

A FOURTH HASLETT-MARKED MUSKET

by Frederick C. Gaede

Just as this *Bulletin* was to go to press a friend brought to my attention photos of a Haslett-marked musket he had taken years ago. He did not have any notes associated with the color prints and could not remember who owned the musket, or where and when he had photographed it. Consequently, while in all aspects save one the musket corresponds to the three shown in the previous article, no further details are available at this time. However, it appears genuine and, so far, this would be the fourth musket that can be associated with James Haslett and the defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812.

Like the third musket described in the previous article, this musket appears to have been assembled later in the 18th century using parts originally received from France during the American Revolutionary War (Figure 1). That would provide a reason for the stock not having the defined comb of many French manufactured small arms, or of some of those assembled here well after that war, but which closely followed the French style. The stocking style is the most significant way this musket differs from the other three.

The lock on this example is marked to the French armory of St. Etienne (Figure 2). The large **US** stamped at its tail corresponds to that seen on the other three muskets. Another marking that can be discerned from the photographs available are the initials **IN** on the obverse side of the butt (Figure 3). The same mark was only seen on the second musket in the previous article. We know John Nicholson was paid as late as 1797 for his services “*inspecting swords, muskets, bayonets, musket and pistol barrels, and all parts of small arms, examining all arms to be repaired and inspecting them when repaired, and selecting the parts of arms and materials for repairs to be used in Philadelphia or sent to the armourers at New London and Springfield from February 10 to May 10, 1797.*”¹

The two most important markings on this fourth example are those of **HASLETT**, branded in front of the trigger guard (Figure 4), and **39 REGT.**, on the flat opposite the lock (Figure. 5). Both are identical to the markings seen in the same places on all three of the previously illustrated muskets. These markings place this musket in

the hands of James Haslett in the year or so before the defense of Baltimore, likely at the same time as the other muskets. They also help provide evidence of the diversity of muskets that Haslett examined on behalf of the city. On the same flat are three armorers’ marks, denoting their inspection of the musket while still in storage at a federal installation. These correspond exactly to those seen on the second musket discussed in the previous article.

Interestingly, on this musket the bayonet lug was placed on top of the barrel, whereas it is more commonly seen underneath the muzzle made in the French style. Finally, it appears the top band is of brass, rather than iron like the other two bands. It may be a subsequent replacement, after the musket had passed through the inspection by Haslett.

The author would like to locate this musket and obtain more information from it for his ongoing research. He can be contacted through the Editor or Secretary, whose information is inside the front cover of this publication.

NOTES

¹ Papers of the War Department, 1784 to 1800, “Perkins” and “Nicholson.” See also Moller, *Shoulder Arms*, 155-6. Joseph Perkins by this time was busy setting up the second federal armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.



Figure 1. Overall view of the fourth example of a Haslett marked musket.



Figure 2. The lock on this example is marked to the French armory of St. Etienne.



Figure 3. Another marking that can be discerned from the photographs available are the initials IN on the obverse side of the butt.



Figure 4. The marking on this fourth example shows “HASLETT”, branded in front of the trigger guard.



Figure 5. The “39 REGT.”, on the flat opposite the lock.