



To Whom it May Concern:

May 17, 2006

We have today examined your Colt U.S. Cavalry revolver for the purpose of authentication. This revolver #12826 was a new listing to our survey and falls between two other Cavalry revolvers ie #12825 and #12829 in this data-base. This revolver was manufactured during 1874 and was Ordnance Sub-Inspected by O.W. Ainsworth.

Historically, we could not locate this revolver's serial number in the National Archives records available to us. Only one revolver is listed in these records from within the 12000 serial number range. This revolver #12396 is listed as being "seized" at Ft. Duncan, Texas on March 30, 1880. The near complete absence of referenced examples from within this serial number range is probably due to the fact that most of these revolvers had been issued to the State of Virginia during 1874, and had escaped service with the U.S. Cavalry because of being released by this state into the civilian arms market. These revolvers were purchased from the State of Virginia by the arms dealer Hermann Boker & Co. while they were still in brand new unissued condition. There were a total of 2307 examples involved in this transaction.

It is my opinion that a portion of these "surplus" Virginia revolvers were sold back to Colt's. Those which were re-purchased by Colt were in most cases nickel plated and stamped with the caliber designation "45 CAL" on their left triggerguard flats. These were then sold to the public thru their regular trade outlets.

Other revolvers from this lot were privately nickel plated and sold commercially upon the open market by Hermann Boker & Co.

In the case of the subject revolver #12826, I would tend to believe that this revolver was one of those which was sold by Hermann Boker while in brand new condition

## Letter of Authentication

Co-Author of: A Study of the Colt  
Single Action Army Revolver ~



Co-Author of: Cavalry & Artillery  
Revolvers - A Continuing Study ~

directly to a private party or retailer. The vast majority of these revolvers from within the 12000 and 13000 serial number range which are found in collections today are nickel plated. It is important to realize that these revolvers were plated to differentiate them from the U.S. Government owned blued examples, and thus avoid controversy which could arise from someone claiming a particular revolver had been stolen from military service.

The subject revolver remains today in remarkable original condition. We have noted the blue finish remaining within the cylinder chambers, the military blue finish throughout, especially on the barrel and ejector tube. The sharp overall condition with prominent case-colors of the front frame area. The "feathering" around the front sight is in perfect condition. The grips are perfect with a remarkable Ainsworth cartouche. The leading edge of the ejector tube has a pronounced bevel, while the toe area of the butt-strap is not beveled! This revolver remains in 100% original and authentic condition. We have only noted one minor flawed area where the base pin screw had been removed with an ill-fitting screwdriver, resulting in the screw's slot and the adjacent area around this screw to be somewhat marred.

It is my opinion that this revolver's condition should be classified as being in the upper 2% of existing Ainsworth Cavalry revolvers in collections today.

We trust that the foregoing information will be found to be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

*John A. Kopec*  
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