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Concerning your inquiry about a W.R.A.Co. test gun, in particular a W.C. Scott 8 gauge, the following is what I have uncovered from original Winchester, New Haven records.

The background of these records involves some fifty five ledger books dating back to 1894 and continuing through 1929. These books were acquired through the Walter M. Bellemore* estate by W.C.F. Publications, Inc., on a contract-to-sell basis between 1998 and 2002. The ledgers were the prior property of Merton A. Robinson** through his estate to W.M. Bellemore.

These ledgers track the early years of Ballistic Research Department at New Haven and include daily testing of commercial production as well. The ledger which contains the desired information is Ledger No. 5 – 1897 to 1902, V&P Tests, Smokeless Powders, Primers Etc.

Included here are the index page and page 74 which shows the original information pertaining to and mentioning the said, W.C. Scott gun. It should be noted the reference to "Repeater [paper shot shells]" is the only known mention of this gauge in this grade of shell in any Winchester-related history. The next line shows "Leader [paper shot shells]" and is probably the correct shell used with the previous likely being a typographical error. Please note that these pages and any information as concerned are property of WCF Publications, Inc. and are under ownership and copyright coverage of the same.

Mr. Purtill, it has been WCF Publications pleasure to trace and find data on such a significant historical firearm in use by the Winchester Repeating Arms Company in the 19th Century.

Yours truly,



Daniel L. Shuey, President, WCF Publications, Inc.

*Walter M. Bellemore: @ W.R.A.Co 1934-1975, ballistics and quality control.

**Merton A. Robinson @ W.R.A.Co 1896-1951, head of ballistics

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Feb 12/98. Adapting Normal powder to 8ga - 3 1/4" Repeater
 Velocity to be attained 1030 F.S.
 See file for results
 Scott Double gun - 32" bbl.
 8 - 3 1/4" Sealed - Reg. #4 for. - 50 grs. Normal powder

Feb 26/98. There is no difference between results from
 #6 for 4/10gr. #39 and 7/10gr. #39.
 An increase of priming mixture gives no
 corresponding increase in velocity with
 same size cal.
 For complete results see file.

Apr 13/98. Tried to-day sample of Trosdorf S.S. powder
 rec'd from Mr. Gross Apr 12/98. See file
 50 grs too much powder as it gave of 1000 F.S.
 For results see file. (Powder rejected)

June 14/98 Sent to Mr. A. today result of test of N^o 59 machine
 in N^o 6 primer See file

i. Like other top-of-the-line guns, Match guns had horn butt plates and gold initial shields.

5. Some guns with cloverleaf trigger plates and prominent fences (raised flanges at the receiver) appear to be identical to W.C. Scott guns.

6. The gun in the J.M. Davis museum is a 10 gauge match gun, number 11XX and a triplet to numbers 1314 and 1310.

7. Buffalo Bill Historical Center museum piece number 0161 (not serial number) is an English "Match Hammerless" 12 gauge. It likely was a sample management chose not to procure in quantity for the trade.

8. A friend possesses a W.C. Scott 14 gauge with WRA engraved on the top rib. It was used to test factory loaded ammunition. Another friend has a W.C. Scott 10 gauge that, long ago, an appraiser called "Winchester." Neither of these guns resembles in any way ones known to have been marketed by Winchester. W.C. Scott guns are much higher quality than even the Match grade guns.

9. I am indebted to Bill Furnace of Atalissa, Iowa, for much of the above information, and for helping me to obtain number 1314. I drafted the first edition of this book when I thought I had all the models in all the gauges. Immediately, Bill burst that bubble.

The entire line of empty paper shotshells was changed in 1884. The "1st Quality" shells with the WINCHESTER headstamp (at left) were black. Gauges, year introduced, and year discontinued were: 4, 1884-1897; 8, 1884-1898; 10, 12, 14, 16, 20, 1884-1894; .58 cal. unknown.

The "2nd Quality" shells with the W.R.A. Co. S.Q. headstamp were offered in 10 and 12 gauge from 1884 to 1894. The 12s were black. The 10s were gray.

Star shells were offered from 1884 to 1894 in 10 and 12 gauges. They also were black. This rare Star box is cream with blue print.

