

U.S.  
**MARTIAL ARMS**  
**Collector**

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



---

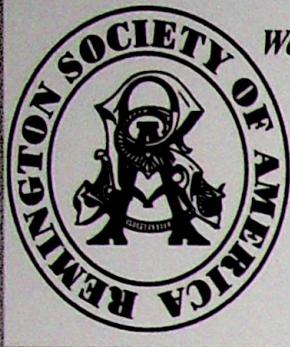
Number 167 June 2021

\$10.00



# Give us a try!

Get a sample copy of our 60 to 80 page  
**Remington Collector's Journal**  
Magazine



*We are convinced that one look at this  
terrific "all Remington" magazine  
you'll want to Join the RSA!*

for just . . . \$6.00

POSTAGE  
INCLUDED

RSA website: [www.RemingtonSociety.com](http://www.RemingtonSociety.com)

Send check (made out to RSA) to:

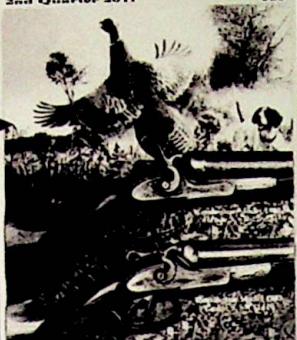
Bill Hansen RSA Secretary-Treasurer

3464 Downing Avenue, Glendale, CA 91208

Email: [wmofglencrest@att.net](mailto:wmofglencrest@att.net)

The Remington Collector's  
**JOURNAL**

2nd Quarter 2011



LIMITED TIME OFFER!

# JOIN US!

*The Society of American  
Bayonet Collectors*

Dedicated to the  
study, collection and  
preservation of antique  
and modern bayonets,  
including all American  
made bayonets, those that  
were produced for export, and foreign-made  
bayonets that were used by the United States.

2116 Brentwood Drive  
Savannah, GA 31404  
[www.bayonetcollectors.org](http://www.bayonetcollectors.org)

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

*Wayne P. Gagner*

CIRCULATION MANAGER

*Wayne P. Gagner*

# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

A quarterly publication of U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazine and Springfield Research Newsletter, P.O. Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818. Printed in U.S.A. Send changes of addresses and all other material to this address.

Subscription price \$35 per year, including First Class postage. **Foreign Subscriptions \$55 per year.**

E-Mail: [editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com)  
Web site: [usmartialarmscollector.com](http://usmartialarmscollector.com)

ADVERTISING: Collector cards or arms-related business cards: \$ 100 per year. Commercial advertisers, please write for rates.

Copyright 2021, SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE. All rights reserved. S&W Associates International, Inc.

Cover: Springfield Model 1873 Carbine

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

*Number 167*

*June 2021*

2	<b><i>Springfield Research Service Data Base Status</i></b>
7	<b><i>Remington Receiver Gas Hole History</i></b>
15	<b><i>Colt Model 1900</i></b>
20	<b><i>Model 1873 Springfield carbine number 40,662</i></b>
24	<b><i>Remington French 1903A4 Sniper</i></b>

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 167-1*

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

SRS is now printing the U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazine in a new format and software configurations. This allows us to make more corrections to our issue proofs prior to printing and create a better product.

Springfield Research Service (SRS) started as a newsletter with a secondary effort that offered additional data base information on U.S. Military weapons. We have spent over fifty years searching data from the U.S. Archives and military sources. We have a large quantity of serial numbers but not all serial numbers.

The U.S. government and the U.S. military did not retain many serial numbers and there is no way to find some data on various military units. In many cases a military crate of weapons would be shipped with no serial numbers and only list the number and type of weapons. Many military units lost or destroyed serial numbers listed to individuals. In addition, many weapons were lost or destroyed without specific information.

We will continue serial number searches for our subscribers. This will include as much data that is available for sales information, unit histories and serial numbers that we have put in our database.

We do have many restrictions on acquiring data, such as the COVID-19 shutdown of government facilities. This causes delays and additional time and costs.

The major business thrust will be the U.S. Martial Arms Collector Magazine and Springfield Research Newsletter.

The magazine will continue publication on March, June, September, and December of each year. We expect first class U.S. mail to be started on the first of each of the months listed.

We are trying to make sure our subscribers receive each issue in a timely manner. We use First Class US Postal Office mailing for U.S. and foreign addresses. We are always plagued by address changes, no forward address notices, non-deliverable address notices, and foreign addresses that do not match U.S. formats.

Many of our readers use PAYPAL that has an agreement between a subscriber and PAYPAL. If an incorrect box is checked with PAYPAL, there may be information not wanted by a subscriber. We rely on PAYPAL notices for payment and addresses.

We reserve extra copies of each printed issue but cannot keep an unknown number needed for reserves. Lately, SRS ran out of many recent issues. We rely on our current mailing lists for our subscribers. Please send any changes to SRS Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818.

SRS will continue to show last issue numbers after each subscriber name.

The Covid-19 crisis slows us down and creates other restrictions on our travel to post offices, banks for payments, and

supplies.

We have found that text messages and pictures are not always dependable. We suggest direct email to [editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com).

Help from many of our subscribers providing photos and data on rare weapons is a great asset.

The U.S. Archives is still not in full operation and we must wait for schedules to do extended research for detailed histories on serial number of documented weapons.

We are fortunate to be able to provide Springfield sales letters and basic letters on many serial numbers attached to military units and battles.

## CURRENT ISSUE

Issue 167 dated June 2021 is current and set to be mailed the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021.

We are putting extra efforts into document storage and sorting out many loose- leaf pages.

We receive daily emails for serial number look-ups and answer all as soon as possible.

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 due to water damage.

Issue 96 has 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 ready for subscriber orders.

## U. S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

There are some SRS products that are out of stock.

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

## ADVERTISING

Our advertising deadlines are usually the Friday three weeks before the date of a publication. The projected mailing dates are the first week of March, June, September, and December of each year. There are four quarterly issues each year.

## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH LETTERS

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

Research letters include USMC letters, OSS documents, 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5th, and 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Civil War and Spanish American War documents.

*U.S. Martial Arms Collector 161-3*

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. We have been cross- checking many pieces of data and using U.S. Archives personnel and others to offer opinions on hard- to- read information. The Archives personnel have been helpful in this area.

A basic letter is data recovered from our in-house files. Letters may require working with armed guards, checking our identification, and using special stamps for security classification or other rules.

## COMMENTS AND INPUTS

Please send to:  
[editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com).  
An inquiry can be made by U.S. mail to SRS Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818.

## LETTERS WRITTEN

Rifle, U.S., Henry Rifle, Serial Number 7822. Issued to Company C, 3rd U.S. Veterans Volunteer Infantry. July 15, 1865. U.S. Civil War. U. S. Springfield Armory Records, U.S. Archives Record group 94, Washington D.C.

U.S. Lefauch pistol, Serial Number 32999. Issued to Company D 2nd Kansas volunteer Cavalry. March 27, 1862. This data was found in U. S. Archives Record Group 94, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Springfield, Krag Model 1898 Carbine, Caliber .30, Serial Number 119908. Issued to U.S. Company K, 9th U.S. Volunteer

Infantry. 1898. This data was found in U. S. Archives Record Group 94, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Springfield, Model 1922 M1, Caliber .22, Serial Number 211 issued to Amarillo High School. Delivered to U.S. Springfield Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts. September 4, 1937. Note: This rifle was an original Model 1922 converted to Model M1. U. S. Archives Record Group 156, Washington, D.C.

Rifle, U.S. Cal. .30, Model 1903, Sporting Model, Serial Number 1 215 925. Barrel dated 3-21 SA with no star and Springfield Armory star gage number stamped 129. The stock was of National Match quality with inspector initials. This rifle shows WES (W.E.Strong). A small z is on the grip near the rear trigger guard screw (stock makers mark). Bolt is polished with Springfield Armory quality. Markings on bolt handle show WL3 with polished extractor. Firing assembly has case hardened safety, safety assembly with no markings, blued firing striker and bolt cocking piece. Butt plate is National Match with heavy match checkering. Known early National Match serial numbers include: 353915, 417062, 417153, 418042, 418241, 418635, 424177, 452382, and 470727. 470836 is noted as 1916 NM, 470836 noted with A5 scope, 598271 April 1914, Sales rifle, 603111-603120 listed as NM, 636189 listed as IM, and 837830 listed as .276 caliber. All Match Model 1903 rifles show match quality characteristics of Springfield Armory.

U.S. Colt Model 1917, Caliber .45, Serial Number 150266 was re-issued to the U.S.

Department of Justice and listed in a disposal record. October 11, 1952. This data was found in U. S. Archives, Washington, D.C. Disposal Record 288. Revolvers were purchased by the U.S. military.

U.S. Springfield Model 1903, Caliber .30, Serial Number 1 370 083, National Match. Sold to D. Speas, 503 N. Gainsboro Ave., Royal Oak, Mich. By Camp Perry, Ohio. September 26, 1931. U. S. Springfield Arsenal Sales Records.

Pursuant to your request for data U.S. Springfield Krag, Model 1898 Saddle ring Carbine, Caliber .30, serial number 125638, please be advised that this carbine is one of the rarest Krag carbines. There are few in the original saddle ring carbine configuration. in the low number-Antique serial number range. Production started August 15, 1898 and 5002 made with most converted to 1899 configuration. This 1898 carbine had an 1896 Carbine rear sight graduated to 19 and marked C. The stock, hand-guard, and barrel are the same short variation as the Model 1896 Carbine. The basic difference is the stock that was made for the 1898 bolt. The stock was cartouched 1898. Original carbines are the last of their type made for the U. S. military. Springfield manufactured guns were made from July to September 1898. U. S. Archives Records, Washington, D.C. and the Krag Rifle Story written by Franklin Mallory.

There have been changes in recovering documents from U.S. Archives facilities that had a movement to another in another city or state. There is no copy held in the original location. The new location can be difficult to find. This is a problem.

The Massachusetts Militia Pistol shown was

made by Lane and Reed. It is a composite model made in Boston, Massachusetts during the early 1800's.

All able-bodied Massachusetts men were required to purchase or acquire a weapon. The Lane and Reed company made up pistols for officers from a variety of parts available on the open market. The single shot pistol used parts from any model and used manufactured or converted assemblies.

Regulation or training usually took place on a Sunday afternoon at the town village green.

The men were required to be trained and ready for hostile actions. "A well regulated militia".

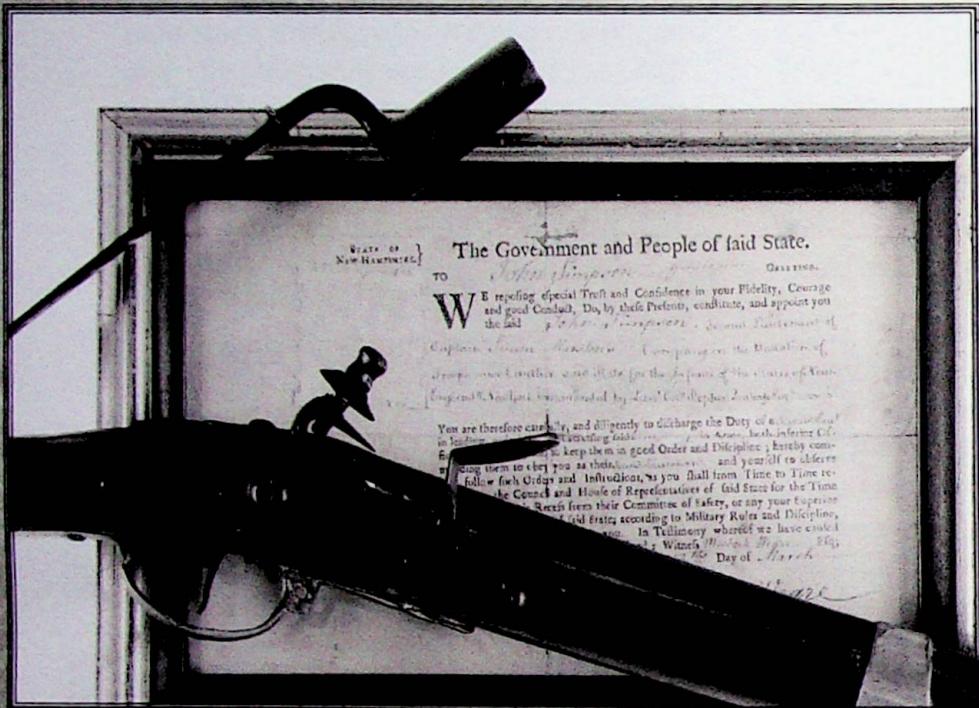
The average citizen was untrained in the use of weapons such as muskets and bayonets and there were injuries.



MORPHY

## AUCTIONS

# EXTRAORDINARY FIREARMS INVITING CONSIGNMENTS



Important and  
Historic Documented  
Dutch Flintlock  
Musket, Bayonet  
and Commission of  
Private John Simpson  
of Bunker Hill Fame.

**SOLD  
\$492,000**

MORPHY AUCTIONS IS ALWAYS SEEKING FRESH TO THE MARKET  
CONSIGNMENTS FOR OUR EXTRAORDINARY FIREARMS AUCTIONS.

Important Historic  
Bunker Hill Engraved  
Powder Horn of Daniel  
Kinne, Dated 1775.

**SOLD  
\$209,100**



2000 N. READING ROAD | DENVER, PA 17517 | 877-968-8880  
[MORPHYAUCTIONS.COM](http://MORPHYAUCTIONS.COM)

Remington World War II M1903 "Modified"

## Receiver Gas Escape Hole History

By William R. Hansen

**Question:** *I've read that the initial Remington made M1903's had a single gas escape hole drilled only on the right side of the receiver. This makes sense since the rifle supposedly started out as a clone of the 1919 Rock Island edition. However, I know of no one who has ever seen one of these rifles or documentation confirming that's how they got started. Why aren't there more of them around? Can you shed any light on the subject?*

*S.G., Dayton, Ohio*



**Forward:** Thank you for asking that question. You must have an intense interest in these guns to address one of the lesser challenged mysteries about this rifle's manufacture.

Allow me to begin by saying your understanding that "...initial Remington made M1903's only had a singular gas escape hole on the right side..." is part of many muddled misconceptions about Remington '03 history. Many folks would have us believe that this rifle in the beginning was a pure RIA clone. That's not only erroneous folklore, but most

definitely contrary to instructions and standards imposed on Remington by Army Ordnance from the get-go to accelerate the manufacturing process approved for an urgent "...one time contract for the British."

This false notion is also supported by some of the most popular published references available today, who would have us believe Remington's M1903 receiver gas hole started on the right side and then was later "...modified by adding a gas port on the left side." By the way, this author didn't

disagree in the beginning because of his own ignorance. Such conclusions also apply to a great number of other design and manufacturing suppositions made in the absence of recorded historical confirmation. Indeed, speculation from visual guesswork and generalization provided by surviving rifles has largely been substituted for documented fact-finding since Remington was permitted to destroy most of their original records in 1955 after a 10 year required holding period. Even the post war summaries of government writers didn't have access to Remington's day-to-day operational reality. If it weren't for the leftover files of Remington management and supervisorial retirees over the last 80 years leaving sufficient connectable dots in their desk drawers and files, there would be little chance to learn real truth.

After years of historical work digging deeper behind the scenes at Remington's Ilion, NY archives, this historian has uncovered a number of more complete and rational explanations for the "*fog of war*" plagued activities during this time period. So, allow me to offer an explanation for what I believe actually happened with support of sufficient evidence never before published. It will also more than likely explain why so few of the early Remington M1903 rifles extant today contain a single gas escape hole on the right side only.

**Discussion:** The initial manufacture of receivers came off the Remington production line beginning early May of 1941, five months before assembly of rifles actually began in September 1941. Aside from a few test pieces, they did so with orders to drill two gas holes, including the "*hatcher hole*" on the left side as well as the one on the right side per current specification standards in place at the

time. However, it became an immediate problem since the 20 year old leased M1903 tooling equipment from the Rock Island Arsenal only provided for drilling the gas relief hole on the right side.

The M1903 receiver was a multi-stepped, machined item that began production activity as one of the most complex rifle components in which to bring to closure. Remington was anxious at this point to get started since they were obligated to develop a prototype edition of the M1903 for the British in .303 Cal. by the end of June 1941 (...a long story covered elsewhere). However, it wasn't long after initial startup operations began before Remington was confronted with huge problems in making the old tooling conform to the current specifications relative to the drawings and specifications handed them by the Ordnance Dept. By the way, this happened with numerous components other than the receiver. While they took their best shot to comply, it soon became apparent that tooling incompatibility with current standards was holding up production objectives since there was no gas relief hole on the left side of the receiver when the old machines were retired to storage at the Rock Island Arsenal in 1919.

So, what was the Army Ordnance urgency decision to address the problem ...as strongly influenced by the British? Eliminate the so-called "*Hatcher hole*" on the left side, of course...and that's exactly what happened! So, contrary to what others have contended, the first receivers produced required BOTH gas holes from the get-go, not just the one on the right side as further explained as follows.

Remington records reveal that a formal "*Change of Manufacture*" (C.M. #30) was approved on June 24, 1941 authorizing

## Progression of Gas Escape Hole Changes

Item No.	C. M. Number	Action Date	Description of Action Taken
1	NA	May-40	Begin production of RECEIVERS with GAS HOLES drilled on both LEFT & RIGHT sides
2	#30	06/24/41	Approval to omit RECEIVER GAS HOLE on LEFT side due to RIA tooling incompatibility delaying production
3	#28	06/24/41	Approval to return diameter of BOLT GAS HOLE from 0.180 inch diam. to 0.093 inch consistent with original RIA tooling capability
4	#110	03/21/42	Restore LEFT SIDE GAS HOLE. <u>Note</u> : actual date unknown, but paperwork delay formally acknowledged by "action date" for the formal record
5	#114	12/17/41	Verbal order from Ordnance Inspection to cancel C.M. #28 and restore BOLT GAS HOLE diam to 0.180 inches to comply with current standards
6	#140	03/20/42	Permanently omit RECEIVER RIGHT SIDE GAS HOLE as part of a 16 action package to simplify resolution of receiver manufacture delays
7	#142	03/23/42	Eliminate GAS HOLE in EXTRACTOR CLAW consistent with elimination of RIGHT SIDE RECEIVER GAS HOLE by C.M. #140

elimination of the gas escape hole on the left side in order to speed up production (...see spread sheet on this page). It meant from approximately that point forward, receivers thereafter were ONLY drilled for the right side gas hole! The unanswered question is how long did it last and how many actual receivers were involved? This is where a great deal of speculation comes in to further confound the picture. The fact is that no one will ever know how many receivers were produced without the left side gas hole starting from day-one of C.M. #30, or when the exact time/date occurred to effect the changes in the tooling equipment without accurate, surviving shop directives. In this particular case, while such formal record documentation such as C.M. #30 exists... it alone doesn't entirely answer all questions about shop level decisions, and their timing and duration.

As this historian has learned over time, field authorizations often preceded the

record of formal paperwork documentation when it came to authorizing changes in manufacture. The formal record is often an untimely hit & miss, but it is what it is. However, the facts as they can be reasonably interpreted from extant evidence appears that a very short time-period elapsed before some hierarchical superior in the Army Ordnance system promptly countermanded the order to eliminate the left side gas escape hole...yes, likely only days or weeks after the authorization took place.

By 1940, the M1903 gas hole on the left side of the receiver was considered an essential safety measure... which was why it was ordered circa 1936. Moreover, C.M. #30 is the only formal paper trail that can be relied upon today. But, as it turns out... C.M. #30 wasn't formally rescinded until C.M. #110 dated March 21, 1942 was issued (Copy attached on next page). This latter C.M. authorized reinstatement of the gas escape hole on the left side and "...drilling all

		REMINGTON ARMS CO., INC.	ARMS DIVISION
		-00-	C. M. NO. RS-03-110
<u>Change in Design</u> <u>Change in Tolerances</u> <u>Change in Equipment</u> <u>Change in Material</u> <u>Change in Process, Methods &amp; Quality</u>		NOTICE OF CHANGE IN MANUFACTURE	
		DATE 3-21-42	
		DWG. NO. _____	
RECEIVER NO. 38/33		PART NO. AND NAME RECEIVER #6	
M. C. I. NO.		R. I. NO.	SUGGESTION NO.
Description of Change (Give Present & Future Practice & Reason for Change)			
<p>Reinstate gas hole on left side.</p> <p>Temporary drill block being made to drill completed Receivers not hardened; permanent method to be provided.</p>			
<p>REASON: Request of Ordnance Dept.</p> <p>(This cancels C.M. RS-03-30 for omitting hole)</p>			
<p>RECORD ONLY - NEW PRINT SHOWS HOLE REINSTATED.</p>			
APPROVED:		R. J. Seiler A. Singleton C. G. Loomis W. A. Haldeman N. M. Chase H. Davis N. C. Peck A. L. Lowe G. O. Clifford	

*receivers not yet hardened.*" Having said that, I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that the fine print on the C.M. also notes this was a record

only action since the drawing had already made the change (underlining added).

Obviously, the reinstatement had already occurred long before, but when? That's precisely what we don't know, but based on similar experience with other changes, this historian is persuaded it happened almost immediately as evidenced in great part by the scarcity of such receivers containing only a right side gas escape hole...and other reasons I'll get to later on. So, another question is... how many receivers had yet to be hardened upon reinstatement of the left gas hole? If the changed order came just a few days after, then likely relatively few of the receivers were drilled on the left side. But, if it came weeks or more later, whether by a verbal shop order or otherwise, then far more surviving rifles would be sans the "Hatcher hole".

Clearly, if one relies on the formal paper trail alone, you would have to conclude that over 9 months elapsed before the "Hatcher hole" was reinstated! We know that didn't happen since nearly all of early serially numbered guns have both the left and right gas escape holes until well beyond the first 80,000 guns produced. So, what really happened?

Firstly, C.M. 110 is likely one of these instances where formal paperwork trail considerably lagged reality. Indeed, the C.M. essentially admits as much since the "*record only*" caveat is plainly noted, thus making it more an acknowledgement of something that had already long since occurred, rather than a reinstatement order of the moment. Moreover, it is dated way out of the sequential date range of all C.M.'s that both precede and follow it regarding other manufacturing changes.

Secondly, it is likely no coincidence that it was dated about the time C.M. 140 was

authorized on March 20, 1942, which altogether eliminated the right side gas hole, thus leaving only the left side ("Hatcher hole") on all subsequent '03 and 'A3 manufacture until end of production. So, the real truth, more than likely, is that it was suddenly realized when deciding to altogether permanently eliminate the right side gas hole as a cost-cutting measure, it became apparent the official record had previously failed to document the prior interim elimination of the left side gas hole some 9 months previous! In other words, aside from informal or shop level dictum, the formal record had never officially documented reinstating the "Hatcher hole"! That's when a better-late-than-never mentality kicked-in by paper-pushers for finding an unused or voided C.M. (110) that could be used to back-fill an unfortunate failure on behalf of the formal record. While documentation for the record was extremely important, none of us should ever fail to respect the enormous pressure Remington was under ...at all levels, to keep up with the never ending demands of this contract.

The bottom-line is the decision to eliminate the left side gas hole authorized by C.M. #30 was more than likely quickly reversed (as previously noted), thus leaving relatively few receivers with the right gas hole only ever getting through the rifle assembly line.

Allow me to offer further proof of this being so. C.M. #30 was adopted about the same time Remington was preparing to assemble the final prototypes of the .303 British version of the M1903 of which only 4 were completed for final testing. In order to produce each of the bench-made prototypes, their receivers were pulled directly from the receiver supply being readied for rifle

assembly. Three of those four rifles have been examined by the author. Of those three,

two of them have a gas hole on both sides and one with the "Hatcher" hole only on the left

REMINGTON ARMS CO., INC., ARMS DIVISION  
 -000-  
 C. M. No. RS-03-114  
 NOTICE OF CHANGE IN MANUFACTURE

DATE 12-17-41  
 DWG. NO. D-28178

MODEL NO. RS-03  
 PART NO. AND NAME BOLT  
 M. I. NO.  R.I. NO.  SUGGESTION NO.

Description of Change (Give Present & Future Practice & Reason for Chg.)  
 Cancel C.M. RS-03-28 for .093 gas hole and change M/Dwg. back to .180+.005 dia.

REASON: This was changed to agree with tools as received from Rock Island.  
 Requested by Ordnance Dept. to change to .180 dia. hole.

Approved: R. J. Seiler  
A. L. Lowe  
G. O. Clifford

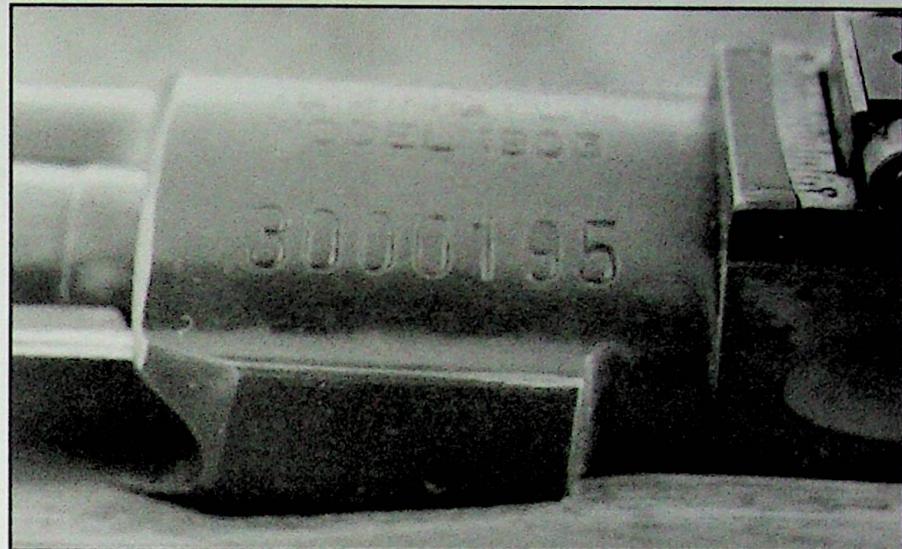
Position of Inventories  
 by this change and state  
 cannot be used in product  
 on Market.

side. Obviously, this occurred not only early-on in manufacture of the receiver, but essentially from the initial parts and process flow beginning in June 1941.

So, in answer to the question, you will find far fewer early Remington M1903 receivers having only a single gas hole on the right side than most collectors even realize, but **NOT** for the reasons often articulated. Indeed, regardless of how many such receivers may have been assembled into rifles, most are probably lying at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean...never

having made it to their UK destination. The important thing to take away from this discussion is the fact that the Remington '03 did not start out as a pure RIA rifle clone having the right side hole only, but **BOTH** the left and right side holes were authorized until the left one was abruptly terminated for an abbreviated period of time.

To add strength to the argument, a parallel scenario occurred in correlation with Remington's early **bolt** production. As revealed by the spread sheet previously shown on page 3, C.M. #28 voided the larger gas hole standard for the bolt in effect in 1941 on the same date as C.M. #30, thus permitting a return to the smaller 0.093 inch size to conform with the existing old tooling. This was done for precisely the same manufacturing hardships caused by the inability of the 20 year old tooling to meet current specifications. However, it was subsequently



Right side gas escape hole only

changed back to the 0.180 inch standard on December 17, 1941 by C.M. #114 (copy attached on previous page). What does that tell you?

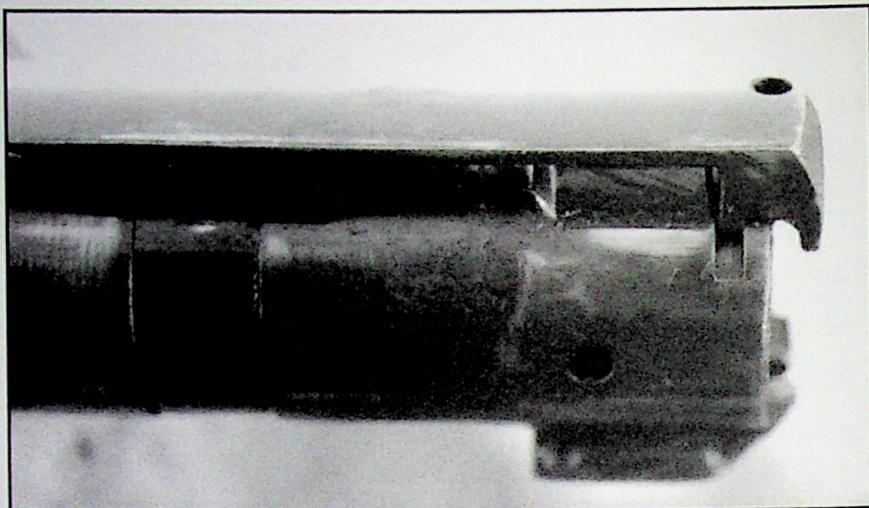
First of all, along with the receiver, there exists mixed perception issues among collectors today regarding early Remington **bolt** gas hole changes also. But, more to the



point, the numerical assignment of C.M. #110 is in relatively proximate sequence order with C.M. #114, but wasn't authorized until 3 months

afterward (Dec. '41-Mar. 42) at the same time C.M. #140 that permanently omitted the receiver's right side gas hole. Coincidence? Not likely....!

It clearly contributes to the "wakeup call" likelihood of C.M. #110 being initiated only after recognizing a delayed formal record deficiency for restoring the left side "*Hatcher hole*" to the receiver. But, the disconnect between the two scenarios is this.



Bolt & Extractor claw with small gas hole (SN 3000195)

There are far more "small gas hole" bolts in existence than there are receivers containing an exclusive right side gas hole only. In other words, a genuine appreciation of the paper trail comparison clearly supports a conclusion that the time duration of receiver production having no "*Hatcher hole*" was short-lived, whereas the proximate 6 month time difference between June and December 1941 enabled far more manufacture of "small gas hole" bolts. Enough said...

Indeed, after 80 years of essentially blind assumptions for correctly explaining Remington's early M1903 receiver and bolt gas hole production, we now have a more realistic and sensible supposition ...even if based on the limited recorded history now available.

I hope this helps readers get closer to correct answers to their questions.

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

## Colt Model 1900 .38 Caliber Rimfire Serial Number 175.

This pistol is one of the rarest models leading up to the development of the Model 1911 Colt. It is in excellent condition with original blue. This model was followed by a series of changes and tests that were followed by models 1902 commercial and military, model 1903 pocket outside hammer, and other tests to end with the historic Model 1911 that was used by many countries.

**Below:** Left side of Model 1900 with long slide, Modified rear sight and safety with original clip. Note that finish appears all original and not re-blued.



**Below:** Slide markings Colt Patent Fire Arms MFG. CO. Hartford. CONN. U.S.A. Serial number 175.



**Below:** COLT Symbol below rear sight/ safety and hammer.



**Below:** Slide markings "Browning's PATENT" Colts PAT'D D APRIL, 20, 1897.



**Below:** Left side of walnut grip with escutchen and screws.





**Above:** Right side of slide marked Automatic Colt Calibre 38 Rimless Smokeless

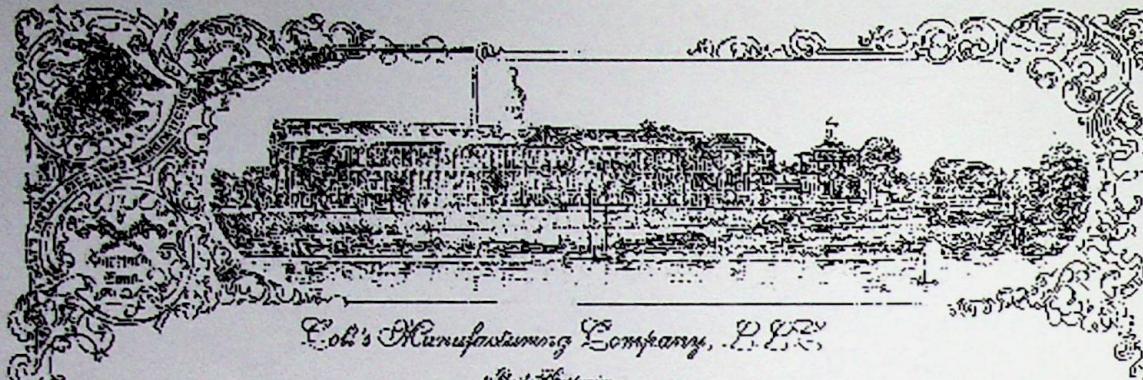
Model 1900 pistols were made from 1900 through 1903 with a production of 3500 units. Confusion can be noted with serial numbers as the numbers continued with the model 1902 from 3500 though the year 1908. The serial numbers for military model 1902 pistols ran from 15001 through 47100. Some of our SRS documents show a number 175 as listed on a 1907 gun. The data was unclear and showed the date as 1907 in the inventory. The model 1903 hammerless started over with numbers from 1 through 572215. The scarcity of documented rare Colt models will add to some additional confusion. Hopefully more data will be found to clarify serial number information for collectors.

Needless to say, the pistol shown is very rare and has a lot of history. The long slide with finger grooves on the back are quite different from the standard model 1911 Colt in caliber .45. The hammer spur is very evident and is not on the model 1902. The six inch barrel model weighs in at 39 oz.

There appears to be more variations on the model 1900 with conversions to the rear sight and safety and the blueing finish at Colt. The Colt Company offered to convert any model 1900 at no charge, and samples show both a reblue and original blue finish. During this time there were other tests and possibly factory shop models that may have other features.

SRS always seeks additional data and photographs of rare and unusual Colt products as well as all other U.S. military arms. It would be of great interest to find spare parts, tools, and holsters that were used with the model 1900.

The following pages are copies of Colt Manufacturing Documents that appear to be dated January 31, 1913. They list serial number 175 as being shipped to Hartley and Graham, New York City on May 23, 1900 with a total of 5 other model 1900 pistols.



Colt's Manufacturing Company, P. O. Box

West Hartford

Colt's Serials 1903-1941  
Serials 1942-1955

Colt's Serials 1961-1980  
Box Wings 1981-1995

Colt's Serials 1971-1985  
Colt's Serials 1986-2003

January 31, 2013

Colt, by means of this letter, is proud to authenticate the manufacture of the Colt firearm with the following serial number:

**COLT MODEL 1900 AUTOMATIC PISTOL**

Serial Number:	175
Caliber:	.38/2
Barrel Length:	6"
Finish:	Blue
Type of Stock:	Not Listed
Shipped To:	Hartley and Graham
Address:	New York, New York
Date of Shipment:	May 23, 1900
Number of Same Type:	
Guns in Shipment:	5

We trust you will find the historical information, retrieved from the original Colt shipping records, to be of interest.

Sincerely,

*Beverly Joen Haynes*  
Beverly Joen Haynes  
Historian

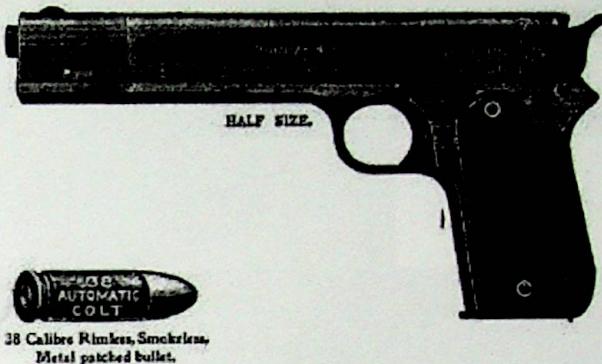
Office of the Historian, Colt Manufacturing Company LLC, P. O. Box 1868, Hartford, CT 06108

Office of the Historian, Colt Manufacturing Company LLC, P. O. Box 1868, Hartford, CT 06108

# AUTOMATIC COLT PISTOL.

(Browning's Patent.)

38 CALIBRE.



Capacity of magazine, 7 shots.

THE action of this pistol is automatic except that the trigger is pulled for firing each shot. The arm can be discharged at the rate of 5 shots per second, the cartridges being automatically supplied from a detachable magazine inserted in the handle of the pistol.

After the pistol is charged with a filled magazine, one opening movement is made by hand, bringing the first cartridge into the chamber. On pulling the trigger the cartridge is fired, the empty shell is extracted, a new cartridge is loaded into the chamber, all these operations taking place automatically without any manipulation of the arm. This automatic operation of the pistol is effected by the recoil of the moving parts, and as a consequence, the recoil is so absorbed in being utilized that it has not the usual disturbing effect.

Length of Barrel, - - 6 inches.  
Length of Pistol over all, - - 9 inches.  
Weight of Pistol, - - 35 ounces.

Made only in the .38 calibre with 6 inch barrel, blued finish.

---

## COLT'S PATENT FIRE ARMS MANUFACTURING CO.

425 and 427 Market Street,  
San Francisco, Cal.

HARTFORD,  
CONN.

26 Glasshouse Street,  
London W. England.

## **CARBINE Caliber .45 Model 1873 Carbine serial Number 40,662.**

The carbine shown has a verbal history handed down by the family of an early rancher. The history indicated that it was obtained after the battle of Mill Creek in 1879. It appears that this gun is original and shows American Indian ownership and repairs. The early American Indian traits of heavy usage are shown in the photographs.

***Below:*** The left side of the carbine with rock hard leather wrist repairs and saddle ring carbine fittings removed.



***Below:*** The right side shown has the early course hatched hammer with solid lip early lock plate and carbine trigger guard.



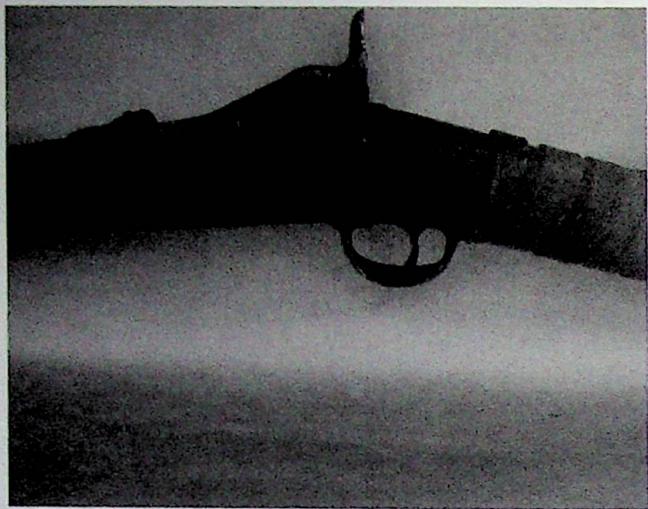
**Below:** Butt stock has two obliterated markings located on each side and butt plate intact with screws.



**Below:** High arch model 1873 breech block.



The rancher who acquired the carbine gave or sold the carbine to Bill Goosman and his family retained the gun and verbal history for years. Bill Goosman was a game warden in the Meeker County area. (data from internet sources show-Meeker is the Statutory Town that is the county seat and the most populous municipality of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, United States. The town population was 2,475 at the 2010 United States Census. The town is largely an agricultural community, located in the wide fertile valley of the White River in northwestern Colorado.)



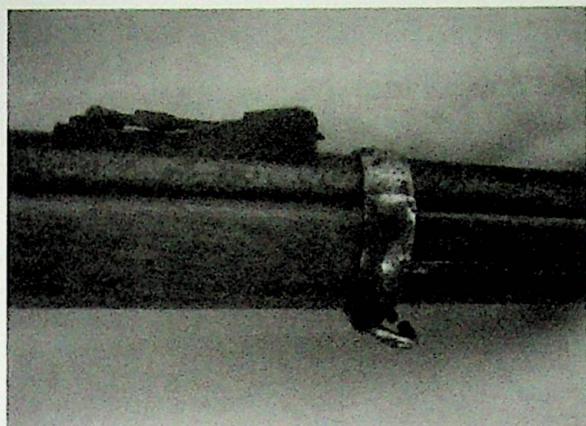
*Above:* Left side of carbine with no saddle ring assembly and carbine trigger guard.



*Above:* Butt stock with unknown obliterated marks on both sides.

*Below:* Left of stock with hardened leather and wire band.





*Left:* Model 1873 rear sight.



*Left:* Model 1873 front sight and muzzle.



*Left:* Carbine barrel band with early swivel.

The carbine has early features. It has the early checkered hammer. The stacking swivel barrel band is the early type 1873. The breech block has crossed arrows and 1873 and the lock plate is marked 1873. The sling bar has been removed and there is a clear P proof stamp on the wrist.

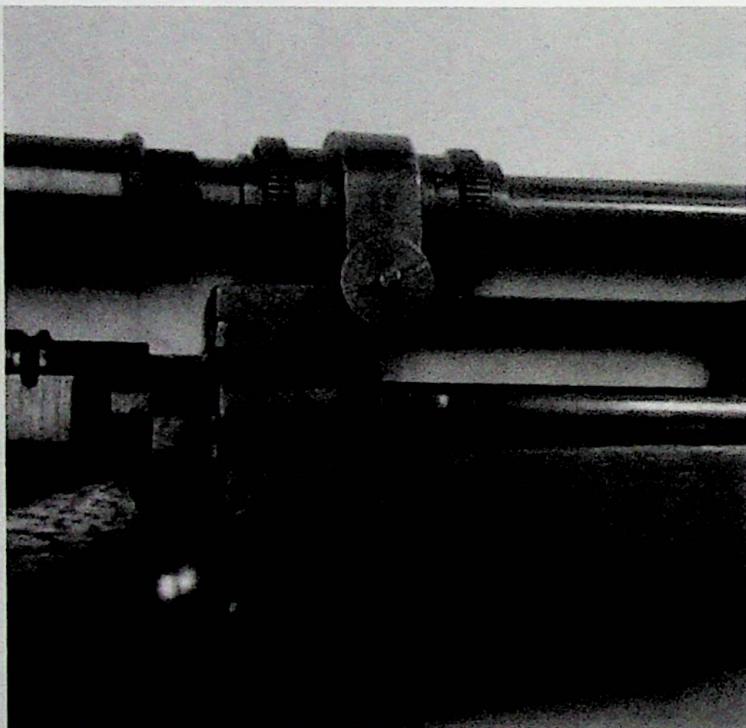
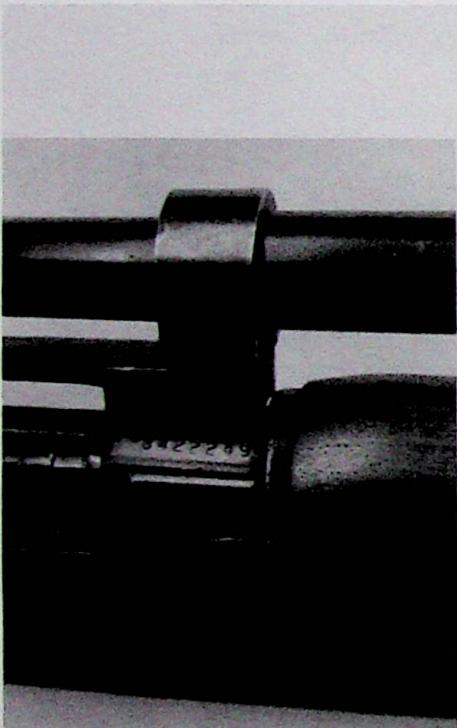
There is a three-notch tumbler on the lock.

The rancher gave or sold the gun to Bill Goosman who was a game warden in the Meeker Co. area. He had the gun for decades then gave it to his nephew, also named Bill Goosman. The last owner also had this gun until this year. It has remained in the two families since received from the old rancher.

**Model 1903A4 Remington Sniper 3 422 249 With French Scope and Mountings. Photos and data are Courtesy of Marc Lasky.**

The following A4 has an exceptionally rare and original OPL M73B2 rifle scope. This scope was manufactured in 1945 by the French firm Optique & Précision de Levallois (OPL) for the US Army.

**Below Left:** Serial number 3422249 with forward ring assembly. **Below Right:** Right side of French Scope with rear base and adjustments.

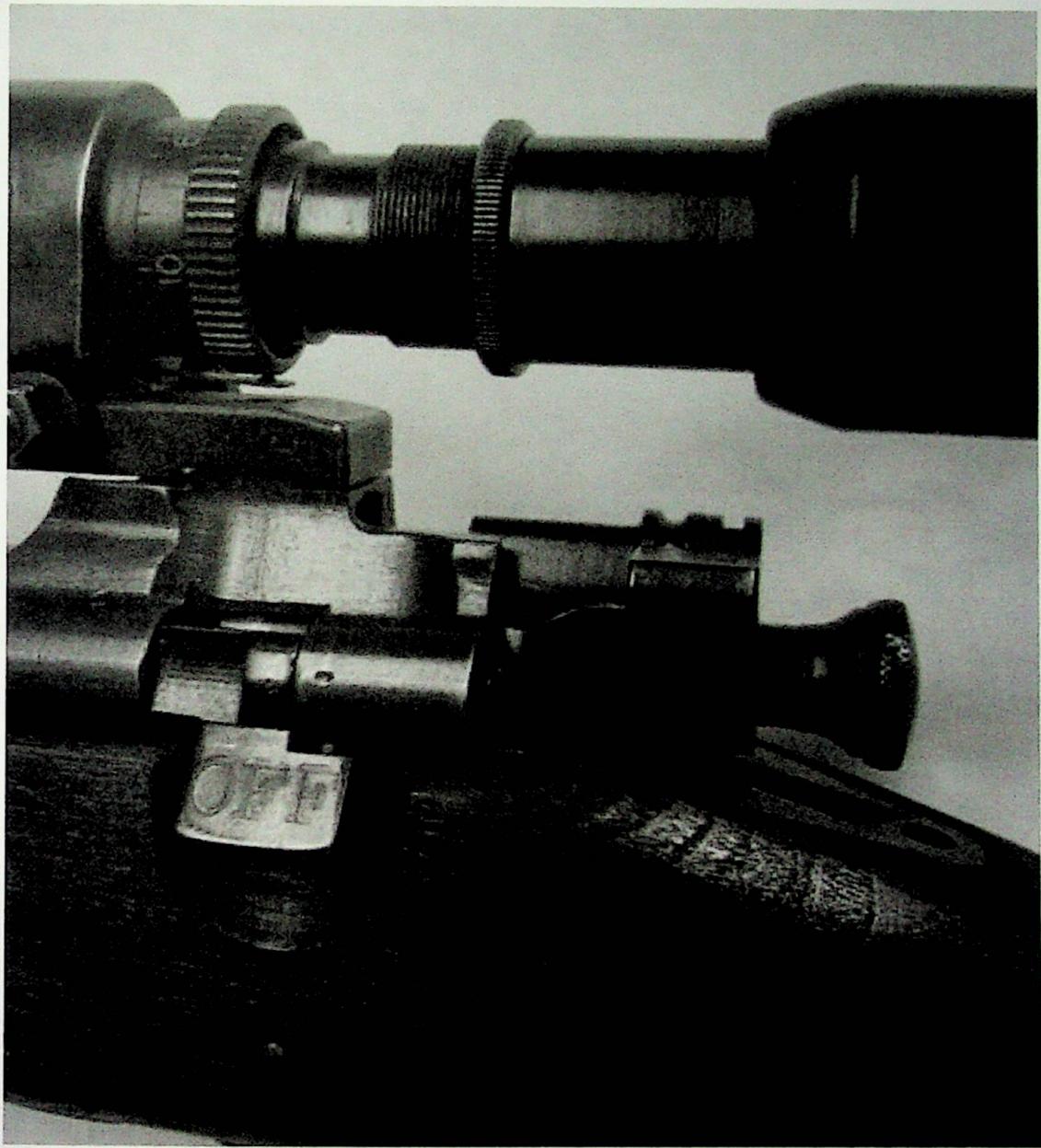


The French B2 is a very robust scope that is noticeably heavier than its B1 counterpart. The B2 is unique in many aspects, the first of which are its annular elevation and windage adjustment rings. This style of adjustment ring is like the German Zf-41 and Swedish Aga m/42 scopes; however, the M73B2 relies on external adjustments such as a Unertl or Winchester A5 scope.

Unlike these European scopes, the M73B2 does not move anything internally; the scope body moves in the mounting rings.

The scope does "click" in a manner similar to the B1 with elevation/windage adjustments.

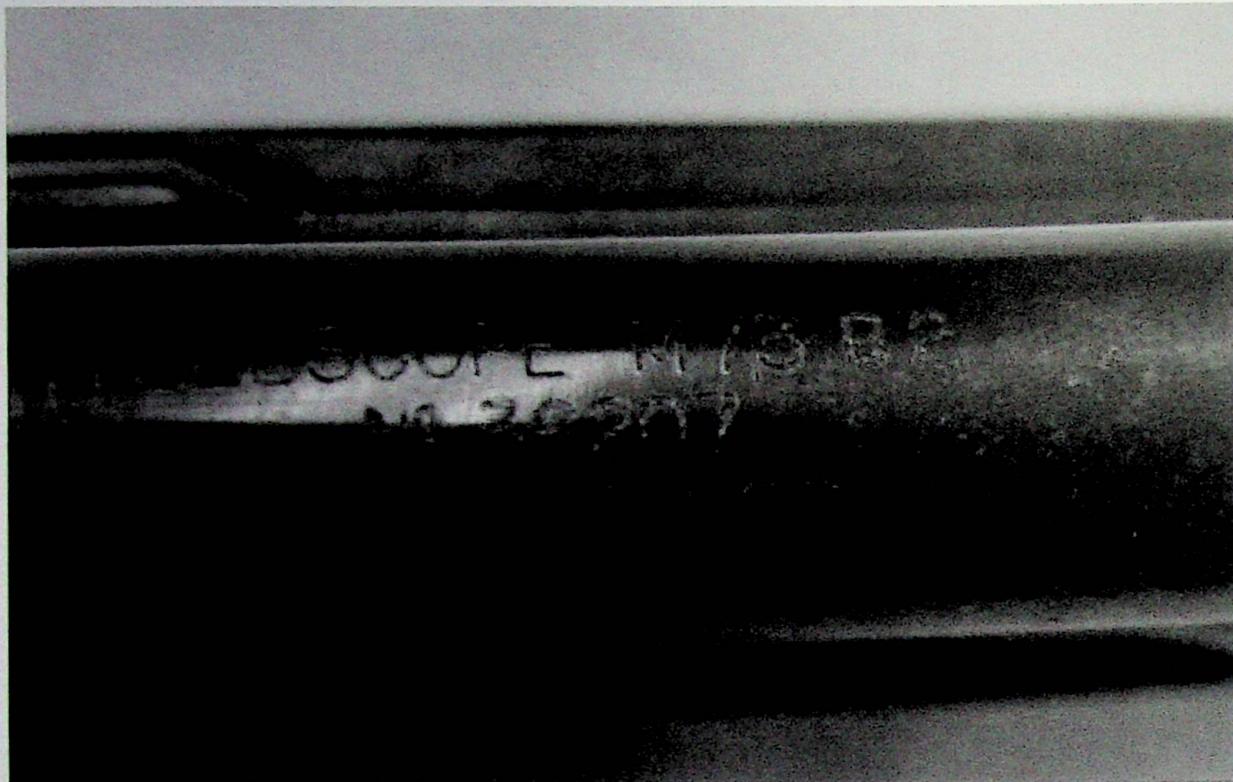
*Below:* Left side of French Scope with rear mounting base and scope adjustments.



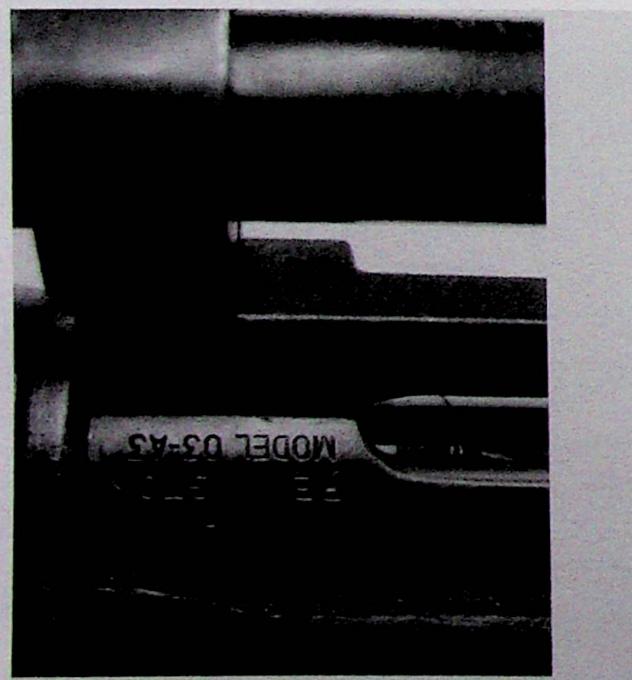
The B2 utilizes a piece of notched spring steel that falls into a groove in the elevation/windage knob, but on the B2 this piece of spring steel is on the bottom of the scope.

Shortcomings include that if the elevation ring is adjusted the windage ring will move slightly out of place, and vice versa. A shift of the bullet's desired trajectory and impact may occur.

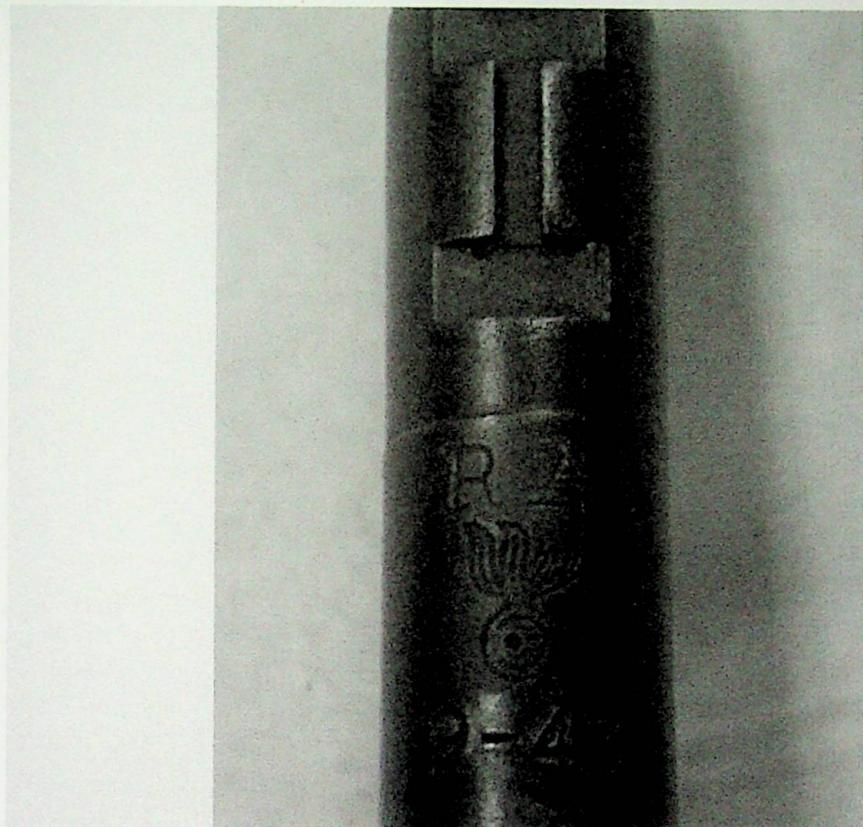
**Below:** The markings on the French scope Telescope M73 B2 Serial number 36207 (scope number), OPL France.



**Below:** The left side of the 1903A4 receiver with Remington markings, staked mount screw and forward French scope ring.



Remington 1903A4 barrel is shown with RA, flaming bomb and 9-43 date.



Data that follows is a compilation of examinations of the French scope and mountings. It is difficult to fully explain all the features when the unique rifles are rare and exact production data is limited. The information below is the best that can be made available at this time.

The M73B2's elevation ring is bullet drop compensated out to 1,000 yards or meters (unknown measurement). A test of a target at 600 meters could be done if you can turn the ring to the number 6 and watch your windage ring to make sure it did not move with that adjustment.

It is hard to remove the scope mounting rings from the M73B2. The front scope ring probably had a specialized wrench for its removal. There is also a small glass window on the right-hand side of this ring that let light into the scope. The rear scope ring is a housing that is difficult to take apart.

The B2 uses a normal Redfield 1903A4 base. There is unconfirmed data that an experimental base was also developed.

The "illuminated" reticle has a standard post which is a French design range finder, in the upper left quadrant. When light is shown into the glass window that is located on the right side of the front scope ring, the reticle turns from black to a mesmerizing silvery-white. It may have been used at night when ambient light could penetrate the scope and illuminate the reticle.

In a side-by-side comparison with a B1, the B2 has a slightly different finish. It appears to be blacker, whereas the B1 appears to be bluer.

The 1943 Remington Model 03-A3 sniper rifle with rare experimental French M73B2 scope, is rare. There were only about 60 of these scopes known to have been manufactured.

This rifle is in great condition with an excellent bore. The scope has nice clear glass.

This firearm is from the personal collection and estate of the late Lieutenant Colonel Francis Conway. Answering the call to duty in World War II, he joined the US Army the day after Pearl Harbor and served in the Small Arms Repair Section, C Company, 130th Maintenance Battalion, 8th Armored Division. He served in that capacity throughout World War II. He stayed in England, took part of the "Battle of the Bulge" through Normandy, France, Alsace, Belgium, Germany, and Czechoslovakia until the division was deactivated in November 1945. After World War II he had tours with the missile and ordnance systems in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Redstone Arsenal, and White Sands Proving Ground. As a Master Sergeant, he joined the Army Rifle and Pistol Team in 1953. In 1957, he was commissioned as a Captain in the Ordnance Corps by the Army Chief of Staff, and served as Commander, US Army Europe Marksmanship Unit from 1963-1966 and Ordnance Officer, US Army Marksmanship Unit from 1966-1970. Conway was the "father" of the XM-21 military sniper rifle and contributed to several technical shooting publications. His victories include the Coast Guard Cup, the Infantry Center Rifle Championships, the Third Army Championships, the Member Trophy, the Marine Corps Cup, and twice he won the Wimbledon Cup in 1955 and 1956. Along the way, he set several national and international shooting records.

Lt. Colonel Bill Brophy lists the experimental M73B2 in his book "The Springfield 1903 Rifles". Bill Brophy was in constant contact with personnel at Springfield Research Service. We shared information on many M 1903 rifles.

He stated that the mount for this telescope was especially designed by the Redfield sight company for the 1903A4 rifle and incorporated a more positive system for telescope removal and accurate replacement than the previous Redfield mount used with M73B1, M81, M82, and M84 telescopes.

SRS is planning on resuming our original searches at the U.S. Archives to find out if more extensive data is available. We would like to extend our research to our readers and their wealth of Springfield knowledge for any photos or data that they may have.

*Incredibly Early Production,  
Exceptionally Fine Documented,  
Two Digit Serial Number 14 U.S.  
Contract Colt Model 1911 Semi-  
Automatic Pistol Issued to Colonel  
William A. Mitchell of the 20th  
Engineers with Factory Letter*

**ROCK ISLAND  
AUCTION COMPANY.**

*Premier Auction*  
Fine, Historic, & Investment Grade Firearms

**SEPTEMBER 10TH, 11TH & 12TH**

*Scarce Savage  
Arms Company  
Model 1907 U.S.  
Army M1911 Test Service  
Automatic Pistol*

*Exceptionally  
Scarce and  
Desirable U.S.  
Army First Contract  
Colt Model 1900 "Sight  
Safety" Semi-Automatic  
Pistol Serial Number 94*

*Extremely Rare U.S. Springfield .30 Caliber  
Experimental Trapdoor Rifle Letter "E"*

*Scarce U.S.  
Contract Colt Third  
Model Dragoon  
Percussion Revolver with Folding  
Rear Sight, U.S. Dragoons Cylinder  
Marking, and Martially Marked  
Shoulder Stock*

*Outstanding  
Civil War Era Colt Model 1861  
Navy Percussion Revolver*

*Extremely Rare Well-  
Documented Historic Custer Era  
Frank Wesson Tip-Up Single Shot Rifle with  
Native American Tack Decorated Stock from the U.S.  
Cartridge Co. Gun Collection*

*Rare and  
Desirable Factory Engraved  
Colt Hartford English Dragoon  
Percussion Revolver*

**RIA**  
ROCK ISLAND AUCTION  
COMPANY

ALWAYS ACCEPTING  
QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS -  
ONE GUN OR AN ENTIRE COLLECTION!  
800 238-8022 or  
Email: [guns@rockislandauction.com](mailto:guns@rockislandauction.com)  
7819 42<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Rock Island, IL 61201 • PHONE: 309-797-1500 or 800 238-8022 • FAX: 309 797 1655 • EMAIL: [info@rockislandauction.com](mailto:info@rockislandauction.com) • Fully Licensed Class III Auctioneer

Undisputed World Leader for Quality  
Collectable and Antique Firearms

**CATALOG ONLINE IN AUGUST!**

TO ORDER YOUR FULL-COLOR  
3-VOLUME SET CATALOG CALL  
(800) 238-8022 (\$70 PLUS SALES TAX)

**WWW.ROCKISLANDAUCTION.COM**



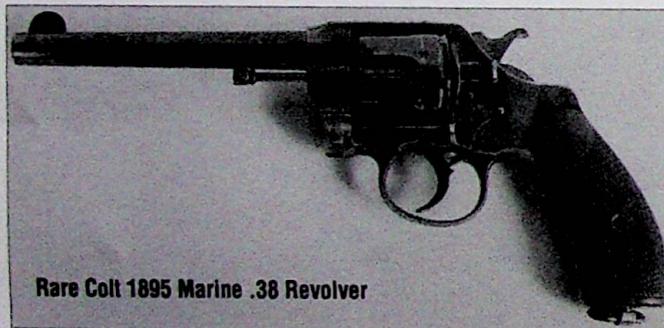
# Premier Antique & Modern Firearms Auction Saturday, June 19, 2021 • 10 A.M. EST

— Auction Preview Available Week of Auction and 8 a.m. on Auction Day —

Our spring offering consists of a fine array of investment-grade and collectible firearms to include military, Colts, Smith & Wessons, Winchesters, Marlins, Fine Shotguns, Sporting Arms, and much more.

**FULL CATALOG & LIVE BIDDING AVAILABLE THROUGH**

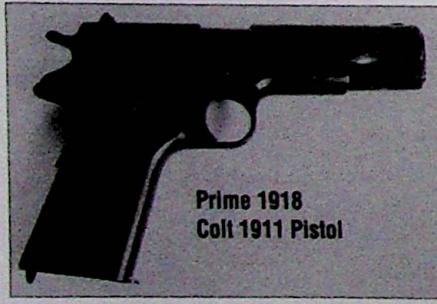
**MILESTONEAUCTIONS.COM, LIVEAUCTIONEERS.COM, INVALUABLE.COM and PROXIBID.COM**  
**FOR PHONE BIDS and ABSENTEE BIDS call 440-527-8060**



Rare Colt 1895 Marine .38 Revolver



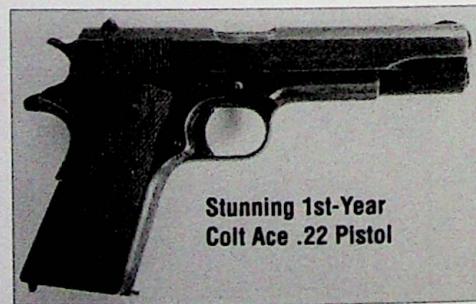
Desirable 1889  
Colt Navy .38 Revolver



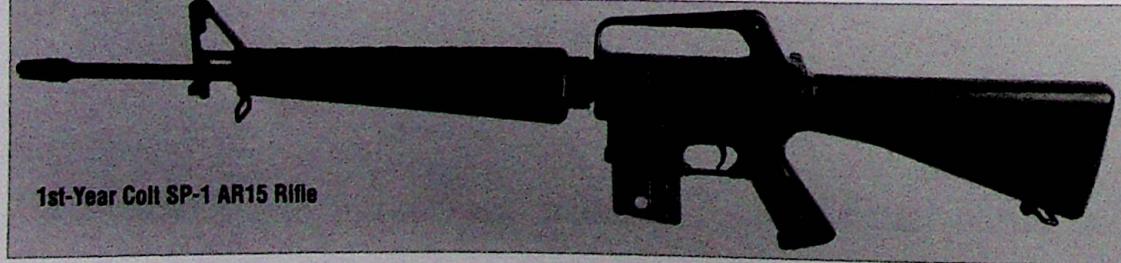
Prime 1918  
Colt 1911 Pistol



Documented  
USMC-issued Colt 1911



Stunning 1st-Year  
Colt Ace .22 Pistol



1st-Year Colt SP-1 AR15 Rifle

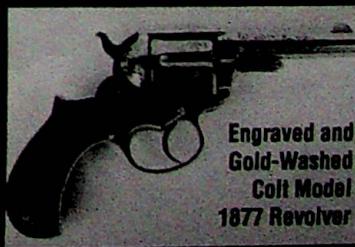
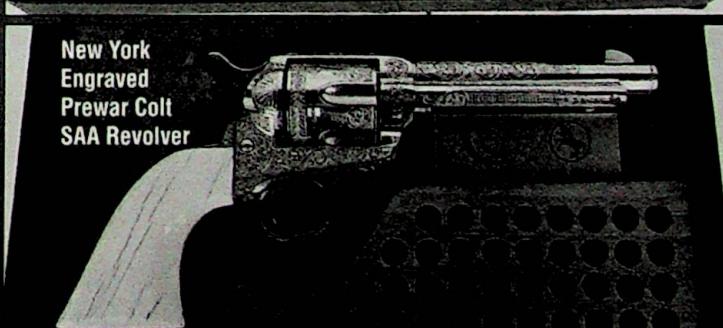
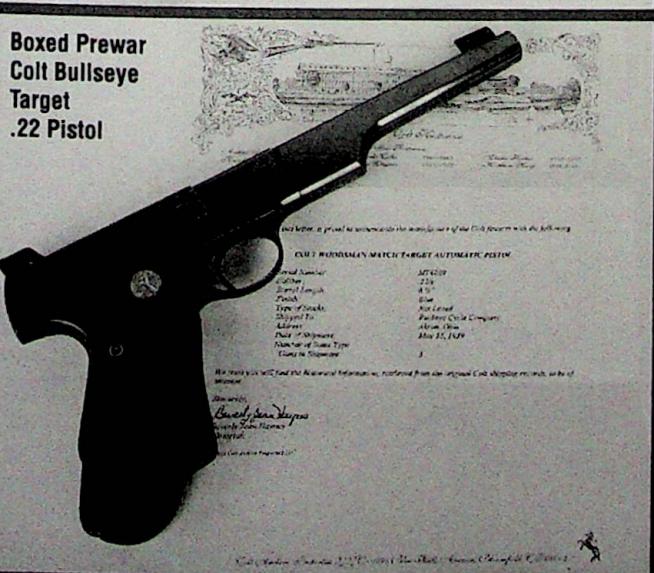
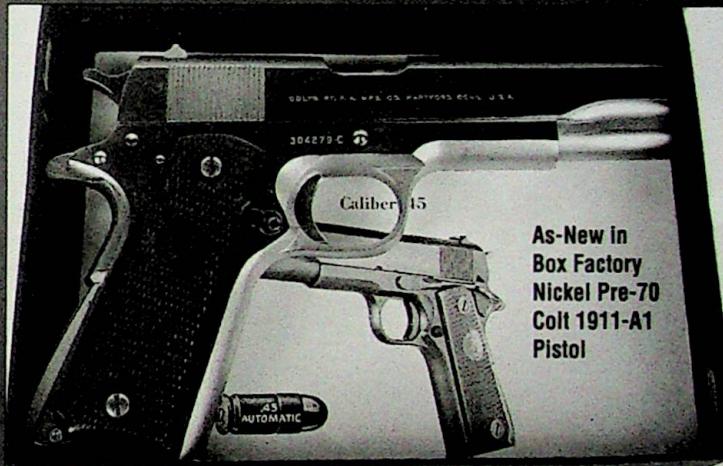
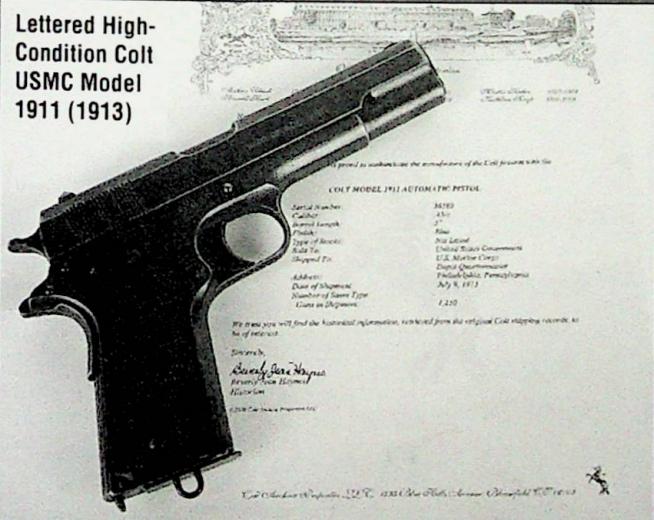
Milestone Auctions  
is always looking  
for quality  
consignments —  
One Piece or  
Entire Collections!

*Feel free to contact our offices to discuss your auction needs*

**Call 440-527-8060 For Details • [WWW.MILESTONEAUCTIONS.COM](http://WWW.MILESTONEAUCTIONS.COM)**

# MILESTONE AUCTIONS GALLERY

38198 Willoughby Parkway, Willoughby, OH 44094 • milestoneauctions@yahoo.com



Auctioneer: Miles King • Buyer's Premium: 20% online - 17% in-house • 3% added for credit card payments



Firearms & Militaria Auctioneers

**PREMIER FIREARMS  
AND MILITARIA AUCTION**  
ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS  
NOV 5, 6, & 7, 2021 | FAIRFIELD, ME

**Below are some of the successes we've had for our consignors in previous Premier Firearms Auctions**

Beautiful High Finish  
Colt Walker Revolver, New To  
Market. EST. \$100,000 - \$125,000

**SOLD \$135,125**

Unique And  
Fine "C.H. Rigdon"  
Confederate Revolver.  
EST. \$25,000 - \$35,000

**SOLD \$65,800**

Rare & Fine  
Confederate Dance  
Dragoon Revolver With Great  
Provenance. EST. \$50,000 - \$60,000

**SOLD \$61,675**

Rare Confederate Clapp, Gates North Carolina Contract Rifle  
Carried By 18th North Carolina Infantryman. EST. \$10,000 - \$15,000

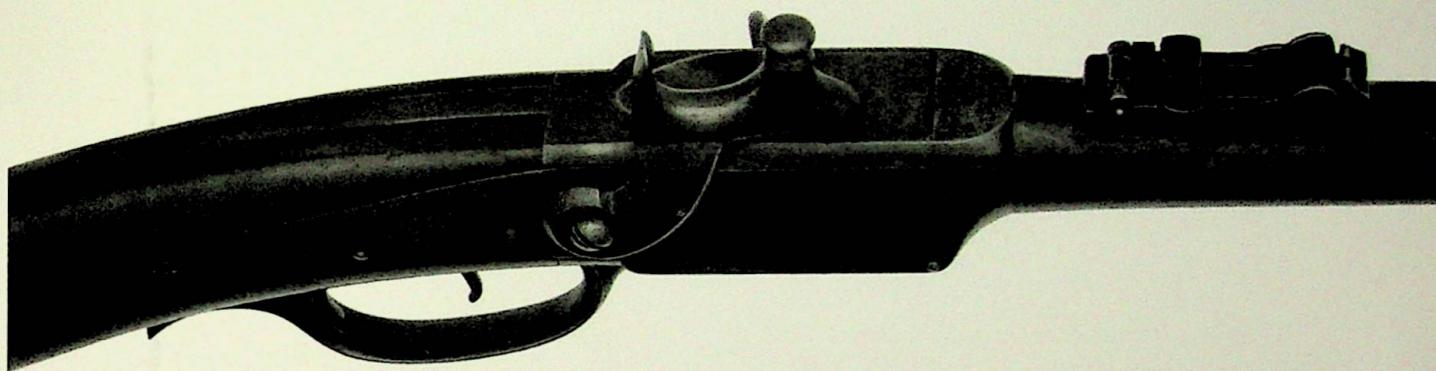
**SOLD \$23,500**

0 %

**Or Better!** Seller's Commission On  
Expensive Items and Valuable Collections

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CONSIGNING, CALL US TODAY AT (207) 453-2114**

# Lewis Grant



LOT 276 FROM THE ARMS & ARMOR AUCTION, MAY 5, 2021

ESTIMATED \$4,000-\$6,000

PRICE REALIZED \$9,809.50

ALWAYS ACCEPTING QUALITY CONSIGNMENTS



111 BEECH STREET  
NEWPORT, KENTUCKY

LEWISANDGRANT.COM  
859-659-1099  
INFO@LEWISANDGRANT.COM

ARMS & ARMOR | NATIVE AMERICAN & WESTERN ART | AMERICAN HISTORY

# DOUGLAS R. CARLSON

## “Antique American Firearms”

P.O. Box 71035 -MAC, Des Moines, Iowa 50325  
Telephone (515) 224-6552



Colt 1894 U.S. Army  
Martial Revolver

38Double Action

## MAIL ORDER

## CATALOGS OF FINE ANTIQUE FIREARMS FOR SALE

\*\*\*\*\*

Fine Antique American Revolvers And Derringers From The Time Period 1848 To 1898. Colt, Remington, Smith & Wesson, Merwin & Hulbert, Many Others. Each Item Described In Accurate Detail. Large 40 To 60 Page Catalogs Are Sent Out First Class Mail Every 6 To 8 Weeks. Most Items Are Pictured. A Subscription To Six Issues Is \$ 30.00 In The UNITED STATES. All Foreign Subscriptions Are \$ 40.00 U.S. For Six Issues VIA Airmail. You Will Like My Catalogs! Try One! Sample Catalog \$ 10.00