



Pin holding barrel in stock: 3 5/8" from anterior end of nose-cap  
 Ramrod-pipes: 1 3/8" in length; exterior width, 3/8"; anterior pipe has engraved line encircling both ends (less than 1/16" from each end)  
 Rib (exposed portion): 24 1/4"  
 Lock plate: 4 1/2" length; 7/8" widest width.  
 Hammer: 2 7/16" high  
 Percussion drum: 7/16" in width; 1/2" length (protruding)  
 Stock: end of nose-cap to lower end of butt-plate, 27"; to upper end of butt-plate, 27 1/4"; anterior end of trigger-guard to anterior end of nose-cap, 11 1/16"  
 Height at lock screw, 1 13/16"; width at lock screw, 1 5/16"  
 Height in front of nose of stock 1 11/16"; width in front of nose of stock, 1 5/16"

Rear lock panels: width of stock at anterior end of trigger guard, 1 3/8"; width of anterior of trigger-guard, 7/16"; length of curving line of panel that extends 1 1/2" from end of trigger-guard up to the top of barrel channel

There is a small metal flash protecting plate held on with two tiny screws in front of the lock on the wooden stock panel. The profile of the outside curve is approximately 2 1/4"

There is a small metal flash protecting plate above the lock, along the tang, held by two tiny screws: length 1 1/2"; width 9/16"

Trigger-guard: overall length, 7 3/8"; anterior width 7/16"; posterior width, 7/16"; widest point of bow, 21/32"

Set-triggers: approximate length of trigger-plate, 4 1/2"; width, 7/16". Length of front (straight) trigger, 13/16"

Butt-plate: length of upper of butt-plate, 3 5/16"; distance between top end of butt-plate and bottom end, 4"; widest width, 1 1/4"

Cheek-piece: the elongated lozenge emerges from a carved line beginning on the other side of the nose of the stock and flow down in two long

curves that splits in two lines: the upper and lower edges of the long cheek-piece  
 Length of cheek-piece: 7 1/2"  
 Width of two planes of cheek-piece, measured 1 1/2" from anterior end of butt-plate (see diagram):  
 Top plane: 1 3/4"  
 Bottom plane: 2 3/8"  
 Widest width of stock at cheek-piece (near posterior): 1 7/16"  
 Width of stock at anterior end of cheek-piece: 1 5/16"  
 Nose-cap: length at bottom 1 13/16" to end of nose-cap; length of top side flanges 15/16" to end of nose-cap; height, 1 1/8" width 1 1/8"  
 Toe-plate: brass, 2 1/2" by 9/16", held on by two small metal pins (probably iron); the top pin is 1/4" from the end towards the muzzle, while the second pin is 1 3/4" from that end  
 Side-plate: comma-shape, 1" long; 5/8" wide

(Special thanks to Marston Bender for supplying the measurements.)

### Sources:

Hutslar, Donald A. (1998). *Ohio Gunsmiths and Allied Tradesmen, 1750-1959, Vol. IV*. Association of Ohio Longrifle Collectors.

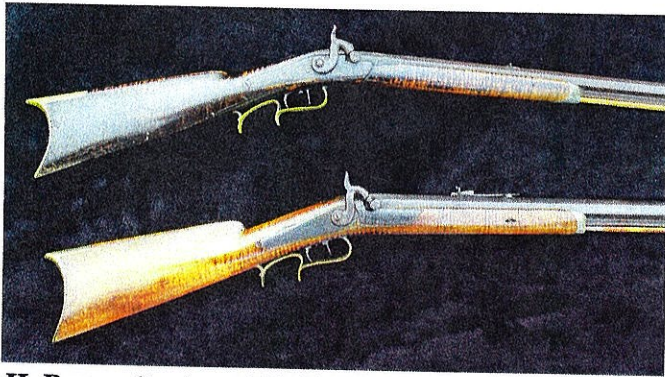
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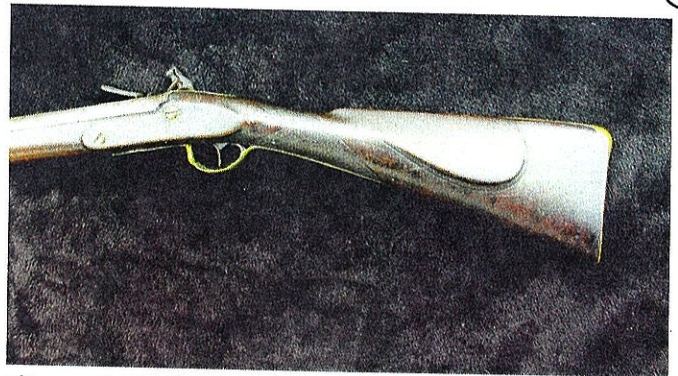
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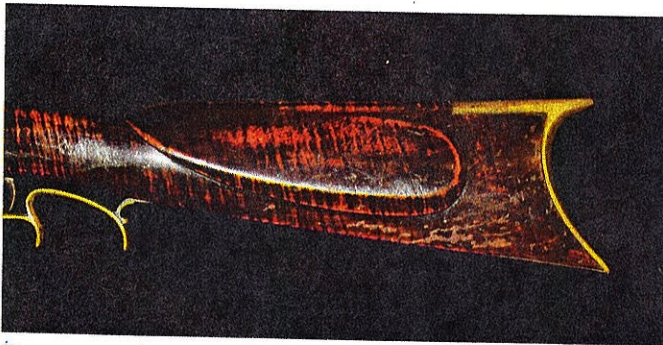
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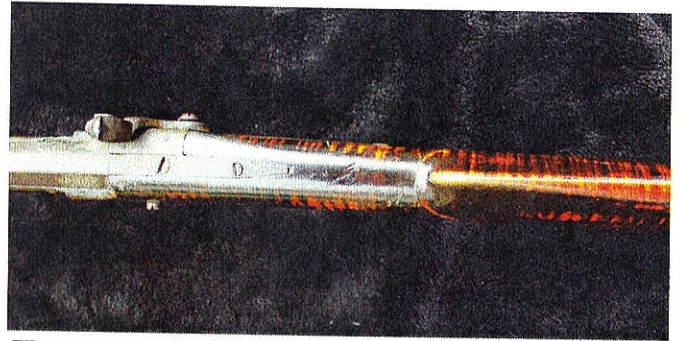
*H. Burns (top) and C. Siebert (bottom) Ohio rifles.*



*Curved cheekpiece on early 19<sup>th</sup> century fowling piece with flintlock marked by the famous Leige, Belgium arms merchant J.A. Gosuin.*



*Lozenge-shaped cheek piece on H. Burns rifle.*



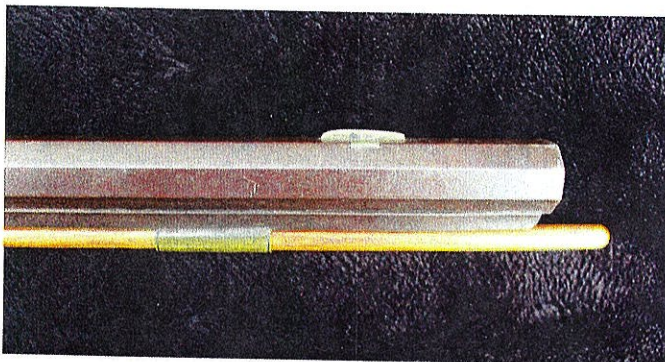
*H. Burns tang and stock molding.*



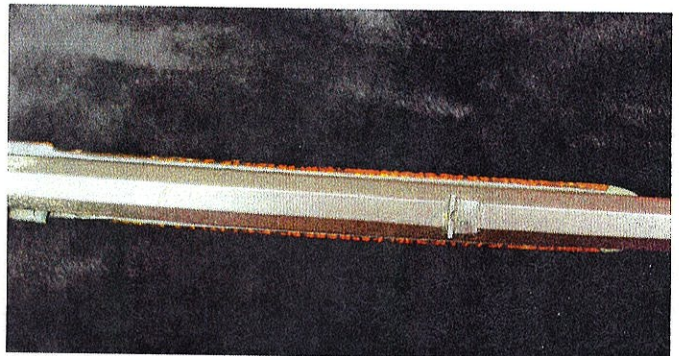
*Lock mortise details on H. Burns rifle.*



*Back-action lock on mid-19<sup>th</sup> century import double-barrel shotgun; family heirloom, Marion, Ohio.*



*Front sight, H. Burns rifle.*



*H. Burns signature and back sight.*



# Selections from the Account Book of Alexander Ager

Alexander Ager, a gunsmith from New Rumley, Harrison County, Ohio, was featured in the first issue of this newsletter (published in August, 1979) in an article by F. G. Tilton (1979:4-6). The article gives background on Ager and contains photos of a half-stock rifle covered in silver inlays. There is also a photo of part of a page from Ager's daybook written in the flowing penmanship of the day – which should not be surprising as Ager was for a time also a local school teacher. The article provides some background on Ager and includes several excerpts from the account book, which includes occasional entries from 1849-1895.

The entries note various transactions with local customers and reveal that Ager was not only a gunsmith, but a general repairperson who could patch coffee pots and buckets, tin bread pans, clean clocks, and make instruments for pulling and “plugging” teeth. At times he notes “grinding 4 pairs of scissors,” “soldering candlesticks + dipper,” aiding “Widow Shauner of Jonathan to stocking gun,” and “to cup on tube” (which I take as putting a flash guard cup on a percussion nipple), and “bushing shot gun.” Aside from the account book itself, the article notes the existence of numerous other personal papers and invoices from supply houses for materials Ager used in the gun-making process (as well as several purchases of large amounts of beef).

In other words, the account book and related materials give insights into the actual activities of these local, independent gunsmiths who applied their skills in a variety of ways to make a living and serve the needs of their communities. In this sense, this and other “daybooks” of the era provide rare insights into the lives and communities of small town Ohio in the latter half of 19<sup>th</sup> century Ohio. They also allow us to better understand the meanings and values associated with the actual handcrafted objects – the surviving rifles that now populate the collections of many members – in the time of their production and use.

The following is the first in a series of scans of excerpts from the Account Book of Alexander Ager, New Rumley, Ohio, 1821-1898, as re-copied by Patricia Kaser. This selection has five pages from the year 1863.

**NOTE:** The present article introduces a series of pages from an account book written by Ager that will appear in late editions of the newsletter. It is

*Book Accounts*

1863

March 31	John W. Finnicum Dr				
	to making last of gate hinges and				62 <sup>1/2</sup>
	finding part of the iron				
March 27	Joas A. Simpson Dr				
	to cutting off gun dressing out				1.20
April 20	David Kimmel Dr per boy				
	to paid of paid soon if not till spring				1.50
	buy cash				2.00
					.55
					.87
April 20	John W. Huesinger Dr				
	to soldering tinware				.25
May 1	John West Dr				
	to soldering tinware				.10
" "	Geo. West Dr				
	to soldering candlesticks + dipper				.5
May 9	John W. Huesinger Dr		4	25	
	to cutting bread pans + trimming				.10
May 27	David Kimmel Dr				
	to repairing gun lock				
	and to hammer				.50
May 25	George West Dr				
	to stamp for marking sheep				.20

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noteworthy that both Tilton's article and Hutslar (1996:155) note the existence of such books in the hands of a collector. Regarding this and the forthcoming articles in this newsletter, I would like to thank Warren Offenberger, founding member, former editor, and past-president of the AOLRC for providing the hand-copied version of the original account book for use herein. The information he supplied indicates the manuscript is “A hand-written copy of Alex Ager's Account Book by Patricia Kaser – copied by F.G. Tilton in 1979. Present day copy in 2006.” The notes also relate that, “This copy is an exact copy of the account book page by page and in copied as near the original as possible.” Also, that “many of the pages are missing and have been torn out by previous owners.”

Link to 1979 AOLRC Newsletter article on Ager:  
<http://www.aolrc.com/upload/files/Vol%201%20No%201%20Aug%201979.pdf> --Mark Bender  
 Five pages from 1863

# Alexander Ager

1863		1863	
Date	Description	Dr.	Cr.
June 1	W. H. Gressinger Dr to cutting bread pans and tinning		
June 27	R. P. Golley Dr to making rifle gun the finding barrel, lock, triggers moulds butt piece + guard to deliver 100 pash trees in the spring of 1864	15	25
July 9	W. H. Gressinger to soldering band horn		1/2
July 20	John Epley Dr to rifle gun	13	00
July 20	Isaac Simmons Dr to tube in gun by Cash		30
Aug 8	Friedrich Kummel to tube + repairing in gun by Cash		50
Aug 11	M. M. Patton to repair, repairing machines		4/5
Aug 29	Jacob Green to repairing pistols		75
Sept 11	Thos. Heidy to putting off dressing coat + gun		1 75
Sept 18	M. M. Patton to ramrod cleaning gun and repairing lock		
Sept 18	Jesse Wallace to tube in gun + to opening in powder flask		
Sept 19	John Epley by Cash		16 00
Sept 22	John W. Gressinger to soldering 7 fruit cans		
"	Geo. McCullough to soldering 4 fruit cans		
Sept 25	Alexander Trushell to balance on guns to draw 6 percent interest, fumolot		8
Sept 29	John W. Gressinger to leg in pot		
Sept 30	Geo. West to soldering sundries		
Oct 1	John W. Gressinger to one pair heel plates + sundries		
Oct 3	M. H. Kail by 57 lbs beef at 4ct		22 28

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1863		1863	
Date	Description	Dr.	Cr.
Oct 10	Widow Shaver of Jonathan to stocking gun		60
Oct 15	John W. Gressinger to altering of stove pipe and patching pan		1/4
Oct 17	John W. Gressinger to pair heel plates for H. Moore		2
Oct 24	M. H. Kail to rifle gun to cup on tube	18	0
Oct 24	M. H. Kail by 72 lbs beef at 4ct		2 88
Nov 5	W. H. Gressinger to soldering toy crappers		
Nov 5	Samuel Maxwell to cutting off bread pan and putting on saw handle to plating match plates		1 00
Nov 7	John Knouff to rifle gun	15	0
Nov 10	Henry Kimmels to butcher's knife		2
Nov 20	Isaac Simmons to balance on Settlement		20
Nov 11	W. H. Gressinger to altering stove pipe		20
Nov 12	Geo. West to ramrod in gun		15
Dec 29	Jesse Wallace to cash		3 00
Jan 7	John Knouff by cash		4 00
Jan 8	Elu Carron to balance on gun		3 00
Jan 9	Jesse Wallace to cash paid for load on goat + butler		1 25
Feb 18	Samuel Guthrie to ramrod gun		1/2
Feb 21	Thos. Heidy to put cog in dressing machine		1/2
March 23	A. B. Moore to half clocked rifle gun		15 00
July 1864	by Cash		10 00

A hand-copied version of five pages of Ager's account book. page 4-5



# Alexander Ager



*Half-stock rifle marked A.A. (Alexander Ager).*



*A signed rifle by Alexander Ager (note the cheek piece).*



*A signed rifle by Alexander Ager (note the cap box and silver inlay).*



# AOLRC Ladies Auxiliary



Winter?? Where did late summer and fall go?? LOL Yes, it's the New Year and on to Spring and the Ladies Luncheon and Tour. Alys has been finalizing them and we're ready for March! Thanks to her hard work, I think we have a real nice day planned! She has done it all and needs a round of applause.

We discussed at our meeting last spring about taking another trolley tour. It was mentioned that it would be interesting to see the insides of the churches we pass on our travels through Marietta. Alys has made arrangements to tour the inside of a couple churches, learning about their history in the town and have lunch served at one of them. Also, there is a tour of an unusual Museum. The Catholic church will serve us lunch: chicken salad sandwich with veggie soup, drink and dessert. All homemade and we don't have to make extra arrangements or add a stop to our schedule allowing us more time to enjoy each stop. We will not have to use the trolley, car pooling to each stop will be saving us that expense. She kept the lunch light so we have room for the banquet feast.

This is the itinerary:

- 10:30 am - Meeting in the Lobby of the Lafayette
- 10:45 am - Leaving the hotel for the Catholic church
- 11:00 am - Tour and history of the Catholic church
- 12:00 pm - Lunch and short business meeting at the church
- 1:20 pm - Leave Catholic church
- 1:30 pm - Arriving at the Congregational church for history and tour.
- 2:30 pm - Arrive at the People's Mortuary Museum for history and tour
- 3:30 pm - Arriving back at the Lafayette to prepare for banquet.

If anyone does not want to go to the last stop, I will provide transportation back to the hotel.

Send reservations for the lunch to Alys so she has a head count. The deadline for the reservations is March 26, 2 weeks before the show. Make any checks out to her. I will use that number for car pooling. A reservation slip is furnished to mail to Alys with a place to fill in if you can drive and how many ladies can travel with you.

We hope we can have a good number of ladies attend the tour and look forward to catching up with everyone, seems like we don't get together often enough. A few attended the fall show in Sept, but a lot of time has gone by since then.

Hope this finds you in good health and spirits. Thinking of you, we're more than just someone helping set up the shows, watching tables etc. We are Sisters of the ALORC!

Barb Harwood (harwood@bright.net) and Alys Wagner  
(alcwwagnor@frontier.com) - Co-Presidents

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