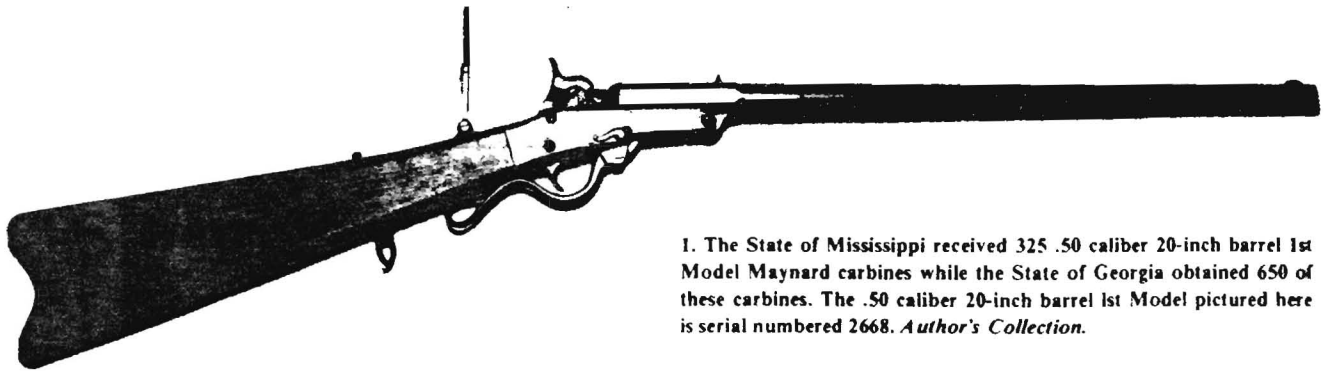


# DR. MAYNARD'S SECESSIONIST GUN (1st Model Maynard)



1. The State of Mississippi received 325 .50 caliber 20-inch barrel 1st Model Maynard carbines while the State of Georgia obtained 650 of these carbines. The .50 caliber 20-inch barrel 1st Model pictured here is serial numbered 2668. *Author's Collection.*

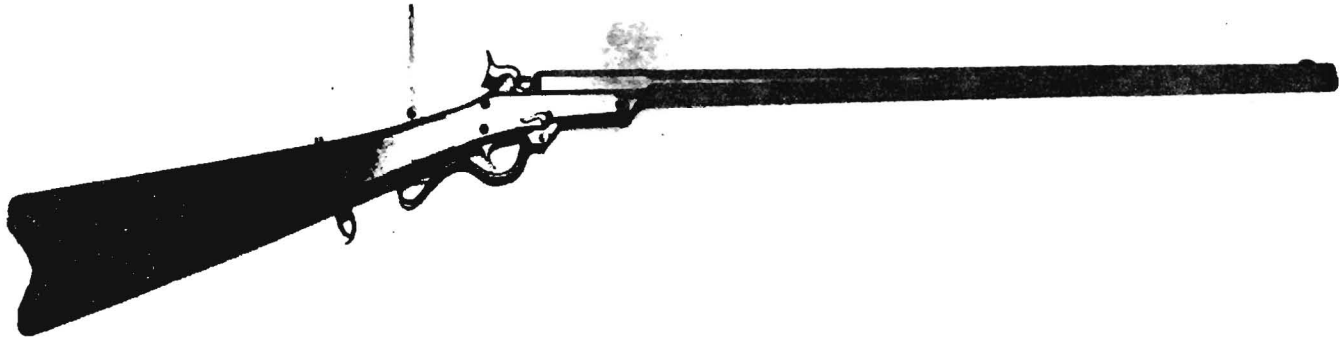
by John D. McAulay

A little after 8:00 a.m. on the morning of March 24, 1863 detachments of Companies "D" and "G", 2nd Florida Cavalry attacked a work party of Union sailors. The sailors were in the process of freeing the C.S.S. Onward, a schooner which had gone aground off the shore of Ocklockonnee Bay, Florida. Captain G.W. Scott, in command of the 2nd Florida detachments, had his men dismount unseen by the work detail and quickly advance through an open woods to the beach. When within 300 yards of the sailors, the Confederates opened fire with their .35 caliber, 20-inch barrel, First Model Maynard carbines. The Union sailors replied with musket fire and with shell and grape from a howitzer which they had mounted on the captured Confederate schooner. After an hour and ten minute engagement with several sailors wounded, the Union work party set fire to the schooner and made their escape in small boats. In the skirmish with the sailors, the 2nd Florida suffered no casualties.

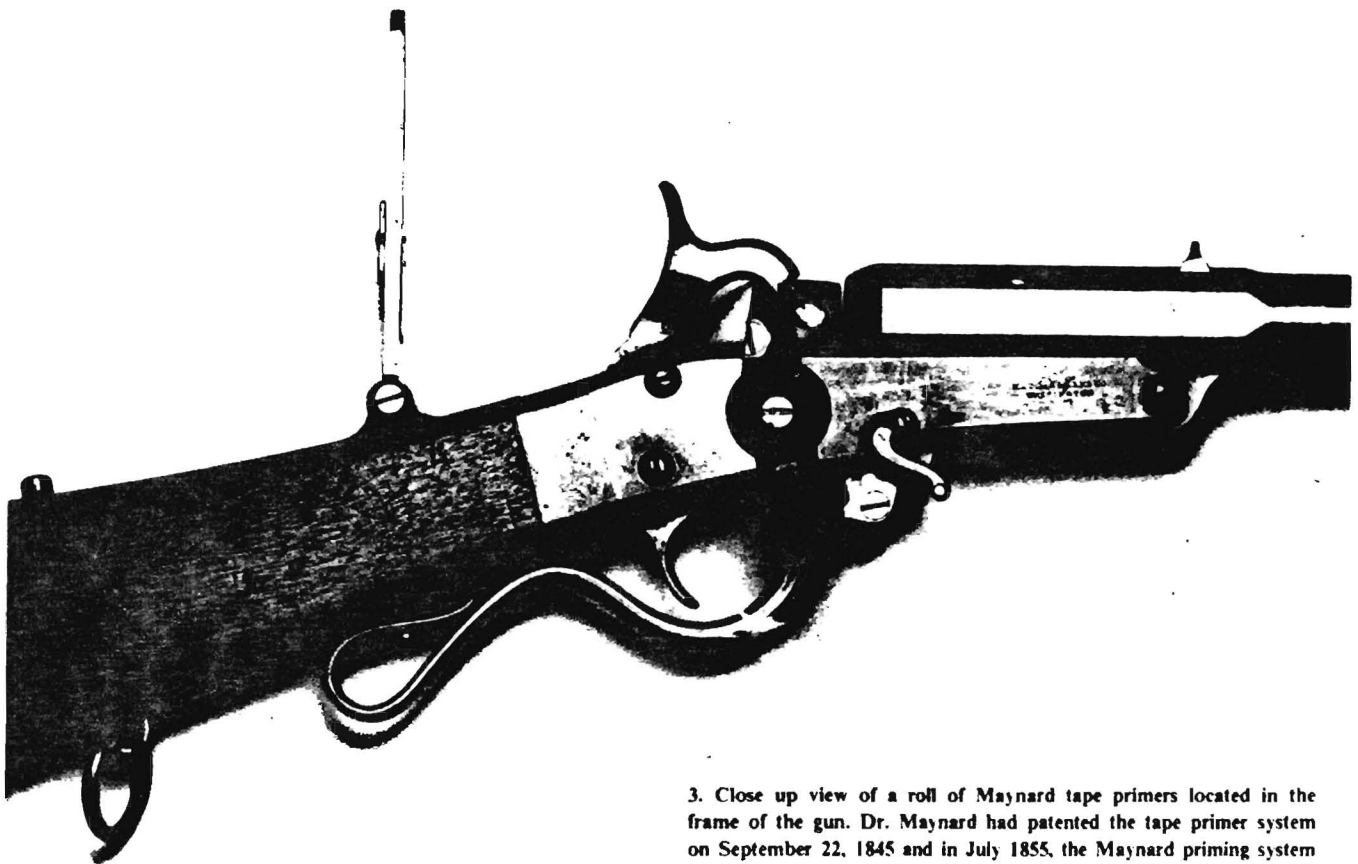
The First Model Maynard carbine used in this engagement was the invention of the Washington, D.C.

dentist, Dr. Edward Maynard (1813-1891). Dr. Maynard's breech-loading design was covered by two patents. The first patent dated May 27, 1851 covered the lowering of the trigger guard operating lever which is pressed down and forward. This motion drops the muzzle end and raises the breech for loading. The arm is then returned to the closed position and fired with a roll of Maynard tape primers located in the frame of the gun. A further patent was taken out on December 6, 1859 for attaching the barrel to the frame by means of a "C" hook. The metallic cylindrical cartridge used in the Maynard carbine was covered by patents dated June 17, 1856 and January 11, 1859. The .50 caliber brass cartridge used by the Confederates contained a 345 grain pointed bullet with a single grease groove and 55 grains of powder while the .35 caliber cartridge bullet weighed 156 grains with 35 grains of powder.

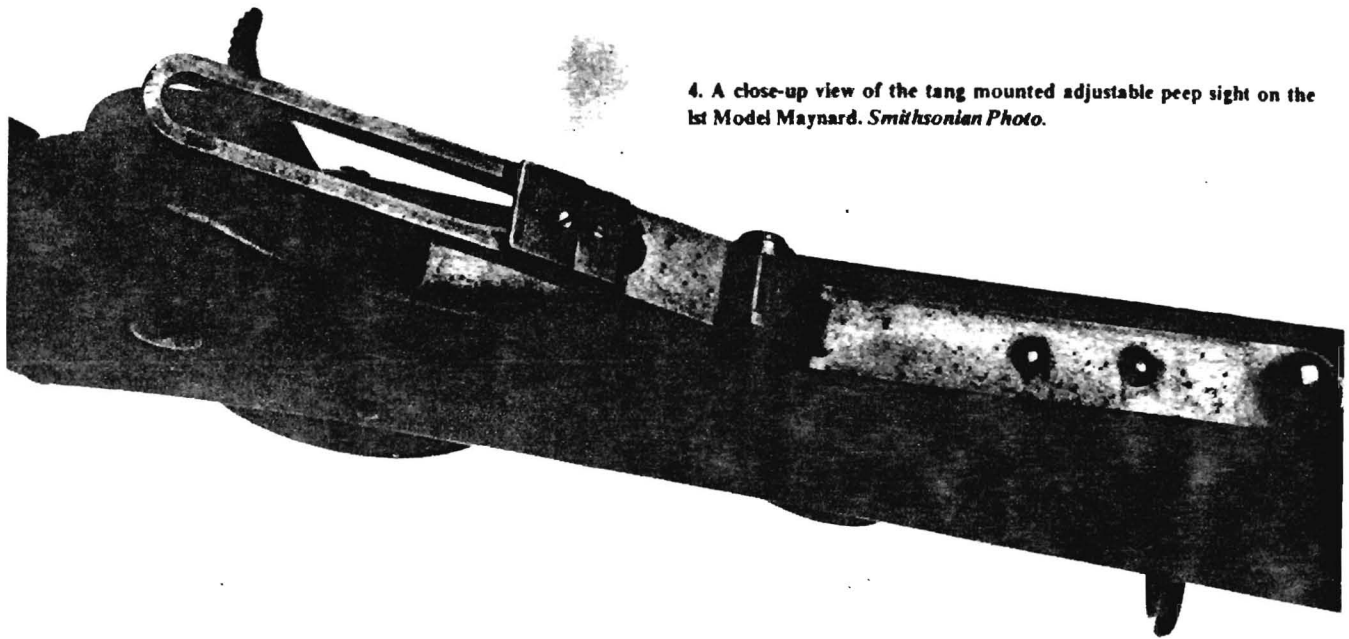
The First Model Maynards covered by the 1851 and 1859 patents are stamped on the left side of the frame in three lines with MANUFACTURED BY/MASS. ARMS CO./CHICOPEE FALLS and on the right side



2. The State of Mississippi also received 175 1st Model Maynard rifles of .50 caliber with 26-inch barrel as part of their first contract with the Maynard Arms Co. *Private Collection.*



3. Close up view of a roll of Maynard tape primers located in the frame of the gun. Dr. Maynard had patented the tape primer system on September 22, 1845 and in July 1855, the Maynard priming system was made standard priming method on all small arms manufactured at the national armories.



4. A close-up view of the tang mounted adjustable peep sight on the 1st Model Maynard. *Smithsonian Photo.*

MAYNARD ARMS CO. WASHINGTON. The patchbox intended for extra rolls of Maynard primers is stamped on the lid MAYNARD PATENTEE SEP 22 1845 MAY 27 1851 JUNE 17 1856. On the later production 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 variation of sights. The most common rear sights were the tang mounted adjustable peep sight. The military carbines are found equipped with a swivel ring attached to the lower tang of the frame which is attached to a "U" shaped bar riveted through the tang.

A First Model Maynard carbine was first tested by the Ordnance Department in May 1856. Major William Bell concludes his report on the Maynard by stating, "I would respectfully state that this arm is considered the best breechloader for military or civil purpose I have yet seen." This successful trial sparked interest in forming the Maynard Arms Co. of Washington, D.C. in April 1857 to promote the sale of Dr. Maynard's gun. Two of the leading investors in the new company were William Corcoran and George Riggs, both bankers in Washington, D.C. The present Corcoran Art Gallery of Washington, D.C. was started by William Corcoran while the Riggs Bank is still one of the leading banks in the District of Columbia.

On August 15, 1857, the Maynard Arms Co. entered into an agreement with the Massachusetts Arms Co. of Chicopee Falls for the manufacturing of 5,000 breech-loading arms of the Maynard design with steel barrels. The sample arm was made by William P. McFarland, master machinist and inspector for the Maynard Arms Co. The metallic cartridge cases were manufactured at

the American Flask and Cap Co. while the bullets were produced by T.C. LeRoy and Co. of New York City.

By early 1859 several Maynards had been purchased by several southern individuals for sporting purposes. Maynard cased sets were obtained by 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 these individuals would become generals in the Confederate Army. The November 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln set the southern states in motion to obtain military small arms to defend their borders.

Up to a month prior to Lincoln's election, the Maynard Arms Company had sold only about 1,400 of their total production of 5,000 arms. The inventory of October 1 showed that they had 326 second quality guns and the following first class arms:

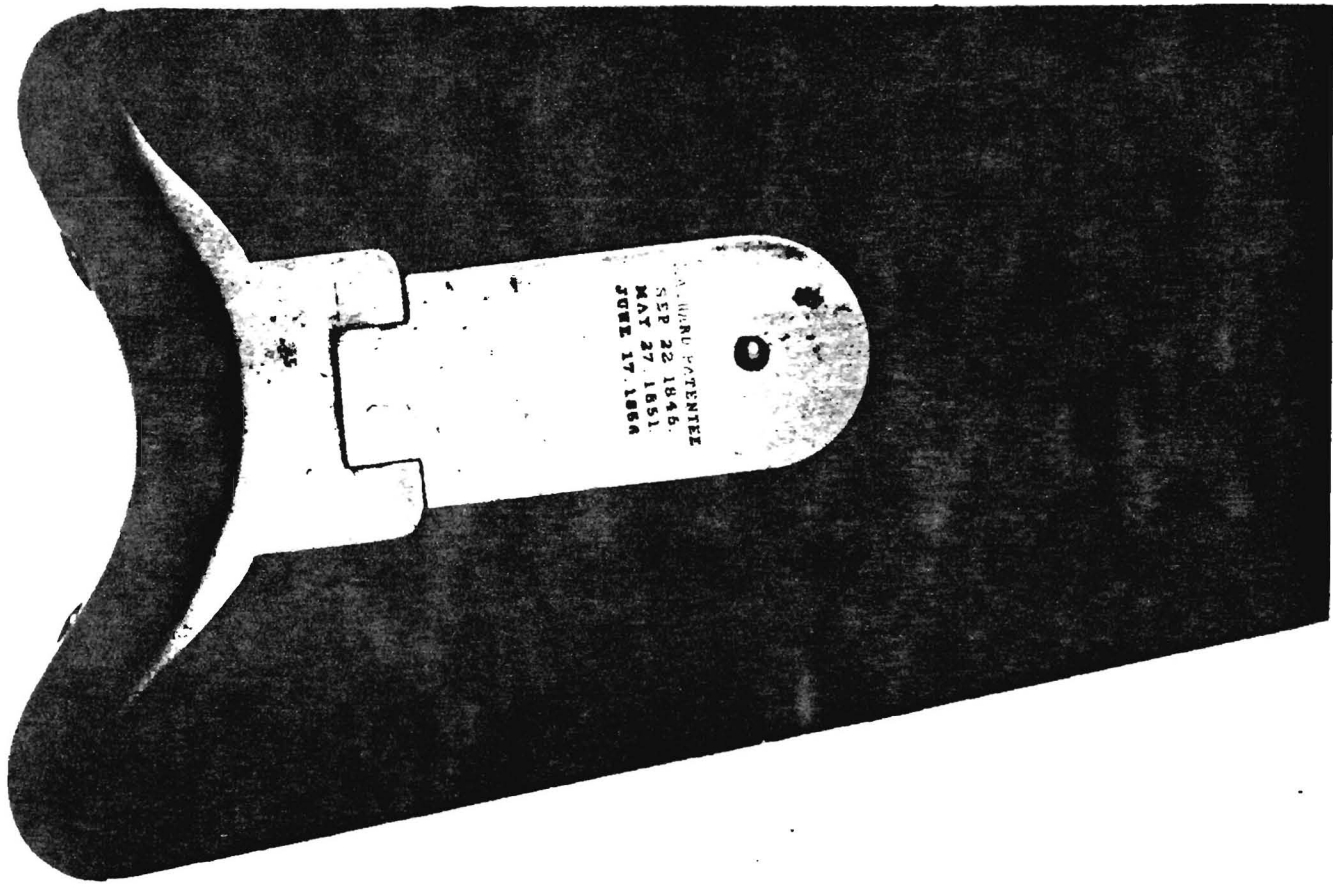
**MAYNARD ARMS COMPANY  
INVENTORY AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1860**

<i>Caliber</i>	<i>Length of Barrel</i>	<i>Type of Finish</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
.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>

*(Continued on p. 34)*

*(continued from p. 31)*

5. The patchbox on the 1st Model Maynard was intended for extra rolls of Maynard primers. *Smithsonian Photo.*



In the six months following the 1860 election, the Maynard Arms Company sold all of their October 1, 1860 inventory with over ninety percent being purchased by southern militia companies and 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 800 Maynard patent arms and appendages at a cost to the state of \$27,998.50. The first contract called for 325 carbines with 20-inch barrels at \$30 each and 175 rifles with 26-inch barrels at \$31.50 each. All 500 arms were to be in .50 caliber. The second contract resulted in 300 20-inch barrel carbines in .35 caliber plus 100 rounds of loaded cartridges per carbine. The next day, December 21, the State of

Florida entered into an agreement for 1,000 carbines with 20-inch barrels in .35 caliber.

By the tenth of January 1861, the 800 Maynards for Mississippi had been packed in boxes and were waiting shipping instructions. The Florida order was more of a problem. The .35 caliber carbines available were equipped only with a tang sight and not with the stud sight on the barrel or the "U" shaped swivel ring attached to the lower tang of the frame as ordered by Florida. The factory had to, therefore, disassemble the carbine and add the stud sight and swivel ring to the gun and then reassemble them. This was not the only problem. At about 11:30 p.m. on the evening of 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.

6. Orderly sergeant of the "Bolivar Troop" later Company "H" 1st Mississippi Cavalry. This photo gives a good view of the left side of the 1st Model Maynard carbine. *Herb Peck Collection.*



Earlier in the month, the Maynard Arms Company had been 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 D.C., the Company sent them forward to Mississippi and Florida. The guns were shipped from the factory to New York City on January 21, 1861, and four days later, half of the 93 boxes marked "F" for Florida were shipped from New York City and the remainder the following day. The cartridges for both orders were sent forward in boxes also labeled "F" and "M". The first 30,000 cartridges were sent on January 29 with shipments continuing until March 18. In addition to the 1,000 carbines delivered to

Florida in January, 30 additional carbines were sent on December 29, 1860.

#### 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 2,000 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 which was granted. The new price was set

at \$30 each with appendages extra for all state government orders and for militia companies which ordered 30 or more guns. Smaller lots would remain at the present \$34.

December 1, 1860 the state legislature of Georgia passed a resolution giving Governor Joseph E. Brown the authority to purchase 250 26-inch barrel Maynard rifles and 750 20-inch barrel carbines for the defense of the coast of Georgia. This order for the 1,000 .50 caliber Maynards was placed by Governor Brown with Syms' salesman on December 18. The order called for 500 to be shipped immediately and the balance as requested. It also called for 100 unloaded cartridges per gun. When Syms requested the 1,000 guns from the Maynard Arms Company, they were informed that the Company could only furnish about 650 .50 caliber, 20-inch barrel carbines and that no 26-inch barrel rifles were available. Syms held out for at least 125 26-inch barrel Maynard rifles; however, when they received 620 .50 caliber 20-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 50,000 cases were shipped and all were received for the 620 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 620 carbines and appendages. In March, Syms & Bros. sent an additional 30 carbines to Georgia for a total procurement by the state of 650 carbines.

Between the period of October 1860 and May 1861, W.J. Syms & Bros. sold about 1,700 Maynards of which 1,600 were sent to their southern customers. In addition to the 650 purchased by the State of Georgia, as many as 800 Maynard carbines appeared to have been purchased by militia companies in South Carolina and Louisiana. As of November 24, 1860, Thomas W. Radcliff of Columbia, South Carolina requested thirty .50 caliber 20-inch barrel Maynard carbines for the Chicora Rifles of which he was Captain, and several other militia companies in Charleston and Columbia were interested in purchasing Maynards. During this period, the Charleston, South Carolina firm of H.F. Strohecker was advertising the 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 60 carbines were delivered to New Orleans and a minimum of 116 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 160 second quality Maynard guns to such Louisville, Kentucky firms as Sparks and Gallagher and Thomas



8. Nathan Bedford Forrest, 3rd Tennessee Cavalry, during the early days of the war was armed with both the Maynard and Sharps carbine. *National Archives photo.*



9. General Wade Hampton purchased a cased Maynard in December 1860. At Gettysburg on July 3, 1863, Cobb's Georgia Legion, part of Hampton's command, was armed with the 1st Model Maynard. *National Archives Photo.*

## STATE PROCUREMENT OF 1ST MODEL MAYNARD CARBINES

<i>Contractor of Seller</i>	<i>Date of Shipment</i>	<i>Quantity and Kind of Stores</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Date of Contract &amp; Contracted by</i>
Maynard Arms Co.	Dec. 29 1860	30 Maynards - 20" barrels & .35 cal.	\$30.00	Dec. 29, 1860 Florida
	Jan. 25, 1861	500 Maynards - 20" barrels & 35 cal.	\$30.00	Dec. 21, 1860 Florida
	Jan. 26, 1860	500 Maynards - 20" barrel & .35 cal.	\$30.00	Dec. 21, 1860 Florida
Maynard Arms Co.	Jan. 21, 1861	325 Maynards - 20" barrel & .50 cal.	\$30.00	Dec. 20, 1860 Mississippi
	Jan. 21, 1861	175 Maynards - 26" barrel & .50 cal.	\$31.50	Dec. 20, 1860 Mississippi
	Jan. 21, 1861	300 Maynards - 20" barrel & .35 cal.	\$30.00	Dec. 20, 1860 Mississippi
W.J. Syms & Bros.	Jan. 5, 1861	620 Maynards - 20" barrel & .50 cal.	\$30.00	Dec. 18, 1860 Georgia
	March 1861	30 Maynards - 20" barrel & .50 cal.	\$30.00	Dec. 18, 1860 Georgia

& Anderson of 450 Main Street.

In the days prior to the war, the Maynard Arms Company sold a few carbines to various southern customers. On December 12, 1860, 15 carbines were sold to Cyrus Bradley for individuals in Mississippi and Florida; and on January 15, 1861, a Colonel Martin, possibly from North Carolina, purchased 10 guns plus General A.J. Gonzales of South Carolina had orders of \$3,195.45 of arms and appendages. In addition, a few arms were purchased by individuals from Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama and Texas.

## CONFEDERATE - FIELD SERVICE

With the large numbers of Maynards in Confederate service, the 1862 Confederate Field Manual for use of 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."

The shortages of metallic cartridges were always a problem in supplying ammunition to the units in the field. As of August 13, 1864, while the Selma Arsenal had in inventory 63,000 Sharps cartridges, they had

only 7,100 caliber .52 cartridges and 6,000 caliber .37 Maynard cartridges.

The First Model Maynards shipped to Florida were received at Fernandina and were first issued to Florida Infantry units. In 1862, parts of the 1st Florida Special Battalion Infantry and 6th Florida Infantry Battalion operating within the state were armed with the .35 caliber Maynard carbines. 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 260 .35 caliber 20-inch Maynard carbines.

By January 30, 1861 220 Maynard arms had arrived in eleven boxes at Jackson, Mississippi. From March 15 to the end of June, 725 Maynards were issued. The Maynard rifles — 26-inch barrels in .50 caliber — were issued to: Company "D" 9th Mississippi receiving 24, Company "D" 14th Mississippi issued 3 while Company "G" 15th Mississippi Infantry had 4. The carbine was issued to the 1st Mississippi cavalry. On March 16, 1861, Captain F. A. Montgomery's Company "H" 1st Mississippi Cavalry was issued 60 Maynard carbines and 1,200 cartridges. Three months later on June 3, Montgomery's Company was given an additional 40 Maynard carbines and 3,000 metallic cartridges. When organized in the summer of 1861 at Union City, Tennessee, the entire 1st Mississippi Cavalry Battalion

was armed with the Maynard. For part of the war, the 1st Mississippi was under the command of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. It should be noted that a few of General Forrest's 3rd Tennessee cavalry at Fort Donaldson in February 1862 were armed with Maynard carbines.

In an earlier skirmish with the 3rd Kentucky Cavalry on December 28, 1861, Bedford Forrest's cavalry defeated the Union cavalry with the help of these Maynard and Sharp carbines. During the action, Forrest took a Maynard rifle and fired at the Union vanguard. In the engagement, Forrest's cavalry losses included two killed and three wounded while the 3rd Kentucky suffered eight killed, six wounded and about thirteen captured. In this action, the Union cavalry numbered about 170 while Forrest had about 300 men.

The state of Georgia issued their .50 caliber Maynard carbines to the 5th and 9th Georgia cavalry plus to Cobbs Legion. During the Gettysburg campaign of June-July 1863, Cobbs Legion was frequently used as skirmishers. In the July 3 cavalry battle east of Gettysburg, Cobbs Legion was part of the Confederate cavalry skirmishers which took up position in the Rummel farm buildings. In this battle, Cobbs Legion suffered eight killed, six wounded and seven missing.

The Confederate iron-clad C.S.S. Atlanta was captured by the Union Navy off the coast of Georgia on June 17, 1863. Among the captured items taken from the Confederate iron-clad were 30 Maynard carbines, 26 wipers for the Maynard and one box of 200 bullets for the Maynard. These captured Maynards were probably part of the 650 purchased in 1861 by the State of Georgia.

During the war the following Confederate units are known to have been partially armed with the First Model Maynard:

Confederate Iron-clad CSS Atlanta  
 2nd Florida Cavalry  
 1st Florida Special Battalion-Infantry  
 6th Florida Special Battalion-Infantry  
 Cobb 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  
 South Carolina Chicora Rifles  
 3rd Tennessee Cavalry  
 1st Louisiana Cavalry  
 11th Louisiana Infantry

With all the Maynard arms sold by June 1861 and with only a few spare parts being sold after that date, the Maynard Arms Co. closed its doors in October 1861. Dr. Maynard bought out the other stockholders and on June 8, 1863, obtained a government contract for 20,000 of his standard Civil War model .50 caliber carbine.

The Confederates used the First Model Maynard throughout the conflict with telling effect. Even with the help of the Maynard, the South could not stem the tide of the Union's massive industrial and manpower strength. By the spring of 1865, the Confederate armies found themselves hopelessly out gunned and out manned and on the 9th of April, General Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Court House. After four years of bloody warfare, peace had returned to the country and the First Model Maynard had done its part for southern independence. □



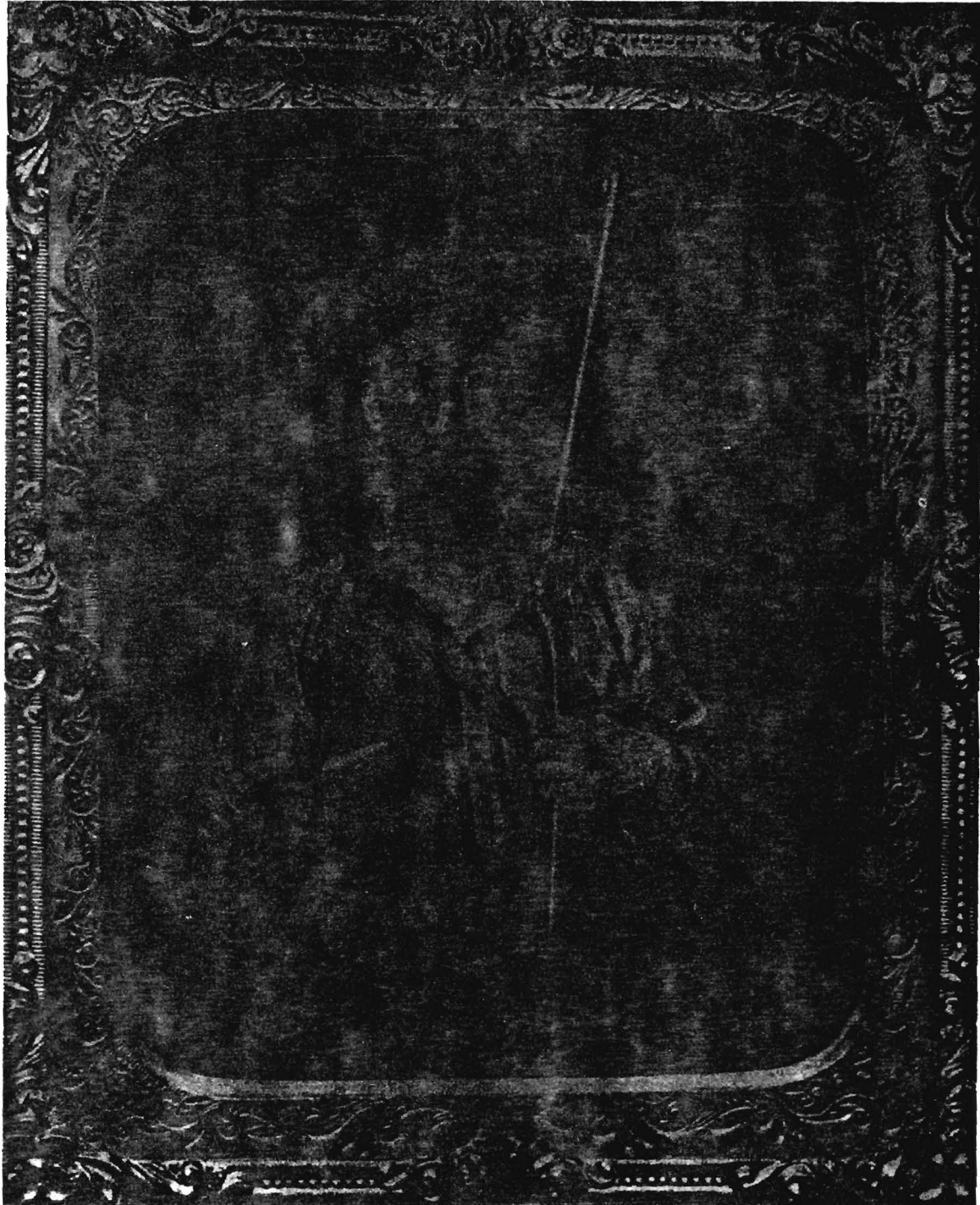
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GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OF 1ST MODEL MAYNARD CARBINES

Contractor or Seller	Date of Purchase	Quantity and Kind of Stores	Price	Date of Contract & Contracted by
Maynard Arms Co.	March 8, 1859	200 Maynard Carbines and Appendages	\$30	Dec. 28, 1857 Army
	April 6, 1859	200 Maynard Carbines and Appendages	\$30	Dec. 28, 1857 Army
Maynard Arms Co.	Aug. 19, 1859	100 Maynard Carbines and Appendages	\$30	July 16, 1859 Treasury Dept.
	December 1859	100 Maynard Carbines and Appendages	\$30	November 13, 1859 Treasury Dept.
Maynard Arms Co.	March 3, 1860	60 Maynard Carbines and Appendages	\$30	Feb. 23, 1860 Navy
	TOTAL	660 Maynard Carbines		



*out of order  
for artistic reasons*

7. A sergeant of Captain Montgomery's Co. "H" 1st Mississippi Cavalry. (Note the leather thong from the barrel pivot pin to the chamber.) *Herb Peck Collection.*