

Augusta Machine Works revolver, Serial Letter "K"

In 1959, the late Charles H. Dorsey, Jr., then managing editor of The Baltimore Sun, told me that he had a pistol that had been in his family since the Civil War, but that he knew nothing about the revolver itself.

I borrowed the piece for an article in Gun Report Magazine, March, 1960, seeking information on the pistol; no one replied.

Sometime later, the late Hugh Benet asked if he could have the photographs of the pistol. I don't recall that he told me what he was going to do with them.

In mid-1973, on my return from a five-year reporting assignment in South America, I visited Mr. Dorsey, who had retired in my absence. As I was leaving, he handed me the pistol in its holster and said, "I've been saving this for you."

However, it was not until the early 1980s, while I was on assignment in London, that I learned any more about the weapon, in an inquiry from a man in North Carolina.

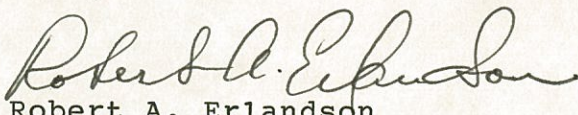
When I asked how he knew of me, he said the pistol was shown in "Confederate Handguns," a book which Mr. Benet had co-authored.

That was the first I had heard of the book and only then did I learn that it was an Augusta Machine Works revolver and a rare Confederate pistol.

Charles Dorsey's son provided me with information about how the pistol came into his family.

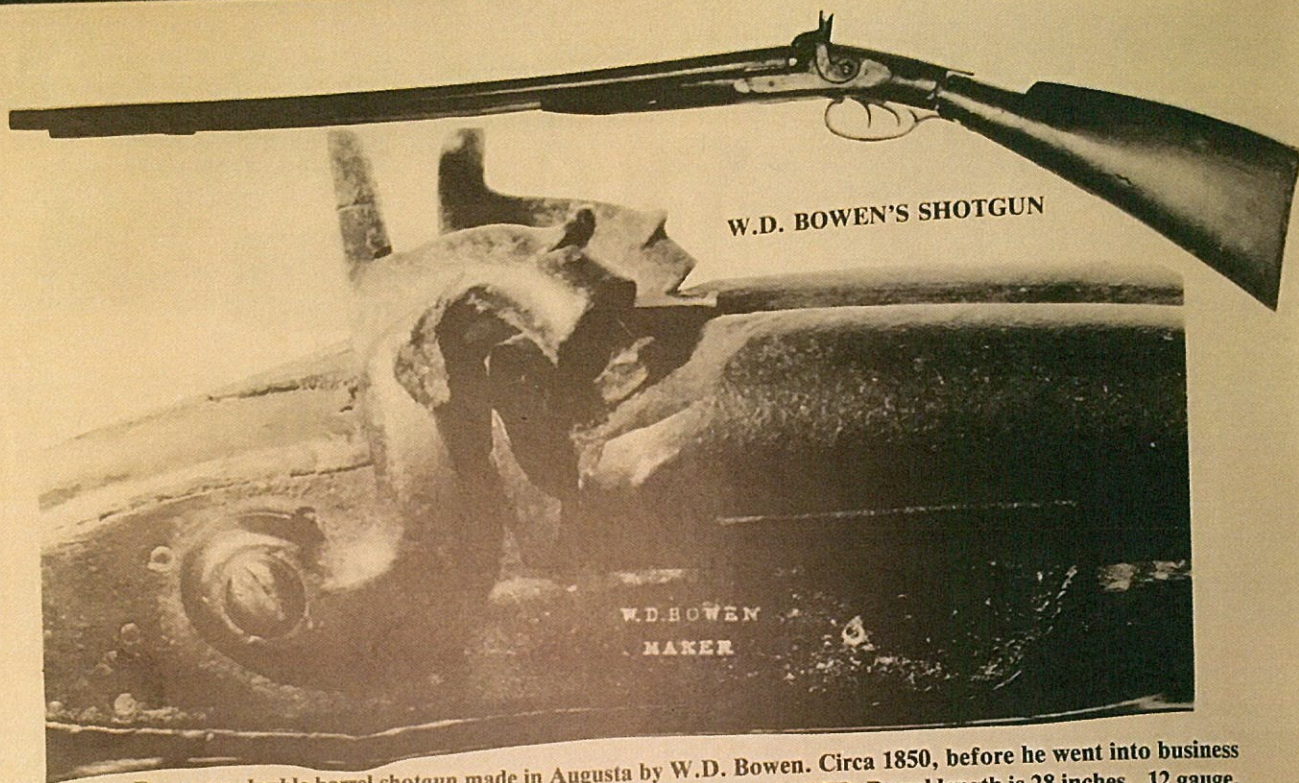
Lt. Col. Roswell Moale Russell, 9th Pennsylvania Cavalry, brought it home from the war. Colonel Russell's son, a doctor, married Susan Augusta Risteau, a sister of Charles Dorsey's mother.

According to nominal, informal research, Russell was promoted Lt. Col. on 21 November 1861. He resigned on 1 November 1863, after serving in the Army of Tennessee and at Chickamauga, 19-20 September 1863. I have no information on the reason for his resignation before the war ended or on his post-war career.



Robert A. Erlandson
Towson, MD

25 February 1999



Damascus double barrel shotgun made in Augusta by W.D. Bowen. Circa 1850, before he went into business with E.H. Rogers. Lock is stamped on both sides: W.D. BOWEN MAKER. Barrel length is 28 inches. .12 gauge.

Rogers & Bowen were presented into service for the Confederacy at an early date. They were commissioned to be the official State of Georgia deposit for firearms to be repaired and converted from flint-lock action for the CSA. They were also under contract to manufacture rifles and pistols, pikes and Bowie knives complete with belt and buckle. They were prime contractors for the Augusta Machine Works, a pistol factory, owned by the D'Antignac family of Augusta.

At the end of 1862, Wm. D. Bowen entered Confederate army and served for the duration. He took on responsibility of a system to provide ammunition to the various rifles at use in the early war years. Then at the request of Col. Raines he was assigned to manufacture spark proof hardware for the powder mill at Augusta. Then returned to his duties in the field. Mr. Rogers continued to operate the business.

Mr. Bowen left Confederate service as Captain of Ordnance with the Oglethorpes at the end of the war. The partnership did not last long after this and the two men established themselves in separate businesses but remained friends through the remaining years.

Bowen had an interesting career. He was born in 1829 and commenced business as a gunsmith in 1849. At that time most of the firearms in use were of the flintlock type.

Mr. Bowen began to make guns and rifles of the percussion cap type as soon as they came into general use. Soon his reputation spread as a maker of fine guns and accurate shooting rifles. Customers came from as far as North Carolina to buy their guns, pistols and rifles from Bowen.

Some of the rifles and shotguns made by him were very elaborate in design and decoration. The stocks were made of curly walnut, especially imported for that purpose; the trigger guards and butt plates of solid silver and the lock-plates inlaid with gold and silver so that the owner's name could be engraved thereon when desired, Mr. Bigelow said.

There are still in existence a number of these fine old shotguns, rifles and pistols that were made in their entirety by W.D. Bowen. Some of them have their stocks handsomely inlaid with gold, silver and ivory. Others, like the rifle now owned by Merrill, are not so equally as well made, hard shooting and accurate.

At the outbreak of the War Between the States, Mr. Bowen, shouldering a rifle of his own making, entered the service of the Confederacy. However, his well known skill in manufacture and hardware soon caused his assignment to other duties than on the firing line.

One of them was by General Raines to make all the brass hinges and other brass hardware for the new powder mill the Confederate Government was building in Augusta. Brass fittings were used as far as possible to avoid possible sparks that might be struck from either steel or iron. The factory supplied powder to the Confederate Army.

— Charles W. Bowen III.

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1. **The Confederate Revolver** attributed to the Augusta Machine Works is somewhat of a mystery. Since it is not marked with a name, some collectors question whether this is the revolver made at the site, while others question whether any revolvers were manufactured at the Machine Works. It is a fact that the Confederate Government had a factory in Augusta, Georgia, known as the Augusta Machine Works, but what war materials it produced has never been verified. Other questions arise as to whether 6-stop and 12-stop revolvers were made at the same place, and if so, why? Are these revolvers of Confederate origin or not? This revolver is a close copy of the Colt Navy, with a full octagonal barrel, brass trigger guard and back-strap, and a Colt Navy-Type loading lever catch. The rifling has six lands and grooves with a slight clockwise twist with no gain. It has a deep oval to the trigger guard, a finely checkered hammer spur, a roller onto hammer, and a spring on the wedge. There are specimens in existence, which have either 6-stop or 12-stop cylinders. The 6-stop or 12-stop cylinders. The 6-stop cylinders have safety pins and a slot in the hammer face, while the 12-stop cylinders of course, have no safety pins. The guns have assembly numbers on most parts, but no serial numbers. They are called assembly numbers because the marks are not visible on a fully assembled gun. They consist on one-digit numbers or letters, and there are duplications on all of them. The dies used were extra large for a handgun. The marks appear on the rear of the barrel lug beside the hole for the plunger, the top of the loading lever flat, and the loading lever plunger. Other marks show up on the top of the wedge, the rear of the cylinder between the nipples, the back of the frame beside the hammer, and the front of the frame beside the hammer, and the front of the frame between the locking studs. They also are located on the back strap, and the inside of the trigger guard plate. A number does not appear on the rear of the 6-stop cylinder because the safety pins are in the way. Without serial numbers it is difficult to estimate the total number of Revolvers produced. A comparison with the Columbus revolvers offers some possible conclusions. An estimated 100 Columbus revolvers were manufactured, and today there are more Augusta revolvers in the hands of collectors than Columbus revolvers. This could indicate that either more than 100 Augustas were made or that the end of the war was near and so revolvers did not receive long or hard use, thus, the higher survival rate. It is absolutely certain that the 6 and 12-stop cylinder pistols are of the same origin. All characteristics, including the large oval trigger-guard, are identical. The rifling was made with the same rifling machine and the assembly numbers and letters were stamped with the same dies. Why produce both a 6- and 12-stop revolver? They probably started out copying the 6-stop Colt Navy, then decided to adopt the improved safety device by the 12-stop cylinder. Was the revolver manufactured by the Confederacy? This can be answered by looking at the brass on different specimens. Some were made with yellow brass and others with the bronze-colored brass that is typical only of Confederate Arms. The gun is definitely not European because it also has American threads on the screws. In *Confederate Handguns* by Bill Albaugh presents two letters and a deposition stating that handguns were made at the Machine Works. James W. Camak, an attorney at Athens, Georgia, wrote in March 1915 that pistols were made at the Confederate government-owned pistol factory in Augusta. In a letter to E. Berkeley Bowie in 1918, Samuel C. Wilson, secretary, Department of Public Health, Augusta, wrote "A pistol factory at Augusta between Jackson and Campbell, Adams and D'Antignac streets, now occupied by the Augusta Lumber Company, was operated by the Confederate

Government under Major N.S. Finney, Chief of Ordnance on the staff of General B.D. Fry, commanding the Department of Augusta. The pistol was long-barreled, six chambered, percussion cap, paper cartridge, similar to Colts, and considered at that time one of the best in our service." The description of the revolver in Wilson's letter fits that of the designated Augusta revolver, including the statement that it was one of the best made in the Confederacy. Remember too, that people writing about these events in 1915 and 1918 could still get their information first hand from persons who had lived in Augusta during the Civil War. In a deposition taken in 1928, J.B. Patterson stated that he was a small child living in Augusta during the Civil War. When General Sherman's army was expected to pass through Augusta, he distinctly remembered that people flocked to the foundry, known as the Augusta Machine Works, to remove anything left of value. According to his deposition, guns, cannons, heavy machinery and pistols were made at the foundry, which was the property of the Confederate Government.

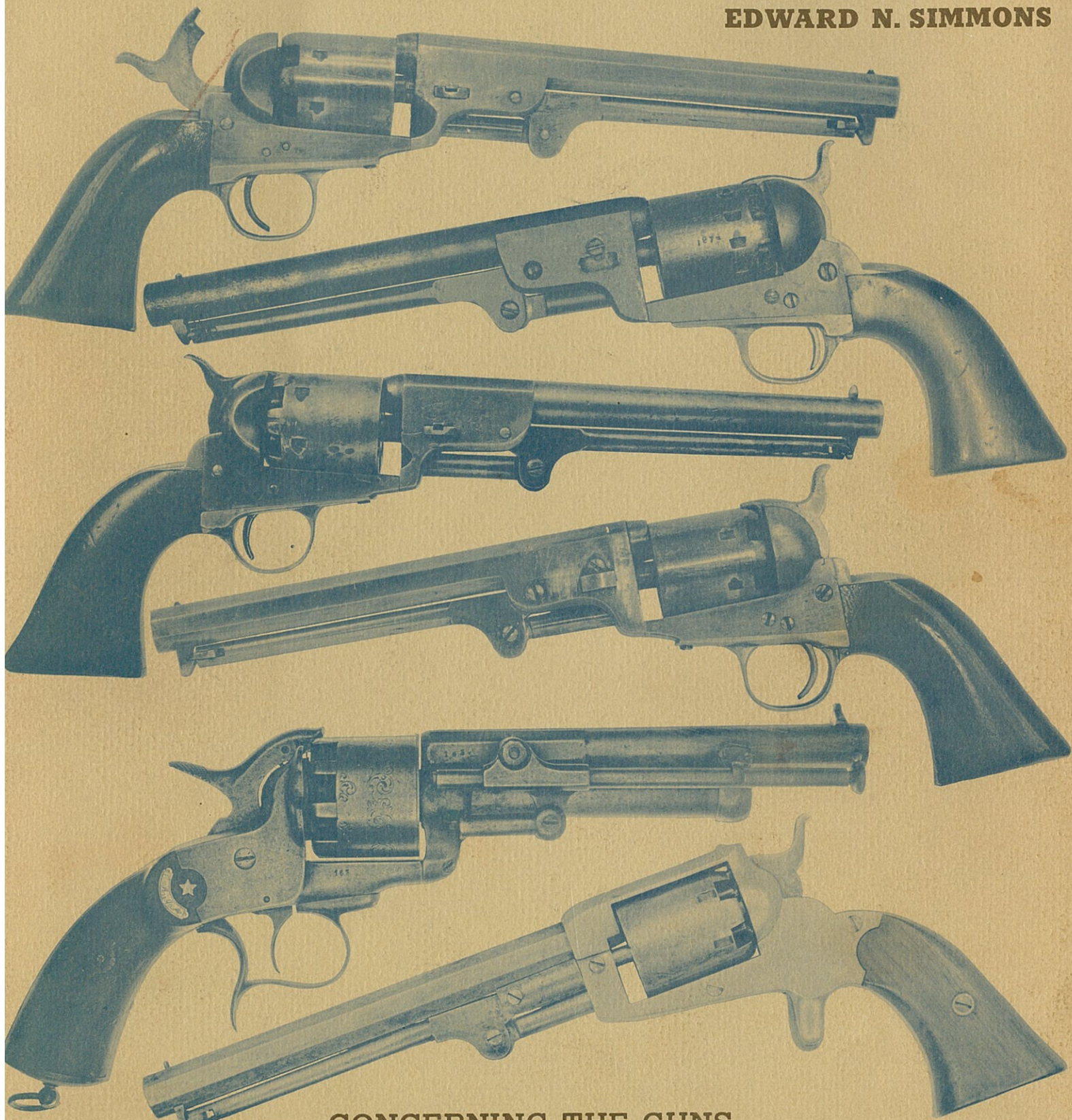
CONFEDERATE HANDGUNS

BY

WILLIAM A. ALBAUGH, III

HUGH BENET, JR.

EDWARD N. SIMMONS



CONCERNING THE GUNS

THE MEN WHO MADE THEM AND THE TIMES OF THEIR USE

CHAPTER I

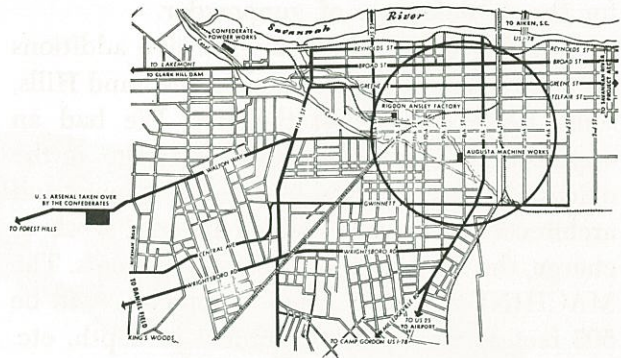
Augusta Machine Works

THE newspapers of the eighteen sixties, North and South, were no better or worse than they are today. They were properly patriotic and loyal to the side or cause they supported and sufficiently biased to please the readers whose money kept them in business. At times they tended to become a little too enthusiastic over a proposed venture, particularly if said venture lay, so to speak, in their own back yard. Thus it is that historians do not place complete reliance in newspaper accounts alone but seek additional corroboration.

In looking over Southern newspapers of the war period, it is not at all uncommon to read an account which usually starts: "We were today shown a revolver invented by our prominent citizen, Mr. Firenze B. Rimstone which shoots fifteen times without reloading. Its finish and workmanship is far superior to that of Colonel Colt's famous, but now out-dated, six-shooters. Mr. Rimstone expects to have his plant in full operation within a very short time and it is anticipated that five hundred revolvers will be forthcoming every month. Etc., etc. . . ."

In the majority of cases this one article is the end of Firenze B. Rimstone as far as the newspaper, Confederate records and the historian are concerned. It is a swan song before he sinks back into the oblivion from whence he came. Disheartening, but true. Occasionally, however, a Rimstone will pull himself up by his bootstraps and actually produce x number of revolvers (pistols, swords or carbines), thereby aiding the Confederacy to the extent of the

items made. By so doing, he has reserved for himself a place in posterity, to be exalted and almost worshiped by today's collectors of old metal with a Civil War connection. Such a person was Thomas Cofer of Portsmouth, Virginia, whose x number of revolvers are now a cause of much speculation and adoration among the demented brotherhood known loosely as gun collectors. The proceeds of the sale of one such revolver on today's market would almost have armed an entire company of Confederate infantry.



MAP OF MODERN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

Showing the locations of the Augusta Machine Works and the Rigdon and Ansley factory.

Occasionally guns of Confederate manufacture appear in such number as to indicate a sizable operation. It is particularly exasperating to the historian to have indisputable evidence of an enterprise and not to be able to tie the product to the manufacturer. So it was with Griswold and Gunnison, whose products were

known for years only as "Confederate brass-framed Colts." The fact that they were made by two gentlemen named Griswold and Gunnison was not established until the nineteen thirties.

As it was with Griswold, so it is still with the Augusta Machine Works of Augusta, Georgia. We know that this firm was engaged in revolver making but have not as yet been able to definitely match the product to the maker.

To establish that this plant actually made handguns during the war, let us first turn to the inevitable newspaper account which appeared in the *Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel* of September 11, 1861. According to this source: "We are pleased to see that the Confederate Government has taken steps for the immediate manufacture of materials of war on a large scale. Augusta has been selected as the site, and it is designed to construct, forthwith, spacious buildings and suitable machinery for the manufacture of everything pertaining to ordnance, such as carriages, chassis, caissons, harness, etc., and for the manufacture of gunpowder.

"For the former purpose, extensive additions are to be made to the Arsenal on the Sand Hills, some three miles from the city. We had an opportunity of inspecting some days ago, in the offices of Messrs. Fulton & Miller, engineers and architects of this city, who have the work in charge, the drafts of the new improvements. The MACHINE WORKS, when completed, will be 505 feet at the front and 42 feet in depth, etc. (sic).

"The MACHINE WORKS will comprise a carpenter shop, manufactory of small arms, as well as everything pertaining to ordnance; the whole machinery to be of the most improved patterns and driven by an engine of 75 horse power. The foundation was commenced Wednesday last, and a large force will be put to work so as to complete it at the earliest day practicable. The work is in charge of Lieut. Col. Gill of the Confederate States Army. . . ."

The editor of the *Chronicle and Sentinel* reluctantly admits that the source of the above information was the *Savannah Republican* and expresses deep sorrow "that the news of these matters should have come from sources outside of Augusta." In other words, the *Chronicle and Sentinel* had been scooped by its closest competitor and liked it about as much as does the *Washington Post & Times Herald* when it is scooped by the *Daily Worker*.

The account of the Machine Works, regardless of its source or authenticity, is clear; a government manufactory was underway in Augusta which would manufacture small arms, among other things. Is this just another example of a local Firenze B. Rimstone and his fifteen-shot revolver, or did the Augusta Machine Works actually get into operation, and if they did, were handguns a part of their output?

Mr. Samuel C. Wilson, Secretary, Department of Public Health, City of Augusta, seems to think so, because in 1918 he wrote to E. Berkley Bowie¹ ". . . Pistol factory at Augusta between Jackson & Campbell, Adams & D'Antignac Streets, now occupied by the Augusta Lumber Company was operated by the Confederate Government under a Major N. S. Finney, Chief of Ordnance on the staff of Gen'l B. D. Fry, commanding the Department of Augusta. The pistol was long-barreled, six-chambered, percussion cap, paper cartridge, similar to Colts, and considered at that time one of the best in our service. . . ."

James W. Camak, Esq., an attorney-at-law at Athens, Georgia and an early gun collector also thought so, for in March, 1915, he wrote: "The Confederate Government owned a pistol factory at Augusta, Ga., where pistols were made. Also some few arms made at the Augusta Arsenal. W. D. Bowen of Augusta also made rifles and pistols for Confederate service. His plant was a small one.

"I am now trying to make some inquiries in regard to the Augusta Confederate Pistol Works,

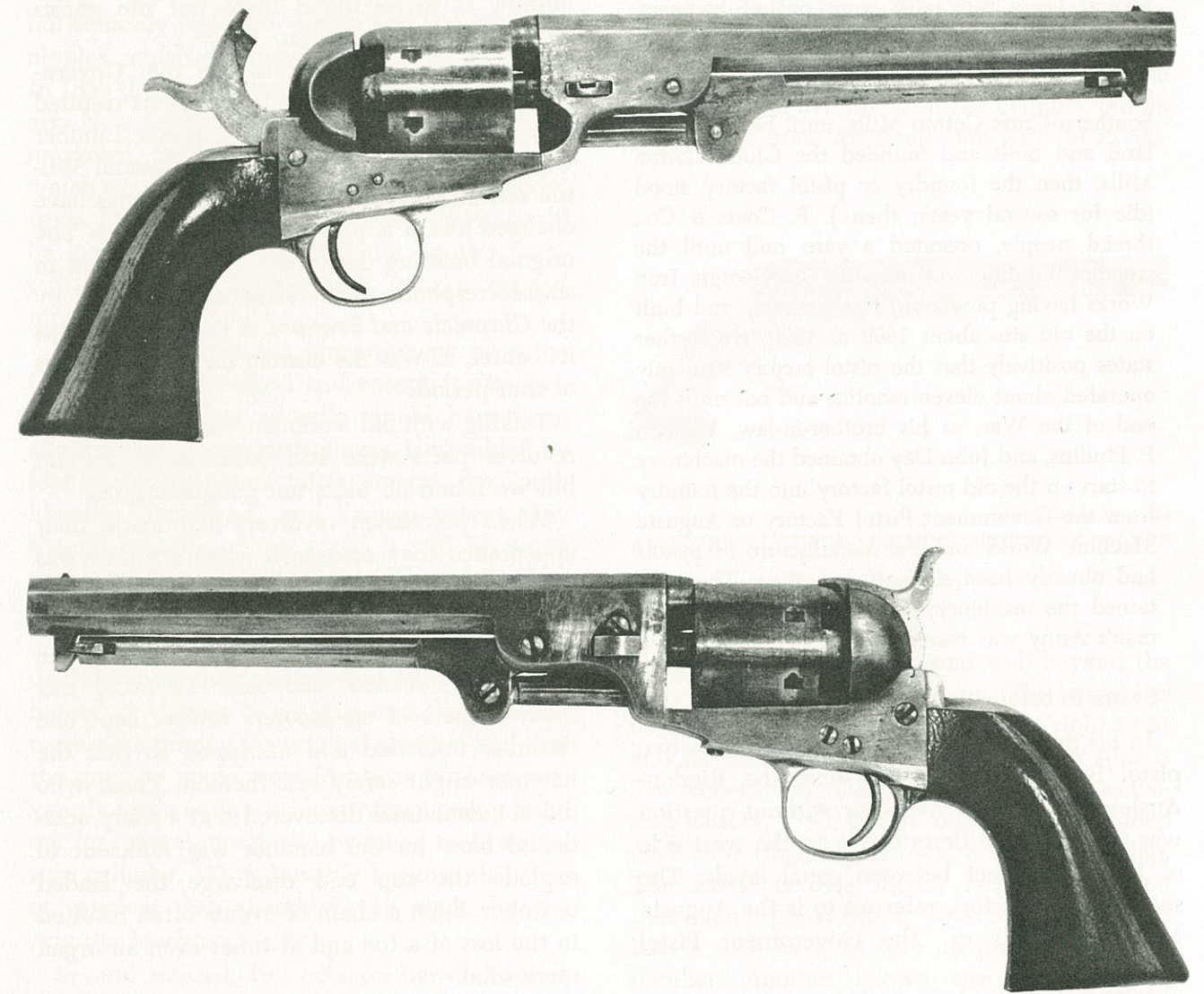
but so far can find no one who has any personal knowledge of the matter."

A deposition which adds additional confirmation on the subject is here included:

Deposition, State of Georgia, Richmond County.

Personally appeared before me Mr. J. B. Patterson of Augusta, State of Georgia, who says that he was born in that city of Augusta, State

of Georgia, in the year 1860, that he had a brother to work in the "Old Pistol Factory" which was situated between the second and third levels of the Augusta Canal on the west side of Marbury St., Augusta, Ga. on the spot now occupied by the Georgia Iron Works. That it was discontinued before the end of the War Between the States, that he distinctly remembers the people of Augusta when they expected Sherman's Army to pass



Courtesy Robert A. Erlandson

AUGUSTA MACHINE WORKS REVOLVER
Showing right and left sides. Serial K appears on all parts.

through Augusta, flocked to the Foundry properly known as the Augusta Machine Works, where also guns, cannon, heavy machinery and pistols were made, this being the property of the Confederate States Government, to remove anything left of value. That the first people to occupy the pistol factory, now Georgia Iron Works, after the war were Day and Phillips, who used it for a Foundry and Machine shop, Phillips selling out his interest about 1866 to Isaac Hopkins. After several years they also went out of business; Amos Clark, who afterwards founded the present Globe Cotton Mills operated the old foundry or pistol factory as a cotton mill known as Southern Cross Cotton Mills, until he purchased land and built and founded the Globe Cotton Mills, then the foundry or pistol factory stood idle for several years; then J. P. Coats & Co., thread people, operated a yarn mill until the wooden building was burned. The Georgia Iron Works having purchased this property and built on the old site about 1899 or 1900. He further states positively that the pistol factory was only operated about eleven months, and not until the end of the War, as his brother-in-law, William P. Phillips, and John Day obtained the machinery to start up the old pistol factory into the foundry from the Government Pistol Factory or Augusta Machine Works and the manufacture of pistols had already been discontinued then. They obtained the machinery when they thought Sherman's Army was coming through Augusta.

(signed) J. B. Patterson Sr.

Sworn to before me the 11 day of May 1928.

In his deposition, Mr. Patterson refers to two pistol factories in Augusta—first, the Rigdon-Ansley plant which we know without question was located as he describes it on the west side of Marbury Street between canal levels. The second pistol factory referred to is the Augusta Machine Works or “the Government Pistol Factory.”

A few years ago we had occasion to spend several months in Augusta. Quaint, charming and still old-fashioned, the city is one easy to love. Although fast modernizing, sufficient of

the old remains that ghosts of the sixties are still plentiful and often in twilight walks along the thickly treed streets we had occasion to bow gravely to Charles H. Rigdon and his partner Jesse Ansley. It is easy to bow to the past in almost any Southern city at eventide, but Augusta is one of the few where the bow is returned. Times without number the site of the Rigdon-Ansley revolver plant was visited, but nothing is to be found there but the ghosts which will always live on.

Inquiries as to the location of the “Government Pistol Factory” to older residents resulted in consistent referral to the Augusta Lumber Company located just where Mr. Samuel Wilson said it was, although the street names have changed and it is presently 903 8th Street. The original building dates back to the war and in size corresponds to the structure described by the *Chronicle and Sentinel*. A large cupola caps its center, as was the custom for most armories of that period.

Talking with old workmen we were told that revolver parts were still occasionally dug up but we found no parts nor complete guns.

When percussion revolvers first made their appearance they contained a feature that was most unsafe and yet peculiar to the arm. This was the apparent necessity for allowing the hammer to rest upon the nipple of one of the capped and loaded chambers. To avoid this many owners of six-shooters always kept one chamber unloaded and uncapped so that the hammer might safely rest thereon. Those who did not sometimes discovered that a sharp accidental blow on the hammer was sufficient to explode the cap and discharge the loaded chamber. Such a chain of events often resulted in the loss of a toe and at times even an organ more vital.

The old master, Samuel Colt, partially solved this problem by inserting small projecting pins in the rear of the cylinder between the nipples to engage a small slot in the hammer itself. This

method worked while the gun was new but the pins were subject to wear and they often failed to secure the hammer which could then drift over on one of the capped nipples.

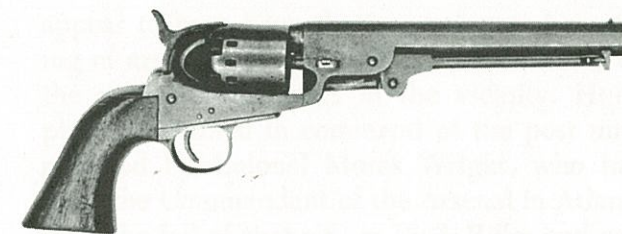
The Colt cylinder contained six cylinder stops. These stops (slots in the side of the cylinder itself which were engaged by a rising bolt in the frame) locked the cylinder in position so that when the hammer was drawn back it would fall squarely upon the nipple and not between nipples, which of course would cause a misfire. In 1859 the Manhattan Arms Company of Newark, New Jersey, patented and brought out an improved safety feature on their revolvers which consisted of twelve instead of six cylinder stops. By such means the hammer, down, could be locked securely between the nipples without danger of slipping over onto a capped nipple.

This was a decided improvement over the Colt safety-pin method and except for its patent protection undoubtedly would have been adopted by many manufacturers. Untroubled by fear of suit for patent infringements, the South liberally “borrowed” any Yankee patent they thought worthy of using and it will be noted that a distinguishing feature of the Rigdon-Ansley revolver is the twelve-stop cylinder.

Now it is known that when Leech and Rigdon dissolved their partnership and Rigdon removed to Augusta to set up a new shop, he was merely continuing the original contract and that the guns he made were identical to those previously made at Greensboro. After turning these out for several months he switched to a twelve-stop cylinder. Why? Possibly because this type of revolver was already being made by the Augusta Machine Works.

Several six-shot, full octagon barrel, twelve-stop revolvers are extant, obviously of American manufacture but as yet unidentified as to maker. Generally they conform to the Colt Navy but parts are not interchangeable. A detailed des-

cription of one such gun is as follows: Six-shot, full octagon barrel, .36 caliber, fine workmanship throughout, originally browned. Barrel length $7\frac{1}{16}$ inches. The serial number 4 is on the rear of the barrel lug. It appears twice on top of the loading lever plunger, the barrel wedge, the rear of the cylinder between the nipples, the hammer and inside of the trigger guard. It also appears once on the bottom of the main spring, the back of the frame on either side of the hammer slot, the front of the frame between the locking studs, the inside of the backstrap and five times on the cylinder pin on the rebated area. All screws are without excep-



Courtesy William M. Locke

ANOTHER AUGUSTA MACHINE WORKS REVOLVER

With twelve-stop cylinder.

tion round-headed and extend well beyond the surfaces into which they are set. The barrel has noticeably faint rifling, with a slight right twist and six lands and grooves. The hammer spur is finely checkered. The cylinder is of the twelve-stop variety, $1\frac{1}{16}$ inches long. There is a deep oval brass trigger guard and a brass backstrap. The frame is $3\frac{3}{16}$ inches long. It is noted that some guns fitting this description use letters such as J, O or Y in place of a serial number. Another known specimen is serial No. 48.

At least two specimens identical in measurement and method of marking but made with only six cylinder stops are known. They are

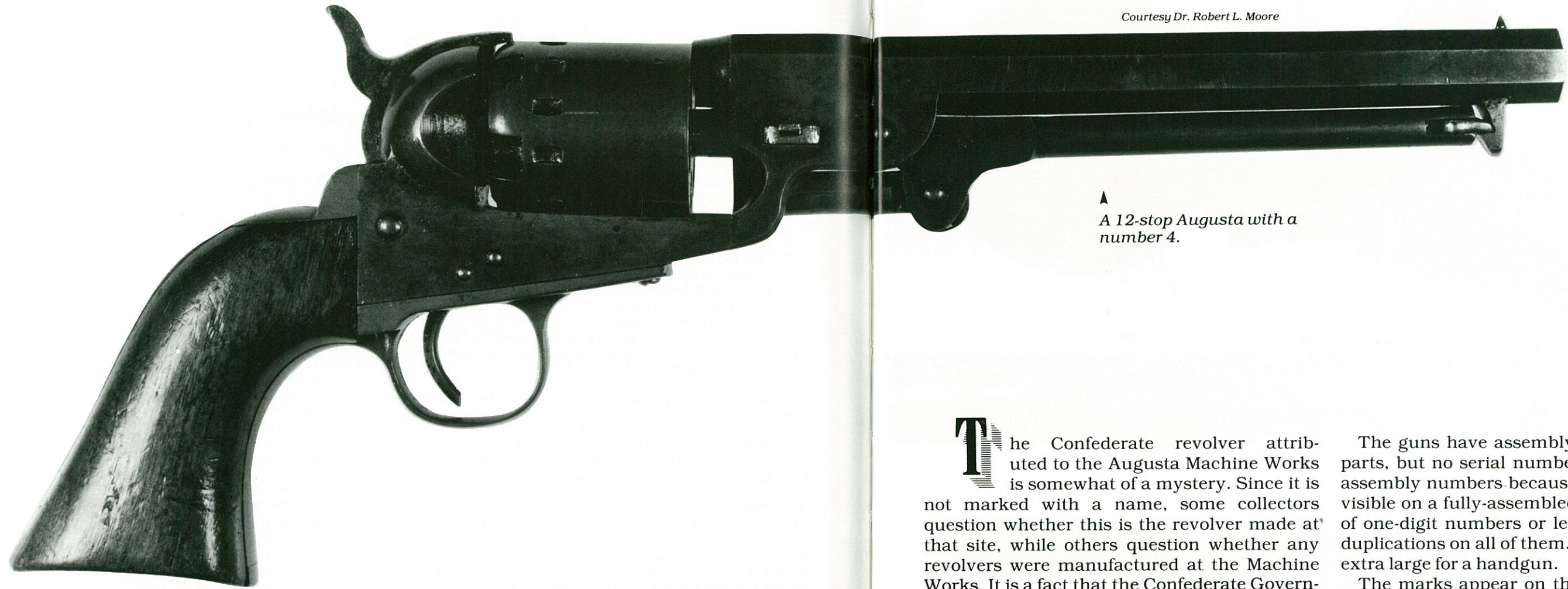
serial No. 7 and U, respectively. They are obviously of the same manufacture and we can only assume that these were made prior to the adop-

tion of the twelve stops. It is our opinion that these revolvers are all products of the Augusta Machine Works.

FOOTNOTE REFERENCE

1. E. Berkley Bowie was one of the first collectors to link the collection of Confederate Arms with their history. Mentor and associate of Richard D. Steuart, Bowie was known and respected far beyond his native Baltimore, Maryland. A representative portion of his extensive collection may be seen at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, which, although the inspiration of "The Star-Spangled Banner," was used as a Federal prison for political prisoners during the Civil War.





Courtesy Dr. Robert L. Moore

▲
A 12-stop Augusta with a
number 4.

Chapter 4

Augusta Machine Works

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Other questions arise as to whether 6-stop and 12-stop revolvers were made at the same place, and if so, why? Are these revolvers of Confederate origin or not?

This revolver is a close copy of the Colt Navy, with a full octagon barrel, brass trigger guard and back strap, and a Colt Navy-type loading lever catch. The rifling has six lands and grooves with a slight clockwise twist with no gain. It has a deep oval shape to the trigger guard, a finely checkered hammer spur, a roller on the hammer, and a spring on the wedge.

There are specimens in existence which have either 6-stop or 12-stop cylinders. The 6-stop cylinders have safety pins and a slot in the hammer face, while the 12-stop cylinders, of course, have no safety pins.

The guns have assembly numbers on most parts, but no serial numbers. They are called assembly numbers because the marks are not visible on a fully-assembled gun. They consist of one-digit numbers or letters, and there are duplications on all of them. The dies used were extra large for a handgun.

The marks appear on the rear of the barrel lug beside the hole for the plunger, the top of the loading lever flat, and the loading lever plunger. Other marks show up on the top of the wedge, the rear of the cylinder between the nipples, the back of the frame beside the hammer, and the front of the frame between the locking studs. They also are located on the back of the hammer, the inside of the back strap, and the inside of the trigger guard plate. A number does not appear on the rear of the 6-stop cylinder because the safety pins are in the way.

Some of the numbers on guns existing today include: two 12-stops with #4, a 6-stop with #4, two 6-stops with #7, two 12-stops with the letter J, a 6-stop with the letter K, and a 12-stop with the letter L. If this small group is representative, it can be assumed that about half the guns were stamped with numbers and half with letters. Also, about half had 6-stop cylinders and half had 12 stops.

Without serial numbers it is difficult to



▲ Augusta revolver 7 with the 6-stop cylinder.

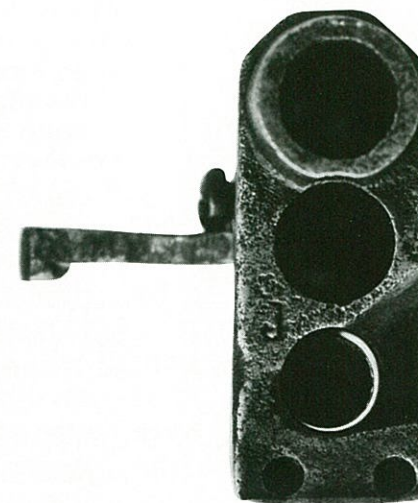
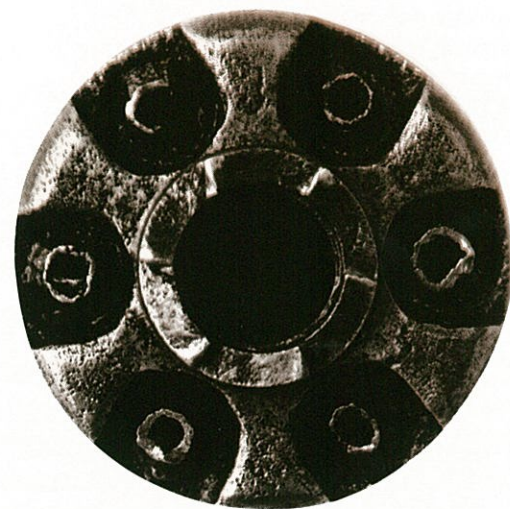


▲ Courtesy Don Bryan
Augusta revolver J with the 12-stop cylinder.

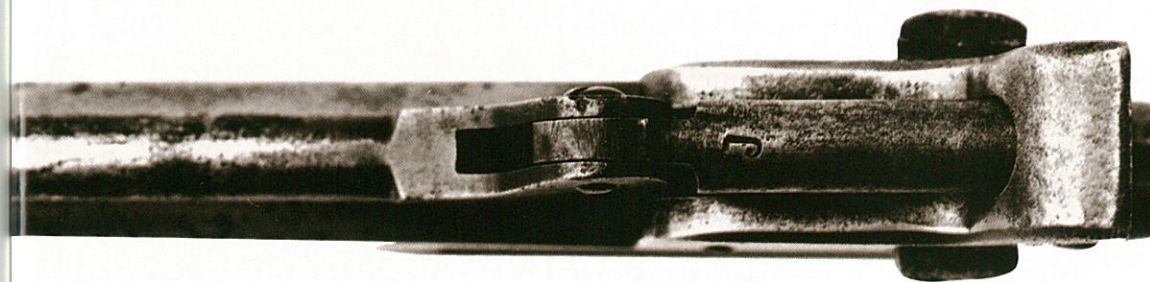
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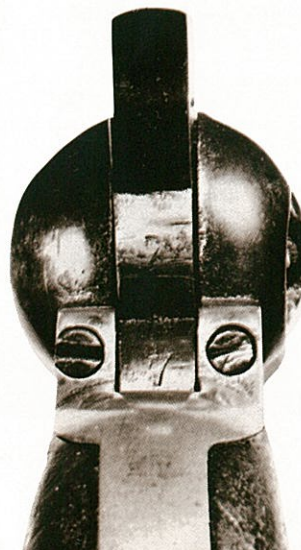
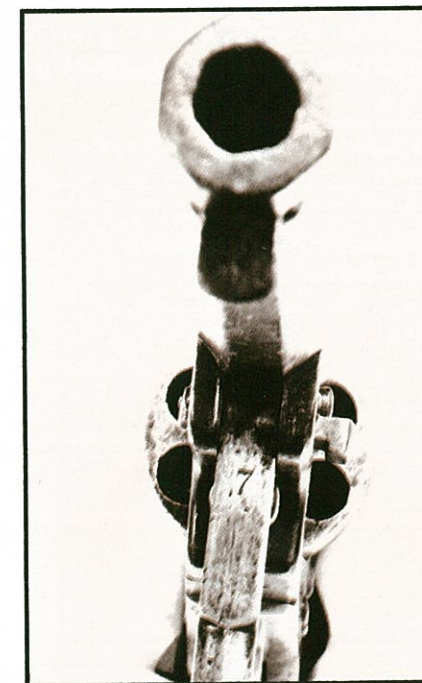
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← Various markings on Augusta revolver J.



→ Various markings on Augusta revolver number 7.



12-stop revolver? They probably started out copying the 6-stop Colt Navy, then decided to adopt the improved safety device provided by the 12-stop cylinder.

Was the revolver manufactured by the Confederacy? This can be answered by looking at the brass on different specimens. Some were made with yellow brass and others with the bronze-colored brass that is typical only of Confederate arms. The gun is definitely not European because it also has American threads on the screws.

Finally, was this gun made at the Augusta Machine Works? In fact, was any revolver made at the Augusta Machine Works?

In *Confederate Handguns*, Bill Albaugh presents two letters and a deposition stating that handguns were made at the Machine Works. James W. Camak, an attorney at Athens, Georgia, wrote in March 1915 that pistols were made at the Confederate government-owned pistol factory in Augusta.

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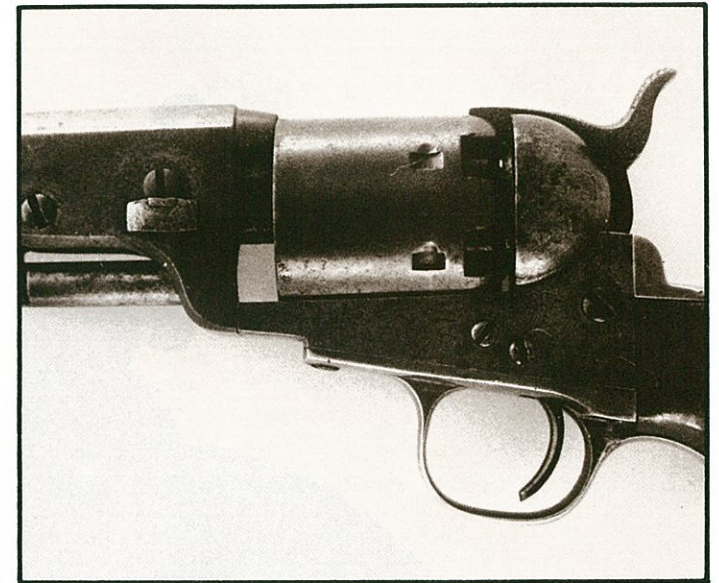
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In a deposition taken in 1928, J. B. Patterson



Disassembled Augusta revolver J.

Augusta revolver 7 showing the step up in the frame in front of the trigger guard plate. This characteristic is found on some Augusta revolvers.



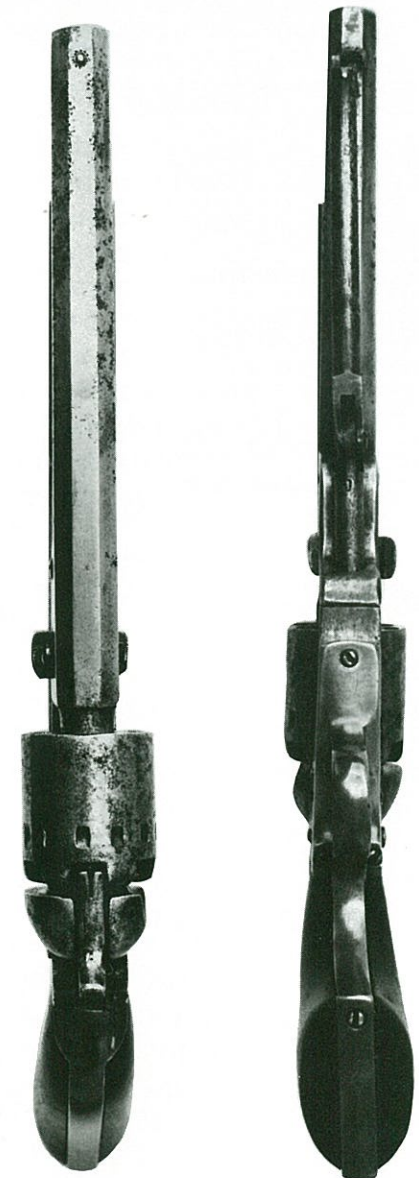
stated that he was a small child living in Augusta during the Civil War. When General Sherman's army was expected to pass through Augusta, he distinctly remembered that people flocked to the foundry, known as the Augusta Machine Works, to remove anything left of value. According to the deposition, guns, cannons, heavy machinery and pistols were made at the foundry, which was the property of the Confederate Government.

These three statements combined with other facts lend some credence to the assumption that pistols were among the war materials manufactured at the Augusta Machine Works.

There are more of these revolvers in collections today than any other unmarked and unidentified Confederate revolvers. They are among the best made of any Confederate revolvers, so they were obviously produced in a well-equipped factory, not just a blacksmith shop.

Most Confederate revolvers were made in either Georgia or Texas. Those made in Georgia were Navy .36-caliber, while nearly all those made in Texas were Army .44-caliber. Texas soldiers probably preferred the .44-caliber dragoon-size revolver because it was still a frontier in the 1850s. The Indian fighters and frontiersmen liked the big, heavy revolvers.

When you consider that this well-made revolver is .36-caliber and is extant in relatively significant numbers, it seems more than probable that it was manufactured in Georgia, and where else than Augusta? We may never find conclusive proof that it was made there, but until proven otherwise, the Augusta Machine Works is the best bet.



Top and bottom view of Augusta revolver 4.