

Dear John,

You asked for some information regarding Captain Robert Dyer's, 1st Maine Cavalry Division, 1860 Colt Army (four screw) pistol and original issue holster, Pittman marked, offered for auction, Julia's Firearms Auction, October, 2017. Dyer, from Augusta married a relative of mine after the Civil War, and his issue pistol, #31636 and holster, were inherited by my grandfather.

The pistol was given to me when my grandfather died. My grandfather's lawyer, George Findell, Durham, New Hampshire, told me in 1965, when he gave me the pistol that Dyer had been "seconded" to Joshua Chamberlain's command headquarters, 20th Maine Infantry as liaison. It is believed that he was wounded at Little Round Top and after convalescence in Augusta was assigned to a cavalry unit stationed in Washington D. C.; when he was fully recovered, he returned to full time, unrestricted duty with the 1st Maine Cavalry Division, until the war was concluded. I have seen letters that he had written from Appomattox where he was with General Chamberlain and (so the letters indicated) assisted with the terms of surrender and other matters.

Unfortunately Dyer's letters and diaries have long since disappeared or are at least in an unknown location.

I hope this helps!

Bruce L. Dotter