

No. 1957

DESCRIPTION
OF
TELESCOPIC MUSKET SIGHTS
MODELS OF 1908 AND 1913

(FOUR PLATES)

DECEMBER 14, 1908
REVISED JULY 22, 1912
REVISED NOVEMBER 18, 1915



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1917

Bruce Stern



Bruce Stern was an American attorney, photographer, and gun collector. He served on the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association. Stern graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 19...

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Born: Sep 25, 1942

Died: Jul 18, 2007

Education: University of Pennsylvania · University of Bridgeport · Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania



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Bruce E. Stern

Obituary

STERN Bruce E. Stern, devoted husband of 36 years to Judi, proud father of Marin and Gregory and brother to Eileen passed away Wednesday, July 18, 2007. He was 64. A lifelong resident of the Bridgeport and Trumbull area, he was a practicing attorney for almost 40 years. He served the Town of Trumbull for 14 years as Town Treasurer and was Chairman of the Trumbull Library Expansion Committee. At the time of his passing, he sat on the Board of Directors of the National Rifle association for 11 years. Mr. Stern graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1964 and earned his J.D. at NYU followed by his Masters at the University of Bridgeport. A Captain in the U.S. Army, Mr. Stern was a Vietnam veteran and member of American Legion Post 141. His passion for firearms and gun owners' rights was evident in his lifetime memberships in the Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society, Inc., Stratford Gun Collectors' Association, Inc., Ohio Gun Collectors' Association and the National Rifle Association. He was founder and president of the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen. Other hobbies included photography and traveling the globe. Constantly seeking the perfect shot, his photos both adorned office and home. A man of his word, he touched the lives of everyone he met. His work ethic, morality and tireless ambition drove his daily life and his loyalty to his friends and family was met with uncommon reciprocation. There will be no calling hours and services will be private. The Abraham L. Green and Son Funeral Home is in care of the arrangements.

Published in Connecticut Post on July 21, 2007

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According to the 1920 census there were 3,644 families with the Stern surname in the United States.

During the Civil War the Stern name was found in 27 Confederate Records and 166 Union Records.

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Stern families by state in 1920

686 - 1,370	1 - 229
230 - 685	0

According to the 1920 U.S. Federal Census Data

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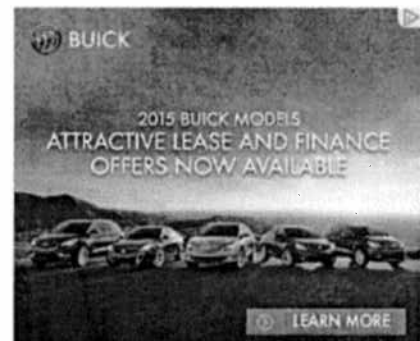
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Bruce Stern

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Bruce Stern (25 September 1942-18 July 2007) was an American attorney, photographer, and gun collector. He served on the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association.

Stern graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1964 and earned his J.D. at NYU, and his Masters degree at the University of Bridgeport.^[1] A Captain in the U.S. Army, Stern was a Vietnam veteran, serving at Long Binh, and was a member of American Legion Post 141.^[2] In addition to his legal career, Stern was the founder and president of the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen, and a contributing writer to its magazine, *Hook 'N' Bullet*. He died on July 18, 2007.

References

- "Bruce E. Stern" (<http://web.archive.org/web/20050308114903/http://www.nrawinningteam.com/bios00/stern.html>). *NRAWinningTeam.com*. 2004. Archived from the original (<http://www.nrawinningteam.com/bios00/stern.html>) on March 8, 2005. Bruce E. Stern
- Hardy, David (July 19, 2007). "NRA director Bruce Stern, and former director Jim Nicholson, pass on" (http://armsandthelaw.com/archives/2007/07/nra_director_br_1.php). *Of Arms & the Law* (Blog). David T. Hardy.

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Categories: University of Bridgeport alumni | University of Pennsylvania alumni

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Author	Message
northeastm1a	Post subject: Sad News CT Shooters: Bruce Stern, NRA Director, passes Posted: Wed Jul 25, 2007 8:24 pm
Tournament Grade	Sad news for CT gun owners and for ALL gunowners across the nation

Joined: Sat Apr 28, 2007 7:09 am
Posts: 200

Bruce E. Stern, devoted husband of 36 years to Judi, proud father of Marin and Gregory and brother to Eileen passed away Wednesday, July 18, 2007. He was 64. A lifelong resident of the Bridgeport and Trumbull area, he was a practicing attorney for almost 40 years. He served the Town of Trumbull for 14 years as Town Treasurer and was Chairman of the Trumbull Library Expansion Committee. At the time of his passing, he sat on the Board of Directors of the National Rifle association for 11 years. Mr. Stern graduated from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1964 and earned his J.D. at NYU followed by his Masters at the University of Bridgeport. A Captain in the U.S. Army, Mr. Stern was a Vietnam veteran and member of American Legion Post 141. His passion for firearms and gun owners' rights was evident in his lifetime memberships in the Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society, Inc., Stratford Gun Collectors' Association, Inc., Ohio Gun Collectors' Association and the National Rifle Association. He was founder and president of the Coalition of Connecticut Sportsmen. Other hobbies included photography and traveling the globe. Constantly seeking the perfect shot, his photos both adorned office and home. A man of his word, he touched the lives of everyone he met. His work ethic, morality and tireless ambition drove his daily life and his loyalty to his friends and family was met with uncommon reciprocation. There will be no calling hours and services will be private. The Abraham L. Green and Son Funeral Home is in care of the arrangements



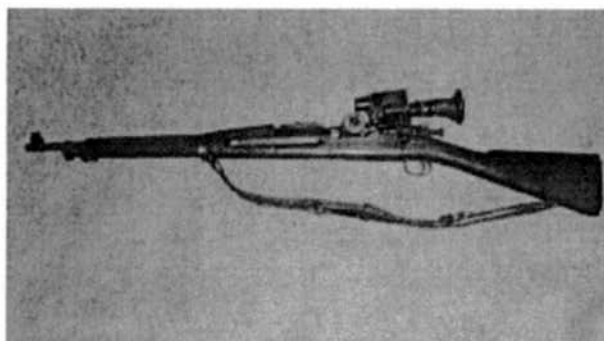


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The Past is Another Country: Optical sights, 100 years ago



Springfield 1903 with the zero-losing Telescopic Musket Sight M1913 by Warner & Swasey — currently on GunBroker.

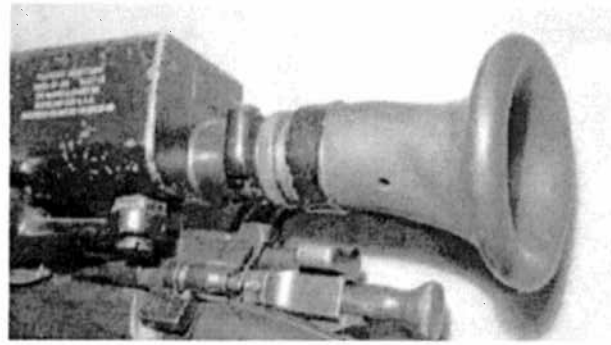
For most of the 20th Century, most of the world's militaries put great efforts into denying the superiority of optical to iron sights. There were several reasons for this iron-sight bias: first, optical sights were originally fragile, and vulnerable to failure modes that iron sights were not, such as lens breakage, reticle dislocation, and fogging. Second, and perhaps more importantly, the military is an environment where hard effort is not only celebrated, it's almost fetishized. An optical sight seemed to make accurate shooting so easy that marksmanship trainers worldwide thought of it as "cheating." Third,

sport target shooting, which was heavily cross-pollinated with military marksmanship training then as now, had rigid equipment rules that specified iron sights.

Over the years, the technical problems were solved. The toughest and most persistent was fogging, which was solved by putting an artificial atmosphere into the scope, in place of the precipitation-capable air atmosphere of old. The manufacturer suctioned the atmosphere out of the scope, and replaced it with pure nitrogen gas — no water vapor to lead to fogging. This was done for military optics at first, especially for aeronautical ones, around the time of the Second World War. Leupold shipped the first commercial scopes with this feature in 1949; rather than a new model it was a running change in production of the 2.5x Plainsman scope.

But long before that, scopes were being used for military marksmen. In World War I,

miscellaneous scopes were mounted to rifles for what the Army called “sharpshooters.” These may have included the notoriously zero-non-holding Warner & Swasey Prismatic and 5x Winchester A-5.



The Warner & Swasey was a prismatic design.

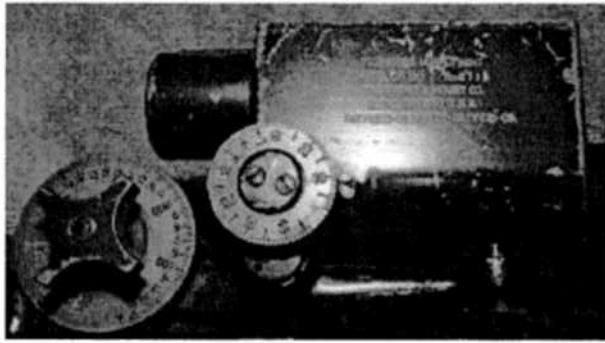
A 1916 article in the news magazine *The Literary Digest* (published 1890-1938), available online at oldmagazinearticles.com, directly compared British and German optics, and noted that:

[T]elescopical and mirror sights are delicate and easily damaged, and are in consequence not well suited for general military use. There seems, however, no valid reason why picked shots detailed for special duty should not be provided with the most effective sights which exist, even if the rifle so fitted require special care.

Several optical sights have been devised, and some of them have done excellent service in match shooting. These may be divided into three classes — the use of lenses without any tube, as in the early aerial telescopes; the employment of lenses to give a reference-line, with or without optical aid, the so-called collimating sights; and finally, telescopes, prismatic or otherwise, complete in themselves with arrangements for elevation and deflection, and with means for ready attachment to the rifle.

The best known telescopic sight is that of Dr. Common, which he perfected in 1901; as regards principle it has not been improved on. The Zeiss prism telescope-sight [Presumably the Zeiss Zielklein — Ed.] is really a small periscope; it has the disadvantage that considerable light is lost in the prisms, far more than in a simple telescope. In this sight, and in the similar Goerz prism-sight, means are provided for illuminating the cross-wires at night.

According to a frontline veteran quoted by the magazine, this illuminated reticle provided the German sniper with a considerable tactical advantage over his British opposite number.



The Warner & Swasey scope was calibrated to an optimistic 3,000 yards.

scaled measures spaced upon them, gave the sniper the distance of an object while he sighted his weapon, and permitted him to tell within a few feet how far away his intended prey was stationed.

That sounds more like they're talking about rangefinders, perhaps stadiametric rangefinders, than scopes. Follow that link if you can; there's a great deal of interesting information about Great War sniper tactics in there.

Period American Army doctrine, which one expects to be backward and hidebound, turns out not to be silent on sniping and telescopic sights. Now, it's not exactly *voluble* on the subject, either. In 1917-18 there was no sniper manual, just a single paragraph in the *Small Arms Firing Manual, 1913* (corrected through March 15, 1918 with Changes 1 through 20).

253. TELESCOPIC SIGHTS.—To properly equip a special class of shots who, in action, may be employed as sharpshooters, the telescopic sight is adopted. These sights are supplied by the Ordnance Department at the rate of two to each company. They will be assigned to the enlisted men found best qualified to use them, and may, in the discretion of the company commander, be carried by them at inspection under arms.

Not less than four men of each company will be given a suitable amount of practice with these sights.

A 1919 article in the same magazine had, along with some descriptions of sniper tactics still in daily use and some clearly optimized for the stationary Western Front, this note about equipment:

Snipers' rifles were always the pick of those furnished an entire division, and were fitted with extremely complicated and accurate calibrated sights. Small telescopes, with



The rifle lasted decades more, but the sight didn't.



Occasionally you find a sight without a rifle, and a rifle without a sight (there's one of each on GB now, but the scope base would have to be fabricated).

It's interesting that this brief doctrinal mention fails to suggest any need for special training and maintenance, and fails to note the assignment and zero of the rifle to one individual. It's simply a shooting-prize, handed to the guys who shoot best at qualification (which, then, was known-distance bullseye shooting. Perhaps we'll have a few more excerpts from this manual in the days ahead). There's also no mention of the painstakingly learned two-man sniper-spotter teams, search techniques, or concealment and decoy-position tactics that are the meat of the 1919 article linked above. It's sniping as shooting, period; something that would strike today's school-trained sniper whether from Marine, Army, SF, or SEAL sniper school as reductive to the point of absurdity.

We're probably going to pull another excerpt or two out of the 1913 Manual, and then put the .pdf up on here for your edification.

This entry was posted in Rifles and Carbines, The Past is Another Country, Weapons Usage and Employment on February 6, 2013 [<http://weaponsman.com/?p=7028>] by Hognose.

About Hognose

Former Special Forces 11B2S, later 18B, weapons man. (Also served in intelligence and operations jobs in SF).

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One thought on "The Past is Another Country: Optical sights, 100 years ago"

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ITEM | Rock Island Auction Company / December 2, 3, & 4 Premiere Firearms Auction / The Finest Condition U.S. Model 1903 Springfield...

3667 The Finest Condition U.S. Model 1903 Springfield Model 1913 Warner & Swasey Sniper Rifle Extant

Currency: USD Category: Antiques / Firearms & Armory Start Price: 6,000.00 USD Estimated At: 0.00 - 0.00 USD

SOLD

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Estimate: \$15000 - 25000

This Model 1903 Springfield rifle manufactured in 1916 and fitted with a Model 1913 Warner & Swasey Musket Sight (telescopic sight) marked with the rifle serial number. The U.S. Army purchased 5,730 Model 1913 W&S Musket Sights between 1913 and 1918. Most Model 1913 Warner & Swasey sights were mounted on Springfield M1903 rifles in the 620,000-673,000 serial number range "SPRINGFIELD RESEARCH SERVICE SERIAL NUMBERS OF U.S. MARTIAL ARMS, 1st Ed. P. 56". The earliest known U.S. M1913 Sight (No. 2130 is mounted on Springfield M1903 rifle No. 586,004 "PICTORIAL HISTORY OF U.S. SNIPING by Peter R. Serich, P.39". Model 1903 Springfield rifles with original Warner & Swasey sights that are serial numbered to the rifle are exceptionally rare. This rifle is a pre-WWI Springfield M1903 with blued barrel, rear sight base, barrel bands, trigger guard, floor plate and bolt. The receiver is casehardened with a black, oil-quenched finish. The cut-off lever and safety lock have a water-quenched casehardened finish with vivid case colors. The "ON" side of the cut-off and the face of the rear sight are polished bright. The rear sight has the 2750 yard center volley notch and windage and elevation knobs with dished faces. The trigger is grooved with a cross-hatched tip. The buttplate has fine checkering. The left side of the receiver is fitted with the original Warner & Swasey mounting bracket secured by three screws. The bracket screws are flush with the inside of the receiver and are staked in place. The oil-finished, black walnut, "S" type, stock has grasping grooves and a single reinforcing bolt. The left side of the stock is professionally inletted to clear the feet of the scope bracket. The "high hump" handguard has a sight clearance cut and two spring clips. The receiver is roll-stamped: "U.S./SPRINGFIELD/MODEL 1903" in four lines above the serial number "625605". The barrel is roll-stamped: "S A" immediately behind the rear sight base above the ordnance "Shell and Flame" insignia and the date "5-16". An "H" is stamped on the underside of the bayonet lug. The steel lot code "C 6" is stamped on the underside of the bolt safety lug. The front trigger guard finial is stamped with the Ordnance "Shell and Flame/NRA" marking applied to some Model 1903 rifles sold by the Director of Civilian Marksmanship prior to WWI. The marking was applied to show that the rifles had been authorized for civilian sale by the Ordnance Department and were not Army property. The Ordnance final inspection mark that consists of the initials "J.S.A." in a rectangle is stamped on the left side of the stock behind the magazine cut-off. An encircled, script "P" proof mark is stamped on the underside of the stock behind the trigger guard. A "D" sub-inspection mark is stamped in the cut-off recess of the stock. The early production Warner & Swasey telescopic sight is in the proper serial number range for this rifle and has a black enamel finish and the windage and elevation knobs have a black, oil-quenched, casehardened finish. The sight is complete with the original rubber eyepiece. A black painted, wind-correction/range-correction scale is attached to the top of the telescopic sight by four screws. The left side of the telescopic sight body is roll-stamped: "TELESCOPIC MUSKET SIGHT/MODEL of 1913 No. 2533/THE WARNER & SWASEY CO." above the two-line address and patent dates. The inside of the telescopic sight mount dovetail is stamped: "FOR RIFLE NO. 625605". The marking has been stamped with a fixture and the letters and numbers are neatly aligned and have uniform depth. Included with the rifle is a scarce, russet leather, Model 1911 case for the Model 1908 Warner & Swasey Musket Sight. The case is stamped with a rifle serial number "409495" on the front and retains the original leather shoulder strap. **Model 1903 rifles equipped with Model 1913 Warner & Swasey Musket Sights were used by the U.S. Army on the Mexican Punitive Expedition in 1916 and in France by the American Expeditionary Force in 1917-18. The Model 1903 rifle equipped with a Model 1913 Warner & Swasey Musket Sight was the first issue U.S. sniper rifle with a telescopic sight. All original Model 1903 rifles with Warner & Swasey Muskets sight are rare; examples with matching serial numbers are almost never encountered.**

BBL: 24 inch
 Stock: walnut
 Gauge: 30-06
 Finish: blue/casehardened
 Grips:
 Serial Number: 625605

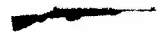
Condition: Excellent plus. The rifle retains 98% or more of the original blue and casehardened finish. Wear is limited to some thinning on the floor plate and the front of the trigger guard finial and some minor finish wear on the right side of the receiver above the bolt. The bolt and extractor have some very minor cycling wear. The bore is in perfect condition. The screws are free of screwdriver marks. The stock and handguard are in as-new condition with raised grain no visible handling marks. The Ordnance final inspection mark and proof mark are crisp. The Warner & Swasey Musket Sight is in excellent condition and retains 98% of the black enamel finish, with a few age spots and some very minor edge wear. The windage and elevation knobs retain all of the casehardened finish. The screws on the top of the scope body have all of the original paint intact and have never been removed. The rubber eyepiece shows age but is complete and in very good overall condition. The optics have some dust on the inside of the butt are bright and in good condition. The rarely encountered

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Model 1911 carrying case is in very good condition with moderate handling and storage wear. This is one of the very few Model 1903 Rifles with matching serial number Warner & Swasey Model 1913 Musket Sight extant. It is almost certainly the best condition Model 1903 Springfield rifle with Warner & Swasey Musket sight known. This is a one-of-a-kind rifle; the best condition Model 1903 Rifle with matching serial number M1913 Warner & Swasey Musket Sight that writer is aware of.

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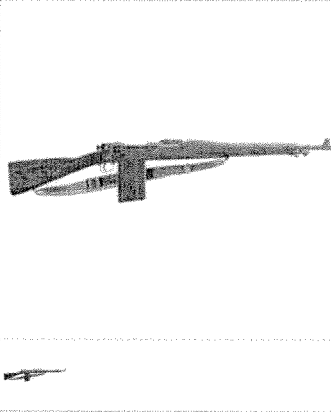
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ITEM | Rock Island Auction Company / Premiere Firearms Auction / Late WWI Model 1903 Springfield Armory Rifle wit...

3497 Late WWI Model 1903 Springfield Armory Rifle with the Rare 20 Shot Extended Box Magazine

Currency: USD Category: Antiques / Firearms & Armory Start Price: 750.00 USD Estimated At: 1,500.00 - 2,000.00 USD



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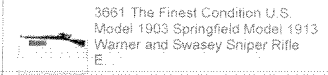
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This is an example of a late 1918/1919 production 1903 Springfield Rifle that has been fitted with the Rare 20 shot extended box magazine. The extended box magazine is one of the original WWI era magazines that were used/issued in the scarce 1903 "Air Service" rifle variation, which was intended to be used in WWI observation balloons and early WWI spotter aircraft. These magazines were subsequently also used during WWI in the trenches to increase the fire power of the rifles. These magazine are fairly scarce to find on today 's market as no one wanted them because they increase the weight of the rifle and extended below the stock which made firing in the prone position almost impossible to do. The rifle itself, as noted, is a late WWI production version that was rebarreled by Springfield Armory and is marked with the US Ordnance flaming shell over "SA/1-28". The rifle has the correct milled barrel bands, trigger guard and floor plate and the bolt is a late WWI version that is marked "BF47" on top of the bolt handle. The rifle has been fitted with a late two bolt, non-finger groove walnut stock and hand guard. The left side of the stock is stamped "1928" in large serif numbers over "EPX" in smaller block style letters. The same markings are stamped on the right side of the butt stock. The rifle has the original GI 1920s style gray green parkerized finish overall with an oil finish on the stock and hand guard. The rifle is complete with a stamped front sight cover and a 1907 WWI style unmarked leather sling with brass keepers.
BBL: 24 inch round
Stock: walnut
Gauge: 30 06
Finish: parkerized
Grips:
Serial Number: 988630

Arsenal refurbished overall with 95% of the original GI parkerized finish overall. The receiver and front exposed barrel are show some slight thinning of the finish with the balance of the wear on the edges and high spots, with the front barrel band having browned out overall. The box magazine shows 97% of the original blue/parkerized finish overall with a small spot of corrosion on the lower right rear corner of the magazine. The stock and hand guard both show a nice medium brown color overall with minor handling marks. The sling is pliable and a little dark but is solid with no rips or tears. A nice example of a early production 1903 Springfield Armory rifle with the scarce 20 shot extended box magazine.