

VERY LIGHT

Very Light Magazine is a magazine of The Antique & Historical Arms Collectors Guild of Victoria, Inc

No 132 April 2023

Vale Clyde Barden

It is with sadness we announce the death of Clyde Barden who passed away on the 1st of April.

Clyde was a founder member of the Guild in 1963; his Guild membership number being 630003. Over his lifetime Clyde assembled a notable collection of fine English antique firearms and he was, up until last year, a regular presenter of displays of these at our Monday night meetings. He served on the committee for many years and was a lifelong supporter of the Guild and our activities.

An extended tribute to Clyde will be published in the August edition of our journal *Caps & Flints*

**Clyde's funeral will be on Wednesday 12 April at Wattle Park Chalet
1012 Riversdale Rd, Surrey Hills, VIC at 11am.**

2023 Marks The 60th Anniversary of the Guild's Founding

The Guild was founded by a small group of antique arms collector in 1963. Since then we have sought to advance the interests of antique and historical arms collectors and to provide regular meetings where members can meet and share their interests.

We hope that in this year of our 60th birthday our members will take the effort to help recreate the golden days of Monday Night displays when members would present displays and bring items for sale.

Attendance and Participation in Monday Night Meetings

The committee has made all meetings a Buy and Sell night. We want members to bring along items for sale which can include exempt firearms i.e. pre-1900 genuine antiques like single shot percussion pistols, flintlocks etc. and other types of exempt firearms such as longarms taking obsolete ammunition.

It would also be helpful if we could have some volunteers to help set up the hall before our normal start time of 7.00 PM.

Monday Meetings 2023

The dates for the Guild Monday Meetings in 2023 are April 24, May 29, June 26, July 31, August 28 (AGM), September 25, October 30 and November 27.

Caps & Flints

Calling Contributors to *Caps & Flints*

“By now, everyone will have received their new journal, *Caps & Flints Vol 7*. The Editor is currently looking for articles to add to the next *Caps & Flints* and would appreciate hearing from you. While it is great to have international contributors to the Journal, it would be good to add some more local articles from our members. This also serves to provide a better balance of the various collecting interests of you the members. Remember if it has not been written then I cannot print it.

Have you obtained an interesting item in your collection which you have researched? Have you developed an interest in a specific area of historic firearms or edged weapons? These stories can be developed into an article of merit for submission to *Caps & Flints*. Sharing of your knowledge in an article can lead to better understanding of your passion by people interested in different disciplines.

It takes considerable time to get an article ready for publication. Likewise, it takes a while to put together the next edition of *Caps & Flints*. It would be great to broaden the scope of the Journal to include articles from other areas of interest, particularly edged weapons and both military and sporting firearms.

If you are thinking that your particular field of interest in any particular Journal is under-represented, you are welcome to think that and you are equally welcome to do something about it by submitting an article. If you consider that you have a worthwhile topic but lack some aspect to complete an article, talk it over with your colleagues. In most cases the team approach makes for a worthwhile article.

Some guidelines for intending authors will be added to the Guild’s website www.armscollectorsguild.com soon. This may assist intending authors in their article preparation. These will include tips for better photography as well as identifying the format for submitting your article.”

Fred Bienvenu: Editor, *Caps & Flints*

Please forward articles, advertising or enquiries to the Editor *Caps & Flints* by email to cupfire1@ozemail.com.au or by mail to PO Box 2976, Cheltenham, 3192, or contact the Guild Secretary on (03) 9584 2907.

Advertising in *Caps & Flints*

If you would like to place an advert in an issue of the Journal please contact the Guild Secretary indicating what size and position you wish. This will facilitate and aid the editor in formatting the journal. Suitable **final versions** of your adverts should be submitted as a PDF

or JPG format in the required size. The sizes and charges currently available are - **Full Page \$500; Half Page \$350; Third Page \$250; Quarter Page \$200.**

Licence Renewals and PTAs

Members are requested to submit licence renewals, licence applications and Permits to Acquire requiring the signature of a Nominated Officer to the Guild at PO Box 2976 Cheltenham, 3192, or by email to cupfire1@ozemail.com.au

Please remember to enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that we may forward them to the required destination. Mail costs are increasing, and we appreciate members' cooperation in this matter.

Alternatively members may scan and send by email the page that requires a Nominated Officer's signature and this will be signed and returned by email to the member.

The Secretary can be contacted on (03) 9584 2907 or by email at cupfire1@ozemail.com.au

New Books

***Classic Rifles in Australia* – reprint now available**

John Corcoran and Fred Bienvenu have just received the shipment of their reprinted book, *Classic Rifles in Australia*. If you would like to read a little more about this high quality volume it was reviewed in *Caps & Flints* in August 2021 (Number 4). Further information is available on the Buffalo Creek Press website , www.buffalocreekpress.com.au

Enquiries can be addressed to John at margandon@bigpond.com

or Fred at fred@bienvenu.id.au

Forthcoming Book on Collier

Headstamp Publishing is excited to announce the fourth in our flagship series of books, *Clockwork Basilisk: The Early Revolvers of Elisha Collier & Artemas Wheeler*, authored by Ben E. Nicholson. The book is due for publication next year follow this link for details.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/headstamp/clockwork-basilisk/description>

New Standard Directory of Firearms Marks

140 pages, proofs and marks from 30 plus countries over 1000 diagrams, more than 200 original photographs and previously unpublished content. Original pictures are from guns in the Rockwood Collection (<https://www.rockwoodcollection.net.au>) and other Australian Collections.

Due late December: **Contact Paul Fowkes** 0427 741 148

British Ordnance Muskets of the 1830s and 1840s
George Lovell's Legacy

By Adrian Roads

with contributions from De Witt Bailey

We are pleased to advise that this long anticipated book is finally available. It is a “must” have” reference work for any collector, researcher, cataloguer or dealer of Ordnance firearms and bayonets of this period. Reading from the first chapter to the last readers will experience an engaging history of the development, influences and manufacture of percussion muskets. It has also been formatted specifically as an easy-to-use reference for any relevant Ordnance musket or bayonet that a collector or researcher may hold. It will come as a surprise to many just how inaccurately muskets of this era have been covered to date and how much has been “glossed over”, especially when it comes to the effects of the “devastating fire” at the Tower in late 1841.

The book, comprising 390 pages, 28 chapters and profusely illustrated in full colour, deliberately overlaps into territory encompassed by Dr. Christopher Roads' well known standard reference *British Soldiers Firearm - from smoothbore to smallbore 1850-1864*. As well as being a proof-reader and contributor, Dr Roads generously provided his personal research material which has added immeasurably to this book.

Included are numerous condensed appendices of original material, the vast majority of which have been contributed by renowned author De Witt Bailey, transcribed during his many years researching in Ordnance archives. The interpretation of this important material has underpinned many chapters in this book and has been deliberately provided in full as a treasure trove of further research material seldom made available that will, in many cases, enable the examiner of a relevant musket to learn a great deal more about any particular example of interest.

Due to the importance and relevance of the nature and depth of the subject matter the Royal Armouries, as well as facilitating in-depth research of collection objects and providing many of the studio quality photographs within, have undertaken the publication and distribution of this book to ensure worldwide distribution.

Website address: <https://shop.royalarmouries.org/products/britishordnancemuskets1830s-1840s-george-lovells-legacy>

ISBN 9781913013424; Size 297x210mm portrait; 390 pages; hardback.

British Ordnance Muskets of the 1830s and 1840s

GEORGE LOVELL'S LEGACY



*By Adrian Roads with
contributions from De Witt Bailey*

CONTENTS

Foreword by Dr Christopher H. Roads	vii
Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction	1
PART 1 'PRE-PATTERN' MUSKETS	
1. Early Percussion Musket Experiments	7
2. Converted India Pattern Percussion Muskets	13
3. India Pattern "Type 3" Muskets	26
4. Converted New Land Pattern Percussion Muskets	35
PART 2 INFANTRY MUSKETS	
5. Pattern 1838 Musket – Foot Guards	41
6. Pattern 1839 Musket – Line Regiments	59
7. Fire at the Tower of London	76
8. Pattern 1842 Musket – Line Regiments	83
PART 3 EXTRA SERVICE MUSKETS	
9. Pattern 1843 Enrolled Pensioners Musket	97
10. Pattern 1844 Coast Guard Musket	108
11. Pattern 1845 Extra Service Musket	114
PART 4 SERJEANT'S MUSKETS	
12. Pattern 1840 Serjeant's Musket	131
13. Pattern 1843 Serjeant's Musket	138
14. Pattern 1845 Serjeant's Extra Service Musket	144
PART 5 SEA SERVICE MUSKETS	
15. Pattern 1837 Sea Service Musket	155
16. Altered Pattern 1842 Rifled Musket – Marines	172
17. Altered Pattern 1842 Sea Service Rifled Musket	183

PART 6 ORDNANCE MUSKETS

18. Pattern 1841 Sappers & Miners Musket	199
19. Pattern 1843 Sappers & Miners Musket	205
20. Pattern 1843 Royal Artillery Musket	214

PART 7 GENERAL

21. Bayonets	223
22. Implements	253
23. Ammunition	260
24. Regimental Markings	267
25. Ordnance Markings	273
26. Arms Shortages	294
27. George W. Lovell – A Biography in Brief	298
28. Reuse of Resources	301

APPENDICES

A – India Pattern Musket – Refurbishment	305
B – India Pattern Musket – Type 3 – Production	306
C – Pattern 1838 Musket – Production	308
D – Pattern 1838 Musket – Surviving Examples	312
E – Pattern 1839 Musket – 1st Contract	316
F – Pattern 1839 Musket – Production	318
G – Pattern 1839 Musket – Issue	328
H – Pattern 1842 Musket – Production	330
I – Pattern 1842 Musket – Issue	343
J – Pattern 1843 Musket (Flintlock) – Production	344
K – Pattern 1845 Extra Service Musket – Production	346
L – Patterns 1840 & 1843 Serjeant's Musket – Production	351
M – Patterns 1840 & 1843 Serjeant's Musket – Issue	356
N – Pattern 1837 Sea Service Muskets – Production	358
O – Pattern 1841 & 1843 Sappers & Miners Musket – Production	365
P – Pattern 1843 Royal Artillery Musket – Production	368
Q – Bayonets 1839 to 1844 – Production	372
R – Some Regiments with Flintlock Muskets at 4 January 1843	374
S – Regiments Issued Percussion Muskets by 2 November 1844	375
Bibliography	377
Index	381