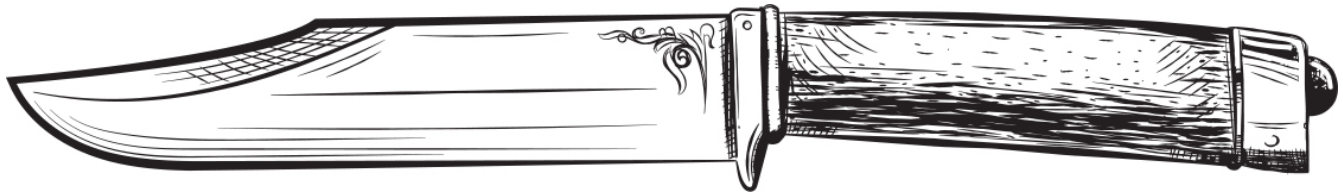


OLDE TOWNE

Post-Dispatch

November 2017

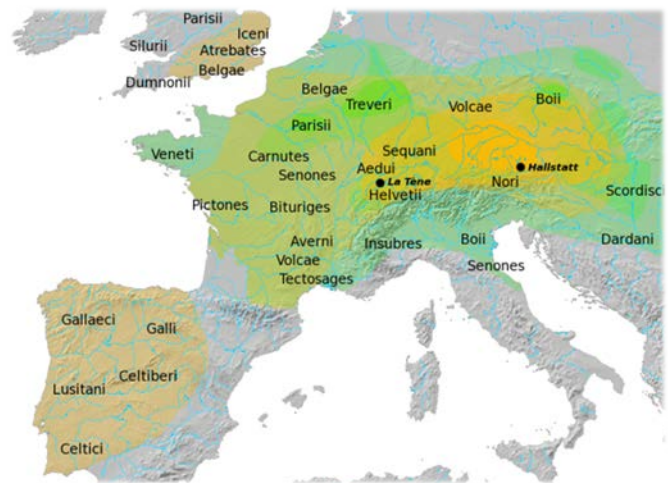
Volume II



GREAT KNIFE STORIES IN HISTORY

THE WORLD'S OLDEST KNOWN FOLDING KNIFE

Have you ever wondered about the oldest pocket knife ever found? What would you guess the age would be? When exactly did man decide to take a blade, cut the tang, put a hole in for a pivot pin, and put that in a handle so that the knife could fold in on itself and therefore be carried in the pocket safely? It would seem like the technical skill required to do this would have been relatively sophisticated and therefore it wouldn't have been too far in the distant past. But guess again. I'll bet the oldest recovered artifact is older than you think!



Hallstatt is a village in present day Austria. The Hallstatt culture was the predominant Western and Central European culture of the Late Bronze to Early Iron Age Europe from the 8th to 6th centuries BC. The culture was primarily agricultural but had particularly advanced metal working techniques in comparison to other European cultures. A salt mine in the area helped bolster the local economy by creating a trade good that was in demand throughout the wider region. Archeologists have found many rich sites to excavate, and a burial ground has produced a treasure trove of artifacts that give us a window into this culture.

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.

One of those artifacts uncovered is called The Hallstatt Knife. The artifact dates to approximately 500 to 600 BC, and is the oldest known folding knife. The knife had a bone handle and looks very similar to a knife you would see today. The pattern was sort of like a Hawksbill, and it has a metal bolster and a grooved bone handle to safely receive the blade.

It is fascinating to think that a folding knife of this technical degree was made 2600 years ago. But one must realize that this knife was certainly not the “first” folding knife. Obviously, it was a highly sophisticated tool, and not the first of its kind; rather it’s just the oldest we have found in the archeological record. We can only speculate as to how “developed” this style of knife was at the time this one was made, but certainly the artisan who made it was a master bladesmith.

MEET YOUR MAKER

Allen Surls of W.A. Surls Knives is Becoming Highly Sought After!

Allen creates knives as much for utility as art. This passion started in March of 2011 and by 2013 WA Surls Knives became his official occupation. He has worked tirelessly on his craft and developed a signature “Frontier” style along with more modern fixed blades. The remarkable part of this story has to do with a compliment from fellow Knife Maker Todd Hunt. One evening in discussing the talent in the industry, Todd said to me, “Allen just might be the best knife maker (in his class) in the country right now”. To have a contemporary speak this highly of his work says it all about Allen’s talent. If you own a W.A. Surls Knife you will be as proud to own, it as he was to make it for you.

We have received a good bit of Allen’s work so far and have had a tough time keeping it in stock. Allen is developing a reputation for superb quality and design, and it shows when we receive orders within hours of posting the product. One of the reasons why Allen’s work stands out, is that Allen has been a good “student”. You can clearly see influences from other modern makers such as Andy Roy, but there are classic elements that he really does well too that come from well-known, historic knife-makers. Allen has learned what “good design” really means, and the product he makes reflects a “best in class” approach.



Allen is the President of the Georgia Custom Knifemakers' Guild and was also awarded the Hank Rummel Memorial Award at the National Knife Maker's Guild Show in Kansas City for being the Best First Year Probationary Maker in 2016

FEATURED PRODUCT AND REVIEW

In keeping with our newsletter theme, we have selected a folding knife that illustrates how far we've come as a civilization from the Hallstatt Knife. Then we have one of Allen's finest custom knives and the award winning Kranos Flipper from Spartan Blades. We will do a whole feature on Spartan, but wanted to make sure our audience knew we had these in stock now.

Curtiss Knives, F3, Large Wharncliffe. Dave Curtiss is one of the finest makers of modern folding knives in the country. This is the largest in the F3 series. And at 8 3/4" OAL it is big enough for heavy duty work, but small enough to carry every day. The lock up on this knife is a combination of a Swiss watch and an Abrams tank. In a word, "amazing". This knife has a diamond milled pattern on the Titanium with a Bronze wash. When you analyze the grind on Dave's knives you will see that the prices he asks are entirely justified. The tip has a spine that is slightly thicker than the rest of the hollow grind, which maximizes the strength of this super steel.



<https://www.oldtowncutlery.com/product/curtiss-knives-f3-compact-compound-grind-3/>

W. A. Surls Revenant with Elk Antler handle, A2 Steel, 1/8", rawhide/copper wrap, 4 1/4" blade, 8.5" OAL. This Revenant is absolutely mind-blowing! The detail along with a top swedge grind, and a gentle re-curve make for a masterfully finished blade. This piece is one you would want to pull out at the deer camp on your next trip! The handle is torched elk antler, has a hidden tang, and a rawhide/copper wrap. In a word, "exquisite".



<https://www.oldtowncutlery.com/product/w-surls-knives-revenant-edccustom-elk-antler/>

Spartan Kranos Flipper with Blue Anodized Titanium and Black G10 Handle

CPMS35VN Stainless steel, stonewashed finish, blue anodized titanium with black G-10 handles. The Spartan Kranos is the 2017 Blade Show, "American Knife of the Year"! From its fit to finish, this folder combines classic looks and modern technology. Made with a



blue anodized titanium and black G-10 scale, this frame lock will prove time and time again to be comfortable in the palm of your hand. With dual bearings this folder provides a smooth and rapid one-handed opening. If you appreciate knives and outstanding quality, then this is a must for any collection! Spartan blades use only the most premium materials, from the frame, to the spacer and pocket clip, and you won't be disappointed in the execution of this knife.

<https://www.oldtownecutlery.com/product/spartan-kranos-flipper-blue-anodized-titaniumblack-g10/>

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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YouTube Channel - www.youtube.com/channel/UCvBwPoFVfD3AEYHplRAgpKg