

Gary Wiggins

This letter will describe the items on the Dance Brothers display board collected and assembled by me. I am the author of Dance and Brothers, Texas Gunmakers of the Confederacy, considered to be the definitive work on Dance Brothers revolvers.

While writing the book I did extensive research at the Dance factory site with metal detectors and many of the display board items are pictured in my book.

The factory was located two miles north of Anderson Texas in Grimes County. All items were recovered by me on the site during a period from 1985 to 1996.

Centerpiece of the board is an excavated revolver and is an unfinished example and is the only known specimen of its type. This is significant in that it reveals the methods of manufacture.

Additional items of interest include an iron guide used in the production of hammers as well as various tools used at the Dance factory. There are two rare unfinished castings for 44 caliber pistol frames.

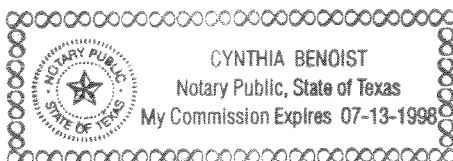
Among some of the scarce items are the U.S. model 1816 and Hall musket parts used in the conversion of flint muskets to percussion by Dance workmen during the civil war.

This display collection represents virtually all of the known excavated Dance relics and is an important link to Texas role as an arms supplier to the Confederacy.


Gary Wiggins

State of Texas
County of Harris

Before me, a notary public, on this day personally appeared Gary Wiggins, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing document and, being by me first duly sworn, declared that the statements therein contained are true and correct.
Given under my hand and seal of office this 8th day of January 1998.




Notary Public's Signature