



- ✓ Carving out answers
- ✓ Cable Damascus Fun
- ✓ 2022 Membership Application
- ✓ Pandemic Projects
- ✓ Remington Dynamite knife
- ✓ Barlows

Our *international* membership is happily involved with "Anything that goes 'cut'!"

November 2021

## Carving Out Answers On Some Carved Ivory Sheffield Bowies

by Mark Zalesky



Carved ivory lioness-head dirk knife, 9-1/2" overall, with 5-7/8" double edged blade marked on both sides FLERSHEIM REINGANUM & CO'S CUTLERY. F.R. & Co. was based in Frankfurt, Germany and had a house in Birmingham, England; the knife was obviously made in Sheffield and dates prior to 1840.

For many years, antique bowie collectors have been intrigued by a group of knives with handles of finely carved elephant ivory. Dating prior to the Civil War, long before the populations of the magnificent pachyderms became a topic of concern, these knives represent some of the best carving found on antique knives. These bowies and dirks are real works of art, with their 3D depictions of horses, alligators, eagles and dogs with inset glass or ceramic eyes.

One of the most intriguing things about these knives is that they are found with several different markings on them; yet the work is so consistent that it seems like it must be by the same hand – or at least the same company. So who made them? Let's take a look at the different companies whose names are found on them and see if we can draw some conclusions.

### James Rodgers (Unwin & Rodgers)

(several knives of this type known)

By the time bowie knife production started in England, James Rodgers was actually deceased (d.1829,

the rage for bowie knives apparently reaching England in 1835-36). However, old names with commercial value never 'died' in 19th century Sheffield, and Rodgers' partner Philip Unwin of Unwin & Rodgers continued to use his late partner's name on some of Unwin & Rodgers' production for years to come. It's the most commonly encountered marking on these knives.

James Rodgers is a name often found on excellent quality Sheffield bowie knives, dirks, folding dirks and bowies, as well as other types of 19th century cutlery. This includes many knives of the 1830s and 1840s. Unwin and Rodgers, the actual manufacturer of these knives, was a rather large and important cutlery firm in Sheffield during this time frame and was certainly capable of making these carved ivory handled knives.

### Ibbotson, Peace & Co.

(one knife of this type known)

The first numbered knife in the very first booklet devoted exclusively to bowie knives is a horsehead knife of this type, marked Ibbotson Peace & Co. Published in about 1960, *Robert Abels' Collection of Bowie Type Knives of American Interest* (the 'blue book') shows a 6" blade spear point bowie that appears identical to the most frequently seen style of these knives, save for the base of the horse's head running straight across the handle rather than in a chevron pattern.

This is a scarce maker of antique bowie knives, less well known than some, but recognized by experienced collectors as a maker of



Carved ivory horsehead dagger, 12-1/4" overall, with 7-1/8" double edged blade with central fuller and extended ricasso, marked on both sides WOODCOCK'S CELEBRATED CUTLERY and UNIVERSALLY APPROVED (in an oval). The blade is unsharpened with mostly original crocus polish.

Continued on page 2

# The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The October meeting of the OKCA was attended by 20 people. We made the announcement in the *Knewsletter* there would be NO HOLIDAY (DECEMBER) SHOW. We also made that information known at the meeting. We are still in a holding pattern regarding the April 2022 Show. The restrictions for indoor events are still in effect and would preclude an event. We have over 370 tables with two individuals at each table. We also have an attendance of about an additional 4000. The numbers make it clear that a 200 person maximum would not be practical. There would be no advantage to change the venue to another location in Eugene (there are none) or to another city.



*Carving Out Answers continued from page 1*  
superb early bowies. The company was founded in about 1834 and continued up to 1853, though I feel that they abandoned bowie knives long before then. Every bowie of theirs I've seen looks like an 1830s knife.

Ibbotson, Peace & Co. is another manufacturer capable of making these knives.

## Flersheim, Reinganum & Co.

(one knife of this type known)

Now there's a name that doesn't just roll off your tongue. The pictured dirk carved with a yellow-eyed lioness in the same style as the others is clearly marked FLERSHEIM, REINGANUM & CO. CUTLERY. I purchased this knife a few years ago and loved it, but who the heck was F.R. & Co.? This required some investigation.

The name seemed vaguely familiar, and I found it in an article about a fairly plain looking switchblade dirk of very interesting construction with this mark,

As has been written many times, the numbers are down on memberships. Granted, most of the memberships are to gain admission to the Show (table-holders and members only on Friday and early hours on Saturday and Sunday); however we question if our previous table-holders and visitors will be willing to travel by airplane and car to attend a 2022 April Show. Without those visitors, our Show would not be the success it has been in the past.

We are encouraging renewal and new memberships. Many of you have allowed your membership to lapse, therefore we are mailing this *Knewsletter* to our lapsed members in hopes that they will be encouraged to renew their memberships for 2022. Your membership date is located above your name on the right hand side. (2020-lapsed, 2021-current, 2022-supportive)

We are desperate for articles for the *Knewsletter*. We appreciate the articles that have been submitted, but we need more. (Unfortunately there is no end to our need for more.) Thank you to **Mike Adamson, Martin**

**Drivdahl, Steve Greenough, Dan Westlind and Mark Zalesky** who have contributed to this issue. I do not want to miss the opportunity to thank all who have graciously contributed articles. These articles are the glue holding the organization together. They are encouragement to the membership and the Board that we are fulfilling the interests of our members.

Please note our Facebook page which is coordinated by **Lisa Wages**. Be sure to thank her for her efforts to maintain this communication tool. Please remember that you must be a current (2021 or later) member to advertise on Facebook, in our *Knewsletter*, or to have a link posted on our website.

We will have an November 17, 2021 meeting at the Sizzler. The Sizzler has been very good to us, and we wish to continue to support them. Bring something for Show-N-Tell.

See you at the Sizzler. It will be an uplift to our humdrum days. 🙌



written by Peter McMickle for *The Newsletter* (Vol. 10 No.1) (a publication produced for collectors of switchblade knives). Peter did not find anything on F&R, but noted his knife's similarity to another knife marked... James Rodgers. Well, isn't that interesting?

As it turns out, F.R. & Co. were not cutlers; the firm operated as commission and forwarding merchants dealing in "hardware goods" which apparently included knives private-branded with the company's name. Founded by Maurice Flersheim, Herman Flersheim, and Arthur Reinganum in 1832, F.R. & Co. was based in Frankfurt, Germany,

and had an additional location in Birmingham, England. The company was dissolved by mutual consent in October-November of 1839, meaning our knife was produced between 1832 and 1839. F.R. & Co. obviously didn't make it, because they didn't actually manufacture goods.

## Robert Lingard

(one knife of this type known)

Lingard is a name bowie knife collectors are well familiar with as it appears on a rather large number of quality Sheffield bowies, dirks and folding versions of each. The history of the Lingards is murky, simply because there were many Lingard cutlers working in the Sheffield area – Robert, John and Charles in particular – and often the knives are not marked in such a way as to clear up just which Lingard was responsible.

A small spear point bowie with carved ivory horsehead handle, marked

*Continued on page 4*

## Our Destiny

I would like to believe that we are in control of our destiny, but this is so not so. The pandemic has been the controlling factor from masks to distancing to sanitizing to vaccinations. One of the first decisions made for us was the limit on group gatherings. We could ignore these directives, as some organizations have; but an awareness of the consequences put the brakes on that thinking. Therefore we have cancelled the December/Holiday/Winter/One Day/Mini Show.



This leaves the planning for the April Show as a firm maybe. There are so many factors to be considered, and we cannot know what changes there will be. So for now we are still a go (albeit a shaky go). We are not accepting table applications but are accepting membership. This will be an indicator of our future. A member application can be found on our website as well as in this issue.

This *Knewsletter* issue is going out to members, of course, but also lapsed members. It might be a way to gauge if we can host a Show. We have many tables to fill and returning members will help to predict our future.

The best score card at this time would be

to look at the number of memberships that are supporting our organization. Do the math. Prior to the pandemic, we mailed out close to 1000 memberships. This year we struggle to mail 400 to our supportive members. If the lack of participation continues, I think that it would not be possible to capture the spirit of Shows past which have been so successful. Our future is still in the hands of the membership.

**Our April Show** is a global event. This means our reputation has garnered a global attendance both in table-holders and visitors. We have numerous table-holders from the East Coast, as well as from the Central US. Knowing that we have scaled back could be the deterrent to attract table-holders and visitors

to come to Eugene, Oregon. Today's restrictions make it tough to host an event that will be in keeping with our Show's past reputation.

## We get calls

The number of crank/spam/scam telephone calls has been an annoying situation for us. We now let all calls go to voice mail. Many of the valid calls are asking questions better answered by visiting our website or Facebook page or our *Knewsletter*. What a mess this pandemic has wrought on us.

## Articles are life giving

I am still beating the drum for words. Articles about knives. We have had responses from my pleas, but more is

needed. If one looks back at all the articles that have been printed in the *Knewsletter*, you will never find one that isn't

readable, entertaining and educational. And that even applies to the article that was submitted on a paper dinner napkin.

Thank you to **Mike Adamson, Martin Drivdahl, Steve Greenough, Dan Westlind and Mark Zalesky** for your words which appear in this *Knewsletter*.

## November OKCA meeting

We will be having a meeting at the Sizzler on November 17. The last few months have rewarded us with good fun and knives shown. Last month we had 20 attendees. This is down from our pre pandemic days.

## Our Facebook Site

Lisa Wages can't get enough credits for her untiring maintenance of our OKCA Facebook page. Lisa maintains this on a daily basis, and the decision on what is allowed or not is solely in her hands. Selling or promotional posts for non-OKCA Club members are not allowed. However there are a plethora of denials for self promoting posts. Our database is private, so I am the one who confirms a valid membership to Lisa. Renew and you may advertise and know that the people promoting their wares are also members.

## Ads R Us

Don't forget about the free ads in our *Knewsletter*! Just pop your for sale or wants to us, and they will be added to the adverts page. The results have been quite successful. You can also add spice to our Facebook page. Remember you must be a current member of the OKCA (2021 or greater) to advertise in our *Knewsletter* or on our Facebook page or be on our links page. 🐾



R. LINGARD PEA CROFT

SHEFFIELD, has been seen. This is one of Robert Lingard's marks. According to Geoffrey Tweedale's *Directory of Sheffield Cutlers*, Robert worked at Wharncliffe Side until the 1850s, at which time he moved to Pea Croft. Due to the existence of Pea Croft marked Lingards with Zack Taylor markings, I am going to speculate that Robert Lingard was there by the late 1840s.

Robert Lingard is a viable manufacturer for these knives, but this knife seems to date a bit later than the others.

**Luke & Thomas Woodcock**

(five knives of this type known)

This brings us to the final brand I can verify on these carved ivory knives, WOODCOCK'S CELEBRATED CUTLERY. The best known knife by Woodcock is a magnificent folding bowie knife with a carved ivory handle in the form of an open-mouthed alligator, which has been pictured several times over the years. I know of a second knife of this form as well.

Pictured here is another Woodcock knife with the now-familiar horsehead design, which I once owned. What makes this knife unique is its blade – a large double edge dirk or dagger with a central fuller, still in full crocus polish. The guard is of blued steel, and the knife is accompanied by its original red leather sheath with nickel silver mounts. Two other Woodcock knives are also known, one with a carved ivory crossguard and a handle carved in the form of an eagle.

Researching the Woodcocks, the names and exact occupation listings seem to vary a bit through the years — but during the 1830s period we are most interested in, the company is listed with entries like “Woodcock, Luke & Thomas; merchants, pearl & ivory carvers [my emphasis], & table knife, spring knife, razor & c. manufacturers” with an address of 44 Howard Street in Sheffield. (Bowie maker George Woodhead would later be located close by, at 36 Howard Street.) The Woodcocks remained in the ivory carving trade into the 1880s, the



*This spectacular carved alligator folding bowie knife by Woodcock measures 6-3/8" closed and 11-1/8" fully open. The blade locks open and is on the order of 1/4" thick. Note the level of detail, the 'gator's tail curls towards the obverse side. Myers collection.*

name evolving into Woodcock & Co. and then Thomas Woodcock.

At least two of the carved ivory handled Woodcock knives bear a ringed oval stamping with the words UNIVERSALLY APPROVED that looks very much like one found on knives made by (you guessed it) James Rodgers, reading CAST STEEL BOWIE KNIFE. Other than the wording, the two stamps are very similar and distinctive; the same person may have made both stamps. This looks like a possible connection to James Rodgers, and the Rodgers CAST STEEL BOWIE KNIFE marking is thought to be found only on early bowies.

The Woodcocks seem like the carvers we are looking for. Could they have manufactured the entire knives bearing their name? Maybe.

**Conclusions**

That's an interesting pile of evidence to sort through, some of it better than others.

-- The F.R. & Co. marked knife proves that this style was being made between 1832 and 1839. This does not preclude them from being made later, but they were certainly in production before 1839.

-- The Robert Lingard marking seems to show that this knife dates from the 1850s.

-- Luke & Thomas Woodcock advertised themselves as “ivory carvers.” Since this group of knives are all carved similarly, four are known to be marked Woodcock, and the Woodcocks were in business during the entire span these knives could have been made. I propose that the Woodcocks did the carving on all of them. It's worth noting that I haven't seen the Woodcock name on any

knives that don't have carved handles. I believe the Woodcocks' business was more focused on carving ivory and pearl handles for the cutlery trade than actually manufacturing knives, and that they provided handles to our other manufacturers as well as on knives bearing their mark.

-- James Rodgers (the most common marking), Ibbotson Peace & Co. and Robert Lingard were all capable of manufacturing knives using handles provided by the Woodcocks.

-- The Woodcock marked knives may have been completed by the Woodcocks, but there is a little evidence that they may have obtained blades or other parts from James Rodgers (i.e. Unwin & Rodgers).

-- Flersheim, Reinganum & Co. was not capable of manufacturing anything, and there is a little evidence that they may have sourced knives from James Rodgers (i.e. Unwin & Rodgers).

This study moves us a bit closer to an understanding of how these knives came to be and serves to illustrate how one might attempt to solve an historic knife riddle by exploring a variety of different avenues in your research. A good knife library is a must, and internet research skills can be very useful in certain cases (that was how I found F.R. & Co. and 1830s-40s directory listings for the Woodcocks).

The author would specifically like to thank Paul Holmer for his assistance, and note that Geoffrey Tweedale's massive book *Tweedale's Directory of Sheffield Cutlery Manufacturers 1740-2013* is absolutely invaluable in sorting out the histories of Sheffield cutlers such as Unwin & Rodgers, Robert Lingard, Ibbotson Peace and the Woodcocks.



# Pandemic Projects

Steve Greenough

“What did you do during the Great Pandemic, Daddy?”

Folks responded differently to the enforced isolation that was 2020. No – I don’t mean all the vaccine and mask BS that made the entire event something it never should have become. It’s not one of those articles. I am talking about how folks chose to spend all of the “free” time thrust upon them. Some filled the time learning a new skill – a musical instrument, second language or cooking. Others spent the endless hours watching TV, playing video games or otherwise “pleasuring themselves.” No judgment here, either way. This is not one of those articles either.

My own time was spent – as I suspect is true for most of us – somewhere between the two. I was able to catch up on the “honeydew” list, whilst simultaneously putting in some world class couch time. I also undertook a knife-related project which I wanted to tell you about. (Yes – it’s one of those articles.)

First some brief contextual background. Though a lifelong user and enthusiast, I came to serious knife collecting fairly late in life. When I did, the advice I heard and/or read constantly was: educate yourself. Attend shows, handle knives, read all you can and talk with those individuals more experienced than you. Consequently when, in the fall of 2017, the opportunity arose to acquire an almost complete set of *Blade* magazines, I jumped on it. Upon receipt, I dived straight in with Vol. 1 issue #1 of *American Blade* (June, 1973) and began to supplement my existing historical knowledge. It did not take long for me to appreciate the vast quantity and scope of information contained within those pages, and it took only a little while longer to realize that I was not going to be able to remember a large portion of it and would never be able to relocate a specific item or article without some form of subject reference. The problem was that compiling anything even remotely approaching a complete index would be a time consuming and tedious task that

would extend my edge-u-cation almost indefinitely. Reluctantly then, I scrapped these ideas but diligently continued my reading/study.

I had already begun to photocopy a small number of items that had particular appeal (photos of particular knives, articles on maker’s I admired, especially useful how to’s, etc.), reasoning that something was better than nothing. Then, sometime in the early 90’s, if I recall correctly (*Blade* chronology that is – not the actual 1990s), the penny dropped that a cut and paste approach would work as well as an index – if pursued thoroughly. So, once I had read myself up-to-date, I went back to Vol. 1 #1 to scan for the information I wanted to extract. Even this more limited approach was proving to be a daunting task as the stats related below will highlight.

Life’s full-on optimists (annoyingly cheerful buggers that they are) who trot out platitudes about clouds and silver linings or life and lemons, but I’m sure that even the most hopeful amongst us were momentarily staggered by the humongous cloud of lemons that was Covid 19. Shows were canceled, Club meetings ceased; and there was nothing but lockdown on the horizon. To compound the situation, I had recently retired after running my own business for 30-odd years. With time stretching out as if the future was a super massive black hole, the figurative light bulb went on. Suddenly a task that had seemed impossible pivoted into an opportunity to fill the endless days, continue my edge-u-cation in the absence of “real” events and to generally exercise (or maybe it really should be “exorcise”) my knife demons.

Complete would be the wrong word, as it is my current intent to continue the work going forward; so it will theoretically never be finished. But, as it currently stands, the “completed” compilation runs to 310 ledger size (11x17) pages plus 19 or 20 smaller inserts. There are in excess of 5,500 distinct items posted, with over 200 featured makers and countless more with examples of their work in subject oriented sections. The work is contained within 4”x2” ring binders and weighs in at 22 pounds. The estimated time for

completion has been in excess of 2,500 hours. This is the actual compilation time; it does not include over a year in initial reading and study of the material.



The scope of study expanded from *Blade* exclusively to include the other monthly-type magazines, the *Knives Annual* publications, several of the more serious commercial catalogues, and a handful of hardcover photo book sources. (There are even some *Knewslettter* items – reproduced without permission, of course.) A small measure of previously unpublished material is provided by my personal archives and by content from sources such as AKI.

The first two sections are maker driven – one of makers whose work is in my own collection and one of prominent current and past makers whose work is generally (as well as personally) admired. The third covers different knife styles (sub-hilt, kukri, folders, swords, miniatures, etc.). The fourth and final portion addresses more technical or formal areas – Damascus steel, knife history, other bladed items (axe, tool, razors, etc.), the embellishment arts and knife images from outside the industry (art, TV, movies, cartoons, etc.).

In addition to the time-void-filling benefits, the project was a lot of fun to undertake and informative beyond estimation. The overview perspective provided insights into the world of the shiny and sharp I do not believe could have been garnered in any other way (though as they have potential for a future article I will retain them for now).

I have written to a couple of editors regarding the project, but they have yet to show any interest. (If you are reading this, then ib is not on that list.)

Finally, if anyone out there would like any additional info on, or to even view the work, I can be contacted via the Club and would be happy to schlep the books to Eugene in the spring. 🐾

# FUN WITH CABLE DAMASCUS - Part two

Dan Westlind

In my last article I said I would share some of my secrets of making cable Damascus. Although cable is relatively easy to find, the cost of new cable does not break the bank. In fact, it is one of the cheapest blade materials to buy. If you use used cable, it can have rust, dirt and broken strands. If it has one broken wire in it, that break can show up in the pattern; so I advise against using used cable. Cable comes in so many different sizes and makeups, I could write a book about it, but I won't. I'll explain enough to get you on the right track. Over the years, I have used everything from elevator cable to bridge cable 3" in diameter. It will all work; but to simplify the forging process and to produce consistent billets, I use a certain cable. Most cable is made from non-alloyed steel with a carbon content of .4% to .95% so your billet of cable should be the same as 1045 to 1095. Never use galvanized cable. It is harmful to breathe the fumes, and the zinc will pollute your forge. There are terms like 6x25 left hand lay or 7x19 right hand lay. Those numbers refer to the number of wires, and the direction it is wound. The most important term I will use is "swaged". Swaged cable is normally regular cable that has been run through a die and compressed. It is round on the outside which prevents the cable from wearing sheaves and drums. Swaged cable is denser, stiffer, easier to work and produces a better blade. Make sure the cable you get has a wire core. Sometimes the cable has lube strips, which can be orange or yellow. These tend to just burn out, so I do not worry about them.

I get my cable from a logging and rigging supply company located in a nearby town. Swaged cable is commonly used for logging. I like using diameters of 5/8", 3/4" and 7/8". The last time I bought 5/8" swaged cable, it was about \$2.00 a foot. As an example, if you bought 3 feet, it would cost you \$6.00. I cut it into 6-inch-long pieces and bundle three of those 6-inch pieces together. That gives me enough for two nice sized billets for a cost of \$3.00 each. I told you it was cheap. Now, you noticed I said I bundle three pieces together. I will explain that. If you just forge a piece of 3/4" cable, you end up with a narrow billet, enough for a dagger. If you want a wider billet, you can go bigger cable; but bigger cable uses bigger wire, and you lose the cool pattern. So, I bundle the cable

according to the size of billet I need. I like using three pieces; because when you go to hammer or press it, you are always pushing the pieces together. You can see in the photo how I bundle the pieces together and how the pieces will fuse together easier. I do not unravel, clean or prep the cable in any way other than welding the ends together and welding the bundle to a 'handle'. I cut the cable into the desired lengths using an abrasive cut off saw. If you cut the pieces too short, they can unravel on you; so I like to cut pieces 6" or longer, but not too long. After I cut the pieces, I use tie wire to wrap around each end of the bundle to hold the bundle together for welding. I stand the bundle on end, and MIG weld each end together. Now a word of caution when welding the ends. The lubrication in the cable will catch fire, which is great; but it is dangerous and produces black smoke, so you want to weld outdoors or in a well-ventilated area. You also need to be aware of the flames from the burning lube. MIG welding the ends prevents the wires from unraveling in the forge; because once they unravel, it is nearly impossible to get them to fuse again.

All this makes forging easier in the long run. When I MIG weld the ends, the lubrication catches fire, and I just let it burn itself out. What doesn't burn out from welding will burn out in the forge. As I said earlier, I do not clean or prep the cable. I have tried gasoline, diesel, and other solvents to clean the cable; and it seemed like a waste of time, especially after I learned a simple trick. After I have the bundle welded up and a handle attached, I simply stick the bundle of cable into the forge and bring it slowly up to a medium red. The lube will burn off right away, and you will get lots of smoke for the first few minutes. Once the cable is a medium red, I remove it from the forge and quench it in water for about five seconds, just long enough for it to lose the redness. Immediately after I quench it in water, I strike the bundle on the anvil several times. All the burned lube, which should have turned to black ash, will fall out. I then put the bundle back into the forge and bring it up to heat, flux it well with anhydrous borax, bring it back up to welding temp and proceed to form the billet. This is the simplest way I have found, and it is consistent. Years ago, I tried soaking the bundle of cable in diesel until I was ready to forge it. This worked and there were times when soaking in diesel I did



not even use flux and it still welded; but it was not consistent. Consistency is crucial for the best results.

Since cable is made from 10 series steel, it can be heat treated the same as 1070-1095. Over the years, I have found that I have better results quenching in a home-made heat treat oil. This consists of one gallon of diesel and four gallons of ATF, automotive transmission oil. ATF has a high flash point and will not flare up when you quench. You can use straight ATF and eliminate the diesel and get the same results. I also heat the billet to a nice, bright red, well past the non-magnetic stage and just under the bright orange stage. I have never used a pyrometer; so I cannot tell you the exact temperature, so it is a matter of 'eyeballing' it. After quenching, a file should skate right over the billet. I temper in the oven at 300 degrees for an hour and recheck the hardness with a file. If I am looking for a more flexible blade, I temper at 325 for two hours. These are just guidelines to start with. You will need to find what temps and draws work for you. Now that I have covered the basics of forging cable Damascus, I hope some of you will get the urge to go get some cable and start playing around with it. Like I said before, there is a lot you can do with cable once you get the basics down; and it is cheap material. In my next installment, I will share some of the things I have done with cable over the years, like different patterns, welding nickel into the cable, making mosaics, flowers, and canisters. Until then, have fun!!

# The Father Of All Barlows and Other Daddies

Martin Drivdahl



Father of Barlows

With pen in hand this cool, clear Fall day, I will endeavor to write an article that readers will find interesting and informative. Years ago at a secondhand shop in Mesquite, Nevada, I found a 5" single blade knife that was covered with tar and other grease and grime. It cleaned up very well and on each of the bolsters were stamped the words FATHER OF ALL BARLOWS. Equipped with a narrow spear blade and light brown smooth sawed bone handles, it turned out to be quite an attractive piece and was still in good condition. The accompanying photo shows the reverse side of this knife on which the described bolster stamping can be seen as well as the word ENGLAND on the blade tang. The inset shows the stamp J. BRIGHT SHEFFIELD (2 lines) on the front side of the blade tang. The bolsters are of pressed steel made in one piece (integral) with the handle liners. From a photo of this knife sent to Bernard Levine and his subsequent article of November, 2005 in *Knife World*, he identified the maker of the knife to be "John Bright, 17 Carver St, Sheffield." Mr. Levine judged the knife to have been made around 1893-94 (after the U.S. Tariff Act of 1890 requiring all goods imported to the United States after January 01, 1891, be permanently marked with the country of origin). *Goins' Encyclopedia Of Cutlery Markings* shows the described tang stamping to have been used since 1850

to 1900. Therefore, this self proclaimed "FATHER OF ALL BARLOWS" is certainly senior to all other daddy barlows I will present hereon.



Walden Knife

The next knife to be presented was made by Walden Knife Company of Walden, New York. This knife is shown in the accompanying photo along with an inset of the tang stamp WALDEN KNIFE CO. MADE IN U.S.A. This tang stamp was used from 1874 to 1923 through the eras of E. C. Simmons Hardware Co. and Winchester Arms Co. interests and operations of the Walden factory. The plant closed in September, 1923.

This daddy barlow is 5"+ in closed length, has a large clip blade, brass liners and heavily jagged brown bone handles. The recessed handle shows it to be an easy-opener; but the blade also has a small nail nick.



Russel

The third knife is easily recognized as a daddy barlow made by Russell & Company. It's an easy-opener with a lock-back blade mechanism. It has all steel mounts and a clip blade with a fish scaler (saw tooth pattern) all along the back of the blade. It has flat cut pale

brown bone handles and is 5-1/8" long closed. The same knife has been featured on one or more knife book covers, including the 1998 copy of *Goins' Encyclopedia*. According to this book, the straight line RUSSELL tang stamp dates the manufacture date of this knife between 1884 and 1933.



W.R. Case

The fourth daddy barlow presented herein is 5" long and was made by W. R. Case & Sons. It has the long tail C over TESTEDXX tang stamping dating it to the 1920-1940 period of manufacture. Although the blade demonstrates heavy use, the handles are near perfect with beautiful rough sawed mottled brown bone, and the front cover has a worm groove enhancement running down its center. It's all steel mounted, and the blade still snaps open and closed like a steel trap.



Diamond Edge

Fifth in line for this presentation is a 5" daddy barlow with DIAMOND EDGE stamped into the metal on both bolsters, and a DIAMOND EDGE etching on its large clip blade. This knife was marketed by Shapleigh Hardware Company after its purchase of E. C. Simmons Hardware, and the blade tang is so stamped with SHAPLEIGH HDW. CO around a

*Continued on page 8*

*The Father Of All continued from page 8*

diamond. The knife has very rough sawed dark brown bone handles, a large clip blade and nickel silver bolsters and liners. It also has A150 stamped on the back side of the blade tang, and its date of manufacture was most likely between 1940 and 1960.

The sixth and final daddy barlow to be included in this article remains something of a mystery. I find no reference material showing that Buck Co. every made a daddy barlow, yet I acquired a knife that would bring this into question. The included photo with the inset shows a 5" daddy barlow with black composition handles, brass liners, an oval shield and nickel silver bolsters which clearly have BUCK stamped into them. The front blade tang has U.S.A stamped below something which has clearly been ground out. Could this have been a Buck prototype that was never put into production, or is it simply some sort of a counterfeit knife? It clearly bears more follow up investigation, and I would welcome any information that Club members or others may have that would shed more light on this mystery.

Sincerely,

Reporting from the Hootin' Holler of Birdseye. 🐦



Buck

## The Remington Dynamite Knife

Mike Adamson



Halifax Explosives was a southern California company formed in 1935. They were in business in a location safe for an explosives production facility in a valley north of Los Angeles. By 1942, a munitions company, Bermite powder, had acquired all of Halifax Explosives. Looking back on Remington production history, ceasing operations in 1941. It left a limited amount of time that this undocumented pattern of unique jack knife could have been produced.

The knife is a 3-3/8 inch jugged bone handled jack knife. Looking back through past Remington catalogs, the two possible candidates for the frame of this knife are the R1071, 3-3/8" jack, or the R1073 jack, without the smaller secondary blade and with the addition

of a sheepsfoot master blade from an R1103, or an R1113 3-3/8" jack. The full size sheepsfoot blade had the straight edge that the miners liked best to work with dynamite. The Halifax Explosives diamond shaped shield, with the "blast wave pattern" around the edge of the shield, matches the Halifax Explosives company logo. That is one of the coolest things about this knife.

The final addition of a large bail made this pattern unique. There is no

Remington etch on either blade and no pattern number on the back of the blades. That is in line with what Remington did on their advertising knives. It is hard to imagine that during the latter years of the Great Depression Halifax Explosives was trying to garner extra dynamite sales with this knife. It stands to reason that this was a premium knife given out to special clients or special orders. All of this lends to this great Remington dynamite knife being a rare and valuable collectable pocketknife. 🐦







## OKCA Free Classified Ads

Free classified ads will run up to three issues and then be dropped. Available only to paid members. Write your ad on anything you have handy (except gold leaf sheets) and email or snail mail to the OKCA PO Box 2091 Eugene OR 97402. The number and size of ads submitted by a single member will be accepted, or excepted, dependent on available space and the mood of the editors.

**Ernst Bruckmann knives wanted.** Not the run-of-the-mill Bruckmann knives, please. What I'm after are the larger knives, multi-blade knives and unusual knives in all their various handle materials. Call Bob at (604)538-6214 or email me at crescentknifeworks@gmail.com

**Randall Made Knives:** Buy, sell or trade. Also many custom knives for sale or trade. Visit [www.nifeboy.com](http://www.nifeboy.com) or email [jim@nifeboy.com](mailto:jim@nifeboy.com) or (209)295-5568.

**Knife repair,** restoration and sharpening by a qualified custom knifemaker. Exotic materials, premium quality handmade knives. [KellyLaneKnives@gmail.com](mailto:KellyLaneKnives@gmail.com) - (360)425-7507 [www.KellyLaneKnives.com](http://www.KellyLaneKnives.com)

**For Sale - JET 14" - 120 volt metal cutting band saw - like new \$1,000.00.** Also Porter Cable air compressor on wheels, like new \$200.00 Henry Frank - Newport Oregon (541)265-8683

**Searching for** the 2011, 2012, 2016 and 2018 OKCA Club Knives. I am a collector of GEC "Beaver Tail/Shield" knives. Some of the best, in my opinion, are the OKCA Club knives. I would love to add the 2011 (#362211 Sunfish), 2012 (#571312 Whittler), 2016 (Camp Knife #981416) and 2018 (Oregon Pattern #431118). I am happy to pay the current market prices or slightly more for your generosity and willingness to enhance my collection. You can reach Rob at [nchunter78@gmail.com](mailto:nchunter78@gmail.com)

**For Sale - Mint Randall 50 year commemorative #257 - Call Jim (562)716-9857 or email [jpitt306@earthlink.net](mailto:jpitt306@earthlink.net).**

**Custom Leather** for 43 years. Horsehide and brass nailed knife sheaths. (951)303-4666. Visit [website.mountainmikecustomleather.com](http://website.mountainmikecustomleather.com).

**Wanted:** Sequine knives that are unusual, such as custom orders, gut hooks, or any other unusual models. Please email [jh5jh@aol.com](mailto:jh5jh@aol.com) with a picture attached or call (805)431-2222 and ask for Jack.

**Loveless Style Sheaths:** made to order. Call or text Zac & Sara Buchanan (541)815-2078.

**Niagra Knife Steels:** email [zacbuchanan knives@gmail.com](mailto:zacbuchanan knives@gmail.com) for a quote.

**Wanted:** Remington scout/utility knife with pioneer boys or highlander boy's shield or heroism shield. Email [jpitt306@earthlink.net](mailto:jpitt306@earthlink.net) or phone Jim (562)716-9857.

**Buying OKCA Club Knives** for my personal collection. I am also interested in Wayne Goddard, Ron Lake, Lonewolf (Pre Benchmade), and Spyderco Kopa knives. Call or email Jordan (310)386-4928 - [jgl321@aol.com](mailto:jgl321@aol.com)

**Wanted :** Western Wildlife Series etched knives as follows: 532 bear, 532 eagle, 521 eagle, 534 antelope. Will pay fair price for any. Call Martin (406)442-2783 leave message.

**Knives For Sale:** Antique, custom & factory, pocketknives, folders, fixed blades, dirks, daggers, bowies, military, Indian, frontier, primitive & ethnic. Other collectibles also. Current colored catalog - FREE. Northwest Knives & Collectibles (503)362-9045 anytime.

**Wanted:** 2012 Case XX USA medium stockman #6318 PU CV jugged bone w/punch w/signature of Skip Lawrie. Nuno Sacramento (916)682-9305.

**For Sale:** Buck knives. Large consignment list available from Larry Oden. Typically have Buck standard production, limited edition, BCCI, Buck Custom and Yellow horse models. Email [loden402@gmail.com](mailto:loden402@gmail.com) or call (765)244-0614 8AM-8PM EST.

**Mosaic pins** and lanyard tubes by Sally. See at [www.customknife.com](http://www.customknife.com), email at [sally@customknife.com](mailto:sally@customknife.com). (541)846-6755.

**Blades and knifemaker supplies.** All blades are ground by Gene Martin. I also do custom grinding. See at [www.customknife.com](http://www.customknife.com), contact Gene at [bladesmith@customknife.com](mailto:bladesmith@customknife.com) or call (541)846-6755.

**Eugene 5160 Club:** A Club for knifemakers of all stripes, meeting monthly. Check out our newsletter archive to get a feel for the group: [elementalforge.com/5160Club](http://elementalforge.com/5160Club). Sign up for newsletter & meeting reminders by finding us on Facebook at "5160 Club" and click the "Newsletter Sign up" tab. Non Facebook users can still find us at: [facebook.com/5160Club](http://facebook.com/5160Club).

**Want to Learn to Make a Knife? The \$50 Knife Shop** by Wayne Goddard is back in print and available from Steve Goddard. Also has copies of the Wonder of Knifemaking. Books are \$25.00 plus shipping. Call Steve (541)870-6811 or send an email to [sg2goddard@comcast.net](mailto:sg2goddard@comcast.net)

**Useful reference books on blades.** Collectible knives, custom knives and knifemaking, military knives, swords, tools, and anything else that has an edge. Email for a list. Quality Blade Books C/O Rick Wagner P O Box 41854 Eugene OR 97404 (541)688-6899 or [wagner\\_r@pacinfo.com](mailto:wagner_r@pacinfo.com).

**Knife Laws on-line.** Federal, state, local. Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 [www.knife-expert.com](http://www.knife-expert.com).

The views and opinions implied or expressed herein by authors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the Oregon Knife Collectors Association, its editors, or its officers; and no responsibility for such views will be assumed. The OKCA, its officers and its editors assume no responsibility for claims of advertisers for the quality of goods and services the advertiser provides. The act of mailing or delivering a manuscript or advertisement shall constitute an express warranty on the part of the contributor that the material is original and in no way an infringement upon the rights of others. The act of mailing or delivering a letter or question to the editor shall constitute permission to publish the letter or portion thereof unless the Oregon Knife Collectors Association is informed otherwise in that letter. This Newsletter is devoted to the general interest of the knife community and does not include personal information such as births, deaths and illness. We also strive to use only material that is directed to the world of cut. Our charter mandates that our mailing list of the membership cannot be sold or used by other than the Oregon Knife Collectors Association.

### OKCA Club Whot-zits & Whos Zits

**Craig Morgan**  
President (541)968-5278

**John Priest**  
Vice President (541)517-2029

**Elayne Ellingsen**  
Sec/Tres. (541)484-5564

**Joshua Hill**  
Master at Arms (503)580-8961

**Dennis Ellingsen**  
Show Chairman (541)484-5564

**Newsletter** by elayne & dennis

**Web page** --- <http://www.oregonknifeclub.org/>

**Club email** --- [okca@oregonknifeclub.org](mailto:okca@oregonknifeclub.org)

**Letters to.....**  
*OKCA P O Box 2091 Eugene OR 97402*

**Packages to.....**  
*OKCA 3003 W 11 Ave PMB 172 Eugene OR 97402*

*Copyright (C) 2021 Oregon Knife Collectors Association. No part of this Newsletter may be reproduced without permission of the OKCA.*

*Layout and printing by instaprint -  
1208 W. 6th - Eugene, OR 97402 -  
Phone (541)686-8591*



**The Knewsletter**  
 Oregon Knife Collectors Association  
 PO Box 2091  
 Eugene, OR 97402

PRESORTED  
 FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
 US POSTAGE PAID  
 EUGENE OR  
 PERMIT NO. 17



# OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

## Membership Application

email: [okca@oregonknifeclub.org](mailto:okca@oregonknifeclub.org)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Eve ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Day ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Collector  Knifemaker  Dealer  Mfr./Distrib.  Other \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

OKCA membership includes knewsletter, dinner/swap meetings, free admission to OKCA shows.

Start/ Renew my/our OKCA membership (\$20 individual/\$25 family) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

