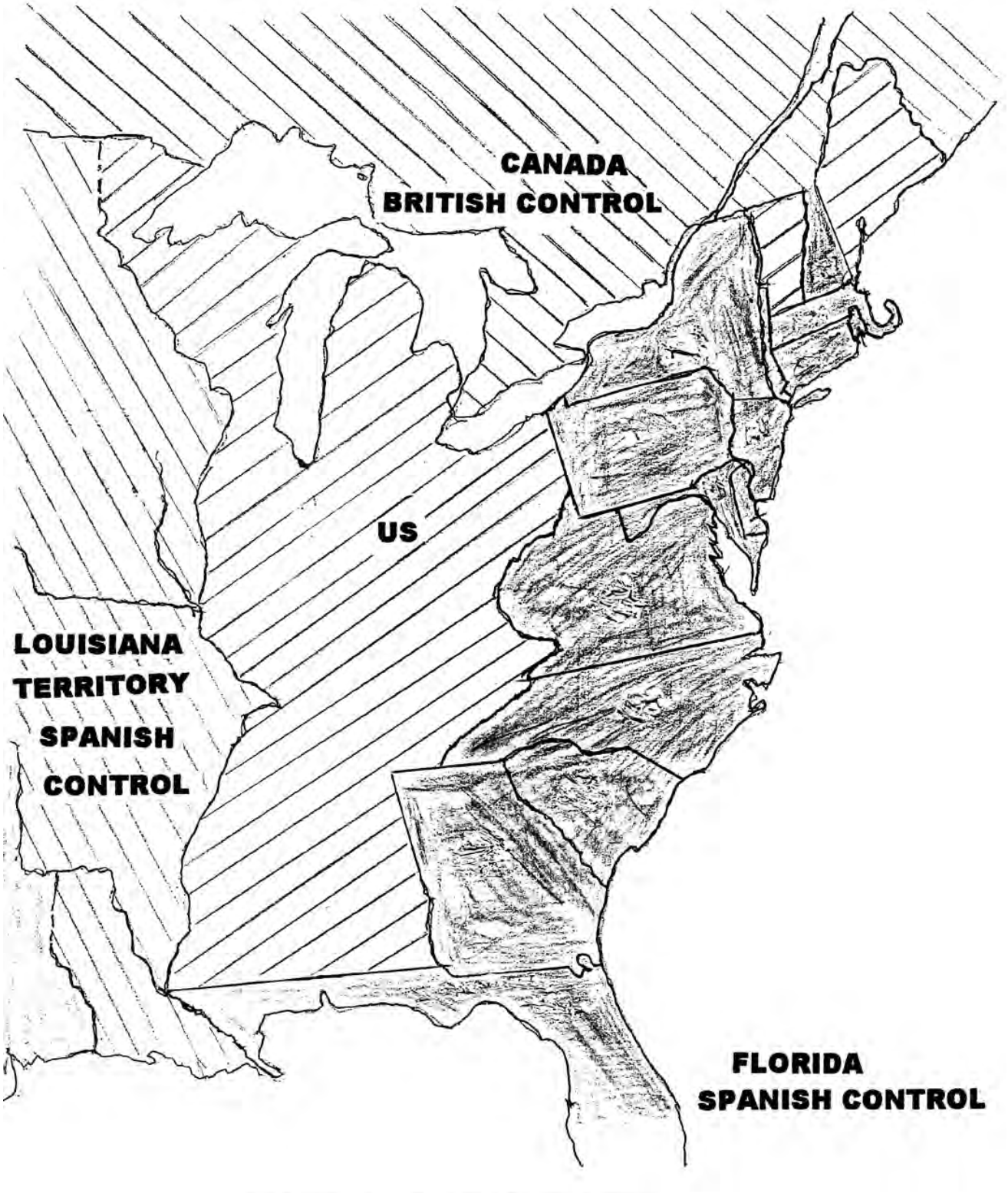


**Figure 1. The United States in 1790.**

# Tennessee, Some Rifles, and a Carbine

George Norton

## INTRODUCTION

An anecdote states that a traveler in early Tennessee always had two items: A horse and a rifle. Before we get to the rifle part, we should become a little more familiar with the early history of the United States. From there we'll talk about Andrew Jackson and the formation of the State of Tennessee and the great changes in the United States between 1790 and 1821, the date of the Transcontinental Treaty.

South of Kentucky, a former Virginia county, and west of the 13 states, one man, Andrew Jackson, carved an empire and protected it against the colonial ambitions of Spain, France, and Britain, and large Indian tribes armed and encouraged by Britain and Spain to make war against the new states.

## THE UNITED STATES AT THE TIME OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

In 1790, after the Revolutionary War, (Figure 1) the US was bordered by Canada, the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes, and the Mississippi on the west. Spain controlled all land from the west bank of the Mississippi to California. South of the States were Indian lands, but Spain controlled all lands south of the 31st parallel, roughly the southern border of Georgia. The 31st parallel line extended due west across the Mississippi and into Louisiana. All of the Gulf Coast belonged to Spain. Spain had been given the Louisiana Territory at the conclusion of the French and Indian War when Spain was an ally of the British. Spain's territory extended from the Atlantic Coast, as described above, to the Pacific Ocean south of California's northern border and it extended south to Cape Horn in South America. However, a powerful Spain did not recognize this boundary and claimed Natchez and other cities north of the 31st parallel.

When North Carolina ratified the Constitution, it ceded all territory south of Kentucky to the United States. On May 26, 1790, when North Carolina ratified the Constitution, the country between Kentucky and the present states of Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi was designated

Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio. William Blount of North Carolina was appointed governor.

## ANDREW JACKSON

The State of Tennessee can be proud of its riflemen, gunsmiths, and its leader, Andrew Jackson, who worked to protect its Statehood during its very early days.

Jackson's parents, Andrew and Elizabeth Jackson emigrated from Ireland to Waxhaw, North Carolina. Elizabeth's sister's family lived just across the border in South Carolina, which was considered part of Waxhaw. Andrew Jackson Sr. died a few days before young Andrew was born. Elizabeth packed up her two sons and belongings and moved into her sister's home where Andrew was born and raised.[1] He was educated by a Presbyterian minister.

At age 13, young Andrew was a member of the Waxhaw Militia. His oldest brother died in action with the Militia; his younger brother was wounded when he and Andrew were captured and held as prisoners by the British at Camden, SC. He and Andrew contracted smallpox and were freed in a prisoner exchange, but the brother died after reaching home. Jackson was 15 by the end of the Revolutionary War and was an orphan.

His mother contracted cholera while volunteering as a nurse treating wounded US soldiers in prison ships in Charleston Harbor.[2] He stayed with his mother's family, the

**Figure 2. A portrait of Andrew Jackson by permission of the Kentucky Rifle Association.**

Crawfords, and learned the saddler's craft. He completed his education and in late 1784, he left Waxhaw for Salisbury, North Carolina to study law.[3] In September 1787, he was examined by two judges of the Superior Court of Law and was authorized to practice law. He also tended store in Martensille, North Carolina.[4] A friend and fellow law school student, John McNair, was appointed Superior Court Judge of the Western District of North Carolina.[5] McNair offered Jackson an appointment as public prosecutor. They both started west in 1788, but decided to spend some time in Jonesborough, Washington County, Tennessee Territory, where Jackson obtained a license to practice law. Jackson engaged in various duels, gun fights, quarrels, etc. during his early years in Tennessee which affected his reputation.

## NASHVILLE

When McNair and Jackson reached Nashville in late 1788, Jackson and McNair boarded with the Widow Donelson's family, pioneers in the Cumberland Valley, who lived in a blockhouse. Also residing there was Rachel Donelson Robards, daughter of the Widow Donelson. Rachel was there after leaving her violent and abusive husband in Kentucky.

A short time later, Robards, in an attempt to reconcile with his wife returned to Fort Donelson and purchased property nearby. He quickly became jealous of Jackson who in turn intimidated and bullied Robards. Robards said the marriage was over and returned to Kentucky, but in the fall of 1790, he threatened to return and bring his wife back to Kentucky. Upon hearing this news, Rachel quickly arranged a visit to family in Natchez. She was to be accompanied by Colonel Stark and because it was a perilous journey, the Starks requested Jackson to accompany them as an escort. In the spring of 1791, the party floated to Natchez. Jackson had family approval from the Donelsons to marry Rachel after she won her freedom.

Upon Jackson's return, a rumor reached Nashville that Robards had obtained his divorce in Virginia, the governing body of Kentucky. However, there was no divorce. Robards had obtained an enabling act "to bring suit against his wife in the Supreme Court of the District of Kentucky." Upon hearing the rumor, Jackson returned to Natchez and married Rachel.[6] After Robards' divorce decree, the Jacksons remarried in 1794.

Tennessee applied for Statehood in 1795 and held a Constitutional Convention in January-February 1796. Jackson and McNair were two of the five representatives from Davidson County and were also appointed to hand write the state's constitution. Tennessee was the first territory to achieve statehood. (The act was approved by President Washington June 1, 1796.) Jackson was elected as a Representative to Congress in the fall of 1796.[7] He ran for the Senate in 1797 and won but resigned a year later. In 1798, he was elected judge of the Superior Court of Tennessee; in 1802, he was elected by Militia Officers to the rank of Major General of Tennessee Militia. In 1804, he resigned as Judge and purchased the Hermitage property. (Mansion not built until 1819.)[8]

## THE WAR OF 1812

In February 1812, Congress authorized 50,000 volunteers and declared war against the British in June 1812.[9]

In October 1812, Territorial Governor Blunt was asked to provide 15,000 troops to defend New Orleans and two divisions were organized. Troops were ordered to take boats to Natchez, cavalry would come by land. Jackson was made Major General of US Volunteers and put in command of those two divisions. The command in New Orleans directed Jackson to stay in Natchez. In March 1813, the Army in Washington dismissed Jackson's army at Natchez. Jackson led the troops 500 miles via Natchez Trace Road back to Nashville. One hundred fifty men were on sick list, 56 bedridden with only 11 wagons available. During this time, Jackson was given the name "Old Hickory". Jackson's troops were later reimbursed, for their duty and expenses, by Congress.[10]

Among Jackson's troops and officers in these war years were Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, and Thomas Hart Benton, who later became a US Senator and advocate of "Manifest Destiny" for expansion of the United States.

Creek Indian territory ranged from the Atlantic Ocean to Central Alabama, occupying parts of what are Georgia, North Florida, and Alabama (Figure 3).

Tecumseh visited Chief Red Eagle (William Weatherford) in 1811 and tried to unite tribes into rebellion to take back the land from the encroaching whites. A group of Burnt Corns Indians attacked Red Eagle's men then fled to Samuel Mim's Fort, about 40 miles north of Mobile. Mim's Fort had about 120 militia and about 300 civilians, white and slaves. The Creeks attacked Fort Mims August 1, 1813 and killed about 250 people.

Jackson, who had been wounded in a gun fight with Thomas Hart Benton and his brother Jesse[11] in Nashville, although not fully recovered, took command of his troops and marched south October 1, 1813. He built Fort Deposit south of what is now Huntsville. Proceeding south, in one skirmish, he killed 186 braves. In a big victory November 3, he killed 300 Indians at Talladega but 700 escaped.

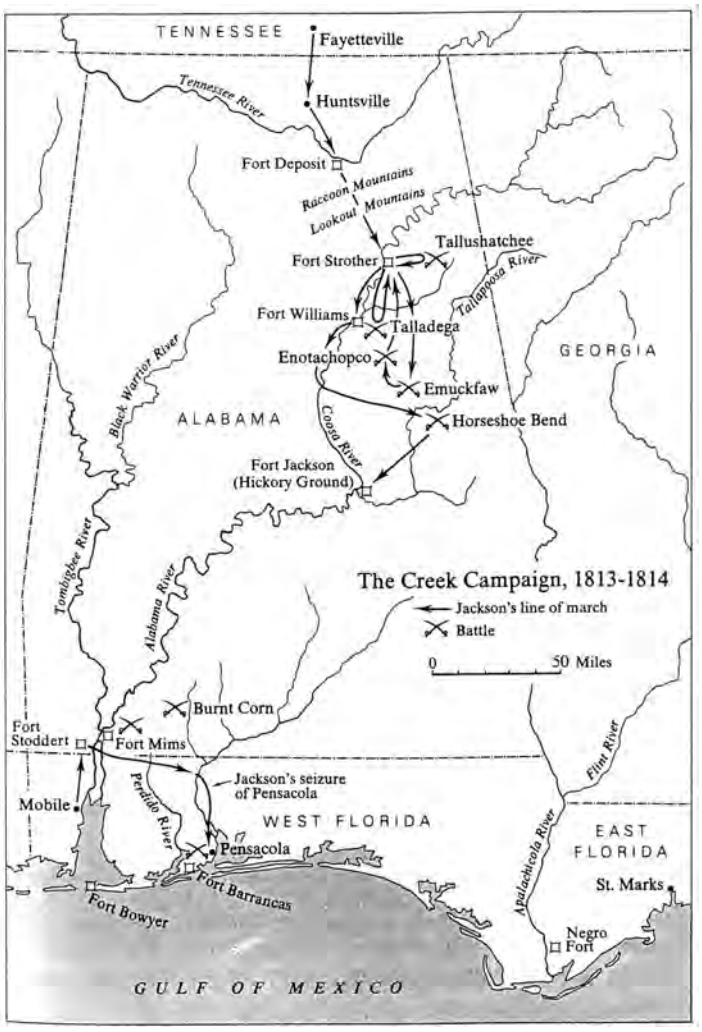


**Figure 3. The Creek War by permission from *Andrew Jackson and the Course of the American Empire 1767–1821;* Robert Remini, Harper Collins Publisher, 1977.**

Jackson had no supplies sent to him and the troops threatened rebellion, but were quieted by Jackson's threats. Because most of Jackson's troops enlistments expired at the end of 1813, they returned to Tennessee.

Governor Blount of the Southwest Territory then ordered a new level of 2500 troops, Jackson had 800 troops by January 14 and returned to the south. He skirmished but was driven back toward Fort Strother. By March, Jackson had 5000 troops, and, in early April 1814 defeated the Indian fighters at the battle of Horseshoe Bend (900 Indians killed), one of the few US victories during the war of 1812. He then proceeded south to Hickory Ground, then called Fort Jackson. He met with Red Eagle (William Weatherford) and dictated the terms of peace to end the war with the Creek Indians and to establish their relocation west of the Mississippi River.[12]

On August 14, 1814 Jackson headed south to Mobile. Although this was in Spanish territory, he repaired and manned Fort Bowyer which commanded the entrance to Mobile Bay. During this time, the British had sent a large fleet to the West Indies. The war with Napoleon was over, and the British prepared to attack the US through the Gulf. Their plan was to seize Mobile Bay, then march across to Natchez and seize New Orleans. At this time, part of the British fleet was in Pensacola and New Orleans was totally unprotected. On September 5, the British attacked the Port of Mobile by sea, where they lost one ship, and had two ships damaged; the British then withdrew.

In late October Jackson made a choice between New Orleans and returning to Florida. He left Mobile on the 25th and invaded Florida. On November 6, Jackson reached Pensacola.[13] The Spanish governor surrendered to Jackson, the British left, and Jackson destroyed Fort Barrancas. He learned of the British plan to attack New Orleans and set off for New Orleans on November 26. Jackson still ill sent for Rachel and his adopted children.

Secretary of War Monroe had warned Jackson of the attack and on November 27–28 the British Armada of 60 ships left Jamaica. Jackson arrived in New Orleans December 1. On December 16 he proclaimed marshal law in New Orleans. (Figure 4) He did not know where the British would attack. All roads were monitored and ships sent patrols into the likely areas. Ships from the British fleet were reportedly seen in the region of Pea Island and Barataria Bay. (Figure 5) The British landed at Fisherman's Village and proceeded along Bayou Mazani toward the Mississippi River. At Villere's Plantation, they surprised the owner and locked him up. However the owner escaped and revealed the position of the British to troops who informed Jackson. On December 23, Jackson sent two armed river boats, *Louisiana* and the *Carolina,* downstream; Jackson led the night attack against the British. The

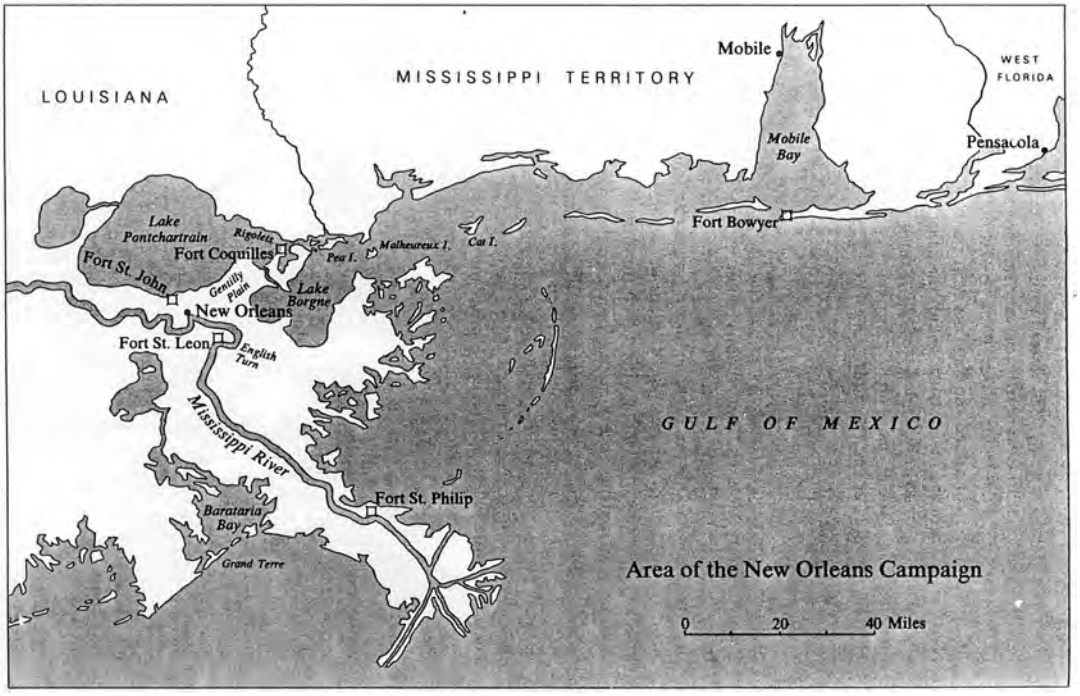


**Figure 4. The New Orleans Campaign.**

British were taken by surprise and suffered losses from the ship's cannon. The fog closed in, the ships withdrew upstream, and Jackson withdrew his troops. On December 24, the British and American ministers signed the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812. Jackson moved his troops one mile upstream with the two ships protecting his flank (Figure 6). On December 25, Lt. General Pakenham arrived to take command and the British brought up artillery and destroyed the *Carolina.* On December 26, a general advance by the British was thrown back. December 31, British use the fleet's heavy ship artillery brought ashore for the battle. Jackson's artillery responded and silenced several batteries. January 4, 2000 Kentucky militia arrived, approximately one-third without arms. Jackson continued to improve his fortifications on both sides of the river. By January 8, General Pakenham brought his reinforcements onto the line and started his attack. He planned a frontal attack and had a force with cannons ready to cross the Mississippi River and attack Jackson's troops on the south side of the river. By 4:00 a.m., the 44th Regiment started toward the American lines. They had been instructed to bring fascines and ladders with them for the assault on the rampart. They forgot to bring the assault equipment so they retreated to retrieve the equipment, but by the time they returned, the battle had begun.

Gibbs' troops moved forward. The 44th had not arrived, so Jackson's forces withheld fire until the enemy was within small arms range. The fire from the Jackson fortification was a combination of musket, rifle, and cannon. When the 44th did arrive they dropped their fascines and ladders and returned fire. The British pressed the attack time after time, but were thrown back. General Pakenham led the charge but was killed in action. Gibbs was also fatally wounded.

Jackson did not counterattack. Colonel Rennie attacked along the levee on Jackson's right flank and was almost successful but Colonel Rennie was killed by rifle fire. Keen's troops were ordered to support Gibbs.

The British West Indian troops failed in an attack on the left flank of Jackson's line through the swamp. On the west side of the river, the British barges carrying the cannons landed three miles below their expected destination.

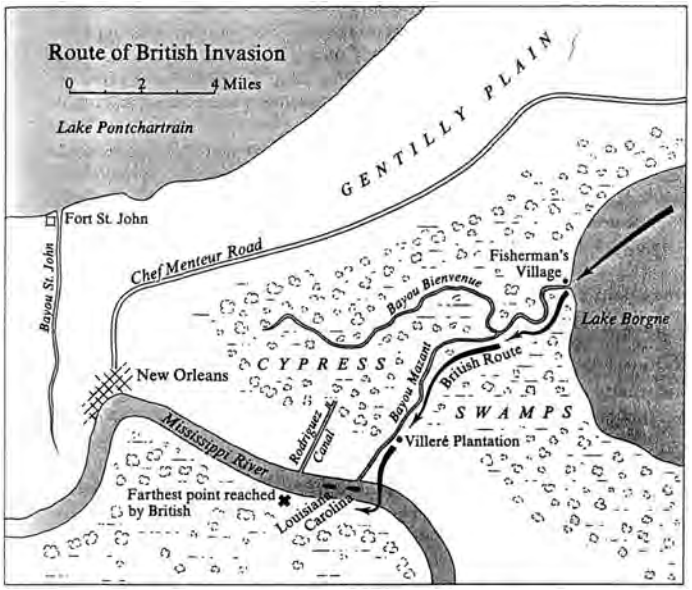


**Figure 5. The Route of the British Invasion.**

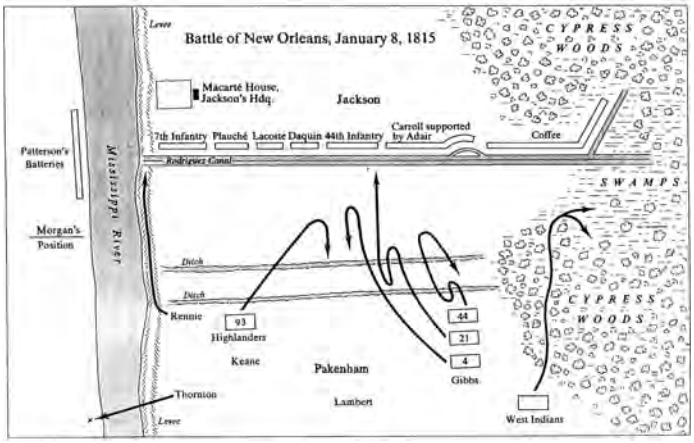


**Figure 6. The Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815.**

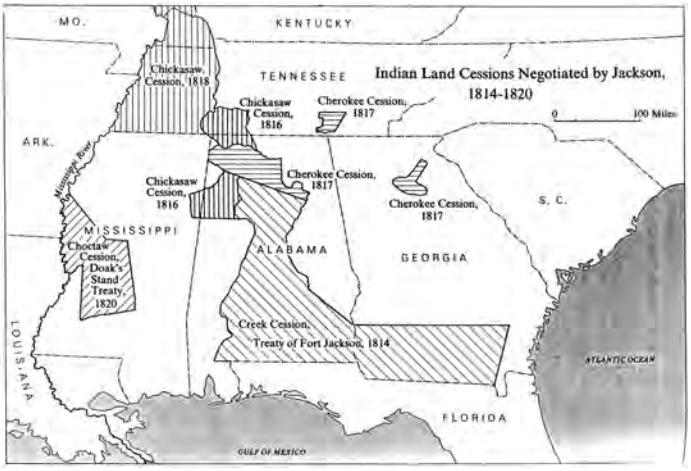


**Figure 7. Indian Land Cessions negotiated by Jackson, 1814–1820.**


**Figure 8. First Seminole War, 1818.**

To prevent landing on the west bank 120 Louisiana militiamen were sent forward. Three miles below Morgan's main position, Colonel Thornton, who led the initial invasion of Louisiana, landed with 600 men and three gun barges manned by 10 sailors, about a mile from the militia. The militia was routed and Thornton prepared for a general assault. The assault drove the American troops back; some of the men escaped on the *Louisiana.*

Thornton was about to turn his cannon and captured cannon on Jackson's flank when the news of the British disaster reached Thornton. Thornton retreated back to base. Jackson reported 13 killed, 39 wounded and 19 missing. British reported 291 killed, 1,262 wounded and 484 captured or missing.

Mark R. Wenger wrote in his article in the Kentucky Rifle Association Bulletin that it was the riflemen who made the victory possible.[14] He wrote, "The return of British casualties submitted by General Lambert after the battle is more specific. Among those killed, wounded or missing, this document enumerates three major generals, four lieutenant colonels, four majors, 28 captains and 52 lieutenants—a staggering loss." The loss of officers Mr. Wenger attributes to the marksmanship of the riflemen. The British fleet left the area and eventually was ordered home after news of the Treaty of Ghent and the end of the war was received.

There was a great celebration in New Orleans, but Jackson kept marshal law in force through January, February, and early March, even though there were rumors of the Peace Treaty. He received official notice of the Treaty on March 13, 1815 and ceased marshall law.

From the time of the Treaty of Fort Jackson in 1814, when the Creek Indians were resettled to the west, until 1820, the majority of Indians in the southwest were resettled to the west, across the Mississippi. The land cessions were negotiated by Jackson (Figure 7).

In 1817–1818 Jackson again attacked the Indians, the Seminoles in Georgia and Florida, after they attacked a boat at Apalachicola. Jackson destroyed Indian towns and arrested, tried and hanged two British traders who supplied arms to the Indians (Figure 8).

When Jackson heard that the Spanish were selling arms to the Indians, he went to Pensacola, forced the surrender of the governor, and had the Spanish troops sent back to Cuba. Washington was upset by his action, where he arrived on January 23, 1819 to defend himself against censure. The US government negotiated the purchase of Florida from Spain. The British did not protest the execution of the traders and Washington again welcomed and praised Jackson. He was appointed governor of Florida, but resigned and returned to Nashville.

In 1821, the Transcontinental Treaty was signed and the United States continued its expansion. Jackson ran for President in 1824 and lost, but was elected in 1828 and 1832.

Now we'll look at a few rifles.

*Rifle No. 1 Figures 10, A, B, C, D.* This is a long, flintlock Tennessee rifle of the Soddy-Daisy style. Soddy-Daisy, the center of many competitive shooting contests in the 19th century, was located across the Tennessee River from Chattanooga. Rifles from this area had many distinctive features.

1. The butt plate is cut deep into the stock.


**Figure 9. Transcontinental Treaty, 1821.**


**Figure 10. Flintlock Tennessee Rifle—Soddy-Daisy style (author's collection).**

2. The long tang runs from the breach to the stock comb.

3. The fore stock has a V shape.

4. The lock plate has a tombstone shape.

5. The sides of the top of the butt plate extend deep into the stock.

The full stock was made of walnut with a grease hole in the butt stock. The very long, silver front sight blade is held in place with two dovetails. The barrel is 50 caliber, smooth bore, and is 47 inches long.

*Rifle No. 2. Figure 11, A and B.* This is a flintlock target rifle, also of the Soddy-Daisy style. The barrel is 58 caliber and is 41.3 inches long. This rifle has the same characteristics noted above but the rifle is iron mounted. The patchbox is made of iron, rounded at the opening but with a sharp tip. The flintlock is an 18th Century style made without a bridle.

Both lock and barrel are signed "I. Gibson" (Ike Gibson of Sevier County, Tennessee) who probably worked from 1840–1880. Hammer marks are visible on barrel from original forging or from a barrel straightening operation. This rifle was formerly in the Robin Hale collection.

*Rifle No. 3. Figure 12, A and B.* This rifle, from the Bill Reisner collection, is a fine hunting or offhand Tennessee rifle from the Unicoi County area of northeastern Tennessee. A note in the patchbox indicates that it was purchased in Virginia in the late 1940s and reconverted and freshed out by Hacker Martin of Washington County, Tennessee.

The stock is walnut with a fine cheek piece with flared ribs. The iron patchbox is an oval, willow leaf pattern. It is iron mounted with a fine iron trigger guard and iron butt plate. The barrel tang is 9.5 inches long and extends over the stock comb; caliber 40, barrel length 39 inches, lock marked "Baker & Mos—".

*Rifle No. 4. Figure 13 A, B, C, D.* Not all Tennessee rifles have walnut stocks and iron mountings. This unusual Tennessee rifle, 36 caliber with a 47 inch long barrel, has a curly maple stock with incised carving on both sides of the butt. The trigger guard and butt plate are made of cast pewter. The rifle is signed *G. McInturff* (Gabriel McInturff) of Washington County, TN, C1830s.[15] The lock is percussion and probably replaced the original flintlock.


**Figure 11. Flintlock Target Rifle—Soddy-Daisy style (author's collection).**

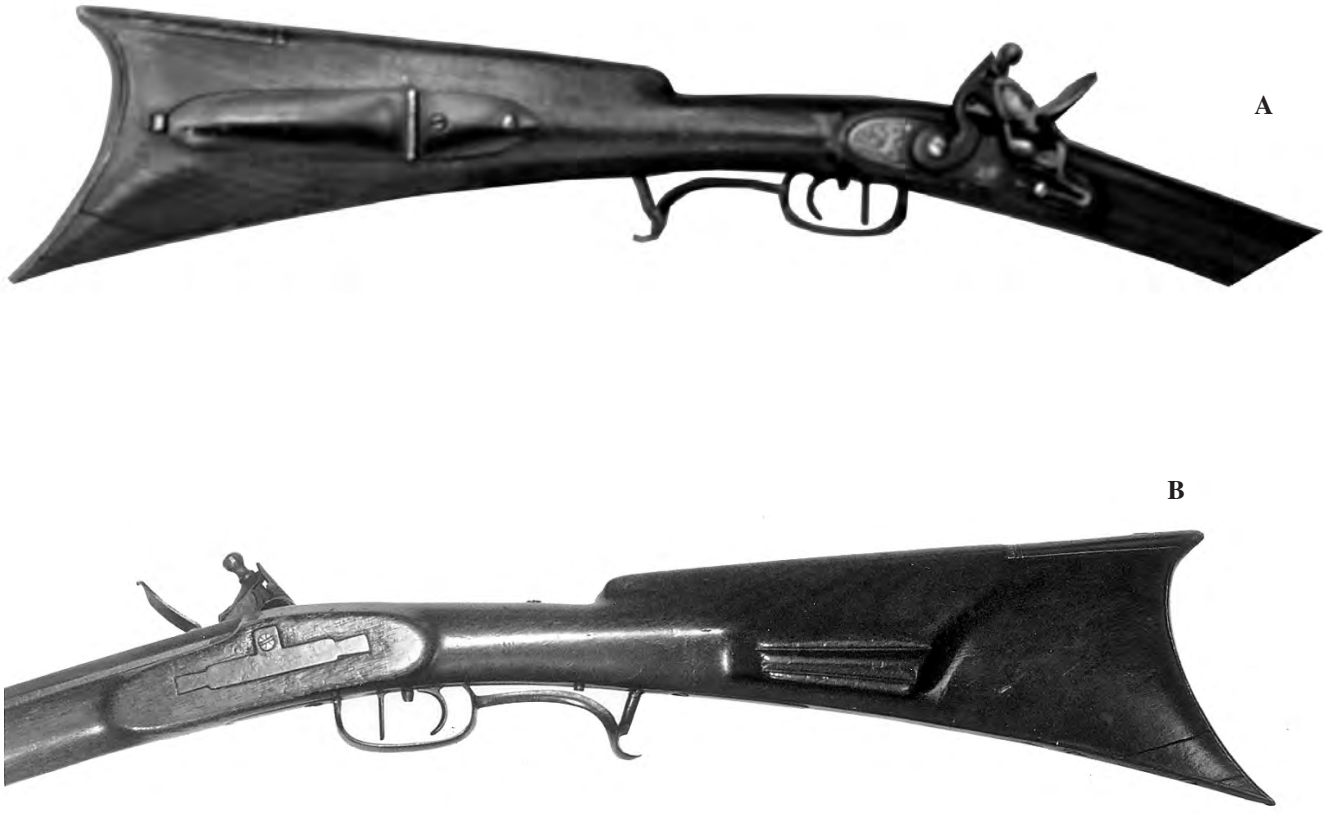


**Figure 12. Tennessee Hunting Rifle (author's collection).**

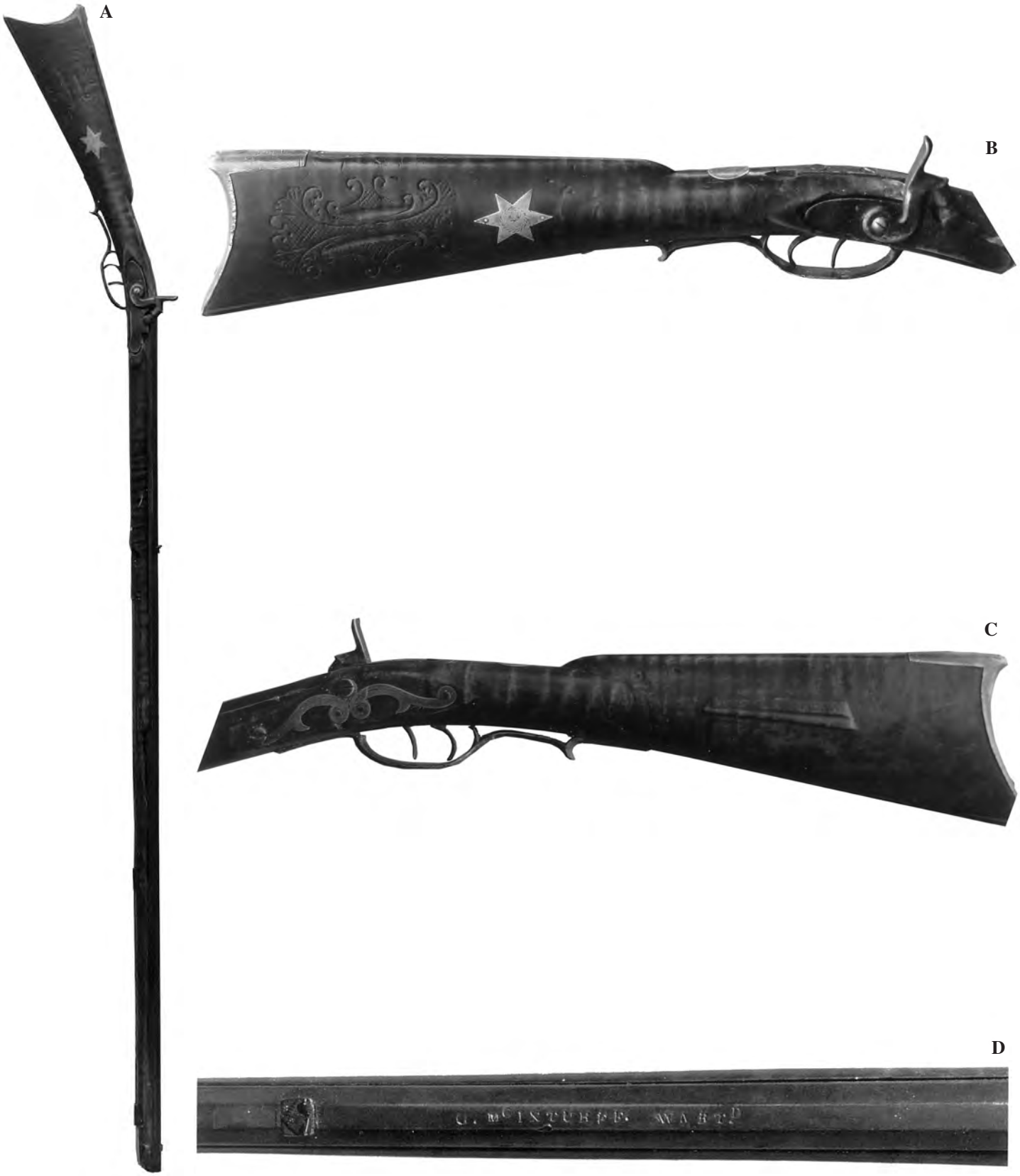


**Figure 13. Gabriel McInturff signed Rifle.**


**Figure 14. Tennessee full-stock "country rifle".**

THE START OF THE CIVIL WAR

In the spring of 1861, everyone in the south was concerned about the war and remembered Andrew Jackson's great victory. Confederate Secretary of War L. P. Walker wrote Governor Isham Harris of Tennessee requesting four regiments of infantry which the Confederacy would arm, and "should your Excellency desire it *and will arm four other regiments with the country rifles,* they will also be received in Confederate service."[16] Governor Harris took this as a command and made this a priority for Tennessee. At the same time all armories in the state were trying to convert old surplus US military weapons, distributed from the US War Department as obsolete or unserviceable in the 1820s, 1830s, and 1840s, into usable weapons for the Confederate troops. Much of this work went to local gunsmiths.

Country rifles were collected, but many had worn out locks, rust, broken stocks, and calibers from 32 up to 69. Large quantities of good percussion locks were unavailable, but vast quantities of foreign flintlocks were available from the Neopolonic wars. The armories and gunsmiths hated to work on the Country Rifles. When reworking small lots of US arms they, at least, had a source of spare parts by cannibalizing one or two guns; not so with Country Rifles. Country Rifle rework schedules fell far behind. Those "Country Rifles" that were reworked were stored in Nashville and subsequently many were issued to troops serving in the Knoxville and Chattanooga area.

*Rifle No. 5. Figure 14 A and B.* I have a rifle that may have been a "Country Rifle". It was found on a battlefield in eastern Tennessee and brought back to Connecticut by a Union soldier. I purchased it from Dr. Harmon Leonard who purchased it in Connecticut from the family of a Civil War soldier who picked it up on a Tennessee battle field.

The rifle is of 52 caliber, iron mounted with an iron patchbox. The style of the trigger guards, rear sight and patch box leads me to believe it came from the Tennessee-North Carolina area. The flintlock appears to be a replacement. The tumbler has no bridle and the old lock screw hole is plugged with beeswax. The brass ramrod ferrules

Figure 15

Figure 16

Figure 17

**Figure 18**


**Figure 19**

Figure 20

Figure 21

Figure 22

Figure 15–22. Heath/Sumner Carbine (Author's collection).

appear to have been replaced. The rifle came without a ramrod, which probably was iron, so Dr. Leonard made the wooden ramrod replacement. I believe the lock to be European and of 18th Century style since it was made without the bridle.

*The Carbine.* Two years ago I attended the Las Vegas fall show. Friend Ray McKnight wanted me to see a long gun offered for sale. It was a percussion carbine with a Mississippi rifle type of patchbox. The barrel was marked "Sumner Armory/Tenn." and "A. I. Heath." From several friends at the show I borrowed reference books through which I discovered that Heath and the Sumner Armory were both in Gallatin, Tennessee in the 1860s. Later I found a reference in (William Albaugh and Edward N. Simmons) *Confederate Arms*[17] showing A. I. Heath converted rifles at the Sumner Armory. The Armory ceased operation on February 23, 1862 when Gallatin was occupied by the Union Army.

Figure 15. The carbine is a full stock, Kentucky style firearm, percussion, brass mounted with a Mississippi rifle styled patchbox and two pins holding the barrel in place. The patchbox is unique to this firearm, not a copy of a known US military patchbox. Below the carbine is a hand carved, hickory cleaning rod. This did not come with the carbine but was obtained in trade. It originally came with a Maynard Rifle and is of carbine caliber. Figure 16 is the obverse side of the carbine. The barrel is 36 3/16 inches long, 52 caliber with a front and rear sight. Because of the unique barrel length, I identified it as a North-Hall, US Carbine, Model 1833 barrel. This barrel was then converted into a Kentucky muzzle loader. Figure 17 shows the underside of the carbine and the brass trigger guard, possibly cast from a Model 1817 Common Rifle guard, but the pattern was made thinner for this purpose. Figure 18. This is a view of the breach and barrel markings. The original barrel was held in place by two barrel bands. Wear from the rear band can be seen. Since this barrel is pinned to the stock, the bands were discarded. The breach was modified by adding a threaded breach plug, possibly from a Commom Rifle. The top flat of the barrel was filed flush with the breach plug and a new rear sight location was chosen. The barrel round is stamped *SUMNER ARMORY/TENN.* and the flat is engraved *A I Heath* ahead of the sight. Figure 19 is an enlargement of the markings.

Figure 20 shows details of the patchbox release on the butt plate.

Figure 21 shows the front sight, front cap and the ramrod tip.

Figure 22 the nonmilitary percussion lock and drum. The carbine was made with no sling provisions.

**Figure 23. A.I. Thornburg Heath portrait.**

I contacted the Sumner County Library who in turn notified John T. Heath (AI's great-grandson) who had done work on the Heath Family genealogy. We corresponded and he sent me A. I. Thornburg Heath's personal history.

Figure 23 is a portrait of A.I. Thornburg Heath. A. I. Thornburg Heath was born 29 January 1837 in Jefferson County, Tennessee. (1860 Census, Sumner County, Tennessee, A. I. Heath, 23, M. Gunsmith.) In 1862, September 1, he enlisted in the 9th Tennessee Cavalry, Co. E., Confederate Army from Sumner County, Tennessee where he was furnished with a horse. In the Battle of Hartsville, Tennessee his horse fell injuring Heath's spine while charging the enemy, on 7 December 1862. Heath was left on Caney Fork River unable to ride and was captured and carried to prison at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

The following family story of AI's escape was told to John T. Heath by A. I.'s grandson:

> "A.I. was captured and with 20 other prisoners were taken to Bowling Green, Kentucky, and housed in the upper level of a two-story building being used as a prison. A.I., being a skilled carpenter and gunsmith, carefully removed the barred window from its setting and he and the 20 men went out the second-story window, climbed onto the roof and went across other roofs until they were far enough away to climb down and make their escape."

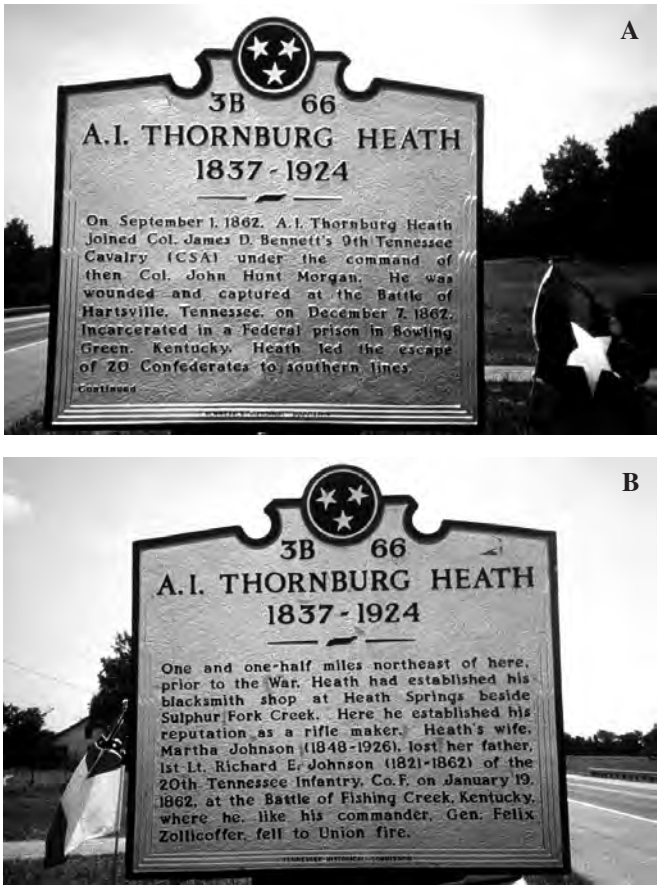


**Figure 24. Historic Marker.**

A.I.'s CO was Colonel James D. Bennett of the 9th Tennessee Cavalry, Colonel John Hunt Morgan's Brigade. In 1863, Morgan and the 9th made a daring raid through Kentucky, across the Ohio River into Indiana, east through Ohio with a plan to ford the Ohio River and return to Kentucky or Virginia. The Ohio River was swollen with summer rain so Morgan continued east, and lost many troopers at Buffington before attempting to re-cross the Ohio on 8 July 1863, into Virginia near Parkersburg. The surviving troopers, about 300, crossed by way of Bienner Hassett's Island where they again sustained heavy casualties. They marched to Calhoun, GA for reassignment. Morgan and the 700 remaining troopers proceeded east and were captured in Ohio near Wheeling, VA.

The Confederate Service record of A. I. Heath tells a different story. On the final page he is listed as a deserter. However, no company clerk in a cavalry unit would dare write " . . . the trooper, injured and unable to ride, was left behind when the retreat call was sounded."

A.I. died in 1923. The historic marker (Figure 24 A and B) memorializes his blacksmith shop and gunmaking skills as well as his service record. His rifling machine mandrel and groove cutter and several of his long rifles are on display in the nearby Sumner County Historical Museum. John T. Heath owns several of his rifles, one of which is shown in Figure 25.

## THE 20TH CENTURY

The fame of the Tennessee riflemen and makers continued into the 20th Century. Sergeant Alvin York, born 1887, was a Medal of Honor winner in World War I. In the Battle of Argonne, October 8, 1918, after most of his platoon had been killed or wounded, he and the survivors of his patrol circled the machine guns and surprised their command post. The Germans were eating with their arms stacked. The German machine gunners turned their guns on their own troops. Corporal York was armed with a Model 1917 Enfield, but in this action he killed many of 2 dozen Germans with his 45 automatic. The German CO told York if he would cease fire he would call for a surrender.

He and his 6 surviving troops then sent the prisoners forward. Other machine gun nests refused to fire on the German prisoners and surrendered. They brought in

**Figure 25. Half-stock rifle by A.I. Heath now owned by John T. Heath, grandson.**

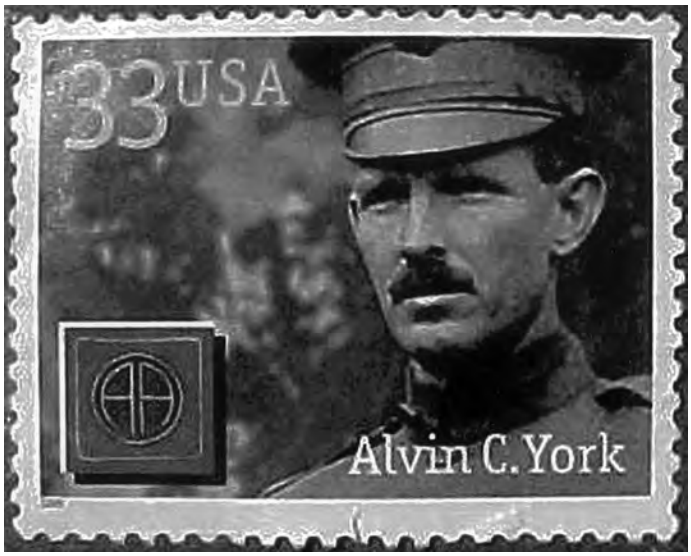


**Figure 26. Postage stamp honoring Alvin York, 1998.**

132 prisoners.[18] In year 2000 York was honored with this United States postage stamp showing him in uniform. The AA patch stands for the 82nd Infantry *All American Division.*

York continued his interest in muzzle loading shooting which is how he learned his shooting skills. In Figure 27 is a picture of a "Beef Shoot at Jimtown" (Jamestown, Fentress County, Tennessee) July 4,[19] 1942. Alvin York won the right-hind-quarter (first prize), as you would expect. Alvin York died in 1964.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I want to thank a few friends who taught me so much about Southern firearms: The late Robin Hale, Arnie Dowd, Ray McKnight, the late Dan Wallace, and Jerry Noble, who published much of Wallace's research work.

NOTES

1. Robert V. Remini, *Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire 1767–1821,* pp. 4–5. Harper & Row, Publishers; New York, NY 1977.
2. Ibid. pp. 6–25
3. Ibid. pp. 26–36
4. Ibid. pp. 27–34
5. Ibid. pp. 34–39
6. Ibid. pp. 41–64
7. Ibid. pp. 70–85
8. Ibid. pp. 115–120

**Figure 27. Alvin York and his guests.**

9. Ibid. pp. 169–172

10. Ibid. pp. 175–177

11. Ibid. p. 187

12. Ibid. pp. 206–233

13. Ibid. pp. XV–XVIII (Chronology of Jackson's Life 1767–1821).

14. Mark R. Wenger, *American Riflemen in the Battle of New Orleans,* pp. 7, Kentucky Rifle Association Bulletin, Vol. 28 No. 2, Winter 1999.

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16. John M. Murphy, M. D. and Howard Michael Madaus, *Confederate Rifles and Muskets,* pp. 663–672. Graphic Publishers, Newport Beach, CA, 1996.

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18. Taylor V. Beattie with Ronald Bowman, *In Search of York: Man, Myth & Legend,* pp. 1-14, ARMY HISTORY, The Professional Bulletin of Army History, Washington, D.C., PB-20-00-3, Summer-Fall 2000.

19. Ned H. Roberts, *The Muzzle Loading Cap Lock Rifle,* pp. 299–302, The Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, PA, 1958.

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## Stevens Tip-ups

Thomas L. Kyser

At the September, 1969 meeting of the American Society of Arms Collectors in Cincinnati, OH, my father, Cecil Kyser, gave his talk on Stevens Arms. I am happy and honored to do the same.

## Joshua Stevens 1814–1907

*(left)* Joshua Stevens was born on September 10, 1814 in Chelsea or Chester, Mass.—there is a dispute over his birth place. For 26 years, Stevens worked for other New England gun makers including Samuel Colt, Eli Whitney, Cyrus Allen, Edwin Wesson, and the Mass. Arms Co. In 1864, Joshua Stevens started his factory at the age of 50 with 2 partners, James Taylor and W. B. Fay. He died in 1907, at the age of 92 having been retired from Stevens for 10 years.

Joshua Stevens was not an inventor, but just a good businessman. In 1864, he obtained patent # 44123 for a very basic, breech-loading tip-up that became the basis for all but two of the 14 Stevens single-shot pistols. Joshua Stevens left the firm with a substantial fortune at the age of 82.

*(right)* These are Joshua Stevens partners, James Taylor and W. B. Fay, at the time the factory started in 1864.

## James Taylor & W. B. Fay

# Original Factory Building 1864

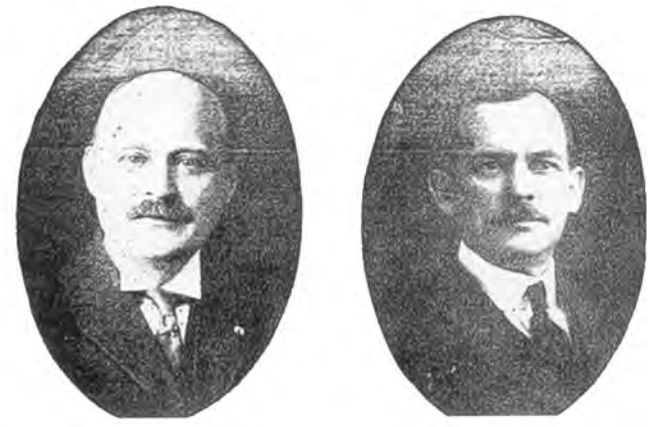

*(left)* In 1864, Joshua Stevens started his factory in Chicopee Falls, Mass. on the north side of the Chicopee River. It was located in an old grist mill and the company's name was "J. Stevens & Co." The factory started when the Civil War was close to an end. The company was a world leader in the arms market until the early 1900s. Many established gun manufacturers failed after the Civil War due to the market surplus of guns.

*(right)* *The 3 basic markings on Stevens arms are: J. Stevens Co., J. Stevens A & T Co., and J. Stevens Arms Co. In 1886, the former partnership was dissolved and a new company was formed and called the J. Stevens A & T Co. In 1896, Joshua Stevens retired and I. H. Page, a former bookkeeper for Stevens, took over the company. Stevens never made military weapons as a separate Stevens company. At the start of WW I, the Stevens Co. was turned over to New England/Westinghouse who operated it throughout WW I. According to James Grant, Stevens factory records were destroyed after WW I as Congress was starting to investigate illegal profits on WW I contracts. In 1916, Stevens was reorganized as the J. Stevens Arms Co. Savage bought Stevens in 1920. By 1926, they were claiming to be the world's largest producer of shotguns. In 1960, Stevens ceased to exist and Savage abandoned the old factory in Chicopee Falls and moved their operations to Westfield, Massachusetts.

# STEVENS TIMELINE

| | |
|---|---|
| 1864 | J. Stevens & Co. (Stevens, J. Taylor, W. Fay) * |
| 1886 | Incorporated as J. Stevens Arms & Tool Co. (A & T) * |
| | Added: (G. Taylor, son of James, I. Page) |
| 1888 | Guns shipped worldwide |
| 1893 | W. Fay dies |
| 1895-6 | Stevens retires at age 81, I. Page bought control |
| 1902 | World's largest producer – sporting firearms |
| 1907 | Stevens dies at age 92, agents on 4 continents |
| 1915 | WW I – Operated by Westinghouse |
| 1916 | Reorganized as J. Stevens Arms Co. * |
| 1920 | Savage Arms buys Stevens |
| 1926 | Stevens - World's Largest Producer - shotguns |
| 1946 | Stevens fully integrated into Savage Arms |
| 1960 | Stevens ceased to exist |

# I. H. Page & Charles Fay

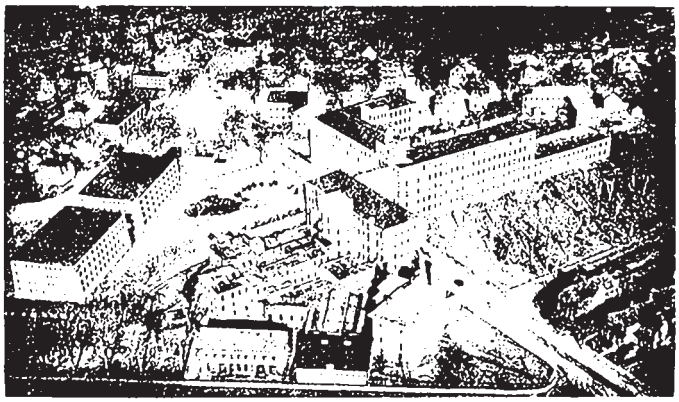


*(left)* When Joshua Stevens retired in 1896, the stock of Stevens & James Taylor passed to I. H. Page, a former Stevens bookkeeper, who also became President of the company. The company was called the J. Stevens A. & T. Co. The son of William Fay, Charles Fay, became Vice President and a large stockholder. Over the next five years, the company greatly expanded.

| YEAR | # EMPLOYEES | FLOOR SPACE |
|---|---|---|
| 1864 | 20 | |
| 1867 | 30 | |
| 1870 | 58 (over 1/2 women) | ($30,000 cap) |
| 1872 | 40 | |
| 1873 | Panic of 1873 | |
| 1885-6 | | ($40,000 cap) |
| 1895-6 | 44 | 17,000 sq. ft. |
| 1898 | 150 | 34,000 sq. ft. |
| 1900-1 | 900 | 451,000 sq. ft. |
| 1902 | | 446,500 sq. ft. |
| 1907 | | 536,000 sq. ft. |
| 1908 | 1200 | 544,500 sq. ft. |
| >1908 | | 610,000 sq. ft. |

*(left)* The period from 1885 to 1901 marked seven years of great expansion. As you can see from the chart, the growth in the number of employees and floor space spanning 44 years was outstanding considering that the company started in an old grist mill to become one of the world's largest producers of guns. In 1902, J. Stevens A & T Co. claimed to be the world's largest producer of sporting arms. In 1907, Stevens had agents on four continents: North America, South America, Europe, and Australia.

## Armory—J. Stevens Arms, Co. circa 1922



*(right)* This was the Stevens armory circa 1922 in Chicopee Falls, Mass. Savage owned the company at this time with the armory being vacated around 1961.

## Years – 1864 to 1886 MARKINGS

- J. STEVENS & CO. CHICOPEE FALLS, MASS. PAT. SEPT. 6, 1864
  (all in one or two lines) - OR
- J. STEVENS & CO. CHICOPEE
  FALLS, MASS. PAT. SEPT. 6, 1864
  (in two lines)

*(left)* As we previously discussed, from 1864 to 1886 when the company was new, the pistols were marked with either of the two markings basically, J. Stevens & Co.

## Years 1886 – 1916 MARKINGS

- J. STEVENS A & T CO.
  CHICOPEE FALLS, MASS. USA PAT. SEPT. 6, 1864
  (in two lines) – OR
- J. STEVENS A & T CO.
  CHICOPEE FALLS, MASS. USA
  (in two lines)

*(left)* When the company was reorganized and incorporated in 1886, the pistols were marked J. Stevens A & T Co. with either of these two markings.

## Years 1916 - 1942 MARKINGS

- J. STEVENS ARMS CO.
  CHICOPEE FALLS, MASS. USA
  (in two lines)

*(right)* Finally, in the later years 1916 thru 1942, when Stevens was fully integrated into Savage, the pistols were marked J. Stevens Arms Co.

# Vest Pocket Pistol 1864–1876

**Estimated Production: 500–1,200**

Stevens handguns are divided into three categories: pocket pistols, target & sporting Pistols, and the pocket rifles which are the guns with the removable stocks.

The pocket pistols are the earliest of the Stevens pistols. In general, Stevens arms were usually more expensive than the other gun makers.

*(left)* One of the original pistols that launched Stevens arms is nicknamed the "Kickup Model" and is a small deringer which is flat and compact so it can be hidden in a vest. The early models were only marked "Vest Pocket Pistol" with no other markings. The design was made before the Stevens company was formed in 1864. This pistol competed with the Remington Vest Pocket Pistol.

# Old Model Pocket Pistol 1864–1886

**Estimated Production: 15,000**

*(right)* The Old Model Pocket Pistol is one of the original two Stevens pistols and the model for most of the 14 different pistols. Drawings of this pistol were shown in the patent application of 1864. In the 1860's, the Vest and Old Model Pocket pistols had much popularity because at that time a large portion of the adult American population believed that they should have one or more concealable weapons. This model has a brass frame with removable semicircular side plate; and it set the style for the majority of pistol production for Stevens into the 1900s.

## Gem Pocket Pistol
## 1872–1890

**Estimated Production: 4,000**

*(left)* The Gem Pocket Pistol, a deringer type Stevens, is marked GEM on the barrel and does have serial numbers but does not have the company name or address. The Gem is very similar to the Marlin OK pistol. This is the only handgun made by Stevens without the tip-up barrel feature. The Gem broke open to the side.

## .41 or .22 Caliber Deringer Pistol
## 1875

**Estimated Production: under 100 (.41 cal), 25 (.22 cal)**

*(right)* The .41 or .22 Caliber Deringer Pistol is a rare type of Stevens that is often found unmarked and was an attempt by Stevens to enter the large caliber deringer market. No catalog has been found showing this model, as it was probably experimental. The barrel is part round/part octagon as were many Stevens guns. According to Kenneth Cope's book, only eight surviving guns exist of the .41 caliber type.

## Single Shot Pistol
## 1886–1896

**Estimated Production: 25,000**

*(left)* The Single Shot Pistol is basically the Old Model Pocket pistol under a new name with different barrel markings. Advertising a gun as the "Old Model" was probably the reason they changed the name.

The Old Model was marked:
J. Stevens & Co.
The Single Shot was marked:
J. STEVENS A & T CO.

## Tip-Up No. 41 Pocket Pistol
## 1903–1916

**Estimated Production: 80,000**

*(right)* The Tip-Up No. 41 Pocket Pistol is the only tip-up pistol that actually has "tip-up" in its name. It is the same as the Diamond model but has shorter grips and barrel length. This was the last in the line of small pocket pistols and was one of the most common.

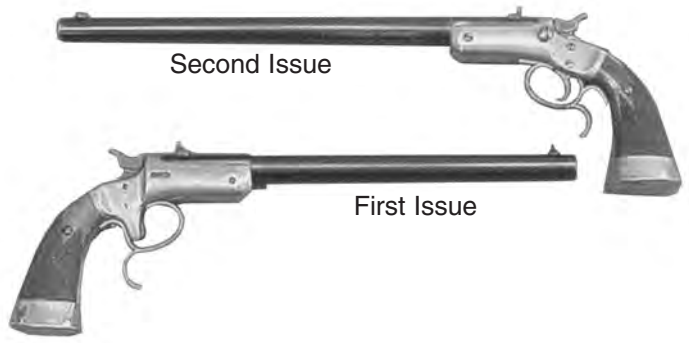
## Lord No. 36 Pistol
## 1880–1911

**Estimated Production: 3,500**

*(left)* The Lord model was a heavy gun with an elongated grip designed for target shooting. The accuracy of this model was highly regarded, and many world records were established with this pistol. This model had the greatest popularity and the most years of being available in the target pistol line. The model was named for Frank Lord, who was a prominent New York target pistol shooter. Lord had very strong hands which may be the reason this model has an extremely long and heavy butt. This model was strongly endorsed by Ira Paine, a one-time pistol champion of the world. Many European gun makers have made replicas of this model.

Stevens presentation pieces were rare, but they were most often the Lord model. Buffalo Bill Cody ordered two Lord models, one for Ben Thompson (serial # 32) and one for himself (serial # 29). Ben Thompson was a professional gambler who had a reputation as a "killing gentleman." Cody's Lord model number 29 would stay in Cody's possession for more than 30 years. He finally gave it to John M. Phillips who was a Pittsburgh businessman, friend, and hunter.

## Conlin, 2nd Issue, 1884–1903
## Conlin, 1st Issue Pistol, 1880–1884




**Estimated Production: 500 (1st), 6,000 (2nd)**

*(right)* The Conlin model was quite similar to the Gould model, with the exception of a shorter grip for smaller hands. This was the beginning of the very popular Off-Hand model. This model was named for James S. Conlin, who was the owner of Conlin's Shooting Gallery on 1222 Broadway in New York City and was designed with his help. The 2nd issue had changes from the 1st issue, one of which was a conventional trigger. You see the conventional trigger in the 2nd issue Conlin on the screen—the top gun. Other companies did not produce many target styles—Stevens was the company for record-breaking target pistols.

## Gould No. 37 Pistol
## 1889–1903

**Estimated Production: 1,000**

*(left)* The Gould model was similar to the Conlin model with the exception of a finger spur on the trigger guard. This was one of the great target pistols of its time. The pistol was endorsed by W. W. Bennett, who was the holder of the 50-shot at 50 yards on Standard American Targets. The Gould (#37) was named for Bostonian, A. C. Gould, who was a firearms expert, noted shooter, and writer. Gould founded "Shooting & Fishing", the forerunner of "The American Rifleman" magazine and he was a past president of the NRA.

## Offhand Target No. 35 Pistol 1907–1916

**Estimated Production: 35,000**

*(left)* The Offhand is a revival of the Gould model and has enjoyed many years of popularity for Stevens. Serial numbers are all above 25,000 whereas the Gould model bears serial numbers under the 25,000 range. This was the last Stevens pistol to be manufactured. The Offhand can be identified by the lack of a firing pin bushing and by its serial number. A West Germany replica of this model was imported in later years.

## Diamond No. 43, 1st Issue & 2nd Issue Pistol 1886–1896 (1st) 1896–1916 (2nd)

*(right)* The Diamond model whose serial numbers start with 26,000 could be purchased in .22 long rifle caliber. Second issues are often found with British proof marks. The second issue lacks a firing pin bushing. The Diamond model could use the .22 long rifle cartridge. This cartridge was originated by the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. at the request of Stevens in 1889. Stevens did not recommend the Diamond model for accuracy, but the model was used by some top shooters. Many men have memories of using these pistols in their youth; the Diamond model was one of the most common.

**Estimated Production: 25,000 (1st) 70,000 (2nd)**

## Target No. 10 Pistol

**Estimated Production: 7,131**

*(left)* After WW I, Stevens attempted to re-enter the target pistol field with the Target No. 10 pistol. Even though this model appears to be semi-automatic, it was made only in single shot and is a tip-up; but it is designed differently than the other Steven's pistols. A manual cocking extends at the rear of the frame.

The Target No. 10 proved not to be popular because the day of the single shot target pistol was over before this model was introduced. Most of the matches after WW I required timed and rapid fire strings.

## Target No. 10 Pistol 1919–1933

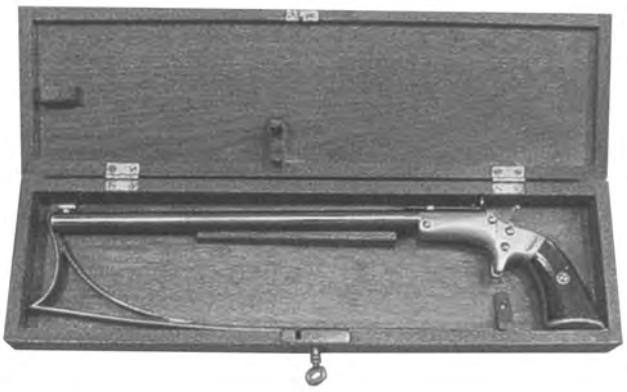

There are many testimonials by such people as Ira Paine, John Pope, Annie Oakley and by most of the famous target shooter as to the accuracy of the Stevens pistols. Both Buffalo Bill Cody and Annie Oakley used the Stevens target pistols during their performances.

HANDGUNS

The Stevens pocket rifles could be considered either hand guns without the stock or rifles or shotguns with the detachable stock. They are divided into 3 frame types: light, medium, and heavy. The pocket rifles were sold with stocks and with matching serial numbers.

The National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934 and the Gun Control Act (GCA) of 1968 make the pocket rifle legal without the stock, but with the stock the pocket rifle is considered a sawed-off rifle or shotgun. Some models have been declassified, reclassified, and some depend on the date of manufacture. Those manufactured before 1899 are considered antique.

## Light Frame: Old Model Pocket Rifle 1869–1886



**Estimated Production: 4,000**

*(above)* The Old Model Pocket Rifle was an ancestor of the Diamond model and was advertised as a target pistol. This model had no forearm, but it did have the tip-up action. The firing pin was part of the hammer, but it was later changed on the New Model. Stevens factory cases are rare and this one is not marked. This model has been reclassified as an antique and is not subject to the Gun Control Act (GCA).

## Light Frame: Reliable Pocket Rifle, 1st Issue & 2nd Issue 1886–1896 (1st) 1896–1916 (2nd)

**Estimated Production: 4,000 (1st) 8,000 (2nd)**

*(above)* In 1899, the Reliable Pocket Rifle gun sold for $8.25 and weighed one pound without the skeleton stock. It had globe and peep barrel sights. The detachable stock had just one rod to attach it to the grip, and it dovetailed into the bottom. The second issue had several changes including caliber and iron for the frame material. The 1st issue is classified as an antique; and the 2nd issue is classified as an antique if manufactured before 1899. The others are classified as "curio and relic."

## Medium Frame: New Model Pocket Rifle 1st Issue, 2nd Issue 1872–1875 (1st) 1875–1896 (2nd)

**Estimated Production: 8,000 (1st), 15,000 (2nd)**

*(right)* This is a New Model Pocket Rifle with a Vernier sight. The model has a Beach combination front sight with an open rear sight for pistol use. On the tang of the pistol grip is a Vernier peep sight. This stock has two rods to attach it to the butt with one sliding in the butt and one screwing into the backstrap. This model is classified by the GCA as an antique.

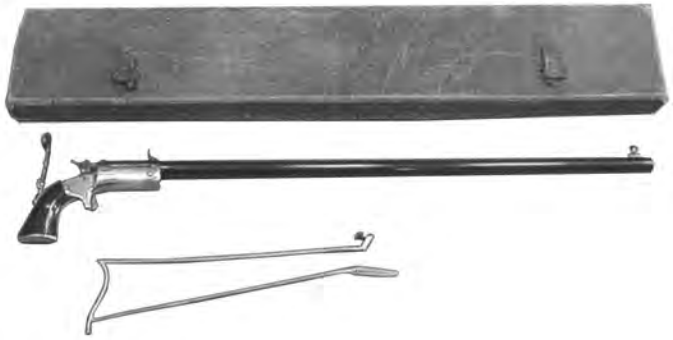
## Medium Frame: New Model Pocket Shotgun 1876–1917

**Estimated Production: 3,000**

*(right)* This model was advertised as a bicycle rifle. The No. 40 is extremely rare today because many were probably destroyed to avoid paying the $200 transfer tax. No exact production/serial number information is available for this model. Calibers 25 Stevens rim fire and 32 long rim fire and any produced before 1899 are considered antique. Others under the GCA are considered as "curio and relic."

*(left)* This New Model was essentially the same as the Old Model except it was heavier. In the 2nd issue, the firing pin was a separate unit built into the frame instead of on the hammer. Punctured primers and the "spit back" of gas into the face were eliminated and was advertised by Stevens as a safety feature. In that day, it was not rare for the head of a rim fire cartridge to burst. The New Model is classified by the GCA as an antique.

## Medium Frame: Vernier New Model Pocket Rifle 1884–1896



**Estimated Production: 1,500**

*(left)* This model is known as the "taxidermist model" because of the minimum damage it does to a pelt. Many of these guns may have been destroyed because the owner didn't want to pay the $200 transfer tax after the National Firearms Act (NFA) was passed in 1934. Most calibers are classified as "curio and relic" under the GCA. The 44 Everlasting caliber is classified as an antique, and the 410 gauge is subject to the NFA.

## Medium Frame: New Model Pocket Rifle, No. 40 1896–1916

**Estimated Production: 15,000**

## Medium Frame: New Model Pocket Shotgun, No. 39 1896–1905

**Estimated Production: 1,000**

*(right)* The only difference between this model and the No. 40 is that the Vernier sight has been added to the back strap. The Vernier New Model Pocket Rifle is classified under GCA as "curio and relic" unless produced before 1899, which is very difficult to determine.

*(left)* This is a pocket shotgun, a shotgun version of the previous No. 40 New Model Pocket Rifle. Classification for this model is the same as the No. 40 for GCA purposes. Only the 410 gauge are subject to the NFA.

## Medium Frame: Vernier New Model Pocket Rifle, No. 40 ½ 1896–1915

**Estimated Production: 2,500**

## Heavy Frame: Hunter's Pet Pocket Rifle, No. 34 1872–1900 Vernier, No 34 ½ 1884–1900

**Estimated Production: 4,000 (34), 1,200 (Vernier)**

*(left)* The Hunter's Pet is the largest model pocket rifle with a heavy frame and a detached stock. The Vernier model has a Vernier tang peep sight fitted on the back strap and special front and rear sights for the barrel. Often, 20 gauge shot barrels were furnished and other extra barrels in different caliber and lengths are not unusual. The bottom Hunter's Pet Pocket Rifle in this picture has a forearm (or forend according to Flayderman). The Hunter's Pet was the first of the pocket rifles to be discontinued as it did not appear in the 1902 catalog. Some information shows that Sears & Roebuck may have sold the surplus. It is classified under the GCA as a "curio and relic" unless it can be documented as produced before 1899, in which case it is an antique.

No name is better known to the older collectors and shooters than the name of Stevens. Many arms enthusiasts were weaned (shooting wise) on one model or another of Stevens' famed line of firearms.

STEVENS TIP-UPS RIFLES

*(below)* There are 16 models of the Stevens Tip-Up rifles. The top rifle is pre-1888 and is marked J. Stevens & Co. The bottom rifle is post-1888 and is marked J. Stevens A. & T. Co.

## Pre & Post 1888

## Stevens Tip-Up Rifles
## 3 categories
## 16 models

| TIP-UP RIFLES | MODEL NOS. |
|---|---|
| Without Forearm | 1 – 6, 15, 16 |
| With Matching Forearm | 7 - 10 |
| Ladies' Model | 11 - 14 |

*(above)* These single shot tip-up rifles were the first rifles Stevens made and were manufactured basically from 1870, six years after the company was formed, until 1895, when Joshua Stevens retired, although some were made later than 1895. These unusually well made rifles were designed for hunting small game and for target purposes. There could hardly be a simpler rifle and action.

*(right)* In the Stevens catalogs these rifles were advertised as Sporting Rifles to be used for Shooting Galleries, Target, Hunting, and Home Use. The No. 1 was the basic model for all the Tip-Up style long rifles. All other Tip-Up rifles are a No. 1 with added, factory made, features. The higher the number, the fancier the rifle. The No. 2 is similar to the No. 1 except for the caliber which was rim-fire, 22 rifle.

## Stevens Tip-Up Rifles
## Models with no forearm

- Model 1 – "Open-Sight" Tip-up Rifle
- Model 2 – "Open-Sight" Gallery Rifle
- Model 3 – Tip-up Rifle (same as Model 1 – choices of barrels and different sights)
- Model 4 – Gallery Rifle (same as Model 2 – different sights)
- Model 5 – Expert Rifle – price $25-$31
- Model 6 – Expert Rifle – (same as Model 5 – fancy walnut stock)
- Models 15, 16 – Crack Shot Rifle

*(above)* These were less expensive models with no forearms. Models 15 and 16 were known as the "Crack Shot" rifle, although they used that name and those numbers for other rifles as well. The models 15 & 16 were advertised as Crack Shot rifles in the catalogs along with the other 14 models.

## Stevens Tip-Up Rifles
## Models with matching forearm

- Model 7 – Premier Rifle
- Model 8 – Premier Rifle – (same as Model 7 – with fancy walnut stock & fore end)
- Model 9 – New Model Range Rifle – (most accurate of the Tip-up rifles)
- Model 10 Range Rifle – (same as Model 9 – with extra fancy stock)

*(above)* These models had forearms. All sixteen of these Tip-up rifles are hard to identify; using the old catalogs is the best way to try and identify them. These rifles were produced from 22 rim fire to 44 caliber center fire. Model numbers are sometimes on the rifle.

## Tip-Up Models Nos. 1 & 2

## Stevens Tip-Up Rifles Ladies' Model

- Model 11 – Plain wood, open sights
- Model 12 – Model 11 with fancy grained wood
- Model 13 – Beach type front, open rear & Vernier tang sights, plain walnut stock
- Model 14 – Model 13 with extra fancy grained stock and forearm

*(left)* Models 11—14 were the Tip-Up Ladies' models. The ladies' rifles had shorter butt stocks, lighter frames and the stocks had more drop on them. They were available in calibers 22 and 25 rim fire. Barrel lengths were in light weight 24″ or 26″. The forearm has a metal band at the rear which was not seen on any other tip-up model.

# Stevens Tip-Up Rifles Ladies Models 11–14

**This represents Tip-Up Ladies' Models 13 & 14**

*(above)* This rifle is representative of the Models 13 and 14. Note the metal band at the rear of the forearm. Model 11 and 13 were the most popular because they were less expensive then the models with the fancy grained stocks.

# Stevens Tip-Up Shotgun

*(above)* The shotgun was a new style single-barrel breech-loading gun. These Tip-Up shotguns came in 10, 12, 14, 16, and 20 gauges. Interchangeable barrels and forearms were available. Barrels lengths were available in 30″ or 32″. This one has a 30″ barrel.

STEVENS CATALOGS

*(below)* Early Stevens catalogs have no date and many times no catalog number.


## Stevens Catalogs

**The Stevens catalogs fall into 3 different categories:**

- **1875 - 1900 Some were numbered as well as dated – many are not numbered or dated.**
- **1902 - 1935 These are numbered 50 through 61.**
- **1939 - 1942 The catalog number is the publication date. No. 39 is for 1939 until WW II.**

**The last Stevens catalog published was numbered 43 in 1946. After that Stevens was fully integrated into Savage.**

*(above)* The earliest known Stevens catalog is dated July 1, 1875. The guns were sold though wholesale dealers before then. The last catalog published just by Stevens before Savage bought them was No. 55 in 1920. The last Stevens catalog published just for Stevens was No. 43 in 1946. Later catalogs were named for example: Savage Stevens Fox.


*(above)* This was the front page of the first J. Stevens & Co. catalog from 1875. It is widely published and is very well known.

| YEAR | CATALOG # | | YEAR | CATALOG # |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1875 | | | 1912 | 53 Revised |
| 1877 | | | 1912 | Shotguns |
| 1889 | 4 | | 1914 | 54 |
| 1894 | 11 | | 1914 | 54 English Edition |
| 1896 | 14 | | 1919 | 54 Revised |
| 1898 | 18 | | 1920 | 55 |
| 1900 | | | 1920-24 | Small Price Lists |
| 1902 | 50 | | 1925 | 56 |
| 1903 | 50 Special Edition | | 1927 | 57 |
| 1904 | 51 | | 1929 | 57 Revised |
| 1904 | 51 English Edition | | 1931 | 58 |
| 1906 | Rifle Telescopes | | 1933 | 59 |
| 1907 | 52 | | 1934 | 60 |
| 1907 | Shot Guns | | 1935 | 61 |
| 1908 | 52 Revision 1 | | 1939 | 39 – 75th Anniversary |
| 1909 | 52 Revision 2 | | 1940 | 40 |
| 1909 | Demi-Block Shotguns | | 1941 | 41 |
| 1910 | 52 Revision 3 | | 1942 | 42 |
| 1911 | Rifle Telescopes | | 1946 | 43 |

*(above)* These are the known catalogs and numbers of this date. Note the crazy numbering system. Not surprising, note the lack of catalogs during both WW I and WW II. Catalogs numbered 50 through 54 reflect the Golden Age of Stevens. The company had achieved international status during that period. Most of this information was obtained from an article written by Robert N. Sears in the *NRA Collecting Newsletter* of the Winter, 1981–1982 issue.

## STEVENS TOOLS
## 1886 - 1907

- Calipers & Dividers
- Wire cutters, Nippers
- Threading tool, Bevels
- Pruning shears
- Gauges
- Countersink, Trammel points
- Nut & Washer combined
- Steel rules, Compasses
- Also, manufactured bicycles.

*(above)* The tool business is what kept the Stevens company going when times got tough. This is a list of some of the tools that Stevens made during the period 1886 to 1907.

## Stevens Tools

*(above)* These are some of the calipers that were made by Stevens; they made a great many different kinds. Most of these were obtained by me from the auctions on eBay.

## STEVENS-DURYEA AUTOMOBILES 1901–1915, 1919-1927

- Manufactured cars (tourers, town cars, & roadsters), limousines, Raulang electric cars & taxis in Chicopee Falls & E. Springfield, Mass.
- Stevens was set to build their owns cars and then decided to join with James Frank Duryea, who had prior experience, to build cars.
- By 1915, the Stevens-Duryea Co. had produced 14,000 automobiles.

*(above)* From 1901 to 1915, Stevens manufactured automobiles in Chicopee and East Springfield, Mass. By 1915, Stevens-Duryea had built 14,000 cars. Stevens-Duryea cars are very collectible.

## 1909 Stevens-Duryea X Light Touring Roadster

*(above)* This 1909 Stevens-Duryea X Light Touring Roadster is quite a beauty.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the society for this opportunity to talk about Stevens.

NOTES

Classifications of the Stevens pocket rifles according to the National Firearms Act of 1934 and the Gun Control Act of 1968 are taken from the 2001 issue of *Flaydermann's Guide to Antique American Firearms,* pp. 213–216.

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# Simeon North and the U.S. Model 1813 Pistol

Frederic L. Starbuck

## SECTION I SIMEON NORTH, THE MAN

The North family started life in the Americas with the arrival of John North. He set sail from London and arrived at Boston aboard the vessel *Susan and Ellen* in April 1635.

Six generations later on July 13, 1765 Simeon was born. He was the fourth son of Jedediah and Sarah North. Their home was located on the north end of the village of Berlin, Connecticut. Like his father and grandfather before him, Simeon began life as a farmer. In 1786, at the age of twenty-one, he married Lucy Savage also of Berlin. Before her passing on February 24, 1811 they produced eight children. Simeon remarried later on in life and had one more child with Lydia Huntington of Middletown, Connecticut.

Records show that North's farm was 66 acres and made up of several parcels. On June 10, 1795, North purchased land on Spruce Brook, adjoining his farm. With this land he got an old sawmill and a dam. Within a few years he had added on to the existing building and not only was he in the business of sawing lumber but he also used the basement as a forging room for making scythes. The prices ran from 75¢ to $1.67, according to size and quality. Good steel cost about 16¢ a pound and charcoal cost $7.00 per 100 bushels. It was in this factory that Models 1799, 1808, and 1811 pistols were made.

It is interesting to note that wages ran $6.00 to $12.00 per month and many of the workers contracted to work for a specific period of time. As skilled workmen were hard to find, much of the workforce was comprised of apprentices. Many of the workmen boarded with one or another of the

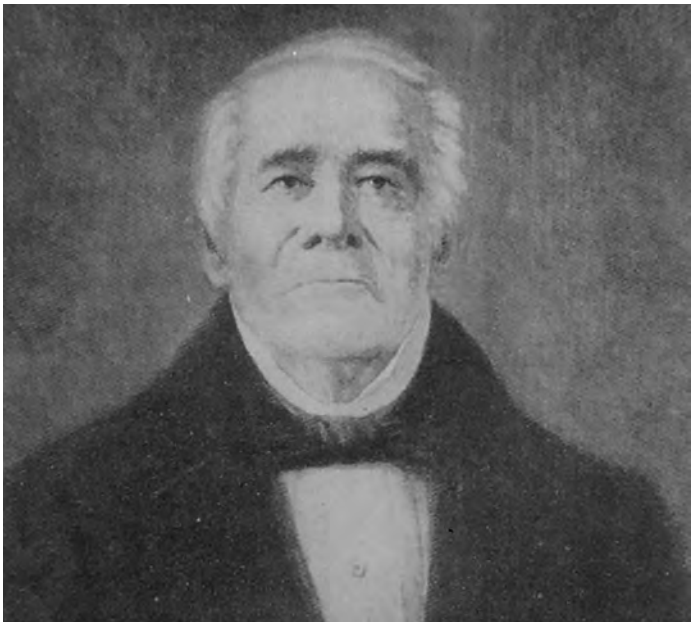


**Figure 1. Simeon North. From "Simeon North first official pistol maker".**

**Figure 2. The Berlin Homestead. From "Simeon North first official pistol maker".**

North families, and the account books show that the workmen were charged $1.25 per week for board. Washing was included in the board.[1]

At the age of thirty-four North secured his first contract for 500 pistols. This contract was soon followed by a second contract for 1500 more pistols. These contracts were for what is known as the U.S. Model 1799 Pistol. Following completion of his 1799 contracts North continued the manufacture of farm implements. In June 1808, North secured a contract to make 1000 pairs of Boarding Pistols for the Navy. By December 1810, an additional contract for 500 more pairs had been obtained. On November 18, 1811, before deliveries to the Navy were completed North entered into a contract for 1000 pairs of Horseman's Pistols.[2] When this contract was completed in 1815, only 606 Pin Fastened and 550 Iron Banded pistols were delivered.[3] North's next contract was for the Model 1813, it is this model that we will come back to as the subject of this article.

These were busy times for North. He was a Lieutenant Colonel of the Connecticut Sixth Militia Regiment from 1811 to 1813 and he was thereafter known as Colonel North. Construction was in progress on a new factory in Middletown, a three story stone and brick building. This 36 × 86 foot factory on a good water source could employ nearly 100 workmen.

The U.S. Model 1816 Army Pistol, actually a continuation of the 1813 contract, followed, and enough pistols were made to complete the 20,000 called for by the contract. In July 1819, North secured another contract for 20,000 pistols. The Model 1819 pistols were completed and delivered by 1823. Next North obtained a contract for 7200 U.S. Model 1817 common rifles followed by three contracts for the U.S. Model 1826 Navy Pistols; each contract was for 1000 pistols. This ended North's pistol contracts with the United States. From this point on North devoted his business life to constructing the Hall Breach Loading rifles and carbines. North died on August 7, 1852 at the age of eighty-seven and is buried at Indian Hill cemetery in Middletown.[4]

## SECTION II THE CONTRACT

The following is the contract for the Model 1813 Pistol. Notice that this contract is for 20,000 pistols and parts. In reality only 626 pistols would be delivered to the Army. In mid 1815 Colonel Wadsworth of the Ordnance Department expressed the opinion that having a pistol of musket caliber was wrong and that pistols should be of rifle caliber. By January 1816 this contract was changed and the caliber was that of the rifle. Now North is left with proofed barrels, locks, stocks and some completed pistols, so he went to the Board of Navy Commissioners with an offer to sell them

**Figure 3. Simeon North—Patriarch of U.S. Pistol Makers. From ASAC Bulletin No. 2.**

these pistols. The Navy purchased 1000 of them in the fall of 1816. It appears the Army agreed to purchase all pistols that were completed prior to the caliber change, so North went to work and got rid of 85 locks and barrels left over from the Model 1811. More on this in the next section.

*The Contract*

*Know all men by these presents, That it is hereby mutually agreed by, and between, the United States, by Callender Irvine, Commissary General and Simeon North, of Berlin Connecticut; that the said Simeon North shall and will manufacture, and deliver within five years from the date hereof, Twenty thousand Pistols, of the size, dimensions and workmanship to the pattern pistol exhibited with the following exceptions, Viz: "Hammer pin too large & enters crooked. To be made the same size of the small pins of the lock. The threads on the small lock pins to be increased about one size. The thread in cock defective, and cock pin and jaw too loose. The sear spring pin hole in plate to be put the same distance from the axle-tree hole as the sear pin hole is. The Pistols are to be stocked with wood cut from the butt or root of the tree having natural turn." It is agreed that the said Simeon North shall furnish to every hundred pistols, the following named articles & component parts of Pistols, that is to say; en bullet screws and Ten screw drivers, Fifteen main springs & Cock Pins, Ten hammer springs, Sear springs, Rammers Hammers & setts side pins & Five cocks. Tumblers, Sears, Pans, Jaws, Bridles, Band springs, Butt screws, Triggers, Setts small lock pins & setts breech pins. Each Pistol not to exceed 3 1/2 pounds in weight, and are to have on each one of then the letters U.S. and an Eagle stamped on the plate of the lock, also the*

*name & place of residence of the manufacturer, the component parts of pistols are to correspond so exactly that any limb or part of one Pistol may be fitted to any other Pistol of the Twenty Thousand; One thousand pistols with the extra parts of limb complete to be delivered in the first year, four thousand in the second year & five thousand in each succeeding year until the whole shall have been completed; the Pistols are to be delivered at Norwich County or at New York, if it should be required after the danger of Capture by the enemy shall have ceased. It is further agreed, that the price of the said Pistols with extra parts complete is and shall be Seven Dollars each Money of the United States, payable to the amount of each and every parcel delivered, on demand after strict & regular inspection, by a person or persons to be appointed for that purpose by the United States and after such inspector shall certify that the said Pistols with their extra parts complete have been so by him inspected & passed agreeably to Contract. An advance of Twenty thousand Dollars, to be made to the said Simeon North on his Bonds with sufficient sureties for the faithful execution of the Contract.*

*A deduction of one Dollar from the price of each pistol delivered is to be made, till the whole advance money is accounted for. It is expressly conditioned, that no member of Congress is or shall be admitted, to any share or part of this contract or agreement, or to any benefit to arise thereupon.*

*WITNESS the hand of the said Callender Irvine, Commissary General, and the Hand and Seal of the said Simeon North this Sixteenth day of April 1813.*

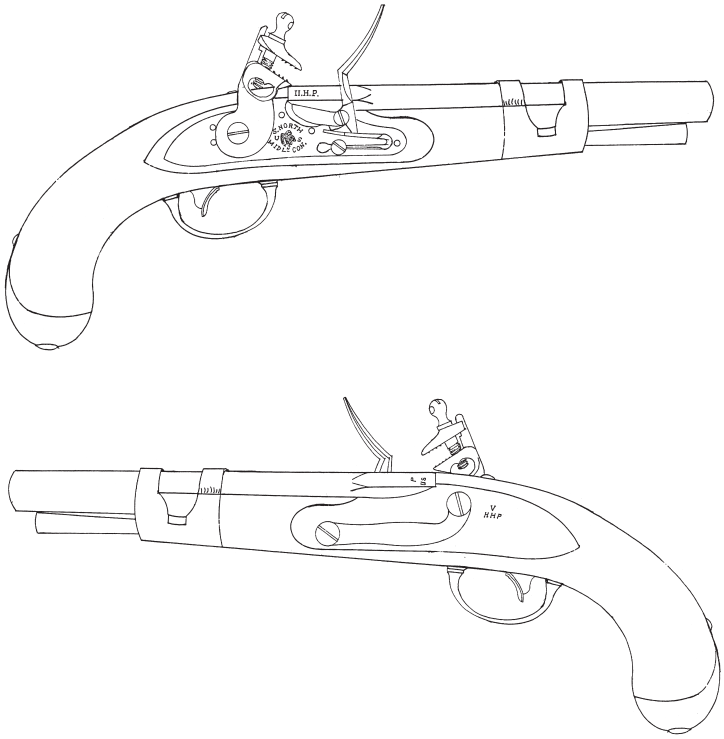
*The Pistols to be proved & inspected and the Boxes furnished for their transportation to be at the expence of the United States.*

*Sealed & delivered in the SIMON NORTH*
*presence of:: (seal)*
*E.J.B.Labrouss CALLENDER IRVINE*
*Commy Genl. (seal)*[5]

## SECTION III THE PISTOLS

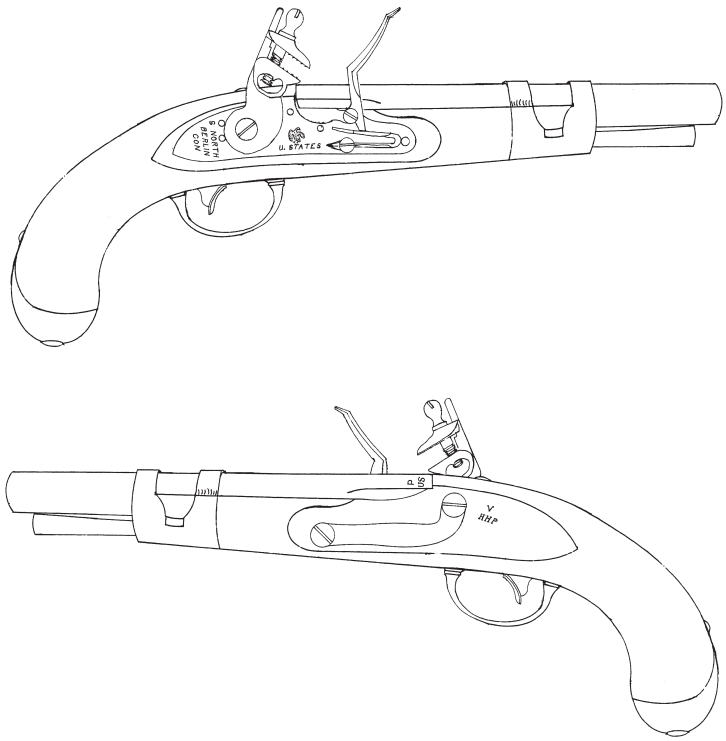
Although all the pistols discussed here are Model 1813s or Model 1813/16 Navy contract, they are quite different.

Pistol #1—This pistol is of the standard configuration for this model. What makes it unusual is that it is one of the first pistols inspected. You will note that this pistol has the standard "Eagle Lock" and the barrel is marked P over U.S. on the left flat with an HHP on the right flat. This pistol also has a V over HHP on the left stock flat, indicating its inspection prior to the first week of January, 1817, which was Henry H. Perkins termination date. These pistols are seldom encountered today.

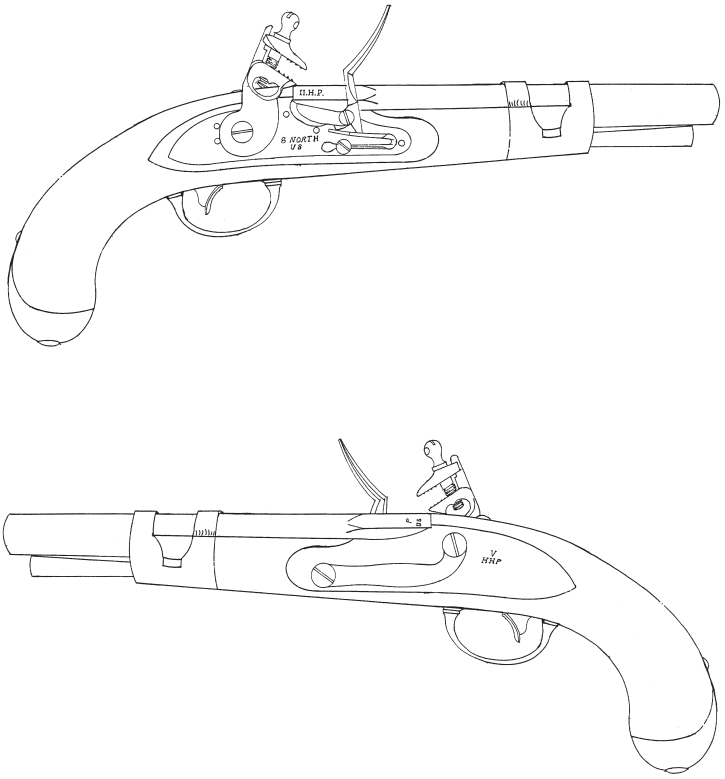


**Pistol #1 Model 1813 Army, Early Inspection, Standard Pattern.**

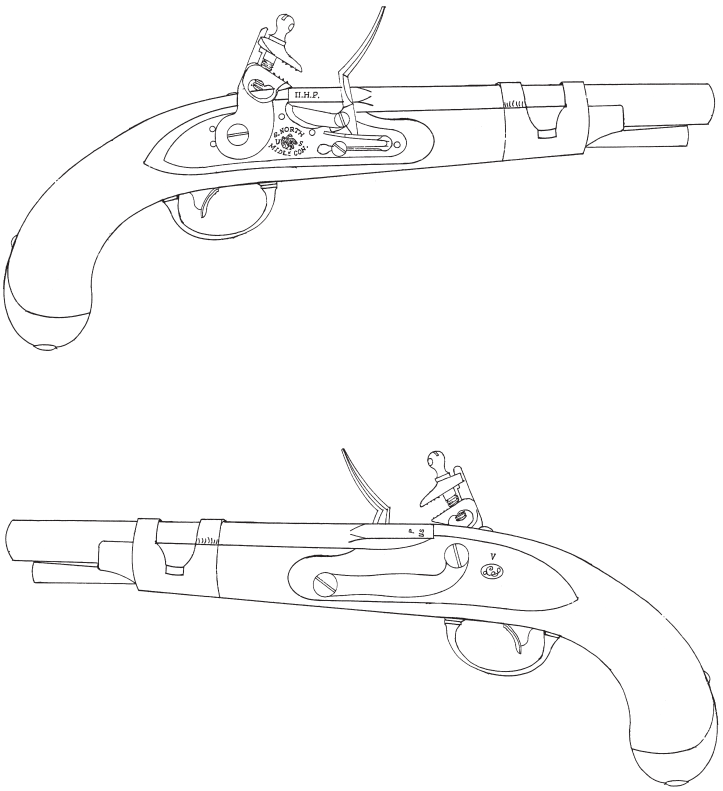
Pistol #2—These pistols have been called transitional pistols but they should be called the Model 1813 flat lock pistol. They were created after an agreement with ordnance to accept the remaining .69 caliber pistols. This pistol has the iron furniture of the current model but uses the left over



**Pistol #2 Model 1813 Army, Flat Lock.**

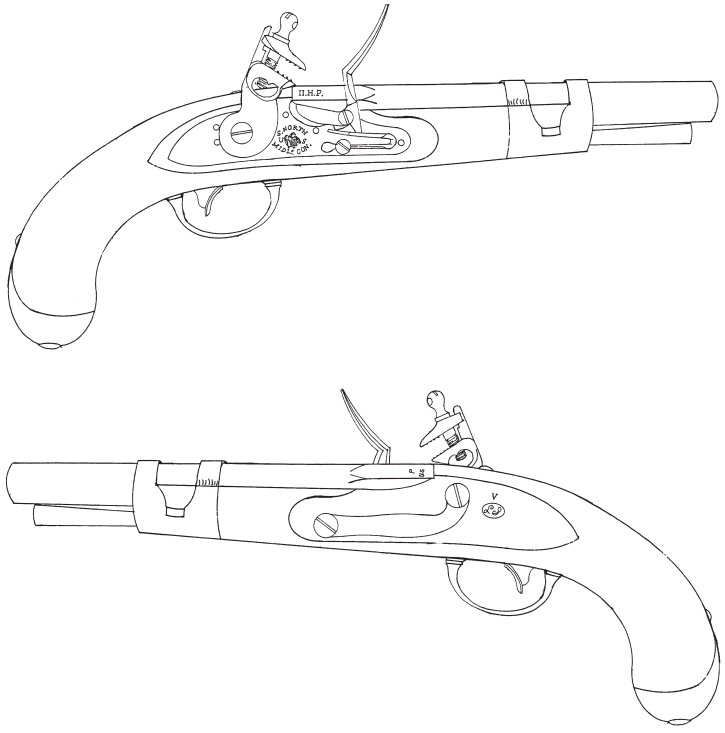



**Pistol #3 Model 1813 Army, Two Line.**




**Pistol #5 Model 1813 Army Extended Fore Stock.**

locks and barrels of the Model 1811. The entire length of the lock is flat and marked with an eagle over U-States forward of the hammer; the tail is marked S. North, Berlin, Conn., in three lines. The barrel is marked P over US. A V over HHP will be found on the left stock flat. Of the 85 submitted for inspection probably less than 10 exist today.




**Pistol #4 Model 1813 Army, Later Inspection Standard Pattern.**

Pistol #3—This pistol is commonly called the two line Army. It has all the standard features of the model except for the lock. The lock will simply be marked, S. North over US, ahead of the hammer. The left stock flat will have a V over HHP. These, like Pistols #1 and #2, were probably all inspected at the same time. As far as is known, there is no reason for this lock marking. These are quite rare today with only 3 to 5 known.

Pistol #4—This is the most commonly seen pistol of this model; it has the standard Eagle lock, the barrel will be marked P over US on the left flat. The right flat may have the familiar HHP stamped on it. The left stock flat will have a V over a script LS in an oval. This marking indicates that Luther Sage replaced Henry H. Perkin.

Pistol #5—This pistol is the same as pistol #4 with one major exception, the fore stock extends past the iron band by approximately 3/4 inch. At first glance it looks like the Model 1816, that is until you notice the octagon breech and .69 caliber bore. These are quite rare today with probably less than 5 known.

This next group of three pistols is the Navy version of the Model 1813 Army. Remember, after the Ordnance Department proposed the change to North's contract to reduce the caliber from .69 to .54 North found himself with a large quantity of proofed barrels, completed locks and possibly finished pistols. To take care of the problem North offered these pistols to the Board of Navy Commissioners,

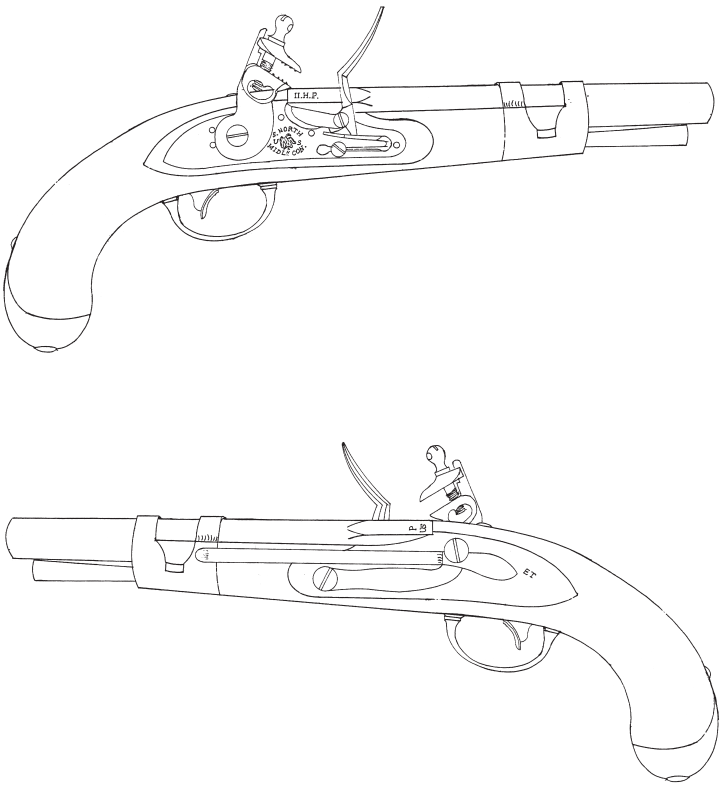
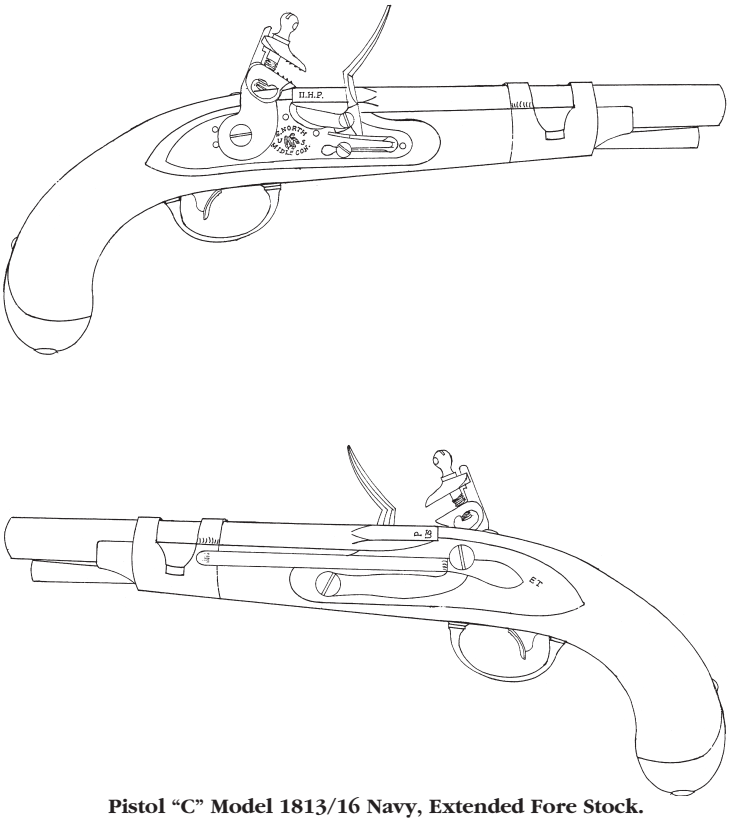
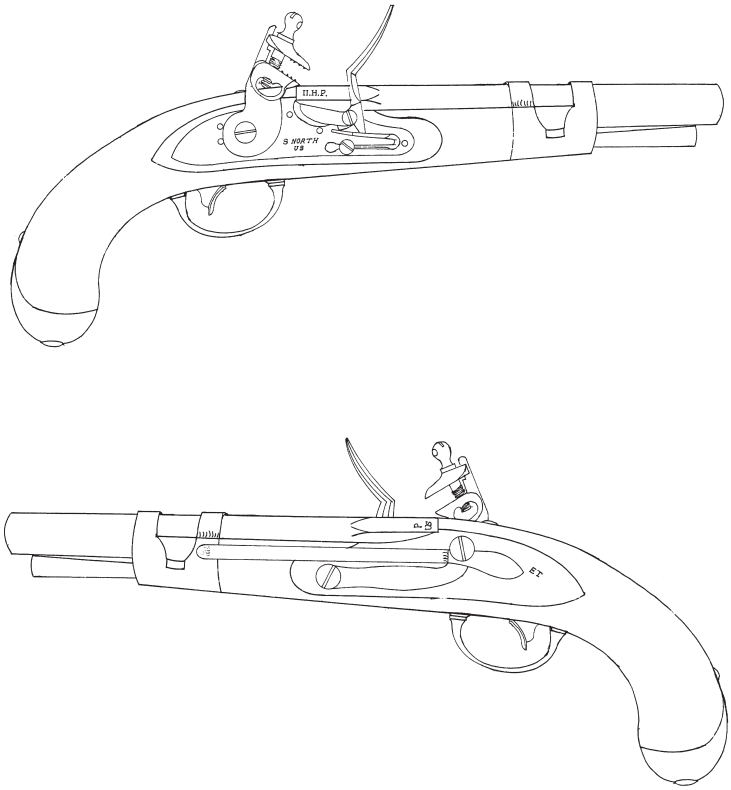



**Figure Pistol "A" Model 1813/16 Navy, Standard Pattern.**




**Pistol "C" Model 1813/16 Navy, Extended Fore Stock.**

they accepted, and bought 1000 of them. These pistols were inspected and accepted in the fall of 1816. Perhaps we should consider calling these pistols the Model 1813/16 Navy.




**Pistol "B" Model 1813/16 Navy, Two Line.**

Pistol "A"—This is the standard model. It has the Eagle lock, the barrel will be marked on the left flat with a P over US, the right flat will have an HHP on it. This pistol came with a 7″ belt hook fastened by one screw to the side plate. Today many are found without this hook and a wood plug inserted in the hole where the belt hook stud would have been. The other important mark will be found on the left stock flat to the rear of the belt hook. This will be a block style letter ET, the mark of Navy Captain Edward Trenchard.

Pistol "B"—This pistol is the same as Pistol "A", except for its lock markings, with the simple S. North over US forward of the hammer. These pistols with their two line locks are quite rare. Only half a dozen or so exist today.

Pistol "C"—This pistol is also the same as Pistol "A" except that it has a 3/4 inch stock extension forward of the barrel band. This small piece of wood makes this the rarest of this model. Only 1 or 2, maybe 3 of these are known.

NOTES

1. S.N.D. North and R.H. North, *Simeon North FIrst Official Pistol maker* (Concord, N.H.: The Rumford Press, 1913) pp 22-30.

2. Edward Bitter and Samuel Smith, *Historic Pistols—The American Flintlock* (New York: Scalamandre Publications, 1985) p.121.

3. Jeska, Robert, *Simeon North Pistol Correspondence* (Plainwell, Michigan: Author publshed, 1993) p.189.

4. Bitter, *loc. Cit.,* p. 124.

5. Major James E. Hicks, *Notes on United States Ordinance* (Mount Vernon, NY, Author published, 1940) p. 45.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT


I thank Robert Jeska for the countless hours that he spent in research. Without his dedication much of the material in this article would probably be buried in obscurity.

# British Naval Edged Weapons—An Overview

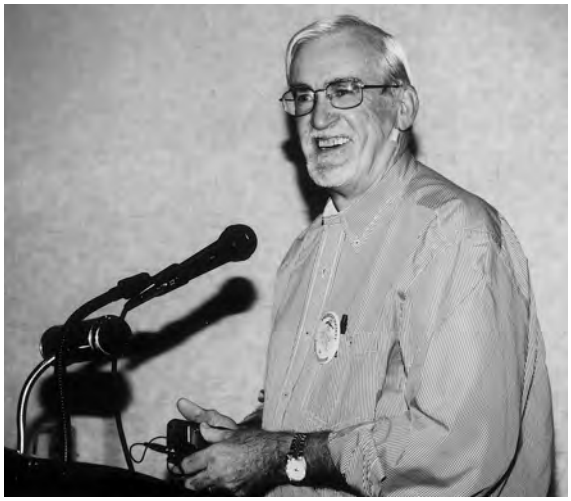
Peter Tuite

## INTRODUCTION

British historians usually refer to the period from the mid-1700 through 1900 as the Age of Empire because it was a period of great expansion for the British Empire. For the first 60 years or so through the early 1800s the Royal Navy became the largest naval force in the world. This growth arose from the continuous wars being fought on the Continent and with America. This period also coincided with the age when sailing ships under the command of bold masters could decide the outcome of both land and sea campaigns.

A considerable amount of basic research has been performed on British naval edged weapons and much of what the author has learned and presents here is based on this work and his own observations. Captain Bosanquet set the standard in 1955 when he documented many of the swords at the Royal Maritime Museum in Greenwich.[1] Later, in 1962, Kennard and May prepared a short monogram[2] on naval small arms. This work was followed by May and Annis's 1970 two-volume work that has become the bible on British naval edged weapons.[3] This same year Annis prepared a monograph that did a fine job of relating early American and British naval edged weapons.[4] Each of these books is a definitive work in its own right and provides the beginning or experienced collector of naval edged weapons a wealth of information. The most recent work that addresses British and American naval edged weapons is by Gilkerson.[5] Unfortunately, except for Gilkerson's book, all of the others are long out of print and are as rare as the swords.

This article addresses three types of edged weapons: swords, cutlasses, and dirks. Through the reign of William IV that ended in 1837, the British Navy was almost continuously at war. For about a 20-year period from 1805 through 1827 the Admiralty gave considerable thought to standardizing the edged weapons used by naval officers. The first navy regulation sword was defined in 1805 and modified in 1825.[6] Just two years later, the pattern sword was revised again and the pattern 1827 sword[7] remains the regulation naval officer's sword through today.



The period of interest is from about 1760 through about 1880 with emphasis on edged weapons made between about 1770 and 1850. As noted above, the definitive reference works on the subject have all been written. Hopefully, the information presented here and the accompanying photographs will shed some new light on the subject for both novice and experienced collectors.

### *SWORD MAKING IN ENGLAND*

The period from 1760 to 1815 was a time of almost continuous war on the continent. England, like other countries, was a major supplier of swords for its own use and for export. In fact many of the swords used by American army and navy officers were made in England. The quality of its swords, primarily using blades from Solingen, was without equal. During this period sword making was a multi-entity endeavor with more than one firm or entity involved. The blades were typically obtained from Solingen, a hilter made the hilt, and a handle binder did handle wire wraps. A cutler, whose name appeared on the blade, typically sold the final product. The cutler was in reality an assembler of the swords bearing his name. However, since there were no rules on sword markings, anyone, including hatters, jewelers, accoutrements suppliers, silversmiths, or military suppliers could mark a sword as their own. These "maker" markings are a

valuable source of information for dating English swords. Bosanquet first compiled a list of English sword makers and assemblers in 1955. This list was expanded on in Annis and May's work published almost 15 years later. Both these works specifically address naval swords but their listings are generally applicable to all types of swords. Use of the lists in these two reference works is invaluable in dating British swords as well as British made American swords.

English swords are well known for the quality of the blade blue and gilding. This was a highly developed craft in England and it cannot be reproduced to this date. This work was performed by yet another entity in the sword making cycle. The technique was fairly complex for its day. First, the blade was covered with an acid resistant wax and the blade motifs were scratched through the wax coating. Next the blade was etched by an acid bath or wash and the acid seeped through the wax scratches to the steel blade. The wax coating was removed, and a copper sulphate solution was placed on the areas to be gilded and the gilding process began. It typically involved a mixture of gold and mercury. These materials were placed into the previously etched surfaces and fired. During the firing process, the mercury evaporated and the firing blued the blade and left the gold in the etched designs. Workers in this trade had significant health problems from mercury poisoning. Blade surfaces that were to remain clear were coated with a form of shellac before the firing. The final step was blade polishing.[8] This was an art form that English sword makers were world renown for, but it lost favor about 1835. Many of the swords and dirks described below have, or once had, blue and gilded blades with the gilding on the presentation sword blades extremely elaborate.

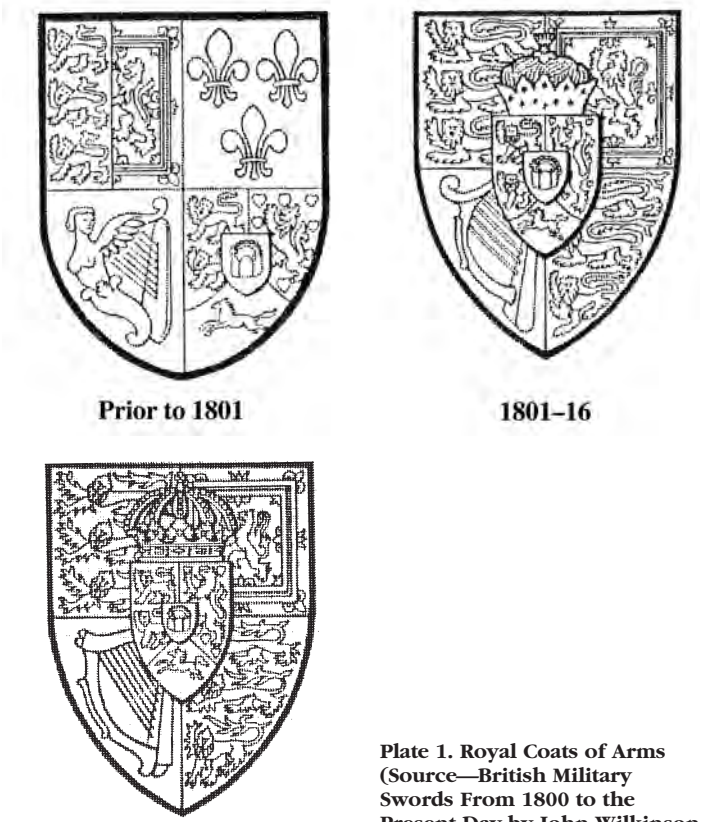



**Plate 1. Royal Coats of Arms (Source—British Military Swords From 1800 to the Present Day by John Wilkinson Latham p 11.**

The designs etched on British sword blades are also helpful in dating a piece, in the absence of a maker's name. Many dress or officers swords were etched with a Royal Coat of Arms as well as a cypher. Plate 1 illustrates the Royal Coats of Arms in use for the period of interest and the dates they were in use.

The coat of arms for Queen Victoria, not shown, was used after 1837. These coats of arms typically have two mottoes on them:

**Plate 2. Sword blade showing post 1801 coat of arms.**

Around the shield—*honi soit qui mal y pense,* which means shamed be he who thinks evil of it.

In a riband—*Dieu et mon droit,* which means God and *my right.*

For the period of interest, the major distinction is the use of the fleur-de-lis, instead of the rampant lion (Scotland), in the third quadrant. Where the fleur-de-lis is present, the sword predates 1801. Plate 2 shows a gilded post 1801 coat of arms on a sword blade.

Each monarch from George III through Victoria also used different cyphers. The reigns of these Monarchs were as follows; George III 1760–1820, George IV 1820–1830, William IV 1830–1837, and Victoria 1837–1901. Cyphers were also used on the blades of early cutlasses issued by the Board of Ordinance. Thus, the blade cypher is yet another way to date a particular naval sword or cutlass. Plate 3 illustrates the cyphers used and Plate 4 shows a typical crown with cypher as gilded on a sword blade.

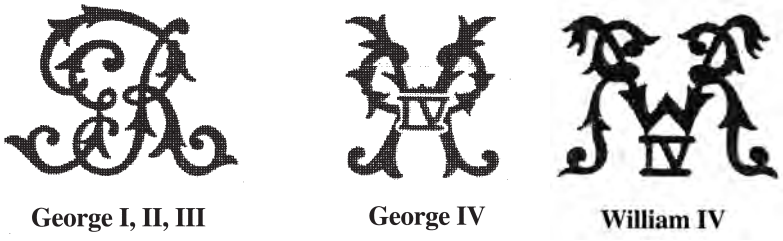



**Plate 3. Cyphers of British Monarchs (Source—British Military Swords From 1800 to Present Day by John Wilkinson Latham p 10.**

**Plate 4. Georgian cypher on sword blade.**

The type of fouled anchor emblem on the blade, the guard or the grip, can also date British naval swords. The Royal Navy used the anchor with cable or fouled anchor as early as the 1600s. However, it wasn't until about 1812 that the fouled anchor was used with a Georgian crown above it.[9] Plate 5 shows the typical emblems on sword langets with, and without, the crown above the anchor.

Early cutlasses also have a system that can be used for dating as well as identifying the supplier. Research performed and documented[10] by Annis and May led to a system whereby viewer marks on cutlasses can be used to date the blade through about 1815.

**Plate 5. Langets illustrating use of cabled anchor and cabled anchor with crown.**

## *OFFICERS SWORDS*

European naval officers began to rely on this type of edged weapon in the latter part of the 17th century. The small sword was worn by civilian and military alike and was used for dress occasions. The fighting weapon of choice during this period was the hanger that was used for cutting as opposed to thrusting. It has a relatively short curved single edged blade, which is well suited for fighting in close quarters, a simple grip and knuckle-bow, and a cutlass type guard.

### *Small Swords*

The popularity of the small sword made it the choice of naval officers for dress occasions. Although the hilts of small swords did not vary significantly except with time, it came with several types of straight blades that were in use simultaneously. These blade configurations included hollow triangles, square, flattened ovals and what is referred to as the colichemarde design. Plate 6 illustrates a very early small sword chased with naval or maritime motifs that has a colichemarde blade. The 32 inch long hollow triangular blade is wide at its top and converting to a hollow triangle at its lower section. It is thought that the wide blade width at its top made it better suited for parrying thrusts relative to the typical slender blades seen on most small swords. This particular sword is silver mounted and the hallmarks on the knuckle-bow date it to 1762–1763. It also has the maker's initial's [W.K.] indicating that William Kinman,[11] a London goldsmith, made it.

The hilt is illustrated on Plate 7. The nautical motifs on each side of the guard differ, but those on opposite sides of the guards are mirror images of each other. The motifs on the ricasso are musicians (drummer and flutist) as opposed to the stands of arms seen on other swords like this. The grip is wrapped with silver wire with brass bands between. The author has seen four of these swords in the last decade so this basic design must have been popular in its time.

### *Slotted Hilt Hangers*

While small swords satisfied dress requirements for naval officers, there was a need for fighting swords since naval officers were expected to engage the enemy in hand to hand combat. During the 1770s, a popular sword among both army and navy officers was the brass mounted slotted

**Plate 6. Early silver hilt sword by William Kidman with naval/nautical motifs, c1763.**

hilt hanger. Its name is derived from the guard and knuckle-bow that is formed from a single sheet of brass with slots or cutouts. The grip is typically turned wood with a wire wrap and simple brass ferrule. The most prevalent pommel is urn shaped and an anchor engraved on the pommel indicates navy use. The blade is slightly curved and relatively short, making it an ideal naval fighting sword.

Two fighting swords are illustrated in Plate 8. These swords have a knuckle-bow and guard made from a single piece of brass or copper with the lower portion of the knuckle-bow and the guard slotted. The sword on the right has a 28 1/4 inch long 1 5/8 inch wide slightly curved blade with a wide central fuller to its tip. The urn pommel has a fouled anchor inscribed at its rear and the wood grip is wrapped with double twisted copper wire. The inscribed anchor at the rear of the pommel indicates naval use. The sword on the left has a rectangular wood grip with the wire missing. Its blade is 28 3/4 inch long and 5/8 inch wide with a similar wide fuller. it has a fouled anchor engraved on the obverse side of the pommel (see inset).

**Plate 7. Grip of early naval sword by William Kidman.**

Plate 9 shows two more fighting swords, one with urn pommel and one with lion head pommel. The sword on the left has a 23 inch long by 1 1/2 inch wide blade with a double fuller—shorter than the Plate 8 sword blades. It has a relatively flat wooden grip with the wire missing and a rounded pommel with the fouled anchor engraved at its rear (see inset). The blade is stamped with a crown above *H/vey* on its obverse indicating manufacture by one of the Harvey's who made swords from 1690.[12] The sword on the right has two inset anchors with a lion head pommel. Its blade is also relatively short; 24 inches long by 1 1/4 inch wide, and has a double fuller. The rounded spiral wood grip is wrapped with a single relatively wide strand of copper wire. Both swords are compact and well balanced compared to the others shown above and are thus ideally suited for sea service.

### *Five Ball Hilt*

Prior to 1805, another very popular dress sword among senior officers was the configuration that is referred to as the five-ball hilt. It is similar to the infantry Officers pattern of 1786.[13] This sword has an octagonal pillow pommel, fluted ivory grip with a center band containing an anchor, ending in a simple ferrule. The knuckle-bow has 5 small balls as does the outer shell of the guard, hence the name. There is usually a small anchor within the open space of the shell guard. The pommel has a ring for a sword knot. These dress swords were typically worn by Flag Officers and Commissioned Officers from about 1790.

A typical five-ball hilt with spadroon blade is shown on Plate 10. This sword has the anchor and crown on the grip emblem plus the anchor inset in the guard opening (see Plates 11 and 12). The blade is 1 1/8 inch wide by 30 inch long with a single fuller extending almost to its tip—a typical spadroon blade. It is blue and gilded over about half its length. The obverse is decorated with florals, a stand of arms, and a Georgian crown over the Georgian cypher (GR). the reverse has florals, a single rose an the Royal Coat of Arms with both mottoes. This coat of arms does not have the fleur-de-lis in the third quadrant so it postdates 1801 when the Coat of Arms was changed. The leather scabbard has a top mount with frog stud and ring, a simple center mount with ring and a relatively long chape that is a later replacement. The reverse of the top mount is engraved *Barrett/Corney & Corney/479 Strand.* This London firm[14] was at this address from 1803 to 1805.

**Plate 8. Two naval fighting swords with slotted hilts and anchors on the pommel, c1780.**

The underside of the guard is marked with [FT] the stamp of Francis Thurkle, a very prominent London maker of swords from about 1760 through 1801, when he died.[15] Thurkle is known for his American and British naval swords. Some believe that his mark was only placed on swords for export but the crown over the anchor indicates this is clearly not the case.

### *Fighting Swords*

Naval officers needed fighting swords and those with relatively short curved saber like blades were the most popular. In 1796, the Light Infantry and Grenadiers had a sword pattern that would be adopted by naval officers. Plate 13 shows a fighting sword, which was adopted from earlier army patterns.

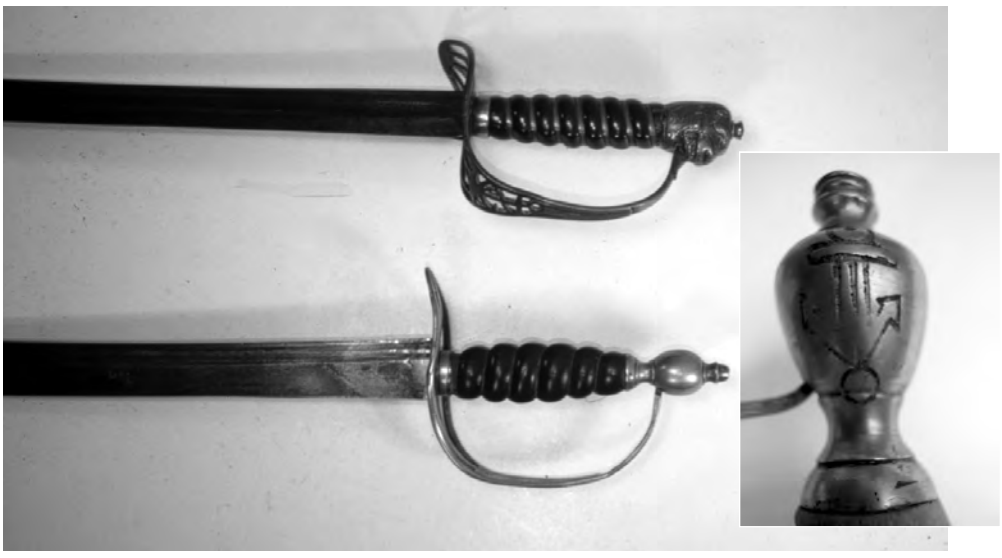


**Plate 9. Two naval fighting swords—one with anchor on pommel, one with lion head pommel and two inset anchors, c1780.**

It has the classic lion head pommel with lanyard ring and a checkered hand fitted ivory grip. The S bar stirrup hilt has a two crown/anchor riveted (rare) to the guard. The blue and gilded blade is 1 3/8 inch wide by 29 3/4 inch long with about a 2 inch curve break. It has an unknown makers die stamp on both sides of the ricasso. The obverse is decorated with a geometric, the post 1801 Royal Coat of Arms with both mottoes and a sunburst above. The reverse is decorated with a geometric, lady liberty with a shield, spear and plumed headdress, and the Georgian crown with a canopy above and the Georgian cypher below.

### *Pattern Swords*

The Royal Navy prescribed the first pattern on 4 August 1805 in an order from the Admiralty. The patterns for these swords have never been found. However, the Admiralty explicitly provided for stirrup hilt swords in its order of 1825.[16] The 1825 requirements also explicitly defined grip and pommel configurations as a function of rank. Swords with the straight "D" hilt which otherwise could be defined as 1805 swords as well as the rank distinctions existed before 1825. We still see what are supposed to be pattern 1825 swords referred to as pattern 1805 swords and vice versa. Thus, there is some disagreement on whether the explicit requirements of 1825 were in fact a revision to the unfound 1805 requirements or just an attempt to formally document them. The stirrup hilt configuration is very similar to the light cavalry officer pattern of 1796[17] with a bird's head pommel.

The 1805 pattern provided for a reverse P knuckle-bow (also referred to as stirrup), turned down quillon and langets with anchor and cable (fouled anchor). Additionally, shortly after 1812, a crown was added over the fouled anchor on the langets. The 1825 pattern changed the guard to a

**Plate 10. Five-ball hilt sword with pillow pommel by Francis Thurkle, c1790.**

**Plate 11. Typical grip medallion with engraved anchor.**

straight stirrup hilt or D guard. Otherwise both swords are identical. Note that most officers still had both dress and fighting swords with the fighting swords being similar to those described above. The 1805 sword distinctions among ranks were determined by the pommel prescribed for Commanders and above. Lieutenants and Midshipman had a similar sword with a black fish skin grip, and lower ranks such as Warrant Officers had a black fish skin grip with a stepped pommel. There is some uncertainty as to exactly what Midshipmen wore. According to the 1825 requirements, commissioned officers wore a white ivory grip lion head pommel sword, Warrant Officers and Masters Mates wore a black fish skin grip lion head pommel sword, and Midshipmen wore black fish skin grip stepped pommel swords.

During the War of 1812 Captain James Lawrence of the USS *Chesapeake,* with an untrained and inexperienced crew, accepted a challenge from the captain of the HBMS *Shannon,* and sailed from Boston harbor to defeat in June 1813. A sword worn by the British naval officer Lieutenant William Wallis during the engagement between the *Chesapeake* and *Shannon* is illustrated on Plate 14.

This sword is a pattern 1805 with lion's mask pommel, wire wrapped ivory grip and simple D guard with an anchor and crown on its langets. Its owner had the inside of the knuckle-bow engraved: *To commemorate Shannon and Chesapeake,* and the inside guard engraved: *June 1st 1813,* to commemorate the engagement. The single edged blade is 3/4 inch wide by 27 inch long and bright etched. The obverse has a leafy spray with flower, a fouled anchor, and a stand of arms with a floral spray. The reverse has an oak leaf spray, a leafy spray, a stand of arms with a halberd and cannon, and another leafy spray. The leather scabbard has three

**Plate 12. Typical inset anchor in cross guard.**

**Plate 13. Fighting sword based on Light Infantry and Grenadiers pattern with large inset anchor in guard, c1805.**

brass mounts with the maker's name: *Read/Sword Cutler/Portsmouth* on the reverse of the top mount. Read was a Portsmouth cutler from 1781 to 1823.[18]

Plate 15 illustrates the hilts of three different midshipmen's swords. The earliest swords is on the right. It was made sometime before 1812 since the langet does not have a crown above the anchor. It is a relatively small version of the stirrup hilt with a reverse P knuckle-bow (1805). It has a checkered black ivory grip formed to the hand and wrapped three twisted gilded wires. It has a simple stepped pommel, back strap and ferrule with a lanyard ring just below the pommel on the knuckle-bow, which is rounded. The simple guard has a turned down round ball quillon. It has a 27 inch long deeply etched flattened diamond double-edged blade that is 3/4 inch wide at the ricasso. The obverse is etched with florals, a stand of arms, and a crown over Georgian cypher and florals. The reverse is etched with florals, a stand of arms, the Royal Coat of Arms with both mottoes, ending in floral designs.

The middle sword in Plate 15 is relatively ornate with a presentation on the scabbard top mount. The presentation reads: *A present from Lady Blackwood to Mr. Wm Hamilton Decr 1819.* William Alexander Baillie Hamilton was the third son of the Reverend Charles Baillie Hamilton and Lady Charlotte. Being able to choose his career, he went to sea as a midshipman on the *Rochfort* (80) in 1816. Upon leaving the Royal Naval College in 1819, he went to sea on the *Active* (48). From here he served on *Euryalus* (42) and on completion of his cruise, he passed his Lieutenants exam in 1823. In 1826, he assumed command of the sloop *Doterel.* Shortly thereafter he went to assume command of the *Pelican* (18) in the Mediterranean; there he engaged pirates and was promoted to Captain in 1828. He went on to become a Rear Admiral in 1855, Vice Admiral in 1862, and retired in 1865.

The black fish skin grip is wrapped with three strands of gilded wire with the center one coiled. The pommel, back strap, ferrule and rounded knuckle-bow are all chased

**Plate 14. Pattern sword of Royal Navy Lieutenant William Wallis commemorating *USS Chesapeake* and *HBMS Shannon* engagement on 1 June 1813 (NYHS Collection).**

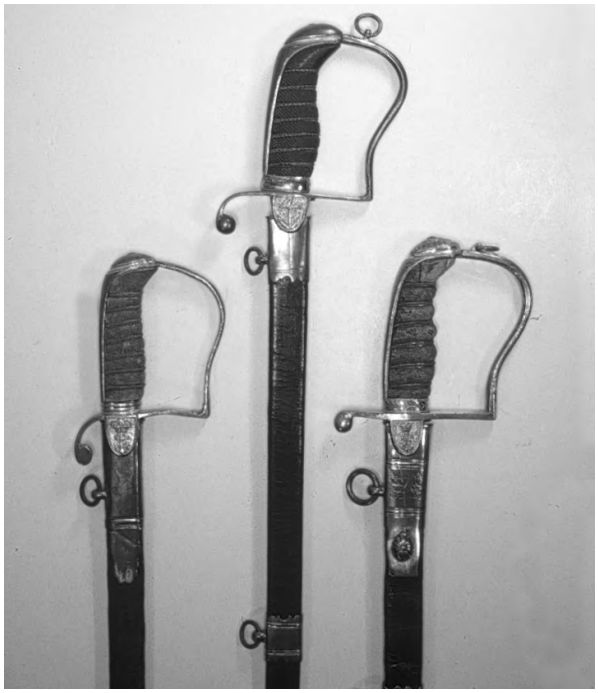


**Plate 15. Three midshipmen's pattern swords dating c1810 to c1820.**

**Plate 16. Three commissioned officers pattern swords dating c1805 to c1860.**

with floral motifs. The guard is straight and terminates with an engraved ball shaped turned down quillon. Note that the langets have and anchor with the crown above confirming that use of the crown was adopted sometime before 1819. This sword has a relatively narrow, 3/4 inch wide, spadroon like blade that is 28 inches long. It is well worn but the visible etchings include a Georgian crown, the Royal Coat of Arms with both mottoes, and floral and military motifs. The top scabbard mount reverse reads: *R Johnston, Late Bland and Foster, Sword Cutler and Belt maker to His Majesty, 68 James Strt London.* Richard Johnston was at 68 James Street from 1798 that is consistent with the presentation.[19]

The sword on the left in Plate 15 is relatively plain and probably represents what most midshipmen wore. The black fish grip is wrapped with three stands of gilded wire with the center one coiled; the pommel, back strap, and ferrule are plain. the flat reverse P knuckle-bow is flat with a slot below the pommel for a lanyard. The guard terminates with a pronounced flat turned quillon. It has a 24 3/4 inch long diamond shaped blade that is 3/4 inch wide. The blade is etched with a series of simple geometrics and florals. The top scabbard mount reverse reads: *Dunsford Fore Street Dock.* Dunsford was a sword maker at Fore St. in Devonport from 1812.[20]

The blades on all three swords have similar widths that were probably typical of midshipmen swords. The scabbards that were made over a period of 10–15 years are very different and probably reflect period as opposed to stylistic changes. The early sword (pre 1812) has very simple small mounts while both later swords have relatively long mounts with the presentation sword having an ornate frog stud on the top mount.

Plate 16 shows the hilts of three stirrup hilt commissioned officers swords. The sword on the right has a straight D guard that should conform to the 1825 regulations. However, with only a fouled anchor on the langet, this sword was made well before 1825. It has the straight stirrup guard with smooth ivory grip, including 7 wraps of three-strand wire, and a lion's head pommel. The langets are inscribed with an anchor and cable. it has 1 1/8 inch by 32 1/2 inch long blue and gilt spadroon blade with a single fuller. The blade obverse shows the Royal Coat of Arms (with standing lion) with both mottoes amid plummage. The reverse shows forals, a fouled anchor with Georgian crown above and floral designs. the reverse scabbard top mount is engraved *Dunsford/Fore Str/Devonport.* As noted above, Dunsford was a sword maker at Fore St. beginning in 1812. This maker, plus the absence of a crown on the langets, is consistent with dating this sword no later than 1812. Additionally, its spadroon blade is almost identical to that on the five-ball hilt sword with spadroon blade shown on Plate 10 above.

The middle sword on Plate 16, illustrates a typical pattern officers dress sword. It has a reverse P knuckle-bow with a smooth black ivory grip, a three strand wire wrapping, and a lion's head pommel. The lion's mane extends the full length of the back strap and the langets have the crown over the anchor. According to the regulations, this was a lieutenants dress sword. The rounded double-edged be is 31 inch long by 1/2 inch wide. The obverse is etched with the supplier's name: *Ede Son & Ravenscroft/Chancery Lane/ London E.C.*

The sword on the left in Plate 16 presents a later commissioned officers sword. It is much smaller scale than that the one on the right. It also has a straight stirrup guard with smooth ivory grip, wrapped with three-strand gilded wire, and a lion's head pommel. The langets are inscribed with an anchor and cable plus a crown over the anchor. The blade is triangular shaped and is 5/8 inch wide and 28 inch long. It is blue and

**Plate 17. Pattern 1827 sword with pipe back blade, c1835.**

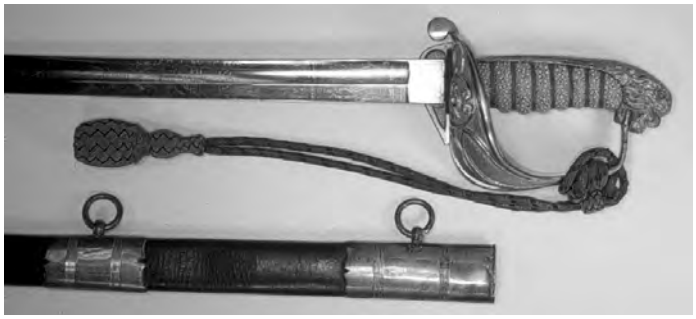


**Plate 18. Pattern 1827 sword with Wilkinson blade, c1850.**

gilded and etched with florals and stands of arms. The reverse scabbard top mount is marked *Zachariah/Portsmo.* Zachariah was a jeweler and goldsmith in Portsmouth from 1835 to 1865, dating this sword to sometime after 1835.[21]

In 1827 the Admiralty decided a sword pattern that could be worn for dress and also used in combat. These swords remain the regulation sword for Royal navy officers but the blade configurations and widths have changed over time.

An early pattern 1827 sword dating from about 1835 is shown on Plate 17. It has a quill back double-edged spear point blade that is 1 1/8 inch wide and 29 inch long. The obverse/reverse is etched with the maker's name: *Andrews/Pall Mall/London.* The other etchings include a crown and fouled anchor on reverse and royal arms on reverse. The scabbard top locket reverse is also marked; *Andrews/Pall Mall/London.* Andrews was at 18 Pall Mall (1819–1820) and at 9 Pall Mall (1821–1825).[22] This sword has features that indicate it was made after 1832 but before the mid-1830s. The scabbard has a frog stud plus two lockets with rings indicating it is post 1832. The sword also has a ring on the ferrule for a sword knot—a feature that did not extend beyond the mid 1830s.

Plate 18 shows a later version of the pattern 1827 sword made by Wilkinson and it has what is referred to as the Wilkinson blade. it dates from about 1856. It has 1 1/8 inch wide by 30 1/2 inch long blade with spear point. The blade obverse blade is marked with crown and motto, and the reverse is marked *Gillot/36/Strand/London,* fouled anchor and crown. Gillot was a London cutler from 1828.[23] This sword is an early transitional piece as evidence by short lion mane on hilt since the regulations required full length. The grip is probably a holdover from an earlier sword. The ring on the ferrule for a sword knot has also been removed and this feature did not extend beyond the mid-1830s. The scabbard has a longer (7+ inch) chape that is consistent with 1846 change to Wilkinson blade for these lion head pommel swords. It has a plaque at the rear of the top mount that reads: *_son/_sword/maker/Pall Mall/_.*

The Plate 19 sword has a claymore blade and dates c1870. The unique blade is 1 1/2 inch wide by 32 inches long and is double fullered. It was made by Wilkinson and has a spear point. the obverse blade is engraved with the proof mark, the owner's family crest and his name *E. Boyle,* an intricate vine, a fouled anchor with crown and sunburst above, ending with an intricate vine. The reverse is etched: *Henry/Wilkinson/Pall Mall/London,* the Wilkinson crest with banner reading *by appointment* below, an intricate vine, the Victorian coat of arms, and an intricate vine. Wilkinson was a prominent supplier of swords from 1772 to the present day.[24]

Claymore blades were rarely used but are evident in 1860–1880 timeframe. The grip has full lion mane that indicates the later date. The guard is relatively large and does not have a turndown on its reverse. This is rare since most guards had sprung turndowns. After about 1880, the Claymore blade was abandoned in favor of the Wilkinson blade that remained in use through today.

There is one other blade configuration for the pattern 1827 sword. It has a cutlass blade[25] and is very rare. Like the progression of the American pattern 1852 naval swords, once the change was made back to the Wilkinson blade, blade widths on pattern 1827 swords were gradually reduced to the relatively narrow blades seen today.

## *PRESENTATION SWORDS*

The early 1800s were times when the actions of ship captains and their ability to use their ships in battle were often the decisive factors in the continuous wars on the continent. Typically, the actions of single ships or relatively small squadrons were quick and decisive and British ships won most of these engagements. To support the military officers engaged in these actions, swords were presented to individuals to honor their gallantry in battle. Three presentation swords including one to a Royal Marine are discussed.

### *John Pilford Trafalgar Sword*

In England, the City of London, London merchants, and the Lloyds' Patriotic Fund awarded swords primarily to

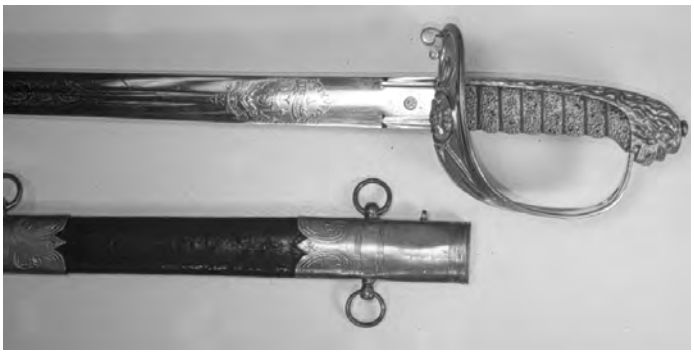


**Plate 19. Pattern 1827 sword of Lieutenant Edward Boyle with Claymore blade, c1870.**

naval officers for their gallantry in battle. Swords from the Patriotic Fund are the most famous and desired. Lloyds started this Fund in 1803 and it awarded both swords and silver vases for gallantry in action. From the Fund's inception through its termination in May 1809, the Fund awarded a total of about 176 presentation swords[26] to British naval marine and army officers who were primarily engaged in the Napoleonic wars. The Lloyds Patriotic Fund swords were all made, or assembled by Richard Teed. His name first appears in the London Directory of 1799 as a jeweler and dealer in antiques. it is not clear how or why the Patriotic fund gave him the contract to provide its swords but each sword is inscribed at the top of the scabbard with *Richard Teed, Dress sword maker to the Patriotic Fund, Lancaster Court, Strand.* Strand was a London Street and the 1811 London Directory, after the Fund ceased to exist, lists Teed as *sword maker to the Patriotic Fund .*[27]

The first swords were awarded on June 23, 1803 for gallantry during the action between the French ship *Venteux* and the *La Loire.* Three swords were awarded; a 30 pounder to Midshipman Priest, and two 50 pounders to Lieutenants Bowen and Temple. The last sword of record, a 50 pounder, was awarded on August 23, 1810 to a Lieutenant Cox for gallantry while serving on the *Nereide.* For the swords and silver vases awarded, the Fund expended about tens of thousands of pounds during its tenure—a significant sum for the period.

There were three main types of swords (numbers awarded from different references are in parenthesis):

*30 pounder (16–17)*—Typically awarded to Midshipmen (8) and Mates (4), but several were awarded to Marine Lieutenants (4).

*50 pounder (88–89)*—Typically awarded to Lieutenants (63), but some were awarded to HEIC Captains (15), Royal Marines (9), a Master and Army officers (3).

*100 pounder (39–41)*—Typically awarded to Captains and Commanders (34), but some were awarded to Lieutenants commanding (2), an HEIC Commodore (1) and Army officers (2).

The hilts on all swords are identical. The blades are similar but the blue and gilt motifs differ and the presentation background differs; blue lettering on a gold background for the 30 pounder and gold lettering on a blue background for the 50 and 100 pounder. The scabbards and sword belts that accompany each sword differ very significantly with the 100 pounder being most elaborate and the 30 pounder being least elaborate. Today, the 30 pounder with the least elaborate scabbard and belt is the rarest Lloyds' sword.

The fourth, and most elaborate type, of Lloyds sword was awarded to the Captains of each ship that fought under Nelson at Trafalgar, the definitive naval battle of the period, and perhaps in British naval history. Twenty-nine (29) Trafalgar swords were awarded with four of them to Lieutenants commanding in the absence of their ship's Captains. Plate 20 shows the Trafalgar sword awarded to Lieutenant John Pilford, commanding the *Ajax* (74).

**Plate 20. Lloyds Trafalgar sword presented to Lieutenant John Pilford, commanding *Ajax(74)* (W. Scott Ferris Collection).**

John Pilford was born in 1776 and entered the Navy in 1788 serving on the *Crown.* On February 1795, he was promoted by Lord Howe to be Lieutenant of the *Russell.* He then served on the *Kingfisher* and helped suppress a mutiny on 1 July 1797. Following that he served on the *Imperieux* and commanded the boats that destroyed the French corvette *Insolente.* Upon renewal of the war with France in 1803 he served on the *Hindostan,* the *Dragon* and finally the *Ajax.* William Brown the Captain of the *Ajax,* returned to England with Robert Calder who was to be tried for a court martial. Thus Pilford, a 1st Lieutenant, found himself commanding the *Ajax* when Nelson's fleet left Cadiz., a few days before the battle. During the battle of Trafalgar, *Ajax* was on the weather column and was engaged with Dumanoir's division; eleven men were lost. Following the battle, he was advanced to Captain in December 1805. He was granted an augmentation of his arms in 1808, and in June 1815, he was nominated Commander of the Bath (CB). From 1827 to 1831, he was captain of the ordinary at Plymouth and died at Stonehenge on 12 July 1834 at age 60.[28]

While a 100 pounder, the Trafalgar sword differs from the standard 100 pounder in two respects; the scabbard top mount and the recipient's initials placed on the blade.

Each Lloyds presentation sword, scabbard, and belt was presented in a mahogany case lined in blue velvet and

**Plate 21. Reverse grip of John Pilford Trafalgar sword.**

accompanied by a card that described the meaning of each of the features on the sword hilt. Plate 21 shows the reverse hilt. It has a diamond checkered hand formed ivory grip with a lion's mask pommel and a full back strap chased to represent the skin of a Nemean lion and an ornate ferrule. The cross guard is a Roman Fasces and the knuckle-bow is designed to represent Hercules' club surrounded by a serpent. The cross guard has a block chased with arms at its center with deeply chased leaves on the langets.

All the blades on Lloyds swords are the same size: slightly curved sabers that are 30 1/2 inch long and 1 1/2 inch wide, with a single fuller. They are decorated with blue and gilded etchings over almost their entire length as shown on the above plates, but the blade ornamentation differs. The presentation on Pilford's Trafalgar sword reads:

> *FROM THE PATRIOTIC FUND AT LLOYDS TO JOHN PILFORD: CAPT OF HMS AJAX FOR HIS / MERITORIOUS SERVICES IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE SIGNAL VICTORY OVER THE COMBINED / FLEETS OF FRANCE AND SPAIN OFF CAPE TRAFALGAR ON THE 21st OCTOBER, 1805.*

Except for the name of the officer and ship, this is the standard form of the presentation on all twenty-nine Trafalgar swords.

The scabbard is wood almost completely enclosed with gilded metal. There are two carrying rings in the shape of coiled snakes. Just below the throat there is a large oval medallion with a seated Britannia holding a victors laurel with a background of ships. Above this is a curved panel with the ship name, *Ajax,* and the word *Nelson,* and then *Trafalgar, 21st Octr 1805* on a circular plaque. The scabbard has two long oval cut out panels with a black velvet background. The uppermost panel contains a naval crown, a helmet, anchor and buoy and a flag, rudder, and laurel sprays against the velvet background. The next metal oval panel has a figure of Hercules an the Hydra with the panel surrounded by a stand of arms that includes an anchor. The lower cutout panel contains a ship's mast, crossed flags, chain shot, an anchor, sails, a Roman Fasces, laurel sprays and an anchor. The bottom gilded panel has Hercules struggling with the Nemean lion surrounded by the same motifs as the middle panel. The chape is edged with bead designs. Plate 22 shows the lower third of the blade and scabbard indicating the extent of the blade's etching.

### *Admiral Sir Charles Brisbane Curacao Sword*

Plate 23 shows the French inspired presentation sword awarded to Sir Charles Brisbane for his capture of Curacao.

In 1806, Brisbane, with the rank of Captain, was in command of the frigate *Arethusa* at the Jamaica Station under Admiral Dacres. In December, he was ordered to proceed with three other ships; *Latona* under command of J. Wood, *Fisgard* under the command of W. Bolton and *Anson* under command of C. Lydiard, to reconnoiter the island of Curacao which was then held by the Dutch. On the evening of December 31st, Brisbane defined a plan to take the Island and it's forts and the action commenced the next morning, on 1 January 1807. Brisbane and his squadron of four ships entered the harbor at dawn, boarded and took two Dutch men of war, and then stormed the two forts in the harbor. Later, Brisbane was awarded another sword by the government of Jamaica for his capture of Curacao.

**Plate 22. Lower third of John Pilford sword illustrating obverse blade and scabbard.**

**Plate 23. Obverse hilt of Brisbane sword showing augmented Brisbane Coat of Arms.**

Brisbane was knighted for this action and was also named Governor of Curacao. He remained in this position until he later became Governor of St. Vincent. The officers of the second battalion of the Royal Irish Brigade presented the sword to Brisbane. This unit, 727 strong, did not participate in the capture of Curacao but were assigned to Curacao in June 1807. This sword was presented sometime in 1808. The presentation along the blade obverse reads:

*Presented to His Excellency, / Sir Charles Brisbane, Kt,*
*by/ the 2nd Battalion, 18th of Royal / Irish * Curacao * 1808.*

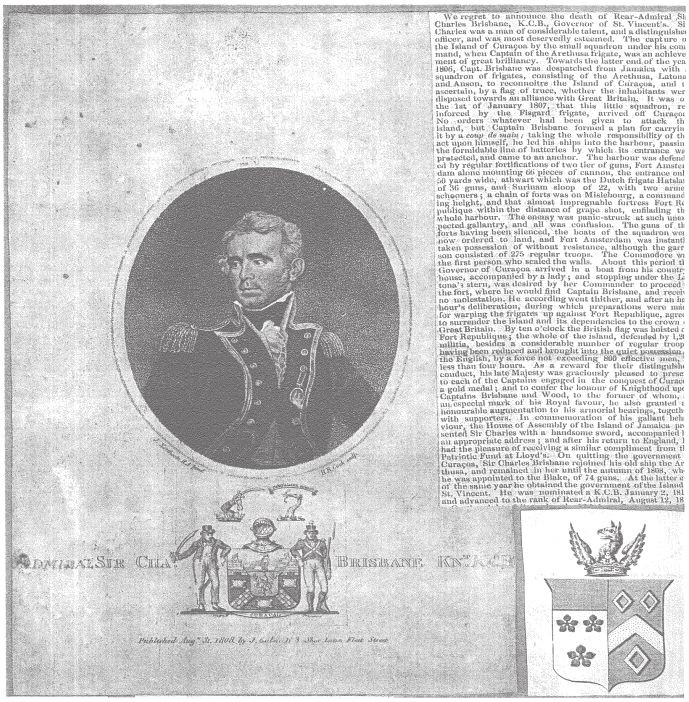
Captain William Bolton, who supported Brisbane in the capture of Curacao, was awarded a 100-pound Lloyd's sword for his gallantry during the action. One might ask why the other Captains did not receive Lloyds swords for their participation in the Curacao action. Probably because both Brisbane and Lydiard had already received 100 pound Lloyd's swords. Earlier on 23 August 1806, while he was again commanding the ship *Arethusa* (38), he received a 100 pound Lloyds sword for his action against the French ship *Pomana.* These two officers must have been close comrades as evidenced by their later capture of Curacao.

Plates 24 and 25 show the obverse and reverse hilts of the Brisbane Curacao sword. Note that the hilt is of a French design typical of the First Empire. On the obverse, a gold panel shows the newly augmented Brisbane coat of arms supported by a Jack Tar and a Marine with the word Curacao below. These arms are intended to represent the Curacao action. The reverse grip panel shows a miniature depiction of the shoulder belt plate of the 18th Royal Irish Regiment of Foot in solid gold with champleve blue enamel surrounding. The oval plate contains the gilded words of the Regiment's motto *Virtutis Namurcencis Praeumium* around its periphery on blue enamel.

**Plate 24. Sword presented by Admiral Sir Charles Brisband for capture of Curacao.**

The blue and gilded curved blade is 1 1/4 inch wide and 30 1/2 inch long with a clip point. It has blue and gilded motifs that cover about two thirds of its length. The obverse blade motifs include a geometric design, a leafy spray, a medallion with a standing Lady Liberty holding a Roman Fasces and a liberty cap with stands of arms above and below, ending with a long leaf spray with flowers. The reverse motifs include a different geometric design, a floral spray the presentation panel, a panel with the sun and stars

**Plate 25. Reverse hilt of Brisbane sword showing 18th Royal Irish Regiment of Foot shoulder belt plate.**



We regret to announce the death of Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Brisbane, K.C.B., Governor of St. Vincent's. Sir Charles was a man of considerable talent, and a distinguished officer, and was most deservedly esteemed. The capture of the Island of Curaçoa by the small squadron under his command, whom Captain of the Arethusa frigate, was an achievement of great brilliancy. Towards the latter end of the year 1806, Capt. Brisbane was despatched from Jamaica with a squadron of frigates, consisting of the Arethusa, Latona and Anson, to reconnoitre the Island of Curaçoa, and to ascertain, by a flag of truce, whether the inhabitants were disposed towards an alliance with Great Britain. It was on the 1st of January 1807, that this little squadron, reinforced by the Fiegard frigate, arrived off Curaçoa. No orders whatever had been given to attack the Island, but Captain Brisbane formed a plan for carrying it by a *coup de main*; taking the whole responsibility of the act upon himself, he led his ships into the harbour, passing the formidable line of batteries by which its entrance was protected, and came to an anchor. The harbour was defended by regular fortifications of two tier of guns, Fort Amsterdam alone mounting 60 pieces of cannon, the entrance only 50 yards wide, athwart which was the Dutch Frigate Hatalanta of 36 guns, and Surinam sloop of 22, with two armed schooners; a chain of forts was on Misiebourg, a commanding height, and that almost impregnable fortress Fort Republique within the distance of grape shot, enfilading the whole harbour. The enemy was panic-struck at such unexpected gallantry, and all was confusion. The guns of the forts having been silenced, the boats of the squadron were now ordered to land, and Fort Amsterdam was instantly taken possession of without resistance, although the garrison consisted of 225 regular troops. The Commodore with the first person who scaled the walls. About this period the Governor of Curaçoa arrived in a boat from his country house, accompanied by a lady; and stopping under the Latona's stern, was desired by her Commander to proceed to the fort, where he would find Captain Brisbane, and receive no molestation. He accordingly went thither, and after an hour's deliberation, during which preparations were made for warping the frigates up against Fort Republique, agreed to surrender the island and its dependencies to the crown of Great Britain. By ten o'clock the British flag was hoisted on Fort Republique; the whole of the island, defended by 1,20 militia, besides a considerable number of regular troops having been reduced and brought into the quiet possession of the English, by a force not exceeding 800 effective men, in less than four hours. As a reward for their distinguished conduct, his late Majesty was graciously pleased to present to each of the Captains engaged in the conquest of Curaçoa a gold medal; and to confer the honour of Knighthood upon Captains Brisbane and Wood, to the former of whom, as an especial mark of his Royal favour, he also granted an honourable augmentation to his armorial bearings, together with supporters. In commemoration of his gallant behaviour, the House of Assembly of the Island of Jamaica presented Sir Charles with a handsome sword, accompanied by an appropriate address; and after his return to England, he had the pleasure of receiving a similar compliment from the Patriotic Fund at Lloyd's. On quitting the government of Curaçoa, Sir Charles Brisbane rejoined his old ship the Arethusa, and remained in her until the autumn of 1808, when he was appointed to the Blake, of 74 guns. At the latter end of the same year he obtained the government of the Island of St. Vincent. He was nominated a K.C.B. January 2, 181 and advanced to the rank of Rear-Admiral, August 12, 18

ADMIRAL SIR CHAS. BRISBANE, K.C.B.

Published Aug.st 31, 1808, By J. Asbee, N.o 3 New Inn, Hart Street.

**Plate 26. Death Notice and image of Admiral Sir Charles Brisbane.**

above a rippling sea, a stand of arms, a leaf spray containing three oval plaques with fleur de lis at their centers, ending with another long leaf spray with flowers.

Brisbane died in his 64th year on St. Vincent. Plate 26 shows an engraving with one of his death notices in local papers of the time, reciting his naval exploits.

### *Major Sir Robert Torrens, Royal Marines*

A very different sword was presented to Major Sir Robert Torrens and it is pictured on Plate 27.

**Plate 27. Sword presented to Major Sir Robert Torrens, Royal Marines.**

This sword was made by *Rich Teed/Drefs Sword Maker/The Patriotic Fund/London* as shown by the plaque on the scabbard top mount reverse. In Holden's directory of 1811, Richard Teed is still listed as the sword maker to Lloyds Patriotic Fund, but the Fund was no longer awarding swords.

Sir Robert Torrens was a Captain in the Royal Marines as of 26 July 1806. He was promoted to Major on 12 April 1811. The presentation was made some time after this. The Torrens' family coat of arms is on the obverse hilt. It consists of three candles on a shield with a dove above and the Latin motto *deus lumens meum* (God is my light) below.

The hilt, shown on Plate 28, is gold plated silver with touch marks on the pommel, guard and the top two scabbard mounts. The pommel is a Roman soldier with a lion on his helmet. The grip has the small sword form with raised motifs on both sides. The obverse has three different motifs: a crossed trident, fouled anchor and caduceus at the top and bottom and the Torrens family coat of arms within a medallion at the center. The reverse also has three raised motifs: the crossed trident, fouled anchor and caduceus at top and a medallion with Hercules and a lion in the center. The knuckle-bow is a heavy chain. The cross guard has a Roman fasces supported by two chain links and central medallion with fouled anchor in olive branch wreath. The top portion of the oval guard is deeply chased with nautical motifs plus leaves and a lion while the bottom is plain.

The straight blade is 32 inch long by 13/16 inch wide with a concave triangular cross section. It is gold etched to the tip on both sides. The reverse is etched with stands of arms and floral designs and the obverse just has floral designs. The partial presentation is on the reverse blade and it reads: *To Major Rt.Torrens …/Fully presented. …/of serving under his command. …/_ of their high admiration of his. …* The remainder is undecipherable.

**Plate 28. Hilt of Sir Robert Torrens sword.**

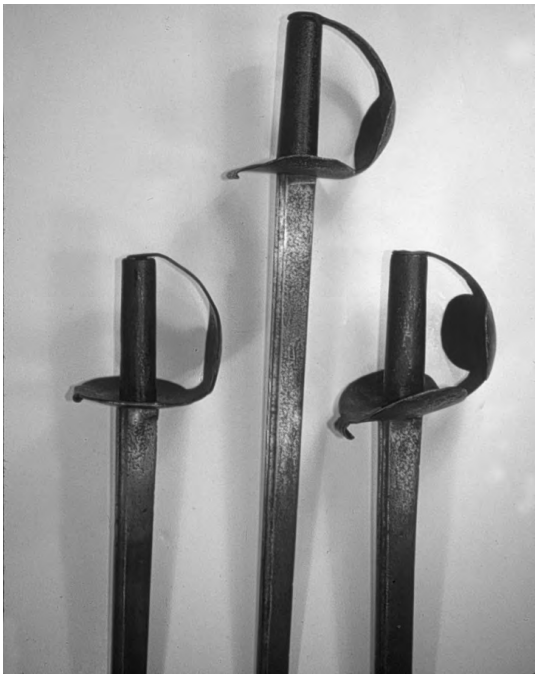


**Plate 29. Three early first pattern cutlasses, 1760–1810.**

The leather scabbard which was repaired, has four elaborate mounts with raised nautical motifs on both sides of all mounts except the bottom. These motifs are identical on both sides of each mount. The top two mounts have dolphin-sea serpent like carrying rings. The top mount has a large elaborate stand of arms with a central plaque of an angel holding a stalk of wheat. The reverse top mount also has the maker's plaque. The second mount has a mast top with arms and a British flag, plaques with Hercules wrestling a lion within a plaque in the center and a clown within a leaf motif below. The third mount has the clown motif within a stand of arms that includes a Roman helmet, and crossed swords and flags. The bottom mount is simply engraved with a floral.

## *CUTLASSES*

Officers in the Royal Navy were required to purchase their own swords and dirks. However, the cutlass was the seaman's weapon and it was contracted and purchased by the Ordnance Board, a separate government department that purchased weapons for both the Army and the Navy. With peak strength of about 145,000 seamen about midway through the three French Wars (1793–1815), the demand for cutlasses was considerable.

Hollier[29] introduced the double disk cutlass, with stag handles, to the Royal Navy as early as 1730. An example of one of Hollier's earlier cutlasses has been illustrated[30] elsewhere. This section generally describes the regulation cutlasses through about 1860.

### *First Pattern*

The more prevalent iron hilt model was introduced in the mid-1700s and continued in use until the early 1800s when the model 1804 was introduced. The Ordnance Board purchased these early cutlasses and after about 1788, they had viewers or inspectors marks consisting of a crown over a number.[31] Some research with cutlasses having viewer's marks and manufacturers names also enables one to generally identify the supplier according to the viewer mark.

Plate 29 shows the hilts for three of these cutlasses. The one on the left is early and without a viewers mark indicating it predates 1788. The blade has a spear point and is 28 1/2 inches long and 1 3/16 inch wide. It is marked with a running fox and *Harvey* on the reverse and a different fox like mark on the British. The iron hilt is solid (no seam), its disks are essentially round, and the turned down quillon is relatively wide. Samuel Harvey Sr. was a Birmingham sword maker that provided cutlasses to the Royal Navy from 1748 to 1778 and his son, Samuel Jr. continued through 1795.[32] The absence of viewer marks would indicate that Harvey Sr, made this cutlass.

The middle one is a later version of a similar cutlass. The blade is similar but slightly shorter—27 1/2 inches long and 1 1/4 inch wide. It is marked with a *Crown/4* viewers mark, and a running fox with initials (undecipherable) on the guard. There are also undecipherable marks on the blade tip. The disks are oblong, the iron hilt has a seam, and the turned down quillon is relatively narrow. The viewer's mark indicates this cutlass was supplied by Gill, another Birmingham supplier (1783–1803).[33]

A third cutlass, and probably still later version, is shown on the right. This blade is 28 3/8 inches long and 1 5/16 inch wide. It is marked with a *Crown/2* on the ricasso. The disks are elliptical, the iron hilt has a seam, and the turned down quillon is narrow. The hilt is shorter, 4 1/2 inch, than the other two cutlasses illustrated. The viewer's mark indicates this cutlass was probably made by Reddell and Bate (Birmingham—1803).[34]

### *Pattern of 1804*

A pattern cutlass was first introduced to the Royal Navy in 1804 and a considerably large amount of information on their markings and manufacturers exists.[35] One such cutlass, with a rare scabbard, is illustrated on Plate 30. Many cutlasses were supplied under Ordnance Board contracts from 1804 on so these cutlasses are fairly common. This cutlass has a straight 1 1/2 inch wide by 29 inch long blade with a spear point. The grip is hand formed and ribbed. The blade is extensively marked with a *Crown/8* (Osborn or Tatham & Egg[36]) on the obverse, a large (3/4 inch) crown over a Georgian cypher on the reverse, and the manufacturer's name *W. Colley* on the spine.

The pattern 1804 remained the Royal Navy standard until 1845 despite the continuing reviews by the Board of

**Plate 30. Pattern 1804 cutlass by W. Coffey with rare scabbard.**

Ordnance. About 1814, the Ordnance Board considered another versipon of the pattern 1804 with a shorter curved blade. Tatham and Egg was contracted for this new configuration. This configuration, which was never adopted, has also been illustrated.[37]

### *Variant*

Plate 31 shows another British cutlass that may have come either before or after the pattern 1804. It has a wide (1 1/2 inch) shorter (26 1/2 inch) slightly curved blade with unstopped fuller. The grip is an iron cylinder and the crude guard is a single shell that widens from the pommel. This grip and the guard attachment is similar to the pre-1804 pat-

**Plate 31. Variant cutlass with Georgian cypher by HG&H.**

**Plate 32. Pattern 1845 cutlass.**

terns but the blade conforms to what is referred to as the 1814 version. The blade markings include a large Georgian cypher and *HG&H* on the obverse. The author did not find this mark in the standard references.

### *Pattern of 1845*

The 1845 Pattern cutlass with scabbard and frog is shown on Plate 32. This cutlass is markedly different from the pattern 1804 eliminating the double disks in favor of a very large hand guard. It is also much heavier. This cutlass

**Plate 33. Pattern 1859 Enfield cutlass-bayonet.**

has a slightly curved blade with a spear point that is 1 1/2 inch-wide and 28 1/2 inch long.

### *Pattern of 1859*

The last Royal Navy cutlass during the period of interest was designed as a sword bayonet for the short Enfield naval rifle. It is referred to as the pattern 1859 cutlass bayonet and is illustrated on Plate 33. It is iron mounted and has a 27 inch long by 1 1/2 inch wide slightly curved blade with a spear point. This particular cutlass has a Solingen knight's head stamp indicating manufacture by Weyersberg. This pattern cutlass was also imported for use by the Confederate States Navy and was marked specifically for their use.

## *DIRKS*

Naval forces began to use dirks in the mid to late 1700s. Historians differ on whether dirks originated with the Danish Navy or the Royal Navy but they were widely used by England's sea service. During the period 1780 to 1820, the officer/midshipmen strength of the Royal Navy varied from about 3,500 to 6,000 and many dirks have survived. Despite the popular notion that Midshipmen only used dirks, early paintings show dirks worn by high-ranking naval officers as well as Midshipmen. Some typical representative naval dirks with designs consistent with navy use are discussed below.

Initially, these weapons had relatively long straight slender blades with central fullers and typically had ivory or bone grips with mountings in brass or copper for sea service. Dirk blades were designed for thrusting and supplemented an officer's sword during boarding. Scabbards for these early dirks were leather with brass mounts and few remain intact.

**Plate 34. Three fighting dirks, c1800.**

**Plate 35. Two small dress dirks, 1810–1830.**

### *Fighting Dirks*

Plate 34 illustrates three typical fighting dirks. They all have pillow pommels with simple mountings and blades suitable for thrusting. The maker for the dirk on the left is unknown but it has the classic long (14 inches) slender (1/2 inch wide) blade with central fuller, simple tapered ivory grip with a brass pommel and ferrule, and a reverse quillon guard. Its scabbard is brass-mounted leather. The middle dirk was made by Francis Thurkle and bears his [FT] cartouche under the guard. It is a larger version of the one to its left with a 16 inch long by 3/4 inch wide single fullered slender blade. Its scabbard is also brass-mounted leather. The right dirk is a slightly different fighting configuration but is so simple it had to be designed for this purpose. Since it is iron mounted it probably not made for sea service. The double-edged blade is 1 1/4 inch wide and 12 1/2 inches long. The ebony ribbed grip has a flat pommel, simple ferrule and reverse quillon guard. The blade is marked as being made by Mayfield of Dublin (c1800).[38]

Toward the end of the 18th Century, dirks began to be worn by Naval Officers and Midshipmen on dress occasions in lieu of swords. Sizes varied from about 8 to 26 inches overall. These dirks were relatively fancy compared to those used for fighting. They were both brass and silver mounted with elaborate hilts and engraved brass or leather scabbards. Blades were typically double edged with a flattened diamond shape and ornately etched. Blue and gilt etching was also popular and some of the most ornate dirks were made during the early 1800s.

**Plate 36. Four larger scale dress dirks, 1810–1830.**

### *Dress Dirks*

Two relatively small dress dirks with straight blades are pictured on Plate 35. The top dirk has a 6 inch long by 9/16 inch wide double-edged diamond shaped blade. it is blue and gilded over about three fourths of its length with floral designs and a stand of arms. The turned ivory grip has a simple turned brass pommel and ferrule. The cross guard is an oval with jeweled beads around its periphery set in a pebbled surface. The scabbard has two ring mounts and is engraved with floral designs on both sides. The maker's name: *Rich'd Clarke/& Sons/62 Cheapside/London* is engraved on the reverse. Clarke & Sons was at 62 Cheapside from 1796 to 1829 and is listed as a silversmith and jeweler through 1807 and a goldsmith and jeweler through 1829.[39]

The lower dirk has a 7 1/4 inch long by 3/4 inch wide flattened diamond section blue and gilded blade. The gilded motifs are floral designs. The relatively ornate grip is square and tapered ivory that is diagonally wrapped with a double strand of twisted gilt wire. The square pommel has a small lion's mask engraved on a finely chased basket weave background. The ferrule has an engraved Greek key band at its center. The cross guard consists of two sets of different sized crosshatched rectangles with leaves at their intersections. The two-ring brass scabbard is engraved on both sides over its entire length with a blank owner's nameplate on the reverse. Neither of these dirks have any naval motifs on their blades or scabbards.

Four slightly larger dress dirks with straight blades and round grips and pommels are shown on Plate 36. The dirk on the far left has a turned ivory grip with a three mount leather scabbard. It has a 9 1/4 inch long by 3/4 inch wide flattened diamond section frosted bright-etched blade with floral designs and acorn and leaf motifs. The ribbed ivory grip has a flattened ivory pommel, banded ornate brass ferrule, and a circular cross guard with leaves in relief.

The next dirk has an 8 3/4 inch long by 3/4 inch wide bright-etched blade with generic floral and military motifs. The tapered ivory grip has two bands and an ornate banded brass ferrule. The flattened circular pommel has an ivory lower section and an ornately chased brass pommel cap. The oval cross guard is cutout with leaf motifs and is chased with an eight-pointed star with leaves between on its upper surface. The two-ring ornate brass scabbard is engraved on both sides over its entire length. The obverse motifs include a center panel with a stand of arms with trident flanked by dolphins and leafy spray. The reverse motifs are a blank nameplate and a long symmetrical leafy spray, with two smaller leafy sprays above and below.

The other dirk with the leather scabbard has a tapered octagonal ivory grip with a fluted brass pommel. The pommel is chased around its periphery and has a lion's mask at its top center. The guard is a circular inverted cup with berry and leaf designs around its periphery. The brass ferrule has the same berry and leaf design on a band at its top. The blue and gilded double-edged diamond shaped blade is 7 3/4 inch long and 5/8 inch wide. It is gilt etched with generic floral and military motifs. The leather scabbard has three simple brass mounts with the top two banded.

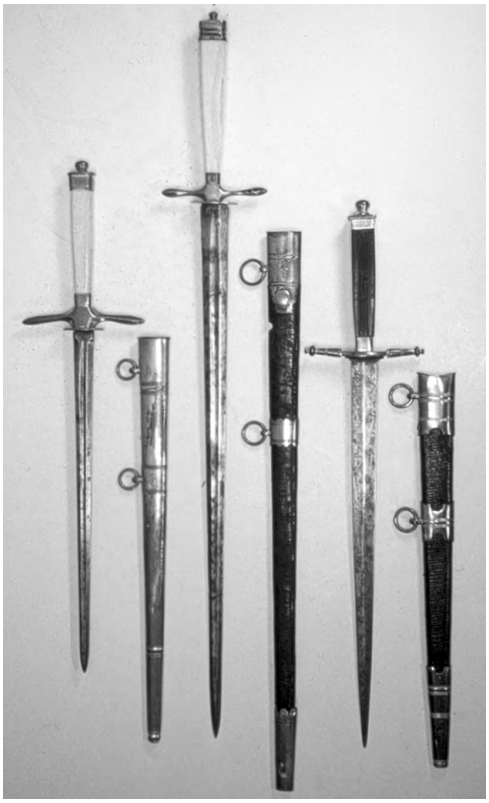


**Plate 37. Three pillow pommel dress dirks, c1790–1830.**

**Plate 38. Silver mounted dirk by William Vincent, c1780.**

The dirk on the far right has a simple turned tapered brass/copper grip with large ovoid brass pommel. It has an 8 1/4 inch long by 3/4 inch wide blade bright-etched with leaves and a stand of arms. The small oval cross guard is deeply chased with a raised fouled anchor on a stipled background. The two-ring brass scabbard is simple engraved. Note that only two of these dirks have specific naval motifs in the form of anchors or dolphins and a trident.

### *Pillow Pommel Dress Dirks*

Dirks with pillow pommels and simple cross guards typified the fighting dirks as illustrated in Plate 34 above. As illustrated on Plate 37, this design was extended to both brass and silver mounted dress dirks.

The center dirk is silver mounted but has a single fullered 14 inch long by 3/4 inch wide double-edged blade

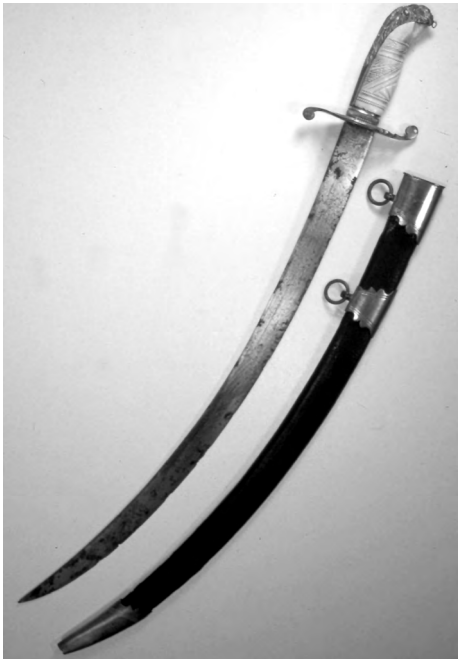


**Plate 39. Battle of Nile commemorative dirk, c1805.**

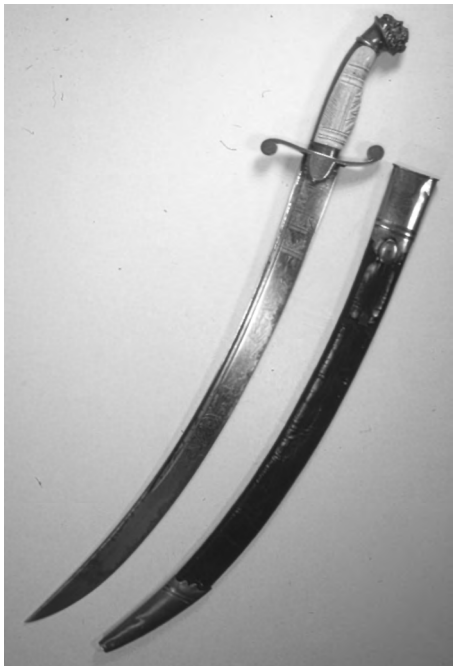


**Plate 40. Large lion head pommel dirk, c1835.**

just like the slender bladed fighting dirks on Plate 34 above. This blade is etched with an anchor, leaves and stands of arms. It has a rectangular silver pommel with tapered rectangular ivory grip ending in simple silver ferrule. The cross guard is a simple tapered cross. Below the cross guard there is an oval silver water guard to prevent water from entering the scabbard. The leather scabbard has three silver mounts with a frog attachment on the upper mount. Both the dirk and scabbard have silver makers marks indicating the dirk was made in 1799 to 1800. The maker's initials appear to be *JJ* but no maker was found with these initials.

The dirk on the right has a 9 inch long by 1/2 inch wide flattened diamond section blade with a central fuller almost to its tip and traces of blue and gilt. it has a smooth tapered rectangular ivory grip with pillow pommel, simple

**Plate 41. Lion head pommel dirk with extreme curved blade, c1805.**

**Plate 42. Three small dirks with curved blades and unusual configurations.**

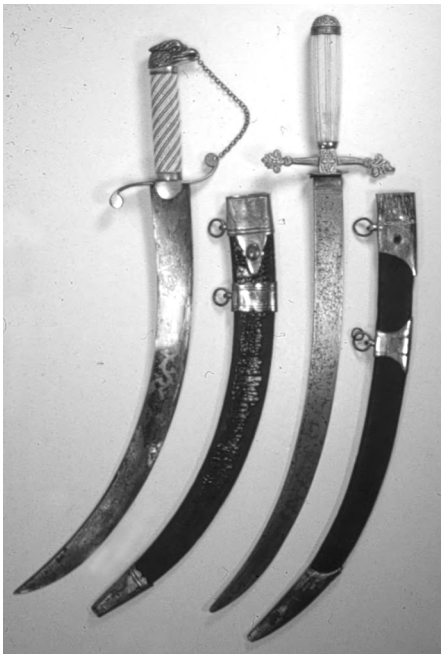


**Plate 43. Two larger dirks with unusual configurations.**

ferrule, and tapered cross guard identical to the center dirk it also has an oval water guard. The scabbard is simple brass with two rings.

The dirk on the left has a 10 inch long by 5/8 inch wide flattened diamond section etched blade. It has a ribbed and tapered rectangular ebony grip with square pillow pommel, and simple ferrule. The brass cross guard terminates in cannon barrels attached to an oval centerpiece. The leather scabbard has three simple brass mounts.

The dirk on Plate 38 is silver mounted but has no scabbard. The blade is 10 1/2 inches long by 1 inch wide and

**Plate 44. Bird's head pommel dirk with tri-colored blade, c1825.**

may have been longer than shown. It has a smooth tapered rectangular ivory grip with silver stepped pillow pommel, and simple silver ferrule. The cross guard is relatively ornate with leaf designs at its ends and large lions masks below. It is marked *WV* for William Vincent, a London silversmith in the last quarter of the 18th century.[40]

### *Lion Head Pommel Dirks*

Naval engagements in the West Indies, the Barbary Coast and African campaigns led to adaptation of dirks with curved blades after about 1805. The use of lion head pommels with reverse quillon cross guards with chains was apparently a very popular design based on the number of these dirks surviving. Plates 39 and 40 illustrate several relatively large lion head pommel-curved dirks are described below.

The dirk shown on Plate 39 commemorates the Nile campaign as indicated by the crocodile within its cross guard. At 19 inches long and by 1 inch wide the blue and gilded curved (1 1/2 inch curvature) blade is relatively long. The carved hand formed ivory grip has a lion head pommel and engraved ferrule. The ornate cross guard has reverse quillons, with the chain guard missing, and an inset crocodile. The leather scabbard has three simple brass mounts.

The dirk shown on Plate 40 is much later than the others shown, c1835, and is identified. It has an 18 inch long by 1 1/8 inch wide frosted curved blade with long deep top fuller etched with floral and geometric designs and stands of arms. The hand formed ivory grip has a lion's ferrule. The cross guard has reverse quillons and simple langets. Its two-mount leather scabbard with frog stud has the owner's initials on the top mount.

The Plate 41 dirk has no scabbard but illustrates the extent to which these blades were curved: 2 1/4 inches over its 16 inch length. The blade is 1 1/4 inch wide and was originally blue and gilded. The grip is classic hand formed carved ivory with a single twisted wire wrap and lion head pommel. The cross guard has reverse quillons and it had a chain knuckle-bow.

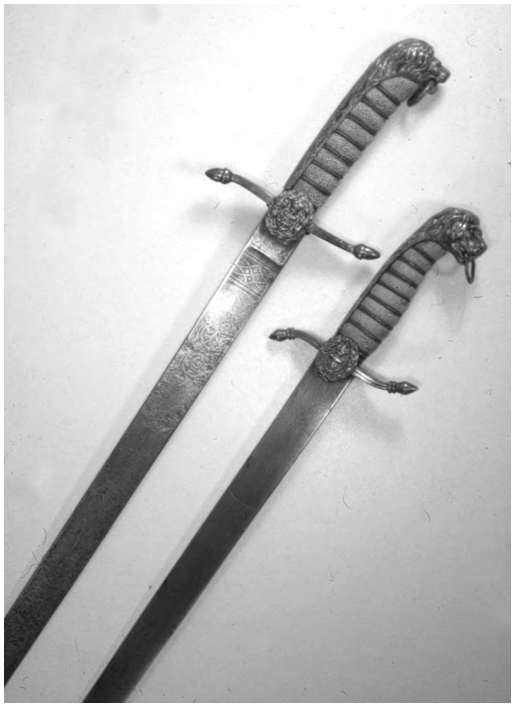


**Plate 45. Regulation lion pommel dirks, c1900.**

### *Unusual Dirks*

The dirks described above are typical of what was used during the 1780–1835 time frame and represent typical patterns. There were also some less frequently seen unusual dirks used in this same time frame.

Plate 42 shows three unusual dirks with curved blades. The dirk on the left has a 3/4 inch wide by 8 1/4 inch long curved blue and gilded blade etched with generic military and floral motifs. The grip is turned brass with a large round brass pommel. The cross guard is unique in its exaggerated width and the leaves and acorns in deep relief. It has a two ring plain brass scabbard with drag that has a throat attached by screws.

The center dirk that has a pistol shaped ivory grip carved with a series of diagonals, a clamshell, and horizontal lines. The ferrule is banded brass and the guard has chased acorn and oak lead motifs on its top surface. The blue and gilded curved blade has a 14 1/2 inch long and 1 1/8 inch wide blued and gilt curved blade with a 4 inch false edge. Gilded blade motifs include stands of arms with nautical symbols, acorns and oak leaves, and an anchor. The ivory grip is ribbed with an ornately engraved brass pommel and simple ferrule. The cross guard has a central engraved rectangle terminating in large acanthus leaves with a small oval guard below. The brass scabbard, with single carrying ring, is engraved with a large anchor and floral designs. A chain used as a knuckle-bow is missing. The leather scabbard has three simple brass mounts with the top mount missing its frog stud.

The dirk on the right has an 8 inch long by 5/8 inch wide curved blade etched with generic military and floral motifs. The ornately carved ivory grip with a clamshell motif is also the pommel. The brass ferrule has pressed grapes with leaves and the cross guard has a central acorn with two oak leaves in relief. The leather scabbard has three simple brass mounts banded with incised perimeter lines.

Two other dirks with unusual dirk configurations are shown on Plate 43. The dirk on the left has a tapered and ribbed ivory grip with brass pommel chased with oak leaves and a simple brass ferrule. The cross guard has a center block with a raised floral and oak leaf quillons. The once blue and gilded curved blade is 14 3/4 inch long by 7/8 inch wide. It once had generic military and floral motifs. The leather scabbard has three simple brass mounts with the top mount missing a frog stud.

The other dirk has an eagle pommel that, without the blade motifs, could easily pass as American. It has a 15 inch long by 1 1/4 inch wide slightly curved blade with a 5 1/4 inch false edge. the blue and gilt blade has generic military motifs on both sides over about half its length. However, the obverse side as the Royal Coat of Arms and the reverse side has the Georgian crown and cypher. The grip is made of diagonally ribbed ivory and ends with a simple brass ferrule. It does not appear to have had a copper wire wrap. It has a chain knuckle bow and the straight guard has unadorned langets and simple reverse finials. The leather scabbard has three simple brass mounts with two rings and a frog stud on the top mount. This dirk dates from 1805 to 1820.

The dirk on Plate 44 illustrates the fine workmanship that can be found on dirks. The bird's head pommel with capstan rivet is chased with floral and flower designs and the hand formed and horizontally ribbed ivory grip ends with a banded brass ferrule. The cross guard has reverse ball quillons and its top surface and edges are deeply chased with leaf and floral designs. The 15 inch long, 1 1/8 inch wide, blade is tri-colored over about 10 1/2 inches. The motifs include floral designs with stands of arms that consist of banners and pikes on the reverse, and an anchor, cannon, and British flag on the obverse. The brass scabbard, with separate throat, is engraved to simulate three mounts on both sides. The top mount motif is a stand of arms, the middle mount motif is a starburst, and the lower mount motif is a coiled serpent with partial sunburst below.

### *Regulation Dirks*

The regulations of 1825 prohibited the wearing of dirks by Midshipmen but in 1856 they were prescribed for both officers and midshipmen.[41] The pattern 1856 dirks had lion head pommels, white fish skin grips, and simple cross guards with reverse acorn quillons. The straight acid etched blades were 1 1/8 inch wide by 13 1/2 inch long. Some had wider blades that were 12 inch long and 1 3/8 inch wide.

Similar dirks with longer blades were prescribed again in 1879 and in 1901. Plate 45 shows a comparison of two of these turn-of-the century dirks. The dirk on the left is a Regulation 1879 midshipman's dirk with a 17 inch long by 1 3/8 inch wide blade and a 4 1/2 inch hilt and turned down quillons. The blade is etched with a Georgian crown over VR cypher and a fouled anchor.

The one on the right is very similar and represents a later version of the same pattern. It has an 18-long by 1 1/4 inch wide blade with a 5 inch hilt and relatively straight quillons. The blade has the same etchings as the one above; however, its obverse is etched: *Highatt/Outfitter/Gosport* (1855–1905).[42] This dirk has a slightly different lion head and quillons plus a spring loaded reverse guard to secure the dirk in its scabbard. These regulation pattern dirks were as poorly suited for combat as the earlier dress dirks.

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**Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville - 1864**
**From "The Photographic History of the Civil War" - ©1911**
**(The area is now built up a little bit more!)**

The Fall 2002 American Society of Arms Collectors meeting was held in Nashville, Tennessee. Our hosts for this meeting, Frank and Karen Sellers, put a lot of work into making this meeting both interesting and a little unusual. Along with five great talks, the one hundred seven members, sixty spouses and sixteen guests enjoyed tours of the Hermitage and Carnton Plantation and a different banquet arrangement than we have enjoyed in the past. The tour of the Hermitage, home of President Andrew Jackson, gave the visitors a different, very personal, picture of the military general and politician than is depicted in many books. A visit to the gardens, the tomb of Rachel and Andrew Jackson, and the rooms they lived and died in made this family's life seem much more than mere history. The visit to Carnton Plantation was not just a visit to an Antebellum Mansion but an emotional experience as the guides took the visitors through, not only the house, but through the days of late November 1864 when the house was used as a hospital during and following a very bloody and costly Civil War battle for Franklin. The traditional Saturday night banquet was held on the General Jackson Showboat where everyone enjoyed dinner and a patriotic musical review.

The highlights of the meeting, of course, centered around the displays and the extremely well planned talks. Peter Tuite's "The British Navy and Their Edged Weapons" covered regulation swords from the Middle of the 18th century. It was basically the evolution of British edged weapons beginning with the short swords in 1762 to fighting swords, decorative swords, presentation swords, cutlasses and dirks. Rick Starbuck's monograph on the U.S. Pistol Model 1813 and 1813/1816 Navy highlighted his presentation on the various contracts, details of variations and identification of some lesser known specimens. Vern Ekland's instructions on "If It's Broke, Fix It" described some remarkable restorations of Gutta Percha Pistol Cases using chemicals and molds he spent a great deal of time developing. Stevens Arms was the subject of Tom Kyser's presentation. After describing the history of Joshua Stevens and a timeline of major markings, a detailed descriptioin of all of the models of firearms, catalogs, tools and automobiles was shared. George Norton went from a history of Andrew Jackson to famous Tennessee riflemen along with rifles they used. He concluded with a history of local, mid 1800's, riflemaker A. J. Thornburg Heath which was enlivened by Tim Heath, a descendant of the riflemaker.

Out of the 60 displays the members chose the following for outstanding awards: Doug Eberhart for a fabulous group of "H. Deringer Pistols," Vincent Rausch for many seldom seen "Rare Winchesters," and Tom Kyser for "Stevens Tip Ups" which gave everyone a closer look at the arms illustrated in his talk. Jim Lucie's very special "Gumpf Rifle" took the best single item award.

Several members who were present at this meeting received their service awards. Bob Berryman and Jim Lucie both received their 40 year pins and crystal awards. Both awards had been due at previous meetings which they were unable to attend. 35 year pins were presented to Bill Guthman and Chuck Suydam whose awards were also due at a previous meeting, and to Steve Marvin. The 25 year pin was presented to Val Forgett, Jr. who should have received it at the Wilmington meeting. Nine other members were due to receive their service awards at this meeting but were unable to attend and will receive them the next meeting they are able to attend.

Members were already starting to make plans for the 50th Anniversary meeting in St. Louis April 9 through April 13, 2003 at the Ritz-Carlton which should prove to be a very special time to reminisce, bring out old photographs, old stories and as many members as possible.

Respectfully,

Karen LaRue

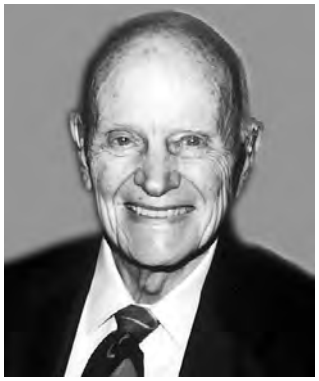
# IN MEMORIAM

## William B. Ruger
### 1916 2002

William Ruger was born June 21, 1916 in Brooklyn, New York. As a student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill he converted an empty room into a machine shop. In 1938, he came up with the initial designs for what became a light machine gun for the Army. This launched his career in firearms design and manufacture. Bill teamed with Alexander McCormic Sturm and established Sturm, Ruger & Co. in 1949. Most recently he held the position of chairman emeritus of the firm he founded. Sturm, Ruger manufactures rifles, shotgun, pistols and revolvers for a variety of sporting and law enforcement purposes. Additionally the organization makes precision castings for a wide variety of industries.

When not involved in his business, Bill was quite active in antique firearms, 19th Century Western American art, antique cars and boating. He was involved in the NRA and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center where he served as a member of the board of trustees. Bill became a member of the Society in 1961 but resigned in 1972 due to business commitments. In 1990 he became an honorary member. Though always quite busy, he remained active in ASAC. He hosted a tour of his facility, displayed at our meetings and was a keynote banquet speaker.

## Jonathan M. Peck
### 1912 2002



Jonathan Peck was born December 11, 1912 in Hartford, Connecticut. He moved to West Hartford where he attended Hall High School and graduated from Kingswood School. He continued his education at Middlebury College and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania-Wharton School of Business in 1937. Jonathan pursued a career with Northwestern Mutual Life and retired at the age of 56.

Jonathan was an avid collector of Springfield Armory shoulder arms and Colt single action revolvers. He was a co-founder and past president of Ye Old Connecticut Guild, and a member of the New England Arms Collectors, the Texas Gun Collectors, the Massachusetts Arms Collectors and numerous other collector organizations. Jonathan was quite active in the American Society of Arms Collectors since he became a member in 1955.

## Valmore J. Forgett, Jr.
### 1930 2002

Val was born July 31, 1930 in Worchester, Massachusetts and grew up in Teaneck, New Jersey. He graduated from Clemson University in 1956 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After college he served in the United States Army, stationed at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Aberdeen, Maryland. Val founded the Navy Arms Company. He was the first person to produce authentic black powder revolvers and percussion military rifles. He developed an entire category of the firearms industry and was recognized by the Italian Government who knighted him in 1977 as a Cavaliere.

Some of Val's contributions to his industry and the sport of shooting include his founding and Chairmanship of the U.S. International Muzzleloading team. He also served as president of the National Firearms Museum, an International Shooting Union Olympic shooting judge and Chairman of Shooting Events for the 1984 International Games for the Disabled. An avid hunter and outdoorsman, Val was the first person in the 20th century to successfully take the African "Big Five" with a muzzleloading rifle.

Val belonged to numerous collecting organizations including the Arms and Armour Club of New York, the Carolina Collectors Association, the Ohio Gun Collectors and the Texas Gun Collectors with a special interest in edged weapons. He joined the Society in 1977 and was quite active throughout his membership. He received his 25-year service pin at our Nashville meeting this September.

# IN MEMORIAM

## Thurston Van Horn

**1923 2002**

Thurston was born on January 26, 1923 in Topeka, Kansas. His family moved to Colby, Kansas where he graduated from Colby High School. Following his graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served his country during World War II. He was selected as a Navy Diver and served in both the European and Pacific Theaters of Operations. After World War II he retained his diving status in the Navy reserve. He returned to Colby where he assisted his father in the auto repair business. Thurston was recalled into the Navy during the Korean War where he served aboard the USS Grasp. Here he performed many difficult salvage operations under arduous combat conditions. Following the Korean War, he returned to Colby to pursue the auto repair business.

Thurston was an avid sportsman. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and often acted as a host and guide for hunters in Northwest Kansas. Hunting was an integral part of Thurston's passion for collecting firearms. After retirement, buying and selling firearms became his principal occupation. While attending shows across the United States and in Europe, Van expanded his collection of Winchester and Henry rifles. Thurston was a member of the Colorado Gun Collectors, the Colby Gun and Coin Club and numerous other historical and collector associations. He joined the Society in 1967 and remained active throughout his membership. He received his 35-year pin in April of this year.

## Donald A. Heckaman

**1934 2002**

Don began his architectural career in Shaker Heights Ohio as an associate partner for Dalton VanDijk Johnson for 19 years. He started his own practice in 1985. Started as Heckaman-Gates, the firm eventually became Zannoni Heckaman Payto with 35 employees. In 1993 Don and his partners sold their firm to U.R.S. Consultants. In his more than 40-year architectural career he was responsible for the planning, design and construction of numerous projects, many of them in the health care field. He was recently serving as city architect and chair of Architectural Review Board of the City of South Euclid, Ohio.

Don was quite active servicing as vice president of Shaker Historical Society, a member of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Gun Collectors, the Shaker heights Landmark Commission, The Blue Coats, the Shaker Heights Museum and numerous other historical organizations. Don joined the Society in 1996 and was quite active throughout his membership. In May of 2000 at Atlanta he displayed and won an award with his fine collection of 1903 Springfields.


EXCITING
UNIQUE
RIVER EXCURSIONS
ABOARD THE
CRUISES DAILY
DINE IN COMFORT ON THE SCENIC CUMBERLAND RIVER
GENERAL JACKSON
SHOWBOAT