

# INDIANA: A MELTING-POT OF KENTUCKY RIFLE MAKERS (1778-1900)

by J. Jaeger

The State of Indiana has a colorful and fascinating history filled with stories of conflict and conquest. The periods of conflict and war, however, were followed by generations of cultural growth. Early military victories provided the foundation that induced world-class art including but not limited to horn carving, literature, painting, music and poetry. Artists like: Timothy, John and Starke Tansel; James Whitcomb Riley; James Alexander Thom; George Winter; T.C. Steele; Cole Porter; Kurt Vonnegut; Michael Jackson and John Mellencamp - to name a few - are all distinctly tied to the Hoosier state.

The art and industry of American gunmaking first came to Indiana with George Rogers Clark's campaign when he brought gunsmith, Moses Henry here in 1778. Henry was followed by gunsmiths such as John Small, Daniel Pea, Joseph Andre' and John McGowen. In the 1820s and 1830s the National Road and Michigan Road divided Indiana from east to west and north to south and made immigration and marketing easier for makers like George W. Glaze, John Smither, Abraham Angstadt and the Beck Brothers who built classic Kentuckies in Indiana into the 1820s, 1830s, 1840s and beyond.

This presentation focuses on some of the key conflicts that shaped state and national history, a few key Hoosier gunmakers and photos of four rifle examples that demonstrate the state's "melting pot" legacy. We'll begin with a mention of the cultures that first appeared on Indiana soil from about 800-1600 A.D. The first natives were Mississippian or Hopewell Indians, who constructed large earthen mounds for purposes of burial and defense. Well-known remnants of these mounds are found today near Evansville and Anderson, Indiana. Archaeological discoveries of the fossilized remains of American mastodons have been found in nearly every county in Indiana, leading to the American mastodon being named Indiana's official state fossil in July 2022<sup>1</sup>. It's likely that the mastodon was a key food source for the Hopewell Indians.

The mound-builders were followed by the Shawnee, Illini and Miami Indian tribes. Encroachment by the white man into present-day Ohio in the 1700s pushed eastern Indian tribes such as the Delaware, Iroquois, Kickapoo, Muncie, Potawatomi and Wyandot past the Ohio River and into present-day Indiana. The French made an early impact on Indiana history, beginning with explorer René-Robert Cavellier, Sieur de La Salle, whose explorations here started in 1679.<sup>2</sup> In trade, the French provided useful iron tools to the Indians and sought to partner with them, rather than to dominate. The fur trade was a profitable business for the French. Beginning in 1733, they built three strategic forts along the Wabash River in Indiana largely to defend the lucrative fur trade from their principal adversaries – the English. Those French forts were built near present-day Lafayette, Vincennes and Fort Wayne, Indiana.<sup>3</sup> After British victory in the French and Indian War in 1763, the English took control of all lands from the Appalachian Mountains west to the Mississippi River, including those three French forts along the Wabash River.<sup>4</sup>

The 1770s ushered in events that led to the America's Declaration of Independence and subsequent Revolutionary War. That conflict called for military leadership on America's western frontier – and Colonel George Rogers Clark answered that call. Recruitment efforts for his secret mission to wrest control of the western British-held forts began at Fort Pitt at the juncture of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. By way of the Ohio River, his party traveled from Fort Pitt to the Falls of the Ohio (near present-day Louisville) and added to his numbers there.

From the northern British outpost at Fort Detroit, Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton presided over Fort Sackville at Vincennes. Hamilton was known as the "Hair Buyer" for his reputation of paying Indians for the scalps of early Kentucky pioneers. In January of 1778, Clark's army of about 150 men marched into Kaskaskia and Cahokia along the Mississippi River and took control of those two forts without firing a shot.<sup>5</sup>

Gunsmith Moses Henry was among the small detachment of men sent by Clark to take the fort at Vincennes, and in 1778 became the first American gunsmith within the present-day geography of Indiana. Moses Henry was from the family of famed Henry gunsmiths of Pennsylvania. He was documented at Fort Pitt from 1766 to 1767. Henry moved to Chillicothe in present-day Ohio, where he lived with the Shawnee and married a white woman who had been raised by the tribe. Clark sent a handful of men including Captain Leonard Helms and gunsmith Moses Henry to occupy Fort Sackville in Vincennes.

Receiving word of the American's occupation of Fort Sackville, Hamilton surprised the outpost's small occupying American force with a winter attack with an army of about 350 British regulars, Indians and French Canadians. Helms gave up the fort, but was able to negotiate favorable surrender terms. Hamilton then made two crucial errors as winter set in. First, thinking that any attack in the cold of winter was unlikely, he sent the majority of his army home until spring. Next, Hamilton released most of his apparently harmless handful of American prisoners – except for Captain Helms and Moses Henry, whom he kept captive at the fort.<sup>6</sup> Hamilton also retained within the walls of Fort Sackville a small lot of his own officers, loyal regulars and a handful of loyal French Canadians who had relatives among the French population of Vincennes.<sup>7</sup>

In the winter of 1779, Clark received vital news from Francis Vigo, the Italian-born fur trader who aided the American cause. Vigo informed Clark of Hamilton's weak position at Fort Sackville. In response Clark assembled a small corps of 172 men and began their winter march from Kaskaskia to Vincennes for a surprise winter attack on Fort Sackville. Enduring the 150-mile march through cold rain, flooded plains and swollen rivers, Clark achieved his objective. The French townspeople of Vincennes supported Clark, and even shared from their cache of dry gun powder. Using tactics of illusion and deception, Clark's men unfurled extra campaign flags and marched near the fort in a way to make their force appear larger than it really was.

Clark demanded a total surrender, but Hamilton refused. The conflict heightened and shots were exchanged. With their superior marksmanship and aided by the superior accuracy of their rifles, Clark's men hit their targets and several of Hamilton's men were killed and wounded. Once again Clark demanded unconditional surrender and refused Hamilton's plea of a three-day truce. In the end, Clark forced Hamilton's surrender by having five British-allied Native Americans tomahawked within view of the British occupants of Fort Sackville. The two leaders met in a nearby Vincennes church for a conference to discuss terms. Hamilton surrendered the fort and was taken east as a prisoner of war (Figure 1). Gunsmith Moses Henry was dispatched with Captain Helm and others to intercept British supply boats descending the Wabash from Detroit. From Clark's journal:

*(Feb.) 26th. Rain all day. Captains Helm, Henry and Major Legare, with fifty men of the militia, ordered to proceed up the river with three boats, with a swivel each, to meet ten boats that were sent in October last, for provisions and stores, to Omi, and take the same in custody.<sup>8</sup>*

The fort was renamed Fort Patrick Henry and the victory expedited American control of the Northwest Territory. Archives have documented Moses Henry's gun-making activities in Vincennes into the late 1780s. He died there in 1789 at the age of 51.



Figure 1. Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton surrenders Fort Sackville to Colonel George Rogers Clark. Fall of Fort Sackville by F.C. Yohn. Indiana Historical Society. <https://images.indianahistory.org/digital/collection/dc007/id/67>

Victory at Vincennes did not mean immediate peace in the territory. Bloodshed continued on the frontier — many Indians remained loyal to the Crown and resisted American westward expansion. Continued leadership and support were needed. William Henry Harrison filled the void (Figure 2). Harrison had served with General Anthony Wayne at Fallen Timbers. He had battlefield experience, vision, education and desire to transform the Indiana Territory into full-fledged states of the Union. As governor of the Indiana Territory, Harrison's immediate priority was to negotiate treaties with the Indians and to lay claim to their land, which

would eventually become the present-day states of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota. He was stymied by the resistance efforts of the Shawnee chief Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa, also known as The Prophet.



Figure 2. Painting of General William Henry Harrison by Rembrandt Peale, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution.

Due to growing swells of pioneer migration into Ohio, Tecumseh had moved his tribe to the Indiana Territory where the Tippecanoe River flows into the Wabash River northeast of present-day Lafayette. Tecumseh's Indian village was called Prophetstown, named after his brother Tenskwatawa, who was the tribe's shaman or prophet. Tecumseh's plan was to build a confederacy of Indian tribes large enough to resist American expansion. The chief's plans concerned Harrison, as a large Indian settlement centered in Prophetstown could challenge Harrison's divide-and-conquer strategy he used in controlling smaller tribes. Harrison readied his army and marched ten days north toward Prophetstown. He wanted to negotiate with Tecumseh and eliminate the threats of attack on pioneering Americans. Harrison arrived at Tecumseh's village late in the day on November 6, 1811. They camped for the night and planned to negotiate in the morning. The Indian population made other plans.

At the time of Harrison's arrival at Prophetstown, Tecumseh was far south, negotiating to expand his confederation. His brother, The Prophet, was in charge. Factions of the village population wanted to attack the Americans the next day using surprise to their advantage. Tenskwatawa relented. Despite having direct orders not to provoke war until the Indian confederation was strengthened, the Indians attacked. Tenskwatawa told the assembled warriors that he had cursed the white man's guns, and that the white man's bullets would not harm them in battle. Believing the shaman, they attacked with great confidence before sunrise.



Figure 3. Shawnee chief Tecumseh (top, Owen Staples, based on the engraving published by Benson John Lossing. Toronto Public Library. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tecumseh02.jpg>) and his brother Tenskwatawa (bottom, by Henry Inman, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution), also known as The Prophet.

Americans and Indians alike were killed. Harrison narrowly escaped death when he mounted a horse to take command. The Indians could identify Harrison's horse by its light color. However, when Harrison's horse had become untethered in the early chaos of the battle, he mounted another officer's horse instead. The officer who later mounted Harrison's horse was erroneously identified as Harrison and was shot and killed during the battle. The Americans held their ground despite heavy losses and the Indians withdrew and dispersed. Harrison's troops destroyed the Indian's village and their food supply before returning to Vincennes. Tecumseh's rage grew when he returned and heard the news. More battles would ensue in the War of 1812. Tecumseh would meet Harrison again at The Battle of the Thames near present-day Ontario, where Tecumseh was killed on October 5, 1813.

Following the War of 1812, pioneers increasingly poured into Kentucky and southern Indiana. Indiana began to prosper as counties were organized and populated. The Michigan Road and the National Road were planned and built in the 1820s and 1830s. The Wabash-Erie Canal added another transportation option in Indiana, where the Industrial Revolution was well underway.

The Mexican-American War was fought from 1846 to 1848. While Indiana had only indirect interest in the war being fought 1,000 miles away in Mexico and Texas, Indiana families played a large role by supplying troops to the conflict, including:<sup>9</sup> three companies infantry, three companies mounted riflemen, one company dragoons and five regiments of volunteers. Additionally, 300 Indiana citizens enlisted in Kentucky to comply with deadlines.

The American Civil War (1861-1865) was closer to home. The Battle of Corydon recorded loss of life when Morgan's Raiders took a quick tour through the southern tip of our state and met militia resistance at Corydon. The incursion was meant only as a Confederate diversion (Figure 4). Camp Morton in Indianapolis served as a major mustering location and as a prisoner-of-war camp. Once again, Indiana made significant contributions to this war with the number of troops volunteering to serve, totaling about 210,000 men.<sup>10,11</sup> Many Indiana gunsmiths joined this fight and left their homes to fortify the Union's effort. The Underground Railroad was active in Indiana prior to and during the Civil War

and facilitated movement of many slaves to northern destinations. Mass-produced, multi-shot breechloaders from eastern manufacturers came into the market after the Civil War.



Figure 4. Civil War raids into Indiana by Hines (red) and Morgan (blue).

### John Small

John Small was born near Londonderry, Ireland, in 1759.<sup>12</sup> He came to America in 1768, settling in what was then northern Virginia (with shifting state boundaries, later becoming southwestern Pennsylvania). He was trained by master gunsmiths Richard and William Butler at Fort Pitt during the American Revolution.<sup>13</sup> Small came to Vincennes, Indiana about 1785 and was appointed Colonel of the militia. In 1886, he led that militia in a rescue

of captive settlers. The attack on a band of Piankeshaw warriors became known as the “Skirmish on the Embarras” (named after the Embarras River).<sup>14</sup> About 1788, Small built a tavern on the Wabash River in Vincennes between Main and Vigo Streets. The tavern doubled as a fur trading post and Knox County’s first courthouse from 1790 to 1794.<sup>15</sup>

In 1790 when Vincennes was still a wild frontier town, Governor Arthur St. Clair appointed Small as the first sheriff of Knox County. He held the office for six years from 1790 to 1796. His selection as sheriff indicated his high standing in the community and his capable handling of tough situations, not limited to Indian issues and land squatter problems.<sup>16</sup> The French brought Catholicism to Vincennes early when they built a military post there in the 1730s. However, the first Protestant congregation in Vincennes was Presbyterian, and its first service was held at John Small’s homestead in his barn.

Small continued to operate his gun shop at Vincennes until his death in May of 1821.<sup>17</sup> Some early rifles made by John Small show his Virginia/Pennsylvania training. They were made with finely engraved, elaborate and unique patchboxes and inlays. An early pistol by Small displays superb silver wire inlay work, relief carving and graceful architecture. Several later guns are also known. One such example was the personal rifle of Francis Vigo, namesake of Vigo County. Another of Small’s surviving pieces is a signed long rifle that was owned by explorer William Clark (of Lewis & Clark fame and younger brother of General George Rogers Clark). Another example of Small’s work is a signed, plain fowler with engraved, brass furniture and straight rifling. Several tomahawks and powder horns attributed to Small have also survived (Figure 5).

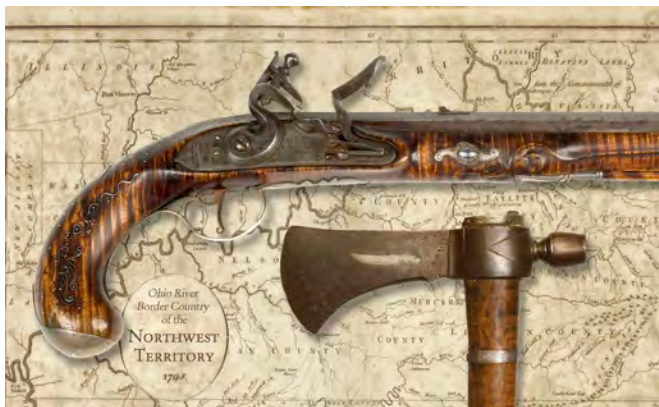


Figure 5. Pistol and tomahawk by John Small.

John Small had two sons, William and Thomas, who also worked as gunsmiths. Small also had a brother named Thomas who practiced the gunsmith trade among the Shawnee in St. Genevieve, Missouri, before he died about 1791 or 1792.<sup>18</sup>

The master gunsmith also operated a ferry across the Wabash River and constructed a grist mill on the Embarras River a few miles southeast of Lawrenceville, Illinois. He plotted the town of Smallsburg and promoted lots for sale just a few years before his death. Small bequeathed to his wife Mary (Polly) and children Thomas, William and Angelina a large estate. His land holdings included hundreds of acres in Illinois and Indiana. His will also documented his ownership of slaves and his desire to transfer their ownership after his death.<sup>19</sup>

In 2010, *John Small of Vincennes: Gunsmith on the Western Frontier*<sup>13</sup> was published by Jim and Carolyn Dresslar. With dozens of illustrations and photographs, the book outlines Small’s life and documents many objects of his manufacture, including five surviving Kentucky Rifles, a Kentucky pistol and several attributed powder horns and tomahawks. The book also tackles uncelebrated controversies affiliated with Small such as his slave ownership, questionable success at the Skirmish on the Embarras and the death of his younger brother, gunsmith Thomas Small. Two years after the book’s release, the Indiana State Legislature voted on a bill that designated one of Small’s surviving Kentucky rifles as Indiana’s official state rifle. When Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels signed the bill into law in 2012, Indiana became the first state in the Union to name a Kentucky rifle to official state status. The rifle made by John Small is on exhibit in Vincennes at Grouseland, the former home of Governor and United States President, William Henry Harrison.

### Henry Humberger

Henry Humberger (Figure 6) was raised in Perry County, Ohio. Born in 1811, he was one of twelve children of gunsmith Peter Humberger, Sr. Two of Henry’s brothers, Peter II and Adam, also learned the gunsmith trade from their father.<sup>20</sup> The brothers often worked on projects together in their father’s shop. One such project was a double-action, pepperbox revolver. His brothers designated Henry as the project leader as he was considered the most-skilled craftsman, even at the young age of 20. It didn’t take Humberger long to design and fabricate several of the pepperbox revolvers, finishing the first in 1832.

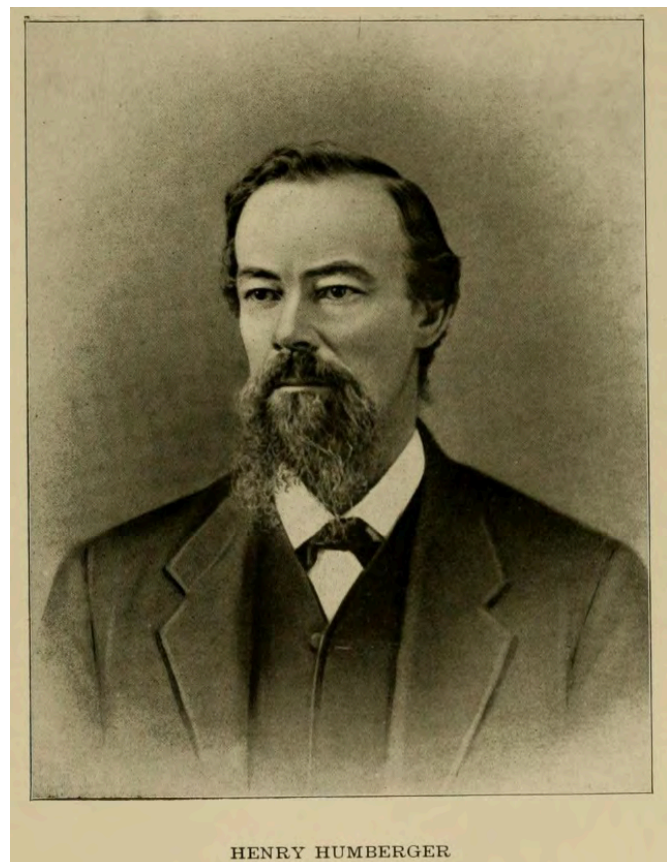


Figure 6. Henry Humberger

A reporter from the local newspaper, the Thornville News, wrote an article that documented the early double-action firearm and printed the story on October 1, 1903. One of two witnesses quoted in the story, Mike King, described his first experience seeing the new revolver after a neighborhood barn-raising:

*After the raising was complete they hoisted Henry and while they had him up he raised both hands with a revolver in each and fired them off alternately, now one then the other. His friends urged him to apply for a patent for it. His reply was that it amounted to nothing except to shoot off New Years.<sup>21</sup>*

Hearing of this new invention, east-coast industrialist Samuel Colt dispatched one of his agents to Ohio to learn more about this double-action design.<sup>22</sup> Colt's representative arrived in Perry County and purchased a Humberger revolver from a William Brown. The Colt agent then made a visit to the Humberger shop and observed Henry in the manufacturing process. It didn't take long for the Colt operative to return to New York to build a copy of the revolver using his newly acquired knowledge and Humberger's model. Colt quickly applied for a patent.<sup>20</sup> With patent in hand, Colt began producing the double-action revolver as early as 1836.<sup>23</sup> But soon after, the agent who had gathered the information on Humberger's design demanded fifty percent of the net proceeds.<sup>24</sup> When Colt refused, the agent left Colt's employ to work for another gun manufacturer, Ethan Allen. When Allen learned how Colt had copied the Humberger pistol, he went about making his own double-action revolver based on the same design. Colt sued for patent infringement and won, despite both Henry and Adam Humberger testifying in court how Colt had acquired the Humberger design.<sup>21</sup> Beginning in 1837, Allen went on to manufacture modified double-action revolvers.<sup>25</sup> Regardless of Colt's legal victory, the lawsuit served to document Henry Humberger as the first American inventor of the double-action revolver.

Henry Humberger married Mary King in the late 1830s and the couple had a son named Reuben in 1838. Mary died just two years later in 1840 at the age of 23. About ten years later in 1849, the gunsmith purchased land in Whitley County, Indiana, just before heading west for the California Gold Rush. Humberger returned east in 1851 and settled permanently in Whitley County, where he continued the gunsmithing trade and married his second wife, Sarah Imes. Henry died in his bed six years later at the age of 46 of possible heart failure.<sup>26</sup> The previously cited 1903 Thornville News article described Humberger's death:

*He still worked at his trade and one day he finished a gun and retired as usual for the night. Towards morning his wife found him cold in death with his little boy resting on his arm.<sup>21</sup>*

Henry's estate papers reveal that he was seeing a doctor that prescribed "*digetallis & Pills*"[sic]. Digitalis was commonly prescribed for heart ailments. Henry Humberger was buried near his Indiana home in the Egolf Cemetery in Whitley County.

### **John McLaughlin**

John McLaughlin was born in 1826 and was raised with his five siblings in Indianapolis (Figure 7). He possibly learned the gunsmith trade between 1840 and 1846 from one of the early Indianapolis gunsmiths like Christian or Samuel Beck, or perhaps John Smithers. After McLaughlin's service in the Mexican-American War, he returned to Indianapolis in the winter of 1848. Louisa Morehouse of Indianapolis became his wife in 1851. Future prospects

looked promising for the McLaughlin's and they had seven children.<sup>27</sup>

In the early 1860s at the rise of the American Civil War, duty called once again. McLaughlin volunteered and left his large family at home while he traveled to Virginia and Maryland as a first lieutenant in Company K, 11th Regiment of the Indiana Volunteers. McLaughlin's leadership abilities were quickly recognized, and he was promoted to captain and fought in the Battle of New Madrid under General John Pope. Early in 1862, McLaughlin was again promoted to major and then to lieutenant colonel of the 47th Regiment, which he commanded at Champion Hill under Union General Ulysses S. Grant.<sup>30</sup>

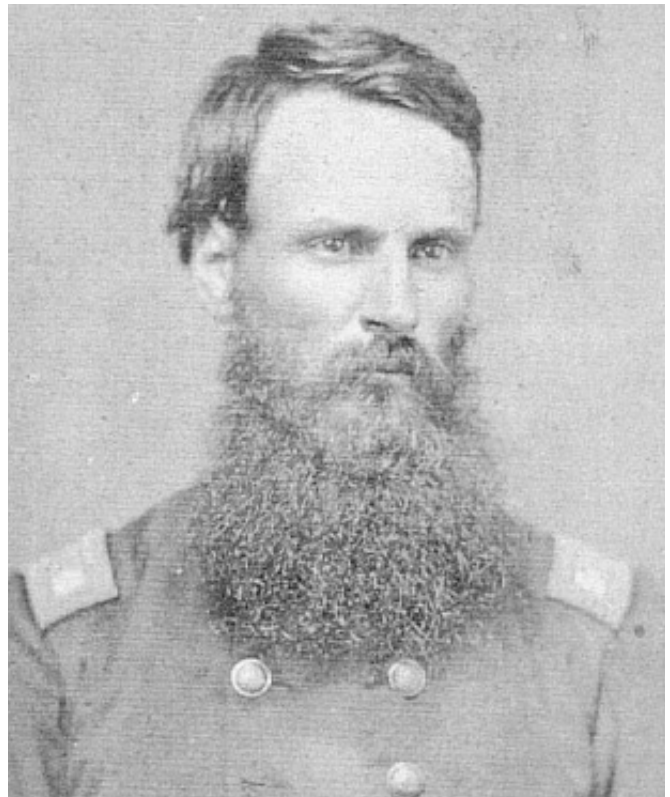


Figure 7. Lieutenant Colonel John McLaughlin.

At Champion Hill, a pivotal battle in the Vicksburg campaign, the Confederates were led by General John C. Pemberton. It was a bloody fight: of a total of 54,000 troops from both sides, more than 6,000 casualties were recorded.<sup>28</sup> The Union victory at Champion Hill ultimately forced the Confederate Army to take refuge in Vicksburg. Colonel McLaughlin's regiment had come under heavy fire during the battle. His post-battle report described his men's actions:

*Taking into consideration the length of time we were engaged, the overwhelming numbers to contend with, and the loss sustained, is satisfactory evidence of the gallantry and courage shown by the officers and men under my command. They did their whole duty.<sup>29</sup>*

Now the colonel had more than victory on his mind. After the dust and smoke had dissipated, his sense of personal duty propelled him back onto the battlefield with one more responsibility to fulfill: he had a soldier to find. While combing the battlefield, McLaughlin found his man. Amongst the dejected and disarmed Confederate prisoners, McLaughlin found his brother Henry,

still alive. Years earlier, John McLaughlin's brother Henry had moved to Alabama, where he married and started a family and farm. When the war broke out, Henry enlisted as a private in the 35th Alabama Infantry, feeling compelled to protect his family and property – even though it meant he might someday fight against his own brother. Now Henry, having risen to the rank of lieutenant, stood face to face with his brother, childhood playmate and battlefield enemy, Union commander John McLaughlin. After a “singular meeting on the battlefield,” John McLaughlin restrained his brother as a prisoner of war and placed him on a train to Johnson's Island Prison on Lake Erie.<sup>30</sup>

After Lieutenant Colonel John McLaughlin's successes at Champion Hill, he continued on to the Siege of Vicksburg and other Union victories. Henry, on the other hand, languished in prison for nearly twenty months but stayed in communication with his Indianapolis family by letter. His sister Susan intervened when she could no longer stand the thought of one of her brothers in prison. Susan, a highly respected Union nurse, asked Indiana Governor Oliver Morton for a letter of introduction to President Abraham Lincoln, which Governor Morton obliged. With letter in hand, she traveled to Washington and met with President Lincoln to make known her brother's plight and to request his release. When the President asked, “*Upon what grounds do you ask for the release of this prisoner?*”<sup>34</sup> Susan replied, “*Upon the grounds that we believe him to be a loyal man who was forced into the Confederate Army against his will.*” Lincoln gave instructions to his Secretary of War to release the prisoner.<sup>34</sup> On January 24, 1865, Henry McLaughlin was released. Two months later on April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant.

At the conclusion of the Civil War, Henry McLaughlin moved back to his family in Florence, Alabama. Three years after that, John McLaughlin moved to Topeka, Kansas, where he established himself as a gunsmith and arms dealer.<sup>30</sup> The Indiana gunsmith died in Topeka in 1890 at the age of 63.

### Indiana Rifles: A Melting-Pot of Rifle Design

Stock architecture, inlay design and even material choices were heavily influenced by out-of-state tradition. A comprehensive study of hundreds of Indiana gunsmiths that worked in the state (or territory) between 1778 and 1900 revealed birthplaces in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, New York, Tennessee in addition to Indiana. Many of them were likely trained in their home state before migrating to this state. Another contributor of Indiana's rifle architecture and features was Europe... especially Germany, Prussia, and England. These “imported” features can be seen many surviving rifles today. The following four rifles exhibit features that were common in “schools” outside of Indiana. The phenomenon of “imported” design characteristics lends Indiana the descriptor of “melting-pot”.<sup>31</sup>

Christian and Jon Mathesie were a father-son duo that worked in Evansville, Indiana. Both gunsmiths were born in Germany: Christian about 1792 and Jon about 1824. They emigrated to Indiana sometime between 1850 and 1854. The pictured rifle (Figure 8) is signed in script, “Mathesie & Jon”, and may be the combined efforts of both father and son. The hound head carving of the forestock and the “Black Forest” style of relief carving behind the cheekpiece were common among German Jaeger rifles. Christian died in Evansville in 1856 and Jon in 1888.<sup>32</sup>



Figure 8. Half stock rifle made by Christian and Jon Mathesie, a father-son duo that worked in Evansville, Indiana.



Figure 9. This fully-stocked rifle was made by Davis Gray of Greensboro, Indiana.



Figure 10. Fully stocked rifle by Hiram Lundy.



Figure 11. John Small fowler.

The fully-stocked rifle was made by Davis Gray of Greensboro, Indiana (Figure 9). It is signed in script and dated 1853. Gray was born in Indiana about 1820 and likely learned the trade from his neighbor, Robert Polk, who hailed from Guilford County, North Carolina. Another fullstock by Gray is known and sports similar floral inlay designs attached with large-headed silver brads. These design elements were common in rifles made in Guilford County,

North Carolina. Davis Gray died in Greensboro, Henry County, Indiana, in 1904.<sup>33</sup>

Hiram Lundy was born in 1825 in Monroe County, Indiana. This fully-stocked, large-caliber rifle displays several design elements that are common in the south-eastern states of North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee (Figure 10). The significant drop in the butt stock, extended toe and long iron toe plate, for example,

were seldom used on rifles made by Indiana-born gunsmiths. The same could be said for the exaggerated, undercut, cheekpiece the double-length iron ramrod thimbles and the three-inch iron nosecap. Lundy likely learned the trade from his father Isaac and or his older brother, Stockton. Isaac apprenticed to a gunsmith in North Carolina and then moved to Virginia where he practiced gunmaking for ten years before he set up shop in Tennessee. Then he moved with three of his sons, Stockton, Daniel and Isaac Jr. to Indiana and practiced the gunsmith trade. Hiram was the youngest and was born in Indiana, but left for Humbolt, Kansas, in 1868.<sup>34</sup>

The fowler design was common in Pennsylvania in the late 1700s and early 1800s (Figure 11). It has all the features you might expect on a plain fowler. For example, the bottom of the buttstock is rounded not squared. The buttplate's heel was stepped to a long point and not squared. The butt was formed absent a toeplate and the trigger-guard has a long, rear extension. The barrel was made octagon-to-round with a wedding band. The 48 caliber bore has straight rifling. John Small made this rifle in Indiana circa 1800-1810. It was signed "J. Small" in script on the top barrel flat.<sup>35</sup>

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> "New State Fossil," *Indiana Geological & Water Survey*, Indiana University, <https://igws.indiana.edu/outreach/news/announcements/fossil> (accessed August 28, 2022).
- <sup>2</sup> "René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle," *Biography.com*, <https://www.biography.com/explorer/rene-robert-cavelier-sieur-de-la-salle> (accessed August 28, 2022).
- <sup>3</sup> "Archaeology & the French Culture in Indiana," *Indiana Department of Natural Resources*, <https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/files/archaeofrench.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2022).
- <sup>4</sup> "Archaeology & the French Culture in Indiana," *Indiana Department of Natural Resources*, <https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic-preservation/files/archaeofrench.pdf> (accessed August 28, 2022).
- <sup>5</sup> "George Rogers Clark Biography," *Indiana Historical Bureau*, <https://www.in.gov/history/for-educators/all-resources-for-educators/resources/george-rogers-clark/george-rogers-clark-biography> (accessed August 28, 2022).
- <sup>6</sup> Personal correspondence from Richard Day, Author of *Vincennes: A Pictorial History* and Indiana State Historian.
- <sup>7</sup> "George Rogers Clark Biography," *Indiana Historical Bureau*, <https://www.in.gov/history/for-educators/all-resources-for-educators/resources/george-rogers-clark/george-rogers-clark-biography> (accessed August 28, 2022).
- <sup>8</sup> "Bowman's Journal Telling How Clark and His Men Took Fort Sackville," *Indiana Historical Bureau*, <https://www.in.gov/history/for-educators/all-resources-for-educators/resources/george-rogers-clark/bowmans-journal-telling-how-clark-and-his-men-took-fort-sackville/> (accessed August 28, 2022).
- <sup>9</sup> Buley, R.C. "Indiana In The Mexican War," *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 15. No.3, September 1919, pp.260-292, Indiana University Press. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27785913> (accessed August 28, 2022).
- <sup>10</sup> "Hoosier Soldiers in the Civil War," *Indiana Historical Bureau*, <https://www.in.gov/history/about-indiana-history-and-trivia/annual-commemorations/civil-war-150th/hoosier-voices-now/hoosier-soldiers-in-the-civil-war/> (accessed August 28, 2022)
- <sup>11</sup> "Indiana in the American Civil War," *Wikipedia.com*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana\\_in\\_the\\_American\\_Civil\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana_in_the_American_Civil_War) (accessed August 28, 2022).
- <sup>12</sup> Day, Richard, *Vincennes A Pictorial History*. G. Bradley Publishing, Creve Coeur, MO. 1988.
- <sup>13</sup> Dresslar, Jim and Jaeger, Jeff, *John Small of Vincennes: Gunsmith on the Western Frontier*, Dresslar Publishing, Bargersville, Indiana, p.1. 2009
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid. pp. 26, 27.
- <sup>15</sup> Ibid. p. 77.
- <sup>16</sup> Shelby W. Gallien and Jim Dresslar, "John Small: Master Gunsmith of Old Vincennes," *The Gun Report* Vol. 50 No 2, July 2004.
- <sup>17</sup> Dresslar and Jaeger. Op. Cit. Pp. 100, 101.
- <sup>18</sup> Ibid. p. 89
- <sup>19</sup> Last Will and Testament of John Small. Located in Knox County Library, Vincennes, Indiana, and *Indiana State University*, <https://indstate.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/isulib/id/6898/rec/1> (accessed August 28, 2022).
- <sup>20</sup> Gallien, S. "Henry Humberger: Gunmaker of Perry Co. Ohio and Whitley Co. Indiana," *The Association of Ohio Longrifle Collectors Newsletter*, August 1993, p.3.
- <sup>21</sup> *Thornville News*, October 1, 1903.
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- <sup>29</sup> Post battle report: Lieut. Col. John A. McLaughlin, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, Edward Depot, Mississippi, 1863. <http://battleof-championhill.org/47indiana.htm> (accessed August 28, 2022).
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- <sup>32</sup> Ibid. p. 146.
- <sup>33</sup> Ibid. p. 86.
- <sup>34</sup> Ibid. pp. 135, 136.
- <sup>35</sup> Ibid. p. 209.

