

U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



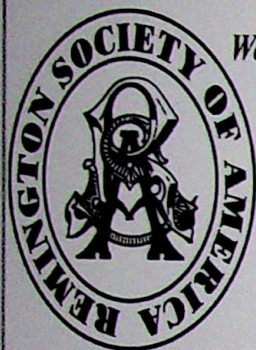
Number 142, March 2015

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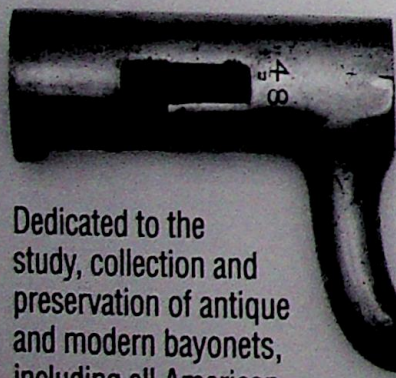
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U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

CIRCULATION MANAGER
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Cover: Model 1869 Springfield Carbine.

And

Springfield Research Service Newsletter

Number 142

March 2015

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Research has been expanded in several areas of data for Model 1873 Springfield Carbines, World War II ship logs, Trapdoor rifles in several areas, and unique Krag rifles. We have also found data on more trapdoor carbines in all time frames. This adds to some of our previous data searches and provides the additional data on markings, some new numbers, and various production data for some weapons. We have found that inquiries from the U. S. Congress concerning budgets and production figures also add information that may be of interest to collectors.

Many pieces of information contain data on various weapons that were manufactured but leave us with no data on specific serial numbers. Work that may solve some issues is now being looked at and will expand the production areas with delivery dates and other supporting information. These efforts are time consuming but offer leads to information that was unknown in previous efforts. We find that some information is directed to high-level discussions that may not have collectors' interests, but allow us to look at material that offer confirmation of data in our notes and data base. The correspondence from Congress adds the authority to comments, making data more accurate. Any correspondence with military commanders, operational personnel, and Congress sets up material that is factual. We will continue in some of these areas and hope that it leads to confirming data in many hazy areas of research.

Some of our efforts now include specific data on U.S. Naval ships that show specific times, locations, and detailed activities on the December 7, 1941 attack at Pearl Harbor. We were able to outline specific times of aerial attacks at specific locations.

The data includes the sighting of enemy aircraft, the battle details, personnel involved and specific damage to individual ships. Detailed battle action noted in ship logs includes details of specific personnel giving assistance to personnel from several ships and interactions of personnel from many ships. The data also includes the transfer and assistance of Naval personnel between specific ships and the transfer of ammunition, food, water, and critical rescue operations.

The ship logs show a different picture than what is shown in films of the World War II attack. The logs show well-trained personnel reacting with immediate actions that saved lives and assisted other units and ships. Many activities were immediate and as professional as could be possible under the aerial attacks.

We can show actual serial numbers of some arms on a specific ship with the names of personnel that participated in a military operation. This research will take additional detailed work to organize the data and sort it into more usable information.

Some of our previous work has included Model 1903 rifles assigned and on board the USS California during the enemy attack on Pearl Harbor. Research data has been found on the USS Dolphin used in the Spanish American War in 1898. Those logs show serial numbers of Winchester Lee rifles, the personnel, military operations, and other weapons used through 1934.

We hope to be able to define more specifics on these actions to be included in future US Martial Arms Collector issues.

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The Congressional requirements defined in the provisions of section 1665 for the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department, required statements to be submitted by the Chief of Ordnance, United States Army, of the expenditures and of the arms, components of arms, and appendages fabricated, altered, and repaired during the fiscal year ending on June 30 of each year.

These reports, summaries, and corresponding data provide enormous amounts of data on military weapons. We are reviewing more data in these areas. It is hoped that more details on more weapons will be added to our data base.

SRS has developed many pieces of information that are large in size and will take a relatively large effort to organize into a usable library. This work continues and is usually in paper files that will hopefully turn into a large data base.

Many pieces of information are in disarray in government files. It takes detailed search for each piece of information that is not recorded in any way. General files are often grouped by date but have little or no serial numbers for specific weapons. We try to organize data into retrievable sections but this is a never-ending task.

Springfield Research Service has compiled data on many experiments and modifications to many weapons. These arms were made and reported in terms of military expenditures to Congress. These points of interest are now being correlated, as much as we can, with known weapons in test, evaluation, and engineering for current and historic weapons.

We continually find short phrases about unique test guns, experiments, and trial weapons.

We often find data on War information that shows expenditures for Revolutionary War, Civil War, American Indian Wars, Spanish American War, and World Wars. All have data on weapons, costs, manufacturing, and delivery from U. S. Arsenals and contractors.

We will review the Spanish American War and the Civil War data. This will include the military units to examine areas that lead to more accurate issue data for individual soldiers and their weapons. Many times, we only find information that states that a certain type of carbine, rifle, or hand-gun was issued. The data shows that a specific issue was made to a unit. No serial numbers are listed.

Many of our efforts vary in recording data. The iPad is turning out to be a very useful device that lets us keep notes on our searches, take photos, and note references. This must be supplemented by government copy machines that must be used according to government regulations.

The Springfield Krag rifle and carbine are under review. We will sort all of the known data in the area of the Model 1892 and the history, test weapons, requirements, and unique manufacturing. There are many pieces of information on number of units, upgrades and special fabrication. Issues show unique individuals, organizations and Army units.

Some of this type of data actually lists the unit, number of weapons, and the date that weapons were issued.

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Inquiries

We continue to receive inquiries about weapons. They include requests for specific data on the weapon issue during a war, and general inquiries on any data that shows a use of the weapon in any time frame. There are inquiries about family use in military operations and family heirlooms. Often the questions are from all ranges of people that are dealers, collectors, family, friends, and all other categories.

Most requests are about a serial number that can or cannot be verified by a document from the U.S. Archives. A positive response usually leads to an inquiry asking about history and usage. This takes time and we eventually answers what we can. There have been quite a few positive findings of arms with known serial number information but also, many weapons that serial number data can not be verified..

Many weapons were shipped and described to a military depot with no serial number data. There are factory records that show specific data on a specific weapon, but there is no tie-in with a specific soldier or sailor. That data usually comes from a specific record and lists the issue of weapons and equipment to a specific person. There are millions of pages of data to be searched and it takes some previous knowledge and search capability to find specific serial numbers. We continue in this overall area and still examine files that are in single-page document form. This is always of interest as it gives us data on readers' interests and also provides the requirements from our readers.

We look forward to any comments and questions. This will keep us busy, but we want to keep them coming.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

NOTE. Please send an email if you receive any subscription data that is incorrect. We have had many problems with the Postal Service and need any comments or corrections for your magazines or letters. The only way we can quality-control is by receiving subscribers' inputs as close to a realtime way to make sure magazines are delivered.

SRS uses first class mail to make sure a magazine or documents are delivered to a subscriber. We still receive an occasional piece of mail that is returned and sometimes cannot find a new or forwarding address.

The last subscription issue is designated by the issue number that is printed on all magazine address labels. We always try to double-check each address and try to send a letter advising of subscription renewal time and issue. We have found problems with software that changes the first and last name of a subscriber. The result is a returned piece of mail and some confusion. Please let us know if any subscriber has had a problem.

Current issues

Issue number 142 dated March 2015 is current and is dated March 2015. It will be mailed the first week of March.

Number 143 will be dated June 2015,

Number 144 will be dated September 2015,

Number 145 will be dated December 2015.

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The projected mailing dates are the first week of March, June, September, and December 2015 for the 4 quarterly issues.

ADVERTISING

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

Our standard year publications are March, June, September, and December for each year.

Please contact us for competitive rates for full-page ads and other data.

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.

This includes USMC letters and OSS documents. Units of the 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 7th Cavalry, the Spanish American War, and other unique units require more time and may have higher costs.

A basic letter is data recovered from our in-house files. A research letter requires us to travel to a government facility and request to search and retrieve the specific copy. We try to copy the specifics and include them with the letter. In many cases the data is a peculiar size and must be handled, verified, and copied according to government regulations. This may also require working with armed guards, identification, special stamps for security classification or other rules.

Other government requirements may be imposed at any time.

COMMENTS AND INPUTS

We always want comments. Please send to editor@usmartialarmscollector.com.

Data and photographs can be emailed to us at editor@usmartialarmscollector.com.

Inquiries and requests can be sent to editor@usmartialarmscollector.com.

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

SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH DATA BASE

Our efforts are based on data from United States documents, and all serial number information comes from government documents.

There have been cases where the government data cannot be interpreted or cannot be found (even if it was available in past research visits). This causes delays, and possibly the total information cannot be delivered. There may be additional costs if we need to revisit and travel to other offices. SRS will contact the requestor if this occurs.

There are many documents that describe a weapon without a specific serial number. All data in the Springfield Research Service data base is based on data that has been found. Any other data cannot be generated without accurate information.

There are more documents turning up and this will be a never-ending search.

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Our subscribers can email or mail to:
U.S. Martial Arms Collector
Box 126
Cabin John, MD 20818

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

We keep as many old issues as possible.

The older newsletters (number 1 through 54) must be obtained by special request. Issues number 55 through 141 are available for \$10 each (postpaid). Several issues have run out completely, and there are a few issues that must be hand copied and sent by email. This requires an additional cost. Copies will be in black and white. There will be a delay to do the extra work.

Email of the magazine has been suggested several times by a few of our subscribers, but, we may not be able to conform to our service contractor who limits the size of files. We do not want an email to go through and find out at a later date that it was not received or only part was received. This will be followed as technology is advanced, and we will look at future options.

SRS Searches

We still find new data, and we are always faced with government requirements and other issues, such as declassification and procedures for military data. SRS will continue to answer requests from our subscribers and adjust to any new regulations.

There have been many more requests received for letters, and there are some that require much more time to answer.

GUNS LETTERED THIS PERIOD

Model Sharps Carbine, serial number 33951, U.S. Model 1859 Navy rifle, Shipped: U.S. Washington Navy Yard, Washington, D.C. November 15, 1860. U.S. Model M1 Rifle, Cal. .30, serial number 3798926, Model M1 Garand, Shipped: 6th Army, United States. December 23, 1947.

U.S. Model, Sharps Carbine, Shipped: Company B, 4th Volunteer Cavalry.

U.S. Model 1899 Carbine, Cal. .30, serial number 230,061 Carbine, Cal. .30, 1899, Shipment of Model 1899 Krag-Jorgensen Carbines to Raritan Arsenal. 100 carbines instructed to be shipped to the arsenal and 10 carbines to be reserved for sale to reserve officers stationed at the arsenal. Office of Chief of Ordnance records from February 19, 1936, March 10, 1836, and March 13, 1936 direct this action. The record of Lt. Col. C.B. Thummel and Mr. H.A. Peterson were noted.

U.S. Rifle, Winchester Model 70 VOS serial number 254541 Rifle, Model 70 VOS, Shipped to: Evaluators LTD. to 1954 National Match.

U.S. Model 1884 Rifle, Cal. .45, serial number 581,417, Manufactured by Springfield Armory in a range of rifles made out of the normal production range. These rifles were approved by the Commander at Springfield and approved by the master armorer. Other rifles include the Springfield Armory

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Museum model, (SPAR 5736), serial number 578286; number 583441, World War II donation to U.S. Navy; serial number 593339, Vermont National Guard (at Springfield Armory); and other rifles in high serial number ranges.

U.S. Model Winchester 1897 shotgun, serial number 96099,

Cal. 30. Rifle, Cal. 30, M1898, Serial Number 169711. Issued To: Company A, 34th U.S. Volunteer Infantry, 1899.

U.S. Model 1903 Rifle, Cal. .30, serial number 1266175, Rifle, Cal. .30, M1903, U.S. Heavy Barrel - 28" barrel, serial number 1 266 175. Sold to: R. A. Dickson, Vancouver, Wash. Date: February 26, 1927.

U.S. Model 1903 Rifle, Cal. 30, serial number 1 258 897, Stargauged barrel. Sold to: Carl A. Neumayer, Chicago, Ill. March 7, 1925.

U.S. Spencer Carbine, serial number 11,182. Issued to: Joseph Cune, Private, Company M, 10th Michigan Volunteer Cavalry, U. S. Army, U.S. Civil War. Date: April 17, 1864. Private Cune was born in Prussia, age 36, 5ft 4 inches, light complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, and his occupation was a mason. He was killed in action, April 8, 1865 at Martinsville, Va. Private Cune enlisted for one year on October 3, 1864.

U.S. Starr Carbine, serial number 9485,

Issued to: J. W. Dobins, Private, Company F, 13th, Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, U. S. Army, U.S. Civil War. Date: May 18, 1864. Private Dobins was age 30, 5ft 10 inches, black eyes, black hair and his occupation was a mechanic. Private Dobins enlisted on December 22, 1863 for three years in "Duquan" by A. J. Alden. He mustered out at Camp Butler on January 20, 1864. He was appointed corporal on January 20, 1864 by Lt. Montgomery. Private Dobins was also issued a revolver number 59,358 and lost a revolver number 94 856.

U.S. Model M1 Rifle, Cal. .30, serial number 3798926. Issued to: 6th Army, United States. December 23, 1947

LETTERS AND EMAILS RECEIVED AND ANSWERED

Dear Sir; You offer only searches by specific serial number? I have a specific serial number match of a carbine as listed in the CD.

We can provide a letter on most of the numbers from the old CD. (CD's are no longer available). A subscriber can email us a serial number and manufacturer/model and we can verify if that data exists. A letter can then be ordered by a subscriber. Editor.

I have a model 1873 Springfield trapdoor infantry serial number 29852. It was purchased from an Indian about 20 miles from the battle at the Little Big Horn who said he picked it up off the battlefield.

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It was passed down to my father who in the 1950's and cleaned and reblued it. He took it to a specialist at that time who searched the serial number and found it issued to a soldier at Big Horn, who died. He said the value is less than 10 percent, and it has sat in a closet for the last 60 years. I am interested in finding out if provenance can be established even though the rifle was cleaned. Any direction would be greatly appreciated.

We have no documentation on that serial number. You may want to make sure you have any written information on the carbine. If it can be verified, it is very valuable. Our records show data from Congress in 1927 that states that the serial number data was destroyed long ago and not available. Editor.

I am trying to find serial number information on the distribution of Sharps & Hankins carbines in the Civil War. Could you possibly tell me if you have anything available? I would be happy to pay whatever you believe is fair and would be glad to subscribe to your newsletter. I am not convinced that the serial numbers are available at all.

We have quite a few serial numbers on Sharps rifles and carbines. They are from military records and factory shipment records. They list many C prefix weapons and Sharps conventional serial numbers. We do not have details on Sharps & Hankins records. Editor.

I received a letter from you concerning my 1903 built as an NRA Sporter. As you noted, barrel and receiver 1 234 008 was sold to W. M. Lewis of Benecia, California on January 7, 1930. I did a little research since Benecia is the location of a Federal Arsenal there in this time frame. I searched the 1940 Census and it shows a William M. Lewis (middle name Maxon in other records), 51, as a Foreman/Armorer at Benecia.

Other available records show he was born in Massachusetts (interestingly about 20 miles from Springfield in Worcester) and was drafted in WWI. He died in 1959 in nearby Yolo. Wonder if he retired early at age 62 - in 1951? Or maybe at 65 in 1954? The 1930 census shows Lewis working at Benecia as a Foreman. Did the job title change over the next decade or did he earn additional responsibilities as his career progressed? I realize that the record shows that it came as a barreled receiver to Mr. Lewis, a Benecia Arsenal employee. What I thought is that he took that barreled receiver and built it up as an NRA Sporter for himself. Is that plausible? The barrel is star gauged, but has a 1913 date on it?

The Springfield sales card shows the gun as made. It has no data on any additions or changes. Many officers had special rifles made with different paperwork. Part-time workers could earn 25cents an hour for special gunsmith work. The photos look original and it appears that the barreled action was supplied to Mr. Lewis and that it was made as a sporting model with new barrel and stock. It is certainly unique and we have no records of any NRA sporter made in 1913. Editor.

I recently renewed my subscription and ordered issues #138 - #141 from last year. I received the back issues in the mail yesterday. The photocopy of issue #138 has the correct cover page, however the balance of the copy is of issue #139. Could you please forward me the correct copy? If you want, I will return the one I received to you.

We have corrected the mistake and are sending the corrected versions to you. Thanks for your inquiry. Editor.

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Reference cadet rifles, not sure if we have discussed them in the past, but I have acquired two of above: One dated 1852 on tang; and more recently one dated 1851 on the tang. As you know from history, first 200 went to VMI per order of President Zachary Taylor-----Model 1851 per lock plate and 1851 on the tang. No one seems to be clear on how many more 1851/1851s are beyond the 200 were made? Thus, could mine and Bill's have been carried by VMI cadets? Another Richmond 1963 VMI classmate also has 1851 cadet dated 1851. We both are seeking any additional story/provenance. PS---VMI Museum has beautiful collection of revolver rifles, if you get to Lexington. Henry Stewart collection of over 100 plus many air rifles.

Thanks for the data. We are going to try to do more research in this area. From data at auctions and other sales information, it appears that there are more sightings of VMI cadet muskets. Comments from our readers would be welcomed. Editor.

Can I assume I may be able to gain access to the Springfield Research database by subscribing to your publication? I have an old Smith Carbine that I would like to see if there is information, esp. regarding to the unit it may have been assigned.

Any subscriber may email or mail us a serial number and we will return an answer that we do or do not have data on that serial number. A letter may be ordered if we have the data. Editor.

Please check on Smith & Wesson number 752695. Revolver was delivered to Bethlehem Steel, 10-29-41, (USN loan), listed as model M&P. (part of a large shipment). It is an S & W Victory model ser. no. 752695. It is marked on the back strap USNCPC. It is better finished than other Victory models I have seen.

Serial number 752695 is listed as a Model M&P, sent to Bethlehem Steel Co. on October 29, 1941. It was commercially finished and marked. Editor.

I work for a Civil War historic site in Franklin, TN. In our collection, we have two Spencer rifles - one carbine model and one musket that was a battlefield pickup. I was directed to you by a friend who ran an online gun auction and deals with all sorts of antique firearms. Do you have any access to records concerning Spencer rifles? I was hoping that looking into the serial numbers of the two examples we have might tell us more about them - perhaps which unit may have received them. If there is a chance that you might be able to find such records.

We have records on some Spencers that vary in detail and military use. Editor.

I do not subscribe to the Mag. or newsletter. I will do that. I am interested in verification of a Springfield 1903 that appears to be an NRA Sporter #1264557, with a 9-24 star gaged barrel. This would have been 1 of 94 made that year. All I would like for my knowledge is a simple verification letter. Please provide me the total cost. Thanks.

We can provide that data and we are sending the letter. Editor.

The pistol that I would like checked is an S&W, M&P model, .38caliber with USN stampings. The SW ser. no is 5409. The USN number is 402 on the butt. I read that all of these were delivered in 1900 to the Brooklyn Navy Yard and some

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went to Ships, others to the Naval Academy. ***Number 5409 is not in our records. Many records list number of guns shipped with no specific serial number. We found serial numbers close to yours but no data on that specific pistol. Editor.***

Could you provide information on my 1863 Remington New Model Army: s/n 96509 cartouche with O.W. Ainsworth initials. Thank you for this valuable service. ***We have found no data on that serial number. Editor.***

Reference M 1860 Colts in the 180,000 serial number ranges, do you have records in this number area.

There is no reason but there is a void in that serial number range. We have no data on any M 1860 in the 180000 range. Almost all of the 1860's are in lower serial numbers. Editor.

I subscribed to your newsletter. Also, I requested info on a Burnside carbine stamped 1st Michigan cavalry. Thank you. ***Please send serial number and we will search. Editor.***

Please advise if you have any way to determine the differences in Model 1873 Springfield carbine rear sights.

The rear sight base for the carbine was marked with graduations from 1 to 5. The carbine ladder was marked with graduations to 1200 yards. There are other differences in the models 1877, 1879, and 1884. There are also experimental sights that are very rare. Editor.

CURRENT ISSUE COVER

The photographs on the cover page are of a model 1868 Springfield carbine. The condition is outstanding and the carbine is one of the rarest known. We have not found any others to date. ***Courtesy of Jack Lewis and photographs by Joseph Higgins.***

SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS

The majority of payments that Springfield Research Service and the US Martial Arms Collector Magazine receive are from personal checks.

We have started using credit cards through PAYPAL. PAYPAL is expensive but is the only way we can use credit cards at this time. The banks charge more for their services and they are more interested in very large accounts.

PROBLEMS

We have had to contact PAYPAL as they have stopped some subscribers from sending money from their accounts. Discussions with PAYPAL employees stated that they do not know why some subscribers were denied the use of their funds, and I hope we have solved the problem. We find there is no problem with subscribers and no problem with our magazine. There have been discussions with other companies concerning similar complaints. We will monitor this issue to make sure that all payments can be completed.

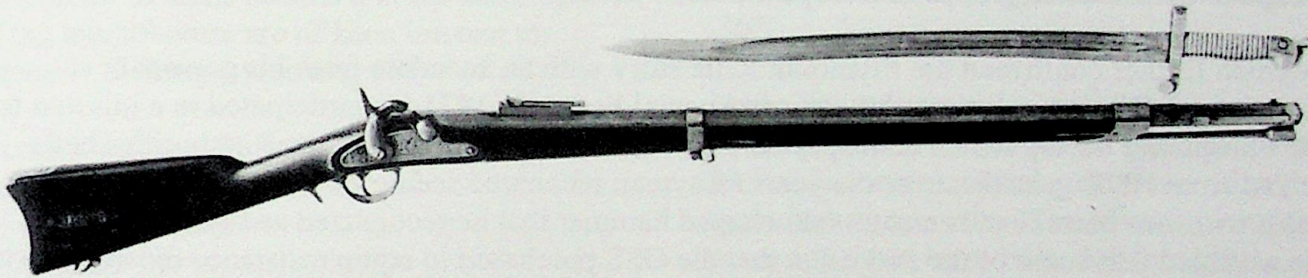
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THE NAVY MODEL 1861 PLYMOUTH RIFLE IN WORLD WAR II

*Marc Gorelick
Potomac Arms Collectors Association
Virginia Gun Collectors Association*

In the years after the Civil War the United States sold thousands of obsolete percussion muzzleloaders to surplus arms dealers. Many of these guns served the nation well during the late conflict. Many went on to serve in foreign wars. What is not generally known is that at least one of these obsolete weapons served the United States during the Second World War. This firearm is the U.S. Navy Model 1861 Rifle, also known as the Plymouth Rifle.

The Plymouth Rifle was developed by Admiral John Dahlgren during the late 1850's when he was a Commander in the U.S. Navy Ordnance Bureau assigned to the Washington Navy Yard. He is most famous for developing a family of heavy naval ordnance and boat howitzers that served the navy from the 1850's to the 20th century. He designed the Plymouth Rifle to meet the specific requirements and conditions encountered in ship to ship fighting and amphibious operations by naval infantry. The rifle was based on the design of the French Model 1846 Carabine a Tige.



Model 1861 Navy Plymouth Rifle & Sword Bayonet

Photo - West Point Museum

The Model 1861 Navy Plymouth Rifle is a handsome .69 caliber, single shot, percussion muzzleloader. It weighs 9 pounds, 10 ounces. The overall length is 50 inches and it has a 34-inch long bright finished barrel and two spring-fastened barrel bands. It has iron mountings and furniture and a thick steel ramrod with a large cylindrical tip that is pierced by a small hole. All metal is finished bright, or in the white. There is a finger spur on the guard plate behind the trigger guard bow. The rear sling swivel is attached to the bottom of the stock near the buttplate and the front sling swivel is on the bottom of the rear barrel band. It has an oil finished, black walnut stock. The thick barrel has 3-groove rifling and a small iron blade front sight. The barrel has a large bayonet lug on the right side near the muzzle. The large, long-range rear sight leaf is graduated to 1,000 yards range. During the Civil War the Union Navy ordered 10,000 Plymouth Rifles from Eli Whitney.

During the 1870's the navy disposed of most of its Plymouth Rifles. Many were purchased by surplus arms dealers, like Schuyler, Hartley and Graham in New York, who sold them to the

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public or to foreign governments. Apparently, the U.S. Government also purchased them in order to fight the Japanese during the Second World War.

Colonel Robert Rankin, in his book, "Small Arms of the Sea Services," recounts the story that during the Second World War the U.S. Office of Strategic Services (OSS) purchased several hundred Model 1861 Navy "Plymouth" rifles for distribution to friendly natives in New Guinea and on South Pacific islands. According to Rankin, New Guinea and the islands fell under Australian mandate and Australian law prohibited natives from using breech-loading weapons. Presumably some bright lad sitting behind a desk in Washington believed that the "primitive" natives would not know how to operate breechloaders. Never mind that New Guineans and Pacific Islanders who operated with British and Australian coast watchers were apparently quite proficient with their Lee-Enfield rifles and Sten sub-machine guns.

This story was doubted by some until George Layman, the noted expert on Remington Rolling Blocks, recently confirmed it in an article in the February 2015 edition of *Man at Arms* magazine. According to Layman, there was a notation in correspondence of the M. Hartley Co., (formerly Schuyler, Hartley and Graham) relating to the story. A company record dated May 25, 1943 stated: "500 U.S. Navy muzzle loading rifles sold to the U.S. Govt. Office of Strategic Services." The OSS was involved in covert operations during World War II, including supplying weapons to resistance groups in Europe and the Pacific.

Layman further confirmed the Plymouth Rifle story with an anecdote from his personal experience. While a member of the Army Special Forces in 1971 he participated in a mission to the Philippines during which he inspected a cache of weapons that Philippine authorities had seized from HUK guerillas over the years. Layman recounted seeing five or six muzzle loading rifles with two barrel bands and an odd-shaped hammer that he recognized as Plymouth Rifles. He assumed that some of the 500 rifles that the OSS purchased to equip resistance movements in the Pacific wound up in the Philippines, where many Americans and Filipinos had refused to surrender when Corregidor fell and continued a guerrilla war against the Japanese.

Thus ends the saga of the Plymouth Rifle, a gun that served the country during the Civil War and continued to serve it 80 years later during World War II.

Editor's Note: We would like to thank the author for his work in this area. Collectors are interested in all weapons assigned during any American conflict and this is unique in our military logistics and training.

Model 1892 Krag Serial Number 31

The Krag rifle was adopted as a standard U.S. Rifle as a result of extensive testing of .30 caliber ammunition and a wide array of test rifles from United States manufacturers and foreign countries.

The Model 1892 Krag was chosen and agreements were made with Norway concerning United States Patent Office for Ole Herman Johannes Krag and Erik Jorgensen, of Kongsberg, Norway. (Subjects of the King of Sweden and Norway). Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 492,212, dated February 21, 1893. (Application filed June 17, 1892 with document serial number 437,097).

The dates of these actions and the dates of Krag manufacture are of keen interest to many U.S. Krag collectors.

Serial number 5, U.S. Krag, was chosen by the "Board of Ordnance Officers Convened

"For The Purpose Of Considering and Recommending Details of Construction of the New Magazine Rifle for the United States Military Service."

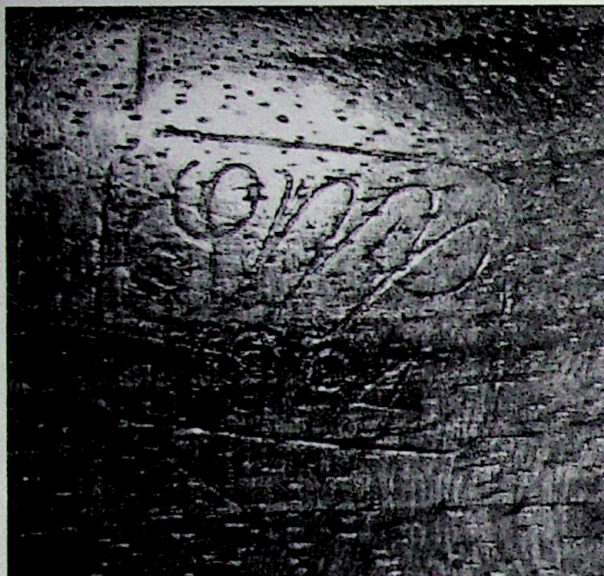
The Krag shown in this article is serial number 31, and marked 1894 Springfield Armory.

Ordnance Office, Washington D. C., Frankford Arsenal, and Springfield Armory correspondence exists for experimental rifles.

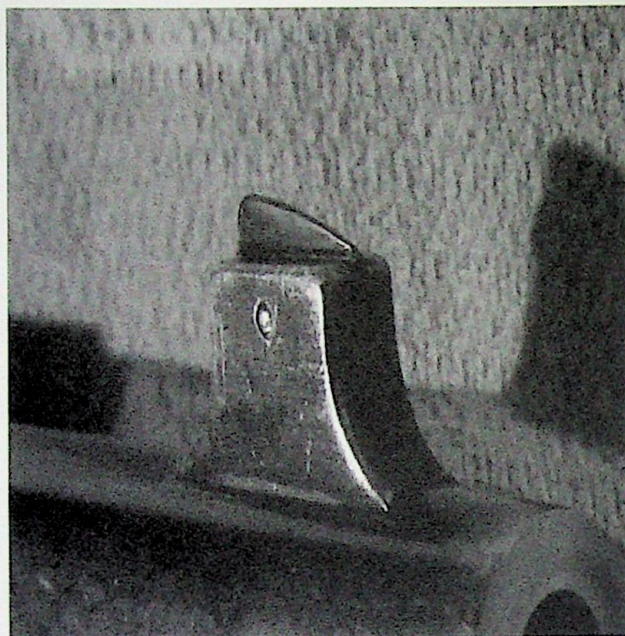
"Lt. Colonel J. P. Farley, September 20, 1893, requests for experimental purposes, six of the new U.S. Magazine rifles be supplied when the same are ready for issue. If the issue be delayed any considerable period he desires at least 4 Springfield rifles, caliber .30".

Note: The subject rifles were worked on and developed in 1893 and subject to many tests for metal content, barrel steels, and other manufacturing work. The rifles in several cases appear to have been delivered to Frankford Arsenal and also returned in the fall of 1893.

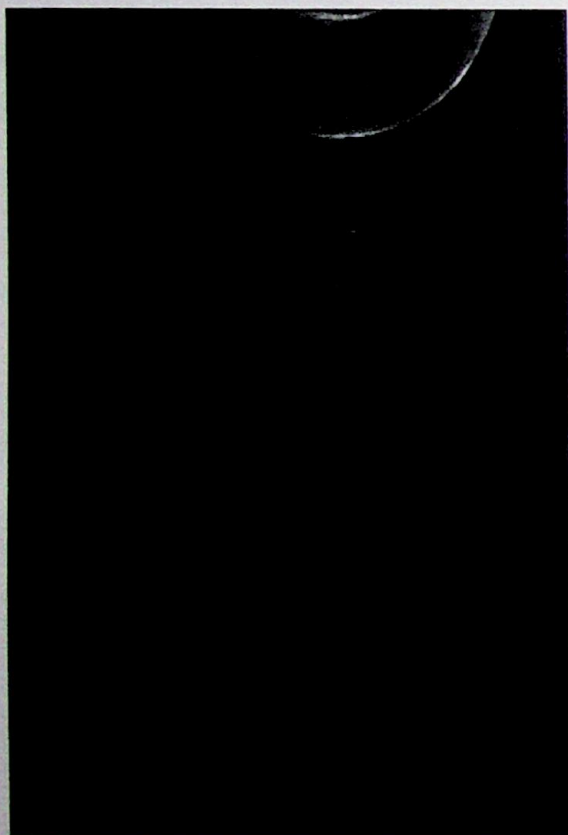




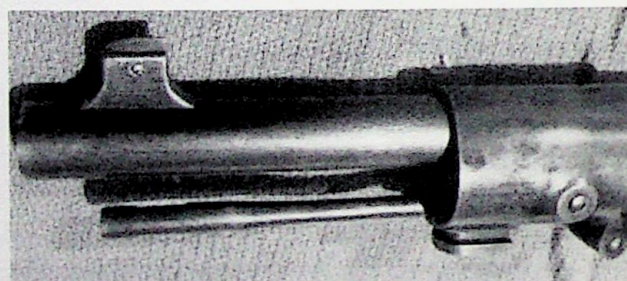
Above: Cartouche dated 1894 on serial number 31 rifle.



Above: Front sight of number 31 with flat muzzle of barrel.

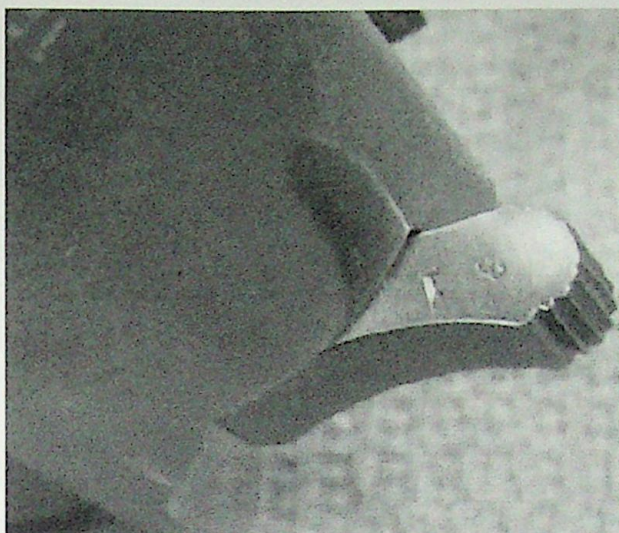


Above: Grip area of stock with a sharp J and a very weak P (proof).

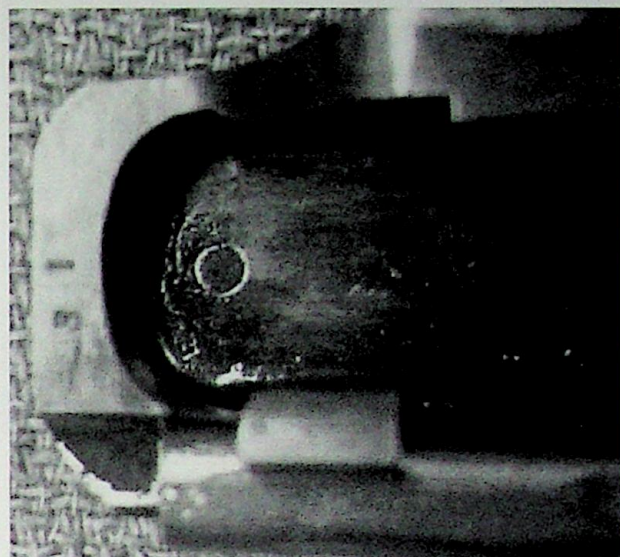


Above: Front band with bayonet lug, solid early construction with no lightning cut. Steel one piece ramrod and front band lug for ramrod fitting in barrel channel.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 142-14



Above: Cutoff marked 31.



Above: Magazine gate marked 31.



Above: Stock channel with ramrod stop and Hand guard clip cut out.

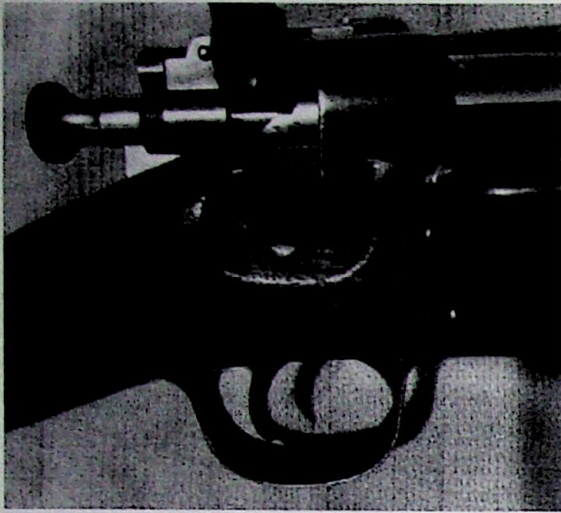


Above: Follower marked 31.

There were many changes and recommendations to change parts and finishing processes during the life of the Model 1892 Krag. Rear sights probably caused the most concerns and resulted in many changes. This included the later use of the second type 1892 sights being installed on 1898 rifles.

Many small parts, ramrods, bolt parts, and many tests were completed on many different rifles.

Editor's Note: SRS is planning on publishing details of the Model 1892 (Krag) magazine rifle with extensive details. This will be done at a later date and will be in a separate bound document.



Above: Stock, right side with original bolt handle cut before. Later modification to prevent bolt handle from hitting the wood.

Springfield Research Service has extensive documents and data on many of the early Krag rifles. The data includes information on serial numbers 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 29, 37, 42 and many others.

Documentation includes the:

- 6 experimental rifles.
- 45 rifles sent to ordnance facilities.
- Frankford Arsenal.
- Companies with special interests.
- Ammunition companies.
- Foreign offices of Germany, Japan, Belgium, Great Britain, Denmark, Belgium, Portugal, Switzerland, and Russia.
- Commanders of all of the U.S.

territorial facilities.

- Major U.S. installations.
- Governors of selected U. S. states.

There were another 57 magazine rifles sent to U.S. Government facilities, key personnel, and senior military officers.

The dates of these deliveries started in late 1893 and continued through August 27, 1894. Serial number 31 that is shown in the above photos is one of those early weapons.

The order of distribution of model 1892 Magazine Rifles for 1894 were made to the following regiments:

- 2nd Regiment, August 29, 1894.
- 4th Regiment, August 29, 1894.
- 17th Regiment October 18, 1894.
- 7th Regiment October 18, 1894.
- 15th Regiment October 18, 1894.
- 16th Regiment October 18, 1894.
- 22nd Regiment October 18, 1894.
- 13th Regiment November 17, 1894.
- 5th Regiment November 17, 1894.
- 8th Regiment Dec 5, 1894.
- 10th Regiment Dec 5, 1894.

Thirteen more regiments were scheduled to receive model 1892 rifles in 1895.

By July 1, 1895, 14,806 Springfield Magazine Rifles (Krag) had been issued to the regular Army.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 142-16

Springfield Armory fabrication direction for manufacturing changes is in a letter dated February 27, 1894.

The following information is shown to illustrate many issues of concern to Krag collectors. The guidance was formulated by Springfield Armory. It shows the date and serial number and the start of the addition of the word "model" before the receiver date.

The stamping of the word on each receiver was put into a letter to the Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D. C. and described as a reply to the "Small Arms-Magazine Arms" letter of February 19, 1896. The letter concerned changes to the Model 1894 markings on all receivers. The statement said that there is no objection to stamping the word "model" on all arms as manufactured. The referenced serial number 12,185 was used for the February 19, 1894 report.

The date of February 27, 1896 was used as the time noted to place the serial number and stock cartouche on each weapon. There were no consecutive serial numbers used on the finished rifles. This was a manufacturing procedure at Springfield Armory. The date of manufacture was to be placed on the receiver, and the year of manufacture, as at present, upon the stock. The Armory was directed to keep the date of fabrication of each arm as manufactured.

Direction also followed that some of the M1892 rifles will have a change to the safety lock pin in the cut-off, and in the omission of the securing stud.

The records of the armory were to show the exact construction of each arm, and the organization that the serial number was assigned. Arms as assembled would not be consecutively numbered.

The last concern in the Ordnance letter was to have the new sleeve, safety, lock, and cocking piece conform to the last important features to the model of 1896.

The upgrades and new parts were to be made available on a planned basis, and supplies would be made available for all weapons upgraded or manufactured.

This data illustrates changes that occurred in the manufacturing and when upgrades were made to each arm. It is possible that with the many additional changes, there are weapons in different configurations that are original as produced by the armory. The data offers information showing the features of an original weapon that was made according to standards at a calendar time. Changes were made by time and usually not by exact serial number.

There were multiple assembly stations making rifles at the same time, with parts provided as needed from main supplies. Springfield Armory used this procedure for many years. There was no conventional assembly line for weapons. A single qualified employee worked at his station could assemble a complete weapon or clean and repair a weapon to the original perfect condition. This would include using the approved up-to-date parts that were used for current manufacture. They were assembled without coordination by serial number.

The early guns could be in several configurations if they were returned for upgrades or were manufactured at a later date using the then-current approved new parts.

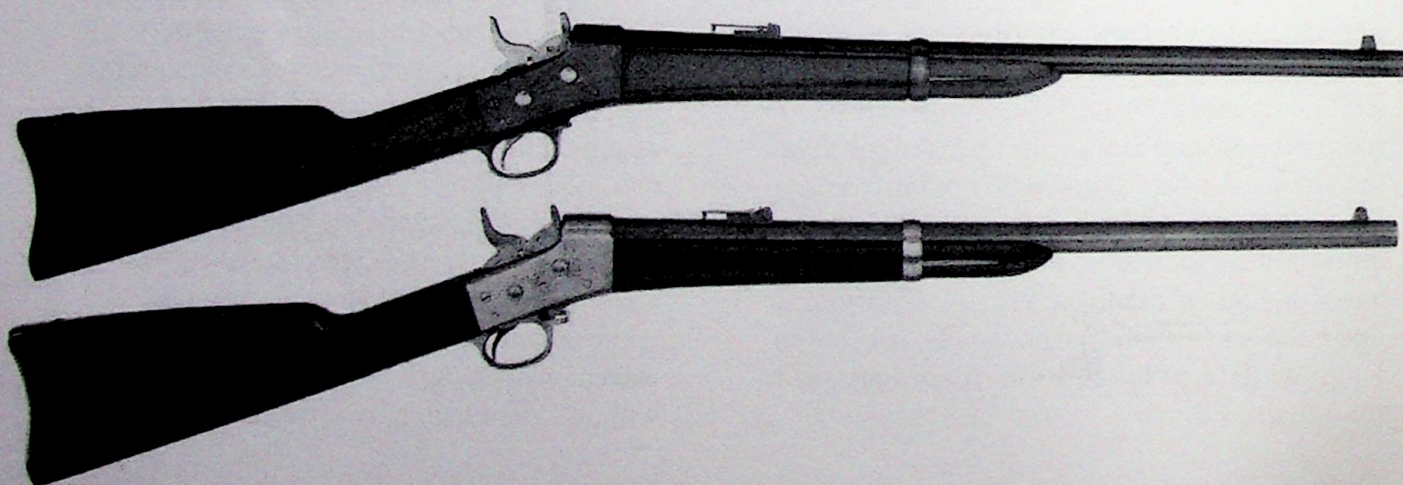
Collectors should be aware that it may not be wise to change a part to make it look better or conform to an old standard.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 142-17

MODEL 1870 TRIAL CARBINE

The following carbines are two of the very scarce Model 1870 trial (experimental) carbines. There are references that three hundred thirty were manufactured but very few are known. SRS has found specific data that two Breech Loading Carbines Remington Model, caliber .50 were made during July 2, 1869 to June 30, 1870 in the 3rd quarter of the year. There was also one Remington carbine breech loading, caliber .50, made in the 4th quarter of the same year. The carbines used a Remington rolling block action with a stock and special forend, and long ring bar. Approximately eight carbines are known in private collections.

The top carbine with all the finish was in the McMurray collection. The one in the white came from Burton Kellersteadt. All had an upside down cartouche on the right side of the wrist. Four are known with the cartouches; and they are all on the right side of the wrist and upside down. The carbine records called for three hundred thirty to be produced, and possibly three hundred and eight were delivered. They are detailed in the St. Louis Board Report of 1869. The rolling block system was considered better than the trapdoor action but the Army chose the Allin system.

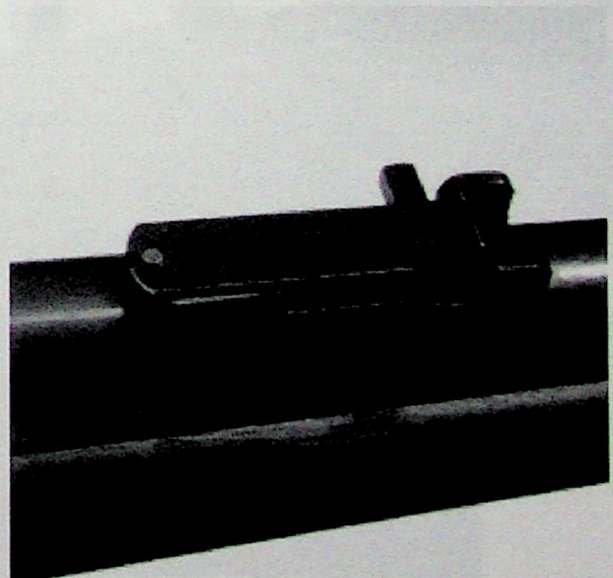


BELOW: The carbine shows unique hand guard and long saddle ring bar. The butt stock is the same as the rifle of the same model. The carbine rear sight is located on the barrel between the stock band and the end of the receiver. It is similar to the rifle sight but there are differences in graduations and placement on the barrel.



LEFT: The right side of the carbine receiver and the sling swivel that is the same as the rifle swivel.

Right: The Model 1870 carbine rear sight. It is similar to the rifle but has different graduations for the carbine barrel.

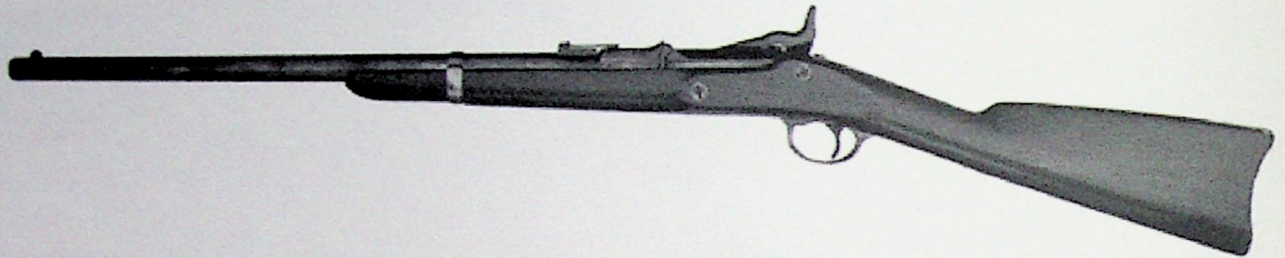


Courtesy of: Jack Lewis

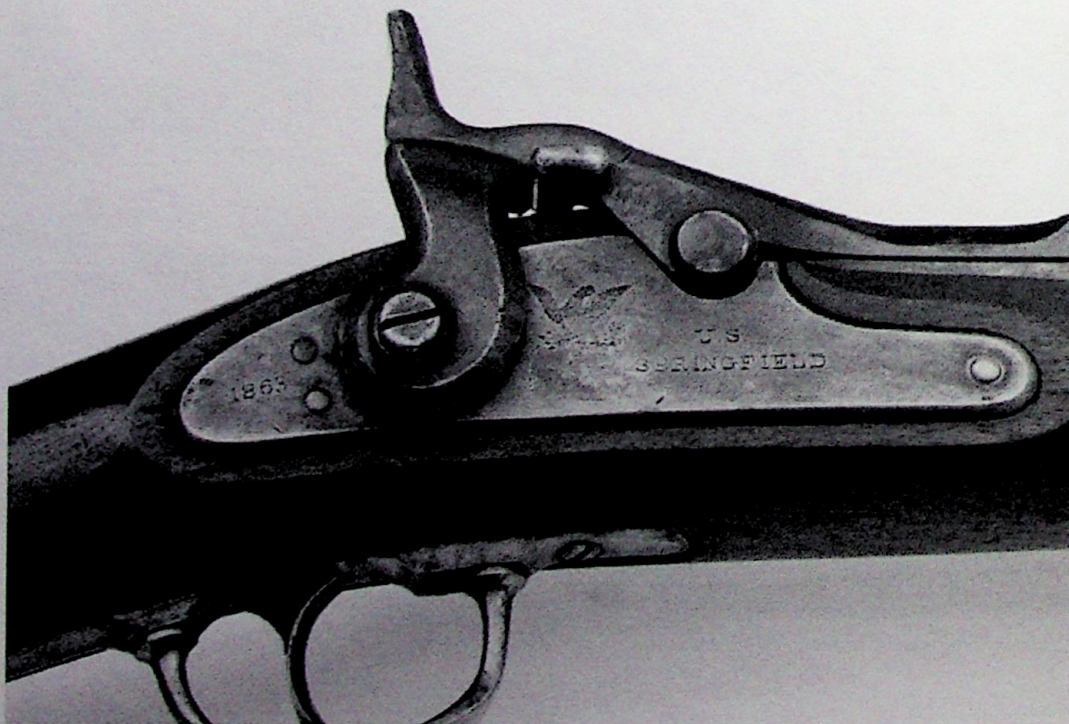
U.S. Martial Arms Collector 141-19

MODEL 1869 CARBINE

The 1869 Carbine is one of the rarest cavalry carbines. It was made during the Army's tests and trial for a breech loading cavalry developments. The carbine had no provision for a saddle ring mounting device. Few are known and this fine example is the only one that we have found of this rare gun.

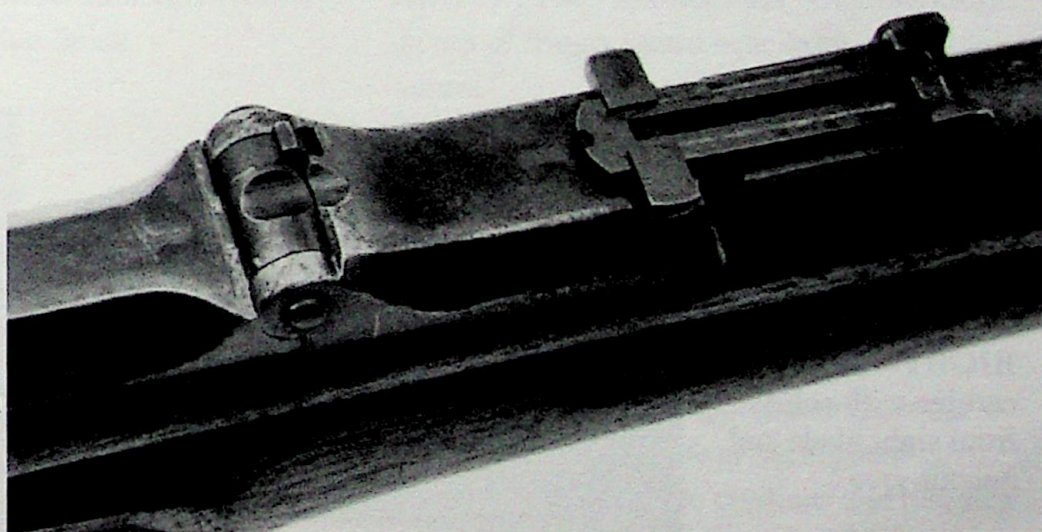


The photo below shows the 1863 dated Civil war type lock with an upgraded breech block cartridge hammer in a 1869 type carbine stock. The trigger guard has no swivel attachment. The parts appear to be similar to the 1869 rifle.



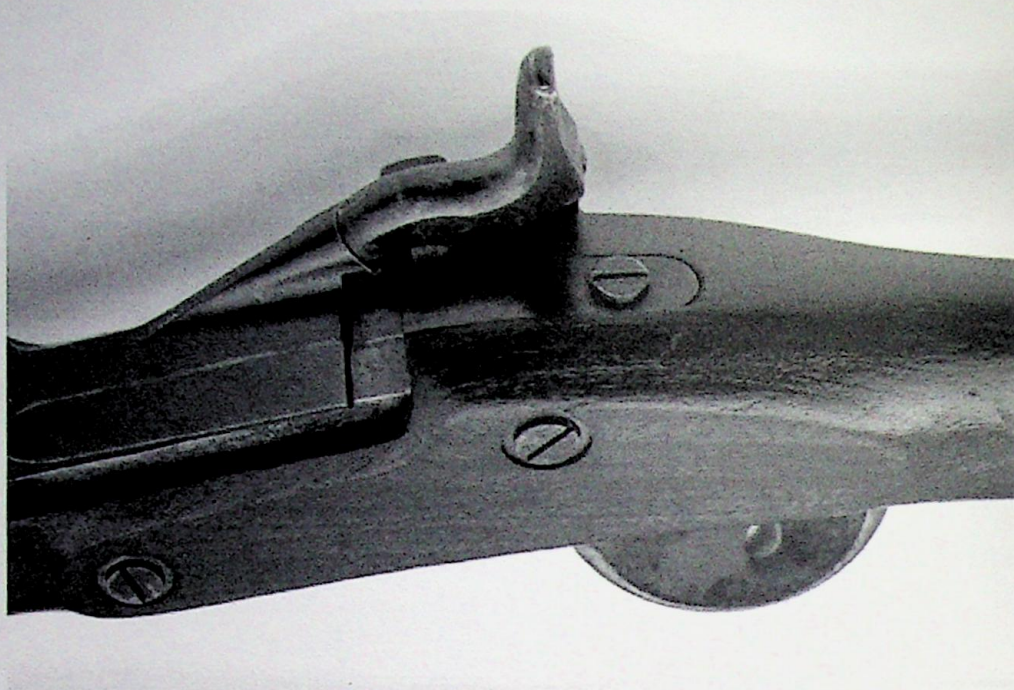


ABOVE: 1869 Breech Block of carbine. It is dated 1869, stamped with American Eagle and U.S. All parts are similar to 1869 rifle. The receiver is the longer type made before the model 1870.

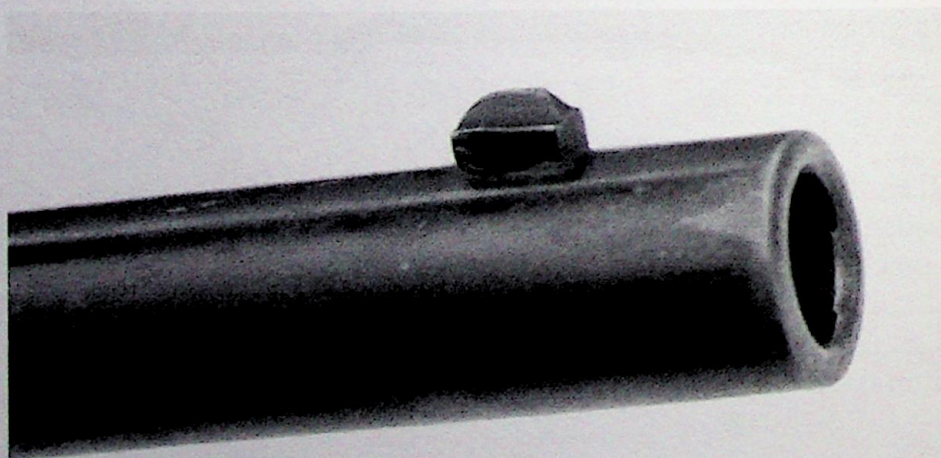


RIGHT: 1869carbine rear sight showing the position close to the front of the receiver with the sight leaf folded down on the receiver ring.

RIGHT: Model 1869
left side with no
saddle ring
attachment.
Excellent finish.



RIGHT: Model 1869
carbine with solid
front sight blade and
muzzle area.



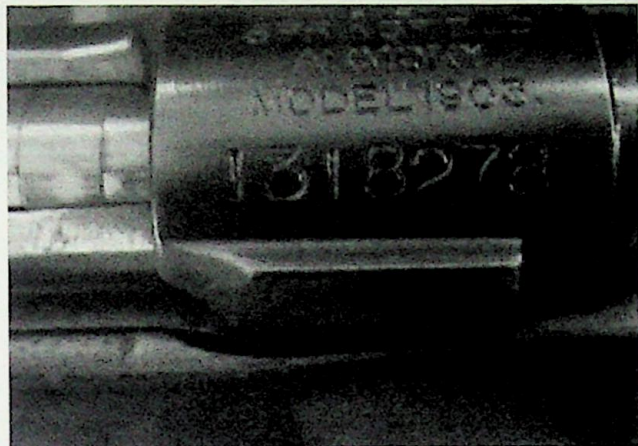
Courtesy of Jack Lewis.

U.S. Martial Arms Collector 142-22

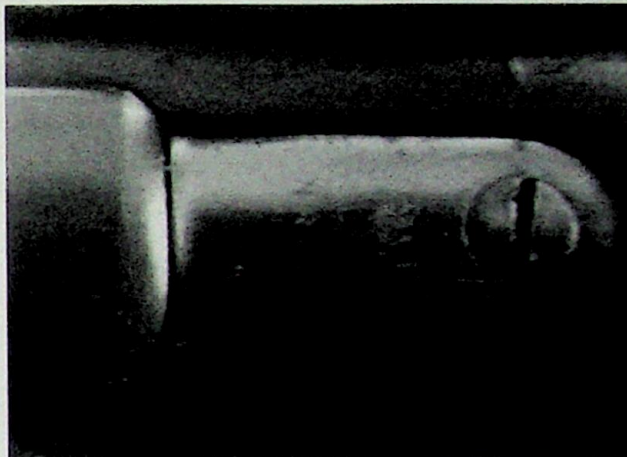
MODEL 1903 NRA SPORTER

The 1903 Sporting model, caliber .30 with NRA markings.

There have been a few observed with NRA markings..



ABOVE: 1903 Sporter serial number 1318278 with polished bolt and blue finish.



ABOVE: 1903 Sporter with NRA markings on top of trigger guard near front guard screw.



LEFT: Barrel date July 1929. Shown with muzzle cover.

The Model 1903 sporters or sporting models were made at Springfield Armory for sale to civilians and military personnel. They were of special quality and finish. The cost was expensive at the time and they are in very high demand at this time. All were stargauged and marked with special stock, butt plate, and fittings.

COLLECTORS NOTE: Weapons fabricated during July 2, 1869 through June 30, 1870.

Springfield Arsenal selected rare weapons. 3 Model 1868 Springfield carbines, 1st quarter; 1 Springfield 1868 carbine 3rd quarter; 1 Remington carbine, .50 caliber, 3rd quarter; 2 Springfield M1869 Cadets, 1st quarter; 310 M1869 cadets, 3rd quarter; 2 Remington revolvers altered for metallic cartridge; 1 Colt Army altered for metallic cartridge, 2nd quarter; and 1 Colt Army altered for metallic cartridge, 3rd quarter. (Misc items also shown).

FABRICATION OF ARMS (SPRINGFIELD ARMS)				
JULY 1 1869 - JUNE 30, 1870				
	1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH
RIFLED MUSKETS SPFD. CAL. 55 (REPAIRED)	—	18160	25720	15660
WOODEN GUNS FOR BAY. FENCING	—	—	20	—
B.L. CARBINE SPFD. RIFLED MGB CAL. 50	3	—	1	—
B.L. CARBINE REM. MOD. CAL. 50	—	—	1	—
RIFLED MUSKET B.L. REM. MOD. ALTERED SPFD. 50 CAL	—	—	1	1
R. MUSKETS CAL. 50	ALL 500	ALL 11700	MGB 12603	MGB 1539
B.L. MGB + MGB	MGB 3764	—	—	—
R. MUSKETS CAL. 60	—	—	310	—
B.L. CADET MGB CAL. 50	2	—	—	—
RIFLED MUSKETS B.L. REPAIRED	—	—	—	125
REM. ARMY REVOL. ALTERED FOR METALLIC CART.	—	—	2	—
COLT ARMY REV. ALTERED FOR METALLIC CART.	—	1	1	—

The document above shows Springfield Armory notes on the fabrication of arms for a fiscal year. The commander of the armory was required to file this form with Congress along with expenditures.

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Model 1903 T model with Winchester 26 inch Barrel

Documented sales rifle with Springfield sales document

Editor@usmartialarmscollector.com 1903 T

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U.S. Martial Arms Collector 142-25



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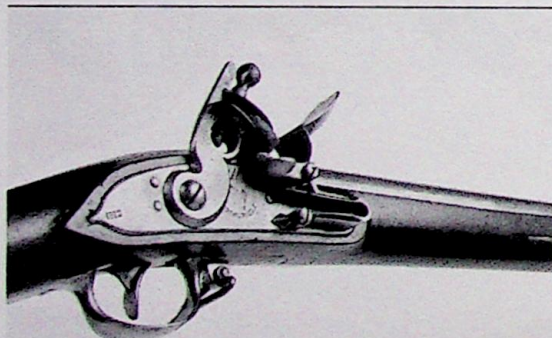
MIB Remington Model 11 US Property Shot Gun



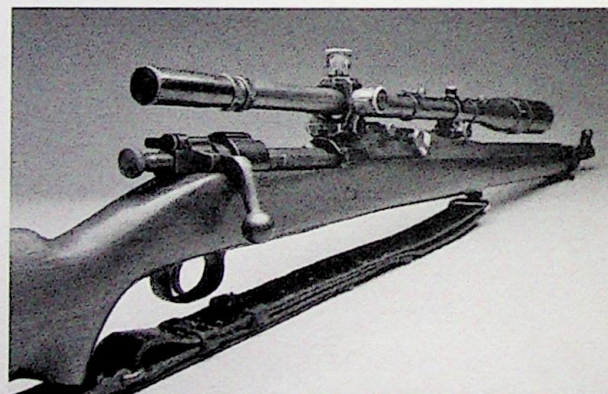
Colt 1911 (1914) Tx Army Air Corp ID'ed



Colt 1911 US Navy 45 mfg 1912



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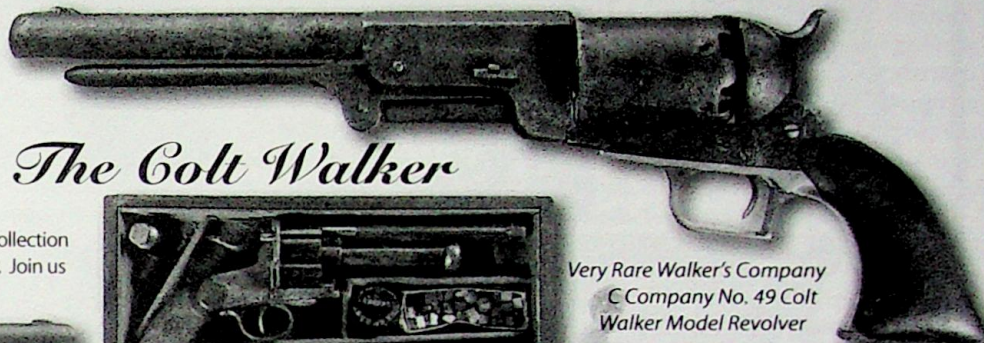
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Super Rare Early
Serial Number "7" Springfield Armory Shop
Model M1 Garand Semi-Automatic Rifle

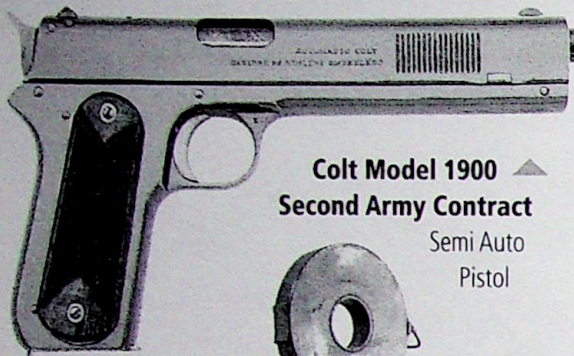
Rare Springfield Model 1903 Rod Bayonet Rifle

Extremely Rare Pedersen Device
with Magazine and Canvas Pouch



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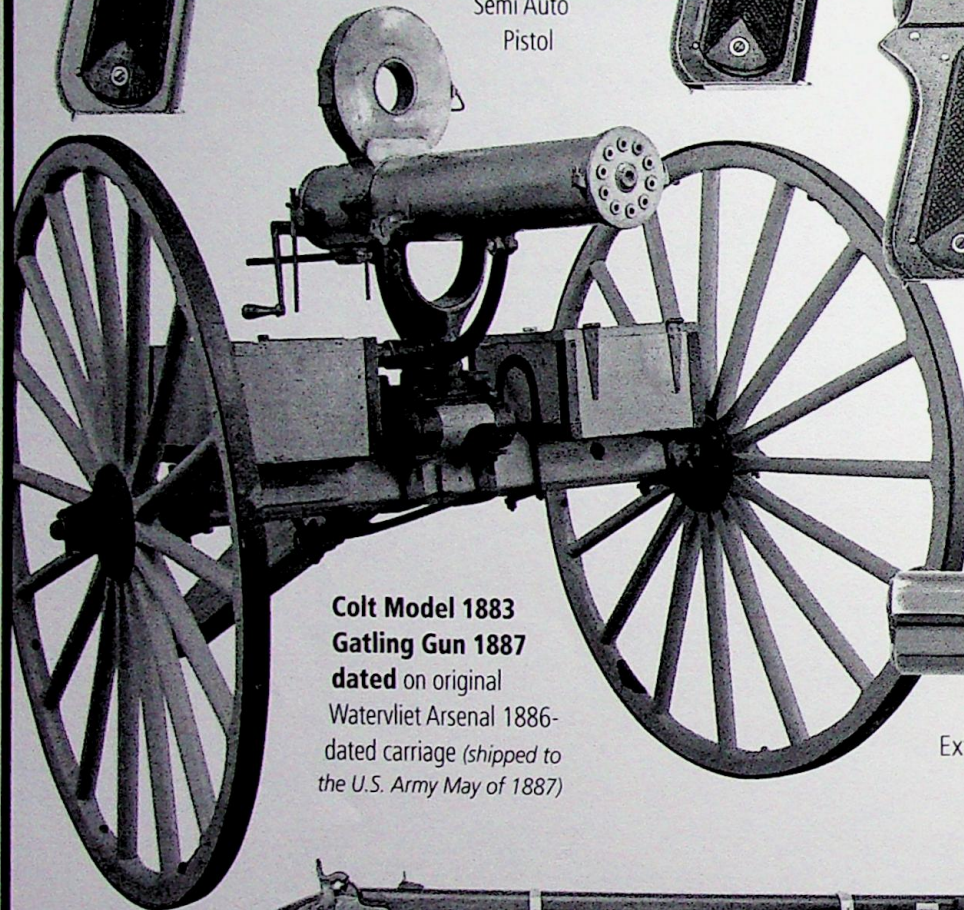
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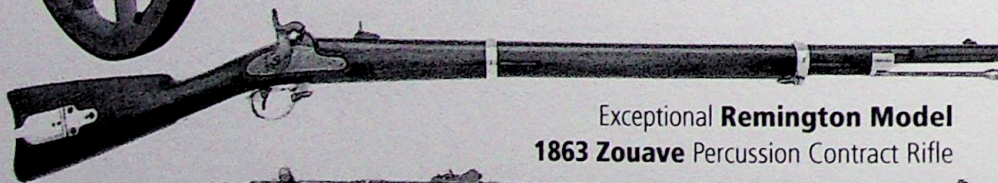
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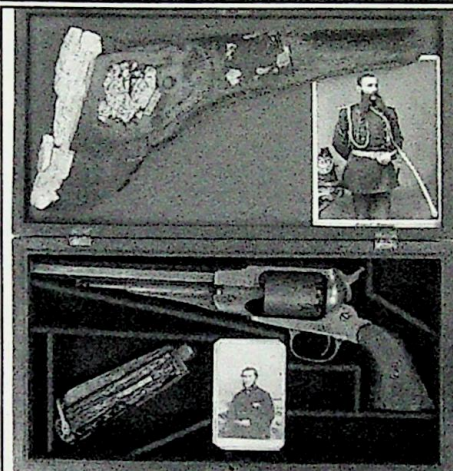


Spectacular Firearms Auction

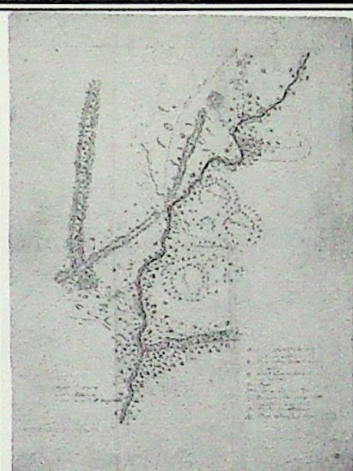
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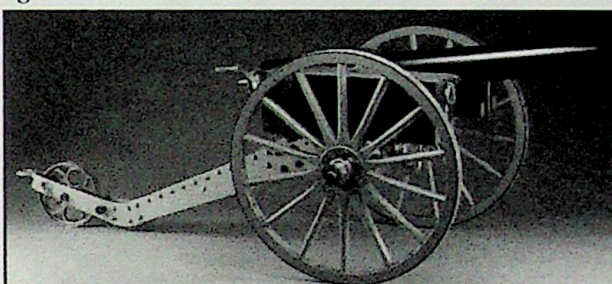
Items related to The Battle of the Little Bighorn



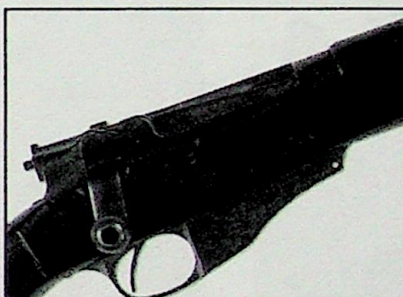
Remington Army Revolver, Holster and Farrier's Knife Used by Lt. Wm W. Cooke at The Battle of L. B. and taken from his body by Indians



Fabulous Unique & Rare Early 1877 Hand Drawn Map of the Custer Battlefield by William Philo Clark



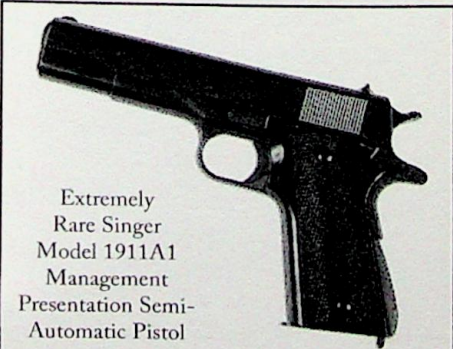
US Navy 500-Pound Breech Loading Cannon SN 19 on Original Carriage (Springfield Arsenal, LLC Artillery Collection)



Historic Winchester Lee Military Rifle w/ Provenance to the USS Maine



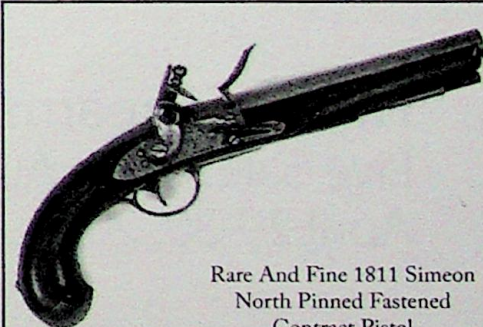
Extremely Rare Documented Rough Rider Model 1896 Krag Saddle Ring Carbine



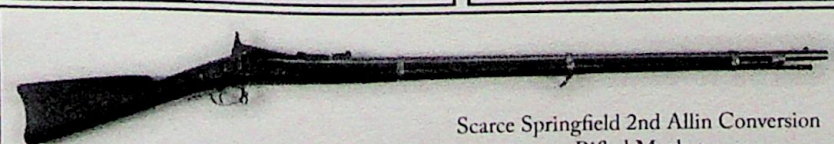
Extremely Rare Singer Model 1911A1 Management Presentation Semi-Automatic Pistol



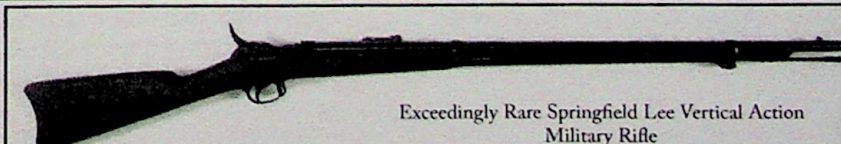
Springfield '03 Mark I w/ Pedersen Device & Accessories SN 25538



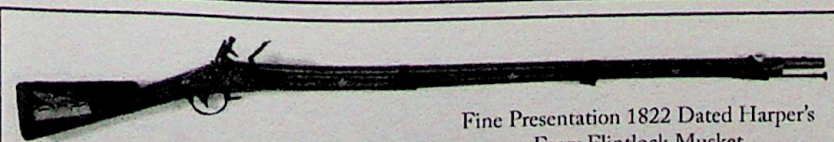
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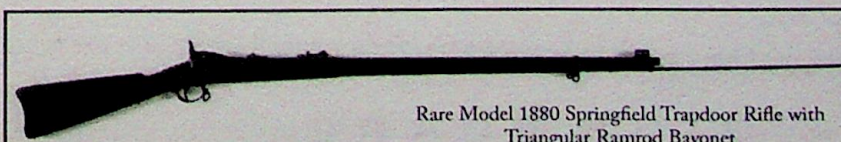
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- 11) Conversion Lit (Caliber .22 Rimfire Adaptor) M261, TM 9-6920-363-12&P, March 1978. \$ 20.00

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