

The Model 1894 Musket



Throughout his career as a successful arms manufacturer, Oliver F. Winchester was in constant pursuit of government arms contracts. As a shrewd business man, Winchester knew that landing large volume contracts, even with significant price discounting, would contribute handsomely to his company's bottom line. This quest began when he was with the New Haven Arms Company, and continued throughout the years of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. Even after his death, the company continued to pursue government contracts. To satisfy military requirements, a number of variations of arms were made throughout the years; not the least of which was the musket configuration.



In the 1860's, Winchester began accumulating various experimental models, variations and sample arms within their own in-house factory museum in New Haven. Over the years, the collection grew to more than 3,500 items. In the 1970's, this collection was donated by Olin-Winchester to the

Buffalo Bill Historical Center's Cody Firearms Museum. There is a hard cover reference book titled Inventory of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company

Firearms Reference Collection which is a facsimile copy of the typescript inventory compiled over the years by T.C. Johnson, F.F. Burton, E. Pugsley and T.E. Hall, which documents all the arms in detail prior to the transfer to Cody. There are four model 1894 muskets listed from the collection:

Tag	Serial No.	Year	Cal.	Barrel	Mag	Bayonet
288	500772	1909	.30	26"	full	Saber
289	503008	1909	.30	30"	full	Angular
2277	857937	1919	.30	26"	2/3	Saber
2278	853503	1919	.30	n/a	n/a	Saber



The first musket listed is on display at the Cody Museum. The second musket, serial number 503008, is the only known 1894 musket designed to accept a model 1873 angular socket bayonet. According to Winchester's records: *"This musket is impractical because of height of front sight required—which prohibits the passage of the bayonet."* If you have any information concerning any other 1894 muskets, I would appreciate an email to Rob@RareWinchesters.com.

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