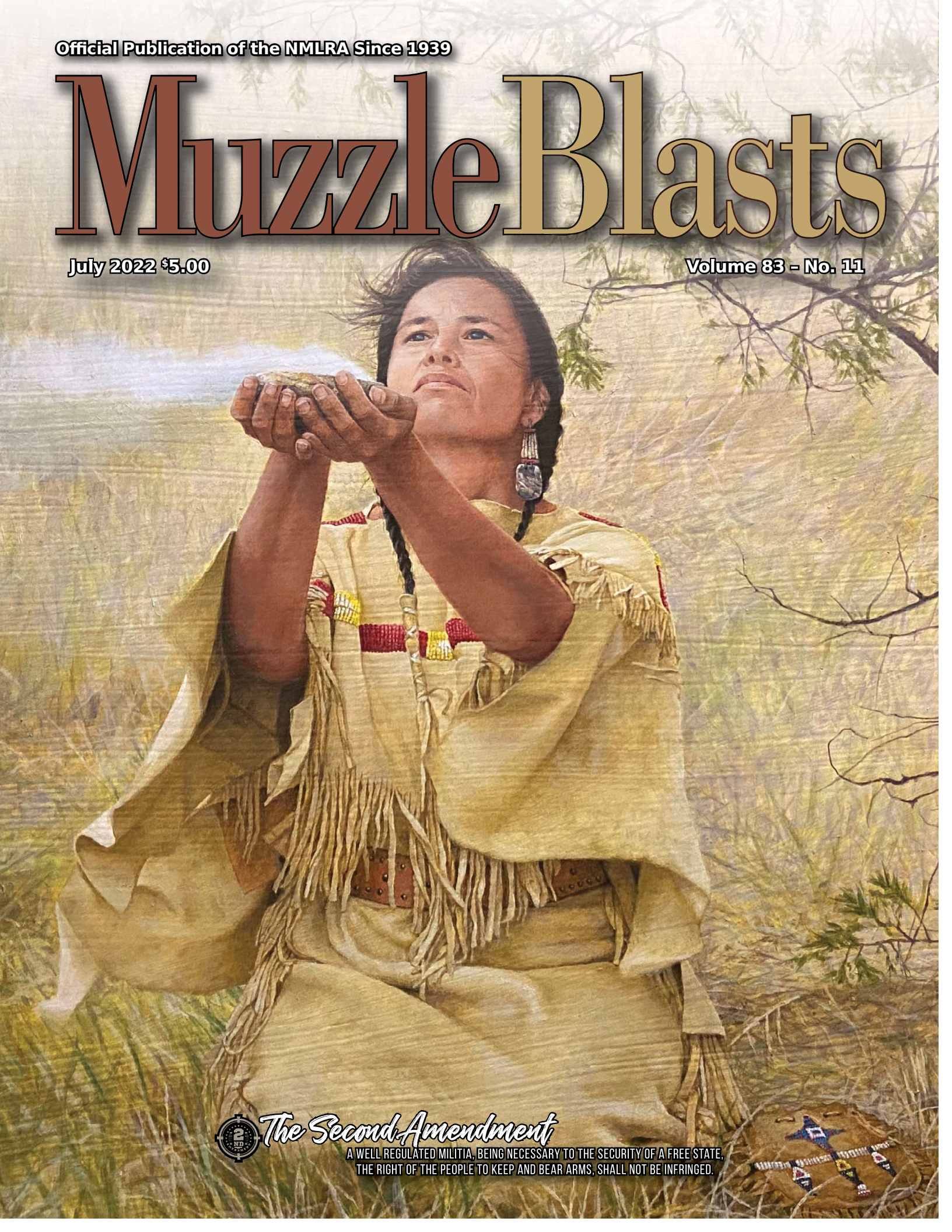


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# MuzzleBlasts

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*The Second Amendment*

A WELL REGULATED MILITIA, BEING NECESSARY TO THE SECURITY OF A FREE STATE,  
THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS, SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.



Historical art is Kevin McDonald's passion. In 2008 he attended a class on making authentic powder horns at Jacobsburg Historical Society's Long rifle Museum, in Nazareth, PA. Robert (Bob) Albrecht was one of the instructors who helped Kevin create his first powder horn. Bob is an artist in addition to a master craftsman who creates early American powder horns, hunting bags, Kentucky Long rifles and accoutrements. Kevin and Bob struck up a friendship as both had the same art interests, a passion for history, and since that fortunate meeting have exhibited their artwork together at numerous historical related events. They also had a two-person show together and were fortunate to be invited to exhibit their art at *History Meets the Arts* in Gettysburg, PA through Lord Nelson's Gallery in 2018. Bob and Kevin have been honored to include their artwork on the covers of such publications as *MuzzleBlasts* and *MuzzleLoader* magazines in addition to many other publications.

The last dozen years Kevin has been a re-enactor at the annual Washington's Crossing on the Delaware River in a period re-enactment of George Washington's famous Christmas crossing in 1775 which is viewed by thousands of spectators. Bob, who has been participating for many years helped Kevin get outfitted for "*The Crossing*" with period clothing, etc. Kevin now has his own period clothing, accoutrements and actually uses one of his original antique Kentucky Rifles for this event. It's also a great resource for getting reference material for future paintings. He has become friends with many reenactors at this annual event. Kevin's oil painting "Tattoo" of Revolutionary War drummer boys was completed using reference from the annual crossing.

Another annual event they attend and display artwork, is the *18th Century Artisan Show* in Lewisburg, PA, which is a great mix of creative talents; painters, Kentucky longrifle gunsmiths, powder horn makers, engravers, blacksmiths, etc.



*High Country (acrylic 12 x 14) – by Robert Albrecht*



*Reflection by Kevin McDonald*

While paintings have been more eastern to mid late 18th century subject matter for this show, both Bob and Kevin have also completed paintings with a more western theme. A few years ago, they came up with a name that represents their artistic friendship/partnership “*Brushes with History*”. Bob and Kevin each have over 40+ years’ experience in the graphics field, including positions as art directors for Fortune 500 companies in the corporate world.

**Kevin McDonald’s** formal education in the art world was at *Du Cret School of Art* in Plainfield, N.J. He studied under noted illustrator Peter Caras, who had mentored under Norman Rockwell and James Bamma. Kevin’s art career has included working full-time and freelancing as a graphic designer, illustrator, web-designer, and an art director for a large consumer finance company.



*Tattoo (oil 18 x 24) – by Kevin McDonald*

*Tattoo was beat at nine p.m. in the fall and winter, and at ten p.m. in the spring and summer where troops were garrisoned in forts or quartered in towns. It wasn’t played in camp. It was a signal to local taverns/innkeepers to “turn off the taps,” and sell no more liquor for the day.*



*Prairie Scouts (acrylic 10 x 18) – by Robert Albrecht*

*Plains Indians scouting the lowlands.*



*Pennsylvania Provincial, 3rd Battalion (acrylic 11 x 14") – by Robert Albrecht*



*The Rifleman (oil 11x14) - Kevin J. McDonald depicts a frontier Rifleman from the Revolutionary War.*



*The Stray Mount (oil 22x30) - by Kevin J. McDonald This scene depicts a trapper's horse lost in the Rocky Mountains which suggests an unfortunate circumstance for the trapper.*

He has received numerous awards for his corporate work along with various additional awards for internal and external projects. While receiving awards for corporate graphics has been rewarding, his real passion is historical art.

Kevin likes the historical research and takes his own photo reference for most of his paintings. He has traveled the American west from Arizona to Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and South Dakota in addition to east coast events/locations taking reference photos for his paintings. He also enjoys the outdoors, hiking, hunting, fishing and keeps his camera ready for opportunities to get some reference photos. The summer of 2019 took him on a drive across America. He fly-fished in Wyoming and Idaho and was able to take numerous location photos for painting reference in addition to attending a western photo shoot event in South Dakota with really great models. September of 2020 he completed hikes on both the eastern and western slopes of the Wind River mountains in Wyoming taking reference photos for future paintings.

His oil painting "The Rifleman" was featured on the cover of the July/August 2019 issue of *Muzzleloader Magazine* and recently won second place for figurative oils at the Mountain View Americana Art Show in SC. His original paintings are in private collections and his painting "On New Headwaters" hangs in the permanent collection of the Museum of the Pennsylvania Long rifle. Kevin has also exhibited in one and two-person shows. I'm honored to have been accepted into some really great shows; Settler's West Miniature Show in Tucson, Az., Bosque Art Classic in TX, Mountain Oyster Show in Tucson AZ, Mountain View Americana Art Show in SC and the Small Works Great Wonders Show at the National Cowboy Museum in OK.

Kevin is also the art director for The Kentucky Rifle Association's newsletter the *Bulletin*, a member and collects Kentucky

Rifles and accoutrements which were made by American craftsmen and were one of the first true art forms in America.

Living near the *Museum of the Pennsylvania Longrifle* in Nazareth, PA, Kevin is privileged to be close to many historic sites related to early America. The Museum of the Pennsylvania Long rifle is just two miles to his north, home of the famous Henry family of gunsmiths and the Boulton Gun factory which was the largest firearms supplier during the fur trade.

*"I'm inspired to portray characters from American history - "native people, explorers and pioneers who crossed and settled this continent, and their interaction. They represent the true grit and individual spirit that molded this great country, and the scenes and characters that I paint hopefully make the viewer more aware of their contributions".*

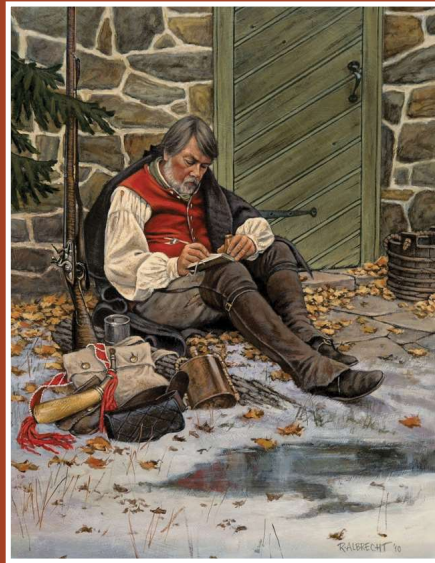
Kevin lives with his family in historic Nazareth, Pennsylvania, just a few miles north of the Moravian settlement of Christian's Spring, where the art of building the Kentucky Rifle was formally taught before the Revolutionary War.

**Robert Albrecht's** paintings reflect a variety of his individual interests and passions. His fondness for hunting, fishing, nature and the outdoors are demonstrated through his paintings of landscapes and wildlife, many of which are directly inspired by his personal experiences and active lifestyle. He has a painting which was accepted for the permanent collection at the Catskill Fly Fishing Museum, Livingston Manor, NY.

Educated at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts, Robert earned a degree in illustration. After graduation, he worked for 22 years as an art director at AT&T before starting his own design agency, Albrecht Design in 1996. Although the agency focused on corporate design, Robert's first love has always been painting.



*The Turkey Hunter (oil 11x14) - by Kevin J. McDonald*



*Journal (acrylic 11 x 14) – by Robert Albrecht*  
*American soldier under General Washington writing in his journal before the Battle of Trenton.*



*The Lesson (acrylic 18 x 14) – by Robert Albrecht*  
*Mother teaching her son his letters using a hornbook.*

Robert has an astute appreciation for military history, particularly World War II Naval aviation. This is evident in many of the works he has created. His paintings portray military aircraft and other related subjects. Robert’s paintings have won multiple awards, including First Place and Director’s Choice in the National Museum of Naval Aviation Art Exhibition, Pensacola, FL. Two of his paintings are part of the permanent collection.

Robert also has a great interest for historical themes of 18th Century lifestyle, particularly the eastern frontier. Influenced by living in an area rich in historical significance, which provides great visual reference for many of his paintings.

Going beyond traditional research methods for his artwork, Robert participates in living history reenactments of the 18th century, incorporating the period wardrobe, activity, and environment. The result is a truly authentic appeal to his skillfully rendered paintings. The period subject matter lends a vintage heirloom aesthetic. Robert recreates moments inspired by early American heritage, revisiting a simpler life, before his own time.

Besides painting, Robert is avidly involved in other traditional fine craft mediums, such as building and scrimshawing powder horns, early American hunting bags and long rifles. Creating these functional art objects have won him many first-place ribbons in competitions, including Dixon’s Gun Makers Fair. These historic recreations are directly related to the historical context of many of his more recent works. He is also a member of the Honourable Company of Horners and completes the layout and design of their newsletter, “*The Horn Book*”.

Robert’s father was also an artist, and he was an instructor at Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts. “When I was younger, I had the opportunity to meet some of my father’s friends, noted illustrators; Frank Schoonover and U.S.M.C. artist Charles Waterhouse.”

Bob and his wife live in Bethlehem, NJ in an 18th century farmhouse which is only a short walk across his driveway to his studio surrounded by woods and much wildlife.

Bob and Kevin will continue to paint and display their artwork and hope to educate more people about the history of America through their art. They will be exhibiting their artwork together at the new Kempton Gunmaker’s Fair (formerly Dixon’s Gunmakers Fair) this July 29, 30 & 31, 2022 at the Kempton Community Center, in Kempton, PA.

To view additional information about Bob and Kevin’s paintings, please visit the below links.

[www.brusheswithhistory.com](http://www.brusheswithhistory.com)

[www.albrechtart.com](http://www.albrechtart.com)

[www.kjmcdonaldart.net](http://www.kjmcdonaldart.net)



*Robert Albrecht*



*Kevin J. McDonald*

# Brushes with History

Brushes with History combines two artist's visions of the past.  
Let your eyes be taken back to an earlier time in America...



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American Graffiti 20 x 32 Oil • Kevin J. McDonald • [www.kjmcdonaldart.com](http://www.kjmcdonaldart.com)



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