BRIEF DESCRIPTION	KENTUCKY,EARLIEST SIGNED AND DATED		
ACCESSION #	9417	WOOD	WALNUT
DATE ACQUIRED	9/30/2008	RAMROD	WOOD-NOT TIPPED
ACQUIRED BY	TRADE	FURNITURE	BRASS
CHECK #	10507,10508,15285	CONDITION	EXTREMELY FINE
TRADE #	34	CONDITION NOTE	SUPERB FOR AGE
OBJECT TYPE	KENTUCKY	REPAIR/RESTOR	OLD FOREND AND REAR RAMROD PIPE REPAIR
HAND/ LONG	LONG GUN	HIST.SIGNIF.?	YES
MILITARY/CIVILIAN	CIVILIAN	HIST.SIGNIF.NOTE	EARLIEST KNOWN KENTUCKY RIFLE,SIGNED AN
SINGLE/PAIR	SINGLE	HIST.SIGNIF.SCORE	10
IGNITION	FLINTLOCK	ART.SIGNIF.?	YES
DATED	1705	ART.SIGNIF.NOTE	EARLY BAROQUE ART
DECADE	1700s	ARTISTIC.SCORE	10
OLD WORLD/AMER	AMERICAN	RARITY.SIGNIF.?	YES
COUNTRY/STATE	PENNSYLVANIA	RARITY.NOTE	EARLIEST KNOWN KENTUCKY RIFLE,SIGNED AN
CITY/COUNTY	GERMANTOWN	RARITY.SCORE	10
MAKER	MEILLIN, MARTIN	SOURCE	D'AMBRA, MICHAEL
SIGNED/ATTRIB	SIGNED	PROVENIENCE?	YES
MODEL	NONE	PUBLISHED?	YES
SERIAL #	NONE	EXHIBITED?	YES
LOA (in)	62.5	ACCESSORIES?	NO
BARREL (in)	47	TOP X%	1
# BARRELS	1	RETENTION SCORE	3
ARRANGEMENT	SINGLE	DISPOSITION STATUS	OWN
BARREL SHAPE	OCTAGON-ROUND	COST	82,000
BORE	RIFLED-STRAIGHT	PROCEEDS RCVD	0
CALIBER	.64		

CMV 100,000-200,000

NOTES

TRADED THREE-SHELL CHEST (CHECKS #10507 & 10508 FOR CHEST; #15285 FOR SHIPPING OF CHEST).
SEE SHUMWAY, PAGES 648-9, FIGURE 184, FOR NEARLY IDENTICAL TRIGGER GUARD. BUTT PLATE SHOWS SIMILAR ENGRAVING. THIS MEILLIN RIFLE IS ASSOCIATED WITH EARLY KENTUCKY RIFLES IN SHUMWAY:NUMBERS 7, 10, 11, 59, 71, 79, 90, 99, 100, 113.(NUMBER 59 IS EX. RICHARD H. ZESCHKE COLLECTION. IT CAME WITH A BUTT STOCK BY THE SAME MAKER WITH THE ESCUTCHEON DATED 1722.)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION	Eorlies known & dated Ky.		
ACCESSION #	9000	WOOD	Walnut
DATE ACQUIRED		RAMROD	Arched
ACQUIRED BY		FURNITURE	BRASS as below
CHECK #		CONDITION	Ex Fine
TRADE #	/	CONDITION NOTE	Superbe for Age.
OBJECT TYPE	Ky Rifle	REPAIR/RESTOR	Old forend replacement
HAND/ LONG	long.	HIST.SIGNIF.?	Earliest Ky.
MILITARY/CIVILIAN		HIST.SIGNIF.NOTE	See extensive included info
SINGLE/PAIR		HIST.SIGNIF.SCORE	10
IGNITION		ART.SIGNIF.?	Early Baroque Cut
DATED		ART.SIGNIF.NOTE	
DECADE		ARTISTIC.SCORE	10
OLD WORLD/AMER	AMER	RARITY.SIGNIF.?	1 of 1
COUNTRY/STATE	Germantown	RARITY.NOTE	Earliest Signed + Dated 1705 Ky
CITY/COUNTY	PA.	RARITY.SCORE	10+
MAKER	Martin Meillin	SOURCE	Richard Heath Coll.
SIGNED/ATTRIB	yes	PROVENIENCE?	See enclosed info
MODEL	/	PUBLISHED?	yes
SERIAL #	/	EXHIBITED?	yes RRA
LOA (In)	62 1/2"	ACCESSORIES?	/
BARREL (in)	47"	TOP X%	.001 90
# BARRELS	1	RETENTION SCORE	10+
ARRANGEMENT	1	DISPOSITION STATUS	
BARREL SHAPE	Oct-Round.	COST	0
BORE	Straight Rifled	PROCEEDS RCVD	0
CALIBER	39cal .64		

NOTES

Schumway p. 648 & 649 $ 189 for nearly identical Frazier gun
Both plate similar engraving
– Associated with early Ky. see Schumway
#79, 113, 100, 99, 90, 71, 59, 7 10, 11

#54 Ex RRA coll – Come with a bill of sale by arm maker & wife recorded dated 1922

floor was introduced though it never entirely replaced the bench vise.

Several kinds of small hand vises were also used by the gunsmith for holding or clamping small components; among them the practical mainspring vise which compressed the powerful mainspring leaves; thus making it easier to assemble or disassemble the lock or to replace a broken spring. The hard use to which martial firearms were subjected often resulted in broken mainsprings and regular army and militia sergeants normally carried a supply of springs and a mainspring vise for use in the field.

While most of the hand tools described are commonly encountered in the present machinists' and carpenters' trades, and while in most instances their functions are readily recognized or self-explanatory, the gunsmith's cherry is an exception and it is currently found among the tools of the accomplished gunsmith.

Precisely when the gunsmith's cherry emerged remains conjectural though it was known during the seventeenth century. The cherry was made of steel, its round head and short shank suggesting the fruit with its stem attached for which it was named. The versatile cherry was used for drilling the cup in brass or iron priming pans, chamfering the muzzle, and making bullet mould cavities. The head of the cherry, provided with a series of sharp cutting edges, corresponded to the desired caliber of the lead ball or the circumference of the priming pan and the shank was clamped in the chuck of the brace when it was used.

The majority of the German and Swiss gunsmiths early arriving in eighteenth-century British America settled among their kind in the Susquehanna Valley of southeastern Pennsylvania. A few of them also settled in the Dutch-German communities of East and West Jersey or ventured farther south to the Moravian settlements of Virginia and North Carolina.

The displaced Irish and Scots chose equally varied locations, many of them settling in Boston though the majority preferred the Penn proprietorship or the Carolinas; several of them there establishing themselves in the frontier trade and subsequently exerting a profound influence among the Native Americans which extended well into the nineteenth century.

In 1700 German gunsmith Christian Durr started a shop in the small frontier settlement of Lancaster, Pa.[46] A decade later Swiss gunsmith Martin Meylin (also Maylin or Mylin, 1670–1749) established a gunsmithery in Lampeter Township, Lancaster County, Pa.[47] In 1719, on what came to be known as Meylin's Run, he purportedly built what was possibly the first water-powered barrel boring mill in North America.[48]

In 1701 a John Cookson (1686–1762), possibly related to the London gunsmith of the same name, started a gunsmithery in Boston and enlisted in the Ancient & Honorable Artillery Company where from 1722 to 1726 he was company clerk.[49] In 1727 he was engaged in general gunsmithing and in cleaning and repairing firearms for the colony.

While there is a chronological distinction between the two Cooksons the London inventor of breech-loading firearms remains an enigma and his relationship, if any, with his Boston namesake has yet to be established. There is, however, a positive link between them, for on April 12, 1756, the *Boston Gazette* carried this announcement:

> Made by John Cookson and to be sold at his house in Boston: a handy gun of 9 pounds and a half weight; having a place convenient to hold nine charges and nine primings; the said gun will fire 9 times distinctly, as quick or slow as you please, with one turn with the handle of the said gun, it doth charge the gun with powder and bullet; and doth both prime and shut the pan, and cock the gun. All of these motions are performed immediately at once, by one turn of the said handle. Note, there is nothing put into the muzzle of the gun as we charge other guns.[50]

John Pim, another emigrant London gunsmith, established himself on Boston's Anne Street ca. 1720.[51] Like Cookson he experimented with repeating firearms and in 1722 reputedly invented an 11-shot flintlock breechloader though no other description of the firearm has survived.

There is also a six-shot, .52 caliber snaphaunce revolver bearing the engraved inscription "J. Pim of Bostonne, fecit" on the sideplate. Whether Pim invented the pistol or whether it was imported and marked with his name remains unknown, though if the former it can be considered the first revolver of record produced in North America. Pim, however, did not originate the design, for similar pistols were made in England at least 20 years earlier, while a revolving cylinder snaphaunce carbine was produced ca. 1655 by London gunsmith John Dafte (fl. 1640–1685).

Neither John Cookson of Boston nor John Pim apparently attempted to patent their purported inventions and, as far as it can be determined, there were no firearms patented in colonial America, though patents had been granted since the seventeenth century. In 1641 the Massachusetts Bay Colony issued the first American patent to Samuel Wilson for a salt-making process, and in 1646 Joseph Jenkes is believed to have been granted the first patent for a machine which made scythe blades.

The patent or exclusive right to the use of an invention originated ca. 700 B.C. with the Achaeans

COMMEMORATIVE MARKER (Current): This impressive marker, bearing an image of what is commonly known as a Kentucky rifle and the date 1719 with the surname MEYLIN, is dedicated to Swiss gunsmith Martin Meylin (Maylin or Mylin) who arrived in the Pennsylvania Colony in 1710. The marker is adjacent to what is purported to be Meylin's gunsmithery at Eshelman Mill Road and Long Rifle Road in West Lampeter Township, Lancaster County, Pa. Photographed by the author, September, 1974.

of Sybaris.[52] The first use of the term patent is believed to have appeared early in the fourteenth century when Edward II of England (1284-1327) issued "Letters of Patent." The Council of Venice granted similar privileges in 1474 and thereafter the practice rapidly spread throughout Europe.

In addition to Cookson and Pim, John Gerrish[53] and John Wood[54] were active gunsmiths in Boston between 1710 and 1725, while Ebenezer Nutting established a gunsmithery at Falmouth (Portsmouth), Me., in 1722.[55] Eltweed Pomeroy survived his son Eldad who died at Boston in 1662,[56] though his other son Medad was an active gunsmith at Northampton until his death on December 30, 1716.[57] Medad's son Ebenezer carried on the family gunsmithing tradition.[58]

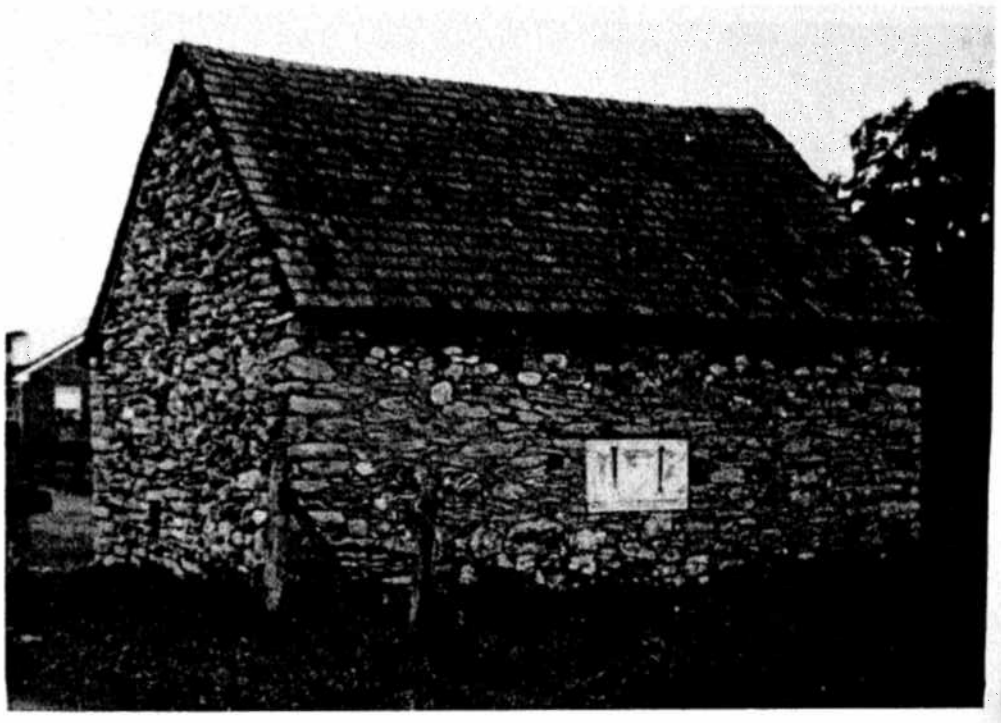
Richard Gregory started a Boston gunsmithery in 1730[59] and in the southern colonies the Huguenot gunsmith Gideon Fancheraud was active at Charleston in 1708.[60] Seven years later John Brush established a gunsmithery at Williamsburg, Va.,[61] while John Young served as Maryland Colony armorer in 1728.[62]

Several of the gunsmiths immigrating to British America from the alpine regions of southern Germany and northern Switzerland specialized in making rifles, among them Martin Meylin (see p. 255) and J. Metzger who in 1728 established himself in Lancaster, Pa.[63] Riflesmith Philip Lefever also started a Lancaster gunsmithery in 1731[64] and Jacob Dechard settled in bustling Philadelphia a year later, moving to Lancaster in 1753.[65]

In 1730 gunsmith James Geddy was active at Williamsburg, Va., and on July 8, 1737, the *Virginia Gazette* established the year before noted that he had for sale "a great Choice of Guns and Fowling-Pieces, of several Sorts and Sizes, true bored, which he will warrant to be good; and will sell them as cheap as they are usually sold in *England.*"*

Geddy also made "several Sorts of wrought Brasswork, and cast small bells." David Geddy entered the family gunsmithing craft upon the death of

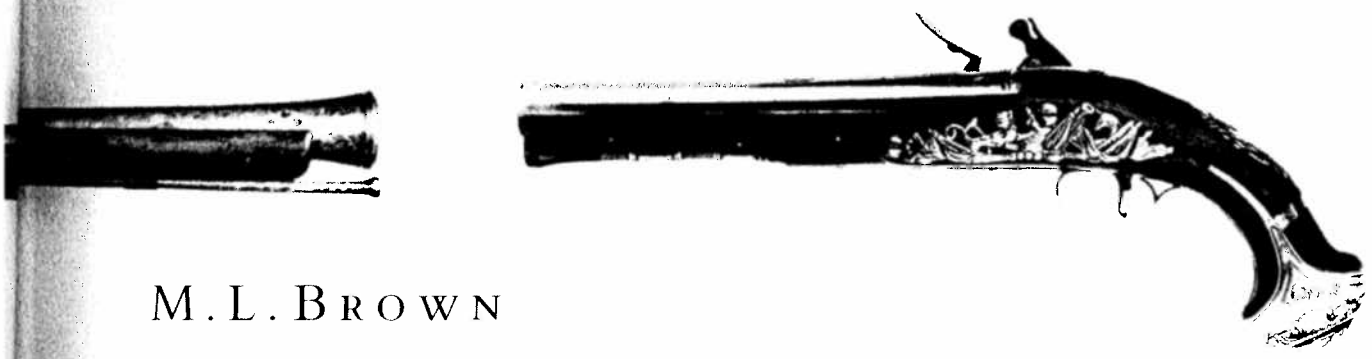
*Italics original.



GUNSMITHERY (18th Century, ca. 1719): This rectangular, single-story fieldstone building with shingled roof is said to have been one of the earliest built in West Lampeter Township, Lancaster Co., Pa., and is supposedly the gunsmithery of Martin Meylin, one of the first European riflesmiths to settle the region and reputedly a pioneer in the development of the American rifle. The small, heavily shuttered window and gun port (left) proclaim the turbulent nature of the 18th Century Pennsylvania frontier. Photographed by the author, September, 1974.

Firearms in Colonial America

1492-1792



M. L. Brown

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