

## FIREARM INFORMATION SHEET

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** 9188

**TYPE:** Kentucky Rifle - Wender (Over and Under)

**IGNITION SYSTEM:** Flint

**LOCK MARKINGS/DECORATIONS:** Lock plate on right marked "KUNZ" and on left "Philad a".

**DATE OF MANUFACTURE:** 1790's

**PLACE OF MANUFACTURE:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**MAKER:** Jacob Kunz (Kuntz)

**LENGTH OVERALL:** 57 3/4 inches

**BARREL LENGTH:** 40 3/4 inches

**CALIBER:** .50, rifled (both barrels)

**WOOD TYPE:** Curly Maple

**MOUNTINGS:** Brass with exception of silver escutcheon at wrist, silver star on cheekpiece and silver barrel key escutcheons.

**BARREL MARKINGS/DECORATION:** "J Kunz Philad"

**STOCK MARKINGS/DECORATION:** Fine curly maple stock with Kunz's typical silver "star in circle" on cheekpiece. Also fancy toe plate with wooden patchbox release.

**REPAIRS/RESTORATION:**

**HISTORICAL/ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE:** Jacob Kunz has been referred to as "in a class by himself" by Joe Kindig, III. With its relatively flat, wide butt and large caliber, this is one of a handful of early over and under Kentucky rifles. Its heritage comes directly from the "Wender" Jeager rifles which were relatively common in Germany, 1700-1800. Jacob Kunz's architecture, proportions, and engraving are unsurpassed and for a two barreled gun it is hardly heavier than many single barreled guns.

**PROVENANCE:** Ex-Collection Frank Greenhall, Florida  
John Green (his son)  
C.W. Slagle

**PUBLICATIONS:** None

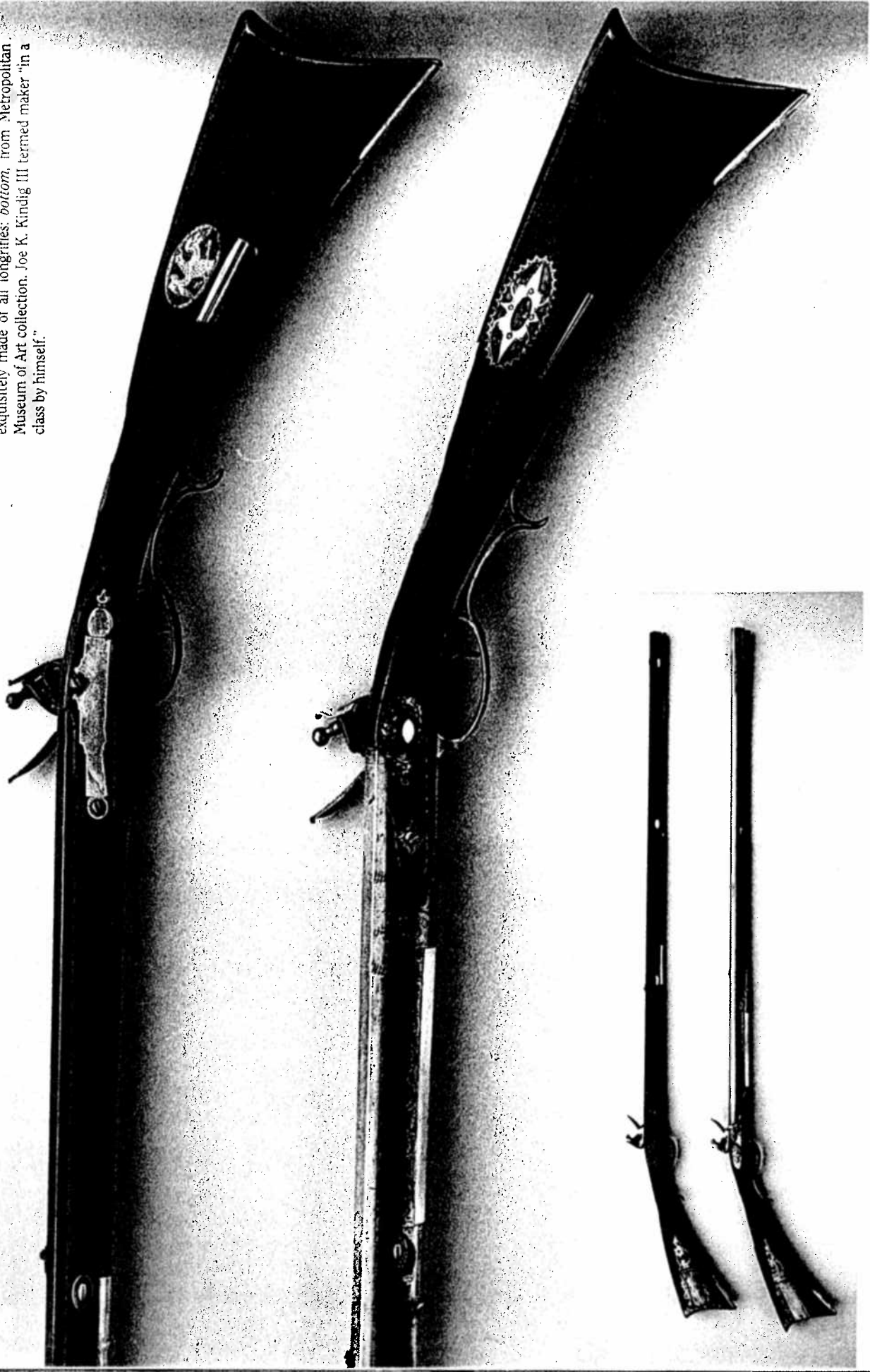
**COST:**

**ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE AND DATE:**

*1787 in Roman Numerals under  
barrel - as per  
paper note in  
patch box*

Steel Chivers by K.L. Wilson

Signed J. KUNTZ on barrels in elegant script, among the most  
exquisitely made of all longrifles; *bottom*, from Metropolitan  
Museum of Art collection. Joe K. Kindig III termed maker "in a  
class by himself."



VOLUME III - No. IV

THE KUNTZ BROTHERS, JACOB AND PETER, GUNSMITHS

Allentown and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1807 - 1876

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For years, collectors of fine Kentucky Rifles and Pistols have cherished the ownership of a gun made by either one of these two Kuntz Gunsmiths. Also, for years, there has been conjecture as to whether or not these two Gunsmiths were trained by the same hand and were they brothers.

A confusing fact is that Jacob Kuntz guns were often marked "Philadelphia, Pa."- and Peter Kuntz guns were marked, rarely, "Allentown, Pa."

The writer set out to prove whether or not these two smiths were brothers, and did they work together in Allentown.

After months of research, I was finally able to document the fact that these two were brothers, and both were trained in Allentown, both Taxed as Gunsmiths in Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania.

In order to document such facts, the best way is to develop a genealogy of all the known members of a family, their progenitors, and piece all the available material together. Documentation can then be directed with specific names and dates. This was done in the case of these two Kuntz brothers. This chart is shown as Exhibit #1.

The stumbling block in this documentation was the finding of the correct Peter Kuntz, who could be the father of Jacob and Peter Kuntz. There were several Peter Kuntz and Jacob Kuntz names in the annals of Lehigh and Northampton Counties during the period of their lives. For a period of time, I had located a Peter Kuntz Will and Estate Record, all in German, and I thought I had the correct one, only to learn, upon translation, that the Will I had translated was of a Peter Kuntz who only had one daughter - no sons. Strange, this Peter Kuntz died in the same year and month, but 10 days earlier than the Kuntz I was searching for.

At this point, it is important to note that Lehigh County was part of Northampton County, until the year 1815. Therefore, the Court House records for Allentown start after 1815. Knowing that the Peter Kuntz I was searching for died after 1815, I assumed that his Will or intestate records would be filed in Allentown. This is where I found the Peter Kuntz, who, after translating his Will, proved not the correct one.

Therefore, having worked many months in the Archives of Northampton County, I went back there in search of the correct Peter Kuntz. There I found his Inventory Record, his Administration Papers and all the data which gave the proof of the two sons, Jacob and Peter, as being of this particular Peter Kuntz. Exhibit #2 is a copy of Peter Kuntz, Sr.'s Inventory. From this record, it is found that he left no Gunsmith tools, but was a grain miller. Also shown on Exhibit #3, is the renunciation of Jacob Kuntz, eldest son, as Administrator of his father's Estate. The reason for this renunciation is, no doubt, due to the fact that he was a resident of Philadelphia and could not conveniently attend this settlement in Allentown or Northampton Courts.

Exhibit #4 shows the Court's appointment of Peter Kuntz, Jr., Solomon Kuntz and George Steward as Administrators of Peter Kuntz, Sr.'s Estate.

These documents established completely that Jacob Kuntz of Philadelphia and Peter Kuntz, Jr. of North Whitehall Township in Lehigh County were sons of the Peter Kuntz, Sr., and obviously brothers.

Referring back to Exhibit #1, the Geneological Chart of the Kuntz Family of Gunsmiths, we note that: -

Jacob Kuntz was born 9-6-1780 - Died 10-6-1876

and

Peter Kuntz was born in 1791 - Died in 1862

Their difference in ages may be seen to be 11 years. This would mean that Jacob would have a head start of 11 years over his brother Peter, in learning the Gunsmith trade. This fact is born out in the Tax records of Northampton County Archives when, for the first time, Jacob Kuntz, in 1807, is listed as a Gunsmith in Whitehall Township, Northampton County. Then, 10 years later, his brother Peter appears in the Tax lists for the first time in 1817. This is just 10 years after his brother Jacob appeared for the first time in the Tax records.

Therefore, it is conceivable that Peter Kuntz, being 11 years younger, could have been trained as an apprentice under his brother. An examination of their work reveals a very close similarity in style, design and workmanship.

In 1810, Jacob moved to Philadelphia, where, after a brief apprenticeship of six months, he embarked on a full career as a Gunsmith. In 1813, he advertised for business as a Gunsmith. In 1812 he married Barbara Newhard, niece of Peter Newhard, Gunsmith of Allentown 1743-1813. This is interesting and important, because it is conceivable that Peter Newhard had a hand in the training of Jacob Kuntz.

Further, to complicate the picture and confuse the issue as to who trained Jacob Kuntz, we find that Elizabeth Newhard, a cousin of Barbara Kuntz, married John Moll, son of Johannes Moll, Allentown's most famous Revolutionary Gunsmith.

An interesting item in Peter Neyhardt's (Neihardt) Inventory, taken after his death, and dated October 13, 1813, is of importance in the relationship of the Kuntz and Neyhardt Family of Gunsmiths. In the Inventory, under Notes and Bonds owed Peter Neyhardt, is found the name Peter Kuntz owing £ 20-0-0, which was approximately \$60.00. Could this Peter Kuntz have been the young Gunsmith? He would have been 22 years of age, maximum, and could have finished his apprenticeship under Neyhardt and borrowed the money to start his own shop. Yet, his father was living, and as a miller, should have been able to lend his son this same money. I don't know -- this is one of the imponderables in trying to determine who trained these Kuntz Gunsmiths. A most mitigating factor against Neyhardt training Kuntz is that neither Kuntz Gunsmiths' finished rifles bear any resemblance to those of Neyhardt or Johannes Moll.

So far, we have only proven that Jacob Kuntz and Peter were brothers, that they were both Gunsmiths in Lehigh County, and that Jacob was 10 years earlier than Peter.

It is interesting to note that Jacob Kuntz was an excellent craftsman, and his workmanship was not excelled in the area. In fact, in 1833, The Franklin Institute of Philadelphia awarded Jacob Kuntz with a silver medal for his skill and ingenuity. He made the pair of sterling pistols used by Commodore Barry and Commodore Decatur in their famous duel.

His products were eagerly sought after by sportsmen in England, Scotland and America, and they brought high prices. Among his customers were Charles Peale and Albanus Logan, a descendent of William Penn's Secretary. He was an excellent engraver and a superb marksman.

Jacob Kuntz died at 1304 Caldwell Street in Philadelphia, on August 6, 1876, at the age of 95 years and eleven months. He is buried with his wife in Union Cemetery, Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Jacob Kuntz's gun shop was located at Germantown Road and 3rd Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Peter Kuntz died in Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, on October 6, 1862. He died without a Will, and the Court appointed Elias M. Kuntz, a son, to administer his Estate. Exhibit #5 is a record of this inventory taken and filed January 5, 1863. The usual Gunsmith tools and parts are found in this inventory.

He was buried with his brother in Union Cemetery in Allentown.

Peter Kuntz made excellent rifles and pistols, but could not match his brother Jacob Kuntz's superb quality.

The above facts are the most important ones that I have found in researching these two excellent Gunsmiths. Their guns are superb, and command the highest prices in the gun collecting fraternity.

## GENEALOGY OF THE KUNTZ FAMILY OF GUNSMITHS

By S. E. Dyke  
Allentown, Pennsylvania

1967

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John Jacob Kuntz	-	B.	2-19-1692
		D.	1766
Married 1719			
(1st) Anne Margaretta Palsgraff		B.	12- -1695
		D.	1738
(2nd) Susanna Klein		B.	1738
Married 1742		D.	

Peter Kuntz	-	B.	9-12-1757
Married 1779		D.	12-16-1846
Barbara Pring	-	B.	7- 6-1757
		D.	12- 9-1846

Jacob Kuntz	-	B.	9- 6-1780
		D.	10- 6-1876
Married 1812			
Barbara Newhard	-	B.	6-16-1786
		D.	3- 6-1862

This man is listed in Tax lists Northampton Co., Pa. in 1807 as a Gunsmith and single man. He moved to Phila. in 1810 and was a Gunsmith until he died. He is buried with his brother in the Union Cemetery in Allentown, Pa.

Peter Kuntz	-	B.	1791
		D.	10- 6-1862
Married			
Susanna			

This Kuntz is listed as a Gunsmith in the Northampton Tax lists from 1817 through 1830. He no doubt worked longer, but I did not search farther in the Tax records. He was ten years younger than his brother Jacob, as shown by his Tax date.

Taken and appraised by us the Subscribers, who having  
first, Solomon Hunt, been duly sworn, and George  
Steward been duly affirmed according to Law, the  
Thirty first day of December A.D. one thousand  
Eight hundred & forty six (1846)

Solomon Hunt } appraisers  
George Steward }

Charles C. Hunt, dec'd  
Estate of

Dec 9, 26. 1847

5432

Justices of the Peace  
of the Precinct of  
St. Louis, Missouri  
State of Missouri  
Jefferson County

Brought over from the other side	79	52	Brought over	164	67
about 12 bushels Potatoes	3	50	Bonds		
2 half barrels & 1 barrel		20	1 Bond of Daniel Kimbly		
1 lot Cooper Tools		15	Principle Sum \$185.00		
1 Shaffing Horn		6	dated August 19 <sup>th</sup>		
1 Lark & 1 Larkell		12	1837 due May		
1 Cow	12	—	27 <sup>th</sup> 1840		
2 Cow chain		20	Interest 6 yrs 7 m 4 d		
about 1 Iron Tray	8			251	87
1 Wagon & Load of Lumber	5		1 Bond of Daniel Kimbly		
1 Split Kettle	1	50	dated August 19 <sup>th</sup> 1837		
1 Stove	3	—	& due May 27 <sup>th</sup> 1841		
1 Grindstone		6	Principle Sum \$200.00		
1 Iron Kettle	1	—	Interest 5 yrs 7 m 4 d 67.13	267	13
1 Copper Kettle	6				
1 Iron	62		1 Bond of Daniel Kimbly		
2 Iron Pots & Cooks plate	62		dated August 19 <sup>th</sup> 1837		
1 Table	21		& due May 27 <sup>th</sup> 1842		
1 Lot	12		Principle Sum \$200.00		
1 Tub & 1 Pail & 1 Stance	37		Interest 4 yrs 7 m 4 d 55.13	255	13
1 Wheel barrow	20				
1 Lot Cooper &c	50		1 Bond of Daniel Kimbly		
1 Bucket	37		dated August 19 <sup>th</sup> 1837		
1 lot Iron nails	10		& due May 27 <sup>th</sup> 1843		
2 Flat Irons	25		Principle Sum \$200		
	123	69	Interest 3 years 7 m 4 d 43.13	243	13
			1 Bond of Daniel Kimbly		
			dated August 19 <sup>th</sup> 1837		
			& due May 27 <sup>th</sup> 1844		
			Principle Sum \$200		
	40	98	Interest 1 yr 7 m 4 d 31.13	231	13
Cash	164	67	Transferred	1412	38
Transferred					



17	Brought over from the other	1412 38	Brought over	2816 19
	1 Bond of Daniel Krimtz dated August 19 <sup>th</sup> 1837 & Due May 27 <sup>th</sup> 1845 Principal Sum \$200- interest 4.92 7 mo 4 day 19.13	219 13	The following sums of Money Paid by said Deft in the Life time to his children as an advancement on their inheritance to wit	
	1 Bond of Daniel Krimtz dated August 19 <sup>th</sup> 1837 Due May 27 <sup>th</sup> 1846 Principal Sum \$491.61 interest 7 month 4 day 17.53	509 20	To Jacob Krimtz	500-00
17			" Peter Krimtz	532 11
	1 Bond of Daniel Krimtz dated August 19 <sup>th</sup> 1837 Due December 16 <sup>th</sup> 1847	83 33	" Daniel Krimtz	533 33
13	1 Bond of Daniel Krimtz dated August 19 <sup>th</sup> 1837 & Due December 16 <sup>th</sup> 1848	83 33	" Adam Krimtz	520 -
	1 Bond of Daniel Krimtz dated August 19 <sup>th</sup> 1837 & Due December 16 <sup>th</sup> 1849	83 33	" Jonas Krimtz	522 -
	1 Bond of Daniel Krimtz dated August 19 <sup>th</sup> 1837 & Due December 16 <sup>th</sup> 1850	83 33	" George Krimtz	533 33
	Notes		" Henry Kleppinger & Elizabeth his wife	200 -
	1 Note of Peter Krimtz dated November 27 <sup>th</sup> 1839 due on demand Principal \$200-		" Elias Kleppinger & Siville his wife	250 -
13	Balance of interest due	75.13	Total amount of the appraisement	6407 56
	1 Note of Peter Krimtz dated June 22 <sup>th</sup> 1836 due 3 month after date Principal Sum \$1375	13 78		
13	<del>Interest on said sum</del>			
38	Money due by Daniel Krimtz by confession	50 -		
	Money due by Jonas Krimtz do do Bill	3 25		
	Incorporated	2816 19		

Remuneration:

Jacob Hunt, eldest son

of

Peter Hunt dec'd

4 his right to Admin.

filed 9 Feb. 1847

5432

5

Jacob Hunt  
 West Lexington  
 Philadelphia Pa

To Philip H. Mattes Esq. Register for the Probate  
 of Wills and granting Letters of Administration in &  
 for the County of Northampton

Whereas my late father Peter Hunt did die intestate  
 whereby the right of Administration of the Estate of the  
 said deceased did devolve upon me, Jacob Hunt the eldest  
 son and heir of the said deceased: Now know ye that  
 for divers good Causes and Considerations me thereunto moving  
 I have released and hereby do release, all my right and  
 title to the administration of the said Estate. Witness  
 my hand and seal the twenty fourth day of December  
 A.D. one thousand eight hundred and forty six.

Jacob Hunt Esq.

A True and correct Inventory & just appraisement  
of all & singular the Goods and Chattels, Rights and  
Credits which were of Peter Kemnitz late of the Township  
of Lehigh, County of Northampton & State of Pennsylvania  
deceased, at the time of his death &c. &c.

	\$	Cts		\$	Cts
1 Chest with basin	3	-	Brought over from the other side	55	20
1 Shave with pipe	5	50	1 lot yarn & 1 lot bags		50
1 Chest	40		8 Bags & 1 lot corn & meal	1	50
1 Bed & Bedstead	2	-	1 Hammering trough & 2 baskets		25
1 Table	62		1 Working wheel		12 1/2
6 Chairs	1	37 1/2	1 Baskets & 2 baskets		3 1/2
1 Spinning paper	22		1 umbrella		37 1/2
1 Bible	2	-	3 pair shoes		50
1 Book	50		2 Rifles & 1 pistol	2	-
7 Books	25		1 Dresser with contents	2	50
2 Benches	15		2 Presses & 1 guy		20
2 Boxes Spectacles &c	25		2 Tables	2	25
3 Window Curtains & paper	72		2 pair Spectacles &c		25
1 Bed & Bedstead	3		1 lot Kitchen utensils		75
1 do do	1	50	1 do do do		75
1 lot Carpet	1	-	3 Large Shovels		50
2 Spinning wheels & 1 reel	1	25	3 Iron pots & 1 pan & 1 trammel	1	-
1 Chest & 1 cradle	25		1 Still yard & 1 Buckle & 1 pot	1	-
1 lot Bedding &c	3	-	1 lot Carpenter tools	2	50
1 lot Linen cloth &c	10		1 Crop cut	2	1
8 lower lots & 2 quilts	16		1 Horn saw & 1 Wood saw		50
1 Box &c	25		3 Sittes & an other seat		50
1 lot Sundries	12		1 Coffee roaster		25
1 Chest	25		about 50 lb meat	2	50
7 Pewter plates & Dishes	75		1 Tub & 6 St. mear		50
1 lot Baskets & Pots	1	-	1 Cask & 1 Bucket & 1 guy	3	1
1 Tray &c	18		1 Basket		12 1/2
1 lot Saps	25		9 Cartmen pots & 1 Lard		50
Transferred to the other side	55	20	Transferred to the other side	79	52

## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, SS.

On the *twenty eighth* day of *December* - 18 *96* before me, *Philip H. Mallett*  
 Register for the probate of Wills, &c. came the within named *Peter Kuntz*

who being duly *sworn* do declare and say, that, as administrator of the estate  
 of *Peter Kuntz (the elder)* deceased, *he* will well and truly administer the goods  
 and chattels, rights and credits of said deceased according to law; and also will diligently and faithfully regard, and  
 well and truly comply with the provisions of the law relating to collateral inheritances.

And that the whole of the goods, chattels, rights and credits whereof the said *Peter Kuntz*  
 died possessed, do not in value exceed the sum of *three thousand*  
 -dollars, to the best of *his* knowledge and belief.

*Sworn* and subscribed }  
 the day and year aforesaid.

*Ph. H. Mallett, Register*

all paid  
 entered

*Administration Bond*

*Philip H. Mallett*

*Peter Kuntz dec.*

*Filed 28 Dec 1896.*

5432

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT WE *Peter Kuntz, of Northampton Township in the County of Lehigh and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Solomon Kuntz of Lehigh Township in the County of Northampton & Commonwealth aforesaid, and George Steward of the same place*

are held and firmly bound unto the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the sum of *three thousand* dollars, to be paid to the said Commonwealth; to which payment well and truly to be made, we do bind ourselves and each of us, our and each of our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, for and in the whole firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, Dated the *twenty eighth* day of *December* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *eighty six*

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS, That if the above bounden *Peter Kuntz*

administrators of all and singular the goods, chattels and credits of *Peter Kuntz (deceased) late of Lehigh Township aforesaid*

deceased, do make or cause to be made, a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods, chattels and credits of the said deceased, which have come or shall come to the hands, possession or knowledge of *him*

the said *Peter Kuntz* or into the hands and possession of any other person or persons for *him* and the same so made do exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the

Register's Office in the County of Northampton, within thirty days from the date hereof, and the same goods, chattels, and credits, and all other the good, chattels and credits of the said deceased at the time of *his* death, which at

any time after shall come to the hands and possession of the said *Peter Kuntz* or into the hands and possession of any other person or persons for *him*

do well and truly administer according to law, and further do make or cause to be made a just and true account of *his* said Administration within one year of the date hereof, or when thereunto legally required, and all

the rest and residue the said goods, chattels and credits which shall be found remaining upon the said administration account, the same being first examined and allowed by the Orphan's Court, of the County having jurisdiction, shall

deliver and pay unto such person or persons as the said Orphan's Court, by their decree or sentence, pursuant to law, shall limit and appoint, and shall well and truly comply with the laws of this Commonwealth, relating to collateral in-

heritances, and if it shall hereafter appear that any last will and testament was made by the said deceased, and the same shall be proved according to law, if the said *Peter Kuntz*

being thereunto required, do surrender the said letters of administration into the Register's Office aforesaid, then this obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force.

SEALED AND DELIVERED IN  
THE PRESENCE OF

*Ph. H. Mattes.*  
*Notary*

*Peter Kuntz*

*Solomon Kuntz*  
*George Steward*



A PARTIAL LIST OF ITEMS FROM PUBLIC SALE OF EFFECTS OF  
PETER KUNTZ, DECEASED

(Register of Wills File #3406, Lehigh County Courthouse, Allentown, Penna.)

Vendue Paper of the Estate of Peter Kuntz, dec'd.

Filed January 5, 1863

Sale of the 11th day of December 1862

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1 - Drawing Knife	.40	2 - Pistol Barrels	.04
1 - Saw & Brush	.06	2 - ditto	.06
2 - Drawing Knives	.25	1 - Lot ditto	.10
2 - Saws	.25	1 - Pistol	.80
1 - Sat (?) Seyther Rifles	.21	1 - Screw Driver	.80
1 - Saw	.30	1 - Lot Files	.25
1 - do	.16	1 - ditto	.45
1 - do	.40	1 - ditto	.30
1 - Plain	.07	1 - ditto	.65
3 - do	.12	2 - Rifle Barrels	2.00
3 - do	.06	1 - Rifle Barrel	.15
3 - do	.05	1 - Rifle Barrel	.15
1 - Auger	.15	1 - Rifle Barrel	.15
1 - do	.12	1 - Pistol	.33
2 - do	.15	2 - Gun Barrels	.10
2 - do	.15	3 - ditto	.12
1 - do	.34	1 - Lot Rifle Stokes	.05
1 - do	.24	1 - Rifle Roll	.06
1 - do	.28	1 - Mashin for cutting rifles	.50
2 - Planes	.28	1 - Mashin for cutting pistols	.06
1 - Splitting Knife	.06	1 - Mall	.08
2 - Powder Horns	.08	1 - Anvil	.55
2 - Powder Horns	.08	1 - Vice	4.00
1 - Lock	.26	1 - Rifle	6.75
		1 - Rifle	5.50

# FIREARM INFORMATION SHEET

COLLECTION NUMBER:

9188

TYPE: "Kentucky" Rifle - wender (over-under)

IGNITION SYSTEM: Heat. lockplate on @ marked "Kunz" and on @ Philad.

DATE OF MANUFACTURE: 1790's

PLACE OF MANUFACTURE: Philadelphia Pa.

MAKER: Jacob Kunz or KUNTZ

LENGTH OVERALL: 57 3/4"

BARREL LENGTH: 40 3/4"

CALIBER: 50 cal rifled (bock)

WOOD TYPE: Curly Maple.

MOUNTINGS: Brass & exception of silver escutcheon at wrist, silver star on cheek piece and silver barrel key escutcheons.

BARREL MARKINGS/DECORATION:

STOCK MARKINGS/DECORATION:

J Kunz Philad  
This curly maple stock with Kunz's typical silver  
"star in circle" on cheek piece. Also fancy too plate  
REPAIRS/RESTORATION: with patch box release. <sup>wooden</sup> fancy too plate

HISTORICAL/ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE:

Jacob Kunz has been referred to as  
"in a class by himself" by J. B. Dyke III. With its relatively  
flat wide butt and large caliber this is one of a  
PROVENANCE: handful of "early" over-under Kentucky  
rifles. Its heritage comes <sup>DIRECTLY</sup> from the  
PUBLICATIONS: None. "wender" gauger rifles which were relatively  
common in Germany 1700-1800.

COST:

ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE AND DATE:

Jacob Kunz's architecture, proportion,  
and engraving is unsurpassed and  
for a 2 barreled gun it is  
hardly heavier than many  
single barreled guns.

\* see above information