

SERIAL NUMBERS FOR JOSEPH EGG, TATHAM & EGG, HENRY TATHAM, AND JOSEPH EGG DESCENDANTS.

It seems very likely that Henry Tatham continued the Tatham & Egg [T&E] serial numbering. It's unclear where Joseph Egg's numbers began. Joseph sometimes used one number for pairs and sometimes two. Charles & Henry Egg continued the Joseph Egg/Joseph Egg & Sons serial numbering. The author and collector Keith Dill's list of numbers is incorporated, as KD. His chart classifies triggers as S or D, for single or double, and mainsprings as I or E, for internal or external.

His "estimated dates" are given as c.18XX, though their basis is not always clear.

- 229 Historic Arms Gallery May 2024. T&E single sawhandled F/L duelling pistol. Gold poincon. Square front trigger guard. "[T&E's] Improvement" +229 on butt cap.
- 620 KD. T&E duelling pistols with shoulder stock. Rectangular trigger guard. c.1807.
- 684 Christie's May 2, 1984 lot 152. T&E cased F/L duelling pistols. "[T&E's] Improvement" on butt caps.
- 687 KD. T&E cased full-stocked duelling pistols
- 737 KD. T&E cased duelling pistols. c.1808. J O'S.
- 834 Neal sale Christie's London Nov.9, 2000 lot 272. "circa 1810". Tatham & Egg cased pair F/L saw-handled duelling pistols. KS date c.1809.
- 860 KD. Isolated photos of a shoulder stock ["T&E London"] and a butt plate ["T&E's Improvement 860"].
- 903 KD. T&E cased saw-handled duelling pistols. C.1810. "[T&E's] Improvement" on butt caps.
- 956 KD. T&E pair of converted full-stocked duelling pistols.
- 994 KD. T&E pair of cased F/L half-stocked duelling pistols.
- 1001 KD. T&E cased pair of saw-handled duelling pistols, converted. "[T&E's] Improvement" on butt caps.
- 1121 West Street Antiques (July 2023). Full size F/L DB O/U pistol. 1121 on TG bow. "Tatham & Egg's Improvement" on the end of the butt. "circa 1810".
- 1158 The Antiquarian Gallery (March 2024). F/L DB O/U pistol. 1158 on trigger guard bow. Poincon. <https://theantiquarianlibrary.com/tathamandegg/> KD date c.1811.
- 1166 Neal sale Christie's London Oct.25, 2001 lot 265. "circa 1810". Tatham & Egg cased DB O/U F/L pistol.
- 1167 KD. Cased officer's pistol.

- 1217 Clay Bedford Met Catalogue #206, page 181-182. Tatham & Egg DB O/U F/L pistol, internal mainsprings.
- 1253 KD. T&E cased half-stocked F/L duelling pistols. Walter Earle, LV show, 1/1999. SN on butt plates.
- 1265 Christie's London May 2, 1984. 1812. Tatham & Egg DB O/U F/L pistol, internal mainsprings. Silver hallmarked 1812. (Reported by PH.)
- 1323 The Met. "circa 1813-1814". Tatham & Egg Joseph-Egg-patent upside-down-flintlock pistol.
- 1478 Neal sale Christie's London Oct. 25, 2001, lot 88. "circa 1815-1816". Tatham DB F/L gun.
- 1508 Neal sale Christie's London Nov. 9, 2000, lot 65. 1816. Tatham single F/L "Chief's gun".
- 1519 CLASSIC RIFLES IN AUSTRALIA, chapter 15. 1816. Tatham DB O/U F/L rifle/shotgun—"Chief's gun". Dated by the production/contract history for that type of gun.
- 1566 Private Collection. A cased pair of Tatham F/L pistols, the number on each trigger guard strap. TATHAM LONDON LATE TATHAM & EGG on each lock.
- 2044 Neal sale Nov. 9, 2000 lot 199. Silver hallmarked 1818. DB O/U F/L pistol. The earliest Joseph Egg number I've found.
- 2050/2051 Christies Oct. 26, 1994, lot 234 (the Dick Duffy collection). Silver hallmarked 1815. Cased pair of pocket pistols. (Reported by PH.)
- 2169 KD. F/L O/U Officer's pistol with shoulder stock. D; E. c.1819. The butt with "JOSH EGG'S IMPROVEMENT".
- 2187 KD. A cased copper cap rifle. Shown in Neal & Back's "...Cases and Equipment" book page 104, plate 354. Mentioned in a letter from Peter Scott-Edeson to Jim Gooding of May 2, 1995. On the top flat, BY PERMISSION OF FORSYTH THE PATENTEE.
- 2231 Richard Garrett, Classic Arms and Militaria Volume XVIII #5 (10-11 2011) pages 18-20. DB O/U F/L pistol converted to copper cap. 2231 inside lockplates. Bonhams 11/28/18 lot 282.
- 2241 Richard Garrett same article as 2231. DB O/U F/L pistol. 2241 inside lockplates. Bonhams lot 283.
- 2242 Neal sale 1995 lot 308. "circa 1819". Cased pair DB O/U F/L pistols. S; E.
- 2250 KD. Cased F/L baby. S; E.
- 2259 KD. O/U officer's pistol, converted. S;E. c.1819.

- 2287 KD. Small bore officer's pistol, converted. c.1819.
- 2291 Christies Oct. 27, 1993, lot 92 (the Wilfred Ward sale). A converted O/U baby, S;E. Cased with SN 2293, a F/L O/U "officers pistol" silver hallmarked 1819, and with a shoulder stock.
- 2305 KD. O/U Royal baby. S;E. c.1819. (Made for the Prince Regent, who was crowned Jan 29, 1820.)
- 2306 Private collection. DB O/U F/L pistol. (Reported by FB).
- 2404 Neal sale 1995 lot 151. "circa 1819". Cased F/L and CC (copper cap) dual-ignition-system gun.
- 2423 Christies Oct. 27, 1993, lot 92 (the Wilfred Ward sale). An O/U F/L "officers pistol" cased with a shoulder stock and with SN 2291, a converted O/U baby. D;E. The F/L pistol hallmarked 1819-1820.
2440. Holts 11/24/2025 lot 509. CC (possibly converted) double gun, 15 bore.
- 2464 Christies Feb. 28, 1990, lot 105 (the J.C.L. Knapton collection). Silver hallmarked 1815. DB O/U travelling pistol. (Reported by PH.)
- 2495 KD. O/U F/L baby. S;E. Christie's April 12, 1978, lot 173. c.1820.
- 2502 Butterfield & Butterfield Dec. 7, 1994 lot 3296. Silver hallmarked 1819. Cased pair DB O/U CC pistols with shoulder stock. S;E. KD date c.1821.
- 2638 Neal sale 1995 lot 309. "circa 1822". Cased DB O/U F/L pistol with shoulder stock. D;E.
- 2653 Museum of Applied Science (Melbourne). Copper cap single gun. 21 bore. Joseph Egg on lockplate. JOSEPH EGG, No. 1 PICCADILLY, LONDON, INVENTOR OF COPPER CAP on barrel.
- 2720 Sotheby's April 16, 1974 lot 141. "circa 1825". CC double gun. On the rib: Joseph Egg 1 Piccadilly London Inventor of Copper Caps. Grip safety. Sold by West Street Antiques March 2023 in a case with a full set of accessories and a reproduction trade label.
- 2801 KD. O/U midsize. Ex Ross Egles. S;E. c.1824. Converted. SN on right side of barrel near lock, and "under" [inside?] each lock.
- 2821 KD. Percussion back-action duelling pistols. I. c.1825.
- 2843 KD. DB self-priming gun. Dated December 1825 based on an invoice.
- 2862 KD. Single F/L dueller. I. c.1825.
- 2893 Private collection. Cased pair of CC target pistols. [Destroyed in the Palisades fire, January 2025.]

- 2932 Neal sale Oct. 25, 2001, lot 21. "Circa 1826." Cased patent pill-magazine double gun. (Magazine on barrels; slide action.)
- 2977 The Met. "circa 1835". Patent pill-magazine double gun. (Magazine on long barrel tang; slide action.)
- 3004 Neal sale Nov. 9, 1995, lot 29 ("circa 1835"), and Hermann-Historica Nov. 3, 2014, lot 113 ("circa1825", very likely an error). Cased patent pill-magazine double gun. (Magazine on long barrel tang; slide action.) KD date c.1827.
- 3038 KD. Cased percussion O/U baby. S;E. c.1827.
- 3063 Royal Armouries XII.1578. "1835-1840". Patent pill-magazine double gun. (Magazine on barrels; slide action.) Note: see 3222 below.
- 3088 Christies Oct. 27, 1993, lot 49 (the Wilfred Ward sale). Cased original copper cap O/U baby.
- 3096 Antony Cribb auction March 27, 2024. Cased pair of copper cap pistols with captive rammers.
- 3109/3110 Private collection. Silver hallmarked for 1832. Cased pair of DB O/U silver-mounted copper cap pistols. (Reported by PH, and #36 page 1 in the 1930s Neal collection purchase.)
- 3119 KD. A percussion rifle marked Joseph Egg & Sons. SN on underside of barrel.
- 3123 Bonhams 11/28/2018 lot 284, the Richard Garrett collection. Cased copper cap DB OU pistol. KD date 1829. Also Christie's December 16, 2002, lot 209.
- 3139 Bonhams July 2002 lot 326. Percussion sporting rifle marked Joseph Egg & Sons. "Circa 1830", but Note: Joseph Egg & Sons business years were 1835-1841.
- 3222 West Street Antiques April 2023. Cased Joseph Egg & Sons [JE&S] copper cap rifle. JE&S on barrel, JE&S London on lockplate. "c.1840", but Note: Joseph Egg & Sons business years were 1835-1841.
- 3235 The Flintlock Collection (Geoff Walker) 2013. "circa 1840". Charles & Henry Egg DB O/U CC pistol. Note: Charles and Henry's business years were 1842-1850.
- 3286/3287 Private collection. Cased pair of copper cap shotguns, Charles & Henry Egg.

## COMMENTS BY PH, MARCH 2023.

I don't think Scott-Edeson studied Joe Egg, and I know of no published list. The principal Egg enthusiast years ago was Keith Neal's friend Wilfrid Ward, who, I believe coined the name 'Baby Egg' for the famous Joe Egg over-and-under pocket pistols. Wilfrid published a few magazine articles, and produced an unpublished chart/graph of likely dates of manufacture for Joe Egg, probably with Keith Neal's help, presumably using silver hallmarks as the starting point. When I catalogued Wilfrid's remaining collection for its auction at Christie's on October 27<sup>th</sup> 1993 after his death, I must have used his findings. Sadly the chart and copies of the magazine articles must have been kept by Christie's for a while, but binned long ago. I certainly don't have them, and I can't remember having used them for cataloguing the Keith Neal sales. As you know, 'Baby Eggs' tend to be silver hallmarked, but the serial numbers (if they were originally marked on them - in my experience not always) were probably not recorded by cataloguers as they are to be found in hidden places (with difficulty and some risk of damage as the external springs are delicate), requiring stripping down of the pistols.

## MY COMMENT:

Even in my initial list, there's a problem with the silver hallmarks, well beyond a reasonable annual production number: 2502 for 1819, 2044 for 1818. The only thoughts I have are Joseph kept silver around the shop for years, and for him silver hallmark dating is not as accurate as we'd wish or as we're used to.

## PH::

Silver hallmark dating may also not be as accurate as we'd wish for other makers, I fear.

Matthew Schneiderman October 2025.  
schneiderman615@gmail.com