

# R.L. WILSON

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Historical Consultant  
Colt's Manufacturing Co., Hartford  
and to  
'The Art of American Arms'  
and  
'Silk and Steel Women at Arms'  
Museum Loan Exhibitions  
'Son of a Gun' - BBC-TV  
'Colt Firearms Legends' - SONY  
'The Guns That Tamed the West' - A & E  
'The Story of the Gun' - A & E  
'The Gun Industry in America' - BBC-TV/Open University  
'Annie Oakley' - Riva Productions for PBS American Experience  
Chairman, Antique Arms Committee (1990-2005)  
U.S. Society of Arms and Armour/America Remembers  
Fine Colts The Dr. Joseph A. Murphy Collection  
The Arms of Tiffany (with Janet Zapata) (2014)  
The Art of the Gun, Mini-Series, 5 Vols. (with RM Lee)  
The Art of the Gun, Maxi-Series, 5 Vols. (with RM Lee)  
A Life's Tapestry of a Collector - with George F. Gamble  
Great Colt Treasures, with William L. Berg  
Colt Dates of Manufacture, Blue Book Publications

Samuel Colt Presents  
The Arms Collection of Colonel Colt  
L.D. Nimschke Firearms Engraver  
The Evolution of the Colt  
Colt  
Commemorative Firearms  
Theodore Roosevelt Outdoorsman  
The Book of Colt Firearms  
The Book of Winchester Engraving  
Antique Arms Annual  
Colt Pistols (with R.E. Hable)  
Paterson Colt Pistol Variations (with P.R. Phillips)  
The Colt Heritage  
The "Russian" Colts  
Colt Engraving  
Rare and Historic Firearms (Christie's)  
Winchester 1 of 1000  
Colt's Dates of Manufacture  
The Deringer in America, 2 Volumes (with L.D. Eberhart)  
Colt An American Legend  
Rare Firearms - A Benefit Auction (Christie's)  
Winchester An American Legend  
The Peacemakers  
Steel Canvas  
Ruger & His Guns  
The Colt Engraving Book (two volumes)  
The Official Price Guide to Gun Collecting  
The World of Beretta  
The Paterson Colt Book, Dennis LeVett Colln.  
The Guns of Manhattan (2014)  
American Arms Collectors The Al Cali Collection  
Things I Love The William I. Koch Collection  
Theodore Roosevelt Hunter-Conservationist,  
Boone & Crockett Club Publications  
Magnificent Colts, with Robert M. Lee

**The HISTORIC and DELUXE  
CASED COLT NEW MODEL NAVY-  
a.k.a. MODEL 1861 NAVY  
PRESENTATION SET  
of  
CAPT. GEORGE A. WILLIAMS,  
1<sup>st</sup> U.S. INFANTRY,  
The ROSEWOOD CASE  
INSCRIBED ELEGANTLY  
on the INLAID BRASS LID PLAQUE:**

*Presented to*

*Geo. H. Williams*  
*Captain 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry*

*as a token of respect from*

*B W Warner*

*Memphis. Tenn. May. 1864.*

**Serial Nos. 16678E and 16684E**

**With Superbly Relief Carved Ivory Grips  
Featuring the Patriotic Motif of  
The American Eagle & Shield**

**\*\***

**Finished in Silver-Plating,  
With Blued Screws and  
and**

**Gold-Washed Cylinders and with  
Superb Cylinder Roll Scenes Signed by W.L. Ormsby.**

**The Rare and Richly Fitted Rosewood Case**

**Lined in the French Style,**

**in Burgundy Velvet, Trimmed in Green,**

**With Accessories of Silver-Plated Double-Sided**

**Stand of Arms Flask,**

**With Superb Embossed Motifs**

**on Both Sides, and with Slanted Spout.**

**Blued Steel Bullet Mold and**

**L-Shaped Combination Tool, and**

**W. & C. Eley Cap Tin.**

**The Compartment Lids Fitted with**

**Matching Ivory Pulls.**

**\*\***

**The Set Sold in New York's Walpole Galleries,**

**In the Frederick E. Hines Estate Collection,  
Lot 109 (Pictured Page 24), Session II,  
May 9<sup>th</sup> 1924.**

**\*\***

**George Augustus Williams,  
A Career Officer in the U.S. Army,  
Graduate of the  
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York,  
July 1<sup>st</sup> 1852.**

**Assigned to Texas as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant,  
and Remained at Various Texas Posts –  
Including La Pena, Rodeo, Fort Lancaster,  
Fort Duncan, Fort McIntosh, Fort Clark and  
Camp Cooper, and Ultimately to  
Fort Cobb in Indian Territory (1859-1860).  
Williams Then Returned to West Point and Taught  
at the U.S. Military Academy,  
From September 4<sup>th</sup> 1860.  
Subsequently Promoted to Captain,  
U.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry,  
and Appointed Commander of Heavy Artillery  
in Early Operations Near Sedalia, Missouri  
From November 6<sup>th</sup> 1861 to February 1862.**

**\*\***

**Captain Williams Served Heroically  
in Action Which Captured  
Island #10, as Well as  
The Capture of New Madrid, Missouri,  
March and April 1862.  
For Later Actions at the Siege and Battle  
of Corinth, Mississippi, Captain Williams**

**Was Awarded with the Commission  
of Brevet Major  
“for Gallant and Meritorious Service.”  
During the Vicksburg Campaign,  
Brevet Captain Williams Commanded  
Heavy Artillery and “Williams Battery” of  
Henry Parrotts Cannon -  
Named in His Honor,  
Opposing Famed Confederate Fortification  
“Battery Robinette.”  
Williams Was Disabled, March 1863,  
and Appointed Provost Marshal of  
Memphis, Tennessee –  
Where He Was Honored with  
The Presentation of These Historic  
Engraved, Ivory-Gripped  
and Cased  
Colt Revolvers.**

**\*\***

**B.W. Warner Listed on Captain Williams’  
“Semi-Monthly Report of  
Citizen Prisoners”  
Within the District of Memphis.  
To Date No Charge Determined  
For Warner’s Imprisonment.  
Others in Williams’ Report Were Recorded  
As “Rebel Spy, Shooting at Soldier,  
Concealing Escaping Prisoner,  
Aiding in Prisoner Escape,  
Guerrilla, Bribery,  
Disloyal Language”**

**and so forth.**

**Perhaps the Gift of These Revolvers  
Assisted in the Incarceration of Warner –  
Or Were Instrumental in Obtaining His Release.**

**\*\***

**The Captain Williams-B.W. Warner Historic Set  
With Distinguished Provenance:  
From the Private Collection of  
Frederic E. Hines (b. 1868 - d. 1920;  
of Dorchester, Massachusetts)  
First Recorded 1924.**

**And the Private Collections of:  
McMurdo Silver  
(via F. Theodore Dexter & Listed in His  
Catalogue of the  
McMurdo Silver Collection)  
Leonard A. Busby  
William M. Locke,  
John B. Solley, III  
and Most Recently  
Paul Tudor Jones II.**

**\*\***

**The Captain Williams-B.W. Warner  
Presentation Colt Model 1861 Navies  
Pictured in Numerous Books  
and Periodicals, Including  
The Frederick E. Hines Catalogue  
of the Walpole Galleries Auction,  
New York, May 9<sup>th</sup> 1924; Page 24.**

***William M. Locke Collection, Frank Sellers  
Colts from the William M. Locke Collection, Frank Sellers***

*Percussion Colt Pistols*, James E. Serven  
*Colt Firearms from 1836*, James E. Serven  
*Colt's History and Heroes*, John G. Hamilton  
*The Colt Heritage*, R.L. Wilson  
*Colt An American Legend*, R.L. Wilson.

\*\*

**A Remarkable and Elegant Artifact  
of Civil War, West Point,  
The American West  
and of U.S. Military History  
in the Form of One of the  
Finest and Most Beautiful  
Cased, Engraved and Inscribed  
of Colt Presentation Percussion Firearms.**

\*\*

**The Captain G.A. Williams-B.W. Warner  
Presentation Set Worthy of the  
Finest Private or  
Museum Collection of Fine Arms**

The artistry and craftsmanship of Samuel Colt's Armory blossomed elegantly in the Civil War era, and a favored model of Colt firearms selected for a small group of the most exquisite presentations was the New Model Navy, *a.k.a.* the Model 1861 Navy or Belt Revolver.

The deluxe presentation from B.W. Warner to Captain George A. Williams, 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry, dated May 1864, stands tall amongst these distinguished and patriotic gifts. From the last series of revolvers introduced during Colonel Colt's lifetime, the design of the New Model Navy is of

such perfection that this limited series has been properly recognized as the most beautiful of all percussion Colt revolvers.

Among the very few celebrated presentations of matched pairs in the Model 1861 series made by Colts was a set to Captain Robert Anderson, hero of the Siege of Fort Sumter (Nos. 12400 IE and 12401 IE). Other Model 1861 Navy cased pairs include a set to:

Major General Philip H. Sheridan (Nos. 11787E and 11791E),

and yet another to:

General James B. McPherson (Nos. 11756 I and 11756 I),

When the author organized the exhibition "Samuel Colt Presents" for the Wadsworth Atheneum (November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1961 to January 14<sup>th</sup> 1962), the William M. Locke Collection was the major source for loans, more than any other private or museum source. The author already had from that amazing collection two cased pairs of the Model 1861 Navy, as well as a pair from the Philip R. Phillips Collection, and yet another set from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History. If not for so many of those 1861 pairs (from a museum loan exhibition point of view), the Captain G.A. Williams from B.W. Warner cased pair would have been requested, and therefore would have been pictured in the *Samuel Colt Presents* book.

Of all the Model 1861 Navy pairs in *Samuel Colt Presents*, one in particular is related to the Williams-Warner presentation: Item 131 (page 208), bearing serial nos. 20322 and 20422, within a closely similar French-fitted rosewood case to the Williams-Warner outfit. Catalogue item 131 is also deluxe engraved, finished in gold and silver, and with silver-plated powder flask. Those pistols were engraved on the triggerguard strap: *From/Dart & Watkinson,/New Orleans*, with the silver-plated brass plaque inlaid on the lid inscribed with the recipient's initials: *TAS*. Now, in retrospect, the writer wishes he had also selected the Captain Williams-B.W. Warner set for *Samuel Colt Presents*.

Hopefully, The "Samuel Colt Presents" concept can be recreated – on a more grand scale – when The Sam and Elizabeth Colt Industrial and Frontier Heritage Center will be opened, in Hartford at the historic Colt factory site – within the next few years.

### **DESCRIPTION of the PRESENTATION SET from B.W. WARNER to CAPTAIN GEORGE A. WILLIAMS**

Each six shot revolver is in .36 percussion caliber, with 7 ½-inch round barrels.

Serial number markings in standard placement, including **16678E** and **16684E** on respective barrel lug, bottom of frame, triggerguard strap, and on the buttstrap.

Also marked within cartouche on each cylinder, the matching number, last four digits only.

On the left side of each frame, the stamping:

**COLTS  
PATENT**

On the top of each barrel, within single dash terminal at breech and muzzle ends:

**ADDRESS COL. SAML COLT NEW-YORK U.S. AMERICA**

Each cylinder with roll-engraved naval engagement scene with date **ENGAGED 16 MAY 1843**, and the cartouche including serial number (last four digits) with marking:

**COLTS PATENT No.**

The cylinders are complete with safety pins, to engage notch in each hammer.

Richly foliate scroll, floral and border engraved on the barrels, frames, gripstraps and wedges, in the Gustave Young style.

Finish of both revolvers is in silver-plating, with gold-washed cylinders. Screws are blued. The finely executed engraved decoration allows space on the backstrap of each revolver, in case an inscription might have needed to be cut within the carefully delineated escutcheon.

In this instance, the presenter opted for a brass plaque inlaid on the rosewood case's lid, inscribed in hand engraving as follows:

*Presented to*  
*Geo. H. Williams*  
*Captain 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry*  
*as a token of respect from*  
*B W Warner*  
*Memphis. Tenn. May. 1864.*

The rosewood case is lined in burgundy velvet, in the French or form-fitted style, with trim in green velvet. Three compartments have matching lids, with pulls in turned ivory. The elegant casing with reinforced corners using brass, and the lock of mortised style, with an inlaid round brass escutcheon.

Accessories of a blued steel bullet mold, with sprue cutter marked

COLTS  
PATENT

Also with L-shaped combination screwdriver and nipple wrench, a silver-plated double-sided Stand of Arms and Eagle and Shield powder flask, and a tin of W. & C. Eley Bros. percussion caps with tan label (instead of the customary green).

Each pistol specially fitted with a set of ivory grips, the left panel of both relief carved with an American Eagle and Shield motif, finely executed and appropriately patriotic.

**DOCUMENTATION on the B.W. WARNER to  
CAPTAIN GEORGE A. WILLIAMS  
PRESENTATION CASED SET and its  
EXCEPTIONAL COMPONENTS**

Having a collector pedigree dating back to 1924, the Captain Williams from B.W. Warner presentation set is among the best documented of all known American Civil War Colt revolvers. The earliest reference discovered to date is that of the Walpole Galleries sale of May 9<sup>th</sup> 1924. The following recounts details of this rare documentation.

**Listed in the Walpole Galleries'  
Frederick E. Hines Collection Auction Catalogue,  
of May 9<sup>th</sup> 1924**

Enclosed is a printout of relevant pages from the Walpole Galleries catalogue, and the description of that set reads as follows (page 24):

- 109      PAIR COLT PRESENTATION SIX-  
SHOT PERCUSSION [NAVY]  
REVOLVERS L. 13 ½ in.; Cal. .36  
Entire metal parts silver-plated; gold**

**cylinders and all parts beautifully engraved. Ivory grips with American Eagle and shield carved in relief. Silver-plated powder flask with eagle, flags, cannon, stars and other trophies in relief. In case with tools. Plate on one case inscribed *Presented to George A. Williams, Capt. 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry as a token of respect from B.W. Warner, Memphis, Tenn. May 1864.***

**A very handsome and complete outfit. . . .  
(illustrated Plate 7) [p. 24]**

A few other pages from the catalogue are also printed and enclosed. These are revealing of the nature of Frederick E. Hines, and his extensive collection.

**From the McMurdo Silver Collection  
In F. Theodore Dexter Catalogue**

Yet another description is as presented in “Dexter’s Antique Weapon Trade Journal Presenting the McMurdo Silver Colt Revolver Collection.”

Published by F. Theodore Dexter, 910 Jefferson St., Topeka, Kansas, the catalogue presents a biography of McMurdo Silver, and a listing of firearms in his collection. Dexter’s description of the Captain Williams and B.W. Warner cased set is as follows (page five):

**AMERICA’S MOST BEAUTIFUL PRESENTATION COLTS – CASED AND LOOSE.**

**174 – Pair of Model 1861 Presentation Navy Colt Revolvers in plush lined rosewood or mahogany case with engraving on name plate of cover. “Presented to George A. Williams, Captain 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry, as a token of respect from B.W. Warner, Memphis, Tenn., May 1864.” Revolvers are beautifully engraved and silver-plated, while the hammers and cylinders are gold-plated. The beautiful white ivory grips have the best raised carving of the American Eagle and Shield, that we have ever viewed. Both guns are carved on the left side. Outfit is complete with bullet-mold, nipple-wrench and beautiful silver powder flask, with American Eagle, Crossed Pistols and other Martial Implements embossed on it in high relief. This is probably the most beautiful early Colt Outfit ever got up, and whoever finally owns this, never need fear that a better one will turn up. The Outfit Is like new and Extra Fine . . . . \$300.00**

Note that F. Theodore Dexter stated that he felt this cased outfit to be: **“probably the most beautiful early Colt Outfit ever got up, and whoever finally owns this, never need fear that a better one will turn up. The Outfit Is like new and Extra Fine.”**

F. Theodore Dexter was a pioneer dealer in antique arms, who was a tireless promoter and student, eager to meet new collectors, and to promote the hobby of arms collecting. He published several catalogues and books, and

had a network of enthusiastic collectors from around the U.S., as well as connections in Great Britain. He was also a tireless correspondent, and the writer was one of many who had the benefit of his ever-active pen. In the late 1950s, Dexter sent a two-page letter, in answer to queries about making a career out of the study and curating of arms collections for museums. Dexter's answer was encouraging in every respect but one – he basically said, “Don't expect to make a comfortable living out of this hobby. . . .” and that “he couldn't put together \$10,000 if he had to!” But nevertheless enjoyed his life immensely.

**PUBLISHED EXTENSIVELY in VARIOUS BOOKS  
and PERIODICALS and OTHER DOCUMENTING  
RECORDS**

To date the following tally has been made of additional published or other references to the Captain Williams from B.W. Warner, Memphis, Tennessee, May 1864, deluxe Colt Model 1861 Navy cased and inscribed presentation set:

James E. Serven, *Percussion Colt Pistols* monograph, page 36, pictured on the first page of the section on the Model 1861 Navy Colts, “Navy Belt Pistols.” Published in 1947.

James E. Serven, *Colt Firearms from 1836*, page 134. Pictured on the first page of the section on the Model 1861 Navy Colts, “Navy Belt Pistols.” First published

in 1954. Taken from the 7<sup>th</sup> printing, in 1972.

Frank Sellers, *The William M. Locke Collection*, pictured in color as item H, with caption on page 33. The set is further pictured in black and white on page 148 – with yet another caption, this one entering into greater detail as to the former collector ownership.:

## **H**

**Colt Model 1861 Navy percussion revolver, Six shot 36 caliber. 7 ½ inch round barrel. Marked same as above. Serial numbers 166778 and 16684E. Ivory grips, left grips carved with raised eagle and shield. Cased in a French recessed casing with silver plated slant charger flask and iron bullet molds. The guns are silver plated except for the cylinders which argold washed. Rosewood cased with an inscription plate on the lids which reads “TO GEO. A. WILLIAMS CAPTAIN 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. INFANTRY AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT FROM B.W. WARNER MEMPHIS, TENN. MAY 1864.” Originally in the McMurdo Silver collection in the 1920’s. From there to F. Theodore Dexter and Leonard A. Busby from whom Locke obtained it.**

The caption from page 148 reads as follows:

**Colt Model 1861 Navy percussion revolver. Six shot 36 caliber, 7 ½ inch round barrel.**

**Marked same as above. Serial numbers 16678 and 16684 E. Ivory grips, left grips carved with raised eagle and shield. Cased in a French recessed casing with silver plated slant charger flask and iron bullet molds. The guns are silver plated except for the cylinders which are gold-washed. Rosewood cased with an inscription plate on the lid which reads "TO GEO. A WILLIAMS CAPTAIN 1<sup>ST</sup> U.S. INFANTRY AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT FROM B.W. WARNER MEMPHIS, TENN, MAY 1864." Originally in the McMurdo Silver collection in the 1920's. From there to F. Theodore Dexter and Leonard A. Busby from whom it was obtained by Locke.**

This is a rare example of one set of guns being featured in the color front section, and also being pictured and described in the body of the catalogue. The writer considers this as an example of the special place Locke felt this historic set had in his extensive collection.

Frank Sellers, *Colts from the William M. Locke Collection*, Mowbray Publishers; pictured as indicated in enclosed printouts.

John G. Hamilton, *Colt's History and Heroes*, listed the Williams-Warner presentation set on page 15 by serial number and quoted the inscription on the case lid:

## **Colt Navy Model of 1861**

**16678 E 16684 E “To George A. Williams  
Captain 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry as a Token of  
Respect from B.W. Warner – Memphis,  
Tenn. May, 1864”**

Original unpublished typed list of “ESTATE OF  
WM. M. LOCKE FIREARMS COLLECTION,” page  
2:

### **62 [Model 1861 Navy] #16678 & 16684**

In *The Colt Heritage* and its successor volume, *Colt  
An American Legend*, pages 106-107, The Captain  
Williams from B.W. Warner cased set is featured in a  
full color page. The caption reads:

**Lining for the interior of this cased set was in the  
French style, the ivory lid pulls, green velvet trim,  
rosewood exterior, and silver-plated flask are all in  
the deluxe category. Engraving and gold and silver  
plating of the pistols and their elegant care ivory  
grips are also rated deluxe. But what assures the  
outfit of the highest rank is the inscription on the  
lid plaque: *Presented to Geo. A. Williams Captain  
1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry as a token of respect from B.W.  
Warner, Memphis, Tenn. May 1864.***

Researching in the credits for both volumes, the  
identification of the collector owner was found to be the  
eminent John B. Solley, III, an heir to the Lilly  
Pharmaceutical fortune, and one of the most successful

collectors of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in fine American antique arms.

Mr. Solley was subject of feature articles by the writer in the *Man at Arms* magazine issues of November/December 1979 and January/February 1980. The title of the two-part article – “A Matter of Provenance” – detailed a number of prominent arms in the Solley Collection. On pages 33-34 of the 1979 article, Mrs. Solley appears sitting on a velvet-upholstered Queen Anne settee, with treasures from the collection on the furniture, and on an African antelope trophy rug at her feet. The Captain Williams-B.W. Warner Colt 1861 Navy set was one of the last purchases made by Mr. Solley prior to his passing just after Christmas, 1978. The writer had the honor of safe-keeping the collection at his residence in Connecticut, in a secret vault. The Solleys would come visit from their properties in Florida and in Connecticut, to view and enjoy their beloved treasures.

No doubt with the fanfare of interest in the Captain Williams-B.W. Warner presentation cased set, there will be a flurry of illustrations published in various journals, and books – and on websites. Further, the writer plans on featuring the set in a forthcoming new work on Samuel Colt, his life and times, and that of the Colt company and their array of firearms.

This volume has the working title of: *Sam Colt and His Legacy: Chronicling the Legend.*

## PROVENANCE

When coauthoring *Magnificent Colts Selections from the Robert M. Lee Collection*, a rare photograph was discovered showing collectors attending an auction in Boston, 1911 (pictured, page 537, Volume II). The caption reads as follows:

**Earliest photograph known to the authors of a group of American arms collectors; in this case gathered together at the Mark Fields Collection auction, held in Boston, Massachusetts, December 6-7, 1911. Courtesy Conor FitzGerald and Richard Austin.**

It is the author's opinion that Frederick E. Hines, the earliest known collector owner of the Captain George A. Williams from B.W. Warner Colt set, is present in that historic Fields Collection auction sale photograph.

From Hines, the collector-owners of the historic set have been determined to be as follows

Frederick E. Hines

McMurdo Silver (via F. Theodore Dexter and listed in his catalogue of the McMurdo Silver Collection)

Leonard A. Busby

William M. Locke

John B. Solley III

Paul Tudor Jones II.

There was a period of time between when the Locke and then Solley Collection had these revolvers, and when the set entered the Paul Tudor Jones II holdings. Should that information be subsequently determined, the writer looks forward to updating the present letter.

**ADJACENT SERIAL NUMBERED COLT  
MODEL 1861 NEW MODEL NAVY  
REVOLVER, 16659E, A GIFT from MRS.  
SAMUEL COLT to the METROPOLITAN FAIR,  
NEW YORK, in 1864**

One of the joys of Colt collecting is researching serial numbers, and relating sets of deluxe arms, one to another. Pictured in the author's *Colt An American Legend* and its predecessor title, *The Colt Heritage* (page 115), is Model 1861 Navy cased set, Serial No. 16659E.

While preparing *The Colt Heritage* for publication in 1979, the writer learned of three Metropolitan Fair cased revolvers, which had been presented by Mrs. Colt to that charity organization, a precursor of the Red Cross. Among those arms – then in the Robert E. Petersen Collection, were a Model 1855 Sidehammer, a Model 1862 Police, and a Model 1861 Navy, the latter bearing serial number 16659E – only a few digits away from the Captain Williams-B.W. Warner cased set.

In *The Colt Heritage* and *Colt An American Legend* volumes, on page 114, is a detailed caption, as viewed in the accompanying printouts. The caption reveals the historic nature of these rare arms:

**As a charity fund raiser for the Metropolitan Fair, New York, Mrs. Samuel Colt donated a small, but choice, grouping of engraved and inscribed pistols. Each bore the script legend Metropolitan Fair N.Y./from Colts Pt F.A. Mfg. Co./Hartford Conn. March 28, 1864.**

***Top left*, a Model 1855 Sidehammer of the Model 5, with fluted cylinder and 3 ½" round barrel; French-style rosewood casing. *Lower left*, an 1861 Navy, the casing of conventional style-velvet-lined mahogany. At right, a 6 ½"-barreled Model 1862 Police, distinguished by its rosewood case (American-style interior) and the quite desirable mother-of-pearl grips. Very few percussion Colts left the factory with pearl handles, but in the 1870s, as the metallic-cartridge arms predominated, pearl joined ivory as the "standard" grip for deluxe Colt handguns. Note the presentation book at *top right*, the *Colt vs. Massachusetts Arms* trial transcript, reprinted and distributed gratis by Samuel Colt, c. 1852. Millard Fillmore, President of the United States, was one of the select donees.**

The selection of Serial No. 16659E as a presentation for the highly significant Metropolitan Fair is of added

interest because the serial number is quite close to those stamped on the Captain Williams from B.W. Warner deluxe Colt 1861 Navy pair, **16678E** and **16684E**. These three arms were engraved at the Colt factory at the same period. During the Civil War, Colt's did not pay a great deal of attention to the luxury of engraved arms – wartime production of service revolvers stood paramount. Therefore, all three of these special presentations were of distinct rarity, and importance, during Colt's Civil War era.

Serial No. 16659E Model 1861 presentation Navy is of such significance that it also appears in the writer's *Fine Colts The Dr. Joseph A. Murphy Collection* (pages 54-55). A printout showing the set and its detailed caption is enclosed; the casing had been replaced by one in rosewood, which was the likely style when displayed at the Metropolitan Fair.

Yet another Colt pictured in one of the author's titles is finely engraved Model 1861 Navy Serial No. 16702E – also close in date and serial marking to the Williams-Warner Presentation set, and with quite similar embellishments in the Gustave Young style. Printouts from pages 180-181 of the writer's *The Colt Engraving Book, Volume I*, are enclosed.

Note the presence of mother-of-pearl grips, and the finish in a combination of the standard blue and case-hardening, with silver-plated brass gripstraps. 16702E is quite close in serial number to 16678E and 16684E.

## ENGRAVING on SERIAL Nos. 16678E and 16684E

The Gustave Young style was predominant at Colt's in the period of c. 1854 to later in the 1850s. When Young spent a period of time out of the country (in Europe, primarily Germany; returning to Hartford c. 1863-1869), there are gaps in the Young period, when his own hand was absent. However, the style he had created remained dominant – as witness Navy Colts Nos. 16678E and 16684E – and several other examples evident in the Gustave Young Chapter III of the author's *The Colt Engraving Book, Volume I*.

Thus, the style of American scroll that Young had established with Samuel Colt himself during the former's tenure in the 1850s continued into the 1860s, with variations – and influenced the company's engraving styles into the years of Cuno Helfricht, and to a significant extent up to modern times..

Because of the number of artisans expected to engrave in established styles, it is sometimes difficult to arrive at a specific artisan responsible for embellishing a particular Colt within the Gustave Young eras. The writer attributes the engraving on **Nos. 16678E** and **16684E** to the Young style, and by two of the various practitioners for the Colt factory in the period of the revolvers' manufacture, judging from serial numbering estimates by year for late 1863-early 1864, and other factors.

Interestingly, comparing details, such as the finial to the barrels at the muzzle end of each marking, as well as scrolls on the triggerguards and backstraps, and other features, two different engravers were involved in creating this pair.

## **CONCLUSION**

Studying the historic rosewood cased B.W. Warner to Captain Williams presentation and deluxe engraved and relief-carved ivory-gripped matched pair of Colt Model 1861 New Model Navy revolvers allows the researcher to better appreciate and to properly honor the amazing artistry of craftsmen employed by the Colt company.

Key facets of Colonel Samuel Colt's genius were not only the invention of the first practical repeating firearms, but mastering their design as industrial works of art, and developing their practicality to the supreme level that the Colonel's Armory is heralded by historians as "The Cradle of the Industrial Revolution."

Colt not only could design beautiful firearms, but he – with the help of gifted engineers the likes of Elisha King Root – oversaw the creation of machinery to mass produce these marvels – and the mechanics who could run the machinery and execute related tasks, including refinements by hand filing and fitting - once the parts had come from

the battery of machines (much of the equipment invented and patented by Root and Colt).

Colt arms were truly works of mechanical art, and the inventor was determined that selected examples be strikingly beautiful – showpieces for World's Fairs among them. Form and function and all the other aspects of product beauty were among the many reasons Sam Colt was the precursor of modern geniuses on the level of Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and Steve Jobs.

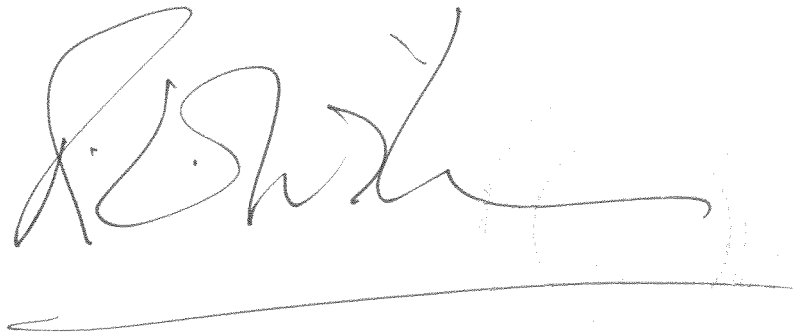
The masterpiece cased set presented to 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Infantry Captain George A. Williams by B.W. Warner stands tall as a key example of the extraordinary gifts and talents actively in evidence by Sam Colt and his workmen – no wonder Mark Twain said of Hartford: “Of all the beautiful sites it has been my fortune to see, the first and greatest is the Colt’s Revolver establishment”.

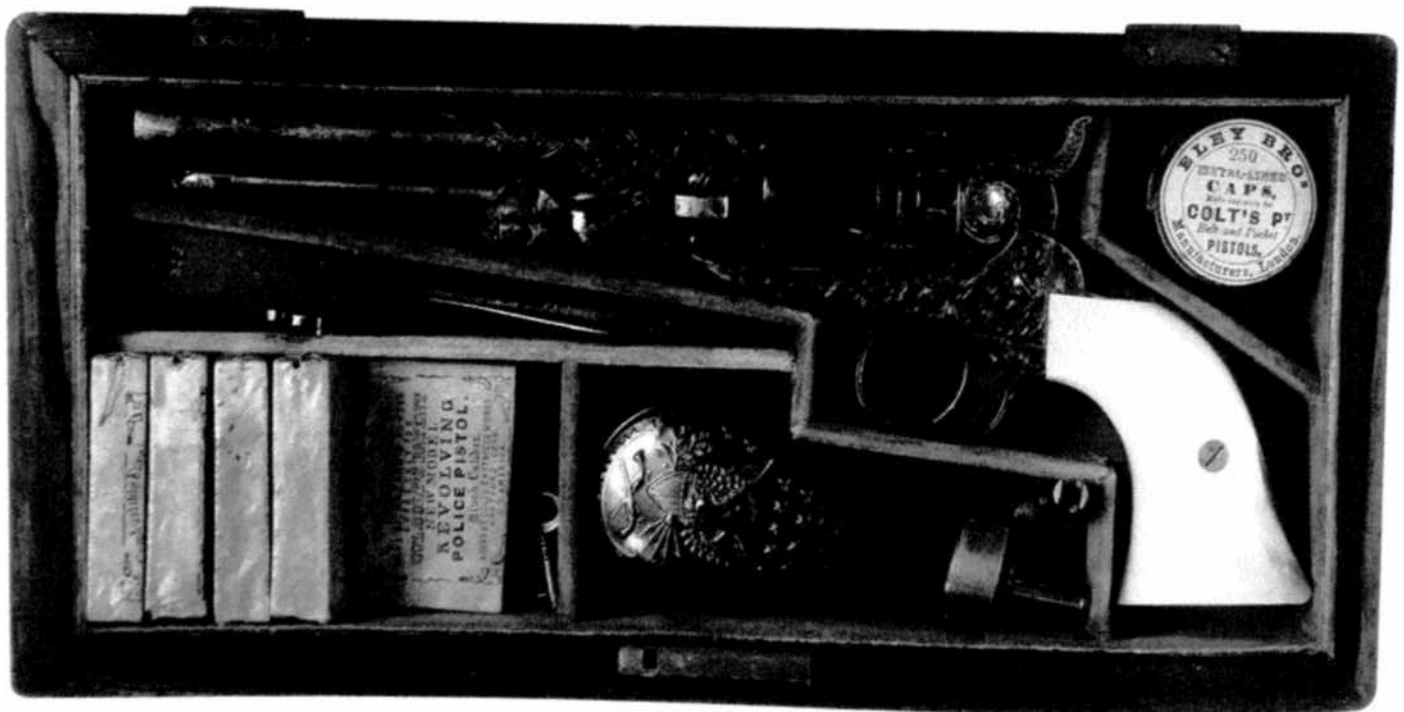
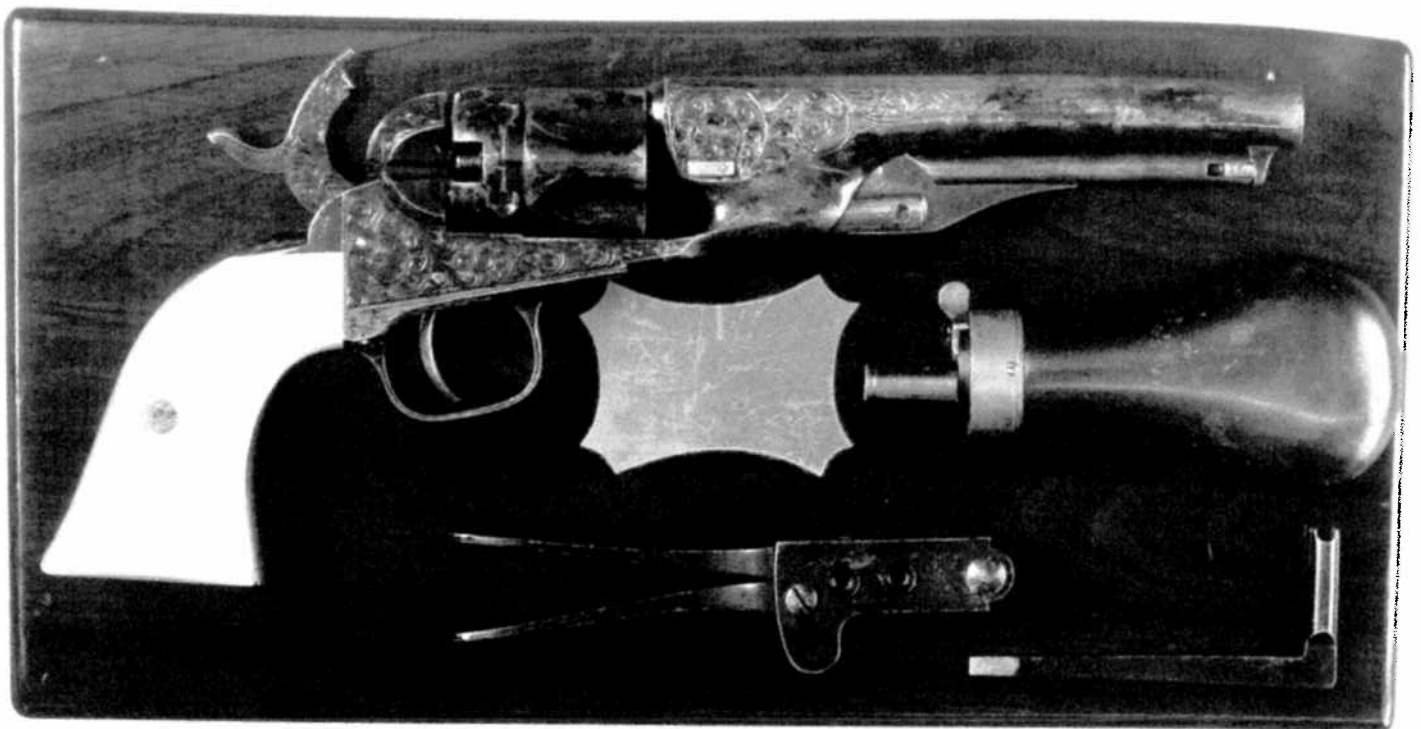
This cased set – in magnificent condition, and a work of beauty worthy of any art museum – is also a set representative of the treasured history of the Civil War. The Williams-Warner Colts stand tall in the pantheon of classics among America’s finest firearms. Practical, decorative, beautiful and premier showpieces of America’s industrial artistry, through this cased set one can view the prism of America’s dominance in “The American System of Manufacture.”

Such achievements by Yankee Tinkerers and Doers had been demonstrated in Colt’s dominance at the first

World's Fair – the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London. And at numerous world fairs throughout the remainder of the 19<sup>th</sup> and into the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The author regards the magnificent set of Captain George A. Williams-B.W. Warner presentation Colt Model 1861 Navy Revolvers as national treasure firearms, worthy of the finest museum or private collection. And I look forward to the distinct pleasure of featuring this beautifully preserved outfit in future editions of the Colt Engraving series, as well as the new book now in progress, superseding *The Colt Heritage* and *Colt An American Legend* as official Colt firearms texts.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name. Below the signature is a thin, horizontal line.



Above: An indication of still further support for the Metropolitan Fair by the Colt company. Model 1862 Police revolver number 14302 was also decorated with Gustave Young style engraving, with the backstrap inscribed:

*Metropolitan Fair, N.Y.  
From Colts A.F. & Mfg Co.  
Hartford Conn. March 28, 1867.*

The extremely rare mother-of-pearl grips carved in low relief, with patriotic stand-of-flags, liberty cap, musket and star device on the left grip panel; oak leaf motifs on right.

This revolver should be compared with serial number 14303, an engraved 6 1/2-inch Model 1862 Police, with plain mother-of-pearl grips, inscribed on the backstrap indicating presentation by the Colt company to Professor J.D. Butler. The recipient was the author of the technical information on Colt firearms, in *Armsman*, and was identified on page iii of the book, by editor Henry Barnard, as "of the State University of Wisconsin, who had in his own felicitous manner described the Colt revolver, and its manufacture, after a visit to the armory in 1863."

Right: A second cased set from the Metropolitan Fair donation, from the Colt company: the Model 1861 Navy

revolver features Gustave Young style engraving. The serial number is 166594, and the backstrap bears the inscription:

*Metropolitan Fair, N.Y.  
From Col. H. T. C. M. Co.  
Hartford Conn., March 28, 1864*

The brassbound rosewood case was velvet lined.

In the November 1969 *The Gun Report*, Arnold M. Chernoff wrote extensively of the Metropolitan Fair. In order to raise funds for the work of the Sanitary Commission, bazaars or fairs were held in Boston, Chicago and New York. The event came to be known as a "Sanitary Fair", and were proven successful in 1863. For 1864, plans were made to raise even more money than previously. To quote from the Chernoff article, page 36, about the New York Metropolitan Fair in spring of 1864:

.... The Fair's opening was a huge success with tens of thousands of visitors attending that event. ... Besides the hundreds of booths set up by merchants from all over the United States, there was to be seen the Picture Gallery containing the works of many of the great masters, the Indian Department, the Arms and Trophies Museum and other equally enjoyable exhibits. The merchants sold their items and all the proceeds of the venture went to fill the cash drawers of the Sanitary Commission.

At the Hartford Booth... were to be seen many fine items for sale. One of the articles of particular interest was the elegant carved and Polished "Charter Oak" piano valued at \$1500.00 along with specimens of the industry and thrift that had made Hartford so famous. Rifles and revolvers of the Colt[s] Patent Firearm's Manufacturing Company were displayed neatly with a beautiful eased, ivory stocked revolver as the center piece.... Also in the Hartford display were willow furniture, foulard silks and belt ribbons, amid State and City banners and the beautiful old motto of Connecticut, "Qui transtulit sustinet.".... The Metropolitan Fair was a huge success from the moment it opened. ... In the nineteen days the Fair was open, it took in a clear profit of \$1,340,050.37. .... Even today this would be a staggering sum to take in for charity, and in those days it was phenomenal. It far over-shadowed the sums collected by Boston and Chicago with similar fairs....




# FINE COLTS

## THE DR. JOSEPH A. MURPHY *Collection*



By R.L. Wilson



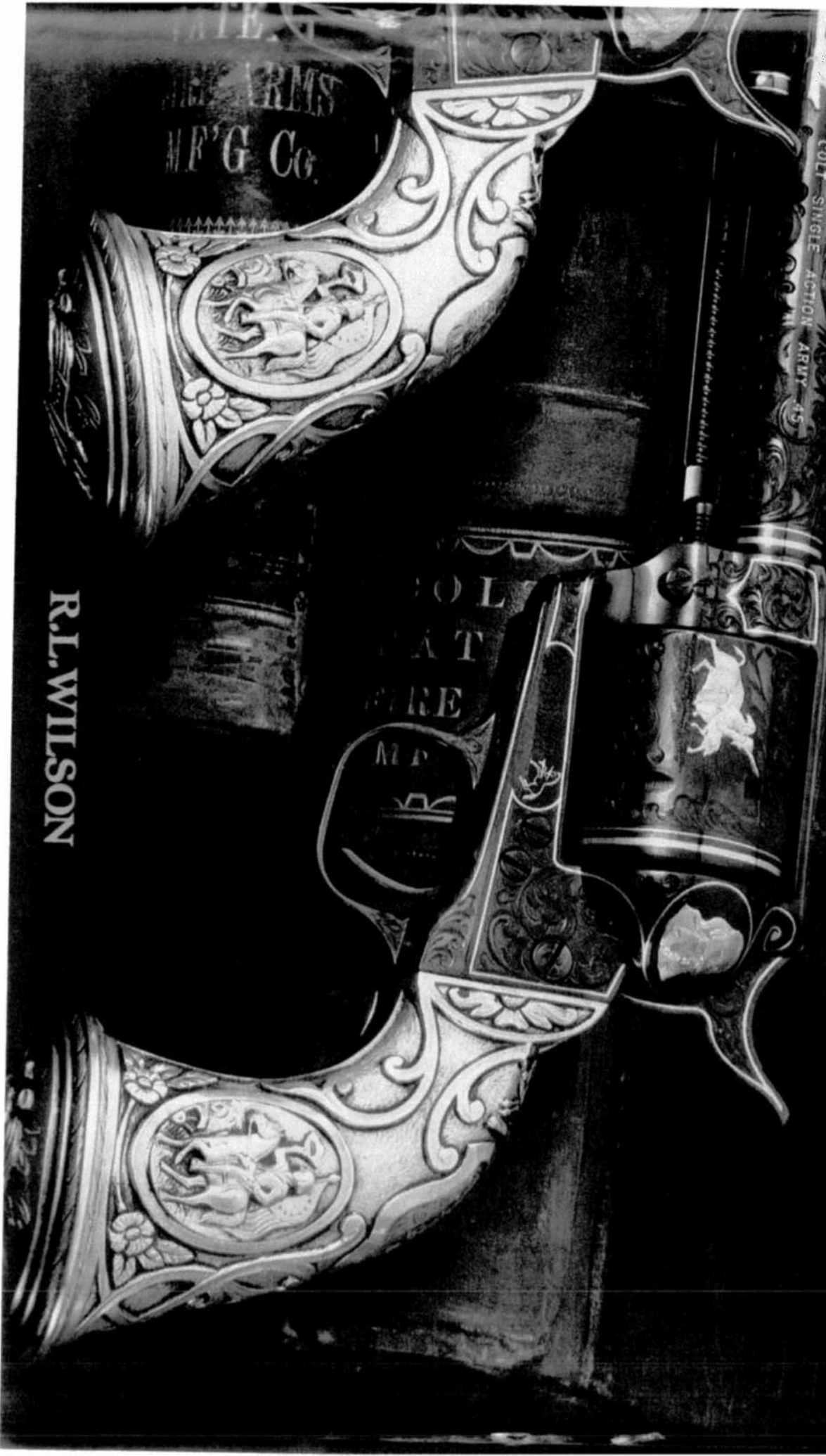
As a charity fund raiser for the Metropolitan Fair, New York, Mrs. Samuel Colt donated a small, but choice, grouping of engraved and inscribed pistols. Each bore the script legend *Metropolitan Fair N.Y./from Colts Pt F.A. Mfg. Co./Hartford Conn. March 28, 1864.*

*Top left*, a Model 1855 Sidehammer of the Model 5, with fluted cylinder and 3½" round barrel; French-style rosewood casing. *Lower left*, an 1861 Navy, the casing of conventional style, velvet-lined mahogany. *At right*, a 6½"-barreled Model 1862 Police, distinguished by its rosewood case (American-style interior) and the quite desirable mother-of-pearl grips. Very few percussion Colts left the factory with pearl handles, but in the 1870s, as the metallic-cartridge arms predominated, pearl joined ivory as the "standard" grip for deluxe Colt handguns. Note the presentation book at *top right*, the Colt *vs. Massachusetts Arms* trial transcript, reprinted and distributed gratis by Samuel Colt, c. 1852. Millard Fillmore, President of the United States, was one of the select donees.



# C O L T

AN AMERICAN LEGEND



R.L. WILSON

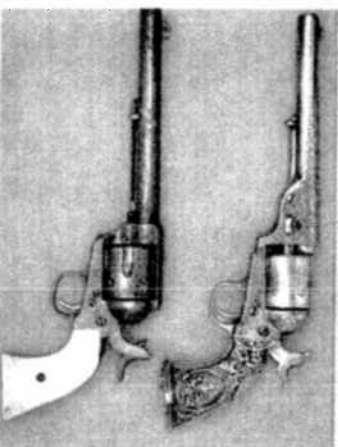
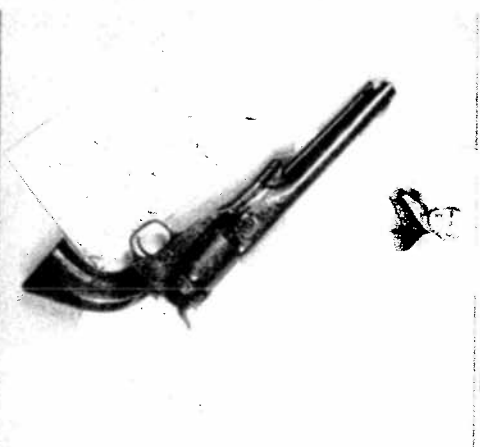
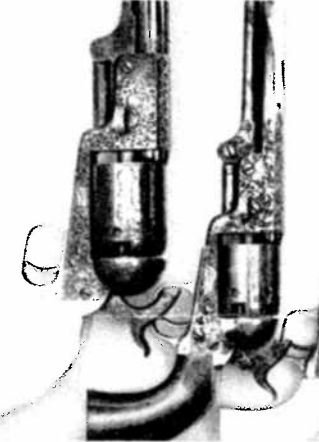
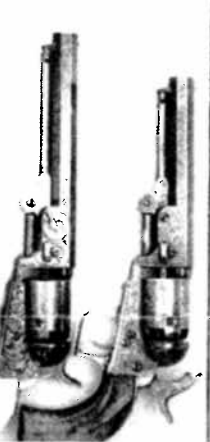
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Top left, a Model 1855 Sidehammer of the Model 1855 fluted cylinder and 3½" round barrel, French-style rosewood casing. Lower left, an 1861 Navy, the casing of conventional style, velvet-lined mahogany. At right, a 6½"-barreled Model 1862 Police, distinguished by its rosewood case (American style interior) and the quite desirable mother-of-pearl grips. Very few percussion Colts left the factory with pearl handles but in the 1870s, as the metallic-cartridge arms predominated, pearl joined ivory as the "standard" grip for deluxe Colt hand guns. Note the presentation book at top right, the *Colt* is Massachusetts Arms trial transcript, reprinted and distributed gratis by Samuel Colt, c. 1852. Millard Fillmore, President of the United States, was one of the select donees.



# The Colt Heritage

by P. J. Wilson  
The Official History  
of Colt Firearms from  
1836 to the Present  
With Nearly 250 Original Illustrations in Full Color



60

" "

"

#17251

61

" "

"

#18745

62

" "

"

#16678 & 16684

64

"

1862 #7140 & 40731

65

" "

#13954 & 25744

66

" "

#15859 & 15860

69

"

1860 Army #2259 & 2260

70

" "

"

#169407 & 178654

71

" "

"

#158197 & 193339

72

"

1849 #75258 & 81304

Page 2  
Colt Model 1861 Vm

Colt 1851 Navy #163853

" " #90588

" " #166635

" " #28323

" " #5605

" " #63849

" " #44704 & 44705

" " #5600 & 5601

" 1851/1849 Pocket #28182 & 19070

" 1851 Navy #2381 & 2409

" " #163888

" " #41939 & 41947

ESTATE OF WM. M. LOCKE

FIREARMS COLLECTION

Inventory #

1	Colt 1848 Baby Dragoon	#7214
2	" " "	#11421
3	" " "	#8661
4	" " "	#2426
5	" " "	#12876
6	Colt 1855 Root	#12083
8	" " "	#8678
9	" " "	#5767
10	" " "	#9019
11	" " "	#7958



## NAVY BELT PISTOLS

*Round barrels. Sometimes called  
the Model of 1861*



## NAVY BELT PISTOLS

*Round barrels. Sometimes called  
the Model of 1861*

Caliber—.36 (50 conical and 86 round balls to pound)

Barrel—Length:  $7\frac{1}{2}$ ".

Shape: Round.

Marking: ADDRESS COL. SAML COLT NEW-YORK U. S. AMERICA

Cylinder—Number of chambers: Six.

Shape: Cylindrical. No rebates or flutes.

Design: Ship scene, as on earlier Navy model pistol.

### Miscellaneous Features—

1. Round barrel with stream-lined housing for a creeping loading lever are the features which distinguish this model from its illustrious predecessor. Colt called it the "New Model Navy or Belt Pistol". Standard 7 groove rifling was used, left twist.
2. Capping cut-out was reduced a little in size, but except in a few pistols, a channel, crossing the center, permitted easy mounting of percussion caps.
3. A few specimens have been found to possess provisions for attaching a shoulder stock, and several specimens with fluted cylinders exist. So few of these pistols have come to light that we are logical in classing them "experimental".

Comment—The life of Colt's round barreled Navy pistol was short, for its manufacture began close to the end of the percussion era. These were very well balanced pistols, and surely would have met with much favor had their usefulness not been terminated by the metallic cartridge. Both the old model and the new model Navy pistols, regardless of their name, were popular with civilians, especially in the West. More pistols of Navy type have been found in California's Gold Country than all other Colt types put together. The "Navy" grip was so popular that it was carried forward without change to the Colt single action army .45 model which, in its various calibers, has been the most illustrious of all Colt of World War II.

# COLT'S PISTOLS



COLONEL SAMUEL COLT

*A Pictorial Review of Model Variations;  
Facts About Their Manufacture and Use*

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COPYRIGHT, 1947

BY

JAMES E. SERVEN

AND

CARL METZGER



## Navy Belt Pistols

*Round barrels. Sometimes called  
the Model of 1861*

CALIBER — .36 (50 conical and 86 round balls to pound)

### BARREL —

Length: 7½"

Shape: Round

Marking: ADDRESS COL. SAML COLT NEW-YORK U. S. AMERICA

### CYLINDER —

Number of chambers: Six.

Shape: Cylindrical. No rebates or flutes.

Design: Ship scene, as on earlier Navy model pistol.

### MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES —

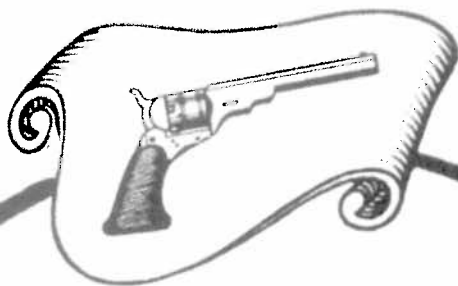
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## **Navy Belt Pistols**

*Round barrels. Sometimes called  
the Model of 1861*

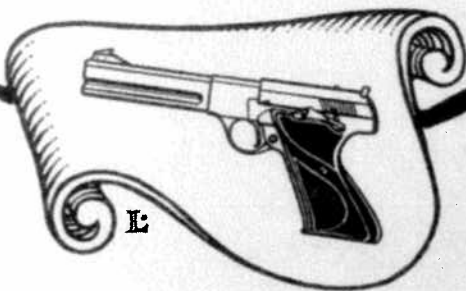


# COLT FIREARMS

— from ~ 1836 —

by

*James E. Serven*



THE FOUNDATION PRESS PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 277

LA HABRA, CALIF. 90631

1972 printing

10520

140014 "Gen. Geo. A. Custer from B. Rankin"

Colt Navy Model of 1861

16678E

16684E

"To George A. Williams Captain 1st U.S. Infantry as a Token of Respect from B.W. Warner - Memphis, Tenn. May, 1864"

17075

"C. Bennett 2 M8th. Iowa Cav. From the Yimes Boys"

17239

"From E. K. Root Pres. Colts Pt. F.A. Mfg. Co. to Lewis Lippold"

17240

117561

"From His Friends, O.M. Cutler and W.C. Wagley"

117571

Colt Police Model of 1862

4394

"To Capt. L. Meeker, 6th Regt., Co. D, Ct. Vol. from J.B."

12640

"Presented to Col. Chas L. Holbrook, By Major Chas. O. Rogers, 1798 B.L.I. 1862" Death or an Honorable Life"

23658P

"Presented by Capt. B.F. Woolsey to Capt. F. Hopkins U.S. Navy"

25624

"H.B. Hayes ESQR. / With Compliments of Col. Hazard"

# Colt's

## *History and Heroes*



**By**  
**John G. Hamilton**

The Dexter Antique Weapon Trade Journal Presents the McMurdo Silver  
World-Famous Collection of Antique Colt Revolvers, Guns and Pistols  
Along With the Most Exhaustive Research Findings Relative  
to the Most Scarce and Rare Colt Types, and the  
Sequence of their Making.

At present, in line with the popular "show me" slogan of this modern American era of practicality, we have forgotten to be inquisitive as to when a man was born, where he was educated, and perhaps all his political and social trends, but we are more than ever interested in big results of and by studied human endeavor. Herein we present the very Colt Arms, that through the past ten years, McMurdo Silver has searched the World to find and gather in one place, as a Collection.

Mr. Silver has never been overly interested in doing just that which the other fellow could and would do under the same given circumstances, but with a genius for the creation and development of Exhibition Interests, far beyond the ordinary peaks of this Antique Firearm Craft, he has gathered together a Collection of Antique Colt Arms, that will forever stand out as one of the greatest monuments to this, the most refined and interesting Craft on Earth.

In the Presentation Section, Mr. Silver, by a prodigal expenditure of time and money, has placed the Major Items of all known Presentation Colts. By his studied question, "What Big Story Will It Tell?" he has eliminated all the mediocre and placid spots in the consumption of an Interest-creating Ideal. Here we may vision Col. Colt fabricating the most beautifully engraved and otherwise ornate Revolvers, for presentation to Public Characters; By a preponderance of evidence, Mr. Silver has shown the real art-driven Col. Colt, planning and designing special Presentation Revolvers, to be presented to the great Mechanics and Financiers whom Col. Colt held as friends and associates; Here we may vision Col. Colt, not alone as the Mechanical and Inventive Genius behind the Colt Revolver, but as the refined and talented Gentleman, who could spend hours planning and creating more beautiful and artistic housings and accessories for the Beautiful Types of Presentation Colt Revolvers; his genius had changed from a mere Arm to a Personal Accessory of refinement and beauty; Here we may at last vision the real Col. Colt, instilling into American Hearts, a great pride in American Arms, and really, without posing as an educator, preparing American Youth, to become the most Arm-conscious Civilian Army in the World. Mr. Silver fully sensed the true visions of Col. Colt, and without fear of contradiction, we may say that the Interest-creating Craft of McMurdo Silver the Collector, has gone far

to faithfully depict the real Arm-creating Craft of Col. Colt the Revolver Maker.

Neither Collectors or Dealers, following this Craft of Antique Firearms, will ever start clipping coupons as a result of their Antique Firearm activities; Something holds us to it, even though we fully realize that we must make great sacrifices of time and money, in order to fully serve the Great Craft of Antique Arms. Mr. Silver is a practical business man, at present making one of the Major Radio receiving sets of America, and while scouring America and Europe for the best in Colt Types, he had long ago informed me that as soon as he had garnered most of the Types obtainable, he would immediately throw his Colts on my market, so that I could pass them on to other great Craftsmen Collectors. In making this resolve, Mr. Silver informed me that this Craft gives forth it's greatest Hobby Pleasures, while the Collector is making his acquisition of Arms, and it has ever been Mr. Silver's intention to consider this Great Craft in the light of a World Fellowship of Refined Gentlemen, and through this attitude he has been glad to pass on the Accessories of this great pleasure-creating Craft.

Within this Journal, I have given American Collectors a line on the elusive REAL PATERSON WALKER COLT, and have shown two of them as proof of the fact that they can be bought. In this McMurdo Silver Collection there is almost a full sequence of types, and it is my intention to garner, for the American Collector who the nearest completes his Colt Collection, from this list, a Specimen of the REAL PATERSON WALKER COLT (one of the two pictured on the cover of this Journal.)

In making prices for the items of this Famous Colt Collection, I have not considered the Top Market, but have, after much thought, valued the items at less than Top Market, with a view to making this a quick sale. Your response will naturally vindicate my temperate valuations, and I feel that we shall all enjoy a pleasurable sale.

EXTRA! THE FULL WALKER COLT STORY: Handling thousands of Antique Firearms, both American and Foreign, I have learned to respect "SMOKE," for where there is too much rumor "SMOKE", there is bound to be some FIRE. It has been contended, and the rumor would not down, that in looking for a Model for the Whitneyville Old Army Model Colt Revolver of 1847, Col. Colt sought one of the three hundred PATERSON WALKER RE-

sent to you: It is issued because I do not believe that trade secrecy relative to types and models of these Antique Firearms, forms the best foundation for the wonderful Craft we all believe in; It is sent to you because I believe you can and will buy Antique Firearms faster, if you are given an EXACT LINE on the various TYPES and MODELS. Please do not lose this copy, for I shall never issue very many extra copies, and the cost is so great, that the sale of extra copies cannot ever hope to cover my expenses. May you enjoy these Colts: In the words of the Radio Announcers, "HERE THEY ARE."

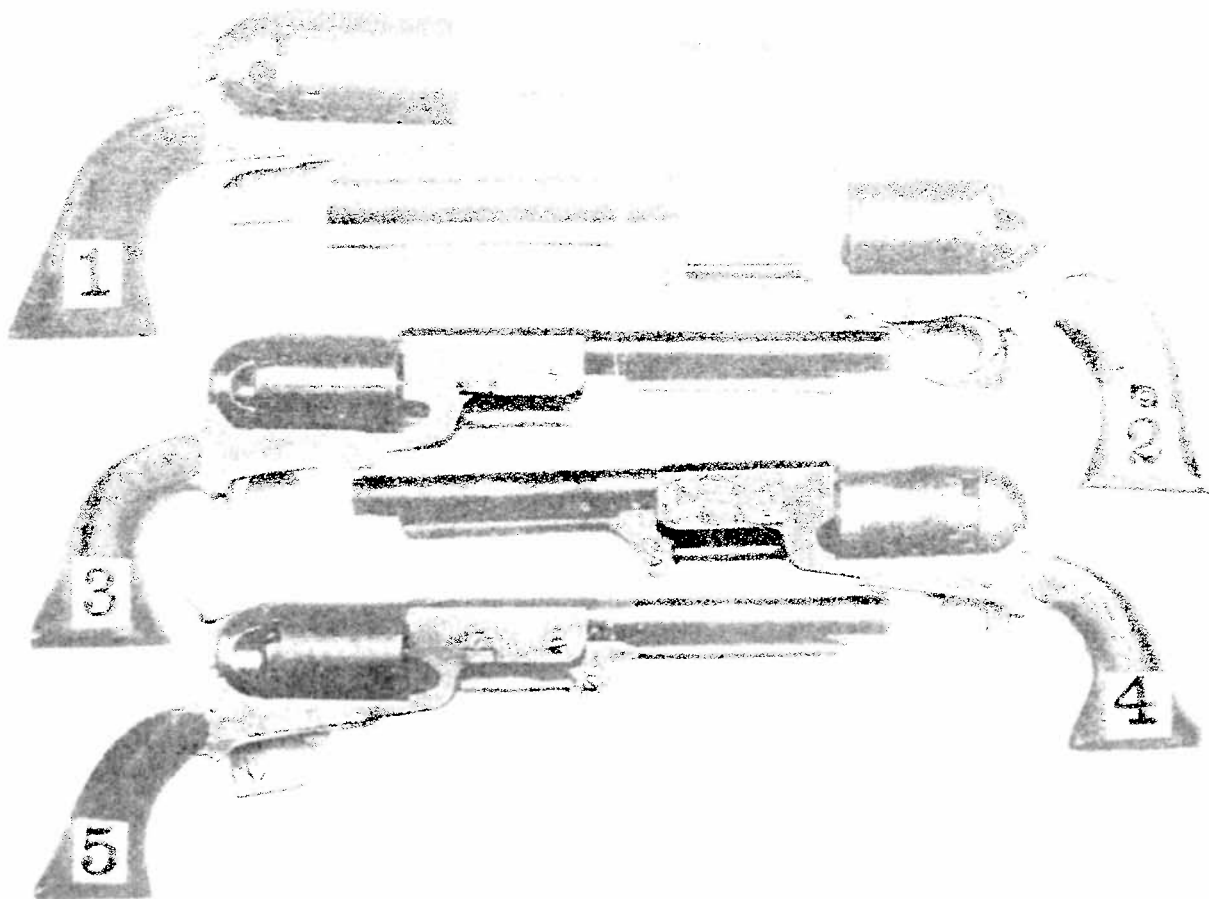
### AMERICA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL PRESENTATION COLTS—CASED AND LOOSE.

1—Model 1835 Paterson .40 calibre, five-shot Colt Presentation Revolver with 7½ inch barrel. Barrel, cylinder, frame, butt-strap and ivory grips are inlaid with silver. Extra fine condition. We hear of very few .40 calibre presentation Paterson Colts, for they were mostly made in .31 calibre. A wonderful Paterson. . . . \$775.00

174—Pair of Model 1861 Presentation Navy Colt Revolvers in plush lined rosewood or mahogany case with engraving on name plate of cover, "Presented to George A. Williams, Captain 1st U. S. Infantry, as a token of respect from B. W. Warner, Memphis, Tenn., May, 1864." Revolvers are beautifully engraved and silver-plated, while the hammers and cylinders are gold-plated. The beautiful white ivory grips have the best raised carving of the American Eagle and Shield, that we have ever viewed. Both grips are carved on the left side. Outfit is complete with bullet-mold, nipple-wrench and beautiful silver powder flask, with American Eagle, Crossed Pistols and other Martial Implements embossed on it in high relief. This is probably the most beautiful early Colt Outfit ever got up, and whoever finally owns this, never need fear that a better one will turn up. The Outfit is like new and Extra Fine. . . . \$500.00

2—Model 1848 Presentation Colt Dragoon Revolver in almost new condition, with original bluing intact. Profusely engraved. In rare type case with flask, mold, nipple-wrench, cartridges, etc. This is an extremely fine Outfit. . . . \$185.00

3—Pair of Model 1862 cased Presentation Colts. . . .



Produced by the U.S. Army Research Office  
Durham, NC

# The William M. Locke Collection

Published by: The Antique Armory Inc.

D/B/A Berryman's Sports Center  
2525 Main St.  
East Point, Georgia 30344

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# Introduction

WILLIAM M. LOCKE

May 22, 1894-November 30, 1972

From his earliest boyhood, Bill Locke was a collector. His first memories of collecting were bringing home bottles washed up in the yard of the family home at Stanton, Nebraska after a flood. By the time he was eight, he had settled on the collecting of stamps as a hobby. Among his first purchases was the complete set of the 1902 issues then being released by the Post Office. The stamps were the beginning of a collection which was to serve him well in later years as the financial backing of his daughters education.

Bill spent his early childhood living with his grandparents on a farm in southwestern Iowa. His maternal grandfather, Henry Glendenning, had been an engineer during the Civil War and had a small farm in Iowa but spent most of his time hunting and working on his guns. He taught Bill to shoot with a Flobert 32 caliber rimfire rifle (see page 489) and took Bill on his hunting trips and allowed him to play around in his gun shop. From this early training Bill inherited his love for guns and the desire to have a collection of his own.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the Locke family (minus Bill, who continued to live with his Grandparents) moved to Nebraska and later homesteaded in North Dakota. When they moved to North Dakota, Bill went with them. North Dakota at this time was wide open and fairly wild country with lots of hunting available to a small boy. His first rifle was a 22 caliber Savage single shot rifle. With this he spent most of the time hunting for small game and especially prairie dogs, which were considered pests and for which the county paid a bounty. Bill received two cents for each tail delivered to the County Treasurer. After the family secured title to the land in North Dakota (the Homestead law required that the homesteader live on the land for five years before he could secure title to it) they returned to full time residence in Stanton, Nebraska.

From 1912 to 1915 Bill attended the University of Nebraska, graduating in 1915. It was also in 1915 that Bill married Elsa Haarmann. During the years 1915 and 1916 the Lockes remained at the family home in Stanton.

Shortly thereafter, they moved to Omaha where their only child, Jane (Mrs. Wm. O. Fleming) was born, and where Bill became an automobile dealer. A 1922 ad for the Stutz cars is one of the few pieces of advertising still extant from this period of Locke's life. It was while they were living in Omaha that Bill became acquainted with Charles R. Nordin, a retired cowboy and confidant of many of the early lawmen of the old west. Among these were Wyatt Earp, "Diamond Dick" Tanner, Bob North, "Buffalo Bill" Cody and Doc Carver. Nordin had acquired many guns and relics belonging to these early western folk heroes. He also collected early American arms of all types. It was due to the influence of Nordin that Locke began assembling a collection of early flintlock and percussion handguns. After a few years as a collector, Bill found out about a collection of over 300 guns in the southern part of Nebraska that had been confiscated by the State Banking Department. With the help of Mr. Nordin, he was able to pick up this collection, select a few pieces for his own collection, and sell the rest. The catalog that he put out on this collection was the first catalog ever put out by Locke. The response to the catalog was fantastic. Good quality percussion Colts were selling from \$5.00 to \$7.50 and he had more orders than he could supply. Through putting advertisements in farm journals and local papers he was able to learn of other antique firearms and collections which were available in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. This led to other catalogs and the securing of more pieces for his collection. Bill soon learned that there were very few quality guns available in the area where he was living. From his days as a stamp collector he had learned the value of both quality and condition in a collection. Since most of the guns that had gone west were taken west to be used, they were normally in working grades and poor condition. A little study showed that the finer grade guns and less used guns were to be found in the east and from that time forward Locke spent his vacations on the eastern seaboard, particularly in New England. Vacations were spent visiting all of the prominent collectors and dealers in the east. Among the collectors visited in this early traveling were the pioneer collectors Edwin Pugsley, Otho Bierly, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Harvey Edgerly, David Ingalls, Fred Mills, Lionell Shaw, Charles Mathiewson, Joe Kindig, Bruce Wingate, Claude Fuller, Richard Steuart, Francis Brueil, E. Berkley Berne, S. Harold Croft, Seldon Ingraham and others. In 1925 Locke left the automobile business and entered the insurance business, joining the Travelers Insurance Company as field assistant in the life, accident and group department at Omaha. He became assistant manager with Travelers until his retirement in 1959.

In an article written for the Texas Gun Collectors annual Bill said:

"Meeting and visiting with the old time collectors was an experience in itself. We thought nothing of visiting to the wee small hours of the night. Fortunately, most of the old timers loved to visit if one was willing to listen and the knowledge disseminated was an education money could not buy. Throughout all the years, we kept a log of our travels and a record of the collections examined. The follow up has been important. For instance, the collection we recently purchased was "spotted" over 30 years ago and close contact has maintained during all these years. We have been called "The Lucky Lockes" and I will agree that there has been some luck connected with these efforts. But as someone once said "The harder you work the luckier you are."

Gun collecting has been a fascinating and interesting hobby and it has given us many years of pleasure and has resulted in many fine and lasting friendships.

In retrospect, Mrs. Locke and I have concluded that the many fine people we have met and the many friendships we have made in our years of collecting are as important as the guns themselves."

With his retirement Bill was able to travel more extensively to find pieces for his collection. In 1959 Bill and Elsa went to Hawaii and later several times to England and the Continent. In 1969 they made a trip to Russia to examine the guns presented to the Czar of Russia by Col. Colt in 1854. In 1960 Locke spent four months visiting museums in Europe and while in England became a member of the Arm & Armour Society of England.

Locke is of direct descent of the William Locke who landed at Charleston, Massachusetts in 1634. He is also a direct descendent of Ebenezer Locke, one of the eight men of Captain John Parker's company who engaged the British on Lexington Common in 1775. The gun Ebenezer Locke used in this encounter now hangs in the Putnam Museum on Lexington Common.

For many years Locke was the mainstay of the Ohio Gun Collectors Association displays at the NRA Annual Meetings. Practically every year he contributed guns to the display, and many years contributed the entire display. Many of his guns also won the coveted NRA silver medals for best gun of show.

Locke was also a prominent exhibitor in the Loan Exhibition of Colt Presentation Guns held at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford in 1961 and 1962. This was a gathering of all the known presentation Colts known to exist. Guns were lent to the exhibition by the Queen of England, the King of Norway, and the King of Denmark, among others. Fully 25% of the guns in the display of 225 guns were owned by William Locke. Locke characterized his collection as a "Specialized General Collection." The collection was particularly strong on Colts, U.S. single shot martial pistols, Remingtons, Deringers, Allen & Wheelocks, Massachusetts Arms revolvers and Savages. The finest group of Elgin Cutlass pistols ever assembled was also put together by Locke.

Another of his prime interests was the collection of pistols by Simeon North. He collected not only the more "common" flintlock martial pistol, but also the extremely rare flintlock duelling pistols. Just before his death, he established an auction record for American flintlock pistols by paying \$20,000.00 for the only known double barrel flintlock pistol by Simeon North. The interest in North led him to the purchase of the Savage family collection (Savage and North were brothers-in-law) which included many experimental as well as production guns.



Locke in the center of the Chattanooga band



Locke, 1915 at the University of Nebraska  
The ad for the Locke Motor Company in  
Omaha was taken from the March 12,  
1922 issue of the Omaha World Herald



Bill with a group of golfers taken in New Jersey in 1935  
The man on the right is Carl Metzger



Charles Nordin, in front of Locke's house in Omaha,  
Nebraska in 1935. Bill credited Nordin with starting him  
in the gun collecting



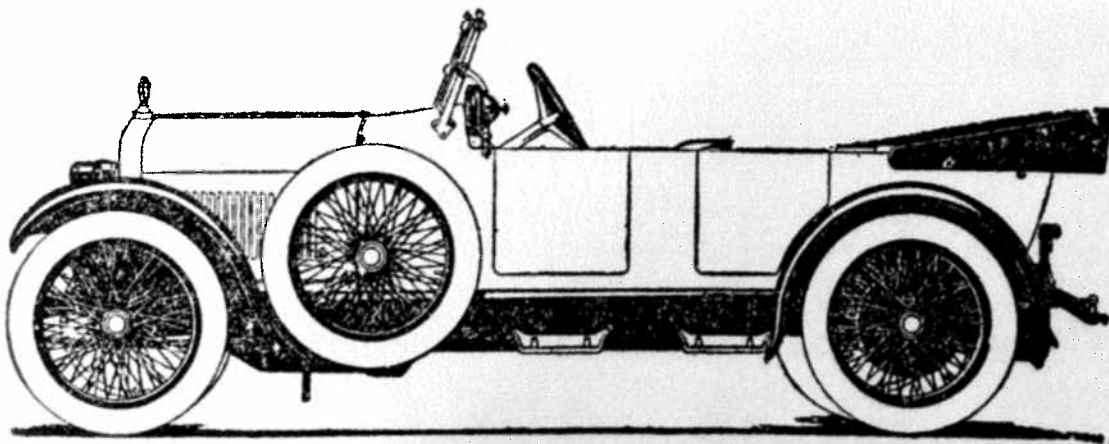
Orho Bierly, 1936



Bill at Simeon North's grave in Middletown, Connecticut  
in 1939



Taken in 1912 when he was a freshmen.

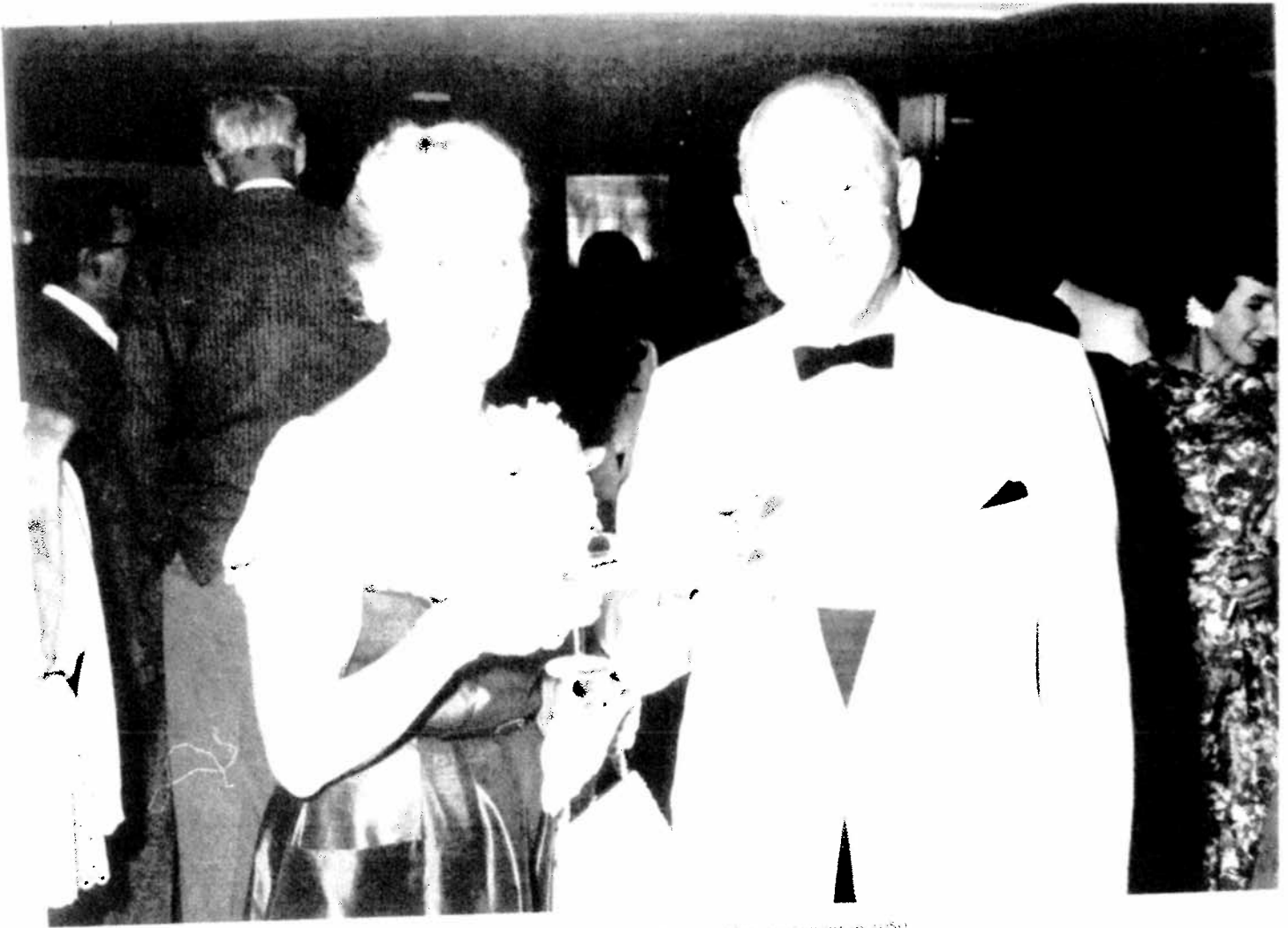


**F**REEDOM from repair bills and high re-sale value are the chief reasons why the H. C. S.—designed by Harry C. Stutz—is one of the most economical cars. It is, also, comfortable to a degree which has never before been possible to obtain in a car of this weight. And the efficient, substantial units of its chassis insure a degree of performance, over a period of years, you would naturally expect from such a car. It is the quality car in the medium sized, medium price class.

H. C. S. MOTOR CAR COMPANY  
INDIANAPOLIS, U. S. A.  
Harry C. Stutz, President

W. M. LOCKE MOTOR CO.  
Phone Doug. 1712 2021 Farnam

11



Bill and Lisa on their trip to Hawaii after his retirement in 1950



Bill in front of the family home in St. Louis, Nebraska with his father, mother, and sisters

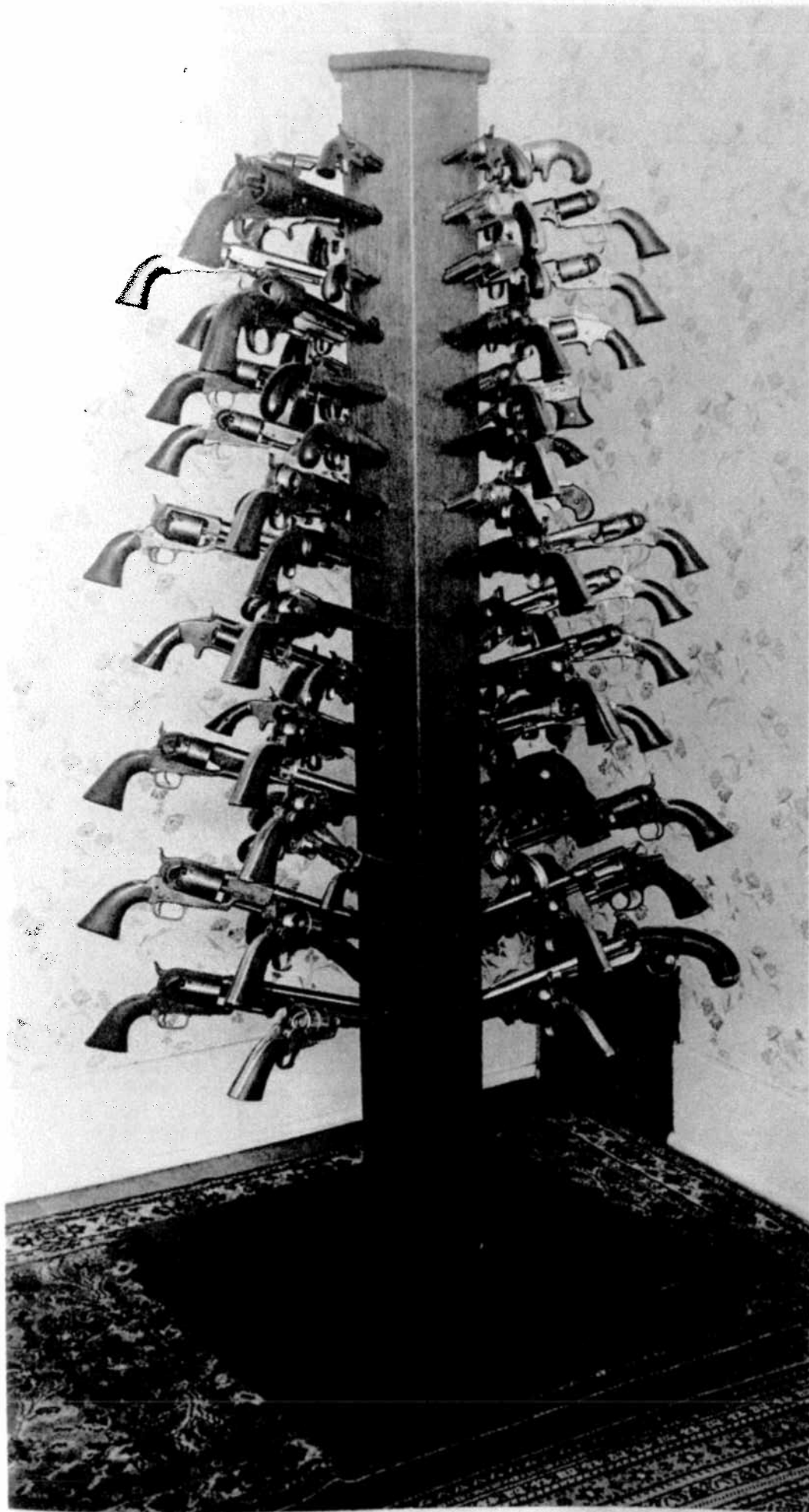
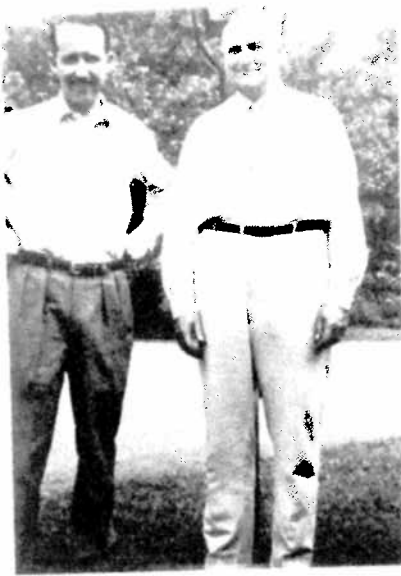


Photo identified on the back as "THE W. M. LOCKE COLLECTION, OMAHA, NEBRASKA, 1936."



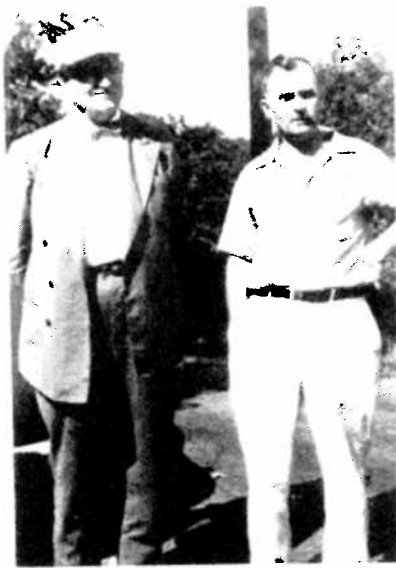
John DuMont, 1951



J. C. Harvey, 1941



Colonel R. C. Kuhn, 1950



Park Emery, 1949



Billy Johnson, 1954



S. Lewis Hutcheson, 1953



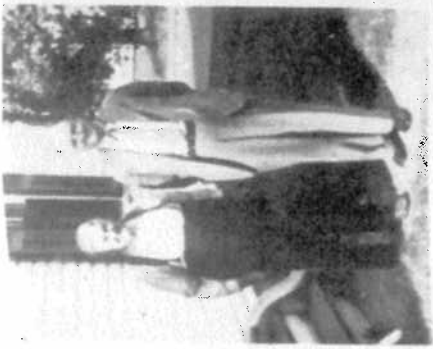
Harry Knode, Claude Fuller and Bud Roddy, 1954



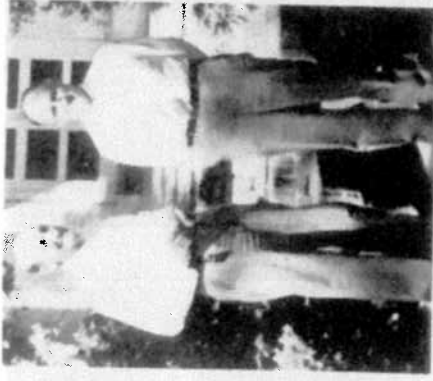
Bob Berryman, 1958



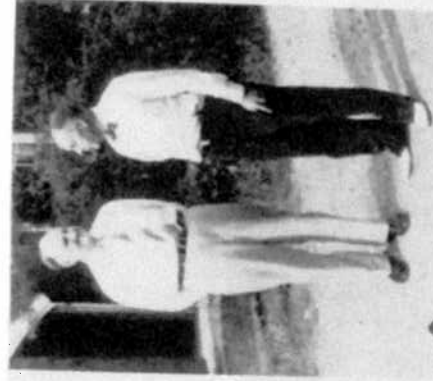
Herb Green, Mrs. Locke, Buff Lawrence, 1958



Seldon Ingraham, August 1938



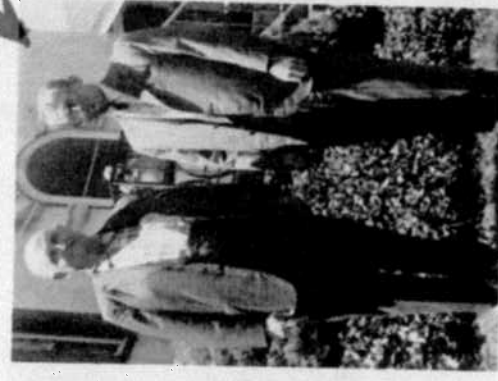
Francis Breidl of Rhoadsdale, Maryland, 1938



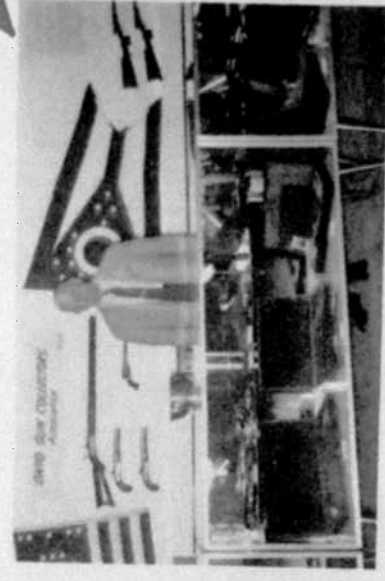
W. G. C. Kimball, 1938



Edwin Pagslev, 1953



Larry Wilson, 1966



Locke at his display at St. Louis NRA meeting in 1961. This display was entirely Locke's



Sam Smith, 1941

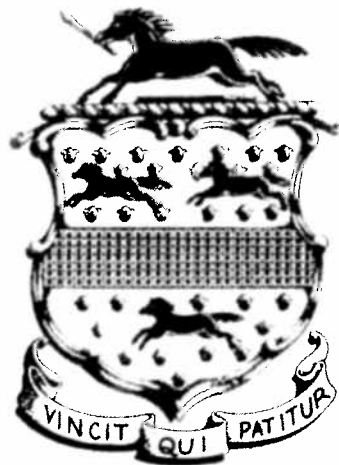


Elsa Locke, 1959

*Longerton*  
 Wearing Henry Miller  
 green summer weight  
 suit! Photo by Mrs. Locke;  
 is their first lawn  
 18 Dec. 2009  
 San Francisco.

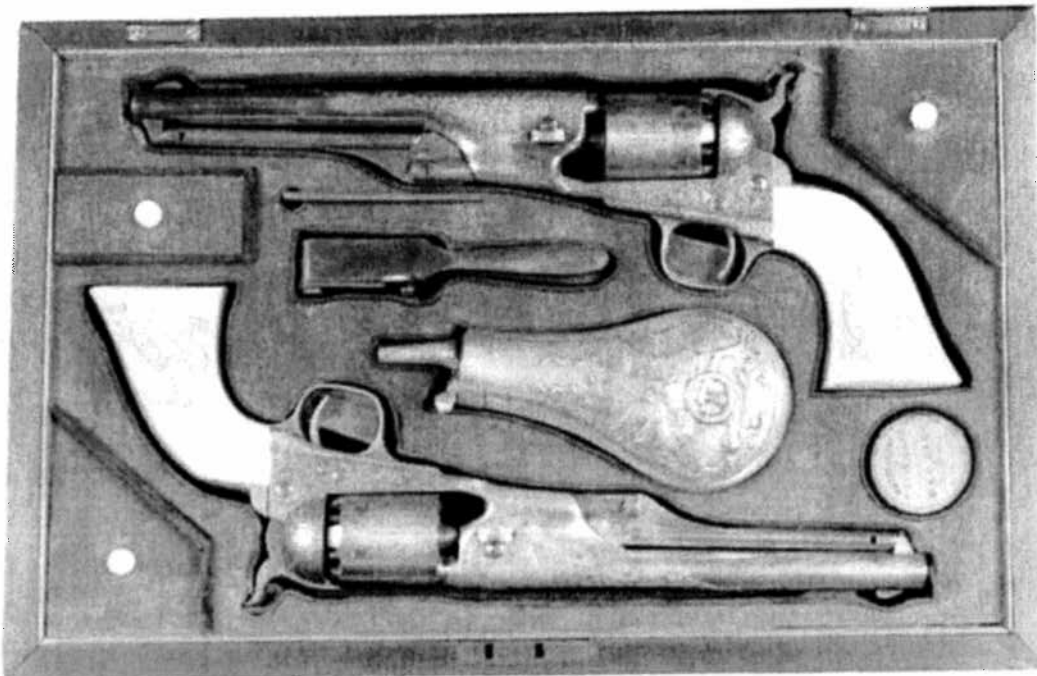
# COLTS

*from the*  
**William M. Locke**  
*Collection*

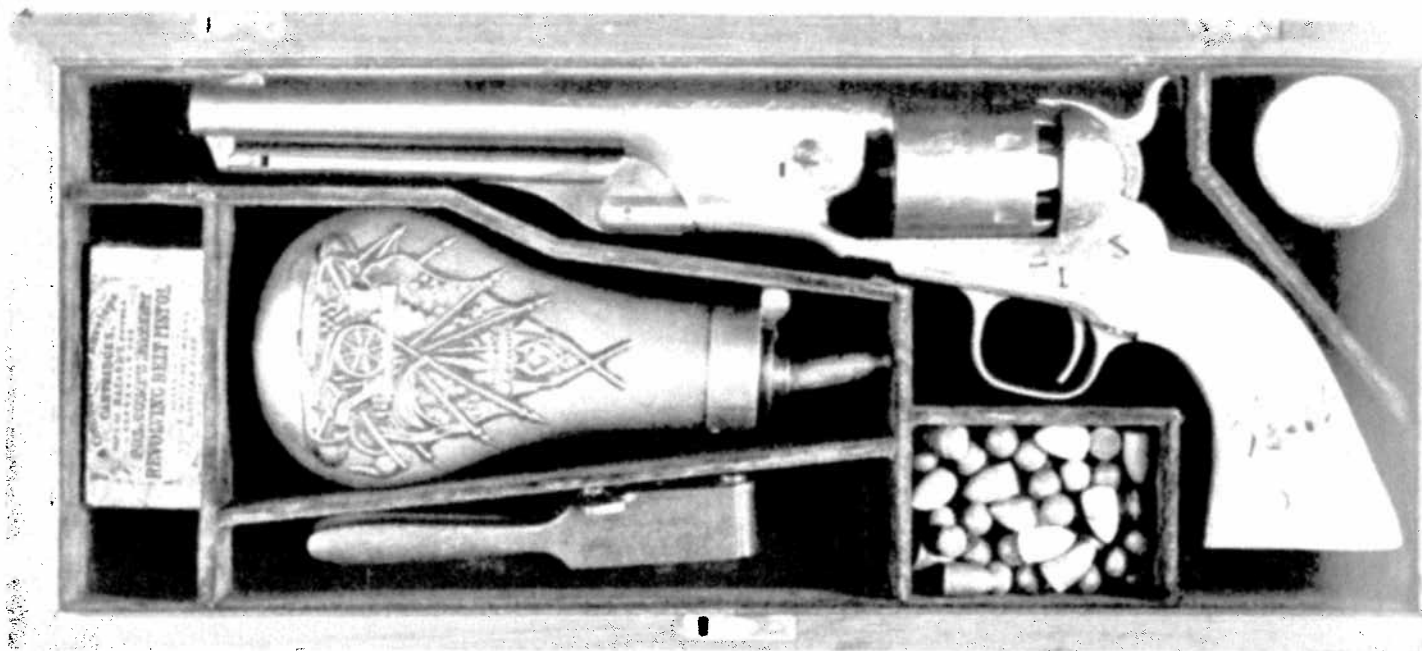




Colt Model 1861 Navy six-shot 36 caliber percussion revolver. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch round barrel marked "- ADDRESS COL. SAM'L COLT NEW-YORK U.S. AMERICA -". "COLT'S PATENT" stamped on left side of frame. Naval engagement cylinder scene. Serial number 14535E. Ivory grips with eagle feeding two baby eagles in nest raised carved on left side. Inscribed on backstrap "LT. JACKSON V. PARKER" "A TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE" "FROM THE MEMBERS OF CO. B 7th VERMONT VOLS". Cased in partition-type case with "COLT'S PATENT" flask and "COLT'S PATENT" iron bullet mold.



Colt Model 1861 Navy percussion revolver. Six-shot 36 caliber. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch round barrel. Marked same as above. Serial numbers 16678 and 16684E. Ivory grips, left grips carved with raised eagle and shield. Cased in a french recessed casing with silver-plated slant charger flask and iron bullet molds. The guns are silver-plated except for the cylinders which are gold washed. Rosewood cased with an inscription plate on the lid which reads "TO GEO. A. WILLIAMS CAPTAIN 1st U.S. INFANTRY AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT FROM B. W. WARNER MEMPHIS, TENN. MAY 1864". Originally in the McMurdo Silver collection in the 1920s. From there to F. Theodore Dexter and Leonard A. Busby from whom it was obtained by Locke.



Colt Model 1861 Navy six shot 36 caliber percussion revolver 7 1/2 inch round barrel marked "- ADDRESS COL. SAM'L COLT NEW-YORK U.S. AMERICA -" "COLT'S PAT" stamped on left side of frame. Naval engagement cylinder scene. Serial number 14535E. Ivory grips with eagle feeding two baby eagles in nest raised carved on left side. Inscript backstrap "LT. JACKSON V. PARKER "A TRIBUTE TO JUSTICE" FROM THE MEMBERS OF CO. B 7th VERMONT VOIS". Cased in partition type case with "COLT'S PATENT" flask and "COLT'S PATENT" iron bullet mold.

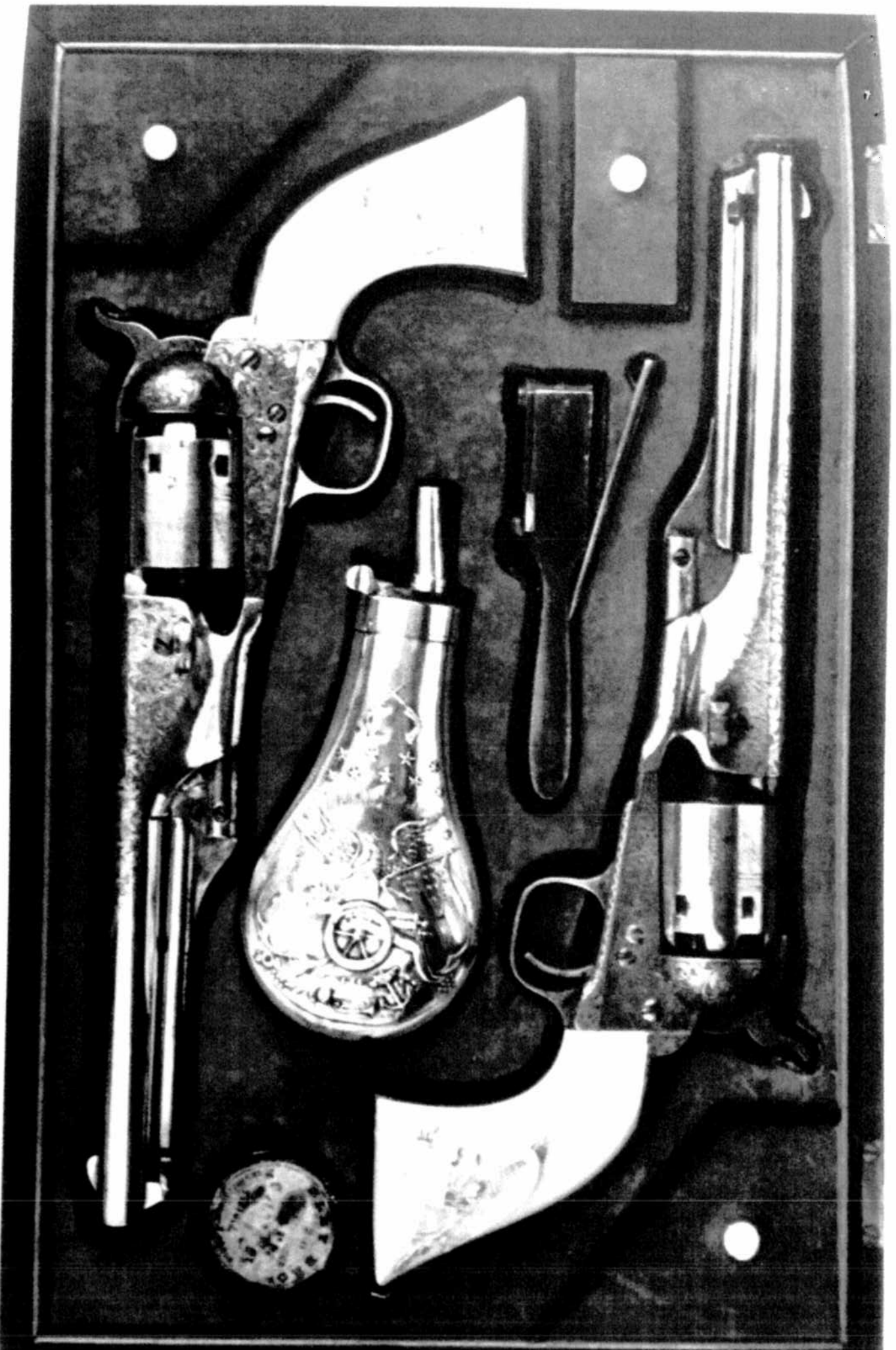


Colt Model 1861 Navy percussion revolver. Six shot 36 caliber. 7 1/2 inch round barrel. Marked same as above. Serial numbers 16678 and 16684E. Ivory grips, left grips carved with raised eagle and shield. Cased in a french recessed casing with silver plated slant charger flask and iron bullet molds. The guns are silver plated except for the cylinders which are gold washed. Rosewood cased with an inscription plate on the lids which reads "TO GEO. A. WILLIAMS CAPTAIN 1st U.S. INFANTRY AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT FROM B. W. WARNER MEMPHIS, TENN. MAY 1864". Originally in the McMurdo Silver collection in the 1920's. From there to E. Theodore Dexter and Leonard A. Busby from whom it was obtained by Locke.

# The William M. Locke Collection


Published by: The Antique Armory Inc.

D/B/A Berryman's Sports Center  
2525 Main St.  
East Point, Georgia 30344



(Sec H)

Colt Model 1851 Navy revolvers with raised carved horse's heads on the ivory grips. Serial numbers 96456 and 96458.

 Colt Model 1861 Navy percussion revolver. Six shot 36 caliber. 7 1/2 inch round barrel. Marked same as above. Serial numbers 16678 and 16684E. Ivory grips, left grips carved with raised eagle and shield. Cased in a french recessed casing with silver plated slant charger flask and iron bullet molds. The guns are silver plated except for the cylinders which are gold washed. Rosewood cased with an inscription plate on the lids which reads "TO GEO. A. WILLIAMS CAPTAIN 1st U.S. INFANTRY AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT FROM B. W. WARNER MEMPHIS, TENN. MAY 1864". Originally in the McMurdo Silver collection in the 1920's. From there to F. Theodore Dexter and Leonard A. Busby from whom Locke obtained it.

I  
Colt Model 1862 Police five shot 36 caliber percussion revolver. Exclusively involved with gold eagle and horse heads.

# The William M. Locke Collection

Published by: The Antique Armory Inc.

D/B/A Berryman's Sports Center  
2525 Main St.  
East Point, Georgia 30344

Continued in numerous newspaper reports, as well as in recollections of factory employees Martin S. Huber

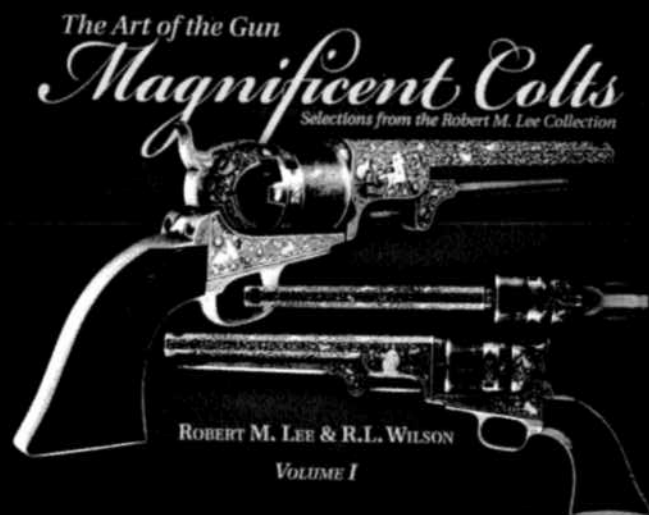
Continued in numerous newspaper reports, as well as in recollections of factory employees Martin S. Huber



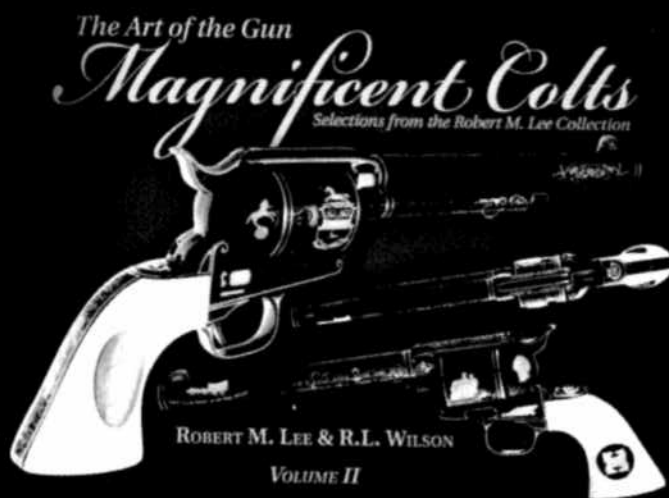
Earliest photograph known to the authors of a group of American arms collectors; in this case gathered together at the Mark Fields Collection auction, held in Boston, Massachusetts, December 6-7, 1911. Courtesy Conor Fitzgerald and Richard Austin.

Yellowstone Press Presents  
*The Art of the Gun*  
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Bob Lee's collection covers firearms from the Renaissance to modern times, and *Magnificent Colts* is the first in the unprecedented *The Art of the Gun* series of five titles. *Sports & Classics* magazine calls this unique and innovative set

"a landmark in the literature of firearms history and collecting... this extraordinary new book series will showcase some of the rarest and most beautiful...guns ever made."

*Magnificent Colts* is in two volumes, totaling approximately 550 pages, with over 1,250 illustrations, and more than 100,000 words of text and captions, detailed appendices, bibliography and index. Utilizing the most modern of contemporary media search engines, information has been discovered which in previous times was virtually impossible to gather. The considerable fresh data and original illustrations present the Colt story as never before.

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Presented to

Gen. A. Williams,

Captain 1<sup>st</sup> W. S. Infantry  
as a token of respect from

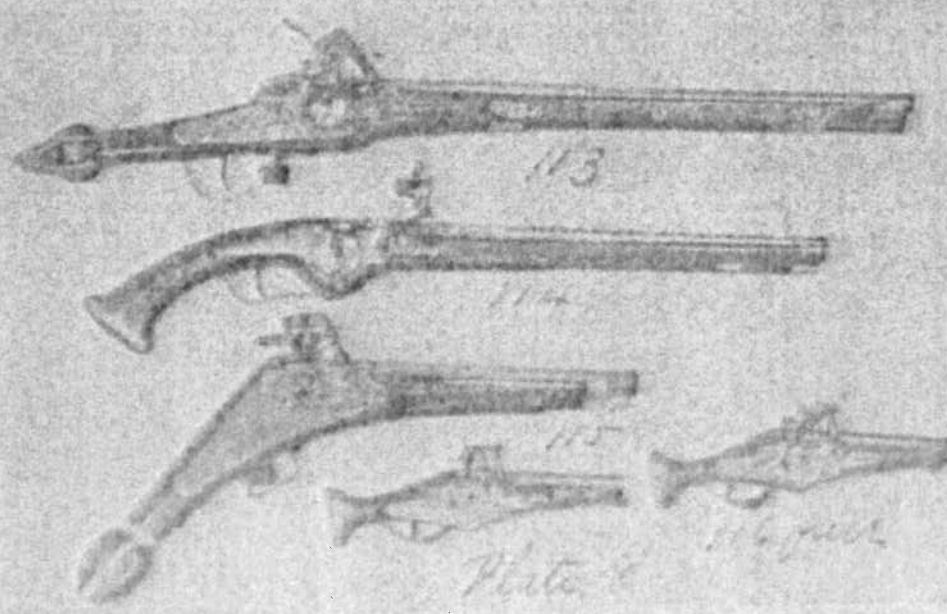
D. B. Warner

Memphis Tenn. May. 1864

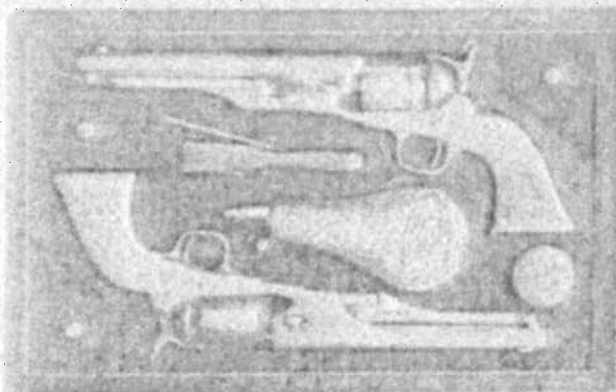
49941-7

View from May 5      No. 325      Sale May 9, 1921

PART II (and final Part)  
 THE VALUABLE AND UNUSUAL  
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**RARE FIREARMS AND  
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 Containing the largest number of Sets with  
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TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION  
 FRIDAY MORNING AND AFTERNOON  
 May 9, 1921      At 10:30 and 2:00 o'clock  
 First Session, Friday Morning, May 6-201



109 134 7/10/17

109. PAIR COLT PRESENTATION SIX-SHOT PERCUSSION ARMY REVOLVERS. L. 13½ ins.; Cal. .36.

Entire metal parts silver-plated; gold cylinders and all parts beautifully engraved. Ivory grips with American Eagle and shield carved in relief. Silver-plated powder flask with eagle, flags, cannon, stars and other trophies in relief. In case with tools. Plate on one case inscribed *Presented to George A. Williams, Capt. 1st U. S. Infantry as a token of respect from R. W. Warner, Memphis, Tenn. May 1861.*

A very handsome and complete outfit. Very rare in this. (Illustrated Plate 71)

110. COLT FACTORY ALTERATION OF A MODEL 1851 NAVY REVOLVER. L. 13 ins.

Changed from percussion to .38 center-fire cartridge.

111. COLT MODEL 1861 ARMY SIX-SHOT REVOLVER. L. 13 ins.; Cal. .38.

Altered at the factory from percussion to center-fire cartridge. Nickel-plated and engraved.

A fine piece and finished as new.

112. COLT SIX-SHOT PERCUSSION ARMY REVOLVER. L. 14

49941-7  
Along w/ Auction  
of 1868 1874

## George Augustus Williams

Residence was not listed;  
Enlisted on 5/14/1861 as a Captain.

On 5/14/1861 he was commissioned into US Army 1st Infantry  
(date and method of discharge not given).  
(Prior service in US Army since 07/01/1852; subsequent  
service to 12/15/1870)

### Promotions:

- \* Major 10/4/1862 by Brevet (Corinth, MS)
- \* Lt Colonel 7/4/1863 by Brevet (Vicksburg, MS)

### Other Information:

born in New York  
died 4/2/1889 in New York

(Graduate USMA 07/01/1852. Died at age 58 years)

Sources used by Historical Data Systems, Inc.:

- Index to Compiled Military Service Records
- Heitman: Register of United States Army 1789-1903
- USMA: Register of Graduates & Former Cadets
- (c) Historical Data Systems, Inc. @ [www.civilwardata.com](http://www.civilwardata.com)

Wilson's Creek, MO after battle report:

Report of Capt. Joseph B. Plummer, First U. S. Infantry.

HDQRS. BATTALION FIRST INFANTRY,  
August 16, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of  
my command on the 10th of this month:

Immediately before setting out, Capt. Gilbert's company (B) was  
thrown forward to feel for the enemy, whose camp was known to be in  
the valley of Wilson's Creek. As soon as his position was ascertained,  
which was shortly after sunrise, the general directed me to follow  
Capt. Gilbert with the balance of the battalion, and, uniting with him,  
to carry forward the left flank of the attack. I overtook Capt. Gilbert  
with his skirmishers in a deep jungle, where he had been checked by an  
impassable lagoon. Much time was consumed in effecting the passage  
of this obstacle. The battalion, however, finally emerged in good order,  
and all present, into the corn field to the left of the attack, which by  
this  
time was in full progress.

The battalion was pushed forward rapidly, and soon the enemy opened on us from the left, but his fire was light and easily quelled. Our advance was in the direction of the enemy's battery, on the hill opposite Lieut. Du Bois' battery, with the intention of storming it, should the opportunity offer. This was observed by the enemy, and a large force was accumulated in our front and on our left flank, and our forward progress was checked. Nevertheless, the men stood steadily and squarely up to their work, until I deemed our position no longer tenable, and I then drew off my command, steadily and without confusion, in the direction of Totten's battery, the key of our position. In this field I had many men killed and wounded. Lieut. Wood and myself are among the latter. We were materially aided in extricating ourselves by the timely aid of Du Bois' battery, which beat back the advance of the enemy with much slaughter. On arriving at the foot of the hill, and in rear of Totten's battery, I formed the battalion and relinquished the command to Capt. Huston, being no longer able to keep by saddle. Capt. Gilbert, with a part of his company, was not present, but I have subsequently learned that he proceeded directly to the battery, and took part in the defense of the position until nearly the close of the action, at which time he was wounded and compelled to leave the field.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. B. PLUMMER,  
Capt., First Infantry, Cmdg. Battalion.

Second Lieut. JAMES POWELL,  
A. A. A. G. First Brigade, Army of the West.

Source: Official Records  
CHAP. X.] BATTLE OF WILSON'S CREEK, MO. PAGE 72-3  
[Series I. Vol. 3. Serial No. 3.]

Oct '61	Mar '62	Provost Guard			Army of Potomac	From US Army
Nov '61	Aug '62				Department of Kansas	Det. From Reg. Est.
Mar '62	Sep '62	Unattached			Army of the Mississippi	Cos. A,B,C,D,H,I
Jul '62	Nov '62	Unattached		District of Corinth	District and Army of West Tennessee	
Dec '62	Jan '63	Unattached	District of Corinth	17	Department of the Tennessee	

Jan '63	Mar '63	Unattached	District of Corinth		Department of the Tennessee	
Mar '63	Jul '63	1	14	13	Department of the Tennessee	
Jul '63	Aug '63	1	1	13	Department of the Tennessee	
Aug '63	Oct '63	Unattached		13	Army and Dept of the Gulf	
Oct '63	Feb '64		Defenses of New Orleans		Army and Dept of the Gulf	
Feb '64	Jun '64	2	4	13	Army and Dept of the Gulf	
Mar '64	Apr '65		Defenses of New Orleans		Army and Dept of the Gulf	

ny years.

On the 31st of January, 1850, Colonel Davenport resigned from the army and was succeeded by Brevet Major General Bennett Riley, who was then commanding the military department of Upper California. General Riley died June 9, 1853, and was succeeded by Colonel Joseph Plympton.

In January, 1850, the regiment garrisoned Forts Merrill, McIntosh, Duncan and Ringgold Barracks, and early in this year the Indians became very troublesome, murdering settlers and stealing stock, and many attempts were made to punish them.

Captain King of the First, commanding at Fort McIntosh, sent Lieutenant Hudson, with a detachment of Company G in pursuit of Indian horse thieves, April 3, 1850. They encountered a party of Indians on the 7th and had a severe fight in which one soldier was killed and Lieutenant Hudson and three men were wounded.

Captain Plummer of the First, commanding at Fort Merrill, sent out Lieutenant Underwood with a sergeant and 12 men June 8, 1850, to open a direct road between that post and Laredo. He met and exchanged shots with Indians on the 8th, and on the 12th had a fight with them in which he was wounded and seven of his men were killed or wounded.

From this time until the year 1856 there appears to have been little of interest in the history of the regiment.

In September, 1856, a scouting party from Fort Clark, which included Captain Gilbert and 18 men of Company B, surprised three parties of In-

The first transport that got safely away was ordered to leave two companies of the First at Key West, and probably did so, for a Return of the Department of Florida of date December, 1861, reports a part of the regiment at Fort Taylor. These companies were relieved early in 1862 and in April of that year Companies A, H and I, had joined the other companies of the regiment in the West.

Company G was reorganized in 1861, and in October of that year formed

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407

a part of the city guard of Washington, D. C. It was still in Washington in May, 1862, but for Pope's campaign in Northern Virginia (August 16 to September 2, 1862) it was attached to the 6th Infantry battalion, and with it formed a part of the 2d Brigade, 2d Division, 5th Corps. At the Second battle of Bull Run it was under the command of Captain Marston and lost eleven men killed and wounded.

On the night of September 16-17 at Antietam the battalion was on picket duty, and on the 20th took part in the action near Shepherdstown.

At the battle of Fredericksburg Company G was attached to the 2d Infantry battalion and with it crossed the river December 13, and on the 14th was under fire all day within short range of the enemy's line. It recrossed the river on the 16th.

This company remained with the 2d Infantry in the Army of the Potomac until after January 31, 1863.

The five companies of the regiment in the Indian Territory at the outbreak of the war,—B, C, D, E and F,—marched to Fort Leavenworth, reaching that post May 31, 1861, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Emory, who had been directed (April 17) to collect all the troops in the Indian Territory and take them to that station.

On the 24th of July, 1861, the organization of General Nathaniel Lyon's army at Springfield, Mo., was announced, and Captain Plummer's battalion, consisting of Companies B, C and D, 1st Infantry, and a company of recruits for the Mounted Rifles (3d Cavalry), formed a part of its third brigade.

This battalion was present at the battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo., August 10, 1861, losing 80 officers and men killed, wounded and missing. It was in the advance from the first, and in the battle was on the left of the line. The conflict lasted six hours almost without interruption and left the Union forces in full possession of the field. Captains Plummer, Gilbert and Huston, and Lieutenant Wood were mentioned for gallantry, the two first being wounded.

At the siege of New Madrid, March 3 to 14, 1862, Companies A, B, C, D, H and I, 1st Infantry, were present and were not assigned to any division, but were detailed, March 4, as a support to

the artillery. Companies A and H, under Captain Mower, manned a siege battery, and the men of this command were the first to enter the enemy's works, March 14, 1862.

Immediately after the capture of New Madrid the Union forces were pushed down the right bank of the Mississippi and batteries were constructed, the lowest being on Ruddle's Point nearly opposite Tiptonville, through which latter place all the enemy's supplies for Island No. 10 were received. On the 17th of March, five of the enemy's gunboats

"advanced against the battery,—which consisted of two 24-pdr. siege-guns and two 10-pdr. Parrotts, manned by a detachment of the 1st Infantry (Company I), under Lieutenant Kinzie Bates. \* \* \* The gunboats ran up to within 300 yards and a furious cannonade was kept up for an hour and a half, when they were repulsed with the loss of one gunboat sunk, several badly damaged, and many men shot down at their guns by our sharpshooters from the rifle-pits. Our loss was one man killed.

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From that time no attempt was made against the battery and all communication from below with the forces near Island No. 10, was cut off."

Although their line of communication was cut the Confederates held their position until April 8, when they surrendered. The final attack by the Union forces on the 7th was supported by a battery of 32-pounders under Capt Williams, 1st Infantry, which had been erected a few days earlier opposite Watson's Landing.

Later in the same month Companies A, B, C, D, H and I were at Hamburg, Miss., under Captain George A. Williams, and on the 24th the battalion was detailed to man the heavy siege artillery, consisting of two 20-pounder Parrotts, four 30-pounder Parrotts, and four 24-pounder siege guns. With the exception of the 20-pounders, which were attached to the reserve, the heavy batteries were directed to remain temporarily at Hamburg and to place the guns in position to protect the storehouses there. On the 13th of May the battalion was before Corinth with its siege train, and on the 15th the 60th Illinois Volunteers were detailed to support its guns. On the 29th the 20-pounders and 30-pounders opened fire, doing considerable execution, and on the 30th the enemy evacuated the place. The works were at once occupied by the Union forces and the First Infantry battalion with other troops took station there.

When the five companies came in from the Indian Territory they were stationed at Fort Leavenworth and Brevet Major W. E. Prince, captain of Company E, 1st Infantry, commanded that post for many months.

This company under Lieut. Offley was sent with other troops, August 12-14, on a reconnoissance [*sic*] to Independence, Mo., but did not come into contact with the enemy.

It was also sent August 17-27, 1862, with an expedition to Kansas City, which place was reported in danger of an attack. The company manned a light battery on this occasion and was

commanded by Lieutenant C. S. Bowman, 4th Cavalry. The expedition moved August 17 and after repairing the fortifications of Kansas City, moved on in search of the enemy, who was finally found in an almost impenetrable forest about fifteen miles from Independence, Mo. Colonel Burris, who commanded the column, reports :

"I then moved with my command in a westerly direction toward the nearest point to where water could be obtained, when soon the enemy was seen emerging from the Woods, marching south, and crossing our line of march at right angles, directly in our rear. We quickly took position on an eminence near the Hickory Grove with the battery, supported by the infantry in the centre and a battalion of cavalry on either flank. The enemy (some 1000 or 1200 yards distant) formed line of battle, but after a few well directed shots from Bowman's battery their line was broken, they were thrown into confusion, and their march to the south resumed. Following them up with small detachments of cavalry they were soon discovered to be in full retreat."

In October and November, 1862, Companies E and F were at Fort Scott, Kansas, very much reduced in numbers; and in February, 1863, Company E was at Fort Leavenworth.

Companies A, B, C, D, H and I, at Corinth were still in charge of the heavy artillery in position for the defense of that place when the Confed-

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erates attacked it, October 3 and 4, 1862. Company C under Lieutenant Robinett manned Battery Robinett; Companies D and I, Battery Williams, and Companies A, B, and H, Battery Phillips. Captain G. A. Williams, was in command of all the siege artillery, and reports as follows:

"About 3.30 A. M. October 4, the enemy opened on our forts and their supports with artillery. Battery Robinett returned the fire immediately. \* \* \* I opened with three 30-pounder Parrott guns, immediately followed by Battery Phillips with an 8-inch howitzer which enfiladed the rebel battery. The rebel artillery was silenced in less than thirty minutes, and they retired leaving one gun and a caisson on the field. About 9.30 or 10 A. m., the enemy were observed in the woods north of the town forming in line, and they soon made their appearance charging towards the town. As soon as our troops were out of the line of fire of my battery we opened upon them with two 30-pounder Parrott guns and one 8-inch howitzer which enfiladed their line \* \* \* and continued our fire until the enemy were repulsed and had regained the woods.

"During the time the enemy were being repulsed from the town my attention was drawn to the left side of the battery by the firing from Battery Robinett, where I saw a column advancing to storm it. After advancing a short distance they were repulsed, but immediately reformed and, storming the work, gained the ditch. They then reformed, and, restorming, carried the ditch and the outside of the work, the supports having fallen a short distance to the rear in slight disorder.

"The men of the First U. S. Infantry, after having been driven from their guns (They manned the siege guns) resorted to their muskets and were firing from the inside of their embrasures at the enemy on the outside, a distance of about ten feet intervening; but the rebels having gained the

top of the work, our men fell back into the angle of the fort as they had been directed to do in such an emergency. Two shells were thrown from Battery Williams into Battery Robinett, one bursting on top of it and the other near the right edge. In the meanwhile the 11th Mo. Vols. (in reserve) changed front, and, aided by the 43d and 63d Ohio Vols. with the 27th Ohio Vols. on their right, gallantly stormed up to the right and left of the battery, driving the enemy before them. The battery could not open on the retreating enemy, for its commander,—Lieutenant Robinett,—was wounded, and 13 of the 26 men that manned it were either killed or wounded."

General Stanley says concerning this part of the conflict:—

"At the same instant the 11th Missouri and the 27th Ohio rushed upon the enemy at a run without firing, and the hill was cleared in an instant, the enemy leaving the ditch and grounds covered with his dead and wounded. Many threw down their arms and called for quarter. The old soldiers of the First Infantry quit their cannon and picked up their old trusty muskets and prevented the enemy crossing the parapet with the bayonet. The enemy was repulsed and the fight was over."

On the day after the battle—October 5—the battalion with other troops was assigned as the garrison of Corinth and remained there until General Grant ordered it to Memphis, January 22, 1863. At this time Major Maurice Maloney was in command.

During February, 1863, the battalion, still consisting of Companies A, B, C, D, H and I, under Major Maloney, moved from Corinth to Memphis and, later, to the vicinity of Vicksburg. It was nominally a part of the 1st Brigade, 14th Division, 13th Corps, but was actually in charge of a siege train throughout the siege of Vicksburg and never served with its brigade.

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On the 22d of March, General McClelland was directed to forward at once to the Yazoo Pass expedition four 30-pdr. Parrotts, with not less than 80 men of the 1st Infantry, to be under the command of Captain G. A. Williams, 1st Infantry; but as General Grant wrote on the same day that "It is now clearly demonstrated that a further force, in by way of Yazoo Pass, can be of no service," it is probable that this order did not go into effect.

Captain E. D. Phillips of the First reports, under date of April 22, 1863, from "Camp at Millikens Bend, La.," that on the 17th April he had opened fire upon the court-house and railroad depot in Vicksburg with two 30-pdr. Parrotts placed in a casemate battery opposite the town, and had continued the ring with increasing accuracy until the night of the 20th, when, in obedience to instructions, he had embarked his detachment, guns, ammunition, etc., on a transport and had reached the camp of the First Infantry on the date of the report.

At the time of the first assault upon Vicksburg (May 22), Captain Offley with a detachment of the regiment was in charge of a sunken battery containing two 30-pdr. Parrotts, situated on that part of the line occupied by the 3d Division, 17th Corps, afterwards known as Battery Logan; while Major Maloney, with the remainder, was opposite the point assaulted by the 2d Brigade, 14th Division, and the 2d Brigade, 10th Division.

General McClelland reports concerning this assault that "A portion of the 1st U. S. Infantry, under Major Maloney, serving as heavy artillery added to their previous renown. Neither officers nor men could have been more zealous and active. Being in the centre, they covered in considerable part the advance of Benton's and Lawler's brigades and materially promoted their partial success."

This battery was on an elevation about 600 yards distant from the salient of the enemy's line which was assaulted, and commanded a fine view of all the movements in its front. General Grant afterwards frequently visited one of the batteries served by the battalion during the siege, to watch the effect of its fire and that of the other batteries in sight. His favorite seat was on a certain log which soon became known as his and was always reserved for him.

On the 17th of June the 30-pdr. Parrotts were moved to a redoubt far advanced in the sap, where they were established under the command of Lieutenant Branagan, 1st Infantry, while Captain Offley was given two 9-in. Dahlgrens in Battery Logan.

On the 25th of June, at 4.30 o'clock in the afternoon, a mine was sprung under one of the enemy's works and the 45th Illinois Volunteers charged into the gap thus made. Hand grenades were freely used on both sides in this fight, Private William Lazarus of Company I, 1st Infantry, being detailed on the Union side to throw them. After throwing about twenty he was mortally wounded, when three men were detailed from the same command to continue the work.

The regiment added greatly to its reputation for gallantry and efficient service during the siege and, though always on duty at the front, met with little loss.

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With the successful termination of the siege (July 4, 1863), the besieging army was at once made use of in other directions, and the First Infantry finally went to New Orleans where it became the provost guard and was quartered in Odd Fellows' Hall, opposite Lafayette Park. Here it was joined by its colonel-R. C. Buchanan-who had been promoted to the regiment from the 4th Infantry, February 8, 1864, by the retirement of Colonel Waite. In December, 1865, however, Colonel Buchanan left the regiment on detached service and was succeeded in command by Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Wood.

At the close of the war the regiment went to Jackson Barracks, where it remained till 1869, actively engaged in the stirring events of early reconstruction times, in which it rendered efficient service.

In the early spring of 1869 it was transferred to the department of the Lakes, with headquarters and five companies at Fort Wayne, two companies at Fort Porter, two at Fort Brady and one at Fort Mackinac.

In April of this year the regiment was consolidated with the 43d Infantry, under the Act of March 3, 1869. The 43d was a Veteran Reserve regiment, and many of the officers received into the

First by the consolidation had been disabled through wounds received or disease contracted during the war. One effect of the consolidation was that Lieutenant Colonel Pinkney Lugenbeel succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Wood.

On the 15th of December, 1870, Colonel Buchanan was retired from active service and was succeeded by Colonel Thomas G. Pitcher (late 44th Infantry) from the unassigned list.

In May, 1872, Companies I and K were sent to Houghton, Mich., to quell a riot which had developed among the miners of the Calumet and Hecla copper mine. The mere presence of the troops was sufficient to prevent the destruction of property of great value and the proposed flooding of the mine.

The regiment served in the Department of the Lakes until July, 1874, when it was transferred to the Department of Dakota, exchanging stations with the 22d Infantry. The headquarters and six companies took station at Fort Randall; A and B companies were sent to Fort Hale; while F and H garrisoned Fort Sully.

On July 6, 1875, a detachment of eleven men of Company G, 1st Infantry, under Sergeant Danvers, who had been sent to the Ponca Agency to protect the Poncas against an anticipated raid of the Sioux, had a fight with the latter in which several Indians were killed or wounded. The detachment loaded an old cannon with pieces of iron, and with this improvised ammunition repulsed three assaults after which the attacking party withdrew.

In consequence of the Custer Massacre (August, 1876), Companies G and K were sent to Standing Rock Agency, now Fort Yates. Here some of the officers and the few men remaining from the war period, renewed an experience gained during the war,—the building of log huts for occupancy during the winter.

In May, 1877, Companies B, G, H and K, were sent to the cantonment on Tongue River, Montana, and during the summer these companies

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thoroughly explored the country between the Yellowstone, Tongue, Powder, and Little Missouri rivers and the Black Hills, and formed a part of the command which drove the remnant of Lane Deer's band into the agency, for which service it received the thanks of General Sheridan. It was owing to the long and continued marches made by these companies that General Miles did not take the battalion with him when he left Tongue River to head off the Nez Percés. Lieutenant Maus, 1st Infantry, was, however, selected by General Miles to accompany him and was with the scouts when the Indian camp was discovered. He rendered most valuable service in the series of fights which resulted in the surrender of Chief Joseph and his band.

Colonel Pitcher was retired from active service June 28, 1878. The Act of June 17, 1878, had prohibited all promotion above the grade of captain, and in consequence the First Infantry was

dians near the junction of the Rio Grande and Pecos rivers, killing four and wounding four of them.

In July, 1857, the Indians, numbering from 80 to 100, attacked a mail escort from the 8th Infantry, and a wood party consisting of a sergeant and six men of the 1st Infantry, at a place called the "Ripples."

A detachment of 40 men of the 1st Infantry at Fort Lancaster under Lieutenants Haskell and Sherburne, with 40 men of the Eighth from Fort Davis, was sent out against them. The men were placed in the wagons and the column was given the appearance of a provision train. The ruse was successful and the Indians, supposed to be Mescalero Apaches, attacked the train, July 24, 1857, and were driven off with loss.

Lieutenant J. E. Powell, 1st Infantry, left Fort Arbuckle February 23 1859, with a detachment composed of men from Companies D and E, 1st Cavalry, and E, 1st Infantry, in pursuit of Comanche Indians. He met and defeated them the next day, killing five, with a loss of three men wounded, one mortally.

On May 7, 1860, Sergeant T. G. Dennin, Company K, 1st Infantry, in command of the escort to a train going to Fort Lancaster, was attacked by 40 or 50 mounted Indians, who were repulsed. The sergeant and party were commended for their courage and cool judgment.

Colonel Plympton died June 5, 1860, and was succeeded by Colonel Carlos A. Waite, who, on the 1st of January, 1861, had his headquarters with a part of his regiment at Fort Chadbourne, Texas. The other companies were then at Fort Lancaster, Camp Cooper and Camp Verde, in Texas, and at Forts Cobb and Arbuckle in the Choctaw Nation.

Texas seceded from the Union, February 1, 1861, and appointed commissioners to confer with General Twiggs in regard to the surrender of all Government property and the removal of all U. S. troops from the State. General Twiggs was relieved from the command of the Department of Texas January 28, and was succeeded by Colonel Waite, who found everything military in a chaotic condition and devoted his whole energy to getting his troops safely out of the State and back into loyal territory. But five companies of his own regiment were in Texas,—A, G, H, I and K,—the remainder being in the Indian Territory. The Texas companies were ordered to rendezvous with other troops of the Department at Green Lake, 20 miles from Indianola, and succeeded in reaching that place.

Companies A, H and I got safely away, but the non-commissioned staff and band, with Companies G and K, were captured April 25, on transports, at Saluria, Texas, by the Texan forces. They were immediately paroled, engaging not to serve against the Confederates until exchanged, and sailed on the schooner *Horace*, reaching New York May 31.

on March to Oxford, Mis., in command of 47th Illinois Volunteers, Oct., 1862, — and in garrison at Corinth, Mis., Nov., 1862, to Feb., 1863; in the Vicksburg Campaign, Feb.-Mar., 1863, being engaged in the Expedition by Yazoo Pass to the Yazoo, Mar., 1863, when he was disabled; and

(Bvt. Lieut.-Col., July 4, 1863,  
for Gallant and Meritorious Services at the Siege of Vicksburg, Mis.)

as Commissary of Musters, 16th Army Corps, at Memphis, Ten., Apr. 15, 1863, to Nov. 24, 1864,<sup>a</sup> —  
and of the Department of the Mississippi, June 27, 1865, to July 2, 1866.

Major, 6th Infantry, Mar. 15, 1866.

Served: in command of Regiment and the Post of Charleston, S. C., Aug. 10 to Oct. 29, 1866, continuing at Charleston with Regiment till May 4, 1867; as Sub-Asst. Commissioner in Freedmen's Bureau, and Commissary of Musters, Second Military District (North and South Carolina), May 4, 1867, to June 11, 1868; in command at Raleigh, N. C., June 25 to Aug., 1868, — of Charleston, S. C., Aug. to Oct., 1868, continuing there till Dec., 1868, — and of Savannah, Ga., Dec. 26, 1868, to Feb., 1869; on frontier duty at Ft. Gibson, I. T., Mar. 2 to May, 1869,

(Transferred to 20th Infantry, Mar. 15, 1869)

— and in command of Ft. Totten, Dak., June 30, 1869, to Aug. 25, 1870, and on leave of absence, Aug. 25 to Dec. 15, 1870.

Retired from Active Service, Dec. 15, 1870,  
for Disability contracted in the Line of Duty.

Died, Apr. 2, 1889, at Newburg, N. Y.: Aged 58.

*Heroine of the Confederacy: The Diaries and Letters of Belle Edmondson*, edited by William and Loretta Galbraith, p104, note 37, we read that "Major General Stephen Augustus Hurlbut . . . was an

unscrupulous political general, who along with his provost marshal,<sup>o</sup> Captain George A. Williams,  
ran an extortion ring in the city.

without a colonel until the restriction was removed in the spring of 1879, when Lieutenant Colonel W. R. Shafter of the 24th Infantry was promoted to the First to date from March 4, 1879.

Companies F and K formed a part of the garrison of Fort Meade, Dakota, while that post was building in the fall and winter of 1878. Officers and their families, and the men, lived in tents until well into the winter, and whenever the thermometer dropped below -30°, as it frequently did, the experience, to say the least, was not pleasing.

Vol. II  
p503 1569 (Born N. Y.) George A. Williams (Ap'd N. Y.) 34

**Military History.** — Cadet at the Military Academy, July 1, 1848, to July 1, 1852, when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to

Bvt. Second Lieut., 1st Infantry, July 1, 1852.

Served: in garrison at Ft. Columbus, N. Y., 1852; on frontier duty at Ft. Duncan, Tex., 1852-53, — Scouting, 1853, — Ft. Duncan, Tex.,

(Second Lieut., 1st Infantry, Mar. 2, 1853)

1853-54, — La Peña, Tex., 1854, — Rodeo, Tex., 1854-55, — Ft. Duncan, Tex., 1855, — Ft. Lancaster, Tex., 1855-56, — Ft. Duncan, Tex., 1856-58,

(First Lieut., 1st Infantry, Feb. 11, 1856)

— Ft. McIntosh, Tex., 1858, — Ft. Clark, Tex., 1858-59, — near Camp Cooper, Tex., 1859, — March to and at Ft. Cobb, I. T., 1859-60; and at the Military Academy, 1860-61, as Asst. Professor of Spanish, Sep. 4, 1860, to Apr. 22, 1861, — and Asst. Instructor of Infantry Tactics, Apr. 22 to Oct. 8, 1861.

Captain, 1st Infantry, May 14, 1861.

Served during the Rebellion of the Seceding States, 1861-66: on Headquarters Guard, at Washington, D. C., Oct.-Nov., 1861; in Operations in Missouri, about Sedalia, Nov., 1861, to Feb., 1862; in Heavy Artillery p504(Army of the Mississippi), in Operations against New Madrid, Mo., terminating in its Capture, Mar. 21, 1862, — Attack on Island No. 10, Mississippi River, which surrendered, Apr. 7, 1862, — Advance upon and Siege of Corinth, Mis., May 22-30, 1862, — in garrison at Corinth, May to Oct., 1862, being engaged in the Battle of Corinth, Oct. 3-4, 1862, —

(Bvt. Major, Oct. 4, 1862,  
for Gallant and Meritorious Services at the Battle of Corinth, Mis.)