

# CIVIL WAR CARBINES

VOLUME II

*...the early years*

BY

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A sergeant of company "H", 1st Mississippi Cavalry. Originally raised as the "Bolivar Troop", this unit was apparently named after the famous South American liberator, Simon Bolivar. The folding tang sight of this Mississippi purchased Maynard carbine is clearly visible, as is a leather thong which appears to be stretched from the barrel pivot pin to the chamber. Herb Peck collection

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## THE FIRST MODEL MAYNARD CARBINE

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One of the best performing and most accurate breechloaders in the Pre-Civil War era was the First Model Maynard Carbine. It also has the distinction of being the second carbine purchased by the Ordnance Department to use a metallic cartridge.

The Maynard carbine was the invention of the Washington, D.C. dental surgeon, Dr. Edward Maynard (1813-1891). Edward Maynard was born April 26, 1813 at Madison, New York. In 1831, he entered West Point but, while a good student, Maynard resigned after one year due to poor health. In 1841 Maynard was the recipient of an honorary degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery from Baltimore College. Later he became Chairman of Theory and Practice at the Baltimore Dental College and also held this position at the National University in Washington D.C. Dr. Maynard was the dentist for several presidents, ambassadors and many members of Congress. Maynard had been offered the job of Imperial Dentist by the Russian Czar Nicholas I with the rank of major in the Russian Army — an offer he declined. Dr. Maynard practiced dentistry until 1890 and died on May 4, 1891. He is buried in the Congressional Cemetery at Washington, D.C.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Maynard is best known for the Maynard Tape Primer for which he was issued U.S. Patent #4,208 in September of 1845. The purpose of this priming device was to eliminate the need to manually place a percussion cap on the nipple every time the weapon was ready for firing. Instead, each time the hammer was cocked a paper roll carrying the priming compound, similar to that used in children's cap pistols, was advanced over the nipple. The government adopted this tape priming system in July of 1855 and it is found on all Model 1855 rifles, rifle muskets and pistol carbines manufactured

at the two national armories between 1855-1861. In all, Dr. Maynard received 23 U.S. patents for various firearms related inventions.

Turning to his carbine, Dr. Maynard registered his breech-loading design with two patents plus two additional patents for his metallic cartridge. The first patent for his carbine, #8,126, was granted on May 27, 1851. This patent covered the lowering of the trigger guard operating lever which is pressed down and forward. This motion drops the muzzle and raises the breech for inserting a cartridge. The patent reads:

*What I desire to secure by Letters Patent and claim as my invention in that class of breech-loading fire-arms in which the barrel is disconnected from the breech, and is pivoted at some point intermediate between its butt and its muzzle to the stock, is —*

1. *A lever beneath the stock, by means of which the barrel is turned upon its pivot to raise and to depress its butt, and is locked to its breech when the butt is depressed, and is unlocked therefrom to allow the butt to be raised, the several members of the implement being arranged and operating substantially as herein set forth.*

2. *In combination with the above-claimed device, a piston breech-pin which, by the movement of the lever to depress the butt of the barrel and to lock it in place is made to move the cartridge forward in the barrel and to close the butt thereof, and which by the movement of the lever to unlock and raise the barrel is made to unclose or open the butt of the barrel before the latter rises under the action of the lever.*

3. *The sliding bolt I, constructed with slot and hook, or their equivalents, and arranged as herein set forth, in combination with a lever-*

handle for the purpose of imparting motion to the piston breech-pin from the lever beneath.<sup>2</sup>

#### THE 1856 TEST TRIALS

In 1853, Dr. Maynard had the Springfield Armory make a full scale model carbine for him at a cost of \$116.37.<sup>3</sup> Dr. Maynard's carbine was first tested under the auspices of Major William A. Bell at the Washington Arsenal on May 16, 1856. The Maynard test firings were performed by Lieutenant Benton. The results were the best that they had thus far recorded. The few bad shots were caused by the inferior lubrication used on the bullet — a mixture of tallow and sperm whale oil instead of the more suitable tallow and wax. The .48 caliber Maynard used in these trials was fired forty times with only one missfire. Eight rounds were fired at one hundred yards, ten at two hundred, thirteen at three hundred, four at four hundred, and five at five hundred yards. Major Bell concluded his report with: "I would respectfully state that this arm is considered the best breechloader for military or civil purpose I have yet seen."<sup>4</sup> Concerning the metallic cylindrical cartridge used by Dr. Maynard, Major Bell had these comments:

*The cylinder being brass; holding 30 grains of powder; one inch long; having a Minie ball (not hollow) inserted into the forward end; closed at the rear end, excepting a small vent aperture 1/10 of an inch in diam. in the centre, covered in the interior by wax paper to prevent the escape of the powder and to exclude moisture. This cylinder having a chamber in the end of the barrel for its reception there of its exact size and larger in diam. than that of the bore, by about twice the thickness of its brass plate, so that when inserted into the chamber it can go no further forward. The lubrication of the ball inserted as above being covered by the cylinder.<sup>5</sup>*

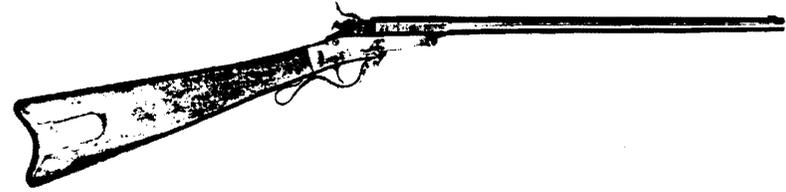
The patent for this improved cartridge described by Major Bell, #15,141, was granted on June 17, 1856. Three years later, on January 11, 1859, Maynard received U.S. Patent No. 22,565 for additional improvements to his metallic cartridge as follows:

*My improved metallic cartridge is produced by soldering a steel disk to the exterior*

*surface of the bottom of the brass cup, which is of less diameter than the said disk, and then drilling a small central aperture through the combined brass and steel bottom of said cartridge.<sup>6</sup>*

The Maynard metallic cartridge used in the First Model carbine contained a 343 grain pointed bullet with a single grease groove and forty grains of powder. The successful trials of 1856 sparked the interest of several individuals to form the Maynard Arms Company of Washington, D.C. in April 1857 to promote the sale of Dr. Maynard's gun. William W. Corcoran was elected President and William Freeman, Secretary of the company. Dr. Maynard held a twenty-five percent interest in the firm. On August 15 they entered into an agreement with the Massachusetts Arms Company of Chicopee Falls for the manufacture of five thousand breech-loading guns of the Maynard design with steel barrels. The master arm was made by the company's master machinist and inspector, William P. McFarland. The guns manufactured were in both .35 and .50 caliber and with barrel lengths of twenty inches (carbine) and twenty-six inches (rifle). They were also available with shotgun barrels and were sometimes produced as cased sets since all the barrels were interchangeable. While Maynard arms on the open market sold for as much as \$42.50 each, they cost the Maynard Arms Company only an average of \$17.75 each for the first class guns and \$14.50 for second quality arms. The metallic cartridge cases were manufactured by the American Flask and Cap Co. at a cost of \$1.25 per one hundred and the bullets by T.C. LeRoy and Co. of New York City at seven cents a pound.<sup>7</sup>

On June 17, in preparation for the West Point breech-loading test trials of 1857, Secretary of War John B. Floyd notified Maynard that his carbine was scheduled for trial on June 23. Dr. Maynard then being in the process of making several improvements to his carbine requested a delay.<sup>8</sup> Maynard's .50 caliber carbine was tested in August. It was fired eighteen times in one minute and thirty seconds. During the firing, powder built up in the muzzle area. The next day a different cartridge was used which included a wad which eliminated this powder buildup. In the 1858 test trials, a May-



The First Model Maynard Carbine, as purchased by the Ordnance Department in 1859. This carbine had a 20", .50 caliber barrel and was not equipped with the tang sight commonly found on Maynard arms. This particular carbine is serial numbered 53/367. The swivel ring which was originally attached by means of a "U" shaped bar riveted through the tang has been removed.

Milwaukee Public Museum collection

nard was fired forty times in three minutes and twenty seconds.<sup>9</sup>

#### ARMY PROCUREMENT

After Major Bell's favorable report on the Maynard carbine in May 1856, the Ordnance Department requested approval from the Secretary of War to purchase two hundred Maynard breechloaders under the appropriation of August 5, 1854 which allowed \$90,000 for the purchase of the best breechloading rifles, in the opinion of the Secretary of War, for the use of the United States Army. Approval was slow in coming. It was not until December 28, 1857 that the Government ordered four hundred carbines at \$30 each from the Maynard Arms Company.<sup>10</sup> Colonel Craig wrote in part:

*I have to inform you that the Secretary of War has directed the purchase of four hundred of Maynard's breech-loading carbines, at thirty dollars (\$30) a piece, by endorsement of your letter to him of the 28th October, 1857, which he has transmitted to this office.*

He went on to require that a sample arm, with appendages, was to be delivered to the Ordnance Department.<sup>11</sup>

On May 1, 1858, William Freeman notified the Ordnance Department that the following changes were being made to the carbines on order. The swivel ring and bar was being eliminated and replaced with a ring on the underside in back of the lever attached to the stock. The tang sight was also being replaced with a single dovetail sight adjusted for a point blank range of two hundred yards. Thus, the first four hundred Maynard carbines delivered to the

Army were .50 caliber and had twenty inch barrels equipped with simple non-adjustable rear sights.<sup>12</sup>

By August 1858, the Maynard Arms Company had forwarded a model carbine with appendages, including two metallic cartridges. On August 25, Craig sent the carbine and appendages to Brevet Major William A. Thornton at the New York Arsenal to serve as the model for the Maynard contract.<sup>13</sup> On September 9, the Maynard Arms Company was told that forty thousand metallic cartridges were to be sent at a cost of \$20 per one thousand. Each cartridge was to contain forty grains of musket powder. In addition, one extra cone (nipple), one loader with screw-driver, one brush and wiper with leather thong and one bullet mould for every two arms were also to be delivered. One day later the price allowed for the cartridges was altered to \$27 per thousand.<sup>14</sup>

The Ordnance Department had originally wanted to inspect all four hundred Maynard carbines at once, but when it became apparent that all the carbines would not be delivered before the end of March 1859, Craig requested that the first two hundred carbines be sent to Major Thornton. John Taylor, the Ordnance Inspector, arrived at the Massachusetts Arms Company on January 26, 1859 to start the inspection. Prior to arriving here, he had been inspecting arms at the Colt factory in Hartford, Connecticut. In conversation with Mr. McFarland, the Maynard Arms Company Master Inspector, Taylor stated that the Maynard carbine showed better workmanship than

most of the other guns that he had previously inspected. The first two hundred carbines with all the specified appendages were delivered on March 8, 1859. The remaining 200 Maynard carbines and forty thousand metallic cartridges in forty packing boxes were received on April 6. Payments were made on March 11 of \$6,225 and April 11 of \$7,345.<sup>15</sup> An additional ten thousand cartridges were purchased by Major Thornton on January 25, 1860.

#### PROCUREMENT FOR THE REVENUE CUTTER SERVICE

Three days after delivering the last two hundred carbines to the Ordnance Office, the Maynard Arms Company offered to sell carbines to the Treasury Department for the Revenue Cutter Service. On July 16, 1859, Secretary of the Treasury Howell Cobb ordered one hundred Maynards and appendages from William Corcoran, President of the Maynard Arms Company. Cobb wrote:

*This Department . . . having concluded to introduce into the Revenue Cutter Service the "Maynard breech-loading Carbine", you are requested to cause to be furnished for use of said service, one hundred of the carbines referred to — the same to be delivered together with the same quantity of appendages and ammunition for each, that was ordered by the War Department, to Augustus Schell Esq., Collector of the Customs at New York.*

*Upon the certification of the Collector. . . the sum of \$30, will be paid for each gun, and the same price for the ammunition as was paid by the War Department.*<sup>16</sup>

These 100 Maynards were delivered on August 19. The invoice read as follows:<sup>17</sup>

100 Maynard B/L Rifles	@ \$30.00	\$3,000.00
100 Extra Cones	.15	15.00
100 Screwdrivers	.10	10.00
100 Loaders	.25	25.00
100 Wiping Rods & Brushes	.35	35.00
50 Bullet Moulds	1.00	50.00
100 Shields for Chamber	.06	6.00
10,000 loaded cartridges (Per 1,000)	27.00	270.00
50,000 Maynard Primers (Per 1,000)	1.00	50.00
Extra Components or Spare Parts		77.28
Expenses of Packing and Delivery		48.25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,586.53</b>

On November 13, 1859, Cobb requested an additional one hundred carbines with appendages offering to pay \$30 per carbine. His letter reads in part:

*In order that the remaining Revenue Cutter standing in need of them, may be furnished with suitable small-arms, the Department has concluded to order an additional hundred of the Maynard carbines.*

Sixty of the carbines were delivered to New York City on December 7 and the remaining forty by the end of the year. In all, the Treasury Department ordered two hundred Maynard carbines. These are believed to be of .50 caliber with twenty inch barrels and fitted with the conventional tang sight which had been replaced on the Maynards furnished to the War Department. Secretary Cobb made the following observations on December 15, approximately four months after the Maynard had been adopted.

*Since the introduction of this arm into the Cutter Service, it has met with unqualified approbation, and the Department now takes much pleasure in bearing testimony to its great superiority over all other small-arms heretofore furnished it.*<sup>18</sup>

#### UNITED STATES NAVY TEST TRIALS AND ORDER

On October 13, 1859 Captain Ingraham, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance Hydrography, requested that Commander J.A. Dahlgren, at the Washington Navy Yard, test Maynard's breech-loading rifle as to its merits for use in naval service. The description of the arm furnished for this trial was:<sup>19</sup>

Whole Weight of Rifle	5 lbs. 8 ozs.
Whole Length of Rifle	36½ inches
Whole Length of Barrel	20 inches
Caliber	.5 inches
Diameter of chamber	.55 inches
Depth of chamber for cartridge	1.2 inches
No. of grooves	3
Depth of rifling	.01 inches
Twist of Rifling	one turn in 5 feet
Fixed ammunition	metallic cases
Weight of bullet	343 grains
Weight of powder	40 grains
Lands and grooves of equal width	
Eleys cap used	

As indicated, the arm tested was definitely a carbine and not a rifle although the words carbine and rifle are often used interchangeably when describing the First Model Maynard.

Between October 24 and 31, the Maynard carbine was test fired 602 times. On the first day of trials, October 24, William McFarland fired at a target at 500 yards, all 250 rounds hitting the target. At one point in the trials the carbine was fired 12 times in one minute ignited by Maynard Tape Primers. Nine of these shots succeeded in striking the target at 200 yards. Another time the testers were able to fire 13 times in one minute. The second day's trials are most interesting in that the firing was performed at 1,300 yards. The day's results were:

*October 25th: Continued the practice this morning at 11:35 at a target of white oak 1300 yards 10 x 30, faced with white pine boards one inch thick — Fired 32 rounds — The distance being so great — it was difficult to ascertain whether the balls took effect and a boot was placed near the target, with a man to note the range of the piece — 43 rounds were then fired and of this #, 14 struck the target, one previously having taken effect, making 15 in all — Most of the others had passed some distance over — Upon examining the target it was found that the balls had passed through the facing of white pine and penetrated their length in the oak target, which showed great force. All struck point first.*

*The weather was most favorable for this practice, the day being perfectly calm.*<sup>20</sup>

Dahlgren concludes his report of November 1 by saying that:

*The recoil is considerable, but no greater than is to be expected from a piece so light — We think it strongly recommends itself to the test of the Naval service, but its present length is only fit for boat service — To be used in the field it should be made of sufficient length to receive a bayonet.*<sup>21</sup>

On the first of February 1860, the Navy requested carbines from the Maynard Arms Company. Ten days later, George Riggs in response to Captain Ingraham wrote:

*I beg to inform You that the Maynard Arms Company will furnish for the use of the*

*Navy, 50 Maynard Rifles with appendages and similiar in all respects to those furnished to the Treasury Department and upon the same terms.*<sup>22</sup>

On February 13, Captain Ingraham accepted Riggs' proposal for delivery of fifty rifles (i.e. carbines) at \$30 each plus the necessary appendages and five thousand loaded cartridges at \$27 per one thousand. On the 23rd of February, the order was increased to sixty carbines in order to take advantage of the fact that they were customarily packed 20 in a crate and, thus, three full crates would be delivered. The carbines were sent to the Brooklyn Navy Yard on March 3. The cost of this order came to \$2,154.74. In 1860 a few of the Maynard carbines were issued to the Marines aboard the U.S.S. *Saratoga*.<sup>23</sup>

While the Maynard Arms Company was busy delivering carbines to the Revenue Cutter Service and having its carbine tested by Commander Dahlgren, Dr. Maynard was applying for a patent to cover his design of attaching the barrel to the frame by means of a "C" hook. The patent, No. 26,364, for this improvement in breech-loading firearms was granted on December 6, 1859.

All first model Maynard carbines and rifles are stamped on the left side of the frame in three lines with:

MANUFACTURED BY  
MASS. ARMS CO.  
CHICOPEE FALLS

and on the right side:

MAYNARD ARMS CO.  
WASHINGTON

The patchbox was intended to hold extra rolls of Maynard primers and is stamped on the lid:

MAYNARD PATENTEE  
SEP 22 1845  
MAY 27 1851  
JUNE 17 1856.

On later production arms the SEP 22 1845 date was deleted. On some Maynards, an orange paper label is pasted to the bottom of the patchbox. This label bears an eight line patent credit. The Maynard was produced with a variety of sights including the simple dovetailed fixed sight used on the War Department

carbines and the most common variety, a tang mounted adjustable peep sight. The military carbines are equipped with a swivel ring attached to the lower tang of the frame by means of a "U" shaped bar riveted through the tang.

#### PRE-WAR FIELD SERVICE

With the delivery of the 400 Maynard carbines by April 1859, the majority were sent to the St. Louis Arsenal for issue to the Cavalry. On June 18, 1859, Fort Union Depot, New Mexico was notified that 60 Maynard carbines and 12,000 metallic cartridges were being sent from the St. Louis Armory. They were to be issued to the commanding officer of the Regiment of Mounted Rifles.<sup>24</sup> On July 14, Lieutenant Colonel B.S. Roberts commanding the Mounted Rifles wrote these glowing comments to William Freeman at the Maynard Arms Company:

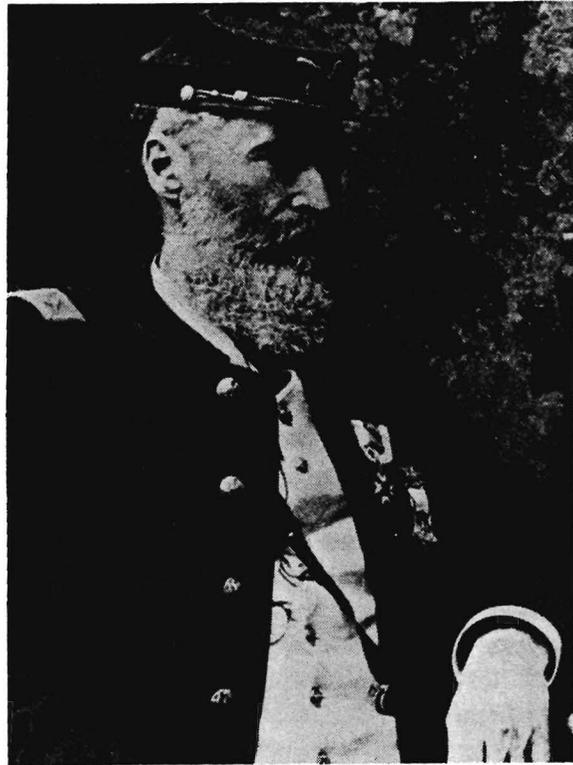
*I am sure the merits of your gun over all other breech-loaders for mounted troops and skirmishers, will be acknowledged. Its peculiar advantages, in my estimation, are the motion of the barrel, raising the breech for loading, its metallic cartridge, and the primer. The construction of the cartridge avoids windage and fouling, and preserves the powder under all circumstances. It seems to answer every end that the soldier and sportsman could have desired, or ingenuity devise and apply to practice.*

*I have used your rifle at all distances within the range of any accuracy of vision, and its precision and penetration surpass any expectation I had ever formed, as within the accomplishment of small-arms. At 700 yards the penetration was two and a half inches in a large oak.*

*It is discharged ten times per minute easily, and with certainty of aim, in skillful hands.*

*I cannot too strongly express my convictions, that for cavalry service, and for light troops as skirmishers, the Maynard rifle is the most destructive war weapon that has ever been invented.<sup>25</sup>*

In late June 1859, Captain Eugene A. Carr's Company "I" First U.S. Cavalry was issued 83 Maynard carbines to replace the 1st Model Burnside carbines which had been issued in May 1858. By June 30, 1859, 143

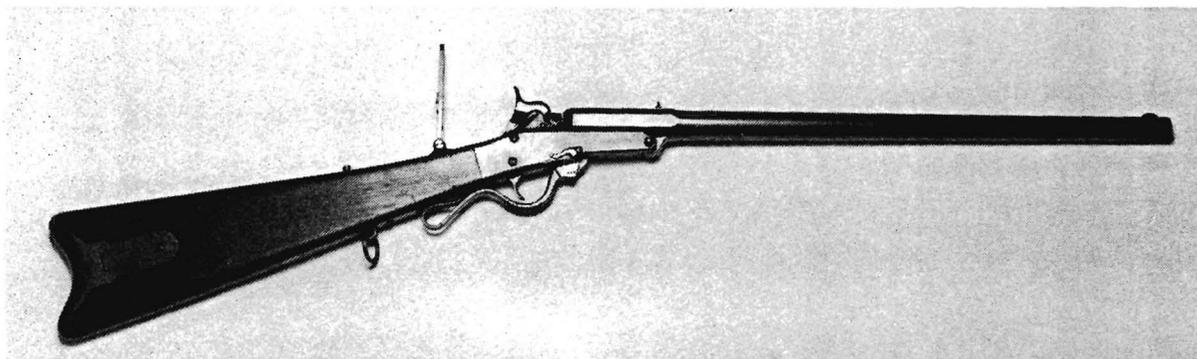


Captain Eugene A. Carr of Company "I", 1st U.S. Cavalry. This photograph of Carr was taken after the Civil War. The lower medal on his coat appears to be the Congressional Medal of Honor which he was awarded for his actions at the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern. National Archives collection

Maynards had been issued to the Army.<sup>26</sup> In the following year, an additional 100 Maynards were issued.<sup>27</sup> Most of these Maynards went to Second Lieutenant Eli Long's Company "H" 1st U.S. Cavalry in October 1859.<sup>28</sup>

The Maynards were issued too late to see service in 1859; however, they were on hand when Company "H" and "I" left from Fort Cobb on June 6, 1860 to operate against the hostile Comanches and Kiowas of the Southern Column. In early July, the 1st Cavalry came upon a large band of Kiowas at Solomon's Fork. In a skirmish with several hundred warriors, 29 hostiles were reported killed but due to the exhaustion of the cavalry horses a decisive battle was not possible. Six companies of Lieutenant Colonel Roberts' Mounted Rifles operated out of Fort Union, New Mexico against the Indians but were also unsuccessful in their operations.<sup>29</sup>

Captain Carr, in a report written on November 4, 1860 at Fort Washita, made these observations on the Maynard carbine which had then been in use in his company for the



The military version of the First Model Maynard Carbine. The majority of these arms are found with 20" barrels in .50 caliber and are equipped with a tang sight. In this case, both the tang sight and the simple military-style dovetailed fixed sight appear on the same arm. This carbine is serial number 2668. Author's collection

past year and a half:

*In my opinion the Maynard Rifle is the best breech loading arm that has yet been introduced into the service, but there are some objections to it which I will proceed to state.*

1. *It is too light — with a full charge the shock is excessively severe on the shoulder and the small allowance of metal about the Lock, Lever, rings etc. render it impossible to make those parts so strong as they should be; it is true that the excellent material, and workmanship of those furnished me avoids that difficulty as much as possible, but it still exists as witness twelve guns hors du combat in the year; (This number has been made as small as possible by taking unbroken parts from one unserviceable gun, and substituting them for broken parts in another.) This difficulty will increase as the number of guns manufactured becomes larger and manufacturers & artisans use less care.*

2. *It is sighted with too distant a point blank for cavalry service. Sitting on a horse a soldier cannot be expected to hit the size of a man at a greater distance than 120 yards, and my guns have to be aimed a foot and a half below the spot intended to be struck, at that distance.*

3. *The two turns in the tube from the cap to the cartridge injure in my opinion the igniting force of the priming. I have had some, but, I confess not many, cases of missing fire when the priming exploded.*<sup>30</sup>

Captain Carr's report continues by stating that the Maynard metallic cartridges were superior to all other cartridges. While paper cartridges broke up in the cartridge box in spite of precautions being taken, his ammunition

was only expended in firing.<sup>31</sup> It is interesting to note that both Captain Carr and Lieutenant Long became Major Generals in the Union cavalry during the Civil War. For his action at the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern, Carr was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.<sup>32</sup>

#### THE 1860 TEST TRIAL

By Special Order No. 23 of February 1, 1860, an ordnance board was assembled at the Washington Arsenal for the trial of small arms. The Maynard carbine was tested on March 15 and 16, 1860. Six Maynard carbines with tang sights had been forwarded for testing by the Maynard Arms Company on February 15. On March 15, five men armed with these Maynards fired in both five shot volleys and as skirmishers at ten foot square targets set at ranges from one hundred to three hundred yards. The results were:

100 yards/volley fire	24 out of 25 hit
300 yards/volley fire	16 out of 25 hit
500 yards/volley fire	9 out of 25 hit
100 yards/skirmishers	24 out of 25 hit
300 yards/skirmishers	15 out of 25 hit
500 yards/skirmishers	11 out of 25 hit

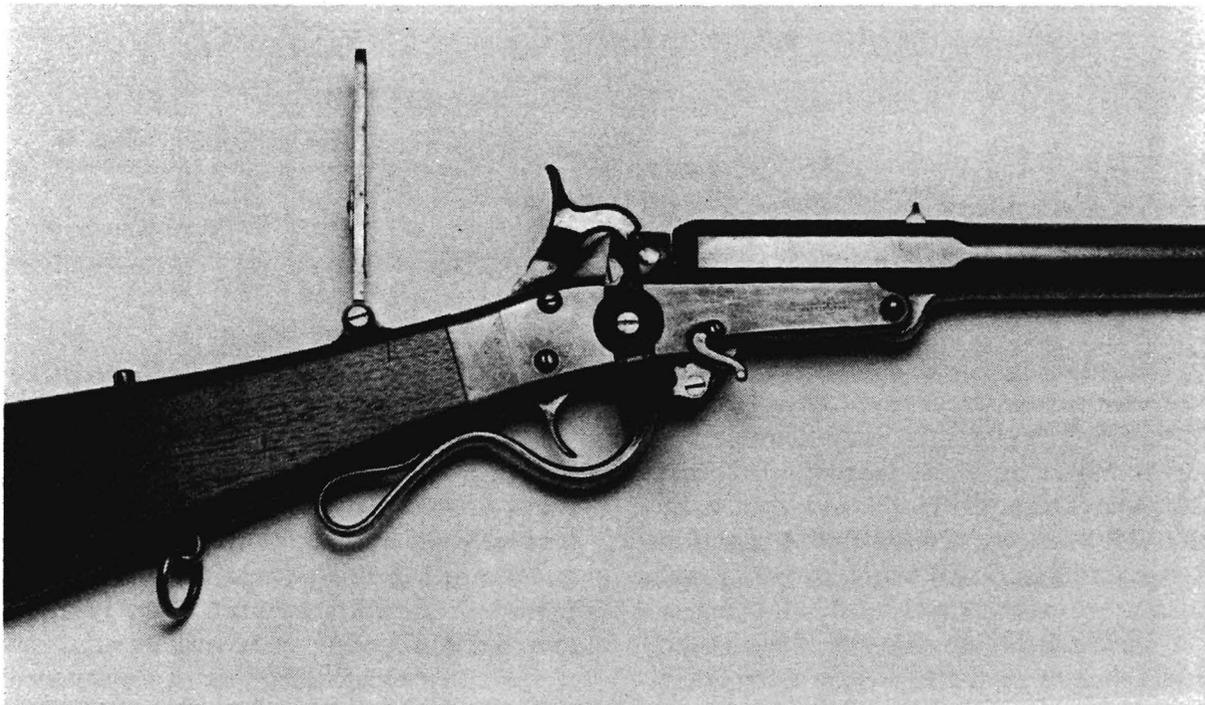
On March 16, one Maynard carbine was fired with deliberate aim from a rest at 100, 300 and 500 yard distances. All ten shots struck the target at 100 and 300 yards and 9 out of 10 at 500 yards. The overall opinion of the board found that the Maynard . . .

*. . . 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*



A very rare photograph of a Union soldier armed with a 26" barrel First Model Maynard. So few Maynards were issued to Federal troops that it would be easy to assume that this is a Confederate — were it not for the patriotic motifs on the pressed copper photograph surround.

Richard F. Carlile collection



A view of the priming mechanism of the Maynard carbine and rifle. With the door open we can see the roll of caps that constituted the Maynard Tape Primer — another invention of Dr. Maynard's which had been adopted earlier by the government and incorporated into the Model 1855 Rifle-Musket and a number of other arms.

*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.*<sup>33</sup>

**CIVIL WAR USAGE - UNION**

At the outbreak of the Civil War, four companies of the 1st U.S. Cavalry were ordered to Missouri, including Captain Carr's Company "I". At the Battle of Wilson Creek on August 10, 1861, Captain Carr and his 56 men armed with their Maynard carbines were attached to Colonel Sigel's command. At about six o'clock on the morning of August 10, Captain Carr had his men open fire with their carbines on the Confederate camp to help distract their attention from General Lyon's movements. After Sigel's attack was repulsed and his men forced to retreat, Captain Carr's company served as the rearguard. In this battle, Company "I" had four men captured.<sup>34</sup>

In addition to the 1st Cavalry, later designated 4th U.S Cavalry, only the 9th Pennsyl-

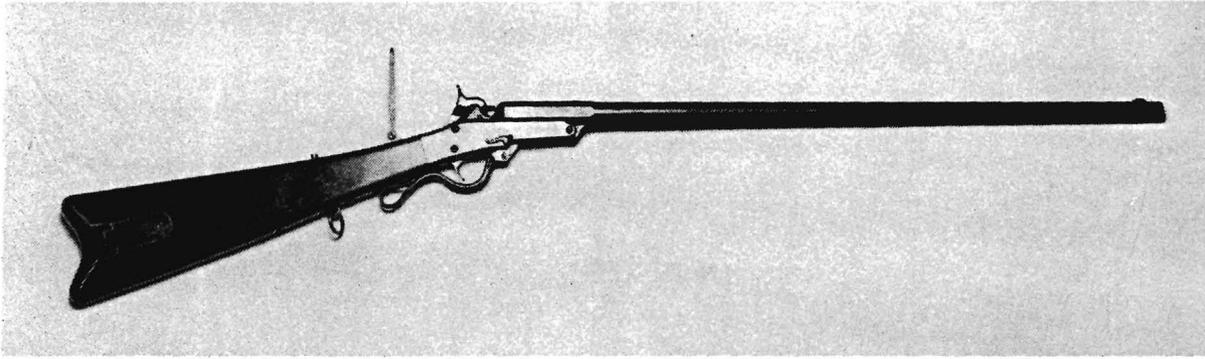
vania and 1st Wisconsin Cavalry were partially armed during 1861-1863 with the 1st Model Maynard carbine.<sup>35</sup> The reason so few Maynard carbines were issued to Union cavalry was that on the night of January 28, 1861 the Massachusetts Arms Company was destroyed by fire.<sup>36</sup> As of December 31, 1862, the federal arsenals and ordnance depots show that 64 of the 400 carbines were in storage at:

**1st Model Maynard Carbines<sup>37</sup>  
Stored In U.S. Arsenals and Depots  
Report of Ordnance Stores  
December 31, 1862**

Location	Service-able	Unservice-able
Frankford Arsenal	1	
Leavenworth Arsenal	21	12
Ordnance Depot Nashville	13	
Consolidated A.A.A. Depots	3	
Ft. Union Ordnance Depot		3
Washington Arsenal		11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>26</b>

**CONFEDERATE PROCUREMENTS**

In early 1859 several Maynards were purchased by individual Southerners for sporting purposes. Maynard cased sets were obtained by



A .50 caliber Maynard with a 26" barrel. 175 of these rifles, along with 325 of the 20" barrel carbines, were shipped to the State of Mississippi in January of 1861. Paul Davies collection

such notables as Wade Hampton of South Carolina, Senator Robert Toombs of Georgia and Vice President of the United States John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky, all of whom later became generals in the Confederate Army.

The election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860 set the south in motion to arm themselves. One month prior to Lincoln's election, the Maynard Arms Company had sold only about one thousand four hundred of their total production of five thousand arms. The inventory of October 1 showed that they had three hundred twenty-six second quality guns and the following first class arms:

**Maynard Arms Company<sup>38</sup>**  
**Inventory as of October 1, 1860**

Caliber	Barrel Length	Type	Quantity
.50	20 inch	Sporting	459
.50	20 inch	Military	676
.50	26 inch	Sporting	142
.50	26 inch	Military	160
.35	20 inch	Sporting	1,326
.35	20 inch	Military	425
.35	26 inch	Military	13
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3,201</b>

In the six months following the 1860 election, the Maynard Arms Company sold all of their October 1, 1860 inventory, over ninety percent being purchased by southern militia companies which were being formed and by the states of Mississippi, Florida and Georgia.

**MISSISSIPPI AND FLORIDA**  
**PROCUREMENT**

On December 20, 1860, the two U.S. Senators from Mississippi, Jefferson Davis

and Jacob Thompson, entered into two contracts with the Maynard Arms Company for a total of eight hundred Maynard patent arms and appendages at a cost to the state of \$27,998.50. The first contract called for three hundred twenty-five rifles with twenty inch barrels (actually carbines) at \$30 each and one hundred seventy-five rifles with twenty-six inch barrels at \$31.50 each. All five hundred arms were to be in .50 caliber. The second contract called for three hundred twenty inch barrel carbines in .35 caliber plus one hundred rounds of loaded cartridges per carbine.<sup>39</sup> The next day, December 21, the State of Florida entered into an agreement for one thousand carbines with twenty inch barrels in .35 caliber.<sup>40</sup>



An orderly sergeant of the "Bolivar Troop" — later Company "H" of the 1st Mississippi Cavalry — see the opening of this chapter for a remarkable second photograph of another member of this unit. Herb Peck collection

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**U.S. PROCUREMENT OF 1st MODEL MAYNARD CARBINES**


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CONTRACTOR	DATE OF PURCHASE	QUANTITY & KIND OF STORES	PRICE	DATE OF CONTRACT & ORDERED BY
Maynard Arms Co.	3/8/1859	200 Carbines with appendages	\$30.00	12/28/1857 (Army)
	4/6/1859	200 Carbines with appendages	\$30.00	12/28/1857 (Army)
Maynard Arms Co.	8/19/1859	100 Carbines with appendages	\$30.00	7/16/1859 (Treasury Dept.)
	12/1859	100 Carbines with appendages	\$30.00	11/13/1859 (Treasury Dept.)
Maynard Arms Co.	3/3/1860	60 Carbines with appendages	\$30.00	2/23/1860 (Navy)
	<b>TOTAL</b>	660 Maynard Carbines		

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By the tenth of January 1861, the eight hundred Maynards for Mississippi had been packed in boxes and the company was awaiting shipping instructions. The Florida order was more of a problem. These .35 caliber carbines were equipped with only a tang sight, not with the stud sight on the barrel or the "U" shaped swivel ring on the lower tang of the frame as ordered by Florida. The factory therefore had to disassemble the carbines and add the stud sight and swivel ring to the guns and then reassemble them. This was not the only problem. At about 11:30 p.m. on January 18, the Massachusetts Arms Company factory was destroyed by fire. However, all of the Maynard guns in storage at the factory were saved from the burning buildings by taking them out of the second story windows.<sup>41</sup> Earlier in the month, the Maynard Arms Company was notified that arms which were being shipped to southern states through New York City were being stopped. Since Florida and Mississippi were to pay freight charges from New York City, the Maynard Arms Company took the precaution to label each box with an "F" for Florida and an "M" for Mississippi and had the arms sent to themselves in Washington, D.C. After the arms arrived in Washington, the Company sent them forward to Mississippi and Florida. The guns were shipped from the Massachusetts Arms Company to New York City on January 21, 1861, and four days later, half of the ninety-three boxes marked "F" were shipped from New York City and the remainder the following day. The cartridges for both orders were also shipped in boxes labeled "F" and "M".

The first thirty thousand cartridges were sent on January 29 with shipments continuing until March 18. In addition to the one thousand carbines delivered to Florida in January, thirty additional arms were sent on December 29, 1860.<sup>42</sup>

#### GEORGIA PROCUREMENT

The largest sales outlet for the Maynard firearms was the New York City firm of W.J. Syms & Bros. located at 300 Broadway. In the fall of 1860, Syms had their salesman in the south soliciting orders for the Maynard and other arms. In November the State of Georgia inquired of Syms' salesman at what price would they sell the state Maynard carbines. The answer was \$34 each. Finding this price too high, Georgia instead ordered two thousand New Model 1859 brass mounted Sharps carbines from the Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company at a cost of \$25 each. Losing the order because of the price, Syms requested that the Maynard Arms Company allow them to sell the Maynard at a reduced price, to which the company agreed. The new price was set at \$30 each with appendages extra for all state government orders and for militia companies which ordered thirty or more guns.<sup>43</sup>

On December 1, 1860 the state legislature of Georgia passed a resolution giving Governor Joseph E. Brown the authority to purchase two hundred fifty Maynard rifles with twenty-six inch barrels and seven hundred fifty twenty inch barrel carbines for the defense of the coast of Georgia. This order for one thousand .50 caliber Maynards was placed by Governor Brown with Syms' salesman on December 18.

STATE PROCUREMENT OF 1st MODEL MAYNARD CARBINES				
CONTRACTOR OR SELLER	DATE OF SHIPMENT	QUANTITY & KIND OF STORES	PRICE	DATE OF CONTRACT & ORDERED BY
Maynard Arms Co.	12/29/1860	30 Carbines (20" barrels/.35 Cal.)	\$30.00	12/29/1860 (Florida)
	1/25/1861	500 Carbines (20" barrels/.35 Cal.)	\$30.00	12/21/1860 (Florida)
	1/26/1861	500 Carbines (20" barrels/.35 Cal.)	\$30.00	12/21/1860 (Florida)
Maynard Arms Co.	1/21/1861	325 Carbines (20" barrels/.50 Cal.)	\$30.00	12/20/1860 (Mississippi)
	1/21/1861	175 Rifles (26" barrels/.50 Cal.)	\$31.50	12/20/1860 (Mississippi)
	1/21/1861	300 Carbines (20" barrels/.35 Cal.)	\$30.00	12/20/1860 (Mississippi)
W.J. Syms & Bros.	1/5/1861	620 Carbines (20" barrels/.50 Cal.)	\$30.00	12/18/1860 (Georgia)
	3/1861	30 Carbines (20" barrels/.50 Cal.)	\$30.00	12/18/1860 (Georgia)

The order called for five hundred to be shipped immediately and the balance as requested. It also called for one hundred unloaded cartridges per gun. When Syms requested the one thousand guns from the Maynard Arms Company, they were informed that the company could only furnish about six hundred fifty .50 caliber, twenty inch barrel carbines and that no twenty-six inch barrel rifles were available. Syms held out for at least one hundred twenty-five twenty-six inch barrel Maynard rifles; however, when they received six hundred twenty .50 caliber twenty inch barrel carbines on January 5, 1861, they shipped them forward by express freight at a cost of \$77 of which Maynard Arms Company paid half. No cartridge cases were sent until February 11, 1861 when fifty thousand cases were shipped and all were received for the six hundred twenty carbines by March 15. Georgia made partial payment of \$15,000 on February 8 and paid the balance by March for a total cost of \$20,893.03 on the six hundred twenty carbines and appendages. In March Syms & Bros. sent an additional thirty carbines to Georgia for a total procurement by the state of six hundred fifty carbines.<sup>44</sup>

Between the period of October 1860 and May 1861, W.J. Syms & Bros. sold about one thousand seven hundred Maynards of which one thousand six hundred were sent to their southern

customers. In addition to the six hundred fifty purchased by the State of Georgia, as many as eight hundred Maynard carbines appear to have been purchased by militia companies in South Carolina and Louisiana. As of November 24, 1860, T.W. Radcliff of Columbia, South Carolina requested thirty .50 caliber twenty inch barrel Maynard carbines, and several other militia companies in Charleston and Columbia were interested in purchasing Maynards.<sup>45</sup> During this period, the Charleston, South Carolina firm of H.F. Strohecker advertised Maynards for sale. In December 1860, Syms' salesman arrived in New Orleans where he found many customers ready to purchase the Maynard carbine. In January 1861 about sixty carbines were delivered to New Orleans and a minimum of one hundred sixteen were shipped there in March of 1861.

With the start of the war in April 1861, Syms & Bros. appear to have turned their attention to the border states of Kentucky and Tennessee and sold about one hundred sixty second quality Maynard guns to such Louisville, Kentucky firms as Sparks and Gallagher and Thomas & Anderson. In the days prior to the war, the Maynard Arms Company sold a few carbines to various southern customers. On December 12, 1860, fifteen carbines were sold to Cyrus Bradley for individuals in Mississippi and Flor-

ida; and on January 15, 1861, a Colonel Martin, possibly from North Carolina, purchased ten guns. Also, General A.J. Gonzales of South Carolina had orders for \$3,195.45 worth of arms and appendages.<sup>46</sup> In addition, a few arms were purchased by individuals from Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama and Texas.

#### CONFEDERATE FIELD SERVICE

By January 30, 1861, two hundred twenty of the eight hundred Maynard arms had arrived in eleven boxes at Jackson, Mississippi. From March 15 to the end of June, seven hundred twenty-five Maynards were issued with two hundred of these arms being sent on loan to the Confederate forces at Pensacola. The Maynard rifles — with twenty-six inch barrels in .50 caliber — were issued to the Mississippi Infantry. Company “D” 9th Mississippi received 24, Company “D” 14th Mississippi was issued three, while Company “G” 15th Mississippi Infantry had four.<sup>47</sup> The Maynard carbine was issued to the 1st Mississippi cavalry. On March 16, 1861, Captain F.A. Montgomery’s Company “H” 1st Mississippi Cavalry was issued sixty Maynard carbines and one thousand two hundred cartridges. Three months later on June 3, Company “H” was given an additional forty Maynard carbines and three thousand metallic cartridges.<sup>48</sup> When organized in the summer of 1861 at Union City, Tennessee, the entire 1st Mississippi Cavalry Battalion was armed with the Maynard.<sup>49</sup> For part of the war, the 1st Mississippi was under the command of Nathan Bedford Forrest. It should be noted that a few of Forrest’s 3rd Tennessee cavalry at Fort Donaldson in February 1862 were armed with Maynards.

The six hundred fifty .50 caliber twenty inch barrel carbines purchased by the State of Georgia were issued to elements of the 5th Georgia and Cobbs Legion. Later, the 9th Georgia Cavalry was partially armed with Maynards. At the Battle of Gettysburg, Cobb’s Legion was part of Hampton’s Brigade of Jeb Stuart’s Cavalry. In the cavalry battles of July 2-3, acting as skirmishers, they suffered twenty-one casualties of which eight were killed, six wounded and seven missing.<sup>50</sup>

The Union Navy captured the Confeder-

ate iron-clad C.S.S. *Atlanta* off the coast of Georgia on June 17, 1863. Among the captured items taken from the Confederate vessel were thirty Maynard rifles, twenty-six wipers for Maynard rifles and one box of two hundred Maynard bullets.<sup>51</sup> The Maynard rifles captured from the Confederate Navy were .50 caliber with twenty inch barrels from the Georgia purchase.

As of March 22, 1861, Governor M.S. Perry of Florida was able to notify the Secretary of War that he could arm the 1st Florida Infantry with either U.S. muskets or Maynard rifles. The Secretary of War chose the musket. During 1862, parts of the 1st Florida Special Battalion Infantry and 6th Florida Infantry Battalion operating within the state were armed with .35 caliber Maynard carbines.<sup>52</sup> In late 1862, these arms were transferred to the 2nd Florida Cavalry. As of February 10, 1864, parts of Companies “D”, “E”, “G” and “I” of the 2nd Florida Cavalry were armed with a total of about two hundred sixty .35 caliber Maynard carbines with twenty inch barrels.<sup>53</sup> With the large numbers of Maynards in Confederate service, the 1862 Confederate Field Manual for officers on ordnance duty states:

*Maynard’s carbine has a fixed chamber. There are two calibers in our service. Large size caliber .52 inch. Small size caliber .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.*<sup>54</sup>

The manual gives the weight of the .52 caliber bullet as 345 grains with 55 grains of powder while the .36 caliber bullet weighed 156 grains and used 35 grains of powder.<sup>55</sup> The shortage of metallic cartridges was always a problem in supplying ammunition to units in the field. As of August 13, 1864 while the Selma Arsenal had in inventory sixty-three thousand Sharps cartridges, they had only seven thousand one hundred caliber .52 cartridges and six thousand caliber .37 Maynard cartridges.<sup>56</sup>

During the war, the following Confederate Army and Navy units were partially armed with Maynard rifles or carbines.<sup>57</sup>



A Confederate soldier sports his 20" barrel Maynard carbine and, oddly enough, no additional armament.  
Richard F. Carlile collection

Iron-clad CSS *Atlanta*  
 3rd Tennessee Cavalry  
 2nd Florida Cavalry  
 1st Louisiana Cavalry  
 1st Florida Special Battalion-Infantry  
 11th Louisiana Infantry  
 6th Florida Special Battalion-Infantry  
 Cobb's Legion Cavalry  
 5th Georgia Cavalry  
 9th Georgia Cavalry  
 1st Mississippi Cavalry Battalion  
 4th Mississippi Cavalry  
 9th Mississippi Infantry  
 14th Mississippi Infantry  
 15th Mississippi Infantry  
 18th North Carolina Infantry  
 35th Virginia Cavalry Battalion  
 Waccamaw South Carolina Light Artillery

With all the Maynard arms sold by June 1861, the next several months saw only a few spare parts being sold; therefore, in October 1861, the Maynard Arms Co. closed its doors. Seeing the potential for greater financial success, Dr. Maynard bought out the other stock-

holders in 1862 and by early 1863 had entered into an agreement with the Massachusetts Arms Co., by now back in operation after the January 1861 fire, to manufacture his standard Civil War Model carbine. On June 8, 1863 the Ordnance Department contracted with the Massachusetts Arms Company for twenty thousand of the standard Civil War pattern Maynard carbines at a cost of \$24.20 each with deliveries made on this contract between June 22, 1864 and May 19, 1865.<sup>58</sup>

After the war, Navy records listed sixty-eight 1st Model Maynard carbines in storage as late as December 1, 1866. Forty-one of the Maynards were at the New York Navy Yard while the remaining twenty-seven were in storage at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.<sup>59</sup>

The Massachusetts Arms Company continued to manufacture the Maynard, eventually as a conventional center-fire rifle, until 1890. Dr. Maynard's design had, therefore, long outlived all of the other Civil War carbines with the single exception of the Ballard which ceased production one year later in 1891.

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- <sup>1</sup> May W. Goodwin, "Edward Maynard, D.D.S., M.D., M.S. and Inventor", *NRA Gun Collecting Review*, Vol. I, pp. 56-57.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Patent Office, U.S. Patent No. 8,126 of May 27, 1851.
- <sup>3</sup> Edward A. Hull, *The Burnside Breech Loading Carbines*, Lincoln: 1986, p. 10.
- <sup>4</sup> NARG 156-1001.
- <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Patent Office, U.S. Patent No. 22,565 / January 11, 1859.
- <sup>7</sup> The Maynard Arms Co. Papers in the Smithsonian Collection.
- <sup>8</sup> NARG 156-994.
- <sup>9</sup> NARG 156-1012.
- <sup>10</sup> NARG 156-152.
- <sup>11</sup> Maynard Arms Co. Papers, *op. cit.*
- <sup>12</sup> NARG 156-994.
- <sup>13</sup> NARG 156-6.
- <sup>14</sup> NARG 156-3.
- <sup>15</sup> NARG 156-152.
- <sup>16</sup> Maynard Arms Co. Papers, *op. cit.*
- <sup>17</sup> NARG 74-22.
- <sup>18</sup> Maynard Rifle Catalog, Washington: 1860, p. 9.
- <sup>19</sup> NARG 74-145.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>22</sup> NARG 74-22.
- <sup>23</sup> Maynard Arms Co. Papers, *op. cit.*
- <sup>24</sup> NARG 156-6.
- <sup>25</sup> The Maynard Rifle Catalog, *op. cit.*, pp. 5-6.
- <sup>26</sup> Senate Executive Documents vol. 3, 36th Congress 1st Session, p. 1108.
- <sup>27</sup> Senate Executive Documents vol. 2, 36th Congress 2nd Session, p. 970.
- <sup>28</sup> NARG 156-1001.
- <sup>29</sup> Robert M. Utley, *Frontiersmen in Blue, The United States Army and the Indian 1848-1865*, Lincoln: 1967, p. 139.
- <sup>30</sup> NARG 156-1001.
- <sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>32</sup> Ezra J. Warner, *Generals in Blue*, Baton Rouge: 1964, pp. 70, 283-4.
- <sup>33</sup> NARG 156-1012.
- <sup>34</sup> O.R.s vol. 3 Series I, pp. 89-90.
- <sup>35</sup> Frederick P. Todd, *American Military Equipage 1851-1872*, Volume II, State Forces, Chatham Squire Press, Inc., 1983, pp. 1137 and 1306.
- <sup>36</sup> *The Springfield Daily Republican*, Monday, January 21, 1861.
- <sup>37</sup> NARG 156-101.
- <sup>38</sup> Maynard Arms Co. Papers, *op. cit.*
- <sup>39</sup> Howard M. Madaus, *The Maynard Rifle and Carbine in the Confederate Service*, American Society of Arms Collectors Bulletin, p. 68.
- <sup>40</sup> Maynard Arms Co. Papers.
- <sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>47</sup> Howard M. Madaus, *op. cit.*, p. 68.
- <sup>48</sup> *Ibid.* p. 72.
- <sup>49</sup> Wayne Austerman, "Maynard", *Civil War Times Illustrated*, April 1986, p. 43.
- <sup>50</sup> O.R.s Vol. 27 Series I, Part II, p. 345.
- <sup>51</sup> Navy O.R.s vol. 14, Series I, pp. 278-279.
- <sup>52</sup> Howard M. Madaus, *op. cit.*, pp. 69-70.
- <sup>53</sup> O.R.s vol. 35, Series I, Part I, pp. 582-585.
- <sup>54</sup> *The Field Manual for the Use of the Officers on Ordnance Duty*, Richmond, 1862, p. 53.
- <sup>55</sup> *Ibid.* p. 74.
- <sup>56</sup> O.R.s Series I, vol. 39, Part 2, pp. 774-775.
- <sup>57</sup> See Footnotes #35, pp. 738 & 941; #39, pp. 68-70; #49, pp. 43-44; #51; and William A. Turner, *Even More Confederate Faces*, Orange, 1983, p. 172.
- <sup>58</sup> John D. McAulay, *Carbines of the Civil War 1861-1865*, Union City: 1981, pp. 54-56.
- <sup>59</sup> House Exc. Doc. 16-2, 39th Congress (Dec 31, 1866), pp. 17 and 24.

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