



**THE MEANING OF
GUN OWNERSHIP**

— IN —

AMERICA

**A COMPARATIVE DESCRIPTION OF
YOUNG, BLACK URBAN MALES**

— AND —

YOUNG, WHITE SUBURBAN & RURAL MALES

LENA TESONE

MAP OF
PENNSYLVANIA

JAN. 1. 1810. 42 COUNTIES.





THERE WERE
13
MASS SHOOTINGS
2012
TWO TOOK PLACE IN
PENNSYLVANIA

In this photo provided by the Newtown Bee, Connecticut State Police lead children from the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., following a reported shooting there Friday, Dec. 14, 2012. (AP Photo/Newtown Bee, Shannon Hicks)
<http://www.businessinsider.com/sandy-hook-elementary-shooting-newtown-connecticut-2012-12#ixzz2Rwt3cTp3>

**MORE SPECIFICALLY,
PITTSBURGH, PA**



"Pittsburgh from the West End" Property of Solstice Photo 2013. <http://www.etsy.com/listing/77753978/pittsburgh-from-the-west-end-8x10-fine>



**THERE IS AN UNDENIABLE
RACE COMPONENT TO THE
GUN CONTROL DEBATE.**

"13 Year Olds with Guns" Stephen Shames 2013. <http://www.galleryofreaders.org/pineapple/images/summer09/childreneyouth1>.

CURRENT PHENOMENA

AMERICA

GUN CULTURE

M-A-L-E S ♂

WHITE GUN CULTURE PHENOMENA

- RISE IN "MASS-SHOOTINGS"
- STIGMA OF WHITE SHOOTER AS "MENTALLY ILL".
- "LONE-WOLF KILLER"
- FAR MORE PRONE TO SUICIDE WITH GUN THAN ANY OTHER AMERICAN DEMOGRAPHIC.

↳ MORE SENSATIONALIZED BY MEDIA B/C IT IS LESS NORMALIZED THAN BLACK GUN DEATH

BLACK GUN CULTURE PHENOMENA

- SEEN AS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY "BLACK-ON-BLACK"
- 15-19 Y.O. BLACK MALES 8X MORE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF HOMICIDES THAN WHITE PEERS.
- ONLY 15% OF AMERICAN POPULATION, BUT 45% OF GUN DEATHS.
- MORE PRONE TO "ACCIDENTAL" SHOOTINGS + HOMICIDE THAN WHITE PEERS
- SEEN AS "URBAN" PROBLEM, THEREFORE NORMALIZED.

"I JUST WANT TO LIVE OFF THE LAND"

**12 Y.O. WHITE MALE LIVING
IN TARENTUM, PA**

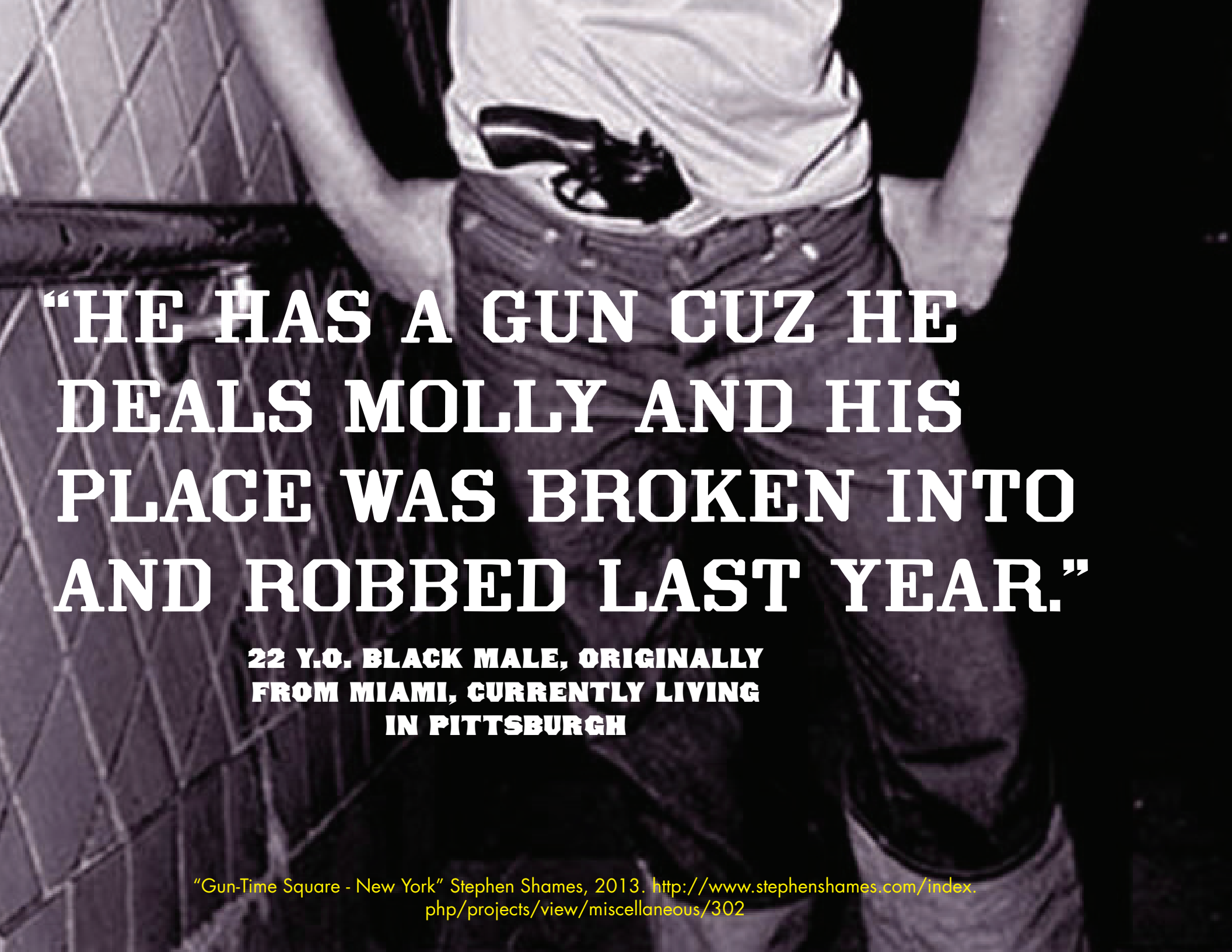


"Brave Eagles Hunt with Antique Browning" Trey Lucky, 2012. http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-P3bRVNa91JA/Tp3BF_tYe5I/AAAAAAAAAgl/Ah8ek3pXfa4/s1600/HUNTO007.JPG.

"MEN TAKE ACTION"

**22 Y.O. WHITE MALE, ORIGINAL-
LY FROM ALABAMA, CURRENTLY
LIVING IN PITTSBURGH**

"Eric Harris, left, and Dylann Klebold, right, in the infamous Columbine High School cafeteria surveillance video." Creative Commons: [<http://vanessawest.tripod.com/columbine.jpg>]



**“HE HAS A GUN CUZ HE
DEALS MOLLY AND HIS
PLACE WAS BROKEN INTO
AND ROBBED LAST YEAR.”**

**22 Y.O. BLACK MALE, ORIGINALLY
FROM MIAMI, CURRENTLY LIVING
IN PITTSBURGH**

INTERVIEWS

- 4 WITH WHITE GUN OWNERS, AGES 12-35
- 2 WITH BLACK GUN OWNERS, AGES 22
- 1 WITH BLACK NON-GUN OWNER, AGE 26

PARTICIPATORY OBSERVATIONS

- MARCH 26, 2013; SPENT DAY AT THE BULL CREEK ROD + GUN CLUB OF TAKENTUM, PA. PARTICIPATED IN HUNTER-TRAPPER SAFETY COURSE
- APRIL 2, 2013; SPENT EVENING AT GUN CONTROL FORUM AT THE EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN E. LIBERTY, PA.

SECONDARY SOURCES

- "PRIVATE GUNS PUBLIC HEALTH"
BY DAVID HERENWAY
- "FULL" • BULL GAZETTE
- RECENT NEWS STORIES
- CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND

FIELD NOTES

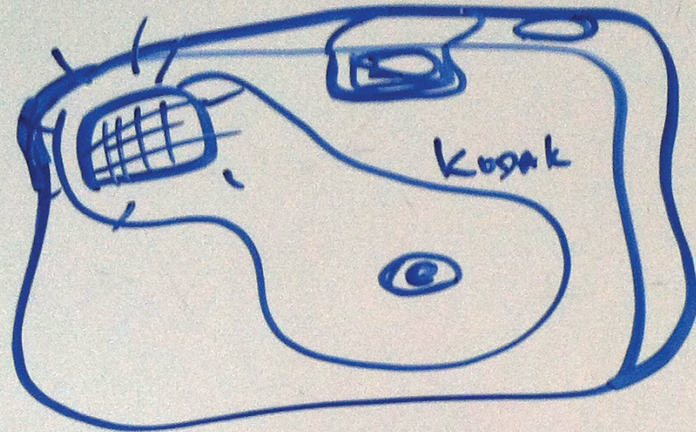
↳ TOOK NOTES ON ALL INTERVIEWS + PARTICIPATORY OBSERVATIONS

VOICE RECORDING

↳ VOICE RECORDED 2 INTERVIEWS + 1 PARTICIPATORY OBSERVATION

PHOTOGRAPHING

↳ PHOTOGRAPHED HOME OF 1 GUN OWNER + PHOTOGRAPHED PARTICIPATORY OBSERVATION AT THE BULL CREEK RD + GUN CLUB - HUNTER TRAINING + SAFETY COURSE



IN THE FIELD I USED A
KODAK DISPOSABLE + ALWAYS
TOOK NOTES BY HAND B/C IT
IS LESS INTRUSIVE THEN
OTHER TECHNOLOGY.

EMERGENT THEMES

of gun ownership

**WHITE
MALES**

- CONSTRUCTED RITUALS
 - EXPERTISE
 - TRADITION
 - FAMILY + PATRILINEAGE
 - HONOR
 - CONTROL
 - LIBERTY
 - STEWARDSHIP
 - AUTONOMY
- UNDERLYING FEAR OF LOSS OF CONTROL

**BLACK
MALES!**

- ACTION
 - RESPONSIBILITY
 - HONOR
 - PROTECTION
 - FEAR
- IDENTITY
 - CONFLICT RESOLUTION
 - INTIMIDATION
 - PROTECTION
 - OVERT FEAR OF OTHERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AUTHORITY FIGURES, PEERS

INTERPRETATIONS



**SUSAN FALUDI'S IDEA OF "ORNAMENTAL MASCULINITY
-THE GUN BECOMES ALMOST LIKE AN ACCESSORY, OR
LIKE HAVING BIG MUSCLES**

POWER DIFFERENTIALS IN AMERICA

WHITE MEN PLAYING HEAVILY INTO ARCHETYPES.

RESISTANCE TO CHANGE, "ANGRY WHITE MALE."