Ohio Gunsmith SAMUEL STULL 1808-1907

By F. G. Tilton

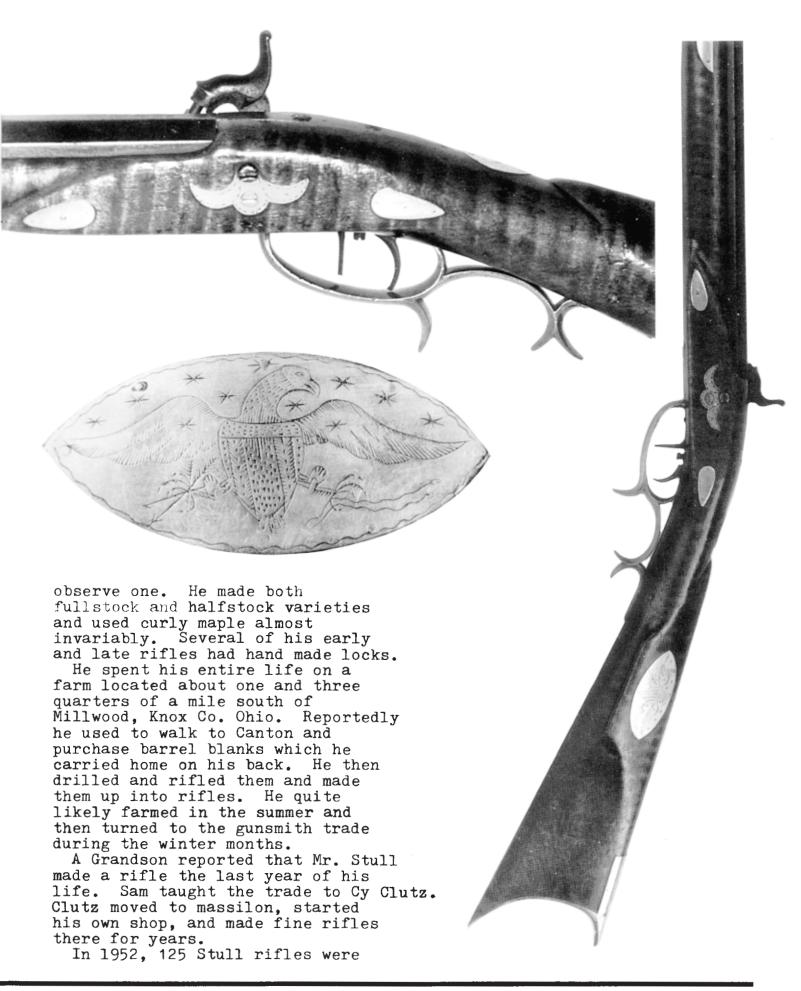




Samuel Stull, Farmer & Gunsmith began making rifles at a very early age. Reportedly he made his first rifle at the age of 12. Someone gave him a rifle barrel that was split. He took it to a blacksmith and had it re-welded and then proceeded to make himself a stock to fit and thus the first Samuel Stull rifle was made. I have examined several of his rifles and owned 2 or 3 more. His early mark was "S. Stull" in script. His later guns were stamped in block letters "S. STULL" with the word "Ohio" either after his name or directly under it, making two lines. I have observed rifles signed both ways. An unusual Stull fulstock rifle is known marked "S. Stull, Millwood. Knox Co. Ohio, Feb. 28th, 1852". The unusual feature is the Bedford Co. patchbox inletted backwards in relation to true

Bedford Co. rifles. It also has incised carving and engraving which Sam didn't bother with as a rule. Two other Stull rifles with Bedford Co. patchboxes have surfaced recently. One has incise carving.

He was reportedly a natural mechanic and possessed an ability to concieve, design and make almost any tool or devise he disired. have personal knowledge of a quantity of his hand tools, which show a flair for ingenuity. in particular is an apparatus, operated by hand that mills both sides of a tumbler at the same time. insuring a flat smooth surface that fits between the lockplate and the bridle plate. Perhaps at some later date I can obtain photo's of it for this publication. His early rifles were flintlock, however I have never had the oppurtunity to



on exhibit at the Mt. Vernon Armory sponsored by the Shooters Haven Gun Club.

The ornate watch chain draped across his vest shown in the photo was made by Mr. Stull from the handles of silver spoons.

A Sam Stull half stock rifle with 57 silver inlays.

