Tall Tales and True Tellings

Firearms Research from the Collections of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

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Report on Firearms in the Collection of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum for Insurance Purposes

Researched and Compiled by Tom Andrews
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I – Introduction

During the Summer of 2018 I embarked on a three-month internship project with the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas. The goal of the project was to take a close examination of a selection of firearms from the Museum's collection chosen for their historical significance or rarity.

II – Statement on Values

The original version of this report recommended current insurance values for all firearms which I examined. As these values are privileged information, all financial figures have been removed from this version of the report. The information within is provided for its historical value.

III – Methodology

All firearms values in this report were gathered from online auction catalogs of the major sellers of firearms, including Heritage Auctions, James D. Julia, Rock Island Auctions, and Cowan's Auctions. Additional estimated values come from the printed catalogs of Little John's Auction Service. When a market value for a firearm is stated, it has been determined by taking all known values from the past 3 years, excluding outliers (generally objects with exceptional provenance or in excellent condition), and taking an average of those values. In cases where there was not enough data in the past 3 years of sales to make a judgment, older sales have been taken into account.

For items which have an added value due to provenance, all available information has been gathered from auction results listed above and used to determine an average value added due to association with that individual. Due to the general scarcity of items with such provenance, these values can never be certain.

IV – On Ranger Provenance

In the case of items with Texas Ranger Provenance, every effort has been made to gather as complete a data set as possible when it comes to items owned by that individual which have crossed the auction block. In gathering this data, it has become apparent that it is not possible to assign a generic value for Ranger provenance, as items owned by specific individuals have value added in accordance with the fame of that person.

1) 1998.024.002 – Edwin Wesson Rifle attributed to Jack Hays

Condition of the Firearm

The rifle is in good condition overall with some flaws. The front sight ring is deformed and cracked from an impact. There are numerous small nicks and gouges in the stock as well as handling wear on the silver parts. The tube holding the ram rod in place is dented and the tip of the ram rod is broken off. Additionally, wood at the bottom rear corner of the butt stock is broken off under the butt plate. The primer nipple and surrounding metal is rusted and corroded. There is also some rust on the underside where the ram rod rests. There is wear on the left side of the barrel and some small dents.

It is possible that a section of the stock which rested under the barrel has been lost, based on the appearance of the rifle in the accompanying portrait and the appearance of similar Edwin Wesson rifles.

Provenance

With regards to the assertion that this is the rifle which Jack Hays posed with in the W.S. Jewett portrait and used in the Enchanted Rock fight, there are some conflicting details. First of all, this rifle and the rifle depicted in the painting are not an exact match. The overall appearance is the same, but some small details differ. The silver butt plate is a match, but the shape of the patch box is different. The rifle in the painting also lacks the target sights which are present on the Museum's rifle. Additionally, the rifle in the portrait has a half-stock which our rifle lacks. However, based upon similar rifles recently sold at auction, it seems likely that our rifle did have this feature but that it was separated and lost later. Overall, it seems safe to conclude that this is the rifle in the portrait, but that the artist took liberties in depicting it.

The family legend that the rifle was used by Hays at Enchanted Rock however is decidedly untrue. In addition to the fact that the Enchanted Rock fight likely never occurred (see below), Edwin Wesson did not produce rifles in Hartford until 1847, seven years after the Enchanted Rock fight is supposed to have taken place. Hays must have acquired the rifle at some point between 1847 and 1850, when he sat for the portrait.

In further support of this theory, the title of the painting according to the Lucas Conservation Laboratory Examination Report is "Col. Jack C. Hayes" and not "Jack Hays at Enchanted Rock" as the painting is commonly known. Additionally, there is a reference to an inscription on the reverse of the painting which says "Col. J.K.C. Hayes. The Texan Ranger, Painted from life." If it were the artist's intention for this painting to depict the legendary fight at Enchanted Rock, as the family legend states, it is curious that Jewett did not refer to it in the inscription.

Jack Hays Biographical Information

Early Life and Arrival in Texas

John C. Hays, commonly known as Jack Hays, was born at Little Cedar Lick, Wilson County, Tennessee, on January 28, 1817. Jack's father, Harmon Hays, served with Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812 and named his son for General John Coffee, one of Jackson's trusted officers. At an early age, Hays left home and surveyed lands in Mississippi later attending Davidson Academy in Nashville.[1] [2]

Hays came to Texas sometime in 1837 or the early months of 1838, at about twenty-one years of age and took up residence in San Antonio. He joined the Texas Rangers and fought against Native American and Mexican raiders under Erasmus (Deaf) Smith and Henry W. Karnes. In February, 1840, a group of San Antonio citizens recommended him to President Lamar as one competent to survey the boundary of Travis County in which Austin, the capital, had just been located.[3]

The first record of his service in Texas was his presence at the Plum Creek fight, shortly after which he received his appointment as captain of a spy regiment from President Lamar, which he held until after the Mexican War. The Texas Congress enacted legislation authorizing three companies of fifteen men each to range the country South of San Antonio and Victoria. Hays' group was active in the Nueces Strip fighting Mexican raiding groups.[4] [5]

Militia Service

Hay's first expedition as a captain was to Laredo, where his actions were consistent with the boldness that would characterize later accounts of his deeds. He and his men entered the town and intimidated the Mexican soldiers, seized their horses, and withdrew to a camp near the town. On the following day, he returned the horses and told the soldiers he had not intended to keep them, but to let the Mexicans know that the Texans would retaliate for any raiding committed.[6]

On his next expedition in 1841, he set out with twelve men under his command and an additional thirteen serving under Captain Antonio Perez in search of a Mexican raiding party which had been harassing traders on the route from San Antonio to Laredo. Some time in the night, a rider passed them carrying news of their expedition. As a result, they were met ten miles from Laredo by Captain Garcia with a party of about thirty-five.[7]

The Mexican force rode upon the Texans with an aim to intimidate, sounding bugles and calling for Hays' surrender or else they would be wiped out by superior forces. In the fight that followed the initial Mexican charge, the Texans would dismount, charge the Mexicans, then

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[1] Walter Prescott Webb, *The Texas Rangers: A Century Fo Frontier Defense*, Second Edition (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1965), 67.
[2] Harold J. Weiss Jr., "Hays, John Coffee," Texas State History Association, n.d., https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fhabq.
[3] Webb, *The Texas Rangers*, 67.
[4] Webb, 69.
[5] Darren L. Ivey, *The Texas Rangers: A Registry and History* (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 2010), 25.
[6] Webb, *The Texas Rangers*, 69.
[7] Webb, 70.

remount their horses and follow. Eventually, the Mexicans dismounted and made a stand. The Texans charged, drove them out of their position, and captured their mounts. Realizing defeat was at hand, the Mexicans surrendered. Captain Garcia escaped and carried news of his defeat to Laredo. When Hays' party reached the town, the alcalde met them and pleaded for them to spare the town. Hays replied that he only wanted Agaton, leader of the raiding group, and protection for the traders from San Antonio. They then set off for San Antonio with their prisoners.[8]

Thanks to his daring exploits, Hays became the de facto chief of frontier protection in the San Antonio area. During the Mexican offensive led by Brigadier-General Rafael Vasquez in March of 1842, Hays' company was the only force on the frontier between the city and the Rio Grande.[9]

In 1843, Hays' company received the new Colt Paterson Revolvers. Between 1839 and 1841, the Republic had purchased one hundred and eighty No. 5 Holster pistols for the navy. The five-shot pistols quintupled the firepower available to an individual ranger. This allowed them to employ the mounted charge when skirmishing with Comanche raiders, a vast improvement over their previous need to dismount and reload their single-shot rifles. They used their new weapons quite effectively at the battle of Walker's Creek in 1844.[10]

It was one of these battles between Hays' men and Native American forces which was later immortalized in the now legendary cylinder scene on the Colt Walker revolvers and later the Colt Dragoon Revolvers.[11]

Enchanted Rock

It was some time just after his appointment as surveyor in 1840 that the legendary fight at Enchanted Rock is supposed to have taken place. Hays heard tell of the rock and believed it would be an excellent vantage point from which to view the surrounding area. Hays' men did not join him in his climb and as soon as he reached the pinnacle he was observed by a group of Comanches while on top of the Rock. There he hid himself in a depression and held of a number of warriors which varies according to the account, one hundred in conservative retellings and several hundreds in the more fanciful narratives. However many there were, Hays supposedly held them off for between one and four hours until he finally ran out of ammunition. Luckily for our hero, his men heard the sound of his guns and came to the rescue.[12]

One constant in the stories is the shape of Enchanted Rock, which proved crucial to Hays' ability to hold off so many enemies. Wilbarger describes the Rock as the "apex of a high round hill very difficult to climb. In the center of this rock there is a circular hollow sufficiently large to allow a small party of men to lie in it, and its perpendicular sides formed an effective

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[8] Webb, 70.
[9] Ivey, *The Texas Rangers: A Registry and History*, 25–26.
[10] Ivey, 17–28.
[11] R.L. Wilson, *The Book of Colt Firearms*, 2nd Edition (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Blue Book Publications Inc., 1993), 79.
[12] James Kimmins Greer, *Colonel Jack Hays: Texas Frontier Leader and California Builder* (New York: E. P. Dutton & Company, Inc., 1952), 52–53.

breastwork." In a later account, Sowell delved into further detail. "It was of large, conical shape, with a depression at the apex something like the crater of an extinct volcano. A dozen or more men can lie in this place and make a strong defense against largely superior numbers, as the ascent is steep and rugged." All of the tales agree on the fact that the Rock's topography allowed Hays to easily fire on one target and then turn about and scare others.

The earliest known appearance of this story was in Samuel Reid's account published after the Mexican War. It later appeared in accounts by Wilbarger and Sowell. The only other mention of the fight is found in the manuscript of John Caperton, a tribute to Hayes written after he and Caperton went to California following the Mexican War.[13]

Modern scholarship has called into doubt the events of the Enchanted Rock fight and even the very presumption that it took place. Writing in 1996, Frederick Wilkins found a number of issues with the popular accounts of Hays' stand. Hays' movements in 1841 and 1842 are well documented, and neither the official records nor any newspapers covered the Enchanted Rock fight. In stark contrast to the rocky hill which provided Hays with concealment, Enchanted Rock is a solid granite mass, the second largest such formation in the United States. There are no significant features on top of the hill, and certainly not the natural fortifications described by Sowell, Wilbarger, and others. The hill is not difficult to climb and Hays would have been completely exposed to enemies on all sides. In Wilkins' opinion, it is preposterous that a lone man could hold the top of the Rock. Even a dozen soldiers would be quickly overwhelmed by superior numbers.[14]

It is also of interest that the Enchanted Rock fight is not mentioned in the manuscript of Colonel John S. Ford, who served as Hays' Adjutant during the Mexican War. Further, Ford details Hays' time as a surveyor, even making reference to the fact that his surveying party were frequently attacked by Native Americans and had to defend themselves on several occasions. It is curious that a man who served under Hays would write on his time as a surveyor without mentioning the most famous story concerning it. This lends greater credence to Wilkins' assertion that the conflict never occurred.[15]

The Mexican War

Hays further distinguished himself in the Mexican War. Serving under General Zachary Taylor, Hay's Texas Mounted Riflemen scouted and took part in the attack on Monterrey in 1846. The following year, he formed another regiment which served the function of keeping communication and supply lines open between Veracruz and Mexico City for General Winfield Scott's troops. These activities brought them into conflict with Mexican guerrilla forces near Veracruz, Teotihuacan and Sequalteplan.[16]

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[13] Wilkins, Frederick, *The Legend Begins: The Texas Rangers, 1823-1845*, First Edition (Austin, Texas: State House Press, 1996), 201–4.
[14] Wilkins, Frederick, 201–4.
[15] Colonel John S. Ford, "Colonel John C. Hays in Texas By Colonel John S. Ford of San Antonio, Texas: Late Adjutant of Colonel Hays." (1996), 4.
[16] Weiss Jr., "Hays, John Coffee."

Life After Texas

Following the Mexican War, Hays pioneered trails through the Southwest to California, and became known as a prominent citizen of the state. In 1850, he was elected sheriff of San Francisco County. Also that year, he sat for the W.S. Jewett portrait now in the Texas Ranger Museum's collection. Several years later in 1853, he was appointed United States surveyor general for California. In addition, he was one of the co-founders of the city of Oakland. John Coffee Hays died on April 21, 1883 at the age of 66 in California. Hays County, Texas was later named in his honor.[17]

History of Edwin Wesson Rifles

Edwin Wesson established himself as a gunsmith and rifle maker in 1835, opening his shop in Grafton, Massachusetts. He soon became famous as both an excellent shot and as a maker of very accurate target rifles. In 1842, he moved his shop to Northborough, Massachusetts and took on his brother Daniel, of later Smith & Wesson fame, as an apprentice. In 1847, Wesson moved his shop to Hartford, Connecticut. He died in 1849 of a sudden heart attack, but his heirs and creditors continued to produce rifles under his name for a period of time.[18] [19]

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[17] Weiss Jr.

[18] Roy G. Jinks, *History of Smith & Wesson* (Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1977), 5–7.

[19] P. Friend, "Wesson's Rifles," *Spirit of the Times; A Chronicle of the Turf, Agriculture, Field Sports, Literatur and the Stage*, September 26, 1849.

2) 1989.031 - 1860 Henry Rifle

Condition of the Firearm

The rifle is in overall good condition. The mechanical parts all function smoothly. The screw which holds the front sight post has been worn down from use. There are a series of small dents in the fore end, below the muzzle. The right side plate of the receiver is dented at the lower left corner. There are numerous shallow scratches in the receiver. The top center of the right side plate has a series of small scratches. There are numerous scratches in the butt stock. The butt plate has numerous scratches. The wood at the back rear section of the butt stock is chipped. The bore is in good condition. The cleaning rod is in good condition. The tip is blackened from use and the collar on one of the middle sections is split.

History of the Henry 1860 Rifle

In 1858, B. Taylor Henry began experimenting with a more powerful rifle cartridge, spurred by the unsatisfactory power of the Volcanic Cartridge. That same year, he created the .44 Rimfire cartridge and a rifle that could fire it. Thus the Henry 1860 Rifle was born. After a setup period, the rifles were first offered to the public starting in 1862, with rifles produced that year numbering between sn 301 and sn 1300. Some number of rifles were returned to the factory to have half-cock hammers or lever latches added. It is also common to find sight dovetails cut into the receivers of rifles numbered below sn 3000. Factory assembly numbers were often placed on the forward part of the barrel under the rotating loading sleeve as well as on the sleeve itself and the retaining band which holds the front sight mount.

The early brass frame rifles are characterized by their brass frame and butt plates, changed from iron construction on the earliest rifles. These rifles were sold with a four-piece wooden cleaning rod often made from hickory and stored in the butt stock. Interestingly, this style of cleaning rod would not fit into the butt stock of a later brass frame rifle, which were paired with iron cleaning rods fitted with brass tips. [20]

Information Specific to this Firearm

This rifle is an early brass frame model based on the low serial number and the style of cleaning rod. According to Madis, rifles in this serial number range were manufactured in 1862. The presence of a lever latch and the optic dovetail cut into the barrel suggests that this was one of the rifles which was sent back to the factory for modification.

The engraving on the rifle appears to be of a style consistent with that performed by Samuel J. Hoggson, and the motifs are nearly an exact match to s/n5050, as depicted in Little John's Auction Service October 2012 catalog. The pattern is also consistent with that present on the Henry in the Smithsonian collection which was presented to Abraham Lincoln. Finally, the engraving pattern is a near perfect match to that of s/n1011 as depicted in Madis' book.

[20] George Madis, *The Winchester Book* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Edwards Brothers, INC., 1979), 27–51.

Hoggson was the New Haven Arms Company's factory engraver, and rifles ordered engraved from the factory appear to have been somewhat rare for this time period. [21] [22] [23]

Unfortunately, we do not have information on the rifle's history prior to its acquisition by the donor, and it is not possible to say whether it could have been carried in the Civil War. However, it was definitely manufactured in the time period and shows wear which would lead to the conclusion that the rifle was used in some capacity during that era. In Madis' book, he makes multiple references to soldiers purchasing their own Henrys to use in place of their issued weapons. However, the engraving detracts from that argument as ordering an engraved rifle would have resulted in a delay in have ones order filled, likely unacceptable for a soldier going to war.

[21] Little John's, *Little John's Auction October 2012 Auction Catalog* (Orange, CA, 2012), 423.
[22] "Henry Presentation Rifle," The National Museum of American History, n.d., http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_881516.
[23] Madis, *The Winchester Book*, 50.

3) 1444 – M1855 Volcanic Pocket Pistol

Condition of the Pistol

The pistol is in overall good condition with a very good bore. The mechanical functions are excellent. There are some scratches in the brass frame and the wooden grips have some scratching. The base of the grips on both sides have some wear in finish. The bottom of the grip has scratches and scuffing, likely from a drop. The operating rod is worn shiny at contact points. Some finish has worn away on the barrel. There is a scratch in the tip of the barrel just below the muzzle. The right side plate has a small dent at the hammer end, possibly from the use of a tool to remove it from the frame.

History of Volcanic Repeating Arms and the Volcanic Pocket Pistol

In July of 1855, the Smith & Wesson name was changed to the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company. Business was conducted under the Volcanic name from 1855 to 1857, when it was reorganized as the New Haven Arms Company in April 1857. Volcanic remained as the trade name for the lever action pistols and carbines. The simplest method of telling the difference between arms made by the two incarnations of the company are the mark "VOLCANIC" on the Volcanic Arms Company firearms, which switched to "PATENT FEB. 14, 1854 / NEW HAVEN, CONN." on the New Haven Arms Company products.

The New Haven Arms Company produced an estimated 850 of its Lever Acton No. 1 Pocket Pistols with 3-1/2" barrels. They produced a further 225 pistols with 6" barrels which fetch a significant premium over the standard model. They featured unfinished brass frames and blued barrels. Engraving was extremely rare.[24]

Information Specific to this Firearm

The pistol bears the marking "NEW HAVEN, CONN. PATENT FEB 14, 1854" and the serial number is 419, placing it at approximately halfway through the production run.

[24] Norm Flayderman, *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values*, Ninth Edition (Gun Digest Books, 2007), 304–5.

4) 2969 – Winchester Model 1873 owned by E.E. Stubbs

Condition of the Firearm

The rifle is in overall good condition with the wood in very good condition. The finish is quite worn in all areas with half of the finish worn away on the butt plate. There is an additional spot on the bottom of the elevator block where the finish is worn away entirely. There is a chip in the butt stock at the rear base under the butt plate. There are some shallow scratches in the underside of the butt stock and on the half stock. There is some old fouling on the barrel shroud near the muzzle. The forward part of the loading gate is worn shiny from use.

Provenance

The rifle is accompanied by a letter from the Winchester Museum verifying the rifle's custom features including engraving as ordered in 1880. The rifle was received in the Winchester warehouse on December 30, 1880 and shipped on January 5, 1881

E.E. Stubbs Biographical Information

Elmer Erastus Stubbs, or Captain Stubbs as he was commonly referred to at the time, was an accomplished target shooter and claimed the title of "Champion Combination Wingshot of the World," rights to which he is said to have earned in a "World Championship Rifle Match against Colonel Mark I. Bodine of England in February of 1896. The three rifles he owned which were given to the museum by collector Gaines DeGraffenried bore inscriptions boasting this title. Numerous purveyors of firearms and shooting accessories claimed Stubb's favor of their wares in advertising and he gave an exhibition of his shooting prowess at Madison Square Garden in 1883.

Stubbs was born in rural Ohio to an English family in 1846. As a young boy, he quickly developed an aptitude for firearms, which he cultivated and later served in the army on the Southwestern frontier. He gained fame as an Indian fighter and as a scout and guide. He is known to have owned a number of Winchester and similar rifles which he ordered and customized to fit the needs of a professional target shooter. In many cases, arms makers presented him with their firearms in the hopes that he would use them in his shooting exhibitions. Collector Gaines DeGraffenried came into possession of four of Stubb's rifles during the course of his collecting, three of which he later loaned to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.[25]

History of the Winchester 1873 Rifle

The Winchester 1873 Rifle was produced between 1873 and 1919, with an approximate 720,610 manufactured. The 1873 was offered in three calibers, 32-30, 38-40, and 44-40. They fed from a tubular magazine below the barrel and were fitted with iron frames and sideplates. Stocks were commonly oil stained walnut, with some examples varnished. The finish was blued with hammers, levers, and butt plates casehardened, and occasionally receivers as well, but this

[25] Roger Conger, *Texas Collector: Gaines DeGraffenried* (Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1987), 93–96.

was less common. Serial numbers began at 1 and can be found on the lower tang. Markings included “MODEL 1873” and Winchester, which can be found on the upper tang. Caliber markings are usually found on the bottom of the elevator block. Winchester name and address markings can be found on the barrel with King’s Improvement patent dates.

The 1873 was produced in three models with minor variations and in three configurations, the musket, rifle, and carbine. The Early First Model 1873 is characterized by the dust cover which is mortised in the forward section of the frame. The checkered oval thumbrest is separately affixed. There are two screws on frame above trigger, lever latch which fits into lower tang with threads, and the upper level profile curves away from the trigger. Serial numbers for the early first model range from 1 to roughly 1600. The Late First Models have a trigger pin which appears below the two frame screws above the trigger, an improved type lever latch without visible threads, as well as a trigger block safety. Serial numbers for Late First Models run from 1600 to 31000. The Second Model reconfigures the dust cover to slide on a center rail on the rear section of the frame, secured by screws. Serial numbers run from 31,000 to 90,000. Lastly, the Third Model incorporates the dust cover rail into the frame as a single machined part. Serial numbers run from 90,000 to end of production.[26]

Information Specific to this Firearm

According to the Winchester factory records as reported in a letter from the Winchester Museum, this rifle was ordered some time in 1880 in 38 caliber, with a set trigger, plain pistol grip and checkered stock, a shotgun style butt, and half nickel side plate with the engraving “Capt. E.E. Stubbs, Champion rifle shot of the world.” added for the sum of $2.50. The rifle was delivered in January, 1881.

[26] Flayderman, *Flayderman’s Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values*, 307–9.

5) 2005.034.001.1 – Thompson Sub-Machine Gun US Navy Model 1921 overstamped 1928

Condition of the Firearm

The weapon is in overall very good condition. The bore is very good, with some old fouling present. The Cutt's Compensator has some wear at the muzzle end, old fouling in cutouts, and some wear in finish at the rear. The barrel has a notch cut into the right side of the frame matching with the barrel on the right side, approximately two centimeters long. The fore grip has several scratches in the wood, mostly at the top of the handhold. The frame has wear in the finish on all magazine rails (both for drum magazines and for box magazines) as well as at the top of the frame where the bolt travels. There is additional wear at the bottom of the trigger guard, on the magazine release, on the metal surrounding the rear sight, on the frame over the "SAFE" marking, and on the rails where the stock attaches. The butt stock has scratches in the wood as well as on the butt plate, with a concentration of scratches around the trapdoor for the oil bottle. There is also wear in the finish at the attachment point. The oil bottle has numerous scratches and two dark accretions near the base. The drum magazine has wear in the finish on the mounting rails and contact points.

Provenance

This submachine gun was used by Texas Ranger Captain Hardy Purvis during his career and later he passed it down to his son, L.H. Purvis. It is not believed to have been fired in the course of duty, but both were said to have carried it regularly while on the job. The weapon was manufactured by Colt between May 1st and May 6th 1922. It was then shipped to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in Beaumont, Texas.

Purvis Biographical Information

Hardy B. Purvis was born in Polk County, Texas on March 3, 1891. He served as a deputy sheriff for 12 years in various counties in Texas before joining the Rangers on April 12, 1927. His first assignment was in Borger, Texas, where he had to contend with gamblers, drifters, gunmen, confidence men, and bootleggers. In 1929, he was sent to Lufkin, and was later appointed Captain of Ranger Company A in 1935. From his headquarters in Houston, Purvis had jurisdiction over 47 counties. He retired in June 1956 after 29 years of service. He passed away soon after on July 16, 1959 at the age of 68 years old.

Louis H. Purvis, son of Hardy B. Purvis, was born on July 14, 1912 in Corrigan, Polk County, Texas. He grew up in Lufkin, where his father was then stationed. He received his Ranger commission one week after his 30th birthday and served continuously until his retirement in 1967. Sometime after his father's death, he collected and presented to the DPS enough Mexican cinco peso silver coins to make badges for all 62 of the Rangers then serving. In 1962, they became the official badge of the Texas Rangers. (Footnote: Jim Wilson) During his service, he collaborated with such legendary lawmen as M.T. Gonzaullas and Dudley White.

History of the M1921/28 Thompson Submachine Gun

John Taliaferro Thompson was born in 1860 and graduated from West Point in the class of 1882. He entered the Army, serving in artillery, and later transferred to the Ordnance Department. During the Spanish-American War, he directed the supply of munitions at a time of near chaos in the Army's ordnance and quartermaster units. He was later integral to the process of adopting both the Springfield M1903 rifle as well as the Colt M1911 pistol along with its new cartridge, the .45 ACP.

In November of 1914, Thompson retired from Army service with the intention of developing an automatic rifle. He joined Remington Arms Company and set up factories to produce several military rifles. When the U.S. entered World War I, he was recalled to duty and helped the Army to adapt the British Enfield rifle to .30 caliber and producing the M1917 rifle. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his efforts during war time and retired in December of 1918.

In his second retirement, he continued his efforts to developing an intermediate automatic weapon, which he believed would be a crucial requirement in future wars. He settled on a delayed blowback breech system developed by Navy Commander John Blish. Blish's system used a sloping metal wedge which interlocked with the weapon's breech block and held tight under high pressure, but as the pressure dropped after firing, the faces slipped across each other, unlocking the breech and operating the action. Thompson acquired Blish's patent in exchange for shares in his company, the Auto-Ordnance Company, which he had founded during his first retirement in 1916.

Thompson and his designers quickly determined that a full power rifle cartridge would not work for their needs, and switched to the new .45 ACP pistol cartridge. The weapon finally made production in 1919, just barely missing out on serving military demand for the first World War. Instead, Thompson marketed the weapon to police forces. The "Tommy Gun" as it was named by the press, quickly gained fame and notoriety for its use by gangsters and police alike during Prohibition Era violence and after.

There are several distinctive models of Thompson, distinguished by their first years of production. The original prototype was produced in 1919 and tested by the U.S. Government in 1920. Although the results of the test were favorable, no government entity recommended adoption of the weapon.

The first production model came out in 1921, which established the characteristic appearance which has become engrained in popular culture. A long finned barrel sat above a carved wooden fore grip, behind it sitting a large drum magazine. Wooden butt stocks were detachable. 15,000 Model 1921s were produced, but never sold in great quantities. The Model 1923 was an attempt to adapt the Thompson design to a more powerful cartridge, the .45 Remington-Thompson. The weapons were offered with bayonets and bipods. Still, no notable sales were recorded, and this model is exceedingly rare. The next production run, the Model 1927, was identical to the 1921 but was single shot only.

With the Model 1928, also referred to as the "Navy Model," the company finally found commercial success. The primary changes from the 1921 were the switch from a vertical fore grip to a horizontal fore grip, the standardization of the Cutt's Compensator, and the addition of sling swivels. The rate of fire was reduced to 700 rounds per minute. This model was sold in small quantities prior to World War II, but did not find widespread adoption until the French ordered 3,750 in the Fall of 1939. Additional orders came from Sweden and the United Kingdom. For war production, the Model 1928 was simplified, eliminating the lock, actuator, breech oiler, butt stock catch, compensator, and barrel fins. A fire selector was added, allowing the weapon to be switched between full auto and single shot. It was dubbed the M1 in April 1942, with full production beginning in 1943.

Total production of the M1 Thompson was approximately 2 million, with weapons manufactured by Auto-Ordnance and Savage Arms. All M1s were issued with 20-round box magazines. The weapon was highly popular among specialized troops such as Rangers, Marine Raiders, Armored Units, and Paratroopers. The Thompson went on to see service in the Korean War and Vietnam War.[27]

Information Specific to this Firearm

This Thompson is a Model 1921 overstamped 1928. The serial number is 10186. It features a Cutt's Compensator and a vertical fore grip. Included with it are a carrying case, cleaning rod, five 20 round box magazines of the later type, and one 50 round drum "L" type magazine. The shoulder stock contains an oil bottle. There is an anchor proof mark at the front of the stock below the attachment rails.

[27] Charles H. Smith, "The Thompson Submachine Gun," A Brief History of Auto-Ordnance Corp., n.d., Www.auto-ordnance.com/ao_ao.html.

6) 2980 – Henry 1860 Rifle with Civil War engraving

Condition of the firearm

The rifle is in overall good condition. A patina has formed on the brass of the frame and butt plate. There are scratches and dents in the brass. There is some wear in the finish on the barrel. At the midpoint of the barrel, there is a section of pitting and scuffing, possibly from a drop. The points of the octagonal barrel have been worn shiny from use.

History of the Henry 1860 Rifle

In 1858, B. Taylor Henry began experimenting with a more powerful rifle cartridge, spurred by the unsatisfactory power of the Volcanic Cartridge. That same year, he created the .44 Rimfire cartridge and a rifle that could fire it. Thus the Henry 1860 Rifle was born. After a setup period, the rifles were first offered to the public starting in 1862, with rifles produced that year numbering between sn 301 and sn 1300. Some number of rifles were returned to the factory to have half-cock hammers or lever latches added. It is also common to find sight dovetails cut into the receivers of rifles numbered below sn 3000. Factory assembly numbers were often placed on the forward part of the barrel under the rotating loading sleeve as well as on the sleeve itself and the retaining band which holds the front sight mount.

The early brass frame rifles are characterized by their brass frame and butt plates, changed from iron construction on the earliest rifles. These rifles were sold with a four-piece wooden cleaning rod often made from hickory and stored in the butt stock. Interestingly, this style of cleaning rod would not fit into the butt stock of a later brass frame rifle, which were paired with iron cleaning rods fitted with brass tips.[28]

Information specific to this firearm

This rifle bears the serial number 5112 and is an Early Brass Frame Model manufactured in 1864 according to Winchester factory records. It is engraved “Maj. Horace Gray. 4th Mich. Cav” on the left side plate and “Union” on the right side plate. It has sling attachments and the cleaning rod is absent.

[28] Madis, *The Winchester Book*, 27–51.

7) 1951 - Whitmore & Wolff Percussion Rifle

Condition of the Firearm

The rifle is in overall good condition. The triggers are very stiff and do not operate easily. There is a significant amount of corrosion inside the patch box. There are several dark accretions on the butt plate. There is some damage to the wood at the tip of the ram rod rings near the muzzle. There is a crack on the stock at the midpoint on the left side approximately 6cm in length. There are cracks in the stock under the ram rod. The ram rod is warped at one end. The bore is in good condition.

History of the Kentucky Rifle

Although they are collectively known as Kentucky Rifles, the birthplace of these rifles is generally considered to be Pennsylvania. The greatest number of makers resided in this area, but there were also manufacturers in Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, New York, and New England.

There are three major classifications of Kentucky Rifle identified by writers. The "transition period" began sometime around 1720, with the arrival of German and Swiss gunsmiths who settled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and produced rifles in the style of their homeland. They slowly introduced features that adapted their designs for the needs of the colonists, hunting and home defense. This period extends roughly until the American Revolution. The rifles featured 40 inch or longer barrels, a significant increase over the German Jaeger rifles which preceded them and generally had 30-36 inch barrels. Stocks were made from woods found in the woods of North America, with maple the most common. The early models featured wooden patch boxes with sliding covers. In the mid-18th Century, these were fashioned of iron or brass and were incorporated into the butt stock of the rifles. These are often very plain and may have simple embellishments such as relief or incised carving.

The second era of Kentucky Rifle, which runs roughly from the end of the Revolutionary War to the adoption of Percussion mechanisms, and is referred to as the "post Revolutionary flintlock era." A subset of rifles produced between the end of the Revolution and 1820 are often referred to as the "Golden Age" of Kentucky Rifles due to their elegance. Golden Age rifles feature extremely fine rococo engraving on their patch boxes as well as relief carvings. The latter are usually characterized by "C" and "S" scroll motifs intertwined with foliated designs. Rifles of this era featured longer barrels (42 to 46 inches on average), bores reduced to 50 caliber on average, finer grains of maple wood (the variety referred to as "tiger stripe", and carving is commonly found on the left side of the butt stock.

The third and final phase of Kentucky Rifles begins with the introduction of the percussion ignition system in about 1820 and extended through the late 1850s. The invention and widespread adoption of the metallic cartridge brought the era of Kentucky Rifles to a close. Rifles in this period were characterized by shorter barrels (34 to 36 inches) and bores reduced further. The quality of wood also declined, with plain maple being very common as well as some which were artificially colored to resemble the "tiger stripe" wood. Relief carving is rare

to find in this era, but incised carving is still common. Inlay work was most common, and reached the heights of its quality.

A major consideration effecting value of a Kentucky Rifle is the wood used for the stock. The post-revolutionary era rifles often feature the curly maple "tiger stripe" wood, and this adds considerable value. When curly maple was faked on later rifles, it was commonly done through the use of charred rope. A considerable factor in the value of these rifles is the color and patina of the stock.

Another important factor in establishing values of these rifles is the style and quality of the patch box. The earliest were simple wooden affairs, leading up to the extremely elaborate ones found on "Golden Age" rifles. For later rifles, the patch boxes which are largest and have the largest number of piercings in the metal are the most desirable.[29]

Information Specific to this Firearm

This Kentucky Rifle was manufactured by an unknown maker using a Whitmore & Wolff lock. The barrel is engraved "R.M.T." which is either the name of the maker or the initials of the customer. The butt plate, patch box, trigger guard, fore end, and ram rod rings are brass, with german silver inlay on the stock, behind the triggers, and a medallion on the left side of the stock on the cheek rest which features crude engraving. The presence of a percussion lock indicates that this is most likely a third era Kentucky Rifle, as the style of patch box is consistent with an example cited in Flayderman's Guide[30]

[29] Flayderman, *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values*, 659–68.
[30] Flayderman, 668.

8) 1233a-b – Colt Third Model Dragoon with shoulder stock

Condition of the Firearm

The pistol is in overall very good condition. The bore is fair, with rings cut into the metal and old grease throughout. All serial numbers on the revolver are matching and mechanical function is excellent. The cylinder scene is slightly worn, but still nicely visible. Grips are slightly loose and wood at top of right grip is damaged. The bottoms of the grips are scraped.

The stock is in very good condition, with some patina on the metal and numerous shallow scratches in the wood. There appear to be initials inscribed on the right side, either "KOT" or "ROT" The serial numbers do not match the revolver.

History of the Colt Dragoon Pistol

The Colt Dragoon was developed to replace the Colt Walker. Introduced in 1848, the Dragoon featured a .44 Caliber 6-shot cylinder and a 7-1/2" part round, part octagonal barrel. Grips were carved in one piece out of walnut. The frame, hammer, and lever were casehardened, and other metal parts blued. The grip straps were commonly made of brass, and civilian models were silver plated, with military examples left unfinished.

The Third Model Dragoon was manufactured from 1851 to 1861, with total production estimated at 10,500 pistols. Serial numbers run from 10,200 (overlapping somewhat with the Second Model Dragoons) and continue to about 19,600. Barrel markings are two small variations of the classic: "ADDRESS SAM COLT NEW-YORK CITY" This and "COLT'S/PATENT" were stamped on the left side of the frame. Government issued revolvers have "U.S." centered beneath the patent marking. Cylinders continued to feature the Texas Ranger and Indian fight scene scroll engraving. The most common cylinder markings were "U.S.M.R." with a much rarer few featuring "U.S. DRAGOONS."

The distinguishing physical features of the Third Model are rectangular cylinder stop slots and a rounded trigger guard. Pistols fitted for shoulder stocks, of which there were an estimated 1,200 to 1,500 produced, have three variations in attachment points. The first type attaches to the revolver via two prongs which engage with two slots in the back strap. The second type attaches by one prong slotting into the back strap and a hook which clamps onto the butt of the pistol. The third type features extensions to the yoke of the stock which fit into cutouts on each side of the revolver's recoil shield and has a hook that clamps onto the butt. All stocks are either plain or feature canteen inserts, the presence of which would add considerable value.[31]

Information Specific to this Firearm

The pistol bears the cylinder marking "U.S.M.R." and the serial number 17011. This and the style of stock attachment identifies this as a third type pistol, the most common of the Dragoons which were fitted for shoulder stocks. The pistol was manufactured in 1858 according

[31] Flayderman, 86–96.

to Colt records. The shoulder stock bears the serial numbers 17281 and 17282, indicating it was originally issued to a different set of pistols and was likely acquired later by a collector.

9) 1261 – Colt First Model Dragoon

Condition of the Firearm

The revolver is in overall good condition. The barrel wedge is stuck in place, preventing disassembly of the pistol. Mechanical functions are good otherwise. All visible serial numbers match. The metal has formed a dark patina. The cylinder scene has faded, but is still barely visible. There is scuffing on the bottom of the grips. The base of the back strap is worn shiny. The bore is good with old fouling.

History of the Colt Dragoon Pistol

The Colt Dragoon was developed to address shortcomings with the Colt Walker Revolver. Introduced in 1848, The Dragoon featured a .44 Caliber 6-shot cylinder and a 7-1/2" part round, part octagonal barrel. Grips were carved in one piece out of walnut. The frame, hammer, and lever were casehardened, and other metal parts blued. The grip straps were commonly made of brass, and civilian models were silver plated, with military examples left unfinished.

The First Model Dragoon was manufactured from 1848 until about 1850, with a total production of roughly 7,000. Serial numbers run from about 1341 through about 8000, continuing the sequence from the Whitneyville Hartford "Transition" Dragoon. The barrels are marked "ADDRESS SAM COLT, NEW-YOR CITY -. COLT'S/PATENT" on the left side of the frame; often accompanied by "U.S." centered beneath. The cylinders feature the Texas Ranger and Indian fight scene roll engraving. The cylinders are also roll-engraved with "COLT'S PATENT" and "MODEL U.S.M.R." There is a scarce variant which is marked "U.S. DRAGOONS" instead of "U.S.M.R."

Distinguishing marks of the First Model are the square-backed trigger guard, the oval cylinder stop slots, and a vertical line formed by the juncture of the grips, grip straps, and frame. Early pistols in the production run sport some features carried over from the Transition model Whitneyville Hartford Dragoons, while later pistols show features which would later become standard on the Second Model Dragoon. A small number of late First Models were cut to fit shoulder stocks.[32] (Footnote: Flayderman's p. 84-85)

Information Specific to this Firearm

This pistol bears the serial number 1653. According to the Colt website, this pistol was manufactured in 1848, the first year of production. The barrel wedge is stuck in place, preventing disassembly of the pistol. The lack of government inspection markings indicates that this was civilian model Dragoon.

[32] Flayderman, 84–85.

10) 2088 – Colt Walker, B Company

Condition of the Firearm

The pistol is in overall good condition. The metal has faded to a gray patina. There are several nicks in the metal, mostly on the barrel. The cylinder scene is very faded, but still faintly visible without magnification. All serial numbers are matching. The serial number is observed on the left side of the barrel, the cylinder, the frame below the cylinder, the bottom of the trigger guard, the front of the frame where it meets the barrel, and inside the wooden grips. The wedge is unnumbered, possibly a period replacement. The grips are in very nice condition. There is wear on the cylinder around the primer nipples. There is similar wear in the frame where the hammer travels. There is rust on the top of the frame under the hammer as well as on the inside of the hammer and on the mainspring. There is rust inside the cylinders and on the primer nipples. There is corrosion on the brass grip inside the gun. Mechanical functions are very good, with the wedge spring not completely engaging. The letters "IXL" are cut into the bottom of the grip along with stippling in the shape of a heart. There is an additional design on the bottom of the grip and at the base of the back strap which appears to depict handcuffs. These appear to be period alterations.

History of the Colt Walker Pistol

The legendary Colt Walker pistol is perhaps the single most desirable firearm for collectors of Colts. The Walker was manufactured beginning in 1847, with a total production of approximately 1,100. It features a .44 caliber, 6-shot cylinder and a 9" part round, part octagonal barrel. The pistol tips the scales at 4 pounds, 9 ounces. Grips were one piece carved walnut. Frames, hammers, and levers were casehardened. The balance was blued, trigger guard left in plain brass, and the cylinders were left unfinished, "in the white." Despite the New York City address on the barrels, all examples were manufactured in Whitneyville, Connecticut. The first pistols were shipped to Mexico, and a pair were presented to Captain Walker, who had lobbied Colt to produce a more powerful replacement for the Colt Paterson.

Serial numbers on Colt Walkers begin with a letter denoting the company they were issued to, A,B,C,D, or E. Each grouping begins at 1. The Company marked revolvers totaled one thousand. Barrel are marked: "ADDRESS SAM COLT NEW-YORK CITY." On the right side of the lug, usually under the wedge retaining screw, the marking: "US/1847" can be found. The cylinders are roll engraved with a Texas Ranger and Indian fight scene. This scene is faded to illegibility on the majority of surviving examples. Government inspector markings are often present on the grips and other parts.

It is estimated that just over ten percent of the total production of Walker Revolvers have survived to the modern day. Some number of the pistols were destroyed when their cylinders burst due to overloading. The chambers were longer than the maximum safe load they could fire, resulting in catastrophic failure when they were loaded to capacity. This

researcher was able to find references for the survival of 187 Walkers, or seventeen percent.[33] [34] [35]

Information Specific to this Firearm

This pistol bears the serial number "B Company No. 143" in all of the places one should find it on a Walker. The serial number appears on the left side of the barrel, the left side of the frame below the cylinder, on the cylinder, on the bottom of the trigger guard, on the inside of the wooden grips, and on the trigger guard spur inside the grips. The letters "IXL" are cut into the bottom of the back strap, which was apparently a common modification for favored arms in that period and appears on many knives of the era. (Footnote: Conversation with Byron Johnson 6/25/18) There is also stippling which appears to have been applied with the point of a knife in the shape of a heart and two designs which appear to depict handcuffs.

[33] See Appendix I

[34] Flayderman, *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values*, 83–84.

[35] Wilson, *Colt Book*, 79.

11) 2905 – Dance Brothers Navy Revolver

Condition of the Firearm

The pistol is in fair condition. The bore is poor, with significant rust and some rifling remaining at the frame end. The majority of the finish appears to remain. There is some wear at the midpoint of the loading lever. The lever catch is difficult to operate, but functional. The wedge is jammed in place and the left end is flattened, possibly from an impact. There are scratches in the finish on both barrel flats. There is some finish loss on the cylinder, with minor rust in the cylinder stop holes. There is wear on the nipples. There is some wear in the finish on the frame. There is significant tarnish on the brass parts. The brass on the bottom of the trigger guard is worn. There is some varnish remaining on the wood grips.

History of J.H. Dance & Brothers

J.H. Dance & Brothers was a Texas gunmaker in operation during the Civil War. The firm began manufacturing firearms in 1862 in Columbia, Texas. James Henry Dance was originally from North Carolina, and moved to Texas with his family in 1848. In 1858, he built a house in East Columbia, Texas and opened a factory for metal and woodwork across the street shortly after. They produced gristmills and cotton gins.

The shortage of arms in the Confederacy prompted the startup of a number of small gunmakers. At the start of the war, the Dance family enlisted in the Confederate Army, but J.H. Dance's brothers, David Etheldred and George Perry were detailed back to the Columbia factory to produce needed supplies. They initially made mounted cannons and repaired wagons. In April 1862, the Dance's wrote Governor F.R. Lubbock requesting an advance of $5,000 to produce firearms. In the letter they claimed they could produce fifty revolvers per week with the requested funds. Evidently the goal of fifty revolvers per week was never reached, as a letter from July 5, 1862 stated that they were about to finish three or four of their pistols. By October 2, 1862, they were able to ship a dozen revolvers to the San Antonio Arsenal. In December 1863, the factory moved several miles away from Columbia for fear of shelling from Union gunboats. It would appear that production of revolvers ended shortly after the move, making their total production extremely small, with an estimated 325-500 produced, 275 to 250 of which were in .44 caliber. The rest were in .36 caliber. The last recorded shipment of Dance Revolvers was April 18, 1895, with 25 pistols sent to the Houston Depot of Supplies.

The .36 caliber revolvers were copies of the Colt Navy Revolver featuring a 7-3/8" barrel. The Dance variants can easily be distinguished from genuine Colts by the lack of recoil shield and the absence of any maker's marks. It should be noted however, that there are a great deal of known forgeries of Dance Navy Revolvers produced by altering genuine Colt Navy Revolvers.[36]

[36] Flayderman, *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values*, 641–42.

Information Specific to this Firearm

This pistol is marked serial number 106. The serial number is present on the left side of the barrel, on the left side of the loading lever, on the cylinder, on the bottom of the barrel at the frame end, on the end of the frame, on the trigger guard, and on the bottom of the back strap.

12) 3773 – Dance Brothers Army Revolver

Condition of the Firearm

The pistol is in fair condition. There is significant pitting in the bore, with strong rifling. The mechanical functions are excellent. Approximately 15 percent of the finish remains. The wedge screw has been cut off at the opening, presumably to allow removal of the wedge. The front sight is significantly worn down. There are several nicks in the underside of the barrel under the loading lever. The loading lever is in good condition with majority of original finish. There is some pitting on the wedge but with about half of the finish remaining. A very small amount of finish remains on the cylinder, with significant wear and a faint ring of wear from the cylinder stop. There is moderate rust in all chambers. About 70 percent of the finish remains on the frame, with some pitting on the back where it meets the cylinder. There is significant pitting on the trigger guard strap, and some finish has worn away on the back strap, with what appears to be finger prints at the base. The wood of the grips is in good condition with what appears to be original varnish. The German Silver adornment on the right side grip has some tarnishing.

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The .44 caliber revolvers were copies of the Colt Army Revolver featuring an 8" barrel. The .44 caliber model has a larger and heavier frame than the .36 caliber example. A small

number in the higher serial number range have full octagon barrels and boast a premium to value.[37] [38]

Information Specific to this Firearm

This pistol bears the serial number 3. The serial number appears on the underside of the barrel where it meets the frame, on the left side of the loading lever, on the trigger guard ahead of the trigger, and on the bottom of the back strap. The right side grip features German silver inlay in the shape of an urn.

[37] Flayderman, 641–42.

[38] Gary Wiggins, "Dance Brothers," Texas State Historical Association, n.d., https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dhd01.

13) 0217 – Winchester Model 1873 owned by J.B. Gillett

Condition of the Firearm

There is a good amount of finish remaining on the rifle and the bore is good with some noticeable wear in the rifling. There are two screw holes and tape residue from a label which was once affixed to the butt stock. There is some wear in the finish of the receiver. Two screws on the left side of the receiver are damaged, with heads deformed by an impact. This may be where a saddle ring was once attached. The butt plate trap door does not open, and is corroded shut. There is some corrosion on the tip of the cleaning rod. There is scuffing on the left side of the butt stock throughout.

Provenance

The provenance of this rifle is impeccable. In his memoir, *Six Years With The Texas Rangers*, Gillett not only tells the story of receiving permission to go into Austin with a group of companions to purchase a case of ten Winchesters, but also specifically identifies the rifle by its serial number. He carried it for the rest of his service with the Rangers and it remained a favorite hunting rifle for many years afterwards. He is known to have killed two men with it, one a wanted murderer, the other an Apache warrior.[39]

As to the claim on the old display label in the file that this rifle was lent to Baz Outlaw, there is no evidence to support the claim. While there are at least two occasions where the men crossed paths, it seems unlikely that they were close enough friends that Gillett would lend him his prized rifle. On one occasion, Gillett attested that Outlaw was justified in an altercation, in the other he responded to a saloon where Outlaw was drunk and disorderly. After a tense moment, he convinced the man to leave. It should be noted however that Gillett's name was one of those who supported Outlaw's bid to become a special ranger, so they must have had a civil relationship. In any case, the claim that Outlaw borrowed the rifle is not backed up by any sources and must be considered a legend.

J.B. Gillett Biographical Information

Early Life

James B. Gillett was born on November 4, 1856 in Austin, Texas. He was the fourth child of five, and one of three which survived to adulthood. In the summer of 1868, he quit school and took up fishing and hunting to support himself. On a trip to Brown County to pick up a herd of cattle his father had acquired in exchange for some land, he met frontiersmen and was fascinated by them. Their six shooters and Winchester rifles "fired [his] boyish imagination" [40]

Ranger Service

On June 1, 1875 at 10 AM, Gillett swore an oath of allegiance to the State of Texas and became a Texas Ranger under Captain Roberts of D Company. He remarked that this was

[39] James B. Gillett, *Six Years With The Texas Rangers: 1875 to 1881*, ed. Rick Miller, 2016, 72.
[40] Gillett, 2, 3, 5.

probably the happiest day of his life, realizing one of his greatest ambitions. He and his fellow recruits were issued .50 caliber Sharps Rifles and one .45 Colt Pistol each.[41]

Buying the Winchester

Some time in December 1875, Gillett along with Privates Nevill, Bell, and Seiker obtained permission from their Captain to go to Austin and purchase a case of ten Winchester 1873 Rifles. The Sharps carbines they were issued overheated easily and because of this were less accurate than the Winchesters. The 1873 was fresh to the market in Texas and could be had for the price of $50 for the rifle configuration and $40 for the carbine. Rangers wanting a Winchester had to pay for it out of pocket as well as acquiring their own ammunition, as the State of Texas would only supply cartridges for the Sharps carbine. Due to its superior accuracy, Gillett and many other Rangers of D Company were willing to pay. He acquired a carbine with serial number 13,401 and "never used any other weapon" for the rest of his Ranger service. He used it to kill "every game animal available in the state" and it was still in his possession as a prized memento of his service at the time of writing in 1921.[42]

Curiously, the Winchester factory records in the possession of the Cody Firearms Museum note that Model 1873 serial number 13401 was received in the warehouse on December 29, 1876 and shipped the next day, presumably to Austin. As all the other facts and even the time of year match, it seems likely that Gillett was simply mistaken about which year he purchased his rifle.[43]

Pursuit of Fugitives

Soon after acquiring the rifle, Gillett used it to kill wanted fugitive Dick Dublin. The Rangers knew where he was camped and surprised him. He fled into the underbrush and Gillett gave chase. He ordered the man to halt and surrender, but was ignored. Gillett took aim and gave one more order to halt. Dublin threw his hand under his coat, appearing to be drawing a pistol and Gillett fired. He struck the man in the small of his back and he dropped dead.[44]

The next target for Gillett's company was to hunt down infamous bank robber Sam Bass. He along with a gang of outlaws had robbed a Union Pacific Railroad Train and made off with $50,000 in gold coins. Two of the robbers were killed in Buffalo Station, Kansas while resisting arrest, another died of wounds following his capture, and Bass and his companion returned home to Denton County, Texas with their gold concealed in the floor of a wagon.[45]

Bass's companion, David, fled to South America and was never apprehended. Bass and his money attracted another gang of outlaws and they began robbing trains indiscriminately in the Dallas Fort Worth area. A former comrade, Jim Murphy, was convinced to give up Bass's whereabouts in exchange for avoiding a life sentence. He agreed, and the man rejoined Bass's

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[41] Gillett, 31.
[42] Gillett, 72.
[43] Jessica A. Bennett, "Letter from Cody Firearms Museum to Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum," July 5, 2018.
[44] Gillett, *Six Years With The Texas Rangers: 1875 to 1881*, 122.
[45] Gillett, 160–62.

gang. They were immediately suspicious of him, but were convinced not to kill him on the spot by Frank Jackson, who Bass trusted.[46]

Murphy quickly learned that Bass and his gang planned to make their way to Mexico after robbing the bank in Round Rock, Texas and managed to send a note to the Rangers begging them to be there to stop the gang. Gillett's company made their way to the town and lay in wait. Two sheriff's deputies came across Bass's men buying tobacco. In the ensuing gunfight, the two deputies and all of Bass's men besides himself and Frank Jackson were killed. Bass did not escape without incident however. He was mortally wounded and only able to get on his horse with Jackson's help. The two fled and Bass was discovered the next day by Gillett and two other Rangers lying beneath an oak tree. He was taken back to town and questioned but refused to give any information on his confederates. He died three days later.[47]

Responding to Apache Raiding

In 1879 and 1880, settlements in Texas near the Mexico border were often raided by Apache warriors. In one instance, while following an Apache party into Mexico, the rangers were informed that they had hit a ranch in San Marcos de Cantarica, killing a herder and taking four horses and sixteen mules. Along with a party of Mexican volunteers, the rangers set out in search of the raiders. They came to the mouth of the Canyon del Moranos, determined that the Apaches were lying in wait for them, and decided to scale the mountain and come at them from the rear. Just as Gillett was beginning to suspect that there was no one waiting for them in the canyon, shots rang out and he was nearly hit. He returned fire with his Winchester and killed the assailant. The rest of the Apache party kept up their fire and the Rangers elected to withdraw due to their disadvantaged position.[48]

In November 1879, The Rangers struck out into Mexico at the invitation of the local government in pursuit of Chief Victorio, who Gillett claims was a better warrior than Geronimo. It is evident he held great respect for his capabilities in battle, and called him "the best general ever produced by the Apache tribe."[49]

Victorio and a party of one hundred twenty-five warriors had left the Mescalero Reservation and went South into Mexico on a raid. There, he set up camp in the Candelaria Mountains near San Jose and Juarez, which was an excellent vantage point from which he could see any approaching parties from twenty miles away. A small band went into San Jose to raid the town. They carried off some of the town's ponies and returned to camp. Investigating the next morning, the people of the town believed from the tracks that Victorio's group was quite small, and a band of fifteen men set out in search of the raiders and their ponies. Victorio lay in wait for them and the main body of his forces massacred the San Jose party. A second rescue party met the same fate.[50]

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[46] Gillett, 165–66.
[47] Gillett, 164–67.
[48] Gillett, 230–33.
[49] Gillett, 239.
[50] Gillett, 240–42.

When news of this disaster reached El Paso del Norte, a group of one hundred fighters was assembled from the surrounding area to strike back, and a note was sent to the Rangers at Ysleta requesting their aid. Gillett's commander, Lieutenant Baylor, readily agreed, knowing it would only be a matter of time before Victorio turned his sights to the Texan side of the border. The expedition was unsuccessful in locating Victorio's band, and the Rangers returned to Ysleta.[51]

An International Murder

At a Christmas festival in Socorro, New Mexico in 1881, the event which would later prove life altering for Gillett occurred on the steps of the local church. A.M. Conklin, editor of the *Socorro Son*, requested that two drunken men be quiet and behave in the church. When he made his exit later, one of the men pulled his wife away from his side and the other shot and killed him. Abran and Enofrio Baca fled the town and were pursued in all directions, but evaded capture and crossed into Mexico.[52]

As luck would have it for Gillett and the Rangers, the county judge of El Paso was Jose Baca, uncle of the wanted men. He also maintained a shop in Ysleta, the county seat of El Paso. Gillett set a watch over Judge Baca's home in the hopes that the murderers would seek shelter there. After nearly a month, he began to suspect they had gone elsewhere, but one morning in late March, the watchman spotted two well dressed Mexican men who were strangers sitting on the porch of Baca's home. Gillett and other rangers rode into town and arrested the two men, believing them to be the Baca brothers. He then set out for New Mexico to take them to justice.[53]

On the road, they were overtaken by Judge Baca and an interpreter, who asked Gillett to stop so that he might talk with their prisoners. After a short conversation, the Judge asked Gillett what the reward was for the capture of Abran Baca, which was five hundred dollars. After some hesitation, the judge offered Gillett seven hundred dollars if he would let Abran go. He then raised his offer to one thousand dollars, but Gillett claims to have informed the judge that there was not enough money in El Paso County to buy him off. When the party reached Socorro, it was discovered that Gillett had in fact captured Abran Baca, but the second prisoner was his cousin, Massias Baca. Gillett was given the five hundred dollar reward for capturing one of the murderers and returned to camp.[54]

Later, in April, Gillett learned that Enofrio, the second murderer, was working at a store in Saragosa, Mexico. Gillett pondered what to do with this information, as a previous attempt to have the Mexican government arrest a fugitive had resulted in the man being set free after influential friends had prevailed upon the local authorities. He decided to take the matter into his own hands, and set out to capture him with the help of fellow ranger, George Lloyd. They reached the town without incident, and he went into the store alone, grabbed the man by the

[51] Gillett, 243–46.
[52] Gillett, 301.
[53] Gillett, 302.
[54] Gillett, 302–3.

collar, and ordered him out with his pistol drawn. The customer the fugitive had been helping fainted and two other customers ran from the store. Gillett made his way outside with his prisoner and put him on Lloyd's horse for their escape. As they left, he saw a group of men readying their horses to give chase.[55]

In the chase that ensued, the Rangers had to move their prisoner onto Gillett's horse once Lloyd's began failing. With two miles to go until the border, a group of mounted men emerged from the cloud of dust behind them. Gillett counted nine men in all, and they closed the distance to within six hundred yards, after which they began firing on the Rangers. Luckily, no one was hit. Before they could get any closer, the party reached the Rio Grande and dove in, driving their horses straight through a shallow ford. As soon as they reached the opposite bank, the pursuers gave up. With a wave of his hat, Gillett made his way back to camp.[56]

Back in camp, Gillett received a dressing down from Lieutenant Baylor, who he had not informed of his plans knowing he would not approve. In response to the lieutenant's questions as to why he had committed "this flagrant violation of international law and common sense", Gillett replied that not only had he wanted the reward for the capture of Baca, he wanted the notoriety of having kidnapped a murderer in Mexico and living to tell the tale. He delivered Baca to Socorro, where an angry mob hung him from a tree. Gillett was saved from legal trouble after the kidnapping by a letter Lieutenant Baylor wrote to the governor of Texas.[57]

The End of Ranger Service

The fame and notoriety Gillett had hoped to gain from his kidnapping of the Baca fugitive came true when he was offered a job as a railroad guard at three times his Ranger salary. He spoke to Lieutenant Baylor and they agreed that he should take the job. On December 26, 1881, J.B. Gillett received a voluntary discharge from the Texas Rangers. His job with the railroad did not last long however, as he resigned after one month. He proceeded to get a job in the city of El Paso as a marshal's deputy. He was then promoted to marshal when his boss resigned.[58]

End of Law Enforcement Career

In the spring of 1885, Gillett received an offer to become ranch manager of the newly formed Estado Land and Cattle Company. He accepted, and on April 1, 1885, J.B. Gillett ended his ten year career as a law enforcement officer.[59]

Ranching and Later Life

Gillett held his position at Estado for six years before resigning to go into business for himself. He acquired two ranches, the O6 and the Alpine. On May 1, 1889, he married Lou Chastain in San Marcos. They went on to have seven children together. In May 1904, he sold the Alpine ranch and bought a farm in Roswell, New Mexico. The family moved there and

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[55] Gillett, 303–5.
[56] Gillett, 305–6.
[57] Gillett, 306–7, 310–11.
[58] Gillett, 322,331-333.
[59] Gillett, 333.

stayed until April 1907, when the farm was sold and they returned to Texas, where Gillett bought the Barrell Springs Ranch.[60]

In 1921, Gillett wrote his memoir, *Six Years with The Texas Rangers*. It was published in 1926 and later condensed into a textbook which was used in the public schools of seventeen states. He retired at the aged of 67 and moved to Marfa, Texas. On June 11, 1937, he died of heart failure at the age of 81.[61]

History of the Winchester 1873 Rifle

The Winchester 1873 Rifle was produced between 1873 and 1919, with an approximate 720,610 manufactured. The 1873 was offered in three calibers, 32-30, 38-40, and 44-40. They fed from a tubular magazine below the barrel and were fitted with iron frames and side plates. Stocks were commonly oil stained walnut, with some examples varnished. The finish was blued with hammers, levers, and butt plates casehardened, and occasionally receivers as well, but this was less common. Serial numbers began at 1 and can be found on the lower tang. Markings included "MODEL 1873" and Winchester, which can be found on the upper tang. Caliber markings are usually found on the bottom of the elevator block. Winchester name and address markings can be found on the barrel with King's Improvement patent dates.

The 1873 was produced in three models with minor variations and in three configurations, the musket, rifle, and carbine. The Early First Model 1873 is characterized by the dust cover which is mortised in the forward section of the frame. The checkered oval thumbrest is separately affixed. There are two screws on the frame above the trigger, a lever latch which fits into lower tang with threads, and the upper level profile curves away from the trigger. Serial numbers for the early first model range from 1 to roughly 1600. The Late First Models have a trigger pin which appears below the two frame screws above the trigger, an improved type lever latch without visible threads, as well as a trigger block safety. Serial numbers for Late First Models run from 1600 to 31000. The Second Model reconfigures the dust cover to slide on a center rail on the rear section of the frame, secured by screws. Serial numbers run from 31,000 to 90,000. Lastly, the Third Model incorporates the dust cover rail into the frame as a single machined part. Serial numbers run from 90,000 to end of production.[62]

Information Specific to this Firearm

This is a late first model 1873 saddle ring carbine. In spite of the name of this variant, it does not sport a saddle ring. It is unclear if this component is missing or if it never had one in the first place. The serial number is 13401, placing the rifle in the middle range of the late first model production. This along with the style of dust cover, integrated into the frame and with an oval thumb rest, mark it clearly as the late first model. There is a three piece cleaning rod in the

[60] Margaret F Peirce, "Gillett, James Buchanan," Texas State Historical Association, n.d., https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fgi25.
[61] Peirce.
[62] Flayderman, *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values*, 307–9.

butt stock with a cloth wrapped around it. The label which was once attached to the butt stock is in the object file and is a short poem. The authorship of the poem is unknown and may or may not have been attached during Gillett's ownership. The old wall label included claims that he used it to shoot "a marauding apache" and "at least one murderer." Further, it claims he lent it to the "Bass Outlaw," likely meaning Bazzel Lamar "Baz" Outlaw, who returned it shortly before his death.

14) 2920.001/2920.002 – Pair of Colt 1911A1 pistols owned by M.T. Gonzaullas

Condition of the Firearms

Both pistols are in excellent condition with a minor amount of wear. The finish of both is worn on the hammer extensions and around the triggers. The grips of both pistols have small cracks at the base. The rifling in both barrels is strong. The "Left" gun (2920.2) appears to have been fired more than the "Right" gun (2920.1)

Provenance

The provenance for these pistols is very good. The Colt factory letter confirms their features as shipped by the factory and their shipment to a retailer in Fort Worth during a time that we know Gonzaullas lived in that area. Additionally, the cutaway trigger guards, trigger and hammer extensions, and initials on the grips are all defining characteristics of firearms known to have been in his possession. Additionally, his monogram is cut into the back of each grip panel on both pistols, fitting with his well-known penchant for labelling his possessions.

M.T. Gonzaullas Biographical Information

Early Life

Manuel Trazazas "Lone Wolf" Gonzaullas was born on July 4, 1891 in Cadiz, Spain to a Spanish father and Canadian mother, both naturalized American citizens on vacation. He served in the Mexican Army, earning the rank of major at 20 years old. He then spent five years with the U.S. Treasury Department before joining the Texas Rangers in 1920.

Ranger Service

He was first assigned to the oil fields of Wichita County, where he earned the nickname "El Lobo Solo" or "Lonewolf." His preference for operating alone spawned the nickname. He quickly gained a reputation as an efficient enforcer of the law, on one occasion stockading prisoners in an abandoned church in a town without a large enough jail to hold them.

He along with the majority of his fellow Rangers were fired by Governor Miriam Ferguson after she took office in 1933 because the Rangers had supported her political rival. When the Rangers were integrated into the new Department of Public Safety in 1935, he was made superintendent of their Bureau of Intelligence, where he created one of the most advanced crime labs in the country. In 1940, he resigned his position at the Bureau to rejoin Ranger Company B in Dallas as a Captain. He served with them until his retirement on May 3, 1951.

Retirement and Later Life

After his time with the Rangers, Gonzaullas became a technical consultant for Hollywood films and television. He was best known for his work on *Tales of the Texas Rangers*, and his experiences during the hunt for the "Phantom Killer" were made into the film, *The Town That Dreaded Sundown*. He was also a cofounder of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in 1968. He died in Dallas at the age of 86 in 1977.

History of the Colt 1911 Pistol

The Model 1911 Automatic Pistol, Civilian Series, is distinguished from government model pistols primarily by the letter “C” prefix in the serial numbers. The 1911 Pistol came standard in 45 ACP, 5” barrel length, and with 7 shot magazines. Serial numbers began with C1 and ran through C336169 at the end of the original serial range in 1970.

Information Specific to these Firearm

The pistols are Colt Standard 1911A1 Government Model, Commercial Conversion. They are exquisitely engraved with gold inlay throughout. They feature bone grips with a bull’s head on the outside and the initials “MTG” on the inside grips. They feature custom hammers with mirrored extensions. The “left” gun, (2920.2) features an ambidextrous safety lever, a rare modification for the time period. Both pistols feature cutaway trigger guards, which is said to have been a signature feature of Gonzaullas’ guns, and custom wide triggers. The grip safeties are also locked in the firing position. The inside of each grip panel features Gonzaullas’ monogram. Additionally, each pistol bears an inscription above the trigger on the underside of the frame, “Never Draw Me Without Cause, Nor Shield Me With Dishonor.”

15) L2013.024.001 – M1873 Colt Single Action Army owned by Cal Aten

Condition of the Firearm

The gun is in overall good condition, with approximately 70 percent of the nickel plated finish remaining. The barrel and frame retain about 75 percent, and there is about 10 percent remaining on the cylinder. The plating on the ejector housing is worn away entirely in a line from the muzzle end almost until the cylinder end. There is minor rust in the chambers and moderate rust in the barrel. The rifling appears to be strong otherwise.

Provenance

The provenance of this pistol is impeccable. The incident in which Aten and other rangers intercepted and killed the Odle brothers is documented in multiple letters and an official report, and the pistol can be connected to Aten through the handwritten note concealed in the grips as well as his memoir where he identifies the pistol and remarks on its fine finish and engraving.

Cal Aten Biographical Information

A Ranger Family

Calvin Grant "Cal" Aten was born on December 7, 1868 in Abingdon, Illinois. The third of four sons, Cal followed in the footsteps of his older brother, Ira, and became a lawman at the age of 19 when he enlisted with the Texas Frontier Battalion on April 1, 1888. He was assigned to D Company, his brother's unit.

The Odle Brothers

The first time the Aten and Odle families crossed paths was in 1887 when Ira Aten accompanied Captain Frank Jones on a mission to track down Will and Alvin Odle, wanted horse thieves. The pair tracked them to a ranch house and debated whether to raid the property. Aten cautioned his Captain against such action as they had a telegram informing them that the Odles were armed and dangerous. They decided to go in at dawn, and waited 100 yards away from the house at a spring. At break of day, a young boy came to the spring to fetch water and the rangers held him. They then entered the house, Aten through the back door, Jones through the front. Aten held the just awoken men with his revolver while he let in his Captain through the front door and they arrested the group, which included one Henry Cavius along with the Odle brothers. On April 18th, Aten handed over the three prisoners to the Burnett County Sheriff, John Wolf, who met them at Uvalde.[63]

Christmas Eve, 1889

The next and last time the Odles crossed paths with an Aten was on Christmas Eve, 1889. Ranger Privates Cal Aten, John Reynolds Hughes, and Bazzel Lamar Outlaw, along with local sheriff's deputies lay in wait for Will and Alvin Odle. By this time, the Odles had amassed an impressive number of offenses including burglary, horse theft, and homicide. They were

[63] Bob Alexander, *Rawhide Ranger, Ira Aten: Enforcing Law on the Texas Frontier*, 1st ed, Frances B. Vick 8 (Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 2011), 130–31.

once again at large, wanted for the murder of their brother-in-law John L. Stroope. Sheriff Wheat had made a deal with another fugitive to give up their locations in exchange for leniency. The Odle brothers planned to attend a Christmas party near Vance, also known as Bull Head Mountain. At approximately 8:00 PM, the lawmen heard the sound of approaching horses. What happened next is the subject of debate. There are two versions of the story.

Captain Frank Jones' letter to Captain Sieker remarked, "I guess you have seen in the papers where some of my men celebrated Xmas day by killing the two Odles in Edwards County. It is a great strain off that county and the good people are rejoicing. John Hughes, Outlaw, and young Aten and some citizens did the work." In a second letter, Jones added, "I have no particulars of the killing of the Odle's except that they drew their pistols when commanded to surrender and the firing began. Hughes, who is in charge of the Edwards County detachment, simply stated that they made a hard fight and they were compelled to kill them."

In his official report, Hughes gave the same story: "Vance, Edwards Co., Dec. 25th 1889. Ten O'clock P.M. With the assistance of Deputy Sheriff Will Terry and a few good citizens, we succeeded in trapping Will and Calvin [*sic*] Odle who are wanted for murder and theft. They resisted arrest and made a hard fight and we had to kill them in self defense, also killed one horse and shot another through the neck. It took place about 8 o'clock tonight. We will hold an inquest in the morning. Outlaw & C.G. Aten were with me."

Cal differed somewhat from the official story in a letter to his brother, Ira. "There is another happening that comes out of the [Battle of Bull Head Mountain]. I am responsible for [unknown] but you will understand that it pertains to the time when the Odle boys were assassinated. That is all it was just plain legal assassination. However there would have been someone else assassinated if we hadn't got in the first shots." In a later memoir, Cal reflected: "I have held a dying outlaw [Alvin Odle] in my arms. One of the worst ever-known in the Southwest. Took his pistol out of his dying hand. The same pistol I keep under my mattress now. It was a wonderfully beautiful gun then without a blemish on it, beautiful engraving. I was sorry for that boy. Just a few years older than I, and I have often wondered what he would have done had our positions been reversed. Just rode off and left me like a dog, I think, but this would be another story and I intended to tell you of my first scout."

While the legal standing of the shooting may be questionable, there can be no doubt that the Colt Single Action S/N #116626 is the same gun taken by Cal Aten from the dying hand of Alvin Odle.[64]

Retirement and Private Life

Cal led a short career with the rangers, resigning on August 31, 1890. He served for several years as a constable in Round Rock, where he met his wife, Mattie Jo Kennedy. The couple were married on May 2, 1894 and later moved to the Panhandle where his brother was then the section foreman for the Escarbaras Division of the XIT Ranch and head of their police force. Cal worked for XIT until 1904 when he established his own farm and ranch in Donley County. He died on April 1, 1939 at the age of 71.

[64] Alexander, 220–22.

History of the Colt Single Action Army

The Colt Single Action Army Revolver was contracted and issued in large quantities by the U.S. Army during the Indian Wars. In addition, it was carried by numerous legendary individuals from the Old West, including lawmen and outlaws alike. It has earned a gamut of nicknames, including "Peacemaker," "Frontier Six-Shooter," "Equalizer," "Hog-leg," and "Thumb-buster."

The original production ran from 1873 through 1940. Standard barrel lengths were 4-3/4," 5-1/2," and 7-1/2." Grip types can be found in oil-stained or varnished walnut or eagle and shield pattern hard rubber. Unadorned hard rubber grips were introduced at approximately serial number 165000. Grips were also available in ivory and pearl. Finishes were typically blued with the frame and hammer casehardened. Nickel plating was also common.

Barrel markings can be found in two variations: "+COLT'S PT. F.A. MFG. Co. HARTFORD, CT. U.S.A.+" for serial numbers up to 24000, and "COLT'S PT. F.A. MTG. Co. HARTFORD, CT. U.S.A." for serial numbers ranging from 24000 to the end of production. Patent date markings can be found on the left side of the frames in several variations. The two line marking of the 1871 and 1872 patent dates (S/N 1-34000), the three line marking of the 1871, 1872, and 1875 dates (34000 – 135000), and the two line marking of 1871, 1872, and 1875 (135000 through end of production). A rampant colt trademark can be found stamped next to the dates.

Serial numbers were stamped on the cylinders up to about serial number 120000. Around 140000, the transverse, spring-loaded catch for the cylinder pin was introduced.[65]

Information Specific to this Firearm

This Colt Single Action Army Revolver has a note concealed in the grip written by Cal Aten. The note reads: "Taken from hand of Alvin Odle as he lay dying at the East Fork of Bullhead Mt. Edwards Co., TX. Xmas night 1889" The serial number is 116626. It features a 4 ¾" barrel and hard rubber grips. The finish is nickel-plated with engraving throughout. The Colt archives confirm the pistol's configuration, noting that it was shipped with a "soft" finish, indicating that the plating and engraving were added afterwards. It was shipped to Hartley and Graham of New York City in November of 1885.

[65] Flayderman, *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values*, 100–101.

16) 2004.038.001 – Colt Buntline engraved by Weldon Bledsoe

Condition of the Firearm

This pistol is in excellent condition, with almost no wear at all. There is a small amount of wear on the top strap at the end of the barrel where the gold plating has been worn off from firing. The condition of the barrel indicates the gun has only been fired a handful of times. There is a small knick on the bottom of the trigger guard on the left side.

Provenance

The "2 Lazy 2 P" Cattle Brand pattern is considered to be Weldon Bledsoe's signature engraving style. The engraver's monogram also appears on the right side plate at the bottom next to the numeral 2.

Weldon Bledsoe Biographical Information

Weldon Bledsoe was born on February 17, 1916 in Margaret, Texas. After graduating high school and attending college, he was drafted into the U.S. Army prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor where he served as a surgical technician. After the war began, he requested to be reassigned to flight training, where he learned to fly the B-17 Bomber and later qualified on the B-25 and C54. He flew 25 missions in the South Pacific and European theaters. His crew was one of the three planes which survived the strategic raid on ball bearing plants in Schweinford, Germany.

After the war, Bledsoe attended a trade school in Los Angeles on the G.I. Bill where he learned jewelry engraving. He intended to return to Texas and engrave silver decorations for parade saddles. In 1950, he moved to Fort Worth after spending some time in New Orleans and began working for Haltom Jewelers. He developed an interest in working on guns, which Haltom did not do. He heard of Cole Agee, a well respected Dallas engraver and sought out his tutelage. Sources conflict as to whether Agee agreed to take on Bledsoe as an apprentice, but it is known for certain that he showed him some techniques and the usage of handcrafted tools.

Both Bledsoe and his mentor, Agee, are known for their intricate Cattle Brand patterns. The "2 Lazy 2 P" pattern became Bledsoe's signature pattern and he was known to have signed his work with a monogram. The monogram consists of a letter "B" with a "W" in the top loop and an "H" in the bottom loop. It is commonly found on the right side frame of his work. It is believed that Agee did only 15-20 cattle brand guns, whereas Bledsoe did 300-400. A distinctive characteristic of Bledsoe's style is that he never engraved the hammer of any gun, leaving them plain.

Bledsoe stopped working in volume some time before 1991, when he was approached by The Texas & South Western Cattle Raisers Association to engrave 200 commemorative Winchesters. He declined stating as reason that he was too far into semi-retirement. He also

began to lose his sight toward the end of his work, and supposedly could only see out of one eye the last year he engraved.[66]

History of Colt Buntline Pistols

The Colt Buntline Special is a long-barreled variant of the Single Action Army revolver. Variants have been observed with both 10 and 12 inch barrels. According to legend, the origin of the Buntline comes from author Ned Buntline, who wanted to thank the law men of Dodge City for providing him with material for his stories. He ordered five long barreled Colt pistols with walnut shoulder stocks and matching holsters to present to Wyatt Earp, Charlie Bassett, Batt Masterson, Bill Tilghman, and Neal Brown. This story appears to originate from the 1931 biography of Earp, *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal* by Stuart Lake. Lake's account has been largely proven as fictionalized by his own admission.

According to factory records, guns that can be considered Buntline Specials fall in the serial range of 28,800 to 28,830, a total of 31 guns. These original Buntlines boast a significant value today.

Whatever the true origin of the Buntline Special, Colt re-issued them when production of the Single Action Army resumed in 1957 in response to their renewed popularity fueled by TV Westerns. The second generation Buntlines were marked "Colt Buntline Special .45" along the barrel and share a serial number range with the standard model Single Action Army. According to factory records, 1650 were manufactured in 1958, while a total of 4000 blued finishes and 65 nickeled guns were manufactured from 1957 to 1974.

In 1976, Colt began the Third Generation production of Single Action Army. These guns are marked by their modified hammer profile, lack of a full length cylinder bushing, and a re-designed cylinder ratchet and hand. The barrel threads were also changed.

Information Specific to this Firearm

The gun is gold plated with ivory grips, bears the "2 Lazy 2 P" cattle brand engraving, and is signed by Weldon Bledsoe. Additionally, we have a letter from the engraver dated October 1, 1985 certifying that he performed the work for the donor. The serial number is SA4973 and the numbers on the end of the cylinder match. The serial number does not appear in the serial number lookup on Colt's website, but according to an unofficial serial number table, this gun was manufactured some time in 1981.

[66] Jimmie Patterson, "Cole Agee and Weldon Blesdoe: Cattle Brands, Hand Engraved Guns and Fire Arms, A Dying Art? Three Texas Engravers," David Wade Harris, n.d., http://dwharris.com/Agee.htm.

17) 0704 – Remington Model 8F presented to Frank Hamer

Condition of the Firearm

The bore is good with strong rifling, some fouling built up. Mechanical functions are excellent. There are some scratches in the barrel shroud on the right side, as well as wear in the finish at the front end of the barrel shroud. There are some scratches and chips in the stock.

Provenance

Original records state that the rifle was given to Frank Hamer by the Remington Arms Co. in 1922. The company presented the rifle to Hamer after an agent for the company witnessed his sharp shooting skills at the end of the Mexia occupation in which the Rangers shut down a gambling and bootlegging syndicate. Remington sent the rifle to Petmecky's Sporting Goods Store in Austin. The rifle is said to have become Hamer's favorite deer hunting rifle.

While there are numerous claims in various media that this is the Remington Model 8 rifle Hamer carried during the Bonny and Clyde ambush, the details conflict greatly. In *From the Guns of Frank Hamer*, it is claimed that Hamer owned an engraved Model 8, which must have been this one, he purchased another Model 8 in .35 Remington from an Austin sporting goods store. He also contacted another company to acquire a 20 round capacity magazine for it. This description matches another weapon in the Museum collection, but it is a Model 81, the successor to the Model 8. While he may well have purchased it from Patmecky's in Austin, he could not have done so in preparation for the 1934 ambush, because it wasn't manufactured until at least 1936.

Furthermore, the Model 81 Woodmaster was not modified by Peace Officer's Equipment Company as the accounts claim, but the extended magazine was added in house by Remington some time around 1940. Importantly, there is confirmation that this rifle is the one in Larry Buchanan's 1968 interview of Frank Hamer Jr, which throws out the possibility that he was holding another Model 8 rifle. It is therefore likely that the story was muddled through retelling and Hamer Jr. was simply incorrect about what his father carried during the ambush.[67]

Another account, *Who Was Frank Hamer?*, claims that it was after a shooting demonstration in Dallas, in which he broke one hundred rifle targets, that a representative of the Remington Arms Company had a special Model 8F made for him, with his name in gold on the receiver and the Texas Ranger emblem in gold inlaid in the stock. This rifle is said to be in .30 Caliber and was fitted with a 20 round magazine which he later used in the Bonnie and Clyde shootout. While the description of the rifle's features is a match, the 20 round magazine is erroneous, as the Model 8F in the Museum's collection has the standard five round magazine.

Additionally, the caliber of rifle Hamer acquired varies depending on the account, indicating that firm records may not exist. Further complicating matters is a 1968 documentary in which Hamer's son shows the interviewer the Model 81 rifle and claims that it is the one bought for use in the shootout. It has become clear that the truth has been muddled over the

[67] Cameron Woodall, "RE: Frank Hamer's Firearm," February 3, 2012.

years, and exactly which gun was in Frank Hamer's hands at the time of the ambush may be impossible to determine.

Further complicating matters, when Hamer was interviewed by Walter Prescott Webb for his book, *The Texas Rangers: A Century of Frontier Defense*, he claimed that he wielded a shotgun, rather than a rifle. "Jordan and I had automatic shotguns, three had Winchesters, one a machine gun, and all carried revolvers or automatic pistols." (Footnote: Webb 542) By automatic shotgun, it can be assumed that Hamer meant he carried a Browning Auto-5 or one of the similar variants.

Lastly, it would appear that the provenance documents for the entirety of the Hamer collection on loan from A&M were lost some time prior to 1989, as evidenced by a letter to then curator Gaines DeGraffenried inquiring as to their whereabouts. It is unknown if he replied or if the documents were ever located.[68]

In conclusion, the myriad of conflicting details makes it impossible to say if this rifle is the one Hamer carried in the Bonny and Clyde ambush.

Frank Hamer Biographical Information

Early Life

Francis Augustus "Frank" Hamer was born on March 17, 1884 in Fairview, Texas to parents Frank and Lou Emma Hamer. He grew up on the Welch Ranch in San Saba County. In 1894, the family moved to Oxford, Llano County, where he worked in his father's blacksmith shop. In 1901, he along with his brother were hired as wranglers on the Pecos County ranch of Berry Ketchum. In 1905, he was working as a cowboy on the Carr Ranch when he captured a horse thief and was recommended for a position in the Texas Rangers by the county sheriff.[69]

First Ranger Service

On April 21, 1906, Frank Hamer became a Texas Ranger in C Company under Captain John W. Rogers. He worked primarily on the Southern border of the state. In 1908, he resigned to become a marshal in Navasota County.[70]

Between Ranger Services

On April 21, 1911, Hamer became a special officer in Harris County, where he remained until 1915, when he rejoined the Texas Rangers.[71]

Second Ranger Service

On March 29, 1915, Hamer became a Texas Ranger for the second time in Del Rio. He patrolled the area between Big Bend and Brownsville, mainly contending against arms smuggling, bootlegging, and banditry. On May 12, 1917, he was married to Gladys Johnson, who had two children from a previous relationship, and they had two more children together.

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[68] James H. Earle, "Letter to Gaines de Graffenreid," June 15, 1989.
[69] John H. Jenkins, "Hamer, Francis Augustus," Texas State History Association, n.d., https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fha32.
[70] Jenkins.
[71] Jenkins.

In 1920, he became a prohibition officer. In 1921, Hamer was transferred to Austin, where he made a permanent home for his family. He participated in numerous raids to restore law and order in oil boom towns such as Mexia and Gander Slu in 1922 and Berger in 1927. In 1928, he was credited with exposing a "bank reward ring" when he determined that criminals were framing others and killing them to claim the standing $5,000 bounty on dead bank robbers offered by the Texas Bankers Association. He retired from active duty in 1932.[72]

The Hunt for Bonny and Clyde

On February 1, 1934, Marshall Lee Simmons, head of the Texas prison system, asked Hamer to accept the post of special investigator with the task of hunting down the notorious outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. After a three month long search, he tracked them down and laid an ambush on the road outside of Gibsland, Louisiana. Along with other law enforcement officers, he shot and killed the duo on May 23, 1934. He was awarded with a special citation from Congress for bringing the duo's reign of terror to an end.[73]

Final Retirement and Later Life

In 1948, Hamer was briefly recalled to active Ranger duty by Governor Coke Stevenson to accompany him in Jim Wells and Duvall counties to check election results in the hotly contested congressional race of that year. He then retired once and for all from the Rangers and returned to Austin. He died peacefully in his sleep on July 10, 1955 at the age of 71.[74]

History of the Remington Model 8F Rifle

The Remington Model 8 Rifle was created by famed gun designer John Moses Browning while designing the Auto-5 shotgun, who was awarded the patent for its design on October 16, 1900. He sold the patent to Remington for US manufacture, and Fabrique National for European manufacture. The FN version of the rifle was sold as the FN 1900. It was first introduced by Remington as the Remington Autoloading Rifle in 1906. In 1911, the name was changed to the Model 8. Remington produced over 80,000 model 8 rifles before switching production to the Model 81 in 1936 as a cost saving measure.[75]

The Model 8 is a long recoil operated, rotating bolt gun. It featured a five shot fixed magazine initially, although some were modified to accept twenty round detachable magazines, as seen with the Model 81 owned by Frank Hamer in the museum's collection. It could be loaded with the use of stripper clips, as with popular military rifles of the era. It also featured a 22 inch jacketed barrel. The rifle was primarily used for hunting and other shooting sports, although a limited number saw service with the French military.[76]

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[72] Jenkins.
[73] Jenkins.
[74] Jenkins.
[75] "The Great Model 8," Remington Society, January 31, 2009, http://thegreatmodel8.remingtonsociety.com/?page_id=8.
[76] "The Great Model 8."

The Model 8 was offered in four proprietary rimless cartridges which had been developed to ensure smooth operation in a semiautomatic rifle. The four options were .25 Remington, .30 Remington, .32 Remington, and .35 Remington. (Footnote: Great Model 8)

In 1907, Remington introduced various grades of refinement, running from A-F, with A being the basic option, and F being the "Premier" finest option. The factory specifications for the 8F are as follows: "stock and fore-arm of the finest Circassian walnut inlaid with gold name plate and finished with delicate but elaborate checkering. The engraving on this rifle is equal to that on the 'Premier' grade Auto shotgun (A5), and is all that could be desired by the most exacting sportsman. Owner's initials engraved on name plate if so desired."[77]

Information Specific to this Firearm

The rifle is engraved with gold inlay and the inscription: "Capt Frank Hamer of the Texas Rangers" Below the inscription there is an image of a man on horseback holding a gun at three bandits. On the right side of the stock there is a five pointed star with an oak and olive branches surrounding it. It features a number of special modifications, including a cheek rest on the stock and checkering on both the pistol grip and fore grip. The serial number is G49643

[77] "The Grades of the Remington Model 8 & 81," Remington Society, September 20, 2011, http://thegreatmodel8.remingtonsociety.com/?page_id=1051.

19) 1158/1174.002 – Colt Single Action Army Revolvers owned by Tom Hickman

Condition of the Firearms

The pistols are finished with very fine engraving in a leaf pattern. There is some gold applied to the hammers and cylinder flutes which has partially worn off. There is moderate wear in the finish on both front sight posts and some wear throughout on the barrels and cylinders. The bull's head grips are cracked on the butts and around the medallions, with significant yellowing on the left grip of 1174. Both pistols function but poorly. They are not in firing condition. It seems likely that old grease has dried on the internal components, making operation very sluggish.

Provenance

Both pistols are inscribed "Captain Tom R. Hickman" and "Company B. State Ranger Force" This would place the pistols as having been finished some time between 1921, when he was promoted to captain, and 1935, when he resigned from the force. Additionally, the pistols were originally loaned to the museum by Hickman's wife, providing an excellent chain of custody.

Tom Hickman Biographical Information

Early Life

Thomas R. Hickman was born on February 21, 1886 in Cooke County Texas to parents Walter B. and Mary Ann Hickman. He graduated from Gainesville Business College in 1907, and soon after joined the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Wild West Show. Later, he was appointed deputy sheriff of Cooke County.[78]

Ranger Service

On June 16, 1919 Hickman was appointed a private in Texas Ranger Company B by Governor William P. Hobby. He quickly attained the rank of captain in 1921. In the 1920s and 30s, he was assigned to maintain order in the North Texas oil boom towns. Additionally, he worked on the Oklahoma border dispute and had several encounters with bank robbers. Most famous of these was the Santa Claus Bank Robbery in Cisco, Texas. Along with the majority of the Rangers, he was fired by Governor Miriam Ferguson when she took office in 1933. He rejoined the force, but in 1935, he resigned after a dispute with Governor James Allred. Reportedly, the two men disagreed over how the new Texas Rangers organization was to be run under the Department of Public Safety.[79] [80]

[78] Kenneth B. Ragsdale, "Hickman, Thomas R.," Texas State Historical Association, n.d., https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fhi02.

[79] Ragsdale.

[80] "Tom Hickman, Texas Ranger," Texas History Notebook, 2015, https://texoso66.com/2015/06/18/tom-hickman-texas-ranger/.

The Santa Claus Bank Robbery

On December 24, 1927, a group led by a man dressed as Santa Claus entered the First National Bank of Cisco and robbed it. The leader of the group, who played the role of St. Nicholas, was Marshall Ratliff, a local resident. The bank tellers were able to sound the alarm and the city police responded quickly. In the ensuing firefight, police chief George Emory Bedford was killed. The robbers escaped in a 1926 Buick sedan with $12,200 in cash, $150,000 in securities, and other valuables. After a short distance however, they ran out of gas and had to abandon their loot.

After a manhunt led by Hickman which lasted eight days, the group was captured, with one killed during the skirmish. One of the robbers was sentenced to death and executed. Ratliff later escaped jail and killed a jailer on his way out. He was quickly recaptured and, on the next day, was taken from the jail by a mob and lynched.[81]

Rodeo Career

Hickman's rodeo career began when he joined the Miller Brothers 101 Ranch Wild West Show, but continued later in his life when he was made judge of the first American Rodeo in England in 1924. In 1926, he judged the first rodeo held in Madison Square Garden. In 1930, he toured Europe with the Simmons University cowboy band, now Hardin-Simmons University.[82]

Later Life

During the 1950s, Hickman served as sergeant at arms for the Democratic Party at state conventions. On January 14, 1957, Governor Allan Shivers appointed him as a member of the Public Safety Commission, the governing body of the Department of Public Safety. In February 1961, he was made chairman of the commission, a position which he held until his death the following year on January 29, 1962.[83]

History of Colt Single Action Army Pistols

The Colt Single Action Army Revolver was contracted and issued in large quantities by the U.S. Army during the Indian Wars. In addition, it was carried by numerous legendary individuals from the Old West, including lawmen and outlaws alike. It has earned a gamut of nicknames, including "Peacemaker," "Frontier Six-Shooter," "Equalizer," "Hog-leg," and "Thumb-buster."

The original production ran from 1873 through 1940. Standard barrel lengths were 4-3/4," 5-1/2," and 7-1/2." Grip types can be found in oil-stained or varnished walnut or eagle and shield pattern hard rubber. Unadorned hard rubber grips were introduced at approximately serial number 165000. Grips were also available in ivory and pearl. Finishes were typically blued with the frame and hammer casehardened. Nickel plating was also common.

Barrel markings can be found in two variations: "+COLT'S PT. F.A. MFG. Co. HARTFORD, CT. U.S.A.+" for serial numbers up to 24000, and "COLT'S PT. F.A. MTG. Co. HARTFORD, CT.

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[81] "Tom Hickman, Texas Ranger."
[82] Ragsdale, "Hickman, Thomas R."
[83] Ragsdale.

U.S.A." for serial numbers ranging from 24000 to the end of production. Patent date markings can be found on the left side of the frames in several variations. The two line marking of the 1871 and 1872 patent dates (S/N 1-34000), the three line marking of the 1871, 1872, and 1875 dates (34000 – 135000), and the two line marking of 1871, 1872, and 1875 (135000 through end of production). A rampant colt trademark can be found stamped next to the dates.

Serial numbers were stamped on the cylinders up to about serial number 120000. Around 140000, the transverse, spring-loaded catch for the cylinder pin was introduced.[84]

Information Specific to these Firearms

These pistols bear serial numbers 342778 and 342806. Both feature fine engraving in a leaf pattern and are inscribed "Captain Tom R. Hickman" and "Company B State Ranger Force" The serial numbers indicate that these pistols were manufactured in 1921. It is unknown if they were engraved by the factory or finished by a third party for Hickman. Both feature bull's head and eagle grips with medallions marked "Estados Unidos Mexicanos"

[84] Flayderman, *Flayderman's Guide to Antique American Firearms and Their Values*, 100–101.

Appendix I - List of Known Surviving Colt Walkers

The following is an attempt to list all known surviving Colt Walker Revolvers, updating from the list originally published in 1955 by W.F.S. Quick.

Company	Number	Notes	Source
A	1		Quick
A	11		Quick
A	12		Quick
A	14		Quick
A	19		Quick
A	21		Quick
A	24		Quick
A	25		Quick
A	31		Quick
A	41		Quick
A	45		Quick
A	46		Quick
A	47		Quick
A	49		TGCA Parade of Walkers; Sold @ Historicalarms.com (Undisclosed Price)
A	50		Quick
A	53		Quick
A	62		Quick
A	64		Quick
A	74		Quick
A	80		Quick
A	89		Quick
A	90		Quick
A	96		Quick
A	111		Quick
A	113		Quick
A	119		Quick
A	126		DNS @ RIA December 2015
A	137		Quick
A	147		TGCA Parade of Walkers
A	150		Quick
A	156		Quick
A	162		Quick
A	165		Quick

A	177		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
A	181		Quick
A	182		Quick
A	194		Quick; DNS @ RIA April 2013; TGCA Parade of Walkers
A	196		Quick
A	204	Barrel marked C Company 59	Quick; Gaines DeGraffenried Collection; Sold @ Christie's $29,375 June 2001
A	209		Quick
A	212		Quick
A	220		Quick
B	4		TGCA Parade of Walkers
B	8		Sold @ James D. Julia $431,250 Spring 2008; Sold @ RIA $345,00 Dec 2011; TGCA Parade of Walkers
B	10		Quick
B	23		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
B	24		Quick
B	25		Quick; Sold @ Rock Island Auction $126,500 September 2012; Sold @ James D. Julia Auctions for $71,875 October 2017; TGCA Parade of Walkers
B	26		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
B	38		Bryan Museum Collection
B	40		TGCA Parade of Walkers
B	41		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
B	42		Quick
B	43		Quick
B	47		Quick
B	49		Quick; Sold @ James D. Julia $83,950 Spring 2008
B	52		Quick

B	57	Barrel marked B Company 153, Shortened to Dragoon Length	Quick; Loaned to Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in 1990s
B	58		Quick
B	59		TGCA Parade of Walkers
B	64		Quick
B	78		Quick; Museum Victoria Collection; West Point Museum Collection
B	102		Quick
B	123		Quick
B	128		Quick
B	130		Quick
B	137		Quick
B	143		Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Collection; Gaines DeGraffenried Collection
B	169		Quick
B	162		Quick
B	163		Quick; DNS @ James D. Julia Spring and Fall 2013
B	170		Quick
B	175		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
B	188		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
B	204		Quick; DNS @ RIA April 2018
C	2		TGCA Parade of Walkers
C	10		Quick; Sold @ James D. Julia $63,250 Fall 2006; Sold @ James D. Julia $57,500 Spring 2009; TGCA Parade of Walkers
C	12		TGCA Parade of Walkers
C	13		Quick; Autry Museum of the American West
C	23		Quick
C	25		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers

C	26		Quick; Sold @ RIA $103,500 November 2012; TGCA Parade of Walkers
C	31		Quick; Sold @ RIA $172,500 Dec 2014
C	33		Quick
C	42		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
C	43		Quick
C	46		Quick
C	49		DNS @ RIA April 2015; TGCA Parade of Walkers
C	56		Quick
C	59		Quick
C	69		Quick
C	81		Quick
C	96		Quick
C	99		Quick
C	101		Quick
C	111		Quick
C	118		Quick
C	122		Quick
C	125		Quick
C	126		Quick
C	128		Quick
C	136		Quick; Sold @ James D. Julia $80,500 Spring 2014
C	150		Quick
C	153		Quick
C	154		Quick
C	161		Quick
C	162		Quick
C	164		TGCA Parade of Walkers
C	170		Quick
C	172		Quick; Sold @RIA $161,000 September 2014; DNS @ RIA December 2017
C	181		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
C	192		Quick

C	194		Quick; Sold @ James D. Julia $109,250 Fall 2012; TGCA Parade of Walkers
C	203		Quick
C	204		Quick; DNS @ James D. Julia Spring 2012
C	215		TGCA Parade of Walkers
C	219		Quick; DNS @ James D. Julia Fall 2011
D	1		TGCA Parade of Walkers
D	3		Quick
D	8		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
D	11		Quick
D	13		Quick; DNS @ James D. Julia Fall 2008; TGCA Parade of Walkers
D	29		Quick
D	31		Quick
D	35		Quick
D	53		Quick
D	55		TGCA Parade of Walkers
D	65		Quick
D	66		Quick
D	69		TGCA Parade of Walkers
D	73		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
D	75		Quick
D	76		Quick
D	81		Quick; Sold @ James D. Julia $74,750 Spring 2012; TGCA Parade of Walkers
D	88		Gaines DeGraffenried Collection
D	93		Quick
D	124		Quick; Sold @ RIA $115,000 Dec 2014; DNS @ RIA September 2017; TGCA Parade of Walkers
D	135		Quick
D	144		Quick
D	148		Quick
D	167		Quick

D	176		Quick
D	185		Quick
D	189		Quick
D	204		Quick
D	211		Quick
D	218		Quick
E	3		Quick
E	13		Quick
E	18		Quick
E	22		TGCA Parade of Walkers
E	23		Quick; Sold @ James D. Julia $483,000 Fall 2007
E	24		Quick
E	30		Quick
E	31		Quick
E	32		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
E	35		Quick
E	39		Quick
E	43		Quick
E	47		Quick
E	58		Quick; Springfield Armory Museum Collection
E	62		Quick
E	67		Sold @ RIA $74,750 April 2015
E	71		Quick
E	73		Quick
E	75		Quick
E	113		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
E	115		Quick
E	120		TGCA Parade of Walkers
Civilian Range	1007		TGCA Parade of Walkers
Civilian Range	1009		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
Civilian Range	1010		Quick; TGCA Parade of Walkers
Civilian Range	1012		Quick
Civilian Range	1017		Quick; The Met Collection
Civilian Range	1020		Quick; The Wadsworth Athenaeum Collection

Civilian Range	1022	Known as the "Danish Sea Captain Walker"	Quick; Sold @ RIA $1,840,000 April 2018
Civilian Range	1024		Quick
Civilian Range	1050		Quick
Civilian Range	1061		Quick
Civilian Range	1076		Quick
Civilian Range	1078	Known as the "Thumbprint Walker"	Quick; Sold @ RIA $546,250 May 2014; TGCA Parade of Walkers
Civilian Range	1079		Quick
Civilian Range	1083		Quick
Civilian Range	1085		Quick
Civilian Range	1091		Quick
Unknown	121	Relic, Military Range but unknown Company.	TGCA Parade of Walkers
Unknown	Unknown	Serial number is not public information	Smithsonian Collection

Sources

- W.F.S. Quick – 1955 Review of Colt Walker Pistol Owners, as reproduced at http://gun-data.com/colt_walker_dragoon%20.html
- Rock Island Auction Company past auction records
- James D. Julia Auctions past auction records
- Christie's past auction records
- Texas Gun Collectors Association Parade of Walkers 2003, https://tgca.org/Parade_of_Walkers.html

Appendix II – Additional Research Conducted on 2235 – M1 Thompson Submachine Gun

The following research was conducted on a Thompson Submachine Gun that was not originally part of the project. I have compiled my findings below.

The gun is indeed an M1 Thompson contrary to researcher Nick Tilotta's assumption that such a low serial number should have been a 1921/8 model. The serial number is exceptionally low for an M1 (29002) and would lend some additional value to collectors. Based on the "S" markings found on the frame, fore grip, and receiver, it was one manufactured by Savage. Additionally, there are two "GEG" inspector stamps, further supporting the Savage provenance. Based on the missing rear sight, added butt stock, and unusually fine finish, it was later refinished. The stamping on the frame indicates that the Rock Island Arsenal refinished it post-War. There is a partial stamping which appears to read "F IA" It is likely that this originally read "FK RIA" indicating supervisor of inspection personnel Frank Krack at Rock Island Arsenal. The presence of Krack's stamp indicates that RIA refinished this gun some time before July 19, 1946, when he retired and his successor, Elmer M. Bjerke's stamp would have been used.

Interestingly, Frank Iannamico's book on Thompson's notes that the horizontal forearm-reinforcing band this gun features was very rare and only documented to Lend-Lease production. The "Bright Bolt" without blueing is also unusual.[85]

The gun was registered to the donor in December 1968 on ATF Form 4467. The donor was a law enforcement officer at the time, but the gun was registered to him as an individual and he retained it after his retirement from law enforcement service. As discussed previously, this status is a crucial point in determining the value of a machine gun, and it's status as a legal item for an individual to possess lends considerable value.

In additional to the gun's transferable status, it's low serial number and unusual barrel band would make this a highly prized example of a Thompson for collectors. The refinish and missing rear sight would detract somewhat, but likely not too significantly.

[85] Frank Iannamico, *American Thunder: Military Thompson Submachine Guns*, 2015, 123.

Appendix III – Recommended Signage Changes

In the course of this project I have discovered some factual errors or omissions in signage. Below, I have assembled my recommendations for updated signage along with the reasoning for the changes.

2969 – 1873 Winchester, E.E. Stubbs

Current:

"**Model 1873 Rifle**

Manufactured in 1880, this firearm was engraved to Texas Ranger Capt. E.E. Stubbs who held the title "Champion Rifle Shot of the World""

Recommendation:

"**Model 1873 Rifle**

Manufactured in 1880, this firearm was custom ordered and engraved to exhibition shooter Elmer E. Stubbs, who claimed the title "Champion Rifle Shot of the World""

Reason:

It was discovered that Stubbs was not actually a Texas Ranger, but that the title of Captain likely comes from service in the US Army after the Civil War and the rifle is in the Museum's collection because former curator Gaines DeGraffenried collected rifles belonging to Stubbs.

2005.034.001 – Purvis Thompson Submachine Gun

Current:

Auto-Ordinance 1921 overstamped 1928 US Navy model Thompson submachine gun with carrying case

This 1921 Thompson originally was made by the Colt May 1-6, 1922 for the Auto-Ordnance company. Never sold, it was reworked in 1928 to meet the US Navy request specifications. Those modifications lowered the rate of fire from 800 to 600 rounds per minute, made the Thompson easier to use. The US Navy Model Thompson Submachine gun was carried by Texas Ranger Captain Hardy B. Purvis throughout his career and was passed down to his son Texas Ranger L.H. Purvis. It includes its original police-style hard case and both box and drum magazines.

Recommendation:

Auto-Ordnance 1921 Overstamped 1928 US Navy Model Thompson Submachine Gun with Carrying Case

This 1921 Model Thompson was originally made by Colt between May 1st and 6th, 1922 for the Auto-Ordnance Company. Never sold, it was reworked in 1928 to meet the US Navy request specifications. Those modifications, including lowering the firing rate from 800 to 600 rounds per minute and removing the breech oiler, made the Thompson easier to use. This Thompson was carried by Texas Ranger Captain Hardy B. Purvis throughout his career and was passed down to his son, Texas Ranger L.H. Purvis. It includes its original police-style hard case along with both box and drum magazines and a cleaning rod.

Reason:
Correction of some typos in current signage as well as adding a bit more information on the 1928 model.

Appendix IV – Photo of M.T. Gonzaullas

"A Texas Ranger Talks on His Radio in Texarkana" taken by Ed Clark for Life Magazine, 1946. Clearly shown are both Gonzaullas's 1911 pistol and the custom holsters he used which allowed for quicker draws.

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