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MARTIAL ARMS  
Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



Number 172 September 2022

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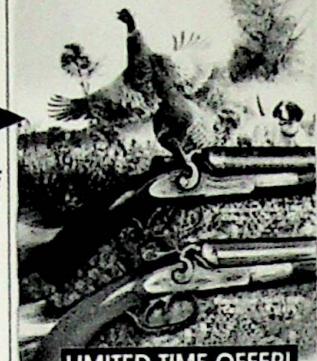
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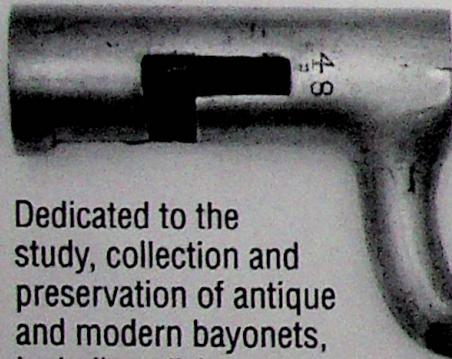
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The Remington Collector's  
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2nd Quarter 2011



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*Wayne P. Gagner*

# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

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

Number 172 September 2022

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**SPRINGFIELD REASEARCH  
SERVICE and U.S. MARTIAL ARMS  
COLLECTOR MAGAZINE.**

The status of SRS letters may have significant changes over the next months. Free searches and look-ups are available to subscribers. Basic letters can be produced without any problems as well as sales letters, but detailed research will take longer and may require added costs due to extended time to verify U.S. Archives data. Letters that refer to rare weapons require extended amounts of effort. They need more verification and can be produced with some delays.

Detailed research letters that require travel and time to visit Federal buildings will require a Springfield Research Service position on a waiting list to determine the exact amount of time needed to complete each effort. In some cases, the Archives data has been moved from Washington D.C. and near-by areas to Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, that are too costly to travel. Other documents have been found to be missing from government files.

Many documents have been saved by SRS and a determination on availability will be made to finalize a detailed letter. We have recently completed some of these letters and plan on working at all levels to provide research products to our subscribers.

The serial number looks-ups are completed as time is available and accomplished second to magazine requirements and deadlines.

Serial number lookups are made using serial

numbers with model and other manufacturing data. They require a subscriber to email the serial number and model to:

[editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com) or to mail the inquiry to SRS, Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818.

Hand-held cell phones are not always reliable and email requests are the best way to communicate with SRS. Audible messages are not acceptable,

We answer emails as soon as possible and work with a single email serial number at a time.

Our searching includes an email answer or letter back to a subscriber that shows if we have the requested information. A letter can be ordered based on the look-up, and paid for. A letter can be produced if we have the information on that serial specific number. All subscribers can also mail us at SRS Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818.

Payment can be made by check to SRS Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818. PAYPAL may also be used.

Please be careful and check only boxes with PAYPAL payment instructions. Subscribers may or may not want automatic paid renewal status. Multiple emails only take more time and delays in our answers.

This has been an exceedingly challenging time to produce our magazine. We have had losses in the U.S. mail of checks, magazines and other documents.

We receive many returns of magazines with incorrect addresses or no forwarding addresses. We try to visit our mailbox each day to check on incoming mail.

We have been able to answer most emails on serial number searches and complete our research letters.

#### **AUCTION HOUSES**

Auction houses are maintaining high-volume sales and record-breaking high-dollar purchases. They all expect this trend to continue.

We have interviewed managers of Redding's Auction house who have had record years and expect to continue this trend.

Lewis and Grant auction house has a wide variety of gun auctions and expects to continue with diverse collections.

We would welcome comments on sales markets from our subscribers.

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

SRS relies on the U.S. Postal Office for all delivery of our products. Please email us if you have any problems. All letters are based on records that we have in our files, but records that are in loose-leaf papers require much more time to produce. These files have been kept as emergency data from older files found at many U.S. Archives locations.

The best way to request a serial number search is by email,

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

#### **ADVERTISING**

The magazine will continue publication in 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. December 2022 issue is November 12,2022.

We reserve extra copies of each printed issue but cannot keep an unlimited number needed for reserves. Lately, SRS ran out of many contemporary issues. We rely on our current mailing lists for our subscribers.

Please send any changes to SRS Box 126 Cabin John, MD 20818. We always need updated names and addresses. This is a continuing problem.

SRS will continue to show last issue numbers after each subscriber's name. This will be reviewed to use the best way to keep subscriptions up to date.

Direct email to [editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com) is the only way to make sure that a message or photo is received.

#### **CURRENT ISSUE**

Issue 172 dated September 2022 is the current issue and is set to be mailed the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2022.

***U.S. Martial Arms Collector 172-3***

## 2023 SCHEDUAL

March 2023 issue deadline is 11 February.  
June 2023 issue deadline is May 13, 2023.  
September 2023 issue deadline is August 2023. December 2023 issue deadline is November 11, 2023.

## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH LETTER INORMATION

### COMMENTS AND INPUTS

Please send to:  
[editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com).  
An inquiry can also be made by U.S. mail to SRS Box 126, Cabin John, MD 20818. The response will take an extended time.

### LETTERS WRITTEN

Rifle, U.S. Cal. .30, Model 1903, Style T, Serial Number 1314515  
Sold to Claude D. Stock, Denver, Colo.  
December 12, 1930.

Rifle U.S. Henry Rifle serial number 7801. Shipped to Company I, 3rd Regiment, U.S. Veterans Volunteers Infantry, Commanding Officer. Serial Number 7801 was issued to Private Erik Graden during the Civil War. Private Graden was also issued a carriage box, waist belt and plate, clothing, and shelter tent.

1873 Carbine, Serial Number 341847 (no historical data). Number 341857 was issued to 7th Cav and used at Wounded Knee. 1873 Carbine, Serial number 414963 (no historical data). Number 414929 was issued to Troop B, 8th Cavalry.

Rifle U.S. Sharps Serial Number 92737 C  
Shipped from Sharps Factory, Hartford, Connecticut to U.S. Army, Springfield, Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts. December 3, 1863.

Rifle U.S. Springfield, Krag Model 1898 Rifle, Caliber .30, Serial Number 172506  
Issued to 26th U.S. Volunteer Infantry. 1899.

Rifle, U.S. Cal. .30, Model 1903, serial number 1 269 589, Heavy Barrel Rifle ,30 inch barrel Sold to W. D. Murphy, Pasadena, California. June 25, 1926.

Rifle, U.S. Cal. .30, Model 1903, Sporting Model, Serial Number 1 294 539.  
Sold to Lt. Kameil Maertens, Inf., Ft. Geo. Wright, Wash. April 25, 1929.

Type: Rifle, U.S. Cal. .30, Model 1903, NM, (USED), Serial Number 1 368 541.  
Sold By: O SO., NM 1737, Camp Perry, Ohio. To, Lt. Hollis O. Frey, 209 S. Vale Street. Bloomington, Illinois.  
September 15, 1937.

Rifle, U.S. Cal. .30, Model 1903, TYPE T, Serial Number 1 314 439. Sold to James Noonan, Cordova, Alaska by Springfield Armory. February 10, 1930.

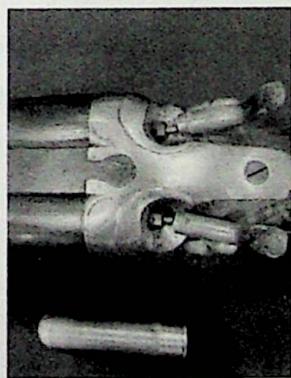
Carbine Caliber .45 1873 Carbine, Serial Number 341847. Serial number 341857 was issued to 7th CAV and used at Wounded Knee.

1873 Carbine, Serial number 414963  
Number 414929 was issued to Troop B, 8th  
Cavalry.

U.S. Sharps Serial Number 92737 C  
Shipped From: Sharps Factory, Hartford,  
Connecticut to U.S. Army, Springfield,  
Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts.  
December 3, 1863.

Rifle, U.S. Cal. .30, Model 1903, Sporting  
Model, Serial Number 1 345 216.  
Sold to Bernard M. Snyder, Hudson, N. Y.  
July 8, 1930.

## DOUBLE BARREL 4 GAUGE RIFLE



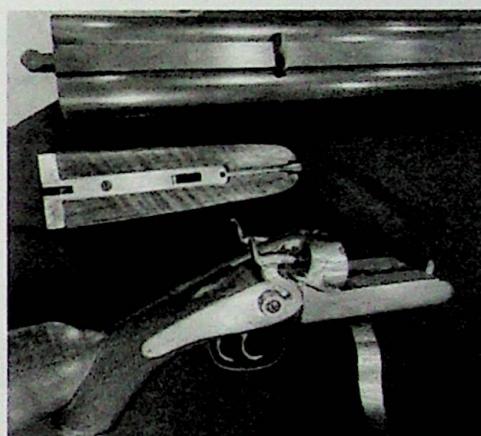
The above picture shows the top view of the two outside hammer system with engraving and superior dense wood and checkering. The modern one-inch rimmed cartridge rifle is a quality produced weapon made with a single block of steel action fitted to precise side by side barrels.

Below: The double rifle shown broken down with barrels (barrels with fitting to single

block steel receiver) and exact fitting.

The rifle has had a great history in African elephant hunting as well as other animals. It is unknown if the military ever bought them. The weight, size and cost are of extreme interest.

Comments are welcome.



The double rifle is shown above with a round of ammunition, exposed hammers, select dense checkered stock and extraordinary quality.

It appears that only a few hundred or less of these rifles have been made. The best source of data is from the author with last name of Pappas. He offers information on the use and recoil and ammunition and quality.

## **GUNSHOWS**

### **APPALACHIAN PROMOTIONS**

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Leesport Farmers Market Aug 20-21  
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Howard County Fairgrounds – Sept 10-11  
York- Oct 29-30

### **VIRGINIA ARMS COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION**

The Virginia Gun Collectors Association (VGCA) is a not-for-profit organization that promotes gun collecting and firearms safety. The VGCA sponsors two gun shows at the Prince William County Fairgrounds in Manassas, Virginia. These are well attended shows where I collectors of antique, C&R and modern guns.

VGCA shows are still pure gun shows - guns and gun-related products only. The next VGCA show will be at the Prince William County Fairgrounds in Manassas, VA on November 5-6. [www.vgca.net](http://www.vgca.net).

### **MARYLAND ARMS COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION**

The Original Baltimore Antique Arms Show  
State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road,  
Timonium, MD 21093.

The 67th show will be held on March 18-19, 2023 It is scheduled to have 1000 eight foot tables and will be hosted by the old line Maryland Arms Collectors Association. They can be contacted at Maryland Arms Collectors Association Box 1276 Ranson, WV 25438.  
(MACA@ baltimoreshow.com).

Future shows will include a 16-17 March 2004 show.

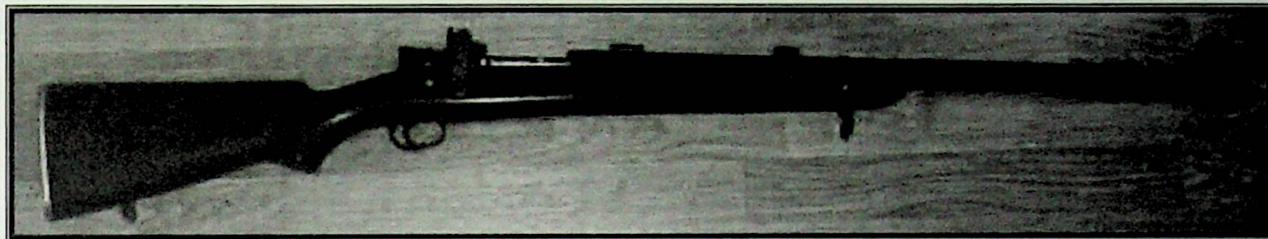
### **SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE**

We will continue to publish as many articles as possible and information that is of interest to our readers. There is a great deal of interest in high-end historical items that include U.S. military actions from French and Indian wars through World War II. We would like comments on recent international activities.

## **"GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COLLECTIBLE"**

~ A Story of a U.S. Artillery Officer and his Springfield M1922, Cal .30, HB rifle ~

By: *William R. Hansen*



**FORWARD:** *W*ith few exceptions, most serious arms collectors at some time or other have mouthed the phrase ... "If this old rifle could only talk". Unquestionably, the twitter of exhilaration in picking up a newly acquired small arms treasure for the first time is worthy of the moment; but for many collectors, it lacks crowning completeness without "...knowing who fired it first."

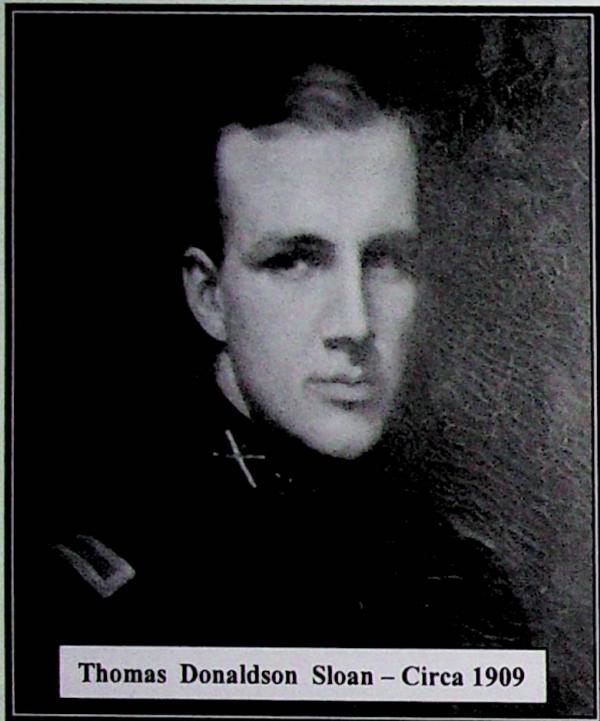
*G*un collectors engage in this hobby for many reasons...and thank God they do! But, to this scribe, no matter how many caretakers a collectible rifle may have had over the years, the first one who sent a projectile through its bore is someone very special to the rifle's legacy. After all, they introduced it to us. Somehow...a magical nexus is fulfilled upon connecting cold steel with the human warmth having brought it to life. Indeed, more often than not such reality transforms an otherwise short-lived emotional experience into one having a lasting subliminal significance. For those having been there, you know what I mean. Yes, there's as much relevance and curiosity about the person behind a collectible as there is grandma's pudding hidden under whipped cream. It's like reading the end of a story absent its beginning; or perhaps being a child of a father you've never seen.

*S*ome years ago, Sam Fadala wrote a book entitled "Great Shooters of the World." In his tome, he shifted focus from the hardware being shot to the shooter...saying:

*"The river of time has eroded the banks of memory, carrying many interesting, entertaining and worthwhile details of life to an ocean of lost facts."*

*H*is marvelous 1990 "paperback" revered historical personalities who used the arms we still collect and shoot today. Most if not all of these men are now dead and gone. But, their legacies live on as do the guns they fired. To secure such a legacy not only adds savor and relevance to gun collecting, but provides a measure of immortality to the collectible. Whether owned by a famous personage is unimportant ...and not the point. Just to know something about the one who first pulled its trigger or lovingly wiped it down...as we still do today, is worth every venturesome discovery into obscure and forgotten activity of long ago. Yes, without probing "...the ocean of lost facts", a collectible alone remains at risk as just being another gun woefully wanting in identity and distinction. It's no coincidence there was a time in history when the NRA magazine preceding the "American Rifleman" was known as "Arms and the Man"...each of which was inseparable from the other!

**INTRODUCTION:** This is the mini-biography regarding a rifle and the man who first possessed it. For 100 years, this rifle has been passed from hand to hand with little or no appreciation about the one who introduced it to the shooting world. Neither the gun nor the man may have achieved great fame on the battlefield or firing line commanding a spotlight in history. Nevertheless, both have earned a profound noteworthiness as much as an obscure veteran is appreciated having served his nation in combat. This is the story of **Colonel Thomas Donaldson Sloan** and his Springfield target rifle, Cal .30, M1922, "Special" HB, SN 1245471.



Thomas Donaldson Sloan – Circa 1909

Col. T.D. Sloan was a career officer in the U.S.

Army Coastal Artillery Corps during a time when World War I (WWI) called into service the best we had to offer to fight what was arguably the bloodiest war ever. The rifle was a product of the Springfield Armory (SA) in 1922 midst their most innovative decade in its long history. Up against the emerging, creative genius of private arms manufacturers, a growing cry for more competitive target rifles was coming from military shooting teams and the NRA in order to remain competitive in both national and international competition. Under immense pressure during the lean post-war budget years, the SA would demonstrate its ability to not only rise to the occasion, but produce some of the finest 20th century "bolt" rifles the world has ever known.

Without boring the reader with much of what

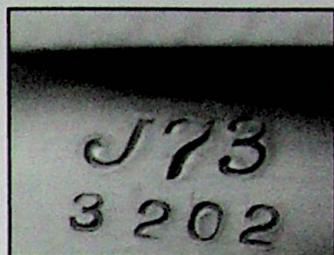
has already been well covered in other Springfield Research Service (SRS) writings by this author (**NOTE:** Reference to SRS article #148 as an example), the .30 Cal. M1922 with a 24 inch Heavy Barrel (HB) formally kicked off the Springfield Armory's foray into offering heavy "match" target rifles. America's finest marksman had cried out for such rifles particularly for long range and international competition since famed marksman Captain W. H. Richard brought his so-called "pressure" barreled '03 to tease them at the 1919 Caldwell Matches. But, facing budget constraints and an uncertain future, manufacture was constrained to a limited trial edition of only 100 guns. However, not long thereafter, a clamor for longer barrels out to 30 inches affirmed a growing demand that exceeded expectations. Its ending in the 1930's is now history...

**THE GUN: SN 1245471:** This rifle was purchased by Col. Sloan as one of 100 especially prepared National Match M1903 receivers assembled to serial numbers between 1244XXX and 1248XXX, then sold as a **Model 1922, .30 cal. Heavy Barrel (HB)** rifle. With some inconsistency in practice by the SA, each barrel was numbered on top of the barrel and/or the front face of installed Winchester A5 scope blocks. As shown hereon, Sloan's rifle number "17" was stamped in this fashion as likely explained in part by it being a "special" order. Nonetheless, it became one of the earliest SN's sold in



the Model 1922, .30 cal. series. Moreover, each barrel was certified as one of the exclusive 100 embedded on its underside with its Executive Order (XO) authorization "J73/3202" as shown below.

Assembly of these rifles to their receivers occurred as orders came in... including multiple requests for a specific shooting team or other group-related disposition. Needless to say, the rifles were issued with the M1922, .22 Cal. NRA pistol grip stock and butt-plate, complete with stock bolts and especially cut grasping grooves... including other fine-tuning for meeting prescriptive match accuracy specifications for the rifles.



As per Armory privileges, military officers were entitled to request changes to the basic production specifications for any purchase upon an approved order. It is noted in this case, the rifle was not identified per the standard M1922, 30 Cal. nomenclature, but as an '03 ("Special"). As a known entity, Col. Sloan was one of those recipients as revealed on his purchase sales receipt dated May 21, 1923. Such transactions consistently translated into meaning the requestor desired specific alterations warranting such an exception accompanied with a likely increase in cost.

Rifle, Cal..30, M1903(Special)	SERIAL 1 245 471
FILE NO	NONE
	Mar. 12, 1923
LOCATION	CIO, Springfield Armory, Mass.
DISPOSITION	Sale.
REMARKS:	Sold Jan. 11, 1923 to Maj. T.D. Sloan, Fort Bragg, N.C.

butt-stock; (2) bolt refashioned for scope clearance, and (3) substitution of a 150 scale Lyman 48 rear sight in lieu of the shorter 48C edition also approved for small bore gallery practice rifles. Other alterations of the rifle which have been noted likely occurred at a later time by either Sloan or unnamed owners who possessed the rifle after it changed hands, including the Lyman Globe front sight No 77R.

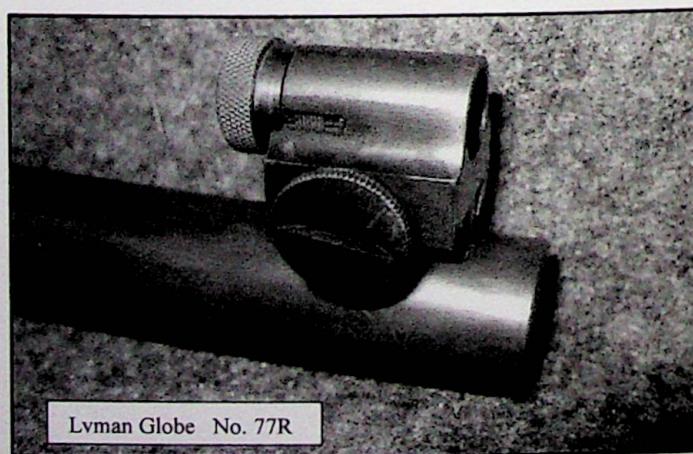
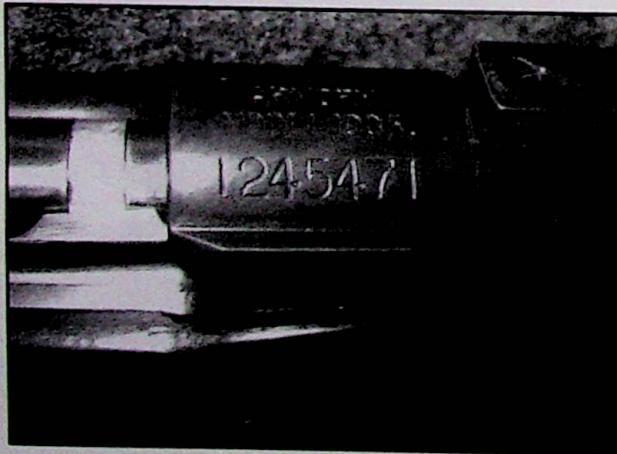
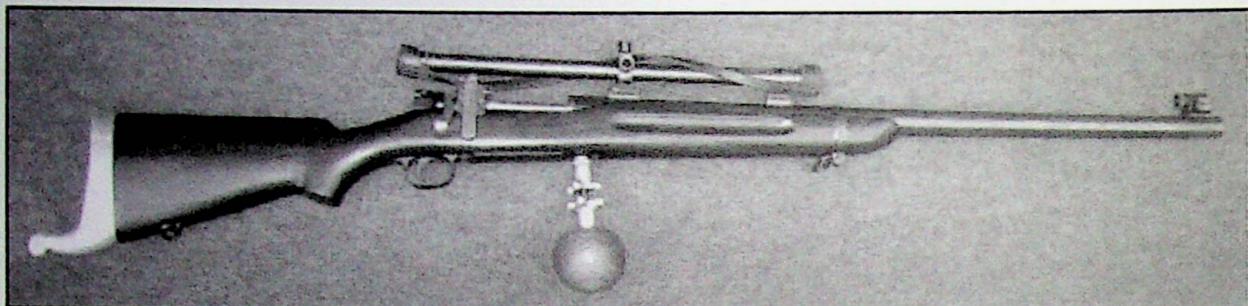
For reader interest, the following photo reveals a display from 1924 of typical long range target rifles used during this period of time. The variations demonstrate a great degree of owner versatility that was a common to personalization practice.



The next page reveals various attributes of Sloan's rifle as it is presently equipped when fully assembled with the amenities associated with the rifle. They include a custom aluminum butt-plate for standup match shooting along with the ball type hand-support and a Winchester A5 scope in

serviceable condition. Trigger excellence indicates the rifle had been especially fine-tuned. The author has fired the rifle under bench rest conditions containing the scope, and aluminum butt-plate using surplus 150 grain, M1 "Ball" ammo. The rifle remains clearly more accurate than aging eyesight permits at 100 yards. Amazingly, the scope remains fully functional.

## ~ Rifle Photos ~

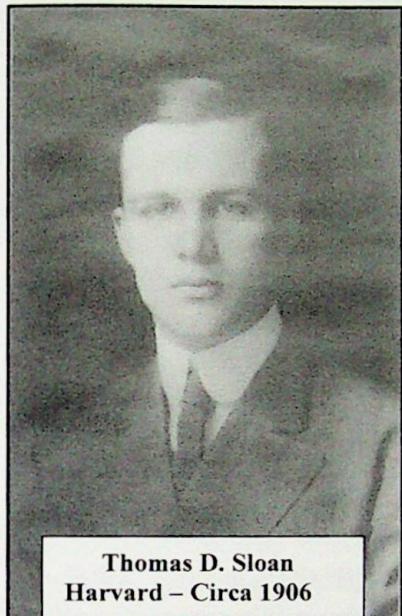


Lyman Globe No. 77R

**THE MAN: Col. T. D. Sloan:** An abbreviated summary of Col. Sloan's life follows. Sloan was fortunate to have been born into what would be regarded today as a prominent high society family from Long Island, New York City. His grandfather, George Beale Sloan (GBS) was a very successful industrialist, banker and State Congressman and Senator who "amassed considerable fame and

fortune." Sloan's father, Robert Sage Sloan (RSS), took over much of his business interests. However, beyond the family's many enterprises, his father was also a naval officer having graduated from Naval Academy in 1875, thus earning many career credits and positions in the military. Examples include being the Executive Officer aboard various ship assignments; and serving as Chief of Staff for the Director of the NY Naval Militia.

Sloan's wife Helen de Russy (Clark) Sloan, who he married in October 1909 while stationed in Texas, was a great granddaughter of General Rene de Russy, "*West Point*" class of 1812 and veteran of the War of 1812. Indeed, a separate article could be penned about the entire Sloan heritage since it was prolifically linked to the formation of our great nation that included active members of the "*Colonial Dames of America, Daughters of the American Revolution and the Society of Mayflower Descendants*." Naming a few more would add family descendants of President Martin Van Buren as well as Lewis Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.



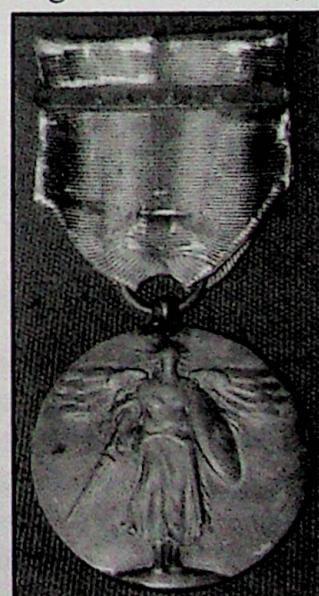
Thomas D. Sloan  
Harvard – Circa 1906

Col. Sloan was born on April 21, 1884 in Oswego, NY. He was the eldest of two children and grew up to be an extraordinary individual. He and his wife Helen birthed six children of their own. After graduation from Harvard in 1906, he went to work for the Adjutant General of the War Department, wherein his numerous natural abilities were soon recognized...including strong elocution and communication skills. He was also predictably ambitious. After a dominant performance on a battery of tests while at Harvard, he received a Presidential commission on January 5, 1908 as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. From the get-go he demonstrated excellence as a spokesman

representing War Department lobbying activity in Washington D.C. government and military affairs.

His first field assignment away from Washington D.C. was to the 6<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Ft. Riley, Kansas in late 1909. From there, he was reassigned to various task and educational appointments. He progressed relatively rapidly up through the ranks considering it was during peace-time circumstances. He received an appointment to Major in August 1917. His natural aptitudes as an instructor/teacher eventually lead him to becoming a Chief Artillery Training Officer. Indeed, when the WWI broke out, he was sent to France in October 1917 attached to Allied preparations for the "*Somme Defensive*". He was specifically detailed to the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps School at Gondrecourt as a Senior Instructor before being reassigned also to the 173<sup>rd</sup> Royal Field Artillery Brigade, British Expeditionary Forces on February 19, 1918. It is noted at this point that the WWI campaign was to expose a health fragility of the man ...which war-time can do.

After returning from Europe on May 18, 1918 and duly awarded for his contributions with a number of medals and ribbons (Example: see WWI Victory Medal – France, hereon), he was reassigned to the staff of Chief of Field Artillery, Washington D.C. as "*Chief of Training Section*". He was also



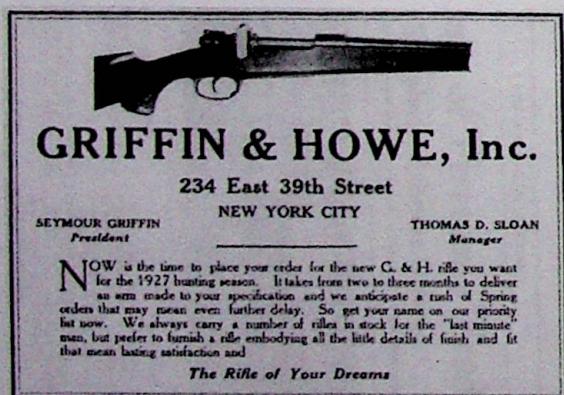
tasked with ongoing lobbying responsibility on behalf of the U.S. Army before Congress as related to intelligence and post-war procurement matters. Subsequently, on July 13, 1918 he was promoted to Lt. Colonel and then full Colonel on October 24<sup>th</sup> of the same year.

**B**ut, his career wasn't to remain on an uninterrupted achievement path. Yes, no matter the upside in life...there always seems to be downside. After the War was over, Sloan experienced a series of let-downs that wouldn't seem to go away. First, the post-war demobilization process resulted in a demotion on March 15, 1920 to his pre-war rank, which was common practice after a war. Whereas, he coveted the prospects of ascending to the rank of General before retirement...it was never to happen. Unfortunately, the reality of a season of unwelcomed disappointments seemed to open the door to discouragement and dejection consuming a very proud man having minimal tolerance for failure. But, I'm getting ahead of myself.

**D**uring the early 1920's, Sloan had already become a world class collector and shooter of fine and costly European and American rifles for hunting and marksmanship. He wrote numerous articles for the NRA "Arms and the Man" magazine and was recognized widely by his peers as a generalist firearms expert. While he had become throughout his early life a very astute writer, shooter, hunter, marksman and family man, but his long term personal goals and objectives were far from fulfilled. Owning nice guns and having stuffed trophies hanging on the wall were no more than pleasurable tokens of joy along the way. Nevertheless, he would soon realize his personal goals were unequally yoked with his physical genetics. To an outsider reading this, it would appear the consequences of his life-experience thus far had unwittingly over-taxed his natural health-state limitations.

**W**hether attributable to a physiological weakness or not, the self-imposed pressure to achieve greatness tied to the Sloan heritage he so earnestly desired had become life-threatening. While stationed at Ft. Bragg, N.C. he experienced cardiac failure that would end his 20 year military career in May of 1926. Topping it off, the unexpected death of his father Robert Sage Sloan at the relatively early age of 67... and occurring about the same time of his own forced retirement, was a devastating loss to the Colonel. Needless to say, a very sad part of what he was experiencing was profoundly felt by his family and others in his life. There is an old saying that "...one must first be at peace with self before others can know the depth of your love." But, his disappointment was too obvious. He had become moody and depressed which readily rubbed off on most all around him. As much as he may have tried to cover his discontent...it wasn't working very well.

**A**fter his military discharge, Sloan went to work in February 1927 for the firm of Griffin & Howe (G & H) of world-wide fame in New York City. G & H were renowned as a



**GRIFFIN & HOWE, Inc.**  
234 East 39th Street  
NEW YORK CITY  
SEYMOUR GRIFFIN  
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Manager  
Now is the time to place your order for the new G. & H. rifle you want for the 1927 hunting season. It takes from two to three months to deliver an arm made to your specification and we anticipate a rush of Spring orders that may mean even further delay. So get your name on our priority list now. We always carry a number of rifles in stock for the "last minute" man, but prefer to furnish a rifle embodying all the little details of finish and fit that mean lasting satisfaction and

maker of high grade hunting and target rifles. They were justly proud of adding Sloan to their team as Vice-President and General Manager. However, a year later in May 1927, he suddenly quit his job...saying it "didn't leave him sufficient time for other important matters." The real reason for his departure is left to speculation.

#### MAJ. T. D. SLOAN LEAVES GRIFFIN & HOWE

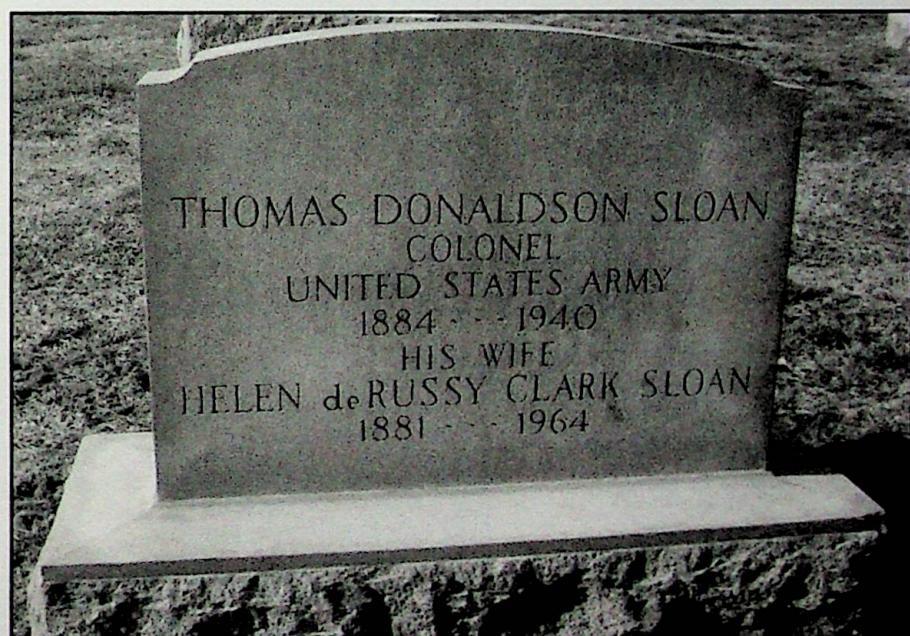
Maj. T. D. Sloan has advised us that his position of Vice President and Office Manager of the firm of Griffin & Howe did not leave him sufficient time for other important matters, and that he has therefore resigned from that position.

However, it is believed to be health related since he had many commitments, including being vice-president of the Peninsula National Bank at Cedarhurst, Long Island.

*I*n the course of extensive research by this author, it is hard to believe that still in his early 40's his promising life would essentially come to a halt, but the evidence appears undeniable. Meanwhile, he decided to return to his roots and build a home for his family not far from his recently widowed mother. He found a beautiful almost 1 acre property in Lawrence, Long Island, NY where he constructed a 2 story, 7 bath, 8 bedroom home totaling 8200 SF at 233 Narragansett Ave. Upon completion, the family moved in 1928. His mother lived in nearby Woodmere just a few miles away.

*I*n closing his life story, the question remains...did his new home in reality become more a grave than castle? The shear genius of the man along with meaningful contributions during his professional life seems to have been seriously curtailed after his retirement from Griffin & Howe. The record also reflects that his hunting and shooting days had also considerably tapered off, and that he had sold much of his accumulated arsenal. Except for certain bright moments of occasional travels to Europe and South America (...the family strongly favored Bermuda), he continued to retreat within himself, including minimized participation in family affairs. Indeed, more tragedy was yet to come.

Colonel Sloan lost his 17 year old son to a gun related incident in March 1935 that became a tipping point, and which he very likely blamed himself for happening. The very next year in December 1936 he experienced another significant health related setback that was serious enough to prevent his attendance to give his daughter Miriam away in matrimony. At this juncture, surviving family members reveal he preferred to mostly remain in his personal library lost in inner-thoughts, and to read and study with his favorite hunting dog(s). He managed to live 4 more years before being rushed by ambulance to the Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan where he was pronounced dead on August 29, 1940 at the age of 56 years. His final resting place was the family plot at the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. His wife, Helen lived another 24 years and is interred there as well.



## ~ Epilogue ~

*T*he author has chosen to conclude this particular article on a note that departs from typical historical gun collector colloquy and banter. The opening to this article introduced probing the "...ocean of lost facts" relationship between a man and collectible rifles still being enjoyed today, particularly the part addressing "...getting to know" a collectable's original owner. In that regard, I'm reminded of something else Sam Fadala said in his book dealing with improving a good read by making it more honest "...tell it like it is or was, rather than escalate, glamorize or dilute the facts."

**U**nquestionably, Sloan's life really got this scribe's attention for a variety of fascinating reasons. So, indulge me please. I'll keep this ending short since I'm neither a professional "shrink", nor pretending to be a preacher. But, if you're lucky enough to make it into your mid-80s, you've got to have learned something about both "**triumph and tragedy**". The fact is this author has actually spent more time studying the life of Colonel Thomas Donaldson Sloan than any other comparable life-biography venture previously engaged. Yes, feeling like I had come to know him personally, I was greatly blessed by his success as well as stunned with how his life appears to have ended.

**H**e was confronted with eye-opening human frailty issues that many folks face today...that we either learn from or suffer the consequences. Life doesn't necessarily respect what kind of family or quality of environment we are born into. As mere mortals, we oft-times take for granted our natural gifts, but fail to contend or embrace our faults, foibles and misfortune in a positive or healthy fashion. If our own story isn't going well... as with Sloan, it will likely not end well without addressing challenges related to personal reckoning on the spiritual front.

**T**aking on a full life is far more than how many guns are in our safe or lifeless stuffed trophies adorning the wall. It's more like learning to climb a mountain persisting with a hope for making it to the top ...even when the trail becomes worn, unmarked or made impassable with brush and rocks. Yes, it's far more important how we have prepared ourselves for life's journey...that excludes becoming a victim of bad luck and masking our sadness.

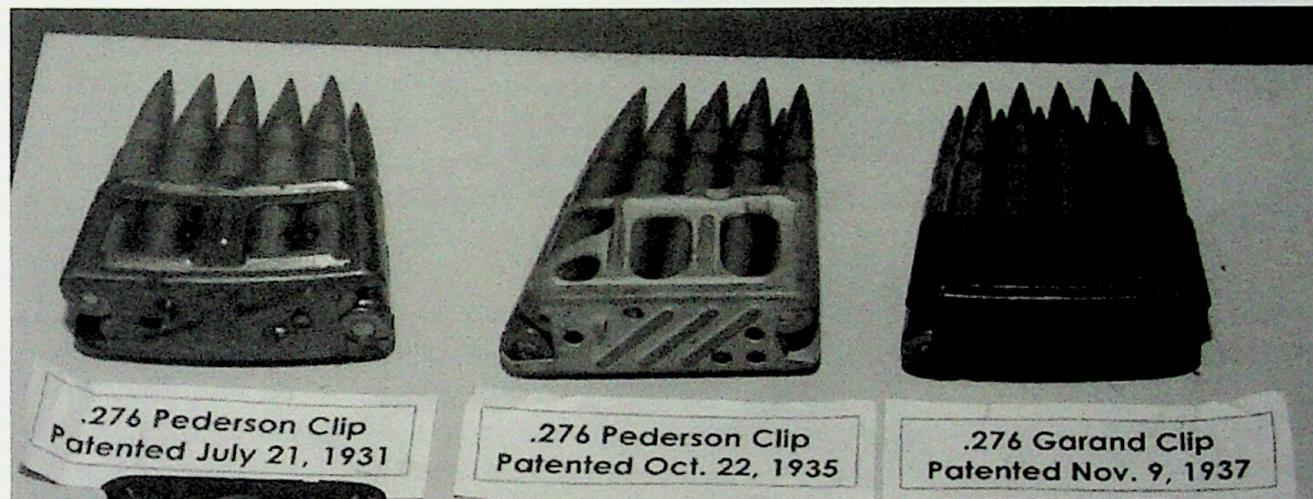
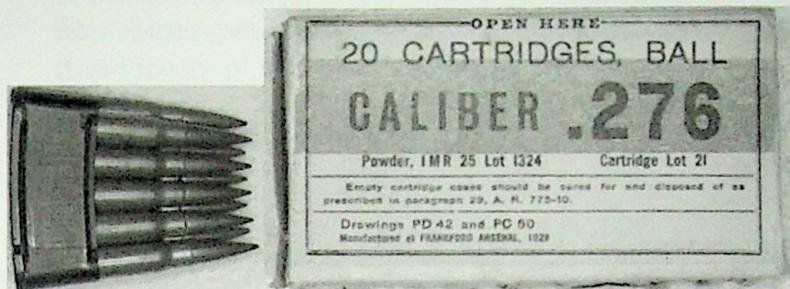
**T**he prideful oft-times become their own worst enemy. If the problem isn't "*headed off at the pass*" in a timely way, it can lead one to digging a hole instead of continuing the climb. There's an old saying that "...if you find yourself in a hole with a shovel, sound advice says to quit digging!" Sloan was a supremely gifted man who believed that life had cheated him from the rightful success and stature of his dreams. He never quite reconciled that he was also born an imperfect man...as we all are, subject to the limits and boundaries of an almighty creator. Yes, he eventually found it impossible to reconcile a sound mind with a less than healthy body and psyche, thus denying himself and those who loved him most the wisdom, thanksgiving and untold blessings for a life worth living.

**M**ay it also be concluded that in the course of researching his rifle, that Sloan's life represents a profound lesson from a man born 138 years ago that addresses what still ails mankind today. Yea, to have separated the "*Man*" from his "*arms*" in this case, would have resulted in not just a denial to an "*ocean of lost facts*", but some serious self-counsel about the one-time mortal life we all live.



# M1 Garand Enblock Clips

M1 Garand clips were produced in very large quantities except a few rare ones. The early pre productions, or prototypes were 10 rounds in Caliber .276.



These are some 10 rounds, .276 prototype ones as well as the final .276 clips that did not go into production as the M1 production was in 7.62x63 (30-06).

The 8 round enblock clip that is the rarest was produced by Danly© – Danly Machine Co,



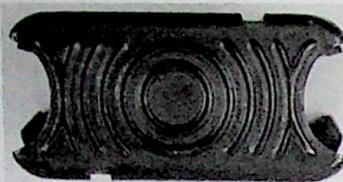
Chicago, IL, (Not Packetized) Very Rare clip.

Data Source "M1 Garand Photo Essay, Volume II", Section 7.

Books \$49.95 Email, [larrybab@comcast.net](mailto:larrybab@comcast.net) .

Larry Babcock

Unmarked Springfield, MA - Rare early clip, notches are cutout not stamped. **Springfield Armory D28288 First Production**



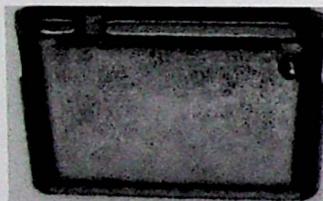
---↓--- Note: This is the cutout Release Notch



Unmarked Springfield, MA - Rare early clip, notches are stamped. **Springfield Armory D28288 Second Production (stamped notch)**



—↑— Stamped, not cut, with defined end stamp



Later clips not as defined on edge stamp

Early clip "cut notch" and "uncut notch" edge defined edge stamping

WRA Educational - Winchester Repeating Arms (cut notch early), New Haven, CT (WW2)



Notch

-----

Cut through, edge stamping defined. The later ones by Winchester do not have the notch cut but have the notch stamped. The edge cut is like the later production edges.

## General Wayne's Improved Musket

General Anthony Wayne was commissioned a major general on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1792, with the mission of putting to end the Indian War north of the Ohio River. To do this he had to form a new American army which he dubbed the Legion. He would form and train the Legion and lead it to victory at the battle of Fallen Timbers in August 1794, completing his mission.

While encamped at Pittsburgh he wrote to Secretary of War Knox on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 1792 reporting on Native American activity and the condition of the troops. The letter continues:

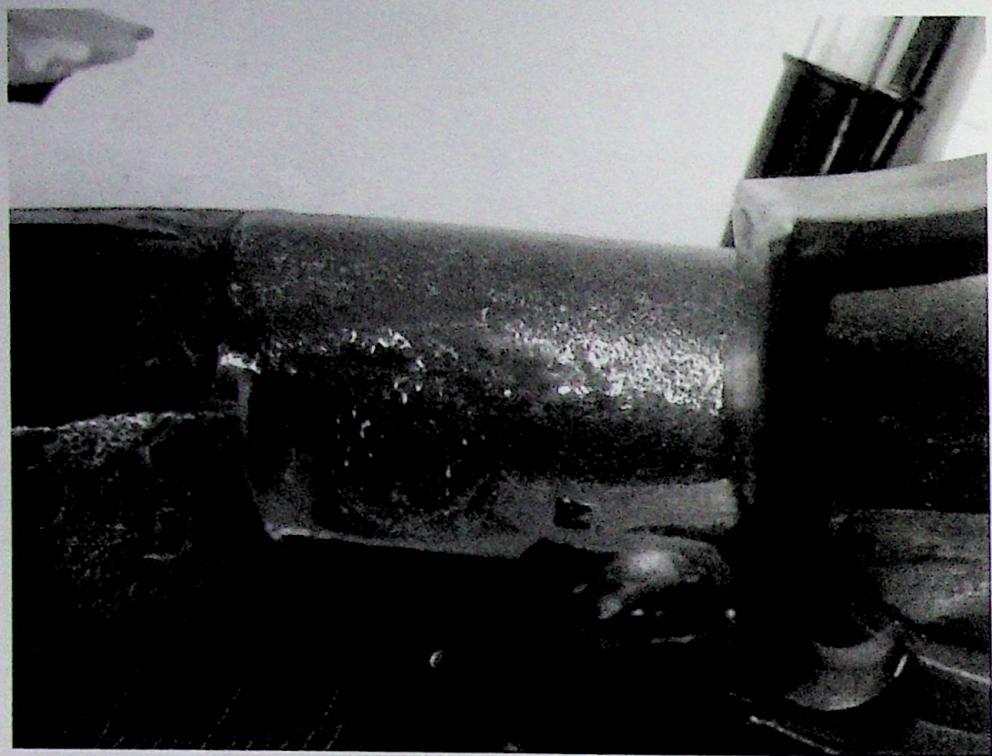
"I have made small experiments of the ideas I mentioned to you respecting the improvement of the Musket, by alteration of the of the touch hole, IE; by filling up the old, and drilling a new one, pretty large in an Oblique, in place of a right angular direction with the Caliber, which was [with] a fine grained powder, will most certainly preclude, the necessity of priming, the concussion of the air, in forcing down the charge, will cause each Musket to prime itself with more certainty, in action than the common mode; the eye of the soldier will therefore be constantly upon the Enemy, and he can pursue & load in full trot...the fire in this way is as three to two in standing & as two to one running..."

He finishes the letter with a request for fine powder for the modified muskets.

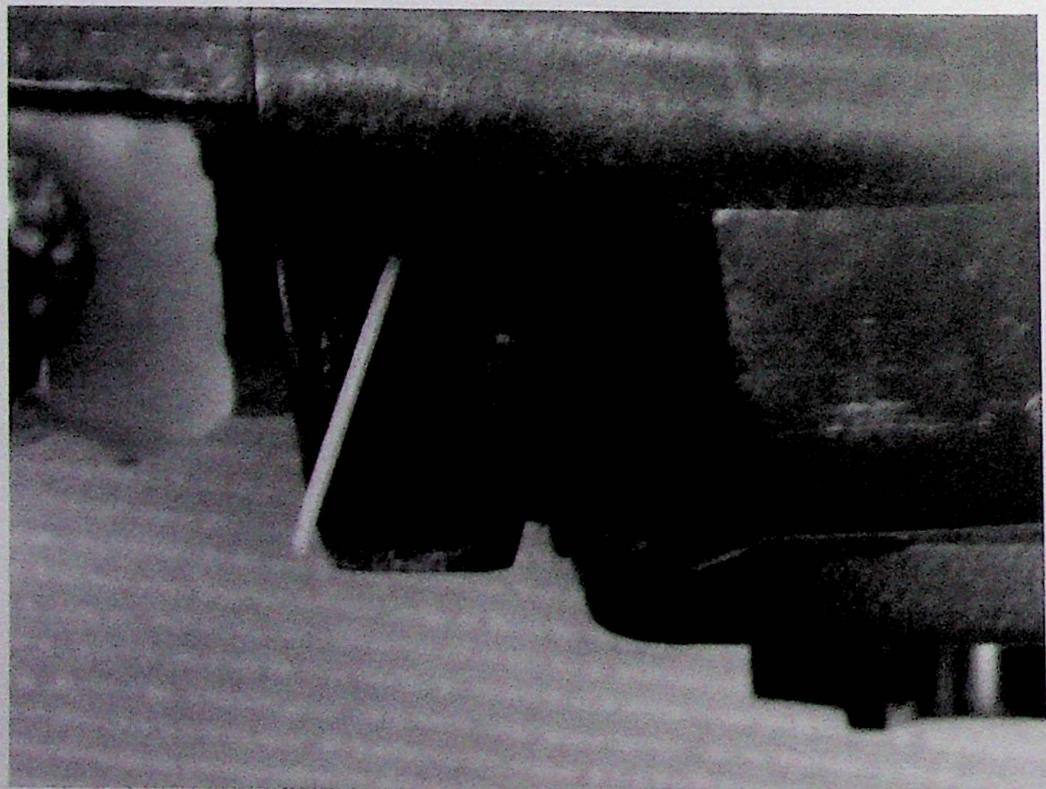
At the last meeting of the American Society of Arms Collectors in April at Newport News, a member displayed a modified Charleville musket. The touch hole was 3/16 inch in diameter and measured about 23 degrees from the perpendicular of the barrel.

The member bought a modern version of the Charleville and, working in a machine shop, filled in the touch hole of his reproduction and drilled a new one at an angle. He finished the talk with a short video of him loading and firing the reproduction several times without a misfire.

This author has a very nice Charleville on the wall over his desk. He never thought about the possibility that this could be one of the modified Charleville's. He inserted a toothpick into the touch hole, and it went in at about a 22-degree angle. This is not one of General Wayne's Charleville. It may be of interest to readers as it is a nice example of one of tens of thousands of Charleville's the French gave us. This is a Model 1767 with 1770 improvements: the lower barrel band has a band spring, and the bayonet lug was moved from the bottom of the barrel to the top. The lock has Charleville in script and a star/D. The left butt of the stock has an inverted D. But as nice as this is, there has been no tampering with the touch hole. It remains small, about 1/16 inch in diameter. (See photos) No, this is not one of Wayne's muskets. The author does have another Charleville, a Model 1777 pistol. The touch hole is a little larger than the one on the musket. Upon inserting a toothpick into the hole, it went a little off perpendicular, and measured about 22 degrees in the oblique.

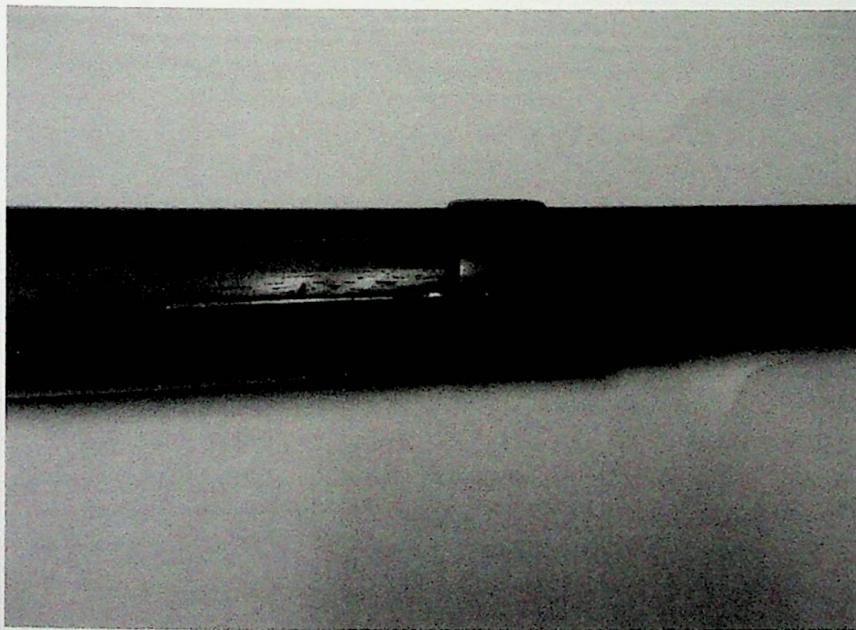
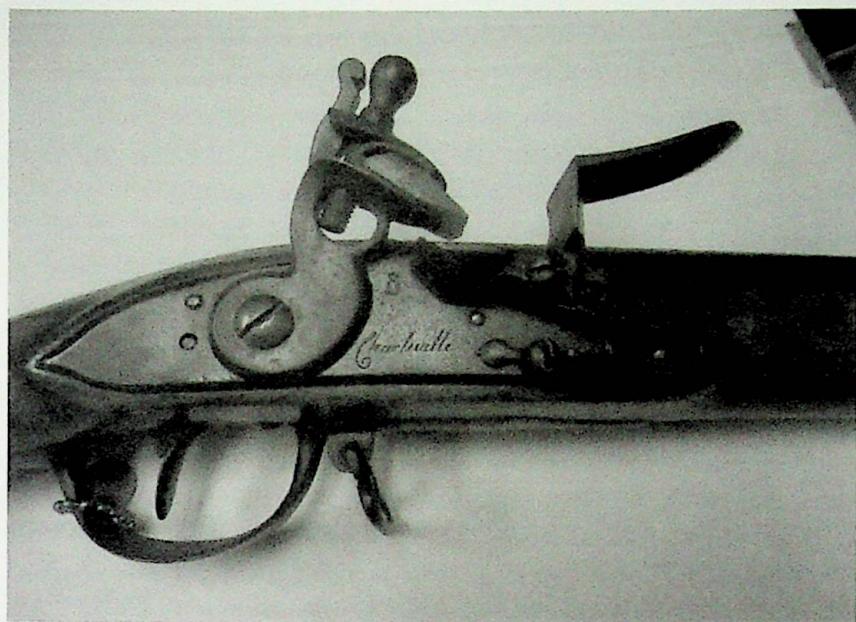


*Above: Charleville touch hole*



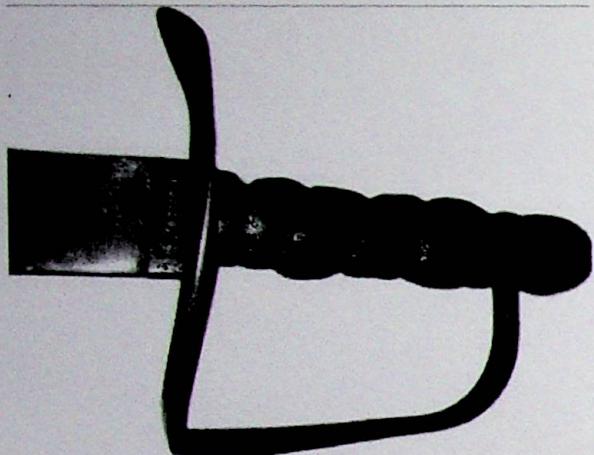
*Above: Wooden marker with hole angle*

Charleville Lock



Lower Band Spring Through Band

## JAMES POTTER SWORD



There is no more desirable or well-known American Revolutionary War sword than the dragoon sabers made by James Potter of New York. These heavy cavalry swords were edged weapons for horsemen and Potter's name was well known. It was assumed the sabers were made in New York, by an American, and were produced for the Patriot cause. The sabers were used by colonial dragoons such as Light Horse Harry Lee and the Francis Marion ("The Swamp Fox"). They were produced under contract for the use of Loyalist and British forces. Erik Goldstein's groundbreaking article in **Man at Arms (Volume 29 #7 - Sept/Oct 2007)** examines the Potter swords and refers their maker, and acquisition.

James Potter was a devout Loyalist. The first record found regarding Potter in New York City is an October 16, 1776, list of New York city & county residents who have taken an oath of loyalty to the British government. The next time Potter appears in a period document or newspaper is an advertisement that he ran in the *Royal Gazette* in New York, on June 13th & 17th, 1778. The ad was for a "forger" and "two or three filers" who should apply for work with "**James Potter: Sword Cutler in Maiden-Lane.**" Expert sword cutlers in New York were John Bailey or James Youle, Charles Bruff or Richard Sause. Mr. Potter established sword manufactory in the Loyalist regiments that fought the Patriots alongside the British. As the American Revolution expanded southward, mounted regiments became essential to long distances battles. Potter was prepared to deliver products to the "provincial" Loyalist dragoon regiments and the most famous British dragoon regiments. They included the 1st American Regiment (The Queen's American Rangers "Simcoe's), the 4th American Regiment (The King's American Regiment) and the most infamous of all 5th American Regiment (The British Legion "Tarleton's) under Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton (The Green Dragoon). All these mounted regiments needed sabers, as the saber was considered the primary weapon of the cavalry during that time. During the American Revolution, the British military was in the process of changing their system of regimental equipage from a Colonel based system to a government-based system. The "colonel" system

harkened back to the feudal lords when the lord equipped the regiment. The colonel supplied the regiment and was reimbursed by the government. This was standard but during the mid-1700s, the British government took a more active role in equipping its troops. This standardized equipment and improved overall quality. Some colonels supplied sub-standard arms and sold to them at cheap prices and pocketed the difference between allotted funds and the payment. Potters' local sword cutlery and Loyalist politics made him the perfect source for these weapons. The sabers could be acquired locally, and the British occupied New York, there was no problem with the sabers. Colonel Alexander Innes was appointed the Inspector General of Provincial Forces in America and was responsible to obtain swords. Innes kept strict accountings of all his business dealings, and between January 1778 and December 1781 Innes purchased 1,580 horseman's sabers (often called "**Broad Swords**" in the period documents) from James Potter, sword cutler, in Maiden-Lane. A number of entries are noted in the records, with the very first entry (covering January 1, 1779, to September 30, 1779) being for 349 "**Swords purchased for Provincial Cavalry**" at a total price of 814 Pounds, 6 Shillings & 8 Pence. As Potter's sword entered the field and developed a sound reputation. The swords were coveted by the American Patriot forces. One of Light Horse Harry Lee's lieutenants was armed with "**a Potter's sword.**" The Charleston (SC) Museum shows a sword carried by a sergeant who served under Francis Marion. A Potter's swords captured from the battle of Guilford Courthouse was sent to the Rappahannock Forge to be used as sample. With the fall of Yorktown in 1781, and a final peace, James Potter (and many other Loyalists) abandoned New York before the British troops left. In 1783, Potter relocated to town of Shelburne, Nova Scotia.

James Potter's cavalry saber was a slightly cruder American made version of what collectors call the British Pattern 1756 Light Dragoon Saber. It had a slightly curved, blade that was approximately thirty-five inches in length and about one inch in width. The blades are unfullered. They have an iron stirrup guard that is pierced four times, two on each side, one above and one below the grip. The grip is grooved hardwood that is covered in thin leather and then wrapped with simple twisted brass wire. The pommel cap is of iron and is large and bulbous. The hilts are typically around seven inches in length and the overall length of is between forty-two inches. Most of the known examples are marked **POTTER** on the reverse ricasso, although a handful of unmarked examples that are unmistakably Potter's are known. One of the best known of the "unmarked" Potters is in a private collection, and the sword (complete with its rarely encountered scabbard) is identified to Richard Mead of Greenwich, CT, who carried it while fighting the Loyalists in that area.

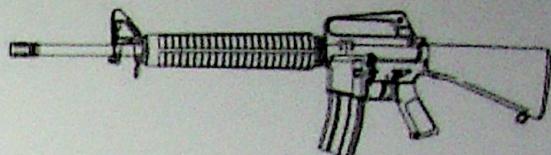
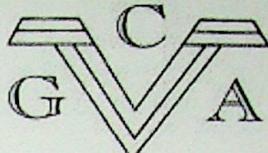
This example of a **James Potter Revolutionary War Horseman's Saber** is one of the scarce unmarked swords, which is unmistakably Potter's work. It is still unknown if the unmarked swords represent his earliest swords, or if they were simply missed during the assembly process. Potter did not have the waterpower at his Maiden-Lane location to operate a trip hammer, which would have been essential to manufacture swords in any quantity and he was worked with imported blades. The saber is about forty-one inches in length and the blade is thirty-four inches. The blade and was shortened about one inch. This is common, as Potter swords were so well regarded that some certainly saw service during the War of 1812, and at least one example (which has its blade shortened to thirty-one inch) and recovered from a Confederate Cavalry camp near Richmond, VA. The saber remains in solid condition and is truly an attic specimen. The metal is deeply oxidized and shows moderate to heavy pitting throughout.

The blade has been thinned and re-contoured along the last twelve inches near the tip, to make it handier and more effective. The shortening was done a long time ago, either during the period of the revolution or immediately thereafter. The blade edge shows several nicks and dings along the edge, which is simply indication of real combat use. The six-inch iron hilt shows patina, age, oxidation and pitting as the blade, and remains solid. The pierced iron stirrup shaped guard remains tightly attached, but the center divider of the obverse slots is broken (or rusted) and the on-board juncture and is no longer attached except at the outer juncture of the guard. This is not an issue in terms of strength or stability but is mentioned for accuracy. The peened, oblong iron pommel cap remains tightly in place and shows no indication of having been disturbed since the period of use. The wooden grip retains most of its leather wrap. The leather is very thin, fragile, and dry and has flaked away at several war and contact points. The leather wrap is secured by two strand twisted brass wire. While the wire may be original, and certainly shows great age and wear, it is safe to assume that the wire could be a more modern replacement.



While the sword is certainly not mint or fine by any standards, it has a wonderful, completely untouched, and unmolested look that is simply wonderful.

Potter swords are the ultimate centerpiece to any serious collection of Revolutionary War weapons, and were produced by a Loyalist sword smith, they saw significant use on both sides during the conflict. The hilt of a Potter is instantly recognizable, and these heavy-duty sabers are a classic example of something is ugly and pretty. The plain design and hefty construction are their own elegance. If you are only going to own one saber from the American Revolution, a Potter is the sword to own. This example is a classic early American made fighting sword that has survived more than 230 years to be added to your collection.



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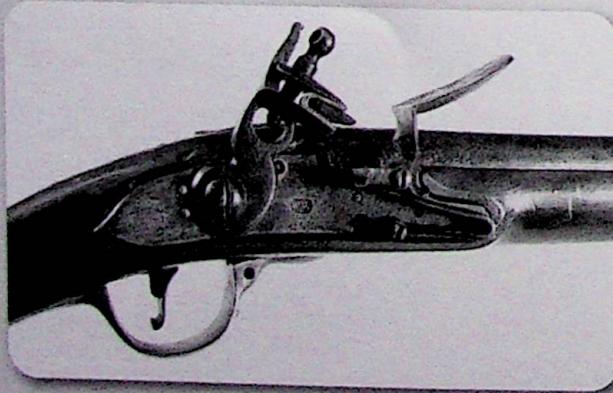
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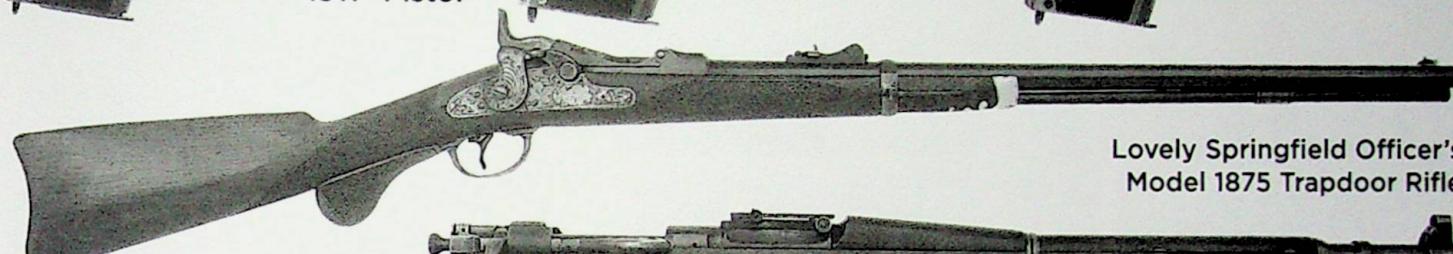


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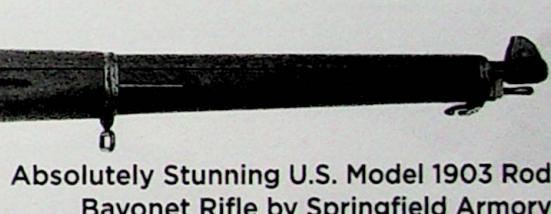
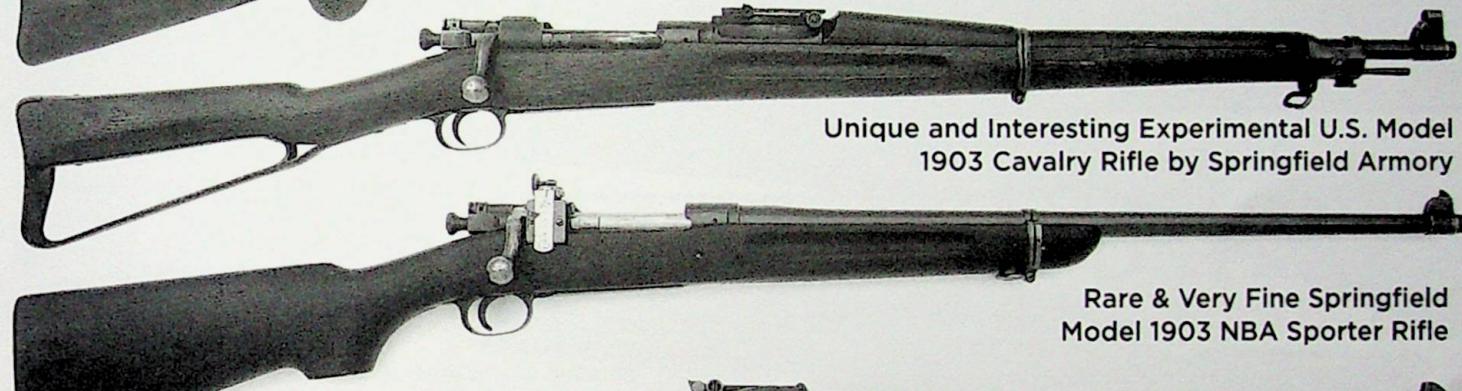
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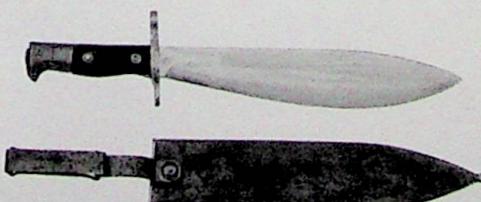
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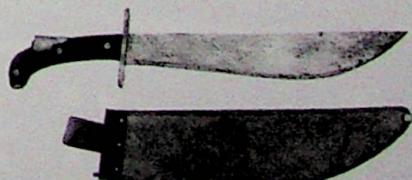
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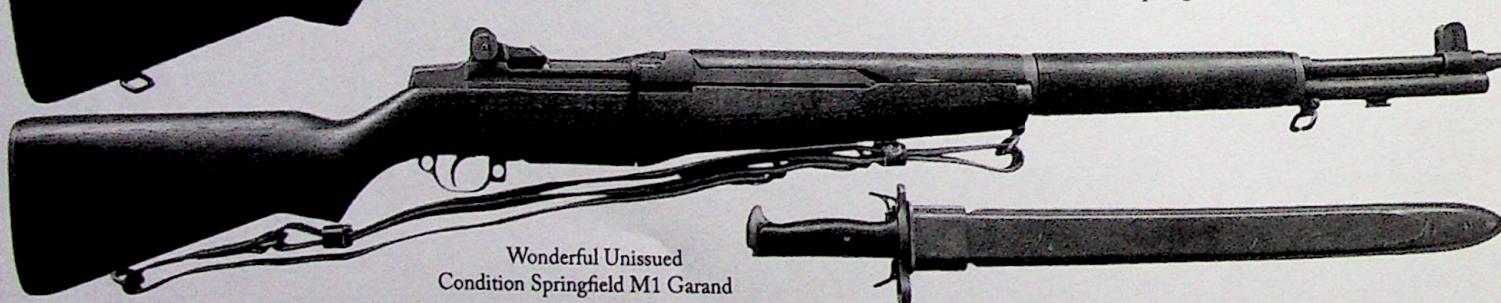
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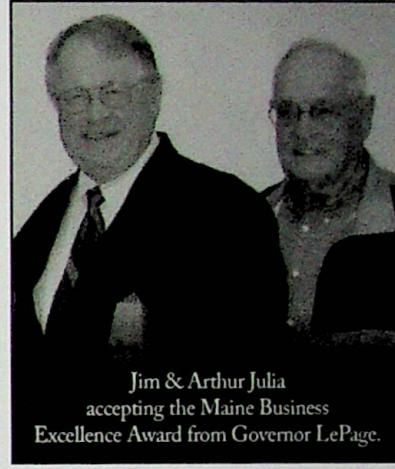
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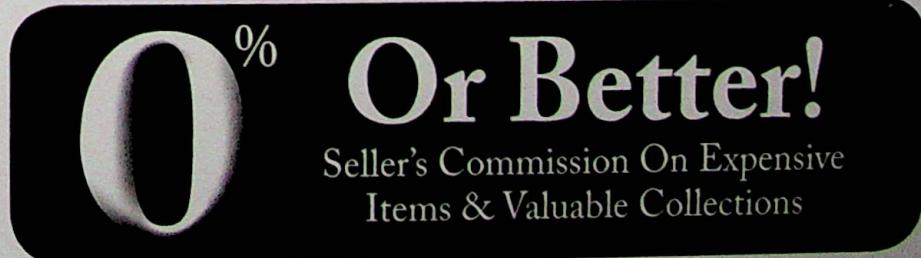
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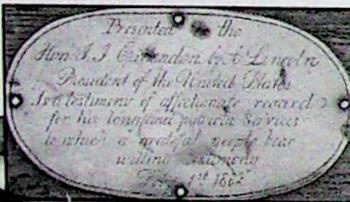
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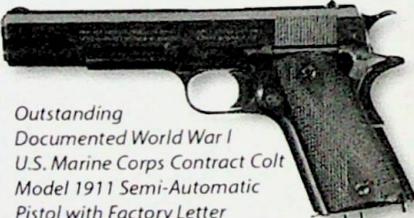


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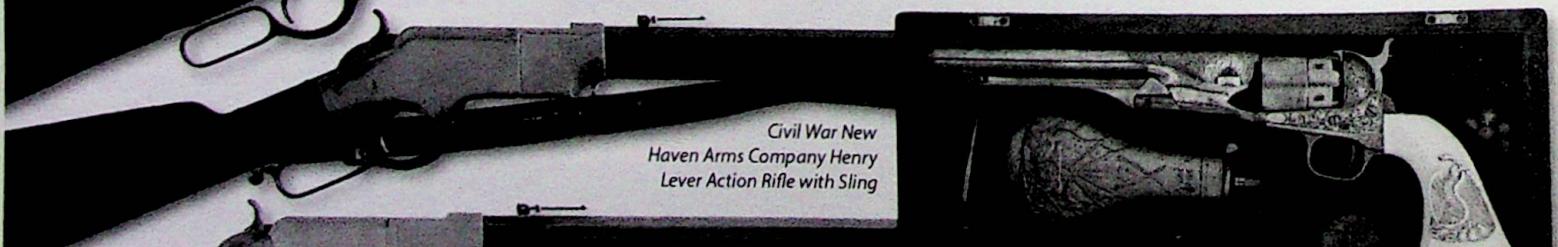


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