

750 Rancocas Avenue
Rancocas, New Jersey
08075

HISTORY OF THE "OAKLEY" SHOTGUN

DESCRIPTION:

The shotgun was manufactured by William Cashmore, Birmingham, England, in the late 1800's. The serial number is 9270 and inscribed on the barrel is

WM CASHMORE MAKER BIRMINGHAM ENGLAND
HIGHEST AWARDS, ADELAIDE, MELBOURNE, LAUNCESTON & HOBART
SIR J. WHITWORTHS FLUID COMPRESS'D STEEL

The barrel is 28" long, the stock is 15". The name "OAKLEY" is stamped into the wood near the trigger guard. A silver shield bearing the monogram "AO" is inlaid on the top of the stock near the butt. The weapon has a safety which was installed by Cashmore after it was awarded to Ms. Oakley.

The breech is elaborately engraved.

HISTORY:

The shotgun was awarded to Annie Oakley in 1887 during competition at the Earl's Court Exhibition Grounds near Charing Cross, England. Annie reportedly stayed at either the Metropole Hotel or the Northeimberland Hotel while there.

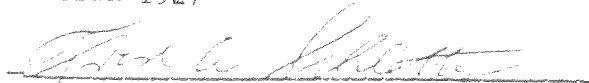
As I remember it was about 1921 when my ^{step} Grandfather, Albert Hale Mershon, learned that Annie Oakley had been injured in a car accident and was in a hospital in the Daytona Beach area where he and my father's mother lived. Being a long time fan of Annie - he and his wife took flowers from their garden to the hospital. During several visits my Step-grandfather and Annie Oakley became good friends. After she was released from the hospital Grandfather purchased the shotgun from Annie for \$150.00.

The shotgun passed to my father, Louis Davis Steele, upon my Grandfather's death in the late 1920's. I remember my Mother reading Annie's letter which accompanied the sale, and her telling me that perhaps someday the shotgun and letter might have some value. Unfortunately my Mother put the letter in a safe place and I have been unable to find it. She died in 1966. The shotgun has remained in my possession for many years and only because of my deteriorating health, have I reluctantly decided to part with it.

I have entrusted the son of my good friend Ruth Wood to act as my agent in finding a suitable buyer. His name is Gerald Wood and he can be reached in Springhill, La. His office phone is 318-994-2278.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON

SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 14TH DAY OF
OCTOBER 1987



NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Sept. 28, 1990

I, Helen Steel, attest that the
forgoing is an accurate description and
history.


Helen R. Steel

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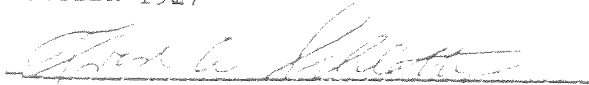
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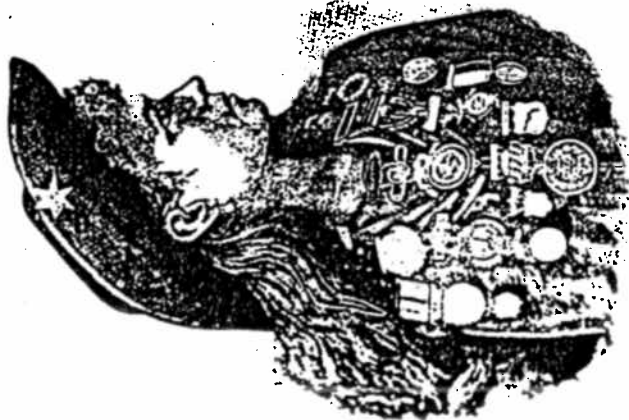
NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
My Commission Expires Sept. 23, 1990

I, Helen Steel, attest that the
forgoing is an accurate description and
history.


Helen R. Steel

WILLIAM CASHMORE, GUN MAKER, BIRMINGHAM.

Ladies' Guns.



ANNIE OAKLEY (Little Sure Shot).

A Double-barrel 16-gauge Gun, specially bored to give an even distribution of 1-oz. shot on a 3-ft. target at 40 yards, with very slight recoil; length of barrels, 26-in.

Price: Hammer, £15 15s. Hammerless, £20 & £25. Ejector, £25 to £40.
 Also made on same plan in 20 and 23 bores at same price.

TESTIMONIALS.

The Gun which you made me has arrived, and is exactly what I ordered, and if anything more than I expected. I used it in my Exhibition here while the wind was very strong, breaking clay pigeons very fine and making some long shots. I am indeed well pleased with it, and must thank you for the pains you have taken in making this little gun.

October 16th, 1891.

To Wm. CASHMORE, Gun Maker,
 Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.

ANNIE OAKLEY,

Wild West, Stuttgart,
 Germany.

Dear Sir,

Please send me on receipt 100 28 "Perfects," and one bag each "Field" and Thick Felt Wade. I have had a week's game shooting with the 28-bore, and found it killed very clean, several grouse at 60 yards, and some still longer shots.

Oaklands, Shrewsbury,

September 1st, 1888.

Mr. Wm. CASHMORE.

Yours truly,

C. F. BURR.



16 Bore, 26-in. Barrels, Weight 5½-lbs.

WILLIAM CASHMORE, GUN MAKER, BIRMINGHAM.

OPINIONS OF THE CHAMPION SHOTS OF THE WORLD.

CAPTAIN J. L. BREWER says:—

“I am thoroughly convinced the ‘Cashmore Gun’ has no equal.”

DR. CARVER says:—

“I am so satisfied with the ‘Cashmore’ Guns that I intend using them all through in whatever competitions I am engaged in, in the future.”

MISS ANNIE OAKLEY (Little Sure Shot) says:—

“The Gun you made me is exactly what I ordered, and, if anything, more than I expected. I used it in my exhibitions here, and made some long shots at pigeons while the wind was blowing very strong.”

“ROD AND GUN”

“We have much pleasure in testifying to the beauty of finish and rare workmanship of the Sporting Guns of Cashmore, of Birmingham; they have gained the Highest Awards at many Exhibitions, particularly at those of Adelaide, 1887-8, and Melbourne, 1888-9.”

ESTABLISHED 1836.

FIRST PRIZE,



MELBOURNE, 1888-9.

FIRST PRIZE,



ADELAIDE, 1887-8.

SPECIAL FIRST PRIZE,



TASMANIA, 1891-2.

AN ILLUSTRATED PRICE LIST

OF

WILLIAM CASHMORE'S

HIGH-CLASS HAMMERLESS AND HAMMER, PIGEON AND GAME

GUNS, RIFLES and ACCESSORIES,

DIMMING'S