



ALAMO MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB

www.amlgc.org

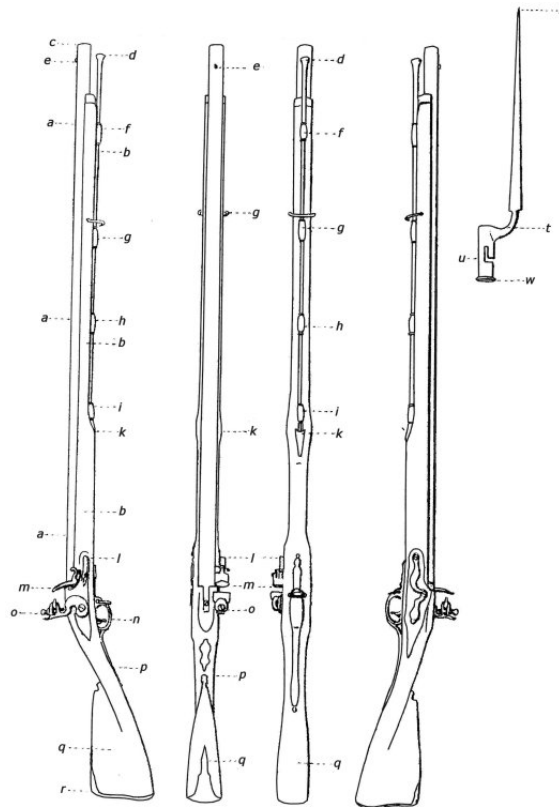
SMOKE SIGNAL

NEWSLETTER

20

February/March

19



Source: Digby Smith, British long land pattern Brown Bess musket. Jpg. Kronoskaf.com Oct. 2014, apparently based on William Windham, *A Plan of Discipline, Composed for the Use of the Militia of the County of Norfolk* (London: 1759).

Q: “What was the most common firearm used in the Texas Revolution?”

A: “Board of Ordnance India Pattern 1793 and 1797 British-mfr. muskets, shorter and cheaper versions of the long land pattern pictured above.”

J. Basswood, “Remembering the Guns of the Alamo” *American Rifleman* Sunday 24 Feb 2019 online at <<https://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/2019/2/24/remembering-the-guns-of-the-alamo/>>.

In the 1830s, Mexico sought to re-equip its national army, and turned to prodigious quantities of cheaply-made and widely available India Pattern British muskets left over from the Napoleonic Wars. Thus, the typical infantryman carried a ten pound

“Brown Bess”—as smooth bore muskets from the 1730 long land pattern to the 1842 percussion musket were often nick-named—albeit with a 39-in. barrel instead of the longer “Short Land Pattern’s” 42-in. barrel. Mexican NCOs and many *Cazadores* or light infantry/skirmishers carried a shorter “Sergeant’s Carbine” while other *Cazador* light infantry toted the .625 caliber Baker Rifle that used a heavy rammer and balls with lubed patches sewn around the bullet. Cavalry relied on the lance, sabers, and also often carried smaller “tercerolas” or cavalry carbines, or older “escopetas” (Anglicized to the “scuppet” by some Anglo-Texians).

After the fall of the Alamo, Mexican officials itemized some 816 firelocks, with the implication that the defenders had three and even four firearms at their disposal. The quickest way to load a muzzle-loader, of course, is to have another gun. Many Texians and Tejanos simply took their own personal firearm with them into militia service. This often entailed a do-it-all fowler that could hunt game of all sizes, albeit at close range, and also for defensive use. Still others carried double-barrel shotguns. Long rifles were particularly favored by some, and certainly the only known Alamo-defender-provenance firearm was a fine Jacob Dickert, Lancaster, Pennsylvania example with a curly maple stock, elaborate brass patch box, 8 ovoid German silver inlays, and a 45-inch octagonal barrel. [See Lonny Taylor, “Remember the Long Rifle” *Texas Monthly* (March 2015) available online at <<https://www.texasmonthly.com/the-culture/remember-the-long-rifle/>>. Surrenders of Centralists produced stands of Mexican army and militia arms. U.S. militia muskets of various kinds were smuggled into the future state of Texas. General José Urrea reported capturing some 200 plus muskets in a home in Columbia on the Brazos, in addition to the weapons taken from defeated Tejanos, Texians, Georgians, Alabamans, New Orleans Greys, and others in the string of battles and massacres from the San Antonio, Guadalupe, Lavaca, Colorado, and San Bernardo Rivers. These were apparently chucked in the River. Many New Orleans Greys apparently acquired Model 1817 Common Rifles in .54 caliber (I here differ with Basswood, who asserted Model 1814 Deringer-mfr. rifles). It is known that the Alabama Red Rovers had many Cadet muskets. Georgia Battalion forces that fought at Refugio and were largely massacred along with Fannin’s command at Goliad literally helped themselves to Georgia militia armories preparatory to coming to Texas. So earlier French muskets and U.S. copies like the Model 1795 and Model 1816 muskets were probably amply represented during the Texas Revolution. Independence won, the Lone Star Republic adopted the Model 1816 as something of a standard musket, although long term readers of the *Smoke Signal* newsletter will recall that Texas forces proved an arena for the development and use of all manner of more advanced arms, including Colt Paterson revolvers, revolving rifles, shotguns, Jenks and Halls breech-loading carbines, and so on.

Flintlock mechanisms predominated, although the percussion system was well under development and even adoption by 1835-1836. France adopted percussion for the military arms of that Empire by 1839, and the UK and United States followed suit. Indeed, the Model 1841 Mississippi rifle and Model 1842 musket were the first percussion arms in standard U.S. service (a handful of navy weapons are technically “first.”). It is known that Mirabeau B. Lamar owned a percussion double gun during the Texas Revolution.

Range News:

For some, the old adage is “no news is good news” and so things at the range must be copacetic. There was a 9 February work party, which as “Murphy’s Law” would intervene in such matters, proved to be during inclement weather accompanied by cold, rain, wet, and fog. Three hardy souls arrived early, while a fourth was sent home as the downpour increased. According to Gary Quandt, our chief range officer: “The good news one of our members used to install septic systems. We removed the concrete lid and found that there were no solids in the bottom to have pumped out. Our system has been working fine. I guess the bugs I put in every now and then are either starving or doing just fine. I put a new plug on the clean-out as the old one had been cut off by a lawn mower and put some new bugs in the system. We started to look for the water shutoffs but concluded that they are buried deep. Paul suggested he use his bucket to scrape the dirt slowly away from the area until he found the green enclosure covers. We will wait until he has to spread gravel. The gravel pit on Montgomery road only has fill dirt, no gravel. So still working on quote. We then got rained out and went home. Also one 4H-er showed up late. I sent him home as it was raining.”

Such volunteers deserve our thanks! We all profit and enjoy the use of our range as a result of such efforts. Over the course of the year, now almost a quarter passed, give some thought to pitching in and volunteering some of your time and labor for the good of the club! Thank you!

February and March Match scores:

(graciously provided by long-serving Dennis Rich and our Board of Directors member Clif Denny)

FEBRUARY 1ST SUNDAY SHOOT

Class A

| 50-yard 2 bulls-eyes | 50-yd. 6 x bulls | 100-yd. 1 bulls-eye | 100-yd. 3x bulls | Xs. |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Bill Knipscher 39 | 1. Dennis Rich 49xxx | 1. Bill Knipscher 45 | 1. Dennis Rich 45x | Dennis Rich: 4 |
| 2. Dennis Rich 38 | 2. Bill Knipscher 48x | 2. Dennis Rich 41x | 2. Leo Broesche 38 | Bill Knipscher: 1 Dennis Rich: 1 |
| 3. Clif Denny 32 | 3. Leo Broesche 44 | 3. Clif Denny 40 x | 3. Bill Knipscher 36 | Clif Denny: 1 |
| TOTALS | | | | |
| 1. Dennis Rich 173-5x | 2. Bill Knipscher 168 x | 3. Leo Broesche 152 | | |

Class B

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Rich Beardsley 39 | 1. John Moore 46 | 1. John Burke, Sr. 43 | 1. John Burke, Jr. 44x | John Burke, Jr.: 1 |
| 2. John Burke, Sr. 38 | 2. Rich Beardsley 35 x | 2. Greg Delk 39 | 2. Rich Beardsley 20 | Rich Beardsley: 1 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 3. Greg Delk 30 | 3. Greg Delk 34 | 3. Rich Beardsley 39 | 3. Dave Carlson 23 | |
| TOTALS | | | | |
| 1. Rich Beardsley 142 x | 2. John Burke, Sr. 135 | 3. John Burke, Jr. 113x | | |

Top 10 Rifle Totals, 2019:

1. Dennis Rich 341-5x
2. Bill Knipscher 327-2x
3. Clif Denny 294 x
4. Gary Quandty 255
5. John Burke, Sr. 251 x
6. Greg Delk 250 x
7. John Burke, Jr. 239 x
8. Rich Beardsley 238 x
9. Leo Broesche 152
10. Ken Rupkalvis 138

1ST SUNDAY 3 MARCH SHOOT

Class A Rifle

| Ground hog | 6 x bull | 3 x bull | Bear |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Bill Knipscher 43 | 1. Bill Knipscher 42 | 1. Bill Knipscher 44 x | 1. Dennis Rich 37 |
| 2. Dennis rich 38 | 2. Clif Denny 41 | 2. Clif Denny 43 | 2. Bill Knipscher 31 x |
| 3. Clif Denny 34 x | 3. Dennish Rich 37 | 3. Dennish Rich 42 x | 3. Clif Denny 22 |
| <u>AGGREGATE</u> | 1. Bill Knipscher 160xx | 2. Dennis Rich 154x | 3. Clif Denny 140x |

Class B Rifle

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Gary Quandt 42 | 1. John Burke, Sr. 43 | 1. John Burke, Jr. 40 | 1. John Burke, Sr. 36 x |
| 2. John Burke, Jr. 32 | 2. John Burke, Jr. 38 | 2. Gary Quandt 40 | 2. John Moore 31 |
| 3. Greg Delk 31 | 3. Rich Beardsley 38 | 3. Greg Delk 39 | 3. Rich Beardsley 30 |
| <u>AGGREGATE</u> | 1. John Burke, Jr. 135 | 2. John Burke, Sr. 132 x | 3. Gary Quandt 132 |

Top 10 Rifle:

1. Dennis Rich 495-6x
2. Bill Knipscher 487—4x
3. Clif Denny 434xx
4. Gary Quandt 387
5. John Burke, Sr. 383xx
6. John Burke, Jr. 374x
7. Greg Delk 365x

8. Rich Beardsley 351x
9. John Moore 182
10. Ken Rupkalvis 138

Class A Pistol: 1. Clif Denny 74

Class B Pistol: 1. John Burke, Sr. 72 2. Gary Quandt 66 3. Greg Delk 64

Pistol—Top 10:

1. Clif Denny 150
2. John Burke, Sr. 132
3. Greg Delk 114
4. Ian Straus 111
5. Dennis Rich 72
6. Gary Quandt 66
7. John Moore 54
8. Ken Rupkalvis 35

Thank you to all match participants and volunteers!

*Forthcoming events and matches (also on the
AMLG Club Facebook page)*

<http://www.amlgc.com/events/> :

- **March 17th** – Black Powder Cartridge 200, 300, 385 Meters
- **March 23rd** – 4-H Club County Shoot (4-H Club will control range; all day event)
- **April 7th** – 40 shot Club silhouette shoot (9am – 4 pm)
- **April 21st** – Black powder cartridge
- **April 26th-28th** – *Brierfield skirmish**
- **May 5th** – Cross sticks – Buffalo targets (50 & 100 yds), 25 yard pistol shoot
- **May 15th-19th** – *N-SSA Nationals**
- **May 19th** – Black Powder Cartridge
- **May 25th** – Civil War Skirmish: Smoothbore skirmish (morning), individuals in afternoons
- **May 26th** – Civil War Skirmish: Musket skirmish (9 am)

We'd like to include more muzzle loading and rendezvous and historical re-enactor events that may be of interest to AMLGC members. So if you've got an event or a contact person, please let one of the Club officers know, or send the information to the President, Mr. Greg Delk, or to the AMLGC contact online. Thank you very much!

See y'all soon at an event, match, informal shoot, or "in the wild!"