

The Ames and Deringer Boxlock Story

Paul A. Doyle

THE AMERICAN BOXLOCK PISTOL

This article is intended to expand the current information available on the 1842 Ames and Deringer boxlock pistols. While the bulk of this information has been available to the historian and the collector for some time, it has neither been understood nor appreciated. This is an attempt to gather that information into one location for convenience and to dispel some mythic and anecdotal misinformation that has been perpetuated and, hopefully, create and stimulate interest for research in the field. As pointed out by John Hamilton in the Acknowledgments to his excellent book on the Ames Sword Company (page viii), much of the Ames story is missing due to the dispersal of the original information and, as more data are uncovered, we will be able to expand our knowledge. This is a journey, not a destination.

The displays associated with this subject were provided by the author, and ASAC members Leland Bull, Jr., Clark Hoffman, Bob Sadler, and Luke Woods. The displays included some of the finest examples of the Ames and Deringer boxlocks available, as well as the British antecedents to the arm.



My display for this talk consisted of one 1842 (Model 1) pistol, one 1843 dated U.S.R marked pistol, and nine other Ames boxlocks illustrating a variety of markings and dated 1842 to 1845. There were five examples of the Henry Deringer pistol showing various barrel and lock-plate marks, and a British percussion pistol dated 1843, which closely resembles the Ames boxlock style. In addition, there were three Ames-made swords showing various inspection marks of the period that corresponded to the Jenks U.S.R contract dates, and an unmarked combination tool with a spanner nipple wrench. Also, there was an unmarked two-cavity .54 caliber brass bullet mold which is described in the literature as appropriate for the boxlock pistols (or the Jenks carbines) (Huntington and Schmidt article, *infra*).

THE AMES BOXLOCK STORY

The N.P. Ames Manufacturing Company was formed as a joint stock company in 1832 with Nathan Peabody Ames, Jr. as a partner and agent. Majority stockholders were James K. Mills and Edmund Dwight, principals in the Chicopee Falls Manufacturing Company, with Nathan and his younger brother, James Tyler Ames, in the minority. Initially Nathan and James were in the tool-making business, having trained for that activity with their father, and they leased space for their operation from Dwight at the Chicopee Falls factory. As their own company business expanded, they found that they needed more room and opened their own plant at Cabotville, on the Chicopee River (Ames Sword Company book, page 65) near Springfield, Massachusetts.



Figure 1. Nathan Peabody Ames Jr., circa 1845. (Courtesy Connecticut Valley Historical Society.)

When the Ames Company obtained a contract from the War Department for the production of 2000 Artillery swords in 1832 (Figure 2), it provided the needed impetus to expand their operation. Swords were to become a major source of income for the Ames Company over the next several decades. Throughout the 1830's the Ames Company became a substantial supplier of arms to the U.S. Government, starting with a small but significant contract for 150 Elgin Cutlass pistol blades in 1837 and continuing sword contracts.¹

The ordnance officer in charge of inspection of that first sword contract was a Lt. Daniel Tyler, U.S. Army Ordnance, the Superintendent of Contract Arms. He later played a most significant role on behalf of the Ames Company in relation to the boxlock pistols.

Early in 1840, The Navy Board of Commissioners² conducted a survey of the existing small arms in stores and on board ship. The congressional report published in 1841 gave great insight into the status of those arms.

The Board concluded³ that the Navy's pistol inventory was woefully obsolete, consisting of older flintlock pistols acquired prior to 1831, and that the new technology using percussion cap ignition needed to be implemented. In 1840, the Government dispatched a group of Army Ordnance officers to Europe to survey the current state-of-the-art in arms development. To stay abreast of the state-of-the-art and protect his position as a military supplier, N.P. also traveled to Europe to view the practices in use and resulting products. While N.P. was not part of the Ordnance team, a letter in the Ames materials at the Connecticut Valley Historical Society establishes that he was in contact with them in Europe and that they shared information⁴.

On May 31, 1834, Lt. Daniel Tyler resigned his Army commission and began a new career as a civil engineer. He immediately became the agent for the N.P. Ames Company and it appears that he also traveled to Europe in 1840, so that he was well aware of the new technology⁵. Upon Tyler's return from Europe, he contacted the Navy Board concerning a new pistol design in which they were then interested. The Board had obtained a British percussion pistol that the Board referred to as the "British Marine Pistol"⁶ (Figure 3). It was a short-barreled, percussion arm with brass furniture and a captive rammer and represented the latest development in British percussion pistol technology.

Tyler, as agent for Ames, made a proposal to the Board to produce a number of pistols, based upon a design developed from that sample by Ames (NARG 45, Letters from con-

tractors, page 139, dated 31 December 1841) with the first 300 pistols projected for delivery on or before June 1st, 1842.

The Board had transmitted the sample "British Marine Pistol" to Tyler, and they orally agreed upon a contract for 2000 pieces at \$5.00 each, with the formal contract to be signed later⁷. Ames then prepared a model pistol based on the British design that was submitted to the Board of Naval Commissioners for approval. Ames began producing pistols according to that early design (Figures 4 and 5) immediately. Since the contract had been negotiated by Tyler correspondence referred to these first contract pistols as Tyler's pistols, and he eventually signed the original contract (9-01-42) on behalf of the Ames Company.

The design developed by Ames differed from the original British pistol in several respects, i.e., modified to have a flat butt cap without the lanyard ring, and using a boxlock arrangement while maintaining the basic configuration of the British arm. The rationale for using the boxlock design is unknown at this time and is a unique design feature not used on other U.S. military pistols. Also, prior Navy contract pistols were fitted with side springs (belt hooks), while these were not. The pistols had a shorter, six-inch barrel, making them the most compact U.S. Military pistol ordered to that date.

Based on the verbal order from the Board as set forth in the correspondence, Ames had 300 pistol barrels ready for inspection by the Ordnance officer by mid 1842.⁸ Since the Navy had no ordnance officer available, they requested that the Army supply one. The Army detailed William Anderson Thornton,⁹ Captain of Ordnance, to Cabotville, to proof those 300 pieces¹⁰ (Appendix 3). While the inspection certificate has not been found, it appears that 300 pistols were accepted and later shipped to the Navy agent in Boston.¹⁰

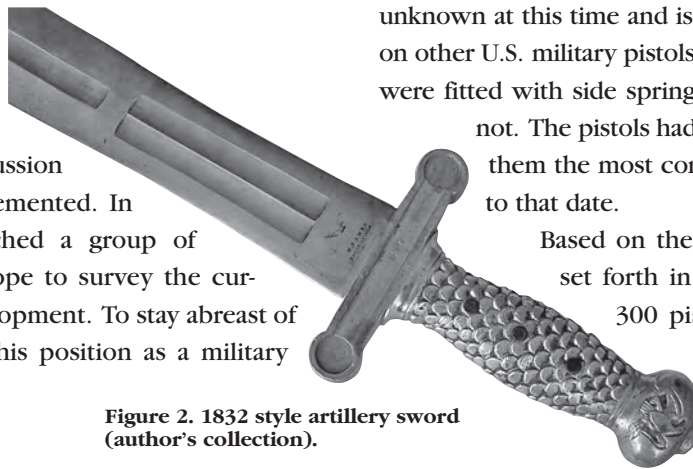


Figure 2. 1832 style artillery sword (author's collection).

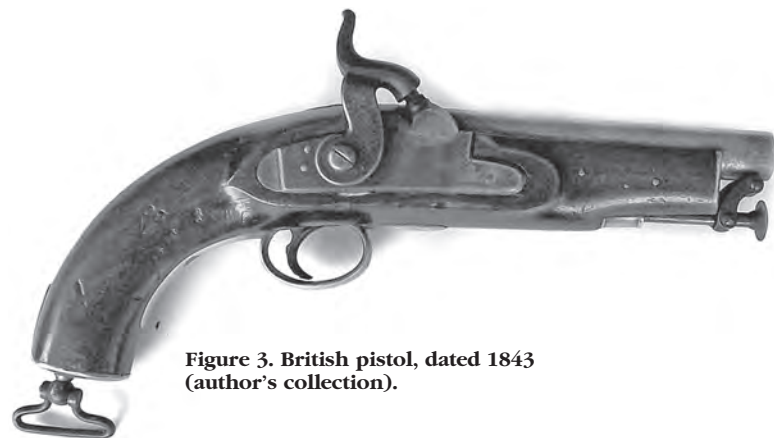
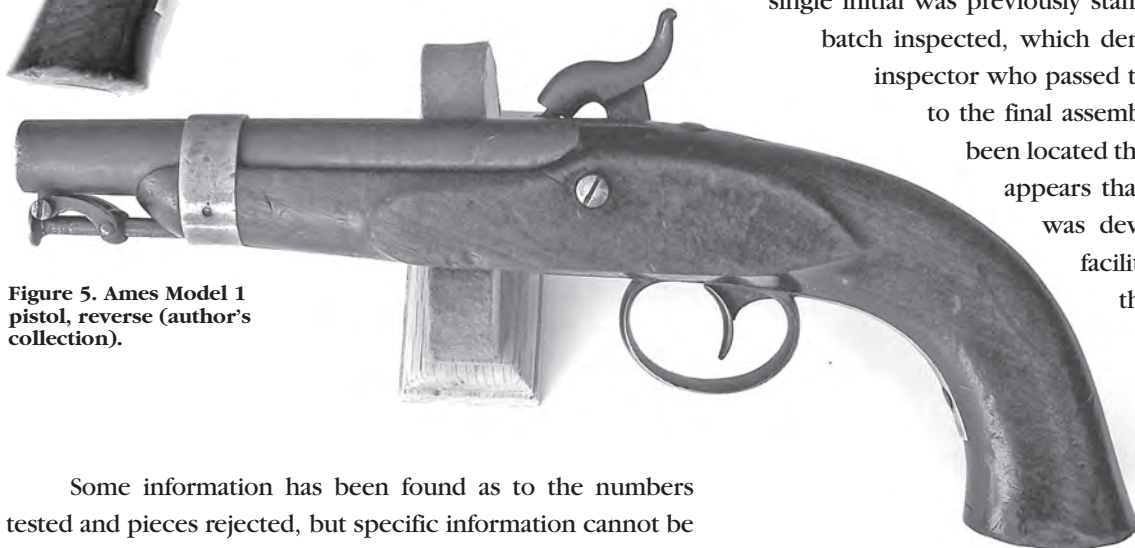


Figure 3. British pistol, dated 1843 (author's collection).

Figure 4. Ames Model 1 pistol, front (author's collection).



Figure 5. Ames Model 1 pistol, reverse (author's collection).



Some information has been found as to the numbers tested and pieces rejected, but specific information cannot be identified as to the disposition of rejected items. No inspection marks were placed on the early pistols, with the later pieces having proof marks only on the barrel. No cartouche has been noted on any observed 1842 piece. (The author has only 13 pistols identified to date.) The contract provided only that the pistol was to be marked "U S N" and dated 1842, without noting where to be marked. Serial numbers were not mentioned in the contract, although the numbers observed on all 1842 pieces are consistent, unique to the piece, and represent the only example of a Navy contract percussion single-shot pistol with numbers that appear to be serial numbers.

The contract for 2000 pistols was signed on September 1, 1842, by Dan Tyler, as agent for Ames, and it was verbally agreed that Ames would provide a "new" model pistol to the Board¹¹, based on some changes requested by Commodore William M. Crane, U.S.N., President of the Board. The pointed ends of the stock and lock were rounded and the concave tail of the lock-plate was simplified to a flat configuration. The date was eliminated from the barrel tang and a full four-line stamping was placed upon the barrel breech adjacent to the nipple. The stock contour was modified to make the grip slightly shorter and thicker. While it has been assumed that the rest of the first contract deliveries were of the second configuration, the record does not actually state that, and as we know now that pistol #331 exists, which conforms to the Model 1 style, the actual number made is uncertain. When the inspection certificates are found, for the second delivery, we may know the answer. The only thing we can assert is that the

major parts of type one and type two pistols are not interchangeable.

Additionally, two cartouches were added to the left side of the stock in the second type to show the final signoff of the assembled pistol by the civilian inspector employed by the Navy, and the Navy ordnance officer's acceptance (Figures 6-8). A single initial was previously stamped on each part that was batch inspected, which denoted the particular civilian inspector who passed that part (Appendix 3) prior to the final assembly. No correspondence has been located that suggests these changes. It appears that the final marking scheme was developed at the contractor's facility with the concurrence of the inspector.

The original schedule called for all 2000 pistols to be delivered by June 1843, but that schedule was modified by subsequent contracts for more pistols.

Two more contracts were negotiated between Ames and the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, with the final delivery schedule for all three contracts as shown in Appendix 8. (The Board of Naval Commissioners had been replaced by five Bureaus in 1842, which assumed various specific functions formerly managed by the Board.)

While these pistol deliveries were being handled, Ames was also making swords, copper powder flasks (powder tanks), boarding axes, and boarding pikes and producing all of the arms for the Jenks breach-loading carbine contracts (Appendix 6).

A second contract was signed March 23, 1843 (Appendix 4) with the Navy for 1200 swords, a large number of copper powder flasks, and 632 pistols at a reduced price of \$4.75 per pistol. The Navy was then changing from powder horns to copper flasks (powder tanks) in 1842 and was in need of flasks. Ames was the low bidder on the initial flask contract, but later contracts were let to other makers, who came in with lower prices. The Navy was continually seeking lower prices, through their published newspaper advertisements for bids, frequently to their detriment.

A third contract signed 9-21-44 (Appendix 5) called for another 1200 pistols. Ames delivered the entire 3832 pistols called for in the three contracts to the Navy Yards in New York and Boston (Appendix 8).

The Navy advertised for a fourth quantity of 1200 pistols in April 1845, but awarded that contract to Henry

Figure 6. Ames Model 2 Pistol, lock (author's collection).



Figure 7. Ames Model 2 Pistol, barrel (author's collection).



Figure 8. Ames Model 2 Pistol, reverse (author's collection).

Deringer of Philadelphia after informing Ames that he had been underbid.¹² As soon as Ames was informed that he did not get the contract, he sold his pistol-making equipment to Deringer. Deringer signed the contract on July 1, 1845, which called for delivery by mid 1846.

The final tally of Ames boxlock pistols delivered was 3832 plus the model pistols, and War Department records show those pistols being used as late as the Civil War, where they were referred to as "Navy" pistols (single-shot, with 6-inch barrels) in the inventory to distinguish them from the Aston pistols, which the Navy purchased from the Army¹³ ("Army" pistols referred to guns with 81/2-inch barrels, while "Navy" pistols had barrels 6 inches in length).

Over 3800 "Navy" single-shot pistols were issued to various ships during the Civil War (recent unpleasantness; War of Northern aggression, etc), as noted in John D. McAulay's book, thus showing that the pistols remained serviceable for a considerable time. Details of the distribution and usage can be obtained from McAulay and the individual ships log books, available through the National Archives.

THE REVENUE MARINE CONTRACT

Ames became associated with William Jenks through the production of Jenks percussion carbines for the U.S. Army starting in 1842. Jenks had obtained a contract for 1000 carbines of his patented breach-loading design and turned to Ames to produce the arms, having no manufacturing facilities of his own. Jenks' 1839 Flintlock carbine contract for the War Department had been produced by the Chicopee Falls Company, which had gone bankrupt in 1841, so he contracted with the Ames Company for the components necessary to fulfill his subsequent contracts (Appendix 9).

In late 1843, William Jenks obtained a small contract for a variety of arms for the Revenue Marine Service (forerunner of the U.S. Coast Guard) (Appendix 6) (NARG 217, Entry 232, Box 17). That contract was signed on Dec. 5, 1843, with scheduled delivery by mid 1844. It called for 144 carbines, 144 pistols, 144 swords, 144 powder flasks, 120 boarding pikes, and 72 boarding hatchets, with the carbines, pistols, swords, and powder flasks to conform to those then being manufactured for the Naval Service. This meant that Jenks had agreed to obtain those items from Ames, although he is not mentioned in the contract, since Ames was the only maker of those weapons at that time.

The pistol was dated 1843 on the barrel and lock-plate, was stamped JCB on the barrel (proofed by JC Bragg, civilian inspector), and carried two cartouches as evidence of inspection and acceptance. All observed pistols are serial numbered on the bolster flat and edge of the barrel band and

bear the two cartouches of William Anderson Thornton, Captain of Ordnance, U.S. Army (WAT) near the rear of the left stock flat and Bragg (JCB), civilian inspector, near the center of the left stock flat, in a vertical format. Not all of the pistols observed are marked the same on the barrel, but the basic design appears to be a four-line stamping. All observed pieces have had the barrel band edge numbered the same as that on the bolster, which can only be seen when the lock is removed. The barrel is marked as follows:

U (dot) S (dot) R over 1843 over JCB over P. (in four lines)

The lock-plate tail markings were a U (dot) S (dot) R over 1843 in two lines.

(Only 13 pistols have been identified thus far.) Although Richard Paine was working at the Ames plant at the time, only JCB and WAT inspected the USR pistols. Paine does show up on the Jenks carbines dated 1844.

Delivery records for this contract have not been located yet, and it is not known how the various other USR components were distinguished, if at all. All observed pistols have JCB on the barrel and should have cartouches as noted above. Since fakes exist, the location and style of the noted markings should help eliminate some questionable pieces. No records show any rejected parts or pistols.

A second USR contract was signed by Jenks on March 26, 1846 (NARG 217, Entry 232, Box 18), for additional arms (Appendix 6) but no information concerning deliveries on that contract has been found as of this time. Checking with various collectors and dealers, only those few Ames pistols and a very few Jenks carbines have been observed with the USR marking. The contract does not specify marking of the components, so it is not known if the flasks or boarding arms were distinctly marked.

If there were deliveries on the second contract, no written reports have been found to date that detail those deliveries. The author has observed two Jenks carbines marked USR, one made by Ames dated 1844, and another made by Remington, dated 1847, which conform to the two contracts. Other USR carbines have been reported with those dates noted, but they are rare. Through the kind offices of Mr. David Miller of the Smithsonian Institute, Division of Military History and Diplomacy, two excellent examples of the second contract (Remington) carbine have been located, in addition to the one owned by the author.

Since no Ames pistols are dated 1846, and no records indicate any other supplier provided any pistols, boxlocks, or otherwise, for this contract (except possibly, Deringer?), the status of the second contract delivery is not known. Clearly this is an area where more research is indicated. Only the carbines have been identified at this time as being from the second contract.

INSPECTION MARKINGS (AMES PISTOLS)

Model 1. All are dated 1842 on the lock-plate, with the lock marked on the rounded tail with a U (dot) S (dot) N over 1842. The placement of the marking seems to move from the break of the flat portion of the plate toward the rounded tail of the lock as serial numbers get larger. The Ames three-line address is in the middle of the lock-plate under the bolster. There are no barrel markings on the earliest pieces, with an 1842 date appearing on the tang of later numbered pieces, followed by a U (dot) S (dot) N over an intaglio P on still later pieces. There are no subassembly marks on the limbs or parts.

No cartouches have been noted on the stocks (13 examples are currently known). While 300 were delivered to Boston Navy Yard in November 1843, and since SN 331 is known and appears correct, it is uncertain how many Model 1 style pistols were fabricated or delivered. They are extremely scarce, and many show hard use.

Model 2. (Dated 1843, 1844, or 1845, on barrel and rear of lock-plate). All Model 2 pistols have a flat lock-plate, with the edge rounded toward the rear of the stock (grip). The lock-plate has the usual company address in three lines, with a USN over the date on the lock tail. Early 1843 pistols will have dots after the U and the S, but not the N, on both the barrel and the lock-plate tail.

Later 1843 dated barrels noted have the same “no dot” pattern in the standard four-line marking: USN over (date) over (inspector) over P, which is also found on the 1844 and 1845 dated barrels.

Stock marks represent the cartouche of the civilian inspector employed by the Navy who inspected the assembled arm, placed on the forward left stock flat, while the Navy assistant ordnance officer (Lt. Joseph Lanman) placed his mark at the tail of the flat. Lt. Joseph Lanman inspected and accepted all Model 2 pistols under the three Navy contracts (script J 1 in an oval cartouche).

Barrel marks are as follows:

1843 JCB or RC (Richard Paine was working at Ames in 1843 but no bbls with his proof marks have been observed with that date.) (Joseph C. Bragg or Rufus Chandler)

1844 RP, or RC only observed to date. (One barrel is known proofed by NWP, Nahum W. Patch, but with unusual inspection cartouches, which do not conform to the norm.)

1845 RP or RC only to date (Richard Paine or Rufus Chandler)

Stock marks for 1843 observed to date are RP or RC; 1844 we have RC, RP, or JPC (Joseph P Chapman) with Chapman somewhat rare, since he only inspected for 3

months, and the single example of NWP. For 1845 we find only RP and RC. One example exists with a single cartouche, which appears to be possibly JAB in the center of the flat near the lock screw. It has an “R” subinspection mark on the top of the bolster and the bottom of the trigger guard only.

Subinspection marks are on the metal parts (butt cap, trigger guard, barrel band, cleaning rod end, barrel bolster, and hammer) and represent the subinspectors initials, i.e., B for Bragg; R for Rufus Chandler; P for Richard Paine; and J for Joseph P. Chapman. All matching marks on a pistol would be desirable, but since the parts were batch inspected and stamped, some mixing would be expected.

A number appears on the inside of the bolster, which can only be observed when the lock is removed, and it is not repeated on the side of the barrel band. It is likely that these numbers are batch or inventory numbers rather than serial numbers since they tend to be no more than two or three digits and do not appear elsewhere on the piece.

This method of marking is consistent with that described by George Moller (Article 10) *infra*, wherein he refers to subassembly marks as “responsibility” marks used for payment purposes, *inter alia*. He notes that the barrels were stamped after proof, and small parts were marked after individually inspected or “gauged.”

Mixed dates between barrels and lock-plates are common due to the batch inspection process and the interchangeability goal of the contracts; however, no more than one year's difference would be likely.

One example dated 1842 on lock and barrel, marked with several M's and script WAT's, is known (ex-Locke collection, page 252), which appears to be a proper model for the second style pistol. Its clean appearance suggests that it would have been the model kept by the Bureau and not used by the contractor for inspecting. It has a single cartouche WAT in an oval on the rear left stock tail flat. The author has an exception to this difference in dates wherein the lock is dated 1842 and the barrel bears an 1845 date and a four-line stamping. The piece has a fancy wood stock and no cartouche, with a red-brown barrel finish. It is speculated that this example might have been prepared by Ames for the 4th pistol contract, which went to Deringer and likely was not issued and had no final inspection. An additional similar piece with both barrel and lock-plate dated 1845 has appeared recently without any explanation.

Some examples exist with belt hooks, but that feature was never part of the written contract, so it is not certain when those were applied, nor by whom. Small anchors have been noted on the top of the barrel on at least three examples, and while this likely represents Naval usage, those marks were probably made in 1867 after the Civil War when the Navy inventoried their small arms. The author has one

Figure 9. U.S.R Ames pistol, lock (author's collection).



example dated 1844 with a small post sight on the barrel. It is assumed that the sight was added at a later date.

Caveat: Model 2 observations are based on viewing of approximately 100 examples and anomalies may arise as more pistols are seen.

U S R marked on lock and barrel. Dated 1843 on lock and

barrel. See USR contract information supra (Figures 9-11).

ACCOUTREMENTS

Accessories for the boxlock pistols were contractor made. The style of cartridge box and cap box has not been identified to date. They were likely not marked and were similar to standard Army issue of the period.

Figure 10. U.S.R. Ames pistol, barrel.

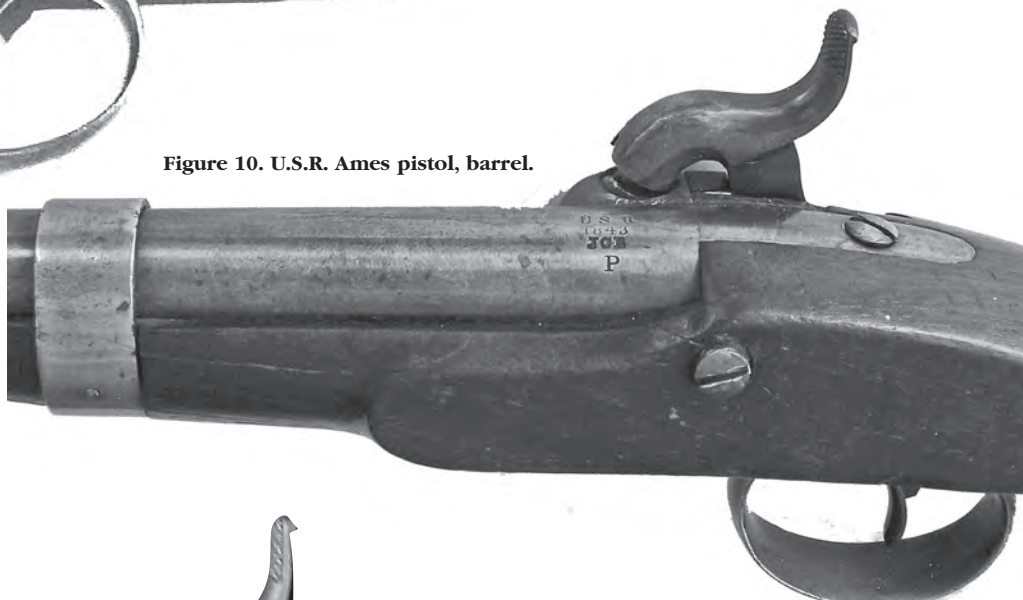
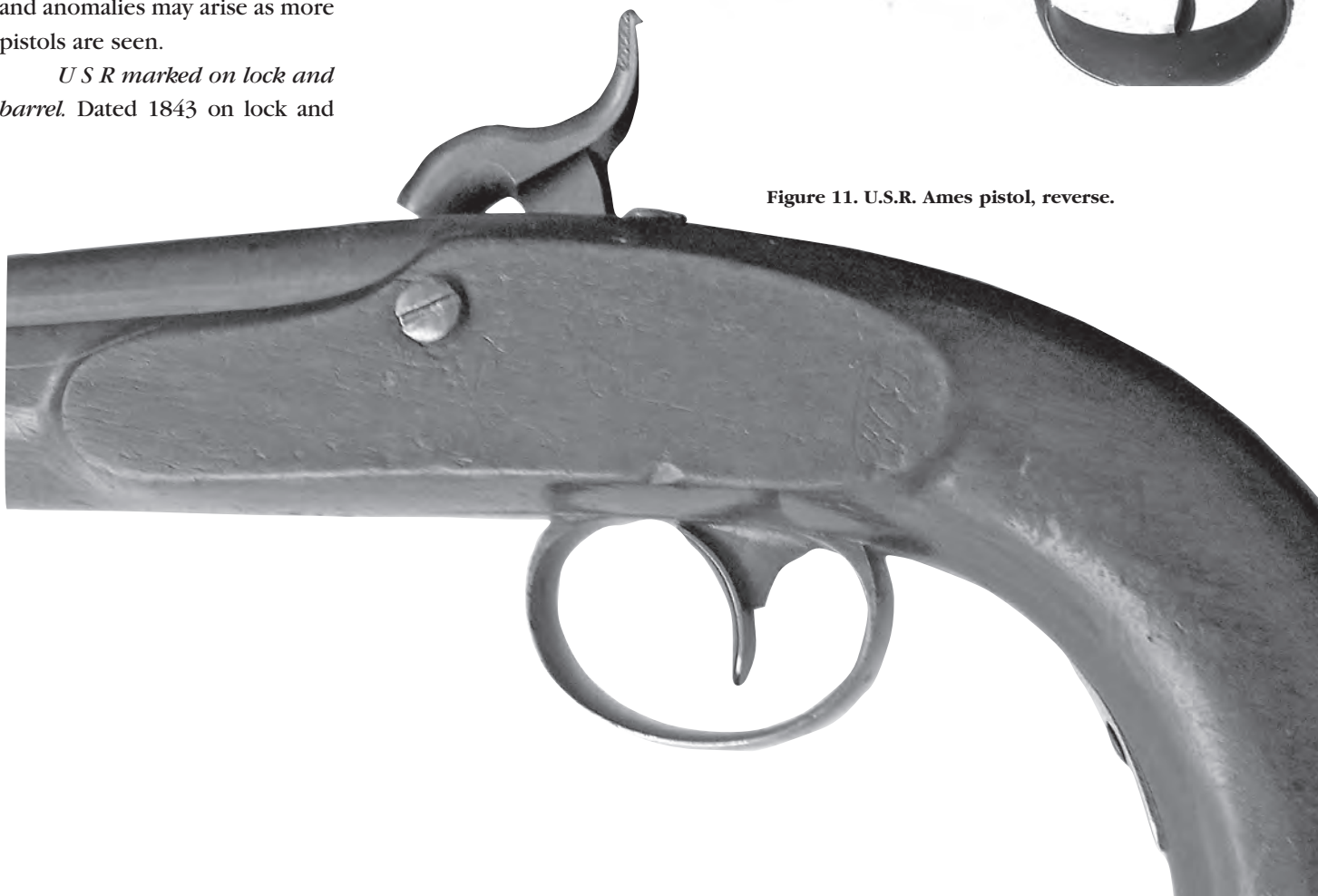


Figure 11. U.S.R. Ames pistol, reverse.



Bullet molds were likely made by Ames for the Jenks carbines, and it is thought they would also be used for the pistols. A two-cavity brass mold with an iron sprue cutter has been identified as proper for the Ames contracts. Some are unmarked and others carry an RC and a .32 (indicating 32 balls to the pound) (Ref. Jenks contract of July 30, 1844; Man at Arms, No 5, 1996). One mold shown in Andrew Lustyik's Jenks carbine article (Sept. 1964 *Gun Report*) also was marked with a U.S.N, in addition to the RC and .32 (Figure 12). All Ames and Deringer boxlocks were "rifle" caliber (.54).

A combination tool, a Y-shaped spanner wrench for the Navy's favorite nipple, was available for both the Jenks carbines and the Ames pistols. Some of these spanners carry an inspection stamp R (Richard Paine?) at the center of the wrench where the three arms meet (Figure 13).

Many pistol examples are found with regular nipples that could use the standard 1842 Army pistol combination tool (Shaffer et al., *Tool Book*, page 175).

While the use of gauges is mentioned in the later contracts, it is not certain when that inspection method began nor who supplied them. Springfield Armory is generally believed to have supplied gauges for many other contracts and likely did it here. A recently found letter from Richard Paine to Louis Warrington in 1850 noted that he used a single-letter die for limbs and a two-letter (RP) die for proofing barrels and a scroll RP stock cartouche. John Hamilton notes that, due to more stringent manufacturing procedures required for the Jenks Carbine contracts, that Albert Eames, who worked for Ames, developed specially hardened gauges and jigs to ensure interchangeability (Ames Sword Co. book, page 70). He may have also been responsible for the pistol gauges as well.

THE HENRY DERINGER CONTRACT

(NARG 74, ENTRY 162, VOL. 1, PAGES 112-114)

In response to an apparent advertisement published by the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography in a local Philadelphia newspaper, bids were submitted by various contractors on a fourth pistol contract for another 1200 pieces. HD was awarded the contract over both Ames and Henry Aston, although he had never produced any pistols of that configuration.

The contract was signed July 1, 1845¹⁴. Upon being informed that he had been underbid, Ames sold his pistol-making equipment to Deringer, since he had completed his contracts¹⁵.

Deringer had difficulty performing this contract, requesting various extensions of the delivery dates, inspections, etc., but finally had 313 barrels ready for inspection in

1847. On 5-14-47, Richard Paine, a civilian inspector under contract to the Navy Dept. who had worked at the Ames factory and at Springfield Armory, was dispatched to Philadelphia by the Navy and tested the barrels, passing 282 and rejecting 31. He stamped his initials on the barrel, RP on the top for those that passed, and RP on the bottom for those that failed¹⁶. (At least one example exists with RP stamped on the top, and also on the bottom?)

Subsequent attempts by the Bureau to goad Deringer into calling for inspection of further pistols did not yield results. There is no evidence that Deringer ever delivered any pistols to the Navy, nor does there appear to have been any action taken on his bond for his failure to deliver. The only indication of any deliveries found to date was an 1867 inventory report discovered in the Archives some years ago by Bob Jeska that listed 95 "Derringer" (sic) pistols in storage. No additional information has been uncovered to date¹⁷.

Observations of existing Deringer pistols have yielded a wide variety of lock-plate and barrel markings, as noted below. No records have been found in the Archives that account for any Military deliveries.

If Deringer made any agreements to deliver pistols, there may be records in locations other than the National Archives, such as personal company accounts, etc., or records belonging to William Jenks, or possibly Ames.

DESCRIPTION OF DERINGER PISTOLS

Examination of various Deringer pistols yielded the following results:

- There are at least 14 distinct variations of pistols based on different lock-plate markings, barrel markings, and rifling, without consideration of sighting nuances. (Some had no front sight, some a small post, and some a blade sight, while others had a rear sight either on the tang or on the barrel.) Since the contract did not mention sights and the Ames pistols did not have any, it is questionable why they were made.
- Some Deringer pistols are found with a seven-groove rifling, but this was not part of the original contract either and the reason or purpose is not known. As noted below, the model pistol used by Deringer was "loaned" to him by the Navy and was one of the models made by Ames.

There are three common lock-plate configurations, all having the same two-line address in the center of the plate (Figures 14-16).

Deringer Philadel'a These are shown in Reilly's book as Figures 517, 518 (US), and 519 (USN) (page 184)

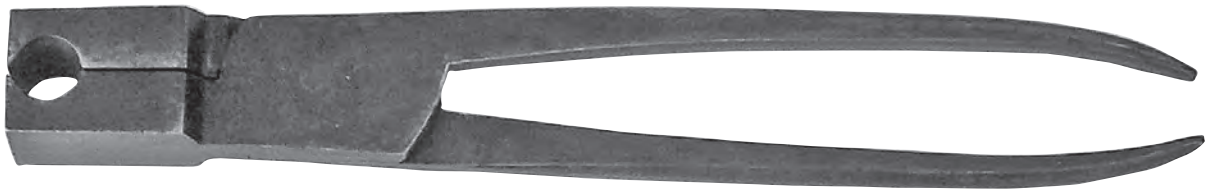


Figure 12. Bullet molds for Ames pistols (author's collection).



Figure 13. Combination tools (author's collection).

There are several barrel markings noted:

- 1 RP stamped on the top of the barrel; 517; (HD)
- 2 Large type DERINGER on the top and an intaglio P on the side; 517;
- 3 Large type DERINGER with RP and the intaglio P; on the side; 517;
- 4 two-line small Deringer over Philadel'a; 517;
- 5 No barrel marks on top of barrel; rifled barrel; 518; (US)
- 6 No barrel marks on top of barrel; smooth bore; 518;

- 7 two-line small Deringer over Philadel'a; rifled barrel; 518;
- 8 two-line small Deringer over Philadel'a; smooth bore; 518;
- 9 two-line small Deringer over Philadel'a; RP on barrel; rifled; 518;
- 10 two-line small Deringer over Philadel'a, RP on barrel, smooth bore; 518;
- 11 RP on barrel, smooth bore; 518;
- 12 RP on barrel, smooth bore; 519; (USN);
- 13 two-line small Deringer over Philadel'a, smooth bore; 519;
- 14 No barrel marks, smooth bore; 519;

Figure 14. Henry Deringer pistol
"U.S.N./1847."



Figure 15. Henry Deringer
pistol "US."

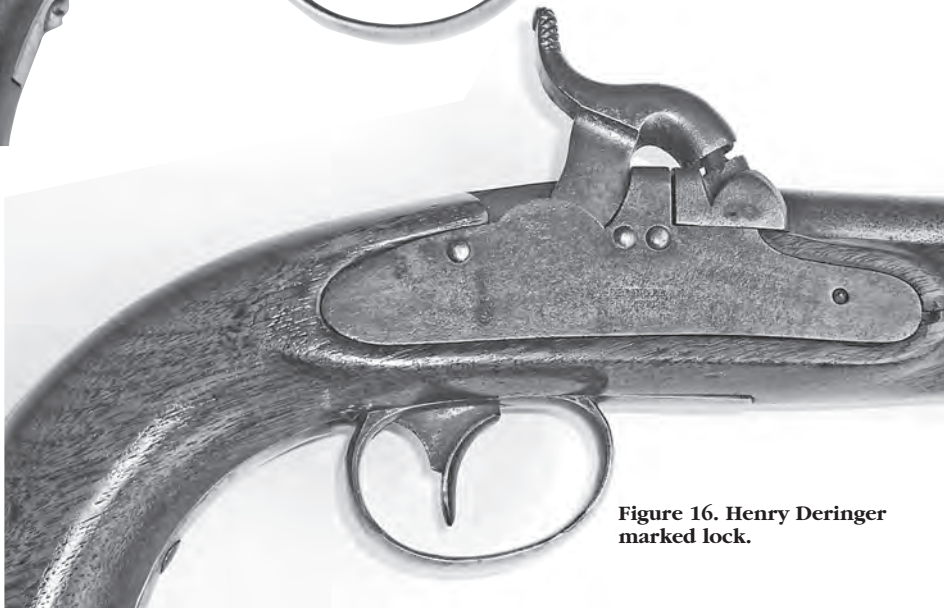


Figure 16. Henry Deringer
marked lock.

It is likely that more variants exist!

Caveat: Deringer observations are based on approximately 25 pistols and several pictures in books and catalogs.

Since Deringer did not have any final military inspection of his pistols as far as we know, there should be no inspection cartouche on any Deringer stock. Even if Deringer obtained some parts from Ames when he bought the machinery, cartouches were only applied at the final assembled inspection and no records of any such inspection have surfaced. As some Deringer pistols are known with visible cartouches on the left stock flat, it is the author's judgment that these have been restocked using an Ames stock and do not represent any military acceptance of the Deringer pistol. Inasmuch as the metal "limbs" were batch inspected, it is possible that some unused Ames parts may have been sold to Deringer by Ames when he sold the machinery, but no records have been found that support that theory. Any such records would be more likely found only in Ames or Deringer factory records and not in the National Archives. Any parts obtained from Ames as a result of the sale might have a single letter stamped on the part, indicating prior inspection at the Ames plant before the sale, and should not be interpreted as indicating an inspection at the Deringer plant. Note that configuration 518 above lists some rifled barrels. There was no mention of any rifled barrels in the contract and it is not known when, why, or how they came into existence.

CONCLUSION

It appears that N.P. Ames delivered a total of 3832 boxlock pistols dated 1842 through 1845 plus some

seven models to the Navy. Those pistols were used extensively, by the Navy, through the Civil War. The early 300-piece delivery was uniquely marked (serial numbered), but likely more than that number were produced and accepted (SN 331, for instance, exists), so that the exact count of first models produced is not known. No Ames pistols should be marked 1846 or 1847, and none have been seen.

In 1843, William Jenks arranged for Ames to produce a small contract for the Revenue Cutter service (144 pieces), which were uniquely numbered (serialized) and specially marked. To date only 13 pistols and some three carbines made by Ames, and only four carbines made by Remington without the tape primer, have been observed or identified as marked with the U S R designation.

In 1846, Jenks obtained a second Revenue Cutter contract (U S R), but it is not known what, if any, products were delivered by Ames. It is known that at least four Jenks Carbines dated 1847 exist and are marked with a U S R stamped on the barrel near the receiver. They were made by Remington and do NOT have a tape primer and so differ from the other Jenks Remington carbines for the Navy. No Ames-marked pistols have been seen dated 1846 or 1847. Deringer pistols dated 1847 are marked U S N on the lock but have no inspection marks.

It further appears that, although there are many varieties of boxlock pistols marked Deringer, none of them were delivered to the Navy under the 1845 contract notwithstanding the USN and US marking on some of the pistols, and the monumental effort made by the Navy to encourage him to deliver. The 1847 dated Deringer pistols are the only ones bearing any date and the significance is not known. One Deringer pistol has been observed with an 1847 date on the barrel (?). All Ames-proofed barrels are stamped (Model 2's) on the breach by the inspector (RC, RP, JCB, or JPC) for production models, while only RP appears on some Deringer barrels.

The number of Deringer pistols produced is likely far less than the 1200 noted in the contract. No records in the Archives found to date indicate any deliveries to the government. There may be some Deringer business records that detail the disposition of the boxlocks, but they have not been located. While the 1867 inventory records show 95 "Derringer" pistols in various locations, nothing else is known about those guns or their disposition. They were noted to be "smooth bore."

Inspection was initially performed by comparing examples or model pistol parts and some time later was subjected to various gauges. No description or example of those gauges has been found or identified thus far.

Continued research is needed, to further both the Ames and the Deringer stories, as well as the USR contracts of Mr. William Jenks.

1. Details of the Elgin contract: George Elgin received a patent (No. 254, July 5, 1837) for combining the pistol and Bowie knife into a single weapon. Based on that patent, he produced a military version which was delivered to the Navy. They accepted 150 pieces in 1838 at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The blades and scabbards were supplied by Ames (Blades and barrels, page 158) (Hamilton Ames Sword Company, pages 71-73) (Hickox, pages 1-2).

2. Details of the Board of Commissioners vs. Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography organization and structure. The Board of Commissioners, which had handled all small arms procurement from 1815, was abolished by Act of Congress on August 31, 1842 and replaced by five bureaus. After that all procurement came under the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography (NARG 45; Board of Navy Commissioners 1815-1842, page 41, et seq).

3. Report from the Secretary of the Navy to the Senate dated July 7, 1841, giving the number and description of muskets and pistols then belonging to the Naval service (27th Congress, 1st Session, page 58), showing some 5366 pistols in stores or at sea, with nothing newer than 1831 manufacture.

4. Details of NP's trip to Europe: A letter dated 7-27-40 from NP to his brother James mentioned contacts between them (CVHS Group 4, Folder No. 4). In addition box 7, folder 4, contains letters of introduction to various people whom Ames met with in Europe. They show him in Paris on February 21, 1841, and London in April. By June 1, 1841, he was back in New York.

5. Daniel Tyler story: history and relationship and travel to Europe: Tyler entered the U.S. Military Academy in 1816, graduating in 1819. He became associated with ordnance in 1826 and was the Superintendent of Contract Arms from Jan. 1830 to Dec. 1833. He was a civil engineer from 1834 to 1861. He returned to the Army in 1861 and served through the War. Lindert mentions a letter from Tyler dated November 30, 1841, to the Navy Board, which states that since his return (from Europe) that he had received a model from the Ordnance Department and that they were preparing a pistol which they "... trust will please you."

6. The British Board of Ordnance had been experimenting with various percussion pistols for a number of years and by 1841 had produced several pistols using that technology. The most representative piece that resembles the boxlock format is the model made for the use of the British Coast Guard. Although not a "boxlock" (the boxlock format has the hammer contained inside the lock-plate), the pistol has the most similar characteristics to the Ames pistol of any British pistol then in use. It had the 6-inch barrel, the

small size stock, the captive ramrod, the small round counter plate, single lock-plate screw, a flat butt plate, and most resembles the Ames product (Figure 4) as well as that of Henry Deringer. (Figures 14, 15, 16)

7. (NARG 74, Entry 162, Volume 1, page 17) Contract dated 9-01-42 between Daniel Tyler as agent for the Ames Manufactory of Springfield Mass., and the Board of Navy Commissioners for 2000 pistols of the pattern deposited by Tyler with the Navy Commissioners office, at \$5 each. Delivery was to be on or before June 1, 1843, and interchangeability was a requirement. No mention is made of any spare parts, bullet molds, or combination tools in the contract.

8. This configuration is known as the Model 1 (per Hicks) and differs from the general product as noted supra (1842 Model 1 Boxlock). See Appendix 1 and Figures 4 and 5 above. A letter in the archives details the acceptance of 300 pistols on or about July 31, 1844, noting that the certificate of inspection had not been attached to the receipt of the storekeeper (NARG 74 E 5, page 102) when delivered to the Boston Navy Yard.

9. Letters detailing his inspection services (Appendix 2) (Biography). Thornton was appointed Chief of Contract Inspection by the Army Chief of Ordnance Bomford in 1840 and served through 1852 (Moller, Article 10 infra). The Navy adopted the Army style for the Ames pistol inspections since they had no Ordnance personnel at the time.

10. It has long been the position in the literature that those 300 pieces were the total Model 1's produced, although the records do not so state. What is said is that there are 300 ready for testing in July 1842. The contract was not signed until September 1, 1842, and the new pistol model with the changes requested by Commissioner Crane was not ready until December. Production was not halted in the interim, and pistol number 331 is known. There are known examples of Ames boxlock pistols with the pointy lock frame and a standard lock, but without any cartouche. These are clearly not part of the contract and their usage is not known. They do not bear any military acceptance, or inspection marks and are likely not part of the production run. It is not clear when the first model production actually stopped, nor how many first models were produced or delivered. Examination of SN 331 indicates that it conforms to the finished design for the later first style pistols. No records have surfaced that show the disposition of any rejected parts. No records have been found detailing the acceptance of more Model 1 pistols than the initial 300-piece delivery, but likely some were included in the second delivery.

11. New model pistol to be forwarded to Board (Figures 6, 7, and 8). The initial agreement between Dan Tyler and the Board of Navy Commissioners called for 2000 pistols to be made similar to the pattern model. Prior to the start of manufacture by Ames, the Board had sent the "British Marine Pistol" to Ames and Ames had produced a "model"

from which they began production. After the initial inspection by Thornton at Springfield, Captain Crane, President of the Board of Navy Commissioners, asked for some changes to the product and Ames agreed to make another pattern model to be used for the remainder of the production run.

That pattern became the 2nd model pistol ideal, which made up most of the rest of the first contract, and both follow on contracts. It also served for the U S R production pattern, all of which are dated 1843. Additional model pistols were not shown in the contract but were provided by Ames as follows:

1. Dec 42 The new pattern for the 2nd model configuration was prepared.
2. 9-18-43 One pattern pistol sent to Boston Navy Yard @ \$5.00; (NARG 74 Entry 158 page 43)
3. 3-23-1844 One pattern sent to Philadelphia Navy Yard @ \$5 (This was later "loaned" to Henry Deringer after he was awarded the contract for 1200 pieces. Letter from Crane to HD dated 11 June 1845, NARG 74, Entry 5, page 179) and became the model pistol that he agreed to produce. Many varieties exist in the Deringer pistols which "do not conform" to the pattern.
4. 4-20-44 Three patterns to Boston Navy Yard @ \$5 (NARG 74, Entry 158, page 112).

It is uncertain if all the model pistols had the 1842 lock-plate date, but it appears likely. It is not known what barrel date or markings would have been used. The author assumes that the model barrels would likely have been taken from production as needed and would bear the proof date of that barrel. All of the noted pattern pistols should conform to the second style pistol. The model pistol identified in the Locke collection was marked in several places with a block "M" and a single "WAT" cartouche on the rear of the left stock flat (Locke Book, page 252). It is a second model configuration.

12. Letter to NPA from W. Crane: (NARG 74, Entry 5, page 180).

Bureau of Ordn & Hygro

June 5th 1845

Sir,

Your offer for Swords under the advertisement of this Bureau of the 23rd April, is accepted—a contract and bond will be prepared and forwarded to you for your signature in a few days, for your signature—

Respectfully

Your Obt Servt

W.M.C

Your offer for pistols & powder flasks is not accepted,
more favorable ones having been received-

13. Letter regarding sale of Aston's to Navy/Lewis Southerd Article reference. Starting in 1850, the Navy received over 10,000 Aston and IN Johnson Model 1842 Army pistols drawn out of Army stores. These were replaced from the contractors by direct payment by the Navy to the contractors.

14. HD Contract text (NARG 217, Entry 232, Box 18), dated July 1, 1845, between Henry Deringer and the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography for 1200 pistols per established patterns to be verified by the gauges established for the Naval Service of the United States @ \$4.98 each. All to be delivered on or before the 4th of June, 1846. The contract called for inspection using gauges to be provided by the Navy.

The award of the contract to Deringer raises some questions. Ames had developed the model for the 3832 pistols already under contract or delivered, fabricated the equipment to produce the pistols, and worked with ordnance people for some three years. He originally received \$5.00 per for the models and first contract. The Navy negotiated him down to \$4.75 per on contracts 2 and 3 and then turned around and awarded the following on to Deringer at \$4.98 each. Ames had been diligent enough in that there is little evidence of late deliveries or product problems, yet the Navy Bureau goes to Deringer!

After that there are nothing except problems, yet they hang in there with Deringer, even when he fails to deliver any pistols. The tone of their letters concerning delivery is most friendly and patient, and it almost suggests that they did not need them. For some unknown reason it appears they treated Deringer with great deference. A letter from Col. Kuhn to Sam Smith in 1961 expressed Kuhn's opinion that the Deringer "1843" pistols were not "military" since he found no record of any deliveries. The following letter shows the Navy's position on the contract.

Bureau of Ordn & Hydro

27th July 1848

Sir,

Your contract, to make twelve hundred pistols for the Navy, expired on 1 June 1846. You will be pleased to inform the bureau, whether you intend to deliver the pistols, and at what time, as the state of the contract will soon have to be reported to the Secretary of the Navy-.

Respectfully

You obt servt

L.W. (Louis Warrington)

Henry Deringer Esq

Philadelphia (NARG 74, Entry 5, page 435)

Note that the letter is fully two years after the contract "expired" and they are still most friendly in their tone. It

would appear that any HD pistols dated 1847 could not have been delivered to the Navy as part of the contract, so those so dated are still in limbo. The significance of the dated lock-plates is not known.

15. Sale of equipment to HD. In late 1845, Ames sold his pistol-making equipment to Deringer (NARG 74, Entry 18, book 3, page 30).

16. RP tests of HD pistols by Richard Paine, a civilian inspector, proofed 313 pistol barrels at Henry Deringer's factory in Philadelphia in May of 1847. He passed 282 and rejected 31. No further records have been found indicating additional testing or assembly (NARG 74, E 162), letter from Richard Paine to Louis Warrington dated May 18, 1847.

17. Arsenal inventory from January 29, 1867 (NARG 156 Entry 99). Listing 95 Caliber .54 Derringer's (sic) smooth bore pistols in various arsenals or forts: 1 in New York, 3 on hand at unidentified forts, 11 at St. Louis, and 80 at Vancouver, WT (Washington Territory?), for a total of 95 pistols. A recent attempt to obtain this record from the archives failed and the record may now be lost.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1: 1842 MODEL 1 BOXLOCK PISTOL (FIGURE 4) (NARG 74, ENTRY 162, VOL. 1, PAGE 17)

This Model 1 differs from the Model 2 style in that the lock-plate has a beveled forward edge, which terminates in a rounded pointed tail. The stock is also pointed toward the butt end and there are no inspection cartouches on the stock. Even though Capt. William Anderson Thornton performed that inspection by request of the Navy Board with the permission of the War Department, no inspection marks appear on the pistol stock on any observed examples.

Marking of the pistol is such that the number that appears upon various component parts is unique and is doubtless a serial number, typically appearing on as many as 14 places in the wood and on the metal parts. The barrel markings vary some in that the early pieces have no marks upon the barrel, while later (after serial number 43) have a 1842 date on the tang and bear a U (dot) S (dot) N over an intaglio: P (P in a recessed circle). All "dots" are square.

The lock bears a block U (dot) S (dot) N over the date 1842. The location of this stamp varies with the serial number of the piece, beginning with the low numbered pieces on the break from the beveled segment to the rounded portion and moving back toward the lock tail in the later production (Figure 4). To date, only 13 pistols have been recorded by the author.

The first 300 inspected were delivered to the Boston Navy Yard. The full delivery schedule is shown in Appendix 8.

The original contract was signed on September 1, 1842 after some 300 pistol barrels had been accepted and proofed by Thornton.

APPENDIX 2: INSPECTION PERSONNEL

William Anderson Thorton, Captain, U.S. Army Ordnance, Inspector of Contract Arms (1840-1848), inspected the first 300 Ames pistols for the Navy at Ames plant in 1842-1843, and the 144 USR pistols for the Revenue Marine Service (1843) together with Bragg (JCB).

Nahun W. Patch (NWP), Civilian inspector.

Joseph C. Bragg (JCB), Civilian inspector under contract to the Navy who inspected Ames boxlock pistols from 1843 through 1845. He inspected all USR pistols and proofed the barrels.

Joseph P. Chapman (JPC), Civilian inspector under contract to the Navy who inspected Ames pistols from 8 July 1844 to 5 October 1844 (3 months).

Rufus Chandler (RC), Civilian inspector under contract to the Navy who inspected Ames pistols from April 1845 to ?1846.

Albert Eames worked as a machinist for Ames in 1842 and may have developed the gauges used for the Ames pistols and the Jenks (Ames) carbines. He went to Remington when they took over the Jenks contracts from Ames.

Richard Paine (RP), Civilian inspector under contract to the Navy who inspected Ames pistols from October 1842 through April 1845, and 331 Deringer barrels in 1847.

Daniel Tyler, 1st Lt. on Ordnance duty from Jan 14, 1830 to Dec 31, 1833, as Superintendent of Contract Arms. Resigned May 31, 1834 and served as agent for Ames Mfg. on first pistol contract with the Navy (see Ref. 5 supra).

Joseph Lanman, Lt. USN, assistant Navy inspector of contract Arms. Inspected all Ames pistols except the first 300 (Model 1's) and the USR pistols.

James L. Palmer, Lt USN, succeeded J Lanman in ?? as Assistant inspector of Contract Arms.

APPENDIX 3: INSPECTION PROCEDURE

The initial contract for 2000 pistols specified that the pistol “. . . shall be manufactured to the standard or pattern pistol deposited . . . in the Navy Commis office” and shall correspond in caliber, quality, shape, size and finish, and in all other respects—and shall be subject to and undergo the proof and inspection established by the Ordnance Department of the Army. Since they were being proofed by Thornton, who was familiar with those procedures, this was appropriate. A further proviso was that the parts were to be interchangeable. The only marks specified were that

the pattern was stamped “N P Ames—Springfield Mass, U S N 1842”

The second contract (632 pieces etc) provided that the pistols were to be subject to such proofs, tests, and inspections as the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography may authorize or direct. It further provided that this contract was in conformity with a prior (Dec. 1842) verbal agreement made between the parties. No record of that verbal agreement has been found.

The third contract (1200 pistols and 1200 swords) provided for the same inspections, but added some new provisions: That the “. . . several parts must be browned, blued, case hardened or polished as in the standard models—The forms and dimensions of the parts must be verified by the verifying guages (sic) already established for the use of the Naval Service . . .” No correspondence has been found that describes these “gauges,” nor has any “gauge” been identified, but a letter from Lt. Joseph Lanman to Commodore Crane dated January 1844 mentions the gauges. The Army had been using gauges for some time, with the gauges being supplied by the Springfield Armory (see Eames supra).

As referenced in Lewis Southard's article infra on JCB, the “Regulations for the Inspection of Small Arms, 1823” as used by the Army, provided for placement of the letters “U S” on the barrel of the arm, and for the initials of the inspector on the barrel and on the left breach. Inspection was to pattern with subsequent regulations of 1841 and 1850, providing additional directives.

The Army developed gauges for testing the 1842 H Aston and I Johnson contract pistols that replaced the sample testing procedure, and it is likely that became the standard for Navy inspections. No description of the gauges for the Ames pistols has been identified.

APPENDIX 4: SECOND CONTRACT FOR 632 PIECES (NARG 74, ENTRY L62, VOL. 1, PAGE 41)

Contract dated March 23, 1843, between Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography and NP Ames for 2834 copper powder flasks, 1200 swords, and 632 pistols to be delivered at the Navy Yard at New York and Boston, on or before March 31, 1844. All to be made to respective patterns furnished by Ames to the Bureau during 1842 and 1843. Delivery was to begin by the first day of July 1843. No mention is made of any spare parts, accoutrements, loading tools, or molds.

APPENDIX 5: THIRD CONTRACT FOR 1200 PIECES (NARG 74, ENTRY 162, VOL. 1, PAGES 73-75)

Contract between NP Ames and Navy Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, dated September 21, 1844.

APPENDIX 6: USR JENKS CONTRACT TERMS
(NARG 217, ENTRY 232, BOX 18)

William Jenks was an enterprising promoter and inventor who arranged a contract with the Navy on July 13, 1842 to produce 1000, 24-inch-barreled percussion carbines. Since Jenks had no manufacturing facilities, he subcontracted the production to Ames. Ames even signed the performance bond required by the government as a surety and thus guaranteed the contract. On December 05, 1843, Jenks obtained another small military contract, this time for the Revenue Service, a Division of the Treasury Department, which called for a variety of arms to be provided, all of which were then being produced by Ames for the Navy.

The pistols and the carbines were marked with a U.S.R stamp to distinguish them from Ames' other contract items. The pistols were marked on various areas: lock-plate (Figure 9), barrel (Figure 10), cartouches (Figure 11).

The lock-plate has the usual Ames address in the center, with a U (dot) S (dot) R over 1843 at the tail. The barrel is marked with a four-line stamping of U (dot) S (dot) R over 1843, over JCB, over P. JCB stands for the civilian contract inspector who was at the Ames plant at that time (JC Bragg). There are two stamped inspector's script cartouches on the left side of the stock: JCB in an oval near the lock screw and a WAT (William Anderson Thornton) lozenge shaped at the tail of the stock. Shape and placement of the cartouches differ from any other Ames boxlock pistols and appear unique to the USR contract. They stand for JC Bragg, a civilian contractor under contract to the U S Navy, and William Anderson Thornton, Captain of Ordnance, U.S. Army. There is a small stamped B on the forward lock-plate tang and on the side bolster and no other visible inspection marks. The "B" likely stands for subinspector Bragg, indicating that he inspected that "limb"(part) personally prior to final assembly.

The serial number for the arm appears on the barrel bolster flat, which abuts on the lock-plate bolster and again on the edge of the barrel band. It appears that the die used for marking the barrel and lock-plate was such that the U.S. was separately stamped as was the R. (The U S N stampings appear to be from a single die stamp).

Other 1843 dated pistols inspected by Bragg show more subinspector marking, indicating a more extensive limb inspection process. "Limb" was the Navy's designation of the individual parts, which were inspected by being compared to the corresponding pattern pistol part.

Jenks signed a second USR contract on March 26, 1846, calling for the following items: 225 Carbines, 228 Swords, 268 Pistols, 248 Pikes, 200 Hatchets, 236 Powder flasks, 248 Pouches, 248 Belts, and 135,000 percussion caps, all to be delivered on or before September 1, 1846.

Since Ames was still producing boarding cutlasses, powder flasks, hatchets, and pikes, it is assumed that he may have provided those to the contract. His complaint lay with Jenks wanting a tape primer mechanism and the use of cast steel barrels for the carbines. This disagreement resulted in Ames selling his carbine-making machinery to Remington and his retirement from making further Jenks carbines. At least four examples of an 1847 dated Jenks (Remington made without a tape primer) carbine exist. No examples of other U S R marked items have been noted to date, but they may be out there.

APPENDIX 7: HENRY DERINGER INFORMATION
(NARG 74, ENTRY 162, VOL. 1, PAGES 112-114)

Henry Deringer had a long history of military contracts beginning with the War of 1812. Although he had no current Navy contracts in 1845, they evidently chose him to award the boxlock follow on contract, which had been competitively bid. The Navy sent a letter of rejection to Ames stating that they had a lower bid (12). A contract for 1200 pistols like the (Ames) pattern was awarded to Deringer on 7-1-45. Upon receipt of the news of the award, Ames sold the pistol-making equipment to Deringer. In order for Deringer to fulfil his contract, the Navy loaned him a "model" pistol made by Ames and previously forwarded to the Philadelphia Navy Yard (NARG 74, Entry 158, page 151).

APPENDIX 8: PISTOL DELIVERY SCHEDULES
FOR THE THREE AMES CONTRACTS

1. First contract for 2000 pistols (signed 9-01-42)
 - a. 300 pistols delivered to Boston 11-2-43; (NARG 74, E 157, page 10) (Model 1's)
 - b. 600 pistols to Navy 9-5-44; (NARG 74, E 158, page 10)
 - c. 400 pistols to New York on 12-19-44; (NARG 74, E 158, page 97)
 - d. 400 pistols to New York on 1-6-45; (NARG 74, E 158, page 10)
 - e. 300 pistols to New York on 6-6-45; (NARG 74, E 158, page 123)
2. Second contract for 632 pistols, etc. (signed 3-23-43)
 - a. 300 pistols to Boston 5-45;
 - b. 332 pistols to New York 6-6-45; (NARG 74, E 158, page 122)
3. Third contract for 1200 pistols (signed 9-21-44)
 - a. 400 pistols to Boston 9-45; (NARG 74, Entry 158, page 37)
 - b. 800 pistols to New York 9-45 (same)

As early as Lindert (1971) it was noted that Ames had three contracts with a total of 3832 pistols, which he likely delivered, but this information seems to have been overlooked.

APPENDIX 9: THE JENKS CARBINE CONTRACTS

William Jenks entered into a contract with the Navy Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography on July 30, 1844, for 1500 patent carbines of 24-inch barrel length. It further provided for one cone key (wrench) per each ten carbines, one screw driver per carbine, one bullet mold to every ten, and one iron ram rod with bullet head, with five wipers each, to every ten carbines.

Ames provided the machinery and the product for these carbine contracts until 1845. The USR contract called for 144 carbines of that same type then being produced, which Ames was then making. All Ames USR Carbines were inspected by Richard Paine and Joseph Lanman and are dated 1844.

The carbines were produced with Ames' name stamped on the lock-plate and no sling ring (NARG 217, Entry 232 (Contracts), Box 17).

Jenks obtained a second contract for an additional 225 carbines to be produced using the same design for the Ames-Jenks carbine, but made by Remington and dated 1847 (NARG 217, entry 232, Box 18). They were to be of the same configuration then being produced for the Navy, and Remington made them in the same Ames style (no tape primer, and no sling ring). The contract called for 268 pistols of the Ames type, but nothing is known concerning pistol fabrication or delivery at this time.

APPENDIX 10: ARCHIVES USAGE

The National Archives maintains two facilities, the main building in DC and Archives II, a modern building in College Park, Maryland. The archivists are most helpful with research projects and will even help with defining what it is that you would like to research. If you can identify the material you are seeking, they can likely pinpoint where to look. Once you identify your record type, they can usually locate where in their complex such a record would be kept. They are also helpful with respect to prior searches in those areas. In my situation, I was able to obtain some of their work done for Colonel Kuhn back in 1941, which referenced some of the Record groups that contained useful material.

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FINIS ULTIMO: CAVEAT

This version represents a work in progress which is ongoing. 08-07-06.