



KURT SAXON

HENRY & WINCHESTER RIFLES

207 COURTNEY LANE • MATTHEWS, NC 28105 • (704) 847-5004

HENRY RIFLE SER. NO. 428

I HAVE COMPLETELY EXAMINED HENRY RIFLE SER. NO. 428 AND FIND IT TO BE ONE HUNDRED PER CENT ORIGINAL AS PRODUCED BY THE NEW HAVEN ARMS COMPANY IN 1862.

THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 13000 OF THESE HENRY RIFLES PRODUCED BETWEEN 1860 AND 1865. THEY WERE A REVOLUTIONARY ITEM IN THEIR DAY, BEING A MULTIPLE SHOT REPEATING RIFLE. MOST SAW USE IN THE CIVIL WAR, THE INDIAN WARS, AND ON THE FRONTIER.

THE SURVIVAL RATE OF THE HENRY RIFLE IS FAIRLY HIGH AS IT WAS OUTMODED BY IT'S SUCCESSOR, THE "IMPROVED HENRY" WHICH WE NOW REFER TO AS, THE MODEL 1866 WINCHESTER. I BELIEVE 4500 HENRY RIFLES STILL EXIST. THESE GUNS ARE ALL DESIRABLE IN THE COLLECTING FIELD AND COME IN A VARIETY OF CONDITIONS ... FROM UNUSED TO RELICS.

SER. NO. 428 IS IN THE MOST DESIRABLE CONDITION FOR THE COLLECTOR. WE SEE MOST OF THE FACTORY VARNISH ON THE STOCK & A BORE WHICH FOR A HENRY IS SUPERB. THERE ARE OF COURSE SLIGHTLY ROUNDED CORNERS ON THE SOFT BRONZE-GUN METAL RECEIVER, BUTTPLATE, & FOLLOWER; TOO, WE SEE MANY HANDLING MARKS BUT THESE AS TO THE OVERALL PATINA OF THE GUN. NOTE: THE GUN FLOWS ... THE STEEL, WOOD, & BRONZE PARTS ALL HAVE THE SAME LOOK OF AGE, USE, & CARE.

SER. NO. 428 HAS TWO FEATURES WHICH ARE VERY SCARCE TO A HENRY:

— A LEVER LATCH, WHICH IN ITSELF IS NOT



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SER. NO. 428 PG. II

UNUSUAL, BUT #428 IS THE FIRST KNOWN GUN TO SHOW THIS IMPROVEMENT. AS THE GUNS EXPERIENCED MECHANICAL WEAR, THE INTERNAL LINKS & PINS WORE FROM FRICTION & THE LEVER WOULD HANG DOWN OR DROOP. THE LATCH BECAME STANDARD AND WAS INCORPORATED IN MANY SUCCESSIVE MODELS.

— NO DOVETAIL IN THE BARREL. FROM SER. NO. 1 THROUGH SER. NO. 3007, HENRYS ARE "DOUBLE DOVETAIL" GUNS. A SIGHT PLACEMENT DOVETAIL IN THE BRONZE RECEIVER AND ONE IN THE BARREL. NINE GUNS IN THIS RANGE ARE KNOWN NOT TO HAVE A BARREL SIGHT DOVETAIL. A SPECIAL ORDER FEATURE REQUESTED BY A "SHOOTER" WHO DESIRED A LONGER SIGHTING PLANE. (TOO, THE SIGHT AND OR DOVETAIL ARE NOW NOT AN OBSTRUCTION TO THE HAND AT THE BALANCE POINT OF THE GUN.)

OTHER FEATURES WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED WITH EARLY FIRST MODEL HENRY RIFLES ARE:

- SMALL BARREL ADDRES & SERIAL #S
- SMALL FOLLOWER WITH NO REBATE IN THE RECEIVER
- SMALL LINK PINS
- SMALL TRIGGER PIN
- A BOLDER STOCK WITH PERCH. BELLY; ORANGE COLOR & VARNISH
- EARLY STYLE BUTTPLATE WITH INTERNAL SER. NO. AT THE HEEL NOT TOE
- LARGE TRAPDOOR IN BUTTPLATE & LARGE HOLE IN BUTTSTOCK FOR WICKORY ROD.
- NO HENRY BUMP, TOO EARLY
- TWO BUTTPLATE SCREWS #EO



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SER. NO. 428 A6 III

- THREE WRIST SCREWS #E0
- UPPER INLET OF STOCK #E0
- SMALL "W" STAMP ON OUTSIDE OF THE LOWER TANG AT REAR BEHIND SCREW - OLIVER F. WINCHESTER NOTED AS THE INSIDE CONTRACTOR AND INSPECTOR ON #428
- 428 ON INSIDE OF LOWER LEFT TANG
- #20 ASSEMBLY NO. ON REAR OF MAGAZINE SLEEVE
- #20 ASSEMBLY NO. ON TOP OF BARREL UNDER MAGAZINE SLEEVE
- A 1000 YD. NO SCREW REAR SIGHT
- THE DIFFERENTIATION IN BRONZE FRAME & SIDEPLATE CASTING COMPOSITION.
- EARLY COARS HAMMER CHECKERING
- RIM-FIRE - NOT CONVERTED
- EXTREMELY GOOD COLOR PATINA AND CRYSTAL LATTICE ON BRONZE PARTS

THIS IS AN EXCELLANT HENRY RIFLE IN SUPERB CONDITION. A TRUE PIECE OF AMERICANNA WHICH ANY COLLECTOR WOULD BE PROUD TO OWN.

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10 AUGUST 2005

SCOTT-

PLEASE FIND INCLOSED A FOUR SEGMENT HICKORY CLEANING ROD FOR AN EARLY STYLE HENRY RIFLE.

THE TWO CENTER SEGMENTS ARE THE SAME WITH A MALE AND A FEMALE TIP ATTACHED TO EACH END WITH GLUE & A STEEL PIN. THE PIN GOES THROUGH THE WOOD AND METAL. THE LEAD SECTION OF THE "WIPING ROD" HAS ONE METAL TIP WITH THE OTHER END BEING CUT INTO FOUR BELLS TO GRIP THE CLOTH PATCH AS IT PASSES THROUGH THE BORE CLEANING THE LANES & GROVES. (THE PATCH WAS TO BE RETRIEVED IN THE CARRIER BLOCK CAVITY EACH TIME.) THE FINAL SEGMENT OR PIECE OF THE CLEANING OR WIPING ROD IS THE PORTION HELD BY THE SHOOTER WHICH HAS ONE STEEL TIP FASTENED IN THE SAME MANNER WITH THE HAND END HAVING A VERY SLEETLE CHAMFER TO EASE THE BURDEN ON ONES HAND.

THESE RODS DID NOT SURVIVE WELL. COMBINING TWO MATERIALS ON A MOVING AND FORCED OBJECT DIDN'T WORK WELL. TOO THEY BROKE. BECAUSE OF THEIR DIAMETER THE SIZE HOLE TO ACCOMMODATE THEIR STORAGE IN THE BUTTSTOCK WAS TOO BIG AND MANY EARLY HENRYS HAVE A SUBSEQUENT LENGTHWISE CRACK DUE TO WEAKNESS IN THE REMAINING THIN SIDEWALL.

FOUR PIECE METAL RODS WITH A SMALLER DIAMETER & SUBSEQUENT SMALLER STORAGE HOLE CAME INTO



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- PAGE TWO -

USAGE ABOUT ONE THIRD THE WAY THROUGH THE PRODUCTION & WERE USED IN FOLLOWING MODELS OF WINCHESTERS.

FINDING A CORRECT EARLY HICKORY ROD IS RARE — THEY ARE NOT SERIAL NUMBERED & I OF COURSE DO NOT WANT TO MARK THE ROD. SOME I HAVE SEEN HAVE THE FOUR BELLS THE SAME SIZE AND OTHERS ARE NOT. BOTH CAN BE CORRECT. THIS PARTICULAR ROD HAS A SHORT LEAD BELL, A LONG SECOND, AND THE THIRD & FOURTH ARE EQUAL.

BECAUSE OF THEIR SCARCITY & COST, THERE ARE SOME COPIES ON THE MARKET ... THIS IS NOT ONE OF THOSE!

CONGRATULATIONS!