

# The Jess Crouch Knife

David A Clark



For many years the Jess Crouch knife has been a mystery to many knife collectors. We know it was made by Schatt & Morgan about the same time that the Chris Wolf knife (1905 – 1916). I wrote in an article for *Knife World Magazine* titled “The Ugliest Looking Knife You Ever Saw” describing the Chris Wolf and Jess Crouch knives – the article located on line at:

The Ugliest Looking Knife You Ever Saw: Clark, David (2014). The Ugliest Looking Knife You Ever Saw. *Knife World*, p. 1, Vol. 40,11, November. Knife World Publications. P.O. Box 37927, Knoxville, TN, <https://knifemagazine.com/knife-magazine-archives/2010s-knifemagazine-archives/2014-issues-of-knife-magazine/>

The following narrative below is from that article:

The Jess Crouch knife is exactly alike the Chris Wolf knife with two exceptions: the name stamped into the blade and presence of a lanyard hole in the Crouch knife. Otherwise they are identical.

A few years ago a senior cutler at Queen Cutlery showed me a group of old tang stamps that had been discovered somewhere in that 1902 historic factory building. Among the old Schatt & Morgan, Queen City, Curtin &

Clark, ESEMCO, and other tang stamps found was a large Jess Crouch stamp used in the deep stamping of the blade of the Jess Crouch knife. It was known that Jess Crouch was an officer in the cutlery and the discovery of this stamp essentially confirmed what was always suspected; this was a Schatt & Morgan manufactured knife.

We now know that the Chris Wolf knife was manufactured for and marketed by Sears, Roebuck & Co. This fact raises the question, was there similar merchandizing of the Jess Crouch knife? Based on the research and information to this date, it doesn't appear that there was a similar sales program for it. The Jess Crouch knife may have been sold along with the many other knife patterns offered by the Schatt & Morgan salesmen; however, it does not appear in any of their printed catalogs.



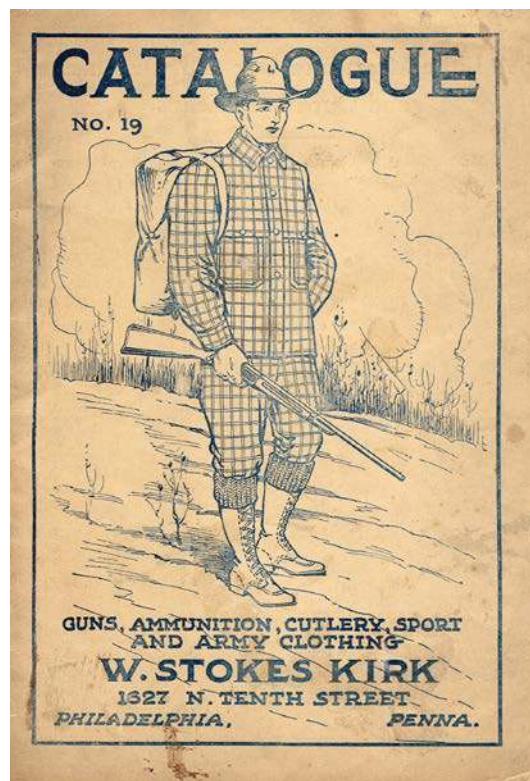
**J. V. Crouch, Secretary and Treasury Schatt & Morgan Cutlery Company (1903 - 1921)**

Much of what is known about Jess Crouch we have learned from his obituary printed in the Titusville Herald on March 5, 1921: *“Jessie Vernon Crouch... was born in Sugar Grove, Warren County (Pennsylvania) on July 10 1865. He grew to manhood in that village attending the common schools and working at various occupations. He showed an apt tendency for mechanics and when a young man obtained a position in Buffalo, N. Y. with a bicycle sales company”*... About 1898 *“he went to Gowanda, N. Y., where he became associated with the Schatt & Morgan Cutlery Company*

*which came to Titusville to establish itself permanently in 1902. At that time, the company was incorporated and Mr. Crouch was made secretary and treasurer, which office he held in the company until his death... Mr. Crouch was of a quiet demeanor, but made friends wherever he happened to be. He was much devoted to his home and family and when his eldest son, John V. Crouch died while in the service of the United States Army late in the winter of 1919, the shock of which he never overcame and he began to fail physically from that time."He was 56 years old...*

Some open questions remain. Was there really a person named Chris Wolf for whom the knife is named after? Was he associated with Schatt & Morgan, or Sears, Roebuck & Co.? Was the Jess Crouch knife ever promoted or advertised in a company's catalog or a store, or was it simply a knife that Schatt & Morgan Cutlery offered? If any reader of this article can assist in answering these questions, please let the publisher know.

We have now learned that the Jess Crouch was sold in the retail market by the W. Stokes Kirk Company, a large clothing, goods and surplus military dealer out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The crouch knife appeared in the 1919 and 1920 catalogs.

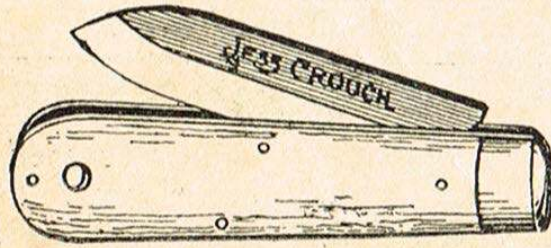


Catalog Front Cover



wt., 5 ozs. No. 282-H. Price, 48 cents.

## POCKET HUNTING KNIFE



Steel lined and bolster. Natural wood handle. Blade, 4¼ inches long. Shpg. wt., 6 ozs.

No. 611. Price, 55 cents.

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### The Jess Crouch Knife

W. STOKES KIRK, 1627 N. TENTH STREET, PHILA., PA.

#### THREE PIECE CARVING SET

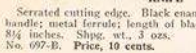


Bone stag handle. Stainless steel blade, 8 inches long. Nickel ferrule; spring guard fork; sharpening steel to match. Shpg. wt., 2 lbs., 8 ozs. No. 363-B. Price, \$2.75.

Same style as above. Handle genuine stag. Stainless steel blade, 8 inches long; spring guard fork; sharpening steel to match. Shpg. wt., 2 lbs., 8 ozs. No. 363-C. Price, \$4.45.

Same as above. Handle genuine selected stag. Sterling silver embossed ferrule. Stainless steel blade, 9 inches long; spring guard fork; sharpening steel to match. Shpg. wt., 2 lbs., 5 ozs. No. 363-D. Price, \$6.75.

#### BREAD KNIFE



Serrated cutting edge. Black enamel handle; metal ferrule; length of blade, 8¼ inches. Shpg. wt., 3 ozs. No. 697-B. Price, 10 cents.

#### HANDY POCKET KNIFE



Handle patent stag, 2 inches long, steel bolsters. Sable point blade, 4 inches long. Shpg. wt., 5 ozs. No. 282-H. Price, 48 cents.

#### POCKET HUNTING KNIFE



Steel lined and bolster. Natural wood handle. Blade, 4¼ inches long. Shpg. wt., 6 ozs. No. 611. Price, 55 cents.

#### JACK KNIFE



Roughly made. The cost of finishing is in the blade. Steel lining and bolster. Total length, 7¼ inches. Shpg. wt., 8 ozs. No. 481. Price, 59 cents.

#### BARBERS' HAIR-CUTTING SHEARS



Gunmetal forged steel, well tempered, nicely finished. Total length, 7½ inches. Shpg. wt., 5 ozs. No. 193-D. Price, 80 cents.

Nickel plated, forged steel, finely tempered and ground. A clean cutting edge. Total length, 7½ inches. Shpg. wt., 6 ozs. No. 193-B. Price, 85 cents.



Made of high-grade steel; will retain edge for a long time; full polish, 7½ inches long. Shpg. wt., 6 ozs. No. 193-C. Price, \$1.45.

Made of high-grade steel, properly tempered; exceptionally well finished. Black handle. Total length, 7½ inches. Shpg. wt., 5 ozs. No. 193-E. Price, \$1.75.

#### EMBROIDERY STORK SCISSORS

Made of high-grade steel, gilt body, polished bill. Total length, 4½ inches. Shpg. wt., 3 ozs. No. 193-H. Price, 69 cents.

W. STOKES KIRK, 1627 N. TENTH STREET, PHILA., PA.

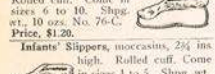
#### Sheepskin Moccasins



Men's Slipper Style, 3½ ins. high, turned cuff. Worn indoor and out. Shpg. wt., 12 ozs. No. 75-B. Price, \$1.60.



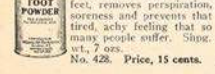
Ladies' Slipper Style, 3½ ins. high. Rolled cuff. Nothing so comfortable for tired feet. Shpg. wt., 12 ozs. No. 76. Price, \$1.50.



Misses' Slipper Style moccasins, 3¼ ins. high; turned cuff. Bunny head on toe. Useful and attractive. Sizes, 11 to 2. Shpg. wt., 10 ozs. No. 76-B. Price, \$1.35.



Children's Style moccasins, 3 ins. high. Bunny on toe. Rolled cuff. Come in sizes 6 to 10. Shpg. wt., 10 ozs. No. 76-C. Price, \$1.20.



Infants' Slippers, moccasins, 2¾ ins. high. Rolled cuff. Come in sizes 1 to 5. Shpg. wt., 6 ozs. No. 76-D. Price, 95 cents.



MEN'S FELT SLIPPERS Made of olive drab material, plain toe and trimmed tops. Spring heel and elastic tanned sole. Just the thing for camp and indoor wear. In ordering send shoe measurements. Shpg. wt., 11 ozs. No. 354. Price, 75 cents.



U.S. ARMY FOOT POWDER Kills any odor of the feet, removes perspiration, soreness and prevents that tired, achy feeling that so many people suffer. Shpg. wt., 7 ozs. No. 428. Price, 15 cents.

#### No. 168—ARMY DRAB STOCKINGS



O. D. light weight made of fine cotton. Neat and comfortable. Weight, 2 ozs. Price, 15 cents.

#### No. 167—CASHMERE SOCKS



Natural color gray, cotton and wool mixed. Double sole and heel. Warm and comfortable; first quality. Weight, 2 ozs. Price, 40 cents.

#### ARMY WOOL SOCKS



Shaker style, gray color, natural wool, elastic tops; highest grade the Government add. Shpg. wt., 6 ozs. No. 800-C. Price, 29 cts.

#### Shaker style



Shaker style. Dormer brand. Blue, elastic tops, with two white bands, ¼" wide, white heel and toe. Comfortable and serviceable. Will stand hard wear. Fine for outdoor work. Shpg. wt., 6 ozs. No. 360. Price, 40 cts.



The Jess Crouch blade stamp

End