

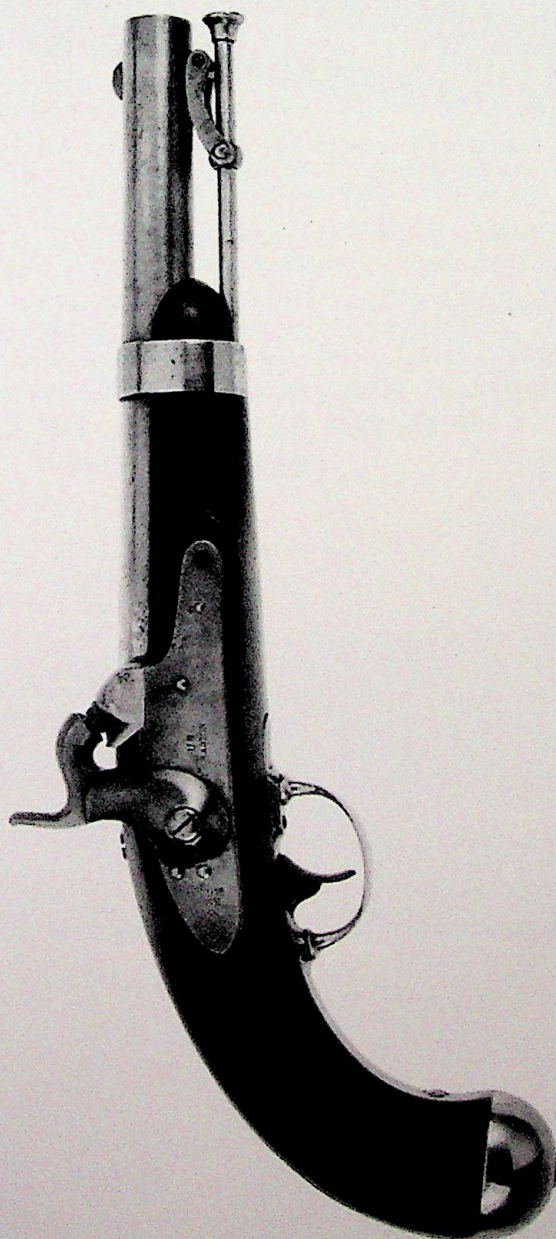
# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter* 

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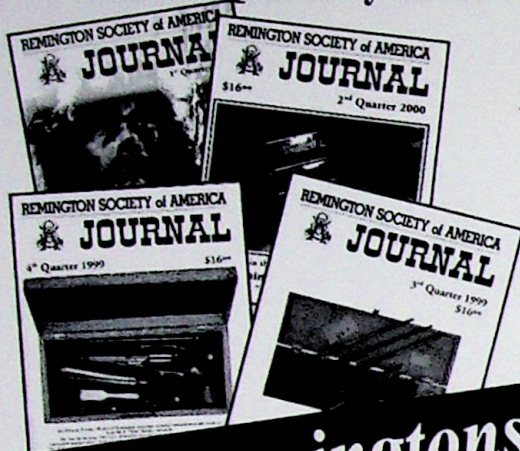
Number 105 September 2005

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EDITOR & PUBLISHER  
*Wayne P. Gagner*

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*Wayne P. Gagner*

# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

*And Springfield Research  
Newsletter*

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Cover: U.S. ASTON Model 1842 Pistol.

Number 105

September 2005

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## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### Research During This Period

Research continues on serial numbers, U.S. Martial weapons, and U.S. Archive records. We are reviewing data on Trapdoors, M1 Garands, 22 caliber U.S. rifles, and National Match weapons. An additional effort is being done on French Indian War weapons, Springfields and Krag production data..

There is a continual list of new sources that provide many additional documents on U.S. Martials. We will continue to search and recover any record that will assist in gaining additional data on as many weapon types and areas of interest on U.S. history. This will include edged weapons as well as firearms from Colonial through World War 2 and possibly the present.

Research plans include match rifles, unique test and manufacturing, and more research on pre World War One weapons.

The U.S. Army records are being reviewed as they have an incredible amount of photos, data, unit activities , and other papers.

The cover photo is an excellent example of an 1842 U.S. Aston pistol. It was provided by Doug Carlson-photographer Paul Goodwin.

Our data base includes photos and literature on a wide variety of U.S. Martial handguns. Any interest and comments on U.S. Martial Pistols would be welcomed.

Our existing database of early muskets and militia weapons will continue with additional efforts to make information more responsive for searches, location, and identification.

**Springfield Research By C. Pate In Last Quarter:**

#### Percussion Revolver "Alteration"

As part of a book project on the U.S. Army Smith & Wesson American Model revolver of 1871, research of Army efforts to convert some of their existing percussion army revolvers to metallic cartridges. These experiments were conducted in the late

for field trials. Multiple front-loading schemes, which did not infringe on the Rollin White patent, were tried with the best known being the Plant revolver and the Colt Thuer. None were satisfactory. Several inventors attempted to alter both Remington and Colt Army model revolvers to use metallic cartridges using conventional rear-loading schemes but problems in converting the Colt meant that the St. Louis Board considered only Remington conversions. As a result of the Board's recommendations, 1,000 of the Smith & Wesson revolvers were ordered in December 1870 and the Ordnance Department requested a quote from Remington for altering U.S. Army revolvers of their manufacture. It is not clear why, but Remington declined to bid and contrary to what some have speculated none of the Remingtons were converted for field testing. However, Colt had been reasonably successful in their attempts to modify the Model 1860 to use metallic cartridges, the system now known as the Richards Conversion. The Ordnance Department quickly ordered 1,000 Colts (subsequently increased to 1,126) be altered accordingly but found during their inspection that new cylinders would be required due to the thin chamber walls when the original percussion cylinders were used - the same problem that confounded earlier inventors. The slightly larger cylinder worked well and the troops and their officers considered the "Altered Colt" to be a good service arm.

#### Arms With Regimental Markings.

C. Pate and another researcher have been investigating arms with Civil War regimental markings to determine if the numbers on such arms relate in any consistent way to "soldier numbers," either numbers assigned to soldiers in muster roles or otherwise.

**1860s leading up to the St. Louis Ordnance Board in 1870 to select breech-loading arms**



No evidence has been found to show that soldiers' numbers were applied to their arms, either those not having serial numbers, such as the Enfield, or to arms having serial numbers. Some states are known to have marked their state-purchased arms with regiment, company and number markings, but the number applied appears to have been simply a weapon number that could be used like a serial number for accountability purposes when the arm was issued to a soldier. Comments are welcome as well as inputs from readers. Direct them to: Charles Pate, at [SpringfieldResearchService@cox.net](mailto:SpringfieldResearchService@cox.net).

#### **Data on Books, and Web Page**

The SRS serial number data in book form are available in volumes 1, 2, 3, and 4 in softbound books series. Volume 2 is available only as a copy and it has been out of print for several years. Volume 4 is updated and is bigger than the original and contains more serial numbers in a 200 page plus volume. It is much more comprehensive than the first printing. Serial number books are available from U.S. Martial Arms Collector *Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818*.

Springfield Research Service CD's with serial number references are available from Springfield Research Service *P.O. Box 6322 Falls Church VA 22040*.

THE KRAG RIFLE STORY, and U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazine are available from U.S. Martial Arms Collector *Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818*.

The Springfield Research Service web site ([www.armscollectors.com/srs.htm](http://www.armscollectors.com/srs.htm)) is also available for serial number letter requests and includes a complete listing of all of our serial numbers. (Over 100,000 listing). There is also a list of services and books. ([www.armscollectors.com/srs.htm](http://www.armscollectors.com/srs.htm)).

We receive requests for serial number data in book form from collectors and researchers that desire a non computer form of database that is portable for libraries, gun shows and other uses.

#### **Springfield Target and Sporting Rifles Book**

This will be an on going effort over the next year. We are continually receiving new photos and data on Springfield Match and other rifles. It will cover subject rifles from 1908 to 1942. Each fiscal year is now being processed; as well as a major gathering of photos for publication. There have been many new weapons found by individual collectors that will offer more insight into this area of military collecting.

There is a continual review of Archive data that will be evaluated for reproduction in softbound media as well as simple copies of groups of documents on a selected basis. As always, we will be printing, in the U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazine, many documents and information that are available for publication.

#### **Springfield Research Data Base**

In addition to serial numbers, our research efforts resulted in a major collection of notes, letters, and other factual items based on U.S. Archive and Military documents.

They offer many pieces of information on weapons from the French Indian Wars through World War 2, Korea, and Viet Nam.

Time is always a factor as well as demand for topics of interest.

We will review many new topics. *Your suggestions and contributions are welcome.*

#### **Krag Rifle Story**

The SECOND edition and the FIRST edition are out of print.

A limited number of books are available from the Martial Arms Collector office Box 126 Cabin John, Md 20818.

Our office and several book dealers, still have a small number in stock. They are continually being depleted and we receive requests from dealers that cannot be filled..

A review of the book and its contents are planned for next year. Any inputs, data, and ideas are welcome but, there are no plans to publish any new books until a complete review is finished and a decision is made concerning a new effort.

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 105-3*



### **Contributions**

Please submit any contributions, data, and photos to the U.S. Military Arms Collector Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818.

We appreciate all inputs and are always willing to include interesting topics for the collector and student.

Please make sure that all contributions, including photos and other material, bear the legible name of the contributor or source. The same for payments for subscriptions and other orders.

We have several subscription orders or renewals on hand with no name or address. The post office returns mail with no forwarding address and it appears that the official forwarding time is getting shorter. If you are aware of any request, subscription, or book, that has not been received, please contact us and we will get it out as soon as possible. We are still finding some old handwritten notes that are in limbo. Every effort will be made to answer all requests and we look forward to any comments and inquiries.

### **Civilian Marksmanship Program**

The CMP will stop having tables at local gun shows and review this activity over the next year. The CMP still has many M1 Garand rifles in all grades from rack to collector standards, 1903 Springfields, 1903A3 rifles, 1917 Enfields and a catalogue of prices, standards, parts, and accessories.

Special provisions are available for World War II Veterans.

LIMITED QUANTITY ANSCHUTZ AIR RIFLES. The CMP has acquired a very small quantity of Anschutz 2002 compressed air rifles and is offering them for sale below market value. CMP has less than one dozen of these and will sell them on a first come - first served basis. For details, please see <http://www.odcmp.com/Rifles/Anschutz.htm>.

CMP ATTENDANCE AT INDIANAPOLIS SHOW CANCELLED. The CMP will not have a display at the Oct 29-30, 2005 gun show in Indianapolis as previously announced.

### **CMP SOUTH STORE OPENING**

DELAYED. The opening of a CMP South Store in Anniston, AL has been postponed until early spring 2006 due to construction delays and employee retirement.

AUCTIONS: Interested parties should visit the CMP auction site at <http://auction.spadra.com/auctions/#>.

GREEK HXP .30-06 AMMUNITION. The CMP has received a consignment of Greek military HXP surplus .30-06 M2 Ball ammunition. This ammunition will be available for sale through the CMP ESTORE beginning 1 July 2005 and at the North Store on 5 July. Details and prices will be posted on <http://estore.odcmp.com/Store/catalog/catalog.aspx>.

USGI GARAND OPTIONS VERY LIMITED. Options for M1 Garand rifles that had never been on loan to other countries are very limited. The only remaining options are Springfield Armory (SA) Rack and Field Grades. The Collector, Correct, and Service Grade USGI options are sold out.

WW2 veterans may be eligible for a discount when purchasing a M1 Garand rifle. Please contact the CMP.

GREEK HRA RACK AND FIELD GRADES. Greek HRA Garands may be limited, please contact the CMP for latest data..

CMP also has 22 caliber target rifles available on a random basis. We are going to keep up contacts at CMP to let collectors know of any new military items for sale. Phone number for CMP is 888 267 0796

### **CREEDMORE SPORTS**

Camp Pendleton will host the CMP and Creedmore Sports for Creedmore matches November 5 through November 13. The WESTERN GAMES is open to the public and CMP will offer weapons for sale including Garands, 1903 Springfields, and Kimbers.

**This is a great benefit to West Coast collectors and shooters.**



## **SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICES Staff**

Responsibility for the Martial Arms Collector magazine and maintenance of the large photo and document database will be continued by Wayne Gagner. Address is Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818. Email [wayneg10@comcast.net](mailto:wayneg10@comcast.net)

Charlie Pate provides all serial number letters for SRS and also does research at the U.S. Archives. He maintains the serial number data base and associated research data. His email address is [SpringfieldResearchService@cox.net](mailto:SpringfieldResearchService@cox.net)  
His mail address is Springfield Research Service P.O. Box 6322 Falls Church, VA 22040.

Our transition is always continuing to new computer systems. SRS activities are available with all previous services. Some data has been lost because of unknown software characteristics and a loss of some conversion software. The original software was based on some key developments for Department of Defense efforts dating back many years. This basic software concept is still being used on aircraft, key command and control functions, and ships. Little by little each piece is being looked at to see if recovery is possible and conversion is being made. Some data is being manually reentered.

Please check to see if all documents are available as some require extensive retrieval efforts and some may be lost for a long time.

## **TRADING POST**

**The Trading Post is for non-commercial users only. There is no charge for ads, but they are run on a space-available basis.**

● **Wanted** Early solid top band for a M1892 Krag.

Ron Jones, Box 351,  
Botsford, CT 06404.....(203)426-8896

● **For Sale**

M1884 Rifle # 135553, VG \$ 625

M1884 Rifle # 509236, VG \$ 625

Tom Batha 518 297 6159

● **Wanted**

Two Krag Bayonet Scabbards (1895, 1899, or 1903). Any condition

Ray Byrne 25 Indian Rd. #2D

New York, NY 10034

212 544 9166

[BXBATNYPD@aol.com](mailto:BXBATNYPD@aol.com)

● **For Sale**

Bayonets from Frank Mallory's collection.

Contact: Editor U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazine ([wayneg10@comcast.net](mailto:wayneg10@comcast.net))

● **For Sale**

KRAG RIFLES and Carbines:

Please contact Editor U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazine

([wayneg10@comcast.net](mailto:wayneg10@comcast.net))

● **Wanted** Need follower for Krag rifle #6540. Also, if you have rifle #6892, please contact me. Currently have rifle #6540 complete, but with follower from #6892.

Contact Michael Raborn at email

[kragrifle@cox-internet.com](mailto:kragrifle@cox-internet.com).

● **For Sale**

1911 UNION SWITCH & SIGNAL

Contact Al Beck : [alvinbeck@earthlink.net](mailto:alvinbeck@earthlink.net)



## **United States Army Heritage & Education Center**

The military facility in Carlisle, Pennsylvania is home to this new and upcoming research center. The History Institute opened on 2 August 2004 and has had a great deal of history and research for visitors. To take advantage of the reading room, computer facilities and reference facilities, a visitor has access to the Carlisle Barracks reservation and does not need to go through the Post Security.

There has been a major addition to the Museum. New exhibits will also include a two phase showing of U.S. Army uniforms from 1845 through 1890 (Blue) and Khaki through OD. The photos will be excellent.

The History Institute is located off of interstate 81 in Carlisle, PA. Again, no post security facilities are necessary for the Institute building.

There are many plans underway to have more facilities, artifacts, and documents. The quality and volume of data is outstanding and the personnel are great.

### **EXHIBITS LURE VISITORS TO ARMY HERITAGE TRAIL**

A Sherman tank that is part of an Omaha Beach display along the Army Heritage Trail can be seen by travelers on Interstate 81 as they drive through Middlesex Township. COL. Robert Dalessandro, director of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, says the display is the first of three roadside e

exhibits designed to attract visitors to the center and the heritage trail.

Starting this winter, work will begin to build a reproduction of a Revolutionary War British redoubt - a protective enclosure used to defend a hill - that was captured by Continental troops led by COL. Alexander Hamilton during the Battle of Yorktown. The redoubt, which will include artillery guns, will become AHEC's highway sign. "It will be quite a sight from I-81,". A Vietnam-era Huey helicopter

exhibit, also expected to begin this winter, will flank the redoubt and complete the trio of roadside exhibits

The interactive walking trail started taking shape last year in a field next to Ridgway Hall. Open to the public, it features military equipment and structures from wars beginning with the French and Indian War through Viet Nam. The nearly one-mile trail is open to the public and many people already use the trail for running or walking. "I want this to be county green space," Dalessandro says.

More historical interpretation is planned as well. Starting in a few months, docents will be on the trail a couple times a week presenting weekend programs or bringing history alive for school groups.

Traditions Field, which lies within the trail, can be used as a parade ground or for sporting events, such as a Civil War baseball game. Civil War winter cabins along the trail are nearly complete. A re-enactor area near the cabins as well as a re-creation of a short stretch of the Hagerstown Pike at Antietam, lined with rail fences, can be used for living history Civil War events.

Construction of a French and Indian War blockhouse has begun and is expected to be the next exhibit finished. An 1880's horse stable will be built next summer. The stable can be used for programs that require cavalry.

Four buildings for a 1940 mobilization barracks used during WWII are being prefabricated in Lancaster, and a World

War I trench area will be built and an exhibit on the Lost Battalion expanded.

Other exhibits that are partially complete illustrate the Spanish American War and Korean War. When completed the Heritage Trail will allow visitors to explore many different eras of American military history, to ponder those times as they gaze upon the silent witnesses to that history. Currently the Heritage Trail is open daily to the public and there is no charge to visit.



## Letters Received & Sent

There have been several inquiries concerning 1903 National Match rifles with SA/GAW cartouches that are in addition to the SA/SPG. It appears that some 1903's were re marked and/or inspected again during WW2.

Comments and observations are welcome

KRAG barrel lengths. Is my 24 inch barrel Krag an original NRA carbine.

As far as we know, the NRA carbine had a 22 inch barrel. There have been reports of a few with longer barrels. A search is underway for Springfield or other documentation and anyone that has any documents for a NRA sporter with a 24 inch barrel would be appreciated. Please send any comments to the editor, U.S. Martial Arms Collector.

MI Garand timing block. Was the timing gage (block) a standard issue for maintenance and field use during World War 2.

We have found a document that shows the Ordnance Department issuing a letter stating that the fully loaded clip works as well as a timing gage. It appears that loaded clips became the normal means to check a MI.

Charleville Muskets. What ramrod was on the Charleville. Did the U.S. Musket Model 1795 use the same ramrod as either a 1763 or 1766 French musket.

The Model 1763 French Musket used a Tulip shaped ramrod and the Model 1766 used a button shaped ramrod (Boudriot, Lorain, and Marquiset- AMRES A Feu Francaises, Cahiers. 1759-1917).

Did the U.S. procure British Brown Bess Muskets from England.

The following document are copies of a United States procurement of 1500 Brown Bess Muskets from England in 1800. There were several other contracts to procure weapons from England during this period. Evidently the threat of war and the ending of the Revolutionary War did not deter trade.

*Received of the Comr 1800 of Israel Whelan  
Treasurer of Public Supplies, Nineteen hundred  
forty seven Dollars & 2 Cents in full for duties and  
twenty Cents for Permit - on seventy five chests  
containing fifteen hundred stand of Arms -  
imported in the Savannah from London on  
Account of the United States -*  
*1947.92 Duties  
20 Permit  
\$1948.12* *W. L. L. L.*

*Received of the Comr 1800 from Israel Whelan Treasurer of  
Public Supplies Nineteen hundred forty seven Dollars & 2 Cents for  
Duties, Permit & Certificate of Landing of seventy five chests  
containing fifteen hundred stand of Arms Imported by the United States in  
the Savannah Capt. Whelan from London -*  
*\$1948.57 (Duplicate)* *W. L. L. L.*  
*20 Cents of the same amount  
March 1800*

Questions can be submitted by mail or email  
to U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazine  
Box 126  
Cabin John, MD. 20818

wayneg10@comcast.net

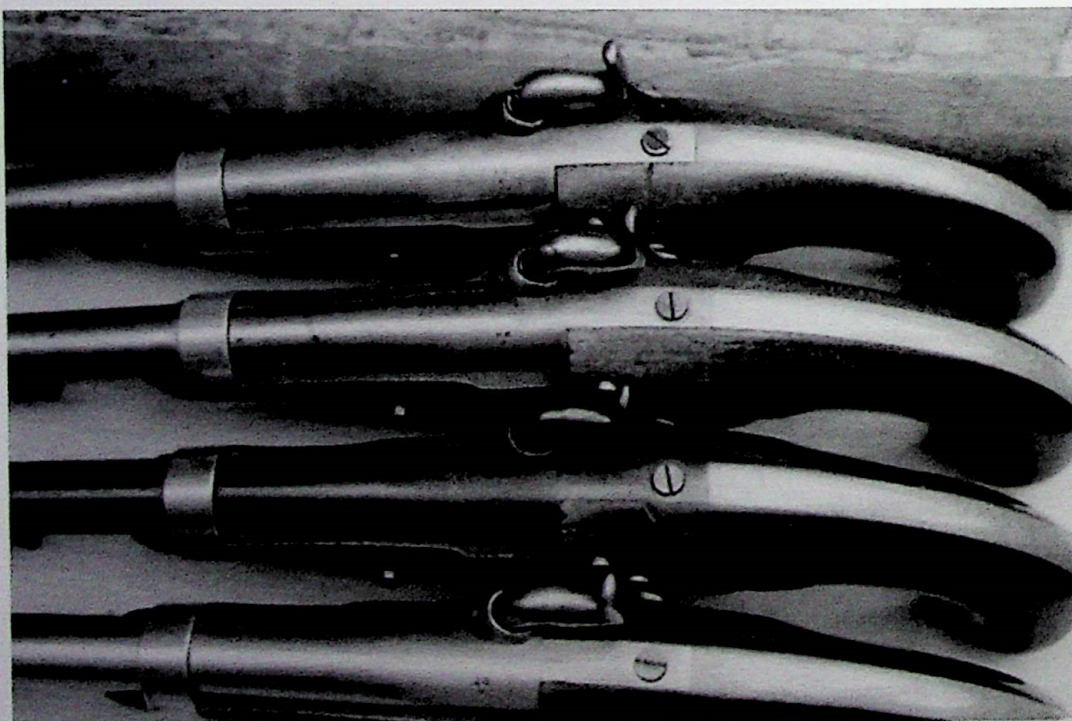


**U.S. MODEL 1842 PISTOL 1846  
through 1852**

The U.S. Model 1842 produced by John Aston of Connecticut was the last of the single shot "Horse Pistols". The following shows an example of ASTONS made in each year. They do not address the Johnson, USM models, Naval marked, nor Southern manufacture weapons.

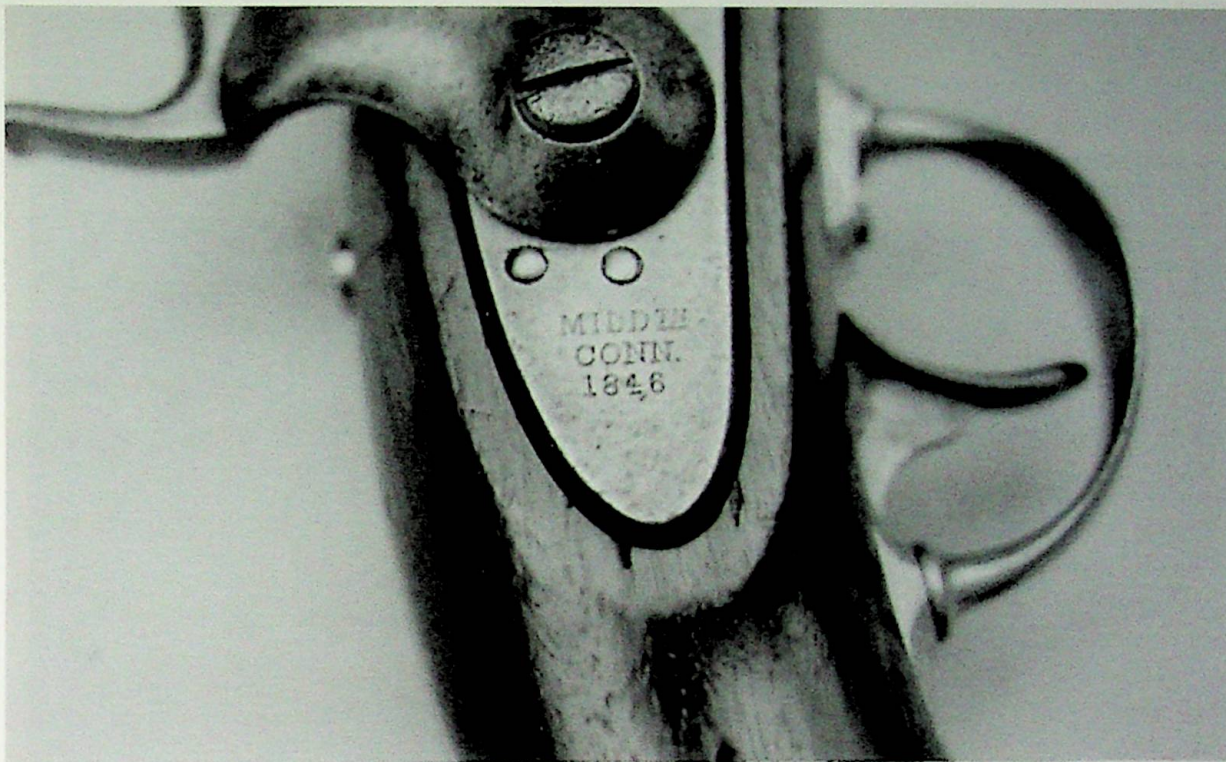
Group of four with different barrel  
markings

GW (P), WN (P), NWP (P), JH (P),





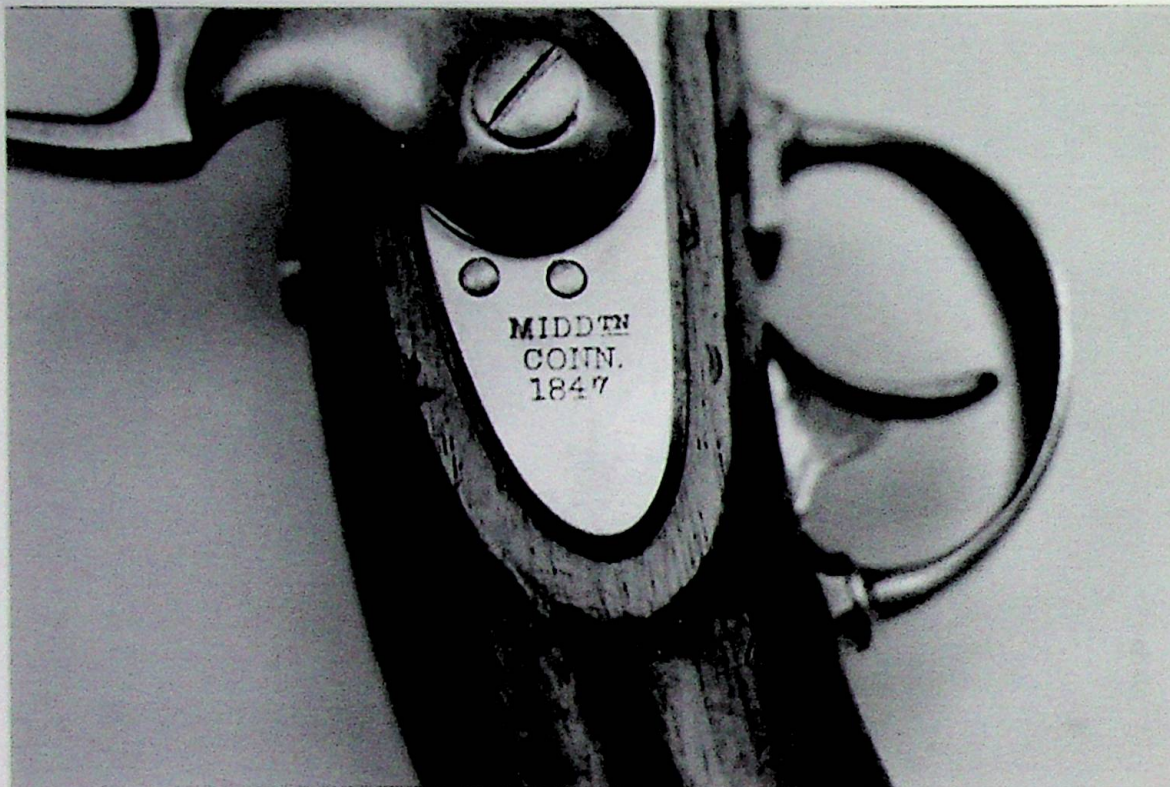
1846 DATED ASTON



*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 105-9*

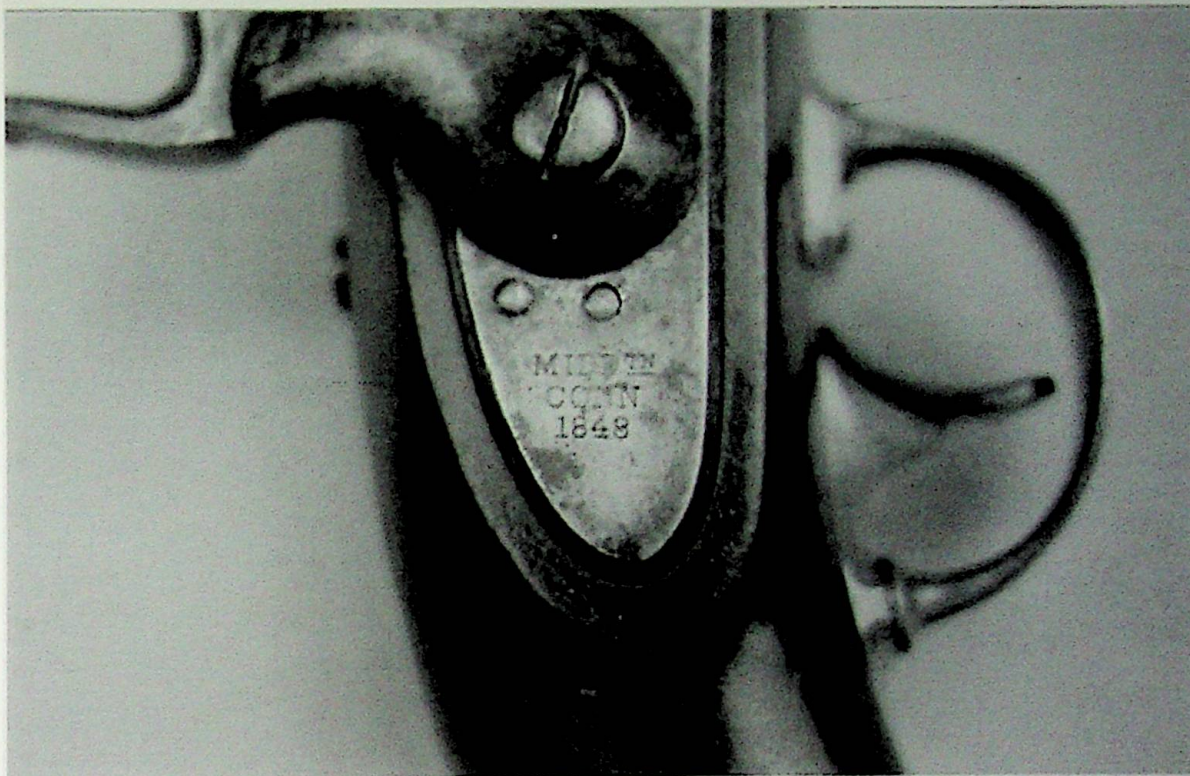


1847 DATED ASTON



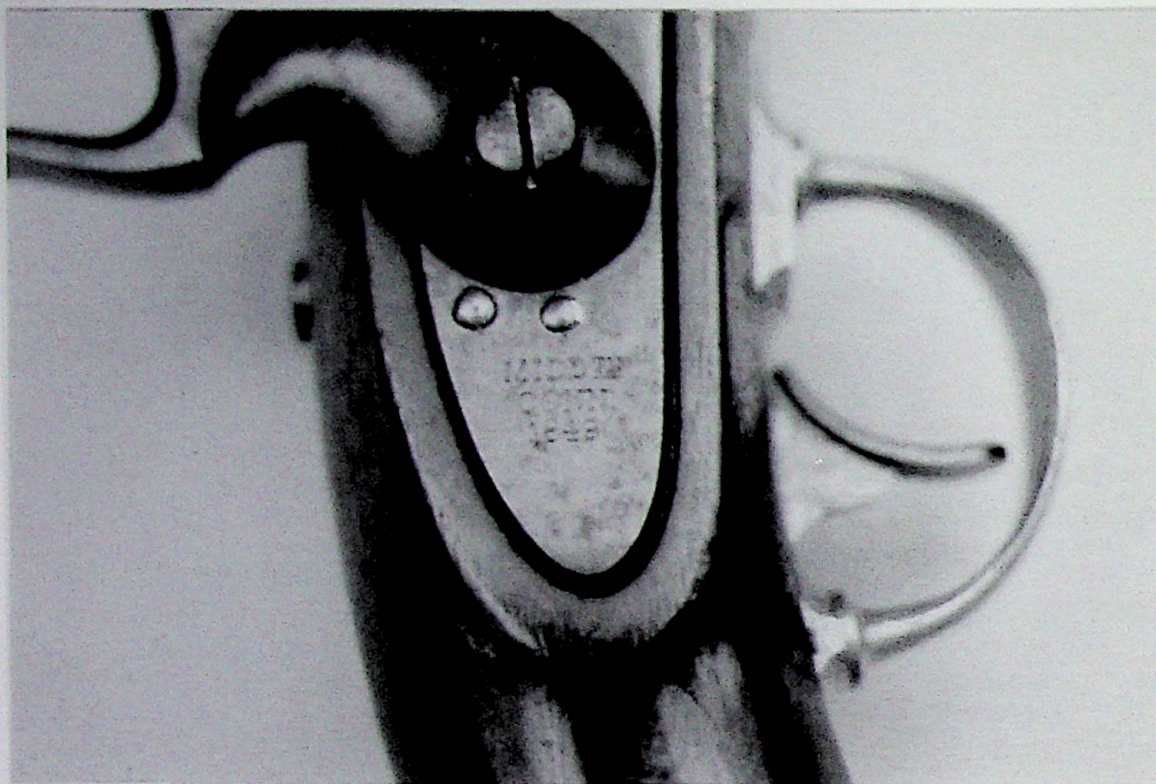


1848 DATED ASTON



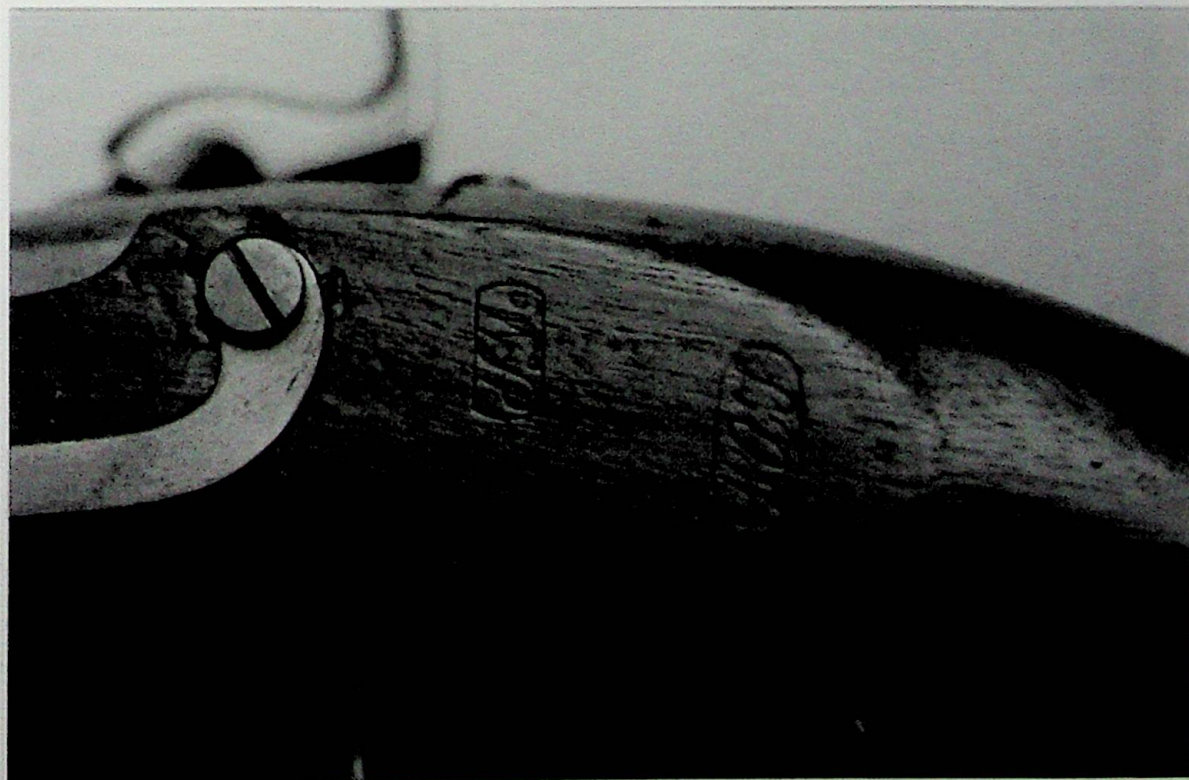
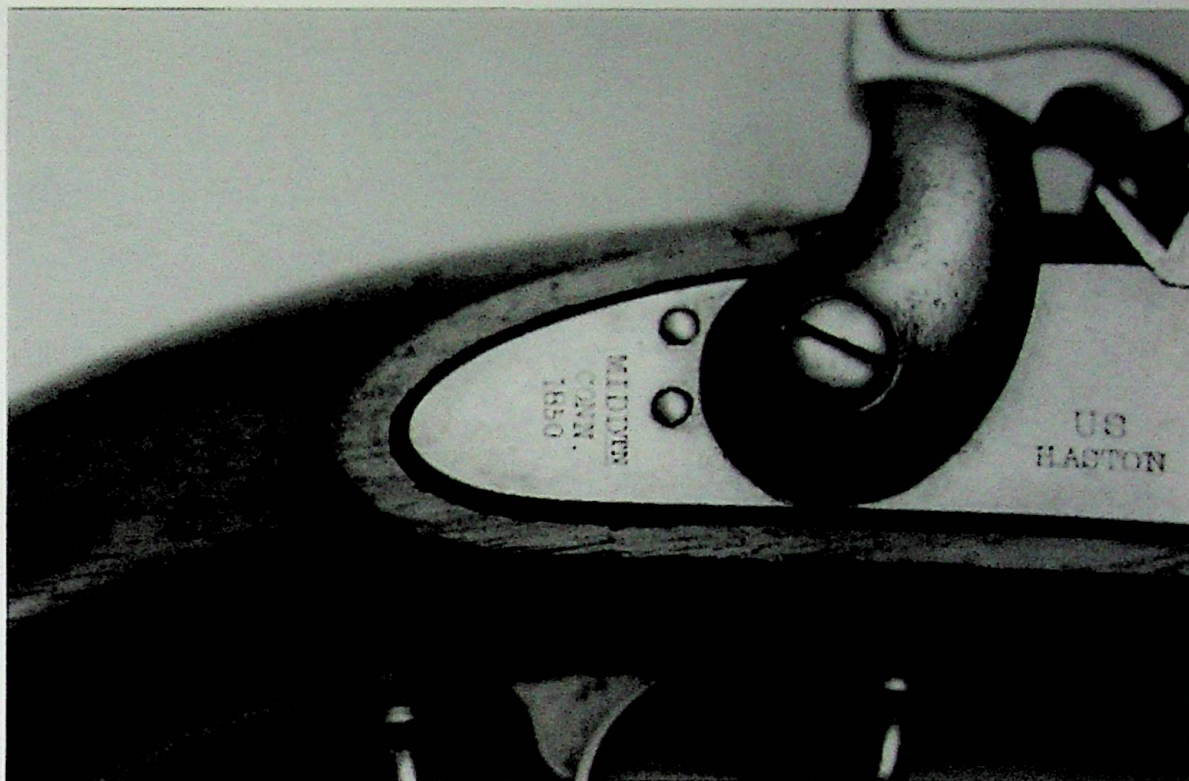


1849 DATED ASTON



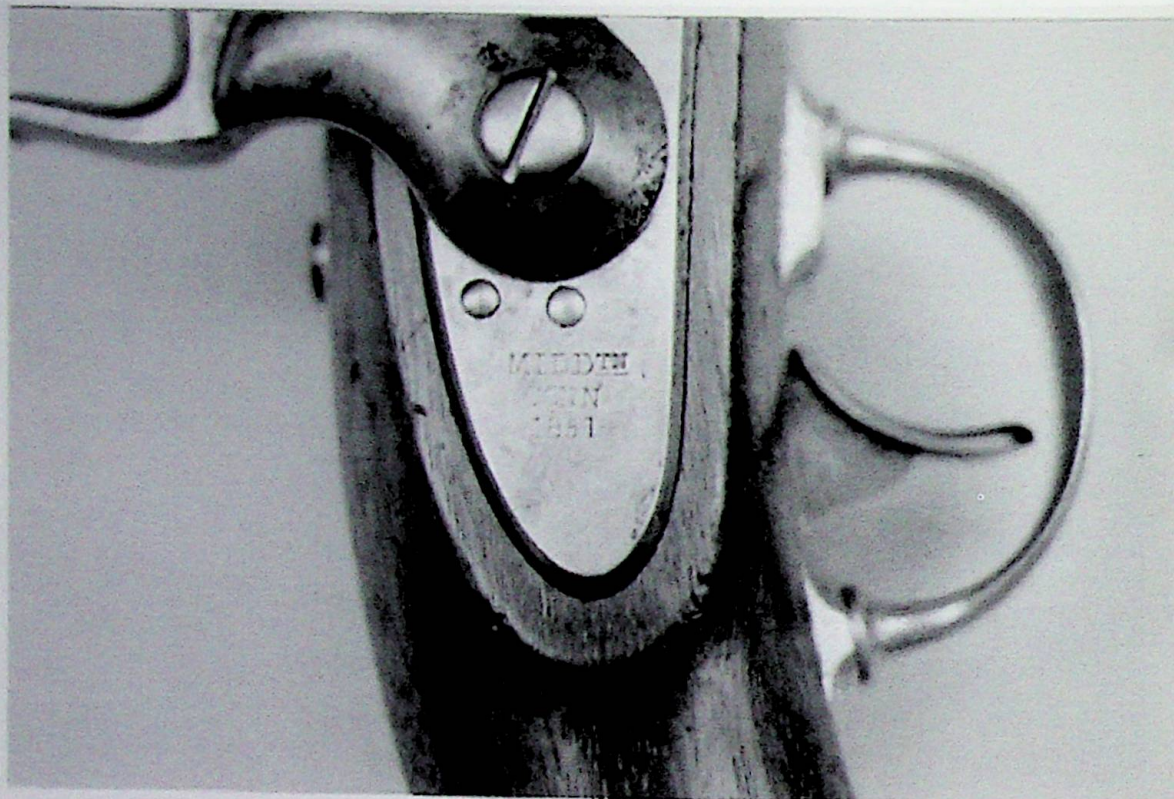


1850 DATED ASTON



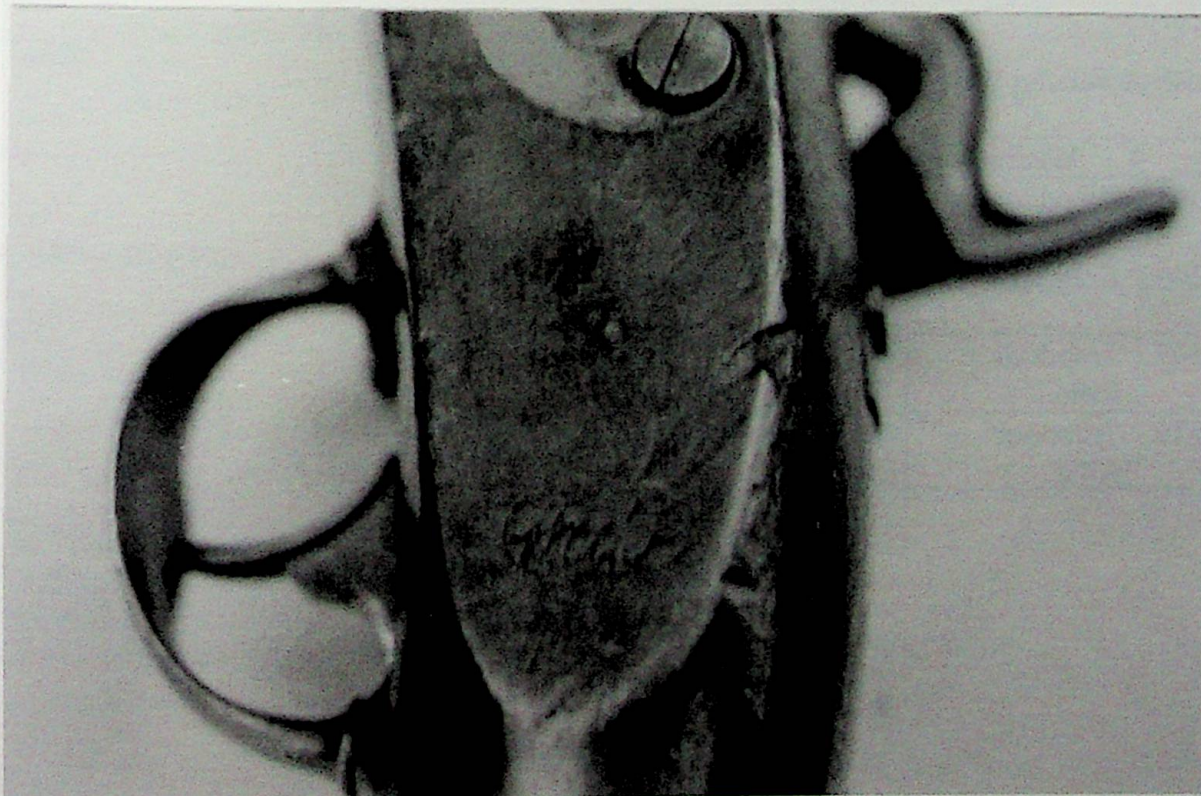
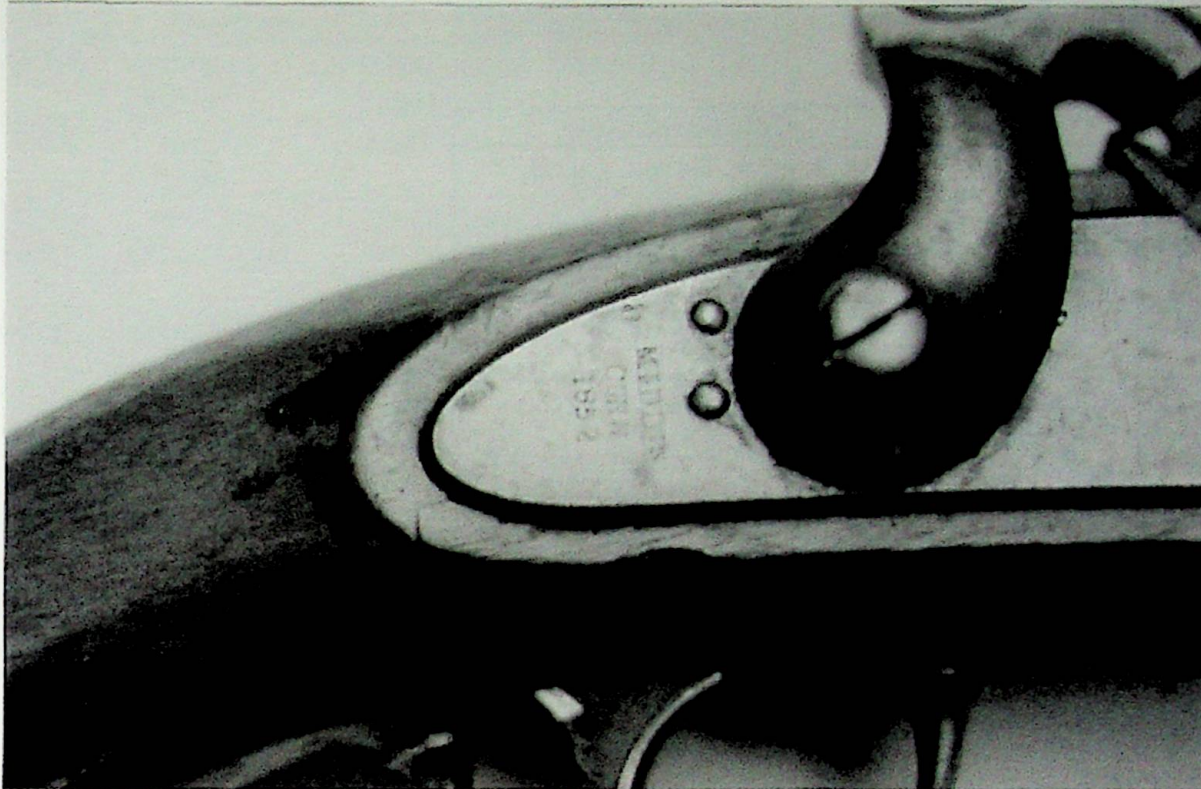


1851 DATED ASTON





1852 DATED ASTON



*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 105-15*



## GUNS LETTERED

### Civil War

SN	Weapon	Unit/Name/Note
19375	Spencer Carbine	Sgt. John A. Bogan, Co. B, 13th OH Vol. Cav.
128099	Colt 1860 Army	Vet. Surg. Albert Childers, Co. F, 6th IN Vol. Cav.
2547	Burnside Carbine	Pvt. John Ganghan, Co. B, 11th NY Vol. Cav.
13	Allen & Wheelock pistol	Pvt. Emerson Averill, Co. A, 2nd MI Vol. Cav.
139464	Colt Navy Revolver	Corporal Richard Bigelow, D Co., 7th IN Vol. Cav.
5062	Burnside Carbine	Sgt. Jabez Israel, Co. L, 5th Ohio Vol. Cav.
2583	Colt 1861 Navy	Co. E, 11th OH Vol. Cav.
19561	Smith Carbine	Pvt. Alonzo Doolittle, Co D, 11th IL Vol. Cav.

### Spanish-American War

SN	Weapon	Unit/Name/Note
312004	Trapdoor Rifle	Corp. Charles R. Arner, Co. K, 33rd MI Vol. Inf.
168249	Krag Rifle	Pvt. John J. Callanan, 32nd U.S. Vol. Inf.
542197	Trapdoor Rifle	Pvt. Thomas F. Nicholas, Co. E, 8th NY Vol. Inf.
296729	Trapdoor Rifle	Co. K, 2nd PA Vol. Inf.



# Other

SN	Weapon	Unit/Name/Note
148788	Trapdoor Carbine	Indian Scout "Black Wolf," Ft. Supply, IT
45890	Trapdoor Carbine	Inquiry to sec. of Army
77733	Krag Carbine	Co. H, 1st Cav., Ft. Meade
561056	M1903 Rifle	Co. M, 5th OH Inf. (Mexican Punitive Expedition)
814601	M1903 Rifle	M. W. Robinson, U.S.M.C. Barracks, Portsmouth Navy Yard
6858763	M1 Carbine	34th Comm. Squadron, 1st AF
81299	SA M1911	Troop D, 1st Cav., NJNG
948655	Colt M1911A1	USS <i>Tisdale</i>
976207	Remington Rand M1911A1	USS <i>Cabot</i>
714139	Colt M1911A1	SS <i>W. H. Libby</i>
705425	Colt M1911A1	USCG Pistol Range
714949	Colt M1911A1	Shipped from U.S. Army to USN Supply Depot, Sewall's Point, VA

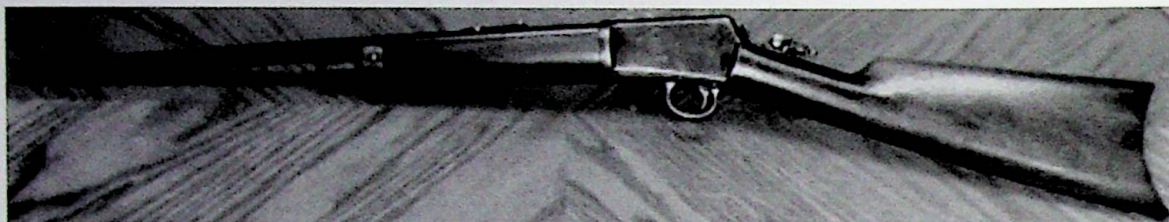
# DCM/Surplus Sales

SN	Weapon	Unit/Name/Note
1258185	M1903 Sporter	H. W. Lloyd, Springfield, MA
1317226	M1903 Sporter	Wm. H. Lasher, Jr., Grand Gorge, NY
19436	M1822 M1	O. T. Sutfin, Chicago, IL
1361446	M1903 NMC	C. W. Stamey, Hutchinson, KS
1084640	M1903 Rifle	Leroy S. Tarp, Seattle, WA
1273019	M1903 NM Rifle	State of FL



WINCHESTER MODEL 1903 U.S. MARKED RIFLE  
MILITARY ISSUED

Courtesy: Larry Reynolds

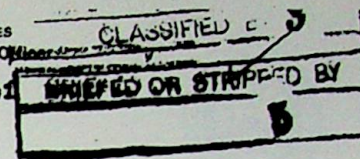


Note: an extremely nice example of a US 22 semi auto rifle. It has a US on the receiver. SRS has many documents on the disposition of 22 rifles manufactured by several companies in the U.S. Efforts are underway to find acquisition records. We also have some serial numbers of issue WINCHESTER model 1890 and model 1903 22 rifles.



JWJ/rei

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY  
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.



November 12, 1929.

INDEXED

S.A. 474-2/415  
O.O. WAR DEPT.  
474-2  
1030  
NOV 14 1929

Subject: Types, Experimental - Designation of.  
To: The Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D. C.

1. Request that suitable designations be assigned in accordance with Office Order #614, August 18, 1925, for the several experimental semi-automatic rifles recently made or now being made here.
2. Some of these designations have already been in common use such extent that they should now stand even if not what would be liberately assigned. These are indicated in the column "Previously used" in the table below.
3. It is not possible at this time to cite drawing numbers, & these will be communicated later insofar as possible. At present notification is given as well as it may be.

EXPERIMENTAL TYPES OF SEMI-AUTOMATIC SHOULDER RIFLES  
CALIBER .30 AND CALIBER .276  
(GARAND AND PEDERSEN PATENTS)

I t e m s	DESIGNATIONS	
	Previously Used	Recommended Cal..276; Cal..30
The original Garand Cal..30; made at Bureau of Standards as a full auto; brought by Garand to S.A. and there altered; now auto. or semi-automatic; operated by primer set-back; no marks; prior to July 1920 Ex. 0.2833.	"Original Garand Rifle"	T-1919
The second Garand Cal..30; a semi-auto., operated by primer set-back; Browning type clip, now 5 round size; marked "Model No. 2" "Dec. 31, 1920" (Ex. 0.2833-2).	"Model 1920" and "Model 2"	T-1920

1. A + A. A. Div. 11-14-29 - 1 - 10:56





DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

OCT 10 1975

REFER TO  
T:T:F:CH

Dear Mr. Gagner:

This is in reply to your undated letter which was received by our office on January 7, 1975. You asked for information regarding the antiquity status of the U.S. Krag, .30 caliber magazine rifle, Models 1892 through 1899. Reference is also made to the copy of the Report of the Chief of Ordnance, dated 1899, which you enclosed.

We have had some difficulty in obtaining information regarding production of U.S. Krag rifles, however, we are not able to concur with your analysis of the data provided. The figures given in the report relate to the total quantity of Krags manufactured and on hand as of the end of Fiscal Year 1899, ending June 30, 1899. Therefore, these figures do not reflect the total number of Krags produced prior to January 1, 1899.

Our research indicates that the total number of Krags produced as of the end of the preceding Fiscal Year, ending June 30, 1898, was only 108,505. Production figures for the period from July 1, 1898, through December 31, 1898, have been received from the National Archives. According to royalty payments made to the patent holders, there were a total of 44,164 Krags produced during the six months following June 1898. Therefore, the total number of Krags produced prior to January 1, 1899, would appear to be 152,669. We feel that Krag rifles and carbines bearing serial numbers less than 152,669 would have been manufactured prior to January 1, 1899, and are therefore classified as antiques which are not subject to controls under Title I



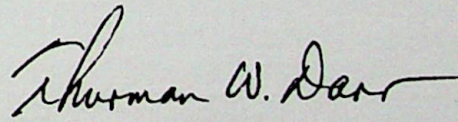
Mr. Wayne P. Gagner

It does appear that Krag rifles were serialized in consecutive order, but at a late stage in the assembly process. We are aware of certain 1898 Model Krag's having serial numbers which are below the above figure. It also appears that certain Model 1896 Krag's bear serial numbers which are far in excess of this figure. We are somewhat at a loss to explain this anomaly since production of the 1896 Model receivers was discontinued prior to January 1, 1899. We can only presume that certain 1896 receivers were held back, perhaps as spares and were not assembled and serialized until a later date. However, we feel safe in assuming that the receivers of all Model 1896, or earlier Krag's were manufactured prior to January 1, 1899, and therefore are classified as antiques.

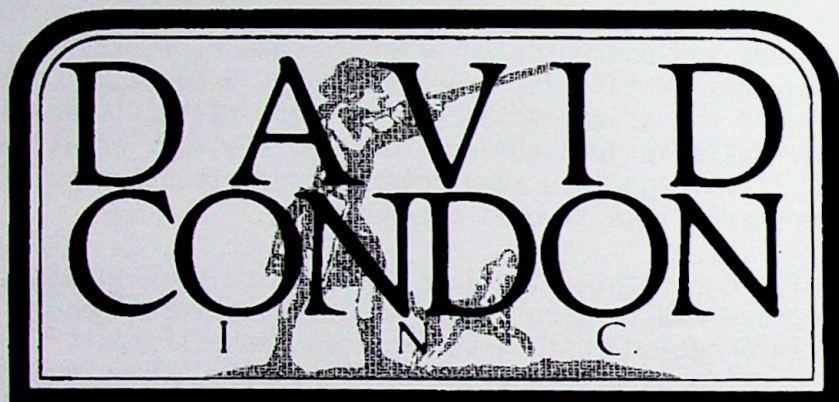
We deeply regret the delay in responding to your inquiry, however, we have had to become engaged in extensive research into this matter and information on this subject has been difficult to obtain. If you can provide us with any additional documentation regarding production of Krag rifles, we will be more than happy to reconsider our position.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

  
for A. Atley Peterson  
Assistant Director,  
Technical and Scientific Services





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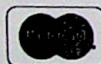
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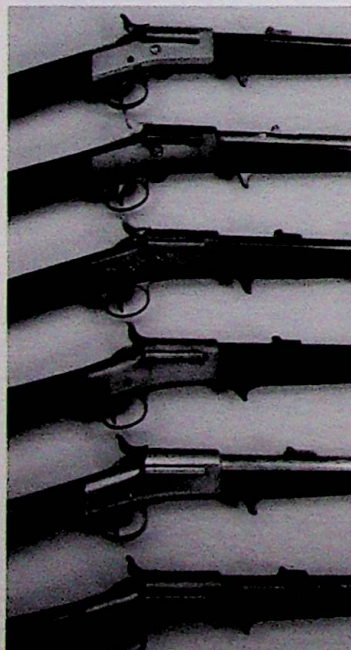
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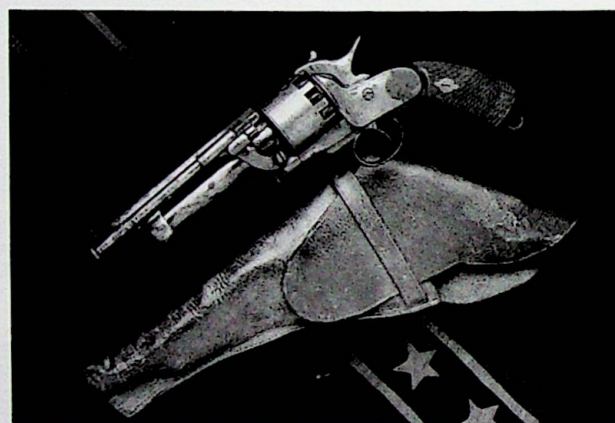
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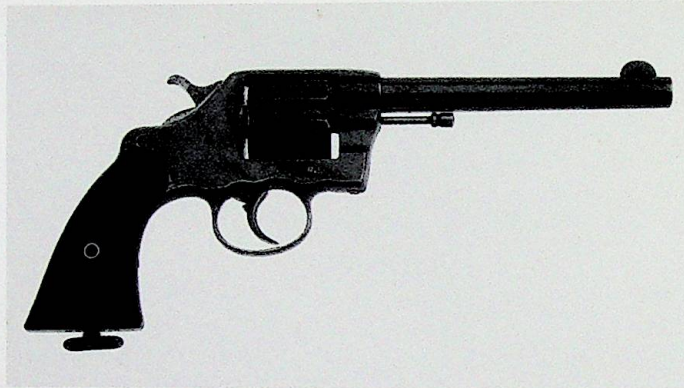


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