



Longrifles of the Shenandoah Valley



Made by Simon Lauck Winchester, VA

“Longrifles of the Shenandoah Valley”

An Exhibition of Virginia Longrifles

The Kentucky Rifle Foundation is proud to sponsor a dynamic and historic exhibit of Virginia made Longrifles that represent the work and craftsmanship of the numerous gunsmiths who plied their trade in the historic Shenandoah Valley of Virginia during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Many of these fine rifles have never been seen by the general public before in this venue, and present a rare opportunity for the historian, student and the average citizen to view these historic treasures first hand. This grouping of Virginia Longrifles was selected by the Kentucky Rifle Foundation to represent the artistic capabilities and skills of the varied gunsmiths who worked throughout the Shenandoah Valley area during the Golden Age of the American Longrifle.

This Longrifle is a true American innovation, although evolved from the Germanic hunting rifle this “Kentucky Rifle” in its art form and style is truly unique.

The Longrifle of the colonial period of America served many uses and was a major force behind the American economy, from the gunsmithing trade and parts suppliers he purchased from, to the fur and meat trade, to protection along the frontier and arming the militias. It was the primary tool on which pioneers relied for self-preservation and to provide their families with protein.

The rifle was also a form of entertainment with shooting matches being held in most communities. These events were a place for showing off your marksmanship and your rifle. The more wealthy individuals of the time wanted a rifle that would show their status or wealth so the gunsmith would add carving in the wood, engraving on the metal parts, and insert decorative silver inlays.



Simon Lauck

**The Kentucky Rifle Foundation
(a 501C3) Organization was formed in
2003 to serve as the educational arm of
the Kentucky Rifle Association .**

The KRF has published three major books on the Kentucky Rifle and Accouterments along with four CD's with pictures of some of the finest rifles ever made. The Foundation also assembles rifles for educational displays at various trade and collector shows. Visit the KRF website @ kentuckyriflefoundation.org to purchase any of these items

The Kentucky Rifle Association is celebrating it's 50th Anniversary in 2012. The birth of the Kentucky Rifle Association was the culmination of the friendship and common interest of a number of early collectors and students of the Kentucky rifle and pistol. Among this group was George N. Hyatt of Wilmington, DE. the man that conceived the idea of the Kentucky Rifle Association, and provided the inspiration that brought it into being for the study and preservation of the Kentucky rifle as "A True American Heritage"



**Luray Valley Museum
Virginia Longrifle Exhibition
On the Grounds of the
Luray Caverns
Luray, Virginia**

This exhibit will be hosted by the Luray Valley Museum in Luray, Virginia, which is located on a 7 acre complex nestled on the grounds of the historic Luray Caverns. The Luray Caverns attraction annually receives over 500,000 visitors from more than 60 nations. Luray Valley Museum, which was dedicated in August 10th. of 2010, presents a mix of elements that celebrate the region's Shenandoah culture. The complex has several 19th century structures, along with a main museum building known as the Stonyman, which display artifacts and their history in chronological order from the 1750's to 1920's. The centerpiece of the collection is a 1536 German Bible that connects the history of the early settlers of Page County and the Shenandoah Valley to their European culture, as well as their decorative arts and search for religious freedom.



The Kentucky Rifle Foundation can think of no finer or more fitting location to present this exhibit of 18th and 19th century Virginia Longrifles. This display is part of our continuing effort to promote our mission of education and the study of the art form of the American Longrifle.

Opening

April 21 2012

to

October 20 2012

For hours of operation

admission cost and directions

visit the **Luray** web site at

www.luraycaverns.com

Or phone 540-743-6551

KRA and CLA Members

present current membership card for
admission discount

