



**ARMORY AND OFFICE,**

*Hartford, Conn.*

October, 2007

*M* To Whom It May Concern

*Bought of*

**THE SHARPS RIFLE COMPANY.**

Sharps rifle Serial #154159 has been located in the original records of the Sharps Rifle Company. It is listed in Order Book No.1 as a No. 1 Creedmoor Rifle (yet to receive the Model 1874 name) and was invoiced at the Hartford factory on April 12, 1875 to Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, gun and sporting goods dealers and wholesalers of New York City.

The rifle is described in the record as being .44 caliber using the 2 & 5/8 inch shell, with a 32 inch full octagon barrel. Not mentioned in the record, but standard with Creedmoor Rifles were single trigger, vernier tang and windage front sights, no rear barrel sight, weight not exceeding ten pounds and varnish-finished stocks. The price was \$125 less dealer discount. No mention was made of a spirit level which was normally \$5 extra. No wooden case was issued with this rifle. The heel position Remington long range vernier sight now present is obviously a later addition.

This rifle has been in my personal collection since 1976 when it was purchased from CAPT Avery Young, USN, director of the Service Life Extension Program for Nautilus Class Submarines, at the walk-in safe in his office in Crystal City, Virginia. The rifle had descended in the Wright and Young families of Norwalk, CT. It had recently been removed from 37 years storage in a bank vault, put there by CAPT Young's father following a neighbor child's fatal gun accident. CAPT Young could provide no information as to the original purchaser or what possible activities his mother's family's ancestors might have engaged in with respect to target shooting. In fact, he did not know that these and other guns in the storage vault even existed until the bank called him following his father's death.

Save for a dullness of the barrel blue on the octagon flats over the fore-end, this rifle is in pristine condition, with virtually 100% case colors and original varnish. The dulling of the barrel blue was apparently the result of a shooter applying some substance to reduce the glare while target shooting. Other collectors and gunsmiths who have seen it say the substance was probably carbon black. All advised against attempting to partially refinish the barrel. I rejected the idea of complete refinishing in favor of retaining the feature as a period target shooting artifact along with the majority surface of perfect barrel blue.