

U.S. MARTIAL ARMS Collector

and *Springfield Research Newsletter*



Number 151 June 2017

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U.S. MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR

And

Springfield Research Service Newsletter

Number 151

June 2017

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- 7 Letters Written and
Letters and Emails received and
answered**
- 10 U.S. Army Winchester 1875 Rifle**
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MISCELLANEOUS

SRS has researched several new areas that were started earlier and included extensive research in past years.

We have found more data on 1903 Springfields, 1911 pistols, Krag rifles, M1 Garands, and 1917 Rifles.

It was fortunate to find the serial numbers of 1903 rifles that were sent to TWA INC. Intercontinental Div. in documents dated February 24, 1943. The War Department warehouse (36th St. Base Ord.) shipped twenty- one 1903 rifles, with slings, case (oil and thong), front sight cover, and locker to Washington, D.C. We researched the serial numbers and found at a later date four of the rifles were used for other military units, with one being sold as a receiver. The owner of the receiver should be happy to hear that it was used for an international operation during World War II.

The serial numbers include:

813132
1006383
1054328
1052345
1298132
1055801
1300146
1324671
93747
1133229
10744
616151
41980
240536
3128085
906021
144062
1297886
1116610
721709.

We have not found any data on any special markings on the metal or stocks. There was probably some training or other data with the shipment as well as storage and maintenance information.

In past issues of U.S. Martial Arms collector we published data on modified short rifles used in Panama and also short rifles modified for military aircraft use.

The never- ending task of researching has provided additional data for the collector.

SRS has found additional data on weapons sent to the Headquarters Coast Defenses of Manila and Subic Bays dated October 26, 1921. These rifles and pistols include the serial numbers of many weapons that probably saw World War II action and possibly those lost before the Bataan Death March.

These weapons may have been part of the tough resistance by Americans and Filipino Volunteers. It may be interesting that many weapons are still in the Philippines and the subject of many stories and attempts to arrange their return to the United States.

Serial numbers (1903 rifles) include:

84127
31330
260915
115950
71275
192263
67646
104883
141832
196033
168201
270422

94993
277352
330432
101936
797
222379.

There are quite a few serial numbers of Rock Island and Springfield rifles in the master SRS data base. There are also numbers for 1911 pistols and other data.

An extensive list is being compiled for the rifles issued to the Fifty- Third Infantry in 1922. Correspondence includes the Headquarters reports from April 21, 1922 at 2nd Battery, Fort D.A. Russell, Wyoming.

The Headquarters, 43rd. Infantry documentation shows extensive information on weapons assigned on April 4, 1919. The weapons include Pistols, automatic Caliber .45 serial numbers serial numbers:

107771
100798
209597
109093
175259
209112

Also Rifles. (22 caliber serial numbers:

355976
586286
618197
357365
296899
436875

SRS will continue research in these areas as well as several other interesting times in our history. There are many areas of interest and we welcome all comments from our subscribers.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please send any corrections or updates of addresses to us at any time. We still receive returned mail with no way to find a new address. Postal notices may have no forwarding address.

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

Our policy of putting the number of the last issue of a subscription is working.

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 SRS documents that are out of stock.

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

CURRENT ISSUES

Issue number 151 dated June 2017 is current. Mailing data is sent to our printing facility for June 1, 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 June, September, December and March of each year.

There are four quarterly issues each year.

SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH LETTERS

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

Research letters include USMC letters, OSS documents, 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 7th Cavalry, Spanish American War, and other 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.

There are several areas of U.S. Archives documents that change with unknown new locations. Usually, the old locations do not retain a copy. It is a constant search.

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 data. A research letter requires us to travel to a government facility and request to search and retrieve the 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.
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 that can be brought out in our magazine.

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 weapon documents that come from sources that describe a weapon without a specific serial number.

We will be adding new serial numbers.

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

LETTERS FOR SERIAL NUMBERS RESEARCHED AND WRITTEN

Rifle, Henry serial number 700 issued in May 1865. Private John Lackey assigned to the Veterans Volunteer Company at Camp Stoneman, Maryland on April 20, 1865 was issued the Henry rifle. He was assigned to Company I, 3rd United States Veterans Volunteers, and enlisted on 27 March 1865. Private Lackey was 27 years old, 5 feet 10 inches, dark complexion, blue eyes, dark hair and born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was a rope maker and enlisted for 3 years. He was discharged on March 26, 1866 at Springfield, Illinois.

Pistol Smith & Wesson, American model serial number 1611. Shipped from Springfield Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts March, 1871.

Pistol Smith & Wesson, American model serial number 1301. Springfield Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts. March, 1871.

Pistol Smith & Wesson, American model serial number 1534. Shipped from Springfield Armory, Springfield, Massachusetts. March, 1871.

Pistol, Colt Single Action Army, issued to William E. Mahoney, Company F, 2nd Oregon Infantry in 1898, during the Spanish American War. Private William Mahoney was enlisted on May 2, 1898 in Portland, Oregon. He was 20 years old, 5 feet 4 1/2 inches in height, fair complexion, brown eyes, brown hair, and was an elevator operator from New York, N.Y. He was single and signed in by Mrs. R.E. Carney of Portland, Oregon.

William Mahoney was mustered out of service on August 7, 1899 at the Presidio, San Francisco, California. William E. Mahoney saw action in the Battle of Manila during The Spanish American War. In May 1898, the entire Oregon National Guard assembled at Portland's Irving Park, temporarily renamed Camp McKinley by Governor William P. Lord. The Second Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment was organized and used Originally they were first used in the 1870s to fight the Modoc Indians. The Second Oregon Volunteers spent twelve months in the Philippines, securing Manila before fighting against Filipino independence fighters. Sixty-one men died, disease accounting for more than two-thirds of

the fatalities. Three received the congressional medal of honor, the nation's highest military award.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. 30, Sporting Rifle, Number 1 273 413. Sold to Csear Rork, Augusta, Kansas. March 9, 1927.

Rifle, U.S., Cal. 22, M1922, U.S. M1, Number 8649 sold to Colonel John J. Dooley, New York, N.Y. February 1, 1928.

COLT Model 1860 Civil War issue Army revolver, serial number 1493, please be advised that the records of the U. S. Military, contain the data shown below on this arm. Pistol. Caliber .44 Colt revolver serial number 7493 issued to Private A. B. McAlister, Company D, 2nd West Virginia Cavalry November 1863. Private A. B. McAlister, 2nd West Virginia Cavalry was issued this revolver during the Civil War. This unit was active in a vast number of battles. Private Mc Alister was on active duty from 1861 to 1864.

McAlister was 21 years old, 5 feet 11 inches in height, light complexion, brown hair and brown eyes. He was born in Tyler County, Virginia and was a blacksmith. He enlisted on October 15, 1861

in Parkersburg, Virginia for 3 years by A. Hamilton. Rifle,

U.S., Cal. 22, M1922 M1, Number 19 360. Sold to A. G. Sabol, 930 Ohio Street, Lawrence, Kansas. April 22, 1933.

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 regular 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.

SHIPPING COMMENTS

We mail all magazines and letters by first class mail.

This is a result of time delays. US Martial Arms magazines and letters are mailed and normally are delivered by the U. S. Postal 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 uses Rackner Solutions. They can be reached at <https://racknersolutions.com> or contact@racknersolutions.com. We find that SRS must call on Rackner on a regular basis to keep up on changes and software intrusions.

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.

It is difficult to automate a changing system different inputs from government documents. Unique data may be of use in a very small number of cases and others are used continually.

We will try new camera techniques and scanning to keep up with publication issues.

This is supported with efforts by interested readers that provided results of personal efforts and research on their own time. This data was received by SRS and we hope that any interested readers will provide

comments and additions that allow us to provide data of interest to collectors and historians.

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 climate 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. There are narrow and broad interests 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.

LETTERS ANSWERED

Do you have any Luger records?

We have a few Luger trial gun records. We do not have records on Luger pistols or data on German units. Editor.

I have a Colt Model 1895 machine gun, where do I start looking for history and provenance?

This gun is transferable, Serial number 96, I'm sure it has been involved in a lot of history. Colt claims they have no record. *We searched and have no data on that serial number. We did find general descriptions of Colt machine guns in weapons produced in various fiscal years. Congress required data on all weapons that had expenditures for any reason. The data is only general and does not have any serial numbers. Editor.*

I own a Smith Carbine and would like to obtain a serial number letter. How best can I accomplish this ?

Subscribers to the US MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR and SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH NEWSLETTER can request an email serial number look- up at any time. We will answer and say if we have or can get the data . At that time a subscriber can order a letter with the information. Many letters can provide basic information that is available but a detailed search letter requires time, effort, and travel to complete information that may include name of unit and military personnel and possible military action. Editor.

My dad mentioned to me that you would offer a no- charge serial number lookup for a sharps carbine serial number to your subscribers. Right now I'm trying to figure out just what sort of information this might provide me. Do you happen to have a sample lookup report that I could preview? I'm trying to figure out what the difference would be between your lookup versus doing a search through Dr. Moore's & Dr. Labowskie's old Sharps records.

We provide that service to our subscribers. We cannot search other outside sources of information. SRS relies on government records from the military and the US Archives. Editor.

I was wondering how I might go about

researching the history behind my 1917 Springfield 30.06 that has military markings. I do have pictures of the rifle, serial number and the markings on the rifle and bolt. I was wondering if I would be able to find out if it actually saw combat action, and possibly the name(s) of the veteran(s) that may have used the rifle. Please let me know what I can do to find out.

We research the US Archives to find the type of research that you mentioned. It has taken us over 20 years. You can start at any US Archives centers around the country but it takes time. Editor.

I was intrigued by the wealth of Span AM Krag info you seem to have uncovered....to that point, do you have any info on Springfield Krag M1892 Serial number 3,091.

We searched and have no data on that serial number. Number 3079 issued to a Lt. in the Army. It was the closest but, no data on your rifle. Editor.

My rifle has a scope mount so probably not original. Odd that it is listed in the DCM sales book.

There are 3 different entries on that rifle. The documents show that there was no entry for a civilian sale. The Army used the rifle in as many as 3 areas. It was common for a rifle to be issued and re-issued to different military components and individuals. Editor.

Just following up on our conversation we had in Baltimore. SA 1903 # 1230432 is listed as 13th inf. and in the DCM sales book. Let me know how you think there is other data.

Could you also tell me if you have any info on SA 1903 # 1405389. Thanks.

It would take a major effort to search all of the records and it may result in data that is not more detailed. Many of the records that were made at other times at the unit level have never been recovered by the Army. No data on your other number. Editor.

To whom it may concern: I was doing some research on the internet and came across this email address. I have US Property marked Colt 1903 and I would like to know the cost for providing a research letter similar to the attached.

Please refer to attached data on Springfield Research Service. We provide that information to our subscribers. Thanks, Editor.

I just made a PayPal payment for a subscription. I would like to see if you have any information on a Maynard Carbine Serial # 5068.

We searched and have no data on that serial number. We have a limited number of documents on Maynard weapons. Editor.

I have added another Springfield Model 1922, (not M1 nor M2) but the first model with the double striker firing pin and longest magazine, to my collection. By any chance do you have any documentation on this Model 1922 Serial Number: 1050. My membership is current and again thanks for all the professional service and letters you have provided me to date. Best.

We searched and there is no data on number 1050. 1052 is the closest that we have. Your number is one of the guns that went back and forth from Springfield to the NRA and then to military use. Most of the documents at the NRA were never retrieved and many do not have the military issue information. There are many rifles that were issued to military units after they were sent back to Springfield Armory by the

NRA. Editor.

Editors Note:

We receive many letters, emails, and inquiries each week. We try to select as many as we can that may be of interest to our readers. We are always interested in our readers' comments and if any interests are received, we will respond in any way that we are able.

Collectors Notes For Issue 151

The following data was recovered from Record Group 391 at the U.S. National Archives.

1903 Springfield packing medium markings (found on an original packaged trigger guard). "1005-652-8180 GUARD 1 EA A 2-66 RK RGB QC".

Fort Logan, Colorado 1St Battalion, 53rd Infantry had on hand the following Model 1911, Colt Pistols on August 15, 1922. Serial number:

410200
145362
401979
522120
490010
207169
373206

Machine Gun Company, 48th Infantry, Camp Hill, Newport News, Va., January 20, 1918. The following Model 1903 Rifles were on hand. Serial number:

357663
15503
10988
157648

U.S. ARMY WINCHESTER MODEL 1895 RIFLE

By Marc Gorelick, VGCA & PACA, and Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal

The Winchester Model 1895 rifle was invented by John M. Browning for Winchester Repeating Arms Company. The Model 1895 was the first Winchester rifle to feature a box magazine located underneath the action instead of the tubular magazine design, which had been used on all previous Winchester lever action guns since the Model 1866. This allowed the rifle to safely chamber modern smokeless military and hunting cartridges with spitzer (pointed) bullets. The Model 1895 was the strongest lever-action rifle Winchester produced, designed to handle the increased pressures generated by the more new powerful smokeless powder cartridges that were replacing the old black powder cartridges.

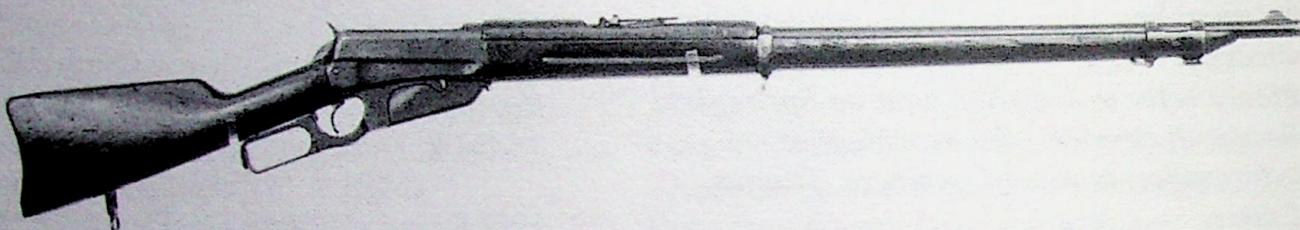


Fig. 1 – U.S. Army marked Winchester M-1895, S/N 17893. Photo: Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal.



Fig. 2 – U.S. Army marked Winchester M-1895, S/N 17893, left side. Photo: Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal.

U.S. War Department Purchase for Spanish-American War

In 1896 New York State was looking to reequip its National Guard with a modern magazine-fed repeating rifle and carbine. The New York National Guard was still equipped with obsolete single shot black powder Remington Rolling Blocks in .50-70. The state held trials that year and Winchester entered the Model 1895 (in .30US or .30-40) in the New York State Trials. Although the Winchester entry fared well, the state chose the Savage Model 1895. Winchester and others appealed the choice and in the end the state reversed its decision and did not pick a new rifle.

The outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898 found the United States unprepared to fight a modern war. For instance, there were too few modern small arms to equip all its troops. While regular Army units were armed with the new bolt action, magazine fed Krag Jorgensen rifles chambered for the "smokeless" .30 Army (.30-40) cartridge, volunteer units, and state militia and National Guard units sent to fight the Spanish were armed with obsolete single shot black powder .45-70 Trapdoors. Recognizing this problem, on May 3, 1898, about a week after the U.S. declared war on Spain, the U.S. War

Department bypassed the Army Ordnance Department and purchased 10,000 Winchester Model 1895 muskets in .30-40, the same cartridge that was used in the then-current issue M-1892/94/96/98 Krag Jorgenson Rifles. While the US military considered the guns "rifles", Winchester considered them as being of "musket" pattern. In the late 19th century the term "musket" meant a long infantry rifle with a stock extending almost to the muzzle.

These US contract "muskets" were 46 1/4 inches long and had the standard blued finish, 28" barrels, were fully stocked with a wooden handguard, with a double-strapped upper barrel band that carried a bayonet lug for Winchester's Model 1895 knife bayonet, and had military sights and sling swivels. The guns were stamped **U.S.** on the top of the receiver, above the chamber. They were inspected by US government sub-inspector Kelly S. Moore

(initials **KSM**), who inspected contract small arms circa 1893-1915, and whose mark can be found on everything from Colt Gatling Guns and 1911 pistols to Smith & Wesson M-1899 revolvers and Winchester M-1895 Muskets.



*Fig. 3 – Close up of the open action with lever down of US marked Winchester Model 1895, S/N 17893.
Photo Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal.*

The first 5,000 Model 1895s were delivered by the end of September, 1898, just weeks after the end of hostilities, as the war had officially ended on August 12. The balance of the rifles were delivered in January of 1899, but all of the US contract guns were produced before December 21, 1898, making them antiques.

U.S. Army Test and Trial

Although the rifles were delivered too late to be used in the war against Spain, there was fighting in the Philippines where they might be put to good use. With 10,000 newly delivered rifles on hand, officials at Springfield Armory decided to test the guns for their suitability for military service.

In January of 1899 the Model 1895 was compared against the Model 1898 Krag Jorgensen Rifle and the Model 1895 6mm Lee Navy Rifle. The goal was to determine if the lever action rifle could be loaded and fired as rapidly and accurately as the bolt action rifles then in service. In a comparison of number of rounds that could be loaded and fired accurately in one minute, the Lee Navy came in first with 36, the Krag second with 27 and the Winchester last with 20. In a two-minute experiment the Winchester fared no better, coming in last with only 25 rounds, while the Krag fired 39 and the Lee Navy 55! The stripper clip loading system of the Lee Navy gave it a distinct advantage when it came to loading a rifle quickly while its straight pull bolt facilitated speedy chambering and ejecting of ammunition. The testers found the Winchester fixed box magazine awkward and difficult to load, with the cartridges having to be loaded carefully one at a time, especially the last two rounds. The board also found the fit, finish and general quality of the Winchester Model 1895 was not up to the standards exhibited on the Krag and Lee Navy rifles, which would shorten the service life of the rifles. The testers also reported that the rear sight was poorly made, resulting in poor accuracy. The result of the testing was a January 21, 1896 Ordnance Board Report that found the Winchester Model 1895 unsuitable for military service.

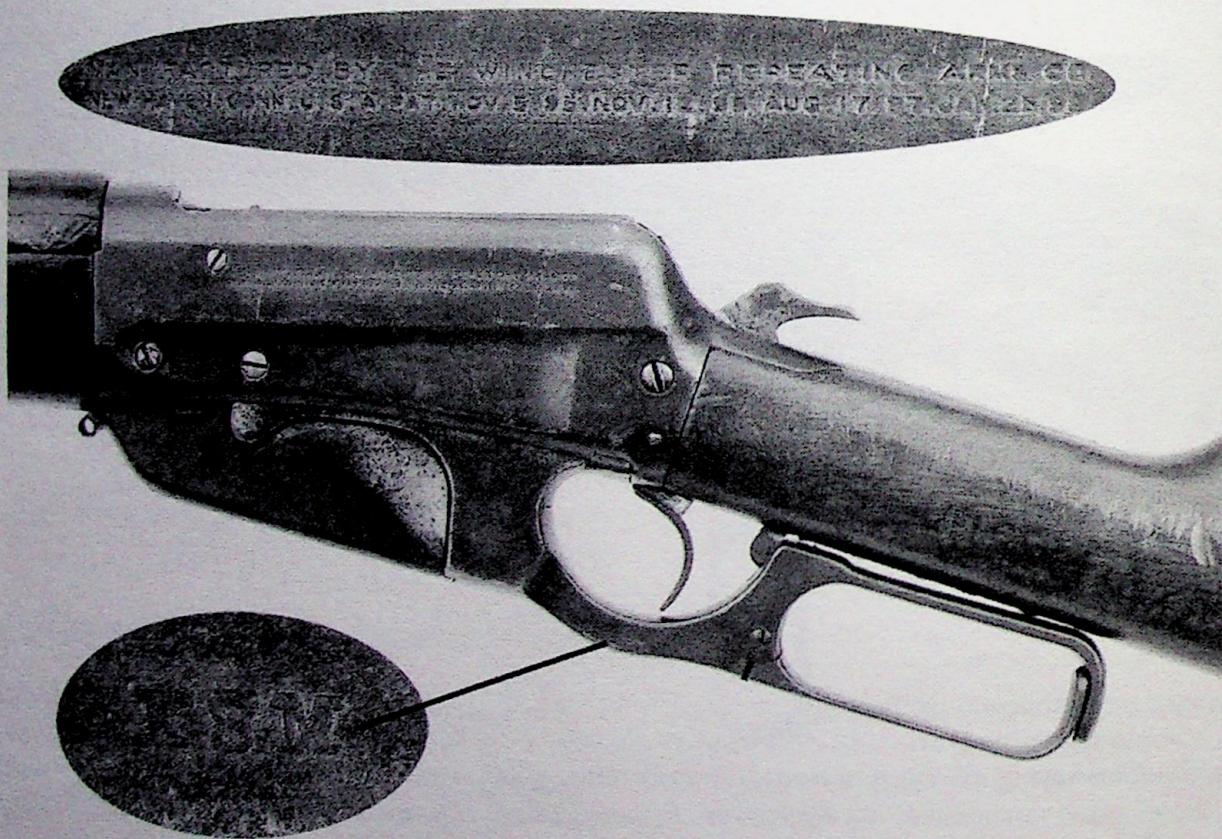


Fig. 4 – U.S. Army marked Winchester M-1895, S/N 17893, left side. Note the manufacturer's stamp on the receiver and the inspector's initials, KSM on the lever. Photo: Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal.

Despite this scathing review, 100 of the rifles were issued from the Benicia Arsenal to troops stationed in the Philippines for field trials. The guns were issued to the newly formed 33rd US Volunteer Infantry Regiment who would use them for the next few months in the field fighting Filipino insurgents. The rifles had the same problem in the field as they had in the trials, they were difficult to load quickly and effectively. This was the major complaint about the rifle from the troops who used it. As a result, commanding General Arthur McArthur, in his report on the combat use of the Winchester Model 1895 felt that the Krag was a vastly superior weapon.

He had the guns turned in and shipped back to the United States, where these 100 rifles were promptly sold as surplus to William Read and Co., a Boston based military surplus dealer. It is believed that Read sold them to the domestic civilian market.

Most of the remaining 9,900 Model 1895 rifles stayed in storage at Springfield Arsenal until 1906 when they were sold to the New York military outfitter M. Hartley Company (formerly the Civil War era firm of Schuyler, Hartley & Graham and later Hartley & Graham). Hartley sold the Winchesters to Cuba (the very country they had been purchased to fight in), and in the ensuing years the majority of them ended up being sold to Mexico. Many of them saw service in the Mexican revolution, including with Pancho Villa's revolutionaries, ironically in some cases being used against General John "Blackjack" Pershing's expeditionary forces during his punitive campaign in 1916, and against the US Army which had ordered them more than a decade earlier.



Fig. 5 – Mexican revolutionary General Emilio Campa and five lieutenants or bodyguards in 1912. Campa (center) is holding a U.S. Military Winchester Model 1895 musket. Two of his men have Winchester Model 1895 military carbines and one has a Model 1895 sporting rifle. The remaining two have Mauser bolt action rifles. Photo – US Library of Congress, Public Domain.

Description of U.S. Marked Winchester Model 1895 Rifle, S/N 17893

The U.S. Military Winchester Model 1895 Rifle (or musket) is a little over 42 inches long with a 28 inch round nickel steel barrel. It weighs about 9 pounds. It is chambered for the .30 US caliber (.30-40 Krag). The fixed box magazine holds 5 rounds. The front sight is a ramp style with a sighting blade pinned to it. The rear sight is the standard Winchester military musket style with gradations of 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, on the left side of the base, and gradations of 8 to 18 (1,800 yards) on the top of the slide. The rear sights are attached to the barrel with two screws. There are two barrel bands, both of which have sling swivels. There is also a sling swivel in the bottom of the butt.

There is also a "keeper eye" on the front of the magazine to which a sling swivel can be attached. The front barrel band has a stud for a knife bayonet.



Fig. 6 – Upper tang with WINCHESTER / MODEL 1895. Photo: Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal

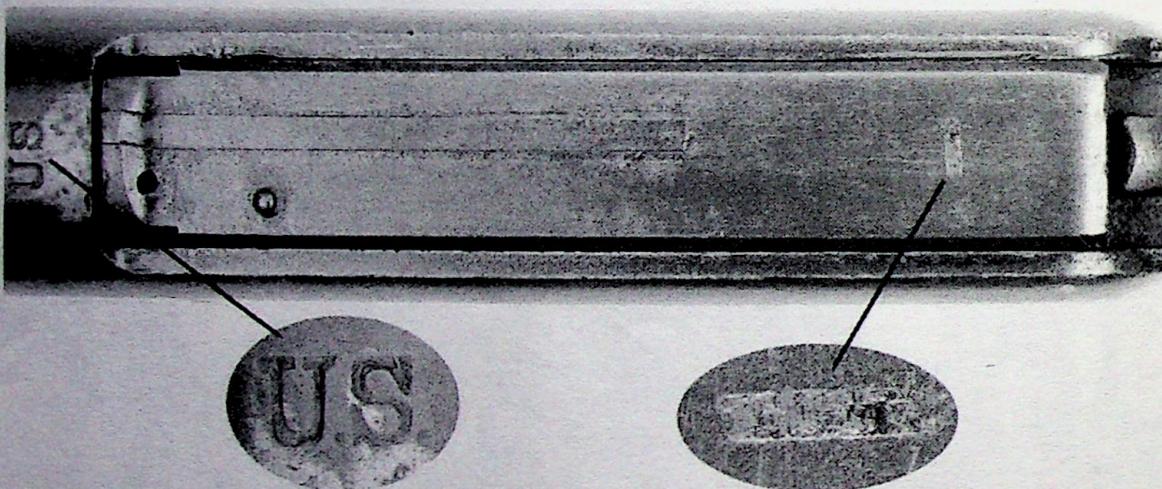


Fig. 7 – U.S. Army marked Winchester M-1895, S/N 17893. Note U.S. stamp on the receiver and the KSM inspector initials. Photo: Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal.

The example of the U.S. Military Winchester Model 1895 described here is in very good condition for one of these rifles and is solid and complete. The gun is serial number **17893** and was produced in 1898. Based upon its position in the serial number sequence for 1898 manufactured Model 1895s (serial numbers ran from #7815 to #19871 that year), this rifle was probably part of the second delivery of guns to the US military in January of 1899. The lower or triggerguard tang is marked with the serial number **17893**. The rifle is correctly marked with a large **U.S.** on the forward part of the receiver and the sub-inspection initials of Kelly S. Moore, **KSM**, appear on the left side of the lever and on top of the bolt. The breech of the barrel, under the handguard is correctly inspected **KSM** and also marked with the caliber designation **30 US**. Additional small inspection marks appear as well, including a **B** on the bottom of the lever and a **C** in the tang behind the trigger and serial number. These letters are the marks of the various Winchester craftsmen who worked on the gun or its parts.

The left side of the receiver is marked in two lines:

MANUFACTURED BY THE WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO
NEW HAVEN, CONN. U.S.A. PAT. NOV. 5. 95. NOV. 12. 95. AUG. 17. 97. JAN. 25. 98.

The breech tang is marked in two lines:

- WINCHESTER -
MODEL 1895

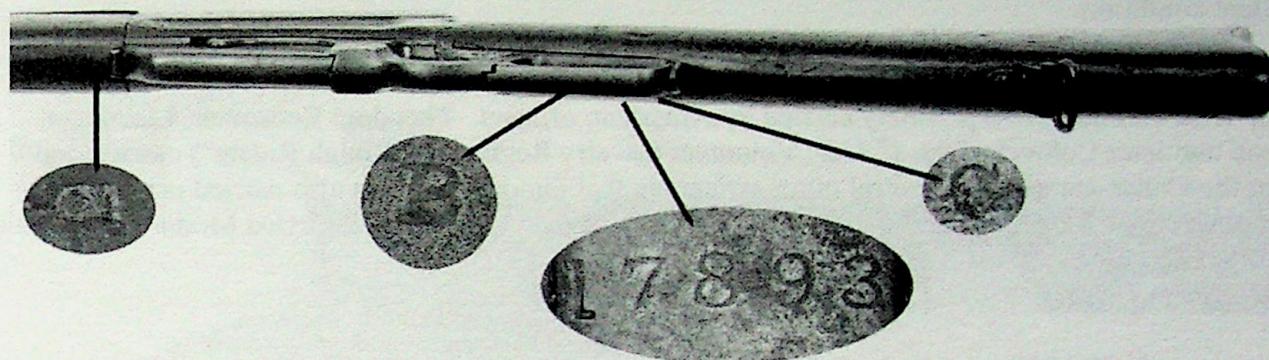


Fig. 8 - U.S. Army marked Winchester M-1895, S/N 17893, bottom view. Note the location of the sub-inspector stamps and serial number. Photo: Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal.

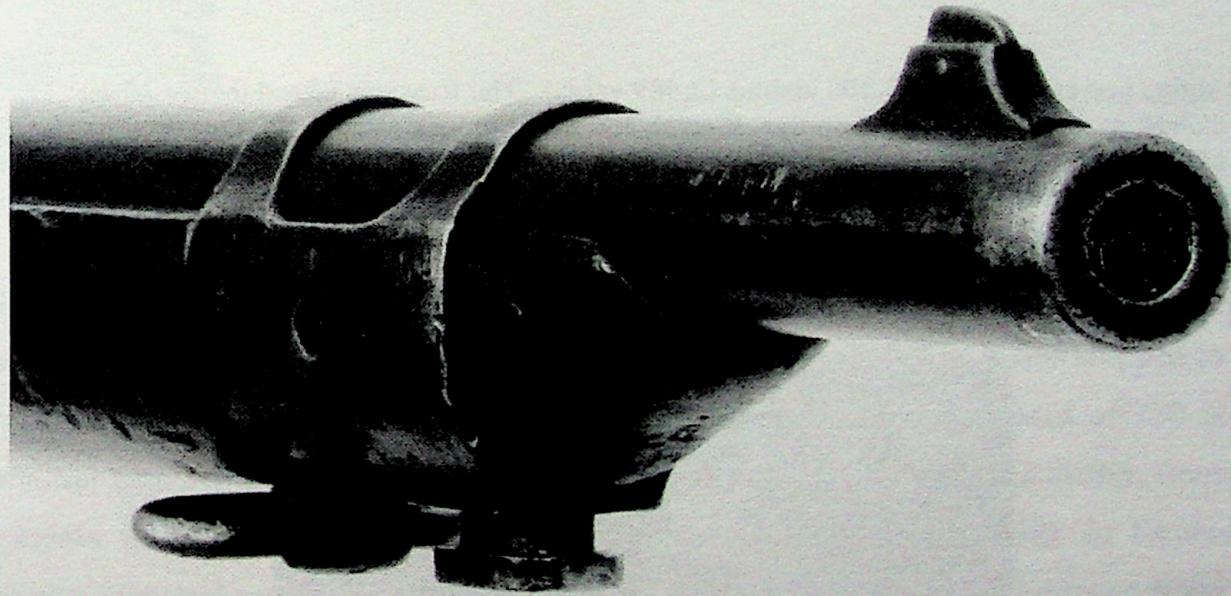


Fig. 9 - U.S. Army marked Winchester M-1895, S/N 17893, muzzle and front barrel band with bayonet stud. Note the ramp front sight with pinned blade. Photo: Tim Prince, College Hill Arsenal.

The bayonet was manufactured by Winchester and is similar to that of the Winchester-Lee Model 1895 Navy Rifle. It is almost 13 inches long and the standard length of the knife blade is about 8 1/2 inches. The words **WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS CO.** are stamped on the front of the crossguard. It has been reported that only 100 were made for trials in the Philippines, making this bayonet a rare find for the collector.

U.S. National Guard and Volunteer Use

Some states, including Colorado and Kentucky, appear to have made separate purchases of Winchester Model 1895 rifles (muskets) and carbines in order to arm some National Guard units. Winchester Model 1895 muskets marked **NATIONAL GUARD OF COLORADO** on the right side of the receiver will occasionally be on the market. They also have sub-inspector Kelly S. Moore's initials, **KSM**, stamped on them. Although some of the serial numbers overlap with the U.S. Army's Model 1895's most appear to be higher than the army's range of serial numbers. The Colorado Model 1895s are often found in excellent condition.

Although the military rifle did not see any use during the Spanish-American War, some Winchester Model 1895 carbines were privately carried by American officers. Theodore Roosevelt, Lieutenant Colonel and later Colonel of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment ("Rough Riders") carried one during the Cuban campaign. Several other officers in that famous regiment also carried privately purchased Model 1895 rifles and carbines. Texas and Arizona Rangers also carried Model 1895 carbines.

Other Military Users

Winchester sold 300,000 modified versions of the Model 1895 muskets to Imperial Russia for use in the First World War. These guns were chambered for the Russian 7.62x54mmR cartridge, had a charger guide, allowing the M1895 rifle to be reloaded by the same charger clips used in the Mosin-Nagant bolt-action rifle and could take a bayonet.

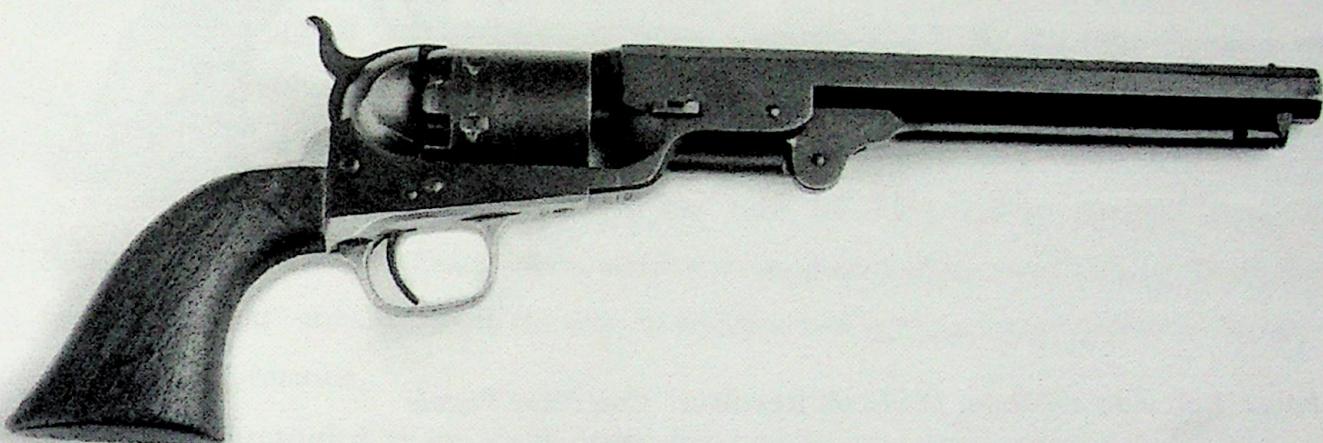
The rear sights had gradations to 3,200 arshins (2,489 yards). The Russians issued them to front line Russian troops, as well as Latvian, Estonian, Finnish and East European troops fighting for the Czar. The Russian Model 1895 also saw service in the Bolshevik Revolution on both the Red and White sides, the Finnish Civil War, the Latvian and Estonian Wars of Independence, and the Polish-Soviet War. During the Spanish Civil War the Soviet Union shipped thousands surplus Winchester Model 1895s to the Spanish Republicans. And ironically, Finland put the Russian Model 1895s to good use against the invading Soviet armies during the Winter War (1939-1940) and Continuation War (1941-44).



Fig. 10 - Latvian troops during the Russian Revolution with Winchester Model 1895s.
Photo - Author's Collection.

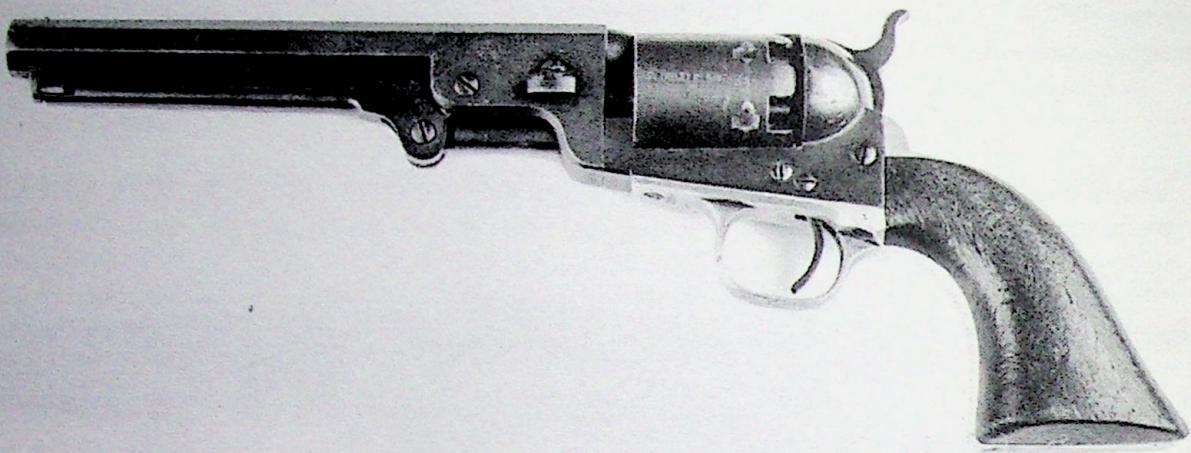
A Kentucky Colt Navy - Which Side Was It On?

John J. Kudlik



Antique arms gain in interest when they can “speak” of their role in history. Colt Navy revolver number 107584 is holding on to some secrets but factory records tell us it was shipped to George D. Prentice of Louisville Kentucky in July 1861. It was one in a shipment of 150 Navies, a significant quantity at a time when quality arms were becoming difficult to obtain. Prentice was the highly influential editor of the *Louisville Journal*, an opinion maker in Kentucky and throughout the mid-west. He was pro-Union but urged neutrality for Kentucky given the divided sympathies of its population as the Civil War began.

So why 150 Colt revolvers? Tensions were high in Louisville in the summer of 1861. It was a strategic transportation - manufacturing center in a border state coveted by northern and southern interests. Kentucky’s public policy was neutrality but by the time the war began factions were arming supporters. No sooner than Prentice received his revolvers an advertisement appeared in his newspaper. *Colt’s Navy Pistols*



Above: Left side of Model 1851 Colt Revolver. *Colt Navy Pistols*

"If any good Union men (no others need apply) want a few first class navy pistols at much less than the ordinary rates, we may make a suggestion for their benefit – if they come to us soon."

The motives were a mixture of patriotism and profit as the front office of the *Journal* became a sales center for Navy Colts. The following year Prentice would begin selling Henry rifles as well. The manufacturer presented him with an engraved example (serial number 19) which he enthusiastically editorialized as "*the simplest, surest and most effective weapon we know of.*" He soon received a shipment of 280 rifles in an arrangement offering personal profit with each sale. Prentice was by no means the only arms agent in Louisville but advertisements from competitors ceased to be published after he entered the trade. Across the border, an interesting item appeared in a Nashville Tennessee newspaper.

On September 28, 1861, weeks after his Colts entered the market: "It is well known that Mr. Prentice while calling down vengeance on the smugglers and traders with the South, was conniving at the sale of pistols to the rebels...many of the pistols put into his hands for "good Union men" are now in the hands of brave Confederates."

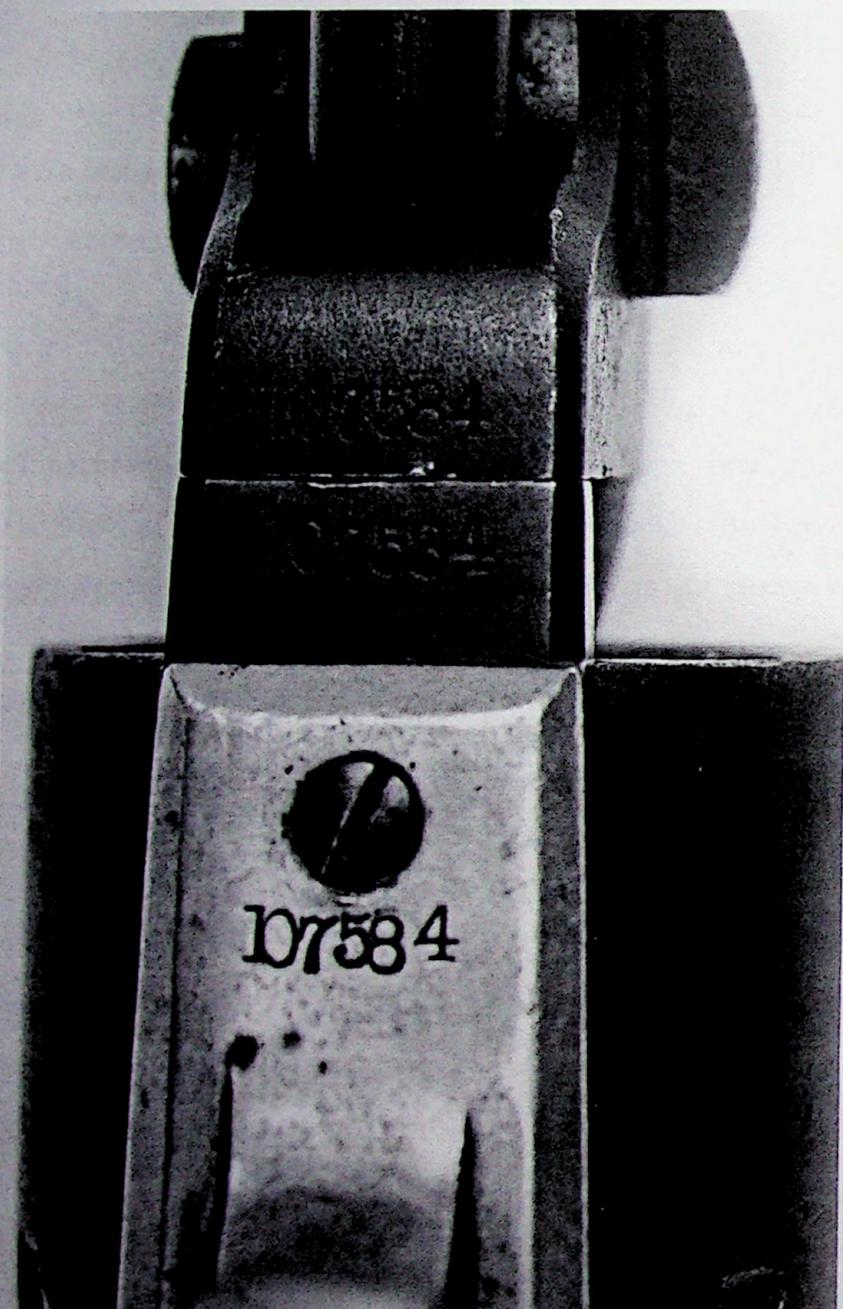
The *Springfield Research* data base lists 71 Colt Navies issued to "McClellan troop" of the 5th

Tennessee Cavalry Battalion CSA in August of 1861. Navy number 107584 - is sequential to 107583, one of those issued to the McClellan Troop. Sequential numbers are not conclusive proof these two revolvers arrived together in the Prentice shipment, but whatever it may imply, ten of the Colts McClellan Troop received had serial numbers in the same 107000 range. The Nashville article accuses Prentice of covert arms transactions. If true, that would have been of huge significance given his public status. But there may be another explanation how his revolvers began to appear "in the hands of brave Confederates." At the time Prentice was advertising Navy revolvers for "good Union men," Colonel Nathan Bedford Forest advertised in *The Memphis Avalanche* for 500 men to serve under his command. For those who could not supply themselves equipment was promised. On July 20, 1861 Forrest entered Louisville incognito and purchased Navy Colts, sabers and horse equipment at his own expense. There were a number of "neutral" arms agents in the city, in addition to Confederate sympathizers happy to furnish aid and information.

This incident was recorded in the Confederate Veteran Volume V, published in Nashville in 1897. While Nathan Bedford Forest was raising volunteers in Kentucky for his cavalry: "he took four or five (men) and went to Louisville, where he bought about 300 Colt's navy pistols." One participant remembered: "Colonel Forest had us busy carrying coffee sacks filled with navy pistols and equipment on our shoulders...until we had filled four wagons. When all was ready we start out...when we had gotten five or six miles out of the city one of the rear-guard came galloping up and reported that the Louisville mounted police were after us. We formed across the pike to await the charge of the police. That was my first line of battle (but) hearing nothing, we moved on." His embolden reaction was: "two Navy pistols, a saber, saddle, bridle, etc. immediately issued to each man...I thought armed and equipped "Boone's Rangers" ought to go back, take Louisville and then Cincinnati."

In 1861-1862 northern and southern interests were in hot competition over the fate of Kentucky. Quality arms were in demand and Louisville provided purposeful or accidental suppliers to Confederate interests. From a Union perspective George Prentice demonstrated ineptitude when it came to the disposal of arms.

During the late summer of 1862 Louisville seemed in peril of southern attack and he hastily dumped his inventory of Henry rifles below cost to prevent their loss.



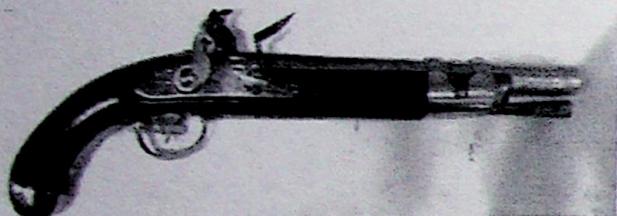
His explanation was a wish to equip a citizen home guard. Despite the "for good Union men only" proclamation, in the confusion destination control was lost. Elements of the 1st Kentucky, the 5th Tennessee and other regional CSA cavalry units were among the recipients and Prentice among the unwitting suppliers.

It would be fascinating if Colt Navy number 107584 was one of those secreted out of Louisville during Nathan Bedford Forest's "coffee sack" expedition in 1861. Timing of events as well as serial number range makes it possible, but not definitive. As one of the Colts in Prentice's personal inventory it is definitely emblematic of the chaotic scramble to arm Kentucky during the earliest days of the Civil War.



SPRINGFIELD MODEL 1817 FLINTLOCK PISTOL

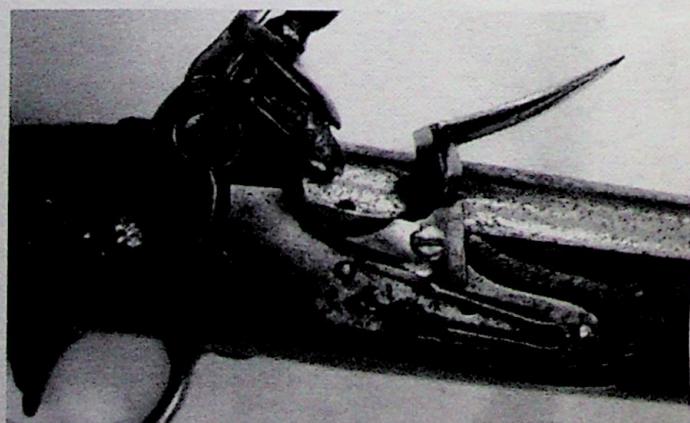
The model 1817 Springfield was .69 caliber manufactured by Springfield Armory from 1817 to 1818. One thousand of these heavier pistols were manufactured. The model 1807 was the start of this type of single shot handgun of .69 caliber. There was approximately 10 years in difference from the end of the Model 1807 manufacture that ended in 1808 and the start of the 1817 production that ended in 1818. The pistol was large with a heavy 2- strap front barrel band, black walnut stock, and brass front sight. All fittings were bright steel. There was a hickory trumpet style ram-rod with a slotted iron ferrule. Markings on the stock included Russell Curtis (RC) the stock maker and John Newbury (JN) the inspector.



Left: Full length pistol.



Left: Lock with Springfield Armory on two lines and 1818 date on third line. The American Eagle head (rear looking) in front of cock on steel bright lock plate. The one piece trigger guard with butt strap and trigger are shown above the rear pointed section of the lock plate.

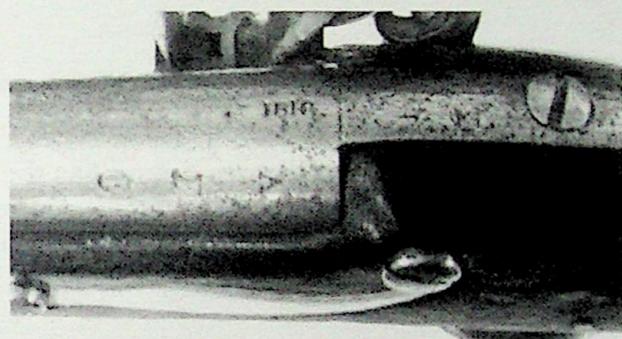


Above: Right side of lock.

The lock plate has the American Eagle, the gooseneck cock, finial with a point, frizzen spring and frizzen. There are variations in some of these parts.

Many of the parts were from the original 1807 production, and they were stored and used with new parts to complete the 1000 production number. The three pound, 4 ounce pistol was quite heavy. The weapon was 17 1/2 inches long and actual issue and use are not totally known.

Below: The barrel markings include the sunken P (proof), the Eagle with right look, the V and the 1818 date that is centered in front of the iron tang. The wood screw was used from the grip cap to the butt. A metal screw was run from the barrel tang to the trigger guard bow. There was a second wood screw through the grip strap.



Below: The mark on the stock near the right lock screw head is unknown in the SRS files. Comments are welcome. There is a C on grip of stock near the end of the trigger guard.

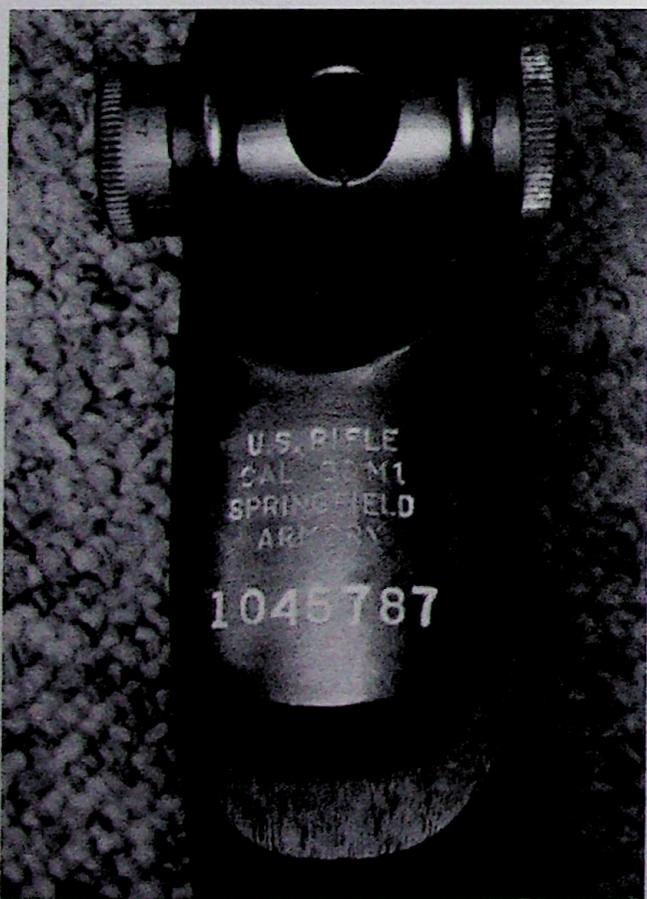


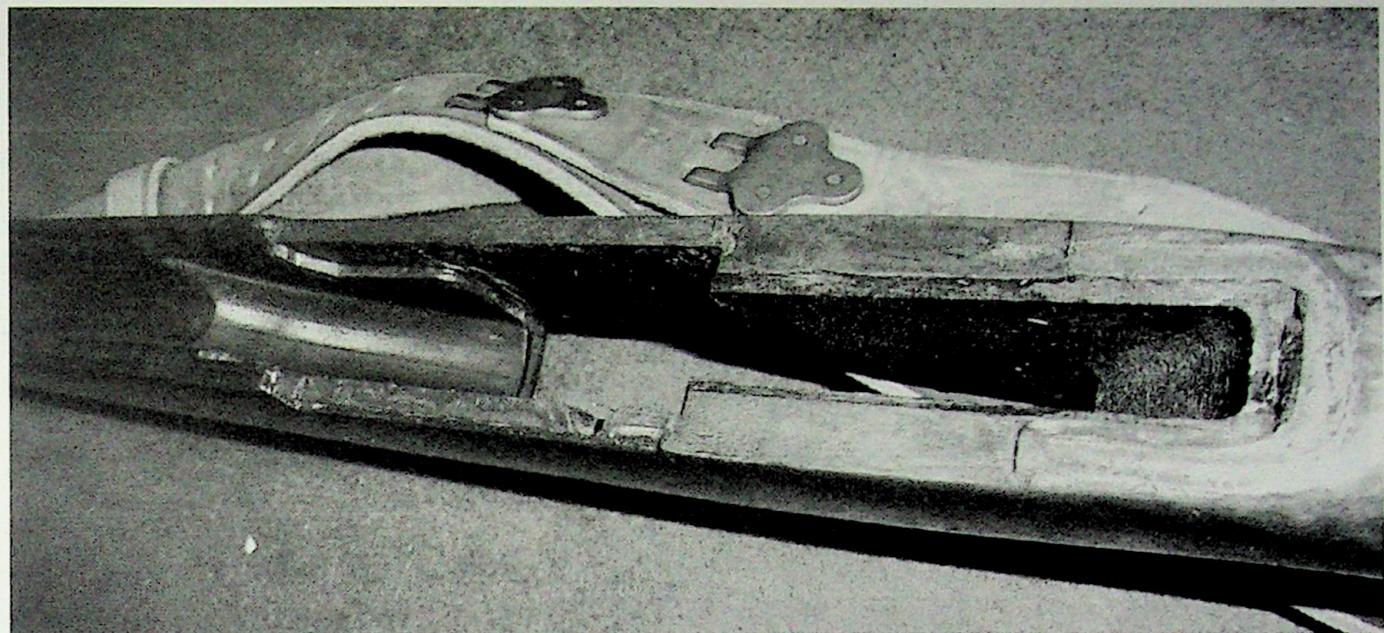
National Match M1 Rifles

The U.S. Army Ordnance Department manufactured 800 M1 rifles for Camp Perry, Ohio to be used at the National Matches. It is believed that in 1953 the Army resumed the match efforts after the late 1930s. National Match rifles were needed for the Matches and the M1 replaced the M1903A1.

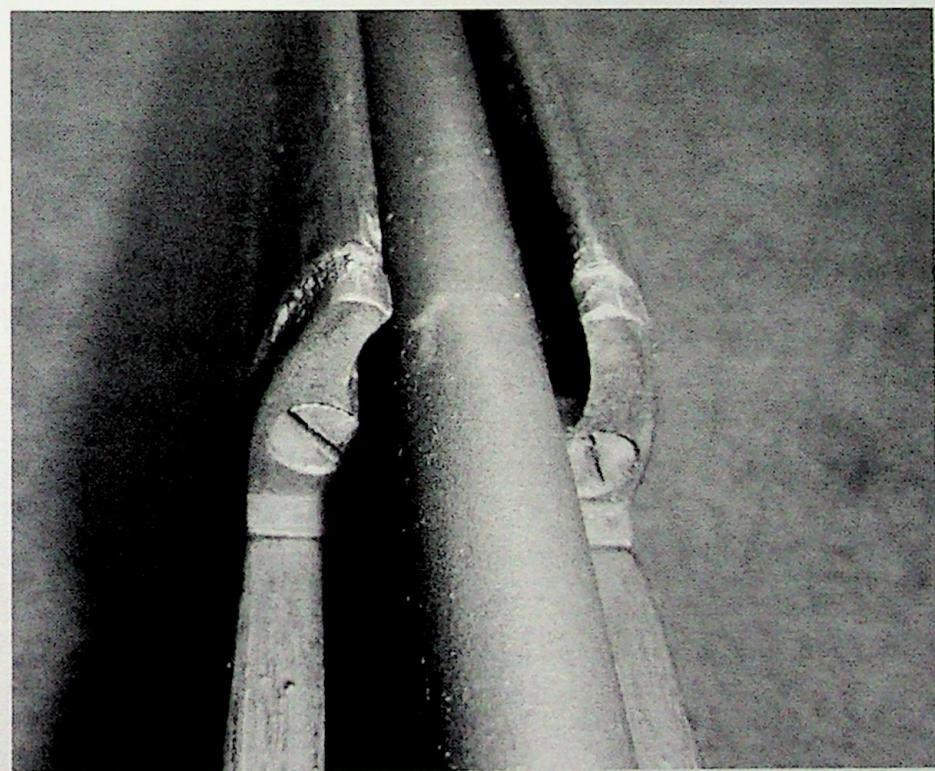
SRS has found other data that shows that 400 M1 Garand National Match rifles were made for the 1940 National matches. SRS has not located or has data on an original 1940 National Match rifle and it is believed that all were converted to standard rifles for WWII. There will be an effort to research the 1940 National Match and it will be printed in a future issue of US MARTIAL ARMS COLLECTOR MAGAZINE. The data will include the documents for the program.

The Garand rifle shown is serial number 1045787 manufactured by Springfield Armory. The rifle is usually described as a National Match with parts marked NM and custom fitted barrel, stock and fittings. The National Match rifle number 1045787 shown below has the hooded type NM rear sight.

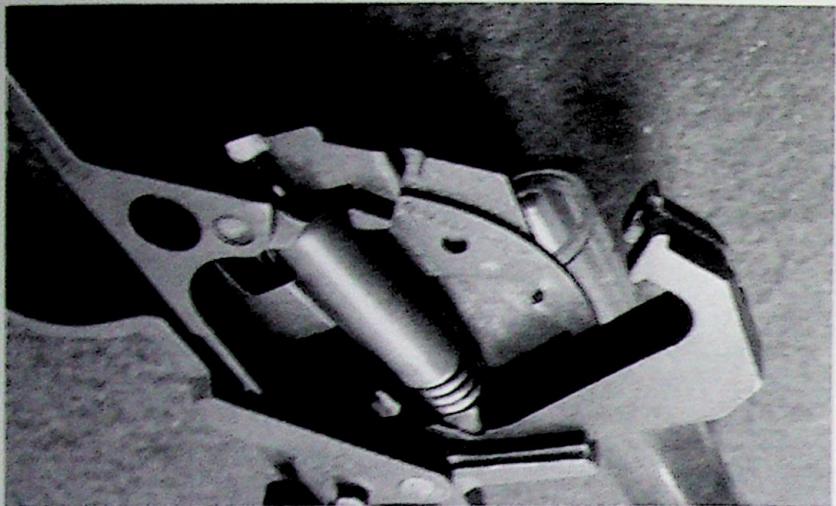




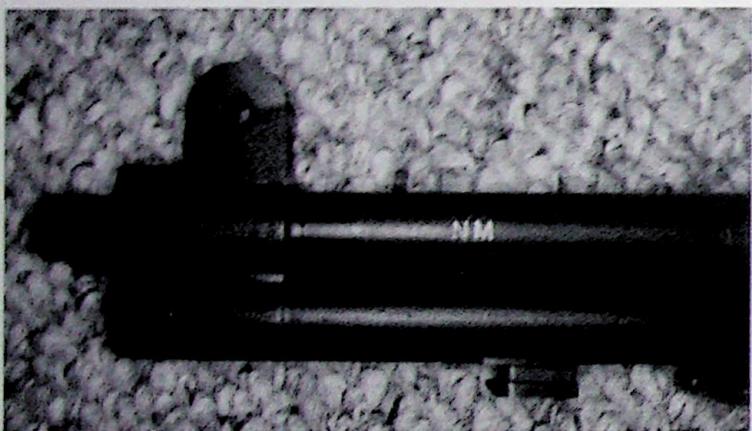
Above: National Match stock assembly with glass bedded area for custom fit to receiver.



Above: Walnut hand guard with metal attached by 2 wood screws.



Left: Trigger guard assembly
and drawing number
C4601-9SA.



Left: NM Gas cylinder.

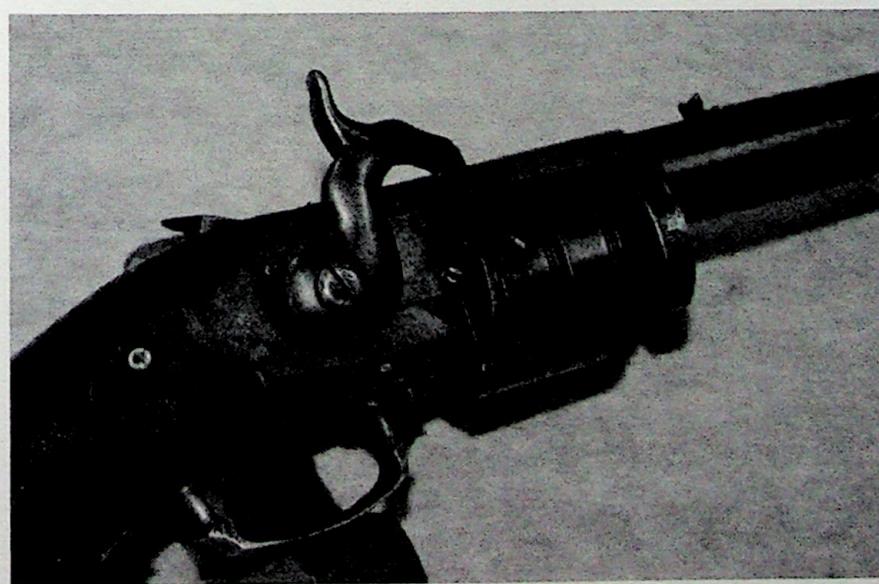
There are several variants of National Match M1 rifles. The types after the 1940 model are often called Type 1 or Type 2 by collectors and were custom made from service rifles. The NM markings for National Match was used on the barrel and other parts. Serial numbers are in a wide range and known barrel dates are in 1953 and 1956. During the M1 National Match rifle's service, specialized parts, including the hooded rear-sight apertures and glass-bedded stocks were used. Springfield Armory used available receivers and new-production receivers to assemble National Match M1s. The last Springfield Armory-made National Match M1 rifles were made in 1963. However, it appears that there were quite a few variations. One of the SRS staff was issued a USAF Premium grade NM rifle in 1963. It was made by a USAF facility in Texas. It is not easy to verify a NM rifle as genuine without accompanying government documentation. Many rifles have documentation by the Army. There are many NM rifles that are original and several efforts have been made to locate the serial numbers. The Army has not released these documents and it appears that they will not be made available.

NICHOLS & CHILDS REVOLVING RIFLE, CONWAY, MASS.

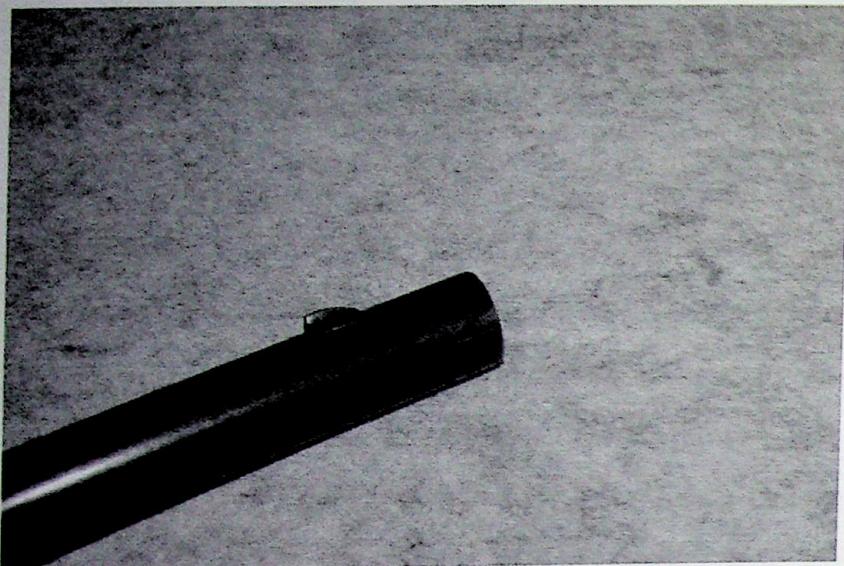
The Massachusetts revolver is one of the rarest patented revolving rifles in the United States. It was patented in 1838 before the Colt revolving rifle. It has no forend, a cylinder with nipples mounted to the side, and ornate patch box with silver deer and bird ornaments. Pistols were also made and estimates of total production are about 75.



Above: Left side with company markings, no forend, cylinder and lever to force cylinder to barrel for firing



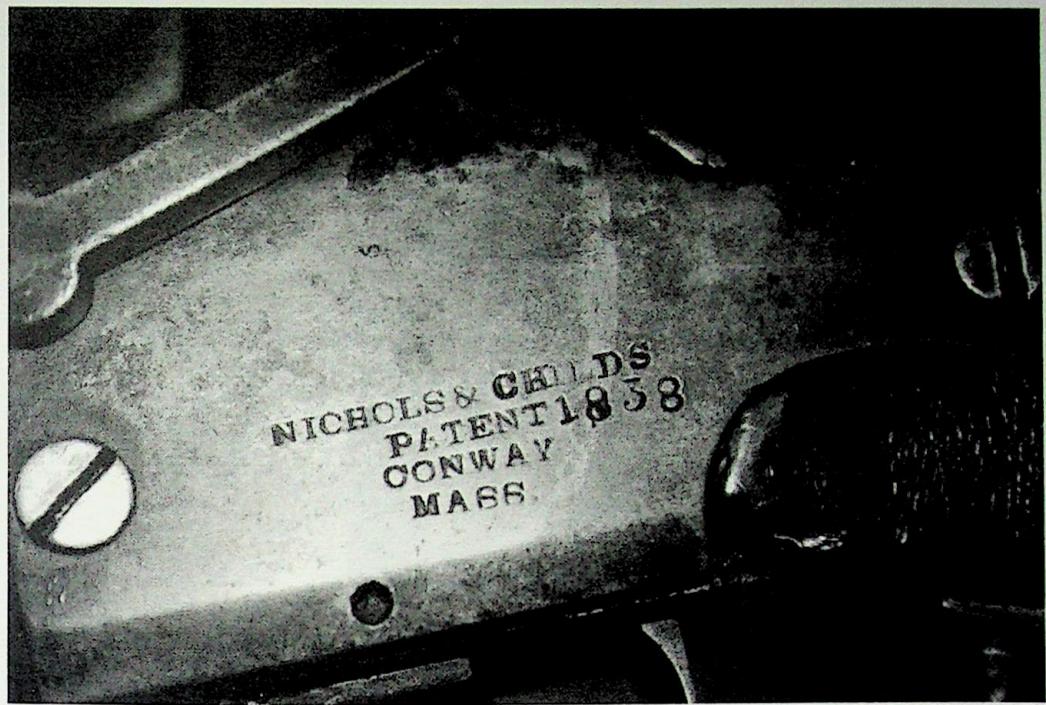
Above: Right side with hammer, trigger guard, cylinder away from barrel.



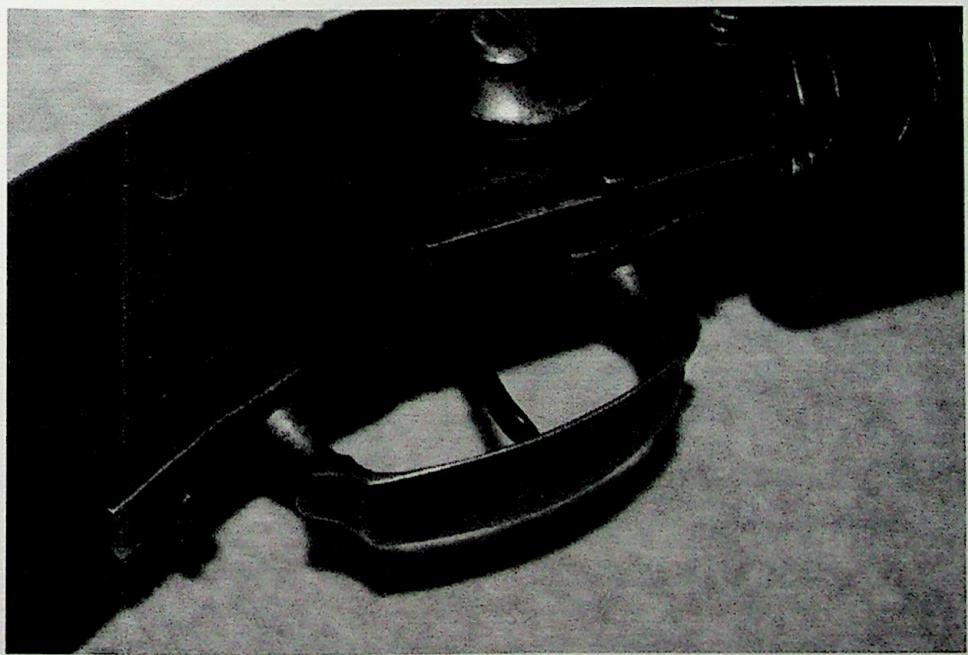
Left: Muzzle with brass front sight



Left: Muzzle with flat surface.



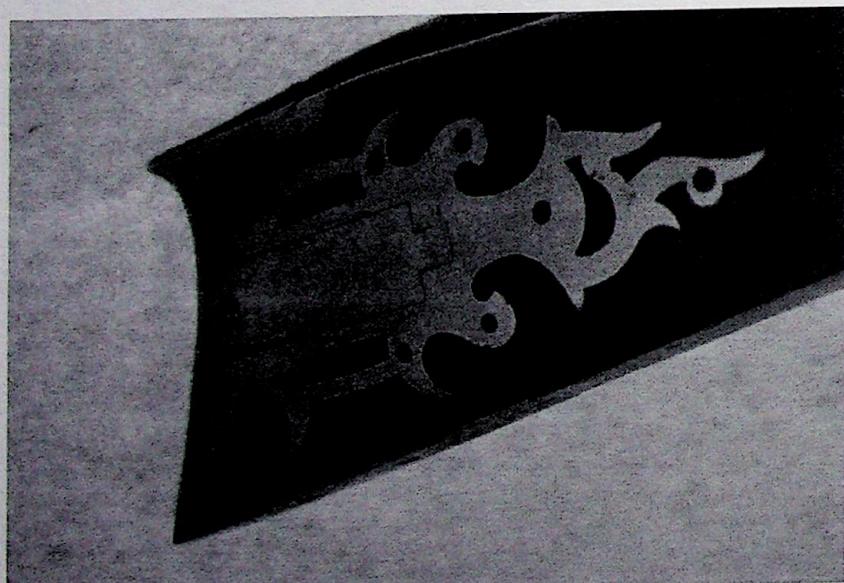
Above: Company markings and 1838 patent date



Above: Brass trigger guard.



Above: Bottom of rifle with Brass trigger guard.



Above: Patch box on right side of stock.

The Nichols & Childs rifles appear to have a serial number on the frame and cylinder. This rifle is number 6.

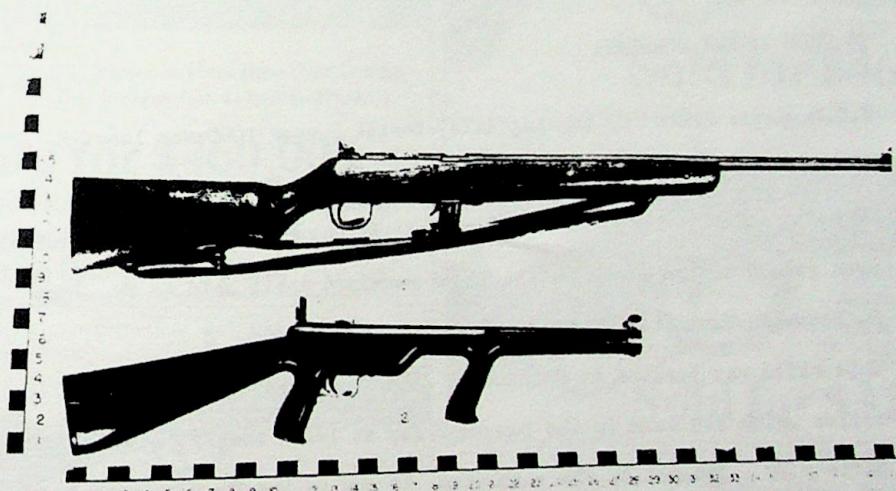
U.S. Martial Arms Collector 151-30

COLLECTORS NOTE 151-1

Harrington & Richardson Production .45 caliber rifle and Prototype Test Gun.

United States Marine Corps, Marine Corps Equipment Board Quantico, VA.
Project number 540.

Comparison of Control Rifle and Test Gun.



Comparison of Control Rifle and Test Gun.

1. Control Rifle.
2. Test Gun.

MARINE EQUIPMENT BOARD QUANTICO, VA.
PROJECT NO. 540
PAGE 2 FIG. 3

RD 4092

COLLECTORS NOTE 151-2

Low Number 1903 Rifle, caliber.30, serial number 79 was in "Useful service" and used by U.S. Marines until the late 1930's. The rifle was in the National Palace in Port-au-Prince. It is now in the USMC Museum, Quantico, Va.

WILL A. MERRILL

FIREARMS COLLECTOR

&

HISTORIAN

CAPTAIN, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

FREE-LANCE WRITER

&

PHOTOGRAPHER

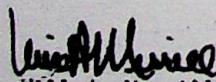
2 Jan 1964
Vista, California

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

U.S. Magazine Rifle '03 (Springfield) Serial Number 1000 was located in the basement of the National Palace, Port-au-Prince, Republic of Haiti in May 1960 by the undersigned. It was retained in his possession upon return to the US in 1961. It so remained until sold to Mr. John O. Beckwith, Encinitas, California on 21 December 1963.

This rifle was located in a cache of several hundred Springfield rifles which had been in the basement for at least twenty years.

Rifle # 79, located in the same area is now in the Marine Corps Museum, Quantico, Virginia. These rifles along with many other low serial numbered weapons were left in Haiti by the U.S. Marines when they were withdrawn in 1934. According to information available to the undersigned in Haiti, this rifle saw useful service until the late 1930s.


Will A. Merrill
Captain, U. S. Marine Corps



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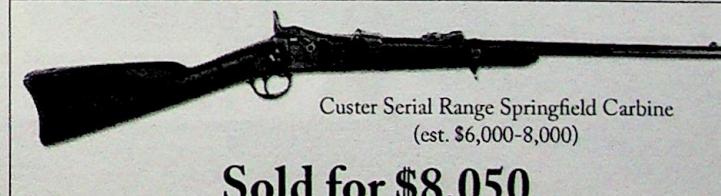
Rare Springfield Garand Gas Trap SN 338 (est. \$25,000-35,000)

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Type I Martial Henry M1860 Lever Action Id'd To Private James Curran, Co K Third U.S. Veteran Volunteer Infantry (est. \$25,000-35,000)

Sold for \$31,625



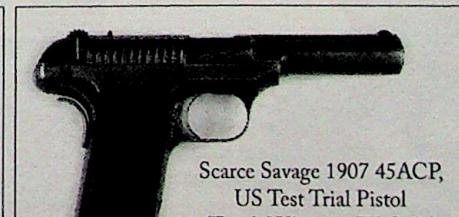
Custer Serial Range Springfield Carbine (est. \$6,000-8,000)

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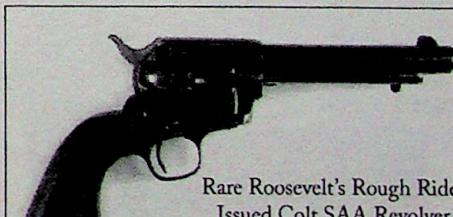
Martially Marked S&W First Model Schofield U.S. Cavalry SA (est. \$9,000-12,000)

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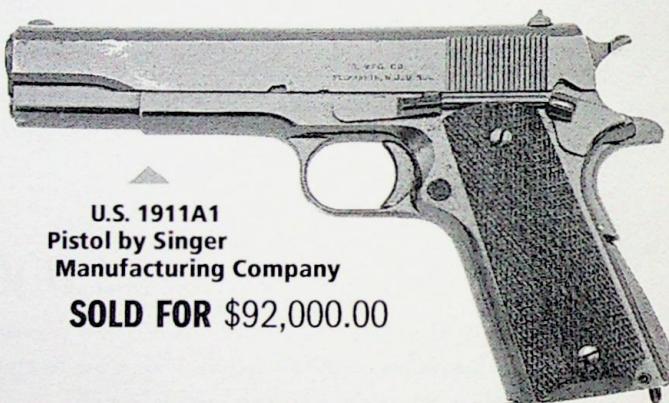
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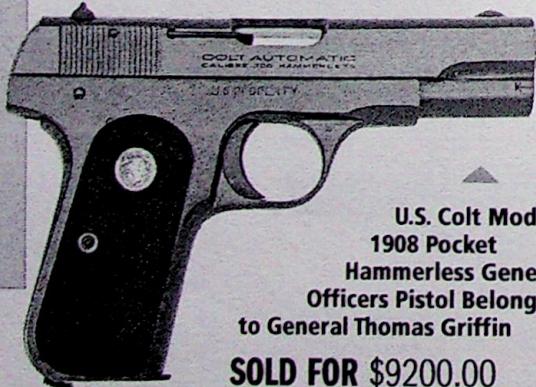
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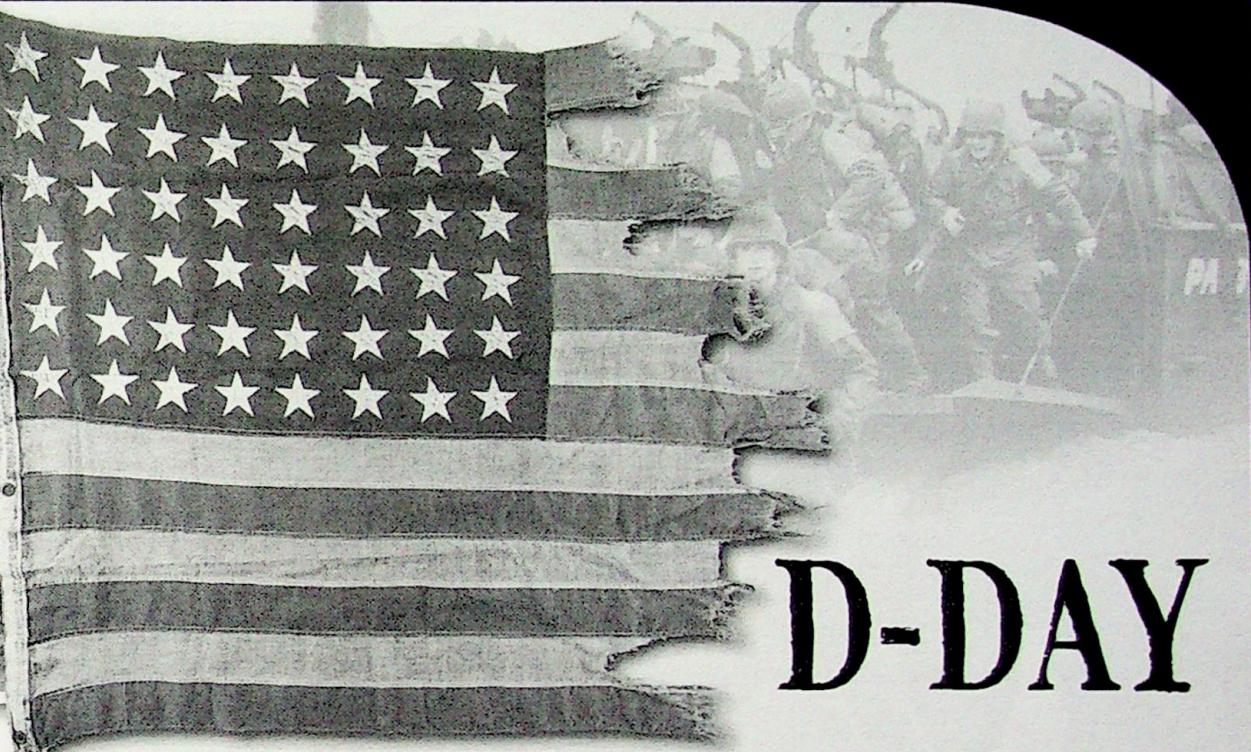
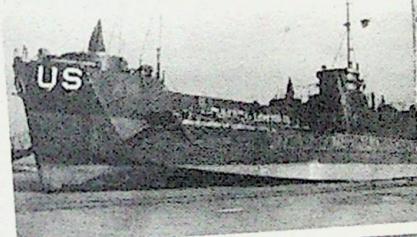
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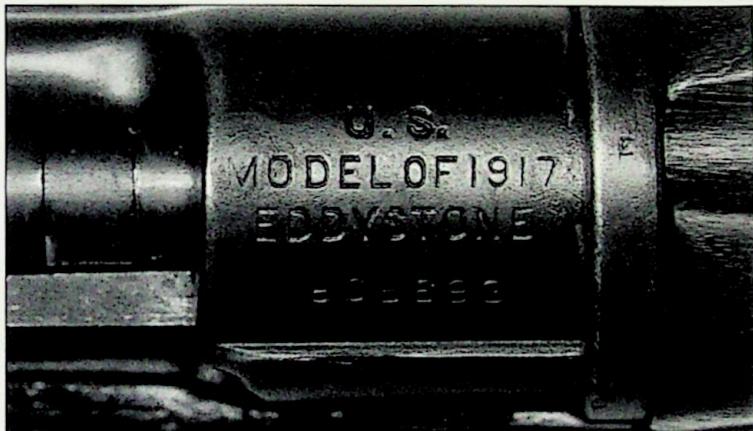
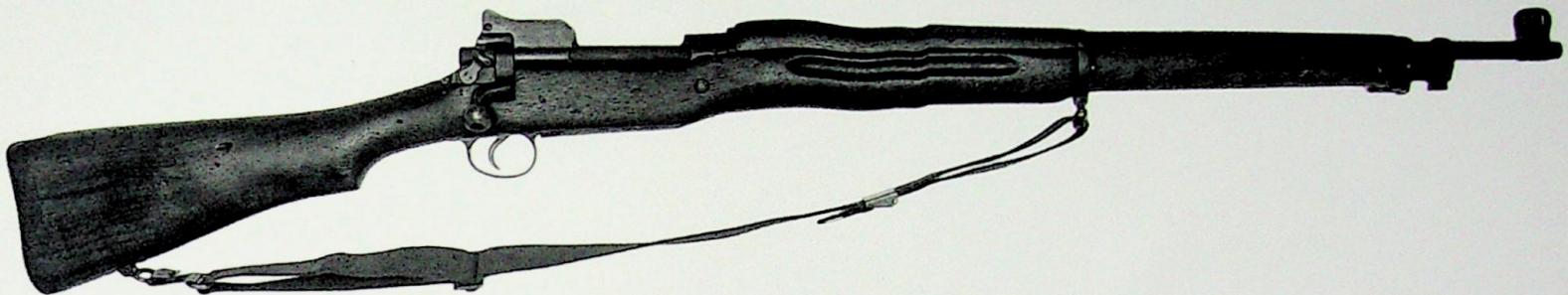
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