

Mr. Robert Kassab
160 W. Camino Real #177
Boca Raton. FL 33432

April 19, 2021

Dear Mr. Kassab;

We have today received your Colt U.S. Cavalry revolver for the purpose of analysis and authentication. This revolver #7196 was a new listing to our survey and falls between two Artillery revolvers i.e. #7195 and #7201 in this data-base. This revolver was manufactured during 1874 and ordnance sub-inspected by O.W. Ainsworth. His tiny initial "A" may be observed throughout the various components of his revolver.

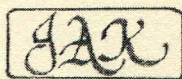
Historically, we could not locate this revolver's serial number in the National Archives records available to us. We do however note that the subject revolver's serial number (#7196) falls between #7119 a revolver that belonged to "Troop B, 7th Cavalry" as of July 17th 1882 and #7207 a revolver that had been "surveyed" on August 17th 1886 and belonged to "Troop C, 5th Cavalry" at that time.

This revolver's serial number originated from within Lot Seven (#6517-#7527). National Archives records show two revolvers from within Seven with documented Custer Battlefield history. The revolver #6559 is a documented "Rendered unserviceable at the Little Bighorn c. 1876" example. The revolver #7047 is cited as being "Recovered from the Custer Battlefield c. 1933". Another example #7119 is listed as belonging "Troop B, 7th Cavalry" as of July 17th 1882. Although our subject revolver's serial number is somewhat higher than these three referenced examples. There is a chance that it had served with either the 7th or 5th Cavalry regiments during the Indian Wars.

Trying to cover all the basis, the question comes to mind; How did this revolver survive until today in its basic Cavalry configuration? How did it avoid being recalled from Cavalry service during 1893? The stock answer to these questions seemed to always be that it had escaped being recalled because of being lost, stolen (deserter?) or captured by the hostile Indians. Another possibility however exists, and that is that our subject revolver could have been issued to a state militia unit either during 1874 or 1875. These militia revolvers remained in their Cavalry configuration until they were "turned-in" during 1902.

Letter of Authentication

Co-Author of: A Study of the Colt
Single Action Army Revolver —



Co-Author of: Cavalry & Artillery
Revolvers A Continuing Study —

Serial #7196, Cont.;

2.

During our examination of this revolver we have observed a few areas that require our commentary;

1. A few old battering markings were observed on the right frame under the cylinder aperture.
2. Original factory applied blue finish was observed on both contours of the ejector rod.
3. The grips were found to be replacements from an 1890's production Cavalry revolver.
4. The barrel address remains in perfect order showing the appropriate die-breaks for this serial number range.
5. The finish of this revolver remains a natural light brown patina, except for the ejector. No remaining case-colors were observed on this revolver.
6. It seems quite amazing to this writer that no "tack-driving" dents were found on this revolver's butt-strap.
7. All surface areas of this revolver remain sharp and "untouched", showing that no polishing had occurred.
8. Some light marring of the metal surface was observed around the patent dates of this revolver's frame.

We trust that the foregoing information will be found to be of interest.

Respectfully,

John A. Kopec
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