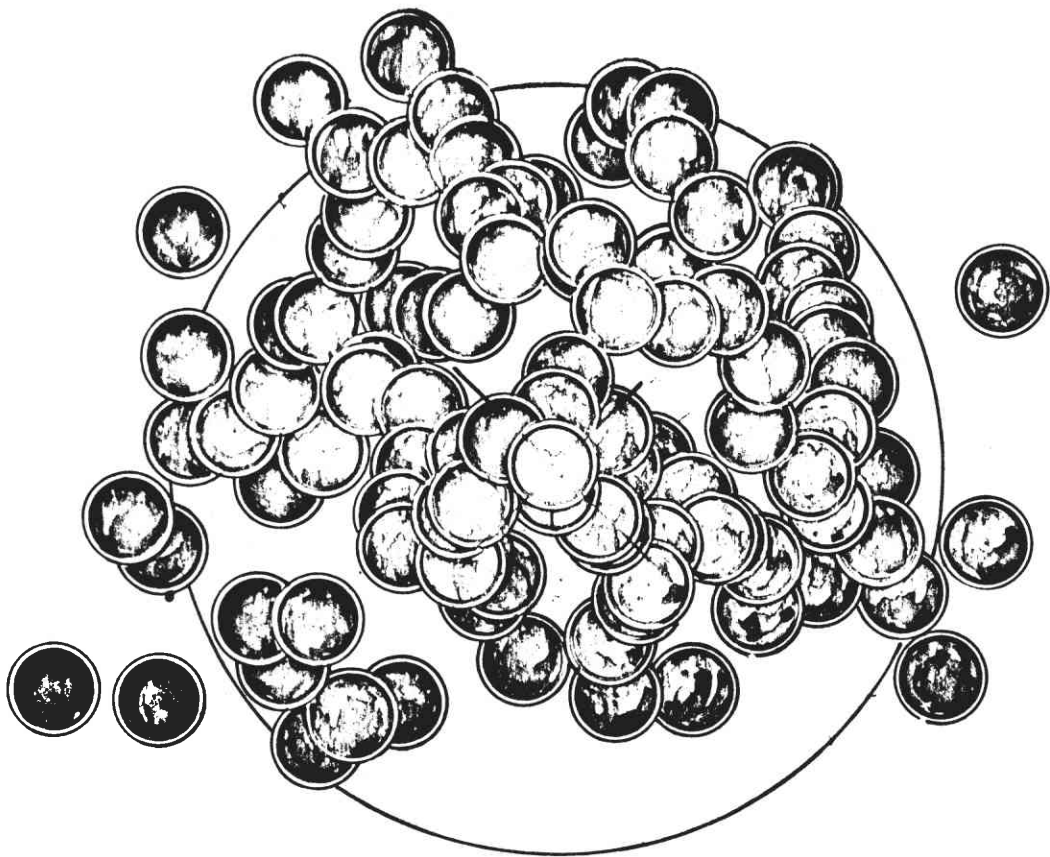


A Diagram of 100 Shots,
made in five separate matches,
at a distance of **40 Rods,**
Measuring from centre to centre $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches or a little over $1\frac{1}{16}$ inches to the Shot



by
C. GOVE,
GUNSMITH,
Council Bluffs, Iowa.
in April, 1863.

Target shot by Gove on a trip from Denver to Council Bluffs. One hundred shots in $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches at 40 rods (220) yards is very good shooting.

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The Feuding Gunsmiths of Denver

by Frank M. Sellers

The discovery of gold at the foot of the Rocky Mountains in 1858 led to the formation of Colorado. Colorado Territory, founded in 1861, was the epitome of the frontier area. A gun or knife, or both, was considered part of the clothing of a man on the frontier: the gunsmith was, then, a necessary part of any frontier settlement. Of the 150 men listed as gunsmiths in the city, state, and business directories of Colorado, 25 can be considered as *gunmakers*, five only old guns, and the balance were repairmen. Future research may change the category of some, but no significant changes are expected.

Of the 150 men mentioned above, two who lived in Denver were gunmakers of first quality, gun dealers, repairmen, and competitive shooters as well. In addition, both were contentious, and probably stubborn and bull-headed. The following excerpts from my study of Colorado gunsmiths tell the stories of these two men and their Rocky Mountain feud.

CARLOS GOVE

Of all the early Colorado gunsmiths, we probably have more information on Carlos Gove than any other. This is due to several different factors: 1) he was probably the most public of any, serving on both the City Council and the Fire & Police Board; 2) he served in the military and later drew both bounty and pension; 3) he did a lot of advertising and letter writing; 4) by the standards of the day he was "rich", and; 5) he wrote an autobiography for one of the "vanity press" efforts *PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF DENVER AND VICINITY* in 1898. Using this last source as a base and adding material from various other sources, we are able to come up with a fairly complete picture of Gove, both before and during his tenure in Denver.

Carlos Gove was born in Wentworth, New Hampshire, April 19, 1817, the only child of Enoch and Elsie (Savage) Gove. Both his father and grandfather were carpenters in Wentworth, but Gove chose not to follow their profession.

In 1833, he left home for Cambridge, Massachusetts where he found work in a brickyard. After a couple of years there, he served an apprenticeship to a gunsmith in Boston. This gunsmith has not been identified.

In 1837, Gove enlisted in the First U.S. Dragoons. After service in the Seminole Campaigns in Florida, he transferred to the Second Dragoons and served on the "Western Frontier" until his enlistment was up and on June 6, 1840, he was mustered out at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas Territory.

Soon after his discharge, Gove went to work for the Office of Indian Affairs. His primary duties were supposed to be those of a blacksmith. In his final contract Gove agrees to "bind himself diligently and faithfully to perform the duties of blacksmith for the United Nations of



Chippewa, Ottawa, and Pottowatomie Indians in the Council Bluffs Sub-Agency for an indefinite period beginning December 1, 1846." For this service he was to receive the munificent sum of \$480 per year. That he served as more than a blacksmith is indicated by the existence of both guns and tomahawks carrying the marking "C. GOVE POTTOWATOMIE AGENCY".

Less than a year elapsed under this final contract before Gove became dissatisfied. When the Office of Indian Affairs tried to get him to sign another contract, he refused. A letter from the Indian agent at Ft. Leavenworth Agency to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs date June 13, 1848 states:

The Pottowatomies, requested me to appoint Carlos Gove, as a gunsmith for the tribe.

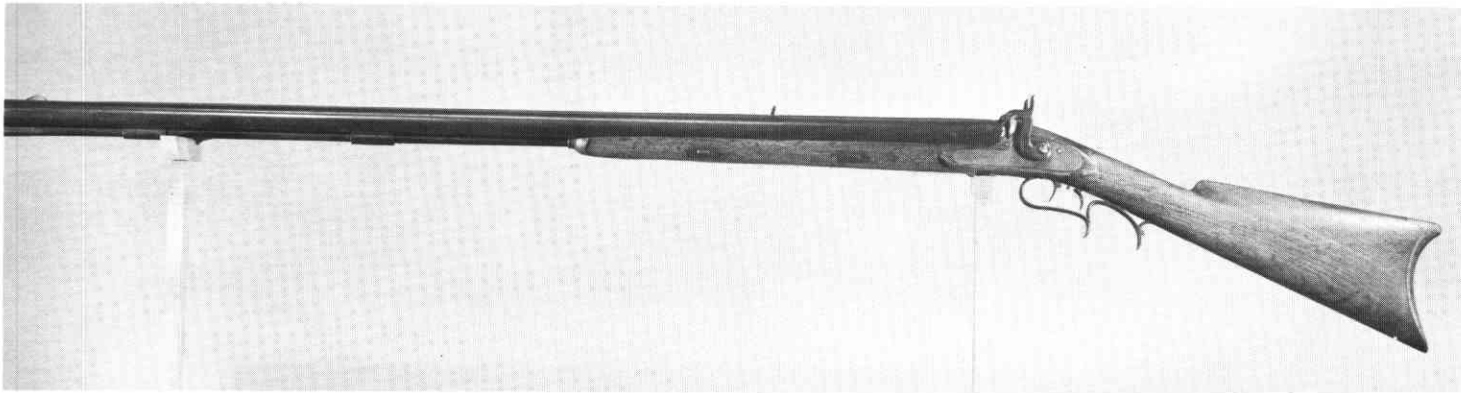
Gove being present refused to accept an appointment at the usual salary, \$480 per annum, the wages allowed by the Dept.

The Indians, then asked me to let him remain in their country, carry on a shop and look for his pay to each person that he might work for.

I told them that Mr. Gove might stay until I could report the case to you for your decision which I now do. As you are much better acquainted with Gove & his ability too, than myself, it is unnecessary for me to say anything on the subject.¹

An endorsement of this letter sent to Washington by Maj. Thomas Hardy on June 28, 1848 agreed with the idea of Gove working for the Indians instead of the Office of Indian Affairs and states:

It would have a tendency to keep the blacksmith at agricultural work & at the same time that the Indians would be paying for gun work



Double barrel rifle-shotgun combination marked "C. GOVE DENVER CITY" on top of the barrel. The rifle is .45 caliber and the shotgun 12 ga. Colorado State Historical Society Collection.

it would have the effect of discouraging many from having it done.²

This arrangement was approved and Gove remained at the agency for nearly four years during which he claimed to have made "hundreds of guns". Despite this claim very few guns survived with the agency address.

By 1852 Gove had moved to St. Joseph, Mo. He found enough business at this tiny frontier town to hire another gunsmith, Wilson Duncan, to assist him at his work. Despite this indication of prosperity only one gun is now known which carries the St. Joseph address. This gun, a heavy target pistol, with shoulder stock, is marked on the upper left flat of the barrel.

"C. GOVE
★
ST. JO"

In August of 1854 Gove returned to Council Bluffs, taking Duncan with him. At first there was little work and he was forced to let Duncan go. Duncan returned to his home in Quincy, Illinois and established a shop of his own, using tools that Gove had given him. By the fall of 1856 business had improved enough for Gove that he asked Duncan to return, which he did in April of 1857.

The Gold Rush of 1859 sparked Gove's interest in another move. In the spring of 1860 Gove left his wife and five children in Council Bluffs and went to St. Joseph and St. Louis to purchase a large amount of groceries and other supplies. The gunsmith shop was left in the hands of Duncan.

When the supplies (20 tons in all) arrived in Plattsmouth, Nebraska Territory, across the river from Council Bluffs, Gove purchased six wagons and eighteen span of oxen. Early in May Gove left for Denver, arriving there June 11. After two days he decided to locate closer to the gold seekers and erected a log store at Lake Gulch (about 5 miles from Central City). By the end of September he had sold all of his supplies and on October 3 returned to Council Bluffs. He was in Lake Gulch on September 30, when the 1860 census was conducted.

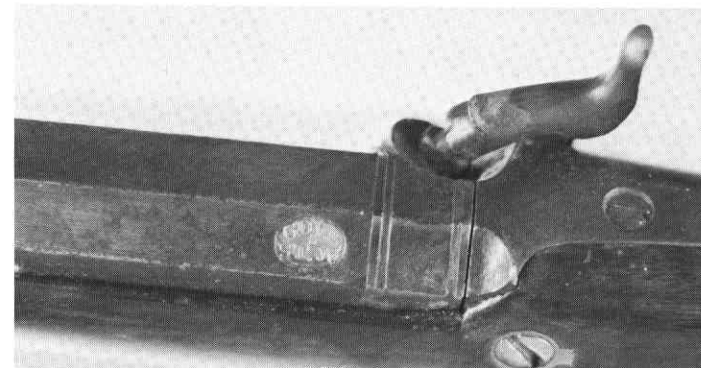
The following spring he again purchased supplies and set out for Lake Gulch, this time with 5 wagons and 16 spans of mules (mules are faster than oxen). By the time he had sold his load of supplies, in the fall of 1861, he decided that the grocery business was too competitive and that he should return to the gun business.

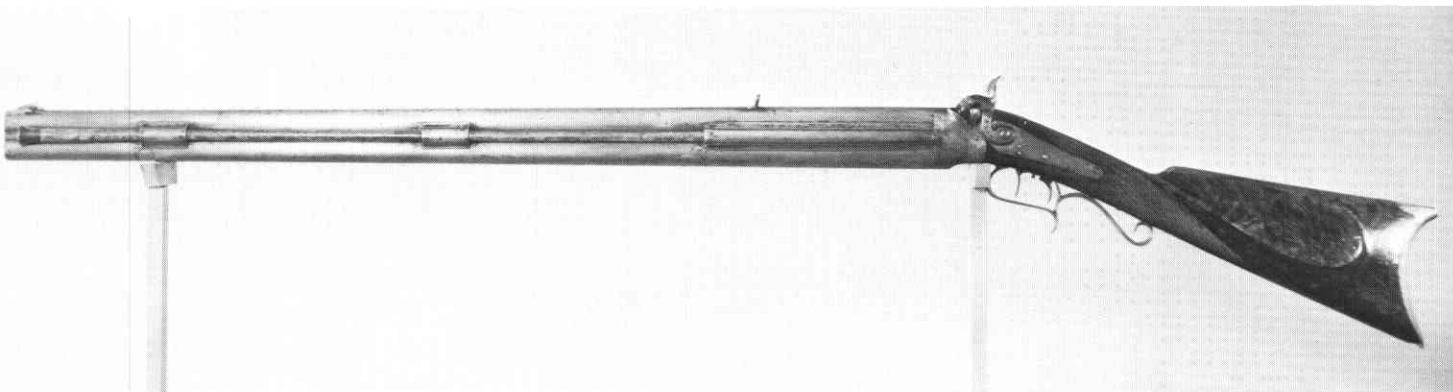
Returning to Council Bluffs, he picked up his wife and children, now numbering six, recovered his shop equipment from Duncan and again set out for Denver where he established his gunsmith shop in the fall of 1862 on Blake St. between E & F Streets. The business proved quite successful and soon he had to employ other gunsmiths. At the peak of his business he employed seven full time gunsmiths, as well as twenty-five to thirty other employees. Among the gunsmiths employed by Gove were: J. M. Hamilton, C. R. Sieber, George Schoyen, Olaf Schoyen, Patrick Hand, Almon Dibble, and Anslow Buhlmer.

In the mid 1860s Gove and his major competitor, Morgan Rood, had quite a feud. Both claimed to be not only the



Buggy rifle marked in a gold cartouche at the rear of the barrel: C. GOVE ★ ST. JO. The .33 caliber barrel is 12 1/8 inches long, excluding the false muzzle. It is 30 inches long with the stock attached and is equipped with a single set trigger. This may be the only surviving gun made by Gove in St. Joseph.





Double barrel side by side rifle marked only "C. GOVE" on the barrel. Both barrels are .44 caliber. Colorado State Historical Society Collection.

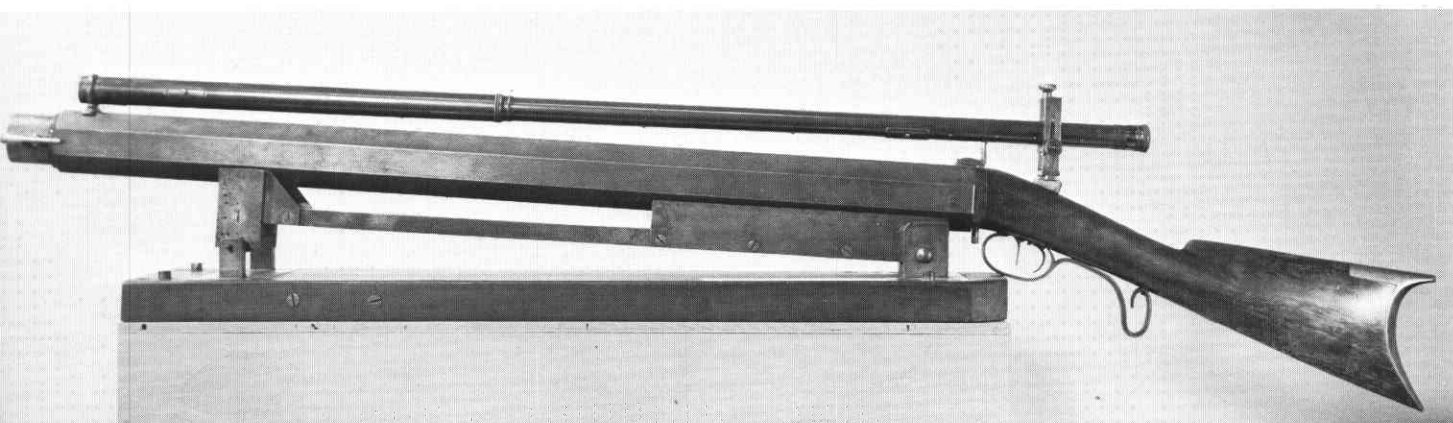
best gunmaker in the Rocky Mountain area but also to be the finest shot. This rivalry led to challenges, counter challenges and eventually a shooting match, the outcome of which is clouded by charges of cheating and payoffs. This culminated in the spring of 1866 in a mudslinging contest in the Denver papers. Gove used the "DENVER GAZETTE" for his diatribes and Rood used the "ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS" for his. (For some of the more interesting letters, see M. L. Rood.)

On September 2, 1872 Gove formed a partnership with John P. Lower. Gove's son-in-law Frank Church, was also part of the firm, which was called C. Gove & Co. In 1874 they moved to 340½ Blake Street and in 1875 Lower left the partnership and took over the store of F. W. Freund at 381 Blake. Gove changed the name of the firm to C. Gove & Sons. The "sons" consisted of Frank Church and Oliver Gove. This remained until 1880, when Oliver left to go prospecting; the name was then changed to C. Gove & Son, which it remained until 1884 when Gove decided to "retire". While the firm name changed from time to time, the name of the store remained "Denver Armory". Throughout all the name changes, Gove continued to mark the guns made in his shop only "C. GOVE". The early guns, made between 1862 and 1865, also have the address "DENVER CITY". From 1866 to 1876, the address was "DENVER C.T." (Colorado Territory). After Colorado became a state in 1876, the address, "DENVER, COL" was used.

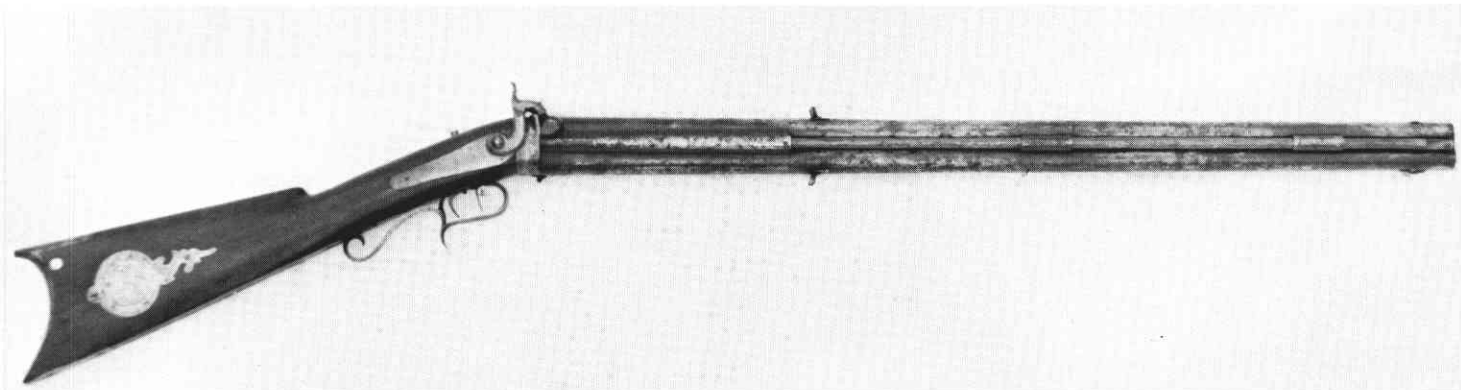
In 1884, Gove sold his entire business. The gun part was purchased by George Schoyen and Daniel Butt, who maintained the Blake St. store, and the sporting goods part was purchased by Frank Church and Henry Bostwick. Gove maintained his "gunsmithing" listing in the city directories until the expiration of his last term on city council; thereafter he was listed with no occupation.

In his later years, Gove was active in politics, serving on the police, fire, and sewer boards in Denver. Gove died July 17, 1900, leaving a widow and eight of his nine children. The surviving widow, Teresa (Weeks), was Gove's third wife, who married him in 1875. The children were: Charles (1851), (by his first wife, Flora Woodworth), James (1854), Phoebe (1855) John (1857-1871), Oliver (1859), William (1861), Belle (1863), Bert (1867), (all by his second wife, Mary E. Wood), and Aileen Claire (1885) by his third wife.

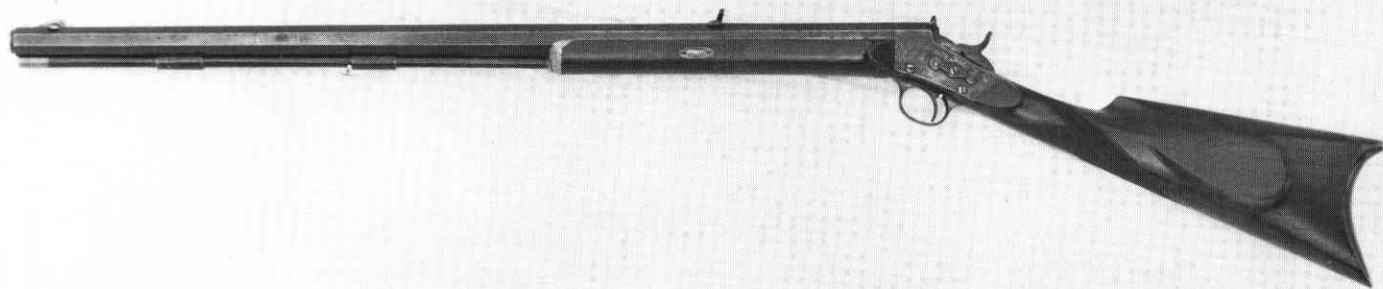
The guns produced by Gove may be divided, roughly, into two types: the muzzle loaders made entirely by him in the early period, and the alterations or "improvements" made on commercial action in the later cartridge period. Because on the large numbers of gunsmiths employed by Gove, the guns of each period are not always identical, but they WILL show characteristics which will enable them to be identified, even if the markings have been lost. These characteristics, applicable equally to both the early and late periods, are:



Another Gove bench rifle of later date, marked "C. GOVE, DENVER, COL." Among the differences from the other bench rifles are the attached machine rest, method of attaching the false muzzles, and telescope elevation mechanism. Colorado State Historical Society collection.



Double barrel swivel breech rifle marked only "C. GOVE" on the barrel. Both barrels are .44 caliber and 31 inches long. This is quite heavy for a hunting rifle weighing over 14 pounds. The barrels are released for turning by pushing the button on the top of the wrist.

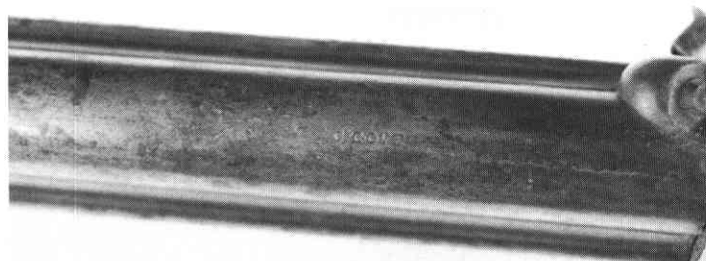


Gove-Remington No. 2 rifle. Gove's modifications to this gun consist of a new barrel, sights, forearm, wiping rod and butt stock. The action was unaltered. The 28 inch octagon barrel is .44/40 caliber.

1. heavy butt stocks, usually with an oval or "St. Louis" cheek piece on the left side
2. heavy iron "Kentucky" style butt plate
3. key fastened fore end with pewter tip (if present)
4. hickory ramrod retained by iron under rib and thimbles

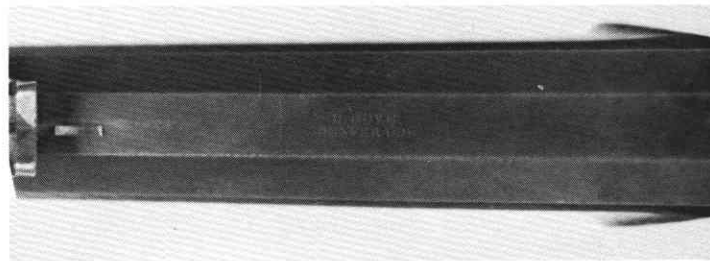
In the early, or percussion, period, Gove's production was basically limited to three types of gun: hunting rifles, target rifles, and shotguns. Very few pistols were made, as the production was geared to the needs of the customers. In a frontier area such as Denver, the primary needs were for hunting and protection, thus the preponderance of hunting rifles and shotguns. As Denver became more civilized, the target rifle was available for recreational purposes.

The guns of the later, or cartridge, period were mostly



Closeup of the marking on the Gove swivel breech rifle. The "C. GOVE" marking without the address is early.

alterations of commercial actions. In some cases, this consisted only of the addition of the Gove style stock and cleaning rod. These alterations are found mostly on Sharps and Remington actions, with an occasional alteration of some other action. The most commonly found is the so called "under lever" alteration of the Remington rolling block action. Gove advertised these as "Gove's improved breech-loading rifles" but he never patented the "improvement", possibly because Frank Freund already held the patent on it! The Remington action is altered by adding a lever to the bottom of the action which both operates the breechblock and acts as the trigger guard and pistol grip. This longer lever gives greater leverage both for extracting and for seating the cartridge. These were made in both the hunting and the target styles, with the hunting style having a cleaning rod and set triggers and the target style not.



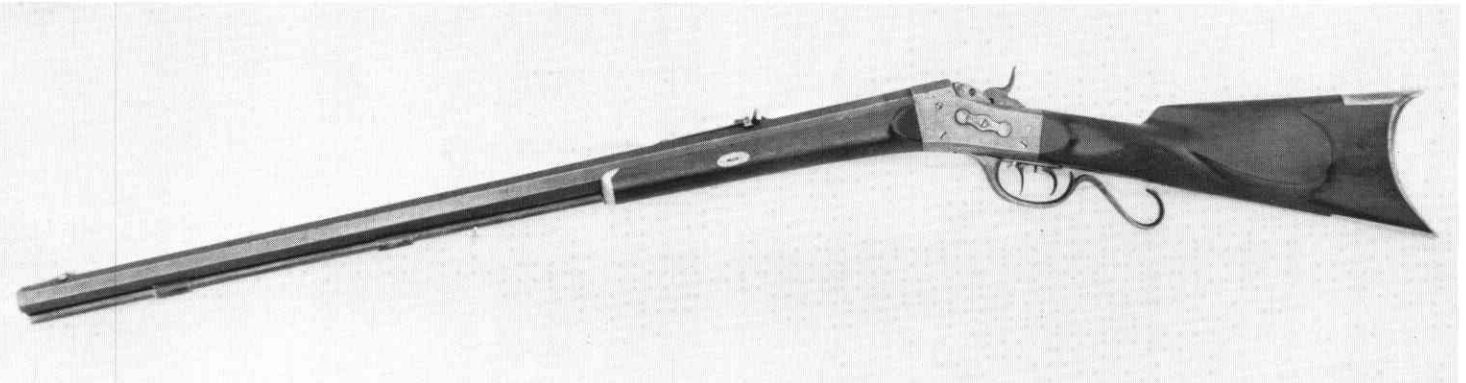
Closeup of the barrel showing the "C. GOVE, DENVER, COL." marking, which was the last one used. The barrel is also engraved "B. H. CAMPBELL" in front of the sight. Campbell, a Denver merchant, was probably the original owner of this gun.



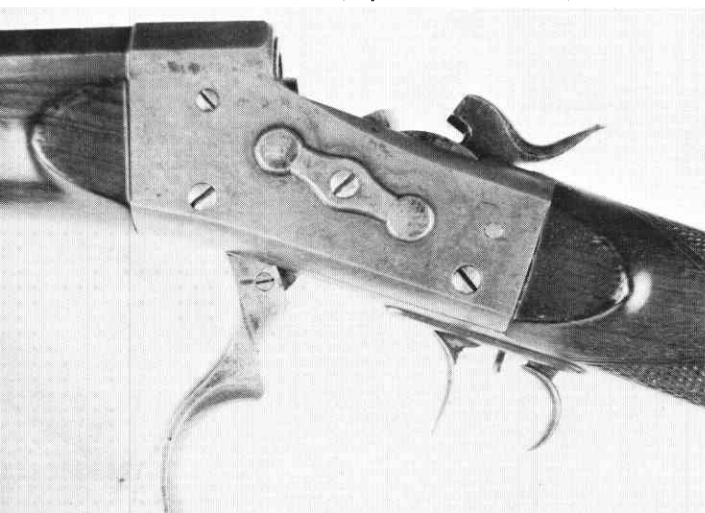
Gove-Maynard rifle marked with the last marking on the right side of the frame. The 26 inch barrel has been modified to a cartridge similar to the .40/50 bottleneck, the buttstock has been changed, and the tang sight and breech have been modified.



Gove-Remington under lever Creedmoor rifle with 34 inch .44/105 caliber half octagon barrel. This rifle is mounted with both tang and heel position vernier rear sights and a spirit level windgauge front sight. It was the prize at a match in Denver in 1876.

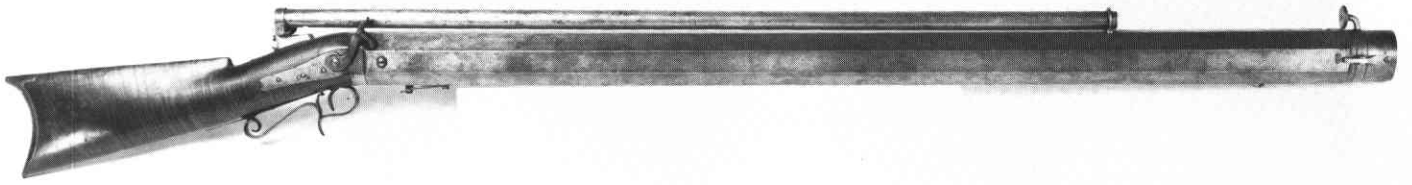


Gove-Remington under lever sporting rifle marked "C. GOVE, DENVER, COL." on the 32 inch .44/90 caliber barrel. This is a deluxe grade of underlever rifle with checkered grip and double set triggers.



In addition to the guns made and altered by Gove, he sold large numbers of guns by other makes. After William Hawken left Denver in 1864, Gove kept a supply of "Hawken's" rifles on hand. In the 1870's he was the largest dealer in Sharps rifles west of the Mississippi. He received his first large shipment of cartridge sporting rifles from the Sharps factory in August of 1879 and before he retired in 1884 sold over 1000 Sharps, mostly plain hunting and military rifles. Unlike his one-time partner and later competitor, J. P. Lower, he did not mark the guns he sold, only those he altered.

Closeup of the under lever sporting rifle with the lever down, showing details of the lever-breechloading link and the set triggers.



The heaviest known Colorado gun is this target rifle made by Rood in 1864. The 48 inch long barrel is 2 inches across the flats. The gun weighs 57 pounds. Robert Eckert collection.

MORGAN L. ROOD

Morgan Rood was born in Rochester, New York, on January 31, 1816. After serving his apprenticeship (with a blacksmith, according to the census report of 1830) he worked for several gunsmiths before moving to Calhoun County, Michigan. There he acquired a homestead (160 acres) near the small community of Corvis and, on April 11, 1841, married Nancy Maria Black, a local girl.

Calhoun County was a thriving frontier settlement: several of the westward-migrating gunsmiths of Rochester settled there. John Miller of Battle Creek, E. K. Purdy of Schoolcraft and C. H. Beach of Marshall are among the better known ones.

In December, 1851, Rood moved from the farm into the town of Marshall with his wife and three children — a girl born in 1842 and boys born in 1845 and 1847. The reasons for the move were two-fold. First, Marshall was closer to the center of activities and a better location for a gunsmith; and, second, they were having marital problems and he thought a change of scene might help. Less than two months after the move, Nancy left him. After a brief attempt at reconciliation, he filed for a divorce, which was granted on October 3, 1852. By all accounts, Rood was a very difficult man to get along with, much given to profanity and cruelty, but still he was granted custody of the children.

1853 was an eventful year for Rood. On August 4, he married Mary Ann Gifford, the eighteen year old daughter of the widow he had been boarding with while his new house was being built. On November 22, he was granted a patent (#10,259) on a revolving rifle.

The patent covered an improvement to Miller's patent of 1829 whereby a single motion of the crank on the right side of the gun both cocked the hammer and revolved the cylinder. It was quite complicated and, except for the addition of the "smoke-guard", has little to offer. The smoke guard was attached to the topstrap and directed the frame of discharge upwards, away from the face of the shooter and helping to prevent accidental discharges.

The mid-1850s were a busy time. The frontier nature of the town resulted in a large demand for guns. Besides the patented revolving rifles, he made single, double and triple barrel hunting rifles and heavy target rifles. At least four gunsmiths are known to have been employed by Rood

in Marshall: John Clark, Charles B. Mattoon, Aaron Sanders and Chauncey Saunders. All except Aaron Sanders operated their own shops after Rood left Michigan.

In 1856, after less than three years of marriage, Rood moved out of his home and filed for divorce, charging adultery and naming as correspondents the four gunsmiths named above, among others. Mary counter-sued, charging extreme cruelty. After a long and bitter contest, mostly over the property, Rood left Marshall for the goldfields in California. The divorce was granted to Mary Rood on June 11, 1858, after Rood left. She was awarded custody of their son, Isaac M., (1854) and the real estate owned by Rood in Corvis and Marshall. According to documents filed by her lawyer Jonathan Van Arman (who, incidently, was another of the co-respondents) in 1856, this property was worth between five and six thousand dollars.

It is not known where Rood visited or lived while in California, but by March 1, 1860, he was reported as being "at Pikes Peak goldfield in the Territory of Kansas (sic)."³ The territorial limits were not well defined at this time, but Rood was in Denver. There is some evidence that Rood worked with Sam and William Hawken when he first arrived, but the exact date is not known. In 1862, both Rood and Hawken moved to F Street. On April 4, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported that William Hawken "has moved his gun shop to F Street, sign of the Big Gun". The next day, Rood started his first ad in the same paper:

M. L. Rood, at his shop on F Street, near Larimer, challenges the West for excellence in repairing guns, pistols and anything in the gun shop line. Call around if you want well (sic) and cheap work. He wants a match to shoot with rifle, 500 yards or over.

A lithograph by Matthews of F Street shows the sign described for Hawken's shop on "M. L. Rood's Gun Shop". Whether this is coincidence or evidence that they shared the F Street shop is not known. By 1864, his ads had expanded to include the manufacture of "single, double, and three barrel gain-twist rifles, revolving rifles of his own patent, and target rifles."

On September 11, 1864, a gunsmith working for Rood, Henry Hocum, was test firing a shotgun he had repaired

and accidentally ignited several kegs of black powder. The resulting explosion destroyed Rood's shop, critically injured Hocum, and cut and bruised Rood. Rood's injuries, first thought to be minor, affected his eyesight so that he required a telescope for shooting at all except long ranges.

Rood moved into new quarters two blocks down F Street, below Blake, in November. The ad in the November 15 *Rocky Mountain News* carried the announcement that he had a new engine lathe in his new shop and could handle any type of gun work.

Rood and Gove were the two largest gunsmiths and gun dealers in Denver during the Civil War period. They were rivals not only in sales and repairs, but in shooting. Both were fine shots, with Gove, perhaps, being the better shot at short ranges and Rood the better at long range. One of their match results made the newspapers, but other matches did. On September 28, 1865, Coose Wilson, a friend of Gove's, challenged Rood to a match and was soundly beaten. Another match, involving Charles Cubb, led to a lawsuit and much hard feelings, as Rood thought that the whole thing had been instigated by Gove. The matter simmered over the winter and Gove started a feud in the papers. Gove's side, which appeared in the *Gazette*, we know only from Rood's answers, which were in the *News*. (There appear to be no surviving copies of the *Gazette*.) Rood's first reply on April 3, 1866, states:

I have had a standing offer before him (but never made it public) to shoot ten successive matches for \$100 each, at 550 yards, and would put up the money any day. But as it is now, I do not know when I can shoot — I am near-sighted, and will acknowledge his eyes and skill in open sight shooting superior to mine, also his nerve, experience, or judgment in wind, and he is clear ahead of me in skulduggery and foul play. Now, therefore, it becomes necessary to divide it into small matches to keep him from playing foul, and shooting long range, for he says in his advertisement his guns, in point of power and accuracy, are second to none, and that is what I claim for mine. I depend on my guns, not my nerve. I will still hold to the same offer when I can get time to leave my work.

Gove's answer in the *Gazette* is not extant, but Rood's in the *News* on April 9, states "... when he can show himself something like a man and comply with my offer, I will give him all the shoot he wants, but as I said before, I could not shoot at present, neither will I allow him to pick the ground or set the time." Another letter on April 12 goes on:

Thank you Mr. Gove. I am not as well posted in rowdy phrases as yourself, but that's owing to a man's bringing up. As for my being a third-class marksman, perhaps it is so, and that is why you are so anxious to shoot with me. As for what you say of my guns it is a lie. I should be willing



The barrel marking of the 57 pound Rood rifle is typical of the barrel markings used at both Marshall and Denver.

to put up any amount of money and let you shoot both guns if you were honest, but my first acquaintance with you taught me better and has proved so ever since, for instance, when you came to me on the morning prior to our first match, before daylight and proposed playing off on your old and best friends, naming them, one of whom I recollect was Mr. Pfouts, and then afterwards played off on me. You put me in mind of a man with more wind than brains, blowing about skating in mid-summer, for you know I have got some double rifles engaged and cannot shoot now, (but will on your return). Why did you not take up my verbal challenges for the past year? You shall not play this game to hurry me into a match and get me flustered, and in that way make up for the deficiency in your gun, nor shall you try to avoid shooting at long range unless you can get under a bluff out of the wind where power is not required.

Gove's next effort, on April 13, accused Rood of having paid a man to throw a match, selling gunpowder to the Indians, having two wives and being "not fit to work in a first class shop or to handle a good gun." Rood replied on April 16:

Mr. Gove don't seem to like it much because I exposed his meanness in the sham match, to swindle his best friends, but it is true, and I am willing to testify to all the particulars, and then there are some that will recollect circumstances that will confirm it. As for Bazzill, I never gave him a cent to throw off, and as for my giving him money to leave with, is a lie. I always thought Gove did, because he was one of my most important witnesses in the case between myself and Charles Cubb, in which, circumstances go very strongly to show that there was an understanding between Gove and Cubb to swindle me out of that thousand dollars, and divide it between them. As for the two pounds of powder,

ROOD'S **GUN SHOP AND STORE**

F STREET, BELOW BLAKE, DENVER COLORADO.

Manufactures Single, Double and Three Barrel Gain Twist Rifles: also, Six-shooting Rifles of my own patent. All kinds of repairing done with neatness and dispatch, and all work warranted. I have and keep constantly on hand an assortment of

Breech-Loading Rifles.

revolvers, Derringer's, cartridges of all kinds, powder, lead, caps, knives, flasks, gun wads, game bags, etc. A fine lot of double-barreled shot guns, and everything kept in any gun store west of the Missouri river. Also, target and telescopes made to order and warranted. All orders will receive prompt attention. A liberal amount of patronage solicited.
M. L. ROOD.

Rood's ad in the 1866 *Denver City Directory* reflects the words used in most of his advertising whether in directories, newspapers or handbills. One, two and three barrel rifles, six shot revolving rifles and telescopes were common features of his ads until 1880.

sold to the Indians, for fifty dollars, I was informed that Robert LeCavalier did so one day when I was out shooting, but denied it to me, and kept the money. As for the two wives leaving me, it is just the reverse. I got a divorce from each of them, and so would any decent man. I hope he don't mean to say that I was a Mormon, and had them both at one time, he either don't care what he says, or means to lie. He had better go or write, to Marshall, Calhoun County, Michigan, and inform himself about my character, and as for this place, I will leave it to them that know me. As for my honesty let him show one dishonest act, in me. As for my workmanship I can do as fine a job on the outside, and a better job on the inside of a gun than this blowhard. My guns seem to suit the hunters very well. He seems anxious to drive me into a match, when I have given ample reasons, for not shooting at present, but if he ever returns to this place, I will try and make it my business to shoot with him till he is satisfied. He would like to have me own him the champion gunsmith, but I can't do that, but will own him champion in lying and swindling and foul play.

The Robert LeCavalier mentioned in Rood's letter entered the feud in the *News* on April 20. He denied having sold the powder to the Indians and went on to accuse Rood of stealing money from drunken soldiers and cheating one of his apprentices out of money owed him. Rood's last letter in this series was directed at LeCavalier rather than Gove. By this time, it has degenerated into a shouting match and is not worth repeating. Suffice it to say that Rood denied

everything in LeCavalier's letter. Support for Rood's position comes from the fact that LeCavalier had been fired by Rood and went to work for Gove and that the apprentice he had supposedly cheated continued to work for him after completing his apprenticeship.

There is no record of any shooting match between Rood and Gove after this long and bitter exchange. They did compete with their guns in the local fairs and expositions. At the Colorado Agricultural Society Fair on October 1866, Rood won the first prize of \$3 for the best display of firearms. A year later, both displayed, but the judges did not choose to give an award in this category. In 1873, they again both displayed at the Colorado Industrial Association Fair, but the prize for best gun was won by F. W. Freund.

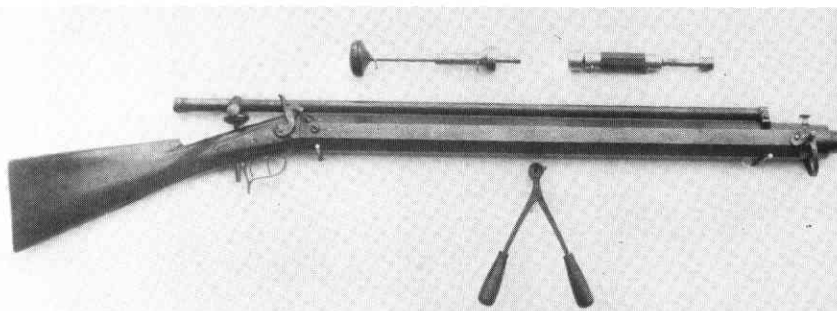
The surviving guns of Morgan Rood may be divided into two categories, hunting and target. The majority are muzzleloading hunting rifles with one, two or three barrels. The target guns have a tendency to be very heavy, with one specimen weighing 57 pounds! Although he advertised "six shooting revolving rifles of his own patent" in most of his ads, none are known today.

Over the years, Rood employed many gunsmiths. In 1866 he employed three — Patrick Hand, Joseph Jordan, and Ernest Pfisterer. After a fire destroyed his second store on March 31, 1874, he lost most of his interest in the gun business. He did open a new store, still at 202 15th, but it was primarily a sales outlet, with little time or effort devoted to gunsmithing. The main reason for this was Rood's health, which had declined since the explosion in 1864. He suffered another stroke after the second fire which partially paralyzed him and made it impossible for him to shoot or handle his gunsmithing tools.

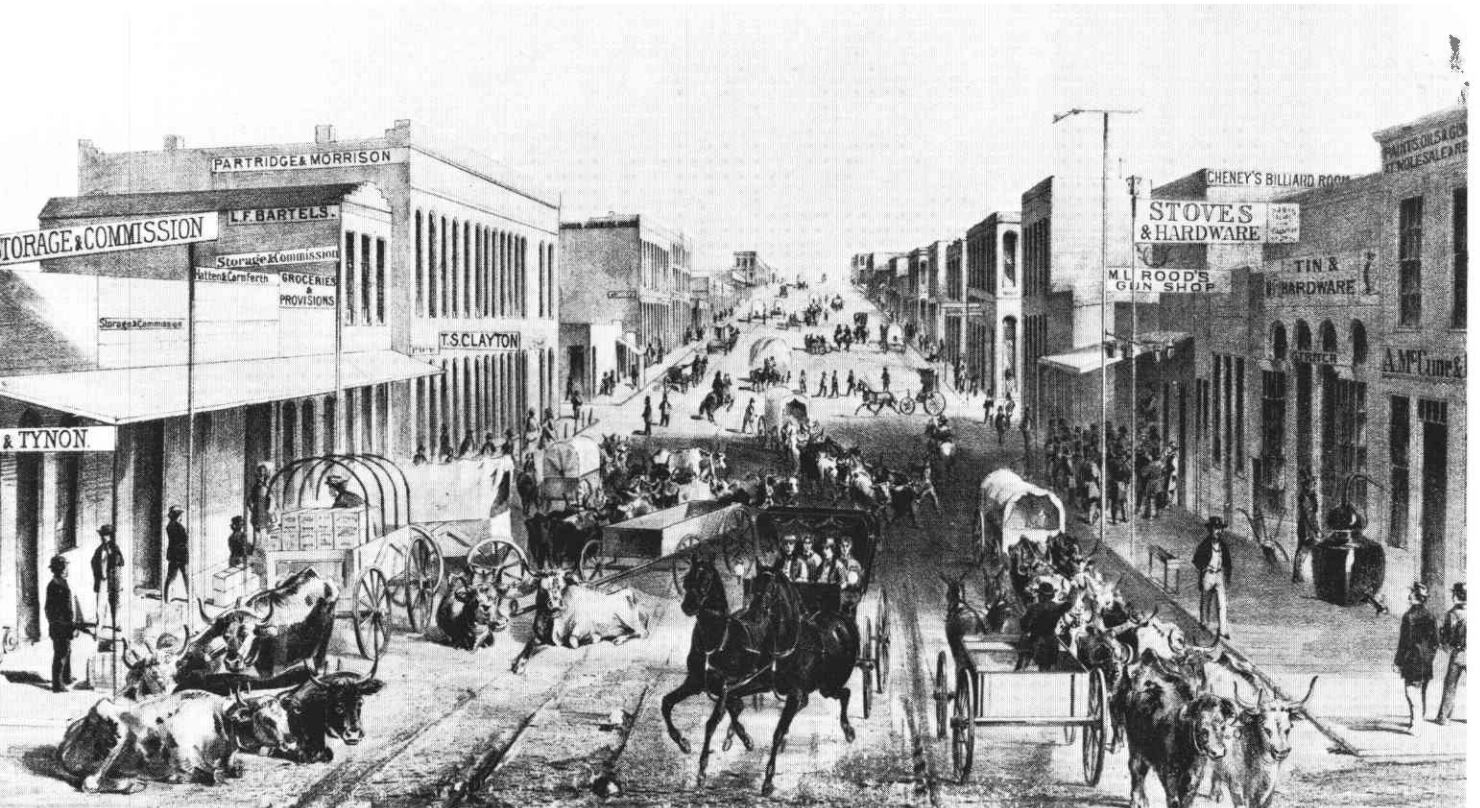
The store was left in the hands of the clerks most of the time after 1876 and he spent his time resting and traveling with his third wife, Ann (Rickford), whom he married on February 7, 1868. Rood died in Denver on November 25, 1881, after suffering another stroke while on a trip in the mountains.

NOTES

- 1 National Archives Record Group 75, Section M434, Roll 302, June 1, 1848
- 2 Ibid., June 28, 1848.
- 3 James B. Greenough vs. Morgan L. Rood et al. Circuit Court, County of Calhoun, Michigan. Affidavit of James B. Greenough.



Heavy bench rest rifle marked "C. GOVE, DENVER, C.T." This 27 pound rifle was supposedly used by Gove to establish a record for percussion guns of 217 points out of a possible 225 at the Creedmoor range on Long Island. It is complete with bullet mold, swage, and starter.



Lithograph of F. Street, Denver taken from a photograph taken by Matthews in 1864. It shows the Rood shop and its advertising a weathervane in the shape of a gun. This is similar in description to one used by Samuel Hawken, but this may be merely coincidence.

NOTICE.

Denver, Col., September 2, 1872.

Dear Sir:

Having entered into co-partnership under the style and name of the firm of **C. GOVE & CO.** for the purpose of carrying on the **GUN BUSINESS.** We would respectfully call the attention of our friends and patrons to the annexed list of Guns, Rifles, Pistols, Ammunition and materials of various kinds kept in store, which consists of the finest assortment of Breech-Loading Double Guns, and apparatus for same, there is to be found in the western country. From an experience of over 21 years (each) in the gun business, we feel confident of our ability to satisfy our customers, both wholesale and retail. We employ first-class gunsmiths in our manufactory, and still continue to make to order our well known Rifles, such as are used by the Pioneers of the Rocky Mountains, and the Buffalo Hunters of the Plains, with all modern improvements. Orders for special guns and repairing promptly attended to.

Yours respectfully,

CARLOS GOVE, of Denver,
JOHN P. LOWER,
203 1/2 BLOK STREET, DENVER, COLO.

C. GOVE & CO.,
Denver, Colorado.

C. GOVE & CO.,

AGENTS FOR

WINCHESTER
REPEATING



ARMS
COMPANY

Oriental Powder,

MAZOUZ'S TELESCOPE. Also Importers and Dealers in
GUNS, SHOT, LEAD, FISHING TACKLE,
And all articles connected with the trade, wholesale and retail.

The following list comprises some of the leading articles kept constantly in store, and will be furnished to our friends at the lowest market prices, according to quality and style:

- | | |
|--|---|
| GOVE'S Muzzle Loading Rifles, Single and Double. | ALLEN'S New Model Pocket Revolver all sizes. |
| GOVE'S Breech Loading Rifles, Single and Double. | ALLEN'S Breech Loading Derringers. |
| REMINGTON'S Breech Loading Rifles. | Fancy Engraved Gold and Silver Plated Pistols. |
| SHARP'S " " " | Metal Cartridges of all kinds. |
| MAYNARD'S " " " | Eley's Wire, do. for Shot Guns. |
| WINCHESTER " Repeating " | " Wads, Caps, Shot Concentrators, etc., etc. |
| LEMAN'S Sporting and Indian " | " B. L. Shells, Pin, and C Fire, 8-10-12-14-16 gauge. |
| J. P. LOWER'S Single Guns. | DIXON'S Breech Loading Implements all kinds. |
| COMMON BELGIAN Double Guns. | Powder Flasks, Shot Pouches, Bells. |
| ENGLISH Stub Twist and Laminated Steel Guns. | Breech Loading Cartridge Carriers. |
| * ENGLISH Breech Loading Double Guns, 8-10-12-14 Bore. | Pistol Holsters and Belts, Plain, and Fancy. |
| ENGLISH Leather Box Cases for Ditto. | Hunting Knives and Scabbards, |
| BUSSEY'S Patent Gyro Pigeons & Trap Fishing Tackle, Powder, Shot & Lead. | Pocket Cutlery of various kinds. |
| GOLDS Army, Navy and Pocket Cartridge Revolvers. | FIELD GLASSES, Pocket Compasses, and Microscopes. |
| SMITH & WESSON'S Army, Navy and Pocket Cartridge Revolvers. | |

* Among our stock of English Breech-Loading Double Guns, may be found some of the most celebrated makes—such as W. R. PAPER, JAMES PURDEY, W. & C. SCOTT & SON, W. W. GREENER, A. WOODHILL, and various others. Any Guns we may not have in stock, can be furnished at shortest notice. Gun Materials of all kinds constantly in store.

C. GOVE & CO.,
No. 42 Blake Street, Denver, Col.

The original flyer announcing the partnership of Gove and Lower also lists most of the guns and other items available at their shop.



Spencer sporting rifle as first offered in 1864.



The basic Army rifle supplied by Spencer during the Civil War.



A well worn Spencer Civil War carbine.