

Editors Note:

Shortly after Shelby submitted his article on the Mercer County Horns, he discovered another gem that needed to be included. Shown are 5 views of Shelby's latest discovery.

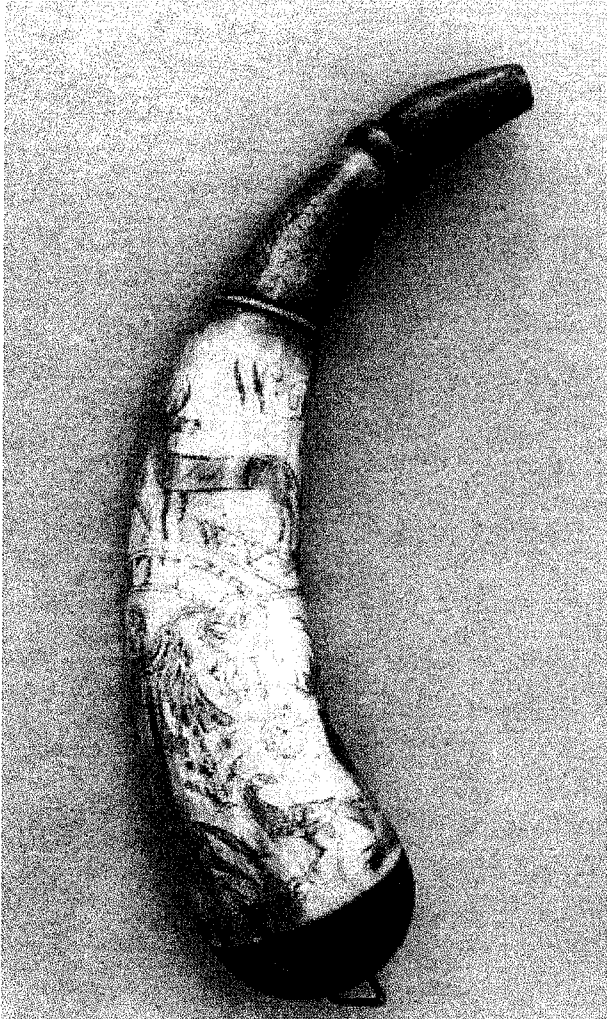


Illustration No. 13a: The "W. V." horn was discovered after the article was written, so is not discussed or listed in the Mercer County Horn Inventory. The smallest horn, 10 ½" on the outside curve, is heavily carved, and significant due to being signed by the carver "W. D." His script initials are seen above the deer. Also note the owner's initials "W. V." in block letters just below the deer.



Illustration No. 13 b: The "W. V." horn has a finely carved deer, one of two on the horn. Also note the date "1852" and the standing figure with a chicken held by the neck in one hand, and a raised hatchet in the other. The horn has four figures of men, three in the upper section, and a hunter with rifle in the lower section.

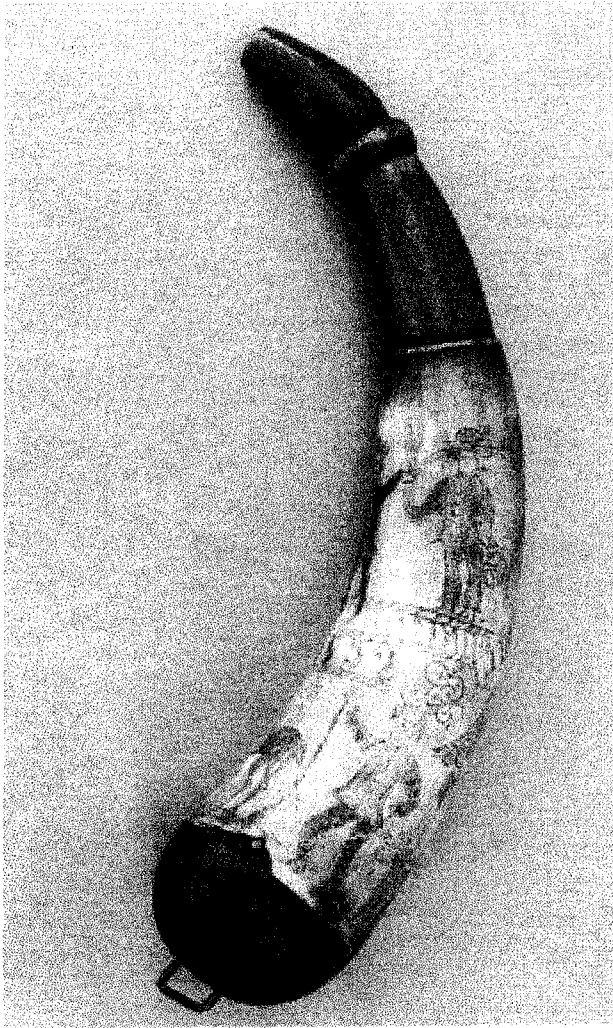


Illustration No. 13 e: This view of the "W.V." horn clearly shows the hunter with his longrifle, his hunting dog just behind him, and the second of three standing figures in the upper section of the horn. Here the hatchet held by the first figure can be seen, and a butcher knife in the hand of the second figure.



Illustration No. 13 e: Close-up view of the hunter figure and his longrifle. The head of his dog is behind him, and a large, well carved deer with head turned back over its shoulder is in front of him. It appears like the hunter was having a bad hair day.



Illustration No. 13 d: The trademark rooster headed eagle is seen, with a "LIBERTY" banner overhead. Also note the third standing figure in the upper section, also with a butcher knife in his hand. Below the eagle is a hunting dog. Stain, or polychrome, can be seen on the vine leaves in the eagle's left [viewer's right] talon. However, most of the polychroming is badly faded on this Mercer County horn.

John Clark Pennsylvania/Ohio Gunsmith

By
Paul L. Zeiher

John was born in Pennsylvania in 1789. His wife, Sarah was born in New Jersey in 1788.

According to the Reading Alder of June 19, 1804 he was living in Reading, Pennsylvania.

In his book, Thoughts on the Kentucky Rifle in its Golden Age, Joe Kindig believes that Clark either learned his trade or worked for some time with John Mewhirter.

John and his wife, Mary, had purchased property (Lot 157) in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania in 1809. He was listed on the tax lists as gunsmith from 1809 to 1819. In August of 1819, they sold that property to John Mull for \$1,554.00.

Clark had purchased gunsmithing tools and supplies including 20 gunstocks for \$.23 at William Mewhirter's sale on December 23, 1814.

Between 1819 and 1821, he may have worked in Northern Virginia. One very fine gun that was in the Kindig Collection was marked Sheets and Clark. He evidently worked with some of the Sheets family of Shepherdstown.

In 1821, he had moved to Canton, Ohio. His shop was on the corner of Canton and Tuscarawas Streets. In 1833, he moved to West Brookfield, Ohio. This small town was later incorporated into Canton. Along with his gunsmith business, John ran a hotel at the corner of Tuscarawas and Walnut Street.

The Ohio Repository of February 24, 1821 ran this ad:

John Clark, gunsmith,
Tuscarawas Street, Canton wishes to inform his customers that he will take payments of debts due, and for articles in his line of business, Beeswax, tallow, sugar, linen, and flax. Old brass and copper will also be received.

Clark's son was a drummer in the Mexican War. In 1828, Clark was appointed ladder man in the fire department.

On February 5, 1824, John advertised in the Ohio Repository for a runaway apprentice:

ONE CENT REWARD

Absconded from my service on Wednesday last an indented apprentice to the tinsmithing business named John Slusser. He is about 19 years old, 5 feet 8 inches high and slender built. All persons are forbidden to trust or harbor said boy. The above reward will be given for returning him.

John Clark, Canton

On August 4, 1832, John Clark along with Joseph W. Plummer were issued a joint patent for a method to manufacture rifles.

Business must have been good for Clark. In November of 1835, he advertised in the Ohio Repository for a journeyman gunsmith.

Clark's work shows a great similarity to John Mewhirter. His carving is very similar and he was a very good craftsman.

Clark died in 1854.