

County, Maryland. That told me Henry was related to the Markers of Maryland gunsmiths. Keeping track of the Markers can really be a chore, considering there are three Georges, two Daniels, two Jacobs, two Pauls, and a James. Now these are the confirmed ones that are gunsmiths, because there are probably another couple of hundred more of them named the same. All in all, there are probably more gunsmiths because they are all farmers, too. It was in their blood and genes. Almost all gunsmiths did blacksmithing, locksmithing, and silver smithing, also.

Daniel Marker Sr. was the oldest of three brothers and the father of three sons to become gunsmiths. Just to compound all this, five of the Markers came to settle in the Miami Valley in Ohio. They settled in Jefferson Township, Montgomery County. It was in the Ellerton-Liberty area. Their neighbors were Frederick Leatherman Sr., Jacob Burns, and the David Oblinger Sr. families. The only ones that were not from Frederick County, Maryland was the Oblinger family from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, which was a hotbed for gunsmiths, too. Below are the ones who came [to Ohio]:

Jacob Burns (1794-1881) born in Carroll County, Maryland. Came to Ohio in 1830.

George Marker Jr. (1780-1854) born in Frederick County, Maryland. Came to Ohio in 1823.

Jacob Marker (1803-1880) born in Carroll County, Maryland. Came to Ohio in 1828.

Daniel Marker Sr. (1774-1853) born in Frederick County, Maryland. Came to Ohio in 1825.

Paul M. Marker (1792-1864) born in Carroll County, Maryland. Came to Ohio in 1828.

George Calvin Marker (1831-1913) born in Darke County, Ohio.

Frederick Leatherman Sr. (1785-1840) born in Frederick County, Maryland. Came to Ohio in 1834.

David Oblinger Sr. (1796-1834) born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Came to Ohio in 1818.

What this means is that this area of Jefferson Township, Montgomery County, Ohio is where these persons became friends and family. The gunsmith trade was "A Family Affair." It is here that Henry Clay Burns first met his wife-to-be Margaret Oblinger (1833-1862). And Frederick Leatherman Jr (1824-1906) met his wife-to-be Susan Burns (1829-1893). She

was Henry's sister. Henry's older brother was Daniel Marker Burns (1824-1898) who became a gunsmith in Troy, Ohio, Miami County.

David Oblinger Sr. (1796-1864) had three sons who became gunsmiths [two of which were] Soloman Oblinger (1828-1910) and Wilson Oblinger (1841-1919). In Troy, Montgomery County, Ohio. They bought out Daniel Marker's shop. David Oblinger Jr. (1836-1930) was a gunsmith in Piqua, Miami County, Ohio. Then his two sons, Charles M. Oblinger (1864-1938) and Walter W. Oblinger (1866-1953) ran that shop until 1890.

This adds up to 19 gunsmiths that Henry Burns was related to in over four generations. Five out of a total of ten [known] Marker gunsmiths came to Ohio. I believe that Henry Clay Burns, Frederick Leatherman Jr., and George Calvin Marker all learned the gunsmith trade in Jefferson Township from Daniel Marker Sr. and George Marker Jr, or Jacob Marker.

Henry moved to Lewisburg, Preble County, Ohio about 1847 and was in the 1850 census there. Me married Margaret on October 11, 1849. David Oblinger Sr. moved there much earlier. This means that he probably taught the older three Oblinger boys the trade.

Here is a list of those [the gunsmiths] that moved away from Jefferson Township and where they moved:

Daniel Marker Sr. moved to Preble County, then to Adams Township, Darke County, Ohio.

Jacob Marker moved to Franklin Township, Darke County, Ohio.

George Calvin Marker moved to Adams Township, Darke County, Ohio.

Paul (Powell) Marker moved to Gratis, Preble County, Ohio, then to Union City, Indiana.

David Oblinger Sr moved to Lewisburg, Preble County, Ohio.

Jacob Burns moved to Lewisburg, Preble County, Ohio.

Fredrick Leatherman Sr. moved to Tiffin, Seneca County, Ohio.

Henry Clay Burns moved to Lewisburg, Preble County, Ohio.

Paul M. Marker moved to Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio.

Fred Leatherman Jr. moved to Miami City, Montgomery County, Ohio.

effort. I sure hope you enjoyed it.

George Marker Jr. was the only gunsmith [in this network] that stayed in Jefferson Township, Montgomery County, Ohio.

Henry Clay Burns died on November 26, 1888. He and his family are buried in the Lower Lewisburg Cemetery, including his parents, both of his wives, and all three of his children.

The rifle in the photos is probably the best [known] example of Henry Burn's work. It is in the Winterthur Museum in Winterthur, Delaware which is on the Dupont Family estate. The museum is within the mansion, which sits in the middle of a 1,000 acre garden. There is no doubt who inspired Henry to build the rifle, which is an example of his incredible skill and ability. It is absolutely so beautiful. His uncle, Daniel Marker Sr., would have been proud of this rifle. See Figs. 4 and 5)

I hope I have not bored you with the length of this article. I am certainly not a writer and this is my best



*Fig. 5. Cheek piece of highly decorated H. Burns rifle in Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library collection (Museum Purchase with funds provided by an anonymous donor and the Robert and Bobbie Falk Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund. Courtesy Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library.)*



*Fig. 4. Highly decorated H. Burns rifle in Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library collection (Museum Purchase with funds provided by an anonymous donor and the Robert and Bobbie Falk Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund. Courtesy Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library.)*