

FIREARM INFORMATION SHEET

COLLECTION NUMBER: 9046

TYPE: Kentucky Pistol; pre-Revolutionary

IGNITION SYSTEM: Flint Lock

LOCK MARKINGS/DECORATIONS:

DATE OF MANUFACTURE: Circa 1750-1775

PLACE OF MANUFACTURE: Pennsylvania

MAKER: Unknown

LENGTH OVERALL: 14 inches

BARREL LENGTH: 8 inches

CALIBER: .50, smooth barrel

WOOD TYPE: Curly Maple

MOUNTINGS: Brass. Sideplate is a colonial interpretation of the contemporary European sideplate.

BARREL MARKINGS/DECORATION: Brass barrel octagonal to round, separated by turnings.

STOCK MARKINGS/DECORATION:

REPAIRS/RESTORATION: Some restorations to stock

HISTORICAL/ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE: One of less than 5 pre-Revolutionary Kentucky pistols known.

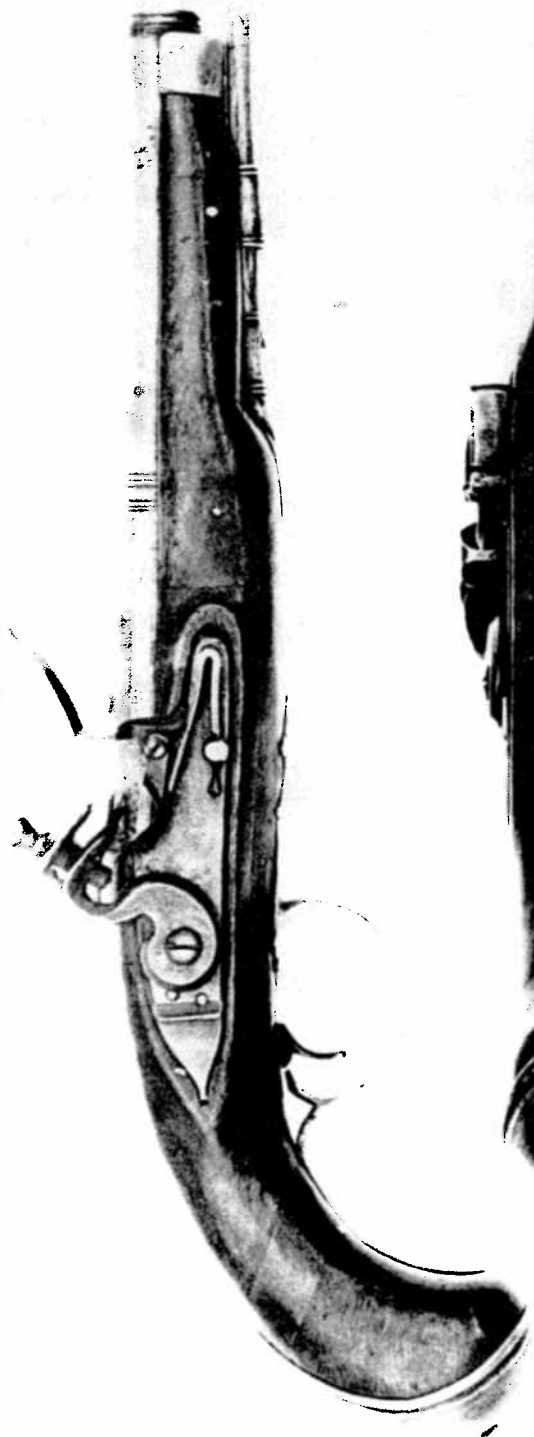
PROVENANCE: Found by Howard L. Murray, Jr., in the 1940s. He saw a child playing with it, chasing another child. Murray stopped the child, got his name and address, and visited the parents and purchased the gun. Murray ultimately sold the pistol to Tom Seymour.

PUBLICATIONS: (1) Illustrated in "The Kentucky Rifle - A True American Heritage in Pictures", page 101, listed as Collection of H. L. Murray, Jr., 1967. (2) "Kentucky Rifles and Pistols 1750-1850", page 235, listed as Collection of Tom Seymour, 1976.

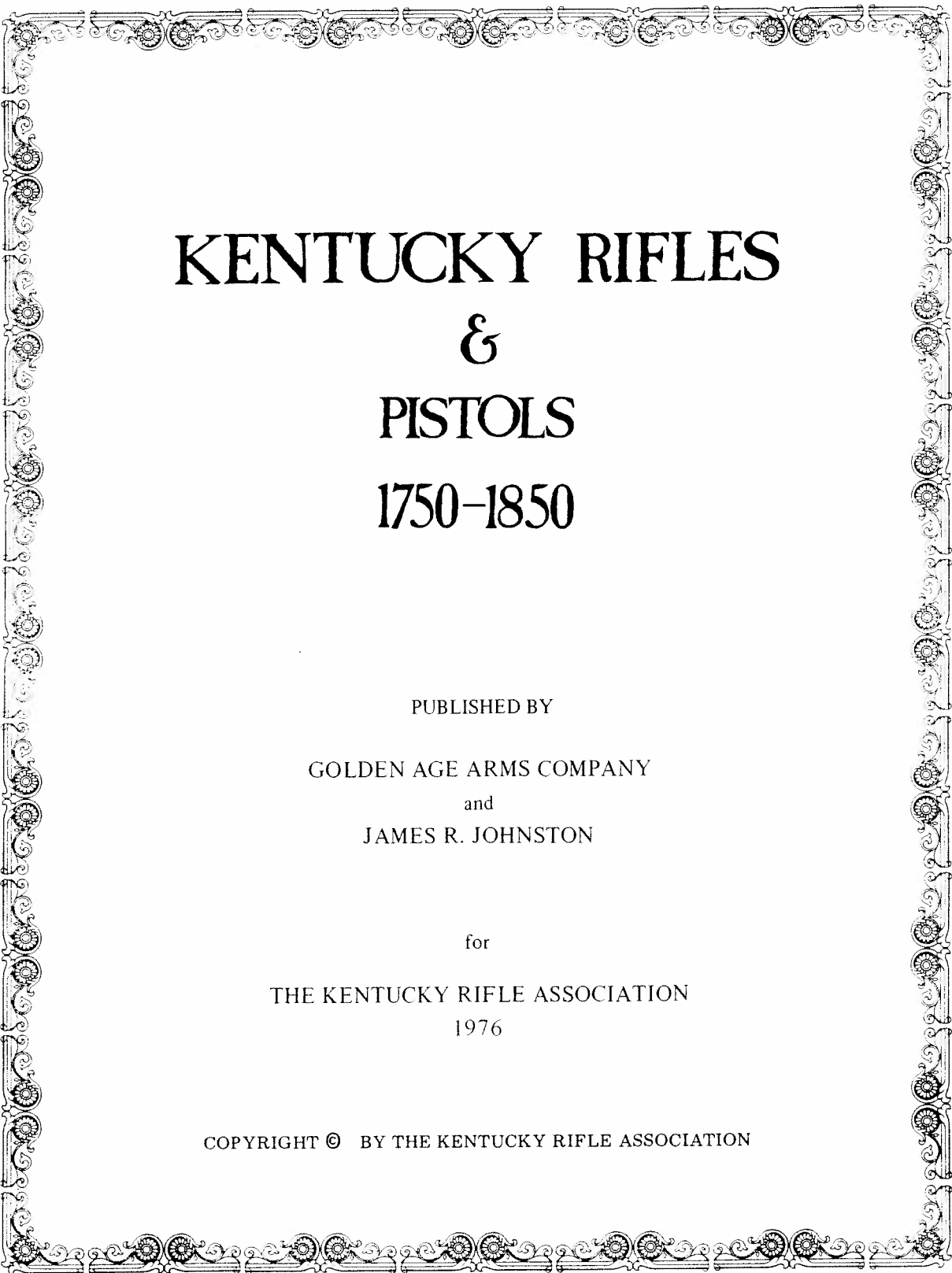
Exhibited: 1971, York County Pennsylvania, Historical Society Exhibition.

COST:

ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE AND DATE:



Pistol (Single). Maker unknown. Octagon to round barrel. Uncarved curly maple stock.
Tom Seymour collection



KENTUCKY RIFLES & PISTOLS 1750-1850

PUBLISHED BY

GOLDEN AGE ARMS COMPANY

and

JAMES R. JOHNSTON

for

THE KENTUCKY RIFLE ASSOCIATION

1976

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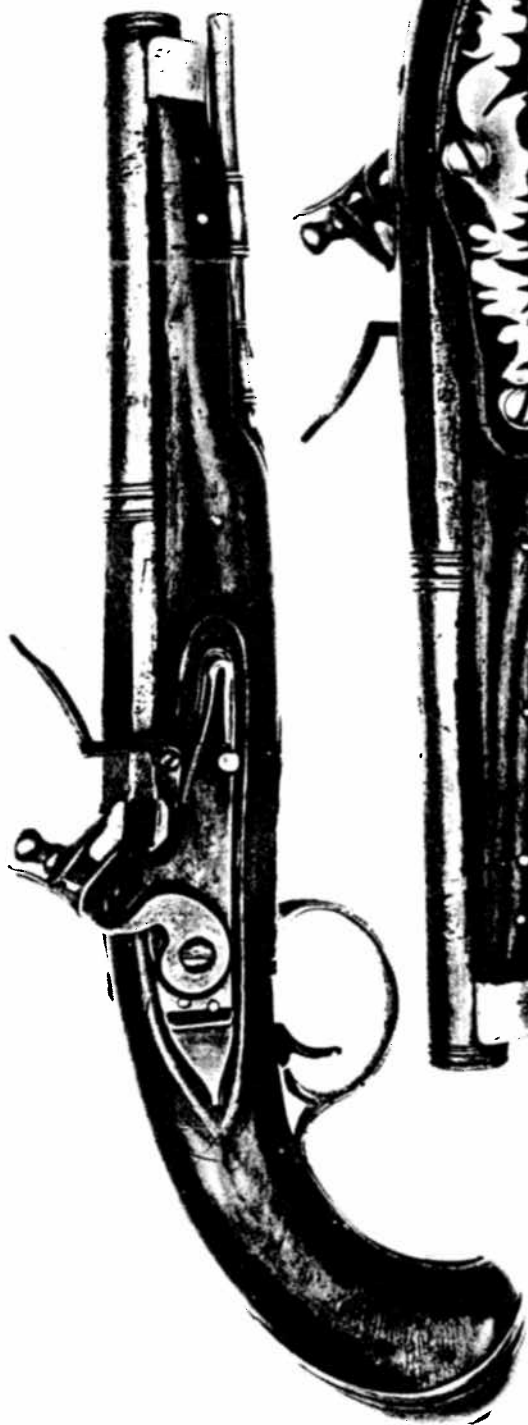
PREFACE

The Kentucky Rifle represents one of America's earliest triumphs in artistically functional design. The response of the Kentucky Rifle Association membership to further anthologizing this aspect of our heritage has been truly outstanding. In all, more than one hundred members submitted over 350 arms for picturing. This book represents weapons loaned by the membership for inclusion in the 1971 York County, Pennsylvania Historical Society Exhibition, and those pictured for the specific occasion of this second KRA sponsored publication. The patience, good humor and unselfish sharing of insights by the membership encouraged the publisher to undertake this work in behalf of the purposes and aims of the Kentucky Rifle Association.

During the winter of 1974, arrangements were concluded with the printers to bring the book before the public early in 1976. A deadline of mid-August was mandatory to ensure publication by that time. It was felt that all members would applaud an expeditious completion of the project, and that publication of the book during the Bicentennial Year would be an appropriate contribution by the Kentucky Rifle Association toward observance of the nation's two-hundredth birth year. The successful meeting of the August date required virtually all of the publisher's time between the final picturing of arms during the annual June meeting until delivery at the printers. This was possible because of the considerable assistance of George Carroll, and a final review by Jon M. Ansbaugh and Tom Wilson. Sam Dyke was of material aid in providing an updated location and period listing for the many gunsmiths represented. Thomas Strohfeldt contributed a valuable review of Virginia rifles herein illustrated. President Merle Campbell named a subcommittee composed of Sam Dyke, Al Sullivan, Sr., and Ron Gable who reviewed the introduction and provided such advise as time and distance would permit. Without this help, publication would have been indefinitely delayed.

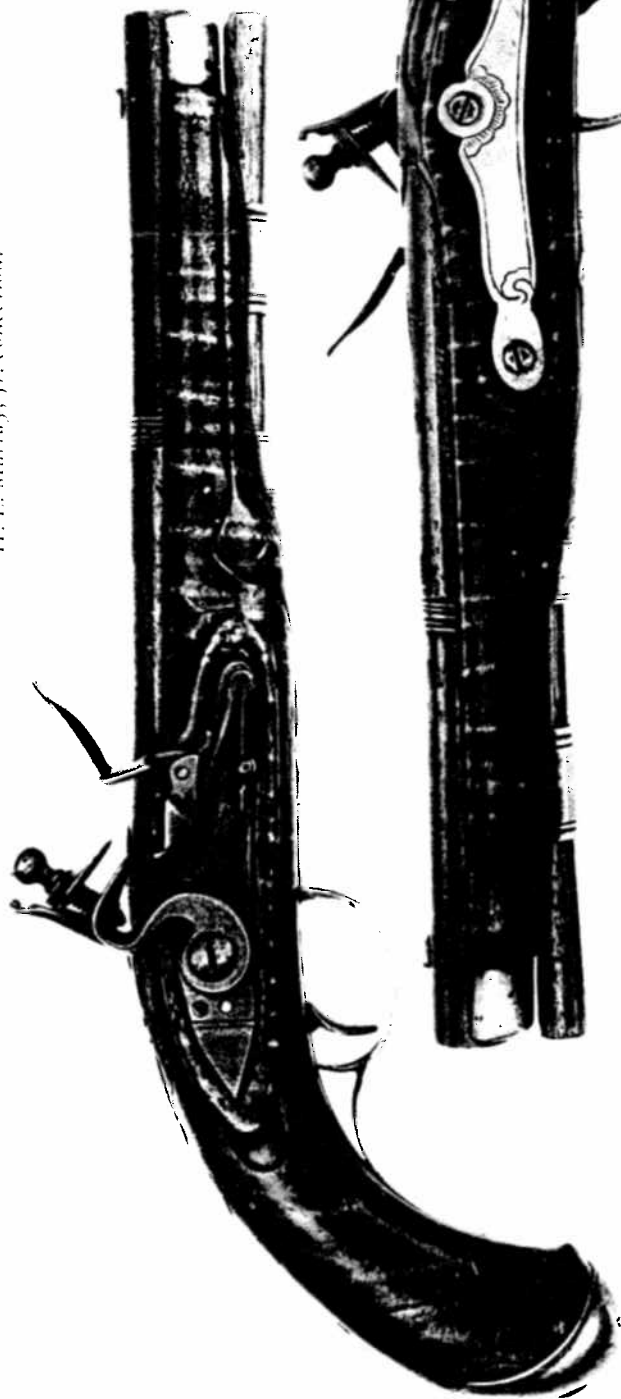
The multitude of important and interesting weapons obligated the publisher to establish criteria for any exclusion, and to determine whether a given piece should be shown with a single or multiple view. Ultimately, of course, this led to some value judgments, but in practice the decision was made to exclude very few arms. The only arms automatically excluded were those previously pictured in the Association's first book. It is felt that virtually all weapons submitted possess some substantial merit. In addition it is believed that some overview or range in decorative expression conveys a valuable statement in itself. Every rifle or pistol was not a profusely decorated masterpiece, and often a notable if plainer example encourages the viewer to concentrate upon the important elements of overall architectural design.

The question of photography for such a work as this often poses its own set of limitations. More arms were offered for picturing at our annual meeting than even our most optimistic expectations led us to expect. A preliminary session held in Ohio did not finally suffice to relieve pressure on the photographer during the annual meeting weekend. As a result, individual settings for each rifle or pistol being photographed were not possible. A standard setup had to be used whether a rifle had a polished patch box or one still "in the black." This led to a basic question as to whether or not to use only the York exhibit photos and the best of the later photography in a smaller volume, or to include all possible material in the interests of a more extended coverage. The publisher elected the latter course of action, feeling that the publishing procedure for this book which employs 300 dots per square inch would make the best possible advantage of all photography reproduced.



Early American pistol of pre-Revolutionary War period. Maker and location unknown. Its characteristics are similar to European pistols of the time. Length 14 inches. Part round, part octagonal barrel 8 inches long, 50 caliber smooth bore. Maple stock.

H. L. Murray, Jr. collection.



Maker unknown. Probably made in the Reading, Pennsylvania area. Revolutionary War period. Length 13 3/4 inches. Part round, part octagonal barrel 8 1/2 inches long, 58 caliber smooth bore. Silver thumb piece with engraved initials "J. D." Curly maple stock with relief carving around barrel tang.

Perry Martin collection.

THE KENTUCKY RIFLE

A TRUE AMERICAN HERITAGE IN PICTURE SECOND EDITION

By
The Kentucky Rifle Association
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1985

Published by The Forte Group
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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The Kentucky Rifle Association

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ISBN 0-9615925-0-8