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and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



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Number 139 June 2014

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# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

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**Cover:** SHARPS CARBINE

*And*

## *Springfield Research Service Newsletter*

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Number 139

June 2014

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## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The U.S. Martial Arms Collector has started searching documents on many U.S. martial handguns, including major United States manufacturers. The military had extensive programs for revolvers and automatic pistols.

Springfield Armory produced many documents on Smith and Wesson, Colt, and other companies. Many pieces of data show serial numbers, tests, production, and limited production efforts. Data shows interesting information on the rationale and thinking of the military requirements. Our Springfield Research Service efforts usually provide a large quantity of data that is not easily integrated into an easy- to- use data base. It is expected to take quite some time to sift through the individual pages. We will publish this data as we can and hope that it will be of interest to our readers.

Our efforts have also included many pieces of data on commercial shotguns that were used for operational purposes, as well as training for ground and air personnel. The data are in similar forms in loose leaf and require an analysis of how to try to organize the results. The history and uses of all types of weapons and accoutrements is very interesting and sheds some light on many various areas of development for U. S. military requirements.

Collectors are reaching out into areas that were possibly overlooked in the past. The rising costs of many weapons and accessories often leads to a collecting phase that is affordable and interesting. Military issues that have been historic can be approached by collectors when they were overlooked or had a lesser interest in the past.

We are constantly looking for areas that can provide interest to our subscribers and support their collecting interests.

Most of these efforts are directed at the cartridge handguns from World War I and World War II. There were many programs to buy special production arms for specified forces or other reasons that were unique to technology and war- time planning of the time.

We also have a large amount of data on the 1840's and 1850's for Colt and the National Armories. This data is handwritten from Col. Sam Colt and require hours to read and translate. Often, it takes a full day to review a single letter. We will continue this effort and try to sort the data into areas that can be identified with specific models.

One of our past reviews found test data for a single action army revolver that was tested for quick use. The tests included the attachment of the revolver using a swivel on the military belt. There was no holster and it was carried without a holster that could be fired by grasping the revolver and shooting from the belt position. It is unknown what other designs were offered in the long Colt history.

## Research Books

The U. S. Military Automatic Pistols, Volume III / 1945-2012 by Edward Scott Meadows is for sale by dealers and also directly from the author. It is 569 pages with drawings, manuals, patents and other data. The cost is \$ 75.00 plus shipping, and it can be ordered from 601 Sunset Drive Ardmore, OK 73401.

New book is underway, "The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver" by Charles Pate will be heading to the publishers in the fall of this year. More data will be released later.

The best flintlock books and standby for older antique weapons are available from dealers and were authored by George Moller.

The original volumes are in quite high demand and are in 2 volumes. They include early "American Military Shoulder Arms Volume 1", "Colonial and Revolutionary War Arms, and American Military Shoulder Arms Volume 2" from 1790's through the end of flintlocks.

## Inquiries

We still receive letters and emails. SRS is always behind in this area, as it takes a great deal of time to research our files. We still have files in single page document form. This is always of interest as it gives us data on readers' interests and also provides the requirements from our readers. We look forward to any comments and questions. This will keep us busy, but we want to keep them coming.

## CURRENT RESEARCH

Most of our efforts have been in sorting the great amount of backlogs for research and letters. We will continue gathering OSS documents and other areas on World War II. This includes weapons and supporting information on many facets of contracts, rebuilding, and refinishing. There were many entries of ordnance kept in reserve unless storage room was not available. The military made trade-offs on storage space, maintenance, and funds realized from sales or surpluses.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

**NOTE.** Please send an email if you receive any subscription data that is incorrect. We have had many problems with the Postal Service and need any comments or corrections for your magazines or letters. The only way we can quality-control is by subscribers' inputs as the realtime way to make sure magazines are delivered. SRS uses first class mail to make sure a magazine or documents are delivered to a subscriber. We still receive an occasional piece of mail that is returned and sometimes cannot find a new or forwarding address.

The last subscription issue is designated by the issue number that is printed on all magazine address labels. We always try to double-check each address and try to send a letter advising of subscription renewal time and issue.

## Current issues

Issue number 139 dated June 2014 is current and is dated June 2014. Numbers 138, 139, 140, and 141 are to be sent in 2014. The projected mailing dates are the first week of March, June, September, and December 2014 for the 4 quarterly issues.

## ADVERTISING

Our advertising deadlines are the Friday two weeks before the date of a publication.

Our standard year publications are March, June, September, and December for each year.

**Advertising deadline dates are:** March 21<sup>st</sup> 2014; May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014; August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Please contact us for competitive rates for full page ads and other data.

## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH LETTERS

We are writing more letters for our subscribers. The basic letters are \$50.00; sales letters with a document are \$65.00; and research letters run from \$175.00 and up. This includes USMC letters and OSS documents.

We are still way behind in research letters. There may be additional costs for most early Colts used in the Civil War and by the 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, the Spanish American War, and other unique units. This is a result of extensive time to travel and verify a single document that is stored in random documents that may run into millions of pages.

A basic letter is data recovered from our in-house files. A research letter requires us to travel to a government facility and request to search and retrieve the specific copy. We try to copy the specifics and include them with the letter. In many cases the data is a peculiar size and must be handled, verified, and copied according to government regulations. This may also require working with armed guards, identification, special stamps for security classification or other rules.

## COMMENTS AND INPUTS

We always want comments. Please send inquiries and questions to:  
[editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto: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.

## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH DATA BASE

Our efforts are based on data from United States documents, and all serial number information comes from government documents. There are many documents that describe a weapon without a specific serial number. All data in the Springfield Research Service data base is based on data that has been found. There are more documents possible, but this will be a never-ending search for the new data.

Our subscribers can email or send to:  
U.S. Martial Arms Collector  
Box 126  
Cabin John, MD 20818

## BACK ISSUES OF THE U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR MAGAZINES

This is ongoing and we keep as many old issues as possible.

The older newsletters (number 1 through 54) must be obtained by special request. Issues number 55 through 133 are available for \$10 each postpaid, and there are several issues that have run out. A copy in black and white can be made and mailed. There will be a delay.

We are exploring ways to email an old copy directly to the requestor. There are limits of size of documents and frequency of emails by our provider. It is always a decision as to the ease of a conversion and time to make sure it works. We do not want an email to go through and find out at a letter date that it was not received or only part was received.

We will attempt to answer requests to send a current issue via email to a subscriber. SRS is still reviewing this approach.

### **SRS Searches.**

We still find data on most areas of U.S. Arsenal and contractor firearms, accoutrements, bayonets and other production information. New data on the Enfield 1917 rifle, U.S. Krag, and test weapons still show up.

### **GUN SHOWS**

Recent shows continue to change the complexion of the gun collecting trade. There are more other interests showing up with tables of gun- related products and more modern weapons. Shows seem to change according to antique and high- end collectable items and in some special areas of the country. The hunting interests as well as target shooting drive many shows to be tailored to those interests. Older collectors that offer collections and single pieces are always of interest to dealers searching for items for resale and items for special requests. There is no doubt that the economic conditions have a large bearing on show interest.

### **LETTERS and EMAILS WRITTEN DURING THIS PERIOD**

Dear Sir or Madam: Are your services confined to military items.? I recently acquired a pair of Deringer pistols - inscribed from - NK Griffin to AJ McKimmen 1866. They are reported to have originated in the Nashville, Tennessee. Area.

*We believe that your weapons are of keen interest to Confederate and special collectors that advertise in gun magazines,*

*and have tables at gun shows. Any weapon made in the Southern States are of interest and usually valuable. Editor.*

Hello: I just sent you a check in the amount of \$10 for back issue #113 on the 1922 .22 Hornet. Can I request a look- up of the serial # (19069) of my M1 to see if it is in your data base?

*Yes, please send an email with the serial number. We will email back if we do or do not have any data. 113 was mailed.*

*We have received several requests for 22 Hornet rifles. They were made by both Springfield and private quality gunsmiths. Most of the high quality rifles appear to be of a similar design and workmanship. We only have a few documented serial numbers for 22 Hornets made at Springfield. The gunsmiths' records are commercial records. Editor.*

I just purchased this Saber in Good condition, the serial # is 29693, can you tell me who it was issued to? or any info? Thank you.

*Sorry, we have no data on swords. This an area we look for but have not found. Editor*

I have a replica Navy Arms Springfield model 1863 type II. It has a bad tumbler and the only tumbler I'm able to find is for an 1861 Springfield. Would this fit and function right in a 1863?

*I think original surplus parts may fit but may require hand fitting. Parts dealers on line may offer the Navy Arms parts as well as the old Navy Arms Co. that may still be in business. Editor.*

While I was looking at Antiques Road Show, the Springfield Research Service was mentioned so I looked it up and saw your web site. I understand you can sometimes provide information on a particular firearm. I have recently come across an old pistol I am curious of its history and hope it might be possible to obtain it. What I would like to know from you is the cost to research a particular firearm, the chances of finding something, and how you accept payment. Understandably there might well be no recorded history. My pistol is a Colt Pocket Revolver 1849 model serial number 272088 in 31cal. I am told it saw service in your Civil War. I do not know if this was an issued item or something the individual simply acquired.

***We have many serial numbers but not all numbers. We look up numbers for our subscribers only. Please check our web site for costs and subscriptions. Editor.***

Hello. I would like to get some information on Smith and Burnside carbines. I am willing to pay to find out about certain serial numbers like cavalry units, arsenals, etc. Might you have that information? Thanks!

***We provide services to our subscribers. We have a data base with Smith and Burnside serial numbers, but not listed by military unit. Our letters with information may have unit data as well as some history. Each weapon is unique with its information and is based on what is available in government documents. Editor.***

I was wondering if there any copies of The Krag Rifle Story available for purchase. I heard a rumor that these books may only be available second-hand. I recently purchased an 1896 (serial number 101140) and would like to learn more about it. I am hoping that this serial number may have already been

identified through your research efforts.

***The Krag Rifle Story is no longer available. Thanks. Editor.***

I am interested in joining and subscribing to your magazine. I have a pair of firearms I am interested in having researched, and I understand you do one at a time, after I join, etc etc. My question is, do you guys primarily have records on US issue rifles or do you have records on pistols as well? The guns in question is a S&W model 1899 US army contract and a Colt model 1905 USMC contract which both date approx from the early 20th century. Do you have records for revolvers such as that? I'm not sure if you guys are more so Krag and Springfield rifles, or if you have info on such pistols? Please let me know.

***We have some records on S&W, Colt, Hi Standard, and other commercial firms that sold to the U.S. Government. Editor.***

Hi: I have a Winchester Model 70 that falls into the USMC serial number range. Could you run the serial number through your data base. #46480.

***Please see data attached concerning serial number look-ups. Winchester had several contracts for many models and many were used as combat weapons as well as training and made available for rent to service members. Editor.***

I am writing to ask a couple of questions regarding your magazine and the research activities you are able to provide. I own a few Martial Colts (Dragoons and 1860 Army) and was wondering if you are able to

conduct research to find out if their serial numbers bring up any interesting information on the guns?

A friend provided me with your email address and said you both publish a magazine and also do research from government records. Can you please let me know whether you can undertake such research and provide a letter, as well as the cost for such service? With kind thanks,

***We can provide many of those services. Please see attached and check our web site usmartialarmscollector.com. Thanks, Editor.***

Can you tell me the model number of this Springfield double barrel 12GA and its' date of manufacture.

Serial Number is: A1495. This number is on the inside of the Forearm. Springfield is stamped on the receiver.

JS Stevens Arms Company is stamped immediately below Springfield. I need to order a new stock for this old gun. I am 77. This gun belonged to my father. It has to be fairly old.

***Sorry, no data on commercial shotguns. We may have some numbers on shotguns acquired by the U.S. Army during World War I and World War II. Editor.***

In this current issue (#138) you note an inquiry from a subscriber who is preparing an article on the 1st California Volunteer Cavalry. He is asking about a Colt Navy that you have lettered to that unit. I may be able to help him since I have a gun lettered to that unit (M1860 Army) and have written a two part article on the gun for the Rampant Colt (Fall & Winter 2012). Please let this person know that he may contact me at the email address below if he would like.

***I sent him some data to his last address.***

***We try to refer inquiries as we can, but we have a low rate of return data. Editor.***

Thank you for sending me the latest Issue, 138-20. I always read these with great interest. A question on the Collector's Note on page 138-20, regarding a communication from Springfield Armory to the Chief of Ordnance about the replacement of receivers on 11 rifles and their subsequent shipment to the USMC International Rifle Team. The Note states that these were converted back to standard magazine M1903 rifles, but the letter states that "The receivers of these rifles were replaced with new, having cut for magazine well omitted...." Are you sure the Note doesn't have it backward?

***You are correct, we are working on the data and we are publishing it in this issue. Thank you for the "heads up". Editor.***

I have an M1903NM #450014 with National Match parts. It appears to be a rebuilt one that is described on page 203 of Brophy's Book as a "National Match Special" rifle. It also has a USMC barrel. It has the Lyman receiver sight, a NM stock, sn etched on the bolt. A very interesting Rifle. In the butt plate trap door was old Camp Perry score card with a Bill Brophy as the shooter.... Can you tell if this is original.

***As far as we know--no USMC rifles, as NM models were made with low numbers. Many rifles were made up by shooters buying parts from Springfield and commercial parts sources. It would be a very desirable gun if it was used by Lt. Col. Brophy. Perhaps our readers can shed some light on the rifle. No other way for us to find that data. Editor.***

Hello. Did you get any info on the two m1922 magazines in the latest SRS mag.

*Unfortunately-no. We would like to hear from anyone having more data. Editor.*

Can I obtain any information on this Henry rifle? I believe that it saw service with the Illinois 66th Voluntary Infantry during the Fall of 1864.

*Sorry, no information data in our data base. This is another area that we are exploring. We searched and no serial numbers have turned up. It may take a long time as no results so far. Editor.*

#### Letters Written This Period

**U.S. Model 1898 rifle, serial number 172811, Cal. 30 Issued To: 26<sup>th</sup> U. S. Volunteer Infantry. July 15, 1899.**

**U.S. Model 1903 Rifle, Cal. .30, serial number 1341958, Rifle, Cal. .30, Single shot, heavy barrel, serial number 1341958. Sold To: Dr. Frederick A. Olson 615 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. So. Minneapolis, Minnesota. July 13, 1937.**

**Issued To: Clifton E. Smith, Company D 8<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. Private Smith was 22 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with dark complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, and was born in Princeton, Maine. He enlisted on May 11, 1898 in Framingham, Massachusetts and his nearest relative was Margary Smith of Lynn, Massachusetts. 1898.**

**U.S. Model 1903 Rifle, Cal. .30, serial number 1341961, please be advised that the records of the U. S. Military contain the data shown below on this arm. Rifle, Cal. .30, Single shot, heavy barrel, serial**

**number 1341961. O T Lent Ormsby, Pennsylvania. February 24, 1936. Inspected at Springfield Armory December 9, 1935. Springfield Armory to Quantico (single shot). May 21, 1930.**

**Springfield Rifle serial number 1257712, caliber .30, Model 1903. Shipped to Springfield, October 30, 1929. NBPRP (TO INTL RIFLE TEAM). March 26, 1929. TAR 5 May 1927. FA INTL MATCH RIFLE TEST.**

**U.S. Sharps Carbine, serial number 88615, please be advised that the records of the U. S. Military contain the data shown below on this arm. Shipped to the U.S. Government from Sharps Factory, Hartford, Connecticut. February 23, 1864.**

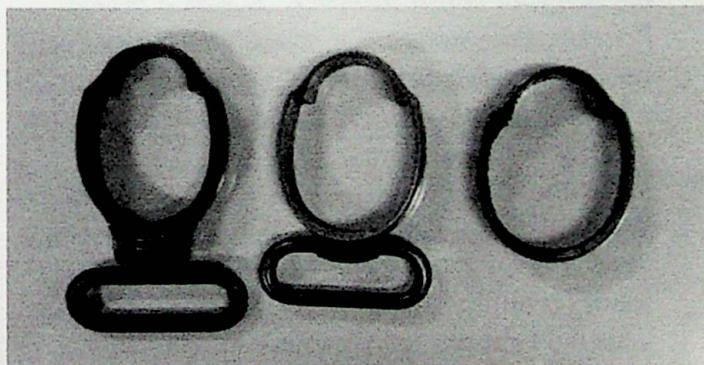
**U.S. Springfield Rifle model 1884, serial number 285146, please be advised that the records of the U. S. Military, contain the data shown below on this arm. Springfield Armory Model 1884, Serial number 285146. Company C, 21<sup>st</sup> Kansas Volunteers, Infantry. 1898 Spanish American War.**

**U.S. M1, Garand Rifle, Cal. 30, serial number 5 308 104, M1, National Match. Shipped To: 45036 Texas State Rifle Association. October 27, 1962. ( DCM Letter dated 27 October 1982 ).**

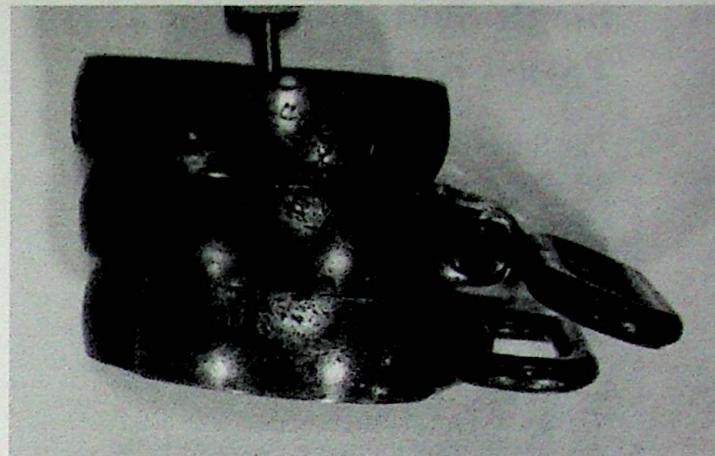
**U.S. M1, Garand Rifle, M1, National Match. Serial Number 6 097 741. National Match. Shipped To: 31002 Blue and Grey R&P Club. Date: October 27, 1982. ( DCM Letter Dated 27 October 1982 ).**

**U.S. Krag Bands.** The following photos and data were received from *Joe DeChristopher*. They include a rare Krag band made for a special Krag Carbine. The band was made using Springfield Armory tooling from earlier model rifles. It had the sling swivel with a smaller dimension utilizing the Navy 1895 6mm rifle sling and a butt swivel from the Lee Navy rifle. The special band is shown below in the center of 3 bands for comparison. The band on the left is for a standard 1898 rifle and the one on the right is an 1899 carbine band. Note the middle band swivel.

Data on these bands has been mentioned in past ads for a "Navy Model Krag". It is known that the United States Navy used the Krag as a standard issue rifle through World War I.



**Above:** The 3 bands shown with U markings and comparison of 2 sling swivel areas. The third is the standard 1899 Krag Carbine band with no swivel. The 3 bands show the original grease over the original finish. The band on the bottom is the special band made with no screw for the swivel.



There are quite a few U.S. Krag model rifles made in many models that have never been publicized nor described with detailed information. Rarities such as the scope mounted rifles, experimental rifles, test rifles and carbines, and others still show up at shows and in private collections.

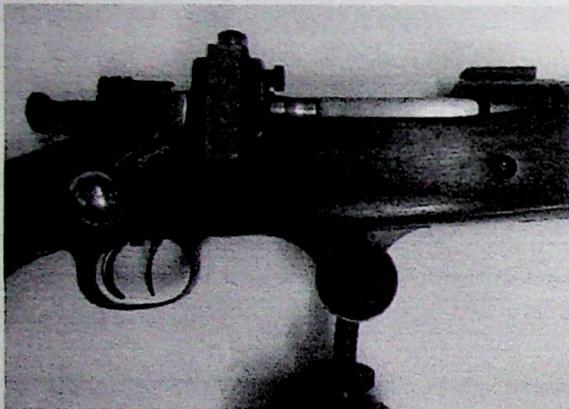
Examples of 1895, 1897, and 1905 models exist as well as quite a few 22 caliber weapons. There are quite a few test rifles and carbines that were used to satisfy military uses as well as utilize Krags that were in the military storage or reserves.

There were also many commercial long arms in caliber 22 Hornet and 30/30 in addition to custom made rifles. Many are in excellent condition.

SRS has found many documents that are in line to be published as time permits.

## United States Marine Corps Single Shot International Style Target Rifles

The Springfield Armory was tasked to develop a single shot Model 1903 International Target Rifle on November 25, 1930. There were 11 rifles made, with extensive work done to produce the best, accurate rifle to be used in international competition.

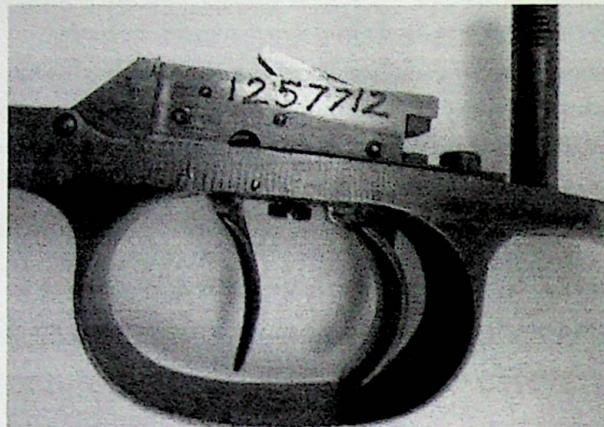


*Above: Right side of original USMC single shot international rifle.*

Existing rifles were overhauled and included 11 new receivers manufactured with solid bottoms and no machining or provisions for magazines. The stocks were made with no inletting for the magazine area and the special trigger guards. Extensive development included a 30- inch heavy barrel, international front and rear sights, double set triggers, checkered special stock, and hooked adjustable butt plate. The highest possible craftsmanship was employed for these quality match rifles.

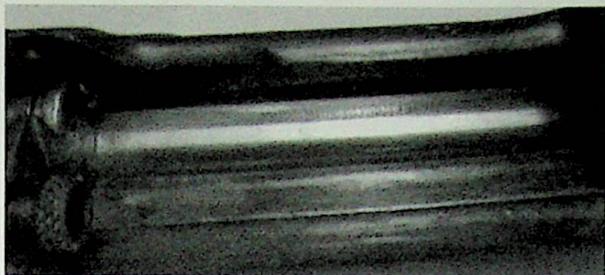
In our last issue of the Martial Arms Collector, we printed a copy of the U. S. Ordnance letter with the 11 serial numbers.

Several of our readers have contacted us to clarify some of the data in that letter from Col. J. W. Joyes.



*Above: The double trigger assembly and special trigger guard from the previous international rifle was reused and still had the original serial number. It was a much heavier design than the standard service model trigger guard.*

We stated that the 11 rifles were changed to standard rifle magazine configuration. A careful review shows that the 11 rifles were totally rebuilt with new single shot receivers. This data shows that there is a possibility that the original 11 receivers may still exist and be on other rifles. The USMC Ingle Shot rifles are perhaps the rarest of 1903 rifles.



*Above: Original 1903 USMC rifle with receiver with solid bottom for loading one round at a time for single shot operation. The design shows the heavier metal and corresponding stiffness.*

The receivers had drilling and tapping for the receiver mounted rear sight, finely fitted and finished bolts and firing pin assembly. It appears that the cut off and ejector were standard design. The design of the area for the trigger assembly is unique for the special design of the double set triggers and trigger guard.

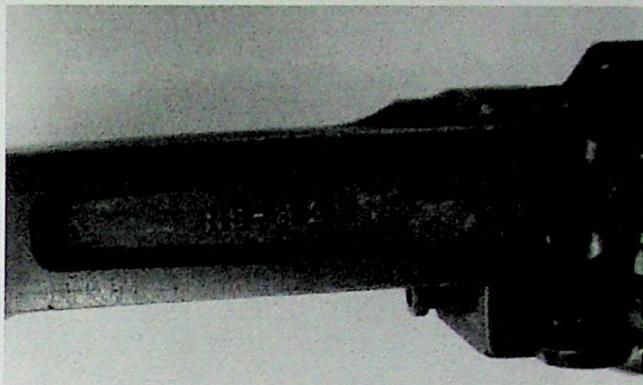
It has been observed that the serial number of the rifles rebuilt had the serial number of the old rifle that was refurbished. It should be noted that the serial number was also another area of the set triggers.

Observations have shown that serial numbered bolt assemblies have been found on other rifles.

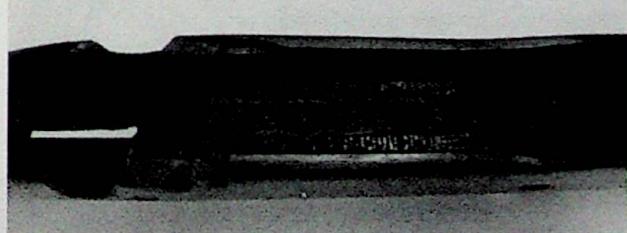
We have found 3 original rifles with serial numbers documented to those on the list of Colonel Joyes letter. We believe that we have located most or all of the numbers in documentation, and we have also found most or all of the numbers of the original receivers that were replaced.

So far the data in the SRS data base shows the Springfield sales letters with names of the buyers and dates with description. The numbers and military notes on the 11

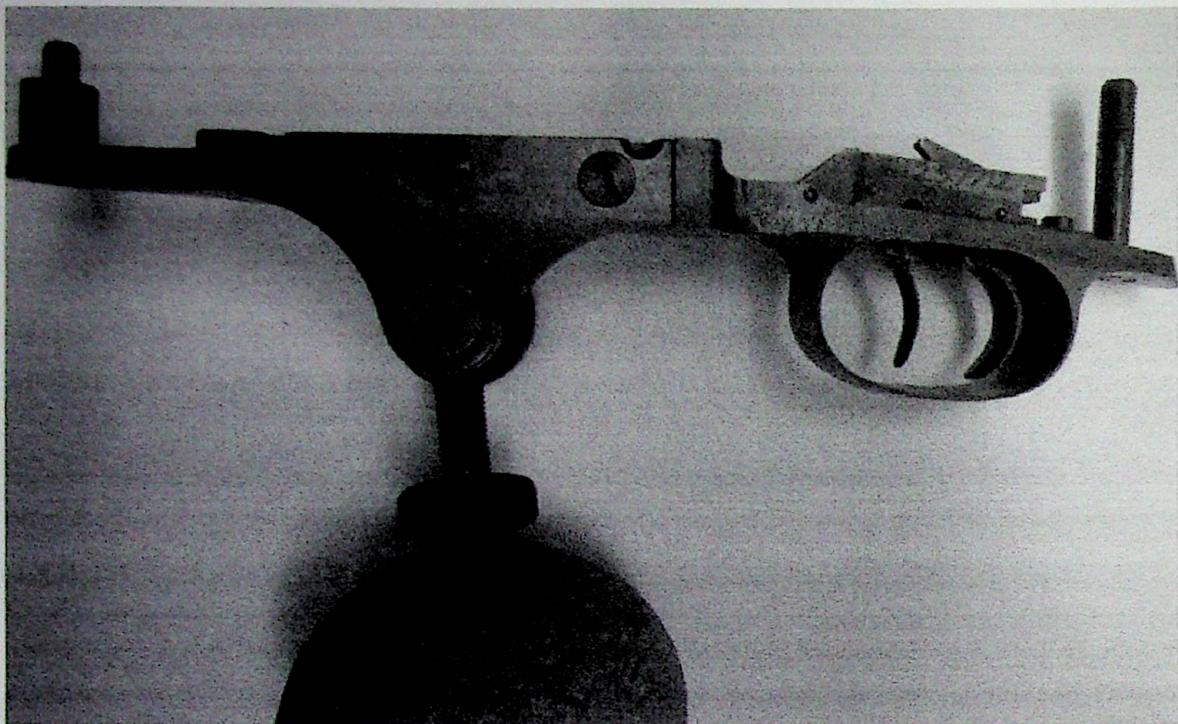
original rifles that were refurbished have also been found.



*Above: Bottom of single shot receiver showing a lightning cut and identification number (NS-42). The area to the right shows the set trigger machining and the bottom of the receiver sight.*



*Above: Special stock with solid wood bottom with no cut for magazine and standard wood cut for receiver sight.*



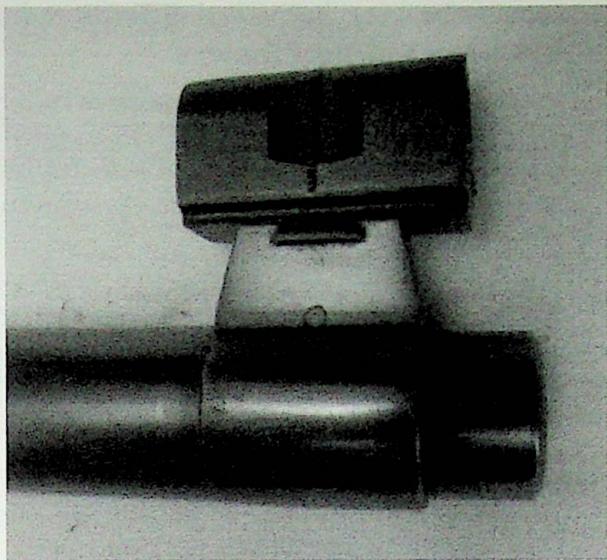
*Above: The complete trigger guard with double set triggers. The brass housing was attached to the trigger guard with 3 steel screws and had a single steel knurled adjustment knob for the round cork ball rest. The cork ball was for the palm rest and had a knurled steel knob for height adjustment.*



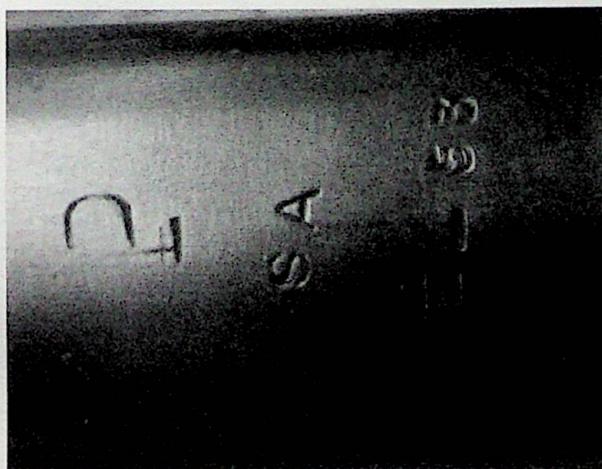
*Above: Adjustable swivel assembly inlleted in fore end of bottom of stock.. Steel assembly held by 2 blued screws and 1 adjustment screw and fixed swivel. Assembly located forward of trigger guard below the middle stock band.*



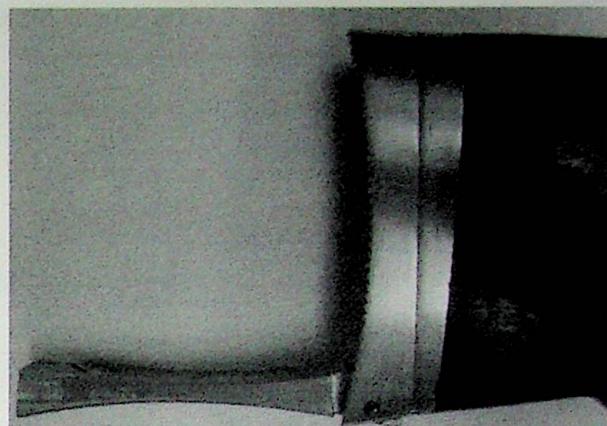
*Above: Bottom of stock inlleted for trigger guard.*



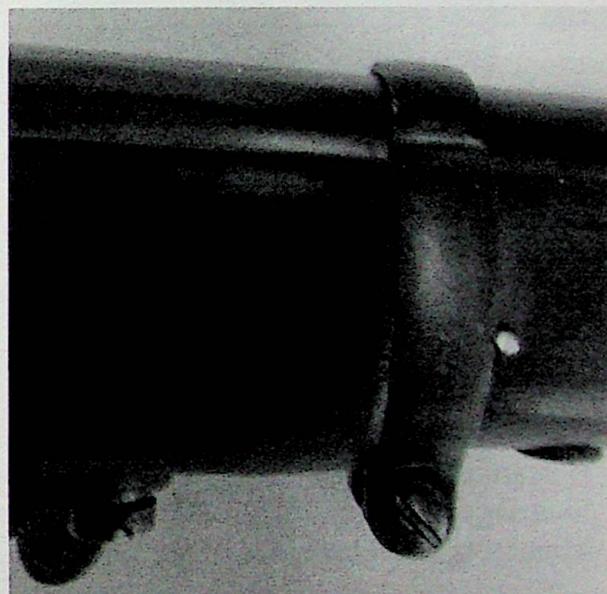
*Above: Special front sight made from a BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) front sight. Machined to fit the heavy 30-inch barrel and attached with steel key and pin. The dovetail was machined to accept a solid steel sight and had a special sight cover. The muzzle was turned down with a rounded end.*



*Above: Gage markings on bottom of 30-inch barrel.*



*Above: Special butt plate with adjustable hook that fit under the arm. Shown in locked position for shooting.*



*Above: Special middle band welded and machined to fit stock and heavy barrel. Held by steel pin through stock.*

The United States Marine Corps Single Shot International Match rifles were overhauled in accordance with instructions from Colonel J. W. Joyes on 25 November 1930.

There were 11 rifles overhauled using International Match rifles from the then current inventory. The serial numbers of the new rifles were:

1341958, 1341959, 1341961, 1341963, 1341964, 1341968, 1341950, 1341952, 1341956, 1341965, 1341970.

Our SRS records show that the International Match rifles used to overhaul 11 new Single Shot USMC rifles were in several serial number ranges. They were: 1228865 to 1228880; 1244341 to 1244436; 1274544 and 1257675 to 1257712.

We have had the opportunity to review 3 of the 11 rifles: numbers: 1341956, 1341958, and 1341961. The 3 International Match rifles with serial numbered marked trigger assemblies were 1274544, 1257712, and 1257722. A 4<sup>th</sup> had a serial numbered bolt came from 1257699.

Springfield sales records show that the 3 rifles that we have data on were sold to Howard J. Knutson of Lewiston, Idaho; Frederick A. Olson of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and O. T. Lent of Ormsby, Pa..

The 11 rifles are among the most sought after model 1903 Springfield heavy barrel rifles. They are unique in that they were of a single shot design with no machining for a magazine, special set triggers with custom trigger guard assemblies, and special stocks with no provision for inletting for regular receivers nor standard trigger guards. The unique parts are not interchangeable with the standard International Model rifles. There

seem to be some individual differences in butt plates and other features.

Some items of interest are that there were no scope blocks on at least one of the originals and there may be other custom changes for the shooters.

Entries on most records refer to Springfield Armory to Quantico (single shot). There is no doubt that the term "single shot" refers to the 11 USMC rifles and not to IM (International Match) rifles with brass inserts for a palm rest. The IM is made for a cartridge magazine allows only allows one cartridge to loaded with the palm rest and insert installed.

Entries on the International Match rifles that were used for the USMC overhaul had other data. It included date shipped to SA, date shipped to NBPRP (International Rifle Team). Frankford arsenal match rifle test, and special target tests.

It is unknown where many of the International Match rifles have ended up or if parts or all of the rifles used were scrapped. It is almost certain that the condition of the receivers and other parts including the stock would be used again if the condition was within specifications. The rifles were in the 1930's and the Springfield Armory and the military were short of funds.

The IM receivers were drilled and tapped for receiver sights and had match grade parts that could have been used for other rifles or sales rifles from Springfield.

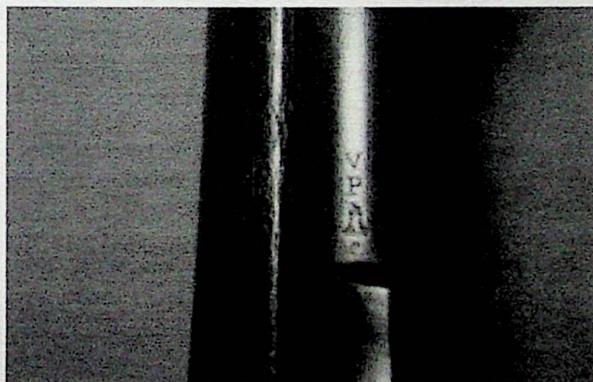
Owning one of the original USMC rifles is a coup for the collector.

## Springfield 1873 musket.

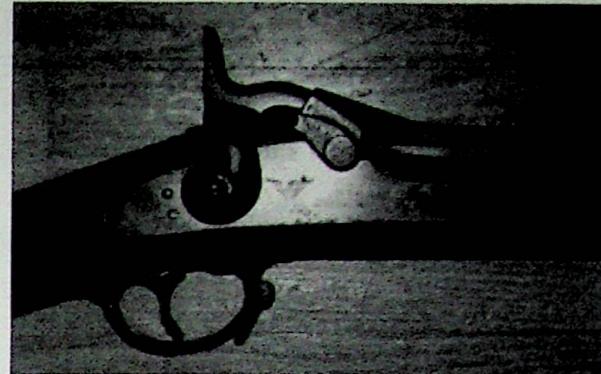
Serial number 333999 was issued to Company G 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry on February 13, 1887.

A reference lists the Company activity on November 5th 1887 - "General T. H. Ruger issues an ultimatum to the Crow Indians, demanding surrender of the braves who fired on the Indian Agency. The Indians refuse and troops are dispatched to within about a mile of the Little Big Horn. Photo: An Apache raid on settlers. The sight of a child's slipper in the midst of the devastation.. This sketch is known as "The Little One's Slipper" and was drawn during the era." SRS is searching documents concerning the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry as they have a history of personnel known as the "Buffalo soldiers".

This research may take an extensive time and will be published when finished.



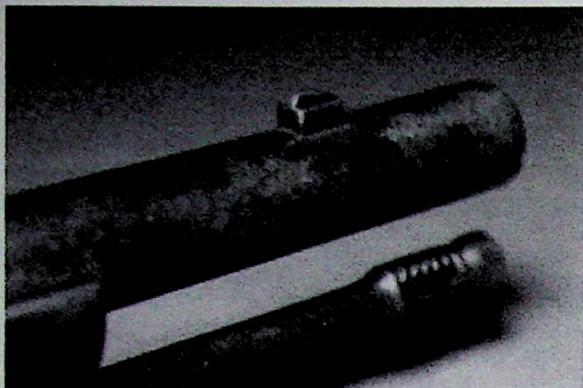
Above: Barrel markings for model 1873 serial number 333999.



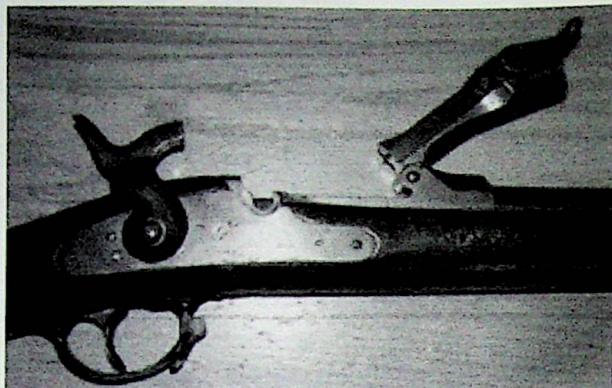
Above: Right side of number 333999 with 1873 lock. Early hammer and trigger guard.



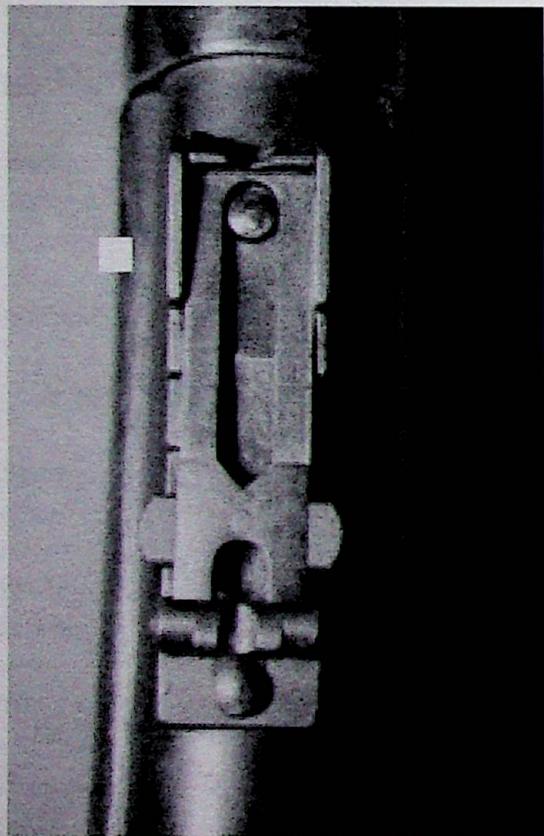
Above: Receiver serial number 333999 with tang.



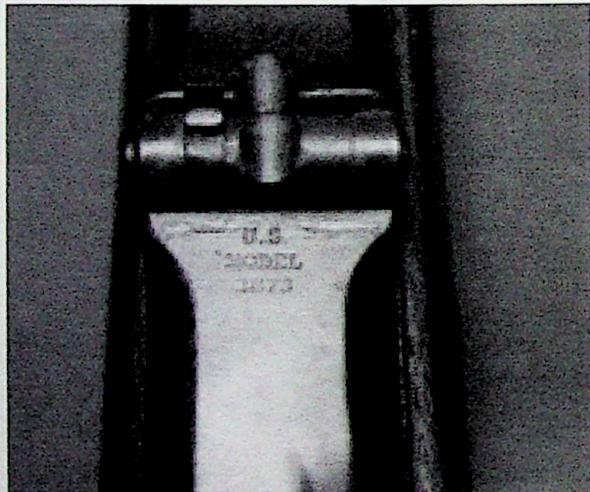
*Above:* Front sight with no pin or blade,  
Solid piece design with early 1873 ramrod.



*Above:* 1873 low arch breech block.



*Above:* 1873 rear sight with solid head screws.



*Above:* 1873 markings on top of breech

*Photos: complements of Harry Miller*

**Springfield Research Service letter to : MONOCACY NATIONAL  
BATTLEFIELD Frederick, Maryland 21704**

**Re: EXHIBIT "Honoring Heroism" on 1 June 2014 through 31 August, 2014.**

Pursuant to information on U.S. Sharps Carbine, serial number 88615, please be advised that the records of the U. S. Military, contain the data shown below on this arm.

Type: Sharps Carbine, Serial number 88615.

Shipped To: U.S. Government (Union War Office) from Sharps Factory, Hartford, Connecticut.

Date: February 23, 1864.

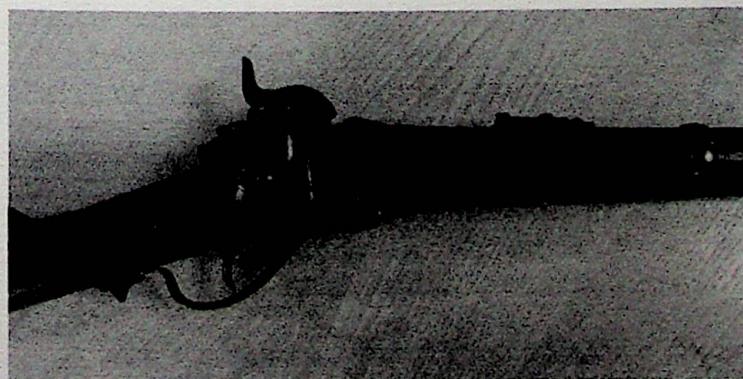
This data was found in Factory records of the Sharps Company, Hartford, Connecticut. The records were located in the Hartford City, Connecticut Museum.

The carbine was found on the front steps of the Best Family farm the morning after the battle in July 1864 and was kept in the family. It was traded to a local Frederick construction company for services to the Best family, until work was done on the house, and the Best family was still in residence. It was kept in a shop in Frederick, Maryland until its acquisition by a Maryland collector.

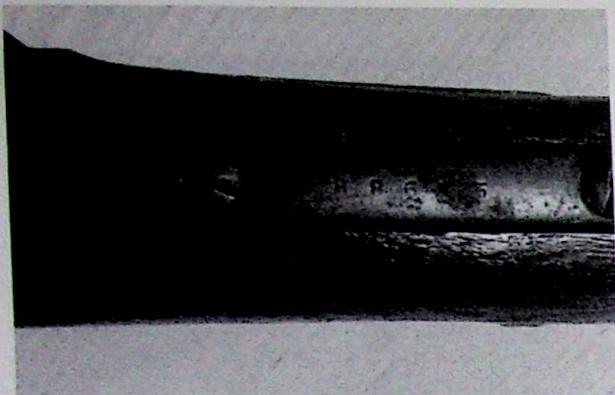
We trust the information furnished above has been of interest.

Very respectfully,

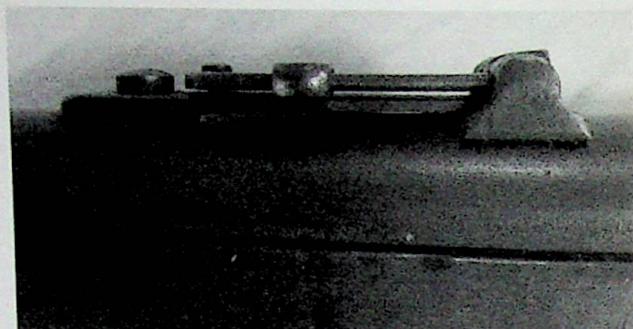
Wayne P. Gagner, Springfield Research Service



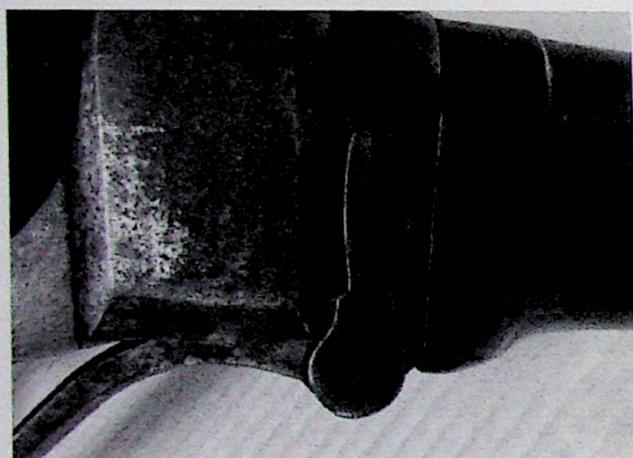
***Left: Sharps carbine serial number 88615.***



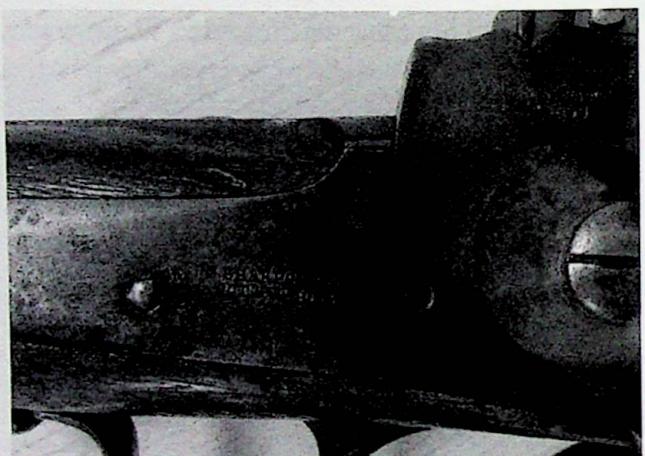
*Above: Serial number 88615.*



*Above: Sharps carbine rear sight.*



*Above: Right side of receiver.*

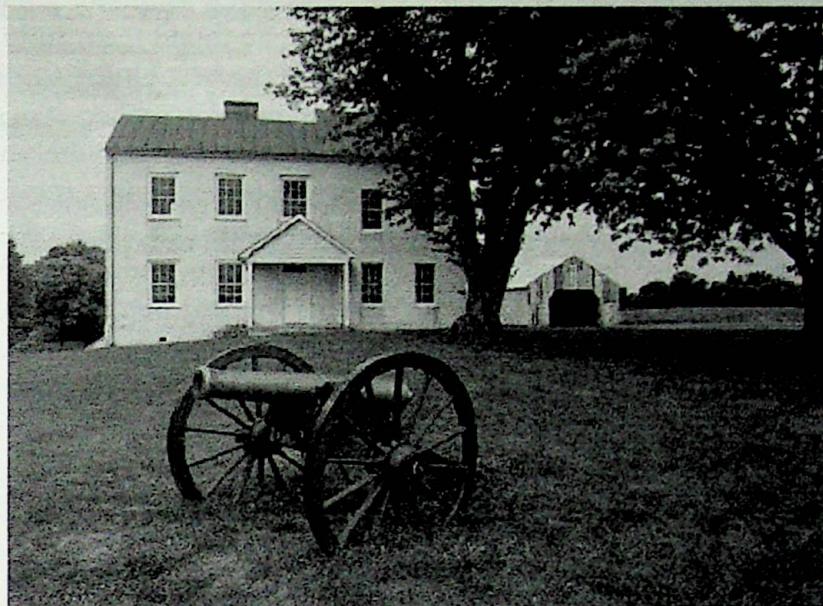


*Above: Right side lock assembly.*



*Above: Left side of receiver with Sharps markings.*

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 139-18*



The Best family Farm House at Monocacy River, Maryland.

***Editors Note. This is the site where the Sharps carbine was found on July 9, 1864.***

The following data is from the National Monocacy Battlefield, U.S. National Park Service , web site.

During the Summer of 1864, Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early launched a campaign down the Shenandoah Valley with a corps of approximately 15,000 troops. The campaign was a last attempt to carry the war into the north and to relieve some pressure from General Robert E. Lee in the south. Early's ultimate objective for the campaign was to march down the Valley, to swing to the east through Frederick, and to attack and capture Washington, D.C. from the north. more and Beyond.

American Civil War battle that gave the North its biggest scare of 1864. After the failure of General Hunter's Shenandoah Valley campaign (see Battle of Lynchburg,

16-18 June 1864), the Confederate general Jubal Early had a chance to launch a small scale invasion of the North. Robert E. Lee hoped that a successful raid into Maryland would seriously damage President Lincoln's chances of re-election, and hoped that it would force General Grant to pull troops away from the inexorable Federal advance on Richmond and Petersburg.

Hunter having retreated into West Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley was effectively empty of Union forces. Early was able to reach the Potomac River by the start of July, and crossed into Maryland on 6 July. He could not have picked a better time to enter the North. Grant had pulled as many troops as possible into the field, leaving Maryland and even Washington virtually undefended. For a short period, Early's 14,000 Confederates were the strongest force in the State of Maryland.

The Union commander on the spot was General Lew Wallace, based at Baltimore. He was able to scrape together a force of only just over 6,000 men, very few of whom had any combat experience. At Washington were another 20,000 men, of whom only about half were genuinely available to man the defenses of the capitol. Those defenses had been built when the threat to Washington was much more serious, and needed far more than 10,000 men to be effectively manned. On hearing of the threat posed by Early, Grant had moved men from the lines outside Richmond back to Baltimore. Given time, Grant could easily move sufficient men back to Washington to man the lines, but the question was whether he would get that time.

Wallace knew that his ad-hoc army would not be able to defeat Early's veterans. However, he hoped to impose a big enough delay on the Confederate advance to allow those reinforcements to reach Washington. He formed up on the eastern bank of the Monocacy River, where Early found him on 9 July.

Early's men quickly forced their way across the river, outflanking the Federal left. Wallace's men were not able to hold their position for long and were soon in flight. However, even this defeat delayed Early, who had to make sure the Federal army was not going to stop and rally, and also had to deal with at least 700 prisoners. Union losses were 98 killed, 594 wounded and 1188 missing (a total of 1,880). Early lost somewhere between 600 and 700 men.

The true significance of the battle is that it probably delayed Early by one day. He arrived in front of Washington on 11 July. On the same day the veteran Union 6th corps reached the city. When Early probed the

defenses of Washington on the morning of 12 July, he found them fully manned by some of the best Union soldiers. If he had arrived one day earlier, it is perfectly possible that Early could have smashed into the city before Grant's reinforcements arrived in the city. Faced with a strong army in front of him, and news of sizable Union armies forming behind him, Early pulled back from Washington. He managed to elude every Federal attempt to block his retreat, and made it safely back to the Shenandoah Valley.

Even if he had not been able to hold on to his prize, the sight of a Confederate army at loose within the Federal capital could have cost Lincoln the Presidential election, and would certainly have provided great encouragement across the unconquered areas of the Confederacy. Grant later said that 'Wallace contributed on this occasion, by the defeat of the troops under him, a greater benefit to the cause than often falls to the lot of a commander of an equal force to render by means of a victory.'

## **U.S. Park Service, Monocacy Battlefield, Frederick, MD. Announcement. National Battlefield 150<sup>th</sup>, July 5-13, 2014.**

Firing Demonstration  
Guest Speaker  
Memorial Ceremony  
Calvary Hospital demonstrations  
New exhibit: Honorism  
Bus Trip To Fort Stevens

## Collectors Note: U. S. Model 1917 Rifle With Benicia Modifications.

Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D.C. on 12 October 1934 provided instructions on modifications to the standard 1917 rifle. The modifications included the addition of a Krag lower band and Lyman or Pacific receiver sights. This work included the modification of the stock and the drilling and tapping of the receiver. The rifles exist and were a government modification with nominal costs for the conversion. They are overlooked by many collectors who disregard this 1917 variation.

474.1/430

8th Ind.

REB/1

HDQRS. Benicia Arsenal, Benicia, California, October 12, 1934. TO: Chief Ordnance, War Department, Field Service, Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C.

1. From time to time this office receives requests from Officers and others authorized to purchase Arms, to modify the M1917 rifle, to take with the Pacific or Lyman sights together with certain modification of the stock.

2. There are three separate operations, the estimated cost of which as follows:

- (1) Modify stock, fit Krag lower band, with original sights, cost \$5.07.
- (2) Modify Receiver for Pacific sight, modify stock and fit Krag lower band, estimated cost \$6.32.
- (3) Modify Receiver for Lyman sight, modify stock, fit Krag lower band, estimated cost \$8.37.

The price of each of these operations, covering the cost of the Krag lower at 7%.

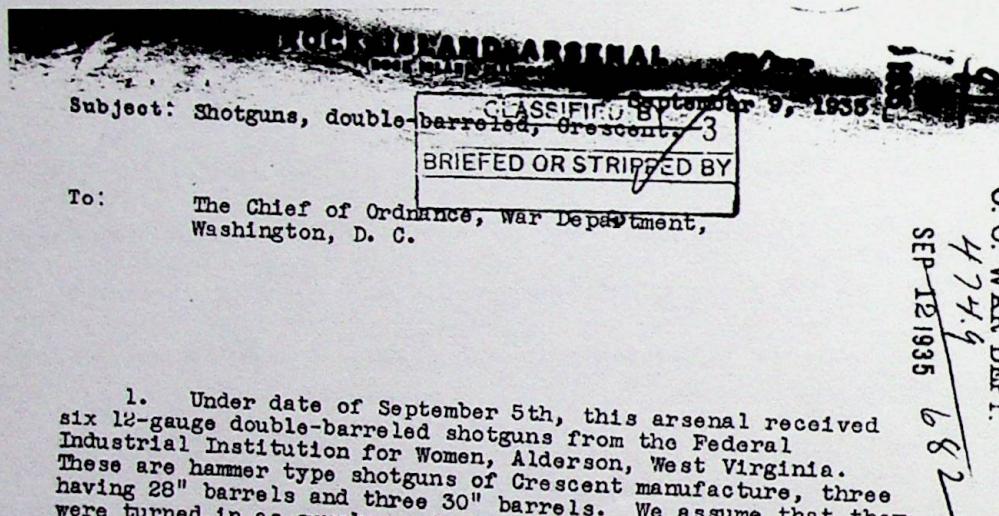
3. Should the Ordnance Office be unable or unwilling to furnish a revolving fund for modification of these rifles, authority is requested to form this work when approval is considered desirable, charging the cost thereof to our contingent allotment, and re-crediting the contingent allotment with the actual cost of the operation.

INC 7

P. J. R. KIRK,

## Collectors Note; Commercial Shotguns

Colonel A. G. Gillespie letter of 5 September, 1935, has data on Badger, Knickerbocker and Crescent single and double barrel shotguns received from government facilities such as the Federal Industrial Institution for Women in Alderson, West Virginia. The commercial shotguns were surplus and to be sold for \$ 1.50, \$ 2.75, and \$ 5.00. The \$ 5.00 guns were to be sold to military officers. This is a little known area of commercial weapons bought by the government.



1. Under date of September 5th, this arsenal received six 12-gauge double-barreled shotguns from the Federal Industrial Institution for Women, Alderson, West Virginia. These are hammer type shotguns of Crescent manufacture, three having 28" barrels and three 30" barrels. We assume that they were turned in as surplus and are subject to sale as non-standard type. This make of shotgun, new, retails for about \$15.00.

2. Under date of December 14, 1927, in second indorsement on O.O. file 474.9/596 (R.I.A. file 474.91/153), you approved prices recommended by this arsenal for the sale of Badger and Knickerbocker single and double barreled shotguns: \$1.50 and \$2.75 each, respectively.

3. It is recommended that the six Crescent shotguns now on hand in serviceable condition and of fair appearance be sold for \$5.00 each and reserved for sales to officers of the Regular Army. This recommendation is made due to the fact that there are but six of these arms on hand and no difficulty should be experienced in disposing of this limited number to officers desiring them for hunting purposes. Instructions are requested.

Ref. RR-495

A. G. Gillespie,  
Colonel, Ord. Dept., Commanding

By: *I. A. Grump*  
I. A. Grump,  
Major, Ord. Dept., Supply Officer

## Collectors Note: Colt 38 Caliber Pistols with 2 Inch Barrels.

Colonel T. J. Smith letter of 7 June, 1937 shows the bid for 500 Colt 2 inch barrel revolvers. Previously on November 7, 1930. there were 8,000 revolvers procured with serial numbers from 9641 to 17640. Funds were also allocated for 1200 additional pistols of the same type with serial numbers from 17641 to 18440. Ammunition was procured with a 25% pressure increase for testing.

O.O. 400.325/22460 Post Office  
S.A. 400.325/2658 1st Ind.

JJL/kem

Springfield Armory, Mass., June 7, 1937. To: The Chief of Ordnance, War Department, Washington, D. C.

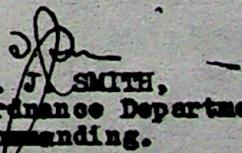
1. Circular Proposal No. 852-37-307, covering 500 Revolvers, Caliber .38, double action, with 2" barrel, was issued on June 3, 1937. Bids received in response to this Advertisement will be opened on June 18.

840

2. The 8,000 Revolvers procured under Ord-5685, dated November 7, 1930, were numbered serially from 9641 to 17640 inclusive. Change No. 1 to this Procurement Authority allotted additional funds for the purchase of 1200 Revolvers of the same type. These were numbered 17641 to 18440 inclusive. Information is requested as to whether or not the revolvers now being procured shall be assigned serial numbers from the same series. If so, it is believed that these numbers should begin with 18441.

3. As soon as bids are opened, his office will be advised by wire the amount of funds required to cover the procurement of these revolvers and no order will be placed until these funds are received. It is noted that no holsters nor belts are desired on this order.

4. To test the 500 Revolvers being procured, it will be necessary to have on hand 6,000 Caliber .38 Cartridges of the type being procured from Frankford Arsenal. It will also be necessary to have 100 Cartridges of the Colt Police Positive type so loaded as to develop pressure twenty-five per cent in excess of normal pressures.

  
T. J. SMITH,  
Colonel, Ordnance Department,  
Commanding.

Annum. good for certain revolver.

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For Important Firearms Auction ~ October, 2014

For years, the Julia Firm has consistently conducted the highest grossing Firearms Auctions in the industry. Their March 10, 11 & 12 auction was true to form and generated a new world record over **\$19.2 million**. Also for years, Julia's has touted that they sell the greater number of high end expensive firearms. Once again, their historic March auction proved that. Over 550 lots generated \$10,000 or more; over 49 lots generated \$50,000 or more; and over 13 lots generated \$100,000 or more. In addition, recently Julia's claims to handle the greater number of renowned collections in the firearms industry and indeed this was the case here. The headlines touted 12 phenomenal collections from iconic firearms collectors (but also included various others whose names could not be advertised). The sale was widely watched and anticipated by gun collectors, dealers, and gun enthusiasts. Most nearly any major niche in the current gun world was represented in proliferation, in both quality and quantity. Many wondered if the market could bear such a diverse spectrum of high end, quality goods from so many areas. The resounding success of the sale continued to prove and drive home the fact that the firearms fraternity continues to be very alive, very active, and filled with great passion. Julia's is now amassing special consignments for their upcoming October sale which, based on collections in-house now, will once again prove to be a phenomenal auction.

Whether you have one item or an entire collection, call today to be part of our Important Fall 2014 Auction.

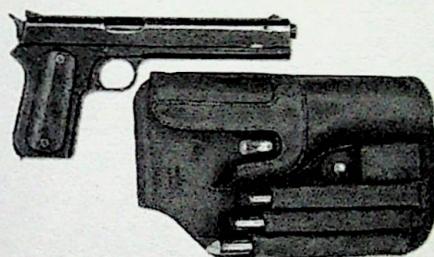
Our March 10, 11 & 12, 2014 sale was an incredible success generating

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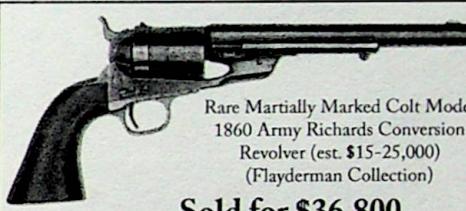
**over \$22 Million**

*Here are some examples of great successes for our consignors in our March, 2014 Auction*



Ex. Rare 1st Contract First Pistol Shipped Colt M1900 US Army Auto to Col. James Boyd by Gen. Lucius Clay. (est. \$25-50,000)

**Sold for \$88,550**



Rare Martially Marked Colt Model 1860 Army Richards Conversion Revolver (est. \$15-25,000) (Flayderman Collection)

**Sold for \$36,800**



Extremely Fine Third Model Martial Colt Dragoon (est. \$20-30,000) (Flayderman Collection)

**Sold for \$42,550**



Scarce Martially Marked Colt Model 1860 Army Percussion Revolver (est. \$20-30,000) (Flayderman Collection)

**Sold for \$37,950**



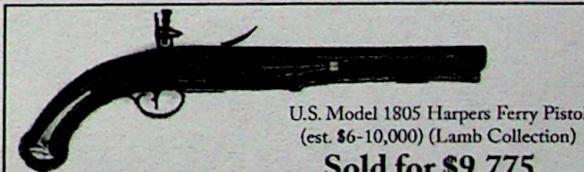
Hall Breech Loading Flintlock Pistol (est. \$10-15,000) (Sirkin Coll)

**Sold for \$40,250**



Sharps Model 1859 Conversion Saddle Ring Carbine That Belonged To Sioux Warrior Little-Big-Man Used At The Battle Of Little Big Horn (est. \$10-15,000)

**Sold for \$29,900**



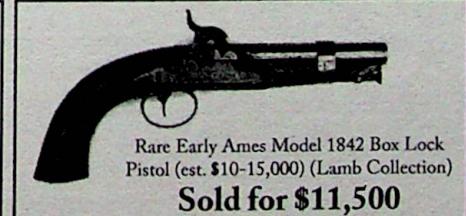
U.S. Model 1805 Harpers Ferry Pistol (est. \$6-10,000) (Lamb Collection)

**Sold for \$9,775**



Extremely Rare Colt Model 1907 Test Trial Semi-Auto Pistol Bearing Inspector Initials "K.M." (Maj. Kenneth Morton)

**Sold for \$18,400**



Rare Early Ames Model 1842 Box Lock Pistol (est. \$10-15,000) (Lamb Collection)

**Sold for \$11,500**



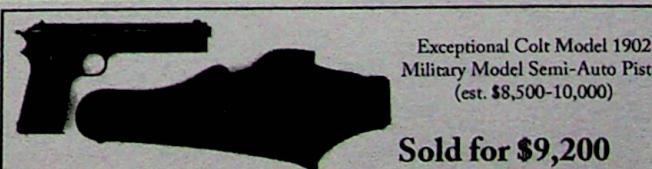
Remington New Model Army Percussion Revolver (est. \$3-5,000) (Haskell Collection)

**Sold for \$10,350**



Surcharged German States Musket Copy of Model 1740 Prussian (est. \$4-6,000) (Sirkin Collection)

**Sold for \$18,975**



Exceptional Colt Model 1902 Military Model Semi-Auto Pistol (est. \$8,500-10,000)

**Sold for \$9,200**

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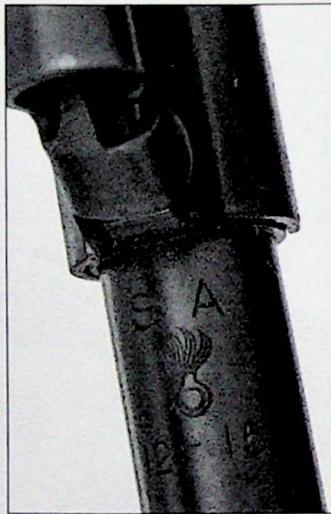
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1) DCM Sales records (M1903 1922-42, M1922, M1, Win. .22 rifles, M1911NM & GO pistols)	\$ 65.00
2) Basic Letters with SRS Data from our Files	\$ 50.00
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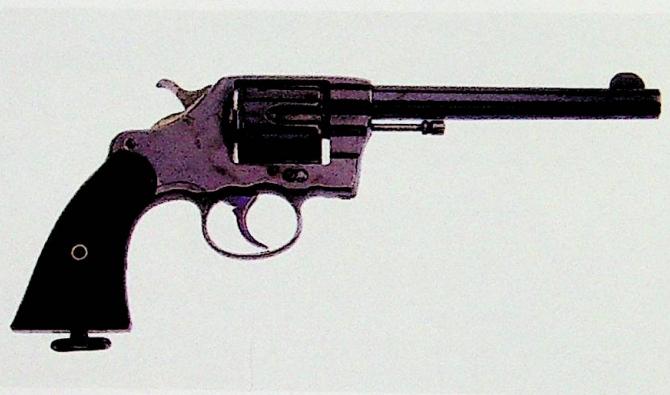
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