

The Beck Family of Gunsmiths, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Samuel E. Dyke

The names J. P. Beck, C. Beck and N. Beyer on the barrels of early Pennsylvania rifles have always been a bench mark of quality gunsmithing. The similarity of the guns of the Beck family of gunsmiths with the work of N. Beyer, also Lebanon County, has been long noted by students of Pennsylvania rifles.

One of the very earliest guns that the writer owned was a J. P. Beck fowling-piece shown in Exhibit #1-a, and it was the real inspiration for the research work that has followed on the Beck family of gunsmiths. The earliest known J. P. Beck is shown in Exhibit #1-b and c.

There has been little published on the Beck family, as gunsmiths, and I wanted to find out, if possible, who were these Becks, where did they live, and when did they work. Further, what was the relationship of J. Philip Beck to Christian Beck and to N. Beyer. It has taken several years of research to accumulate the information presented in this article, and while this might be classed as an interim report on the Beck family, it will present all that I have been able to find up to the present time and it is hoped that with the publishing of this article more information will come to light that will complete the picture of this Beck Family.

First, it must be understood that when you talk about Lebanon County as we know it today, you must go back into Pennsylvania history and realize that the present Dauphin and Lebanon Counties were formed in 1785 and 1813 out of Lancaster and Dauphin Counties.¹

Research proved that John Philip Beck, gunsmith, died in 1811² and, therefore, lived in Lebanon Township, Lancaster County, and not in Lebanon County as we know it today. Lebanon Township remained a part of Lancaster Township and Dauphin Township until 1813, therefore, Dauphin and Lancaster County records were searched for information on these gunsmiths rather than Lebanon County records.

Also, it will be well to remember that Bethel Township, now a part of Lebanon County, was originally part of Dauphin County and there resided in that township a group of Johann Phillip Becks who will be identified in this article.

The difficulty in researching the Beck family was mainly in trying to determine which John Christian Beck or which John Philip Beck the records, discovered by the writer in the Dauphin County Court House and the Lancaster County Court House, referred to. After considerable piecing together of facts and information, I was able to present the geneology of the two major Beck families as shown in Chart No. 1 and Chart No. 2.

Chart No. 1 shows the basic family of Johann Christian Beck, Sr., who was born in 1712 and came to America in 1749, settled thereabouts in Lebanon Township³ and died there in 1792. He is the father of John Philip Beck, Sr., who has been identified as a gunsmith. Johann Christian Beck, Sr. had another son, John Christian Beck, Jr., who if you will note on the Chart No. 1, along with John Philip Beck, Sr., had sons John Philip Beck, Christian Beck and John Christian Beck, III. As indicated above, John Christian Beck, Sr. of Lebanon Township, Lancaster County, had two sons, John Philip Beck, Sr., the gunsmith, and John Christian Beck, Jr., his brother⁴ who was later known as a powder maker.⁵

This family of John Christian Becks residing in Lebanon Township were members of the Lutheran Church.⁶ It is important to differentiate this John Christian Beck, Sr. family from the John Philip Beck, Sr. as shown on Chart No. 2, who settled in Bethel Township North of Lebanon Township. This latter Beck family were early members of the Moravian Church and are buried in the Moravian Cemetery between Lickdale and Fredericksburg.⁷

This Johann Philip Beck, Sr. family purchased land in 1767 and 1782⁸ and paid taxes on ground in Bethel Township in the years 1771, 1772 and 1773⁹ and were primarily farmers. There is no proof that John Philip Beck, Sr. of Bethel Township was a gunsmith. This similarity of names posed a very early problem in the research because we knew that a John Philip Beck had marked his guns, J. P. Beck. I thought possibly John Philip Beck of Bethel Township was the one—only later to find that the actual John Philip Beck, gunsmith, was the son of John Christian Beck, Sr. of Lebanon Township.

A further reference to Charts 1 and 2 will show immediately to the reader the difficulty in associating the names John Philip Beck and Christian Beck as they were related to the two basic families. The only way that I was able to unscramble these names and fit them in the proper family tree was to search for records that revealed their identity. These two charts are a result of this research and as far as I know, they are as of this writing accurate and are completely documented.

I want to state at the outset that we do not know at this time which Christian Beck was the gunsmith that worked in Bethel Township, Dauphin County, in the town of now Jonestown, formerly called Williamsburg. In the years 1807 and 1811, a Christian Beck is listed as a gunsmith and paid taxes on about 60 dollars worth of property in Jonestown.¹⁰ In other words, John Philip Beck, Sr., Lebanon Township, the gunsmith, had a son Christian Beck as did John Philip Beck

**GENEALOGY OF JOHANN CHRISTIAN BECK, SR.
of Lebanon Township, Lancaster County**

CHART I

Johan Christian Beck, Sr.
(Powdermaker)
Born 1712 Died 1792
Anna Maria Beck (Wife)
Born Died

<p>John Philip Beck, Sr. (Gunsmith) Born 1751 Died 1811 Anna Maria (Lauk) 1st Wife (9 Children) Born 1756 Died 1796 Barbara (Boshar) 2nd Wife (2 Children) Born Died</p>	<p>John Christian Beck, Jr. Born 1750 Died 1806 Eva Margaret (Ritter) Wife Born 1755 Died 1829 (Killed in Powder Mill Explosion June 1806)</p>
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<p>John Philip Beck, Jr. Born 1780 Died 1806 Christian Beck Born Died Emanuel Beck Born 1788 Died 1877 Anna Maria Beck Born 1778 Died 1799 Elizabeth Beck Born 1784 Died Samuel Beck Born 1786 Died Susanna Beck Born 1806 Died</p>	<p>John Christian Beck, II Born 1780 Died 1781 John Christian Beck, III Born 1787 Died Tobias Beck Born 1789 Died Wilhelm Beck Born 1794 Died</p>
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**GENEALOGY OF JOHN PHILIP BECK, SR.
of Bethel Township, Lancaster County**

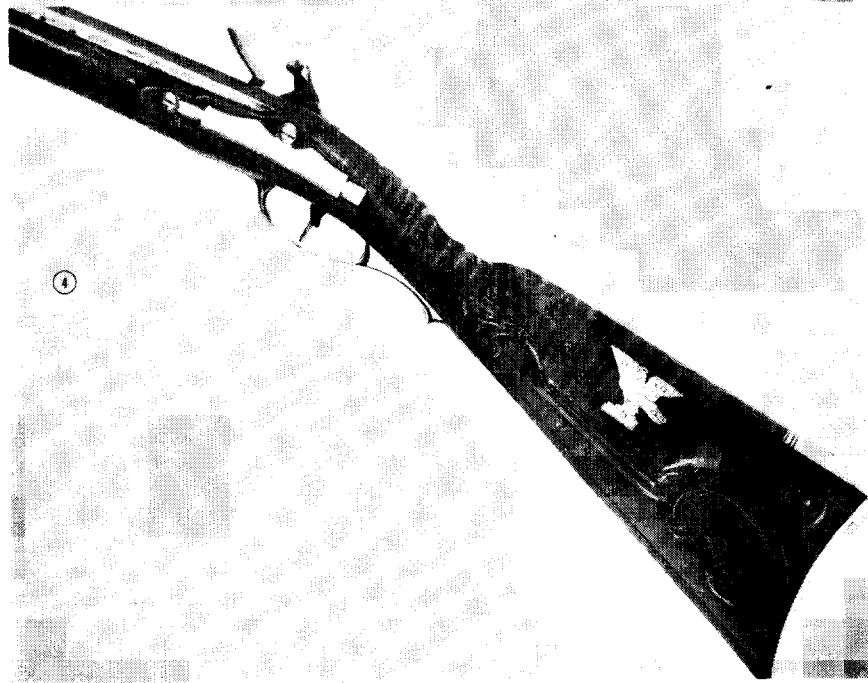
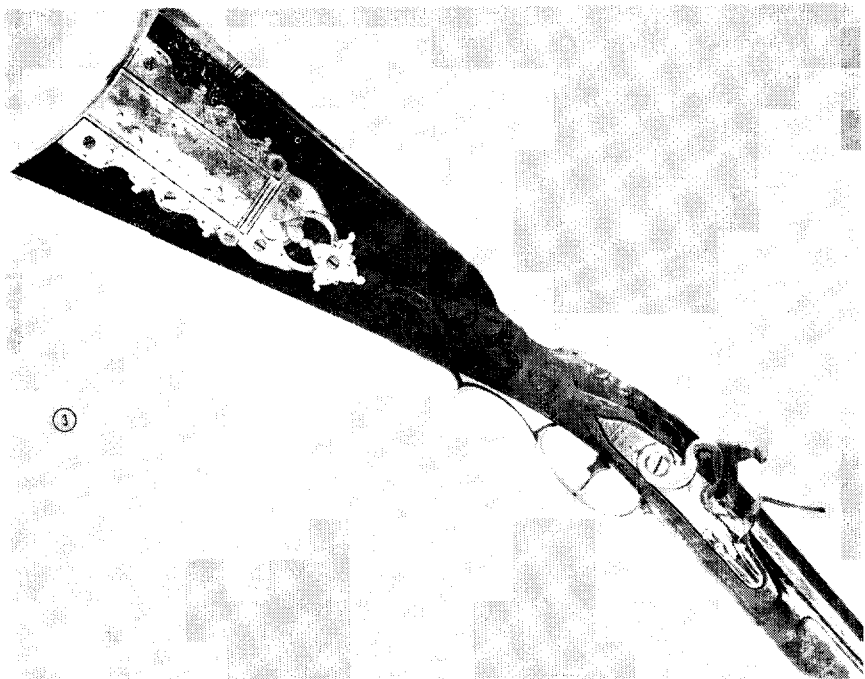
GD—CHART II

John Philip Beck, Sr. (Farmer)
Born 1727 Died 1792
Maria Barbara Beck (Wife)
Born 1731 Died 1775

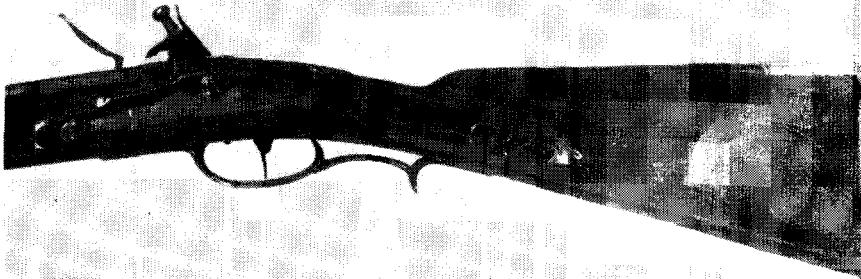
Christian Beck
Born
Died

Johannes Philip Beck, Jr.
Born 1768 Died 1822

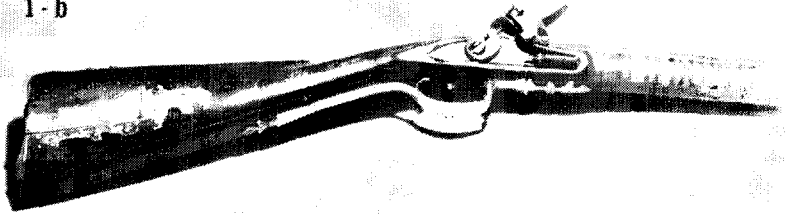
Barbara
Christina
Rosina
Anna Maria



1-a



1-b



1-c

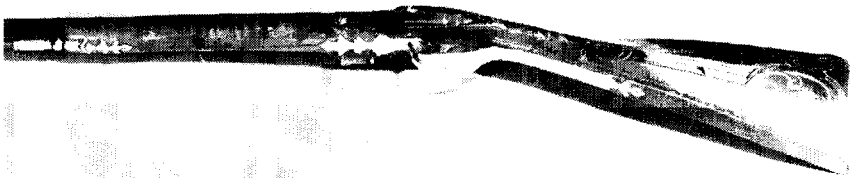
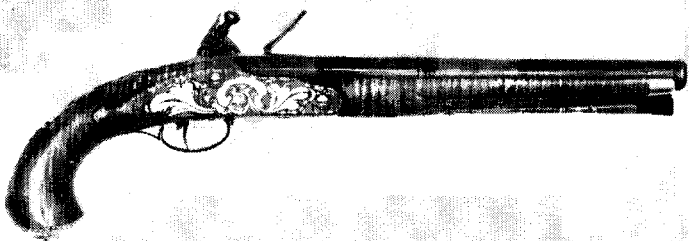
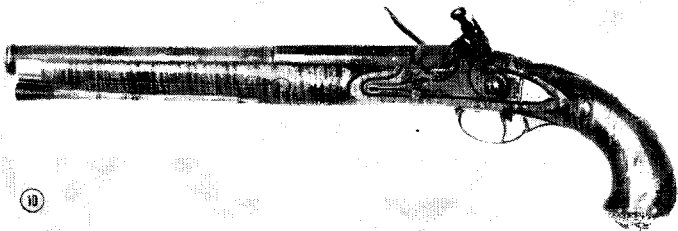


Exhibit 1. (a) J. P. Beck original flintlock fowling piece. No patchbox. Formerly owned by author, (b) Earliest J. P. Beck rifle. Shows European influence in hardware. Silver trigger guards. Property of H. J. Kauffman. (c) J. P. Beck rifle showing typical Beck carving. Compare to (a). Property of H. J. Kauffman.

of Bethel Township have a son named Christian Beck. Therefore, the only two names that have been identified on these family trees as gunsmiths is John Philip Beck, Sr.¹¹ born 1751, died 1811; and a Christian Beck who worked as a gunsmith in Jonestown in 1807 and 1811



It has been the feeling of several authorities on early Pennsylvania rifles that there were more than one Christian Beck that signed his name on guns. There was a Christian Beck who worked in Franklin County, near Chambersburg.¹² Whether or not he is the same Christian Beck that was in Jonestown earlier is not known. Further, there was a Christian Beck who went to Cincinnati, Ohio, early in the 1800's and died there about 1845.¹³

Hopewell Forge Dec 30 1784		127
35	General Charges	6 10
37	Went to see Christian Beck	12 6 9
38	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
39	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
40	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
41	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
42	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
43	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
44	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
45	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
46	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
47	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
48	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
49	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
50	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
51	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
52	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
53	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
54	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
55	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
56	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
57	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
58	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
59	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
60	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
61	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
62	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
63	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
64	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
65	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
66	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
67	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
68	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
69	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
70	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
71	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
72	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
73	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
74	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
75	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
76	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
77	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
78	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
79	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
80	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
81	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
82	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
83	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
84	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
85	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
86	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
87	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
88	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
89	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
90	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
91	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
92	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
93	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
94	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
95	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
96	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
97	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
98	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
99	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0
100	Went to see "Mason" for a gun	1 7 0

Exhibit 2. Photostat of portion of Hopewell Forge journal showing entry pertaining to transaction between Christian Beck and the Grubbs.

Another thing that has been confusing in determining which Christian Beck might have been the gunsmith is the fact that many times in the records the name Christian Beck was used when in reality the full name was a John Christian Beck rather than just plain Christian Beck.

An example of this is found in the fact that in the Hopewell Forge Journals is an entry in December of 1784 which says, "Christian Beck repaired the bellows at Hopewell Forge and sold Burd Grubb (a son of Peter Grubb) a gun."¹⁴ See Exhibit #2.

The fact that John Christian Beck was known as a powder maker

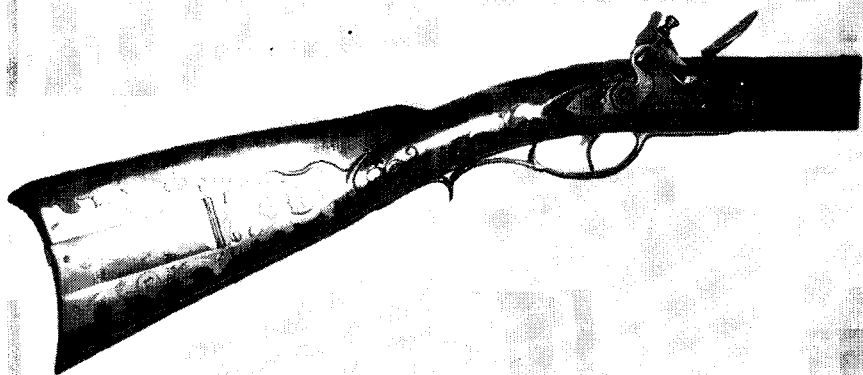
is found in the fact that he was killed in an explosion near Myers-town in June of 1806 and his brother, John Philip Beck, Sr., the gunsmith, was named administrator of his estate.¹⁵ Also is found the fact that John Christian Beck, Jr. sold his carpentry tools in Harrisburg January 17, 1787.¹⁶ This bill of sale indicates and classifies John Christian Beck, Jr. as a joiner. This term could have meant a man who made furniture or who did millright work in plants such as Hopewell Forge.

If John Christian Beck, Jr. sold his joiner's tools and household furniture in January 17, 1787, it is probable that he did not return to the joiners and gunsmiths trade if he was a gunsmith. He is found working again apparently at his original profession of powder maker, because as stated above, he was killed in an explosion at Myerstown in 1806. It is interesting further to note that John Christian Beck, Sr. and Jr. and John Philip Beck, Sr. and Jr. of Lebanon Township, are buried in the Salem Lutheran Church at Lebanon, Pennsylvania.¹⁷ Also, that they paid taxes in Lebanon Township, Lancaster County, as early as 1750, 1758, 1780 and up to 1806.¹⁸

John Christian Beck, Jr., Lebanon Township, took the Oath of Allegiance in Pennsylvania on June 20, 1778, and his brother, John Philip Beck, Sr., took the Oath on August 15, 1778.¹⁹ It is further interesting to note John Philip Beck, Sr. fought 6th Class, 2nd Battalion, Lancaster County Militia in the Revolution and John Christian Beck, Jr., his brother, 7th Class, 4th County, 2nd Battalion, Lancaster County Militia under David Crouse.²⁰ I believe Christian Beck, son of John Philip Beck of Bethel Township, was a gunsmith and he is the one that worked in Adams County and later in Ohio.²¹ The Christian Beck, gunsmith, who worked earlier in Lebanon Township, Lancaster County, was either John Christian Beck, Jr., brother of J. P. Beck, Sr. or Christian Beck, son of John Philip Beck, Sr. of Lebanon Township. I hope as time goes on to prove both of these two were gunsmiths.

So much for the geneology of the two original Beck families of Lebanon and Bethel Townships.

As indicated at the outset, the quality of the guns made by John Philip Beck, Christian Beck and N. Beyer are very similar and are outstanding. In fact they are unusually well made, have good locks and exquisite raised carving and in some cases inlay of silver wire. From examination of the surviving guns by these gunsmiths, it is believed these men made several qualities of guns and sold them at different prices. That the guns that survive are, to some extent, between average quality and superb quality, is due to the fact that the original customers for these guns were average to good in wealth. It is known to be a fact that Lancaster and Lebanon Counties in that period were growing and there was much wealth in the way of barter and trade available in the growing areas. Likewise, these early settlers were very proud of their guns and wanted the best that they could afford. Examples of the fine work of the two Becks and N. Beyer are shown in Exhibits #3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Reference to these

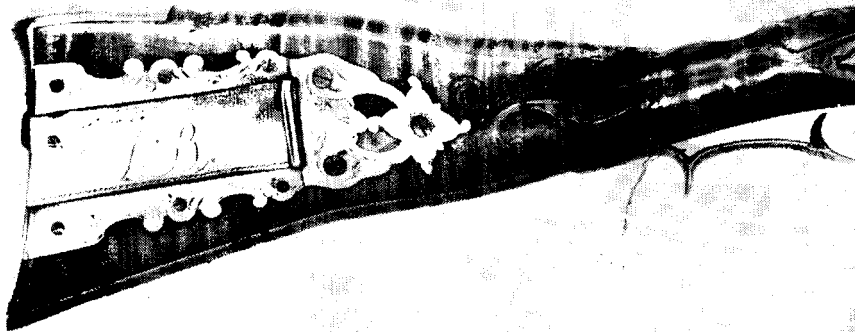


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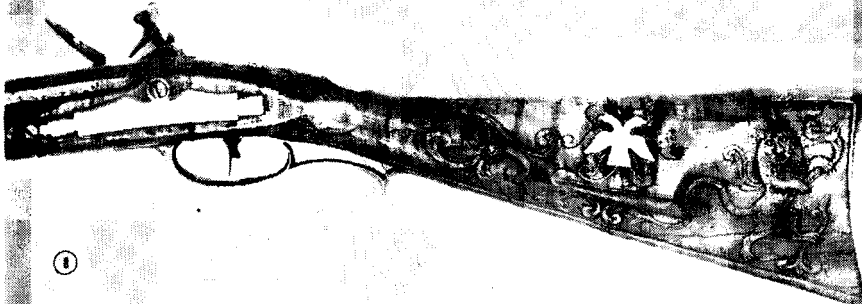


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Exhibits 3 and 4 (facing page). J. P. Beck rifle showing highest quality workmanship on patchbox. Owned by H. L. Murray, Jr. Exhibit 4 shows obverse side with its masterful raised carving. Exhibits 5 and 6 N. Beyer Rifle, showing similar style and workmanship to J. P. Beck rifle. Owned by Perry Martin. Exhibit 6 shows obverse side. Compare with carving of Beck rifle, exhibit 4.



①



②

Exhibits 7 and 8. J. P. Beck rifle, showing details of engraved patchbox and carving. One of the most interesting rifles found. Exhibit 8 shows obverse side with its superior carving. Part of the comb is missing. Property of Joe King, Jr.

guns specifically will be made later on.

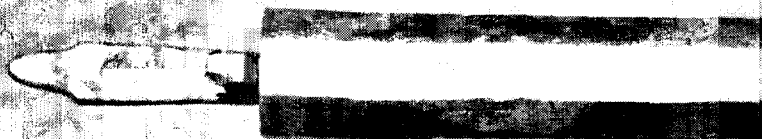
There is one very significant similarity that should be noted in workmanship of John Philip Beck, Sr., Christian Beck and N. Beyer. This is an engraving found on certain gun barrels made by each of these makers.

On the under side of the barrel near the breach plug is found the script letters, J.N.K.J. Examination of these engravings indicates that they are by the same hand or hands trained in the same shop. A typical rubbing of one of these inscriptions is photographed and is shown in Exhibit #9. This inscription, J.N.K.J., I believe means "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews".²² Whether or not the barrel maker who made the barrels for these three gunsmiths engraved J.N.K.J. on these barrels or whether the gunsmiths put them on is not known. However, I feel that these engravings have a relationship to their lives and to their work.

The early settlers of that area were predominately Moravians and Lutherans and were very religious people.²³ In their daily family life they exemplified their faith in God. They worshipped together not only in the morning, but at the eventide and they no doubt practiced their religion day to day and these inscriptions on these gun barrels is witness to their belief in God. Whether this inscription, J.N.K.J., was put on in the belief that the gun would be used only for the procurement of food and protection rather than a lethal weapon for war, of course, is not known. It is the writer's opinion that these men coming to America to flee religious persecution were proud of this fact and wanted to put their religious beliefs in script on their gun barrels as they were proud of both.

The reason this reference of the finding of this inscription, J.N.K.J., by all three makers is made at this point is that for a long

Exhibit 9. Engraving on underside of barrel found on some rifles by J. P. Beck, C. Beck, and N. Beyer.



time the writer thought the workmanship of N. Beyer is so closely like that of J. Philip Beck and Christian Beck that these three men must have been related or worked in the same shop, or apprenticed to the same master. Their carvings are similar in design and in crispness. See Exhibits 4 and 6. The writer has worked on guns made by these three men and has had the opportunity of checking the iron used in the barrels and locks by all three of these makers, and it is my opinion that the iron came from the same forge, probably Hopewell Forge, which was operated by the Grubbs on Hammer Creek just a few miles below where these gunsmiths worked in Lebanon Township. In fact, in the Hopewell Forge account of March 15, 1791, was this entry—"to buy iron, 2 shillings, 16 pence, sold Beck".²⁴ This does not indicate which Beck, but it was probably John Philip Beck or Christian Beck who lived in that area. Also in the account book of Union Forge February 17, 1795, is entered—"Philip Beck, debtor, to bar iron for 1 L, 3 pence, 9 shillings".

The success with which John Philip Beck, Sr. of Lebanon Township had as a gunsmith in terms of his estate at the time of death, is not indicative of a very successful or wealthy man. However, it must be remembered that at that time hard money or real money was scarce and barter was used to a great extent in the payment of his services as a gunsmith.

His estate reveals the fact that he left 625 pounds, 8 shillings, 1½ pence.²⁵ It was interesting to note from a gunsmith's point of view that among those persons owing J. P. Beck, Sr. Estate was Peter Berry, gunsmith, 16 shillings, 9 pence; John Light, who has been long classed as a gunsmith, 5 pounds, 12 shillings, 6 pence; his brother, John Christian Beck, Jr., 75 pounds, no shillings, no pence; and his son, Emanuel Beck, 7 pounds, 12 shillings, 6 pence.

The quality of the J. P. Beck and Christian Beck guns in the writer's opinion stand favorably with any guns made in any other county in the same period. They are among the most sought after guns by collectors today and have commanded the highest prices known to the writer for Kentucky rifles.

An interesting rifle by J. P. Beck is in the Independence Hall Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Inscribed on a plate is a statement "Presented to George Washington by the Maker" 1782. It is the opinion of Mr. Harold L. Peterson, Staff Historian, U. S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, that the plate is much later than the date the gun was made. The writer believes the gun was given to General Washington on November 13, 1793, when he stayed all night at Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, approximately 15 miles from Beck's home. Washington was greeted by the citizenry of the town to

Exhibits 10, 11, and 12. J. P. Beck pistol, showing left hand lock, silver mounted, rifled barrel. Owned by the author. Exhibit 11 shows obverse side with its superb silver side plate. Exhibit 12 shows underside of the pistol.

which he replied—"The respect which you have shown me and the praise of my efforts give me the greatest pleasure".²⁶ The plate on the gun could have been marked eleven years earlier by mistake.

Not only were Christian Beck and John Philip Beck known for their long arms, but a recent discovery of a pistol bearing the signature of J. P. Beck shown in Exhibits #10, 11 and 12 is proof that John Philip Beck made fine pistols as well as fine guns. The pistol shown in the illustration has this interesting background. Until recently it was stocked, although the stock was damaged, and it was stripped and dismantled and sold as parts much to the chagrin of every lover of fine American pistols or guns. What remains are the parts shown in the photograph, Exhibit #13.

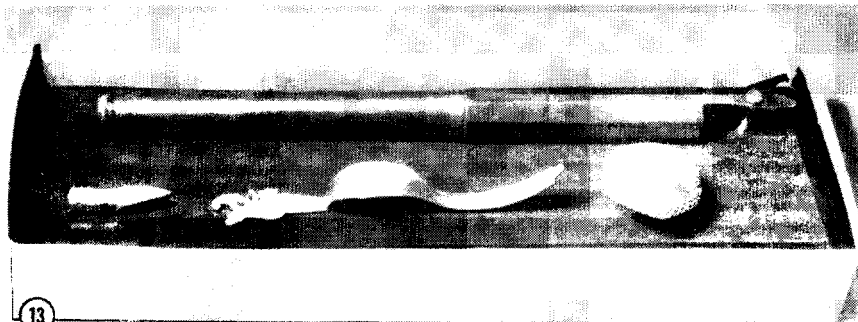


Exhibit 13. J. P. Beck pistol parts as salvaged from original pistol. Exhibits 10-12 show pistol as restored. J. P. Beck's name engraved in reverse on barrel. Why? Perfect signature.

One of the interesting things about this pistol is originally it was a left-hand pistol having a left-hand lock and the inscription on the barrel is not only backward, but reverse of the what presumably would his normal signature have been on the right-hand barrel. Why this signature is backward is not known to anyone. To inscribe his name in reverse on this barrel alone in itself would have been a feat. How it is done is not known, but it took a real engraver to do this.

When this barrel is held up in a mirror, the signature, J. P. Beck, is as clear as it is found on most any of his guns. Another significant point about this pistol is that the silver butt cap and trigger guard are of the finest in casting and engraving workmanship that I have seen on an American pistol. The engraving is typical of the fine engraving on J. P. Beck's patch boxes, hardware on his long rifles. The fact further that he made pistols as found in his inventory which is shown in Exhibit #14, pistols and barrels are listed in that inventory. Also casting molds, melting pots, silver wire drawing equipment is listed showing he made complete guns.

As a final bit of research, I believe of interest to some of the readers of the life and work of these Becks, is found in the fact that for some time the writer has suspected that there was a close re-

lationship in the early days of their careers as apprentices one with the other. For example, in the case of the John Philip Beck, Sr., gunsmith, who married Anna Maria Lauck, who probably was a sister of S. Lauck who has been later documented by the writer as having been a gunsmith in Lebanon Township, Dauphin County.²⁷ In 1785, when he is listed in the official tax list as "gunsmith" and owning one cow.²⁸ Mr. Joe Kindig of York, has a gun signed "S. Lauck". Further of interest, I believe is the fact that N. Beyer, son of Michael Beyer, had the good fortune of having as his mother a daughter of Benedict Imhoff,²⁹ gunsmith and doctor of Heidelberg Township in Berks County. This inter-marriage of gunsmiths' daughters and sons is probably as a result of their being apprenticed or thrown in contact with meetings of their parents which association blossomed into marriages as indicated above.

Unfortunately a recent newspaper solicitation in Lebanon Township by the author did not bring to light any new facts other than those found in the Court House Records on the Beck families of Lebanon Township. However, there must be and will probably come to light, new evidence as to the background and early life of these master craftsmen.

The writer regrets very much that the research on this family had to terminate at some point and it is with that thought in mind that the facts I have uncovered have been written in this article and will be preserved. Also, I hope other researchers may find more answers to the query which Christian Becks were gunsmiths.

Exhibit 14. On the next seven pages are reproduced the inventory of John Philip Beck's estate, showing entries (page 43) for pistol barrels and iron instruments for drawing wire.

NOTES

- ¹ Lanc. County Historical Society Bulletin Vol. I, Page 121.
- ² Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church Records, Lebanon, Penna.
- ³ Vol. I, Penna. German Pioneers, Page 531.
- ⁴ Same as ².
- ⁵ *Thirty Ancestors of Wm. H. Koch*, by Judge R. H. Koch, Page 103, 1939, J. F. Seiders Printers, Pottsville, Penna.
- ⁶ Egles, *History of Lebanon*—Page 149.
- ⁷ Lebanon County Historical Society notes of Mrs. Lea on *Beck Family*.
- ⁸ Penna. Archives, Vol. XVII, 3rd Series—Page 837.
- ⁹ Penna. Archives, Vol. XVII, 3rd Series—Page 385, Pages 837 & 865.
- ¹⁰ Lebanon Twp. Triennial Assessment list Dauphin County Court House.
- ¹¹ Lebanon Twp. Triennial Assessment list Dauphin County Court House. Year 1785-1808.
- ¹² Franklin County Court House Records—Chambersburg, Penna.
- ¹³ Reference GA-K76 Historical Society of Berks County.
- ¹⁴ Hopewell Forge Journal—Year 1784—Historical Society of Penna.
- ¹⁵ Same as ⁵ and Orphan's Court Record File #9-C, Page 122.
- ¹⁶ Mortgage Book (C) Vol. I, Page 13, Dauphin County Court House.
- ¹⁷ Same as ².
- ¹⁸ Penna. Archives, 3rd Series, Vol. XVII, Pages 316, 791, 792.
- ¹⁹ Egles, *History of Dauphin and Lebanon County* 1883, Page 131.
- ²⁰ Penna. Archives, Vol. VII, 5th Series, Page 154.
- ²¹ No Birth or Death Record is available and perhaps going to Ohio is the reason for no death notice in Lebanon County.
- ²² Early Records in *History of Lutheran Churches of Lebanon County*.
- ²³ L. Rupp's, *History of Lebanon and Berks County*.
- ²⁴ *Forge Journal*, Hopewell Forge—Year 1791—Landis Valley Museum, Lancaster, Penna.
- ²⁵ Docket #5 F14P-1 Docket #8F14-P-2 Dauphin County Court House.
- ²⁶ Rupp's *History of Berks and Lebanon County*, Page 194.
- ²⁷ Same as ².
- ²⁸ Same as ¹⁰.
- ²⁹ Same as ².

LIST OF GUNSMITHS OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
 PERIOD 1728-1863
 AS COMPILED BY S. E. DYKE IN 1959
 AND
 REVISED BY C. B. GROVE IN 1969
 MAINLY FROM RECORDS IN
 LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<i>NAME OF GUNSMITH</i>	<i>TOWNSHIP</i>	<i>DATES LISTED</i>
— A —		
Albrecht, Albricht, Andreas	Warwick Township, Lititz, Pa.	1772-1800
Albright, Henry (Son of Andreas)	Warwick Township, Lititz, Pa.	1814-1820
Aldenderfer, M.	Cocalico Township	1800-Only
Axer, John	Lancaster Boro.	1843-1844
-- B --		
Baker, Caleb	Deed Book B "Mayhill" Lampeter Twp.	1741
Baker, George	Lampeter Township	1786
Baker, John	Lancaster Boro.	1728-1750
Baker, Joshua (Son of John)	Lancaster Boro.	1754
Barber, Samuel	Caernovon Township	1807-1813
Bair, Jaffa	Leacock Township	1802
Bard, George	Lampeter Township	1777
Barr, Jacob	Gun Barrel Forger, Manheim Township	1829
Bear, John	Gun Barrel Forger, Manheim Township	1808-1841
Bear, Joseph	Gun Barrel Forger, Manheim Township	1825-1834
Bear, Jacob	Gun Barrel Forger, Manheim Township	1825-1850
Bear, Peter	Gunsmith, Warwick Township	1840-1850
Bear, Samuel	Gun Barrel Forger, Manheim Township	1809-1850
Beck, John Philip	Gunsmith, Lebanon County	1777-1810
Becker, George	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1785
Bender, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1813-1816
Bender, Christian	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1814
Bender, Philip	Gunsmith, Manheim	1786-1793
Berry, Peter	Gunsmith, Anneville—Now Dauphin	1772-1790
Berry, Peter, Jr.	Gunsmith, Anneville—Now Dauphin	1800-1807
Bez Michael	Gunsmith, Warwick Township	1758-1759

Bender, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1813-1816
Bender, Christian	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1814
Bender, Philip	Gunsmith, Manheim	1786-1793
Berry, Peter	Gunsmith, Anneville—Now Dauphin	1772-1790
Berry, Peter, Jr.	Gunsmith, Anneville—Now Dauphin	1800-1807
Bez, Michael	Gunsmith, Warwick Township	1758-1759
Bishly, Andrew	Gunsmith, Lebanon Township	1771
Beyer, Nicholas	Gunsmith, Lebanon Township	1807-1810
Beyer, Davit	Gunsmith, Lebanon Township	1800
Bollinger, Peter	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1776
Boyer, Henry	Gunsmith, Lebanon Township	1807
Brandt, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1834-1837
Breihen, Christopher	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1759-1770
Beidenhardt, Christopher	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1770-1773
Brenberger, Frederick	Gun Barrel Forger, Martie Township	1814-1816
Bricker, Adam	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1863
Brock, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Brong, Peter	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1788-1816
Brooks, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1800-1816
Brown, David D.	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1838-1863
Brubaker, John	Gunsmith, Earl Township	1802-1803
Bryan, James	Gunsmith, Lampeter Township	1801
Brenneman, Jacob	Gun Barrel Forger, Earl Township	1828
Butler, Thomas	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1749
Buyers, Robert	Gunsmith, Salisbury Township	1801

— C —

Chambers, James	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1750-1751
Corner, Paul	Gunlock Maker, Lancaster Boro.	1759
Corolus,	Gunsmith, Donegal Township	1801
Coburn, Benjamin	Gunsmith, Little Britain Township	1816

Crist, John	Gun Barrel Forger, Cocalico Township	1805
Crysker, Daniel	Gun Barrel Forger, Cocalico Township	1830
Cooper, George	Gunsmith--Forger, Cocalico Township	1834-1835
Cook, Jacob	Gunsmith, Caernovon Township	1807-1814
Coldren, Samuel	Gunsmith, Brecknock Township	1838-1850

— D —

DeHuff, Henry	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1771-1807
DeHuff, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1803-1819
DeMuth, Christopher	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1790-1804
DeMuth, Johannes	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1790
DeMuth, Joseph	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1800-1813
DeHaven, Peter	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1768
Dellot, Peter	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
DeTreison, Reuben	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Dickert, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1770-1821
Dornbach, Anthony	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1803
Dreppert, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1837-1864
Dreppert, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1843
Dreppert, Andrew	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1843-1850
Dreppert, George	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1849
Dulibar, Christian	Gun Barrel Forger, Lancaster Boro.	1847-1850

— E —

Eberle, Jacob	Gunsmith, Warwick Township	1810
Eberman, Henry	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1810-1850
Eberman, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1759
Eshleman, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1843-1850
Eby, Abram	Gunsmith, Leacock Township	1781
Eby, Christian	Gunsmith, Warwick Township	1768
Eby, John	Gunsmith, Leacock Township	1801
Eich[h]oltz, John W.	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1843-1844
Eich[h]oltz, Henry G.	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850

Fainot, Geo. Frederick	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1779-1803
Feather, George	Gunsmith, Elizabeth Township	1820-1822
Feinebecker, Daniel	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1796
Fetter, George	Gunsmith, Elizabeth Township	1831-1848
Fetter, Peter	Gunsmith, Elizabeth Township	1837-1850
Fetter, George Jr.	Gunsmith, Elizabeth Township	1844-1850
Fetter, Henry	Gunsmith, Elizabeth Township	1847-1848
Feree, Joel	Gunsmith, Leacock Township	1758-1775
Ferree, Jacob	Gunsmith, Strasburg Township	1782
Fondersmith, George	Gunsmith, Strasburg Township	1803-1826
Fondersmith, Jacob	Gunsmith, Martic Township	1811
Fondersmith, John	Gunsmith, Strasburg Township	1779-1803
Fondersmith, Louis	Gunsmith, Strasburg Township	1803
Fondersmith, Valentine	Gunsmith, Strasburg Township	1779-1824
Fordney, Casper	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1828-1830
Fordney, Melchoir	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1807-1847
Fordney, Philip	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1836
Fordney, Henry	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1833-1838
Fordney, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1843
Fordney, Jacob, Jr.	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1834-1849
Foulkes, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1759
Fox, Benjamin	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1843
Fox, Philip	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1843
Franse, J. A.	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Frailey, Andrew	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Fries, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Frymyer, John	Gunsmith, East Cocalico Township	1850

Getz, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1779-1833
Getz, Peter	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1810

Gibbs, Abraham	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1849
Gibbs, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1821
Gibbs, Henry	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1811-1830
Gibbs, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1833-1842
Gill, J. D.	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1783-1819
Gill, Benjamin	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1843-1850
Gillman, Daniel	Gunsmith, Donegal Township	1779-1812
Gillman, Nicholas	Gunsmith, Donegal Township	1801-1808
Glenn, Thomas	Gunsmith, East Earl Township	1788
Ginerich, Daniel	Gunsmith, Warwick Township	1785-1801
Gorner, Paul	Lock Maker, Lancaster Boro.	1759
Gonter, John	Gunsmith, Columbia, Pa.	1800
Gonter, Peter	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1773-1819
Greaff, George	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1785-1786
Greaff, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1772-1802
Greaff, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1807-1809
Grave, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1773
Groff, Henry	Gunsmith, West Earl Township	1847
Guest, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1802-1811
Gumph, Andrew	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1829-1849
Gumph, Christian	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1800-1834
Gumph, George	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1825-1849
Gumph, Henry	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1814-1843
Gumph, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1814-1816
Gumph, Mathias	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1789-1793
Gumph, Stoephel	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1789-1797
Gumph, Michael	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1843

— H —

Haeffer, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1803-1822
Haeffer, John (Brother)	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1803
Hagi, John	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1796-1850

Haines, Isaac	Gunsmith, Lampeter Township	1772-1793
Harris, Henry	Gunsmith, Paxton Township	1777-1781
Heinhold, Simeon	Gunsmith, Strasburg Township	1779
Henry, Abram	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1797-1811
Henry, John, 1st	Gunsmith, Salisbury Township	1747
Henry, John, 2nd	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1770-1772
Henry, William, 1st	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1759-1770
Henry, William, 2nd	Gunsmith, Warwick Township	1780 (Later Nazareth)
Hess, Christian	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1794
Hildenbeutel, John	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1835-1850
Hoak, Jacob	Gunsmith, Strasburg Township	1800-1831
Hoak, Mathias	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1802-1814
Hoffman, Christian	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1807-1811
Holeman, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1807-1819
Holtzworth, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1815-1832
Howeter, George	Gunsmith, Lampeter Township	1820-1827
Howeter, Charles	Gun Barrel Forger, Upper Leacock Twp.	1850
Howeter, Henry	Gun Barrel Forger, Upper Leacock Twp.	1850
Hook, Jacob	Gunsmith, East Earl Township	1788
Hoofman, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1750 (Deed Book C)
Hsueder, Henry	Gunsmith, Manheim Township	1848-1849
	— I —	
Imhoff, Benedict	Gunsmith, Heidleberg Township	1759 (Also Doctor)
Ish, Christian	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1778 (Narr's Record)
Ish, Peter	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1759
	— J —	
St. Johns, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1839-1854
Johnson, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1838
	— K —	
Kautz, Gabriel	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1863
Keaffer, Peter	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1759

Kehler, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1802-1803
Killets, Charles	Gun Stock Maker, West Earl Township	1849-1850
King, Frederick	Gun Stock Maker, West Earl Township	1863
Kleine, Christian	Gun Stock Maker, West Earl Township	1792-1793
Koch, Charles	Gun Barrel Forger, Manheim Township	1850
Kohr, William	Gun Barrel Forger, Manheim Township	1837-1838
Kraft, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1770-1783
Kurtz, George	Lockmaker, Lancaster Boro.	1759
Kurtz, Samuel	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1837-1843
Kuntz, Michael	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1799-1807
Koenig & Woerner	Gunsmiths, Lancaster Boro.	1863

— L —

Lauck, Simon	Gunsmith, Lebanon Township	1783-1785
LeFever, Isaac	Gunsmith, Lampeter Township	1731-1736
LeFever, Philip (Son)	Gunsmith, Lampeter Township	1756-1770
Leib, Alpheus	Gun Barrel Forger, Manheim Township	1849-1850
Leib, John	Gun Barrel Forger, Manheim Township	1842-1850
Leamon (Leman), Henry Eichholtz	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1834-1885
Leinbach, Elias	Gunsmith, Brecknock Township	1843-1846
Llewellyn, Matthew	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1792-1802
Lutz, George	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1842
Lipp, Abraham	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Lyne, John	Gunsmith, Conestoga Township	1751-1806

— M —

Martin, Michael	Gunsmith, Brecknock Township	1811-1850
Mason, Henry	Gunsmith---Lockmaker, Lancaster Boro.	1759
Mathasie, Christian	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1838-1849
Maurer, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1802-1803
Martin, David	Gunsmith, Brecknock Township	1847
Martin, Samuel	Gunsmith, Brecknock Township	1847-1850
Mays, James	Gunsmith, Rapho Township	1759-1790

Michael, John	Gun Barrel Forger, Manheim Township	1812
Miller, George	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1811
Miller, Benjamin	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1841
Miller, Henry	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1842-1850
Miller, Jacob	Gunsmith, Conestoga Township	1773
Miller, John, Jr.	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1771-1803
Miller, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1863
Milley, Edward	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1863
Miller, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1771-1789
Messersmith, George	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1814
Messersmith, Henry	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1747
Messersmith, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1779-1810
Melloy, Hugh	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1809
Metzger, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1754-1777
Metzger, Philip	Gun Lock Maker, Lancaster Boro.	1814-1816
Messner, Joel	Gun Barrel Smith, Elizabeth Township	1837-1843
Meyer, George	Gun Lock Maker, Lancaster Boro.	1814
Musketnuss, Peter	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1863
Moyer, George	Gun Lock Maker, Lancaster Boro.	1814-1840
Mylin (Meylin), Martin	Lampeter Township (Only proof is inventory)	1751
Mulgrew, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1841-1847
Mull, Henry	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1751 (Deed Book C)
Murphy, John	Gunsmith, Donegal Township	1817
Myers, Daniel	Gunsmith, Manor Township	1847-1850
McClure, William	Gunsmith, W. Hempfield Township	1822
McCune, William	Gunsmith, Colerain Township	1826-1846
	-- N --	
Nauman, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1809-1832
Neubecker,	Gunsmith, Halifax Township	1826
Newcomer, Christian	Gunsmith, Hempfield Township	1802
Newcomer, John, Sr.	Gunsmith, Hempfield Township	1779-1780
Newcomer, John, Jr.	Gunsmith, Hempfield Township	1780-1783

Newcomer, Abraham	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1761
	— O —	
Oberholtzer, Christian	Gunsmith, Hempfield Township	1789
Oberholtzer, Christian, Jr.	Gunsmith, Hempfield Township	1802
Orman, John Michael	Gun Lock Maker, Lancaster Boro.	1759
	— P —	
Pannebecker, Daniel	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1828-1831
Pannebecker, John	Gun Barrel Forger, Brecknock Township	1826-1834
Pannebecker, Jess	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1833-1838
Pannebecker, Samuel	Gunsmith, Brecknock Township	1828-1844
Pannebecker, William	Gun Barrel Forger, Cocalico Township	1850
Pickle, Henry	Gunsmith, Manheim Township	1811
Poorman, M.	Gunsmith, Heidleburg Township	1772
	— R —	
Raser, David	Lockmaker, Lancaster Boro.	1759
Raesor, Daniel	Gunsmith, Strasburg Township	1774
Raesor, Peter	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1782-1786
Ramsey, Robert	Gun Barrel Forger, Martic Township	1796-1798
Radfang, Jacob	Gunsmith, Donegal Township	1811-1839
Radfang, George	Gunsmith, Conestoga Township	1770-1780
Reasure, John	Gunsmith, Strasburg Township	1779-1781
Reigart, Peter	Gunsmith, Paxton Township	1754-1777
Reitenbaugh, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1838-1847
Reiner, Michael	Gunsmith, Conestoga Township	1779-1790
Reichenbuch, George	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Richardson, William	Gunsmith, Elizabeth Township	1839-1850
Remley, John Y.	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1836-1850
Robertson (Robison), John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Roesser, Mathew	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1759-1770
Roller & Sprecher	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Roth, Samuel	Gun Barrel Smith, Elizabeth Township	1830-1850
Runfielt, S. C.	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850

Rutt, Henry	Gunsmith, Earl Township	1820
— S —		
Sager, John	Gunsmith, Lampeter Township	1777
Schneiter, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Township	1793
Schreit, John	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1777
Seibble, Christian	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1797-1803
Seebrooks, William	Gunsmith, Martic Township	1803-1808
Sees, Jacob	Gunsmith, Elizabeth Township	1800-1813
Seibel, Christian	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1802-1803
Shaffner, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1788
Sheaff, Henry	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1832-1833
Shreid, Casper (Deed Book H)	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1763
Shell, Martin	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1770-1774
Sherts, Christian	Gunsmith, Heidleberg Township	1779-1782
Shunk, Isaac	Gunsmith, Paxton Township	1810-1811
Showwalter, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1838-1839
Sible, Jacob	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1788-1814
Siegfried, Ruben	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Siegfried, Daniel	Gun Barrel Smith, E. Cocalico Twp.	1850
Sinclair, John	Gun Barrel Smith, E. Cocalico Twp.	1794-1854
Stite, Casper	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1759
Smith, Martin	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1814-1819
Smith, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Snider, Lewis	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1803
Snoddy, James (Will Book B -- Page 325)	Gunsmith, Donegal Township	1757
Swobe, Adam	Gunsmith, Derry Township	1785-1802
Sweitzer, Abraham	Gunsmith, Leacock Township	1849
	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	
	(Brother-in-Law to M. Fordney)	
Sweitzer, Daniel	Locksmith, Lancaster Boro.	1829

— T —

Treppert (or Dreppert), Henry	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1829-1830
Trissler, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1807-1840
Treish, John	Gun Barrel Forger, Elizabeth Township	1847-1850
	— V —	
Van Sciver, J.B.	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
	— W —	
Walter, Henry	Gunsmith, Cocalico Township	1820-1830
Walker, John	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1780-1807
Weaver, Adam	Gunsmith, Jonestown	1771-1779
Weiss, William	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1800-1848
Weiman, Henry	Gun Barrel Forger, Elizabeth Township	1850
Winger, Christian	Gunsmith, Leacock Township	1780-1810
Withers, Michael	Gunsmith, Strasburg Township	1758
Withers, Michael (Nephew)	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1786-1813
Whirley,	Gunsmith, Manor Township	1850
White, Job	Gunsmith, Little Britain Township	1840
Williams, James	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1843-1850
Wolf, Emile	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1850
Wurtz, Samuel	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1837
	— Y —	
Yost, Casper	Gunsmith, Lebanon Township	1779-1785
	— Z —	
Zahm, Mathias	Gunsmith, Lancaster Boro.	1813-1819

AUTHORS' NOTE: The above List of Gunsmiths was documented from the following sources:

1. Tax Records in Lancaster County Historical Society
2. Narr's Records in Lancaster County Court House
3. Wills and Deeds in Lancaster County Court House
4. Directories of Lancaster
5. Manuscript Files in Lancaster County Historical Society.

Research started in 1959 — completed in 1969.

S. E. Dyke
C. B. Grove