

NEW ENGLAND ANTIQUE ARMS SOCIETY



E - NEWSLETTER



~IMPORTANT DATES for 2026~

Remaining 2026 meetings at the VFW: all are on Wednesdays – the doors open at 11am. Dates July 8th, September 9, November 18. The next NEAAS show at the Plainville VFW will be on Saturday, Sept. 26th.



Why is the Newsletter so Late?

The delay in getting out newsletters can best be described by politely rephrasing an old saying: “Feces Occurs.” It occurred in spades during April, May and June. The major delaying factor was because my desktop computer did a repeat of the December 2024 mega crash that wiped out years of research material *and* the external hard drive backup. I could not attend the June meeting due to a pre-scheduled medical appointment for a family member and was not able to send out any newsletters, electronically or otherwise, before the meeting due to not having a functional computer. I thought that sort of problem was behind me, but I was wrong. In April 2026, I again got the black screen with the “no hard drive found” alert. Without belaboring the issue, the new 1 terabyte solid state drive suddenly erased itself. Before asking, “didn’t you have a hard copy of the addresses?” Yes, I did, but... I had saved the address data on a thumb drive, so I hauled out an old laptop that booted up, then immediately crashed. No computer = no way to email anything or to print anything. That’s why there was no advanced reminder for the meeting. Please remember, we do not have a secretary, so there is no one to keep the members informed of who, what, where, and when information for the club. Past show paperwork went out with much help from Jean Mountain. Jean has now retired from those duties and reclaimed some of her life.

At one point long ago, we implemented a plan of group call alerts wherein each director was supposed to call a certain number of members to remind them of meetings or to tell them about cancellations or changes. That collapsed during the first attempt to implement the plan.

Can we post changes on Facebook or on the website? That’s much easier said than done and many members don’t use FB. Can communications be improved? Yes, but, as with most problems, we need some help from the members.

For those who read the Quora forums on the internet: you may have read some of the asinine questions and comments sent in by some of the disconnected “progressives.” What follows is

the well-worded sarcastic answer from Paul Adam, one of the regular contributors who replied to a submitted question from a panicked liberal:

[“I shot a Glock 19 handgun. It fired one of the most deadly rounds. My wrist nearly broke and I blew my eardrums. Why have these not been banned yet?”](#)

Clearly you were only firing blank rounds, if you still have your eardrums, eyesight, and the recoil didn't rip your hand or arm off.

You were probably lucky only to be firing a blank round. If it had been a live bullet, the collateral damage could have been terrible.

Here is what a Glock 19 does to its target when loaded with a pointy-hollow “Slack Talon” dumb-dumb bullet:



That is why Glock 19s are banned under Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties.

You have confessed to committing a grievous war crime by even touching one, let alone *firing* one.

You should turn yourself in to the International Criminal Court at once. If you do so quickly enough, you may only be punished by life imprisonment without parole.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.”

From Guns America: Ruger Quietly Moves Headquarters Out of Connecticut

May 14, 2026 by [S.H. Blannelberry](#)

Ruger is officially done calling Connecticut home.

According to reporting from [Hartford Business Journal](#), Sturm, Ruger & Co. quietly moved its corporate headquarters from Connecticut to Mayodan, North Carolina at the start of 2026, marking the end of an era for one of America's most recognizable gunmakers.

The move apparently flew under the radar for months. Ruger didn't make a huge public announcement about it, but sharp-eyed industry watchers noticed recent company press releases started carrying a North Carolina dateline instead of Connecticut.

That was the clue. A company spokesperson confirmed the relocation became official on Jan. 1.

Ruger still maintains a small office in Southport, Connecticut, where the company was founded back in 1949, but only around 20 employees reportedly remain there handling finance, accounting, and legal functions.

The bigger shift is happening elsewhere.

HBJ also reported that Ruger cut roughly 100 jobs earlier this year as part of what the company described as a restructuring effort focused on trimming costs and improving efficiency. Most of the layoffs reportedly hit manufacturing operations, though Ruger says none of the cuts affected Connecticut employees.

The company now has major operations spread across North Carolina, Arizona, New Hampshire, Kentucky, and Missouri.

For longtime gun owners, the Connecticut exit feels symbolic.

Ruger was one of the last major legacy firearms brands still closely tied to the Northeast, even if actual manufacturing had left Connecticut years ago. The company's roots run deep there. Founders William B. Ruger and Alexander McCormick Sturm launched the business out of a small Southport machine shop and built the original Ruger Standard pistol there before the company exploded into one of America's largest firearms manufacturers.

But like a lot of gun companies over the last decade, Ruger appears to be following the industry migration toward more gun-friendly states with lower costs and less political hostility.

And the timing is hard to ignore.

The headquarters relocation came less than two months after William Tong reportedly warned Ruger about alleged safety concerns tied to one of its pistol models and hinted at possible legal action under Connecticut's firearms industry responsibility laws.

That doesn't necessarily mean the move was directly caused by state politics. Companies restructure for all kinds of reasons. But it definitely adds another layer to the story.

SEE ALSO: [Ruger, Beretta Strike Deal: What This New Partnership Means](#)

Ruger also recently settled a dispute with major shareholder Beretta Holding over ownership and company strategy, signaling that the company is going through broader internal changes beyond just a mailing address.

Ruger isn't the first gunmaker to leave Connecticut, either.

Stag Arms moved to Wyoming in 2019. PTR Industries relocated to South Carolina years earlier. Meanwhile, companies like O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Colt's Manufacturing Company, and Charter Arms still maintain operations in the state.

Still, seeing Ruger officially pull its headquarters out of Connecticut feels like another sign of where the firearms industry believes the future is headed.

A Very Deceptive Headline: **“ATF Stunned: THESE Muskets Bypass ALL Checks...”**



(Obviously, the rifles shown above at the beginning of the original article are not muskets.)

Revolutionary War-era muskets remain largely untouched by modern federal gun control laws, a little-known exemption that preserves Second Amendment history while sparking debate over whether antique firearm classifications create regulatory loopholes or protect constitutional heritage.

Federal Exemptions Protect Historical Firearms

Federal law under 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(16) explicitly exempts firearms manufactured before 1899 from most gun control regulations. This includes the Brown Bess muskets and similar weapons carried by American patriots during the Revolutionary War. Black powder replicas that do not use fixed ammunition also qualify for exemption, allowing historical reenactors and collectors to legally own functional period weapons without background checks or federal licensing. The National Firearms Act of 1934 and Gun Control Act of 1968 established these categories, recognizing the historical and educational value of antique weapons while focusing regulatory efforts on modern firearms.

Colonial America Had Extensive Gun Regulations

Contrary to modern assumptions, colonial America maintained comprehensive firearm regulations that predated the Constitution. The 1645 Massachusetts Order required trained band members to carry serviceable muskets at least 3 feet 9 inches long. Most colonies mandated gun ownership for able-bodied males aged 16-60, requiring citizens to maintain firearms in continual readiness with specified ammunition quantities of 10 pounds of gunpowder and 40 pounds of bullets. Church officers and magistrates enforced compliance, with exemptions granted only to Quakers, physicians, lawyers, millers, and those physically incapable. These historical precedents demonstrate that firearm regulation is not a modern invention but rather a longstanding American practice balancing individual rights with community safety.

State-Level Variations Create Legal Uncertainty

While federal exemptions remain clear, state regulations increasingly diverge from federal standards. California and New York treat functional replicas more like modern firearms, imposing

stricter background check and registration requirements. Texas and Florida maintain more permissive interpretations aligned with federal law. This regulatory fragmentation affects an estimated 4.5 million firearms collectors and over 100,000 historical reenactors nationwide. The antique firearms market generates between \$500 million and \$1 billion annually, with the reenactment industry contributing an additional \$200 million. Legal uncertainty surrounding replica firearms using modern components has prompted multiple court cases examining whether state restrictions conflict with federal exemptions and Second Amendment protections.

Emerging Challenges for Antique Classifications

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives faces growing challenges distinguishing legitimate historical replicas from modern weapons disguised as antiques. The rise of 3D-printed firearms and advanced manufacturing techniques has created new classification dilemmas. ATF guidance issued between 2024 and 2025 clarified that firearms using black powder substitutes may still qualify as antique if they do not use fixed ammunition, but concerns remain about ghost guns exploiting definitional gaps. Congressional debates continue over whether functional capability should override manufacturing date in determining regulatory status. Law enforcement advocates support clearer definitional standards while firearms collectors emphasize preserving access to historical weapons for educational purposes.

The antique firearm exemption reflects fundamental policy considerations balancing constitutional protections with public safety. Limited evidence exists of widespread criminal misuse of legitimately classified antique firearms, supporting arguments that collectors and reenactors pose minimal public safety risk. However, gun control advocates argue that functional capability rather than historical classification should determine regulation. The Trump administration faces decisions on whether to pursue federal clarification of antique firearm definitions or maintain flexibility for state-level enforcement priorities. These exemptions preserve Americans' ability to connect with Revolutionary War heritage while respecting the Second Amendment rights our Founders fought to establish.

Article from <https://connectordaily.com/>

Sources: [A Revolution in Arms: Weapons in the War for Independence – American Revolution Institute](#)
[Colonial Firearm Regulation – PatCosta.com](#)

Reminder: The NEAAS meetings are now bi-monthly and are during the day. The doors at the VFW hall open at 11am. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, July 8th at the Madley Roberts VFW Post #574, 7 Northwest Drive, Plainville, CT 06062.** Lunch will be served.

How many British deserters were there in the Revolutionary War?



The British army didn't just lose soldiers to musket fire—they lost up to 10,000 men to 50-acre plots of free land. Lured by American bribes, these troops simply walked away.

Desertion plagued both sides of the conflict, but the losses for the British Crown were remarkably high. Between 3,000 and 5,000 regular British soldiers deserted, alongside approximately 5,000 Hessian auxiliaries. Out of the roughly 30,000 German soldiers rented by the British, nearly one in six chose to stay in America permanently rather than return home.

The Americans actively engineered this drain on British manpower. George Washington and the Continental Congress recognized early on that the opposing army was full of impoverished, harshly disciplined men. In 1776, Congress formalized these bribes, passing a resolution that promised land to any British or Hessian private who deserted, with larger plots for officers. In Europe, land ownership was an impossible dream for a common soldier. In America, it was a guarantee. Congress even translated these offers into German and had them smuggled into Hessian camps hidden inside tobacco pouches.

For British regulars, the harsh realities of military life provided ample motivation. The army relied on brutal discipline, with floggings of hundreds of lashes handed down for minor offenses. Paired with low pay and difficult conditions, the prospect of freedom in a massive continent was appealing. Unlike in Europe, where a deserter would likely be recognized and caught, a soldier in America could simply drop his musket, change clothes, and vanish into the frontier or a bustling colonial city.

The Hessians had a distinct advantage when deserting: Pennsylvania. Thousands of ethnic Germans had already settled in the colonies before the war. When Hessian soldiers were captured or marched through these areas, they encountered thriving communities speaking their own language. Many integrated seamlessly, taking jobs as craftsmen, farmhands, or bakers, and marrying local women. Some even switched sides completely and enlisted in the Continental Army. SepiaGlyphs, Quora

Insert - A depiction of a Hessian private from the Erbprinz Regiment. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY OUTING – JULY 12th

Massachusetts Antique Arms Collectors is having a guided tour of Springfield Armory on July 12th. A box lunch will be provided. You are cordially invited to attend, but you must RSVP so arrangements can be made for lunches and seating at the Armory. Please text Buzz Smith at 781-608-9247 or email him at docbuzz@comcast.net no later than July 6th to confirm your attendance. We will meet at the Armory at 10am on Sunday July 12th. You must furnish your own transportation to the Armory.

Little People? Were People Really Smaller Centuries Ago?

From Daniela Marisol, [Startup Stash](#) on Quora.com:

“The Black Death arrived in England in 1348. Within two years, somewhere between a third and a half of the population was dead.

The peasants who survived noticed something within a generation.

There was nobody left to work the fields. The labour shortage was so severe that landlords, for the first time in English history, had to bid for workers. The peasants, suddenly possessed of leverage, demanded payment partly in meat. Beef, mutton, and bacon began appearing in the manorial accounts of agricultural labourers' wages.

Skeletal records from English burials in the late 1300s and 1400s, set against pre-plague remains, show measurable increases in average adult height. Bone density improves. Dental health improves. Iron-deficiency markers decline.

The peasants got taller. The peasants got stronger. The peasants started causing political problems on a scale they had previously been too undernourished to attempt.

In 1351 Parliament passed the Statute of Labourers, attempting to cap wages back at pre-plague levels. The peasants noticed. In 1381, well-fed, the same peasants marched on London in the largest popular uprising in medieval English history.

The nobility, in the centuries that followed, expanded the Forest Laws. Killing a deer in a royal forest was a capital offence. The Game Laws of the 1600s and 1700s extended the principle. Meat available to the peasant shrank back toward what it had been before the plague.

By 1850, the average British army recruit from the industrial slums was so short and so undernourished that the height minimum for enlistment had to be lowered repeatedly to keep the regiments staffed.

The single greatest improvement in working-class height and health in English history was caused by a plague that made meat affordable for two generations.

The single greatest decline was caused, in significant part, by a political decision to make it expensive again.”

Comment: As collectors, we often hear the comment that “people were smaller back then,” but that overlooks reality and needs to be qualified further by stating just *when* back then and where.

Years ago, I was visiting a museum as the visitors were clustered behind a rope in front of a large rustic table surrounded by chairs as would have been in a large inn or hall, and the docent mentioned that people were much smaller back in the 16th and 17th centuries. Tiring of the spiel that had been repeated at several different displays, I asked, “If the people were so much smaller back then, why weren’t the chairs and the tables much smaller? Why weren’t ceilings lower and houses smaller? How did the men manage to walk with such long swords hanging from their belts? How did they load their long muskets?” Oops. A confrontational moment that drew upper management. In fairness to the

docents, they had been brainwashed by people who were probably well-intentioned but had never questioned the fables passed on to them by academics who did not grasp reality.

Think of all those munchkin-sized ancestors who would have needed ladders to mount their war horses, or stepstools so they could load their long-barreled fowlers (yes, they could have angled them with buttstocks to the rear). How did the English archers draw their towering longbows? Why didn't they use *short* bows? Why were war horses so large? How could a tiny soldier wield a Model 1840 cavalry sabre or a Scottish broadsword or a Colt Dragoon revolver?

The argument often put forth by the "small people" cult is "Look at the sizes of the ladies' dresses from back then!" Yes, the surviving dresses are smaller than today's sizes. Why? Many of the dresses were worn by children or younger women who outgrew them and the dresses were stored away. Many surviving uniforms are small. Many soldiers were young men who outgrew their uniforms. When an 18-year-old served in the army for several years and returned home, he continued to grow taller or wider or both. Chances are good that he didn't pack on many pounds while serving as one of Morgan's riflemen, a member of Jackson's foot cavalry, or an infantryman in North Africa. Can you still fit into your uniform from the 1960's or 1970's or 1980's? No? Damn! Maybe that proves that people were smaller back then.

A contributor to a recent historical discussion forum commented that people were smaller "back then" (that term seems to cover many ears) and, early in the American Civil War (War for Southern Independence), the state of New York ordered 450,000 uniforms and most were "30 to 36 inches." A 30-inch chest is the equivalent of a 9- to 12-year-old boy. A 9-year-old averages 4 feet 5 inches tall, and a 12-year-old averages 4 feet 11 inches tall. Those kids would have had a tough problem handling a Model 1842 .69 calibre musket with a 42" long barrel. Maybe the trouser waists were 30 to 36 inches, yet sizes back then were not listed in inches, but were in numbers from 1 to 4. The soldiers referred to the sizes as "Too sizes," too large or too small.

It is true that there were many small(er) soldiers in the British Army. That's because many of the soldiers were Irish or city dwellers and tended to be smaller due to their restricted diets and horrid living conditions. In 1859, the infantry soldiers were so small that the P53 Enfield rifle muskets had the buttstocks shortened by an inch to decrease the length of the trigger pull due to the number of small Irishmen in the Army.

In studying many hundreds of Civil War records, I have encountered numerous smaller (as in shorter) soldiers who were less than 5' 8" tall, but most of them were Foreign born recruits or were from large cities like New York. American born recruits tended to be much larger than recruits from France or Ireland.

188	Spencer James	35	Lt	St	5'8	Shelter
189	James O. W.	11	St	St gain	5'10	Finished
196	Olson R. M.	24	Lt	Lt	5'7 1/2	
191	Chandler William	20	St	Mid St	5'11	Shelter
192	Falwell Wm	36	St		6'2	Seaboard
193	Munell W. C.	19	Boy	Lt gain	5'8	Shelter
194	Thomas A. W.	25			5'11	Polisher
196	Ward John	37	St		5'10	Shelter
196	Wade John	19	Boy		5'10	Shelter
197	Driscoll A. D.	18	St	St	5'8	Blacksmith
198	Driscoll D.	45	St	St	6'9	Shelter
199	Katie S. R.	20	Boy		5'10	Finished
200	Smith A. P.	43	St		6'7 1/2	Painter
201	Shepherd A. M.	20	St	St	5'8	Shelter

Above is a sampling of CS Armory workers in Richmond. Their ages are 18 to 45 and heights range from 5'6" to 6'9". Driscoll, at 6'9" and 45 years old must have been an impressive individual. Other Armory records list places of birth.

The September Show – Free Display Tables

Past discussions at meetings developed that one of the things that members wanted was free display tables. The practice of Ye CT Gun Guild in not charging for display tables was mentioned numerous times. We had not given out free display tables because we were operating on a tight budget and there are only 50 tables available at the VFW hall. A few members did pay for display tables at past shows at the VFW. One of the objectives of the NEAAS is to educate the public – while sales tables do effectively provide some education, display tables educate the collectors, sellers, and the public. We will now reserve five free tables for displays at one free table per displayer for the *first five applicants*. We will adjust as necessary if a displayer needs more than one table and there are still unsold tables available or unreserved display tables available as the show approaches.

The fine details of the upcoming September show have not been fully worked out. Emails will go out to past dealers and members. We need some help with the overall operation of NEAAS. Just showing up at a meeting and having lunch is fun, but someone must get the food, get ice, drinks, chips, etc. and move the containers and items after sending out newsletters and attending to other administrative details.

Fakes at Auction: Several recent auctions have been loaded with bogus items. Some of the fakes are crude, some are well crafted, others are misidentified legitimate items. Many of the items at auction were reproductions but were not identified as such. It's clear that several of the auctioneers got consignments from the same fakers/collectors.

Sometimes auctioneers unknowingly make mistakes; sometimes they are complicit in knowingly selling fake items. Some auctioneers seem to assume that the buyers are morons.



“A Nice Georgia Militia Reproduction Oval Belt Plate and Pigskin Leather Belt” \$1,000

The above reproduction belt plate was passed at auction with an opening bid of \$800 and later was offered for outright sale at \$1,000. It’s clearly described as a reproduction and has bogus stamping on the back of the plate. Maybe someone will think it’s a real Confederate belt plate?



A “named”/identified Confederate Enfield with a “Vicksburg Sharpshooters” tag/plaque

This was a decent P53 Enfield that was ruined by someone who added the fake 1 LA shield and other markings. Enlarging the photos shows that the ramrod is a reproduction, and the barrel has been sleeved for shooting. There were dozens of similar reworked arms in the auction.



Faked Bowie knives are one of the major offerings currently online and at auctions.

If I can get the programs loaded into the new laptop and the projection screen arrives before the meeting, I will be doing a presentation on Caveat Emptor – I will bring some decent fakes for educational purposes. Yes, I knowingly collect those for educational purposes. See you at the meeting!

Bill Adams, President, NEAAS