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We have today examined your Colt U.S. Cavalry revolver for the purpose of authentication. This revolver #48264 was previously (11/10/2004) listed in our survey and falls between #48263 (an Artillery revolver) and #48269 (a Cavalry revolver) in this data-base. This revolver was manufactured during 1878 and was ordnance inspected by Capt. John E. Greer. The Ordnance Sub-Inspector for this 1878 contract was Henry Nettleton. The cartouches of these two inspectors are prominently displayed on the grip panels of this revolver.

Historically, we could not locate this revolver's serial number in the National Archives records available to us. The nearest cited example to the subject revolver's serial number is #48523, a revolver which belonged to "Co. F, 6th Cavalry" as of August 3, 1888. The chances that the subject revolver had even been issued however remains doubtful. Because of the unfired condition that this revolver clearly displays, it is the opinion of this writer that it had never been issued to a Cavalry regiment or state militia unit.

This theory is based upon the near-new condition of other surveyed unfired examples within this "Henry Nettleton" sequence. Some of these other examples include #48182, #48199, #48269, #48867 and #48953. It is our opinion together with the opinion of other experienced collectors that these revolvers were sold as surplus during the 1920's from new unissued inventories. It is very probable that at least two (or more) cases of these revolvers were at that time distributed. Some were sold directly to individuals from the Springfield Armory. (See; *Colt Cavalry & Artillery Revolvers*; by Kopec & Fenn). There does however seem to be considerably more of these "new condition" Henry Nettleton

Letter of Authentication

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



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

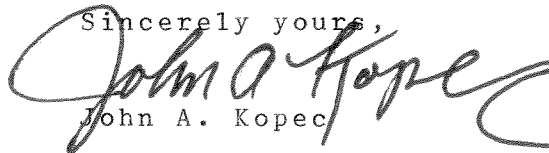
examples remaining in collections today then are found in any other series of U.S. Cavalry revolvers.

Upon our examination of this revolver and in comparison with out "control" example #48728, we find that this revolver remains totally correct. All stampings including the barrel address remain in perfect condition. The cylinder chambers and bore retain all of their original internal factory-applied military blue finish. The front face of the recoil shield shows no cartridge head imprints which would be one indication that this revolver had ever been fired. After being fired several times this blue finish found within the bore and cylinder chambers begins to wear away.

Unfortunately, this exceptional revolver has sustained surface scratches throughout. This damage probably occurred because of being "cleaned" with an abrasive substance. Much of the frame's case-coloring has turned a "brassy" color as a result of this abrasive cleaning. The triggerguard and backstrap however do appear to have been spared as vigorous a cleaning.

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

Sincerely yours,


John A. Kopec

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