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Model 1866 Rifle Serial Number 17424

I have thoroughly examined this rare Winchester, inside and out, and find it is all original or made by Winchester. There has been no outside work or alterations, and the gun remains in excellent condition, showing some handling marks but little wear and no abuse.

Records show this rifle was made in 1869.

This is a second model 1866; model designations are determined by the receiver form as well as other features.

Earlier models such as this have crescent buttplates, smaller lever loops and hammer knurling which is of Coors style.

One of the earlier variations on the 1866 model, carried over from the Henry rifle, is the hammer without a half-cock notch.

Most of the second models were carbines, the twenty-four inch octagon barrel of number 17424 is a rare variation.

Barrel markings of earliest 1866 models have the Henry and Kury's patent markings, as seen here.

The front sight is of the "standard sporting style", with an integral nickel-silver blade, and the rear sight is the

style often seen on later Henry rifles, with the rounded top and graduations from one to nine hundred yards.

Full magazines, as seen here, were considered standard for all 1866 models, and the magazine retaining band is present and has not been removed. Earlier models have the magazine cap threaded into the magazine tube, and the forward tip, of bronze, is retained to the gun with a single screw.

Sling loops were an extra for all rifles; as seen on this rifle the front sling loop is held to the forward tip by a stud made integral with the forward tip. This is a feature of earlier rifles.

All earlier 1866 models chambered the .44 Henry rifle cartridge, and number 17424 remains in this caliber. There has been no alterations to the bolt, chamber or firing pin.

Select, straight grain walnut was used for stocking this Winchester, and it remains in excellent condition, with only a few handling marks. Winchester oiled finish was standard for the 1866, and most of this original finish is seen on the walnut.

Serial numbers of earlier models are found on the inside, left side of the lower tang, on the inside toe of the buttplate and on the inlet under the upper tang. All of these numbers match and are original.

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Much of the original color hardening is still on the hammer, and the lever and other small parts have the even brown patina of age.

Because of very little use and proper storage, most of the original bluing of the barrel and magazine tube remain.

The bronze receiver, buttplate, forward tip and other bronze parts have the very attractive patina of age, and there has been no cleaning or polishing done on this gun.

It is very unusual to find a Winchester of this age, well over a hundred years old, with the high degree of original finish seen here.

This is an outstanding rare Winchester.

With the age, rarity, condition and historical importance, number 17424 will be an outstanding Winchester in any fine collection or museum.

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