

(Millenium, def. 3: any period of happiness, prosperity, etc. From mille, a thousand.)

A thousand items—and more—were displayed by ASAC members at Williamsburg. Under stern orders from outgoing President Frank Horner, a count—accurate within 5%?—was made of the display room in the basement of the Cascades Restaurant. The following statistics, not attested to by any CPA, give an idea of the quantities of items on the tables:

total firearms in display groups:	433
total accoutrements of all types*:	194
total sales items of all types:	371
sub total:	998
allowance for miscounting, 5%**:	20
grand total:	1018

*includes swords, knives, flasks, horns, and Eddie Reider's funny guns.

**includes double vision, under the table guns, and Ron Norman's horns.

Largest individual (display items, that is) Kark Moldenhauer, 145 pieces. Herb Ratner had about 50 pieces for sale, Ron Norman had about 35 horns, and Eldon Owens had the largest accoutrement display, with about 55 priming horns, flasks, and cappers.

The following items—in no particular order—seemed to stand out in the many displays in the room. If any display was overlooked, it was due to the amazingly crowded room, the inconveniences of which were graciously borne by the members present, and the oversight is not intentional.

Vice-President MOLDENHAUER'S Remingtons, first inside the door, were dominated by the four revolving rifles serving as caryatids, and by the excellent high relief portrait of Eliphalet Remington. COLONEL RED had a small but impressive display—we thought the pair of side-lock blunderbuss pistols were the best, but others might disagree. EDDIE REIDER had a "Poor Man's Collection" with three variations of the English f/1 swivel trap guns—and he blew (chalk) dust into GORDON FROST'S eyes to get him to trade for what may be the only trombone-mouthpiece dust-blowing blank-shooting wind-tester in existence. ROBIN HALE came out of the Chattanooga Hills with six "Southern" Kentuckies and a rare Southern "Kentucky" pistol attributed to James Bradford (NOT the one from Massachusetts, y'all understand). John William's Loronzoni-type seven shot f/1 repeating pistol by H. W. Mortimer was just barely overshadowed by his Henry VIII "gonne-shield". HOWARD GREENE'S "Pilgrims Progress 1620-1775" was Miltonesque in the impressiveness of the 1st Model

Brown Bess with six Colonial surcharges and its known history of ownership. BILL O'NEAL had only three pieces—models of U.S. Muzzle loading field pieces that he had made, complete even to gunner's linstock. GENE E. MILLER had an unbelievable vial of tea from the Boston Tea Party—and a very believable display of arms and documents of the American Revolution. HENRY STEWART'S display of revolving long arms was headed by the patent model of the first U.S. revolving arm—the D. L. Faries patent of Oct. 10, 1829. Wonder if he checked these out in SAM SMITH'S new book on the other side of the room? SAM had some rare revolvers, too—the one-hand kind. See the book for details. Quietly lying near Henry's long arms were three fine engraved Colts belonging to DICK NEFF—Karl had Colts so outnumbered it was had to find'em. Guns without cartridges are a poor grade of club, so NORRIS PRATT supplied a display of rare cartridge boxes, including four for the Volcanic pistol. Colt collectors will understand if we say that's like having four Walkers all at one time. PAUL SHUMAKER proved the durability of the old arms: he had a Brown Bess issued to a (U.S.) Civil War soldier! We mentioned ELDON OWENS' cappers in passing, but who ever saw 28 of them on one table before? JONATHON PECK can't be satisfied with a dozen flint muskets dating 1795-1840: of course he has to have a fancy (Dan) one with silver stars on the stock. New Member JOHNNY LOUNSBERRY came down from Rockford, Illinois, with some fine pistols—and the only practical knife for a practicing—but not perfect—army surgeon: 2 blades, bone saw, bone chisel, scissors, and a 44 cal. percussion pistol barrel! DOCTOR JOHN MURPHY—the Irish Rebel—really digs those pieces—not only fine arms but a hammer blank from the site of the Tucker-Sherrard plant. An Italian snaphaunce with fifteen engraved faces headed BOB PHILIPPI'S unusual display of detached locks: there was much to study in a small space, here. Jeff Davis, as other old soldiers, faded away, by "DOC" MOORE revived his memory by showing his 1887 Confederate Veterans Reunion badge, as well as his Colt Navy revolver. TOM LEWIS of Old Colorado brought back memories, too, with photographs by and a Colt belonging to William Jackson, a photographer of the old West. BILL FLOYD had a rare and unusual J. B. Barrett Confederate conversion of a Hall rifle—Barrett from Wythville, Va. LOYD EBERHARDT featured William Elliott and his zig-zag revolver, its patent, and a medal given Elliott by the American Institute, in a display of 31 "gambler's choice" arms. JIM LUCIE modestly called his display "American Antique Arms", but there were horns and other goodies, too. Among those who find interesting and unusual pieces is JAMES ALTEMUS with conversions by the firm of Hewes and Phillips, Ironmongers, Newark, N.J. Unusual, perhaps, but to be found in BOB REILLY'S great book—Bob might even paint a picture of one, if you wish! WALTER STRYKER had his U.S. branch of the Nederlands Telefoon Maatschappij Kennisgevin Dienst (telephone company information service to you uplanders) explaining details of his matchlock triple flask: priming,



The Millenium Arrived at Williamsburg

by C. R. Suydam

charge, and ball pouch all in one. TOM WOOD got several answers to his query on the who and why of the grotesque masks on Queen Anne pistols; several of them rated "X". JOHN CHALAPIS doesn't ask why—he just collects the Queen Annes, in pairs if not half-dozens. HARRY REPMAN had the noblest Romans of them all: the swords—and their accoutrements—issued to the U.S. Army enlisted men, 1833-61. CHARLES KATSAINOS had many fine pieces—the most unusual, perhaps, the LeMat *centerfire* revolver. Bulletin Editor BOB BROOKER had a most unusual group of European military pistols (non-cartridge) with detachable shoulder stocks—and a valuable descriptive pamphlet with them. BILL WILLIAMSON—another gambler, it seems—actually had a derringer in all that cutlery. '51 Navy SWAYZE is a man of many interests—this time he brought a

fine rifleman's pouch, with belt, axe, knife, powder horn, and patch cutter. The other Michigan doctor, WALTER PETERSON, had a group of U.S. martial f/1 pistols—it was hard to find a favorite among them. Did we mention PRESIDENT JOHN HAMMER'S unusual Virginia Swords, 1776-1826, or DOC MOORE'S "miscellaneous" Rebel Stuff, or G. ROBERT LYLE'S little collection of rifles—just one each W. Hawken, George Eister, J. Guest, J. P. Bock—plus a C. Hawken flint pistol? These were about equalled by WILLIAM REISNER'S six by Hawken, Sell, Armstrong, Row, Rupp, and Holtzworth. Saved for last—the biggest gun in the show—CECIL KYSER'S iron barrelled British f/1 swivel gun. A final statistic: 42 displays—not counting those on the trading table, itself a most interesting 43rd display. Did we get 'em all???

EXHIBITS: Revolving Long Arms

H. M. Stewart Display

The idea of the multi-shot arm or revolver was originally conceived more for the long arm than for the hand gun. A study of the patents granted in the United States from 1829 to 1859 shows the dominance of the long arm in the patents granted. Colt's first production was long arms and inventors like Miller, Faries, Cochran, Wittier, Jaquith, Nichols and

Childs, Gibbs, Porter, and Stanton are names of a few that created around the shoulder arm in seeking patents.

This Williamsburg ASAC Exhibit is a small selection from the basic collection of over 100 specimens of revolving long arms to show a variety of the systems invented.

Figure 1

One of the earliest attempts at multifire—a pike mounted three-barreled gun or hand cannon circa 1350 with simple plugged breech and preponderance of reinforcement at muzzle. Nick-named "The Knight Killer" its use was prior to New World discovery by Columbus.

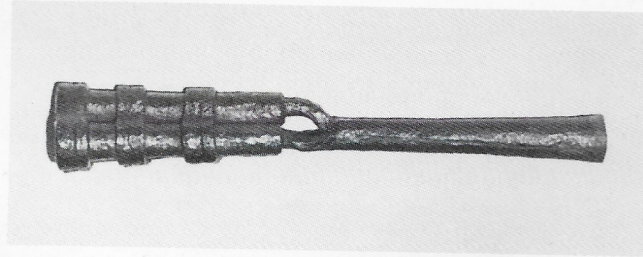


Figure 2

This is the oldest existing revolving arm U.S. Patent model by Samuel L. Faries of October 10, 1829. This unit is shown in the patents with adaptable long barrel and shoulder stock for a rifle that can be screwed to the 8-shot percussion turret model in place of cannon barrel.

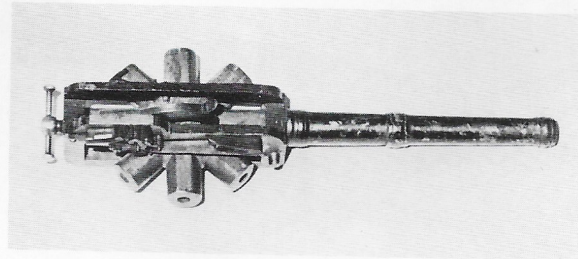


Figure 3

Here is where Colt began—The #1 Model Paterson long arm, caliber 36 based on U. S. Patent #138 of February 25, 1836. See Sutherland Book of the Colt Revolver for full long arm development.

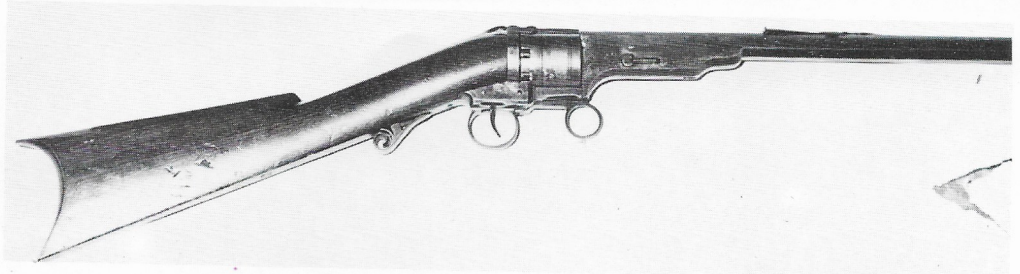
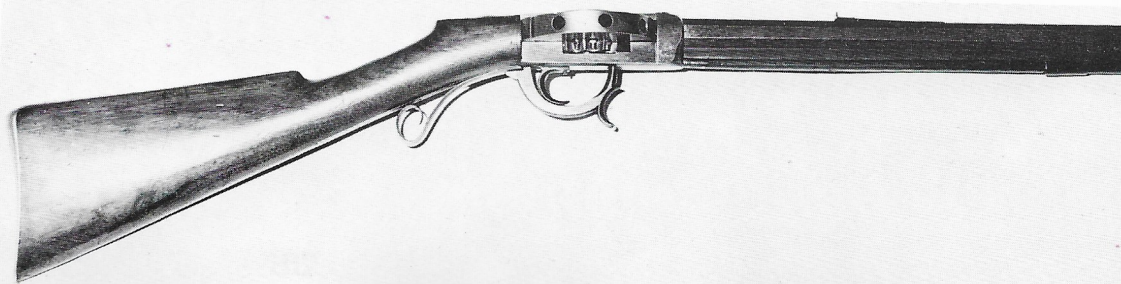


Figure 4

Serial #1 of Cochran first model turret rifle. This arm is first production arm of C. B. Allen, Springfield, Mass., of J. W. Cochran's Patent #188 of April 28, 1837. Cal. 40, nine shot, percussion. Cochran tested at West Point Trials of June, 1837.



EXHIBITS

Henry Stewart's Revolving Rifle Display

Figure 5

Whittier's patent #216 of May 30, 1837 was revolved by means of grooves in the cylinders and this caliber 44 nine shot model is Serial #550 indicating a large production. There began one of many attempts to develop what is popularly called the Zig Zag cylinder that culminated in the Webley Fosberry of our era.

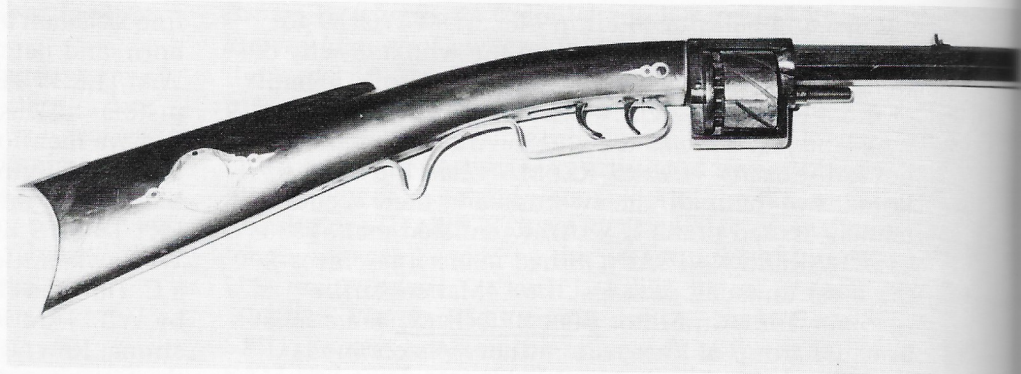


Figure 6

Again a Serial #1 of the first model based on Nichols and Childs patent #707 of April 24, 1838. Apparently there were two sources of production of these arms. A still to be identified maker made the N & C first production including hand guns and the Jaquith in picture below. The barrel sealed against the chamber by means of a wedge behind cylinder. This idea was developed later in early English revolvers. Arm shown is Cal. 44, six shot, percussion, Serial #1.

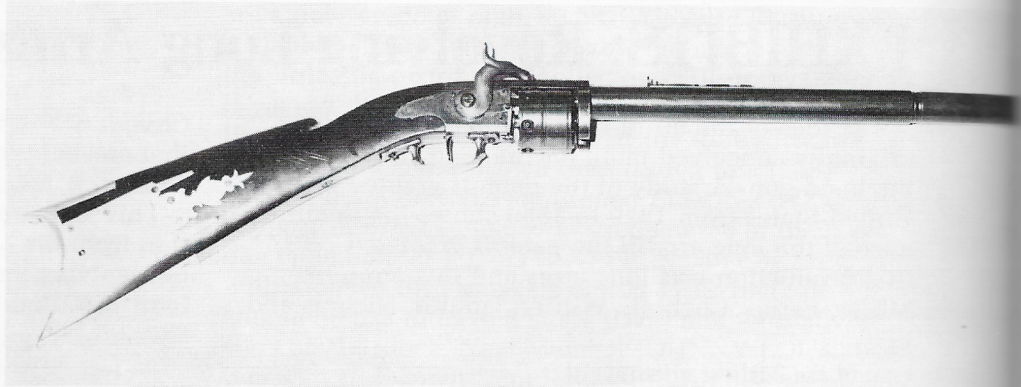


Figure 7

Jaquith Patent #832 of July 12, 1838 introduces the sight-through tubular cylinder pin with cylinder above barrel and firing from bottom chamber. The loading lever on this arm is same as loading lever of Nichols and Childs handgun Serial #2 and note identical patchbox in picture above. Connecticut Valley between Connecticut and Massachusetts is where they were made.

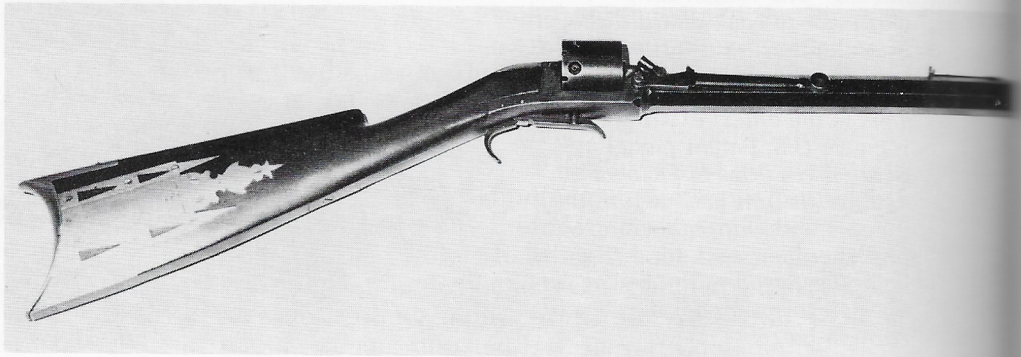


Figure 8
Wesson and Leavitt long arm, Caliber 40, six shot percussion, Serial #254. Hammer revolves and actuates cylinder by bevel gears. Colt successfully sued and stopped Wesson and Leavitt production.



Figure 9
Lucius Gibbs, better known for the Gibbs carbine, was granted Patent #5316 on October 2, 1847 for this Remington barreled arm. It is 63 shot with one cylinder of seven shots in breech and eight cylinders stored in tube of stock to be moved forward as required into breech.

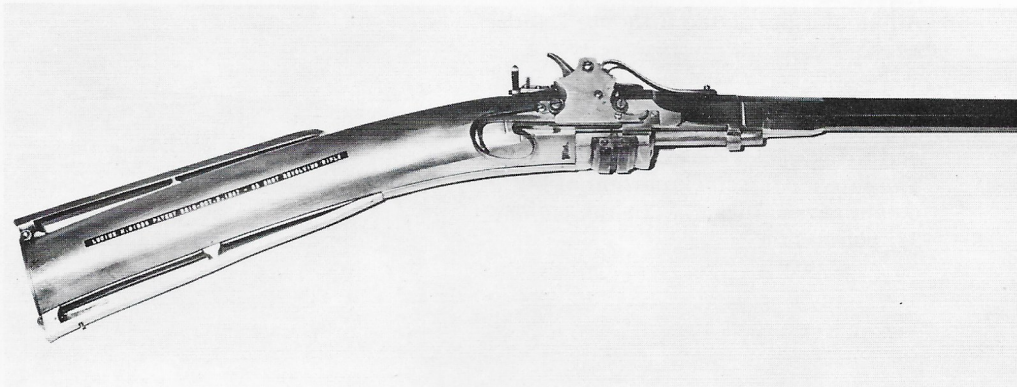
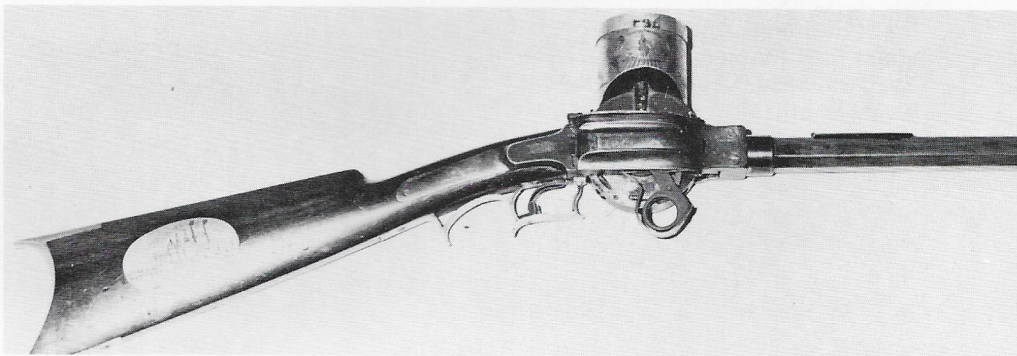


Figure 10
Only know Porter first model complete with magazine, 30 shot. Serial #76 based on Patent #8210 of July 8, 1851. This gun is equipped with trigger latch so that it can be semiautomatic by flipping the loading lever like The Rifleman of TV fame. Porter's were tested at Washington Navy Yard Arsenal Trial of February 1853.



EXHIBITS

Henry Stewart's Revolving Rifle Display

Figure 11
North and Skinner's Patent #8982 of June 1, 1852 has lever action to cock hammer, revolve cylinder, and wedge seal cylinder to barrel. Marked on barrel "World's Own Revolver".

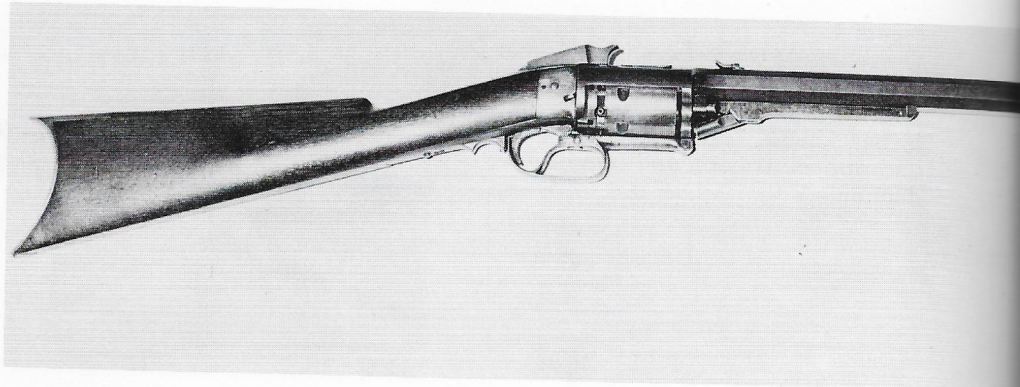


Figure 12
Automatic Revolving Rifle built under Mershon and Hollingsworth Patent #12,470 of February 27, 1855. A lever wound spring housed back of the cylinder powers cocking, revolving, and firing cycles on trigger release. The tubular forestock portion of the patent saved fingers. Six shot, caliber 36, percussion.

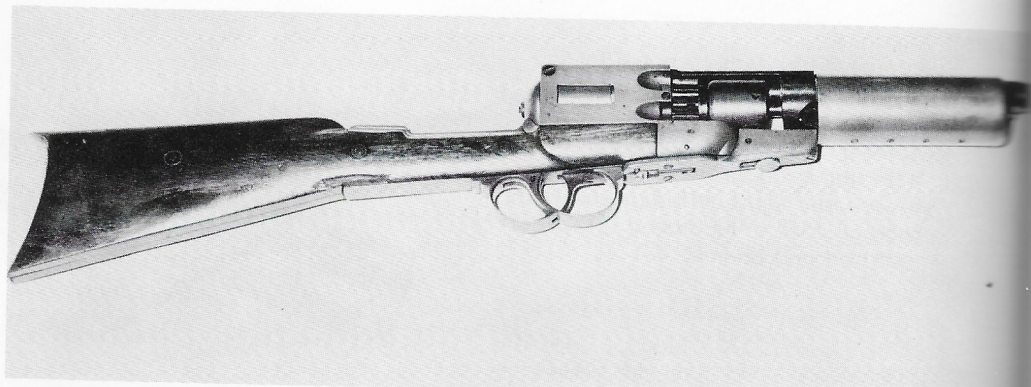


Figure 13
The percussion chambers dangling like a bunch of bananas revolve into firing position with the speed of light under S. F. Stanton Patent #14,780 of April 29, 1856. Chamber sealed to barrel by slip-sleeve. Caliber 47, six shot, Serial #5.

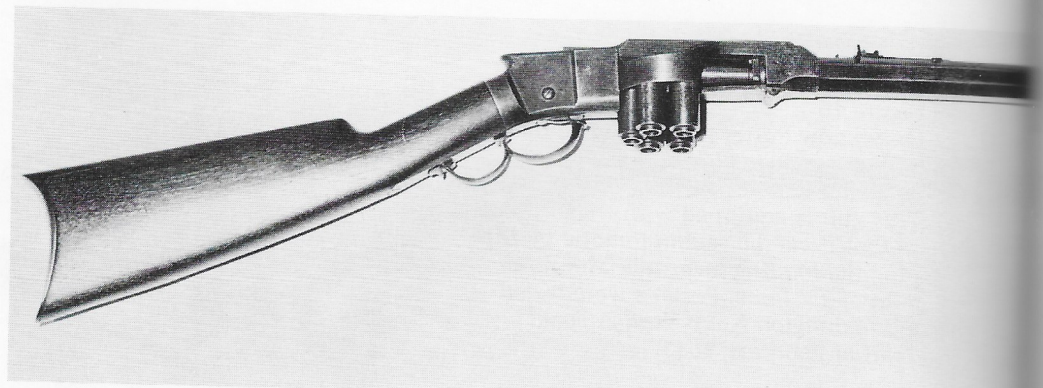


Figure 14
 Genhart's American Patent #16,447 of January 27, 1857 followed his European design. The model shown however is percussion with a shorter striker. Beneath the 10 shot, Cal. 54 turret is a lever that slides the barrel forward out of the chamber and permits hand revolving the turret to next firing position. Returning the lever cocks piece ready for firing.

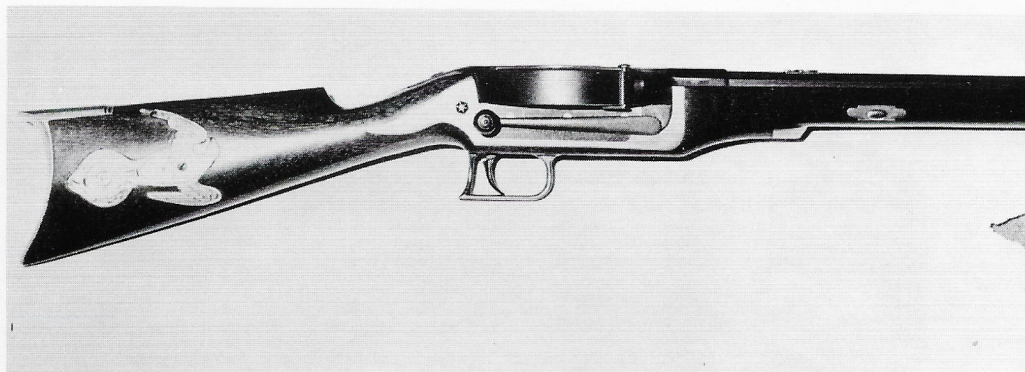


Figure 15
 The Morris and Brown "Conical Repeater" from Patent #26919, of January 24, 1860. There are six fixed chambers funneling each shot into the single-barrel as the revolving hammer circles the chambers. Caliber 40 rim-fire.

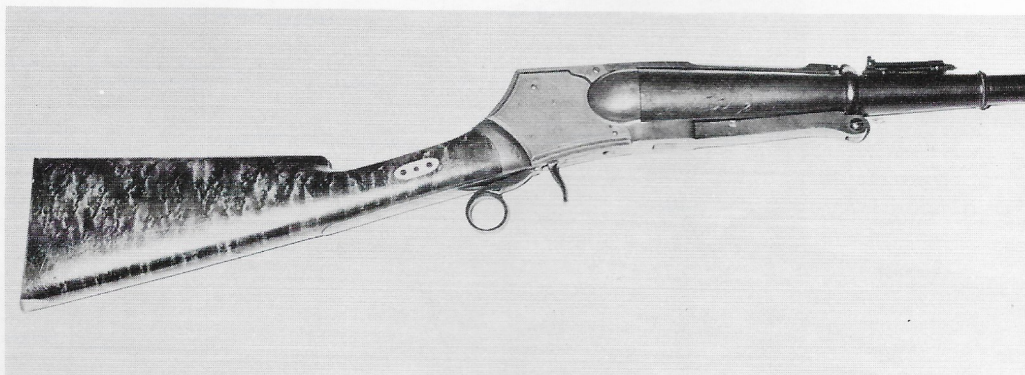


Figure 16
 Roper Patent #53881 of April 10, 1866 had an enclosed chamber for carrier with slots or segments that revolved the steel shells around to be inserted full length into the barrel on firing. This rare Roper model is the cloverleaf cylinder where on firing the steel chamber is inserted only 1/4 inch into the barrel to seal it. The caliber 44 steel chamber is percussion and barrel liner may be removed so that the gun becomes a 12 gauge shotgun. This type of combination is a rarity and usually only found in air guns.



There are other items such as Miller-Billinghurst primitives, T. Worm Harmonica, and others that should be included for an exhaustive study, but space prohibited at Williamsburg. These arms like those in the Automatic Priming article of Issue Ten will probably never be publicly displayed again so the Bulletin does a service in adding them to the record. My thanks to Dr. Moore for outstanding photographic work for this article.

Henry M. Stewart, Jr.