

UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

Newsletter of the Utah Gun Collectors Association

February 2016

UGCA SUPPORT FOR GUN GROUPS!

As a "not for profit" organization UGCA makes donations to help gun related groups. Our 2015 donations went to:

Ogden Union Station (Browning Firearms Museum)- \$1,500

Fort Douglas Military Museum, Salt Lake City- \$1,500

NRA-ILA (Institute for Legislative Action)- \$1,000

Second Amendment Foundation- \$1,000

We also support all Utah Friends of NRA events

THE ORIGINAL & ONLY OGDEN

ANTIQUE & MODERN COLLECTORS & SHOOTERS

GUN SHOW!

Superb Exhibits ★ Sales ★ Trades

All Kinds of Guns ★ Swords ★ Knives ★ Ammo

Military ★ Western ★ Indian Artifacts

Knowlegable Experts ★ Informal Appraisals

Collectibles ★ War Memorabilia ★ And More!

** Private sellers and FFL Dealers*

March 5-6, 2016

WEBER COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

1000 NORTH 1200 WEST

OGDEN, UTAH

EAST OF I-15, EXIT 346

**220
TABLES!**

SATURDAY 9:00 TO 5:00

SUNDAY 9:00 TO 4:00

**BEST
UTAH
SHOW!**

FREE Door prizes! ★ FREE Parking!

Just \$5* per Adult for BOTH Days!
Children 12 and Under FREE with Adult

UGCA Members and Family Admitted FREE!

** With discount coupon available at Utah's better gun stores.
Only \$6 without Coupon.*

January Living History- Mexican Punitive Expedition 1916-2016

Following a raid on Columbus, New Mexico by Mexican bandito General Pancho Villa, U.S. military forces set out to capture Villa and destroy his forces. For the next year, the U.S. military engaged in new styles of warfare, which proved to be valuable preparation for our entry into World War I.

The Utah National Guard was one of many Guard or reserve forces mobilized to pursue Villa, and for the first time Army aircraft were used for spotting and attack missions. Trucks, automobiles and motorcycles provided some of the logistics support. John M. Browning's Model 1911 .45 caliber pistol was first used in combat. A few temperamental machine guns were used. Although Pancho Villa escaped capture, the expedition was great training and more or less secured the Mexican border for a few years.

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Gun Show Visits by BATFE!

BATFE agents are making undercover visits to gun shows:
“[Florida] BATF office was doing random MULTIPLE sting operations on NON-FFL table holders. A felon type guy would approach a table with a pistol for sale and ask if the table holder had “an unregistered pistol for sale, or was the pistol traceable?” If asked verbally the 4473 questions he would give all the PROPER answers. Sometimes he would be told to move on, other times he was sold the gun. Following a sale another BATF Agent would come in and speak to the table holder and tell him he had sold a pistol ‘to a felon who they had been watching.’ The BATF Agent said they were doing this to make sure the non-FFL Dealers were following the rules and get the word around to “follow the rules.”

Know the Laws and Obey all federal state and local laws!



The Utah Shooting Sports Council was busy educating gun owners at our January show.

Browning Gun Club at Ogden Union Station!

March 8th, April 12th, May 10th

EVERYONE is invited to FREE monthly Browning Gun Club meeting at the Union Station Museum at 25th & Wall Street in Ogden. They meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 AM in the meeting room upstairs by the gun museum and last about an hour.



**NEW MEMBERS –
WELCOME TO THOSE WHO HAVE
JOINED IN RECENT MONTHS!**

Scott C.
Richard H.
Mark J.
John M.

John S.
Caleb W.
Dennis W.



UGCA Board of Directors

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The UGCA Board meets on the Fourth Tuesday of each month, except June and July, usually at S.E.L.L. Antiques, 1488 South State Street in Salt Lake City starting at 7:00 PM. Members are welcome to attend. Please contact the Secretary to confirm date, time and location.

Editor & Webmaster- John S.
Assistant Editor- Gaylord S.

UTAH GUN COLLECTOR

Your articles and photos are needed for the Newsletter, and greatly appreciated.
Please submit notes, stories or photos to the editor

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**Hope Bisbing
Award for
Excellence
Winner!**

SOME OF THE GREAT DISPLAYS!



Colt Second Generation Single Action Revolvers- by Jimmy C.

This fantastic new display earned the prestigious Hope Bisbing Award for Excellence! There are a wide variety of different variations to pursue in this collecting niche and just about all of them are here, in superb condition, along with great information to share with both novice and advanced collectors, and the general public.



Savage Lever Action Rifles - by David R. earned the 1st Place Award

This wonderful and comprehensive display explains the evolution of the Savage lever action rifle from the very earliest example through the 100+ year history of the very popular Model 1899. David's book on the subject should be available in March.

**People's Choice
Winner! -
Michael A's
"Examples of Converted
Civil War Muskets"**

also won the 2nd Place
Award!



Arthur Savage's Earliest Rifles- By David R.

This is based on research for David's forthcoming book: "A collector's Guide to The Savage 99 Rifle and It's Predecessors the Model 1895 and Model 1899".



Arthur W. Savage was born in Jamaica in 1857 to parents of British citizenship. His Father was a teacher of relatively modest means. Arthur was educated as a missionary and an artist in England and the U. S.

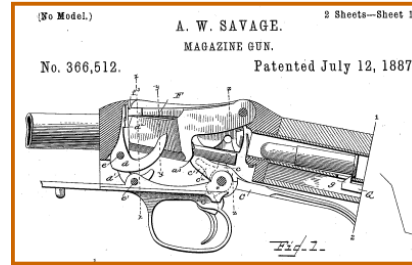
He had an adventuresome spirit and went to Australia when he was seventeen. He lived with the Aborigines for a time after failing in his attempts at gold and opal mining. He had several other occupations over the next few years. By 1879 he had met and married Annie Bryant. He later worked on a sheep ranch in Australia possibly as manager. He and Annie had four children by the time they left Australia for England in 1884. They then went to Jamaica in 1885 where he managed a banana plantation

In 1883 the British government had announced that it wanted a repeating rifle built on the single shot Martini action then in use by the British military. There is no record that Arthur Savage had shown any mechanical aptitude prior to this. However, he started working on this idea possibly before he left Jamaica in 1886 for New York to work for Munn & Company, a publisher of scientific papers, patents and magazines. His employment at Munn seemed to spark his creative genius. He patented a number of other mechanical devices unrelated to firearms over the following years.

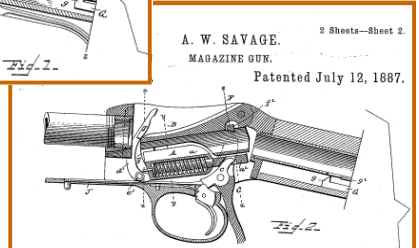
He patented and built his first Martini-based rifle by 1887. It was chambered in 45-70 Government and featured a pivoting breechblock. Cartridges were fed from a tubular magazine in the buttstock.



Savage's First Martini based Rifle

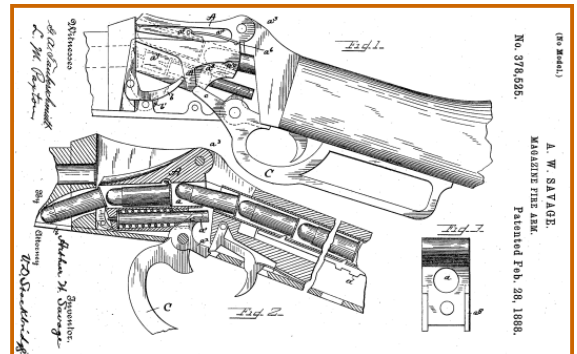


Left- the only surviving example of Savage's first rifle.



Savage's first (1887) lever action rifle, a Martini-based repeater, breech closed and open.

The British didn't adopt Savage's rifle but this didn't discourage him. He patented two more variations of the Martini-based repeater. The first one, patent number 378525 in 1888 still used the tubular magazine in the buttstock but the lever pivoted in front of the trigger requiring a major redesign of the internals.



Savage's Second Martini based Rifle

The only example from the Savage Factory collection:

Arthur Savage's third attempt at a Martini-based repeater, in 1891, featured a four round "single stack" magazine in the receiver requiring another major redesign of the action. It continued with the lever that pivoted in front of the trigger.

[Continued on page 7]

More award winners!

Right- **A Few German Mausers from World War I—by Gus B.**— featured the wide variety of arms Made by Mauser during WW1. Although the name is synonymous with the German infantry rifles, they also made several different handguns, and also the world's first Anti-Tank guns the 13.2mm (.52 caliber) single shot bolt action sometimes called the Tank Gewehr or T-Gewehr. These massive beasts are very scarce and visually quite impressive! However, they are reportedly brutally abusive to the person firing one!

Below— **Springfield Armory: The Legendary Trapdoor to the Iconic Garand 1866-1963—by George F.**

This outstanding display featured examples showing the evolution of U.S. military long arms made at Springfield Armory, basically from the Indian Wars to Vietnam. The superb condition and impressive information provided in the signage made this a most informative display for the public and historians. We are grateful to George for sharing this fine collection.



The Utah Rifle & Pistol Team use these "space guns:" and more traditional M1 Garand and AR-15 rifles in competitive target shooting at the National Championship level.

UGCA CLASSIFIED ADS:

(free to members....)

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every day of the year!



LIVING HISTORY Participants demonstrated the arms and equipment of military personnel both the good guys (and gals) and the bad guys. Clockwise from the left, Gus B.— WW1 German Infantry; Michael A.— Civil War “Louisiana Tiger”; Alyse A.— Polish resistance— Warsaw Uprising; Anna K.— WW1 Women’s Air Service Pilot; Aaron B.— WW2 German Panzer crewman; Mo S.— WW2 German Stalingrad rifleman; Jonathan E.— WW2 German Kriegsmarine sailor; and Ben J.— WW2 German 78th Division Officer, with his fantastically restored WW2 German military BMW motorcycle, part of a great display.

GREAT STUFF FOR SALE:

New guns, old guns, ammo, cowboy guns, BIG handguns, rifles



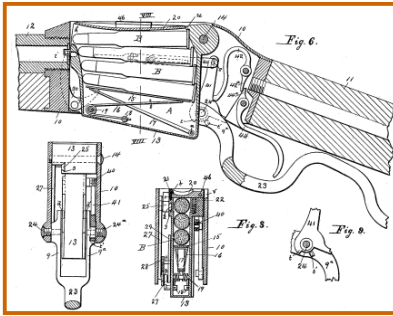
Old Rifles and other items from our TV star, UGCA member Joe Ashman.



Even a harpoon gun for whaling ships along with loads of other neat collector stuff!



Early Savage Rifles (continued from page 4)



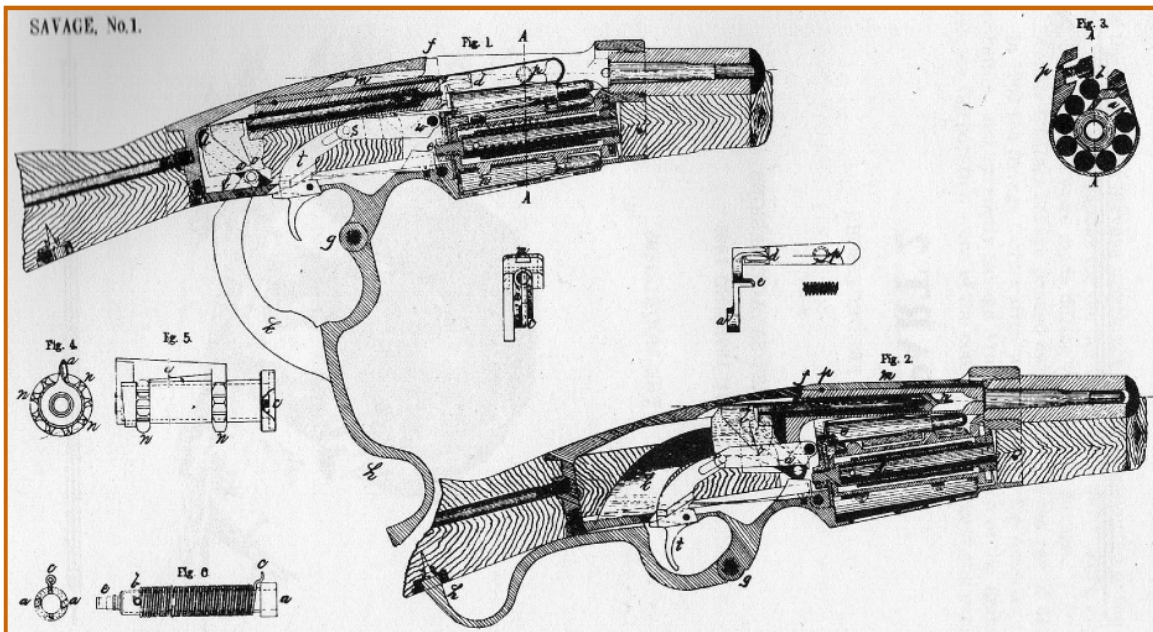
Patent drawing showing the magazine of Savage's third Martini-based repeater. The actuating mechanism is contained in a narrow space on the left side of the receiver.

It is generally assumed that this design was too complicated and probably too fragile to be put into production. There are no known examples of this rifle. It's interesting that the stock on this rifle was held to the action by a longitudinal bolt. This was a feature on all subsequent Savage lever action rifles.

Savage had moved to Utica, N.Y., to run the decrepit Utica Belt Line Railroad by 1891. He reportedly sold

his Martini-based patents to Hartley and Graham but no examples of these rifles were built by them. While getting the railroad on its feet Savage worked on an entirely new rifle design in his spare time. The result was the 1892 patent rifle shown below.

This military-style musket featured a tilting breech block and utilized an eight round rotary magazine similar to the Mannlicher-Schoenauer bolt action rifle. A rear view of the magazine is shown in the patent drawing at the left. In order to accommodate the eight round magazine the receiver protruded below a straight line projected from the forearm to the lever boss. The elimination of this bulge is what helped give the later production models their sleek appearance. This was accomplished by reducing the magazine capacity. The action was much simpler than the earlier Martini-based rifles and continued with only minor modifications for the duration of Savage lever action rifle production.



Arthur Savage's 1892 first rotary magazine design patent and Savage Factory example.



Savage 1892 Trials Rifle

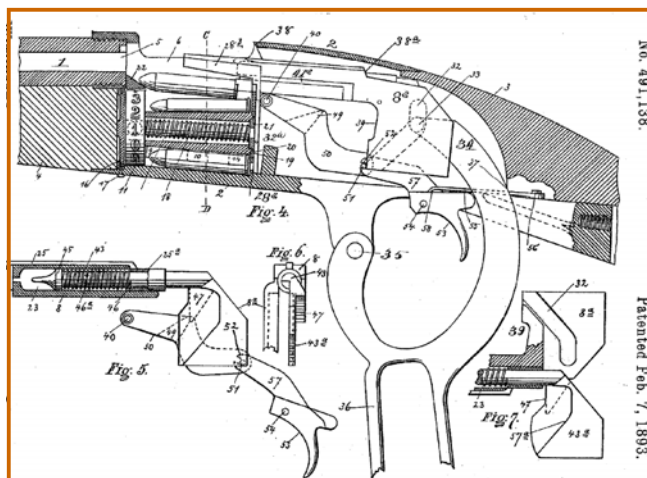
Two of these muskets were entered into the U.S. military rifle trials in 1892 but were beat out by the Krag-Jorgensen rifle. The Krag's magazine was easier to load and its bolt was easier to operate in the prone position than the Savage. This rifle had a round counter on the left forward side of the receiver as specified in the Army's requirements. The Krag didn't have a round counter. The round counter was continued on most Savage lever action rifles into the 1980's. These two rifles were probably built for Arthur Savage by Colt.

(continued on next page)

Early Savage Rifles (continued from previous page)

Savage then refined his 1892 design to a much smaller five-shot rotary magazine rifle that was patented in 1893. See Patent 491138 at right, shown with the lever open and the rotary cartridge counter at the front of the magazine.

The 1893 design had a closed-loop lever and was designed for a small pistol type cartridge (this rifle is believed to be chambered in 32-20). It had a checkered stock and sporting-type forearm and was obviously intended for the civilian market. The Savage factory prototype 1893 rifle below is unmarked.



Savage 1893 Rifle

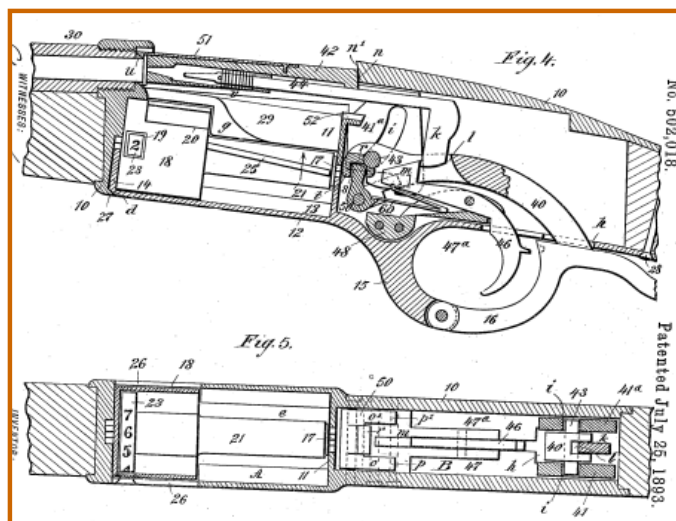
Arthur Savage further refined this design to include improvements covered by his July 25, 1893 patent 502018 (see copy below right). At that point he felt that he had developed a viable production rifle, now known as the Model 1895.

It had a larger receiver than the 1893 prototype (but smaller than the 1892) and fired a modern smokeless powder rimmed cartridge designed by Arthur Savage., called the .303 Savage (not to be confused with the .303 British). It was similar to Winchester's 30-30 cartridge. In my opinion Savage should have also produced a smaller rifle based on the 1893 prototype to compete with Winchester's Model 1892 and Marlin's Model 1894.

Savage lacked the facilities to produce this rifle and contracted with Marlin to produce the rifle. About 5000 were produced. The serial numbers range from about 3000 to a little over 8000. See Figure 15 for Patent number 502,018, July 25, 1893.

The 1895 was very successful and resulted in Savage being able to obtain funding to open his own factory in Utica in late 1898.

This subject will be covered in more detail in Chapter One of my upcoming book *"A collector's Guide to The Savage 99 Rifle and It's Predecessors the Model 1895 and Model 1899"*. David Royal.



Savage Model 1895 Production Rifle

Randy Roberts, 1946-2016 "Nail 38"

LT COL Randall Allen Roberts, passed away January 1, 2016 at age 70. Randy retired from the Air Force in 1988 after 20 years, with more than 6500 hours as a pilot. His most memorable assignment was as a Forward Air Controller (FAC) in Vietnam, call sign "Nail 38" which was one of the most dangerous jobs in the Air Force. They flew the OV-10 "Bronco" (like the one in Hill Aerospace Museum, with Randy's name as pilot) the directing close air support for ground forces, and his unit lost 40% of its pilots.



Randy loved a variety of different guns, from modern "black rifles" to high quality single shot black powder hunting rifles. He was always enthusiastic about participating in our shows, and shared his boisterous camaraderie. Here is a story some of us never heard about his exploits.

So, there I was in 1968 as a brand new 2nd LT Intelligence Officer at Bien Hoa AFB in Vietnam still hoping to get into pilot training someday.

Word came down that the Air Rescue Service was going to demonstrate the Fulton "Skyhook" Recovery System and needed a volunteer to be the "dummy" to be picked-up. This seemed like a great opportunity for me to do two things at once. First, to show the fighter pilots that I had what it took to put my fanny on the line like they did, and second, to get an Air Medal, which was next to impossible if not actually flying. As luck would have it, a Sergeant on base also volunteered and I lost the flip of the coin to see who would get picked-up. What a bummer! Two days before the demonstration was to take place, guess who was in the base hospital with a severe case of the flu? My boss called and said "you're now the dummy". That's the first and only time that my boss called me a "dummy" and I was overjoyed!

The afternoon of the day before the demonstration, the Air Rescue C-130 arrived and I was



asked to attend the briefing for the guy who was going to be "picked-up". The briefing was just a brief overview as to what was to take place. I was informed that I would be just like a downed crew-member and would have to read the directions that would be dropped with the recovery kit. It was interesting trying to get some sleep that night! The next morning at 1000hrs I was taken to the other side of the base where the whole wing was assembled to watch the show. The C-130 dropped the recovery kit with the Air Rescue coordinator briefing all-present as to what was taking place.

When the kit hit the ground I was told to get over there and get with the program. After releasing the parachute from the kit, I got out the instructions and proceeded from there. The recovery "suit" I put on was designed for all geographical locations, including the North and South Poles. It became a contest to see if I could deploy the system and get recovered before I died of heat exhaustion.

To make a long story short, the real work is the deployment and

[Continued next page]



Randy Roberts- (continued from previous page)

and filling-up of the balloon and the subsequent securing of the balloon to the recovery suit without it "getting away" and sitting down wondering at that point just what the heck I had gotten myself into!

It might be helpful at this point to mention that the deployment of a very large balloon 1500 feet into the air that does not look anything like any bird found on earth tends to alert any of the enemy that are looking for you of a possible location (like, here I am!!).

The actual "pick-up" is smooth and so quick that you don't have any time to analyze what is really going on. You next find yourself at 1500 feet in the air and going 150MPH and praying to God that the rope doesn't snap (this all happens in less than 3 seconds!). It took just 6 minutes to winch me into the back end of the C-130, but it seemed like a lot longer than that!

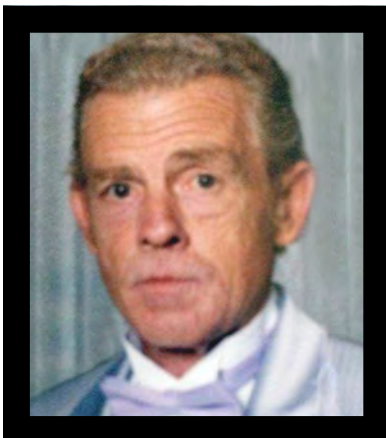


After that, I was never "just a lowly 2LT, non-rated type" because, I had proved myself to the pilots and that really counted for something to me at that time. Two years later, I finally got approved for flight school. Randall A. Roberts, LTCOL, USAF, RET.

[Slightly edited from version in the Forward Air Controllers Association News, January 2012, http://www.fac-assoc.org/newsletter/January_12.pdf]



Call TODAY
to join, renew, or upgrade your
NRA membership!
Call Chuck at xxx-xxx-xxxx



In Memorium

Robert Sprenkle, 1938-2015

Bob Sprenkle of Layton passed away November 10, 2015.

Born in York, PA, he served in the US Air Force for 23 years, and retired in April, 1980. He loved the outdoors, spending time hunting and fishing. He was a long time UGCA member and well liked by all. He provided a valuable service to shooters and collectors with replica black powder arms and supplies. His wife, Elisabeth Sprenkle and son, John Sprenkle may continue to engage in that business. Bob will be missed.