

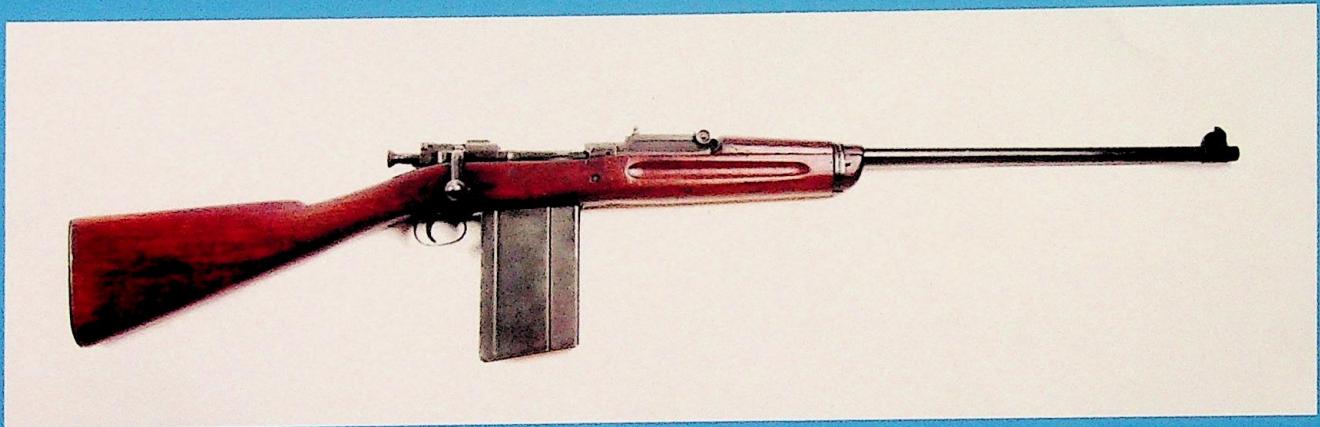
# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



Number 150 March 2017

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# U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

*And*

## *Springfield Research Service Newsletter*

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**Cover:** Model 1903 Springfield Air Service Rifle

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***U.S. Martial Arms Collector 150-1***

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

SRS is currently working on historical data on the Spanish American War of 1898. The War of 1898 is well known for Cuba and San Juan hill, but there were other areas that had significant battles. The battles in Puerto Rico and the invasion of Puerto Rico by U. S. forces are very historic and set the stage for present- day relations for the United States and Puerto Rico.

Springfield Research Service has reviewed most of the battles, United States military units, and rifles used by the U.S. Army.

President Mc Kinley ordered the invasion of the short combat that occurred from July 25, 1898 to August 13, 1898.

There were several battles that had American casualties and Spanish casualties. The weapons were usually Krag rifles. Some serial numbers of weapons that were used are in our data base. The brief descriptions of the battle are from internet sources, Wikipedia and other open sources of data. The SRS data comes from U.S. Archives.

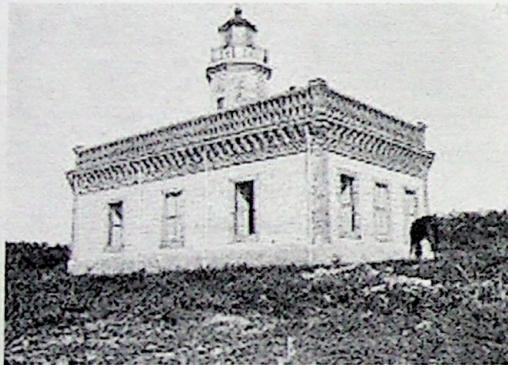
Our database has entries with Krag serial numbers and some detailed data on the units that were deployed during that time frame.

### **Puerto Rico Campaign (July 25–August 13, 1898) The Spanish American War**

President William McKinley ordered the invasion of Puerto Rico, and American forces were transported from Cuba to Puerto Rico on ships including the USS Massachusetts, USS Yale, USS Dixie, and the USS Gloucester. They sailed from Guantánamo to Puerto Rico. Major General Miles was designated as the commander and sailed on the USS Yale. He landed at

Guánica Bay with Naval Captain Francis J. Higgins on the USS Massachusetts. Other ships included the USS Wimond, USS Wasp, and captured Spanish ships Nueces and Rita.

Many Springfield .45 rifles were issued to State militias. The newer Krag rifles were issued to the units that saw combat in Puerto Rico. There were major efforts to arm our forces with the best weapons and suitable uniforms for the Puerto Rico climate.



**Photo shown above:** Guánica Lighthouse c.1893

The U.S. forces landed in 1898 at Guánica lighthouse. This area had 60 houses and was supported by the Spanish 4th Volante militia. The Guánica lighthouse keeper, Robustiano Rivera, gave the invasion alert and almost all of the residents welcomed the Americans. The USS Gloucester arrived in the Bay of Guánica with twenty-eight sailors and Marines commanded by Lieutenants H. P. Huse and Wood. The Marines replaced the Spanish flag with the American flag. Lt. Méndez López of the Spanish militia reacted and attacked the American unit. The American unit and the USS Gloucester bombarded the Spanish position and wounded the commander.

## Invasion

On the afternoon of the 25th, seven companies of the 6th Massachusetts and one company of the 6th Illinois headed towards Yauco. The Secretary of War Russell A. Alger was in Washington, D.C. and read an Associated Press report in a local Washington, D.C. newspaper. The story had information that the War Department was supposed to attack another target. This led to a controversy with the field commander, General Miles. He was spared disciplinary action because of the battle success that was completed without the loss of a single life.

## Battle of Yauco

After the lighthouse keeper sounded the alarm, Spanish Governor Macías ordered Captain Salvador Meca to attack with available forces. U.S. commander Garretson and his men ordered the Illinois company and two companies (companies L and M) of the 6th Massachusetts to hold this position. He then ordered a direct attack on the Spanish and Puerto Rican forces in the local hacienda.

At daybreak, the 6th Massachusetts overran the Spanish forces and suffered four casualties. Spanish reinforcements from Yauco initiated a flanking attack against the Illinois and Massachusetts companies.



*Above:* 19th century train station in Yauco

The Spanish troops were pushed back by the

Americans and Spanish Col. Puig believed that he would be accused by the Spanish Government of abandoning military equipment. He committed suicide on August 2nd. General Miles conducted an investigation of the 6th Massachusetts and they were sent on a hard march from Guánica to Ponce as punishment. The regimental commander, a lieutenant colonel, a major, and a captain resigned upon request.

## Battle of Fajardo

On August 1, U.S. monitors *USS Puritan*, *USS Amphitrite*, armed tug *USS Leyden*, and *USS Hannibal* were near Puerto Rico and spotted the "Faro de Las Cabezas de San Juan" (Cape San Juan Lighthouse) the landing site for the US Army invasion. The American landing party withdrew when they encountered Spanish troops. Spanish commander Dr. Santiago Veve Calzada implored the Spanish in San Juan to send troops. On August 5, a contingent of U. S. blue jackets attacked and United States flags were hoisted over Fajardo.

On August 6, Captain Charles J. Barclay of the *USS Amphitrite* ordered 28 sailors and 7 officers to advance. The Spanish tried to recapture the city. The U.S. landing party of *Amphitrite*'s sailors doused the lighthouse light and signaled the ships offshore to initiating shore bombardment. The Spanish forces retreated. The Americans suffered no casualties. The Spanish losses were 2 dead and 3 wounded.

In Fajardo, Spanish forces tore down the U.S. flags. The skirmish at Fajardo was the only time that American forces withdrew from a position during the Puerto Rican Campaign.

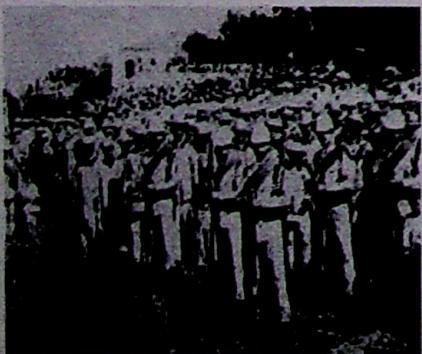
## Battle of Guayama



**Above:** US troopships and convoy at Playa de Ponce, 1898.

The town of Yauco was taken and General Miles attacked the City of Ponce. The 6th Illinois and 6th Massachusetts were ordered to move to Ponce. Lt. Col. Rafael Martinez Illecas, in charge of Spanish forces in that city, pulled out. The leader of the Intentona de Yauco revolt was Antonio Mattei Lluberas,

Miles organized the "Porto Rican Scouts", later assigned to General Theodore Schwan, under the command of Edwardo Lugo Viñas. Miles ordered Brigadier General Peter G. Hains and the 3rd Illinois, 4th Ohio and 4th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiments to take Arroyo and the nearby coastal town of Guayama. On August 2 and August 5 Hanes ordered the 4th Ohio, the 3rd Illinois and a battery of Sims-Dudley guns of Company G, the 4th Ohio, to capture Guayama.



**Above:** Puerto Rican and Spanish troops in Guayama.

The firefight, which lasted half an hour, left three American wounded. The 4th Ohio discovered that the Spaniards had ended the Battle of Guayama.

## Battle of the Guamaní River Bridge

On August 6, the 4th Ohio crossed the Río Guamaní (Guamaní River). The 4th Ohio observed elements of Spain's 6th Provisional Battalion under the command of Julio Cervera Baviera. The 4th Ohio requested reinforcements and on August 9, attacked. This battle was the costliest battle yet for the Americans and resulted in seven wounded. The Spanish forces suffered 2 dead and 15 wounded.

## Battle of Coamo



**Above:** The 3rd Wisconsin awaits orders to charge the Spanish at Coamo.



**Above:** Spanish and Puerto Rican prisoners of war after the Battle of Coamo

Wisconsin and Pennsylvania volunteers went to Coamo on August 9, 1898 and attacked.

The Spanish commander Martínez Illescas was killed. The American Troop C won the fight and the Spanish surrendered.

### Battle of Silva Heights



*Above:* Col. Julio Soto Villanueva (X) with his staff in Mayagüez

U.S. Brigadier General Theodore Schwan and 2,896 men advanced to Silva Heights. Colonel Julio Soto Villanueva ordered 1,500 Spanish Regulars of the 24th Rifle Battalion, six companies of the Alfonso XIII and scattered Spanish soldiers to fight. Troop A of Schwan's 5th Cavalry engaged the Spanish. The Americans had the 19th Infantry with artillery and Gatling guns and the 11th Infantry. The Spanish forces abandoned the city. The outcome of the Silva Heights Battle left 3 Spanish dead, 6 wounded, and 136 prisoners. Schwan's brigade suffered 15 wounded and 2 killed in action.

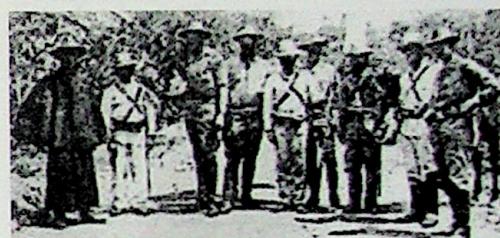
### Battle of Asomante



*Above:* Spanish trenches in Asomante

The American cavalry pursued the Spanish

to Aibonito Pass (Asomante). The invading Spanish unit started cannon fire. Six American soldiers were injured in the crossfire and a retreat was ordered. The Americans made a battlefield reconnaissance and Colonel S. Reber, developed a croquis of the Aibonito Pass. Spies were deployed throughout Coamo. Rufino Huertas, a separatist teacher gave Patterne defense plans made by Martínez Illescas.



*Above:* Puerto Rican soldiers and their Spanish Commander (in white) pose with their American captors

Captain R.D. Potts led part of the 3rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment to Aibonito. Lieutenants Bliss and O'Hern led two units and the allied troops opened cannon fire as the Americans entered. One of Hernández's Placencias cannons overheated and an order to cease fire was issued. The fire was renewed by the Spanish with Mauser rifle fire. Fearing the capture of American equipment, Lancaster ordered a retreat. Spanish forces overpowered the American infantry, using Mauser fire. Four American officials were gravely injured. Harris' position was filled by O'Hern, and Sawanson was fatally shot. The American side had two dead and five injured. Wilson's camp was the first to receive a telegram from General Miles notifying him that the war had ended. All military actions in Puerto Rico were suspended on August 13.

President William McKinley and French Ambassador Jules Cambon, acting on behalf of the Spanish government, signed an armistice whereby Spain relinquished its sovereignty over the territory of Puerto Rico.

## Aftermath

### Treaty of Paris of 1898

In an 1898 newspaper cartoon, "Uncle Sam" watches as the "Goddess of Liberty" heralds "freedom" for Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines.

The Puerto Rico Campaign began on May 8 and ended on August 13. Puerto Rico would gain independence, and "El Levantamiento de Ciales" or the "Ciales Uprising of 1898" proclaimed Puerto Rico as a republic. The Puerto Rican Battalion suffered a total of 70 casualties. The Spanish, Puerto Ricans and Americans that participated in the campaign totaled 33,472. Of these 15,472 were American military personnel. The Spanish and Puerto Ricans suffered 429. The American forces suffered 43 casualties.

Under the terms of the Treaty of Paris of 1898, ratified on December 10, 1898, Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States. The United States established a military government and appointed Miles the first head of the military government. Members of the Spanish forces and civilians who were loyal to the Spanish Crown were allowed to return to Spain. By October 18, those who belonged to the Spanish military and decided to stay in Puerto Rico were offered the option by the United States to serve in the newly formed "Porto Rico Regiment".

The search is on for weapons assigned to that unit. Compared to Teddy Roosevelt's charge up San Juan (Kettle Hill), the Puerto

Rico battles were very short and not advertised in the American press. There were hurried preparations for the Puerto Rican battles. The military personnel were armed with provisions, Krag rifles, combat ammunition, and expected to see combat. It appears that there was a great deal of military politics as well as American politics on the preparation and assignment of senior officers.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please send any corrections or updates of addresses to us at any time. We are always trying to fix post office notices and need new information for magazine and other deliveries. We receive returned mail with no way to find a new address, and postal notices may have no forwarding address.

We use U.S. Postal First Class Mail. Other ways do not seem to work on a timely basis.

Our policy of putting the number of the last issue of a subscription will be tried on all of our mailings. This number entry has been a continual software problem that has been fixed.

We have had some information missing and want to correct any data that is overlooked or missing. We would also want any comments on all orders that may have had any errors or omissions. There are some documents that are out of stock.

Some subscribers do not have email services. We are working this out and hope that all can be accommodated.

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

## CURRENT ISSUES

Issue number 150 dated March 2017 is current. Mailing data is sent to our printing facility for February 24, 2017 and we rely on the Post Office to deliver as soon as they are able.

## ADVERTISING

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

The projected mailing dates are the first week of March, June, September, and December of each year. There are four quarterly issues each year.

## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH LETTERS

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

Research letters include all USMC letters, OSS documents, 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5th, and 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry documents, Spanish American War documents, and other unique units that may require special research. It is taking quite a bit of time to travel to government facilities and comply with their rules for searching, copying, and the actual handling of documents. We have been cross- checking many pieces of data and using U.S. Archives personnel and other researchers to offer opinions on hard- to- read information. The Archives personnel have been very helpful in this area.

A basic letter is data recovered from our in-house files. It is limited and there is no way for us to hold the thousands or even millions of pages of government data. A research letter requires us to travel to a government

facility and request to search and retrieve specific copies needed for research. This includes checking the U.S. Government files to make sure they exist and are still available for review. The size of government data files is overwhelming and we cannot duplicate all of the millions of pages. We try to copy the specifics and include them with any SRS letter. In many cases the data may be a peculiar size and must be handled, verified, and copied according to government regulations. This may also require working with armed guards, checking our identification, and special stamps for security classification or other rules. Special documents require more time and may have higher costs.

## COMMENTS AND INPUTS

We always want comments sent to [editor@usmartialarmscollector.com](mailto:editor@usmartialarmscollector.com).

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

We ask for comments from our readers. There are a lot of very knowledgeable collectors with a wealth of information and sightings of rare weapons.

## SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH DATA BASE

Our efforts are based on data from United States documents in U.S. Archives and other military sources. All serial number information comes from government documents. There are many weapons that come from sources that describe a weapon without a specific serial number.

All data in the Springfield Research Service Data base are from documents that have been found to date. There are more documents that may exist and we continually look for additional information. We continually find new serial numbers. Our subscribers can email the editor or mail inquiries to:  
U.S. Martial Arms Collector  
Box 126  
Cabin John, MD 20818

## LETTERS AND EMAILS WRITTEN AND ANSWERED

Thank you for taking so much time in researching for me. A separate list of those NM rifles that were identified as being in storage at Camp Perry in 1982 was not available from the Army. You can see in the attached copies of documents that the list shows rifle # 2469976 on loan to the Fresno R&P Club was a "Winchester" when it most likely is of S.A. manufacture. This serial is within the Winchester assigned numbers duplicated by SA. Thank you for your effort and thanks for keeping this worthwhile endeavor up and running.

*We looked several times and there was no mention of manufacture. This was common on many Army documents. It is always worth checking. Thanks, Editor.*

I have an 1873 Springfield Trapdoor Carbine serial number 41,014. Do you do research on these guns and cost?

*Thank you for your inquiry. There is no cost for a subscriber to look up a serial number. We have no data on that carbine. We feel that any trapdoor carbine with serial number below 50,000 is very sought after. There is a big demand for any carbine with original finish, stock, and parts. Editor.*

Please advise if you have data on Winchester model 1866 Carbine serial number 17018 Thank you.

*We have little or no data on Model 1866 Winchesters. Our efforts are in military issued weapons. we do have some data on commercial weapons procured by the military and issued. The data is often random and is difficult to find. Editor.*

Editor, I'm putting together a new will and would like to name a Auction house to send my items for auction. Which one Would you recommend for that ? Regards.

*We cannot make recommendations but feel that there are now many auction houses available. You may want to inquire to the auction companies or other collectors about costs, location, pick- ups, and other fees. Many companies offer complete services with a host of assistance. Editor.*

I just signed up for the service, how do I request/pay for back issues etc? I'd like back issue no. 94 and "USMC Sniper Correspondence" Thank you.

*Most back issues are available and cost \$10 each postpaid. A USMC package is \$25 and includes copies of USMC correspondence and any other data that was available . There are many old issues with detailed data on a great deal of weapons. We are trying to sort out old issues and list many of the topics that we receive the most inquiries. Many of our documents need to be copied as the requirements are small for specific topics. There is no way to hold an inventory. We have a copy of issue 94 and a copy of USMC data. Usual address is: SRS box126 Cabin John, MD 20818 . Editor.*

Is there anyone that would have rights to sell to private parties the entire SRS Database? The reason I ask is I just saw it posted for trade on a forum and when I called foul my posts were deleted.

***NO, All data base, magazines, and products are copyright protected by U.S. laws. Subscribers may use free look ups from SRS by email. Editor.***

NRA Sporter number 1406951, barrel date 1-32. I would like to obtain a letter from Springfield data concerning the serial number. Also any data on Griffin & Howe who did some upgrades on this rifle.

***We have data on that rifle and a sales letter can be ordered. Editor.***

***Editors note:*** We have received many inquiries concerning commercial weapons and those bought by military or other government personnel. They include almost all of the United States manufacturers and many foreign makers. SRS data only addresses government manufacturers, some commercial rebuild facilities, and U.S. rebuild facilities. Private sales were usually not put into military records. There are always exceptions.

We do have many numbers on commercial weapons made in the United States that were bought by American military agencies. There were many commercial .22 caliber rifles bought during wartime efforts and many do not have serial numbers. Many items such as Winchester rifles in .30 caliber were bought directly from Winchester and used with military accessories.

Foreign makers sometimes are listed when the U.S. bought weapons for military or special operations.

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

We keep as many old issues as possible.

The older newsletters (number 1 through 55) must be obtained by special request. They are in plain paper form in newsletters.

Most issues number 56 through 146 are available for \$10 each postpaid. Several issues have completely run out. A copy in black and white on plain paper may be possible, but there will be a delay or extra cost.

We have **copies** of the original issues: 96 (USMC), and others on Springfield M 1922, M1, M2, plus some limited published issues.

## **SRS SEARCHES**

We still find new data and new government regulations may change at any time. The quality of many documents runs from excellent to almost unusable. The government storage of old historical paper is often very difficult because of the fragile nature of old documents.

Some fragile documents are bound with a heavy plastic case that requires cutting to open. After research and turn-in, the documents are re in-cased in a new plastic container.

## **SHIPPING COMMENTS**

We mail all magazines and letters by first class mail. This is a result of time delays with other methods. US Martial Arms magazines and letters are mailed and normally are delivered by the

U. S. Post office service in 1 to 3 days. The majority of our subscribers pay by personal or bank- sponsored checks. They are the easiest for us.

Please make sure that if PAYPAL is used, that you check off the correct boxes for your specific instructions. We receive complaints from PAYPAL if a subscriber accidentally checks the wrong box.

Springfield Research Service has had to use RACKNER Solutions several times to fix problems, hacking , and a host of problems. We have had new computers, software, and protection . The major issues were aimed at protection of our data base. So far, we are in good shape.

We have put a great deal of effort into new software and adding new data to our data base. We will be adding new serial numbers to our system. Written text from many sources is being added in several different research areas. The complexity of the size and condition of the information may require the continued use of paper files. Many files are fragile and in varying sizes. We are always putting data into a form that can be used for research and verification.

**Editors Note:** We have received inquiries concerning the model 1922 .30 caliber Special heavy Barrel rifle. The author of the data published in the last issue is Bill Hansen E-Mail: WmofGlenCrest@att.net Phone: 818-248-8703

This model is rare and we are trying to print additional data as it is discovered.

**Editor's Note:** We would like to solicit comments from our readers concerning the possible changes in collecting. It is unknown what prices are going to be affected in the future. Many people with

advanced antique and modern collections are concerned with the entire market options. There are many variables that affect any current trend from antique to modern or unique manufacturers and narrow or broad interest that can change. We would like to respond to any collectors' comments as we have a capability to print data that may be of interest. There are major factors such as disposing of a collection, adjusting areas of interest, and facilities to store and display collections. Comments are welcome.

### COLLECTORS NOTE 150-1

M1 Garand Gas trap barrel markings.

The following photos show the Springfield Armory markings on an original gas trap barrel made before the gas port model was designed in 1940. The barrels are not interchangeable without the major parts on the front end of the barrel.



**Above:** The markings on the bottom of the barrel nearest to the chamber area. H on the left and larger P for proof on the right.



**Above:** The markings on the top of the barrel over the chamber area. J11 and the drawing number D28286. Bore and condition are in perfect condition.  
**Courtesy: Ed Smith.**

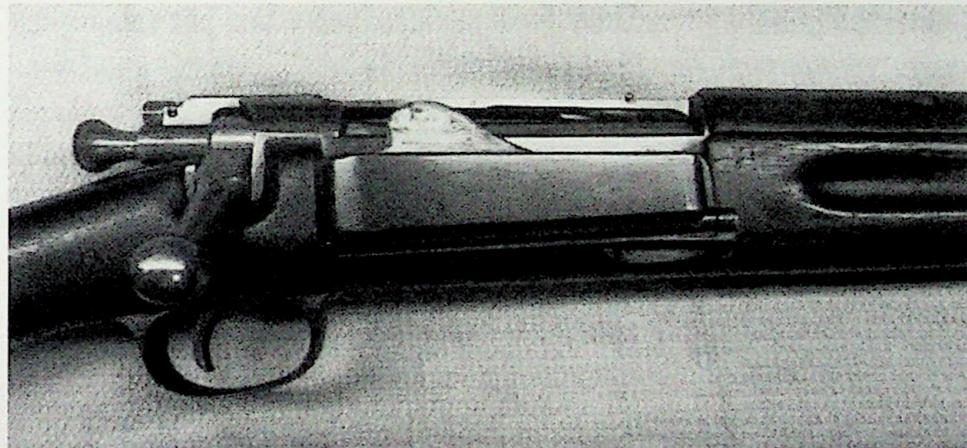
## 1898 KRAG RIFLE PUERTO RICO BATTLE ISSUE

Krag rifle serial number 42607 was issued to Company A of the Illinois Provisional Volunteer Engineers in 1898. The rifle was sent to the Illinois unit with a combat issue of ammunition ready for battle in Puerto Rico. The Spanish American War had significant battles with casualties on both the American and Spanish sides. This episode in American battles included the invading of Puerto Rico with U. S. Naval

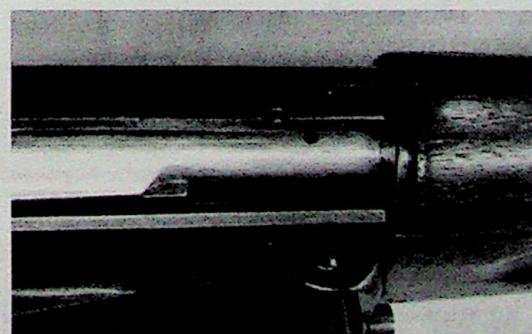
ships and U.S. Army units from several United States volunteer units. Puerto Rico gained independence and became a protectorate of the United States.

The rifle is a model 1896 rifle with 30 inch barrel, unaltered stock with storage holes with no cut for oiler, early 1896 bolt with the forward gas hole, early cut-off with blued underside, second type 1896 rifle rear sight, short sight blade correct for 1896 rifle sight configuration.

*Photos: Courtesy of Mike Raborn.*



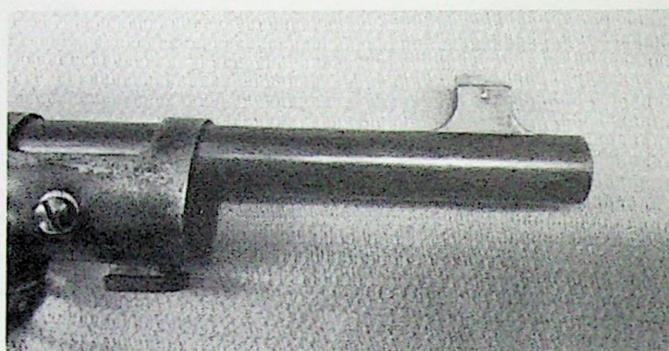
*Above:* Model 1896 rifle with 1896 stock features for bolt handle, stock cut for 1896 receiver with bolt handle recess.



*Left:* Butt stock with no cut for oiler. *Above:* 1896 bolt with forward gas hole.



*Above:* 1896 cartouche



*Above:* 1896 front sight with short blade to match 1896 rear sight for elevation.



*Above:* 1896 rifle serial number 42607.

The 5th U.S. Artillery included a Provisional Battalion formed from the First Illinois Volunteers, a detachment of 34 privates of the Battalion of the Volunteers of the U.S. Army.

The Illinois military units were issued Springfield caliber .45 trap-door rifles and older woolen uniforms that were paid for by the State of Illinois.

The equipment and uniforms were not adequate including the quarters used prior to deployment. This caused hardships and disease.

When the units such as the Illinois and Massachusetts were scheduled for invasion of Puerto Rico, they were issued the new Krag rifles and .30 caliber ammunition that was in top condition. It appears that model 1892, 1896, and possibly 1898 Carbines were used in the Spanish American War. SRS has not formulated complete documents of every weapon according to unit except the carbines that were known to have been issued. The Colt SAA revolvers also have been documented. We have found one 1898 Carbine and many 1895 and 1896 Saddle ring Carbines.

There are still voids of serial numbers for many other Cavalry units that we are still searching for more specific data. We have found several instances where a carbine or rifle was surplused, sold, or disposed of by serial number as late as the 1930's but no record has been found of the weapons' actual unit or battle. This type of data only provides part of the history.

Unfortunately many Krag weapons were sold in the great U.S. Army sale at Springfield Armory in 1918. They included many receivers, parts, and stocks. The sale also included Constabulary models, carbine, rifle, special rifles, and parts of all models and conditions. It may be impossible to tell a real carbine from a reconstructed carbine with original parts.

Many carbines have been reconstructed using original stocks and actions. U.S.

arsenals upgraded as many carbines and rifles to latest Springfield Armory specifications. Most had the longer carbine stock, new rear sights, and other small parts.

SRS has no data on the Spanish used 7mm Mauser rifles and short rifles as well as handguns.

The short lived series of battles of the Puerto Rico campaigns started on July 15 and ended on August 25, 1898. The Spaniards made an unconditional surrender of the 23,500 troops. This included the people in the countryside and hostilities ended. Later in the war, the 1st Illinois was transferred to General Bates' Division and moved to Kettle Hill, which was formerly occupied by the "Rough Riders." The 1st Illinois had many health problems. The poor conditions, and the limited understanding of some of the tropical diseases caused a huge medical toll on the troops.

Representatives of Spain and the United States signed the Treaty of Paris on December 10, 1898, ending the war. As a result, Spain lost its control over the remains of its overseas empire. It established the independence of Cuba, ceded Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States, and allowed the United States to purchase the Philippines Islands from Spain for \$20 million.

Springfield Research Service would like to hear from any of our readers with information on any other weapons used in this war. There are possibly other models that we can search for in the Archives. There were commercial weapons bought for individuals that have no documents that can be found.

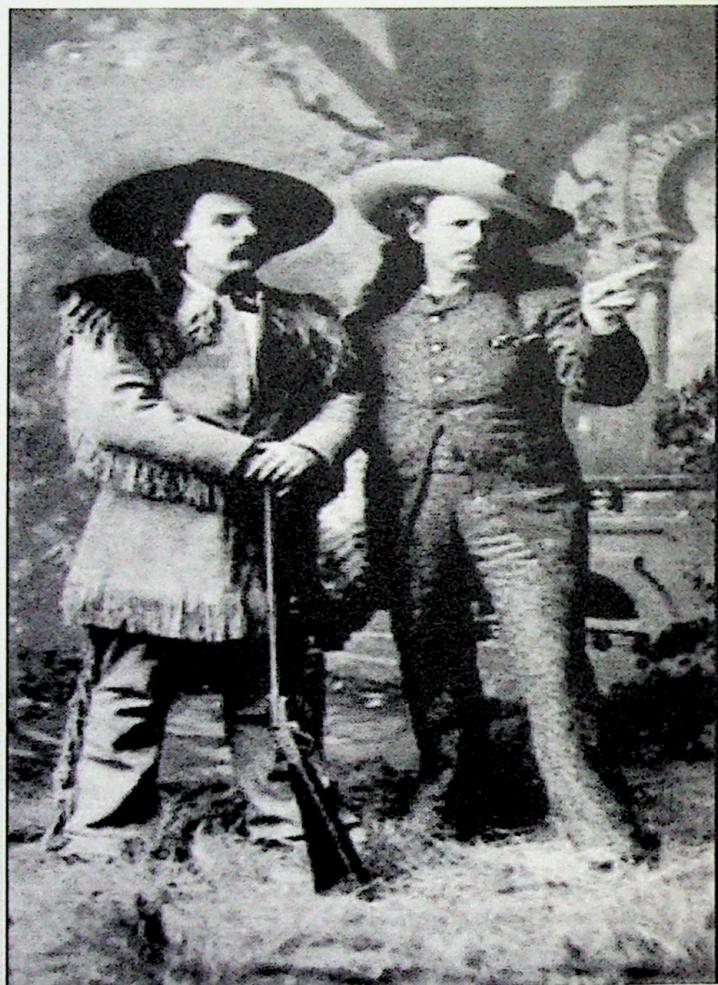
## White Beaver" and the Foe He Could Not Vanquish

by Jack Sullivan

Many a boy, fetching the dime novel hidden in the corn crib, thrilled to the adventures of "White Beaver" as in story after story the hero overcame all odds to best his evil enemies. In real life White Beaver, aka Dr. Frank Powell, found one adversary too strong: The federal food and drug bureaucrats who declared the several patent medicines to which he had given his name to be fraudulent.

Born in a Kentucky log cabin in 1845, David Frank Powell was the son of a physician of Scottish descent and a mother who was half Seneca Indian. When his father died at an early age, his mother took him and his brothers to live in New York State during the Civil War. During the postwar period, the Powells moved to Chicago where Frank went to work as a drug clerk and then on to Nebraska. In 1868 he entered medical school at Louisville University in Kentucky, graduating at the head of his class.

While in Nebraska, Powell had met Buffalo Bill Cody, Wild Bill Hickok, and other figures of the Old West. After graduation he went back to the state and was named to a government post as surgeon in the Department of the Platte and later made Medicine Chief of the Winnebago Indians. According to legend, Frank got his name, "White Beaver" from riding into the camp of a hostile group of Indians, several of whom he earlier had killed in hand-to-hand combat, in order to inoculate the residents



*Above:* Dr. Frank Powell with Buffalo Bill Cody.

against small pox. Others say he got it by rescuing a Sioux princess. Regardless, he embraced the title, let his hair grow long, and began to polish his legend.

During this period he also had become reacquainted with Buffalo Bill. An excellent marksman, Powell from time to time provided Cody's touring show not only a doctor but a sharpshooter. Shown here is a photo of the two (Frank right) as they looked

in their touring days. Below is Powell's rifle. It was a Winchester Model 1873, 38-40 caliber, with a 22 inch octagon barrel, full magazine, and a shotgun butt. *Editors Note: The Winchester 1873 was considered the first of the easily loaded repeaters in the West and the 44 40 cartridge was a frontier caliber for hunting and protection. It was probably down-loaded to provide an easier velocity and handling for trick shots as well as horse-back for show targets.*

With his Indian nickname, his time in the West, and his association with Buffalo Bill Cody, Frank Powell was a natural for dime novel fiction, a boom business in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The stories were about his "daring do" against a string of adversaries. White Beaver is shown here on the cover of Beadle's Dime Library, in a white hat on the trail of evil-doers. Among titles were "White Beaver, the Indian Medicine Chief: the Romantic and Adventurous Life of Dr. Frank Powell," "The Wizard Brothers, or, White Beaver's Red Trail," which also featured Powell's brothers, "Buffalo Bill's Sharpshooters, or, the Surgeon Scout to the Rescue"; "Buffalo Bill's Swoop, a Buffalo Bill and Surgeon Frank Powell Adventure." Although some stories were attributed to him as author, it is doubtful that he wrote any.

In fact, much of the time Powell was working as a small town doctor in placid LaCrosse, Wisconsin. By now divorced and remarried, he also was putting his energies into mixing up and marketing a series of patent medicines. This was an era when Indian remedies were very popular with the American public and White Beaver was quick to jump on the bandwagon. Buffalo

Bill Cody helped him by investing in manufacturing the nostrums.

Best known of these concoctions was "White Beaver Cough Cream," as advertised on a trade card that introduced a vignette. The cough cream was described as: "A soothing compound of lung healing root and herb juices, an unrivaled remedy for the cure of coughs, colds, croup, pleurisy, bronchitis, and all other diseases of lungs or bronchial tubes." Fifty cents would buy a generous helping of the cream in an apothecary type glass jar with a removable top. Smaller amounts came in clear embossed flask-shaped containers.

In his advertising Powell often used testimonials. W. G. Smith of Mahias, Michigan, opined on the cough cream: "I consider it the Best Cough Medicine in the Country." N. F. Wetmore, a M.D. from North Freedom, Wisconsin, hailed it for "excellent satisfaction." Another potion was "White Beaver's Wonder Worker" said to "instantly relieve either internal or external pain." A third product Powell dubbed "Yosemite Yarrow."

Cody and Powell also were associated in other business ventures. They founded a cereal company that produced a coffee substitute from roasted bran called "Panmilt". The primary target market were Mormons who did not drink caffeine. The Latter Day Saints apparently did not like the taste of roasted bran and the venture failed. Apparently White Beaver had no end of schemes, including one to colonize a couple million acres of land in Mexico said to be "free for the taking." With money from

investors, including Cody, he tried to sign up European colonists. Another investor summed up the result: "Doc Powell couldn't find nobody in Europe or anyplace else that wanted to colonize that acreage of Mexican desert. I had nobody to blame but myself, and Cody lost a lot more than I did. But he had a whole lot else."

For a time the remedies sold well, with Frank regularly visiting Milwaukee and other larger cities in Wisconsin and neighboring states to push his merchandise. With the passage of the Food and Drug Act in 1906, however, Federal authorities were on White Beaver's trail. In 1915, the United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin filed suit in federal court alleging that both White Beaver's Cough Cream and Wonder Worker were in violation of the pure foods statute. Analysis by the Bureau of Chemistry showed that the cough cream contained morphine, chloroform, creosote, ammonium chloride, and methyl slycylate. It was misbranded by claiming that it was "a remedy for croup, pleurisy and all other diseases of the lungs and air passages and effective as a lung healer in consumption when, in truth and in fact, it was not."

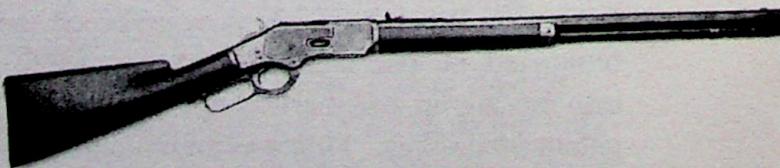
White Beaver's Wonder Worker came in for similar harsh treatment. In liquid form, it proved to be just under 75 percent alcohol, that is, 150 proof — putting it among the strongest alcoholic liquors on the market today. In addition, it contained 1.70 grams of chloroform, and .09 gram of morphine and traces of camphor, capsicum, oil of turpentine and free ammonia. This concoction was not a cure for the many ailments claimed in its advertising, including cholera infantum, fever and ague, and "summer complaints of children." The

company admitted guilt, paid a \$300 fine, and White Beaver's products disappeared. Meanwhile Powell had complemented his doctoring with politics, winning two elections for mayor of LaCrosse and unsuccessfully running for governor of Wisconsin. His campaigning involved handing out a card with his portrait, one without the long hair and leather garments. It did, however, contain a reminder that the candidate was White Beaver. Eventually Powells entrepreneur sights shifted Westward, taking him into lumber, mining and other ventures, likely with Buffalo Bill in tow. He was on such a business trip to California in May 1906 when he died on a train near El Paso, Texas, at the age of 61.

Even White Beaver's going was the stuff of legends. Powell reportedly had asked that he be cremated and his ashes be spread at Red Butte, Wyoming. According to a biographer, the friends transporting his remains got drunk and failed to notice that his ashes were leaking out of a pack on their mule. By the time the funeral cortege got to Red Butte, Powell's ashes were spread across a wide swath of the West.

\* \* \* \*

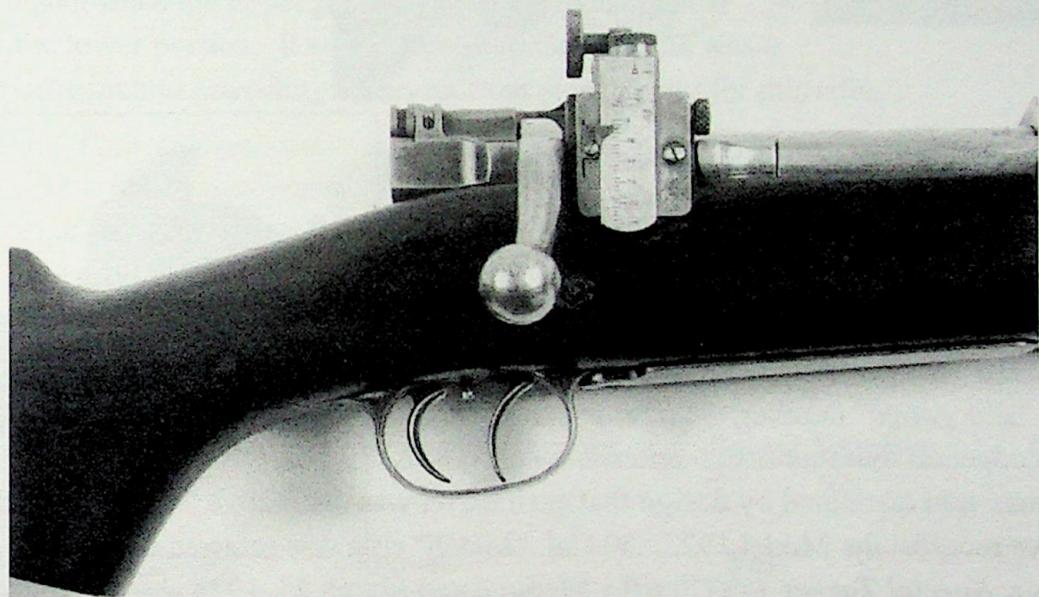
**Below:** Winchester Model 1873 caliber 44/40 used by Dr. Powell.



## M1922, .30 cal. HB “Match” rifle Used in 1923 Olympics

Serial number 1244354 is part of the 100 limited edition, Springfield Armory made between April and September, 1922. Serial numbers were approximately 1244XXX through 12489XX. The special barrels were manufactured starting in early February 1922.

M1922, Cal. 30 HB “Match” rifles in existing files show approximately 20 rifles. Others are sought to be included.



**ABOVE:** Right side of number 1244354 with bolt, headless cocking piece, Lyman rear sight, and double set trigger assembly.



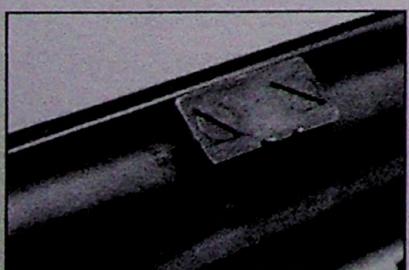
**ABOVE:** 1922 caliber, .30 receiver and serial number. Note rear scope mount block and screw.



**ABOVE:** Left side of 1922 .30 caliber with DAL stock cartouche.

M1922, .30 cal. HB "Match" rifle, with barrel stamped with "J73/3202". The marking originally thought to be a "star gauge" number. The "star gauge program" was usually special barrels from normal production that met match criteria. The M1922, .30 Cal. HB "Match" barrels were limited production and mandated by design that each barrel was distinctive "star gauge" quality. National Archive records, the Model 1922, .30 Cal. "Match" rifle was referred to early-on from Circular 138 as a *Special Target* ("ST") rifle. Memo dated March 25, 1924 showed the term "Star Gauged" was to be replaced in favor of "Match Rifle". Another memo dated April 12<sup>th</sup>, used the term "Star-gauged" HB and replaced by "Special Target." **Executive Order/Office (X.O.) No. 3202** issued February 11, 1922 authorized the first 40 of these rifles. The "J73" is unknown at this time. HB "Match" rifle barrels not stamped with "J73/3202" on the underside is questionable.

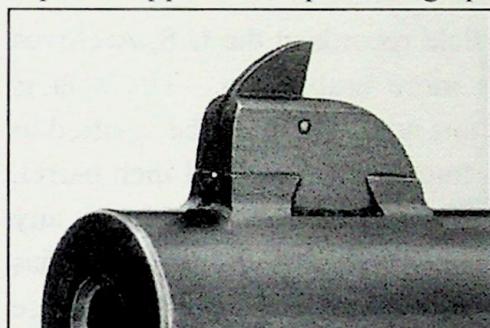
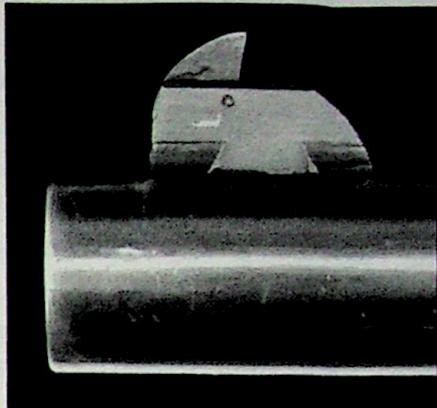
Barrel Identification Numbers referenced to each M1922, .30 Cal. HB "Match" rifle are identified by a unique barrel assembly number. The weapon shown here shows number 12. Each certified *star gauged* heavy barrel passing the test was also assigned a **rifle assembly number** stamped on the barrel and appears in as many as three places on the barrel, including each set of Winchester A5 scope mounts. The number is stamped immediately behind the front



scope mount @ the 12:00 o'clock position on top of the barrel as well as the frontal face of both the front and rear scope mounts.

**LEFT:** Sample stamp with number 82.(Number 1244354 is stamped 12). **U.S. Martial Arms Collector 150-18**

The front sight Blade is identical to as one created by Thomas Martin's front sight blades subsequently adopted by the USMC (See "Arms and the Man"/Feb. 15, 1923). The USMC used the wider version with a two directional canted rear face. The one adopted for use on the M1922, .30 cal. HB "Match" rifle is what was known at the time as the "*undercut version*". As the photos clearly show, this front sight blade had its rear face sloped forward from the bottom under the premise that by doing so, it would provide increased edge definition and clarity of the overall blade, since the upper portion of the blade could now shadow the lower portion. It was believed at the time this was a superior approach to providing optimum front sight clarity for this rifle.



The following is a sample of serial numbers and other data.

	<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Barrel Number</u>	<u>Original</u>
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**Undercut FS Blade**

SN 1244349	Unknown	Yes
SN 1244354	12	Yes
SN 1245466	Unknown	Yes
SN 1245471	17	Lyman Peep (replacement)
SN 1245963	Unknown	Yes
SN 1248817	Unknown	Yes
SN 1248829	82	Yes
SN 1248857	70	Lyman Peep (replacement)
SN 1248889	94	Yes

**SN 1244354.** The rifle is clearly marked as one marked and sold to the Massachusetts NG. The serial number early and in the 1244XXX to 1248XXX serial number area sold directly to the Massachusetts NG and has the barrel number (No."12"). It contains the name of "*Capt. Laughlin*" etched on the side of the magazine. Previous research has traced the rifle to Capt. James F. Laughlin, aka "*Jimmie*" a top-rated marksman on the 1922, and a member of the Massachusetts NG Team.

He tried out for the 1922 U.S. International Championship “Free Rifle” Team using the M1922, 24 inch HB “Match” rifle. Jimmie did make the Int’l Team the following year (1923) as a civilian in the co-lateral “Unlimited Series Service Rifle” match with an incredible 248 out of 250 score. USMAC No. 85 (July, 1998) also tells us that the **US Army Infantry Team** received a 10 rifle allocation of the Model 1922, .30 Cal. HB “Match” rifles shipped to them on June 16, 1922. This was likely a shipment to Ft. Benning, GA the home of the Infantry School of Arms in the 1920’s.

**Data Courtesy of Bill Hansen.** SRS has published this article with new photos and data from SRS files. The 1922 rifles are very rare in original condition. Some were rebuilt by Springfield Armory with 28 inch barrels. The original show has the original design of a 24 inch barrel. The workmanship, fit, and finish are the exceptional Springfield Armory quality.

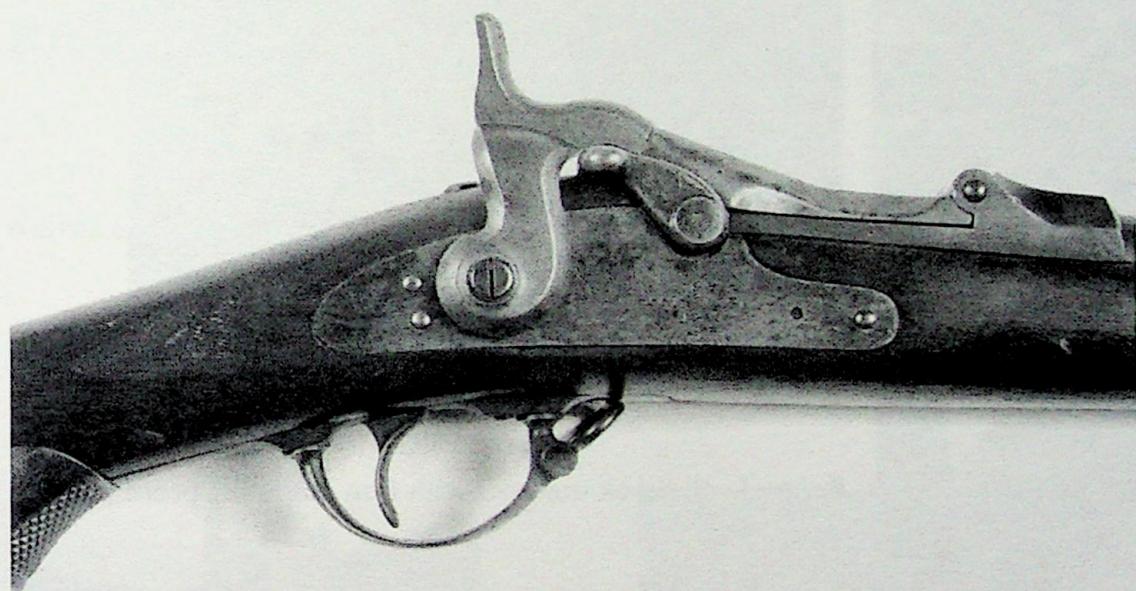
SRS research continues in this area and a review of Springfield records at the U.S. Archives and has found additional data that must be integrated into a more usable file. The data is fragmented and includes several small documents and several short notes that must be verified to get a better understanding of work in the 1920’s. We have also found a rifle with 24 inch barrel, different front sight, checkered stock and completely different butt plate assembly. We seek any new information on unique heavy barrel rifles from the 1920 to 1924 time-frame. SRS has maintained several copies of issues published in the past that serve as some of our reference points.

**Below:** The full- length photo of serial number 1244354 Model 199 .30 caliber rifle.



## SPRINGFIELD 45/70 TRAPDOOR RIFLE 1883 MARKINGS

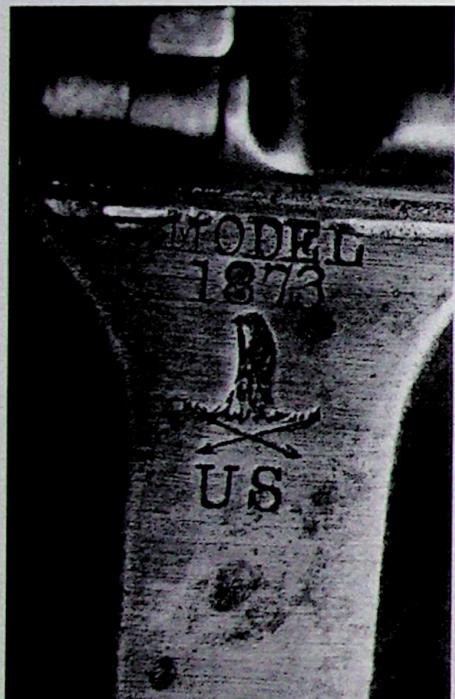
The 1883 Trapdoor is a custom rifle built on different models of U.S. trapdoor rifles. The lock plate is marked with American Eagle and U.S. markings with 1883 date. It was made by L. W. Tisdel of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Tisdel was a high-quality manufacturer of target and custom rifles in percussion as well as cartridge configurations. Tisdel built custom target and long range rifles with extraordinary cases and accessories. The rifles and shotguns included single shot swivel breech actions, side by side rifle and shotgun combinations, and modified U.S. military weapons. His quality was superb and his talents include his own designs of sights and the use of actions manufactured by other companies of the time.



**Above:** The trap door rifle shown has an 1870 receiver and corresponding 50/70 hammer with a Model 1873 45/70 breechblock and an early long wrist rifle stock. The early stock would have the narrow receiver channel and was fitted with the Col. Kelton metal checkered detachable grip. The rifle had a full length 45/70 Springfield Armory proofed and marked barrel with full length stock. The most vivid custom device was the rear and front sight of specific design by L. W. Disdel. It was a different design and had a sight base marked to 5 but a ladder assembly marked to 12 for long range shooting.

**Below Left:** Breechblock used was an early model 1873 with crossed arrows.

**Below Right:** Lock plate marked with American Eagle, U.S. Springfield 1883. The markings are excellent but appear to be hand stamped of good quality. It is not one of the old crude 1883 plates made up for early surplus dealers using rough quality for surplus sales. It is known and in SRS documents that test models (2weapons) of trapdoor rifles with a magazine in the butt were made for tests. No other data has been found on 1883 tests or markings.



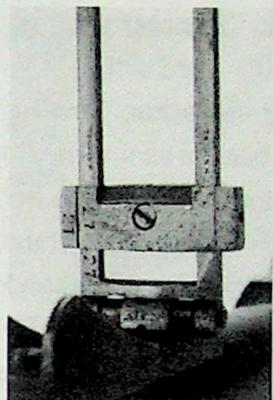
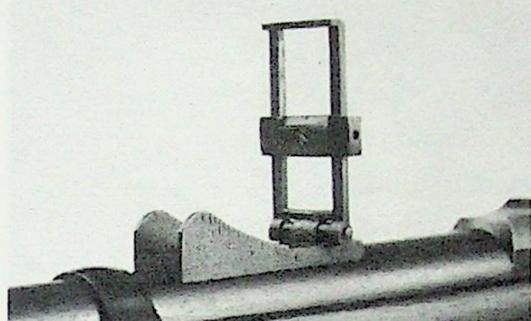
**Below Left:** Stock marked with P in circle for proof near metal grip.

**Below Right:** V, P, American Eagle head on barrel.

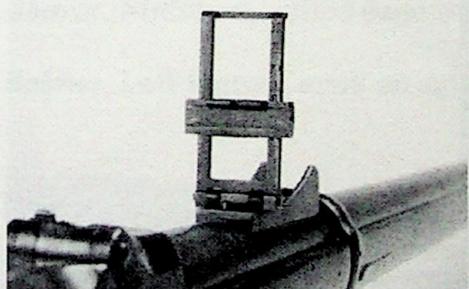


**Below Left:** Rear sight with elevator marked to 12 and unique base marked to 5.

**Below Right:** Rear sight marked number 27 and maker's name L W Tisdel. Screw setting for elevation.



**Below Left:** Rear sight with elevation to 12. **Below Right:** L.W. Tisdel marked sight.

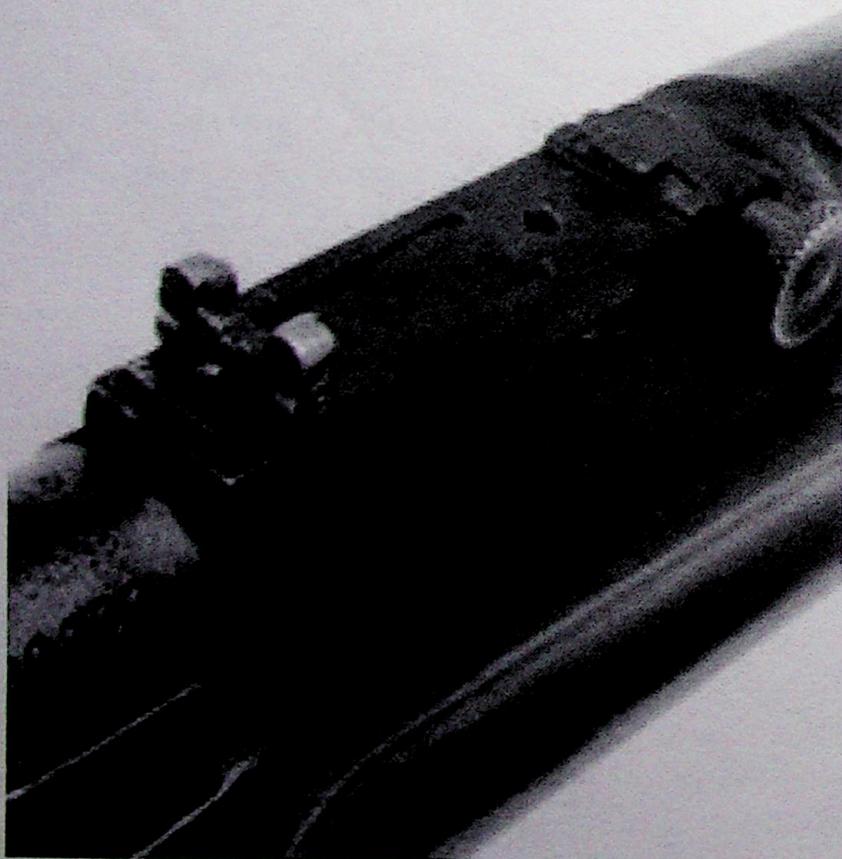


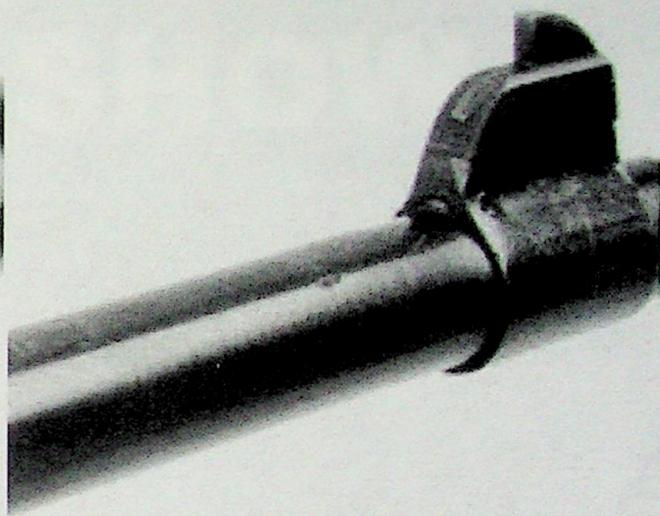
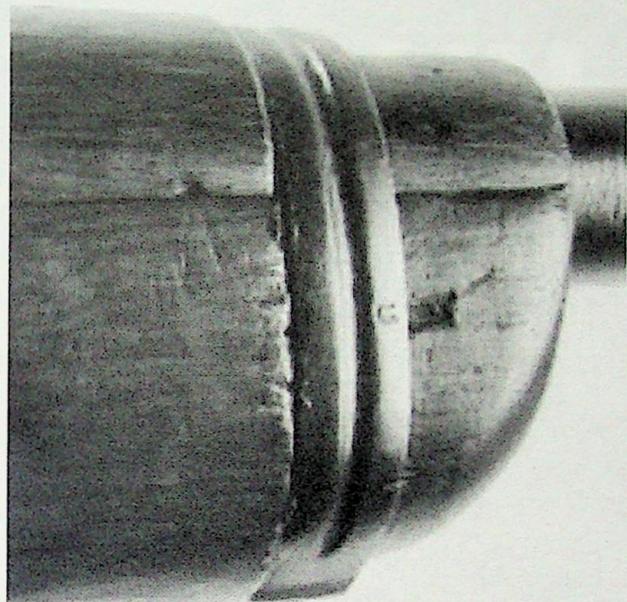
The caliber 45/70 trapdoor rifle (carbine ammunition chamber) was made by the excellent gunsmith L.W. Tisdel of Scranton, Pennsylvania. It is unknown if he made it for a customer or if it was submitted to Springfield Armory for test and an offer to sell his sights for long range shooting. There were many efforts for marksmanship shooting, custom rifles, and testing during the 1880's and 1890's. There were also many Springfield Armory tests of new sights and experiments. Extensive tests were made with Officers' model trapdoors made from 1866, 1870, and 1873 cadet and other rifles. There were also many sales of custom rifles made by Springfield Armory in this time frame. This example is a one- of- a kind manufacture of unique design for sights and unique use of military parts.

## MODEL 1903 SPRINGFIELD CALIBER .30 AIR SERVICE RIFLE

The Air Service rifle was a modified 1903 service rifle with original length barrel and major modifications to the stock, sights, and other parts. The stock was a standard 1903 finger groove stock that was shortened to just above the middle band. The special band was about 3/4 of an inch extended from the end of the middle band. There were no provisions for a bayonet, upper band, or lower butt swivel in the stock. The rear sight had extensive modifications that had a modified sight ladder cut at about a 500- yard setting. The ladder was cut away with only a small part left with no adjustments for elevation. The sight aperture area was machined to be fixed at about 100 yards. The middle band was a milled band with no provision for a sling swivel and was solid with a hole in the bottom of the band to be fastened to the stock. The screw was a Springfield type wood screw similar to the one on a standard butt swivel. The hand guard was shortened to match the same length as the modified stock. Military records show that Raritan Arsenal had reported that on June 25, 1925 a total of 137 Air Service rifles had been converted. The serial numbers of the weapons were in the 860,000 range in the April 1918 manufacture date. The front sights had both fixed base and blade replacements.

*Below:* Modified rear sight cut and finished with wind age knob. Screw held eye piece in place.

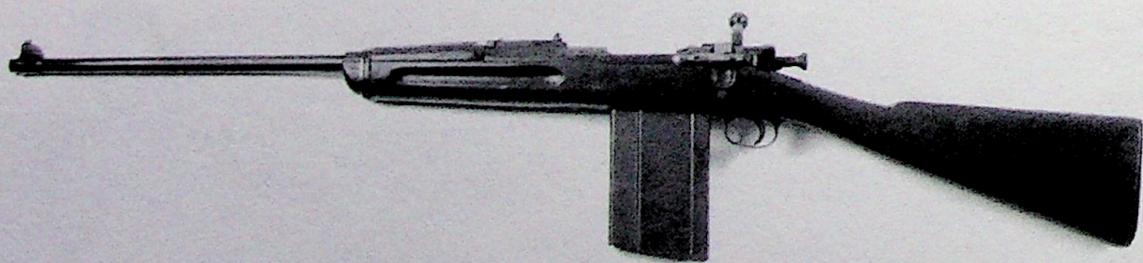




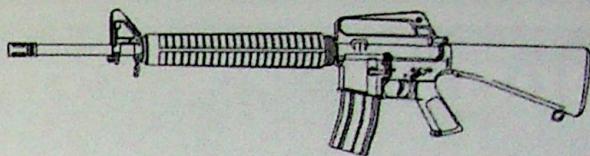
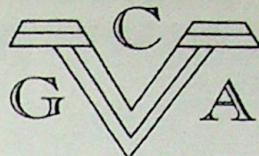
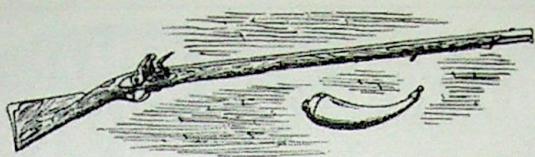
**Above:** Middle modified band with no swivel and front sight assembly.

**Below:** Left P proof mark on stock. Right side view with extended Springfield magazine.





**Above:** Top, Air Service receiver number 860920 U.S. Springfield Armory. Full length photo of Air Service with extended magazine, full length barrel, finger groove stock, no butt swivel, modified middle band with no swivel, two bolt stock, cartouche, modified rear sight, and shortened hand guard. A very rare gun in original condition.



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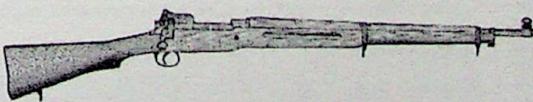
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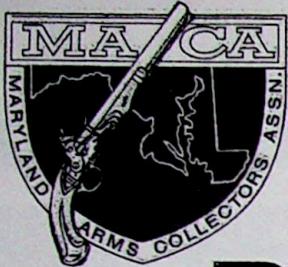
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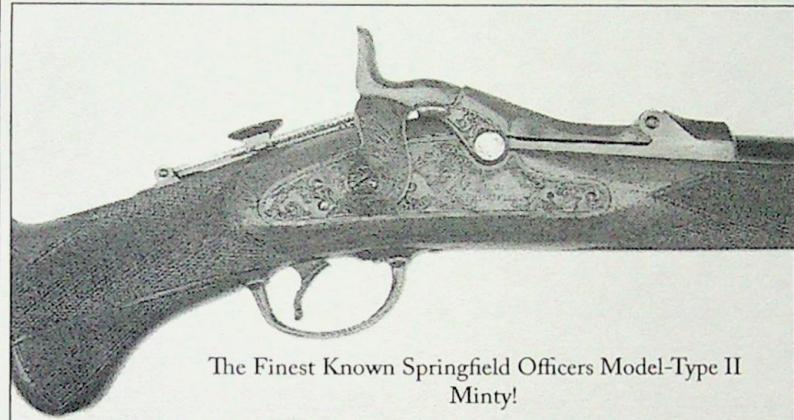


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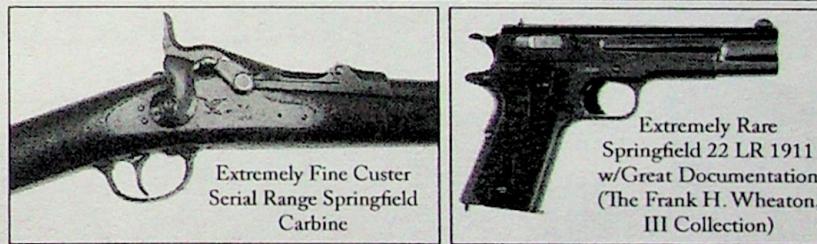
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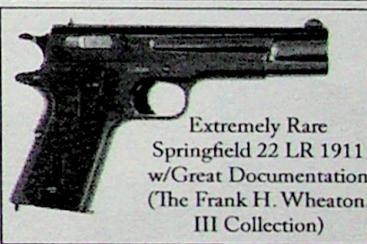
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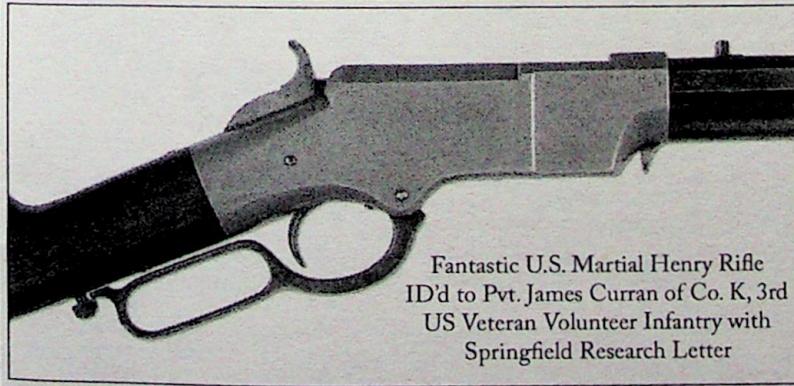
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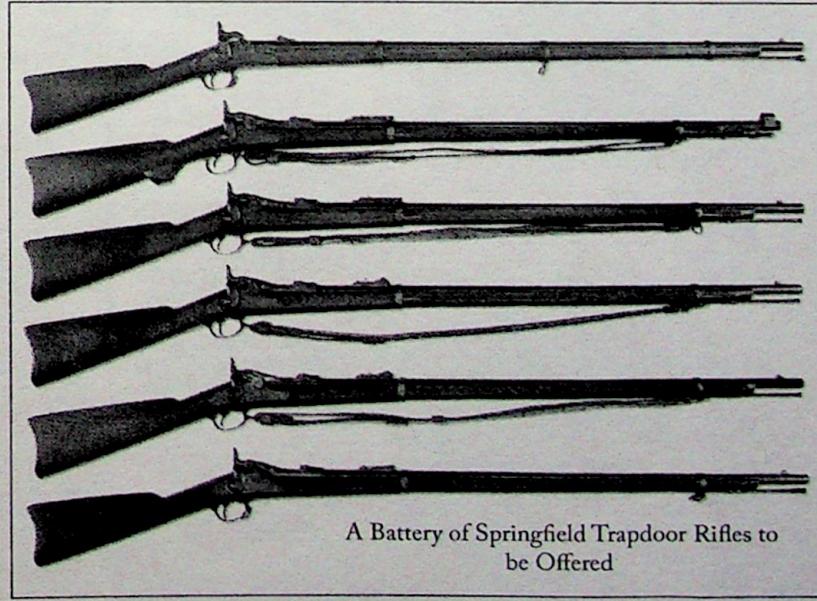
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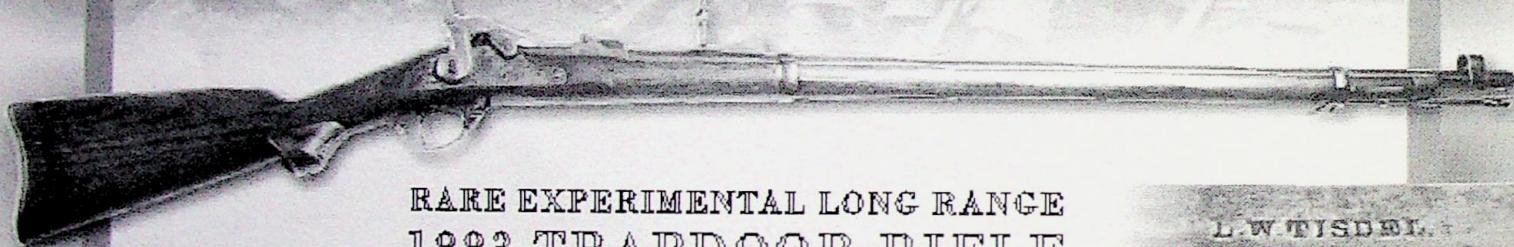
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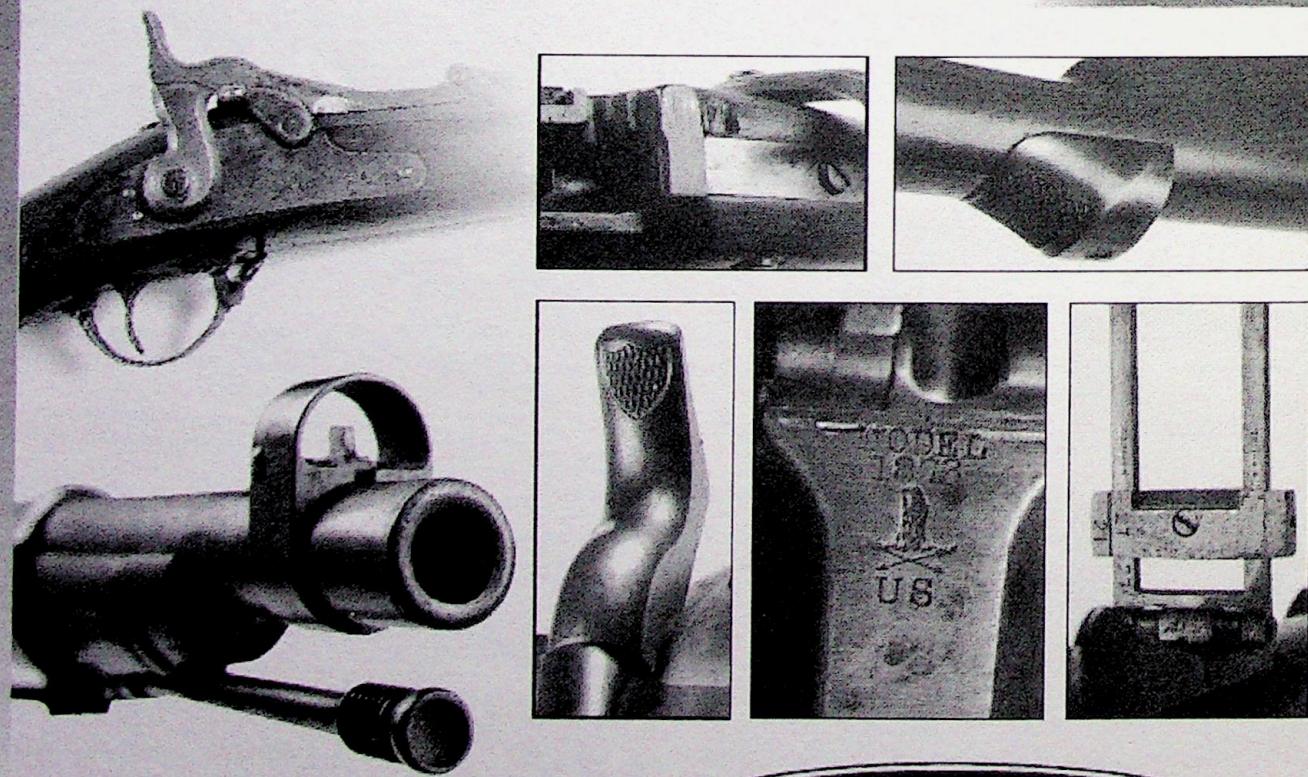
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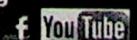
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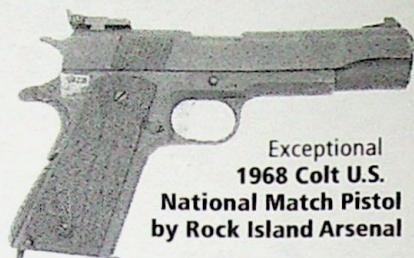
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# FINE MILITARY COLLECTIBLES AT AUCTION

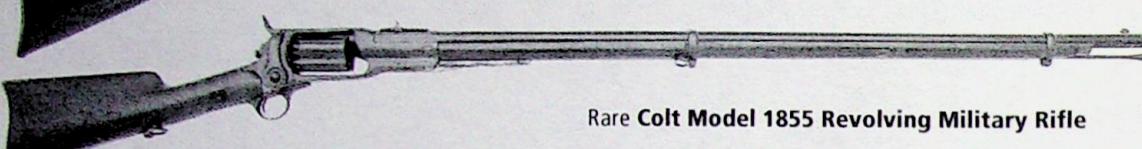
MARCH 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 • 9:00am EST



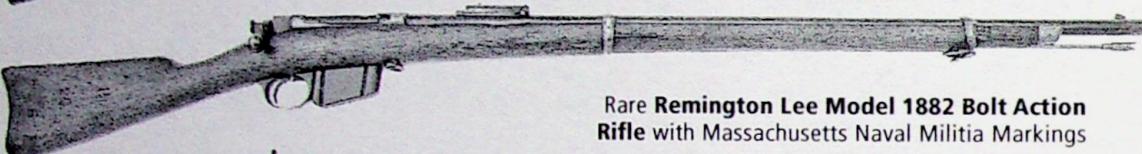
Rare Martially Marked **Henry Rifle** by New Haven Arms Company



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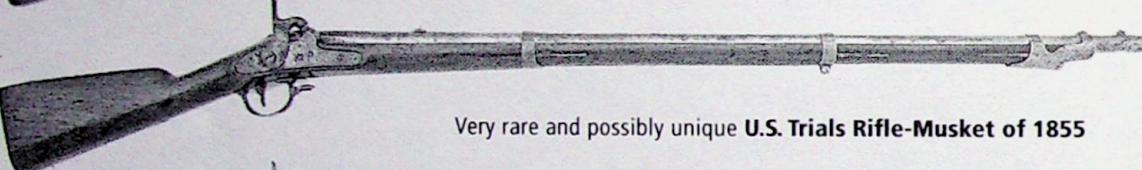
Rare **Colt Model 1855 Revolving Military Rifle**



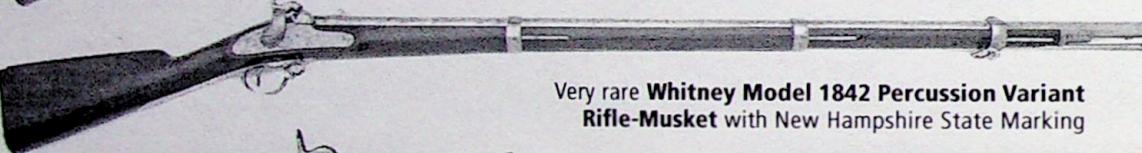
Rare **Remington Lee Model 1882 Bolt Action Rifle**  
with Massachusetts Naval Militia Markings



Minty U.S.  
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Semi-Automatic  
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Very rare and possibly unique **U.S. Trials Rifle-Musket of 1855**



Very rare **Whitney Model 1842 Percussion Variant  
Rifle-Musket** with New Hampshire State Marking



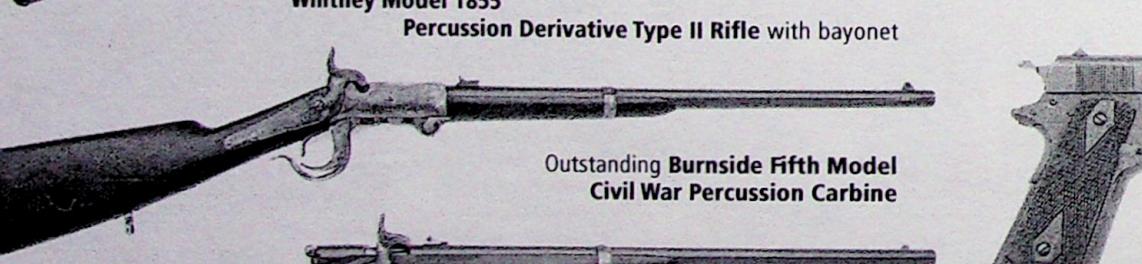
U.S.  
Model 1911  
Navy Contract  
Pistol by Colt



Extremely rare  
**Whitney Model 1855  
Percussion Derivative Type II Rifle** with bayonet



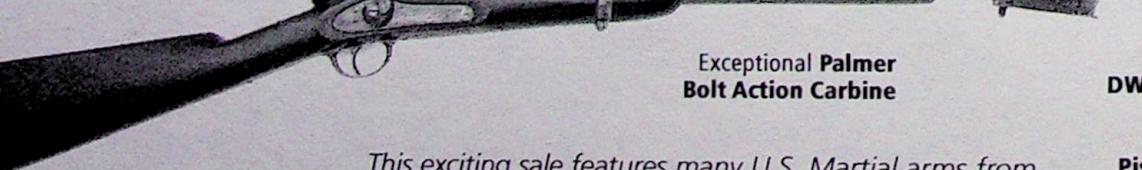
U. S. Model  
1911 Pistol by  
Springfield Armory



Outstanding **Burnside Fifth Model  
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