

Commanders Coffee Break

3/16/2021

Commander Linscott held another Coffee Break at the Post this morning. Considering the COVID restrictions and cool weather there were 12 people attending. Coffee and Dunkin Donut were as usual a big hit.

John Hyland, one of our Senior Members, gave us a short talk about his hobby of collecting firearms. John showed us a 22 cal. Pistol used for target shooting that was one of the first semi-automatic pistols made by the Samuel Colt Company. This pistol was a predecessor of the famous Model 1911 Semi-Automatic pistol carried by our fathers and even some of us during our time in the military. During WWII the 1911 was made basically by anyone who had a machine shop. Colt and Remington was a couple of the more famous manufacturers but Singer Sewing Machine Company also had a contract to make the 1911.

John also brought a small "signal cannon" with him. The cannon was originally on the bow of a US Navy Coast Survey Ship and "removed" by Captain Thomas Gedney when he retired. John's father acquired the small cannon from the descendants of Captain Gedney. John did not know the caliber of the cannon as it wasn't a defense weapon but rather a signal device. Captain Gedney had the cannon mounted on a "wooden caisson" so it could be used and be easier transported. John shows us an article stating that a small cannon was fired several times in Union Square in NYC by a squad of Union soldiers on 4/25/1865 at President Lincoln's funeral parade. Just another Footnote in History brought to us by John Hyland. John then asked us a question about the 2nd Amendment to our Constitution. The question was "who gave us the right to bear arms?". Many present said the US Government or the State. The answer is God. Or as it states in the Preamble to the Constitution "...to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them". This one phrase means that we as a people are entitled to "bear arms" to defend ourselves from all enemies foreign or domestic.

Although the American Legion, as a rule, does not discuss matters of politics or religion that doesn't mean it is always the case.

Next Commanders Coffee – April 14th

Michael R. Pock - Adjutant