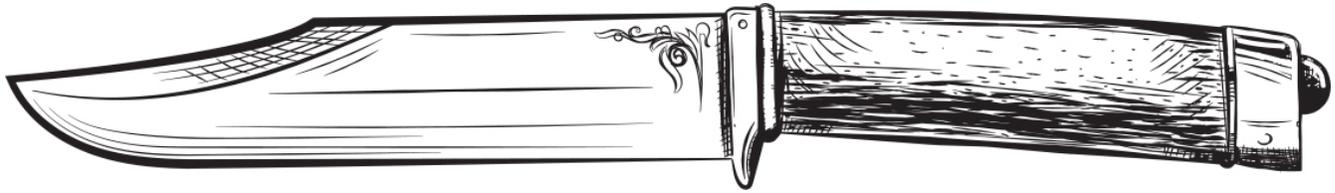


OLDE TOWNE

Post-Dispatch

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Volume XI



GREAT KNIFE STORIES IN HISTORY

TUMBLING WATERS

I felt it; if only briefly. If you are an outdoor person, you will immediately know what I'm talking about. That first time you walk outside in late summer and you feel a crispness to the air. It's that Indian-Summer feeling where it is still warm but not sticky. The wind feels different; the air not so heavy. I almost turned around and went to the closet to find my backpack. Later that day, Melissa said she wanted to go have a picnic at our favorite spot; Amicalola Falls



State Park. We were married here and had many a picnic at the Top-of-the-Falls when we were courting. We

have backpacked from the other side of Springer Mountain on the AT into Amicalola Falls State Park. So, this is one special place to us. We love it. The park has been regularly named as one of the best state parks in the country by a host of different organizations, including National Geographic. It is notable for many reasons, the most important being that it is essentially the Southern Terminus of the Appalachian Trail, and it has the highest waterfall east of the Rocky Mountains; 729 feet (which is four times the height of Niagara)!



This month we wanted to feature this stunning park as a prelude to a larger story about the Appalachian Trail. The park lies in the northwest corner of Dawson County, Georgia, due west of Dahlonega and south east of Ellijay, Georgia. The park features a grand lodge at the top of the falls with a stunning view of north Georgia. There are four trail systems within the park, including the AT Approach trail which leads you to the summit of Springer Mountain.



The first written account of the falls was by a man named William Williamson (who apparently did not have very creative parents). Williamson was scouting the area just prior to the 1832 Land Lottery, when he wrote, *“In the course of my route in the Mountains I discovered a Water Fall perhaps the greatest in the World the most majestic Scene that I have ever witnessed or heard of the Creek passes over the mountain & the fall I think can't be less than Six hundred Yards. The Mountain is at least three fourths of a mile high. I made great exertions to get on the summit, but the ascent was so great that I was completely exhausted by the time I reached half way. My position was such that I had a perfect view of the entire Fall. The Stream is Called Um-ma-eolola from the Fall (Tumbling Waters).”*

The first significant development in the area was in 1852 by the Crane family, who built a grist mill just below the falls to serve the mountain communities. Eight years later, Methodists built a campground to hold revivals in the area. The Civil War was particularly hard on north Georgia, because the largely pro-union Scotch-Irish were at odds with their fellow Georgians who lived south of the mountains. Many served in the Union Army, and there is even a historical marker on the subject on the grounds of the local courthouse. Later in the war, major battles took place just to the west at places like Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain and Allatoona Pass.

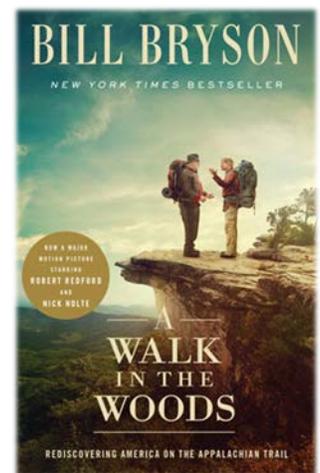


The grist mill operated into the 20th century, and the Crane family even ran a general store in the area through the depression. On the eve of World War II, they sold their portion of property to the state for the development of the park. In 1958, the Appalachian Trail Society decided to move the southern terminus of the trail to Springer Mountain from Mount Oglethorpe due to developmental pressure. Amicalola Falls State park could then serve as the southern terminus with adequate parking, check in, emergency services and more.

As mentioned, Amicalola Falls is the launching point for many a hiker bound for a life-altering journey on the AT. If you're a hiker, you understand how the outdoors has a spiritual healing element. John Muir said, "*In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.*" Amicalola Falls State Park is a sort-of Mecca for those seeking this solitude and intimacy with the natural world. The park welcomes more than 6 million visitors a year, and is host to scores of reunions, school trips, and weddings (including mine and Melissa's).



It has also been featured in popular literature and film. The funniest book ever written (according to me anyway), is titled *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson. It's the story of two out of shape, slightly over middle-aged guys who rekindle a strained friendship by going out and attempting to hike this enormous challenge. Spoiler alert – they don't finish the trail and nearly kill each other and themselves in the process. Robert Redford thought the book was so funny that he bought the rights to the film and starred in his own movie in 2015 alongside Nick Nolte. I would also argue that this was Nick's best role ever; an absolute laugh riot. Some of the movie was filmed in the park, and there is one scene where they are setting off on the approach trail right behind the visitor center.



Amicalola Falls has several other facilities in addition to the spectacular lodge. For those backpackers who want to have a little more comfort, there is an inn called the Len Foote Hike Inn, which is only accessible by a five-mile hike. The facility is picturesque with family style meals and comfortable bunks. And the park is home to the black bear conservation



program; an enormously successful campaign that has brought the bear back to a very healthy population, (just ask our dog Idgy – she loses her mind when one walks through the yard). There are even birds-of-prey rehabilitated here and a fantastic ranger education program.

Come see this wonderful park the next time you have the opportunity. And if you come after the first of October, you can come to the Olde Towne Cutlery brick-and-mortar store at Settendown Village! We can't wait to see you!

MEET YOUR MAKER

Damon Lusky of ALFA-KNIFE

When it comes to fit, finish, there are some corners that just can't be cut. But then there is different level of skill that adds another dimension to crazy good execution. Sometimes a maker comes along and blows the doors off all aspects of a good custom knife. Damon Lusky is that guy. When I look at his work, I can't find anything that he could improve upon. These are simply top of the line customs that perform even better than they look. Damon's knives round out our product offering by being one of the best values for the money too. The work could easily command more money, but Damon will be the first to say that he wants his product to be affordable.



Damon is one of the most down-to-earth guys I've ever met. He approaches everything with prudence and patience, but there is room for a little eccentricity. The first time I met him at his shop, I noticed a few cages with birds in them. Upon closer look, these were not pets. They were falcons. Damon is a falconer. [Check out more in this link.](#) And this is a family affair as his wife Jill is just as skilled with these birds as Damon.

Damon is also a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Martial Arts instructor and specializes in the use of edged weapons. He is a certified instructor through Gracie Barra and is responsible for the training of soldiers, EMT, law enforcement and athletes including children and adults. To see [more on this, click here.](#)

ALFA-KNIFE is the Brand created from Damon's passion for metal arts. As a self-taught welder and blacksmith, Damon apprenticed under several noted knife-makers, Dylan Fletcher being one of them. When a young maker apprentices under someone, it is always a challenge for them to create their own style. But Damon quickly developed his signature designs and finishes that clearly delineate his own identity, and when you see his work, you know right away that it's his. We are very proud to represent ALFA-KNIFE and Melissa and I think the world of Damon and Jill Lusky.



FEATURED PRODUCT AND REVIEW

This week we have selected some really amazing custom product. These are some of the best knives on the whole site. We are proud to represent these makers. Take a look below.

ALFA-KNIFE – Patriot in Richlite w/ natural pinout

These knives are EXCEPTIONAL. Alfa Knife, Patriot, Richlite handle, Natural pinout, black micarta liner, 5/32" A2 steel, stonewashed finish, skeletonized full tang, and measures 5 1/2" blade, OAL 10 1/2", and comes with a kydex sheath. This would be a great pick on your side for an EDC! This knife has an excellent look and is a very comfortable fit in your hand with the Richlite material. It will not disappoint you. We love the name of the model that Damon picked for this knife, "Patriot", it is very fitting for the blade! This knife was also featured in Knives Illustrated!

\$260

[To see all the ALFA-KNIFE products in stock, click here](#)



Southern Longbeards Lil' Karen in African Blackwood

If you haven't held one of Seth's knives, you're missing out. Southern Longbeards, Lil Karen, African Blackwood handle, 3/16", 52100 Steel, hidden tang, red spacer, brass guard and leather sheath. The lines on this knife are just plain 'sexy'. The grip is ergonomic and very comfortable for long periods of use. The Lil' Karen comes in slightly smaller than the Karen model. This is a great knife and Seth's work is sure to be sought after by future collectors.

\$160

[To see all the Southern Longbeards Knives in stock, click here](#)



Fletcher Knives – Delta 5 Jute Burlap

The Delta 5, Sapphire Jute Burlap, Black liner and Natural & Lime pinstripe, 5/32" O1 Carbon Steel, skeletonized full tang, 5" blade, OAL 10 1/4", Kydex sheath. This is an amazing Delta 5 fixed blade made by Dylan Fletcher of Fletcher Knives. The fit, finish and execution are outstanding. The Jute Burlap with the natural and lime pinstripe pair together well. You won't be disappointed in this knife. It would be a great EDC, hunting knife or one to display and it comes with a Kydex sheath.

\$291



[To see all the Fletcher Knives in stock, click here](#)

Lion Steel - SR-11 Black on Black

Lion Steel is emerging as one of the finest cutlery makers in the world. They have repeatedly won awards at the Blade Show and they produce a knife with cutting edge techniques (sorry for the pun). For example, most knife companies machine two halves of a handle. The Molleta and SR11 are all milled out of one solid piece of aluminum. Pivot pins and other hardware are perfectly machined to blend with the frame. They have also incorporated their RotoBlock System, which enables you to turn a folder into a fixed blade. You will not be disappointed in this knife. We put the quality up against anything else in the world.

\$202.99



[To see all the Lion Steel products in stock, click here](#)

Boker Congress – Smoky Grey Bone

Boker, out of Solingen, makes an outstanding product. This Congress in smooth smoky grey bone, has carbon steel blades, brass liners, and a closed length 3 3/4", 1 3/4", 2" 2 1/4" blades, 5 3/4" OAL. Boker knives have an excellent "walk and talk," which adds to the overall execution of this knife.

\$59.95

[To see all the Boker products in stock, click here](#)



AND THE WINNER IS!...



As part of our Capital Campaign which is meant to drive sales for our Brick and Mortar store, our wonderful community of knife makers have donated a knife to give away as part of our promotion to build awareness for the store. This is the conclusion of the first week. The knife is an Esteban II by Fletcher Knives. Dylan Fletcher really outdid himself with this knife and we are super proud to represent his amazing work. Dylan is a great guy and you will be seeing a lot more of his product “on our shelves”. Thank you, Dylan, for this knife. **The winner is JEREMIAH S. of TULSA, OKLAHOMA.**

WEEK TWO

GIVE-A-WAY KNIFE!

The next knife in the give-a-way is non-other-than an ALFA-KNIFE PATRIOT. This knife was featured in Knives Illustrated and is an outstanding pattern. Damon put tremendous time and effort into this design and you will be amazed at the fit and finish.

So how do you enter to win??

See below for details!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are raising capital for our brick and mortar store, and our wonderful knifemakers have generously donated a knife to give-a-way to help drive some sales.

We are going to ***GIVE-A-WAY*** one knife per week.

EACH ORDER PLACED WITH US AUTOMATICALLY ENTERS YOU FOR EACH WEEKS DRAWING. (One order will enter you for ***all sixteen*** possibilities).

We have loaded the wagon with knives, and now we need to have three great sales months in a row to build some capital and make this a success. ***So now all we need is YOU!***

The GIVE-A-WAY

- Between now and the end of October, we are going to ***GIVE-A-WAY*** one really amazing knife per week. ***SIXTEEN TOTALLY AWESOME KNIVES***
- **Each person who places an order is automatically entered to win.**
- Each week the winner will be announced in the Friday email. The knife for the following week will be listed and the maker promoted.
- The **GRAND PRIZE** will be a custom-made display case.

The Details

- Technically this is a give-a-way because we can't legally hold a lottery, so free entry forms are available by [clicking this link](#).
- One entry makes you eligible for every weeks give-a-way. So if you enter the first week, you are eligible for any/all of the knives through the end of the campaign.
- No purchase is necessary for the giveaway. Although, your information is captured on an order and all orders are counted as submissions.
- If you place an order, no further action is necessary - except reading the weekly email from us to see if you won!
- Each winner will be randomly selected from all entrants from the beginning of the Capital Campaign Give-A-Way.
- Product will be shipped to recipient free of charge. (US residents only. If winner is in another country, postage may be requested)
- No product will exceed \$600 value and therefore does NOT need to be registered with the IRS.
- [Official Rules can be seen at this link here:](#)

[To see our short video shot on-location, click here](#)

We sincerely appreciate our wonderful customers and friends. Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We appreciate your interest and support. Have a great weekend everyone!

Lee & Melissa

1-833-GOT-KNIVES (468-5648)

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Please don't forget to follow us on Social Media!

