

3/29/92

- on 1/10/91 - Doug Carlson telephoned me that he had 2 Ken revolvers for sale. He explained fully that they were not documented as used by the Confederacy, but they might have been. The significant factor was that the serial nos. were consecutive, i.e., one was No. 10110 and the other was No. 10111. No. 10111 was apparently used more, but both were in good shape. I bought both of them - No. 10110 for \$1700 and No. 10111 for \$900. I will describe both of them herein.

- Single action, .44 caliber, 5 shot cylinder, made in London, probably in excess of 10,000 - most of them sold directly to the Confederacy and brought in by blockade runners.

- On right side of frame "Ken's Patent 10110 [10111]" On left side of frame No. 10111 has stamped in a small circle: <sup>VONDO</sup> <sub>ARMOUR</sub> but no similar stamp on No. 10110.

- on Rt. side of lock, on both, is stamped "London Ammunition Co." The grips are checkered walnut, in beautiful condition. Neither grip has the marking on the grips: <sup>J S</sup> <sub>its</sub> - as mentioned in most of the narratives about Ken justik. In "Confederate Handguns" by Albaugh, Best & Simons, the suggestion is made that "J.S." might have been a Confederate inspector, whose stamp was put on only a few of the pistols in each lot which he purchased.

- The barrel is octagonal. on No. 10110 the front sight is brass, very high; on No. 10111 the front sight has been filed, or cut, very low to facilitate handling in a holster (also, made of brass) - on left side of barrel, near to cylinder, are 2 proof marks by the manufacturer. On No. ~~10110~~ <sup>10111</sup> at same place is stamped "LAC", but no similar stamp on No. 10110.

SHIMMARD  
No. 2-150CK  
HASTINGS, MN  
LOS ANGELES-CHICAGO-LOGAN, OH  
MCGREGOR, TX-LOCUST GROVE, GA  
U.S.A.

- on cylinder, the serial no is engraved 10110  
- there is stamped, not engraved, on No. 10110, the number 642 on the inside of the trigger guard, and also on the circumference of the front end of the cylinder, the same no. may have been stamped, but it appears that it was ground off.  
On No. 10111, the inside of the trigger guard is stamped 431, and the same number 431 is stamped on the front edge of the cylinder.

- "Confederate Handguns" has many pages of description and history of these pistols, including a list on p. 132 of some 30 Ken revolvers known to the authors that they were "... able to document the use of many of the Ken revolvers listed hereafter on the Confederate side during the war." One of these listed is Serial No. 642 (Stamped) and Patent Number 10110 (Engraved) - which is one of my guns! Where did this info to these authors come from?

- A Xerox copy of p. 132 is in this file folder.

- In the next pocket book by Smith and Gary, "Confederate Pistols", mention is made that serial numbers between 3,000 and 10,000 are believed to be drilled to the Confederacy.

KERR REVOLVER - 2 of them

- in "Confederate Longarms and Pistols" by Hill & Anthony,  
there are pictures, & also some info re Kerr Patent Revolvers.  
- C.M.I. Comment: These pistols are good looking, and very  
well made!!!

- In "Confederate Handguns", p. 230 is a picture of a good looking pistol  
described as an "Adams" — this is in fact a Kerr! Or, is it?  
on p. 130, mentions note of the Adams & Kerr patent for this  
pistol, — next, comparing the photograph of the "Adams" on  
p. 230 with the photograph of the Kerr on pp. 130 and 131,  
the pistols look somewhat similar, but surely not identical.  
Q u e s t i o n ?

1/18/94 - maybe an answer in Gary's book "Confederate Pistol" he has a  
chapter on Kerr revolvers. He mentions that the company, Vander Aunson  
Company, was started by Adams & Kerr, that Adams had the patent on the  
Adams pistol & Kerr bought Adams share of the business & made the Kerr  
pistol — which maybe explains why the 2 pistols look so much alike.

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DOUGLAS R. CARLSON  
"ANTIQUE AMERICAN FIREARMS"  
P.O. BOX 71035  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50325  
(515) 224-6552

TO Conrad Meyer, III DATE 1-10-91  
Energy Centre, 22nd. Floor SUBJECT Enclosed Two  
1100 Poydras Antique Cap  
New Orleans, LA 70163 Lock Arms

( HCLV#12) Ker's Patent Perc.  
Army Civil War Revolver, Serial #10110,  
some bright blue, balance fading blue-  
grey, exc. grips, edges, mks., mech. — \$1,700.00

( HCLV#13) Ker's Patent Perc.  
Army Civil War Revolver, Serial #10111,  
consecutive number to above gun, metal  
has been lightly cleaned to grey/blue,  
exc. grips, mks., etc., both guns are  
44 cal., single action, lanyard rings — \$900.00

Balance Due — \$2,600.00

Thanks,  
DRC