

George Madis
P. O. Box 545
Brownsboro, Texas 75756

Henry Carbine Serial Number 343

A careful examination has been made of this rare Henry, of both the outside and of all internal parts, and it has been determined it is all original or made by the New Haven Arms Company.

Records show this gun was made in 1862.

All standard Henry rifles were made with twenty-four inch octagonal barrels; we see here a special twenty inch barrel.

Oliver J. Winchester, in early correspondence, told some customers that Henry Carbine would be made in "the near future."

While there was an apparent good demand for carbines, only a few experimental, sample and trial carbines were made.

Magnification of these rifles were forged integral with the barrel, as seen here.

The Henry used a front-loading system, and the loading sleeve or well as all parts of the loading sleeve are original and correct.

A nickel-silver front sight blade was provided, and the rear sight in the early style graduated from one to nine hundred.

Serial numbers are found on

The top rear of the panel, on the inside lower tang, on the stocks under the upper tang, and on the buttplate. Early issues have the serial number stamped on the upper part of the buttplate, as seen here.

On earlier rifles the serial number was even stamped on the tang through-bolt, and on each screw of the tangs and buttplate.

All of these screws are marked "343" and match the gun.

On the inside upper tang is stamped "Display Model 25". Traces of the original silver plate are seen on the inside of the buttplate, tangs and receiver. Following the serial number on the lower tang is the letter "C", which could indicate a Carbine.

Assembly numbers were stamped on the panel under the loading sleeve and on the rear face of the loading sleeve. We see number "228" on these parts.

All Henry rifles were chambered for the .44 Henry Rimfire cartridge, and this Carbine remains in the original rimfire configuration and there has been no conversion work on the bolt, firing pin or chamber.

Brass was used for receivers, elevators and buttplates of these rifles, and as number 343 these parts remain in excellent condition, showing very little use and no abuse. These parts have a pleasing patina of age, and the

steel and iron parts which were blued retain a high degree of the blue, now developing a smooth, even brown patina.

The early style tripod buttplate has the rounded top, correct for an early Henry. Many early features are seen here; these include the small magazine follower, firing hammer electric, small lever loop with no lever latch and an early "perch belly" stock.

Some very special guns were stocked with rosewood, as seen here. At one time in production, walnut was in such short supply that rosewood was used for a short time.

Now almost a century and a half old, number 343 is an outstanding collector's gun.

With the condition, rarity, age and historical importance, number 343 will be the focal gun in any fine collector's museum.

Henry Woods