

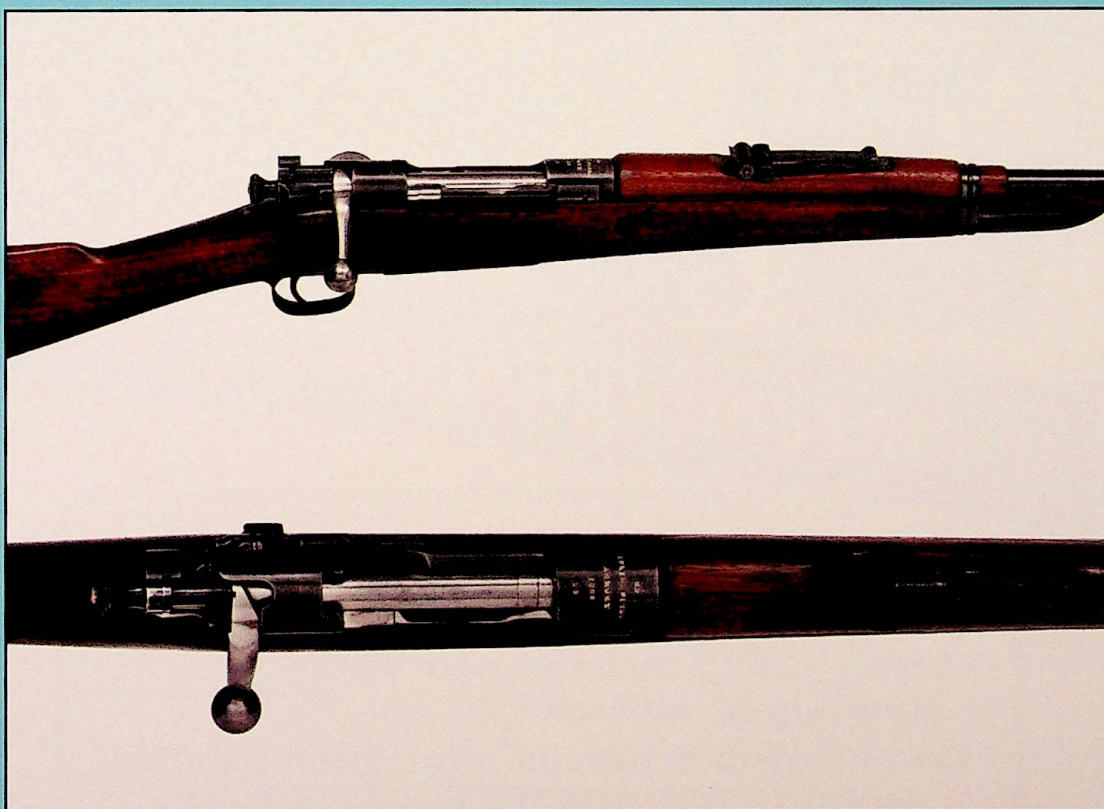
U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*

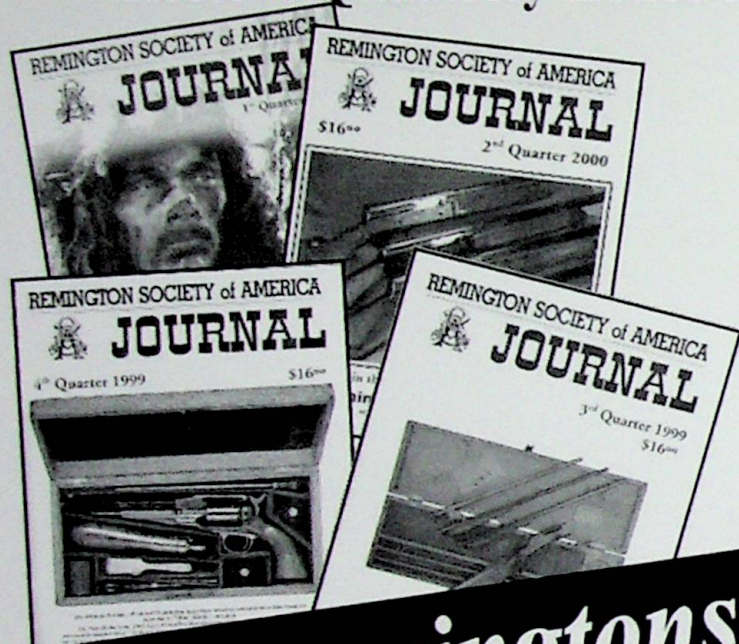


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Wayne P. Gagner



U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Wayne P. Gagner

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Cover: 1901 Springfield Carbine.

And

Springfield Research Service Newsletter

Number 117

December 2008

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The New Year

The new year will be a good one for collectors and those seeking historic and military weapons. New finds are continually being uncovered and many collections are changing hands through sales at auction houses and many dealer locations.

There have been some record prices but, many weapons have been competitive priced at many auction houses, as well as large and small gun shows. We receive many more inquiries from collectors, dealers, and auction houses for Springfield research serial number verifications.

There is a big interest in 1903 and 1903A3 rifles in all ranges of condition and years of manufacture.

There has been a steady increase in interest concerning higher priced weapons such as the Henry, historic trap doors, and Krag. We receive many more questions concerning standard issue 45/70

Springfields and many new variations and trial weapons of all types. It seems that people have a greater interest in weapons that have been handed down in their families and seek any information that is available. Unfortunately, many inquiries only state a vague description and in some case only the word Springfield.

Our data base has increased and has data that is both extensive and very brief.

Examples of new brief serial number data includes Krag sold in 1918 from a Springfield Armory sale to a large commercial company; shipment records of Sharps weapons from the Army; and similar information on other weapons. We may not list many of these numbers as they only offer brief information such as model type, date, and general disposition. We are looking at all of the issues that subscribers are interested in, and we will

provide as much information as is available.

Colt Information

This is a much harder task than was originally thought. SRS has many pages of letters, descriptions, notes, and military correspondence between Col. San Colt and various military officers and facilities. These documents cover the years of 1847 into the 1860's and 1870's. They offer many historic issues but reading them is almost impossible, and it is very hard to understand the hand writing. A single page may take hours.

Also found in the Colt documents are information on other manufacturers and the documents appear to be mixed together through some military/archive/storage process. This will take some sorting procedures and will take time.

Serial Number Oddities

It has been known for quite some time that well seasoned collectors knew of Springfield weapons produced in original configurations with numbers beyond what is considered normal for the accepted observed serial number ranges.

Guns include Krag, Trap doors, Sharps, possibly 1903's, and others.

These guns were made in small numbers as late as the 1940's. Some were sold by the Park Service during the Springfield Armory transition and all appear to have had a paper or cardboard tag. They were sold to the workers at Springfield and also to the public by the Park Service. One example appears to have been a Sharps Carbine with coffee grinder stock.

We have been looking for years, for a copy of the hanging tag, and examples of this rare series of weapons. We do have a 26 inch Krag rifle that is out of the accepted number range but it has no record or other data.

We would like to hear from anyone that has information on any of these weapons and

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especially the Springfield tag. Other issues include serial numbers for different manufacturers and different allotments for each manufacturer. The 1911 pistol that was made by several different companies has caused some questions about serial numbers matching company serial number allotments. In some cases, we have records that do not specify the manufacturer. We can not verify that the number matches the company because of a possible overlap of serial numbers between manufacturers. We have very accurate government documents on serial numbers assigned to different companies and we are in the process of trying to sort out any discrepancies. This data may be published in the future as it develops.

Springfield Research Letters

We are continually writing letters for our subscribers. Our backlogs has been completed for research letters and we will be responding to new requests. Basic letters have been continually provided. Our web site has had a constant activity of one thousand to fifteen hundred of hits per months.

SRS will provide the following letters for 2009.

Basic letter- This letter provides information from the SRS data base that was compiled over many years of research. This letter will include information on a weapon and its use such as military unit, date, and possible secondary information. It will not include specific data on names or combat use that requires travel and research through extensive visits at government facilities. This category will also include ***Sales letter information*** with any available sales documents and other similar data. We receive many requests for 1903 sales rifles, NRA sporters, National Match rifles, International rifles, Colt, Smith &

Wesson pistols, and General Officers weapons. We will provide Springfield records of DCM sales documents if they are available.

Research letter -This letter requires travel to government facilities and research of the original documents. It takes a minimum of one day of analysis and requires travel, research, and review at government facilities. These efforts will be limited in number and may take several months to accomplish. Competition of the search is based on time and availability to visit the government facilities as well as their regulations. Each request requires a search to insure that the data is correct and still exists. There have been cases of U.S. documents being absent or missing and some may be missing forever. Additional data will be listed on our web as it becomes available.

usmartialarmscollector.com.

Photos

We are continuing the addition of many more photos for our research and data base. The process will take more storage and facilities and will be used for the U.S. Martial Arms Magazine and SRS Newsletter. It also requires a new procedure to store and catalogue the photos. This is expected to continue and will add more data for SRS research. We will be adding more photos and data on as many U.S. military weapons as we can. Our only limits continue to be the time and effort available to do research at government facilities.

Springfield Research Service Data Base
Website access to the serial number data base was shut down. This was necessary due to many misuses of the data. Quite a few people have been copying a serial number, or a page of serial numbers, and using it as part of a sales document quoting

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SRS as the documentation source. Misleading information can be made and it is not authorized by SRS. All SRS data is copyrighted and no other source has approval to use any part of it.

We have also been informed that others have been using the web site to promote their own letter writing and research services.

SRS will *continue services for subscribers only*. Our subscribers to the US Martial Arms Collector Magazine and Springfield Research Newsletter deserve the benefits of SRS and may email a request for a serial number. We will respond with a yes or no that we have data on that specific number. There is no charge for subscribers. The ability to search through the serial numbers on the internet will not be available in the future.

In order to provide a service to subscribers, anyone that receives the magazine will have the option of sending an email with a serial number of interest, or using the mail for a request. Mail will require extra time for an answer. At that point, a subscriber can make a decision if he or she wants to order a letter with additional information. Only subscribers will be able to order letters. Please see our web site:

usmartialarmscollector.com

Please send inquiries and questions to:

editor@usmartialarmscollector.com

An inquiry can be made by mail to SRS Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818. This may take an extended time to look up the number and send a letter by mail.

We also review activity on the various web sites and find that our readers should be the ones that benefit from our data base, book sales, and other products.

Plans are underway to expand some of our products with additional manuals and books. As we develop the products, they will be put in the magazine and on the US

The Archives has hundreds of thousands of documents and there have been some recent finds of Army documents on serial numbers, ordnance records and papers. We may include more data on the web site, if it is of interest and benefits our readers.

Martial Arms Collector web site.

Data on Books, and Web Page

The serial number books continue to be available for purchase by MAC subscribers. There will be major changes in the list of publications that will be available. Demand and capability to produce documents will be the factors for expansion. All manuals and documents will be copies of original government documents.

Upgrades will also be put on the magazine web site. This will include new data, information on back issues, and other information concerning the MAC and SRS. We will continue setting up a plan to list articles of specific interest with issue number on the web page. The lost software has been corrected and we will start a process of emailing a list of articles for the early magazines (1 through 40). This will be in response to subscribers that email a request to us for an outline of past articles.

Krag Rifle Story

Original new second editions with serial numbers are available for \$ 100 postpaid. They are limited in the number and are below costs posted by many book dealers.

Serial numbers

The data base continues to grow and is well over 100,000 numbers. There are no plans to publish new serial number books.

Subscribers may email to verify if a specific serial number is in the new upgraded data base. This will take extra time.

Web site is: *usmartialarmscollector.com*

Volumes 1, 2, 3, and 4 are in the softbound book series. Volume 2 is available in a new format as a copy with plain binding.

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The first Volume 2 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.

Each Volume has a different set of serial numbers. We have many more Krag serial numbers from the U.S. Government sale of Krags to a large surplus dealer in 1918.

The data only has minimal information with no names of the sales recipient.

Single or complete sets of the serial number books are available from the U.S. Martial Arms Collector office. The books can be purchased only by subscribers and are mailed from: **U.S. Martial Arms Collector Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818.**

Back issues of the U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazine and Springfield Research Newsletter are available from number 1 through 116 and can be ordered from **U.S. Martial Arms Collector Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818.**

A few issues of The U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazines may be available as copies only.

Past publications requires us to store most old issues and keep them air conditioned. We will do this as long as practical.

Springfield Research Service

The Springfield Research Service web site (www.armscollectors.com/srs.htm) is closed. A new site is open:

usmartialarmscollector.com.

It will be expanded with as much information as is possible in future months.

SRS Letters & Costs

All letters are available. SRS serial number information letters include:

Basic letter (and sales letters) \$ 50.

Research letter (requires more than one day of travel, access to government facility and research) \$ 175 (orders are available starting in January 2009).

Cover

The cover photo is a Springfield Model 1901 Carbine in 30-03 Caliber with 22" Barrel". This extremely rare carbine has both 1903 rifle and 1899 Krag carbine features and is considered one of the prime items in military collecting. It has been in the most extensive collections in the U.S. and may be available as an auction item in the near future.

Courtesy of Jack Lewis.

Production Costs

We have encountered excessive postage and printing increases that requires us to raise prices on subscriptions and letters. We have held off increases using volunteer help and very thoughtful sub contractors. The increases will be put in place with this issue. They will not affect free serial number verifications for our subscribers and the ability to provide answers to many questions as well as a continuation of research.

Interest and Comments

All comments and questions on U.S. Martial hand guns and long arms are welcome. Information on early muskets and militia weapons will continue with additional efforts for information that is more responsive to searches, location, and identification. Other efforts will include edged weapons as well as firearms from colonial through World War 2 and possibly the present. We would like to receive more comments, additions, and inquiries.

Museums

We are always interested in comments and inquiries by military museums that offer firearms and documents for the U.S. Martial Arms Collector and readers.

Contributions

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

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Web Site ***usmartialarmscollector.com***.

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 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.

1903A1 Shop Manual 1943

We have the 1903 Shop manual available again. It was lost for several years and is of interest to collectors. It is a copy of the original. The cost is \$ 20 postpaid.

Questions Received and Answered

I recently purchased a .45-.70 Trapdoor Springfield manufactured in the year 1893. It's serial number is 564083 and is a Ramrod Bayonet Rifle. The inspector's cartouche is dated 1890, and the breechblock is dated 1884. From the number, it appears that this is one of the last rifles manufactured in that particular year (1893). It had been modified in 1959 with a brass lock and painted brass rifle bands so that it would appear to be a musket used by Mexican troops. This prop musket was used in the "The Alamo" film in 1960. I was wondering if you could provide me any information on this specific rifle? Is it necessary to purchase a subscription in order to fulfill this request, and, have any of your back issues of the Martial Arms Collector magazine addressed this particular modification/film, etc?

Thank you. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

John Farkis, Alamo Historian and author of

"Alamo Village - How a Texas Cattleman Brought Hollywood to the Old West"

Sorry, we have no data on that serial number. If any reader has information on this movie or rifle, please contact the editor.

Do you have serial information for the early Colt conversion units, mine is s/n U206.

Sorry, we do not have that number. Usually, our records have a complete 22/45 pistol with serial number. Many of the conversion units may not have been used by the military or may not have had the serial number entered into a record. Editor

Question/comment: Dear Mr. Gagner, I am in possession of two Colt single action army revolvers bearing patent dates Sept 19, 1871 and July 2, 1872. Serial numbers are 1237 and 1390. I am unable to find any cartouche stamp by army inspector. I would categorize conditions as fair to good and they are in working order. What service do you provide concerning information and value of these revolvers?

I am sorry, we do not give values of weapons. The revolvers are very early production that we do not have numbers for in our files. The military use would be of great interest to Colt collectors and may possibly be obtained from the Colt Company. Editor

I have an 1896 Krag saddle ring carbine sr# 77504. Was wanting any info on this that you might have if any. The old gentleman that I purchased it from stated that his grandfather had carried this rifle while on boarder duty in El Paso Texas. The grandfathers name was Joe S Rumsey. Thanks.

We do not have data on that carbine. The majority of 96 carbines were issued to

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various units and as such is of interest to many collectors.

I have a Springfield 1873 trapdoor number 31428, engraved on the butt is a letter C and H with some kind of stamp. I would like to know if this had been used with Custer's Army.

We have no data in our files on this weapon. The only positive means of identification is a document with the serial number and U.S. Army usage. A few exist in U.S. Army documents that were found in records of arms turned in by Indians or captured by U.S. Army personnel. Editor

Julia Auctions has recently consigned a fine collection of —1 Garands and M1 Carbines from The Tom Clinton Collection of IL. Mr Clinton had collected many Presentation, Prototype and Experimental examples and we are in the process of researching each. One gun in particular has some conflicting information provided with it. —1 Garand # 5406358 is NM Trophy gun presented to John J. Wallentine, USA as an Army Times Award in 1957. We have a document that states this trophy rifle should have SN 5406352. Do either of these SN appear in the SRS database?

Neither of the numbers are in our data base. Editor

I wanted to find out what your records show for Sharps Carbine serial number 9675, and the following two serial numbers. How would I go about finding data on the following two guns that are listed in your book.

1. Sharps serial number # 47112- on page 24 of your book
2. Sharps serial number # 16751- on page 8 of your book.

We have information on all 3 of the Sharps and can provide letters on all of them. Editor

Can you provide information and a letter for serial number 163664.

Yes. We will provide a letter with full information on the use and individual's name that it was issued to. Editor

Are all USMC 1903 Springfield Sniper rifles high serial numbers.

No. There are many low and high number 1903 rifles in the USMC correspondence. The rifles included high and low serial numbers that were of match quality and may have already been drilled and tapped for the scope blocks with 7.2 inch spacing. The records show that new C type stocks were fitted along with the other work. Editor

Do you have data on Spencer Serial 4780.

Yes, we can provide a letter on that weapon. Editor

I sent you a letter about a gun I have. It says on it model 1884 and its #is 532091. Is it a 1884rrb or not One guy says it is and another says its not. Can you help
THANKS CHARLIE

PS what does the Smithsonian call their gun. Is it a 1884rrb?

The 1884 is a different model and a test gun. It has a removable front sight, 1/4 inch shorter stock, different rear sight, older model trigger guard, different diameter ramrod and is worth several thousand more —numbers in the 100plus thousand range not in 400 or 500 thousand range. They are quite rare if in original condition. Editor

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Indian Scout Trapdoor Carbine

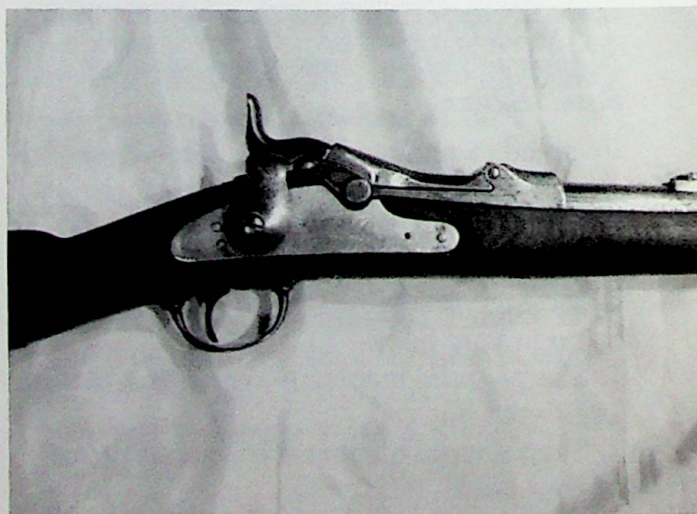
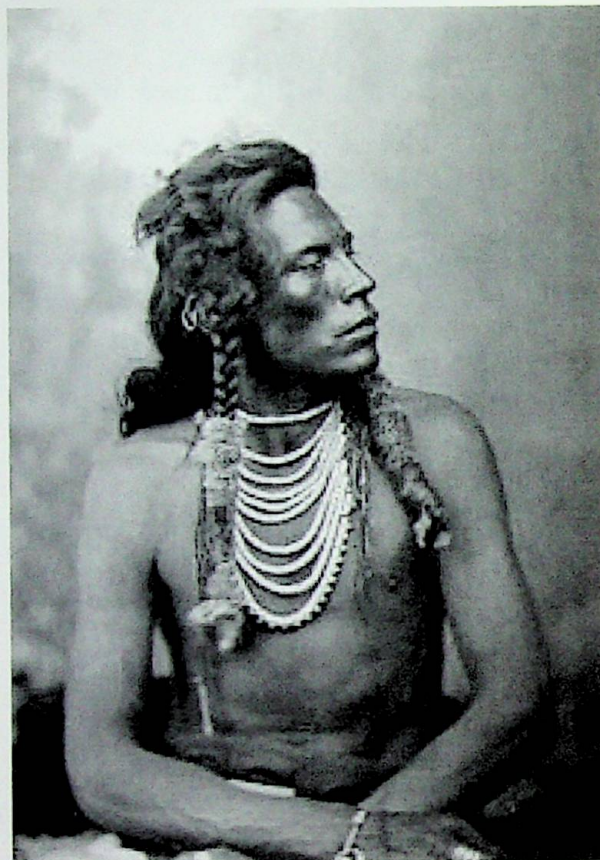
This extraordinary Carbine was issued to two American Indian Scouts. They were Lance Sgt. Fats in 1885 and Scout Private Curley in 1886. A Springfield Research Service letter was written with the dates of enlistment for the two U.S. Army Indian scouts. We have found detailed data on Scout Curley and are hopeful of finding information on Fats.

Curley (1856? - May 22, 1923), a Crow Indian.

Ashishishe was born in approximately 1856 in Montana Territory, the son of Strong Bear (Inside the Mouth) and Strikes By the Side of the Water. Curley resided on the Crow Reservation in the vicinity of Pryor Creek, and married Bird Woman. He enlisted in the U.S. Army as an Indian scout on April 10, 1876 and was later chosen to scout for the Seventh Cavalry during the Little Bighorn expedition in 1876 along with fellow Crow warriors White Man Runs Him, Goes Ahead, Hairy Moccasin and others. He witnessed parts of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and his translated account later appeared in several newspapers, as he was thought to be the only surviving witness from the U.S. side of Custer's Last Stand.. He served in the Crow Police. He divorced Bird Woman in 1886, and married Takes a Shield. Curley had one daughter Awakuk Korita ha Sakush ("Bird of Another Year") who took the English name Nora. Curley received a U.S. pension as of 1920. He died of pneumonia in 1923, and his remains were interred in the National Cemetery at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument, only a mile from his home.

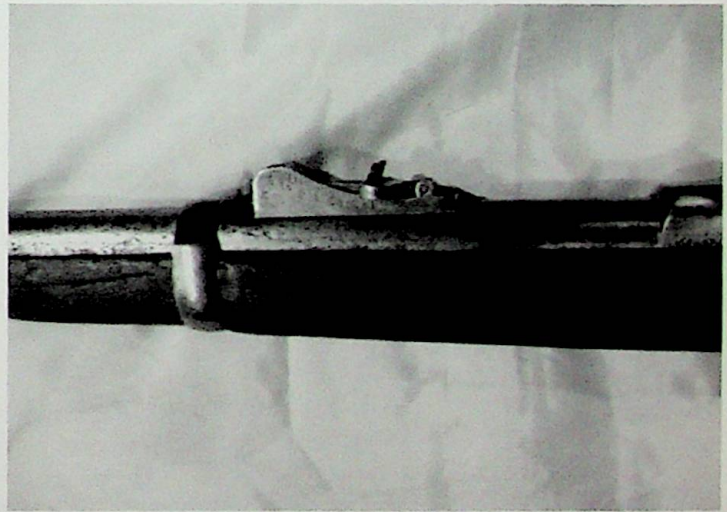
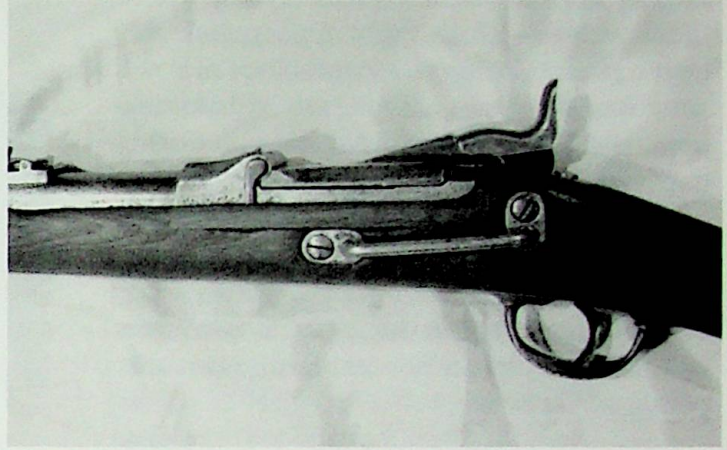
Curley's story:

Separating from Reno and his seven

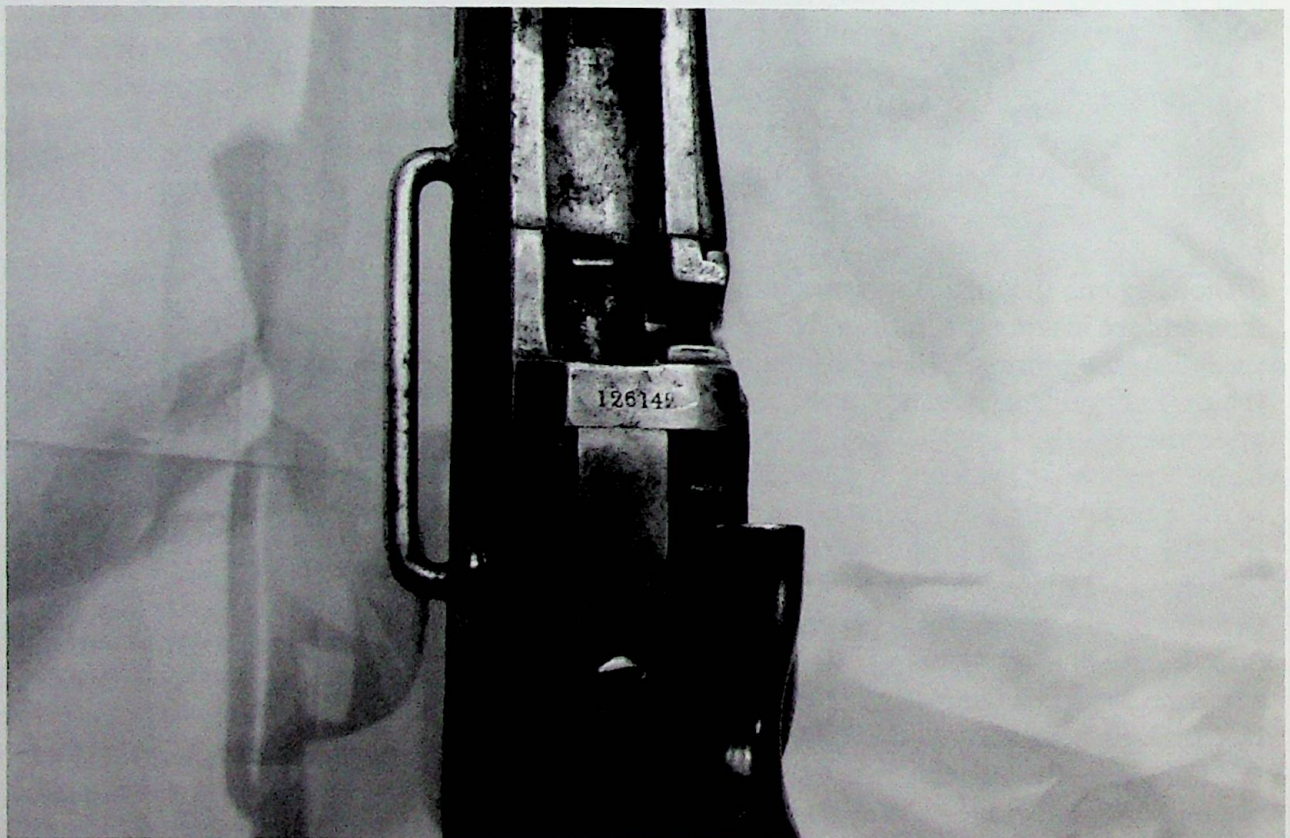
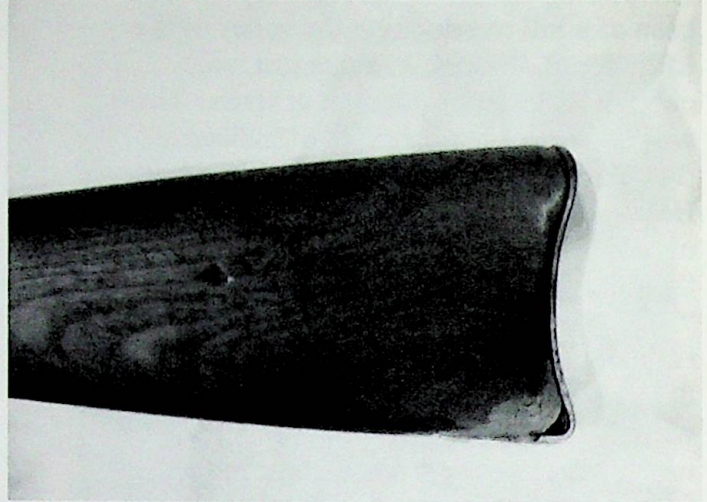


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companies, moved to the right around the base of a hill overlooking the valley of the Little Horn, through a ravine just wide enough to admit his column of fours. There was no sign of the presence of Indians in the hills on that side (the right) of the Little Horn, and the column moved steadily on until it rounded the hill and came in sight of the village lying in the valley below them. "During this time the warriors were seen riding out of the village by hundreds, deploying across his front to his left, as if with the intention of crossing the stream on his right, while the women and children were seen hastening out of the village in large numbers in the opposite direction. "During the fight at this point Curley saw two of Custer's men killed, who fell into the stream. After fighting a few moments here, Custer seemed to be convinced that it was impracticable to cross, as it only could be done in column of fours exposed during the movement to a heavy fire from the front and both flanks. He therefore ordered the head of the column to the right, and bore diagonally into the hills, downstream, his men on foot leading their horses. In the meantime the Indians had crossed the river (below) in immense numbers, and began to appear on his right flank and in his rear; and he had proceeded but a few hundred yards in the direction the column had taken, when it became necessary to renew the fight with the Indians who had crossed the stream. "At first the command remained together, but after some minutes' fighting, it was divided, a portion deployed circularly to the left, and the remainder similarly to the right, so that when the line was formed, it bore a rude resemblance to a circle, advantage being taken as far as possible of the protection afforded by the ground. The horses were in the rear, the men on the line being dismounted, fighting on foot. Of the



incidents of the fight in other parts of the field than his own, Curley is not well informed, as he was himself concealed in a ravine, from which but a small portion of the field was visible. Fight appears to have begun, from Curley's description of the situation of the sun, about 2:30 or 3 o'clock p.m., and continued without intermission until nearly sunset. The Indians had completely surrounded the command, leaving their horses in ravines well to the rear, themselves pressing forward to attack on foot. Confident in the superiority of their numbers, they made several charges on all points of Custer's



line, but the troops held their position firmly, and delivered a heavy fire, and every time drove them back. Curley said the firing was more rapid than anything he had ever conceived of, being a continuous roll, as he expressed it, "the snapping of the threads in the tearing of a blanket. The troops expended all the ammunition in their belts, and then sought their horses for the reserve ammunition carried in their saddle pockets. "As long as their ammunition held out, the troops, though losing considerable in the fight, maintained their position in spite of the efforts of the Sioux. From the weakening of their fire toward the close of the afternoon, the Indians appeared to believe their ammunition was about exhausted, and they made a grand final charge, in the course of which the last of the command was destroyed, the men being shot where they lay in their position in the line, at such close quarters that many were killed with arrows. Curley says that Custer remained alive through the greater part of the engagement, animating his men to determined resistance; but about an hour before the close of the fight, he received a mortal wound. "Curley says the field was thickly strewn with dead bodies of the Sioux who fell in the attack, in number considerably more than the force of soldiers engaged. He is satisfied that their loss will exceed six hundred killed, beside an immense number wounded.

"Curley accomplished his escape by drawing his blanket around him in the manner of the Sioux and passing through an interval which had been made in their lines as they scattered over the field in their final charge. He says they must have seen him, for he was in plain view, but was probably mistaken by the Sioux

for one of their number, or one of their allied Arapahos or Cheyennes.

"I interpreted for Lieutenant Bradley when he interviewed Curly [sic], several days after the Custer battle had occurred. He was spoken of then as the 'sole survivor' of the disaster. But he himself did not lay claim to that kind of distinction. On the contrary, again and again during the long examination of him by Bradley, the young scout said, 'I was not in the fight.' When gazed upon and congratulated by visitors he declared, 'I did nothing wonderful; I was not in it. He told us that when the engagement opened, but later he decided the animals (horses) were an impediment to his progress away from the Sioux, so he released them.

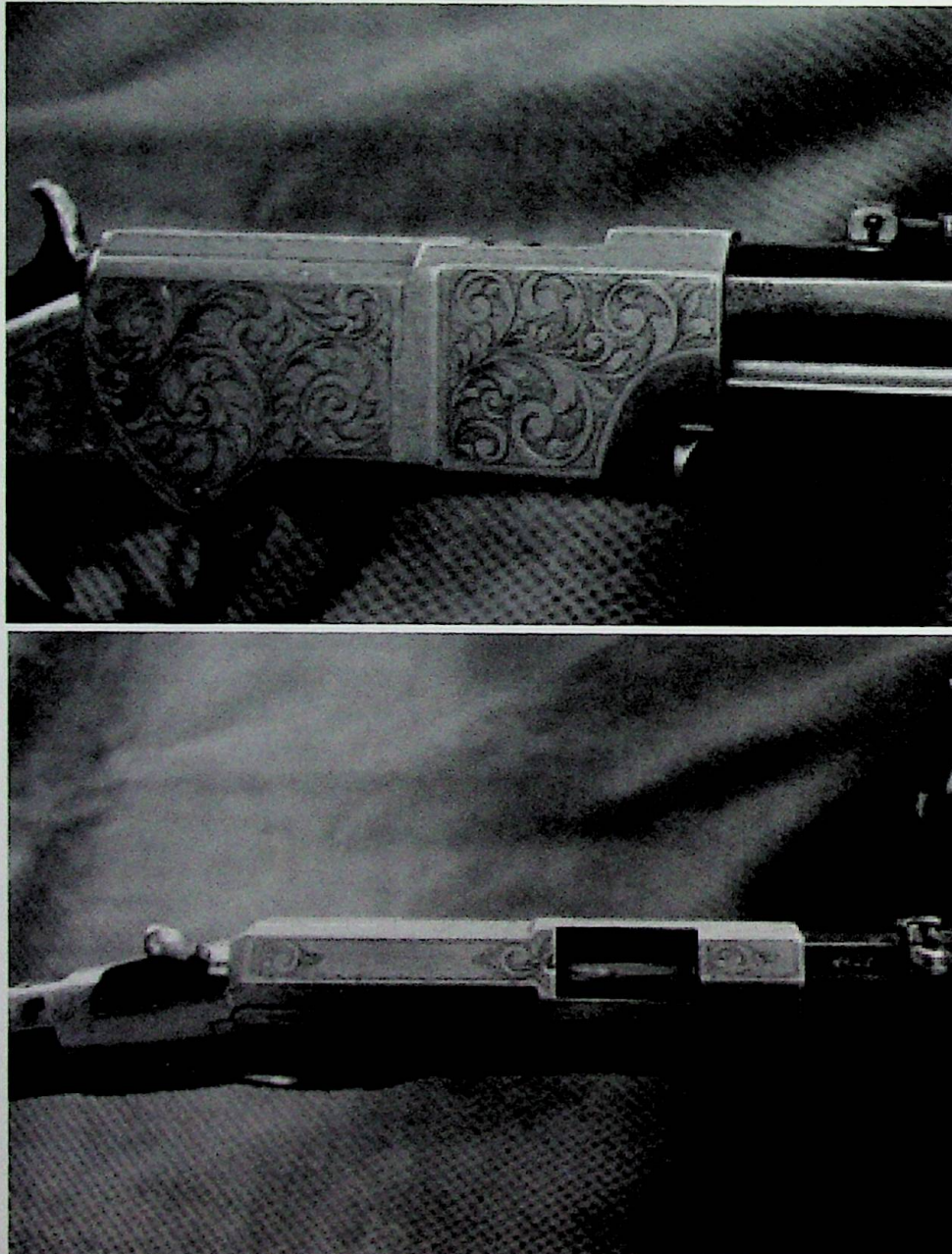
He told me he directed his course toward Tulloch's Fork and came down the same trail I had come down on another occasion with Captain Bull and Lieutenant Rowe."h e was behind, with other Crows. He hurried away to a distance of about a mile, paused there, and looked for a brief time upon the conflict.

Editor's notes: The data in this article is the result of a SRS letter request; photos taken of the weapon by SRS; and the courtesy of Silas Messer. The photo and other data was obtained from public records and edited to fit the MAC magazine format. The data appears to be the only eye witness account that has made it to this day. There are doubters that are concerned over its total accuracy but it is a remarkable piece of American/Army/American Indian history.

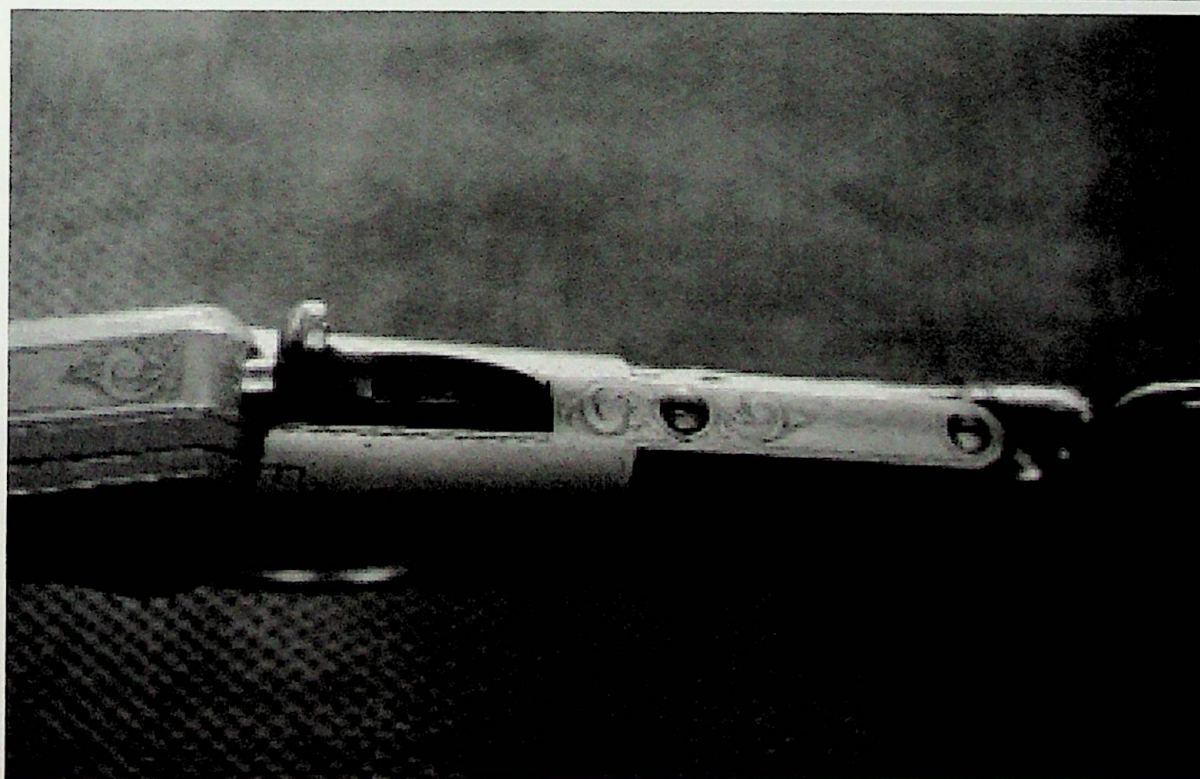
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Henry Rifle # 3056

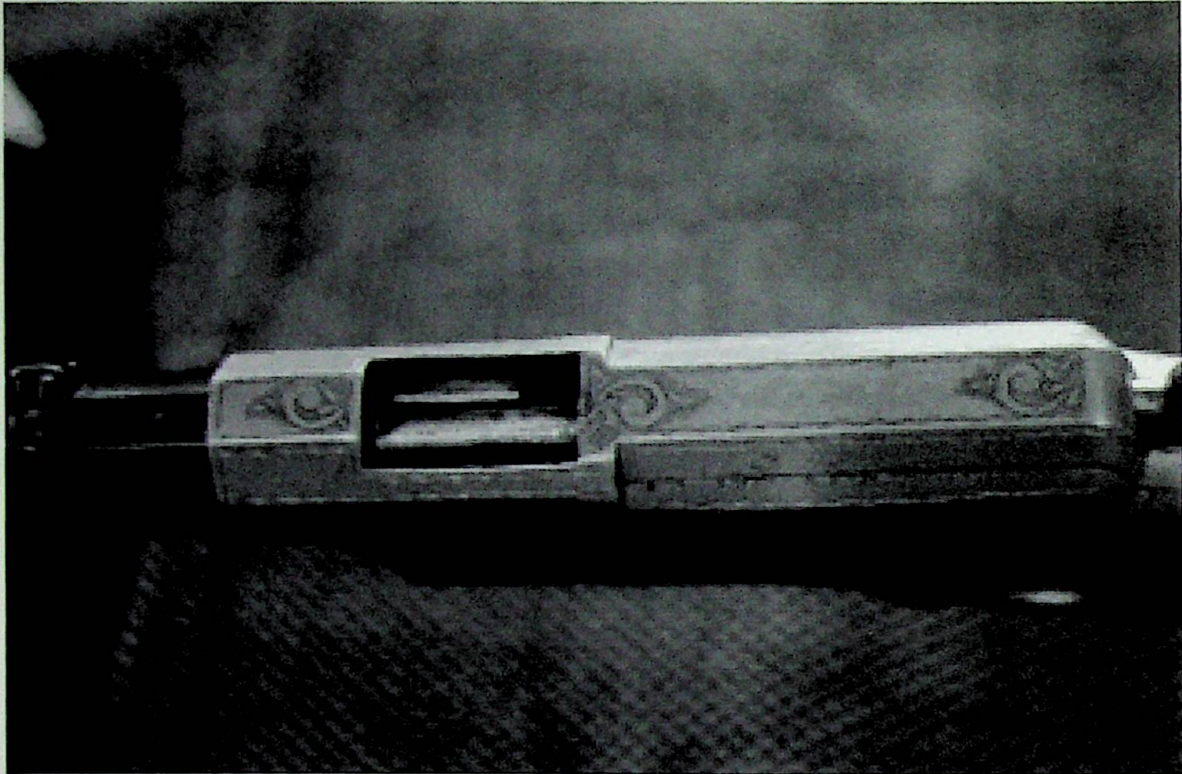
The following engraved Henry rifle is of military use with excellent serial number and CGC inspector's markings. SRS will be attempting to gather more data on this weapon. *Photos courtesy of Ed Luke.*



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U.S. Martial Arms Collector 117-13

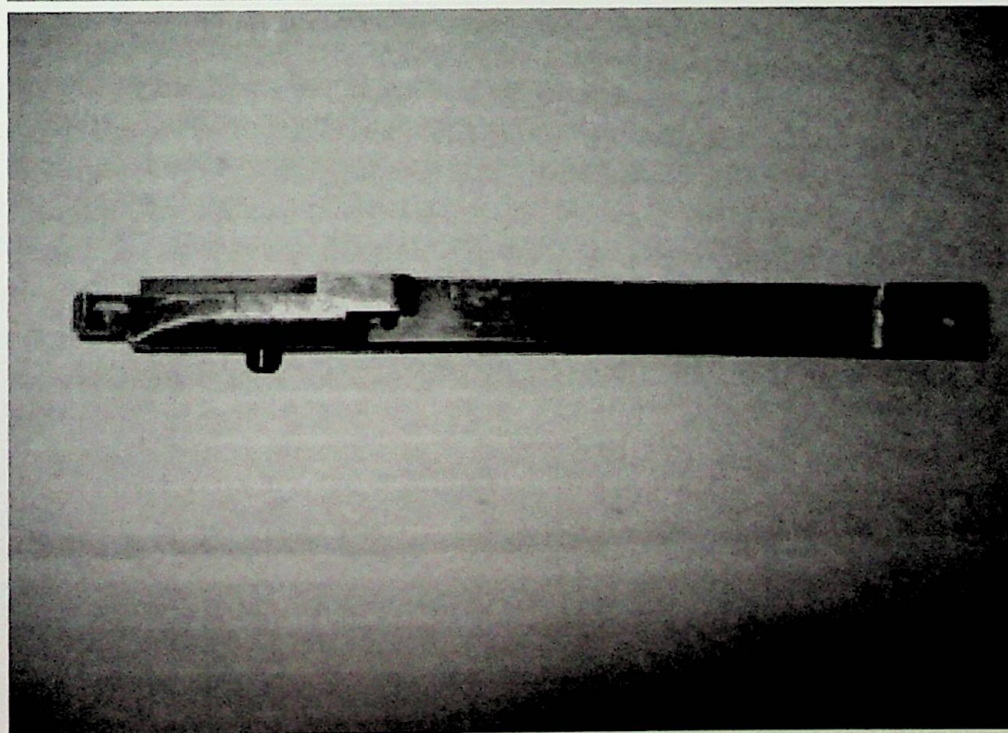
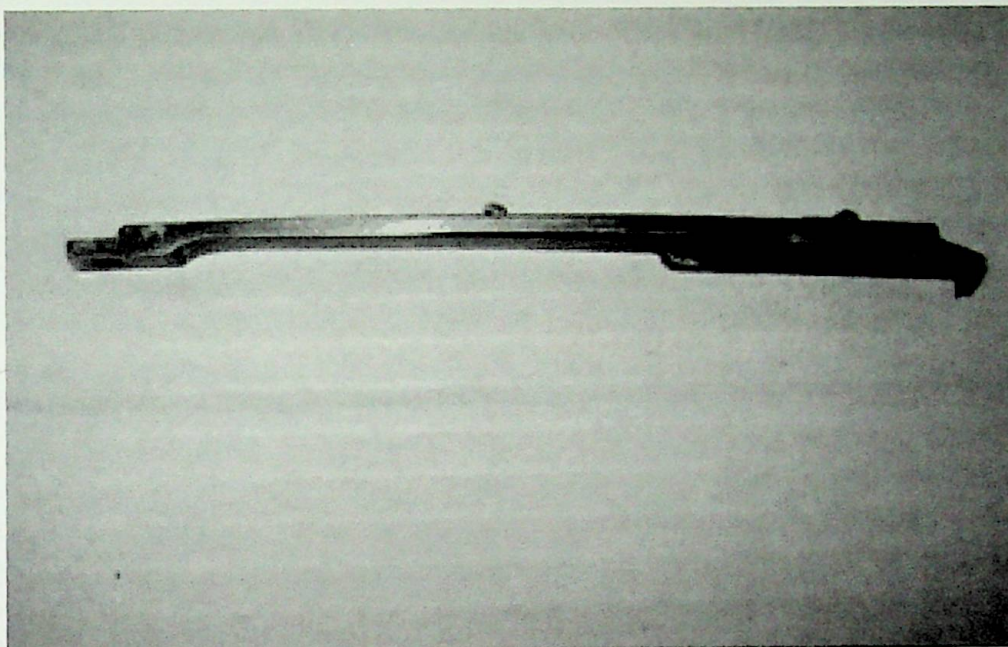


Springfield Research Service has a database of Henry rifles that were used by U.S. units in the Civil War from 1862 through 1865. We do not have data on this rifle (# 3056), and the records show # 3055 as an issued weapon. The number will not bear any use to a similar unit without U.S. documentation and the next number does not have an bearing on # 3056. This always confounds a researcher but, there is no way around the continual search for new data that may or may not have accurate usage information. There are several issues such as missing documents, odd record keeping, and the manufacturer's building, numbering, and shipping procedures. This is also true of the Army records and their disposition. We plan on doing additional research for more serial numbers and historic use. This will be an ongoing effort as time permits over the next year. Efforts such as this one, take long hours, and it will be done if time becomes available. With the continual interest and high escalation of value of these weapons, we expect more interest from collectors and auction houses. The addition of a letter based on government documents is always appealing but, many Army issued and Indian used rifles may not show up in any record regardless of the effort. There is no doubt that the above rifle is very sought after as it was a military weapon and it has the increased interest because of the engraving and military markings.

Editor

KRAG EXPERIMENT USING EXTRACTOR COVER

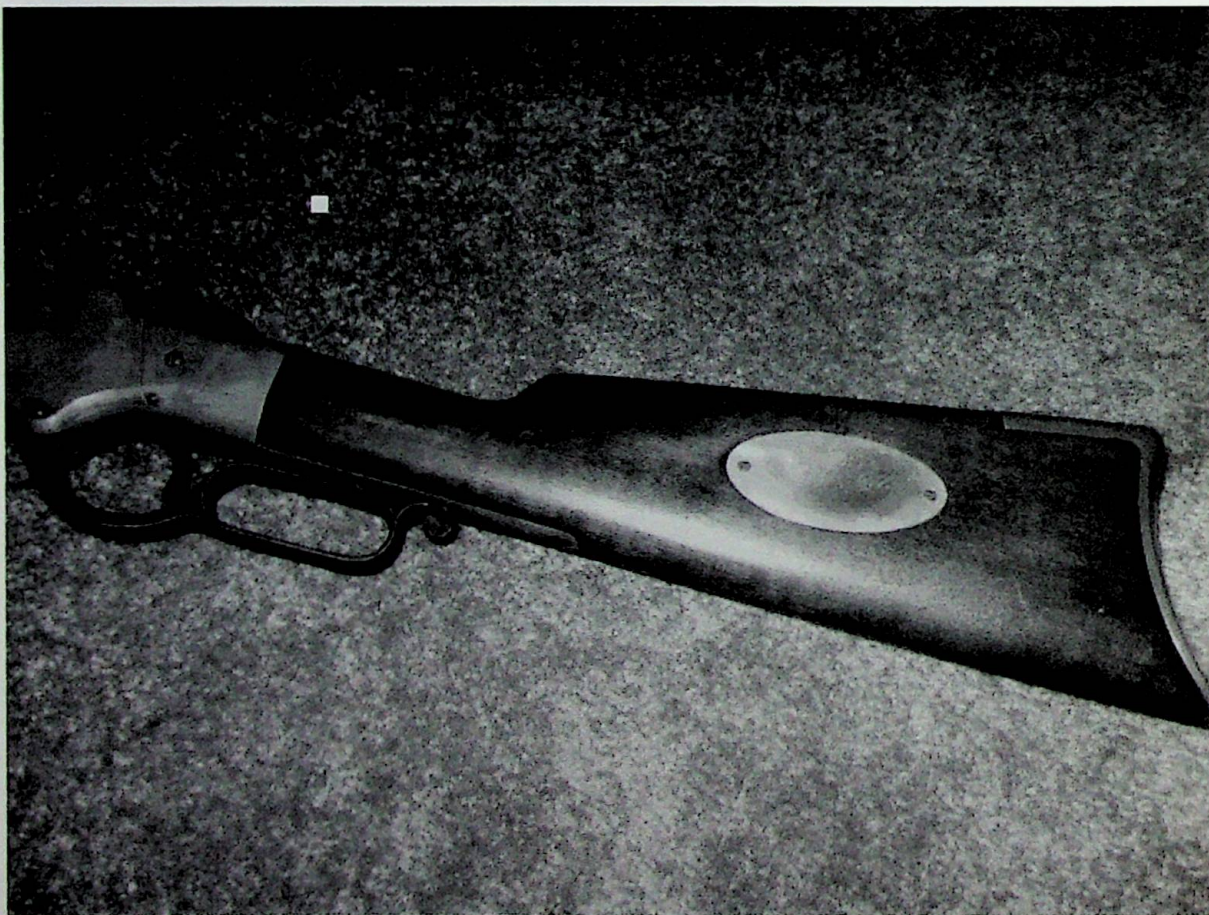
The following is a rare extractor made for a cover to protect the extractor and top of bolt. The part is machined from a single piece. *Courtesy of Joe DeChristopher*



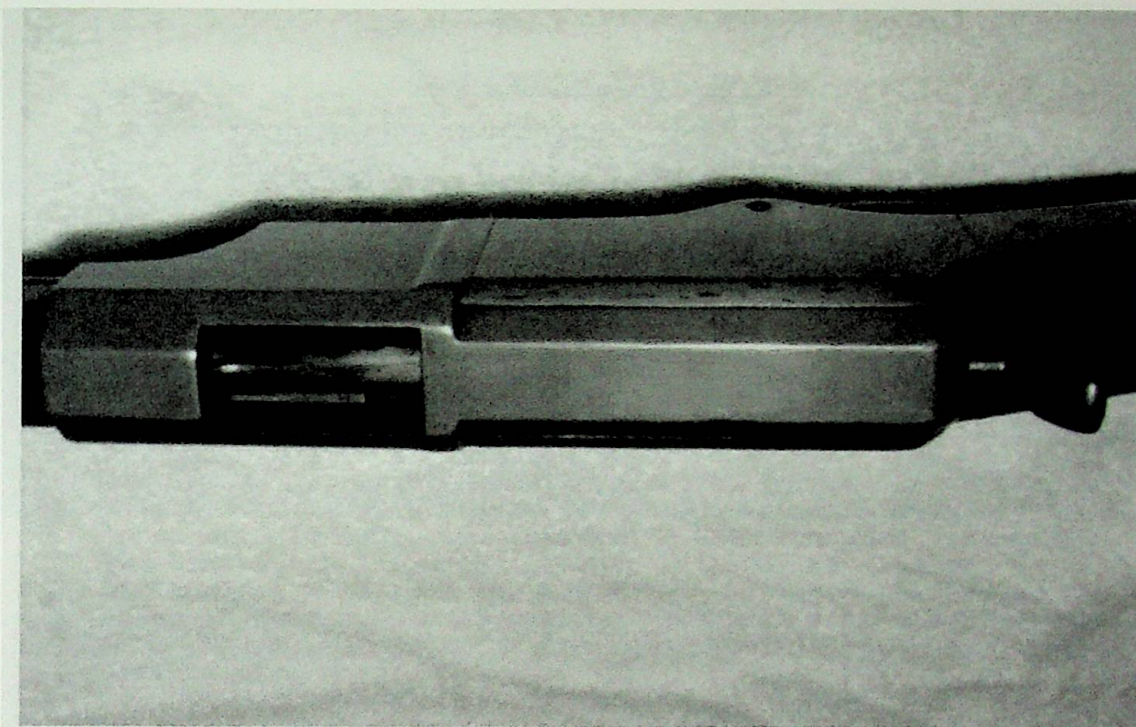
U.S. Martial Arms Collector 117-15

Henry Rifle # 3208

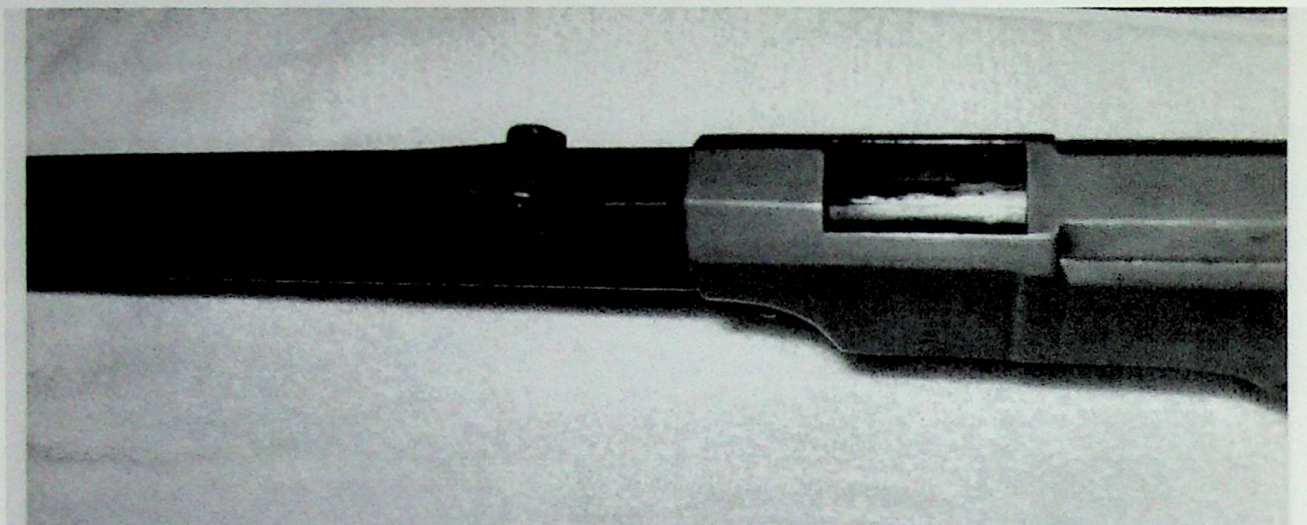
The Henry rifle shown below is a military issued weapon from the Civil War time frame and associated with similar weapons from 1865. The rifle has the CGC military inspector's marks on the barrel. It has the added feature of bearing a brass plate inscribed Mr. John Sailor. We have found several references to John Sailor in civil war records from Pennsylvania, New Orleans, and Ohio. There appears to be a long history of the Sailor name from the revolution through World War 11. There are also references to Henry rifles issue to Veterans military units in 1865 in the Civil War. We are researching more of this data to gain any other information on the specific serial number and John Sailor. This will require analysis at the U.S. Archives and other facilities that have unit history. The rifle is an excellent example of a Civil war issues Henry and fills a unique spot in the U.S. History.



U.S. Martial Arms Collector 117-16



U.S. Martial Arms Collector 117-17



WINLA

12/29/2008

SERIAL	MODEL	MMDDYY	USAGE
2572 HENRY		051765	CO H 3RD US VET VOL INF
2573 HENRY		051765	CO H 3RD US VET VOL INF
2797 HENRY		000062	CO F 97TH IND VOL INF
2826 HENRY		051365	CO K 3RD US VET VOL INF
3035 HENRY		051765	CO H 3RD US VET VOL INF
3038 HENRY		051365	CO K 3RD US VET VOL INF
3039 HENRY		051365	CO K 3RD US VET VOL INF
3055 HENRY		051365	CO K 3RD US VET VOL INF
3060 HENRY		051365	CO K 3RD US VET VOL INF
3062 HENRY		051365	CO K 3RD US VET VOL INF
3079 HENRY		051365	CO K 3RD US VET VOL INF
3083 HENRY		051765	CO H 3RD US VET VOL INF
3098 HENRY		051365	CO K 3RD US VET VOL INF
3117 HENRY		121964	CO K 7TH ILL VOL INF

Collectors' Notes

SEQUENCE OF PROOF MARKS

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ARMORIES

SPRINGFIELD, HARPERS FERRY, ROCK ISLAND.

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1. According to available information, the first musket of Springfield manufacture, bearing a proof mark, appeared in 1799. This arm had the letters "V.P.L." stamped on the head in the order shown. There is no record of proof marks from that date to 1802 when the letters "V.F." appeared. In 1803, the letters "P.V." were used, stamped on the barrel, in the order shown. In 1806, the letter "V" with the Eagle's head, and the letter "P" appeared stamped on the barrel. This system of marking continued with slight variations until 1841 when the order of stamping and other slight changes were made.

2. During the period 1833 to 1842, the flint lock was being supplanted by the percussion type musket, and many of the flint locks were converted, which accounts for many variations in proof marks during this period, also for their absence. However, this Eagle Head P. V. marking continued with variations as shown, from 1841 to 1862.

3. During the period - 1862 to 1869 - the change from percussion to breech loader was being made, and the same conditions as in paragraph 2 above, prevailed. In 1869, the Eagle head over Crossed Arrows, with "U. S." underneath appeared. This marking continued until 1878.

4. From the period 1878 to the adoption of the 1898 model, Krag Jorgensen, definite information as to proof marks is unavailable. However, it is assumed that on new weapons of the old type manufactured during this period, the old marking was used.

5. With the advent of the 1898 model Krag Jorgensen, the proof mark was changed to a letter "P" stamped on the barrel, and in some cases a "P" was stamped on the under side of the stock just in rear of the tang. This system of marking was extended to the Springfield Rifle, Model 1903, and has been in continuous use, with variations, to date.

SEQUENCE OF PROOF MARKS (Cont'd.)

6. The present practice is to stamp the letter "P" on the barrel after the barrel has been proof-fired. After the assembled rifle has been proof-fired, the letter "P" inclosed in a circle, is stamped twice on the under side of the stock just in rear of the tang, one behind the other. This indicates that the rifle has been fired for both proof and function. A punch mark is placed on the receiver just under the number, and also on the bolt handle, close up to the body of the bolt.

7. A small letter "P" is stamped on the lug of the pistol barrels and on the frame of revolvers, when mark is used.

8. The above data were gathered from arms of Springfield manufacture, but it is noted that arms of both Harpers Ferry and Rock Island bear markings identical to those of this Armory.

O.O. 474.1/6189
S.A. 474.1/802

1st Ind.

733/ga

War Department, Ordnance Office, Washington, D. C., Jan. 18, 1933
To: The Commanding Officer, Springfield Armory, Springfield, Mass.

1. It is desired that one each of the following listed caliber .30 rifles, described in basic letter, be shipped the Ordnance Property Officer, Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.;

- a. with "SB" stock
- b. " Cutts compensator
- c. " Experimental recoil check
- d. " Stevens sight
- e. " Laminated stock
- f. " Nash receiver sight
- g. " Winder tube sight
- h. " battle sight
- i. " Barringer sight
- j. " Igman-Warner battle sight
- k. " Warner objective sight.

2. Shipping Order OS 163086, is enclosed covering the shipment of the above rifles.

3. The last three listed items were described as unserviceable. These weapons are desired for exhibition purposes only; however, if the nature of the defects are such as to seriously impair them for this purpose, they are not desired.

4. The balance of weapons should be overhauled on your regular overhaul order, Ord. 9083.

By order of the Chief of Ordnance,

1 enc. in tripl.

J. S. H. [Signature]
Major, Ordn. Dept.,
Assistant

EEB/tfl
J.A. 000.7/260

1. The records of this Armory indicate the approximate date of manufacture of U. S. Rifles, Cal. .30, Model 1903, chambered for 1906 ammunition, as follows:

INDEXED

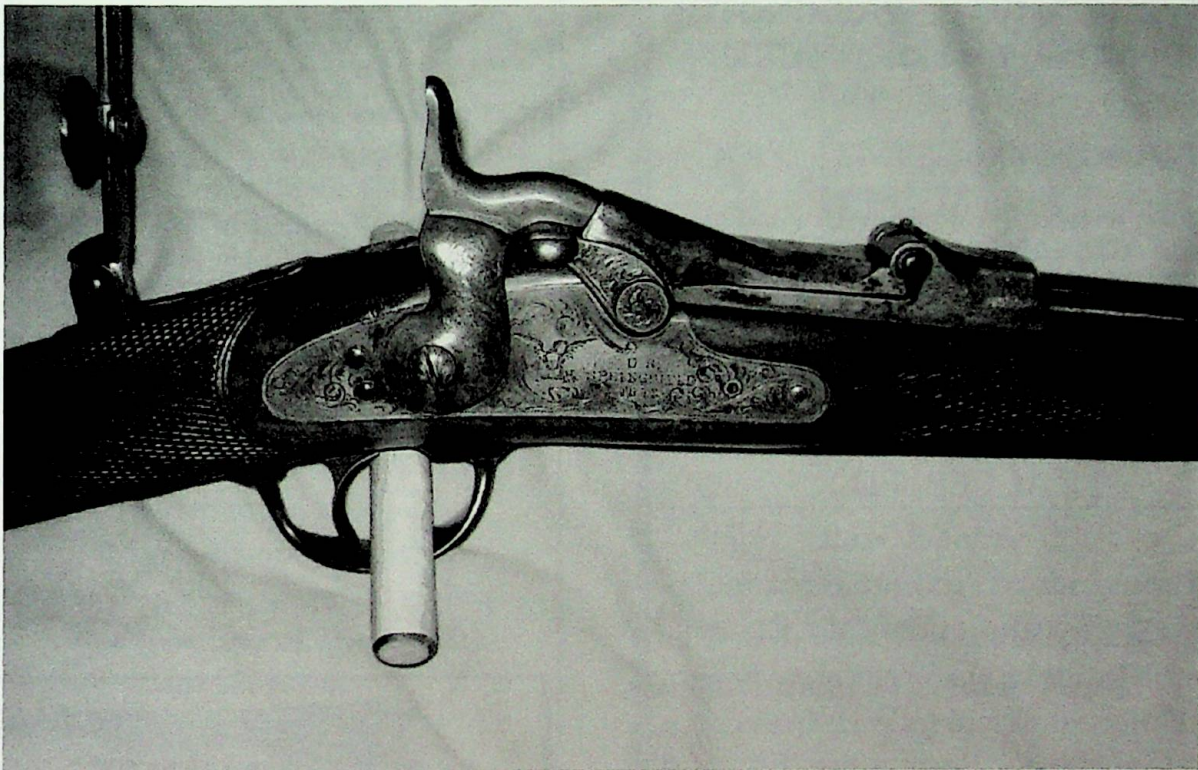
J. W. JOYES,
Colonel, Ordnance Department,
Commanding.

S. A. G. A. Ori - 10⁰⁵
9-9-38 Dec 1800

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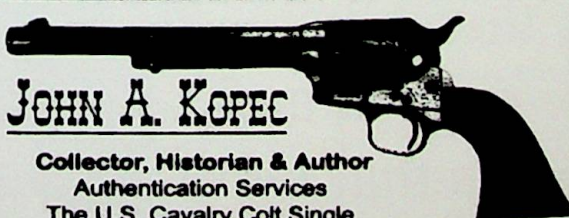
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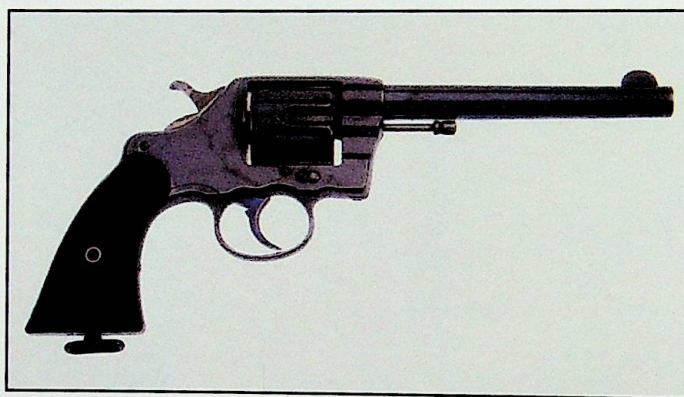
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