

George Madis
Brownsboro, Texas 75756

Model 1866 Corbin Serial Number 88473

I have carefully examined this rare and fine Winchester, outside and in, and have determined it is all original as made by Winchester.

Records still extant show this Corbin was made in 1872.

On the left lower tang, inside under the stocks, is found the marking "O" and "xxx". The letter "O" would have been an assembler or fitters mark of the workman who did this work. For the early Winchester, the letter "x" was used to designate the wood for the stocks and forend. Each "x" indicated a higher grade of wood as well as more particular care in fitting and finishing. Three "x" would have been done by Winchester's finest craftsmen and fitted and finished in the finest manner.

Winchester's method of grading wood included beauty of grain, density and strength of the grain and grain flow as well as fitting and finishing. Each of these qualities were considered of equal importance.

Number 88473 has quarter-sawn walnut, and this type of

1866 Carbine No. 88473

wood was considered best for gun stocks, being more stable and was usually selected for strength on special guns.

This is a Carbine; that is with round barrels as seen here were standard for carbines, and the markings are clean and legible. Full magazines were standard; early models such as this have the magazine cap threaded into the front of the magazine tube.

Front sights of carbines in this serial range are as seen on this gun; the sight is an extension of the front barrel band.

Rear sights of early numbers are of the simple non-adjustable style, pivoted on the base, and have graduations of 1, 3, and 5.

An inspection of the breech-bolt, firing pin and chamber show this Winchester is all original and these components are for the original .44 Henry Rimfire Cartridge.

There have been no conversions or re-conversions of these parts.

Brass was used for receiver and buttplate on early 1866 models such as this. A smooth, even pattern is seen on these parts, and inside some traces of the original silver plating can be seen.

The last three numbers of the serial

1866 Carbine No. 88473

numbers, "473", are seen on the stocks under the upper tang and on the inside toe of the buttplate. In this serial series the number on the stocks is in italic style numerals. All of these numbers match and are correct.

The saddle ring and its retaining staple are original and correct, as are all other parts of the gun.

As previously mentioned, bronze buttplates of crescent style are found on early carbines such as this.

Overall this Winchester has a smooth, even patina on all steel and iron parts.

The fine engraving of Conrad F. Ulrich is seen on this Carbine.

Unusual border work is often seen on his work; such borders can be seen on the upper tang, around the hammer, at the rear of the receiver and other locations.

Conrad's backgrounds are very characteristic of his work and are exceedingly fine and well done. Background work of his quality can be seen among the scrolls and borders here.

Scrolls cut by this Ulrich are always expertly done; his combination of flowers, scrolls, shields and geometric designs are very characteristic of his work.

(4)
1866 Carbine No. 88473

Animals engraved by this artist have the quality of true art, as has all of his work; this can be seen on number 88473.

We most frequently see deer or elk engraved on early Winchester; dogs, foxes, buffalo or lions are a great rarity, and on this carbine there four figures are seen. On the front panel of the deer sketch, the position of this animal is most unusual and the running buffalo in the stylized shield show the work of a great artist.

Somewhat concealed among the scrolls at the lower right of the left sideplate is a figure of an animal, probably a fox.

On the right side, ahead of the sideplate, is a sitting hound. A leaping lion is on the sideplate; this is a very unusual figure on a Winchester, especially since it is a vignette, surrounded by scrolls instead of by borders.

Between the main spring strain screw and the serial number is seen, in very small block letters, "C. F. ULKICH", the signature stamp of the engraver.

Very few engraved guns were ever signed by the engravers. C. F. Ulrich did relatively few engraving jobs and of this low number, very few were signed.

1866 Carbine No. 88473

This is one of the finest of
Winchesters; with the age of over a
century, excellent condition, and the
rare and unique engraving, this
is a one-of-a-kind collector's item.

Number 88473 is a gem
for any collection or museum.

George N. Smith