

## THE BRASS FRAMED CONFEDERATE COLTS SPILLER & BURR AND GRISWOLD & GUNNISON

AT THE OUTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR, THE SOUTH FOUND ITSELF FACING A SEVERE SHORTAGE OF ARMS MANUFACTORIES WHICH COULD EQUIP ITS LOYAL SONS WHO WERE RALLYING TO "THE CAUSE," TO DEFEND THEIR HOMELAND.

SAM GRISWOLD, FORMERLY A CONNECTICUT YANKEE, WHO MOVED TO GEORGIA IN 1822, AND ESTABLISHED A FACTORY FOR THE MANUACTURE OF COTTON GINS, UNDERTOOK THE TASK OF PRODUCING HANDGUNS FOR THE CONFEDERACY. THE GRISWOLDVILLE MANUFACTORY RETOOLED ALMOST OVER NIGHT, AND USING SOME SLAVE LABOR, BEGAN THE MANUFACTURE OF THE GRISWOLD & GUNNISON BRASS FRAMED REVOLVER, COPIED FROM THE COLT NAVY PATTERN. THE FIRST REVOLVERS WERE PRODUCED IN JULY OF 1862, AND CONTINUED TO BE MADE UNTIL THE LATTER PART OF NOVEMBER 1864, WHEN THE FACTORY WAS DESTROYED BY YANKEES IN THE BATTLE OF GRISWOLDVILLE STATION.



GRISWOLD & GUNNISON WERE THE MOST PROLIFIC OF HANDGUN MANUFACTURERS FOR THE CONFEDERACY, PRODUCING SOME 3500 BRASS FRAMED REVOLVERS DURING THEIR OPERATION. THEY ARE THE MOST RECOGNIZABLE OF THEIR CONFEDERATE HANDGUN BRETHERN, AND EVEN THOUGH THEIR MORTALITY RATE WAS EXTREMELY HIGH, THERE ARE MORE SPECIMENS KNOWN THAN ANY OTHER MAKE.

EDWARD SPILLER, A BUSINESSMAN FROM BALTIMORE, BUT A STRONG SOUTHERN SYMPATHIZER, BECAME A PARTNER, WITH A VIRGINIAN, FROM RICHMOND, DAVID BURR, A BUILDER OF STEAM ENGINES, TO PRODUCE HANDGUNS FOR THE CONFEDERACY. TEAMING UP WITH A LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY, JAMES HENRY BURTON, SPILLER AND BURR OBTAINED A CONTRACT WITH THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY THE 15,000-.36 CALIBER HANDGUNS. SUCH GUNS WERE TO BE OF THE COLT NAVY PATTERN.

APPARENTLY, AT ABOUT THIS SAME TIME, ONE SAMUEL ROBINSON, FROM RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, SOON TO BECOME THE RENOWNED MANUFACTURER OF THE ROBINSON "SHARPS" CONFEDERATE CARBINE, HAD PLANNED TO MANUFACTURE HANDGUNS OF THE WHITNEY NAVY PATTERN, FOR THE CONFEDERACY.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT COLONEL BURTON, WITH SPILLER & BURR ACQUIRED THE ROBINSON HANDGUN MACHINERY AND BEGAN MANUFACTURING A .36 CALIBER REVOLVER MODELLED ON THE WHITNEY NAVY RATHER THAN THE COLT. THEY BEGAN THIS OPERATION IN ATLANTA GEORGIA, DUE TO BURTON'S, TRANSFER THERE BY THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT.

THE SPILLER & BURR FACTORY IN ATLANTA, AFTER TURNING OUT SOME 600 REVOLVERS, SOLD OUT TO THE CONFEDERATE GOVERNMENT WHICH MOVED THE MANUFACTORY TO THE MACON ARMORY AT MACON, GEORGIA, WHERE AN ADDITIONAL ESTIMATED 700 REVOLVERS WERE PRODUCED OR ASSEMBLED. NO MORE THAN 1300 SPILLER & BURR REVOLVERS WERE PRODUCED, MAKING THEM EXTREMELY RARE AND HIGHLY SOUGHT AFTER CONFEDERATE PRIZES.

## OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFER RECORD

Reilly (Coin dea	ler)	Auburn N.Y.
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brought in to Cror	ziers gem sh	op (Homer NY) and sold to
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Name Jerry Crozier		Homer, N.Y.
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Name Charles W. Thaya		Dept of Geology, Univ of Pen Address Phila PA. 19104.
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		Received the firearm described in the foregoing Bill of S
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		Federal Firearms License No.
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Ωr	to voh	SICHED AND SEALED 4615

## BILL OF SALE FOR ANTIQUE FIREARMS

ECEIVED OF RUSS PRITC	H <b>A</b> RD , residi	ng at The State Const
THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF	, the sum of	dollars (\$.2400 ) and
* f = 24	in t	rade in full payment of the following described firearm:
Maker's Name GAISWO		
Maker's Address GRISWOL		
		ar
Model 2nd (Octagonal	obl housing) Serial	Number(s) 2491, VII, II
Condition (See other side for NRA	Condition Standards) V. (	<u>S.</u> .
Ignition System Derc		7/ 1/
		l(s) Length 7 7/16
Caliber(s) or Gauge(s)3	Ó	
Over-all Length 14"	Weigh	nt
Accessories Included 72.00		
bbl. housing, sub ser. hammer (internal), R.oftrigg	inside, not on hand rap at but (inside g rear of cyl., under bbl be to Anchor scratched o	
		riptions, etc.)

GRISWOLD & GUNNISON 2nd MODEL REVOLVER SN 2491

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Charles W. Thayer, Parksburg, PA

3000.00

very good

February 8, 1980

note on son

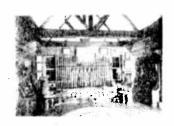
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Sold some unmarked extra
family silver that was of
for myself on my 40th birththat it has never achieved

There is a left

One by because

1984



From the Gun Room of

Henry M. Stewart, Jr.

To whom it may concern:

and at the request of Surcheses, Mr. Russ Priteres of have en lauxtively examined truscost of Ser 2491 brass frame revolver both on its own merits and Longwide two accepted genuine afacinins #810 and #1746. In addition I have had Tres. Early Beyes, former head of NCA Model Makers Sist and throughly conversant in metals and tools, check all faceto is that #2471 is genuine as a Confederate Decision of lots of us is that #2471 is genuine as a Confederate Decisiold revolves.

Extrata, to. circa 1939 and have absolute confidence in its authenticity as a claudard for comparison of methods of manufacture and markings. The 2491 revolves conforms in all aspects this standard of the rounded barrel frame model as well as the Dame 2-4 model # 1746.

Very truly . Etwart fr.

Uzunewood Pa Get 23,1980