Survival Files #4

Rarity and Survival of the North & Savage, Savage, and Alsop Percussion Revolvers

By Jeff Goodson and Philip Boulton

The Survival Files series examines the rarity and survival of antique American firearms. It is based on the database of British antique arms collector Philip Boulton, who since 1970 has recorded serial numbers on over 85,000 American and British percussion revolvers.

Survival Files #4 examines the rarity and survival of the eight models of percussion revolver produced by North & Savage, the Savage Revolving Firearms Company, and C.R. Alsop. We calculate known survival rates for all eight. We also calculate a stability index for all eight, based on the number of new serial numbers added to the Boulton database from June 1, 2017 to May 30, 2020 (Table 1). This number is an indication of how rapidly guns are being added to the database, how many are still 'out there' unrecorded, and how closely the *known* survival rate approximates the *true* survival rate of the model (Goodson and Boulton). Finally, we examine the major factors affecting the rarity of these guns.

BACKGROUND

The North & Savage, Savage, and Alsop revolvers, all made in Middletown, Connecticut, are closely related. The roots of the North & Savage Company date to 1813, when Simeon North sought financial help from his brother-in-law Josiah Savage to build a factory in which to produce 20,000 flintlock pistols for the U.S. government. In 1831 their sons, James North and Edward Savage, took over most of the company and changed its name to North & Savage (McAulay 1992).

When James North died in 1856, Edward Savage became sole owner. James' son Henry worked for the firm, and seems to have been its creative genius (Salzer). In addition to long arms, over the next three years the company made a series of increasingly reliable Figure 8 revolvers that they submitted to the Ordnance Board for testing. Multiple contracts followed, but Figure 8 firearms were only delivered against one.

In August 1859, North & Savage reorganized as the Savage Revolving Firearms Company (Sellers and Smith). Over the next few years, it made around 20,000 Savage Navy Model revolvers. The last government contract for them was filled in June 1862. Savage started making 25,500 rifle muskets for the Springfield Armory (Moller) in September 1862, and in 1864 it began making 20,000 split-breech carbines under contract to Remington (Marcot). After the last Remington carbine delivery in May 1866, Savage closed its doors.

Joseph Alsop, Sr., Joseph Alsop, Jr. and Charles Alsop were all on the Board of Directors of the Savage Repeating Firearms Company, and listed in the incorporation papers (Smith and Patterson). The Alsop family were inventors in their own right. They received seven firearm patents from 1861-1863, and had their own factory less than a mile from the Savage factory. From 1862-1863, the Alsop plant produced about 800 percussion revolvers in .31 and .36 caliber intended for the civilian market (Sellers & Smith; Thomsen).

Savage Revolving Firearms Co. factory 465 Middlefield Street; Middletown, Connecticut; as it appeared in 2011. This building along the Coginchaug River was the center of armsmanufacturing in Middletown during the 1860's. The building hosts anumber of other businesses presently. PHOTOGRAPH AND CAPTION COURTESY OF JOHN BRUSH

The Alsop guns were well made. They had several important design elements in common with the Savage revolvers (Smith and Patterson), but complexity made them expensive to manufacture. In the end, the gun never did receive a U.S. government contract and production never reached critical mass. With labor costs rising at the booming wartime contract firms nearby, Alsop closed its doors in 1863 (Sellers & Smith).

THE NORTH & SAVAGE "FIGURE 8" REVOLVERS

Four models and one variation of North & Savage revolver were made from about 1856-1859 (Table 1). They are all rare, with just 10-250 made of each. All are 6-shot, .36 caliber percussion revolvers with Figure 8 trigger guards and 7 1/8 inch rifled octagon barrels. All are considered proto-double action guns; the lower trigger rotates the cylinder and cocks the hammer, and the upper trigger releases the hammer.

The Figure 8s are differentiated in four principal ways: by the shape and composition (brass vs. iron) of the frame, the shape of the recoil shield, the design of the rammer assembly, and the design of the cylinder/barrel interface. The last is a patent improvement designed to produce a gas-tight seal, reduce cylinder flash and eliminate powder fouling. The Figure 8s were tested multiple times by the Ordnance Department, and their evolution culminated in the final design of the Savage Navy revolver.

Serial numbering for the Figure 8s is notoriously confused, with more than one range employed, multiple models numbered together, and partial overlap between models (Sellers & Smith; Edwards; Flayderman). For this reason, and because of the extreme rarity of surviving specimens, we decline to use database serial numbers to vet reported production estimates and accept the best published production levels for four of the Figure 8s. The exception is the 3rd Model, for which we support a reduced production estimate based on non-serial number data (see below).

With that revision, we estimate that about 510 Figure 8 revolvers were manufactured in all models and variations together from 1856-1859. This excludes three prototype or experimental North & Savage Pocket revolvers, which apparently never went into production.

Figure 8 Navy Revolver, 1st Model/1st Variation. *(No image available).* This revolver is also known as the First Production Model. It differs from its successor only by having the mouths of the cylinder chambers protrude so that they fit inside the breech end of the barrel.

Flayderman lists this gun as 'extremely rare,' with a total estimated production of about 10. Sellers and Smith put the number at 'probably less than 10.' The biggest factor affecting its rarity is ultra-low production. Only the one specimen in the Locke Collection, serial number unknown, is in the Boulton database. This generates a known survival rate of 10.0%. No new guns were recorded in the last three years, and we think that few if any additional specimens remain to be recorded.

Figure 8 Navy Revolver, 1st Model/2nd Variation. This revolver is a variation of the First Production Model. It is distinguished only by the chamfered chamber mouths, which fit over the breech end of the barrel rather than inside of it—a design improvement carried over to later models.

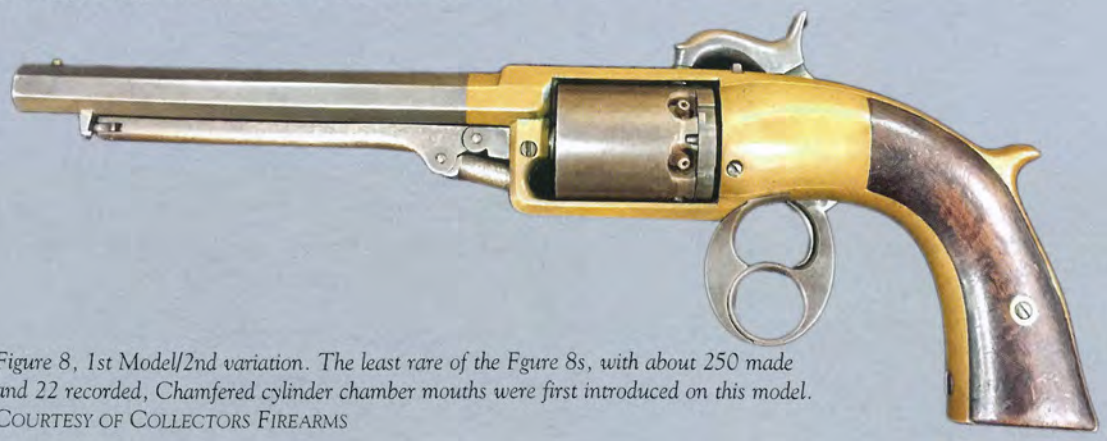


Figure 8, 1st Model/2nd variation. The least rare of the Fgure 8s, with about 250 made and 22 recorded, Chamfered cylinder chamber mouths were first introduced on this model. COURTESY OF COLLECTORS FIREARMS

The 2nd Variation is the least rare of all the Figure 8 revolvers, with a total estimated production of about 250. Sellers and Smith write that 'there are numerous indications that the serial number evidence is not reliable. It is probable that there were two sets of serial numbers, and that 250 or more revolvers of this type were made.'

The Boulton database includes 22 serial numbers, giving a known survival rate of 8.8% based on total production of 250. No new guns were recorded in the last three years, and we think that only a handful of additional specimens remain to be recorded.

The biggest factors affecting the rarity of this model are very low production and U.S. military use. The Ordnance Department ordered 100 of them in June 1856. These were delivered in June 1857, and within a year 99 of them were in field use with the cavalry (McAulay 1992). Their performance, however, was not competitive with the Colt Dragoon and Navy revolvers (Garavaglia and Worman). Very few of these 100 guns are known to survive.

Figure 8 Navy Revolver, 2nd Model. Distinguished from the 2nd Variation of the 1st Model by having a round, iron frame. It's also the first Figure 8 to use the enclosed cam-type rammer lever. Sellers and Smith estimate total production about 100. It was serial numbered in the same series as the 1st Model, and we take the total production number of 100 to be the 'best available estimate.

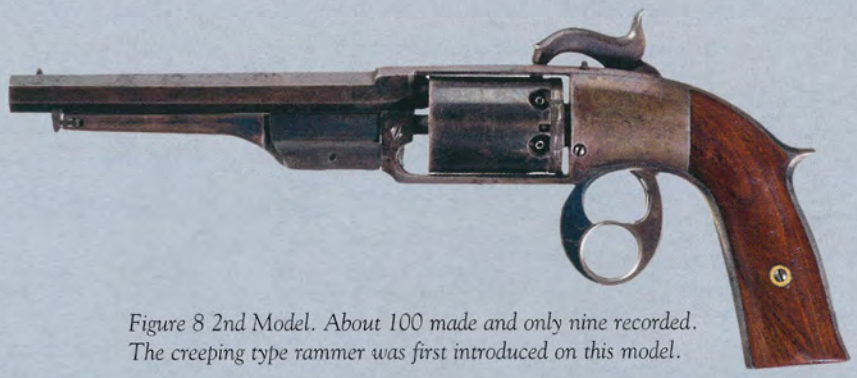


Figure 8 2nd Model. About 100 made and only nine recorded. The creeping type rammer was first introduced on this model.

The biggest factor affecting the rarity of this model is very low production. The Boulton database includes nine guns, giving a known survival rate of 9.0%. No new guns were recorded in the last three years, and we think very few additional specimens remain to be recorded.

Figure 8 Navy Revolver, 3rd Model. *(No image available)* This revolver is distinguished from the 2nd Model by having a brass frame with flat sides, a round recoil shield, and a differently formed grip spur. Flayderman estimates total production at 100-400, including 300 which 'may possibly be from' a July 1858 U.S. Navy contract. McAulay (1992), however, cites compelling evidence that the guns actually delivered against that contract—two and a half years later in December 1960—were Savage Navy guns and not Figure 8s. We therefore endorse a best available production estimate for the 3rd Model Figure 8 of 100 guns. The biggest factor affecting the rarity of this model is very low production. The Boulton database includes just five guns for a known survival rate of 5.0%. No new guns were recorded in the last three years, and we think very few additional specimens remain to be recorded. Of note, Sellers and Smith also reported in 1971 that there were just five known specimens of the 3rd Model Figure 8.

Figure 8 Navy Revolver, 4th Model. The 4th Model Figure 8 is distinguished from the 3rd Model by the flat-side iron frame. Sellers and Smith estimate total production at just fifty, making it the second rarest after the 1st Model 1st Variation. As they point out, the 4th Model was in production for a very short time before it was superseded by the Savage Navy.

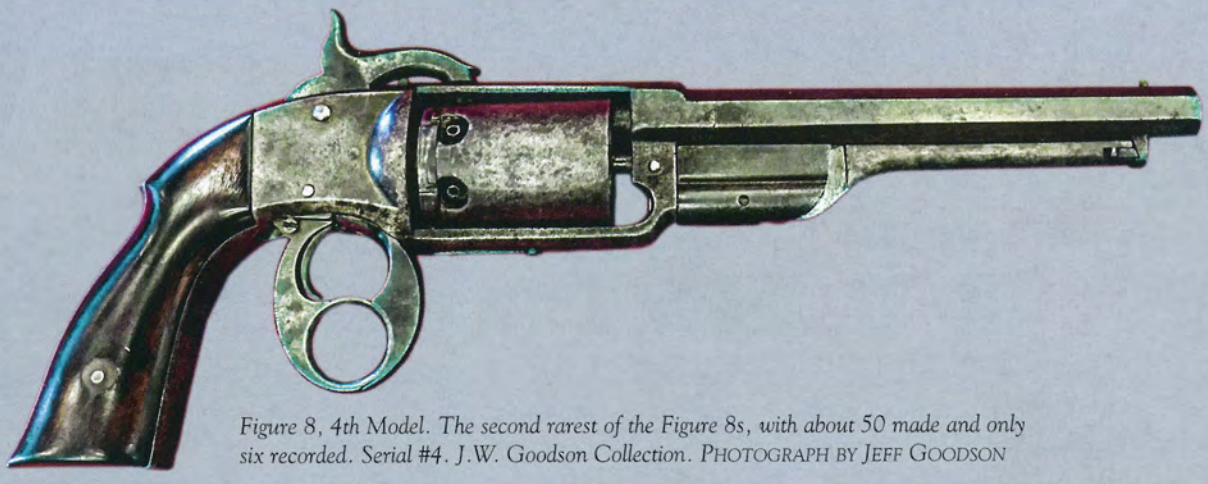


Figure 8, 4th Model. The second rarest of the Figure 8s, with about 50 made and only six recorded. Serial #4. J.W. Goodson Collection. PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFF GOODSON

The biggest factor affecting the rarity of this model is very low production. In the absence of additional evidence, we take fifty to be the 'best available' production estimate. The Boulton database includes six guns for a known survival rate of 12.0%. No new guns were recorded in the last three years, and we think very few additional specimens remain to be recorded.

THE SAVAGE NAVY REVOLVER

The Savage Navy is a 6-shot, .36 caliber, rifled percussion revolver. It has a 7 1/8" octagon barrel, a hinged loading lever, a flat frame, a Figure 8-style trigger and cylinder rotating apparatus, and a large heart-shaped trigger guard. It's an iconic American firearm that saw service on both sides of the Civil War, and it has had an enduring appeal to collectors of early American firearms. Compared to Colt and Remington revolvers, however, the quality was poor and the manufacturing costs high.

One of only three known cased sets of the iconic Savage Navy revolver. Note the very rare rosewood grips. Serial #5120. Frank Graves Collection. PHOTO BY FRANK GRAVES.

Production. The Boulton database includes 568 serial numbers for the Savage Navy. Although ten of these are higher than 20,000 (see below), for statistical reasons we accept 20,000 as the best available production estimate with the caveat that that number could rise.

We believe that production of the Navy revolver began earlier than in mid-1861 as widely reported. McAulay (1992) cites convincing evidence, based on a January 1861 U.S. Navy inspection report, that the 300 Figure 8 guns ordered by the Navy in July 1858 and finally delivered in December 1860 were actually "standard wartime" or Navy revolvers rather than Figure 8s. This means that production had to start in 1859, or 1860 at the latest.

Assistant Inspector I.F. Torree at the Boston Naval Yard reported in January 1861 that all 300 guns were dismantled and "carefully and minutely inspected" (McAulay 1992). It remains unclear, however, whether they bear inspection marks and how they are numbered. Pate notes that "most arms delivered to the Navy during this period of crisis (early 1861) were not marked to show inspection" (Daum and Pate). It would make sense if this first or extremely early production lot bore serial numbers of about 1-300, but one specimen under #300 (#74) has no inspection marks at all and another (#264) has only the remains of a cartouche on the left grip and an "H" on the barrel (RIAC).

Survival and Rarity. The Savage Navy is common on the collectors' market. We calculate the known survival rate at just 2.8% (Table 1), but the *true* survival rate must be far higher as unrecorded specimens are turning up at a very rapid rate of about 6.4% annually. The biggest factors affecting its survival are high total production at about 20,000, widespread use in the Civil War, and poor firearm quality.

Civil War Service with the Union. From 1861-1862, the U.S. government bought about 62% of total production. The most complete procurement rackup is by McAulay (1992), who puts the total at 11,284 for the U.S. Army and 1,126 for the U.S. Navy for a total of 12,410. The U.S. Army guns were delivered by June 1862, and issued to over 26 Union cavalry regiments. Some states, including Massachusetts, also bought the gun for their own militias. Data provided by Charles Pate indicate that 45.2% of the 11,284 sold to the U.S. Army survived the war.

McAulay's (1992) figure for total U.S. Navy procurement includes 300 guns from the July 1858 contract; 800 ordered in 1861; and 26 bought from the Union Defense Committee. During the Civil War, they served on the *Beauregard, De Soto, James Alger, Quaker City, South Carolina, Stars & Stripes, St. Lawrence, Unadilla, Valley City* and *Young Rover*. Fifty were also issued to the frigate *Constitution* at the start of the war (McAulay 1999).

As of December 1, 1866, just 317 Savage revolvers remained in service with the U.S. Navy—28.2% of total Navy procurement (McAulay 1999). Of note, and while the Boulton database does not differentiate revolvers sold to the U.S. Navy from others, in 1990 Fredrick Winter calculated the survival rate of these Navy-Navy guns at a "relatively high" 12%.

Civil War Service with the Confederacy. The balance of total production—about 7,500 guns—went to the civilian market. A substantial number must have ended up with Confederate troops, since they helped provision at least five CSA cavalry units: the 7th Virginia, 11th Texas, 7th Missouri, and 34th and 35th Virginia Cavalry Battalions (McAulay 1992).

The Boulton database includes ten guns with serial numbers over 20000, ranging to as high as 52310. As there is no indication of Savage Navy production beyond 20,000, Ken Thomsen has hypothesized that these numbers may have been altered by middlemen who wanted to cover their tracks while smuggling civilian guns to the Confederacy. Close examination of these serial numbers for signs of alteration would be useful in vetting that intriguing idea.

Of related interest, the U.S. government "seized" a reported 2,200 Savage Navy revolvers around 1863 or 1864. The details are unknown, but they may have been seized when discovered *en route* to the Confederacy. In February 1866, just a few months before Savage closed, the company reported that there were "2,500 unwanted Figure 8 pistols" on hand—which Savage valued at just $2 each (Naumec).

Post-War Sales. Charles Pate has kindly provided us with a rackup of Savage revolvers sold by the U.S. Army (only) after the Civil War. These occurred in seventeen separate transactions from 1865-1902. The data indicate that 5,102 revolvers survived to be sold later, a Civil War survival rate of 45.2%. Two thirds of the surviving specimens (67%) were classified by condition. About 46% were unserviceable; 52% were in 1st class condition; 2% were in 3rd class condition; and just nine guns, less than 1%, were new.

The government sold 773 guns in 1866, and 3,951 from May-November 1875. But there are no Savages listed in the three major U.S. government sales of July 1869, November 1869, and October 1870 (Edwards), most of which were shipped to Europe for the Franco-Prussian War. Just seventeen guns were sold by the U.S. Army from 1882-1902.

Poor Firearm Quality. In addition to very high cost, poor firearm quality relative to the superior Colt and Remington revolvers limited the useful life of the Savage Navy. General Ripley, Chief of Ordnance, wrote during the Civil War that the Savage "is not, in my opinion, a desirable arm for the service, and not one I would supply unless in case of emergency." Edwards writes that the gun "was unappreciated when it was in service, and it was not a commercial success. Hundreds of those issued to the Army were turned in dirty and rusty."

The heaviest revolver used in the Civil War at about 3 pounds 6 ounces, the Savage Navy had a reputation for being clumsy. It required a custom holster, and it was very difficult to repair compared to the easily repaired Colt and Remington revolvers (Salzer). Schiffers, based on recent testing, writes that the biggest problem was inaccuracy. Perhaps the best indicator of poor quality, however, is that only 17 cases are documented where discharged veterans bought their Savage service revolvers after the Civil War (McAulay 1992).

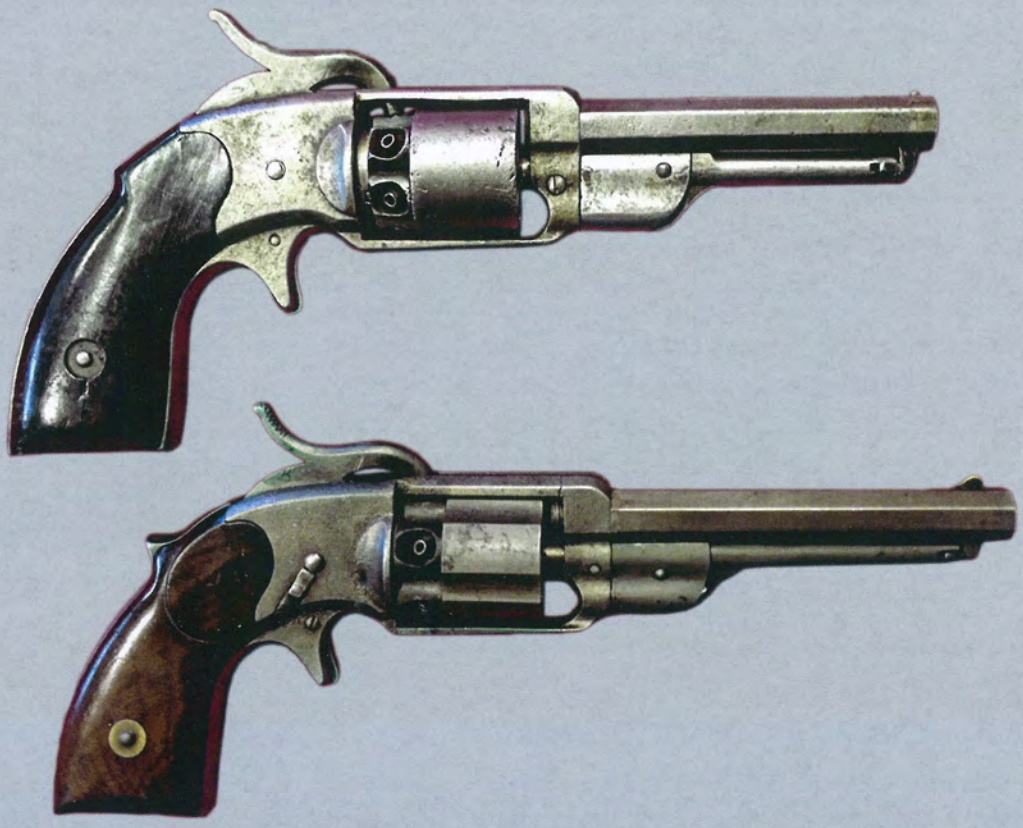
Other Rarity Factors. With about 7,500 guns sold on the civilian market, and over 5,100 sold as military surplus after the war, the market was flooded with a gun whose best days were behind it. By the late 1860s, with the wholesale shift to cartridge firearms, the Savage Navy was long obsolete. There is no record of large-scale conversion of it after the Civil War, and Schuyler, Hartley and Graham report no shipments to the American west from 1868-1886 (Houze).

One Savage Navy was allegedly found on the body of Sam Brown, an outlaw shot in the early 1860s near Genoa, Nevada (Worman), but there are very few other accounts of civilian use. It was also apparently disfavored by the American Indians. Of 125 revolvers and single-shot pistols listed as recovered from various tribes in an 1879 Ordnance Department report, there was only a single Savage revolver (Worman).

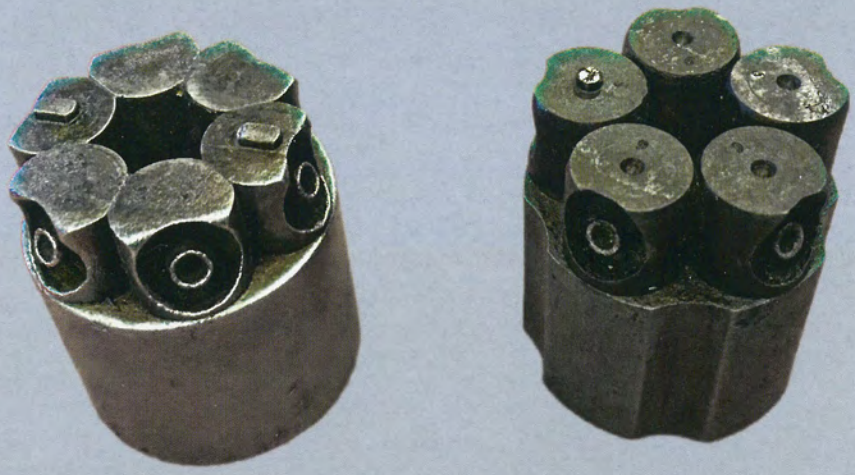
Ironically, the gun seems to have found greatest favor among collectors of antique American firearms. Edwards writes of the early 19th century that "the gun seemed better liked in the dingy store of Bannerman on lower Broadway than it ever was in the Ordnance Office in Washington." Today the Savage revolver is still in high demand, and at least one specimen is found in almost every collection.

THE C.S. ALSOP REVOLVERS

In contrast to the Savage Navy, the two Alsop revolvers made from 1862-1863 have been described as more like civilian pocket weapons (Sellers and Smith). They share at least eight significant similarities with the Savage (Smith and Patterson), but they use a spur trigger and locate the hammer in the center of the frame. They also include a very peculiar removable percussion chamber that slides into the cylinder. The frames of the two Alsop models are nearly identical.



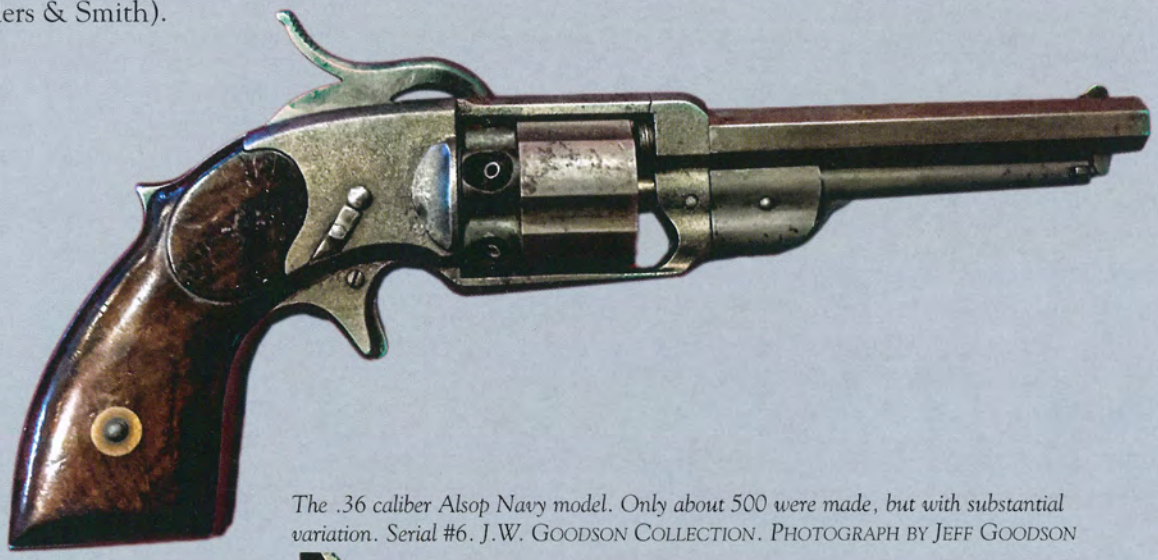
The frames of the two Alsop revolvers are nearly identical. Alsop Pocket on top, Alsop Navy below. J.W. Goodson Collection. Photo by Jeff Goodson



The very peculiar removable percussion chamber of the Alsop revolvers. The .31 caliber Pocket model is on the left, the .36 caliber Navy model is on the right. J.W. Goodson Collection. Photograph by Jeff Goodson

The best production estimates for the Alsop revolvers are those of Samuel Smith, who based them on serial number data he had collected since about 1933 (Smith and Patterson; Sellers and Smith). His findings indicate that the .36 caliber Alsop was numbered from 1-500, with a high recorded serial number of 494 as of 1960. The .31 caliber Alsop was numbered from about 500-800 with a high recorded number of 795. The Boulton database numbers generally conform to this pattern, but out of a total of 78 guns recorded it includes an anomalous high number of 895 for the Alsop Navy and an anomalous low number of 71 for the Pocket.

C.R. Alsop Navy Model. This is a 5-shot, .36 caliber spur trigger revolver with a 3-½" to 6-½" rifled, octagonal barrel. Some cylinders were fluted, and some not. A sheath safety on the right side of the frame occurs on some of the first 100 guns made but it was discontinued due to cost, ineffectiveness and the fact that it caught on the pocket or holster of the wearer (Sellers & Smith).

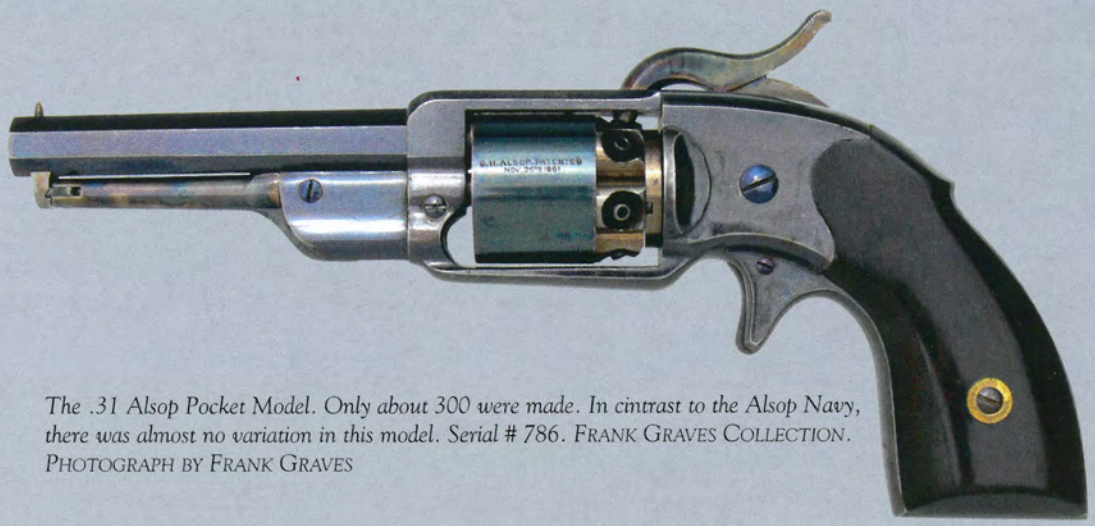


The .36 caliber Alsop Navy model. Only about 500 were made, but with substantial variation. Serial #6. J.W. Goodson Collection. Photograph by Jeff Goodson

The safety found on some of the first 100 Alsop Navy revolvers. It was discontinued due to cost, ineffectiveness and impracticality. J.W. Goodson Collection. Photo by Jeff Goodson

The biggest factor affecting the rarity of this model is very low total production. The Boulton database has 45 serial numbers recorded, giving a known survival rate of 9.0%. The number of unrecorded guns grew by a rapid 5.1% per year over the last three years, however, indicating that a substantial number of these guns remain to be recorded.

C.R. Alsop Pocket Model. This is a 6-shot, .31 caliber spur trigger revolver with a 4" rifled, octagonal barrel. Unlike the Alsop Navy, there is very little variation within the Alsop Pocket model.



The .31 Alsop Pocket Model. Only about 300 were made. In cintrast to the Alsop Navy, there was almost no variation in this model. Serial # 786. Frank Graves Collection. Photograph by Frank Graves

The biggest factor affecting the rarity of this model is also very low total production. The Boulton database has 33 serial numbers recorded, giving a known survival rate of 11.0%. The number of unrecorded guns grew very rapidly over the last three years at about 6.0% per year, however, so a substantial number of Alsop Pocket revolvers also remain to be recorded.

Unfortunately, and in contrast to the Alsop Navy, the serial numbers on the Alsop Pocket are not visible without partially dismantling the gun. They are only found on the bottom of the barrel underneath the loading lever, and on the backstrap under the left grip. Since some sellers won't dismantle a gun to find a serial number (Graves), the number of unrecorded but still surviving guns is no doubt higher than it should be.

CONCLUSIONS

Survival Files #4 reviews production data, calculates known survival rates, estimates how many guns remain unrecorded, and examines rarity factors for the eight percussion revolvers manufactured by North & Savage, the Savage Revolving Firearms Company, and C.R. Alsop.

Figure 8 Revolvers: We argue for a total production estimate for the 3rd Model Figure 8 of 100 guns, based on procurement information. Existing production estimates are examined for the other four Figure 8 models, and the most supportable accepted as the "best available estimate." Known survival rates vary from 5.0-12.0%.

For all five models of Figure 8, the stability index is zero. While there no doubt remain additional unrecorded specimens to be identified, we believe that almost all surviving specimens of Figure 8 are now recorded in the Boulton database and that their *known* survival rates as reported here are close or very close to their *true* survival rates. The rarity of the Figure 8s is mostly due to low to ultra-low production at just 10-250 guns.

Savage Navy Revolvers: The Savage Navy isn't rare. Based on statistical analysis, we tentatively accept the widely reported production estimate of 20,000. Based on the specifics of delivery against an 1858 U.S. Navy contract, we believe the start date for manufacture of the Savage Navy was 1859 or 1860 instead of mid-1861.

The known survival rate for the Savage Navy is calculated at just 2.8%. This will grow substantially, since the number of newly recorded specimens is increasing at a very high 6.4% per year. Many more of these guns remain to be found and recorded. The known survival rate for the 11,284 guns sold to the U.S. Army during the Civil War is 45.2%, and 28.2% of the 1,126 sold to the U.S. Navy were still in service in December 1866. The biggest factors affecting their survival are high production, widespread use in the Civil War and poor firearm quality.

Alsop Revolvers: The known survival rates for the Alsop Navy (9.0%) and Alsop Pocket (11.0%) are relatively high, reflecting the fact that they were mostly civilian guns with little field use in the Civil War. The number of newly recorded specimens, however, is growing at a very high 5.1% and 6.0%, respectively. Although quite rare—with total production estimated at just 500 and 300—there remain a significant number of both models to be recorded.

Appeal to Collectors

Collectors are encouraged to send serial numbers on Savage & North, Savage, and Alsop percussion revolvers in their collection—preferably with photos—to Phil Boulton at ***philboultoncps@hotmail.com.*** We are especially interested in the following:

- ★ Any North & Savage Figure 8 serial numbers;
- ★ Savage Navy specimens sold as "NVSN" or no visible serial number;
- ★ Savage Navy serial numbers over 20,000;
- ★ Savage Navy serial numbers under #300;
- ★ Serial numbers of any Savage Navy with U.S. Navy markings;
- ★ Alsop Navy serial numbers over 500; and
- ★ Alsop Pocket serial numbers under 500.

Questions about this article, including on methodology, can be sent to Jeff Goodson at ***jwgoodson@yahoo.com***.

Table 1

Production and Survival Data

Savage & North, Savage, and Alsop Percussion Revolvers

	Savage & North (Figure "8")					Savage	C.R. Alsop	
Model:	1st Model Navy		2nd Model Navy	3rd Model Navy	4th Model Navy	Navy	Navy	Pocket
	Variation 1	Variation 2						
Flayderman ID:	7A-090	7A-091	7A-092	7A-093	7A-094	7A-095/095.2	7A-001/002	7A-003
Years of Manufacture:	1856-1859	1856-1859	1856-1859	1856-1859	1856-1859	~1861-mid 1860s	1862-1863	1862-1863
Caliber:	.36	.36	.36	.36	.36	.36	.36	.31
SURVIVAL DATA (as of January 1, 2020)								
Total Estimated Production (TEP):	10	250	100	100	50	~20,000	500	300
Total Recorded in Database:	1	22	9	5	6	568	45	33
Highest SN in Database:	*no data*	243	388	361	305	See Notes	895	795
Lowest SN in Database:	*no data*	11	2	5	4	8	2	71
Known Survival Rate (KSR):	10.00%	8.80%	9.00%	5.00%	12.00%	2.84%	9.00%	11.00%
DATA STABILITY (as of January 1, 2020)								
# Recorded, 1 June 2017 through 30 May 2020:	0	0	0	0	0	91	6	5
Avg. #/yr Recorded (last 3 years):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.34	2.00	1.67
Stability Index (%/year increase over base year):	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.36%	5.13%	5.96%

Red Cells: Key data, referenced in "**NOTES**" below and/or in text.
Shaded Cells: KSR not calculated due to imprecise TEP data; Stability Index not calculated due to limited data collection period or other data collection issues. See text for discussion of individual firearm models.
Data Sources: All base numbers are from the Philip Boulton Database except TEP data.
Total Estimated Production (TEP): All TEP data are from Sellers and Smith (1971) and Flayderman (9th edition), except TEP for the 3rd Model Navy which takes into account McAulay (1992) and Winter (1990); the Savage Navy which is based on the high SN in the Boulton database; and the two C.R. Alsop revolvers which are from Smith & Patterson (1960).
Known Survival Rate (KSR): Number recorded in the database x 100/TEP.
Stability Index: = (Average number recorded/year over previous 3 years) x (100)/(Total recorded at start of period). *Data do not include prototypes, unnumbered guns or guns with mixed serial numbers.*

NOTES:

Savage& North Figure 8 Navy (all models): *No new serial numbers for any of the models and variations have been recorded in the last three years, generating a Stability Index of zero.* Due to the many problems with the serial numbering of the Savage & North revolvers as reported in the literature, we consider the high serial number data to be unreliable indicators of total production.

Savage & North Figure 8, 3rd Model: We use a TEP of 100 since McAulay (1992) provides compelling evidence that the 300 guns ordered of this type were delivered as Savage Navy revolvers.

Savage Navy: We believe that the commonly reported TEP of 20,000 for this model could be low. There are ten serial numbers in the database out of 568 total (1.76%) that are higher than 20,000: 20387, 21216, 22488, 25139, 28731, 30081, 33907, 39856, 44824 and 52310. Readers with serial numbers above 20,000 are requested to report them to Phil Boulton (see text for email).

C.R. ALSOP: Smith and Patterson (1960) write, based on 27 years of collecting Alsop serial numbers by Smith as of that date, that the Alsop Navy is numbered from 1-500 and the Alsop Pocket from 500-800. We therefore consider the Boulton database high number of 895 for the Alsop Navy, and the low number of 71 for the Alsop pocket, to be anomalous. Collectors with knowledge of either gun--or any Alsop Navy over 500, or any Alsop Pocket under 500--to contact Phil Boulton (see text for email).

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