

Griffin & Howe

Finest in Firearms Since 1923



CERTIFICATE OF INVENTORY & DISPOSITION ABERCROMBIE & FITCH RECORDS

Winchester Model 21 Trap Grade Skeet Shotgun
Serial No. 9845

Winchester Model 21 shotgun, serial number 9845, was received by Abercrombie & Fitch on February 25, 1937 and entered on page 223, section 2 of A&F Inventory Book No. 7. The firearm is described as a Winchester Shotgun, Model 21 Trap Grade Skeet Gun. Further specifications for this firearm include:

Gauge: 20 gauge
Barrels: 26 inch barrels, with ejectors and 2 ¾ inch chambers
Chokes: Skeet #1 & Skeet #2
Weight: 6 pounds, 3 ounces
Dimensions: 2 1/16 in. Drop @ Heel x 1 9/16 in. Drop @ Comb x 14 in. LOP
Stock: Straight Grip, Beavertail Forend
Trigger: Selective Single Trigger

Winchester model 21, number 9845, was sold in the New York store to "H.W. Endicott" on September 17, 1937 at a price of \$148.90. The cost of the shotgun to A&F was \$117.73.

Griffin & Howe confirms that this information was extracted from the original Abercrombie & Fitch Inventory Records, Book No. 7, Section 2, page 223 on April 20, 2011.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert C. Beach".

Robert C. Beach
Archives Research

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NOTES ON

Winchester Model 21 Trap Grade Skeet Shotgun Serial No. 9845

Winchester Model 21 shotgun, number 9845, was received in the Abercrombie & Fitch inventory as a new shotgun on February 25, 1937 and entered on page 223, section 2 of Book No. 7. The model is described as a Trap Grade Skeet Gun. This model is described on page 18 of the 1937 A&F catalog, a copy of which has been enclosed.

The cost and price of the shotgun are given in code. This code is based upon the word H-Y-D-R-O-P-L-A-N-E, where H=1, Y=2, D=3, etc. The number '0' is indicated by the letter 'E', however, the letter 'X' is used to indicate an additional '0'. Using this code it can be seen that the cost of 9845 to A&F on page 223 was 'HHL.LD' which would be the equivalent of \$117.73. Similarly, the price of the shotgun was 'HRA.NE' or \$148.90. This was the catalog price of the Trap Grade Skeet gun as shown on page 18 of the 1937 catalog.

The name of the buyer of Winchester 9845 was "H.W. Endicott". The customer was likely Henry Wendell Endicott born in Massachusetts on November 1, 1880. Henry W. Endicott was the son of Henry Bradford Endicott, the founder of the Endicott Johnson Shoe Company. Henry Wendell Endicott passed away in 1954.

I hope that this information adds to the appreciation of your firearm. If we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

Robert C. Beach

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February 15 1937

Winchester 21 Trap Skeet Guns

Selective Single Trigger B.T. Forreud

Received	Number	Gauge	Length	Weight	Ejector	Choke	Drop	Grp	L.P.E. No.	Consigned	Sold	Taken in by	NAME	Sold by	Cost	Form of Sale	Number of Sale	Credit Number and Date	Selling Price
R. M. Smith	1-12-37	20	26	6 1/4	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14	F	2 1/4		✓ 2-16-37	JB	Mrs. R. Byer Miller	JS HHH AN	chy	C 175313		HRA NE	
	2-25-37	20	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14	F	2 1/4		✓ 4-6-37		Thomas B. Gay	FB HHL LD	chy	C 186814		HRA NE	
A.M. Connor	2-25-37	20	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14	Stu	2 1/4		✓ 9-17-37		H.W. Endicott	Bch HHL LD	cho	C 202949		HRA NE	
	2-27-37	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14	F	2 1/4		✓ 11-3-37		Robert E. Lancaster	C HHH AY	cho	C 275236		HRA NE	
	3-6-37	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 1-13-37		H. B. Greening	JS HOA DP	chy	C 163478			
	3-22-37	20	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 2-22-37		Chas. E. Dunlap	Red HERAU	chy	C 167481			
	4-10-37	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 2/6/37		M. W. J. Burns	W HHL LP	"	C 257158	Rtd 10-7-37 C. 161589	HRA NE	
		12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14	F	2 1/4		✓ 9-2-37		Herbert V. Kohler	W HHL LP	c/s	1104-1	1/27/37 PO. 388613	HRA NE	
		12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 12-10-37		W. A. Barber	C HHL LP	chy	C 190034		HRA NE	
		16	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 1/16/37		Chas. Lockhart	W HHL LP	cho	C 288991		HRA NE	
	6603	16	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	1 3/4 - 1 3/8 - 14	Stu	2 1/4		✓ 11-23-37		M. Jaso N.D.	HHL LP					
	977	20	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓		Mr. Bowman Gray Jr	W HHL LP	chy	C 223350		HRA NE	
	986	20	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14	F	2 1/4		✓ 6/26/37		Col. L. M. Hathaway	W HHL LP	chy	C 223344		HRA NE	
	982	20	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14	F	2 1/4		✓ 8-18-37		P. M. Plant	W HHL LP	"	C 218853		HRA NE	
	975	20	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 - 1 1/2 - 14	Stu	2 1/4		✓ 10-6-37		F. H. Prince Jr.	C HHL LP	cho	C 269829		HRA NE	
	970	20	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14	Stu	2 1/4		✓ 11-9-37		A. J. Mackay	W HHL LP	cho	C 282476		HRA NE	
	435	20	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 - 1 1/2 - 14	Stu	2 1/4		✓ 4-27-37		R. H. Matthiessen	JS HHL LP	chy	C 199628		HRA NE	
4-18-37	281	12	26	7 1/2	E	K-M	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	Stu	2 1/4		✓ 3/24/37		J. R. Montgomery	K HHL LP	chy	C 178796		HRA NE	
5-10-37	193	20	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 4/28/37		Mrs. Madeline G. Rafferty	JS HHL LP	chy	C 186596		HRA NE	
5-19-37	1203	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 - 1 1/2 - 14 1/2	Stu	2 1/4		✓ 3/24/37		J. T. Cukor	K HHL LD	cho	C 261746		HRA NE	
	1198	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 - 1 1/2 - 14 1/2	Stu	2 1/4		✓ 10-5-37		J. M. R. Lyeth	K HHL LD	chy	C 232188		HRA NE	
	1197	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 7-29-37		L. Brown	Red HHL LD	cho	C 251974		HRA NE	
	313	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 9-30-37		F. A. Cosorove	Red HHL LD	c/s	C 1109846		HRA NE	
	274	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 12-7-37		S. Freeman	JS HHL LD	c/s	C 1109942		HRA NE	
	1184	16	26	6 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 3/8 - 1 1/2 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 12-8-37		R. O. Hunter	JS HHL LD	chy	C 214757		HRA NE	
5-11-37	286	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 5/28/37		J. T. Cukor	K HHL LD	cho	C 275196		HRA NE	
	394	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 11-12-37		J. T. Cukor	K HHL LD	cho	C 275196		HRA NE	
	1701	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 14 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 2-10-38		Edgar W. Brown	C HHL LD	c/s	C 346261		HRA NE	
6-1-37	342	12	26	7 1/2	E	#1 sv	2 1/4 - 1 3/8 - 13 1/2	F	2 1/4		✓ 8-24-37		Miss Anon Dunn	S HHL LD	cho	C 250709		HRA NE	
6-4-37	118	16	28	6 1/2	E	M-F	1 3/4 - 1 1/4 - 15	F	2 1/4		✓ 4/9/37		Mrs. Grant Mason Jr	C HOA DP	chy	C 190015		HRA NE	
											✓ 4/24/37		Duncan R. Cummings	K HHL LD	chy	C 197520		HRA NE	

Rtd 10-7-37
C. 161589

1/27/37
PO. 388613

Rtd to Stock
1-16-37 C. 162715

Interpreting the VL&D and A&F Records

The VL&D Record Books begin in 1901 and cover the period through 1929. There are 3 volumes: Book 1 covers 1901 to 1909, Book 2 covers 1910 to 1922, and Book 3 covers 1923 to 1929. Most pages are limited to one make and model and each list for a given year begins on February 1st, probably following a January inventory of the firearms. The books include both new and used firearms. Used guns owned by VL&D are called "Second Hand Guns" while consigned guns are called "Guns Left for Sale".

Although there are exceptions to each of the following, generally the firearms in Book 1 describe only the gauge, barrel length, weight and D@H. The name of the purchaser is recorded if other than a cash sale.

The firearms in Book 2 list the dates of acquisition and sale, most gun specifications and the purchasers but not the cost or price. The firearms in Book 3 list all of the above plus the price at which the gun was sold, in code.

Book 4 is a stock list of for 1913-1914 and includes many non-gun items. The guns in Book 4 show only make, model and serial number. It is uncertain if this is a VL&D or an A&F record.

Beginning in 1929 the record books are labeled A&F and there are 16 volumes up through 1965, Books 5 through 20. Most of the A&F volumes cover a period of 2 or 3 years each. From this point the records show all of the above information in the VL&D books plus the cost to A&F and the retail price of the firearm. These costs and prices are shown in code until Book 18 in 1962 when they began to be recorded in dollars.

A line drawn through a serial number simply means that the gun had been sold. Unsold guns were transferred to the next year's inventory pages as of February 1st. Those transferred are usually indicated by a red check mark. A large 'X' drawn across a page indicates that the inventory page had been completed. Serial numbers are almost never written in sequential order, rather they are by date of acquisition.

The name of the purchaser is often shown with an initial instead of the first name. The clients of A&F include some recognizable names and occasionally one will see entries for: WR Hearst, K. Roosevelt, (Kermit, son of TR), or JP Sousa, Jr (son of the conductor) among many others of note.

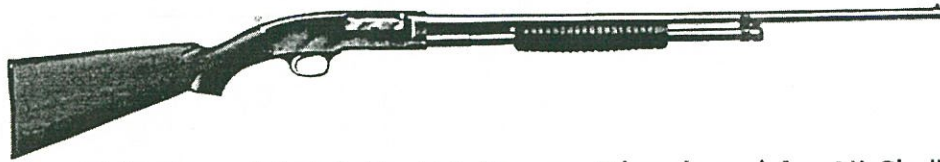
Stock dimensions, when listed, are in the order: Drop @ Heel, Drop @ Comb, LOP. Grip styles are listed as: "Str" (straight grip), "½ grip" (semi-pistol grip) or "FPG" (full pistol grip).

Frequently new guns were returned by the buyer and resold. These are re-entered in the new gun listings with the name of the former owner written above the date of acquisition.

All of the records were handwritten by human beings. As such, there is always the possibility of human error. Occasional serial number and date errors have been noted therefore it is quite reasonable to assume that there will be some mistakes in measurements as well. You own a piece of firearms history. Please accept the documents for the historical perspective that they add to your firearm and do not be too disappointed if they fail to meet 21st century standards for mechanical precision or computer accuracy.

Bob Beach

WINCHESTER SHOT GUNS



Take-Down Model 42 .410 Gauge, Chambered for 3" Shells

The Model 42 is a slide action, Hammerless six shot repeater, take-down type, made in two styles, standard and skeet.

Barrel lengths, 26 and 28 inches only. Chokes, full choke, modified choke, skeet choke and cylinder bore. Pistol grip stock, length 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches, drop at comb 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, at heel 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches, pitch 1 inch. Straight grip stock. Round slide handle with circular grooves.

Matted top receiver, hard rubber butt plate. Magazine capacity, five 3 inch shells or six 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch shells. Weight about 6 pounds. Allowable variations at no additional charge.

Standard Grade.....	\$31.75
Standard Grade with solid raised matted rib..	42.75
Trap Grade	62.70
Trap Grade with solid raised matted rib.....	70.70

Skeet Model

Barrel 26 inches, skeet choke, straight grip stock, checkered, same dimensions as standard gun. Extension slide handle checkered; hard rubber butt plate, magazine capacity and weight same as standard gun. Allowable variations at no additional charge: 28 inch barrels, full choke, modified choke or cylinder

boring, pistol grip stock of standard dimensions.

Standard Skeet Grade.....	\$41.60
Standard Skeet Grade with solid raised matted rib	49.60
Trap Skeet Grade.....	69.55
Trap Skeet Grade with solid raised matted rib..	77.55

Model 21 Double Barrel Hammerless Shotgun 12, 16 and 20 Gauges

The Model 21 Winchester double barrel shotgun is the only gun manufactured in America which is made from materials developed, specified and tested in the makers' own highly organized laboratories, and is required to endure tests as great and searching as are applied to Winchester Repeating Shotguns.

After every Model 21 is completely assembled and finished it is placed in a machine rest and each barrel is loaded and fired with an excessive load proof charge which would bring to light any structural weakness or imperfection of material or assembly. Model 21 is regularly subjected to heavy overloads, loads greatly in excess of the heaviest standard loads. It is only when the Model 21 has passed this searching test that the Winchester Proof Mark is stamped on barrels and frame and the gun released for sale.

STANDARD DIMENSIONS

Barrels: 32, 30, 28 and 26 inches, with matted rib. Boring: Full choke, modified, improved cylinder or cylinder.

Stock	12 Ga.	16 Ga.	20 Ga.
Length	14"	14"	14"
Drop at Comb.....	1 $\frac{9}{16}$ "	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1 $\frac{9}{16}$ "
Drop at Heel.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	2 $\frac{7}{16}$ "	2 $\frac{3}{8}$ "

Pistol grip. Stocks made to customer's dimensions, or in better grades of wood, or with ventilated rib or in straight grip furnished only in tournament and trap grades.

Weight: 12 gauge, 30 inch barrels, about 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds; 16 and 20 gauges about 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds, For 32 inch barrels add about 2 ounces. For 28 inch barrels subtract 2 ounces. For 26 inch barrels subtract 4 ounces. All Model 21 guns are furnished regularly with automatic safety.

Double Trigger	\$ 73.40
Double Trigger, Selective Ejection.....	87.05
Single Trigger	87.05
Single Trigger, Selective Ejection.....	100.70

Tournament Grade — 12, 16 and 20 Gauge



Double Trigger	\$ 89.75
Double Trigger, Selective Ejection.....	103.40
Single Trigger	103.40

Single Trigger, Selective Ejection.....	\$117.05
For Ventilated Rib, add to above prices....	33.00
(Furnished in 12 gauge, 30 or 32 inch barrels only)	

Trap Grade — 12, 16 and 20 Gauge

Double Trigger	\$103.40
Double Trigger, Selective Ejection.....	117.05
Single Trigger	117.05

Single Trigger, Selective Ejection.....	\$130.70
For Ventilated Rib, add to above prices....	33.00
(Furnished in 12 gauge, 30 or 32 inch barrels only)	

Model 21 Skeet Gun — 12, 16 and 20 Gauge

Standard Model 21 Skeet gun, furnished with single trigger, selective ejection, beavertail fore-end, checked wood butt; non-automatic safety. New Winchester

Skeet chokes, Tournament Grade.....	\$127.95
Trap Grade	144.35
Custom Built	255.00



WINCHESTER SHOT GUNS

Extras for Model 21 Winchester Double Barrel Hammerless Shotgun

Extra set of barrels, without fore-end purchased with a new gun for any grade to Custom Built non-selective.....	\$14.00	Beaver Tail Fore-end, non-selective, Standard Grade	\$18.80
Selective ejection	55.00	Beaver Tail Fore-end, non-selective, Tournament Grade	22.10
Extra fore-end purchased with new gun regular shape, non-selective Standard Grade.....	10.00	Beaver Tail Fore-end, non selective, Trap Grade	30.90
Extra fore-end purchased with new gun regular shape, non-selective, for Tournament Grade..	11.10	Beaver Tail Fore-end, selective, Standard Grade	23.30
Extra fore-end purchased with new gun, regular shape, non-selective, for Trap Grade.....	15.50	Beaver Tail Fore-end, selective, Tournament Grade	26.60
Extra fore-end purchased with new gun regular shape, selective, Standard Grade.....	14.50	Beaver Tail Fore-end, selective, Trap Grade...	35.40
Extra fore-end purchased with new gun, regular shape, selective, Tournament Grade.....	15.60	Beaver Tail Fore-end instead of regular on new gun, Standard Grade.....	8.20
Extra fore-end purchased with new gun, regular shape, selective, Trap Grade.....	20.00	Beaver Tail Fore-end instead of regular on new gun, Tournament Grade.....	10.90
		Beaver Tail Fore-end instead of regular on new gun, Trap Grade.....	13.65

REMINGTON REPEATING AND AUTOLOADING SHOT GUNS

The New Remington Model 31 hammerless, take-down, 3- or 5- shot side ejection repeating shot gun embodies many new and novel features and eliminates those which are objectionable in other pump action shot guns.

No. 31A "Standard" Grade. Chambered for 2¾ inch shells. Side ejection. Take down, hammerless, solid breech top and rear, 12, 16 and 20 gauge, 3 or 5 shot, Cross bolt safety. Standard length barrel 30

inches. Also furnished in 26, 28, 30 or 32 inches. Cylinder, modified or full choke. Top of receiver matted. American walnut half pistol grip stock and fore-end, both finely checkered by hand. Stock 14 inches long, 2½ inch drop at heel, 1⅝ inch drop at comb. Weight about 7½ pounds.

Any other length or drop of stock made to order only at an advance of \$15.00 net, requiring five to six weeks. Weight 7½ pounds.



No. 31A

No. 31A — "Standard," \$46.95 — No. 31R — "Riot" Grade, \$46.95
Extra Barrel, \$18.70

Will furnish 31B made to order, without extra charge, lengths from 13½ inches to 15 inches, drops 2 inches

to 3¼ inches at the heel and 1½ to 1¾ at comb. Only standard dimensions carried in stock.

No. 31B — "Special" Grade, \$77.00 — Extra Barrel, \$18.70

No. 31D — "Tournament" Grade, \$135.35 — Extra Barrel, \$27.50

No. 31E — "Expert" Grade, \$203.50 — Extra Barrel, \$35.20

No. 31F — "Premier" Grade, \$271.75 — Extra Barrel, \$41.80

Extras

With raised solid rib.....	\$ 8.00
Matting top surface of barrel.....	8.00
Raised Ventilated Rib.....	20.40

Nos. 31, D, E and F supplied with any grip, length or drop desired without additional charge. Special stock dimensions, 6 to 8 weeks.

No. 31S "Trap Special" Grade. Chambered for 2¾ inch shells. 3 or 5-shot capacity. Raised solid matted

ribbed barrel (option of matted top surface of barrel), 26, 28, 30 or 32 inches. Full choke, modified choke or cylinder bore. Front and rear sights. Hawkins recoil pad. Checkered stock and fore-end of American walnut. Standard stock dimensions 14¾ inches long over-all, 1⅞ inch drop at heel, 1½ inch drop at comb. Half pistol grip, option of straight grip. Weight about 8 pounds. Stocks of dimensions outside these limits at an advance of \$15.00 net, requiring five to eight weeks.

No. 31S — "Trap" Special Grade, Raised Solid Rib, \$63.95 — Extra Barrel, \$26.70

No. 31TC — "Target" Grade with Ventilated Rib, \$108.80 — Extra Barrel, \$39.10

ww II draft registration

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER | 1. NAME (Print) | ORDER NUMBER
U 231 | HENRY WENDELL ENDICOTT |

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print)
80 HAVEN ST. DEDHAM NORFOLK MASS
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS
SAME
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE DEDHAM 0715 (Exchange) (Number)	5. AGE IN YEARS 61 DATE OF BIRTH Nov. 1 1880 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Dedham Mass. (Town or county) (State or country)
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7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS
Mrs. John W. Gannett Freedom St. Duxedale Mass.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS
SELF

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS
SELF
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

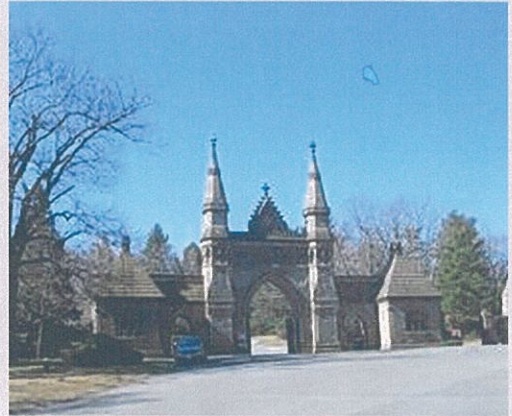
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42) (over) 16-21630-2 H Wendell Endicott (Registrant's signature)

Henry Wendell Endicott

Birth: Nov. 1, 1880
Dedham
Norfolk County
Massachusetts, USA
Death: 1954, USA

Henry Wendell Endicott was the son of Henry Bradford Endicott, founder of the Endicott Johnson Shoe Co. He resigned his executive position after the death of his father and devoted himself to private investments. He was on the Board of Sears and Roebuck, President of the Boston Opera Co., on the Board of Directors Metropolitan Opera Co. and was affiliated with MIT and the Boston Opera. He married Martha Barron who died in 1916 at the birth of their daughter Martha. He then married Priscilla Maxwell and had a son Bradford and a daughter Priscilla. He purchased the Endicott House in 1928 from General Weld. He tore down the Weld house in 1929 and build a mansion designed by NY architect Charles Pratt. Upon his death his children donated the home to MIT for use as a conference center.



Cemetery Photo
Added by: [Jen Snoots](#)

A (Very) Brief History of A&F, G&H, VL&A and VL&D

Abercrombie & Fitch was established in 1892 when David T. Abercrombie opened a sporting goods store under his own name in New York City. In 1900, a client by the name of Ezra H. Fitch, a practicing attorney and outdoor enthusiast, persuaded Mr. Abercrombie to allow him to become a partner in the store, and in 1904 the name of the store was changed to Abercrombie & Fitch. The two partners had differing ideas about marketing, however, and in 1907 David Abercrombie resigned and went out on his own. Ezra Fitch is responsible for the unique sales strategy for the time, where the goal was to provide an environment in which clients could examine outdoor wares as they might actually be used and the sales staff was made up of practiced outdoorsmen. The store occupied several locations over the years and finally ended up at 45th and Madison Ave. in 1917.

Ezra Fitch retired in 1928 and the leadership as president of A&F passed on to James S. Cobb, the brother-in-law of Mr. Fitch. Otis Love Guernsey, a store employee, became vice-president.

Justus Von Lengerke, born in Germany, arrived in the United States at the age of 17 years in 1871. His father had had a sporting goods business in Oldenburg and that gave Justus a background for starting a similar business in America. He formed a partnership with Ernst Detmold and together they opened VL&D in New York City in 1882. Although the store was hugely successful, Justus Von Lengerke should be best appreciated for his contributions to the success of the smokeless powder industry in America. Justus acquired the United States Agency for smokeless powder and is said to have been the first man to fire off smokeless powder in the United States. He promoted the use of the powder through his participation at the many live pigeon shoots that he attended. By 1912, VL&D holdings had been consolidated into the Keystone Powder Co.

The VL&D sporting goods store made a major effort to import firearms from Europe and was as well known as a distributor of guns as they were a retailer. The brands that they imported included Francotte, JP Sauer, Greifelt, Mauser, Mannlicher-Schoenauer, Purdey, Holland & Holland, WW Greener, Woodward, Boss, Lang, Churchill, and GE Lewis.

Justus Von Lengerke also enabled his mother and all of his siblings to immigrate to the United States. One of his brothers was Oswald Von Lengerke, who with hunting companion, Charles Antoine, opened his own sporting goods store, known as Von Lengerke & Antoine, in Chicago in 1891. Although a separate entity from VL&D, the two stores cooperated in their similar ventures.

Griffin & Howe was established in 1923 when Seymour Griffin, James V. Howe, James L. Gerry, and Col. Townsend Whelen came together to create a business to manufacture and repair rifles and shotguns. James Howe stayed with the company only for four months. Ownership of G&H changed in 1929 -30 and the name was briefly changed to Griffin & Hobbs to reflect the new partnership, but that name change lasted only a few months.

When James S. Cobb took over the leadership of A&F in 1928, he decided to expand the business and by 1930 A&F had purchased VL&D, VL&A and G&H. The purchase of VL&D added a significant firearms inventory, the capability to import firearms from Europe, and the addition of several valuable staff, including and especially, George Henry Krug. Mr. Krug had been the vice-president of VL&D and was in charge of the VL&D gunroom. At A&F, he was given the management of the A&F gunroom and it is very likely that it was Mr. Krug who was responsible for the maintenance and preservation of the gun sales records that we have today.

The purchase of VL&A by A&F gave the store an important and reputable outlet in the Midwest and Von Lengerke & Antoine continued to operate under that name even after the acquisition.

The purchase of Griffin & Howe gave A&F the ability to manufacture and repair firearms 'in house' although G&H continued to do business at its own location, with its own inventory and sales staff.

In the late 1950's A&F began to expand further by opening stores in San Francisco, Short Hills, NJ, Palm Beach, Bal Harbor, Colorado Springs, Southampton, and Troy, MI.

However, the shopping preferences of the American public were in flux and A&F could not respond. In 1976 A&F filed for bankruptcy and finally closed its doors in 1977. G&H was purchased from the corporation and exists today under private ownership.