

American Flintlock Longrifle

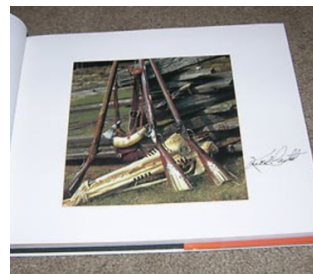
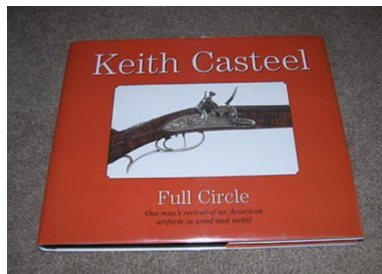
Made by Master-BUILDER Keith Casteel



Keith Casteel

This exceptional American longrifle was handmade in 1991 by renowned gun-builder Keith Casteel. Clay Smith, who worked as a master gunsmith at Colonial Williamsburg, called Casteel “*one of the top ten builders of classic muzzle-loading rifles in the United States today.*” He’s not alone in his praise. Casteel has been inducted into both the Safari Club International Muzzle-Loading Hall of Fame and the Black Powder Hall of Fame. He’s also a charter member of the Kentucky Rifle Association and the Contemporary Longrifle Association. He’s built over 300 museum-quality longrifles, mentored many other successful gun-builders, was a featured speaker at several events, had his work showcased in numerous magazines and journals, and even wrote a book about the rifles he built.

In addition to being a gifted craftsman, Casteel is a skilled black-power hunter and marksman. He’s used the guns he built to kill trophy grizzly bears, bison, and elk. He’s even won a national muzzleloading shooting competition.



Casteel's book discusses some of the noteworthy longrifles he's built.

Casteel's rifles are in high demand and seldom found on the open market. They have been eagerly sought by celebrities and statesmen for decades. In fact, one of his rifles played a central role in a truly iconic moment in American gun rights history. At the 2000 annual meeting of the National Rifle Association, former NRA president Charlton Heston held one of Casteel's longrifles when he famously quipped "from my cold dead hands..." Other owners of his handmade rifles include President George H. W. Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, Senator Orrin Hatch, Senator James McClure, and Congressman John Murtha.

Casteel built this rifle for his own use. He wrote on the Certificate of Ownership: *"One very fine .54 caliber 38-inch barreled flintlock rifle, mounted in presentation grade curly maple with brass furnishings, and silver inlays. One such inlay is in the upper wrist with the initials 'K.C.' indicating that this rifle was built for my personal hunting weapon."*



He carved the stock from a spectacular piece of aged curly maple cut from one of three prized sugar maple trees discovered during the 1960s in Slippery Rock, PA. The wood from this small group of trees gained notoriety in the gun-building community due to its exceptionally strong grain and vivid-striped pattern.



A master engraver, Casteel cut beautiful floral designs and patterns into the rifle's elaborate brass patch box. Behind the hinged door is a small compartment for shooting supplies.



A large silver inlay is attached to the raised cheek rest. Below it is an ornate silver receptacle holding a 14K gold pick used to clean the touch hole.



Casteel built and tuned the flintlock that bears his name. Like many early gunsmiths, he incorporated a pair of set triggers to reduce the finger pressure needed to fire the rifle.



Here are a few more photos of this exceptional piece.



