



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 13,000 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.

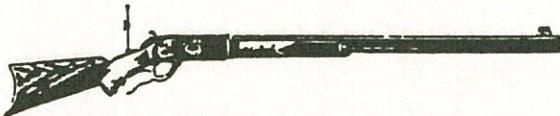
THE SURVIVAL RATE OF THE HENRY RIFLE IS FAIRLY HIGH AS IT WAS OBLIMINATED BY IT'S SUCCESSOR, THE "IMPROVED HENRY" WHICH WE NOW REFER TO AS, THE MODEL 1866 WINCHESTER. I BELIEVE 4500 HENRY RIFLES STILL EXIST. THESE GUNS ARE ALL DESIRABLE IN THE COLLECTING FIELD AND COME IN A VARIETY OF CONDITIONS... FROM UNUSUED 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 DAWDED CORNERS ON THE SOFT BRONZE-COATED METAL RECEIVER, BUTT PLATE, & 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 GUN IS EXPERIENCED MECHANICAL WEAR, THE INTERNAL LINKS & PINS WORE FROM FRICTION & THE LEVER COULD 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, HENREYS ARE "DOUBBLE DOVETAIL" GUNS. A SIGHT PLATEMENT DOVE-TAIL IN THE BRONZE RECEIVER AND ONE IN THE BARREL. NINE GUNS IN THIS RANGE ARE KNOWN NOT TO HAVE A BARREL SIGHT DOVE-TAIL. A SPECIAL ORDER FEATURE REQUESTED BY A "SHOOTER" WHO DESIRED A LONGER SIGHTING PLANE. (TODAY, THE SIGHT AND OR DOVE-TAIL ARE NOW NOT AN OBSTRUCTION TO THE HANDS AT THE BALANCE POINT OF THE GUN.)

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

- SMALL BARREL ADDRESSES & SERIAL #5
- SMALL FOLLOWER WITH NO REBATE IN THE RECEIVER
- SMALL LINK PINS
- SMALL TRIGGER PIN
- A BOLSTER STOCK WITH PERCH BELLY; ORANGE COLOR & VARNISH
- EARLY STYLE BUTTPLATE WITH INTERNAL SER. NO. AT THE KEL NOT TOE
- LARGE TRAPDOOR IN BUTTPLATE & LARGE HOLE IN BUTTSTOCK FOR HICKORY ROD.
- NO HENRY BUMP, TOO EARLY
- TWO BUTTPLATE SCREWS #50



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SEE NO. 428 Pg III

- THREE WORST SCREWS #60
- UPPER INLET OF STOCK #60
- SMALL "W" STAMP ON OUTSIDE OF THE LOWER TANG AT REAR BEHIND SCREW - OLIVER F. WINCHESTER ACTED AS THE INSIDE CONTRACTOR AND INSPECTOR ON #428
- 428 ON INSIDE OF LOWER LEFT TANG
- #20 ASSEMBLY NO. ON REAR OF MAGAZINE SLEEV
- #20 ASSEMBLY NO. ON TOP OF BARREL UNDER MAGAZINE SLEEV
- A 1000 YD. NO SCREW REAR SIGHT
- THE DIFFERENTIATION IN BRONZE FRAME IS SIDEPLATE CASTING COMPOSITION.
- EARLY COARS HAMMER CHECKERING
- RIM-FIRE - NOT CONVERTED.
- EXTREMELY GOOD COLOR PATINA AND CRYSTAL LATTICE ON BRONZE PARTS

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

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10 AUGUST 2005

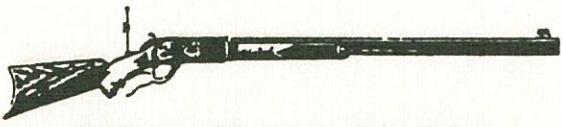
SCOTT-

PLEASE FIND INCLOSED A SOLID SEVEN
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 WOODS AND METAL. THE LEAD SECTION
OF THE "WIPING ROD" HAS ONE METAL TIP
WITH THE OTHER END BEING CUT INTO FOUR
BELL'S TO GRIP THE CLOTH PATCH AS IT
PASSES THROUGH THE BORE CLEANING
THE LANES & GROVES. (THE PATCH HAS
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 ONE'S HAND.

THESE RODS DID NOT SURVIVE WELL.
COMBINING TWO MATERIALS ON A MOV-
ING AND FORCED OBJECT DIDN'T WORK
WELL. TOO THEY BROKE. BECAUSE OF
THEIR DIAMETER THE SIZE HOLE TO
ACCOMMODATE THEIR STORAGE IN THE
BUITSTOCK WAS TOO BIG AND MANY
EARLY HENRYS HAVE A SUBSEQUENT
LENTHWAITE 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 SECONDS,
AND THE THIRS & FOURTH ARE EQUAL.
BECAUSE OF THEIR SCARCITY
& COST THERE ARE SOME COPIES
ON THE MARKET ... THIS IS NOT
ONE OF THOSE!

Conversations!

