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Model 1866 Winchester Serial Number 13024

I have examined this fire carbine, both inside and outside, and have reached the following conclusions:

On the lower tang, inside, is the number 12476, which has been crossed over. This indicates that the number 12476 may have belonged to another gun, so it was crossed out and another number, 13024, was applied. This number, 13024, is found on the buttplate and on the inside of the stocks.

Assembly number 25, in very small numerals, is found on the lower tang by the serial number and on the sideplate. This size of numerals for the assembly number is usually found on first models.

Barrel markings are correct for this early Winchester. The front sight on the barrel band, the rear sight with an early large base, and an early magazine tube and magazine tube cap are correct and appropriate for this first model.

The first model 1866 did not have a flange for the forend, as seen here. The forend, stocks and early crescent buttplate are original and correct.

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Model 1866 Winchester Serial Number 13024-12476

I have carefully examined this Winchester, both inside and out, and have determined that it is all original Winchester work and that the engraving is contemporary work by L. P. Nensichke.

One of the most significant features of this carbine is the fact that the original serial number, inside on the lower tang, is 12476. This number has been lightly struck out and the new number, 13024 has been stamped by the factory.

According to records of Albert Tiltore, a long time Winchester employee, serial numbers assigned to the model 1866 in the year 1866 were from 12476 to 14813.

Albert Tiltore records were examined in the Winchester Museum in New Haven about 1970. These records are probably now in the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody, Wyoming.

It is my opinion that the receiver of this gun was assigned the serial number 12476 and the receiver and buttplate were given to Nensichke to engrave. In the interval between manufacture and return to Winchester of the engraved receiver, serial had proceeded.

1866 number 13024-12476

and when number 12476 was finally assembled serials
had reached 13024, which number was applied and
the old number blanked out.

It is my opinion that number 13024-12476
could well be the first model 1866 produced and that
it is probably the first model 1866 engraved by Quisette.

George M. Madsen