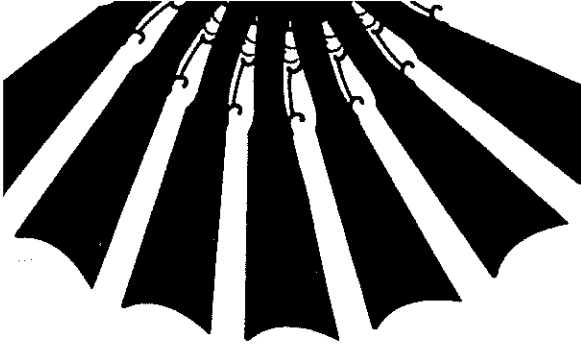


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**THE  
ASSOCIATION  
OF OHIO  
LONGRIFLE  
COLLECTORS**



**FOR THE STUDY AND PRESERVATION  
OF THE OHIO MUZZLELOADING RIFLE**

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Vol. XXXIX Number 2, August 2016

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**18th Annual  
AOLRC**

**ANTIQUÉ GUN  
AND ARMS SHOW**

**Saturday, September 24  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Community Wesleyan  
Church  
161 Myrtle Avenue  
Newark, Ohio**



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# President's Letter



Fellow members,

Hot and dry enough for you? Don't worry, it's mid-August as I write this and I'm getting ready to scrape and paint the trim on our house. It will now cool off and rain almost non-stop until October.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we lost our website earlier this year. Fortunately, one of our Directors, Alan Corbett, has the skills to build us another one. The address will be [aolrc.com](http://aolrc.com), replacing [aolrc.org](http://aolrc.org). It will shortly have all of the gunsmith information that made our previous website such a success.

Looking ahead, one of the best little shows in the mid-west will be held in Newark, Ohio again this year on September 24. Please note that the show has been moved to the Community Wesleyan Church, 161 Myrtle Avenue, Newark, Ohio, 43055. The show will be open to the public from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. This is a larger facility with more parking available.

It's not too early to plan for our Annual Exhibit in Marietta. Mark your calendars and make your reservations for March 31 through April 2.

**Hope to see you soon, Tom Oakes**

Note from the Editor:

I have decided to step down as Editor of the Newsletter. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has provided research, photographs, and articles to the AOLRC for publication in this Newsletter. I am certain that the membership will continue to provide our next Editor with quality information regarding Ohio longrifles and gunsmiths. Again, my heartfelt thanks to all of you who have contributed to the publication of this Newsletter.

Ron Yerian

(By the way - the Vincent Rifle Shop Exhibit at the Campus Martius Museum in Marietta, conceived and arranged by Bill Reynolds, is an outstanding work that should appeal not only to longrifle collectors but to students of early Ohio History as well. I had planned to present an article on the exhibit in this issue, but failed to get the necessary pictures and information. Hopefully the new editor will correct this omission in the next Newsletter.)



# A Window to Yesterday

## The Pennsville Rifle Club

By Jay Cordray

Originally published by the Morgan County Herald

Morgan County is an area with a rich history. Much of it has been forgotten, or left behind, with the passage of time. Sometimes we catch glimpses of that history. We're given an opportunity to peek through those years and learn about the past from the people who were there. Sometimes we are given a chance to look through the window of memory, at a glimpse of yesterday.

I recently had one such opportunity. Thanks to a chance meeting, and a number of phone calls later, I was eventually welcomed into the home of former teacher and Pennsville native Paul Wood. I spoke with Wood, and local gunsmith Larry Cordray, about one of those forgotten pieces of history, the Pennsville Rifle Club. Wood, a widower, is in his 90s now. He was a member of the club. Wood grew up on a small farm on SR 377, halfway between Pennsville and Todds. Wood said his father was always interested in guns, and that his great-grandfather, Charlie Wood, was a gunsmith. Wood said his great-grandfather learned the trade from his father-in-law, Ezra Livezey (1812-1901).

Cordray is on the board of directors of the Association of Ohio Long Rifle Collectors. He remarked that, at one time, he owned a gun made by Wood's great-grandfather. Cordray said he has seen a number of pieces made by Livezey, as well.

Wood said there is a rifle made by Livezey in the Morgan County Historical Society. Wood said he did not know when the group was first formed, but he was a part of it in the early 1930s, during the Great Depression. He added that while the rifle club had consisted of eight or ten regulars, they were often joined by other shooters. He said the core group consisted of Leonard (Jum) and Cloud Niceswanger, Reverend M.T. McDonald, Davis McInturf, David Van Fossen, Charlie Stump,

Bob McInturf, Leonard Hickerson, and Russel Bachelor.

"It was just a bunch of fellas, there wasn't anything very formal about it," Wood said. Wood said the group usually met at one of three places. The first place was in a big field near State Routes 377 and 266, where the men had a shooting range. The second range was on McInturf Road, SR 13, near Wolf Creek, where they had built a small shed. Lastly, in times of bad weather, the men shot .22 rifles in the basement of one of the members' garages, and the space below the garage was probably only 50 or 60 feet in length.

Wood said whenever they were getting together, the men would say they were having "a shoot." He said the top prize at the shoots was often a goose or a turkey.

"My dad did very well, so we ended up with a gaggle of geese," Wood said. "We had one old gander that used to chase me. He would bite the heck out of my shins."

Cordray showed Wood a muzzle loader he had recently made for a client in New Hampshire. Cordray said it was created in the style of Silas Allen (1785-1868). Allen is probably the best known of the Massachusetts gunsmiths.

"That's a nice piece of work," Wood said as he studied the craftsmanship of the rifle.

Wood asked Cordray if he had fired the new rifle. Cordray told Wood it was dead-on.

Wood said when they met to shoot in the basement of one of the members' garages, they would have to drive a tack with a .22 rifle. Wood said he had a .22, a Model 19 Savage, he inherited from his father that he took up to Ron Foreman, at Do It Best Hardware, to have cleaned. When he picked it up, Foreman told Wood the rifle was the most accurate gun he had ever fired.

*continued on page 4*

The following poem was written by Reverend McDonald, on January 24, 1942. Rev. McDonald shot muzzle loaders with the rifle club members, every Sunday afternoon, when church was over for the day.

Unfortunately, some church members of Rev. McDonald's congregation felt this did not look good on the church's interior. The reverend was forced to quit shooting, and hung his muzzle loader up on his own wall at home.



I look at my old muzzle loader  
As it hangs in its place on the wall  
And my thoughts seem to center on targets  
In-- cap and powder-- And ball.  
Then I think of the great shooting matches  
That we had by the shack in the wood  
Where they came with old muzzle loaders  
From Over the whole neighborhood.  
O, Many hours we have spent there  
In the hollow, below the old town  
Matching skill with old muzzle loaders  
And some were shots of renown.  
I can see the old gang 'round the oil drum  
It was fashioned into a stove  
And set up in a paper-lined shanty  
On the range in Anderson's grove.  
I see lanky, good-natured Russ Bachelor  
He was born about two centuries late  
For he was a true born outdoorsman  
Made Modern only by fate.  
And Hickerson-- "Hick" they called him  
He was seventeen kinds of mechanic  
There was nothing he couldn't fix.

And Cloud-- Good old Cloud Niceswanger  
A better sport You seldom meet  
He was never puffed up when winning  
And knew how to take defeat.  
Then David, the friendly mortician  
With a heart as big as your head  
A friend that man could be proud of;  
And how he loved powder and lead.  
And Charley-- My dear old friend Charley  
From back over Stump Hollow way  
I've tried-- tried so hard to beat him  
But-- well, every dog has his day.  
Then there was "Little David"; Scarce  
thirteen years old  
But he shot the old muzzle loaders  
Though they were too heavy to hold.  
I see them and the others -- a dozen  
Down there on the old firing line;  
And though I may never more see them  
Some happy memories are mine.  
This lesson I learned from these matches  
"The man who won't grow at his luck  
Nor be sore at the fellow who beats him  
You can trust with your very last buck."



This poem, and the accompanying photographs, was given to Danny Coler by Davis McInturf. The photos were then shared with me, by Coler, so the readers of the Morgan County Herald could look with us through a window to yesterday, at the Pennsville Rifle Club.



Long-time member of the Pennsville Rifle Club, Davis McInturf sits with a target and his great-grandfather's rifle at the Sesquicentennial of North West Territory's Ft. Harmer Shoot, 1938.

*continued on page 6*



First row, from left: Eli McInturf, Leonard (Jum) Niceswanger, Davis McInturf, David Van Fossen, Charlie Stump, Peck Niceswanger, and Self Burfield; second row, from left: Dennis Benjamin, Reverend M.T. McDonald, Roy Janes, Bob McInturf, W.C. Anderson, John McInturf, Buck Mills, Dean Benjamin, Leonard Hickerson, D.E. McInturf, and Russel Bachelor.



# Andrew Klay

Inventor & Gunsmith  
Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio  
Compiled by Tom McCullough - Pandora, Ohio



Andrew Klay was born in Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio on May 22, 1855. He was the son of Johannes O. Klay (1821-1883) and Barbara Elisabeth (Geiger) Zurcher (1828-1875). Barbara's first husband was Peter Zurcher. Barbara was 2nd cousin to Peter Geiger (1834-1907) gunsmith from adjacent Riley Twp., Putnam County. Johannes and Barbara had 10 children: Peter, Andrew, John, Barbara, Dia, Christian, Emma, Gideon, Elisabeth, and Hannah. Johannes Klay was born in Tscheiwo, Canton Bern, Switzerland and arrived in the Swiss Settlement near Bluffton in 1852. Johannes' first wife was Verena (Fannie) Herdi (1822-1853).

Johannes was a carpenter and furniture maker by trade, but he also had advanced mechanical skills and built a planing mill for smoothing lumber. His mechanical skills and woodworking abilities were handed down to his son Andrew.

Andrew Klay married Christena Lehman on April 7, 1880. Christena was born in Adams, Indiana on April 11, 1861. They had 5 children: Grover, Harry, Oliver, Pearl, and Rene. Andrew started building percussion rifles in his early 20's. They were built at his shop next to his home. He also built some furniture. He built a new shop in 1887 which was known as the Andrew Klay Foundry located at the corner of South Jackson and Grove Street in Bluffton. This foundry was started as a small repair shop but increased in size when Klay purchased some larger equipment from another repair shop operated by Courtad and Green.

Andrew was well known as a good fabricator, craftsman, and inventor, as well as a mechanical genius for making anything desired by the local people. His main business was repair work, but he also produced camera plate holders which could take up to thirty-six pictures on one plate, machine tools capable of drilling ten holes at once, lawn mower sharpeners which were called "Perfection Lawn Mower Sharpener and Grinder", an auto spring machine, a cement block machine, and occasionally percussion rifles, cow bells and Swiss bells. Klay was unable to secure a patent on the drilling machine because someone copied his idea and patented it first. Klay sold his plate holder to Peter Diller (1847-1915) who manufactured it under the name of Klays Patent Multiplying Plate Holder. This was an accessory back for mainly studio cameras- Patent US 492025.

Andrew Klay died at the age of 77 on July 5, 1932 in Springfield, Ohio at the Ohio Masonic Home. He wife Christena died 6 years earlier on July 27, 1926. They are buried at Maple Grove Cemetery in Bluffton, Ohio.



I have located two half stock percussion rifles and one piece of furniture made by A Klay:

**Rifles:**

- Percussion walnut half stock rifle with checkered wrist and brass hardware. Klay & Kibele stamped on barrel and lock. 36 1/4" barrel is also stamped James Brown & Sons Pittsburg, Pa.  
No cap box or patch box.

**Note:**

*L. Kibele or Hector Kibele (1873-1932) may have built this rifle with Andrew Klay.  
L. Kibele- One known rifle exists with a signed barrel – L. Kibele. This rifle is a plain walnut percussion halfstock. I was unable to locate an L. Kibele in the Bluffton, Allen County, Ohio area.  
Hector Kibele was an inventor and held several patents- US 801793 Cream Separator, US 1145998 Fireless Cooker, and US 998532 Mop Holder.*

- Percussion walnut half stock rifle with brass hardware. No cap box or patch box. The 32" long 30 caliber barrel is stamped A Klay. C Klay is stamped on lock. (C. Klay is Andrews brother -Christian Klay)

**Furniture:**

-The Swiss Community Historical Society located between Bluffton and Pandora possess a walnut chest of drawers made by Klay in 1875.

**Andrew Klay Patents:**

	<b>Filed date</b>	<b>Published date</b>
-US 492025 Photographic camera	June 29,1892	Feb. 21, 1893
-US 637994 Relief valve for engine cylinders	Jan. 30, 1899	Nov. 28, 1899
-US 714194 Cream Separator *	May 5, 1902	Nov. 25, 1902
-US 731079 Derrick for raising smoke stacks	Jan 20, 1903	June 16, 1903
-US 749202 Expansible Mandrel	Feb. 2, 1903	Jan.12, 1904
-US 801528 Well drilling machine	Mar. 30, 1905	Oct. 10, 1905
-US 815098 Cement Block Machine	Aug. 28,1905	March 13, 1906
-US1166838 Variable speed power transmitting	Nov. 11, 1914	Jan. 4, 1916



*\*Note: Andrew Klay and gunsmith William S. Chase of Pandora were friends. William S. Chase was a witness when Andrew Klay filed for patent US 714194 Cream Separator.*

*W.S. Chase frequently visited Klay and his other Bluffton friends via the narrow gauge Cleveland, Delphos, & St. Louis railroad. This railroad was converted to standard gauge in 1890 and later became known as the AC&Y (Akron, Canton, and Youngstown railroad). Pandora (Putnam County) is located 8 miles northwest of Bluffton (Allen County).*

**References:**

***Historical Events of the Mennonite Settlement in Allen & Putnam Counties, Ohio***

*by P.B. Amstutz, Bluffton, Ohio 1925. Translation by Anne Konrad Dyck, Toronto, Ontario 1978*

***Town at the Fork of the Rileys - Historical Sketches of Old Shannon and Bluffton***

*Published as a Souvenir of The Centennial of Bluffton's Incorporation 1861-1961*

***A Pictorial History of Lima/Allen County, Ohio***

*By Marilyn R. Stark Copyright 1993- Published by The Donning Company Publishers, Virginia Beach, Virginia*

***Life in the Bluffton and Pandora, Ohio Community 1877-1910***

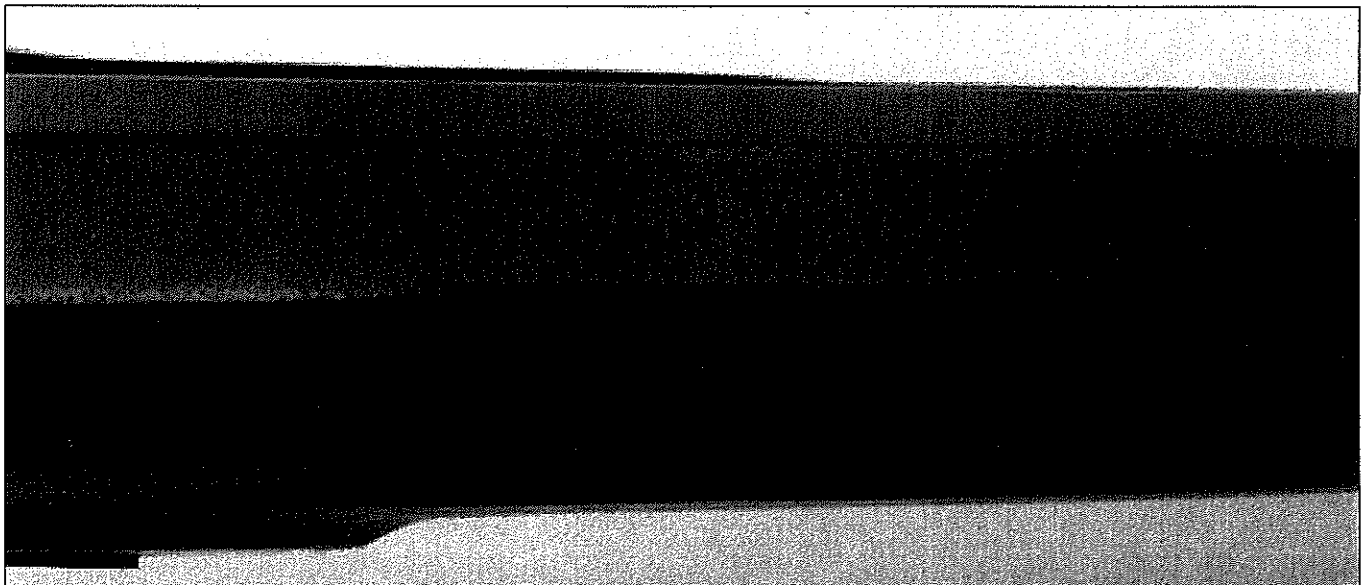
***Excerpts from The Bluffton News (Compiled by Edgar L. Schumacher)***

*Printed 1997, Bluffton, Ohio*

***The Bluffton News – Number 9 Issue-Printed July 7th, 1932***

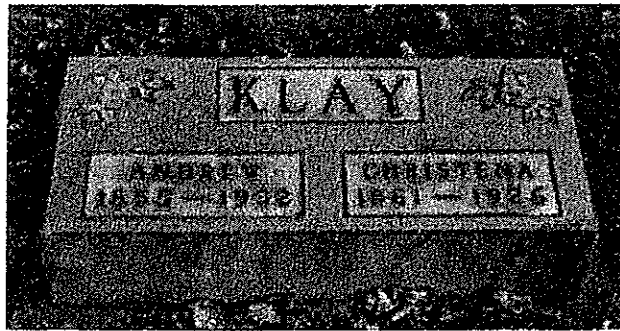
**If anyone has additional information on Andrew Klay, L. Kibele , or Hector Kibele, please contact me:**

Tom McCullough  
PO Box 115  
Pandora, Ohio 45877  
Cell phone # (419)721-8154

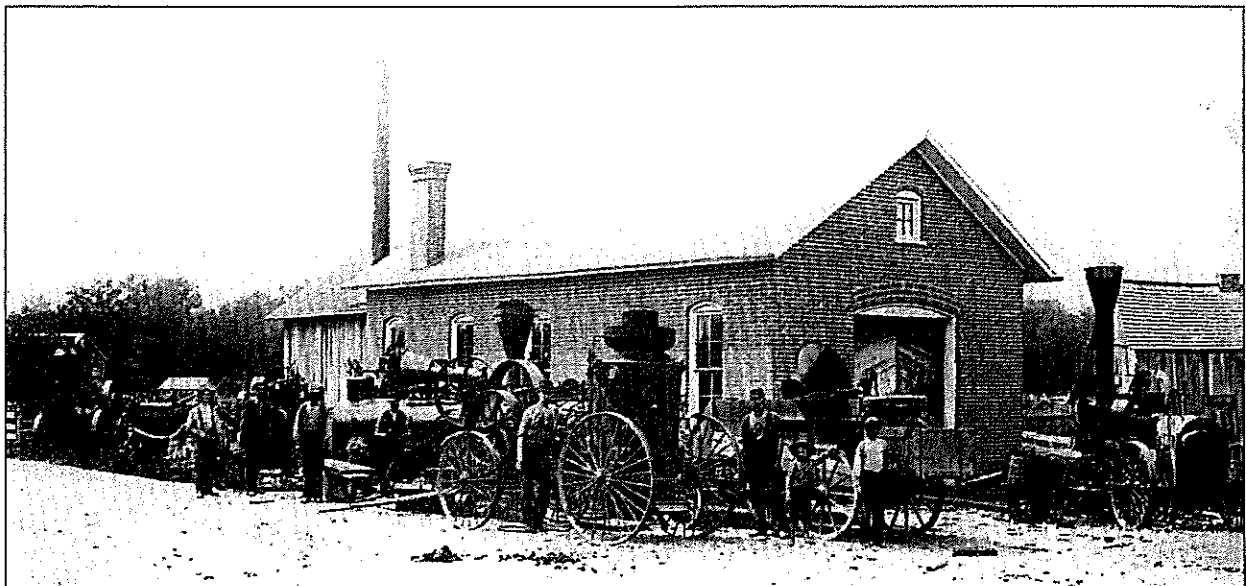




Andrew Klay



Tombstone in Maple Grove Cemetery, Bluffton, Ohio



Andrew Klay Foundry



Percussion walnut half stock rifle "A Clay"



# RIFLE AUCTIONED FOR CHARITY ORGANIZATION

*A rifle built by Warren Offenberger, one of the "founding fathers" of our organization, for the late Phil Brown recently brought \$17,500.00 at the Marietta Shrine Club Auction. Debbie Burkhart, the wife of purchaser Bill Burkhart, submitted a note to me as follows:*

Offenberger gun brings \$17,500.00. The late Phil Brown family of Lowell, Ohio donated a gun of his made by Warren Offenberger to the Marietta Shrine Club Auction. Part of the proceeds went to the Club for the up-keep of their building. Phil was one of many Shriners who helped from year one in the construction of the building. He has helped the annual auction every year with donations for the Shrine Club building.

Attached to the note was the following description of the rifle:

This halfstock percussion rifle was made for Phil Brown of Lowell, Ohio. It is stocked in premium curly maple wood that was cut in 1972. It is inlaid with solid Sterling Silver except the trigger guard and buttplate which are of German Silver. The rifle is signed in two places, on the barrel and on the lock. All mounts are of Sterling Silver including eagle head front sight. Patch button is in the toe plate and when the button is pushed the patchbox lid opens. Fancy eagle head inlay on opposite side of rifle. It also has a 14K gold eagle head on the nipple pick. All mounts are hand engraved. The barrel is .45 caliber. This rifle was made by my hand in 1998. Warren E. Offenberger, 4/1/2016



Left to right: Debbie Burkhart, wife of buyer; Warren Offenberger, maker of rifle; Rusty Brown, son of Phil Brown; Bill Burkhart, buyer; Joe Stacy, President, Marietta Shrine Club



# Raffle Rifle Winner



Last year the AOLRC, in an effort to help cover the costs of publishing a new book featuring Ohio long-rifles, conducted a raffle of various prizes, including a very nice percussion longrifle built by Ken Netting from components donated by various AOLRC members and by the Log Cabin Shop. The winning ticket was sold by member John Barnhart to Joseph J. Forte of Circleville, Ohio. Mr. Forte received a splendid rifle, and the AOLRC obtained a new member.

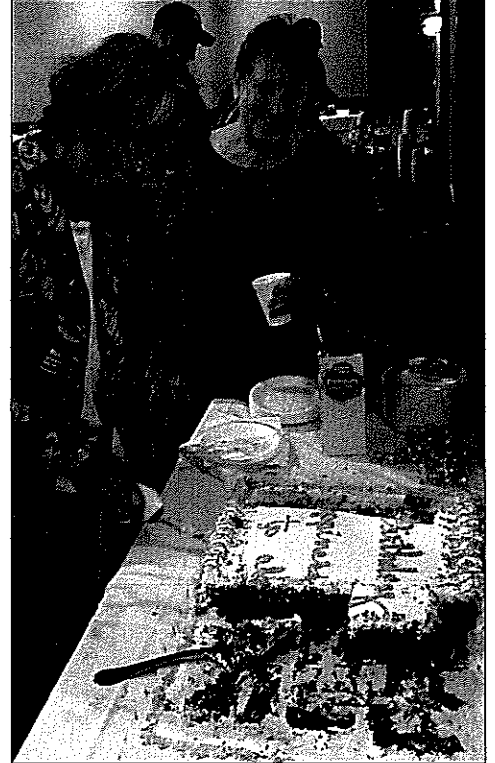


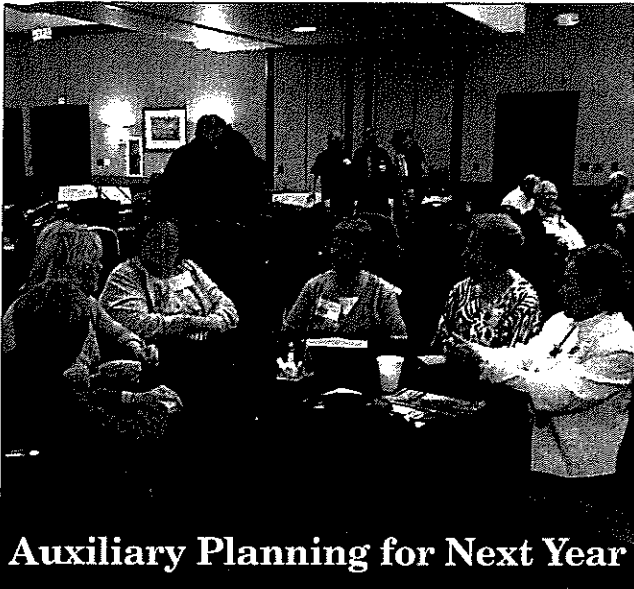
Joseph Forte (left) receiving his Ken Netting rifle from John Barnhart.

## Editor's Note:

The raffle netted \$2,555.00 for the AOLRC. Many thanks to those of you who made this possible by selling and purchasing raffle tickets.

# Friday Night's Gathering and Buffet

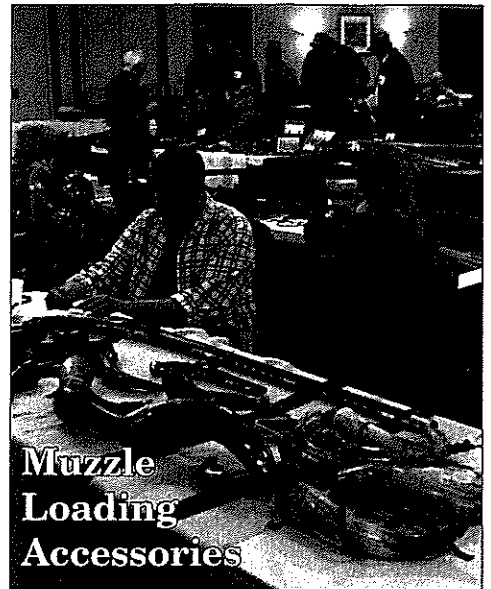




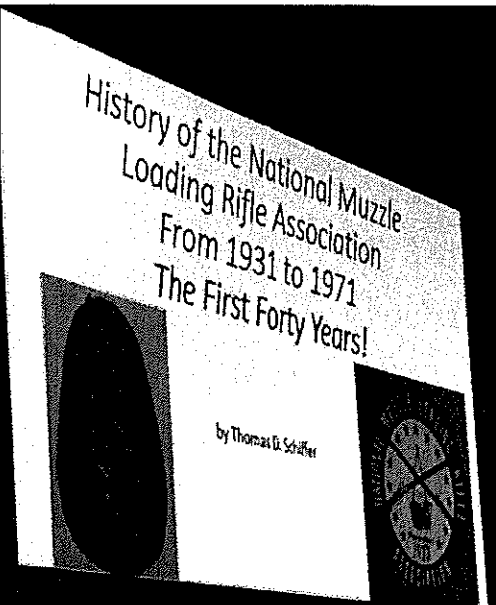
Auxiliary Planning for Next Year



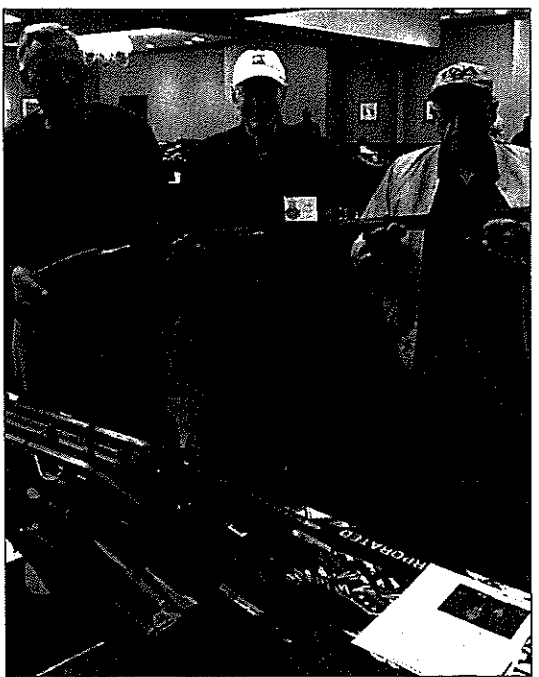
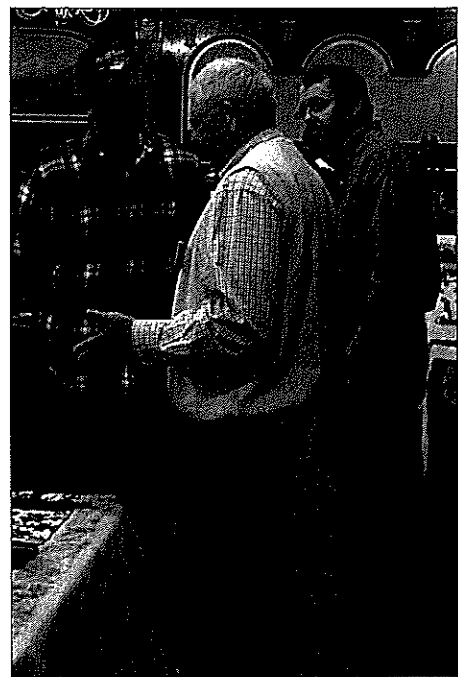
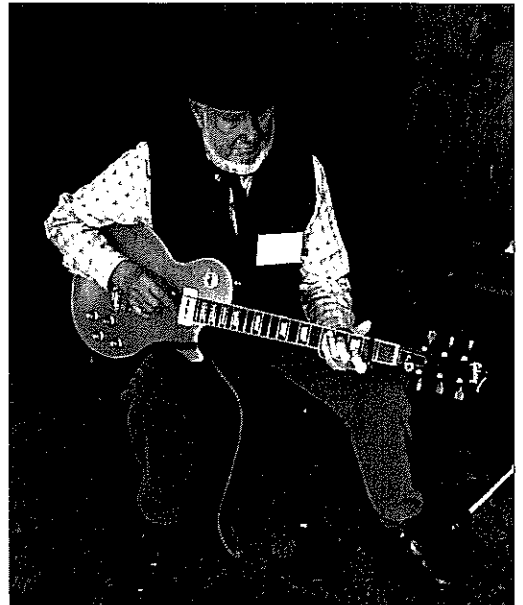
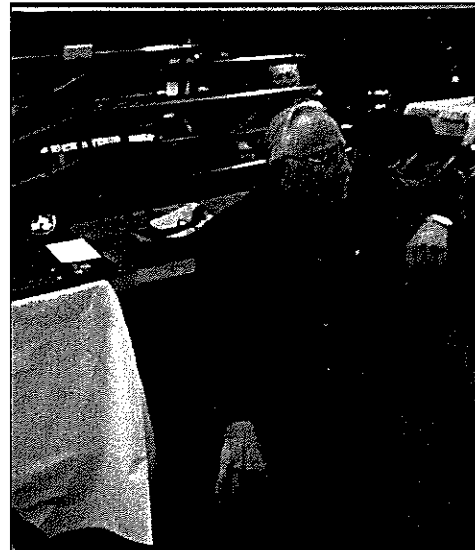
Critical Inspection



Muzzle Loading Accessories



### 2016 Marietta Show



# Ladies of AOLRC News

As you can see by the picture we ladies enjoyed a wonderful lunch and tour of the Blennerhassett Hotel in April. It seemed like it took many years to make it happen but it was really worth the wait. A good time was had by all and the visit was very memorable. We also had time on Sunday of the show to organize and Barb Harwood and Alys Wagner will be co-chairing the Auxiliary planning committee. At our little round table area that Sunday afternoon we were able to get ideas for next year's event. Campus Martius has opened a new Vincent exhibit and we will be visiting there. It looks like we will even be able to have a luncheon catered there. Stay tune for more details to come.

Again this year we were not able to have our annual picnic and shoot. There were scheduling conflicts that made it impossible to schedule.

Don't forget the Newark show. It will be held Saturday, September 24. On Friday the 23rd the table holders will be setting up and enjoying pizza and visiting with each other. It will be a good time to catch up on families, gun trades, purchases and just everyday life. More details are included in the Newsletter.

Hope this finds you all well. Judy

