

# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*

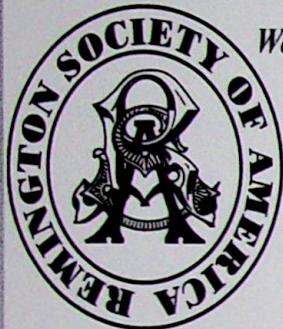


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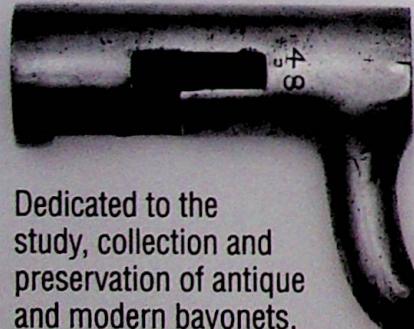
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Cover: Model 1867 Army Cadet Rifle

# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR



*And*

## *Springfield Research Service Newsletter*

Number 155

June 2018

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*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 155-1*

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

SRS has continued to search U.S. Springfield .50 caliber and .45 caliber rifles, cadet models and carbines. It seems that there is a wide variety of models and many variants within a general model category.

Cadet muskets are found in many different variations.

The overall requirement for Cadet muskets for the military is based on the number of officers being trained for military requirements. A specific number of Cadets trained as officers showed the need for a similar number of rifles. West Point would have a need for approximately 404 cadets.

These musket numbers match the number of military academies cadets and those training at U.S. Military schools and private universities and schools.

The U.S. Military facility at West Point was a driving factor for designing the various Cadet models. The span of .50 caliber and .45 caliber Cadet muskets includes Model 1869, Model 1873 and model 1884.

Earlier the flintlock muskets and cap-lock muskets were used and are another area of cadet musket development.

Originally, the trapdoor cadets were Springfield muskets converted from Model 1863 rifle muskets using Allin conversion technology. They made up the breech-loading rifles at a low cost.

The Model 1869 Cadet Rifle was a smaller and shorter version of the Model 1868 rifle. The barrel was 29.5 inches long and an overall total length of 48.8 inches. The Model 1869 used Model 1868 receivers and breech blocks, with an older stock altered for a Model 1869 design. The Model 1869 stock had a smaller butt plate and a smaller stock. It

was numbered in its own serial number area from 1 to about 3422.

The first Model 1873 cadet musket was to be made the same size, shape and feel of a Model 1869 Cadet musket. It is believed that the ramrod was also similar to the Model 1869. There was one Model 1873 Cadet made in 1874.

The Model 1873 through the Model 1884 Cadets were designed and made using many common parts used on rifles and carbines. The serial numbers were mixed in with all rifle and carbine serial numbers.

To confuse the 1873 Cadet history, many were made with obsolete parts by private contractors. These cadets were sold on the open market and to organizations and schools that required a less expensive musket. This included musket receivers from salvaged Model 1873 rifles and carbines. Receivers lower than serial number 50,000 are seen on many Cadet rifles.

There were many changes in parts and stocks from the original Model 1873 through final production of the Model 1884 Cadet.

SRS finds many good sources of information in Congressional reports. All military expenditures had to be approved and noted in reports that show numbers of weapons tested, manufactured, altered, and stored by the military forces.

The Naval Academy used a Remington design for some of their muskets.

SRS will continue to research this weapon development in as many areas as possible. It is expected to be a lengthy research.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Please send any corrections or updates of addresses to us at any time. We are receiving more post office notices that mail cannot be delivered. We receive returned mail with no way to find a new address, and postal notices may have no forwarding address. U.S. Postal First Class Mail is used.

We try to put the number of the last issue of a subscription after the name of the subscriber. Please send comments, questions and corrections to any data that is overlooked or missing. Some SRS products are out of stock.

Please send any corrections for address changes, holding subscriptions, or temporary addresses.

## **CURRENT ISSUES**

Issue number 155 dated June 2017 is current. Mailing data is sent to our printing facility in late May 2018, and we rely on the Postal Service to deliver as soon as they are able.

## **ADVERTISING**

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

The projected mailing dates are the first week of March, June, September, and December of each year. There are four quarterly issues each year.

## **SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH LETTERS**

The basic letters are \$50.00; sales letters with a document are \$65.00; and research letters run from \$175.00 and up.

Research letters include USMC letters, OSS

documents, 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5th, and 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, and Spanish American War.

Other unique units require special research. It is taking more time to travel to government facilities and comply with the U.S. Archive rules for searching, copying, and the actual handling of documents. The Archives personnel have been very helpful in this area but it is increasingly difficult. A recent effort took over four days to find the correct data.

A basic letter contains data recovered from our in-house files. It is limited, and there is no way for us to hold the thousands or even millions of pages of data. A research letter requires us to travel to a government facility and request to search and retrieve the specific copies needed for research. This includes checking the U.S. Government files to make sure they exist and are still available for review.

## **COMMENTS AND INPUTS**

We always want comments.  
[editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com).

An inquiry can be made by U.S. mail to SRS Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818. This may take an extended time.

We may also print some data and ask for comments from our readers. There are a lot of very knowledgeable collectors with a wealth of information and sightings of rare weapons.

## **SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH DATA BASE**

All SRS data are based on data from United States documents in U.S. Archives and other military sources. All serial number information comes from government documents.

There are many weapon documents that come from sources that describe a weapon without a specific serial number.

All data in the Springfield Research Service database is from documents that have been found to date. There are more documents that may exist, and we continually look for additional information.

## LETTERS WRITTEN

**Rifle, U.S., Cal. 30, Model 1903 A1, National Match, 1940, New with target and Star gauge Record Card, serial number 1 526 739.**

**Sold to Mr. Frank C. Miramontes, 148 Birch Street, Redwood, California. April 9, 1940.**

**Pistol, U.S., Cal. 45, Model 1911 A1, serial number 974 443. Issued to USS Fechteler, January 26, 1944.**

**Rifle, U.S., Cal. 30, Model 1903 A1, National Match, Serial Number 1 497 289.**

**Sold directly from U.S. Army (Record Group 156 Entry 36F353). September 28, 1939.**

**Rifle, U.S., Cal. 22, Model 1922 M1 NRA, Serial number 19624. Sold to Albert M. Mitchell, Anthony, Kansas. August 8, 1930.**

**Rifle, U.S., Henry, Number 3938. Issued to Company K 3rd Volunteer Infantry. May 13, 1865.**

**Rifle, U.S., Henry, Number 3954. Issued to Company K 3rd Volunteer Infantry**

**May 13, 1865.**

## LETTERS ANSWERED

I have a 44 colt conversion 192175 that is US marked- hoping there are some records of issue or records of any kind. Thank you.

*We have little or no information on Colt Conversions. It seems that our searches never found data similar to Civil War pistol serial numbers. We continue but it is unknown if we will find any information. Editor.*

CMP issued Springfield Armory M1 Garand with a serial number 369505. It has no other cartouches on the stock anywhere, except for a single "U" stamped on the bottom of the wrist of the stock. If you could provide me with any information about this rifle, I would be grateful. If there is a cost associated, please let me know how much that would be. *Best data would be directly from CMP. We have found some information on CMP rifles, but it is limited. Editor.*

I am wondering if it is possible to purchase issue #96. I am after the article by Fred Ewalt on the variations of the Springfield 1922 rifles.

*Yes, we make copies of issue number 96. They are \$10 postpaid. We have no originals left. Editor.*

I am looking for a research letter for a Model 1903 National Match rifle barrel-dated 5/21 with a serial number of 1,216,304. Should I mail in this request.

*We have no data on that rifle. National Match rifles in that era are rare and sometimes difficult to verify.*

*Usually the star gage mark appears in late 1921 and would have the corresponding*

*gage number across the barrel under the hand guard. Editor*

I am an amateur historian researching weapons stolen by Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. I have data from the early 1930's from an armory near Enid, Oklahoma. This includes several serial numbers of 1911's that were recovered by law enforcement. I wonder if they were ever returned to the Army. Is this a hopeless case? Thank you! *It is a stretch but it is possible. We would need to see any data that exists on the serial numbers and research to see if any factual data is verified in the documents. The search would require extensive time and travel and may not produce the history. We are not being able to do this research at this time without additional data. Editor*

I have a Colt Army 44 revolver from the civil war, with a s/n of "82375", manufactured in 1862, supposedly, dug up at Gettysburg. I'm looking for more history on this gun and wondered if you could provide any additional info? Please advise! I want to leave this gun to my grandson, along with any supporting history. Respectfully.

*We have no data on that serial number. Editor.*

Is there any way to certify if this carbine is genuine it seems to match all criteria on the website. Didn't know if there were records from this time.

*There is no data on this number in our records. Editor.*

Sir, I recently subscribed to your magazine and wanted to know if there is any information on a Krag carbine 1898 serial number 119784.

*Your number is between known documented*

*numbers 119775 and 119790. We have no data on number 119784. The original Model 1898 Saddle Ring Carbines are very rare in original condition with short stock, saddle ring bar and ring, and the 1896 Carbine rear sight. Modifications would have the later long stock, newer carbine rear sight, newer hand guard, and stock band. Editor.*

Several inquiries have been made concerning the model 1892 Krag rear sight. SRS has found quite a bit of data showing that there were 2 or 3 different rear sights for the 1892 Rifle.

The U. S. Army had young officers tabulation rifle firing tests showing accuracy results under all conditions and ranges. Results showed variations and newer sight adjustment features were made for upgraded sights.

Model 1892 rear rifle sights were also used on model 1898 rifles because of rear sight shortages in some early productions. *Editor.*

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

We keep as many old issues as possible.

The older newsletters (number 1 through 55) must be obtained by special request. They are in plain paper form in newsletters.

Most Issues number 56 through 146 are available for \$10 each postpaid. Several issues have completely run out. A copy in black and white on regular paper may be possible, but there will be a delay or extra cost.

## SRS SEARCHES

We still find new data and the quality of many documents runs from excellent to almost unusable. The government storage of old historical paper is often very difficult because of the fragile nature of old documents and regulations.

Some fragile documents are bound with a heavy plastic case that requires cutting to open. After research and turn-in, the documents are re- incased in a new plastic container.

## SHIPPING COMMENTS

We mail all magazines and letters by first class mail. US Martial Arms magazines and letters are mailed and normally are delivered by the U. S. Post service in 1 to 3 days. The majority of our subscribers pay by personal or bank- sponsored checks. They are the easiest for us.

Please make sure that if PAYPAL is used that you check off the correct boxes for your specific instructions. We receive complaints from PAYPAL if a subscriber accidentally checks the wrong box for automatic deductions.

## Rackner Solutions Will Support Springfield Research Service

Rackner Solutions is a leader in providing cutting edge enterprise and government software services. They are contributing editors and will provide ongoing support to Springfield Research Service. They can be reached at <https://racknersolutions.com> or [contact@racknersolutions.com](mailto:contact@racknersolutions.com). We find that SRS must call on Rackner on a regular basis to keep up on changes and software intrusions.

# The V-B Rifle Grenade Launcher and Rifle Grenade

*By Marc Gorelick, VGCA, PACA, OGCA*

Although they were developed before World War 1, rifle grenades and grenade launchers did not come into their own until that conflict. They filled a niche for a high trajectory weapon that could engage enemy targets between the range of a hand-thrown grenade and a trench mortar. The demands of trench warfare accelerated their development and use and they became an important infantry weapon, both in offense and defense, during the First World War.



*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 155-6*

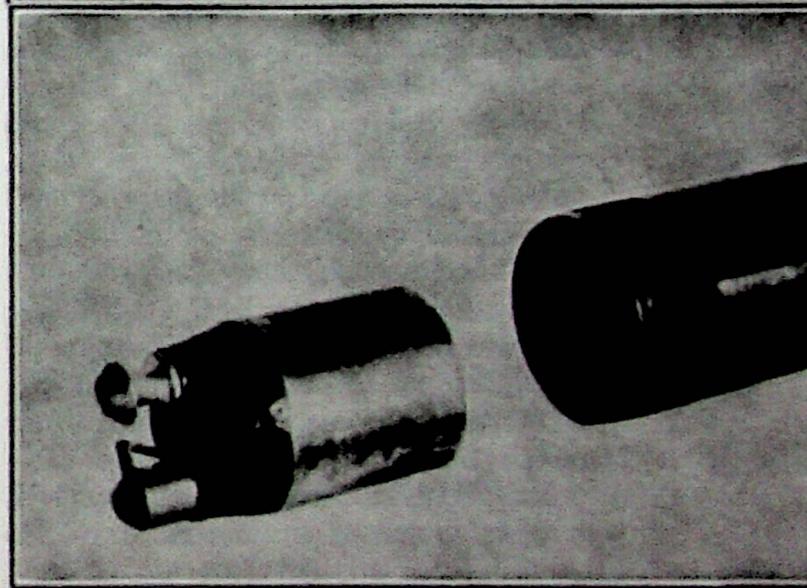
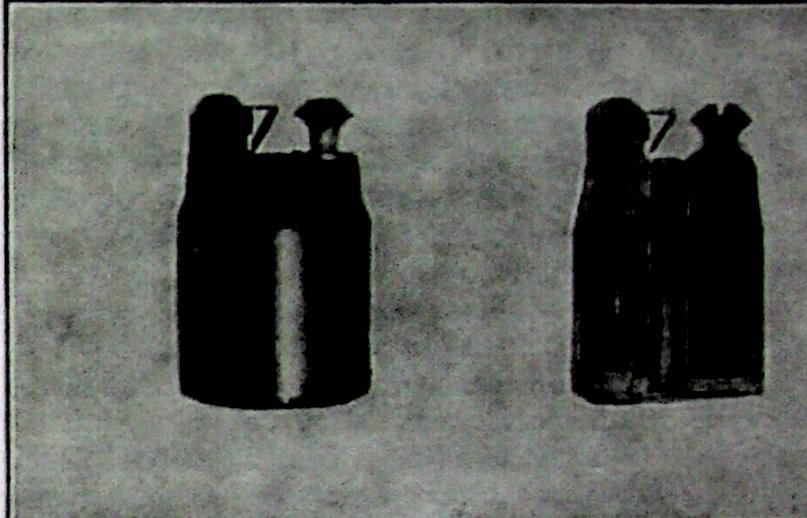


US Doughboys in World War I with VB Launchers on their Springfield M1903 rifles.  
Left photo – National Archives. Right photo – US Army Heritage & Education Center

The Viven-Bessières rifle grenade launcher and rifle grenade, named after its French inventors Jean Viven and Gustave Bessier, also known as "V-B grenade", and officially referred to as the "*Viven-Bessières shell*" in French Army instruction manuals, was an infantry weapon used by the French Army from 1916 until World War 2 (and French Gendarmerie until the 1990's) and the United States Army and Marines from July 1917 until after World War 1.

The French used the V-B grenade launcher and grenade with Lebel and Berthier rifles. In the US Army it was used with both the M-1903 rifle and the M-1917 rifles. The V-B grenade launcher consists of two elements, the discharger (grenade launcher) and the projectile (rifle grenade). The discharger, or launcher, is a "cup" type that is attached over the muzzle of the rifle. The cylindrical V-B grenade was inserted into the open end of the cup and allowed to slide down to where the launcher narrowed. Unlike some other rifle grenades, regular ammunition was used to

launch the V-B grenade. When a bullet was fired it passed through a hole in the grenade but the gas from the cartridge propelled the grenade out of the launcher.



V-B rifle grenade. Top shows side, bottom and cutaway views of the grenade, bottom shows the grenade and Mark IV grenade launcher. Striker tab, activated by the bullet's passage, can also be seen.

Photo – US War Department

The V-B launcher had both positive and negative aspects. Unlike other rifle grenades used by the United States during World War 1, such as the U.S. Babbit rod rifle grenade

and the Mark I and Mark II chemical rod rifle grenades, a separate launcher was necessary. However, the V-B system could be used with standard ammunition and did not harm the rifle's bore, like the rod-type grenades did. A negative aspect of the V-B system was that the heavy recoil sometimes resulted in broken stocks. The regular firing method was to hold the rifle at a diagonal angle (toward the target) with the butt on the ground and raising or lowering the angle of the muzzle in order to adjust the range.

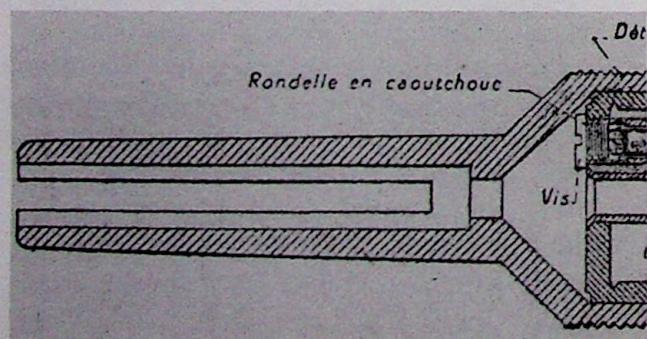
The U.S. decided to adopt the French V-B launcher and grenade in early 1917. The Chief of Ordnance standardized it for use with the M-1903 and M-1917 on July 16 and production commenced. In the meantime, some U.S. units were equipped with Lebel and Berthiers and gained experience with V-B launchers and grenades.

### The Launcher

The U.S. V-B launchers were essentially copies of the French launchers with minor dimensional changes to fit the U.S. rifles. The launcher has a diameter of 1.96 inches and weighs about 3.3 pounds. When not in use it is carried in a leather or canvas case. Most U.S.-made examples were manufactured by Westinghouse and stamped with an underlined W" in a circle.

According to Bruce Canfield, U.S. Infantry Weapons of the First World War, there were five variants of the launcher that were used by the U.S.:

- Original French V-B launchers that were modified to fit on M-1903 and M-1917 rifles.
- Mark I V-B launcher for the M-1903 and M-1917 rifles. It appears that 50,000 were produced in France.
- Mark II V-B Launcher – not tested or issued.
- Mark III V-B Launcher for the M-1903 and M-1917 rifles. The rifle they were made for was stamped on the outside of the launcher body. The M-1917 launchers had a knurled band while the M-1903 launchers had a smooth cup. The rifle barrel was inserted into a straight slot and a metal shim was used to make a secure fit. The M-1903 and M-1917 shims were different lengths and marked with the designation of the rifle.
- Mark IV V-B Launcher for the M-1903 and M-1917 rifles superseded the Mark III although both were used. It differed from the Mark III primarily in that it had a spiral slot that gave a more secure fit to the rifle without the use of a shim, unlike the Mark III's straight slot and shim. Like the Mark III, launchers for the M-1917 rifle had a knurled band around the cup while the M-1903 launchers had a smooth body. The rifle designations were stamped on the launchers' bodies.

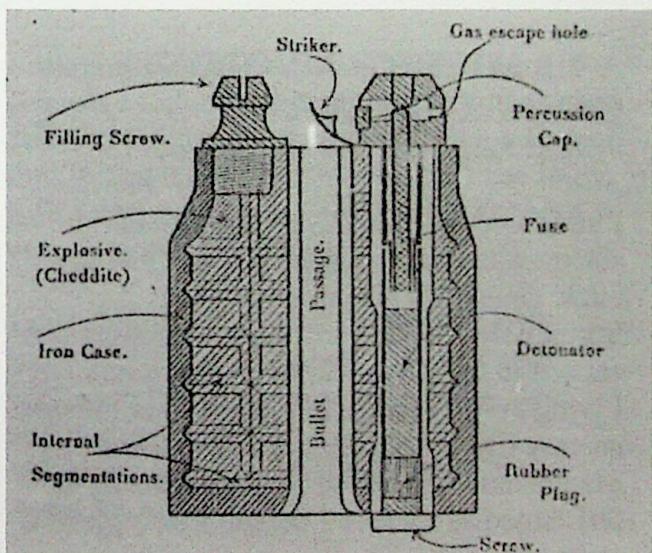


*Diagram of a French V-B launcher and grenade from a French manual*

### The Grenades

The "V-B Rifle Grenade, Mark I" was similar to the original French variant but with small changes in dimensions, configuration and material. It was a high explosive fragmentation grenade that utilized a timed fuse. The grenade had two internal tubes. The central tube allows the passage of the

bullet that launched the grenade. The other tube, offset to one side, contained the time fuse and detonator. The fragmentation grenades were about 2.5 inches long and 2 inches in diameter. Live grenades weighed 17 ounces. They had a range of about 93 yards when fired at an 80 degree angle and a range of 208 yards when fired at a 45 degree angle. The grenade had a bursting radius of 70-75 yards from the point of burst. In the French army special firing racks were provided to grenadiers in order to simplify and speed range/angle of firing calculations. Since the range exceeded the bursting radius, the grenade was considered both an "offensive" and "defensive" weapon. The metal grenade bodies had a smooth outer surface and internal grooves to facilitate fragmentation.



*Diagram of Interior of a V-B Mark I fragmentation grenade. Photo – US Army*

The way it worked, the V-B grenade was placed into the cup of the grenade launcher with the fuse mechanism facing up and the rifle, butt on the ground, facing the enemy. A regular cartridge was fired and the bullet passed through the central tube of the grenade, hitting a steel striker on its way out. Gasses from the fired cartridge would propel the grenade out of the launcher. In the

meantime, the striker would impact against a primer which set off the fuse. After the fuse is ignited, the grenade would explode in 8 seconds.

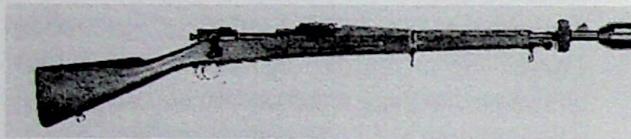
In addition to the V-B fragmentation grenades (painted gray) there were also dummy and practice grenades (painted red). The practice grenades were the same shape as the fragmentation grenade while the dummy grenade had an "hourglass" shaped body. V-B phosphorous, incendiary and message grenades were tested but never issued.

### Use and Problems

Initially, there were problems with the American-made V-B launchers and grenades. These were primarily due to lack of foresight on the part of American ordnance officers who had not given adequate thought to the differences between French 8x50mmR and American M1906 .30 caliber ammunition. Problems with the launcher were due to the higher pressures generated by the American .30-06 cartridge which resulted in significantly increased recoil and stresses. The American cartridge had a maximum pressure of 60,200psi while the French cartridge's maximum pressure was 46,412psi. To relieve the pressure about half the V-B launchers had two vent holes drilled in the base of the launcher. A related problem impacted the grenade itself. In the rush to get the V-B launchers and grenades made and put into service insufficient thought was given to the differences in design between the French "Balle M am" 8mm, (.327 inch diameter) 198-grain boat-tailed cupronickel jacketed spitzer bullet and the American .30 caliber (.308 inch) 150-grain flat-based cupronickel jacketed spitzer bullet. A truncated testing regimen exacerbated the issue since it failed to reveal the problem. The U.S. bullet would split and break up as it passed through the

central tube of the grenade, with the potential for catastrophic results. The Mark I grenade was redesigned to eliminate the problem but about 3,500,000 already completed V-B grenades had to be "salvaged."

Contracts with eight companies for over 30 million improved Mark I V-B grenades were approved and by the end of October 1918 production had reached about 250,000 per day in preparation for the planned 1919 "Grand Offensive." However, the Germans surrendered and at the time of the Armistice there were 20,000,000 V-B grenades in the U.S. waiting for shipment to the Western Front.



*M-1903 with experimental V-B grenade launcher attached to muzzle. The launcher appears to be a modified first type Westinghouse launcher that has been altered to accept a large threaded ring that would more securely attach the launcher to the muzzle of the rifle, as well as add a weight to the rifle to help overcome excessive recoil from launching a grenade.*  
Photo – Springfield Armory

While far from perfect, the V-B launcher and rifle grenade were possibly the best rifle grenade system of World War 1. Although there were some negative reports, especially with the earlier V-B launchers and grenades, on the whole the V-B launchers and grenades gave good service. They were often used with telling effect against German occupied trenches and machine gun emplacements.

The V-B launcher was standard issue in the U.S. army for a short time after the war but was regarded as more of a pyrotechnic discharger than a grenade launcher. They were declared surplus and large numbers

were sold for scrap metal in the 1930's and 40's, although, according to Bruce Canfield, the U.S. Marines reportedly used them in the early days of World War 2. They remained in French service during World War 2 and the French Gendarmerie used them until the 1990's. Today, U.S. V-B grenade launchers for the M-1903 and M-1917 rifles in any condition are scarce and often very expensive. At a recent Rock Island Auction (December 1-3, 2017) a Remington M-1917 equipped with a Viven-Bessières Mark IV Rifle Grenade Launcher sold for \$4,025. Both rifle and launcher came from the Bruce Canfield collection. Inert V-B Mark I fragmentation grenades are more common, although many are missing all or part of the fuse mechanism.

## A 7th MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER CAVALRY STARR

by Ron Jones

I've been collecting US Military firearms since I was fourteen years old. In 1954 my uncle gave me a nice original 1861 Springfield musket (missing a rear sight leaf) carried in the Civil War by a distant relative. Living in Mt Vernon, NY at the time, it was an easy trip to take the subway to lower Manhattan and walk up to Bannerman's at 501 Broadway where I bought a new rear sight leaf for \$1.50.

In the late 50s I purchased a Burnside carbine for \$15.00 and nice Spencer carbine for \$ 20.00 (Also SRS Lettered) from a classmate on my high school rifle team (the "good old days"). From then on I continued to add to my US martial arms collection, I was "hooked".

One of the prized pieces in my collection is a Starr .44 caliber single action revolver with an 8" barrel purchased about fifteen years ago at a local gun shop. At the time, this revolver was on display in the shop and not for sale. Every few months I would stop at the shop to inquire if he would sell the Starr. On one visit I jotted down the serial number, 30698, all numbers matching, and when I got home I checked the serial number on my SRS serial number CD that I had obtained from Frank Mallory back in the nineteen nineties. Sure enough I had a hit. The Starr was issued to a cavalryman of CO. K , 7th (seventh) Michigan cavalry in July of 1864. I didn't hesitate , got in my truck and went back to the gun shop and negotiated for the purchase of the Starr, finally convincing the proprietor to sell it to me.

I immediately contacted Frank Mallory to request a letter on this revolver along with a copy of the service record of the cavalryman that it was issued to. As you will see in the following documents, this revolver had a very interesting history.

Frank Mallory 's SRS letter indicates the Starr was issued to Gabriel Pelotte ( also spelled Pelot in his service records) who enlisted in Little Traverse Township Michigan and mustered in at Detroit on April 28, 1864.

In researching the National Park Service web site ([nps.gov](http://nps.gov)) and page 1273 of the book "MICHIGAN IN THE CIVIL WAR" the 7th Michigan was in Washington DC in July of 1864 when the Starr was issued to Pvt. Pelotte. After that date the 7th Michigan ( also called the Michigan Cavalry Brigade under the command of Gen. Joseph T. Copeland ) was engaged in numerous operations including Deep Bottom July 27-29, They were then included in Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley Campaign from August

7 to November 28. Those operations included Toll Gate near white post and near Winchester, August 11. Cedarville or Front Royal, August 16. Kearneysville and Shepherdstown, August 25. Lepton and Smithfield August 28. Smithfield Crossing of the Opequan, September 29. Locke's Ford, Opequan Creek, September 13. Savior's Ford, Opequan, September 15. Battle of Opequan, Winchester, September 19. Fisher's Hill September 22. Luray September 24. Port Republic, September 26- 28. Mt. Crawford, October 2. Salem Church, October 6. Luray Valley October 8. Tom's Brook ("Woodstock Races"), October 8-9. battle of Cedar Creek October 19, Edinburg November 7, Near Kernstown, November 11. Expedition into Loudoun and Faquier Counties November 28 to December 3. Raid to Gordonsville December 19-28. Madison Court House December 21. Liberty Mills December 22. Near Gordonsville December 23. Expedition to Little Fort Valley February 18-19 ,1865. Sheridan's Raid from Winchester to James River February 28-March 25. Occupation of Staunton and action at Waynesboro March 2. Duguidsville March 8. Appomattox Campaign March 28 - April 9. Dinwiddie Court House March 30-31. Five Forks April 4. Scotts Cross Roads April 2. Tabernacle Church, or Beaver Bend Creek April 4. Sailors Creek April 6. Appomattox Station April 8. And Appomattox Court House April 9. For the surrender of Lee and his army. Then an expedition to Danville April 23-27. The 7th Michigan then marched to Washington D C for the Grand Review May 23.

It's not over yet. On June 1 the 7th Michigan

was ordered to board trains for Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to engage in operations against hostile Indians in District of the Plains and Dakota until December. Pvt. Pelotte was finally mustered out on December 15, 1865.

It's amazing how much information is available through the National Park web site ([nps.gov](http://nps.gov)) and the additional details provided by SRS from the National Archives. The documentation of the history and operations that this revolver, carried by Cavalryman Gabriel Pelotte, was involved in, is considered by me to be a valuable asset to my collection.

This revolver is in excellent mechanical condition but the finish, mostly brown patina with traces of blue and some light pitting in spots, is typical of a pistol that saw a year and a half of hard service in the Civil War. The bore is in excellent condition indicating that Pvt. Pelotte did as well as he could to care for his revolver considering the rough service it had to endure.

**Below:** Right side of Starr number 30698 with right percussion cover assembly and cylinder notches.



**Above:** Starr cylinder number 30369 with Starr. Arms Co. New York on left side of frame. Cylinder is marked with a small c above a notch with unknown mark to the right of the c.



**Above:** Left side of Starr revolver with cylinder cover and hammer. Receiver shown with case hardened frame and walnut grips.

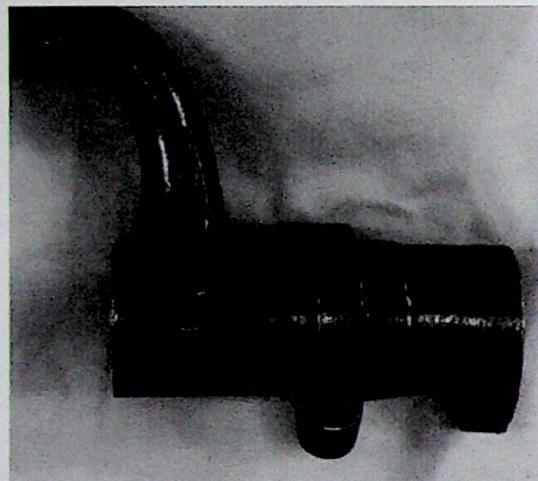


**Note:** The U.S. Archives has strict rules on copying many documents. They are fragile and can only be handled under Archive rules.

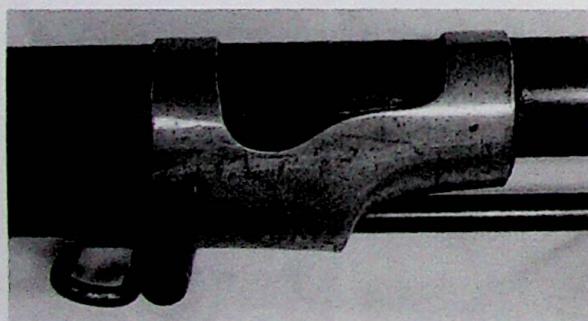


**MODEL 1841 MISSISSIPPI RIFLE BY  
E. WHITNEY WITH SOCKET  
BAYONET FRONT SIGHT**

The socket bayonet variation is rare and seldom seen with original bayonet. Data is often attributed to an 1859 improvement.



*Above:* Angular bayonet machined with a fixed front sight on the barrel shank in front of the locking ring.



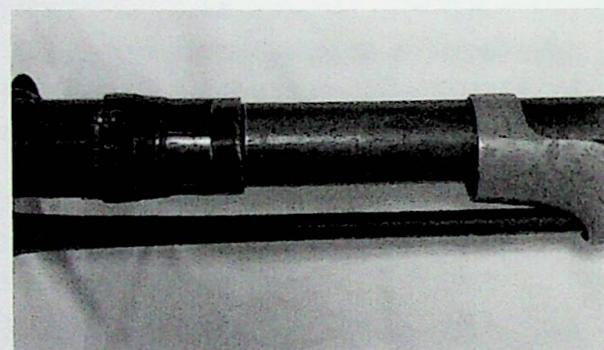
*Above:* Front brass barrel band with sling swivel and ramrod.

E. Whitney barrel is turned down for bayonet and has bottom bayonet lug.

No provision for front sight on barrel.

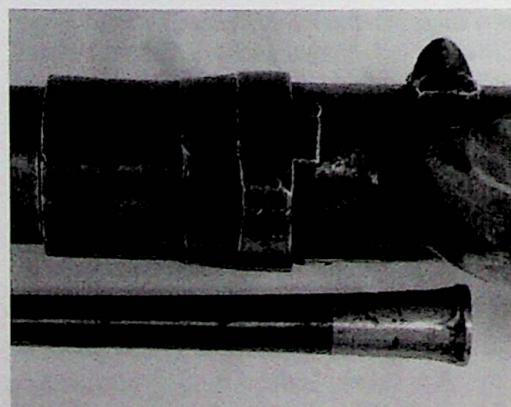


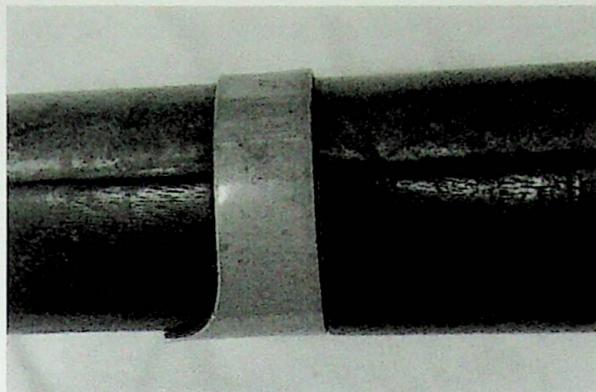
*Above:* Front end of bayonet sight.



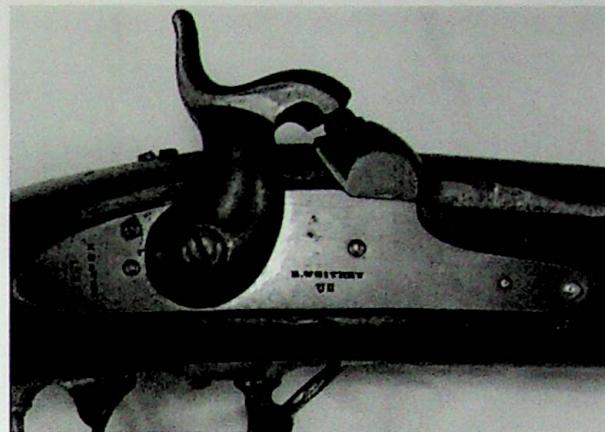
*Above:* Bayonet attached to front of barrel in front of front brass band. Shown with ramrod showing brass tip below the front sight stud.

*Below:* Bayonet fixed on barrel.





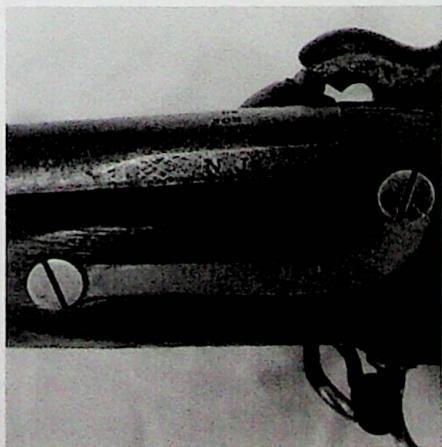
*Above:* Middle brass barrel band.



*Above:* Right side lock marked 1851 N. Haven and E. Whitney over US.



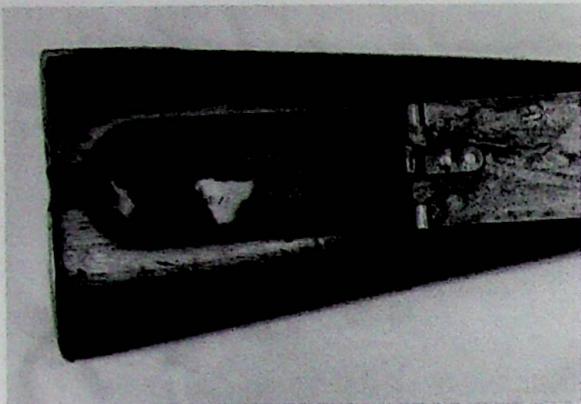
*Above:* Lock plate marked 1851 N. Haven



*Above:* Left side N.J. marked with markings on top of barrel.

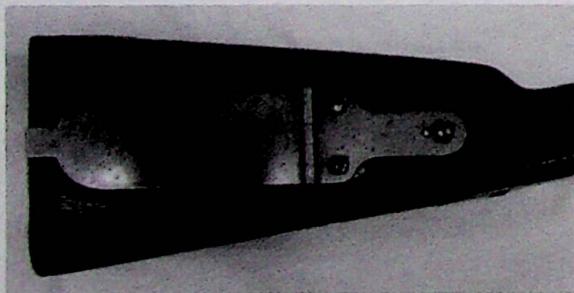
*Bottom:* The left side of the stock has 2 stock cartouches shown over the brass trigger guard assembly.





**Above:** Patch box with cover open showing machine inletting and spare nipple.

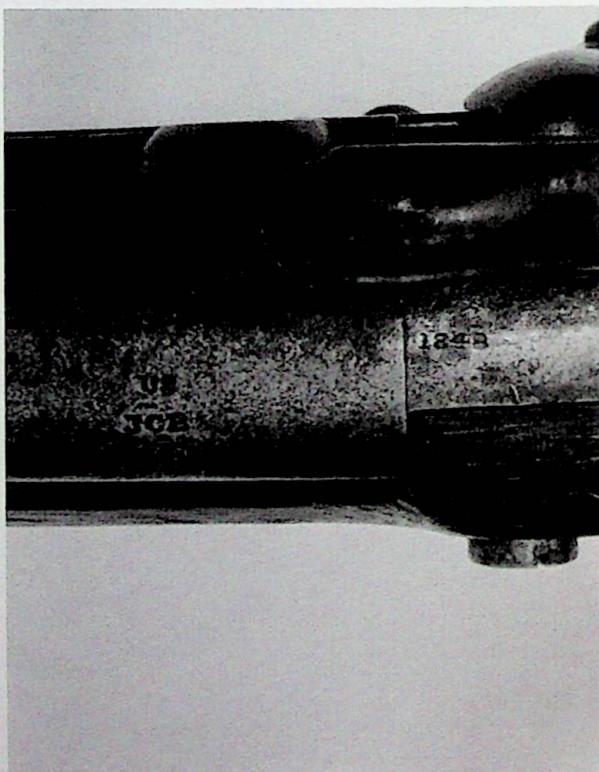
**Below:** Brass Butt Plate with top screw and patch box.



**Above:** Patch box with cover open with 3 steel blued screws.

**Photos:** Courtesy of Ed Ponchock.

**Below:** Steel rear sight mounted in slot on barrel with 1 center position mark.



**Above:** Top of barrel with US JCB and P sunken proof. Tang marked 1848.



**Above:** The Whitney brass trigger guard is shown with steel blued screw at the end of the assembly. The top screw goes through the tang to hold the forward area of the trigger guard. There is a steel sling swivel with a steel screw ahead of the trigger bow.

The M1841 Whitney rifle with socket bayonet altered with front sight was the result of many changes over the years of use. Basic historic data on the M1841 includes information on a contract with the U.S. government for the model 1841 rifle. Thomas Warner was the master armorer from Springfield Armory and Eli Whitney, Jr. used policies and interchangeable parts techniques at Whitney Armory.

The "Mississippi" term started in the Mexican-American War when Jefferson Davis was appointed Colonel of the Mississippi Rifles in the state of Mississippi. The Mississippi rifle was also known as German Jäger rifle.

The Mississippi rifle was the first standard U.S. rifle to use a percussion lock. The Mississippi rifle was originally a .54 caliber, with no provision for a bayonet.

In 1855, the Mississippi rifle was made in .58 caliber Minie Ball that had become standard. The first Mississippi rifles had a v-notch sight, it was replaced with leaf sights with 100, 300, and 500 yard ranges. A ladder sight with ranges from 100 to 1100 yards in 100 yard increments was fitted on some rifles.

The US M-1841 Mississippi Rifle was the first general issue percussion long arm for the US military. The rifle was started in 1841 and produced in 1843. It was not designed to accept a bayonet. The 1st Mississippi Rifles used them in the Mexican War. The rifle had an overall length of 48 1/2" and weighed 9 pounds, 12 ounces. The rifles had a lacquer brown finished barrel, a color case hardened lock and hammer, brass furniture and screws that were fire blued. The furniture was brass, with a large brass patch box. The fixed notch rear sight was effective out to 300-400 yards. Many of the M-1841 rifles were in the national and state arsenals with socket bayonets.

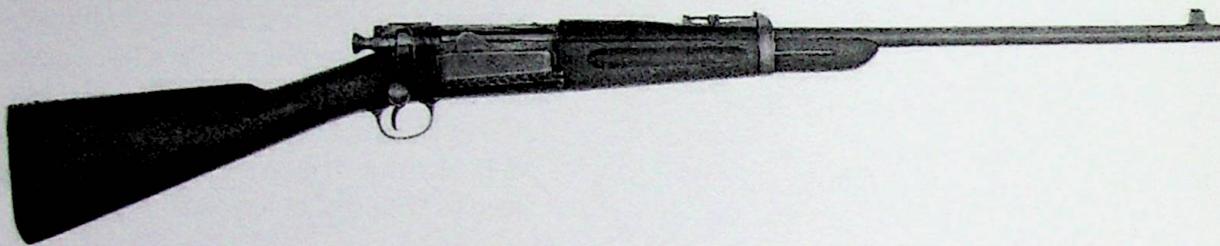
Production of the US M-1841 Rifle from 1843 to 1855 was 91,796. Eli Whitney Jr. produced 26,500 (about 29% of total production), with bayonets. Unaltered 1841 rifles can be difficult to find on the market today.

Whitney Arms Company of New Haven, CT. was marked on the lock. N HAVEN / 1851. was in two lines behind the hammer. The barrel tang is crisply marked with the date 1848 and the lock date was 1851. This was common. There were mismatching numbers of lock and barrel dates. The barrel is marked at the breech with the US proof and inspector marks: US / GW / V P. One is a script WAT in an oval, the mark for US Ordnance Department inspector Captain William Anderson Thornton. The other mark appears to be the script SK, for Armory Sub Inspector Samuel Knowles. Production brass tipped ramrod in place in the channel under the barrel and is full length with threads on the end.

## KRAG SADDLE RING CARBINE TEDDY ROOSEVELT 1st VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

Krag Carbine serial number 28929 was issued to Samuel F. McCullouch,

June 20, 1898.



The Krag Model 1895 carbine has a 22 inch barrel with front sight base with blade and pin. The rear sight is a unique Carbine model with 2000 yard graduations and was used on the Model 1896 and 1895 carbines that were issued in the Spanish American War. The rifle sight is different and has a graduation of 1850 yards.

The overall length of the carbine was 41.2 inches. The stock had a saddle ring assembly attached to the left side of the stock with a fixed ring and two screws holding the ring assembly in place. The forward screw was unique and shorter than the standard rear screw.

The right side of the stock has a pronounced cut-out when the bolt handle is in the locked position. This was eliminated on later models including the Model 1898 saddle ring carbine.

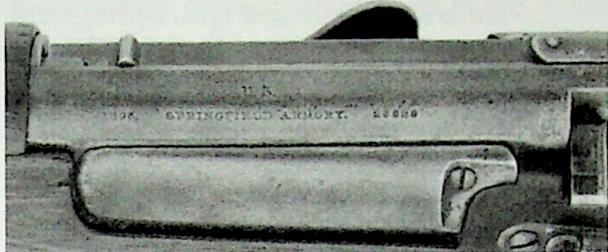
The short walnut hand-guard is held on the barrel by a special barrel band that has an extension over the wood on the front of the hand-guard. It also covers the front of the receiver ring. Krag hand-guards have 2 spring clips that are riveted to the underside of the wood and secured over the barrel.

*Note:* (it is wise to slide the hand-guard forward towards the end of the barrel before pulling it off the barrel. Many hand-guards are split without this precaution.)

There is one milled band spring that holds the carbine band in place. There is no provision for a swivel assembly on the butt stock. The majority of other parts are same as rifle parts.

Number 28929 was used by 1st Volunteer Cavalryman Samuel F. McCullouch.

*Photos, Courtesy of Jack Lewis.*



**Above:** Receiver markings on Model 1895 Krag carbine used by Col. Teddy Roosevelt's 1st US Volunteer Cavalry.

The receiver markings have 1895 markings only with no model or other data. The cut off would have the longer spindle that was changed in Model 1898 receivers. The side plate is unique on this model and not interchangeable with later models. Quite a few were modified to fit all receivers. It is held in place by one screw.

**Below:** The left side of the Model 1895 saddle Ring Carbine. The saddle ring assembly is shown with short stock, standard butt plate, no sling swivel on butt stock, and finger grooves on stock.



**Above:** Left side of Model 1895 Krag carbine.

Variations of the model 1896 carbine are limited primarily to different receiver markings which are "1895", "1896", or "model 1896". The rarest of these appears to be the "1896" marking. A variation in Model 1896 carbines concerns the shape of the stock. The first stocks manufactured in 1895 had thin wrists as on the Model 1892 rifle.

Model 1896 carbines have no inletting for the swivel bar plate, and Model 1899 stocks have the rounded cut-away at the bolt handle. These stocks were produced after 1898. No records have been found for production of Model 1899 stocks to fit the Model 1896 carbines. Long stocks were adapted to fit the Model 1896 carbine when the supply of short stocks became exhausted. All stocks allowed the Krag barrels to use the same screw positions for all rear sights.

Different hand guards were made to fit a corresponding rear sight.

McCullouch  
Bailey  
Hockey  
Dixey  
X Preston &  
Russell

28919

**Above:** U.S. Archive hand written record with serial number and Pvt. Samuel F. McCullouch's name.

### Model 1867 Cadet Rifle



Cadet Model 1867 Rifles were produced in 1867 and 1868. There were 424 made and 300 of the rifles were shipped to the US Military Academy at West Point, NY.

The M1867 rifle was a smaller version of the larger early M66 rifle made in .50 caliber standard infantry rifle. The Model 1867 Cadet was made using a shorter .50-55 caliber cartridge.

Design problems included thin stocks that were easily broken at the wrist during drill exercises. M1866 rifles were converted using a sleeved .50 caliber rifle tube and a modified musket stocks. Model 1867 cadets were made with new barrels in the smaller size.

West Point replaced the Model 1867 with a new Model 1869 Cadet rifle. Model 1866 Cadet Rifles were tried but were not satisfactory and were returned, rebuilt and many sent to cadet schools in Kentucky.

The Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland also developed a Springfield Armory manufactured Cadet musket using a Remington Navy carbine rolling block action in caliber 50-45. The barrel was 32 1/2 inch barrel using a brazed liner with 3 groove rifling.

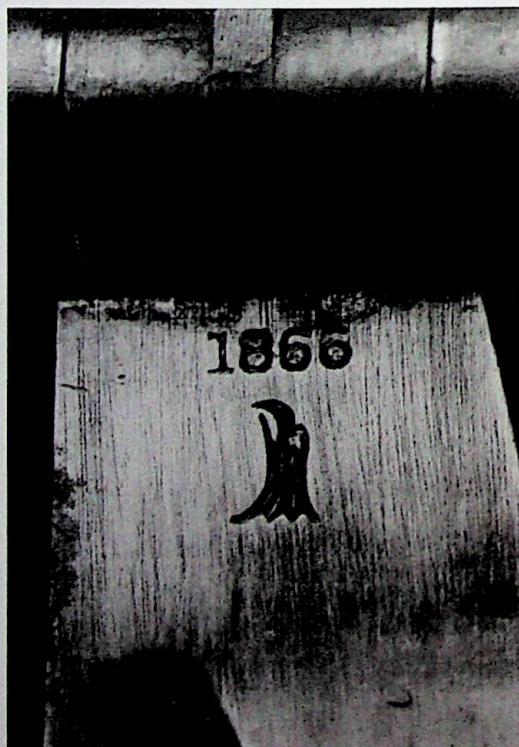
The Model 1867 Navy Cadet Rolling Block Rifles used the same Model 1864 Civil way rear sight that was on

the 1867 Army Cadet.

*Below:* 1867 marked lock with American eagle and U.S. Springfield markings. The hammer is smaller and unique to this model. The Allin action is shown with the action hinge assembly and breech block opening lever.



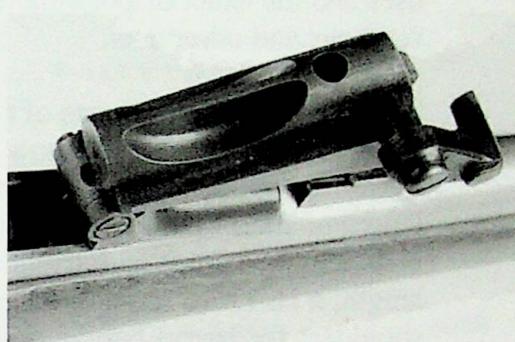
*Below:* 1866 marked breech with American eagle.



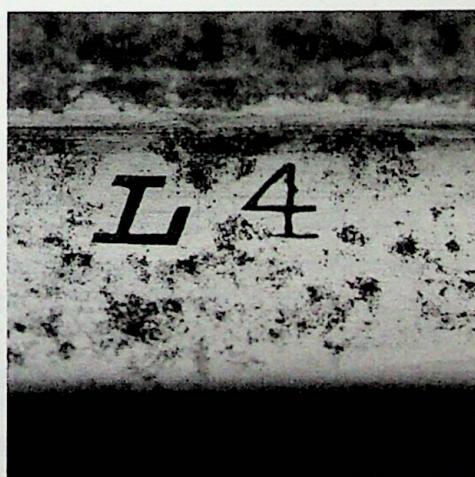
*Photos: Courtesy of Dave Bushing*

**U.S. Martial Arms Collector 155-20**

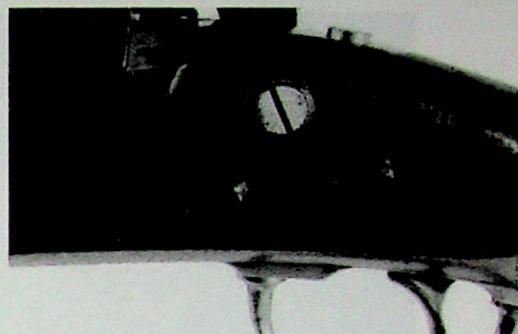
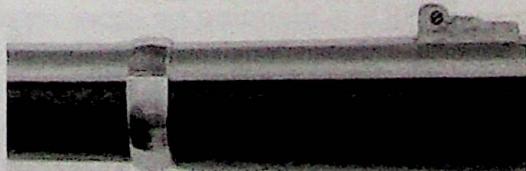
**Below:** 1867 special breech block with 2 machined arch cuts in the bottom. The center has a narrow area that fits into the Allin action. The Block holds the firing pin, opening lever and screw for the block to hold strap to the barrel. The hammer is smaller and unique to this model.



**Below:** L 4 marking on the barrel.



**Below:** Middle band and M1864 Rear sight.



**Above:** 1867 Cadet right side with cartouches. Markings include the ESA in an oval and another that we have not been able to confirm. SRS has observed several different cartouches. We hope to add additional data at a later date.

**Below:** 1867 Cadet with fixed front sight, nose cap, and upper band. The upper bands on both Navy and Army models are interchangeable and were made by Springfield Armory. Army ramrod is shown and is not interchangeable with the Navy Model.

The Model 1867 Cadet has polished fittings and is similar in size for both models. Both have no provision for sling swivels.

The finish on the barrel and on the furniture is the National Armory Bright.





**Above:** 1867 Cadet right side with cartouche marking with the ESA in an oval. It has been enlarged.

The two models were made in very limited numbers. They were tested and manufactured by Springfield Armory. Both models are scaled down versions of other U. S. Military muskets and required many new parts unique to each different model.

The 1867 Army was designed as a smaller version of the 1866 Allin Conversion and the 1867 Navy was a smaller variation of the Remington rolling block musket.

The guns were produced with a great deal of testing and design engineering.

The actions are completely different from each other and there are some similar parts such as the stock bands. The stocks are different as are the ramrods and other parts. Both had .50 caliber center fire cartridges designed with lighter loads.

The Remington Navy was a relined barrel where the Army Allin conversion used a new barrel. The short lived cadet rifles were

Manufactured in numbers for each model that matched requirements to support the number of cadets or Midshipmen.

The military later produced the model 1869 Cadet Musket. It is estimated that the muskets were made in 1867 and 1878. It is unknown what the exact dates were of Military Academy uses and the exact disposition of the weapons and other uses.

Some of the measurements of the Model 1867 Army Cadet show an overall length of 48 inches, a barrel length of 29 3/4 inches, a 5 7/16 lock plate length, a 7 1/2 inch trigger guard length, a 16 11/16 spacing from stock shoulders for barrel bands, and a 7 1/8 inch length from upper band shoulder to end of muzzle.

There have been several descriptions of the Model 1866 or Model 1867 Cadet. We have measured as best as possible.

We have found quite a few documents on these cadets as well as many experimental rifles in the 1866 to 1871 time from. This data has not been published to date.

Springfield Armory produced special order and small productions of officers' models, and custom altered cadet rifles for officers and special government employees.

SRS is planning on more research on the cadet rifles and plan on publishing more data.

July 1, 1866 → JUNE 30, 1867

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
RIFLED MUSKET CAL. 58 SPFD 55, 61, 63, 24	-	-	-	-
RIFLED MUSKET 58FD CADET CAL. 58	-	-	-	-
RIFLED MUSKETS JOSEPH M. MODEL	-	-	-	-
RIFLED MUSKETS ALTERATION TO ALL IN ONE (FROM MODEL 1861)	2680	80	-	-
RIFLED MUSKETS M. 66 BIL. CAL. 50	-	-	7325	15755
TUBULAR SWIRE PUNCHES	-	20750	7241	
TUMBLERS & BAND SPRING PUNCHES	-	-	-	M. 66 - 5942 SP. C. - 343 SP. R. - 48
SCREW DRIVERS	-	-	7358	
WIPING RODS	-	-	-	M. 66 16218 SP. C. 2242 SP. R. - 24 SP. C. - 172
SPRING VICES	8620	15792	1190	SP. R. = 24 SP. C. = 172
WIPERS	22259	27203	14013	2220
Brushes & THONGS	-	-	-	SP. C. 224 SP. R. 240

The above data is the official Army document, in hand writing, that shows production activity from July, 1866 through June 30, 1867. The official government documentation, at that time, was on a fiscal year and not on a calendar year basis.

Each quarter was shown for War Department requirement and Congressional oversight.

JULY 1 '67 → JUNE 30, '68

	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	4 <sup>TH</sup>
ENFIELD MUSKETS REPAIRED	-	-	15640	23728
SABRES & SWORDS REPAIRED	300	1550	3428	3521
FOREIGN MUSKETS REPAIRED	3	-	-	-
RICHARDSON MUSKETS REPAIRED	-	100	-	60
CARBINES REPAIRED	521	771	1631	1350
SCALAR R. REPAIRED	100	420	190	80
B.L. MUSKETS M66 SPFD. CAL. 50	19921	6256 6251	743	-
B.L. MUSKETS CADET SPFD. M66 CAL. 50	320	-	104	-
B.L. RIFLED MUSKETS REMINGTON MD. CAL 50	-	-	-	504
CADET SWORDS	-	1	35	-
TACNGS	-	SPENCER C. 21	-	-
SPFD. MUSKETS (REPAIRED)	11543	13900	6360	7280
TUMBLER & WIRE PUNCHES	-	20750	7241	-
OLD & GOOD SPRING PUNCHES	-	-	MOU 5678	M66 5942 SP. C. 343 SP. R. 43 SP. C. 107
LEW DRIVERS	SC 770 MCG 25420	MCG 2375 SPENCER C. 177	SC 1759 SPENCER R. 42	SP. C. 240 MI SP. R. 3 SP. C. 1
WIPING RODS	62	1560	MCG 4580 SPENCER C. 1145	SP. C. 2052
SPRING VICES	1560	1560	1560	1560
WIPERS	2227	2227	2227	2227

The Army document shown above lists the number of weapons altered and manufactured between July 1, 1867 and June 30, 1868.

**Note:** that in the 1st and 3rd quarters of that year 320 and 104 Breech Loaded Muskets Cadets were manufactured. There were 504 Breech Loaded Rifled Muskets Remington MD Cal 50 noted in the 4th quarter of that year.

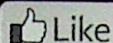
July 1, 1868 to June 30 1869 show the weapons repaired or manufactured. These documents are some of the most reliable War Department data. They show that 60 Cadet muskets were repaired in the first quarter of FY 1869. Shown are that 1030 and 97 Carbines were repaired in the 1st and 2nd quarter of FY 1869, and 498 Breech Loading Remington .50 Cal Cadet Model rifles were noted.

Statement of principal operations at Springfield Armory  
for the period ending 30th June 1874.

<u>Muskets &amp; Rifles</u>					
7798 Springfield Rifles Cal.45 Complete.					
1	do	do	do	do	nickel-plated
4	do	do	do	do	Samples
1	do	do	do	do	do
6	do	do	do	do	experimental
9408	do	do	do	Lever syst.	upper band
592	<sup>8.010</sup> do	do	do	do	do
2	do	do	do	do	Sporting Rifles. Cadet.
4	do	do	do	do	Cal.45
1	do	do	do	do	Bar. Loading Shot Gun
400	do	do	do	do	Rifle Musket Cal.50 M1870
100	do	do	do	do	do
With attachment for Metcalf's cartridge holder }					

*Above:* Note data on manufactured and repaired ending 30 June 1874. There were 2 sporting rifles Cadet, 4 Cal. .45 rifles and 6 experimental rifles .45.

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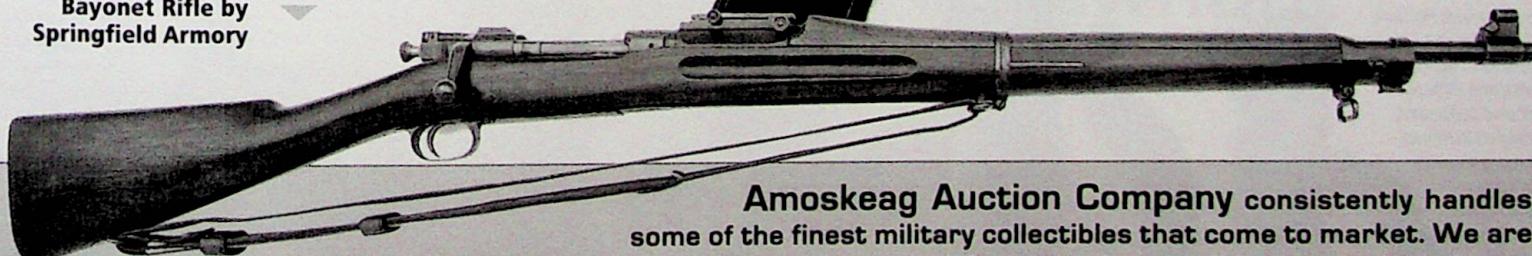


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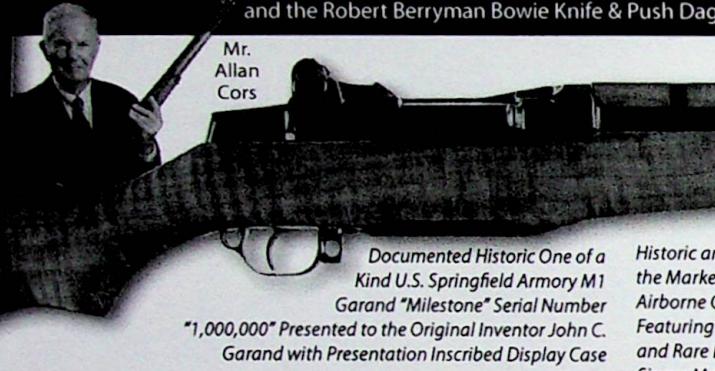
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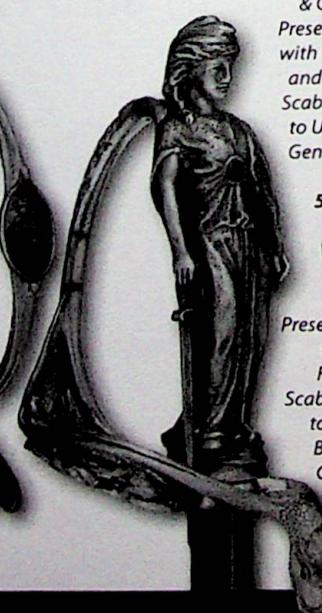
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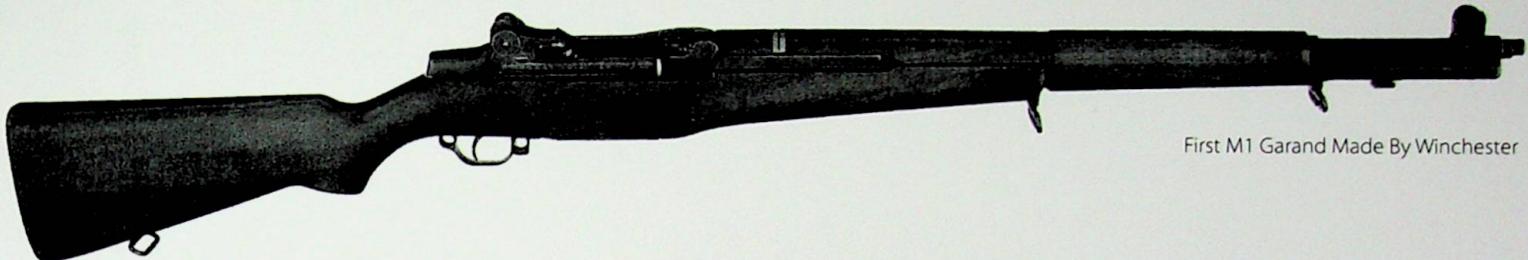
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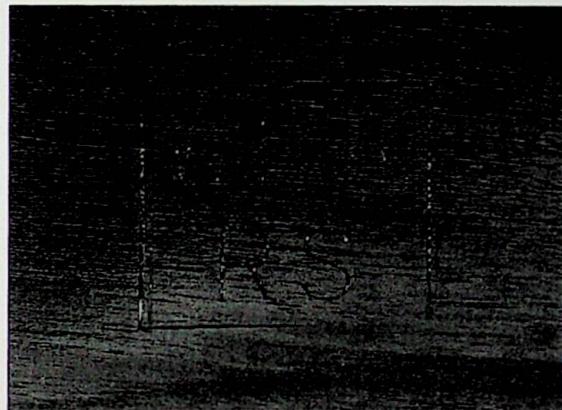
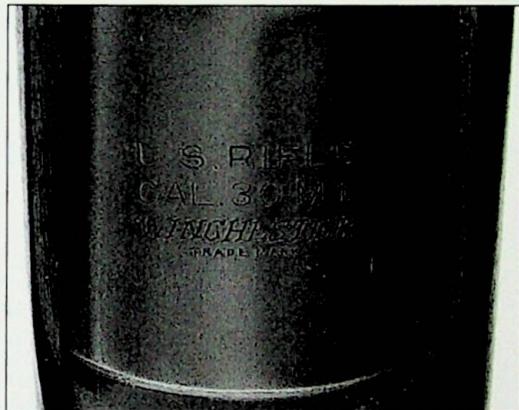
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