

GEORGE C. NEUMANN
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(508) 699-9344

September 27, 2005

Mr. Paul M. Ambrose
Daniels Farm Road, Suite 183
Trumbull, CT 06611

Dear Paul:

This is to confirm your purchase from me of a British Brown Bess flintlock musket. It is the early version of this pattern adopted in 1768 which continued until a change in the lock form circa 1777. During that time it was the standard issue pattern of the British army and also procured by many of the American troops during our War for Independence. Its 42 inch barrel, mounted on a black walnut stock has the usual .75 cal. bore. All parts appear to be original except for the two sling swivels which have been accurately restored.

The filing smooth of most of the lock markings and barrel proofs, plus the narrowing of the front bayonet stud to create a blade for aiming, indicate the weapon's use in American hands.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "George C. Neumann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "N".

PAUL M. AMBROSE ANTIQUES

1/10/06

4 Daniels Farm Rd.
Suite #183
Trumbull CT 06611
www.ambroseantiques.com
(203) 452-9035

Re: P. 1768 Shortland/Second Model Brown Bess Musket, Ex. George C. Neumann

Enclosed, please find the Pattern 1768 Second Model Brown Bess Musket, Ex. George C. Neumann. I hope that you enjoy this musket and it makes a welcomed addition to your collection. Thank you and I look forward to our continued relations.

Best Regards,

Paul M. Ambrose

RARE & VERY GOOD AMERICAN USED REVOLUTIONARY WAR PERIOD SECOND

MODEL/SHORTLAND PATTERN 1768 BROWN BESS MUSKET, ca. 1770: In very good untouched original flintlock condition. Of standard Shortland Pattern "Second Model" Brown Bess design. Sighted, 42", iron, pin-fastened, .75 caliber barrel with a "*", "I. W." maker's mark and a Board of Ordnance "GR/V" proof mark at the top center of the breech. Regulation walnut fullstock, with raised carved "beaver tail" apron behind the barrel tang and a raised lobe at the tail pipe. Marked in the ramrod channel, behind the trigger-guard and behind the sideplate with Ordnance acceptance marks: the right face of the butt with a weak, undated (Rev. War Period) Storekeeper's mark. Full Shortland Pattern brass mounts: flat sideplate with tail, buttplate with pin-fastened stepped tang, trigger-guard with a raised hazelnut finial and four baluster ramrod pipes, the second of early (type I) design. Regulation Pattern 1756 (post 1764) lock with single screw behind the gooseneck hammer with a grooved spur for the original border-engraved top jaw. The lock face with an American effaced Crown "GR" and Crown/Broad Arrow acceptance mark beneath the powder-pan: tail of the lock with an effaced "TOWER". Thread engraved lockplate and hammer/frizzen-back borders. In overall very good and untouched original flintlock condition, with a rich chocolate age patina overall. Fine stock with 75% varnish, visible Ordnance acceptance marks and some very minor handling marks overall. The barrel with a pleasing, chocolate brown age patina, smooth surfaces and some wear/pitting at the breech. Mechanically crisp lock with obvious American effaced British markings and matching untouched brown surfaces. Fine hardware with dark brown-mustard age-toned surfaces. Retains an American working-life iron button-head ramrod and replaced swivels. Overall length, 58". A very rare example of an American used Pattern 1768 Shortland/Second Model Brown Bess, in very good untouched condition. Formerly in the Collection of George C. Neumann and accompanied by a letter of provenance. The Pattern 1768 is the first of the "Second Model"/Shortland Pattern Brown Bess muskets to be accepted by the Board of Ordnance for issue to British line troops. It replaced the Longland/"First Model" Brown Bess as the standard infantry weapon and it saw extensive use throughout the early years of the Revolutionary War. This example is most likely an American captured gun and its Crown marking were removed for fear of British reprisals. For similar examples please see; A. Darling: "Red Coat and Brown Bess", Neumann & Kravie: "Collector's Illustrated Encyclopedia of The American Revolution" and Warren Moore's: "Weapons of the American Revolution".

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January 17, 2006

I was pleased to receive your letter and learn that the Short Land Brown Sess had found a receptive home through Paul Ambrose. Apparently it was not uncommon for the colonists who recused captured British longarms during the Revolution to remove their original English markings.

I realize that your collecting is focused after the War for Independence, but if you or members of your family are interested in reliving the colonial period, a major battle re-enactment and camp of American and British forces are scheduled for the week-end of June 17-18 in Southbury, Ct. It is part of the 225th anniversary celebration of the war which will be tracing the French/American march to Yorktown. Should you be able to attend, I would appreciate the opportunity to meet you as I am scheduled to be the announcer. In any case, I hope we can make contact in the near future. all the best,
George