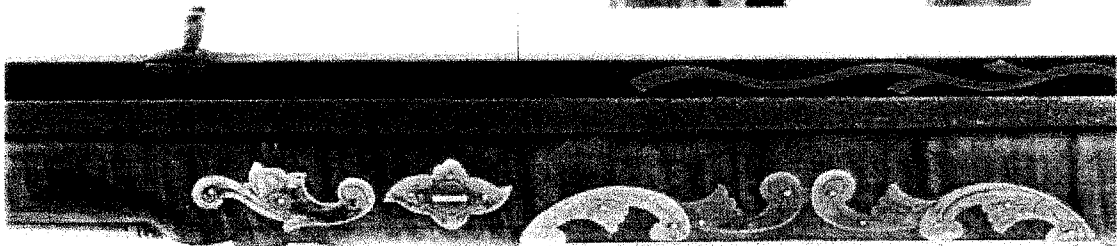
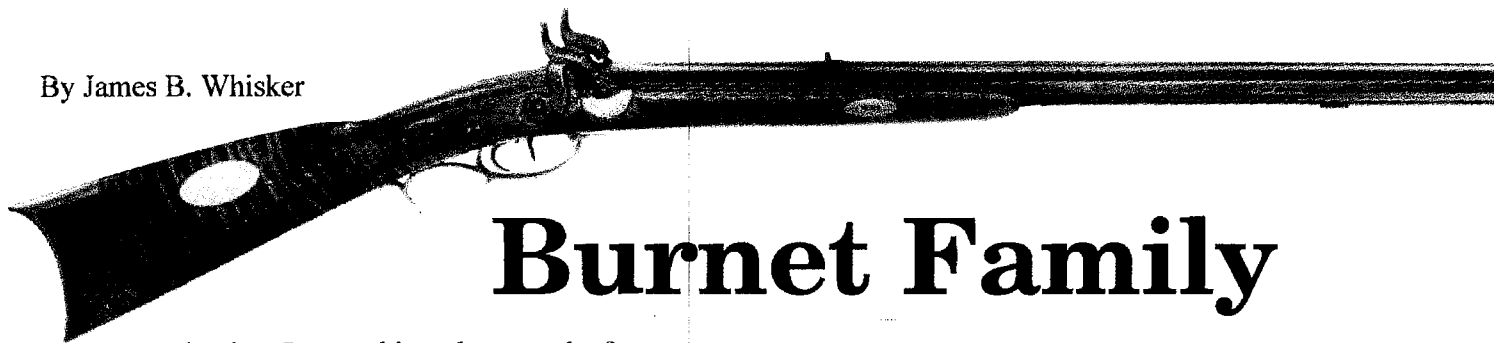


William Barnhart

The fine Ohio flintlock rifle illustrated recently sold for \$29,900.00 at an auction in New Hampshire. The elaborate silver mounted piece was made by William Barnhart, of Ross County Ohio. The rifle was first illustrated in *The Kentucky Rifle* book by John Dillin 1924 and was later owned and on display at The Philadelphia Museum of Art.





Burnet Family

At the time I was taking photographs for *Ohio Gunsmiths and Allied Tradesmen* I had not seen any guns made by any of the Burnet family. This is surprising since three generations, and at least four members, of this family was at one time or another engaged in the gunsmith's trade. I recently photographed a gun owned by Tim Pitock of Florida clearly signed on the one barrel *S F Burnet* and on the second *Youngstown Ohio*. The gun showed unengraved inlays on both sides of the buttstock. This double gun was stocked in a superior grade of curly maple.

Williams' History of Mahoning County and the U.S. Census of 1850 are the sources of most information on the Burnet family provided in the Ohio gunsmiths book. Stephen was the oldest son of Henry and Eunice Burnet, born on 15 October 1805 in New Jersey. Henry was a gunsmith and Stephen learned the trade from his father.

In 1816 the family moved to Clarksville, Pennsylvania. There are four towns named Clarksville. To which was Williams referring? The most probable and largest Clarksville is in Mercer County, directly east of Youngstown. In my book *Gunsmiths of Western Pennsylvania* (Edwin Mellen Press, 1990) I showed a Henry Burnet in Morgan Township, Greene County Pa., in which a village named Clarkville (not Clarksville) was once located.

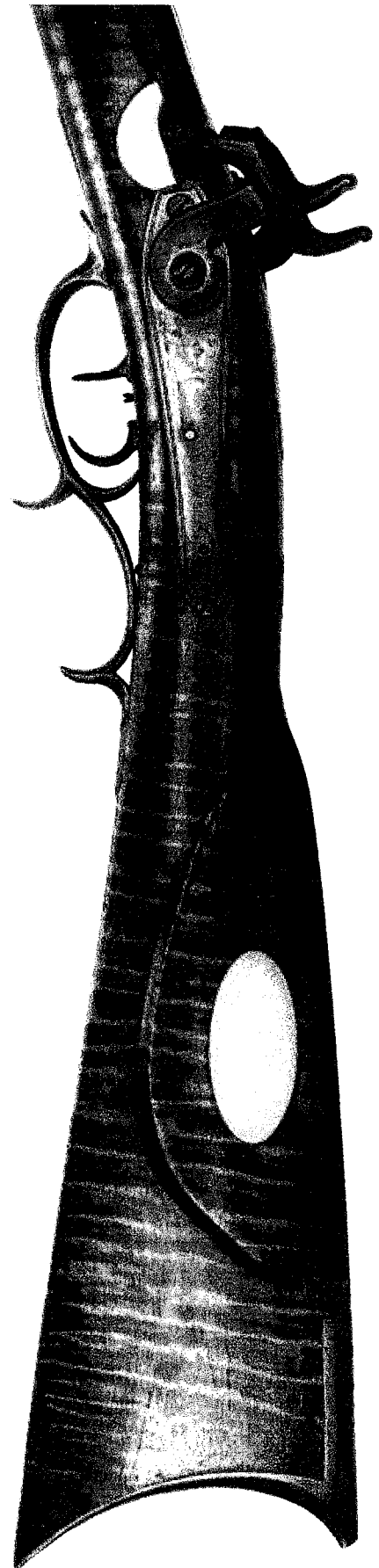
Henry Burnet's (-1829) name first appeared on the tax of Morgan Township, Greene County Pa. in 1817. According to the tax lists, Burnet remained in Morgan Township until his death in 1829. In the U.S. Census of 1820 his household was number 349. I have never seen a signed Henry Burnet gun.

Burnet evidently died in the summer of 1829. His estate was inventoried on 1 August 1829. The extensive inventory showed primarily household items and farm implements. Some of the items were consistent with the trade of a gunsmith.

1 blacksmith's bellows \$12
1 anvil and horn \$5
1 vice, 5 hammers, 3 pair of tongs, \$10.75
1 hot iron ware, punches, chisels, square and nailing tools \$1
2 small bars of iron \$1.25
1 press drill stock, Bits and Screw \$1.50
1 lot of files, other iron ware \$1.25
1 box of lumber \$1.25
1 large Shears Coppersmith's \$2
1 lot cast steel \$1.25
1 card dresser, 1 sledge, 1 post axe, 1 nail hammer, 1 lump of iron, all \$2.00
1 set of Gunsmith bench tools \$6
1 small box of brass ware \$1
3 augers, 1 pestle, 2 jugs \$1.50
1 Rifle gun and bullet moles \$6
1 shot gun \$5
2 Gun barrels part finished \$4.50
1 box of sand and flask for casting \$.50
2 Grindstones \$1.75
1 Lot Crucibles, 1 copper measure \$.50
1 Turning Lathe, 2 Chisels and all Belonging there to, all \$8.00

A few items not on the estate inventory were offered in the estate sale. John Heaton, also a gunsmith in Morgan Township, purchased a lot of gunstock for \$.25. Heaton also bought a bottle of aqua fortis, used by gunsmiths. A man named Matthew Dill bought a number of the items that might have been used by a gunsmith or a carpenter, but we could not find any evidence that Dill was a gunsmith. George Burney bought the coppersmith's tools, but, again, there is no evidence that he was a gunsmith. Henry's son, S.F. Burnet, bought the smith's tools, brass casting materials, soldering tools, the anvil, bellows, and other smithing tools. A brass lock was purchased by a man named A. Smith.

In 1822, at age 17, Stephen F. Burnet moved to Cincinnati, not to work at the gunsmithing trade, but rather he was employed as an engine finisher. In 1827 he returned to Pennsylvania where he married Harriet Drake. She was born in England in 1806 and with her family emigrated to the U.S. in 1808.



Photos by Jim Whisker

Stephen and his bride resided in Clarksville until 1831, at which time they moved to Austintown, Mahoning County, Ohio. During his stay in Greene County he was not taxed on the trade of a gunsmith. In May 1832 the couple moved to Youngstown where Stephen set up his gunshop. He sold groceries and produce and also worked as a tinsmith to support his growing family. In the autumn of 1836 he made the first of many trips down the Ohio River, selling his guns along the way.

By 1844 he had tired of making the arduous journey so he set up a large hardware store in Youngstown, becoming the senior partner in Burnet, Fowler & Co. He also served as mayor of Youngstown after its incorporation. He was active in the Methodist Church and held prayer meetings and Bible classes in his home. He also served on the school board.

Williams' history, published in 1882, noted that Stephen and Harriet Burnet had eight children; 2 sons and 3 daughters were still living at the time. Three sons had served in the Union Army. Henry H. Burnet (1834-) was noted as an apprentice gunsmith in his father's household in the U.S. Census of 1850, showing that S.F. was still active in that trade in 1850. His brother William (1830-) was also noted as a gunsmith living in the household.

By 1860 Henry H. was noted as a brakeman and in 1877 as a conductor. In 1860 William was still being noted as a gunsmith, with a wife Martha, age 21. The Youngstown directories of 1860 and 1864 carried his listing as a gunsmith. In the U.S. Census of Industry of 1870, William stated that he had \$400 invested in the gunsmithing business. He employed two hands to whom he paid wages of \$45 a month. Over the previous 12 months he had purchased \$380 worth of materials. He made firearms worth \$280, other items worth \$150, and did \$750 in repair work. He was last noted in the city directories of 1877 and 1880, still working as a gunsmith.

Stephen Burnet continued in the hardware business until just after the Civil War. When Williams' history was published the hardware store was known as Fowler, Stambaugh & Co. Williams noted that he had bought and sold furs throughout his life, continuing in that trade through the publication of the Williams history. He was an avid hunter and sportsman.



David Parley Ripley

By Forrest Tilton 1978

Parley Ripley as he was known, was born on a small farm on Upper Big Run near Crooked Tree, Noble County, Ohio on 9 June 1874, according to the official records of Noble County. He died in Lowell, Washington County, Ohio on 14 July 1934, according to the official records of Washington County. He was well known as a carpenter, cabinet maker, machinist, blacksmith and a gunsmith. He also operated a sawmill. A fine handmade tall cupboard of black walnut and butternut with paneled doors that are assembled with wood pegs is owned by the author. A listing of the public sale of his effects reveals that "Guns & Gunsmith Tools" sold for the grand sum of \$15.00. How many guns is not listed. There was also a listing for a lot of Blacksmith tools that brought \$16. His violin

brought \$7. He learned the gunsmith trade from a near neighbor, Finley C. Keith, who lived approximately two miles distant. His guns show a very definite influence of Mr. Keith, especially the carved shape of the cheekpiece and the comb of the stock. There are no known guns that have an example of his engraving, and I take it that he did not engrave. His guns are neat and well made, but at the same time strictly utility working type. Most are of a small caliber that is .30 to .36 and with 36 to 42 inch barrels. All known are halfstocks and the most have black walnut stocks. The only mark that I have seen on his rifles is the three initials "D P R" deeply "chiseled" cut into the top flat of the barrel. How many rifles he made is not known as he did not number them.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL B. NEAL, OF MOUNT GILEAD, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN REPEATING SINGLE-BARRELED FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 12,410, dated February 27, 1855.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL B. NEAL, of Mount Gilead, in the county of Morrow and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement on the Double-Shooting One-Barrel Fire-Arms; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

My improvement consists in the arrangement of a rod and lever, by means of which the false hammer, after the front charge is fired, can be instantly thrown forward for firing the back charge (by the finger used on the trigger) while cocking the hammer for that purpose, thus obviating the delay necessarily made in using the old gun with its arrangement, and securing a more rapid succession of shots; also, in the arrangement of the false hammer and the combination of the same with the elongated hammer for the accomplishment of that purpose.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents the barrel of the old double-shooting single-barrel gun, with *e* and *f*, its two cones.

B represents a common gun-lock, with C, an elongated hammer.

D represents a false hammer, which is hinged to the barrel in advance of the front cone at *m*, so as to be swung forward and back easily. The head of this false hammer should be of such a thickness that while it rests on the front cone the hammer C will not touch the back cone.

E represents the lever, which is attached to the barrel at *n*, so as to play freely, and passes down between the lock and barrel.

F represent a top view of the rod or slide, which is fitted into the stock close to the under side of the barrel, and has a mortise in each end, one at *o* to receive the tenon of the lever, the other at *s* to receive the tenon of the trigger G.

G represents a common trigger, which is hung under the guard, and is to be used only for throwing the false hammer forward.

The firing of the gun is performed as follows: Two charges being inserted, both cones capped, and the false hammer placed on the front cone, the front charge is fired in the usual manner. After the front charge has been fired, let the finger remain in the guard, and again cock the hammer C with the thumb of the hand used on the trigger. At the same time let the finger press forward against the front trigger, which will throw the false hammer forward, so that the back charge may be instantly fired.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of the elongated hammer with the false hammer, arranged as described.

2. The arrangement of the lever E and rod F for throwing the false hammer forward, substantially as set forth.

I hereby disclaim the original invention of the double-shooting one-barrel fire-arms, and of all and singular the parts and the combination and arrangement of the parts thereof, except the arrangement and combination of the parts merely which I hereinbefore claim.

DANIEL B. NEAL.

Witnesses:

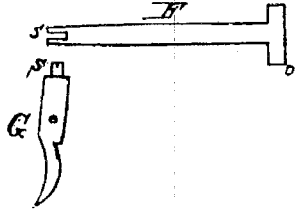
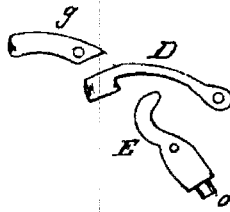
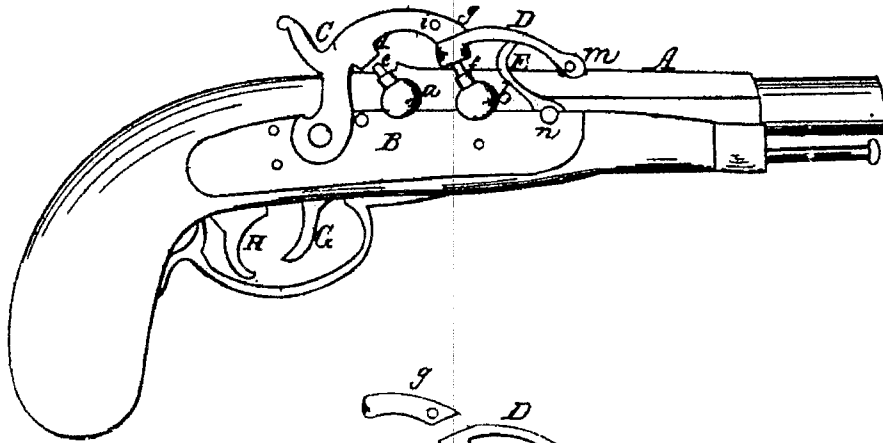
J. W. STINCHCOMB,
C. D. ENSIGN.

(continued on page 16)

D. B. NEAL
Muzzle-Loading Fire-Arm.

No. 12,440.

Patented Feb. 27, 1855.



Witness
C. D. Benson
J. R. Dawson

Daniel B. Neal