

Continuation of this list enumerating nose band, middle band and bottom band springs suggesting there were a number of Type II arms in service. Courtesy of the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum

Patterns 1856, 1858, 1860 and 1861 Rifles and Commercial Variations of Short Rifles

The identification of the specific patterns of English short rifles imported is greatly hindered by the ambiguity and simplicity of their descriptions in most period documents. Undoubtedly this was done at the time to speed record keeping and the individuals involved saw no reason to record extended proper nomenclature for the benefit of arms students a century and a half later. Extant cargo manifests, bills of lading, invoices and most casual mentions generally categorize such arms simply as short rifles. This holds true in the Official Records. The Payne Ledger shows no evidence of short rifles of any kind coming into Wilmington during the period covered (19 July 1863 to 12 January 1865) which suggests government priorities were concentrated on rifle muskets and cavalry arms during that period.

Dealers and speculators purchased short rifles even before the war began in anticipation of the frenetic activity soon to begin. One such business concern was Hyde & Goodrich of New Orleans that advertised in the 1 March 1861 issue of the *Daily Picayune* their sale of a number of arms including, "50 English Enfield Rifles, with sabre bayonets and equipment, ammunition and caps".⁴⁰

There were three primary sources of short rifles based upon information gleaned from documents in the McRae Papers. There is no doubt as the totals substantiate that Sinclair, Hamilton & Company, S. Isaac, Campbell & Company and William J. Grazebrook furnished all 9,715 short rifles in the Gorgas Summary. William J. Grazebrook's invoices, which were part of the McRae Papers, fortunately provided some clues to the types purchased.

This source, although not inclusive and lacking in pattern nomenclature, contains some detailed descriptive data that lists brass mounted and iron mounted short Enfields with some called "best" and others "second hand". Costs ranged from 73 shillings for second hand short rifles to 78 shillings for best brass mounted short rifles. The obvious differences in price indicate a variation in pattern and quality. These purchases occurred over a period of nearly nine months beginning 1 May 1861 and continuing until 27 December 1861 when the purchases abruptly ceased followed by an audit of the account that suggests there were some financial irregularities with Grazebrook's business transactions.

The first Grazebrook short rifle invoice to Caleb Huse dated 1 May 1861 was for seven cases numbered 1 through 7, containing 20 rifles and costing 77 shillings each. Anderson's first mention of Grazebrook occurs on 29 July 1861, nearly three months later when he notes in his diary that he, "...secured 17,000 muskets from Graysbrook [sic] and he continues the next day 30 July, engaged all day with Graysbrook..., looking over his warehouse and giving directions about packing the arms we had bought."

The next day, I August, was the first hint of trouble when Grazebrook advised he could not comply with the contract but evidently that problem was quickly resolved. The next day, Anderson, "wrote to S. H. & Co. (Sinclair, Hamilton & Company) that (Caleb) Huse had agreed to receive 550 of Graysbrooks Short Enfield rifles & directed them to send down our "Viewer", prior to their being accepted." Problems again surfaced with Grazebrook in early September according to Anderson's diary and on the 18th Grazebrook says he, "...discharged Hines, our viewer."

On 4 October, Anderson notes receiving an important letter from Grazebrook but did not indicate the contents, and then there is no further mention of Grazebrook. Huse brought 2,295 short rifles from Grazebrook in this period and all invoices were paid by Fraser, Trenholm & Company. Almost all numbered short rifles up to 2295 have 1861 dated TOWER locks and Birmingham proved barrels. Notable exceptions are three marked Parker, Field & Son of London, one marked R. T. Pritchett and one marked Barnett indicating a small number were acquired from the London trade.

The first order for short rifles from Sinclair, Hamilton & Company occurred in June so it is evident that Huse was dealing with Grazebrook and Sinclair, Hamilton & Company concurrently. Huse authorized Sinclair, Hamilton & Company to purchase 1,000 short rifles with sword bayonets for 100 shillings each on 11 June 1861, probably naval rifles based upon cost. There has been no compilation of Sinclair, Hamilton & Company invoices found but General McRae's notes from his investigation contain an undated memo, probably mid-1863 indicating that this company had furnished 6,600 short Enfield rifles. 44

S. Isaac, Campbell & Company was the source of at least 820 short rifles. The earliest invoice dated 21 November 1861 is for 120 short rifles with sabre bayonets at 95 shillings each, probably Pattern 1858 naval rifles based upon the cost. 45 A second invoice dated 1 August 1862 for 700 short rifles with saber bayonets at 75 shillings each, probably standard Pattern 1856 iron mounted short rifles based upon price. 46

The Gorgas Summary of 3 February 1863 states that 9,715 short rifles had been purchased in England prior to that date, probably through the end of 1862. The highest numbered short rifle recorded, a Pattern 1858 naval rifle engraved No. 9986, suggests probably only the first 10,000 short rifles were numbered. All of the Birmingham proved rifles have 1861 dated TOWER marked locks. The early purchases from Grazebrook accounts for approximately 25% of these numbered short rifles. It is believed that the numbering of short rifles ceased in early 1862 because of the labor intensive effort it required, the same for the long rifles. For some reason very few short rifles are found with the supplier's block letter on the comb of the stock. To date, only five

examples have been recorded, all of them "S" indicating Scott & Son as the source.

In addition to the previously numbered rifles there was a separate and distinct navy contract. Commander Bulloch plainly stated in a letter dated 13 August 1861 to S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy, that he had

contracted for 1,000 sea service rifles with cutlass bayonets.⁴⁷ We believe these navy rifles had engraved numbers in a separate series. The existence of German made cutlass bayonets, the highest numbered being 999, gives credence to this theory. No records of additional purchases of short rifles in England by the Confederate

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The earliest William J. Grazebrook invoice to Caleb Huse dated 1 May 1861, paid by Fraser, Trenhom & Company. It reflects the first and Military Museum

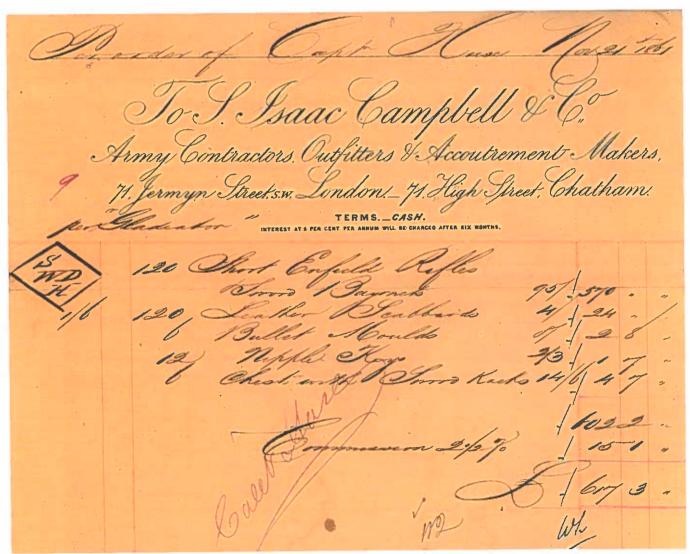
Courtesy of the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room

War Department have been found. However, additional purchases were certainly made by private parties particularly Sinclair, Hamilton & Company, run through the blockade and sold to Confederate or state authorities upon arrival at Bermuda, Cuba or Nassau.

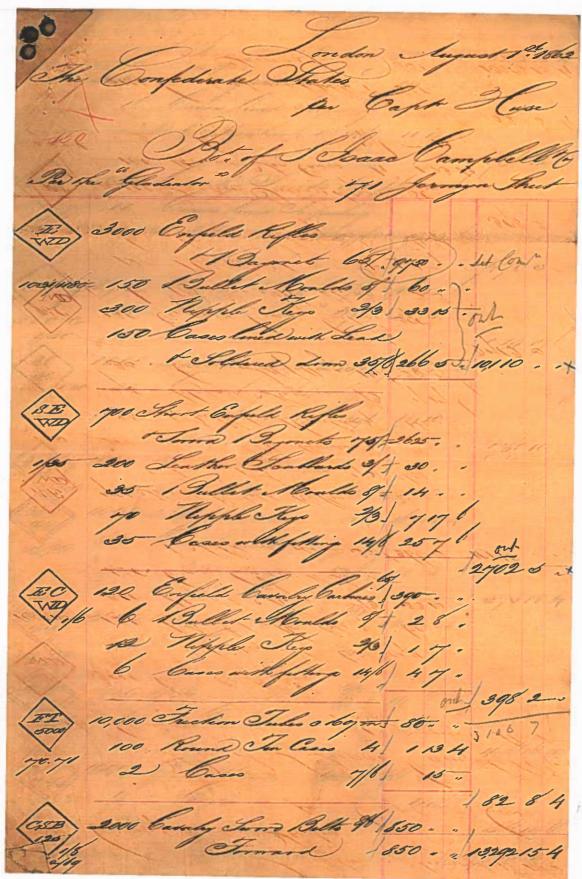
There are seven types of short rifles, differing in minor details with either engraved or stamped numbers that have been noted over the years. Surviving examples include the Pattern 1856 iron mounted short rifle, commercial Pattern 1856 brass mounted short rifle, Pattern 1858 naval short rifle, Pattern 1858 Type II iron and commercial brass mounted rifle, Pattern 1860 iron mounted short rifle and a very few Volunteer rifles with checkered stocks. Based on the engraved or stamped numbers observed some 10,000 were acquired by the central government. In addition, speculators and private parties purchased substantial numbers and examples have been noted with variations of the "SHC" mark on the belly of the stock. General Wade Hampton

of South Carolina purchased at least 200 short Enfield rifles with his own funds for the Hampton Legion and these arms were part of the cargo of *Bermuda*. With few surviving bills of lading and cargo manifests, it is impossible to estimate the numbers that came into the Confederacy as private cargo.

Examination of the two S. Issac, Campbell & Company invoices show that short rifles were packed twenty to the case with sabre bayonets included together with one bullet mould, two nipple keys (gun tools) and in one instance, bayonet scabbards. The cases of the first purchase were marked "S" / "WD" / "H" meaning "Shorts" / "War Department" / "Huse". For reasons unknown the cases of the second purchase were marked "SE" / "WD" within a rhomboid meaning "Short Enfield" / "War Department". Contradictory evidence is found in the cargo of *Modern Greece* owned by Z. C. Pearson & Company and carrying material consigned by Grazebrook, Horace Chavasse and others that ran



The earliest S. Isaac, Campbell & Company invoice to Caleb Huse dated 21 November 1861. It reflects the purchase of 120 short rifles with sword bayonets at 95 shillings each, probably naval rifles and part of the cargo of Gladiator. Courtesy of the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum



The second lot of this S. Isaac, Campbell & Company invoice dated 7 August 1862. It reflects the sale of 700 short rifles at 75 shillings each, probably Pattern 1856 arms and part of the cargo of a subsequent voyage of Gladiator. Courtesy of the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum

aground 27 June 1862. Short rifles recovered from the vessel were packed 24 to a box marked "SM"/"G" within a rhomboid, and none of the rifles or sabre bayonets bear any discernable engraved numbers. The "G" within a rhomboid may indicate consignor Grazebrook. The meaning of "SM" is unknown and possibly indicates the recipient. This evidence suggests that the numbering of individual short rifles purchased by the central government ceased some time prior to June 1862, although it is possible that recovered arms were privately purchased by speculators and not numbered.

With this paucity of documentation the best source of information concerning short rifles is the examination of surviving examples. It is clear from the Grazebrook and S. Isaac, Campbell & Company invoices that these rifles were acquired in small lots regardless of particular pattern, some probably from existing stock and others possibly under contract from a number of Birmingham and London gun makers.

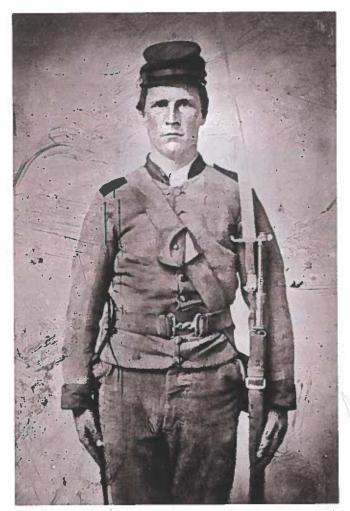
Pattern 1856 Short Rifle

The Pattern 1856 iron mounted rifle is the most frequently encountered. The rifle has a 33-inch barrel rifled with three broad lands and grooves and a backsight graduated to 1,100 yards. A bayonet bar with extended key is mounted on the right side of the barrel and sling swivels are attached to the front band and screwed into the long trigger guard tang about five inches behind the trigger guard itself. The rifle barrel and bands were blued, the lock, butt plate, trigger guard, lock escutcheons and stock tip case colored and the ramrod was finished bright. Because of the hardness of the butt plate, rather than attempt to

engrave numbers on it, numbers were stamped in the belly of the stock about midway between the trigger guard tang and the butt plate and also engraved on the shank of the ramrod.

Numbers should read with the barrel pointing left. The viewer's mark "JS" / anchor is usually found between the trigger guard tang and the stamped number.

Another example of this pattern rifle, No. 287 with the matching ramrod, has a large "TIPPING & LAWDEN BIRMINGHAM" roundel on the obverse butt. The reverse butt of this rifle has been neatly carved with the name and unit of the soldier who carried the weapon "D. E. Goodwyn" / "Co. E, 13th Va. Cavalry" and also the initials "MKH", presumably of another unknown soldier.



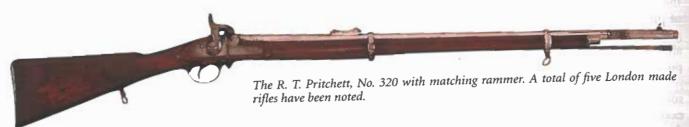
An unknown confederate soldier wearing a full set of English accoutrements and a short rifle with a fixed sword bayonet.



A Pattern 1856 iron mounted short rifle with stamped No. "320". It was probably aquired from Grazebrook and is one of only three "R. T. PRITCHETT" numbered short rifles noted.

A brass mounted commercial variation of this rifle is also found that exhibits minor differences. The bayonet bar on brass mounted rifles is usually the short type without the extended key, and the brass trigger guard tang is the same length normally encountered on

the rifle musket, artillery carbine or cavalry carbine. It is not extended like those on the regulation iron mounted rifle. The rear swivel is screwed directly into the wood of the belly of the stock rather than going through the back of the long tang on iron mounted rifles.





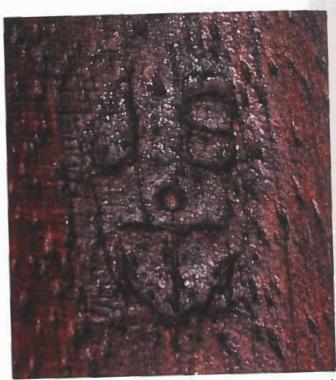
The muzzle of the R. T. Pritchett short rifle with the extended key and matching No. "320" rammer.



No. "320" stamped in the belly of the stock in close proximity to the "JS" / anchor mark.



Tipping & Lawden roundel, the largest such mark seen on short rifle No. "287" with matching rammer.



The "JS" / anchor viewer's mark found on the belly of the stock of No. 320.



Reverse butt of Birmingham rifle No. 287 neatly carved "D. E. Goodwyn" / "Co. E, 13 Va. Cavalry", another rifle furnished by Grazebrook.



A short trigger guard and rear swivel mounted in the belly of the stock of these brass mounted rifles. Note the Type 2 Sinclair, Hamilton & Company marks just behind the trigger guard tang.



The lock of a brass mounted commercial Pattern 1856 short rifle marked "1861" / "TOWER".

Pattern 1858 Bar on Band Rifles

Pattern 1858 bar on band rifles are found in both the regulation iron and commercial brass mounted configuration, the iron mounted variation decidedly rarer. The overall measurements are the same as other short rifles and they have the same backsight. The key identifying features are the distinctive long stock that extends to within about one-inch of the muzzle and the front band with integral bayonet bar. Numbers are stamped in the belly of the stock of iron mounted pieces and engraved on the butt plate tang of brass mounted rifles.

Of the four known rifles of this pattern, it appears that the iron mounted rifles were acquired earlier, the lowest number observed being 238 and the highest 1761. The lowest numbered brass mounted rifle is 1299 and the highest 4019.

Numbered brass mounted commercial variations are seen more frequently although only eight examples have been located. Besides the brass mounts, instead of iron, the placement of the rear sling swivel is on the front of the trigger guard like the Pattern 1858 naval



The short bayonet bar found on most brass mounted Pattern 1856 short rifles.



Private Gustan Hartwell Kearney, Co. A, University Grays, 11th Mississippi Infantry with a Pattern 1858 bar on band short rifle with a fixed sword bayonet. He also appears to have an English revolver in a holster.

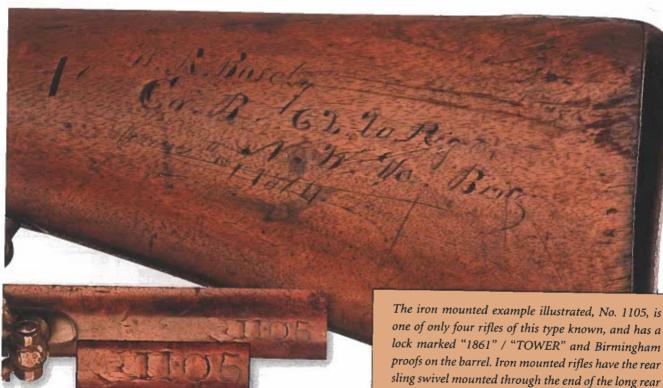




This iron mounted Pattern 1858 bar on band short rifle was probably supplied by W. J. Grazebrook.



The distinctive bar, band, and iron nose cap of short rifle No. 1105.



The stamped No. "1105" in the belly of the stock.

one of only four rifles of this type known, and has a lock marked "1861" / "TOWER" and Birmingham proofs on the barrel. Iron mounted rifles have the rear sling swivel mounted through the end of the long rear trigger guard tang. This particular rifle was carved by the soldier/owner with his name, unit and dated, "W. R. Basely" / "Co. B 62nd Va. Regt." / "N. W. Va. Brig." / "June 21, 1864."

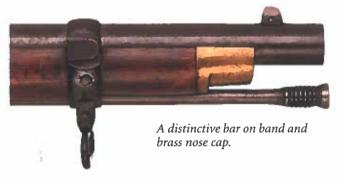
rifle. The sword bayonet with the matching number is a German contract piece bearing the initials "PDL" within an oval on the reverse ricasso, the mark of Peter D. Luneschloss of Solingen.

One very important example of this rifle is in the collections of the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum in Columbia, South Carolina. This particular rifle, engraved No. "2370", was carried by Sergeant Richard Rowland Kirkland, Company E and later Company G, 2nd South Carolina Infantry, known as the "Angel of Marye's Heights" for his efforts to bring water and relief to wounded Federal

soldiers in front of the stone wall during the battle of Fredericksburg in December of 1862. A wonderful bronze statue sculpted by Felix de Weldon depicting Kirkland's compassionate effort was erected on the battlefield in 1965 in front of the stone wall where the actual incident occurred. By some quirk of fate the same pattern rifles with engraved numbers "2321", "2330", "2333" and "2363" survive. All five of these rifles are within a fifty number range that suggests the probability that one or two companies of the 2nd South Carolina Infantry were issued this distinctive pattern short rifle.



The lock of a commercial brass mounted bar on band short rifle with an "1861" / "TOWER" lock. Note the swivel location on the trigger guard.





The vertical view of the backsight graduated to 1,100 yards on rifle No. 2321.



The maker's name, "TIPPING & LAWDEN", stamped in the belly of the stock with in-house viewer's mark, "TL" / "29".



Engraved No. "2321" on the butt plate tang of this Tipping & Lawden short rifle.



A German made Pattern 1856 sabre bayonet with the matching No. "2321" for this rifle.

Pattern 1858 Naval Rifle

The Pattern 1858 naval rifle has the same overall measurements but the 33-inch barrel is noticeably heavier and rifled with five lands and grooves and the stock is more robust, particularly at the wrist. The backsight is identical and the bayonet bar is without an extended key. The back sling swivel is mounted on the front of the brass trigger guard in the manner of the Pattern 1853 rifle musket and the front swivel is attached to the front band. The barrel and barrel bands are blued, the lock is case colored. The butt plate, trigger guard, lock escutcheons and stock tip are brass and the ramrod finished bright. Engraved numbers are found on the butt plate tang and shank of the ramrod. The "JS" / anchor viewer's mark is found in the belly of the stock behind the trigger guard tang.

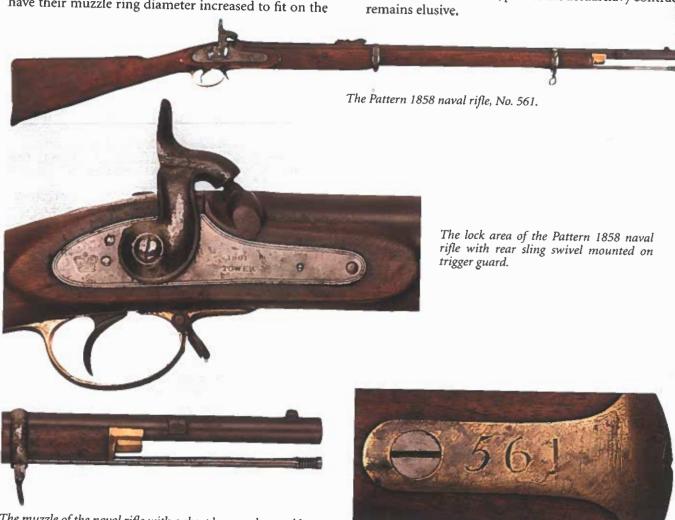
Huse bought Pattern 1858 naval rifles from Sinclair, Hamilton & Company for the Ordnance Bureau. On 11 June 1861 he authorized the purchase of 200 new navy pattern sea service rifles but fitted with the same bayonet as the short rifles at 92 or 93 shillings each. This requirement meant that the sword bayonets would have their muzzle ring diameter increased to fit on the

heavy barrel of the naval rifle. Huse wrote to Sinclair, Hamilton & Company again on 27 June 1861 and authorized them to contract for an additional 500 new pattern sea service rifles in Birmingham with sword bayonets like the short rifles at 60 shillings each to be delivered in eight weeks, around 1 September. To date, none of these sword bayonets have been recognized.

It is known from Commander Bulloch's previously cited statement that 1,000 of these sea service rifles were contracted by him through an unnamed agent for the Confederate Navy in late July or early August 1861. Bulloch states that:

1,000 Short rifles, with cutlass bayonets, and one thousand rounds of ammunition per rifle were shipped aboard Fingal that arrived 14 November 1861.⁵⁴

None of the naval rifles of the above navy contract have been positively identified. The examination of the 19 known naval rifles of this pattern is inconclusive. It appears these rifles were random purchases by the army along with other short rifles. Identification of a Pattern 1858 naval rifle, part of the actual navy contract, remains elusive.



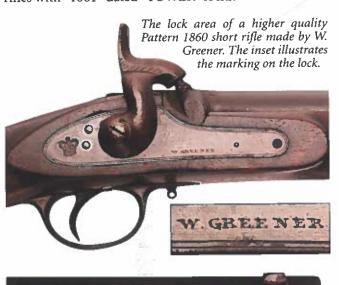
The muzzle of the naval rifle with a short bayonet bar and brass nose cap.

Engraved No. 561 on the brass butt plate tang of this naval rifle.

Pattern 1860 and 1861 Rifles

A very small number of Pattern 1860 and Pattern 1861 rifles were imported. The Pattern 1860 rifle was the army version of the Pattern 1858 naval rifle. The official designation was "Rifle, Short, Pattern No. 3 or Pattern 1860." These rifles are iron mounted, have the heavy barrels rifled with five lands and grooves, a backsight graduated to 1,100 yards and a short bayonet bar without extended key and are very rare as they were only in production for a period of nine months.55 Four of these rifles with numbers stamped in the belly of the stock and "JS" / anchor viewer's mark are known, 303, 449, 2523 and 4634. The lock of No. 303 is marked "R.T. PRITCHETT" and the other three are marked "TOWER" and dated "1861". There are also three Pattern 1860 rifles engraved "W. GREENER" on the lock and bearing the mark of Sinclair, Hamilton & Company double struck in the belly of the stock.

The Pattern 1861 rifle or Pattern No. 4 quickly superseded the Pattern 1860 arm. The only major differences were the backsight graduated to 1,250 yards and the use of Baddeley pattern barrel bands. Two commercial brass mounted examples of this pattern are known, 2781 and 3774, and both are Birmingham proved rifles with "1861" dated "TOWER" locks.



The heavier barrel with five-groove rifling and short bayonet bar found on Pattern 1860 Greener rifles.



The double struck Type 2 Sinclair, Hamilton & Company marks found on this Greener rifle and two other identical examples.

Checkered Stock Volunteer Rifles

A very few higher grade volunteer rifles, usually iron mounted Pattern 1856 type rifles, survive. These rifles usually have a stock made of better grade walnut with checkering, a higher grade of finish and infrequently have additional special features. One unusual example, a Birmingham proved rifle stamped No. "34" in the belly of the stock, has a plain undated lock with only a crown over "V.R" engraved behind the hammer. This particular rifle is checkered on the wrist only and not the forearm. The belly of the stock exhibits a viewer's mark "U" at the tip of the checkering on the belly of the stock, then the "IS" / anchor mark and the number "34".

A second example, not illustrated, stamped No. "2253" with matching engraved ramrod, has a lock engraved "1861" / "TOWER" in front of the hammer with the crown behind the hammer and Birmingham proofs on the barrel. The "JS" / anchor viewer's mark is just above the deeply stamped numbers on the belly of the stock.

Another example, also an iron mounted rifle with Birmingham proofs, stamped No. "2846" with matching engraved ramrod, features a patent breech and Siddon's patent frictionless lock. The lock is engraved "TOWER" / "1861" in front of the hammer and crown behind the hammer. The "JS" / anchor viewer's mark is struck just below the end of the "V" checkering above an oval silver plate with the number stamped below the plate. This is the only numbered rifle observed thus far with a patent breech and patent lock. This rifle illustrates the variety of arms purchased by Confederate agents.



A unknown Confederate soldier with a dark slouch hat and shell jacket with epaulets holding a short rifle with checkered stock.