

MASTER COLLECTOR / HISTORIAN PROFILE

DR. BARRY ALAN MAXFIELD

BY RICK SHEETS, MASTER HORNER, HCH EDITOR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHUCK BROWNEWELL

Editor's Note: To date only four Guild members have attained the status of Master Collector / Historian in over 25 years of the Guild's existence. Barry Maxfield is now the fourth, which is the culmination of his collecting original horn items over many years. Each Master Collector / Historian has their own specialty and Barry's is Horn Mulls. These historians are to be highly commended for their dedication, research, expertise, guidance and sharing of knowledge. Their contributions to our Guild is of great importance and hopefully more will follow to become Master Collector / Historians.

Current recipients include:

Glenn Beall

Jay Hopkins

Carl Dumke

and now, **Barry Maxfield.**

In accordance with the Guild's Standing Rules, two of the major requirements to become a Master Collector / Historian are that an individual must "Show a superlative collection of horn articles presented in a historical context. (i.e. carved powder horns, folk art powder horns, screw tip powder horns, snuff boxes, combs, etc.) to be reviewed by the Awards Committee for evaluation at the annual meeting." In addition "...the candidate must give an original presentation to the HCH at an annual meeting on the collection" followed by a written "copy for the study and advancement of current and future Guild members." A high standard indeed, but those acquiring this level have a vital and essential role in our Guild.

Introducing Barry Alan Maxfield Master Collector / Historian



Barry Alan Maxfield our newest Master Collector/Historian was born and raised in Illinois and currently lives in Wisconsin on property once a dairy farm. There has been a lot of living between these two places. He married his wife Dorothy 57 years ago and has three children and five grandchildren.

After graduating high school, Barry attended the University of Illinois for a year then resumed his college training at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, graduating in 1967 with a BS in biological sciences. It was a natural next step to attend and graduate from the Medical College of Wisconsin 1971 and then onto a surgical internship at the University of Iowa. Following his internship, Barry spent three years as a surgeon in the 82nd Airborne. While there in Fayetteville, North Carolina he made around 35 parachute jumps. This brings us to 1975 with his anesthesiology residence training at the Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals as a staff anesthesiologist in Wausau, WI, where he worked for 26 years, serving as chief of anesthesiology for one two year term. Barry has been retired nearly twenty years now.

During his military service in North Carolina he was introduced to muzzle loading and all its associated vices by Lew Sanchez and Buck Buchanan, proprietors of Cumberland Knife & Gun Works. A Hawken replica by Louis Smith of Tennessee was purchased. Now he has a proper rifle and then he made his first powder horn. Barry muses that it was "functional but not very pretty".

Barry joined the Contemporary Longrifle Association as soon as it was formed, and displayed various parts of his collection over the years. He served several years on the board of Directors for the CLA, eventually serving one term as President of the CLA. Not only did Barry



figure into the CLA, he joined the Honourable Company of Horners in the early years where he has been an active member.

Then "it" happened. Barry saw his first curled Scottish snuff mull around 1993 and although he had no knowledge of or context for the item, it was recognized as a well made art form. The hunt began to find similar examples and to learn as much as he could about the history and use of these unique containers. His wife, Dorothy, and Barry have always been antique shoppers and because of her family history (McQueary, from the Scot's "Macquarrie") they have visited Scotland and England several times. Museums, historical sites and frequent stops wherever they travel. Barry also employs the internet to look for horn items. This near obsession has led to a varied and comprehensive collection.

Barry owns a few original powder horns of Revolutionary War vintage as well as an array of beakers, tumblers and shot "glasses" made of horn and an assortment of horn boxes and containers. Not content to just collect original objects, Barry has been collecting contemporary horns for nearly 50 years and owns over 60 pieces by 35 artisans. Having such a collection and the ability to interpret his finds has brought him to his new status as a HCH Collector Historian.

Barry is pleased by this rare recognition and is happy to share his collection with the HCH and any other interested parties. He states he will be as pleased to qualify for Journeyman status in the future. Recognition of his skill and talent in working horn will round out his journey in understanding horn work.



To that end, Barry states, "I think it's obvious that access to original horn art and artifacts is of high value to the artists, artisans and craftsmen of the Guild. Encouraging other collectors to share and display their horn "treasures" can only enhance the range and quality of contemporary work. I will continue to look for mulls of special note, especially those with names, dates and locations, and for mulls with Masonic connections. I don't know if it is possible, but finding enough examples may reveal characteristics that may allow us to discover regional "schools" of work or mulls identifiable to a specific maker or shop; as has been done with American Longrifles and some early American horners."

Congratulations – Well Done!!

