



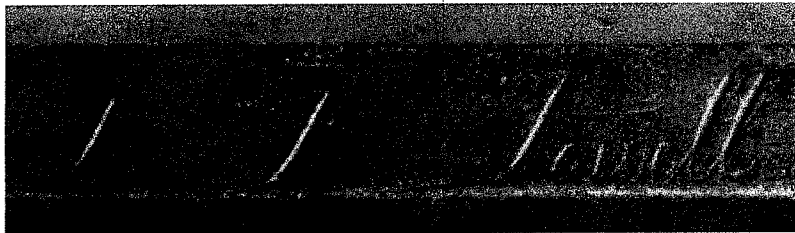
A decorative flourish consisting of a central loop with two smaller loops extending outwards, resembling a stylized 'S' or 'J'.

## Jacob F. Powell Early Ohio Gunsmith

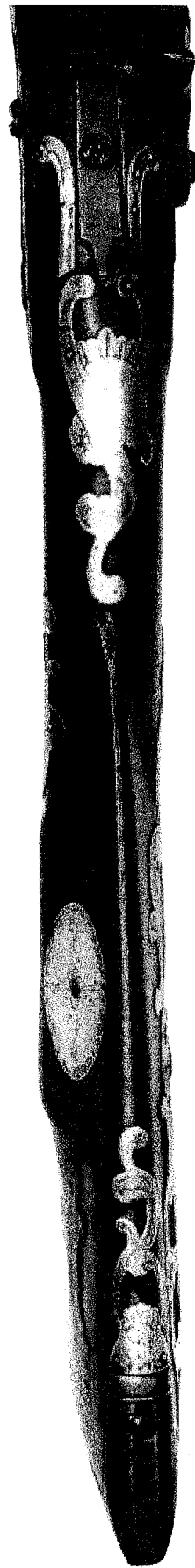
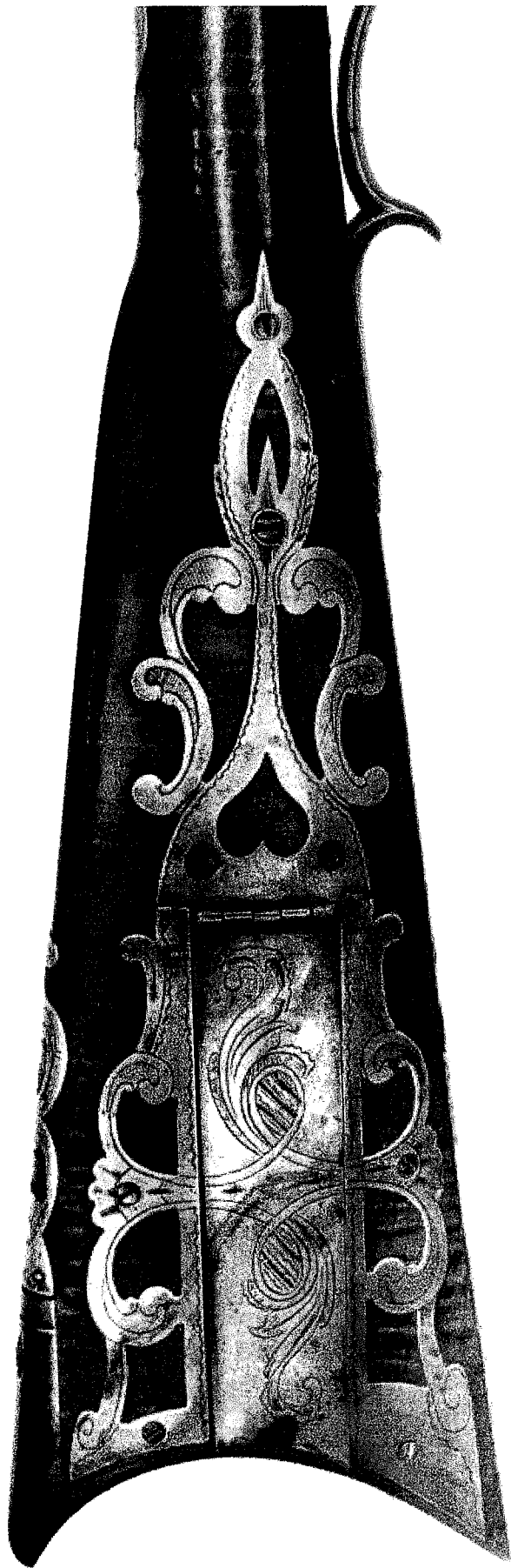
Illustrated is a fine early relief carved rifle by Jacob F. Powell. Powell is listed as having worked in Ashland, Richland, Wood and Logan Counties as early as 1818. The script barrel signature is "J. F. Powell" and the flintlock lock, converted to percussion is marked in script "Yerian." This is the signature of Adam Yerian who worked in Ross County as early as 1804. See "Ohio Gunsmiths and Allied Tradesman" for additional information.



A decorative flourish identical to the one above, consisting of a central loop with two smaller loops extending outwards.



Photos by Jim Whisker



# Thomas Hunt Ohio and Illinois Gunsmith

By Curt Johnson

Born on December 17, 1787, probably in Fayette County, Kentucky, Thomas Hunt was a son of Levi and Rachel Hunt. Levi Hunt came from Old Rowan County, North Carolina. His wife Rachel is believed to have been an Indian, probably Shawnee. The Hunt family moved, in the year 1800, to Tate Township, Clermont County, Ohio. There they lived for a time in a deserted Indian camp, until better accommodations could be built.

Thomas Hunt learned the gunsmith's trade, possibly from an older cousin, John Hunt (1777-1851), who was then living in Pike Township, Brown County, Ohio. John Hunt later moved to Wayne County, Indiana and had a gunsmith & blacksmith shop on South 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Richmond, Indiana as early as 1816. John Hunt also taught the trade to a nephew, John S. Hunt, who later worked in Laport and Liberty, Indiana before moving to Oregon in 1846.

Thomas Hunt had a gunsmith shop near Bethel, Clermont County, Ohio at least as early as 1830. John Park was apprenticed to Thomas Hunt in 1831 at age 16. Park was a gunsmith at Williamsburg, Clermont County from 1837 through at least 1878. Thomas Hunt was married January 2, 1812 to Elizabeth Bredwell.

In 1832 Hunt moved his family to the southwestern part of Peoria County, Illinois, and settled in Section 31, Timber Township. This land adjoined the Fulton County line and was about two miles east of Banner, Fulton County, which was then called Utica.

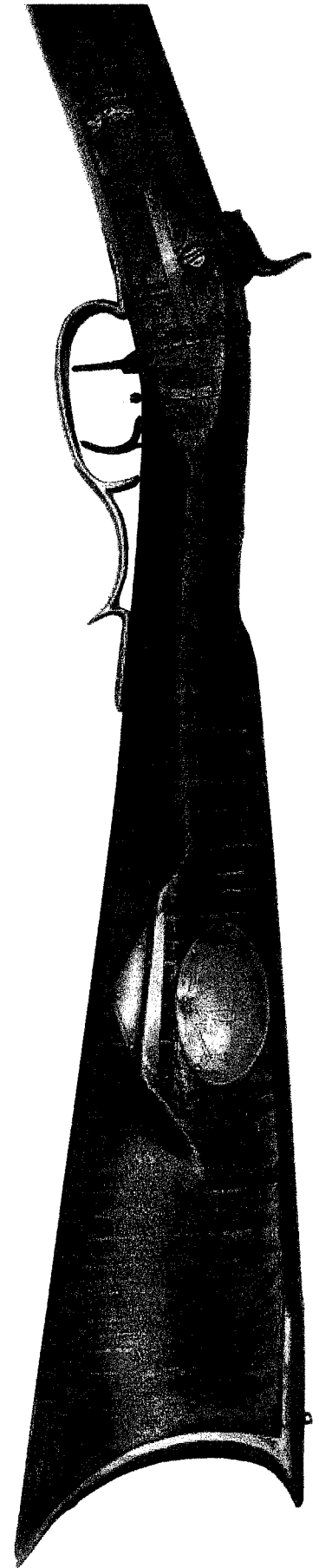
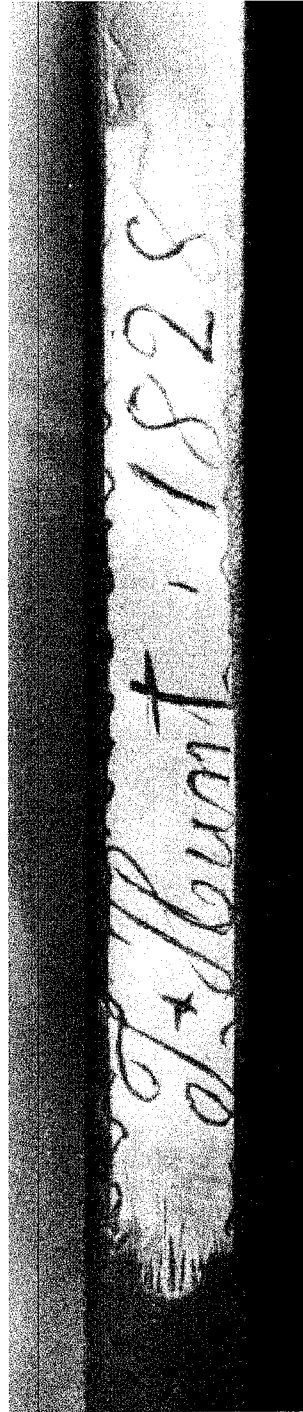
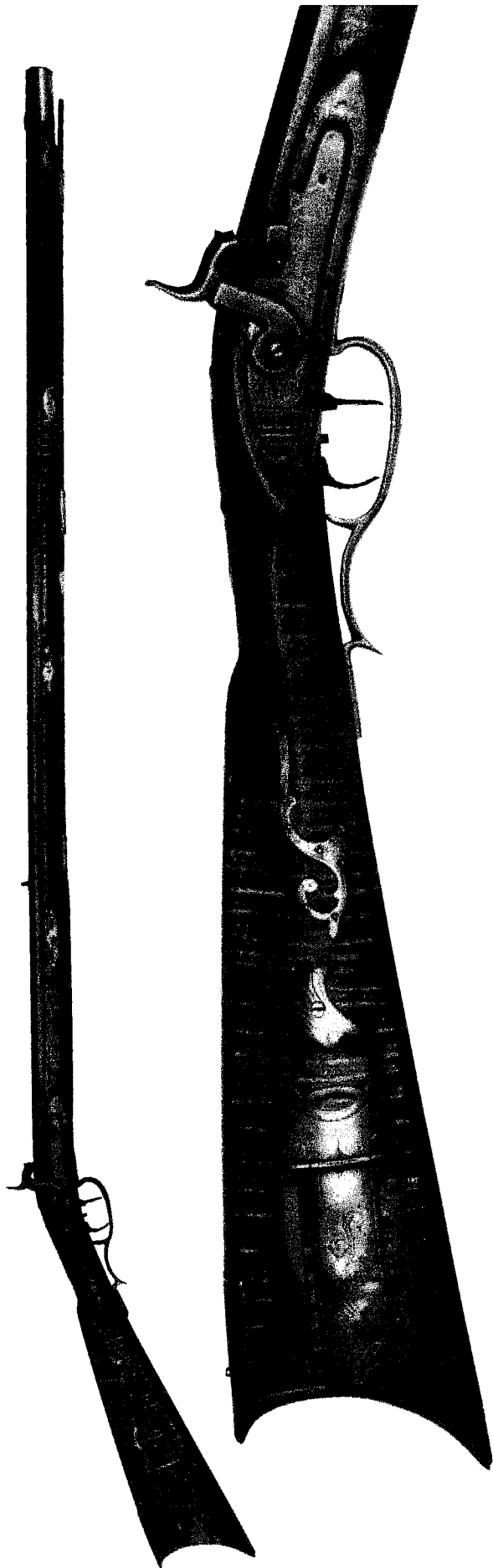
A rifle, made in 1836, "near Utica", by Thomas Hunt, for his wife's brother John Bredwell, is still in the possession of Bredwell's descendants. A February 14, 1907 article called

"Rambler's Notes", an interview with 87 year old Yelventon Bredwell, appeared in a Canton, Illinois newspaper. Y. Bredwell mentions the Thomas Hunt rifle made for his father, John Bredwell. It was said to have been "made from the metal in a wagon tire". "Thomas was an old time gunsmith and a fine workman. My father hunted a good deal and that old gun has brought down many deer, turkeys, and wolves, I prize it very highly and it is not for sale."

Thomas Hunt died on September 17, 1836. His is among the very earliest estate files on record in Peoria County. At the time of his death he owned 489 acres in Timber and Trivoli Townships and owned personal property valued at \$1,094.60.

The appraisal bill of Thomas Hunt's personal property, dated January 14, 1837, contains the following.

One set of gunsmith tools	45.00
One lot of gunstocks	2.75
Four traps	9.00
One lot of irons	6.00
Four plows	8.00
Farming utensils	11.25
Five gunbarrels and twelve gunlocks	28.25
Sixteen files	2.12 ½
Half pound of borix	.25
One gun and shot pouch	5.37 ½
One clock	10.00
Two saddles, two towels and pare of martingles	12.00
One pare of stilyards	1.50
Sundry articles	4.00
One cross cut saw	7.00
Slates and sheep shears	.75
Shaving tools	.75



Photos by Jim Whisker

Two sets of gears	29.50
One sled	2.00
One wagon	100.00
Thirteen ships of bees	26.00
Thirteen head of sheep	23.50
One lot of hogs	56.00
One lot of meat cattle	204.00
One horse	70.00
One lot of books	3.00
Improvements on congress land	45.37 ½
One lot of axes	5.00
For -----?	1.00
Three notes	314.33
Book accounts	52.90
Cash in hand	8.50
	1094.60

Hunt's estate sale was held on February 6, 1837. His son, George W. Hunt, bought the following:

1 lot of gunsmith tools	35.00
1 lot iron & steel	1.50
1 lot gunstocks	1.00
Gunlocks & five barrels	18.00
Borex & files	1.25
3 augers	.75

George W. Hunt is thought to be the same George Hunt who later had a blacksmith shop in Trivoil, Peoria County. It would seem, from the above sale bill, that he also worked at gunsmithing.

There was also another George Hunt, this one a brother of Thomas and uncle of George W. Here is what I have on him.

#### GEORGE HUNT

Indian Point Township (near S. Augustine),  
Knox County – from before 1840 – 1850 or later.

A younger brother of Thomas Hunt of Peoria County, George Hunt was also a gunsmith and blacksmith by trade. He was a son of Levi and Rachel Hunt and was born December 30, 1792, probably in Fayette County, Kentucky. His parents settled in Clermont County, Ohio. He was first married to Jane Boggess in 1817.

She being of the family of Clermont County gunsmith John S. Boggess. They were apparently divorced and George Hunt was remarried in 1824 to Rachel Parks. She was the aunt of John Parks, who was apprenticed to George Hunt's brother Thomas Hunt, to learn the gunsmith's trade, which he (Parks) followed in Clermont County, Ohio.

George Hunt moved to Indian Point Township, Knox County, Illinois during the 1830's. He is listed there in the 1840 and 1850 censuses. He was primarily a farmer. George Hunt died on September 13, 1866 and is buried in an old graveyard on the Hunt farm, .9 mile west and .3 mile south of the junction of Illinois Routes 41 and 116.

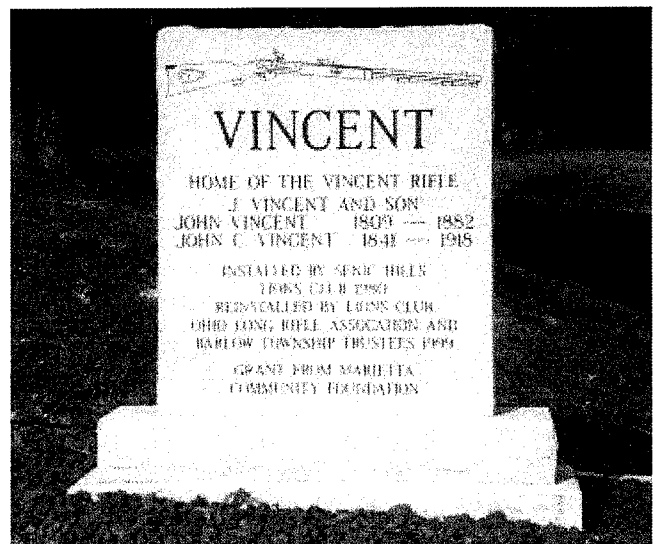


Photo by Charles Wagner

### Vincent Roadside Marker

An old wooden display sign erected in 1980 in Vincent Ohio honoring the gunsmiths John and Caleb Vincent was recently replaced by a permanent stone marker. It was installed by the Senic Hills Lions Club, with a grant from the Marietta, Ohio Community Foundation, donations by members of the A.O.L.R.C, and the Barlow Township Trustees. It is a fitting tribute to the father and son, who produced fine southeastern Ohio rifles from 1844 to 1918.

