

Lewis E. Yearout, Major USAFR Ret. 308 Riverview Drive East Great Falls, Montana 59404

Dear Major Yearout:

In response to your request for historical information, we have researched our records and located the following pertinent data:

COLT MODEL 1878 DOUBLE ACTION FRONTIER REVOLVER

4924 Serial Number: .45/c Caliber: 73" Barrel Length: Nickel Finish: Type of Stocks: Rubber B. Kittridge & Company Shipped to: Cincinatti, Ohio Address: January 22, 1881 Date of Shipment: Number of Same Type Guns in Shipment: 25

Remarks: The "Omnipotent" marking was the name given the .45 caliber revolver by B. Kittridge & Company. They were marked as such and sold exclusively to this firm. To the best of our knowledge, only a few hundred were made with this marking.

We trust the information supplied above will be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen J. Hoyt

Historian

KJH/sg

RETURN: JOHN FERA
6 LEANDER ST.
BRAMALEA, ONTARIO
CANADA
L6S 3M5

416-457-2868

COLT MODEL 1878 D-A

SERIAL NO. 4924	CAL. 45 Colf
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ENGRAVED	PLAIN
CONDITION	Good
HAMMER SLOT MARKING None	LOADING GATE #92 Y
MARKING'S ON BACK OF CYLINDER	9.
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	RIPS
MARKING'S ON BARREL UNDER EJECTO	DR
FACTORY LETTER INFORMATION IF AVA	AILABLE (Use separate sheet or back)
ANYTHING ELSE YOU FEEL IS IMPORTA	NT.
Lewis E. YEAROUT 308 Riven,	'ew Drin Fest Great Falls, 19and, 5946 406-727-4560 Days
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The Canadian Militia & Defence Marked Colt 1878 Double Action Frontier Revolvers

by John Fera



A group of frontiersmen just after the Louis Riel Rebellion of 1885. The two on the left are military men, the one on the right with Militia issue holster and Model 1878 revolver.

he year was 1885, one of the most turbulent years in Canadian history, and one that Canadians would remember for all time.

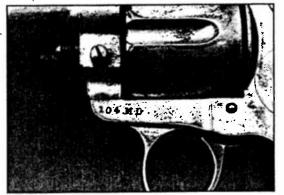
The event was the Northwest Rebellion. This campaign which resulted in the suppression of the hostilities was the first conducted by Canadian troops alone, without any assistance from the British regular army.

The Rebellion marked an exciting chapter in this young country's life – for this time Canadians from different provinces fought side by side, shedding their blood to enforce the authority of the federal government.

The Royal Northwest Mounted Police along with the Canadian Militia, under the command of Major General Middleton, and with a little help from a Gatling gun, defeated Louis Riel at Batoche in May of 1885. Louis Riel, a miller's son, who had led the Red River Rebellion 15 years earlier, was back with help from Gabriel Dumont, famed buffalo hunter and plainsman, he managed to anger the Indians and the Metis over fear of losing their lands. Riel was captured, tried and convicted of treason. He was hanged on Nov. 16, 1885.

Just prior to and during these events of which I have very briefly outlined the Canadian government was faced with several problems. The Militia was armed with aging Spencer rifles and obsolete Colt 1851 Navy revolvers (upper and lower Canada). Steps had to be taken quickly to update this equipment before confrontation with the Indians and the Metis became a reality.

Updating the arms was the responsibility of the Department of Militia & Defence. With all-out rebellion looming ever so close, they acted very quickly. By order of the department and using funds allocated by special vote of the government, the New Yorkbased firm of Hartley & Graham was selected. Hartley & Graham one of the Colt allies was by far one of the largest arms dealers in North America. Why



the Canadian government didn't contact Colt directly is not known.

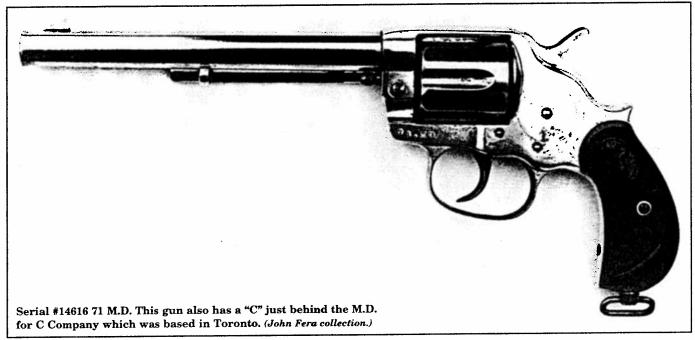
An order was placed for 1001 Colt Model 1878 double action frontier revolvers; .45 cal. Colt with 7-1/2" barrels all to be nickel plated finish with trigger, screws and hammer of heat treated blue, and at a cost of \$13 each. Within days the first lot of 1878s was on its way to Col. Jackson, the quarter master for the field force.

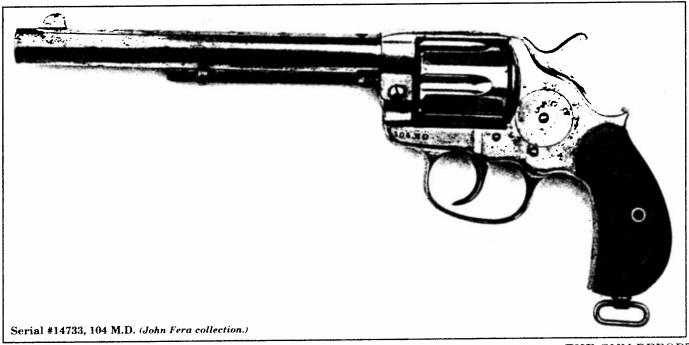
Hartley & Graham shipped from their extensive stock immediately and proceeded to

order the balance from Colt on a rush basis. There must have been a number of blue finished revolvers in stock, both at H&G and at Colt. At this time as I have observed an over-stamping on a high majority of these guns. This over-stamping is located on the trigger-guard, a very faint .45 cal. can be seen below a fresh stamping which would indicated that polishing would have taken place. A factory letter on serial #11760 lists the gun as blue, however, the gun was unmistakably shipped nickel.

Due to the rush nature of this order all existing nickel guns were shipped immediately and blued guns nickeled and shipped as soon as possible.

There seemed to have been several shipments from Colt to H&G, the last





Colt Industries



150 Huyshope Avenue Hertford, Connecticut 06 203/278-8560

August 30, 1978

John Fera 64 Linkdale Road Brampton, Ontario L6V 2Y7

Dear Mr. Fera:

In response to your request for historical information, we have researched our records and located the following pertinent data:

> COLT DOUBLE ACTION ARMY REVOLVER (Model of 1878)

Serial Number: Caliber: Barrel Length:

Finish: Type of Stocks: Shipped to: Address:

Date of Shipment: Number of Same Type Guns in Shipment:

45 7-1/2 inches Nickel Not listed

14673

Hartley & Graham New York, New York April 14, 1885

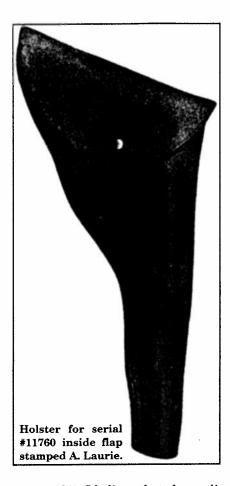
We trust the information supplied above will be of interest.

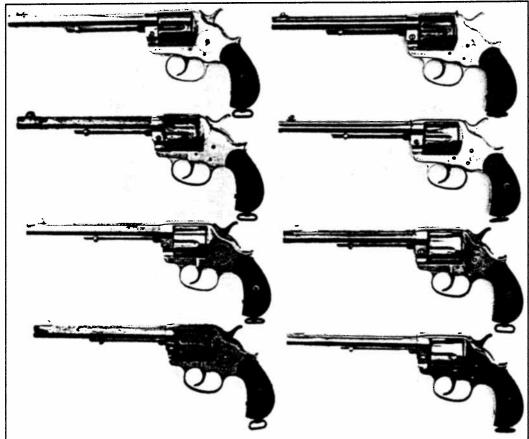
Sincerely,

M. S. Huber Historian

Copy of Colt letter showing shipment of April 14, 1885.

leaving Hartford on April 14, 1885 with 120 guns in the shipment. The serial range according to my survey is between #8731 and #14996. Both of these guns are in my col-To lection. date I have surveyed 35 examples; of the 35 examples only two are in the four digit range; three in the 11000 range; two in the 12000 range; and the balance are in the 14000 range



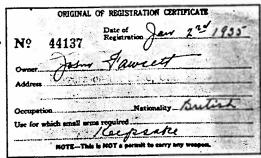


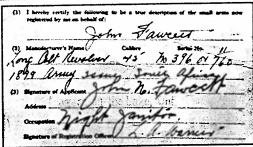
Together again. These eight 1878s were all shipped together on April 14, 1885 to Hartley & Graham, then shipped to the Canadian government for issue to the militia. All are in the 14000 serial range. (John Fera collection.)

(28). I believe that the earlier serial numbered guns were already in stock at H&G when the order was received.

markings Special applied to most of these guns. Yes, I did say most. For some reason a few of these guns escaped government markings. Twenty-one of the 35 in my survey are marked, the balance are not. The marking was applied to the front left side of the frame and read as follows: issue number followed by M.D.; the marking on gun #14996 is 22 M.D. The highest issue number in my survey is #289 which appears on gun #12128 in the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. The M.D. stands for Militia & Defence.

When, and by whose orders this marking was applied remains a mystery today. Many of these pistols were on loan to the Northwest Mounted Police immediately following the rebellion, and it is possible that these marking were applied by them. Just how long the Northwest





Above, original 1935 Canadian registration for serial #11760. Note 1899 Army issue South Africa and Keepsake gun issued to A. Laurie Lieut. J.N. Fawcett was in the same contingent and they went over to Africa together.

Mounted Police held on to some of these pistols is unknown – some were never returned.



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Serial #14616 showing 71 M.D. and "C" on right side of frame.

Most of these pistols were returned to government stores and remained there until 1899, when they were re-issued to the officers of the militia being shipped to South Africa for the Boar War.

Serial #11760 pictured with its original holster along with its 1935 Canadian registration card, shows it registered to John N. Fawcett and describing the gun as an 1899 Army issue South Africa, and also showing that it

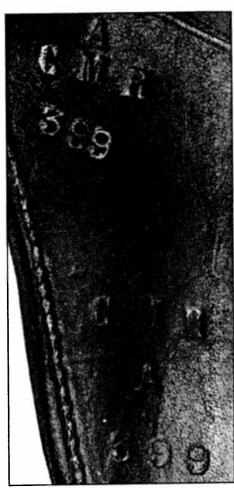
was a "Keepsake." The inside flap of the holster is stamped with the name A. LAURIE. Upon preliminary investigation I find that both of these men were shipped to South Africa in 1899 in the first contingent and were from the same city, Toronto. A. Laurie was Lieut. and J.N. Fawcett was a private. The gun was obviously issued to Laurie by the government, as only officers were issued pistols. Why it was brought back by Fawcett is something I am still investigating and may be the subject for another article.

I purchased my first M.D. marked Colt over 20 years ago. At that time the seller told me the gun had belonged to a doctor. I paid him \$75. Since then I have purchased 16 more.

Thanks to all the research the secret of the mysterious MD marked Colt would still be unknown.

Special thanks to Mr. Clive Law of Nepan, Ontario who has just published a new book Canadian Military Handguns, 1855-1985. Clive has put in many hours of research at the Canadian War Museum and some of this information was made possible by his efforts.

I'm sure that there is still a lot to learn of this 1001 gun shipment of 1885. If anyone out there has one, I would love to hear from you. My address is: John Fera, 12 Lindhurst St., Brampton, Ontario, Canada L6S 4C2



Left, markings on holster for serial #14616 71 M.D. and "C" on frame. Markings show C.M.R. for Canadian Mounted Rifles "A" and 399 - these markings were applied for issue to militia going to South Africa.



Serial #11760 no M.D. number. Although there are no M.D. numbers this gun was definitely shipped in 1885 to H&G then to Canada for the Riel Rebellion. Shipped from Colt Oct. 27, 1883. It sat in stock at H&G for almost 2 years before being nickeled and shipped to Canada. It is in near mint condition. (John Fera collection.)

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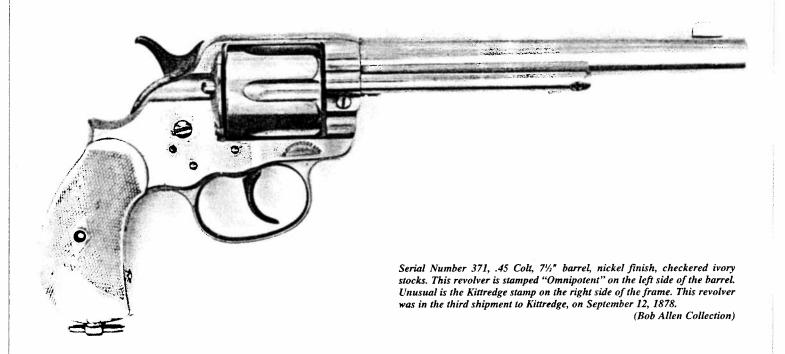
South Africa Medal roll showing Lieut. A. Laurie received his medal in Montreal on Sept. 19, 1901 from her Royal Highness Queen Victoria. His medal with three bars for action in Johannesburg, Cape Colony an organized free state.

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Pay list for Militia - Dominion of Canada. Laurie second from the bottom.

by Don Wilkerson, Kansas City, MO

COLT'S D.A. REVOLVER: MODEL OF 1878 "OMNIPOTENT" MARKED REVOLVERS



enjamin Kittredge was one of the original Colt Allies, a group of dealers who pooled their orders to dominate most of Colt's retail and wholesale market in the 1870s and into the 1880s. He was listed as an arms dealer in the Cincinnati, Ohio, city directory from 1845 to 1891. Kittredge was the leader in advertising Colt's revolvers. At least nine models were labeled with his own trade name. He is credited with the name "Peacemaker" for Colt's single action Army revolver, "Lightning" for the double action .38 and "Thunderer" for the double action .41 caliber revolver. In addition, he named all five of Colt's New Line models: "Big Colt," "Pet Colt,"

"Ladies Colt," "Pony Colt" and "Little Colt." Another famous name coined by Kittredge, and the subject of this chapter, was "Omnipotent." Kittredge had this name etched on the left side of the barrel of double action Army revolvers sold by his firm. Omnipotent-marked Model 1878 revolvers are among the most sought after revolvers by collectors today.

The first double action Army revolver received by Kittredge was shipped on July 18, 1878. This revolver had a 5½" barrel and was intended as a sample of the new revolver Colt had just introduced in May. It is not known when Benjamin Kittredge decided on the name "Omnipotent," but his first shipment of revolvers, after the

sample, carried the notation "Omnipotent" in Colt's ledgers. By definition, Omnipotent means "having unlimited authority or power" — an apt name for a double action revolver that would fire six 250 grain bullets at almost 900 feet per second. The standard "Omnipotent" revolver was in .45 caliber with a 7½" barrel.

Kittredge's first order for Omnipotent revolvers was shipped on August 6, 1878. The order consisted of six revolvers. The type of stocks and finish applied to the revolvers was not listed. The stocks were probably checkered walnut, as Colt did not receive their first shipment of rubber stocks for the double action Army revolver until mid to late September. The

type of finish on these revolvers was probably blue since they were not listed as nickel. Colt's shipping clerks in the early years of production usually did not list the type of finish if the revolver was finished with Colt's standard blue. Later a blue finish was listed as "plain." and still later in production the term "blue" was used.

The following is a list of all known shipments of Omnipotent-etched revolvers. All shipments were to Kittredge & Company unless otherwise stated:

August 6, 1878.

6 .45/c, 71/2", American, Omnipotent
The first order of Omnipotent-etched revolvers.

August 17, 1878

5 .45/c, 71/2", Omnipotent

5.45/c, 71/2", Nickel, Omnipotent

The first five revolvers were assumed to be blue. The second five revolvers were, of course, listed as nickel.

September 12, 1878

3 .45/c, 71/2", Omnipotent

3 .45/c, 71/2" Nickel, Omnipotent

2 .45/c, 71/2" Ivory Omnipotent

2.45/c, 7½", Checkered Ivory Omnipotent

Two of the three nickel revolvers in this order are in my survey. One has, in addition to Omnipotent etched on the left side of the barrel, "B.Kittredge&Co." over "Cin.O." stamped on the right side of the frame above the triggerguard.

September 27, 1878

10 .45/c, 7¹/₂" (Did not state Omnipotent, but probably was a clerical oversight.)

November 1, 1878

14.45/c, 71/2" Omnipotent (There are several duplicate serial numbers in this ship-

ment.)

6.45/c, 71/2 Nickel, Omnipotent

December 3, 1878

5 .45/c, 71/2", Nickel, Rubber, Omnipotent

December 6, 1878

2.45/c, 71/2", Pearl, Engraved, Omnipotent

December 24, 1878

3.45/c, 71/2", Nickel, Checkered Ivory 1.45/c, 71/2", Nickel, Engraved, Checkered Ivory

2 .45/c, 7½". Nickel, Engraved, Ivory 1 .45/c, 7½", Ivory

None of these revolvers were listed as Omnipotent, but we have a copy of the letter, dated December 12, from Benjamin Kittredge ordering the revolvers:

My Dear Sirs,

Please send B.K. & Co. 20 Ladies Colt Ivory Nickeled (rim fire)
5 " " Blue Casehardened
40 Pet Rim Nickeled
7 " " Ivory
3 Hardened Ivory
3 Omnipotent Nickeled Ivory Checkered

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 Hardened "
 Engraved

A notation in the margin by the word "Engraved" read "\$1.50 each."

Most of the order of December 24 checked out with the instructions in the letter from Kittredge, except that they were not listed as Omnipotent. The configuration of the first 6 double action revolvers was recorded just as ordered. The 7th (last revolver in the order) did not have the finish listed nor was it recorded as engraved. This revolver was ordered

"hardened." Did Kittredge mean to order a blue revolver, or did he really mean a casehardened revolver. The information in the factory ledger did not list either. The word "Blue" in the order for the "5 Ladies Colt Ivory Blue Casehardened" had a partial line marked through it. This could have indicated that Kittredge may not have known exactly how to order because the Ladies Colts and Pet Colts (which he listed only as "hardened") would have had casehardened frames with blue barrels and cylinders. While the factory invoice did not list the revolver as engraved, it was definitely ordered with \$1.50 worth of engraving in Kittredge's letter. Here the paper trail ends for this particular revolver, unless it shows up at some later date in my survey.

April 11, 1879

4 .45/c, 71/2", Nickel, Ivory, Omnipotent

June 17, 1879

25 .45/c, 71/2", Nickel, Rubber, Omnipotent

March 4, 1880

3.45/c, 71/2", Nickel, Rubber (Did not state Omnipotent, but probably a clerical oversight.)

April 22, 1880

15 .45/c, 71/2", Omnipotent

April 24, 1880

8 .45/c, 7½", Omnipotent

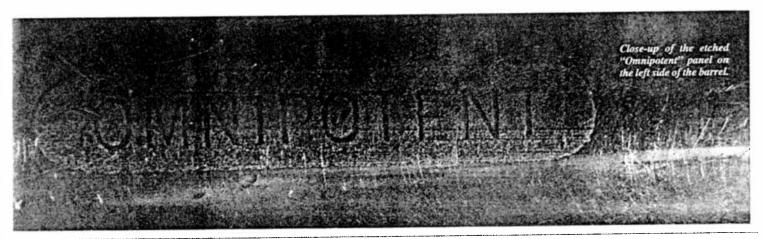
May 5, 1880

2 .45/c, 71/2", Nickel, Engraved, Pearl, Gold Cylinder, Omnipotent

July 14, 1880

5 .45/c, 71/2

Nickel, Rubber, Omnipotent



August 7, 1880

10 .45/c, 7½", Nickel, Rubber, Omnipotent

December 11, 1880

Shipped to Hartley & Graham 1 .45/c, 71/2", Nickel, Rubber, Omnipotent

December 23, 1880

Shipped to Hartley & Graham 1 .45/c, 71/2", Plain, Omnipotent (First use of the word "Plain" to describe an Omnipotent-etched revolver. This term had been in use since late 1879 to describe other revolvers with a blue finish.)

January 22, 1881

25 .45/c, 71/2", Nickel, Rubber, Omnipotent

May 13, 1882

5 .45/c, 7½", Nickel, Rubber, Omnipotent 2 .45/c, 7½", Omnipotent

This was the last shipment of revolvers marked "Omnipotent" shipped to B. Kittredge

March 3, 1883

Shipped to Frank Anderson 1.45/c, 7½", Nickel, Pearl, Omnipotent

Benjamin Kittredge continued to buy double action 1878 revolvers until August 1890. None of the .45 caliber revolvers shipped to him after May 13, 1882, were listed as "Omnipotent." A total of 174 revolvers were shipped to Kittredge between the first Omnipotent-marked invoice on August 6, 1878, and the last Omnipotent-marked invoice on May 13, 1882. The author tends to think all of these revolvers were probably etched with the Omnipotent marking. If we count only those revolvers listed as Omnipotent in the records (the only revolvers that will definitely letter as Omnipotent), we have only 154 revolvers. The 20 revolvers not listed as Omnipotent include the 4 engraved and 3 plain revolvers for which we have located (and quoted) the original letter from Benjamin Kittredge ordering the revolvers.

There is one other Omnipotent-etched revolver in my survey in the 4900 serial number range for which we do not have a shipping date. This revolver is a "no

record gun" in that no information is available at the factory. This revolver may represent an additional shipment of Omnipotent revolvers, or it may have been included in some other shipment by mistake. A number of fairly large orders for revolvers with 7½" barrels and nickel finish were sent to Hartley & Graham during this time frame. There were several duplicates and/or missing revolvers in these shipments. As an example, of 21 revolvers sent to Hartley & Graham on March 8, 1881, only 19 serial numbers were listed and three of these were unreadable.

It is interesting to note that 60% of Omnipotent revolvers were nickel plated, with the remaining 40% finished in blue. There were only two Omnipotent revolvers in blue in my survey. All the rest were in nickel. It may be that the etching wore off the blue barrels quicker than the nickel. In this case, there should be revolvers with not much finish remaining that are undetected as Omnipotent marked. If this assumption is true, it was not borne out by my survey. All known serial numbers for Omnipotent revolvers were checked against revolvers in my survey, and none were found.

Eight Omnipotent revolvers were engraved, if we count the last revolver listed on the order from Kittredge on December 12, 1878. Two of these revolvers had gold cylinders. Four of the engraved revolvers had pearl stocks and four had ivory stocks (two of which were checkered ivory). An additional 11 of the non-engraved revolvers were fitted with ivory stocks, 5 of which were checkered.

One of the Omnipotent revolvers in my survey from the June 17, 1879, shipment had a barrel stamped with the Hartford/Pall Mall address used for revolvers shipped to London. Two more Omnipotents in my survey had been returned to the factory at some later date to have the cylinder locking system updated. Another Omnipotent revolver had the original 7½" barrel shortened to 4¾".

In addition to the Omnipotent revolvers shipped to Kittredge, two revolvers were shipped to Hartley & Graham in December 1880, and one with pearl stocks was shipped to a Frank Anderson, address unknown, in March 1883. These three revolvers were marked Omnipotent in the records. Two other

revolvers that may have been etched Omnipotent were ordered in 1879. We have two letters concerning these revolvers. The first was posted on June 21, 1879, from Fort McDowell, Arizona Territory. The letter was written by Lieutenant Henry Myron Kendall, 6th Cavalry:

Sirs.

A month or two ago I saw a pistol of your make .45 cal. and double acting. I think it was called the "Omnipotent." I desire to know price of said pistol also if it can be sent by mail.

P.S. The pistol appeared to me to be about the same size & used the same cartridge as the present Army Colt.

Lieutenant Kendall's second letter is dated December 2, 1879:

Sirs.

I enclose here with P.O. Money order amtg to \$39.10 for which please send me by mail registered two of you self-cocking ("Omnipotent") 45 cal revolving pistols, nickel plated. The above amount is sent as the price asked in your letter to me sent on date of July 5, 1879. Length of barrel 7½ inches.

Both of these revolvers were shipped on December 9, 1879. The invoice listed the revolvers as ".45/c, 7½", Nickel, Rubber." No mention was made on the invoice of Omnipotent.

Serial numbers of known Omnipotent revolvers range from a low of 202 to a high of 8285.

Editor's note: The above article is an excerpt from Don Wilkerson's forthcoming new book Colt's Double Action Revolver, Model 1878. Don expects to have the book available at the CCA Show in St. Louis in October.

Readers are encouraged to contact Don if they have information to share or questions on Model 1878s. Don can be reached at the following:

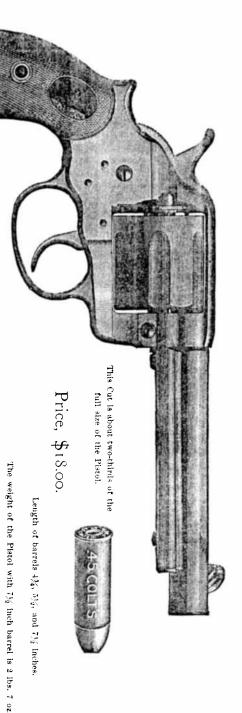
5402 NW 60th Terrace Kansas City, Missouri 64151 (816) 746-4790 Fax (816) 746-5183, E-mail dandcwilkerson@juno.com



COLT'S PATENT FIRE ARMS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, HARTFORD, CONN., U. S. A.



New Double Action, Self-Cocking, Central Fire, Army, Six Shot, .45 Inch Calibre, Revolving Pistol.



Can furnish with 3½ and 4 inch barrels without ejectors. All barrels over 7½ inches long, \$1.00 extra for each additional inch.

Is made with blued frame and barrel or full nickel plated.

This Pistol has the double hand or pawl, is made of the best quality of steel, of superior workmanship, and is in all respects the best Double Action Pistol ever made. It takes the U: S. Regulation Cartridge, .45 inch calibre, used by the U. S. Cavalry, and the .38 and .44 inch calibre cartridges manufactured for the Coit's Lightning Magazine Rifles.

Hi Lewis,

Jooks like epring - we have had a few warm days the last week.
The cold air beginning to leave MT by now?

Well, Solt has come and gone. Maples Ha was a great place to relax and charge up the batteries for a few weeks. Jong time to be away - 3200 miles in all.

Then were a last of great thing at Bult, but not much in way of '78's.

The show is so big how, that it is very hard to see all of it at one pass. I don't think I see all of it at one pass. I don't think I neally saw but I'z of the slow.

Have a new amopodent serial number to 4726-

This belongs the Robert farrar. I don't plan to give the number to Deans or House-have had give the number to Deans or House-have had the silence of cinformation from them. Lesson... This pistal protect, 45 wl, 11/2 bl, 11/2 gripes, would emission. Stay well, Regle de

heger de

Nov. 25.90

Dear Lew:

I am afraid that my research did not break down the Omnipotent Model 1878 d.a. Colts sufficient to give you a good answer to your recent query.

However, you might have better luck with Dr. Marohn of Chicago:
Dr. Richard C. Marohn
467 W. Deming Place
Chicago Ill 60614

We have been working on a book on the Lightnings, and he may well have some data that would be useful.

Omnipotent is not a common item, that's for sure.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

La Company of the com

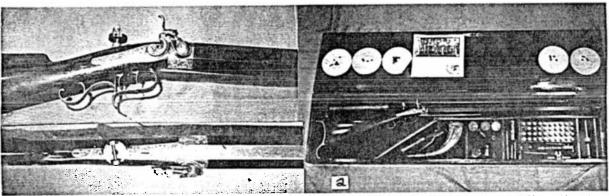


FLO'EVERH

Fine Antiq

Phone: 513-

5229 Wagoner Dayton, Oh



2. Superb Gold Washed Engraved Silvered "Tisdel" Cased Percussion Target Rifle. Complete loading accessories for the special two-piece bullet. Original 90 year old targets, supply of original two-piece bullets, false muzzle, flask, mallet, history of ownership. Lavishly engraved. Beautiful! Maintained in the Tisdel family until we acquired it. Truly must be seen! Excellent........... \$22,500.

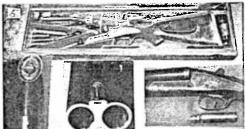


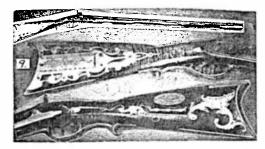
4. Fantastic Mint Parker 20 Gauge "Trojan" Double-Barrel. Pristine fiery colors and blue. The best!......\$4,250.

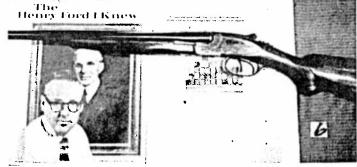


7. The Finest Known Genuine "Open-Top" 1873 Winchester Rifle. With very fine, brilliant original blue! \$10,750.

8. Very Rare, Factory Extra Heavy 30" Oct. Barrel First Model 1873 Winchester Rifle. Fine blue.

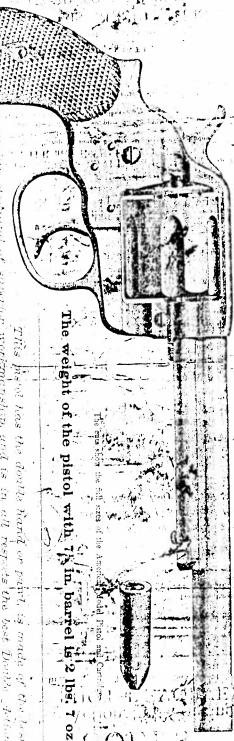






6. Henry Ford Presentation .410 Gauge L.C. Smith Double-Barrel Shotgun. Given by Henry Ford to a valued protege, confidant, and executive, a remarkable story in itself. In excellent





red, or can be conked and fired by pulling the tre enship, and is in all respects the best Danble

furnished Blued gor Mokel Plated, with Hard Rubber, Pory, or Pearl Stocks.

TERMS CASE (SE

ting Company, Hartford, Connecticut A TIONS THEST BE ADDRESSED TO

Colt Factory of the Model 1878 D.A. Revolver. The single page paper is very thin linen, and does not reproduce well. The reverse side advertises the Colt B.A. "Lightning" Model 1877 revolver. Note: The large size reproduction of the "Colt Company" flyer dated I880. The first known advertisement by the or first type grip frame.



The Pront cover of the first known Colt Funtony Catalon depicting Cartridge Arms. Dated February 1864. A large mize publication measuring 12 by 9% incres with 35 pages.

.

Mr Harty Huber
Historian
Colt Fire rus Division
P.O. Bex 1868
Hartford, Conn. 06101

Dear Mr Huber:

I appreciate very much your letter of February 22, 1991 in which you have listed the 25 serial numbers of the Golt Model 1878 that are listed in the January 22, 1881 shipment of "OMHIPOTEST MARKED REVOLVERS" shipped to Kittredge & Co. of Ohio.

In Wilson-Sutherland's book on this model a footnote "the total such shipments of this specific item were several hundred".

Like the above shipment of 25 guns, they probably were slipped in like quantities.

If you, or your staff, or any other persons you may know of who could research the total quantities and list the serial numbers by date - - - I will pay whatever your billing or such persons bill would be.

If such can be accomplished -- just let me know the price and a check for payment will be sent whenever desired.

Sincerely

Lewis E. Yearout, Major USAFR Ret, 308 Riverview Drive East Great Falls, Montana, 59404 Life Member 134 - Colt Collectors Assoc.

P.S.- From the information above - I would then write an article on this important, yet overlooked group of items, so the entire Colt Collectors as a whole, would greatly benefit.

Mr Marty Huber
Historian
Colt Firearms Division
P.O.Box 1868,
Hartford, Conn. 06101

Dear Sir:

You have forwarded me two letters, -- one each that covers Colt I878 Serial no. 4795 and the second letter covers Colt I878 Serial no. 4924. Bothe letters state the two guns were shipped on the same date of January 22, I88I with 25 guns in the shipment. Both guns are .45 Colt 7½ in. barrels and both marked on the barrels "OMNIPOTENT" -- and both shipped to B. Kittridge & Co., Cincinatti, Ohio.

Would it be possible to obtain :

A .- The other 23 serial numbers of that shipment?

B .- The total number of " OMNIPOTENT" guns sold to Kittridge?

Sincerely

Lewis E. Yearout, Major USAFR Ret. 308 Riverview Drive East Great Falls, Montana, 59404

Life Member Colt Collectors Assoc. Member No. 134.

Serie) No. 3614 (with letter 1879 deled) Fectory letter

434" horrel - 45 - Nickel - checkerd H. R. Grips.

CBerrel

Them No. 2308- Cotalog of Robert Howard Collection by

Them No. 2308- Cotalog of Robert Howard Collection by

Butterfield & Butterfield Auction Scale No. 4519 H

Butterfield & Butterfield Auction Scale No. 4519 H

Son Frencisco, Celit. - Merch 26, 1991

This is an up to date (May 3=06) listing all known serial r Colt Revolvers.

2I2 3I9 344 370 37I	1505	2986	3614	4344	4543 4547	470I 47I2 4726 4727 474I 4767 4779 4779	4807 4811 4816 4821 4823 4825 4847 4860	4903 4908 4912? 4920 4924 4926 4928 4941 4954
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P.O. BOX 1868, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06144-1868, 203/236-6311

February 22, 1991

Lewis E. Yearout, Major USAF, Ret. 308 Riverview Drive East Great Falls, MT 59404

Dear Major Yearout:

Enclosed please find the twenty-five numbers shipped to B. Kittredge & Co. on January 22, 1881. They are as follows:

4727	4811	4543	4712
4954	4941	4741	4823
4547	4912*	4344	4795
4903	4924	4926	4701
4767	4920	4821	4779
4807	4860	4928	4816
4825			

*Please note that the number 4912 is my interpretation of the record, as the records in the area of this number were damaged and very hard to read.

We have no record available on how many "Omnipotent" guns were shipped to Kittredge. However, we hope the listed numbers will be of interest and also aid you in collecting more Model 1878 guns.

Thank you for your interest in Colt collecting.

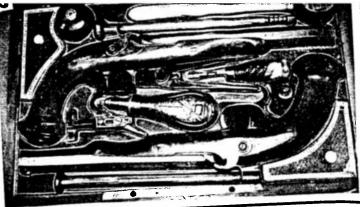
Sincerely,

Historian Emeritus

MSH: br



1... Presentation C.W. Officer's Sword by Generai U.S. Grant. Presented by Gen. Grant to his aide, Capt. T.S. Bowers in 1862 and lengthly so inscribed. Present at the historic Appomatox peace settlement. One of the most historic C.W. Officer's swords...especially since presented by Grant \$85,000



2... Super Deluxe Set of Le Page Perc. Duellers. Very fine with complete extensive accessories. Great outfit\$5,250

FLOYD

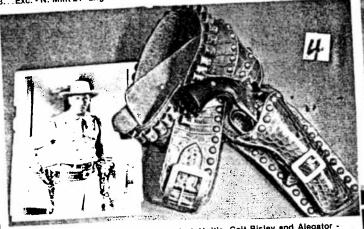
PHONE 1-513-236-1429

For Collectors,



3...Exc. - N. Mint 21" Engraved Volcanic Carbine. Gorgeous beauty ...

11,750 Fine Antique Arms



4... Famous Early Western Movie Star's, Jack Holt's, Colt Bisley and Alegator Sterling Mtd. Holster Outfit. Personal outfit of Jack Holt that he used in movies.
\$5,750



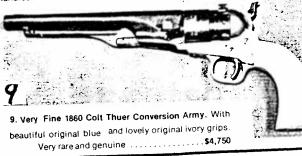


6...J.P. Morgan's Cane: Extremely Fancy Gold, Ivory and Ebony. Handle of carved ivory depicting the heads of his favorite horse and dog. Presentation in-

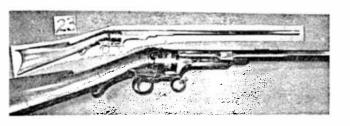




8... Extremely Fancy Gold and Silver Inlaid German Dbl. Rifle. Very ornat hundreds of silver inlays and many gold ones



(Fine High Art Antique Guns)

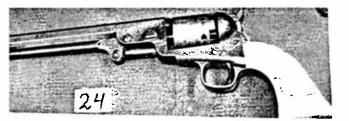


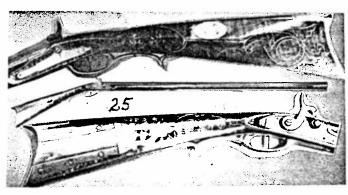
3. Beautiful Mint 1st Model Colt Paterson Revolving Rifle. Very rare. \$18,750.

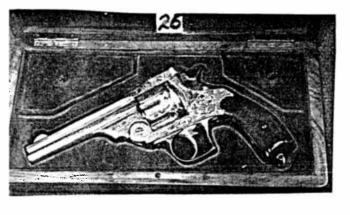
NOTICE!! Collectors, Investors, considering semi-retirement, I the size of my personal colconsidered on any of the (14)

FLOYD EVERHART

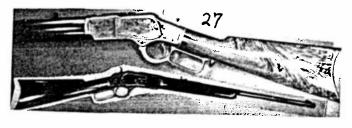
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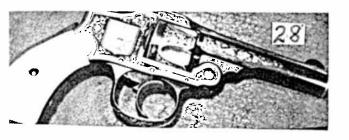




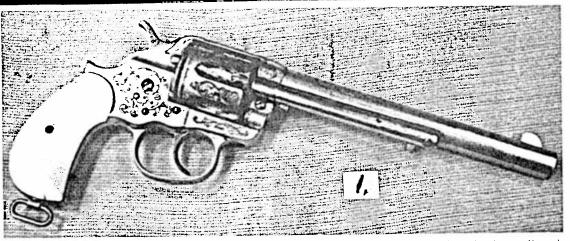
Beautiful French Cased Fancy Engraved S & W 44 D.A. Rev. Copy. Mint in fancy use burl casing.
\$975.



27. Gorgeous Mint Factory Presentation Fancy DX. 1873 Win......\$8,750.







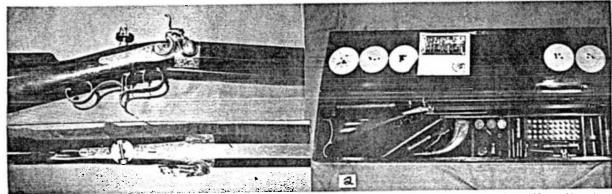
1. Extremely Rare Factory Engraved 1878 Colt Frontier. The only known factory engraved "Omnipotent". With 7½" barrel, ivory grips, ejector and lanyard. Factory letter. Truly the ultimate in rarity. Excellent......\$40,000.

FLO' EVERH

Fine Antiqu

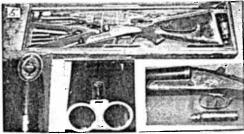
Phone: 513-

5229 Wagoner Dayton, Oh



2. Superb Gold Washed Engraved Silvered "Tisdel" Cased Percussion Target Rifle. Complete loading accessories for the special two-piece bullet. Original 90 year old targets, supply of original two-piece bullets, false muzzle, flask, mallet, history of ownership. Lavishly engraved. Beautiful! Maintained in the Tisdel family until we acquired it. Truly must be seen! Excellent............\$22,500.

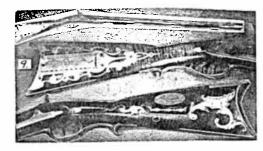


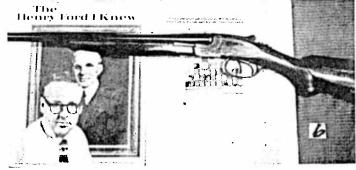




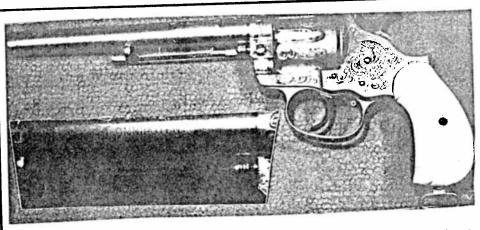
7. The Finest Known Genuine "Open-Top" 1873 Winchester Rifle. With very fine, brilliant original blue! \$10,750.

8. Very Rare, Factory Extra Heavy 30" Oct. Barrel First Model 1873 Winchester Rifle. Fine blue, rare, slo

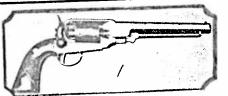




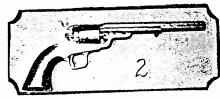
6. Henry Ford Presentation .410 Gauge L.C. Smith Double-Barrel Shotgun. Given by Henry Ford to a valued protege, confidant, and executive; a remarkable story in itself. in excellent, 24,500.



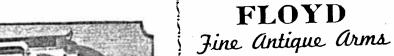
The Only Known Engraved "Omnipotent" 1878 Colt D. A. Revolver. With only a couple of the plain ones known, this engraved specimen stands as one of the greatest Colt discoveries! Excellent with 97 percent nickel and blue screws. Lovely ivory grips\$10,750



1. Very Fine .44 Joslyn Army Revolver. With 40 percent nice blue and very sharp. Used little \$765



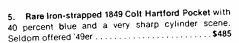
Scarce U.S.N. 1851 Colt Navy Conversion. With iron straps and U.S.N. marked butt. Very sharp brown patina. V.G. plus\$695

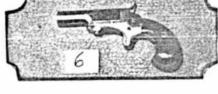


PHONE 1-513-236-1429

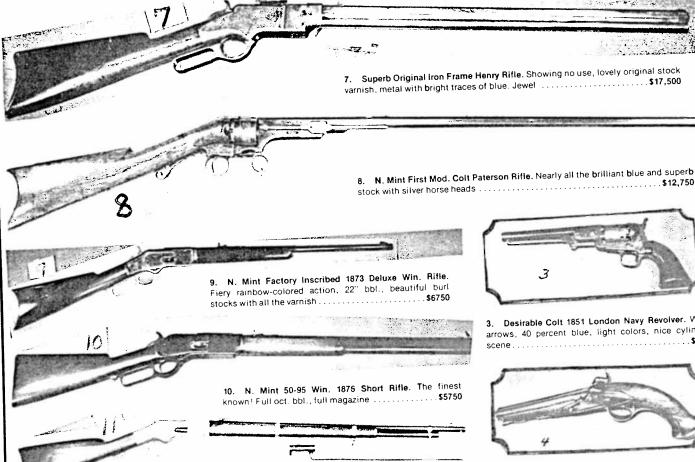
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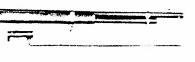




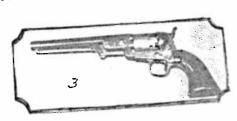


6. Rare Third Mod. Colt .41 Derringer. With distinctive enlarged frame "Boss". With 75 percent original nickel, no spring\$285





11. N. Mint 1866 Win. Mskt. and Bayonet. With 95 percent brilliant blue, mint action and stocks \$4750

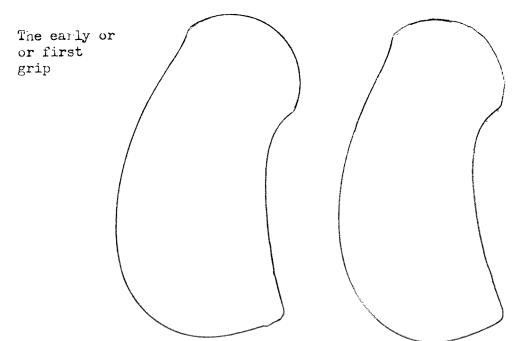


3. Desirable Colt 1851 London Navy Revolver, With arrows, 40 percent blue, light colors, nice cylinder



Raised-Carved Germanic Flintlock Conv. Dbl. Bbl. Holster Pistol. Soft brown patina, fine carved-in-relief stock, V.G. plus\$625

The two grip outlines of the Model I878 revolvers



The second grip which became standard

They do not interchange

Lewis E. Yearout

Colt Model 1878, D.A. Revolvers - Marked "OHNIPOTENT". S. RIALS NO.-4795 and 4924.

Serial no.- 4924 with a cut off barrel was purchased from District Judge Robert Holter at the Kalispell Gham Show, March 27, 1982. Holter was from Libby, Montana.

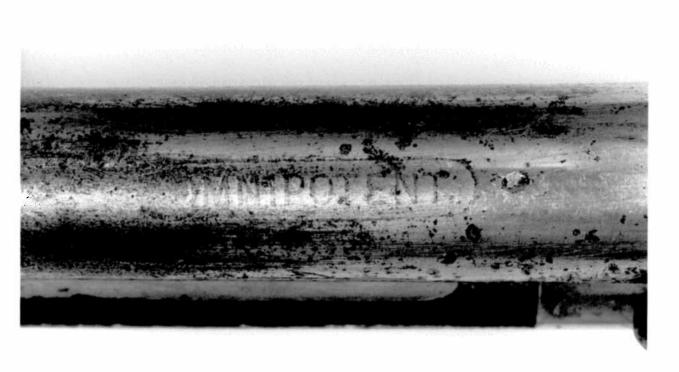
Serial no.-4795 was purchased from Donald Nichols of P.O. Box 17899, Tucson, Arizona,85781 on Jan. I, 1991.

Both guns were in the same shipernt from Colt of 25 Guns August 22, ISSI to B. Kittridge & Co. of Cincinatti, Ohio Both are the early or large grip frames. "Omnipotent" was a trade name placed on such Colts at the factory prior to shipment. All Omnipotents went only to the Kittridge firm. See data enclosed herein and the 25 Serial numbers of that shipment.

Also note the enclosed manuscript submitted to the Gun Report on the "OMNIPOTENT " guns.

There's Showet			
		5)	







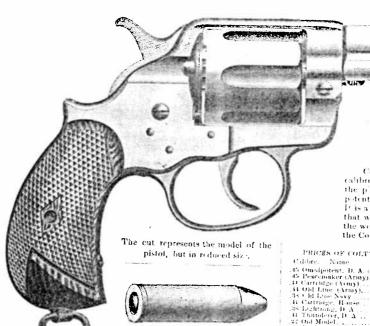


This is the first known advertisement of the "OMNIPOTENT" Revolver, as advertised by B.Kittre of Cincinnati, Ohio. From the "Army and Navy Journal" of August 31, 1878. As it appears on page 1878. of the book entitled, "The Peacemaker and its Rivals" by John Parsons.

VOLUME XVL NUMBER 4. WHOLE NUMBER 781.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1878.

SIX DOLLARS PER YE ISINGLE COPIES, FIFTERS



KITTREDGE

Cincinnati O.

COLT'S OMNIPOTENT.

Colt's new pistol, called Colt's Omnipotent, is a Double Action p calibre. It uses the same carridge as the Colt 45, known as the Peace the pistol furnished by the U. S. Government to the U. S. Cavalry. TI potent is Self-cocking and Thumb-cocking. It works equally well eit It is a triffe lighter than the Peacemaker of the same length and effithat well known arm. The frame and all the parts are forged and wron the werkmanship of that same high character which all the time is app the Colt Arms - As good as can be made,

PRICES	OF	COLTS	AND	OTHER	PISTOLS.	
					1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	

Calibra, Name		No kel.	Ivory.	
15 Omedpotent, D. A.	Army : \$25 in:	\$1.00	\$2.50	
G Peacemaker (Army)	16.50	1,00	3.00	
? Carreidge (Army)	12,00	1.(4)	3.00	
14 Old Line (Amay)	7 . 30	1 (×)	3.00	
Bit Id Line Navy	5,00	1 185	3.(1)	
H Cartriage, House	6.541	0.43		
is Lightning, It A	15,00	0.65	2.75	
it Thunderer, D A	18.81	0.65	2.73	
Cold Model		0.35	1.03	
# Little Coll.	5 no	0.35	1 (0)	
e Pony Colt	6.75	11. 37	1.00	

Calibre,	Name.		Price.	Nickel
32 Luties	Colt		6.75	0.35
38 Pet Co	11		St int	0.35
st Bug Co	to constant		K 141	0.35
Smith	& Wiceson, va. f		6.03	0.35
36 Smith	& Westing		11.00	0.55
to Smith	& Wesson, Army	٠.	15.(2)	1.00
33 Sharps	Trinaiph	٠.	3.75	
Alexa at	all the set to death.			

ing fro u \$1.15 to \$100. Arms delivered within 1,000 miles free of c express. Send the money and the arm will con

	Revolver P	istol	Catalog number				
Value /50 /50 (Manufactured by)	-	Condition (N.R.A	.) OmniPOTENT ype)				
(Caliber) (G	(Cylinder)		(Magazine)				
(Barrel length)	(Type Barrel)	(Bore Condition)	(Smooth-Rifled)				
(Type of stock)	(Overall Length)	(Weight)	Shipped San, 2: (Date of Manufact 25 guns in shipm				
	Fi	nish <i>Nickel</i> ,	B. K. Hridge 4 Co.				
(Type front sight)	(Type rear sight)		All nere oni				
REMARKS Barrel stemped "Omnipotent" as made for "B, Kithredge and Company oversize Harge Grips:							
(Former Owner) Libby A	March 27, 1982 nad, (Date) (D	isposition)	(Sold To)				
(their address)	This item was	s: donated loan (circle app	ed purchased ropriate)				

DEN.14

nasa n.....t.l

#4795 (Don Nichols) Omnipotent 4837 sold Denver Show per Nice	DATE: 7/3" hols Merch 90.	BY WHOM 7/2 Nickel.	shipmente
Omnipitent Revolvers Listed on Page.	-233 - Buk" Colt	3 D. A. Rer, Mud 1878 1' b	y Don Will
RECORD OF CONSERVATION: (COMPLETE I	DESCRIPTION, DAT	E, CONSERVATOR):	
SPECIFIC LOCATION IN MUSEUM:			
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