

U.S.

MARTIAL ARMS Collector

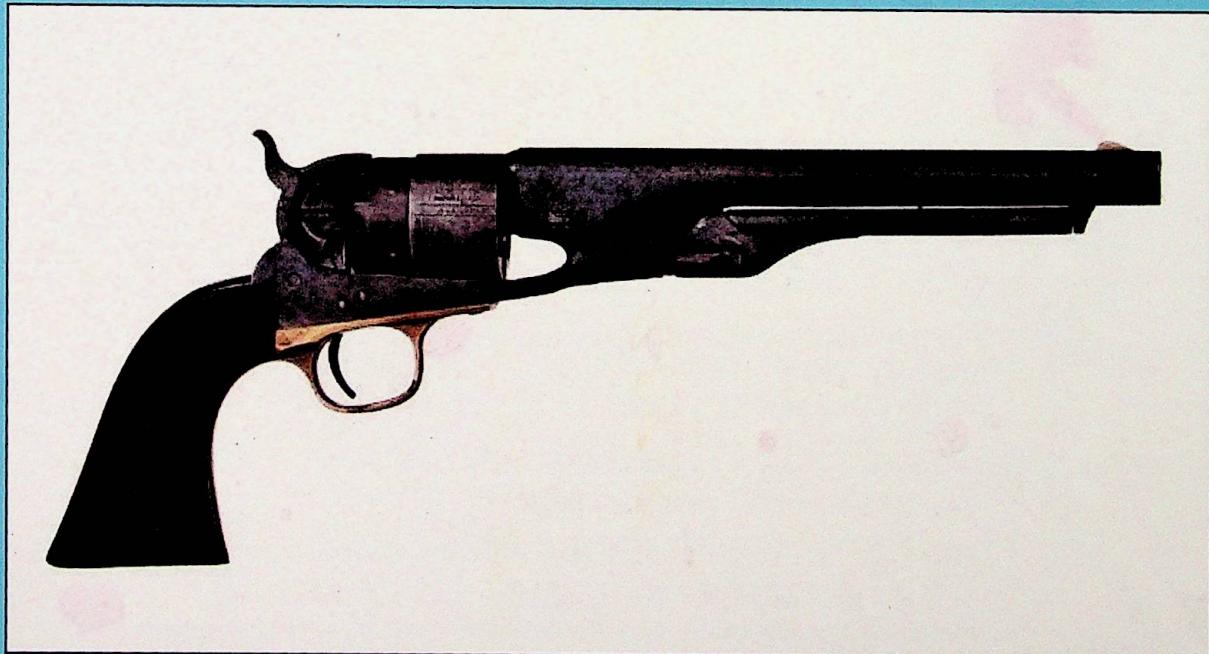
and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



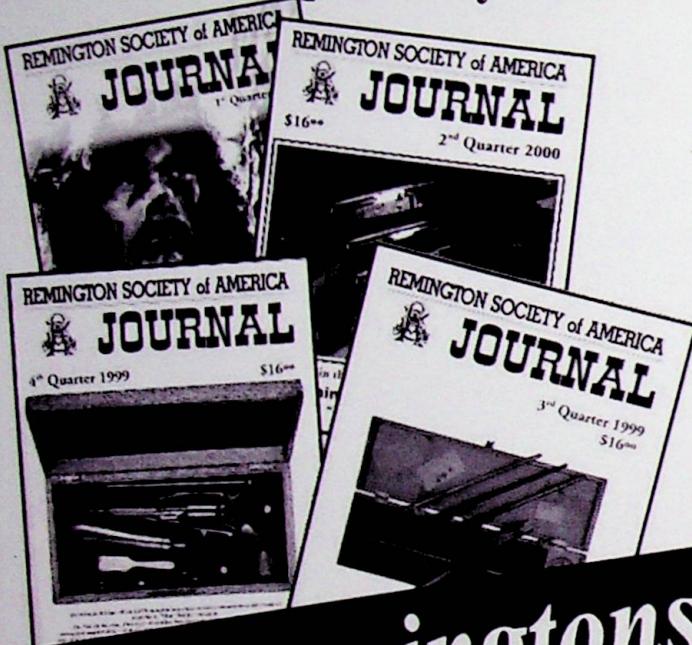
Number 124 September 2010

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Cover: 1860 Colt Army Revolver.



U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

And

Springfield Research Service Newsletter

Number 124

September 2010

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

There have been many issues and changes to sales and auctions over the summer of 2010. It has been accepted that the economy of the United States and the prices and value at the present time, have changed. It appears that there have been adjustments and everyone involved is now affected. Sales at gun shows and auctions during recent months have provided an abundance of very desirable weapons.

Many have been sold at prices lower than the prime time of 2007, with the market being adjusted to current conditions. This environment always creates an air of mystery but also should be viewed as a sign of our times.

We do not have an accurate daily update of precise current prices as the rarity, quality, and condition drives the sales market as well as all outside forces of politics, the U.S. Economy and the World Economy.

We will have an unknown period of price and demand changes that will change with our free market system.

Collectors with available funds are entering into a market where they can obtain fine weapons at reasonable prices. It is somewhat difficult to accept that many prior sales made at the market highs can not be duplicated at this time and it is unknown what the future changes will be. Springfield Research Service has found many more pieces of data on U.S. weapons and serial numbers.

The research continues with good results but at a slower pace than in the past. We now have an overload of information with no easy way to store, correlate, and easily retrieve. Many data points are great finds

but many are also limited to small numbers of collectors with narrow interests. Other areas still provide extensive data that is of use to large numbers of collectors.

Working with the U.S. Archives and military units is much more difficult and requires much more time and effort. Research is now in units of days and not hours. The ability to travel is much more time consuming and very costly. A sample cost is the \$ 28 parking rate in Washington, D.C.

Government personnel require exact location to retrieve a document and a limited number (sometimes one) of documents that can be reviewed at one time. Many documents cannot be found when an attempt is made to check them out after previous research visit. There is no way around it and we must take the time and go with the flow. There is no doubt that SRS will require adjustments to complete research on rare weapons

The difference between a prized U.S. military used by the 1st US Cavalry, the 7th, 10th and 2nd, as examples, can justify extensive time. The name and unit of other soldiers and users may not justify the time and expense.

We can only do a limited number of extensive research efforts each year. The limiting factor is the result that can only be made after the research. There is no way to predict the results and effort to be expended. This a continual issue that will be addressed. The U.S. Martial Arms Collector magazine will remain our major effort with new printing contractors and new mailing systems. Computer fixes are easy but run from \$ 10 to \$ 25 thousand for each major system.

We can expand the magazine and this will continue. The SRS data base will be expanded with more serial numbers, and many news information pieces will be added. This combination will continue to provide information and articles based on factual documents from various sources in the government and known examples of weapons. We are looking forward to another year of progress and changes with unique information.

Current Weapon Interest

We are working on new data for weapons used by AmerIndians. The serial numbers and information on U.S. military and American Indians is of great interest, and we have found more data including Indian names with spellings that are both in English and phonetically illustrated. Also, key uses and in some cases, the actual battles or military operations with locations and dates. One remarkable find included the complete serial number markings for Single Action Army Revolvers according to frame, trigger guard and back strap, at a specific date and location. Other data has included Colt Letters that address serial numbers for commercial sales and are also supported by U.S. Army unit usage. We have an extensive file on Colonel Colt Letters from the percussion and later years. They are very accurate but require almost a day to read each hand-written page.

Great interest has been the location of USMC weapons used by the 10th Marines during Pacific operations. It include rifles, carbines, and handguns. We have data on USMC sniper rifles, 1903A4 rifles and scopes, and various weapons.

Serial Number Oddities

It is still difficult to easily explain that most military weapons are not in serial

number sequence nor in any exact production schedule. Hand written ledgers at the Archives are often difficult to read.

Tests were run at Springfield Armory on contents of sample cases shipped from Springfield to various depots and units. There were no consecutive numbers in any case of 10 weapons and many cases ran from 100's to thousands in the 10 guns noted.

There were many instances where shipments of weapons were made with serial numbers with no data on individual numbers with a final destination. They had only date and broad descriptions of shipping. The most interesting items, such as 7th Cavalry or 1st USV are found in individual soldiers' documents that require extensive research. They also have wide variations and often were issued to a single soldier that served in different units. A single number difference can not be verified to be in the same unit, and in many cases not even to the same general area or not issued at all

The C&R (cleaned and repaired) weapons can also be a total rebuild of any or all parts and finishes. They were also shipped with new production weapons to a single unit or wide variations in locations and units. In some cases a rifle could be rebuilt with no correlation according to receiver, bolt, or any other parts.

A general range of serial numbers can be very difficult to verify or non-existent and is only based on known examples with U.S. government documented serial number data

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

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takes several months to complete. It is a matter of searching all available sources and relying on government personnel. One can not order several different groups of documents and in most case only a single group and can only look at one box at a time. We must wait in line for a time to address a new box and only look at it after the previous one is turned in. We must wait for one of several "pull times" and in most cases just wait for the data. The next issue is the description and exactly the location. Without that data, it could take months to find a document that was previously checked out. We can write some letters quickly, but a research letter is now takes months. We will continue, but the costs may need to change to a time and effort procedure.

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 some secondary information. It will not include names or combat data. That data requires travel and research at government facilities.

Research letter -This letter requires travel to government facilities and research of government records. It takes a minimum of one day of analysis and most often 2 days. We can only do a limited number of research letters per year. The more valuable weapons require this type of effort. All of our searches are done by serial number. There is no way to do any other procedure without many days of searching. Completion of the search is based on time and availability to visit the government facilities. 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.

Springfield Research Service Data Base

We are still exploring all ideas on managing the data base, adding content, and line services for number searches to get a serial number confirmation. There would be a monthly fee for the service.

Our subscribers to the US Martial Arms Collector Magazine and Springfield Research Newsletter are the only people who can request a serial number search at this time. We will respond with a yes or no if we have data on a specific serial number. There is no charge for subscribers. Our only problem at this time, is numbers of requests and we may need to limit requests.

Our main thrust is collectors and many inquiries are now coming from dealers. This is being reviewed.

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 behind in this area.

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Past issues of the (MAC), US Martial Arms Collector) can be ordered for \$ 10 each postpaid. This will be in response to subscribers that email a request for articles in issues 55 through present.

Krag Rifle Story

Original new (1999 updated) 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 Magazines. The older newsletters must be made by special request 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..

Springfield Research Service

The Springfield Research Service web site is open: the best address is **usmartialarmscollector.com.**

SRS Letters & Costs

Basic letter is \$ 50.

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

Cover The cover is a fine Model 1860 Colt Revolver. *Courtesy: Jack Lewis.*

Letters received and Answered

Our Henry (serial 4053) does not have military markings. It was acquired by Capt. Benjamin Thomas, an ancestor of my wife who commanded a company of Colored Infantry during the Civil War. The Henry remained in her family ever since. Other than family lore, we cannot prove that the rifle was used by him during the war, but we recently discovered a report in the civil war records that suggests how the rifle may have fallen into his possession. I have attached a PDF copy of the report because it is a good read. The report is also included in an article in the Gun Report V47, No.4 (2001) which is an article about the revolver mentioned in the article. We have an old photo of Thomas in his uniform with other officers one of whom appears to be the Capt. Parks mentioned in the report.

Is it possible that the archival records of the unit commanded by Capt. Thomas would contain information on the rifle captured by Thomas? What is your evaluation of the chances of finding something about our Henry in the archives?

How do I order and pay for issue 116? I would like to read more about the Henry in that issue.

It would be difficult. All of the numbers we have found have been from Archive sources and there is no data on your weapon. It is possible to find data on the unit etc. but it would take a lot of research time. An effort like this may have no guarantee that any serial numbers will show up. All of the SRS data base comes from a serial number that is based on a government document.

Researchers charge \$50 per hour and it may only lead to a lot of time expended.

That is why many weapon owners come to us and get a serial number checked first.

Hello, perhaps you can help me. Years ago Frank Mallory wrote a letter on a National match rifle that I own and I've lost it. Can I give you the number and perhaps I can get a copy of it?? THANK YOU!!

I am sorry, we do not have a copy and we would need to start all over. Any subscriber may order a letter if we have the data. Editor.

Thanks for your quick answers to my questions.

You are welcome. Editor.

I have a model 1863 army, New Model Remington 44cal.sn #971000.

Do any records exist on this firearm?

We have no Remington numbers that are that high. Please recheck the serial number and contact us again. Editor

Are serial number books available?

Sorry, no serial number books are available.

Can you check on Garand numbers.

There is a no charge look up for our subscribers (we answer with a yes or no if there is information). We have some Garand numbers but the Army will not release most numbers. Editor.

I am a subscriber to the US Martial Arms Collector and was wondering if you could check your database for info on the following pistol: Remington Rand M1911 #1746622 issued in August 1944.

Sorry, no data on that 1911 pistol. Editor

Do you have a record for: Wesson type 1 carbine #4427, Burnside type 3 carbine #3349.

We do not have any Wesson serial numbers. Editor.

Reference my 1911 pistol. My old SRS data bank shows it was shipped on 7-14-1913 to the Frankfort Arsenal. I also have papers that came with the pistol that show it was sold to an officer and shipped to him from the New York State Arsenal on August 29th, 1919. Would you have any additional information for the six year period between these dates?

Sorry, no additional data. Editor.

Sirs: First off, did Mr. Mallory attend the Baltimore Antique Arms Show in March 2008? If so, I think he looked at a rifle for me to authenticate it. Secondly, I own a Springfield 1903 that I got from my Uncle's estate. It is a National Match model, serial number 1516840. It originally came from an employee at Springfield Armory from 1936-1940 who became a nationally known high power and small bore shooter, technical firearms author and firearms expert at Aberdeen Proving Ground and later Frankford Arsenal before he retired.

Mr. Mallory passed away quite a few years ago. It must have been someone else.

Sorry, we have no data on that number. The Army will not release many serial numbers on those rifles. Editor.

I'm trying to find any available information about two CW firearms - one is a Remington .44 revolver, the other is a Merrill carbine. I have the serial numbers for both.

Please send serial numbers for us to check out. Editor

Editor's Comment. One issue stops responses. If SRS answers an email, and it is blocked by the sender-- we can not do anything about this and can't return comments. Our emails are returned.

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OK For 125

There is nothing we can do about this if the sender has set up a block for responses.

We also 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 cannot be rectified and the history is lost. 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 rewriting areas of the web page to clarify and hopefully, shorten any area that leaves questions.

Editor's Notes

Discussions with James Julia.

Recently, I had the opportunity to discuss the gun market with Jim Julia, the president of James D. Julia, Inc, a large auction house in Fairfield, ME. The conversation was confined to his business areas of eight auctions that are run each year. The comments outlining his company's multi-million dollar sales of high quality auctions appear to be symptomatic of the economy. His auctions are unique as they are run in a small town in northeastern New England and are not in one of the large financial city centers of industry such as New York, San Francisco or other large cities. Jim related to me that the market is changing and the buyers and sellers must adjust to the current trends in the U.S. and world economies. Collectors and investors are reacting to current trends similar to those issues in the stock markets, employment conditions, and economic conditions. The

rare, highly collectable and scarce firearms are still being sold at high market prices. Top quality is still in demand. The somewhat costly items that were at a high market value in 2007 are not in as much of a demand or price in 2010. There are some trends that are similar to the stock market. The money invested in past sales may not be realized in the current and foreseeable future. This adjustment is looked at in two different areas. The collector who has acquired weapons over the years may not be affected as they buy for the pure collectors position and hold on to their collections. Unless other influences require a sale, the weapons will stay in their place. The influx of recent investors are looking with a wary eye at what is generalized as the market and may sell in a similar way as they do with stocks and bonds. There are no specific rules to guide a sell or buy at specific times, rates, and trends that provide daily control of the stock and bond markets. The rates of return will definitely be affected by investors that entered the stock market and will act upon current and projected price.

Jim Julia has some data that indicates that there is some data to indicate that some investors that acquired quality guns may have made out financially better than investing in the stock market. It appears that collectors will be reacting to both unique sparks of demand for specific collecting areas and their ability to acquire more items according to their personal finances and opportunity. It appears that there will be some good items available at reasonable prices for those that have the assets to buy with some degree of item knowledge and desire for somewhat rare items of interest. We will all be in a state wondering about the local and world economy and our current assets.

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125-7

AmEn INDIA 45/70 RIFLE
#1970

Private Stephen Soars and his Henry rifle #8647

Stephen Soars, age 22, a farmer from Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, enlisted for three years in the Union Army at Hughesville, PA on August 12, 1861. He was assigned to Company A, of the 106th Pennsylvania Infantry. On September 18, he was transferred to Company K, and was on extra duty as a wood chopper. Company K then was incorporated into Company F, 106th Pennsylvania Infantry.

Preparing for the battle of White Oak Swamp, part of the Seven Days Battles (Peninsula Campaign) in Henrico County VA, on or about June 30, 1862, Private Soars dislocated his right kneecap while notching sleepers for a corduroy road. At corps hospital, he was assigned as a nurse. He returned to duty with Company F, and being somewhat infirmed was re-assigned to division hospital again as a nurse, from July 1862, until September 1863. He then rejoined Company F, 106th Pennsylvania Infantry, where on September 17th Private Stephen Soars was wounded in action in the bloody battle of Antietam.

After convalescing in hospital, he was transferred to the Invalid Corps (VRC) on November 19, 1863, at Berry Hill (near Warrenton) Virginia. Records show this transfer was due to chronic rheumatism, as a result of his battle wounds. Attached to the 99th Company, 2nd Battalion, Veteran Reserve Corps, the 99th was formerly known as Company G, 24th Regiment, VRC. The Invalid Corps was organized in Washington, DC in September of 1863, and the unit description was changed to the VRC on March 26, 1863, and then was consolidated with the 102nd Company, 2nd Battalion VRC in June of 1864. These units performed various garrison duties in and around Washington, DC. He was honorably discharged on August 13, 1864, and returned to his home in Pennsylvania.

On March 4, 1865, Stephen Soars re-enlisted at Williamsport, PA for one year, as a Private in Company E, 3rd Regiment, U.S. Veteran Volunteer Infantry. As an enticement for re-enlistment, these USVV soldiers were given an initial thirty day furlough, a signing bounty of \$400, and the promise of receiving a repeating rifle, which would become their personal property upon honorable discharge. Stephen Soars reported for duty with Company E at Camp Stoneman, MD on April 18, 1865. The 3rd Regiment USVV was assigned to the defenses of Washington, DC, and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

Henry rifle, serial 8647, was from a quantity of 127 Henry rifles ordered by the US government from the New Haven Arms Company on May 16, 1865, and shipped on May 23, 1865 to the 3rd Regiment, U.S. Veteran Volunteer Infantry. Private Stephen Soars was then issued Henry rifle, serial 8647. As he had former duty as a nurse, he was sent on temporary detached service to a Union hospital in Washington, DC on June 1, 1865, and after the war had ended was reassigned to Company E in July 1865.

In the fall of 1865, the 3rd Regt USVV was transferred to Camp Butler, IL. Camp Butler was a Union training camp and prisoner of war camp. Private Soars had duty guarding Confederate prisoners from December 21, 1865, until he was honorably discharged on March 3, 1866, in Springfield, IL. It is assumed he had his Henry rifle engraved upon his discharge, as was the custom of the time.

Returning home to Pennsylvania, Stephen married his sweetheart, Martha Snowden, on February 14, 1867, in Muncy, PA. They moved to Milford Township, Riley County, Kansas in 1869, to join his brother John, also a Union veteran, and return to farming.

Stephen was a successful farmer, buying larger acreage in Madison Township, and had five children and two boarders by 1880. Afflicted with rheumatism, he suffered in the Kansas winters, and moved his family to Dade City, Pasco County, Florida in 1882.

The family increased to seven children, five sons and two daughters. Stephen became a well known nurseryman and horticulturalist, being one of the first to successfully raise strawberries in Florida, and was the originator of a method of coping with peach tree root knot disease.

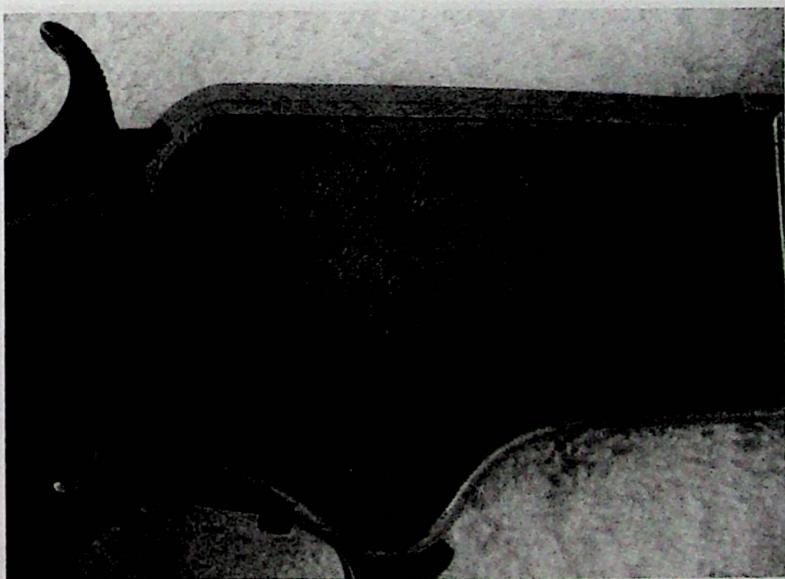
Stephen had by this time dropped the final 's' in his name, and was known as Stephen Soar. He remained active in Masonic and Grand Army of the Republic works, and was known as a quiet and friendly man.

Stephen Soar(s), age 89, passed on December 8, 1927, of a cerebral hemorrhage. He was survived by his wife and five sons, his two daughters pre-deceasing him. Laid to rest in Dade City cemetery, lot 15, block H, section B, row 20, site 1029.0

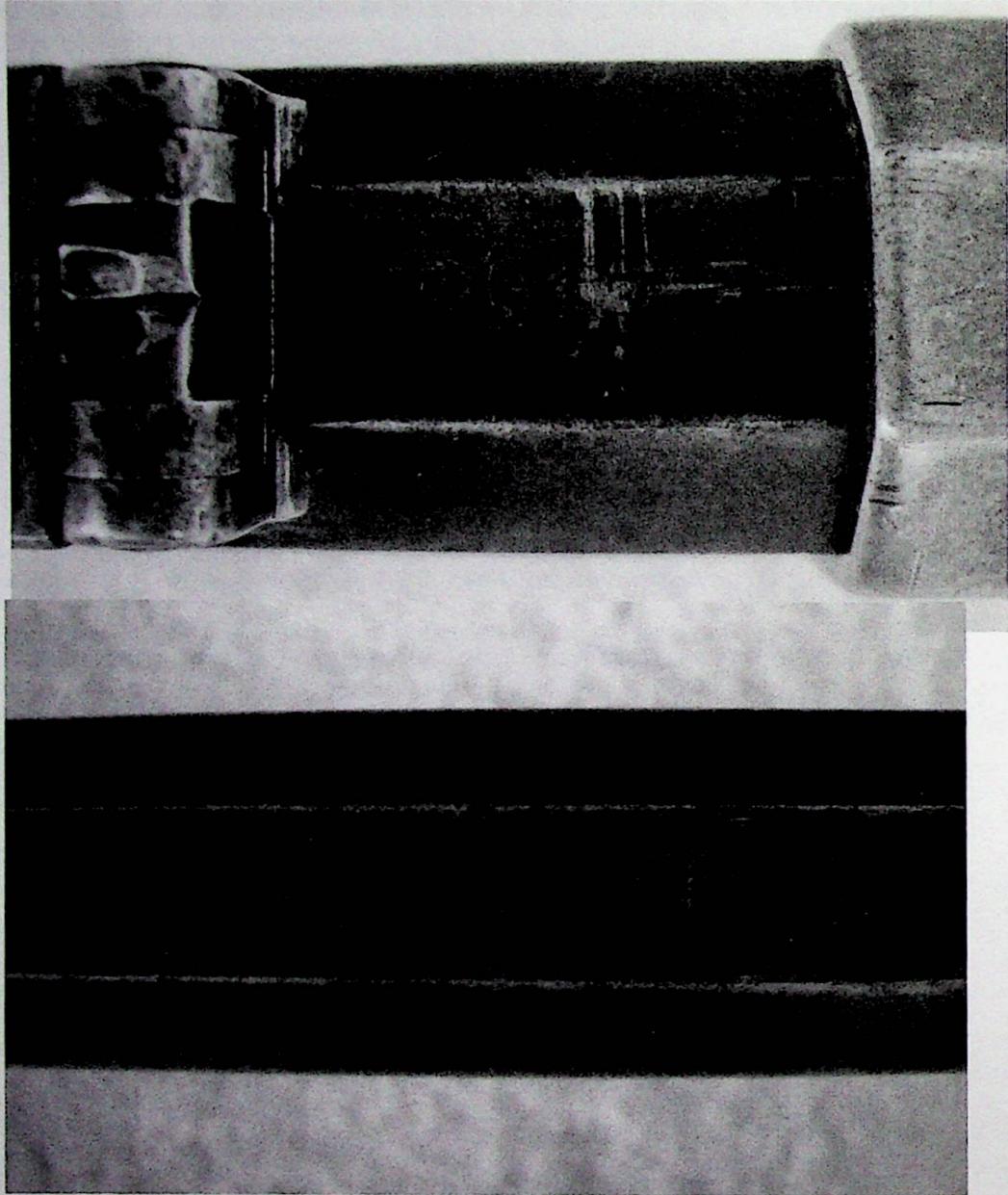
Thank you, Private Stephen Soars, for your service to our Country.

I am proud to be the custodian of Henry rifle 8647; a part of American history.

Dr. Burton C. Zwibel



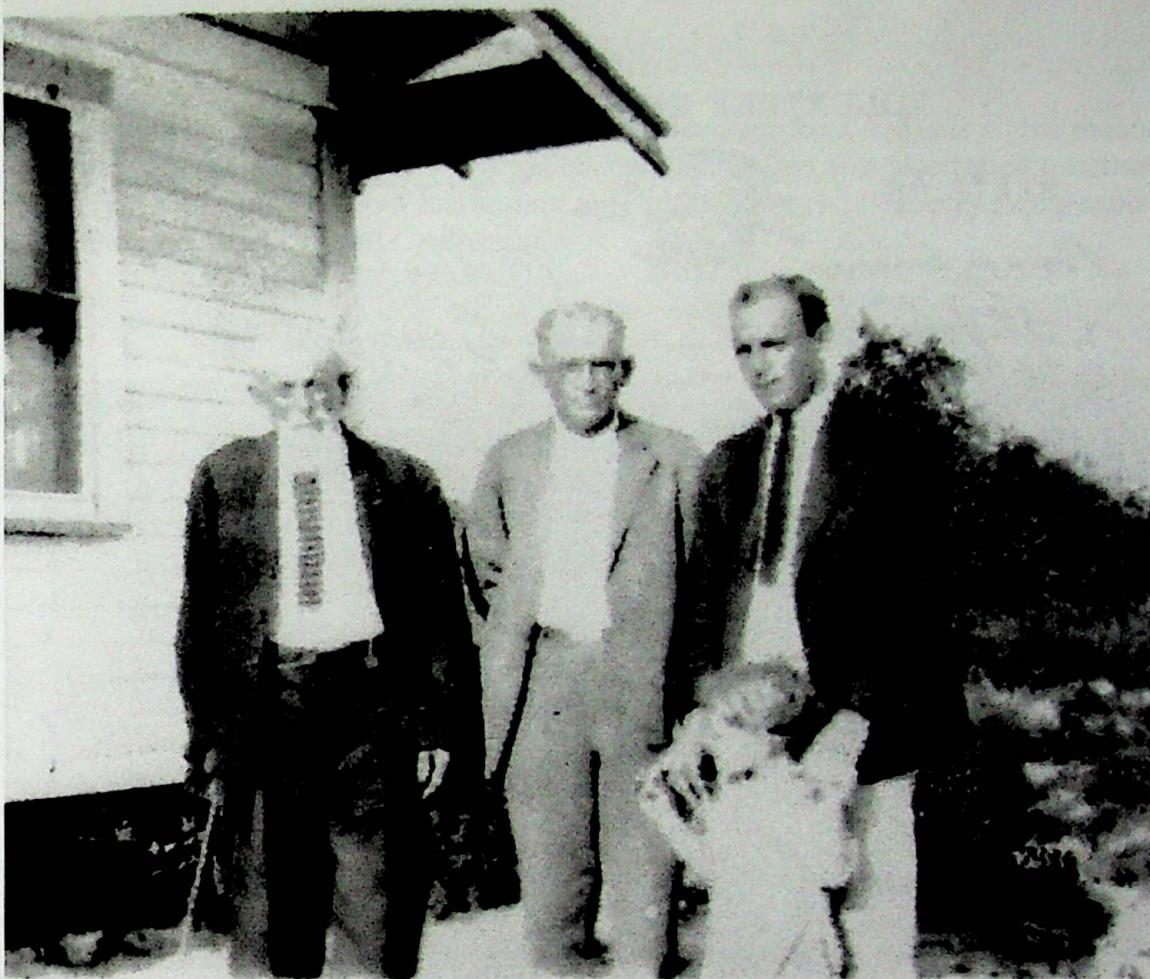
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125-78

1903 A Y



Dade City, Pasco County, Florida, 1925.
Stephen Soars, on left, pictured with his
son Victor, grandson Alfred, and Alfred's
son.

03A4

VOLUNTEER ENLISTMENT.

STATE OF



TOWN OF

Pennsylvania

Williamsport

I, Stephen Scars, born in Lycoming Co. in the State of Pennsylvania, aged Twenty six ^{1/2} years, and by occupation a Farmer, Do HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE to have volunteered this Fourth day of March, 1865, to serve as a Soldier in the Army of the United States of America, for the period of THREE YEARS, unless sooner discharged by proper authority: Do also agree to accept such bounty, pay, rations, and clothing, as are, or may be, established by law for volunteers. And I, Stephen Scars, do solemnly swear, that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War.

Sworn and subscribed to, at Williamsport, this 4th day of March, 1865, Stephen Scars
BEFORE John H. Campbell, Jr.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the above-named Volunteer, agreeably to the General Regulations of the Army, and that, in my opinion, he is free from all bodily defects and mental infirmity, which would in any way disqualify him from performing the duties of a soldier.

March 4/65
A. F. Trojan
EXAMINING SURGEON.

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have minutely inspected the Volunteer previously to his enlistment, and that he was entirely sober when enlisted; that, to the best of my judgment and belief, he is of lawful age; and that, in accepting him as duly qualified to perform the duties of an able-bodied soldier, I have strictly observed the Regulations which govern the recruiting service. This soldier has blue extreme hair, complexion, is 5 ft 7 inches high, and weighs 165 lbs, and is 18 years old, and is of sound mind, and is not disabled, and is not under any disability.

Regimental Muster Roll
RECRUITING OFFICER.

(A. G. O. No. 71 & 72.)

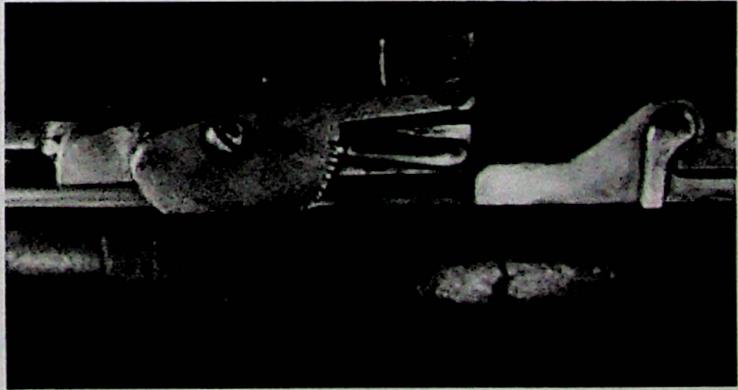
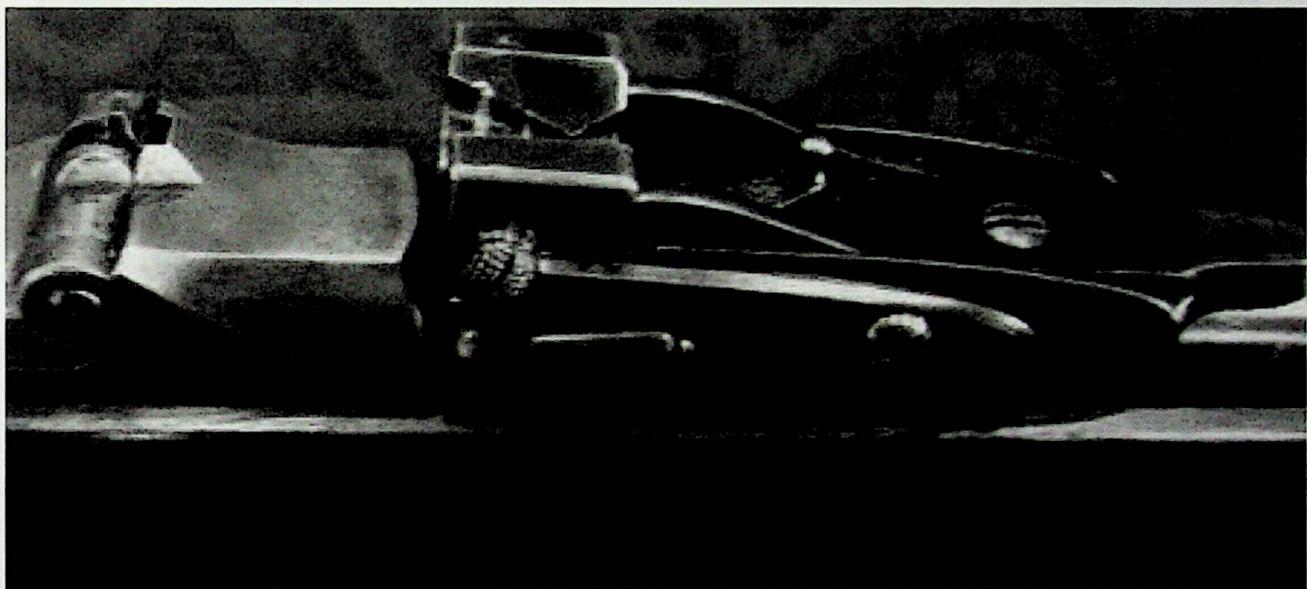
Mustered into the service of the United States, for ~~three~~ ^{one} years or during the war, from date of enlistment, in Company 111,
Ward's Regiment of 1st浙江步军 Volunteers, on the 4 day of March, 1865, at Williamsport.

Ward's
1st浙江步军
Recruiting Officer

03A4

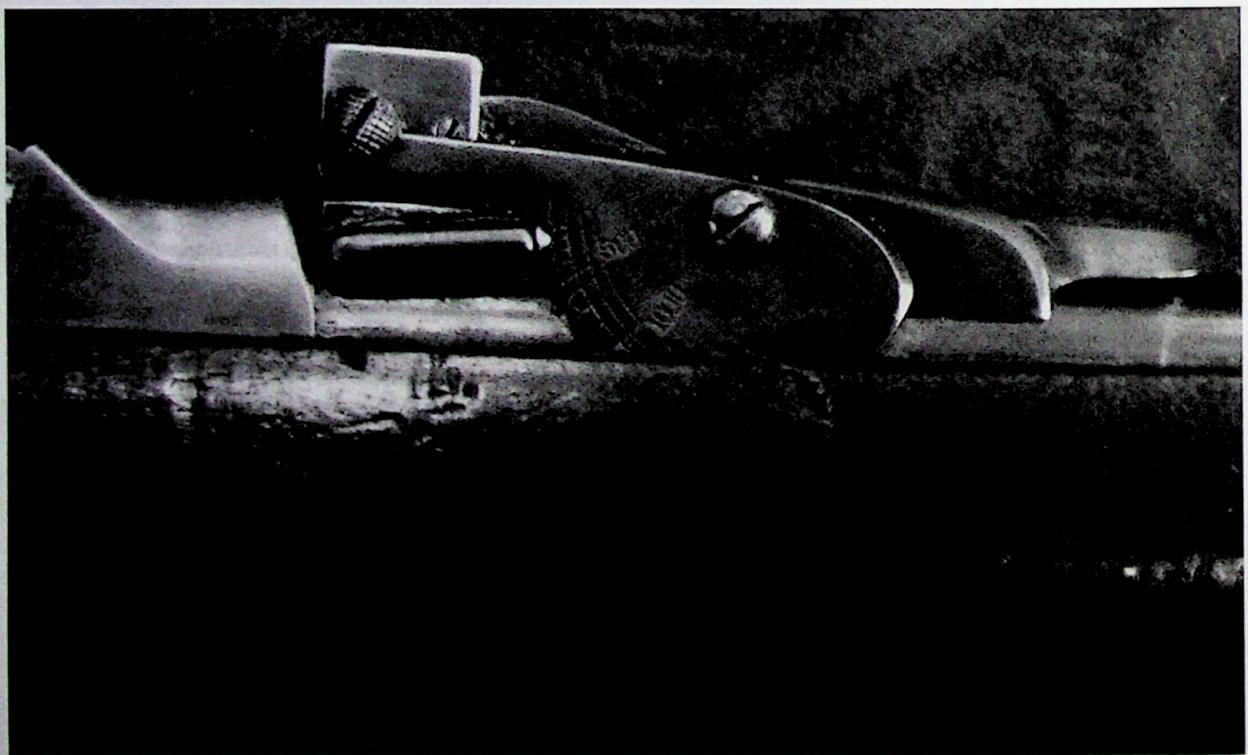
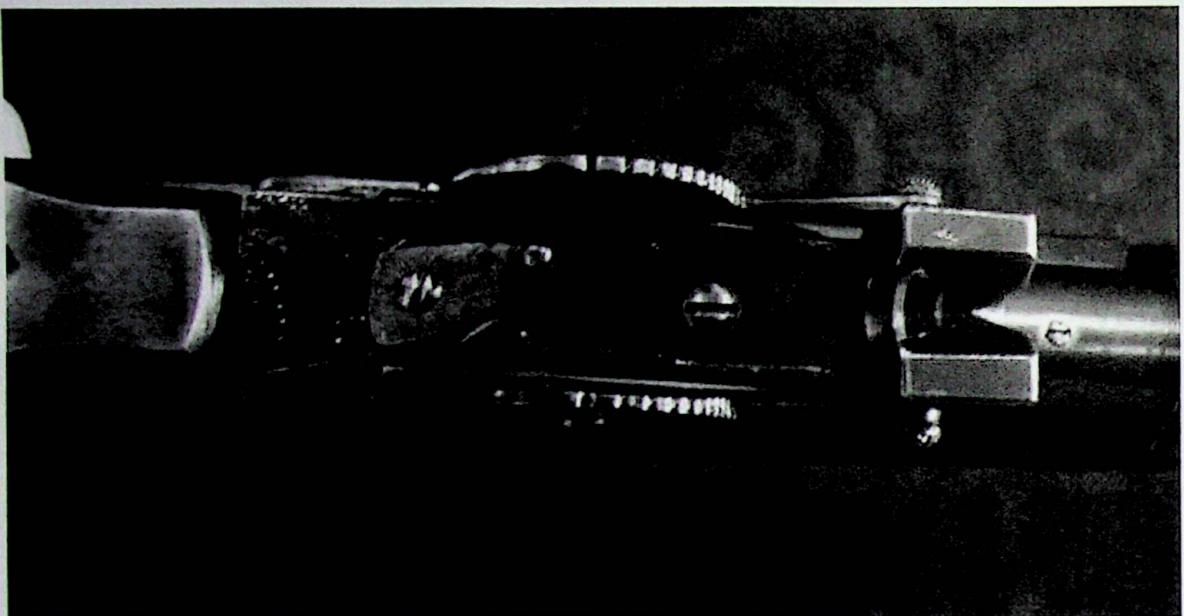
BARRINGER RIFLE SIGHT

The following photos are of a rare example of the Barringer front and rear sights mounted on a U.S. Model 1884 rifle dated 1885. It is believed that this sight was also tested on other U.S. arms. Very little is known about this testing and the photo depicts the very rare weapon. *SRS photos. Data courtesy of Neil Guterman.*



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RNAB 22



Krag 22

USMC M1 Carbine Issued To 10th Marines World War 2

The following photos and data are for an M1 Carbine that was issued to the United States Marine Corp and the 10th regiment in World War 2.. The unit was famous for its many battles and combat efforts in most of the Pacific operations. The weapon was sold through the Civilian Marksmanship Program. The current owner contacted Springfield Research Service and placed a research request which confirmed the serial number as a USMC weapon.



SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE

Box 126 Cabin John, Maryland 20818

Web Site: usmartialarmscollector.com Email: editor@usmartialarmscollector.com

January 25, 2010

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to your request for information on U.S. M1 Carbine, serial number 303681, Inland Division, please be advised that the records of the U. S. Ordnance Dept. contain the data shown below on this arm.

Type: M1 Carbine, Caliber .30.

Issued To: 10th U.S. Marines during World War 2.

Returned To Supply: 21 October, 1946.

This weapon was issued to the USMC during World War 2 and used by the USMC Artillery Regiment of the United States Marines that fought at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Okinawa.

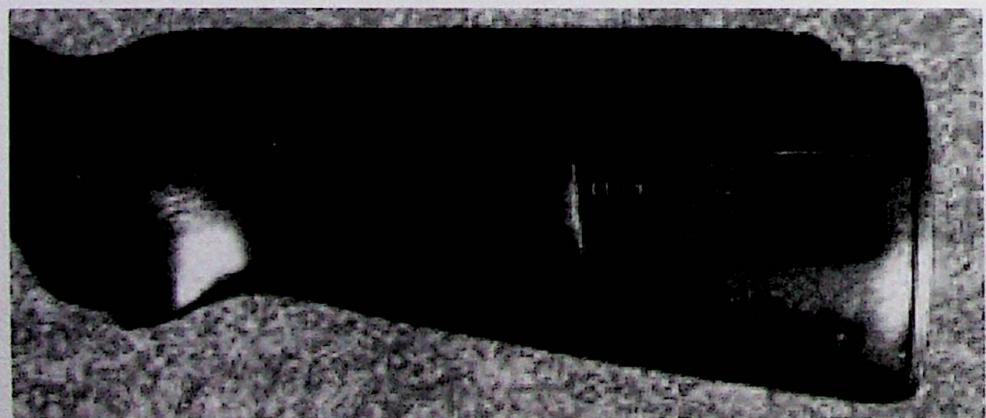
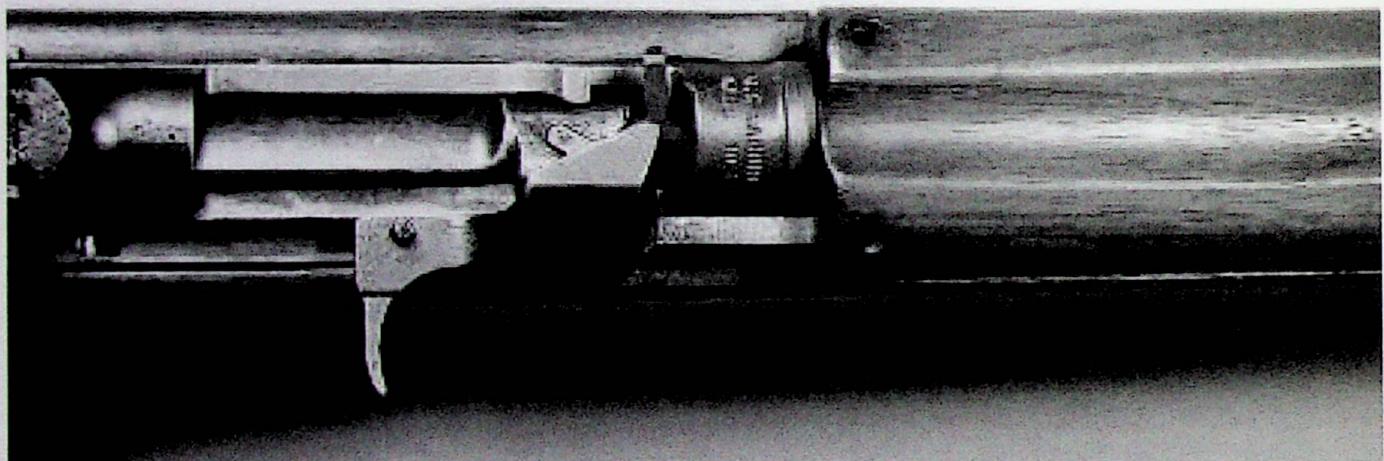
The 10th Marines were relocated to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina after World War 2. Excess USMC unit weapons were sent back to supply.

This data was found in Record Group 127 at the U.S. Archives Records, Washington, D.C. We trust the information furnished above has been of interest.

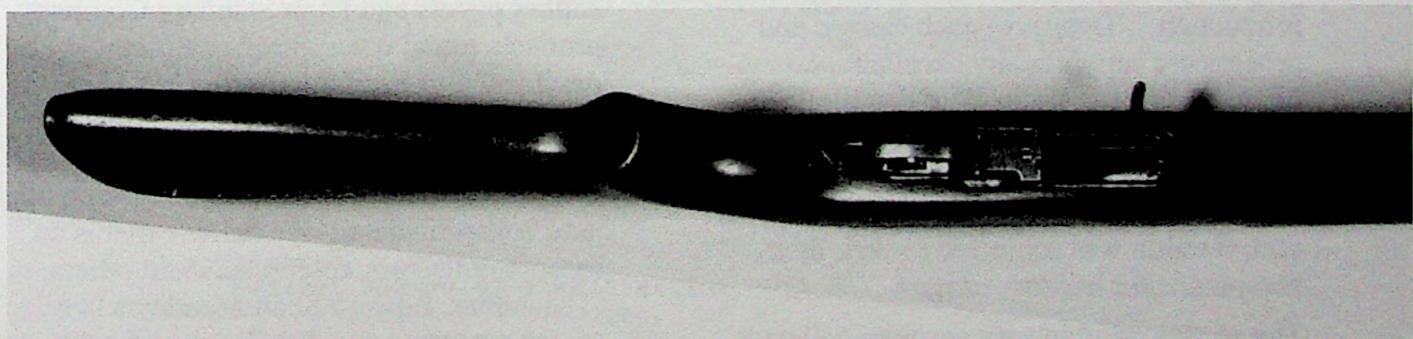
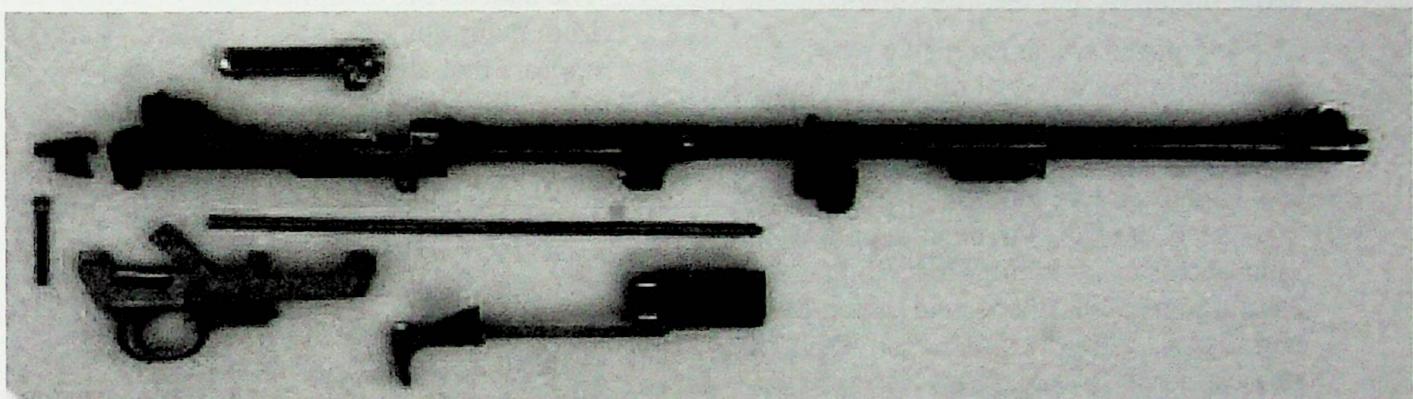
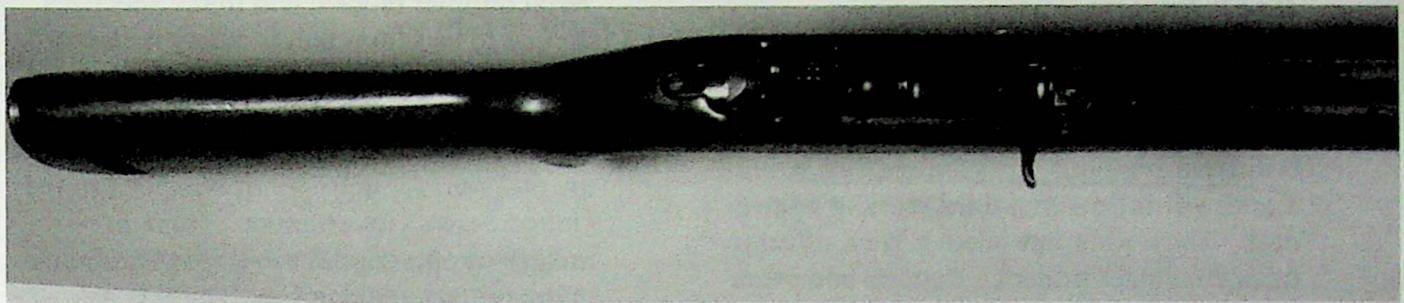
Very respectfully,

Wayne P. Gagner
Editor and Chief Researcher

NOTES



NOTES



U.S. Martial Arms Collector 124-17

NOTES,

Book Review

Edward Scott Meadows has written and distributed the U.S. Military Automatic Pistols 1920-1945. It is Volume 11 and builds on previous work finished in Volume 1 and will follow in a third work at a later date. The author has taken a great effort to utilize factual Ordnance Reports and other documentation for accuracy and a most in depth analysis of U.S. military handguns. Volume 11 has extensive new information including serial numbers, assigned ranges of serial numbers, and manufacturers.

The 445 pages are an extensive work on weapons in this era. All of this is supported by not only the model 1911A1 but also other weapons such as the Colt Ace, other Colts and High Standard models. The model 1911A1 is described in detail along with all manufacturers including Colt, Singer, Remington Rand, Ithaca, and Union Switch and Signal. All government activity in this process and also data on the Springfield Army models are covered. All manufacturers have detail concerning historical development, changes to the original design, and war efforts to increase production. Details of each change and process are supported by excellent photographs that are in clear detail. Each block or serial numbers, finish, and parts are also in detail. Of great interest is the inspection process and many details of what each weapon was subjected to with their acceptance for military usage.

The photos provide very accurate collector interest along with the markings, serial numbers, quantity made by each contractor, and additional information. There are copies of photos of personnel in the manufacturing, machine operations, and many descriptions of the manufacturing process. Each manufacturer is outlined with specific data on the company, production,

serial number blocks, and many specifics unique to each company. Many detailed photographs show clear and concise information. The historical information for each manufacturer offers many details of the program for delivery of weapons to the United States Government. There are images of operational use of the handguns in operations and combat. There is a collectors' area of interest that shows and details many of the comparisons of parts side by side between the manufacturers.

The data on the manufacturing of barrels from many sources is also detailed. It appears that all facets of fabrication, assembly, test and acceptance are available for all manufacturers. The packaging and parts identification are in detail. Experimental, limited use, and special modifications are included. There is a complete analysis of renumbering, rebuilt, and cutaway models offer more data for collectors. The sections on oddities, anomalies, and accessories have an excellent section on ammunition that offer more complete information for the collector. The detailed data on Colt 22 caliber pistols and High Standard Company products round out a rather complete description of handguns in this era. The combination of 445 pages and a high count of quality photographs, drawings, and illustrations provide a major book based on hard authentic detail. We believe that is an asset to collectors, researchers and others. The author, Edward Scott Meadows is a seasoned author and distributes and sells this book through many dealers, shops, and stores associated with weapons and collectibles. It was copyrighted in 2009 and is listed as ISBN 0-9771286-7-9.

Collector Notes

The following document shows data on the transfer of over 100 NRA Springfield 1903 Sporters with ammunition sent to the USMC from the FBI in 1943. It may account for USMC rifles with drilled and tapped receivers and replacement barrels.

215-2
215-12

QMB mca

March 26, 1943.

Sir:

This office has received information that the use of caliber .30 rifles is to be discontinued by the FBI, and that there are on hand at the FBI Institute, Quantico, Va., 400 Springfield rifles with sporting stocks, 30 of which are in excellent condition and approximately 100 in need of rebarreling. It has also been learned that the FBI Institute has 300,000 caliber .30 M1 cartridges at Quantico, and approximately 40,000 in the field.

The Marine Corps would like to purchase the rifles and ammunition, and in the event the sale meets with your approval, it is requested that this office be informed of the cost, in order that funds may be set up and a formal order placed with your Bureau.

By direction of the Quartermaster:

Very respectfully,

John D. Blanchard,
Major, U.S. Marine Corps.

Copy to: Major George D. Van Doren, U.S. Marine Corps, Quantico,
Va.

The Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

-1-

Benicia Arsenal Research on Springfield 45/70 Carbines

Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific & Dept. of California,

Presidio of San Francisco, Cal., 188.....

Commanding Officer.....

(Through Comdg. Gen. Dept. of.....)

Sir:—

The Division Commander directs me to say that the pistol grip of the Military Division of the Pacific (see plate herewith) is even more important on the carbine than the rifle. It is now made of metal at the Springfield Armory, and, like any other Ordnance property, can be obtained on approved requisition at Benicia Arsenal.

This,

and a broad covered front sight (see plate herewith), which will enable the carbine to be accurately leveled and protect the front sight from becoming worn or polished,

and a small screw (see plate herewith) placed in the block which moves between the guide-bars of the rear-sight leaf slide to prevent the lateral motion of the slide,

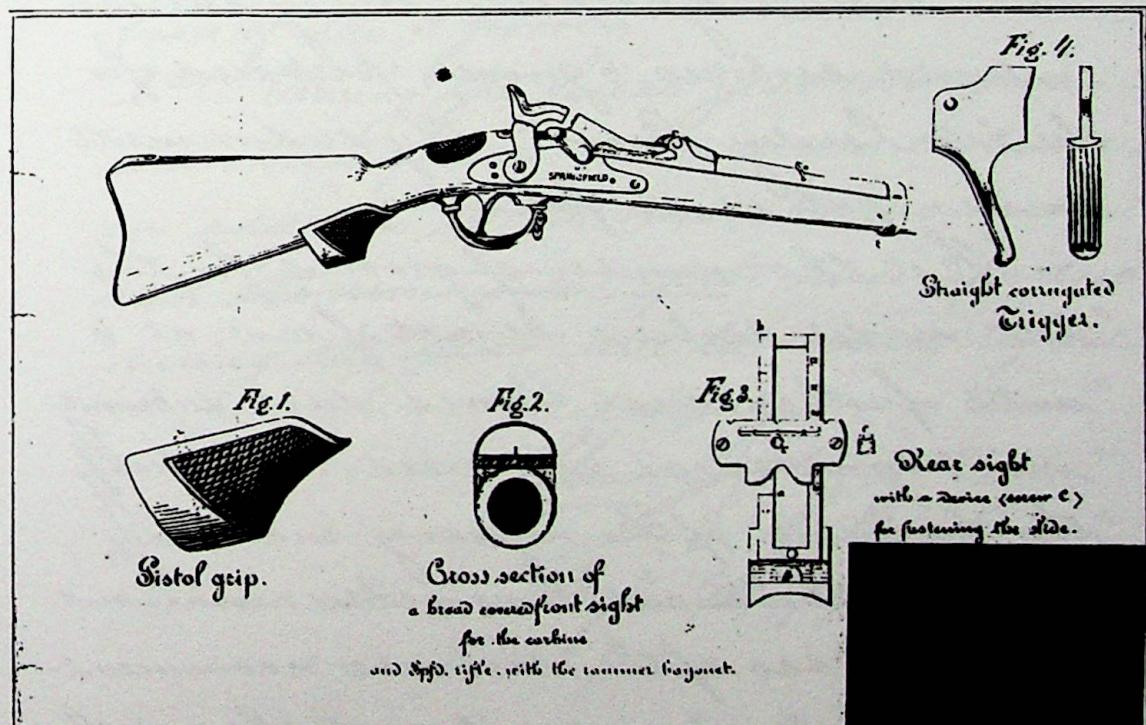
and a holster into which the carbine can be quickly disposed of, and which will prevent all injury to it, appear to meet all the wants at present expressed by the 1st and 6th Cavalry.

If these wants are generally felt by company cavalry officers they should, if they adopt the devices proposed, or present better, make known their wishes to the Commanding Officer Benicia Arsenal, through their Department Commander.

The pistol grip, broad covered front sight, and cartridge with the 500-grain bullet and 70 grains of powder, are expected to do much to improve carbine practice, and to make it up to 600 yards very little, if any, inferior to that of the Springfield rifle.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Benicia Research. The description in the above page is typical of many tests and studies to make the 45/70 Carbine and rifle more adaptable to western combat. Both components, sights, and ammunition were topics of interest as well as cost and effectiveness. The drawing shown below is for Trapdoor Carbines to be upgraded with the following components during the February 1882 time frame. These suggestions included the steel pistol grip, rear sight, trigger, front and rear sights and new ammunition. Benicia Arsenal and the 1st and 6th Cavalry units had inputs for possible improvements. A carbine with all of the stated improvements would be a rare find and we know of none that exist to date. The drawing is a reconstruction worked on by SRS to enhance its readability and was found in the U.S. Archives).



Benicia Arsenal 1882 Testing of 45/70 Carbine Barrels



Ordnance Office,

War Department.

3487

Washington D.C. June 17th 1882.

The Commanding Officer
of National Armory.

Sir:-

1st. I send by express to-day the two improved carbines, 6 grooves, prepared for the late Cavalry Board. My endorsement on its report is as follows:-

"That the number of grooves for the "new model carbine be not fixed at 6 "until further trial proves such superiority " over 3 grooves as now used, as to justify "the procuring of the necessary machinery"

The Lieutenant General he recommended that "1000 of the carbines recommended by the Cavalry equipment Board of 1881, with the modifications suggested by the Chief of Ordnance, be manufactured & issued for trial."

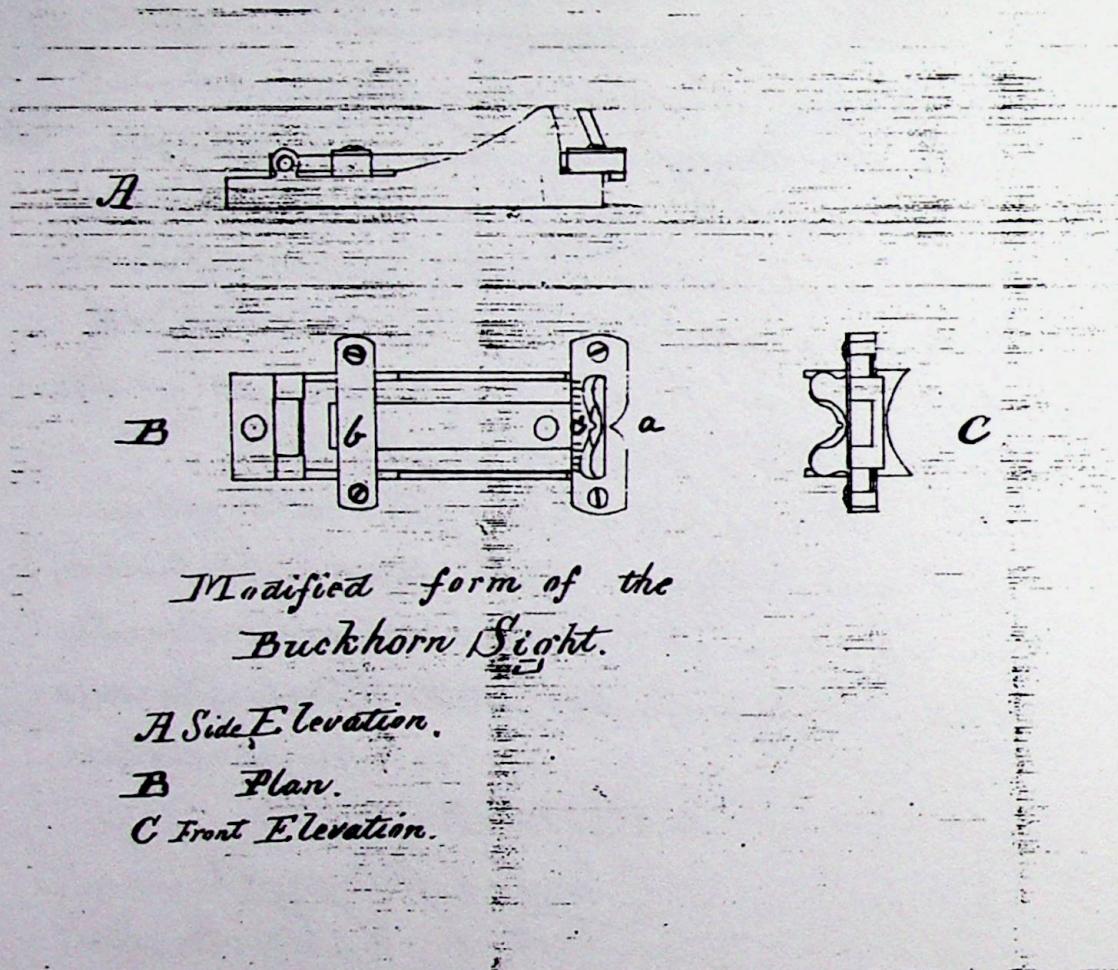
These carbines are to use the same cartridge as the rifle.

The above recommendation of the Lieutenant General has been approved by the Secretary of War. You will therefore make one thousand (1,000) of these carbines, reporting on the number of grooves to be used after you are satisfied in the proper thing to do. My judgment is in favor of the 3 grooves.

2^d "During the fiscal year 1886 you will manufacture 5,000 service carbines, in addition to the 1000 above ordered, and the remainder of the manufacture during the year will be service rifles.

Respectfully
Your obedient servant,
J. V. Peat
Majteneur of Ordnance

1880 Experimental Rear Sight For Springfield 45/70



Kelton Experimental Rear Sight

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
JULY 3 1883
U.S. PATENT OFFICE
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.
No. 280,484.

J. O. KELTON.
GUN SIGHT.

Patented July 3, 1883.

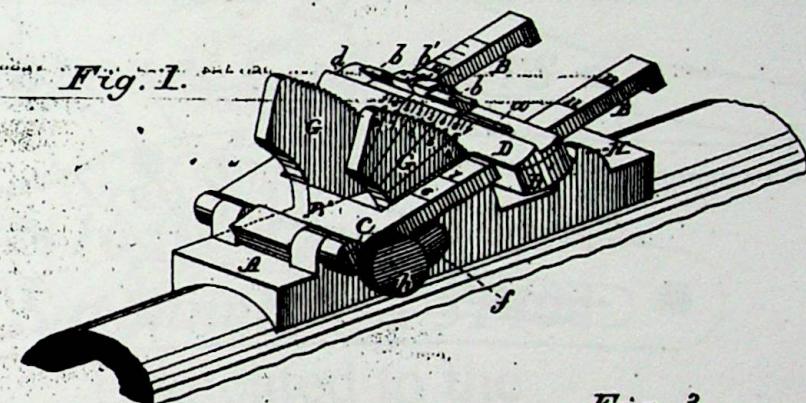


Fig. 3.

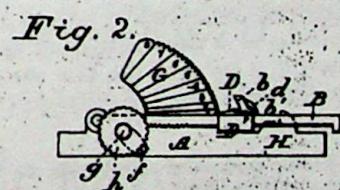


Fig. 6. Fig. 7.

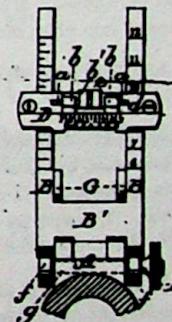
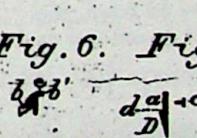


Fig. 2.

Fig. 4.

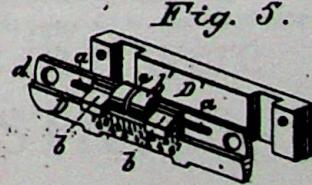
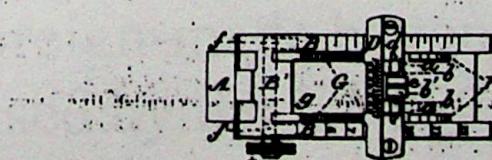


Fig. 5.

Witnesses,

Alfred Parrot
Hercules F. Rice

Inventor

John C. Kelton

Kelton Experimental Rear Sight



J. O. KELTON.
GUN SIGHT.

Patented July 3, 1883.

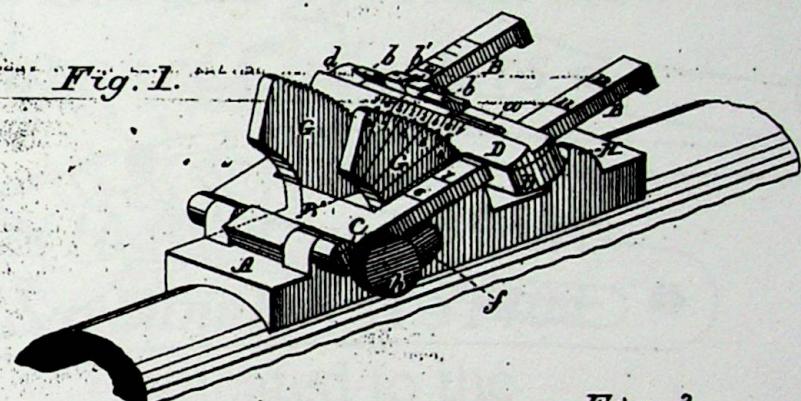


Fig. 3.

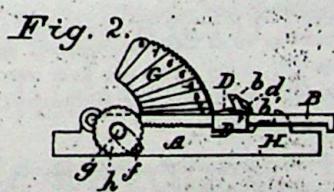


Fig. 6. Fig. 7.

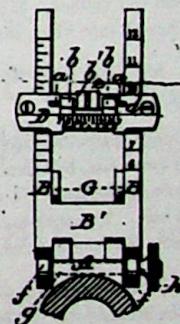
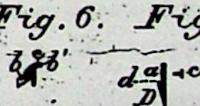


Fig. 4.

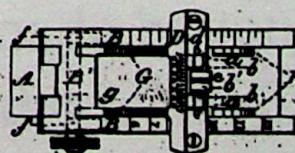
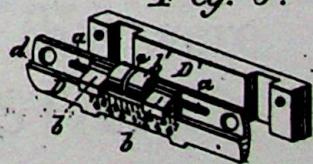


Fig. 5.



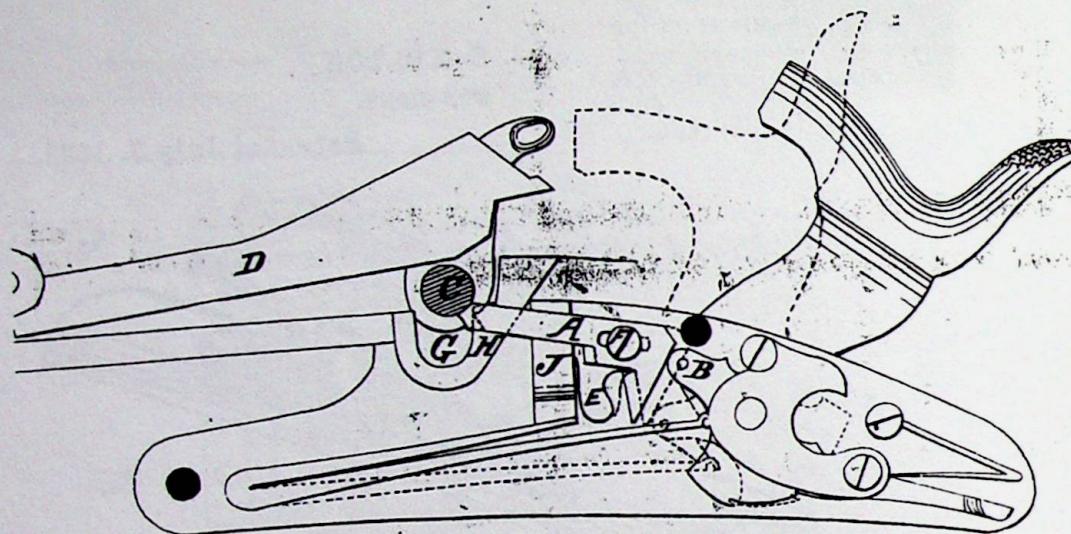
Witnesses,

Alfred Parsho
Hercules F. Price

Inventor

John C Kelton

Harrison Experimental Lock



The above is a view of the inner side of the lock plate of a Springfield breech-loading rifle, with the Harrison Bolt (A) applied. It also shows the breech block (D) with the cam-latch and swivel (C), and the recess (G) in the breech into which the swivel of the cam-latch drops when the breech is closed.

The full lines show the position of the parts with the hammer at full-cock; the dotted lines the same at half-cock.

The bolt (A), which is a shaped iron plate of steel, is held in place against the flat surface of the inside of the lock plate, by the screw (F), and is slotted so as to move longitudinally upon the screw. Slots will be cut in the main spring block (J), and the raised edge (H) of the recess (G), flush with the surface of the lock plate to admit the bolt. This with the tapping of the hole for the screw (F) are all the alterations required upon the piece in order to affix the improvement.

It will be seen that when the hammer passes beyond the position of half-cock, the tumbler (B) presses against the cam of the bolt (A) and forces the bolt forward so that its point closes the mouth of the recess (G), to the exit or entrance of the cam latch swivel (C), thus preventing the breech being opened, if closed, or, if the breech be open preventing its closure and the consequent completion of the operation of loading, without returning the hammer to half-cock. [An example of this second case is illustrated in the drawing.] The cam of the bolt is kept against the tumbler by the action of the spring (E).

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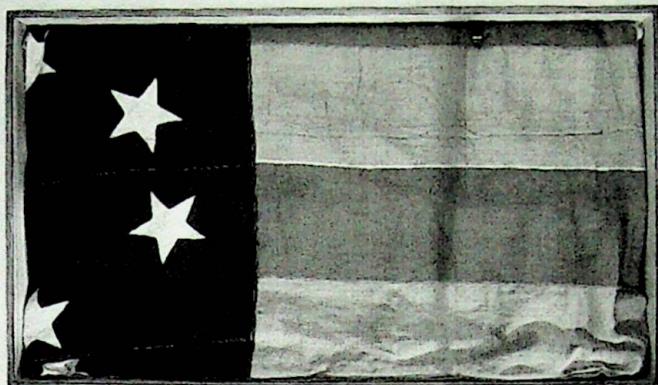
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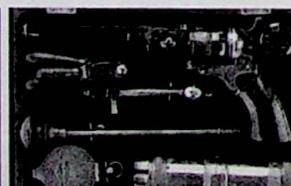
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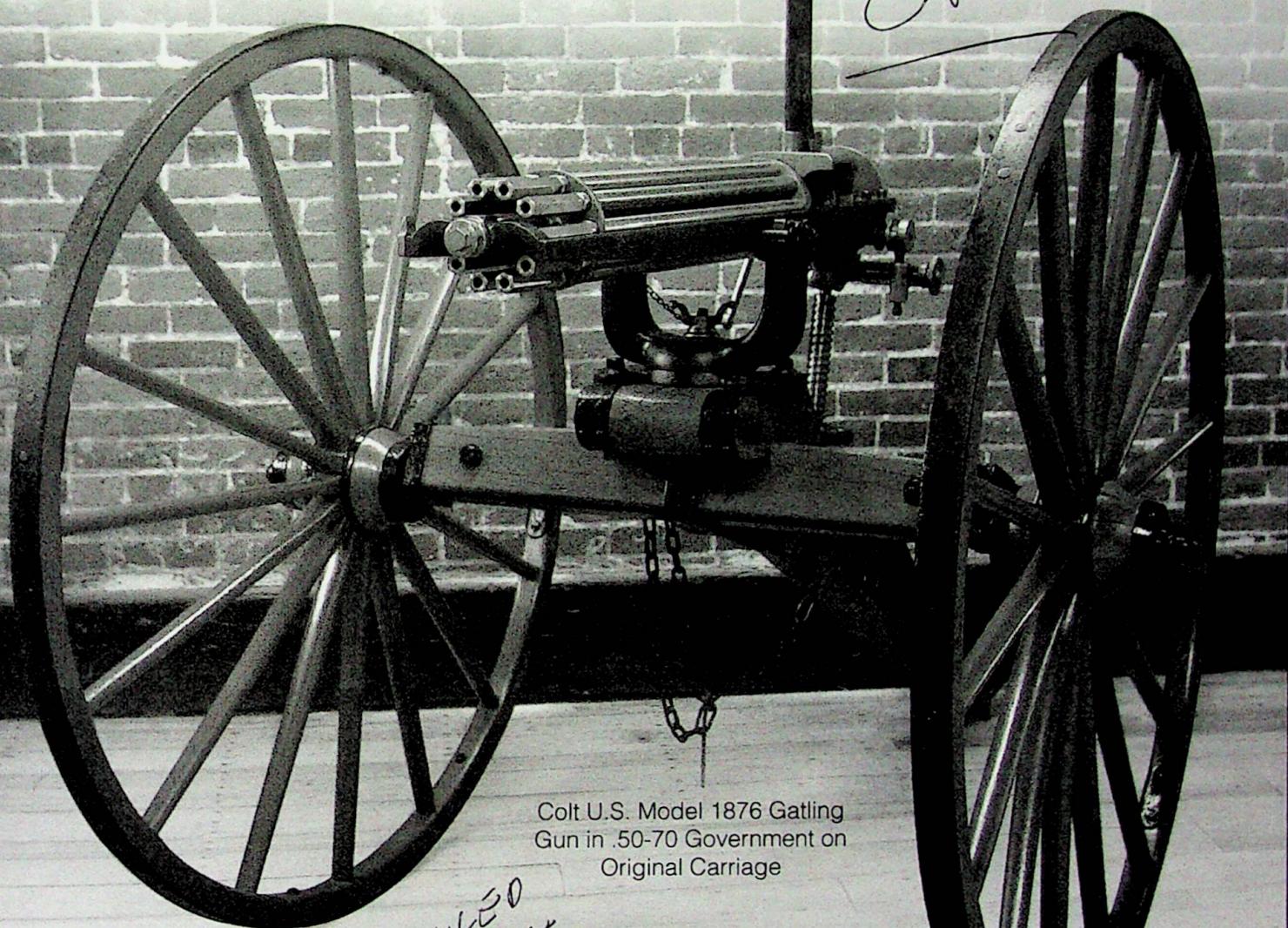
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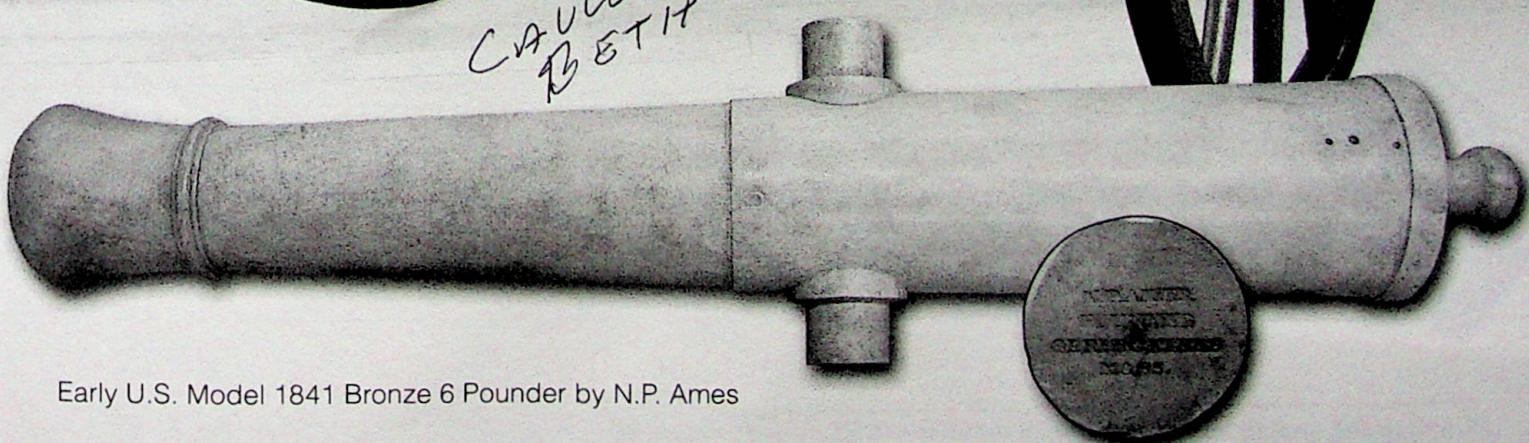
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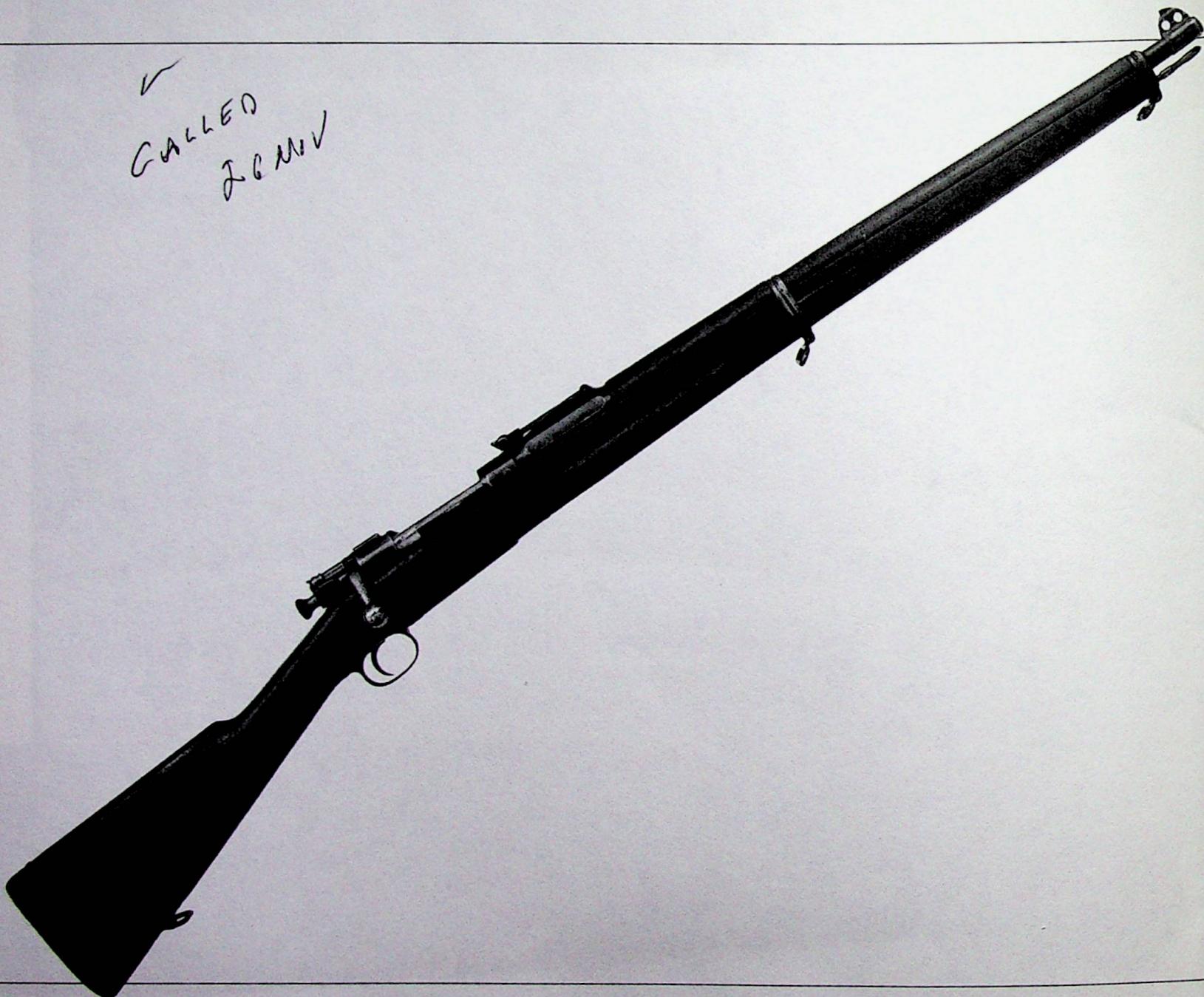
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