

Damon Mills



Fine Antique Arms

LETTER OF AUTHENTICATION

The purpose of this statement is to record my observations of Confederate Rigdon & Ansley Revolver, serial number 1851.

In general, the gun is described as a smooth, darkly patinaed Colt Navy copy, produced by Rigdon and Ansley for the Confederacy during the American Civil War. Its configuration is typical of mid-range production. It still bears the small Leech & Rigdon type dies for serial numbering. The cylinder is twelve-stop without safety pins. The hammer does not have the safety pin slot in its face, which is correct. It has the Colt Navy style latch and there is a capping cut out on the face of the recoil shield. All of these characteristics are correct for a Rigdon & Ansley in this production range.

A close examination of the gun further reinforces its authenticity. The serial numbering is matched and in all the correct locations, i.e. barrel, frame, cylinder pin, trigger guard and back strap, cylinder, loading leer and barrel catch. The grips have the serial number penciled in the back strap channel. The only part that is not correctly numbered is the barrel wedge. It is unnumbered and may be from a Colt Navy. The cylinder nipples are intact and the grips are in very nice condition. The barrel bears the appropriate CSA mark, which is struck by the correct dies. The internal aspects of the gun seem to be original with the exception of the mainspring, which is probably from a Colt Navy. The hammer is the original Rigdon & Ansley with open cross hatching.

In summary, serial number 1851 Rigdon & Ansley has a very pleasant look, is tight and has good mechanical function. The minor replacement parts, i.e. the wedge and mainspring, do not detract from the appearance of the gun and have no significant impact on value. The gun is without question, authentic and in a solid, very good state of condition.

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