

**THE NEW YORK STATE
FIREARMS TRADE**

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THE HUDSON VALLEY LONG FOWLER

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Writing a separate chapter on one type of New York-made firearms is perhaps superfluous in a five volume compendium of over 3000 makers and merchants if it were not for the fact that the Hudson Valley long fowler constitutes the principal firearm made during the first half of the two-century period covered by these volumes. These fowlers are also notable among all colonial firearms for their unusual size (some over seven feet long) and quality of workmanship, special stock shape and carving, and cast, incised and engraved metalwork.

In keeping with the content of this and other volumes of *The New York State Firearms Trade*, this chapter is primarily a compendium of names of persons who either made fowlers in New York Province and State, or who were involved with related trades. Examples are stockmakers, braziers, armorers, locksmiths, carvers, who made parts for, or repaired, all manner of firearms, probably including fowlers.

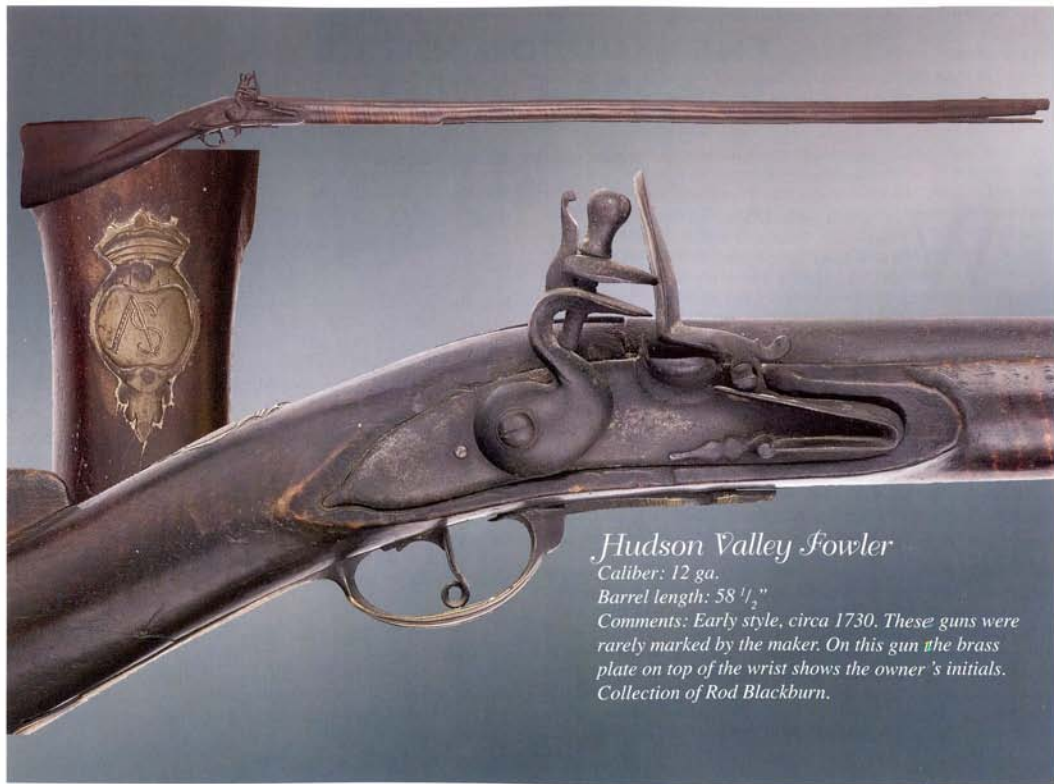
This is not an exhaustive list, as the historical record is incomplete, partly lost, or unpublished. Records for New York City are more complete than for Albany; records for other communities are negligible. We know from the existing records that fowlers were being made in and around New York City, at Albany, and likely at Kingston. Perhaps individual makers were located in a few other smaller communities. Fowlers were also used in other areas of Dutch settlement, especially New Jersey and the Mohawk River Valley, so there may have been makers and/or repairers in those areas, too.

While known widely as the Hudson River long fowler, it would be more appropriate to call it the New World Dutch fowler. They were known as the "long fowler" because most if not all were originally made with long barrels. A sizable number have survived which have been shortened in the barrel. It is documented that Indians preferred shorter barrels. Fowlers, and likely other arms, were supplied to the various Iroquois Indian tribes throughout central and western New York Province and for this there are records of named gunsmiths and other tradesmen (see below) who went to these areas primarily to repair firearms, including fowlers.

The best early graphic evidence of Indian use of fowlers is a 1710 portrait of the Mohawk Saga Yeath Qua Pieth Tow, also known as *Old Smoke Brandt*, painted when on a visit (with three other Indians) by the court artist Jan Verelst. (Collection of the Public Archives of Canada, 92418). He holds a Hudson Valley fowler, emblematic of the principal firearm used by the Iroquois to hunt but also to subdue other tribes as far west as present day Chicago. Its shortened barrel length reflects the preference of the Indians for a more maneuverable weapon.

Flintlock Fowlers; The First Guns Made in America by Tom Grinslade (Scurlock Publishing Co. Texarkana, 2005) discusses and extensively illustrates thirty-three Hudson Valley fowlers and indicates features which tend to point to dating and places of origin. The reader will do well to examine this book for illustrations and information not contained here.

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Hudson Valley Fowler

Caliber: 12 ga.

Barrel length: 58 1/2"

Comments: Early style, circa 1730. These guns were rarely marked by the maker. On this gun the brass plate on top of the wrist shows the owner's initials.

Collection of Rod Blackburn.



Characteristics

Hudson Valley long fowlers are a distinctive colonial firearm made in New York from the late 17th through the late 18th centuries. Distinguishing characteristics are (1) a long overall length (between 5.5 and 7.5 feet), (2) stock with relatively heavy proportions and high comb, (3) most with curly maple stocks with more or less carving (finest examples have extensive high relief carving), and (4) metal mountings usually of brass and in the Dutch style. In the finest

examples mountings are often elaborately cast and engraved. By the later part of the 18th century English design influence comes to predominate over Dutch.

Origins

Barrels are most often English made and proofed although some are of Dutch, Spanish, or other European origin. Locks normally are rounded with broad scroll and floral designs with similar matching work on the hammer. They are also of English or continental

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manufacture, some with the name or mark of the maker (B. HOMER and J. HORST are examples). Some are of New York gunsmith-made origin.

Colonial records allude to shipments of locks and barrels in cartons of 30 each. The high premium placed on space aboard ship precluded shipping stocks. As a result stockmakers in early New York developed their own variation on the Dutch fowler stock pattern which persisted as a recognizable type for about a century. Military arms were also imported during the same period.

On 11.10.1663 these are requested for New Netherland for the military: 50 or 60 good snaphaunce *We are tolerably well provided here with gun-barrels. If your Honors would please to let us have 50 or 60 gun locks (snaphaen slooten) we could have them put together here advantageously for the Company.* (E. B. O'Callaghan: *Documentary History of the State of New York*. Albany: Weed, Parsons and Co., 1849-51, Vol. II p. 507).

The references to separate parts, locks and barrels, may have reflected what was worth the expense of exporting (stocks likely were more economically made in New York, in part because of a much wider selection of fine woods), but it also paralleled the guild divisions in the Netherlands. Smiths of St. Eloy's Guild made locks and barrels, those who fitted the iron and brass parts to stocks were of the carpenters' or St. Joseph's Guild. The guilds in each city had certain requirements for an apprentice to meet—his masterpiece had to achieve a certain standard. Various cities required just a barrel to be made by an applicant barrel maker, or a lock by an applicant who specialized in locks, or both, or a whole gun with stock in some cases when a stock maker applied. Stockmakers were required to finish a stock, properly fitting all metal parts (supplied by other makers). (*Ibid.*, p. 36). In New York a gunsmith creating a new fowler spent most of his effort carving a stock and fitting metal parts, mostly imported. He or another "smith" may have been adept at repairing metal parts.

Saga Yeath Qua Pieth Tow
Old Smoke Brant

Contemporary Uses

Occasional reference to fowling occurs in 17th and 18th century documents such as government correspondence, auction lists, inventories, wills, and traveler's diaries. From these references we know that fowling were prized possessions of the head of the household, who specified in his will which son was to receive his father's gun (the family Bible being the other such object given special mention). Fowling were used for hunting passenger pigeons, ducks, geese, and swans. They were also used for deer and smaller animals but it is quite obvious that birds were most important. Fowling were also extensively traded to the Indians who used them for hunting all game. A shot mold which was owned in the 1780's by an Albany family indicates that shot of about the size of BBs and 4s were used. The larger shot was appropriate for larger game, including deer, and the smaller for birds.

Contemporary 17th and 18th century accounts.

Here are some citations to early New York literature which help identify the long fowler, its importance and use.

When a sleeping place is discovered, then two or three gunners go to the place together at night, when they shoot the fowls, and in such cases frequently bring in a dozen or more. Adriaen Van der Donck, ca. 1650, Description, p. 50.

We lodged [in Albany] with a gunsmith, who told us that the best charcoal for the forge was made of black pine [prob. pitch pine, Pinus rigida]. The next best in his opinion was that made of beech. The best and most expensive stocks for his muskets were made of wild cherry, and next to these he valued most those of the red maple. They scarcely make use of any other wood for this purpose. The black walnut tree affords excellent wood for stocks, but it does not grow in the neighborhood of Albany. Peter Kalm, 1749-50, Travels, p. 340.

These youths [of Albany] were apt, whenever they could carry a gun (which they did at a very early period), to follow some favorite negro to the woods, and, while he was employed in felling trees, range the whole day in search of game, to the neglect of all intellectual improvement, and contract a love of savage liberty which might, and in some instances did, denigrate into licentious and idle habits [Rip Van Winckle, a literary example]. Indeed there were three stated periods in the year when, for a few days, young and old, masters and slaves, were abandoned to unruly enjoyment, and neglected every serious occupation for pursuits of this nature. Anne Grant, 1756-63, Memoirs, p. 59.

This migration [of passenger pigeons], as it passed by, occasioned, as I said before, a total relaxation from all employments, and a kind of drunken gaiety, though it was rather slaughter than sport; and, for above a fortnight, pigeons in pies and soups, and every way they could be dressed, were the food of the inhabitants. These were immediately succeeded by wild geese and ducks, which concluded the carnival for that season, to be renewed in September. Ibid. 1:94-95.

In the more ordinary course of things, love, which makes labor light, tamed these young hunters, and transformed them into diligent and laborious traders, for the nature of their trade included very severe labor. When one of the boys was deeply smitten, his fowling-piece and fishing rod were at once relinquished. He demanded of his father forty or at most fifty dollars, a negro boy and a canoe...and in short commenced Indian trader;... ibid 1:98-99.

Inventories and Auctions, 17th and 18th centuries

Inventory of the personal estate of Jan Jansen Damen July 6, 1651 (a house, farm and brewery, probably Manhattan) include: a snaphanse, 1 firelock, 1 rapier, 1 large powder horn.

Auction sale Albany August 1654. Sold by Roeloff Jansen and Lammert Cornelise. Pearson, Jonathan Early Records of the city and County of Albany. I, p. 190

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Hudson Valley Fowler

Caliber: 10 ga.

Barrel length: 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Comments: Later style, circa 1780. Tiger maple stock, Dutch-style brass fittings, and a trigger that is offset. Reported by some authorities to have been made in the Esopus (Kingston) area. Collection of Rod Blackburn.

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Daniel Rinckhout , a gun	£16.10
Hendrick Jockemse, a gun	£21.10
Abraham Crabout, a sword	£13.00
Andries Herbetsen, a gun	£14.00
Jan Roeloffse, a gun	£18.00
Jan Roeloffse, a sword	£12.00

New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch. A.J.F. van Laer (ed. by Scott and Stryker-Rodda) V. 3 Gen. Pub. Co. Baltimore 1974.

Sir William. Johnson Aug. 2, 1774 [Inventory of the estate of Sir William Johnson, Superintendent of Indian Affairs]

Indian store	
19 New blue Barrl. Guns best Sort 40/	£38
14 whole Cases of Arms 25 pieces pr 32/	£560
5 do do do 40/	£250
16 old Muskets that used to be in the Entry 8/	£6.8
3 brass Blunderbusses 40/	£6

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2 Wall pieces 20/	£2
168 Skips. of wheat 4/6	£37.16
Bar Iron weighing 9ct. 2 qrs. @ 30/	£14.5
Lead Bullets 3 16lb 30/	£16.9
[more on shot, powder etc]	
Garret	
1 old Musket	£0.8.
Butler's Room and Kitchen	
2 Rifle Guns one	£6 the other £3.
3 Fowling pieces	£6
1 old Musket	£0.12
In the Kitchen [another house?]	
1 fowling piece	£1.10

Gunsmiths to the Indians

The Lower Iroquois (Mohawks) had smiths sent to them by the 1650's and 60's. By the 1650's Indians were doing cold forging on their own and had lots of metal. They requested smiths from the English and French. By 1680 smiths arrived at Onondaga and possibly at Seneca.

The Indians complained that the guns they got were too long, that they wanted carbines, i.e. shorter barrels. Presumably the long barrel hindered their activity in the woods. The carbines had something like 32 inch barrels. The Indians were very hard on their guns and that is why gunsmiths were so much in demand. They were even sent as far as Fort Michilamackinac in the Great Lakes. (*Personal communication from George Hammel, New York State Museum, 2.10.89)

These gunsmith who went to the Indians were know as "smiths" and "armorers." Van Slyke, for example, was an armorer. "Smiths" also probably did gunsmithing. They were predominantly Dutch, some English and served several functions. They, of course, traveled as smiths and armorers. They were stationed for months in one village where they mostly repaired hoes, axes, and guns. But they also did intelligence gathering on Indians and French smiths and they relayed messages back to Albany. They also bateauxed goods to military

installations, ran cattle (Wempe did this), and some did plowing for Mohawks.

In the 17th century the Wemp[]e family were fixing guns for the Indians. Jan Wempe was a blacksmith for the construction of Fort Hunter (1712). Then he went to central New York as a smith and trader to the Iroquois. Myndert Wempe and sons Hendrick and Myunderst Jr. and an uncle Hendrick were sent by Governor Burnet to the Seneca. Hendrick was there 1760-70's and was a scout for General Sullivan and then one of the first settlers of Wayne County. A daughter married an Indian or half breed. T(D?)ygeret was sent to the Indians about the last of the French and Indian War (1750's-early 1760's) or the Revolution as a gunsmith. Printup was a Huguenot name which first appeared in the late seventeenth century. William Printup was a [gun?] smith in the early eighteenth century and, with his son William Jr., spent most of the eighteenth century with the Indians.

(Personal communication from Dr. Charles Gehring, New Netherlands Project, Albany, 1989)

Gunsmiths, Stockmakers, Armorers, and Related Craftsmen

New York City

To be a freeman was to receive the *Freedom of the City* to pursue a trade. It contained rights to certain privileges and was granted to those who had served apprenticeship for a certain period (at least four years), or who paid a fee, or who were voted a freeman as a municipal complement. Freeman had the exclusive right to practice their trade or mercantile business within the city. They had rights to suffrage and were to be eligible for election to city offices, and to receive other privileges.

This list contains gunsmiths, stockmakers, and trades which may be related to their work (gunner, armorer, locksmith, brazier [works in brass], brass founder, and carver).

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From New-York Historical Society Collections (1885): *Burghers and Freemen of New York*. Printed for the Society 1886. The published list begins in 1695; prior records have not been located but undoubtedly there were many other freemen before 1695.

List of New York City Freemen 1695-1795 (gunsmiths).

In chronological order

Name	Trade	Date admitted as Freeman
Thomas Parmyter	gunner	5.14.1695
William Simmons	gunner	1.18.98
Garrett Viele	brazier	9.9.98
Daniel Waldron	gun stockmaker	9.30.98
Frans Vandyke	gunsmith	
Sewas Morrissett	armorer	5.27.1702
Bernard Damakin	gunsmith	5.27.02
Thomas Jones	locksmith	5.27.02
Peter Arkell	gunsmith	3.31.12
Matthias Nack	gunsmith	5.26.19
Francis Vandenberg	brazier	8.11.24
Richard Goodwin	locksmith	6.29.25
John Taylor	brazier	8.30.26
Bloorge Warbuston	carver	7.8.29
Jacques Garbiel Buvelot	brazier	9.16.29
Johannes Van Zandt	locksmith	6.16.30
Arnout Viele	brazier	4.6.31
Jacobus Stoutenburgh	gunsmith	10.5.34
Steenwyck DeRiemer	gunsmith	11.12.34
Benjamin Quakenbos Junr.	gunsmith	9.13.37
Abraham Vangelder	gunsmith	10.18.37
Hendrick Vanderwater	gunsmith	1.10.38
William Richardson	locksmith	8.22.38
Moses Taylor	brazier	9.12.38
Peter Praa Provoost	gunsmith	4.10.39
Elias Brevoort	gunsmith	11.23.42
William Pearsee	gunsmith	3.22.43
Anthony Schuyler	gunsmith	5.3.43
John Holden	brazier	6.21.43
Coline Vangelder	gunsmith	11.1.43
Abraham Brasier	gunsmith	11.3.47

Edward Annely	gunsmith	12.22.47
Gulian Varck	gunsmith	7.8.48
Andrew Hoyer	gunsmith	7.28.48
Francis Hendricks	gunsmith	9.26.48
George Horsen	gunsmith	5.31.49
Cornelius Van Borsom	brazier	8.29.50
Bernard Harver	gunsmith	12.6.50
Henry Hardcastle	carver	6.4.51
Andrew Hamersly	brazier	9.10.50
Asher Myers	brazier	9.10.50
Egberts Vander Hoof	gunsmith	2.7.58
Abraham Van Gelder	gunsmith	7.3.59
Jacob Myer Allen	gunsmith	3.4.60
Edward Annley	gunsmith	2.3.61
William Scandreth	brass founder	2.3.61
Isaac Stoutenburgh Junr.	gunsmith	3.3.61
Peter Mashet	brazier	3.3.61
Richard Allan	brass founder	11.10.61
David Procoost	gunsmith	10.1.65
William Elsworth	gunsmith	10.1.65
Richard Norwood	brazier	10.1.65
Richard Leacraft	brass founder	10.1.65
John Taylor	brazier	10.29.65
John Johnson	brass founder	10.29.65
James Byers	brass founder	1.3.69
Jacob Wilkins	brass founder	1.31.69
John N. Bogert	brazier	1.31.69
William Allen	gunsmith	2.9.69
William Crossley	armorer	9.11.70
Charles Hadley	armorer	9.11.70
Samuel Roberts	armorer	9.11.70
Christopher Sweedland	armorer	9.11.70
James Kipp	brass founder	6.20.87

Apprenticeships (only records of 1694 -1707 survive)

John Powleson apprenticed to Francis Vandike, gunsmith 1.18.1703
 Barret Hossen apprenticed to Francis Vandike, gunsmith 1.18.1703

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New York City Gunsmiths listed in newspaper advertisements (by date).

Name	Trade	Date
Hendrick Van De Waters, Mr. Anneyly	Gun-Smith Gun-Smith,	5.27.1754. 3.7.1760.

Gunsmith — To be sold cheap by Edward Anneyly, Gun Smith, at the Fly Market, A large Assortment of Gunds and Pistols all Tower proof; as also some Birding Pieces, and Bayonets in their Butts for Gentlemen's use, and Guns with Bayonets fit either for Military or Fowling; long Pieces for shooting Geese, Ducks &c. The right sort of Indian Guns, with Gun Barrels and Locks of all Sorts; He likewise makes Guns and Pistols as any Gentleman shall like, and does all things belonging to the Gun-Smith's Trade; and engraves coats of Arms on Plate, &c. The New-York Gazette Revived in the Weekly Post-Boy 8.1.1748.

Mr. Provost	Gun-Smith.	8.29.1763.
Jacob Allen	Gun-smith	2.25.1773
William Hill "a gunsmith, but he has wrought at the silver-smith's business" 1.3.1774		
Gilbert Forhes,	[gunsmith]	3.16.1775.

Run-Away from the subscriber, an English convict servant man, named Benjamin Sagers, a blacksmith and gunsmith by trade... paid by Aweray Richardson. New York Gazette Revived in the Weekly Post-Boy 10.16.1775.

Michael Genter	gunsmith.	1.17.1777
David Provost	gunsmith of Long Island.	10.8.1781.
William Allen	Gun Smith.	

fowling pieces made, and bullet guns not much inferior to rifles that if well directed will shoot a considerable distance into a man's mouth William Allen, Fishkill. New-York Packet 4.25.1782. [In 1784 Allen returned to NYC after 5 or 7 years in the country to escape the British. Advertised in New York City 1787 thru 1797.]

James Youle	cutler and Gun-Smith.	2.27.1786.
John Martin	Gun & white Smith.	4.24.1788.
James Slater	Gunsmith	5.12.1796.
John Dobson	Gun Smith.	5.17.1797.
Robert Corbett	Gunsmith from London. "make and repair Muskets, Fowling Pieces, Pistols and other articles."	<i>New York Gazette & Ga</i> 8.29.1798.

The Art and Crafts of New York 1726-1776, Advertisements and News Items from New York City Newspapers. New York Historical Society. Compiled by Rita Susswein Gottesman. 1938 Volume II: 1777-1792 NYHS 1954.

The Mid-Hudson Region

Gunsmiths (unless listed otherwise) Date given is date of a notice in records, especially deeds.
 Petrus Vieli or Viele deed dated 1732. In a 1738 deed he is listed as blacksmith.
 Henry Ellis 1743 deed
 Dirck Van Steenburg 1761+ and 1781 deeds.
 Wellem (sp?) Elsworth 1783 will. In Anjou's Book on Ulster County wills lists him as gunsmith

Albany

Early records identify at least two gun stock makers (lattamakers in Dutch): Johannes Appell and Philip Pieterse Schuyler.

Gunsmiths and other smiths before 1800, listed in *Colonial Albany Project* files, New York State Museum.

Barnard Harsen [Arsen, Orsen]
 Staats Vansandvoord, from Staten Island, dates?
 Jan Nak or Nack gunstock maker. An original settler who came in 1663, so born ca. 1640.
 Johannes Appel gunsmith for Indians 1690's, bills governor for these services (Col Mss. v 38)

Melgert Vanderpoel [or Wynantse] working 1679 d. 1709
 Myndert Vanderbogart gunstock maker in 1690's
 Jelles Fonda gunsmith and gunstock maker in 1697 census, moved to Schenectady
 Robert Lansing also fixed fire engines, 3 wives one a Margarita Roseboom –the Rosebooms were a family of stockmakers.
 Jan Janse Bleecker–seller of guns
 Myndert Frederickse–blacksmith “armoror to the fort”
 Johannes Beeckman gunsmith to Indians, “armoror to the fort”
 Peter David Schuyler gunstock maker 1690’s “armoror to the fort”
 Warnera (sp?) Corstense (sp?) blacksmith, repairs guns, “armoror to the fort”
 Gerrit Jacobus Lansing 1711 married (1). Maria Ever..., m(2) Jane Waters. Probably the gunsmith in Lord Loudoun’s List.
 Hendrick Lansing born ca. 1740

Gunsmiths and related occupations listed on Lord Loudoun’s November 1756 list of Albany households: (revised spelling from *Colonial Albany Project*, New York State Museum).

Barnardus Haron Jr. (though listed elsewhere only as “smith”),
 Nicholas Basset
 States Stanford or Sandford (spelled two ways),
 Robert Laurson, Ger(rardus?) Isaac Lawson (the latter two are same family but different spellings).

“Blacksmiths” in the list:
 Marty Minnias
 Lucas Yoates
 Mr. Hogan
 Jns. Mynders
 Ness Van Schaick
 Marty Bateman
 Barnardus J. Hassen?

“Smiths” in the list:
 Peter Yates
 Francis Pruyen

Mynres
 Vanever (Van Evert?).

Surviving Fowlers

Perhaps 150 fowlers have been illustrated, advertised or are generally known to the collecting field. Likely there are at least as many more not recorded. As such they are rare compared to most other colonial firearms. Some fowlers are marked in various ways. Barrels, all made in Europe, are customarily proof marked, identifying the country or origin and sometimes the maker. “IW”, “RW” for three generations of the Wilson family of gunmakers in England (1730-1832).

Of owners, whose names are usually engraved on the barrel (occasionally by branded name or initials on the stock) we can identify Cornelis [Dutch variant of English name Cornelius] Wynkoop (1688-1747) of Marletown, Ulster County, who bequeathed his gun to his son. *Aan my outte Soon Johannis voor Reght van Outste soon Schap myn groote Kerck Psalmoeck oock £3.* [to my eldest son Johannes, in right of primogeniture, my great Bible, my great church psalmbook, and £3]. - *Aan myn vier Soons te Weete Johannis, Adriann, Cornelis, en Petrus £50, Elck £12.10.* [to my four sons, J., A., C., and P., £50, each £12.10]. *Ick myn soon Johannis En Schiet Roer gegebe heb, my drie andere Soons ook voor de deelingh van my Staat Elck een middel Matigh Schiet Roer, met en Degen of hauwer Sullen hebben, myn Soon Cornelius dat Schiet Roer darr myn naam op Staat. lindien het Selve op dit tyt onklaar is soo sal het eerst Klaar en in order gebragt werde.* (I have given to my son Johannes, a gun, my other three sons shall therefore also have an ordinary gun each, before the division of the estate, and a sword or cutlass; my son Cornelius shall have the gun upon which my name appears. If the same is in disrepair at the time, then it shall first be repaired and put in [working] order). His will states what many other wills express, that the fowler was a prized possession of a father (like the big family Bible) which he bequeathed to a son, in this case all sons getting a gun each. Note the Dutch term *schietroer* is similar to German *schiessgewehr* (cf. Dutch *schietgeweer*), literally a shooting weapon or piece, which can also



Investigating an Intrusion

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be translated as "firearm" or simply a "gun." *Schiet* is from the verb *schieten* "to shoot."

Another fowler has the engraved letters *YACOPHYCK 1713*, likely short and somewhat illiterate transcription for Jacob[us] Ten Eyck. The J is pronounced Y in Dutch. Of an age to own this fowler in 1713 are at least five of this name in Albany. One Jacob, born in 1705 and too young for this fowler, became a silversmith like his father Koenraet Ten Eyck; his younger brother Tobias (1723-1791) was reported to be a gunsmith (Norman Rice: *Albany Silver*, 1652-1825. Albany Institute of History and Art, 1964 p. 68). Incidentally, The Albany Institute owns a brass shot mold engraved JACOB TEN EYCK 1781 and marked AL by the maker (unidentified), providing for two shot sizes, one appropriate for small birds, the other for large birds (geese and swans) and small mammals (Roderic H. Blackburn and Ruth Pivonka: *Remembrance of Patria, Dutch Arts and Culture in Colonial America, 1609-1776*. Albany Institute 1988 p. 143).

Still other fowlers are either marked for their owners or are associated with certain families:

Martin Cornelius Witbeck (probably Schodack, Rensselaer County), Teunis Slingerlands (Feura Bush, Albany County) whose fowler was branded TSL (and also a hearth brick together with a deer image and his name, ca. 1762), another branded fowler H. VAN RENSSELAER for Hendrick Van Rensselaer 1667-1740 or his son of the same name, 1712-1763 (Albany County), Staats (Albany, now Rensselaer County), Zacharias Van Voorhuys engraved on the barrel (Dutchess County), Hasbrouck (Orange County), Haring (Rockland County), Van Alen (Columbia County), Van Orden (Greene County),

Anthony Van Schaick 1681-1756. (Albany County), and others not recorded. Stamped or branded initials on stocks include unidentified initials, such as IC and DF, likely those of owner. Branding movable objects, mostly furniture, was especially common in the Albany area in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century (Roderic H. Blackburn, *Branded and Stamped New York Furniture*. Magazine Antiques May 1981 pp. 1130-1145).

Marks on locks are those of English makers: HOMER and B. HOMER marked locks (sometimes on back side) for a lock-making family of Bilston, England active for a century or more since the late 17th century. (Anthony D. Darling, *The Homers of Bilston, South Staffordshire, English Gunlockmakers to America* Man at Arms, July, August 1985 pp. 28-30) One member was Baker Homer (1744-1796). RW with British proof marks appear on several barrels, these for three generations of the Wilson family of gunmakers in England. JW appears on one barrel, perhaps the same family (DeWitt Baliey, II, *The Wilsons: Gunmakers to Empire, 1730-1832*, American Society of Arms Collectors, Bulletin No. 85, 2002, pp. 11-24). Other proof mark initials are TA and ?O. Locks marked in block letters or script WILSON are also a product of this family. Other makers's names on locks include KINBERGH/AMSTERDAM, and Ketland & Co. for William Ketland of Birmingham (working from the 1780's).

Intriguing stamped initials LWK on the brass side plate of the Van Voohuys fowler has suggested a New York maker for at least this brass part which is engraved in the manner associated with New York assembled fowlers. A Wynkoop attribution has been suggested but no Wynkoop with an L for a first name initial has been identified in genealogies or other records.