

## George Young His Dagger 1825

by Rick Mack

George Young His Dagger 1825! How often does one find a knife that is so large that it can't be called a "dagger," but it truly is? We know this knife is a dagger because it's acid etched in old English style script on the blade itself. Without the etched blade, one would never think to call this knife a dagger; it is that massive. So, remove all those ideas you've had stored up in your mind all these years as to what a dagger was supposed to look like and toss them out. Dust them off, and put them aside.

George Young must have been a man of huge stature and personage to carry such a knife. The razor sharp double-edged blade is

acid etched on both sides with floral designs, large thistle, the emblem of Scotland, and a 6" cornucopia. The blade is 18½" long, with a 3½" median line toward the tip of the blade. Overall the dagger measures 27½", and sports a beautiful massive crown stag handle 8½" long, and 5½" in circumference. The unique style and shaped guard is iron, and is in the form of a large Maltese cross to protect the hand in combat. This incredible old knife comes with its original fitted leather sheath with pinned brass tip, centerpiece, and throat. Large brass rings adorn the centerpiece and throat for the attachment of a chain-style-carrying device to be attached to a belt. Four distinctive designs are also embossed into the leather sheath making the overall effect quite beautiful.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of this hefty dagger is the acid etching in the 5½" ribband on the blade: "George Young His Dagger 1825" in flowing wave. Below that are the initials of its creator: "S.E."

It's interesting to note that the owner personalized his knife, and Americanized it too, with the words: "His Dagger". Words that are also found on early, and rare American powder horns, such as "(name) His Horn".

It's not every day when one comes across a knife with the owner's name etched upon it, not to mention the year in which it was made for him. More research needs to be done to find out just who George Young was. What he did for a living, and why he carried such a massive Bowie style dagger. A knife so large that with one swift blow from Mr. Young, a limb or life would have been taken over 175 years ago.

This important, early massive Bowie/Dagger is for sale. For more information on this great knife contact Rick Mack.

*Many thanks Rick, another great find and article. We all appreciate your unique item finds, and sharing them with all the members. JD*



attending Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He left there to enlist in the Confederate service on August 4, 1862.

Stone enlisted early in the life of the First Maryland (CS) Cavalry. Records show the battalion in the Gettysburg Campaign from June 3rd to August 1863. Muster rolls and Prisoner of War records show Stone as being taken prisoner at South Mountain in an attack on General Ewell's wagon train in Pennsylvania on July 4, 1863. South Mountain is not far from Gettysburg. In September 1863 he was sent to the Union prison for Confederates at Point Lookout, Maryland. In December he was "paroled until exchanged" and a company muster roll indicates "absent, paroled in Richmond: On December 25, 1863 he was exchanged. The company roll on April 1, 1864 shows him as "present". On April 23, 1864 he was captured again, in St. Mary's County. A letter addressed to Major Weighmouth, Provost Marshall at Point Lookout

Maryland refers to Joseph F. Stone, rebel, and says, "This man is undoubtedly a spy, was exchanged ... since then he has been over in Maryland at least twice, his father is a resident of this

place (Leonard-town), arrested at the house of Dr. R. Neale near Charlotte (sic) Hall, tried hard to escape." He was never tried or convicted on charges of spying and he was released May 14, 1865 when he took the oath of allegiance. The War was over.

Point Lookout was a typical hell-hole Civil War prison. MacKinlay Kantor wrote *Anersonville* and established the grim mental picture we associate with Confederate prisons. Union prisons were as bad. Point Lookout was the only Federal Prison without barracks, only tents, and as many as twenty thousand were at times crowded into the stockade. How he fared in prison is unknown. An undated picture of a group of Confederate prisoners at Point Lookout shows Stone as a slender, darkly bearded man.

What was going on in twenty-five year old Joseph Stone's mind after his release from

prison? Were opportunities to resume his old life non-existent after the turbulent war years? Did he have friends among the galvanised Yankees who were in the West? Records from the National Archives tell us that Joseph F. Stone of St. Mary's County, Maryland enlisted as a farrier in Company M, 3rd U.S. Cavalry Regiment on January 13, 1866 at Baltimore. Although he enlisted for three years, he was discharged on October 13, 1868 at Fort Wingate, New Mexico.

The last date and fact that I have been able to ascertain about Stone is gleaned from an entry in the *ST. MARY'S BEACON* of September 1879. It says, under deaths: "Stone, Joseph Ford . . . , age 39, died in Globe City, Arizona Territory.

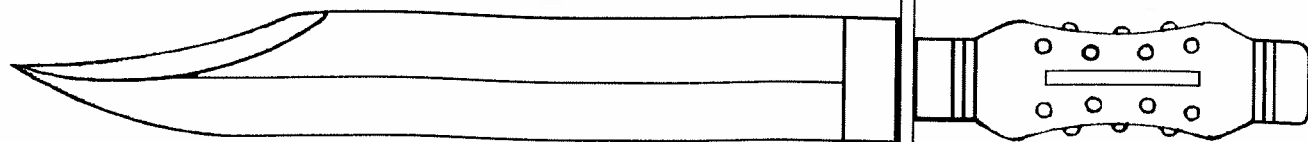
Who made the knife and where might it have been carried? Did it accompany him West after the War? I do not have information about the last years of Stone's adventurous life. Perhaps further facts will surface. In the meantime, I have enjoyed the search and vicariously, the excitement of Joseph Stone's times. I am glad to own his knife -- a link with our country's past.



ANTIQUE

# BOWIE

JOURNAL



NEWSLETTER OF THE ANTIQUE BOWIE KNIFE ASSOCIATION—WINTER 2001



Fine Arms, Armor  
& Historic Memorabilia

660 THIRD STREET, SUITE 100  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107

1(800)509-1988

1(415)537-3800

FAX 1(415)543-7576

[www.gregmartinauctions.com](http://www.gregmartinauctions.com)

Re: Lot 923 Purchased in Auction A1026 on 6.26.07 : Provenance  
Important and Rare Massive Etched Blade Early Bowie Knife, with Inscription "George  
Young His Dagger 1825," with Brass-Mounted Blind-Tooled Leather Scabbard, the  
Blade Signed S.E., ca.1825

This letter is to confirm that the Rare and Massive Etched Blade Early Bowie Knife with  
inscription "George Young His Dagger 1825" with scabbard was in the Bryan L. Bossier Sr.  
Collection.

Mr. Bossier himself had confirmed the provenance information to be correct, and states  
that the previous owners were Rick Mack and Robert Abels. Greg Martin Auctions so stated the  
provenance in the description, lot 923 and the date of the sale was June 26, 2007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Martin', written over a light blue circular stamp that contains the text 'PROVENANCE' and 'COLLECTION'.

Greg Martin  
Greg Martin Auctions