
THE
ASSOCIATION
OF OHIO
LONGRIFLE
COLLECTORS



FOR THE STUDY AND PRESERVATION
OF THE OHIO MUZZLELOADING RIFLE

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11th Annual
AOLRC

ANTIQUÉ GUN
AND ARMS SHOW

Saturday, October 24

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Grotto Hall

124 Waterworks Road
Newark, Ohio



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President's Letter



I would first like to thank all of you for making the 34th A.O.L.R.C Marietta Exhibit a success. Many new rifles were exhibited, and the turnout of both members and non-members was outstanding. The Friday night gathering for exhibitors and members was well attended, and the Saturday Banquet was again a success. Ron Yerian was awarded the Forest Tilton Distinguished Service Award for his past service as a Board Member and President, and for his present service as Treasurer and Editor of the Newsletter. Ron has stated that congratulations should come as articles and pictures for the Newsletter.

We now have three events a year for our members – the Annual Exhibit in Marietta, the August Picnic and Shoot in Centerburg, and the Annual Antique Gun and Arms Show in Newark. The Picnic and Shoot has become a popular event for families and for those who wish to see if the old rifles really can “drive tacks” at 25 yards. It is not, however, an event just for shooters. It is also an excellent time to meet old friends and enjoy some wonderful food. After all, it is coordinated by the Ladies of the AOLRC and we should truly thank them for their efforts.

Thanks should also be given to Rod Frazer for his efforts in getting the web site up and running. It now looks as it should, and is a

great showcase for our organization. The web address is aolrc.org.

The 11th Annual Newark Show is scheduled for Saturday, October 24, with setup for table holders the night of October 23. Please note that we will be strictly enforcing the rule of only muzzleloading firearms and related items. Thanks should go to Jim Claggett for his coordination of this event, and you should contact him immediately if you have not reserved your table.

The next bit of news should be of interest to all of you. There will be an auction of muzzleloading firearms at the Marietta Exhibit this spring! We currently have about thirty-five muzzleloaders for the auction, and would like to have from fifty to sixty rifles for you to bid on. This will be an “absolute” auction – no reserves. If you want to submit any rifles or related items – horns, pouches, books, etc – please send a list to me as soon as possible. I am planning to have some of the rifles on exhibit at the Newark show, but they will be sold only at the auction. I hope to see you all in Newark!

Bob Poch
444 West 41st Street
Shadyside, OH 43947
Phone: 740-676-9844



J. R. Stull

Trumbull County



Ohio Gunsmiths & Allied Tradesmen,
Volume V, Page 14:

1860 J. R. Stull, 24, farmer, Church Hill Post
Office, Liberty Twp., Trumbull County.

That's just about all anyone knew or
remembered about him until a friend of mine
told me about a man in Columbus who had
a Stull rifle for sale. Since my name is Stull
naturally I was interested.

After I talked to the man and made
arrangements to see the rifle my memory began
to bring back something my grandfather told me
when I was only about thirteen years old. Seeing
as how I am about sixty-five now, this memory is
slightly on the dim side. However, it finally came
back after some quiet time on the back porch.
More about this later.

My wife Mary and I went to Columbus and
purchased the rifle. I was very pleased, as the
rifle was in very good condition – good bore, good
curly maple stock, mechanically perfect – and
turned out to be a very good shooter. I didn't
even have to adjust the sights.

As we were preparing to leave, as I live near
where the gun was made, the man I bought it
from said to his wife, "Honey, it looks like this
one is going back home."

Now back to grandpa's story. My grandpa
was John William Stull, born in 1893 at
Petersburg, Huntington County, PA. On one or
two occasions he told me about his Uncle John
Richard Stull, whom he greatly admired for his
skill as a master wood carver and mechanic. He
even named his first-born son after him.

He once told me that J. R. had invented an
autoloading shotgun and had carved a full size
model completely of wood with moving internal
parts, shipped it to a New York gunmaker
and never saw it again. Some time later that
company offered its new autoloading shotgun to
the public. You must remember that my grandpa
was both an honest man and at the same time
an accomplished storyteller. I take this story
with a grain of salt and you should too.

Grandpa never owned a J. R. Stull rifle. J.
R. was probably too old to make rifles by the
time grandpa knew him and grandpa was too
poor to buy one anyway. So I feel very fortunate
to have found one and privileged to own it.
Grandpa would have enjoyed it.

I don't know for sure where J. R. was
born, but I believe it was Jacks Creek Road,
Lewistown, Mifflin County, PA, about two miles
above where Jacks Creek empties into the
Juniata River. Just when J. R. moved to Church
Hill, Liberty Township, Trumbull County, OH is
unknown. As far as is known, J. R. Stull is not
related to Samuel Stull of Knox County, OH.

The specifications for the rifle I own are as
follows: Curly maple halfstock, brass furniture,
weight 12 pounds, 12 1/2 inch pull; 37 1/4 inch
barrel, 1 1/32 inch across the flats, .354 bore,
1 - 48 twist, 6 groove, marked Postley - Nelson
& Co. Pittsburg; Backaction lock by H. Elwell;
double set triggers by J. Fehr. The barrel is
stamped "J. R. Stull" on the top flat.

Hope you enjoyed my story - Yours, Steve Stull

Muzzleloading Rifle Identification Record Michael Snively 1825- Maker 36-Cal. Full Stock Percussion Rifle

This percussion rifle is intact except for one and one-half inches of wood missing from the nose cap. There is wood missing from the rear breech due to powder flash erosion from the drum and nipple. The rifle is finely built with trim lines and delicate wrist and stock, with no cracks in the maple stock. The letter L is scratched in the left mortise.

Stock length-	47 ³ / ₄ inches
Barrel length-	32 inches & hand wrought
Barrel across flat-	⁷ / ₈ th inch octagon 6 grooves
Breech tang-	2 ¹ / ₂ inches
Rear sight-	dovetail 3 ³ / ₄ inches from breech
Front sight-	silver blade on brass dovetail
Nose cap-	Not on rifle- but in possession of owner, it is plain brass
Triggers-	Double set triggers (appear to be handmade)
Ignition-	Drum and nipple percussion
Lock plate-	Mfg. J & D Mor_ _
Trigger guard-	Is low profile flintlock style

Hammer appears to be from another percussion piece and is larger than nipple
Barrel is inlaid with coin silver. From the breech plug inlays are- heart-dash-dot diamond-crescent moon (inverted)- crescent moon-rear sight-maker's name (Michael Snively- 1825) Script in silver-hourglass- knife-hatchet-heart-open heart-hourglass.

Stock has 5 small silver hearts, 2 small diamonds, and a silver thumb plate. The cheek piece is a 2 line Kentucky style. Stock has a brass 5 piece patch box with release in toe plate. Patch box has daisy finial with unique man in the crescent moon inlaid in the stock. Stars and hearts are engraved in the brass.

The butt plate is of brass and 3 face faceted with a leading band. The toe plate is brass. The ramrod thimbles are octagon. The ramrod entry thimble is brass and partially missing.

The inlays on the barrel are primitive and the hearts and diamonds in the stock are similar to those in the barrel.

This rifle has a history of being in the owner's family for 5 generations and has the provenance of a 1918 newspaper article in which W.S. Hoy relates how he obtained the rifle from his grandfather.

Prepared by
Jim Ogden
6734 W. Shannon Rd
Hillsboro, Oh 45133



Article From The Findlay Daily Courier. Thursday Evening Edition. Dated
February 15th, 1918

OLD FIREARM HAS SINGULAR HISTORY

Arlington Man Owner of Rifle Dating Back to Early Pioneer Days and Used By
"Squirrel Hunters"

-Given Him By Grandfather-

Earned The Gun By Milking For An Entire Winter

After squaring himself with the Courier man last week W. S. Hoy, of Arlington, presented arms in the shape of a light rifle, which has a history dating far back of the birth of its present owner. The rifle has killed sixty-five deers and could repeat the trick if the game could be produced, for in the hands of a good marksman the gun never spoke in vain. How old it is no one knows. But on the weapon is carved the fact that it was re-stocked by Michael Snively in 1825. It is well plated over with German silver and was a handsome rifle in its earlier days.

The gun did not always belong to W. S. Hoy, but he obtained possession of it from personal effort. He was not born with German silver in his mouth and hence work has been his long suit ever since he wore long clothes. The gun belonged to his grandfather, George Hoy, and he told his flaxen haired grandson that if he would milk his cow night and morning all winter long he should have the gun. This the boy did and he remembers the tingling fingers and frost-pinched toes he experienced in that long winter's effort to gain possession of grandfather's gun.

But the gun had a history before this time. During the Civil war a neighbor's boy, Levi Sampson, was anxious to join a body of "squirrel hunter's" to help put down the rebellion and guard the state from invasion. Levi had no gun, but he had made the acquaintance of the elder Hoy's excellent rifle. How he got it no one has ever found out, but the gun was missing during his absence, but on his return he presented the gun to its owner without explanation. The Hoy's and Sampson's along with the other good people of Hancock County all resided in Jackson Township, where no theft has ever been committed. The rifle was not stolen but only purloined.

The Hoy family came from Germany and were good people, reading the Bible and the Courier regularly. There were four brothers, George, Peter, Adam and Philip. The family of George Hoy have all passed away but one son, G. W. Hoy, who now resided in Houcktown. He was the youngest member of the family and he is now 75 years old and the father of W. S. Hoy, of Arlington. The family had located in Kentucky and the trip from that state was made by wagon. They brought with them the old style pewter dishes in vogue before chinaware was used. G. W. Hoy still has a fife that was made from a pewter plate from which his ancestor took his meals.



(Editor's Note: We cannot find a Michael Snively working in Ohio. In addition, a rifle built in 1825 would have almost certainly been a flintlock. However, the rifle has an interesting Ohio history, and certainly has a most interesting patchbox.)

4th ANNUAL AUGUST PICNIC

The Annual August Picnic – our 4th – was again a success. Over fifty attendees, ranging from children and teenagers to octogenarians, met to visit, enjoy a picnic, and shoot both antique and modern Ohio muzzleloading rifles. The ladies of the AOLRC furnished sandwiches, condiments, and picnic supplies, and those attending brought outstanding covered dishes and simply delicious desserts.

The Centerburg Conservation Club’s facilities are excellent, both for the picnic and for the shooting. The participants this year shot paper targets, falling “groundhog” and “buffalo” targets, and even participated in a hotly contested “cut the stake” shoot. In fairness to the shooters, the level of competition has definitely been raised – the first year many of the participants seemed happy to get the guns to fire, but by this year it took a very good target score to get a top choice from the Blanket. The old original muzzleloading rifles continue to shoot very respectable groups when the shooter does his or her part.

The top Door Prize this year was a fine muzzleloading pistol built and donated by Joe Swearingin. Rod Frazer was the proud winner. Mary Stull won the two free dinners at the Annual AOLRC Exhibit at Marietta.

I apologize for leaving anyone from the list of shooters, but at least a partial roster follows:

SHOOTER

Dick Harwood
Paul Parsons
Tom Oakes
Ron Yerian
Bob Qualk
Steve Stull
Joe Swearingin
Devon Herman – Jr.
Kayla Stull – Jr.
Rae Stamm – Jr.
Dave Staley
Richard Wilks
Jerry Witson
Andy Tisler
John Herstine
John M. Barnhart
Ken Netting
Charles Ebright
Mark Herman

RIFLE

P. Kane
Parsons
Humphreys
D. L. Ackley
Clutz
J. R. Stull
? (old)
Herman*
?
?
R. Carson
William Large barrel*
S. Small
Craig
Stilgenbaur
J. Barnhart*
Netting*
Ebright*
?* * *Contemporary*

4th ANNUAL AUGUST PICNIC





JIM GANT

(1931 – 2009)

A Tribute

The AOLRC lost longtime member Jim Gant in March of this year. Many of us remember Jim dressed in either western garb or buckskins, sometimes with a top hat. Some of you may not know that Jim painted many signs for the AOLRC, and that he was very generous with his time and talents.

Jim often related how he was born prematurely in the midst of the Great Depression, in the middle of winter. He was kept warm for the first few weeks of his life in the oven warmer of his mother's wood burning stove. It was a oft quoted saying of his that he " . . . came into this world with a whimper and was going to go out with a bang."

Accordingly, on a fine summer day that would have also marked the fifty-first anniversary of the marriage of Jim and his wife Zona, approximately 100 family members and friends gathered for a memorial service honoring his life. In accordance with his wishes, his ashes were fired by three cannon blasts across his family farm. Fittingly, Jim's cannon, a Civil War era relic restored by Jim and two close friends, really rattled the valley. For a war veteran, a loving husband, a proud father and grandfather, and a friend to many, it was a fitting farewell. Jim, we will miss you.



Jim's children, Janna, Jamie and Jim look on as Herb Libig and AOLRC member prepare the cannon for firing.



"In with a whimper, out with a bang."



Don Williams (1926-2009)



by
Jim Whisker

The Association of Ohio Long Rifle Collectors lost a great friend when Don Williams departed this life on 19 June 2009. Don was 83 and had been born in Everett, PA. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force in World War II and used the GI Bill to attend the Pennsylvania State University where he graduated with a degree in civil engineering. He left Everett in 1953 and took a position with the state of Ohio. He retired after 39 years service.

Don had a great interest in Civil War reenactment. He participated in both OVI and light artillery units. Don's greatest fame was in the founding of the Ashland Mansfield, Ohio, Civil War Show. Don ran for 32 years the largest Civil War show in the nation. He usually was sold out well in advance of the May weekend on which the show was held - sold out in at least seven large buildings!

One building housed reproduction paraphernalia; all other buildings displayed authentic, period Civil War related materials ranging from many guns to photographs to accessories. Don ran an absolutely clean show and would not countenance crooked dealers and dishonest displays. Consequently he attracted the very best dealers and collectors from all over our great country.

Don's show usually attracted authentic Civil War cannon. I vividly recall the rows of cannon sitting axle to axle as it must have been at Gettysburg just before Lee ordered Pickett's ill-fated charge. When the cannon fired, one by one, on the hour, the result was overwhelming.

Moreover, Don knew Civil War arms like few do. He was considered an expert and rightfully so. Many sought his stamp of approval for authenticity and correctness.

When we were completing our book on CSA arms, *Arming the Glorious Cause*, we could not locate a Model 1841 rifle made by Palmetto Armory in South Carolina. Don said we could use his—which he got in a trade on a Colt Navy revolver decades before with Calvin Hetrick, one of my mentors in the Kentucky rifle field.

Likewise, when we were completing our book on the U.S. Model 1861 rifle-musket we could not find either a Pennsylvania contract John Rice or an E. G. Lamson post-war composite rifle-musket. Don had both. Don gave us a table at his show so that we could set up to photograph. He absolutely would not take a cent although he might easily have rented that table for \$50.

When the AOLRC started the Newark show, Don was most supportive, recommending it to many of his friends and exhibitors.

On top of it all, Don was a great gentleman. The gun collecting fraternity has lost one of its giants.





Ladies of AOLRC News



April in Marietta becomes more and more like a family reunion instead of a gun show. The days are filled with laughter, hugs, and warm friendship. The weekend activities go so quickly but the memories linger long afterwards.

Memories from this year include a wonderful and educational trolley ride on Saturday of historic Marietta followed by a delicious luncheon at the Levee House. Afterwards we discussed business and heard suggestions for next year's activities. For April 2010 we are planning lunch at the DaVinci Restaurant in Williamstown, then visiting the Fenton glass factory and showcase. Our moving the birthday celebration and cake to Friday night worked well and will continue for next year. Also the casual attire for Saturday night's dinner went well and will continue. Don't forget that our April meeting for 2010 will be the second weekend in April since Easter is the

first weekend; The dates are April 9, 10, and 11.

The August shoot continues to be enjoyed by many. Young and old, males and females, all contribute to the smoke rising over the shooting range. After the smoke is cleared many head back to the club house and continue grazing on all the wonderful food that is provided. It has become a great activity and tradition. Come join us next August.

The activity book has been completed. The concentration of the book will be the Ohio rifle itself with emphasis on the parts of the gun. It has been given to the publisher and hopefully will be ready for distribution at the October show in Newark.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Newark show October 24. Don't forget the food and fellowship as we set up for the show on Friday, October 23. See you then.



Special: From the Secretary

Dear AOLRC Member: I know that the date on your AOLRC Membership Card is misleading. **Dues are for the calendar year.** Your Membership Card, however, indicates April 1 of the next year. For example, if your Card indicates April 1, 2010, your dues are paid January – December 2009, but the Card allows you to attend the Spring Show in Marietta in 2010 and to receive the Spring Newsletter. Failure to renew at the Spring Show will result in your name being dropped from the membership list and from the mailing list for the Newsletter. If an auction is held, you must be paid up for that year – a membership card indicating April 1, 2011 would be necessary to participate in an auction held at the Marietta Exhibit in 2010.