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Henry Rifle Serial Number 14994

I have examined this rifle carefully, inside and out, and have determined it is all correct and original.

This is a transitional piece, made between the Henry rifle and the model 1866. In numerous locations the very small assembly number 1734 is seen; this is the same in size as is found on earlier 1866 first models.

We see early first models of the 1866 and some Henry rifles in the serial series from the early 12000 series to numbers nearing 15,000.

It is evident from the surviving guns the company did not discard any parts which could be assembled and sold or used on experimental and patent models.

A close examination of the receiver of this rifle shows it was originally made as a breechloader and was not converted from a Henry frame. Some features of the barrel are distinctly original with this rifle.

Except for the assembly number, the barrel was never marked, either with the standard barrel marking or the serial number.

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This rifle would rate as excellent in condition. Well over one hundred years old, there remains a high degree of original finish on the walnut and metal parts, with a smooth, aged patina forming.

In the many years I have been examining Winchesters, I have seen very few transitional Henry-1866 models.

Each of these transitional models has unique features and is a one-of-a-kind gun.

Number 14994 is one of the rarest of all Winchesters, and is probably a unique arm.

This is an outstanding collector's arm and it will be a star in any collection or museum.

George Spalding