

*One of One Thousand*

**WINCHESTER.**

*One of One Hundred*



Today, the rifle has a tang-mounted, long-range vernier sight and, although not as fancy as his brother Granville's 1 of 1000, is still a wonderful and rare rifle. *Collection of Arlin McCroskie*



# **A GIFT FROM IVER JOHNSON SERIAL NO. 6594**

This rifle, a First Model with an Arabic 1 of 1000 inscription, was purchased by Fred Mills in 1935 from the Iver Johnson Sporting Goods Store in Boston. It was one of the first twenty rifles that were reported to Universal Pictures and Winchester during the *Winchester '73* motion picture search. Mills reported: "I bought this rifle June 6th, 1935, as recorded in my cash book as follows, Win. 73 (1 of



1000) Fancy rifle \$10...in almost new condition... Previous owner unknown."

This beautifully case-hardened rifle, in very fine condition, was truly a gift from the folks at the Iver Johnson store, even in 1935, at the price sold. The tang vernier sight is a later, but period addition.

Two unusual features in this First Model 73 are the shotgun butt and the pistol grip, both of which are very rare in this early gun. Neither of these features were mentioned in the Winchester records. This, however, is not unusual since details like these were often not recorded. The warehouse ledgers were meant for inventory control and were not kept for the gratification of collectors over a hundred years later.

The original pistol grip configuration has a lever, which is curved to fit the grip, and is stamped with serial number 6594 using the same numbering dies. The number is found on the left side of the lever and is visible only after removal of the sideplate. This unusual feature indicates that the rifle was specially ordered with this stock. Model 1873 levers were normally not numbered.

This rifle is also marked 6594 on the inner tang and has the

assembly number 594 on the inside surface of each sideplate. The buttstock inlet is marked XXX, indicating very fancy, high-grade wood. The left side of the lower tang and stock inlet is marked with assembly number 394.

John Malloy, a well-known collector and dealer, related an interesting story about this rifle to its present owner. He and Alan S. Kelley, another dealer from Connecticut, used to visit Fred Mills in order to see his gun collection. Mills was very elderly at the time and a bit grouchy, but for the sum of \$1.00 each, would let them into his house to look at his guns.<sup>1</sup>

The provenance of this rifle is well documented. Following its purchase from Iver Johnson in 1935, Fred Mills owned it until his death in 1965. It was then acquired by Eldon Owens who only owned it for a short time. Owens sold it to Leon "Red" Jackson, of Jackson Arms in Dallas, Texas, for \$2,500.<sup>2</sup> In 1965, Jackson Arms featured the rifle on the back cover of their Catalog 22. The rifle then passed to Bobby C. Burns who owned it until 1993 at which time it came into the possession of Paul Sorrell. Following this, it was owned in turn by David Bichrest, Leon Budnigas and was then purchased by its present owner.

*Collection of Bert Jolicouer*

*Serial number 6594.*



*Fred Mills with his  
One of One Thousand.*



# American Society of Arms Collectors

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
ELDON J. OWENS

ROUTE #3, BOX 28  
CLAREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03743 U.S.A.

1 of 1000 notes

44.40 Serial No 6549

from Winchester July 30, 1875

135 of a total 720,610 Model 1873's Words "One of One Thousand" or figures "1 of 1000".

Herb Glass went to see Mr Riddle's gun in a snowstorm (His was shipped on Nov 17, 1877) Clintonville (Pa?) 35 miles from Butler, Pa.

Oct <sup>(man?)</sup> issue of Am. Rifleman story officially introduced into Winchester Catalogue of year 1875 and 124 produced from 1875 through 1881.

150,000 hand bills spread out. Earliest was sent from factory on July 30, 1874.

Hollywood movie "Winchester 73" - Stuart N. Lake author which movie was based.

22 owners - Lloyd Bender, Galion, Ohio; James T Fowler, Anawatomie, Kan; Louis A Ostendorp, Berwyn, Ill; Scott Merry, Tacoma, Wash; Stanley W. Ollason, Hollister, Cal; D.W. Peckham, Middlefield, Conn; F. P. L. Mills, Old Deerfield, Mass; Glenn E. Ellingson, San Bruno, Calif; James R. Smith, Seattle, Wash; Granville Stuart Abbott, Lewistown, Mont; William W Kessler, Whitmore Calif; Charles A. Alden, St Petersburg, Fla; Thomas H. Oster, Cloverdale Calif; James D. Morley, Lodi, Calif; Sam G. Bachelder, Santa Cruz, Calif; Richard Larsen, Visalia, Calif; Phil M. Brown, Watseka, Ill; T. R. Jordan, Seattle 55 Wash; Oliver R. Jones, North Hollywood Ca; Harry L. Kemp, Judith Gap, Mont; Clyde Schurman, Woodland, Wash; John S. Friend, Gassaway, West Va.

Fred P. L. Mills bought his on June 6, 1935 for \$10.00 from Iver Johnson Sporting Goods store in Boston. Among first 20 reported and won new Model 94 30-30 Cal.

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## Notes

Mrs Lula A Hibbard was the elderly housekeeper for Fred Wilke. She died a little before him. We remember eating supper with them the night of Dec 7 '41 when news of Pearl Harbor came over the radio and how shocked we all were.

Fred died Sept 21, 1961 funeral in Deerfield, <sup>Mass (Long Church)</sup> was Sept 23.

The auction of household items was Sept 1, 1962. We got a bunch of Rifleman magazines; a gold watch; a 10. gold coin; 9 colt <sup>double</sup> rifle booklets among other small stuff.

A colt Lightning 50-95 was left to us in his will. Other guns had to bid on. Judge Trisdale of Greenfield Mass handled the estate.

The load of guns was picked up in Deerfield Ma on Nov 4, 1962.

We left for our Calif trip Sat Jan 25, 1964. <sup>erectly</sup> ~~Sch~~ study N Y gun show; then Dallas; then Fort Worth Gun show; then load of guns from Mr Butler in Studio City Calif; then Ego folks in Iowa; and Columbus Ohio gunshow on trip home.

The 1 of 1000 was sold to Red Jackson for \$2500. Jan 30, 1964.

Edith Owens

P.S. We were at CADA Manchester NH Gun show over the week end and exhibited 12 nice '86 Winchesters. Would be glad for you to see our gun room.

From the Desk of er

ELDON J. OWENS

To whom it may concern.

This is to state that  
the 94 Winchester no 1,678,443  
is the carbine that  
Winchester presented to  
Mr Fred P. Mills of Deerfield  
Mass.

This gun was presented  
because Mr Mills owned  
the 1873 Winchester

"One of One Thousand" no 4594.

I purchased both of these  
guns from Mr Mills estate.

Eldon J. Owens

Eldon J Owens

Rt 3 Box 28

Claremont N.H.

03743

# FIREARM COLLECTION

*Extra Copy*

OF THE LATE

FREDERIC P. L. MILLS

OLD DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

## COLTS LONG ARMS

- Double 1/2 100 1/20 B&B #26 Blued Steel BB1 Presentation
- 68 Winchester "1 OF 1000" 44 C.F. Oct. Bbl. Fancy checkered P.G. Stock (Model 1873 VERY RARE. One Sold for \$2,500) #6594
- 69 Winchester Model 1873 44 Cal. Half Oct. Bbl. Fancy straight grip stock. Fine condition. #30863

SMITH & WESSLEY. NEW  
I. M. JOHNSON. WINDSOR. CONN. 1822. DATE BPT. 1840. CAL. 24

## REMINGTON ROCK LISTERS

- SMITH & WESSLEY. NEW. CO., HARTFORD, CT. NO CAL. B&B. 1866-69
- 93 S. WOODS WINDSOR. CONN. MODEL 1810. DATE 1855. 24 CAL. N. 2.
- 94 S. WOODS WINDSOR. CONN. MODEL 1813. NO NUMBER. 24 CAL. N. 2.
- 95 S. WOODS WINDSOR. CONN. MODEL 1813. DATE 1841. 54 CAL. SILVER
- 96 S. WOODS WINDSOR. CONN. MODEL 1808. NO NUMBER. 24 CAL. B&B
- 97 S. WOODS WINDSOR. CONN. MODEL 1810. DATE 1841. 54 CAL. SILVER
- 98 S. WOODS WINDSOR. CONN. MODEL 1810. DATE 1841. 54 CAL. SILVER
- 99 S. WOODS WINDSOR. CONN. MODEL 1810. DATE 1841. 54 CAL. SILVER
- 100 S. WOODS WINDSOR. CONN. MODEL 1810. DATE 1841. 54 CAL. SILVER