

MACA 2024 Chesapeake Chapter Displays and Other Awards.....the Baltimore Show

All....

Because of a burst of volunteerism, I only needed to stand one hour at our Chapter Table and checked in from time to time on Saturday as well. But during my one hour we received many compliments and many questions on the display, it was high quality and a real attention grabber. Well displayed. And lots of related information. And I think all those who stopped by recognized that.

*Hats off to all those who put it together or loaned items from their collection.
.....George Franks*



John L. Morris

Congrats again Ger! Seems almost every award was won by Company of Military Historians members! I've been at every MACA show since 1982 and I've never noticed such a clean sweep before.

John Dowle and his wife Cynthia did a fantastic job helping with the display this year!



Alan Boyd and Jim Vaughn with new member Ed Burgee



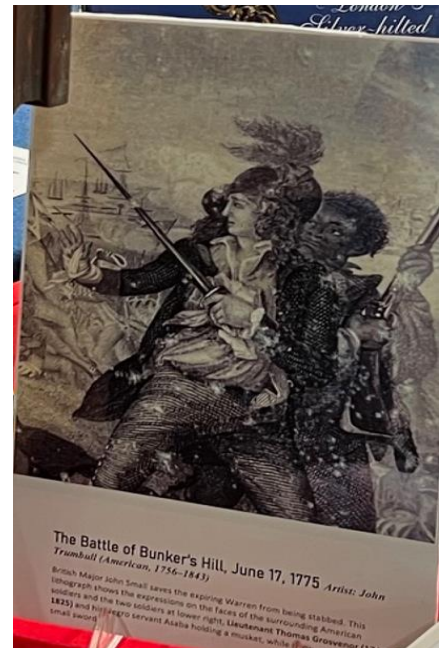
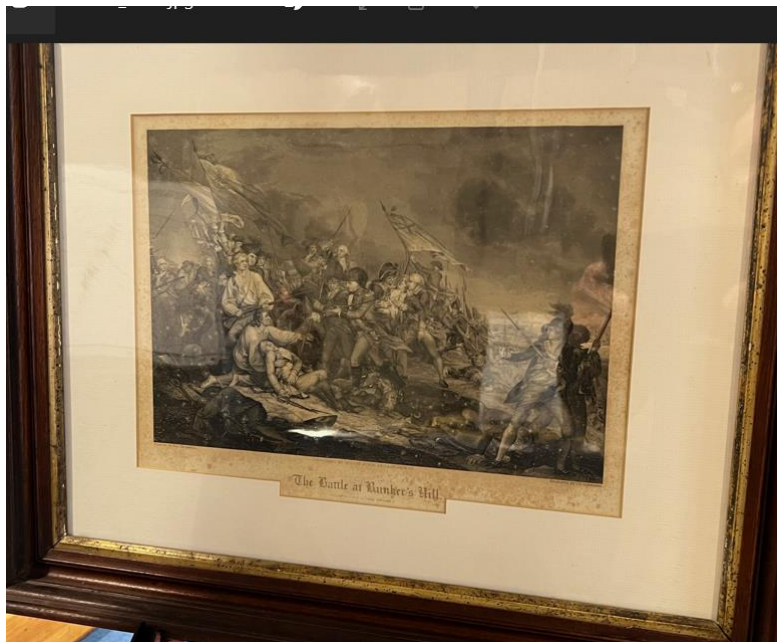
George Franks



Battle of Bunker Hill ...small sword in action

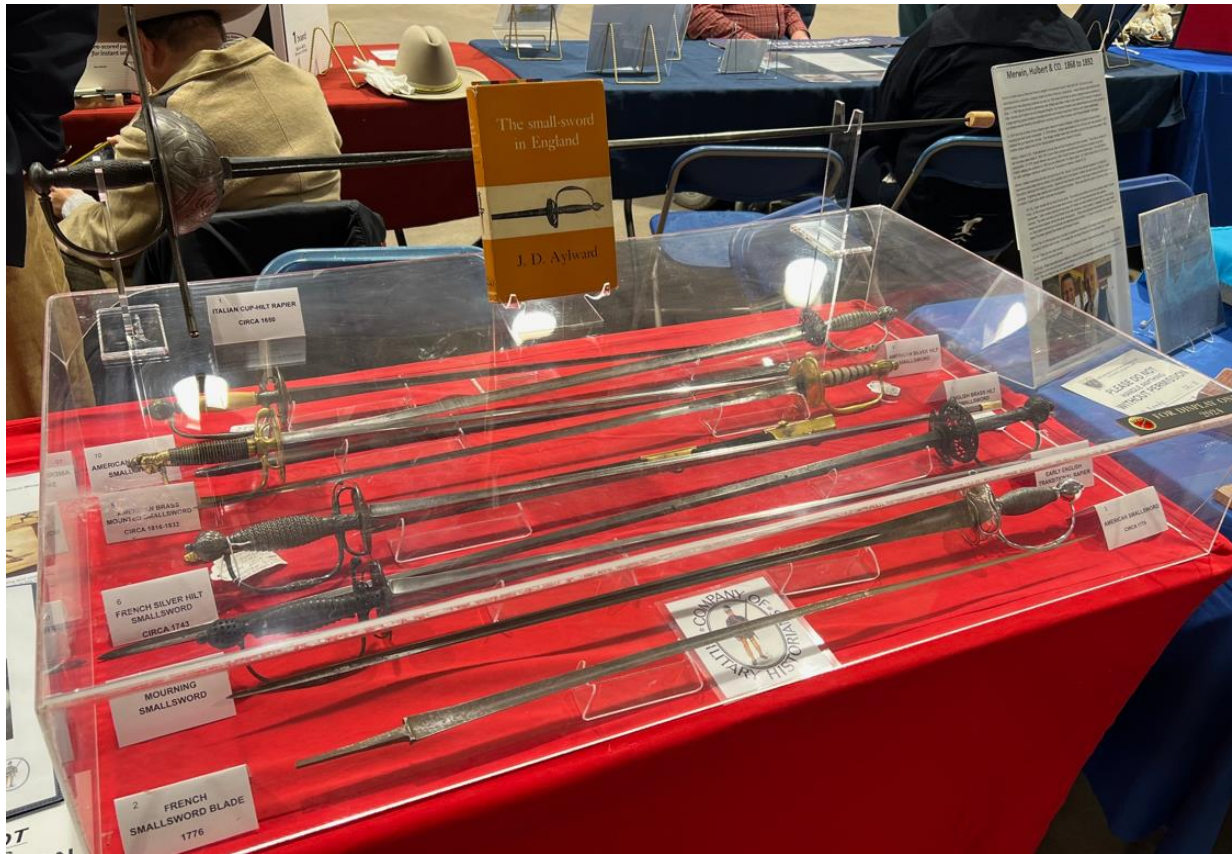


Bob Carlson and John Thillmann



"Battle of Bunker Hill" ...Depicting a small sword in action

The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775.... By John Trumbull



Tom Price



William Horn and Bob Carlson

Our Chapter Display (Small Swords) was terrific. I'd like to thank John Thillmann, John Dowdle, Doug Lampe, Bruce Bazelon and Jim Vaughn for contributing items from their collection for this year's display.



***"Maryland Officer Swords from the War of 1812"* by Chris Grazzini "Best in Show" award. Dave Kliner standing with Chris.**



Ronn Steel's "Flagstaff" display. Jim McCoy with Ronn assisting.



Judges Choice Award - *"John Miles Virginia Contract Flintlock Pistols"...*by Craig Bell



"Single Shot Flintlock Martial Pistols" by Lew Southard



MACA 2024 Judges Choice Award...Gerry Roxbury..*US Naval Sword of the Antebellum Period*



Judges Choice Award - War of 1812 Congressional Presentation Sword....by Alan Boyd

Midshipman Charles L. Williamson's Congressional Presentation Sword for the Battle of Lake Champlain

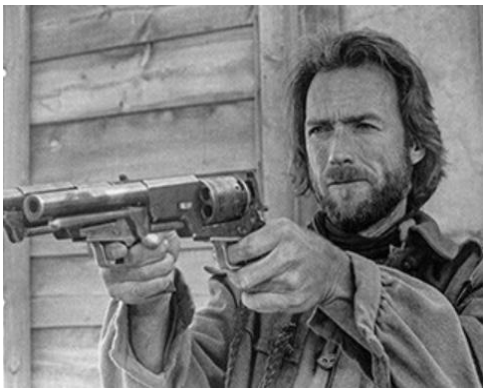
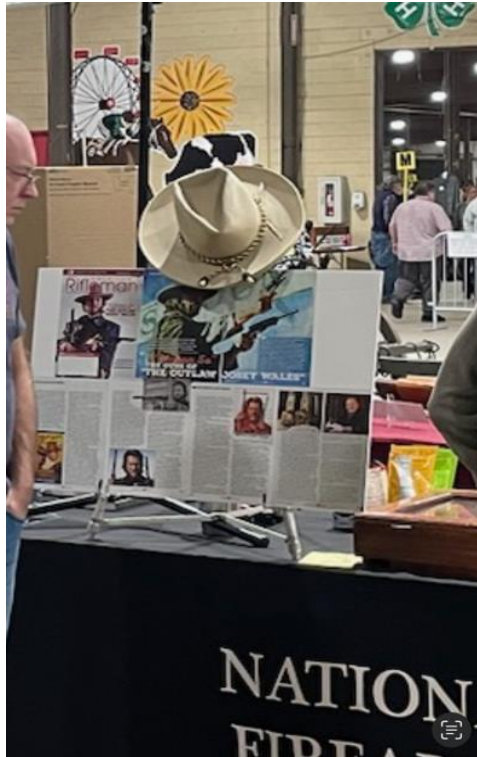
Commodore Thomas MacDonough won a significant naval battle on Lake Champlain on 11 September 1814. A Congressional resolution was approved on 20 October 1814 to give gold medals to Master Commandant MacDonough, Captain Robert Henley, and Lieutenant Stephan Cassin; 71 swords were authorized for the Sailing Masters (Warrant Officers) and Midshipmen. It is noted that only four War of 1812 naval engagements were recognized with swords: Lake Erie, Lake Champlain, Peacock vs Epervier, and Wasp vs Reindeer.

The sword was made by William Rose of Philadelphia and engraved/etched by John Meer. The pommel is a helmeted Roman soldier with an upswept knuckle bow. The guard is embellished with a medallion of a woman's bust with elaborate scroll work with cutouts above and below the medallion. The grip is rectangular with a prominent mermaid holding a vase over her head. The grip is slightly tapered at the top and bottom and has some fluted floral designs; there is a pin above the top taper to aid in the construction. This is a brass mounted sword with slightly different ribbing than the one pictured in Peter Tuite's *U.S. Naval Officers Their Swords and Their Dirks*. There are only two vertical ribs vice the four pictured on page 142. The counterguard is slightly curved down and prominently displaying an eagle with outstretched wings on cannon barrel with crossed anchors and flags in the background. The underside of the guard has a laurel wreath centered between the letters U and S; eighteen stars are on the underside of the reverse guard.

The reverse blade is etched with a battle scene between two ships of the line showing the American and British ensigns, an American Eagle, floral designs, and has "Altius ibunt qui ad, summa nituntur". The translation is roughly "He who aims highest, rises highest". The obverse blade is etched with triangular and floral designs, crossed cannon with an anchor, a trident, a spear, and flags and finishes off with the presentation information: "Charles L. Williamson Midshipman/Lake Champlain 11 September 1814".

The sword is pristine and does not have the usual damage of a bent or broken guard. The scabbard has a top mount with a raised trident and a carrying ring for attaching to the sword belt; a middle mount with a cloth draped floral spray and a second carrying ring; the bottom drag has a dolphin entwined with an anchor bordered by oak leaves and ocean waves. The leather is plain black leather stitched down the middle of the back. The sword belt is missing but used to have Neptune's face on the gold gilded buckle and red cloth for the belt; only three of the 71 sword belts remain within museum collections.

Chapter member Philip Schreier had another fantastic display on “I Reckon So”: The Guns Of “The Outlaw Josey Wales”... and other Clint Eastwood guns...



<https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/i-reckon-so-the-guns-of-the-outlaw-josey-wales/>

