

a "Humann" Rifle. In the field of antique collectors and students, this "Humann" rifle has been the subject of considerable study. Several of these muzzle-loading rifles have been mentioned by old timers, but nothing has ever been learned about the maker or its history. This fine example of guncraftsmanship is spoken of with high praise.

Robert talks about the history of this part of the Grand River valley that he has learned from his ancestors. They have told him their stories regarding Salt works, evidence of early French and Spanish explorers, hidden gold, Indian settlers and hunters, and other things passed down to them. He tells that he has heard a story about a diamond mine that existed before this country was settled and which was supposed to have been in the Marble City country in Sequoyah County.

In an old picture he shows of his grandmother and great grand mother, their faces reflect the tragic events, hard work, and sorrows they have experienced. His great grandmother's home was in east Tennessee until President Andrew Jackson, in his day, forced them to move west. Never in the records of human records has such a gross crime committed by one people against another equaled the event known as the "Trail of Tears". During the nineteenth century there is a continuous "Trail of Tears" involving nearly every tribe of Indians throughout the United States. All during the 1800s it was white man against the Red Man: the white man wanting to give the Indians citizenship and property rights! It will never be explained how one race of people can give another race of people things he has had from time beyond record. During this same period the Indian tried hard to assure himself of what he already had, or so any of hundreds of 'treaties' so stated. And yet, during Cleveland's and McKinley's administrations, there was created a monster apparently designed to exterminate the Indian. Presented as the Dawes Commission, the government just could not sit still until the Indian nations were forever dissolved. The mechanics of the work of the Dawes Commission are told to-day as one drives around the country: little unpainted shacks back up some hollow, hunting and fishing lands all posted with "Keep Out" signs, taxes the Indian does not understand, waiting in line at commodity distribution warehouses, and haunting a mail box waiting for a welfare check. Many of the older Indians say "it was much better before statehood". There are those who say 'the Indian never had it so good'. The world of hippies, dope and drugs, anti-war demonstrations, rock music, forced to compete for a livelihood in an age strange to him, closing schools in Indian communities, is not the Indian way of life. Robert says that there is two entirely different societies in this little part of the world - the white mans and the Indians, and they will never come together. The wants and desires of these societies are as different as night and day, and after 400 years the dominant faction is still reaching for the hand that is not offered.