

December, 2025



Colorado Gun Collectors Association

Dear CGCA Members,

As the holidays approach along with the end of the year, it is a good time to be thankful. President Lincoln didn't start the tradition of Thanksgiving but he officially proclaimed it a National Holiday in 1863. You would think that in the middle of the Civil War, why would anyone think of being thankful!

But looking back at what Lincoln had to endure, I have to be thankful for this great country and the fact that people can still express their opinions and disagree. Let's hope we, as Americans, can realize the danger of our discourse and division, and pull back to our similarities and what we have in common and respectfully disagree.

I am also thankful for the Colorado Gun Collectors Association as we approach our 60th anniversary show. In honor of that occasion, the one-of-a-kind, engraved Winchester rifle that the Colorado State Shooting Association is raffling off for us next year is really going to be a collectors' item in its own right. I think back to all of the great collectors that helped to make this organization what it is today, but have unfortunately passed on. Names like Frank Sellers, Tom Louis, Mel Flanagan, Fritz Baer, Larry Jones, Ed Brandhorst, and Jim Stroud come to mind and of course many others. What an assemblage of knowledge those men accumulated!

That being said, I love this club and the camaraderie of learning and sharing of knowledge. I started out as a collector of guns of the old west, but as my knowledge has increased, I have become interested in Military weapons as well.

Just the other day I was in a gun shop and saw what looked like a WWII P38. On closer inspection I saw the "made in France" and the P1 designation, meaning it was a post war copy of a P 38, made on Walther tooling in France, since Germany was not allowed to make such guns anymore. Interestingly it had a "crossed cannons" stamp on the right rear of the slide. I didn't know what this meant so I texted my friend and fellow club member David. He said that was thought to have been one of the guns made for sale to the Portuguese who then canceled the order and they were sold somewhere else. Sure enough, on the left trigger guard was a stamp for the Berlin police. This is why I have become interested in military guns, because they have more stamps and proof marks so that you can figure out more of the story! I love this stuff!

Let's all remember to be thankful for each other for giving us the critical mass to have gun shows, and that we still get to study, learn, and talk guns in this great country.

Thanks,
Rick Wilson, President

Thank you all for your generous support with our auction, we raised \$4,757.00.

Thanks to Dave Sanders for being our auctioneer. We had the largest number of items to auction than we had in many years. There were many nice items and many super nice books that went to good homes.

We will NOT have a meeting in December.

I am sad to notify you that Thomas Westervelt of Durango, CO has passed. Tom had been a member since 2006. He was a Life Member. Tom collected Martial Carbines. He was a geologist and continued with his love of rocks and guns til the very end.

FOR SALE: Two 1847 Colt Walkers. One is all authenticated, documented, and ready for purchase. The other, newly discovered in amazing high condition, is currently undergoing authentication. Call for details: Bob Ulbright: 715-772-4992.

We have 14 members that have reached the 50-year mark. These individuals have been members of our club for 50 years or more. We thank you for your support over the years. What an accomplishment to belong to a club for more than 50 years!!

John Dutcher	Denver, CO	Jim Beman	Aurora, CO
Norman Gieseke	Littleton, CO	John Brooks	Woodland Park, CO
Jacob Dewell	Golden, CO	Gil Jones	Ottumwa, IA
Robert Adams	Lakewood, CO	Bob Moulder	Northglenn, CO
William LaRue	Albuquerque, NM	Marty Martin	Commerce City, CO
Bennett Auslaender	Conifer, CO	Dennis Gahagen	Boulder, CO
Richard Regnier	Clay Center, KS	Marvin Beard II	Billings, MT

Welcome to all of our new members that have joined this year. Please welcome them if you see them around. Several of them have jumped in to help with monthly meetings and our show.

Kevin Houghton	Boulder, CO	Patrick Hodgson	Lubbock, TX
Peter Czarnowski	Kiowa, CO	Tyler Brownell	Centennial, CO
Andrew Manriquez	Cheyenne, WY	Sean Bagnall	Littleton, CO
Robert Zinkgraf	West Bend, WI	Roger Barlow	Highlands Ranch, CO
Randy Ziemer	Arvada, CO	Robert Cooper	Becket, MA

Please visit our website at www.CGCA.com for club news and updates and our Facebook page.

If you have questions, please contact:

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Dave Weddle, Show Chairman 720-482-0167; CGCAShow@cgca.com

See more on our youtube channel.

<https://youtube.com/@coguncollectors?feature=shared>

The First .45 Caliber Automatic Pistol: The Colt Model 1905

By: Robert G. Ramsour II

The Colt Model 1905 Automatic Pistol holds a pivotal place in American firearms history. As the direct forerunner of the legendary Colt Model 1911, the 1905 represented a critical step in the evolution of the modern military sidearm.

At the turn of the 20th century, the U.S. military found itself reevaluating the effectiveness of its standard-issue sidearms. Experience during the Philippine-American War had revealed the shortcomings of the .38-caliber, particularly in terms of stopping power. In response, the U.S. Army conducted the Thompson-LaGarde tests in 1904—rigorous ballistic trials along with cadavers, needed to determine the ideal caliber for a new service pistol. The conclusion was clear: the military needed a .45-caliber round capable of delivering greater lethal performance.

John M. Browning, a brilliant firearms designer, immediately saw the opportunity. He began adapting his existing Colt Model 1902 .38-caliber automatic pistol to chamber the new .45 ACP cartridge, which had been developed in parallel by the Union Metallic Cartridge Company (UMC). The result was the Colt Model 1905, which became the very first automatic pistol chambered in .45 ACP.

Mr. Browning's new 7-round pistol was introduced as the military model of 1905. Colt proudly proclaimed to the world as "the most powerful sidearm ever invented." Browning's design sought to meet the Army's demand for a more effective combat pistol, and military interest was immediate. However, after initial testing and field evaluation, the Army ultimately declined to adopt the 1905. Feedback from the Ordnance Board highlighted several areas for improvement, including:

- * A more secure barrel locking system
- * A redesigned grip angle for better ergonomics (inspired by the German Luger)
- * A thumb safety and grip safety for improved handling
- * A larger ejection port
- * A more efficient magazine release

These suggestions directly influenced the development of later prototypes: the Models 1907, 1909, and 1910. Each incorporated incremental refinements that would ultimately culminate in the adoption of the Colt Model 1911, which became one of the most iconic military firearms in history.

Despite its rejection by the military, the Model 1905 found modest commercial success. A total of 6,210 units were produced between 1905 and 1912. To broaden its appeal, the 1905 was also offered with optional features such as a lanyard loop and the ability to mount a detachable shoulder stock.

In 1908, the early rounded hammer (see s/n 1012) was replaced with the spur hammer. This utilitarian spur hammer (see s/n 5239) is still used on the 1911's made to this day.

Though never adopted by the U.S. military, it laid the essential groundwork for future improvements. Most importantly, it proved that Browning's new and powerful .45 ACP cartridge could be effectively harnessed into an automatic sidearm.

The Colt Model 1905 may not have earned the fame of its successor, but it was the crucial first step on the road to what would become the Colt Model 1911, a sidearm that served the United States in two world wars and continued in production for over six decades. Today, the 1905 is rightly recognized as the "father of the 1911," and a cornerstone in the history of American military firearms.

