

Shooting my Antique Rifle

by Kirk McGehee (age 12)

The way things ought to be...and sometimes are!
Grandparents, take note!



Kirk at the bench firing grandpa's flintlock

BANG! Wow, that was loud. Now I just have to wait for the ringing in my ears to stop. I was shooting my new rifle. You see, a few years earlier I had shot my grandfather's antique flintlock muzzleloading rifle. I enjoyed it so much. However, the stock was a little long for my arm at the time. So my grandfather gave me my own rifle as a Christmas present in 2010. It is a .40 caliber caplock muzzleloader. The stock has been customized appropriately to fit my arm length so that I am able to shoot it more comfortably. The wood stock is stained a beautiful maple shade with a glossy finish. The stock also has a shiny brass ring at the very end. The barrel is about two and a half feet longer than most modern rifles. The gun does not have a scope, but it is by no doubt very accurate. The silver hammer and lock mechanisms of the rifle are engraved with a



Kirk firing his .40 caplock rifle

complex design. When it sits on the gun rack in my room it smells like oil, a bitter smell, because I have just cleaned it, which is a long process. However when I am shooting it, the rifle smells like burning gunpowder. I love my rifle, and I shoot it here as often as I can, but I also love to go to my grandfather's house in South Carolina. He is the range officer for his shooting range in South Carolina and spends a lot of time there. He has dozens more rifles like the one that he gave me. He lets me shoot some of them down at his gun range sometimes. He likes to collect rifles and pistols as a hobby and always takes good



Kirk loading his caplock rifle in Mississippi, under the watchful eye of his granddad

care of his guns. I remember the first time he took one apart to show me how it all worked. I was very confused. Now I can take it apart myself. My mom says one day I will inherit my grandfather's collection, even his antique flintlock muzzleloader. I love my wonderful grandfather for giving me such an awesome Christmas present and teaching me all I know about guns.

[Notes from a proud Grandpa: Kirk's first five shots with the flintlock from a bench rest scored 50-3X on a pistol target. In addition to Kirk's interest in shooting and hunting, he is an excellent student, a Boy Scout First Class, and a member of a league champion soccer team.

Bill Baskin, South Carolina]

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