

7006

76400

Subj: Rigdon & Ansley serial # 2248
 Date: 4/2/2012 12:02:03 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
 From: js6tona@aol.com
 To: nevismen@aol.com

Dear Joe,

It was great breaking the ice and brokering the 2 great objects last week. I hope you like my reports of authenticity and provenance I sent also.

I have notes May 2003 that your Dance navy, sr # 78 turned up, but I have no photos or report on it. If you would let me examine it and archive it, I would provide you a report with notes on it and the other 12 or 13 Dance navies known (and I have examined at least half of this total) Is it possible to see it at upcoming show or for it to be sent to me?

I can sell the Rigdon & Ansley pictured here from 2007 Reagan auction for \$27,500 net! It sold at auction for \$30,800 and previously for \$35,000 in 2000 and it's a real good gun, crisp, dark 100% original, authentic and well marked. I was getting it shipped to me, but can have it drop shipped to you if you want. I will provide a letter of provenance and authenticity as on other items. I know it will sell in auction again for my price no doubt and probably more.....js

photo
 dallas

rod

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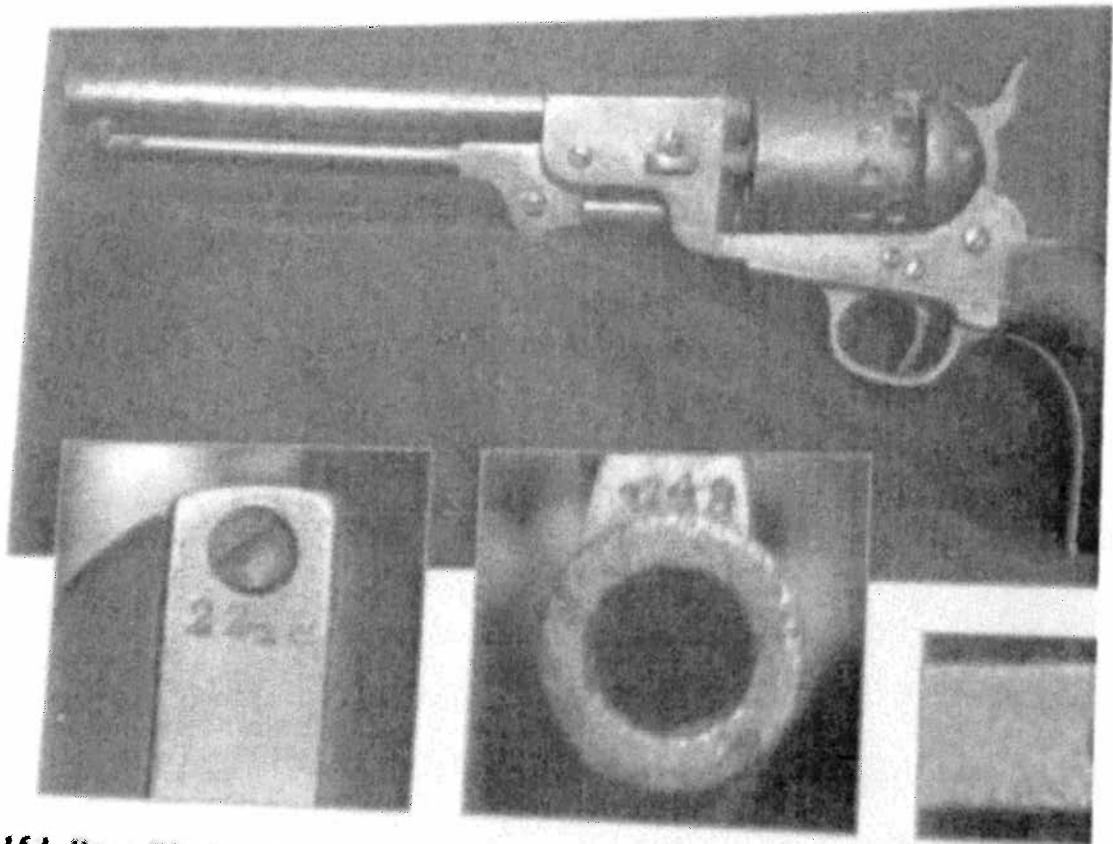
rod

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enlisted July 22, 1861 in Openwood, Va. He fought in most of the battles of 1862 including Second Manassas Wilderness. He was captured at the Battle of Spotsylvania on May 10, 1862 documentation and research with the firearm. Excellent condition. (Est. 2



* **#153 Rare Rigdon & Ansley Confederate Revolver, SN 2248, Cal. .36 C** with 7 1/2" round barrel with brass grip frame and walnut stocks. Unfluted 2248 on it and all other major parts. Revolver does not appear to be altered. revolvers were produced in Augusta, Georgia in the period from 1864-1865 Mountain Relics, Inc. In very good condition. (Est. 27,500-32,500)

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Confederate Rigdon and Ansley Revolver

This a Confederate Rigdon and Ansley Revolver Manufactured in Augusta, Georgia in 1864. As one of my friends likes to say about weapons made in the South during the Civil War, "Now, here is a gun that was wrought in anger!" Serial number is in the high 1900 range....which is correct for an R&A and right about mid-production. While it's ALWAYS a good idea to be cautious whenever purchasing anything Confederate, buying a Revolver purported as Confederate can prove to be a very risky proposition; probably akin to swimming in shark-infested waters! That said, we are going to provide perhaps a bit more information than the casual browser of this website will probably want to read or view. However, this is a significant investment for someone to make and we're going to try our best to cover all the bases.

For starters, this Rigdon & Ansley has a pretty respectable pedigree dating back almost 70 years. It was purchased in 1943 from the Kimball Arms Company by Charles Dupont where it remained in his collection for over 60 years. Dupont was a US Army Officer during World War II and was also a direct descendant of the founders of the Dupont Chemical Company. From the way it was explained to us, the War years were quite a boom for chemical companies, especially ones supplying material for munitions like Dupont. While there were many Dupont descendants, the extra income that trickled his way afforded the young Mr. Dupont the opportunity to expand his collection. This is essentially how he obtained this particular Rigdon and Ansley revolver during the War. We have the page for this gun from Dupont's notebook in which he recorded the details of various items in his collection. Furthermore, although we have not located a copy to date, this gun may also be listed in the 1943 Kimball Arms Catalog. These will turn up on ebay from time to time.

While its always nice to have written documentation of an old gun in any form, it NEVER hurts to discover one of your guns published in a book. That's exactly what happened to us a few weeks ago with this Rigdon and Ansley. While skimming through some books in my Library (which always seem to end up in a great heap upon the floor), I began thumbing through an older book on Colt Revolvers and stumbled onto something quite exciting. There it was...this EXACT revolver photographed in a book and listed by serial number. Not only was it pictured, it owned the entire page (P. 125 to be exact) in the book "A History Of The Colt Revolver from 1836-1940" by Charles Haven and Frank Belden Copyright 1940. Underneath the photo, there is a detailed description along with the serial number. Now, back in 1940, collectors didn't have all the information we do today about Confederate manufacturers...and hopefully we will have even more in the future as there are still unidentified weapons out there in need of research. Since late Rigdon and Ansley Revolvers, like this one, are only marked with a "CSA" on the barrel, the authors didn't know exactly what to call it so they titled it as a "Confederate Navy Pistol". They do note the "CSA" marking on the barrel as well as the serial number. As you will note, the gun still looks identical to the way it was back in 1939 or 1940 when it was photographed for the book. While it was hard to photograph the gun resting on the book, the individual nicks and dings on the grips, scratches, nicks, profiles, etc. are identical...including the wedge...which appears to be a hand-forged battlefield replacement.

Overall, it grades to NRA Antique Fair++ to Good Condition. The serial numbers are all matching except for the aforementioned wedge, which is crude and hand-made and probably a battlefield replacement. The serial number is found on the frame, barrel, trigger guard, backstrap, cylinder, loading lever, loading lever catch, and in pencil on the back of the wooden grips. The metal was cleaned a long time ago and is turning to a silvery grey. As you will note from the photos, it hasn't changed much since it was pictured in "A History of the Colt Revolver" in 1939-40. While not the original patina, the clean surfaces allow this gun to display and photograph very well as allows your eyes to focus on the architecture rather than being drowned out by the texture. This would look right at home on display in a museum. The serial numbers are quite good overall. A letter "J" is located beneath the serial number on the trigger guard. Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms notes this marking is found on some Leech and Rigdon's as well. The barrel is marked "CSA" which is still discernable but quite light and only about half-there. In addition, the bottom of the grip has a visible Confederate Inspector's cartouche inside a parallelogram-shaped border. From the book "Confederate Arms" by Albaugh and Simmons, it mentions these were inspected

by Officer Wescom Hudgins, Captain CSA. He also inspected arms made by Cook & Bros. in nearby Athens, GA. His initials "WH" inside the border don't show much wear but are partially obscured by dings and tap marks from when someone tried to use this weapon as a hammer. This is a very common occurrence we find on old percussion Colts and it apparently wasn't any different for the Confederacy. The internal mechanics, the brass grip straps, and the wooden grips are completely untouched. Brass has a nice mellow patina. The grips show some natural shrinkage off the straps but have never been sanded or touched in any way. In fact, they still show 20% original varnish which is particularly strong nearest the frame, lower edges, and across the base. The mechanics appear to be all original Confederate components and while a bit tired which is to be expected, the action does index fairly well and the hammer works on both full and half cocked positions. Internally, we noted the cut for the capping channel which is correct for a Rigdon & Ansley as well as the roller bearing on the hammer. The bore has some scattered pitting but still retains all of its original 7 groove rifling. Screws are all in good condition. Hammer knurling shows some wear but mostly intact. Nipples appear to be all original as well.

So why was the metal cleaned? Well obviously, this is something we modern collectors frown upon today but it was quite common for collectors to do this back in the 1920's, 30's, and 40's. The minute I saw this one, I had a pretty good idea that this came it from an older American collection. Over the past several decades, we've since established that its better to leave the original surfaces of a gun alone, but you will still see this with European collectors to some degree as well. Now, before you condemn these old-timers as irreverent buffoons, remember this: Back in the day, these early collectors weren't blessed with things we take for granted like air conditioning and dehumidifiers. Back then, temperatures and humidity inside your household cycled up and down right along with what the weather outside. These constantly changing condition wreaked havoc on everything you owned...shellac on your furniture would craze and bubble, textiles and leather would fade, but it was especially bad on steel and iron which are always in search of oxygen atoms to stabilize their positive charges. With high temps and humidity, this was especially bad down here in the South. When the owner of an old gun cleaned it, he was usually doing his best to protect and preserve his collection. Just like a polished suit of Medieval Armor, smooth metal was far more resistant than rough textures to picking up oxygen and corroding. This is the same reason the US Military used to polish their guns bright for over 100 years. That said, while we're not condoning it, there was some reasoning that went behind this practice. Here is a link to an old Confederate Richmond Sharps Carbine with a similar appearance to this Rigdon and Ansley. We sold this a few years ago and it too, came from an older American collection that dated back to the 1920's:

<http://www.antiquearmsinc.com/confederate-sharps-carbine.htm>

Or a Colt 3rd Model Dragoon:

<http://www.antiquearmsinc.com/colt-dragoon-revolver.htm>

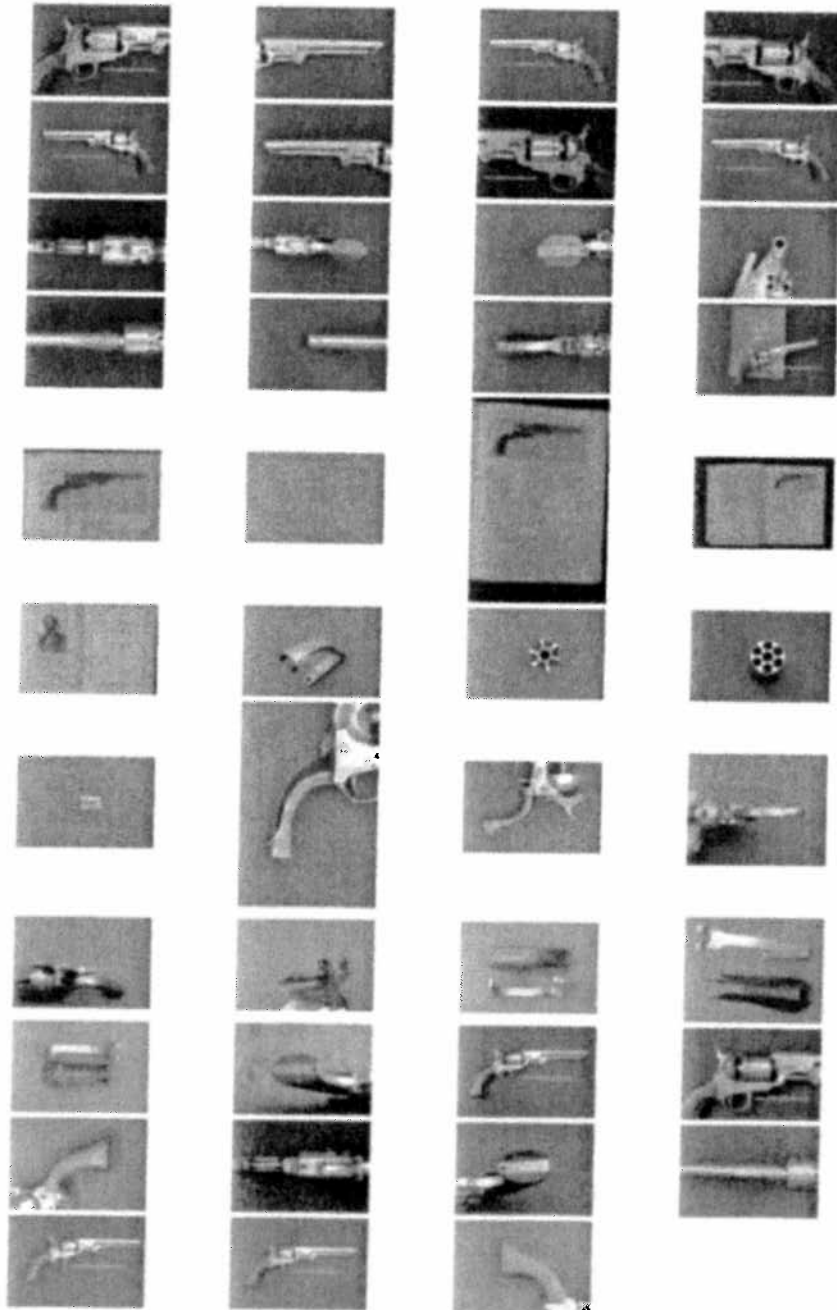
HISTORY OF RIGDON ANSLEY: The forerunner to this model was known as the Leech and Rigdon Revolver. In appearance they are identical except for the 12 cylinder stops on the Rigdon and Ansley compared to just 6 on the Leech and Rigdon. The R&A also has a capping channel milled into the recoil shield and a Colt type loading lever latch. The Company was initially formed during the early part of the Civil War by Thomas Leech and Charles. H. Rigdon in Memphis, TN. In 1862, the Company was moved to Columbus, MS to escape Union Forces after producing approx. 350 pistols, was once again forced to move to avoid capture that Fall. The firm subsequently to Greensboro, GA and resumed manufacture in 1863. In Dec., 1863 Thomas Leech left the firm. Trying to produce revolvers while staying one step ahead of the Union Army was proving to be a chore for Rigdon. In Jan. 1864, Rigdon once again packed up his tooling and moved his factory further East to its final location in Augusta, GA. That same year where he re-formed the Company with three new partners, Jesse Ansley, J.A. Smith, and Charles Keen. Now under the name "Rigdon and Ansley" the firm worked initially to finish up the remaining Leech and Rigdon to fulfill the contract the old firm had with the Confederate Government. Once completed, the Rigdon and Ansley Revolvers were serial numbered consecutively from the Leech and Rigdon guns from approximately 1500-2300s?. While some of the early ones have barrel markings "Augusta, Ga.", many of the last guns were simply marked "CSA". Perhaps leaving the name and location off the product may have been perceived as a little cheap, but Rigdon probably had some good reasons for doing so. As many of you probably know, the year 1864 was not very kind to Georgia. With half the Union Army bearing down on the state, the last thing a company producing weapons for the Confederacy wanted to do was leave their calling card for General Sherman. After Atlanta was taken and destroyed by the Union Army, nobody knew where Sherman would strike next and the citizens residing in Macon, Augusta, and

Savannah were greatly concerned. However, with Confederates trying their best to cut his supply lines, Sherman had other ideas and his main goal was to get his Army safely to the Atlantic Coast. As a result, Macon and Augusta were spared by the North.

If you're looking for a solid original example of a Rigdon and Ansley Revolver for your collection, here is one you will never have to question. It's been in a prominent American collection for nearly 70 years, pictured in a book, looks and displays great, and won't cost you \$30K.

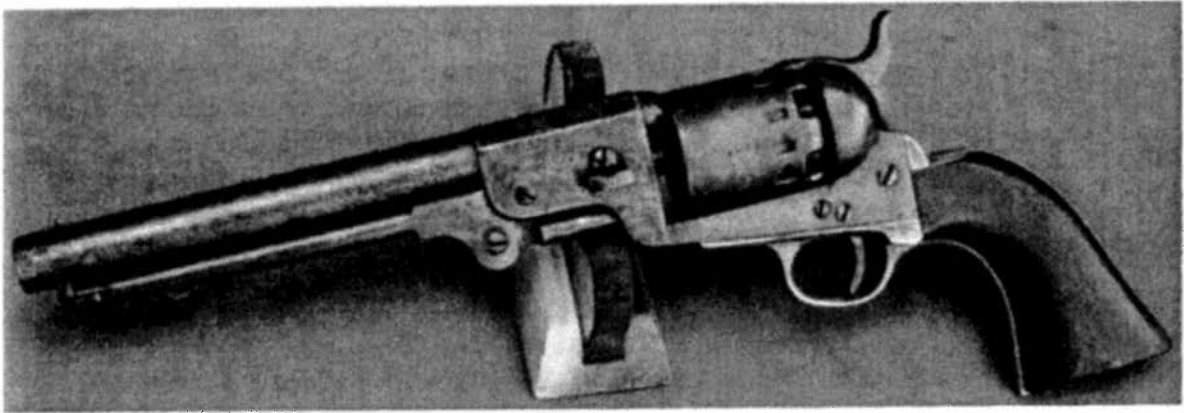
Item# 1084

SOLD



Antique Arms, Inc. | P.O. Box 2313 | Loganville, Georgia 30052-1947 | 770-466-1662 (W)

**RIGDON & ANSLEY CONFEDERATE
REVOLVER - SERIAL NO. 2248
CIRCA 1864
.36 CAL. - 7 ½" ROUND BARREL
TWELVE-STOP NAVY REVOLVER MADE IN
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA**



RIGDON & ANSLEY

Serial Number 2248

John Sexton
1962 Portage Landing North
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

770-329-4984

John@CivilWarDealer.com

April 9, 2012

Joe Murphy
176 North Main Street
New Hope, PA 18938

Dear Dr. Murphy,

At your request; I have examined a Civil War Confederate Rigdon & Ansley revolver serial number 2248 for purpose of authentication determination. I have examined this gun several times in past several years and my opinions and observations are noted. I have prepared a summary appraisal as follows for authenticity.

In summary, this Civil War Confederate Rigdon & Ansley Revolver serial number 2248 was found to be 100% original, complete and authentic in every regard.

In general, the condition of the subject Civil War pistol was average for similar Civil War arms found elsewhere in marketplace, but above average for Confederate arms found. Unless stated herein, the appraisal is based on the readily apparent identity of the object appraised.

The conclusions expressed herein are based on the appraiser's best judgment and opinion. I have photographed and examined numerous Civil War objects of many types including many Confederate revolvers and consider myself very proficient in establishing authenticity in this field.

I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief:

- a. Statements of fact contained in this report are true and correct.
- b. The reported analyses, opinions, and conclusions are limited only by the reported critical assumptions and limiting conditions, and is my personal, impartial, and unbiased professional analyses, opinions, and conclusions.
- c. I have no undisclosed past, present or contemplated future interest in the property that is the subject of this report, and no personal interest with respect to the parties involved with exception of fact that I am brokering the sale of this particular object for the second time since 2000.
- d. I have no bias with respect to the property that is the subject of this report or to the parties involved with this assignment.
- e. My engagement in this assignment was not contingent upon developing or reporting predetermined results.
- f. My compensation for this appraisal is not contingent upon the development or reporting of a predetermined value or direction in value that favors the cause of the client.

John Sexton
1962 Portage Landing North
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

770-329-4984

John@CivilWarDealer.com

the amount of the value opinion, the attainment of a stipulated result, or the occurrence of a subsequent event directly related to the intended use of this appraisal report.
g. I have personally inspected the listed property that is subject of this report.
h. Unless noted elsewhere, no one has provided any assistance to the person signing this report.

With the exception of Joseph Murphy who is my client, possession of this report or its copy does not carry with it the right of publication, nor may this report be used for any other purpose than establishing basis for authenticity. If this report is reproduced, copied or otherwise used, it must be done so in the report's entirety including this cover document and all attachments. Furthermore, no change to any item in this appraisal shall be made by anyone other than myself.

I regard all information in this appraisal as confidential. I retain a copy of document along with my original notes and photographs. I will not allow others to have access to these records without your written permission unless ordered so by a court of law.

Photographs of subject pistol and my Professional Profile can be found in the addendum to this report.

Sincerely,

John Sexton, AAA, ISA

770-329-4984

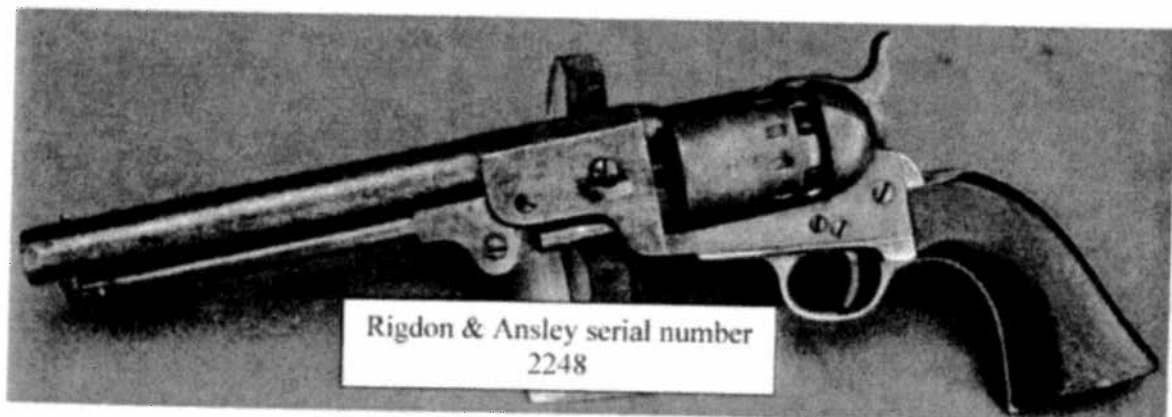
John Sexton
1962 Portage Landing North
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

John@CivilWarDealer.com

RIGDON & ANSLEY REVOLVER SR # 2248

This Confederate revolver is among the last few hundred made with barrel marking "CSA" and *large style serial numbers*. These 12-stop navy revolvers made in Augusta, Georgia range from earliest known "*large serial numbers*" about 1970 to highest known gun 2359. Subject gun serial # 2248 is serial numbered on all parts normally numbered on these guns, including barrel, barrel latch, loading arm, wedge, arbor, cylinder, frame, trigger guard and back strap. The grips are also serial numbered internally in pencil. A cryptic "W" is found on trigger guard as seen on other specimens. Serial number 2248 also has correct "CSA" marking on barrel flat where it is particularly well struck and well centered.

PROVENANCE and HISTORY: This gun was purchased from Steve Slaton about 2000 from his father's estate. Fred Slaton of Nebo, Kentucky was a great Confederate collector who sold his collection years earlier but retained a core group of his best Confederate revolvers including this Rigdon & Ansley. I brokered the sale of this gun through SMR, Inc in 2000 to Ed Koske (sic) in Maryland for about \$35,000, it sold in his estate auction as lot 153, 3-17-2007 (Reagan Auctions, Seaford, DE) for \$30,800. Original page from auction catalog showing this gun is attached to this report. Gun was just purchased by myself from son of buyer at that Reagan Auction. I prepared an insurance appraisal on this gun in 2000 for \$45,000, copy of which is also included as attachment to this report. This gun was unknown in collector's circles known to me prior to 2000.



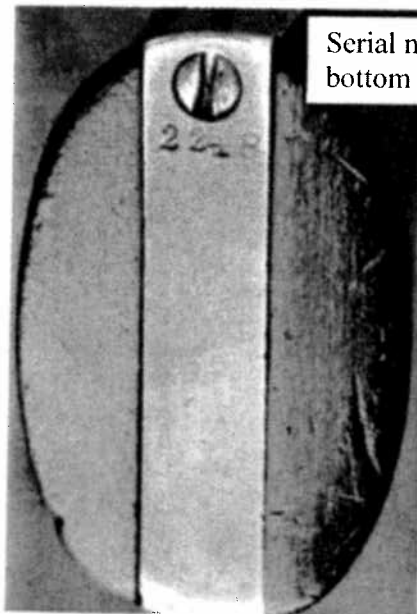
John Sexton
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North Palm Beach, FL 33408

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Serial numbers on barrel frame
and trigger guard



Serial number 2248 on
bottom of backstrap.

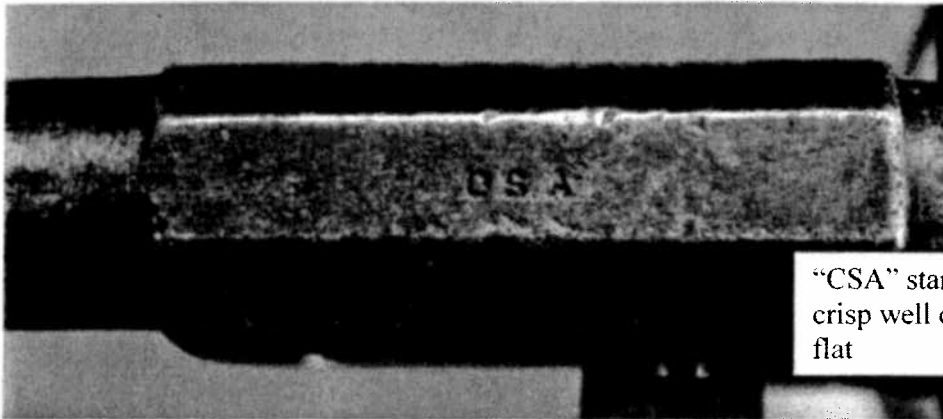


Serial number 2248 stamped
on barrel latch

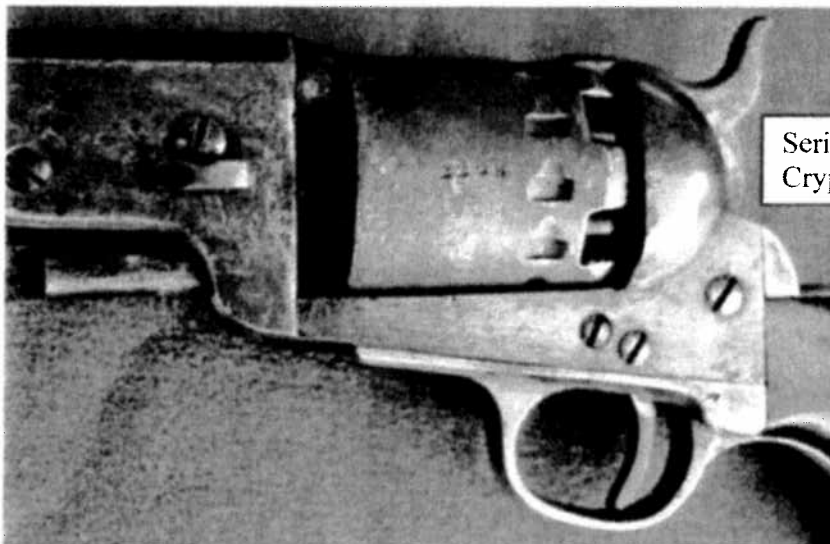
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"CSA" stamping on barrel is
crisp well centered on top barrel
flat



Serial number 2248 on cylinder
Cryptic "W" on trigger guard

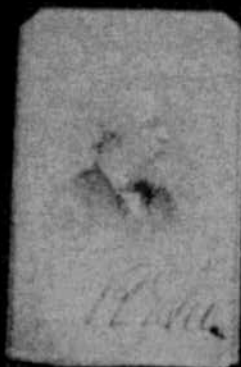
Outstanding Firearms & Militaria Auction

9:30AM • Saturday, March 17th, 2007 | 9:30AM • Sunday, March 18th, 2007

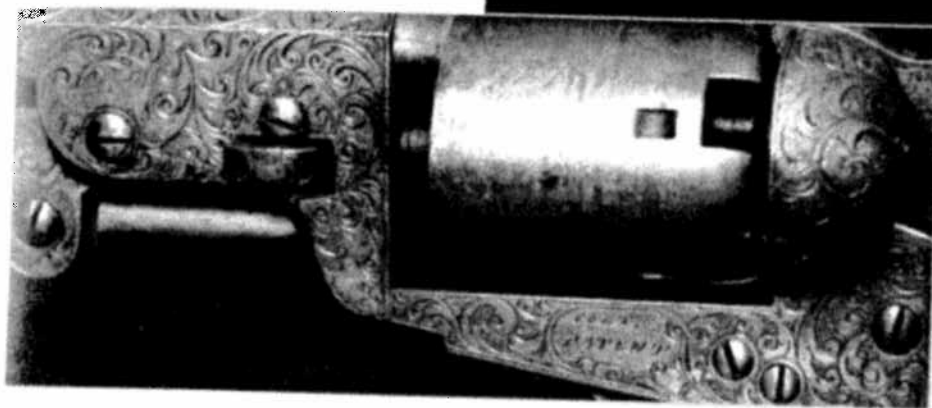
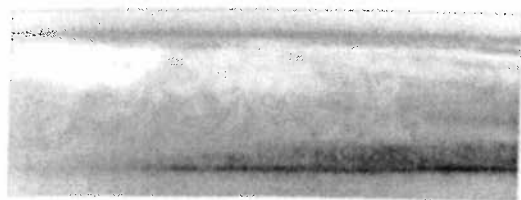
PREVIEW:
Friday, March 16th, 2007
11:00AM-7:00PM



LOCATION:
Delaware State Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall
Harrington, Delaware

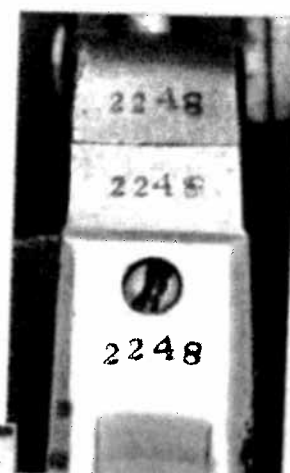


REAGAN AUCTIONS
8956 Middleford Road, Seaford, DE 19973
302-628-SOLD (7653) | www.reaganauctions.com



- #152 Rare CSA Colt Model 1851 Navy Revolver, SN 91155, Cal. .36** 7 1/2" octagon barrel with cylinder scene of Texas Navy battle with Mexico. Highly engraved by Jacob Wolfe, including several wolf's heads in the intricate work. Grips are solid ivory. Engraved "A. Perrodin". Capt. Auguste Perrodin of Co. K, 10th Louisiana Infantry, enlisted July 22, 1861 in Opelousas, LA. Ended the war as a prisoner in Fort Delaware. Part of Stonewall Jackson's corps, he fought in most of the battles of 1862 including Second Manassas, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and The Wilderness. He was captured at the Battle of Spotsylvania on May 10, 1864 and sent to Fort Delaware. Extensive documentation and research with the firearm. Excellent condition. (Est. 35,000-50,000)

1/11/07
300 800
Auction



- #153 Rare Rigdon & Ansley Confederate Revolver, SN 2248, Cal. .36** Confederate made dragoon style revolver with 7 1/2" round barrel with brass grip frame and walnut stocks. Unfluted cylinder with matching serial number 2248 on it and all other major parts. Revolver does not appear to be altered in any way. Only about 1,000 of these revolvers were produced in Augusta, Georgia in the period from 1864-1865. Letter of condition from Stone Mountain Relics, Inc.. In very good condition. (Est. 27,500-32,500)

