



Kentucky Rifle Association

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# CONRAD HORN: GUNSMITH OF THE “WILD EAST”

• BY J. WAYNE HECKERT, ED.D. •



When thoughts turn to lawlessness in 19th century America, images often appear of hombres and desperados of the “Wild West.” Certainly, the West was a wide frontier, lacking a stable legal framework, and it was wild. Lesser known is the fact that America’s most lawless territory per square mile was back east, right in the remote, lower anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania. Isolated and mountainous, the lower coal region centered in Schuylkill and Carbon Counties was the epicenter of mayhem and murder, unequalled by any other region in the entire country. The disturbances extended into the counties of Luzerne, Northumberland, Columbia and a tiny tip of Dauphin.



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Photographs by Andy Ourant



*Considering only Schuylkill County, the Pottsville Miners Journal reported fourteen murders in 1863, fourteen in 1864, twelve in 1865, six in 1866 and another five from January to March of 1867. All went unsolved, as well as six assaults and twenty-seven robberies. Reports assured readers that a group known as the Golden Circle, Buckshots or Molly Maguires was to blame. <sup>(1)</sup> Two issues banded these vigilantes together: resistance to the Civil War and labor unrest in the coal mines. Actually,*





there were two phases to the civil unrest; the early phase (1862-1865) focused on war resistance and the later phase in the mid-1870's became a full-blown labor war between poorly treated mine workers and the wealthy mine owners and railroad companies, at that time often one-in-the-same.

Gun maker Conrad Horn's political activities occurred during the early phase. Horn and his compatriots were known to be *Copperhead Democrats*. Based on party fundamentals, they were opposed to "*Lincoln's War*." Their early association was known as the *Golden Circle* and their activist enforcers were first known as the *Buckshots*. Shortly thereafter, the term "*Molly Maguires*" gained traction in the popular press. In short, at the beginning of hostilities the Buckshots were the Molly Maguires. <sup>(2) (3)</sup> In Luzerne County, Provost Marshal Bradford argued that well-organized resistance to the draft made it impossible to enforce conscription without military aid. According to mine bosses in Hazleton, Conrad Horn was a likely suspect, rumored to have provided arms to militant miners and draft resisters. While searching Irish houses without warrant to rout out suspected perpetrators, mine police found "several new rifles of Horn's make and four muskets." <sup>(4)</sup> While ridiculed in the Democratic press, the seizures did make it possible for Bradford to secure his military force.



Fish finial on patchbox.

The term "*Molly Maguire*" came from old Ireland where the legendary character, at least real in folklore, violently resisted British landlords. When an Irishman later bludgeoned a foe, his friends would say, "Take that from a true son of Molly Maguire." <sup>(5)</sup> The legend and term crossed the Atlantic with the Irish immigrants and was resurrected in the coal field patch towns where the new workers struggled for subsistence wages in filthy and dangerous mines owned and operated mostly by English and Welsh men of means.

*While searching Irish houses without warrant to rout out suspected perpetrators, mine police found "several new rifles of Horn's make and four muskets."*

Horn was a well known and respected man of the region. Being one of the later makers of Kentucky rifles, there is a fair amount of information available to trace his life. He was born about 1803 to Caspar Horn and Mary Roth Horn in Pennsylvania and died in November 1879 in Hazle Township, Luzerne County, PA. His death is listed as due to old age and his occupation at that time was recorded as gunsmith.





Photographs by Andy Ourant

He married Catherine Fanar and he appears in both the 1860 and 1870 U.S. Census. In 1860 he is listed as a gunsmith in Hazle Township and in 1870 as a gunsmith in Hazleton. He was issued a land warrant in Luzerne County in 1827 for 25 acres and his name also appears on the poll list for Sugarloaf Twp., Luzerne Co., in 1835. He is recorded as one of the founders of West Hazleton and served as one of first justices of the peace there. <sup>(6)</sup> Sellers lists Horn as a Hazleton maker of flintlock and swivel breech rifles with brothers William and Thomas at times from 1820 to 1880. <sup>(7)</sup> It is appropriate to add that the most commonly encountered lock found on a Horn is a percussion. Extant specimens have been seen signed in script "C H" while others are stamped "C. HORN" or simply "HORN." Perhaps the latter mark is an indication of the occasional association of one or both brothers. Horn rifles are normally well made and without a lot of glitter. In Conrad's neighborhood, people had great need for his products but little money.

Details of the first phase of unrest in the coal region are not that well known outside of the circle of local historians. The Copperheads and many local sympathizers took active measures to resist the draft and disrupt the Union war effort in any way



possible. In 1862 when the Conscription Act was passed the Buckshots informed officials in Harrisburg and Philadelphia not to send draft agents over the mountain or they would be shot. Then they shot more than one just to prove that they were not bluffing. When the army was called in to restore order, the local boys just grabbed their rifles and headed into the thick mountains that they knew so well. In short, very few men from Schuylkill Co. served in the Union army, and no one who didn't want to do so.

Also, train derailments, sabotage of all kinds, and work slow downs in the mines were all measures that were taken essentially to aid the Confederacy. Lawlessness was so rampant and intense that outside forces--the National Guard, Army, Pinkertons, and Archbishop Wood from Philadelphia--were called in to restore order. This worked temporarily but it only stunned the snake, it didn't kill it. It led to the full scale second phase of the Molly Maguire affair where the darkest moments were in 1877 when 10 reported Mollys hanged in one day--June 21--followed by 9 more in 1878 and one in 1879; set up, arrested, tried and convicted not by the Commonwealth but by the Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron Company. The only thing the Commonwealth provided was the venue and the rope. Controversy continues to this day as to whether the condemned were framed labor leaders or downright cutthroats. The truth probably is found somewhere in between these extremes. <sup>(8)</sup>

Horn's name appeared in national newspapers in 1864 for alleged treasonous behavior. Attention had been focused on the coal region since the murders of mine bosses Frank W. Langdon in June 1862 and George K. Smith in November 1863. Military forces canvassed the entire area to rout out not only suspected murderers but also those with "disloyal sentiments and opinions, with the object and purpose of weakening the power of the government in its efforts to suppress the unlawful rebellion now existing in the United States." <sup>(9)</sup>

The trial of Conrad Horn took place on Friday, February 5, 1864 in Mauch Chunk (now Jim Thorpe), the county seat of Carbon County. It was conducted by a military tribunal with Capt. H. Larned Johnson serving as Judge Advocate. Arresting officer Lieutenant William Burnes of the 14th U.S. Invalid Corps testified that he had arrested Horn in 1863 for hosting Golden Circle meetings in his building and that he found there "about 50 stand of arms, besides a quantity of pistols and revolvers." <sup>(10)</sup> Testimony in this and subsequent trials established that Horn was host and doorkeeper at the meetings, held several times a week, and that a major theme was draft resistance. When Horn was arrested he was remanded to Northumberland County Prison to await trial; he spent about two months there.

Horn never recanted his political views, and said that his organization's aim was essentially to support the Constitution as it is and the Union as it was. Many local residents testified as to Horn's good character and good works, and his lawyers raised the issues of guilt by association, the logic of a gunsmith having guns, and the lack



Map, PA State Archives, [www.phmc.state.pa.us](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us)





Photographs by Andy Ourant





of substantial evidence of anything other than political views. By day's end the justices agreed that there was no "smoking gun" and the case against Conrad Horn was closed. <sup>(11)</sup> The trials did resume on February 8, but Horn was no longer the target. By all appearances he went back to Hazleton and resumed his regular life, perhaps being a bit more circumspect about his political leanings.

Horn apparently produced many rifles over a relatively long life, rather much spanning the entire percussion era. In architecture they are consistent with what one would expect to find on central Pennsylvania percussion era rifles. He made both single and double, swivel breech rifles. We have not seen other pistols, but, according to the court transcripts, we know that he had some.

This rifle is an example of an earlier Horn product, a 52 1/2" double flintlock signed "C H". The 37 1/2" barrels are .43 caliber, one rifled and one smooth. The stock is maple. Also shown are two percussion pistols, marked "1" and "2" with "HORN" stamped into each barrel. We know of no other Horn pistols and would like to see them if they exist. The matched pair shows wear from use as one would expect. The pistols were made as percussions. The 5 1/2" barrels are .40 caliber, smoothbore. They are simple with neatly checkered grips and iron mountings. They are solid and in shooting condition after some 140 years. Both the pistols and the rifle are a testament to the solid work of Conrad Horn. ■

## N O T E S

1. Kenny, Kevin. *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, p. 106. (Most books on the Molly Maguires show a bias toward either seeing the group as totally despicable or otherwise seeing them as martyred labor fighters. Kenny's review is exceptional in its neutrality and objectivity.)
2. Kenny, p. 95.
3. Aurand, A. Monroe. *Historical Account of the Molly Maguires*. Lancaster, PA: The Aurand Press, pp. 2-4. (A decent, brief overview of the disturbances.)
4. Palladino, Grace. *Another Civil War: Labor, Capital and the State in the Anthracite Region of Pennsylvania, 1840-1868*. New York: Fordham University Press, 2006, p. 107.
5. Weisman, Peter Aaron. Lehigh Review. "Behold: The Molly Maguires Mystified." Bethlehem, PA: Lehigh University, Vol. 8., 2000, p. 2.
6. McKain, Keith. Conrad Horn. <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/PALUZERN/2010-03/1>, pp.1-2.
7. Sellers, Frank M. *American Gunsmiths*. Highland Park, NJ: The Gun Room Press, 1983, p. 151.
8. Kenny, p. 106.
9. The New York Times, Feb. 5, 1864. "The Maugh Chunk, PA, Rioters; Resistance to the Draft, A Military Commission Tries the Offenders, Curious Revelations, The Golden Circle in the Mining Districts. The Riots and the Price of Coal." (Reporting the start of the trial on Feb. 1). <http://www.nytimes.com/1864/0205/news/Maugh-Chunk-pa-rioters>. (Spelling as found in article). pp.1-2.
10. The New York Times, Feb. 13, 1864, (reporting on events of Friday, Feb. 5). "The Mauch Chunk Rioters; Continuation of the Trial, The Case of Conrad Horn." <http://www.nytimes.com/1864/02/13/news/the-mauch-chunk-rioters>, p. 1.
11. The New York Times, Feb. 13, 1864, p. 2.



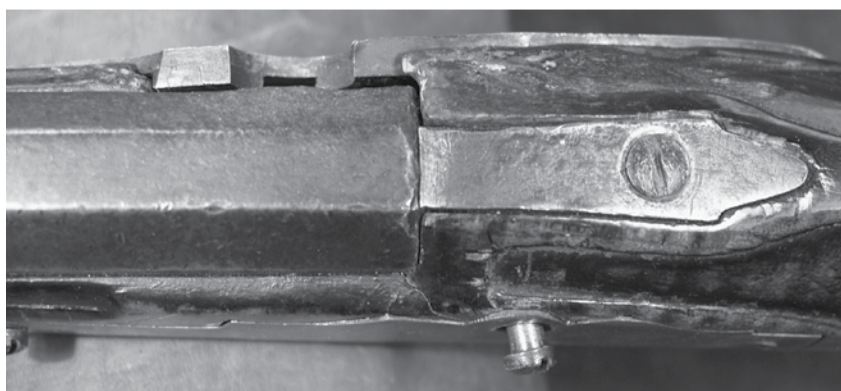


## 1780-1790 WOLFGANG

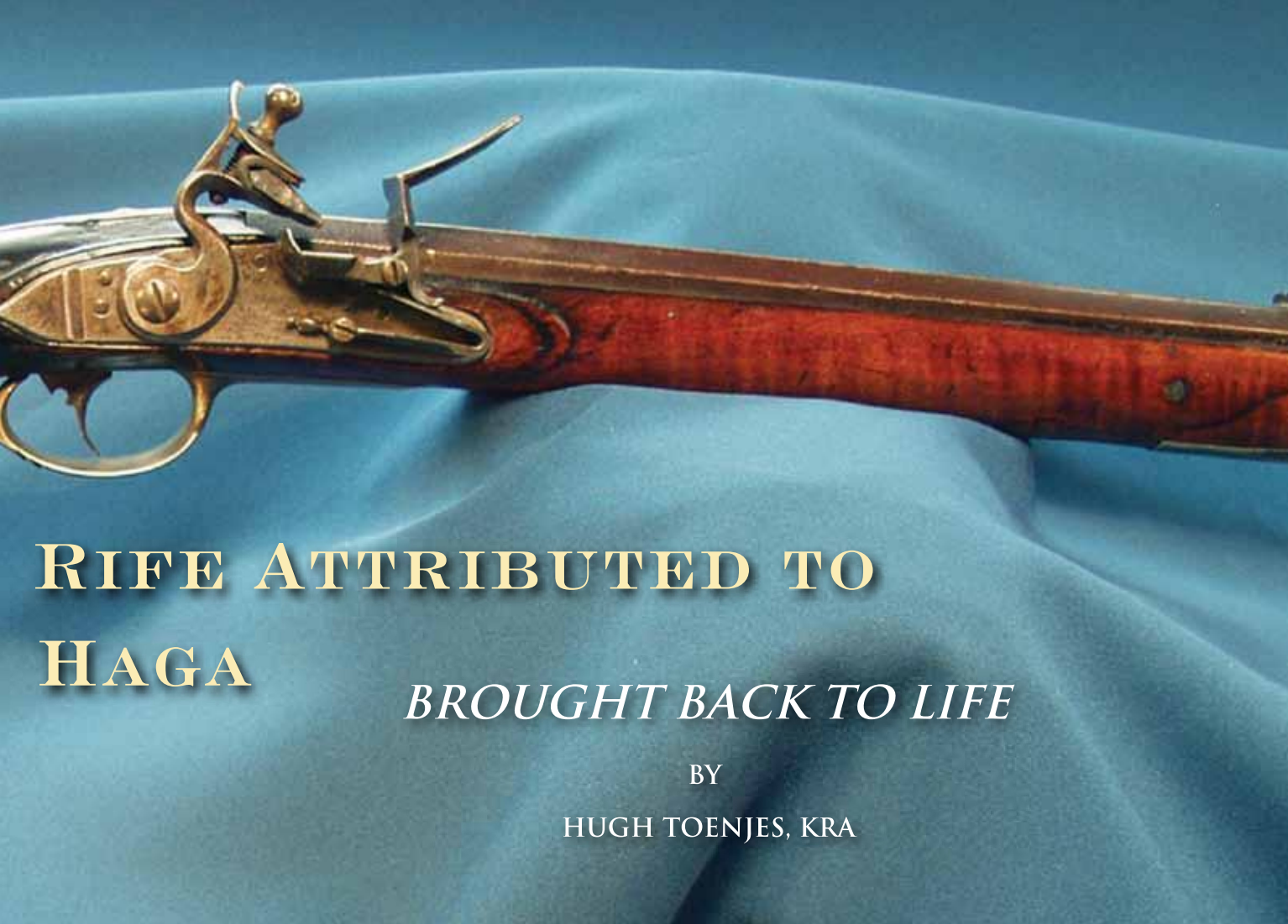
I believe this is an early rifle by Haga for two reasons. First note the wide butt plate as it measures a full 2" wide by 4 ½" high. The overall look of the butt area is thick and heavy. The butt drop is 4". Second, oral family history puts this gun the hands of a Colonial rifleman who enlisted in the militia during the American Revolution. However, we are not sure of his dates of service.

This rifle was quite a mess when I first acquired it for

restoration (see black & white photos). The before photos tell the most of that story. My first task was to establish the maker of this gun as it was unsigned. Paging through "*Rifles of Colonial America, Volume 1*" secured the maker to be attributed to Wolfgang Haga without any doubt. This was confirmed by sending photos to other KRA members who also agreed with my conclusions regarding maker and date. My next approach was to do a full archeological dismantling of the gun. In doing so, I made some amazing discoveries. The last person to clean this rifle left some







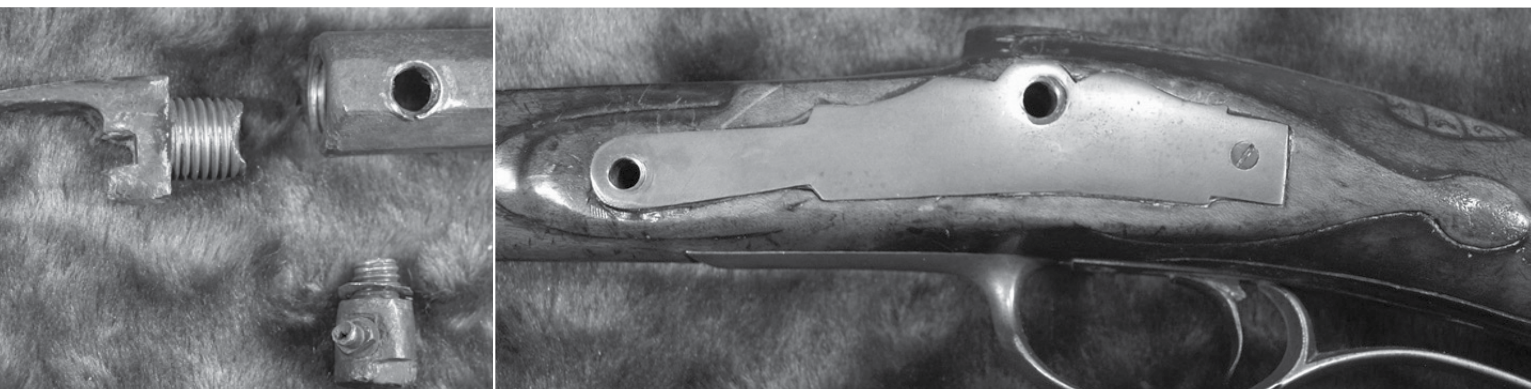
# RIFE ATTRIBUTED TO HAGA

## *BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE*

BY  
HUGH TOENJES, KRA

raw “tow” in the bore. It was obvious that the gun had been cleaned regularly as the rifling and lands were in good enough shape to still be used. The bore diameter measured .480” and did not need to be freshened. The outside dimensions were surprising to me as the breech measured about 1” across the flats and there is a straight taper to the muzzle where it measured .820”. The barrel length is 43 3/8”. There was no sign of a swamped barrel profile. This was borne out by the barrel channel in the fore stock which also had a straight taper inlet. Another surprise was

that the barrel channel inlet did not have the typical five flats to receive the barrel profile. It was gouged out with a half round profile from the breech to the muzzle except for three inches at the breech end where five flats had been configured. I suspect that this rifle had been made in a hurry or by a young journeyman who worked for Haga. Also note the butt plate extension – it does not line up with the top line of the comb. This is another telltale of rapid or inexperienced assembly. The patch box cavity revealed some very old tallow and a small 1/4” longitudinal hole



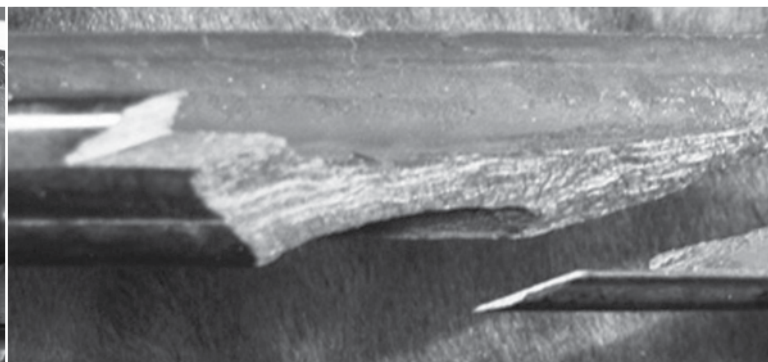




toward the forward end of the box. This must have been where the cleaning worm was stored. So I went through my collection of antique worms and found one which fit, not only the hole in the patch box, but fit the bore size exactly. Then I fashioned a tapered hickory ramrod with a metal sleeve on the small end. The sleeve is threaded to receive the male threads on the antique worm. The ramrod hole which was drilled in the fore stock was also done in a hurried

manner as it is off center and it is too close to the forward lock bolt. Thus that bolt has to have a relief section to allow the end of the ramrod to pass underneath it.

It appears from research done by James Whisker that Haga was paid by the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety for doing gun work for Northumberland county and Berks county militia. If this rifle was made for a militia rifleman





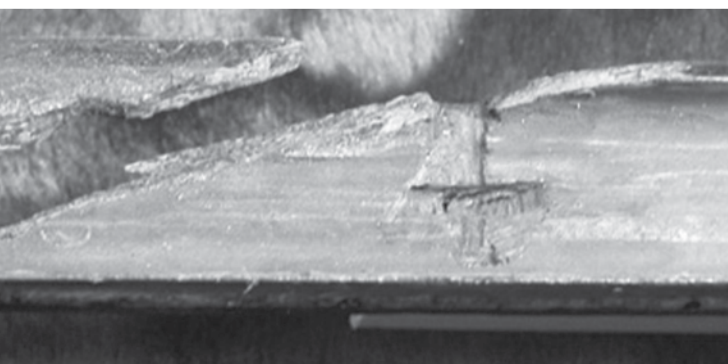


it might explain the haste in which it was made.

I reconverted the gun to flintlock ignition, which of course, was the original. I handmade the lock plate using hacksaw and file with dimensions gained from Steven Hench. The rest of the lock was made from heavily modified Siler parts using micro welding and files. The trigger blade needed to be added to because the original was severally altered for the percussion lock.

The trigger pull distance remains the same at 13 ¼". The tang screw and lock bolts are all handmade, case hardened and antiqued. The proper side plate was sandcast by Brad Emig. New old wood was added to both the lock panel and the side plate panel.

The greatest challenge that presented itself during the restoration process was the broken fore stock. When I did







the initial examination, I found that the fragile fore stock had been broken in many places. In fact it was now in five separate pieces lying on my bench. Some well-meaning person had tried to repair these breaks with something equivalent to "LA Pages paper glue". The fortunate part was that all of the pieces were on the bench in front of me.

No piece was missing. To put these pieces together in a proper manner, I had to remove the old crystalized glue and expose raw wood. I needed the raw wood surface for adherence to the modern glue, or in this case, epoxy. I

am a firm believer in the use of modern techniques and materials to stabilize these treasures of old. This includes everything from Tig and micro welding to modern epoxies which can be easily colored to match the original color of the stock wood. All of the added parts for the restoration of this gun were blended in by doing an antiquing process of rusting, pitting and hand rubbing. Several other efforts to stabilize this old rifle were performed and are worthy to be mentioned here. First I elongated the barrel pin holes in the barrel tendons which will allow for shrinkage and expansion due to changes in humidity. These changes can





easily be absorbed by old and new wood alike. Second I filled the fore stock oversized pin holes with recessed dowels and re-drilled the pin holes. The recessing provided a way to keep an antique look to the oversized holes. The rifle has now been totally stabilized and is ready to be fired again if the occasion ever arises.

Accompanying the rifle is an old powder horn. Again, it comes from the same local that the rifle was made and it is from the same time period. I did two repairs on the horn. The button on the nose of the butt plug was broken in half

so I restored it to its original profile. The horn is a screw tip style horn with a separate spout plug which I fashioned out of an old violin peg. This was done to replace the tapered dowel which someone had made in modern times that was causing a split in the mouth of the spout. The horn measures 17 ½" across the back. The turned walnut butt plug is 2 ¾" in diameter.

I feel very honored to have had the opportunity in applying my artisanship alongside that of the master gun maker Wolfgang Haga. ■



# Message from the President

*Hank Nowak, KRA President*

I would like to extend my thanks to all of our members who attended the KRA meeting this past June in Mars, PA. Below is additional annual meeting information which includes the theme for the 2017 President's Display in addition to an article written by KRA members Bob Lienemann and Scott Paul Gordon.

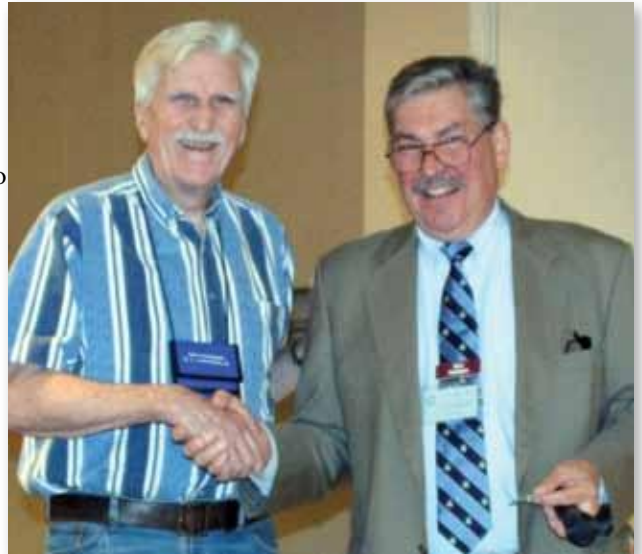
## **KRA Annual Meeting 2016:**

This Year's Annual Meeting was well attended by KRA Members and Spouses. The Gun Room was almost sold out and the Educational Displays continue to be of the highest quality. Saturday's Banquet was the largest attended in recent years and the Ladies Program continues to be very well received. Members and Non Members alike loaned their Buck's County Guns which were photographed and managed by the Kentucky Rifle Foundation for our benefit.

Thanks and we are looking forward to 2017.

## **KRA DoubleTree Hotel Management Update:**

Dave Geiger and I met with the hotel management during the KRA Annual Meeting. We all agreed that the DoubleTree is providing a first class environment for the KRA. We stressed the need to keep the meeting costs reasonable and more than competitive, and the manager understands, even though some fees will grow over the next few years. We were also informed that the new DoubleTree owners visited the meeting, were very impressed with our event and security and suggested that the hotel manager work with us to keep us satisfied as a long term customer. Please mark you calendar for **June 29th – July 2, 2017 Annual Meeting** at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Mars, PA.



Bruce Moyer received his 50 year pin from Hank Nowak.



(left to right) Carl Landis with the top three Educational Award Winners, Glenn Scott, Wayne Elliot and Mel Hankla.

positive comments from the KRA membership about the 2016 President's Display focusing on a specific **"Region" of Upper Buck's County Style Rifles**. ***The 2017 Presidents Display will focus on Kentucky Rifles, Fowlers and Pistols in the Tulpehochen "Region"***. The town of Womelsdorf is located in the western most part of Berks County and is midway between Reading and Lebanon or the "Hub" of the Tulpehochen" The Winter KRA Bulletin will have details on the evolution and styles we expect and how they will tell the Womelsdorf story in sequence.

## **"The Gunmaking Trade in Bethlehem,**

**Christianbrunn, and Nazareth"** is an article published in the *Journal of Moravian History*. Bob Lienemann has donated a copy to the KRA Library which is authored by him and Scott Paul Gordon of Lehigh University. You can purchase a copy of this issue of the Journal for \$15 plus mailing. If interested, contact Kelly Givens at the Moravian Archives Bethlehem at (610) 866-3255 or email her at [kelly@moravianchurcharchives.org](mailto:kelly@moravianchurcharchives.org).

## **Presidents Display 2017:**

***"Hub of the Tulpehochen Region"*** - Womelsdorf School - 1780-1840. I was encouraged by the



# The Kentucky Rifle Association

## 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday June 26th, 2016

*Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Pittsburg-Cranberry, Mars, Pennsylvania*

**Annual Meeting was called to order at 10:03 A.M.** by President Hank Nowak with a thank you to everyone for a great meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Moment of Silence by President Nowak for our deceased members over the past year who include:**

Raymond Corridon, Bob Lyles, James Ritchie, Fenton Cordell, Harmon Leonard, Larry S. Young, Don Shuler, John Reiley, and a special remembrance of our long time Administrative Assistant and Member Ruth Collis.

**Approval of the 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes as published in the Fall Bulletin.**

*Motion made by Craig Bell with second by Gordon Barlow.*

*Unanimously passed.*

**Treasurer's Report:** Submitted by Helen Hodges, Administrative Assistant.

Starting balance from 6/20/15 of \$58,897.71.

Total Income: \$47,223.12.

Total Expenses: \$41,737.00.



President's Display Buck's County Rifles.



Panel discussion speaker Craig Bell.

Citizens Certificate of Deposit: \$15,877.95.

Total Funds: \$80,261.78

*Motion for approval of Treasurer's Report by George Carrol with second by Craig Bell.*

*Unanimously passed.*

**Annual Membership Report was given by Helen Hodges, Administrative Assistant.**

Starting membership as of June 20, 2015 was 575.

*Six members resigned:*

Andy Mock, Frank Sujansky, Phillip (Mike) Small, Henry Truslow, Roger Hueber, and Allan Samuels.

*Nine members deceased as noted above.*

*Eight members dropped their membership:*

Terry Lakes, Ernest Cowan, David Feathers, Don Fennimore, Roy Garizio, Richard Keller, Thomas Kyser, Michael Siemens.



*Two members were reinstated:*  
Randall Pierce and Allan Samuels.

*Eighteen new members have been accepted:*  
Heinz Ahlers, Todd Fix, Walter Mabry, Andrew Masich, Thomas Ryan, George W. Browning, Michael D. Carter, Garrett P. Homack, Dr. Major McCollough, Taylor Thistlethwaite, Gary Doeringer, Jason Gatliff, Dean Gaugler, Peter Marshall, Samuel J. Thompson, Kenneth M. Leonard, Ronald W. Hillegas, Jeffrey A. Payne.

*Total Membership as of June 24th, 2016 is 572.*  
(Note: total membership reported at meeting was 571, a mathematical error is corrected.)

*Motion to approve the Annual Membership Report was made by Giles Cromwell and seconded by Frank Kobilis.*

*Unanimously passed.*

### **Prospective Member report was given by Vice President and Membership Chairman David Geiger.**

Thirteen prospective new members were presented:

<i>Candidate:</i>	<i>State:</i>	<i>Sponser:</i>
<b>Joseph Alphabet</b>	California	Mike D'Ambra
<b>Alan Troutman</b>	Pennsylvania	Steve Hilberg
<b>Thomas L. Rossman</b>	Pennsylvania	Richard Rosenberger
<b>Daniel Mackel</b>	Pennsylvania	M.W. Vance
<b>Douglas G. Pfeiffer</b>	Pennsylvania	Ronald Gabel
<b>Stephen P. Gnegy</b>	West Virginia	Jim Myers
<b>Dan Schachner</b>	Illinois	Hugh Toenjes
<b>Don Schachner</b>	Illinois	Hugh Toenjes
<b>Gary Blumenthal</b>	Pennsylvania	Charlie Kauffman
<b>Stanley Kalinowski III</b>	Pennsylvania	Bill Vance

<b>Mark Freed Loving</b>	Virginia	Frank Kobilis
<b>Nathaniel J. Koval</b>	Ohio	Frank Kobis
<b>Marc Hynes</b>	Ohio	Robert May

*Motion was made by Ron Gabel to accept this report. Motion was seconded by Bill Vance.*

*Motion was unanimously carried.*

### **Carl Landis, The Educational Awards Chairman reported that a total of 12 educational displays were exhibited at the annual meeting.**

These displays were judged based on educational value and overall appearance. The top three educational displays were:

- **Engraved Powder Horns of the mid 1700s** by Glenn Scott.
- **Brothers in Arms** by Wayne Elliott.
- **Historic Icons from the Cumberland** by Mel Hankla.

*The other participating educational displays were:*

- **Three Bedfords** by Howard Fundukien.
- **William Henry Pistol** by Jim Renn.
- **Butts and Bobs** by Karl Smith.
- **Perkiomen Creek Gun Industry** by Hank Nowak.
- **George N. Hyatt, Founder of the KRA** by David Powers.
- **All in the Family** by Steve Hilberg.
- **Johannes "John" Moll** by Lawrence Kafka.
- **Guns of Importance and Interest to George Shumway and the KRA** by C. Darrell Love.
- **Pistols, Powder Horns, and Pipe Tomahawks** by Phil Lucas.



All participants were thanked by Carl on behalf of the KRA. Carl announced that Nick Powers would be assisting him with the educational displays in the future.

**Mark Wheland presented the Sergeant at Arms report.** He thanked all the members for their cooperation. There were no major issues except those posed by the hotel construction. Those issues were ameliorated by everyone helping with the load in and load out.





KRA President Hank Nowak gave a special thanks to the ladies for all their help.

**Brian LaMaster presented the Kentucky Rifle Foundation report.** He thanked all those who assisted in transporting and setting the President's Display. This significant effort is appreciated. A special thanks to Van Pitmann for his help in transporting many of the items on the educational display.

And a special thanks to security for insuring the safety of the President's display guns. The KRA is developing a coloring book for children that is downloadable and may be used in conjunction with its various gun displays. Brian reminded members of the display at Prickett's Fort, in Fairmont West Virginia. This exhibit is on the way for members headed south from the Annual Meeting.

**President Hank Nowak announced the members receiving 25 year pins:**

Ralph Cipriano, Brad Emig, Wayne Heckert, Robert Lieneman, Richard Mackintosh, Thomas Rohr, Diane Ulbrich, Charles Umstatt, David Walker, and John Zimmerman.

**President Hank Nowak then recognized 50 year pin recipient Bruce Moyer**, and all members applauded his accomplishment.

President Nowak then thanked Rose Donharl, Denny Donharl, and Sharon DeCamp for their hard work in putting on the Ladies tour to the Heinz center. 32 ladies and guests went on the trip, and the event was very successful. An event for next year is being planned.

**No Old Business was presented.**

**New Business:**

Steve Hench was recognized and spoke on behalf of Milton Von Damm. Mr. Von Damm requests that the board

evaluate the current rules regarding guests. Mr. Von Damm flies from California and has a son 40 years of age. He would like to bring his son as a guest.

**Nominating Committee report was delivered by President Hank Nowak.**

Carl Landis and Frank Slyker were nominated for 3 year terms. There were no nominations from the floor.

*A motion by Brian LaMaster and second by Lawrence Kafka was passed unanimously.*

**President Nowak announce a change in the weekend for next years Annual Meeting.**

The meeting will occur one week later next year on June 30th and July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**President Nowak closed the meeting with encouragement to the membership to attract new members and support the regional shows.**

The KRA calender was present for distribution, and the calendar is published on the web site. A special thanks was given to all of our members who have sponsored new members. Every member is encouraged to invite appropriate new members to join.

**With no further business to come before the body of the Kentucky Rifle Association, Lawrence Kafka made a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

*This was seconded by Frank Kobilis and passed unanimously.*

*The 55th KRA Annual Meeting is on June 30<sup>th</sup>, July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2017 in Mars Pennsylvania.*



# Mel Hankla Receives Silver Certificate from NRA

**W**ayne Elliott (right), representing the *Kentucky Rifle Foundation*, presented **Mel Hankla** (left) with his Silver Certificate of Recognition. It was only one of nine given from the NRA. The Silver Certificate, representing the "Best of Show", was for Mel's display of his L&W Bryan rifles from his display called "Historic Icons of Kentucky" at the 2016 NRA Convention. Mel was also awarded a certificate for *Best Accoutrement* for the W.Y. tomahawk.



## With the Regional Shows

The Kentucky Rifle Association is not affiliated in any way with the planning or presentation of any regional longrifle gun show. Neither the name Kentucky Rifle Association nor any of that association's logos may be used in any form in connection with any regional show.

<i>Date</i>	<i>2016 Shows</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<b>September 16-17</b>	<b>7th Annual Eastern PA Show</b>	Morgantown, PA	<i>Mac Spencer</i>	484-678-1314
<b>October 28-29</b>	<b>31st Annual Virginia Show</b>	Front Royal, VA	<i>Tim Hodges</i>	540-662-5438
<b>November 7-8</b>	<b>PA Antique Gun Collectors</b>	Plymouth Meeting, PA	<i>Carl Landis</i>	610-264-7991
<b>January 13-14</b>	<b>1st Alabama Kentucky Rifle Show</b>	Warrior, AL	<i>J. Parker</i>	205-680-9219
<b>January 27-28</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Bushy Run Arms Show</b>	Claridge, PA.	<i>B. Vance</i>	724-327-1680
<b>February 3-4</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Century Artisans Show</b>	Lewisburg, PA	<i>M. Wheland</i>	814-832-2785
<b>February 3,4,5</b>	<b>Lake Cumberland Show</b>	Jamestown, KY	<i>M. Hankla</i>	270-566-3370
<b>February TBA</b>	<b>Prarie State Longrifle Show</b>	Princeton, IL	<i>C. Johnson</i>	815-537-5495
<b>March 10-11</b>	<b>24<sup>rd</sup> MD, VA, WV Show</b>	New Market, VA	<i>S. Koontz</i>	540-828-2971
<b>March 18-19</b>	<b>MD Arms Collectors Show</b>	Timonium, MD	<i>F. Slyker</i>	410-879-3576
<b>Spring TBA</b>	<b>PA Antique Gun Collectors</b>	Plymouth Meeting, PA	<i>Carl Landis</i>	610-264-7991
<b>April TBA</b>	<b>Old Bedford Village Show</b>	Bedford, PA	<i>B. Vance</i>	724-327-1680
<b>April 21-22</b>	<b>39th TN Kentucky Rifle Show</b>	Knoxville, TN	<i>W. Elliott</i>	770-823-2970
<b>June 24, 25 &amp; 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>54<sup>th</sup> KRA Annual Meeting</b>	Pittsburgh, PA	<i>H. Nowak</i>	267-222-8385

\* If you would like your regional show listed in the KRA Bulletin, please contact the editor with the show information.



## Buy, Sell, Trade, Info

In answer to a number of requests from our members we include this BUY, SELL, TRADE column to our bulletin. Until the volume of these items becomes a problem, we will include them free of charge. This column can not accept ads for items you would not be allowed to display or trade at our Annual Meeting.

### BOOK FOR SALE: "Northern Berks County Pennsylvania Gunmakers - Featuring Stoffel Long of Greenwich and Albany Township".

The book can be purchased at Dixons Gun shop or by placing an order to my home address. The cost of the book is **\$15.00** each.

Dave Laidacker  
30 Limestone Road  
Danville, PA 17821

(570)-220-9523 [slaidacker@hotmail.com](mailto:slaidacker@hotmail.com)

## Prospective New Members

In accordance with our membership requirements, names of prospective members must be circulated via the newsletter to the membership-at-large for comments.

If no adverse comment is received within 30 days after their circulation, the secretary will automatically send the candidates an invitation to join our association.

Potential members who have been invited to join shall have 30 days to accept, after which time the invitation will be considered withdrawn.

I am pleased to list the following new candidates for membership along with the names of their sponsors.

Candidate	Sponsor
Joseph Alphabet	Mike D'Ambra
Alan Troutman	Steve Hilberg
Thomas L. Rossman	Richard Rosenberger
Daniel Mackel	M.W. Vance
Douglas G. Pfeiffer	Ronald Gabel
Stephen P. Gnegy	Jim Myers
Dan Schachner	Hugh Toenjes
Don Schachner	Hugh Toenjes
Gary Blumenthal	Charlie Kauffman
Stanley Kalinowski III	Bill Vance
Mark Freed Loving	Frank Kobilis
Nathaniel J. Koval	Frank Kobis
John M. Hynes	Robert May
Burton O. Sours	Tim Hodges
Eric J. Gibby	Howard Kendall
Jeffery A. Sperry	William E. Rayl

## KRF Helps fund Moravian Archives Study

**The Kentucky Rifle Foundation** approved a \$1000.00 grant in June of 2015 as a match to a \$1000.00 grant provided by the *American Society of Arms Collectors Foundation*. These monies were offered to provide funding for the translation of Moravian hand written German archives not previously studied relating to the manufacture of firearms. KRA members Scott Gordon, Dave Laidacker and Ronald Gabel supervised the study



which was supported by KRA member Bob Lienemann who had done years of work with the archives in the past. The results of this effort aided in the publication of an extensive article entitled **"The Gun making Trade in Bethlehem, Christiansbrunn, and Nazareth"** authored by Bob Lienemann and Scott Paul Gordon. This article is available from the Moravian Archives, 41 W. Locust Street, Bethlehem, PA. 18018 for \$15.00 a copy. Interested parties can request copies of this forty-four page article in the *Journal of Moravian History, Volume 16, Number 1*.

## Necrology

We are sorry to report the passing of KRA members, Ruth Collis from Lancaster, PA who joined in 1981, and John Reiley from Strasburg, VA who joined in 2004. We offer our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

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### KRA Committee Chairmen

Membership .....	Dave Geiger
Bulletin Editor/ Layout/Design .....	Kevin J. McDonald
Librarian .....	Andrew Tisler
Archivist .....	Ronald G. Gabel
Administrative Assistant .....	Ruth Collis
Gunroom Security .....	Mark Wheland
Awards .....	Carl Landis
KRA Foundation Pres.....	Brian LaMaster

[www.kentuckyrifleassociation.org](http://www.kentuckyrifleassociation.org)





# KRA

THE KENTUCKY RIFLE ASSOCIATION  
206 Aster Street  
Nazareth, PA 18064

## *Unknown Bucks County*



Unknown Gunsmith, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Flintlock rifle with an octagon to round barrel, a brass engraved patchbox, incised and raised carved with silver wire inlay and a engraved side plate.

Buttplate Height 4<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" Width 1<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" Lockplate Length 5" Trigger Pull 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" Patchbox Length 4<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" Barrel Length 45<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"



*Unknown Maker*  
Detail of Carving



*David Thomas*  
Detail of Patchbox

## 2016 Presidents Display: *Guns of the Upper Bucks County Style, Volume I, Issue X*

The above photos from the 2016 President's Display are available for purchase on CD by contacting *The Kentucky Rifle Foundation*. The CD includes over 220 high quality photographs taken by Photographer Kenneth Orr. Information at: [www.kentuckyriflefoundation.org](http://www.kentuckyriflefoundation.org)