

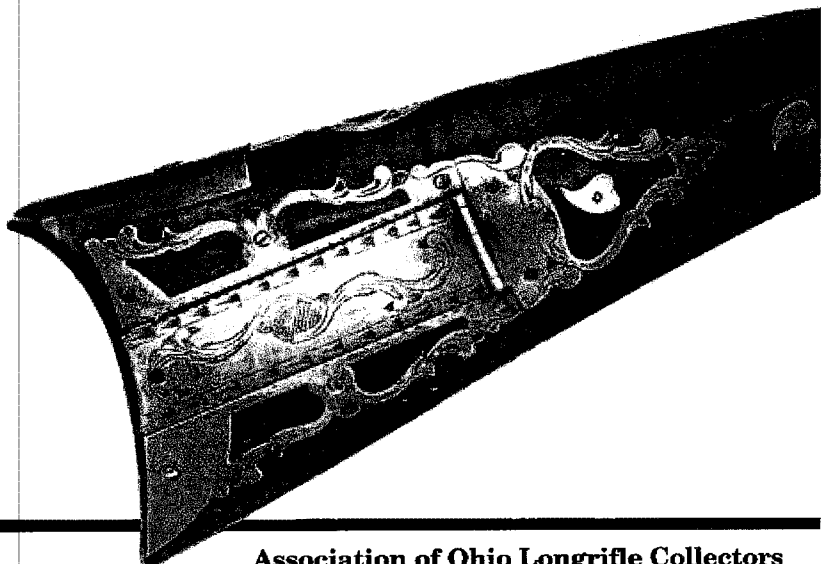
# Henry Walter

Henry Walter (1776-1855) was a gunsmith in Elk Run Township, Columbiana County. Tom Pike reported a fine Walter flintlock rifle, with raised carving and inlays. Walter supposedly came to Columbiana County before 1800, verified by the fact that he was a witness to a deed in 1807.

In 1811 Henry went to Randolph County, West Virginia. In association with Lewis Shroyer and Henry Martin, Walters manufactured Virginia militia muskets on state contracts dated 15 March 1810 and 8 September 1811.

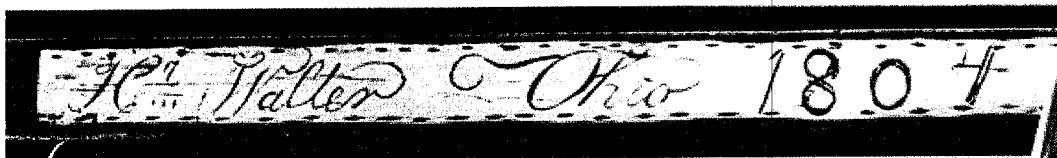
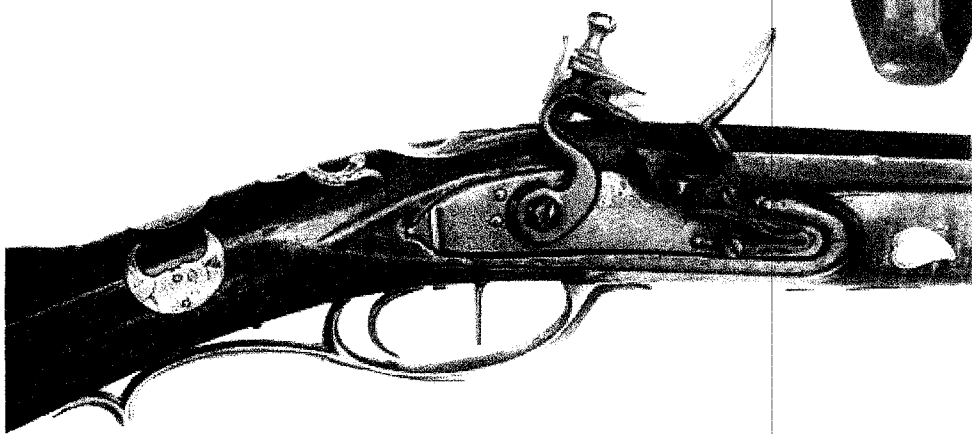
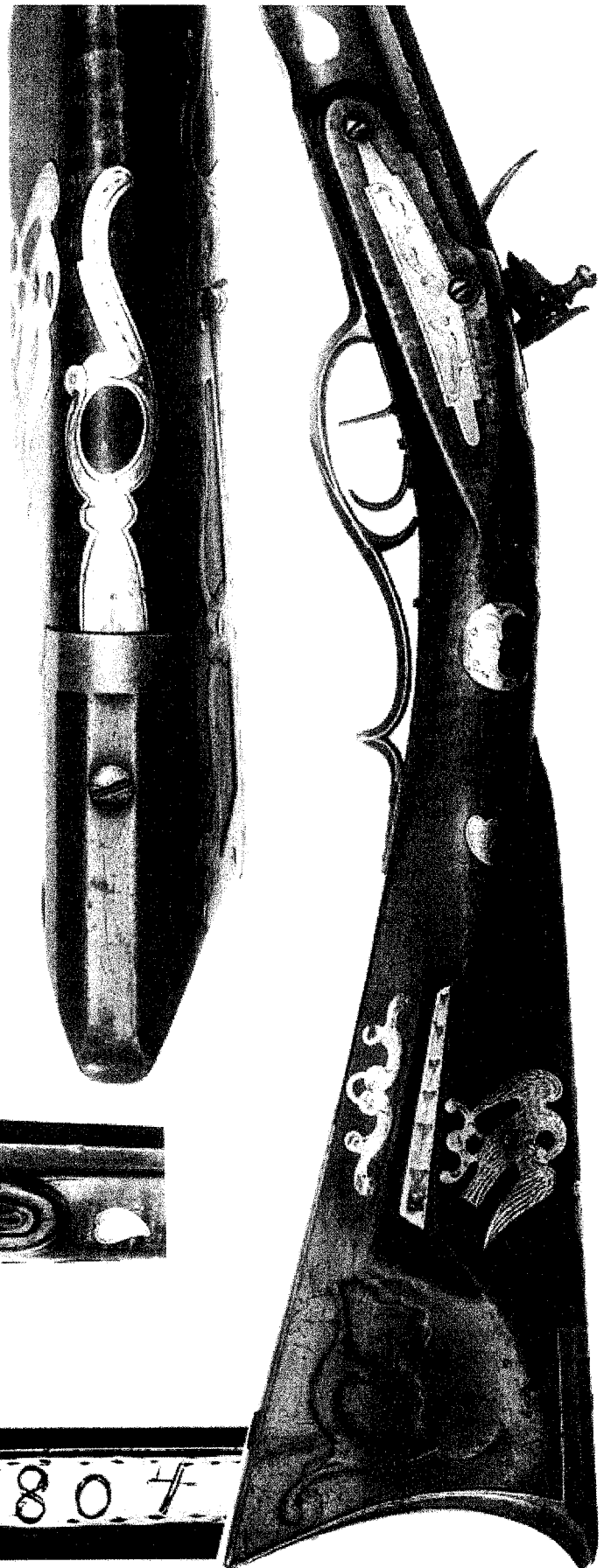
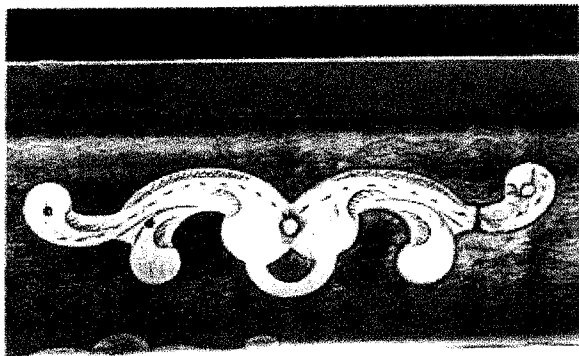
Know all men by these presents, That we, Henry Martin and Henry Walters and Lewis Shroyer, of the County of Randolph and the State of Virginia, are held and firmly bound unto John Tyler, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, in the first and full amount of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000), to be paid to the said John Tyler or his Successors in office for the use of the Commonwealth aforesaid, to which payment well and truly to be made, We do bind ourselves jointly and severally, our and each of our joint and several heirs, executors and administrators firmly by these presents stated with our seals and dated this fifteenth day of March, One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Nine. The condition of the above obligations is such that whereas by the 11th Section of the Act "Further to Amend the Laws respecting the Militia of this Commonwealth," it is enacted that the "Executive be authorized to contract for the making

Three Hundred (300) Rifles annually by such persons as they may think best qualified, provided that the cost of each rifle completed shall not exceed Fifteen Dollars (\$15)" and that the said Henry Martin, Henry Walters and Lewis Shroyer having contracted and by these presents doth contract the Executive to make thirty (30) of the said Rifles, according to the model prescribed by the Executive. Now if the said Henry Martin, Henry Walters, and Lewis Shroyer shall well and faithfully make or cause to be made the said thirty rifles precisely in conformity with the model aforesaid on or before the fifteenth day of March next, for which on faithful completion thereof he is to receive from the Public Treasury the sum of Fifteen Dollars (\$15) for each Rifle, then the above obligation to be Void, otherwise to remain in full force and Virtue. Signed and delivered in the presence of W. B. Wilson and Isaac Booth. Henry Martin; Henry Walters; Lewis Shroyer.



I have not seen a Virginia contract arm marked by any of these men, and Kentucky rifles by all of them are indeed rare. I have seen only the Walter rifle shown here, one Henry Martin rifle and two Schroyer rifles. It is interesting that in some books, including Sellers' American Gunsmiths, the name is confused by calling him Waters or Watters. In the original document it is clear to me that it is Walters.

Henry was noted in the 1820 U. S. Census. In 1850, the



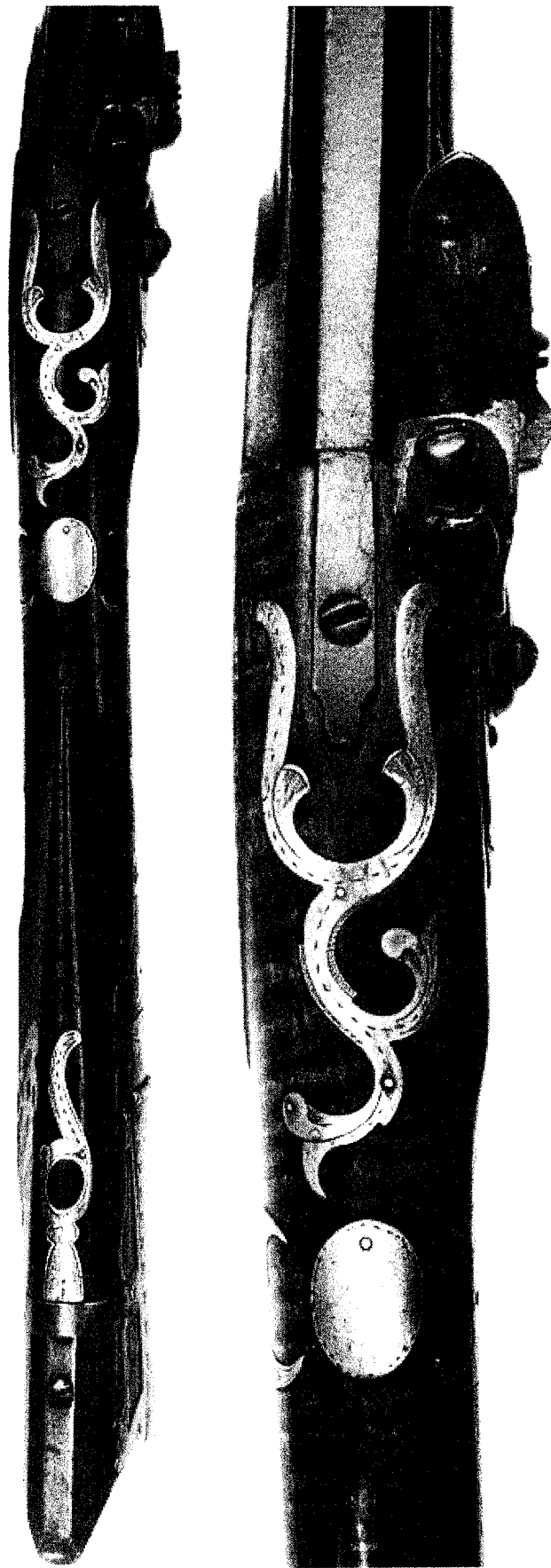
Full Stock Flintlock Rifle By Henry Walter

first U. S. Census in which there is much useful information, we find H. Walters, age 74, no occupation stated, born in Pennsylvania, in the household of George Walters, 43, farmer, Elkrun Township. George was Henry's son.

Walter is buried in the Lisbon cemetery. The grave stone gives these dates: born 24 March 1776; died 26 January 1855. His wife, Mary, was born 5 November 1778 and died 7 April 1848. The name is spelled Walter on the tombstone, although it is occasionally seen as Walters.

Mathias Walter (1767-1854) must have been his brother or close relative, not his father; their birthdates are too close. Mathias also lived in Elk Run Township. Mathias is buried in the Bownan Cemetery which is located in Section 26 of Elk Run Township. He died on 23 August 1854 at the age of 87 years, 6 months, 11 days. By tradition he was active as a gunsmith and probably worked with Henry for a while, although no gun has yet been reported.

The Walter family was large in the 19th century and confusing to follow because of the repetition of given names.





# Entries From The J.C. Vincent Pocket Diary For 1865 (Continued)



By William Reynolds

In the year 1865 when this Journal was recorded, John Caleb Vincent was living east of present day Vincent, Ohio with his parents at a location referred to as Rocky Point. He was twenty-four years old and one year away from marrying his sweetheart, Rose Barlett.

The diary covers everyday activities in Caleb's life from weather reports (which I have excluded), to temperance meetings, courtship events, spinning wheel and gun manufacturing and clock repair. It is without question one of the most revealing references to daily and community life of this exemplary gunsmith.

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Wed. March 8, 1865

In the shop. Repaired guns Jos D. Boothy  
Accident to freight train over at the trestle. Four cars went through.

Thurs. 9

In the shop most of the day. Went over to the scene of the destruction at the trestle. Rep. gun for \_\_\_\_\_ Taylor.

Editors Note

This trestle would play an important role in the life of John Caleb and Rose Vincent because twenty-two years later in 1887 their first born son would be killed there in a railroad accident.

From the Marietta Register March 16, 1887. "H. L. Vincent, the engineer, was son of J. C. Vincent, of Vincent Station, not yet 21, but a young man universally loved. He leaves with his afflicted parents, a brother and sister, but has always been a bright light in their happy home. Those who have suffered as they are called on to suffer may appreciate their sorrow, none others can."

"Herman Lyle Vincent was born July 26th 1867, died March 16, 1887. As son, as brother, as friend, as workman faithful and true."

The funeral was held at the Vincent Church Thursday at 1 p.m., and was one of the largest ever known on that neighborhood.

Fri. 10

In the shop all day. Ellen Mc Gasky got her clock. Did not pay.

Sat. 11

In the shop as usual. Finished gun for Hugh Beech. Rec. \_\_\_\_\_ 22.50.

Sun. 12

Home all day. Finished "Self-made" will. Satisfied with it.

Mon. 13

In the shop. Rep. gun for nigger. One for Martha Dandly

March 14 Tues.

In the shop. Made a gate to go in the \_\_\_\_\_ yard. Temperance meeting night. Wonder if "she" will be there. Yes "She" \_\_\_\_\_ Rosie \_\_\_\_\_ was there, I was there also, at her home. I mean a very pleasant trip. A little rain though.

Wed. 15

At work out of the shop. The \_\_\_\_\_ Withington are present this afternoon. Singing school commences this evening. The singing school was a failure this evening.

Thurs. 16

In the shop. Paid my poll Tax \$1.50.

Fri. 17

In the shop at work.

Sat. 18

Went hunting this morning. Killed a black bird thats all. Went over the Mr. Gards store after dinner. Didn't do much "all day".

Sun. 19

Went to the Glendale School house to a singing school. It was a sucess. Osmer went too, both of us going horse back over the hill of course.

Mon. 20

In the shop.  
Nothing new.

Tues. 21

In the shop at work. Repd. gun for Jonas Gilpin for which he has already paid \$.60. I trust that the singing school will open sucessfully this evening.

Wed. 22

In the shop at work. C. B. was here in the forenoon. Second sing school a sucess. Rosa was there, is going to attend regularly, good.

Thurs. 23

Went to barber this morning. Bought a new chimney burner lamp .75. The funeral of Isabella Beech took place today. Third singing school a sucess.

Fri. 24

In the shop. C. B. present. Hurt my eye. Fourth singing school \_\_\_\_\_ all present.

Sat. 25

In the shop. Not overworking myself by any means. Gun barrels arrived from Pittsburgh. No singing tonight.

Sun. 26

Went to church, heard a very good sermond delivered by Mr. Bemer.

Mon. 27

In the shop at work. Commenced a gun for Barkhurst. Todds Morgan Co.

Tues. 28

Very little done in the shop today. \_\_\_\_\_ H. gave us a call. Fixed garden fence. Temperance meeting night. The trial of J. G. Bartlett concluded decision in his \_\_\_\_\_ Bartletts favor. Rosie \_\_\_\_\_ decided in my favor by allowing my company on her journey home. Pleasant trip.

Wed. 29

Helped to clean school house.

Adelaidi, Ellen & O. B. were the other parties \_\_\_ Cleaning house I mean.  
Rifled gun for Ben C. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fifth singing school members not present "Sorry"  
O. B. boarding with us this week.

Thurs. 30

In the shop.  
Sixth school. Members not all present.

Fri. 31

In the shop.  
Seventh school. Members not all present.

Sat. April 1, 1865

In the shop on the forenoon.  
In the afternoon C. B.  
Hitchcock and myself enjoyed target shooting \_\_\_\_\_ long range rather windy practice \_\_\_\_\_ just as the circumstances would permit.  
Eight school. Rosie was present. Saw her home.  
Spent the evening and part of the morning.

Sun. 2

The usual Sunday routine this morning. Services came at 1 o'clock. Eye lids heavy can hardly tell the reason.

Mon. 3

In the shop in the forenoon.  
Went to the \_\_\_\_\_ afternoon came back and went to work.  
Not very well. No "Sing" tonight.

Tues. 4

In the shop.  
Ninth sing. Members not present.

Wed. 5

In the shop.

Finished gun for Barkhurst Todds Morgan Co. Tenth Sing. Rosa not present.  
Wm. Ezia Ormiston died A.M.  
Shot at target longrange with C. B. H. practice good.

Thurs. 6

In the shop at work.  
Eleventh sing. Scholars not all present. Went to Ezia's funeral 2 A.M.

Fri. 7

Out in the forenoon. Twelfth sing doing finely. Paid tuition \$10.00

Sat. 8

Went partridge hunting with C. B. H. this morning. Didn't see any. C. B. said he slipped off the log and shimmeled it. Singing school classes tonight. The sing a perfect sweep. House crammed to the \_\_\_\_\_. Rosie and I had a pleasant joining afterward.

Sun. 9

At home. \_\_\_\_\_ remained with us over night. Slept to 10 o'clock this morning. O. B. took \_\_\_\_\_ organ over to uncles this morning.

Mon. 10

In the shop at work.  
Commenced gun Jas. \_\_\_\_\_ Reports came that Gen. Lee has surrendered his Northern Va. army to Gen. Grant.

Tues 11

In the shop. Nothing more.

Wed. 12

At work in the shop.

Thurs. 13

At work as usual. W. H. Deming called a few minutes while on his way to Marietta.

Friday 14

Got up early and fired thirteen rounds, one revolver. One double barreled pistol, two old muskets, and three single barreled pistols, this being Thanksgiving and celebration day. Appointed by the governor, went hunting, killed nothing, returned and went to work.

Sat. 15

Went to work in shop. Finished gun for Wm. Frost. Report that President Lincoln and Secretary Seward are murdered! Great God! what if it is true. Done 14th Apr. President only killed.

Sun. 16

Easter ate two eggs for breakfast went to singing school at uncles afternoon.

Mon. 17

"Lib" and I went to Marietta on horse back. Lib lost her money purse containing about \$8.00 and a silver thimble. I am out of pocket about \$30.00. Heard of the capture of Mobile.

Tues. 18

Commenced work in the shop in the morning. Sawed stove wood afternoon. D. H. Merrill & Beo. Store was rolled of valuable goods and considerable money last evening. No clue of the robber yet. No money stolen.

Wed. 19

In the shop about three hours. Went to church. Heard two dicourses one by Mr. Bemer,

the other by Mr. Stewart subject funeral of President Lincoln.

Thurs. 20

Hauling and splitting stove wood all day.

Fri. 21

In the shop part of the day.

Sat. 22

In the shop at work. John Ormiston plowed our garden this forenoon.

Sun. 23

Went to church. Eliza with \_\_\_\_\_ and O. B. came with us - Lib and I - making the rest of the choir come to our house about four aft. We had a very good sing.

Mon. 24

At work in the shop as usual. Finished repairing gun for A. Wolcott.

Tues. 25

At work in the shop. The \_\_\_\_\_ Lawton were here visiting this afternoon. Commenced gun for J. W. Messill.

Wed. 26

At work in shop. Jim Ormiston wants one to work on the Preble Highway Monday next May 1st. I paid him one dollar and a half to hire a hand in my place. C. B. was here today.

Thurs 27

In the shop at work. Paid to sister Elizabeth \$50.00. Nothing more.