



THE
Confederate States
•ARMORY & MUSEUM•

Nancy I. Edmunds
Director
Frederick R. Edmunds
Curator

December 19, 2002

Re: First Model LeMat revolver # 22

Dear Dr. Catterton:

On December 7th, 2002, I had the occasion of partially disassembling and examining your LeMat pistol, serial number 22, with a view toward verifying its authenticity. This statement is a result of my findings and conclusions.

Barrel is correct and original, being half round and half octagonal, with the script-type engraving on the top flat breech-end reading, "Col. LeMat's Patent". Serial number "22", is stamped on the right side barrel flat near the breech-end. Front sight is original. No other barrel marks are observed.

The loading lever assembly is located on the right side, as is correct for the First Model. It was not disassembled, but appears to be original. The loading lever catch could be a replacement, but if that is so, it is an excellent replacement.

The frame is original and has the serial number "22", stamped on the lower right side with an "M" in a circle.

Spur triggerguard and backstrap are original with "22" stamped on inside surfaces. Mainspring and tension screw are original. Swivelling lanyard ring is original.

Hammer is original and has the early "ears" on the top striking surface allowing it to be lowered on a pivot to discharge the grapeshot barrel; hammer is also numbered "22".

The two-piece walnut grips with escutcheons, are in excellent condition and are stamped, "Baquet", inside, as are many early LeMats.

Another early feature in LeMat #22 is the rabbetted slip-fit joint between the grapeshot barrel and the regular barrel: later models were held together by a series of threads and were screwed off in disassembly.

The cylinder is original and shows the same deep patina as the remainder of the piece. It is in excellent untouched condition.

LeMat #22 has a very pleasing deep patina on all of its parts and is in excellent condition: it has a finer finish than most later models, which were not highly polished before blueing was applied. Most LeMats have minor surface roughness when examined closely. They were not highly polished like the Colt products.

The piece at hand is an excellent example of perhaps the most intriguing forearm used in **The War Between The States**.

Respectfully submitted,


Frederick R. Edmunds

P.S. This authentication was written on our old museum stationery (we Closed in July of 1999), because it lends more Confederate ambiance to our correspondence.

Stone Mountain Relics, Inc.

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February 1, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

Stone Mountain Relics, Inc. was established in 1978 to engage in the purchase, sale and appraisal of antique military memorabilia.

The two items listed below in the possession of Dr. Zack Catterton of Signal Mountain, Tennessee have been carefully examined by myself and are so described to the content, authenticity and originality. The current replacement value of the Richmond Rifle-Musket and LeMat, serial #22 as of February 1, 1998 is the \$55,000.00.

1862 Richmond Rifle-Musket. The NRA overall condition is Very Good. The gun shows wonderful, dark age patina on all surfaces. The Barrel has a good bore and strong barrel date. The ramrod is pitted and the rear sling swivel is broken. This is about as fine as pure Richmond production guns are ever found. The current replacement value as of February 1, 1998 is \$20,000.00.

LeMat, Confederate Import, serial #22; This is a Pure first model produced Lemat Revolver. The gun is overall refinished. The markings are very strong, "Coln's LeMats Patent" on the barrel flat; This revolver in my opinion appears to be 100% original. Overall, an extremely attractive weapon. The current replacement value as of February 1, 1998 is \$35,000.00.

Sincerely,



John Sexton
Stone Mountain Relics, Inc.

JS/Inc