

FROM 

was first accomplished by Hall in the construction of his breech loading rifle at Harpers Ferry, begun in 1813."

Notes: The M1795 was based on "Charleville Pattern." That's really all we are told from the official records. While it has been recorded by military historians for years that the M1795 was designed around the M1763 Charleville, the fact is it was designed around the M1768. The Model 1795 Springfield musket "was virtually identical in all respects to the French Model 1768 musket," writes Robert Reilly. He continues: "The basis for the Model 1795 was the French Model 1768 musket (not the Model 1763 as is often stated) which differed only slightly from the Model 1763 in having a lower barrel band retaining spring and the relocation of the bayonet from the bottom of the barrel to the top. In this regard it should be noted that American Charleville pattern muskets will be found with the stud in both positions indicating that both the Models 1763 and 1768 were probably used as patterns. This is noted most significantly in the muskets produced under the contracts of 1798."

This weapon is referred to in correspondence. At the request from the Ordnance Office asking when eagle and "U.S." letters were put on Springfield weapons, the following reply was made by R. Birnie, Captain, Ordnance Office, on February 5, 1889. Birnie wrote:

"In the Armory Museum the musket of Springfield Armory manufacture having the oldest date (1799) upon it, has an eagle and 'U.S.' stamped upon the lock plate. The French and Queen Anne arms also have the 'U.S.' stamped on them.

No record has been found concerning the date or the order for stamping the eagle and 'U.S.' upon the arms.

The first eagle stamp that appear upon the books are 5 taken up June 11, 1799, on the 'General account of stores in the Armory Department,' as purchased of Thomas Sargeant, and 2 as fabricated in the first quarter of 1800. The date ('June 11, 1799') may not have been the date of the receipt, but of payment for the stamps, as the cash book has the following entry June 11, 1799, No. 59: 'To cash paid Thomas Sargeant for lead pots, eagles, etc., \$7.41.' The voucher can not be found, as all the cash vouchers prior to 1806, if duplicates, were made, are thought to have been sent to Washington to replace those burned.

Arms made prior to 1799 may have the eagle stamped or engraved on them."

The inefficiency of this old musket was perhaps best described in a paper read before the English United Service Institution in 1857, as follows:

"Beyond 80 yards it lost all certainty of hitting a single man, at 200 yards it was uncertain even at larger bodies, and when secured into a block or fired off a rest, you might shoot all day at a target 300 yards distance and 18 foot square, and never strike it once; so that a man might be in perfect security if fired at from sunrise to sunset, at even a less distance than 300 yards, provided the firer made a faithful promise always to aim at him."

US Musket, Model of 1795 Cal. .69 Earliest M1795 (?)

Tag 175

Maker: Springfield Armory

Made: 1798 (?)

S/N: None

One of the finest examples known of the Type 1 Model of 1795 Springfield; perhaps the most important weapon in this collection. I believe this musket was made in 1798, and that it may be the earliest M1795 Springfield musket known. Note: the musket is not dated. The earliest dated Springfield Armory muskets were dated by hand inscribing, in script, the year of manufacture on the top tang of the butt plate. This musket never had such an inscription. Nor, I believe was it ever stamped with a year date, a procedure that is generally believed to have begun no earlier than 1799.

Bayonet: Tag # 174 (original M1795 bayonet with hand-stamped "US")