

# Charles W. Clawson Collection

No. 246

## CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

The following has been purchased from the collection of my late husband, renowned author and firearms expert Charles W. Clawson.

Make: Colt Model: 1911

Serial Number: 130801 Caliber: .45 acp

Other: W/ letter, data sheet & photo CD

Signed: Betty A. Clawson Dated: 2-17-17

Betty A. Clawson, Seller

M1911 INFO, LLC  
P.O. Box 711  
Shelbyville, IN 46176  
(317)392-4995

23 February 2017

**RE: Inspection # 022317-01 for 1916 Colt M1911 Serial Number 130801**

Dear Sir:

Based on information in the Springfield Research Service database, Colt M1911 serial number 130801 was originally manufactured as a "RECEIVER ONLY". This direct hit in the SRS database reflects what is believed to be recorded on a known document in the National Archives. The exact date in 1916 is apparently not noted on the record in the National Archives, as the direct hit simply shows "16" at the date of the record. For more specific information regarding the record in the National Archives, I would suggest contacting Springfield Research Service. **However, it is believed that no additional useful information shall be reflected on the original document.** A Colt factory letter would be required to determine if this serial number, 130801, is posted in the Colt factory production or shipping records. I have researched the sources currently available and did not find additional specific shipping information for this pistol. I am confident Mr. Clawson would have included any information in the Colt production and shipping records in his book. **I therefore do not recommend requesting a Colt factory letter for this pistol, as I suspect no additional useful information would be provided.**

Mr. Clawson, on page 382 of **Colt .45 Service Pistols** states M1911 serial range 125567-133186 was assigned to Springfield Armory. He later states in his (2003) 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition **Collector's Guide to Colt .45 Service Pistols** that serial numbers 127979 to 133186 were suspended and not produced at Springfield Armory. The section that deals with the Springfield Armory suspended serial range is on pp. 23-24. Mr. Clawson refers to this range as one of the "unsolved mysteries". On page 24, he reports a note being posted in the Colt production ledger on or about June 29, 1916, directly after serial number 129616 that reads "Notice - 45 Auto Gov from 129617 to 133186 inclusive were made in Gov Armory, Springfield, Mass." Mr. Clawson states this (notice) statement proved to be incorrect, as these 3,570 pistols were manufactured by Colt. He provides some information about this serial range, and then states further details are not known.

Because we do know a record exists in the National Archives indicating this serial range was (at least) assigned to be produced as RECEIVER ONLY pieces, and the notice in the Colt production ledger states 129617-133186 were "made" in "Gov Armory, Springfield, Mass.", I **suspect** some of these receivers may have been assembled into completed pistols at Springfield Armory. Because these receivers do not have an Ordnance final inspection mark, I believe they were not completed at Colt or accepted by Ordnance as a completed pistol while still at Colt. Further, Mr. Clawson reports serial numbers 130517-130555 were listed in the Colt records as "spare receivers" shipped to Hoboken Barracks 28 May 1917. I believe evidence suggests these "RECEIVER ONLY" receivers were used and/or shipped and used on an as-needed basis over a period of time at different government facilities.

Colt Model of 1911 s/n 130801 is a complete arsenal-assembled pistol. The pistol has an all-matching arsenal (re)finish.

There are no known records to indicate exactly when Colt M1911 130801 was assembled. However, on pistols assembled at U.S. Government arsenals and Ordnance depots, one might approximate the date of assembly by examining the components used when the pistol was assembled. All parts of the pistol are mostly matching vintage M1911 parts used from 1914-1916, with the exception of the hammer. The hammer is a Colt M1911A1 hammer used from 1939 to early 1944. The finish on the pistol is typical of that used by depots up through about 1945, based on other pistols examined and believed to be assembled or rebuilt then.

The receiver was produced by Colt, possibly as early as 1916 (as records indicate), or as late as 1917. The serif style lettering in the "UNITED STATES PROPERTY" marking on the left side of the receiver verify this as does with the serial number.

The slide of this pistol was originally produced by Colt 1914-1917. Based on the position and style of the MODEL OF 1911. U.S. ARMY marking, I believe this slide was manufactured in early 1917. The "H" marks of Colt's Francis Hosmer match on the receiver and slide, indicating the parts were likely manufactured about the same time period. Both the receiver and the slide have a matching arsenal finish, which was a requirement for all pistols to pass Ordnance inspection.

This pistol does display that it was handled and used after being assembled. All corresponding wear patterns match. The bore of the Colt M1911 vertical H P barrel is excellent and bright, with no visible pitting or frosting. The wear patterns at the butt end of the mainspring housing and receiver match exactly. The wear pattern on the bottom of the hammer perfectly matches the pattern on top of the grip safety tang that corresponds with the hammer. The striking face of the hammer has a wear pattern that matches the pattern on the firing pin stop plate. The trigger, slide stop and thumb safety all show a consistent amount of slight wear, and the finish of all small parts match that of the slide and receiver. The magazine is a WWI production piece that was manufactured by Barnes Kobert, and has a "B" marking on top of the toe.

Colt M1911 s/n 130801 appears to be unaltered as assembled. It is impossible to know when or where the use occurred. However, the pistol does show holster wear, consistent with that of a military M1916 and the amount of wear and use is consistent with what many wartime-issued pistols display.

The mainspring housing of this is unit marked "2 FA NY D 112". I believe this marking indicates use by the 2nd Field Artillery of the New York National Guard. The NY Guard was activated and deployed along the southern U.S./Mexican border during the Mexican Punitive Expedition of 1916-1917.

Colt produced "RECEIVER ONLY" examples are rarely encountered. There are only two, small known serial ranges where they were produced. Few are ever observed that remain in unaltered condition. Colt receivers produced in the Springfield Armory suspended serial range are uncommon, as well. Colt M1911 s/n 130801 is especially rare and desirable, as I believe it remains unaltered as assembled. I have encountered fewer than 20 pistols with receivers numbered in the Springfield Armory suspended range. Only three of those pistols were available to purchase when examined, and I purchased all three. **This pistol was purchased from the Charles W. Clawson collection (see enclosed Certificate of Authenticity).** Prior to his death, Mr. Clawson and I were good friends. He told me he believed this pistol was exactly as assembled by the U.S. government.

I believe this pistol, having been purchased from the Clawson collection, adds significant interest and value. There is much mystery around the Colt receivers numbered in this suspended serial range. It is impossible to know who assembled most of those pistols, or when. However, it can be determined that this pistol is a U.S. military arsenal assembled Colt "RECEIVER ONLY" example in the Springfield Armory serial range that remains unaltered as assembled. It has not been subsequently refinished commercially. It has not had parts changed. It is one of only a few known examples produced by the U.S. for issue.

Colt M1911 s/n 1308011 shows moderate, normal wear and handling. The slide bears the majority of the contact with a holster, and therefore, will generally always display more wear than the receiver. This pistol is collectible and should not be fired, IMO (only to preserve it).

The markings, fit and finish over the entire pistol indicates no parts have been changed since assembly. Most M1911 examples observed show far more wear, handling and use. Most pistols that have been handled and/or resold several times will show far more wear, use and handling. They often have parts that have clearly been replaced. Therefore, Colt M1911 s/n 130801 appears to have not changed hands often.

My personal knowledge and experience with M1911 and M1911A1 pistols dates to 1977 as a U.S. Army MP. I later served as an Instructor at the U.S. Army Military Police School. I was a federally licensed 01 FFL gun dealer from 1979-1985. Since 1985 I have collected both USGI and Axis Power handguns, with my primary interest being M1911 and M1911A1 pistols. I offer this opinion based on this knowledge and experience, the limitations further stated herein and the inspection I have completed for your pistol.

**My general impression of this pistol is very favorable. I would rate this pistol about 80% arsenal refinished condition.** Any Colt "RECEIVER ONLY" example in the Springfield Armory suspended serial range is extremely rare. This pistol is, in my opinion, highly desirable. Information on these pieces is very limited regarding where they might have been assembled and when. Colt M1911 s/n 130801 has a known history. This pistol displays very well, on both left and right sides. There are no signs of abuse. The front sight has been modified to make it more visible. This pistol is, in my opinion, an excellent example of a somewhat rare M1911 pistol. Opinions may vary and true value is determined only by the buyer and seller at the time of sale.

**All parts on this pistol appear to be original as assembled.**

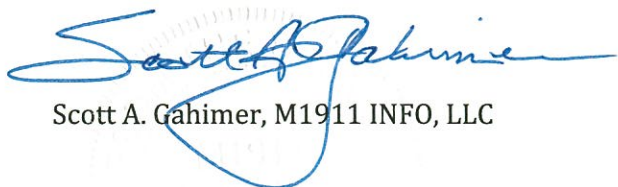
**The overall appearance of this pistol is very good.** I did thoroughly inspect the pistol with proper lighting and tools to form opinions. I also relied on high resolution photos of your pistol and other pistols. I performed side-by-side comparisons with other similar Colt M1911 pistols manufactured in the same time periods (1914-1917, 1939-1944) to support my opinions.

**All information provided herein, whether oral, written, stated or implied, simply reflects my opinion. My opinion is based on my personal knowledge and experience and is inherently limited examining anything with an unknown past and interchangeable parts. No warranty or guarantees apply. No information provided is guaranteed to be accurate or all-inclusive. My opinion does not determine value or direct you to buy or sell anything. My inspection does not include firing the pistol or checking it for safety or reliability. I strongly recommend having a competent, qualified gunsmith verify safety and reliability before attempting to fire or sell any firearm. My inspection or opinion is not a substitute for due diligence prior to firing, buying or selling a firearm. I accept no responsibility for the status, safety or reliability of any firearm I do not own.**

This report is intended to provide you my observations pertaining to finish and features which might affect the authenticity and collectible status of your pistol.

This inspection report is provided for the benefit and use of Mr. Joseph Callihan. It is provided at the time of sale and is offered as my opinion regarding Colt M1911 pistol serial number 130801. Accompanying this letter is an inspection data sheet, photo CD and a Certificate of Authenticity issued by Mrs. Clawson. Images on the CD are copyrighted information and remain the property of Scott A. Gahimer. All rights reserved. A copy of this opinion, the data sheet and the images has been retained by M1911 Info, LLC for future reference. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott A. Gahimer, M1911 INFO, LLC

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## M1911 Info, LLC Inspection Data Sheet

NO IMPLIED AND EXPRESSED WARRANTY OR GUARANTEES ARE PROVIDED BY M1911 INFO, LLC. No information provided is warranted or guaranteed to be accurate or all-inclusive. No information provided determines value, or directs anyone to buy or sell any item. BY USE OF ANY SERVICE OR SOLUTION PROVIDED BY M1911 INFO, LLC, YOU HEREBY RELEASE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE M1911 INFO, LLC, ITS OFFICERS, MEMBERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, ASSIGNS, AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST FOR ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS, ACTIONS, CAUSES OF ACTION OR SUITS OF ANY KIND OR NATURE WHATSOEVER, IN LAW AND EQUITY.


Date: 2/13/2017	Time: 12:20	PM	Location: M1911 Info, LLC	M1911 Info, LLC inspection # 022317-01	For: Mr. Joe Callihan
Make: COLT'S PT. F.A. MFG. CO.	Year: 1916	Model: M1911		Receiver S/N: 130801	Slide S/N: N/A
Condition: ca. 80%					

In my opinion, based on a Field-Strip Inspection, this is the status of the firearm:

Component	Type/Style	Finish Type	Original Finish	Correct for Pistol	Original to Pistol	Remarks
Receiver	1916 Colt M1911 (Receiver Only)	Parkerized	No	Yes	Yes	SA suspended s/n range, no final inspection.
Slide	1917 Colt M1911	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Assembled on receiver by U.S. govt..
Barrel	Colt M1911 Vert, H P	Blue	Yes	Yes	Yes	Correct as assembled.
Barrel link	same	Same	Yes	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Bbl. link pin	same	Same	Yes	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Stocks	Colt M1911 15-row double-diamond	Walnut	Yes	Yes	Yes	Proper stocks, matching wear.
Stock screws	Colt M1911	Parkerized	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Magazine	WWI Barnes & Kobert	2-tone	Yes	Yes	Yes	Correct as assembled.
Front Sight	Colt M1911 half moon (modified)	Parkerized	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Rear Sight	Colt M1911 U-notch Squared	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Extractor	Colt M1911	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Firing Pin Stop	Colt M1911	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching ghost image back side.
Plunger Tube	Colt M1911	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Thumb Safety	Colt M1911	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Slide Stop	Colt M1911	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Magazine Catch	Colt M1911 checkered	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
MSH Assembly	Colt M1911 type flat Unit marked	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish, w/ loop.
Grip Safety	Colt M1911 type short	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear to hammer.
Hammer	Colt M1911A1 1939-1944	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Short Wide spur, matching wear to grip safety.
Trigger	Colt M1911 long	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Barrel Bushing	Colt M1911 3rd type	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Recoil Spring Plug	Colt M1911	Same	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish.
Recoil Spring	Colt M1911	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Correct, 31+ coils.
Recoil Spring Guide	Colt M1911	Parkerized	No	Yes	Yes	Matching wear and finish. Short legs.

1916 Colt M1911 (Receiver Only) s/n 130801 is original as assembled. most likely sometime in late 1916-17. This pistol is in the SA suspended serial range and correctly has no final inspection. From the collection of Charles W. Clawson. An excellent and rare example. See letter for more information.

Respectfully submitted,



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