

7th Illinois Infantry Proudly Displaying their Henry Rifles --Illinois State Historical Society Photo

# The Other Martial Henry

by Rob Kassab #4144LB

Seldom do we know any specific information or history regarding the arms we collect. It is however well-known that the Henry Rifle played an important part in the Civil War. Of the approximate 13,000 Henry rifles produced, 1,731 were purchased by the U.S. government during the Civil War to arm Union soldiers (see table opposite page). In addition, other Henrys were privately purchased by individual soldiers, officers, militias and regular military units using private funds.

First Model Henry rifles ordered under government contract in the 3000-4000 serial range were inspected at the New Haven Arms Company plant in New Haven by the ordnance department's sub-inspector Charles G. Chapman, and stamped on the right side of the barrel were his initials—"C.G.C." (see photo opposite page). These guns

are generally known and referred to today as the classic "Martially-Marked Henry Rifle".

There is a second type martially-marked Henry; not quite as well-known. Second model Henry rifles in the 7000-8000 and 8600-9700 serial range—a total of 627 arms ordered—were purchased in two government contracts specifically to arm the 3rd Regiment U.S. Veteran Volunteer Infantry, led by Major General Winfield S. Hancock, commissioned to guard Washington, D.C. towards the end of the war. As part of an enticement package for these veterans to volunteer for this duty, they would be allowed to keep their rifles when discharged. These 627 arms along with approximately 173 First Model Henrys remaining on hand from the 1st D.C. procurements were issued to Hancock's troops. According to historian and author Wiley Sword "*Organized into an*

elite corps under the highly competent commander Major General Winfield S. Hancock, the Veteran Volunteers were intended to provide skilled, high-combat performance in bringing the Civil War to a close. Armed with the best weapons and composed of veteran soldiers, much was expected of these elite volunteers.”

This second type Martial Henry bears the government inspectors mark of “AWM” or “J.T.” in a very small stamp applied on the left side of the buttstock wrist near the receiver (right). Unfortunately, it is not known the names

Date	Source	Qty	Serial Range Est	Mark
04/09/1863	Merwin & Bray, NYC	1	Unknown	
06/19/1863	John W. Brown, Agent	50	1300-2100	
06/20/1863	New Haven Arms Co.	80	2100-2300	
06/21/1863	New Haven Arms Co.	110	2300-2600	
09/19/1863	New Haven Arms Co.	1	Unknown	
10/26/1863	John W. Brown, Agent	60	1300-3000	
12/30/1863	New Haven Arms Co.	800	3000-4000	C.G.C.
06/17/1863	New Haven Arms Co.	1	Unknown	
04/07/1865	New Haven Arms Co.	500	7000-8000	AWM & J.T.
05/15/1865	New Haven Arms Co.	127	8400-9400+	AWM & J.T.
11/07/1865	New Haven Arms Co.	1	Unknown	
<b>Total Purchased</b>		<b>1731</b>		

“C.G.C.” U.S. Martial Inspection Mark, “H” & “C” Marks Located on Right Side of Barrel & Receiver



Tiny “AWM” (above) & “J.T.” (below) U.S. Martial Inspection Marks Located on Left Wrist of Stock



Lockwood Sanford's Ad from a New Haven, CT city directory circa 1863-1864 --Winchester Engraving p 4 by R.L.Wilson

# LOCKWOOD SANFORD,

## Designer and Engraver on Wood.

—

**VIEWS**

OF

**BUILDINGS**

AND

**MACHINERY,**

ETC., ETC.

—

**DESIGNING**

AND

**ENGRAVING**

FOR

**ALL PURPOSES.**

—

**DESIGNS**

FOR

**INVENTORS**

—

**LABELS**

OF ALL KINDS,

—

**12 Mitchell's Building, Chapel St., New Haven.**

**SIXTY SHOTS PER MINUTE**

**HENRY'S PATENT**

**REPEATING**

**RIFLE**

The Most Effective Weapon in the World.

This Rifle can be discharged 16 times without loading or taking down from the shoulder, or even loosing aim. It is also slung in such a manner, that either on horse or on foot, it can be **Instantly Used**, without taking the strap from the shoulder.

**For a House or Sporting Arm, it has no Equal;**

**IT IS ALWAYS LOADED AND ALWAYS READY.**

The size now made is 44-100 inch bore, 24 inch barrel, and carries a conical ball 32 to the pound. The penetration at 100 yards is 8 inches; at 400 yards 5 inches; and it carries with force sufficient to kill at 1,000 yards.

**A resolute man, armed with one of these Rifles, particularly if on horseback, CANNOT BE CAPTURED.**

"We particularly commend it for ARMY USE, as the most effective arm for picket and vidette duty, and to all our citizens in secluded places, as a protection against guerilla attacks and robberies. A man armed with one of these Rifles, can load and discharge one shot every second, so that he is equal to a company every minute, a regiment every ten minutes, a brigade every half hour, and a division every hour."—Louisville Journal.

**Address JNO. W. BROWN,**  
Gen'l Ag't., Columbus, Ohio,  
At Rail Road Building, near the Depot.

N. 29712P Union Printing Establishment, No. 22, 23 and 25 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

General Agent John W. Brown's Broadside highlighting the devastating (for it's day) firepower of the Henry Rifle with a dramatic "60 SHOTS PER MINUTE" Claim

*We the undersigned, New Commissioners of the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the names of the 3rd U.S. Veteran Volunteers, as furnished to the Ordnance Department, and the serial numbers of their issued Henry Rifles.*

No.	Name	Rank	Henry's Repeating Rifle No. of Cartridge	Caliber	Weight of Ball	Weight of Powder	Weight of Bullet	Weight of Cartridge	Signature
1	James Fox	1st Sgt.	One 44	5735	One	1/2	1/2		
2	Jas. P. Nelson	2d "	One	7446	One	1/2	1/2		
3	George Hauge	3d "	One	7136	One	1/2	1/2		1
4	Levi Bergy	4th "	One	8777	One	1/2	1/2		
5	Edward S. Moulder	5th "	One	7538	One	1/2	1/2		2
6	Walter Wilson	1st Corp.	One	7446	One	1/2	1/2		1 1
7	Saml. Sharp	8th "	One	7100	One	1/2	1/2		1 1
8	John P. Ball	3d "	One	7470	One	1/2	1/2		James A. ...
9	Chas. Stewart	4th "	One	7194	One	1/2	1/2		
10	James Colgan	5th "	One	7299	One	1/2	1/2		
11	Byron Wood	6th "	One		One	1/2	1/2		1 1
12	Isaac M. Marshall	7th "	One	8816	One	1/2	1/2		1 1
13	Colly. Frederick	7th "	One	7144	One	1/2	1/2		1 1
14	Boyd John		One	7135	One	1/2	1/2		1 1
15	Tuchanor James		One	7532	One	1/2	1/2		1
16	Butland Chas.		One	7211	One	1/2	1/2		1 1
17	Brown H.C.		One	7572	One	1/2	1/2		
18	Brown John		One	7146	One	1/2	1/2		
19	Beardsley Wm.		One	7190	One	1/2	1/2		
20	Clark Benjamin		One	7227	One	1/2	1/2		
21	Crosby Samuel		One	7415	One	1/2	1/2		1 1
22	Curry Thomas		One	5766	One	1/2	1/2		1
23	Dorman Jas.		One	5782	One	1/2	1/2		1

Partial Ordnance Department's Ledger listing the names of 3rd U.S. Veteran Volunteers soldiers and the serial numbers of their issued Henry Rifles

of the government's sub-inspectors these initials stood for (hopefully someone out there in our collecting community will know and come forward with this information). Since the Second Models were only used at the end of the war, they saw little if any battlefield use. This combined with the soldiers knowing they were going to end-up owning their Henry after the war evidently kept these guns in unusually high condition.

Several of these guns (both First and Second models) were wonderfully engraved as well as inscribed with the soldier's name. In studying these guns, they all appear to have been engraved by the same engraver based on the engraving style and patterns observed and is commonly attributed to the work of engraver Lockwood Sanford (see ad on preceding page), perhaps because the late Winchester author and expert George Madis states so in *The Winchester Book* for Henry serial number 2984 (also referencing serials

***"A resolute man, armed with one of these Rifles, particularly if on horseback, CANNOT BE CAPTURED."***

2423, 3261 & 7733). There is not much information I could find on Sanford. According to The New-York Historical Society "*Lockwood Sanford (1817-1890) was born in Naugatuck, CT. He moved to New Haven in 1837 and became apprenticed to engraver E. L. Barber. Sanford and Barber formed a partnership in 1843. In 1847, Barber moved to California, and Sanford continued his business on his own. Sanford specialized in wood engraving used to supplement billheads, price sheets, circulars, and other publications printed by local industries, both manufacturing concerns and retail stores. Sanford's son Frederick was working in the business at the time of his father's death, and continued working as a wood engraver at least until 1913.*"

George must have had good reason to claim the engraving was the work of Sanford and/or his apprentices; however, it is my opinion that if Sanford and/or his apprentices were



Example of engraving attributed to Lockwood Sanford on Henry Rifle s/n 7813  
Inscribed to 3rd U.S. Veteran Volunteer Soldier Fergus Peel --Rob Kassab Collection



indeed the engravers, he/they most likely did the work locally on-site in Washington, D.C. at the time the regiment was disbanded, as one could not imagine that at the end of the war all of these guns would be delivered to New Haven, Connecticut, to be engraved there, and then returned to their respective soldier/owners. If the work was not that of Sanford, then most likely it was a local jeweler/engraver that did the work.

Following are examples known to the author. If you own or know of any other examples of Henrys with this style of engraving, the author would appreciate you sending photos with the serial number to rob@robkassab.com.

### Text References:

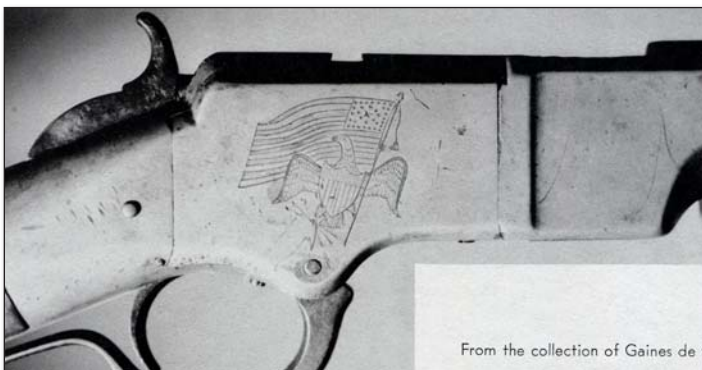
Wiley Sword, *The Historic Henry Rifle*

Les Quick, *The Story of Benjamin Tyler Henry and His Famed Repeating Rifle*

George Madis, *The Winchester Book*

*National Archives Ordnance Records*

*New-York Historical Society*



Henry 2984 --*The Winchester Book* p 45 by George Madis



Henry 9362 inscribed to Christian Handel, Co B 4th Sargent



Henry 3223 --James D. Julia Auction Company Photos



Henry 3261 --*The First Winchester* p 16 by John E. Parsons





Henry 3315 --*The Story of Benjamin Tyler Henry and His Famed Repeating Rifle* p 141 by Les Quick



Henry 3355 --John J. Hayes Historical Collectibles Photos

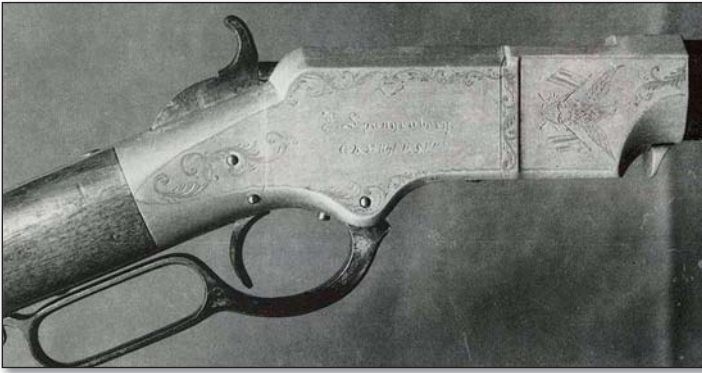


Henry 7225 --*The First Winchester* p 18 by John E. Parsons

Henry 7582 --*The Story of Benjamin Tyler Henry and His Famed Repeating Rifle* p 144 by Les Quick



Henry 7278 --Rock Island Auction Company Photos



Henry 7365 --Winchester Engraving p 16 by R.L.Wilson



Henry 7419 inscribed to Pvt. Lewis Reibrecht who interestingly was an engraver by trade --Rock Island Auction Company Photo



Henry 7474 --LeRoy Merz Antique Firearms Photos



Henry 7535 --Winchester Engraving p 35 by R.L.Wilson



Henry 7609 --James D. Julia Auction Company Photos



Henry 7962 --The Story of Benjamin Tyler Henry and His Famed Repeating Rifle p 151 by Les Quick



Henry 7733 --The Winchester Book p 28 by George Madis



Henry 9xxx --Winchester Engraving p 35 by R.L.Wilson