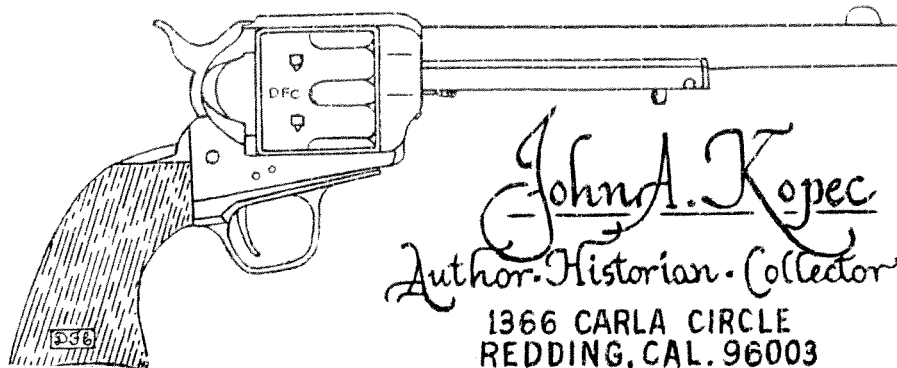




06/28/2007



John A. Kopec
 Author · Historian · Collector.
 1366 CARLA CIRCLE
 REDDING, CAL. 96003

Oct. 27, 1994

11

We have recently examined your Colt U.S. Cavalry revolver for the purpose of authentication. This revolver #4884 was a new listing to our survey and falls between #4881 (an Artillery revolver) and #4886 (a Cavalry revolver stolen from Ft. Snelling) in this data-base. This revolver was manufactured during 1874, and was ordnance sub-inspected by O.W. Ainsworth.

Historically, we could not locate this revolver's serial number in the National Archives records available to us. There are two revolvers within close proximity to your revolver ie #4886 and #4987 which are listed as being stolen from Ft. Snelling on August 28, 1882. Another example #4865 was originally issued to Co. H, 2nd Cavalry as of June 11, 1874. Both of these cited examples fall very close in serial number sequence to that of the subject revolver.

The subject revolver #4884 originated from within LOT FIVE. Lot Five was one of the "prime" lots from which those revolvers which had been issued to the U.S. Seventh Cavalry were drawn. These revolvers were issued to this unit on July 2, 1874, just prior to their departure into the Black Hills under the command of Lt. Col. George A. Custer. Our book, "Colt Cavalry & Artillery Revolvers" (Kopec & Fenn) cites the revolver #4840 as belonging to the First Cavalry during the Nez Perce War. Another example not mentioned in this book #4895 was found during 1962 at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and acknowledged by these Indians as being taken at the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Another significant referenced example #4878 is listed in the Archives records as being "Turned-in" by the Indian "Fools-Bear" on September 5, 1876. There is no question that the subject revolver

Letter of Authentication

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



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

#4884 is well within the group of revolvers which could have been associated with the famous Custer Battle.

It was indeed a pleasure to examine this fine original example at a recent Las Vegas Antique Arms Show. We find this revolver to be authentic in all respects.

It is also important to realize that there are very few surviving examples of these early Ainsworth sub-inspected revolvers which clearly display their original grip cartouche.

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

Sincerely yours,



John A. Kopec

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(Revised 6/19/2007)

JOHN K. VAN DE KAMP
Attorney General

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



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(714) 781-4170

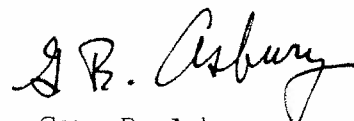
March 12, 1990

91720

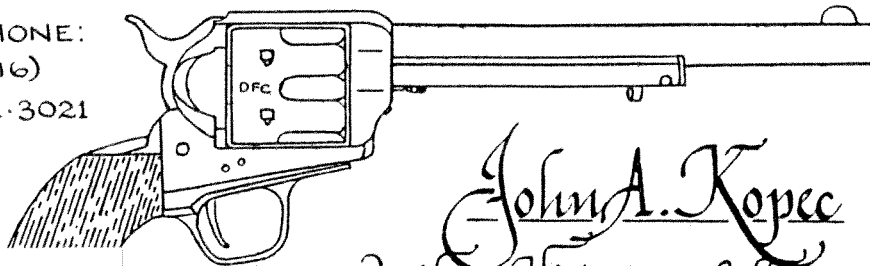
From: Gary B. Asbury, Supervising Criminalist

Re.: COLT, Single Action Army, S/N: 4884

A Microscopic examination of the pitting on the barrel in front of the ejector housing was consistent with the presence of blood. Chemical confirmation was inconclusive, possibly due to the age of the purported blood.


Gary B. Asbury

PHONE:
(916)
472-3021



John A. Kopec
· Author · Historian · Collector ·

P.O. BOX 217 · WHITMORE · CA · 96096

Oct. 27, 1994

03

We have recently examined your Colt U.S. Cavalry revolver #4884 for the purpose of an authentication. This revolver was a new listing to our survey and falls between #4881 (an Artillery Mdl.) and #4886 (a Cavalry revolver stolen from Ft. Snelling) in this survey.

Historically, there are two revolvers within close proximity of your revolver (#4886 & #4987 which are listed as being stolen from Ft. Snelling on August 28, 1882. Another revolver #4865 was originally issued to; Co. H 2nd. U.S. Cavalry on June 11, 1874. Both of these references fall very close to your example by serial number association.

It was indeed a pleasure to examine this fine original example at the recent Las Vegas Antique Arms Show. We find this revolver to be authentic in all respects.

It is also important to realize that there are very few surviving examples of these early Ainsworth sub-inspected revolvers which clearly display their original grip cartouche.

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Sincerely yours,

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