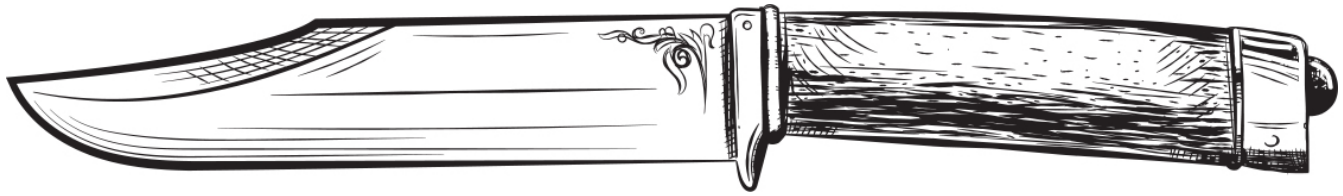


OLDE TOWNE

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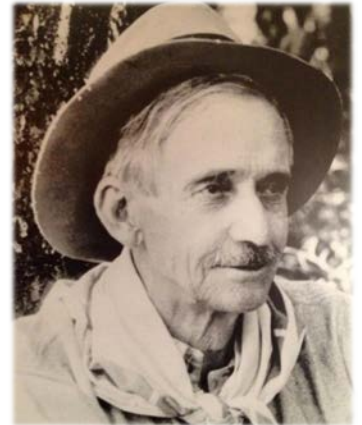


GREAT KNIFE STORIES IN HISTORY

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Have you ever wondered where certain knife names come from? Sometimes they are so weird that it is intriguing to think about the creative genius. Other times they make no sense. Sometimes the knife carries on the name of the person who carried it; Bowie, Nessmuck (George Sears), and Kephart. But why were the knives named after their owner rather than their maker? Well, sometimes that answer is an interesting story. We will cover these famous knives from time to time and discuss the legacy of these men. We will start with the man who had an enormous impact on a place very special to me and Melissa; Horace Kephart and the western North Carolina mountains.

Horace Kephart was born in 1862 and grew up in Iowa. He trained as a librarian and that's probably where his expertise in the world of Biology and the Natural Sciences flourished, along with his love of writing. By early adulthood, Kephart had written extensively about his passion for the outdoors, hunting, and camping. But as most of us feel when approaching middle age, the urban existence between camping trips began to wear on him, and he said that "nervous exhaustion" had set in on his life. So, he hung up his day job and off he set for the mountains of western North Carolina. (Oh, how I admire the man!)

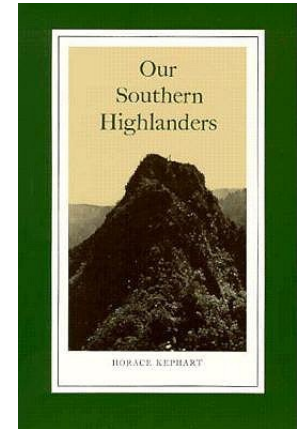
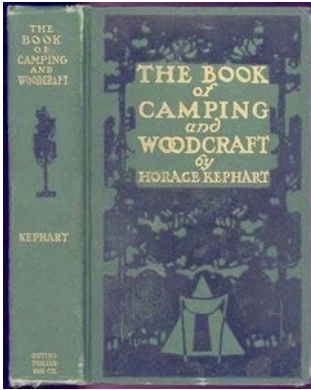


He arrived in the mountains in 1904 and set a course for having a "nature-as-healer" approach to his lifestyle. Beyond just the natural environment, Kephart was intensely interested in the culture of the mountain people. This was a time before electricity and interstates, and these Scotch-Irish communities had remained largely isolated since originally settled in the late 1700's. Kephart was a sponge for the traditional primitive ways of these people, and that combined perfectly with his vast knowledge of the natural world.

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.

Kephart was a prolific writer, and his documentation of the mountain culture, and contribution to camping and woodcraft was explosive. This was a time when Americans were developing a conservation ethic, and topics such as The National Parks System were in the public discourse with names like Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir. Kephart matured at the perfect time in our history, and in 1906 he published “Camping and Woodcraft”, which instructed the reader with practical outdoor advice. His most well-known work was a masterpiece called “Our Southern Highlanders”, published in 1913. Both books are still in print today and are still considered authoritative works on the subject.



Since Kephart was a well-known figure in his day, he did use his influence to lobby for the creation of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This place was of immense personal importance to his own mental and physical recovery, and thus his passion was persuasive in preserving one of the last remaining stands of virgin forests in the east.

So, what about the knife? In the book, “*Camping and Woodcraft*”, Kephart describes the ultimate knife that we would now call a “bushcraft knife”, and states that it was “*of his own design*” and that it was, “*made by a country blacksmith, and is one of the homeliest things I ever saw; but it has outlived in my affections the score of other knives that I have used in competition with it, and has done more work than all of them put together.*” In other words; looks aren’t everything and sometimes homely is better! I love it.

The Kephart pattern is truly a workhorse, and anyone who does even a little outdoor activity should

Kephart Journal 7, page 415

**WE ALSO MAKE THE
“KEPHART” SHEATH KNIFE**



It was designed by that well-known practical hunter Horace Kephart. You will make no mistake in ordering.

4-inch Blade and Sheath, \$1.75
5-inch Blade and Sheath, \$2.00

Tools delivered at above prices. Address

COLCLESSER BROTHERS
Eldorado, Blair County, Pennsylvania



Kephart Knife
73.01.033

have one. The knife pattern can now be found by a host of makers as it’s good design has given it an enduring legacy that has withstood all of the changes in fads and survival gear. The Kephart pattern is tested and will prove to anyone that its functionality is timeless.

Tragically, Horace Kephart’s life was cut short by an automobile accident in 1931, but this was two months after The Great Smoky Mountains National Park dream had become a reality, when Mount Kephart inside the park’s boundaries was named in his honor. Today, the influence of Horace Kephart is felt by millions of outdoor loving Americans, and for that we are a grateful nation.

MEET YOUR MAKER

Fiddleback Forge

Andy Roy and Fiddleback Forge have skyrocketed to super-stardom in the cutlery industry. The success is a direct result of phenomenal craftsmanship and outstanding attention to detail. Now with magazine cover stories and mainstream publications outside of the immediate industry taking notice of Fiddleback Forge, people all over the country are learning what they have been missing. And that is, Andy Roy is the best in class, hands-down.



In 2015 Andy was welcomed into the Knife Makers' Guild. Becoming a member of the guild is no easy process. It involves a recommendation for membership by multiple existing members of the guild, and a critical analysis of multiple handmade knives by the best knife makers in the world. Andy's membership into the Knife Makers' Guild not only shows the recognition of Andy's handmade knife making skills, but reinforces his commitment to his craft and his customers.

Fiddleback Forge knives are working knives for working folks who seek a high-quality knife that matches their lifestyle and can be passed down to future generations.

Andy welcomes other knife makers, apprentices, local Georgia Custom Knife Makers' Guild members (where Andy is also a member), and others to his shop to share his experience and appreciation for artistry in knives. For more about Andy Roy and Fiddleback Forge, check out our recent interview!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n70fXIs77Lc&t=312s>

FEATURED PRODUCT AND REVIEW

To pay homage to Horace Kephart, here are some products that he would have admired and carried!

Fiddleback Forge Kephart

This knife is the Fiddleback take on the classic Kephart pattern. Its hard to improve upon that near perfect design, but Andy Roy may have accomplished just that. The handle is superbly ergonomic, and though the blade is a symmetrical spear, the point is more pronounced and therefore easier to pierce. Spalted finish to the 5/32" A2 steel. This one has a dyed mango handle, Black liner, White pinstripe, and a tapered tang. Blade length is 3 3/4" with an OAL of 8 1/2".



\$365

[To see all Fiddleback Forge Products, Click Here](#)

Condor Final Frontier Survival Knife

The Final Frontier Knife has grey Micarta handles, 1075 Carbon Steel, and a black epoxy powder coating finish. The blade is 4 1/2" with an OAL 9 5/8", and it comes with a black leather sheath. One of our favorite features is the divot in the handle for use with a fire bow. This would be an excellent addition for your next overnight camping or weekend outdoor trip, and the best thing about Condor is their affordability! In terms of value, its hard to top this product line.



\$80.73

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

White River FC3.5 Firecraft 3.5" in Black Paracord

White River has done it again with the Firecraft FC3.5. This model comes in black paracord and sports S35VN stainless steel in a stonewashed finish. Blade length is 3.5" with an OAL 7.75". A ferro rod and kydex sheath are included. White River has a 100% satisfaction guarantee on their products, and when you see the execution on this knife you will know why they have the best guarantee in the business.



\$110.00

[To see our complete line of White River Products, Click here](#)

Melissa and I 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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