

**Marist CLS**  
**May 10, 2022:**

HMS Cerberus: The 3-headed Guardian of Hell  
The *REAL* First Eight Presidents  
Phrygian Cap / the Sons of Liberty  
Prison Ships - the Floating Death Holes  
Implements of the Colonial Period  
Weapons of the Colonial Period  
The Art of John Trumbull  
Washington's Sword  
What is a "Fasces"  
The NYS "Oblong" meets CT's "Cleaverhandle"  
The "Lamentation" pose  
The Society of the Cincinnati  
Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation  
Lincoln, on Washington  
Michelangelo's ONLY Signed Work - why ?  
The Michelangelo / Rockwell Connection  
Ghiberti's "Gates of Paradise" - why ?  
The "Turtle"; the world's first submarine  
The Peace Symbol - why ?  
Early Agriculture: "There Three Sisters"  
The significance of DOR, "Date of Rank"  
The Lafayette letter from Fishkill  
Rt 9 Milestones: "the mail must go thru.."  
History of the Hamilton Fish Family  
Land Borders  
The Rich and Wealthy: "New" vs "Old" Money  
Origin of the word "Sniper"  
Symbolism on our Dollar Bill  
Why is it called a Vaccine ?  
When is a Courthouse *NOT* a Courthouse  
Is it really JUST 10 Commandments ?  
Why Study History? - Memorable Quotes  
Hessians: What and Why  
Why a Monument to a *Boot* ?  
Abraham Lincoln - on George Washington  
Why do we say "2-bits" ?

**Fun-Factoids and  
Tidy-Tidbits of History**

The Battle of Bunker Hill - Wasn't  
The Three T's: Tar, Tobacco, Turpentine  
Meet General Washington's War Horses  
to "Toe the Line"  
Thinking "Out of the Box"  
"Decimated" and "To Cross the Rubicon"  
A "Pyrrhic Victory"  
"Grid Iron" (a football field ?)  
"Flash in the Pan"  
"Lock, Stock, and Barrel"  
Don't Go Off "Half-Cocked"  
Washington's "Watchchain"  
To be "Fired"  
A "Windfall"  
"The Cat's Out of the Bag"  
"Eating "High on the Hog"  
"Bringing Home the Bacon"  
"Chewing the Fat"  
"Sleep Tight, Don't let the Bed-Bug Bite"  
To be "Quarantined"  
To be in the "Limelight"  
Why is "Love" a score in Tennis ?  
Why do we say "I'm Stumped" ?  
What is meant by "Spiking" a Cannon?  
Why do we call wages a "salary" ?  
Why do we call a sore a "buboe" ?  
What does "Iron Clad" imply ?  
Spackenkill - and those "Homicidal" Dutch  
Why do we say "OK" ?  
The Wisdom of Mark Twain  
"Live Free or Die"  
Benjamin Franklin's "Join or Die"

**Q?**

**Any questions on what we discussed last week ?**

## Covered last week.....

The *REAL* First Eight Presidents  
Implements of the Colonial Period  
The Peace Symbol - why ?  
“Grid Iron” (fireplace utensil or football field ?)  
“Sleep Tight, Don’t let the Bed-Bug Bite”  
The Wisdom of Mark Twain’s “Two Days”  
Michelangelo's ONLY Signed Work - *why* ?  
The Michelangelo / Rockwell Connection  
Ghiberti’s “*Gates of Paradise*” - *why* ?

**Q?**

**Did anyone get over to Vassar's Taylor Hall to visit the Ghiberti doors ?**

**Comments to share ?**

and now for today .....

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 Abraham Lincoln - on George Washington  
 Why do we say "2-bits" ?

**For today:**

**- the 6 most requested**

**- \* my picks.....**

The Battle of Bunker Hill - Wasn't  
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 "Live Free or Die"  
 Benjamin Franklin's "Join or Die"

Notice a few additions to the list, as it continues to grow.....;  
 for today, time permitting.....

- For today:
- the 6 most requested
  - \* my picks.....

**Most Requested:**

The Rich and Wealthy: “New” vs “Old” Money  
Why do we say “2-bits” ?  
Thinking “Out of the Box”  
“The Cat’s Out of the Bag”  
Why is “Love” a score in Tennis ?  
Why do we say “OK” ?

**\* My Picks:**

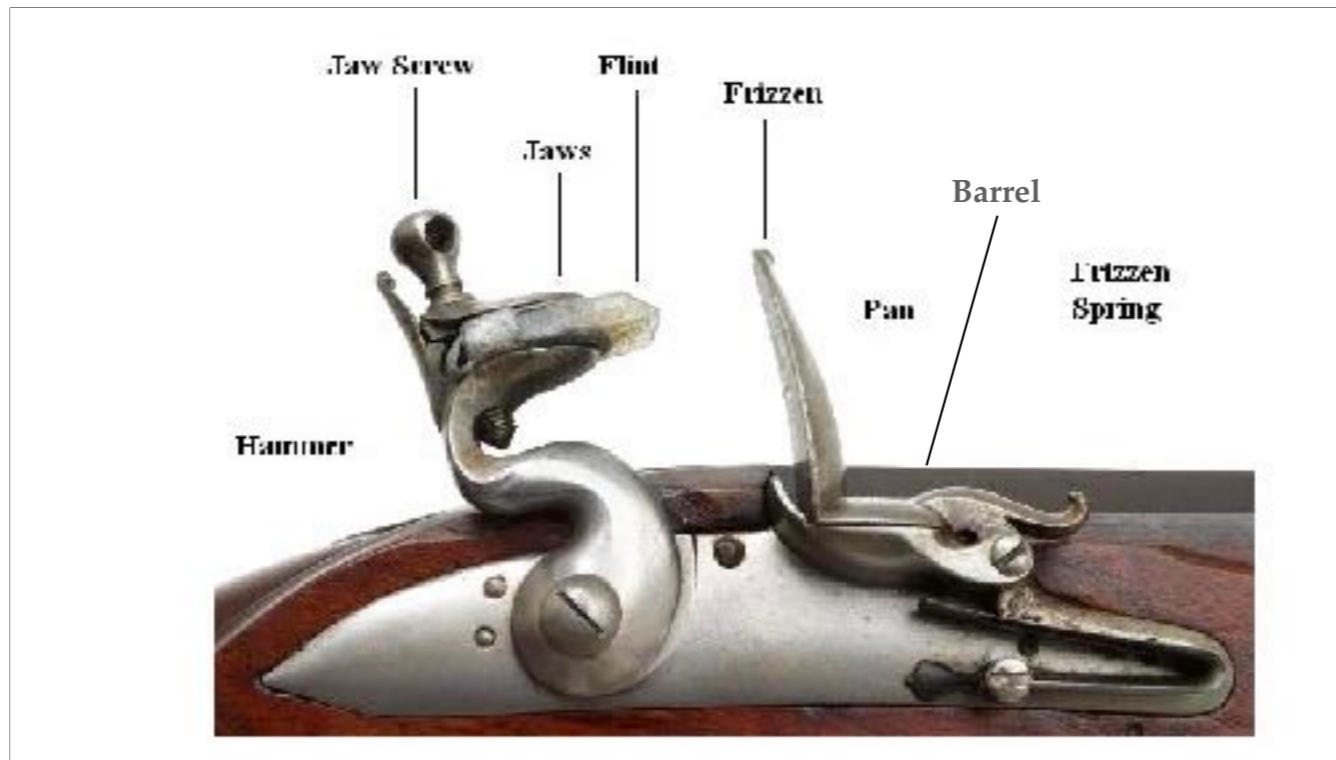
“Flash in the Pan”  
“Lock, Stock, and Barrel”  
Don’t Go Off “Half-Cocked”  
“Eating “High on the Hog”  
“Bringing Home the Bacon”  
“Chewing the Fat”

...plus any others we have time for; we’ll probably run out of time before completing the full list in only 4 weeks, so if you really have some favorites not yet covered, get those choices in to me. We should have time for all the personal selections... but only if you let me know what they are. Thanks to those of you who have already sent in their choices. Still time for you others to vote ....

**We'll be sharing a few *Show and Tells* in class Tuesday. The back of each has some descriptive info some of you will find of interest, so, to let you take your time to read them, if so inclined, here they are in advance so we can keep the items moving when in class to let all get a look at them.....**

The hand outs have to do with weapons of the Revolutionary War era, and a few expressions that arose as a result.....

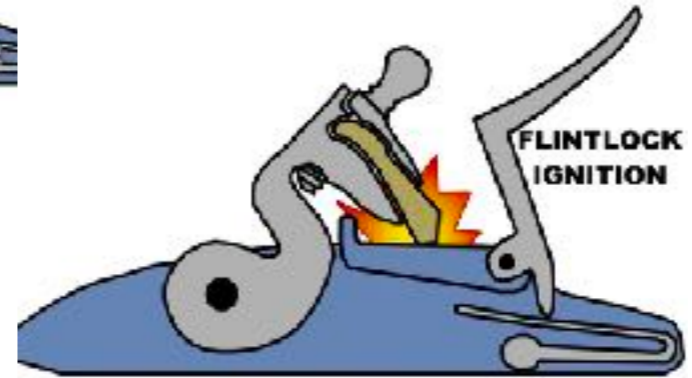
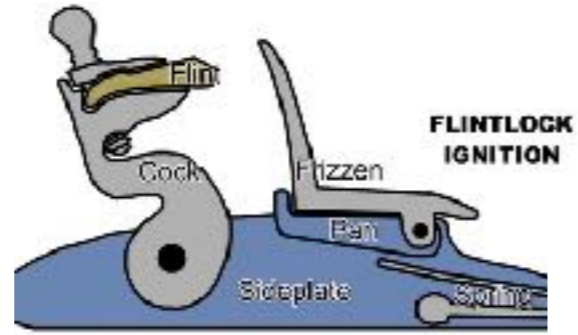
First, a look at the gun "lock", or trigger assembly:

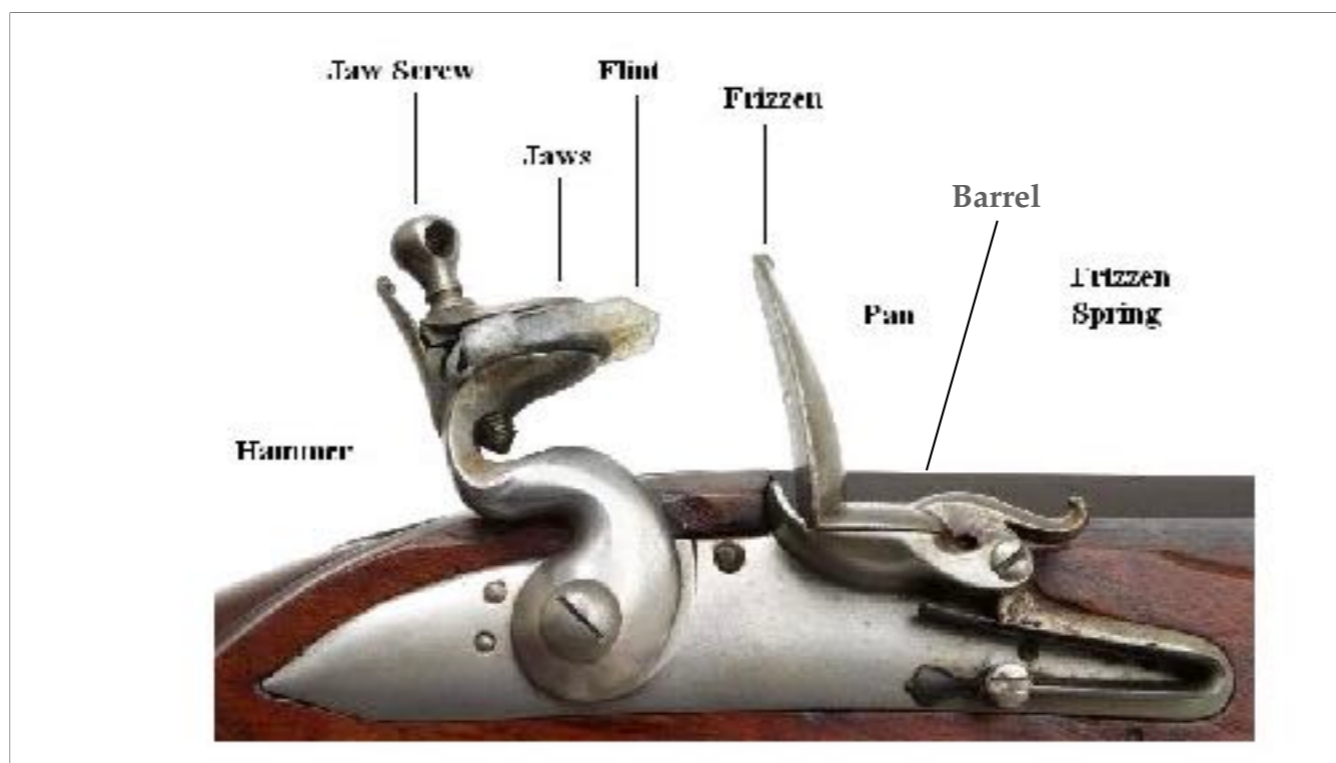


This is the "gun lock". The item here noted as the "hammer" was then called the "cock". It held the flint which, when striking the steel "frizzen" produced a spark that ignited the powder in the "pan". That ignition would send a flame thru the vent hole into the barrel, where the gunpowder ignited, sending the musket ball on its way to the target.

It had three positions, "fired", ready to fire ("cocked"), or ready to reload ("half cocked").



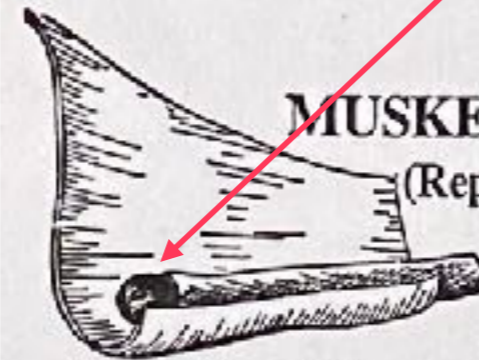




A hole in the barrel at the pan location (the “vent hole”) then permitted that explosion to ignite the gunpowder in the barrel, sending the musket ball on its way to the target.

Here’s what the cartridge looked like:

# REVOLUTIONARY WAR ARMS



Forming the Cartridge

MUSKET BALL .69 cal.  
(Replica-lead free)



Finished Cartridge

MADE IN U.S.A.

For the most part, combatants in the American Revolution used prepared cartridges to load their muskets. Such cartridges were made by rolling a triangular shaped piece of brown paper around a dowel which was the approximate diameter of the bore of the musket. A musket ball, made prior to the rolling of the cartridge by pouring molten lead into a hand held bullet mold, was placed against one end of the dowel and became part of the paper tube assembly. A piece of twine tied off the paper tube below the musket ball.

Next, the dowel was removed and the tube filled with black powder, enough for the main charge and some extra powder for priming the pan. The top of the paper tube was then twisted to close the cartridge. In battle, the soldier would tear the paper cartridge with his teeth and tap a small amount of powder into the flash pan of the musket. The remaining powder was poured down the barrel, followed by the musket ball. The remnants of the cartridge paper was inserted behind the bullet, and the entire charge rammed home with a ramrod.

A trained soldier loaded his musket "by the numbers" in a series of defined steps and could get off about four rounds per min.

4-8755

EASTERN NATIONAL  
\$ 1.00

and here again, a cross section look:

The **paper cartridge** contains the powder, lube and a ball slightly smaller than the bore.



**Factoid:** Holding the gun in one hand and the cartridge in the other, gave you no way to tear open the paper to load your gun. You had to rip the top open *with your teeth*, leading to an interesting physical requirement for soldiers of the day: you had to have a minimum of **two teeth that mated top and bottom** so you could rip it open with your hands already fully involved. Preloaded cartridges were carried in a leather cartridge case.....

## Cartridge Case



(a real one, from those days !)



The British Brown Bess had a barrel with a 3/4" diameter, or 0.75 caliber (inches). In order to load more easily, the ball size used had to be smaller to fit inside it...(here shown to be 0.69 caliber).

This famous musket was the standard arm of the British soldier from 1720-1830. The original version featured a 46" barrel and was known as the long land pattern. By the 1750's, the shorter model with a 42" barrel became standard (short land pattern). The name Brown Bess originated from the rich brown color of the walnut stock.

The Brown Bess was also the common arm of the Continentals early in the Revolution as colonial militias had been issued these muskets in the years preceding the Revolution. After the entry of France into the war in 1777, the Brown Bess was gradually replaced by French muskets, most notably the Charleville.

First manufactured in 1769, the short land pattern Brown Bess had a range of 200 yards but was inaccurate over 100 yards because it fired a loose fitting ball (.69") and lacked rifling. It weighed about 10 pounds and was equipped with a steel ramrod. The bayonet had a 17" triangular blade and a 4" socket slotted for mounting on a stud on top of the musket barrel. The bayonet was a popular weapon during the Revolution as it could be used in wet weather and had a devastating shock effect when used in a charge by massed troops.

I disagree here as to the accuracy of a musket. Not at all 100 yards; much more like 50 yards, but with "massed fire", 100 or more men shooting, you were bound to hit something before charging in to finish the battle with your bayonet. Much more deadly, because it required no "reloading".

Factoid: the 10 lb weight was the same as the WWII M-1 rifle. Somethings never change !



Its cartridge consisted of a paper tube containing a lead bullet and 6 drams of black powder. A wooden cartridge box, drilled with holes, held 20-30 cartridges and was covered with calfskin for protection from the weather.

The flint, when struck against the frizzen of the lock, created the sparks necessary to ignite the powder in the flashpan and main charge in the breech. Soldiers preferred replacing their flints every 15 shots to reduce the possibility of misfire.

A trained soldier loaded his musket "by the numbers" in a series of defined steps, and could get off about 4 rounds per minute.

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Changing flints when NOT fighting was, of course, preferable. Wait for a break in the action, then make that switch out.

got flint ?



Flints had to be replaced periodically. Some lasted 400 shots, some only four !! You needed to carry extras with you into battle.



From the exterior, rifles and muskets looked very similar, but internally, the barrels were very different. Muskets were smooth (“smooth bore”), while rifles had a series of spiral grooves machined inside them, a “rifled bore”, which imparted a stabilizing *spin* to the ball as it traveled the length of the bore before exiting.

Here are examples of rifling used today.....



**“Rifling” spirals**





Many rifles used smaller, 0.39cal, balls than that shown here. Lighter balls went further, and required less gunpower to be effective. Gunpowder was expensive for these backwoodsman farmers of the day !

4-5162

The Pennsylvania-Kentucky Rifle evolved from the short German hunting rifle known as the Jaeger. Most were made in Pennsylvania (primarily Lancaster County), and were widely used in the Kentucky wilderness. EASTERN NATI \$ 2.95

Every rifle was hand-crafted and unique and took about one week of tedious crafting to make. The barrel was 36-48" in length and was forged from iron bars which were heated and wrapped around a rod and beaten in a swage (mold) by hammer until it took on the characteristic octagonal shape. The barrel was then rifled using a wooden rifling machine. Finally, the barrel was blackened with elder vinegar to prevent rusting and tell-tale glare.

Locks were hand made by the gunsmiths or purchased from locksmiths. Stocks were mostly made from curly maple although walnut, apple, and cherry woods were also used.

Early Pennsylvania Rifles were plain and without ornament. Patchboxes cut in the stock held greased linen or leather patches. Ramrods for loading were made of hickory; bullets hand cast from soft lead. Fine-grained gunpowder was carried in a hollow cowhorn, while bullets, mold, lead, and flints were carried in a leather pouch.

Accurate to 300 yards, the long barrel improved the range and accuracy -gunpowder burned more completely causing the ball to fly faster (2000 ft/sec.) and farther and created a flatter trajectory. Front and rear sights improved aim. In addition to rifling, use of a greased patch contributed to the accuracy of the Pennsylvania Rifle. Linen patches were more popular, and insured a tight fit of the bullet and prevented gasses from escaping around the bullet. The greased patch also helped keep the bore clean.

While of ultimate importance to the settler and frontiersman, armies did not use the Long Rifle much because the calibers varied so widely (creating a supply problem), and it did not take a bayonet, was slow to load (one round/min.), and cost more to make. However, 10 companies of riflemen were recruited for the Continental Army in 1775 and were used as scouts or for long range sharpshooting.

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**See you all Tuesday.  
Any questions or inputs then or by email beforehand.....**

**and, if not already submitted, look at the list of topics  
and let me know *your* top picks for class....**

**Until then,**

*Happy Mother's Day*