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NED SCHWING

440

PERCUSSION REVOLVERS • 283

del 1855 Artillery Carbine

cal to the standard carbine but chambered for .56 caliber it has a 24" barrel, full-length walnut forend, and a bayoug.

Poor Fair Good V.G. Exc. 1200 4000 14000

atel 1855 British Carbine

s a British-proofed version with barrel lengths of up to t has a brass triggerguard and buttplate and is chamfor .56 caliber only. This variation is usually found in the 12000 serial number range.

Poor Fair V.G. Good Exc. 1000 3250 8000

1855 Revolving Shotgun

andel very much resembles the Half Stock Sporting Rifle made with a 27", 30", 33", and 36" smoothbore barrel. a 5-shot cylinder chambered for .60 or .75 caliber (20 or ge). This model has a case colored hammer and loader; the rest of the metal is blued, with an occasional ed barrel noted. The buttstock and forend are of walnut, or varnish-finished. This model has no rear sight and triggerguard with the caliber stamped on it. Some have octed with the large scroll triggerguard; these would add ent to the value. The rarest shotgun variation would be stocked version in either gauge, and qualified appraisal be highly recommended. This model is serial numbered range, #1-#1100. They were manufactured from 863.



Courtesy Amoskeag Auction Company

Der (20 gauge) Poor Fair Good V.G. 1000 3000 6500

mer (10 gauge) Poor Fair Good V.G. 3000 -10006500

1861 Single Shot Rifled Musket

advent of the Civil War, the army of the Union serimeeded military arms. Colt was given a contract to sup-2 500 1861-pattern percussion single shot muskets. 1861 and 1865, 75,000 were delivered. They have barrels chambered for .58 caliber. The musket is and a bayonet lug. the metal finish is bright steel, and the stock is oil-finished major parts. are eagle is stamped on the breech along with a The Colt address and a date are stamped on the lock-A single number of these rifles were altered to the Snyder cating system for the Bey of Egypt.



Courtesy Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Production Model

Poor Good Fair V.G. Exc. 450 750 1800 4000

WHAT'S IT LIKE-THE COLT MODEL 1860 ARMY

.44 in the late 1950s good, solid, shootable specimens of sixguns from the 19th-century were still readily available at reasonable prices. I purchased such an 1860 Colt for only \$90. Of course in 1957 I was only making 90 cents an hour so even then that old Colt represented 100 hours of very hard work. It did not have any finish left and the grips were a little the less for wear but it was a fine shooter. But, alas, being a not-too-bright teenager I actually had it re-blued and re-stocked! Then to add insult to injury I traded it off for one of the new Ruger Flat-Top Blackhawks. Now that Ruger was a fine gun, I still have it, and it has brought much enjoyment but oh how I wish I could turn the clock back to that 1860 Army before I "improved" it. The Colt 1860 Army was the mainstay of the Northern Army during the War Between the States. It was a direct result of the evolution of the Colt's sixgun progressing through the 4 1/2# 1847 Walker .44; the somewhat lighter 4# Colt Dragoon .44; and the sleek, light weight, 1851 Navy that was trimmed all the way down to 2 1/2 pounds but had to go to .36 caliber. The Navy ushered in the era of the gunfighter. With the coming of the 1860 Army suddenly we had a .44 that was not much larger than the Navy. Both portability and power were now combined into one magnificent sixgun. The 1860 is one of the most important of the percussion sixguns not only for what it was but for what it became. With the introduction of the first practical cartridge firing revolvers by Smith & Wesson 1869, Colt was caught flatfooted but they didn't stay that way. The 1860 Armies were converted to firing fixed ammunition and then became the 1871-72 Open Top which one year later became the Colt Single Action Army. Call the 1860 the grandfather of the Single Action Army.

John Taffin

PERCUSSION REVOLVERS

Model 1860 Army Revolver

This model was the third most produced of the Colt percussion language it was the primary sevolver used by the Union Army