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 interchangeable 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 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
EXHIBIT
Arming the Union: Gunmakers in Windsor, Vermont
uncover 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

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.

Tuesday, June 25
10 am - noon
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!

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
3 pm
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 Vermonter 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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

This, by First Light Studios.
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

Financials

Condensed Balance Sheets*
for the years ended April 30, 2012 and April 30, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and equivalents</td>
<td>$35,757</td>
<td>$25,716</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants receivables</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other current assets</td>
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<td>11,629</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net of depreciation</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,370,546</td>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
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<td>$2,453,932</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
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<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
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<td>Temporarily restricted net assets</td>
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<td>Total Net Assets</td>
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<td>$2,436,096</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$2,216,665</td>
<td>$2,453,932</td>
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Condensed Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets*
for the years ended April 30, 2012 and April 30, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DONATIONS</td>
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<td>Donations, bequests, grants</td>
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<td>Admissions</td>
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<td>Memberships</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>56,499</td>
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<td>Unrealized gain (loss) on investments</td>
<td>(70,624)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income, net</td>
<td>9,358</td>
<td>8,629</td>
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<td>TOTAL REVENUE</td>
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<td>EXPENSES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries and benefits</td>
<td>282,471</td>
<td>248,739</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>51,655</td>
<td>51,362</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupancy, insurance &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>38,848</td>
<td>34,687</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office and publication costs</td>
<td>21,278</td>
<td>24,332</td>
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<td>Professional services</td>
<td>22,204</td>
<td>21,768</td>
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<td>Contracted services</td>
<td>14,534</td>
<td>15,030</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>160,781</td>
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<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>$591,771</td>
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<td>REVENUE LESS EXPENSES</td>
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<tr>
<td>EQUALS CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$ (186,677)</td>
<td>$ 43,191</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

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
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 Roech
Alden O. Sherman

Mill Brook Society
($1,000 - $2,499)
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Co. Charitable Foundation
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Merritt Roe Smith
Vermont Antique Automobile Society
Susan K. Williamson

Precision Valley Society
($500 - $999)
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Robert Dufresne
Dr. Fukuo Hashimoto
James N. Heald II
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Charitable Fund

Edwin Battison Society
($250 - $499)
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Steven C. Carter
Ralph Cross
Dennis Cross
Peter Flesch
Harry and Ilene Schall
William A. Knock
Richard and Leslie Hudson
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Bob and Vera Lake
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Stewart Ayotte
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Earle C. Stubbs
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Toland

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Mark and Michele Aldrich
Mimi Baird
Demonstratives Inc.
Gordon Fowler
Heidenhain
Steven J. Newlin
Jonathan Springer
Women's University Club Quilting Group,
Seattle WA,
Margaret R. Rothchild

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Association for Manufacturing Technology
Heidenhain
MacLean-Fogg

Associate
($2,500)
INDEX Corporation

Contributor
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The L. S. Starrett Co.
Task Force Tips

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Kirk Stackhouse
Augustus Stager
Larry Vanice
Donald Whitney

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($100)
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Joanna Bodmewer and Geoffrey Fried
Mimi Baird
Frank and Betsy Bechdolt
Edward and Judith Becker
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Damen Braggam
Peter and Susan Brink
Shepard Butler
James Carlison
Gene Cesari
Connecticut Plastics
James Cudlip
Rolf Diamant
Toby Bashaw and Elizabeth Hendrix
Silas Felton
Mason Ferry
Darlyne and Bruce Franzen
Ernest and Shelah Gaudet
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Karl Gurcke
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R. Avery Hall
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George Hill
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Thomas Hughes
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D. Bruce Montgomery
David Murray
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Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nelson
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David and Mary Otto
Martin Parks
David Peterson

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Robert and Esther Allen
Howard Andrews
Charles and Lola Baldwin
Paul and Jesse Bebe-Vanzo
Allan Bensten II
Arthur Beutler
David Bono
Emund and Micki Brett
Douglas Brown
Frank Carey
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Reuben and Marjorie Cole
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Ernest Smith
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George Sprowl Sr.
David and Mary Talbot
David Toland
William Tschantapp
Robert Webster
Brian Weller
Westminster Tool
Allen Yale
2012 Annual Report
American Precision Museum

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(555)
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Dietrich Apel
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James Atkinson
Baylor/Howe Library
Gail Barton
Denis Basset
Jonathan Bateman
Allen Beehler
Philip Bell
Dennis Bely
Grant Benson
Iris Berezin
Donald Bierly
Ron Boudard
Robert Boyd
Bruce Brenner
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Hud Kellogg
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Verna Klooos
Emil Koller
Richard Kremer
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Cliff LaBounty
John Ladd
Ray Lambert
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C. J. LaSonde
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Mark Long
George Luthringer
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George Naperstek
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Daniel Neidig
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Ohio University Library
John Ordyk
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George Schuetz
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Richard Kuba
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Margaret Rothchild
Alden Sherman

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

Volunteers

Jen Boeri-Boyece
Joseph Gresser
Marita and Bruce Johnson
Carl Johnson
Pamela Levesque
Mike Riviezzo
John Turner
Clay Washburn
Steve Wright

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

American Precision Museum
2012 Annual Report
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.

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.