



Cased Presentation Flintlock Pistol From Jacob Resor

By Gene A. Weaver



Yes, a one of a kind cased presentation Flintlock Pistol by Jacob Resor. The display case has the following inscription on it. "Awarded By The Lodges To Henry Donaldson For The Greatest Shot At Target Practice July, 16, 1838".

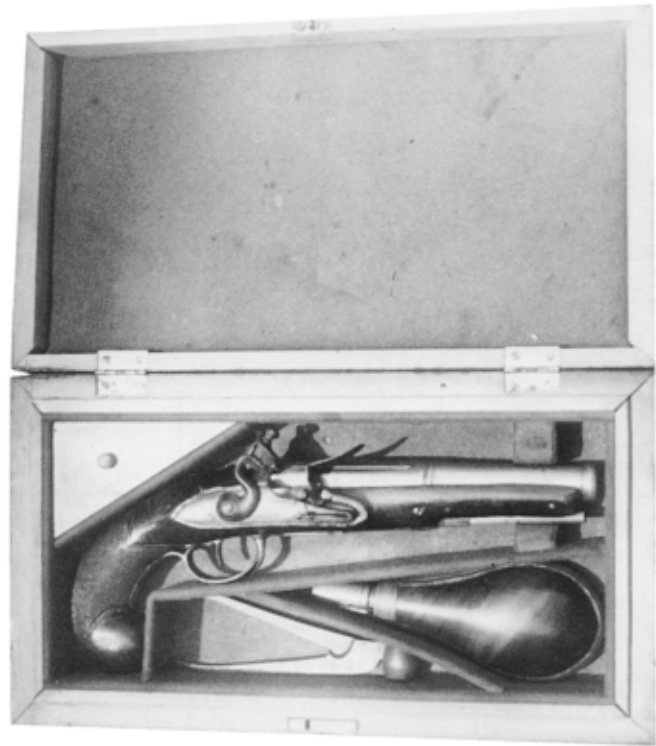
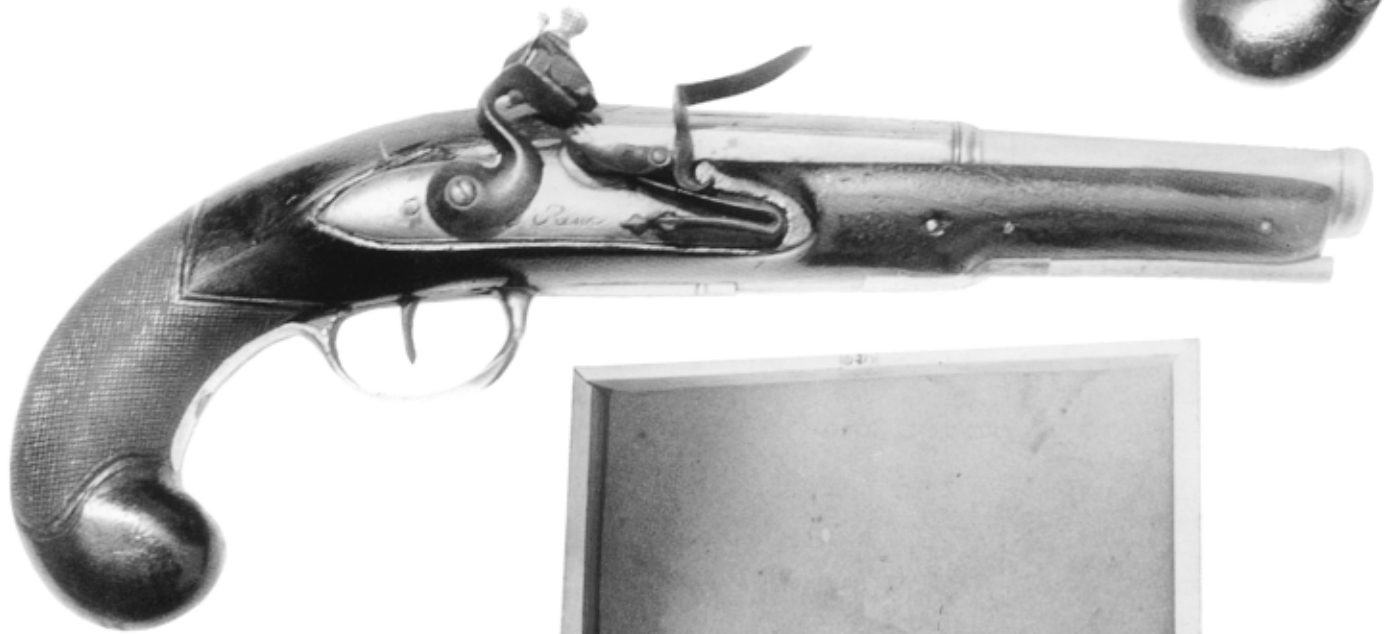
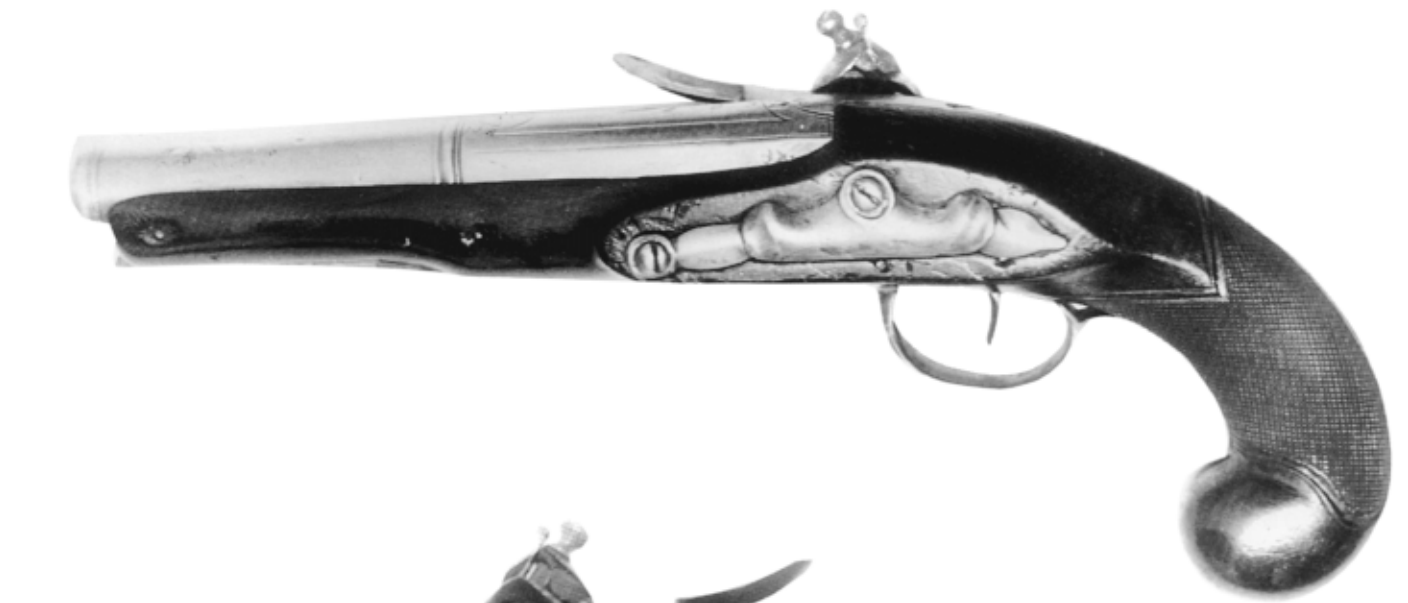
The presentation case is a well made case, dark patina from age with a key lock. The top has a beveled lid with a silver inlay scroll with a Daisy Finnel on each end, typical Lancaster style.⁴ The presentation is inscribed on the silver inlay.

We know who Jacob Resor was but who was Henry Donaldson? There was a Christian and William Donaldson family Hardware Store at 18 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio in 1836 and 1837.¹ Members of the Donaldson family were involved in the Masonic Lodges in 1837-1848, but it does not show a Henry Donaldson.² Could he have been a son or relative of the Donaldson family mentioned above? It is possible to see how a pistol made by Jacob Resor was awarded to Donaldson, by the Lodges in 1838. No proof as of yet that it is the above mentioned Donaldson Hardware Family.

Jacob Resor, was the grandson of Mathias Roesser, the great gunsmith of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania of 1740. Jacob's father, Peter Resor, married Catherine Welshans, daughter of Joseph Welshans, a York, Pennsylvania gunsmith,³ April 16, 1775.

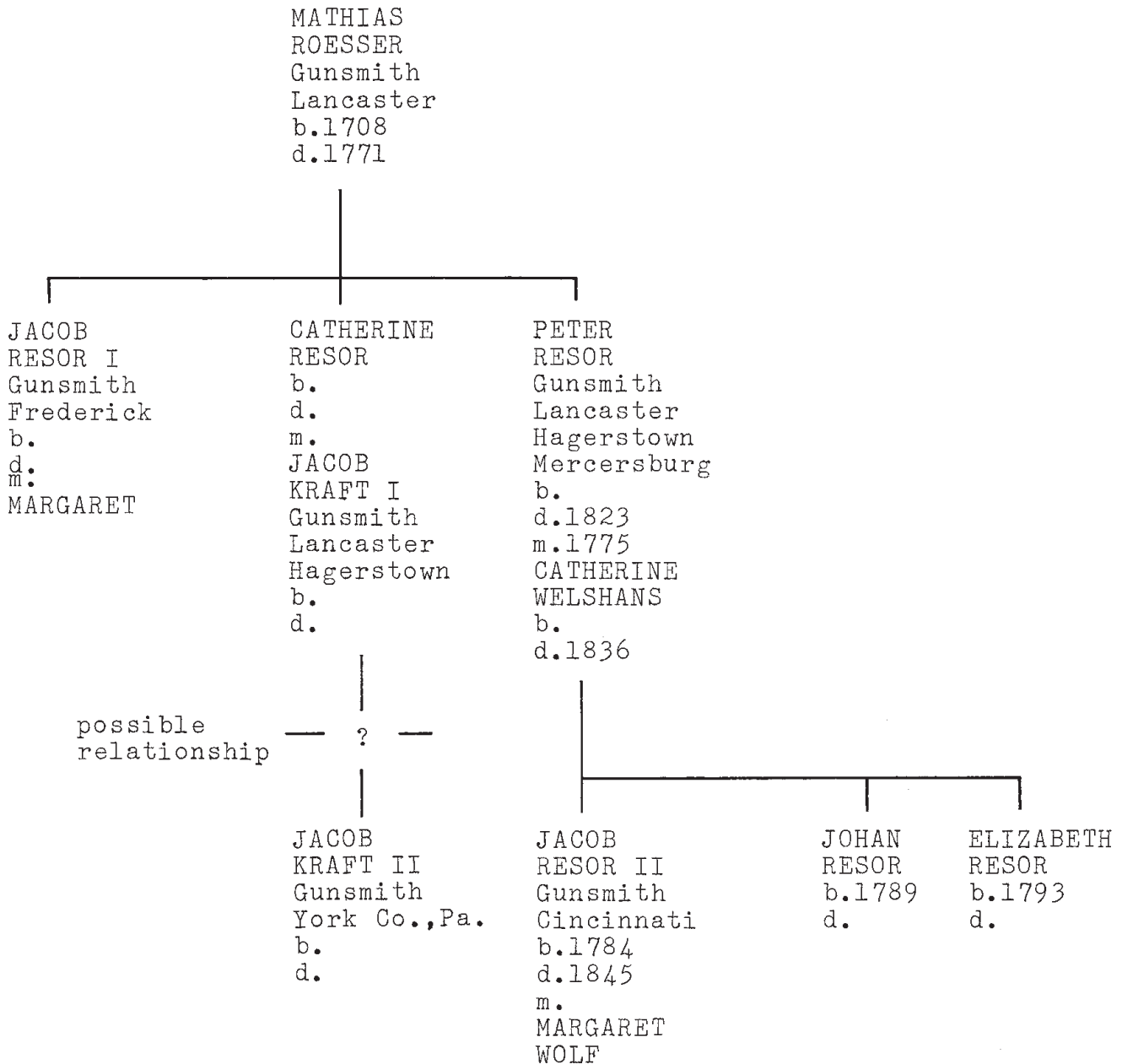
As you can quickly see Jacob came from a family of well known gunsmiths of that period of time. Jacob had the background and training to eventually turn out quality guns on his own.

Jacob Resor was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1784 and married Margaret Wolf born in York, Pennsylvania. Jacob and his wife moved to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1811 and opened up a gunsmithing business on Main St. He later added a tin and copper-smithing business. An advertisement in the Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette 7/22/1816 indicates that he made guns as usual but also was concerned about old copper, brass and pewter. In 1819 he started the Phoenix Iron Foundry, which later was the Monitor Stove and Range Co.⁵



THE ROESSER-RESOR FAMILY OF GUNSMITHS

Sources: Public records of Washington Co., Md.
 Kauffman, Henry J. (1952) EARLY AMERICAN GUNSMITHS 1650-1850
 Kauffman, Henry J. (1960) THE PENNSYLVANIA KENTUCKY RIFLE



In 1829 Jacob Resor was listed as a "Tinner" at 25 Main St. Cincinnati, Ohio. He lived at Water & Vine., Cincinnati. ⁶ He was also at the same address in 1836-1837, so one could quickly see that there could be some connection between Jacob Resor and Henry Donaldson as Donaldson Hardware was at 18 Main St. Cincinnati, Ohio in 1836-1837.¹

There is listed in 1836-1837 a William and Reuben Resor, tanners at the same address as Jacob Resor. William and Reuben could have been his sons.¹

The Ohio Census of 1840 list a Jacob Resor in Delhi Township Hamilton County, Ohio, Page 373. The 1840 Census list heads of household's only.⁷

A William Resor is listed as living in York Township, Darke County, Ohio in 1875.⁸ There is no positive proof as to William being the son of Jacob Resor at this time, although the names are spelled the same.

The pistol itself is a brass barrel pistol about 58 cal. flintlock. Both the lock and barrel are signed J. Resor. This pistol is very similar to the gun on page 252 Kentucky Rifle and Pistols, published by Golden Age Arms for the K.R.A. Also in Thoughts On The American Flintlock Pistol, by S. E. Dyke, page 36, Plate 158. Sam Dyke authenticated this pistol as a J. Resor pistol at the K.R.A. meeting in 1985.

Jacob Resor died in 1845 and had quite a history of success as gun makers go. He definitely followed his family foot steps.

His family name was often spelled differently which seemed to be proper for that period of time.

Below is just a few ways the name Resor was spelled:

RAZOR, RASOR, RISOR, RAYSOR,
REASOR, REASER, ROESSER,
AND REZER, RESORE

All of the above seem to be accepted for the name RESOR. See the Family Tree

Anyone with any information on a Henry Donaldson in the Cincinnati area in 1830-1840 or surrounding states would be appreciated. Please furnish the information to me at the directory address.

The photographs in this article were taken by Jim Whisker.

1. The Cincinnati Directory for the years 1836-1837.
2. Cincinnati The Queen City 1788-1912 Vol. IV.
- 3&4. Thoughts On The Kentucky Rifle In Its Golden Age by Joe Kindig, Jr.
5. The Pennsylvania - Kentucky Rifle by Henry J. Kauffman.
6. The Cincinnati Directory for the year 1929.
7. The Ohio Census Index of 1840.
8. The Atlas of 1875 Darke County, York Township.
9. Arms Markers of Maryland. □



A Longrifle For Study

By Warren Offenberger



One of the joys of our annual Ohio Longrifle Exhibit is to see a fine unheard of rifle come thru the front door and then have one of our members acquire it. This happened on the last day of our show in Marietta and the 1825-1830 period rifle is described in the following paragraphs and is illustrated with Jim Whisker photography.

This particular fullstock is signed on the barrel in script "S. F." and reportedly was made by Samuel Faries in Middletown, Butler County, Ohio. The piece had been in the possession of a wealthy banker in Florida for quite a few years.

If one likes super curly maple for stocking, excellent architecture and superb inlay and engraving details, then on a scale of 1 to 10, this rifle would rate a 12. It has everything going for it. Long and slender, tapered lock boss area, a 47" tapered barrel, a beautiful patchbox and artistic well engraved inlays.

One unusual detail is the forestock inlays around the barrel wedges. On the facing side, the 3 inlays have been swedged to form the shape of the head of the wedges. It's an illusion because the wedges actually insert from the opposite side. I've seen this detail a couple of times on rifles made in North Carolina but never on an Ohio piece.

As one studies this rifle, the similarities between it and 2 known David Morton rifles are apparent. The architecture is very similar. The inlay work and the engraving are close. The inlays up the forestock are identical. The small engraving cuts above and below the patchbox hinge are the same on both the earlier Morton and S. F. rifles. The shadow crosshatch engraving on the patchboxes are very similar although executed better on the Morton rifles. Also, the elongated leaf inlay on the under forestock of the S. F. rifle is the same shape as a smaller version

on the wrist of one of the Morton pieces. The rattlesnake comb inlays have been cut from the same pattern and appear to be a David Morton original.

One should assume that there was a close connection here. David Morton was born in 1769 or 1770 and died in 1823. He worked as a gunsmith/clocksmith in West Newton, West Moreland Co, Pennsylvania. He is buried in the Sewickley Presbyterian Cemetery.

Morton's widow, Elizabeth, married one Nickolas Hathaway and relocated in either Union Co. or Union Ohio prior to 1828. The village of Union is approximately 30 miles north of Middletown. Union County is in the central part of the state and approximately 100 miles from Middletown.

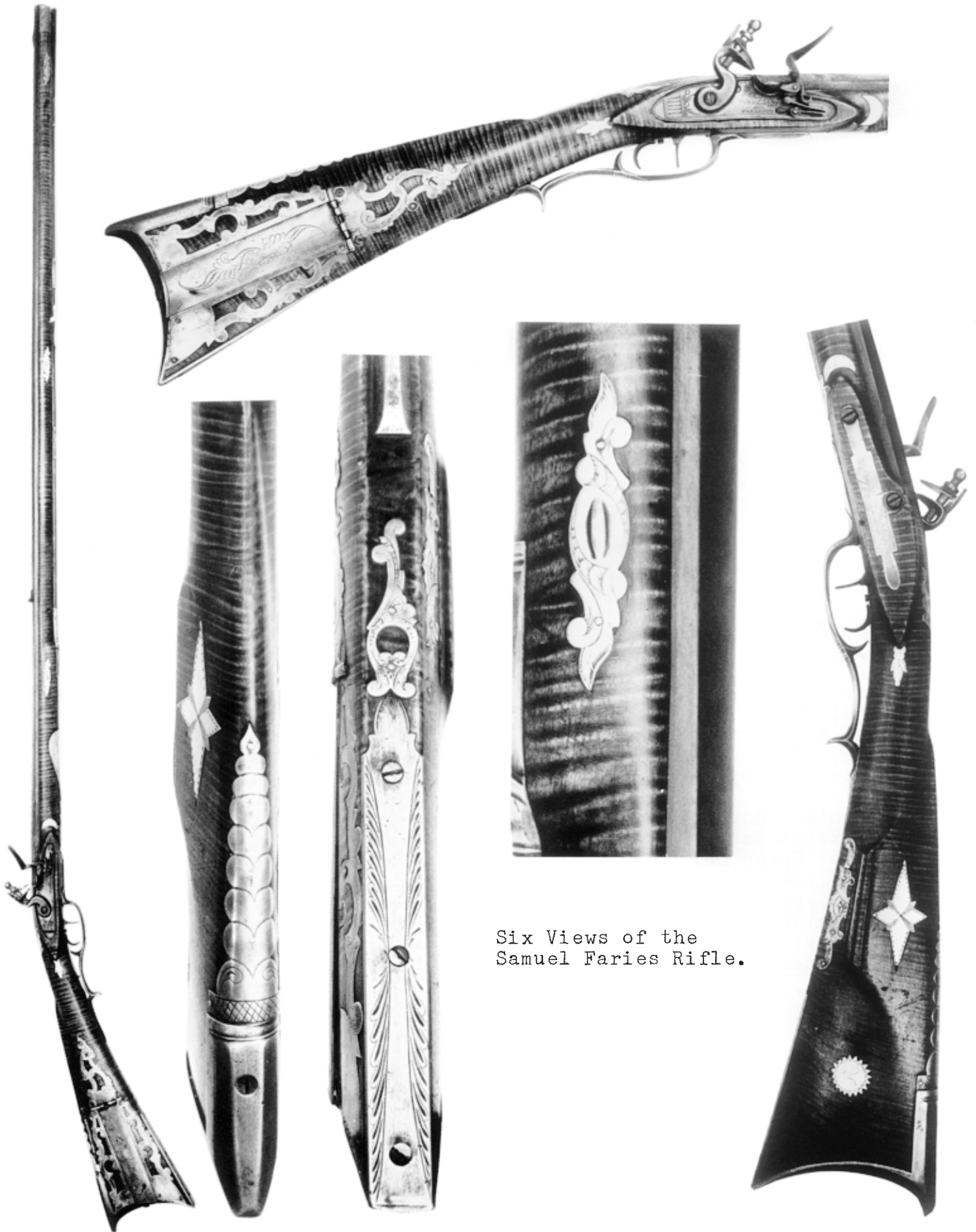
It's possible that Faries worked with Morton in Pennsylvania until Morton's death, then traveled with the new Mr. & Mrs. Hathaway to Ohio. Perhaps Faries was an apprentice or a relative. We'll probably never know unless someone does a little research in the Middletown/Union/Union County area.

I'm illustrating photographs of the S. F. and Morton rifles for our membership to evaluate. I would welcome your comments, pro or con. I shall be anxious to learn if you are as enthusiastic about this fine rifle as I am. Regardless of who made the S. F. rifle or where it was made, it's one piece of work!

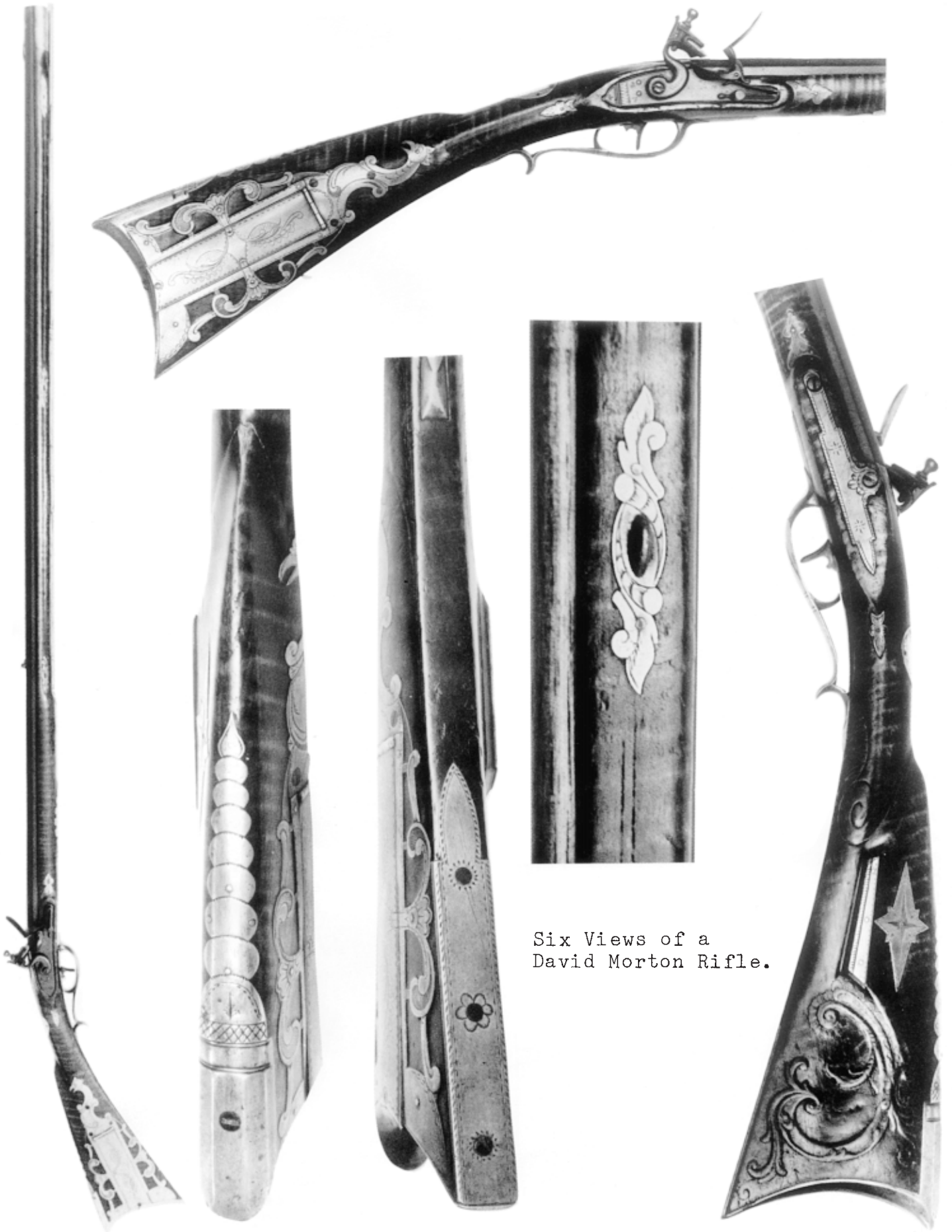
All of the information about David Morton is fact and was published in the KRA Bulletin Fall, 1983. The article was authored by Charles Kaufmann.

The relationship, if any, between Morton and Faries is pure speculation on my part. It is intended to stir up interest within our membership and to cause further study and research. Hopefully you will do this and report your findings.

One could search a long time before finding a better rifle that has all the above mentioned qualities and if it is indeed an Ohio rifle, so much the better. There are not that many around anymore! □



Six Views of the
Samuel Faries Rifle.



Six Views of a
David Morton Rifle.

Hiram W. White Gunsmith

By William Courtney Martin II

Hiram W. White did not devote his whole time to gunsmithing, but conducted his shop as a side line to his hardware business. He was also a carpenter, and several buildings of his construction still stand in Jackson, notably the Mark Sternberger home on South Street.

From a copy of the Jackson, a newspaper, dated 1851, H. W. White's advertisement is here quoted:

H. W. White, opposite American Hotel
Jackson Rifle Factory
Gunsmithing Business

"I have on hand not only a good, but a better assortment of Rifles, Fowling pieces, and Pistols manufactured by myself or under my immediate inspection and from good material as can be found elsewhere in the State. Persons wishing to furnish themselves with a first rate article of this kind will do well to call and examine, as I am determined not to be undersold, taking quality into consideration (work 1st rate).

Having obtained the right to use and manufacture Jackson's much approved Side Percussion Lock, and being furnished from one of the most celebrated establishments in the County, with the best kind of cap and pill percussion locks, the proprietor is able to say that the purchaser can rely on these articles as being good, which is a very necessary qualification in all kinds of firearms.

I also keep on hand constantly a very fine article of powder and French, German and English

percussion caps, grains, leads, powder horns, flasks, shot, and game bags; pistols, hunters' knives, Bowie knives, in fact, everything that is necessary for a man to have to protect himself against man or animals of the most ferocious character. Hardware, carpenter tools, and music instruments, engraving, electro gilding (gold and silver)."

The average White rifle sold for \$15. The White shop was located on Broadway in the block between Pearl and Main Streets. After White sold out his hardware business, he moved his gunsmithing shop to the corner of Broadway and Pearl Streets, which is now the Harbarger corner. Very few of White's guns can be located. Nothing is known of the later life and work of H. W. White, probably due to the fact that he left town rather suddenly, accompanied by the family's "hired girl".

ABOUT THE AUTHOR . . .

William Courtney Martin II is a life long resident of Jackson, Ohio, and is a direct descendant of "Salt Boiler" John Martin who was the first permanent white resident of the Scioto Salt Works, which is now the city of Jackson,

Ohio. John Martin located there in 1796, thus establishing the oldest family in Jackson County.

The article, Hiram W. White, was written for and first published in "MUZZLE BLASTS" the official publication of the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association on June 1941, Vol. II, No. 10.

Respectfully submitted with Mr. Martin's approval,

Ralph A. White
Chillicothe, Ohio