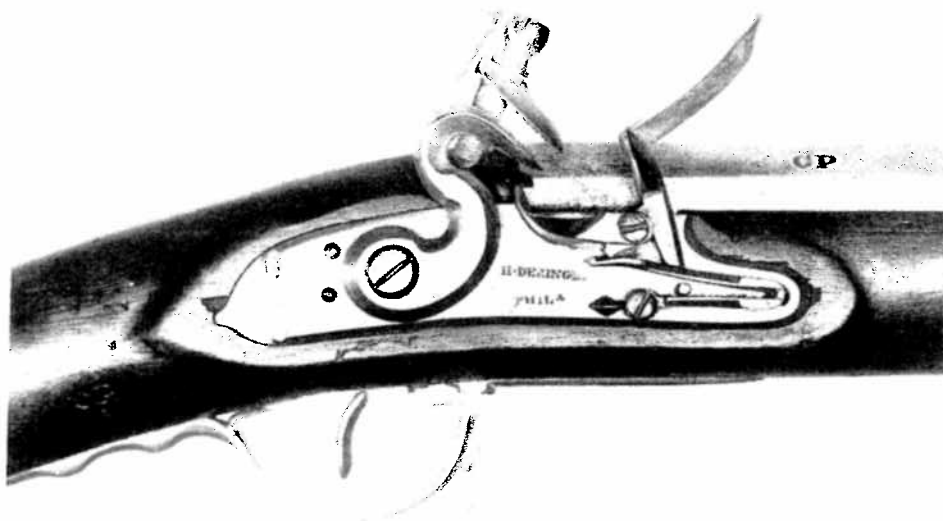


Plate 145.S2M-B The locations of the Pennsylvania markings on the Deringer long rifles differ from those of the 100 purchased pursuant to the July 14, 1814, governor's order. "CP" is stamped into the barrel's right quarter-flat and into the right side of the stock's wrist, just behind the breech flat. This rifle has a small "6" stamped into the breech tang. A similar rifle is stamped "44" in this location. (John C. McMurray Collection.)



**Caliber:** .56.

**Overall Length:** 51½" to 51⅞".

**Barrel Length:** 35⅓" to 36".

**Barrel Contour:** The barrel is octagonal for 11½" to 12½" at the breech and then tapers to round. The barrel of one example is considerably heavier than other known Deringer rifles. It is 1.282" diameter at the breech and .988" diameter at the muzzle.

**Bore:** The bore of one example is rifled with seven narrow grooves. The land-to-groove diameter is .565".

**Lock:** Same as numbered "CP" rifles.

**Thimbles:** None of the three barrel-style thimbles have flared mouths.

**Ramrod:** The tapered wood ramrod of one example has a 2" iron ferrule at the rear end.

#### **Markings:**

**Barrel:** The top flat is stamped "H-DERINGER" over "PHIL<sup>A</sup>." The left quarter-flat is stamped with a sunken oval cartouche containing a raised "P." The right quarter-flat is stamped "CP." A small "6" is stamped into the breech tang. Another example is similarly marked but has "44" stamped into the barrel's tang.

**Lock:** Stamped in front of the cock with the same marking described for the barrel's top flat.

**Stock:** "F.GOETZ" is stamped into the left breech flat. Different examples have "CP" stamped into either the left or right side of the stock's wrist.

#### **PENNSYLVANIA MILITIA RIFLES**

145.S5

As indicated earlier in this section on Pennsylvania rifles, the commonwealth's archival sources indicate that rifles were purchased for at least two specific rifle companies in late 1814. These rifles were delivered directly to the rifle companies, which had been raised for federal service in Maryland. The limited available information on these two purchases follows.

On August 14, 1814, payment was made by the state treasurer to a James Trimble so that he could purchase fifty-six rifles for Captain Gavin Henry's rifle company. Trimble is believed to have been a militia brigade inspector. The price ultimately paid for these rifles was \$17.50 each. Unfortunately, there is no information in state archival records of the name or names of the gunmakers who supplied the rifles. The records state that the rifles were placed into storage at York immediately after the war. It is speculated that Gavin Henry's rifle company was from that immediate area.

On October 28, 1814, the state treasurer paid for rifles and other items for Captain William Hamilton of the Lancaster Rifle Company. Thirty-three of these rifles were made by Peter Gonter, and eleven rifles were made by Jacob Dickert. Later payments were also made for additional rifles for this company, which were purchased by the Lancaster town burgesses, but it is not known how many were purchased or from whom. Because of conflicting amounts in the treasurer's and comptroller's records examined, the prices actually paid to Gonter and Dickert are unknown.

Surviving examples of rifles attributed to these purchases were made by some of the same Lancaster and York County gunmakers who fabricated the U.S. 1807 contract army rifles and are very similar, but have full-octagonal barrels rather than the one-third octagonal barrels of the U.S. Army rifles. The rifles made for the Pennsylvania militia do not have U.S. proof, inspection, or ownership marks. Because they were delivered directly to the rifle companies who urgently needed them, rather than to the state arsenal at Harrisburg, they apparently escaped being stamped with Pennsylvania ownership marks.

Similar rifles may also have been made by John Guest, Joseph Henry, and Jacob Doll for private sale to members of the Pennsylvania militia during the War of 1812. A known rifle by Doll is somewhat fancier than the others, as it has a four-piece patchbox and other, more decorative, furniture.

The octagonal barrels of most Pennsylvania militia rifles have a  $1\frac{7}{8}$ " to 2" round section at the muzzle. The stock foretips of rifles with the round muzzle sections end behind these round sections. It is not known whether the projecting round muzzle section was simply a stylistic feature or whether it was to provide for a bayonet. Very few of the rifles with these round muzzles have bayonet lugs. If bayonets were used with rifles with round muzzle sections but no lugs, they must have been retained by friction or by a setscrew in the bayonet's socket. The round muzzle section of several rifles was measured, and very little discernible taper was recorded. Surviving bayonets for these rifles are not known. It is believed that, if the round section was intended to serve as for a socket bayonet, the rifles were altered subsequent to their original manufacture, possibly in the early 1820s, when South Carolina is known to have altered some of its state-owned rifles to accept bayonets. Prior to this, the role of the rifleman had been that of a skirmisher and a sharpshooter. He was not intended to be in the line infantry, where he would receive and partake in bayonet charges.

These rifles have a very plain appearance. Their octagonal barrels are usually 36" to 38½", and most are pin-fastened to maple stocks. Some are retained by flat keys. Most surviving examples were made by Jacob Dickert of Lancaster. He purchased locks for his rifles, and they are marked "DREPPERT" and



Plate 145.S5-A This very plain brass-mounted Jacob Dickert rifle is attributed to Pennsylvania militia purchase during the War of 1812. Most examples of similar rifles by John Guest and J. Joseph Henry also have octagonal barrels with a short round section at the muzzle and plain two-piece patchboxes.

"SWEITZER." The brass furniture includes simple, undecorated two-piece brass patchboxes and trigger guards. The ramrod thimbles are usually formed from sheet brass.

The rifle described here was made by Jacob Dickert. It has the round muzzle section described previously. This is presented only as a typical example; other similar rifles, even those made by Dickert, will vary in detail. For example, various Dickert rifles have different bore diameters and both seven- and eight-groove rifling. These rifles also exhibit minor variations in the decoration and configuration of their mountings.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Caliber:** .54.

**Overall Length:** 54 $\frac{3}{16}$ ".

**Finish:** All metal is browned.

**Brass Components:** Butt plate, patchbox, trigger guard, side plate, thimbles, forend cap, and front sight.

**Procurement:** At least eleven rifles were made for the Pennsylvania militia by Dickert.

#### BARREL

**Length:** 38 $\frac{1}{16}$ ".

**Contour:** Octagonal, except for a 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " round section at the muzzle. The barrel is retained by three flat keys with convex, oval-shaped heads, which pass from left to right.

**Muzzle Extension:** 2".

**Bore:** Rifled with seven .14"-wide grooves. The land-to-groove diameter is .55".

**Front Sight:** The brass front sight blade is dovetailed to the barrel 3" behind the muzzle.

**Rear Sight:** The  $\frac{1}{2}$ "-long base of the standing leaf sight is dovetailed to the barrel 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " forward of the breech.

**Breech Plug:** The 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ " by  $\frac{7}{16}$ " tang has a rounded end.

**Bayonet Lug:** There is no provision for a bayonet lug. The round muzzle section is very slightly tapered. A bayonet may have been retained by friction to this or it may have had a setscrew in the socket.

#### LOCK

**Lockplate:** The surface of the 5 $\frac{5}{16}$ " by 1", flat, bevel-edged lockplate is stepped down at the rear, behind a slightly inclined vertical decorative groove. The rear profile ends in a projecting point.

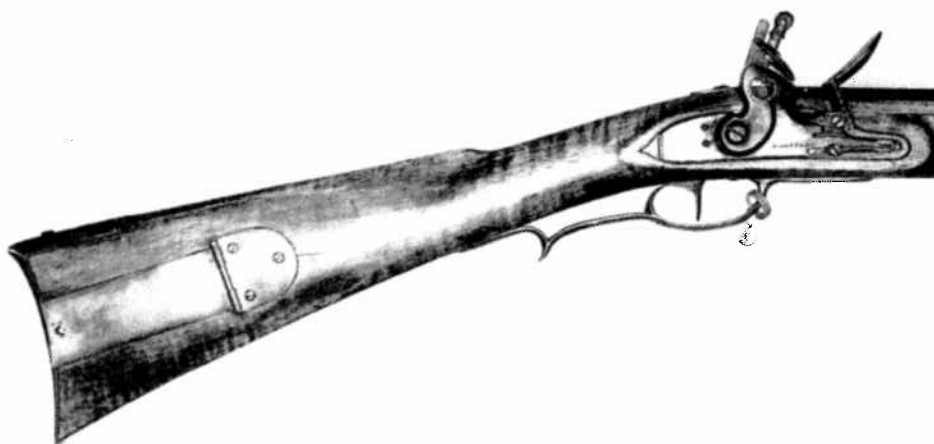


Plate 145.S5-B Some Dickert rifles attributed to Pennsylvania militia purchase have locks marked "SWEITZER," with a reversed "Z." Other examples have similar locks marked "DREPERT." A stylistic feature of the Sweitzer locks appears to be the slightly inclined vertical grooves in the lockplate's tail. (John C. McMurray Collection.)

**Cock:** The  $2\frac{5}{8}$ " flat-surfaced cock has a heart-shaped hole in its reinforced throat. The rear profile of the straight tang continues that of the body, and the tang's top is rounded. A vertical groove in the rear of the top jaw encloses the front and sides of this tang. The jaw screw's head is slotted and has a lateral hole.

**Pan:** The horizontal, round-bottomed pan is mounted horizontally. It has a fence and is equipped with an external bridle.

**Frizzen:** The front face of the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " by  $\frac{3}{4}$ " frizzen has a vertical medial ridge, which tapers to convex at the top. The toe is curled.

**Frizzen Spring:** The upper leaf curls downward slightly at the rear. The curve at the front is behind the end of the front sidescrew. The lower leaf ends in a long teardrop-shaped finial.

#### FURNITURE

**Trigger and Guard Assembly:** The trigger is suspended from a lateral pin, downward through a slot in the iron trigger plate. The  $\frac{13}{16}$ "-wide bow is integral with its extensions, and this  $8\frac{1}{2}$ " convex-surfaced assembly has a skeleton pistol grip at the rear. Both extensions terminate in rounded ends and are retained by lateral pins through integral vertical lugs.

**Butt Plate:** The rifle-style butt plate has a curved rear profile and a convex rear surface. The  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " tang is square-ended. The plate is retained by a wood screw at the rear and another in the tang.

**Patchbox:** The  $5\frac{7}{8}$ ", two-piece patchbox has an exposed hinge, and the hinge plate is in the form of an extended semicircle. The release button passes upward through the butt plate tang.

**Toe Plate:** None.

**Side Plate:** The  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " flat-surfaced side plate is modified "L"-shaped.

**Thimbles:** The round, sheet brass thimbles have decorative grooves at the ends. The upper and middle thimbles are  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " long. The  $3\frac{3}{4}$ " lower thimble has a square-ended finial.

**Forend Cap:** The  $1\frac{1}{8}$ " cap is retained by a lateral copper pin.

**Ramrod:** The  $37\frac{1}{4}$ " tapered wood ramrod is without metal fittings.

#### STOCK

**Wood:** Oil-finished plain maple.

**Length:** 52 $\frac{3}{16}$ ".

**Comb:** The nose of the 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ " comb is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " high.

**Cheek Piece:** There is a cheek piece on the left side of the butt with a single decorative groove paralleling the straight lower edge.

#### MARKINGS

Plate 145.S5-C Jacob Dickert's signature is engraved into the Pennsylvania militia rifle barrel's top flat.



**Barrel:** The top flat is engraved "J DICKERT" in script. Between the initial and the name is a circular cartouche containing a crossed arrow and tomahawk.

**Lock:** The name "SWEITZER," with a reversed "Z," is stamped into the plate in block letters forward of the cock. There is minimal decorative engraving on the cock, pan bridle, and the front face of the frizzen.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA

145.U

Around 1810, South Carolina Militia Major William H. Capers of Sumpter, South Carolina, was unable to obtain rifles from the state for his rifle company. He purchased fifty rifles privately at \$17 each, plus \$43 freight. The state ultimately paid for twenty-eight of these rifles in 1815.

On January 15, 1815, the state contracted with Adam Carruth of Greenville, South Carolina, for 500 rifles at \$20 each. On January 23, he received a \$2,500 advance against this contract. He received three additional payments of \$2,500 on June 5, October 28, and November 15. The final payment receipt was marked "in full of his contract" suggesting that all 500 rifles had been delivered prior to that time. In December of 1815, Carruth petitioned the state's general assembly to have the price he received per rifle increased to \$22 each, but this was declined. No surviving examples have been identified.

In late 1813, or January 1814, South Carolina contracted with a man identified only as Wilson Nesbitt for 400 rifles. On January 15, 1814, Nesbitt