

# FIREARM INFORMATION SHEET

COLLECTION NUMBER: 9096.

TYPE: U.S. Model 1811 North Cavalry Pistol - 1<sup>st</sup> model.  
2000 total manufactured

IGNITION SYSTEM: Flintlock marked behind hammer S. North/Berlin/Conn  
Between hammer and trigger spring marked: eagle and U. States

DATE OF MANUFACTURE: 1811

PLACE OF MANUFACTURE: Berlin Conn.

MAKER: Simion North.

LENGTH OVERALL: 15"

BARREL LENGTH: 8 5/8" (8 1/2" - 8 5/8")

CALIBER: .69 - .75

WOOD TYPE: Walnut.

MOUNTINGS: Brass

BARREL MARKINGS/DECORATION: "P" over "US" (S partly obliterated) Tang  
extension marked "P" - Not standard and not mentioned in references.

STOCK MARKINGS/DECORATION: Inspectors stamp on @ side of stock opposite  
lock { V } Henry H. Perkin

REPAIRS/RESTORATION: /

HISTORICAL/ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE: Probably more rare than 1808 Sany  
(with belt hook) but less aesthetically pleasing with shorter  
barrel.

PROVENANCE:

PUBLICATIONS:

COST:

ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE AND DATE:

## **FIREARM INFORMATION SHEET**

**COLLECTION NUMBER:** 9096

**TYPE:** U.S. Model 1811, Simeon North, Cavalry Pistol - First Model. Total of 2,000 manufactured.

**IGNITION SYSTEM:** Flint lock.

**LOCK MARKINGS/DECORATIONS:** Marked behind hammer "S.NORTH/BERLIN/CON" behind hammer and frizzen spring marked with eagle and "U.STATES".

**DATE OF MANUFACTURE:** 1811

**PLACE OF MANUFACTURE:** Berlin, Connecticut

**MAKER:** Simeon North

**LENGTH OVERALL:** 15 inches

**BARREL LENGTH:** 8 5/8 inches

**CALIBER:** .69 - .75

**WOOD TYPE:** American Walnut

**MOUNTINGS:** Brass

**BARREL MARKINGS/DECORATION:** "P" over "U.S." (S partly obliterated). Tang extension marked "P" - (not standard and not mentioned in references).

**STOCK MARKINGS/DECORATION:** Inspector's stamp on left side of stock opposite lock: "V/HHP" for Henry H. Perkin.

**REPAIRS/RESTORATION:** None

**HISTORICAL/ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE:** Probably more rare than 1808 Navy (with belt hook) but less aesthetically pleasing with shorter barrel.

**PROVENANCE:** Ex-Collection John Greenhall, Orlando, Florida

**PUBLICATIONS:**

**COST:**

**ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE AND DATE:**

U.S. Model 1811 North Cavalry Pistol. 1<sup>st</sup> mdl.  
2000 total - approx 1000 1<sup>st</sup> mdl.  
.69-.75 cal.

BBL.  $8\frac{5}{8}$  ( $8\frac{1}{2}$  -  $8\frac{5}{8}$ ). OA 15"

Inspected by Henry H. Perkins (HHP) on L  
side of stock opposite lock. "V" stamped  
above "HHP".

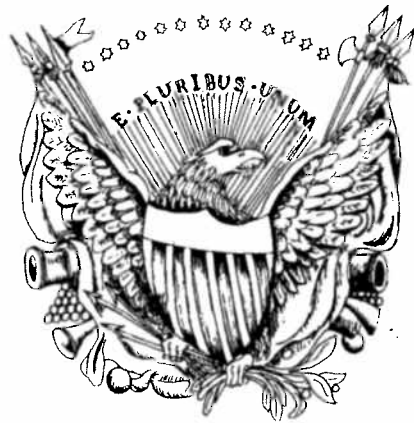
BBH stamped "P" over U.S. (slightly obliterated)  
Tang extension stamped "P" — not standard  
and not mentioned in references.

Lock marked behind hammer: S. North/Berlin/  
Co. N.

Between hammer and frizzen spring marked  
with eagle and U. STATES.

Probably more rare than 1808 Navy  
pistol but less aesthetically pleasing with  
shorter barrel.

# United States Martial Flintlocks



A COMPREHENSIVE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY  
OF THE FLINTLOCK IN AMERICA FROM THE  
REVOLUTION TO THE DEMISE OF THE SYSTEM

by

ROBERT M. REILLY

ANDREW MOWBRAY INC. — *Publishers* • P.O. Box 460, Lincoln, Rhode Island 02865 USA

FIGURE 601

FIGURE 604

FIGURE 602

FIGURE 603

### HENRY DERINGER MARYLAND CONTRACT PISTOLS OF 1813

Dimensionally, the Deringer Maryland contract pistols are approximately the same as those noted previously, i.e. about 16 inches long overall and with a barrel of 10 inches, more or less. Caliber remains nominally at .56.

Variations in markings, however, will be encountered. Barrel proofs were an intaglio 'P' in cartouche and generally the block 'M' (Maryland). On those pistols without the 'M' proofmarks, the name 'MARYLAND' was branded into the underside of the stock forward of the trigger guard. The stock flat is also stamped with the same 'M' along with the initials 'HM' (Henry H. Murry, Chief Armourer, State of Maryland). Batch numbers will be found on most parts, and apparently included numbering through the total of each delivery made to Maryland. A small number of locks are known which are stamped only with 'H. DERINGER' as shown in Figure 603. Another lock, virtually identical to those found on some Deringer rifles, is stepped and slashed at the rear and is much more deeply curved than usual — strongly resembling those produced by Daniel Dana (q.v.). As Figure 604 shows, a gooseneck cock was used instead of the usual reinforced type. The toe of the frizzen was

also curled instead of square. Still another lock exists which is stamped on the inside with the initials 'J.A.' To whom they belong is unknown at this time.

By far the most obvious difference to be noted on some of these Deringer pistols is the use on a very few of only the single ramrod pipe and without the tailpipe. This is shown in Figure 602. Of the fewer than twenty-five Deringer pistols known today, only about twenty percent of this small total include this feature, making it an extremely rare variation.

Between March 20 and December 15, 1813, the Deringer firm delivered a total of 510 pairs to the State of Maryland (not including the pair delivered by Tench Coxe). Approximately five percent are known today.

During the flintlock era, Henry Deringer, Jr. was more active in rifle production than pistols for the government, having been deeply involved in the manufacture of contract rifles of 1814 and 1817 (see Chapter 2). Flintlock pistols by this renowned maker are quite rare, and the relatively poor quality of his arms must be considered at least partially responsible for this low survival rate.

### SIMEON NORTH ARMY CONTRACT PISTOL OF 1811

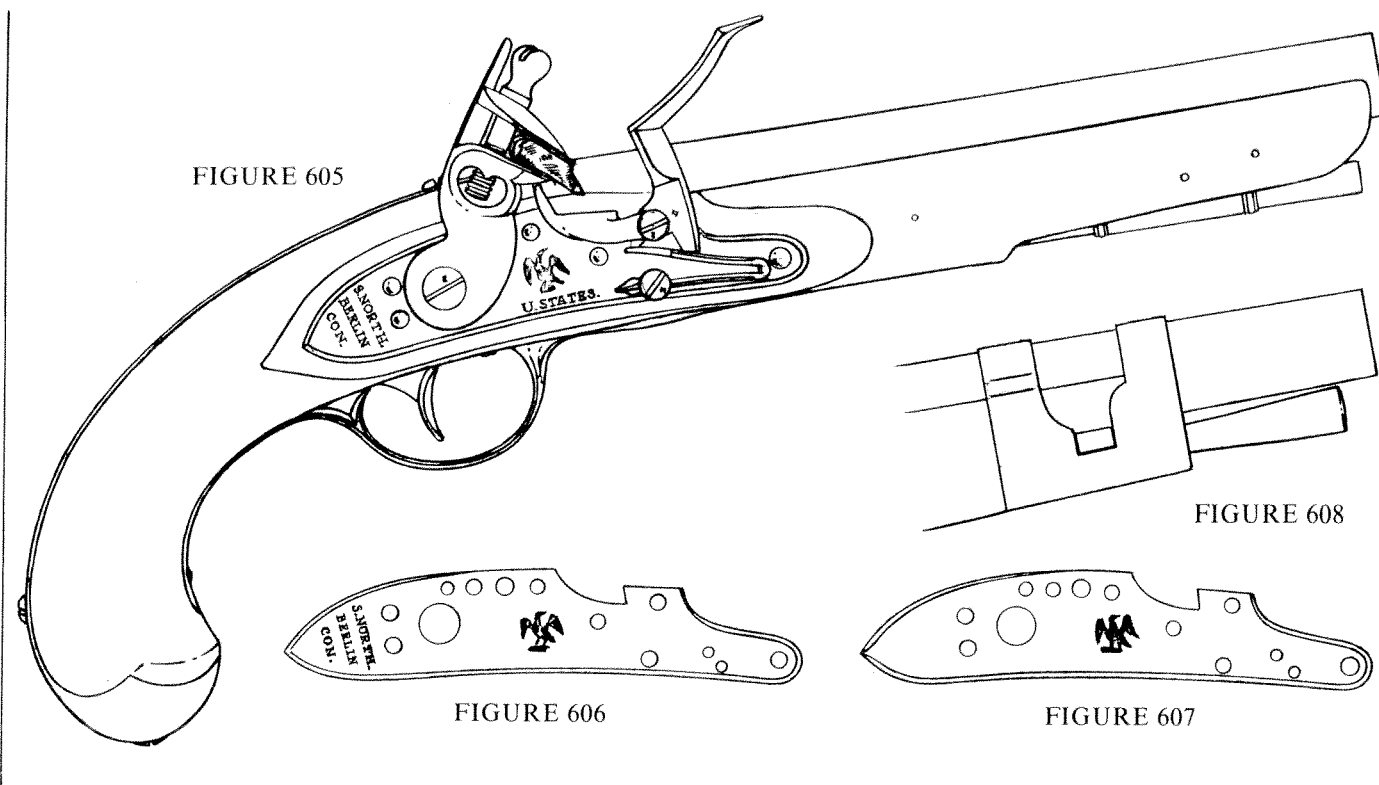
Length overall 14 1/2 inches. Calibers vary between .69 and .73 smoothbore. Weight about 2 1/4 pounds.

The flat, bevel edged lock is 5 3/8 inches long and terminates in a point at the rear. The detachable brass flashpan includes a high fence. The reinforced cock is convex, and the frizzen toe is square. As Figure 605 shows, the plate is stamped at the rear 'S. NORTH/BERLIN/ CON.' in three vertical lines, and forward of the cock is an eagle over 'U. STATES.' Specimens are known without the 'U. STATES' marking while still

others are stamped with only the eagle and no other marking as shown in Figures 606 and 607, respectively.

The full length black walnut stock extends to within 3/16 inch of the muzzle, and is stamped on the flat opposite the lock with inspector's initials. Those of Henry H. Perkin ('HHP') under a 'V' and Charles Williams ('CW') in a trefoil are known.

The pin fastened, bright barrel is 8 1/2 inches long and is without sights. Proofmarks such as 'P/US' or 'US'/eagle-head/CT/V' are stamped near the breech. The barrel tang



extends the full length of the stock to form a backstrap and is lapped under the buttcap. A small 'P' has been noted on some backstraps. Specimens have also been noted bearing New York state markings ('SNY') on the barrel.

Furniture is brass. The plain hickory ramrod is held by a single pipe as shown. The trigger guard is about 6 1/4 inches long. The 'umbrella' buttcap like that on the Model 1808 North pistol was retained, these being the only two pistols of American manufacture to utilize this configuration. The sideplate is the typical military type of the period.

This was the final pistol produced by Simeon North at his Berlin, Connecticut armory, and some time late in 1812 or early

1813, after the acceptance of Marine T. Wickham's suggested barrel band arrangement, the North contract for these arms, originally dated November 18, 1811 and specifying 1,000 pair at \$11.87½ per pair, was changed to incorporate the new 'Wickham Improvement'. This barrel band, with its spring held locking lug between the double straps is shown in Figure 608. This variation is generally referred to as the North Model 1811-1813 Transition Pistol. Precisely how many of this type were delivered under the 1811 contract is unknown, but is believed to have been considerably fewer than half the 2,000 total.

Very few of either type Model 1811 pistols have survived, due very likely to the exigencies of wartime use.

#### JOSEPH HENRY NAVY CONTRACT PISTOL OF 1812

Length overall 15 13/16 inches. Caliber .58 smoothbore. Weight about 2 pounds, 10 ounces.

The flat, bevel edged lock is 4 3/4 inches long, has an integral pan and terminates at the rear in a teated point. The frizzen toe is square and the reinforced cock has beveled edges. Stamped forward of the cock in two lines is 'J. HENRY/PHILA' as shown in Figure 609.

The unmarked black walnut stock extends to within 1/16 inch of the muzzle and flares slightly at the butt.

The round, pin fastened barrel is 10 1/4 inches long and is without sights. Stamped on top near the breech is the eagle-head/CT proofmark in cartouche.

Furniture is brass. The plain hickory ramrod is held by a single pipe and tailpipe as shown. The relatively short trigger guard is about 4 3/4 inches long. The shallow, round buttcap has

two very short ears which project up the stock about 1/8 inch. The sideplate is the typical military type of the period, and is shown in Figure 610. This illustration also shows the flat, iron belt hook, inlet into the stock at the rear, and secured by the rear lock screw.

Records show that Joseph Henry entered into a contract with the Navy Department in 1812 which resulted in the delivery of 110 pair in June, 1813 and an additional 140 pair in July, 1814. These 500 pistols are believed to be the total number delivered by Henry to the navy.

The ship's pistol described above is but one of a large number of pistol variations manufactured by Joseph Henry in his Philadelphia armory under federal and state contract. Few of any type have survived, with fewer than five of this navy contract type known today.