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Model 1886 Carbine Serial Number 153153

A careful inspection has been made of this rare Winchester, inside and out, and it has been determined it is all original or made by Winchester.

Serial numbers of later guns such as this have the number stamped in block numerals, followed by the letter "A", denoting minor mechanical changes from earlier guns.

Because of the special nature of this Carbine, there are an unusually large number of inside markings.

On the inside end of the lower tang is seen "Δ" and "9". The triangle with the letter "I" was Winchester's general inspection mark, indicating the gun had passed an overall inspection. The letter "9" is the stamp of one of the workmen who fitted the stocks.

Under the upper tang is the mark "□", showing the receiver was forged of Bessemer soft steel from the Allingworth steel Company. After machining, marking and first polishing, receivers and some other parts were case-hardened for a strong, wear resisting surface.

On the front of the stocks, under

The receiver is the mark "T", also a mark of one of Winchester's craftsmen.

Under the forend on the breech end of the barrel we see numerous marks, some of them only partly legible.

These marks include "△", "□", "Ⓢ", ".45-70" and six other stamps of various fitters, assemblers and inspectors.

The general inspection mark here has already been discussed; the "□" in this location stands for "Allwaysworth nickel steel". "Ⓢ" means "inspected-proved", indicating the barrel and chamber had been visually inspected and gauged after proof-firing.

Caliber markings as seen here are usually found on barrels.

Barrel address markings in this serial series are found at the rear side of the barrel, as in the caliber marks.

The upper tang marking is correct for an 1886 model in this serial series.

Winchester's proof mark, the letter "P" superimposed over the letter "W" in an oval is seen on the top front of the receiver and on the top rear of the barrel.

Full magazines were standard for Carbinis; in the higher serial ranges the magazine tube is threaded into the receiver, as on number 153153.

The front sight is a post, forged

as part of the barrel, and a steel sight blade is pinned to the post. Corbine rear sights, or seen here, were graduated from 0 to 20.

Saddle rings were standard for earlier Corbines; for a gun with this serial number rings were available on order. The saddle ring and its retaining stud are also original.

Straight grain walnut was used for stocking this Winchester, and it remains in good condition, showing some use but no abuse. Most of the original finish is seen on the stocks and forend.

No trapdoors were provided in 1886 model buttplates. Under the buttplate a hole was factory bored to reduce weight and improve balance.

On the bottom of the receiver near the lever is the mark "13", the stamp of the Worker who adjusted the hammer and trigger, one of the most important jobs on a gun.

Much of the original bluing is seen on the metal parts of the gun, including the receiver.

Records show this Corbine was received in the Winchester warehouse on February 12, 1918 and it was shipped out on April 6, 1918. It is listed as a Corbine

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in caliber .45-70 and was shipped to order number 858467.

Very rarely do we have records as to where a Winchester was shipped; the record notes number 153153 was shipped to "Govt. of Republic of France, in care of Foundation Co. of Savannah, Ga.", and changed to "J. D. Weed & Co. Savannah, Ga."

In World War One, France as well as other nations including the U.S. purchased Winchester to arm various forces.

This serial number was assigned to the 1886 in 1914, and this carbine was on hand and ordered in the desperate times of 1918.

Because of the rarity of 1886 Carbinis, the age of the gun as well as the excellent condition and historical importance, number 153153 merits a prominent place in any fine collection or museum.

George W. Moore