

The End of the Line: The Last Days of the Sharps Rifle in Montana

Gerald R. Mayberry

The September 17, 1881, issue of Miles City, Montana Territory's *Yellowstone Journal* carried the story of the finding of a skeleton of a white man. Alongside the skeleton was found a rusty Sharps carbine, still at full cock. It was impossible to tell if the weather, Indians or some other unknown danger had caused his death. In early day Montana, even the possession of a Sharps carbine was not enough to always insure survival.

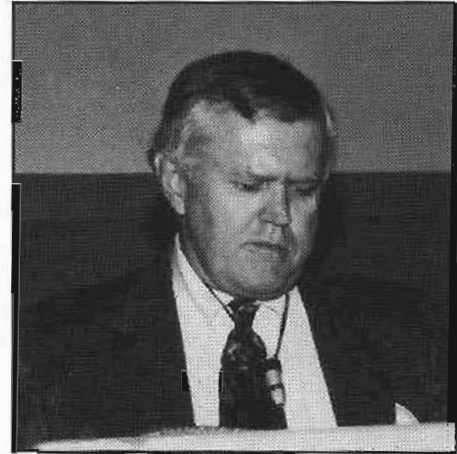
Settlement of Montana came slowly. Montana had rich hunting grounds, which the numerous Indian tribes defended enthusiastically. The climate could be severe, and initially little was found to draw more than a few adventurers to the region. Sharps rifles were made from 1849 to the early 1880s: this period also closely parallels Montana's frontier history, from a largely unexplored wilderness in 1850, to a separate territory in 1864, to a state in 1889. During this period, a transition also took place in the arms world: from muzzle-loader to breech-loader to repeater to the eve of smokeless powder.

The Sharps rifle was arguably the best of the early breech-loaders. Further, the continued development of the basic idea of a falling-block breech-loader combined with the introduction of metallic cartridges helped the Sharps rifle stay up with later designs. Although not a repeater, it would for a time become the standard as regards power, range, accuracy, and reliability, qualities that were especially desirable on the frontier. Many serious hunters would only have a Sharps rifle; in the case of the professional buffalo hunter, its use was virtually universal.

The romance of the Montana Sharps continues today. True Montana Sharps rifles remain in demand and may bring a premium when sold: when you hold a "Montana Sharps", you hold history. The interest remains high enough that five firms in Montana build or plan to build replicas. The Sharps is often found in the art of Montana painters, from Charlie Russell to the modern works of Ralph Heinz and Fred Fellows.

The first recorded use of a Sharps in what would become Montana was by the Isaac D. Stevens surveying party in 1853. Stevens later wrote that "The Sharps rifles issued...proved excellent and reliable arms."¹

H. E. Dimick and Co. of St. Louis were soon advertising Sharps rifles that could be "loaded on horseback at a smart



gallop, or lying down in the grass...Two hundred balls can be shot...in less time than with any other military or hunting rifle on this or t'other side of Jordan. We will back our judgement with the "filthy lucre"...that they are the best guns for persons exposed to the dangers of frontier life."² No doubt many of those who came to Montana around this time would bring a Sharps across the prairie or up the Missouri River.

Worman and Garavaglia, however, feel that "the gassing devices in the Sharps percussion rifles worked well only as long as powder charges did not exceed 60 grains or so. The front-loading guns were painfully slow to recharge."³

An example of the use of a Sharps rifle in the early period of Montana history would be on the Yellowstone Expedition of 1863, led by James Stuart. The party left Bannock in early April of 1863, with plans to meet at a pre-arranged rendezvous site. Although probably not an unusual circumstance during that time, the party was slow to arrive, due to the effects of Jim Gammall's "Minie Ball Whiskey." The party included fifteen men, among whom were S. T. Hauser, later a prominent banker, and George Ives, who would be hung a year later by vigilantes, among whom James and Granville Stuart would be members.⁴

Three days after their departure, a further seven men reached the rendezvous. This second party would go on to discover the greatest gold discovery in Montana history. This discovery, near what would become Virginia City, would play a large part in the creation of Montana Territory in 1864.⁵

Several days into the trip, the Stuart party met a Bannock village. With them was the Paiute medicine-man Winnemucca, whom the Bannocks seemed to treat with

respect and even fear, as he was supposed to be able to make game plentiful or scarce, make one invulnerable to firearms, and even to be able to catch a rifle ball in his hands. James Stuart's comment was, "I think he would have warm work stopping a ball from my trusty Sharps' rifle"¹² Early quotes that mention Sharps rifles often use the possessive tense.

The Bannocks held a scalp dance over seven fresh Flathead scalps. Stuart noted that "Such is war among Indians: a massacre of the weak and defenseless by the strong, as opportunity arises"

In late April, Stuart wrote in his journal that "about an hour before sundown, and while resting from the day's labor, we were startled by several gunshots fired in a clump of cottonwoods. Soon thereafter thirty Indians vociferating "How-dye-do" and "Up-sar-O-ka" (which we later found meant "Crow Indian" in their language) came riding into camp. I was invited to their camp. While I exchanged lies with them, some of the braves began disputing who would have our best horses. There was thievery all night. At daylight, I aroused the men. As we packed up, the Indians proceeded to forcibly trade for anything they wished. I saw that the time had come to do or die. With one hand full of cartridges and my [Sharps] rifle in the other, I told them to mount their horses and leave camp. They weakened and did."¹³

Twelve years later, when Hauser edited Stuart's journal for publication, he noted this short comment did not do justice to the tense moment. Stuart, outwardly unperturbed and smoking his pipe, watched until the principal chief was separated from his warriors, then with a sharp order to his men, Stuart covered the chief's heart. Each man covered an Indian and every Indian dropped his robe and levelled his gun also. With his eyes flashing, Stuart cursed the old chief out for his bad faith and threatened to kill him if he did not call his men off at once. The chief stared at him defiantly for a few seconds. Then Hauser noted "but finally a wave of his hand relieved our doubts and his braves lowered their weapons of death and suddenly sought their robes and ponies"¹⁴

Hauser laughed and threw his hat in the air. At this he wrote: "The second chief, who was a straight, tall, fine-looking warrior, and as brave as Julius Caesar, was perfectly pale with rage, because the old chief had not signalled the fight, and the fact that I had laughed and exulted over it only increased his rage. Rushing up to me in a white heat, he place his finger on my nose and then on his own, and quickly touched his gun and then mine, and pointed to one side...The young brave had to retire without satisfaction, which I regret to say, he got afterwards."¹⁵

Several nights later, there were signs that Indians were

again nearby. Stuart took the first watch and was lying on the ground trying to see what was bothering the horses, when the Indians fired a volley into the camp, killing four horses, wounding two men mortally, and two badly and three slightly.¹⁶

Hauser was slightly wounded by a ball that was stopped by a memorandum book in his pocket.¹⁷ The Indians fired arrows into the camp all night long. In the morning, a decision was made to leave all but the necessities and try to escape. The Indians apparently figured Stuart's party had better "medicine", because they did not attack again. However, another man was lost when he shot himself accidentally. By the time the party returned, it had covered 1,600 miles. James Stuart had used his "trusty" Sharps not only to defend life and property, but had killed deer, elk, buffalo, and antelope for food along the way.¹⁸

Sharps rifles were becoming known for their range and accuracy. In May of 1868, the Sioux raided across the Missouri River from Fort Benton. The Indians snatched 15 horses and mules along with 40 head of cattle. While this was going on, the locals raged impotently "for the lack of long range Sharps rifles."¹⁹

In another instance at Fort Benton, and perhaps still lacking Sharps rifles, it was decided to impress a number of Indians camped near town with the power of a 4 pound mountain howitzer that had been brought to town on the back of a mule.

The men in charge of the little gun decided to discharge the gun from the back of the mule. "The howitzer, loaded with grapeshot, was securely fastened upon the back of a sleepy looking...mule, with the muzzle pointed toward the tail...the patient, unsuspecting animal was led to the bank of the river near the present site of the T.C. Power & Bro. store...Arranged in an semi-circle around the mule were train men, officers and wondering Indians...A chief of ceremonies having been appointed, he advanced, and when all was in readiness, inserted a time fuse in the touch hole of the howitzer. In a short time the quiet, unruffled mule heard a fizzing just back of his ears, which made him uneasy, and he immediately began to turn his head to investigate. As he did so, his body turned and the howitzer began to take in all parts of the compass. The mule became more excited as his curiosity became more and more intense, and in a few seconds he had his four feet in a bunch, making more revolutions a minute than the bystanders dared to count, with the howitzer threatening destruction to everybody within a radius of a quarter of a mile. The train men and Indians scattered pell-mell over the flat toward the bluffs, running as if they thought in flight lay their only safety, and that, too, at a rate of speed much greater than the grapeshot. Judging from the alacrity with which several of the men slid

over the bank of the river, they were not opposed to immersion.

While the mule with his heels in mid-air, was shaken with the most violent agitation, there was a puff of smoke, a thud, and the mule ended up in the river, with the shot going through town and striking a buffalo figure used as an advertisement at the fort. X. Biedler [noted lawman] was the grand commander and it was his first buffalo."¹⁵

In 1874, one hundred forty men left Bozeman, Montana, to open up the Yellowstone River country to settlement and mining. Among the organizers was Bozeman merchant and Sharps dealer Walter Cooper. As they progressed, increasing pressure from the Sioux was felt, until at least 600 warriors surrounded them, with more arriving daily. Feeling that the ever increasing number of Indians would eventually overpower them, they decided to retreat.

Attacks had been almost constant, when two warriors came out on a hill and fired into camp from long distance. Jack Beam took a rest and with careful aim, returned the compliment. Several of the party were looking at the Indians with field-glasses and declared the ball had hit one. "The distance must have been nearly a mile." Jack used a long range rifle, (a 120 grain Sharps) and had made several effective shots on the trip.¹⁶ No tale of the Sharps rifle would be complete without a mile long shot.

INDIAN FIGHTING

Immediately after the Civil War, the Army sought to secure safe passage to Montana along Bozeman Trail. Near Christmas of 1866, the Army suffered the Fetterman Massacre near Fort Phil Kearney, while trying to defend the Bozeman Trail with muzzle-loaders and a few Spencers. Earlier that summer, Montana businessman Nelson Story had made the first cattle drive to Montana, with 26 Texans armed with Remington-Geiger breech-loading carbines.

Having been ordered by the Army not to proceed beyond Fort Phil Kearney, it was put to a vote whether to defy the Army's order. All but George Dow voted to proceed. Dow was promptly tied up and tossed into a wagon. He was released ten miles up the trail, with no option but to continue with the herd. Despite several fights with the Sioux and Cheyenne, the herd successfully reached Montana; The Indians appeared to have more respect for the cowboys and their Remingtons than for the Army.¹⁷ As will be shown later, Dow and Story would be involved in the sale of Sharps rifles at Bozeman.

By late 1866, Fort C. F. Smith on the Montana segment of the Bozeman Trail was down to ten rounds per man for their Springfield muzzle-loaders.¹⁸ This was not unique to the Army; at the Fetterman Massacre, Crazy Horse carried a Sharps carbine for which he had only four rounds.¹⁹ In late



Walter Cooper, who was Sharps' biggest dealer in Montana. From Joaquin Miller, *The State of Montana*, Lewis publishing Co., Chicago, 1894

July of 1867, Fort C. F. Smith was finally reinforced. The reinforcements brought with them several hundred .50-70 Model 1866 Springfield rifles, with plenty of ammunition.²⁰ This was to prove a disastrous surprise to the same Indians who had killed Fetterman and his 80 men just seven months before.²¹

On August 1, 1867, the scene was set. Nine civilians were cutting hay near the fort, with an escort of twenty soldiers. The soldiers passed the time playing cards and tossing horse shoes. Around eight in the morning, they were interrupted by an attack from a force estimated at nearly 800 Sioux and Cheyenne warriors. The soldiers retreated into an improvised fort and managed to stand off the Indians all day; relief finally arrived near night fall. Although three men were killed, the rest survived; Indian casualties had been heavy. After this defeat at the "Hayfield Fight" and a similar one the next day at the "Wagon Box Fight" near Fort Phil Kearney, the Indians would never again launch a full scale attack along the Bozeman Trail.²² The Army found itself too thinly spread, though, and eventually abandoned the Bozeman Trail forts; new and safer ways to Montana had been found anyway.

In these battles and others that followed, the Army

made comparatively little use of the Sharps. However, even the Seventh Cavalry was issued some converted .50-70 Sharps carbines, prior to their receiving .45-70 Springfield Model 1873 carbines. At the Battle of Allen Creek, M. T., on August 11, 1873, the Seventh was mostly armed with the Sharps. Other guns carried in the battle included the Ward-Burton and .50-70 Model 1870 Springfield carbines. With these weapons, they fought a pitched battle with Sioux Indians.²³

In 1876 the Army set out to pressure the Sioux and Cheyenne who were not on reservations. The Indians joined together in unprecedented numbers and in June were able to defeat General Crook at the Battle of the Rosebud and Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. In both battles, Sharps rifles and carbines were used by both sides. One terrain feature at the Rosebud site is known as Packer's Rocks, where the civilian packers fought using Sharps.²⁴

An interesting story from the Battle of the Little Big Horn saw First Sergeant John Ryan use a 15-pound Sharps rifle with a telescopic sight. He had bought the rifle in Bismark, D.T., for \$100.00. Toward the end of the battle, Captain French asked Sergeant Ryan if he could do anything about several Indians shooting from beyond the range of the Springfield carbines. Sergeant Ryan fired a couple of shots to get the range, then fired several more shots for effect. These were the last shots of the battle, as the Indians began to pull out. The siege was over.²⁵

In 1984 and 1985, extensive archaeological work was done at the Little Big Horn Battlefield. Many cartridge cases were found. Using modern fire arm identification procedures, it was possible to identify 371 individual weapons, thirty-five of which proved to have been Sharps. While most were probably Indian guns, some were fired by soldiers and civilians. It is interesting to note that no .44 caliber Sharps bullets or cartridge cases were found.²⁶ While .44-77 and .44-90 rifles were sold in Montana, they were probably not as popular as rifles using government ammunition.

There are records of several surrenders of their arms by the Indians. In March, 1879, Little Wolf's band of Northern Cheyenne surrendered to the Second Cavalry in south-eastern Montana. They turned in thirty firearms:

- 4 Springfield carbines, caliber .45
- 3 Springfield rifles, caliber .50
- 4 Sharps rifles, calibers .45
- 1 Sharps rifle, caliber .50
- 1 Muzzle-loader
- 3 Winchesters or Henrys
- 10 Handguns.²⁷

No doubt many of the arms surrendered were often unserviceable by Army standards. Also, better arms were

probably often appropriated by the soldiers or hidden by the Indians. When Rain-in-the Face surrendered at Fort Koegh, Montana, he carried a battered .52 caliber Sharps carbine.²⁸

SHIPMENTS OF SHARPS RIFLES TO MONTANA

During the period from approximately 1870 until the early 1880s, Sharps rifles were produced by the Sharps Manufacturing Company of Hartford, Conn. and Sharps Rifle Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut. For the purpose of this study, the two companies can be considered as one; there was continuity between the two firms, and the change had no effect across the country in Montana.

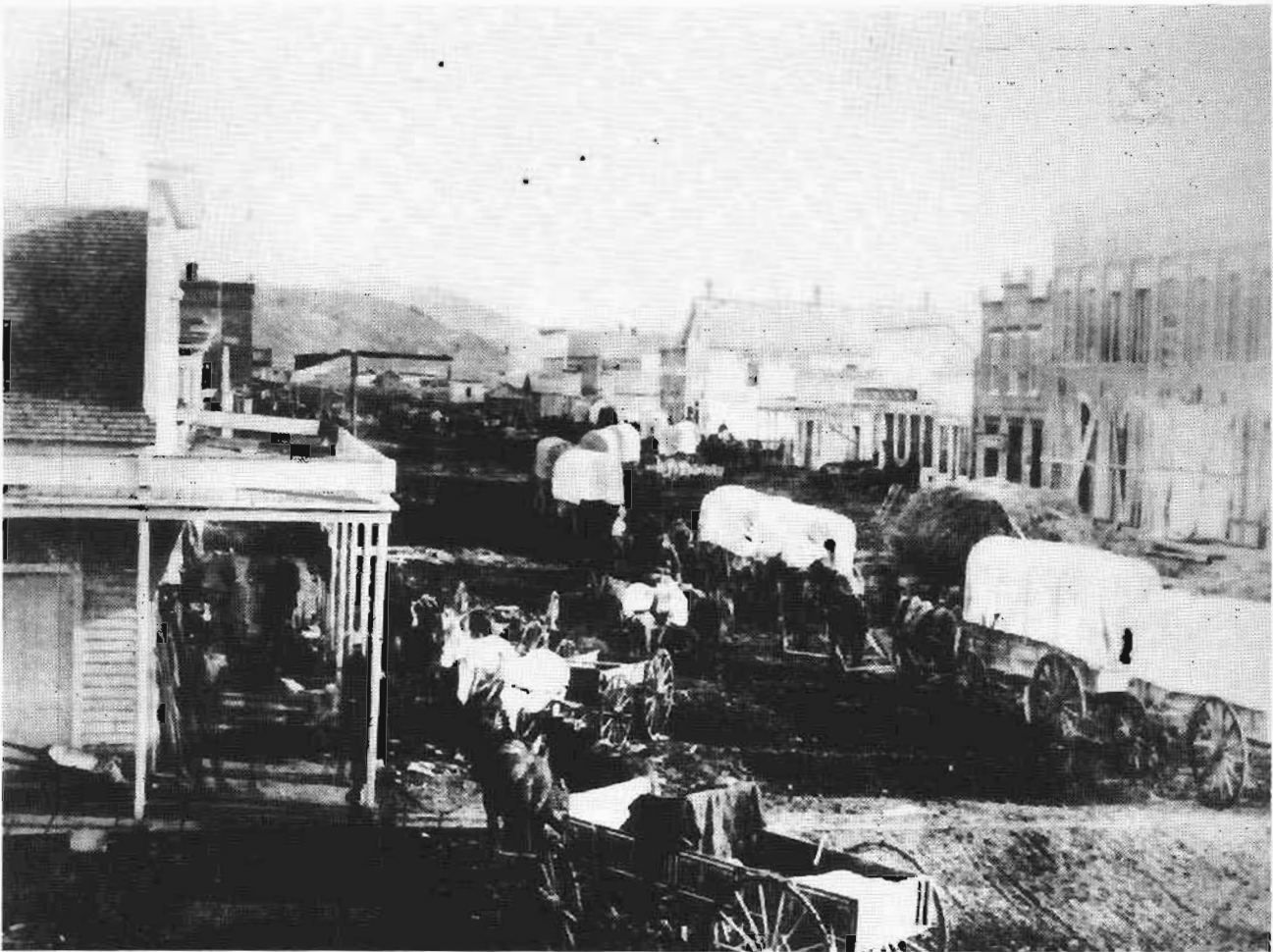
Fortunately the bulk of the records for this period have survived and are owned by Dr. R. L. Moore, Jr. The records are most complete with regards to the Model 1874. This model saw the greatest use in Montana and will be the subject of this discussion. The data was provided through the very kind assistance of Dr. Moore and was drawn by him directly from the original factory records.

There are several names for which one or more alternative spellings are shown. The most obvious reason for this resulted from difficulties in reading what a person wrote. In the case of S. T. Hauser, his signature sometimes looked like Hansen. In the case of Granville Stuart, Stewart would be the more common of the two. Even in a three volume Montana History put out shortly after his death, his name is spelled Stewart. I have tried to show the preferred form first, with alternatives after.

Captain John Mix, USA, apparently had almost a dealer status, ordering a number of rifles to be shipped to several dealers in the territory.²⁹ Rifles were shipped to "the Department of the Dakotas": this was an Army designation, which included Montana, as well as North and South Dakota.³⁰

The most popular type of rifle shipped to Montana by the factory was the Business Rifle, with 169 rifles shipped. Next came the Sporting Rifles, with 153 rifles shipped. A close third were Military Rifles, with 141 rifles shipped. It is my suspicion that some of the Military Rifles shipped to Cooper and other Western dealers were stripped of their barrels and forearms, then possibly equipped with double set triggers, a new barrel and forearm and sold as Sporting Rifles. Military Rifles were significantly cheaper than Sporting Rifles.

Do the figures given for factory shipments to Montana represent all the new Sharps rifles sent to Montana? Unfortunately not. It is known that Walter Cooper bought significant quantities of rifles from B. Kittredge & Co. Records for the sales of Sharps rifles by Schuyler, Hartley, & Graham have recently been received by the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming; perhaps these may hold some answers, however, the records that I have seen did not seem



Bozeman, Montana. Walter Cooper's shop was located below the large rifle. From "Montana Sharps" by Ralph Heinz, *Man at Arms*, Nov-Dec 1981. Photos supplied by the author.

to show any shipments to Montana. Still, it is quite likely that a significant number of Sharps were shipped to Montana from sources other than the factory.

When you consider that the Model 1874 Sharps was produced in a quantity of less than 13,000, and that Montana had only a population of 20,000 in 1868 and 40,000 in 1880, it becomes apparent that it was very popular in Montana.

WALTER COOPER

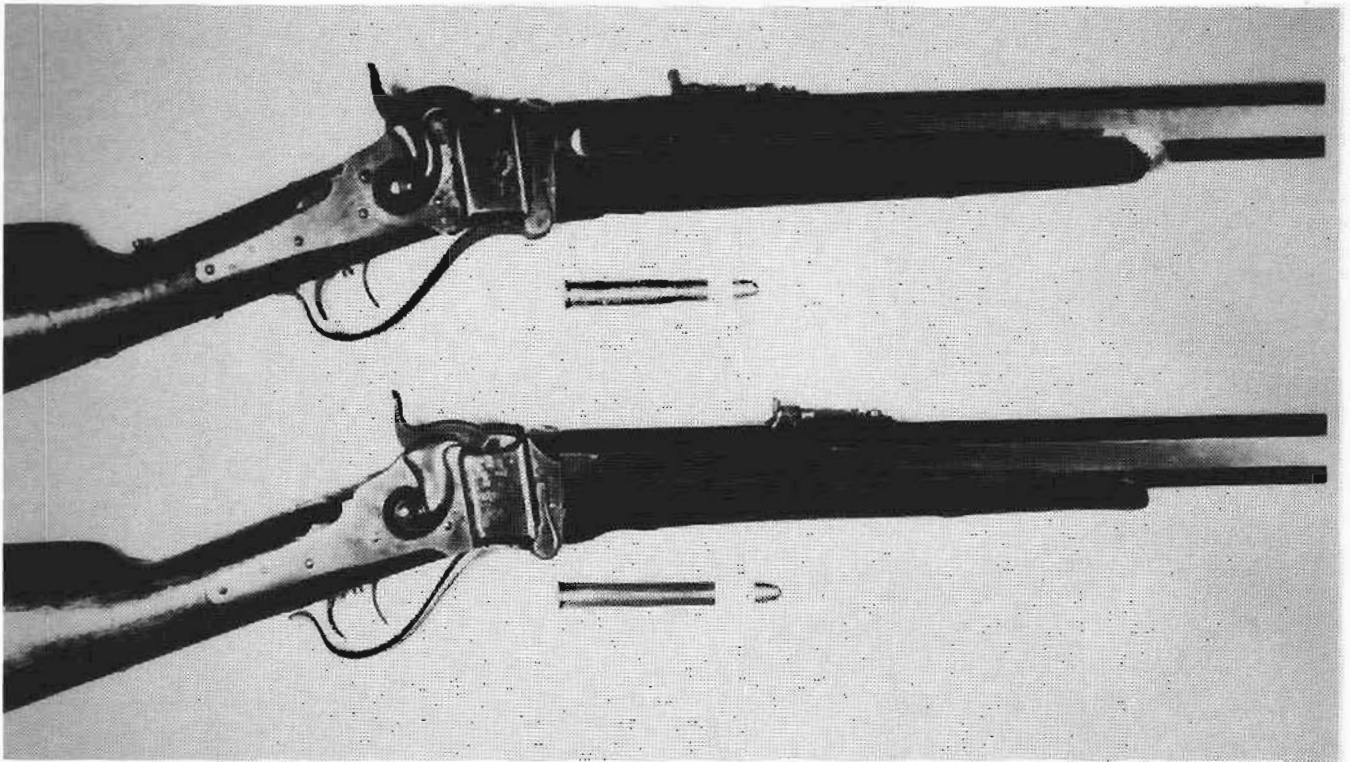
From W. Cooper, Esq., Bozeman, Montana, April 9, 1872

"Those four guns you sent me take the eye of every one. They outshoot anything ever brought to this country. I won a bet of ten dollars the other day on penetration against an army musket, called the Springfield Needle Gun here. Shot the same powder and shot two inches deeper into the wood."

The above recommendation from Walter Cooper was printed in the "1875 Sharps Manufacturing Catalog". Cooper would be far and away the largest dealer for Sharps in Montana. Unfortunately, the arrangement between Cooper and Sharps was not always a profitable one. Mr. Cooper was born on July 4, 1843, in Sterling, New York; in his later years, he left some autobiographical notes, which are at Montana

State University, Bozeman, Montana. In them, he noted: "Having established a business and home in the city of Bozeman the last of December, 1868, handling as specialties: Firearms, ammunition, and a general line of hunting and defensive material together with a first class gunsmith establishment so useful and necessary in this far off country. New and growing, having little or nothing, demanding everything...Home of a large number of Indian tribes many of whom roamed at large." By the early part of 1873, the gun business had not grown as profitable as Cooper had expected.

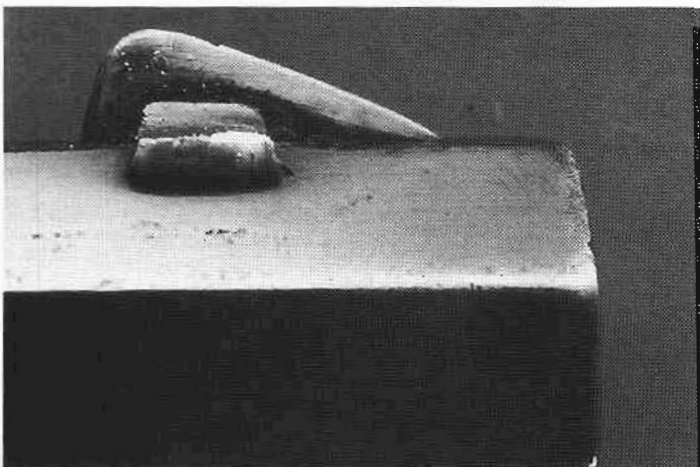
Dr. R. L. Moore wrote to Ralph Heinz for his article on Walter Cooper for *Man at Arms*, giving a list and summary of the correspondence sent Cooper by Sharps. By 6 November 1876, Edwin G. Wescott, president of the Sharps Rifle Co. at the time, noted that some bills were as much as four years old. This problem continued until offers were being handled through J. G. Dow, cashier of the First National Bank. A 28 September 1878 letter noted that the B. Kittridge Company had taken up Cooper's note for \$1,800.00. On 15 October 1878, Sharps noted that 60 Sporting rifles had been sent on consignment. However in a letter on 15 January 1879, Sharps



Top, a .40-90 BN, with Hartford style forearm cap, weight 16 lbs. Bottom, .45 - 2 7/8", with Bridgeport style forearm, weight 14 1/2 lbs. Both from Walter Cooper's shop. From "Montana Sharps" by Ralph Heinz, *Man at Arms*, Nov-Dec 1981. Photos supplied by the author.



Cooper's stamp, used on gun barrels, bullet molds, etc. Ralph Heinz Photo.



A Cooper front sight. Ivory insert in the blade, with 3 pins that hold it in place. Ralph Heinz photo, *Man At Arms*.

noted with regret that Cooper had to close and wishes his successors well. It is interesting that although this matter had gone on some time, the relationship was still friendly.³³

Succeeding Cooper was the firm of Story and Goewey. Their first ad in Bozeman's *Avant Courier* appeared on December 19, 1878; the last appeared on March 3, 1881. Apparently Cooper took the business back, as new ads for Cooper's Armory appeared on April 28, 1881. They would last appear on December 18, 1884. These ads carried the notice that "Persons indebted to the late firm of Story & Goewey will save trouble by calling at once and making an early settlement."³⁴

Walter Cooper would have better luck in his other business ventures. He helped to found the towns of Red Lodge, Laurel, and Bridger. He helped supply Bozeman with its first water system. Also, he was involved with one of the largest flour mills in the territory and with varied mining enterprises. His death occurred April 26, 1924, in Bozeman.³⁵

Besides selling rifles, Walter Cooper had an extensive gunsmithing business. This business has left us today with some interesting weapons bearing the stamp of "Walter Cooper" over "Bozeman, M.T."

Visually, his sights and pewter forend caps stand out the most. While there are several Cooper sights known, he is perhaps best known for his rear sight, which offered the convenience of a large, easy-to-see buckhorn sight and the standard flip-up Lawrence sight leaf for long-range shooting. The rear sight was fitted with a white platinum line next to

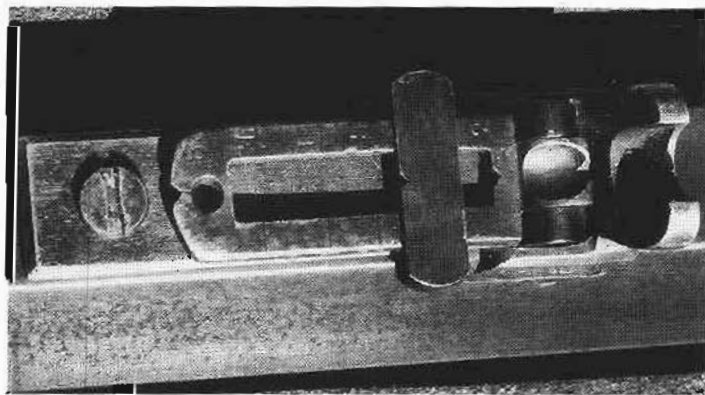
the eye, which helped the eye catch the sight in the bright western sun. With a later "improved" rear sight, the buckhorn could be raised to give two quick sight positions.³⁵

Walter Cooper's front sights were some of the earliest to combine the use of ivory, or in some cases gold, platinum or phosphor bronze, in a sight sturdy enough to stand frontier usage. Cooper claimed that under some light conditions, only his sights could be seen clearly. On November 14, 1882, Walter Cooper was granted his only sight patent, No. 267,497, which was described as the Cooper Open Front Sight with gauge. This sight had projections or "pin-balls" approximately half way up the sight, which in effect gave the front sight two different range settings without adjusting the rear sight.³⁷

Most Sharps rifles made at Hartford had forend caps of pewter; later, when the company moved to Bridgeport, these were largely dropped, however, some Western dealers continued to order this feature. Walter Cooper had his own version: it can be identified from the Sharps style, the Cooper style being more squared off, where the Sharps is more rounded. Many rifles that his shop worked on have this feature.³⁸

Other modifications made to Sharps rifles by his shop include a rebounding hammer to return the hammer to half cock when it is fired. A few rifles that Cooper worked on have been noted with the top edge of the breechblock, or "slide" as it was called by Sharps, ground to provide a beveled surface to cam a hard-to-chamber cartridge into the chamber. This perhaps lessens the protection from a blown primer, would probably result in difficult extraction of the fired case.³⁹ Freund's true camming breechblock, with the use of two extractors, really was a better idea, although at significant additional expense.

Because his shop was a full service gunsmith shop, many rifles with his stamp are found to have been rebarrelled and restocked. The frontier was hard on Sharps stocks, as well as others, and barrels were made of relatively soft metal, which could be shot out through heavy use. Also, a customer



A Walter Cooper rear sight, showing the use of a normal Lawrence rear sight with new rear sight dovetailed into the slot.

Call and examine at the old stand. In my absence Thomas Lewis will act as my agent.

COOPER'S ARMORY!

WALTER COOPER,
Wholesale and Retail Dealer in

Rifles, Shot Guns and Small Arms!

Ammunition of Every Description.

SHOOTING & FISHING

TACKLE.

All kinds of Game Ammunition. Agent for
Caps, of all Grades. Black Blasting Powder
and Fuse. Agent for English Powder
Jobbing agent for Mountain for the
S. Cartridge Co., Lowell, Mass. I
also manufacture the Cooper
Improved Rifle Sights.
These Sights are highly
recommended
by the most
Experienced Buffalo Hunters in Eastern Mont.
B. V. 1119. Dist.

GUN REPAIRING a specialty!

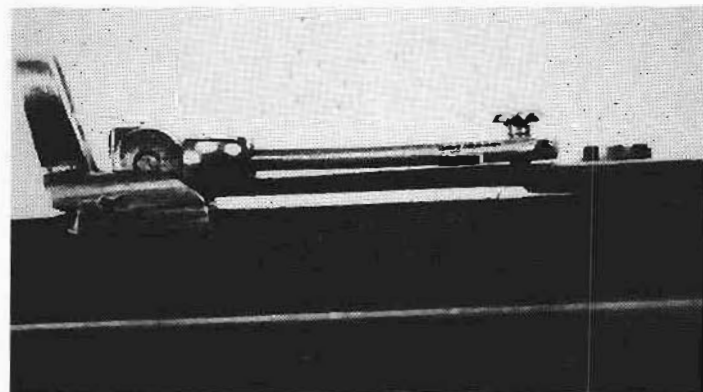
I also handle extensively Rifles, Shot Guns and
Purs, and pay the Highest Market Price for
same in Cash! Call and examine at the old stand!

No. 3, Brick Block, Main Street,
Bucconia, Montana Territory.

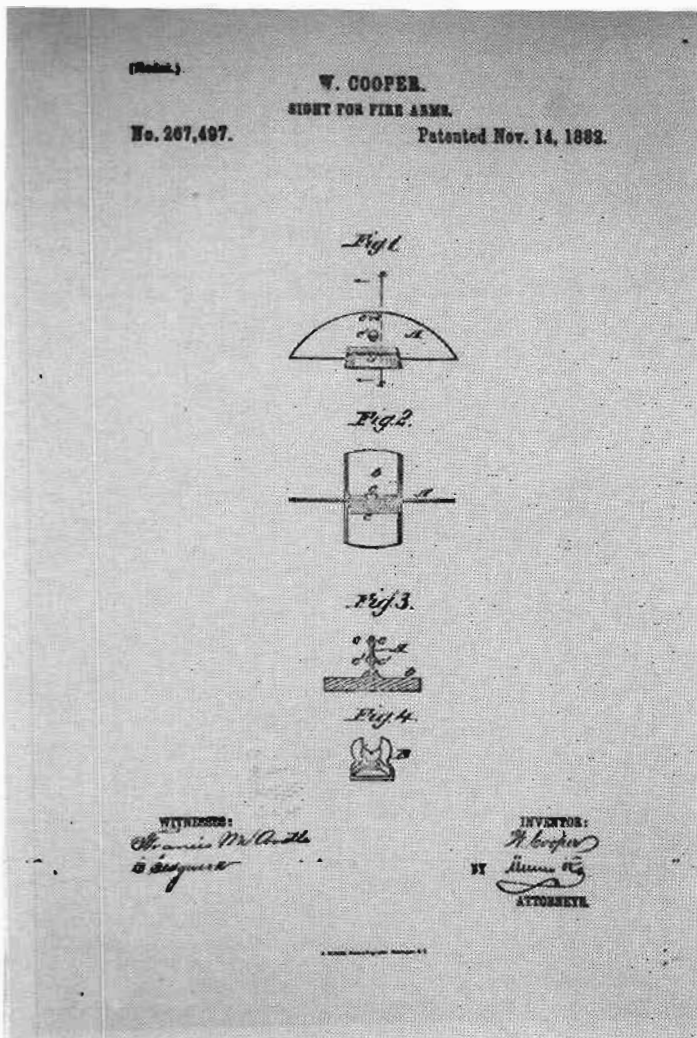
Persons indebted to the late firm of Lewis
& Govey will save trouble by calling at once
and making an early settlement.

WALTER COOPER.

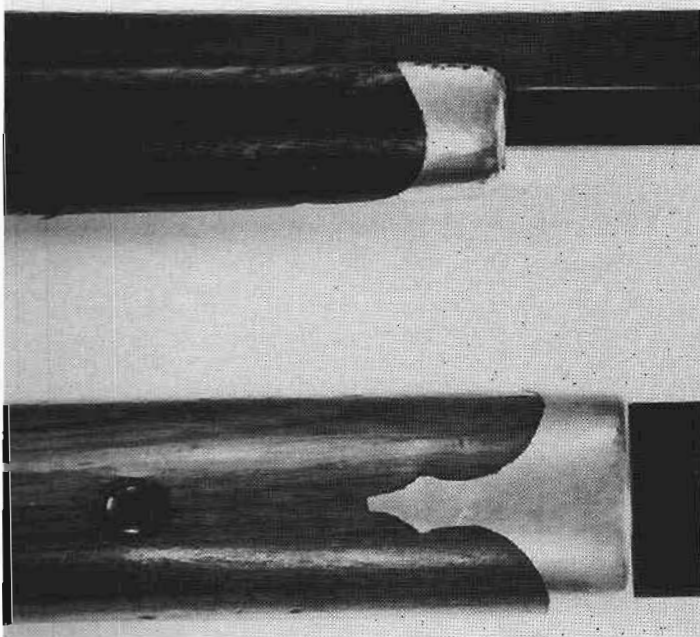
Walter Cooper advertisement from *Avant Courier*, no date. Photo supplied by Ralph Hefox.



A side view of the sight.



The patent drawing for another style of Cooper front sight.



Two views of the unique forearm cap used by Walter Cooper. Ralph Heinz photo, *A Man At Arms*.

might wish a new or special caliber. E. C. Meacham conversions of Civil War percussion guns were often rebarrelled again to overcome the objections of hunters, who felt the barrels used were cheap and inferior. As Ralph Heinz noted in his 1981 *Man at Arms* article, Walter Cooper guns are probably the most "Montana" of all Montana Sharps.⁴²

ALEXANDER D. MCAUSLAND

Three hundred miles east of Bozeman lies Miles City. Shortly after the Battle of the Little Big Horn, Fort Keogh was built on the banks of the Yellowstone River. Miles Town, later Miles City, grew up fast around the fort; it also lay in the heart of the northern range of the buffalo, other game being present in vast numbers as well. Later, after the buffalo were gone, it would become one of America's greatest cattle ranges.

Another interesting dealer and gunsmith located in Miles City was Alexander D. McAusland. While the records of the Sharps Rifle Company fail to show any Sharps shipped to him in Miles City, there are records of Sharps shipped to him at Omaha. Probably he obtained his Sharps rifles from dealers such as B. Kittridge & Company.

Alexander D. McAusland was born in Dunbarton, Scotland, in 1835.⁴¹ His parents emigrated to the United States, bringing the family with them; his father, A. D. McAusland Sr., was also a gun store proprietor. About 1875, McAusland followed the rush to the Black Hills. Apparently he didn't find the success he sought, and looking for better opportunities, McAusland left Deadwood for Miles City. Walking through very cold weather, he arrived in Miles City on Christmas Eve, 1879. He went to the only place open, a saloon, where while unloading the Sharps he carried, it discharged into the dirt floor, creating a cloud of dust and smoke.⁴²

McAusland opened a place of business which he called the Creedmore Armory. He is remembered today partly because of a number of rebarrelled Sharps rifles with his stamp on them. A twenty-six pound rifle with his stamp is known, heavy even by Sharps standards. I remember Elmer Keith writing that any Sharps over 16 pounds tended to rotate the saddle if carried in a scabbard.

As Miles City was at the heart of the buffalo trade in the early 1880s, business must have been very good, for a time. A. D. McAusland would stay active in the business until 1918, when, at the age of 83, he sold the business to his long-time friend and associate W. H. Crouse. Crouse was a violin maker and violinist, who also made rifle stocks for McAusland. A. D. McAusland returned to Omaha, where he died the following year. Crouse would keep the shop open until 1950.⁴³

As noted earlier, the Sharps Rifle Company records do not show any rifles shipped to A. D. McAusland, while he



Main Street, Pioneer City, Montana, at it looks today. A rifle was shipped to John Houk (Houck) while he was living there. Photo supplied by Gary Roedl.

was in Miles City. However, the records do show a few Business Rifles shipped to Broadwater, Hubbell & Co. The *Yellowstone Journal* also mentions or carries ads for J. Basinski, General Merchandise, W. A. Burleigh, General Merchandise, and Savage's Store as dealers in arms and ammunition. John Rohner also advertised as doing both gunsmithing and sewing machine repair.⁴⁴

THE HUNTING SHARPS

While fighting Indians today presents a more romantic image that it perhaps deserves, the fact remains that for every shot fired in anger, many times that number were fired while hunting. As Montana occupies 100,000,000 acres, grocery stores were often not convenient; so, whether traveling or living in one place, hunting was often a necessity. Even if restaurants and markets were convenient, hunting was often a good way to save money, and even at the restaurants and grocery stores, much of the meat available would often be supplied by market hunters. The *Yellowstone Journal* of January 17, 1880, showed buffalo meat selling at two or three cents per pound.

One of the individuals to whom a Sharps was shipped was John K. Houck of Pioneer City, Montana. Mr. Houck came to Montana in 1862, having failed to find his fortune in California. As was often the case on the frontier, he had a variety of jobs and businesses. He spent time as a store

keeper, packer, supplier of charcoal to the mines, and as a prospector and miner.⁴⁵ The rifle Mr. Houck ordered from Sharps is a .40-70 Sporting Rifle that survives today; the factory records show that it was shipped to Pioneer City, M.T., during July of 1878.⁴⁶

While most of its use is not recorded, it is believed to be the rifle used on an occasion when he was sleeping near his corral. In the corral were a cow and her calf. Outside the corral were a couple of interested parties. Mr. Houck was awakened by the noise of a bear attacking the calf. Planting the muzzle of his gun on the bear's head, he fired and old "Bruin" fell dead. After waiting another ten minutes, another bear attacked the calf and was also shot. In the morning, he found one dead bear in the corral and the other nearby. Apparently Sharps' long-range accuracy was not needed that night!⁴⁷

Another hunter using a Sharps was Andrew Garcia. He bought his rifle from Walter Cooper. When he died in 1943, he left behind a manuscript of his next few months' experiences: *A Tough Trip Through Paradise* is the story of enough adventure for several life times.

In 1878 Walter Cooper trusted Garcia with \$300.00 worth of goods. He already had a Model 1873 Winchester carbine. "But [I] had to buy a buffalo gun. Like the Chinaman who took the largest sized boot if it was the same price as the smaller to get more leather for the money, I bought a .45-120 caliber Sharps rifle, a buffalo gun which weighed 15 pounds



From Shield's *Rustling in the Rockies*, 1883. It shows Shields with a bear and elk. From an L. A. Huffman photo.

and cost \$75.00 Although I could have had a lighter .45-90 No. 13 for the same price." He was probably happy to have spent the money, one dark night, when he had to kill a large grizzly that attacked him and his wife in camp at short range.⁴⁸

Early Montana was a hunter's paradise. While most hunting was for the frontiersman's needs, the sport hunter came early as well. By the last part of the Nineteenth Century, not just the buffalo, but much of the other large game had been severely reduced in numbers.

Although he probably didn't carry a Sharps rifle, the first of the sport hunters appeared on the scene in 1855. In an eleven month hunt in the Yellowstone Valley, Sir George Gore, an Irish nobleman, is reported to have killed 105 bear, 2,000 buffalo, and 1,600 deer and elk, excessive even by the standards of the day.⁴⁹ Later sport hunters who came and used Sharps rifles would include George Bird Grinnel, G. O. Shields, and William Pickett.

Dr. George Bird Grinnel (1849-1938) is today best known for his writings on the Plains Indians. He also was editor of *Forest and Stream* from 1876 to 1911 and was the driving force behind the founding of Glacier National Park. James Willard Schultz later noted that in 1883, "During our

hunt, Dr. Grinnel killed a large ram at long-range, offhand, with one shot from his old Sharps rifle...I therefore named the site Single-Shot Mountain." It is probable that nearby Gunsight Mountain and Lake in Glacier National Park were also named on this trip.⁵⁰

George Shields also hunted on more than one occasion in Montana. His guide was often Miles City photographer L. A. Huffman. On one occasion, Huffman emptied his Kennedy .44-40's magazine and all the cartridges in his belt into a herd of elk at ranges under 75 yards. Several were wounded, but none killed. This performance shows why a rifle of the Sharps power was necessary when hunting large game.⁵¹

Shields used a .40-75 Model 1878 Sharps, at least sometimes with explosive bullets. He felt the explosive bullets gave satisfactory service. Modern feeling is that they are at best erratic. A strong supporter of Sharps rifles, he once wrote: "A large majority of the frontiersmen I met...used Sharps rifles...as to their effectiveness and adaptation to frontier use, they pronounced them the best arm in use."⁵²

W. O. Pickett wrote the following testimonial to Sharps. It appeared in their last two catalogs.

To Sharps Rifle Co. St. Louis, Mo., December 15, 1877

Dear sirs-I have just returned from a trip to Montana, where the past eighteen months have been spent hunting large game in that magnificent game country. During that time, I have used exclusively the Long-Range Sharps, .44 calibre, bought of you in June 1876, and take pleasure in testifying to the satisfaction it has given. I traveled 2,200 miles with it slung to the horn of my saddle, discharged it 2,500 times, was exposed to numerous snow and rain storms, was "bucked off" several times by a "Cayuse" horse, yet it was never once out of order, nor did it fail to do its duty when held right and with properly loaded shells. I hunted all types of game, with which that country abounds, and killed antelope, white and black tail deer, elk, buffalo, grizzly bear, yet the rifling is as bright, and the gun is substantially as good as when I bought it. Were I to go on such a trip again, I would select the same class of gun instead of the "sporting guns" usually taken. I was glad I selected the "straight" stock instead of the pistol "grip" as the latter would not have taken the usage received..."⁵³

BUFFALO HUNTING

The single most important use of the Sharps rifle in Montana was in another type of hunting. An Indian was once asked how many buffalo there were. His comment was "The country is as one robe,"⁵⁴ in other words, it was covered by buffalo. By 1884, the buffalo were gone.

During a four month hunt, Sam McGuire and three other men marketed 3,800 buffalo hides, 4,000 buffalo tongues, and 1,800 antelope. The camp outfit consisted of a fifty-pound sack of flour, fifty pounds of sugar, fifty pounds of coffee, a side of bacon, beans, baking powder, and fifty pounds of dried fruit. The most essential items was ammunition, consisting of 100 to 500 pounds of lead, fifty to



Sharps no. 155.978. Shipped as a 14 lb. 44-90 to T.E. Jackson, Fort Griffin, Texas, on July 1, 1876. Rebarrelled to .45 - 2 7/8" by A. D. McAusland on Miles City Montana, 1880-83. Weight now 15 lbs. It has Walter Cooper Sights of the same period. A true buffalo rifle.

100 pounds of powder, primer, paper, and 500 cartridge cases. The weapons used were the .45-120 and .40-90 Sharps.⁵⁵

A correspondent from *Forest and Stream* noted "that sharp wicked crack I knew came from Price's .40-90. No other gun talks like a .40 caliber Sharps with 90 grains of Dupont."⁵⁶

Other buffalo hunters of the period were Vic Smith, "Doc" Zahl, John Cook, "Hi" Bickerdyke, John Goff and Steele Frazier. Most of the vast buffalo range lay between the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. Hides went for between \$1.25 and \$3.50 each.⁵⁷

Mark Brown, writing on the buffalo hunters, wrote: "Theodore Roosevelt, who saw them after the herds were gone, noted that they "formed a distinct class" and were absolutely shiftless and improvident...had no settled habits...were inured to steady work...and that many drifted into criminal occupations." On the range they were rough looking individuals-usually dirty, greasy, unshaven, and frequently lousy - but usually hospitable and ready to help in time of need. John Goff, who had hunted in Texas before Montana, was once described by a buffalo hunter, who was probably dirty and unkempt himself, as having "long hair and was the dirtiest, greasiest and smokiest looking mortal I had ever seen, as he sat there on a fleet-looking horse, holding in his hands a .44 Sharps' rather carelessly...After we reached his camp, he treated me like a nobleman."⁵⁸

In Miles City, you could see the buffalo hunters enter a bar and reach inside their clothes to see who could catch the first louse for drinks.⁵⁹ There were exceptions, of course.

Montana did have game laws. From 1878, it was unlawful to take buffalo, elk, deer, mountain sheep, goat or

antelope between the first of February and the tenth of August. It was also unlawful to kill animals for their hides alone.⁶⁰ At least the last part seems to have been little enforced. The extermination of the buffalo came later in Montana than further south. The hunt's best years were in the early eighties.

Probably the most successful buffalo hunter of all time was Jim White. White came north from Texas when that hunt was over. In 1878, he met Oliver Perry Hanna, who would later write his memories of the buffalo range. Having joined together to fill a meat contract with the Army, they came on some deer at a range of four or five hundred yards. White said "we better take a shot at them before we go back to camp." Hanna began to think of how to get closer, when White got out a 16 lb. Sharps rifle. White's first shot was under the belly of one. The second killed one. Soon there were nine deer down. Hanna told White "that he had never seen shooting like that." White told Hanna "to take one of the three 16 pound rifles and practice at long range." Soon Hanna was able to kill at long range too.⁶¹

The trajectory of these old guns is every bit as curved as we have always thought it. The buffalo hunters developed the skill of range estimation and combined that with a real knowledge of the ability of their Sharps. This made them among the best shots America ever produced.

By the time of the buffalo hunt in Montana, buffalo hunting had been refined to a science. Hanna noted that "we would get a stand on them...they travel in large droves...When we got within range, we would both begin shooting rapidly, always shooting the leaders. When we had shot the leaders, the drove would stop...Then we would wound two or three, they would walk around among the

others, smelling of blood, which would cause the others to mill around. From that time on only one man would shoot, while the other cooled the guns with water, cleaned and reloaded them, taking turns at shooting. Every little while one buffalo would start to take the lead and we would get him. Sometimes we would get forty or fifty, all the men could skin in one day." Jim White was credited with 19,000 buffalo between 1872 and 1880. White did not live to see the end of the buffalo; he was murdered in 1880.²

In 1882, the Northern Pacific Railroad alone shipped 200,000 hides, many others went by steamboat, as many as 10,000 per trip. In 1884, the railroad carried 100 hides. It was over. An example of how big the kill had been was a single pile of 600 tons of bones. It could be seen from 40 miles away, glistening in the sun.³

The final extermination of the buffalo insured that the Indian would forever be dependent on the reservation. Their way of life for better or worse was gone. Even for the Indians of the reservations, supplies could be inadequate. During the winter of 1883-84, nearly 600 Blackfeet starved to death.⁴ In earlier years, they had been able to supplement their rations with the buffalo.

Along with the elimination of the buffalo and reduction in numbers of other large game animals, the Sharps' day had passed. They had perhaps out-lived the company that made them, and a few have come down today. But many others didn't survive. L.A. Huffman's fireplace in Miles City has several Sharps hanging above it. Also built into the fireplace are several Sharps rifle barrels. It is thought that the actions are also built into the wall. A time came when a Sharps was worth nothing more than a "hook". Battered and rusty they may sometimes be, but treasure those that have survived. When you look at them you are looking at history.

NOTES

1. Louis A. Garavaglia & Charles Worman, *Firearms of the American West* 1803-65, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1984 pg. 242.
2. *Ibid.*, pg. 243
3. *Ibid.*, pg. 246
4. *History of Montana*, Warner, Beers & Co., Chicago, 1885, pgs. 60-74
5. *Ibid.*
6. *Ibid.*
7. *Ibid.*
8. *Ibid.*
9. Mark H. Brown, *The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone*, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1961, pgs. 130-133
10. *Ibid.*
11. *History of Montana*, pgs. 60-74
12. Mark H. Brown, *The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone*, pgs. 130-33.
13. *History of Montana* pgs. 60-74
14. Joel Overholser, *Fort Benton*, Joel Overholser Fort Benton, 1987, pg. 314
15. *Ibid.*, pg. 380

16. *History of Montana* pg. 86.
17. Robert A. Murray, *The Bozeman Trail*, Praeger Publishing, Boulder, 1988, pg. 37
18. Mark H. Brown, *The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone* pg. 173.
19. Wayne R. Austerman, "Speaks Far Gun", *Man at Arms*, March/Apr. 1984, pg. 14.
20. Mark H. Brown, *The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone*, pg. 173
21. Robert A. Murray, pg. 45
22. *Ibid.*, pgs. 51-52
23. Letter from Ralph Heinz, June 8, 1992.
24. Letter from Ralph Heinz, June 29, 1991
25. Ralph Heinz, *First Sergeant Ryan*, C. Sharpe Arms Co., Big Timber, 1982, pgs. 1-2 (This was a calendar)
26. Douglas A. Scott, R. A. Fox, M. A. Connor, & Dick Harmon, *Archaeological Perspective on the Battle of the Little Bighorn*, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1989, pgs. 153-182
27. Louis A. Garavaglia & Charles Worman, *Firearms of the American West 1866-94*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1985 pgs. 369-70
28. *Ibid.*
29. Letter from Dr. R. L. Moore, Jr., September 14, 1992
30. Letter from Dr. R. L. Moore, Jr., August 11, 1992.
31. Conversation with Ralph Heinz, September 18, 1992,
32. *1875 Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Co. Catalog*, pg. 22.
33. Letter from Dr. R. L. Moore, Jr., to Ralph Heinz, July 20, 1980.
34. *Avant Courier*, Bozeman, Montana, December 18, 1884.
35. Ralph Heinz, "Montana Sharps", *Man at Arms*, November-December 1981, pgs. 24-37.
36. Arthur Corbin Gould, *Modern American Rifles*, Bradley Widden, Boston, 1891
37. *Ibid.*
38. Ralph Heinz, "Montana Sharps", pgs. 24-37
39. *Ibid.*
40. *Ibid.*
41. *1860 Nebraska Census*, pg. 5, provided by Gary Roedl.
42. Letter from W. R. Felton, Jr., to Gary Roedl, February 15, 1989
43. Bill Bamhart, "A McAusland Sharpe", *Arms Gazette*, August 1979, pgs. 38-40.
44. *Yellowstone Journal*, Miles City, various issues from 1880-84.
45. Joaquin Miller, *The State of Montana*, the Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1894, pgs. 695-97
46. Dr. R. L. Moore Jr., factory letter, May 1, 1989.
47. Joaquin Miller, pgs. 695-97.
48. Andrew Garcia, *Tough Trip Through Paradise*, Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston 1967
49. Robert Fletcher, *Montana's Historical Markers*, Montana Historical Society, Helena, 1989, pg. 12
50. James Willard Schultz, "Return to the Beloved Mountains", *Montana*, 3-57 pg. 21.
51. G. O. Shields, *Rustling in the Rockies*, Belford, Clarke & Co., Chicago, 1883, pgs. 26-35
52. *Ibid.*, pgs. 151-52.
53. *1880 Sharps Rifle Co. Catalog*, pgs. 37-38.
54. Lee Stillman, editor, *We Seized Our Rifles*, Mountain Press, Missoula, 1982, pg. 137.
55. B. F. Lamb, "The Passing of the Buffalo", in J. K. Howard, *Montana Margins*, Yale University Press, 1946, pgs. 410-413
56. Louis A. Garavaglia & Charles Worman, *Firearms of the American West: 1866-94*, pg. 201
57. Mark Brown, *The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone*, pgs. 362-69.
58. Mark Brown, *The Frontier Years*, Bramhall House, New York, 1955, pg. 68
59. *Ibid.*, pgs. 241-42.

60. *Yellowstone Journal*, March 13, 1880, front page.
 61. Oliver Perry Hanna, "My Life as a Buffalo Hunter", in Miles Gilbert, *Getting a Stand*, Miles Gilbert, Tempe, 1986, pgs. 121-163.
 62. *Ibid.*
 63. David Walter, "Final Hour", *Montana Magazine*, November/December 1988, pgs. 52-58.
 64. Helen West, "Starvation Winter of the Blackfeet", *Montana*, Winter 1959, pg. 2-19.

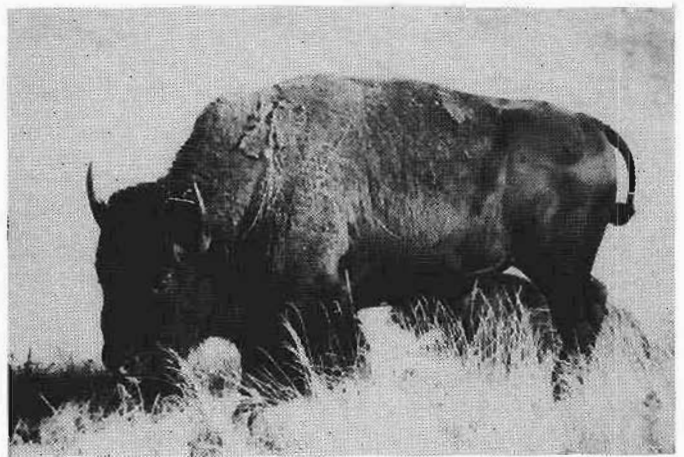
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

- Brown, Mark, *The Frontier Years*, Bramhall House, New York, 1955.
 *Before Barbed Wire*, Bramhall House, New York, 1956.
 *The Plainsmen of the Yellowstone*, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1961.
 Garcia, Andrew, *Tough Trip Through Paradise*, Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, 1967.
 Gilbert, Miles, editor, *Getting a Stand*, Miles Gilbert, Tempe, 1986.
 Gould, Arthur Corbin, *Modern American Rifles*, Bradley Whidden, Boston, 1892.
History of Montana, Warner, Beers & Co., Chicago, 1885
 Howard, J. K., editor, *Montana Margins*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1946.
 Miller, Joaquin, *The State of Montana*, the Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1894.
 Murray, Robert A., *The Bozeman Trail*, Pruett Publishing Co., Boulder, 1988.
 Overholser, Joel, *Fort Benton*, Joel Overholser, Ft. Benton, 1987.
 Scott, Douglas, R. A. Fox, M. A. Connor, & Dick Harmon, *Archaeological Perspectives on the Battle of the Little Bighorn*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, 1989.
 Sellers, Frank, *Sharps Firearms*, Beinfeld Publishing, North Hollywood, 1978.
 Shields, G. O., *Rustling in the Rockies*, Belford, Clarke & Co., Chicago, 1883.
 Silliman, Lee, editor, *We Seized Our Rifles*, Mountain Press, Missoula, 1982.
 Stuart, Garville, *Forty Years on the Frontier*, Arthur Clark Co., Cleveland, 1925.
 Worman Charles G., & Louis A. Garavaglia, *Firearms of the American West, 1803-65*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1984.
 *Firearms of the American West, 1866-94*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1985.

Periodicals

- Austerman, Wayne, "Speaks Far Gun", *Man at Arms*, March/April, 1984.
 Barnhart, Bill, "A McAusland Sharp", *Arms Gazette*, August 1979.
 Chipman, Art, "A Gunsmith of the Old West", *The Gun Report*, January, 1964.
 Dorsey, R. Stephen, "Guns of the Hostiles, Part I", *Arms Gazette*, November, 1976.
 "Guns of the Hostiles, Part II", *Arms Gazette*, December, 1976.
 Heinz, Ralph A., "Montana Sharps", *Man at Arms*, November/December 1981.
 Schultz, James Willard, "Return to the Beloved Mountains", *Montana*, March, 1957.
 Walter, David, "Final Hour", *Montana*, November/December 1988.
 West, Helen B., "Starvation Winter of the Blackfeet", *Montana*, Winter, 1959.



A shot at a buffalo, but not a shot buffalo.

Table A

MONTANA SHIPMENTS OF MODEL 1874 SHARPS RIFLES FROM FACTORY RECORDS, (approximate)

I. G. Baker Co., Fort Benton	1 Sporting Rifle
Adolph Birkenfield, Helena	15 Business Rifles
	13 Sporting Rifles
Borup & Co. (Ordered by Captain John Mix, USA) Fort Custer	20 Business Rifles
	1 Hunters Rifle
Broadwater, Hubbel, & Co. (Ordered by Captain Mix), Miles City	10 Business Rifles
Wm. Coleman & Co., Butte	10 Business Rifles
Wm. Coleman & Co., Deer Lodge	10 Business Rifles
N. Connelly, Phillipsburg	4 Business Rifles
Walter Cooper, Bozeman	5 Carbines*
	141 Military Rifles**
	55 Sporting Rifles
J. G. Dow (Most, possibly all went to Cooper), Bozeman	100 Business Rifles
	35 Carbines
	3 Long Range #1
	5 Mid Range #1
	60 Sporting Rifles
S. T. Hauser (Also possibly in the records as Hansen or Hanson), Helena	3 Creedmoor Rifles
John Houck (Also possibly spelled Houk), Pioneer City	1 Sporting Rifle
George Laughlin, Helena	2 Sporting Rifles
J. L. Pemberton, Deer Lodge	2 Sporting Rifles
Granville Stuart (Also possibly in the records as Stewart), Deer Lodge	4 Sporting Rifles
B. H. Tatem (Also possibly in the records as Tatum), Helena	1 Sporting Rifle
C. O. Trask, Bannock	15 Sporting Rifles

TOTAL SHIPPED TO MONTANA BY SHARPS FACTORY 516 Rifles and Carbines
 *These five Carbines are probably Model 1869s. They are outside of the normal serial number range of either the Model 1869 or Model 1874, being five digit serial numbers. This would place them within the serial number range assigned to percussion guns. However several other Model 1869s are known with similar serial numbers. Normal serial number range of the Model 1869 would be around 150,00 (or CL00), with the Model 1874 following.

**Twenty-five of these Military Rifles are shown in the Company records as being "Rimfire".

Dr. Moore classified this information as approximate. Some serial numbers do not appear in the factory records. However, this number is the most accurate one possible. It can be considered as essentially correct. Dr. Moore did quite a job in obtaining this information.

Table B NUMBER OF MODEL 1874 SHARPS SHIPPED FROM THE FACTORY TO MONTANA, BY PLACE			
Total			
<u>Bannock</u>			
C. O. Trask	15	Sporting Rifles	15
<u>Bozeman</u>			
Walter Cooper	5	Carbines	
	141	Military Rifles	
	55	Sporting Rifles	
	201		
J. G. Dow (Most to Cooper)	100	Business Rifles	
	35	Carbines	
	3	Long Range #1	
	5	Mid Range #1	
	60	Sporting Rifles	
	203	(Both)	404
<u>Butte</u>			
Wm. Coleman & Co.	10	Business Rifles	10
<u>Deer Lodge</u>			
Wm. Coleman & Co.	10	Business Rifles	
J. L. Pemberton	2	Sporting Rifles	
Granville Stuart	4	Sporting Rifles	
	16		16
<u>Fort Benton</u>			
I. G. Baker Co.	1	Sporting Rifle	1
<u>Fort Custer</u>			
Borup & Co. (Capt. Mix)	20	Business Rifles	
	1	Hunters Rifles	
	21		21
<u>Helena</u>			
Adolph Birkenfield	15	Business Rifles	
	13	Sporting Rifles	
	28		
S. T. Hauser	3	Creedmoor Rifles	
George Laughlin	2	Sporting Rifles	
B. T. Tatem	1	Sporting Rifle	
	34	(All)	34
<u>Miles City</u>			
Broadwater, Hubbell & Co. (Capt. Mix)	10	Business Rifles	10
<u>Phillipsburg</u>			
N. Connelly	4	Business Rifles	4
<u>Pioneer City</u>			
John Houck	1	Sporting Rifle	1
TOTAL SHIPPED TO MONTANA			516

Table C NUMBER OF MODEL 1874 SHARPS RIFLES SHIPPED TO MONTANA BY PURCHASER			
I. G. Baker Co.	1	Sporting Rifle	1
Adolph Birkenfield	15	Business Rifles	
	13	Sporting Rifles	
	28		28
Borup & Co. (Ordered by Captain Mix)	20	Business Rifles	
	1	Hunters Rifle	
	21		21
Broadwater, Hubbel & Co. (Ordered by Capt. Mix)	10	Business Rifles	10
Wm. Coleman & Co.	20	Business Rifles	20
N. Connelly	4	Business Rifles	4
Walter Cooper	5	Carbines	
	141	Military Rifles	
	55	Sporting Rifles	
	201		201
J. G. Dow (Most to Cooper)	100	Business Rifles	
	35	Carbines	
	3	Long Range #1	
	5	Mid Range #1	
	60	Sporting Rifles	
	203		203
S. T. Hauser	3	Creedmoor Rifles	3
John Houck	1	Sporting Rifle	1
George Laughlin	2	Sporting Rifles	2
J. L. Pemberton	2	Sporting Rifles	2
Granville Stuart	4	Sporting Rifles	4
B. H. Tatem	1	Sporting Rifle	1
C.O. Trask	15	Sporting Rifles	15
TOTAL RIFLES SHIPPED TO MONTANA FROM THE FACTORY			516

Table D NUMBER OF MODEL 1874 SHARPS RIFLES SHIPPED BY THE FACTORY TO MONTANA, BY TYPE	
Business Rifles	169
Carbines, Model 1869	5
Carbines, Model 1874	35
Creedmoor Rifles	1
Hunters Rifle	1
Long-Range #1	3
Mid Range #1	5
Military Rifles (Centerfire)*	116
Military Rifles (Rimfire)*	25
Sporting Rifles	154
TOTAL SHIPPED TO MONTANA, BY TYPE	516

* The numbers of business Rifles and Military rifles shipped approach 10% of the numbers of those models manufacture. In addition the "Rimfire" Military Rifles are virtually unique. There were no recorded sales of Mid-Range Rifles, Schutzen Rifles, Express Rifles, or "A" Model Rifles to Montana.