

# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



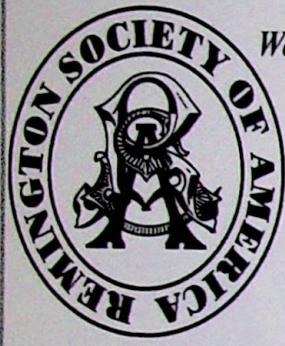
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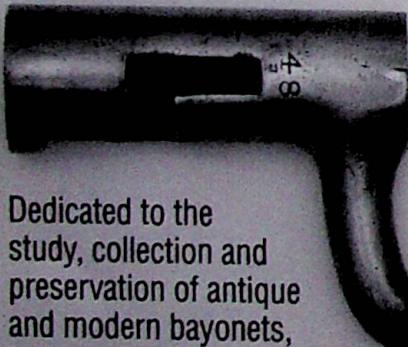
**Bill Hansen** RSA Secretary-Treasurer  
3464 Downing Avenue, Glendale, CA 91208  
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2nd Quarter 2011



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EDITOR & PUBLISHER  
*Wayne P. Gagner*

CIRCULATION MANAGER

*Wayne P. Gagner*

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

*Tiffany L. McCarty*

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Cover: Bunker Hill Musket

# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

*And*  
**Springfield**  
**Research Service**  
**Newsletter**

Number 160

September 2019

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## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE DATA BASE STATUS

SRS has expanded our data base with additional data on U. S. Martial Weapons from World War 1 and World War 2. They also include data on Winchester .22 caliber rifles used for training.

Additions include new information on Garands and Model 1903 Springfields. Many documents show that military arsenals worked on and altered Springfield Arsenal weapons to correct deficiencies and easily broken parts. SRS has serial numbers on test M1 Garands, United States Marine Corps Gastrap Garands and M1 test rifles. A great amount of our data has not been published including manufacturing dates, upgraded rifle parts and changes to various models of the M1 Garand and 1903 Springfields. There is also data on commercial rifles and commercial parts.

We accumulated an extensive amount of information on the M1 Garand with many tests and developments. Military data shows that there were many test rifles that had parts re-machined, altered, and changed to conform to upgrades with the results of testing in near combat conditions. This effort included service alterations in the field and at arsenals other than Springfield Armory.

The M1 Gastrap Garand would be very rare in its original test configuration. A restoration would be almost impossible, as the test parts were changed or ordered to be replaced with a new variation. SRS data often shows the test by serial number.

## U. S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR MAGAZINE 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. SRS uses U.S. Postal First Class Mailing.

The number indicating the last issue of a subscription is after a subscriber's name. We want to correct any data that is overlooked or missing. Please send comments. There are some SRS products that are out of stock. Please send us any corrections for address changes, holding subscriptions, or temporary addresses.

Payments by PAYPAL may result in a different subscription date if received after the current issue goes into printing. We find that a payment made after the printing is sent out uses one of our limited reserve copies. The copy needs to be mailed by hand and SRS is running out of quite a few old issues. We print extras, but it is impossible to forecast a requirement for each issue. A copy of the original issue is the only other alternative.

## CURRENT ISSUE

Issue number 160 dated September 2019 is current. Mailing data is sent to our printing facility for September 1, 2019 mailing and we rely on the Post Office to deliver first class mail 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. There are some instances where research requires us to spend days at U.S. Government buildings. Documents have been found to be missing when SRS tries to check out a former research effort. In some cases the data is lost forever. The U.S. Archives is aware of this problem and is increasing security and identification processes. These efforts will require additional time and costs for all searches information on rare or historic weapons.

Research letters include USMC letters, OSS documents, 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5th, and 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Civil War and Spanish American War documents. Other unique units require special research. More time is spent to travel to government facilities and comply with

their rules for searching, copying, and the actual handling of documents.

A request for a document is done only at certain times at the Archives and written requests must include Record Groups, location, and other data that is only available on subject knowledge and specific document names and categories. We have been cross-checking many pieces of data and using U.S. Archive personnel and others to offer opinions on hard- to- read information. The Archives personnel have been very helpful in this area.

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

The size of government data files is overwhelming. We cannot duplicate all of the pages. There are also rules on the type of copy, use of cameras, government copy machines and other restrictions. We try to copy the specifics and include them with SRS letters.

In many cases the data may have a peculiar size and must be handled, verified, and copied according to government regulations. This may require working with armed guards, checking our identification, and special stamps for security classification or other rules.

Special documents require more time and may have higher costs.

## 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 will take an extended time.

We 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 data on sightings of rare weapons.

## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH DATA BASE

Our efforts are based on data from United States documents in U.S. Archives and other military sources. All serial numbers and information come from government documents. There are many weapon documents that come from sources that describe a weapon without a specific serial number. Many new pieces of information have been made available for us to research. More documents may exist and we continually look for information.

## LETTERS WRITTEN

U.S., Cal. 30, Krag Rifle, Model 1898, Serial number 163 756. Issued to Company F, 29th United States Volunteer Infantry. Rifle was issued to Private Lovick B. Renfroe, 24 years old, 5 feet 10 inches tall, fair complexion, brown eyes, black hair, a railroader by trade, and single. He enlisted on August 5, 1899 for a period ending on June 30, 1901 in Valdosta, Georgia by Lt. Prichard. Private Renfroe's nearest relative was Mrs. Renfroe of Valdosta, Georgia.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. HEAVY BARREL, INTERNATIONAL TYPE (SPRINGFIELD MANUFACTURE). Rifle was part of December 3, 1935 Ordnance Report that ordered 14 rifles to be changed from Garand trigger action to the M1903 action. The rifle noted had Lyman Rear Sight, 17A Rear Sight, Set Trigger Garand Action, and 30 inch Heavy Barrel. The Serial Number was 1 341 956. The 14 rifles were approved for sale by A. S. Buyers, Lt. Col., Ordnance Dept., Assistant. Rifle number 1341956 "No magazine cut in receiver". 30 inch barrel". December 9, 1935 SA-400.3294/881 Inspection report. The War Department, Washington, D.C. Office of Civilian Marksmanship (Navy Building, Room No. 1915 Washington D.C.) Issued a statement that the rifles would be offered for sale as soon as possible and as the February issue of the American Rifleman is mailed. (R. H. Lord, Major, Infantry, Assistant). Sold from

Springfield Armory to Howard J. Knutson, Knutson's Gun Shop, P.O. Box, Lewiston, Idaho. Mar. 26, 1936.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. serial number 1 261 840, Sold at Camp Perry Matches. Sold to Capt. E. J. Lindroth, 2nd Infantry, Ft. Sheridan, Ill. October 7, 1924.

Rifle, U.S., Henry, Serial Number 7500. Issued to Company I, 3rd Veterans Volunteer Infantry, Private Ellis Hanofer May, 1865. Ellis Hanofer had a previous enlistment of one year in the 72nd Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. He volunteered on March 11, 1863 to Capt. A. Hegenthaler and was discharged on February 7, 1863. He volunteered for one year on March 11, 1865 in the 3rd U. S. veterans Volunteers in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Private Hanofer was 26 years old, grey eyes, light complexion, 5 ft. 10 inches, and was a hair spinner born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was discharged on March 15, 1866 in Springfield, Illinois. Record Group 94.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903A4. serial number 3 420 419, Sold from CMP (Civilian Marksmanship Program) from CMP inventory. June 1999. This data was found in CMP Records, Box 2, Sheet 1, with description "Model 1903A4 Springfield Grade A".

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model M1 National Match, serial number 258 618. Sold to 24010 Miamisburg Sportsman Club. 27 October 1982.

DCM letter Dated 27 Oct 1982.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. National Match, NEW. Serial Number 1 401 576. Sold to Arnold Schmitt, Paynesville, Minnesota. October 8, 1934. U. S. Springfield Armory Records, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 270 186. Sold to W. T. ELLINGTON (?), LOS ANGELES, CALIF. July 20, 1926. U. S. Springfield Armory Records, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 277 640. Sold to Oscar Anderson, Owen, Wisconsin. November 25, 1927. U. S. Springfield Armory Records, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 294 285. Sold to William L. Brook, Willis, Kansas. March 26, 1929. U. S. Springfield Armory Records, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 344 002. Sold to Arthur V. Wrightson, Santa Barbara, Calif. April 21, 1930. U. S. Springfield Armory Records, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 406 928. Sold to R. Lester Moore, 1421 Chestnut Street, 904 Morris Building, and Philadelphia, Penn.

June 7, 1933. U. S. Springfield Armory Records, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 366 554. Sold to John B. Yerkes, Bryn Mawr, Penn. December 18, 1931. U. S. Springfield Armory Records, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 294 552. Sold to J. R. White, Los Angeles, Calif. April 5, 1929. U. S. Springfield Armory Records, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903. "Sport" Model. Serial Number 1 295 601. Sold to L. H. Wells, BOSTON, MASS. September 19, 1929. U. S. Springfield Armory Records, Springfield, Massachusetts.

## **SHIPPING COMMENTS**

SRS uses the U.S. Post office for magazine delivery and mailing of our products.

If you use PAYPAL, please check the correct boxes with specific instructions. We receive complaints if a subscriber accidentally checks off the automatic payment box. This problem can be corrected by the subscriber contacting PAYPAL SRS cannot change or start an automatic payment for a subscriber.

## **SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH COMPUTER SERVICES SUPPORT**

SRS uses RACKNER SOLUTIONS for our software support and protection of our database. 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 protection.

## **SERIAL NUMBER SEARCH ISSUES**

The U.S. Archives has a series of new rules for research and document check out. The new rules will cause more time to search documents, identify, and find old documents.

This will also affect the time needed to search and find data on serial numbers of weapons and associated data. There is no easy way to quickly do research. Recent activity has led to some data being lost and the Archive personnel are trying to make sure that the U.S. Archive data is fully protected. It will take us more time to do research.

## **OFFERED FOR SALE**

USMC GAS Trap M1, 1817 Harpers ferry Flintlock Artillery/Cadet musket (1818), 1890 Triangular bayonet musket, 1924 International 1903 (Remington), Model 1884 ramrod bayonet musket.

[editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com)

# A Study of the Springfield M1922, .22 Cal. – Production Totals

By William R. Hansen



**Introduction:** A review of various publications, including Internet Forum discussion over the past few years seem to suggest some collectors believe a total of 2,032 of M1922, .22 Cal. guns were produced by the Springfield Armory. But, this is in contrast to the long standing 2,020 number indicated in William S. Brophy's well acclaimed Springfield M1903 book and others. The primary reference source for this new authority comes largely from post-1985 Brophy publications, including Clark Campbell's 1994 book. However, in defense of Campbell, he eventually conceded his error to this writer before he passed away, i.e. that the additional 20 additionally manufactured in early 1924 along with the 12 International Match (IM) .22 Cal. rifles produced for the 1924 Olympic Games 50 Meter Event came from a variety of receiver inventory at the Springfield Armory (SA).

It would appear that the higher number may have originated from a misunderstanding of Brophy's later 1991 *Arsenal of Freedom* publication providing SA Fiscal Year (FY) reports between 1890 and 1948. In his 1924 FY recapitulation, he accurately cites the production of both "20 U.S. Rifles, Cal. 22, Model of 1922" and an additional 12 of the same that were "...specially accurate with 30" heavy barrels, set triggers, etc...". Clearly, adding the 20 and 12 numbers to the 2,000 already manufactured totals 2,032 new rifles! But, if only 20 were

manufactured, the correct answer would be 2,020.

It is important to acknowledge at this juncture what his report didn't say, i.e. that in the course of producing a collective total of 32 rifles in 1924, the guns need not be assembled from all new receivers. Did Brophy make a mistake? No, he didn't ...since he allegedly published what the original Archives FY Report had recorded for the SA. However, as a mere collection of unordered words, the report has been misunderstood by some modern day authors and readers who, more than likely, neglected to do their homework as corroborated by the late Frank Mallory of the Springfield Research Service (SRS). During the course of Frank's exhaustive work in the National Archives, to which he devoted a significant part of his life, he uncovered numerous documents that more than confirm Brophy's 1985 conclusion that 2,020 was the total production number for the M1922, .22 Cal. rifle.

Before examining the issues further related to total receiver/gun manufacture during FY 1924, it should be recognized that SA fiscal year reporting criteria didn't require all guns assembled to come only from new parts. Frequently, new rifle production and assembly utilized existing or recycled parts-stock on hand, which is precisely what happened in this instance. In other words, while there were 20

new M1922, .22 Cal. receivers authorized and manufactured in early 1924, the .22 Cal. IM rifles especially assembled for the 1924 Olympics that followed (reduced from 20 to 12) were made up of both new 1924 and previously existing parts stock. This narrative will hopefully provide clarification to that affect based on an enumeration of historical facts and circumstances.

**The First 2000 rifles:** We begin with a brief historical preview of M1922, .22 Cal. manufacture up through May 1923 for the first 2000 rifle authorization. As revealed by the table below, SRS No. 85 (July 1998) published a detailed extract from the National Archives regarding SA production from 1920 through 1923 based on official archive statistics regarding M1922, .22 Cal. manufacture up until that time. Continuation of M1922 rifle production didn't become a known quantity until after May 1924 upon a critical emergency approving 20 additional receivers for manufacture.

<b>SRS National Archive Record of Initial M1922, Cal. 22 Production</b>	
<b>Manufacture:</b>	<b>Total:</b>
* Total Number Manufactured by SA	2000
* Original Rec'd from designer Fred Coon	1
	2001
<b>Disposal and Retention:</b>	<b>Total:</b>
* Sold by SA to Various Individuals	30
* Retained by SA for Experimental & Future Work	20
* Shipped to NRA (5/27/22 to 4/25/23)	1935
* Shipped to DCM (5/24/22)	2
* Shipped to Ordnance Property Officer (5/24/22 to 12/1/22)	2
* Shipped to Ordnance Officer, Ft. Benning (6/15/22)	3
* Shipped to C.O. of Frankford Arsenal (11/13/22)	2
* Shipped to C.O. of Aberdeen Proving Ground (3/5/23)	5
* Shipped to Experimental Dept., Springfield Armory (SA)	1
* Shipped to SA Museum	1
	2001

The readership is also reminded that the entire initial prescription for manufacture of the Model 1922, .22 cal. rifles came about in the first place as a result of the National Rifle Association (NRA), supported by the NBPRP and the DCM. NRA financing of the project for sales to their

civilian membership gave them near exclusive priority. However, since only 1935 of the total were actually provided to the NRA (as noted above), it obviously was not all of them.

Brophy probably said it best in the *Potpourri* section of his book, i.e. as of October 1922 the rifles were "...made expressly for DCM sale to members of the NRA. Under no circumstances will any be disposed of w/o approval from DCM" (Ref: O.O. 000.8/5134-S.A.000.8/386). Yes, there existed unresolved concerns rightfully posed later as to the SA justification for retaining the balance shown in the foregoing tabulation, let alone selling some of them. But, that's another story...one that includes an Ordnance Department (OD) decision in concert with the U.S. Army to hasten adopting the new NRA rifle as the future replacement for a much aggrieved 1919 .30 Cal. Gallery Practice version then being used by the military. Indeed, it was no coincidence the Adjutant General approved the Army's request on May 26, 1923 soon after the NRA had received their rifles...with no more to follow. Nevertheless, the Ordnance/SA initiative was to have consequences.

**A Triple Challenge:** Throughout the summer of 1923, including the Camp Perry National Matches, the new .22 Cal. rifle had significant exposure to the shooting public...including key members of the military. In spite of its high regard and acceptance, it didn't take long for feedback to expose some problems with the new rifle. For example, velocity and accuracy inconsistency became issues related to questions about the number of rifle grooves, ignition of the double point firing pin, along with chamber, bullet seat, and bore and groove diameter and tolerances, etc. This ultimately culminated in a crisis decision by Ordnance/SA to undertake serious re-examination of the existing rifle. Finally, on November 13, 1923, the SA responded to Ordnance via a Special Delivery

Letter (*Ref: OO 474.3/256 – 4<sup>th</sup> Ind. – SA 474.3/115*) that a Board of Officers have convened and agreed the rifle requires reevaluation and redesign “*...after many comparative tests...*” of the foregoing described issues, including “*...several matters pertaining to manufacture*” of the rifle. That precipitated challenge No. 1 for which the SA had no budget resources as well as a lack of sufficient surplus of rifles for extensive redesign and/or testing.

The second challenge became a dutiful response to an immediate request for the U.S. Army to be able to formally test the new M1922, .22 Cal. rifle as a Gallery Practice replacement using field personnel in all of its services. The SA had no reserve set aside for such testing except for the 20 rifles “*Retained by SA for Experimental Work & Future Orders*” as noted in the foregoing table. Under pressure, the SA had few alternatives other than forwarding those rifles from their “*retention*” to Ft. Riley on February 14, 1924 for “*demonstration by the Cavalry Board*” pursuant to formal military testing for Gallery Practice purposes. It is important to note the Army was informed these rifles did “*...not embody certain improvements which it is expected to be incorporated in the .22 rifles which are eventually furnished to the services*”.

Lastly, an entirely unexpected March 22, 1924 emergency memorandum came from the Chief of Ordnance to the SA requesting on behalf of the NBPRP to make up for the 1924 U.S. Olympics team “*...twenty super accurate target rifles with 30 inch heavy barrels and the new bolt mechanism similar to the ones now being tested at Aberdeen*”. The rifles were to proximate the weight and balance of the .30 Cal. IM rifles for ease of shooter adaptability from their .30 Cal. IM rifles. Whoa!

There was simply no way the SA was going to not honor this latter request in spite of being suddenly overwhelmed with unbudgeted

challenges compressed into a near impossible time-frame. What to do?

**Problem Solving:** Two days later (March 24, 1924), a follow-up memorandum from the Chief of Ordnance to the Ordnance Officer at Fort Riley, Kansas acknowledged that the 20 rifles from SA retention as noted above had been forwarded to the Army on February 14, 1924. With the 20 original rifles held for retention now in the hands of the Army, it was fortuitous the SA had the foresight to simultaneously seek authority to replace the rifles on an emergency basis. Thus, procurement of 20 new M1922, .22 Cal. receivers was approved to carry on appropriate experimental testing for upgrading the rifle to embody the improvements previously outlined in the November 13, 1923 Special Delivery Letter (*Ref: SA 474.3/116, 4<sup>th</sup> Ind.*).

Two other things are noted at this point. First, *SRS, No. 83 (Jan. 1998)* informs us that the SA also requested approval of up to 50 new six groove barrels beginning in February 1924 for use in this testing program. Secondly, other archival research reveals only a portion of the newly manufactured receivers were used to make up the 20 rifles used during the testing leading up to adoption of the M1 update of the M1922, .22 Cal. rifle. Yes, until the new receivers actually became available, the experimentation start-up had necessitated using both the few existing rifles on hand plus borrowing unsold rifles from the NRA. The enclosed **Exhibit 1** on the next page details which rifle serial numbers were ultimately used based on archival records.

After a decision to assemble the 20 trial test rifles with 4 and 6 groove barrels, 10 had been sent to the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) and the other 10 retained by the SA. Indeed, by the time the request for the special 1924 Olympics, .22 Cal. rifles arrived on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, such rifles with new 6 groove barrels and single firing pin bolts had already “*...been tested*

## Study of M1922, .22 Cal. Rifles used for M1 Trial Tests and 1924 Olympics

M1922, .22 Cal. Rifle Serial No.	Original 20 Rifles on hand for M1 Trial Testing	USCC Ammo Test of M1 Trial Rifle	M1 Trial Accuracy Test 3/26/24	Modified M1922 Rifles Selected for 1924 IM Olympics	Final 8 Rifles Selected for 1924 IM Olympics	4 and 6 Groove Final Selection Test 9/3/24	DCM Sales	SA Sales	Inspection for DCM Sales	Sales	DCM	Commentary and Observations	
393	X					X		X				Sold as Std. M1922 w/M1 firing pin on 5/28/26	
1042	X	X	X	X	No	X-4 groove	X	X				Not used in 1924 Olympics; Retained by APG ; Sold	
1098	X				No	X-4 groove						Not used in 1924 Olympics - April 2010	
1190	X			X	Yes			X				Not used in 1924 Olympics; Retained by APG	
1348	X			X	Yes							Refitted with 12-24 barrel & sold to K.K.V. Casey on Feb. 24, 1926 w/orig. M1922 bolt	
1360	X			X	Yes							Sent to Ship@ Hoboken Pier No. 4 on 5/27/24	
1477	X				X							Sent to Ship@ Hoboken Pier No. 4 on 5/27/24	
1547	X				X							Not listed in SRS sales records	
1607	X				X							Sold as a standard M1922 on 3/20/26	
1678	X				X-4 groove	X	X					Sold as a standard M1922 on 3/19/26	
1726	X			X	No							Fired on 7/6/24 at 1924 Sea Girt matches.	
												Not used in 1924 Olympics; Retained by APG	
												Sold to Freeman O. Peterson on 4/25/30; Once owned	
												by Bill Brophy; Sold on Julia Auctions October 2011	
1930	X			X	Yes							Not listed in SRS sales records	
1942												30" brtl. HB; Sold to F. C. Ness 3/25/36	
1984	X		X	X	Yes							HB/IM	
2002	X		X	X	Yes							HB/IM	
2008	X		X	X	No							HB/IM	
2010	X			X	Yes							HB/IM	
2011													
2013	X			X									
2016	X												
2017													
2020	X		X	X	Yes								
2023	X		X	X	Yes								
2025								X					

Note: In addition, the following rifles were also involved in an undated U.S. Cartridge Co. (USCC) ammo testing program: SN: 1477, 1547, 1607 and 1942

*continuously up to the present time ...producing most gratifying results".* It is noted this experimentation also included substantial ammunition testing involving crucial coordination with the United States Cartridge Company (USCC) of Lowell, Massachusetts. But, that's also another story having occurred over many months.

Upon SA receipt of the NBPRB/Ordnance inquiry about their ability to manufacture 20 special, 30 inch, heavy barrel (HB), .22 Cal. rifles for the forthcoming Olympics, the SA had to rapidly shift gears and alter priorities. Numerous critical decisions had to be quickly made. SA's skilled rifle-makers were determined to make up these rifles even though it was suggested the work be parceled out in the interests of a timely response to meeting the 1924 IM Team's mandated schedules. This even included a proposal to sub-out barrel making to the Nemo Arms Company and the stocks to the USMC.

Before proceeding further, the M1924 production schedule constraints are noted herein for the overall shooting program that summer. This was a unique year inasmuch as the annual International Matches were being scheduled back-to-back with the 1924 Olympics, thus requiring more planning and team members that included both the pistol and a greater variety of rifle matches... along with associated added cost. But, the NRA was the primary sponsor and their budget was already tight.

It was quickly recognized there was only one .22 caliber rifle event on the Olympics program to be held at Rheims, France on June 23, 1924, and that was a fifty (50) meter off-hand (standing) match. The conclusion was that a single Olympics 50 Meter Match simply didn't warrant a separate eligibility trial for a small bore shooting team limited to only four persons. Therefore, it really didn't warrant a need for 20 such rifles either.

It was also concluded this particular IM rifle team (...not counting the Team Captain and Coach) simply couldn't afford an entirely separate team just for this one event when many of the .30 Cal. big bore members were entirely competent to represent the U.S. in both events. Therefore, Team Captain Major L. W. T. Waller (U.S.M.C) reduced the requirement to only 12 rifles. Nevertheless, not wanting to face drastic adjustment issues switching between big bore and small bore, he wanted the special 30 inch, HB .22 Cal. rifles to be a close match of the .30 Cal. rifles in weight, style, barrel length, feel and performance since he had no idea at the time who on the IM team would be firing them.

#### **1924 Olympics - Activity Deadlines for 50 Meter Shooting Event**

Activity Description:	Dates:
* 1924 Preliminary IM Tryout trials	18,19 April
* 1924 SA Deadline for Completion of Rifles	5-May
* 1924 SA Firing Proof & Ammo Selection	6-8 May
* 1924 Final Team Tryouts (Quantico, VA)	11-12 May
* 1924 Final Practice with Rifles	14,15,16 May
* 1924 Delivery of all Equipment to Ship	23-May
* 1924 Sailing Departure to France	31-May

It took more than a week to sort out a reasonably attainable solution to meet this schedule. Finally, on April 11, 1924 in a memo to the Commanding Officer (CO) of the SA from the Chief of Ordnance (*Ref: O.O.*

*474.3/336; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ind.; S.A. 474.3/166*), it was authorized that the small bore rifle requirement be reduced from 20 to 12 rifles under Procurement Authority 1317 by a \$900 appropriation from the "*Manufacture of Arms 1924-25*". However, Ordnance was quick to remind the SA under their paragraph three, *1<sup>st</sup> Ind.* stating "...it will take fully two months to make the barrels, brown, assemble, adjust and target these rifles". However, the memo went on to acknowledge that the SA already had 12 receivers and actions on hand, and if needed, "...four additional will be shipped from the

*Aberdeen Proving Ground".* The memo was closed by stating that if the rifles cannot be made available in time for the "try outs" scheduled for the May 12-15 timeframe, "...this project will be cancelled".

The details are too lengthy to share at this time, but there was no way the SA was going to miss this opportunity to demonstrate their superior rifle-making ability. Three days later (April 14, 1924), the SA responded to Ordnance (*3<sup>rd</sup> Ind.*) stating that the 12 rifles "...can be manufactured by May 12, and every effort will be made to accomplish this". This was based on completing the rifles by May 5<sup>th</sup>, thus allowing time to conduct test firing and ammo selection. Nevertheless, for insurance purposes, they still wanted the 4 rifles at the APG to be shipped to them by express. Two days thereafter on the 16th, Ordnance informed the SA (*4<sup>th</sup> Ind.*) that the 4 APG rifles were being shipped per shipping Order OS.161001-a.

In concluding this section, the SA didn't fail the 1924 Olympics team or Team Capt. Waller ...though a close call. The rifle team had to board the Steamship President Harding by May 28<sup>th</sup> for their Dec. 31, 1924 departure to arrive in France by June 8<sup>th</sup>. As it turned out...the SA made up the stocks in a period of 7 days along with complete assembly of the rifles "...in the record time of 15 days". This included a significant contribution from Major Waller's own laboratory of magic at Quantico, VA. Fortuitously, Waller had also made a tactical decision relating to the Olympic Committee's limitation of only 4 team members allowed to compete in the 50 Meter Event. So, he realistically needed no more than 2 times the number of shooters, thus setting sail with just 8 of the originally requested 20 rifles.

Yes, even though the SA never met the original May 5<sup>th</sup> deadline, Waller received 5 of the rifles personally on May 10<sup>th</sup> in time for practice firing (SN 1930, 1984, 2010, 2020 & 2023). Though delayed, the remaining 3 rifles

were fortuitously hand delivered directly to the ship at the Hoboken, NJ pier No. 4 on May 27, 1924 just before departure for France (SN 1348, 1360 & 2002). Nevertheless, after learning that each of the 5 rifles delivered on May 10<sup>th</sup> were able to keep all shots fired within a 1.97 mm target at 50 meters, he was more than satisfied the entire lot was acceptable. The remaining 4 rifles did not make the journey to France (SN 1042, 1098, 1726 & 2008).

**Conclusions and Commentary:** Closing commentary is redirected back to the original question regarding whether the SA made a total of 2,020 M1922, .22 Cal. rifles or 2,032 as of FY1924? As noted on **Exhibit 1**, the 20 rifles originally under experimental testing for the eventual M1 program became the primary source from which the final 12 were selected for the Olympics rifles. They had already been tried and proven. Only 5 of the rifles had serial numbers higher than 2000 (2002, 2008, 2010, 2020 and 2023). The remaining 7 were all from the original pre-1924 manufacture (1042, 1098, 1348, 1360, 1726, 1930 and 1984). Obviously, the 12 rifles especially prepared for the 1924 Olympics 50 Meter Event came from a combined source of new and old stock, i.e. it would be incorrect to conclude these rifles were entirely made up of serial numbers higher than SN 2000.

It is furthermore noted that SRS records for the last 43 years remains unchanged with respect to SN 2025 (sold in 1926) as likely being the last M1922, .22 Cal. receiver manufactured. If there are higher serial numbers still in circulation, no credible evidence to this writer's knowledge exists having been uncovered. Moreover, the total number of 2,025 serial numbered receivers bears a very close relationship to an actual rifle number produced being 2,020. In other words, the historical rejection rate averaging between 1 to 4% of total manufacture fits such an outcome of more serial

numbers stamped than actual rifles accounted for. In fact, three of this differential having been trashed may well be explained within the heretofore referenced March 22, 1924 memo that initially requested the 20 special 30" heavy barrel Cal. 22 rifles destined for the Olympics. That very memo from Lee O. Wright (...who signed it for the Chief of Ordnance) observed the SA had "...manufactured two or three rifles of a somewhat similar type some-time ago, but they have since been disposed of". Being "disposed of" in SA jargon usually meant rifles in some state of experimentation having been voided or discarded for functional reasons.

If the actual new rifle production total through 1924 would have been 2,032, serial numbers in the 2035 to 2040 range would likely still be in existence. If this be so, then SRS records and/or rifles showing up in the marketplace over the years have yet to substantiate it. It appears that none will likely ever be found because none were likely ever made. Indeed, they didn't have to be made. A more poignant observation is simply this. If those who really believe that the 12 rifles manufactured for the 1924 Olympics were made up of NEW manufactured receivers beyond the supplemental 20 added in March 1924, why do none of them exceed SN 2023? Moreover, why are 7 of the actual 12 rifles stamped with old serial numbers? By the way, whether or not **Exhibit 1** is entirely complete or correct, there are at least three original pre-SN 2000 rifles having revealed the truth of their existence through auction sales (...such as serial numbers **1042, 1930 and 1984**). All have been clearly identified as original 1924 Olympics, Cal. 22 rifles.

Bottom-line: Supportable facts seem to clearly demonstrate that no more than 2,020 M1922, .22 Cal. functioning receivers were made available from manufacture, (i.e. 2,000 + 20 = 2,020). Any misunderstanding of

Brophy's 1991 Fiscal Year production book appears to be as simple as the following. While the SA did manufacture 20 new M1922, .22 Cal. receivers in March 1924 for other reasons, actual assembly of the 1924 Olympics guns had to include pre-existing receivers on hand in order to meet the scheduled sailing date to France.

**Epilogue:** As previously mentioned, at the time of the request for the .22 Cal. HB/IM Olympic rifles, the SA was in the midst of conducting serious improvement testing of the M1922, .22 Cal. rifle. The comprehensive trial program involved various ammo companies testing 4, 6 and 8 groove barrels, along with converting the bolt to a single point striker and reexamination of chamber dimension and tolerances, etc. This was detailed in a March 26, 1924 SA report (**Ref: RG 156, Entry 36**) authored by Test Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. G. L. Wotkyns (...later promoted to Captain) who had been reassigned from his Infantry position to the SA effective June 1, 1923. The following M1922, .22 Cal. rifles were specifically involved in that report as follows: Serial Numbers (SN): **2008, 1984, 2023, 2020, 1726, 1190, 2013 and 1042** as identified on **Exhibit 1**.

Obviously, this testing experience, including extensive ammunition trials, involved a mix of both recent new serial numbers manufactured in early 1924 as well as many of the existing guns either borrowed from the NRA or on hand at the SA and APG. Without going into detail, other known serial numbers involved in such testing with USCC were: SN **1477, 1547, 1607 and 1942**...all from older production.

This testing program ending up with adoption of the M1 upgrade had been momentarily interrupted during the emergency period to manufacture the 1924 Special IM Olympics guns. However, it didn't take long after resumption of the testing to essentially confirm findings leading to the final criteria for

## SRS Records of Model 1922, .22 Cal. Serial Numbers over 2000

Note: Data Extracted from SRS "Blue Book" and 4 "Serial Number" Volumes

Serial No.	Type	Date	Activity Description	Serial No.	Type	Date	Activity Description
2001	**	NA	NA	2014	**	NA	NA
2002*	HB/IM	05/27/24	Sent to 1924 IM Team @ ship from SA	2015	**	NA	NA
"	"	12/09/35	Inspected @ SA for DCM sale	2016	**	08/19/24	4 and 6 Groove Rifling Test @ SA/APG
"	"	1936	Sold - HB/IM with M1 Bolt	"	**	09/03/24	APG 4 Groove Rifling Test
2003	**	NA	NA	"	**	08/17/26	SA to 1926 National Matches; Sold @ CP
2004	**	NA	NA	2017	**	3/20/26	Date DCM sale as a std. M1922
2005	**	NA	NA	2018	***	NA	Acquired by NRA-Now in Museum Vault
2006	**	NA	NA	2019	***	NA	NA
2007	**	NA	NA	2020*	Test	03/26/24	Modified Trial Accuracy Test w/M1 Bolt
2008*	Test	03/26/24	Modified Trial Accuracy Test w/M1 Bolt	"	HB/IM	12/09/35	Inspected @ SA for DCM sale
"	HB/IM	12/09/35	Inspected @ SA for DCM sale	"	HB/IM	1936	Sold - HB/IM with M1 Bolt
"	HB/IM	1936	Sold - HB/IM with M1 Bolt	2021	**	NA	NA
2009	**	NA	NA	2022	***	NA	Special HB/IM M1922 For E. C. Crossman
2010*	HB/IM	10/24/30	Sold - HB/IM with M1 Bolt	2023*	Test	03/26/24	Modified Trial Accuracy Test w/M1 Bolt
2011	Trial	07/06/24	Used @ Sea Girt Matches w/M1 Bolt	"	HB/IM	12/09/35	Inspected @ SA for DCM sale
"	**	3/19/26	Date of DCM sale as a std. M1922	"	HB/IM	1936	Sold - HB/IM with M1 Bolt
2012	**	NA	NA	2024	**	NA	NA
2013	***	03/26/24	Modified Trial Accuracy Test w/M1 Bolt	2025	**	3/19/26	Date of DCM sale as a std. M1922
"	***	08/19/24	4 and 6 groove Rifling Test @ SA/APG				
"	***	09/03/24	APG 4 Groove Test				
"	***	3/23/26	Date of DCM sale as a std. M1922				

NOTES:

\* Of the original 12 rifles commissioned for the 1924 Int'l Match (IM) program, the 4 rifles remaining with the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) unused were:

SN's: 1042, 1098, 1726 and 2008. The other 8 rifles with 6 groove, 30" heavy barrels & M1 firing mechanism went to France with the team. Of the 8 total 1924 "IM" rifles used, 4 had a SN over 2000; the other 4 rifles were SN's: 1348, 1360, 1930 & 1984; SN's 1930, 1984, 2010 & 2023 were delivered to Team Capt. Waller on 5/10/24; SN's 1348, 1360 & 2002 were delivered directly to the ship on 5/27/24.

\*\* Rifle sold as a Standard M1922 rifle.

\*\*\* No SRS record of DCM sale; Documented evidence reveals SA manufacture of M1924 Olympics style .22 Cal. rifle for Capt. E. C. Crossman

\*\*\*\* "Experimental Outdoor Match" M1922, Cal. 22 w/30 inch HB (4 groove) & aluminum buttplate fired by Capt. G. L. Wotkyns in July 1924 Sea Girt Matches

makeup of the new M1 edition destined to supersede the M1922. Since this particular edition was intended to also be targeted for adoption by the U. S. Army, their Infantry and Cavalry personnel were also closely involved. In retrospect, it was also acknowledged later that the experience in making up the 12 Special Olympics rifles had significantly contributed to this outcome from a technology and manufacturing standpoint.

On September 3, 1924 in a Memo from the Sub-Committee on Infantry and Cavalry Armament to the Ordnance Committee (**Ref: RG 56, E885, 18**), it was recommended “...the 4-groove, Caliber .22 rifle as represented by rifles Nos. 1098, 1678, 2013 and 2016” tested recently at the APG “...be approved as the type of rifle to be manufactured in accordance with the authority contained in 14<sup>th</sup> Indorsement, War Dept., A.G.O. to the C. of O. May 26, 1923, (**Ref: 00 474.3/242: AG 474.3 (1-4-23) (Misc. D)**.” In other words, in spite of the fact that the 1924 Olympics rifle barrels had 6 groove rifling, it was concluded after all the tests between 4 and 6 groove rifling, including refinements to the bullet seat, “chamber dimensions” and bolt striker, the performance of the “...4-groove rifles were consistently better ...than those from the 6-groove rifles”. In addition, they also observed that “...ignition is not as uniform with...” a firing pin with two strikers in comparison with the new “...firing pin which has only one well-designed striker”. The approval also provided for a new flush type magazine.

Then on October 2, 1924 this same Sub-Committee further recommended that “...this improved model be designated as: “**Rifle, U.S., Caliber .22, Model 1922M1**”. By October 14<sup>th</sup>, the SA in a memo from Major S. H. MacGregor (**Ref: 1<sup>st</sup> Ind., A.A. 400.3294/145**), advised the DCM of the decision to adopt the new .22 Cal. Gallery Practice Rifle and that 100 barrels were already being manufactured. (**Note:** The

Ordnance Committee adopted the new rifle on October 9<sup>th</sup>). He goes on to suggest since these new barrels will become the replacement option for all future replacement needs for the existing M1922 rifle that “...the matter be considered and instructions issued to this Armory relative to supply of Model 1922M1 rifles cal. 22 on individual orders”. (**Note:** From the foregoing M1 trial experimentation discussion, it is pointed out that many of the same rifles used early in 1924 for this work, then later diverted to the Olympics games, were still being used up to the final decision to adopt the M1 replacement). Once the new M1 upgrade was approved, there became no further need to manufacture the M1922 receiver.

In closing, it is interesting to note that SRS records fail to disclose the eventual disposition of many of the M1922, .22 Cal rifles after SN 2000. **Exhibit 2** is enclosed on the previous page for reader reference. Based on a search of the SRS 1976 “*Blue Book*” and the subsequent 4 “*Serial Numbers*” Volumes, there exists no sales data or archival information presently available to this author about what became of 15 of the 25 numbered rifles between SN 2001 and 2025...except for SN 2018 and 2022.

It is known from commercial auction sales records that Capt. E. C. Crossman ended up with SN 2022. The rifle was made up for him “**Special**” in 1924 by the SA and contains much of the identity features of the 1924 HB/IM Olympics rifles. Crossman was a former insider having an ongoing personal relationship with many of the Ordnance and SA staff. Also, it is known the receiver for SN 2018 was chosen to manufacture one of very few “*Experimental Outdoor Match*” rifles as further detailed in the following paragraph.

Of the 10 remaining known rifles, 7 were used in connection with ammo/accuracy testing and/or trial selection for the 1924 Olympics (see **Exhibits 1 & 2**). The other 3

rifles (SN's 2011, 2017 and 2025) reveal sparse information except for DCM sales data. For example, SN's 2011, 2017 and 2025 were known to have been sold in 1926 as standard M1922, .22 Cal. rifles. However, it is



Capt. Wotkyns - SA 1924

1924. A second one was SN 1678 which was also a trials rifle testing the new M1922, .22 cal. upgrade to M1. The third was a very special rifle to Capt. Wotkyns. He had "...entered practically all of the events using a heavy barrel match rifle with four grooves....". The rifle was developed by the SA on the SN 2018 receiver as an "...experimental Outdoor

documented that SN 2011 was fired at the July 6, 1924 Sea Girt Matches with a 6 groove barrel and experimental M1 bolt before its DCM sale in standard M1922 configuration.

Capt. G. L. Wotkyns had brought it to Sea Girt along with 3 other Cal. 22 rifles of differing composition for viewing and demonstration purposes in July

*Match Rifle*" with a 4 groove, 30 inch HB, M1922, .22 Cal. having a butt plate "...cast from aluminum". Only a few such trial rifles were made. Sadly, a commercial edition of this rifle would ultimately be denied regular manufacture for NRA members hoping for such a rifle. SN 2018 was ultimately acquired by the NRA and now resides in their museum vault at Fairfax, VA. The historical photo hereon shows Capt. Wotkyns of the 1924 SA Rifle Team holding the rifle he used at Sea Girt. The last of the 4 rifles he brought to Sea Girt was a sample of the M1922 Olympic HB with a 6 groove barrel and scope mounts conforming to the 8 rifles taken to Rheims, France in 1924. Its serial number is not identified.

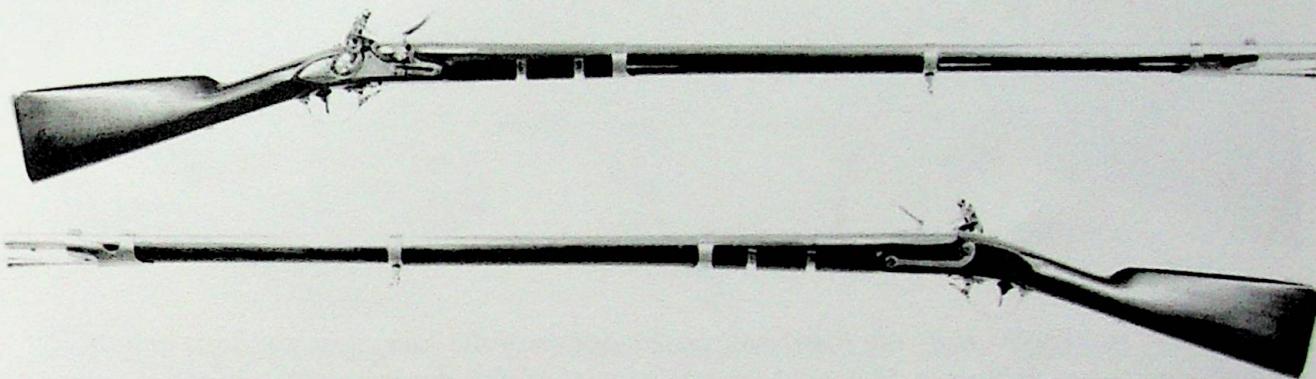
In conclusion, it is observed once again that a historian's work is never done. On behalf of ongoing research, SRS readers are always welcome to contribute supplemental information, knowledge and commentary for the record. SRS editor Wayne Gagner extends a standing invitation to all SRS subscribers for their participation.



# A US MODEL 1835/40 MUSKET BY NIPPES:

*A rare contract version of the last standard production  
US flintlock musket reconverted to flintlock.*

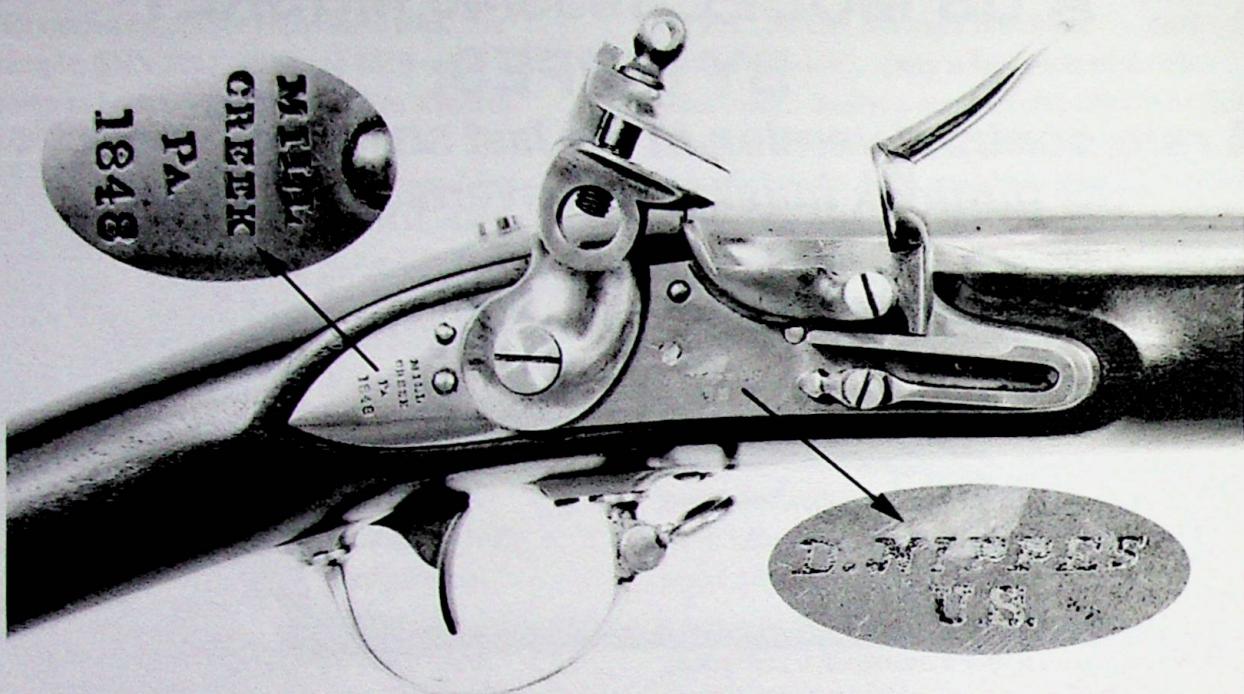
**By Marc Gorelick and Tim Prince**  
Photographs by Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal



The US Model 1835/40 was the last flintlock musket to be adopted by the US military. While the official model approval took place in 1835, production did not commence until 1840, leading to some confusion regarding the actual model designation. Some references use Model 1835, some use Model 1840 and some use Model 1835/40. In this article we will use Model 1835/40 or M1835/40. Although the official designation was Model 1835, significant changes were made to the original 1835 design in the five years before production actually started. Only experimental or trials muskets were produced during that time. Part of the reason for the delay was that the US was engaged in the Seminole War, which took many resources.

The Model 1840 was a .69 caliber smoothbore musket that was largely based upon the French M1822 Flintlock Musket and was a refined version of the earlier US Model 1816/22/28 patterns (Model 1816 Type 1, 2, and 3) that had preceded it. The overall length is 57 3/4 inches with a 42 inch long bright smoothbore barrel. It has a black walnut stock and all the furniture, which is iron, is finished bright. The M1835/40 was one of the shortest lived of official US infantry muskets, as it was very quickly replaced by the percussion ignition US Model 1842 musket, which was in many ways was nearly identical to the Model 1835/40 with the exception of the lock and ignition system.

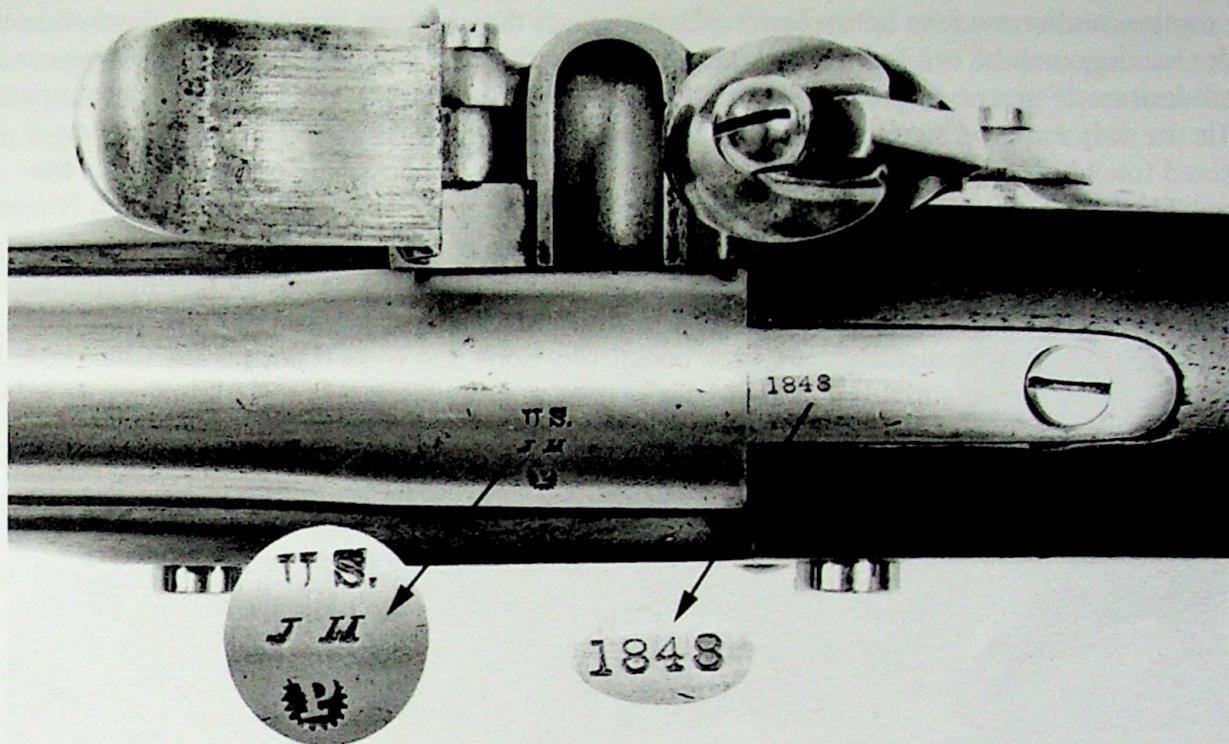
During the 1830's the Army Ordnance Department was considering modifications and improvements that were standardized in the French Model of 1822. In addition, there was a lack of uniformity in Model 1816 production. There were also frustrating disagreements between the US and the 16 contractors who produced versions of the Model 1816 Types 1, 2, and 3.



*Lockplate markings. Note the filled hole in the center of the lockplate, perhaps originally intended to secure a Nippes-Maynard tape primer magazine during alteration to percussion.*

The M1835/40 was produced from 1840 to 1844 at the Springfield Armory in Massachusetts, with a total of 30,421 musket produced there. This musket model never went into production at Harpers Ferry, where the last variant of the M1816 Muskets (the M1822/28) remained in production until the adoption of the M1842. Only the actual pattern pieces for the Model 1835/40 were produced at Harpers Ferry in 1835. These are marked **USM** or **MODEL** on various parts and will differ slightly from the later production model. During the production of the M1816/22/28 series of muskets, the Ordnance Department relied heavily on numerous contractors to produce the necessary muskets, particularly during the 1820s and 1830s. However, during the production run of the M1835/40, the Ordnance Department only contracted with two outside vendors to produce the new pattern of musket. These are the Daniel Nippes Company of Mill Creek, PA, which delivered 5,100 Model 1835/40 muskets from 1842-1848, and Lemuel Pomeroy of Pittsfield, MA who delivered another 7,000 from 1840 to 1846.

With the adoption of the percussion ignition system in 1842, the US Ordnance Department moved to quickly alter all the newest and best condition flintlock musket in storage around the country to the new percussion ignition system. This meant that the M1835/40 muskets were almost all immediately altered to percussion. The large majority of the muskets were altered by the Belgian or Cone-in-Barrel, system. Very few of the M1835/40 muskets had been issued, and most were sitting in various armories in pristine condition, having never been used. For instance, of the Springfield manufactured 30,421 Model 1835/40 flintlock muskets, 26,841 were altered to percussion between 1849 and 1851. Of the remainder, some were altered at a later date. In 1842 a small number of flintlocks were rifled and given long range rear sights as an experiment. They are sometimes called the Model 1842 rifled musket.



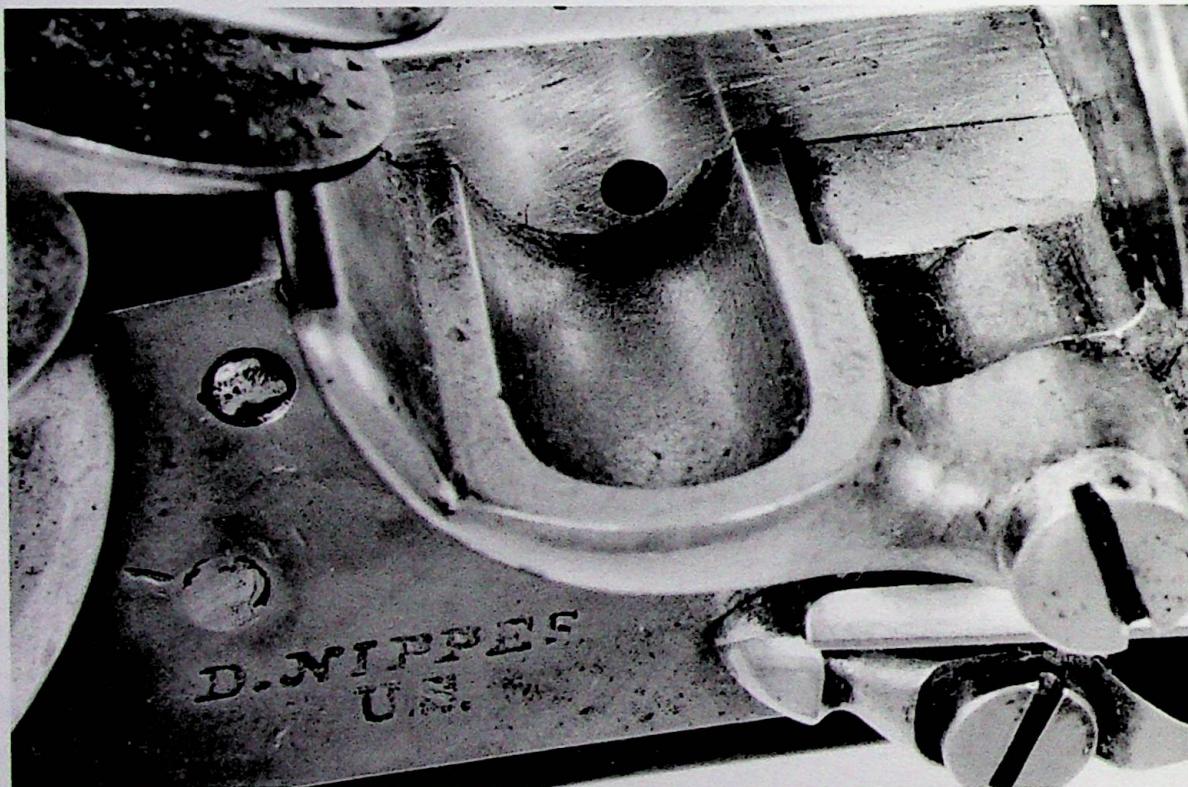
*Three-line markings on top of the breech, including the year of manufacture, 1848.*

The Ordnance Department had long used a delivery system that required contractors to deliver their work to the nearest Federal Arsenal in order to keep shipping costs to a minimum.

Pomeroy contract arms were typically delivered to the Watervliet Arsenal in New York, and Nippes contract arms were usually delivered to the Frankford Arsenal in Philadelphia, PA. The M1835/40 muskets delivered by the contractors were altered from flintlock to percussion at these locations. The Pomeroy contract arms were altered between 1850 and 1851, using machinery that was installed at Watervliet in 1849. The Nippes contract Model 1835/40 muskets were altered in 1852 and 1853, after Frankford received the percussion alteration machinery that had previously been in use at the Watertown Arsenal. With all these alterations, the number of surviving Model 1835/40 muskets still in original flintlock configuration is quite small and they often command premium prices in the low five figures.

The US Model 1835/40 Flintlock Musket in these photos was one of the 5,100 arms produced by the smallest contractor, Daniel Nippes. At first examination, the gun appears to be in its original flintlock configuration. However, a close examination shows that it was converted to percussion and then expertly reconverted back to flintlock. Pulling the lock shows that the flash pan, although an original one, is a replacement that does not show the quality of fit and finish that would be expected were it original to the gun. There is also a hole drilled in the center of the lock plate that has been filled. This hole appears to be where the tape priming magazine for a Nippes-Maynard alteration was intended to be secured. Perhaps the lock was never fully modified but was simply drilled at the factory for use in one of the 2,000 Nippes-Maynard alterations that Nippes performed during 1848 and 1849. The reconversion is very well done with the majority of the parts appearing to be original to the flintlock. The pan, frizzen and hammer are all original and bear sub-inspection marks. *U.S. Martial Arms Collector 160-19*

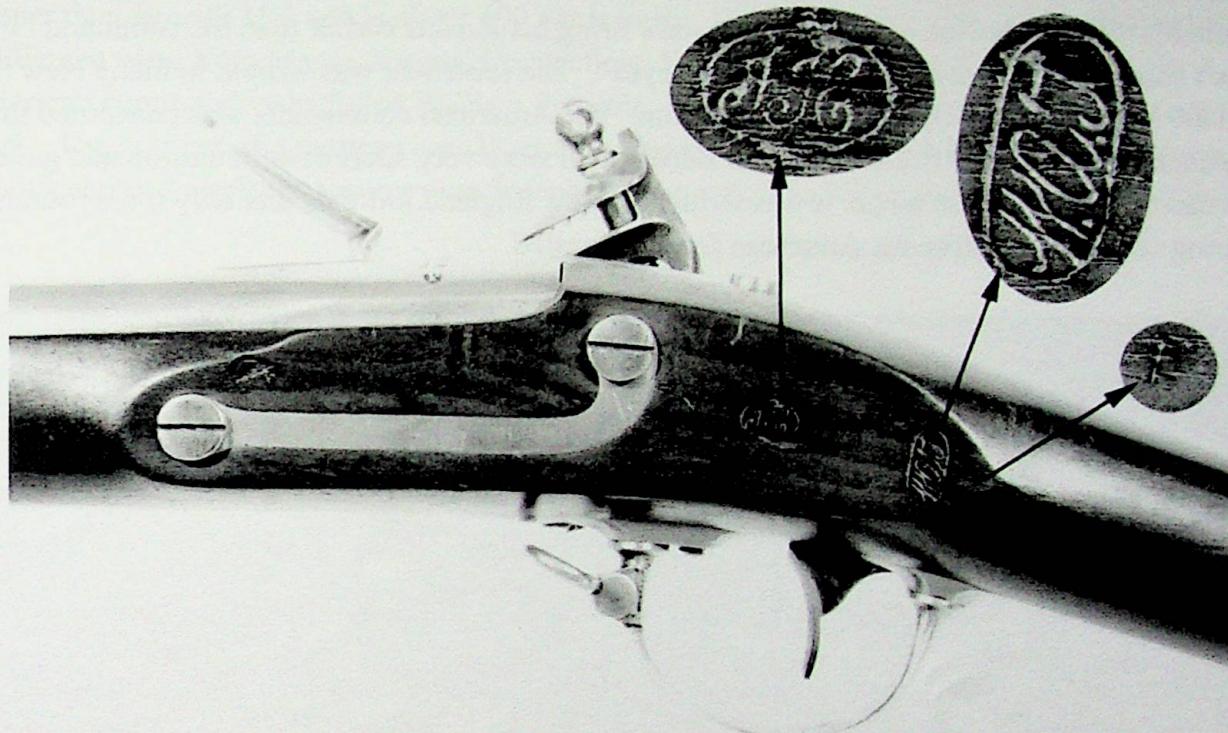
The top jaw and screw may be modern replacements as they bear no inspections but are so well made that they may be original as well. The frizzen spring and a couple of the screws appear to be modern made pieces, but otherwise the lock is assembled from original, period components. While the only external sign that the barrel is reconverted to flint is an overly large, poorly centered touchhole, close internal examination with a remote endoscopic camera reveals the work. The barrel was originally drum converted from flint to percussion, probably on a Nippes-Maynard alteration, the large threaded vent hole was filled with a screw, then welded and polished on the exterior to conceal the work. From inside, the screw body, extending into the breech is clearly visible, although it was coated with grease to make it less obvious from a conventional bore inspection. The work is beautifully done and were it not for the filled hole in the center of the lock plate, this gun could easily pass as a very rare original flint example to all but the most astute observers.



*Large poorly centered touchhole indicates a reconversion from percussion to flintlock. Note marking **D.Nippes** over **U.S.** and filled hole in lockplate above the letter **D**.*

The gun is clearly marked on the lock plate with a **D. NIPPLES / U.S.** forward of the hammer and vertically behind the lock in four lines: **MILL / CREEK / PA / 1848**. The tang of the barrel is marked with the matching date **1848** as well. During 1848, Nippes delivered 600 of his Model 1835/40 muskets. The three-line breech marking of a **U.S. / JH / (Circle) P** are extremely crisp and clear. A much smaller, block **JH** is on the left barrel flat as a sub-inspection mark. The initials **JH** belong to Springfield Armory sub-inspector Joseph Hannis, who inspected contract arms from the late 1830s through the end of the American Civil War, working with a huge variety of contractors and inspecting a wide range of arms. Hannis inspected 300 of the 600 Nippes contract 1835/40 muskets delivered in 1848.     *U.S. Martial Arms Collector 160-20*

The butt plate tang is crisply marked with the usual U.S. The left flat of the stock shows two clear inspection cartouches; the script **JH** of Joseph Hannis, as well as the final acceptance stamp of the script **WAT**, which was the mark of Ordnance Officer William Anderson Thornton. As with the barrel, a smaller block **JH** sub-inspection is located at the tail of the stock flat.



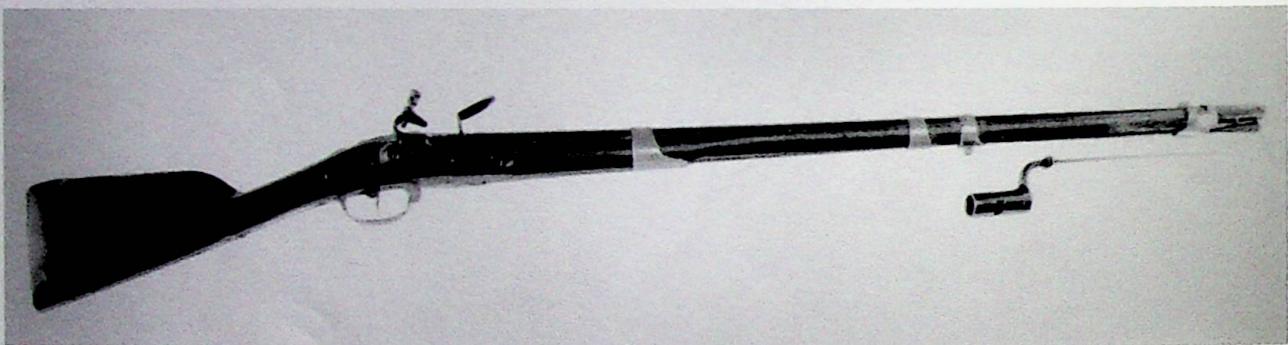
*Left flat of the stock with two inspector's cartouches and sub-inspector stamp.*

The musket remains in 100% complete and period original condition, with the exception of the parts noted above as part of the reconversion process to return the gun to flint. The musket retains both of its original sling swivels, as well an original ramrod, which is the correct trumpet shaped rammer. It is full-length, retaining good threads at the end. The original brass blade front sight is in place on the upper barrel band as well. The lock of the musket is mechanically excellent and functions crisply. The metal of the musket is mostly smooth with only some very lightly scattered pinpricking and occasional flecks of minor pitting. The metal been carefully cleaned to bright and is now toning down slightly to a duller steel patina. Overall the gun has a very nice "arsenal" appearance to the metal. The iron furniture has been similarly cleaned and has a steel patina that matches the balance of the gun. The stock is solid, full-length and free of any breaks or repairs. The stock remains relatively crisp and sharp throughout, with strong lines and edges,

Overall this is a very nice, solid example of a rather scarce Nippes Contract Model 1835/40 flintlock musket. With only 5,100 of these guns produced, they are the rarest of all the M1835/40 muskets. And as the last US flintlock musket produced for the US Army, it fills a significant place in US firearms history.

## The Simpson Family Musket

The Simpson Family of Massachusetts provided historical documents and photos of a Dutch made flintlock musket attributed to Private John Simpson on June 17, 1775. John Simpson carried the musket during the Bunker Hill Battle according to family documents including the Courts Martial proceeding of Private Simpson's firing his musket earlier than the command "Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes". The statement was written in many New England stories and is still subject to discussion. The American commander was concerned that the American soldiers at Breed's Hill and Bunker Hill were very short of ammunition and gave the order to shoot at close range. It was written in New England journals that only three rounds of firing were made before the American forces retreated.



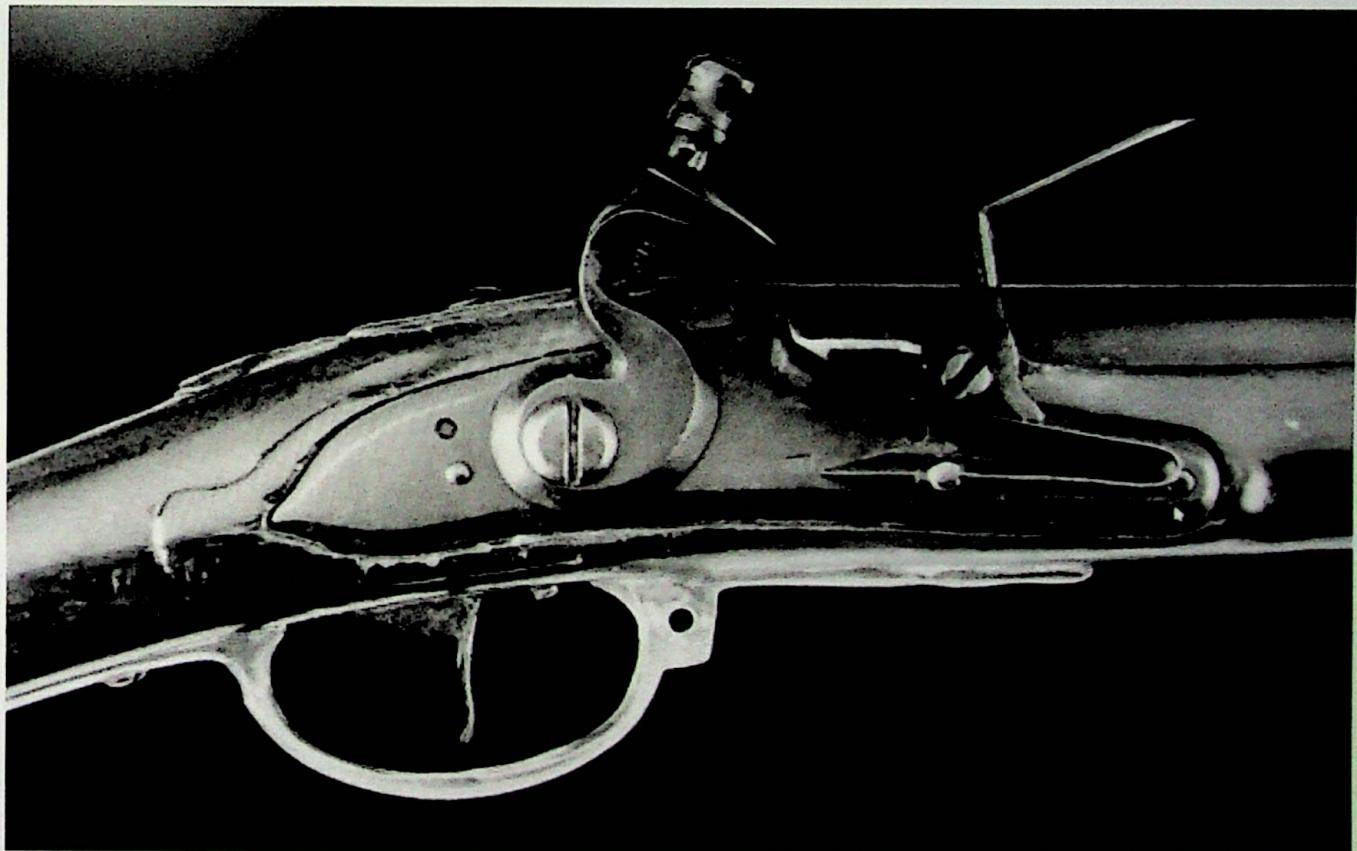
**Above:** A photo of the Simpson Family Musket and bayonet.



**Above:** The left side of the musket with brass side plate, brass bands and fittings with unique dual middle bands, upper band and lower band. The ram rod is of steel. The butt of the stock is the "club" type associated with early Dutch muskets. Reference: George Moller's Volume 2, American Military Shoulder Arms has excellent data on Dutch muskets in the American Revolutionary War. On page 381 Mr. Moller has data on the use and acquisition of Dutch arms followed by extraordinary data and photos of the muskets. Photographs and family information were provided by Dave Bushing.

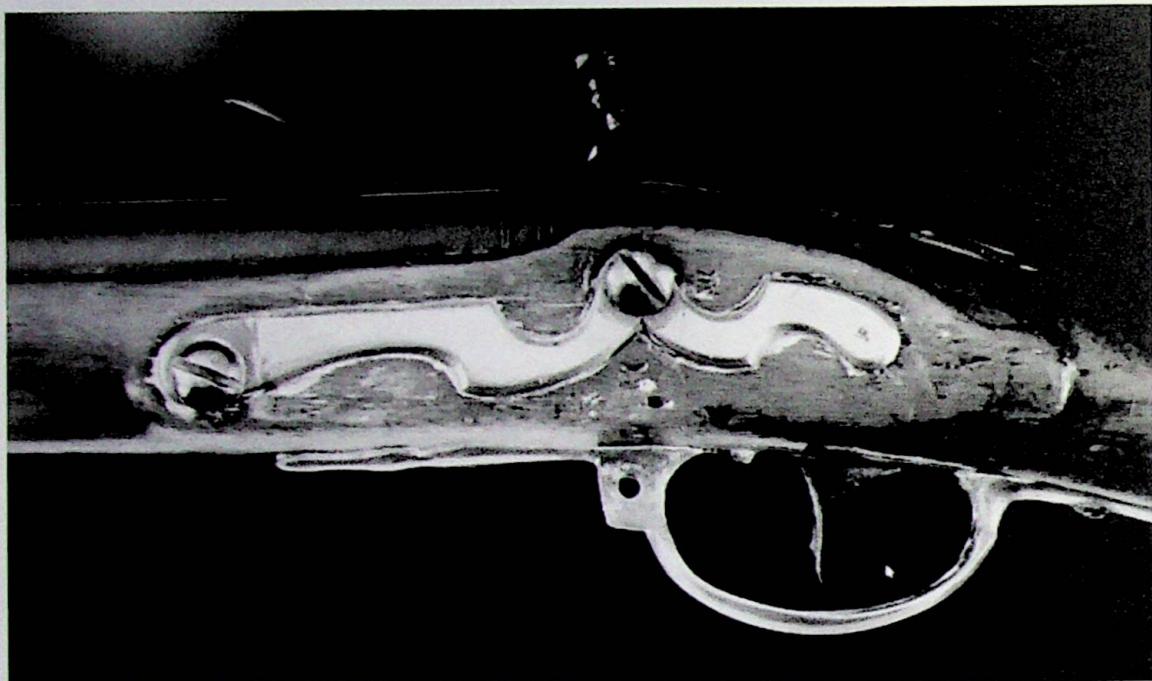
Bunker Hill was fought on June 17, 1775 during the British Siege of Boston starting the American Revolutionary War. The British objective was Bunker Hill but many historians show that Breed's Hill had the majority of casualties.

The battle is named after Bunker Hill in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Bunker Hill is taller and steeper than Breed's Hill and is about 600 yards away. General New England data shows that militiamen were from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. American commanders included William Prescott, Israel Putnam, Joseph Warren, and John Stark. The number of American casualties are believed to be 450 with 140 killed. One of the famous active Americans leaders was Joseph Warren who was killed leading the heavy fighting.

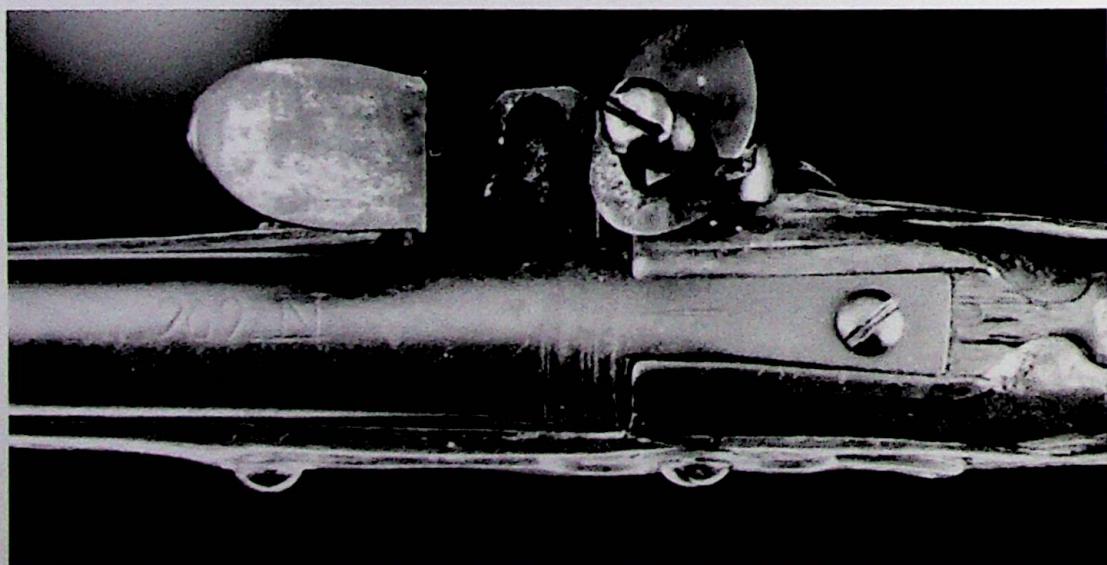


**Above:** The right side of the musket with the flintlock assembly and the left side of the stock with the brass side plate. The lock has a beveled point, goose neck hammer assembly, iron pan, frizzen and spring. The stock around the lock has a raised carving.

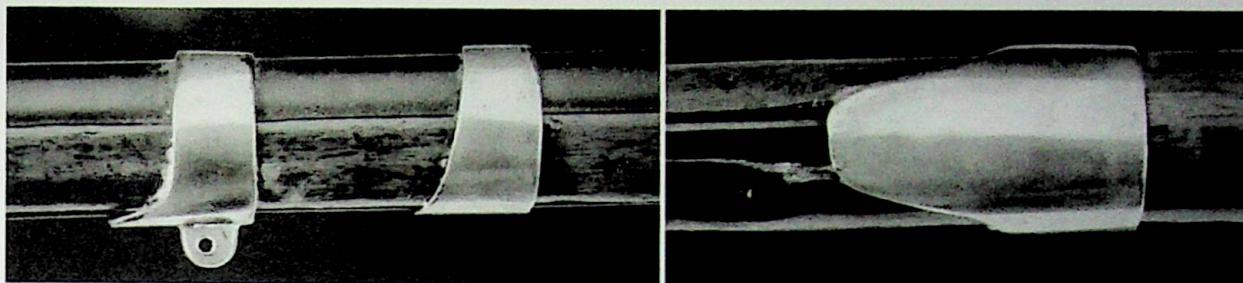
The brass trigger guard has a hole on the forward side of the trigger.



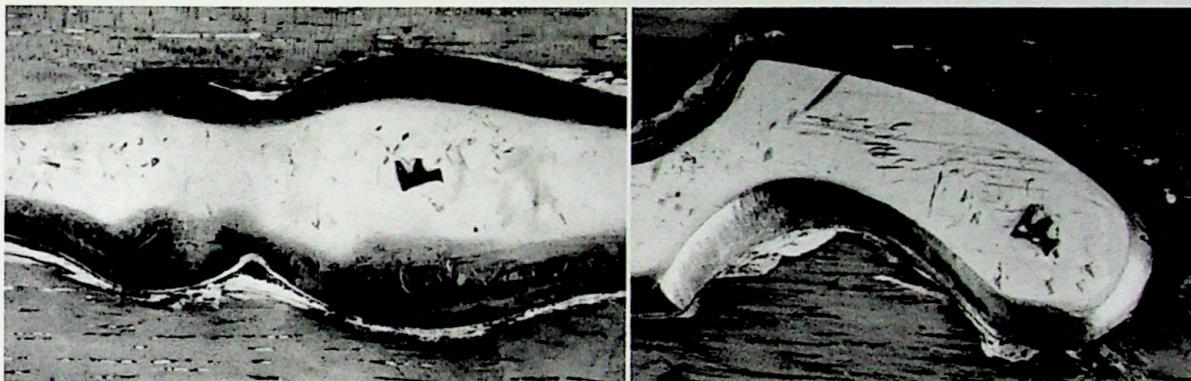
**Above:** Left side of musket with brass flat side plate extends beyond rear lock screw. Wood at the end of the plate has raised carving. Screw hole at forward part of trigger guard has no swivel.



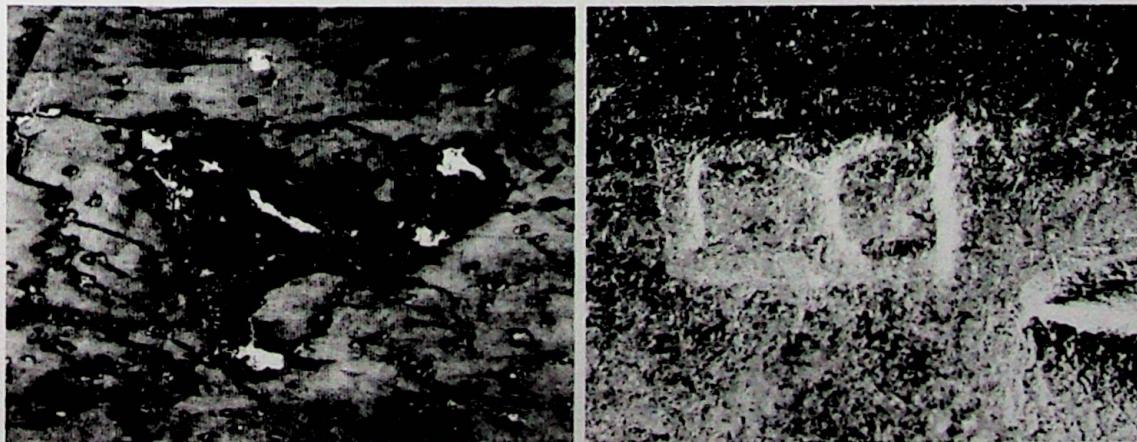
**Above:** Photo of top of musket with letter number combination markings 269 N on top of barrel.



**Above:** Two middle brass bands with the swivel hole and no sling swivel. The middle bands are shown with a close fitting to each other. The lower brass band is shown on the right with ramrod and pin through stock.



**Above:** Brass side plate with letter markings of an F in two places. One marking to the center of the plate and the second to the end of the right.



**Above:** Two unknown markings on the stock.

**Below:** Close up of top of the barrel.



The following note is from the Simpson family. "John Simpson, original owner of this musket, used it at Bunker Hill. His daughter, Hannah married Cesse Grant. Their son was Ulysses S. Grant, commanding general of the U.S. The musket is now (1997) owned by Dorothy Meriweather Morris of Santa Fe, New Mexico, daughter of Dorothy Gamble Simpson Meriweather."

**Below:** Brass butt plate marked G.

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John Simpson, original owner of this musket, used it at Bunker Hill. His daughter, Hannah, married Cesse Grant. Their son was Ulysses S. (Simpson) Grant, commanding general of U.S. forces during the Civil War.

The musket is now (1997) owned by Dorothy Meriweather Morris of Santa Fe, New Mexico, daughter of Dorothy Gamble Simpson Meriweather.



STATE OF  
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The Govr.

TO

John Simpson

WE, reposing special Trust and Confidence in your Integrity, Courage, and good Conduct, Do, by these Presents, constitute, and appoint you the said John Simpson, Second Lieutenant of

Captain Simon Manston's Company in the Battalion of Troops raised within said State for the Service of the States of New-England & New-Hampshire Commanded by Lieut Col Stephen Taberdyng

You are therefore carefully, and diligently to discharge the Duty of a Second Lieutenant in leading, ordering, and exercising said Company in Arms, both in Service Officers and Soldiers, and to keep them in good Order and Discipline; hereby commanding them to obey you as their Second Lieutenant, and yourself to observe and follow such Orders and Instructions, as you shall from Time to Time receive from the Council and House of Representatives of said State for the Time being, and in their Recds from their Committee of Safety, or any your Superior Officers for the Service of said States, according to Military Rules and Discipline, pursuant to the Trust reposed in you. In Testimony whereof we have caused the Seal of said State to be hereunto affixed: Witness, *Mark Wentworth* Esq; President of our said Council at EXETER, the 13<sup>th</sup> Day of March

Anno Domini 1778.

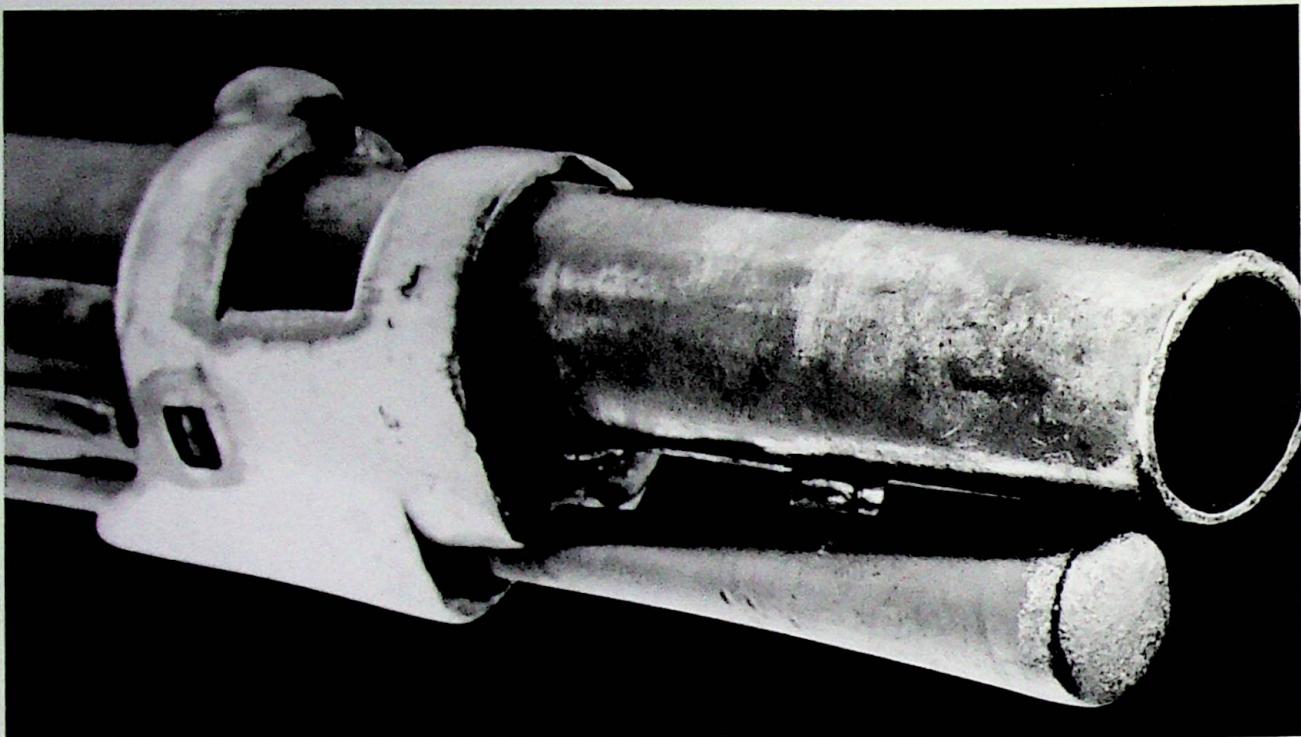
*J. Thompson*

*M. Weare*

Above: State of New Hampshire Commission Paper for John Simpson to be 2nd Lieutenant of Captain Simon Manston's Company on March 13, 1778.



Left: Simpson's bayonet markings. G N 696.



*Above:* Muzzle, bayonet lug, ramrod, front brass band and band locking lug.

The British losses at the Battle of Bunker Hill were estimated at 226 dead and 828 wounded, with a disproportionate number of these officers. The British had taken Bunker Hill at a great loss. Approximately 3000 British soldiers were involved.

Great Britain won the battle but suffered heavy unanticipated losses that changed the policy of ruling the American territory. The American Revolutionary War was started.

Shortly after the Bunker Hill Battle the Continental Congress voted during June, 1775 to form the continental army and appoint George Washington commander-in-chief. Congress discussed many issues and made a series of military regulations to organize troops. On 22 June 1775 congress approved \$1 million in bills of credit (paper currency) for the Defense of American Liberty. At the end of 1775, Congress authorized \$6 million in bills of credit. The original States debated many actions and were organized for a war.

There is no doubt that the Battle of Bunker Hill and the positions and hostilities in Massachusetts were the major actions to organize and start our Declaration of Independence. \*Photos and Simpson family history provided by Dave Bushing.

**Part Two of Article on 7th Cavalry  
Carbine, Part One was in Issue 159  
dated June 2019.**

SRS has found additional data on Serial Number 18006. It includes the name of the Cavalry trooper and the company and unit that the U.S. Model 1873 Saddle Ring Carbine was issued to in 1876.

The following data is a short compilation of The Battle of the Little Big Horn that has been summarized from many sources on the internet, many articles, government records and SRS research documents. There are still many unknowns concerning Custer, the battle, and the men involved.

On 25 June 1876 Lt. Colonel Custer and Lieutenant William W Cooke organized the 7th Cavalry into battalions. Companies A, G and M were commanded by Major Marcus A. Reno; Companies C, I and L commanded by Captain Myles W. Keogh; Companies D, H and K commanded by Captain Frederick W. Benteen and Companies E and F commanded by Captain Yates. Company B commanded by Captain Thomas M. McDougall led the pack train.

Major Reno crossed the Little Bighorn to attack the Indian village. Captain Yates with Companies E and F were to support Custer's left. Captain Yates's men later took the high ground.

Companies E and F and some survivors made it to Custer's headquarters. The bodies of Captain Yates and 14 enlisted men from Company F were found. There were 210 7th Cavalry men, and another 36 enlisted men from Company F that died.

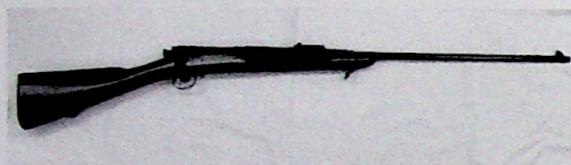
Private Bernard Lyons was listed as a survivor in unit records. He was assigned to Company F under the command of Captain George Yates.

Lyons was 27 years old and from Ireland. He was first noted in U.S. Archives logs in a disciplinary record on February 1, 1876 in Company F under the command of Captain George Yates in the Dakota Territory. The serial number of his Springfield caliber.45 Model 1873 Carbine was listed as number 18006. The carbine was listed in Company F of the 7th Cavalry.

SRS is searching for additional data on the service record of Private Bernard Lyons. It is planned that SRS will continue our research in our Western history with specific data that can be published. Private Lyons and his record lists him as a survivor of the 1876 Custer Battle. This is a dramatic story of a U.S. trooper who was assigned to the 7th Cavalry and survived the Custer Battle.

## Model 1898 Krag Caliber .22 Single Shot Sporting Rifle

The Krag rifle shown is one the many variations of the Model 1898 that was converted from a standard military configuration into a sporter. The receiver was machined to eliminate the loading gate assembly and the standard stock had a wood filler to cover the right side of the receiver.



**Above:** The rifle has a standard Model 1898 receiver that has had the magazine box, follower, hinge pin and spring assembly removed. The barrel is 30 inches in length with a newly machined front sight and a Model 1901 Krag rear sight.

The rifle is shown with the wood spliced with the rear trigger guard screw in place. The standard Springfield manufactured bolt was used. The action has the standard side plate and screw covering the left side.



The Krag hand guard is in place with the rear sight and two screws.

The issued 1898 Rifle stock was converted with major changes to the right side but the left side was for a standard receiver configuration.

The barrel was made by Stevens Pope. This rifle was one of several type of Krag rifles made for .22 ammunition using Stevens Pope and other barrels. Some of the rifles were made up by the Springfield Armory and others by commercial manufacturers. The single shot variations usually had a single shot receiver with no magazine box on the receiver and the right side of the stock was filled in. The wood has been replaced forward of the bolt handle and before the right side finger groove area.

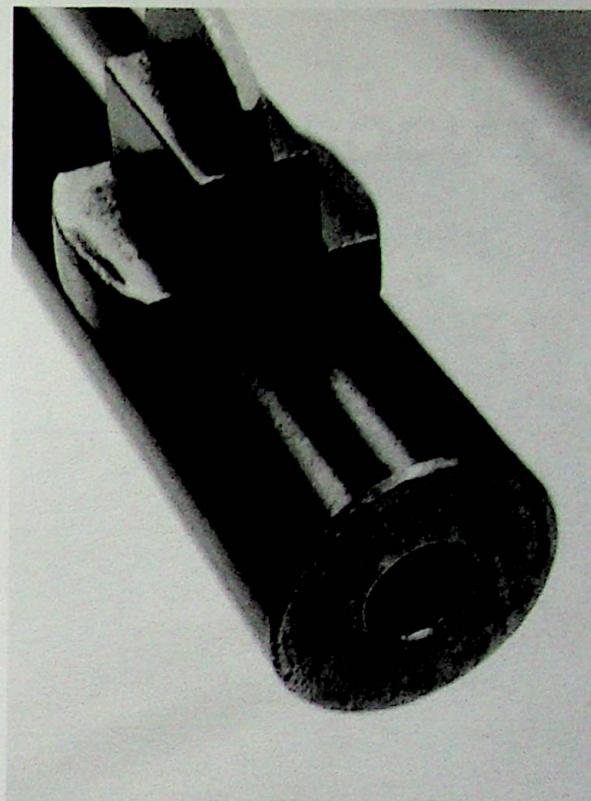


The receiver is shown above with serial number 386711. It has the standard model 1898 side plate and screw. The bolt is standard model 1898.

The receiver has no provision for the spent case and it would have fallen into any area.

**Right:** The 30 inch barrel was manufactured by Stevens-Pope and had a well machined front sight that was held by a dove tail cut in the forward end of the barrel. It was one piece. The barrel machining shows a flat muzzle with a slightly machined edge on the outside and a slight chamfer near the bore.

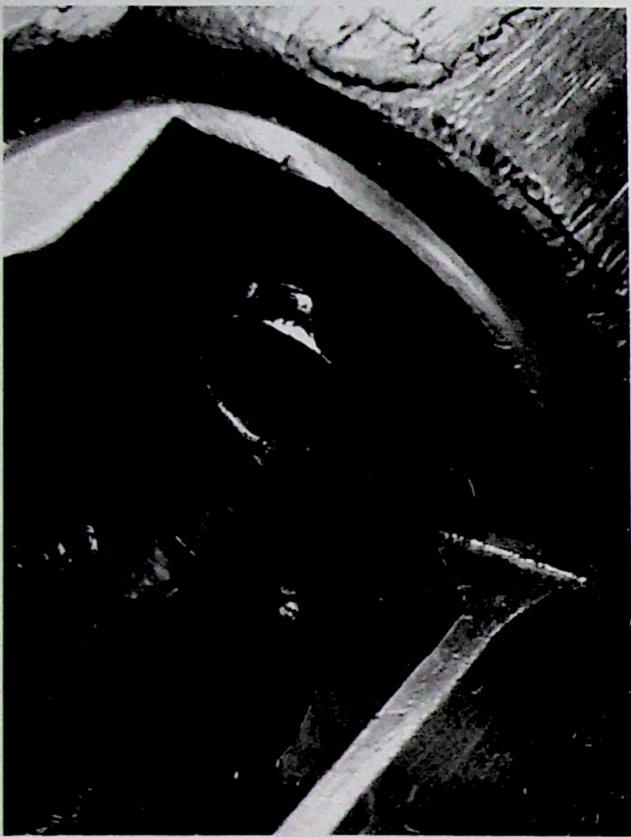
Stevens-Pope provided many barrels for their customers that were fitted to other Manufacturers such as Winchester and Remington. They also provided barrels to the Springfield Arsenal.



**Above:** Stevens-Pope barrel with a two line marking. Stevens-Pope and Manufactured by J. Stevens Chicopee Falls, Mass. U.S.A. was included in the markings. Individual customers could order a barrel or send an action or rifle to be re-barreled by the company. Chicopee Falls is very close to Springfield, Massachusetts and many employees worked Springfield Arsenal,

Stevens, Smith & Wesson and other Arms companies.

SRS records have shown various letters concerning deliveries from Stevens- Pope government orders. There were several delays in manufacturing and delivery of the .22 caliber barrels.



The chamber area of the Stevens-Pope .22 caliber is shown with the off center bore at the breech end of the barrel. The muzzle end is in the center of the barrel. The top of the chamber area has a machined cut to conform to the extractor of the model 1898 bolt. The lower cut in the barrel is near center and is designed to strike the rim of a .22 caliber cartridge. There were no other parts on the barrel or in the receiver threaded area. There were instances where the empty casing would slip out of place and other cases where the case would extract in different directions.

Krag rifles were produced in large numbers but also had small productions of special military models. There were many types of

other models that were made for sporting and target shooting.

The .30 caliber U.S. Army cartridge was standard but quite a few other cartridges were also made or tried in the basic Krag actions. Caliber .22 Long rifle, 22 short, 22 Hornet, 25/35, 30, 30, and other calibers and cartridges have been observed.

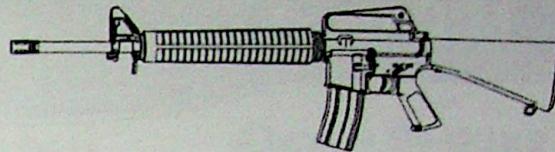
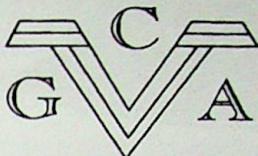
There was a sighting of a converted Krag using an M1 Garand barrel with op rod and modified bolt made into a semi auto rifle. It was seen at an old Ohio Gun show. The threading of the Garand is approximately the same as the Krag.

SRS has found data on most of the U.S. Krag .30 caliber rifles, carbines and weapons with various barrel lengths. They include Model of 1892/1894, 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1899. There are documents on model 1904 and model 1905 rifles. Some of these guns are very rare and some are possibly limited to only 3 to 5 known items.

The Krag was a favorite hunting rifle and is still used in many areas of the United States. The rifles are also one of the few that are both modern and antique according to serial number.

The commercial models of the 1930's include variants that were made to conform to favorite calibers used in other favorite hunting and target rifles.

The sporting rifle photographs were supplied with the *courtesy of* Mike Raborn.



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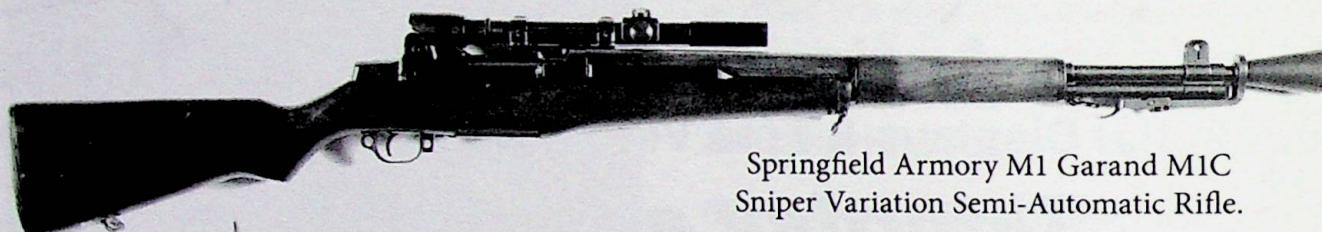
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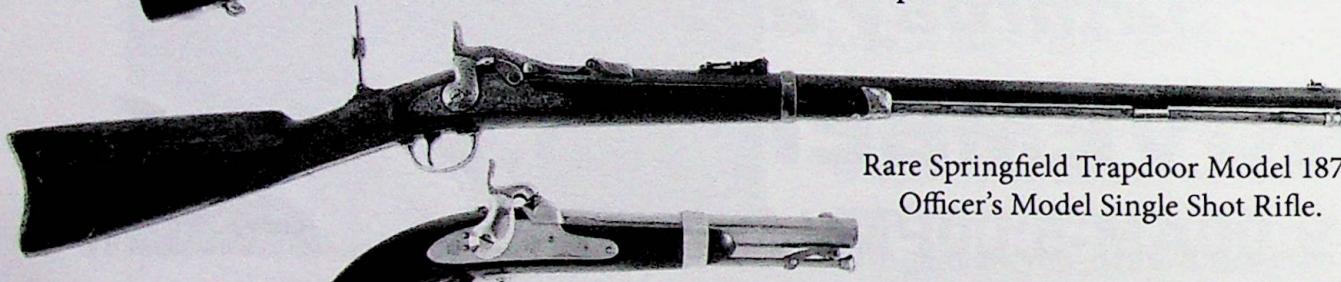
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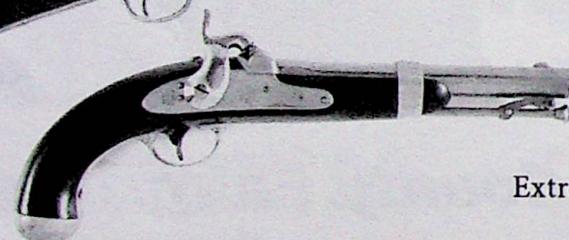
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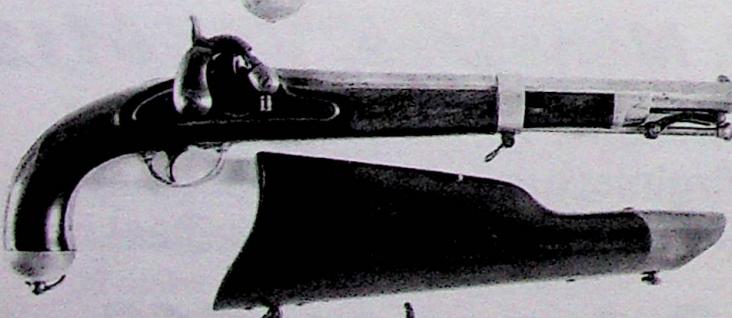
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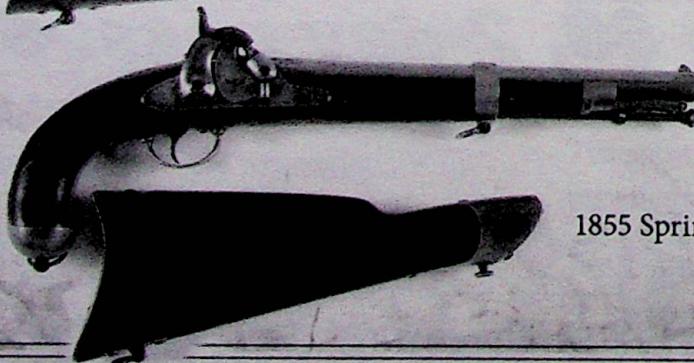
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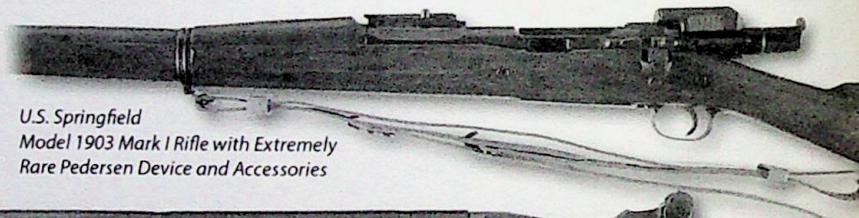
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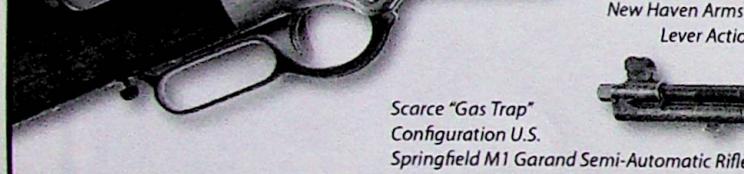
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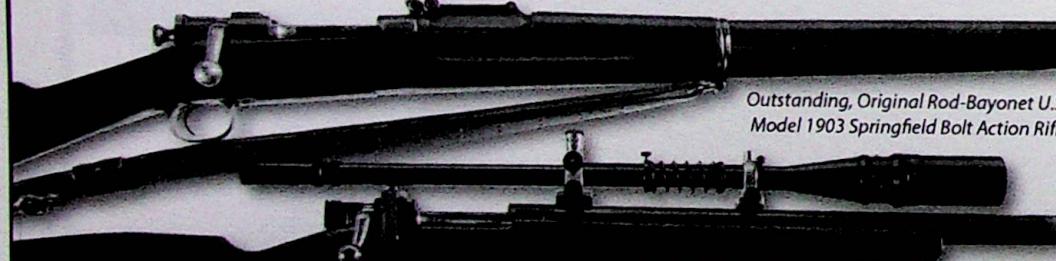
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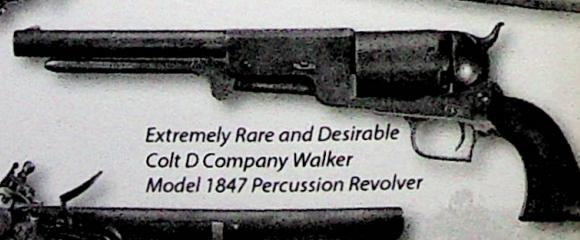
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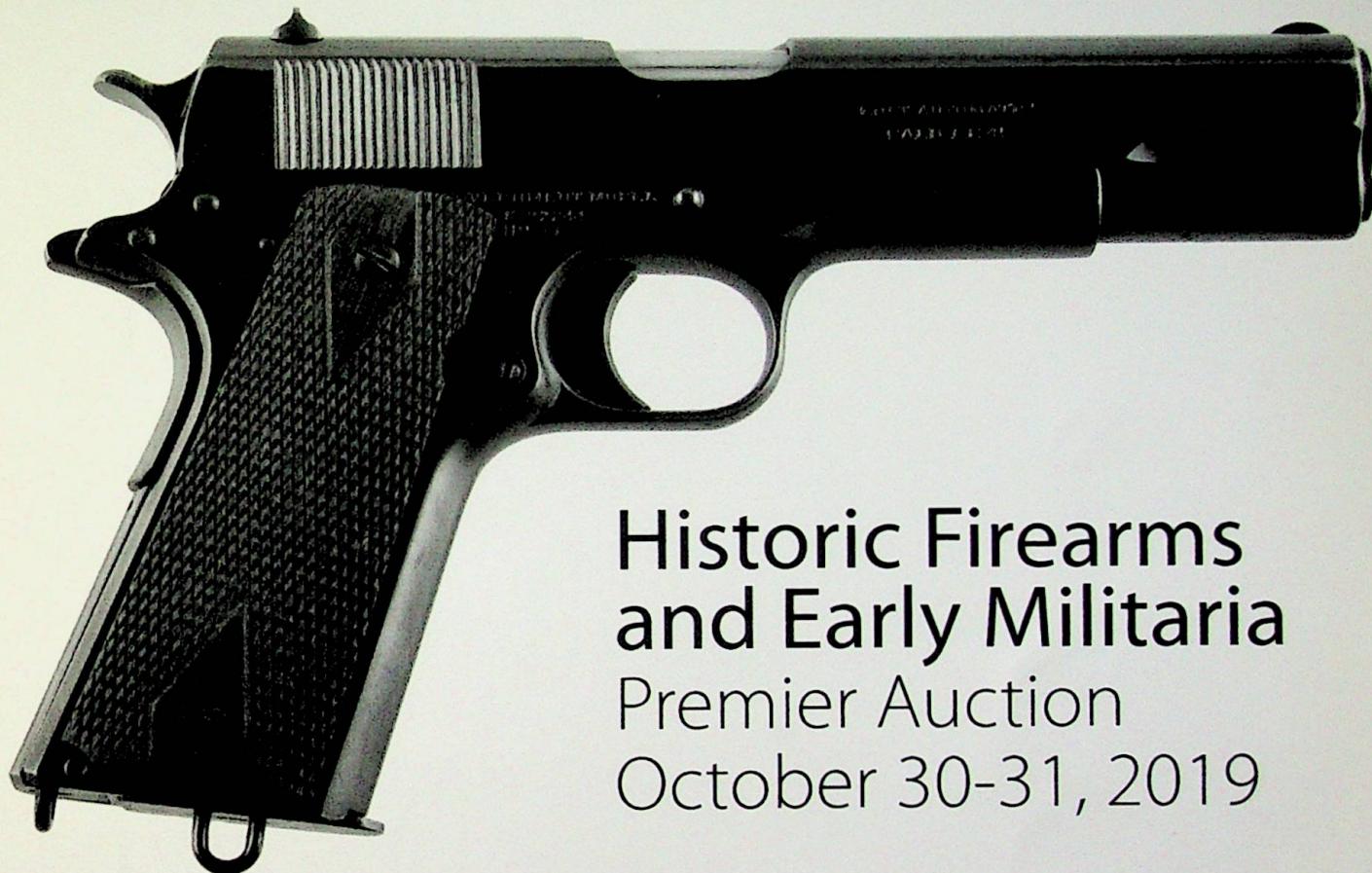
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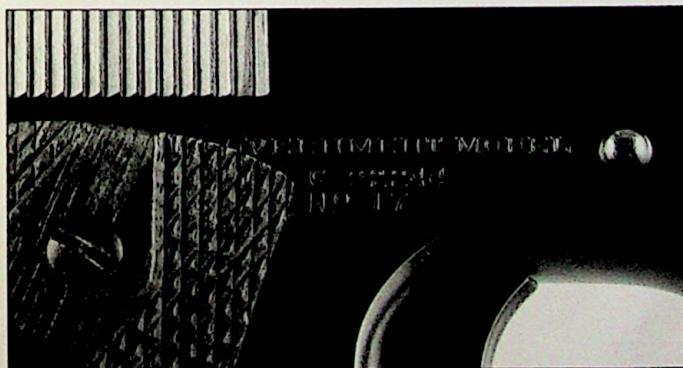
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