

THE PALMETTO ARMORY COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA  
By.....Hugh Benet, Jr.

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HUGH BENET, JR.

About 110 years ago, a man by the name of Glaze made an assortment of weapons for the State of South Carolina. This was done in a small factory called the Palmetto Armory, located in Columbia. I would be somewhat less than honest if I claimed that we now know all about Glaze, his factory or his weapons.

After 110 years, a war and a big fire, records are hard to come by, so a lot remains to be done.

However what we do know is due to the cooperation of a lot of historians in South Carolina and to the help of such men as Red Jackson, Henry Stewart, Jr., Sam Smith, Bob Abels, Mark Aziz, Harry Knode and many others. I will be glad to hear from members of our society whave information to add to that given here, or who take exception to what is said here, OR who wish to dispose of Palmetto Armory products.

Now to the matter at hand- - -William Glaze, the Palmetto Armory, it's products and that tender subject, "Fakes".

Scarely had South Carolina's volunteers returned from the Mexican War when the shadows of a larger conflict darkened. Prudent legislators, realizing the state's lack of weapons, were speedily made aware of her lack of industry capable of producing them, when in the Governor's Annual Report of 1850, it was apologetically noted that arms recently supplied to the militia had necessarily been obtained outside of South Carolina.

This situation was not at all unusual. At this time, not one southern state maintained an official arms manufactory, or subsidized or otherwise supported a private arms industry and nothing that could be so designated was to be found. In New England, on the other hand, there were numerous well-established factories capable of producing rifles, muskets, pistols, whatever was needed.

The remedy was simple enough, or so it appeared to the solons. Encourage someone to start an arms factory by authorizing the purchase of so many muskets, rifles, pistols, sabers, etc., to be made within the state with local talent. This opened all sorts of avenues, political economic and military and pleased everyone.

Accordingly, legislation was passed for the purpose, an attractive contract was offered, and it wasn't long before a new firm had been established in Columbia to apply for it. Thus, The Palmetto Armory was born.

The guiding hand of the Palmetto Armory was William M. Glaze, a South Carolinian whose many activities serve to puzzle and confuse us by the fragmentary proceedings. He is first noted in 1838, when he and a John Veal became partners and operated what may lossely be called a jewelry store. Veal was an established silversmith from 1827 to 1857, and his works were highly regarded. A few pieces survive marked Veal & Glaze . The partnership was short-lived, for in 1844 we find Glaze operating independently. From this period dates a Darling pepperbox marked W. Glaze Patent and Columbia S. C. Patent 4.

In January, 1848 , Glaze entered into a partnership with T.W. Radcliff, and together they operated as silversmiths and jewelers. The two men seem to have been good friends, and they were to be associated in many other ventures. Again, guns would appear to have been a part of the stock in trade.

At this point the confusion starts. Glaze the silversmith and retail jeweler is perfectly understandable. But another source has it that by 1851 he "had an established reputation as an excellent blacksmith and saw gin manufacturer."

The difference between a blacksmith and a silversmith is rather apparent, and needs no comment.

To further add to the confusion, Glaze was Secretary-Treasurer of the Richland Light Dragoons in 1848, and the tradition of cavalry as an elite, composed of gentlemen, had almost feudal force in that era -- especially since militia cavalry furnished its own mounts. So we may assume that he was of some social prominence. Moreover, Glaze, who seems to have been something of a politician, was on friendly terms with the governor who in 1847, gave him the impression that he could arm a proposed "flying" battery of artillery and later be paid back by the state.

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Here we find Glaze the businessman making what could have been a costly mistake. In brief, he improted several cannon barrels from the north, mounted them, and turned them over to the Richland Light Dragoons. Presumably, he also furnished caissons, limbers and harnesses. The record is somewhat vague on this point, but Glaze seems to have done the work in his own shops. He then tried to collect for his services. His friend was no longer governor, the Richland Light Dragoons did not have any money, and the state bluntly informed him that as far as it was concerned, the Ordnance Department knew nothing of his trans- actions and would have nothing to do with them.

Glaze worked harder getting his money than he did mounting the guns, but was paid eventually. He probably learned a lesson or two in dealing with the state functionaires that served him well a few years later.

But what was William Glaze? Silversmith, Blacksmith, merchant, politician, soldier, manufacturer, entrepreneur? The best answer seems to be that he was all of these things.

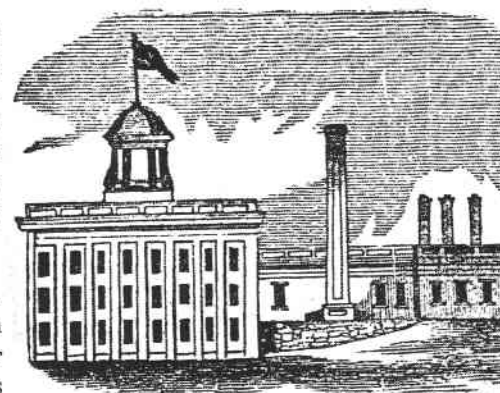
Another accomplished individual was a partner in the new venture. James S. Boatwright was also a man- ufacturer of cotton gins and saw mills and had a wagon and carriage shop, to boot. He, like Glaze, was highly regarded, and Boatwright was considered to be quite wealthy.

It is not surprising that one of Glaze's talents and experience should be awarded the state's contract.

Glaze seems to have been an energetic individual, because from the time the State Legislature authorized the purchase of locally made weapons, to April 15, 1851, when the contract was signed, he had persuaded Benjamin Flagg, an established New England manufacturer, to move his musket machinery to South Carolina and had also negotiated the purchase of the pistol machinery belonging to Asa H. Waters and Co. Moreover, he had erected a three-story building on Arsenal Hill, with a one story wing. The Armory

building's were approximately 64 by 154 feet. Included with the other machinery he installed was a "large fast-acting trip hammer and a steamdriven fan for the furnaces." Among the 40-odd workers he imported were machinists and iron workers, stockers and burnishers, all highly competent, many of whom brought their families with them and settled in Columbia. The net result was the largest arms manufactory south of Harper's Ferry, Virginia. So much for the myth of the leisurely southern businessman!

Actually, Glaze's work was simplified to some extent by a dearth of U. S. contracts in the New England area. Both Flagg and Waters were then without orders and had been since 1849, the official policy of the War Department having been radically changed, so as to confine purchases only to those arms and equipment which could not be made at the government arsenals at Harper's Ferry, Virginia, or Springfield, Massachusetts.



PALMETTO ARMORY

But this in no way detracts from the laurels due Mr. Glaze. He must have been a man of determination and rather firm convictions, because not only did he move men and machinery to Columbia and enter into a contract for muskets, rifles, pistols, cavalry and artillery sabers, including all equipment such as scabbards and bayonets, he put up a completion bond of \$260,000. This was twice the amount of the contract, and was and is a substantial sum.

The Palmetto Armory was located at the northeast corner of Laurel and Lincoln Streets, in the weatern reaches of Columbia, facing what is now the Governor's Mansion, but was then a part of the Arsonal Academy a state military school. The area was known as Arsenal Hill because it contained the State Arsenal. How the old officer's quarters, now the Governor's Mansion, escaped the tender ministrations of Sherman's army is something of a mystery, when one considers what happened to the rest of Columbia in 1865.

However, we digress. With the signing of their contract, Glaze and Flagg got to business. Because of its interest, as well as its simplicity, the contract is reproduced in full.

The State of South Carolina

This Agreement made and entered into between the State of South Carolina by Major James H. Trapier, ordnance officer for the State of South Carolina aforesaid, for and in behalf of the said State, of the First part and William Glaze and Benjamin Flagg of Columbia in the said State, of the Second part. Witnesseth,

That the said William Glaze and Benjamin Flagg agree and promise to furnish to the said Major J. H. Trapier or his successor in office for the use of the State aforesaid, the following arms to wit.

Six Thousand Muskets, One Thousand Rifles, One Thousand Pair Pistols, One thousand Cavalry sabres and one Thousand Artillery Swords, with their equipment complete. These arms and their component parts, to be manufactured within the State of South Carolina, of the best material and workmanship, and as far as practicable, of material and by mechanics obtained in the State foresaid \_\_\_\_\_

And the said William Glaze and Benjamin Flagg further stipulate to put their armory in operation by the first October. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-one, and to have completed and ready for inspection the said arms at the times and rate specified as follows, namely, Five Hundred Muskets, Three Hundred and fifty Rifles, Three hundred and Fifty pair of Pistols and Three Hundred and Fifty swords with the equipment for each complete during the month of January. One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-two. The same in February of the same year; and so on for every succeeding month of the same year, till the contract be completed -- It is understood between the parties aforesaid, that all arms manufactured under this contract shall be after the patterns adopted and now in the Army of the United States; but that the State reserves to herself the right to alter all or any of said Patterns, by the direction and according to the Judgement of the said Major James H. Trapier, Ordnance officer as aforesaid, or his successor in office, or of the Board of Ordnance; and should such alteration involve an increased cost of manufacture, a corresponding increase of price to be determined by the Board of Ordnance, shall be allowed \_\_\_\_\_

It is further understood that all arms manufactured under this contract, shall in their finished state, before acceptance be subject to the usual inspection and tests: and also that the parts of which they are composed shall in the process of their fabrication, be subjected at all times to inspection and proof by the Board of Ordnance, or Ordnance Officer, or other agent appointed by them or him for that purpose, and also that the parts shall interchange. \_\_\_\_\_

It is still further understood that the said William Glaze and Benjamin Flagg shall furnish the appropriate patterns and guages for verifying the principal dimensions and forms of the different parts of the arms manufactured under this contract. \_\_\_\_\_

And the said the State of South Carolina, by the said James H. Trapier, Ordnance officer as aforesaid agrees and promises that the said William Glaze and Benjamin Flagg, having faithfully performed all the stipulations made by them in this contract shall be paid as follows -- For the Muskets with equipment complete. Fourteen Dollars 50/00 (\$14.50) per piece.

Rifles with equipments - Fifteen Dollars 50/00 (\$15.50) per peice. Pistols with equipments, Fourteen Dollars and 50/00 (\$14.50) per pair; Swords and Sabres with equipment, Six Dollars 50/00 (\$6.50) each.

It is agreed also, that payment shall be made, at the expiration of each month, and for the arms which shall have been received during that month \_\_\_\_\_

In Testimony whereof, the State of South Carolina has caused the great seal of the State to be affixed hereto and the hand of the said Major J. H. Trapier, Ordnance officer as aforesaid, and the said William Glaze and Benjamin Flagg have hereunto set their hands and seals on this Fifteenth day of April - In the year of Our Lord, One thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty One. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Sealed and  
Delivered in the  
presence of --

/s/J. H. Trapier  
Maj. State Ordnance

(The words "with Equipments" being  
first interlined in the 6 & 7 lines of  
the second page)

/s/R. W. Colcock (witness to Execution by J. H. Napier)

Test

/s/C. O'Hanlon

/s/Wm. Glaze

/s/Benjamin Flagg

It is not known why Boatright did not sign the contract, nor is it known what the State meant by "Artillery Swords." Foot Artillery Swords were then quite popular, but so was the U. S. model artillery saber. The point is unimportant as will be seen. That Flagg actually was a signatory to the contract is convincing proof that he was actually in Columbia and active in the affairs of the Company. Very likely he acted as

production superintendent.

From all indications, the actual delivery of arms was held up to some extent. Perhaps the contract stipulation that local people should be employed where possible caused part of the trouble. Perhaps it was a bit more difficult to relocate men and machinery than Glaze and Flagg had envisioned.

In any event, on April 30, 1852 an extension of the completion date of the contract was authorized. This most interesting document, brief and to the point, also substituted 1,000 Cavalry Sabers for the 1,000 Artillery Swords originally specified. So far as it is known, no Artillery Swords were produced. We have never seen or heard of one, at any rate, and it would seem logical to so assume.

"Contract between William Glaze and Benjamin Flagg and The State of South Carolina For/Major Trapier

The undersigned, securities for Glaze and Flagg in their contract for furnishing to the State of South Carolina, certain small arms, do consent to the extension asked by them, as to the time of completion of the contract - namely, to the 1st December 1853 --- and also, to the following amendment of said contract - namely, that instead of 1000 Cavalry and 1000 Arty. Swords, they furnish 2000 of the former and none of the latter."

Regardless of the need for an extension of time for completion of the contract, the arms were delivered in due course and the State did not need to invoke the bond. However, not all of the contract was filled, as the following shows.

Ordnance Department  
May 8th 1853

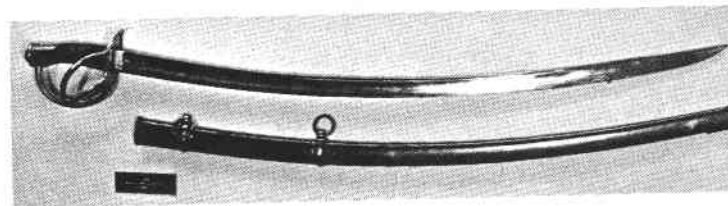
Messrs: Glaze & Co.

Gentlemen,

It is my duty to inform you that the remainder of the "appropriation for the defense of the State" will admit only of an allowance for the completion of the "Contract for Muskets & Rifles."

/s/W. R. Calhoun  
Major State Ordnance

Thus in a few lines, a contract is broken. Upon analysis, much is revealed, however. We have seen that the original contract was amended so that no artillery swords were to be furnished, and to our knowledge, no one has ever seen such a weapon that could be traced to Glaze. Now we see that the State could pay only for the completion of the contract as it applied to muskets and rifles. By May 8th, 1853, Glaze must have completed the order for 2,000 pistols, because they are to be found today, if one is lucky enough, and have been found in sufficient quantity to reinforce our belief. On the other hand, only one cavalry saber, marked Columbia, S. C. on the shoulder of blade and Wm. Glaze & Co. on right is known and is to be seen in the Charleston Museum. Notice that it is a dead ringer for the U. S. M1840 and extremely well made. It may well be that Glaze had furnished a small number of sabers to the state prior to May 8, 1853, but it is certain that he did not supply 2,000.



WM GLAZE & CO SABRE

Plain, servicable sabers patterned after the U. S. M1840 are to be found, marked Columbia S. C. These may be the product of the Palmetto Armory, but then again, they may not be. The uniformity of markings encountered in his firearms, together with his obvious pride in them, as demonstrated by the craftsmanship marking each weapon. Far more likely, the brass went into the foundry pots, and the steel blade into the furnaces.

But, the Columbia, S. C. marking of the otherwise unidentified sabers appears to have been struck by the Palmetto Armory's die. Caveat emptor, again.

The products of the Palmetto Armory are among the most desirable of American arms extant. They are extremely well made, and today are certainly among the rarest of any period in our history. There were fewer of the pistols produced, for instance, than were many of the so-called rare Colts, or of the M1855 pistol with shoulder stock made at Springfield. Moreover, everything about Glaze's products is top quality, be it metal or wood. The Palmetto Armory die itself is a work of art. Unfortunately, it, as well as the pistol

is being reproduced today, so it behooves the collector to be wary.

Shortly after the signing of the contract for new arms, Glaze had agreed to alter muskets for the State. The contract reads:

We, the Undersigned, do agree to promise to alter, from flint to percussion, the locks of all, or any portion of the muskets now belonging to the State of South Carolina - the work to be done in the best manner and on the same plan as that adopted by the United States.

We agree to promise further, to put all the locks in complete order - to reduce the springs so that they will work as well as if originally made for Percussion - and to put in new Springs wherever they are necessary --

Columbia, May 31 '51

Wm. Glaze & Co.

The Undersigned agrees & promises that the above named work having been faithfully & well executed the said Glaze, Flagg & Boatwright shall be paid for each musket, two dollars

/s/ G. H. Trapier  
Major Ordnance

Charleston, May 6th '51

What is considered to be one of the muskets Glaze re-

conditioned is shown, although it was not converted from flint to percussion. It has what was once a Springfield M1842 lock, dated 184. This mark can plainly be seen under a magnifying glass, the lock having been dressed with a heavy file at this point, but no attempt made to disguise the fact. The customary Palmetto marks have been struck in over the original lock markings, but the rest of the weapon is straight Springfield. If this had turned up within the last two years (1959-1960), it could only have been considered a poorly executed fake. As it was, it was found in 1952, well before new Palmetto dies had been made up. The barrel, dated 1851, had not been re-marked, nor has any other part of the weapon.



SPRINGFIELD M-1842 MUSKET  
RECONDITIONED BY GLAZE

An original .69 caliber Palmetto musket, showing much hard use, is also illustrated. This piece has the usual M1842 U. S. musket dimensions. The steel butt plate is marked SC on the tang. The barrel is marked only VP (Viewed and Proofed) and stamped with the small Palmetto tree which seems to have been the South Carolina Ordnance Department's acceptance proof. The barrel tang is marked SC and 1853. The lock is heavily stamped with the Palmetto Armory mark, with Columbia/ S. C. 1852 behind the hammer. The trigger guard is steel, the bands and forend cap are brass. The ramrod is shaped like the M1842 U. S. counterpart with the exception that its business end is cupped to fit over a ball. The bayonet lug is on top of the barrel in line with the sight, rather than under it, as on the U. S. model and is marked L.



PALMETTO MUSKET DATED 1852

Musketoons were not a part of the Glaze contract, so the specimen illustrated cannot really be considered as such. However, this .69 caliber weapon is not an example of the amateur gunsmith's art. The job was too well done for one thing, and it has not been sporterized commercially as were so many rifles and muskets, after the war. This is a little recognized fact, but in 1865 and thereafter surplus and captured weapons were jobbed to firms that made them into extremely serviceable sporting or birding pieces.

The wood in the musketoon's stock is of unusual quality and the piece is in almost new condition. In addition to the usual Palmetto musket markings, it is stamped W. G. & Co. on the left barrel flat. The ramrod has a heavy brass tip, totally unlike the standard ramrod, but it is threaded on the other end, as were most that were made for military use. This may, of course, be sheer



WILLIAM GLAZE & CO MUSKETOON

coincidence. It may be a wartime job, as William Glaze & Co. was an alternate name for the Palmetto Iron Works. A number of well-finished conversions, generally carbines, are to be found incorporating Palmetto parts, but the buyer had best beware unless he is familiar with the niceties of military minutiae.

The Palmetto rifle is the rarest of Glaze's products, which makes it rare indeed. Its scarcity is due in part to only 1,000 having been made, and to the capture and destruction of 500 of them when Sherman's army took the Citadel at Charleston.

It is a copy of the .54 caliber M1841 rifle which is and was then, known variously as the "Mississippi" rifle (After Colonel Jeff Davis' Mississippi regiment which used them in Mexico), the "Winsor" after Winsor, Vermont where many were made, and the "Jaeger." This was remarkably effective and certainly popular piece. The specimen examined showed no signs of every having had a sword bayonet stud, which is as it should be, because the U. S. model was originally issued without a bayonet. Thus, we may safely assume that no sword or saber bayonets were furnished by Glaze. The lock is dated 1852 and the barrel tang, 1853, while the butt plate is marked SC. All hardware is brass. The barrels are marked V P and with the usual small palmetto tree, and are stamped steel on the left barrel flat as well. This is the only Palmetto arm to carry the latter marking. SC is stamped on the tang of the breech plug. The type of rear sight with which the rifle was fitted is not known.

Somewhat puzzling is the purchase of 2,000 single shot horse pistols made after the U. S. M1842 at a time when many militia officers had purchased Colt pistols, and the fame of the Walker was abroad in the land. However, the explanation is simple enough. South Carolina wanted to be independent, to make its own arms. Machinery to manufacture the M1842 was within reach, but that for the more modern Colt was not. Moreover, the '42 was not patented and was a proven dependable weapon. As in all Palmetto weapons, the workmanship was excellent, and proofing was as strict as with the U. S. counterpart. The backstrap, trigger-guard and band were brass, as was the front sight and side plate. There was no rear sight, although some were added later, probably at the start of the Civil War. The steel lock was marked similarly to the rifle and musket, with most locks dated 1852 and most barrel tangs stamped 1853 and marked SC as well. The assumption is easily made that the parts were made in different years. The barrels were proofed VP and carried the usual palmetto tree, as well as Wm. Glaze & Co. on the left flat. They were caliber .54, and were not rifled. They faithfully followed the U. S. model in their swivel ramrods, as in all other respects.

In past years, palmetto locks have been put into U. S. model M1842 frames, and one such hybrid with a barrel marked Wm. Glaze and Bro. has been seen. Bro. is a strange substitute for Co.!

As in case with many other highly desirable martial handguns, the Palmetto pistol is now being reproduced in some quantity. The reproductions are well executed and hard to distinguish from the originals without close comparison. The die work on the Palmetto seal is particularly good, and no effort has been made to mark these weapons as reproductions. Using U. S. M1842 assemblies old marks have been dressed off, new dies made up, new marks stuck in. One admires the workmanship while deploring the motives of such people.

A close look at a fake and a genuine lock plate shows that the latter has the unmistakable appearance of age. Most of the plates that are to be found are similar in this respect, even if they have recently been polished. Also, seals are usually dim, and in many cases seem to have been struck on a slight angle. The fake, on the other hand has a deep and precise seal, and little sign of age because it was milled off before being remarked. However, a few vestigial pits remain, and judicious use of various commercial compounds could bring the fake lock into line with the real thing in a matter of just a few days.



FAKE PALMETTO PISTOL

Notice that the slug at the rear of both plates is nice and deep. This is characteristic of nearly all Palmetto lock plates.

A closer look at the Columbia/S. C. 1852 shows that the faker may have made a serious mistake. His 2 doesn't have the looped top that we see. But it may be that he faithfully copied a variant of Glaze's dies. Before damning a suspect piece (and from now on, all

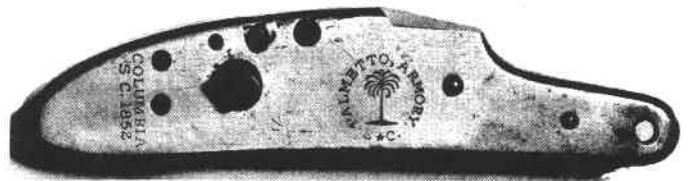
of them are suspect) one should check for other signs.

How new is the stock? Were inspector's marks removed from the old stock? Is the stock too worn to tell? How about the inletting? It is hard to fake the discoloration that comes from ail, dirt and age. Check the barrel marks. Are there signs of welding? Overstrikes? How about the seal on the lock plate? Here we hit a distressing fact. Glaze made no less than 9000 locks. He probably made more. He marked an unknown quantity of U. S. material -- probably in excess of 5000 muskets. The seal is a work of art, but easily worn and hard to reproduce so that minor variations between dies were inevitable.

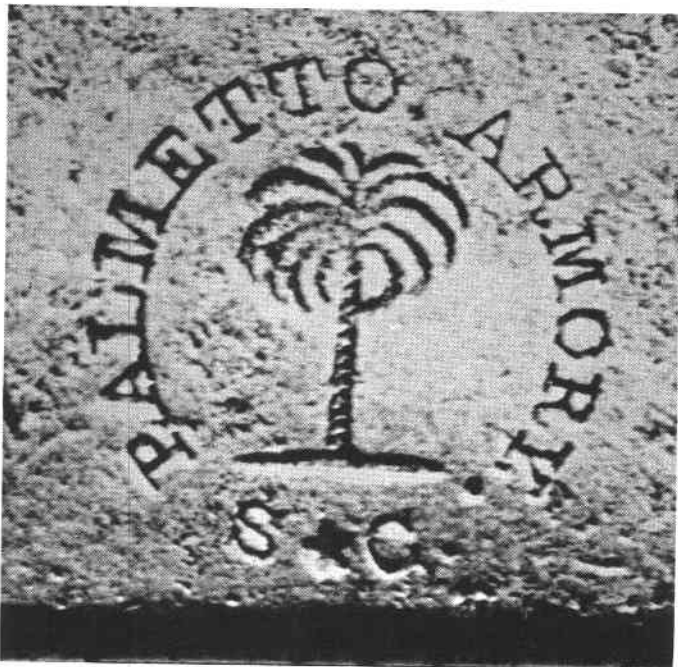
Major variations exist -- not in the diameter of the seal, but in the thickness of the Palmetto truck, shape of its leaves, and in punctuation. Even the star is not standard. A musket lock with an asterisk instead of a star is illustrated. A detailed study of genuine seal of what may be termed "thin leaf" design and one of the fakes will reveal notable differences in the shape and design of the foliage of the Palmettos. But, was the lock dressed off and remarked? The fakes show signs of milling. Unfortunately, so do many genuine plates.



ORIGINAL PALMETTO LOCK-PLATE



FAKE PALMETTO LOCK-PLATE



ORIGINAL PISTOL DIE STAMP



FAKE PISTOL DIE STAMP

Acid or magnaflux would reveal previous marks, but acid is not looked upon with much favor, and magnaflux is not easy to come by.

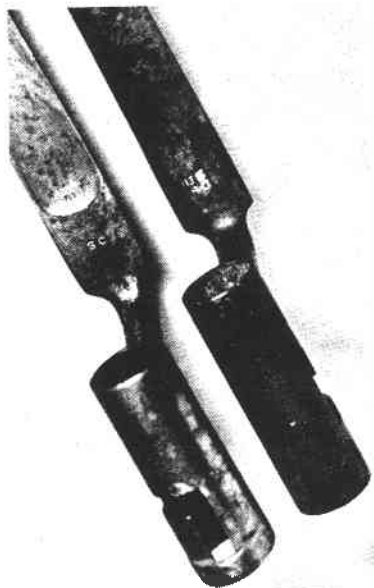
Perhaps the inside of the lock has something to tell us, but even this is not so. One pistol's lock was stuck inside with a single punch mark. Some have initials; some, nothing.

In the final analysis, today we may be able to tell a fake from the real thing, but with a few chemicals or a winter in the compost heap, these things can be made impossible to identify.

Bayonets made by Glaze are also almost impossible to identify, but it is thought that the specimen shown is one. If it is not, it is close enough to be illustrative to the type. It's a shame that the little Palmetto tree proof mark used on Glaze's gun barrels was not used in his edged weapons. This bayonet is the usual M1842 type, marked only SC and is made to handle the Palmetto bayonet lug, which is on top of the barrel, as previously stated. A similar bayonet may be seen with a Palmetto musket in the collection at Fort McHenry, Maryland -- oddly enough, the inspiration of the "Star Spangled Banner" contains a rather nice collection of Confederate weapons.

The quality of arms supplied by Glaze was remarkably small, in relation to the fantastic numbers to be used a few years later, but entirely within reason when compared to the size of the forces which participated in the Mexican War. The mere fact that preparation of some sort was begun, however inadequate it proved

to be later, speaks highly of the determination of South Carolina to support her principles. It also makes plain that the old maxim that it is customary to begin a war with the previous wars weapons as true then as it is now, because the Palmetto Armory contract was for 6,000 smoothbore muskets and 2,000 smoothbore single shot pistols, but only 1,000 rifles!



LEFT BAYONET POSSIBLY BY GLAZE  
RIGHT BAYONET U. S. MARKED S. C.

With the completion of the state contract, William Glaze and Company found themselves with machinery and workmen but no orders for guns. An uneasy political truce prevailed, and South Carolina, in the expectation that U. S. arms would be furnished for its militia and the knowledge that a pre-southern Secretary of War (Jefferson Davis) was in charge in Washington, wasn't receptive to the idea of making further state purchases.

So Glaze resumed making cotton gins, plows and other agricultural implements as well as steam engines in short, anything that a well equipped factory could produce. Flagg isn't mentioned again, and seems to have drifted off, where we do not know.

An odd item that crops up is mention of another contract Glaze filled in 1854. For \$14,000, he "rolled back" the old statehouse in Columbia to make way for a new building! Upon investigation, one finds that he actually jacked up a substantial brick building and moved it into a new location. This was accomplished with local labor, using special equipment imported for the purpose.

For years collectors have wondered what happened to the Armory's gunmaking machinery. For the most part, it could have been used for other purposes, and the filing jigs and the dies for locks, butt plates, bands, and springs could easily have been stored or sold. In any event, there should be no great mystery made over what happened to it. After all, by the time 7 years had elapsed, and war had finally and inevitably come, wear and tear would have taken their toll of machinery that was in daily use and the capacity for producing weapons would have been greatly lessened. The machinery belonged to Glaze, and he was not one to see it sit idly by while money was to be made with it.

The activities of the company up to 1861 are easy to trace. Glaze was kept busy with orders, some of impressive size, as witness a \$ 1,600.70 horsepower steam engine delivered to Wade Hampton. Having changed the name of the Palmetto Armory to the Palmetto Iron Works, Glaze further confuses historians by calling his firm William Glaze and Company on occasion. After the death of his partner in 1857, Glaze was sole proprietor, regardless of what he called his company. By 1860 he was turning out products valued at more than \$60,000 each year.

With the coming of the Civil War, one would expect Glaze to have re-entered the weapon business, and that he was willing to do so is shown in a letter dated December 4, 1860, to the State Ordnance Department. "I can cast all shot, shell, heavy cannon and mortars (sic) at the same price the State pays for them. I would be able in six months or less time to furnish not less than thirty rifles or rifled muskets per day and of Pistols a much larger amount."

Notice that Glaze needed time to tool up for production, but seems to be sure of his capabilities. Nothing came of his offer, and the next we learn of his activities is through an advertisement in the Richmond Daily Examiner on June 8, 1861: "Notice of Thomas McNeil requesting contributions to the C. S. Armory and Foundry Company, Capital \$1,000,000.00 to fabricate artillery of all types, rifles, pistols, swords, bayonets, rockets, and all munitions of war. Thomas E. McNeil, acting superintendant, Glaze and Radcliffe agents."



This is no doubt one of the most tantalizing advertisements encountered in our research. No other has been seen. If Glaze was serious and there is no reason that he shouldn't have been, it's a shame the plan didn't mature -- Glaze had proved what he could do and the south needed well made weapons.

Another advertisement, this in the Charlotte, North Carolina, Daily Bulletin on August 26, 1862, merely states that the Palmetto Iron Works is prepared to make steam engines, mills and iron castings, etc. Weapons are not mentioned, but certainly the potential of the Iron Works for the production of less Weapons are not mentioned, but certainly the potential of the Iron Works for the production of less glamorous but equally important equipments existed and was used.

Odds and ends of information that tie in to what the Iron Works could logically have been expected to do appear here and there, interspersed with wild exaggerations. An elderly gentleman, a former forman and later proprietor of the Iron Works, gave an interview to a reporter from Columbia newspaper around 1900. Among other things, we read that the Iron Works made picks and shovels, "etc.", for the ordnance department and rollers for the powder mills at Raleigh and Columbia during the war. The "etc." may refer to such items as bits, horseshoes, axle trees, artillery hardware and who knows what of a comparable nature, all of which make sense. The article also refers to a contract awarded Boatright and Glaze for 250,000 breech-loading rifles. This is most interesting, especially when one finds that Boatright died in 1857. However, we also read that Boatright and Glaze converted 5,000 flint muskets to percussion in 1852, and this has the ring of truth, although the number may be exaggerated.

Another account has the Iron Works making "bombshells, cannonballs, minie balls, and also several revolving cannons, this last being the invention of a man named "George." It worked something on the order of Colt's revolver. The cylinder moved horizontally. I saw several of them tried out They used cartridges, but it (sic) was not adopted by the government."

Revolving ordnance of sizeable caliber or otherwise, seems to have been quite popular at the beginning of the war -- that is with everyone but the artillery and, probably fortunately, the C. S. Ordnance Corps. What happened to the guns referred to is unknown, but a variant of the theme, made in Petersburg, Virginia, is still to be seen there.

General William T. Sherman took Columbia on a Friday in February, 1865. He promptly burned it. What wouldn't burn, he blew up. There wasn't much left of the Palmetto Iron Works when Uncle Billy moved on, but a picture of the ruins. Let Glaze himself tell what happened.

"I witnessed the burning of Columbia. I know that the city was destroyed by Gen. Sherman's army, because they were in the city at the time, and I saw persons in the uniform of the United States soldiers setting fire to the city in various places. I saw two such persons fire Mr. Phillips' auction warehouse. They opened the door and threw balls, which they had set on fire, into the building, and in less than twenty minutes the building was in flames. This building was diagonally across from the petitioners' store. It occurred about 7 o'clock, P. M. All that part of the city caught directly after that -- in about one-half of an hour. I saw several other houses fired, and among them my own building. I am speaking now of what I saw myself. I saw a building back of the old City Hotel fired by balls by persons wearing similar uniforms, whom I know to be United States soldiers, for they came into my own house. They burned my machine shop. There were about one hundred soldiers there at the time. They broke up the machinery and then set fire thereto; not, however, balls as aforesaid, but by the broken boxes, etc. and oil poured on. In the course of a half an hour the conflagration became general. Most of the burning was done from that time until about 3 o'clock next morning. I was a member of the city council at the time, and went with the mayor to Gen. Sherman, when Gen. Sherman promised the mayor that there would be no burning that night. I saw no efforts on the part of the United States soldiers to subdue the fire; but on the othe hand, I saw them endeavoring to spread it, and heard some of them remark that it was not half enough. It was on my way home from our conference with Gen. Sherman that I saw Mr. Phillips' warehouse fired. I saw a sky-rocket sent up from the State House yard, where the headquarters of Gen. Sherman were, which I took to be the signal for the burning of the city, for immediately thereafter the fire burst out all over the city.

Signature/ W. M. Glaze

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 18th day of March, A. D. 1872.



PALMETTO MUSKET LOCK

ALBERT M. BOOZER,  
U. S. Commissioner for District of South Carolina''

The subordinates of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel T. G. Baylor, Chief of Ordnance with Sherman, wrote an extremely detailed report on the ordnance stores captured and destroyed at Columbia. In meticulous regular army fashion, they were careful to list where each classification was found and how many there were. Their main place headings were: Citadel, Magazine, Arsenal. A subheading under Arsenal appears as Armory, still another is Depot and Armory.

We may assume that the federal ordnance people who view the captured stores and who gave local place names to captured installations would have used the abbreviated colloquialism for Palmetto Armory, which is what most people in Columbia still call it. Remember, too, that the Palmetto Iron Works was only a few hundred yards from the State Arsenal on Arsenal Hill and that the same report refers specifically and quite properly to 500 Palmetto rifles found at the Citadel. On the other hand, the report locates the Citadel and Magazine of Charleston in Columbia, and there was a Confederate Armory in Columbia. It would be interesting to know if the armory entry applies to the Palmetto Iron Works or to the Confederate Armory, because at the "Armory" were found 6000 unfinished musket barrels and stocks!

Under Depot and Armory are listed a 1-1/2 inch breech loading cannon (George's perhaps ?) - gun carriages, caissons and a large number of sponges and rammers.

It is a shame that such large gaps exist in Confederate and South Carolina Ordnance Records.

Documentary proof may not exist in as detailed form as we might wish, but there can be no doubt that the Palmetto Armory played an important part of the South's war effort.

The life of the Palmetto Armory was a short span, but its products endure to its memory. If ever a state got its money's worth, South Carolina did.