



BOB & MARGIE BROWNER

Unlike some who have guarded their professional secrets jealously, Keith Neubauer was always more than willing to share his knowledge with anyone who was interested enough to learn from him. In addition to Bob Browner, others who learned many of their skills at Keith's side include Louie Parker and Don Stith. There were others as well.

Before Keith's death from cancer, he told Bob, "All I ever did was figure it out." That simple piece of wisdom has served Bob well for several decades.

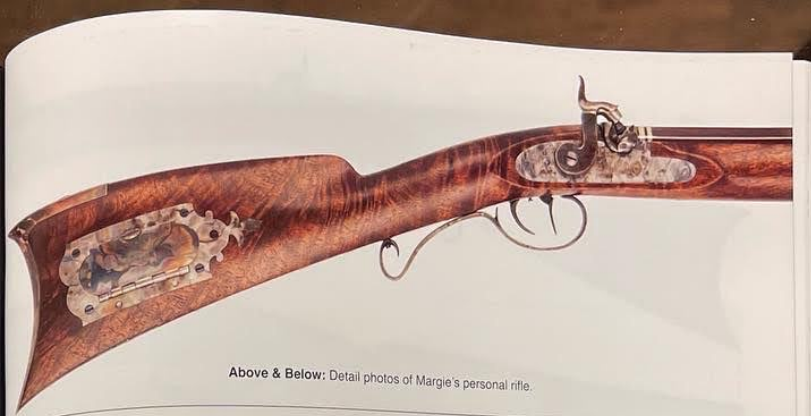
The brothers Jacob and Samuel Hawken loomed large in Bob's fascination with

antique firearms, growing up as he did in historically-rich St. Louis, Missouri, "the Gateway to the West".

One day he told Keith that he wanted to build a Hawken rifle. Keith laughed and shook his head. He said



Margie's latest personal shooter (She thinks she owns them all, but this one is really her's). It is a .50 caliber, light Plains Rifle, with handmade furniture, made from a walnut board, which had laid around Keith Neubauer's shop for years, and in Bob's for several more. She shoots it very well (must have had a good teacher).



Above & Below: Detail photos of Margie's personal rifle.



"I could build three good Kentucky rifles in the time it would take to build one truly authentic Hawken." They both knew that anything less would never suit either of them. Bob Browner subsequently built his first Hawken rifle in 1979-1980. He is currently working on number 43. In addition, he has built around twenty-five high-powered rifles, as well as ten Kentucky rifles.

settling in the Commonfields of Prairie DuPont, about one mile east of the Village of Prairie DuPont (now Dupo), St. Clair County, Illinois. Dupo is about two miles east of the Mississippi River, and eight miles south of St. Louis, Missouri. Creamer was born in Frederick County, Maryland in 1774 or 1775. He was a master gunsmith in Taneytown, Maryland, at least as early as 1799. He was among the very finest

Manuel Lisa's expedition to the Upper Missouri River in 1809. It seems probable that some, if not all of those rifles, were made by Creamer.

In addition to Creamer's civilian gunsmith shop, he was also employed as gunsmith to "the Indians on the Illinois River", and maintained a second shop in Madison County, Illinois, for that purpose. In January of 1816, he relocated his

When asked what gun has been his greatest challenge, he said it would have to have been the copy of the Philip Creamer dueling pistol, built for the Contemporary Longrifle Association auction in 2013. Philip Creamer had come west from Maryland in 1805,

makers of "Golden Age" Kentucky rifles, prior to setting out for "the West" in 1805. Soon after his arrival, he was supplying guns, both rifles and pistols, to Bryan & Morrison, who were outfitters in Cahokia and Kaskaskia, Illinois. They supplied the rifles for

primary gunsmith shop to a location in Madison County, directly north of St. Clair County. He remained there until the Indian Agency closed in 1821. Among Creamer's apprentices during that time period was a young Jim Bridger, who was apprenticed to