

NOTES ON OHIO GUNSMITH FAMILIES

BY DR. JAMES WHISKER

Keith, Finley C. (1849-1930). gunsmith & farmer. Noble County. Finley was born in July 1849, a son of John S. Keith (1821-1899), a blacksmith, and his wife née Eliza McGarry. Finley was also the grandson of Peter Wesley Keith, a gunsmith. Finley married Armenia Atherton. Census of 1880, Finley Keith, farmer, 30; Armenia A., 27; Eleanor, 6; Ervin, 2, all born in OH. Finley died on 27 November 1930 and was buried at Northwood Cemetery, Cambridge, Guernsey County [Find-a-Grave; Ancestry].

Keith, Peter Wesley (1790—1864). rifle maker. Peter was born on 29 October 1790, in Huntingdon, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, a son of Peter Keith (1765–1846) and his wife, the former Mariah Ilges (1766–1847). Father Peter and Mother Mariah both died in Boone County, Illinois. In 1811 P. W. married Mary Dickey (1794–1823) and, following her death, in 1823 he married Mary Adaline Taylor (1800–1887). With his two wives he fathered fourteen children, of which a dozen children lived into adulthood. He was the paternal grandfather of Finley C. Keith, a gunsmith. Peter died on 13 February 1864, aged 73 years, in Noble County, Ohio. He was buried in Keith Cemetery, Jackson Township, Noble County [Find-a-Grave 30824808]. Peter Wesley Keith lived in a part of Noble County which had been in Morgan County, and close to Hocking County, where Peter Cain worked. The Keith and Cain families lived close to each other. Peter Keith was listed in the 1850 census as a gunsmith.

Note: Peter's son John was noted as a blacksmith in censuses. John was father of Finley Keith.

Good, John J. (1828-1914). gunsmith. His shop was near Three Churches, Bloomery district, Hampshire County, c.1840. He may have apprenticed with the Sheetz family. Joshua Johnson Good was born in Albemarle Virginia in 1834. He was the son of Jacob Good (1799-1881) and Lucy Wiggington (1799-1880). His grandfather was Felix Good Sr., of Hampshire County. He then moved to Warrensburg, Missouri [Census]. He was last located at Cynthiana, Kentucky

[Ansel, 139]. John J. Good was born in [West] Virginia on 9 January 1828, a son of Jacob and Eva Wydeck. He died of cancer on 26 June 1914 in Webster County, Missouri. He was buried at Mount Olive Cemetery, Crown, Webster County, Missouri. J J Good was born near Three Churches, Bloomery district, Hampshire County, West Virginia, on 9 January 1828, a son of Jacob and Eva Wydeck Good. In the 1850 census the Good family lived in Hampshire County. Joshua was 16 years old. His father Jacob's occupation was listed as a miller. In the 1860 census, Joshua lived in Atchison, Kansas, listed as a gunsmith. He was also listed as a gunsmith in the 1860 Atchison City Directory. In June 1863 there was a Joshua G. Good listed on the registration for the draft in Butler Ohio, occupation gunsmith. In 1867 Joshua married Mary E Renaker in Harrison Kentucky. In the 1870 we find Joshua and his wife Mary, with two children in Cynthiana Kentucky. In this census he is listed as a Singer Sewing Machine Agent and gunsmith. He was noted in the U.S. Census of 1870, in Ozark, Missouri: John J Good, born in Virginia, 42, carpenter; Theodocia, 42; James E, 13; Samuel Q, 12; William W, 10; Daniel B, 7; Benjamin F, 5; Elizabeth, 1; all born in Virginia; William Smiley, born in Pennsylvania, 28, carpenter. In the 1880 census, Joshua was again listed as a Sewing Machine Agent. He was next noted in Warrensburg, Missouri, in the Census of 1910, Ozark, Webster County: John J Good, retired, 82, born in Virginia; Theodocia M, wife, 81; Benjamin F, born in Virginia, 43, farmer; Lester L, laborer, 15; Mamie, 13; Lora L, 9. J J Good, farmer, died of cancer on 26 June 1914 in Webster County, Missouri, and was buried in Mount Olive Cemetery, Crown, Webster County [Missouri death certificate 21646; Find-a-Grave]. Joshua was also an inventor and held several patents, including one for, safety fenders for locomotives, autographic register improvement, improvement for plows & a machine for folding strips of paper.

Note: There is research yet to be done, and some apparent contradiction especially in 1870.

IMAGES OF 2022 EVENTS

In the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the AOLRC awakened in 2022 with several significant live events. Please enjoy a few photos taken by members at the following venues:

Marietta Spring Show, Historic Lafayette Hotel, Marietta, Ohio, April 1-2, 2022.

The well-attended event featured numerous tables filled with displays of antique Ohio rifles and accoutrements as well as a dinner and other events.

2022 AOLRC's Picnic at Log Cabin Shop

“Twenty one people attended the Association’s annual picnic and blanket shoot held Sunday, August

7th at the Log Cabin Gun Shop near Lodi. There were seven shooters including 17 year-old Katie Statler. The first three places went to Mark Barnhill, Bob Statler and Randy Brown. Most enjoyed themselves, eating,



Unmarked walnut-stocked .51 caliber rifle among many interesting items at the Hilliard buy, sell, trade show; early 19th century brass furniture and barrel; likely restocked in percussion later in the century; possibly brought from Pennsylvania into Ohio; provenance unknown; green tinted horn, facets around spout (not paired with rifle). (photo courtesy of Mark Bender)



Percussion pistol marked “C. Siebert, Columbus, O.” displayed at the 2022 Marietta show. The Siebert clan of gunmakers was well-represented in Ohio during the mid to late 19th century. The walnut stocked pistol has an interesting carved fore-end. Antique single shot pistols made in Ohio are uncommon. (courtesy of Mark Herman; photo by Mark Bender)



Front corner of Lafayette Hotel, traditional site of the AOLRC Marietta show; Spring 2022 after the COVID-19 Pandemic. The hotel is a historical landmark in Marietta, near the site of some of the earliest settlements in the Old Northwest. (photo by Mark Bender)



Street view of Lafayette Hotel, traditional site of the AOLRC Marietta show; Spring 2022 after the COVID-19 Pandemic. (photo by Mark Bender)