



February, 2018

Mountain Man Monthly

The Authorized Publication of the
Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Inc.

The Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. was chartered in 1969 by a group of men and women interested in their heritage and dedicated to preserving and promoting the sport of muzzle loading and buckskinning. CSML is a family oriented club that holds a broad range of functions such as camp outs, potluck dinners, and black powder shoots. CSML is affiliated with the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and the National Rifle Association.

Views and opinions contained within articles submitted to the Mountain Man Monthly are not necessarily those of the editor or CSML. The editor reserves the right not to publish any article submitted but encourages articles on any subject regarding shooting sports and subjects related to the fur trade era.

**Regular Club Meeting & White
Elephant Gift Exchange
March 1; 7:00 p.m.**

**NO Paper Shoot - March 4
Club Primitive Shoot - March 18
(weather permitting)**

**CSMLA Winter Convention
March 3
Ft. Collins**

Saying Goodbye.....

NO Paper Shoot - April 1

President

Joy Hicks

Vice President

Robert McCune

Treasurer

Gwen Blanchard

Secretary

Membership Chairman

Ted Beaupre

Range Officer

Ted Beaupre

Assistant Range Officer

Jock Harmon

Primitive Exec.

Doug "Moose Milk" Davis

Assistant Primitive Exec.

Tony "Tenderfeet" Hecker

Cannon Master

Richard "Singe" Stites

Mountain Man Monthly Editor

Doreen Webb

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	March 1, 7:00 p.m.	Come see what happens!!!
CSMLA Winter Convention	Elks Lodge Ft. Collins	March 3	all day; one-day event & banquet; election of officers
Club Paper Shoot	CANCELLED	March 4	CANCELLED - - NO SHOOT
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	TIME BEGINS	MARCH 11	CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR!!!!
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 18	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	CANCELLED	April 1	CANCELLED - - NO SHOOT
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	April 5, 7:00 p.m.	Come see what happens!!!
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 15	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Squirrel Shoot	Masonville, CO	April 28-29	snow date: May 19-20
NO CLUB SHOOTS	IN MAY - - -	WORK ON THE	ANNUAL SHOOT.
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	May 3, 7:00 p.m.	Come see what happens!!!
Pistol, Revolver, & Flint Pistol Shoot	Ft. Lupton Muzzle loading Club	May 5 9 - 3	Info: (970) 692-4658 Ron Ring \$15 entry fee per aggregate
43 rd Annual Memorial Day Shoot	Florence Mountain Park	May 26-28	annual shoot and event; trader's row, potluck Saturday night
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	June 7; 7:00 p.m.	Come see what happens!!!
NMLRA Territorial Matches	SPVHS Range Ft. Lupton	June 15-17	www.buckhornskinner.com or (970) 692-4658
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 17	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	July 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	July 5	come and see.....
High Country Hideaway Muzzle Loading Shotgun	Blue Valley Club near Kremmling, CO	July 11-15	Tom Hart (719) 289-1840 or tkhart25@gmail.com
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	July 15	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Rocky Mountain National Rendezvous	Soward Ranch near Creede, CO	July 14-21	info at www.RMNR.org or Facebook

For CSML scheduled shoots; CALL SHOOT HOT LINE (719) 442-0150 after 9:00 a.m. on shoot day to be sure shoot is on!!!
Schedule is subject to change at any time and is based on information available at time of publication. On-line check csmlinc.org

DUES ARE DUE!!!!

Just a reminder that if you have not already done so, you should renew your dues now. Dues are now PAST DUE. Ted Beaupre is happy to renew your dues and give you new membership cards. Don't delay any further.....renew today!!!!

PAST THINGS

So, let's pretend that it is the first part of February, right in the middle of winter. Several folks brave the weather and past snow conditions to travel to the American Legion building on Platte Avenue. When we arrive there are some of our members standing outside in the cold and a few are waiting inside their cars. Some of those standing outside are rocking back and forth and clapping their hands, all to try and stay warm. The building is not open; no lights on; no neon sign glowing in the night to invite us in, no nothing. Someone pulls out a cell phone to call the manager and a phone is heard ringing inside the building.

Well, it wasn't pretend, it was a fact!!!! February first was the regular meeting date and as we stood outside in the cold, there was no one to open the door and let us in. We tried calling the number we had for the American Legion only to hear the phone ring inside the building and go to the answering machine. We just made a quick decision to cancel the meeting for February and try again in March. Hopefully someone calls the American Legion and reminds them that the meeting will be on March 1.

As for all the wonderful and exciting white elephants that we all brought, they need to come back to the March meeting and we'll have the white elephant gift exchange. Hopefully all your elephants stood the test of time. Those of you that brought goodies to share had to take them home and eat them yourselves, but we sure would appreciate you bringing some more back to the March meeting.

Other than this, there isn't much to report on the past things. No meeting, no minutes.



SAYING GOODBYE.....

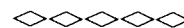
For those of you who do not know or have not heard, Sharon Udovich, wife of long-time member John Udovich, passed away on February 6. Services for Sharon were held on February 16 at St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Pueblo.

Sharon Ada (Trella) Udovich was born October 6, 1943 in Canon City where she was raised on an apple farm. She attended East High School, graduating in 1961. Sharon was in East High School's second graduating class and was their second Homecoming Queen.

Sharon worked at and retired from Comanche Power Plant (XCEL Energy) after 20 years. She loved knitting, ice-fishing, traveling, camping, relatives, and friends; she never met a stranger.

Sharon is survived by her husband John; children Shelly (Steve) Natziger, Cindy (Mike) Cira, Todd Jones, Derrick (Kristine) Jones, and Meribeth Zaborowski; 13 grand children; and 2 great grand children.

Sharon was an avid supporter of the Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders and often came with John to the shoots and to Grainger's camp outs. We will all miss Sharon and her infectious smile.



Some of you may remember our friends from Missouri, George and Linda Taylor. George had passed away some years back.

Word has been received that Linda Taylor passed away February 12, after suffering a massive heart attack. She was in rehabilitation at the time of her passing.

Linda was born January 30, 1947 in Kansas City, Missouri. She attended Arizona State University. Linda was an accomplished artistic roller skater and judged many competitions. She put her custom skates on and skated well into her mid sixties. She was able to complete many maneuvers on those skates and wow the crowds with her grace and agility.

Linda was Missouri State Champion Archer and participated in mountain men and re-enacting events. She and her husband George first became acquainted with the Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders

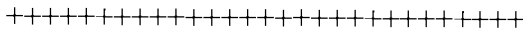
through their attendance at the Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association's Rocky Mountain College Rendezvous. There they met several long-time members of the CSML and began coming to the annual CSML shoot in May. Linda continued to come to the Memorial Day shoot even after George passed away.

Linda is survived by sons James (Lynda) of Oak Grove, MO; Christopher G. of Blue Springs, MO; sister Barbara; 2 grandchildren, Elizabeth and Alexander (whom she baby sat); and grand puppies Annie and Tucker.

Services for Linda were held on February 15 a Meyers Funeral Home in Oak Grove Missouri.



Please remember these families in your thoughts and prayers. It is never easy to say goodbye to a mother and grandmother. It is not easy for us to say goodbye to long-time supporters of our group. We will miss both of these ladies.



Primitive Pistol Match

February 18, 2018

by: Ken West

The problem wasn't that the wind velocity was 20 mph, it was the random manner in which it varied from 0 to 20 mph that made shooting difficult. Two of us braved the wind and pleasant 60 degree Fahrenheit weather to shoot pistol. The scores were:

Jim Murray	12 gongs
Ken West	9 gongs

Both of us shot better than expected!

While the gusting wind makes a great excuse, I can attribute only one of my misses to it; and, in that instance my years of practice to learn to avoid jerking the trigger backfired!



CERAN ST. VRAIN'S PISTOLS

By: Milton von Damm

The Man

Ceran St. Vrain was one of the giants of the Southwest fur trade, a courageous and with a gregarious, gracious, and reserved manner, a competent businessman, who was an invaluable resource to the US army, before, during, and after the Mexican War. A Catholic son of French immigrants with noble blood, Ceran St. Vrain was born in St. Louis County in 1802. He lost his father at age 16, but was soon embraced by Bernard Pratte under whose tutelage he gained valuable experience as a store clerk, fur shipment manager, and trader for Bernard Pratte & Co. With Pratte's support St. Vrain became involved in shipping trade goods to Santa Fe and Taos in the early 1820s, during which his path occasionally crossed with Charles Bent. By 1827 the lure of trapping called and on his second trip St. Vrain enlisted as a clerk, but assumed the leadership when Sylvester Pratte, son of Bernard, died from a dog bite. This is the same trip where Tom "Peg Leg"

Smith was injured by an Indian and apparently amputated his own leg.

In December of 1830 the firm of Bent, St. Vrain & Company was founded, which grew to be the largest fur trading enterprise in the Southwest with the second Bents Fort as its flagship. Ceran generally remained to manage the partnership's trading posts and stores in Taos and Santa Fe, while Charles Bent transported the goods to and from St. Louis. Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, trappers, traders, and the US army all benefitted from the Bent, St. Vrain & Company enterprises. Ceran was the consummate host in the most civilized facility along the route to Santa Fe, and a very close friend of Kit Carson. He entertained such well known people as General

Stephen W. Kearny, John C. Fremont, Tom Fitzpatrick, Dick Wooten, and many others. The partnership enjoyed many successful years when tragedy struck. Charles Bent was murdered in Taos in 1847 during a Mexican and Indian uprising associated with growing American influence and the Mexican War. St. Vrain raised about 75 volunteers and played an important role with US troops in defeating the insurgents, narrowly avoiding death in hand to hand combat with one of the leaders of the revolt. By age 45 St. Vrain had tired of the trader's life with Indians and fur trappers and focused more on land speculation, supplying gold miners and the army and operating saw mills and a flour mill for many years after Bent, St. Vrain & Company had dissolved. He was active in public affairs, was a colonel of mounted troops, and tinkered with publishing. He eventually retired to Mora, New Mexico, where he owned a grist mill and another store. He died in Mora on October 28, 1870 and was honored with a military funeral unequalled in the area, with over 2,000 people attending.

Pepperbox Pistols

Pepperbox pistols entered the scene around 1836, shortly before the first Colt revolvers. They were initially more popular than revolvers. Having five or six revolving muzzleloading barrels ignited by percussion caps. It is claimed that they fired more rapidly than revolvers and did not have alignment problems since there was no cylinder which had to be aligned with a single barrel. They were also cheaper. The disadvantages were that they were smooth bore and thus effective only at close range ; the larger "dragoon" sizes were heavy, and reloading was more tedious. Pepperbox pistols were most popular with gold miners, gamblers, and people needing rapid firepower at close range.

St. Vrain's Pistols

The company selling the most pepperbox pistols was Allen & Thurber. A more expensive and better designed pepperbox was made by Blunt & Syms, the makers of the St. Vrain guns. It featured a European mechanism, American barrels, had a ring trigger, and a concealed underhammer. Thus the hammer did not rise above the barrel, which aided in sighting. This hammer fired the bottom barrel instead

of the top one which enabled the shooter to stay on target better because the recoil was straight back rather than up. Blunt & Syms pepperbox pistols evolved from the development efforts of New York dealers and/or manufacturers Orison Blunt and John Syms, who formed a partnership in 1837 and sold them between the late 1830s and 1850s. There are several types, lengths, and calibers. The St. Vrain pistols are mid-sized with six four-inch barrels of .31 caliber. They are in excellent condition, retaining much of the original bluing and showing only moderate use. One pistol is marked HR and the other RC and 89 at the muzzle of the barrels. The graceful leather saddle holsters are decorated with German silver stars and brass ends. These pistols with their saddle or horse holsters recently came to me from the Charles Hill collection. Mr. Hill is a leading authority on American Revolution arms and Civil War arms and swords.

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BOOK REVIEWS

George Drouillard: Hunter and Interpreter for Lewis and Clark, and Fur Trader, 1807-1810, M. O. Skarsten, with a new introduction by Robert C. Carriker. (Spokane, Washington: Arthur H. Clark Company, 2003). 356 pp., hardcover, \$42.50.

Originally published in 1964, this second edition of a classic work on Lewis and Clark and the early Missouri River fur trade comes as a welcome contribution to another generation of historians and bibliophiles. The mixed-blood Drouillard was one of the more important members of the Corps of Discovery, and later served as a partner in Manuel Lisa's ill-starred efforts to pen the trade and trapping in the northern Rockies. The brave, reckless Drouillard fell victim to the American mountain man's nemesis, the Blackfeet.

The importance of Skarsten's work has already been attested to by numerous scholars, and the book has been out of print for decades. That is why we are pleased to see it updated and reissued in a format so similar to its original appearance. Carriker's new introduction updates Skarsten's work, and adds some interesting details about the author's background and mode of researching. There are some new data on

Drouillard's trial for shooting Antoine Bissonnette, who deserted Lisa contrary to his contract, that shows how the long arm of justice functioned, even beyond the frontier.

On the Upper Missouri: The Journal of Rudolph Friederich Kurz, 1851-1852. Edited and abridged by Carla Kelly, introduction by Scott Eckberg (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2005). 352 pp., paperback. \$21.95

It is disappointing if not hocking that there are only five extant journals of the pre-Civil War American buffalo robe trade. Kurz's diary and accompanying sketch book is one of the best of those five. The young Swiss artist brought a fresh insight to his analysis of the traders and their customers around the Chouteau Company's magnificent operation at Fort Union.

Carla Kelly has done an excellent job of annotating Kurz's writings and drawings, making us understand that the superb reconstruction of Fort Union by the National Park Service could not have been accomplished without the architectural sketches that he left us. As well, Kurz created a remarkable collection of renderings of the people on the upper Missouri, and pleasing word pictures of the daily doings at one of the premier American fur posts.

Kelly has also provided us the service of eliminating a lot of dross in Kurz's personal angst. He was often verbose and the editor has trimmed away much of the boring pseudo intellectual side of the young artist's writings.

This journal was originally published in 1937 by the Smithsonian, and it has been reprinted twice since then.

The Southwestern Journals of Zebulon Pike 1806-1807, Stephen Harding Hart and Archer Butler Hurlbert, eds., with a new introduction by Mark L. Gardner (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2006). 280 pp., hardback, \$27.95.

Here we have yet another new offering of an old classic. In this instance, the book is a good counterpoint to the amazing volume of Lewis and Clark information coming out. Pike's expedition to the Southwest generated immense interest in Texas, New Mexico, and the provinces of Old Mexico. Pike, however, ended up being made a prisoner of the Spanish regime. In the end, he was able to

accumulate far more information than he could have sanguinely expected, for the Spanish marched him and his small command along much of the frontier as they decided how to deal with this internationally embarrassing incident.

Though obviously not as detailed as the Lewis and Clark journals, Pike's work is of primary importance to the early history of our country. Mark Gardner's introduction is quite useful, concise, and on the mark. If you do not have Pike in your library, this is a good recommendation for an attractive volume.

Forging an American Identity: The Art of William Ranney, with a Catalogue of His Work, Linda Bantel and Peter Hassrick. Available from the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, Wyoming, 800-533-3838 or www.bbhc.org. \$59.95.

This book is a monograph on the life and artwork of William Ranney. Ranney was born in Connecticut in 1814 and died prematurely of tuberculosis in New York in 1857. Although most of his painting involved historical genre and portraiture, today he is best known for his figurative and landscape paintings of the American West. Ranney was in Texas in the 1830s, and his paintings often reflect American frontiersmen during the period of the mountain men.

Those interested in American painting and particularly in the painting of the American West in the last half of the nineteenth century, will find this book fascinating. The text is clearly organized, very readable, and the research and artwork completely and thoroughly documented.

The body of the book is made up of three essays by experts in their respective areas: Linda Bantel, art curator and museum professional, researched William Ranney's life;

Sarah E. Boehm, curator of western art at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, wonderfully placed Ranney's work in historical context; and Mark F. Bockrath, painting conservator, addressed Ranney's painting techniques. The text is beautifully supported by full color reproductions of Ranney's work, which are meticulously documented. It also includes work by his contemporaries, which further enriches the context of the story.

All in all, this book is a delightful combination of historical narrative and art reproductions that tell us the story of a young self-trained artist who made a substantial contribution to the early art of the

American West. It is also an excellent addition to the works of Alfred Jacob Miller in portraying the costume and accouterments of westerners in the first half of the nineteenth century.

The Oldest Fur Trade Cannon?

By: James A. Hanson

In 1631 Captain William Claiborne, a member of the Virginia Company, received a license for the Indian trade from King Charles. He purchased Kent Island at the mouth of the Susquehanna River and built a trading post thereon. The next year, the king gave the Chesapeake Bay to the Calverts who established Maryland, and the Virginian Claiborne built a fort on the island which served as a base for his fleet of small ships. The Calvert forces defeated his vessels and brought charges of piracy against him. While defending his title in England in 1637, his fort on Kent Island was captured and burned.

The British Admiralty Courts records include several documents Claiborne submitted to bolster his claims. They reveal that on August 9, 1631, Claiborne purchased "2 murtherers and 2 chambers bought for our defense of [from] Mr. Smith cost L 1.10/00." Captain John Smith defined the term "chambers" as "a charge made of brasse or iron, which we use to put in at the britch of a sling or murtherer, containing just so much powder as will drive away the case of stones or shot."

The murtherers mentioned above were swivel guns, weighing 75 to 100 pounds, and lending themselves to being mounted on a ship's rail or on a stockade. Light enough to be lifted and loaded by two men, or even one if required, the boxes were usually an inch or two in diameter and the projectiles were often spherical stones. Because shaped stones were sometimes used, the French often called them pierriers. A Spanish term for them was esmeril. The removable breech made loading simple and rapid. Their point blank range was about 200 yards, but the maximum effective range of the murderer was 750 yards. On shipboard, the loaded murderers were often laid on the deck until boarding boats were coming alongside, then quickly hoisted onto the rail and a ball

fired downward to breach the hull.

All through records offered by Claiborne were pistols, fowling pieces, lead, shot, gunpowder, and quilted armor. In 1633 Claiborne purchased "2 iron hammered sabuetts [sakretes: these were normally cast of brass and weighed upwards of 600 pounds].

The early artillery, say from 1400 to 1640, was often made by forging iron bars together and then placing strengthening bands at regular intervals around the barrel and at the muzzle. The breech was open, with a separate chamber which was dropped in place and secured by a cross wedge. However, the connection between charge and barrel was tenuous. These breech-loaders were used at the earliest English settlements including Jamestown, Plimoth, and Fort Raleigh. By the seventeenth century, most new cannon constructed were loaded at the muzzle.

The Fur Trade Museum has received the remarkable gift of a original "murderer" which has an amazing though incomplete chronology. According to the records which accompany it, the gun was found in the Hudson River near New York City when harbor improvements were being made after the Revolution to accommodate merchant vessels engaged in the China trade.

As one might expect, the breech block and cross wedge are recent replacements,. As is the pintel below the yoke which originally supported the entire gun and held it to its rail or stand. Harold Peterson, long the dean of arms and armor used in colonial America, wrote that these breechloading guns were developed before 1600 from fifteenth century versions forged from bars of iron with rings around the barrel to prevent their bursting. Apparently all of them were made before 1650. From this information, it is almost certain that this gun was lost from a Dutch trading vessel sometime prior to the English seizure of New Netherland in 1664.

Please rest assured that we are actively pursuing any leads as to this murderer's history since it was found over two centuries ago. Here is what is known so far. Its first known owner, around 1970. Was Reuben Bratten of Gothenburg, Nebraska, a collector of antiques. Bratten died about twenty years later, and he left it to his daughter, Marilyn Bratten Peterson and her husband, James Peterson. He was in the Air Force and stationed at F. E. Warren Air Base

in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Mrs. Peterson died in January, 2017 and she was survived by four sons.

Jeff Peterson, living and working in Lincoln, Nebraska, was the recipient of this family heirloom. Mr. Peterson is a graduate of Chadron State College and studied Criminal Justice there under the late Dr. George Watson, who served as president of the museum board. Peterson was also familiar with the museum's involvement in the film, *The Revenant*. He and his mother had also visited the museum a few months prior to her death, and Mr. Peterson thought the Museum of the Fur Trade would be a worthy recipient of this amazing artifact. We completely agree, and are thrilled to plan for the future exhibition of what may be the oldest known fur trade cannon.



The following is taken from The Buckskin Report, Volume 3, Number 6, March, 1976. Still relevant today.

DEADLY MACHINE

By: Jack Hines

There is a great cause for fear concerning the lives and safety of the American Public. A device, readily available to nearly everyone, wreaks mortal havoc each year, in numbers which stagger the imagination. We have too long ignored the deadly character of this weapon and its vicious effect in annual deaths and injuries. The people deserve protection from its violent potential. This killing device is too easily available. It falls too easily into irresponsible hands. It can be bought almost anywhere, with little or no attention paid as to who comes into its possession. It falls too easily into criminal hands. Such a death-dealing device should truly be restricted to use by law-enforcement agencies because of its proven background as an instrument of violence. Registration is not enough! It is obvious that the public must relinquish its right of possession. The killing must be stopped. It is incumbent upon those of us possessed of all of the right answers, the panacea concepts, the knowledge of what is best for the masses, to protect those masses from themselves. They obviously do not have the capacity to do it for

themselves.

Preserve life!

Protect order!

Save the people from themselves!

Stop the slaughter and maiming!

OUTLAW AUTOMOBILES!



REMEMBER.....

White elephant gift exchange (repeat) on March 1 at the regular monthly meeting. Bring some goodies to share.

Winter Convention on March 3.

No shoot on March 4.

Daylight savings time goes into effect on March 11. Set your clock ahead 1 hour.

Time to get ready for the Memorial Day Shoot. Be thinking about where you will help out and volunteer your time. Work party will be scheduled soon.

NO paper shoot on April 1. This is Easter so celebrate the day with family.

Squirrel shoot is April 28 unless Mother Nature changes things. The snow date is May 19-20 near Masonville.

All our military wherever they are. Pray that God will protect them and bring them home safely.

Anything you want printed in the *Mountain Man Monthly* is due by the Thursday after the scheduled primitive shoot date. Please submit your things so we have fresh information in the newsletter.