

# RECENTLY LOCATED OHIO GUNSMITHS

COMPILED BY JIM WHISKER, TOM MCCULLOUGH, AND BOB STATLER

The following is a list of 12 Ohio gunsmiths located by Jim Whisker, Tom McCullough, and Bob Statler in the last several years.

**Arthur, Andrew Carr** (1845-1922) gunsmith, locksmith and machinist. Andy was born in England, Arthur was active in Parkersburg by 1880. His wife and two children, ages 7 and 8, were born in PA. 1888, 604 Avery St.; 1896-97, 1058 Market St. [Dirs.]. Andrew Carr Arthur was born in England on 19 July 1845. Andrew Carr Arthur married Louisa Nichols Sewell (1849-1923) on September 29, 1870. They had at least four children together: Sarah, William A., Dorothy Geneva Arthur and Charles Ivan Arthur. He died in Blenden Corner, Franklin County, Ohio, on 4 January 1922 and was buried in Union Cemetery, Columbus [Find A Grave Memorial 144411893]. (*Whisker*)

**Beigh, Samuel** (1803-1875) Gunsmith. Born 29 March 1803 in Union County, Pennsylvania. Married to Margaret \_\_\_\_\_ (1804-1850) One child Amanda. Second marriage to Lucy Lampken (1810-1863) 7 children (Lucy A., Elizabeth, Margrett, William, Charles Wesley, Samuel Jefferson, & Sidney S.). Listed in the 1850 & 1870 census as a gunsmith. Newspaper ad as gunsmith (spelled Biegh) in Republic, Ohio on 3 Sept. 1869 in The Tiffin Tribune. Died 20 October 1875 and buried at Farewell Retreat Cemetery Republic, Seneca County, Ohio. [Census, Ancestry; Find-a-Grave]. (*Statler*)

**Benroth, Ferdinand** (1869-1892) machinist and gunsmith. His parents were George Benroth (1843-1937) and Anna Steiner (1849-1916). George Benroth was from Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany and arrived in America in 1865. He married Anna Steiner of Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio in 1866. George and Anna had 10 children (Edward, Ferdinand, Rosie, Mary, Pauline, Lena, Albert, Emma, Minnie, and Julius). George Benroth built the Cherry Street Foundry at 140 Cherry Street in Bluffton for his son's Ferdinand, Albert, and Julius. Located family owned maple percussion half

stock rifle signed F.B. 1889. Ferdinand died tragically on 8 March 1892 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the age of 22. He was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Bluffton, Ohio [Census, Ancestry; Find-a-Grave]. (*McCullough*)

**Bentz, George Frederick** (1752-1835) wagon maker and gunsmith. Also seen as Pence. George Frederic Bentz was a son of Jacob and Barbara Bentz, whose baptism took place on 20 November 1752 in the First Reformed Church, Lancaster. He died in 1832 in Mad River Twp., Champaign County, Ohio. He married, first, Mary \_\_\_\_\_, probably about 1778 in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and, second, Margaret (Peggy) Venis on 9 September 1819 in Champaign County. He is called "oldest son and heir" of Jacob in Shenandoah County deeds. He was a gunsmith and wagonmaker. He moved before 1819 to Mad River Twp., Champaign County, Ohio. He served in Captain Michael Reader's company in Shenandoah County (then called Dunmore County) during the Revolutionary War. He died in Mad River Twp. in either 1832 or 1835 [genealogies agree on birth date, disagree on death date] (*Whisker*)

**Kester, Joseph** (1753-1839) gunsmith. Joseph Kester was born in Germantown, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania on 14 March 1750. He served terms as a Virginia militia substitute in the Revolution in the place of his uncle Coonrod. In the first term he served under Captain Biddell and Major Hamilton and Colonel Nalls. In the second term he served under Captain George Huston and Colonel Benjamin Harrison. He was one of 27 full and half-brothers and sisters. Kester worked as a gunsmith and farmer in Rockingham County, Virginia, from 1762 through 1787. He then moved to Harrison County, where he worked through his death in 1835. On 26 February 1788 he married Mary Morrison (1771-1847) from Hacker's Creek and they had issue: Alexander, George (1795-1849), Joseph (1788-1835), Archibald, Coonrod [Conrad] (1803-1892), Margaret [Cupp]; and Susan [Jenkins]. He and his family moved to Clarksburg, Harrison County, West Virginia and then to Morrow County, Ohio. Joseph died on 2 July

1839 at Shawtown, Morrow County, and was buried at Shawtown Cemetery, Westfield [Find A Grave 25431817; Family]. (*Whisker*)

**Kibele, Louis** (1861-1942) pattern maker and gunsmith. Born in Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio on 27 August 1861. He was the son of Cuno Kibele (1838- ?) and Mary A. Amstutz (1840-1905). Cuno Kibele was born in Konstanz, Baden-Wuerhemberg, Germany and Mary was born in Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio. They had 9 children- Louis, Emma, Mary, Cuno, Oscar, Eugene, Otto, Hector, and John. Louis was a pattern maker by trade and made patterns and casting forms for Andrew Klay's foundry in Bluffton, Ohio. He learned to build rifles from inventor friend Andrew Klay. Located percussion walnut half stock signed L. Kibele. Several rifles known to be double signed by L. Kibele and A. Klay. Louis Kibele married Cora M. Whitney (1870-1920) on 4 Dec. 1889 in Marion, Oregon. Louis worked as a pattern maker in the Oregon iron foundry industry. Louis died on 11 March 1942 at the age of 80. He is buried in the Masonic Cemetery in Coquille, Coos County, Oregon. [Census, Ancestry; Find-a-Grave]. (*McCullough*)

**Lamberson, Curtis M.** (1851-1926). gunsmith. Wamego, Pottawattamie County, Kansas. Curtis was born in Ohio in 1851, a son of William (1813-1882) and Anna Mary Creager (1815-1887) Lamberson. 1894, C. M Lamberson, gunsmith. 1895, C. Lamberson, 48, born in Ohio; C. E., 45, wife, born in Missouri; J E Buford, 23; E R Miracle, 27, both born in Ohio. 1900, Curtis M Lamberson, 49, carpenter; Sarah E., 50. 1905, C. M. Lamberson, 59, born in Ohio; Sarah, 56, born in Missouri; E. M. Foster, 11 [female]. 1910, Curtis M Lamberson, 59, carpenter; Sarah E, 60; Sally Weist, 77. He died in Ohio in 1926 and was buried at Greenlawn Cemetery, Tiffin, Seneca County [Census; Dir.; Find A Grave 69018101]. (*Whisker*)

**Langham, Elias** (1759-1830). arms maker. Elias was born in 1759. He enlisted in the American Army, serving as a bombardier in the 1st Continental Artillery in the Virginia line. Serving as a private, matross, and quartermaster, conductor of Military Stores, Sergeant, and 2nd Lieutenant appointed to 1st Lieutenant in the same Regiment as his brother William, who rose to the

rank of Colonel after the Revolution. Elias Langham was married to Mary McDonald and they had several children. He moved to Ohio and died there on 5 April 1830. He was buried at Paint Township Cemetery, London, Madison County, Ohio [Find A Grave 18383146]. "I wish to employ a few gunsmiths by the month at Shepherdstown. Good wages will be given, and payment made weekly, if required. E. Langham." [Martinsburg Potomak Guardian and Berkeley Advertiser, 9 May 1795]. (*Whisker*)

**Moser, Jacob A.** (1839-1912) farmer and gunsmith. Born on 21 Oct.1839 in Dalton, Wayne County, Ohio. His parents were Abraham Moser (1818-1881) and Maria Hofstetter (1820-1872). Jacob enlisted in the Army on 20 April 1861 and discharged 4 Sept. 1861. He married Anna Lugibuhl (1840-1925) at the Old Swiss Church on 23 Feb. 1865. They had 9 children in 14 years (Fanny, Magdelana, Mattie, Theophilus, Phillip, Noah, Elizabeth, Amos, and John Q.) They moved from Wayne County to Allen County Ohio in about 1872. Jacob was a farmer by occupation and also a gunsmith. Located -maple percussion half stock signed Jacob A. Moser No. 20. He died on 31 Mar. 1912 at the age of 72 in Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio and is buried at Ebenezer Mennonite Cemetery, Bluffton, Ohio. [Census, Ancestry; Find-a-Grave]. (*McCullough*)

**Rothenbuhler, Jacob** (1826-1903). gunsmith. Jacob was born in Switzerland on 26 August 1826. He and his wife Anna (1822-1903) had a daughter Emma (1872-1907). Jacob died on Christmas day 1903 and was buried at Troy Township Cemetery, Wood County, Ohio [Find A Grave 82265052]. 1880-1900, Adolph [West Huttonsville], Randolph County, West Virginia. 1880, Randolph County: Jacob Rothenbuhler; born in Switzerland, [Census; Dirs.] (*Whisker*)

**Terrill, Ephraim** (1829-1913). gunsmith. Crossville, Cumberland County. Ephraim was born on 24 August 1828 in Pennsylvania. 1868, Ephraim Terrell, living in Crawford County, PA; born in New York. Cumberland County, TN. Census of 1870: Ephraim Terrell, 41, farmer & gun smith, born in PA, \$4000 real estate, \$800 personal; Ellen, 39; Alice, 18; Nathaniel, 15; Elsie, 6; Elmira, 4; Rachel, 5, all born in PA; and Charles, 1, born in TN. Census of 1880: Ephraim Terrill, 52,