

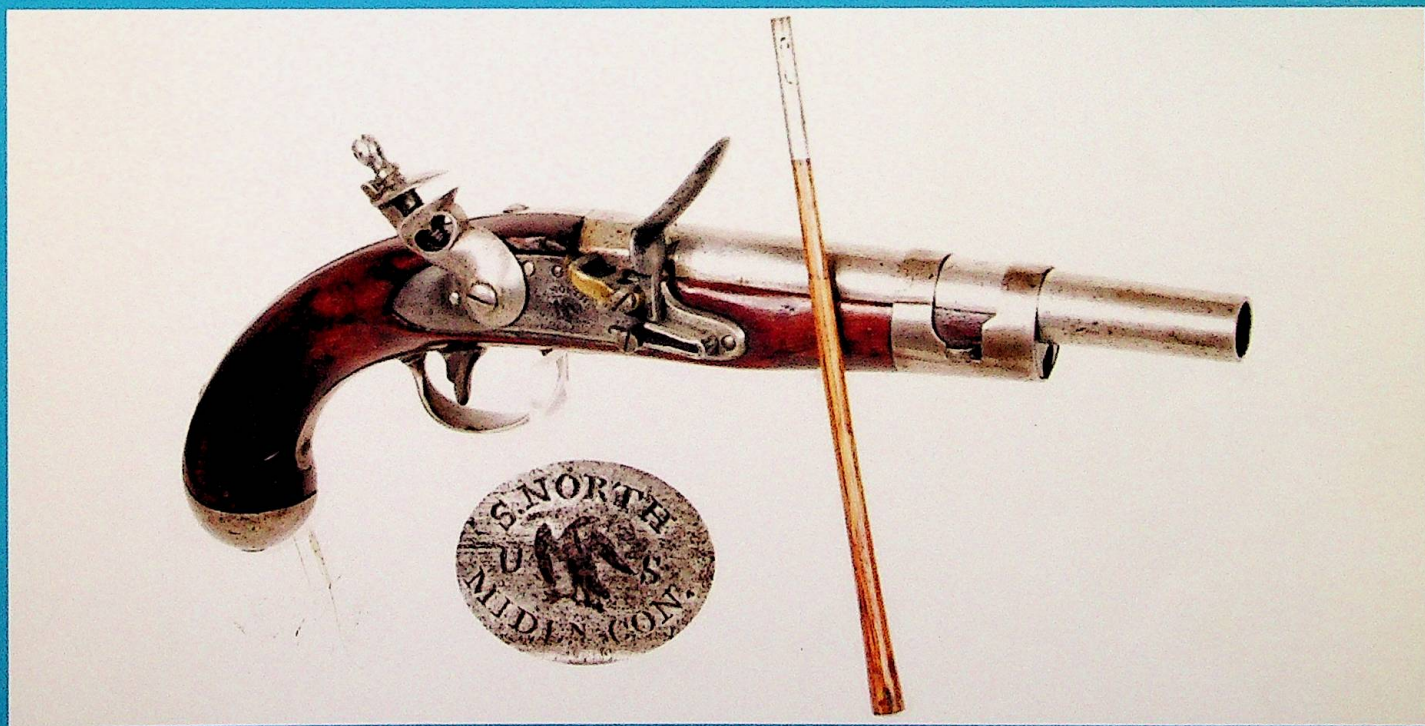
# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



Number 162 March 2020

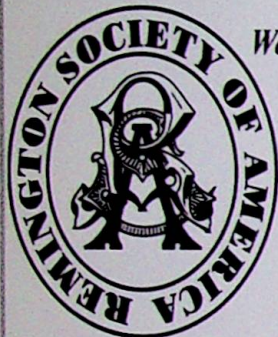
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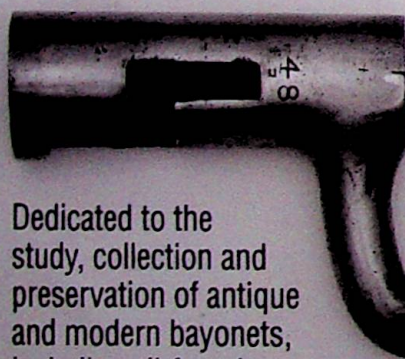
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Cover: Model 1813 North Pistol

# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

## *And Springfield Research Service Newsletter*

Number 162

March 2020

- 2     **Springfield Research Service Data  
Base Status**
- 8     **Model 1813 North Pistol**
- 17    **Colt Army Model 1909 Revolver  
Number 43497**
- 20    **1903 Springfield Trophy Rifle**
- 22    **Model 1873 Carbine Number  
34277**

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## **SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE DATA BASE STATUS**

SRS has busy researching Springfields including M 1 Garands, 1903A3 rifles, Model 1911 pistols and many areas of the American Indian Wars. We are finding that there are many scattered documents that indicate a rifle or pistol with descriptions and other data. Unfortunately many papers only refer to type of weapon with no serial number. It is unfortunate that the U.S. Army would list a number of weapons from a single item to an entire crate with only the number of weapons contained in the crate and no serial numbers. This data is looked at again to find if there is anything that gives addition unit history or dates. It is then possible to try to convert the pieces of data into a more defined description.

Many sources have been in the provost marshal files; turn in data files, unit morning reports and other reports that are not usually straight routes to a search for serial numbers.

It is time consuming but on occasion a good number is found.

It is difficult to find an area of interest and note the location of the document before it can be (pulled) to be examined. There is no direct way to ask the U.S. Archives personnel to pull a document that may be as long as 3 or 10 feet long. There is no way other than to search page by page in the thousands of pages that are available

There is no automated system.

There have been many more pages of documents found concerning United States

Marine Corps activity. This usually occurs in Navy files but cross checking shows many more Army activities that have USMC weapons.

Issue 162 dated March 2020 is current and was set to be mailed the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2020.

Some SRS data was destroyed by water damage and we are trying to find replacements. We are running behind but it appears that all of our deliverables have been made.

Please email if you have not received a document that was ordered.

Note: Please email us if you are expecting any data or letters. We have lost all original copies of issues 159 and 160.

Issue 96 with data on Military National Match .45 caliber pistols, USMC Unertl Scoped Rifles, Winchester Model 70 "Sniper Model" .30 caliber heavy barreled rifles, U.S. Springfield caliber .22 family of rifles, and Remington World War II Model 1903 rifles has been copied and is available.

We will continue to make a procedure to copy issues of old outdated issues for delivery. We are now out of about six old issues.

It is expected that we will be in full operations. Please make sure you contact us and let us know if you are missing a deliverable.

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*Thanks for your emails, comments, and patience with the water problems.*

We have been able to find additional data on Model 1873 Springfield carbines. It appears that several carbines exist that belonged to survivors of the Custer battle. We are trying to find additional data on the combat location of the troopers that survived along with their combat position at the time of the battle. Some were in other locations outside of the main battle area.

Additional information has been found on many Model 1903 heavy barreled International and T model rifles. Some rifle data has been found with details of their condition when offered for sale by Springfield Armory.

M1 Garand data has been found with exact description of Gas Trap models during their testing. Most rifles were modified, upgraded and had parts checked that are subscribed by serial number and date groups. It appears that most or all gas traps were modified or changed by the various armories during use, test, and issue. The major block of United States Marine Corps test and initial issue rifle numbers are now known.

It has been found that Winchester .22 caliber rifles were purchased for training. They had specific rear sights to be in almost exact position as the Garand rear sight. It appears that there were two prototypes made for a specific USMC model offered by Winchester.

Additions to our data base includes 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.

USMC and Arsenal data shows that all M1 Garand Gas Traps had the firing pin changes because of breakage and non-operation. It appears that any rifle in initial issue and test issue will have a new firing pin and later Gas Traps will have the new firing pin.

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. There were many tools used in the field and at unit maintenance facilities. They were used for immediate change of parts, modifications of old parts and installation of new replacement parts.

The M1 Gastrap Garand would be very rare in its original test configuration. There were a few made in five, six and other clip configurations.

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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 with status of rifle.

## **U. S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Please send corrections or updates of addresses to us at any time. We are still receiving more post office notices that mail cannot be delivered or cannot be forwarded. We try to respond to all requests that have a temporary address change. If received too late by US POSTAL STANDARDS, the mail is returned to us with no way to resend or forward. We have also been told that a couple of checks have been missing in the mail.

SRS uses U.S. Postal Service First Class Mailing.

The number indicating the last issue of a subscription is after a subscriber's name. We order extra copies of each issue but may not be able to have current issues for subscriptions that arrive after first mailings are made. We will try to hold some issues for late subscribers but they run out quickly. We will set up a procedure to make a copy if desired and mail it to a subscriber.

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 order is received after the current issue goes into printing and mailing. 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 162 dated March 2020 is current. Mailing data is sent to our printing facility for March 2020 mailing. 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. Note: We were able to save all of our Springfield sales documents.

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 162-4*



We have also found more of the Model 1903 sales documents from early 1903 rifles and some Colt pistols.

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 data searches on rare or historic weapons.

SRS has located documents in as many as 4 different locations that have U.S. Government documentation. The documentation has been transferred from any and all locations and there is longer a copy at all facilities. This is a problem and it has happened over 40 years. It may take a long time to find some old documents, and some are impossible to find or to find an audit trail.

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 using special stamps for security classification or other rules.

Special documents require more time and may have higher costs.

## **COMMENTS AND INPUTS**

Please send to:  
[editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com).

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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.

## **LETTERS WRITTEN**

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903,  
National Match. Serial Number 1 262 561.  
Sold to B. H. Bryson, Fraser, Iowa.  
November 14, 1928.

Carbine, U.S., Sharps, Serial Number  
2437. Issued to Company F, 1st Maryland  
Potomac Home Brigade Cavalry.  
April 5, 1865.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .22, Model 1922MI.  
Serial Number 8572. Sold to Walter  
VanCurren, Estacada, Ore.  
March 14, 1930.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903.  
Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 366 526.

Sold to H. L. Higgins Kirkwood, MO.  
March 11, 1932.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903.  
Sporting Model. Serial Number 1 262 185.  
Sold to F. Z. McColloch, Piqua Ohio.  
May 24, 1924.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903.  
Sporting Model, NRA Type. Serial  
Number 1 406 743. Sold to Mrs. Sellers,  
Box Number 462, Superior, Arizona.  
October 11, 1933.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903  
Sporting Model, Serial Number 1 255 612.  
Sold to J. W. Spencer, Sheridan,  
Wyoming. June 14, 1923.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. .30, Model 1903.  
Sporting Model, Serial Number 1 266 885.  
Sold to A. F. J. Blaum, Wilkes Barre, Pa.  
January 21, 1926.

## **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 when they do not want that service. This problem can be corrected by the subscriber

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contacting PAYPAL and correcting their order. SRS cannot change or start an automatic payment for a subscriber.

We will fix any problem that we can.

## **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 complete 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

search files and complete research with copies of original documents.

The use of the I-phone greatly increased our ability to bring back historical data. This technology has also aided us in the enhancement of documents that could not be copied on a government machine. The rules do not allow a researcher to copy a large book on a copy machine. We have had occasion to lift up a document that covers an original copy that has serial number data covered over by a pasted paper. Under no circumstances are we allowed to pry or try to open the top pasted copy of paper. The camera can be used to see through the top copy and provide contrast to read serial numbers.

## **SEARCHED ODDITIES**

During the last few months a small number of serial number searches have led to puzzles that cannot be easily explained.

The first example was a double entry for a 1903 Springfield. There were two entries for the same serial number. They had different dates, and different information for similar weapons from the Springfield Armory. We cannot find any other information that explains the different data and we cannot determine if there were two complete weapons manufactured with the same serial number. We remain puzzled.

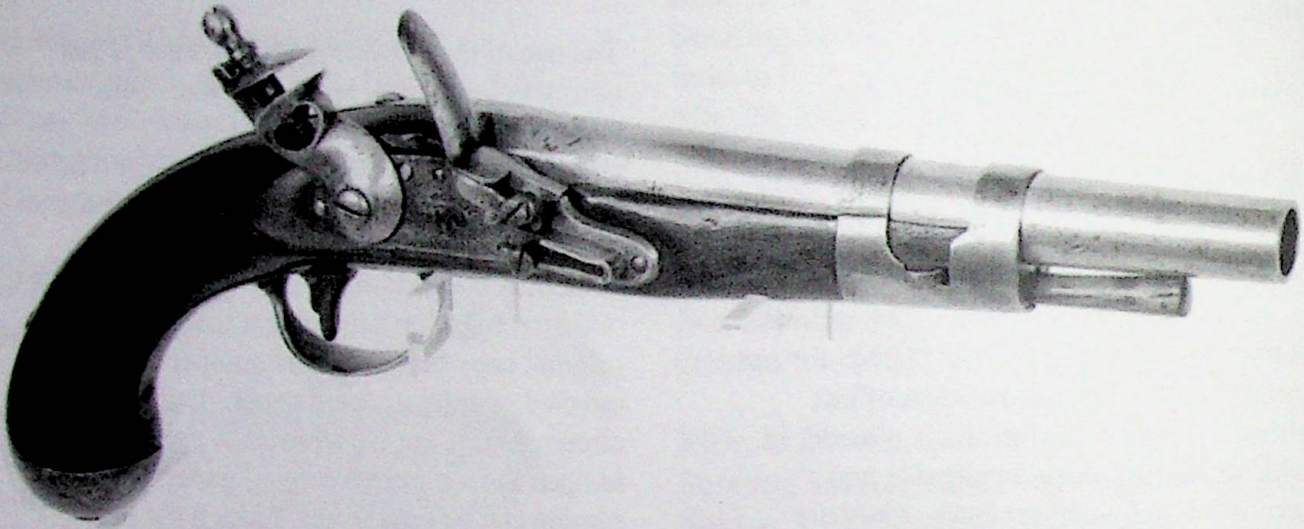
A detailed search may take several weeks of work and visits to the Archives.

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# SIMEON NORTH and the US MODEL 1813 ARMY PISTOL

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



*Simeon North US Model 1813 Pistol. Photo - Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal*

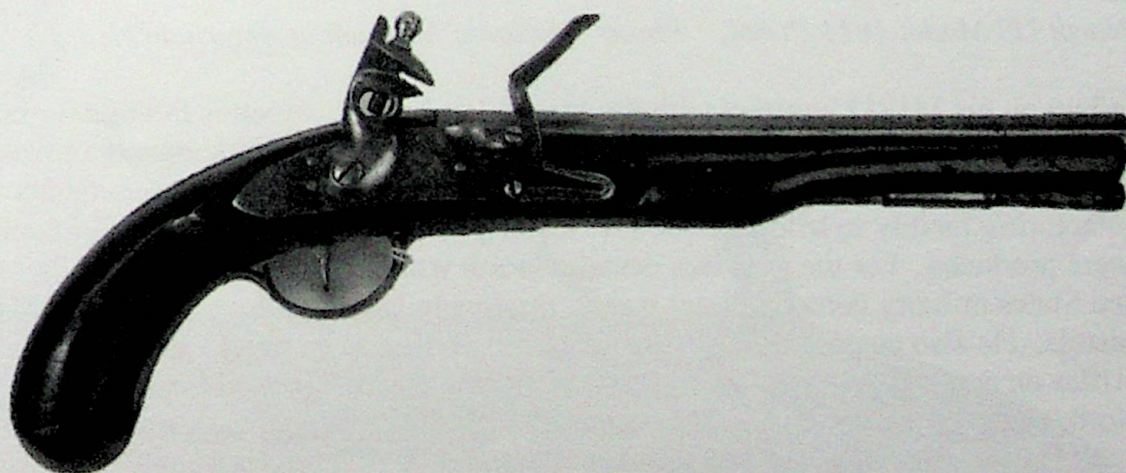
Simeon North has been called the “Patriarch of US Pistol Makers” and the “first official pistol maker of the U.S.” by a number of US martial arms researchers and collectors. He holds an indelible place in the history of gunmaking in the United States. North was born in Berlin, CT on July 13, 1765, the same day as inventor Eli Whitney. It is ironic that the futures of both men would be intertwined in the birth and development of New England manufacturing, the production of arms for a country that would not exist for more than a decade after their births, and in pioneering the concept of manufacturing with interchangeable parts. They each possessed the same genius for mechanical invention of machinery resulting in firearms with interchangeable parts. And they received their first US government contracts within 14 months of each other –Eli Whitney on January 14, 1798 and Simeon North for 500 horse pistols on March 9, 1799.

In the fall of 1781, when he had just turned 16, North tried to enlist in the Continental Army but was rejected. Cornwallis’s surrender at Yorktown in October of that year convinced many that the Revolutionary War was essentially over, even though it would technically continue for two more years. In 1795, rather than pursue the traditional and expected career as a farmer, he purchased a water driven sawmill which he used to the manufacture farm implements, most notably scythes. During this time North formed a friendship Elias Beckley, a local gunsmith, who likely had a significant influence on the young and impressionable entrepreneur and budding manufacturing mogul. By 1799, North felt sufficiently confident in his ability to manufacture firearms on a large scale that he solicited and received the first United States contract for the manufacture of military pistols. In cooperation with his brother in law, clock maker Elisha Cheney, North undertook to produce an Americanized copy of the French Model



1777 flintlock pistol, which will forever be known as the US Model 1799 North & Cheney Pistol. North received two contracts for the manufacture of the pistols, the first in 1799 for 500 guns and the second in 1800 for another 1,500. He delivered the 2,000 pistols between 1799 and 1802, successfully completing his first military contracts and establishing himself as the primary US pistol contractor. The next pattern of US pistol, the Model 1805, was produced at Harper's Ferry but North was not involved in the manufacture of that gun.

In 1808, North contracted to provide what would be called the US Model 1808 Navy Pistol. Elisha Cheney was not involved and his name disappears from the story of Simeon North's gun making. By this time North had also expanded and modernized his manufacturing facility and had been experimenting with the concept of making parts to such a tolerance that they were significantly more interchangeable most items produced in the early 19th century. North applied his interchangeable parts process and his industrial expertise and inventor's eye to the modification and improvement of the sample pistol provided to him by the Navy. One of his improvements was an iron backstrap that ran from the breech to the buttcap. He reasoned that since a naval boarding pistol was as likely to see as much service as a club as it would as a pistol, this modification would increase the survivability and service life of the pistol. US Navy manuals of the Federal Period included instructions for how seamen should throw pistols as a weapon once they had been discharged. It appears that all of those Hollywood movies that show idiots throwing an empty gun at their assailants are really tipping their hats to the seamen from the era of "Old Ironsides!" North also made some minor modifications to the furniture and fittings in an attempt to make the parts more "interchangeable."

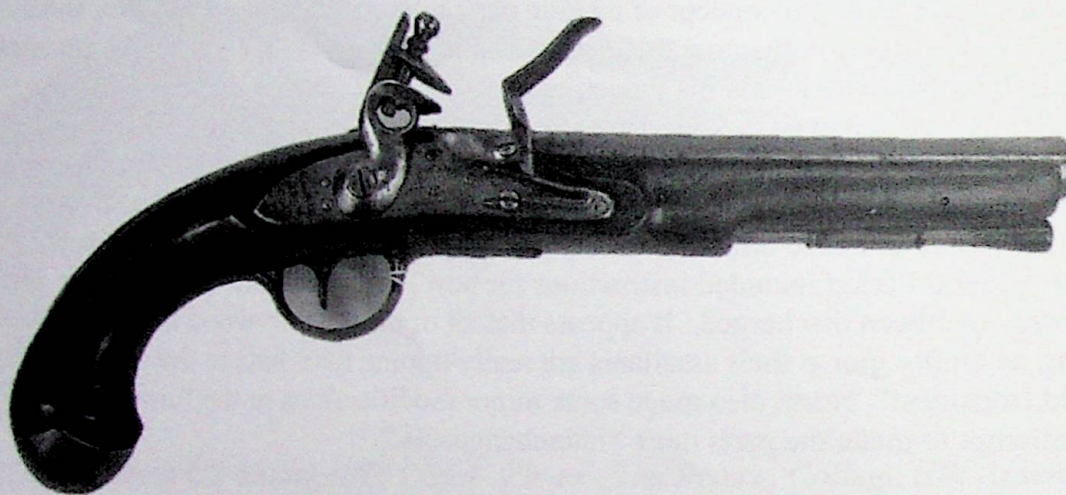


*North US Model 1808 Navy Pistol. Photo - National Museum of American History*

The final version of the Model 1808 Navy Pistol was a full-stocked, single shot, smoothbore flintlock pistol with a nominally 10 1/8" round barrel that was secured to the pistol with the breech screw and by pins through the stock. As with his earlier North & Cheney contract arms, the barrels tended to vary by as much as a 1/8" in overall length. While the contract called for the pistols to be .64 caliber, most specimens encountered today show some minor variance in caliber. For instance one of the examples in the National Museum of American History is .67 caliber. The pistol was brass mounted with a brass buttcap, triggerguard, side plate and rammer thimble, and was reinforced with the iron backstrap of North's design. An iron belt hook was attached to the reverse (left side) of the pistol to allow a sailor to carry it securely thrust into his



trousers, belt or sash, leaving his hands free to climb and clamber onto an enemy ship carrying his cutlass, boarding ax or other weapon. The lock was a flat, beveled affair that included one of North's innovations, a removable brass flash pan with a fence at its rear. A rounded reinforced cock (hammer) completed the lock. Interestingly, while the M1808 pistols were serial numbered and assembly marked by North (mostly internally), they did not receive external inspection marks or proofs. North's pistol was favorably received and he was granted another contract on November 11, 1811 for what would be known as the Model 1811 pistol. The contract called for 1,000 pairs of .69 caliber flintlock pistols and they were the first of North's pistols to be marked with inspection and proof marks from the Ordnance Department.



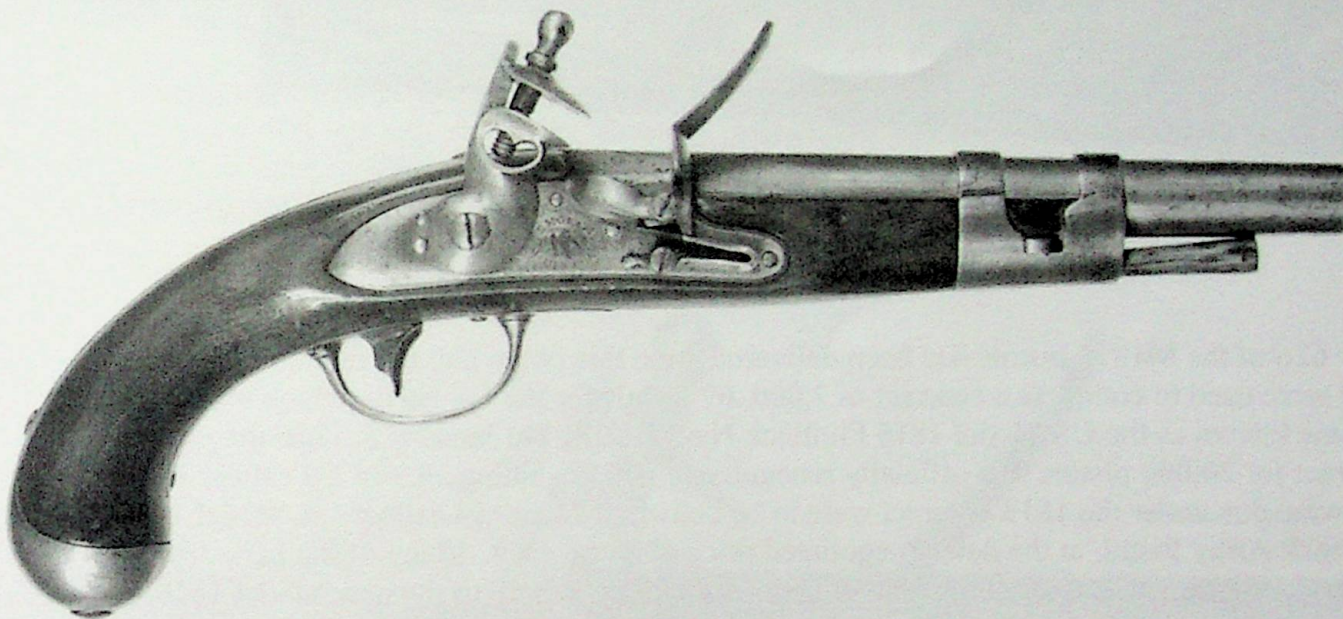
*Early North US Model 1811 Pistol. Photo - National Museum of American History*

North followed up on his M1811 contract with the Model 1813 pistol, which is famous for being the first pistol manufactured for the US government on the principle of interchangeable parts, and with that specification included in the contract. It was at this time that North moved his primary manufacturing facility to Middletown, CT, leaving his son to operate the Berlin facility where parts were produced. For the next two decades North would continue to serve as the primary United States military contract pistol maker, producing large numbers of M1816, M1819 and M1826 pistols. He also entered the rifle manufacturing business by producing US M1817 "Common" Rifles on contract for the US government. When the M1826 pistol contract was completed, North acquired the contract to produce Hall's Patent Rifles and Carbines for the US government. As Hall's arms were manufactured on the principle of interchangeable parts, North was uniquely qualified to handle their manufacture. The 50,000 flintlock pistols that North produced from 1799-1829 as the primary US contract pistol maker saw service in every US conflict from the Barbary Coast and the "Shores of Tripoli" through the War of 1812, the Seminole Wars, the Blackhawk War and the Mexican War. They even served during the Civil War; although usually as percussion conversions. North was a pioneering arms maker, who left an indelible imprint on early US martial arms design and manufacturing techniques.

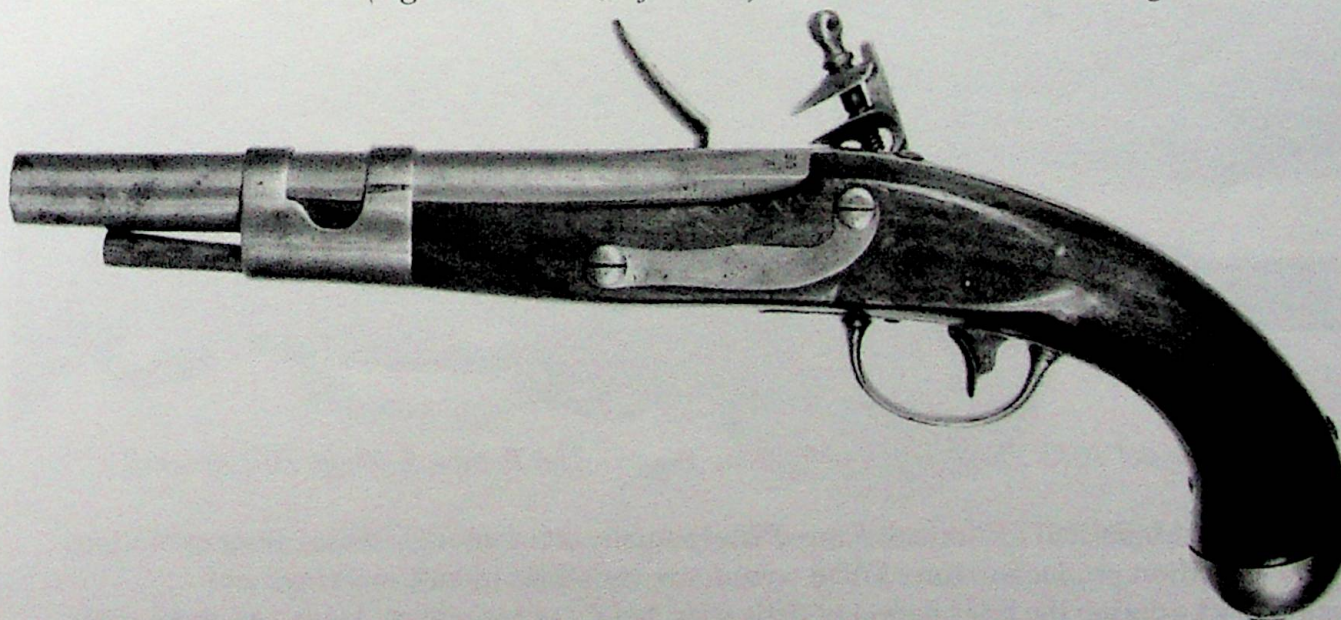
Simeon North's Model 1813 Army Pistol contract has the distinction of being one of the shortest duration US arms contracts, in which the weapon was altered, modified and essentially redesigned before less than 10% of the contract was fulfilled. The pistol was contracted for on April 16, 1813 and the contract was a direct result of the War of 1812. The Model 1813 had its



genesis in the Simeon North Army Contract Pistol of 1811. This pistol originally had pinned barrels and brass furniture. However, during the production run the Ordnance Department decided that the pistol should be modified and instead of relying upon pins to secure the barrel to the stock, a double strapped barrel band, secured by "Wickham's Improvement" (a spring loaded stud retainer) was incorporated into the design. It was US arsenal sub-inspector (and later arms contractor) Marine T. Wickham who suggested the barrel band modification to the Ordnance Department. The last of the M1811 pistols were manufactured in this fashion, and the subsequent model, the M1813 pistol also incorporated the double-strapped barrel band and Wickham's stud into its design.



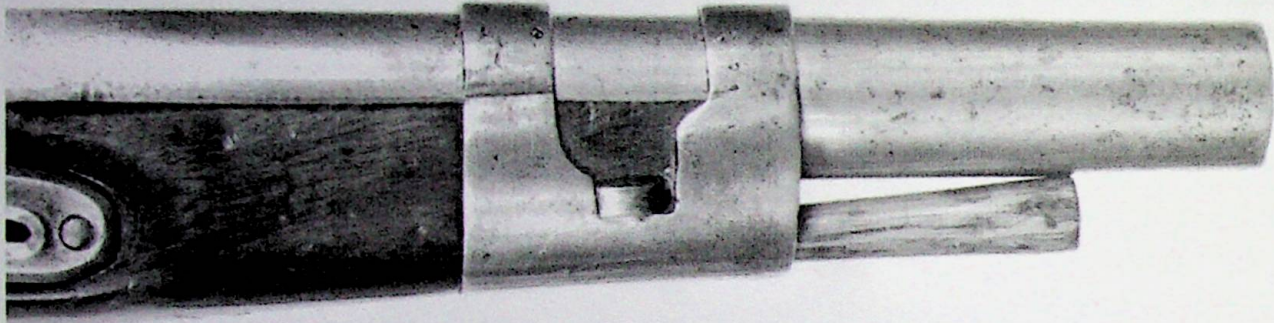
*North Model 1813 Pistol (right side above, left below). Photo - Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal*



The Model 1813 contract called for 20,000 pistols to be manufactured at the price of \$7.00 each. The pistol was an improved version of the previous M1811 with iron furniture instead of brass

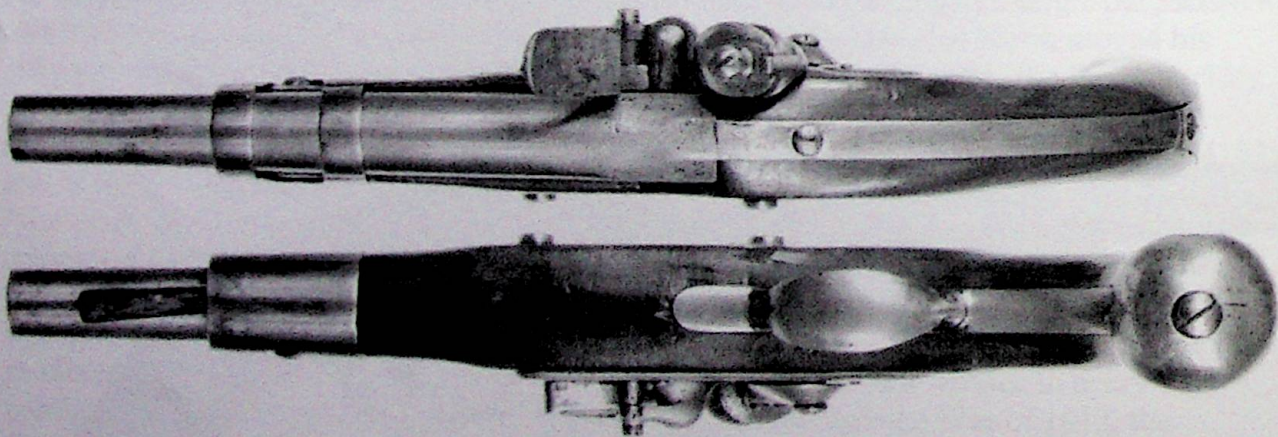


but the contract retained the massive .69 caliber "musket" bore" of its predecessor. This excessively large caliber became problematic almost immediately and production was temporarily halted in June of 1815 after only 626 pistols were produced to allow the pistol to be re-designed in .54 caliber. (See Author's Note at end of article.)



*North Model 1813 Pistol double strapped barrel band secured by "Wickham's Improvement," a spring loaded stud retainer. Photo - Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal*

Only 626 of the M1813 pistols had been delivered up to this point, and the remaining parts on hand were used to complete a contract of 1,000 .69 pistols for the US Navy, which would become known as the US Model 1816 Flintlock Navy Pistol. On January 8, 1816 the original contract for 20,000 pistols was officially renegotiated and remaining 19,374 .69 caliber pistols that were due under the 1813 contract were to be delivered as the .54 caliber US Model 1816 Flintlock Army Pistol, at the newly negotiated price of \$8.00 each. Many of the parts from the original M1813 pistol production were utilized in the manufacture of the new Model 1816.



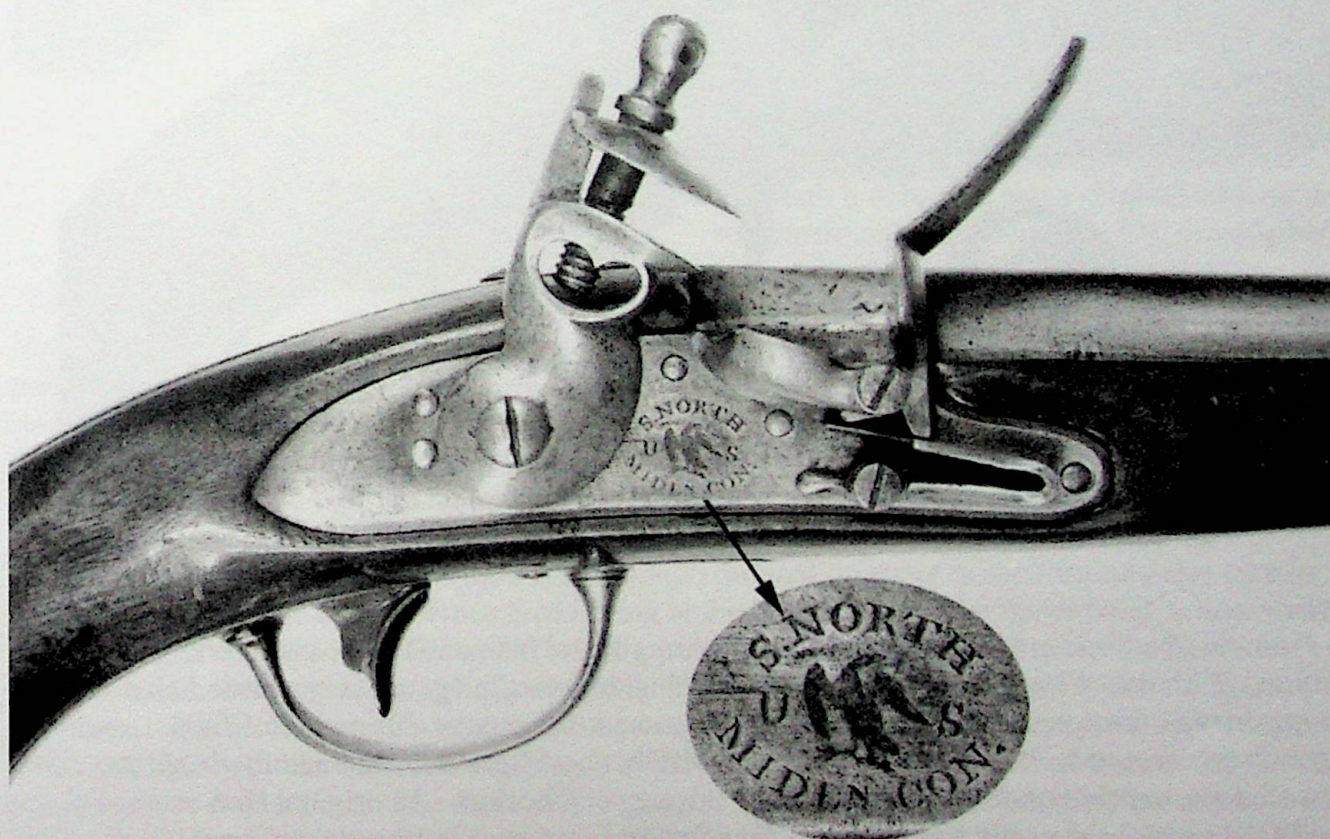
*North US Model 1813 Pistol, top and bottom. Photo - Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal*

Simeon North's Model 1813 Flintlock Army Pistol actually went through some minor evolutions during its very short production run. There were some variations in lock markings and inspection marks during the brief period of deliveries, but these are minor. However, there were two major physical differences in a few of the guns. One group of about 85 guns were delivered after an arrangement was made with the Ordnance Department to deliver the last of the guns that were almost finished, even though they were still in the older, now abandoned .69 caliber. These



guns had flat locks, rather than the usually encountered lock plates with beveled edges. The other obvious physical difference is the handful of final delivery pistols that have slightly longer stock forends that extend past the front of the barrel band. These stocks were being produced for the new .54 caliber M1816 pistols but were used on a handful of the later delivery .69 caliber guns. Otherwise, the features of the two variants of the M1813 pistol are very consistent. The guns were nominally 15" in overall length, with nominally 9" barrels. The octagonal breech area often varied as much as 1/8" +/- in overall length. The bores were .69 caliber and smoothbore. The pistols had 5 1/2" long locks that usually had beveled edges and a convex tail that terminated in a point. The lock had a removable fenced brass flash pan and a rounded, reinforced cock (hammer). The barrel was retained by the double strapped iron Wickham's barrel band with the Wickham's improvement stud.

All mountings, other than the pan, were of iron. The wooden hickory rammer had a metal ferrule at the end. The metal end was slotted for cleaning patches and had female threads for the attachment of cleaning and ball pulling implements. The heavy duty pistol weighed in at a hefty 3 1/4 pounds. The Model 1813 design did not include any form of sights, although a brass blade front sight was introduced in the subsequent Model 1816 design.



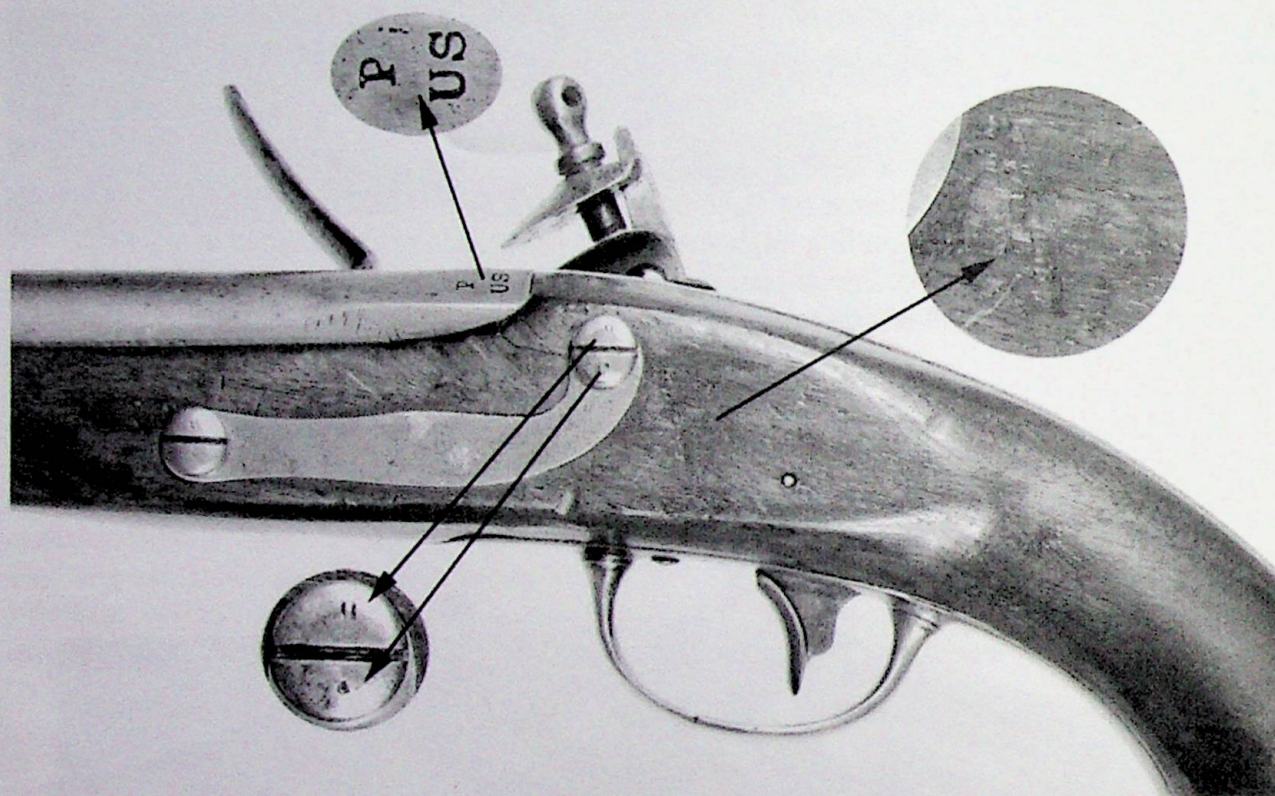
*North Model 1813 Pistol. Note standard Simeon North stamp on lockplate.*

*Photo - Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal*

The very first of the M1813s delivered were inspected by Henry H. Perkins and have his initials **HHP** stamped on the right side of the barrel near the touchhole, as well as over a **V** in the counterpane of the stock. Some of the **HHP** inspected barrels were also used on later pistol



deliveries as Perkins inspected more finished barrels than completed pistols. The later deliveries were inspected by Luther Sage and are marked with a **V/LS** cartouche on the counterpane and most of these guns do not have the **HHP** mark on the barrel. All of the barrels were further marked with a **P/US** inspection stamp on the left angled breech. Despite the fact that Simeon North intended the M1813 pistols to be interchangeable, mating and assembly marks that match the barrel to the stock and the lock are often encountered, as well as other small mating marks that indicate the various parts of the pistols go together.



*North Model 1813 Pistol. Note P / US on left side flat of barrel near breech, weak V/LS cartouche on counterpane of stock, and marks on screw (punch dot and 2 slashes).*

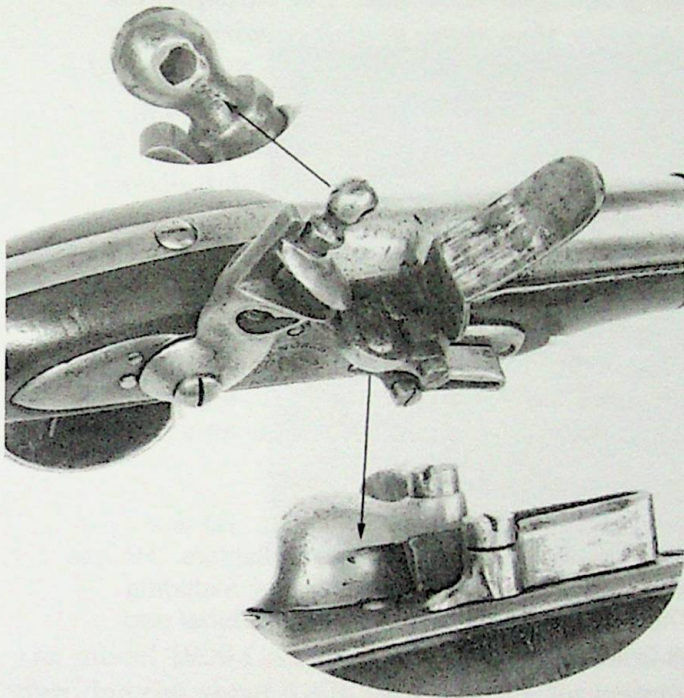
*Photo - Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal*

This example of a Simeon North US Model 1813 Army Pistol is in about near very good condition. With only 626 of these "army" pistols being delivered, they are very scarce. The large majority of these pistols were altered to percussion at some point during their lifetime, and this gun is no exception. It has, however, been skillfully re-converted to flint and the work is very well done, capable of deceiving even many advanced collectors. As original flint examples of the M1813 pistol can easily reach the low five-figures in price, it is essential to know if you are buying an original flint M1813 or a reconversion.

The pistol is crisply marked on the lock with the standard Model 1813 lock marking: **S. NORTH / U {EAGLE} S / MIDLN CON**. No **HHP** mark is present near the touchhole, so this is not one of the early Perkins inspected barrels. The left angled barrel flat is clearly inspected with usual **P/US** proof mark. The weak outline of the **V/LS** cartouche is present on the counterpane of the



stock, with minute traces of the initials visible under magnification with good light. The bottom of the barrel is mating marked to the stock with two different marks. The first are four slashes, ||||, which are also found in the barrel channel. The second mating mark is the number 42, which is also found stamped into the lock mortise. The breech plug and barrel have matching dot mating marks. Nearly every piece of furniture, along with the accompanying screws are marked with a small punch dot and two file slashes, indicating that all of these parts go together.



This example of a Simeon North US Model 1813 pistol is a high quality reversion to flint. It appears to use a number of original parts, probably from a US M1816 pistol lock, as many of these parts used in the two models were the same. The pan is an original pan, probably from a North 1816 pistol and has a touch mark underneath similar to those found on the small parts of the gun. The hammer, or cock, appears to be an original hammer as well; again, likely from an 1816 lock. The top jaw screw has been repaired and it is not clear if the screw and top jaw are high quality replacements or 1816 parts as well. The steel frizzen appears to be a quality reproduction, although it may be a worn original with some roughness around the hinge. The screws that secure the external flint battery are replacements as is the steel frizzen spring

*North Model 1813 Pistol reconverted from percussion to flintlock. Note top jaw screw of cock and touch mark on the bottom of the pan.  
Photo - Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal.*

The metal of the pistol has been lightly cleaned, and the iron barrel and furniture now have a medium pewter patina. There is light pinpricking scattered on some of the furniture and on part of the barrel, with the most obvious areas being at the breech and on the upper band, where some light pitting is also present. The metal also shows some scattered lightly freckled surface oxidation and some scattered age discoloration. The smooth bore of the pistol is in very good condition. The hickory ramrod appears to be original to the period and is complete with a well-worn and lightly pitted iron cleaning ferrule at the end with functional internal threads for the attachment of implements. The stock of the pistol is solid and complete but there are a couple of cracks as do many pistols of this period and style. A handful of small chips are missing as well, mostly around the lock mortise and in front of the triggerguard. The stock was lightly cleaned long ago and was likely lightly sanded, but still retains good lines. Despite the fact that the gun is more than 200 years old, it remains in very nice and very presentable condition.

The Simeon North US Model 1813 is one of the rarest of the US martial single shot handguns, a gun produced specifically for the War of 1812. With only 626 of these guns produced and



delivered to the army, examples in any condition – original flintlock, percussion conversion or reconversion to flint - are exceptionally scarce today. If even 10% of these guns have survived more than 200 years to remain in collections, that means that only about sixty of these pistols are extant.

***Authors' Note** - During the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, pistol caliber was often referred to by the comparable caliber for the long arm of the same bore size. For example, the English used a nominal .65-.66 caliber for carbines, thus many British cavalry pistols were produced in "carbine bore" or .65-.66 caliber. For naval service the British used a nominally .56 caliber pistol, which they referred to as "pistol caliber." In America, muskets were nominally .69 caliber, thus "musket bore" and rifles were nominally .54 caliber, or "rifle bore". The Army Ordnance Department decided in 1815 that pistols should be "rifle bore" (.54 caliber), rather than "musket bore."*

### **The authors:**

**Marc Gorelick** is a collector and a member of numerous arms collecting groups, including the Virginia Gun Collectors Assn., the Potomac Arms Collectors Assn., the Ohio Gun Collectors Assn., and the Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society. He has written numerous articles about historical arms, as well as given lectures and educational displays.

**Tim Prince** is a well-known arms collector, Civil War historian and dealer in antique arms. He is a member of numerous arms collecting groups including the American Society of Arms Collectors. He has written innumerable erudite and scholarly articles and is a co-author of a number of books, including *Confederate & Southern Agent Marked Shotguns* and *The English Connection – Arms, Material and Support Furnished to the Confederate States of America by Great Britain*.



**COLT NEW SERVICE Model 1909 DA cal .45, serial number 43,497.**

*Photos and data courtesy of James Leahigh.*



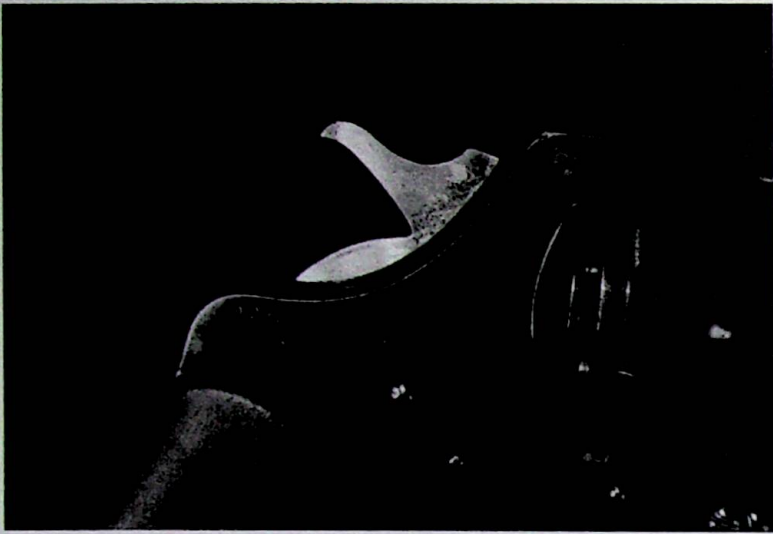
The model 1909 Colt Army revolver was chambered for the caliber .45 "Long Colt" with cartridge rim about 0.030 inches larger for better extraction. It had a 255 grain bullet and 8.4 grains of RSQ smokeless powder. They were manufactured in 1911 according to serial number lists. (If this is so, the dates for Carr's service, ending in 1909, may be wrong.)

The Colt weighs 40 oz, with a 5 ½ inch barrel, and a total length of 10 ¾. It has a deep blue finish (95%), and oiled walnut grips in excellent condition.

Markings include grips with R. A. C. for Rinaldo A. Carr, armory sub-inspector for Colt cal .38 and .45 revolvers and semi-automatic pistols (1889-1909). The butt is marked U.S./ARMY/MODEL/1909/(lanyard swivel) and No/43/497. Barrel marks shown on the left side COLT D.A. 45., with top marked COLT'S PT FA MFG CO. HARTFORD CT. U.S.A./PATD AUG. 5 1884 JUNE 5 1900 JULY 4 1905. Marked on the bottom "UNITED STATES PROPERTY" with an inverted P or D and R. A. C. (possibly double struck). Cylinder face marked R. A. C. Crane and neck marked with the serial number. Left frame marked with a C and rampant colt. Cylinder release marked with K and 3497. Right frame marked with R. A. C. and WPG in a circle for Walter G. Penfield, MAJ USA (Colt Model 1911 cal .45 semi-automatic pistols for Army and Navy). The condition is excellent with blue all intact with some minor scratches. Grips are just about perfect. The pistol came with a worn holster and private purchase belt (looks like part of a Sam Brown belt).

Many of these Model 1909 revolvers went to the Philippines and saw heavy service. The revolver is very large and was a heavy powerful sidearm. The condition shows the excellent care and condition of this specific example. There are several examples that are documented as being used or in the military inventory until World War II.





*Left R.A.C. markings.*

The 1909 came with a 1909 holster made by Graton & Knight , and stamped impressed on the back: G & K/1917/A.G. It was also stamped in ink with the following name and location:

MAJOR H. L. QUICKEL  
MEDICAL CORPS U. S. ARMY.  
FITSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL.  
DENVER, COLORADO.

Fitzsimons hospital history shows that the medical facility was eestablished East of Denver in 1918 and the medical facility was named for Lieutenant William T. Fitzsimons, a United States Army officer in World War I, who is considered the first American officer killed in the "great war". Fitzsimons graduated from the University Of Kansas School Of Medicine in 1912.

FITSIMONS GENERAL HOSPITAL was originally established as an army hospital specializing in treating soldiers infected with tuberculosis during World War I. After struggling with small budgets and the threat of closure, the facility expanded with the addition of a new main building in 1941 for the expected casualties and an influx of patients during World War II. Denver appeared to be an ideal location from 1918 through World War II.

The model 1909 Colt revolver was made in several models including the U.S. Army, the U. S. Navy and the U.S. Marines Corps. There were also many used by Civilian agencies and commercial firms as guard's guns.

Many were transferred to civilian agencies such as the Post Office. It seems that many of the surplus revolvers that were in non military use were carefully cared for and survived. Those in active use were well-used and the condition reflects the ones used in battle or other heavy conditions.



The prices are very high for original or scarce models due to low production rates. Most examples recently for sale had various descriptions that also stated that they are rare and highly collectable.



*Left:* The butt marked 43497  
U.S. Army Model 1909.

Springfield Research data shows that serial number 47850 was listed as a model 1909 that was sent for disposal to TACOM (Tank and Auto Command) on March 1, 1929. Number 47203 was sent to Manila on July 12, 1911. Number 46837 was sent for disposal to TACOM on February 29, 1928. Number 46828 was sent to TACOM on May 13, 1942. Number 43660 was sent to A.C. Breed on December 1, 1921. Number 46449 was sent to TACOM on January 18, 1953. Those numbers shown were all Model 1909 revolvers.

Many other .45 caliber revolvers were sent to the United States Post Office. The data does not say what model of revolver was in each record. They included serial numbers in the 43,00 or a higher range and a sample that were included in a quick survey were numbers 43366, 43386, 43399, 43400, 43410, 43429, 43447, 43472, 43484, 43510, and 45524.

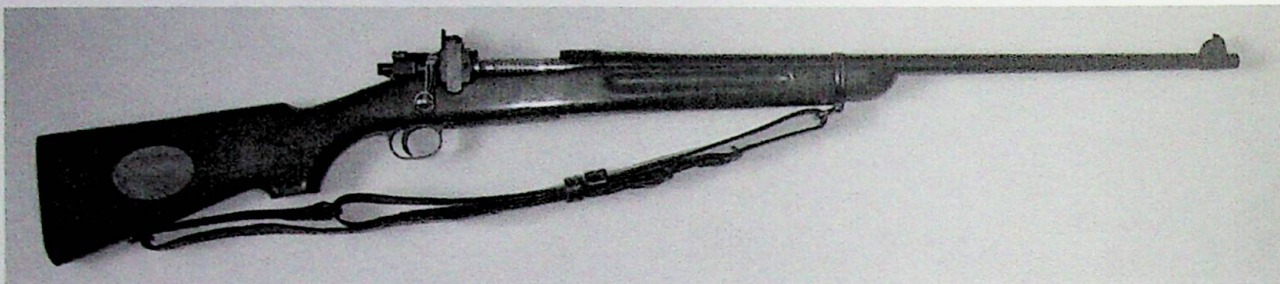
It appears that there has been little research on many serial numbers for all models of the 1909 and the Model 1917 Colt revolvers. SRS has started some additional research but it takes quite a few hours to search a single number, let alone make integration into a usable data base. We will continue to search some numbers to find out if the actual production and shipments to military units exist. The data may be very sparse if most deliveries were covered in shipments that only state the contents as revolvers caliber .45 with no serial numbers. Other data may contain a reference to a general area of use as a caliber .45 revolver.

There is no doubt that historical data on the heavy .45 caliber was included as design criteria for the new test automatic pistols and the renewed interest in .45 revolvers. The new Model Colt 1911 replaced the .45 caliber revolvers.

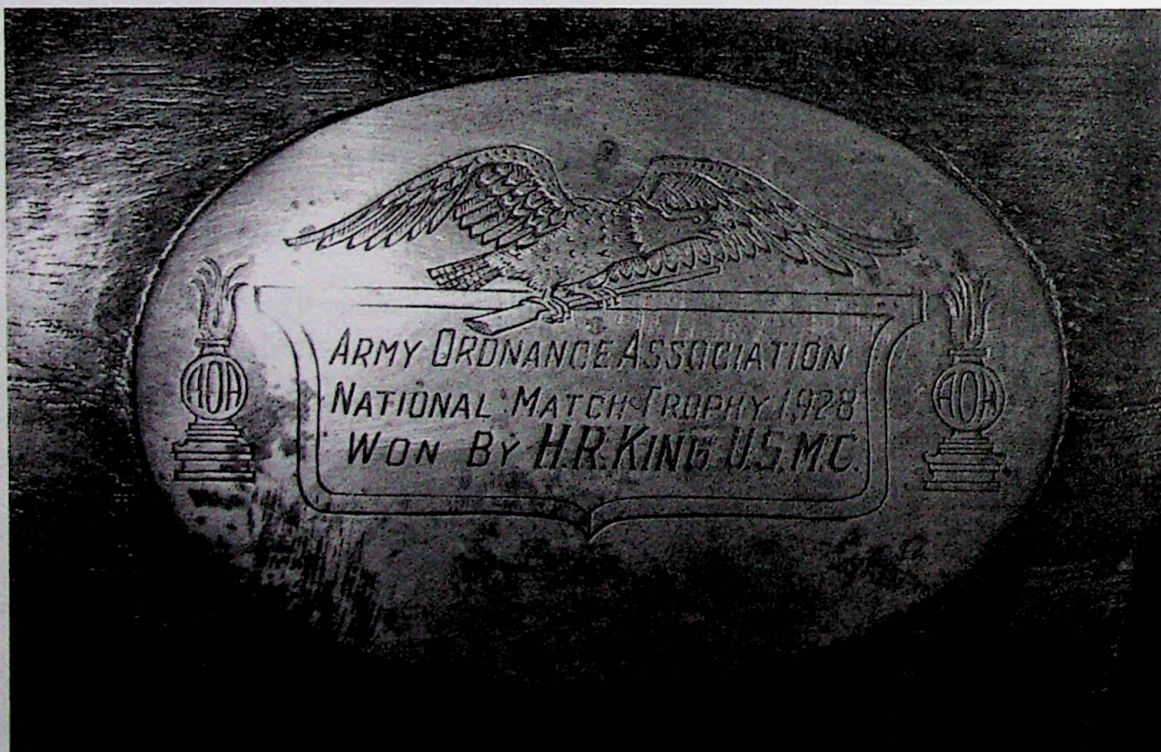


## Presidential Trophy Rifle Model 1903 Springfield Serial Number 1309477

*Data and photographs courtesy of Hayes Otoupalik*



The rifle shown is a unique example of an award rifle. The photos and information were sent to Springfield Research by Mr. Otoupalik as a result of our recent article on U.S. Model 1903 Springfields that were Presidential Trophy Rifles. This rifle is equipped with a style NBA Sporter stock with no cross bolts and a M2 type butt plate. The stock has high quality checkering on the grip area with grasping grooves on the forend. The bolt has a commercial grade polishing and a match- grade headless cocking piece.

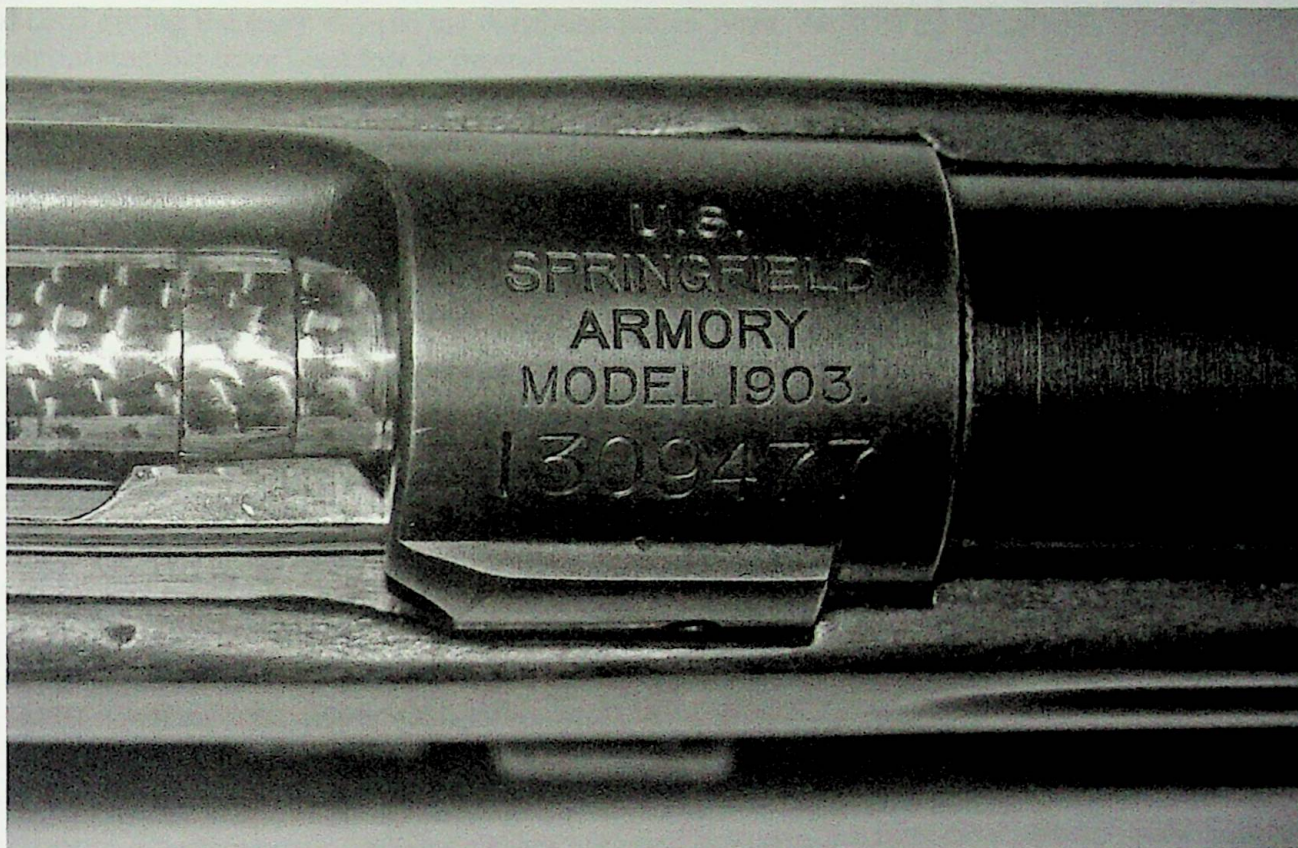


The butt stock shown above has the plate marked "Won by H.R. King USMC" installed on the right side. It is also marked "Army Ordnance Association National Match Trophy 1928". "won by H.R. King USMC".

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 162-20*



The rifle receiver is marked serial number 1309477.



Springfield Research Service is in the process of searching Archive data for additional information on this and other rifles. The previous writing by Mr. William Hansen has been the most extensive data to date. It was published in issue 161 of the US Martial Arms Collector magazine December 1, 2019.

We have indications that USMC shooters won Presidents Matches in 1926, 1927 and 1932. We would like to ask our readers to provide any additional data on Sgt. Harvey R. King.

SRS would be interested in any pictures and documentation on any Presidents Trophy rifle including bolt styles, sights, accessories, documents, and serial numbers. In addition to the rifles, any data on United States Marine Corps unit's personnel and officers would add to the history of these fine rifles and their role in marksmanship history.

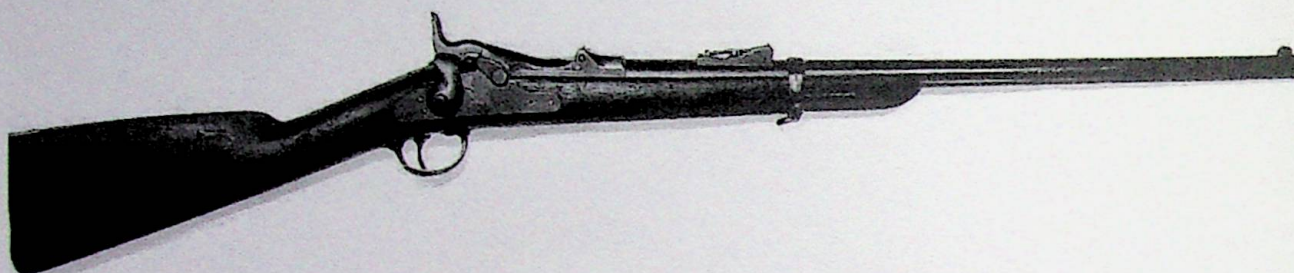
Please forward any data to [editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com).

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 162-21*



## Model 1873 Springfield Saddle Ring Carbine Number 34277

**Photos:** Courtesy of Jack Haupt

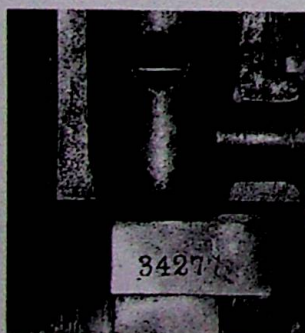


*Above:* Right Side of carbine with long wrist stock, early barrel band with swivel, carbine trigger bow with no swivel, early 1873 rear carbine sight, early butt plate, and 1873 configuration.



*Above:* Left side of 1873 carbine with complete saddle ring assembly.

*Bellow:* 1873 carbine receiver serial number 34277 with breech block assembly.



*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 162-22*



Serial number 34277 is shown with Number on top of the rear of the receiver.

The following chart shows serial numbers in the SRS data base. Almost all carbines were issued and used during the early days of the American Indian Wars. Most of the documents showing the serial number have been lost or destroyed.

			TO FT LINCOLN
			FROM TONGUE
34243	73C	060678	RIVER
34270	73C	100983	8TH CAV
			CO F 2ND CAV
34274	73C	101278	(UNS)
			FT KEOGH
34333	73C	012978	(SURVEYED)
34386	73C	042979	TRP I 5TH CAV
34464	73C	122881	TRP B 7TH CAV
			CO G 10TH CAV
34623	73C	012279	(DAM)
			TRP G 10TH CAV
34714	73C	060678	(DAM)
34719	73C	042979	TRP B 5TH CAV
34723	74C	04 09	SA MUSEUM
			CAPTURED FROM
34723	73C	100179	INDIANS
34732	73C	011679	CO F 9TH CAV

The model 1873 carbines were issued in the early days of tight budgets for the U.S. Army and Springfield Armory. The logistics system was not set up to monitor exact serial number data and many carbines were sent from Springfield Armory to a depot or other facility and reshipped to a unit needing weapons. In many cases a crate of weapons was only documented as a number of carbines caliber .45 with a number such as 10 in the crate. The numbers were not sequential and had wide variations. The U.S. Congress sent a formal inquiry to Springfield Armory to determine what the carbine serial numbers were for units such as the 7th Cavalry. Tests were made and the wide variant is serial numbers were noted with a conclusion that numbers assigned to the 7th were destroyed.

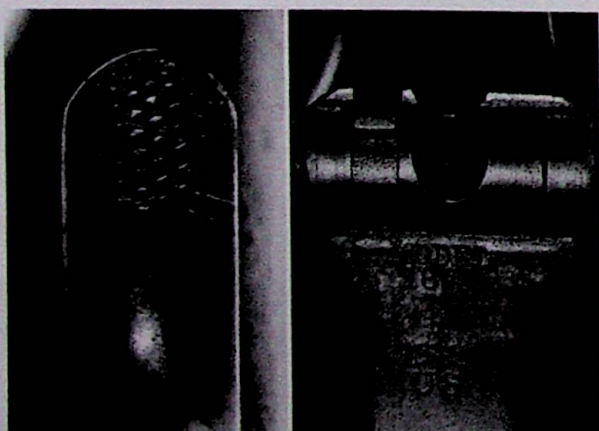
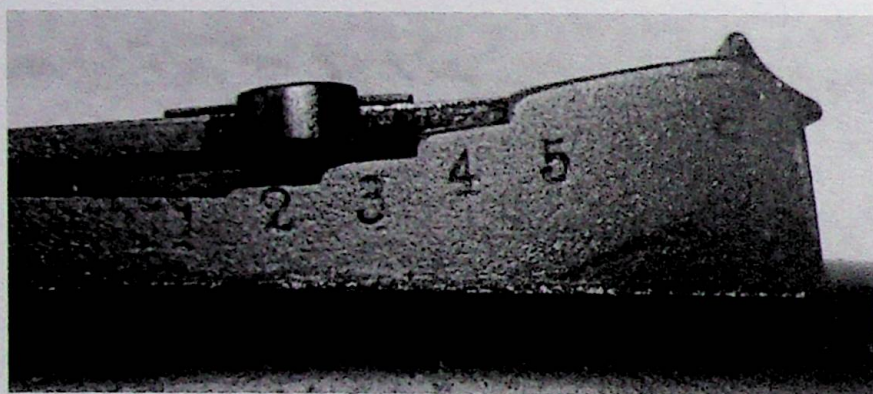
The early trapdoor weapons were recalled after Custer's Last Stand. Guns with serial number under 50,000 were called in to be scraped or rebuilt. Many were never turned in and there are a few that survived in their original condition. Number 34277 appears to be all correct and original. It is rare to find an original example and very rare to find a documented gun with Government papers.





*Left:* Model 1873 lock plate

***Below:*** 1873 rear carbine sight with graduations to 5



*Left:* Early hammer with coarse checkering and Breech Block with crossed arrows, Model 1872 and U.S. markings.



## Collectors Note 162-1

Aberdeen Proving Grounds M1 Garand Rifles testing for serial numbers 24481, 42461, 26142, and 45374. Tests include the new gas cylinders, old style gas cylinders, op rod spring and follower. Tests specifically address functioning of clip latch and op rod catch. Date September 27, 1940.

GPG/cpl  
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MD.,  
SEPTEMBER 27, 1940.

THIRTEENTH PARTIAL REPORT ON TEST OF SEMI-AUTOMATIC RIFLES  
AND  
FIRST REPORT ON NEW RIFLE PARTS SUBMITTED BY SPRINGFIELD  
ARMORY.

OCT 11 1940

ORDNANCE PROGRAM NO. 4972

DATES OF TEST: August 18 and 19, 1940.

I. AUTHORITY FOR TEST: O.O. 474.2/148, A.P.G. 474.1/199,  
Inclosure No. 1.

II. OBJECT OF TEST: To determine whether a new type operating rod spring and follower rod improves functioning of the M1 rifle, particularly as to functioning of the clip latch and operating rod catch.

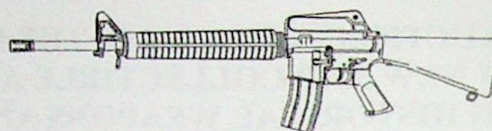
III. DESCRIPTION OF MATERIEL: In addition to the usual range facilities, the material required was as follows:

- 4 - U.S. Rifles, Cal. .30, M1, Nos. 24481, 42461, 26142, 45374 (2 old type and 2 new type gas cylinder assembly).
- New operating rod spring and follower rod submitted by Springfield Armory. This consists of operating rod spring tapered at one end which fits rigidly over the forward end of the follower rod. The compensating spring is eliminated. See A.P.G. Photograph No. 41113, attached.



This data shows dates (August 18-19, 1940) with parts being tested and replaced.





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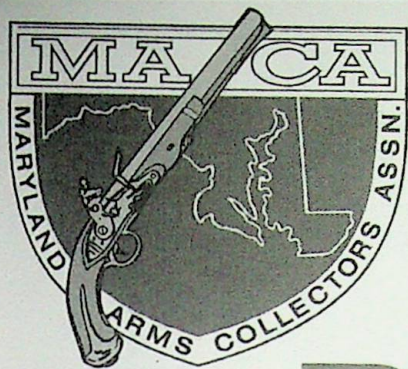
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Parking Also available across tracks on light rail lot (On Greenspring Drive).

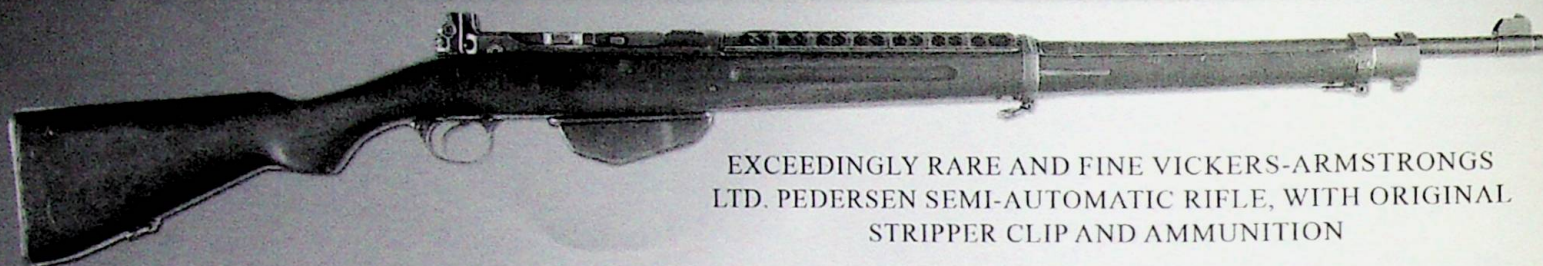
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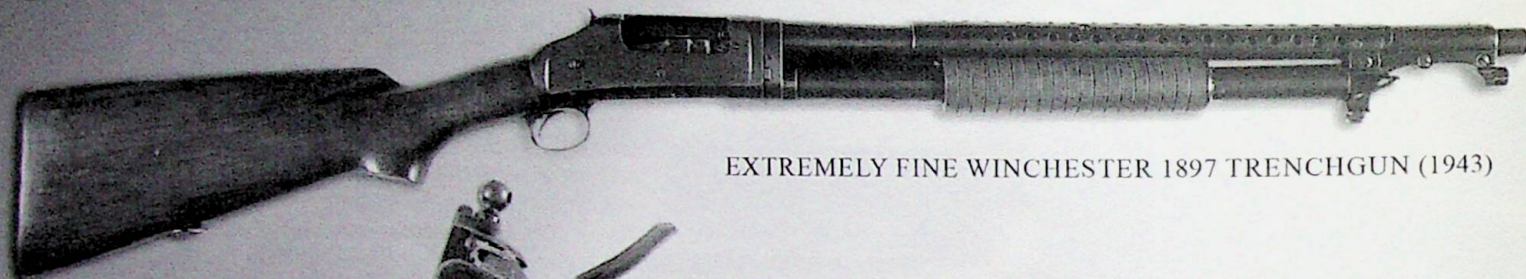
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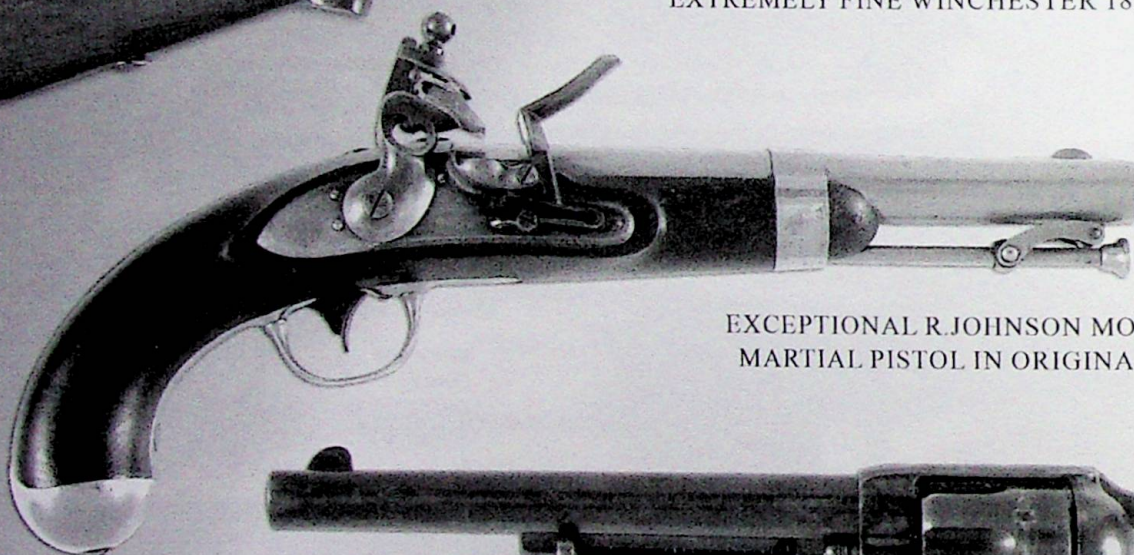
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INSPECTED BY HENRY NETTLETON



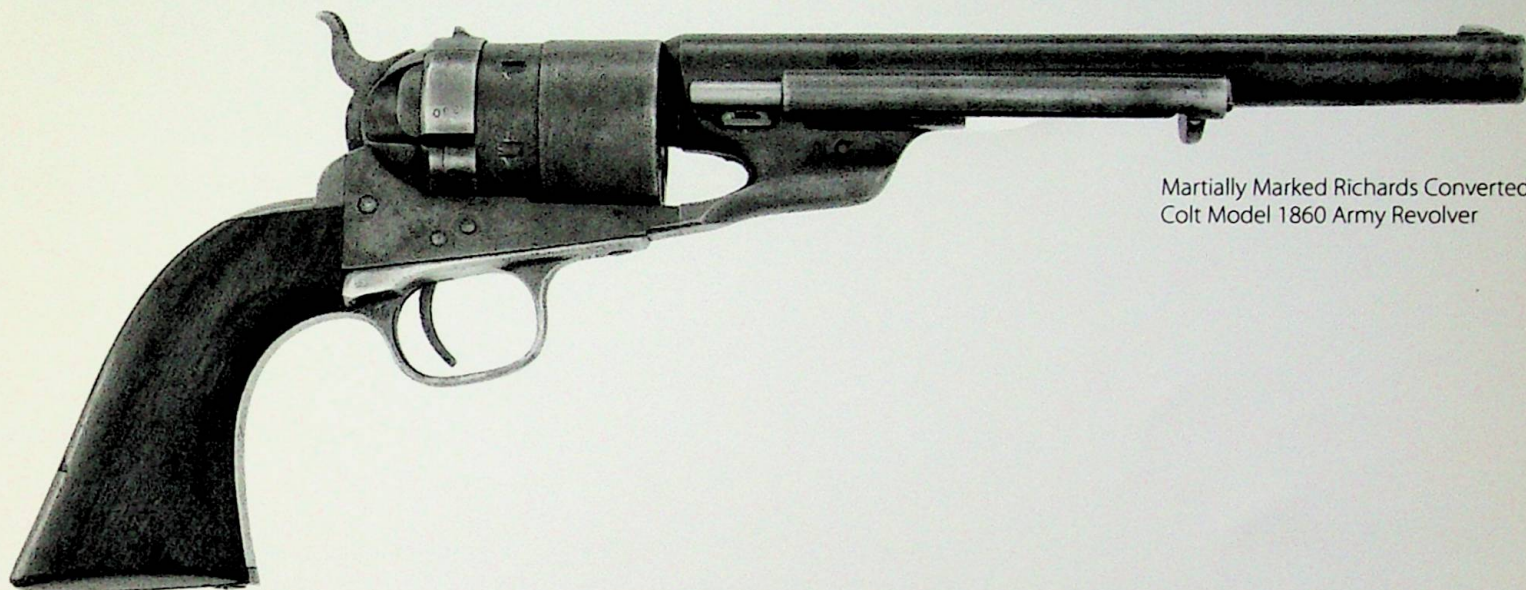
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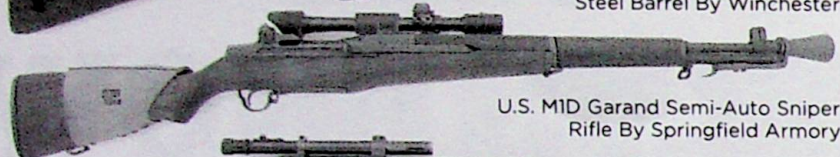
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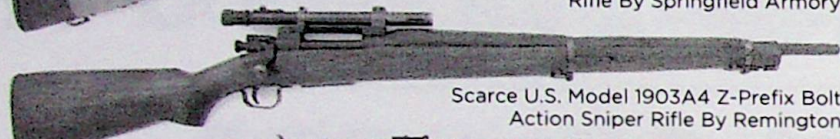
Johnson Automatics Model  
1941 Semi-Auto Rifle



Extremely Rare U.S. M1 Carbine  
With Experimental Stainless  
Steel Barrel By Winchester



U.S. M1D Garand Semi-Auto Sniper  
Rifle By Springfield Armory



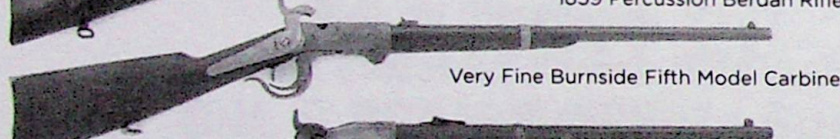
Scarce U.S. Model 1903A4 Z-Prefix Bolt  
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Regiment U.S. Veteran Volunteers



Desirable & Rare Sharps New Model  
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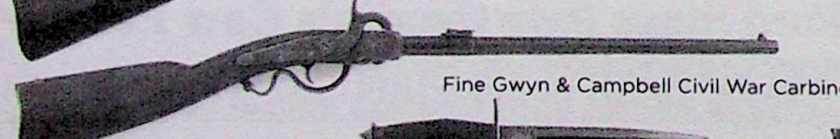
Very Fine Burnside Fifth Model Carbine



Spencer Model 1865 Carbine



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Fine Gwyn & Campbell Civil War Carbine



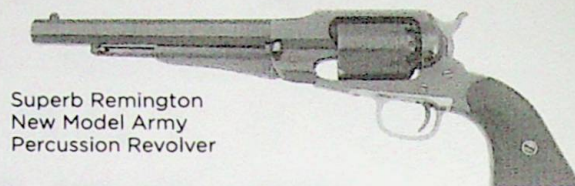
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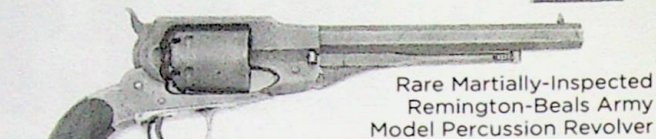


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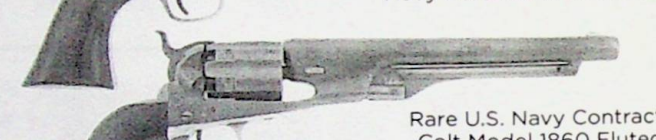
Superb Remington  
New Model Army  
Percussion Revolver



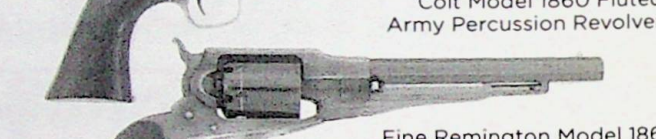
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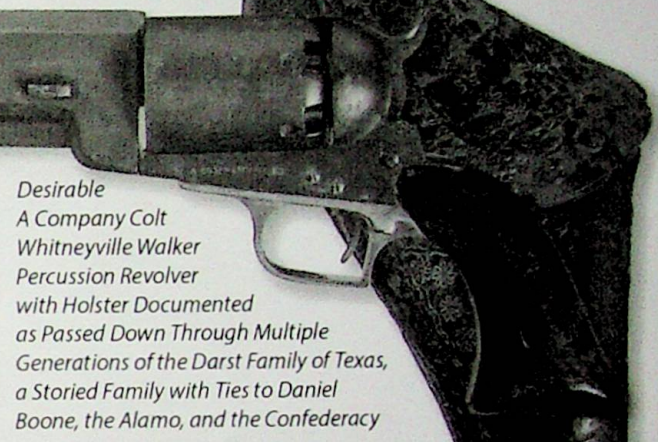
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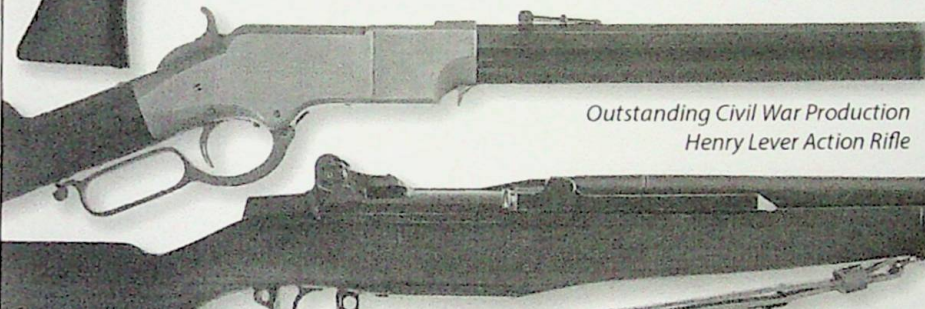
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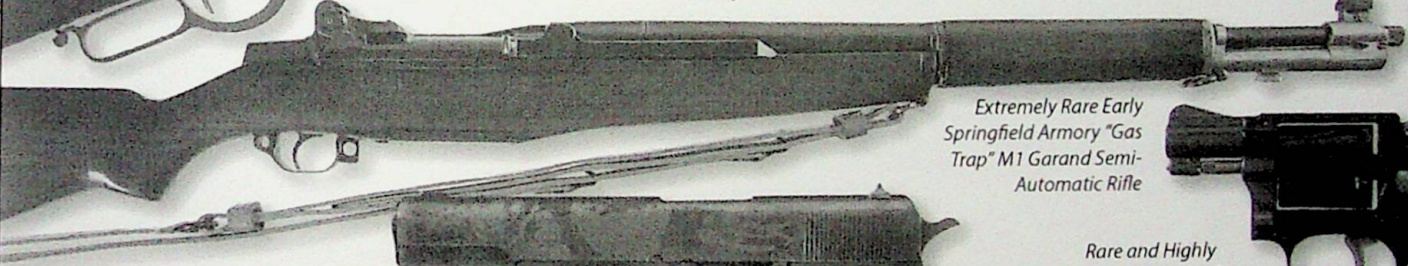
Rare Documented Civil War  
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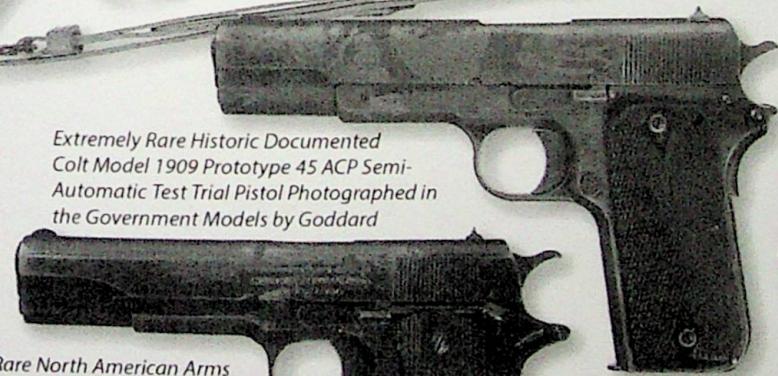
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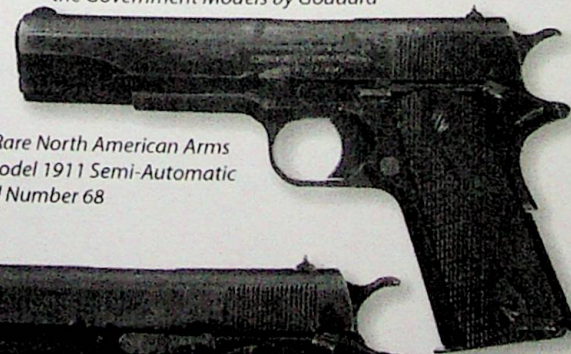
Extremely Rare Early  
Springfield Armory "Gas  
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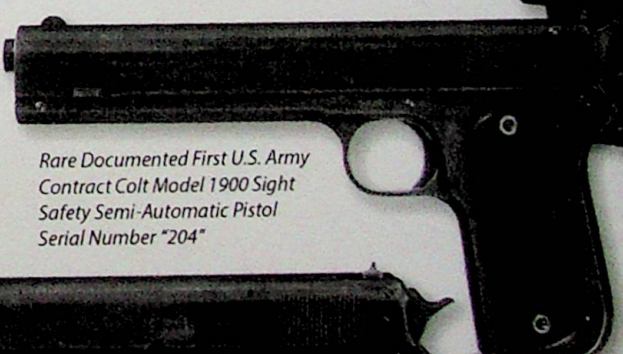
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Colt Model 1909 Prototype 45 ACP Semi-  
Automatic Test Trial Pistol Photographed in  
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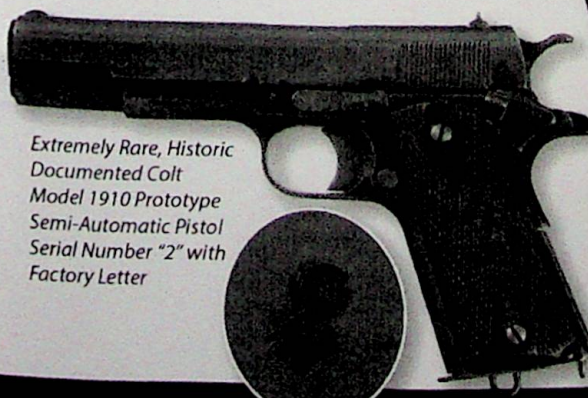
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Pistol Serial Number 68




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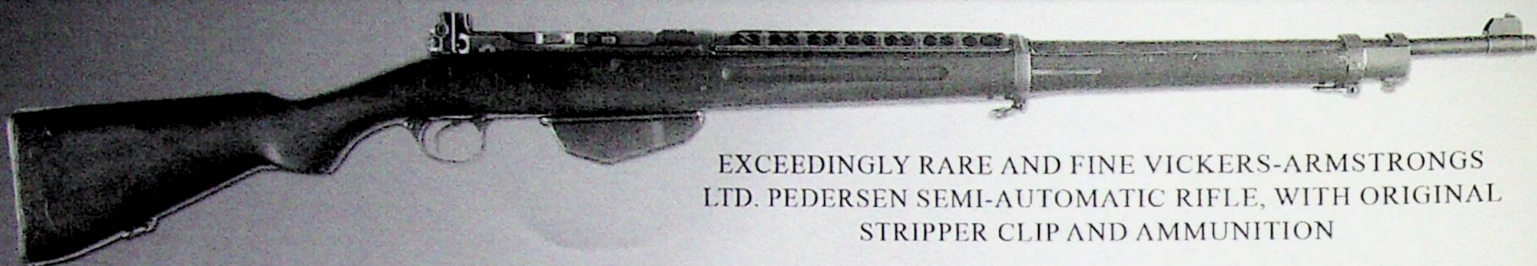
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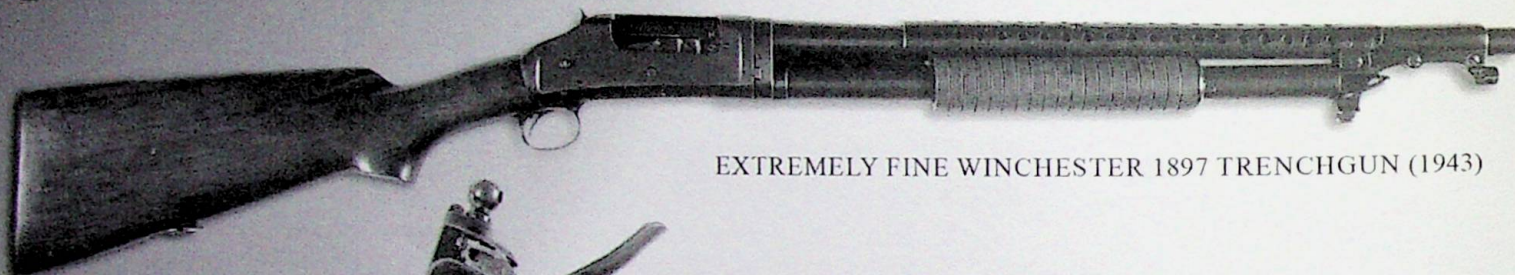
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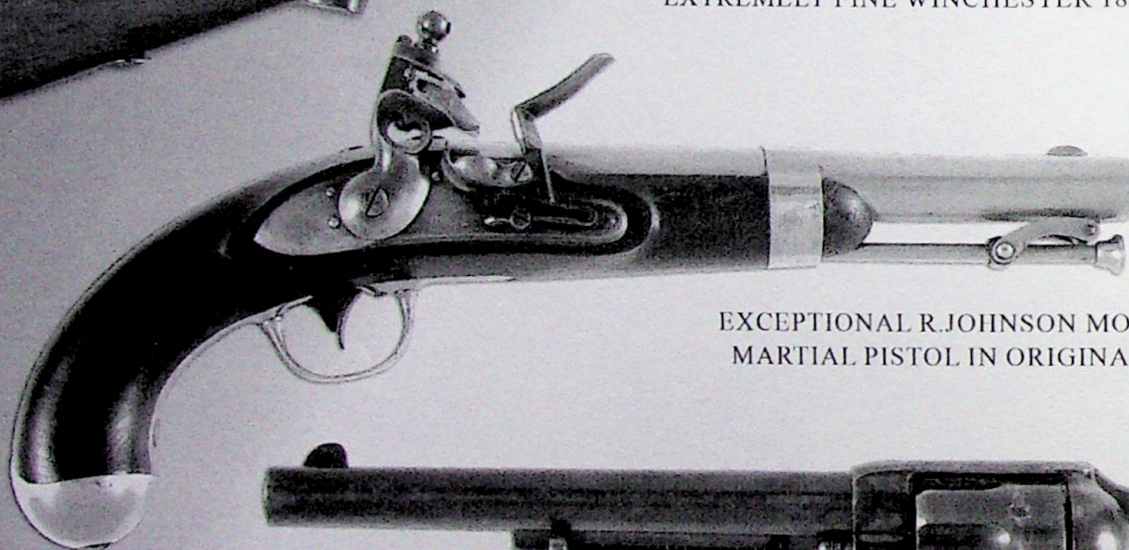
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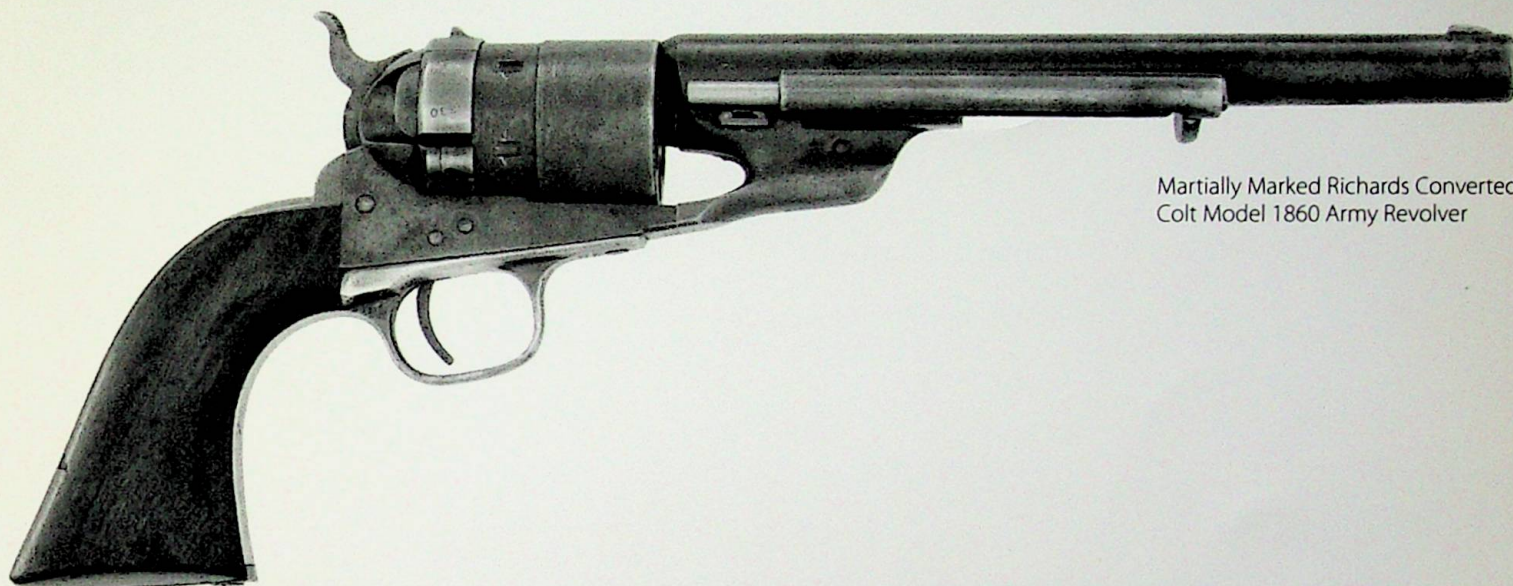
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