

L. C. Smith Speaks for Itself

Volume I, Issue I

January 2003

Who We Are So Far

By Len Applegate

Special points of interest:

- Who we are so far introduces the only official participants in the organization so far.
- We need an organizational meeting to figure out if we are going to proceed and what the goals of the association will be
- The Baltimore Arms Collectors Association is our next display venue.

I love American Double Guns. I've owned them all at one time or another; Ithaca, Lefever, Fox, Parker and the Sweet Elsie. I still have some Parkers but there is just something about the Smith gun. I don't know whether its their simplicity of design, the side lock, or the fact that I seem to shoot best with my Smiths. For me, there is just nothing like an L.C. Smith double gun.

The one true advantage the Parker Gun has, however, is the Parker Gun Collectors Association. (P.G.C.A) When I am combining tables at gun shows I haunt for another Smith or Parker that I don't need, it seems as though I always encounter P.G.C.A. display tables. Their displays are always different, featuring a particular gauge or grade or Parker memorabilia. When I finally pry myself away, two things are true. First, I am

smarter about Parkers and second, I wonder why LC collectors don't have a similar organization.

Last Spring at the Maryland Arms Collectors Association show in Baltimore I had just left the Parker display when I stopped at Rich Beyer's L.

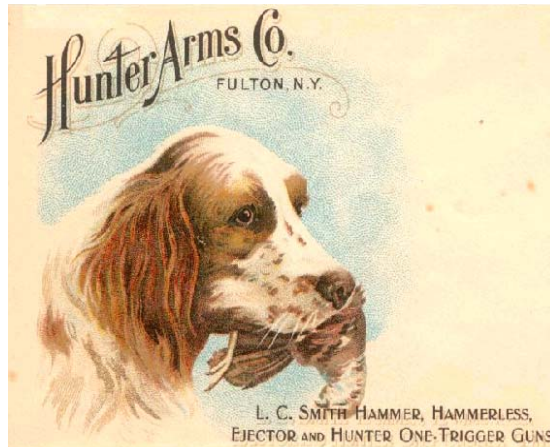
ally done something about the problem by displaying a list for people to sign indicating their interest in such a club. As I returned to Cincinnati I wondered whether anything would come of it.

In the ensuing months Rich called to invite me to the September New York State Arms Collectors show at Syracuse, the birthplace of the Smith gun. The association provided us four tables if we would put on an educational L.C.Smith display. Rich brought his sequentially numbered 410s, photo album, and Hunter memorabilia.

Andy brought 6 guns (three grade 2's a 20 gauge, a 10, and 8 gauge, two 3E's a 12 and a 16 gauge, and a 12 gauge hammer gun). Bob Trefry brought his 12 gauge Skeet Special.

The other highlight of our display was provided

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C. Smith table. Soon he and I and another Smith guy, Andy Anderson, were collectively bemoaning the fact that we had no organization like "the Parker guys". Rich introduced Andy and me to yet another Smith organization seeker, Bob Trefry. Bob and Bill Winter, both from Maryland, had actu-

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by Frank and MaryAnne Finch. They brought their collection of Hunter Arms memorabilia which included a L.C. Smith shooting award urn and several catalogs. Frank also brought several of his 20 gauge guns that included an A2 and a Crown. MaryAnn made us a banner to announce to the crowd who we were.

I brought a couple of early Smiths which included an 1885 Double A grade 10 gauge hammer gun and a Hunter produced Quality 7 12 Gauge.

John Simmons, the caretaker of the Hunter Estate, even joined us with his 20 gauge Crown grade. John shared with us many stories about the Hunter family and his childhood in the Sterling Valley.

The response was very good. We provided interest sheets for the passersby to fill out to see how much interest there would be in forming an L.C. Smith Gun Collectors Association and we got a surprising twenty six responses. At dinner that Saturday night the seven of us decided that there seemed to be enough interest, at least in Upstate New York, to continue. I volunteered to be the membership chairman because I seem to be the most Microsoft™ literate and “e-connected”. We left each other pledging to put on another display in March 2003 at the Baltimore show even if there was no further interest from the public at large.

Since last September Smith collectors have been coming out of the woodwork. With the notice that appeared in the *Double Gun Journal* I have nearly 100 names on my

spread sheet. We have decided to not only put on another display but to have a banquet (*See related article*) and an organizational meeting on Saturday night, March 15, 2003. We need to decide what to call ourselves, what to call this newsletter, and how we want to organize ourselves.

Banquet and Organizational Meeting

By Bill Winter

The first L. C. Smith Gun Collectors Association Banquet and organizational meeting will be held on Saturday evening March 15, 2003. This is the weekend of the Maryland Arms Collectors Association “Baltimore Show”. The meeting and dinner will be held at the Turf Inn which is adjacent to the North gate of the Maryland State Fairgrounds on York road. The evening will begin with a cash bar at the social hour from 6 to 7 pm. A wine and fruit tray will be provided. The dinner will be from 7 to 8 pm with the organizational meeting to follow. Diners can choose from four entrées:

1. Prime Rib
2. Maryland Crab cakes
3. Stuffed Shells
4. Chicken Marseilles

Salad is included with each entrée



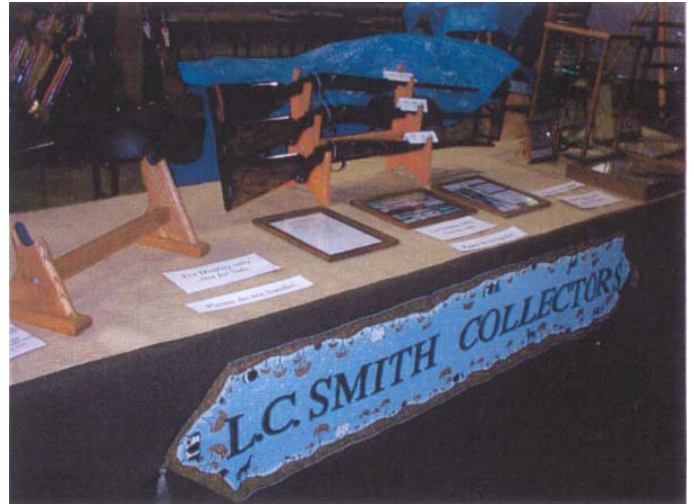
as well as coffee, soda, or iced tea. The cost is \$26.00 per person and includes the gratuity. Bob Trefry and I ate there to sample the fare and it was very good. The room that we have retained will only accommodate 40 people. We can probably fit more people in the room for the meeting by replacing tables with

chairs. You can eat at the Turf Inn in other rooms but only 40 will be able to eat together. If you would like to join us please fill out the form on page 3 and send a check made out to Bob Trefry for the total amount. We will use post marks to judge the first 40. Checks will be returned to those who don't make the cut.

At the organizational meeting we will be trying to form the L. C. Smith Gun Collectors Association. A first draft of the bylaws will be presented for discussion. Any of you who are currently members of the PGCA will recognize most of them. Ron Kirby the Executive Director of the PGCA may be there to offer some words of encouragement.

Pictures From The Syracuse Show Display

Pictures by Frank and MaryAnne Finch



Banquet Order Form

Please Send the following along with your check to:

Bob Trefry
5104 Salima St
Clinton, MD 20735

Name & Address:

Number of People Attending _____

Please indicate the total number of each entrée:

- 1. Prime Rib _____
- 2. Maryland Crab Cake _____
- 3. Stuffed Shells _____
- 4. Chicken Marseilles _____

NOTE: Checks will be returned once the total number of reservations has exceeded 40.

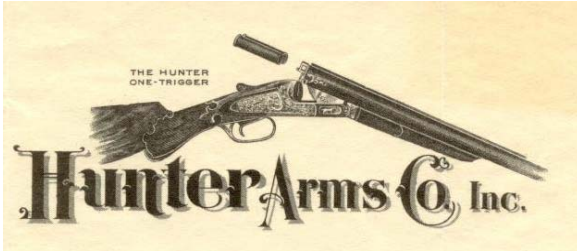
X \$26.00

Total Amount Enclosed _____

PUBLICATION OF THE LC SMITH GUN COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

Organization Address: For the time being you can reach us in care of,
L. C. Smith Gun Collectors Association
C/o Len Applegate
6709 Windwood Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45241

Phone: 513-777-1946
Email: apple102050@fuse.net



L.C. Smith the gun that speaks for itself

The L.C. Smith Gun Collectors Association at this point is a semi social organization whose purpose has yet to be decided upon by a membership. At this point its proposed purpose of the organization 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.

Bring Your Smith to Baltimore and Celebrate St. Patrick's Day Shooting Sporting Clays

Have you ever shot Sporting Clays? I haven't. I have always wanted to but my club is strictly trap and skeet. I am going to get my chance in March because Andy Anderson has arranged a Sporting Clays outing at Hopkins Game Farm and Sporting Clays in Kennedyville, Maryland. We will enjoy a little fellowship and competition amongst L.C. shooters. We may need a little relaxation after the organizational meeting on Saturday.

Andy guarantees me that he has discussed making the course easier for us neophytes with the folks at Hopkins. There are, of course, rules and the cost of each round will be borne by the participants. Andy has written up what is involved and included directions from Baltimore. I have included them in this mail-

ing.

I should point out, however, that this event is strictly voluntary and is not sanctioned in any way by the L. C. Smith Gun Collectors Association. At this point we are an organization in name only.

Late Breaking News!!

We have finally gotten our table assignments for the show. The Maryland Arms Collectors Association, through the efforts of Bill Winter, has assigned us tables SR 3 & 4. These tables are in the display area of the building as soon as you enter. Look for our sign.