

Chapter II The Formative Years

March 2000 - March 2001

President

Clay Smith

~~~~~

### **Vice President**

James Leach

### **Secretary**

Russ Young/Lee Larkin

### **Treasurer**

Russ Young/Byron Smith

~~~~~

2001 Horn Fair: Patrick Henry Village & Conference Center
Williamsburg, Virginia

~~~~~

### **Introduction**

Guild year 2000-2001 was a major year of significant changes and initiatives, perhaps the most significant year since its inception. It became a more professional organization with the development and implementation of bylaws, designating committees to better meet the needs of a growing Guild, adoption of guidelines to address the transitioning of officer vacancies, procedures for the proper banking transfer of Guild funds and began procedures for obtaining a federal tax number and filing for a 501 (C)(3) tax exempt status. In addition to these major implementations, a webpage was also developed.<sup>1</sup> President Clay Smith felt these initiatives were a required necessity if the Guild's growth was to continue.

Another major issue the Guild faced during this period was Secretary Young's resigning in December of 2000 to pursue his PHD at Saint Andrews College in Scotland.<sup>2</sup> This was the main cause for the above mentioned need for the transitioning of officer vacancies reflected in Article VI, Subparagraph 4, Section J of the bylaws. Russ Young had been a key factor in the development and growth of the Guild since its inception in 1996 and a replacement was urgently needed.

Of note, with the adoption of the newly adopted bylaws in April 2001, the titles of President and Vice President were officially renamed Guildmaster and Guildmaster Elect to better reflect the historic norms of a true guild structure.

### **Key Highlights**

~**Newly elected Guild officers** - New officers were needed to fill the vacancies in December 2000 before the next business meeting at the Horn Fair in March 2001 due to Russ Young's resignation. Byron Smith volunteered for the treasurer's position, but didn't want to also fill *The Horn Book's* editor position. Lee Larkin also volunteered for Secretary but volunteered to only publish *The Horn Book* temporarily. Clay was very appreciative for Russ' past service and to Byron and Lee for filling the vacancies.

---

<sup>1</sup> Smith, Clay. The Horn Book. Feb 1, 2001: pg 2.

<sup>2</sup> Smith, pg 2.

~Initiatives Accomplished~

-Bylaws - Lee Larkin wrote and proposed a set of bylaws. He stated that he had “borrowed liberally from bylaws from other guilds and 501 (C)(3) organizations and attempted to integrate the few rules and traditions we do have with a solid set of operating procedures. It’s a unique document.” A copy of the bylaws were attached to the February 2001 *Horn Book* for members to study and be prepared to vote on them at the annual meeting.<sup>3</sup>

-Committees established - According to Article VIII in the proposed bylaws several committees were established to include: Membership, Nominating, Meetings, Publications, Education and Awards.

-Transferring funds - After the resignation of Russ Young, Byron Smith (Treasurer) was responsible for acquiring a Tax ID Number in early 2001. This was necessitated by the need to move funds from New Mexico to Sun Trust Bank in Virginia for continued management of Guild funds.<sup>4</sup>

-Requirement for a 501(C)(3) Tax Exempt Status - Byron was also burdened with obtaining the 501(C) 3 tax exempt status for the Guild. This became an ongoing process requiring application, fees, consulting fees for a CPA which continued over many months.<sup>5</sup>

-Website - Clay Smith completed the Website, a project that was approved by the membership at the 2000 Horn Fair held in Conner Prairie. It was noted by Lee Larkin (Secretary) that Clay “had done an exceptional job of designing the site and supporting it.”<sup>6</sup>

~Ongoing Planning for the 2001 Horn Fair - Clay Smith, Jim Leach, George Suiter and Byron Smith were designated the primary organizers of the 2001 Horn Fair which would be held in Williamsburg, Virginia on March 9-10, 2001. Due to the construction at Colonial Williamsburg, the Patrick Henry Inn and Conference Center was chosen as the host facility. The planned theme was ‘*Southern Powder horns and Accouterments*.’<sup>7</sup>

~Members in the news - The March / April 2000 issue of Muzzleloader Magazine featured an article by Paul Jones, “Engraved Powder Horns and the Quest to Recreate Them.” It highlighted Ron Elhert, Scott & Kathy Sibly, Bruce Horne and Frank House with interviews and their horns on display. Other Guild members mentioned were David Wright, Mark Odle, Roland Cadle and John Pylon.<sup>8</sup>

Skip Hamaker submitted a pair of powder horns for a fundraising auction at the “NMLRA Winter National Matches” held in January in Phoenix, Arizona. \$800 was initially raised; however, the winner offered to re-auction them - result -another \$650 was raised for a total of \$1,450!

Ron Elhert made the horn for the 2000 Gunmakers’ Hall raffle which he also led and managed.

---

<sup>3</sup> Larkin, Lee. The Horn Book. Feb 1, 2001: pg 3.

<sup>4</sup> Smith, Byron. The Horn Book. Feb 1, 2001: pg 2. / Byron Smith, phonecon, Feb 28, 2026.

<sup>5</sup> Smith, Byron. The Horn Book. Oct 1, 2001: pg 5.

<sup>6</sup> Smith. Pg 5.

<sup>7</sup> Young, Russ. The Horn Book. July 2000: pg 5.

<sup>8</sup> Russ Young. The Horn Book. Mar 2000: Pg 4.

Early American Homes Magazine featured Guild members Brad Jenkinson and Michael Sleese in their '200 Top Traditional Craftsmen.'<sup>9</sup>

~Ft. Frederick - John Proud attended this year's Fort Frederick Trade Fair and stated that he was pleased to see other Guild members present to include: Roland Cadle, Bill Carter, Mike Clemons, Art DeCamp, Peter Dobbs, Jim Leach, Spark Mumma, Bruce Shroyer and Mike Sleese.

~Gunmakers Fair at Dixon's - Russ Young noted the annual frustration of recording the accouterment award winners at the Gunmakers Fair at Dixons which is akin to 'herding cats!' Please note that the winners names marked by an \* next to their name are Guild members. The winners recorded by Russ were:<sup>10</sup>

- |                          |                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Juniors</i>           | 1. Brian Nickleson<br>2. Kathleen Rheam (Daughter of Steve*)<br>3. Nathan Frankfort (Son of Willy*)                              |
| Pouches                  | 1. Peter Dobbs*<br>2. Sam McCausland (also won Madison Grant Award)<br>3. Pete Hutton                                            |
| Horn & Pouch             | Judges' Choice - Jim Pease*                                                                                                      |
| Plain Horn               | 1. John Proud* (also Best Historical Representation)<br>2. Jim Pease*<br>3. William Shaver<br>Judges' Choice - Josh Salisbury*   |
| Decorated Horn           | 1. Willy Frankfort*<br>2. Sam McCausland<br>3. Robert Brisson* & Bill Carter*<br>Judges' Choice - Skip Hamaker*, Josh Salisbury* |
| <i>Contemporary Horn</i> | 1. ? Unclaimed<br>2. Jane Lyons                                                                                                  |
| <i>Miscellaneous</i>     | 1. Marty McCausland - Shot snake<br>2. Shannon Pusek - Beaded Woven strap<br>3. Matt Koppinger - Rum horn                        |
| <i>Judges' Choice</i>    | A. B. Grisser - Ball dispenser                                                                                                   |
| <i>Annual Theme</i>      | 1. Judd Brennan - Tomahawk<br>2. Lee Larkin* - Screw tip horn                                                                    |

---

<sup>9</sup> Young, Russ. The Horn Book. Sept 2000: pg 4.

<sup>10</sup> Young, Russ. The Horn Book. Sept 2000: pgs 2-3.

~Video Tapes Update - The tapes that were made from the 1996 Seminar (see Chapter I) were now available. The four tapes were \$87.50 payable to Roland Cadle.

Also available is a 2 hour tape of the exhibit "The Art of Hornwork" held at the Johnson-Humrick House Museum in Coshocton, Ohio. The tape was recorded by Russ Young and Bruce Horne which is available from the Guild for \$17.50.<sup>11</sup>

### **2001 Horn Fair**

Registration and setup began at noon on Friday. The afternoon offered Colonial Williamsburg Collection of horn objects for viewing and a demonstration on making lanthorn panes by Clay Smith and George Suiter. Mel Hankla spoke on Southern Powder Horns to close the days activities.

The Horn Fair opened Saturday morning with the business meeting where Clay Smith, George Suiter, Jim Leach and Byron Smith were thanked for planning and organizing this year's Horn Fair. It was another great event. The by-laws written by Lee Larkin were presented and approved and for the first time committees were established in accordance with the by-laws. Committee chiefs were selected for the upcoming year: Membership - John Proud / Nominating & Meetings - Roland Cadle / Publications - Lee Larkin. Chiefs were still needed for Education and Awards Committees.

It should be that as the Publications Committee Chief Lee would also continue as editor of *The Horn Book*, a position he had held since December 2000. He stressed that he only wanted to fill the position temporarily and needs a volunteer to assume this responsibility.

The 2001 slate of officers were presented and unanimously elected.

Clay Smith was praised for his development of the Guild's Website.

After primarily paying for printing and mailing of *The Horn Book* and related expenses of the Horn Fair, Byron Smith reported a balance of \$3,447.67 in the Guild's account. Dues remained \$15 annually. Timely payment of dues continued to be stressed as it impacts on the budgeting process.

Lee announced that plans were underway for next year's Horn Fair to be held at Old Bedford Village in Bedford, Pennsylvania scheduled for February 22-24, 2002. More information will be provided as planning progresses.

With this announcement, the annual business meeting was concluded and the remaining activities scheduled for the morning began. Jim Webb spoke on 'Southern Hunting Accouterments,' particularly bags and blowing horns. Wallace Gusler spoke on Virginia horns.

Following lunch, the afternoon was filled with several informative demonstrations: Josh Salisbury on engraving New York map horns and Bruce Horne carving polychrome figures on horn. The afternoon events were closed out with Lee Larkin demonstrating the lettering of John Bush.

The annual banquet was held at the King's Arms. Following dinner, the official transition of Guild officers took place. President Clay Smith announced that Lee Larkin would succeed him as President ( now officially retitled as Guildmaster) with Roland Cadle as Guildmaster Elect, Lee also filling the position of Secretary and Byron Smith as Treasurer.

The evening concluded with Russ Young presenting a video he had produced from his visit to Abbey Horn Works in Great Britain. This year's Horn Fair was indeed a success.

Sunday was a travel day or left open for touring Colonial Williamsburg.

---

<sup>11</sup> Smith, Byron. The Horn Book. Feb 2001: pg 2.

## Summary

Although the Guild's membership and financial status remained basically unchanged during the Guild year, significant advancements were made which ensured its continued growth. Most significant was the adoption of bylaws which provided the necessary structure, guidance and operation for the Honourable Company of Horners. With its passage, the immediate concerns of establishing committees, filling officer vacancies, and addressing various financial issues such as interstate banking transfer of Guild funds, obtaining a federal tax ID number, and filing for a 501 (C) (3) tax exempt status were addressed and resolved.

Another major advancement was made with the implementation of a webpage, and along with *The Horn Book*, both would soon come under auspices of the Publication Committee to ensure a more enhanced messaging of Guild advancements and activities.

From the beginning 'President' Clay Smith felt these initiatives were a required necessity if the Guild's growth was to continue. The result: All these issues and more were accomplished during the tenure of President Clay and his staff. By the end of his term, 'Guildmaster' Clay Smith, had recorded achievements that would immeasurably benefit the Guild for years to come.

Perhaps the greatest challenge to date for the Guild was the resignation of Russ Young in December of 2000. Since the Guild's inception in March 1996, Russ had filled the roles of President, Secretary, Treasurer, editor of *The Horn Book* and unofficial keeper of membership rolls. In addition he had personally funded the publication of *The Horn Book* during the Guild's first year (GY 1996-1997).

Fortunately two key Guild members stepped up to fill these critical positions. Lee Larkin volunteered to fill the position of Secretary and to 'temporarily' fill *The Horn Book* editor's position. Byron Smith agreed to become Treasurer and assist in keeping membership data. The Guild was fortunate indeed that Lee and Byron agreed to fill the void left by Russ. Both would go on to fill key leadership rolls in the HCH and as such, ensured its continued stability and growth.

## Chapter II: The Formative Years / March 2000 - March 2001

Approved By: Clay Smith Date: 6/16/20  
Clay Smith  
President / Guildmaster