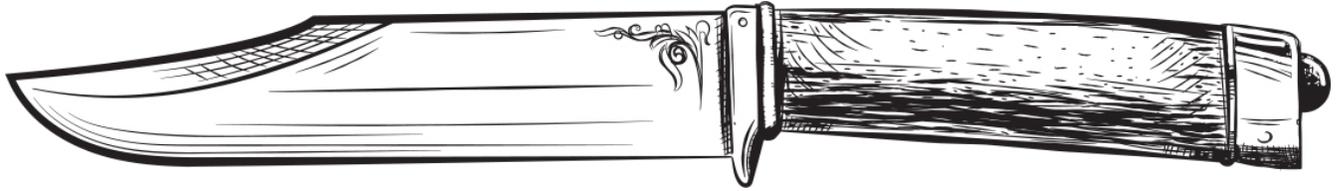


OLDE TOWNE

Post-Dispatch

October 2017

Volume I



GREAT KNIFE STORIES IN HISTORY

THE BEGINNING OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS ...and the role of the pocket knife

Man's oldest tool has been everywhere that we as a species have been. It's odd to think about in those terms, but the knife was just as indispensable for astronauts exploring outer space as it was for Spanish Conquistadors or the Mongol conquest of Asia. Thus, one would think that **"Great Knife Stories in History"** would be an easy thing to uncover. But the knife is so familiar that it is often overlooked as the ultimate valuable tool. Occasionally, the simple role of the knife dramatically changes history, and its impact is indisputable. The following story should fascinate people across a wide array of interests, including medicine, military history, knife enthusiasts, and women's interest. The following is a letter, written by an American who eventually became famous. At the conclusion we will reveal the impact of the story. Enjoy!

"A man lying upon the ground asked for a drink. I stooped to give it, and having raised him with my right hand, was holding the cup to his lips with my left, when I felt a sudden twitch of the loose sleeve of my dress. The poor fella sprang from my hands and felt back quivering in the agonies of death. A ball had passed between my body and the right arm which supported him, cutting through the sleeve and passing through his chest from shoulder to shoulder.

The patient endurance of those men was most astonishing. As many

as could be were carried into the barn as a slight protection against random shot. Just outside the door, lay a man wounded in the face. The ball having entered the lower jaw on

the left side, and lodged among the bones of the right cheek. His imploring look drew me to him. When placing his fingers upon the sharp protrusion he said, *"lady will you tell me what this is that burns so?"*

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I replied that it must be the ball which had been too far spent to cut its way entirely through. *"It is terribly painful"*, he said. *"Won't you take it out?"* I said I would go for a surgeon. *"No, no"* he said, catching my dress. *"They cannot come to me. I must wait*

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

Do you like a newsletter like this? We have a three-part structure which includes a *"Historical Interest"* story, a *"Meet a Knifemaker"* section, and a *"Product Feature and Review"* portion. If you have a story that you would like to share or have us investigate, please email us at Info@OTCutlery.com.

my turn for this is a little wound. You can get the ball. Please take the ball out for me."

This was a new call. I had never severed the nerves and fibers of human flesh, and I said I could not hurt him so much. He looked up with as nearly a smile as his mangled face could assume, saying, "*you cannot hurt me dear lady. I can endure any pain that your hands can create. Please do it. It will relieve me so much.*"

I could not withstand his entreaty, and opening the best blade of my pocket knife, I prepared for the operation. Just at his head lay a stalwart sergeant from Illinois, with a face beaming with intelligence and kindness, who had a bullet directly through the fleshy part of both

hope from the gratitude of the patient."

Clara Barton Union Nurse

This is the story of Clara's experience at the Battle of Antietam in the American Civil War. The battle took place on September 17, 1862, which was early in the Civil War. Though Clara Barton had been present at the few previous major engagements, the methodologies of her nursing endeavors were far from mature. Clara was just learning what to do and how best to render assistance in these types of emergencies.

It may surprise modern Americans to realize that so much of what we take for granted today as part of standard military practice

vivid image that she paints for the reader. What she doesn't describe though is what this experience led her to do. The concept of "Triage" was not established at this point in history. That being; the assessment of patients into categories whereby certain priority is given to urgent procedure, which would diminish the likelihood of a treatable injury being fatal, or the reduction of the severity of the disability by performing certain treatment. Prior to this concept being developed, the injured were treated in a hodgepodge manner with different standards and practices. Clara realized that certain procedures could be applied and lives saved or a debilitating permanent injury diminished.



thighs. He had been watching the scene with great interest, and when he saw me commence to raise the poor fellow's head and no one to support it, with a desperate effort he succeeded in raising himself to a sitting position and exclaiming as he did so, "*I will help do that*", and took the wounded head in his hands and held it while I extracted the ball and washed and bandaged the face. I do not think a surgeon would pronounce it a scientific operation, but that it was successful, I dared to

and general medical procedure, were not accepted practices at the outbreak of the Civil War. For example, there wasn't even a formal method for gathering the wounded and dead on the battlefield, and field manuals barely addressed the topic. Medical practices were shockingly under-prepared for the volume of human suffering that immediately overwhelmed both armies.

The human emotion described in Clara's words seem to penetrate through time. It is an amazingly

Though Clara Barton was not a surgeon and did not perform many procedures like the one described, she learned this incredibly important lesson from the event; that relatively minor procedures could be performed immediately, making tremendous positive impact; and that these decisions should be standardized and applied with uniform consistency so nurses could be trained for maximum effectiveness.

Clara Barton went on to become one of the most important actors in the larger Civil War drama, and from that, made a lifelong commitment in establishing the American Red Cross. It was her pocket knife that propelled her thoughts that terrible September day. The indispensable tool played its part beautifully. We don't know what type of knife it was.

Likely it was made in Sheffield England, as most pocket cutlery in America at that time was imported from Britain.

We can only speculate what the pattern was, but it would probably be familiar to us today. Traditional pocket knives are as popular as ever, and the manufacturers in the States

and Europe continue to produce phenomenal products. Every American should have at least one; if for no other reason than to pay homage to a national hero like Clara Barton.

MEET YOUR MAKER

Todd Hunt of T.M. Hunt Custom Knives Defines the Character of the New American Knife Maker

Todd Hunt, owner of T. M. Hunt Custom Knives, grew up in Seymour, Indiana, and from a very young-age, he remembers standing on a milk crate watching his father making knives as a hobby. *"It always amazed me how something so useful could be made with nothing more than a couple of tools, and some hard-work,"* explains Todd. It forged a lasting image of craftsmanship and what a quality tool was supposed to be.

the machining trade taught him the properties materials and metallurgy.

In 2013, he quit his full-time job of almost 20 years to pursue his passion, and set out to try to reintroduce fine craftsmanship, a sense of accomplishment, and pride in his products through hand crafted cutlery. Todd has sold knives in over a dozen different countries, has been featured in 6 different magazines

hand, one at a time at his home shop!)

The business has been growing and this past February Todd brought on long-time friend Rick Bain to work alongside in the shop. They make a good team and produce work that will amaze you.

Todd's work has been featured in the following publications:

- Self-Reliance Illustrated



Throughout life, Todd has enjoyed hobbies such as hunting, fishing, camping, martial arts, and metal fabrication; which always advanced his understanding in the use of knives. His career in

to date, sold knives to celebrities, and even had his knives featured on the Food Network and the Discovery Channel. (Pretty good considering each piece is painstakingly made entirely by

Issue #14 (Cover Article)

- Tactical Knives Magazine September 2013 Issue (Feature Article)

- S.W.A.T. Magazine July 2013 Issue (Feature Article)
- Self-Reliance Illustrated Issue #22
- The New Pioneer Magazine Spring 2015 Issue (Review)
- Woods Monkey May 2015 Issue,

Todd has also been featured in The Knife Journal and Murphnuge's Podcasts.

Todd is a phenomenal craftsman with rock solid integrity and unparalleled ethical standards. This is evident in his work, and you can feel the sense of pride in each piece he makes. When Todd personally delivered his first order to us at Olde Towne Cutlery, he said to us, *"Now that you have bought my product, I am in your employ. We will do anything you need to help you be successful"*. You can't ask for a better commitment than that,

and it comes from the heart. Knifemaking is Todd's passion as well as his paycheck, and that passion and integrity is why he is successful. If you own one of his creations, you will be as proud to own it as he was to make it for you. And that's a guarantee.

FEATURED PRODUCT AND REVIEW

Winkler Combat Axes, Hogue X5's, and the T.M. Hunt M-18 Custom

WINKLER COMBAT AXE – Curly Maple – Caswell Finish. When I first saw this product, I flipped out. I didn't know that an axe could be made as cool as this. It has a Caswell Finish, Smooth Curly Maple handle scales, and a Kydex Carrier. Daniel Winkler designed this Combat Axe after working with special



operation field teams. When Daniel says in his motto, "Been there and Back", and here is a perfect application where it applies. You won't find a better designed product because the input comes from this collaborative effort from people who've actually "Been There". This Axe features a full length integral tapered and skeletonized tang. It is a "no-fail" handle with forward weight distribution for perfect balance. The upper portion of the tang has a swell for a choked-up grip. The butt of the tang has a glass breaker, which extends past the handle material. The head has a rear spike and a 2 1/2" blade.

www.oldtownecutlery.com/product/winkler-knives-ii-combat-axe-caswellsmooth-curly-maple/

HOGUE X5 Black Cerakote Blade w/ Black Aluminum and Black G-Mascus Insert. This Hogue is a flipper with CPM 154 Stainless Steel, Black Cerakote finish, G-Mascus Black G10 Insert, Black Aluminum frame. Hogue knives comes with a limited lifetime warranty and are built to last. The experience of three



generations of craftsmanship by USA Master Toolmakers go into these knives. The design is rendered by former Marine Recon Allen Elishewitz. He knocked it out of the park with this exceptionally ergonomic design. This futuristic style is actually exceptionally comfortable. The tip is perfectly aligned with the center line of the knife. This makes any pointing task like an extension of your finger. This handle is lightweight aluminum with a G10 G-Mascus insert and a reversible pocket clip. This knife has a button lock with a manual safety to prevent accidental deployment. It's a completely awesome knife. I've got one that I carry all the time. I love the wharny blade.

www.oldtownecutlery.com/product/hogue-knives-x5-3/

T.M. Hunt Custom Knives – Custom M-18. This is the same famous pattern that you may have seen on TV. However, Todd has taken this to the next level with some major upgrades. The handle is grade 5 Curly Maple and it comes with a handmade leather sheath. The M-18 can be used for a variety of functions;



as a machete, a draw knife, a chopper, a riving knife and so much more. With Todd's superb heat treat you could probably shave with it too. I'll say this, if I had to go on the show, "Naked and Afraid" I'd take this tool too. No doubt about it. We've got only one of the customs but have more of the standard M-18's.

Melissa and I sincerely hope this newsletter had something you found useful or interesting. Thank you so much for taking the time to look at our business. This is a new endeavor for us and we are honored to be a part of this wonderful industry. Please keep checking the site for new product as more items are rolling in each week. And if you can come to north Georgia, we would love to see you at our next event – *the Southern Handmade Knife Show!* Thank you for reading. Lee

November 11, 2017

Southern Handmade Knife Show

Location: Jaemor Farms-Alto

5340 Cornelia Hwy, Alto, GA 30510 9:00am to 5:00pm

Directions: <http://www.jaemorfarms.com/directions>

Best News: Open to all & no admission fees!

*****Come see the Olde Towne Cutlery booth!*****



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