



HERITAGE ARMS SOCIETY INC.

# ***BARRELS & BLADES***



***January 2019***



## Index

Membership Application .....	2
Up and Coming Events.....	3
Our December Displays .....	4
An evening with Dr Christopher Roads and his visit to Adelaide .....	7
The Wolseley Helmet in Pictures from Omdurman to El Alamein .....	16
Japanese Swords an Introduction by HAS Member Vaughan Cottle .....	17
A HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT NAMINOHIRA KATANA .....	21
They served in the Crimea, story of three swords HAS Member Cathey Brimage .....	28
Meetings and Topics.....	35

Contents of this publication are Copyright (2015), and belong to the Heritage Arms Society of South Australia Incorporated. If you wish to reproduce or copy any item please obtain permission from the above Association via 32 Teakle Street Exeter SA 5019. Items submitted for publication need to have the author and reference (s) or source quoted

The Association Email Address is: [heritage.arms.society@gmail.com](mailto:heritage.arms.society@gmail.com)

Webpage: <https://heritagearmssa.com/>

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Heritage-Arms-Society-Inc-SA-177334176125163/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/heritage.arms.society/>

## Membership Application

Nominee: Fred Bienvenu

Interests: Eastern edged weapons

Location: Victoria

Nominee: Graeme Phillpotts

Interests: WW1 Militaria

Location: Victoria

Any member having objection to membership being granted to the above applicants should give reasons in writing, in confidence and without prejudice, to the Secretary, c/- 32 Teakle Street Exeter, within 21 days of this meeting. Members are reminded that you should not sponsor someone for membership unless they are known to you personally. You should also know a reasonable amount of the applicant's background. In the case of an applicant not having two sponsors, written references can be substituted.



## Up and Coming Events

2020	
29 February – 1 March	<b>Militaria &amp; Collectables Expo 2020</b> East bank Shepparton <a href="http://www.nvacg.org.au">www.nvacg.org.au</a>
7-8 March	Bathurst Arms Fair BATHURST SHOWGROUNDS Great Western Hwy (A32), Kendall Ave, BATHURST NSW Australia TABLE BOOKINGS Call Ross 02 4938 5849 <a href="mailto:info@bathurstarmsfair.com.au">info@bathurstarmsfair.com.au</a>
14-15 March	Brisbane Gun Show Contact Paul Brush 0412 532 252
28-29 March	Tarling's Events Adelaide Gun Show (New venue to be advised)
26 April	<b>Australian Arms Auction A54</b> <b>Date of Auction:</b> Sunday 26th April, 2020 <b>Starting Time:</b> Sunday 10 am <b>Viewing:</b> Saturday 12 noon to 5 pm & Sunday 8 am to 10 am, auction start. <b>Venue:</b> Hungarian Community Centre <b>Location:</b> 760 Boronia Road Wantirna 3152 Club restaurant & Melways 63 F-5
23-24 May	Toowoomba Show & Fair, Toowoomba QLD email: <a href="mailto:crimsonmist@bigpond.com">crimsonmist@bigpond.com</a>
4-5 July	Melbourne Arms & Militaria Fair at Westgate Sports Centre, Altona North
September	Hunter Valley Arms Fair Maitland's Federation Centre (Maitland Basketball Stadium) 10 Bent St. Maitland
12-13 September	Toowoomba Show & Fair, Toowoomba QLD email: <a href="mailto:crimsonmist@bigpond.com">crimsonmist@bigpond.com</a>
14-15 September	Cannington Exhibition Centre WA
19-20 October	Melbourne Arms & Militaria Fair at Westgate Sports Centre, Altona North
2021	
17-18 April	Melbourne Arms & Militaria Fair at Westgate Sports Centre, Altona North
3-4 July	Melbourne Arms & Militaria Fair at Westgate Sports Centre, Altona North

**If you are aware of any fairs or events, please send them through to add to the calendar.**



## Our December Displays







What Am I ?



# An evening with Dr Christopher Roads and his visit to Adelaide

HAS Member Cathey Brimage

Rex and I had the pleasure of hosting Dr Christopher Roads and his nephew Adrian Roads during their visit to Adelaide from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Thanks to the assistance of Fort Glanville, the hospitality of Peter Stanford, Les McKessar, Steve Playford and Dr John Bird, and access to the History Trust collection by the curator Corinne Ball, we were able to provide Christopher with a very busy itinerary for his short visit.



We collected our distinguished guests from the airport at 8.25, and yes despite our concerns that they were flying Tiger, they arrived on time. As Christopher and Adrian had been up since 4.30 am breakfast at the Birkenhead Hotel was the first point of call. After breakfast we returned to our home for coffee, where we valiantly attempted to turn Christopher from firearms to swords.

Christopher looking very at home with Rapier in hand, apparently as well as his many other achievements, he also did fencing.

## Fort Glanville

We arrived at Fort Glanville in time for the 12 pm special tour, which thanks to Elaine Hanneson, Graeme Tweeddale and the members of the Fort Glanville Historical Association was also open to both Heritage and Antique and Historical members.



The weather was perfect and the event was well attended and extremely well run by Fort Glanville. Two canons were fired, and the event ended with Christopher inspecting the troops. Both Christopher and Adrian were very impressed by this event.

Dr Christopher Roads with our Fort Glanville guides for group one, Frank Garie and Ron Stanley.



One of the cannons about to be fired and Christopher inspecting the troops at Fort Glanville.

## Our evening with Dr Christopher Roads.

This event whilst hosted by Heritage Arms, and was a great success due to the co-operation of a number of clubs including but not limited to Australian Historical Association SA (AHASA) INC. and the Military Arms Preservation Society Inc. (MAPS).

Doors Opened at 7.30 for an 8 pm start and the event was attended by over 90 people. I should also add a special thanks to Grant and Abel Eldridge for assistance with flyers and Audrey Swansbury Clayton Wesley Uniting Church for assisting with the hall and providing us with the opportunity to test equipment etc. in advance of the evening.



Christopher's presentation covered his time at the Imperial War Museum in England, as Deputy Director General. Specifically three main & world renown projects that he either managed, or instigated as well as managed, during his years there, covering a lot of behind the scenes challenges & their interesting solutions. These were acquiring & placing (& blank firing!) a pair of 15 inch guns, one each from HMS Ramillies & HMS Resolution, acquiring & placing HMS Belfast on the Thames River in London and acquiring & setting up Duxford Airfield as a museum with functioning aircraft.



Imperial War Museum, 15 inch guns, one each from HMS Ramillies & HMS Resolution



HMS Belfast on the Thames River

HMS Belfast is a Town-class light cruiser that was built for the Royal Navy. She is now permanently moored as a museum ship on the River Thames in London and is operated by the Imperial War Museum.



Imperial War Museum Duxford. The largest collection of historic aircraft in Europe, Duxford has grown from a small time display to a booming museum with an air show that draws thousands each summer.

He also covered his more recent decades spent on various projects, many for the Ministry of Tourism in Oman, restoring many hundreds of small arms, researching & building a large number of different gun carriages for muzzle loading artillery pieces, setting up a very comprehensive early artillery display in one of their largest & oldest forts, as well as several smaller complimentary artillery displays in various other forts.



*Castle at Bayt Ar Rudaydah*

Centre of Excellence for Historic Arms in Oman hosts a fine collection of arms of almost all periods and very wide geographical coverage presented in a functional manner. Some of the displays are unlike anything to be found anywhere else and go far beyond usual norms whilst the archive and library include items of world heritage.



Carbines at Bayt Ar Rudaydah

Canon's, carriages, limbers and their restoration where also covered in detail.





At the end of the evening Dr Christopher Roads was presented with a certificate of honorary membership to the Heritage Arms Society Inc. and a bottle of South Australian Red Wine.

Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> January, out for breakfast, followed by a visit to HAS Member Peter Stanford to view his extensive collection of British Military weapons.

Next visit was to HAS Member Steve Playford's home to see his collection of big game rifles and target rifles.

The last collection visited belonged to HAS member Dr John Bird where Christopher had the opportunity to view Johns Naval collection of Arms and Medals.

Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the last day of their visit, we were able to view the SA History Trust Museum Collection. This visit was facilitated by Adrian Roads, liaising directly with Corinne Ball the Curator.

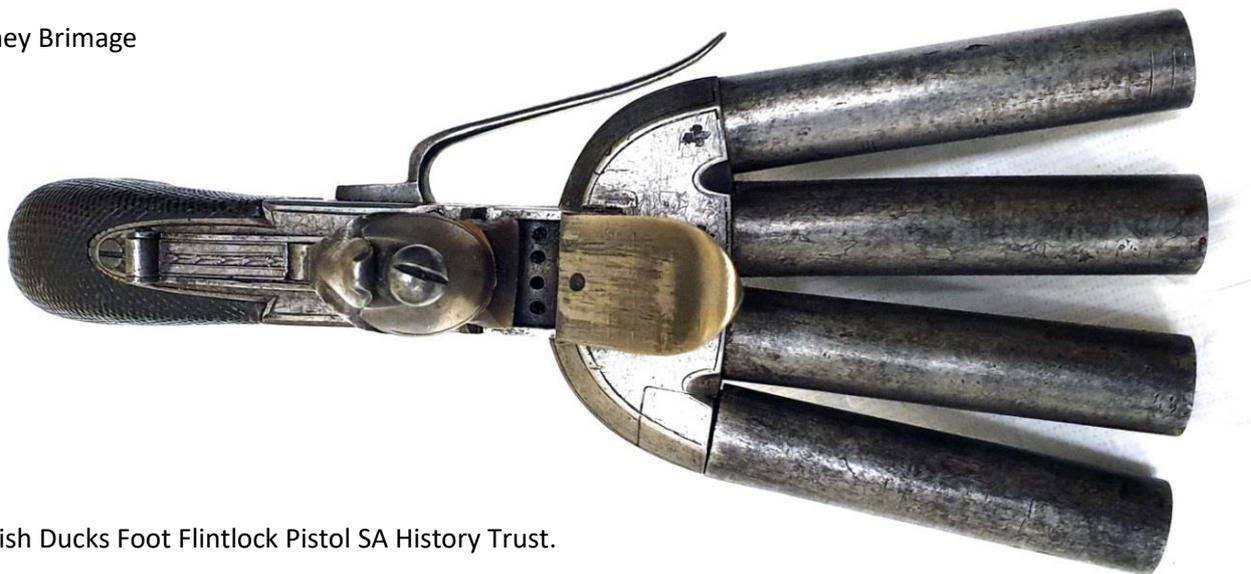
### **SA History Trust Museum Visit**

We had been pre-warned by Corinne that the collection was stored in a very small room; however on arrival we were all pleasantly surprised at the actual size and accessibility of the contents in the collection. The collection represents only part of the arms and militaria in the care of the state government on behalf of the people of South Australia. I am aware that the SA Art Gallery and the Museum also have collections, and to my delight Dr Roads initiated discussion about the value of bringing all of these items together and providing them with a permanent home to ensure that access to the collection for both researchers and the general public could be improved.

The motto of the History trust of South Australia is "History Trust of South Australia Giving the past a future now!" I believe this is something that could be explored further and would be something that all of the States collecting clubs could work together on. The depth of expert knowledge within the collecting fraternity is considerable, and perhaps the time has come for us to develop a stronger working relationship with the History Trust. I was surprised that in Oman they could recognise the importance of preserving and displaying Arms and Militaria from all over the globe, yet I sense that here in SA we are only concerned with the preservation of colonial items with local provenance. I feel this is a very narrow view and somewhat disrespectful to those of us whose heritage is not South Australian.

The collection itself has a good representation of firearms and some surprises, such as a Duck foot pistol by Butler & Uther Redford and an interesting collection of English Civil War helmets and other items of Armour. Personally as I have already written an article on this area, I am keen to revisit the collection and take some notes to further my research particularly as it relates to English Civil War head gear. I was delighted that Corrine assured me this would not be an issue, and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Heritage Arms Society Inc. to thank Corinne Ball for making this visit possible.

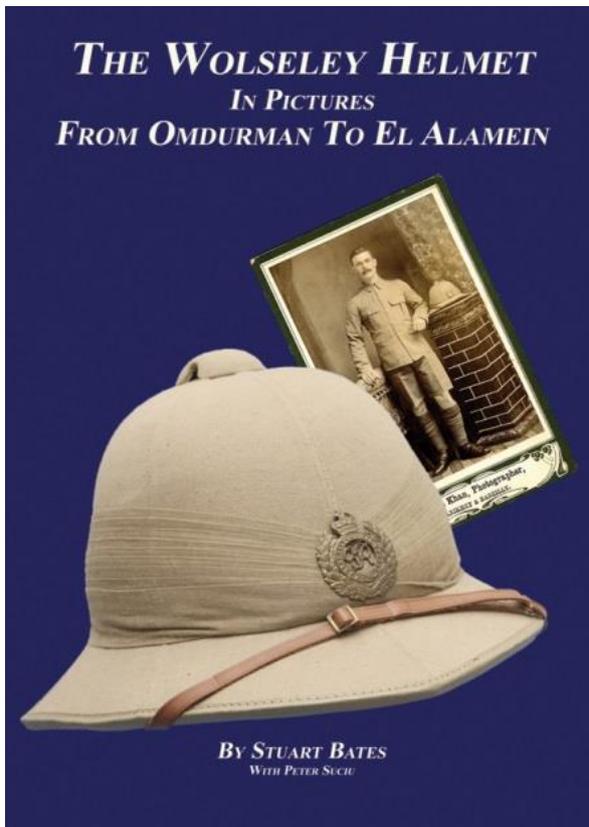
Cathey Brimage



English Ducks Foot Flintlock Pistol SA History Trust.

# The Wolseley Helmet in Pictures from Omdurman to El Alamein

The definitive book on this iconic helmet of the British Empire.  
Available from the author [stuartbates@bigpond.com](mailto:stuartbates@bigpond.com). Bargain Price A\$20 plus postage.



The British Wolseley helmet was introduced when the empire was essentially at its zenith, and while the Wolseley has a moniker that evokes an eminent Victorian general, it is in fact a helmet more accurately associated with the First and Second World Wars. The Wolseley pattern helmet was worn by the guardians of the empire, from the Battle of Omdurman to the Gallipoli campaign to the Battle of El Alamein.



## The Wolseley Helmet In Pictures: From Omdurman to El Alamein

See <http://www.militarysunhelmets.com/the-wolseley-helmet-in-pictures> for reviews and sample pages.

## Japanese Swords an Introduction by HAS Member Vaughan Cottle

"Japanese blades are incomparably the most beautiful the world has ever produced; those of damascus and toledo, as examples of the working and tempering of steel, appear beside them merely as the efforts of children" GOUSE - French authority on Japanese Art.



These words encapsulate in some degree the high regard shown toward the Japanese sword. The edict of the Shogun Ieyasu in 1615 stating that "the sword of the Samurai is his soul" put a seal on the veneration given to the blades. A samurai (fuedal warrior retainer) valued his sword above all other possessions, they were the symbol of his honour, his courage and unquestioning allegiance to his overlord. He spent enormous sums to make them not only perfect weapons but things of beauty worthy of his rank.

*Statue of Tokugawa Ieyasu at the Tōshō Shrine in Nikkō, Japan.*

The birth of the Japanese sword is clouded in legend but its historical tradition began in the eighth century AD when Amakuni first signed the blades he made, and Yasutsuna, established the form which it has retained to this day.

The excellence of the sword is due to the constant search for perfection and to its unique construction and methods used to produce the final product. The blade itself is made of a soft elastic iron combined with steel, both of very high quality, or, for the best work of two or three grades of steel combined together.

Many different methods were used to produce the various kinds of steel needed for the laminated blades. These were often extremely complicated and time consuming. Once these pieces were obtained they were assembled into a block in the correct order which was then drawn out to the length of the sword. It required super skill to accomplish this without the elements coming unstuck which would weaken the blade. The most difficult operation and one where the utmost skill was required was in the hardening of the blade. This gave the Japanese blade its unique characteristics of having a hardened cutting edge whilst the back of the blade remained flexible. To achieve this difficult task the smithy would be darkened so that the smith could more easily judge the correct colour of the blade when it was being heated. When he knew it to be correct he would plunge the blade into a trough of water. Each smith closely guarded his secrets for hardening and they were only passed on by word of mouth to his most trusted apprentice.

After the smith had completed the blade and was satisfied with the product he would cut his signature on the tang, sometimes he would also add the place of manufacture, the date and even titles that had been bestowed on him.

He would then send it to be polished. Very often blades are found that are not signed and it is then necessary to establish the maker by its characteristics alone. Blades are also found purporting to be by famous makers, these are very often fakes and should not be taken at face value without thorough research. There has always been a lucrative market for famous named blades and people have always been ready to supply swords for this market whether genuine or not.

The peak of perfection was reached in the early 14th century, but by the end of the 16th century the secrets of the old masters were so completely lost that no one has been able to duplicate the quality of the old blades.

Swords can be divided into two main periods, namely Koto and Shinto.

Blades made before 1596 are known as koto blades and those made after 1596 and before 1867 are known as Shinto blades.

It was the prerogative of the samurai clan to wear a pair of swords, the long sword (katana) and the shorter sword (wakizashi) both thrust through his girdle, edge uppermost. Japanese men for over one thousand years were forbidden to wear jewellery, and as most swords were worn with civilian dress it was upon the sword mountings that the metal workers found the widest scope for their skill.

The mounts of a civilian sword consist of:

- (I) The guard (Tsuba) - These are usually flat and comparatively thin. They would be made from a variety of materials, the normal ones however being iron or soft metal. Early guards tend to be more functional whilst those made toward the latter stages became very ornate and could be considered as miniature works of art, their original function of affording protection against a sword blow completely lost.
- (II) The handle (kozuka) of the small knife carried sometimes in the scabbard of the Wakizashi and used as a general purpose knife.
- (III) A skewer-like implement (kogai) carried on the other side of the scabbard and probably used to arrange the long hair of the samurai or maybe even removing stones from their horse hooves.
- (IV) A pair of ornaments (Menuki) under silk hilt binding on either side. Originally these may have been intended to improve the grip.
- (V) The scabbard mounts. The Kurikata and the Kojiri. The Kurikata is the loop on the side of the scabbard through which the sageo passes. The Kojiri is the end cap on the scabbard.
- (VI) The collar and pommel cap fitted to the handle known as the Fuchi and Kashira. Sometimes the entire mounts of a sword would be made by the same artist, and all would be matched. Finding swords today that have matched mounts such as this is quite rare.

There are many different types of swords and mounts: Blades can be divided into the following:

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Tachi     | A long blade signed on the side so that when it is worn edge downwards the signature is on the outside. These blades are usually over 60cm in length.    |
| Katana    | A long blade signed on the side so that when it is worn with the cutting edge up the signature is on the outside. These are usually over 60cm in length. |
| Wakizashi | A shorter blade than the above two and is usually over 30cm in length. The signature is usually on the same side as that on the Katana.                  |
| Tanto     | Very short blades less than 30 cm in length.   |

All the above blades can be mounted in different styles to suit either different occasions or dress.

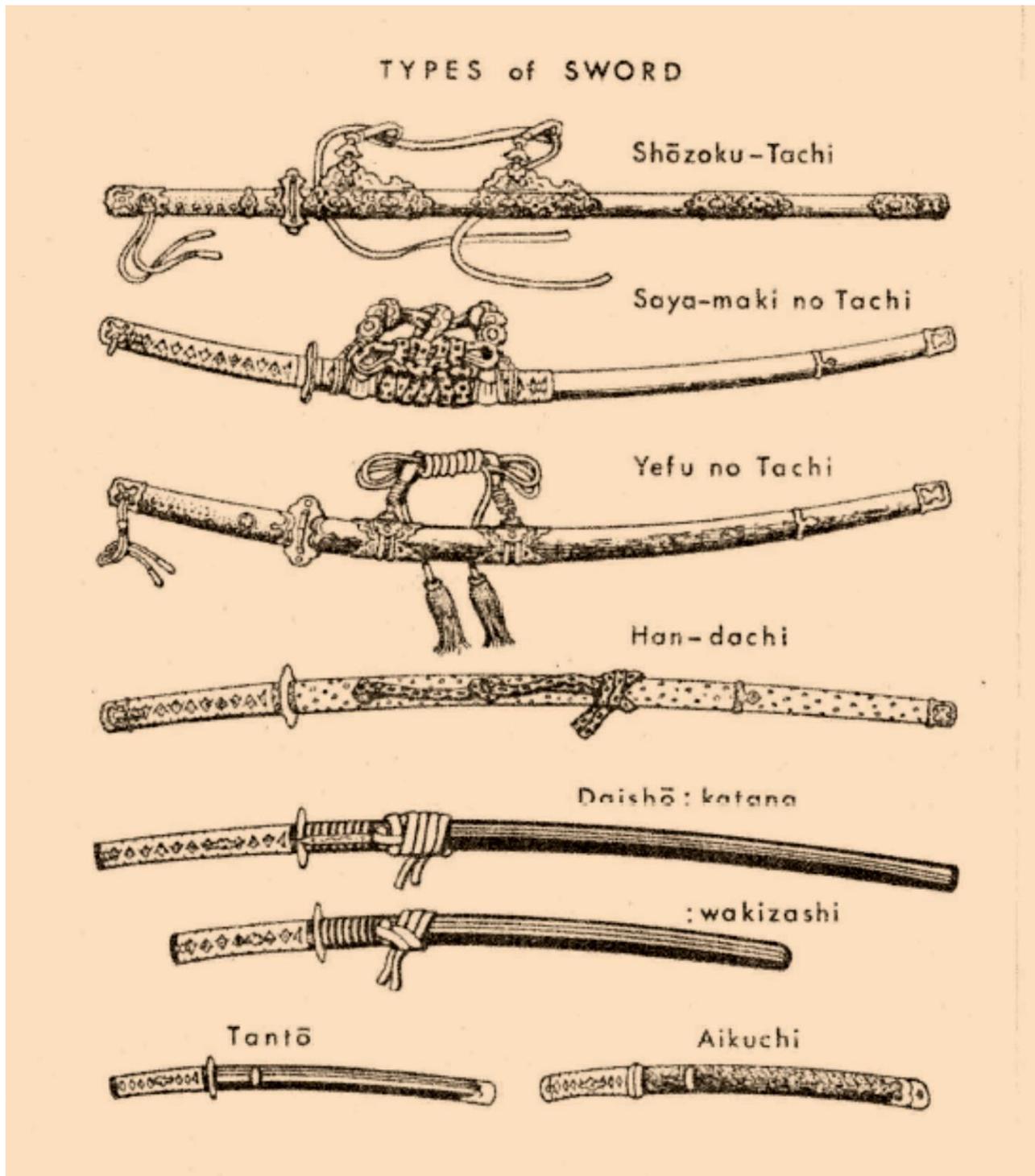
The continual feuds between various clans and the civil wars that occurred from the tenth century and lasted until the sixteenth century gave a constant stimulus to the art of the swordsmith.

The period of activity in the decoration of sword mounts lasted for approximately 450 years, and ended with the Imperial edict of 1876 abolishing the wearing of swords.

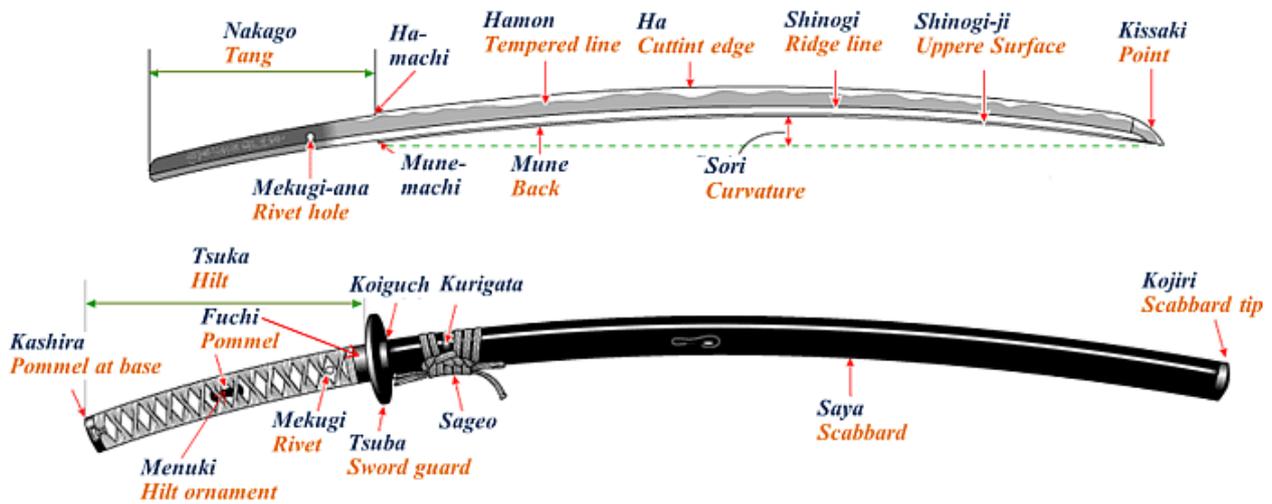
Today Swordsmiths are still producing excellent pieces, not to be used as weapons, but more as an object that can be appreciated and cherished as a piece of high art.

Unfortunately many famous blades have been lost due to various misfortunes, however there are many thousands of swords still in existence today which are available for research and appreciation.

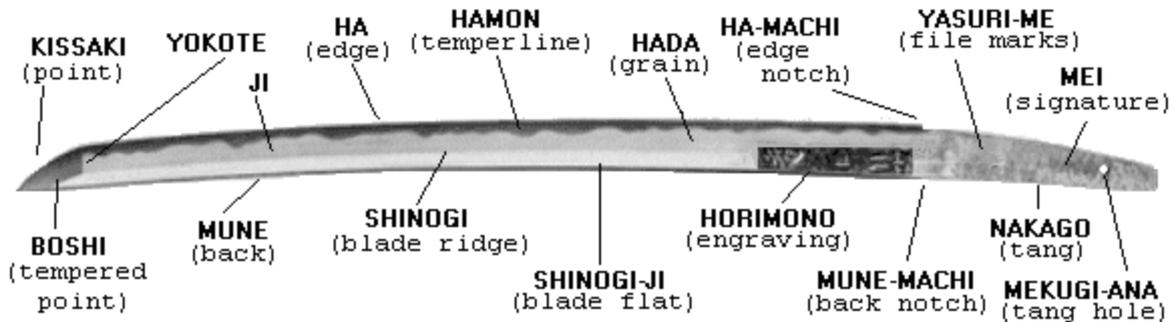
There are also many societies who offer guidance and whose sole function is to encourage the appreciation and preservation of the sword.



## Japanese Sword : Names of Parts



## MAJOR PARTS OF THE JAPANESE SWORD BLADE



If you would like further information about this interesting subject phone Mr V Cottle 8295 3847: MEMBER JAPANESE SWORD SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES and TO-KEN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

## A HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT NAMINOHIRA KATANA OWNED BY OISHI KUWAJIRO MEMBER OF THE SHINSENGUMI

Presented by HAS Member John Grasso of the Samurai Gallery



### Display

Here we have an incredibly interesting and historically important sword owned by Oishi Kuwajiro member of the Shisengumi, Kuwajiro was a known and feared assassin of the Shinsengumi Ōishi was called “Hitokiri Kuwajiro” because of his involvement in many assassinations by the Shisengumi. Oishi kuwajiro was known as one of The Four Hitokiri of the Bakumatsu (幕末四大人斬り Bakumatsu Yondai Hitokiri) was a term given to four Samurai during the Bakumatsu era in Japanese history. The word hitokiri literally means “manslayer” or “man cutter,” as the kanji 人 means person, while 斬 can alternatively mean slay or cut. Oishi was known to have been involved in many historical incidents and also carried out unknown numbers of assassinations he was also accused of killing Sakamoto Ryoma, He lived a short but eventful life, In March 1868, he fled the Shinsengumi and tried to join the Satsuma han troops. But he was captured and executed on the charge of murder of Ito Kashitaro in 1870.

This sword has only come to light recently from the descendants of Oishi Kuwajiro in what we will describe as a well used condition, Its since been restored and certified by the NBTHK, The sword is mounted in Shirasaya and also comes with interesting koshirae with the Nozarashi theme on the saya lacquered in crushed shell with makie of skeleton, Tsuba is Iron with skull / Nozarashi motif. Fuchi kashira are shakudo with wave bird and moon motif, The Menuki are in the form of bones in silver. The blade is a well forged mumei Shinshinto Naminohira with a wide Suguha Hamon ,Horimono of Skull and Crescent Moon on the ura. The blade is thick and heavy typical Shinshinto style , The Nakago bears an interesting gold / Kin Zogan inscription which reads Ningen Mukotsu Shingengumi Ōishi Kuwajirō Kore O haku (人間無骨新撰組大石鋏次郎帶之) – “Humans have no bones, worn by the Shinsengumi Ōishi Kuwajirō”

NBTHK Hozon Certificate Translation

KANTEI-SHO (鑑定書) – APPRAISAL NBTHK

Katana, unsigned: Shinshintō Naminohira (新々波平)

No 3021478

Bears the kinzōgan inscription: Ningen Mukotsu Shingengumi Ōishi Kuwajirō Kore O haku (人間無骨新撰組大石鋏次郎帶之) – “Humans have no bones, worn by the Shinsengumi Ōishi Kuwajirō”

Nagasa ~ 64.4 cm

According to the result of the shinsa committee of our society, we judge this work as authentic and rank it as Hozon Tōken.

August 26, 2019

[Foundation] Nihon Bijutsu Tōken Hozon Kyōkai, NBTHK (日本美術刀劍保存協會)

### **About Ōishi Kuwajirō (大石 鎌次郎)**

Ōishi Kuwajirō (大石 鎌次郎), lived from Tenpō nine (天保, 1838) to the tenth day of the tenth month of Meiji three (明治, 1870). Shinsengumi member (function of troop inspector) of the Bakumatsu era. Official first name Morichika (守親). From the Genji clan (lineage of Seiwa-Genji Yoshinaka, 清和源氏義仲).

### **Career**

Born in Tenpō nine (天保, 1838) as eldest son of Ōishi Sutejirō (大石 捨次郎) who was a close guard of the renowned Hitotsubashi (一橋) family, one of the three branches of the Tokugawa clans. His initial first name was Kinnosuke (金之助).

Due to a conflict (it is assumed it was about an issue with a women), he left his family and lived with a carpenter from Hino (日野) in Musashi province. This carpenter was an acquaintance of the village head Satō Hikogorō (佐藤彦五郎, 1827-1902) and it was through this connection that Ōishi was able to train at Hikogorō's fencing dōjō.

Ōishi joined the Shinsengumi when Kondō Isami (近藤勇, 1834-1868) was recruiting in Edo from the ninth to the tenth month of Genji one (元治, 1864) after the Ikedaya Incident had taken place earlier in the sixth month of that year. As he was mainly carrying out assassinations, he was feared as "Ōishi the Assassin." Ōishi was practicing the Ono-ha Ittō-ryū (小野派一刀流) of swordsmanship but also studied the Tennen Rishin-ryū (天然理心流) that was followed by Kondō Isami. The Shidankai Sokki Roku (史談会速記録), a Taishō-era (大正, 1912-1926) record of statements from then aging contemporary witnesses, mentions on several occasions Ōishi being an as apt swordsman as the famous Okita Sōji (沖田 総司, 1842-1868).

According to the Torishirabe Nikki (取調日記) records of Shinsengumi member Yamazaki Susumu's (山崎 丞, 1833-1868), Ōishi was a member of the first unit of the Shinsengumi lead by Okita Sōji at least by the fifth month of Keiō one (慶応, 1865).

In the ninth month of Keiō two (1866), Ōishi was deployed as commander of a unit of ten to an issue which became known as the Sanjō Seisatsu Incident. When the Shinsengumi became assimilated into the Bakufu troops in the sixth month of Keiō three (1867), Ōishi became troop inspector. In the eleventh month of that year, Ōishi assassinated Itō Kashitarō (伊東 甲子太郎, 1835-1867) in the Aburanokōji Incident. In the twelfth month, Ōishi, Saitō Hajime (斎藤 一, 1844- 1915) and others were ordered to protect the Kishū samurai Miura Kyūtarō (三浦 休太郎, 1829- 1910) in the Tenmaya Incident.

When the Bakufu retreated from the Battle of Toba-Fushimi in the first month of Keiō four (1868), the Shinsengumi withdrew to Edo where Kondō formed a troop named Kōyō Chinbu Tai to follow the Bakufu's order to assist pacifying Kai province. The troop of which Ōishi was a member was sent to Kai where it was defeated in the third month of that year and disbanded. After that, Ōishi was hiding in Edo with his wife and children but was captured in the twelfth month being betrayed by a friend and former Shinsengumi member, Mitsui Ushinosuke (三井 丑之助). According to a tradition, Ōishi, troubled with life, approached former Shinsengumi member Kanō Washio (加納 鷲雄, 1839-1902) who had become a member of the government forces under the Itō Faction and begged him to let him go, but without success. However, there is no historic record which would back this tradition and it is contradicted by the later testimony of Kanō's comrade Abe Jūrō (阿部 十郎, 1837-1907).

Ōishi was accused of Sakamoto Ryōma's (坂本 龍馬, 1836-1867) assassination in the Ōmiya Incident and confessed even if there had not been a thorough investigation. Later, however, he retracted his confession and said the job was carried out by the Tokugawa special forces Mimawarigumi. In any case, Ōishi was beheaded on the tenth day of the tenth month of Meiji three (明治, 1870) (November 3, 1870, in the Western calendar) for the assassination of Itō Kashitarō, He was 32 years old at that time.

Due to fear of interrogation, Ōishi's son and heir Raitarō (雷太郎) changed his name to Honma Utakichi (本間歌吉) and it is said that he later ran a shop for tortoise shell produces in the Inarichō (稲荷町) neighborhood of the Shitaya district of Tōkyō.

### Who were the Shinsegumi?

The Shinsengumi (新撰組 or 新選組) were an small elite group of swordsmen commissioned by the Tokugawa shogunate in 1863 as a special police force to counter pro-imperial and anti-shogunate subversion in Kyōto. The Shinsengumi, lit. “newly established corps”, was first called Rōshigumi (浪士組), as most of its members were Ronin, masterless Samurai recruited in Edo (modern-day Tōkyō) in 1863 and sent to Kyōto to protect the Shogun who was visiting the city at that time. The Shinsengumi consisted of around 400 members.



#### *Kondō Isami (1834-1868)*

One of its leaders though, Kiyokawa Hachirō (清河八郎, 1830-1863) was recalled to Edo for expressing pro-imperial sentiments. The remaining thirteen members of the Rōshigumi under Serizawa Kamo (芹沢鴨, 1826-1863) became the founding members of the Shinsengumi. Serizawa was murdered in an internal struggle, and Kondō Isami (近藤 勇, 1834-1868) and Hijikata Toshizō (土方歳三, 1835-1869) emerged as the new leaders. Based in Mibu in Kyōto, the Shinsengumi acted under orders from the Kyōto Shugoshoku (京都守護職, Office of Kyōto Protector), a shogunal office in the period from 1862 to 1868, which was held by Matsudaira Katamori of Aizu for most of its existence and served to keep peace in the city.

The group was involved in the famous massacre at the Ikedaya Inn in 1864 and the defence of the Imperial Palace in the Hamaguri Gomon Incident. Even after the Meiji Restoration the Shinsengumi remained loyal to the shōgun, fighting against the Satsuma-Chōshū Alliance in the Boshin War. Toshizō Hijikata and his men died in the Battle of Hakodate in June 1869 against the Imperial forces.

### IKEDAYA INCIDENT

The Ikedaya Incident (池田屋事件 Ikedaya jiken) was an armed encounter in July 1864 between the Shinsengumi, at the Ikedaya Inn, located in the outskirts of Kyōto. After extremist forces of the Choshu Domain had tried to take control of the imperial palace and were expelled from the capital, moderate forces from the Satsuma and the Aizu domains who advocated reconciliation between the imperial court and the shogunate took over politics. In the wake of their expulsion, Chōshū elements sought to regain control of Kyōto and plotted the assassination of Tokugawa leaders and pro-shogunate court nobles. On the night of July 8, 1864, the Shinsengumi under Kondō Isami attacked a gathering of these activists at the Ikedaya Inn. Eight of them were killed and four seriously wounded. Over twenty anti-shogunate activists were arrested, many of them from Chōshū.



*Hijikata in 1868*

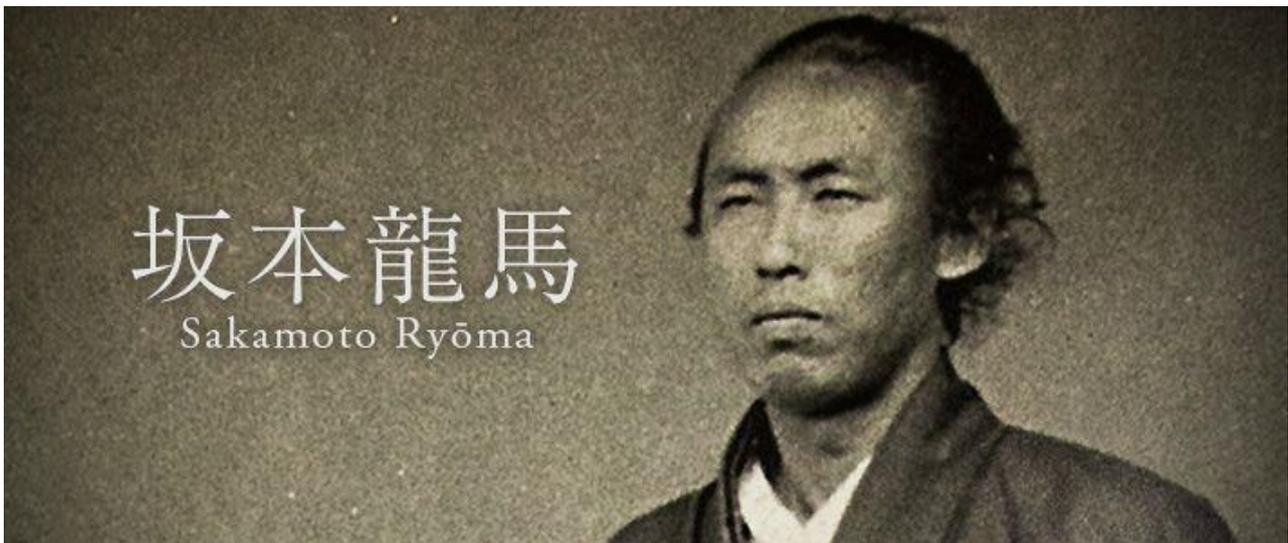
### The Bakumatsu Period

The (幕末 bakumatsu, a compound word, translatable as “the end” or matsu of the military government or baku, which abbreviates bakufu, in turn literally meaning “tent-government”) refers to the final years of the Edo period when the Tokugawa shogunate ended. Between 1853 and 1867, Japan ended its isolationist foreign policy known as sakoku and changed from a feudal Tokugawa shogunate to the pre-modern empire of the Meiji government. The major ideological-political divide during this period was between the pro-

imperial nationalists called *ishin shishi* and the shogunate forces, which included the elite *shinsengumi* swordsmen.

Although these two groups were the most visible powers, many other factions attempted to use the chaos of Bakumatsu to seize personal power. Furthermore, there were two other main driving forces for dissent: first, growing resentment on the part of the *tozama daimyō* (or outside lords), and second, growing anti-Western sentiment following the arrival of Matthew C. Perry. The first related to those lords whose predecessors had fought against Tokugawa forces at the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600 and had, from that point on, been excluded permanently from all powerful positions within the shogunate. The second was to be expressed in the phrase *sonnō jōi*, or “revere the Emperor, expel the barbarians”. The turning point of the Bakumatsu was during the Boshin War and the Battle of Toba–Fushimi when pro-shogunate forces were defeated.

ref Wikipedia



### **Sakamoto Ryōma**

Was a low-ranking Samurai from the Tosa Domain on Shikoku and became an active opponent of the Tokugawa Shogunate after the end of Japan’s *sakoku* isolationist policy. Ryōma under the alias Saitani Umetarō (才谷梅太郎) worked against the Bakufu, the government of the Tokugawa shogunate, and was often hunted by their supporters and the *Shinsengumi*. Ryōma advocated for democracy, Japanese nationalism, return of power to the Imperial Court, abolition of feudalism, and moderate modernization and industrialization of Japan. Ryōma successfully negotiated the Satchō Alliance between the powerful rival Chōshū and Satsuma domains and united them against the Bakufu. Ryōma was assassinated in December 1867 with his companion Nakaoka Shintarō, shortly before the Boshin War and the Meiji Restoration.

Oishi Kuwajiro was said to having killed Ryoma but later retracted his confession and said he was killed by the Mimawarigumi Tokugawa special forces ??? But it is still commonly believed he was responsible for Ryoma,s death.

Kumajiro Sword







Interested in Japanese swords, please visit [www.nihonto.com.au](http://www.nihonto.com.au)

## They served in the Crimea, story of three swords HAS Member Cathey Brimage

The first sword is a Basket Hilt belonging to **Major Henry Robert Crewe Godley** who served with the 28th Regiment in the Eastern campaign of 1854 and up to the 5th July 1855, including the battles of Alma and Inkerman, siege of Sebastopol, and affair in the Cemetery – severely wounded (Medal and three Clasps, Brevet Major, 5th Class of the Medjidi, and Turkish Medal.



*Photograph 1 Fenton Photograph of Captain Godley mounted on a horse facing left. He is wearing military uniform and has a sword by his side. There is an area of open land behind him. Captain Godley served with the 28th Regiment during the Crimean War.*



It is estimated the Henry was born in 1828. He became an ensign 1846 with the 64<sup>th</sup> Foot, then lieutenant in 1848 by purchase. Henry became a Captain in 1854, and when serving with the 28th Foot ((North Gloucestershire) was severly wounded in the 1st Attack on the Redan 18 June 1855 in the Crimea.

Records indicate that he spent most of his career with the 28th Foot ((North Gloucestershire) so what prompted him to purchase a Basket hilt in 1857 is a mystery.

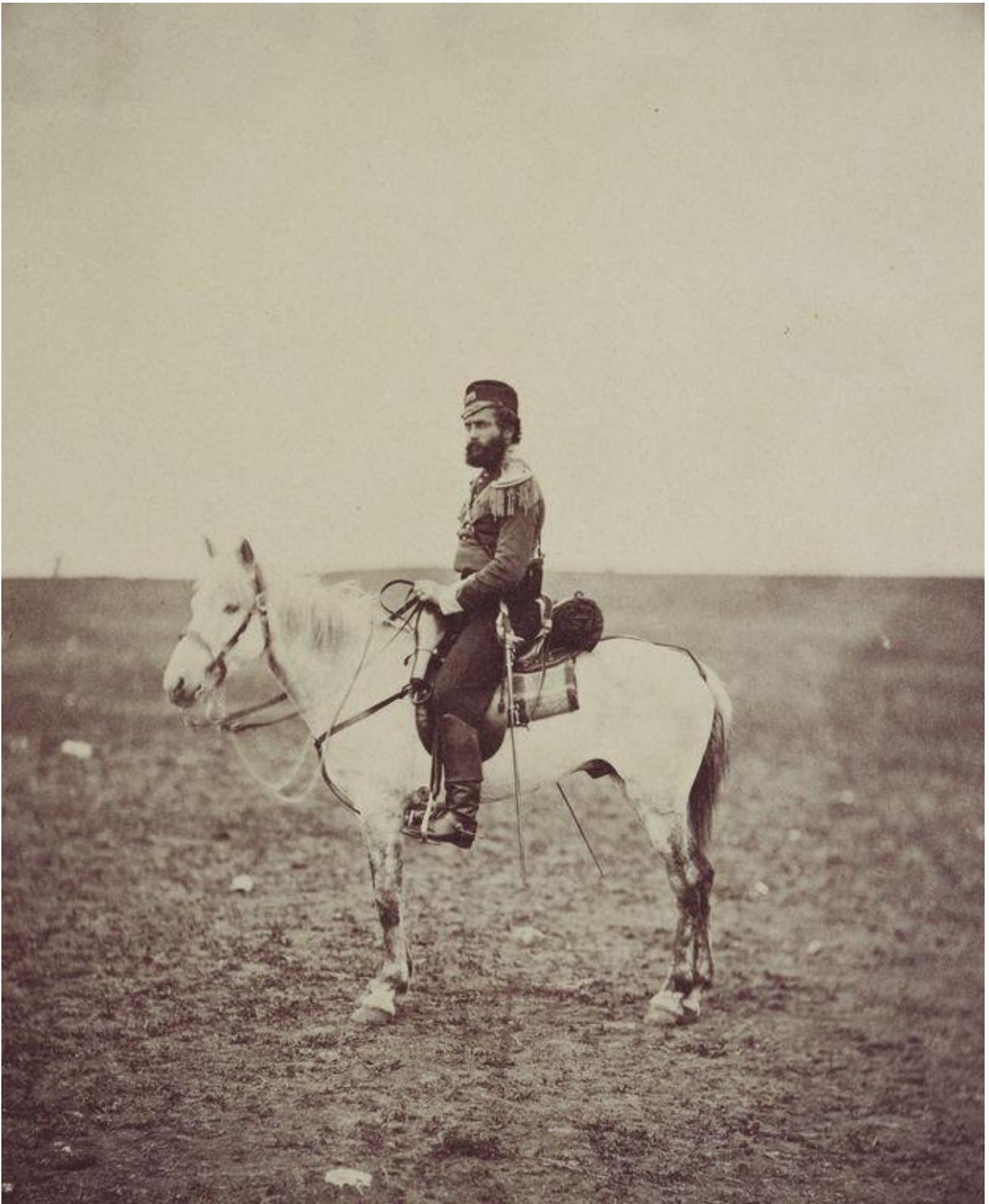
Henry retired by sale of commission as a Brevet Major on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1860.

Major Godley's Basket Hilted Sword.

The blade is inscribed on one side with 'Death when struck to death from sleepless grave, great Jesu stoop a sin stained soul to save' then on the other in Gaelic 'NA TARRAIN MI GUN AOBHAR NA CUIR SUAS MI QUN CHLIU'. Correct Gaelic is Na tarraing gun adhbhar mi 's na pill mi gun chliù = "Draw me not without cause and sheath me not without honour." The blade also features the maker Henry Wilkinson Pall Mall London number 8124. The hilt with a regulation steel basket retaining the original red faced leather liner.



Sword of Major Henry Robert Crewe Godley



Captain Henry R Crewe Godley 1855

ROGER FENTON (1819-69) Photograph of Captain Godley mounted on a horse facing left. He is wearing military uniform and has a sword by his side. There is an area of open land behind him. Captain Godley served with the 28th Regiment during the Crimean War.

## **Captain William McCall of the Cameron Highlanders.**

Captain McCall as described in the Memoirs of Colonel E W Cuming in the 79th News in July 1935 “Captain McCall was a kindly creature. His name was William, but he was always called Charles; why, I don’t know. He was a very practical turn of mind. He was a great dandy, always dressed in the extreme of fashion. His Company was always known as the Lancers, for some reason connected with its Captain. He never was exactly sure of anything. His talents lay in riding; he was a neat horseman and was the regimental race rider”.

William McCall was born at Rosebank Lannarshire on the 21st January 1818. William served in the Cameron Highlanders for his entire military career. He was ensign, 29th of March, 1839; lieutenant, 8th of June 1841; captain 14th of November 1841; major 12th of December 1845 ; brevet-lieutenant-colonel 2nd of November 1855 ; half pay on the 5th of August 1857. He served with the regiment in the Eastern campaign of 1854-55, including the battles of Alma and Balaclava, expedition to Kertch and Yenikale, siege and fall of Sebastopol, and assaults of the 18th of June and the 8th of September. (Medal with three clasps, brevet of lieutenant-colonel, Knight of the Legion of Honour, 5th class of the Medjidie, and Turkish Medal.) His medals are in the Officers Mess at the Regimental Depot. It was during the siege of Sebastopol that William was promoted by brevet to Lieutenant Colonel.

After retiring from the Regiment he was appointed to the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, and held successively the offices of Standard-Bearer, Clerk of the Cheque, and Adjutant.

William died on the 20th December 1875 and is buried at Blantyre.



William carried a cavalry sword, perhaps this is why his company was always referred to as the Lancers!



William McCall's Sword and a Photo of William McCall taken in 1852

## **Major Charles Hamilton Malan of the 7<sup>th</sup> Foot and 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment.**

Charles was an Ensign with the 7th Foot on the 6th November 1854. On the 9th March he became a Lieutenant without purchase. In 1855 he continued to serve with the 7th Fusiliers in the Crimea, including the siege and fall of Sebastopol, and was severely wounded in four places at the assault of the Redan on the 18th June (Medal with Clasp, and Turkish Medal). He became a Captain on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1858 and a Major by purchase with the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1868.

Charles went on to serve with the 75th Regiment with the establishment of a British military garrison in Singapore in the late 1860's, the most important component of which was an army barracks here in Tanglin.

Christian ministry was quickly established in the barracks, promoted by Major C.H. Malan, who acted as lay chaplain. Malan was a man of deep Christian conviction, who combined, like many evangelicals of the Victorian period, concern to bring people to Christ with a strong humanitarian and philanthropic commitment.

Behind the hospital was a recessed area of land where an 800- yard shooting range was set up. In an effort to quell the level of drunkenness amongst his troops, the Commanding Officer of the regiment in 1869, Major C H Malan, had the jungle area in front of the soldiers' barracks cleared for the purposes of providing a cricket ground. The troops levelled the area, turfed it with grass, and set up the cricket pitch and practice facilities. The higher ground surrounding the cricket pitch and immediately in front of the soldiers' barracks were perfect positions to observe the match in progress.

In 1868 the church of St. John the Baptist in Broadwindsor Dorset was restored and almost entirely rebuilt by Major Charles H MALAN 75th Regiment, at a cost of upwards of £4000, to whom the stained east window is a memorial:"

In 1871 notification was received that the service companies would shortly be moved to Mauritius and Cape Colony, and the right wing, having suffered from intermittent fever at Hong Kong, was detailed for the latter station, while the headquarters and left wing were to go to the former, where they arrived in the Tamar on the 25th September (having picked up the right wing in Singapore), but the regiment being inspected by Major-general Smyth, he considered its state of health so unsatisfactory that he directed that the headquarters should not remain at Mauritius, but should proceed to Natal; accordingly the right wing under Major Malan, disembarked at East London in British's Kaffraria on the 10th October 1871, and marched to King William's Town; the head-quarters were landed at Port Natal on the 13th, and marched to Pietermaritzburg, with a company at Durban.

Charles retires from service on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1872 and died in 1881.

Charles Malan published three books:  
A Soldiers experience of God's love and of his faithfulness to his word  
Old Comrades or Sketches from life in the British army  
South African Missions





Infantry Sword of Major Charles Hamilton Malan of the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment

## Meetings and Topics

Meetings commence at 7.30 pm and are held at Clayton Wesley Uniting Church 280 Portrush Rd Beulah Park (Top of Norwood Parade). All members are reminded and encouraged to bring along items for display. Don't like the topic categories on the night, no problem, pick your own, if it's over 100 years old we would love to see it. \* **Note:** All ammunition, loose or packeted / boxed, *must* be securely contained to prevent handling. Newsletter contributions are welcomed, including items members wish to buy and/or sell. To submit material for Barrels & Blades please email [heritage.arms.society@gmail.com](mailto:heritage.arms.society@gmail.com)

## Calendar of Topics

**Note: Display topics will change as required to accommodate member requests.**

January 5<sup>th</sup>

# Special Event

Heritage Arms invites you to an evening with Dr Christopher Roads

Meeting	FIELD OF COLLECTING	SPECIALIST INTEREST	MILITARY OR COUNTRY	OPEN	
January	Headgear	Crimea	Japan	<b>Anything in your collecting interest over 100 years old. You Choose, Surprise us</b>	
February	Loading Tools	Boer War	United Kingdom		
March	Accoutrements, Badges & Buttons	American Civil War	Yeomanry		
April	NCO's and Troopers	Zulu Wars	Italy		
May	Uniforms	Police, Bushrangers & Gangsters	America		
June	Powder flasks	Napoleonic Wars	Asia & the East		
July	Long Arms	English Civil War	Infantry		
<b>August Annual General Meeting</b>					
August	Hand Guns	WWI	Australia		
September	Medals	Provenance, Presentation, patriotic, retailer slogans	Cavalry		
October	Curiosa	Prussian & German Imperial	Artillery		
November	Edged Weapons	Daggers, Dirks & Knives	Navy		
December	Armour	Hunting, sport, recreation & target	Europe		





***LIKE WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN,  
NOT A MEMBER YET,  
WHY NOT JOIN NOW!***



**CONSIDER THIS AN OFFICIAL INVITE - VISIT HERITAGE ARMS**

**3rd Friday of the Month, 7.30 pm**

**Clayton Wesley Uniting Church 280 Portrush Rd Beulah Park  
(Top of Norwood Parade)**

**More Information and Membership forms can be downloaded from**

**<https://heritagearmssa.com/>**

**Or**

***DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FORM TODAY FROM***

**<https://heritagearmssa.com/documents-forms/>**

***Cat -1 Heritage Arms Application form-Interstate***

***Cat -1a Heritage Arms Application form-Overseas PayPal***

***Cat 2&3 Heritage Arms Application form-South Aust Resident***

***Cat 2&3b Heritage Arms Application Family Membership form-South Aust Resident***