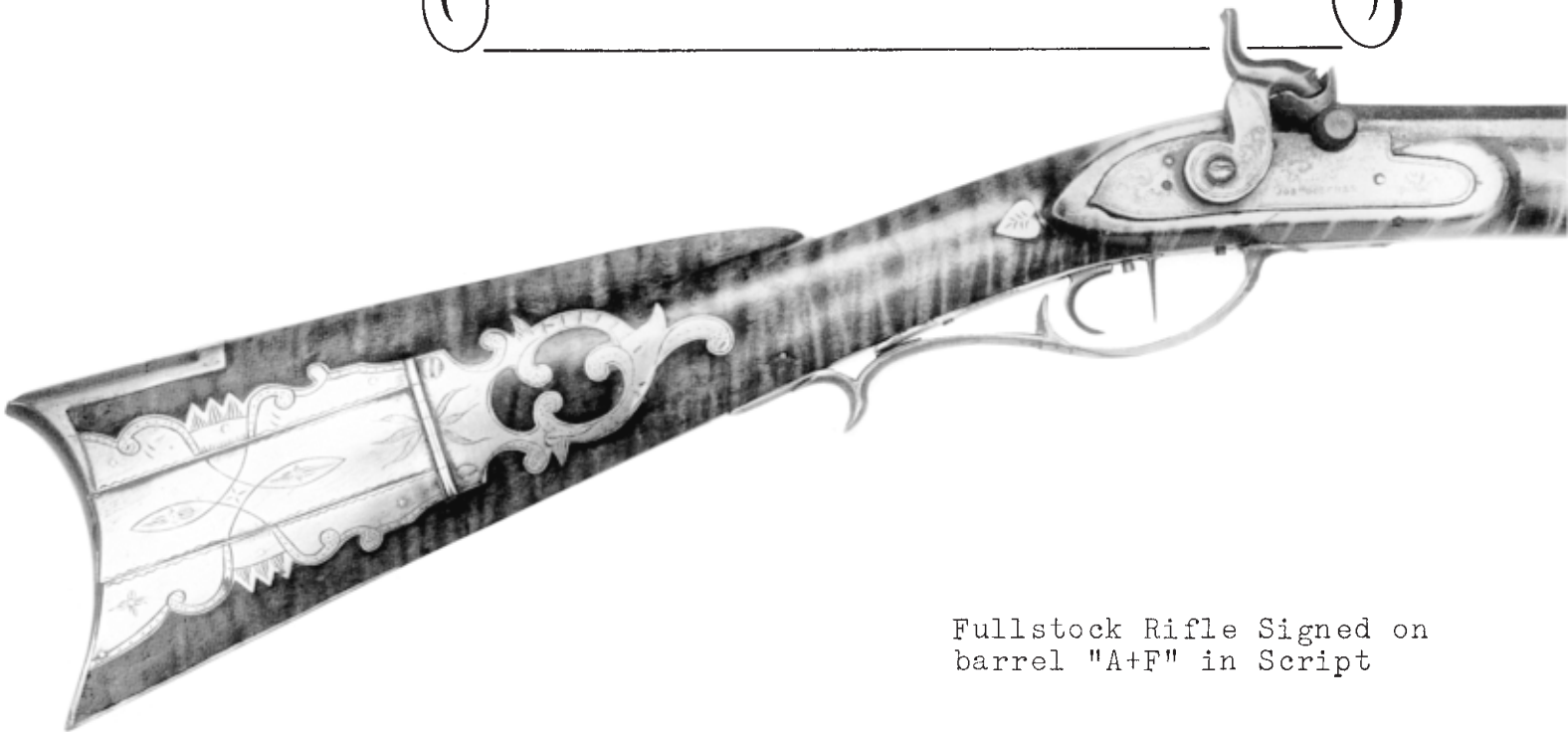



# Aman Ford Washington County Ohio Gunsmith

By William Reynolds



Fullstock Rifle Signed on  
barrel "A+F" in Script



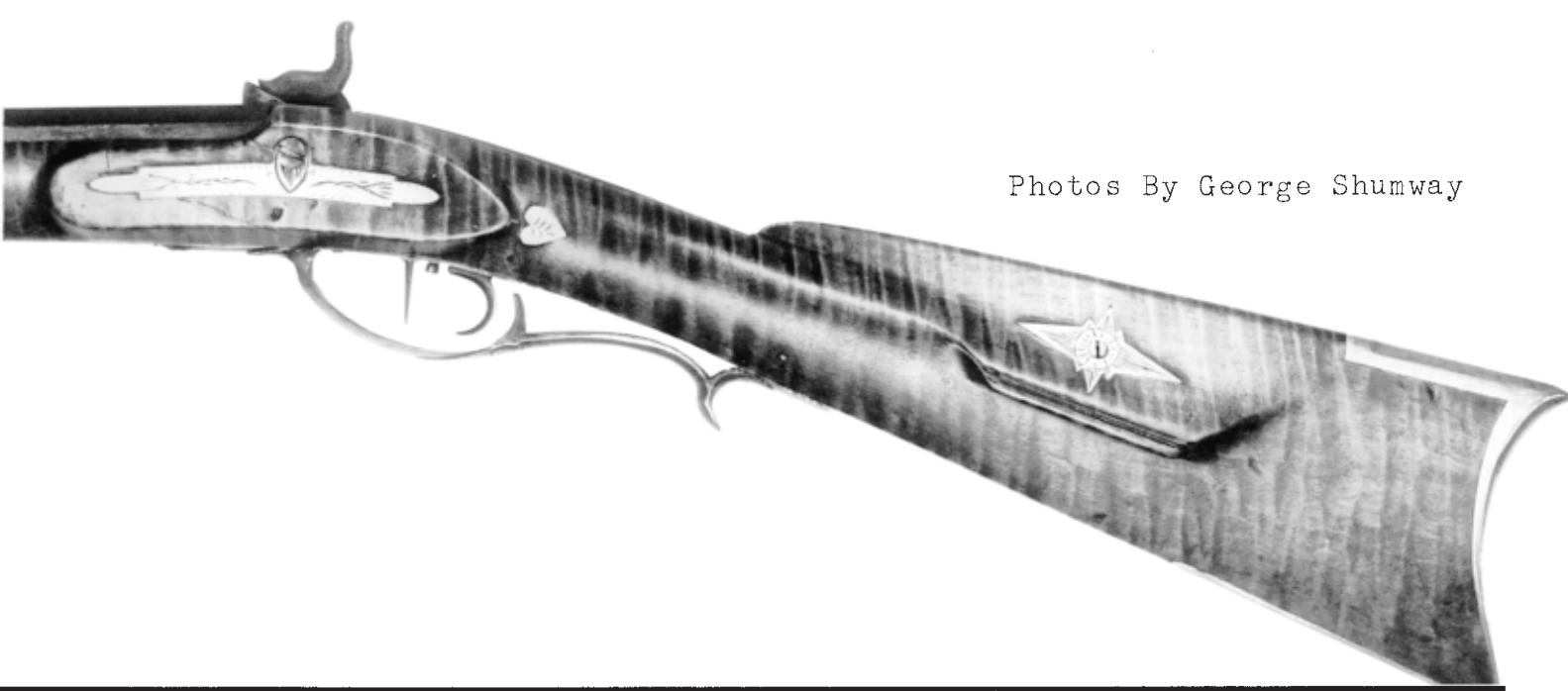
As gunsmiths go, Aman Ford had probably as colorful career as any of them. He was raised in Waterford, Washington County, on a farm bordering Wolf Creek, a tributary of the Muskingum River. He more than likely received his apprenticeship in the 1830's somewhere in western Pennsylvania, and judging from the architecture of his work, this area was near Wheeling.

Ford would begin his career on a shanty boat traveling the Ohio and its tributaries building and repairing rifles. At some time in the 1840's he and his boat were on Wolf Creek during high water. When the river receded, Ford was found high and dry and decided to settle for good in the area where he grew

up. The time was right because there were no gunsmiths working in the Beverly/Waterford area and he would attract much business.

He would also attract several apprentices who would later go on to receive great fame as gunsmiths themselves. These men were John Vincent and Barnard Howe.

If Ohio can claim schools of gunsmithing like Pennsylvania, Ford is responsible for developing a style that through his apprentices would be built into the 20th Century. When we examine the works of Vincent, Howe, Applebay, McGirr and Ed Arn, we see characteristic's of Aman Ford, probably the most influential gunsmith in Washington County. □



Photos By George Shumway

# Clark Rifle On The Auction Block

Submitted By Frank Sellers

The rural charms of Sussex, England are not easily reconciled with the wild west (though Colts and other American weapons are familiar sights in the Antique show room at Lewes) and the names Sussex and Kentucky do not seem well paired, despite the fondness for horses one associates with both regions. Nevertheless, a Sussex salesroom, the Billingshurst branch of the Sotheby's empire has claimed a remarkable success with a .42 caliber Kentucky Flintlock rifle.

I have no idea what the record stands at in the U.S. for such a rifle, but the winning bid of \$32,175.00 certainly blew a large hole through the British record books. The piece was a finely made weapon with a 45" barrel bearing a silver inlay with engraved "J. CLARK, Lebanon, Ohio". This is probably James Clark who worked in Lebanon, Warren County around and prior to 1805. After that date, he was working with J. Resor in Cincinnati. The curly maple fullstock with brass and silver furniture, patchbox and floral sprays plus cheekpiece with scrolled inlay and an oval engraved with an American eagle was in untouched original flintlock condition.

Though it was a case of the classic showroom battle for a desired object, and although the hammer fell to an unnamed English dealer, it seems certain that the piece is destined for an American Collection. □



J. CLARK FULLSTOCK  
62" Overall  
45" Barrel - Tapered 1" to 7/8"  
Weight 10 lbs.  
.42 Caliber  
Barrel Signed: J. Clark,  
Lebanon, Ohio  
Lock Signed: E. OULKE,  
Philadelphia  
Button Release in Toeplate  
Brass and silver mounted



Photos Courtesy Jim Johnston

# Ohio/Illinois Gunsmiths

The following list was given to us courtesy of member Curt Johnson and contains names of Ohio Gunsmiths who transplanted to Illinois during their working career.

- King, James - 1860 census - Orange Twp, Clark Co., Ill., P.O. Melrose - age 25 - born Ohio.
- Dowdle, Frederick - 1860 census - Morris, Grundy Co., Ill. - age 36 - born Wurttemberg - two children ages 6 & 7, born Ohio - two other ch. ages 5/12 & 1, born Ill.
- Cade, Ephraim D. - 1860 census - Sullivan, Moultrie Co. - age 46 - born Va. - three children ages 21, 16, 13 born Ohio - three others ages 6, 4, 1 born Ill.
- Webb, Joseph - 1860 census - Rock Island, Rock Island Co. - age 45 - born Pa. - twins, age 19 born Ohio - another child age 9 born Ohio - another age 5, born Ill.
- Krug, Gotlieb - Mt. Carmel, Wabash Co. - worked there 1860 -70 and is listed in both census but with great conflict in vital statistics, worked previously in Ind. & Ohio (see Lindert's Book). I have a rifle by this one stamped "G.KRUG Mt. CARMEL ILL." Have heard of one stamped "G. KRUG VINCENNES."
- Ramey, Jacob (Jake) - Bloomington, McLean Co. 1860 - 1881. 1860 census - age 30, born Ohio. I have a rifle by this one and have seen two others. Good workmanship, nice architecture (looks Ohio), favored fancy grained walnut or maple and

"wriggle" engraving. Stamped barrels "JAKE RAMEY", one gun also stamped "BLOOMINGTON ILL."

- Keeran, Levi - Bloomington, McLean Co. - was there as early as 1847 - 1860 census lists age 36, born Ohio - four children ages 12, 10, 8, 7 born Ill. - two others ages 5 & 2, born Iowa. Made rifles but I've never seen one.
- Osborn, Amos S. - Rockford, Winnebago Co. 1858 - 1880 - (died Aug 2, 1880) - 1860 census lists him age 30, born Va. - one child, age 5, born Ohio - two others, age 2 & 4/12 born Ill. I have a walnut halfstock stamped "A.S.OSBORN ROCKFORD ILLS."
- Smith, Thomas S. - Rockford, Winnebago Co. 1860 census - age 37, born Penn. - one child age 14, born Ohio - another, age 12, born Va. - another, age 6, born Ill. A friend has a rifle by this one.
- Lourie, John - Kewanee, Henry Co. - 1860 census - age 35, born Ohio (wife also 35, Ohio) four children ages 10, 8, 6, 3 born Ill.
- Truax, Samuel - Fairfield, Wayne Co. - 1860 census - age 19, born Ohio (apprentice gunsmith).
- Knoch, John - Charleston, Coles Co. - 1843-51. 1850 census lists age 38, born Germany, two children ages 16 & 14, born Germany - two others ages 7 & 6, born Ohio (note conflict with my date) - four others ages 5, 3, 2, 6/12 born Ill. Died Sept. 19, 1851.

- Prison or Frison?, C.W. - Sumnum, Fulton Co. - 1860 census - age 37, born Va. - two children ages 10 & 8 born Ohio.
- Winterberger, Valentine - Shawneetown, Gallatin Co. - 1860 census - age 36, born France - one child, age 5, born Ohio - three others ages 1 & newborn twins, born Ill. His granddaughter says he made guns.
- Williams, Chester - Lincoln, Logan Co. - 1860 census age 41, born \_\_\_\_? - three children, ages 16, 13, 9 born Ohio - one child age 2, born Ill.
- Martin, George - Griggsville, Pike Co. - 1860 census - age 34, born Ohio - six children ages 11, 9, 7, 5, 3, 1 all born Ohio.
- Jennings, Nathan - "Keene", Adams Co. - 1850 census - age 39, born Ct. - one child age 14, born Ohio - three others age 12, 9, 5 born Ill.
- Stadden, Richard - Dayton LaSalle Co. - 1850 census - age 47, born Ohio - four children, ages 17, 13, 9, 6 all born Ohio.
- Boots, Samuel - Pike Co. - 1850 census - age 33, born Ohio, (wife Lydia, also born Ohio) - four children ages 6, 5, 2, 6/12 all born Ill.
- Mills, Warden - "West Division of" Pike Co. - 1850 census - age 44, born Penn. - four children ages 19, 17, 14, 12 born Ohio - another child, age 5, born Ill.
- Fisher, Daniel - "West Division of" Pike Co. - 1850 census - age 37, born Ohio - four children ages 14, 12, 11, 9, born Ohio - another child, age 6, born Ill. - 1850 Indust. census says he made 12 guns that year.
- Morse, Enoch E. - Avon, Lake Co. in 1850 census & Waukegan, Lake Co. in 1860 census - 1860 lists him age 52, born NY - one child, age 20, born Ohio - another age 14, born Ill.
- Pentig?, Henry - Iroquois Co. - 1850 census - age 39, born Ohio - two children, ages 7, 1, born Ill.
- Mark, Miles - Henderson Co. - 1850 census - age 57, born Ky. - two children, ages 20, 15, born Ohio.
- Buffington, Abraham - Jefferson Co. - 1850 census - age 65, born Va. - one child, age 33, born Ohio, - two others, ages 26, 18 born Ill.
- Rambo, Abraham - Persifer Twp., Knox Co. - 1850 census, but have other biog. data - born in Gallia Co., Ohio in 1820. 1850 census says he had two children ages 5, 2, born Ind., but the early Knox Co. History Books say he came here in 1842. Died Apr. 2, 1901.
- Buhl, Joseph - Freeport, Stephenson Co. - 1850 census - age 30, born Ohio.
- Beal, Samuel - Oneco, Stephenson Co. - 1850 census - age 26, born Ohio.
- Pomidle, Alfred - Melrose, Clark Co. - 1850 census - age 36, born Conn. - one child, age 11, born Ohio - another child, age 3, born Ill.
- Swallow, Isaac - Shelbyville, Shelby Co. - 1850 census - age 38, born Ohio - one child, age 7, born Ohio - another child, age 5, born Ind. - another, age 1, born Ill.

Cook, John W. - Hennepin, Putnam Co. - gunsmith & machinist 1880-81 - 1880 census says he was 51 yrs. old, born Ohio - parents born Isle of Wight.

Smith, Samuel - Astoria, Fulton Co. - 1850 census - age 49, born, Penn. - son Harvy or Harry?, age 19, born Penn (also a gunsmith) - son Alfred, age 17, born Ohio (also a gunsmith) - six other children, ages 15, 13, 11, 9, 7, 5, all born Ohio. Samuel came from Redstone Twp., Fayette Co., Pa. where Kauffman lists him 1823-31. Made fullstock rifles signed "S.S." in script.

Turner, Nathan H. - Havana & later Lewistown, Fulton Co. - born in Ky. in 1804 or 1805 - had a son Robert (also a gunsmith) who was born in Ohio in 1829 - N.H. Turner came to Fulton Co., Ill. in 1832, was still a gunsmith in 1860.

Lantis, Henry - Mackinaw, Tazewell Co. - 1870 census - age 67, born Ohio.

Beeson or Buson?, James - Metropolis, Massac Co. - age 21, born Ohio - (from 1870 census).

Beeson or Buson?, Jesse - Metropolis, Massac Co. - 1870 census - age 22, born Ohio.

Constane?, Frederick - Paris, Edgar Co. - 1870 census - age 28, born Ohio - was still in Paris in 1876, found his ad "guns & pistols made to order", but last part of name was cut off of page, was not legible in census either.

Krebs, Ruben - Mattoon, Coles Co. 1864-1879 - the 1870 census says he was age 52, born Penn. - one son, age 20, born

Penn. - two others, ages 17, 13, born Ohio. His ads state that he "makes the most improved rifles".

Dial, Phillip - Loudon City, Fayette Co. - 1870 census - age 40, born Ohio - five children, ages 18, 15, 14, 12, 10, all born Ill.

Baumgardner, John - Loudon City, Fayette Co. - 1870 census - age 40, born Ohio - three children, ages 16, 12, 10 born Ill. (one wonders about a connection between Dial and Baumgardner, could they have been partners who came here together?)

Clark, Garnell - Flora, Clay Co. 1870 census - age 59, born Ohio - three children, ages 6, 3, 1, all born Ill.

Craig, John W. - Young America (now Kirkwood), Warren Co. - 1870 to after 1900 - 1870 census lists him age 36, born Ohio - had a 3 yr. old dau., born in Ill. (was at Knoxville, Knox Co. in 1868) - a prolific maker of all kinds of perc. rifles, halfstocks, fullstocks, heavy or light. I've also seen a target pistol with s.s. trigger & detachable shoulder stock. Died of Bright's Disease on Oct. 16, 1907.

Richardson, William - Paris, Edgar Co. - 1870 census - age 40, born Ohio - one child, age 20, born Ill. two more, ages 18, 19 born Iowa - five others, ages 15, 13, 11, 3, 3, all born Ill.

-----?, Isaac W. - Brown Co. 1850 census - age 32, born Ohio - two children, ages 2, 1/12, born Ill.

Chapman, George - Galena, Jo Daviess Co. - 1850 census - age 25, born Ohio (was in the employ of gunsmith John B. Kirby).

Chase, Carlisle - Pike Co. - 1850 census (also in 1860) age 35, born Ohio.

Dunlap, Adolphus - Edgington (& briefly Rock Island), Rock Island Co. - born in Stuebenville, Ohio in 1816 - came to R.I. Co. in 1835 - still a gunsmith in 1856. Believed to have made rifles.

Woodmancie, Joseph - Urbana, Champaign Co. - 1860 census - age 29 born Ohio - one child age 5, born Ohio - another child, age 3, born Ill.

Schoettler, Christian - Princeton, Bureau Co. (6 miles from me!) Gunsmith, locksmith & bell hanger. Made superb perc. schuetzen rifles. I have one which is signed "C. Schoettler Maker, Princeton Ills." in fine script on a sterling silver shield inlaid in the side of buttstock. Was born in Prussia, Dec. 22, 1822. Came to this country in 1834, first to Maryland where he remained a few years (and learned the trade??), then to Ohio where he was engaged in business until 1858, at which time moved to Concord Twp., Bureau Co. (very close to me - in fact he was W.M. of the Masonic Lodge here in Wyandot in the 1860's. In 1871 moved to Princeton, where he had his shop at 533 S. Pleasant, until his death Dec. 3, 1901.

Tope, Henry - Magnolia, Putnam Co. 1847 & earlier and Peru, LaSalle Co. 1848-49. Died of Cholera (along with his wife) July 13, 1849. His estate file records that several orphaned children were "returned" to

the state of Ohio. The estate file also contains a complete inventory of a very well fitted shop including a number of new rifles of his manufacture. One rifle is known, handed down through a family at Magnolia, maple fullstock, unsigned.

Hayden, David S. - born Aug. 13, 1830 in Woodsfield, Belmont Co., Ohio - (son of John Hayden, born Maryland) - apprenticed to his older brother Joseph Hayden at Oxford, Ohio 1851-58. Arrived in Monmouth, Warren Co., Ill., March 12, 1858 and opened his shop - made halfstock perc. rifles at least into 1880's. Died Monmouth Oct. 21, 1901. I have some of his tools.

Hayden, J. - Galesburg, Knox Co., Ill. (very close to Monmouth - see above) I have no documentation on this maker but have seen two signed rifles, nice quality, stamped "J. HAYDEN GALESBURG ILL". One of these rifles was "new", had apparently burst the first time it was fired and was found among the shop tools of D. S. HAYDEN at Monmouth about 20 yrs. ago. The other is a heavy silver mounted target rifle with pistol grip stock, stamped "J. HAYDEN GALESBURG ILL" on both barrel & lock.

Cushman, N. B. - Warsaw, Hancock Co. 1853-60 1860 census - age 43, born N.H. - three children ages 14, 13, 8 born Ohio - another child age 4/12, born Ill.

Maltby, Jasper Adalmon - Galena, Jo Daviess Co. - 1850 to 1861 - prolific maker of heavy, large caliber "Plains Rifles" - was born at Kingsville,



Ashtabula Co., Ohio in 1826 and is believed to have learned the trade in that area. Was one of the nine Union Generals from Galena (became a Brig. Gen. in 1863) Died of Yellow Fever at Vicksburg, Miss. in 1867. I've seen quite a few rifles, first rate workman with a distinctive style. I own one which is stamped "J.A.MALTBY GALENA N<sup>O</sup>. 150".

Bennett, Edward - Bowdre Twp., Douglas Co. - 1880 census - age 62, born Ohio.

Heaton, James - born at Xenia, Ohio in 1804 - son of John Heaton of Xenia who taught him the trade - grandson of Jonah Heaton of Bryant's Station, Ky. who was said to have made the first rifle in the state of Ky. James was married in 1826 to Nancy Henry, a cousin of Patrick. Came to Edgar Co., Ill. in 1836 and opened a shop. In 1842 moved to the New Purchase in Iowa and in 1843 to Henderson Co., Ill. opposite Burlington, Iowa. Later that yr. moved to Warren Co., Ill. to the site of later town of Ellison. In 1848 opened a shop at Keithsburg, Mercer Co., Ill. In 1852 moved to a farm, rural Keithsburg, died there yrs. later.

Goedeke, Henry - Olney, Richland Co. - 1873 to 1928 - prolific maker of halfstock perc. rifles of good quality. Born near Hanover Germany in 1849, parents moved to Evansville, Ind. in 1850 at age 18, Henry was apprenticed to a gunsmith named sell or Scell at Georgetown, Ohio. After completing his apprenticeship, had a shop in Ky. for a short time. In 1873 came to Olney, Ill.

and bought out the shop of that wily old roque, Hiram W. White. Goedeke continued there until his death in 1928. His son Frank, still living, says Henry still made a few M.L. rifles after 1900, until about 1912.

White, Hiram W. - Olney, Richland Co. - 1866 to 1873 this is the same man who previously worked in Jackson, Ohio. The same man who, according to the article in "Muzzle Blasts", June, 1941, page 6, left Jackson, Ohio "rather suddenly, accompanied by the family's hired girl." I have several of White's ads from early Olney papers which leave no doubt they were composed by the same man who wrote the ad in the "Muzzle Blasts" article. I know of one rifle but haven't seen it. A full-stock by "H.W.WHITE OLNEY ILL" was advertised in "Muzzle Blasts" in Dec., 1952. Later worked at Yankton, S.D.

Foster, James - Burnt Prairie, White Co. - 1870 census - age 44, born Ohio. three children, ages 14, 9, 5, born Ind. - two others, ages 2,1, born Ill. Probably the same man Lindert lists in Clifty Twp., Bartholomew Co., Ind. in 1860 although an age discrepancy exists. Probably not the James H. Foster who was a maker of fine quality shotguns in Chicago in that same period.

Wright, David - Fairbury, Livingston Co. - 1870 census - age 33, born Ohio. □