



*Springfield Mass*

March 2, 2000

The revolver you inquired about in your letter of recent date is a Model 3 Schofield Second Model. This model was designed by Major George W. Schofield for use by the United States Army. The gun was chambered for the .45 S&W Schofield cartridge which is slightly shorter and has an improved rim to work with the automatic extractor than the .45 Colt cartridge.

The Model 3 Schofield was introduced in 1875 and produced until 1877 with a total production of 8969 revolvers. The majority of these revolvers were purchased by the U. S. Army with only 685 revolvers being sold to the civilian trade.

In general the collectors recognize two major models. These models are called the First Model and Second Model. The First Model was produced during 1875 and is serial numbered from 1 to 3035 with a total of 3,000 being delivered to the U. S. Army. The cost of these revolvers to the Army was \$13.50. The Second Model was produced from 1876 to 1877 with a total of 5,285 being supplied to the Army. The serial numbers of the second model continued in the same series beginning at serial number 3036.

The Model 3 Schofield revolver was phased out of service by the U. S. Army only a few years after it was purchased. Therefore, many of these guns were sold to civilians as a surplus arm and helped to mold the history of our American West.

The Model 3 Schofields purchased by the U.S. Government were finished in blue and equipped with 7 inch barrels. These models were shipped directly from Smith & Wesson to the U.S. Armory at Springfield, Massachusetts. The civilian models that were sold by Smith & Wesson were supplied in both nickel and blue, but only in the 7 inch barrel lengths.



SMITH & WESSON

*Handwritten initials*



Model 3 Schofield, Second Model  
Page 2

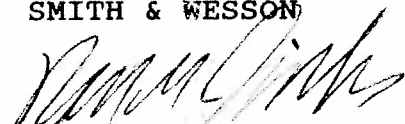
When the Model 3 Schofield was dropped from service by the U.S. Army, they were purchased primarily by two dealers. These dealers were Schuyler, Hartley & Graham and Francis Bannerman both of New York City. These dealers refinished many of the military issued revolvers in nickel and cut the barrels to 5 inches thus offering two lengths. Wells Fargo Express Company was particularly fond of these revolvers with the five inch barrel and purchased many of them from the New York dealers for their agents.

The Model 3 Schofield became an important Western legend and saw use in many important Western battles. It was very popular with law men and cowboys on the Western Frontier because of its ability to be rapidly reloaded.

We have researched your Smith & Wesson Model 3 Schofield Second Model, United States Government Contract, caliber .45 S&W Schofield revolver in company records which indicate that your handgun, with serial number 7771, was shipped from our factory on April 11, 1877, and delivered to United States Government, National Armory, Springfield, MA. The records indicate that this revolver was shipped with a 7 inch barrel, blue finish, and smooth walnut grips.

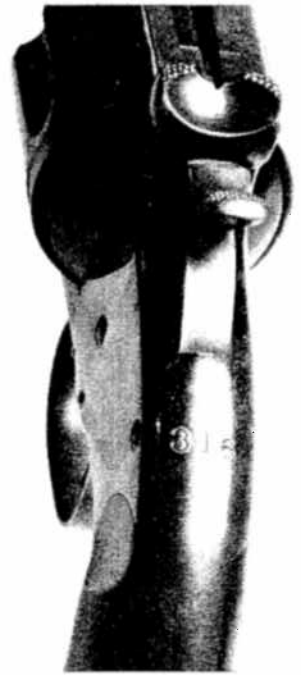
We hope that the information furnished will be helpful and of interest.

Sincerely,  
SMITH & WESSON

  
Roy G. Jinks  
Historian

# The San Francisco S&W Schofield Revolver

by Charles W. Pate

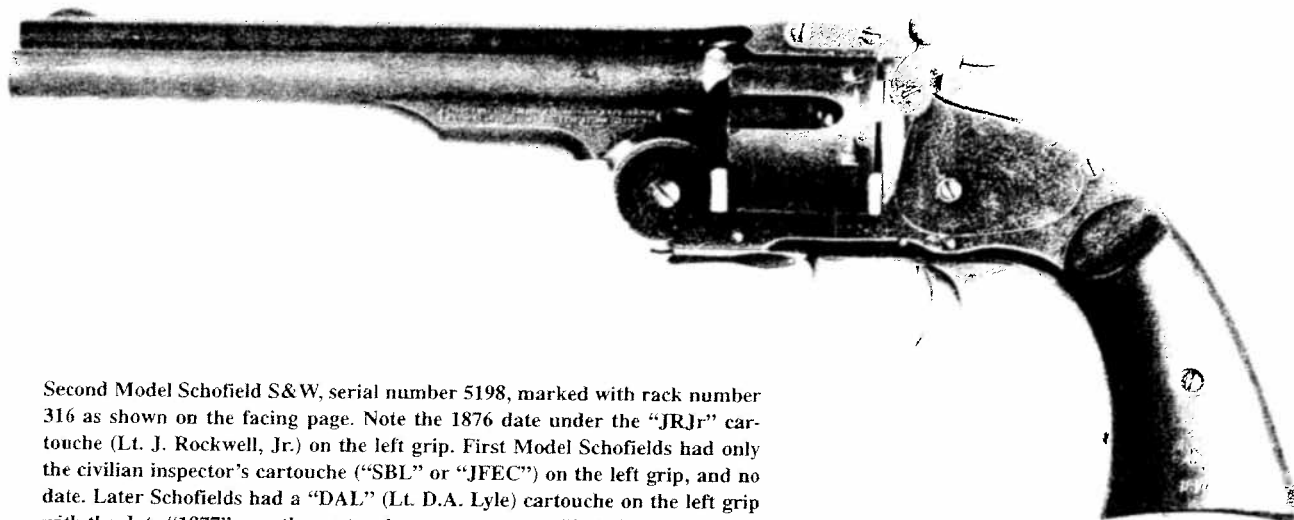


*For several years, collectors have been noticing a group of Schofield S&W cavalry revolvers with numbers stamped on the backstraps, just below their hammers. The marks are all numbers under 400 and appear to have been made with the same dies. Aside from their probable use as rack numbers, little has been uncovered as to their origin. This article presents what the author believes to be the story behind these revolvers. As the reader will see, much of the material used herein is solid historical fact based on both secondary sources and original documentation. But, unfortunately, none of these records directly relate any of these marked revolvers with specific historical events. That relationship has been made by the author through analysis of marked examples and through associations that a lawyer would describe as "hearsay evidence." The author would welcome any additional information readers might have. Since this research is part of a larger study of the Schofield for future publication, the author would also welcome reports on extant examples of the revolver, whether they have "San Francisco Police" markings or not.*

The 1870s were a very turbulent period in San Francisco history and in that of the nation. A statewide panic followed the closing of the Bank of California in 1871. The collapse of Jay Cooke's financial empire contributed greatly to the more widespread panic of 1873. Twin plagues of drought and grasshopper infestation destroyed crops throughout the Great Plains from Fort Worth, Texas, to Saint Paul, Minnesota, during the summer of 1874. The Los Angeles real estate market went into a depression in the mid-1870s. An 1876-1877 drought in California killed hundreds of thousands of sheep, cut the grain harvest in half and closed many hydraulic mines. The Consolidated Virginia Mine ran out of ore and stopped paying dividends. A stock market crash cost Californians \$100 million. As a result of these problems, approximately 30,000 unemployed workers poured into San Francisco, but there was little work to be found.

The reason why there was so little work available was another major ingredient in the witch's brew which boiled over in the San Francisco riots of 1877-1878. Racial tensions had long existed in the state at large and in San Francisco. In 1848, there were incidences of mob action against Latin Americans in the city.<sup>1</sup> Anti-Chinese actions soon followed. The Chinese were largely ignored until their numbers became significant. But in 1852, at the height of the gold rush, 20,000 of the 67,000 immigrants were Chinese. Early Chinese immigrants came as labor for the mines.

As the richest placer mines were worked out, mining became more and more labor intensive. The Chinese were willing to work for less pay and under worse conditions. The government's response was to pass an anti-foreign miner's tax which turned out to be low enough that it did not discourage immigration, but significant enough that it accounted for 25 percent of the state's revenue for several



Second Model Schofield S&W, serial number 5198, marked with rack number 316 as shown on the facing page. Note the 1876 date under the "JR,Jr" cartouche (Lt. J. Rockwell, Jr.) on the left grip. First Model Schofields had only the civilian inspector's cartouche ("SBL" or "JFEC") on the left grip, and no date. Later Schofields had a "DAL" (Lt. D.A. Lyle) cartouche on the left grip with the date "1877" over the cartouche.

Photo by David Jewell

years. Other forms of official discrimination occurred, and there were also frequent acts of violence against the Chinese in the early years. But it was not until the 1870s that there was major, organized violence against them.<sup>2</sup>

In 1877, in reaction to a deepening depression, some railroads cut wages and increased employee workloads. When, in July 1877, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad decreased wages by 10 percent for the third time, forty furious laborers at Martinsburg, West Virginia, walked off the job and attempted to halt further movement on the rails. Workers in Maryland followed their example, and the strike spread westward to the major rail centers in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. Railroad property was destroyed, and bands of strikers clashed with strikebreakers as well as with state and local police and militia forces. Governors, under intense pressure from railroad managers, called on President Hayes for federal troops to quell the riots. Hayes responded by placing federal troops under the direction of state officials to stamp out "insurrection." Army officers were ordered to "protect public property, assist in executing United States civil process, or to display such strength as to serve the moral purpose of keeping the peace."<sup>3</sup>

On July 24, 1877, California Senator A.A. Sargent sent the War Department a telegram asking that telegraphic instructions be sent to General McDowell in San Francisco, authorizing him to issue arms and ammunition to "Citizens Committee in case outbreak here. Prompt action seems necessary." A note on the telegram, now in the National Archives, states that the Commanding Officer (CO) of Benicia Arsenal was instructed, by telegraph, to issue everything that McDowell wished and that McDowell was also informed.<sup>4</sup> Two days later, in an encrypted telegram, Lt. Col. Julian McAllister, CO Benicia Arsenal, stated,

"Sent last night from reservation on McDowell telegraphic order to Committee of Safety, 1760 rifles, 950 carbines, 300 pistols and cartridges. This has taken all arms Cal. .45 from this Arsenal."<sup>5</sup> This was followed by a second telegram on the same day from Lt. Col. McAllister, "Sent San Francisco on McDowell telegraphic order, 200 sets horse equipments, 300 pistol holsters, belts & plates."<sup>6</sup>

Note that the arms were provided to a "Committee of Safety" rather than to the civil authorities. This is explained in a follow-up letter, dated July 28, 1877, from Lt. Col. McAllister to the Chief of Ordnance.

*I have the honor to send you an account of the events which have occurred here in the last few days. The peace of the city of San Francisco has not been threatened by strikes, but the news of the disturbances in the east have excited the anti-Chinese, ie. the illiterate element of the population, to such an extent as to transform it into gangs of incendiaries who have fired the city in an (unreadable) number of places.*

*In my opinion the authorities were fully able, in the first instance, to disperse these mobs and to prevent any disorders. They wished to do so, but on the eve of the fall elections, they were afraid by action that they might injure the success of their party.<sup>7</sup> This procrastination has resulted in the destruction of a great many houses occupied by Chinese, and an attempt to burn the (unreadable) U.S.S. Co's wharf, which last resulted in a large fire that destroyed an adjoining dock piled with lumber. This hesitancy of action has also allowed the lawlessness wherever in the hoodlum, (unreadable) and tramp elements of the population to be*

*Continued on page 34.*

Continued from page 31.

developed by exercise and some citizens have been killed, and some Chinese burned alive in their houses. The papers have not recorded fully the operations of the mobs for fear that the enumeration of their (unreadable) actions would have given them more encouragement to defy the laws.

The mobs did not seem to heed the police or to consider the fact that the companies of the National Guard were well armed with rifles and had four Gatling [sic] Guns as of any moment.

They continued to roam the streets, hooting, firing pistols, throwing stones and kindling fires at night, and only dispersed at one place in order to assemble at another. This state of things existed until the members of the Committee of Safety were armed from this arsenal; since then no disorders or fires have occurred and everything is "quiet on the Potomac." The men and boys who comprised the mobocracy of San Francisco understood full well that the Committee of Safety is composed of property owners, merchants, stockholders in insurance companies, etc., who regard the majority of the law as far superior to any party success, and that some of these men had belonged to the Vigilance Committee of 1856. The former president of the old Vigilance Committee, Mr. Wm. T. Coleman,<sup>8</sup> is president of the present Committee of Safety, and the older members of the mob can well remember when men were hung for a less matter than arson. Col. Kelton<sup>9</sup> writes me today "Your promptness in sending arms etc. has in the estimation of the citizens saved the city from the scenes witnessed in Chicago and Pittsburgh."

My opinion is that the old members of the former Vigilance Committee knew exactly what to do, and how far the local authorities could be depended upon in an emergency, and formed an intelligent nucleus which acted immediately, and directed the thousands who joined them what to do.

I received your telegram dated July 24th on 25th inst. After (unreadable) I received telegrams from HQ Division of the Pacific directing me to issue Chief of Police San Francisco 500 S&W pistols and 10,000 cartridges, to issue Wm. Coleman 4000 S. [Springfield] Rifles (Cal .45), 80,000 rounds ammunition (Cal .45), 300 Carbines (Cal .45), 100 revolvers, 30 rounds of ammunition for carbines and pistols. The above telegraphic requisitions could be only partially filled. The following were sent Wm. T. Coleman president Committee of Safety, 760 S. Rifles (Cal .45), 500 Carbines (Cal .45), 450 Sharps Carbines Altered (Cal .50), 1000 S. Rifle Muskets (Cal .50) and 100 Revolvers S&W (Cal .44) with ammunition for all of the above. To Capt.

Henry H. Ellis, Chief of Police, 200 Schofield S&W pistols (Cal .45) and ammunition. The boat left the arsenal at 8 PM with these stores under the charge of Capt. Wm. H. (unreadable). On the 28th at 3 PM the following was received "Send to Wm. T. Coleman today 200 saddles, bridles, blankets, (unreadable). Send pistol holsters, belts and plates for all pistols sent yesterday to Chief of Police and Wm. T. Coleman, Kelton A.A.G." These were sent with a special messenger (unreadable) boat. From last accounts I think nothing further will be required from this arsenal.<sup>10</sup>

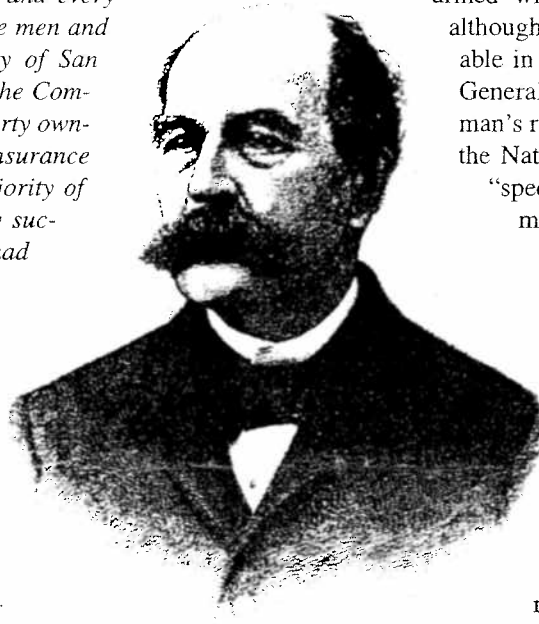
In the short term, Col. McAllister was correct. By some accounts, the Committee of Safety was so firmly in charge of the situation that their patrols were initially armed with pick handles instead of firearms, although the weapons were kept readily available in case of need. The California Adjutant General's annual report stated that, at Coleman's request, the firearms were controlled by the National Guard. Issues were made to the "special policemen," but these arms were mostly rifles and included only 30 of the .44 caliber S&W American models.

Regardless, by the next month it appeared the arms were no longer needed. In an August 31, 1877,

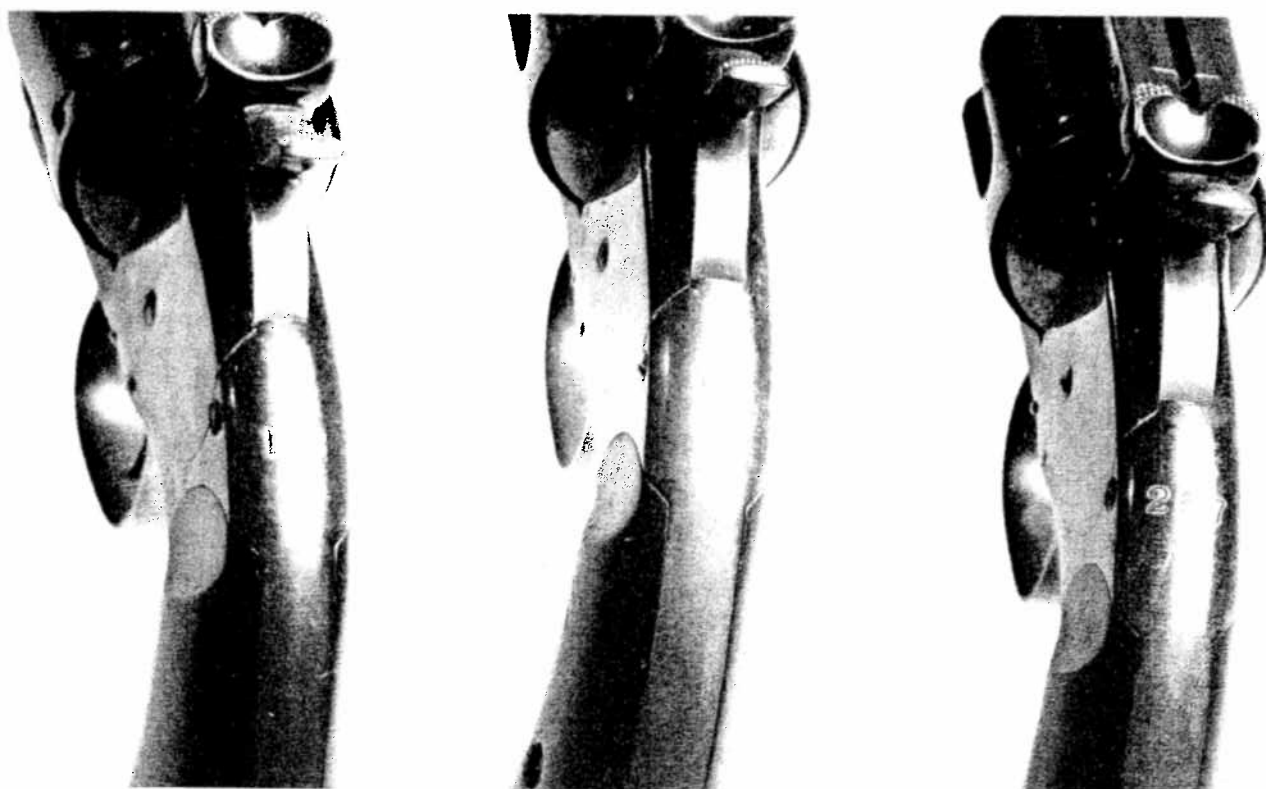
letter to the Chief of Ordnance, McAllister stated that all arms issued to the Chief of Police and Committee of Safety had been returned except for 2 Sharps Carbines, 3 Rifle Muskets, 13 S&W .44 caliber revolvers and 2 Schofield revolvers. He also mentioned that the Committee of Safety wanted to buy some

of the arms (the Committee had raised over \$5,000 for their expenses). The Chief of Ordnance stated that the arms could not be purchased and instructed him to collect the value of those not returned. The only legal basis for the transfer of arms to the states was under provisions of the Militia Act, and such arms were to be provided for the state militias (or National Guard), not the police. However, it was necessary to recover the cost of the lost ordnance. The charge for the above arms and a number of small items and ammunition was \$490.97 and was paid by September 19, 1877.<sup>11</sup>

Apparently, the peace was short-lived. On November 4, 1877, the War Department forwarded a letter from Senator Sargent requesting assistance. The War Department instructed the Chief of Ordnance to, once again, issue arms to the State of California for the maintenance of civil order. Sargent's letter forwarded telegrams from H.H. Ellis, San Francisco Chief of Police; A.J. Bryant, Mayor of San Francisco; and James Coey, Postmaster of San Francisco. These telegrams claimed that an emergency existed greater than



William Tell Coleman



Close-up views of the numbers on three of these intriguing revolvers: (left) Schofield serial number 3601 with "14" and an obliterated third digit rack number. Apparently, this was a correction to an error made in the numbering process. (center) Schofield serial number 8190 marked with rack number 74. (right) Schofield serial number 8670 marked with rack number 267.

*Photos by David Jewell*

the one in July and requested that arms be issued once again. The letter was annotated by the Ordnance Office to indicate that Lt. Col. McAllister was notified to issue arms "to State authorities" in case of emergency.<sup>12</sup> On November 10, 1877, Lt. Col. McAllister sent a telegram to the Chief of Ordnance stating that the Chief of Police and the Mayor wanted 300 SS&W revolvers ("S&W revolvers with Schofield's improvements") and requesting instructions. The Chief of Ordnance replied that the arms were to be issued upon the request of the Governor only and to correspond with him by telegraph.<sup>13</sup>

On November 19, McAllister forwarded a receipt signed by Governor Irvin of California for 300 SS&W revolvers, holsters, belts, plates and ammunition pouches, along with 2,000 rounds of ammunition and six arms chests. McAllister asked if this was to be considered an issue to the state. On December 4, the Ordnance Office replied that the State of California was already over its quota of arms and that the items were to be returned.<sup>14</sup> But an endorsement from the Benicia Arsenal Store Keeper dated February 4, 1878, stated that the arms had not been returned at that time.<sup>15</sup> It appears that they were never returned. In addition, there is no mention of this issue in the State Adjutant General's report and no Schofield revolvers appear in the National Guard inventory until 100 were obtained in 1880.

The author found no additional information in U.S. Army correspondence files on the 300 revolvers issued to the state in November of 1877. However, other records show that, on October 14, 1878, 200 "Schofield" holsters were issued to the state. At that time, the State Adjutant General's report showed only 100 S&Ws in the California National Guard inventory, and they were American model revolvers. However, the report did indicate receipt of the holsters and had a footnote stating, "Sold to municipal authorities of San Francisco." This is an obvious indication that the 300 Schofields were retained and suggests that additional revolvers were obtained as well, since there were 300 holsters issued with the revolvers in November of the previous year.

There does appear to have been a continuing need for a sizable, well-equipped police force. The labor unrest of 1877 did not dissipate for more than another ten years. The 1878 California Adjutant General's report stated that the police force proper numbered only 120 officers, but the need for auxiliary police (and the means to arm them) was obvious.

To summarize the above, at least 300 Schofield revolvers were provided to California in 1877, specifically for the San Francisco police, and the extant records suggest the "municipal authorities" retained these revolvers for some undetermined time. Only 300 revolvers are men-

tioned, but 500 "Schofield" holsters are documented. Even though the holsters would wear more quickly than the revolvers, 200 extra holsters seems excessive and suggests more than 300 revolvers were in the inventory.

The author has collected data on 43 revolvers having numbers stamped on their back straps, using what appears to be a common set of dies.

For want of a better term, the author will refer to these numbers as "rack" numbers. The lowest number found, so far, is number 14. The highest is 385. Distribution of the numbers for the 43 examples is given in Table 1.

The author believes that these marked revolvers were not used by the Regular Army. As a group, they are in exceptionally good condition, which would be unusual for a group of surplus Army revolvers, and the Army did not typically put rack numbers on their revolvers. Good condition and extra markings is more typical of militia revolvers.

Of all the states, only California, Michigan and New York received as many as 400 Schofields. Michigan sold most of the 536 Schofields that it obtained, and New York apparently sold all of their 2,000. To the author, having rack numbers approaching 400 in number and use of the same dies indicates that the revolvers were together when marked and that they were most likely kept together. The California Adjutant General's reports for the 1875-1888 period were reviewed by the author, and no more than 100 Schofields were shown in the state inventory.

The numbers marked on the revolvers strongly suggest a total of 400 revolvers were so marked. If these revolvers are indeed San Francisco Police revolvers, one major question remains unanswered — where did the other 100 revolvers come from? The author sees two possibilities. First, the city authorities could have purchased an additional 100 revolvers off the open market. Michigan and New York obtained Schofields under the Militia Act for the specific purpose of selling or trading them for other items that the states needed. According to contemporary accounts, these revolvers were put on the commercial market. Most

of these revolvers were also high in serial number, as are most of the marked examples. A second possibility is that the San Francisco revolvers were turned in to the state after 1888 for use by the National Guard, at which point they were given rack numbers. To the author, this is the more likely scenario. One would think that the Schofield would

be a rather large, heavy handgun for a policeman who was not mounted. A third possibility, but one the author believes unlikely, is that 100 revolvers of some other make were used. The distribution of numbers on the Schofields would require the other revolvers to have been fully, and randomly, integrated with the Schofields.

There is no correlation between revolver serial number and rack number. For example, serial number 2064 has rack number 91 while serial number 2248 is marked with rack number 333.

However, the distribution of examples over the Schofield serial number range, given in Table 2, is interesting and useful. This distribution supports the supposition that these marked revolvers were among the Schofields sent initially to Benitia Arsenal. While deliveries from the

factory were not in strict serial number order, there was a general correlation between date of delivery and serial number. For example, San Antonio received the first 750 Schofields delivered for issue to the 4th, 9th and 10th Cavalry regiments. The 9th was the first regiment to be issued Schofields. Some 9th Cavalry Schofields have been identified and they are all under 1000 in number. Benitia received very few of the earliest Schofields, and only one rack number marked revolver is under 1000 in serial number. The author's research also indicates that Benitia received proportionately more of the last Schofields bought, and 29 of the 43 rack number marked revolvers are above 5000 in serial number.

Regardless of who owned the revolvers, they appear to have seen relatively little use. Most examples have good, legible grip cartouches and at least strong traces of original finish. Some have 50-80% of the blue remaining.

**Table 1**  
**RACK NUMBER SUMMARY**

<i>Rack Number Range</i>	<i>Number of Examples</i>
1 thru 100	13
101 thru 200	8
201 thru 300	11
301 thru 400	11

**Table 2**  
**SERIAL NUMBER SUMMARY**  
**OF MARKED EXAMPLES**

<i>Serial Range</i>	<i>Number of Examples</i>
1 thru 1000*	1
1001 thru 2000	5
2001 thru 3000	5
3001 thru 4000**	1
4001 thru 5000**	2
5001 thru 6000	8
6001 thru 7000***	8
7001 thru 8000***	5
8001 thru 9000***	8

\* Most Schofields in this serial number range are believed to have been sent to San Antonio Arsenal.

\*\* Most Schofields in this serial number range are believed to have been sent to Rock Island Arsenal and San Antonio Arsenal.

\*\*\* Most, if not all, of the approximately 650 Second Model civilian Schofields were in this serial number range while all of the rack marked revolvers have military inspection markings.

Of the few revolvers that can be traced back twenty or more years, all originated in California. According to the history of one revolver, it was bought in a Los Angeles Army-Navy store in 1931. The proprietor had, at that time, a case of these revolvers, all with markings on their back straps. If this was an Army packing case, it would have held up to 50 revolvers.

This concludes results of the author's research to date.

The material found, so far, makes for a logical and interesting story, but nothing specifically ties these revolvers to the San Francisco Police Department.

The most likely sources of additional information are San Francisco and California state records — documents which are not readily available to the author. Perhaps some of our California readers will further this work by researching those records.

## SCHOFIELD S&W BACKGROUND

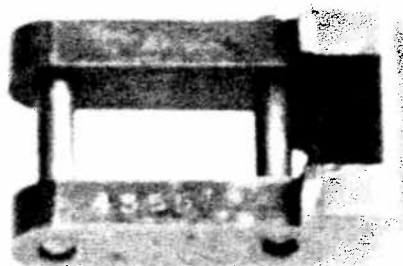
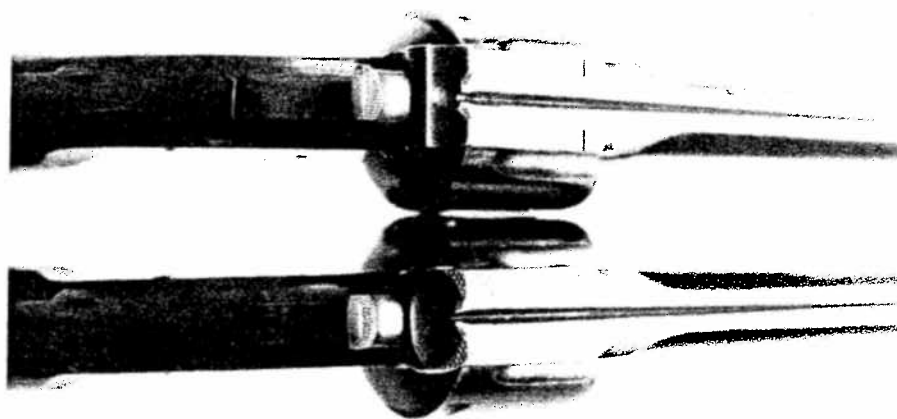
In 1869-70, the Army convened a Small Arms Board of Officers in St. Louis, chaired by General John M. Schofield, to examine breechloading, metallic cartridge small arms, including revolvers. At these trials, the S&W Model 3 was selected for a competitive field trial and 1,000 were purchased for issue to cavalry troops. Major George W. Schofield, the general's brother, was impressed with the basic S&W design. He obtained personal revolvers from the factory and immediately began making modification to improve the revolver for service use.

The Army eventually purchased approximately 8,005 of the Schofield version S&W Model 3 (or "SS&W") in four different procurement actions (see Table 3). Some design changes were implemented between the first and second procurements, and collectors have termed these variations as First and Second Model Schofields, although the Army made no such distinction in their issue. No characteristics have surfaced that separate the third and fourth procurements, and they are the same as the earlier Second Model revolvers, except for serial number range and military markings.

The most obvious difference in the two models is in the barrel catch that holds the action closed. First Model catches have flat sides while Second Models have rounded, protruding sides and knurling on the top surfaces to aid in opening the action. Other, less obvious, differences exist but will not be detailed here.

One factory-suggested change, which should be mentioned, is the omission of the steel firing pin collar, or recoil plate, in the Second Model. The Second Model frame was made of steel while the First Model was made of iron, which, for durability reasons, required a steel bushing or collar. Given that the barrel catch can be replaced, the presence or absence of this collar provides a more certain and easily visible distinction between the two models.

A change in the George Schofield patent date markings provides useful information about sequence of production.



(top) First Model Schofield serial number 1600 on the top and Second Model serial number 4626 on the bottom, showing the difference in the barrel catches of the two models. *Gerry Owen photo* (above left) The originality of the catch and its corresponding barrel part (the cylinder stay/cylinder catch) can be verified, since the factory usually numbered them with the serial number. It is somewhat inconvenient and potentially injurious to the pistol to make this verification. Cylinder catch serial numbered 4355 is shown here.

*David Jewell photo* (above right) The rear cylinder catch screw (the one nearest to the hammer) is also numbered. Not shown in this photo, the opposite side of the screw is milled away so a partial turn of the screw will allow the catch to be raised just enough to permit removal of the cylinder. *David Jewell photo*

Schofield patents are stamped on the right side of the barrel, while S&W patents are on the left. All the 1st Models and early 2nd Models, so far reported, have only the 22 April 1873 patent date applied to the right side of the barrel.

Some time into the production of the second procurement, a 20 June 1871 patent date was added. This occurred some time after 15 August 1876, at Major Schofield's insistence. The significance is that revolvers having the second patent date were probably the majority of the last ones to be shipped under this order. A transition to the two-date marking appears to have occurred in roughly the 4500 to 6000 range. Unfortunately, the author has Schofield patent data on only four of the ten rack numbered examples in the 3000 to 6000 serial range. However, three of the four examples have the second patent date.



Early barrel marking.



Late barrel marking.

The Army expressed a desire to purchase additional Schofield revolvers in 1878, but S&W was out of stock and not interested in producing more. Perhaps S&W disliked the modest royalty they paid Schofield; but, for whatever reason, the firm did not promote the revolver. A recently promoted Lt. Col. Schofield intervened with the company and gained their assurance that more could be made, but by that time, the Army no longer needed them. The Colonel continued his improvements in the design and his own promotion efforts with

the Army, but his death in 1882 ensured the end of SS&W production.

Schofield S&W revolvers continued in use in the Regular Army, but by the early 1890s, when .45 caliber revolvers were withdrawn from service and replaced by the .38 Colt, few Schofields were in Army service. Small numbers continued to be issued to the states until approximately 1897. It is believed that Washington and West Virginia National Guard units used Schofields in the Spanish-American War.

**Table 3**  
**SCHOFIELD PROCUREMENT SUMMARY**

**FIRST PROCUREMENT (FIRST MODEL SS&W)**

<i>Serial Number Range</i>	1 to approximately 3000 (lowest confirmed is 1 and highest is 2994).
<i>Date of Order</i>	18 September 1874.
<i>Period of Inspection</i>	29 January to 29 June, 1875 (179½ days).
<i>Inspecting Officer</i>	Capt. J.P. Farley, Ordnance Corp., Springfield Armory.
<i>Principal Subinspector</i>	Mr. J.F.E. Chamberlain, Civilian, Springfield Armory.
<i>Subinspector</i>	Mr. Samuel B. Lewis, Civilian, Springfield Armory.
<i>Ordnance Markings —</i>	
Right grip:	No government markings. Serial number is stamped on inside surface.
Left grip:	Cartouche of either "JFEC" or "SBL". No date. Either "L" or "C" on bottom of grip, showing grips had passed inspection. Cartouche used to signify the entire revolver had passed inspection and was received by the government.
Frame:	"US" at toe of butt. "L" (for S.B. Lewis) on top surface of the bottom strap (under the cylinder when the action is closed).
Barrel:	"L" and "P" on the barrel flat (underside of barrel just forward of the hinge). "L" showed the barrel had passed inspection. "P" was applied after proof firing. There is often another letter (either "A" or "B") present, located below the L and P, and inverted in relation to them.
Cylinder:	"L" under the serial number and "P" on the next cylinder flat to the right.

**SECOND PROCUREMENT (SECOND MODEL SS&W)**

<i>Serial Number Range</i>	Approximately 3000 to 6000. Lowest confirmed is 3014 and the highest is 5989. Numbers 3011, 3012 and 5998 have also been reported, but information is incomplete.
<i>Date of Order</i>	15 March 1875.
<i>Period of Inspection</i>	14 July to 30 September 1876 (79 days).
<i>Inspecting Officer</i>	Lt. J. Rockwell, Jr., Ordnance Corp., Springfield Arsenal.
<i>Principal Subinspector</i>	Mr. Charles Woodman, Civilian, Springfield Arsenal.
<i>Subinspector(s)</i>	Unknown. Many 2nd Model Schofields have been noted with "E" subinspector

markings. This "E" subinspector might have been C.A. Emery, Charles Evans, Michael Egar, A.C. Edson or George H. Estes.

*Ordnance Markings —*

- Right Grip: All revolvers officially accepted by the Inspecting Officer have Mr. Woodman's cartouche ("CW") on the right grip. All guns accepted by Mr. Woodman have no cartouche on the right grip. Serial number is inside the right grip.
- Left Grip: All revolvers accepted by the Inspecting Officer have "JRJR" and, below it, "1876". All revolvers accepted by Mr. Woodman have his cartouche and do not have the date stamp.
- Frame: Either "E" or "W" on the top surface of the bottom strap. There is often a number present as well, most often "4". "US" at the heel of the butt.
- Barrel: "EP" or "WP" in the same location as the "LP" of the 1st Model. Unlike the 1st Model, no additional letters appear.
- Cylinder: "E" or "W" and "P" in the same positions as on the 1st Model.

**THIRD AND FOURTH PROCUREMENTS (SECOND MODEL)**

- Serial Number Range* Approximately 6000 to 9000. Lowest military revolver reported 6019 and highest is 8883. Highest revolver reported is civilian revolver number 9019.
- Dates of Orders* 1 March 1877 and 7 May to 19 May.
- Periods of Inspection* 5 March to 22 March and 7 May to 19 May.
- Inspecting Officer* Lt. D.A. Lyle, Ordnance Corp., Springfield Arsenal.
- Principal Subinspector* Mr. Charles Woodman.
- Subinspector(s)* Unknown. In addition to the mysterious "E", a "C" now also appears. This may have been A.P. Casey, J.F.E. Chamberlain or John T. Cleveland.
- Ordnance Markings —*
- Right Grip: No Woodman accepted revolvers, otherwise same as 2nd Procurement.
- Left Grip: "DAL" with the date "1877" above it.
- Frame: Either "W", "E", or "C" and "P" were applied. All civilian models reported also have the "P" present. Again, there is usually a number stamped on the frame strap near the letters. "US" stamped at the toe of the butt as it was on the 1st Model.
- Barrel: Either "WP", "EP", or "CP". All "C"-marked guns reported have "C"s throughout except for Woodman's cartouche on the right grip.
- Cylinder: "P" under the serial number. Subinspector initial on the cylinder flat 180 degrees from the serial number.

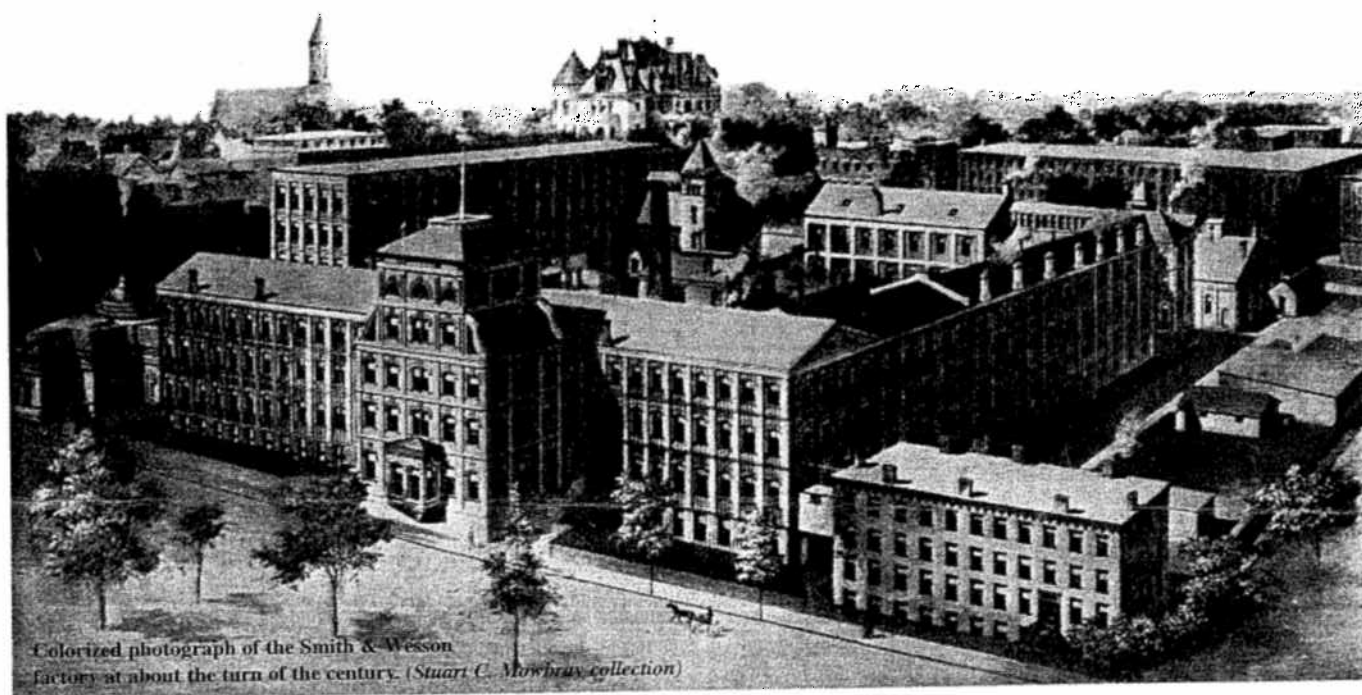
**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup>Lavender, David, *California: Land Of New Beginnings*, Harper & Row, New York, pp. 196-98.  
<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 212.  
<sup>3</sup>Hutton, Paul Andrew, *Phil Sheridan and His Army*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1985, p. 175.  
<sup>4</sup>National Archives, Record Group (RG) 156, Entry (E) 21, Box 385, letter 3782.  
<sup>5</sup>Ibid., letter 3840.  
<sup>6</sup>Ibid., letter 3858.  
<sup>7</sup>There were acts of vigilantism in California at least as early as 1848. In 1851, William Perkins, a member of Sonora's Vigilance Committee, defended such actions by saying when "those to whom the execution of the laws is delegated [prove] incompetent...to protect society by the fulfillment of their duties, the people have the indispensable right to resume temporarily the power of executing the laws themselves." (Lavender, p. 219).  
<sup>8</sup>According to the annual report of Brigadier General John McComb (Commander, Second Brigade, California National Guard), it was his frustration with the lack of action by the police and the unwillingness of the Chief of Police to employ General McComb's troops that led to the revival of the Committee of Safety. McComb stated that it was he who invited "... 200 representative citizens to meet in the Chamber of Commerce, to take such action as might be deemed necessary... The result of that meeting was the formation of a Committee of Safety, to give moral support to the officers of the law, and provide means for a permanent guard at the private and public depots of arms until the excitement should pass away."  
<sup>9</sup>William Tell Coleman, who was at the time a 27-year-old merchant, was a member of the first formal vigilante organization in San Francisco, the "Vigilance Committee" of 1851.  
<sup>10</sup>The Vigilance Committee of 1851 was formed in early June of that year by 103 citizens, mostly merchants and sea captains, who pledged to provide the law and order that the mayor and police apparently could not. On the evening of the 10th, the capture of a thief led to the Committee's first execution of vigilante justice. The thief was tried by an ad hoc jury, convicted, sentenced to death and hung that same evening (Lavender, p. 223).  
<sup>11</sup>Col. Kelton was a proponent of the S&W design and invented the Kelton Safety Stop that was applied to S&W Number Three New Models and, on a field test basis, to the S&W Schofield.  
<sup>12</sup>RG 156, E 21, letter 4069.  
<sup>13</sup>Ibid., letter 4258.  
<sup>14</sup>Ibid., letter 5508.  
<sup>15</sup>Ibid., letter 5613.  
<sup>16</sup>This situation was corrected in August 1878 when the Army allowed California to turn in the state's old weapons for a credit sufficient to clear California's debt and allow the issue of new arms to the state.  
<sup>17</sup>RG 156, E 21, letter 5917.

Number 5, 2000  
\* See number 3, 1966

# **The Private "San Francisco Police S&W Schofield" Confirmed**

*by Charles W. Pate*



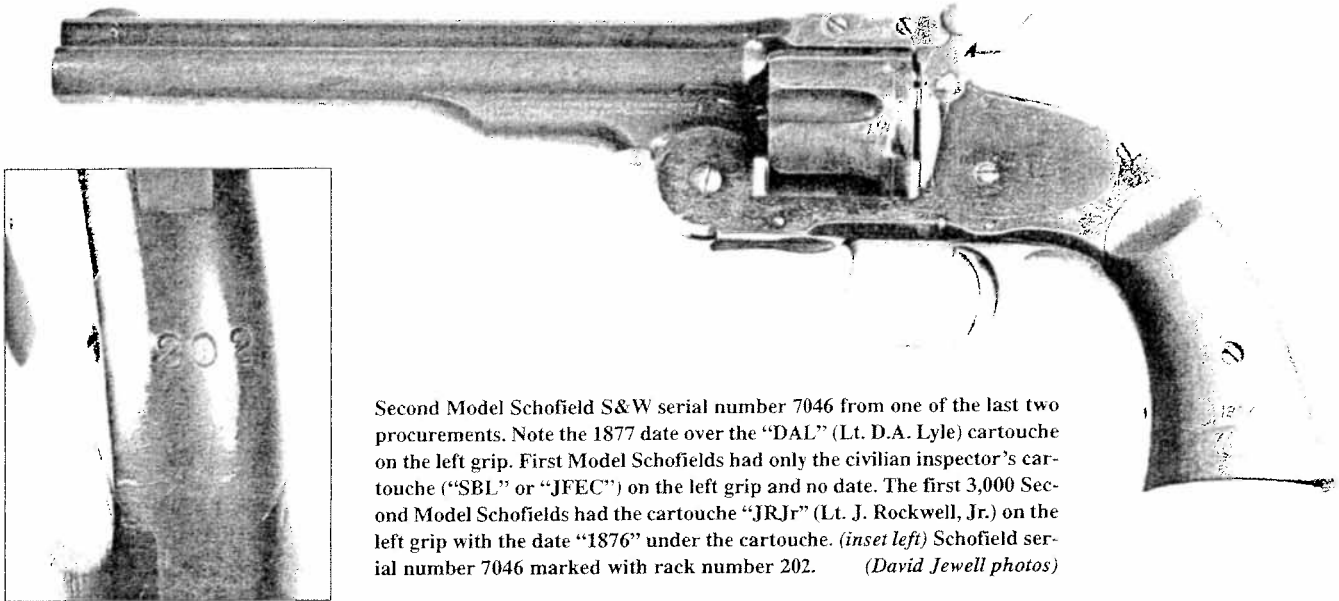
Colorized photograph of the Smith & Wesson factory at about the turn of the century. (Stuart C. Mowbray collection)

The June 1996 issue of *Man at Arms* included an article entitled "The San Francisco S&W Schofield Revolver." This article presented information collected by the author that indicated a tie between S&W Schofield revolvers having a numbered backstrap to probable use by the San Francisco Police Department. While the "evidence" was persuasive, it was circumstantial, and the author left open the possibility of other explanations for the markings. Since publication of the article, two other items of evidence have come to light that confirm the San Francisco Police association. The purpose of this article is to present this new information. For those who have not had an opportunity to read the earlier article, we will begin with a brief summary, updated with additional examples found since its original publication.

The Schofield S&W revolver was designed by George Wheeler Schofield, who at the time was a Major in the 10th Cavalry. The design was based on the S&W Model 3 American, 1,000 of which were purchased by the Army for field trials in 1871. The Army eventually purchased approximate-

ly 8,005 of the Schofield S&W Model 3 (or "SS&W") in four different procurement actions (see Table 3). Some design changes were implemented between the first and second procurements and collectors have termed these variations as First and Second Model Schofields, although the Army made no such distinction in their issue. No characteristics have surfaced that separate the third and fourth procurements, and they are the same as the earlier Second Model revolvers, except for serial number range and military markings.

Schofield S&W revolvers were in limited use in the Regular Army from 1875 to the early 1890s when .45 caliber revolvers were withdrawn from service and replaced by the .38 Colt. Many were issued to the various state militias, starting in 1875, and small numbers continued to be issued to the states until approximately 1897. It is believed that Washington and West Virginia National Guard units used Schofields in the Spanish-American War. These arms were issued to the states under terms of the Militia Act, which provided funds for states to obtain arms and equipment from



Second Model Schofield S&W serial number 7046 from one of the last two procurements. Note the 1877 date over the "DAL" (Lt. D.A. Lyle) cartouche on the left grip. First Model Schofields had only the civilian inspector's cartouche ("SBL" or "JFEC") on the left grip and no date. The first 3,000 Second Model Schofields had the cartouche "JRJR" (Lt. J. Rockwell, Jr.) on the left grip with the date "1876" under the cartouche. (inset left) Schofield serial number 7046 marked with rack number 202. (David Jewell photos)

the Federal government to arm their militia and, later, National Guard forces. Although it was not the intent of the Act, in practice the states did whatever they wished with the arms once received. It was through the Militia Act and the California state government that the city of San Francisco obtained the revolvers discussed here.

San Francisco experienced great civil unrest in the 1870s. In addition to sharing the national economic prob-

lems that existed then, San Francisco had a localized economic depression resulting in approximately 30,000 unemployed workers pouring into San Francisco looking for work. But there was little work to be found. The thousands of Chinese immigrants then in the city were willing to work for less pay and under worse conditions than their American counterparts. Racial tensions had long existed in California at large and especially in San Francisco. In 1877, the unrest began to boil over, and attacks against the Chinese became frequent and deadly. Rioting increased, and the disaffected turned to arson, burning both public and private property. When it became clear that the city officials were unwilling or incapable of dealing with the situation, a "Committee of Safety" was formed composed of property owners, merchants, stockholders in insurance companies, etc. These men, some of whom had been members of the earlier Vigilance Committee, knew exactly what to do and how far the local authorities could be depended upon in an emergency. They formed a command-and-control nucleus that acted immediately and directed the thousands who joined them. In addition to the will to act, they had political influence at the national level to gain the means to maintain order.

On July 24, 1877, California Senator A.A. Sargent sent the War Department a telegram asking that General McDowell, in San Francisco, be authorized to issue arms and ammunition to "Citizens Committee in case of outbreak here." A handwritten note on the telegram, now at the National Archives, states the Commanding Officer (CO) of Benicia Arsenal was instructed by telegraph to issue everything that McDowell wished. Two days later in an encrypted telegram, Lt. Col. Julian McAllister, CO Benicia Arsenal, stated, "Sent last night from reservation on McDowell telegraphic order to Committee of Safety. 1,760 rifles, 950 carbines, 300 pistols [100 S&W American and 200 S&W



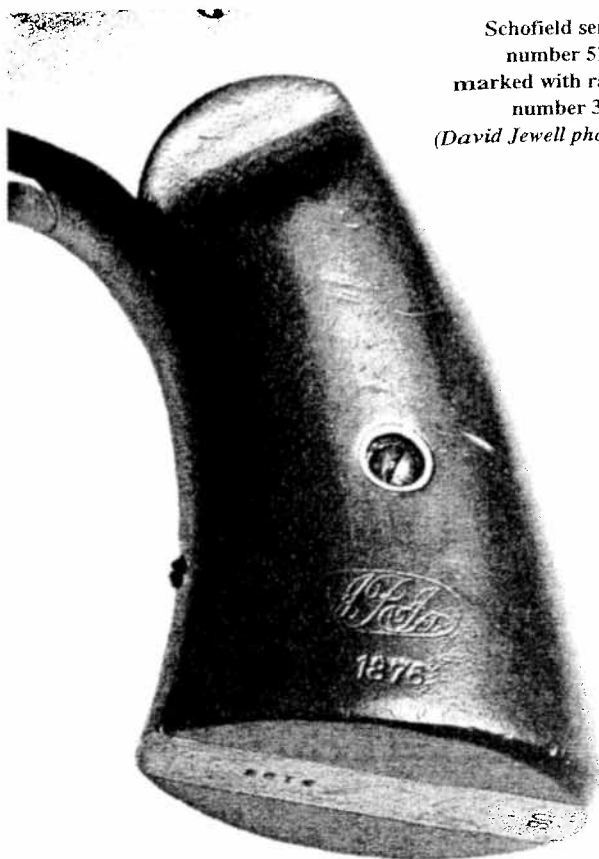
All military Second Model Schofields were stamped with Charles Woodman's initials.

Schofield revolvers] and cartridges." This was followed by a second telegram on the same day from Lt. Col. McAllister, "Sent San Francisco on McDowell telegraphic order, 200 sets horse equipments, 300 pistol holsters, belts & plates."

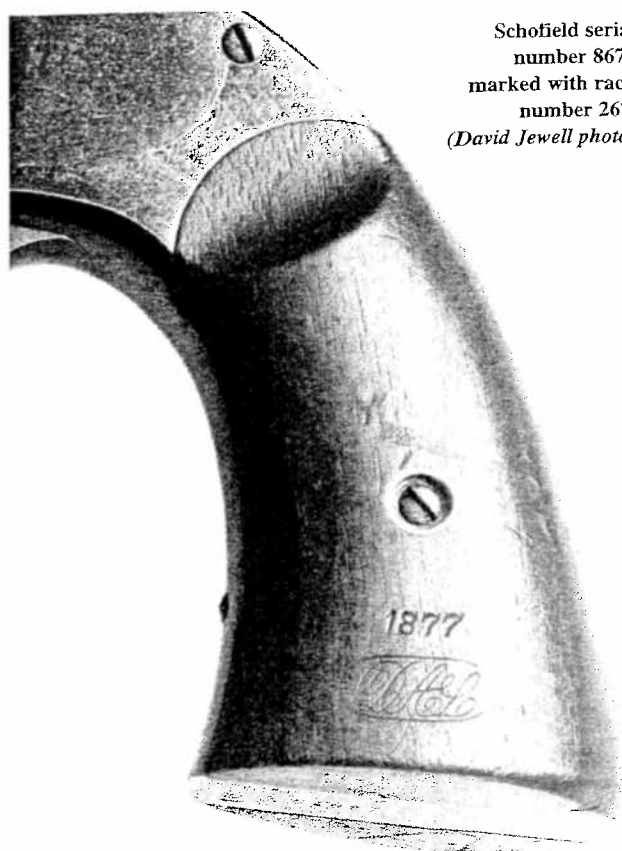
With a few exceptions, these arms were *not* issued to the civilians supporting the Committee of Safety. By some accounts, the Committee was so firmly in charge of the situation that their patrols were initially armed with pick handles instead of firearms, although the weapons were kept readily available in case of need. Issues were made to the "special policemen," but these arms were mostly rifles and included only 30 of the .44 caliber S&W American models. By the next month, it appeared the arms were no longer needed and almost all of them were returned to the Army. The Committee of Safety wanted to buy some of the arms (the Committee had raised over \$5,000 for their expenses), but the Chief of Ordnance stated that the only legal basis for the transfer of arms to the states was under provisions of the Militia Act, and such arms were to be provided for the state militias (or National Guard), not the police.

Apparently, the peace was short-lived. In November 1877, Senator Sargent again requested assistance. The War Department instructed the Chief of Ordnance to once again issue arms to the State of California for the maintenance of civil order. This time, there was no mention of the Committee of Safety. Sargent's letter forwarded telegrams from H.H. Ellis, San Francisco Chief of Police; A.J. Bryant, Mayor of San Francisco; and James Coey, Postmaster of San Francisco, claiming an emergency greater than the one in July. Lt. Col. McAllister was notified to issue arms "to State authorities" in case of emergency. On November 10, 1877, Lt. Col. McAllister sent a telegram to the Chief of Ordnance stating the Chief of Police and Mayor wanted 300 SS&W revolvers ("S&W revolvers with Schofield's improvements") and requested instructions. The Chief of Ordnance replied that the arms were to be issued, but on the request of the Governor only.

On November 19, McAllister forwarded a receipt signed by Governor Irvin of California for 300 SS&W revolvers, holsters, belts, plates and ammunition pouches along with 2,000 rounds of ammunition and six arms chests. An endorsement dated February 4, 1878, to the above document states the revolvers had not been returned. It is believed that the weapons were charged against the state's allowance under the Militia Act, but no confirmation has been found. Likewise, there is no documentary evidence that these revolvers were ever returned to the Army or that they were turned over to the state National Guard. No Schofield revolvers appear in the National Guard inventory until 100 were obtained in 1880. Records do show that on October 14, 1878, 200 "Schofield" holsters were issued to the state. At that time, the state Adjutant General report showed only 100 S&Ws in the California National Guard inventory, and they were American model revolvers. However, the report had a footnote regarding the holsters that stated "Sold to municipi-



Schofield serial number 5198 marked with rack number 316. (David Jewell photo)



Schofield serial number 8670 marked with rack number 267. (David Jewell photo)

pal authorities of San Francisco." This is an obvious indication that the 300 Schofields were retained by the city and suggests that additional revolvers were obtained as well, since there were 300 holsters issued with the revolvers in November of the previous year.

To summarize, 300 Schofield revolvers were provided to California in 1877, specifically for the San Francisco police, and the extant records suggest the "municipal authorities" retained these revolvers for some undetermined time. Only 300 revolvers are mentioned, but 500 "Schofield" holsters are documented. Even though the holsters would wear more quickly than would the revolvers, 200 extra holsters seems excessive and suggests that more than 300 revolvers were in the inventory. It is possible that the city purchased additional Schofields on the open market. Both Michigan and New York, and possibly others, received new Schofields under the Militia Act and then sold or traded them to acquire weapons that were not available from the Army. This activity was a matter of some irritation to Colt's management. On March 23, 1878, Gen. W.B. Franklin of Colt's wrote to the Ordnance Department stating:

*We understand from one of our agents in New York that the same party who formerly obtained Colt's Army pistols from one of the states, and threw them upon the market, had stated that he will soon have another lot which will take the same course. Also we have heard that a lot of Government Smith & Wesson pistols has been thrown upon the market by the same party.*

The author has now collected data on 51 revolvers having numbers stamped on their backstraps using what appears to be a common set of dies. For the want of a better term, the author will refer to these numbers as "rack" numbers. The numbers marked on the revolvers strongly suggest a total of 400 revolvers were so marked. The lowest number found so far is number 7. The highest is 385. Distribution of the numbers for the 51 examples is given in Table 1. The author believes it unlikely, but another possibility is that 100 revolvers of some other make were also used at the same time. The distribution of numbers on the Schofields would require the other revolvers to have been fully, and randomly, integrated with the Schofields.

The author believes these rack-numbered revolvers were not used by the Regular Army. As a group, they are in exceptionally good condition, which would be unusual for a group of surplus Army revolvers, and the Army did not typically put rack numbers on their revolvers. Good condition and extra markings are more typical of revolvers issued to the states. Only Michigan and New York received more SS&W revolvers than did California; Michigan kept fewer than 200, while New York sold all 2,000 received.

There is no correlation between revolver serial number and rack number. For example, serial number 2064 has rack number 91, while serial number 2248 is marked with rack number 333. However, the distribution of examples over the Schofield serial number range, given in Table 2, is interest-

ing and useful. This distribution supports the supposition that these marked revolvers were among the Schofields sent initially to Benitia Arsenal. While deliveries from the factory were not in strict serial number order, there was a general correlation between date of delivery and serial number. For example, San Antonio received the first 750 Schofields delivered for issue to the 4th, 9th and 10th Cavalry regiments. The 9th was the first regiment to be issued Schofields. Some 9th Cavalry Schofields have been identified, and they are all under number 1000. Benitia received only a few of the earliest Schofields, and only the revolver marked number 2 is under 1000 in serial number. The author's research also indicates that Benitia received proportionately more of the last Schofields bought and 34 of the 51 rack-number marked revolvers are above 5000 in serial number (the serial number of one rack-marked example is not yet available to the author).

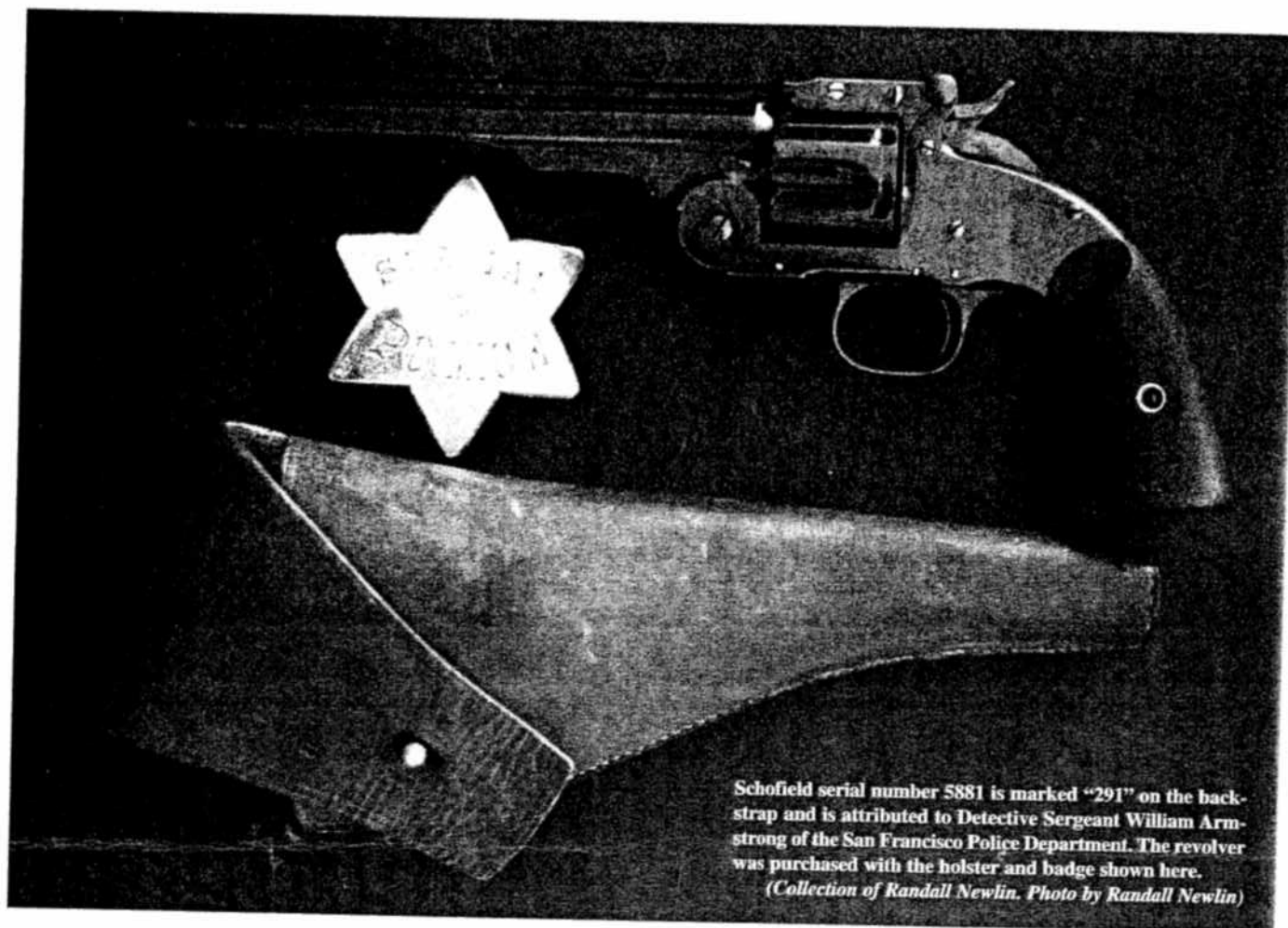
Of the few revolvers that can be traced back twenty or more years, all originated in California. According to the history of one revolver, it was bought in a Los Angeles Army-Navy store in 1931. The proprietor had, at that time, a case of these revolvers, all with markings on their backstraps. If this was an Army packing case, it would have held up to 50 revolvers. This concludes the results of the author's original research. After publication of the earlier article, two significant pieces of additional information came to light.

After reading the earlier article, Mr. Randall Newlin of Illinois advised me that he has a Schofield that was reportedly owned by a San Francisco Police Department policeman who served from January 31, 1883, until January 1, 1932. Mr. Newlin purchased the revolver with a holster and badge also reported to have belonged to the policeman, Detective Sergeant William Armstrong. This revolver reportedly came from the estate of one of William Armstrong's relatives.

The final, and most convincing, information came from Roy Jinks, the S&W Historian. In doing some research into early factory invoice records, Roy found a factory invoice dated July 14, 1881, that confirms San Francisco Police Department use of Schofields. On that date, a shipment of numerous Schofield spare parts was made to "P. Crowley, Chief of Police, SFPD."

While not all questions regarding these weapons have been answered, it is clear that the San Francisco Police did, in fact, use these Schofield Smith & Wesson revolvers. One would think they were too large and heavy for normal patrol use. The author believes that if they were in general service at all, the period was probably not long in duration, perhaps only a few years. More modern, small caliber revolvers probably replaced them at least by the late 1890s. But, they appear to have been retained in the department's inventory for many years more.

The author wishes to thank Roy Jinks and Randy Newlin for their substantial contributions to establishing the history of the San Francisco Police Schofield revolvers.

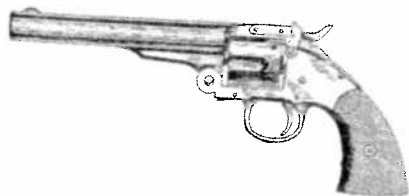


Schofield serial number 5881 is marked "291" on the back-strap and is attributed to Detective Sergeant William Armstrong of the San Francisco Police Department. The revolver was purchased with the holster and badge shown here.

(Collection of Randall Newlin. Photo by Randall Newlin)

**TABLE 1  
RACK NUMBER  
SUMMARY**

Rack Number Range	Number of Examples
1 thru 100	15
101 thru 200	11
201 thru 300	12
301 thru 400	13



**TABLE 2  
SERIAL NUMBER SUMMARY OF  
MARKED EXAMPLES**

Serial Range <sup>1</sup>	Number of Examples
1 thru 1000 <sup>2</sup>	2
1001 thru 2000	5
2001 thru 3000	5
3001 thru 4000 <sup>3</sup>	1
4001 thru 5000 <sup>3</sup>	3
5001 thru 6000	10
6001 thru 7000 <sup>4</sup>	8
7001 thru 8000 <sup>4</sup>	6
8001 thru 9000 <sup>4</sup>	10

**NOTES:**

<sup>1</sup> One serial number is unknown.

<sup>2</sup> Most Schofields in this serial number range are believed to have been sent to San Antonio Arsenal.

<sup>3</sup> Most Schofields in this serial number range are believed to have been sent to Rock Island Arsenal and San Antonio Arsenal.

<sup>4</sup> Most if not all of the approximately 650 Second Model civilian Schofields were in this serial number range, while all of the rack-marked revolvers have military inspection markings. Also, the 2,000 New York state revolvers, which were sold on the open market, were primarily from the 6000-9000 serial number range.

TABLE 3  
SCHOFIELD PROCUREMENT SUMMARY

**First Procurement (First Model SS&W)**

Serial Number Range — 1 to approximately 3000 (lowest confirmed is 1 and highest is 2994).  
 Date of Order: September 18, 1874  
 Period of Inspection: January 29 to June 29, 1875 (179½ days).  
 Inspecting Officer: Capt. J.P. Farley, Ordnance Corp., Springfield Armory.  
 Principal Subinspector: Mr. J.F.E. Chamberlain, Civilian, Springfield Armory.  
 Subinspector: Mr. Samuel B. Lewis, Civilian, Springfield Armory.  
 Ordnance Markings:  
 Right grip: No government markings. Serial number is stamped on inside surface.  
 Left grip: Cartouche of either "JFEC" or "SBL". No date. Either "L" or "C" on bottom of grip showing grips had passed inspection. Cartouche used to signify the entire revolver had passed inspection and was received by the government.  
 Frame: "US" at toe of butt. "L" (for S.B. Lewis) on top surface of the bottom strap (under the cylinder when the action is closed).  
 Barrel: "L" and "P" on the barrel flat (underside of barrel just forward of the hinge). "L" showed the barrel had passed inspection. "P" was applied after proof firing.

There is often another letter (either "A" or "B") present, located below the L and P and inverted in relation to them.  
 Cylinder: "L" under the serial number and "P" on the next cylinder flat to the right.

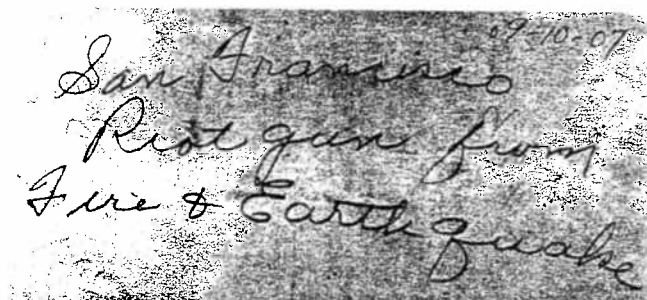
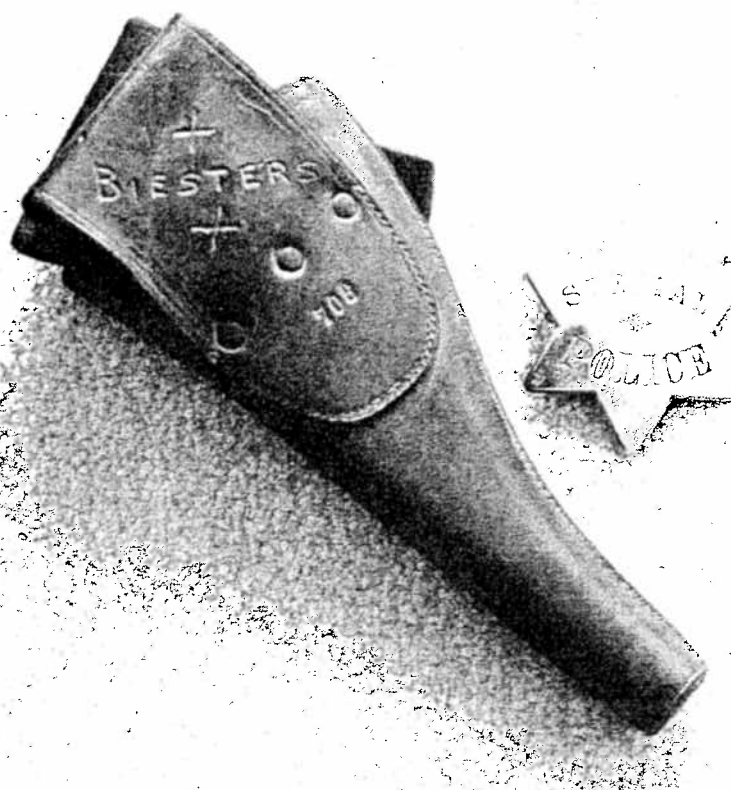
**Second Procurement (Second Model SS&W)**

Serial Number Range: Approximately 3000 to 6000. Lowest confirmed is 3014 and the highest is 5989. Numbers 3011, 3012 and 5998 have also been reported, but information is incomplete.  
 Date of Order: March 15, 1875.  
 Period of Inspection: July 14 to September 30, 1876 (79 days).  
 Inspecting Officer: Lt. J. Rockwell, Jr., Ordnance Corp., Springfield Arsenal.  
 Principal Subinspector: Mr. Charles Woodman, Civilian, Springfield Arsenal.  
 Subinspector(s): Unknown. Many 2nd Model Schofields have been noted with "E" subinspector markings. This "E" subinspector might have been C.A. Emery, Charles Evans, Michael Egar, A.C. Edson or George H. Estes.  
 Ordnance Markings:  
 Right Grip: All revolvers officially accepted by the Inspecting Officer have Mr. Woodman's cartouche ("CW") on

NAME		DIED - Jan. 16, 1939		Pensioned 1/1/32	
Armstrong William		DATE OF BIRTH	July 22, 1852		
PLACE OF BIRTH		STATE OR COUNTRY	Ireland		
PREVIOUS OCCUPATION		MARRIED OR SINGLE	Married		
NO. IN FAMILY		DATE APPOINTED	Jan 31, 1883		
AGE WHEN APPOINTED		DATE REMOVED	Jan. 1, 1932	CAUSE Retired on pension	
PROMOTIONS				Dec 2 Chapt 10 art. III	
CORPORAL		App't. Det. Capt. July 1, 1903			
SERGEANT					
LIEUTENANT					
CAPTAIN					
CHARGES					
OFFENSE CHARGED WITH		COMPLAINANT	DATE OF TRIAL	JUDGMENT OF BOARD	
Unoffensive conduct		P. Crowley	March 5, 1889	Reprimanded	

Personnel record for Sergeant Armstrong from the San Francisco Police Department. (Collection of Randall Newlin. Courtesy Randall Newlin)

Reverse view of the holster purchased with Schofield serial number 5881. (Collection of Randall Newlin. Photo courtesy Randall Newlin)



Note found in the Sergeant Armstrong holster when purchased. (Collection of Randall Newlin. Courtesy Randall Newlin)

the right grip. All guns accepted by Mr. Woodman have no cartouche on the right grip. Serial number is inside the right grip.

Left Grip: All revolvers accepted by the Inspecting Officer have "JRJr" and below it "1876." All revolvers accepted by Mr. Woodman have his cartouche and do not have the date stamp.

Frame: Either "E" or "W" on the top surface of the bottom strap. There is often a number present as well, most often "4". "US" at the heel of the butt.

Barrel: "EP" or "WP" in the same location as the "LP" of the 1st Model. Unlike the 1st Model, no additional letters appear.

Cylinder: "E" or "W" and "P" in the same positions as on the 1st Model.

### Third and Fourth Procurements (Second Model)

Serial Number Range: Approximately 6000 to 9000. Lowest military revolver reported 6019 and highest is 8883. Highest revolver reported is civilian revolver number 9019.

Dates of Orders: March 1, 1877 and May 7, 1877.

Periods of Inspection: March 5 to March 22 and May 7 to May 19.

Inspecting Officer: Lt. D.A. Lyle, Ordnance Corp., Springfield Arsenal.

Principal Subinspector: Mr. Charles Woodman.

Subinspector(s): Unknown. In addition to the mysterious "E", a "C" now also appears. This may have been A.P. Casey, J.F.E. Chamberlain or John T. Cleveland.

#### Ordnance Markings

Right Grip: No Woodman accepted revolvers, otherwise same as 2nd Procurement.

Left Grip: "DAL" with the date "1877" above it.

Frame: Either "W", "E", or "C" and "P" were applied. All civilian models reported also have the "P" present. Again, there is usually a number stamped on the frame strap near the letters. "US" stamped at the toe of the butt as it was on the 1st Model.

Barrel: Either "WP", "EP", or "CP." All "C"-marked guns reported have "C"s throughout, except for Woodman's cartouche on the right grip.

Cylinder: "P" under the serial number. Subinspector initial on the cylinder flat 180 degrees from the serial number.

# **SMITH & WESSON**

## **1857 - 1945**

*Revised Edition*

**ROBERT J. NEAL and ROY G. JINKS**



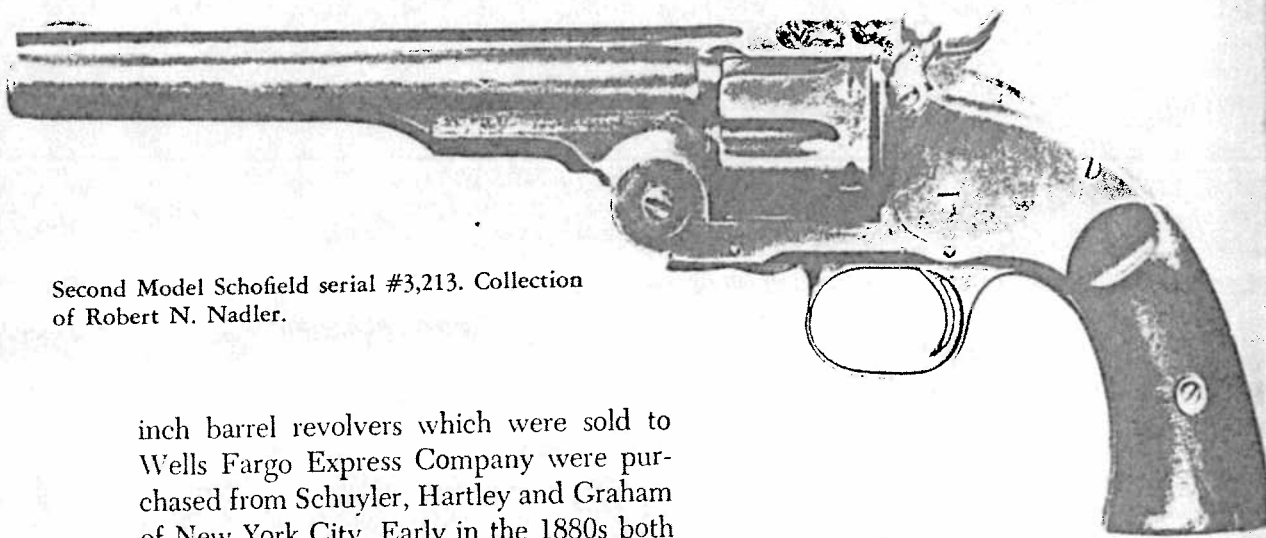
R & R Books  
4447 East Lake Road  
Livonia, New York 14487 USA  
716-346-2577

the cylinder. The top of the frame under the cylinder and the left grip bottom were marked "L." The left side of the grip near the butt was marked "JFEC" and the butt was marked "U.S." The inspector was Lt. D. A. Lyle and the sub-inspector was J. F. E. Chamberlain. Many of this and the Second Model were purchased surplus by Wells Fargo & Co. and marked on the ejector casing "W.F.&Co.Ex." They cut the barrels to five inches in length. The five-

vers were in new condition and this refinishing required no polishing, these nickel models have the appearance of an original finish.

SECOND MODEL SCHOFIELD  
(MODEL 45 CALIBER SINGLE ACTION  
SCHOFIELD SECOND MODEL)

*Manufacturing dates: 1876-1877*



Second Model Schofield serial #3,213. Collection of Robert N. Nadler.

inch barrel revolvers which were sold to Wells Fargo Express Company were purchased from Schuyler, Hartley and Graham of New York City. Early in the 1880s both Schuyler, Hartley and Graham and Francis Bannerman purchased large quantities of the Schofield Models as government surplus revolvers. To increase their sales, they had their gunsmiths cut the barrels to five inches, thus offering both five- and seven-inch lengths. Since the government contract called only for blued guns, these firms also skillfully had many of the Schofield Contract guns nickel plated. Since these revol-

*Ammunition: 45 S&W*  
*Serial numbers: 3,036-about 8,969 (see text)*  
*Barrel length: 7"*  
*Finish: Most were blue with a few nickel.*  
*Stocks: Square butt, plain walnut*  
*Sights: The front sight is a round top blade inserted in the barrel rib and pinned. The rear sight is a notch cut in the barrel catch.*

The barrel rib h rear sight to the aiming.

*General: This m of the First Moe a Model No. 3 i ation. Of the sev from the First was the round the barrel cat lengthening the ger flatter, and thicker. The fra to steel, which the recoil plate*

*Approximatel produced, 5,28 tract to the Arn cate that appr duced for com*

.455 Mark #2,592. Co