

THE LOBNITZ COMPANY

MANUFACTURERS OF

MILLWORK

1714 TO 1722 CLENEY AVE.

PHONE: MELROSE 5932

SHIPPING POINT:

IDLEWILD STATION

NORFOLK & WESTERN R. R.

SASH, DOORS AND BLINDS
INTERIOR FINISH MOULDINGS
PLYWOOD, LUMBER, ETC., ETC.

CINCINNATI 12, OHIO

CONFEDERATE COLLECTION of Small Arms and CSA Items

All 36 caliber 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " dragoon type barrel- except as noted. *

- 1 - C H RIGDON - 5" barrel-ace revolver maker for Confederacy- only known model
- ~~2~~ - SCHNEIDER & GLASSICK - CSA- Mdl # 12- see Ordinance Nov- Dec. 1951
- 3 - GRISWOLD & GREER - round top barrel #973
- 44 * GRISWOLD & GREER - not numbered
- * 5 - LONDON COLT NAVY -1851- octagonal barrel stamped CSS FLORIDA-engraved
- ~~6~~ - LE MAT - marked Colonel Le Mats Patent-engraved frame #
- ~~7~~ - DANCE BROTHERS - 44 caliber #91
- 8 - RIGDON & ANSLEY - #1771
- 9 - Confederate Calvary Sword- stamped MEMPHIS NOVELTY WORKS- THOS. LEECH & Co. #16
- 10 - " Bowie Knife- Ivory handle marked C S - Eagle design on other side
- 11 - " Prisoner of War Letters- original-pasted in book
- 12 - " Flag-- 30" x 24" - silk - Battle Flag design
- 13 - C S A Belt Buckle - regular issue -rectangular
- 14 - C S " " - rounded corners - "
- 15 - C S " " - round
- 16 - C S A Coat Button- C S A Sleeve Button-
- 17 - H C V " " Battle Flag designated 1861-1865
- 18 - Confederate Veterans - Remain Ribbon- Richmond, VA
- 19 - Book the Confederate Soldier in the Civil War
- 20 - Herman Strumpf- 1714 Cleney Ave

No serial number, "CH RIGDON" only on top flat of barrel, 2 punch marks on wedge and back strap, scratched initial and stamped indiscernible markings possibly just tool on back strap behind mainspring and large punch mark on side of frame which possibly removed "cryptic". Herman Stumpf, unique 5 inch barrel, shorter cylinder and more discernible lathe work on arbor and back of frame reminiscent of late leech and Rigdon's. This gun also has late features including Navy latch and cap release groove. 100% original and authentic, only notable repair is weld to mainspring.

1482, unmarked but first 12-stop

1490, "CH RIGDON", "AUGUSTA, GA" stamped on two barrel flats, note no "CSA", like 5" so not for government purchase, Sam Smith, Bill Hozie, *inheritance to Richmond County Dist. Soc., (very nice marks)*

2154, "CH RIGDON", "CSA", "AUGUSTA, GA" stamped on three barrel flats, very week markings and cleaned, 42K 1998?, Norm Flayderman, GM

2180, "CH RIGDON", "CSA", "AUGUSTA, GA" stamped on three barrel flats, Bill Gary, DB

2182, "CH RIGDON", "CSA", "AUGUSTA, GA" stamped on three barrel flats, Will Holifield, JM

2183, "CSA"

2192, "CSA"

2316, "CH RIGDON", this gun is marked identically to the unique 5 inch Herman Strumpf gun, David Crockett (offered to Bill Albaugh, November-1979) Buddy Bass

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CONFEDERATE ARMS, etc. of

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T E X A S

- X1 - DANCE BROTHERS - 44 caliber six shot - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " dragoon type barrel # 82
- X2 - DANCE BROTHERS - 44 " " " - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " " # 91
- 3 - DANCE BROTHERS - 36 " " " - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " " # 135
- X4 - Unknown - 36 " " " - 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " " " " # V11
- X5 - " - 36 " " " - 5" " " " no marking
- 6 - TEXAS HOLSTER - STAR line design on flap- fits 44 caliber Dance
- 7 - TEXAS STAR BELT BUCKLE - oval shape - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ "

Notes-

Dance Brothers revolvers were made in Columbia, Texas during the War between the States under a Confederate contract.

About 325 revolvers were manufactured in 44 and 36 calibers.

Only a few of the 36 caliber have been found - two of which are in museums. Some forty revolvers of 44 caliber at the present time have been located.

The main feature of the Dance revolvers aside from the dragoon type barrel is the flat frame without the usual round recoil shield.

Items # 4 and #5 have many Dance features including the flat frame and dragoon type barrel.

Item # 4 has the letters T E X A S in script on the bottom of the back strap.

The above revolvers all have seen plenty of action and had hard usage, some are in working order and some are not.

Collection of Herman Strumpf - 1714 Cleneay Ave., Cincinnati 12, Ohio

CH RIGDON Revolver & Its Cousins

From: Bruce Kusrow <bkusrow@verizon.net>
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CH RIGDON Revolver & Its Cousins
Date: May 23, 2013 12:17 PM

[REDACTED]

This is the followup to our phone conversation of Wednesday morning. It includes the additional info you requested about those revolvers marked "CH RIGDON," in part or total. If you need anything else, let me know.

#1482: We've talked of this one previously. No apparent markings on the bbl. housing flats; 12 cylinder stops; pin/ball latch; serialized spring type wedge; "W" cryptic; **no cap release channel milled in the recoil shield**. All I have are the pics Fred E. sent me, and not a clue where it is, or who may own it.

#1490: "ADDRESS CH RIGDON AUGUSTA GA" (**very, very light markings**): 12 cylinder stops; pin/ball latch; serialized spring type wedge; "N" cryptic; **no cap release channel milled in the recoil shield**. Surfaced in Florida in the early 1950s (this point from Sam Smith); S.L. Hutchison, Greenwich, Conn., 10/54; in the collection of John M. Graham, Oakland, CA having come to him from Hutchison; Bill Hozie from Graham; Bruce Kusrow from Hozie; Ted Meredith from Bruce Kusrow; sold at Conestoga Auction, 11/01, \$21K to Kent Wall; from Wall to the Augusta, GA Museum of History.

#2154: "CH RIGDON CSA AUGUSTA GA" (**very, very light markings**): no cryptic; non-spring type wedge(?-said to be a replacement); **unknown if cap release channel is milled in the recoil shield** - likely, yes, it's there. Norm Flayderman; John Sexton (on consignment?); Burney Crooke; Gene Mathis; Julia Auction, 10/10 (DNS?).

#2180: "CH RIGDON CSA AUGUSTA GA" (**clear, fully readable barrel housing markings**); no cryptic; serialized non-spring type wedge; **unknown if cap release channel is milled in the recoil shield** - likely, yes, it's there. Bill Gary, 3/87; Dave Berenson (from a dealer in Prescott, AZ who was selling off part of Gary's collection).

#2182: "CH RIGDON CSA AUGUSTA GA" (**clear, fully readable barrel housing markings**) no cryptic; serialized non-spring type wedge; **cap release channel is milled in the recoil shield**. Will Hoffeld (where I first saw it in his LA, Calif. Gun Shop in 1983); RIA of Hoffeld's collection, 10/08; went to Jim McConkey, \$31.625K.

#2316: "CH RIGDON" (**clear, fully readable barrel housing markings; in my opinion, next to the short barreled CH RIGDON marked revolver, this is certainly the next clearest stamping of CH RIGDON**) centered on the top bbl housing flat; "W" cryptic; serialized non-spring type wedge; **unknown if cap release channel is milled in the recoil shield** - likely, yes, it's there. I first heard of the gun in 11/79

via a letter to William A. Albaugh from David Crockett, Elizabethton, TN; I later corresponded with Crockett and confirmed the markings; as of 7/87 in the collection of Buddy Bass; I saw the gun 11/01 and it was just as described above (Bass said he acquired the gun at a Columbus, Ohio Gun Show - from Crockett??).

Unserialized, Short Barrel, "CH RIGDON" Marked Revolver:

In my opinion, the barrel on this revolver was manufactured very late in 1863, or within the first weeks of 1864. The bore of the barrel is ever so slightly off center. (Drop the barrel from the frame, and put a yellow #2 pencil thru the barrel length with a number of inches of the pencil extending from both the muzzle and the breech ends.) In a profile view you can see that the bore is slightly higher at the muzzle end than it is at the breech end. If the barrel had begun its life as the normal 7.5 inches long, the off center situation would have been that much more noticeable at the muzzle. Result: at some stage it was rejected due to the off center boring. OK: Rejected, set aside, but not destroyed.

As supplies became dire in very late 1864 and early 1865, some of the previously rejected "parts on hand" were re-visited to see if they could be put to use. This specific barrel could be used, but only if the barrel length was reduced. I would only be guessing at the remainder of the revolver parts being previously rejected. The only thing that may provide some validity to that theory is the lack of serial numbers, scattered double punch marks, and a revolver that overall feels just ever so slightly smaller (discounting the 5 inch barrel) than the rest of the R-As.

I believe #1490 was marked and assembled, as is. #1482 was assembled, as is. The barrels for #'s 2154, 2180, 2182, & 2316 were also likely set aside, as the R-A production line was in place,

so those with the CH RIGDON marking were "set aside as parts on hand," but not appropriate for the make up of the revolvers of the company and its various new partners.

To my mind, there are three stand out factors that make the short barreled revolver a late production (or late assemblage) piece.

(1) the cap release channel is milled in the recoil shield; such was not always there in the late 1400 serial range made guns, and only intermittently into the low 1500s. After that point it appears that the left over L&R frames were used up, and the cap release channel became the standard feature. (2) the wedge is a non-spring type, only seen in the R-As above approximately serial number 2150. With the exception of #1490 (which has a spring type wedge), (3) all of the other CH RIGDON marked revolvers are above approximately serial number 2150. Revolver serial number 2316 re-enforces the theory that "parts on hand" were used in the late production period, as "CH RIGDON" only is stamped on the top bbl. housing flat. Additionally, on serial number 2316 "S Ca" is stamped on the butt of the wooden grip.

This would strongly suggest to me that the grip was a "part on hand, not previously used" as the serial range for the "S Ca" marked LEECH & RIGDON CSA marked revolvers is currently accepted as being from the high 900s, intermittently into the upper 1200 serial range.

That's it for now. Let me know if all of this works for you.

Bruce

