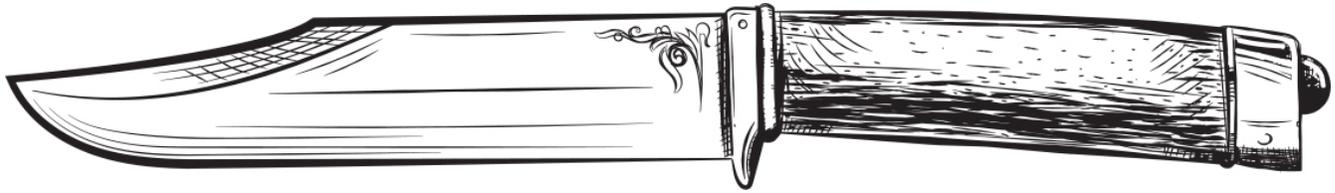


OLDE TOWNE

Post-Dispatch

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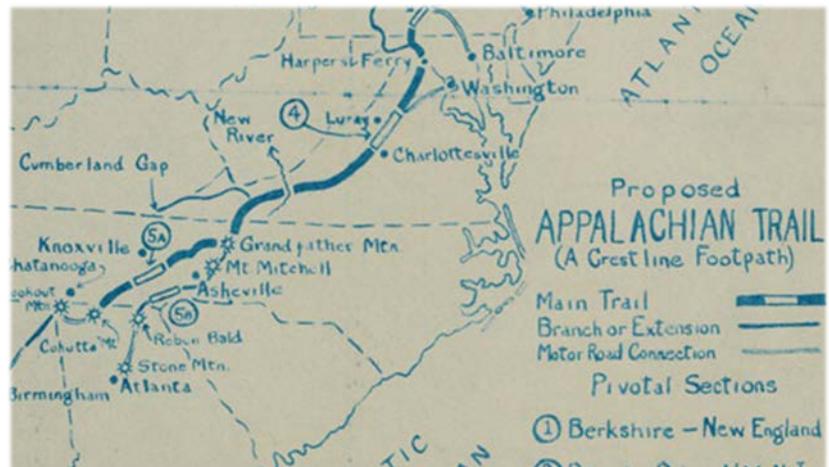
GREAT KNIFE STORIES IN HISTORY

THE GREATEST WALKING TRAIL IN THE WORLD - PART 1

It has more accolades that space to mention, and it is known the world over by outdoor enthusiasts. Countless have tried to conquer its length in one shot, and many succeed. Most see it as a place to escape the rigors of modern life, and they do sections at a time, which punctuates mundane, cubicle-confined lives with serene mountain beauty and fresh air. The Appalachian Trail is a lot of different things to different people, but one thing it is for all of us; it's OUR collective trail. Let's explore the origin of this trail and see how it has become The Greatest Walking Trail in the World.

In 1921, a forester named Benton Mackay proposed his idea titled, "An Appalachian Trail, A Project in Regional Planning". The project

called for a trail which would connect various areas where city-slickers could come to work-study camps and learn about conservation, wildlife management, and gain an appreciation for the outdoors. With a little promotion, the idea quickly established support, and by 1925, the Appalachian Trail Conference (now called



the Appalachian Trail Conservancy) had formed. Several other men were instrumental in the formation of what we think of as the AT today, but it really developed in stages as a patchwork of sections that had to be stitched together to create a singular trail. Arthur Perkins, Myron Avery, and Ned Anderson were some of the early influential leaders; with Avery serving as the ATC Chairman until his death in 1952. (Avery was the first to complete the trail end-to-end in 1936, though not as a "thru-hike".)



By 1937, the AT was considered “complete”, and stretched from Maine to Georgia. A year later however, a major hurricane damaged much of the trail in New England, and the country was soon pulled into World War II. Manpower, especially volunteer manpower, was severely diminished, and the trail wasn’t fully traversable until 1951 when Earl V. Shaffer, was able to locate enough of the Trail to hike from Georgia to Maine in a single journey; something the ATC believed could not be done.

Murray Stevens of New York and Stanley Murray of Tennessee led the efforts to create Federal protection of the trail, and even garnered the support of then-First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson. In 1968, President Johnson signed legislation creating the National Trails System Act, 47 years after MacKaye’s original proposal was published. The A.T. became the first National Scenic Trail, which was designates as a unit of the National Park System. Mackay’s Dream was now a reality to be protected in perpetuity.



But the challenges were not yet over. There were scores of unprotected buffer areas, privately held portions, and areas of the trail threatened by development. The long journey to acquire these portions had to move forward; a legislative and procurement journey that was technically not complete until 2014.

Today, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy is the administrator of the trail system, with oversight from the National Park System. It has stood as a model for successful

trail stewardship and other trail organizations have emulated its successes. Other trail systems have even linked to it, such as the [International Appalachian Trail](#), [The Benton Mackay Trail](#), [The Pinhoti Trail](#) and [The Eastern Continental Trail](#).

Located at Springer Mountain in Georgia, the southern terminus of the trail is reached from an approach trail out of Amicalola Falls State Park; which we covered in [Newsletter Volume XI](#). The northern terminus is at Mount Katahdin in Maine. Some interesting statistics are as follows:



- More than 2,700 people thru-hike each year, and many books, documentaries, websites, and fan organizations are dedicated to the pursuit. Some hike from one end to the other, then turn around and thru-hike the trail the other way, known as a "yo-yo".
- The Appalachian Trail, the [Continental Divide Trail](#), and the [Pacific Crest Trail](#) form what is known as the Triple Crown of Hiking in the United States. In 2001, Brian Robinson became the first one to complete all three trails in a year. In 2015, Heather Anderson became the first woman to hold the unsupported record on the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail simultaneously.



- Several short segments of the trail, in towns and scenic natural areas, were built to ADA accessibility standards for wheelchair use.
- In addition to official shelters, many people offer their homes, places of business, or inns to accommodate AT hikers.
- Historically, only about 10% to 15% of those who make the attempt report to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy that they completed it. However, since 2001, the number of people starting out in Georgia to do a thru-hike (or at least registering to do so) has dropped considerably, yet the number of people reporting that they have completed a thru-hike has remained approximately the same. This has resulted in an apparent increase in the completion rate to 29%.

- Trail hikers who attempt to complete the entire trail in a single season are called "thru-hikers"; those who traverse the trail during a series of separate trips are known as "section-hikers". Rugged terrain, weather extremes, illness, injury, and the time and effort required make thru-hiking difficult to accomplish.



- The Appalachian Trail is usually thru-hiked south to north (that is, Georgia to Maine) rather than vice versa. Most thru-hikers walk northward from Georgia to Maine, and generally start out in early spring and follow the warm weather as it moves north. These "north-bounders" are also called NOBO (NOrthBOund) or GAME (Georgia (GA)-to-Maine (ME)), while those heading in the opposite direction are termed "south-bounders" (also SOBO or MEGA).
- A thru-hike generally requires five to seven months, although some have done it in three months, and several trail runners have completed the trail in less time.

- The Appalachian Trail Conservancy gives the name "2000 Miler" to anyone who completes the entire trail. The ATC's recognition policy for "2000 Milers" gives equal recognition to thru-hikers and section-hikers, operates on the honor system, and recognizes blue-blazed trails or officially required roadwalks as substitutes for the official, white-blazed route



during an emergency such as a flood, forest fire, or impending storm on an exposed, high-elevation stretch. More than 11,000 people have reported completing the entire trail. About three-quarters of these are thru-hikers.

Fastest known times for self-supported attempts (meaning no vehicle or crew support, implying carrying a heavy backpack):

- Joe McConaughy completed the trail northbound, on August 31, 2017 in 45 days, 12 hours and 15 minutes.
- Heather Anderson completed the trail, southbound, on September 24, 2015, in 54 days, 7 hours and 48 minutes.

Fastest known times for supported attempts (the athletes travel light, relying on a support crew with food, shelter, medical treatment, etc.):

- Karl Meltzer, southbound, on September 18, 2016, in 45 days, 22 hours, and 38 minutes.
- Karel Sabbe completed the trail, northbound, on August 29, 2018 in 41 days, 7 hours and 39 minutes.
- Joe, Heather, Karl, and Karel are all considered officially NUTS



Age records

- On October 26, 2017, Dale "Grey Beard" Sanders became the oldest person to hike the entire Appalachian Trail at age 82. Dale must be one cool dude. I'll be he carried an awesome [Fiddleback Forge](#) custom knife!

That is the abbreviated history of the Appalachian Trail. Next month we will explore the various regions and what you can expect to see if you get out and enjoy yourself on this fabulous outdoor playground. Thanks so much for reading. We hope you enjoyed this month's story.

MEET YOUR MAKER

Wayne Hensley – PRO KNIFEMAKER

Sometimes when you meet people for the first time you immediately feel like you've been friends for a lifetime. That magnetism is something few people have, but when they have it, their charm is endearing and captivating. Wayne Hensley is one of those type of folks.

We first met Wayne at a Georgia Custom Knife Guild Meeting back in 2017. His (much younger) boss Rebecca had just finished giving him a list of things to do, and as soon as he noticed that she wasn't looking, he ducked away and came over to chat knives. It was then that I learned that this was no hobbyist knifemaker. Wayne has dedicated much of his life to this trade, and there are few we have met that are as accomplished. After a fascinating conversation about the development of the knifemakers guild, the boss caught him goofing off with me and put him back to work. Alas I knew I needed to make the trip to Conyers to see his shop and more of his work.



We kid Rebecca only because she is so good at what she does. It takes a special woman to manage a knifemakers life. As a dealer who knows a lot of makers, let me assure you that knife makers aren't going to win any awards for organization. Well, at least not an award that they

would WANT to win. Rebecca has managed Wayne's books, show schedule, guild and club posts, and so much more. She has been Wayne's devoted assistant, and together they make a great team.

When I made the trip to Conyers' Georgia, I was introduced to a shop with a lifetime of knifemaking. Handmade tools, clamps, and materials abounded, and the wall of patterns was inspirational. I loved it. He joked that he had dust in his shop older than his grandson. I later learned as Rebecca helped me write his page bio that the dust was older than me too! (Born in '75) Lol. Dust or no dust, Wayne has forgotten more about knifemaking that most of us will ever know.

Wayne G. Hensley began making knives part-time in 1973 while holding down a full-time job. He joined the Knifemakers' Guild in 1977 and is currently serving on the Board of Directors as Vice President. When Wayne began making knives, his distinct signature stamp was "wHg", inside of an arrowhead; but in 1980, Wayne changed the stamp to "HENSLEY". This change helps to date Wayne's work. Wayne became a full-time knifemaker in 1999 after his retirement



from a 38 years' career with BellSouth Telecommunications. Wayne, along with his wife Rebecca, reside in Conyers, Georgia USA and he currently holds memberships in The Chattahoochee Cutlery Club, Flint River Knife Club, and a Past President and is a Charter Member of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild as well as a previous board member.

Wayne was recently recognized at the Flint River Knife Club meeting for 45 Years of dedication to the craft. It was an honor to be there and hear him speak to the group about his experiences and friends he has made along the way.

Olde Towne Cutlery is proud to represent Wayne Hensley and we believe you will find a remarkable product when you hold his knife in your hand!

FEATURED PRODUCT AND REVIEW

This week we have some amazing items featured from Wayne Hensley to Vintage slip-joints.

WAYNE HENSLEY BOWIE STAG KNIFE

The Bowie Knife has Stag handles with a red pinstripe, and is made from 3/16" ATS34 steel, with a tapered tang. The blade length is 6 7/8", with an OAL of 12". This Bowie knife made by Wayne has stunning Stag handles. It features a red pinstripe, a nickel silver finger guard, a flat grind and top swage. It comes with a leather sheath handmade by Wayne. This is a truly beautiful and collectible piece.

\$425



[To see all of Wayne Hensley's work in stock, click here](#)

VINTAGE CASE BARLOW 62009 1/2 SAWCUT AMBER BONE

If you're a Case collector, check this Barlow out! Vintage Case Barlow 62009 1/2 with a Sawcut Amber Bone handle. It is a USA era, which means it dates back to 1970. The blade is 2 1/2", 3 1/4" closed, 6" OAL open. This is a great collector knife and it is in MINT condition.

\$145

We use the NKCA Grading Standards for all Vintage Product we sell. For a detailed explanation of that standard, please see the link below:

[The NKCA Grading Standard](#)



[To see all of the NEW VINTAGE knives in stock, click here](#)

NOVINC KNIVES UTILITY IN MAPLE BURL

Kevin Novinc makes a great custom fixed blade knife. Novinc Knives Utility fixed blade in a Maple Burl/Red Resin handle. This knife has a stainless bolster with a black pinstripe. The Utility has a hollow grind with a tapered tang. Made with a 5/32" 440C steel with a 58 HRC, it has a satin finish with a 4 3/4" blade and a 9 1/2" OAL. This Utility fixed blade comes with a custom fitted leather sheath made by Kevin's wife, Amy. This Utility knife would be a great pick for your next EDC!

\$375



[To see all of the Novinc knives in stock, click here](#)

T.M. HUNT MAGUAS BLACK G-10/CURLY MAPLE INLAY

T.M. Hunt Maguas Black G-10 with a Curly Maple Inlay handle. Made with 3/32" O1 Carbon Tool Steel this Maguas has a stone tumbled finish. It measures in at a 3 1/2" blade with a 7 3/4" OAL. The Maguas also comes with a brown Leather Sheath, which is made by Todd. For everything you want, need and more this Maguas is sure to please. Todd designed this knife 15 years ago and it has remained a best seller! This would be a perfect EDC for anyone. The first person who I showed this knife to said, "this knife could not be improved upon. It's perfect." We think so, too. It has stylish classic lines like a '64 Mustang, perfect balance, and a working finish that will only get better over time with patina.



\$225

[To see all of the NEW T.M. Hunt Custom Knives in stock, Click Here](#)

W.A. SURLS KNIVES INLANDER ELECTRIC PLUM BURLAP

If you are lucky to own one, Allen will not disappoint you in the purchase of a knife! W.A. Surls Knives Inlander in an Electric Plum Burlap handle. The knife has a black liner and a yellow pinstripe. Complete with a flat grind and tapered tang it is made with 1/8" A2 steel. It measures a 3 1/2" blade and an OAL of 7 1/2". This would be an excellent EDC or a very sexy piece to put in your display case! The color combination on this Inlander is simply exquisite.



\$280

[To see all of the W. A. Surls Knives 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 sixth week. The knife was a Fiddleback Forge Esquire with commando Green Burlap Micarta scales and a natural pinout. The knife is paired with a custom leather sheath by Rick Lowe that has been beautifully embellished. This is a GORGEOUS package.

Drumroll please... The *WINNER IS*, Sandra R. from Gering, Nebraska!

WEEK SEVEN - GIVE-A-WAY KNIFE!



The next knife in the give-a-way is a *Cohutta Knife STREBIG* in Padauk

Specs:

Handle Material - Padauk with a Black Liner and White Pinstripe
Steel – 1/8" A2 with Spalted Finish
Blade length 3 3/4", OAL 8 1/2"
Convex Grind



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. *TWENTY 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!

