

Pierre (Peter) Frederick Charpie

1814-1870

By Charles Charpie

Pierre Frederick Charpie came from a family that can be traced back to the 15th Century in a small farm town, Bevelard, Canton Berne, Switzerland. Sometime in 1825 he traveled with his father P.F. Charpie (40), mother Harriet (37) and brother Emanuel (6) to America (Pierre was 11 years old at this time) landing at the Port of New York in July, 1825.

Shortly the family became property owners in Clay Township, Tuscarawas County, Ohio (100 acres). It was on this farm that Pierre grew-up. In the early 1830's as a young man he married his first wife Ann. The result of this marriage was three children, however Ann died apparently in child birth in 1835.

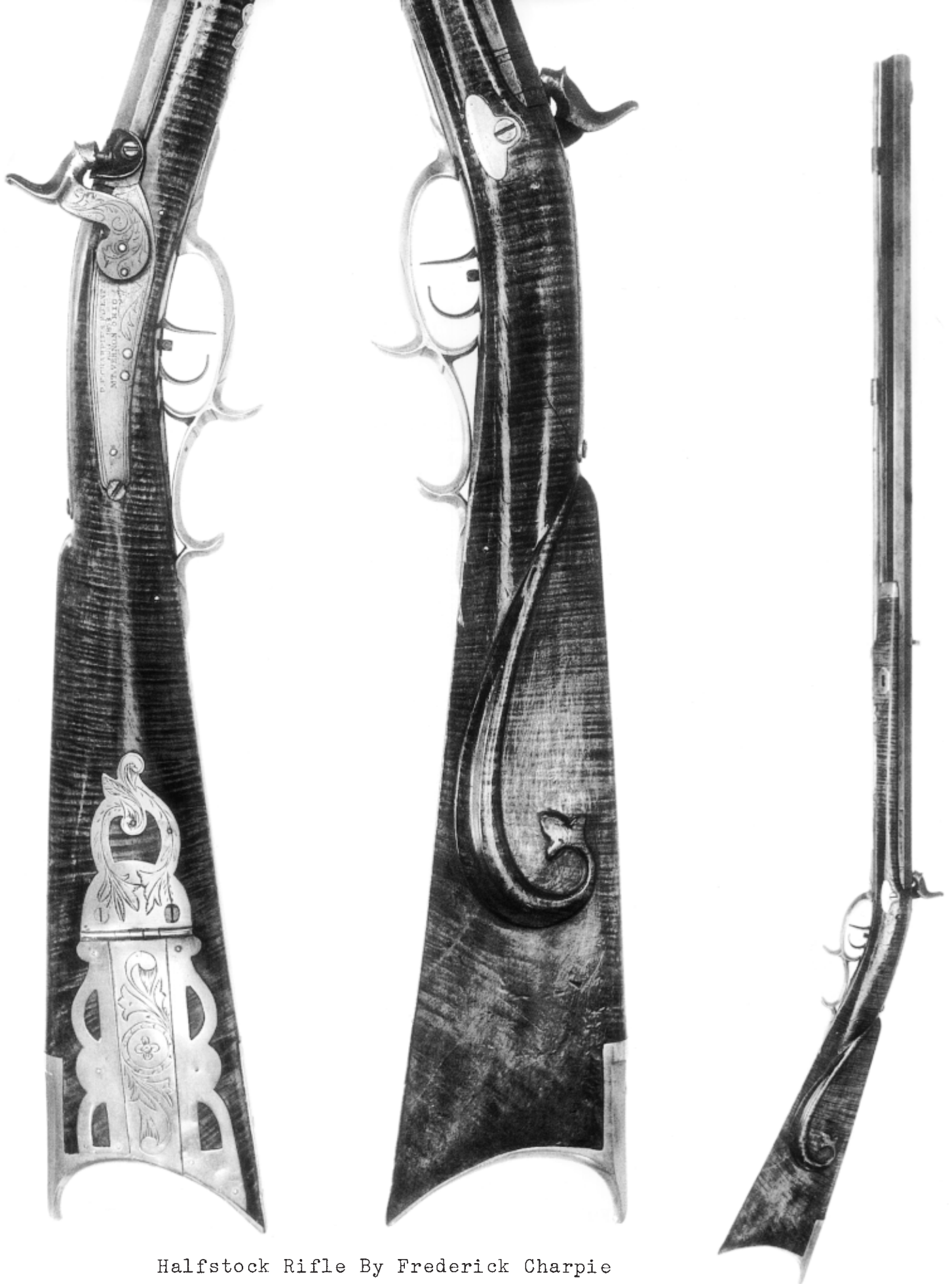
His marriage to second wife Elizabeth Boughman occurred in Tuscarawas County in 1841 and the result of this marriage was four girls and four boys, while three of the boys were later to serve in the Civil War.

Sometime during this later period he found time to serve his gunsmith apprenticeship and move to Mt. Vernon, Knox County, Ohio, because in the 1850 Census he declares himself to be a gunsmith. In the 1850 to 1860 period, as recorded by Donald A. Hutslar in *Gunsmiths of Ohio 18th-19th Centuries*, he is listed in several gunsmith directories and has two federal patents issued (both relating to improvements in regular gun components). One patent is for an improved gun-lock and the other for an improved hair trigger set. The Hutslar book also gives him credit as the maker of the "Underhammer, cannon-barrel percussion" pistol, a fine example of this is in the hands of member Lloyd Smith of Richwood, Ohio. Several examples of Pierre's rifles have turned up and are in the hands of various collectors.

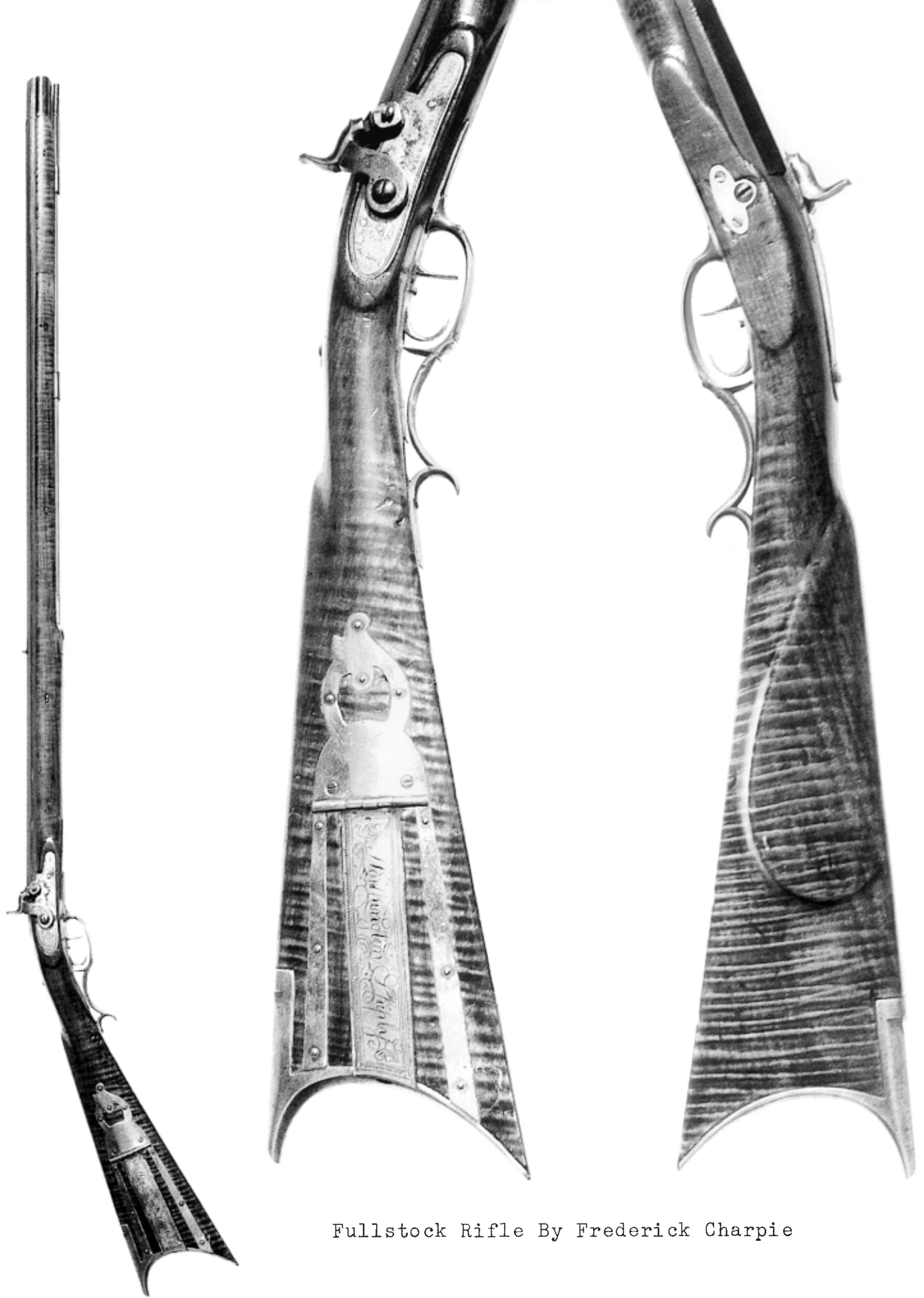
Of significance next in the life of Pierre F. Charpie is his move to Peru, Miami County, Indiana from Mt. Vernon soon after 1860. It



Underhammer Pistol By Frederick Charpie



Halfstock Rifle By Frederick Charpie



Fullstock Rifle By Frederick Charpie

was from here that the boys enlisted in the Civil War.

Pierre's brother Emanuel, had four children with his first wife Catherine, four more children with his second wife Elisabeth, and lived also in Peru, Miami County, Indiana. Like his father, Emanuel seems also to have spent his life as a farmer and as an occasional land speculator.

Pierre himself lived until 1870 and is buried with his son Addison

who also died in 1870 in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Peru, Indiana.

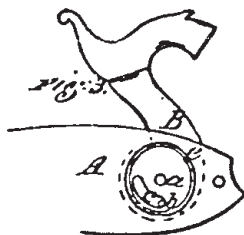
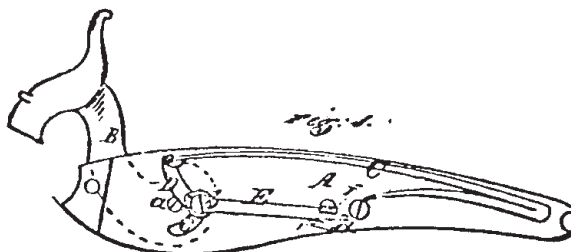
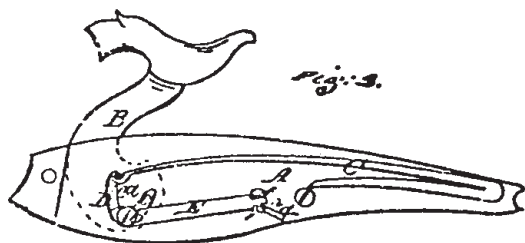
Great, Great Grandson
Charles Frederick Charpie
4237 Grantley Road
Toledo, Ohio 43613

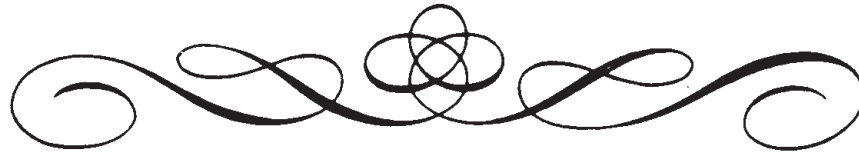
Great, Great Granddaughter
Marjorie Anne Charpie
234 Warrington Road
Toledo, Ohio 43612

No. 9,934.—P. F. CHARPIE, of Mount Vernon, Ohio.—*Improvement in Gun-Locks.*—Patented August 16th, 1853.

(See figure.) The nature of this invention consists in connecting the dog *e*, of the mainspring *c*, to the hammer *b*, by means of a screw *b*, passing through a curved slot *c*, in the lock-plate *a*, in combination with suitable packing encompassing the slot on the outside of the plate *a*; and surrounding the slot *c*, there is a circular recess, in which recess is placed a suitable packing, which prevents moisture from entering the lock. The advantages of this lock are "prevention from moisture" and "cheapness." (The mainspring and dog are on the inside of the plate.)

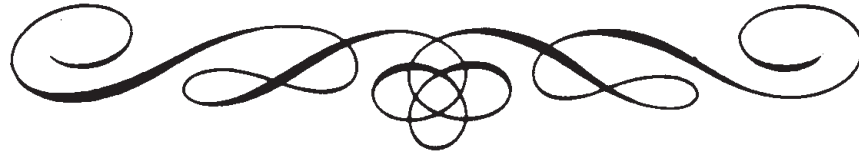
Claim.—The lock constructed substantially in the above-described manner.





The Gunsmith of Pleasant Ridge

By F. M. Plank



From the Ashland Times Gazette
Monday Evening, February 17, 1936

Along in the 70's there lived on Pleasant Ridge, Ashland Co., Ohio, one Hugh Weaver, who's occupation was that of making and repairing guns. Hugh, with his parents, lived on the south side of what is known as the State Road, and on the east side of the cross road.

The little shop which was about twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide, was located on the south side of the east and west road, just opposite of the blacksmith shop where the Studebakers, father and sons, hammered bolts out of red-hot rods of iron a quarter of a century before. The guns made by Hugh Weaver were of the percussion cap and muzzle loading type, as the breech loading and cartridge type of guns were not in vogue at the time. He made both shotgun and rifles but his specialty was the small bore rifles. He was a master workman and the output of his shop was all of the finest finish and in demand wherever known. He was proud of his small bore rifles that he called squirrel guns. Only old men with failing

eyesight used shotguns in hunting squirrels in those times.

When in his shop (a place I frequented when a youth) I often saw him take down from its hangers on the wall one of those squirrel rifles and place it in the hands of an interested visitor, and with a smile on his face and a light in his eyes, call attention to the beauty, the symmetry, and the accuracy of his handwork. Surely it was a piece of workmanship to be proud of, with the glittering blue burnished barrel, the highly polished curley maple stock, neatly trimmed in brass, and smooth, white hickory ramrod. H. Weaver stamped on the barrel was all the gun needed as a recommendation, such was his reputation.

The barrels came to him in the shape of steel rods about the length required for a gun. Through the center from end to end was a hole. To make a rifle, these openings had to be grooved. The method by which this was accomplished was interesting. I well remember the long cylinder made of hard cherry wood, about four inches in

diameter. Four deep grooves were cut in its surface that ran spirally the length of the barrel. The cylinder was supported in a framework, in which were fastened immovably four projecting nodes or pins that fit into the four grooves of the cylinder. So when the frame was pushed forward on its carriage the nodes in the grooves would cause the cylinder to revolve. The barrel to be rifled was tightly clamped in exact line with the cylinder, attached to which was the groove cutter, which was a small steel rod with discs on the end. Many times I sat watching him cut the grooves in a rifle barrel. It was a slow process. He would stand for hours pushing back and forth the frame which held the wooden cylinder, stopping now and then to oil the discs or perhaps take a fresh chew of tobacco. When the grooves were of sufficient depth and the inside of the barrel was perfectly smooth it was unclamped, sawed off, and the breech pin placed with the tube put in. The brass fixtures for the ramrod were brazed on the barrel and it was ready for the stock. The lock was carefully fitted, and the provided with a double trigger, namely a set trigger and a hair trigger. When the gun was ready to be discharged the set trigger was thrown in position and the touch of the finger on the set trigger would release the hammer and explode the cap.

In those days it was the custom about Thanksgiving to hold a shooting match, usually on Thanksgiving day or the day preceding. These events were open to anyone who thought he could shoot a rifle with accuracy and had a few dimes to spend to prove his marksmanship. A comparatively level ground was selected that was sparsely timbered. Turkeys were the prize that were put up for the contest. The popular distance to shoot was one hundred yards with a rest, or 60 yards off-hand, that was without a rest. For

target a heavy board blackened with a white pasteboard 2 inches in diameter tacked on was usually used. The entrance fee for the contest was 50 cents. Each contestant was allowed three or five shots, as agreed upon, and the contestant whose sum total measured the least distance from the center was declared the winner and got the prize. Sometimes a target consisting of blocks of wood 6 inches square, with faces blackened and a white circular patch tacked in center of each block was used. These blocks were sold to the contestants, thus each one would have his own target. As the blocks had six faces, he could fire six rounds without duplication of a face. These trials of marksmanship were real contests of skill and genuine sportsmanship. Hugh Weaver was always an interested party in these sports and usually captured his share of the prizes. His reputation as a marksman and a master of his vocation extended far out over the surrounding country. He was kept busy until the invention of the breech loading cartridge gun came into use, which was intended more particularly for weapons rather than implements of sports.

I think that I can safely say that in families living in that section of the country, guns may yet be found bearing the stamp of Hugh Weaver on the barrel. I have such standing in the corner of my office, with which I shot hundreds of grey squirrels in the big woods of white oak, shellbark hickory timber on the Wise farm. Sometime in the 80's Hugh Weaver closed his shop, sold his property on Pleasant Ridge, and bought a home near the Katotawa Creek, on the Rowsburg road. He later moved west, I think to Missouri.

This article has been passed on to A.O.L.R.C. member Elmer Balog of Elyria, Ohio, by the Wise family.

Carl Charles Cullman

1829-1903

By Paul Zeiher

Carl Charles Cullmann was born December 2, 1829 in Zwibrucken, Germany. His parents were Carl Christian Cullmann and Elizabeth Philipena Fetzter Cullmann.

He came to Columbus, Ohio when he was 18 years old in 1847. We find him listed in the Columbus, Ohio directory as a gunsmith in 1850-1851.

In 1852 he was working with H. G. Hood at 219 High Street, Columbus, Ohio as a gunsmith.

From 1853 to 1862 he was probably working alone, however from 1866 to approximately 1872 he was working with C. Seibert in Columbus, Ohio.

According to the 1853 Columbus, Ohio directory he was back in business for himself at 205½ South High Street, Columbus.

Business must not have been to good for in 1874 he took on the job of Superintendent of the Columbus, Ohio shooting grounds. He worked at the job for about 3½ years. He then went into the bowling alley and soloon business on the north side of Nursery Lane. This did not last very long. Whether he lost money or made a large profit by selling out is unknown. The Columbus directory shows him active again as a gunsmith in 1879 at 21 West Frankfurt in Columbus. He was active as a gunsmith for approximately 44 years.

Any person who repaired or built guns was listed in the census and city directories as a gunsmith. We know that many who were listed

as gunsmith only repaired them. They either had this as a business of their own or did commercial work for gun stores. Since there are rifles marked C. Cullmann Columbus, Ohio we know he was a gunmaker as well as repairman.

Cullmann was very active in local affairs. He loved music and played in Goodman's band for a number of years. He evidently liked excitement for he was a member of the volunteer fire fighting department at Columbus, Ohio.

A picture of one of his gun stores is on display along with the Forrest Tilton Ohio Long Rifle Collection in the Campus Martius Museum at Marietta, Ohio.

Carl Charles Cullmann did not realize what part he and the other gunsmiths and gunmakers of the 18 and 19 centuries played in the developement of our country. The rifle was a very important necessity in the life of our pioneers and settlers. It helped him to fight Indians and Outlaws, plus helped him to survive by putting the food on the table.

Cullmann's association with Seibert must have had much influence on his work. The Cullmanns I have seen are very similar to Seiberts in appearance. Style of the stock, back action lock, name stamped on lock, and, name and Columbus, Ohio stamped on barrel along with brass furniture.

He had a full and interesting life for 73 years and 6 months passing away in Columbus, Ohio in 1903. With his death another link in the era of The Ohio Long Rifle was coming to pass.