

U.S.

MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*

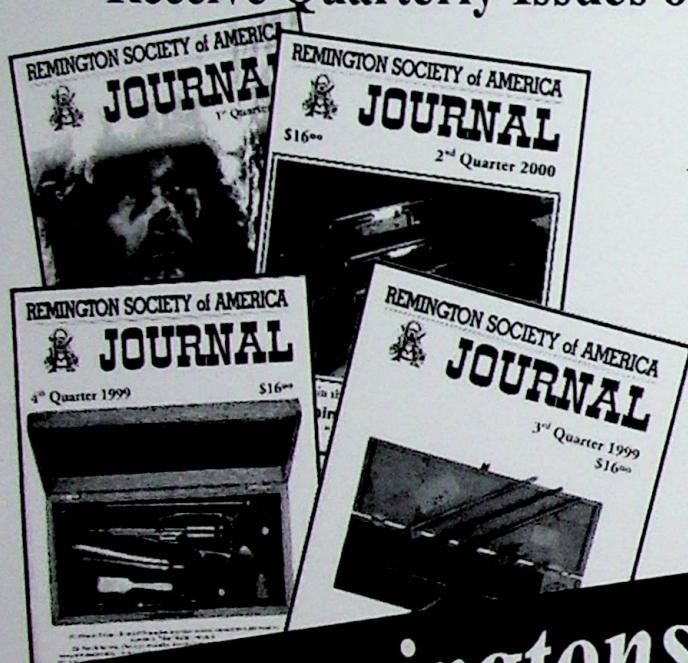


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Cover: Sharps New Model 1863 Military Rifle.

U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR



And

Springfield Research Service Newsletter

Number 122

March 2010

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U.S. Martial Arms Collector 122-1

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Auctions during recent months have provided an extensive array of quality U.S. military weapons. Conversations with key personnel at the larger U.S. auction houses yield similar data on quality and prices of weapons. The best quality weapons that are categorized as being in investment or unique condition sell quickly at high prices with a solid group of ready collectors and investors. Average items that were in higher demand in recent years, sell at a much lesser demand rate and financial yield. It appears that there is a ready market for the highest quality, at top prices. There are many projected sales coming in 2010 that will offer very historic and high quality lots. It is expected, by many houses, that the high end items will sell at record prices. It seems that many quality items have been in collections and families for years and now is a time that many are now being offered to the public through auctions. This method of disposal provides a means to sell a large group of weapons in a single sale and location. The alternative is the sale through retail companies on a commission basis or a large purchase with resale as the end sale. This alternative requires an unknown time frame and an/or extensive financial out lay by the purchasing company. The auction facilities handle a system that may provide quicker payment on a known date, and a major facility that advertises through the newer communications, web capability with both printed and digital photography and descriptions. The larger auction houses have a capability to offer advanced descriptions and credit and delivery options to both on site and web/electronic bidding. The larger auction houses are building a large following of buyers through past successful sales and in depth overhead to provide higher quality

catalogues and extensive consultants for descriptive data. This business area will be debated by potential buyers and sellers. It is unknown y where it will go and technology and business practices are changing. The acquisition of weapons will be driven by economics and possibly tax considerations with capital gains changes being debated. We are going to have another extraordinary year with many new guns being brought out for sale from all sources. There will ne many auctions and, many weapons appearing at gun shows from homes and shops. The key to this era of collecting is the ready access to accurate information and hard to find unique information on selected items. At SRS, we are receiving many more requests for data that is factual and focused on a single weapon or a small production or historic uses. I have found quite a few very nice weapons based on a spit second memory charge that jogged the little white cells on something I had read in the U.S. Archive notes. It is impossible to carry all of the paper or notes or electronic media to a gun show or gun shop. If time is of the essence, memory is the best resource. SRS is always considering new ways to develop more data and also easy to use data. Very often, the cost of building a data base or a portable information device is cost prohibitive for small market demands. The cost to research many unique weapons is rising and the time to travel and search are escalating. SRS will continually evaluate this area and do what we can to provide accurate information. We continually use only data that can be verified by a U.S. Government document.

Current interests

SRS receives one thousand to fifteen hundred hits on out web site each month.

The number of inquiries has grown and there are many request for serial number inquiries. This includes many very fine and rare antiques and military weapons. The current information is growing and also the number of new serial numbers that can be processed. All are based on paper sources that are both typed and had written. All must be transcribed. Current data includes many Colt, Trapdoor, Krag and other commercial weapons donated to the military forces in World War 2. There are also USMC weapons including Carbines, Garands, Colts and others issued to the 10th Marines during the famous Pacific battles. We have also found more data on Garand M1C rifles and 1903A3 rifles. All of these areas require many hours of labor to put in some form of data base and we will not have them completed for some unknown time.

Our current list of research letters always has a wait list due to travel and working with government people at the Archives. There is no way, at this time, to work on telephone requests. The internet is the only way to work on serial number lookups and answer questions. We will continue to answer any current subscriber requests. This also includes letters from subscribers that do not have internet capabilities. As always, any GI with a green ID card will get a priority and lower costs if possible.

We have also been fortunate to find some more areas of research concerning Springfield Armory. This will be a target for 2010 and upcoming years.

Current Weapon Interest

The most interests continue to be in the area of World War 2 and the 1903A3 and M1Garand rifles, accessories, markings, and dates. There are many variations due to weapon changes, manufacturing changes, sub contractors, and prime contractors. The interests seem to run on

all items including stocks, markings, hand guards, barrels and markings, rare items, early production, production changes, and all parts. Often, there is an abundance of official data but many questions seem to be based on hearsay. We will continue to search and recover as much data as time permits.

The other major area is unique use such as 7th Cavalry, 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, and any USMC usage. All Colt military SAA; weapons used by American Indians; and historic weapon confirmation; is of great interest and SRS letters seem to provide an increased sales price. and historic weapons. Historical American Indian weapons continue to be of great interest. SRS still uses only government documents and hard fact for any serial number. There are no ranges of serial numbers for any military unit. The next number to a known documented weapon does not make it a documented item.

The most common issue that we find, concerns statements concerning a numerically close find. There is no way to justify that a verified serial number makes another serial number a few numbers away an important verified SRS documented gun. Buyers should be wary and never buy a weapon on hearsay or questionable information. All SRS letters are based on a U.S. Government document with a specific serial number. Any data that is not signed by one of the three SRS personnel is not verified by SRS. This includes any copy of a serial number or list.

Serial Number Oddities

It is still difficult to easily explain that most military weapons are not in serial number sequence nor in an exact production schedule. Hand written ledgers at the Archives are often difficult to read. Our compilation of Col. Sam Colt letters are

very difficult and a single page may take a day to decipher.

Springfield Research Letters

We are continually writing letters for our subscribers. Our back up varies from month to month and we still run into a search that takes several months to complete. It is a matter of searching all available sources.

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. That data requires us to travel and perform research through extensive visits at government facilities. The basic category will include **Sales letter information** with any available sales documents and other similar data.

Research letter -This letter requires travel to government facilities and research government records. 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 . Completion of the search is based on time and availability to visit the government facilities as well as their regulations. Additional data will be listed on our web as it becomes available.

usmartialarmscollector.com.

Comments and inputs

We are always interested in receiving photos VIA the internet for rare or unique weapons. We continue to add many more photos for our research and data base. It is an asset for the U.S. Martial Arms Magazine and SRS Newsletter. 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. We are still exploring all ideas on managing the data base and also to add to its content. This will be an on going effort. 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 at any time. We will respond with a yes or no concerning whether we have data on that specific number. There is no charge for subscribers.

Mail requires extra time for an answer to a number request. A subscriber can request a letter with basic or research information.

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.

Data on Books, and Web Page

All manuals and documents will be copies of original government documents. We are still behind in this area. We are sorting out computer problems to answer emails for a list of articles for the early magazines (1 through 40). This will be in response to subscribers that email a request for an outline of past articles. The early newsletters ran from number 1 through number 55.

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. It is not expected that the supply will last.

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.

SRS and US Martial Arms Collector Web site is: usmartialarmscollector.com

All of our products are only available to our 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 122 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 is open: **usmartialarmscollector.com.**

SRS Letters & Costs

Basic letter (and sales letters) \$ 50. Research letter (requires more than one day of travel, access to government facility and research) \$ 175 (letter orders can be made for work and are available for 2010).

Cover The cover photo is a Sharps New Model 1863 rifle. It has the history of use by the unit and the individual to whom it was issued in the Civil War.

Letters received and Answered

Can you help me? I have a 1873 Springfield 4570. Serial # 264028, & it also has a 7 stamped on the stock.

Interested in the history of it and wondering how much it is worth. Thank you.

Thank you for the email. We search serial numbers for our subscribers only. Please review our web site. SRS does not provide weapon cost data. Editor

I would like to subscribe to the 1903 Springfield search data base.

We do not have a data base for searching serial numbers. You may subscribe to our magazine and newsletter for serial number look ups. Editor

Are the dues for your organization tax deductible? If you get a chance please let me know.

Thank you,

I believe this is a question for the IRS but I feel it could be a business deduction but we are not a tax free organization. Editor.

I would like to get and back issues regarding Henry rifles and items pertaining to them. Also what do I have to do to have pertinent info on several of our Henry rifles. Best regards.

Back issues are available for \$10 each. You would need to state the issue number. A research effort is not available at this time. We do not have a data base for searching serial numbers. You may subscribe to our magazine and newsletter for serial number look ups. Editor.

Dear Sir, I have a Colt New Service letter that states that my New Service frame was one in a shipment of 200 frames shipped to the US govt. via the commanding general of Springfield armory Springfield, Mass. on Oct 22, 1941. The Colt factory order# is 108 and the frame and crane serial # is 354674. This evidently was only shipped as a frame and crane and not the whole gun. Do you have any info.

Sorry, no data on that serial number. We have no data on frame deliveries if they are not in a military document. Editor.

Good after noon. I have a research letter done in 1993 on a colt 1851 navy pistol

from Springfield Research Service. I was wondering if you still proved this service, and for how much ? can you tell me please? thanks,

SRS is still sending letters out and doing research. There have been no breaks in this service. Costs are on our web site. Editor.

Reference my carbine. It is for sure original and not faked. I am very puzzled that there is no history on this. Do you mean that even if we do a research at the \$175 cost that nothing would turn up?

We do not have any data on that weapon and have not been able to find any data in the Archive records. We have many records but not all serial number records. Editor.

How can I get some history on this weapon? Is there a book with serial numbers etc on M1 Garands, A3 03 and 45 70 trap doors? Thanks.

We do not have documents in that format. We can search data for our subscribers. The search mode for our data bases are set up for an individual serial number search. Editor.

Thank's for such a fast answer on my serial number. So where now to find some history. Thank you.

The only way we have been able to do it, is to spend years searching all government documents. It is very time consuming and takes a hard effort. Editor.

1896 Krag carbine, everything is right. Serial # is two digits off a listed # 69698(listed gun).

It must be an exact match. There is no valid data using the next number or " in the range" numbers. A single shipment case of 10 weapons can have numbers hundreds or thousands apart from each other. Editor.

RIA M1903 177708: I know this has a document history, but I'm not sure how I go about getting this rifle researched. The rifle is 80% complete and I believe it was originally issued to the 15th Army(?). Please tell me how much to send and where.

We have no data on that weapon in our data bases. You may be able to search unit histories but it may take extensive travel to one or more government locations. Please consult our web site for our efforts. Editor.

Can you help me learn more about the Trapdoor Springfield I recently purchased. The serial number stamped in front of the trapdoor hinge is: 290308. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Sorry, no data on that weapon. Editor.

SRS notes

We receive many inquiries on a wide range of subjects. Emails are now the most common and require extensive time to answer. We will be re writing areas of the web page to clarify and hopefully, shorten any area that leaves questions. One area always stops some of our responses. If SRS answers and email, and it is blocked by the sender-- we can not do anything about this and our return comments are returned as non deliverable. There is nothing we can do about this if the sender has set up a block for responses. We find many Archive documents that are difficult to read or some that have disappeared. We try to revisit each area to confirm that the data is still accurate. Working with some of the personnel is difficult and takes time. It is also possible to start a review of a document area and find big gaps in the data as well as deteriorated files that can crumble in your hands. The result is a missing area of data that can not be rectified and the history is lost.

The Remington Model 1903 Rifle Overhaul Contract

By
John Beard

By January, 1945, the United States had been fighting World War II for three long years. When the Allies invaded France the preceding June, everyone thought the war in Europe would end by Christmas, 1944. Defense planners had already begun scaling back orders for new war materiel. Remington and Smith-Corona, for example, had terminated Model '03-A3 rifle production by the preceding February, 1944.¹ As contracts for new war materiel were terminated, the contracts were replaced with new contracts for spare parts and services in order to keep the private sector engaged in support of the war effort.

One of these contracts, as recorded in the Army Service Forces/Ordnance Department/Small Arms Division DIGEST OF SIGNIFICANT PURCHASE ACTIONS for the week ended 26 May 1945, reads as follows:

Date of Award: 5/16/45
District: Rochester
Contract No.: W-30-115 ORD 2031
Item: Remanufacture, Rifle,
U.S., Cal. .30, M1903A1, A3 & A4
Contractor: Remington Arms Co.,
Inc., Bridgeport, Conn.

Quantity: 43,000
Price: \$10.24

Scheduled Deliveries: 4-45/10-45

With this contract award, the Remington Arms Co. was back in the Model 1903 rifle business.

The Remington Rifle Overhaul Contract
The Remington rifle overhaul contract was neither unusual nor uncommon. The Ordnance Dept. relied heavily on numerous private contractors to supply complete rifles and/or spare replacement parts in support of the war effort. At least one other case is known of a private contractor being engaged during WWII to overhaul rifles for the Ordnance Dept.

Little is known about the Remington Model 1903 rifle overhaul contract other than the aforementioned journal entry. Several interesting facts, however, are apparent. First, the contract was placed with Remington's manufacturing plant in Bridgeport, Connecticut, instead of their massive arms manufacturing plant in Ilion, New York, where their Model 1903, '03-A3, and '03-A4 rifles had been manufactured. Remington apparently had small arms manufacturing and inspection capability at the Bridgeport plant because Pedersen Devices had been manufactured there at the end of WWI. Whether the work was actually performed in Bridgeport instead of Ilion is unknown. Both facilities, however, were within the jurisdiction of the Rochester, New York, Ordnance District. Second, the contract called for deliveries beginning in April, 1945, when the formal contract award did not occur until the following May 16, 1945.

The delayed contract award, however, is neither unusual nor uncommon among defense contracting practices. When urgency demands, contractors are routinely issued a "letter of intent" or similar document authorizing them to start work on a contract while technical specifications and/or pricing are being negotiated. Third, in order to begin deliveries of overhauled rifles in April, 1945, worn/damaged rifles requiring overhaul had obviously been shipped to Remington well in advance of that time. The date when worn/damaged rifle shipments began is unknown, but is anticipated to have been several months prior to the first scheduled deliveries.

Fourth, in order to overhaul rifles, repair/replacement parts were required. By early 1945, Remington was no longer manufacturing essential parts for Model 1903 or '03-A3 overhaul, such as barrels and stocks. The necessary repair/replacement parts, therefore, had to be shipped to Remington from Ordnance Stores.

Fifth, although the contract called for overhaul of Model 1903A1, '03-A3, and '03-A4 rifles, the contract did not likely exclude overhaul of regular Model 1903 rifles fitted with straight-grip stocks. During WWII, Ordnance Dept. references to the Model 1903A1 rifle were usually understood to include the earlier Model 1903 rifle with straight grip stock.

Sixth, the predominant cost in the \$10.24 price for overhauling each rifle likely consisted of labor. As a minimum, each rifle had to be completely disassembled, the parts inspected and/or gauged, then reassembled. Most rifles also likely required refinishing and the stocks likely required light sanding. The \$10.24 price for doing this represented approximately 25% of the cost for a new '03-A3 rifle.² As mentioned previously, the government

apparently furnished the repair/replacement parts to Remington at no charge. Seventh, in order to deliver 43,000 overhauled rifles during the 6-month period of scheduled deliveries, Remington had to attain an average overhaul rate of approximately 330 rifles per day. Having previously attained a manufacturing rate of 3,000 new rifles per day at their Ilion plant, the 330-rifle per day overhaul rate did not necessarily represent a significant challenge. Eighth, the contract called for overhaul (remanufacture) of Model 1903A1, Model '03-A3, and Model '03-A4 rifles. This suggests that, in less than 2 years of service, substantial quantities of rifles (especially '03-A3 and '03-A4 rifles) were already being turned in for overhaul. Some rifles had, perhaps, been recovered from battlefields where substantial weather or battle damage had been incurred. Others, no doubt, had bad bores and were victims of the corrosive ammunition the military insisted on using.

Remington Overhaul Contract Rifles
Prior to this journal entry's recent discovery, the existence of Remington overhaul contract rifles was unknown by most collectors and historians. Therein lies a clue that led to the recent discovery of an actual rifle and marked stocks from other rifles that were remanufactured under this contract. Rifle characteristics described in the following paragraphs were noted from the actual complete rifle plus three loose Type S finger groove stocks, all of which were clearly remanufactured by Remington. Since the contract called for delivery of 43,000 rifles, numerous other examples are obviously waiting to be discovered.

Stock Markings

The most unusual characteristic of the Remington overhaul contract rifles is absence of an overhaul cartouche in the rifle stocks. Remington apparently never applied an overhaul cartouche to the rifles. Instead, the stocks were lightly sanded and any existing cartouches and proof marks were usually left intact and legible. The reason for this highly unusual practice is unknown. Remington did, however, apply other markings to the rifle stocks, thereby leaving a conclusive trail of evidence leading back to their overhaul and inspection facility. During manufacture and inspection of their new Model '03-A3, and '03-A4 rifles, Remington and/or Ordnance Dept.

inspectors applied a peculiar set of markings to the bottoms of rifle stocks in front of the trigger guards. These markings usually consisted of a series of multiple numbers, each enclosed by a geometric shape. The geometric shapes consisted of circles, ovals, squares, triangles, etc. Inspection of the Remington overhaul contract rifles continued this practice with the exception that the numbers were reduced to one, two, or three and the only geometric shape observed in use to date is a circle.

Remington and/or Ordnance Dept.

inspectors also frequently stamped one or two large $\frac{1}{4}$ " high numbers into the stocks of their newly-manufactured '03-'A4 rifles on the bottom in front of the trigger guard. The meaning of the numbers is unknown. Remington resumed this practice with inspection of their overhaul contract rifles. In addition, a Remington or Ordnance Dept. inspector usually stamped a single alphanumeric character into the stocks of their newly-manufactured '03-A3 and '03-'A4 rifles on the bottom behind the trigger guard. Again, Remington resumed this practice with inspection of their overhaul contract rifles.

The most definitive marking Remington

applied to the stocks of their overhaul contract rifles, however, was the peculiar encircled "P" proof mark they had previously used to mark the stocks of their newly-manufactured '03-A3 and '03-A4 rifles. The Remington proof mark consisted of a block letter "P" enclosed within a 7/16" diameter circle. The size and shape of the proof mark was unique to Remington's rifle production contract. No other rifle manufacturing or overhaul and inspection facility is known to have used this proof mark.

Stock Profiling

During WWII, dimensions and tolerances on rifle stocks were relaxed to facilitate increased production. In some cases, excess wood under the bolt handle would keep the bolt from closing completely and, thereby, cause a misfire or malfunction. The problem was corrected by dressing off the top corner of most rifle stocks, usually by hand, underneath the bolt handle.

This practice was commonplace in new rifle production at both Remington and Smith-Corona during WWII. Two of the three pre-WWII finger groove stocks observed had the stock corners underneath the bolt handle dressed off in this manner which, doubtless, was performed by Remington.

Stock Shim

The Model 1903 rifle receiver tends to settle in the stock under recoil. Under repeated recoil, the receiver rear tang imbeds itself in the stock and reduces the upward pressure applied by the fore end to the bottom of the barrel. A small amount of upward pressure on the end of the barrel applied by the fore end is required for proper bedding to maintain accuracy.

Remington apparently imbedded a thin

metal shim in the stock under the receiver rear tang when necessary to realign the barrel with the stock fore end channel and restore the required upward pressure. The shim was machined to match the footprint of the receiver rear tang while maintaining a press fit in the stock so that the shim wouldn't inadvertently fall out. The shim had a hole drilled in the center through which the rear trigger guard screw passed. All three pre-WWII finger groove stocks from the Remington overhaul contract were fitted with shims as described.

Metal Finish

Remington bead-blasted the metal parts of the single known complete rifle from the overhaul contract and applied a parkerized refinish. Bead blasting is similar to sand blasting, except that tiny glass beads are used instead for the abrasive material. Bead blasting produces a finer more satin-like finish than sand blasting.

The bead-blasted parts included the bolt, bands, barreled receiver, and trigger guard. Bead blasting on the previously smooth rifle bolt left the bolt with a fine "frosty" texture on the surface.

The parkerized refinish was not uniform in color from part to part; considerable variation in color was noted. The barreled receiver, for example, had a very dark olive parkerized refinish, the bolt had a black parkerized refinish, and the trigger guard had a mottled black-brown parkerized refinish. The part-to-part color variation indicates that more than one parkerizing station/solution was used for part refinishing. All parts except the magazine follower and spring had a parkerized refinish, thereby indicating the parts were taken from used rifles and were not new replacements.

Mixed Parts

The overhauled rifles were re-assembled from mixed parts. Some care, however, may

have been taken to keep from mixing '03-A3 stamped parts with earlier milled parts. The single known complete rifle, for example, is an '03-A3. The rifle was assembled using stamped '03-A3 parts exclusively with no milled parts mixed in. The rifle parts, however, were of mixed manufacture. The barreled receiver, barrel bands, lower swivel, and stock were originally manufactured by Smith-Corona. The butt plate, bolt assembly, trigger guard, magazine follower, and upper band, however, were originally manufactured by Remington.

Disposition

Disposition of the Remington overhaul contract rifles is unknown. The rifles were overhauled in mid-to-late 1945; most were, therefore, likely turned in to Ordnance Stores. The single known complete '03-A3 rifle is a documented Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM) sales rifle that was purchased from the Anniston Ordnance Depot in 1962. The rifle is in new freshly-overhauled condition and was acquired from the original owner. The rifle's originality was certain.

Collectors Note

With interest in WWII rifles at an all-time high, collectors today are anxiously pursuing acquisition and/or restoration of early Remington Model 1903 rifles. Fitted with Type S finger groove stocks, early Remington Model 1903 rifles are avidly sought after and highly valued among collectors.

Unless care is exercised, a pre-WWII Type S finger groove stock bearing legitimate Remington markings from their rifle overhaul contract can be mistaken for a very early Remington Type S finger groove stock. The mistake can be costly. The collector is, therefore, cautioned to avoid confusing a

pre-WWII Type S finger groove stock bearing Remington overhaul contract markings with a genuine early Remington Type S finger groove stock bearing Remington overhaul contract markings with a genuine early Remington Type S finger groove stock.

Acknowledgments

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Mr. Frank Mallory at the Springfield Research Service and Mr. Clark Campbell for furnishing a copy of selected portions from the DIGEST OF SIGNIFICANT PURCHASE ACTIONS as found in the National Archives. The author also gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Mr. Lynn Meredith at the Civilian Marksmanship Program – South for providing stock marking data from rifles remanufactured under the Remington rifle overhaul contract. And, finally, the author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of Mr. Larry Byrd and Mr. C.S. Ferris for reviewing the original manuscript copy and providing valuable comments and necessary corrections.

Sample Descriptions, 1903A3

Rebuild Rifles

Sample #1: Left side wrist of Smith-Corona '03-A3 rifle, S/N 4727819

Caption: Remington lightly sanded the stocks of their overhaul contract rifles, usually leaving the original cartouche(s) intact. This Smith-Corona '03-A3, S/N 4727819, was coincidentally refitted with a Smith-Corona stock still showing the "F.J.A." cartouche in a rectangle from the original manufacture.

Sample #2: Bottom front of trigger guard of Smith-Corona '03-A3, S/N 4727819

Caption: The stock of Smith-Corona '03-A3, S/N 4727819, received three new subinspector markings deeply struck in front of the trigger guard. These are "43", "30", and "37", each enclosed in a circle. Original Smith-Corona subinspector markings

consisting of a "5" enclosed in a square, a "5" enclosed in a diamond, and a "3" enclosed in a triangle are still visible.

Sample #3: Bottom rear of trigger guard of Smith-Corona '03-A3, S/N 4727819

Caption: The Remington overhaul contract inspector stamped his 7/16" diameter encircled "P" proof mark directly over the original 1/2" diameter Smith-Corona encircled "P" proof mark, which is still faintly visible underneath. The "F" stock subinspector mark (stamped sideways) is from the Remington overhaul contract.

Sample #4: Left side wrist of '03 finger groove stocks

Caption: For reasons unknown, Remington failed to stamp a final inspection cartouche in the stocks of their overhaul contract rifles. These Rock Island finger groove stocks (top and bottom) are from the Remington overhaul contract. The top stock has no original cartouche and the bottom stock still shows its original WWI-vintage "A" inspection cartouche over stamped with a San Antonio Arsenal overhaul cartouche. A late Remington '03-A3 stock with "RA", Ordnance Escutcheon, and "FJA" cartouches is shown in the center for reference.

Sample #5 & 6: Bottom of stocks around trigger guard. Please place photograph #5 directly above photograph #6 and use a single caption for both.

Caption: Remington overhaul contract rifle stocks are marked with one, two, or three small encircled numbers stamped in front of the trigger guard. Some also have two 1/4"-high numbers stamped among the encircled numbers. Beneath the wrist, the Remington overhaul contract stock subinspector stamped his identification letter behind the trigger guard and the final inspector stamped

his 7/16" diameter encircled "P" proof mark. The stocks on the left and right are Rock Island WWI-vintage finger groove stocks from the Remington overhaul contract and the stock in the center is a late Remington '03-A3 stock shown for reference. The stock on the left still faintly exhibits its original Rock Island encircled script "P" proof mark.

Sample #7: Top right side of stock.

Caption: Remington occasionally ground off the top right corner of the stock beneath the bolt handle during overhaul to ensure the bolt handle would close fully and, thereby, prevent misfires.

Sample #8: Top rear of stock receiver inletting.

Caption: Remington installed a thin metal shim in some stocks around the rear guard screw hole to compensate for receiver tang imbedding into the stock. These WWI-vintage Rock Island finger groove stocks from the Remington overhaul contract have "RI" stamped on the fore end tip.

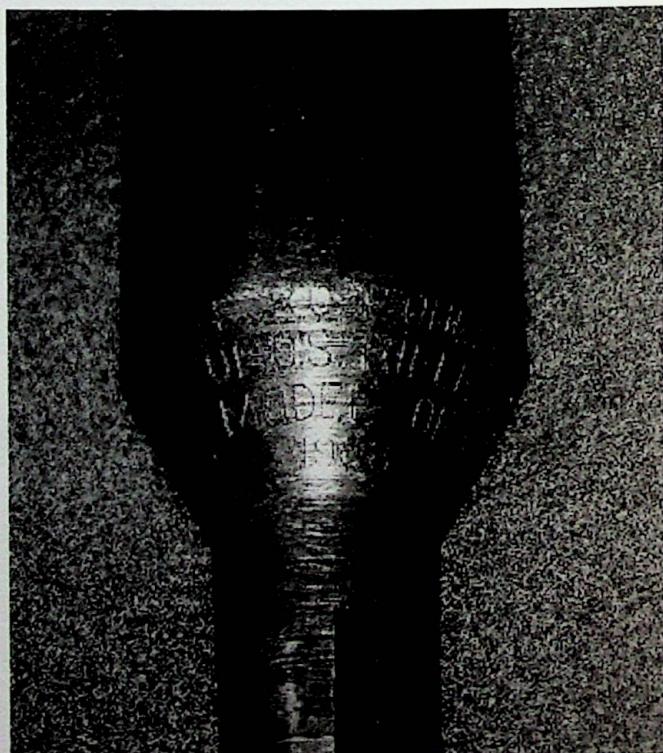
References: Clark S. Campbell, *The 03 Era (Canada): Collector grade Publications, Inc. 1994*, p.115. Small Arms Branch, Industrial Division, Rifle Section, "Register of Prices Paid For Small Arms Items," p.52. The price listed for a new Smith-Corona 03-A3 rifle was \$ 49.64.

Editors note: Thanks to John Beard and all of the other collectors that aided in this superb piece of research. We hope there will be more to come in the form of photos, additional rifles and additional accurate data.

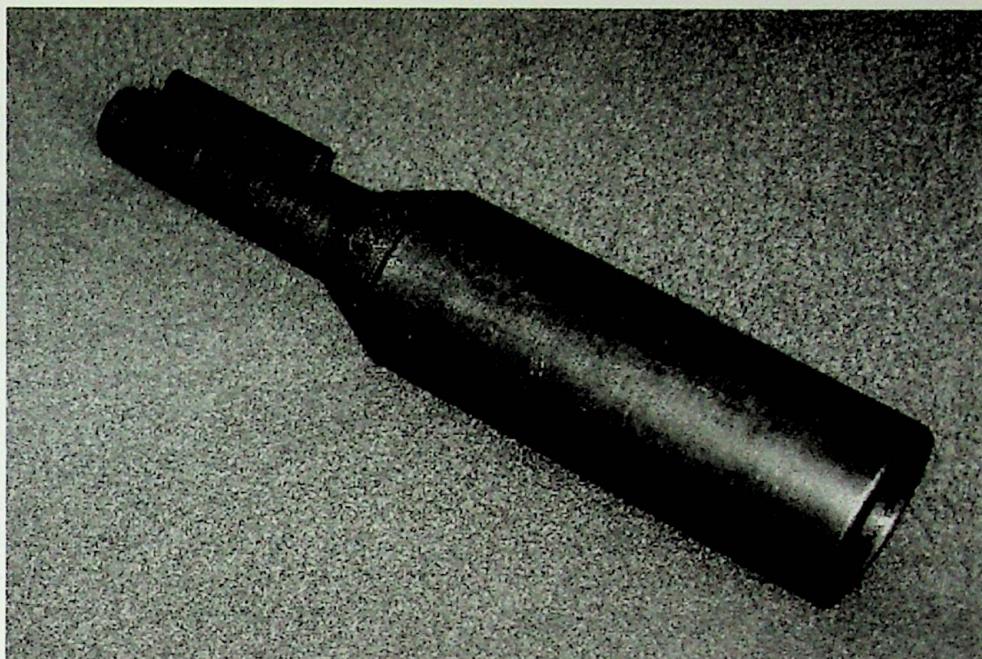
1903 Springfield Grenade Launcher

During World War 1, a series of grenade launchers were tested and manufactured for U. S. Weapons. The following photos show a very rare 1903 Springfield launcher marked For Use Only On U.S. Model 1903 Rifle It is probably a unit made by Edison Laboratories. . The launchers were designed from the earlier French VB model units. The U.S. forces used early French models and quickly designed their own units. There were at least eight U. S. Manufacturers.

The VB stands for the two French designers: Jean Viven and Gustave Bessiere. The best data source is *The Springfield Rifles* book by William Brophy.



Courtesy of Ed Kemp.



Courtesy: Ed kemp

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 122-13

Sharps New Model 1863 Rifle

The veteran Corps was authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1864. Their soldiers were Volunteers who served in prior service and reenlisted to serve under the command of General W.S. Hancock. Each soldier was issued a Sharps Rifle or a Henry rifle with the understanding that the soldier could keep the weapon after the war. The Sharps identified below is number C, 30248. It was issued to Private Moses I. Wixom, U.S. 2nd Veteran Volunteers, Company D. The documentation was found in the U.S. Archives in Washington, D.C. In Record Group 94, Company Order Book.

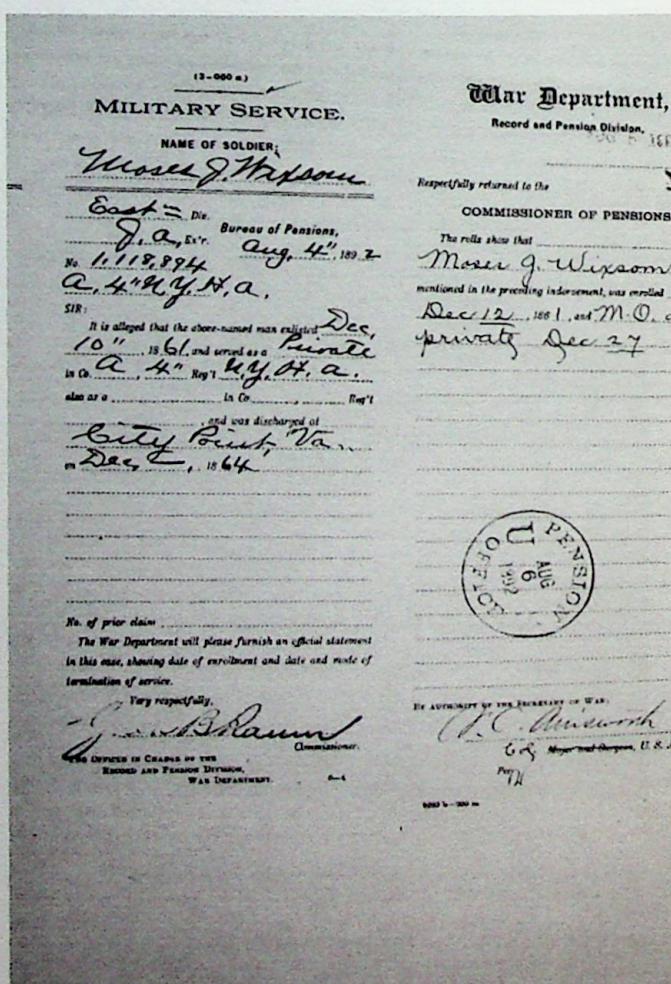
This weapon is in remarkable condition and shows the majority of finish with color case hardening and blue. It shows the original markings, cartouches, finish, and original parts.

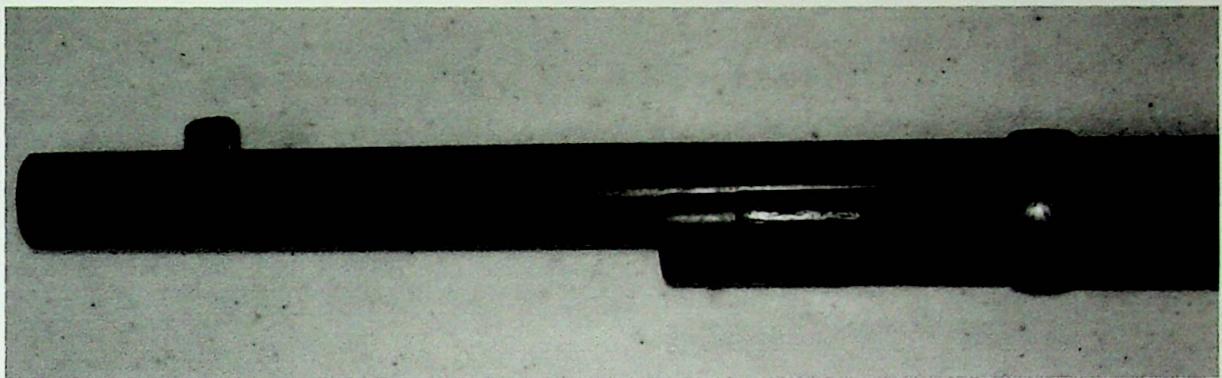


Private Wixom served with the volunteers as well as prior service.

Editor's note: We find quite a few references for Sharps carbines and rifles. The Connecticut Library has furnished very valuable data on Sharps. Some of our inquiries ask for carbine serial numbers beginning with a C. The photo below shows a C, with the serial number as they were assigned to many rifles. Please be careful in researching this area and looking at the intention of the C.

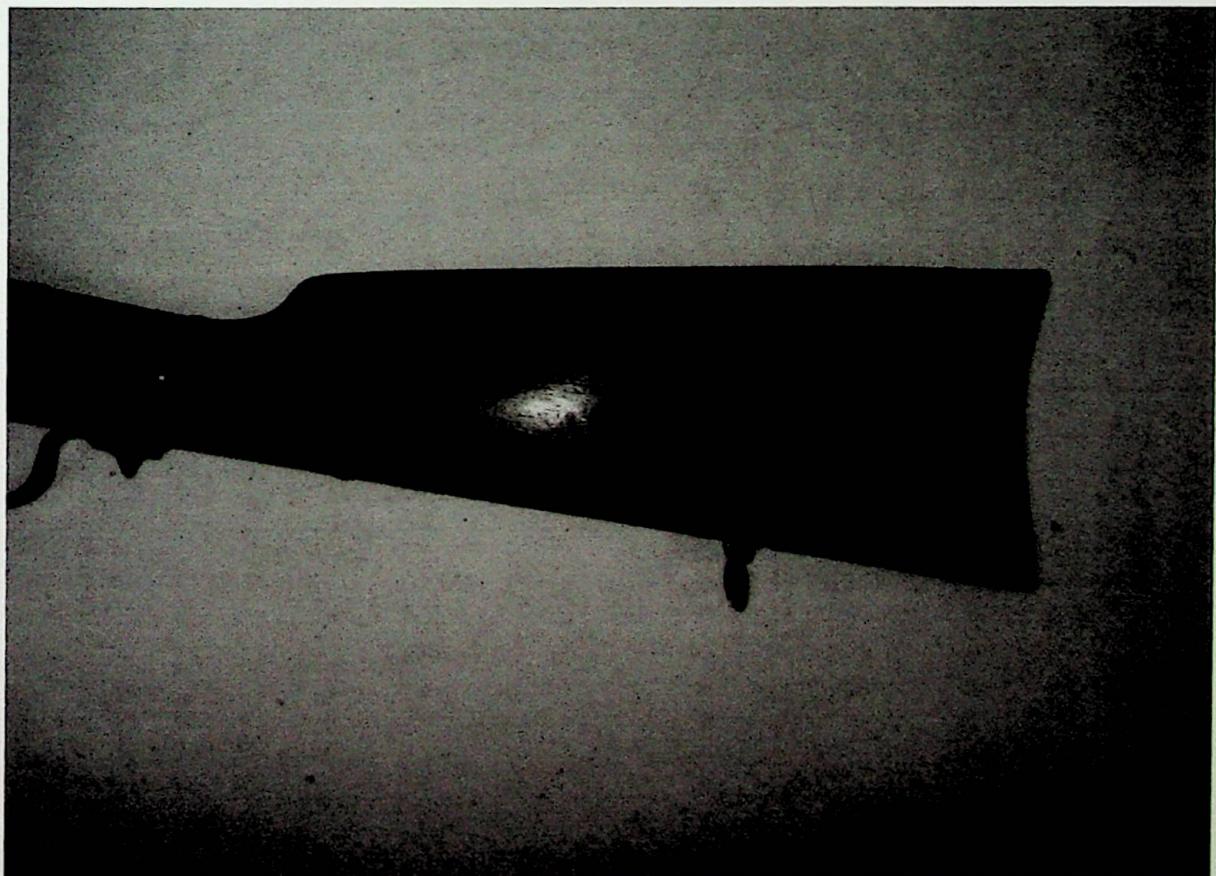
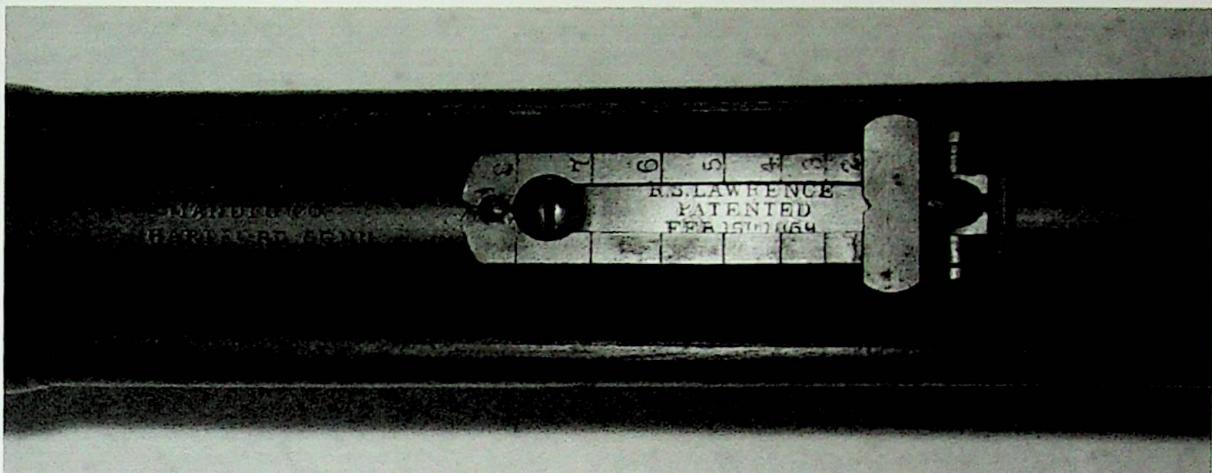
Sharps Rifle, Courtesy: Ed Ponchock





U.S. Martial Arms Collector 122-15





U.S. Martial Arms Collector 122-17

Model 1840 Pomeroy Flintlock Musket

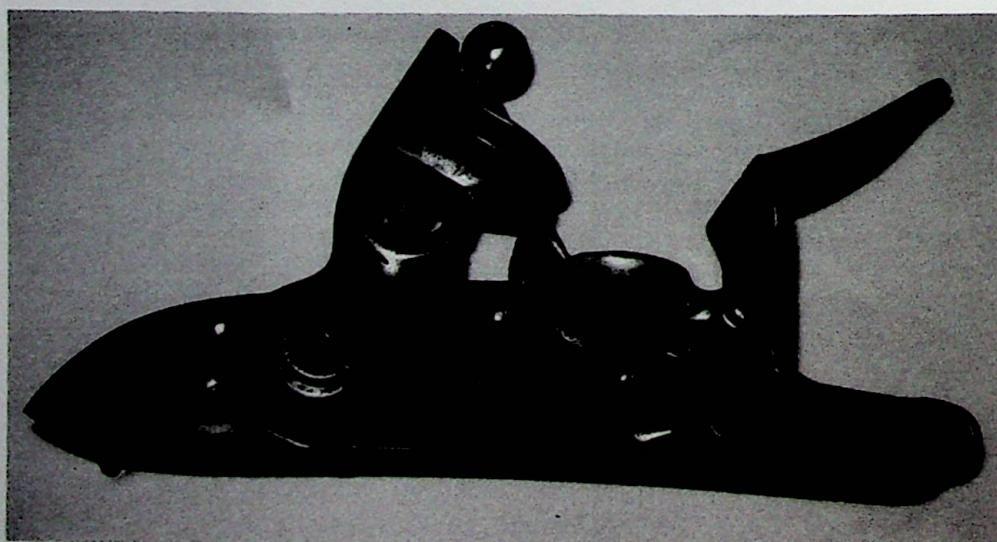
The model 1840 musket was made by Springfield Armory. It was the last regulation flintlock musket. This is one of the rarest models of U. S. Flintlocks. Most were converted to percussion and original specimens are very hard to find. This model was the final manufacturing design to have fully interchangeable parts. There were two other manufacturers that completed the model 1840 manufacture. It was followed by the Springfield 1842 percussion musket. Production was 45, 521 weapons with Springfield producing 30,421; Daniel Nippes 5,100; and Lemeul Pomeroy 7,000. They were caliber .69, 57 1/4 inches in length, and had the armory bright finish. Some of the design was a result of the French model 1816, and the model 1822. The most disguising feature is the 3 1/4 cock that has a 1/2 inch diameter hole on the convex surface body. Manufacturing dates were 1840 through 1848. The barrel was marked with a V over P and the Eagle head in 3/32 inch letters.

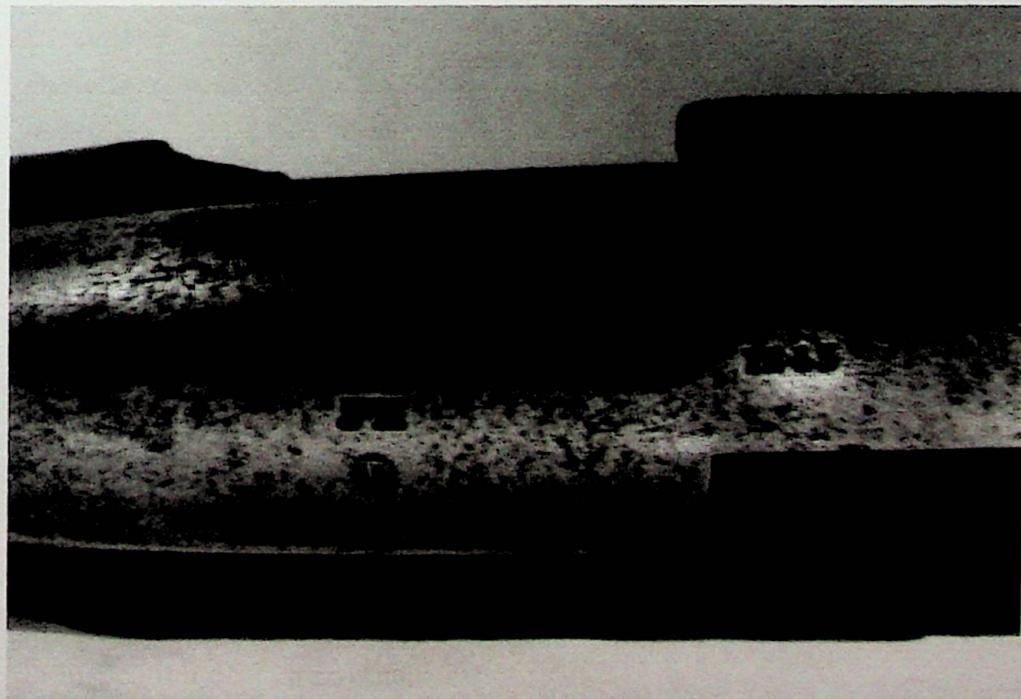
The Springfield manufacture was Marked Spring Field and date in 1/16 inch letters in three lines behind the cock. The center area of the lock has the U.S. Eagle and U S in the center area. The barrel bands had flat springs with a stud that fit into a hole in the band body.

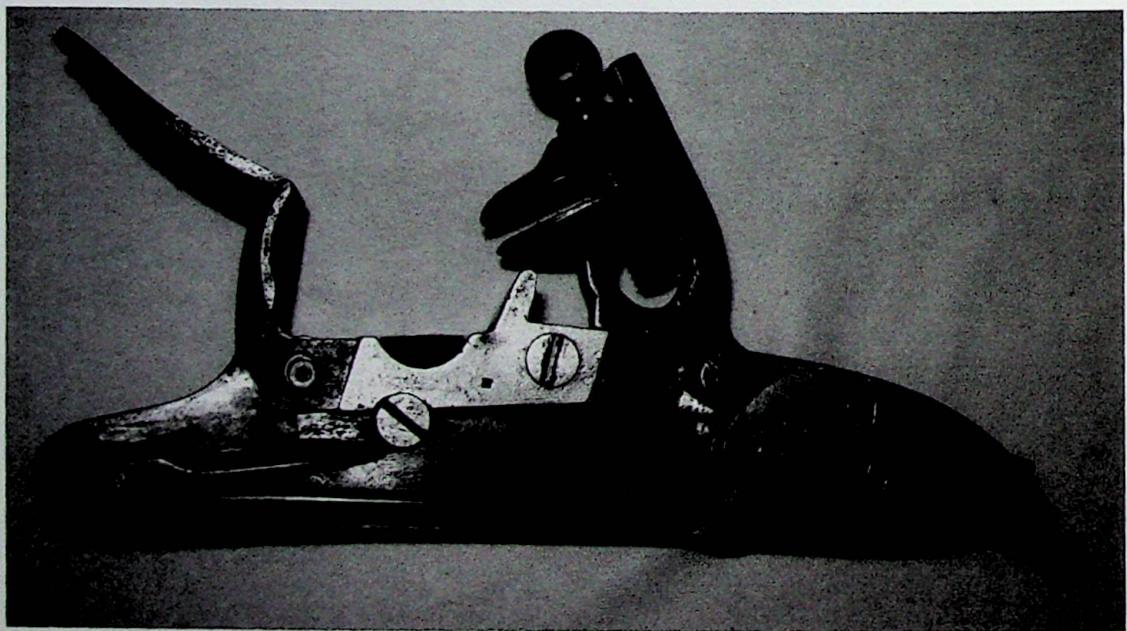
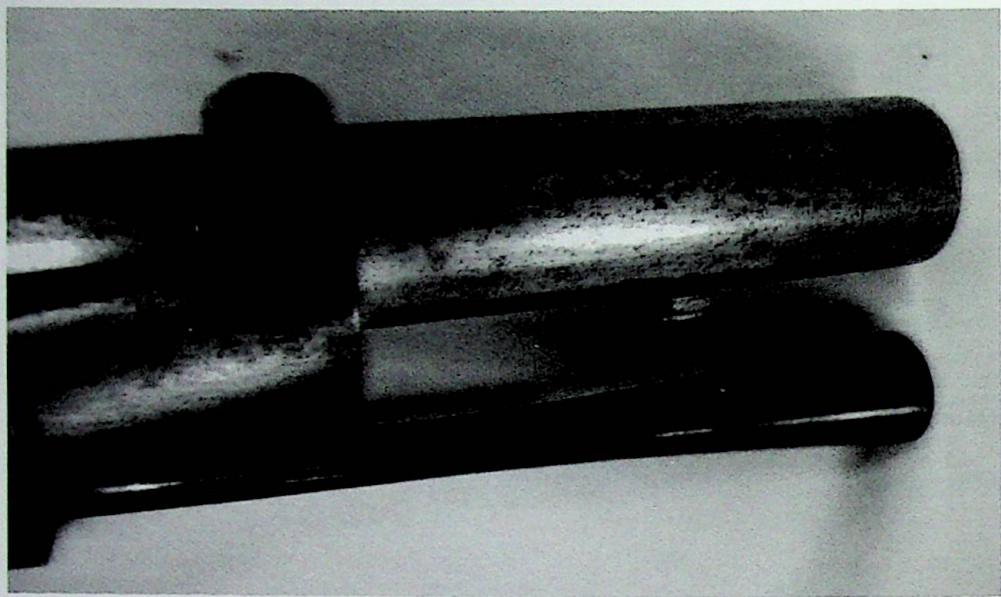
Markings for the contractors were D. Nippes over US in two lines; and Mill Creek PA in three lines; and L. Pomeroy in block letters with U S in two lines .Stocks were marked by Thomas Warner and Justin Murphy. William A. Thornton has been found on contractors manufacture.

There were other contractors that did not deliver any weapons. Daniel Nippes also appears to have produced some additional muskets. Data has been found in Record Group 156 at the U.S. Archives.

Information and data on these muskets was gathered with the courtesy of George D. Moller and his extensive works in his Book American Military Shoulder Arms.



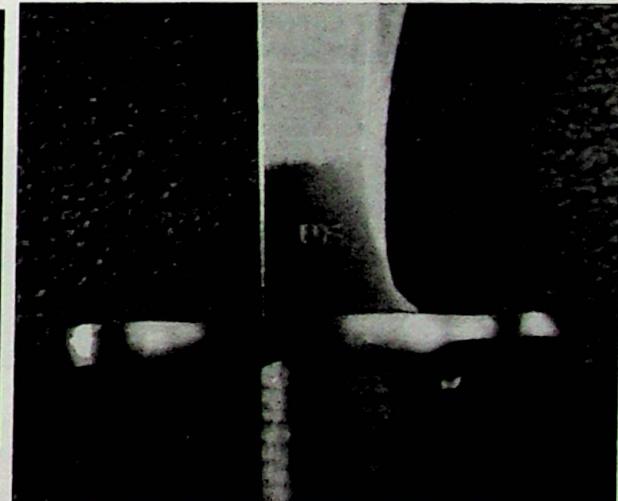
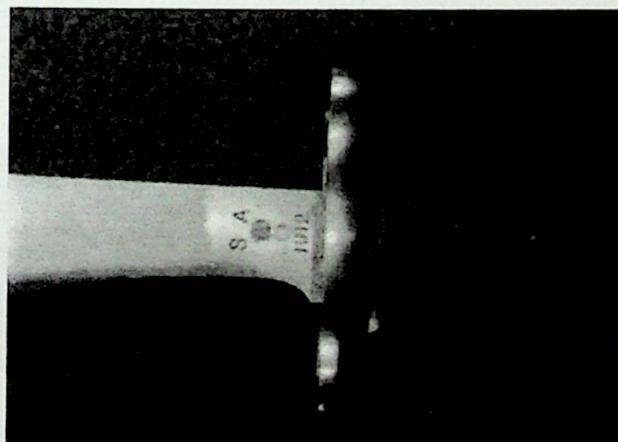




U.S. Martial Arms Collector 122-20

Collector Notes
Rare 1903 Springfield Bayonets

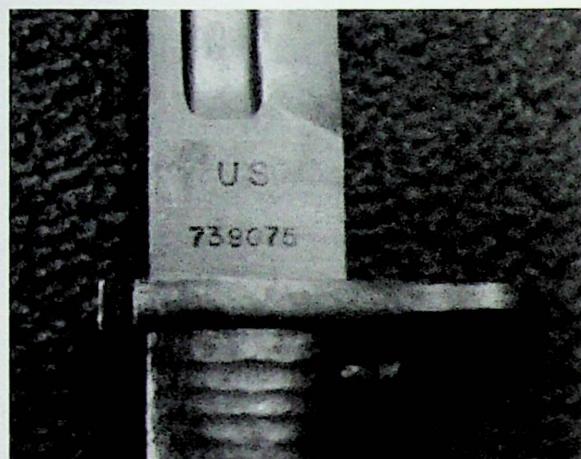
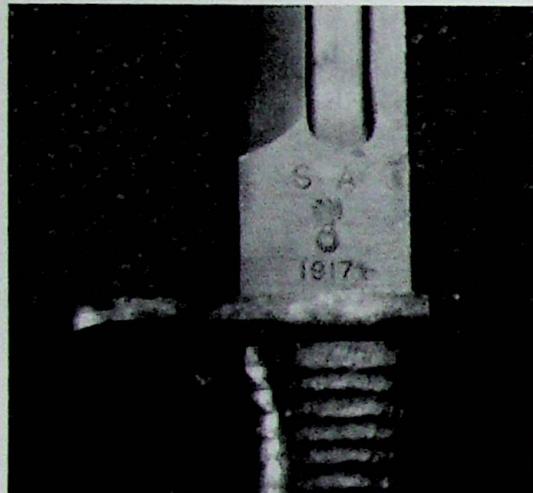
1903 Springfield Bolo Bayonet



The 1912 dated World War 1 Bolo Bayonet in excellent condition shown with 1903 barrel latch and standard fittings for the Model 1903 Springfield. Courtesy of Ed Kemp.

Best source of additional data is found in *The 1903 Springfield Rifles* by Bill Brophy.

**1903 Springfield Bayonet
Made for The Maxim Silencer**

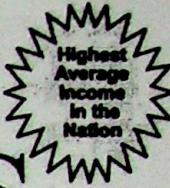


The 1917 Bayonet made for a World War 1 1903 Springfield with Extensive modifications to fit on the 1903 barrel and operate with the Maxim Silencer in place. Source of additional data may be found in The 1903 Springfield Rifles by Bill Brophy.

Courtesy of Ed Kemp.



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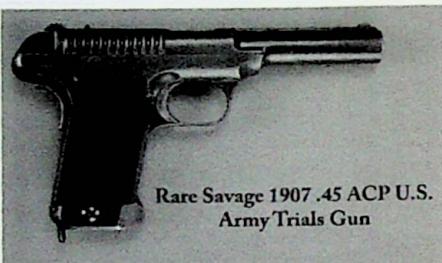
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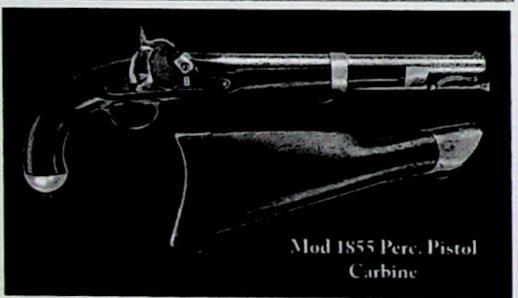
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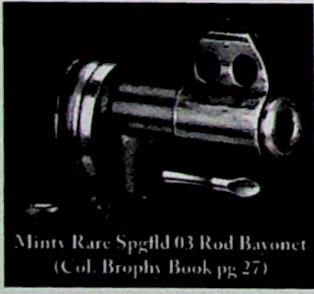


Rare Singer 1911 A1 #032 (Alan Brown Coll.)

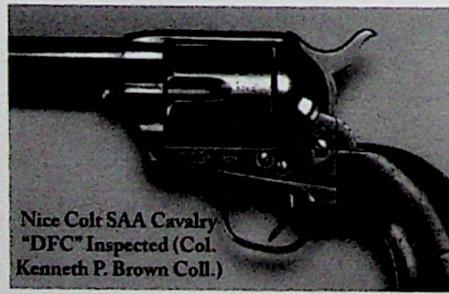
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ELIZABETH, N.J., U.S.A.



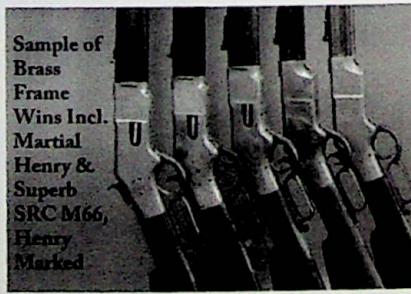
Rare & Historic 1911 .38 Super & Acc Pres. to Maj. J.S. Hatcher (see pg. 440 Wilson/Sutherland)



Minty Rare Spgld 03 Rod Bayonet (Col. Brophy Book pg 27)



Nice Colt SAA Cavalry "DFC" Inspected (Col. Kenneth P. Brown Coll.)

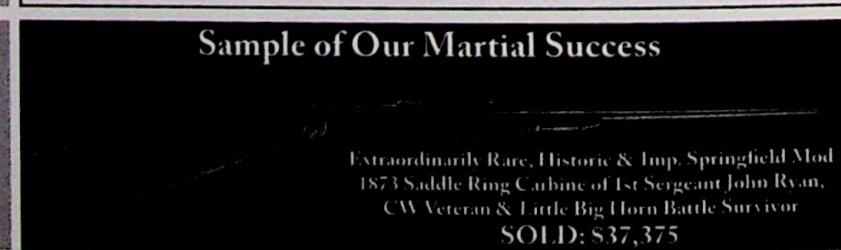


Sample of Brass Frame Wins Incl. Martial Henry & Superb SRC M66, Henry Marked

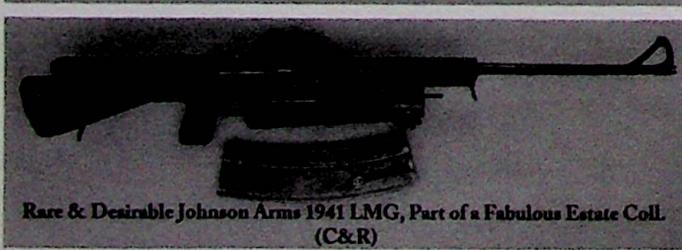
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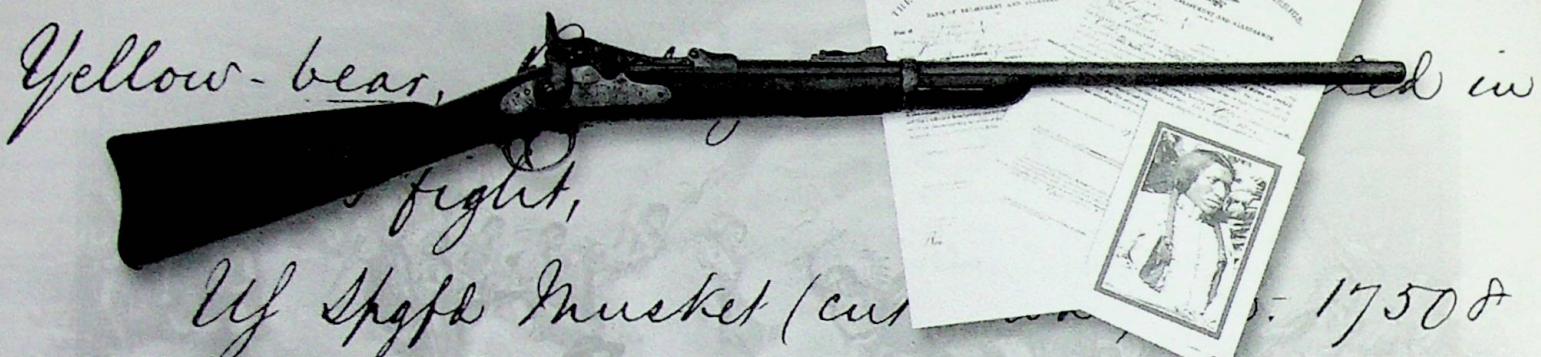
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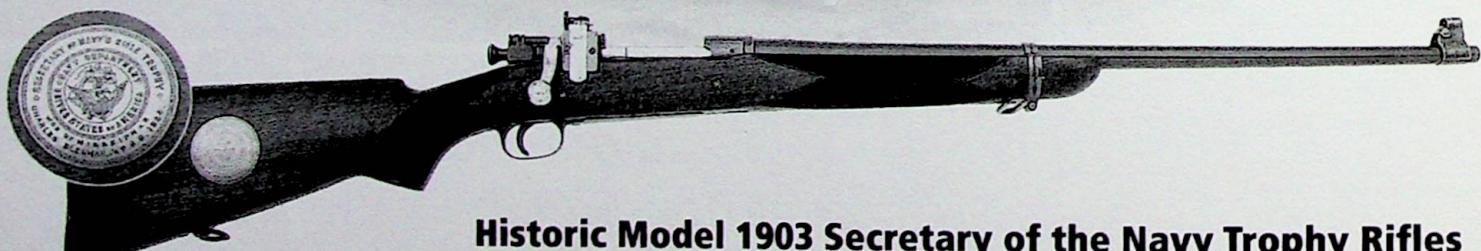
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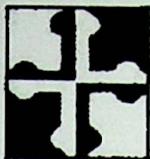


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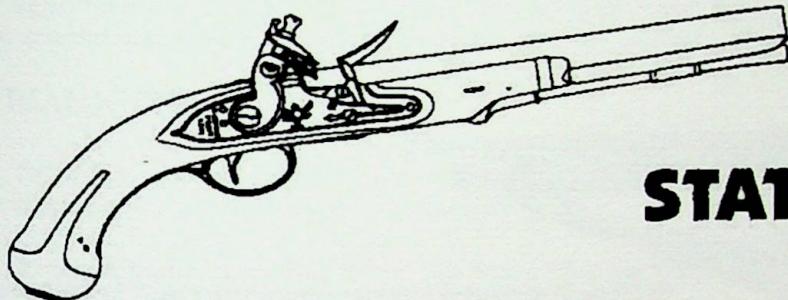
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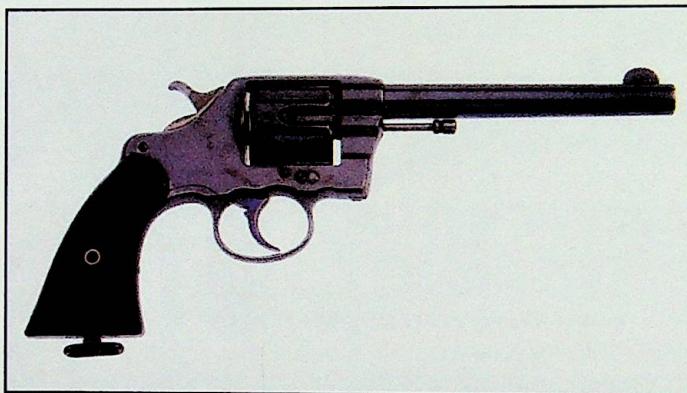
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