



Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Windsor Ct. 06095

Web Site: WWW.YCGG.ORG

2010 Officers:

President: Ed Tytor
Vice President: Carl Earn
Treasurer: M. Peter Kuck
Secretary: Gerd Groenewold

BI-Monthly NEWSLETTER

Next Meetings: September 1, & October 6, 2010
The Elks Lodge, 130 Deerfield Street
Windsor, Connecticut.

President's Message

Reminder: Please be sure to let us know if you move or change your E-Mail address.

Since The Gun Control Act of 1968 became law we as hunters, shooters and collectors have been constantly on the defensive with legislative activities of our opponents designed to chip away at, restrict or eliminate the Individual's Right guaranteed by The Second Amendment. This battle has been going on for 42 + years and will likely never abate. We The People must be knowledgeable concerning legislative activities within The State and at The National level. Our defense of the Second Amendment will never abate. The NRA is at the forefront on our collective behalf. Within the September Edition of the American Rifleman, NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox has written an article concerning the "NRA, Campaign Finance Bills and the Second Amendment". The article provides insight as to the way the game is played, ***and won*** within the beltway. ***Ed Tytor***

The YCGG Fall Gun Show is November 20 and 21, 2010. If you are planning to have a table for items to sell or display I recommend you send in your Table Application and a check (\$50.00 per table) to insure your space will be available. ***Table Application Forms*** are available by calling our Show Chairman, Monte Ferrari at 860-986-9665 or Carl Earn at 860-529-6609.

Displays at the YCGG August Meeting.

Paul Bosco displayed a United States Coast Guard identified Cal 45. 1911A1 Competition Pistol. This pistol was an accurate, performance built weapon used by the USCG participants at Camp Perry. Unfortunately after the competition at Camp Perry the majority of the U.S.C.G. 1911A1s were turned over to the U.S. Navy and later destroyed.

Up Coming Shows: (That are a little closer to home base)

September 4 & 5, 2010 - **Concord, New Hampshire** at the Everett Ice Arena.
September 11-12, 2010 - **Middletown, New York** at the Orange County Fairgrounds
239 Wisner Avenue, Middletown, NY.
September 25-26, 2010 - **Marlboro, Massachusetts**. At the Royal Plaza Trade Center.
October 9-10, 2010 - **12th Annual Hartford Antique Firearms Show at the Expo Center
in Hartford, CT.**
October 23-24, 2010 - **Wallingford, Connecticut**. at the Mountain Ridge Event Center.
October 30,31, 2010 - **Fitchburg, Massachusetts** at the Royal Plaza Trade Center.

We encourage Guild Members to send us articles of interest. This month we thank Guild Member Carl Earn for provided us with an article on Simeon North.

Simeon North Sr. was Born in 1765 and died in 1851 at the ripe old age of 86. In his early years he lived in the north end of the village of Berlin, CT. At the time this area in Berlin was known as the Beckley Quarter. He began life as a farmer. An individual in Berlin by the name of Elias Beckley had a gun shop there. It is likely this is where he first had contact with the gun making trade. At age 21 Simeon North Sr. married his first wife, Lucy Savage. They had 8 children, 5 sons and 3 daughters. She died in 1811. He later married Lydia Huntington and they had one daughter.

Four of his five sons eventually worked with him at his pistol factory. His fifth son, Simeon North Jr. graduated from Yale, became a professor at and later President of Hamilton College. Simeon North Jr. was his only son that had no involvement with his father's gun manufacturing business.

Simeon North, Sr. was in the manufacturing business for 53 years. He first manufactured scythes and other farm implements selling them one at a time locally. He became known as "Colonel North" because he was elected Lt. Col. of the 6th CT. Regiment in 1811.

One of his sisters married a clock maker by the name of Elisha Cheney (2nd cousin to the Manchester Silk Mill Cheney Family) Together they manufactured their first pistols. These were patterned after the French Model of 1777. One original example recently sold at auction for \$65,000. The first U.S. Armory Muskets produced were copies of the French Pattern of 1768. French arms were considered state of the art at that time.

He operated his (first) gun factory out of a building located on Spruce Brook in East Berlin, CT. His shop was close to his brother in law, Elisha Cheney's clock shop also on Spruce Brook. His first Government Contract in 1799 was for 500 horse pistols (at age 34) His second Government Contract for an additional 1500 pistols was signed in 1800. In 1808 he put an addition on the Spruce Brook gun factory and at that time period approximately 40-50 people worked there. He later received another Government Contract to produce the Navy Pistol of 1808. Original Simeon North pistols are highly collectable. His early pistols are marked with the Berlin, CT. address. In approximately 1813 Simeon North Sr. moved his pistol manufacturing business into a larger facility in Middletown, CT. His son, Ruben stayed on at the Spruce Brook factory. There they continued to manufacture pistol parts used in the later Government Contract Pistols with the Middletown CT address. Their Government Contract of 1813 specifically

called for pistols to have interchangeable parts. This was the first U.S. Government Contract to specify that the guns be made of fully interchangeable parts. This was unique at this point in time. All of the individual gun parts required accurate and consistent repetition in their manufacturing process. This work was performed by skilled workmen still using (mostly) hand tools. Obviously the men were very proficient in their trade. Simeon North has been credited with the invention of the milling machine.

The principle of interchangeable parts was not new at this point in time. The principle of interchangeable parts was first applied by an Englishman, Sir Samuel Bentham. He made woodworking and metal working machines in the 1700's. Ref: Bishops History of Manufacturing. Vol. I Page 517.

Simeon North and a number of other capable arms manufacturers operated businesses within Middletown and Connecticut's arms making industry played an important part in the American Industrial Revolution. Middletown was in competition (in the number of entities involved) with the arms making industry in Hartford, New Haven and Norwich.

The following individuals and/or companies conducted firearms or firearms related manufacturing in Middletown, Connecticut. This list includes Simeon North, North & Savage, North & Couch, The Savage Revolving Firearms Company, Henry Aston & Ira Johnson, R. Johnson, R & J.D. Johnson, Nathan Starr, Peter and William Ashton, C.R. Also, The Sage Ammunition Works, The manufacturing location of the Ruben Ellis Rifle, The Middletown Specialty and Firearms Company and the first manufacture of the Fiala pistol, Oliver Bidwell and the Pratt Alarm Gun. (and possibly others I have not yet uncovered...)

Question: Has anyone seen an old scythe or farm tool with the name S. North or S.N. stamped on it? If so let me know so I can photograph it..