

Continued from page 1... One Model 1907 is listed with a Swiss butt

The surveys we are launching this year include the 1895 as well as a revision of the 1993 Bill Porter Model 1894 survey. We are just starting data entry of the old survey and then will start working on verification of those counts. I anticipate this will be a long project.

We have not yet tackled the models with larger records ranges due to the amount of time it takes to complete them. For example, we have been working on the 1893/1897 survey since May 2009. There are 377999 records to go through which calculates into

3780 pages to count. After the initial count we conduct one "double check" as the surveys are being entered into the computer. Following that, I tally and re-check odd entries. Almost two years into the project we are in the middle of the "double check" phase.

We will continue working on completing surveys on the remaining models as we can. We tuck survey work around our regular work schedule of serial number searches, factory letters and paid extended research. The data compiled in these surveys are currently not available as a whole but you may contact me by email or phone if you'd like to discuss them. ■

Contact Us Monday to Friday 8 to 5

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CODY FIREARMS RECORD

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ON TARGET!

AT THE CODY FIREARMS MUSEUM

— By Warren Newman, Curator —

In the last issue of the Cody Firearms Record I promised a review of recent accessions and loans that are particularly significant additions to the Cody Firearms Museum collection. The past several months have been highlighted by a rather substantial number of incoming firearms. In the museum world, as in a firefight, INCOMING is extremely important!

The Coors Collection of Schuetzen target rifles, on loan to the Buffalo Bill Historical Association since 1995, has been converted to a gift by Peter Coors and MillerCoors, LLC. Consisting of twenty-nine rifles, it is the premier Schuetzen collection in the United States. Representatives of MillerCoors will attend the June 2011 meeting of the BBHC Board of Trustees in Cody to finalize and formalize this wonderful and extremely generous donation.

The Raymond Wielgus collection of embellished guns has also been gifted to the CFM/BBHC. Thirty-six handguns engraved in a remarkable, revolutionary style, inlaid with gold, and fitted with carved elephant ivory grips, will be displayed adjacent to traditionally engraved firearms in the CFM Embellished Gallery. The resulting comparison/contrast should result in considerable interest and increased visitation by both art and firearms enthusiasts. The collection is currently a traveling exhibition to a series of prominent museums. It will return to Cody in mid-2012.

Easily the most spectacular of our latest loans is the Theodore Roosevelt A. H. Fox "F" Grade Side-by-Side 12 gauge shotgun. Roosevelt said of it, "No better gun has ever been made...and I really believe it is the most beautiful gun I have ever seen." It became his favorite shotgun during his famous African Safari in 1909-1910. It is now on display with Roosevelt's favorite rifle, his Winchester Model 1895 Lever Action Sporting Rifle. The shotgun is on loan to us from private collector Jason Roselius.

We have just placed on display a John Martz Conversion Luger Carbine. It is equipped with a snail-drum magazine and accompanied by a loading tool and a standard magazine. Martz conversions are known world-wide for their superb workmanship and functional accuracy. This one, which was manufactured as a World War I Artillery Luger, was donated to us by George C. Martin.

Included in the additional thirty-four long guns and eleven handguns that we have acquired recently are a Frank Wesson Two-Trigger Sporting Rifle (1st Type), gifted by Jay and Eth Carr; a superb Westley-Richards Side-by-Side 20 gauge shotgun, donated by Arnold G. Hampson; a splendid Winchester Model 42 Skeet Grade .410 shotgun, used to win major competitions, donated by Don Bice; an 1864 Burnside Carbine from Victor Nettles; and a great Winchester Model 1866 from Donald D. Chandler.

The last eighteen months have been a very busy, highly productive, and exciting time at the Cody Firearms Museum. We have truly been ON TARGET most of the time. Thanks to you, each and all, for your encouragement and support. ■

IN OUR "SPARE TIME"...

— By Jesi Bennett, Records Specialist —

The Records Office crew has been working for about three years on surveys of different Winchester models. We have completed or are wrapping up surveys of the 1866, 1887/1901, 1890, 1893/1897, 1903, 1905, 1906, 1907, Hotchkiss and Lee. Surveys aid us in

completing extended research, answering questions and sometimes even confirming or debunking legends.

Some of the fascinating tidbits we have learned from some of the surveys include:

Only three Model 1866s are listed with sights

One Model 1887/1901 is listed with 30-1/2 in. barrel

Seven Model 1890s are listed with special dimension stocks

Continued on page 4...

FROM THE MCCrackEN RESEARCH LIBRARY.....

This issue's library column is devoted to MS 34, the Schuyler, Hartley and Graham Collection (SHG) in the McCracken Research Library. Our aim is to address concerns about the lack of success patrons have had in obtaining information from this firearms collection.

Schuyler, Hartley and Graham was an important firearms trading house in New York City that grew to prominence during the Civil War. MS 34 is a collection of correspondence, business records and documents from the company that spans the decades from 1868 to 1963. With a descriptive finding guide that runs to 180 pages, SHG is one of the largest collections in the library. Researchers with prior appointments may inspect the archive in person. For an hourly fee the McCracken staff will conduct research in SHG on behalf of patrons at a distance.

Unfortunately, SHG remains a disappointment to owners or collectors who would obtain information about the provenance of a particular gun. Receipts and delivery orders typically reflect bulk sales and shipments and do not carry serial numbers. The 19th century materials consist largely of hand-written orders from the company's main showroom at 19 Maiden Lane in New York City to the Military Sales Depot, which was a warehouse operation. The order slips are dated, and they specify the model of firearm and the number of guns or cases required.

Within this fragmentary record of the daily business of a large company are telling details. We find an order

to supply a firearms dealer—in this case E.C. Meacham in St. Louis—with the “worst you have” of a particular model. But more typically the library staff is asked to trace a gun whose provenance leads in the other direction—right to Schuyler Hartley and Graham. For example Colt factory records reveal the exact date a particular revolver was shipped to the company. Unfortunately at this point the trail goes cold. We simply cannot trace an individual gun once it becomes part of the inventory.

In his recent book *Arming the West*, Herbert Houze presents evidence based on SHG about sales of firearms destined for the American West in the years after the Civil War. As an historical archive, SHG has produced valuable information about the guns actually carried by Americans during the frontier period. A series of sales ledgers or registers are the source of the information. As it happens, these records also contain the only known instance of serial numbers in SHG. The shipping records of Sharp's Model 1874 Sporting Rifles are accompanied by serial numbers, and these are published in their entirety in an appendix.

After much disappointed effort, we must conclude that firearms salesmen and warehouse managers were not thinking of collectors as they went about their daily rounds. The Schuyler, Hartley and Graham archive remains a fascinating window into the business practices of 19th century America and to the sale and dispersal of firearms after the Civil War. It seldom satisfies the needs of contemporary collectors. ■

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To View the Online Digital Collections please visit <http://www.bbhc.org/mccracken/collections/>

If you have any questions please contact Sean Campbell at photosales@bbhc.org or at 307.578.4082.

Cody Firearms Museum Records Office Fee Schedule (effective March 18, 2011)

- CFM Member Extended Research -- \$50/hour
(one hour minimum, call Jesi for scheduling)
 - Winchester Lever Action and Marlin letters
CFM members \$35
Non-Members \$60
 - Winchester Serial Number Application Date information
SNA dates will be included with all CFM member searches and letters when available.
Add SNA date to a letter -- \$15 (Non-Member only)
SNA only letters -- \$25 (Member)/\$40 (Non-Member)
 - Model 21 and L.C. Smith letters
CFM members \$50
Non-Members \$75
 - Model 21 Order Sheet Information
\$25 per letter or search unless previously purchased by same customer
 - CFM Member 5-Letter package -- \$150*
 - CFM Member 10-Letter package -- \$250*
- *Letter Package letters expire if membership lapses or is dropped.*

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE...

Life is complicated enough. So we're committed to making your relationship with the Buffalo Bill Historical Center just a little easier.

Traditionally, the BBHC has sent out separate appeals for membership and for annual giving. We have decided to simplify matters by consolidating the two programs. After all, our ability to entertain and educate visitors via collections, exhibits, educational programs, scholarly work and more depends upon

funds raised from both memberships and annual giving.

Starting this year, we will simply ask you to support the BBHC through a membership contribution. Besides eliminating confusion, our new approach will help us save money and be more environmentally friendly by cutting back on the number of mailings.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Development at 307.578.4008. ■

CODY FIREARMS MUSEUM RECORDS OFFICE 2011 WEEKEND SCHEDULE

(Hours listed are in Mountain time. Show dates and our weekend hours may change. Call to confirm.)

May 13-15 (8-5) CGCA Annual Gun Show—Denver, CO*	Aug. 20 (9-5) Big Reno Show—Reno, NV
June 11 (8-5) Great Eastern—Louisville, KY	Oct. 8 (7-3) West Springfield/WACA Show—MA
Dallas Arms Collectors Show—Dallas, TX	Nov. 12 (8-5) Big Reno/WACA Annual West Coast Show—NV
July 8-10 (8-5) WACA/WCA Show—Cody, WY (w/SCA)*	Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show—Tulsa, OK
July 30 (8-4) MVACA Annual Show—Kansas City, MO	

ANYONE calling from these shows will receive free serial number searches. Offer good only on dates and times above.

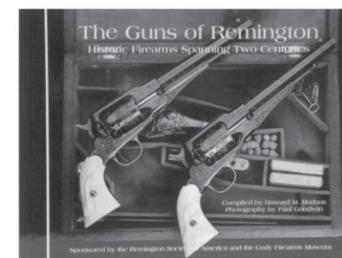
Members can earn free letters by distributing flyers at the above shows. Contact Jesi at the Records Office for more information.

*Cody Firearms Museum will have a table at these shows. Attendance at other shows is dependent on funding. Contact Warren Newman at 307.578.4092 or warren@bbhc.org if you would like to help the CFM Records Office staff attend one of these shows.

Celebrate Spring with outdoor reading!

Check out the new lower prices on many firearms titles. (No further discounts apply.)

Guns of Remington
was \$99.95



The Paterson Colt Book

was \$125

The Fine Colts of Dr. J.A. Murphy

was \$100

Peacemakers was \$65

OTHER GREAT TITLES AVAILABLE

Colt Single Action was \$65

Ruger and His Guns was \$65

Winchester: An American Legend

was \$65

Steel Canvas was \$65

MUSEUM
SELECTIONS

720 Sheridan Avenue | Toll Free: 800.533.3838 | Cody, Wyoming 82414

All books
\$29.95