

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY

AMERICAN PRECISION MUSEUM • SUMMER 2013

Vol. 31. No. 1

The American Precision
Museum is open daily
10 am - 5 pm,
Memorial Day weekend
through October.

The American Precision
Museum preserves the
heritage of the mechanical
arts, celebrates the ingenuity
of our mechanical forebears,
and explores the effects of
their work on our everyday
lives. The museum holds
the largest collection of historically significant machine
tools in the country.

The Robbins & Lawrence Legacy and the American Civil War

By William McCarthy, Museum Trustee

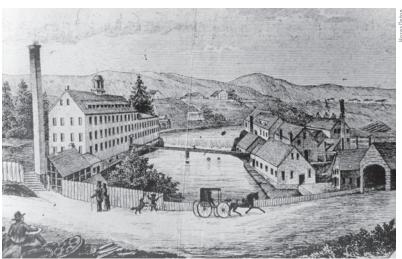
Robbins & Lawrence, the rifle manufacturer, founded in Windsor, Vermont in 1846, had a meteoric rise to prominence and almost as steep a fall. International recognition of the company happened in 1851 when they participated in London's Crystal Palace Exposition, the first World's Fair, and demonstrated the Windsor-made rifles with interchange-

able parts. The British were shocked to learn that they had been eclipsed by their American cousins across the ocean!

Realizing the potential long-term ramifications of this technological leap forward, Parliament appointed a special commission to travel



This breech-loading rifle was designed by Christian Sharps and made by Robbins & Lawrence, circa 1852. As demand for the gun rose, Richard Lawrence left Windsor to set up a Sharps factory in Hartford, CT.



Engraving of the Robbins & Lawrence Armory, circa 1851

to America and study "the American System." As a result of the commission's visit, Robbins & Lawrence received two contracts. One to supply all the specialized machine tools to outfit the new Royal Armouries in Enfield, and second to supply the British Army with rifled muskets for the Crimean War.

However, in the mid-1850s Robbins & Lawrence decided to diversify and manufacture railroad cars, a decision that caused them to become over-extended. After successfully completing the machine tool order for the new Enfield armory, they defaulted on the contract because the rifled muskets were not finished on time. As a result of this breach of contract, the British gained control of the Windsor armory to finish their order. With the completion of the order and Robbins & Lawrence's subsequent bankruptcy, many of the armory's highly skilled workforce left Windsor to work for other New England arms makers.

In a few years, with the onset of the American Civil War in 1861, the former Robbins & Lawrence Armory reorganized as Lamson, Goodnow and Yale. The Robbins & Lawrence legacy in arming the Union was a tripartite role. LG&Y produced 50,000 rifled muskets for the Union Army, while at the same time providing the bulk of the highly special-

Civil War continued on page 8



196 Main Street PO Box 679 Windsor, VT 05089 802.674.5781 tel www.americanprecision.org info@americanprecision.org



Calendar of Events 2013

EXHIBIT

Arming the Union: Gunmakers in Windsor, Vermont

uncovers the surprising influence of the machine tool firm Lamson, Goodnow & Yale operating out of the Robbins & Lawrence Armory, and the critical role they played in outfitting the Union Army. Altogether the North produced more than 1.5 million rifles in the span of about three years, along with tens of thousands of pistols and carbines. The majority of those weapons were made using machinery designed and produced in Windsor.

Full Duty: The Civil War Collection of Howard Coffin

presents the first-ever exhibition from the private collection of Vermont's foremost Civil War historian. The exhibition explores the day-to-day life of Vermont soldiers in camp and on the battlefield.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COLLECTION

This special 'Highlights' exhibit features important firearms from the museum's collections, including the work of early Windsor gunmakers like **Nicanor Kendall**, whose 1840 rifle, serial number 915, is considered to be a 'deluxe' model. This rifle is unusual because the serial number, in addition to being on the gunstock, also appears on the hammer, sight, and ramrod. This rifle was a gift from Terry Tyler,

from Dorset, Vermont, a distinguished gun collector and author, whose collection is now on exhibit at Vermont's Shelburne Museum.

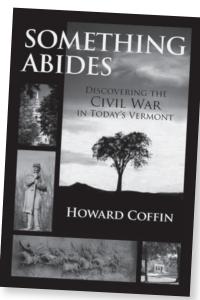
Friday, June 7

Opening Reception and Book Launch 5:30-7:30 pm

Something Abides: Discovering the Civil War in Today's Vermont

Historian and author Howard Coffin's newly published book takes us through every Vermont town documenting Civil War sites that were touched by the war and are extant today.

Sponsored by Mimi Baird, Woodstock, Vermont



Tuesday, June 25

The bi-annual New England Brass and Gas Tour of the Horseless Carriage Club of America will be visiting the museum with over 100 antique cars, all made before 1916. Stop by and visit!





John Ernst Worrell Keely's Etheric Force Machine

Sundays June 30, July 28, August 25, October 27

Behind The Scenes Tours at 3 pm \$10

Would you like to learn more about the museum's artifacts that are not on exhibit and see the collections storage area? Then Behind the Scenes Tours are for you! Space is limited to 12 so please call ahead or reserve online.

Museum Admission

Adults: \$8.00 Students: \$5.00

Family: \$20.00 (2 adults, 2 children under 18) Special Group Rates: Call the museum for details

Sunday, July 14

Vermont and the Civil War

This is the first in a series of special Sunday afternoon programs, sponsored by Vermont Senator Peter Galbraith, with Civil War historian and author Howard Coffin. He will discuss the important role that Vermonters played in Civil War battles, particularly the Battle of Gettysburg.



Sunday, August 11 3 pm A CIVIL WAR SHOWCASE with Howard Coffin

You are invited to bring your own Civil War objects and family stories to share as part of an informal discussion about the war and its lasting significance 150 years later.



This Grand Army of the Republic hat belonged to Levi Derby from Grafton, VT. He enlisted at age 18 and served in Company D, 16th Vermont Regiment. He fought at Gettysburg.

Sunday, September 22 3 pm

THE VERMONT BRIGADE: The Best Brigade in the Union Armies

Howard Coffin will talk about the Vermont brigade, which was the only Union brigade made up of regiments from a single state that served throughout the war. And they were the best! This is their story.



Wesley Sturtevant was killed at Gettysburg when his regiment rose to repel Pickett's Charge. His diary (shown here) bears his bloodstains.

Begin your afternoon in Windsor at Old Constitution House on Main Street. Windsor is the birthplace of the Republic of Vermont, and Vermont's Constitution was adopted in this building in 1777. Continue down Windsor's historic Main Street with the *Historic and Architectural Walking Tour* as your guide. You can purchase a copy at Old Constitution House. After passing Old South Church, designed by noted architect Asher Benjamin and built in 1798, it is a short walk to the American Precision Museum.

Saturday, September 28 *10 am - 5 pm*



Behind the Scenes Tour at 2 pm, \$10

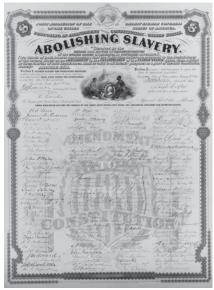
It's Smithsonian Day at museums around the country! Download the Museum Day Admission Card from the Smithsonian's website and visit us, as well as other area museums – all offering free admission for the day.

Friday, October 4th 5:30 - 7:00 pm

THE CIVIL WAR: A Conversation

James McPherson, George Henry Davis '86 Professor Emeritus of U.S. History, Princeton University; Pulitzer Prize, Battle Cry of Freedom Howard Coffin, Civil War historian and author, Something Abides: Discovering the Civil War in Today's Vermont

Sponsored by Mimi Baird, Woodstock, VT



This certificate, printed in 1868, commemorates the passage of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery. The Vermont legislature ratified the amendment 217-0.

Saturday, October 12

14th annual Model Engineering Show, Museum and Windsor Recreation Center 9 am - 5 pm Admission to show and museum \$10

Visit with New England's finest model engineers and experience informative workshops and demonstrations throughout the day.

American Precision Museum

A Plan for a Sustainable Future

During the past decade the number of visitors to many museums has steadily declined, causing some to reduce staff, curtail activities, merge with others with similar missions, or close. But at the American Precision Museum, visitors have steadily increased in number. Last year's admissions were the best in more than a decade. This is proof that our mission is relevant and our stories compelling.

But we cannot be complacent. We share challenges with other museums — generational shifts, quantum changes in messaging technology, the effects of virtual realities, and many other factors that must be addressed. However, admission fees are not the primary source of income for any museum. Those that are viable have ample endowments, a strong and loyal donor base, or both. Our endowment is modest. Its income funds a smaller percentage of operations than in the past. While APM has been blessed with generous donors over the years, we must further strengthen our base of support for the future.

We recently made significant adjustments in our annual operating budget, but we know these changes are not enough. Our long-term viability depends on increasing our donors in number and their donations in size.

Our new, two year strategic plan focuses on meeting these current challenges. Our goal is to have a compelling case, interpreted, understood, and participated in by a growing number of friends and adherents.

We invite you to participate in shaping our future.

Gene Cesari Chair, Board of Trustees

A Note of Thanks

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank Gene Cesari for his service this past year as Board Chair. He has served three different times on the museum's Board since 1995 and twice as Chair. He co-founded the Model Engineering Show with Trustee Bill McCarthy in 1995 and continues to co-chair the organizing committee and play an active role with the show. Recognizing our need to increase support for our annual operating budget, he continues to generously open doors for the museum with special friends and colleagues. It has been a privilege for me to work closely with Gene during this past year. The museum has benefited from his thoughtful, focused leadership and experience during this challenging time.

– Ann Lawless for the Board of Trustees

Financials

Condensed Balance Sheets*

for the years ended April 30, 2012 and April 30, 2011

		2012		2011			
ASSETS							
Cash and equivalents	\$	35,757	\$	25,716			
Grants receivables		48,348		40,960			
Other current assets		11,328		11,629			
Property and equipment,							
net of depreciation		750,686		761,914			
Investments	1,	1,370,546 1,613,713					
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,	216,665	\$2,	453,932			
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS							
Current liabilities		40,105		17,836			
Unrestricted net assets	1,	002,488	1	,245,825			
Temporarily restricted							
net assets		441,885		458,084			
Permanently restricted							
net assets		732,187		732,187			
Total Net Assets	\$2,	176,560	\$2,	436,096			
TOTAL LIABILITIES							
AND NET ASSETS	\$2,	216,665	\$2,	453,932			

Condensed Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets*

for the years ended April 30, 2012 and April 30, 2011

	2012	2011
Donations, bequests, grants	\$ 363,162	\$ 276,116
Admissions	17,279	17,571
Memberships	29,420	26,490
Investment Income	56,499	54,822
Unrealized gain (loss)		
on investments	(70,624)	161,647
Other income, net	9,358	8,629
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 405,094	\$ 545,275
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	282,471	248,739
Depreciation	51,655	51,362
Occupancy, insurance		
& maintenance	38,848	34,687
Office and publication costs	21,278	24,332
Professional services	22,204	21,768
Contracted services	14,534	15,030
Other expenses	160,781	106,166
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 591,771	\$ 502,084

REVENUE LESS EXPENSES EQUALS CHANGE

IN NET ASSETS \$ (186,677) \$ 43,191

*Complete reviewed 2012 and 2011 financial statements with accompanying notes and opinions are available at the museum office.

Annual Report 2012

2012 Report on Giving

It is with grateful appreciation that we recognize here all those who have contributed so generously to the museum in 2012. Every gift we receive is important and helps us preserve and maintain the 1846 Robbins & Lawrence Armory and our unparalleled collection of historically significant machine tools.

We especially want to thank the Association for Manufacturing Technology (AMT) for making it possible for the museum, once again, to have our own booth at the 2012 International Manufacturing Technology Show in Chicago last September. Being part of the largest trade show in the country with over 100,000 people attending is an opportunity not to be missed. We could not have done this without the AMT's support, as well as the generosity of Heidenhain, Morris Group, and INDEX. We introduced our new Corporate Membership Program at IMTS, and industry membership is growing. By joining the museum, the machine tool industry can provide important annual support for our operating budget.

A special thanks must also go to Demonstratives, Inc. of Ames, Iowa who worked with us for months to create a video animation showing how the 1853 Robbins & Lawrence rifling machine operates. This project advanced our goal of demonstrating machines in motion and can be seen on our website, YouTube, and at the museum.

Support for the museum comes in many ways — memberships, annual and special purpose gifts, planned gifts, grants to the museum for specific projects, gifts in kind and gifts made in honor or in memory of a loved one, as well as gifts to strengthen our collections. This support is even more important today as we focus our energies on strengthening our fundraising substantially over the next year to put down healthier roots. We do not expect the road ahead to be without bumps and detours. But we believe the journey will be stimulating, worthwhile, and deserving of your participation and support.

Gene Cesari Chair, Board of Trustees

ANNUAL AND SPECIAL PURPOSE GIFTS

January 1 - December 31, 2012

Robbins & Lawrence Society

(\$2,500 and up) Association for Manufacturing Technology Mimi Baird James N. Farley (deceased) Heidenhain Corporation Douglas M. Loudon Rick and Linda Roesch Alden O. Sherman

Mill Brook Society

(\$1,000 - \$2499) C. Thorrez Industries Steven C. Carter Cone Automatic Machine Co. Charitable Foundation Peter W. Galbraith **INDEX Corporation** Seymour Lehrer Morris Group Michael Newbold Jane Osgood and Ted Hilles Thomas P. Putnam Merritt Roe Smith Vermont Antique Automobile Society Susan K. Williamson

Precision Valley Society

(\$500 - \$999) John K. Grady Donald S. Whitney Mark and Michele Aldrich Bryant Chucking Grinder Charitable Foundation Stephen F. Christy Richard and Barbara Couch Elmer and Bernadette Duellman Robert Dufresne Dr. Fukuo Hashimoto James N. Heald II Bill McCarthy Eric and Margaret Rothchild

Edwin Battison Society

Charitable Fund

(\$250 - \$499) Liora Alschuler Gene Cesari Iréneé du Pont Jr. E. Hubbard Yonkers Dana and Kristi Fenner Newell Flather Shirley J. Grainger Clark A. Griffiths Thomas H. Hughes Joseph Jablonowski

Richard A. Johnston Ken Kranzusch Anthony and Susan Morris Richard and Nancy Pitkin Jane E. Sherman Alex and Debra Slocum

The 1966 Society

(\$100 - \$249) Nancy Nash-Cummings and **Richard Cummings** Darlyne and Bruce Franzen Stewart Ayotte Denis A. Bassett Edward and Judith Becker Daniel and Florence Belleville Dennis C. Bely Robert L. Boyd Peter Brink Michael and Pamela Brown Phil Cannon Rav Clark Blaine Cliver Carolyn A. Coker R. E. Coleberd Connecticut Plastics Edmond S. Cooley

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6

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Anonymous

Iim Sindelar

John W. Snarski Ir.

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Associate

(\$2,500)**INDEX Corporation**

Contributor

(\$1,000) The L. S. Starrett Co. Task Force Tips

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Annual Report 2012

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Grants

Cultural Facilities, Vermont Arts Council National Endowment for the Humanities, Vermont Humanities Council Mascoma Savings Bank Preservation Trust of Vermont Timken Foundation of Canton, Ohio Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

We encourage you to bring any mistakes or omissions to our attention so that we may correct our records accordingly. Thank you.

Stocking

Civil War continued from page 1

ized machine tools needed by other arms makers. Thirdly, the many skilled workers who formerly worked at the Robbins & Lawrence Armory were now working for other companies arming the Union. Most notable of these was Richard Lawrence, now Superintendent of the Sharps Rifle Company in Hartford, Connecticut, which was completely outfitted with Robbins & Lawrence machine tools. Other notables were Daniel Wesson and his partner Horace Smith and B. Tyler Henry who developed the first model .44 cal. Winchester repeating rifle, also known as the Henry rifle.

With the end of the Civil War in April 1865, the government abruptly canceled all arms contracts as it was faced with a surplus of rifles now considered obsolete because of the rapid technological changes that had occurred in small arms design during the war. Lamson, Goodnow & Yale had already gone to considerable expense to produce two new breech-loading rifles, the bolt-action Palmer carbine and the Ball repeating rifle. After manufacturing only 1,000 of each weapon, their government contracts ended. Because of the military gun surplus after the Civil War, there was little need for any new military rifles to be manufactured, and the post-war market was flooded with used machine tools from closed manufactures of obsolete military small arms. Immediately after the Civil War the government decided to concentrate on converting surplus Springfield and Sharps rifles to accept the new metallic cartridges.

The techniques, technologies and specialized machine tools perfected by the Robbins & Lawrence Armory to mass produce small arms prior to the Civil War, when applied to other forms of manufacturing, enabled the United States to become the world's preeminent manufacture in the last quarter of the 19th century.





196 Main Street PO Box 679 Windsor, VT 05089

www.americanprecision.org

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Make a Lasting Impact Join the Museum's Legacy Society

Is the museum already in your estate plans? Please let us know so that we can thank you!

A **charitable bequest**, with the museum as a beneficiary, is easy to put in place and can be made with cash, securities, or real estate.

"I give to the American Precision Museum, Inc., Windsor, Vermont,
______dollars (\$_____), or _____ percent (____%) of my
residuary estate, to be used for the benefit of the American Precision Museum, Inc. as
the Trustees thereof may direct."

IRA Charitable Rollover

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extends the **IRA Charitable Rollover** through 2013, allowing donors 70.5 years or older to make a tax-free distribution of up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA, before January 1, 2014. Only outright gifts are allowed.

Who benefits?

- Donors who do not itemize can now avoid tax on withdrawals from their IRA, which are transferred directly to the American Precision Museum;
- Donors who have large carry-forwards of unused charitable deductions can make additional IRA transfers without affecting their other charitable deductions;
- Donors who live in states which do not allow charitable deductions on their state income tax returns; and
- Donors who are looking for a way to satisfy their minimum distribution requirements.

Consult with a financial advisor for assistance with your estate plans.