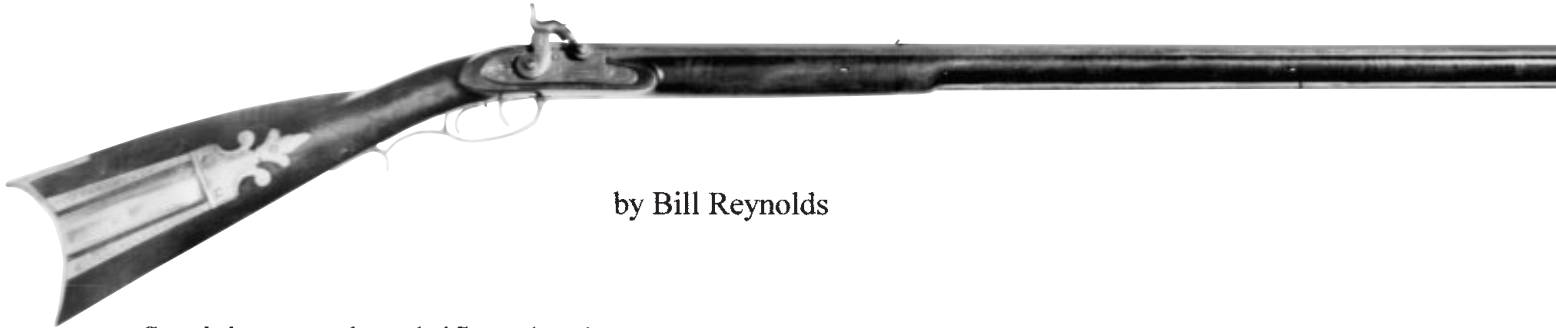




**Martin Beeman Gunsmith
Lancaster Fairfield Co. Ohio
Kirksville Adair Co. Mo.**



by Bill Reynolds

Surviving records and rifles related to Martin Beeman's 20 plus year stay in Ohio are difficult to locate or document. Martin Beeman was born near Lake George, Warren County, New York on October 2, 1796. He was the son of Ezekiel and Rebecca Beeman. It is unknown where he learned the trade of gunsmith and blacksmith. The style of his two existing rifles suggest he apprenticed in the area around Albany. His parents appear in the census of that area. Located near the hub of the canal system and connected to the Hudson River, Albany was the industrial center of eastern New York. It supported such noted gunsmiths as J. M. Casswell and E. Remington. The area offered many opportunities for a young man wishing to learn a trade.

The first indication of Martin Beeman's residency in Ohio is recorded in his marriage to Mary Ann Meeks in July of 1822. She was born at Washington Co. Pennsylvania on Oct. of 1805. They had 12 children.

In 1842 Martin Beeman and his neighbors, the Kreps moved to Missouri. They are reported to have built rafts and floated their goods down the Ohio River. They were towed up the Mississippi. They then traveled overland to Kirksville, Missouri. This was a prime location for them since it offered reasonably affordable land and a growing community to

practice their occupations. Martin's few existing account book extracts show mostly blacksmith work such as making, "clevis with screws, 37 1/2 cents" or "one butcher knife, 25cents".

The actual indications of him practicing as a gunsmith, other than the two known Ohio made rifles show up in the inventory of his estate. This is a very lengthy accounting considering Martin was in Kirksville only five years when he died. It records numerous tools relevant to the gunsmith and blacksmith trade. This indicates he was fully involved in the business and quite successful.

County of Adair/ We the undersigned after being duly sworn according to law _____ do a list of the personal property of Martin Beeman deceased as follows to wit sworn by me this 19th day of August 1847. Christian _____

A Inventory of all the Personal Property belonging to the Estate of Martin Beeman Dec. Property as follows.

1 clock	8.00
1 cupboard	6.00
1 small stand	1.50
1 small stand varnished	2.25
1 set of chairs	6.00
1 grind stone and frame	2.00
1 large grind stone	1.00



Fullstock Rifle
 By
 Martin Beeman
 Photos by Jim Whisker



1 small grind stone, iron crank and frame	1.00
1 thin grind stone	.75
1 6 inch grind stone	.75
1 gun barrel guide and rod	2.00
1 set of blacksmith tools	12.00
1 lot of sweding irons	1.50
1 lot of iron and hammer	1.50
1 scrap box of iron No.1	2.00
1 lot of tongs	1.00
1 scrap box of iron No.2	1.00
1 lot of gun stock and rod wood	3.00

1 lot of lumber No. 1	1.00
1 table frame	1.00
1 wheel	.25
1 lot of lumber No. 2	1.00
1 plow	3.00
1 shelf of tools belonging to gunsmith	2.50
1 case with contents No. 1	.50
1 gunsmith tools No. 1	.06
1 drawer No. 2 with gunsmith tool	.12
1 drawer No. 3 with gunsmith tool	1.50
1 drawer No. 4 patterns	.25

1 drawer No. 5 gunsmith tool	1.50
1 drawer No. 6 gunsmith tool	.50
1 drawer No. 7 gunsmith tool	3.00
1 drawer No. 8 gunsmith tool	1.00
1 drawer No. 9 gunsmith tool	2.50
1 drawer No.10gunsmith tool	.25
1 drawer No.11gunsmith tool	.25
1 drawer No.12gunsmith tool	3.50
1 drawer No.13gunsmith tool	3.00
1 drawer No.14gunsmith tool	.38
1 drawer No.15gunsmith tool	.50
1 drawer No.16gunsmith tool	.12
1 drawer No.17gunsmith tool	2.00
1 drawer No.18gunsmith tool	.06 1/4
1 drawer No.19gunsmith tool	1.00
1 drawer No.20gunsmith tool	2.00
1 drawer No.21gunsmith tool	.12
1 lot of planes	7.00
1 little long box and contents	.18
1 scrap box in gunsmith shop	.25
1 scrap box No.2	.12
1 set triggers	.37
1 case and drawers	4.00
1 work bench and screw	2.00
1 lot of scraps of irons	.25
1 piece of iron	.60
2 pieces of cast steel	1.75
1 rod of iron	.25
1 scythe	.50
1 saw, auger,1 plane, chisels,1 froe	2.00
2 saws, 1 chisel, 2 planes, 1 draw knife, 1 square	2.00
1 frame saw	.37
1 pair shears, big	.50
1 vise and brace	4.00
1 drawer of saws bolts and wire	3.00
1 drawer of files	5.00
3 gun barrels and 2 locks	10.00
1 lot of draw rods	3.00
1 candle stick	.37
1 lot of lumber in shop	1.50
1 set of flasks for moulding, 1 2in. auger	1.00
1 hand vise	1.00
1 drawer of brass	4.00
3 cast steel hammers	.87
2 stones	.50
1 box of chisels and sets prick	

punches	2.00
1 set of steel tips and box	1.00
1 lot of old files	.75
1 rule	.25
hoes mattock and pick	1.25
1 lot of clapboards	1.50
1 lot of logs	8.00
1 horse colt 2 years old	15.00
1 horse colt 1 year old	10.00
1 mare bald	20.00
1 white cow and calf	8.00
1 white face cow and calf	9.00
1 red cow	8.00
1 year old heifer	4.00
1-2 year old heifer	6.00
15 bee stands 1.50ea.	22.50
1 mans saddle	4.00
1 side saddle	9.00
1 slate	.20
1 screw plate die and _____	2.50
1 lot of steel rods	1.50
1 drill and bits	1.00
3 hand vices, square and _____	2.00
1 lot of files _____	1.00
1 plane and gauge.	1.50
1 plow	3.00

Appraisers

Thomas _____ Cooley

Thomas Allan

Abel Stukey

Martin Beeman died in June of 1847 and his body was interred at Kirksville.

Otho Holland Beeman, Martin's oldest son, born in Lancaster, Ohio, was appointed executor of the estate. He followed in his fathers trade at Kirksville and became a judge and built the first brick house along with forging the first mould board plow in the community. During the battle of Kirksville in 1862, Otho was captured by the Confederates. However he made a daring escape. This was memorialized in a poem by his half brother. Mary Ann Meeks Beeman remarried twice.

I would like to thank Sandra McDougall, a direct descendant of Martin Beeman whose research is responsible for the material in this article. Holman Sweany, former director of the

Rochester Museum and compiler of N. Y. gunsmiths, for pointing out the N. Y. connections.

152

W Michael

	Dr	Cr
Brought Iron Pay 107		5 38 14
To 1 New Clevis Pin with screw	37 1/2	
To Sowing Plow	50	
" 1 Buckle Knife	25	
" Selling 2 Shuies and fine screw	25	
Dec 5 " Making 2 Sinks for Sag Chain	18	
" Making 2 Sinks for Poor Sack	7	
Aug 2 To Selling 2 Shuies	15	
March 30 " 1 Buckle Knife	37	
Invoyed to (17/11)	16 73	

151

Fredrick G. Weeks

April 13 to mending brass Kettle & copper bat	50
13 to 2 blade Knife at 25	50
13 By 1 bushel of potatoes	50
By 1 Knife	25
Invoyed	50 137

No 181 to 81

Excerpts from Martin Beeman's Daybook



The Sells Family



By Bob Campbell

Information on this family is sketchy, but it was widely known during his day that Benjamin Sells was a manufacturer of guns. Mr. Sells emigrated from Pennsylvania to Kentucky, where he resided for awhile. He then removed to Clermont County, Ohio, near the mouth of Bullskin Creek. It is not known how long they lived in Clermont County, but in later years they located near Feesburg, Lewis Township, Brown County, Ohio.

On January 11, 1802, he was united in marriage to Katherine Baum. It is not known how many children were born to this marriage, but a son, Benjamin Sells, Jr., was born January 1, 1815, and died June 15, 1882. He was married to Sarah Fenton on January 1, 1835. To them were born ten children, two of the sons, Michael, born 1839, died 1897, and David, born in 1845, died in a prison camp in 1864, have Civil War records as follows:

Michael Sells enlisted in Company I, 12th Regular Ohio Volunteer Infantry on April 25, 1861, for three months. He was plus 21 years of age at the time. He was mustered out on August 15, 1861. He then enlisted in Company C, 59th O. V. I. for three years, on September 16, 1861. He was promoted to Second Lieutenant on February 1, 1863, and to First Lieutenant of Company I, 59th O. V. I., on March 9, 1863. He was later transferred to Company K, on May 1, 1864, and to Company A, on October 24, 1864. He was mustered out of the service on November 1, 1864.

Captain Michael Sells died suddenly at his home in Washington City (D.C.), on last Wednesday morning. (The date and name of the paper this appeared in is not known.) Mr. Sells left his old home in this place (Georgetown) in 1869 to accept a position as clerk in the Treasury

Gun-Smithing.

THE subscriber respectfully informs his old friends and the public generally, that he has removed from his old stand on Bullskin, Lewis township, and established permanently in Georgetown. His shop is on Main-cross-street, a short distance west of Mr. James Crawford's grocery, where he is prepared to furnish

Rifles of a Superior Quality,

on a short notice; and to attend to all other calls in his line as a Gun-smith, on the shortest notice. He trusts, from his experience in the business, the neatness and order of his work, and his exertions to render general satisfaction, he will receive a generous share of the public custom. **BENJAMIN SELLS.**

Any person having **CURLED MAPLE** suitable for **GUN STOCKS**, will be paid a liberal price for sawing it into the proper shape and bringing it to his shop.

Georgetown, November 9, 1836. 21

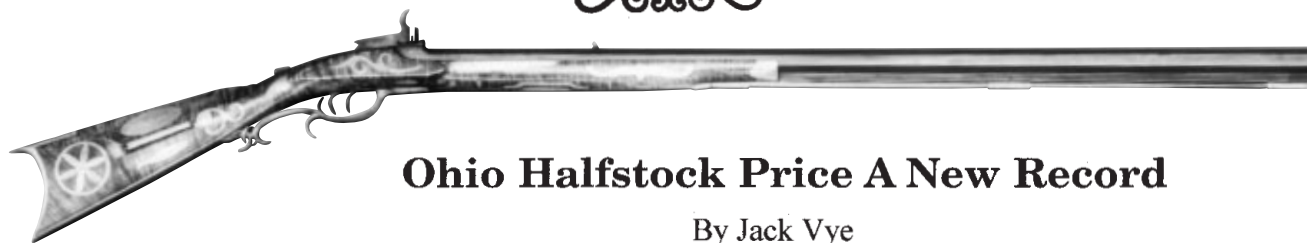
Department and retained this position until 1888, when he went into business for himself. Mr. Sells was the son of Benjamin Sells, deceased, a prominent man of this county.

David Sells enlisted for three years during the Civil War. His enlistment is recorded as August 8, 1862, in Company C, 89th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was made Corporal (date not given), and was captured September 20, 1863, at the Battle of Chickamauga (Georgia.) He died in a prison camp at Florence, South Carolina, on November 23, 1864, and was buried there. (Another record indicates he was first taken to Andersonville Prison and then transferred to Florence, and that his burial place is unknown.)

Benjamin Sells, Jr., son of Benjamin and Katherine (Baum) Sells, was born near Felicity, Clermont County, Ohio, on January 1, 1815. When he was three years of age he removed, with his parents, to near Feesburg, where he lived until the fall of 1837, when he located at Georgetown, Ohio, spending the remainder of his life in that town. He was appointed Associate Judge of the Common Pleas Court in 1851, which office he filled until it was abolished by the adoption of the present State Constitution. He was a member of the order of Free Masons for over forty years. He was also a Charter Member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Georgetown which was instituted June 25, 1856. He filled all the important offices of the lodge and was its Chaplain for a great many years. He died June 15, 1882, being 68 years, 5 months and 14 days old and having been a member of his church for 47 years.

An article which appeared in the News Democrat on December 9, 1909. gives evidence that the name Benjamin Sells was carried down

to a third generation, as: "Benjamin Sells, one of our substantial citizens, walked from his home in Lewis Township to Georgetown, Saturday, a distance of eight miles. Mr. Sells need not have made this trip afoot, he having on his farm four head of splendid horses, but one of the first things he attended to was to notify us that his NEWS DEMOCRAT had not reached him the week before, and that he could not get along without it. While in this office he left the barrels of an old-fashioned pistol he had plowed from the ground on his farm last spring. These were the barrels of a weapon having six chambers -- the barrels having been made into the form of a revolving chamber. They were constructed in such a manner that to discharge it they would have to be loaded with powder, bullet and cap. The question bothering us is how it ever came to be where found, and how long ago lost. The antiquated pattern of the weapon and the manner found gives rise to the belief that it was lost by some of the pioneer settlers of this portion of Ohio."



Ohio Halfstock Price A New Record

By Jack Vye

November 8th, 1999 was a day when the Ohio halfstock rifle came of age in the gun collecting world. Little John's Auction Service of Orange, CA, sold a Joseph Mills half stock rifle for \$12,100, including 10% buyer premium. Of course, it was no ordinary Ohio half stock. It had the double cheek pieces, 21 engraved silver inlays, including two eagles. So far, it sounds nice, but that description could fit any number of better Ohio rifles. What set it apart was that it was a box lock rifle, with a unique inscription on the long brass plate inlayed into the top barrel flat. It read, "Joseph Mills, Age 70 years, total number of rifled guns made by me, 350, July the 4th, 1859".

Interestingly enough, it was a box lock Joseph Mills rifle that topped the 1991 Tilton auction at \$8,100. It holds the record as the top selling gun at any of the AOLRC auctions.

Ohio half stocks, (and full stocks) still have a long way to go! In the same sale, a Georgia half stock, not near as nice, (of course, some would say I'm prejudiced) brought \$23,100.

With 350 plus rifles made by Mills, there should be plenty to go around, however, they do not seem to be all that common. For more

(continued on page 16)



Peter Geiger (1831-1905) Swiss Mennonite gunsmith of Putnam County, Ohio & Baden, Ontario, Canada



Compiled by Tom McCullough

Peter Geiger was born near Bubendorf, Canton Basel, Switzerland on March 13, 1831 (same day his brother, Peter, died at the age of 22 months), hence he inherited his name, in his brothers memory. He was the son of Johannes Geiger Sr. (1791-1851) and Barbara Welty (1802-1847) of Eriz, Canton Bern, Switzerland. Peter was the grandson of David and Verena (Steiner) Geiger of Eriz and Nichlaus and Christina (Badertscher) Welty of Lauperswil, Canton Bern.

Johannes Geiger Sr., his wife Barbara, and their 5 children, came to America in 1835 and settled at the Swiss settlement in Putnam County, Ohio. Their children were, John Jr., Verena, Barbara, Peter, and Anna. Johannes and Barbara had two more children a few years after their arrival, Frederick - born 1838, and Magdalena - born in 1842.

This Swiss settlement was really a double community consisting of Aargau Reformed to the south and Bernese Mennonites to the north. Although no real boundary ever existed, most Swiss in the southern part of Richland Twp., Allen County (Until 1848, a part of Putnam County) were Reformed from the village of Tegerfelden, located in the northern part of Canton Aargau, Switzerland. Most of these families had made their first home in American in the community of their fellow Aargau friends and relatives in the Swiss Reformed community around Mt Eaton, just south of the Bernese Mennonite community of Sonnenberg in Wayne County, Ohio.

In 1833, the first Bernese Mennonites came to settle in the Swiss community, between the present day villages of Bluffton (Allen County) and Pandora (Putnam County). Michael Neuenschwander and his family were the first Bernese Anabaptist families to arrive from the Chippewa Settlement in northern Wayne County, Ohio. At the same time that the Chippewa Settlement was being formed in Wayne County by Bernese Anabaptist settlers from the Florimont (Blumbergerwald) community in Alsace, several Basinger, Steiner, and Geiger families, also from Florimont, settled in Wilmot Township near Kitchener, Ontario, Canada.

In 1835 the remaining families of the Florimont community; Luginbuhl, Thuhler (Diller), Schumacher, Suter, Hilty, Stauffer, and Elder Christian Steiner, planned to leave Alsace and join their relatives in Wilmont Twp., Ontario. Two weeks before their departure, Steiner received a letter from his cousin Michael Neuenschwander, telling of the good, inexpensive land in Putnam County. As a result, the entire group was diverted from Canada and settled in Ohio instead.

The Johannes Geiger Sr. family, built their first home in section 22, Riley Township, Putnam County in 1835. The Geigers were farmers, and as new immigrants to the area, they learned how to farm the flat, forested, swampy wilderness of the upper Maumee Valley. Peter Geiger was a young child when he arrived with his family. He grew up learning how to clear the land and farm the rich moist soil.

Peter had an uncle, Peter Geiger

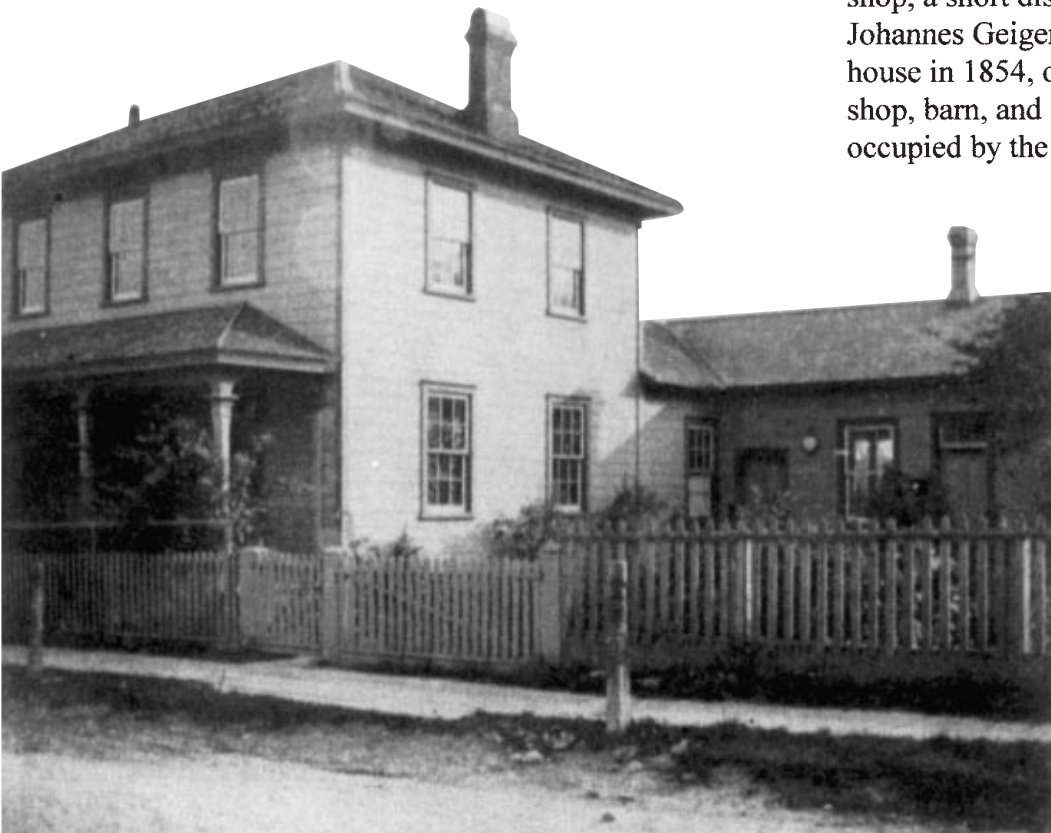


Although of poor quality, this is the only photo available of Peter Geiger.

(1784-1852) wife Anna Welty (1784-1854), that settled in a nearby section of Richland Twp. in 1837, that is now Richland Twp., Allen County, Ohio.

We are not sure how Peter learned the gunsmith trade. He was influenced by the gunsmith, John Moser, who arrived in the settlement from Wayne County in 1852. John Moser was a Mennonite minister, farmer, and gunsmith who was born in 1826 in Wayne County. John Moser had purchased land in section 25, Putnam County, and established his home about 2 miles from the Geiger farm. Peter was 21 years old when John Moser arrived and he may have learned the trade from him. Some of the similarities of their work are: crescent shaped cheekpieces, stock shape, and unique patchboxes with fish finale.

Peter Geiger built a cabin on the north section of the family farm. The cabin no longer stands, but in early spring, the location is evident when the field is plowed. We do not know if Peter built his rifles in his cabin or in his brothers shop, a short distance away. His brother Johannes Geiger Jr. (1822-1886), built a frame house in 1854, on the family farm. The home, shop, barn, and farm buildings still stand and are occupied by the great great grandson of Johannes



Peter Geiger's home and gunshop in Baden, Waterloo County, Ontario, Canada.

Geiger Jr. A brass triggerguard was found in the shop and gunstocks were known to be stored above the rafters. Other artifacts found were a fleshing bit and rifling cutter head, that were dug up from the garden by the present owner. The shop is in good condition and the interior shows areas where tools were hung and a seat or bench, probably used by visitors to the shop.

In 1864, Peter Geiger moved to Baden, Waterloo County, Ontario. Ulrich Geiger (1797-1864), Peters uncle, settled in that area of Ontario and died that same year. Peter may have moved to Canada, to help the family.

Peter established himself as a gunsmith in Wilmot Township, Waterloo County and is listed as a gunsmith in the 1871 Census of Ontario.

Peter married late in life, at the age of 57, to Maria Beam on Sept. 9, 1888. They had no children. Peter was a member of the Reformed Mennonite Church. Maria died on Nov. 3, 1902. Peter died March 14, 1905 and was buried in Wilmot Cemetery, Waterloo County, Ontario.

I have located four Peter Geiger rifles in the area, but have never seen a rifle built by Peter while living in Ontario. Here is a description of 3 rifles I have inspected and photographed:

Half stock percussion rifle with curly maple stock. 34 7/8 inch barrel in 36 caliber. Percussion lock is marked - Cincinnati, Oh. Upper ramrod thimbles have been replaced. Pewter nose cap. Brass hardware with set triggers. Full brass patchbox with fish finale. Crescent shaped cheekpiece. P. Geiger engraved on top barrel flat. This rifle shows strong resemblance to a John Moser rifle, owned by the Moser family. John Mosers influence is prevalent in this rifle.

Fullstock percussion rifle with dark stained maple stock. Brass hardware with set triggers. Back action lock marked - Sheldon Phelps & Co. Brass sheet metal repairs at wrist, around drum area, and at nose cap. Crescent shaped

cheekpiece and no patchbox. Barrel is 7/8 inches x 33 3/4 inches long. Not signed. This rifle is a family owned rifle.

Fullstock percussion rifle with dark stained maple stock. Brass hardware with set triggers. Back action lock. No cheekpiece or patchbox. 36 caliber barrel is 15/16 inches x 37 1/2 inches long. Pittsburgh stamped on barrel. Not signed. This rifle has remained in the area since the early 1850's.

Reference's:

Brief Historical Sketches of Eight Generations, Descendants of Ulrich Welty
by S. H. Baumgartner
Indianapolis, Ind. - 1926

Self Guided Tour of Riley Township Historical Sites - printed in 1982

David Geiger (1755-1829) Family chart
compiled by Delbert Gratz, Bluffton, Ohio, 1992.

Peter Geiger's obituary in The Bluffton News -
March 23, 1905, page 1.

1871 Census Record of Ontario, Canada

Mennonite Life, Dec. 1988 issue-
Article: The Swiss Settlement of
Bluffton-Pandora, Ohio by Delbert Gratz with
Howard Raid, Herman Hilty, and Robert Kreider

Picture of Peter Geiger and his home in Baden,
Ontario, Canada are from the Sem Geiger
collection owned by the Kidron Community
Historical Society, Kidron, Ohio. Photos
furnished by Mennonite Historical Library of the
Bluffton College Library, Bluffton, Ohio





Signed Peter Geiger halfstock rifle.



Fullstock rifle by Peter Geiger.

(continued from page 11)

information on Mills, see Ohio Gunsmiths & Allied Tradesmen Vol.I. Also Jim Whisker's Bedford, Somerset & Fulton County book.

Little John's puts out an excellent 4-color catalog with price estimates. The Mills sold at almost double the high estimate. I understand that Little John's will be having a 18th & 19th June auction. Their catalogs are collectors items

in their own right. That auction will feature a collection of over 50 Kentuckys. The last one had only about half a dozen.

Now's the time for all you "high rollers" to save up your money, you may do better than I did. My score, only one bid, over the phone, before it moved out of range.

The Long Hunters And The Legend Of Duncan Falls

Biographic and Historical Memoirs of Muskingum Co. Ohio Goodspeed Publishing, Chicago, Ill., 1892

The legend of Duncan Falls has been told and retold in just about every book on Muskingum County history, and has also inspired an epic poem entitled Legend of Duncan Falls by James W. Huffman (1968). County historian Norris Schneider tried to trace the origins of the legend, and also recounted the story in a number of his own publications, although he regarded it as pure folklore. As Schneider pointed out, no two versions of the legend are exactly alike.

The earliest version Schneider found was written in the Tuscarawas Chronicle by George E. Blalelee and reprinted in the April 23, 1873, edition of the Zanesville Courier (Schneider 1949). The story also soon appeared in the introduction to Everts' Combination Atlas Map of Muskingum County, published in 1875, and as an article entitled "Duncan the Indian Fighter" in the December 8, 1877 issue of Dresden Doings. We believe that the legend may have first appeared as one of a series of short stories published under the title Buckeye Pioneers or Perils of the Old Frontier. However, the date that the Duncan Falls story might have first appeared in this series is not known.

Several historians, including Everhart (1882:396), have stated that the Duncan story

centered around a Virginian who came to the Muskingum Valley and trapped and hunted in the Duncan Falls area between 1790 and 1794. The following is the original version of the legend as told by Blalelee:

Many years ago there appeared a white man on the hunting grounds of the Aborigine in what is now Muskingum County, Ohio, on the banks of the river bearing the same name. The hunter was clad in a complete suit of primitive buckskin, and from his appearance he came from Virginia. Duncan, for that was the name he bore, was tall and powerfully built; and while being muscular, was as lithe as a leopard and as bold as a lion. From his cast it was evident that he asked no odds of the red skins, and with fearful assumption conducted himself as best suited his purpose. For the first year or two after Duncan's appearance at this place a little traffic was carried on between himself and the savages, but with no marked show of friendship, and what spirit of good will did exist, vanished towards the close of its second season, when Duncan discovered that the red skins were tampering with his traps.

He watched for the purpose of punishing the perpetrators, and the first prowling thief caught in the act of taking game that did not belong to him, bit the dust with a ball through his head. This of course created a deadly enmity, and a warfare opened which called into action the deepest stratagems both parties could invent to avenge. The men of the Indian village grew less and less from Duncan's unerring rifle as the

months passed away, and in spite of all the efforts on the part of the savages the pale faced foe remained unharmed. The red skins became so enraged that they determined to take Duncan alive and have an infernal feast by putting him to death in slow torture. They trained the fleetest of their tribe for the chase but all to no purpose, for more than a match had been found in the white man for the speed and endurance of their best. One thing which appeared particularly strange to them was the fact that they were entirely unable to find the place of Duncan's retreat; they knew that his habitation was not far from their village, but the question was, its exact location, and that they never found. At a certain point on the west bank of the river a few miles below where the city of Zanesville now stands, Duncan would suddenly disappear and no further trace of him could be found at the time. The Indians who have ever been full of superstitious notions, shook their heads at the sudden vanishing of the pale face, and talked among themselves of the possibility of his being a messenger from the Great Spirit to punish the tribe for some wrong that had been perpetrated. To give strength to their whims, it was ascertained that Duncan crossed the river at will without the use of a canoe and without fording, and further many warriors gave in testimony that they had sent arrows directed to his heart, but the missiles turned away, and left him unharmed.

Matters grew seriously worse for the Indians, until the fall of the fourth year after Duncan made his first appearance; when it was discovered by the redskin that their foe had no supernatural way of crossing the river; but that at a low stage of water, at a point where there is a fall, rocks were visible above the surface of the stream, and at such distances apart that a spry man could leap from one to another, save where the main channel passed, which was 12 or 15 feet in breadth, and that the pale face carried a stout sapling that would span this space and use the pole for a foot bridge, making his heavy gun a balance while crossing. This discovery was hailed with delight, and the chiefs of the tribe ordered that all other pursuits be abandoned, until the enemy was killed. The bravest and

most sagacious were selected and divided into two parties to ambuscade on both sides of the river. One evening not long after the new tactics had been adopted, just as the shadows of night began to darken the forest, Duncan was seen stealthily approaching the falls with pole and gun. All around was silent save the murmuring of the water; and assuring himself that all was safe, he leaped lightly from rock to rock until the main channel was reached; the pole was adjusted and one-half of its length traversed, when a volley from unseen rifles and a shower of arrows, from all sides pierced the bold hunter and he fell dead into the river and was borne away by the current.

The next day the Indians made a search for the remains of their foe, and found the body stranded about a half a mile below where the tragedy occurred. To this point they gave the name of Deadman's Ripple, and to the point where the pale faced was killed, Duncan's Falls, which names they retain to the present day. Early in the present century a spot was found, which, in all probability, was the habitation of Duncan. It is located about a mile below the Falls on the west side of the river. The earth is caved in, and on the bottom of the pit were found burned stones, charcoal and other evidence of its once been used as the abode of man. It is supposed that Duncan made the excavation by night work, and carefully concealed all traces of it by putting the dirt into the river; and it is further supposed that he so artfully arranged the entrance as to entirely delude the quick eye of the savage. This spot was pointed out to me by L. H. Dugan, an old inhabitant of Zanesville, and to him I am indebted of the facts contained in the above traditional story.

Goodspeed (1892:41-42) adds that "years ago" a rifle was found at Philo on the farm where the Ohio Power Plant was later constructed, between the canal and the river. The rifle was regarded as having been lost by Duncan. The finder sold it to Zanesville gunsmith John Brelsford, who added a new stock. It was then purchased by Z. M. Chandler; its present whereabouts is not known.