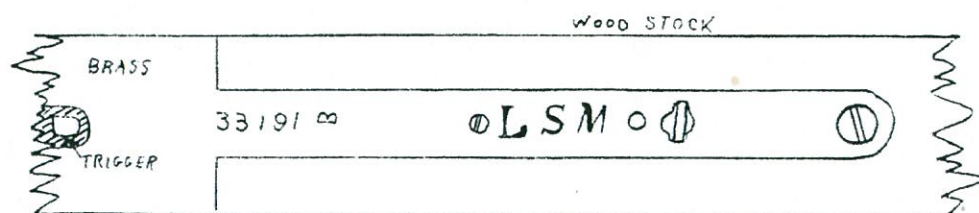


ENFIELD



WINCHESTER 66 MUSKET

## The Story Of . . .

BY

NEILL G. CARPENTER

# LSM

If you owners of old guns have ever wondered at the stampings or markings on some of your antique weapons, you will know how I felt when I obtained an 1866 Winchester Musket with the letters "L S M" stamped on the lower tang. The friend from whom I obtained the gun in a swap deal had no idea what the initials meant, but as we both lived in Louisiana, we both surmised that the "L" could stand for Louisiana and the "S M" could stand for State Militia. However as we had no Louisiana State Militia, we realized that the initials could stand for almost anything--even to a man's name.

Even though the markings had cost me a few bucks extra, no effort was made to investigate the meanings of the stamping until I had obtained another gun with the identical markings. This new gun was a Barnett made Enfield muzzle loading musket and as can be seen from the sketch the imprints are again on the lower brass tang.

Not long after I obtained the Enfield, I was encouraged in the belief that my two old weapons were indeed Louisiana State Militia issue by an article that appeared in the January, 1958, issue of the American Arms Collector. In writing of Confederate weapons the author, William A. Albaugh III said: "It is thought that all Barnett arms made in 1861 are Confederate, while those



made thereafter went North. Rifles stamped "LSM" on the trigger guard are believed to be Louisiana State Militia weapons, hence Confederate." No mention was made in his article concerning the Winchester 66 muskets, so marked.

For me "believing" that "LSM" meant Louisiana State Militia was not enough, so while visiting my son in college at LSU, I set out to prove that there actually was a Louisiana State Militia, that they were issued these arms, and if possible, that they were marked "LSM".

Many hours were spent reading old records and newspapers in the Libraries and Archives at Baton Rouge. Many books and documents were found concerning the period of history in which these guns were used, and I found it very interesting historically, but as this is a gun story, I will try to leave out much of the history and stay with the actual quotes about the weapons and their use.

After the Civil War was over, the Confederate States had its terrible Reconstruction days. Back in this period when a war was over, the defeated nations really suffered, as there was no Marshall plan in those days. Instead of lending a hand to help our enemy recover as we did with Japan, the Union moved in its military forces, made harsh and unfair laws and deliberately tried to keep the South from recovering. Federal-held Louisiana was the first Confederate territory subjected to "reconstruction" as in 1862, General Butler in New Orleans freed slaves and enlisted them in the Federal regiments. Until 1877, a period of 12 years after the war ended, Louisiana was overrun by radical politicians, carpet baggers, ignorant freed slaves and rascally Southerners, as the majority of the residents were not permitted to vote or hold office.

The Louisiana State Militia was a respected branch of the Louisiana armed forces during the Civil War, but during the reconstruction period, the controlled and corrupt state Legislature re-organized the Militia so that the disfranchised southerners could not serve. So as a result, the soldiers were mostly freed slaves. As this force was used in this period to enforce the harsh laws, it was very unpopular with the people of Louisiana.

The Louisiana State Militia was armed with both the Enfield Rifle and the newer repeating Winchester Model 1866 musket as I found in The Adjutant's Report for 1870 (Louisiana Archives, LSU Library La355L93) that the Monroe Louisiana State Militia was "well armed with breech loading Winchesters and Enfield Muskets." Another military force active during this period was the Metropolitan Police of New Orleans. This force was headed by competent white Generals but the troops were mostly rascally southerners, carpet baggers and freed slaves. The "Times Picayune" of June 30, 1874 says:

"On that day there was to have been, and, in as far as is known, will take place, a grand parade of colored militia, who have all been furnished with the finest kind of arms and ammunition by the State Government. They have been also in the past furnished with ball-cartridges, or at least had them at their armories in easy reach."



Early in 1874, because of the bad reputation and publicity it had received, The Louisiana State Militia was again reorganized and had its name changed to the Louisiana National Guard, in an effort to attract more men to join.

As the law-enforcing and law-making authorities were against the southern property owner and the ex-confederate soldier, about the only thing left for the respected citizens to do was to join some sort of secret vigilante society and fight back the best way they could. In most southern states the Ku Klux Klan was formed for this purpose, but in Louisiana another sort of Society was started early and grew rapidly, and was generally called the "White Leagues." It is believed that the first such organization started in May, 1867, in St. Mary Parish by Judge Alcibiade deBlanc, who later traveled widely over the state organizing other groups, some of which were called the "Knights of the White Camellia". In New Orleans, the "White League" came into existence in July, 1874, and many active companies were organized. In contrast to the Louisiana State Militia and the Metropolitan Police, the White Leaguers were secretly armed with whatever weapon they could get their hands on, the majority of which were muzzle loading shot guns.

To combat the radical politicians and the well armed militia, the White Leagues began to try to find better arms and to hold secret drills. You readers who are interested in history would enjoy reading of the election held November 4, 1872, where both candidates for governor claimed the election. In fact two inaugurations were held in the capitol, New Orleans, on January 14, 1873, the Republicans inaugurated Kellogg with his colored Lt. Governor while the Democrats inaugurated their candidate McEnery. A few of the merchants of New Orleans attempted to buy surplus Prussian Muskets for the White League, but a large consignment was seized by the Metropolitan Police. When the next large shipment was scheduled to be unloaded from the ship Mississippi, the White League came out in force and decided to fight rather than have this shipment seized.

The White League troops assembled with arms at various places, and near the levee at the foot of Canal St. near a place called Liberty Place, where the ship was docked on September 14, 1874. A detachment of Police attempted to disperse the group near the levee and the "Battle of Liberty Place" took place. The White League completely routed the Police and captured two cannons and a quantity of other arms including Winchester 1866 Muskets. A portion of the story is published in the "New Orleans Bulletin" Supplement of Sept. 22 1874, entitled "The Revolution" as follows:

“At this moment the Metropolitans opened fire on the crowd on Canal Street with one of their pieces. This was the signal for the citizens party. In one instant the sharp crack of the Winchesters, the deadly "bang" of the Remingtons, of Company E on the right and the death-dealing shot gun was heard.”



And from the "New Orleans Bulletin":

"The flight was most disgraceful, the men throwing down their guns, pulling off their hats and coats, and some of them actually jumping into the river to avoid the deadly missiles which by that time were decidedly numerous. In the fight the citizens captured two Napoleon guns and one Gatling gun, with ammunition, besides some 75 to 100 stand of Winchester Rifles."

While the "New Orleans Times" gave this account of the fight:

"At 1:35 a body of one hundred and sixty men, armed with Winchester rifles and muskets, under the command of Colonel LeGardeur, marched up Camp Street from Canal, attended by a very numerous concourse of curious people - almost instantly the Metropolitans opened fire with the Winchester rifles which, was, instantaneously responded to by the White-Leaguers."

The victory of the White League was short lived, the Federal troops moved in and restored Gov. Kellogg as governor on September 19, 1874. One of Gov. Kellogg's first acts was the distribution of the following proclamation:

**"STOLEN STATE ARMS - PROCLAMATION OF REWARD, STATE OF  
LOUISIANA EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

New Orleans, Oct. 31 1874.

The following-described arms, the property of the State of Louisiana, have been taken from the custody of the legally-constituted authorities of the State and are retained in the possession of unauthorized persons: Two mountain-howitzers, caliber 4.62, model of 1861, weight 220 pounds, marked T.H.R. on the face. Three hundred and one Winchester rifles, made for bayonet-attachment, numbers ranging between 31,120 and 34,163, marked L.S.M. on butt-plates.

Six hundred and twenty-four Springfield breech-loading rifles, model of 1870, caliber .50 marked L.N.G. on butt-plates. Ninety-three Spencer carbines, caliber .50, marked L.N.G. Notice is hereby given that the State of Louisiana will pay a reward of \$50.00 each for the recovery of the two howitzers, and \$100.00 additional for such evidence as shall lead to the conviction of the person or persons illegally retaining possession of them; also a reward of \$10.00 for the recovery of the above-described rifles and carbines, and \$25.00 additional for such evidence as shall lead to the conviction of any person illegally retaining possession of any of the said weapons.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the State hereunto attached, this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy-four, and of the Independence of the United States the ninety-ninth.

William P. Kellogg."

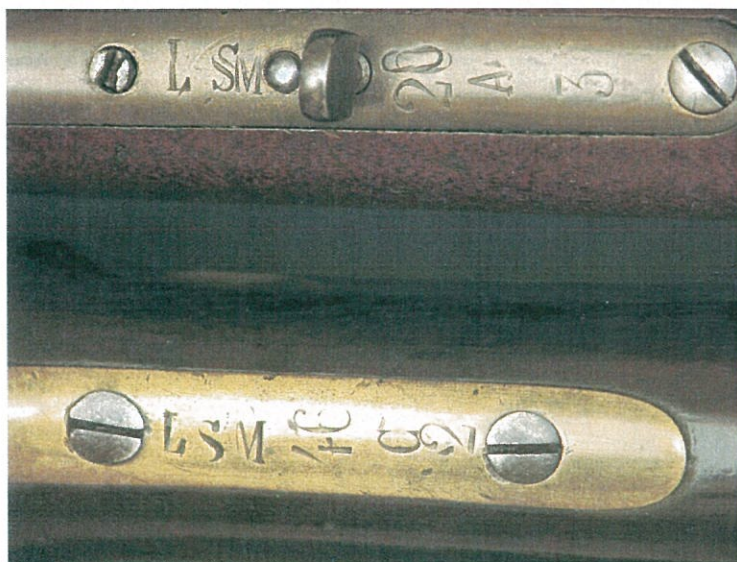


In 1874 the La. Adjutant General's Report showed the purchase by the Louisiana National Guard of 2 - 1" Gatling guns, 2 - 12lb. Howitzers, 800 Breechloading Springfields and 100 Spencer Carbines from the War Dept. Again in 1887 in the La. Adjutant General's Report, General Pierce reports to General Beauregard that Capt. E. S. Taylor of the Opelousas National Guard during the Sugar Cane Strike had 45 cal. Springfields and Winchesters.

After finding all these references in the Louisiana records and old newspapers concerning these weapons marked "LSM", I am firmly convinced that from now on we can know that the LSM means Louisiana State Militia and that the weapons so marked were Confederate.

My Winchester 66 Musket, complete with bayonet is numbered 33,191 and could therefore be one of the ones captured by the White League and advertised by Gov. Kellogg. However the "LSM" is stamped on the tang instead of the butt plate as mentioned in the proclamation. Perhaps some muskets will be found with the markings on their butts, but it is my opinion that the proclamation information was in error. The Enfield musket also is marked on the tang as mentioned in the Albaugh article.

Very few people have ever heard of the Battle of Liberty Place, but historically it was of more importance than the Battle of New Orleans after the war of 1812. The Battle of New Orleans, fought after the war was over, where only 13 Americans lost their lives served only to help elect Andrew Jackson president. The September 14, 1874 Battle of Liberty Place, however, took the lives of 53 or more Americans and the publicity after the battle helped to change the opinion of the people of the United States and as a result brought the end of the corrupt reconstruction era in the South.



The Gun Report magazine  
1963



## Old Pete at Liberty Place: Links to 1876 and Election 2000

by Nicholas E. Hollis

The roller coaster ride of Election 2000 and its chaotic aftermath may be over, but the nation's jarred sensibilities, upset stomachs and exhausted disenchantment will take some time to adjust. Historians are reminding us of comparisons with the last electoral "train wreck" in 1876, another presidential struggle which dragged on too long. Samuel Tilden (D) had rolled up nearly 300,000 more popular votes than his Republican rival, Rutherford B. Hayes. But in the end, a "smoke-filled room" negotiation in Washington (Wormley Hotel) probably ratified Hayes after assurances were given for the removal of remaining Federal troops from three contested southern states -- Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina -- leading to the end of the Reconstruction Era.<sup>1</sup>

### *Critical Links to Liberty Place*

A critical event in the sequence leading to the [Wormley Agreement](#), often overlooked, took place on September 14, 1874 in New Orleans where General James Longstreet, as head of the Louisiana State Militia, moved to quell an incendiary mob whose purpose was the violent overthrow of the government of Governor Kellogg, a much reviled carpetbagger. Longstreet tried to intercept a shipment of weapons "behind the lines" (via a dock at the foot of Canal Street on the Mississippi River). Old Pete's militia and metropolitan police under A.S. Badger, were outnumbered more than two to one. At the ripe age of fifty-three, Longstreet found himself in the midst of the worst street fight in U.S. history. The two sides, Republicans vs. Democrats, exchanged volleys and a fifteen-minute battle ensued. When the smoke cleared, more than 100 people lay dead or wounded. Longstreet's forces were not up to the task and, despite superior weaponry, they broke ranks and were routed. Most fled into the streets of the Latin Quarter. Longstreet suffered the humiliation of being wounded by a spent bullet and was captured by the mob. Kellogg remained in hiding on U.S. property at the Customs House. Within days, Federal gunboats and fresh troops arrived and restored order to "The Big Easy." But, as history demonstrated, the aftermath was anything but easy.



*Courtesy of Frank Leslie, Library of Congress*

**DARKNESS AT HIGH NOON --** Longstreet tries to intercede as angry mob approaches US Customs House on Canal Street, in New Orleans (September 14, 1874).

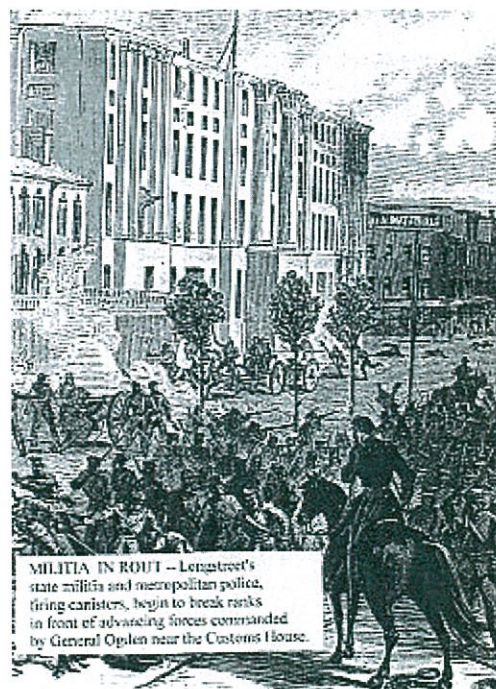
In some respects, the "Battle of Liberty Place" settled nothing. But the outraged members of the Knights of the White Camelia in New Orleans did make a point which probably figured heavily in the "deal of 1877." Reconstruction by Radical Republicans had been a disaster, and a new tragedy of missed opportunities for



reconciliation was about to unfold. The seeds of wrath, which Abraham Lincoln had hoped to expunge with the nation's "better angels," were instead further nurtured into poisoned fruit by unchecked and somewhat vindictive excesses of the brutal Federal occupation and democracy itself! It took over eighty years for the New South to finally emerge and rejoin the Nation's prosperity. Even today, there remain great pockets of poverty and key sectors of our agricultural/rural economy which are ignored in a virtual "bayou of economic despair." The spiral of lower commodity prices and growing, fear-driven concentrations in the ag sector, are crushing what remains of the independent American farmer, grinding the "culture" out of agriculture.

Our Nation's wound's barely healed after the Civil War and the rancorous Reconstruction which culminated with the infamous Tilden/Hayes struggle. But the "Battle of Liberty Place" was a pivotal event, rippling across the country's political and social landscape, leading to major Democratic gains at the polls in 1874, and signaling the beginning of the end of Reconstruction. When Longstreet rode out on Canal Street that balmy September afternoon to rally his troops, he demonstrated anew his resolute courage of conviction, his devotion to duty, and his unusual prescience. It also showed Old Pete's near-complete disregard for his own personal safety. Was he a traitor? or a true son of the South?

Six years earlier Longstreet's proposals for peaceful reconciliation and black suffrage issues had been rejected, and now it was time to "pay the piper." Consistent with his belief that reunification and compromise were needed to preserve the South from further oppression -- and possibly vital to salvaging the best elements of southern culture, Longstreet's vision was decades ahead of his time. Yet, he was vilified and ridiculed -- his ideas ignored.



### ***"No Guts, No Glory:" 1876 in Perspective***

1876 was a year for grandstanding. The economy was still limping from the Panic of 1873, and Reconstruction was suffocating the South. General George Armstrong Custer rode into the history books by foolishly trying to impress the national nominating convention in St. Louis with his Indian fighting prowess (he had a reporter from The Bismarck Tribune along for the ride at Little Big Horn).

As we struggle to analyze our current political predicament for reconciliation themes -- and perhaps necessary reform, some historical consultation might be reassuring, even remedial. We have the opportunity to make some corrective choices. But any comparison with 1876 lacks "traction" today without a reference to the Battle of Liberty Place. What happened there, painful as it is to recount, was more than a footnote in our history. After all, the 1874



clash reflects a struggle which continues to this day, barely under the surface, and it spells a warning for present-day policymakers: there is a price for disenfranchisement and close elections in a democracy. We will need to be industrious, honest, and vigilant in pursuing inclusive ways to strengthen our Nation in the wake of Election 2000. But, if we listen to "Old Pete," we can be stronger for it.

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## **Aftermath & Reconstruction**

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Emboldened by the federal hands-off policies, 3,500 armed White Leaguers assembled in New Orleans on September 14, 1874, and demanded that carpetbag Republican Gov. William Kellogg resign. Opposing the White League were 3,600 policemen and black militia troops under the command of ex-Confederate General James Longstreet. Supported by two Gatling guns and a battery of artillery, Longstreet's force formed a battle line from Jackson Square to Canal Street, guarding the Customs House, in which the governor and other Republican officials had taken refuge. The White Leaguers charged the line, captured Longstreet, and pushed his men to the river, where they either surrendered or fled. The attackers occupied the city hall, statehouse, and arsenal. Total casualties in the one-hour fight that has become known as the Battle of Liberty Place were 38 killed and 79 wounded.

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***Fascinating Fact:*** Longstreet was vilified for leading black troops against his former soldiers. "It was with the greatest difficulty", said one White League officer, "that I prevented the men from firing particularly at Longstreet."



## **The Battle of Liberty Place**

By Col. Les Hopper (Ret.) [leshopper@home.com](mailto:leshopper@home.com)

Winter, 2002

At 11:00 a.m. on April 29, 1862, New Orleans surrendered to Federal Troops, and the Stars and Stripes replaced the Flag of the Confederacy over the Custom House. This was nearly 3 years before the fall of the Confederacy, and as a consequence, New Orleans was an occupied city long before the other large Southern cities.

The Federal occupation was very severe under Major General Benjamin Butler. An example of Butler's severity is his infamous General Order 28, dated May 15, 1862. It was written because the ladies of New Orleans refused to fraternize with Federal Troops. It reads: As the Officers and Soldiers of the United States have been subject to repeated insults from the women calling themselves ladies of New Orleans in return for the most scrupulous non-interference and courtesy on our part, it is ordered that hereafter when any Female by word, gesture, or movement, insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States, she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation.

Obviously, this didn't set well with the local citizenry. Neither did the post war "reconstruction" era. Without getting into a political discussion, it must be understood that the political climate was such that the white citizenry were reduced to second-class citizens and treated as such. Unlike other locations, the Ku Klux Klan did not exist in Louisiana at the time. Instead, the citizenry organized a politically centered organization known as the White League, on July 2, 1874. Although politically centered, the White League began to arm itself. However, the Metropolitan Police had intercepted some of their earlier arms shipments. These interceptions forced the White Leaguers to confiscate arms from several locations in the city, and to march to the river where a large shipment of arms was due on September 14, 1874. One group went to Canal Street (New Orleans' main commercial street) on the Mississippi River near a spot called Liberty Place.

It was there the Metropolitan Police fired on the White League. The ensuing battle became known as The Battle of Liberty Place. The Metropolitan Police were routed, and a large number of weapons were captured by the White League.

This was not a small conflict because 8,400 White Leaguers battled about 2,100 Militiamen and Metropolitan Police. The latter sustained eleven deaths and sixty wounded, and the former sustaining twenty-one deaths and nineteen wounded.

For the most part, the Metropolitan Police had obtained their arms from the Louisiana State Militia and the newly formed Louisiana National Guard, with the latter actually participating in the battle. As a result of the Liberty Place incident, the White League captured 2 Mountain Howitzers, 301 Winchester Rifles, 99 Spencer Carbines and 620 Springfield trapdoor rifles. The Governor, in his proclamation of October 31, 1874, described the trapdoors as: *Six hundred and twenty-four Springfield breech loading rifles Model 1870, caliber .50 marked L.N.G. on the buttplate*. An independent study of various Louisiana Adjutant General Reports, and other National Guard documents, confirmed the trapdoors were M70 rifles. The Governor's Proclamation offered a reward of \$10.00 for the recovery of any of the M70 rifles, and \$25.00 for evidence leading to the conviction of anyone having one.



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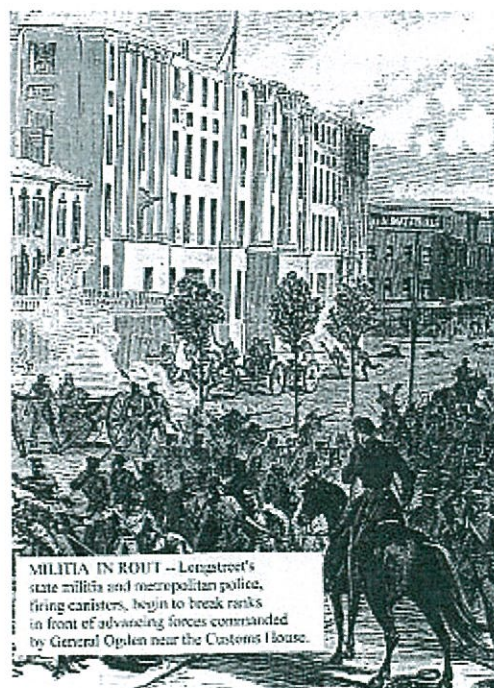
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