Leftovers and Additions About W. W. Marston

by Loyd D. Eberhart

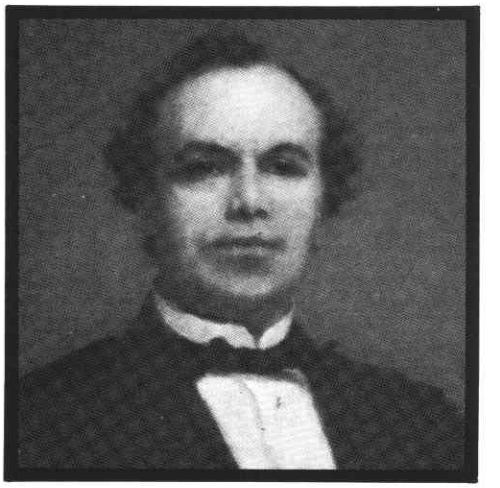
It has been four years since my talk about W. W. Marston at the Atlanta meeting, and the printing of *Bulletin No. 30.* As of this date, I have only discovered two mistakes in my text, one little misprint on page 11 in the third paragraph down, on the left, concerning the barrel markings by Marston & Knox. The text reads "1864" and it should read "1854". This was a typographical error. I hope this hasn't caused anyone to think he has a rare piece because of a wrong date! The second one was really a whopper, but because of it most of the rest of this material came to light and will correct and complete my original story. This second mistake concerns Stanhope W. Marston and his family relationship to Wm. W. Marston. I now have proof by recorded documents that Stanhope W. Marston was Wm. W. Marston's father, thereby explaining how they were both gunsmiths in New York City at the same time and worked at the same address for a short while, as I mentioned in my first article.

Several years ago, our member and my friend, Harold Mouillesseaux put me in contact with a grandson of Wm. W. Marston, Mr. Marston Potter. Mr. Potter has supplied me with the following items which will clear up this family relationship to everybody's satisfaction.

A letter to Mr. Marston Potter from Miss Anne M. Oakley, Archivist of Cathedral Archives and Library, Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury, England, relating to a search made of the archives of the Town of Deal, gave the following information:

1821, August 11: Stanhope Walker Marston and Mary Rigden married.
1822, September 6: William Walker Marston baptised
1824, January 18: Eliza Ann baptised
1828, February 27: Stanhope Walker baptised
1830, October 6: Frances Rebecca baptised

Miss Oakley continued: "I also checked the Burial Register of Deal to see if either Stanhope Walker or Mary Marston were buried there but nothing found. I enclosed a photocopy from Pigot's Directory for 1828/9 with Stanhope Marston's name in the miscellaneous column as a gunmaker which might be of interest to you . . . I feel sure he moved after 1830 and wonder if he had more children somewhere else."

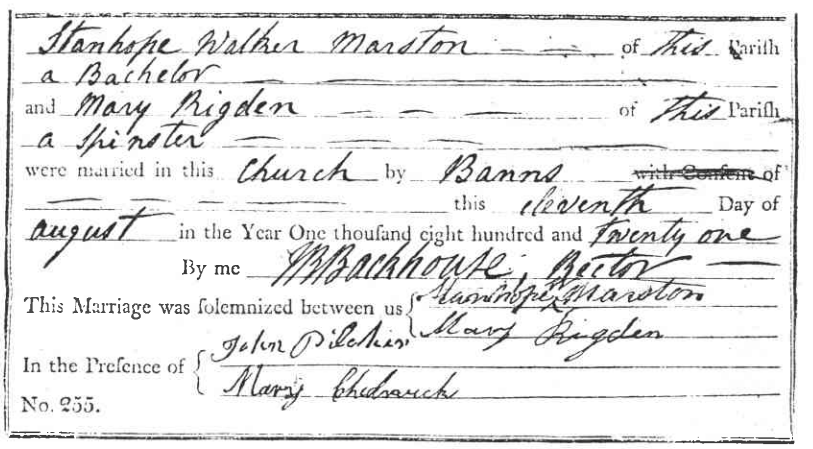


This is the only known painting or likeness of Wm. W. Marston. It appears to have been taken when William was about 35 years old.

This shows William Walker Marston as the first child and about when Stanhope Marston left England for America.

As shown in the earlier documents, Stanhope Marston and his wife, Mary, brought young William and the rest of their family to America sometime about 1835. Although we know they were all here and working in New York City by 1843 as shown by the New York City Business Directories, we cannot account for their whereabouts from 1830 to 1843. A search of the immigration records by the General Services Adminsitration of the years 1830 to 1845 does not reflect any of the Marstons entering America though the port of New York.

Now let us go to Wm. Walker Marston as a grown man and gun maker to complete this story.



Stanhope Walker Marston of this Parish
a Bachelor
and Mary Rigden of this Parish
a Spinster
were married in this Church by Banns ~~with Consent of~~
this Seventh Day of
August in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Twenty one
By me W Bathhouse Rector
This Marriage was solemnized between us { Stanhope Marston / Mary Rigden
In the Presence of { John Pilchers / Mary Chidwick
No. 255.

This is a marriage certificate showing Stanhope Marston's middle name was Walker, and his bride's name as Mary Rigden. They were married in Deal England on August 11, 1821.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

S. W. MARSTON, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVED FLY-TUMBLER LOCK FOR FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 7,887, dated January 7, 1851.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, STANHOPE W. MARSTON, a gunsmith and native of England, but resident of the city and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Pistol and Gun Locks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view of the hammer, the lower part of which is generally used as the tumbler, but shown here with a slot at *a* to receive the fly-tumbler, (shown at Fig. 2,) which has a hooked projection at one end for the purpose of catching upon the side of the hammer and causing the hammer and tumbler to become as one, both of which must move together when the trigger is drawn backward. On the opposite end of the fly-tumbler is a groove for the purpose of receiving the sear, as hereinafter described. Fig. 3 is the trigger, the upper end of which, at *b*, is the sear. Fig. 5 is a view of the whole lock, containing its different parts in their proper places.

The following is a description of the operation of the different parts by which each is made to perform its respective duties.

In Fig. 5, if the trigger *c* is drawn back it will press the sear *b* against the back part of the fly-tumbler, (shown at *f*,) this fly-tumbler being in connection with the lower part of the hammer, (formerly described by Figs. 1 and 2, where it is shown that the slot in the lower part of the hammer is to receive the fly-tumbler,) and fastened by a pin at *g* and allowed to work easy, so as to be pressed down by the small spring shown at *h* upon the fly-tumbler at Fig. 2. Thus the fly-tumbler *f* being connected with the hammer by the pin *g* and the hooked projection, the hammer must raise.

When the trigger is drawn to a certain distance back the sear *b* will catch in a niche or groove formed in the back part of the fly-tumbler, as it *i*, in which position it is shown in the drawings. In this position it may be left, and cannot return of itself for the reason of its having passed its center-pin *g*, upon which the whole works, which may be understood by examining the drawings. It is shown by the red line, which shows its center, after it passes which it cannot return; but if the operator wishes he may lower the hammer very gently by slowly pressing forward the trigger, when the hammer will be gently lowered and everything will be in its former position; but if a discharge is wanting, the trigger must be drawn a little farther back. Then the sear will pass the niche in the fly-tumbler and the hammer will strike a sharp blow, after which all that is necessary is to press forward the trigger, and it will raise the fly-tumbler, after it passes which the tumbler falls to its former position. By means of the spring *h*, between it and the upper part of the slot in the hammer, when this is done the whole is ready for a second operation.

The following is the mode of revolving the barrels: In Fig. 5 may be seen a large spring, *m*, which may be of most any shape. This spring, by being pressed together and allowed to expand, causes the barrels to revolve. This is operated in the following manner: When the trigger is drawn backward and a blow is given by the hammer, the hammer in descending causes a projection formed on the side of the lower part of the hammer (or the pin *g*, which may be left too long and form a projection) to press upon the spring. Thus the end of the spring is lowered down to *o*, one ratchet lower, and the spring presses forward, occasioned by the other end of the spring at *d* being bent downward and working in a groove, *d*, thus causing the other end to catch the ratchet at *o*, and when the hammer is again cocked the pin *g* is again raised, allowing the spring to expand, which motion raises the ratchet at *o* and revolves the barrels around to the proper place to receive a blow from the hammer. Fig. 4 is a small piece of steel or spring, which is placed at the farther end of the spring *m* and contains a hole at *g* to receive the end of the spring, which is for the purpose of keeping the spring *m* in its proper place, and also presses it forward in case the bend in the end of the spring working in the groove at *d* should fail to perform its part.

What I claim as my invention is—

The fly-tumbler arranged and combined with respect to the sear and cock in the manner and for the purposes set forth in my specification.

STANHOPE W. MARSTON.

Witnesses:
JOHN R. SMITH,
WILLIAM D. STIVERS.

This is the written description of S. W. Marston's only known gun patent. It states he was a native of England. This is what threw me off the track in my first search.

THE COMPANIES OF WM. W. MARSTON IN NEW YORK CITY AND LISTINGS OF OTHER MARSTONS OF THE PERIOD

REFERENCE	DATE	NAME OR COMPANY	LISTING	BUSINESS ADDRESS	RESIDENCE
NYC Bus. Dir.	1850-51	Sprague & Marston	Guns & Pistol Makers	Jane St., Corner of Washington	None
" "	1851-52	" " "	" " "	781 Washington	"
" "	1852-53	" " "	" " "	781 Washington & 36½ Chatham	"
" "	1854-55	Marston Fire Arms Manufacturing Co.	" " "	Sales 205 Broadway	"
" "	1856-57	Wm. W. Marston	" " "	E. 22nd St. Corner of Second Ave.	"
" "	1857-58	" " "	Gunsmith	" " " "	"
" "	1858-60	" " "	Gun & Pistol Maker	" " " "	"
" "	1861-62	" " "	" " "	" " " "	"
" "	1862-63	" " "	" " "	342 Second Ave. Corner of E. 22 St.	"
" "	1863	" " "	" " "	E. 22nd near Second Ave.	"
	1864-65	Not listed because of Fire, July 15, 1863.			
" "	1865-66	Wm. W. Marston	Gun & Pistol Maker	Second Ave. Corner E. 22nd Ave.	"
" "	1866-67	" " "	" " "	342 Second Ave.	"
	1868-70	Not Listed?			
" "	1871-72	Wm. W. Marston	" " "	317 E. 22nd Ave.	"

(W.W. Marston died Sept. 21, 1872. This stopped all operations. On Page 41 of my article I stated there was a fire damaging the factory on 7-15-63. I was uncertain at that time of their reopening date or location, but due to new information, I can prove they did re-open and where. See listings!)

ROBERT MARSTON

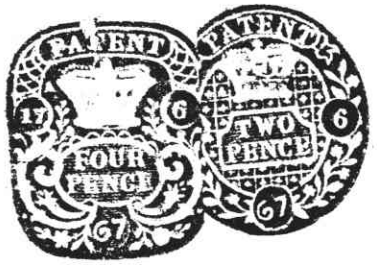
NYC Bus. Dir.	1849-50	Robert Marston	Gunsmiths	211 Fulton St.	None
" "	1850-52	" "	Gunsmiths also Gun & Pistol Maker	" " "	"
" "	1850-51	Double Listing	Gunsmiths, also Gun & Pistol Maker	" " "	"
" "	1852-58	Robert Marston	Gun & Pistol Maker	" " "	"
	1859	No Longer Listed. Checked thru 1870.			

STANHOPE MARSTON

NYC Bus. Dir.	1844-46	S. Marston	Gun & Pistol Maker	197 Allen St.	None

Not Listed Any Longer. Checked Thru 1855.

(This chart of Marston and his activities was returned by the typesetter too late to be included in the regular pages of the bulletin, but may be inserted between pages 40 and 41).



A.D. 1866, *13th November.* N° 2975.

Carving.

LETTERS PATENT to William Walker Marston, of the City and State of New York, United States of America, for the Invention of "IMPROVEMENTS IN MACHINERY FOR CARVING WOOD, METAL, MARBLE, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO THE SHAPE OF A PATTERN"

Sealed the 16th April 1867, and dated the 13th November 1866.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by the said William Walker Marston at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 13th November 1866.

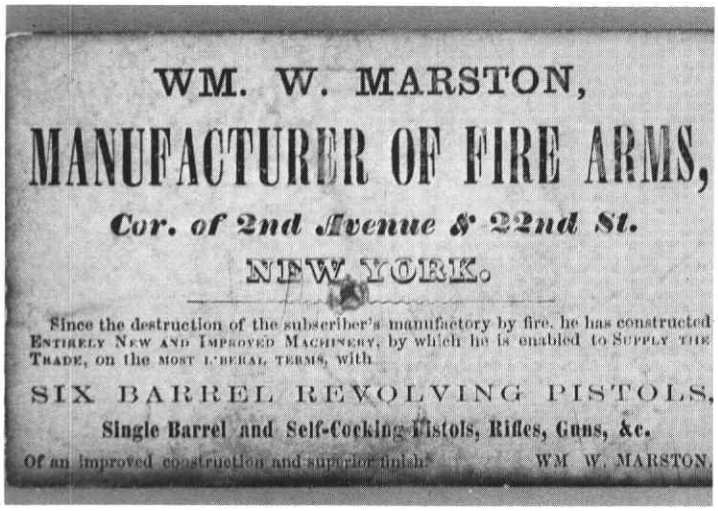
I, WILLIAM WALKER MARSTON, of the City and State of New York, United States of America, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "IMPROVEMENTS IN MACHINERY FOR CARVING WOOD, METAL, MARBLE, OR OTHER MATERIAL TO THE SHAPE OF A PATTERN," to be as follows:—

The object of this Invention is to effect the carving of letters, furniture, picture frames, scroll or relief work, countersunk figures, shapes, or designs in woods, marbles, or metal, or to carve busts, medallions, or other works of art in which a pattern corresponding to the article to be produced is employed. A tracing instrument is used to follow the pattern, and a rapidly revolving tool is used to effect the cutting or carving.

This Invention relates to a bed for carrying both the article to be carved and the pattern, and having an endwise movement at right angles to the plane

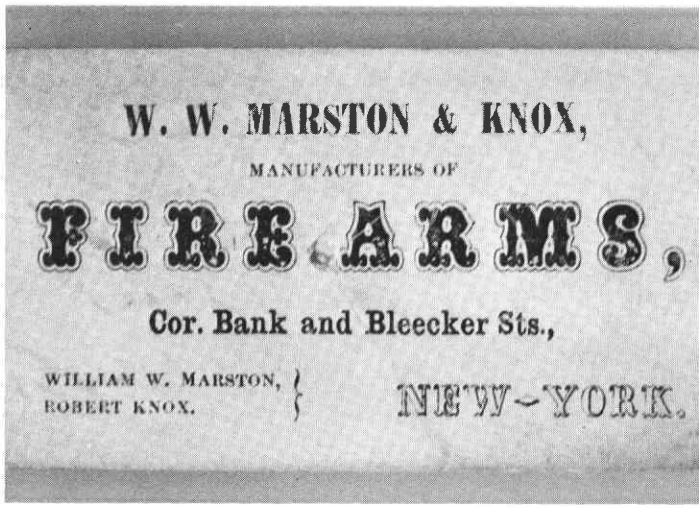
* statuettes and full figures.
× at any desired size from the same model

As I mentioned in my first article, W. W. Marston had some French Patents on his single shot rifle and the type of ammunition it used. Another of his foreign patents has turned up. The one you are viewing now is English and, like several others already mentioned, it is not for a firearm. This letter of patent describes an "Improvement in Machinery for Carving Wood, Metal, Marble, or other Material to the Shape of a Pattern". This patent was granted #2975 on November 13, 1866.

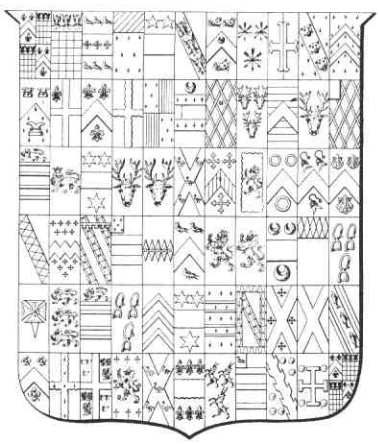


On page 41 of the previous article, I stated that the manufacturing plant was destroyed by fire. If you read this card it establishes that fact, and that a new building has been erected to serve the trade. Circa 1864.

Here you see a sterling silver goblet which was presented to W. W. Marston on December 2, 1862, by his workmen. From this he must have been a good employer to work for and was well liked. It is not known for what occasion this was presented.



This business card shows the partnership between W. W. Marston and Robert Knox, circa 1851. This card also shows a different business address from any other address listed in any of the listings previously studied by me. It probably wasn't used long enough to get into the business directories.



Here you see a Heraldic Shield from the House of Money-Kyrle, one of the royal lines in the area of Canterbury, England. There are sixty-six different families represented here, each with their descriptive crest. The third crest from the right on the bottom line is the Crest of the House of Marston. It is described in the Book of Heraldry as having "White Pellets around a silver flash, on a black background". Oddly enough this Coat of Arms distinguishes the Marstons as a family of Armorers.

To finish up, I have saved a nice 1864 Model three barrel derringer. This piece is ser. #2928, made towards the last of production. As I mentioned in the previous article, two derringers that we definitely know belonged to W. W. Marston as his personal guns had this type of engraving. This piece doesn't appear as a pattern in the L.D. Nimschke book, but is of his style. As of this date I believe this derringer and the sporting rifle shown in figure # 27, 28, 29, of my first article were both personal weapons belong to W. W. Marston. I would like to thank Harold Mouillesseaux and Marston Potter for their help on this follow-up story. Figures # 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, courtesy of Marston Potter; Figures # 1, 4, 8, 9, 10 are from my personal collection, and Figure # 11 is courtesy of Don Ball.