
THE
ASSOCIATION
OF OHIO
LONGRIFLE
COLLECTORS



FOR THE STUDY AND PRESERVATION
OF THE OHIO MUZZLELOADING RIFLE

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16th Annual
AOLRC

ANTIQUÉ GUN
AND ARMS SHOW

Saturday, September 27
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Grotto Hall
124 Waterworks Road
Newark, Ohio



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President's Letter



Fellow members,

Our 39th Annual Meeting and Exhibit in Marietta has come and gone, and now is probably a good time to once again thank the members who graciously put forward the time, effort, and expense to bring their fine rifles for the membership and the public to view.

Long time member, past president, and current Board Member Rod Frazier was selected to receive the Forest Tilton Distinguished Service Award. The Award was presented by Warren Offenberger at our 39th Annual Membership Meeting. Rod has the very important job of managing our highly regarded web site – www.aolrc.org – and, in addition, “maps out” the table arrangement and assignments for our exhibit in Marietta. Congratulations, Rod.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our 16th Annual Antique Gun and Arms Show to be held on Saturday, September 27, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Grotto Hall, 124 Waterworks Road, Newark, Ohio. Contact Jim Claggett for information on table availability. This is a “buy, sell, and trade” show, but only pre-1898 firearms may be exhibited or offered for sale. Of course, accessories and related items of either antique or modern manufacture can be offered. Some very fine and rare firearms and related items can be seen and purchased at this show!

Our 9th Annual August Picnic and Shoot was again held at the Centerburg Conservation Club, and while the attendance was down a bit, enthusiasm was not! Steve Stull won the first choice in the blanket shoot by virtue of having the least wide shot. Alan Corbett won the Scheutzen contest, although he had to borrow an original Ohio rifle to make the winning shot. He has the honor of providing next year's target for the Scheutzen match.

Because of a scheduling conflict, our 2015 Annual Meeting in Marietta at the Lafayette Hotel will be shortened. We will set up as usual Friday night, March 27, and enjoy the buffet and fellowship. Our Exhibit will be limited to Saturday, March 28 only, making this the only one day show in our history. To prevent this from happening in the future, we have scheduled our dates for a two-day show for the following four years.

Our congratulations go out to Ken and Diane Leonard for winning the Antiques Division at the Ohio Gun Collectors annual display show. Their display of David Leonard rifles and effects was certainly worthy of the top spot!

It is my sad duty to report on the deaths of two long-time members and supporters of our organization. Don Hutslar and Dale Lothes passed in June, and both will be sorely missed.

Tom Oakes





EDWARD ARN



Edward Arn was born May 22, 1839 in Niederbipp Parish, Switzerland, and died October 10, 1978 in Boonville, Missouri. He married Thousnelde Neuberger May 12, 1863 in Marietta, Ohio. His wife Thousnelde was born April 22, 1844 in Pettersheim, Germany, and died January 24, 1896 in Boonville, Missouri.

Edward Arn was listed as a gunsmith in the 1864 and 1868 Marietta, Ohio, business directories. His marriage produced several children, three of whom were born in Marietta. Sometime between 1868 and 1870 Edward moved with his family to Boonville, Missouri, where he was listed as a gunsmith.

Volume V of our *Ohio Gunsmiths and Allied Tradesmen* lists an entry from the *Marietta Times*, July 13, 1865 that provides an account of a burglary at the gunsmith shop of Edward Arn on Front Street in Marietta. Volume I, Number 1 of the Newsletter of the Association of Ohio Long Rifle Collectors contains an article on A. C. McGirr by Warren Offenberger in which he provides evidence that McGirr and Arn worked together for at least a brief period.

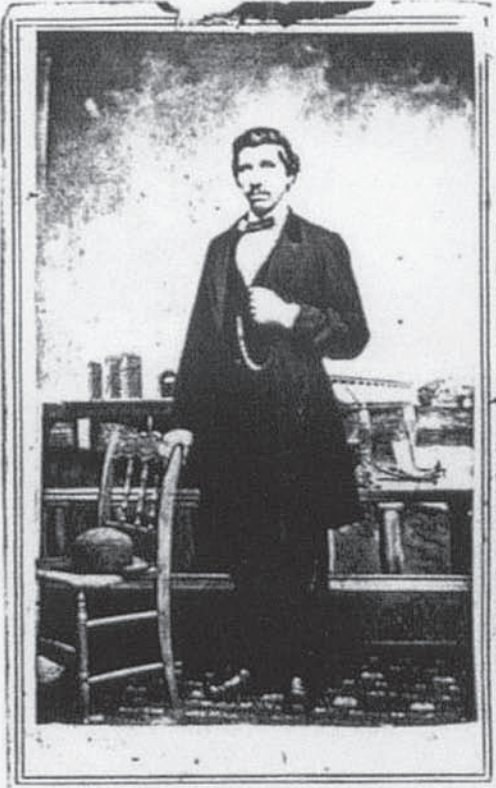
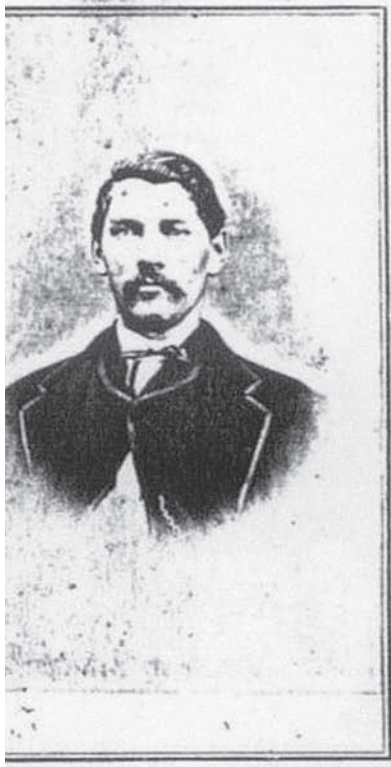
Dr. Alan Haan of Oswego, Illinois has collected much information on Edward Arn, and has graciously provided copies to the AOLRC. Unfortunately, most of the information concerns Edward's business as the owner of a gunsmith and sporting goods store in Boonville, Missouri. Edward's only son, Ferdinand (Ferd), carried on the family sporting goods business, and later branched out into the bicycle and automobile business.

Edward's estate records lists gunsmith tools and shooting supplies in his personal property,

as well as a Henry rifle. His personal property list appears to be an inventory of his gun shop. Edward's death was attributed to an overdose of mandrake root, but he was also suffering from malarial fever.

The pictures of the rifles were provided by Bill Reynolds. The first rifle, which greatly resembles a Vincent rifle, is stamped "E. ARN". The second rifle, which more closely resembles a generic Ohio half-stock, is stamped "A. C. McGirr" and "Marietta, OH", and has a small brass plate between those stamps with "E. ARN".





WM. LATOUR, ARTIST,
New Brick Row, N. side of Main st., second door West of
SEDALIA, MO. NEGATIVE PRESENT

Ed Allen

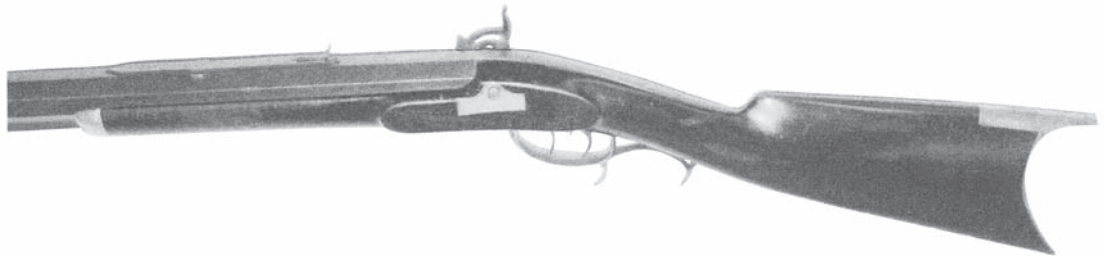
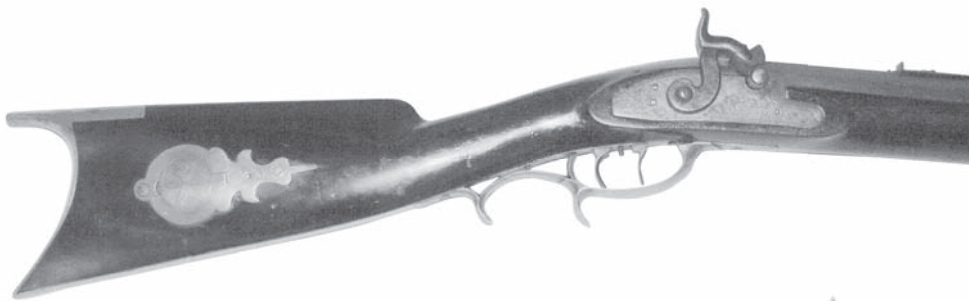
Ed Allen

W. F. BENNET,
PHOTOGRAPHER,
Marietta, O.
Near the Post Office.

Ed Allen

Nov 1870

Two Rifles by Edward Arn





Hiram Wheeler



By

Thomas L. Oakes

Hiram Wheeler was born circa 1807 in Culpepper, Virginia, the illegitimate son of a slave master, John James Wheeler and his mistress Polly. In J. J. Wheeler's last will and testament of 1811, he emancipated all eleven of his slaves and ordered executors to make certain that these newly freed slaves got to the state of Ohio. However, before Hiram reached Ohio he was sent to Pennsylvania to be raised by a Quaker family. What happened to his mother Polly and to his siblings Nancy and Abner remains a mystery. It was in Pennsylvania that Hiram was most likely immersed in the strong abolitionist movement of this time. The American Anti-slavery Society was formed in Philadelphia in 1833. Hiram later became an agent in the underground railroad. Hiram also met his wife-to-be, Juliet Ann Miller, in Pennsylvania. She also may have been born in Culpepper County, Virginia, circa 1812, of Hessian descent.

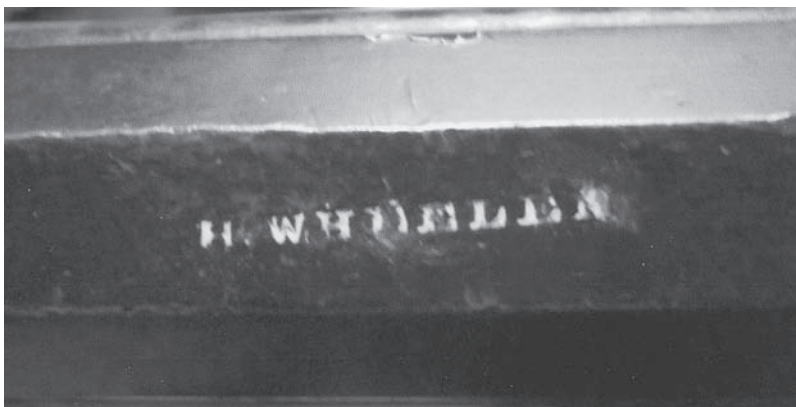
Although Hiram and Juliet are supposed to have met in Pennsylvania, they were married in Fairfield County, Ohio. From there they moved to Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio. Here they had ten children together – from oldest to youngest James, Harrison, William, Mary, Luuru, Lloyd, Clarissa, Robert, Hiram, and Charles.

Hiram's business was reported to have been on the first block of Park Avenue East, and the home on the second block of East Third Street. The Wheeler home was a known stop on the underground railroad. Although Ohio was a free state, the Compromise of 1850 as crafted by Senator Henry Clay took away the peace of mind that freedmen and women had, who feared that any day they or their children might be sold into slavery down south. Hiram and his family fled the United States to Chatam, Ontario, Canada in 1860.

Hiram and Juliet are listed in the U. S. census of 1850, and as property owners in Richland County, Ohio in 1857. Juliet died in 1861 and Hiram passed in 1867.

(The above information is from the research done by the late Robert Corbett of Mansfield, Ohio.)





WHAT ABOUT SHOOTING AND THE BORE?

by



Mark Barnhill



For many collectors, the primary interests are in the age of the rifle, where it was made, who made it, and the aesthetics of the rifle. For those who intend to shoot an antique rifle, soundness of construction and bore condition is paramount.

As technology and the study of ballistics developed during the nineteenth century, rifle makers competed amongst themselves to develop the most accurate rifles. The rates of twist necessary for the lengths of bullets were established. Lengthening the bullet and increasing the rate of spin increased the stability of the bullet in flight, and therefore accuracy improved at longer ranges. The invention of the false muzzle in the 1840's also advanced accuracy by assuring the bullet was started into the muzzle precisely.

The evolution of bench rest shooting, a uniquely American sport, provided opportunities for the finest gunsmiths to compete and share notes. It was in part due to this activity that the most accurate target rifles of that age were developed. (Many of these sporting guns were used as "sniper" rifles during the Civil War.) Clubs were formed, with the most well known being "The National Rifle Club at Vernon, Vermont". During the last quarter of the nineteenth century this club included some of the finest riflemen America had produced. Precision bench rest matches were held in New York, Ohio, and as far west as Colorado, and perhaps beyond. It is likely that they tended to emerge in areas with a concentration of gunsmiths dedicated to producing extremely accurate rifles.

The Schuetzen matches were a wide spread German tradition that continued in America until the outbreak of World War I. Many "German" clubs met regularly for festivals which included 100 and 200 yard offhand target shooting. These matches were widely popular, and schuetzen parks emerged across the northern and eastern United States where high concentrations of German folks emigrated. These matches were spread as far as Texas and San Francisco.

Most well known were the small town "shoots", where local marksmen competed for fun, sport, and prizes. In my research I found that during the 1930's corned beef, coffee, and potatoes were included as prizes at the Canal Fulton "Grocery" matches. During the depression the muzzle loader was still "bringing home the bacon" for a few here in Ohio.

Black powder is corrosive, and if a rifle is shot and not cleaned immediately it will rust. Left unattended, the rifle's bore will soon be ruined, and accuracy will be impossible. Many common or hunting rifles suffered this fate. The wealthier – or more dedicated – shooters who could afford an expensive target rifle were more likely to carefully clean and care for the rifle after use. For that reason, many fine target rifles have been passed down to future generations in good shooting condition.



For various reasons, the rifling in a barrel was often re-cut during the old days. “Gilt edge” accuracy is spoken of in old accounts and, like today, shooters often blamed the rifle instead of the shooter if a match was lost. It was believed that accuracy could be restored by “freshening”, or re-freshening, the rifling. Lapping or re-cutting the rifling was often performed by a gunsmith after a certain amount of shooting. One wonders if the gunsmiths who promoted re-cutting were simply seeking more business. At any rate, freshening may have improved things, or it may have provided hope to a shooter who wasn’t achieving the accuracy he hoped for.

Rifle barrels are individuals. They are all different. During the nineteenth century, Remington cast steel probably gained the best reputation in America for long lasting barrel material. Barrels could be bought in any state of completion, and the gunsmith could finish the bore and cut the rifling in the barrel according to his own wishes. Gunsmiths and shooters recommended and used different patch material, lead alloys, oils, cleaning techniques, and powder types and charges. All of these variables may have an effect on the life of the barrel.

It is not possible to determine the accuracy of a barrel by inspecting the bore, but a visual inspection is where we start. Some gunsmiths varied their work, and a few like Reinhard of Ohio experimented a great deal trying various approaches. Shooters of today try to evaluate barrels by determining the rate of twist, the depth and number of the grooves, the width of the lands, the presence of any choke, and the bore diameter. We feel for roughness, any inconsistencies in bore diameter, and any rings or flaws that may have developed from use or abuse. Once a barrel is deemed acceptable for shooting, the proper bullet, patch material, and powder charge needs to be determined. Sometimes, after lengthy experimentation with these and other variables, surprising accuracy can be achieved at the range.

In America, the genius in the creation of the target rifle lies inside, unseen. Target rifles may have been cut with a gain twist or a uniform twist, with a tapered bore, choked bore, or a uniform bore, with a slow twist or a fast twist, with deep grooves or shallow grooves, or with a lapped bore or an un-lapped bore.

Combinations of these variables, and countless others, no doubt prompted endless discussions in the nineteenth century, and such discussions continue today. Sometimes an antique bore that looks beautiful will not perform no matter what is tried, and sometimes a worn bore will surprise us with good accuracy. Regardless, there were a handful of gunsmiths who consistently produced the best rifles of their time. It is exciting and extremely satisfying to shoot and be competitive with one of their rifles that was handcrafted in the nineteenth century.



LADIES OF AOLRC NEWS

What is happening to time??? It seems like just yesterday we were all gathered in Marietta and now it is almost September and the Newark show is quickly approaching. My 92 year old mother-in-law has told me that our lives are like a roll of toilet paper. The closer we are to the end, the faster it goes!!!! What a reality!

Our Marietta show was a great time of fellowship and catching up on each others' lives and gun trades and acquisitions. We ladies enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Levee House followed by a narrated tour of Marietta on the trolley. Attendance was great and everyone enjoyed the afternoon. Our only disappointment at the Marietta show was the conflict of dates for next year's show. The Lafayette had us booked on Easter weekend which was not going to work. The only other time available for 2015 is March 27 and March 28. That is going to make it a one day show. We will set up on Friday as usual with the sandwich and salad bar that evening. Our exhibit will be Saturday only with a 9:00 to 5:00 time frame. It will be something different this year but I am sure we will all manage. Mark Herman has made certain the next few years will not cause this conflict as he has already booked the dates through 2018.

August again provided us with fall-like weather which made our picnic and shoot even more enjoyable. Attendance was down this year with only about 25 present, however, Charlie Ebright's being there made the day even more enjoyable. As you may notice in the pictures he did need a little shut eye in the afternoon but how happy we all were to have him there with us. There were 8 shooters and our women came through with flying colors again this year. Barb Harwood and Donna Barnhill excelled on the range and took home some prizes. Barb Harwood created the Schuetzen target this year and the winning prize went to Allen Corbett (check out the pictures). As always the food was plentiful and delicious. It is a great afternoon. Plan to come next August! Also check out the poem at the end of this letter. Barb wrote it and read it to the shooters before they shot at the target.

The Newark show will be the end of September – Saturday the 27th from 9:00am-4:00pm. Jim Clagget works hard putting this show together. Friday afternoon and night we will be setting up the tables and then enjoying pizza and time to visit. Then it is time for a good night's rest to be ready for the show on Saturday. Hope you can make it.

Hope this newsletter finds you
all well. Hope to see you soon!

Judy

Barb's Poem
(With clues to the target)

Some species are protected
Some species are not.
Some you want to "crow about"
Some maybe not.
Don't jump to conclusions
But have an eagle eye
You might need to "crane your neck"
Who gives a "hoot" – Just have a good time!
Be foxy and pay attention
I'm giving you no bull.
So try and do your best
Because one place on the target
Could put you to the test!!

August Picnic



39th A.O.L.R.C. Marietta Exhibit - 2014

