

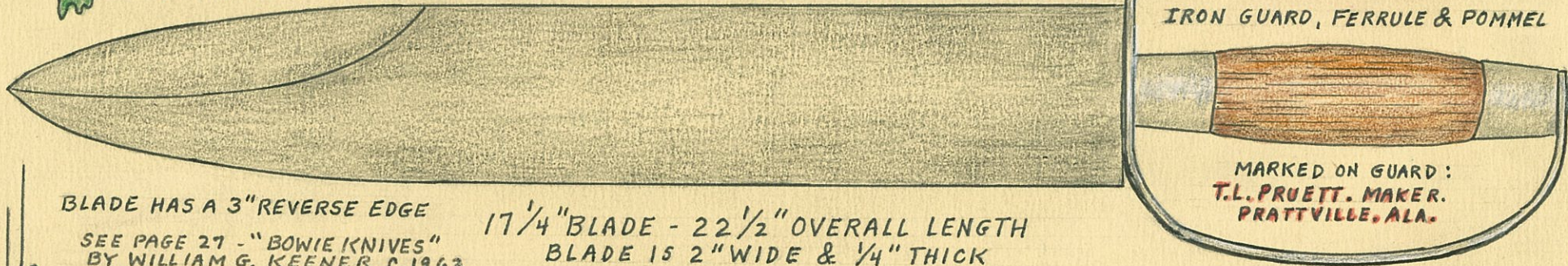


Alabama-Confederate 'D' GUARD KNIFE - Prattville, Ala.

KNIFE MADE BY T.L. PRUETT IN PRATTVILLE, AUTAUGA COUNTY, ALABAMA
FROM THE ORIG. COLLECTIONS OF ROBERT ABELS AND THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



C.S.A.



IRON GUARD, FERRULE & POMMEL

MARKED ON GUARD:
T.L. PRUETT. MAKER.
PRATTVILLE, ALA.

BLADE HAS A 3" REVERSE EDGE

SEE PAGE 27 - "BOWIE KNIVES"
BY WILLIAM G. KEENER C.1962

17 1/4" BLADE - 22 1/2" OVERALL LENGTH
BLADE IS 2" WIDE & 1/4" THICK

T.L. PRUETT WAS A BLACKSMITH. IN THE FALL OF 1861 HE MADE KNIVES FOR THE AUTAUGA GUARDS
IN JUNE, 1862 PRUETT ENLISTED IN THE 1ST BATTALION ALABAMA PARTISAN RANGERS, CO. A.

SEE "COLLECTING THE CONFEDERACY" BY S. PRITCHARD - PAGE 161-62 / SEE PAGE 192 - "CONFEDERATE BOWIE KNIVES"

RBollard '03

CONFEDERATE BOWIE KNIVES



*by Jack Melton
Josh Phillips
& John Sexton*

*with a foreword by
Norm Flayderman*

Chapter 2

Who Made Confederate Knives?

For much of the 20th century, it was convenient for authors and collectors to categorize Confederate knives into one of two groups, arsenal-made or blacksmith-made. Both of these labels fall short in accurately describing most Confederate knives. By “arsenal-made,” collectors mean quality components, construction and finish that suggest professional manufacture on a large scale. The problem is that no Confederate Government arsenal has yet been proven to have produced fighting knives, with two possible exceptions at the time of this writing.¹ And Secondly, unless a maker has been positively identified, it may be an erroneous assumption that a blacksmith made any particular knife based only on the characteristics of the knife. A hand-forged, crudely finished knife may have been made by a blacksmith — but any number of professions utilized a forge, and as will be seen shortly, such a knife could have been made by any one of them, or even homemade by the soldier himself.

Those knives that most collectors call “arsenal-made” should be considered “factory-made” as, thus far, only privately operated factories or individuals have been identified as having made Bowie knives. Generally speaking, armories manufactured weapons, not arsenals. An arsenal served as a storage and distribution depot for arms made at a nearby armory or delivered under contract by private craftsmen. Some Confederate government arms installations began with both an armory and an arsenal including Richmond, Fayetteville, Briarfield and Nashville. For the most part, these were just called armories. Others manufacturing began as arsenals but later added armories to their facilities including Atlanta, Augusta, Macon and Selma. These later installations, despite having both components, continued to be called arsenals. Some states had similar facilities such as the armory and arsenal in Milledgeville, Georgia, both separate operations under different supervision. There, the armory made muskets and saber bayonets, most subsequently stored at the arsenal. The now-famous Bowie knives contracted for by Governor Brown were not built at either location, but were made by artisans throughout the countryside and were later turned in to the arsenal.

Semantics aside, in the fifty years since William Albaugh’s seminal work, *Confederate Arms*, no Confederate armory or arsenal has yet been identified as having made Bowie knives of any sort, despite numerous armories producing almost every other type of edged weapon including swords, saber-bayonets and pikes. In our research, we have found not one receipt nor

written reference to any armory knife production. We certainly hold out the possibility that one day an example may surface to prove that a certain armory did make a few knives, but such a knife, if ever discovered, would always remain a rarity.

By “blacksmith-made,” collectors refer to knives that are crudely finished or primitive in appearance. Blacksmiths did indeed make many Confederate Bowie knives. But so did many other craftsmen from a variety of trades and with different levels of skill and experience. Each year new discoveries are made that further the cause in identification. Knives from nine positively identified blacksmiths, some previously unknown, will be found in this book. Additionally, we have identified knives made by craftsmen from least a dozen other trades, and for that reason we prefer the term smith-made locals to refer to all those knives that appear to be made by a smith of some trade or another.

In the mobilization for past wars, when the resources of our nation were stretched thin, patriotic or enterprising individuals converted their peacetime production over to manufacturing any number of military goods, whether weapons or support items. The phenomenon is somewhat foreign for us today — we send our tax dollars to the black hole in Washington, D.C. Portions of the funds are allocated to contractors who make weapons, from which process the public is largely removed. But it was not always like this. Many individuals alive today can recall the rationing and recycling of WWII. In the unprecedented build up for that war effort, all citizens did their part, if only to eat less sugar, turn in used rubber and steel and use less gasoline. Manufacturers of everyday items retooled and converted to arms production. Singer Sewing machines retooled for Colt Model 1911 pistols. Nine private companies retooled to fill M1 Carbine contracts, only one of which had any previous gun making experience. National Postal Meter Co. made over 400,000 carbines, IBM over 300,000 and juke-box maker Rock-Ola over 200,000.

Similar efforts, though on a much smaller scale, occurred in the fledgling Confederacy. With only 15% of the total U.S. manufacturing capacity, trade with the more industrial North came to a halt. Shortages in almost all goods began within months after the “Anaconda Plan” of General Winfield Scott was enacted. This naval blockade of the entire South caused shortages in the imported goods of everyday life as well as steel and other raw materials, despite a lucrative blockade running enterprise.

Factories advertised for all sorts of raw materials to recycle, including brass, lead and copper. Profit-minded southern businessmen seeing their domestic demand for goods dwindle turned to the government for a new market. Much like in WWII, it was fairly easy for a cotton mill, furniture factory or carriage shop to retool to make weapons, canteens, cartridge boxes or other accoutrements. Figure 1 shows identified knife makers whose prewar occupations or trades are known. In a few cases, as with cotton broker Thomas Leech, the principal had no particular mechanical skill, but was a talented manager who assembled teams of blacksmiths, grinders, finishers, etc., to do the actual factory labor. Some manufactories, like Louis Froelich's sword factory, were huge, employing dozens of workers, while solo blacksmiths like Robert Register are presumed to have worked alone.

Known Prewar Trades of Confederate Edge-Weapons Makers

Proven Bowie Knife Makers		Sword/Pike Makers Not Proven To Have Made Knives	
• • •		• • •	
Blacksmiths	Furniture Makers	Dentist	
Theophelus Barnhill Pitt Co., NC	Fishback & Moyer Gordonsville, VA	Hammond Marshall (H. Marshall & Co.; Atlanta Saber Manu.) Atlanta, GA	
Lewis Crenshaw Hope Hull, AL	J.D. Gray Graysville, GA		
James M. Hall Berrien, GA	Arthur E. Hall Nansemond, VA	Engineers	
George Hambrick Snowville, VA	General Merchants	Cook Bros. N.O., LA	
William Miller Abingdon, VA	Nathan Weed Macon, GA	Farm Tool Makers	
E.M. Moore Memphis, TN	J.C. Zimmerman Atlanta, GA	Sharp & Hamilton Plow Factory, later Nashville Plow Works Nashville, TN	
T.L. Pruett Prattville, AL	Gunsmiths		
Robert Register Fayetteville, NC	Cameron & Winn Cobbsville, GA	Gunsmith	
Joseph H. Sherrard Lancaster, TX	Dickson & Nelson Dickson, AL	Louis Bissonnet Mobile, AL	
G.W. Stalans DeSoto Co., MS	J.J. Ford Athens, GA		
Eliaphet Vandanson DeSoto Co., MS	Asa Richardson Lauderdale, AL	Iron Workers	
Benjamin Wilhoite Wolfstown, VA	Iron Workers	College Hill Iron Works Nashville, TN	
J.P. Woodson Honey Grove, TX	Mark Cooper Cartersville, GA	Columbus Iron Works Columbus, GA	
Broker (Cotton)/Speculator	Henry Pobst Roanoke Co., VA		
Thomas Leech Memphis, TN	Uriah Wells Petersburg, VA	Jewelers	
Carpenters	Machinists/Mechanics	James Conning Mobile, AL	
Lemon Lynch NC	Louis Froelich Wilmington, NC	Abram Dewitt Columbus, GA	
Samuel Millwee Knoxville, TN	William Wood Columbia, TN	Thomas, Griswold & Co. N.O., LA	
John Gilleland Athens, GA	Stanton Fishback Gordonsville, VA	E.J. Johnston Macon, GA	
Carriage Makers	Saw Makers	Kraft, Goldsmith & Kraft Columbia, SC	
Rufus Hughes Monroe, GA	Boyle & Gamble Richmond, VA		
Knight's Blacksmith Shop Amelia, VA	Burger Bros. Richmond, VA	Potter	
Professional Cutlers/Knife Makers	Silversmith	Stevens Mill & Pottery Works Baldwin Co., GA	
Rees Fitzpatrick Natchez, MS	Samuel Bell (most prewar) Knoxville, TN		
Aug. & Geo. Sartorius Victoria, TX	Surgical Instrument Makers	Tinsmiths	
Farmers/Planters	Alfred Dufilho (most prewar) N.O., LA	Herman Haiman & Sons, L. Haiman & Bro.; Confederate States Sword Factory Columbus, GA	
W.C. Bibb Montgomery, AL	Hodgkins & Sons Macon, GA		
J.W. Drake AL	Blaise Pradel New Orleans, LA		
William H. Walthall Halifax, VA	Henry Reinhardt Charleston, SC		
Farm Tool Makers	Tinsmiths		
Dixie Works Canton, MS	W.J. McElroy Macon, GA		
File Makers	E.M. Hall Atlanta, GA		
Lau & Shuman Richmond, VA	Wheelwright		
	Walter Warren Abingdon, VA		

Shown in the left column of Fig. 1 (above) are all the makers we have positively proven to have made Bowie knives. One can see the tremendous variety of craftsmen that contributed to the war effort. Blacksmiths make up the largest portion with 13 individuals. Prewar cutlers constitute a very small portion of all known blade makers during wartime. Almost all of the well-known wartime blade makers did something entirely different prior to the war. Some like Thomas Leech, Hammond Marshall and the Cook Bros. didn't make anything at all. Also shown in Fig. 1 in the right column are other edged weapons makers whose prewar occupations are known. Primarily sword makers, none is yet known to have made knives, though they all certainly possessed the ability to do so. Any sword maker could make a Bowie knife, though the reverse is not necessarily true. Forging a sword-blade and keeping it from warping requires a higher degree of skill than knife-blade making. Mounting the hilts and making scabbards, of course, are very similar.

Early American makers Ames, Bell, Chevalier, Dufilho, Hassam, Hicks, Hunter, Marks & Rees, Reinhardt, Rose and Searles all produced Bowie knives as part of their trade in the antebellum years. In many cases, Bowies were only a small sideline in their total business. For example, Chevalier made mostly dental instruments, Hicks, wood planes and other tools, Hunter, tableware and Rose surgical instruments. Precisely why Bowies by these makers are so rare and sought after today is that they were just sidelines and were not made in large quantities. All such cutlers lying north of the Mason-Dixon line naturally did not make any knives for southern soldiers, though some like Buck Bros. and Roby produced knives for northern troops.

Sheffield makers along with prewar American cutlers largely kept up with the demand for Bowie knives in the 1840s and 50s, but such was not the case during the first two years of the war when demand far exceeded their capacities. Thus, in the rural South, craftsmen of almost every other trade were responsible for the majority of fighting knife production. No large-scale cutlers existed in the South prior to the war. Almost all production, therefore, was by newly engaged individuals and start-up private firms or, in the case of swords and bayonets, a few newly built armories as well. Total production ranged from perhaps a dozen by Lewis Crenshaw, to a hundred by Mark Cooper, to perhaps many hundreds by McElroy, Froelich and Thomas Leech. An individual blacksmith may have worked alone, forging and hilt-ing the blades himself, perhaps having a nearby saddler make the scabbards. Large factories employed scores of skilled and unskilled workers. Labor there was largely divided into stages where blacksmiths forged blades, wood workers carved grips, brass casters made guards, and finishers did the final file work to dress the assembled piece.

Louis Froelich's Wilmington Sword Factory is a great example of a start-up private firm that made swords and Bowie knives. His efforts to produce weapons were mirrored by many other such firms and well illustrate on a larger scale the conversions undergone by varied craftsmen to make edged weapons for the Confederacy. Froelich first converted a steam-powered sawmill into a weapons factory. Among the 70 or so employees that Froelich hired were tinsmith Edward Lucas, machinist E. Brickhouse, coppersmith Archibald Skipper, saddler James Wilson and numerous blacksmiths.² These craftsmen joined carpenters, polishers, strikers, brass molders, finishers, and polishers to complete the extensive output of North Carolina-made knives, swords and bayonets.

THE BLACKSMITH DEBATE

In recent years, a spirited debate has arisen among knife authorities over whether or not blacksmiths really made knives. While many Confederate knives were made by factories, judging from the larger number of extant examples, it would seem that the majority were made in a less-professional manner. As seen in the table on page 20, a variety of patriotic and industrious professionals turned their activities, at least in part, to making Bowie knives. Their motives can be debated, as can the effectiveness of their final products, but what is beyond debate is that they made the knives in the first place. This is true not only for the tinner, carpenter, jeweler and gunsmith, but for the black-

smith as well. The notion that skilled craftsmen from every other trade made Confederate knives except blacksmiths — who collectively abstained from that arms effort — is without merit.

The blacksmith was the most commonly encountered skilled craftsman in the rural South. Every community needed a blacksmith to keep the economy running smoothly, whether repairing iron wagon tires and broken plows, or shoeing horses and fashioning wrought-iron door hinges. Most towns had several blacksmiths, and every plantation had at least one smithy. The 1860 Richmond City Directory listed 24 blacksmith shops. By some estimates, there was one blacksmith for every 300 citizens. Regardless of the actual ratio, perhaps 15,000 to 20,000 blacksmiths operated in the South. Additionally, some blacksmiths specialized beyond common iron work as whitesmiths, wheelwrights, locksmiths, nailers, farriers and the like.

In the one camp are those who maintain that only professional cutlers could and did make Bowies. The other camp, of which we are members, claims that blacksmiths not only could make knives, but did so by the thousands. The degree to which blacksmiths might have made knives in the colonial and antebellum days is not a subject for this work. It is not our claim that blacksmiths made knives as part of their everyday prewar wares. But the evidence, written and printed, empirical and implied, overwhelmingly concludes that blacksmiths contributed in a large way to the supply of fighting knives that the Confederate soldier carried off to war in the period of 1861–1865. Such evidence can be found throughout this book.

We wish to address this subject for two reasons. First, it focuses the debate on a considerable number of knives we have illustrated and the majority of knives a collector is likely to encounter, and secondly because every collector will sooner or later have one of his pieces called into question by these critics. The true facts are known on this subject, and we wish to share them with the reader who can then draw his own conclusions. Much of the published discussion of the debate can be viewed in *Blade* and *Knife World* magazine issues in the period 1999 to 2003. The opinions of numerous modern authors and scholars were given as evidence in their own respective works, and while those all have merit, we prefer that first-hand witnesses tell the story:

Albert Roller was mustered into the 28th Virginia Infantry on May 13, 1861. He perfectly described the circumstances in *Confederate Veteran*, Vol. 17, p. 123:

As is known, at the beginning of the War Between the States, the south was almost without war material. The 28th Virginia, being made up of the counties of Roanoke, Craig, Botetourt, and Bedford, rendezvoused at Lynchburg, Va., for the purpose of equipment. On receiving our flintlock muskets (having been altered to percussion lock) we were without ammunition or cartridge boxes, but were equipped with Bowie knives about a foot long made at convenient blacksmith shops. They were of as many types as there were types of men in the command. Thus equipped, we boarded the cars and started for the front.

In this one extraordinary account we have the evidence of poorly armed Confederates (converted flintlocks with no

ammunition), all equipped with Bowie knives, made by blacksmiths, of no specific form, and all headed to the front with said knives. Paralleling the rhetoric to go to war with knives in the first place, many newspaper editors were quick to point out where to get them.

In the *Daily Federal Union* (of Milledgeville, Georgia), November 12, 1861, p. 2:

THE TIMES CALL FOR DECISIVE ACTION

The approach of the enemy to our seaboard, and the threatened attack on Savannah, calls for prompt action... Companies armed with pikes, such as, we are informed, have been made in Atlanta, and rough bowie knives, such as any blacksmith can make, would prove formidable in a hand-to-hand contest.

From the *Southern Federal Union* of February 25, 1862, an editorial chastised an inactive public:

God helps those who help themselves, and nobody else. Stop calling upon Hercules till you put your own shoulders to the wheel!--What have you been about all Summer and Fall? O'making cotton, hey, when your negroes ought to have been throwing up bomb proof fortifications at every exposed point, and the blacksmiths everywhere making Pikes and Bowie Knives... Tell me not you have no arms. Go to making them. If you are brace the Pike and Bowie Knife are the very best you could have--with them, Caesar conquered the world...

While the previous two quotes do not describe knives actually being made by blacksmiths, they illustrate the more important point for us that it was widely known and expected that blacksmiths could and should make Bowie knives. There are, however, numerous accounts of actual knife making by blacksmiths.

From the December 21, 1861, issue of the *Northern Standard* we find this significant correspondent account:

At Honey Grove in Fannin County [Texas], we were shown, last week, Swords, and Bowie Knives, the manufacture of Mr. J.P. Woodson of that place, which are conclusive evidence, that the necessities of the present crisis, will be met in a great degree by home production. These weapons were of a very serviceable shape, well tempered, neatly finished, with good handles — the sword with a double guard to the hilt — the knife with a single guard — both with leather scabbards. The swords are sold at \$20.00 — the knives at \$10.00. Mr. Woodson had carried on a blacksmith shop heretofore, and had made plain sheath knives, but never anything like these weapons, until necessity stimulated the effort. Most of the

officers in Maxey's Regiment [Col. Samuel Bell Maxie, 9th Texas Infantry] have swords made by Mr. Woodson.

This account not only describes both Bowie knives and swords made by blacksmith Woodson, but clearly indicates Woodson made a "plain sheath knife" prior to the war. By "plain" we believe the correspondent meant smaller in all proportions, a utilitarian knife instead of a fighting knife.

In the Official Records (Series 1, Vol. 10, Part 1, p. 83) we find the following report of Federal Captain W.A. Haw on movements in Tennessee:

About 6 miles from Coynesville [Cainsville] we stopped at the farm of a blacksmith named Oliver; reported as a strong Southern man, who had furnished bowie-knives and had forwarded them to the Confederacy at his own expense.

From the *Richmond Dispatch*, January 18, 1862, by a special correspondent in Alabama:

Speaking of bowie-knives, I wish Butler's Yankees could have the privilege of examining an implement in that line which has been largely prepared for their entertainment in this region... They were forged in the country smiths from old mill saws, wagon springs, and such good steel as could be had, and are worn swinging from the belt straight on the thigh.

From the *Knoxville Register* of February 18, 1862:

Capt. M.H. Stephens, formerly of the 3d Tennessee regiment, has collected and delivered three wagon loads of guns at the armory in Knoxville. He has collected several additional loads of guns and will soon deliver them, also. In addition to the fire-arms, he has captured a two-horse wagon load of bowie-knives, manufactured by country artisans out of mill saws, files, &c. The arms were all taken chiefly from the disaffected men in Blount county. Many of whom are now making their way to the mountains to join the Lincoln army.

From a northern correspondent for the *New York Tribune*, we find this comment in the body of a lengthy report printed on June 16, 1861:

The people are arming themselves with every conceivable weapon; blacksmiths are forging Bowie-knives and the like. I rode in a stagecoach with a Virginia gentleman carrying one of these home-made knives, with a blade at least twenty inches long, and weighing two pounds.

From the June 12, 1861, *Richmond Dispatch* we read:

Yesterday week, upon the occasion of the alarm, eighteen hundred men assembled in Lewisburg, all armed with rifles, and nearly all with bowie-knives, chiefly of home manufacture. Indeed, the rifles, as well as the knives, were nearly all made here in the mountains, and if not the most polished weapons, are certainly most efficient and deadly.

Again, in the *Richmond Dispatch* of April 1, 1862, regarding Alabama Governor Shorter's call to arms:

Gov. Shorter's call for more men is meeting with a noble response, while almost every shop in the State is making pikes, knives, and other weapons.

The *Richmond Dispatch* of July 2, 1861 records:

From Petersburg

A very superior article of bowie-knives is being manufactured by Uriah Wells, of this city. The blades are from 10 to 20 inches in length, according to size, highly polished and of the best metal. They have given so much satisfaction, that Mr. Wells has received orders from numerous companies as well as individuals; he has a large force occupied in their manufacture.

The 1860 Petersburg census lists Uriah Wells as a "Blacksmith" as well as his partner/employee, A.E. Walthall. Appearing in the September 18, 1861, *Dispatch* issue carried from a Montgomery paper:

A formidable weapon.

-- We were shown yesterday a knife, manufactured by Mr. Pruett, of Prattville, which is the most formidable looking weapon in the shape of a knife we have yet seen. The Arkansas toothpick is left completely in the shade. The blade of the one we saw was nineteen inches in length, and weighed two and one half pounds. It seemed to be of good steel, and appeared powerful enough to divide a Yankee completely. Mr. P. has just furnished one hundred of these knives to Capt. Faulkner's company of Autauga, and will be ready to supply as many more as may be needed. Montgomery Advertiser

Blacksmiths not only made knives, they made swords as well, forging almost all the blades in Southern sword factories. When Louis Froelich established his sword factory in Wilmington, North Carolina, one of the first things he did is advertise for blacksmiths whom he considered indispensable. These blacksmiths forged all of the factory's blades, including the swords, cutlasses, bayonets and Bowie knives. The following advertisements are all from the *Wilmington Daily Journal* with the dates given, courtesy of Chris Fonvielle, Jr.:

WANTED

*...6 Brass Molders;
30 do. Finishers;
6 Blacksmiths, and 6 Strikers
Blacksmiths in town can get contracts for various kinds of work in our line. Please apply early.
The highest wages will be paid for good reliable Blacksmiths at the Wilmington Sword Factory...
[Sept. 23, 1861]*

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

*10 blacksmiths to forge Sword Blades. As the same go on piece work, they can make from 5 to 10 dollars per day.
Also, Blacksmiths who want to take contracts for forging, will please call at L. Froelich.
Confederate States Armory
Wilmington, N.C. [Aug. 15th, 1862]*

*Wanted — 25 steady and able workmen, to go on Leather Work and Knapsacks.
Also, 5 or 6 good Blacksmiths to go on Piece Work.
L. Froelich [Dec. 17, 1862]*

A reporter for the *Wilmington Daily Journal* recorded his observations at the shop:

We saw the operations of forging the blades — grinding them and polishing them — tempering them and fitting them with handles, involving sundry operations and requiring the services of men of many trades [McAden, p. 17]

The Burger Brothers of Richmond advertised in May 1861:

*Wanted immediately:
Two cutlery grinders and a blacksmith to work on swords, bayonets, and Bowie knives. Call at our factory at Petersburg R.R. Bridge. [Albaugh, Confederate Arms, p. 206]*

Though not known to have made Bowie knives, the Haiman Brothers of Columbus, Georgia, employed many blacksmiths at their Confederate States sword factory. Tinsmiths by trade, the Haimans put together the largest blade factory in the South, employing over 400 men. They constructed an extensive blacksmith shop to forge the blades with trip hammers and 30 forges.³

After studying the makers list on page 20, the claim against blacksmiths becomes even more unfounded. Without knowing the occupations of those makers, one could more readily have claimed that tinsmiths, carpenters and furniture makers did not make knives. And an even better argument could have been mounted that certainly farmers did not make knives. And yet, one would have erred in making both claims. In the June 8, 1861, *Richmond Dispatch* we read:

WHO MADE CONFEDERATE KNIVES?

WHO MADE CONFEDERATE KNIVES?

27	535	535	J.P. Woodson	42	a	x	Blacksmith	2800	1000	St 4
28			M.W. Woodson	43	f	✓				1000
29			Mom A	16	a	✓				

The 1860 Federal Fannin County Texas Census page showing J.P. Woodson of Honey Grove as a "Blacksmith"

9	689	697	J.L. Pruett	39	m		Blacksmith	500	200	St 4
10			Elizabeth	30	f					St 4

The 1860 Autauga, Georgia, census listing for T.L. Pruett of Prattville as a "Blacksmith"

Alabama D-Guard

Manufacturer: T.L. Pruett
Prattville, Alabama

Overall Length: 22 1/16 inches
Blade Length: 16 13/16 inches
Blade Thickness: .28 inches
Blade Width at Ricasso: 1 3/4 inches
Maximum Blade Width: 1 3/4 inches
Scabbard: None
Guard: Iron D-guard

Grip: Wood with two iron ferrules
Markings:
"T.L. PRUETT.
MAKER./
PRATTVILLE. ALA."
Provenance: Unknown
Collection: Josh Phillips

See also "Alabama Contract Knives" on page 45.



8																				
9	688	677	A. H. Foster	7 m																
10			T. L. Pruett	59 m		Blacksmith	✓	500		Don	Ala									
			Elizabeth	30 f						Don	Ala									

Remarks: This is the only Pruett knife in near-new condition, and it shows the remarkable degree to which Pruett polished his blades. The condition of this blade — despite having no scabbard — lends credence to the idea that none of Pruett's enlisted men's knives was issued with a scabbard.

Alabama D-Guard

Manufacturer: T.L. Pruett,
Prattville, Alabama

Overall Length: 22 1/2 inches
Blade Length: 17 1/4 inches
Blade Thickness: .35 inches
Blade Width at Ricasso: 2 inches

Maximum Blade Width: 2 3/8 inches
Scabbard: None
Guard: Iron D-guard
Grip: Wood with two 1/16-inch iron ferrules
Markings: "T.L. PRUETT. MAKER./PRATTVILLE. ALA." stamped on knucklebow
Provenance: Unknown
Collection: Roger Ballard
Remarks: This is a standard iron-mounted Pruett

