

**SELECT SPECIFICATIONS:**

Overall length: 51¾"

Barrel: 1½" across at 35½" length

Lock: marked "warranted"

*Note: Since the writing of this article at least one other*

*S. Beigh rifle has come to light, which may be introduced in the future. Images of S. Beigh rifles have recently appeared on websites including Lot-Art, Morphy's Auction/Proxibid, and GunBroker.com, though the origin of S. Beigh is stated in these postings as unknown – a situation this article has remedied. – Mark Bender*



*Bob Stalter holding S. Beigh rifle described in this article. (photo by Mark Bender)*

# DETAILS OF A PETER KEITH RIFLE

BY MARK BENDER

Dr. James Whisker has supplied photos of a rifle attributed to Peter Keith (see “Notes on Ohio Gunsmith Families” in this issue). This seems to be the same rifle discussed on a thread on the American Longrifles site in late 2022. The rifle was likely made in Noble County Ohio, and has a certain “look” of some rifles from that part of Ohio. Of particular interest is the unique patchbox which caused some degree of consternation on the American Longrifles site due to its unusual design. One commentator described it as an animal “pelt” in shape. I suggest the patchbox is exemplary of the kind of individual creativity sometimes found

on Ohio rifles, which an individual might conceive and sometimes utilize on more than one gun. This is fully in line with what we know about the nature of folk material culture, in which variation is expected in the work of individual makers. The long, slim rifle is appointed with typical brass mounts of the era and locale and would seem to be a hunting rifle. Since no measurements are available, the pictures will speak for themselves.

*Note: The url for the informative American Longrifles website is: <https://americanlongrifles.com>*



*Patchbox of Peter Keith Rifle. (photo courtesy of James Whisker)*



*Lock side of Peter Keith marked rifle. (photo courtesy of James Whisker)*



*Initials on inlay in buttstock. (photo courtesy of James Whisker)*



*Cheekpiece side of Peter Keith marked rifle. (photo courtesy of James Whisker)*