

Meet the Directors

BY LIZA KINDIG

My name is Liza Kindig and I was elected to the board of directors in 2018. I live in Seville, Ohio in an 1860 house that has been deprived of all its original character and charm. It will be a years long process to bring some of that back but it is a challenge I look forward to. Besides the A.O.L.R.C., I am a member of the Contemporary Longrifle Association and the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association. I enjoy all aspects of early American history and particularly the study of the evolution of material culture as it pertains to rifles and accoutrements from early Kentucky and Pennsylvania makers through the westward movement into Ohio and beyond.

I have attended the Marietta show many times but many of you know me from the Log Cabin Shop in Lodi. I spent some time there as a small child coming to work with my dad, Bob Kindig, but when he left the store in 1990 to do other things I was out of the historical loop until I started working at the Cabin in 2002. Originally just to help on Saturdays when it was busy and maybe do a little house keeping. I think that lasted for two weeks and I have been there full time ever since.

When Dan Kindig, who most of you know, as he served on the A.O.L.R.C. board for many years, retired in 2015 I became part owner with my uncle Rick Kindig. My interest in Ohio rifles was definitely seeded there but maybe it is genetic. My grandfather, Wes Kindig started the Log Cabin Shop in 1940 with a passion for antiques and antique rifles in particular. Since then the shop and Wes's collection, which until 1997 was private, has grown tremendously to the current museum that is on display in Lodi. The collection includes 90 Ohio rifles, 60 US military rifles plus numerous artifacts related to the gun building industry, allied trades and associated accoutrements.

I enjoy adding pieces to this great Ohio collection whenever possible but what I enjoy

most is sharing the collection with enthusiastic people. Be it gun builders looking to replicate the style of a particular maker or being able to share the creation of an Ohio maker with one of his descendants working on a genealogy project. It is always a great joy to take a gun off of the wall to share the history with someone. There are many members of this organization, some no longer with us but many that are, that have been so generous sharing their knowledge and passion for Ohio rifles and history with me. As I continue to learn and grow, I hope to have the opportunity to pay that forward. This organization is an invaluable resource to historians and collectors and should be promoted and cherished long into the future.

As a new director I intend to do anything I can to keep the association thriving and help it grow in the future. I think my position with the Log Cabin offers unique opportunities for spreading word of the association both at the store and at the events I travel to as I never go to an event without membership flyers. I welcome any and all comments, questions, concerns and ideas from you and look forward to serving you in every way I can. Please never hesitate to contact me.



Liza Kindig holds an elaborately inlaid "B. Musgrave" rifle marked "BM" in rocker engraving (Mark Bender).

The Rifle in the Picture

Liza Kindig is holding a rifle bearing the initials "BM" – standing for "B. Musgrave" -- on the top barrel flat between the breech and back sight. The name is inscribed in rocker engraving into a piece of brass framed by a strip of silver inlet into the iron barrel. The rifle is covered with ornate German silver (some may be silver) inlays of various shapes and sizes, ranging from a side plate nearly 7 inches in length, to patterns 1 inch long repeated along the fore stock – and several other sizes in between. All are engraved in a rocker technique used on numerous Kentucky rifles of an earlier age, trade silver brooches, armbands, etc., and rifles made for the Western trade throughout the 19th century. The rifle, with a 42" by 7/8" barrel, has a back-action lock (5 1/2 inches long) that allows some architectural possibilities not possible with the more popular style of sidelocks, especially the exceptionally long and ornate side plate. Musgrave was active c. 1850 in Ironton, Lawrence county in the southernmost part of Ohio along the Ohio River. Hutslar (1973:230) reports that an article in Muzzle Blasts, 1955, describes a Musgrave rifle as follows "a very handsome full-stock Musgrave rifle trimmed with German silver from butt-plate to fore-end tip. The inlays and hardware are all engraved and the escutcheons are large and very ornate." Is it possible this rifle is the one that Liza Kindig is holding?



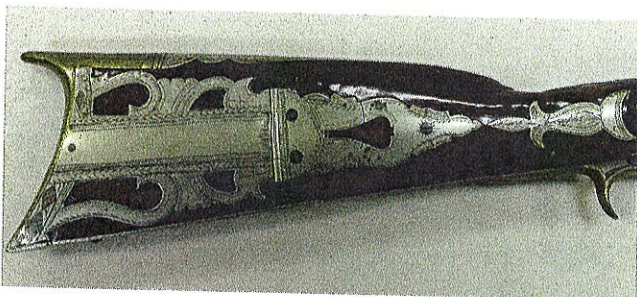
Side-plate profile of the B. Musgrave rifle held by Liza Kindig (Mark Bender).



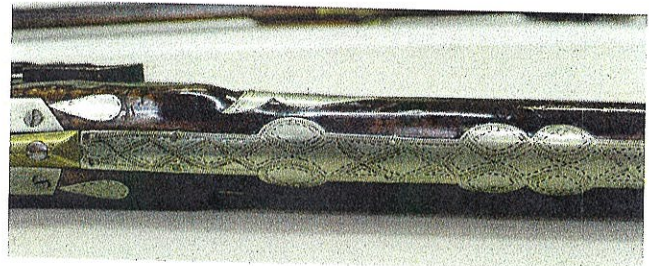
Detail of the cheek-piece side inlays (Mark Bender).



Detail of lock area inlays (Mark Bender).



Patchbox of the B. Musgrave rifle held by Liza Kindig (Mark Bender).



Detail of wear-plate inlays (Mark Bender).