

The Maynard Rifle and Carbine in the Confederate Service

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Breech loading carbines. — Nearly all the carbines in our service are breech loading. All may be divided into two classes, those which have movable chambers and those which have fixed chambers. The following kinds are in our service:

Maynard's carbine has a fixed chamber. There are two calibres in our service. Large size, calibre .52 inch. Small size, calibre .36 inch. Maynard's primer, attached to this carbine contains 60 primers in a row, on a tape or ribbon of paper. A primer is moved under the hammer by the act of cocking. The charge is enclosed in a cylinder of sheet brass.¹

So the *Confederate Field Manual for the Use of the Officers on Ordnance Duty* described the two variants of the first model Maynard carbine in use by the Confederate cavalry. Other documents contemporaneous to the War yield further confirmation that the first model Maynard saw Confederate service in two calibers. Weekly reports of ordnance and ammunition on hand in the Confederate Army of Tennessee, dated 19 and 24 June 1864 indicate that Wheeler's Cavalry Corps of that army had on hand respectively 20 and 7 of the .51 caliber arms and 6 and 6 of the .37 caliber weapons.² On August 13th of the same year, the Selma Arsenal could report that it had in stock 7100 rounds of the .52 caliber cartridges and 6000 rounds of .37 caliber cartridges for Maynard arms.³

Most collectors of American martial longarms have assumed that the Maynard longarms described in these documents reflect arms either captured in federal arsenals at the beginning of hostilities or from Union forces early in the War. Pioneer researchers of Confederate weaponry, Claud E. Fuller and Richard D. Stuart, strongly hinted that breechloaders were among the 735 "Carbines of various patents" captured at Baton Rouge when that federal arsenal was seized in 1861.⁴ While this may have explained some of the .51 caliber first model Maynard carbines in the Confederate service, it could not account for the smaller .36 caliber arm.

The federal government had indeed purchased a number of Maynard carbines prior to the War. On 28 December 1857 the U.S. Ordnance Department placed an order with the Maynard Arms Company for 400 "Maynard breech loading Rifles" at \$30.00 each. The first 200 Maynard's carbines" under this order were delivered on March 1859. The balance of the carbine order, together

though not presented orally at Natchez, this discussion of Maynard arms the Confederacy was prepared for this Bulletin. Editor.



with 40,000 cartridges (each of which was to have a charge of "40 grains Musket powder") that had been ordered 9 September 1858, arrived on 6 April 1859.⁵ During the fiscal year, 1 July 1858 to 30 June 1859, 143 of these Maynard carbines were issued to the Regular Army. In the following fiscal year another 100 were similarly issued for field trials.⁶ None were issued to the states under the Militia Act of 1808, so the balance of 157 remained in store, although five of these were extracted for trials conducted in 1860 at the Washington Arsenal.⁷

The five arms tested at the Washington Arsenal by the small arms board convened under Special Orders No. 23 of 1 February 1860 were all .50 caliber.⁸ The conclusions of the board were quite favorable respecting the Maynard. Although the board thought improvements might be effected in the cartridge in order to ease extraction, it was sufficiently impressed by the comparative simplicity of the Maynard system vis-a-vis that of the Sharps and Burnside to recommend:

... The arm is very compact and appears to afford requisite strength to enable it to withstand the rough use of the service; and from the great facility of handling and loading it, and the rapidity and accuracy of firing at all ranges, the board entertains the opinion that this arm would be very serviceable for cavalry, or light Infantry acting in connection with other troops armed with the musket and bayonet, and therefore recommends it to be adopted, to a limited extent, for a further test, in active service on a campaign.⁹

Nought would come of that recommendation. No other Maynard patent arms would be purchased by the U.S. War Department until the delivery of the first 1040 second model Maynard carbines on 22 June 1864 under

the Massachusetts Arms Company's contract of 8 June 1863 for 20,000 carbines.¹⁰ Similarly, there is no published evidence to indicate the purchase of first model Maynard rifles or carbines by any of the Northern states prior to the deliveries of the 8 June 1863 federal contract.

In spite of the absence of any further deliveries of Maynard arms until 1864, records survive of distribution of first model carbines to Union units serving in Missouri in 1863.¹¹ This evidence suggests that the St. Louis Arsenal, rather than the Baton Rouge Arsenal, may have been the repository of the first model Maynard carbines delivered in 1859. If that was the case, how may the Maynards in Confederate service be explained? In fact the explanation is fairly well documented in obscure sources. The Maynard rifle and carbine came into Confederate service as a result of three substantial purchases by agents acting on behalf of the states of Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida, all in the critical period of late 1860 and early 1861. These three purchases account for more than half of the ~~estimated~~ 5000 first Model Maynard arms manufactured between 1859 and 1863.

Some time in 1861 *The Intelligencer* of Oxford, Mississippi published the following account of a "Great 'Pop-Gun' Practice":

Toby is a high private in the first regiment of the Mississippi Army. His company is armed with the breech-loading Maynard rifle, warranted to shoot twelve times a minute and to carry a ball effectively 1600 yards. Men who fought at Buena Vista and Monterey call the new-fangled thing a pop gun. To test its efficacy, Toby's captain told the men they must try their guns. In obedience to the command, Toby procured the necessary munitions of war, and started with his pop gun for the woods. Saw a squirrel up a high tree, took aim, fired. Effects of shot immediate and wonderful. Tree effectually topped, and nothing to be found of the squirrel except two broken hairs. Pop gun rose in value — equal to a four-pounder. But Toby wouldn't shoot towards any more trees, afraid of being arrested for cutting down other people's timber. Walked a mile and a quarter to get sight of a hill. By aid of a small telescope, saw hill in distance; saw a large rock on hill; put in a big load; shut both eyes, fired. As soon as breath returned, opened eyes, could see, just could, but couldn't hear; at least couldn't distinguish any sounds; though Niagara had broken loose or all out doors gone to drum beating. Determined to see if shot hit.

Borrowed horse and started towards hill. After traveling two days and nights, reached place; saw sun setting through the hill. Knew right away that was where the shot hit. Went closer — stumbled over rocky fragments for half a mile in line of bullet. Came to hole — knew the bullet hit there, because saw lead on the edges — walked in, walked through; saw teamster on the other side, indulging in profane language, in fact cussin' considerable, because lightning had killed his team. Looked as finger directed, saw six dead oxen in line with the hole in the mountain; knew that was the bullet's work but didn't say so to angry teamster. Thought best to be leaving; in consequence, didn't explore path of bullet any further; therefore don't

know whether it stopped at all, in fact, rather think it didn't. Mounted horse, rode back through the hole made by the bullet; but never told captain a word about it; to tell the truth was a little afraid he'd think it was a hoax.

"It is a right bit story, boys," said Toby in conclusion, "but it's true, sure as shooting. Nothing to do with Maynard rifle but load her up, turn her north, and pull the trigger; if twenty of them don't clear out all Yankeedom, then I'm a liar, that's all."¹²

Mississippi's infatuation with this somewhat hyperbolic product of "Yankeedom" had begun only months earlier. A mere week after the state of Mississippi had severed her ties with the federal Union, Mississippi's two senators in Washington, Jefferson Davis and J. Thompson entered into two agreements with the Maynard Arms Company that committed Mississippi to the purchase of \$27,998.50 of Maynard patent arms and appendages. The first agreement netted the state 325 "Rifles . . . 20 in. barrel" (actually carbines) at \$30.00 each and 175 "Rifles . . . 26 in. barrel" at \$31.50 each. One thousand loaded cartridges accompanied these 500 arms, all of which were listed as "5-10 inch calibre". In addition to the .50 caliber arms, a second agreement resulted in the ordering of 300 carbines (with 20 inch barrels) in .35 caliber, also each with one thousand rounds of ammunition per gun.¹³ These guns were evidently already completed or in an advanced stage of manufacture, for on 30 January 1861 the first shipment of eleven crates had arrived at Jackson. Deliveries continued until at least 749 of the 800 ordered had arrived. Between 15 March and 30 June 1861, 725 of these arms had been issued to Mississippi volunteers, inclusive of 200 loaned to the Confederacy for her forces at Pensacola.¹⁴ 23 of the Maynard arms on hand 30 June 1861 were issued between 1 July 1861 and 30 September 1861, and 136 of the 200 that had been loaned to the Confederacy and subsequently returned were issued on 14 November 1861. Since most of the Maynards were in carbine length, most were issued to independent companies of Mississippi Cavalry. A few, evidently the rifles not sent to Pensacola, were issued to three infantry companies — Samuel Benton's "Jeff Davis Rifles" (later Company D, 9th Mississippi Infantry) receiving 24 and John P. McGowan's "Quintman Invincibles" (later Company D, 14th Mississippi Infantry) receiving 3, and W.S. Statham's "Grenada Rifles" (later Company G, 15th Mississippi Infantry) receiving 4.¹⁵ All of the units receiving Maynards served in the "western theater," i.e. the campaigns between the Mississippi River and the Appalachian Mountains. None of the units, however, were part of Wheeler's Cavalry Corps of the Army of Tennessee. The Maynard arms reported in that command in 1864 most likely belonged to Georgia units.

Georgia's purchase of Maynard patent breechloaders stemmed from a resolve introduced into the Senate of that

state of 1 December 1860. In its final form as presented 5 December, it read:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly met. That the Governor be required to purchase, of the manufacturers, two hundred and fifty Maynard rifles, twenty-six inch barrels, and seven hundred and fifty Maynard carbines, twenty inch barrels, with the necessary implements to said guns, for the defense of the coast of Georgia, out of the one million dollars appropriated for the defense of the state.¹⁷

Governor Joseph E. Brown acted quickly under the terms of this resolve, though modifying the quantities slightly. On 18 December 1860, he could report that "We have now sixteen hundred Sharps Patent Rifled Carbines, and have just closed a contract for three hundred Maynard Rifles & seven hundred Maynard Carbines."¹⁸ As with Mississippi, deliveries by the Maynard Arms Company and its manufacturer, the Massachusetts Arms Company, were prompt. On 26 February 1861, the Adjutant-General of Georgia noted that "620 Maynard breechloading rifles (without slings)" had been received to date.¹⁹ Presumably these were carbines although evidence does suggest that rifles were received as well.

The Confederate iron-clad *Atlanta* was captured by the Union Navy on 17 June 1863 in Wassaw Sound, off the coast of Georgia. Among the captured items listed in detail by her captors were "30 Maynard rifles, breech loading," "26 wipers for Maynard rifles," and "1 box bullets for Maynard rifles, 200"²⁰ Since the *Atlanta* had been outfitted in Savannah, it is not impossible that her small arms stores could have been purchased from Georgia or have been in the Savannah Depot as a result of the muster-out of twelve months' Georgia volunteers.

While the caliber of the arms purchased by Georgia is not specified in documents encountered to date, it seems likely that it included a mixture of .50 (.51) caliber arms with .36 (.37) caliber arms, similar to the Mississippi purchase. Of the three states purchasing Maynard arms in 1860-1861, the only state having units in the Cavalry Corps of the Army of Tennessee in June of 1864 was Georgia, whose 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th Cavalry regiments formed a brigade in Martin's Division of Wheeler's Corps. The 5th Georgia Cavalry also served in the same corps, but in a different brigade and division.²¹ Since the returns for the Cavalry Corps of 19 and 24 June 1864 list a small quantity of Maynards in each of the two calibers, it would seem that the carbines secured by Georgia were in those two calibers. In view of the small number actually listed in these two reports, it seems likely that the numbers represent one of the independent cavalry companies armed by Georgia for coastal defense in 1861 and subsequently amalgamated into the 5th Georgia Cavalry.²²

As early as 28 June 1861, Governor Joseph E. Brown of Georgia had suggested to the Confederate Secretary of War L.P. Walker, that

the public interest would be promoted by taking three or four companies of cavalry armed with Sharps or Maynard carbines into the regiment to be raised to take Colonel Semmes' (2nd Georgia Infantry) place. The cavalry would be used for rapid skirmish and as sharpshooters along the coast.²³

Although Brown's suggestion was not acted upon, a number of companies of independent cavalry did serve along the Georgia coast, particularly near Savannah, and it is thought that these companies were armed by the state, in accordance with Brown's proposal.

The state of Georgia also armed the six companies of cavalry that formed the Cavalry Battalion of Phillips' Georgia Legion.²⁴ Unfortunately, however, the published records are devoid of any indication whether that command was armed with Maynard arms or the balance of 1,100 Sharps carbines under state control from the state's 1860 purchase.²⁵ Initially sent to Virginia after being accepted into Confederate service, Phillips' Legion was recalled to the Department of South Carolina and Georgia in late 1861, where it served through most of 1862.²⁶ Since the Savannah Ordnance Depot was the main source of ordnance supplies for the coastal defenses, it is noteworthy that specimens of paper refill cartridges exist for the .37 caliber Maynard rifle or carbine identified to the Savannah Depot.²⁷ While this attribution highly suggests that these cartridges may have been made for the Georgia volunteers so armed, the possibility also exists that they were made at Savannah for the Florida forces armed with Maynards, likewise under the jurisdiction of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The few available records relating to the forces in Florida armed with Maynard arms indicate a decided paucity of ammunition for those weapons.

While the documents confirming Mississippi's and Georgia's purchases of first model Maynard longarms survive in published form, the published documentation relating to Florida's purchase provide only a peripheral overview of that state's purchase. Hopefully, archival documentation as yet uncovered survives in Tallahassee to yield further information as to the exact quantities and types purchased by Florida officials during the period between the secession of the state and the outbreak of hostilities at Fort Sumter. While the exact figures are not available, secondary documents contemporaneous to the War strongly suggest that Florida received between 700 and 1000 Maynard rifles.

In January, 1861, the *New York Herald* reported that their sources estimated that Florida's recent acquisition of arms had included 1000 Maynard breechloading rifles.²⁸ Although the press seldom accurately reported figures relating to arms procurement during the period, this particular report may not have been as exaggerated as the norm. On 22 March 1861, Governor M.S. Perry indi-

GEORGIA SECEDED JAN 19, 1861

FLORIDA SECEDED JANUARY 10, 1861

ated to the Confederate Secretary of War that he was about to send the 1st Florida Infantry to Pensacola for Confederate service. On the next day, the Secretary of War acknowledged Governor Perry's action and requested that, if possible, the state be responsible for the arming of the unit. Governor Perry immediately responded: "I can arm the regiment with U.S. muskets, percussion lock, or with *Maynard rifles*, 150 Mississippi rifles, inclusive. Which do you prefer?" On the next day the War Department informed the governor that the muskets were preferable.²⁹ Although the Maynards stayed home, the brief exchange provides an insight into the actual quantity available in March. An infantry regiment departing for the front at full strength usually contained between 850 and 1000 enlisted men. Deducting the 150 M1841 rifles offered along with the Maynards, somewhere between 700 and 850 rifles must have been in the hands of state authorities. The fact that they were offered as an arm for an infantry regiment infers that they were the 26 inch barrel rifles, rather than the 20 inch barrel carbines. Further evidence supports this thesis.

On 20 April 1863, Thomas Jordan, Chief of Staff of the Confederate Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, requested Brigadier General Joseph Finegan, commanding the District of East Florida in the department, to remedy some of the evils that infected Finegan's cavalry:

It is the wish of the commanding general that the cavalry troops in your district should be as effectively organized, armed, drilled, and disciplined as may be practicable under the existing conditions of the service, to which end he expects commanding officers of cavalry to pay particular attention to the drill of their men, dismounted as well as when mounted. There should be uniformity as far as possible in the fire-arms in any one company, to secure which you will please made exchanges when necessary between the companies.

An inspector-general reports that some of your infantry are armed with *Maynard rifles*. This would be a more suitable weapon for your cavalry in lieu of the Enfield rifles, which in turn would be far better for the infantry.³⁰ (italics added - HMM)

As of 8 May, Finegan's district was composed of three independent companies of infantry, one company (E. West's) of the 1st Florida Special Battalion, and six nominally independent companies of infantry that would be formed into the 6th Florida Battalion. His mounted force consisted of four companies (Wescott's, Mays', Bird's, and J.Q. Stewart's) of Brevard's 1st Florida Partizan Rangers and five companies of the 2nd Florida Cavalry.³¹ The latter unit had been formed into a regiment on 4 December 1862 from independent cavalry companies formed earlier in the War. Like the infantry commands in Finegan's district, some of its companies carried Maynard rifles.

In issuing the Maynard rifles that it had purchased,

the policy of the state appears to have given precedence to those independent companies raised for limited service within the state. Not only the infantry companies received the rifles, but the independent cavalry companies as well. On 23 April 1862, Governor John Milton of Florida reported to the Confederate Secretary of War that one of the recently enlisted "War" companies of his state was the "Marion Dragoons" of Captain William A. Owens. Describing its armament, Governor Milton noted that "Captain Owens' is a cavalry company; had been previously armed by the State with Maynard rifles, sabers, and Colt revolvers."³² The "Marion Dragoons" was subsequently increased to squadron strength, under the command of Captain W.E. Chambers: on 6 December 1862 this squadron became Companies C and F of the 2nd Florida Cavalry, respectively commanded by Captains Chambers and S.F. Rou. Oddly, in the actions at St. John's Bluff on 2 October 1862, Captain Chambers indicated that his ammunition had been damaged by the incessant rain that fell that day, an odd occurrence for the brass encased Maynard cartridge.³³ PROBABLY CONFEDERATE PAPER CARTRIDGE

Another independent command receiving Maynard rifles from the state of Florida was Captain R.S. Smith's "Marianna Dragoons." On 7 April 1862 this command attacked the steamer *Florida* lying off the town of St. Andrew's Florida. Approaching the enemy dismounted, the Dragoons closed to within 200 yards of the enemy landing party before they were observed and opened fire. According to Captain Smith,

... They were out of shot-gun reach, but a portion of my command, who were armed with Maynard rifles, killed or disabled four or five of the seven. Having only five cartridges to the rifle, our ammunition was soon exhausted. Had I had sufficient cartridges I am sure that I could have taken the sloop, and probably have retaken the steamer, or at least burned her.³⁴

On 24 March 1863, detachments from Captain G.W. Scott's "Tallahassee Guards" (Co. D, 2nd Florida Cav) and Captain W.H. Milton's "Harris Troop" (Co. G, 2nd Florida Cav.) had better luck, driving Union sailors away from a prize schooner recently captured. Again dismounted, Smith's two detachments advanced "at a double-quick through the open woods to the beach and opened on the enemy with Maynard rifles at a distance of about 300 yards."³⁵ After an hour and a quarter, the sailors abandoned their burning prey. Subsequent inspection reports of these two companies show that the action seriously depleted their ammunition supply.

On 10 February 1864 Colonel A.J. Gonzales, chief of artillery of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, submitted his inspection report of the forces in Florida. Four of the companies of the 2nd Florida Cavalry were armed with Maynard rifles, but ammunition was sparse. Of Captain Smith's old command, Gonzales



reported:

Company D, Captain Maxwell, 78 men for duty, with seventy-eight Maynard rifles, sabers, and holster pistols, old pattern; the supply of ammunition for rifles small. I directed the captain to make requisition at once on Lieutenant Carlisle for ammunition. . . . The arms of this company in perfect order: . . .

The same was true of Captain Milton's former command:

On the 14th were inspected the company of Captain Simmons, Company G, Second Florida Cavalry, armed with Maynard rifles and sabers: 71 men present: arms in good order, well taken care of, but have only 5 rounds of ammunition. None of the companies armed with Maynard rifles are able to procure a supply of ammunition owing to its peculiar character, requiring brass cylinders, which the ordnance officers state they cannot procure.

The same was true for the "Beauregard Rangers" of Captain H.T. Blocker, Company E, 2nd Florida Cavalry:

. . . The company of Captain Blocker, stationed at Punch Bowl, on Ocklockonee Bay, 12 miles from Camp Randolph, armed with Maynard rifles and sabers: only 4 or 5 rounds of ammunition, the difficulty of procuring it being the reason for not being properly provided.

The quantity of arms, regrettably was not stated, though it was probably in the neighborhood of 70 Maynards if all the company was so armed. Company I, the "Aucilla Troop" formerly of Captain J.N. Horn, was not so fortunate. In addition to 40 Maynard rifles, its arms included 6 Mississippi and 5 Enfield rifles, 30 miscellaneous carbines, 7 Hall carbines, and 5 double barrel shotguns, as well as sabers.³⁶

Archaeological evidence indicates that the soldiers issued Maynard arms in Florida were quite lackadaisical with the hard to secure ammunition. A relic hunter who worked the Alum Bluff area along the Apalachicola River where the District of Florida established its headquarters for nine months in 1863 reports finding five Maynard bullets and portions of fourteen cartridges in the area, all unfired, and one whittled upon.³⁷ These finds are significant; all bullets or cartridges were of the .36/.37 caliber. No .50 caliber cartridges were uncovered. This limited evidence suggests that the Maynard rifles purchased by Florida were the .36 caliber type, though more archeological evidence is needed to support that proposition.

While the majority of Maynard arms that entered the service of the Confederacy came into the hands of its soldiers as a result of purchases by Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida, not all came by way of those acquisitions. As early as 22 November 1859 George Gregor & Co. of New Orleans advertised in the *Galveston News* that he had Maynard rifles for sale.³⁸ A carbine, lightly inscribed on the left side of its stock "PRIVATE PROPERTY/OF/11th REG^T . . . LA . . . VOLS", believed to have belonged to an officer of that infantry regiment prior to its disbanding on 25 August 1862, was probably purchased from the same George Gregor & Co. Its serial number (897) would

indicate production in late 1859 or early 1860. At some time during its career, this carbine was rebarrelled, the barrel serial number (1762) being 800 numbers higher than the frame. Whether this was effected prior to its military service or during the War is unclear, though the low barrel number more likely indicates a pre-War replacement.

Is there a means by which the open market and civilian purchases of Maynard rifles and carbines may be distinguished from the 2000 to 2600 purchased by the states of Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida? An examination of forty surviving rifles and carbines (encompassing sixty serial numbers) has yielded partial, but not definitive answers to this question. It has also yielded a number of distinctive sub-characteristics of the first model Maynard line not previously published. These distinctions include variations of patent markings, of rear sights, and of sling swivel arrangements. All three distinctions, when considered in relation to the serial range, yield clues to the identification of the state-purchased Maynards in Confederate service.

All first model Maynard rifles and carbines are struck on the frame with the name of the manufacturer and the main sales agent. The left side bears the stamping "MANUFACTURED BY/MASS. ARMS CO./CHICOPEE FALLS" in three lines while the right side bears the two line agency mark: "MAYNARD ARMS CO./WASHINGTON". The only other exterior marking on first model Maynards appeared upon the lid of the cavity in the buttstock intended for extra rolls of Maynard primers. The lid of this box was marked with a four line patent credit, "MAYNARD PATENTEE/SEP 22 1845/MAY 27 1851/JUNE 17 1856", until at least serial number 2916 and occasionally during a transitional range between that number and 3407. As early as serial no. 2920 and consistently after at least 3662, the "SEP 22 1845" date from this stamping is deleted. The deleted date referred to Maynard's patented priming mechanism and primers. No particular significance has been attached to the deletion of this patent date. More significant to dating the early production of the Maynard is the absence or presence of an orange label at the bottom of the tape cavity. On the ten Maynard longarms observed between serial no. 53 and 1673, the base of the cavity for spare primers is stamped with the initials "W.P.M^c F.", once, twice, or sometimes thrice. Often mistaken for a federal inspection mark, this is actually the factory acceptance mark of William P. McFarland of the Massachusetts Arms Company. Beginning with at least serial no. 1932 these initials are obscured by an orange paper label pasted to the bottom of the cavity. This label bears an eight line patent credit, beginning "MAYNARD,/Patentee," and concluding with the date of "Dec'r 6, 1859". The last date

covers Maynard's patented method of attaching the barrel of his longarms to the frame by means of a "C" hook. Although all early serial numbered arms are secured by this patented attachment, the absence of the label in the earlier production infers that the 1600 to 1900 produced without the label were manufactured prior to the label's last date. Not only does this exclude arms under this range from the probable Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida purchases, but it also provides an insight into the number of arms produced during the first year of production and thereby the average annual production in succeeding years. Based on serial numbers, production for 1860 and 1861 was probably in the 1700 to 2000 range, more likely the former. Also, within this first year of production will only be found one of the four sighting variations to be found on the first model Maynard.

First model Maynard longarms were produced in four variations of sights. The most commonly encountered utilized the tang mounted adjustable peep sight that had been patented in England on 22 March 1859³⁹ in conjunction with one of three optional barrel rear sights. As one option, no barrel rear sight was employed. This combination of sights (or more precisely the lack of one) has been encountered throughout production, and is thought to represent a sighting arrangement for sporting arms. The second and third combinations of rear sights utilized the folding tang sight in conjunction with a simple open block dovetailed into the barrel, 3" from the breech or a similar block with single folding leaf, located in the same location. Both type barrel mounted rear sights are found throughout production; however, the type with the folding leaf is usually found in conjunction with frames not having the sling swivel. Accordingly, carbines with this sight have been considered to be sporting rather than martial. This is not to say that sporting type carbines were not accepted by the agents of the three Southern states during the crisis of 1861.

The final sight variation has been found only on the 400 carbines received by the U.S. Ordnance Department in March and April of 1859. Only two of these rare federal contract Maynards have been encountered in the survey conducted for this study. Both consisted of mixed numbered arms, i.e. 53/367 and 355/1598. As three of these serial numbers were all under 400, it would indicate that the first arms produced by the Massachusetts Arms Company for Maynard were those under the federal contract. That with the 1598 serial number is clearly a contemporary replacement, as both the frame and the barrel are surcharged with the larger figures "33" to indicate a remating. Both arms have federal inspection marks in addition to the standard frame and lid markings, the letters "J.T." being struck in the left side of the barrels by U.S. inspector John Taylor. The outline of a

cartouche was visible on the right side of the stock near the frame on one of the two arms examined. Most significantly, however, the only rear sight on either carbine consisted of a single dovetailed block, 3" forward of the breech; no tang sight was ever affixed, as evidenced by an examination of the inner surface of the upper tang and the stock mortising below it. Both carbines originally had swivel rings attached to the lower tang of the frame by means of a "U" shaped bar riveted through the tang. The shape of this bar is the third feature distinguishing the variations within the first model series. It also distinguishes one of the definite Confederate arms carried.

Though it will occasionally be found on rifles as well, the distinguishing feature of the martial carbine produced for the Maynard Arms Company, both for the U.S. Ordnance Department and for militia sales is a swivel ring attached to the lower tang of the frame. On most arms (in fact all the so-called martial carbines encountered), this ring is attached by means of the "U" shaped bar riveted through the tang. Nevertheless, photographs contemporaneous to the War clearly indicate that the carbines carried by one of the Mississippi companies issued Maynards were modified to take a different attachment bar.

On 16 March 1861, Captain F.A. Montgomery's troop of cavalry was issued 60 Maynard carbines and 1200 cartridges by the state of Mississippi. On 3 June 1861 an additional 40 Maynard carbines and 3000 cartridges were issued to the same unit to fill the needs of its recruits for weaponry.⁴⁰ Captain Montgomery's cavalry troop eventually became Company H, 1st Mississippi Cavalry, but in its non-affiliated earlier history went under the nickname "Bolivar Troop".

Fortunately for history, three members of that company, each attired in its distinctive uniform with the initials "B T" on the front of their hats, posed for a photographer in 1861 carrying their Maynard carbines. In two of the photographs the carbines are displayed in a manner to show an elongated bar attached at right angles to the lower tang in lieu of the usual "U" shaped bar. Whether this is a factory variant or a modification effected by Mississippi upon carbines delivered without swivel provisions is not clear. However, in view of rapid delivery of arms to Mississippi after the signing of her contracts, it seems unlikely that time would have permitted the factory modification of either existing stock or new production. More than likely the modification was effected in Mississippi, perhaps only for the "Bolivar Troop".

At least one other pair of Maynard carbines underwent Confederate modification during the War. .36 caliber carbine serial no. 2573 (mounted on frame 3295) some time in its service blew its cone. Sent to a depot for repairs, the carbine was eventually transferred to the

establishment of Cook & Brother at Athens, Georgia for refitting with a standard musket cone. Having done this repair, the workman at Cook & Brother stamped into the barrel the "ATHENS GA" marking and the Confederate "Stars & Bars" flag always found on the products of that armory's lockplates. In so doing, this workman provided arms historians with some the best evidence of the serial range of the arms that were delivered to Georgia.

To date, the highest serial number encountered on any first model Maynard longarm is 4960. Since most of the 2000 to 2600 Maynards purchased by Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida were shipped prior to the end of the first quarter of 1861, it is fair to assume that nearly all of the production unsold from 1860 and all the new production for the first three months of 1861 went South. If the 1859 production ceased between serial nos. 1600 and 1900, and if production on an annual basis reached 150 arms per month during the period from January, 1860, to April, 1861, arms within the serial range from approximately 1800 through 4100 (give or take 200) should be in the range that saw Confederate service. As additional data is received that may tie specific arms to individuals serving from the three states purchasing Maynard arms, it may be possible to refine this estimate and provide ranges of serial numbers for the individual states.

NOTES

¹*The Field Manual for The Use of The Officers on Ordnance Duty Prepared by the Ordnance Bureau* (Richmond: Ritchie & Dunnivant, 1862-1984 reprint), pp. 51-54; cf. p. 74 for cartridge specifications of the .37 cal. and .51 cal. Maynard arms.

²U.S. War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: The Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. 38, Pt. 4, pp. 782 and 791. Hereafter cited simply as *O.R.*, with appropriate Series and volume numbers.

³*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 39, Pt. 2, pp. 774-775.

⁴Claud E. Fuller and Richard D. Steuart, *Firearms of the Confederacy: The Shoulder Arms, Pistols, and Revolvers of the Confederate Soldier, including the Regular United States Models, the Imported Arms and Those Manufactured within the Confederacy* (Huntington: Standard Publications, Inc., 1944), p. 193; cf. p. 28. The actual report of Major Gorgas of 7 May 1861 may be found in *O.R.*, Series IV, Vol. 1, p. 292.

⁵"Statements of Accounts for Contractors, 1817-1905", Records of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance (Entry 152, Record Group No. 156), Vol. 3, p. 135; National Archives.

⁶Colonel H.K. Craig, Report of the Colonel of Ordnance, respectively 26 October 1859 and 30 October 1860, printed in Congressional Serial Set, Vol. 1025, p. 1108 and Vol. 1079, p. 970, respectively.

⁷"Records of the firings, and opinions of the Board assembled at Washington Arsenal for the trial of Small Arms according to Special Orders, No. 23, War Department February 1st 1860", printed in Claud E. Fuller, *The Rifled Musket* (New York: Bonanza Books, 1958), pp. 35-148.

⁸*Ibid.*; item "L" is variously referred to as "Maynards breech loading Carbine" and Maynard's Breechloading Rifle". The concluding summary of hits lists the caliber as .50"

⁹*Ibid.*, sixth page of recommendations.

¹⁰"Contracts on Ordnance and Ordnance Supplies", House Executive Document No. 99, 40th Congress, 2nd Session (Congressional Set, Vol. 1338), pp. 269-270 and 840-841.

¹¹"Quarterly Summary Statements of Ordnance and Ordnance S the Hands of Regular Army and Volunteer Cavalry Regir Records of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance (Entry 110, Group No. 156), National Archives. As an example, the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry had 51 and later 50 Maynard carbines during most of 1861. Vol. 2, p. 106, Vol. 3, p. 109, and Vol. 4, p. 139.

¹²Frank Moore (ed.) *The Rebellion Record: A Diary of American Events with Documents, Narratives, Illustrative Incidents, Poetry, Etc.* (New York: G.P. Putnam, 1861), Vol. 1, "Poetry & Incidents" section.

¹³*Journal of the Senate of the State of Mississippi at a Called Session Thereof Held in the City of Jackson. Published by Order of the Legislature* (Jackson: E. Barksdale, 1861), pp. 113-114, appended to Report of the Adjutant General of 29 July 1861.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, p. 112.

¹⁵*Ibid.*, p. 160; cf. p. 151.

¹⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 440-445 and 462-468 as well as *Journal of the Senate of the State of Mississippi at a Regular Session Thereof Held in the City of Jackson; November and December, 1861 and January 1862* (Jackson: Cooper & Kimball, 1862), pp. 432-433.

¹⁷*Journal of the Senate of the State of Georgia at the Annual Session of General Assembly Commenced at Milledgeville November 7th 1860* (Milledgeville: Boughton, Nesbet & Barnes, 1860), p. 242; cf. p. 2 On the same day that the initial resolution authorizing the purchase of Maynard arms was introduced, another resolution instructed the governor to purchase 5000 Sharps arms; see pp. 205 and 216.

¹⁸Quoted in Frederick P. Todd, *American Military Equipage, 1851-1861* (New York: Chatham Press, 1984), Vol. 2, p. 734.

¹⁹*Ibid.*, p. 735.

²⁰U.S. Navy Department, *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1894-1922), Series I, Vol. 14, pp. 278-279.

²¹*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 38, Pt. 3, pp. 642 and 650.

²²Initially the 2nd Battalion Georgia Cavalry, the 5th Georgia Cavalry was created by first adding the "Chatham Light Horse" and the "Effingham Hussars" on 17 May 1862 and the "Lamar Rangers" "Liberty Independent Troop", and "McIntosh Cavalry" on 20 January 1863, the latter three companies bringing the battalion to regimental strength. The 3rd Battalion Georgia Cavalry (Cinch's 4th Georgia Cavalry after 23 January 1863) also served along the Georgia coast in 1862; see *O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 14, pp. 487, 576, 592, and 625 as well as footnotes on p. 1058.

²³*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 4, pp. 408-409. The Captain W.J. Lawton mentioned in this letter eventually commanded the 2nd Georgia Cavalry.

²⁴*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 6, p. 315; cf. Vol. 4, pp. 408, 420-421, 424, 466, 477-478, 527, and 530 relating to the formation of Phillips Georgia Legion.

²⁵Governor Joseph E. Brown reported on 17 November 1860 that he had ordered 2000 Sharps "Rifles" with the \$75,000.00 appropriation provided by the legislature during that year. These arms were paid for with fifty \$500.00 Georgia bonds on 22 February 1861; however, only 1600 of the 2000 arms were available under the limited appropriation; see Allen R. Candler (ed.), *The Confederate Records of the State of Georgia* (Atlanta: Charles P. Byrd, 1909), Vol. 2, pp. 3-5 and 29-30. On 6 July 1861, Governor Brown noted that 500 of the 1600 Sharps carbines had been loaned to the Confederacy. This loan must have taken place prior to 3 June, for on that day, the governor's aide-de-camp, D.C. Campbell, informed Major-General Robert E. Lee (in

response to his letter of 26 May), that no cavalry arms were available in Georgia: see *O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 4, p. 422 and 356 and 366-367.

²⁶Phillips Georgia Legion reported for Confederate service at Lynchburg, Virginia on 15 August 1861 (*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 51, Pt. 2, p. 234.) On 13 September it was ordered to join Floyd's Command at Lewisburg, Va. (*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 51, Pt. 2, p. 290.) On 17 December 1861, consequent to Governor Brown's appeal of 11 November 1861, the Legion was ordered to Coosawhatchie, South Carolina. (*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 53, p. 199; cf. Vol. 6, p. 315) To date, no spent or dropped Maynard cartridges have been recovered in western Virginia that might relate to the Legion's presence.

²⁷Berkeley R. Lewis, *Small Arms and Ammunition in the United States Service* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1956), p. 225, item no. 174 and plate 32 (d).

²⁸Frederick P. Todd, *American Military Equipage (op. cit.)*, Vol. 2, p. 717.

²⁹*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 52, Pt. 2, pp. 28-29.

³⁰*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 14, pp. 903-904.

³¹*Ibid.*, p. 931. However, as of 1 May, only six independent infantry companies formed a part of Finegan's district. These included four of those destined for the 6th Florida Battalion (those of Captains Bryan, Hope, Mootey, and A.A. Stewart), and the companies of Captain O.F. Peek and Captain C. Beggs. See, pp. 922 and 850-851.

³²*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 53, pp. 238-239.

³³*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 14, p. 140. The possibility exists that the "M Dragoons" exchanged their state arms when volunteering for years' Confederate service. Captain Rou's company was armed the Enfield rifle when inspected 27 January 1864; see *O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 35, Pt. 1, p. 588. However, it is also possible that insufficient numbers of Maynard arms forced the arming of that company Enfields from its inception.

³⁴*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 6, pp. 502-503.

³⁵*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 14, pp. 236-237.

³⁶*O.R.*, Series I, Vol. 35, Pt. 1, pp. 582-585. See pp. 587 and 588 for armament of three companies (A, F, K) of the 2nd Florida Cavalry armed with Maynards.

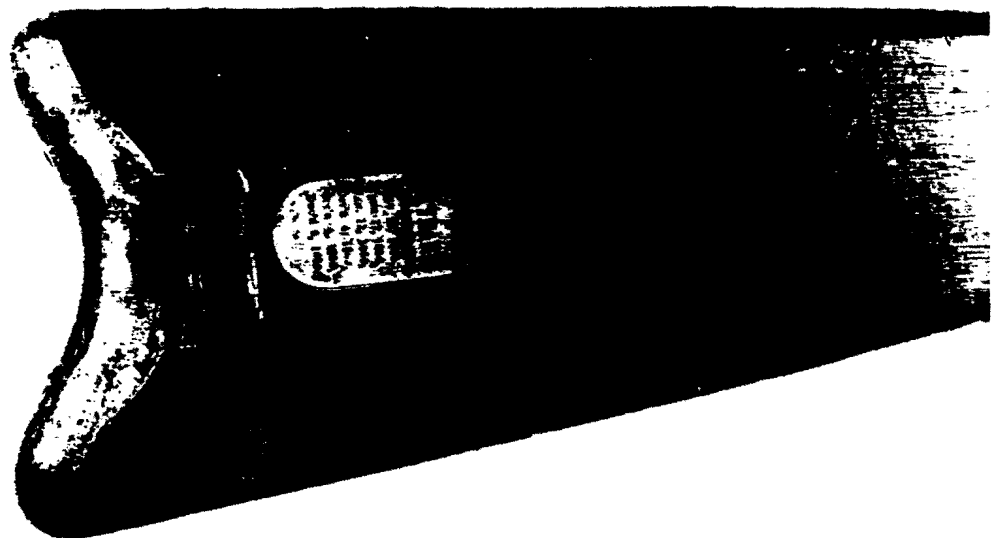
³⁷C.A. Thompson to author: 26 September 1984. Recoveries have been made of Maynard bullets and cartridges near Leesburg, Virginia (.51 caliber) and at a Confederate camp on the Rapidan River, Orange, Virginia.

³⁸Louis A. Garavaglia and Charles G. Worman, *Firearms of the American West 1803-1865* (Albuquerque: U. of New Mexico Press, 1984), p. 56.

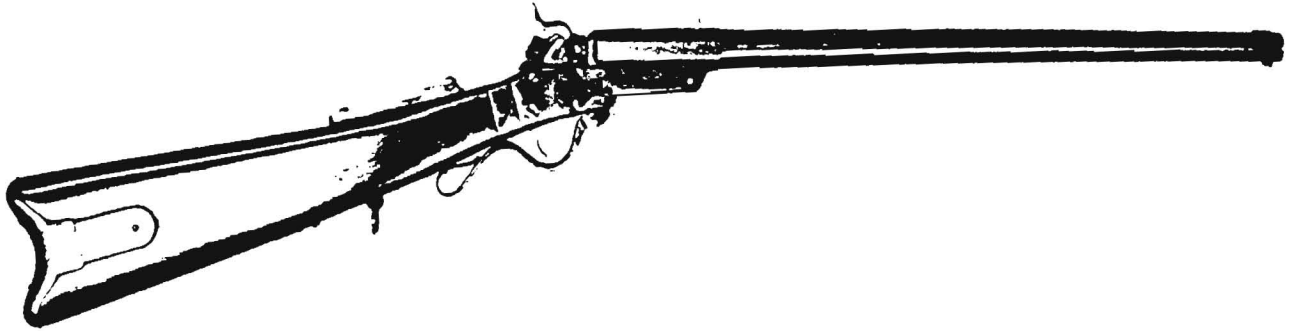
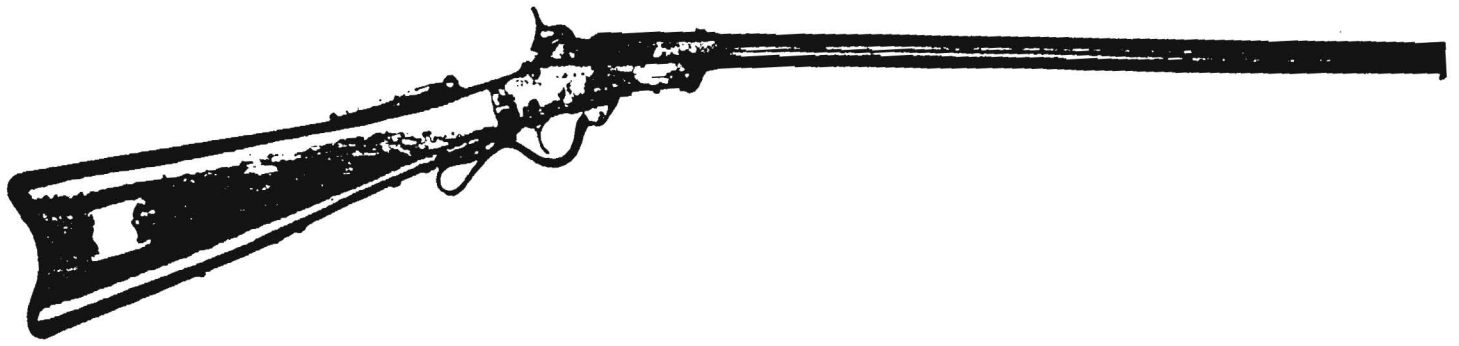
³⁹Patent no. 725 of 1859; see *Patents for Inventions. Abridgment of Specifications. Class 119, Small-Arms. Period - A.D. 1855-1860* (London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1905), p. 56.

⁴⁰*Journal of the Senate of the State of Mississippi . . . 1861 (op. cit.)*, pp. 440-441 and 452-454.

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Orange label showing patent credits to 6 December 1859, found in cavity of extra primer compartment on all Maynard longarms after (at earliest) serial no. 1932.



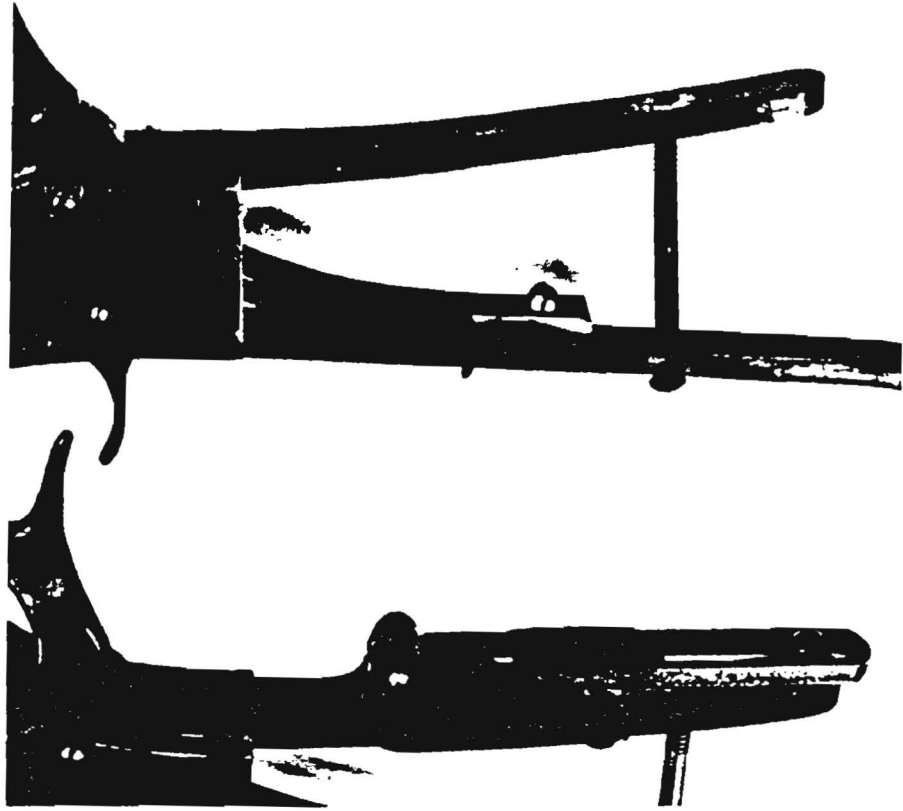
Sighting variations on first model Maynard arms. Above: .35 cal. Maynard rifle (no. 3369), tang and block-with-leaf rear sights. Below: .35 cal. Maynard carbine (no. 1932), tang and block rear sights.



Sight variations, militia carbine (nos. 4248/4201), above, and U.S. Ordnance Dept. contract (nos. 53/367).



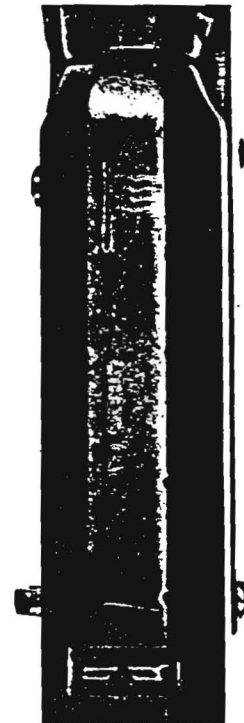
John Taylor's inspection mark on left side of barrel of U.S. Ordnance Dept. contract carbines.



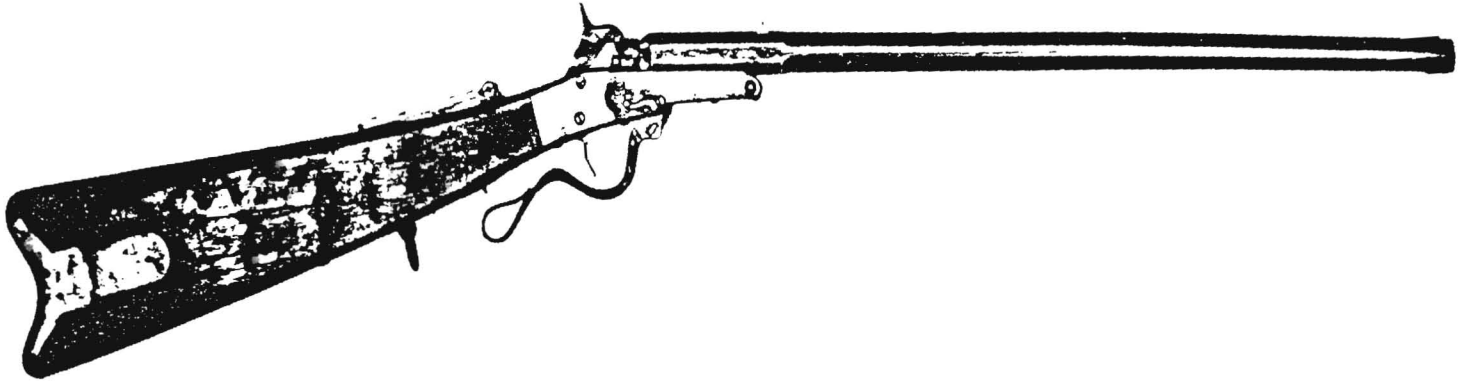
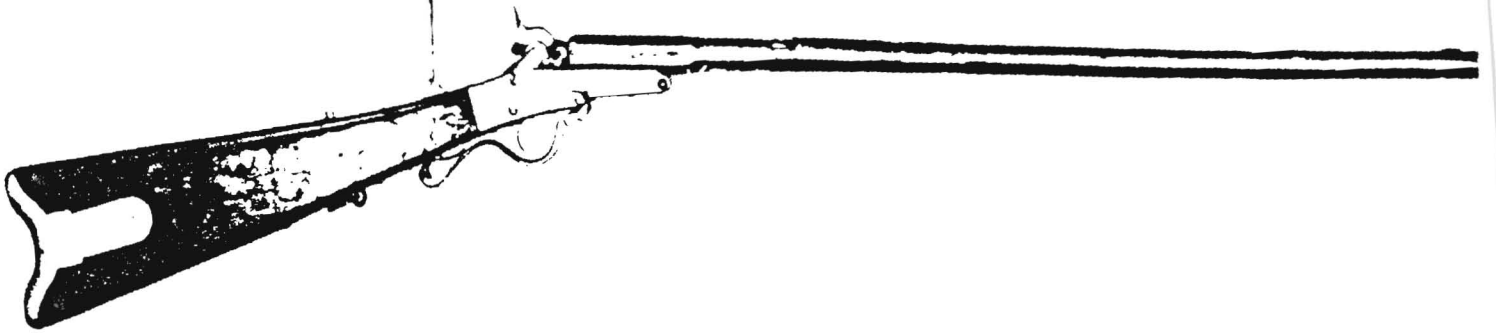
Upper tangs: militia carbine (no. 4248) with tang sight compared to U.S. Ordnance Dept. contract carbine (no. 53), the latter with replaced lower tang.



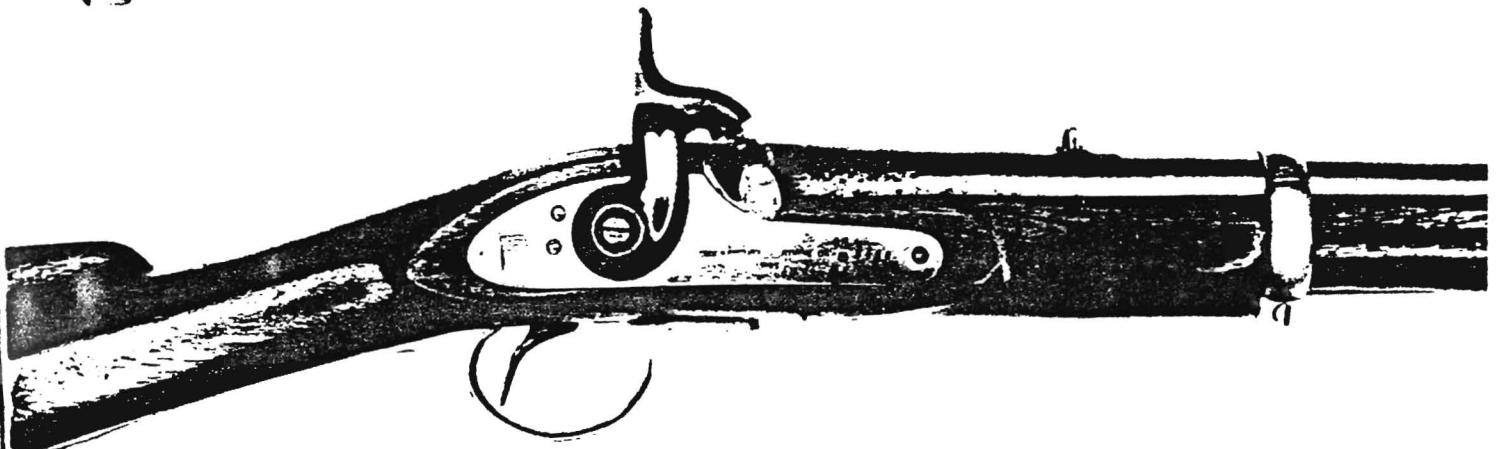
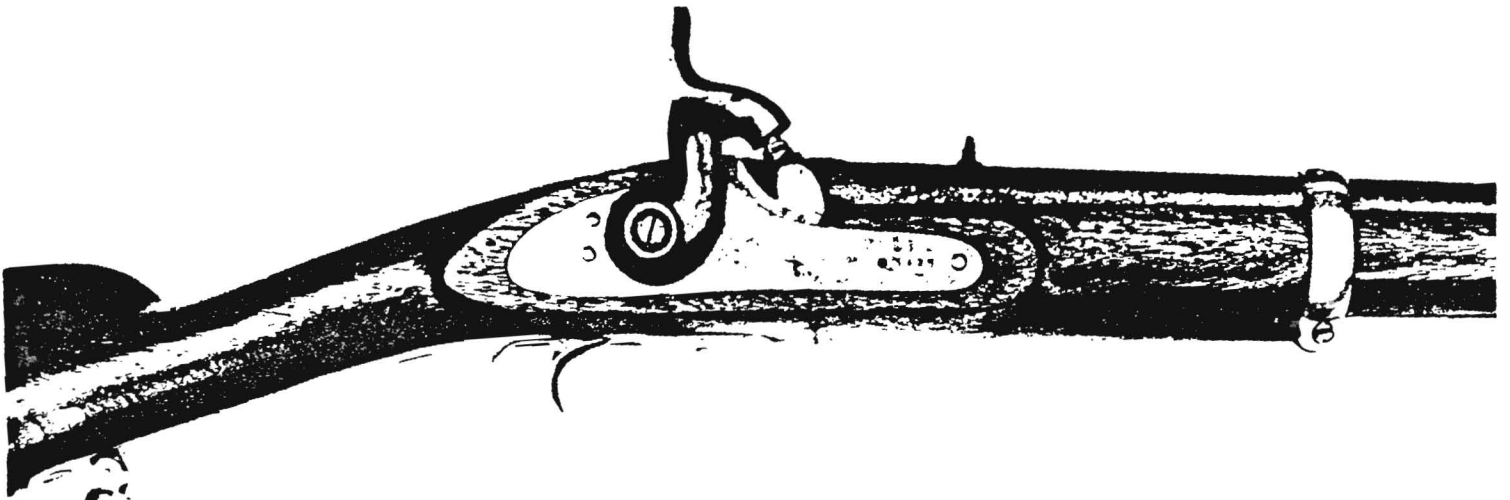
Inletting for tang sight, above, and for U.S. Ordnance Department contract carbine.



Cook & Brother repair mark on Maynard carbine no. 3295/2573.



Upper: .50 cal. Maynard rifle (no. 942) with swivel ring on "U" bar. Lower: .50 cal. Maynard carbine (nos. 4248/4201), with swivel ring on "U" bar. Upper gun courtesy of George Moller.



Cook & Brother carbine no. 3425 (upper) and musketoon no. 3118, showing typical Athens lock markings.



Unidentified sergeant of Captain F.A. Montgomery's "Bolivar Troop." (Note the leather thong from the barrel pivot pin to the chamber: it may be that he is using one of the cord extractor cases by which the gun could be muzzle-loaded. Editor.) Courtesy of Herb Peck.



Unidentified private of the "Bolivar Troop." Note the shape of the swivel bar. Courtesy of Herb Peck.



Orderly sergeant of the "Bolivar Troop," later Company Mississippi Cavalry. C of Herb Peck.



Ambrotype of an unidentified Mississippi cavalryman armed with a Maynard carbine and two Colt revolvers. Note that the swivel ring is attached by a "U" shaped bar. Courtesy of James C. Harris.

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Confederate infantryman, Hartwell S. Love, armed with a first model Maynard rifle. Courtesy of Dale S. Snair

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