

U.S. NAVY CONTRACT SINGLE SHOT PISTOLS

by Alex Verestoun

Before the American colonies had gained their independence from Great Britain, American shipping had depended heavily on the protection of the British Royal Navy. After the Revolution, this was no longer the case. In 1789, the French Revolution began with the overthrow of King Louis 16th. By 1792, Europe had erupted into war with France and Britain in renewed conflict. American merchants were now accused by both France and Great Britain of not maintaining the United States' official neutrality stance as American merchant vessels continued trading with both warring countries. As the war in Europe raged on, the British blocked American ships from the French West Indies and harassed American vessels as part of a wider effort to choke the economy of France.

Along with the rising trouble with France and Great Britain, Barbary corsairs continued to sweep the Mediterranean and cap-

ture American merchant vessels, holding the ships, the crews, and the cargoes for ransom. The corsairs were privateers working for the North African states of Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli, and Morocco. U.S. attempts at stemming the Barbary depredations on its fleet and their crews included both diplomacy and tribute, with little success. Seeing threats to its merchant fleet on several maritime fronts, U.S. lawmakers debated the issue of funding a new American navy.

On January 2nd 1794, the Third Congress of the United States resolved to create "a naval force, adequate to the protection of the United States against the Algerine corsairs." A committee was formed, and it ultimately recommended that six frigates be purchased or constructed. Congress approved the recommendations and on 27 March 1794, President George Washington, signed "An act to provide a naval armament", which established the U.S.



Figure 1. Model 1797 U.S. Naval assembled ship's pistol. 0.67 caliber, smooth bore 10" long, British Ketland & Co. flintlock, pin fastened walnut stock.

Navy. So that the original six frigates could be built simultaneously, six different ship yards along the U.S. Atlantic coast were requisitioned to do the work. The first six frigates were the USS *United States* (1797), USS *Constellation* (1797), USS *Constitution* (1797), USS *Congress* (1799), USS *Chesapeake* (1799), and USS *President* (1800). The pistols described herein reflect the handgun armament these and subsequent vessels of the U.S. Navy carried in their stores.

Model 1797 U.S. Naval assembled Ship's Pistol

The Model 1797 Navy Pistol is one of the rarest early U.S. military handguns. The original ship pistols outfitting the first six frigates were assembled pistols by Thomas Annely (90), John Miles (152), John Nicholson Jr. (142), Joseph Morgan (84), Frederick Schnider (26) in 1797-1798 and Robert McCormick (100) in 1799.¹ These contractors were selected by John Nicholson, the War Department's official inspector, to receive parts from Military Stores and to assemble the pistols. There were no formal written contracts.² The British locks are probably part of 3,000 rifle locks purchased by the U.S. Government.³

Figure 1 is .67 caliber smoothbore flintlock pistol. The lock, made by the British company Ketland & Co., is completely flat. It has a pin fastened full walnut stock, brass mountings with a brass reinforcing band, and a wooden ramrod with swelled tip. Lock is stamped "KETLAND & CO" in script and "UNITED STATES" vertically on the tail of the lockplate. The barrel is stamped with an eagle head over "P" in an oval cartouche and "US" is stamped on the top of the barrel near the breech. The stock is stamped usually on the left side "US".

U.S. 1808 Navy Model pistol by Simeon North

In 1807, under Thomas Jefferson's Administration there was an increased interest to rebuild the U.S. Navy after significant cuts at the end of the Adams' presidential term. In an effort to obtain arms for the ships, chief clerk of the Navy Department, Charles Goldsborough, worked through Connecticut congressman Samuel Dana to solicit interest from arms manufacturers. Through this contact with Dana, Simeon North, who had obtained a government contract in 1799 for production of North & Cheney pistols for the Army, submitted a letter to Robert Smith, Secretary of the Navy, indicating he could provide the ships pistols needed. The first contract for naval pistols was signed by Joseph Hull and Simeon North at June 30, 1808, for 2,000 (1,000 pairs) pistols at \$11.75 per pair to be delivered in 18 months.⁴ The first batch of barrels was proved in May of 1809, more than halfway through the contracted delivery time. The first completed pistol was sent by Isaac Chauncey to Secretary Hamilton on August 24, 1809. Chauncey shipped the next six pairs of completed pistols to Secretary Hamilton for inspection on September 26, 1809. North completed first contract (total 2001) by July 11th, 1811.⁵

No formal written second contract has been found, but there is a letter from Secretary Paul Hamilton to North dated December 4, 1810, agreeing to an additional 500 pairs of pistols to be made at price \$12.00/pair.⁶ The second contract was completed in 1813 or March 1814. It is possible that Joseph Hull, Navy agent (Middletown, Connecticut) received the last boxes of pistols in 1813, but forwarded to George Harrison, Navy agent (Philadelphia) in 1814.⁷

The breech plug and backstrap channel of the stock are stamped with numbers (early examples may have "O" and slashes "////" or

crude numbers stamped with a "c" and "l") leading some collectors to suggest these represent pairing of the pistols in similar fashion as done for the Model 1805 Harpers Ferry pistols since examples with the same number have been identified.⁸ Since North used a more mass-production method for which all the individual parts (screws, barrel, lock, etc.) needed were completed by a dedicated workman prior to assembling the final pistol the numbering may reflect assembly markings to keep the barrel and stock matched. In an August 20, 1809, letter from Isaac Chauncey to Secretary Hamilton concerning his visit to North's factory where he indicates North has *"700 barrels ready for proving and the iron for the remained drawn out and ready for welding.... different limbs for about 1500 or 1600 locks are forged, and the holes in many plates drilled (but the locks not finished)"*.⁹ After the barrel was inspected, proved and sent to assembly, perhaps they started using the numbers again, leading to two pistols with the same numbering. Since the stamping is internal and difficult to locate there is still much to be learned about them.

The model U.S. 1808 Navy pistol was used during the War of 1812. The pistols were manufactured in North's first factory in Berlin, Connecticut. This pistol has a pin fastened barrel with a full walnut stock and hickory ramrod with a swelled tip (Figure 2). It has brass mountings. An iron back strap extends from tang to butt cap, which was a Simeon North improvement. An iron belt hook is attached to the side plate. These pistols are not stamped with inspector marks.

On the lock plate is an "eagle over U.S. STATES" stamp under the flash pan and "S. NORTH/BERLIN/CON." stamped at the rear. Lock plate stamps have variation. The earliest of the North 1808 pistols with the pointed locks have NO markings on the tail of the lock plate. Next the lock plates are somewhat less pointed and have the "S. NORTH/BERLIN/CON." The last extended contract pistols have a less pointed lock. Two types of stamps (bigger font and smaller font) have been observed; small font has a dot on the top (S'North).¹⁰ The extended contract pistols have a different shape of the belt hook finial, the screw towards the back of the trigger guard is absent and the lock plate by the frizzen spring screw is not beveled. Pistols have numbers (in earlier examples slashes) located on the side of breech plug and on the stock under the backstrap (Figure 2). Smooth bore barrel is 10 1/8" long, finished brown. Caliber is variable from .61 to .68.⁸

U.S. Navy Model 1813 by Simeon North

In January of 1816 Navy Board of Commissioners published request for bids on pistols contract¹¹, the Board received the bids from:¹²

- Benjamin Moore of Springfield - \$14.5 – 14.75 per pair
- Henry Deringer, Philadelphia - \$17.00 per pair
- S. North, Berlin - \$14.00 per pair
- Smith Cogswell, Albany - \$14.00 per pair
- Samuel Leonard and Tomas French, Canton - \$14.00 per pair

North delivered his bid to Navy Department personally and left sample of pistol (a Model 1813 Army pistol) and letter to the President of the Navy Board of Commissioners. In the letter he states that is about seventeen years he has undertaken the business of making pistols for United States (since 1799), he lately erected a new building with all equipment, and now his establishment in Middletown Connecticut is such that 100 men can be convenient-



Figure 2. U.S. 1808 Navy model pistol by Simeon North, .61-.68 caliber round smooth bore barrel, pin fastened walnut stock, iron belt hook. Note the "621" numbering in the backstrap channel and side of the breech plug to mate the barrel with the stock.

ly employed there. The board was impressed with North's 1813 type pistol compared to a British pin fastened type. But all North's previous contracts were not delivered in time. Chief of Ordnance, Colonel Decius Wadsworth decided to visit North's manufacturing site by himself before making a decision. The contract for the S. North 1813 Navy pistols has not been found, but there is a record that North delivered 1,000 pistols with a belt hook to the Navy. Maybe the transaction was in the form of a purchase order, since the pistols were already made (1,600), but not delivered yet, according to contract from April 16th, 1813 (20,000 pcs.). Just a belt hook was added to the Army pistol. In a letter dated September 30th 1816 to President of the board of Navy Commissioners North said: "I have made belt hooks for one thousand of those pistols that I agreed to furnish for the Navy when I was in your office last month, and they now ready for the inspection."¹³

On October 16, 1816 Navy Commissioner Rogers Prest sent a letter to Captain Samuel Evans: "You will be pleased to order an officer to Middletown Connecticut for the purpose inspecting One Thousand pistols Manufactured by Mr. Simeon North of that place, after being inspected, they are to be delivered to you at the Navy Yard".¹⁴

Letter from Samuel Evans, U.S. Navy Yard, New York to Capt. Edward Trenchard from October 21st 1816th states: "Sir; you will proceed to Middletown, Connecticut and inspect one thousand pis-

tols manufacture by Mr. Simeon North of that place. After being inspected, they are to be delivered to me at this establishment."¹⁵

In April 16th, 1813 Simeon North of Middletown, Connecticut was awarded a contract by the United States Government to make 20,000 pistols for the Army over five years.¹⁶ Due to the large caliber and harsh recoil the order was revised after 626 were delivered. Research indicates that 1000 pistols remaining with North after the Army contract cancellation were delivered to the Navy (New York Navy Yard). The Navy pistol has the steel belt hook on the left side of the pistol (no belt hook for the Army pistols). The barrels had been inspected by Henry H. Perkin. S. North received \$7,000 for delivery of the Navy pistols in December 1816.

The U.S. Navy Model 1813 Flintlock Pistol has a 0.69 caliber smooth bore, 9 1/16" barrel length without a front sight. Overall length is 15 1/4". Hickory ramrod with swelled tip; the opposite end fitted with metal ferrule threaded for cleaning and ball removal attachments. Iron mountings. The front strap of double barrel band is not fluted and the stock terminates flat with that band. Iron backstrap inset into the stock from tang to butt cap. Flat lock plate beveled in the front and slightly rounded in the rear with brass flashpan without a fence, tilts upward to rear. Lock marked S. North and MIDLn CON, and US. The barrel marked - P and U.S on the left side near breech and H.H.P (inspector Henry H. Perkin) on the

right side above the flashpan. The stock marked usually "ET" for the Navy inspector Edward Trenchard (Figure 3).

Thomas French Navy Pistol

The Thomas French Navy Pistol was believed to be manufactured for American merchant fleets in Massachusetts, possibly made under Massachusetts State Contract. Flintlock pistol .67 caliber, 10" round smoothbore flintlock Navy Pistol was made by Thomas French of Canton, Massachusetts thought to be between 1812 and 1814. The pistol is pin fastened with a walnut stock and has a wooden ramrod with a swelled tip. Pistol has an integral steel pan and no backstrap. Its brass mountings include a brass butt cap. Lock marked ahead of hammer with eagle over oval panel US, over T.French. Barrel having eagle over P proof in sunken oval. It has an iron belt hook on left side with MA/V stamped in the wood at the rear of the left stock flat. (Figure 4).

Quantity is unknown, very limited. Unfortunately, absolutely nothing is known about historical background of these T. French pistols, not one word concerning them was found in the Archives. Some barrels have marking "W.N.Y." (Washington Navy Yard). It is possible that it was direct purchase order by the Navy yard agent. Some pistols (usually converted to percussion) have the marking on the stock "MARSH". Meaning of this marking is unknown.

U.S. Navy Contract 1812 Joseph Henry Flintlock Pistol

In August of 1780 William Henry II set up his own gunsmith shop on South Main Street in Nazareth, Pennsylvania. He purchased 500 acres of land in nearby Jacobsburg along the Bushkill Creek and relocated his gun making operation there between 1792 and 1798.¹⁷ William II had two sons, William III and John Joseph who were apprenticed in the business. In 1807 John Joseph Henry



Figure 3. U.S. Navy Model 1813 by Simeon North, 0.69 caliber smooth bore 9 1/16" long barrel, Overall length is 15 1/4". Iron mountings. The front strap of double barrel band. Iron backstrap. Flat lock plate. Iron belt hook.





Figure 4. Thomas French Navy flintlock Pistol, .67 caliber with 10" long smoothbore barrel, pin fastened walnut stock.

set up a show-room in Philadelphia and then in 1811, together with his brother William III, set up a gun assembly shop. This shop was known as "The American Rifle Manufactory" and employed a workforce of twenty-four workmen. John Joseph and his brother William III sold thousands of muskets and pistols from this location to John Bolivar, the brother of Simon Bolivar, liberator of South America.¹⁸

John Joseph Henry received a contract from the Navy Agent to supply flintlock pistols. The date of this contract is not known, but Henry's day book indicated that he delivered first 22 pairs of naval pistols to George Harrison the Navy agent in Philadelphia on May 31st, 1813. Only 476 pistols have been documented delivered between June 1813 and July 1814 for the U.S. Navy.¹⁹

This .54 caliber, 10" round smoothbore flintlock pistol is pin fastened with a walnut stock and has a wooden ramrod with a swelled

tip (Figure 5). Pistol has an integral steel flashpan and no back strap as well as brass mountings including a brass butt cap. Lock marked ahead of hammer with only J. Henry. Rear of the lock is stepped. Barrel has P proof in sunken oval. Pistol has iron belt hook on left side. Pistols are similar to the 1807-1808 Army contract pistols Henry produced.

U. S. Model 1826 Flintlock Navy Pistol by Simeon North

In July 1826 Commodore William Bainbridge, then president of the Navy Commissioners Board, discussed with Henry Derringer and Simeon North a new model of pistol for a Navy contract. His requirements were: *"a pistol with 8 1/2" barrel and as short stock as you can make it, for use with a swivel, iron ramrod, with a boarding belt hook, to carry balls 32 per pound"*.²⁰ Earlier S. North offered to make pistols for Navy the same as for the "U.S. Ordnance Department", referring to model 1819 pistols, which he received a contract for 20,000.

Figure 5. U.S. Navy Contract 1812 Joseph Henry Flintlock Pistol, .54 caliber 10" round smoothbore barrel, pin fastened walnut stock, wooden ramrod with a swelled tip Note the hole in the left stock flat where the pin from the belt hook was placed.



H. Derringer promised to send to Bainbridge samples of the new design pistols by the end of July, but never did.²¹ S. North made a new design and received three separate contracts for 1,000 pistols each (November 16, 1826, December 12, 1827 and August 18, 1828), cost of pistols is \$7; they were delivered in 1828 and 1829.²² Simeon North had a long relationship with the U.S. War Department. The contract for the Model 1826 pistols was the last contract North had for martial pistols from the U.S. Government, as he transitioned to manufacturing Hall rifles.

The North Model 1826 Navy Pistol is a smaller version of the Model 1819 with a few slight alterations: it is without a safety latch, has a shorter barrel and sharper angle of the grip.²³ Total quantity manufactured is 3,000 pistols. It is .54 caliber smoothbore, 8 5/8" round barrel, flintlock pistol. It is iron mounted including an iron swivel type ramrod and a belt hook. This pistol has a brass blade front sight and an oval rear sight near the tang. The brass flash pan has no fence and tilts upward on the lock plate. The pistol finish is browned. (Figure 6). Usually "1827" or "1828" date is stamped at the rear of the lock plate, but some pistols known without date. The Danish War Museum in Copenhagen has a pair of pistols dated 1826 in its collection. These two pistols were never outfitted with belt hooks, and left North's factory without passing government inspection.²⁴

Marking: "U.S./S. North" is stamped under the flash pan. The barrel is stamped "US/Inspector stamp (ET or AH (Elisha Tobey or Asahel Hubbard))"/sunken P. Inspectors cartouche on the stock by the side plate, usually "ET" (Elisha Tobey) in an oval (Figure 6). Some of these pistols were converted to percussion following the 1864 Navy reinspection where all guns still in service were stamped with anchor.

U.S. Model 1826 Flintlock Navy Pistol by W. L. Evans

In 1825, John Rogers – a gun manufacturer in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania – could not get enough money to fund his government contracts, so he went into business with William L. Evans (Evans' mill was located on his property in Evansburg PA, 10 miles North of Valley Forge). Rogers and Evans' factory was largely successful until a flood of Valley Creek washed away the entire factory. A new one was never built.

Shortly after North delivered its last batch of Model 1826 pistols in 1829, the Navy decided it needed more of this model and began to look for manufacturers to replace North. On October 1, 1830, a contract was awarded to Mr. M.D.C Marsh of Washington D.C. for 500 pistols to be delivered by March 1, 1831. This contract appears to have been assigned to W.L. Evans with the delivery date extended to April 20, 1831. Evans produced these Model 1826 pistols between the years 1830 and 1831. First contract must have been extended because Evans delivered 1,500 pistols in total. This information was found from inspector's reports in National Archive.²⁵

All final inspections for Evans pistols were made by Capt. Thomas ap Catesby Jones. Barrels for the first 500 pistols were inspected by Luther Sage, for other pistols Catesby Jones inspected barrels. On May 10, 1831 Catesby Jones reported: "I found 500 pistols ready for inspection. The barrels have the following marks LS US/P". Jones states that he stamped the pistols with CI over P on the left side of the stock.²⁶ On October 28, 1831 reports states that Jones inspected 250 finished pistols and proved 720 rough pistol barrels. Contractor says the pistols should be ready December 20th. Jones received orders on December 14th, 1831 and inspected 750 finished pistols on January 16th, 1832.²⁷

The pistol in Figure 7 with was part of a contract for the Navy and is identical to the Model 1826 made by Simeon North except for the lock marking. It has a .54 caliber smoothbore barrel; iron mountings, including an iron backstrap from the tang to the buttcap, with an iron belt hook.²⁸ The barrel bands are secured by springs. It has a swivel type steel ramrod and a brass flash pan. The lockplate stamped US/W.L.EVANS or W.L.EVANS/V.FORGE. It is also stamped 1830 or 1831/USN at the rear of the lockplate. The top of the barrel is stamped LS (Luther Sage) US/P(sunken) (dates 1830) or CI/P (dated 1831) and the left side of the stock is stamped "CI/P"(Capt. Tomas ap Catesby Jones). Lettering of the stamp reflect an anachronistic convention of the time period, whereby the capital letter "I" stood for "J". Thus, what appears to be "CI" actually reflects "CJ".²⁹

U. S. Model 1836 by A. Waters with Navy marking

The Model 1836 flintlock pistol was the last of the single-shot martial flintlock pistols to be authorized and contracted for by the U.S. government. Robert Johnson of Middleton, Connecticut and Asa Waters (later A.H. Waters) of Millbury, Massachusetts produced a total of 41,000 pistols delivered between 1836 and 1844.³⁰ The Model 1836 flintlock pistol has a smoothbore, 0.54 caliber round barrel.³¹ The barrel band strap extends to the side plate. It has a swivel type steel ramrod with button head, iron mountings, and a brass flash pan. The lock plate, hammer and frizzen, trigger and frizzen spring are all case hardened. The stock is black walnut. Pistols made by Johnson have "U.S." over "R. Johnson" over "Middn Conn" over "year" stamped on the lock plate. Pistols made by Waters have "U.S." over "A. Waters" over "Millbury Mass" over "year" stamped on the lock plate. The barrels are proof stamped with the inspector's mark such as "US over JH over



Figure 6. U. S. Model 1826 Flintlock Navy Pistol by Simeon North, .54 caliber smoothbore 8 5/8" long round barrel, iron swivel type ramrod and a belt hook. Note the stock cartouche of "ET" for Elisha Tobey on the left stock flat (lower left) and the barrel proofs (lower center). When pistols passed the re-inspection of 1864, they were stamped on the barrel with an anchor (lower right).

Figure 7. U.S. Model 1826 Flintlock Navy Pistol by W. L. Evans, .54 caliber 8 5/8" long smoothbore barrel; iron mountings, iron backstrap, iron belt hook.



P." The cartouche initials of the sub-inspector and final approval stamp of the Ordnance Officer appear on the left stock flat.

In 1841, the US Ordnance Department officially adopted the percussion cap system to replace the flintlock ignition system. The alteration work took place between 1849 and 1854, with a few exceptions. Initially, the work was performed at the Springfield, Harpers Ferry, Watervliet and Watertown Arsenals.³² The pistols altered to percussion at the beginning of the Civil War employed a variety of methods: bolster, side cylinder, patent breech and can be found on both Confederate and Union pistols. The pistol in Figure 8 was converted to percussion using a patent breech system with a bolster and has Navy markings. This conversion method is identical to the method used by Henry Leaman, who performed this type of alteration on pistols for Pennsylvania.

On June 12, 1861 General Edward. M. Biddle informed the Pennsylvania state militia officers that Major O. H. Wheeler was authorized to demand and receive from the various Brigade Inspectors, Captains of companies and others, all and every type of military arms of whatever kind belonging to this Commonwealth as muskets, rifles, cannons, swords, pistols tents and receipts for the same.³³ The plan was to collect the arms and have them "modernized". The Brigade Inspectors and Militia Officers were forced to forward all their arms to Harrisburg. The state must have quickly realized that the Armory in Harrisburg was not capable of repairing or modernizing arms. The state selected two gunsmiths to

alter the flintlock arms to percussion. Henry Leaman and James Butterfield performed the alterations on Pennsylvania arms. There is no evidence that Jesse Butterfield altered any pistols for Pennsylvania. In this case all pistols were converted by Henry Leaman. From July 7, 1837 through October 4, 1838 Pennsylvania received 1,790 pistols. These were likely the Model 1836 pistols. But only 296 alterations recorded by the H. E. Leaman accounts. It is meaning that in 1861 O. H. Wheeler was not able to collect much and only the best condition pistols were selected for conversion for the state of Pennsylvania. It is unclear if Leaman performed alterations of pistols for the U.S. government.

Relating to the navy pistol in Figure 8, the data collected records only 8 pistols known to be altered by the patent breech system used by Henry Leaman. Five of those pistols were made by Asa Waters and dated 1837 and 1838. Three are Model 1819 Simeon North pistols dated 1821 and 1822. The pistols are stamped with a matching number on the underside of the breech, barrel and hammer. A second number is stamped under the barrel. The barrel and breech numbers mate the two parts while the other number may be inventory or a method to match the barrel to the correct stock (Figure 8). Why is the pistol in Figure 8 dated 1847 on the breech? We have no clue. The patent breech system came into existence in 1787 by Henry Nock in England for use in shotguns. U.S. 1842 Model percussion pistols (H. Aston and I. N. Johnson) have the same bolster nipple type. So, in 1847 this type of conversion can be definitely done. It could be some type of pattern pistol, but we

have no evidence which gunsmith (manufacturer) made it or why. And why was it in Navy service? It is important to note that this type of alteration is identical to the patent breech system used by Henry Leaman for the state of Pennsylvania in 1862.

U. S. Navy Elgin Cutlass Pistol (1837)

The inventor of this unique weapon, New Yorker George Elgin, took advantage of the popularity of the famous "Bowie" knife, envisioning a new style combination firearm and edged weapon that would prove effective in close combat. On July 5th, 1837, Elgin was granted United States Patent No. 254 for his "Improvement in the Pistol Knife or Cutlass." On September 8th, 1837, he wrote to the United States Navy Department proposing to deliver by October 25th 150 "Pistol Knives" for use in a planned expedition to explore the South Seas. The Navy accepted Elgin's proposal and this pistol-knife became the military's first official percussion handgun. Cyrus B. Allen produced 150 of these pistols on the U.S. Navy contract.³⁴ The Bowie knife-style blades were produced by

Nathan P. Ames. The cost of the Elgin Patent Cutlass Pistol was \$17.50. Each was delivered with a German silver-mounted leather holster/scabbard that incorporated a brass-tipped rammer, cleaning equipment, three spare percussion cap nipples, and a storage box.

The United States Exploring Expedition to the South Seas spanned the years 1838-1842. The expedition was composed of five U.S. Navy ships and 350 men, including sailors, naturalists, botanists, a mineralogist, a taxidermist, and a philologist. During the four years of the voyage the expedition surveyed over 200 South Pacific islands and made the first sightings of Antarctica. This weapon is mentioned several times in the expedition's narrative, which is titled *"Narrative of the United States exploring expedition during the years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842."* On the Island of Malolo in Fiji on July 24th, 1840, members of a landing party were attacked by Natives and Midshipman Wilkes Henry "cut islander down with his bowie-knife pistol."³⁵ In another instance when the expedition was exploring the Sacramento River, an Indian "boldly seized the bowie-knife-pistol of Dr. Pickering," a



Figure 8. U. S. Model 1836 by A. Waters with Navy marking, 0.54 caliber 8 5/8" long round barrel, swivel type steel ramrod with button head, iron mountings, converted to percussion using patent breech method.

naturalist, and ran into the woods³⁶. Upon the expedition's return to the United States in 1842 the pistols went into Navy stores.

Pistol was made by Cyrus B. Allen of Springfield, Massachusetts in 1837 (Figure 9). This .54 caliber, George Elgin patented percussion cutlass pistol. Pistol has scabbard. It is a boxlock type frame with a 5" octagonal barrel. There is an 11" Bowie type blade. Marking: on the left side of the pistol, "C.B.ALLEN/SPRINGFIELD/MASS" is stamped. The barrel is stamped "ELGIN's/PATENT". Other marking: no marking on the left side of the pistol but they have CBA/PM/1837 on the barrel next to breech and same ELGIN's/PATENT on the barrel. Pistol-knife has a serial number is on the barrel, frame and blade (some pistols have serial numbers on the screw head as well).

U.S. Model 1842 Percussion Navy Pistols

Model 1842 Percussion Navy Pistol manufactured by N. P. Ames, Chicopee, Massachusetts and Henry Derringer, Philadelphia c. 1842 – 1847.

History of Ames Manufacturing Company

The origins of the Ames Manufacturing Company date back to 1822, when industrialist Edmund Dwight purchased property along the Chicopee River at Skenunگونuck Falls, at the present-day village of Chicopee Falls. At the time, Chicopee was the sparsely-settled northern half of Springfield, but the Industrial Revolution helped to transform it into a major manufacturing center, thanks to the many waterfalls on the Chicopee River. In 1823, Dwight incorporated the



Figure 9. U. S. Navy Elgin Cutlass Pistol (1837), .54 caliber 5" long octagonal barrel, 11" Bowie type blade, markings on barrel: ELGIN's/PATENT and CBA/PM/1837. Serial number on the barrel, frame and blade .





Figure 10. Early production – .54 caliber round 6” long barrel, a swivel type ramrod, a one-piece stock, flat boxlock type lock with a rounded, pointed end to the lockplate. Has a serial number on the bottom of the barrel, lock, edge of the barrel band and hammer.

Boston and Springfield Manufacturing Company, and within a few years he had built a dam, a canal, and a mill at Chicopee Falls, marking the beginning of large-scale industry.

In 1829, Dwight proposed to brothers Nathan Peabody Ames and James Tyler Ames to relocate their cutlery business from Chelmsford (Massachusetts) to Chicopee Falls. He provided them with a blacksmith shop at his mill complex, rent-free for four years.³⁷ The brothers began operations here with a workforce of nine. The

business rapidly expanded, though, and by 1833 they had 25 to 30 employees and were producing a wide variety of cutlery and tools, as well as swords for the Army and Navy.

The company was incorporated as the Ames Manufacturing Company in 1834, and the following year moved to a site further down the river. Known at the time as Cabotville, this village would later become the center of Chicopee when it was incorporated as a separate town in 1848. Here, the Chicopee River drops 50 feet



Figure 11. Standard model production— .54 caliber round 6” long barrel, a swivel type ramrod, a one-piece stock, flat boxlock type lock. Serial numbers are not present.

in elevation, and both a dam and a canal were constructed in the early 1830s. At this new site, the company continued to grow and diversify, and by the end of the 1830s the Ames brothers were also producing cannons, cannonballs, bells, and a variety of other metal objects for the U.S. Government, but not pistols.

How Ames got the Government contract for the Navy pistol?

The overall design profile of the Model 1842 was dramatically different from all previous and subsequent U.S. military single shot pistols. It is also quite obvious to 19th century military arms students that the pistol is quite similar to the British Model 1842 Naval Pistol from the same period. This has a clear explanation.

Nathan P. Ames was commissioned by the government to visit the leading armories of Europe, to observe their methods and products. While visiting England, he no doubt had the opportunity to view one of Nock's British Navy boxlocks pistol. On his return, and knowing the U.S. Navy was interested in firearm improvements, Ames lost no time in having his agent, Dan Tyler, who must have accompanied Ames on tour of the European Armories, write to the Board of Navy Commissioners, on 30th November, 1841: "Gentlemen: Since my return, we have received from the Ordnance Department a model of the British Marine pistol, and we are now preparing a pistol which we trust will please you. As soon as it is finished, I shall take measures to submit it for your examination." ³⁸

We must assume that a gentlemen's agreement had been reached to purchase these Navy pistols because of the following letter dated April 23rd 1842, N.P Ames to the Board of Naval Commissioners. This is a long letter having to do primarily with the production, delivery, and payment relative to a sword contract, but it also contains the following sentence: *"We shall be ready for an inspection of the carbines and pistols very soon."*³⁹ Letter dated 9th August, 1842, from Lewis Warrington to Capt. W.A. Thornton, U.S.A. Ordnance Depot, New York states: *"We have a number of pistols at Mr. Ames' factory, which we should be glad if you would inspect and would be pleased to know, should it suit your convenience, when you will be able to inspect them."*⁴⁰

The U.S. Navy obviously liked the Ames pistols, and on September 1, 1842, the Navy signed a contract with Ames for 2,000

of his newly designed Model 1842 Naval Pistols at the price of \$5.00 each. The guns were single shot, percussion smoothbore pistols in .54 caliber with a 6" round barrel, a swivel type ramrod, a one-piece stock with a flat butt, brass furniture and a flat, Henry Nock inspired "box lock". The contract specified that the arms were to be delivered over one year to Navy Yards at Boston, Massachusetts, and New York, but production difficulties slowed the delivery significantly. Only 300 were delivered in 1842 (collectors today refer to these as the "pointed lockplate"; Figure 10), with an additional 1,700 delivered to the Navy over the next three years. The second contract for twelve hundred pistols dated 21st September, 1844, at \$4.75 each. These were completed and delivered in three lots of 400 pistols. The last lot was delivered to the New York Navy Yard on 7 July 1846.⁴¹ A small amount of the Ames production specimens was also purchased by the U.S. Revenue



Figure 12. Revenue service production – .54 caliber round 6" long barrel, a swivel type ramrod, a one-piece stock, flat boxlock type lock. Has a serial number on the bolster flat, barrel plug and edge of the barrel band on the bottom of the barrel, lock and hammer.

Cutter Service, who were one of the services that now is called the Coast Guard. The contract between the U.S. Revenue service and William Jenks of Springfield, Massachusetts, was found. The contract, dated 5th December, 1843, called for the manufacture of weapons. Jenks did not have a facility to manufacture arms; at the time he was associated with N.P. Ames: therefore, the N.P. Ames marked U.S.R. pistol! The contract lists the following: “144 Car-bines; 144 Pistols; 144 Swords; 144 Powder Flasks; 120 Boarding Pikes; 72 Boarding Hatches; + Percussion Caps.”⁴²

Doc. No. 2. 813

No. 14.

Scale of offers to furnish pistols, swords, and copper powder-flasks, under the advertisement of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography, dated April 23, 1845; to be delivered on or before the 4th day of June, 1846, at the navy-yards near New York and Boston.

No.	Names.	1,300 pistols.	1,300 swords.	1,300 copper powder-flasks.
1	Henry Deringer, Philadelphia	\$4 98 each	-	\$0 83 each
2	George Adams, Boston	-	-	1 00 each
3	N. P. Ames, Cabbotville, Massachusetts	5 50 each	\$4 00 each	-
4	Asa H. Waters & Co., Millbury	5 72 each	-	-

BUREAU OF ORDNANCE AND HYDROGRAPHY, June 5, 1845.

No. 1 is accepted for the pistols, at \$4 98 cents each.
No. 2 is accepted for the powder-flasks, at 83 cents each.
No. 3 is accepted for the swords, at \$4 each.

Offers opened in presence of—

W. M. CRANE.
JOSEPH P. McCORKLE,
G. HARRISON.

Figure 13. Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, a part of Gov. Document No. 2 for that fiscal year, page 813.

Variation of design and marking Ames pistols:

- **Early production;** (300 pcs., 1842 dated) having raised lock plate with beveled edge on front, high rounded shape at rear terminating in a point. Lock marked: N.P.AMES/SPRINGFIELD/MASS in center; USN/1842 stamped vertically in rear (Figure 10). Barrel marked USN/Inspector/P on breech and 1842 on the strap. A serial number is located on the lock interior, bottom of the barrel, side of the barrel band and breech plug. Inspector cartouche on the left side of the grip.
- **Standard model production;** lock plate flat, fitted flash to stock (Figure 11). Marked centrally on lock: N.P.AMES/SPRINGFIELD/MASS. Stamped vertically, at rear USN/(1843, 1844, 1845). Barrel marked USN/Date/Inspector/P on breech. Inspector cartouche on the left side of the grip.
- **Revenue service model;** same as standard model, but dated 1843 only and USR instead USN on the rear of lockplate and on the barrel (Figure 12). Inspector mark on the barrel – JCB (Joseph C. Bragg). Inspector cartouche on the left side of the grip. All observed pistols are serial numbered on the bolster flat, barrel plug and edge of the barrel band. A number appears on the inside of the bolster, which can only be observed when the lock is removed.⁴³

The inspectors were primarily William A. Thornton, Richard Paine, Joseph C. Bragg, John C. Beaumont, Rufus Chandler and Joseph Lanman.

Henry Derringer pistols

In the Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, a part of Gov.

Document No. 2 for that fiscal year, page 813 of the volume which contains the reports of the Secretaries of War and the Navy, is a list of the offers received to furnish pistols (1,200), swords (1,200) and flasks (1,200) received April 23, 1845 (Figure 13). At June 5th 1845 Bureau of Ordnance accepted the Deringer's price for 1200 pistols at \$4.98 each to be delivered by June 4, 1846 at the Navy Yard New York and Boston.



Figure 14. The different variations in lock plate stampings used by Deringer. Early marking (stamp used for Deringer's Model 1817 "Common Rifle") – top picture, latest marking – bottom picture.

A letter in the file from Lieutenant Lanman, the Navy inspector at Ames, to Commodore Crane, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrology in Washinton, dated 3 Dec 1845, reported that Ames had sold the machinery for the pistols to Deringer.⁴⁴ Deringer could not use the Ames machinery until after Ames delivered the last of the 21 Sept 1844 contract pistols (4 June 1846). Deringer Navy pistols are identical to N.P. Ames pistols except for the lock markings and minor variations. Three variants of the Deringer lock marking are known, with the first being a small two-line stamp that reads DERINGER / PHILADEL'A (Figure 14, top). It is believed that this is the same marking stamp used for Deringer's Model 1817 "Common Rifle" contracts. The second variation carries the same two-line marking, with a large U.S. over it (Figure 14, middle). The third variation has the same two-line lock marking, but is also stamped U.S.N. over 1847 in two lines, vertically, at the tail of the lock (Figure 14, bottom).

Barrel marks: "DERINGER/PHILADEL'A" or "DERINGER" and inspector stamp (RP) above "P" (Figure 15). Some barrels do not have Deringer markings, only an inspector stamp or in some cases, no inspector stamp. Of the Deringer pistols known, Rich-

ard Paine has been the only inspector; and I would say that there should be no inspector marks stamped in the stock.⁴⁵ Deringer pistols have the assembly number on the lock and bottom of the barrel (Figure 15). It is believed that pistols produced by Deringer were never delivered to, or at least never accepted by, the U.S. Navy. In a letter written 18th May, 1847, to the Navy Commissioners, Richard Paine reported that he approved two hundred eighty-two barrels, stamping them on top of the barrel "R.P."⁴⁶ But final inspection was not done (no pistols known with stock cartouche). These pistols, without inspector marks, are considered commercial guns that were sold to the general public.

A very small number of extant Deringer contract guns are known today with rifled bores. The bores have the same style of deep, seven-groove rifling found on Deringer's Common Rifles. It is generally believed that less than 200 of these pistols were produced, and it is likely that less than 40 of them exist today. These pistols do not have inspector marks (Figure 16).

In 1864 the Navy took inventory of their arms and all guns that passed reinspection were stamped with an anchor on the barrel indicating this particular pistol was in U.S. Navy service at this time. (Figure 17).

U.S. Navy 1842 Percussion Army Pistols purchased by Navy.

As we mentioned above, a number of Deringer pistols were not accepted by the Navy and Deringer defaults on his contract leaving the Navy short of pistols. In early 1850 3,000 Aston's Army pistols were shipped from NY Arsenal Military stores to the

Brooklyn Navy Yard. Most of these pistols carried 1849 manufacturing dates, and have marks of sub inspector GW (George Wright) on the barrel and stock. Around 750 pistols were dated 1850 and were inspected by Joseph Hannis.⁴⁷ The Navy paid for these pistols directly to Aston. To compensate the Army for the pistols redirected to the Navy, Aston delivered 1,800 pistols on June 28, 1850 with the 1,200 remaining pistols delivered on September 28, 1850.⁴⁸ At the beginning of the Civil War the Navy received in 1861st year 5,000 and up to March 1863 2,300 more pistols from the Army, mostly I.N. Johnson pistols, the Model 1842 delivered (total 7,300). The primary purpose of these single shot pistols was for use on the river gunboats.⁴⁹

Beginning in August 1864, Navy arms were required to be re-inspected and *all guns* that passed the inspection were marked on the top of the barrel with an anchor (Figure 18). Pistols inspected in New York Navy Yard have marks P/GG on the bolster (Figure 18, lower left).

U.S. Model 1866 Navy Rolling Block Pistols by Remington

Eliphalet Remington established Remington Armory in Ilion, N.Y. in 1828, when he purchased 100 acres from John A. Clappsaddle. Mr. Remington already had a little forge and produced rifle barrels. He had a rifling machine in operation and was producing more effective barrels than could be obtained elsewhere. On this property Mr. Remington erected a dwelling, factory buildings and wooden shop. In the factory building machinery for forging bar iron and finishing for market barrels rifles and shotguns, large tilt

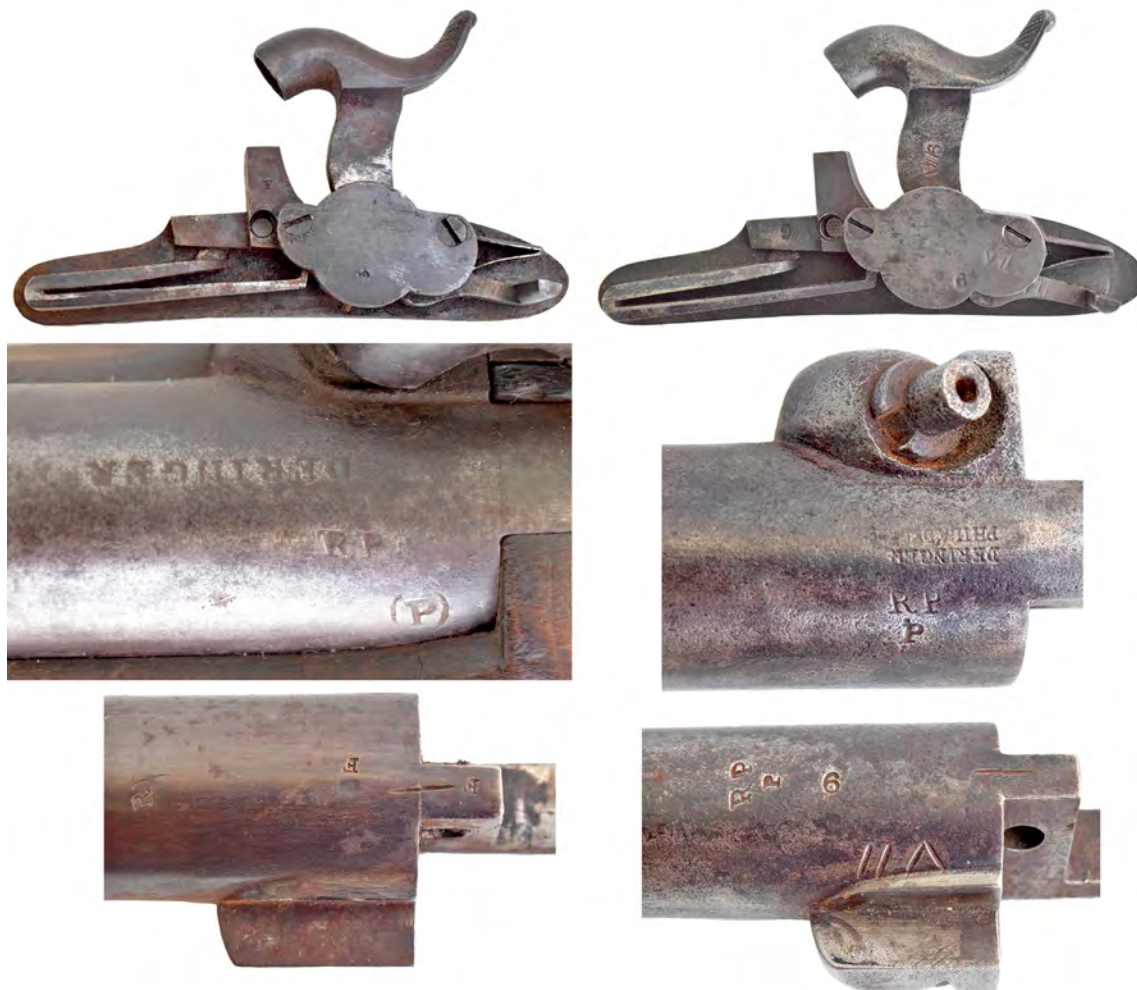


Figure 15. Barrel marking – big font (left), small font (right); Inspection marking RP/P (Richard Paine) on the barrel and assembly numbers on the barrel and locks.

Figure 16. Model 1842 Deringer boxlock pistol with rifled bore, no inspection marks and cartouche, assembly numbers on barrel, lock and hammer.



Figure 17. Anchor was stamped on the barrel during the Navy's inventory in 1864.

hammer, large tub bellows and grindstones, with necessary boring and rifling machinery was installed. To furnish the power, water was brought from Steel's Creek and utilize for driving the several water wheels.⁵⁰ In the meantime the sons of Mr. Remington, Philo (10/31/1816), Samuel (04/11/1818) and Eliphalet (11/12/1828) were attaining maturity and start helping him in the business. Philo remained with his father and became master of all branches of mechanical work. Samuel tried his fortune in railroad construction in the west, but soon returned to Ilion.

In 1845, war with Mexico being imminent, the U.S. government entered into contract with Ames and Co. of Springfield, Mass., for construction of several thousand carbines, the invention of William Jenks. For some reason Ames cannot execute it and Mr. Remington purchased the contract, together with such machinery as they had, adapted to the work, and he can carry out his first contract to the satisfaction of government.⁵¹ Thus equipped, Mr. Remington was ready to undertake other contracts, and before he had finished the carbine work he had an order for 5,000 "Harpers Ferry" rifles, and before they were delivered, a further order for 5,000 was received, and later, another 2,500 of the same, 5,000 Maynard self-priming musket locks were also made during the 1857 and 1858.⁵² With the

beginning of the Civil War a new order was given by the U.S. Government for Army and Navy pistols. For the manufacture of these many new and special machines were purchased and tools adapted to the work were made. Additional rooms were added by building, and steam engine installed as an auxiliary to the water power. On August 12th, 1861 Mr. Eliphalet Remington dies and his three sons took care of Remington & Sons Company.

During the Civil War the various military services used percussion revolving handguns. The Navy, for example, was armed with Whitney's, Colt model 1851 and 1861, and the Remington Old and New models. When issued aboard ship charges for these revolvers could become damp, causing misfires, and the percussion

caps caused corrosion which clogged the nipple holes. The rolling block (split breech), breech loading system with metallic cartridge was viewed as an alternative to address these problems and were based on three patents issued to Joseph Rider (patent number 1,633 from May 3rd 1864; patent number 45,123 from November 15th 1864; patent number 2,231 from April 17th, 1866)⁵³ (Figure 19). Remington bought these patents and designed this system and used it for carbines and pistols.

On May 11th, 1864 Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department (H. A. Wise) sent letter to Remington: *"The Bureau wishes to know if you have yet taken any steps to prepare the Model Single-barreled Pistol suggested during a personal interview at Bureau sometime*



Figure 18. Composite figure for 1842 Army pistols. Marks on the barrel - US/JH (inspector John Hawkins), 1855 and cartouches on the stock - JH (John Hawkins and RHKW (Robert H.K. Whiteley) original Army marking. Anchor stamped on the barrel and P/GG on the bolster during the Navy's inventory in 1864 in New York Navy Yard.

since. Such a weapon is very much needed for naval purpose.”⁵⁴ Remington was working on the Jenks carbine for Navy, and answer to this letter: “We have not prepared the model single-barreled pistol referred to, having recently been engaged in getting out our new Breech loading Carbine using the metallic cartridge.”⁵⁵ Remington proceeded with great effort on completing the carbine throughout the rest of the May and into month of June. They were finally able to complete and forwarded the weapon to Springfield Armory for testing.

The Navy also requested Eli Whitney to submit an example of a breech loading “single-barreled” pistol. The Whitneyville Armory completed its version of the pistol before the Remington and sent it to the Bureau of Ordnance on June 4th, 1864.⁵⁶ While the Whitney pistol was being examined by the Navy, the Remington Jenks breech loading carbine tests that delayed the work on the “single barrel” pistols were completed at the Springfield Armory. The final report dated June 27th, 1864, was written by Lieutenant W. S. Smoot.⁵⁷ In this report Smoot states: “The arrangement of this carbine is simple and compact; the pieces are few and appear to be sufficiently strong. It can be fired with great rapidity and would seem to be well fitted for service.” Remington forwarded this report to Navy at July 9th, 1864, and two days later received letter: “Please inform the Bureau, when Navy carbine will be ready for trial.”⁵⁸ Therefore the first development of “single-barreled” pistols, later to be called Rolling Block Pistol, began in July of 1864, and on September 28th Remington sent a telegram to Bureau of Ordnance: “Pistol completed and waiting cartridges to test it.”⁵⁹

The next piece of correspondence in the National Archives was a letter from Remington to Capt. H. A. Wise, chief of Bureau Navy Department dated June 8th, 1866: “We have to honor to propose

that we will furnish your department with five thousand “Remington” Breech loading Navy Pistols (Wise pattern) like sample of best material and workmanship, subject to Government inspection for eleven dollars and eighty five cents each”.⁶⁰

On October 25h 1866 the Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department send the contract for the breech loading Navy pistol to Remington in duplicate for their signature. Remington signed it on November 14th. Then the Bureau of Ordnance decided to revise the contract and sent a modified contract December 10th to Remington.⁶¹ The contract was finalized at December 15th 1866. The contract gave Remington eight month to deliver the first 500 pistols. On May 14th, 1867 Remington sent a sample pistol to Navy Department for testing and requests some changes. The bureau answers at May 22nd 1867: “The browning of the barrel and casehardening of the lock frame and receiver, as well as the button to hold the breech and hammer pins are approved, and you will be pleased to proceed at ones to the completion of the work.”⁶² And at May 23rd 1867 Chief of Bureau H. A. Wise sent letter to inspector Frank C. Warner and inform him that Navy hired him for inspection of these pistols.⁶³

First delivery of 200 proved and finished pistols was made at July 2nd 1867. December 18th 1867 was last delivery of 320 from 5,000 pistols to New York Navy Yard; the contract was completed.⁶⁴ On October 14th 1867 Hanry A. Wise wrote to Remington: “By the authority of the Navy Department of this date, the Bureau desires you to manufacture and deliver, under the terms of your existing contract, fifteen hundred (1,500) additional breech loading single barreled pistols.”⁶⁵ These additional 1,500 pistols to the existing contract were completed and last delivery of 180 pistols was May 2, 1868.⁶⁶

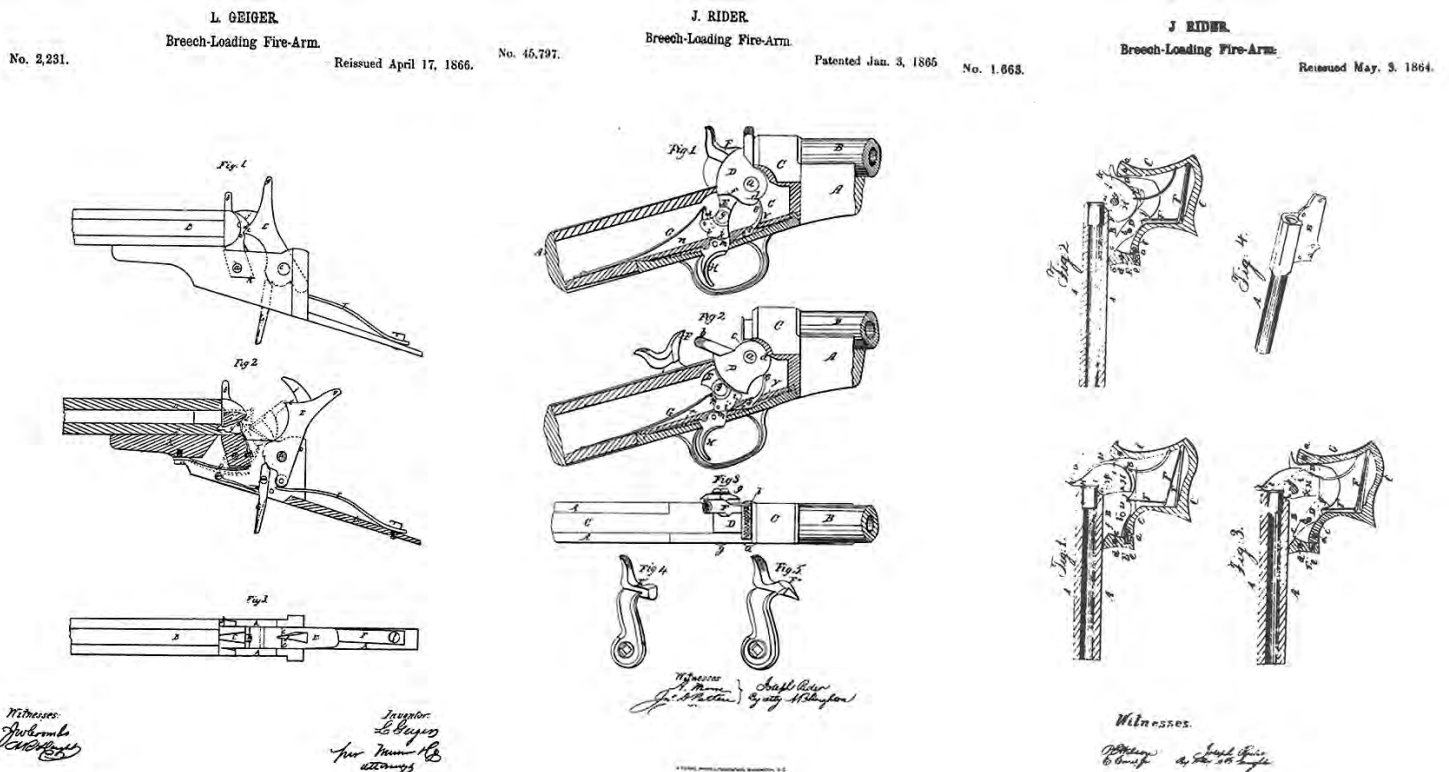


Figure 19. Patents issued to Joseph Rider for rolling block design, including patent numbers 1,633 (May 3, 1864), 45,123 (November 15, 1864) and 2,231 (April 17, 1866).



Figure 20. U.S. Model 1866 Navy Rolling Block Pistols by Remington. 50 caliber, rimfire, single shot, 8 1/2" round barrel, spur type trigger, walnut grips.

Marking (Figure 20):

- Left side of receiver – REMINGTONS ILION N.Y.U.S.A. / PAT. MAY 3rd, NOV.15th 1864, APRIL 17TH 1868
- Right side of receiver – P/F.C.W (inspector Franklin C. Warner)
- Left side of grip – F.C.W. cartouche
- Barrel – anchor only on the top, F.C.W and serial # on the bottom
- Frame under the grip – serial #, but some pistols do not have serial #.

U.S. Model 1870 Navy Rolling Blok Pistols by Remington

The model 1870 Navy Pistol is not a newly manufacture gun, it is an altered Model 1866.

In February 1868 the Navy became interesting in centerfire cartridges, because thin rolled brass rimfire cartridges could tear in the chamber during extraction. Also, the spur trigger and lack of

trigger guard was cause of accidental firing. November 17th 1869 Augustus Ludlow Case, Chief of Bureau sent the letter to Remington: *"Please inform the Bureau whether you can agree to supply it with Six thousand (6,000) of Navy Breech Loading Pistols – cal..50 with trigger guard and arranged for centralfire – taking in payment therefore the same number of pistols already made by you for Navy, which are without the trigger guard, and are rimfire."*⁶⁷

Eliphalet Remington answered on this letter November 22nd 1869: *"We are now having a sample of the Breech Loading Navy Pistol constructed with trigger guard and arranged to cetralfire, which we shall be able to present to the Bureau in few days with proposition to supplying the same, if approve."*⁶⁸ In December 1869 Remington delivered a sample pistol to the Bureau of Ordinance. The Navy must have liked the design of the center fire pistol with the added trigger guard and tried to make alteration themselves. Initial alterations of 25 pistols were done on Wash-



Figure 21. Model 1870 Remington Navy pistol, conversion of Model 1866 pistol to center fire with the addition of a brass trigger guard completed at a Navy yard.

ington Navy Yard in 1870. 14 pistols were sent to Navy Yards at Portsmouth, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Pensacola and Mare Island (two pcs. to each) with brass trigger guards as patterns for modifying pistols at those yards (Figure 21).⁶⁹ Then the Navy decided, that was faster, more efficient and cost effective to pay Remington to do all alterations. Remington agreed to convert pistols to center fire for \$1.00 and replace the bottom part of the frame consisting of a regular trigger with steel trigger guard (Figure 22) for \$2.00. Augustus Ludlow Case sent the letters dated April 13th (center fire) and April 21st (trigger guard) 1870 with an order to proceed with alteration of 3,000 pistols, which would be sent from Navy Yards to Remington Armory for alteration.⁷⁰ Bureau of Ordinance sent the order to Navy yards to stop alterations on same day. How many pistols were altered in total is unknown. But in the archives a letter was found from commander C.H. Wells at the Portsmouth Navy Yard dated April 23rd 1870 stated that they have 19 pistols which trigger guard were attached.⁷¹ At May 18th 1870 the Bureau of Ordinance sent the letter to Remington:

*"The Bureau desires you to reduce the length of the Navy pistols barrel by cutting of the inch and a half from the muzzle."*⁷² No information is known on how much Remington charged for shortening the barrel, but a payment invoice from July 5th 1871 for alteration of 1348 pistols shows amount \$4,044.00 In this case it was no charge for cutting of 1 ½" of barrel.⁷³

Remington took 5 years to complete alteration (1870-1875), because the Model 1866 pistols had been issued to ships, many of which were on multi-year tours on foreign stations. Records show 6,358 pistols from 6,500 altered by Remington in total.⁷⁴ Some pistols were not altered. Other pistols were altered on Navy yards. These pistols have the original spur trigger but with a brass trigger guard added. Some of these pistols were converted to center fire and some remained rimfire.

Marking:

- Left side of receiver – REMINGTONS ILION N.Y.U.S.A. / PAT.MAY 3d, NOV.15th 1864, APRIL 17TH 1868
- Right side of receiver – P/F.C.W (inspector Franklin C. Warner)
- Left side of grip – F.C.W. cartouche
- Barrel – anchor and I/inspector (E.B – Edward Barrett; J.M.B.C –John M.B. Clitz; H.E – Henry Erben; W.D.W – W.D. Whitney on the top, F.C.W and serial # on the bottom (some pistol does not have F.C.W)
- Frame under the grip – serial # and assembly #, usually it is same #.



Figure 22. Model 1870 Remington Navy pistol (Remington conversion of Model 1866 pistol) with the steel trigger guard added by Remington.

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