	10x30		X	
16447	2	10x30		X	DGJ,V2-4,p95
16453	4	12x30		X	gold dog on trigger guard
16464	5	10x32		X	gold dog on trigger guard
16576	2	12x30		X	
16764	3	10x?		X	
16775	3	10x30		X	well worn on AA
16776	3	10x32		X	
16936	2	10x?		X	
17609	D	12x30	X		scroll-28LPI checkering
17675	F	12x32	X		trap gun line engraving
17870	F	10x?	X		
18168	2	10x28		X	
18255	3	16x26		X	modified with grade 4 sideplates

Serial	Grade	ga x length	Hammer	Hammerless	Comments
18415	4	12x30		X	birds and sculptured balls
18510	6	10x32		X	gold dog on trigger guard, large frame
18557	2	12x28		X	Syracuse butt plate
18660	2	10x32		X	2.76 in wide 8 gauge size frame
18732	2	12x30		X	has 1 inch stock extension dovetailed in
18759	6	12x30		X	6 gold inlays
18843	2	10x32		X	uncheckered?
18928	3	12x32		X	
19109	2	10x30		X	Trap Gun
19377	2	10x30		X	
19398	2	10x32		X	
19491	2	10x?		X	rebarreled in steel
19494	2	12x?		X	good but well worn
19732	2	12x26+30		X	2 barrel set with 2 forends
19746	2	10x30		X	bbls s/n 19475
19778	3	12x30		X	
19932	4	10x32		X	birds-marked "Hunter" on barrels have picture
19955	4	12x30		X	small, 16 size frame
20300	7	10x32		X	gold dog on trigger guard stepped sideplates
20556	2	12x30		X	been restocked
20598	5	10x30		X	Gold Monogram on trigger guard in Brophy
20604	2	10x26		X	cut
20647	3	12x27		X	cut
20681	3	10x28		X	needs forend
20870	5	12x30		X	barrel only on Ebay
20875	2	12xcut		X	rebarreled with 30 inch
22145	7	12x30		X	grade marked-has grip cap inlay
22216	7	10x30		X	not grade marked, rebarreled to 12 ga—steel
22255	0	12x30		X	transition gun - twist
23055	3	10x32		X	John S. Clark on trigger guard

There are 3 other grade 7's but I don't have the data on them including the one in the book which I think is a Hunter Gun

National Side-by-Side in Review

By Frank Finch, Jr.

I would like to thank Ray Poudrier and the Vintagers for providing our club the opportunity to display our exhibit "LC Smith Guns We Shoot" and to participate in the shooting events at the Second National Side-by-Side, held May 13-15, 2005 at the Northbrook Sports Club, in Hainesville, IL.

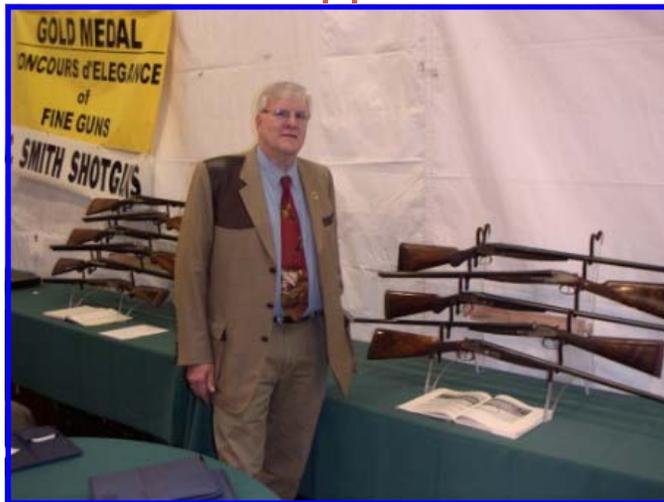
The exhibit, designed by Len Applegate and manned by Len, Mary Anne and me, was well received by members, shooters and double gun enthusiasts. Many stopped by each day of the event to chat about their favorite LC Smiths, as well as, to share their side by side experiences and enthusiasm. Our display included various grades of 50 to 100 years old L.C. Smith guns, many very rare and unique, that we shoot for sport and game and several rare turn of the century L.C. Smith/Hunter Arms shooting trophies.

Although, many members of the L.C.

Smith Collectors Association traveled great distances to attend, all enjoyed participating in the many challenging shooting events and some were rewarded with "wins" in the various competitions. Len and I participated in the "conservation shoot"; whereby, we allowed the clay targets to live to reproduce for next year. However, when shooting with Charles and Conor Curtin, the odds were against the clay targets - especially when Conor was shooting. Conor had traveled from Maine to the Southern Side-by-Side to shoot for the LC Smith Team. At the age of 14, Conor qualified for our top team and also won the top youth award at the Southern. Conor also won top youth award at

the National Side-by-Side. Great shooting, Conor!!! It was good to visit with Barb and Dave Wunrow again; they had traveled from WI to the Southern Side by Side to support our LC Smith shooting team. JD Shank shot many of the challenging events at the National and managed to "bring home the bacon" in several events.

Tod Dawson and Curt Mettam set up the "Honored Marque" display in the IX Gold Metal Concours featuring Tod's wonderful collection of LC Smiths, including an A3 12 Ga., A2 12 Ga., Deluxe 20 Ga., Monogram, Crown, 5E, and others. All beautiful guns!!



Tod Dawson and his collection of L.C. Smiths Honored Marque at the IX Concours

Several LC Smith guns were declared winners in the Gold Metal Concours juried competition with Len's 3 barrel set Mongram 12 Ga. awarded "Best LC Smith", Tod's Deluxe 20 Ga. selected "Best Gun of a Collection" and my A2 20 Ga. chosen by "The Upland

Almanac" as "Best Upland bird Gun".

We had such a great time enjoying the camaraderie and fellowship with other double gun enthusiasts that the fourteen hour each way trip was soon forgotten. We enjoyed participating in this year's National and look forward to exhibiting and shooting at the Vintage Cup event this September in Millbrook, NY. Please remember to enter your favorite LC Smith for exhibition (for all to enjoy) in the X Gold Metal Concours held in conjunction with the Vintage Cup.



Tammy Jo Watching Frank and Len miss'em at a challenging Sporting Clays course



Tod Dawson, Frank Finch, Len Applegate, Bob Devlin, Roger Sanger, and Tammy Jo at the LCSCA display



Frank Finch, Len Applegate, Mary Anne Finch and Tammy JO



Len Applegate and Calvin Pyle on "Classic Country Outdoors". Larry Moore is hiding behind the camera

Ohio Gun Collectors July Show

By Len Applegate

We take the L.C. Smith Collector Association display to gun shows for several reasons. First and foremost is to get the Smith gun and its history out in front of the gun collecting public. Second, is to increase our membership. Membership is what makes our organization. Third, it is always possible that we will run across that rare L.C. that we have been looking for forever for a great price.

It is hard work, though. I think the hardest part is coming up with the theme for the display. We have plenty of guns to display for probably any theme we could ever think of. Coming up with that theme that would have interest to most people so that they will have questions that will start a dialogue is the difficult part. There are also the problems associated with transporting the display to the show, getting it set up, and then taking it all down and hauling it all back home.

I think we outdid ourselves at the Ohio Gun Collectors Association (OGCA) in July. The theme was "Award Wining L.C. Smith Guns" which included my three barrel Monogram that won "Best L.C. Smith" at the IX Gold Medal Concours and Frank's A2 20 gauge that was declared the "Best Upland Game Gun" by the *Upland Almanac*. To compliment the 20 gauge A2 Frank brought his 12 gauge A2 and his 12 gauge Deluxe that was reported to have belonged to Colonel Brophy as well as his 20 gauge Deluxe. Another popular item was Frank's salesman's cutaway sample.

What really made this display better, and different, from all others we have done was Al Kraus's tool chest and engraving tools along with several prints done by Kraus. We should all be glad that Frank, Mary Anne, Tammy Jo (the English Setter) traveled from New Jersey to share these wonder items of L.C. Smith history with us.

We had great fun. Larry Moore came by to help. He is one of our new and more involved members. He is really involved with the outdoor sports in this part of Ohio. He writes a newspaper column called "Moore Outdoors" and has a friend Calvin Pyle that has a Sunday morning radio show "Classic Country Outdoors" on WBZI in Xenia, Ohio. Calvin invited Larry and I to be on his radio show to talk about the L.C. Smith shotgun. It was great fun. Frank listened to the show in his car at the Roberts Center and guaranteed that I didn't sound like a klutz. It was great fun.



Larry Moore, Len Applegate, Mary Anne & Frank Finch

Another great thing about this show is the OGCA. It seems as though

Laura Knotts, OGCA business manager, strives to make our visit as pleasant as possible. The OGCA provided us two display tables and offered helper passes to allow helpers to enter the show during set-up hours to help with the carting and lugging. They even provided helpers with carts to help with the teardown and loading. The OGCA photographer took pictures of the display and sent them to me on a CD! Can it get any better than that?

Moore Outdoors—OGCA July Show

By Larry Moore

L. C. Smith Collectors – Fun in Ohio

Okay, admittedly I am biased since I am a native Buckeye. It was the July 2004 OGCA show that I first became aware of the L. C. Smith Collectors Association. At that time I did not own any Elsie's. I had admired them at gun shows and thought one day I will own one of these fine shot-guns like the ones my grandparents had owned. A short year later, I now own three Elsie's, all 12 gauges representing a small part of the Smith line with a Damascus OO, Pigeon, and Ideal Grades. Along with fellow Ohio member Dennis Evans, I've been to the Southern Side By Side and met many wonderful people. The spirit of assistance with collecting, no matter how meager, and enjoying these great guns is truly wonderful. I was thrilled to have The LC Smith Collectors Association display coming to my backyard.

Friday evening, Frank and Mary Ann Finch and Len Applegate had the display ready when my wife Becky and I arrived at the Roberts Center. That meant there was plenty of time in the evening for relaxation, camaraderie, and dinner. We headed north to a local restaurant, Werner's Smokehouse, to enjoy some good smoked BBQ pork. Saturday evening was dinner at The Spillway Lodge near Cowan Lake State Park.

The show was extremely enjoyable. With three of us manning the display, it meant that there was time to relax and enjoy the rest of the show. This proved expensive as more L. C. Smiths were discovered and purchased. I don't know what was more entertaining, enjoying the show or watching

Frank, ever the L. C. Smith Association promoter, solicit new members. Frank did successfully recruit a couple of new members. There was great interest in the display. We answered numerous questions about the display and Elsie's in general. It is great to see the interest in LC Smith guns.

Without a doubt the highlight of the weekend was getting Len Applegate on the radio to talk about the L. C. Smith Collectors Association. My friend, Calvin Pyle, is the host of Classic Country Outdoors, which is simulcast on three area radio stations. Together the stations cover a great deal of southwestern Ohio and into the eastern edge of Indiana. Since I write for the local papers, Pyle and I frequently cooperate on topics. Len was

somewhat hesitant to go and kept insisting that Frank is the better spokesperson. Frank insisted that Len's knowledge was needed. I accompanied Len to the station to ensure he did not get lost or decide to chicken out.

The radio show was a lot of fun. Upon arrival

at the station, Pyle showed us the 10-gauge Syracuse L.C. Smith that his Grandfather had owned. It had been left in a barn for many years. It seems like every place you look another Baker/Smith/Hunter Arms grandpa gun comes out of the woodwork. A lot of great information regarding LC Smith guns and the Collectors Association went out over the airwaves in southwestern Ohio and via the web. We may have even found a second career for Len!



The L.C. Smith Collectors Association Display at the OGCA

Carolina Double Gun Classic

By Tom Archer

The LCSCA Board of Directors has agreed to an eleventh hour addition to our 2005 list of LCSCA sanctioned events, the first ever Carolina Double Gun Classic; to be held at the Harris Springs Sportsman Preserve in Cross Hill, South Carolina, the weekend of November 11-13, 2005. This new event is specifically directed towards aficionados of the side x side; and will provide a variety of venues for shooters, as well as a variety of exhibits and vendor displays that will be of interest to collectors and shooters alike.

The shooting grounds of the Harris Springs Sportsman Preserve are considered the best South Carolina has to offer; and in fact is one of the finest in the United States, as it is rated among the top 25 Orvis Endorsed Wingshooting Lodges in the nation. As such, guests can expect the finest in Southern hospitality and individual service (I understand Harris Springs even has an in-house chef). Included in the variety of shooting events are hammer and hammerless gun events, small and large (10 gauge) bore events, a two man flush championship, and a five man team American classic 5-stand challenge. This latter should be a super fun event, as for the first time in whenever, we have an opportunity for teams Smith vs. Parker vs. Ithaca vs. LeFever vs. Fox vs. Remington vs. whoever else can field a team! This event allows one a little more shooting than the Challenge Event, as each five man team shoots 250 targets (125 each on two courses); then the top five teams compete in a shootout for the awards. Team entry fees are very reasonable, and may the best gun (Elsie) win! For all details regarding registration, directions, lodging; etc. please check our web site <lcsmith.org>, or call the Harris Springs clubhouse

at 864/677-3448.

We have had two members to step forward and volunteer their time to host the LCSCA booth, Craig Smith and Cliff White; and, on behalf of the LCSCA, many thanks for their willingness to serve our organization in this capacity. We ask all LCSCA members to stop by our booth, as we plan to give each member a pin-on LCSCA Logo Member Badge. We ask that each member write his name on the badge and wear it with pride as you move around the club grounds. This will allow instant member recognition and, at the same time, promote the LCSCA. As an aside, many LCSCA members have never met Cliff White; but I consider him the "Dean" of all Elsie collectors. I can guarantee he will have something very interesting to admire, and can also relate some of the most intriguing stories about Smith guns and Smith collecting you will ever hear.

Finally, I encourage as many LCSCA as possible members to attend. I make that request knowing some will consider this date a possible conflict to their hunting season/s. However as we have a large number of LCSCA members in the South, and long hunting seasons; I believe the fun and excitement of this once-a-year event should more than offset the sacrifice of one weekend. For our members in other climes, weather in the South is never better than in November; so mark your calendars and start making your plans now. Let's give Craig and Cliff our full support and put together some solid Smith teams for the American Classic 5-Stand Challenge!

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. **Rich is coming out with the second edition! Contact him for price and availability (315)593-2002.**

A Special Classified Page

By Gary Clarabut

A changing health situation has caused Gary to want to sell his entire L.C. Smith gun and memorabilia collection. He only wants to sell to collectors and that is us. His collection is included here. If there is something that you are interested in please contact Gary at gecdc@cox.net or (405)753-9317. Give him the number (column 1) and he will e-mail you pictures. Please remember.

The L.C. Smith Collectors Association accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the seller's description. All negotiations are strictly between the buyer and seller. The buyer and seller are responsible for complying with all applicable state and federal laws.

L.C. Smith Collection for Sale (All are in good condition)

Num	Grade	S/N	Gauge	BL	Remarks	PRICE
1	Hammer F	154083	12	30	Steel barrels	\$1,100
2	Trap	86978	12	30	Vent rib, single trigger, ejectors	\$2,800
3	#2	36540	12	30	rotary joint check	\$1,000
4	O	61152	16	28	damascus barrels, rotary joint check	\$800
5	#2	16510	10	30	rotary joint check	\$1,200
6	Ideal	194251	16	28	used very little, dent in right barrel	\$1,600
7	Field	3881	410	28	very good condition	\$3,800
8	Ideal	33387	12	28	looks new	\$1,800
9	Quality 2	1391	10/45-70		Baker Patent 3 barrel (SOLD!)	\$2,500
10	#2	46291	8	32	Full Box of 8 gauge shells + brass+empty box of shells	\$9,000
11	Field	128900	16	28	Double trigger, feather weight, ejector	\$1,450
12	Field	348673	12	30	Featherweight Double trigger, ejectors	\$875
13	Field	142812	20	26	very good condition, Double trigger, extractor	\$1,850
14	OE	208210	12	26	single trigger, ejector, damascus blued barrels	\$800
15	Ideal	42518	20	30	FWE very good condition	\$2,500
16	#3 HA	203516	12	30	extra set of barrels(steel) and forearms	\$3,200

Num	Grade	S/N	Gauge	BL	Remarks	PRICE
17	Ideal	S16741	12	26	Looks Unfired	\$2,400
18	Field	9457	10	30	Syracuse, NY Hammer Gun	\$500
19	Field	6489	10	30	Syracuse, NY Hammer Gun	\$400
20	SB Trap	609	12	34	Conley's gun (wrote "Trap Shooting")	\$2,500
21	SOME KNIVES AND COLLECTIBLES					VARIOUS
22	L.C. SMITH REPRODUCTION CATALOGES AND COCKING TOOLS					VARIOUS
23	L.C. SMITH BRASS 10 GAUGE SHOTGUN SHELL					\$400

2005 Election

By Tom Archer

Attention All LCSCA Members:

As most members are aware, the LCSCA Board of Directors is composed of seven (7) life members. These directorships were never intended to be "life appointments"; and, in that regard, our founding Directors established our associational by-laws whereby at least two directors rotate off the board each year. Members must then select, from among its membership, individuals to fill those positions; each to serve a three-year term. There are two primary qualifications for every individual wishing to serve in this capacity. First of all, LCSCA by-laws require that all directors **MUST** be life members. Secondly, every life member seeking a directorship **MUST** be enthusiastic about his willingness to serve (meaning **WORK!**). As there are seven directorships, the LCSCA has three (3) directors rotating off the board every third year; and 2005 is our first year to experience this situation.

At our annual meeting in April, Andy Anderson and I agreed to head the nominating committee to seek individuals to replace our three directors rotating off the board on December 31, 2005. Those directors whose terms expire are Len Applegate, James Stubbendieck, and Frank Finch. Andy and I discussed this matter at length and came to the conclusion that it would be in best interest of the LCSCA that these individuals serve one additional three-year term. Len, Jim, and Frank have been instrumental, in not only the founding of the LCSCA; but also in its growth and success, and the magnitude of their collective contributions cannot be underestimated.

It was with this knowledge that Andy and I agreed the long-term interests of the LCSCA would be best served by asking these individuals to continue their service. As these gentlemen have never formally stood for election to a directorship, a brief biography for each is included below so that each member can be provided some brief insight into the character and caliber of these men. If you agree with Andy and me, please signify that fact by returning the attached and pre-addressed ballot marked "YES". In the event you disagree with our assessment and wish to vote for another member/s meeting the above qualifications, mark your ballot "NO"; then write that life member/s name in the space provided. Andy and I thank you in advance for your careful and prompt attention to this important matter.

(2005 Election, Continued from page 15)

Len Applegate: Len is a graduate of Akron University; and, having earned his degree in engineering, is presently employed in that capacity. Having a natural inclination towards understanding “how things work”, Len thoroughly enjoys mechanical devices; and especially the ingenuity and workmanship that created the American double gun. For years he has appreciated the L C Smith gun above all others, and has managed to accumulate an impressive collection of these beautiful and utilitarian “works of art”. Len not only enjoys collecting Smith guns; but, as an extension of his love of mechanics, has created and equipped his own shop in which he has honed his skills to become quite an amateur gunsmith.

Len’s affection for the Smith gun, combined with his friendly nature, created a desire to meet others interested in the Smith gun. This desire to share and gain additional knowledge resulted in a small assembly of like-minded Smith collectors who began to actively discuss the formation of a Smith Collectors Association. The result was the nucleus of the LCSCA of which Len is an original founding member. Len has supported the organization to the fullest extent, serving the LCSCA since its inception as Membership Chairman and also as the LCSCA Newsletter Editor. Few members realize the time commitment these duties involve, as on average Len devotes two hours of his time each day to these functions. In addition, Len has publicly supported the LCSCA at a number of LCSCA sanctioned shows and events (for those who may not know, LCSCA directors personally absorb all travel related expenses to and from these events).

If re-elected, Len remains committed to excellence. He is constantly researching methods to streamline publication of the newsletter, as well as ways to make his work more cost efficient. Len is also committed to continued membership growth, and has dedicated his efforts to make the LCSSCA the best organization of its type ever. Finally, if re-elected Len has made a solemn oath that he will improve his shooting!

Jim Stubbendieck: Jim has the distinction of being the board member with the most difficult name to spell; but a name actually quite easy to pronounce (stu-ben-deck). As a member of the LCSCA Board of Directors, Jim has served as our most distinguished member; having achieved two under-graduate degrees from the University of Nebraska and a Ph.D. from Texas A & M University. Professionally Jim serves as the Director of the University of Nebraska Center for Great Plains Studies, and as Professor of Grassland Ecology. In his professional capacity, Jim has authored no less than 11 books, published more than 100 scientific articles; and has many other personal and professional accomplishments too numerous to recount in this allotted space.

As a member of the LCSCA Jim is also a life member, an original member of the Board of Directors, and instrumentally involved in the organizations founding. Jim grew up in rural Nebraska and developed a great love for upland bird and waterfowl hunting; and has owned and used Smith guns since the age of 13. It was his sincere interest in the Smith gun that lead to his involvement in the LCSCA; and, in his capacity as a Director, Jim’s contributions have been invaluable. For starters, Jim serves as the LCSCA Webmaster (www.lcsmith.org); but few members realize that Jim also invested his own funds and hours of his personal time to create this site. Presently, Jim continues to devote time daily towards site maintenance and monitoring; and constantly seeks ways to update and improve our LCSCA site. Jim is also responsible for the printing of the LCSCA newsletter; and, whenever possible, personally attends LCSCA sanctioned exhibits and events. His contributions towards the newsletter alone have saved the organization untold expense, and is a primary reason that membership dues have remained unchanged. Jim continues to promote the LCSCA at every opportunity, and is presently assisting one of our members, John Houchins, in his ef-

(2005 Election, Continued from page 16)

forts to produce an updated book on the L C Smith gun projected to be published within the next 24 months.

Jim is pleased to have been a part of the LCSCA and believes that the strength of this organization resides within its membership. He is convinced, given continued enthusiastic, but careful leadership, the LCSCA will continue to grow; and, if re-elected, Jim is committed towards that goal.

Frank Finch: Frank is a life-long resident of New Jersey and grew up on his family's farm when New Jersey was still rural. Frank attended Rutgers and Rider Universities where he earned his BS degree; and then pursued a career in pharmaceuticals, from which he retired after a distinguished 30-year career where he served as a Vice-President for Bristol-Meyers Squibb. Frank, a virtual dynamo and not content with retirement, then formed his own management consulting firm, FJF Associates, Inc, where he specializes in strategic systems planning for the pharmaceutical industry.

On the 100 acre family farm, Frank spent many memorable days hunting with his dad and developed a keen interest in shotguns and shooting. In 1965 Frank purchased his first Elsie, a restored 12 gauge Field Grade, and hasn't stopped collecting since. Frank now has an extensive collection of Smith guns, advertising materials, and company/employee artifacts. Always full of enthusiasm, Frank made his collecting goal a collector quality 20-bore in every grade; and, although he has been somewhat successful in this endeavor, is still looking for that A3 20-bore! Frank still manages the family farm, except that the acreage once used for food crops now produces wildlife forage and cover crops for deer, turkey, pheasant, and other small game/non game birds and animals. He is never happier than when on the farm with his English setter, Tammy Jo, and a 20-bore Elsie.

Frank's sporting efforts are not limited just to the LCSCA, as Frank is also very active in the Middlebush Rod and Gun Club; and President of the Gobbler's Knob Rod and Gun Club.

As with Len and Jim, Frank too is a life and founding member of the LCSCA; and is also an original member of the Board of Directors. In October, 2003; Frank became the Executive Director of the LCSCA. Since that point, Frank has been an invaluable spokesperson and promoter of the organization publicly; and privately, a cautious and careful "team manager" of the members of the LCSCA Board of Directors. Frank also devotes many hours of his time each week to LCSCA business, and he and his bride Mary Anne willingly make the required personal sacrifices in time and money to attend every sanctioned LCSCA exhibit and event. And although not "officially" recognized as an officer, Mary Anne's contributions to the LCSCA have been enormous. Under Frank's leadership membership now approaches the 300 milestone, our super successful web site and member forum came on line, LCSCA newsletter content was expanded, LCSCA sanctioned events and exhibits increased to 10, the LC Smith vs. Parker Challenge was inaugurated (and includes a charity fund raiser which donated \$500 to Habitat for Humanity in 2005), the LCSCA became a sponsor of the Gold Metal Concours, and a line of LCSCA logo hats and shirts was introduced.

Frank is a man committed to excellence in every challenge he undertakes. He is wholeheartedly committed to the LCSCA and wishes that our organization be something from which every member can increase his knowledge of the Smith gun, and also enjoy the fellowship of other members through exhibits and venues that promote the display and use of the Smith gun. If re-elected, Frank will continue his efforts to accomplish these and all other organizational goals of the LCSCA

L. C. Smith Yellow Page

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L. C. Smith Collectors Association Membership Application.

Make checks Payable to "The L. C. Smith Collectors Association, Inc"

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Bob Trefry

5104 Salima ST

Clinton, MD 20735

Membership type:

Annual \$ 25.00

Life \$ 300.00

Check here if you would prefer your address and phone not to be included in the published list

Address:

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L. C. Smith Classifieds

The L.C. Smith Collectors Association accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the seller's description. All negotiations are strictly between the buyer and seller. The buyer and seller are responsible for complying with all applicable state and federal laws.

FOR SALE:

Makinson Video Tape "L.C. Smith Sidelock Shotgun" Master gunsmith discusses mechanical features and show step by step rebuild of the L. C. Smith. \$15.00 prepaid: R MacGregor, 4260 Riverside DR., Columbus, OH 43220 (614-451-8719)

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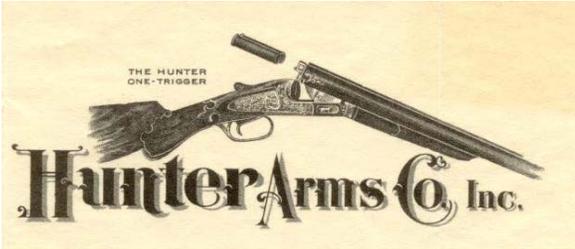
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Greetings L.C. Smith enthusiasts. I'm a great-great-grandson of the Hunter family who owned the Company at the turn of the century, and beginning to do research for our mutual benefit. I would be interested to hear from anyone with historical information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

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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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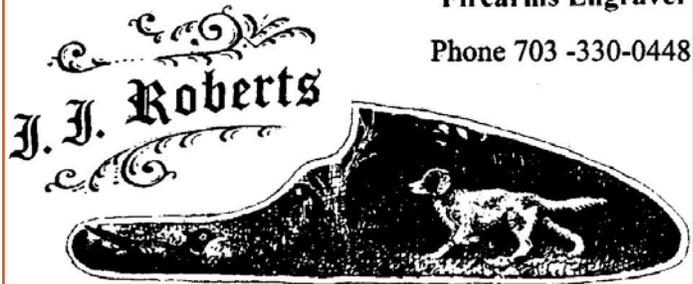
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