

**L.D. Eberhart**

P.O.Box 1104 Alpharetta, GA 30009 / Res. Phone & Fax 770-664-5015

June 5, 2007

Please let this letter be your receipt as well as your appraisal for the very rare and fine cased pair of Deringer Duelers' belonging to the late great actor, Edwin Forrest. Also, accompanying the guns is the original Oil Painting of Forrest. It measures 35" x 28 3/4", painted by the renowned artist Thomas Sully. These two super pieces of Americana were part of the actors personal Collection which was kept together until circa 1988 when it was all sold to the highest bidder. This painting alone should be insured from fire or lost for no less than \$40,000.00 as it is a masterful piece of 19<sup>th</sup> century art of a famous American Actor, by an outstanding American Artist and completed in 1839.

The Deringer Dueller Pistols are housed in there original casing with the charger, cleaning rod, mold & flask. The guns are in excellent condition, having 90% plus of the original barrel striping finish as well as 90% plus of the blue on the trigger guard, finial, hammers, etc. The wood is fine with 90% plus original varnish remaining. These guns are shown on page 109 of STEEL CANVAS by R. L. Wilson along with the other guns & knives in Edwin Forrest Collection. These weapons on their own merit without the Forrest affiliation would bring \$50,000 plus on todays market in private sale or auction.

I am an Antique Weapons Appraiser with 50 year experience in the field of Henry Deringer guns of all types, and have written the two reference books on Deringers Et., All.

I remain at your service,

L. D. Eberhart



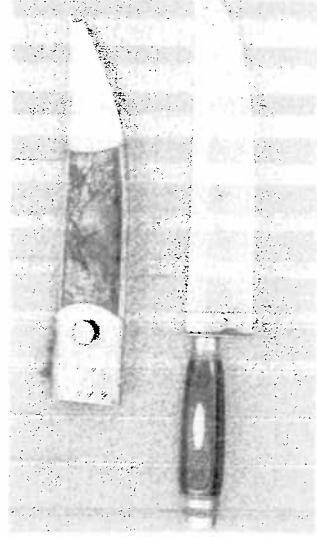
These Dealers bought guns from Henry Deringer and some of them marked the barrel tops with their names.

**Enclosure - Printed material & photos**

These sixteen Dealers were all born Henry Deringer Agents and sold Agent marked Pistols:

- |                |               |                     |                   |                     |                   |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Stephen O'Dell | Nashville, TN | W.C. Allen          | San Francisco, CA | Hick & Hensbeck     | San Francisco, CA |
| J.A. Schaner   | Yorksburg, MS | W.H. Callahan       | Nashville, TN     | Lullman & Vienna    | Memphis, TN       |
|                |               | P.H. Clark & Co.    | Memphis, TN       | Millsbaugh, Abraham | Washington, LA    |
|                |               | Coleman & Duke      | Calhoun, AL       | H.G. Newcomb        | Natchez, MS       |
|                |               | C. Curtis           | San Francisco, CA | A.J. Platt          | San Francisco, CA |
|                |               | N. Carr & Brother   | San Francisco, CA | Daniel L. Scott     | Vicksburg, MS     |
|                |               | M.W. Carr & Brother | Washington, DC    | A.J. Taylor         | San Francisco, CA |
|                |               | G.B. Gilmer         | Shreveport, LA    | Wolf & Deringer     | Louisville, KY    |

Author - Collector, Member of the American Society of Arms Collectors, National Rifle Association, Life Member of the Southeastern Antique Arms Collectors Association, Pennsylvania Antique Arms Collectors, Colorado Gun collectors Association, and the Texas Gun Collectors Association.



thy accompaniments to the intricate and elaborate hilts and scabbards to come.

### Gun-Engraving Tradition

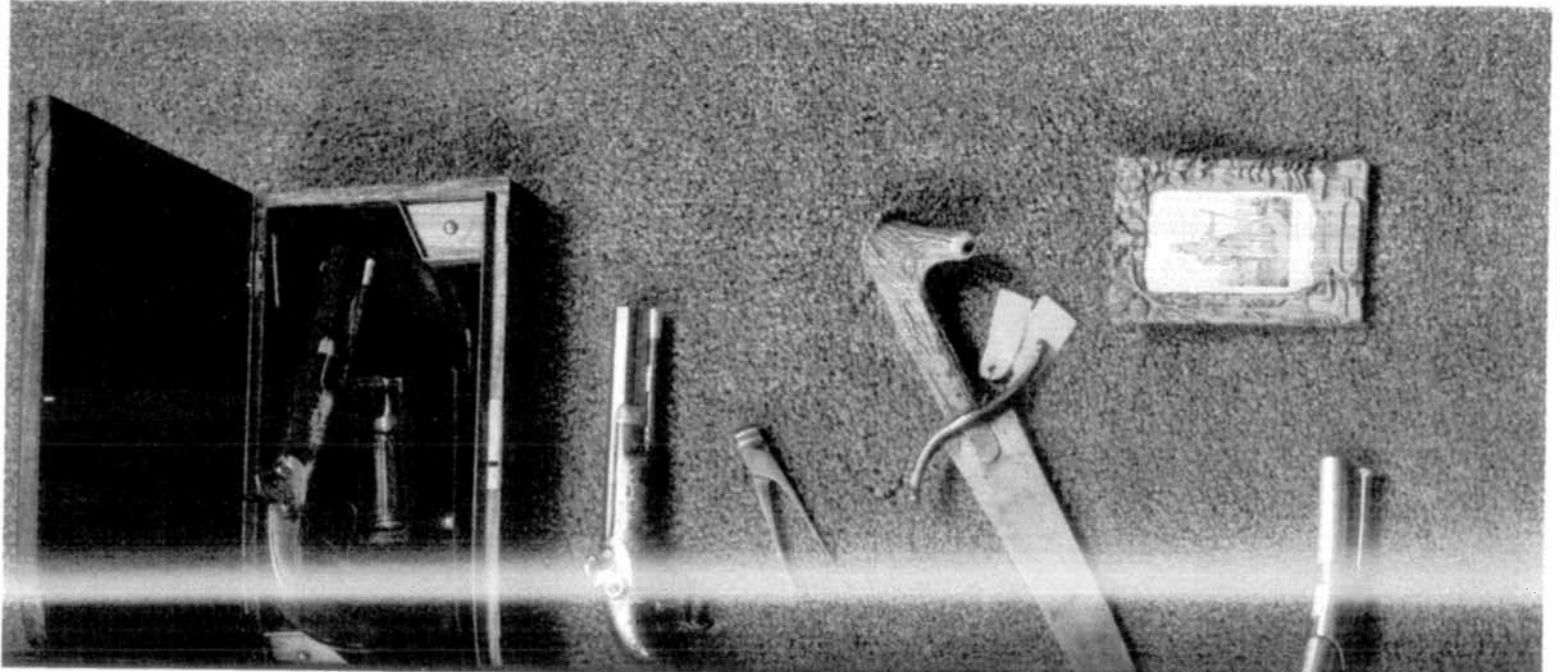
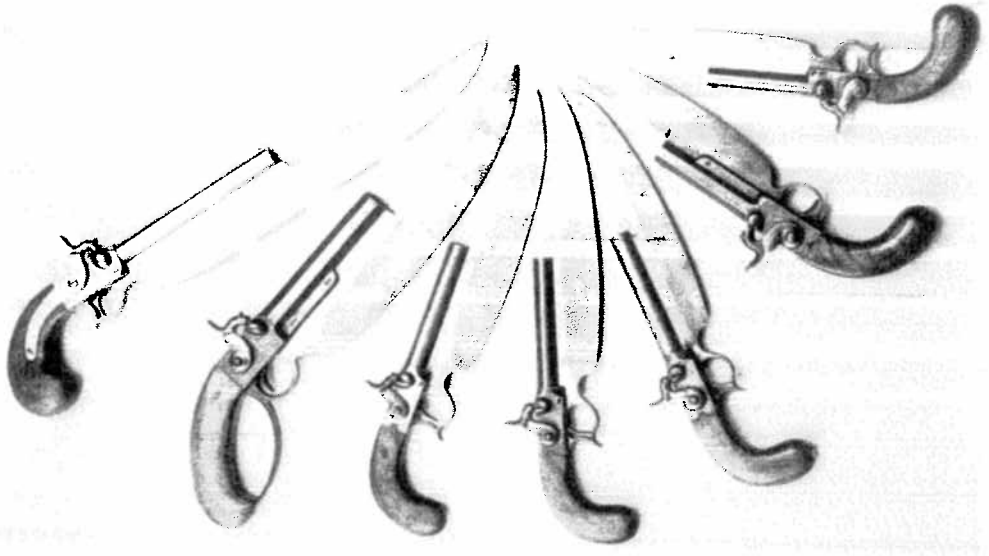
The immigrant German craftsmen set a high standard of arms embellishment, but as the twentieth century unfolded, the standard began a downhill slide. The demand for engraved arms would level off, and most of the younger generation of craftsmen would not have the benefit of the thorough training of their predecessors.

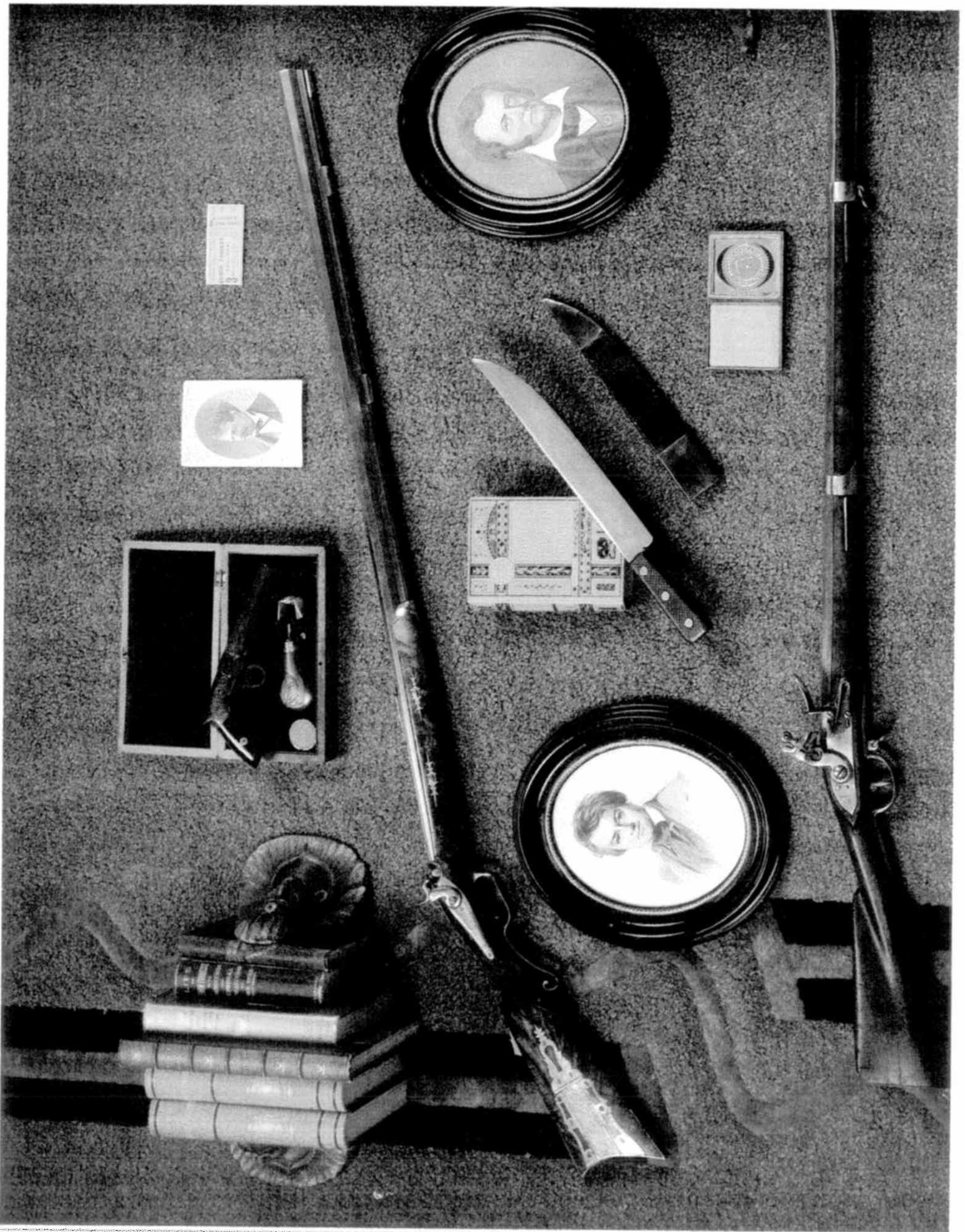
The golden age of American gunmaking, which begins with the Industrial Age and continues into the early twentieth century, is of such significance to the *Steel Carvers* story that the period is also covered in chapters 4 through 7 and in much of chapter 9.

An early silver-mounted Bowie knife inscribed on throat of scabbard from Rezin P. Bowie to H. W. Fowler, U.S. Dragoons. By Searles, and signed on mild silver plate on top flat of blade, adjacent to crossguard. Further development of the classic Bowie knife, from the Jim Bowie-Edwin Forrest original.

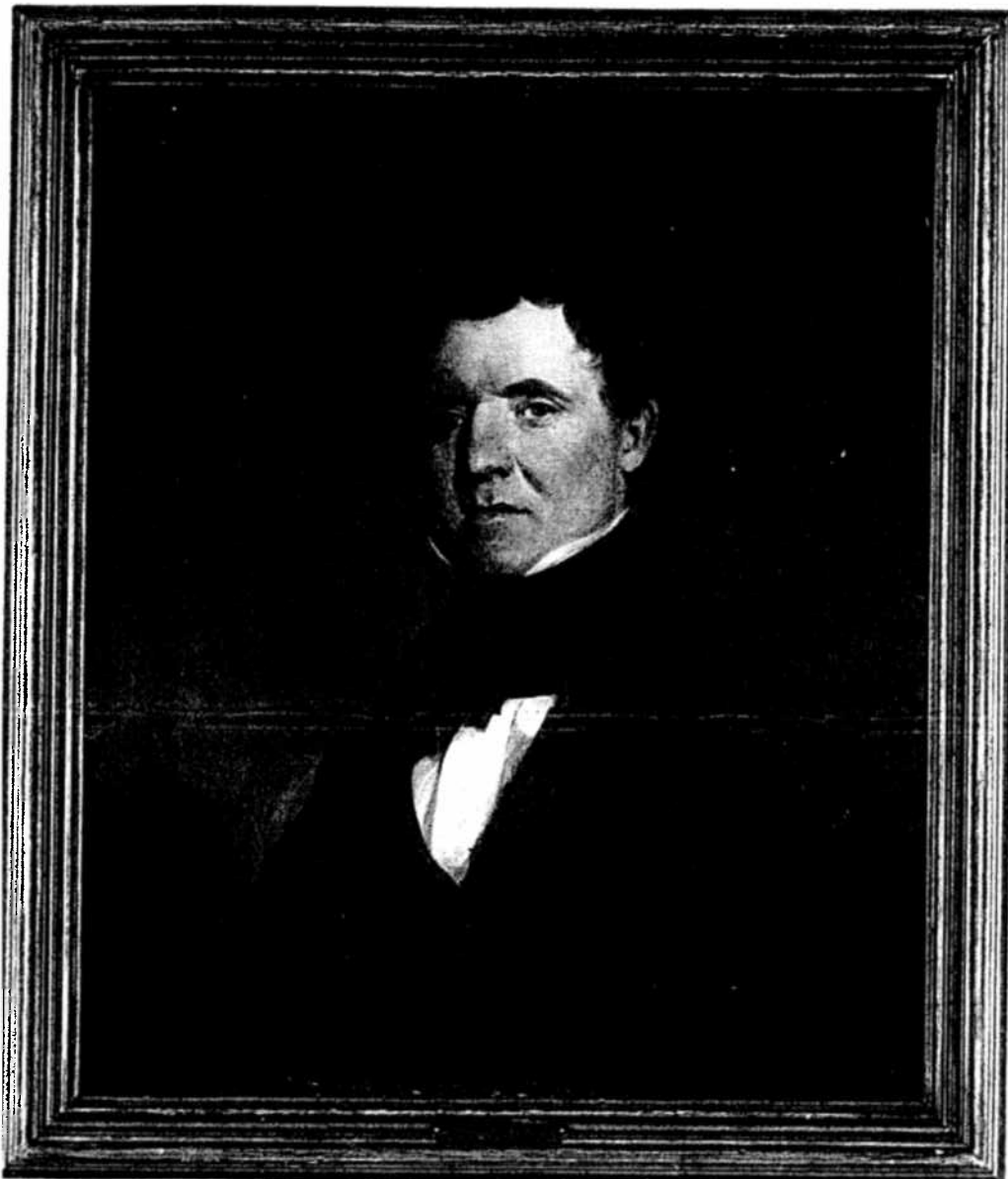
Assortment of Elgin Cutlass pistols, the center pistol with sharply etched blade. Overall length of second pistol from top, 17½ inches; c. 1837-38, made by C. B. Allen and Morrill, Mosman and Blair.

(opposite) At center: the silver-mounted, hand-forged knife (with sheath) presented by Jim Bowie to one of the nineteenth century's leading thespians, Edwin Forrest. Considered to be the original "Bowie knife," this massive weapon measures 17 inches overall. Both legends in their own right, Bowie and Forrest became friends in the 1820s, in New Orleans. At left and top center: portraits of Forrest; at right, Bowie himself. Also pictured: the seal of the Edwin Forrest Home for infirm and needy actors (where the guns and knives were kept until 1989); a silver-mounted Henry Deringer rifle and Deringer dueling pistols of Forrest, as well as his Robbins & Lawrence pepperbox cased set; a theater ticket to the actor's final performance; a stag handled Model 1798 musket used by the actor in the Indian play *Metamora*. Currier & Ives print depicts Forrest costumed for that role; and several biographies of Forrest. An elaborate case in the actor's home exhibited arms from his collection, among them the rifle, the musket, and—most significantly—the Bowie knife. Extensively documented, the knife was given to Forrest c. February 1829, most likely in Natchez, Mississippi.





11/19 & 20/05



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**Thomas Sully (1783-1872)**

**PORTRAIT OF THE ACTOR EDWIN  
BROOKE FORREST (1806-1872)**

Signed on back "TS 1839", oil on  
canvas, framed.  
35 in. x 28 3/4 in.

**NOTE:**

See "*Life and Works of Thomas Sully*"  
by Edward Biddle and Mantle  
Fielding, page 154, number 599.  
Edwin Forrest was an American  
actor born in Philadelphia. The first  
national idol of the American stage  
he took on great classic roles  
previously reserved for British  
actors, ultimately earning acclaim  
on both sides of the Atlantic. Upon  
his death Forrest bequeathed his  
fortune to establish a home for  
aged actors in Philadelphia which  
today still exists in New Jersey  
having merged with a similar  
institution in 1988.

\$7,500-10,000

FREEMAN'S200

The Bicentennial  
Pennsylvania Sale

11/19&20/05

Americana

11/20/05



