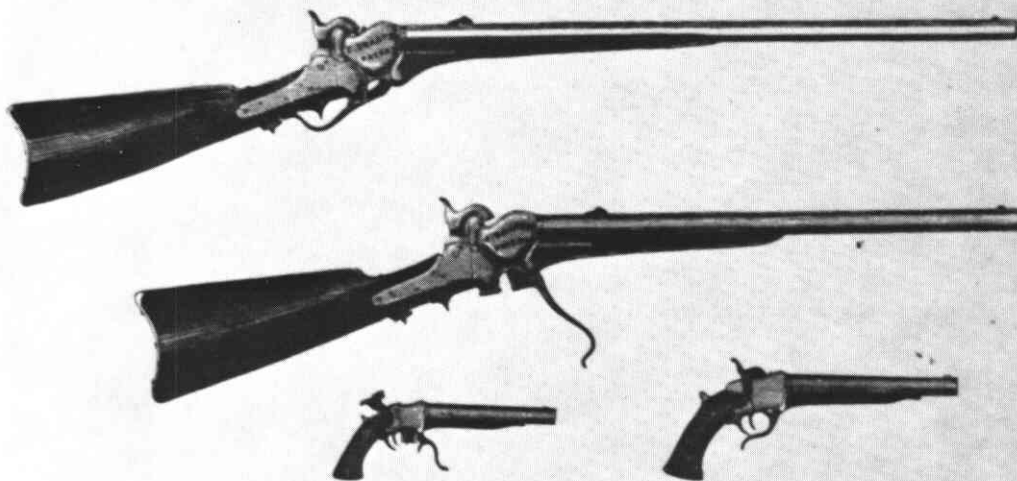


C. SHARPS'
PATENT BREECH-LOADING AND SELF-PRIMING
RIFLE AND PISTOL,
 MANUFACTURED BY SHARPS' RIFLE MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
 AT HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.



Sharps' Arms combine simplicity of construction, rapidity of firing, and extraordinary range, with perfect accuracy and unequalled safety. The barrel and moving parts are of cast steel, and so wrought and finished as to insure their excellence and durability. The Arm will admit but one charge at a time, and therefore obviates the objection which is raised against all magazine or cylinder guns.

To Load—The breech is opened by moving the lever or guard forward; the cartridge is inserted and pressed forward smartly with the thumb, which fixes the ball in its seat; move the lever to its position, which closes the breech, and cuts off the rear end of the cartridge, exposing the powder in the line of fire communication.

As no patch is used, the balls should be well greased with tallow, which lubricates through the barrel and prevents leading.

If by long continued firing the breech-pin becomes foul, a few drops of water, or even saliva, applied to it, and the lever moved backward and forward two or three times, will cause it to move perfectly free.

The barrel is cleaned by inserting the brush, wet or dry, at the breech, and propelling it through the bore.

A metallic rod should never be inserted in the barrel, as it is sure to mar the rifling.

To take out the breech-pin, bring the arm to half cock, turn the shank of the lever-pin half around, and press hard on the head end of the lever with the fingers of the left hand; withdraw the lever-pin in a direct line.

The lever-pin has a lock-joint upon it, and can only be withdrawn or inserted when in the same position.

The barrel has an adjusting bushing, at the breech, which is fitted to the breech-pin or slide, so close as to prevent any escape.

Oil the Arms and all their parts with the best sperm oil.

GEO. H. PENFIELD, Agent,
New York.

Early broadside of the Sharps Rifle Mfg. Co.

The Sharps 1851 Boxlock

F.J. (Pablo) Balentine

The reason I asked to talk to you on the Sharps 1851 Boxlock at this meeting in Kerrville, Texas, is that in the next several days there is an excellent chance that we will walk or travel over an area where the 1851 was carried and used.

There are two excellent reasons why the "51" could have been used in the area, the first being that it was carried on the San Antonio to El Paso Stage Line; one of the routes of the stage passed very close to Kerrville.¹

The second chance of their being in this area is that in 1853 there were 80 Sharps carbines in the stores of the San Antonio Depot, as inspected by W.G. Freeman, May 31 to June 3, 1853, ready "for issue to such companies as shall be designated by the Department Commander."² Since Kerrville is only 70 miles from San Antonio, there is an excellent chance they were issued to troops patrolling this area.

The origin of the Sharps '51 Boxlock has been covered by Frank Sellers and others, so I will not attempt to plow ground that has already been turned over, but will attempt to add to this from other sources. (The term "boxlock" is used because the hammer is mounted on the *inside* of the lockplate rather than on the outside.)

I will approach this in two different areas:

- I. The historical use of the Sharps 1851 Boxlock.
- II. A look at the surviving specimens of the Sharps 1851 Boxlock to see what they can tell us.

Historical Use of the Sharps 1851 Boxlock

Finding accurate data on the historical use of the 1851 Sharps has proven to be a difficult task. In the literature of the day, there are many references to Sharps rifles or carbines but unfortunately they do not differentiate between the various models.

Also, the remaining records of the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company are unfortunately very sketchy and do not account for all of the Sharps 1851 Boxlocks produced at Windsor, Vermont. There are no shipping records that tell where single or multiple shipments of the 1851 were shipped. No records of serial numbers were kept and only numbers of the various types of the 1851 Sharps produced survive, i.e.,

- Number of sporting rifles
- Number of carbines
- Number of a certain calibre
- Number of engraved specimens³



In the first part of this paper, I will attempt to document, from available sources, the historical use of the '51 Sharps as to civilian and military use.

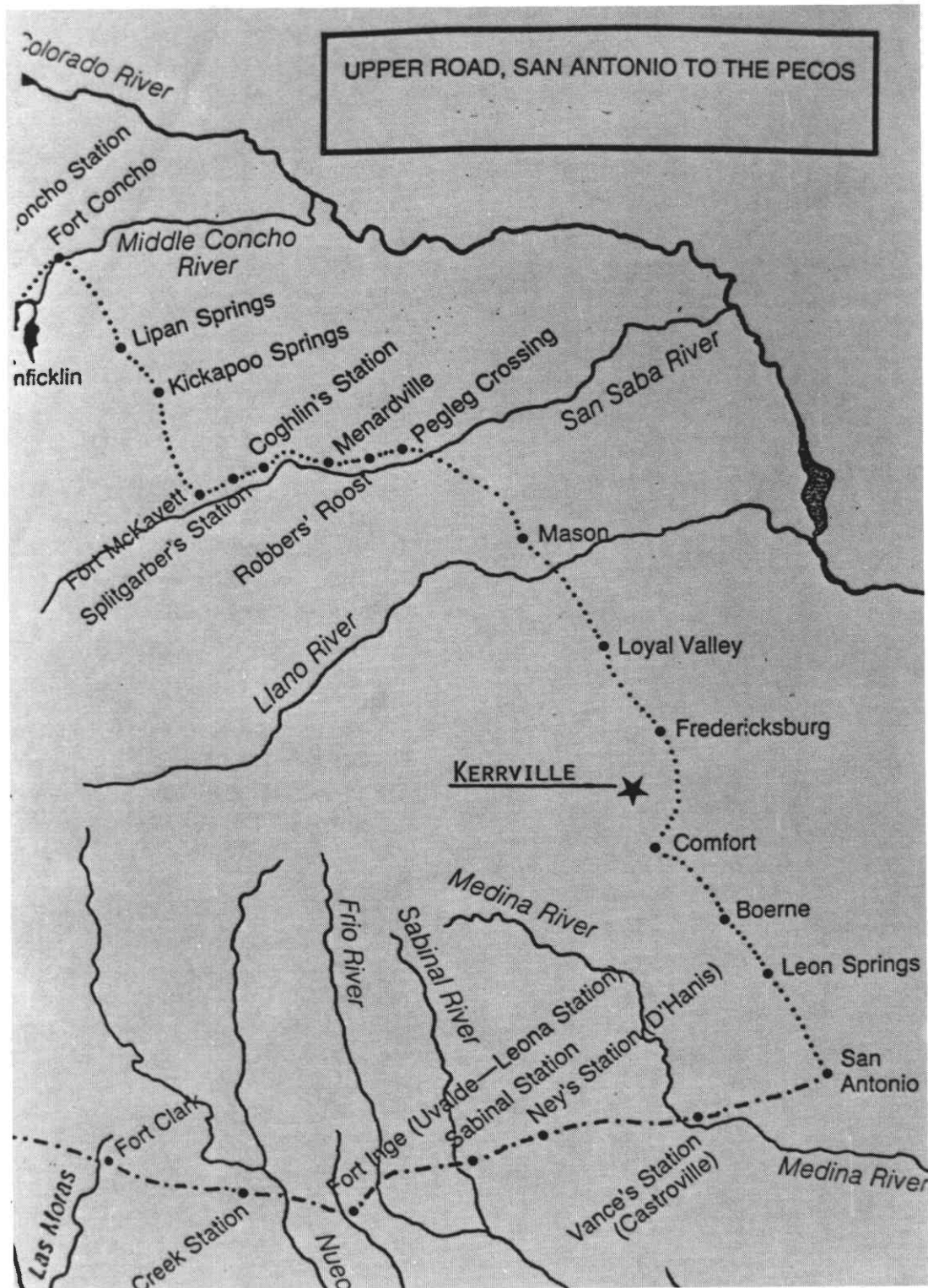
Civilian Use of the Sharps 1851 Boxlock

All too frequently the only specific references to civilian arms are those found scattered through the personal narratives of the time. Mountain man Bill Hamilton, for example, recalled in his memoirs that the Sharps did not reach California until the *summer of 1853*. "Six of us traded our Hawkins (sic) rifles for Sharps rifles, brought in by immigrants . . . These were the first Sharps rifles we had seen," he noted, "and we found them most effective weapons, our only criticism being that the triggers pulled too hard. We had a gunsmith resight them and fix the triggers, and securing a lot of *tape caps* and ammunition, we practiced for several days. They were equal in accuracy to our old rifles and far superior in effectiveness." Hamilton's reference to the "tape caps" indicates that the rifles concerned had to have been the Model 1851.⁴

The San Antonio, El Paso and Santa Fe Stage Line

Late in 1851, Captain Henry Skillman secured a government contract to carry the mail from San Antonio to Santa Fe via El Paso. In December of 1852, Skillman was in Washington to renegotiate his contract.

A new contract was probably not the only thing Skillman took home to Texas. During his visit to the Northeast he apparently met a representative of the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company. Skillman had seen Sharps (Nippes) rifles in use among the members of the American Boundary Survey Commission when John R. Bartlett led it through



Eastern section of San Antonio to El Paso stage line, showing both north and south routes and their relationship to Kerrville and San Antonio.

El Paso in the fall of 1850, and he was impressed with the weapons' accuracy and rapidity of fire. The Sharps Company had just begun manufacturing an improved model of their carbine for the army, and Skillman managed to purchase a case of ten weapons from an early production lot. The new model 1851 boxlock carbines were solidly built and hard-hitting .52-caliber breechloaders. They would give the mail coaches' guards a welcome advantage over the Indians.⁵

It was probably on his initial westbound trip after returning from Washington that Skillman first impressed the Apaches with the power of his lethal new weapons. The mail party had crossed the Pecos and forged deeply into what were then known as the Limpia Mountains. A band of Mescaleros attacked the whites as they neared a grove of oaks that garnished the rocky base of a slope flanking the road. The Texans halted and opened fire. The Apaches retired to what they assumed was a safe distance out of range, dismounted, and began to taunt the expressmen. One cocky warrior stood behind his horse, leaned over the saddle, and dared the plainsmen to come out in the open and fight.

Henry Skillman slipped a cartridge in the breech of his new Sharps carbine, trimmed its sights, and aimed carefully. The Sharps barked, and the Apache pitched backward with a bullet through his head. His stunned comrades picked up his body and quickly retreated beyond the reach of Skillman's "medicine gun."

This encounter became a minor legend, and Skillman liked to boast of his feat to his drinking companions at one of the army posts along the route. "He had a good supply of whisky aboard," recalled one, "and repeated the story several times, taking a drink each time. He said he saw the Indian standing there . . . and fired and knocked him ten feet. He then took another drink, and in repeating the story said he knocked him twenty yards. He kept repeating the story and his drinks, each time increasing the distance he fired and the number of feet he knocked him, and finally closed the recital by saying, 'When I drew a bead on that Indian he was about eleven hundred yards off and was looking over his horse so that I could only see his head, and I took him right between the eyes, and sir, I knocked him more than forty rods.'" Despite Skillman's later boozy hyperbole, it was a shot to be proud of, and the scene of the fight is still known as Skillman's Grove.⁶

Skillman's choice of weapons is easily documented. In June, 1853, he sent a letter to the "Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company" lauding their product. "The ten Sharps carbines purchased of you," noted Skillman, "were all put to immediate use in arming my escort, and for range, accuracy, and rapidity of firing, they are far superior to any

arm known." Skillman declared that "having been a frontier man for fourteen years, I had occasion to look after a bosom companion to stand by me in case of life or death . . . in my search after such a comforter, I have found no arm that in all its attributes begins to compare with the Sharps arm and for army, navy, caravan or sporting service, it is sure to take and hold the front rank."⁷

Skillman's enthusiasm for the Sharps was well-founded, for it had proved its superiority over the more conventional arms of the day on several well-documented occasions.

In the spring of 1854, traveler Frederick Law Olmsted was visiting Fort Inge, near Uvalde, Texas, when he met the west-bound mail. "The train is attended by a mounted guard of six men," he recorded, "armed with Sharps rifles and Colt's repeaters."⁸

In November 14, 1854, Skillman was attacked by a large force of Apaches while camped at Dead Man's Hole, a spring hidden in a narrow mountain canyon north of modern Valentine, Texas. The Indians pressed the attack from eleven o'clock in the morning until sundown. None of the mail party were injured, but the Indians made the mistake of killing Skillman's favorite mule, and he exacted a grim retribution for it. "Capt. Skillman has a fine gun," related a contemporary account of the incident, "with which he considers he has a 'dead thing' on any Indian at three hundred yards," and in this fight he is said to have killed three in that distance — there were three that he got and others that were doubtless killed but not known to be killed. A.C. Rand, a participant in the fight, reported that Skillman fired ten to fifteen rounds from his Sharps at a group of Apaches assembled on a hilltop 600 yards away. The range made it hard to verify hits, but Rand recalled that he "surely wounded some Indians."⁹

Late in 1854 or early in 1855, Skillman yielded his mail contract to San Antonio merchant George H. Giddings, but continued to serve on the stage line for several more years. Giddings was a seasoned plainsman himself, and quickly joined Skillman in his praise of the Sharps breechloaders. "It affords me great pleasure," he wrote on February 10, 1855, "to bear testimony from actual experience to the merits of the Sharps rifle. I have used it for two years, a part of the time over my mail route, and it has proved a savior to myself and my men, when any other arm would have failed me. As for killing bear, deer, etc., I will pit Sharps rifle against all other arms known."¹⁰

At this time Giddings also prudently sent in an order for more Sharps rifles. It would be doubtful that these Sharps, when Giddings received them, would have been the 1851 Boxlock.

In the Sharps catalogs of 1859 are numerous letters from civilians attesting to the effectiveness of the Sharps rifles, carbines and shotguns.



Military carbine, serial no. 45; civilian carbine, serial no. 1328; sporting rifle, serial no. 1894.

Those that fall into the time span of the 1851 are listed here with a brief synopsis of their statement.

- a) Henry Jones, Matagorda, Texas, April 3, 1853 — Most safe, only gun for Western hunting.¹¹
- b) D.C. Hubbard, Brunswick, Florida, October 4, 1853 — Two hunts with my little shotgun, will kill at a greater distance than my three friends' old-fashioned double barrel guns.¹²
- c) Gov. Isaac D. Stevens, Washington D.C., June 26, 1854 (led the Northern Pacific Railroad Exploring Expedition). — Excellent and reliable arm. Can be used on horseback at full speed. The limited number in our hands served to increase our numbers.¹³
- d) Andrew B. Gray, Washington, January 1855 — Two expeditions across the continent to California; ten rifles with ten men. — We felt equal to thirty. With ten men, a negro and a Mexican, I kept at bay one hundred and forty Apaches. Best rifle and only proper one for mounted men.¹⁴
- e) Jacob Hall, Washington, January, 1855 — Used for some time on U.S. Mail from Independence to Santa Fe. Frequently killed deer, antelope and buffalo at a distance of over four hundred yards.¹⁵

Military Use of the Sharps 1851 Boxlock

The Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company was formed primarily to solicit contracts from the military for their arms. This was accomplished on January 2, 1852, by an order from

the U.S. Ordnance Department for 200 Model 1851 carbines. Because of problems encountered in tooling up for production, the first 150 carbines were accepted by inspector Samuel Knous, on January 19, 1853. The other 50 carbines on the order were changed to Model 1852 and delivered in 1854.¹⁶

These 150 carbines, except for several demonstration models, were apparently the only Model 1851 used by the military at that time. However, the report of the Ordnance Office for the year ending June 30, 1853, reports the purchase of 151 Sharps carbines. Also in that same report for the year ending June 30, 1853, it issued to the army and to the several military posts 140 Sharps carbines and appendages and 98,000 Maynard primers.

In accounting for the 140 Sharps carbines issued to the army and its several military posts, we find the following from Mansfield's *Condition of the Western Forts*:

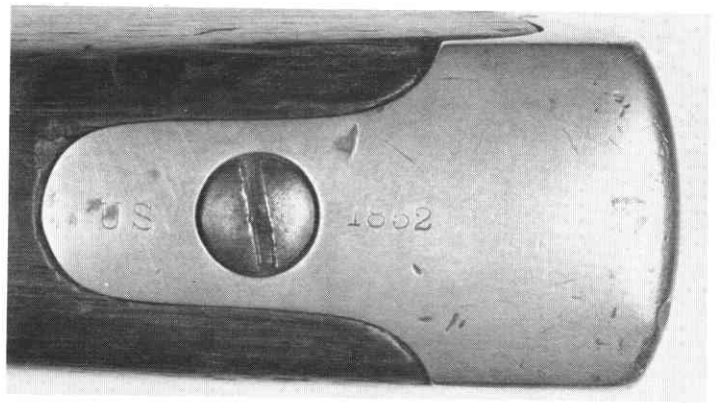
80	in the San Antonio Depot, Texas
30	at Fort Union, N.M.
<u>5</u>	at Los Lunas, N.M.
115	total

At present, I have been unable to document the remaining 35 or 36 carbines and where they were shipped.

The report of W.G. Freeman on the Eighth Military Department, cites a Capt. Granger of Company F of the Rifle Regiment as recommending that instead of rifles and musketoons for cavalry, Sharps carbines be substituted. He says, "I have had several months' practice with the car-



Inspector markings on barrel of military carbine, serial no. 191.



Marking on upper tang of buttplate on military carbine, serial no. 191.

bine and can state its advantages. First, it is much lighter, carries a ball of double the weight of the rifle, has a range of more than double the rifle, and with practice, can be loaded and fired in fifteen seconds at full speed on horseback, with sufficient accuracy to strike a man at 20 or 30 paces. On foot, it can be loaded and fired ten times per minute with surprising accuracy. At deliberate aim, with good marksmen, it is very certain at a distance of one fourth to half a mile." (This statement was made July 18, 1853.)¹⁷

The five carbines at Los Lunas were issued to the troops of Captain R.S. Ewell of the 1st Dragoons who wrote from Los Lunas, NM on March 18, 1854, "I have had five of Sharps carbines on hand six months, and am satisfied that they are superior to any firearm yet furnished the dragoon."¹⁸

Captain Ewell and his first dragoon were transferred from Los Lunas, NM to Fort Buchanan in November of 1856. He wrote again from Fort Buchanan in February of 1858 (At this time Fort Buchanan was still in New Mexico territory); he again lauded the Sharps carbines, except for

the Maynard primers which he considered a failure.¹⁹

During this same month of February, 1858, a number of other officers also wrote in praise of the Sharps carbines. They were:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Major E. Steen | First Dragoons |
| Captain Edward H. Fitzgerald | First Dragoons |
| First Lt. Owen Chapman | First Dragoons |
| First Lt. D.H. Hastings | First Dragoons |
| Second Lt. A.B. Chapman | First Dragoons |
| Second Lt. B.F. Davis | First Dragoons ²⁰ |

Anyone making a study of Fort Buchanan would soon see why so many officers wrote in praise of the Sharps carbines. The post and surrounding settlements were continually under attack from the Apaches in the early days and the fort was a fort in name only, consisting of mud "wattles" for the men, and in addition the post was infested with malaria. The Sharps carbines were probably the only thing decent they had to write about.

Captain Ewell had a very colorful career in the Army



Left side of a serial no. 45, top, showing sling ring slide, compared to a civilian carbine, serial no. 1328.



U.S. military carbine showing Maynard priming system. Note that there is no serial number on inside of Maynard priming system cover on this model.

until May 7, 1861, when he defected to the opposition. They made him a general in the Confederate Army. Unfortunately his health was already broken by his long exposure to malaria.

Another officer writing on the Sharps carbine in that period of time was Col. J.C. Fremont, Washington City, June 19, 1854: "In my journey last winter to California, I took with me two of Sharps rifles, one designed for use on horseback, and one for my own use, of the usual western rifle length and weight. I found it the most convenient gun I ever used."²¹

The Sharps 1851 Boxlock in the Civil War

Seven 1851 Boxlock carbines are listed as having been issued in the Civil War years. They were serial numbers:²²

102, 669, 771, 1164, 1259, 1334, 1357.

However, in checking these seven serial numbers, it is highly likely that they may have been listed without the C prefix by the agent. If this happened, these seven carbines would have been the later Model 1863 and not the earlier Model 1851.

Surviving Specimens of the Sharps 1851—A Survey

Certainly the Southerners, in their quest for arms, would have pressed any Sharps 1851 Boxlock into service that was available.

Over the past five years, an attempt has been made to locate every possible Sharps 1851 Boxlock that could be found and various points of information have been recorded from these surviving specimens.

First, let me say that I have had considerable assistance on this; it would be impossible to list all of the names of

those helping in this survey. However, a special "thanks" should go to Harold Layne and Ron Peterson: they have never backed off from turning up new leads and information.

The total number of serial numbers located, to date, has been 82. From this total, 65 were actually held in hand or enough information was available to fill out a questionnaire on them.

In addition, Sharps 1851 parts are reported on a pin fire²³ and on a transition carbine.²⁴

TABLE "A"
Serial Numbers of the Sharps 1851 Boxlocks Included in This Survey

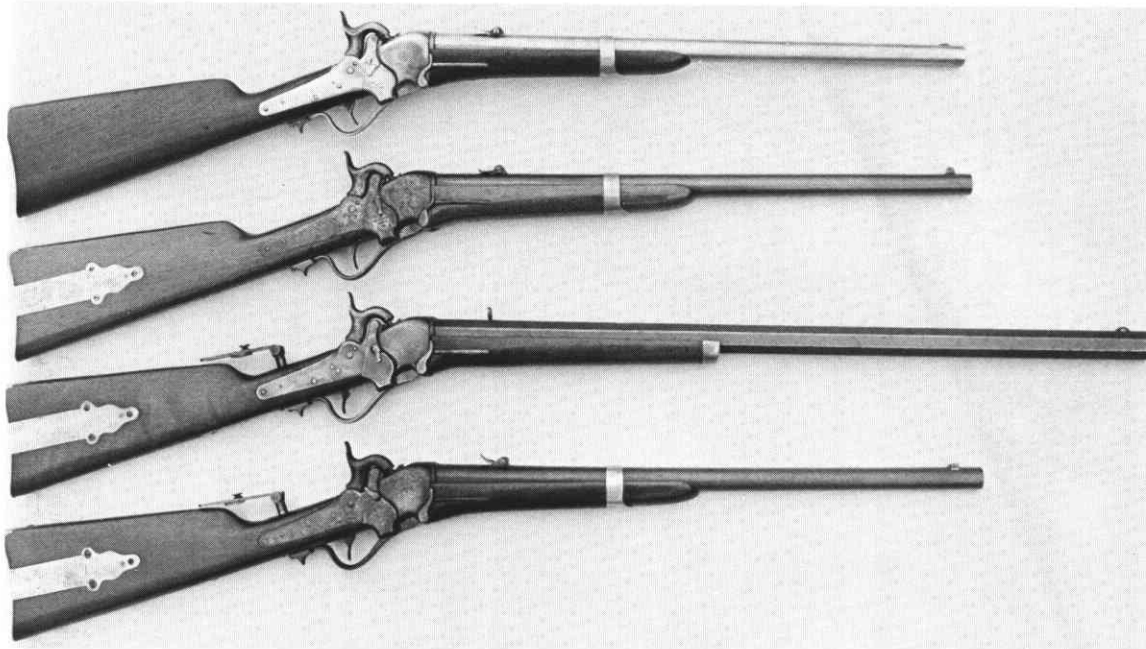
26	246	1053	1428	1649	1894
38	315	1061	1471	1657	1896
45	357	1075	1478	1666	1916
69	438	1145	1510	1671	1931
104	473	1184	1525	1691	1938
160	527	1209	1534	1692	1954
185	588	1227	1535	1710	1997
191	723	1316	1562	1725	2000
196	795	1328	1607	1747	2022
200	904	1343	1614	1763	2031
235	1009	1407	1622	1815	

TABLE "B"
Sharps 1851 Boxlocks
Serial Numbers Only (No Information)

16	1013	1564	1791
166	1049*	1688	1840
212	1216	1717	1952
438	1555	1776	2034

2047

*Lock Only



Government inspected carbine, serial no. 185; civilian carbine, serial no. 1075; sporting rifle, serial no. 1725; engraved civilian carbine, serial no. 1534 (from collection of Harold Layne).

Again, no attempt was made to cover material that has already been reported on by Frank Sellers, but an attempt *was* made to discover new areas of difference in these surviving specimens.

One of the first areas that became apparent was that the serial numbers followed a pattern as to type of firearm. For this I set up four classifications.

- I. U.S. Military Carbines inspected and accepted by the U.S. Army.
- II. Martial style carbines with slide ring bar.
- III. Civilian Carbines. No sling ring bar and forearm held by a band instead of the two screws normally attaching the forearm.
- IV. Sporting rifle without forearm band and with two screws attaching forearm.

This is possibly an unorthodox way of classifying these arms, but it has served its purpose for this study.

Under these classifications, several trends became immediately apparent and with the exception of a few anomalies, all 1851s classified under this study fell within certain number ranges. Several of these anomalies examined by the author appear to have been altered after leaving the factory.

Category I

One of the first groups that became apparent was that the serial numbers of the 150 carbines accepted by Army Inspector Samuel Knous on January 19, 1853, all fall within the 100 to 250 range.

The serial number 166 is the one anomaly in this group. It is reported to be a sporting rifle (half round and half octagon, 30 inch barrel) for sale in the Jackson catalog of 1973.

U.S
P

The military carbines were marked with the S.K P on the left side of the barrel near the receiver and with a U.S. 1852 on the upper tang of the brass buttplate. Serial number 246 is not marked on the upper tang of the buttplate and several others have been reported to be unmarked in this area. However, this is an area of high wear and on one military carbine, this marking could be seen only by the use of a powerful magnification glass and a careful examination.

CATEGORY I U.S. Military Carbines Serial Numbers of Guns Studied		
104	160	185
191	196	200
235		246

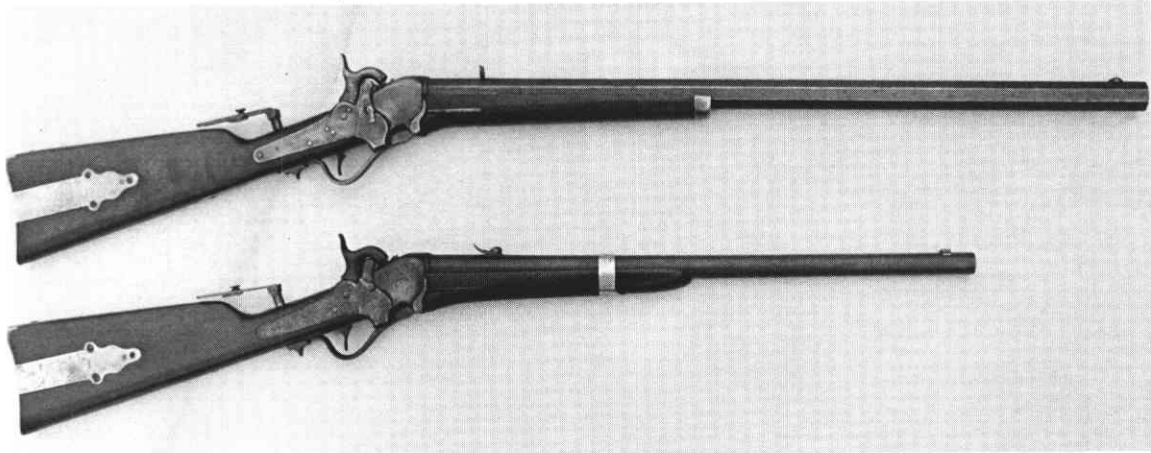
Category II

The martial style carbines appear to fall within the 1 to approximately 100 range, and then from approximately 250 to approximately 1009 (highest examined).

There are two carbines in this group of serial numbers that are anomalies to this group and appear in Category III (Civilian Carbines).

There is also another serial number, 1209, in the range of civilian carbines, that appears to be a martial style carbine.

Carbine No. 38 is in the Tower of London collection and was probably sent there directly from the factory to solicit an order for the Model 1851 Sharps. This apparently was a common practice and there have been other



Sporting rifle, serial no. 1725 and civilian carbine, serial no. 1075.

1851 Sharps reported to have been shipped to other countries to solicit orders for this model.

**CATEGORY II
Martial Style Carbines
Serial Numbers of Guns Studied**

28	69	473	795
38	357	527	904
45	438	723	1009
1209			

Category III

The civilian carbine serial numbers start at approximately 1050 and run through approximately 1415.

There are three serial numbers that appear to be anomalies in this group. Serial numbers 315 and 588 are in the range of the martial style carbines. However, both of these carbines are engraved, which is probably the reason they are out of sequence. Serial number 1763, which appears to be a civilian carbine, is in the range of the sporting rifles.

**CATEGORY III
Civilian Carbines
Serial Numbers of Guns Studied**

315	1075	1316	1763
588	1145	1328	
1053	1184	1343	
1061	1227	1407	

Category IV

The sporting rifles fall in the range of approximately 1415 through the end of the Sharps 1851 Boxlocks.

The only serial number appearing to be an anomaly in this range is number 1763: this appears to be a civilian carbine.

**CATEGORY IV
Sporting Rifles
Serial Numbers of Guns Studied**

1428	1562	1671	1896
1472	1607	1691	1916
1478	1614	1692	1931
1510	1622	1710	1938
1525	1649	1725	1954
1534	1657	1747	1997
1535	1666	1815	2000
	2022	1894	
		2031	

Calibre

All Sharps 1851 Boxlocks through approximately serial number 1300 are 32 bore or 52 calibre.

After this, there were to complete all of the surviving specimens surveyed:

- 6 of 90 bore or 36 calibre
- 23 of 60 bore or 44 calibre
- 5 of 32 bore or 52 calibre

Engraved Sharps 1851 Boxlocks

There were nine engraved specimens out of a total of 65 1851s examined. They have serial numbers:

315	1075	1671
588	1184	1710
1053	1510	2022

With the exception of one gun that I saw, they have very distinctive engraving which features floral and shaded scroll work in a bold, flowing style.

Eldon Owens believes that this work may have been done by a convict or convicts working for Robbins and Lawrence, or by them on contract (the prison was right across the stream from Robbins and Lawrence's machine shop).



Left side of sporting rifle, serial no. 1725. Note the post tang sight.

Among the convicts working in the gun shop was one doing time for banknote forgery, or as we know it today, counterfeiting. He was quite proficient at his trade and did some fine work on guns while in prison. Even the governor was impressed, and not only gave him a pardon, but also a hundred dollars towards the purchase of a house. He lived the rest of his life in Windsor, Vermont, and continued to engrave guns as well as silver for a local silversmith.^{25 26}

Barrels

All Sharps carbines from the first serial number through 1407, the last sporting carbine surveyed, have a barrel length of 21 inches.

The sporting rifles surveyed have the following barrel lengths:

- 3 have 21 inches
- 1 has 24 inches
- 6 have 26 inches
- 17 have 28 inches
- 1 has 30 inches

Barrel Markings

All military carbines appear to have been manufactured without any markings on the barrel. In addition, there are numerous 1851 Sharps rifles serial number 1916 and above that appear without barrel markings.

U.S
S.K
P

All inspected Military Carbines have the following marked on the left side of the barrel near the receiver.

Several of the very early martial style carbines are marked only with the letters RSL on the left side of the barrel near the receiver. These were for Richard S. Lawrence. A number of weapons are marked with a small J on the left side of the barrel near the receiver. All other 1851 Sharps Boxlocks seem to be marked with either:

Robbins &
Lawrence

or a two or three line:

Sharps Rifle / Manufg. Co. / Hartford Conn.
or a combination of the Hartford, Conn. address.

Cased Guns

Conversations with Frank Sellers show there are records of 10 cased guns shipped from the factory; he says he knows of three of these cased guns.

The author has been able to locate only two of these cased Sharps Boxlocks. One is a presentation to Pierre Chouteau, Jr., son of the founder of St. Louis, and himself a fur trader, who gave his name to the present town of Chouteau, Montana. The other is displayed by the author here at this meeting. It is engraved and it appears to be unfired and in its original presentation case. This was probably presented to a foreign government to solicit sales for the 1851 Boxlock.

Dr. Robert Moore has a Sharps 1851 Boxlock with its original shipping case. The shipping case is numbered to the gun.

Nipples

All Sharps 1851 Boxlocks which appeared to have their original nipples have an English nipple. This nipple is a small cylindrical style with a groove down opposite sides to take a spanner wrench; it differs from the standard nipple used in the United States, with its small tube above a square base which takes a normal nipple wrench as we know it.

Hammers

The early military carbines have three vents in the hammer nose. After approximately serial number 1009, they all have two vents in the cup except for a few isolated cases on which the hammer may have been replaced.

Patchbox

The patchbox did not appear on the carbines until somewhere near serial number 1050. The lowest serial number with a patchbox was 1053, and the highest without a patchbox was 1009.

Maynard Primer Cover

The serial number did not appear on the inside of the Maynard primer cover until approximately serial number

1000: on serial number 904, it does not appear; on serial number 1009, it does appear. This is the lowest serial number seen with the serial number inside the cover.

The Sharps 1851 Boxlock was an important part of the over-all Sharps story. With their acceptance by the U.S.

Government, they provided a foundation for the fledgeling Sharps Rifle Company and made every soldier in the field want a breech-loading firearm.

Gentlemen, the old '51 was one heck of a gun!

Notes

- ¹Wayne R. Austerman, *Sharps Rifles and Spanish Mules*. Texas A&M University Press 12, 13
- ²Louis A. Garavaglia and Charles G. Worman, *Firearms of the American West 1803-1865*. University of New Mexico Press. 136-137
- ³Conversations with Frank Sellers, Denver, Colorado, October 10-12, 1987.
- ⁴W.T. Hamilton. *My Sixty Years on the Plains*. Longs College Book Co.
- ⁵Austerman, *Sharps Rifles and Spanish Mules* 31, 32.
- ⁶*Ibid.*, 33, 34
- ⁷*Ibid.*, 38
- ⁸*Ibid.*, 50
- ⁹*Ibid.*, 61, 62
- ¹⁰*Ibid.*, 70
- ¹¹*Sharps Catalog 1859*, 9
- ¹²*Ibid.*, 10
- ¹³*Ibid.*, 10
- ¹⁴*Ibid.*, 10
- ¹⁵*Ibid.*, 10
- ¹⁶Frank Sellers, *Sharps Firearms*. 30
- ¹⁷M.L. Crimns, (ed.) "W.G. Freeman's Report on the Eighth Military Department," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* L11 No. 3 (January, 1949) 350
- ¹⁹*Ibid.*, 11
- ²⁰*Ibid.*, 11, 12
- ²¹*Ibid.*, 10
- ²²*Serial numbers of U.S. Martial Arms*, Springfield Research Service, 1985
- ²³William Gressner Sr., "A Sharps Pinfire Rifle," *The Gun Report*, (March, 1972) 18
- ²⁴J. Richard Salzer, "A Transitional Sharps Carbine," *The Gun Report*, (June, 1966) 34-35
- ²⁵Eldon J. Owens, The American Society of Arms Collectors, *Bulletin* Number Thirty-Five, p. 31
- ²⁶Conversations with Eldon Owens, October 8, 1985

Bibliography

Books

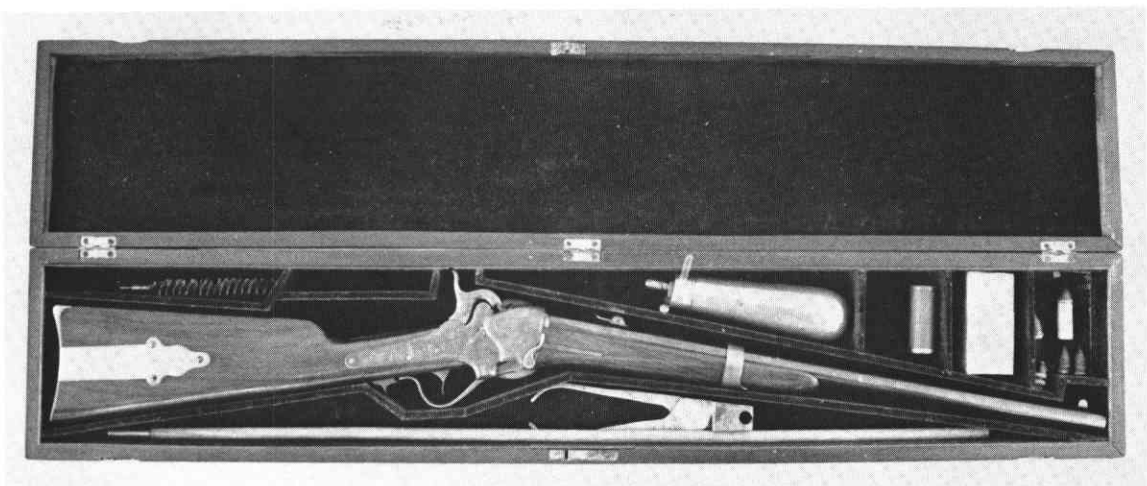
- Wayne R. Austerman, *Sharps Rifles and Spanish Mules*. Texas A&M University Press, 1985
- Frazer, Robert W. ed., *Mansfield on the Condition of the Western Forts, 1853-1854*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963
- Louis A. Garavaglia and Charles G. Worman, *Firearms of the American West 1803-1865*. University of New Mexico Press, 1984
- W.T. Hamilton, *My Sixty Years on the Plains*. Longs College Book Co., (Reprint) (Orig.) Forrest & Stream Publishing Co., 1905
- Frank Sellers, *Sharps*. Beinfeld Publishing, Inc. 1978
- Serial Numbers of U.S. Martial Arms*. Springfield Research Service 1987
- Winston O. Smith, *The Sharps Rifle*. William Morrow & Company, 1943

Catalogs

- Sharps Catalog*, 1859

Periodicals

- M.L. Crimns, (ed.) "W.G. Freeman's Report on the Eighth Military Department," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* Vol. 11 No. 3, January, 1949
- William Gressner Sr., "A Sharps Pinfire Rifle," *The Gun Report*. March, 1972
- Eldon J. Owens, The American Society of Arms Collectors, *Bulletin*. Number Thirty-Five, 1976
- Marius B. Peladeau, "The Boxlock Sharps," *The American Rifleman*. June, 1967
- J. Richard Salzer, "A Transitional Sharps Carbine," *The Gun Report*. June, 1966
- James E. Serven, "The Military Posts on Sonoita Creek," *The Smoke Signal*. Fall 1965



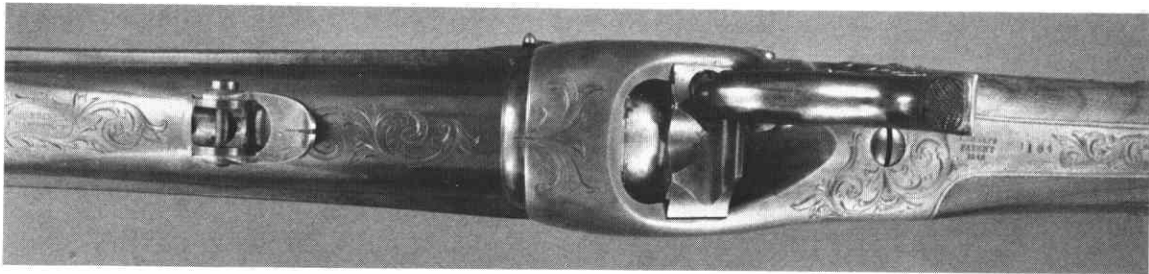
Cased, engraved, sporting carbine with accessories; serial no. 1184.



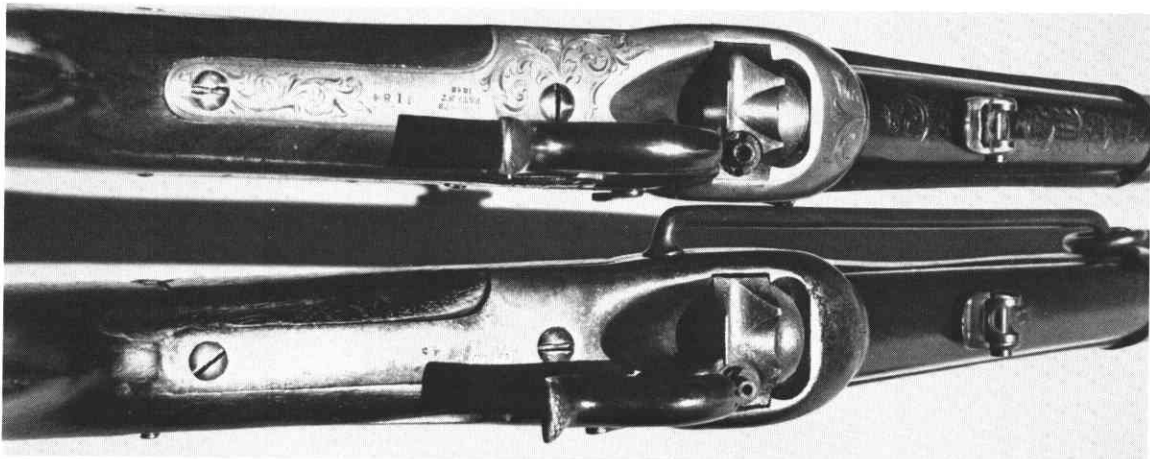
Right side of engraved civilian carbine, serial no. 1184.



Left side of carbine no. 1184.



Top view of carbine no. 1184. Note "squirrel" type rear barrel sight.



Two carbines, showing English cylindrical nipple on the engraved carbine, top; the bottom carbine has a conventional American nipple.