



WHICH CHRISTIAN BECK IS IT?

PART II

BY VAN PITMAN, KRA

In Part I, the Fall 2012 KRA Bulletin, I examined the life of Christian Beck III, or as Kindig called this gunsmith¹, Christian Beck the Later. His career path started with his apprenticeship in Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, continued as a master gunsmith in

Roxbury,
Franklin County, PA,
Williamsport, MD, Martinsburg,
VA, and finally the Western frontier. His
journey did not take him to Jonestown, Dauphin
County, Pennsylvania where another Christian Beck is listed
as a gunsmith in the 1807 and 1811 Triennial Assessments
of Dauphin County².

This article, Part II, will investigate this Christian Beck of
Jonestown and the rifles he made then conclude this series
by examining Christian Beck Jr., also known as Christian
Beck the Earlier³.

THE DISCOVERY

A closer examination of all the Dauphin County
(established 1785) tax rolls reveals that Christian Beck of
Jonestown was listed continuously from 1807 thru 1813 in
the Bethel Township Returns⁴. In 1813 Lebanon County

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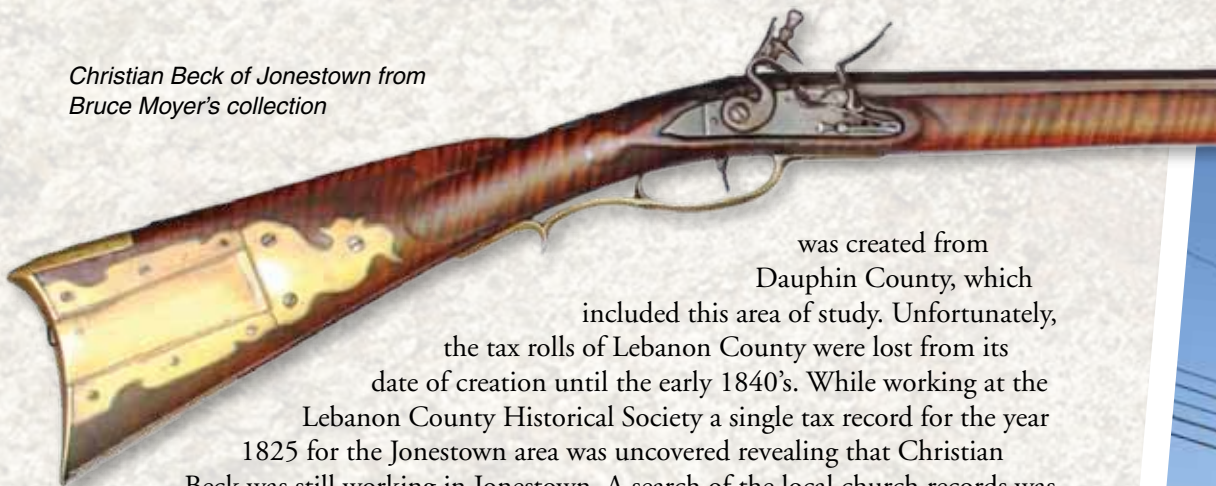
Craig Bell, VA

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Questions, contact:
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The Kentucky Rifle Association
PO Box 97
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*Christian Beck of Jonestown from
Bruce Moyer's collection*



was created from Dauphin County, which included this area of study. Unfortunately, the tax rolls of Lebanon County were lost from its date of creation until the early 1840's. While working at the Lebanon County Historical Society a single tax record for the year 1825 for the Jonestown area was uncovered revealing that Christian Beck was still working in Jonestown. A search of the local church records was initiated to find more evidence of his stay at Jonestown.

The records of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jonestown did reveal that Christian Beck's wife was Ann (Mason) Beck and they produced eight children whose births were recorded in the church records spanning from 1810 thru 1827⁵. The exciting part of discovering Christian's wife name was that while researching for the first article, Part I, I found in the Salem Lutheran Church of Lebanon records John Philip Beck, the famous gunsmith of Lebanon, Pa, had a son, Christian, who married Anna Mason on July 20th, 1806⁶. This evidence now firmly linked Christian Beck of Jonestown as the son of J. P. Beck.

THE EVIDENCE

Christian Beck of Jonestown's father, John Philip Beck, known as J. P. Beck, is the second son of Johann Christian Beck Sr. a powder maker. J. P. Beck was born in 1751 and died in October, 1811. He worked as a gunsmith in Lebanon, Pa. from the Revolutionary War until his death in 1811. He had eight children by his first wife, Anna Maria (Lauk) of which four were sons. Two of the sons, Samuel and Emanuel, births are recorded in the Salem church records⁷. John Philip Beck Jr., the eldest son, is recorded in the burials section of the church records. Christian is referenced, as stated above, in the marriage records, having John Philip Beck as his witness to Christian's marriage. The family genealogy is provided at the end of the article to help the reader understand the family relationships discussed.

The next reference linking Christian Beck of Jonestown to J. P. Beck can be found in a book written by R. H. Koch, a grandson of Emanuel Beck. In the book Mr. Koch was discussing his interview with Emanuel Beck, J. P. Beck's youngest son, the family lineage and history. During the discussion in 1874 Emanuel stated he had a brother named Christian⁸.

The last family references are after J. P. Beck's death in 1811. In 1813, Leonard Greenawalt and Henry Kelker, executors, filed with the Orphan's Court of Dauphin County the initial settlement of J. P. Beck's estate⁹. The settlement listed those that owed money to the estate. Christian Beck was listed as a debtor for 75 pounds. Perhaps this large sum of money was for helping his son set up his gun shop and for materials used to build rifles, as no explanation for the debt was offered in the filing papers. Then in 1824, Greenawalt, now lone surviving executor, filed with the Orphan's Court the final settlement of J. P. Beck's estate and Christian was listed again as owing an additional 17 pounds, 18 schillings and 5 pence¹⁰.

The final reference will be found when studying the rifles Christian Beck of Jonestown built, to be discussed later in the article.

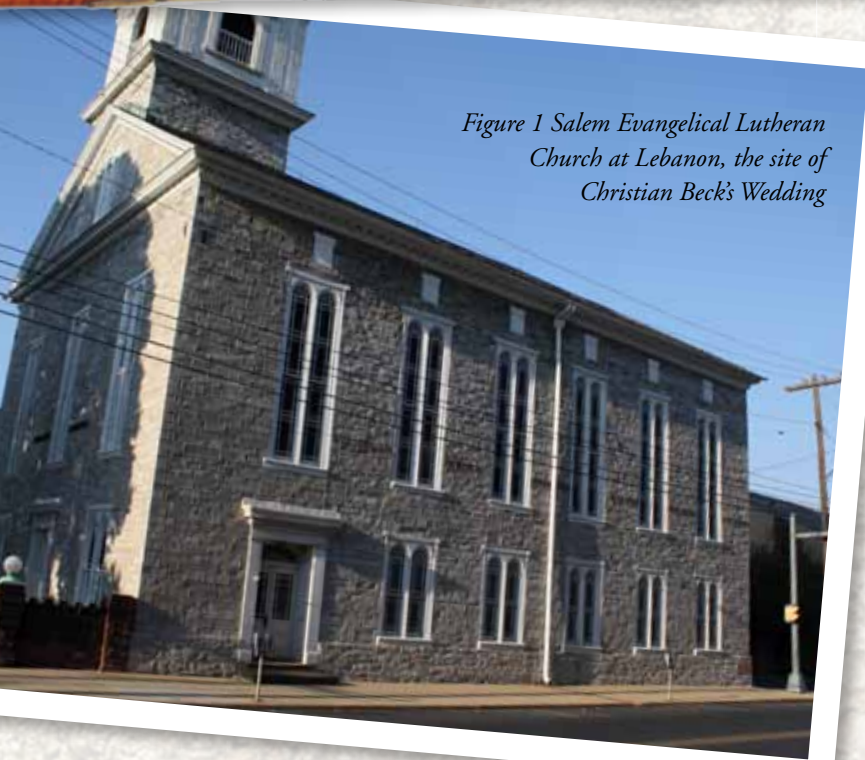


Figure 1 Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church at Lebanon, the site of Christian Beck's Wedding

the third child and second son of J. P. Beck¹¹. He was chosen to learn the trade of gunsmithing and the evidence will show he served his apprenticeship in his father's shop. His apprenticeship years should have been from 1795 or 1796 thru 1802 or 1803. I believe he continued to work with his father after his apprenticeship until his marriage.

As stated earlier, the records of the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, shown in Figure #1, indicated that Christian Beck married Anna Mason on July 20th, 1806. He was 24 and she was 18. After their wedding they moved only seven miles from Lebanon to Jonestown where Christian appears for the first time as a gunsmith in the 1807 Dauphin County tax roles. He continues to be taxed as a gunsmith each year until 1813. As mentioned above, Jonestown became part of the newly formed Lebanon County in 1813 and, unfortunately, the missing tax records make tracking him yearly difficult. We know, however, he was still in Jonestown in 1825 as a result of the discovered single year Lebanon tax reference. Other records placing him in Jonestown include the 1810, 1820 and 1830 Federal Census. In addition, the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jonestown records, as mentioned earlier, record the birth of his children from 1810 thru 1827 and finally show Ann, his wife, died June 12th, 1834.



Figure 2 Signed J. P. Beck Rifle from the Kindig Collection

LIFE'S STORY

It is easy to understand why Christian Beck of Jonestown has remained hidden from researchers as there isn't a lot of information available on his life. He was born in Lebanon, Lancaster County (first Dauphin County, now Lebanon County) on February, 18th, 1782 as



Figure 3 Signed C. Beck Rifle from the H. Bishop Collection



Figure 4 Signed J. P. Beck #99 from the Kindig Collection



Figure 5 Signed C. Beck from the F. Schry Collection



Figure 6 Signed J. P. Beck from the Kindig Collection

The tax records for Lebanon County come back into play starting in 1842. Christian Beck is listed as living with his daughter, Maria, and son-in-law, Cyrus Mason. The 1840 Federal Census supports this finding as it lists one male of the right age group for Christian in Mason's household. Christian Beck continues to be listed in the tax records but moves from household to household, with an occupation of laborer and even a whip stock maker.

The final defining point in his life is a listing in the Zion Evangelical Lutheran church records that indicates his death as July 25th, 1861 and his age of 79 years, 5 months, and 7 days¹². I believe Christian Beck of Jonestown lived and worked as a gunsmith in Jonestown for 30+ years.

CHRISTIAN BECK OF JONESTOWN RIFLES

From serving an apprenticeship in his father's shop and establishing his own gunsmithing business only seven miles from Lebanon,



This example of a rifle from Christian Beck of Jonestown shop is from Bruce Moyer's collection and shows the straighter comb line, the same carving design, but extended with additional scrolls. The patchbox has his typical side plates with the engraving being limited to a perimeter outline of the side plates, finial and lid.

the rifles of Christian Beck retained the characteristics of his father's, J. P. Beck, rifles. He used the same hardware as his father, utilizing the butt plates, side plates, triggerguards and ramrod ferrules. This may account for part of the large debt that Christian Beck of Jonestown owed his father.



Figure 7 Signed C. Beck from the F. Schry Collection

The photo in Figure #2 is a signed J.P. Beck rifle from the Kindig collection. It shows several common features found on J.P. Beck's rifles, including the style of patchbox with the side plates extending beyond the hinge, the butt plate extension molding using a double line at the end, the single rivet toward the upper corner of the patchbox lid and finally the style of engraving that J. P. Beck used on his rifles. Compare this photo to Figure #3 and see the similarities to Christian's work.

Figure 8 Pitman's Signed C. Beck- Patchbox View

Another similar feature that Christian Beck of Jonestown carried from J. P. Beck's shop is the style of the triggerguard, using

the double raised half octagon at the junction of the bow and rail and two slashes at the end of the front of the triggerguard extension as show in Figures #4 and #5.

Another major feature shared between father and son is in the side plates. They generally share a similar outline and they have a beveled edge on the perimeter of the plate as seen in Figures #6 and #7.





Figure 9 Pitman's Signed C. Beck- Carving View



Figure 10 Pitman's C. Beck -Signature



Figure 11 Maike's Signed C. Beck- Patchbox View



Figure 12 Maike's Signed C. Beck- Carving View



Figure 13 Maike's C. Beck- Signature

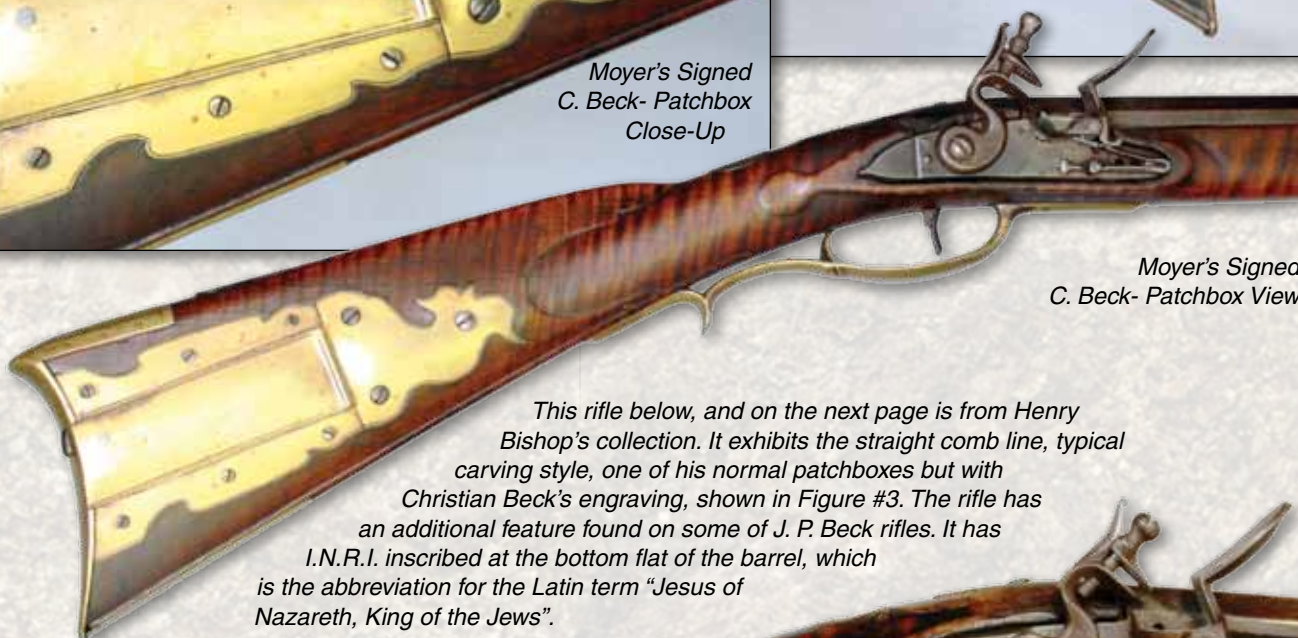


Moyer's Signed
C. Beck- Carving View

Moyer's C. Beck- Signature



Moyer's Signed
C. Beck- Patchbox
Close-Up



Moyer's Signed
C. Beck- Patchbox View

This rifle below, and on the next page is from Henry Bishop's collection. It exhibits the straight comb line, typical carving style, one of his normal patchboxes but with Christian Beck's engraving, shown in Figure #3. The rifle has an additional feature found on some of J. P. Beck rifles. It has I.N.R.I. inscribed at the bottom flat of the barrel, which is the abbreviation for the Latin term "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews".

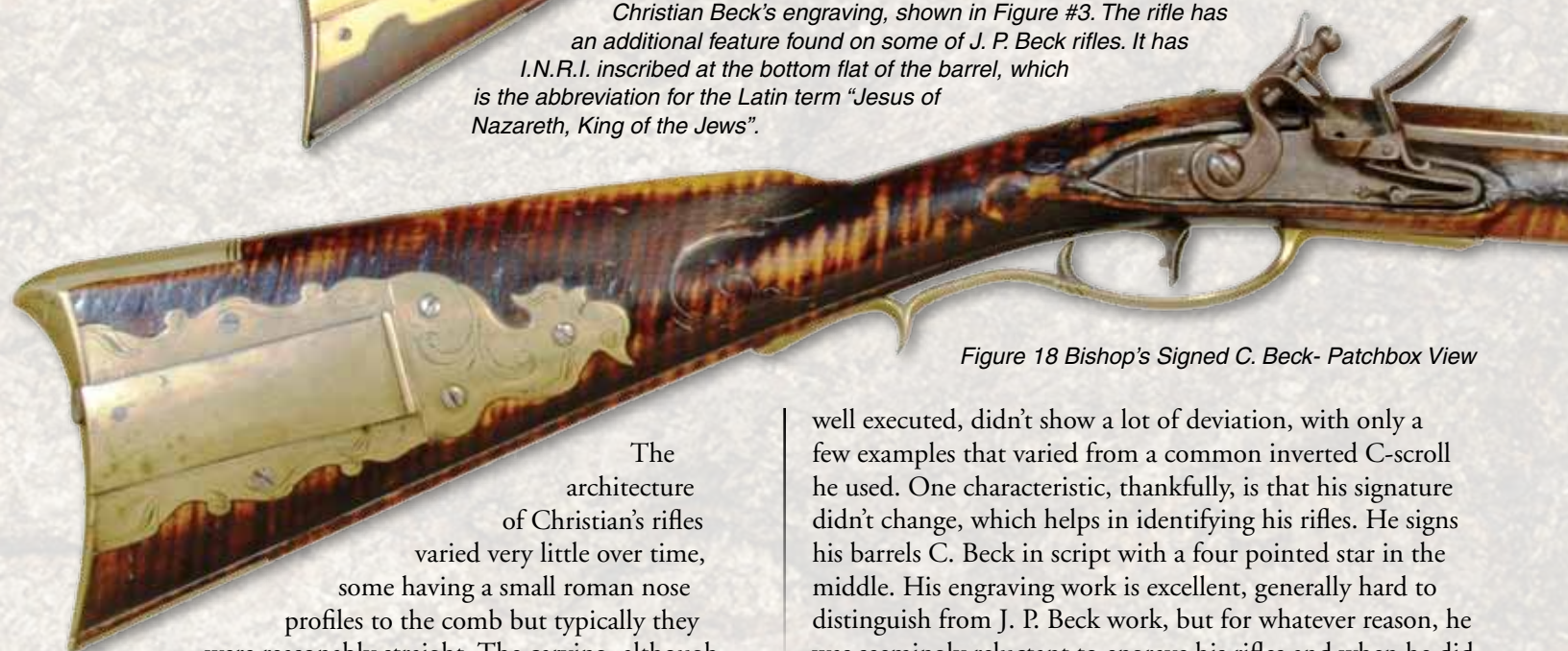


Figure 18 Bishop's Signed C. Beck- Patchbox View

The architecture of Christian's rifles varied very little over time, some having a small roman nose profiles to the comb but typically they were reasonably straight. The carving, although

well executed, didn't show a lot of deviation, with only a few examples that varied from a common inverted C-scroll he used. One characteristic, thankfully, is that his signature didn't change, which helps in identifying his rifles. He signs his barrels C. Beck in script with a four pointed star in the middle. His engraving work is excellent, generally hard to distinguish from J. P. Beck work, but for whatever reason, he was seemingly reluctant to engrave his rifles and when he did



Bishop's Signed
C. Beck- Carving View

Bishop's Signed C. Beck - Barrel Inscription on left,
and Bishop's C. Beck- Signature on right.

it was usually done sparingly. The following figures give you a range of styles of the rifles from the shop of Christian Beck of Jonestown.

The first rifle is from the author's collection and exhibits the slight roman nose comb line and an unusual carving with a typical patchbox without engraving (*figures 9 and 10*).

The next rifle is from John Maike's collection and displays a straighter comb line, typical carving style, and typical patchbox finial with different side plates but without engraving (*figures 11, 12 and 13*).

The last example of Christian Beck of Jonestown work is from the Kindig collection. It has the straight comb line, the C scrolls carving extension, and a patchbox with different side plates with engraving (*figures 22 – 25*).

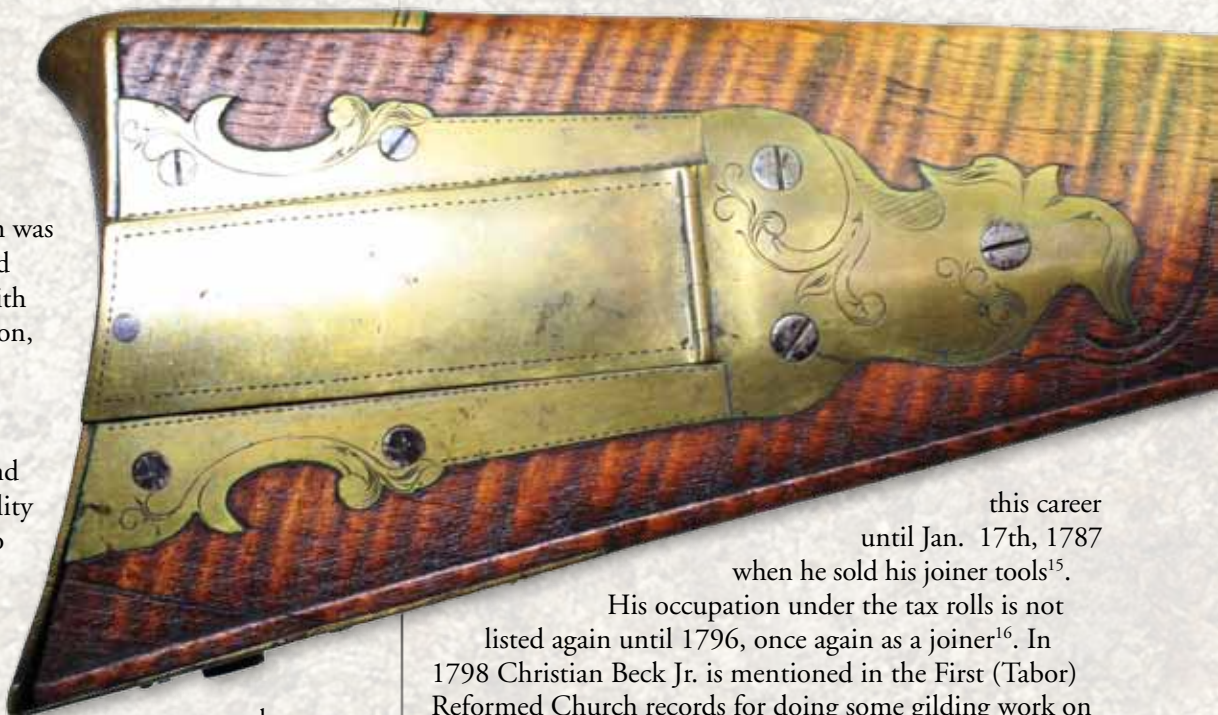
Christian Beck of Jonestown was a first-rate gunsmith and had the capability to compete with his contemporary competition, namely Nicholas Beyer and Peter Berry, Jr. I believe the style of his rifles fit the time period in which he works and definitely exemplify the quality of his training. His ability to produce quality rifles didn't diminish over time in the rifles that I have seen.

However, I have yet to see a rifle that exemplifies the quality of work I believe he is capable of doing, particularly with his ability to engrave and carve. I hope this article will bring more of his rifles out of the closets to be studied and further clarify his working career. I look forward to the opportunity of seeing more examples of his work.

WHAT ABOUT CHRISTIAN BECK THE EARLIER?

John Christian Beck Jr., or called Christian Beck the Earlier by Kindig¹³, is the older brother to J. P. Beck. He was first noted in the 1779, 1781, and 1786 tax rolls of Lancaster County (now Lebanon County), Lebanon Township, as a joiner, or what we would call a finish carpenter¹⁴. It is assumed he continued

Figure 24 Kindig's Signed C. Beck- Patchbox Close-up



this career
until Jan. 17th, 1787
when he sold his joiner tools¹⁵.

His occupation under the tax rolls is not listed again until 1796, once again as a joiner¹⁶. In 1798 Christian Beck Jr. is mentioned in the First (Tabor) Reformed Church records for doing some gilding work on the pulpit¹⁷. He is also credited with being a powder maker in Henry Koch's book on the Beck family, thus ending his career at an explosion at a powder mill in neighboring Myerstown in June, 1806¹⁸. This story is credible as there was a powder mill in Myerstown and Christian Beck Jr. did leave the Lebanon Township tax rolls in 1801¹⁹.

The point of this short history of John Christian Beck Jr. is no primary records could be found that reference him being a gunsmith, contrary to what has been reported in the past. The rifles that are signed C. Beck that were once

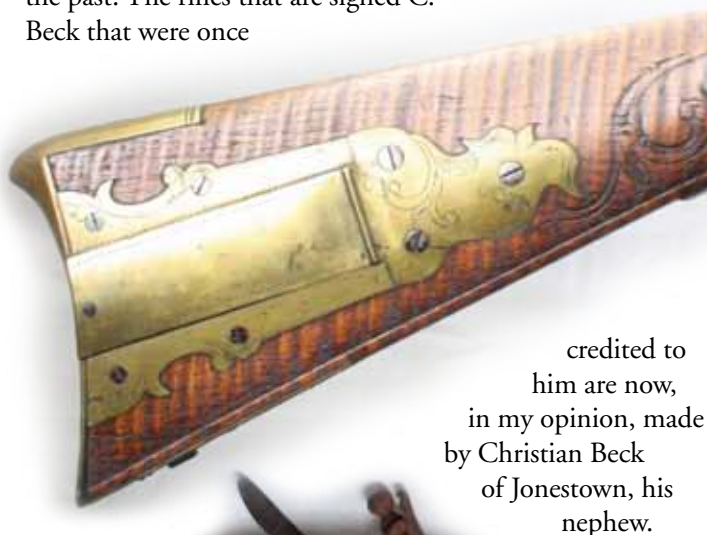


Figure 23 Kindig's Signed C. Beck - Carving View

Christian Beck Jr. died in near poverty, not having enough personnel property to even settle his estate and provide for his heirs. There was no record of an inventory from his estate that could be located.

With no rifles that I can say were built by him, no historical records that indicate he worked as a gunsmith, and no estate inventory to show he had gunsmithing tools, I have to conclude for now that he was not a gunsmith, contrary to previously published information.

Figure 22 Kindig's Signed C. Beck - Patchbox View



Figure 25 Kindig's C. Beck - Signature

Acknowledgements: I want to acknowledge the following people for assisting me with the research and especially for making their rifles available to photograph for study: Henry Bishop, Tim Hodges, Frank Kobilis, Tim

Landers, John Maike, Bruce Moyer, Steve Potter, Fred Schry, and Mac Spencer, all of the KRA. Also, special thanks to Joe Kindig III and Jenifer Kindig for making available their time and rifles that allowed this study to be completed. It is greatly appreciated. ♦

¹ Joe Kindig, Jr. (1960) *Thoughts On The Kentucky Rifle In Its Golden Age*. York, Pennsylvania: George Shumway Publishers.

² Salem Evangelical Church Records, Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Located in the Lebanon County Historical Society.

³ Ibid

⁴ Bishop, H. I. (January, 2010). *Master – Apprentice – Master*. American Tradition – Journal of the Contemporary Longrifle Association, Page 34.

⁵ Information from a German Prayer book owned by Christian Beck III and passed down thru the family and obtained from Link York, wife of a Beck descendant. All information has been verified by various sources.

⁶ Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, Pa., Lancaster County Tax Records, Cocalico Twp., 1751 – 1838.

⁷ Same as Note #5.

⁸ Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, Pa., Manuscript Group 4, Franklin County, Lurgan Township 1801 – 1830.

⁹ Same as note #5

¹⁰ Ancestry.com 1820 Federal Census (on line). Provo, UT.

¹¹ Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, Pa. RG-7 Records of the General Assembly for Franklin County in 1821.

¹² Jacob Fraise Richard, Samuel Penniman (1887) *History of Franklin County Pennsylvania*, Chicago, IL, Warner, Beers & Co.

¹³ Stoner, J. H. (1946) *Mount Alto Furnace Days*, Franklin County Historical Papers, 541.

¹⁴ Bowers, W. S. (1979). *Gunsmiths of Pen-Mar-Va*. Mercersburg, Pa. Mercersburg Printing

¹⁵ Ibid Same as Note 5

¹⁶ Ancestry.com, Online notes from the Ensminger family, Provo, UT.

¹⁷ Berkeley County Historical Society, Martinsburg, WV. *Martinsburg Gazette and Public Advertiser*, April 19th, 1827.

¹⁸ Ancestry.com 1830 Federal Census for Berkeley County, Virginia (on line). Provo, UT.

¹⁹ Perrin, W. H. (1882) *History of Bond and Montgomery County Illinois*, Chicago, IL. O. L. Baskin Publishers.

²⁰ Barrows, F. I. (1917) *History of Fayette County, Indiana*. Indianapolis, Indiana, B. F. Bowers & Co.

²¹ Ancestry.com, Biography of John Christian Beck written by Jesse Glenn Beck in 1941.

²² Ibid Same as Note 21.

²³ Ancestry.com 1850 Federal Census for Hancock County, Illinois (on line). Provo, UT.

²⁴ Ancestry.com State of Illinois, Illinois Public Land Purchase Records (on line). Provo, UT.

²⁵ Ibid Same as Note 21.

²⁶ Ibid Same as Note 21.

51st Annual Meeting Agenda and Minutes

JUNE 23, 2012

Meeting Called to Order@ 10:00 A.M. by President, Brian La Master with a Message of “thanks to everyone”.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence by Brian La Master for: All of our Friends including: Barbara Lyman, Jack Muhlenberg, Richard Seelinger, James Spears, Donald McAllister and Jan Sorgenfrei.

Approval of the 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes as published in the Fall Bulletin.

Motion was made by Jack Farrar, Motion seconded by Paul Heneghan. Motion passed Unanimous.

Treasurer’s Report: Submitted by Ruth Collis, Administrative Assistant.

Report read by Ruth as presented to the Board Meeting.

Total balance June 15, 2013 \$ 58,207.07 No Questions.

Motion to Accept Report by George Carroll second by Robert Burnes, Vote Unanimous.

Membership Report: Submitted by Ruth Collis, Administrative Assistant.

Membership June 15, 2013; 581

16 new members: J. Bowers, Eric Fleisher, Roger Fleisher, T. Frederick, J. Gordon, Scott Gordon, S. Hilberg, J. Kiselica, Ian Pratt, R. Reddick, Linda Ross, J. Seabolt, T. Williams, L. Young, Ronald Campbell, H. Stanhope.

10 Prospective New Members to be published in the Fall Bulletin.

Candidate	Sponsor
Terry Lightner	Mac Spencer
Marc Tornichio	Arnie Dowd
Richard H. Kirchoff	Craig Johnson
Karl Kuehn, Jr.	Warren Offenberger
John L. Nash	Bill Ivey
Laura Johnson Hechtel	Craig Johnson
James Steele	Richard Hujsa
Mike Kvietkavskas	Charlie Kaufmann
David Laidacker	Ron Gabel
Doug Plance	Bill Vance

Detailed report on file with the Secretary and with Hank Nowak, Membership Chairman.

Motion to Accept by Rudy Gleichman, second by ,Frank Vote Unanimous.

50 Year and 25 Year Member Recognition Announced by Brian LaMaster.

50 yr. Members:

Thomas Maddox, Howard Engle, Harmon Leonard

25yr. Members:

John Breth, Steve Colvin, Richard Gadler, Don Goucher, Eddy Huckabee, Roger Hueber, Craig Johnson, James McKenzie, Ray McKnight, James Musgraves, Tom Parker, Gaylon Waters

Educational Awards for the 51st Anniversary Meeting.

Carl Landis, Educational Awards Chairman reviewed the awards process and thanked the KRF for their contributions. 17 Educational Displays were recognized as follows.

The List is numbered by order of registration.

- Craig Bell – The Duncan McArthur Pistols
- Gorgon Barlow – John and Henry Sheets Gun Shop
- Giles Cromwell – 18th Century Virginia “Rifle Guns” with wooden patch box lids
- Richard Zeschke – A Pair of Dickerts
- Mike Briggs – North Carolina School of Longrifles
- Robert Burnes – Virginia Kentuckies “Pristine and Pure”
- Arnie and Natalie Dowd – Southern “Can – Tuc – Kees”
- Mel Hankla – Up the Valley Through the Gap
- Johnsey Leef – Legacy of the Tansel Family
- Frank Slyker and Tim Reezer – Did the “Holtzworth Snakehead” Originate in Dickert’s Shop?
- Howard and John Fundukian – Two Beyers
- Richard Wilks – Lancaster to Chambersburg
- John Smith and John McKee – Sheetz Gunsmiths in Hampshire County
- Lorentz Kafka – Cornelius Atherton a Kentucky Rifle Smith
- Glen Sutt – Variation of Powder Horns
- Steve Hilberg – Lehigh Valley Made
- Nick Powers – James Grant School of Horns.

Carl stated the judging included educational value and overall appearance with a total of a possible 100 points. After all the points were added, the top three Educational Displays were:

The Duncan McArthur Pistols by Craig Bell

John and Henry Sheets Shop by Gordon Barlow

North Carolina School of Longrifles by Mike Briggs.

Each of the top three displays received awards at the Saturday KRA dinner and in the General Meeting on Sunday. All were given a great round of thanks from the membership for a job well done.

Sergeant-at-Arms Report: Dave Geiger.

Dave reported that everyone was cooperative including the few issues that came up during the meeting. Security worked well this year. Dave thanked the membership for displaying “permissible items” and thanked the Security Staff and acknowledged their professional efforts.

The Ladies trip to the Carnegie Museum of Art and Museum of Natural History. Brian LaMaster thanked Hank Nowak, Ruth Collis, Sharon DeCamp and Rose Donharl. He suggests e-mailing any ideas for next year to the KRA Board of Directors.

Kentucky Rifle Foundation Report: Mac Spencer

Acknowledged and thanked the KRA members in attendance for helping the KRF in its charitable and educational goals by producing Books and CD's and summarized the KRF activity.

- Completed the Display at the B & O Railroad Museum, Ellicott City MD and gave special thanks to Courtney Wilson who reported over 200,000 attendees.
- Thanked Dave Hansen for granting exclusive distributorship to Dave's new book "An Intimate Look at the American Long rifle Its Art and Evolution".

Mac thanks all who contributed to this year's Presidents Display and acknowledged his appreciation of the work by Brian LaMaster to make it a success.

Volunteers are welcome to contact Mac.

Regional Show Report:

- **4th Annual Eastern Pennsylvania Longrifle Show** – Mac Spencer – September 13th & 14th, 2013 Quality Inn & Suites Lantern Lodge, Myerstown, Pa. 17067
- **29th Annual Virginia Kentucky Rifle Show** – Tim Hodges – October 25th and 26th 2013. New Location: Holiday Inn & Suites, Front Royal, VA.
- **21st Annual Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia Kentucky Rifle Show** – Sam Koontz February 14th & 15th, 2014 New Location: Shenvalee Golf Resort, New Market, VA.
- **9th Annual Historic Harmony Public Show** August 9th and 10th 2013 – Rick Rosen
- **16th Annual Bushy Run Show**, Open to Public January 24th & 25th, 2014 – Bill Vance New Location Colton Hall – Claridge, PA. New Early Bird Opening 4:00 P.M.
- **37th Tennessee Kentucky Rifle Show** – Wayne Elliot - Will be held Friday and Saturday April 11th & 12th, 2014, at the Museum of Appalachia in Norris, Tennessee (just north of Knoxville).
- **7th Annual 18th Century Artisan Show** – Mark Wheland – January 31st & February 1st, 2014, Lewisburg, Pa.
- **Prairie State Longrifle Show** February 21st & 22nd 2014. – Princeton Ill. Send Table Reservations to Curt Johnson. Closed to the Public. Nice and knowledgeable people
- **Lake Cumberland CLA Mini Show** February 7th & 8th 2014 – Mel Hankla. Weekend before Valentine's Day. Jamestown, KY, Lake Cumberland State Park

- **17th Annual Contemporary Longrifle Association Show and Meeting** – Robert Burnes – August 16th & 17th, 2013, Lexington Ky.

Brian LaMaster suggested that new members and prospective members attend the mini shows to help develop their Kentucky Rifle interests.

Brian LaMaster: New Business from the floor. None.

Brian Announced the KRA 2014 Annual Meeting Date: June 27th, 28th & 29th, 2014 at Pittsburgh Pa.

Brian LaMaster introduces Ron Gabel KRA Bulletin Editor.

Ron gave an update to the membership on his transition from Editor of the KRA Bulletin to Kevin McDonald who has been producing the bulletin with fine graphics. 39 years ago Ron started working on the Bulletin as editor. He wants to take this opportunity to introduce Kevin McDonald and reviewed Kevin's long list of artistic awards and achievements. It's been four years since Ron announced his retirement and wanted to make certain that the membership knows that they are in good hands with Kevin McDonald. There was a generous applause for Ron as he stated that he will still accept articles for the Bulletin.

Brian La Master:

Brian thanked everyone for the loan of their items for the President's Display. He thanked Rick Rosenberg and Nick Powers for their setup help. Brian also thanked the Seminar Speakers and the Ladies who manned the show desk and thanked the members of the Security Company who did a fine job.

Nominating Committee Report: The Slate of officers: President Art DeCamp, Vice President Hank Nowak, Secretary Dave Geiger, Sgt-at-Arms David Powers, Board member renewal Frank Slyker, Carl Landis and New Board member Craig Bell. Brian asked for additional nominations from the floor? No New Nominations. Nominations closed.

Acceptance of nominations:

Motion to close the nominations Gordon Barlow, second Frank Kobilis - passed unanimous.

Departing Comments:

Brian LaMaster thanked the membership and the Board for all of their support during his term of President and he is pleased to support Art DeCamp as the incoming KRA President. Art stated that it is an honor to be President and gave thanks for your faith in him and it's a pleasure to serve with Brian and especially appreciates Brian's attention to detail and ended with a "Congratulations for a job well done". Art then proceeded to present Brian with the outgoing President's award made by Wayne Watson. Wayne has personally known Brian for many years. He wrote a detailed letter which was read to the membership describing how he designed and decorated the President's Tomahawk so that it would have special meaning to Brian. Brian accepted with pleasure.

Motion to Adjourn: Rudy Gleichman motions to leave and return in 1 year. Second everyone. Unanimous.

By: Hank Nowak Outgoing Secretary.

Message from the President

September 2013

BY ART DECAMP, KRA

Another annual show has come and gone. Thanks to you, the enthusiastic members of the KRA, for making this 51st annual show a true success by collecting, doing the research and then sharing the knowledge gained

through a record number of educational displays (18) and approximately one hundred and twenty display tables at this show. It seems each year we work toward



and anticipate the annual show, only to have it pass so quickly and now we are looking to the next one. Members who display their items at the annual show and who attend this event make our organization better for all.

As your new president it is an honor and pleasure to serve this great association. With this year's club election we now have a new Membership Chairman and Vice-president in Hank Nowak, a new Secretary/Treasurer in Dave Geiger, and a new Sergeant -at-Arms in Dave Powers. Please also welcome new board member Craig Bell to KRA service. One other change took place at this year's show. For the last ten years, member and former board member Frank Tait has served as the curator of our club library. For each of these years he ably maintained and transported our library of over fifty books to and from the annual show, placing them on display for all to use during the show. I thank Frank Tait for his dedicated service to the KRA for doing this job. At the show Frank expressed the desire to move on to other pursuits, and almost immediately two members came forward to express their willingness to take of the job of Librarian. Please welcome and thank Andy Tisler of Akron, OH and Richard Wilks of Chagrin Falls, OH for stepping up in a time of need to help the KRA.

KRA 2014 Annual Show - President's Display

Looking towards next year's annual show I have asked Mac Spencer and the Kentucky Rifle Foundation to assemble a President's Display of "Fine Kentuckies of the Old Northwest Territory". This will include no more than 20 fine Kentucky rifles from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. Finding these fine rifles and setting up the display will be challenging. Please contact Mac Spencer at **484-678-1314** or Art DeCamp at **814-643-6343** if you have a rifle to volunteer for this display.

Welcome New Members

The following candidates for membership were listed in a previous newsletter. No adverse comments having been received from the membership-at-large, they have been invited, and have accepted our invitation to join. We extend our congratulations and a hearty welcome to these, our new KRA members.

Candidate	State
W. Robert Bizzell	North Carolina
Rebecca Brooks	Ohio
Walter Crutcher	Kentucky
Richard B. Schreiber	Arizona

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
Terry Lightner	Mac Spencer
Marc Tornichio	Arnie Dowd
Richard H. Kirchoff	Craig Johnson
Karl Kuehn, Jr.	Warren Offenberger
John L. Nash	Bill Ivey
Laura Johnson Hechtel	Craig Johnson
James Steele	Richard Hujsa
Mike Kievkauskas	Charlie Kaufmann
David Laidacker	Ron Gabel
Doug Plance	Bill Vance

The 2013 Educational Awards Program

BY CARL LANDIS, KRA

The 51st Meeting of our Kentucky Rifle Association enjoyed another very successful Educational Awards Program. KRA member participation in educational displays remains at a very high level. There were a total of seventeen outstanding educational displays. In their continuing effort to promote the Educational Display program our Kentucky Rifle Foundation once again covered the cost of one table for each display. The top three displays were Craig Bell - *The Duncan McAurthur Pistols*, Gordon Barlow - *John and Henry Scheetz Shop*, and Mike Briggs - *North Carolina School of Longrifles*.

All display participants were honored and presented with their awards at the Saturday evening banquet. The award winners were as follows:

MEMBER(s)	DISPLAY TITLE
Craig Bell	The Duncan McAurthur Pistols
Gordon Barlow	John and Henry Sheetz Shop
Giles Cromwell	18th Century Virginia " Rifles with Wooden Patch Box Lids"
Richard Zeschke	A Pair of Dickerts
Mike Briggs	North Carolina School of Longrifles
Robert Burns	Virginia Kentuckies " Pristine & Pure"
Arnie and Natalie Dowd	Southern " Can-Tuc-Kees "
Mel Hankla	Up the Valley Through the Gap
Johnsy Leef	Legacy of the Tansel Family
Frank Slyker and Tim Reezer	Did the " Holtzworth Snakehead " Originate in Dickerts Shop ?
Howard and John Fundukians	Two Beyers
Richard Wilks	Lancaster to Chambersburg
John Smith and John Mckee	Scheetz Gunsmiths in Hampshire County
Lorentz Kafka	Cornelius Atherton a Kentucky Rifle Smith
Glen Sutt	Variations of Powder Horns
Steve Hilberg	Lehigh Valley Made
Nick Powers	James Grant School of Horns

Congratulations and our sincere thanks to all these members who participated in this years Educational Awards Program. Education is the heart and soul of the KRA. Consider an educational display for our next KRA show in June of 2014.



The Duncan McAurthur Pistols (left), John and Henry Scheetz Shop (below), and North Carolina School of Longrifles (right).



THE FUR TRADE

A History of Arms and Trade Goods - *by Milton von Damm*

The fur trade was the leading edge of the movement west from the Mississippi during the first half of the 1800's. Trade goods, furs, animal skins and buffalo robes were the currency and guns were an essential tool for survival and defence.

This is a book about the history of Fur Trade, guns and trade goods in an industry that constituted a notable segment of North America's economy in its infancy and early adolescence. The fur trade contributed to the development of commerce,



Illustration by Frank McCarthy

manufacturing and transportation improvements.

There are over 460 colored pictures of arms and trade goods, brief historical references to the fur trade in New France, The Hudson's Bay Company, The American Fur Company and The Federal Government, as well as some fine fur trade art. Rifle makers include Dickert-Gill, Christopher Gumpf, Henry Gibbs, Peter Gonter, James Henry, Henry Deringer, George Tryon, Henry Leman and others.

To review a copy, please contact Milton von Damm, 1681 Visalia Ave., Berkeley, California, 94707. The e-mail address is mvondamm@gmail.com and the phone number is (510) 525-8226. I will mail you a

copy and if you decide to purchase it just mail me a check for \$70 for the book and shipping. Mail the book back if you don't want it and I will refund the return postage upon request.



Copies of the book can be ordered by sending \$125 plus (Media Mail Delivery \$7.00 / Standard Mail Delivery \$15.00) S&H to:

Kentucky Rifle Foundation
P.O. Box 768532-B
Roswell, GA 30076

A Magnificent Book of the First Pure American Art Form

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.

PRARIE STATE LONGRIFLE SHOW – will be held at the Days Inn, Princeton, Illinois on February 21st and 22nd, 2014. As usual all KRA & Ohio Longrifle Collectors are invited, as well as anyone with a genuine interest in Kentucky Rifles. All forms of Kentuckies, Plains & Indian Guns, Tomahawks, Fur Trade items & related articles of the period are permitted. The General public IS NOT invited.. Contact Curt Johnson at 1-815-699-7790 or ilgumkr@comcast.net

ANNUAL TENNESSEE KENTUCKY RIFLE SHOW – will be held April 11th and 12th, 2014 at the Museum of Appalachia in Clinton, Tennessee. Muzzleloaders and related Accouterments only. No cartridge weapons permitted. Contact Wayne Elliott 1-770-823-2970 or welaw@mindspring.com for details.

BUSHY RUN HISTORIC ARMS SHOW – The 16th Annual "Bushy Run" show will be held January 24 and 25, 2014 at the Colton Hall in Claridge, Pa. The public is invited to attend. For additional information, call (724)331-1131 or visit www.oldwestmoreland-rifles.com

ANNUAL MARYLAND, WEST VA., VIRGINIA KENTUCKY RIFLE SHOW – The 21st annual MD, west VA, VA. Kentucky rifle show will be held February 14th and 15th, 2014 at the Shenvalee Golf Resort in New Market, Virginia. Current KRA, CLA, NMLRA and HCH members are invited. The show is not open to the public. Contact Tim Hodges (540)662-5438 or thodges@comcast.net

ANNUAL VIRGINIA-KENTUCKY RIFLE SHOW – The 29th annual Virginia-Kentucky rifle show will be held October 25th and 26th, 2013 at the Holiday Inn Suites in Front Royal, VA. This show IS NOT open to the public. Contact Tim Hodges (540)662-5438.

SOUTHERN ARMS AND CRAFTS SHOW – The 7th annual Southern Longrifle Association show will be held at the Holiday Inn- Patriot, in Williamsburg, PA. March 29th and 30th, 2014. Original and contemporary muzzle loading firearms and accoutrements as well as traditional arts and crafts. Contact Dennis Glazener (804)794-4863 for more information.

LAKE CUMBERLAND KENTUCKY RIFLE SHOW – The Lake Cumberland Kentucky Rifle show will be held February th, 8th, and 9th, 2014 at the Cumberland State Resort Park Jamestown, Kentucky. Traditional muzzle loading firearms, their accoutrements and other related objects regardless when they were made. Call Mel Hankla at (270)566-3370 or e-mail melhankla@amhiss.com

Future KRA Annual Meeting Dates:

- 2014: June 26 – 29th
- 2015: June 25 – 28th

Buy, Sell, Trade

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.

FOR SALE: Kentucky Rifle Hard - 72 inches long. Hard to find in this length, these cases feature a silver metal frame with premium laminated ABS panels, egg crate foam in the top, customizable foam in the bottom for ultimate protection, and a combination lock & four padlock style hasps for added security. The case has a heavy, corrugated double box with foam corners for extra protection if re-shipping.

Interior dimensions: 69" x 13.5" x 4".

No. 4663-040-001\$225.00, (Shipping Included) CCTP, LLC
1801 No. Airport Road, Pottsboro, TX 75076
1-800-786-6210

INFORMATION WANTED – Soliciting information concerning George Sites and Archibald Rutherford, gunsmiths of Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, VA. For publication – Rutherford apprenticed with Sites 1792 and 1793. Joint research project underway in partnership with a Stites family historian, please contact Sam Koontz at (540)828-2971 or his address in the KRA directory.

Necrology

We are sorry to report the passing of a number of KRA members: Jack Muhlenberg from Pennsylvania who joined in 1972; Richard Seelinger from Ohio who joined in 1969; new member Joseph A. Murphy from Pennsylvania who joined in 2011 and Donald "Jay" McAllister a KRF board member from Virginia who joined in 2006. We offer our sincere condolences to all their friends and families.

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KRA Committee Chairmen

Membership	Harry Nowak
Bulletin Editor	Ronald G. Gabel
Bulletin Layout/Design	Kevin J. McDonald
Archivist	Ronald G. Gabel
Administrative Assistant	Ruth Collis
Gunroom Security	David Powers
Awards	Carl Landis
KRA Foundation Pres.....	Mac Spencer

www.kentuckyrifleassociation.org

Maryland to the Frontier - An Exhibition of Maryland Longrifles

At the B & O Railroad Museum, Ellicott City Station April 20 – October 16, 2013

More than 20 Kentucky rifles and pistols made in Maryland illustrate the artistic beauty of these everyday tools of survival on the frontier. Exhibits on the French and Indian War, colonial travel, The National Road and migration to the frontier in the 18th and 19th centuries prior to the coming of the railroad compliment these arms which have been called "A True American Heritage in Art."

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