

# EDITOR'S NOTES

In this issue we have more information from unlisted or under-reported Ohio gunsmiths. It is always interesting to discover things behind the names inscribed or stamped on Ohio rifles, a record of sorts that allows a search through sources of information that include county records, newspapers, and in recent years the internet, with sites such as "Find a Grave."

While many makers have been documented and recorded in works such as Donald Hutslar's foundational work *Gunsmiths of Ohio, 18th and 19th Centuries* (followed by the five volume set published by AOLRC), the works of Dr. James Whisker, and other volumes published by the AOLRC, there are still many undocumented makers, or makers whose name appears in a book, but for which there are no examples of their work to act as data points when we are trying to figure out what sort of things they made.

That said, there are hundreds of Ohio rifles in existence with no makers names, sometimes only tantalizing names of lock makers, assemblers, or sellers. Sometimes there is only the name of a town or city, and maybe the state. Or what proves to be a barrel maker, or occasionally an owner, rather than a maker.

Of course, the name of the maker can sometimes represent the work of several people, and may be the name of the master gunsmith or owner of an establishment—the names of apprentices or hired (or unhired) hands not recorded. Or

simply no clues in writing. (See this issue for what may be an example of an acknowledged cooperation between two Tuscarawas county makers.)

All said, there is still plenty to be researched about Ohio makers (both past and present) and their creations—and this newsletter always welcomes submissions, photographs, and ideas with notes for articles. Please see below about submitting items to the newsletter.

Another item of interest is the accession of the AOLRC Newsletter into the archives of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, in Cody Wyoming, a prominent museum of firearms and Western history. This accession marks a significant acknowledgment of the efforts of many members over several decades to research the Ohio rifle, accoutrements, gunsmiths, and related craftsmen. It also serves as a permanent archive for existing issues of the newsletter. I would like to thank Nathan E. Bender and others in the BBC and former AOLRC editor Ronald Yerian for making this happen. (See a facsimile of the acceptance letter elsewhere in the newsletter.)

**Note:** Special thanks to Mark Barnhill, Jim Claggett, Jim Clippinger, Danny Coler, Barbara Harwood, Mark Herman, Bob Statler, "an interested collector of Ohio rifles," and others for contributions to this issue. We always appreciate information and photographs supplied by Dr. James Whisker.

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## GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION

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1. The preferred format for articles is a Word document. Please use size 12 font, single or double space, 1 inch margins.
2. In rare cases, handwritten materials (and/or non-digital photos, illustrations, etc.) can be submitted. Please contact the editor by email.
3. Articles in Word (or compatible system), photos (j-pegs or other formats), and correspondence can be emailed to this address: mabgogo@yahoo.com
4. Please put "AOLRCfile" in the subject line of the email.
5. Please run a spelling and grammar check on your e-files and otherwise proofread them.
6. Please put the **title and author's name** at the top of the article; use the same font size for the whole article.
7. **Photographs** can be color or black and white. If you are not a professional, good results can be obtained by taking photos of objects in soft, outdoor light. Lay the object on a non-reflective black background (blanket, etc.) with no background clutter. Please keep in mind how a color image might look if presented in black and white. Photos should be clear and sharp. (Professionals will, of course, have their own protocols.)
8. Use **past issues as a guideline** to content. Ideas for articles include local or family histories of pre-1900 Ohio gunsmiths and the use of muzzle-loading arms; detailed descriptions of representative or unique rifles (in terms of features or level of craftsmanship); accoutrements; short interviews with AOLRC members relating to collecting and appreciation of the Ohio long rifle as a folk art; accounts of early shooting clubs, shoots, tales, etc.
9. The newsletter is normally published twice a year. Submissions are always welcome, however timely notices for the Spring or Fall shows need to be received **at least 6 weeks** in advance.

# LETTER FROM THE BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST

## **BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST**

January 25, 2023

Association of Ohio Long Rifle Collectors  
c/o Mark Bender  
P.O. Box 218  
Tremont City, OH 45372

Dear AOLRC:

Thank you for the back issues of the newsletter of the AOLRC. These have been added to the periodical holdings of the McCracken Research Library, Buffalo Bill Center of the West. Please see the enclosed receipt and inventory list of actual issues received.

This contribution from your organization helps to build our collections on American firearms history and technology in a substantial manner. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nathan E. Bender  
Research Assistant  
McCracken Research Library

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*Facsimile of letter accepting AOLRC Newsletter in the Buffalo Center of the West archive, Cody, Wyoming.  
(photo courtesy of Nathan E. Bender)*