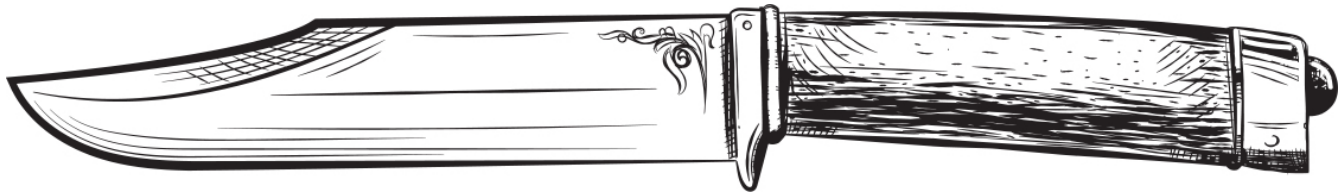


OLDE TOWNE

Post-Dispatch

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GREAT KNIFE STORIES IN HISTORY

PRESIDENTIAL KNIVES

American Presidential history is dotted with great knives. Partly because a healthy percentage of our Presidents have had military careers and view knives as indispensable tools, but moreover because our Presidents have often mirrored the spirit of America. That spirit of course was coined by Teddy Roosevelt as “Rugged Individualism” and no two words in the language better describe the average American. Since February contains President’s Day, we thought it appropriate to do a piece on Presidential Knives.

It is difficult to research specific presidential knives because it is such an ordinary thing that people have considered it unnecessary to mention, and then once forgotten, it’s lost to history. But we do have some interesting and noteworthy presidential knives to mention.

Early presidents surely all carried knives. We can’t imagine Washington or Andrew Jackson as not toting an awesome custom fixed blade. ([Washington seems like a Fiddleback guy](#) while [Jackson would surely have carried a T.M. Hunt M-18, of course](#)).



But the knives of the early presidents are usually lost to history. However, the night Lincoln was assassinated, the contents of his pockets were preserved. Pictured here is the actual knife, which is a William Gilchrist 6 bladed pattern that we now call a Congress. Each blade contains the marking, “William Gilchrist’s Celebrated Razor Steel” on one side and the initials “W.G.” on the opposite. Lincoln stated he carried the knife because his glasses had a bad habit of loosening, and he used the knife to retighten them. (Hey Abe, don’t use your knife as a screwdriver!)



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.



Teddy Roosevelt was one of our most beloved presidents, and he made no bones about his adventurous outdoor spirit. In 1884 when he was a young man, he decided to have some photos done of himself by New York photographer George Bain. Teddy donned his “buckskins” and various accoutrements and was forever immortalized in the collective conscience of America as the ultimate outdoorsman. In most of the photos you can clearly see the [large Bowie style knife](#) on his belt.

Teddy’s cousin Franklin occupied the White House from 1933 to 1945;

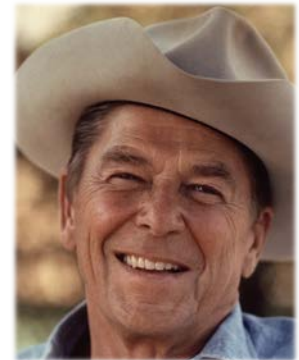
part of which was a time when we were at war with Germany and Japan. These were tense times in Washington D.C. and surely the President had some concern for the safety of the capitol. It was widely reported

that the President had an [Ek Commando knife on his desk](#), though I imagine this

was more for intimidation of political opponents than defending the Oval Office from Japanese invaders. Either way, it was effective as FDR was our only president to have been elected four times.



During World War II, a young man who had been involved in the film industry made several films for the war department which were meant to garner support for the war effort. The young man owned and carried a Randall and was known to speak of the finer points of the quality of his knife. This man would later become another of our most beloved presidents; Ronald Reagan. Reagan was a sentimental man and kept memorabilia throughout his life. His Randall Knife was a treasure to him as many veterans feel about their tools carried throughout a conflict.



Eisenhower’s knife is probably the best known because he made a habit of buying a particular pattern and giving them away. [Case made a pattern called a #63](#), which was an equal end pen knife and perfect as a comfortable pocket knife with its smooth rounded edges and slender feel. Ike (as he was affectionately called) frequently gifted these and W.R. Case and Son’s Cutlery quickly took notice and started making a knife they then called an Eisenhower. Today, that pattern is in the vault, and not currently produced, but they can be found on the secondary collector market.



Presidents are both reviled and beloved, but the lens of history seems to diminish the more objectionable qualities of the men. Remember, Lincoln was reviled by half the country, and Teddy Roosevelt lost an election in 1912. But time seems to reveal the impact of each Presidency. So that makes me think, I wonder what Trump is toting? He either has a [tricked-out Curtiss Folder](#) or a totally badass custom fixed blade like the [Dirk Loots Dagger](#). If anyone has “an in” with the President, ask him what he’s toting for me. If he doesn’t have one, tell him to call 1-833-GOT-KNIVES. We can fix him up.

MEET YOUR MAKER

Dirk Loots Knives

Dirk Loots is a South African born knife-maker currently living and working in Cumming, Georgia. His knife-making journey began in 2011 after taking a course in South Africa that taught him the possibilities of knives as an art form. By 2016, Dirk had become quite accomplished and entered the high-end “functional-art” market; whereby he immediately garnered the attention and respect of some of the finest knife makers in the world. Today, Dirk Loots knives are becoming highly sought after as the creativity, precision, and execution of his work is absolutely exemplary. Outstanding material selection and flawless execution are hallmarks of a Dirk Loots Knife. Dirk’s work sets a high bar, and once in hand, you will respect each piece as a true masterpiece.



In addition to knives, Dirk is also an accomplished photographer, and was renowned in his home country as the preeminent photographer of master knife makers in South Africa. Dirk has had the pleasure of working with phenomenal artisans from across the globe, and his photography skills are available to other knifemakers. For more information about Dirk Loots photography and knives to go www.dirklhoots.com.

Watch the video of Dirk Loots Dagger

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7vYSHrQYvI&t=2s>



FEATURED PRODUCT AND REVIEW

To represent the presidential knives discussed in the History Segment, we have selected several knives this week that would be fitting for presidential carry. Take a look below and select your favorite!

Dirk Loots Dagger - Dolk 1.0.

This custom-made frame handle Dagger has a blued Damascus blade which was acid etched before bluing and includes the deep etched Dirk Loots logo. No glue was used in the construction of this custom knife and can be taken apart, see the video to see the process. With the screws included, the custom dagger is made up of 32 parts. The



first bronze fitting or habaki was hand filed and shaped to fit the tang of the dagger perfectly. It was then finished by being bead blasted. The guard was hand shaped and fluted from Damascus and then blued, and the guard also includes 2 polished balls on either side. Below the guard is a dual colored filed titanium liner that separates the guard from the bronze spacer that has been fluted, polished and then bead blasted to give it a two-tone textured effect. The guard, titanium and bronze spacer are strengthened by two hardened stainless pins. Before the frame is attached to the bronze there is another colored titanium spacer, the frame and spacer are also strengthened by hardened stainless steel pins. The Damascus frame with polished edges and bead blasted flats is then attached to the tang of the dagger with a custom-made bolt with three holes. This allows you to fasten the frame securely. To finish off the handle construction two dual colored filed titanium liners are attached to the frame with 6 0.80" torx screws, then the desert ironwood burl scales are attached to the titanium with gold plated 0.80" torx screws. In a word, AMAZING.

[To see all of Dirk Loots Knives, click here](#)

Spartan Harsey Folder – Flag Edition

CPMS35VN Stainless steel, tumbled finish, Titanium handles, flag. Designed by prolific knife maker William Harsey Jr., this folder is phenomenal! Made out of titanium, this frame lock will prove time and time again to be your choice of an EDC. This model features a tumbled finish, complete with the stars and stripes etched on the Titanium



handle. With a reversible pocket clip and thumb stud this is an ambidextrous folder. If you appreciate knives and outstanding quality, then this is a must for any collection! Spartan Blades uses only the most premium materials and you won't be disappointed in the execution of this knife.

[To see the entire Spartan Line, click here](#)

Great Eastern Cutlery #13 Congress

Great Eastern #13 Congress Northfield in Gabon Ebony. This is an absolutely beautiful knife and would make an awesome EDC. 3 3/4" Closed with Wharncliffe and pen blades.

We have found that people want to buy discounted knives to use as EDC's because they are a great deal, and the issues are so minor that it won't matter after a day in the pocket. SO we ask Great Eastern for a variety of these along with regular stock. They don't have many blem's, so take advantage when you see one!



This #13 is not considered a "second", but it is not a first quality knife. It is noted as a "blem" quality by an "S" on the tang stamp. However, what Great Eastern considers a "blemish" is purely cosmetic and very minor. Sometimes it's a very slight gap in the liner and backspring or even if the scales aren't a perfect match. However, I can't even find the blemish on this one. These make a great user knife because the cosmetic issue is irrelevant once you've carried it for a day. Great Eastern is very specific about these NOT being "seconds". The blemish is so very minor that they are perfectly useable. Take advantage of the deal if you want one for an EDC!

[To see our complete line of Great Eastern Products, Click here](#)

Melissa and I sincerely hope this newsletter was interesting and fun. Thank you so much for taking the time to read. Please keep checking the site for new product as more items are rolling in each week. Thank you for being great friends customers. Lee and Melissa

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