



*Springfield News* September 15, 2015

The revolver about which you inquired in your letter of recent date is a Model 2 Army. This model was the first revolver produced by us in a caliber larger than .22 Rim Fire. It was introduced in the summer of 1861 and manufactured until 1874, with a total production of 77,155 revolvers. The Model 2 Army was designed to fire the .32 Smith & Wesson Long Rim Fire cartridge, which was developed and manufactured exclusively for this revolver.

During the years that this model was manufactured, it was available in three styles of finish--blue, nickel, or a combination finish of blue and nickel. The Model 2 Army was sold with a 4", 5", 6" or 8" barrel length with the 4" and 8" lengths being produced in very limited quantities, and therefore brings a premium price as a collector's item today.

Because of an exclusive patent covering this type of arm, our handguns were the only legally manufactured cartridge revolvers. Since the cartridge revolver could be loaded and fired more rapidly than the standard cap and ball revolver, they were in great demand. Therefore these revolvers, which were sold from the factory for \$14.50, were popular with the Union officers and travelers heading west.

We have researched your two Smith & Wesson Model 2 Armies, caliber .32 Rim Fire Long, company records indicate that your handguns, with serial number 75381 and 76487, were probably shipped from our factory on January 27, 1871, and delivered to M. W. Robinson Co., New York City, NY. This shipment was for 55 units of this model. The shipment contained 25 units in blue finish, 4 units marked 2<sup>nd</sup> Quality, 7 full plate in silver finish, 4 full plate in nickel, 2 in blue with ivory grips, 2 ivory grip with two tone finish, 10 with ivory grips and engraved and 1 with ivory grips and full plate. The invoice did not identify the various finishes or engraving by serial number.

We hope that this information is useful to you.

Sincerely,  
SMITH & WESSON

*Roy G. Jinks*  
Roy G. Jinks  
Historian

