

GEORGE SCHREYER,
SR & JR,
Gunmakers of
HANOVER,
York County, Pennsylvania



George Shumway

Longrifle Series

THE KENTUCKY RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Length overall 58 3/8 inches. Octagonal rifled barrel 43 3/32 inches long, .56 caliber. Lock-plate length 4 7/8. C 13; G 31/32; H 13/4; I 4 9/16; J 1 3/4; K 1 3/16; L 1 13/32; M 1 1/2.

9240

A brass plate let into the top flat of the barrel of this rifle is signed in script "George Shreyer". No other known rifle by George, Sr., is signed with his full name, and no other piece is signed on a brass barrel inlay. And very few are signed without the "c" in the last name. The signature resembles in most respects that on rifle No. 30, it also being without the "c" and both having a long descender for the letter "h". This piece is enigmatic, for the similarities of it to the preceding piece in the trigger-guard, the patchbox side-plates, and the oval stud on the patchbox lid, plus the spelling of the name, suggest that it was made at about the same time as No. 4. Other features do not. Furthermore, there are features on this piece that suggest that some other hand was in part responsible for making it. The stock architecture features a wrist area less wide than that of a usual Schreyer rifle, and a cheek-piece more scooped out or concave. Unlike any other Schreyer rifle, the cast-brass side-plate is counterbored to receive the lock screws. The beaver-tail designs carved in relief on either side of the wrist are unusually large. The heel extension of the butt-plate is of the large and heavy pattern used by George Eister and some other York County gunsmiths. And the patchbox release button in the heel extension of the butt-plate is rectangular in shape and made of brass like that of No. 4. The trigger-guard is of the same pattern as that of No. 4 and of No. 30. The patchbox finial has an outline essentially the same as the finial on a beautiful York County rifle by an unknown maker, illustrated on page 51. The front of this finial, when properly engraved, depicts an Indian, or at least a man, with mouth open, upside down. The engraving on this finial was done with little inspiration and apparently no understanding of the reason for the shape of the outline.



