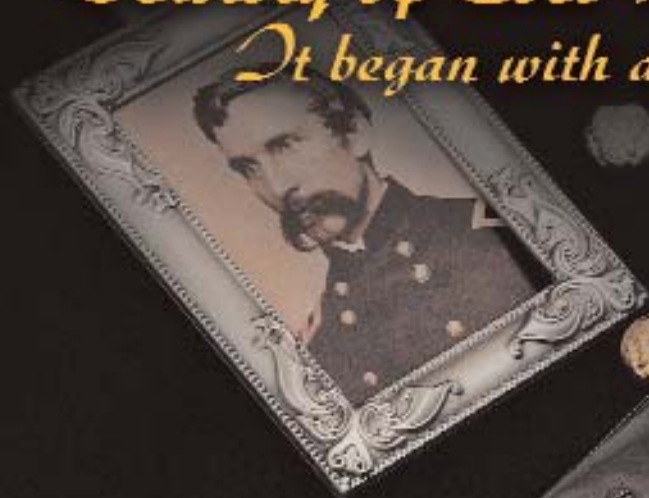


History of Colt Blackpowder Reproductions

It began with a gun that was last built in 1873

By Dennis Adler



The first 2nd Generation Colts, 1851 Navy models, shown with Union Officer's jacket and hat (courtesy of Colt Blackpowder and Servant & Co.) and photo of Col. Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, the commander who turned the tide at Gettysburg in the battle of Little Round Top. Navy models are serial numbers 9021, produced in 1971, and 14909 produced in 1977. Both feature silver plated backstraps and square back trigger guards.

In the late 1950s, Val Forgett, the founder of Navy Arms, and Italian gunmaker Aldo Uberti selected the Colt 1851 Navy as the first percussion era revolver to be reproduced. And what a legendary gun they had chosen. This was the celebrated six-shooter carried by James Butler Hickok and the sidearm used extensively Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. The Colt Navy was instantly recognizable and immediately popular as the first modern black powder Colt style replica. Thus, after a dozen years and thousands of copies, the 1851 Navy finally came to the attention of the company that had originally manufactured it, Colt.

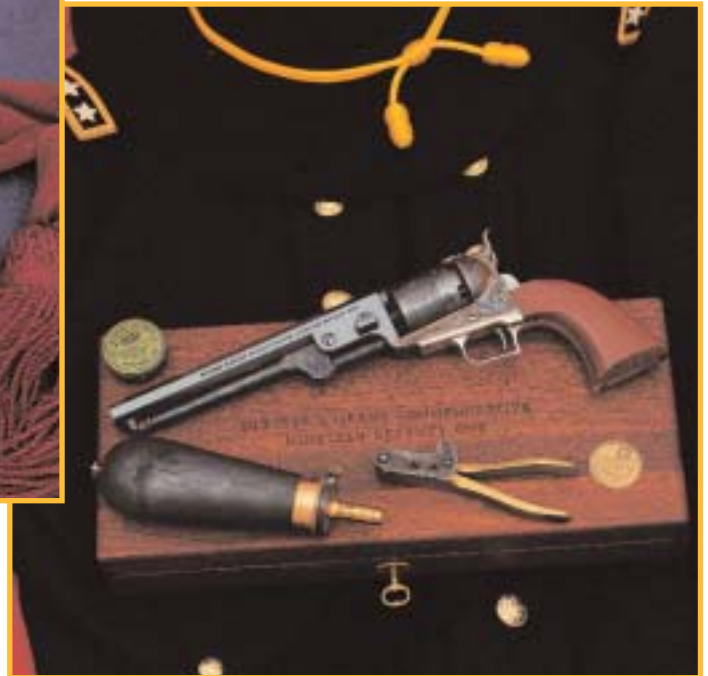
By 1971, Navy Arms Company had become the leading importer of Italian made Colt-style black powder revolvers, as well as other historic black powder arms. Val Forgett had virtually created the American black powder industry. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, he had per-

sonally underwritten the costs of design and development for several models, along with author and historian William B. Edwards. A founder of *Guns* magazine and a principal in the Centennial Arms Company, Edwards was another of the early importers of Civil War replicas and an instrumental link between Forgett and Italian gunmakers Vittorio Gregorelli, Aldo Uberti, and Luciano Amadi, the Italian black powder industry's version of "The Three Tenors." This, of course, all took place long before Colt's became involved in manufacturing reproductions of their own 19th century designs.

Colt Industries tested the waters with Forgett's help to build their first "C" Series 1851 Navy reproductions in the 1971-1973 timeframe, which had included the now very collectible Grant and Lee Navy sets, however, in late 1973, Colt's decided to seek a new supplier of components and Lou Imperato, Colt's largest distributor at the

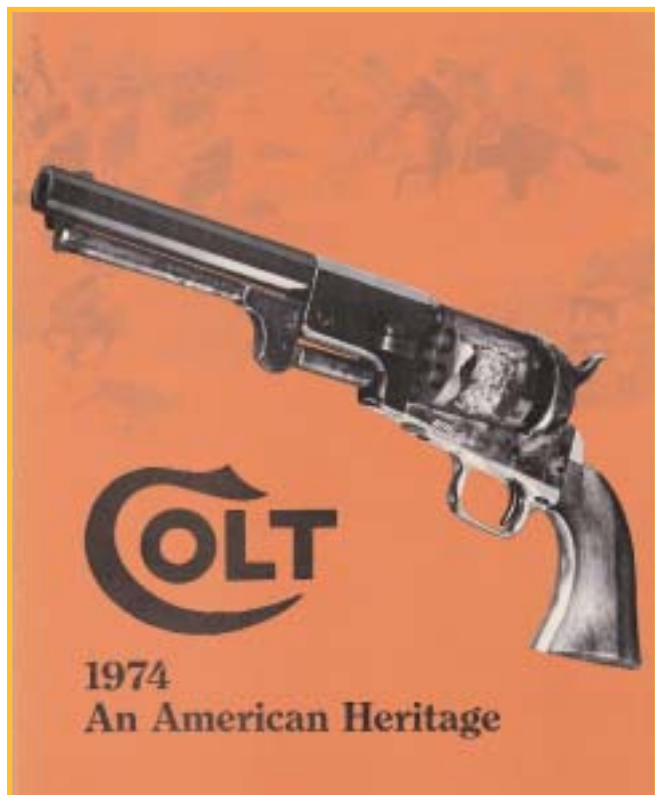


In 1971, Colt issued a pair of Civil War commemoratives, the Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee "Blue and Grey" set, two cased revolvers with period accessories. The pair was also sold in an even more exclusive double gun casing. General's North and South uniforms and accessories courtesy Servant & Company. Serial numbers 582 (Lee) and 2141 (Grant).



time, was about to become their man. Beginning in 1974, Imperato replaced Val Forgett as Colt's supplier of components to build their percussion revolvers. These revolvers were completed in the same way as all of their previously made 2nd Generation percussion revolvers – at Colt's facilities. This included the newly announced Third Model Dragoon.

Colt's enthusiasm for the percussion revolver project was obvious in their decision to place the Third Model Dragoon on the cover of their 1974 sales catalog. The black powder models were listed along with the Colt Python, Detective Special, Cobra, Agent, Diamondback, Trooper MKIII, Official Police MKIII, Lawman MKIII, 1873 Peacemaker Single Action Army models, and semi-autos. The first examples, however, were not available until 1975, when deliveries actually began. The guns produced in this timeframe were packaged in wood grain, cardboard boxes. The relationship with Imperato continued until Colt's discontinued their entire "C" Series line of percussion revolvers in 1976.



Although Colt's was now out of the black powder business, Imperato continued to press them about getting back into it, and in a big way. He told Colt's management point blank, "It's your guns and everyone else is getting rich on them and you're not out there." Shortly thereafter, he had another meeting with Colt's management. "I showed them a display of black powder models (it is not known whether they were originals or reproductions), and they said, 'All right, we want to do this,' but like before, Colt Industries had no way to make the guns themselves." The timing could not have been bet-



Colt Signature Series revolvers feature the flamboyant Sam Colt signature on the backstrap of each model. The new 3rd Generation pistols come in a hard sided grey presentation box. The 2nd Generation Colts came in black and gold soft sided presentation boxes. Saving all original brochures and instruction books is a must for serious collectors.

ter for Imperato. A new relationship was born and Imperato began manufacturing the 2nd Generation percussion revolvers at Iver Johnson, which he then owned. It was there that all "F" Series standard production models were manufactured as The Authentic Colt Blackpowder Series. These new "F" Series 2nd Generation models came in black cardboard boxes with dark grey foam rubber inserts, and featured Sam Colt's portrait and signature on the lid and end label.

Imperato and Iver Johnson were now responsible for the entire production of Colt black powder models. While being built in considerable numbers, the guns were far from mass production, each, as Imperato later explained to Colt, was virtually hand finished.

"They were all hand fitted. We had the barrels, cylinders, and backstraps cast in Italy (as Forgett had done), but we finished them off in house. We made the frames, the center pins, nipples, all of the screws, springs, and

built every "F" Series gun at Iver Johnson Arms. We even used the old style color case hardening method with the charcoal and bone meal, and Colt's exclusive Colt Blue Finish for the "F" Series. They turned out pretty good. In fact, I think our finishes were actually better than Colt's single actions being done in Hartford," says Imperato.

Imperato and Iver Johnson produced most of the original black powder models from the 1847 Walker to the 1862 Pocket Police and Pocket Navy. The 2nd Generation ("C" Series and "F" Series) lasted for over a decade and included a total of 11 different designs: the 1851 Navy, 1847 Walker, First, Second, and Third Model Dragoons, 1860 Army with rebated cylinder and fluted cylinder, the 1861 Navy, 1848 Baby Dragoon, and 1862 Pocket Police and Pocket Navy. "The best seller was the 1860 Army, just slightly ahead of the 1851 Navy in popularity," recalls Imperato.

The 1851 Navy was still the most recognized Colt model. Within the 2nd Generation, the first or "C" Series, consisted of the standard 1851 model, with serial numbers 4201 through 25099, produced from 1871



Colt's 1st Model Dagoon further refined the .44 caliber pistol. The authentic 2nd Generation model featured the round cylinder stop and square back trigger guard. Note the superb color case hardening and excellent fit and finish of this 24-year old model, serial number 31409. The gun is pictured with an El Paso Saddlery Slim Jim holster and vintage Stetson "Tom Mix" hat. (Hat courtesy Dave Anderson)

through 1976, with those in the 1971-73 serial number range having been built by Colt's from Forgett's components. This first series also included the limited edition 1971 Civil War commemoratives. These were the individually cased Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant models with accessories, and 250 Blue and Grey double cased sets. A total of 4,750 Grant and Lee Navy models were produced and 25,150 standard Navy models. The sec-

ond series was introduced in May 1980 and manufactured through October 1981 with serial numbers 24900 through 28850.

In addition to the standard production guns, Colt's manufactured 300 Model F1101 1851 Navy revolvers with blank cylinders (no roll engraved battle scene) within the serial number range 28851 to 29150, and 490 Model F1110 examples with a stainless steel finish in the serial number range 29151s through 29640s. Colt also produced a very limited run of 174 engraved models in 1976 known as the Conquistador Special Edition, and 500 Model C1122 1851 Navy models with polished brass backstraps and trigger guards, prior to discontinuing "C" Series production in 1976. The Colt Custom Shop built 50 Navy revolvers embellished with gold bands and "B" engraving in 1985 and 1986.

In 1974-75 Colt's had introduced the Third Model Dagoon, which was produced through 1976 in the serial number range 20901 through 25099. There were 25 prototype Third Model Dragoons built with serial numbers 20801 through 20825. These would be considered very rare today.

Somewhat out of historical sequence, Colt's skipped the First and Second Model Dragoons (later introduced in 1980) and next brought out the popular 1860 Army model in November 1978. The Colt black powder 2nd Generation reprise of the 1860 Army remained in production until 1982, and was offered in a variety of models. The original 1860 style with rebated cylinder was



Hefty brutes. The 2nd and 3rd Model Dragoons were introduced in 1980 by Colt Blackpowder and produced through February 1982. The same high quality finish seen on earlier Colts was evident on these massive .44 repeaters. The style changes between 2nd and 3rd Models is evident in the trigger guard, rounded on the later Dragoon. Also note the rectangular cylinder stops indicative of the last two models. The 2nd Model Dragoon, serial number 34295, and 3rd Model, serial number 22242, are pictured with a new Colt Blackpowder presentation case and accessories.



The elegantly styled 1860 Army has become the most reproduced Colt model of all time. Here, a pair of 2nd Generation models, serial numbers 205932 and 205933, are pictured with a Union Army cavalry jacket, kepi and saber. (Clothing courtesy Servant & Co.)

manufactured from November 1978 to November 1982 in serial number sequence 201000 through 212835; also with an electroless nickel finish in 1982; with a fluted cylinder from July 1980 through October 1981 in serial number range 207330 to 211262; and in stainless steel from January 1982 to April 1982 with serial number sequence 211263s to 212835s.

Colt also produced a number of special edition Army models. One series was commissioned by the Hodgdon Powder Company in 1979 to commemorate the Butterfield Overland Stage. This was limited to 500 guns with a shortened 5-1/2 inch barrel, and came with an extra cylinder in a French fit book-style case. Another dozen 1860 Armys were finished in bright nickel plate and fitted with ivory stocks in 1984. A total of 3001 U.S. Cavalry 200th Anniversary double pistol sets, cased with a shoulder stock and accessories, were produced beginning in 1977. In 1979 a series of

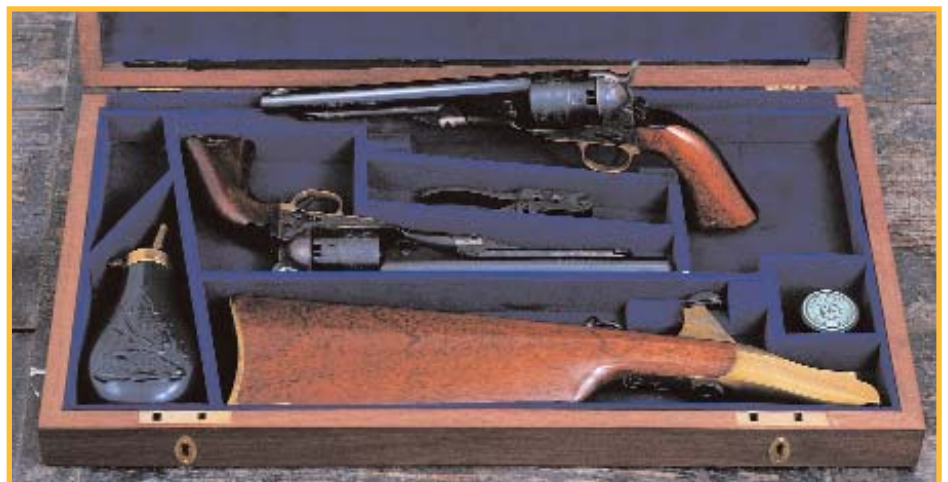


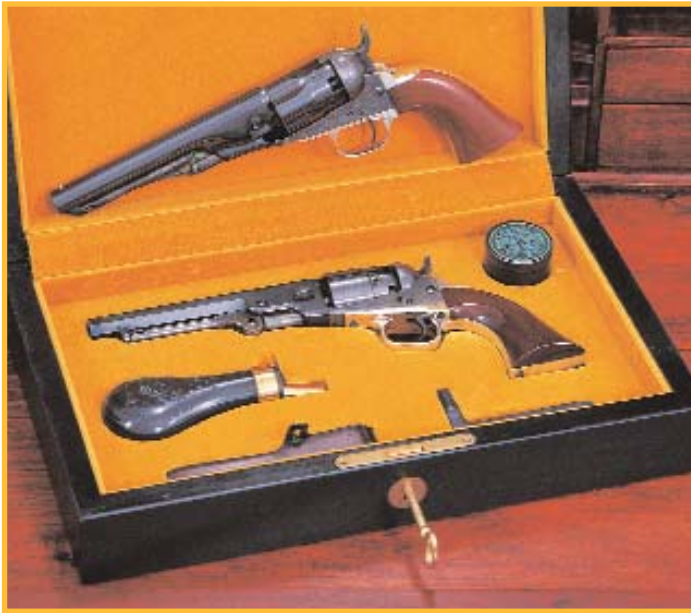
Among the more rare of 2nd Generation Colt Blackpowder models were the stainless steel 1851 Navy and 1860 Army.

500 cased 1860 Army models were built, and in 1980 a special Interstate Edition of 200 guns, making the Army the most varied of the 2nd Generation models.

The Colt Pocket Model of Navy Caliber and 1862 Pocket Police were the next additions to the black powder line, introduced in December 1979 and January 1980, respectively. The last percussion models introduced by Colt's prior to the 1873 Peacemaker, the original pocket pistols were scaled down versions of the 1851 Navy and 1860 Army. The 1862 Pocket Police model was distinguished by its semi-fluted and rebated cylinder, round 1860 Army-style barrel, and creeping lever for loading. The Pocket Navy featured a rebated round cylinder, roll engraved with stagecoach holdup scene, and octagonal barrel with hinged-type loading lever. The 2nd Generation Pocket Navy was produced through November 1981 and the Pocket Police through September 1981. These two models were produced in the same serial number series beginning with 48000 and con-

One of the more seldom seen commemoratives from Colt's 2nd Generation is U.S. Cavalry 200th Anniversary double cased set with attachable shoulder stock. Produced from 1977, a total of 3,001 were made.





Both the 2nd Generation 1862 Pocket Navy and Pocket Police were produced in a limited series of 500 cased models complete with accessories. The cased sets were manufactured in 1979 and 1980.

tinuing to 58850. With few exceptions, the Navy models are found with serial numbers only in the even thousands (48000) while the Police models are typically found with serial numbers only in the odd thousands (49000). Both Pocket Models were also produced in a limited edition of 500, each in a French fitted presentation box with bullet mold, powder flask, percussion cap tin and combination tool. The beautifully styled presentation boxes were affixed with a brass medallion mounted in the lid featuring a cast bust of Samuel Colt and the legend COLT AUTHENTIC BLACKPOWDER. The series was produced in 1979 and 1980 within the production serial number run. In addition, a very limited edition of Pocket Navy and Pocket Police revolvers was produced in bright nickel finish with ivory stocks in 1984.

The 1980 Colt black powder series featured yet another historic reproduction, the 1861 Navy, which was added in September and produced through October 1981 in the serial number sequence 40000 to 43165. The original 1861 Navy was Colt's update on the 1851, and was again chambered in .36 caliber. Interestingly, Colt's did not discontinue the 1851 Navy when the 1861 Navy was introduced, and both

The most impressive of all large frame black powder Colts, the 2nd Generation 1847 Walker was introduced in 1980. Serial number 20842 is shown in a Colt presentation box with new Signature Series brass powder flask, Signature Series .44 bullet mold, Walker combination tool, and Eley Bros. percussion cap tin. All of the accessories were available through Colt Blackpowder Arms Co.



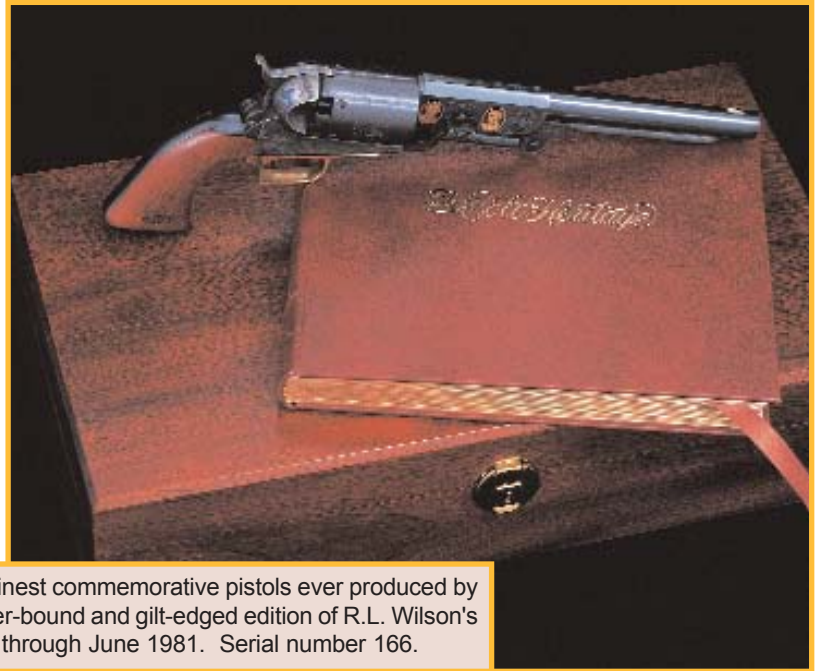
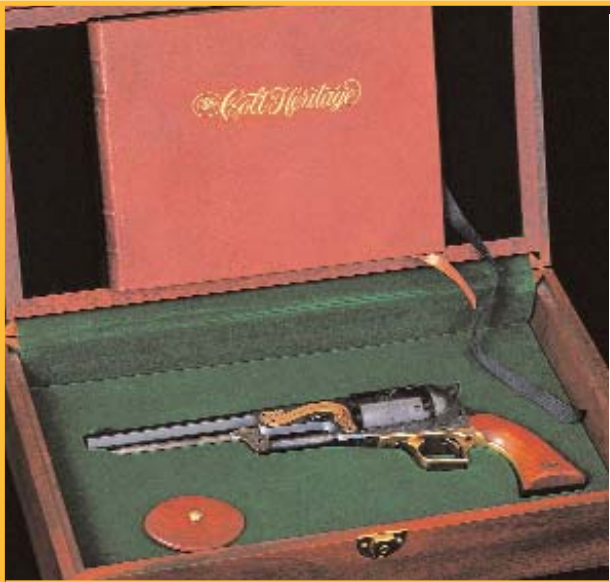
Considered by many authorities to be the most beautifully-styled model in the Colt line, the 1861 Navy was an updated version of the '51 with 1860 Army-style barrel and creeping loading lever. This 2nd Generation model, serial number 42446, is pictured on a Regimental Standard Flag, courtesy of Hugh Tracy. Infantry saber courtesy Servant & Co.

remained in production through 1873. Colt manufactured 38,000 1861 Navy models.

The 2nd Generation 1861 Navy followed the original Colt design fitting the 1851 frame and cylinder with a streamlined Army-style round barrel and loading lever. For sheer style and balanced proportions, the 1861 Navy is often considered to be the most beautifully designed Colt percussion revolver.

A new line of First, Second, and Third Model Dragoons was added in 1980, all of which were introduced in January. The three versions were produced in the same serial number series beginning with 25100 and concluding in February 1982 with serial number 34500.





The Colt Heritage 1847 Walker Dagoon was one of the finest commemorative pistols ever produced by Colt. The limited, cased model came with a special leather-bound and gilt-edged edition of R.L. Wilson's book *The Colt Heritage*. A total of 1,853 were produced through June 1981. Serial number 166.

As a Colt reproduction, the 1847 Walker was first issued in June 1980 as the Colt Heritage, a limited, cased model complete with a leather-bound and gilt-edged edition of R.L. Wilson's book *The Colt Heritage*. A total of 1,853 were produced through June 1981. Each Heritage Walker was serialized from 1 to 1,853 with *The Colt Heritage* book, signed by R.L. Wilson and numbered to match the gun. A striking presentation, the Walker was set into a French fit case with the book placed in a removable shelf, allowing both the pistol and the book to be displayed.

The large frame .44 Model Walker Heritage had a 9-inch half round, half octagonal barrel, steel backstrap, brass square back trigger guard, US 1847 stamped above the wedge screw, and gold engraved portraits of Capt. Samuel Walker and Col. Samuel Colt on the right side of the barrel lug, with the scrollwork Heritage Banner engraved on the left. This remains the most elaborate factory casing of a Colt Blackpowder reproduction, outside of the limited edition custom shop models.

Standard Walkers were added to the Colt percussion line in June 1980 and produced through April 1982. The total number of 2nd Generation Walkers, exclusive of the Heritage, was 3,165, with four-digit serial numbers 1200 to 4120, and including the rarely encountered 245 revolvers erroneously produced with Dagoon Model five-digit serial numbers in the 32256 to 32500 range. This later series was produced from May 1981 through September 1981.

Among the last black powder models to be reintroduced by Colt's was the 1848 Baby Dagoon, a pocket-sized version of the First Model Dagoon, and a throwback to the very first Paterson No. 1, chambered for .31 caliber, limited to 5-shots, and conspicuously absent of a loading lever. (In its place, the cylinder pin doubled as a loading ramrod). Standard barrel lengths for the original guns ranged from 3-inches to 6-inches. The 4-inch model was the most popular and that was the barrel length chosen for the 2nd Generation Colt, introduced in 1979 as a limited edition of 500 presentation models each in a French fitted case with powder flask, bullet mold, percussion cap tin and combination tool. Between February 1981 and April 1982 another 1,352 Baby Dragoons were produced for general sales. The entire serial number range from 1979 through 1982 was 16000-17851.



A total of 1,852 Baby Dragoons were made which included a series of 500 presentation models in a French fit case with accessories. The model was reprised by Colt Blackpowder in 1997, once again with a 4-inch barrel, silver backstrap and trigger guard.

By the end of 1982 Colt's was no longer selling the black powder models. However, Iver Johnson still had inventory, as did Colt's, many of which were "in the white," [without color case hardening or blueing is referred to as being "in the white"] a small footnote in Company history that would provide the Colt custom shop with 2nd Generation guns long after black powder production had ended. As for Iver Johnson, Imperato was given the authority to sell the remaining guns in his inventory under the Colt name, and as he points out, "This is when I was offered the exclusivity I used later on with the 3rd Generation." The tale of the 2nd Generation Colts doesn't end here, however.

As production was winding down, Imperato sold Iver Johnson to a group of investors from Jacksonville, Arkansas. It appears that they delivered the last remaining completed models in Iver Johnson's inventory to Colt's. Shortly thereafter, Iver Johnson's new owners decided to try building additional Colt black powder guns, but discovered they did not have the capability.

"The people that had built the guns for Colt worked for me," explains Imperato. "I brought gunsmiths over from Italy, Germany, England, and Czechoslovakia, and put them up in apartments in New Jersey near Iver Johnson. I started with around 20 men and ended thinning the ranks down to 12 highly skilled craftsmen who were earning \$39,000 a year by the end of production. That was a good income in the early 1980s. They set up hand assembly in a production manner, working in teams. It was incredible. Afterward, a couple of them went back to Italy and set up factories of their own. I was happy with what we did. We had a couple of really good years and I think we made a contribution to the history of Colt."

Without Imperato's craftsmen, Iver Johnson was unable to build the guns. And after one failed attempt to have them produced in Italy by Armi San Marco (which had been instrumental in the development of the first Walker reproductions), they gave up on the idea. However, Iver Johnson did send their remaining 2nd Generation parts to Armi San Marco, which produced a brief run of black powder models bearing Colt markings and the New York barrel address. Since they were not authorized by Colt, nor packaged in the 2nd Generation Colt black box, they are not regarded as authentic Colt pistols. Additionally, the counterfeit versions produced by Armi San Marco exhibited a quality of fit and finish that was inferior to that of true Colt

2nd Generation percussion models – a peculiar footnote to the end of the 2nd Generation.

THE COLT CUSTOM SHOP

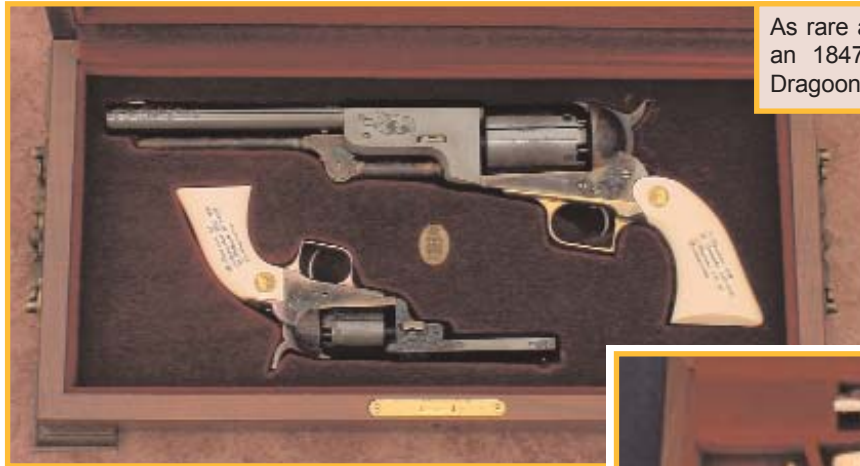
While Imperato was turning out black powder Colts by the thousands, a handful were being diverted to the Colt Custom Shop for use in a limited series of factory engraved editions; the guns that would become the most rare and valuable of the 2nd Generation.

Recalls Lou Imperato, "We would ship the guns to the custom shop in the white and they would be completed by factory engravers, or on occasion, sent to American Master Engravers, Inc., (including A.A. White, John Adams, Sr., Andrew Bourbon, and Denise Therion), or one of the other leading artisans of the day like Howard Dove."

Within the Colt custom shop series of engraved 2nd Generation Colt percussion pistols, there are a number of variations, some produced in sets from 20 to 50, but most limited to 10, and a few to single examples. Among the most desirable are the Colt 150th Anniversary Engraving Samplers, which were produced in both high polish blue and bright nickel finishes and in a variety of popular models: 1860 Army; Third Model Dragoon; and 1862 Pocket Navy and Pocket Police. There was also a single example of the 1847 Walker and 1848 Baby Dragoon. The Samplers featured four different "B" engraving styles on each revolver, three depicting the work of different engravers from the 19th century and one with contemporary technique. All of the guns were mounted with ivory stocks featuring the engraver's names and dates of their work scrimshawed in script on the left grip: R. Henshaw 1831, L. Nimschke 1850-1900, C. Helfricht 1871-1921,

Another rare example from the Colt custom shop is this 1847 Walker cased with accessories and engraved by Alvin A. White. The number of Walkers engraved by White is unknown. Serial Number 2800.





As rare as it gets, this Engraving Sampler set comprised of an 1847 Walker (Serial Number 1902) and 1848 Baby Dragoon (Serial Number 16566), was the only one produced.

The 1860 Army was also produced as an Engraving Sampler in both high polish blue and bright nickel finishes. A total of 20 were produced, 10 in each finish. Serial Numbers: 202154 and 202200 for blue and nickel models respectively.



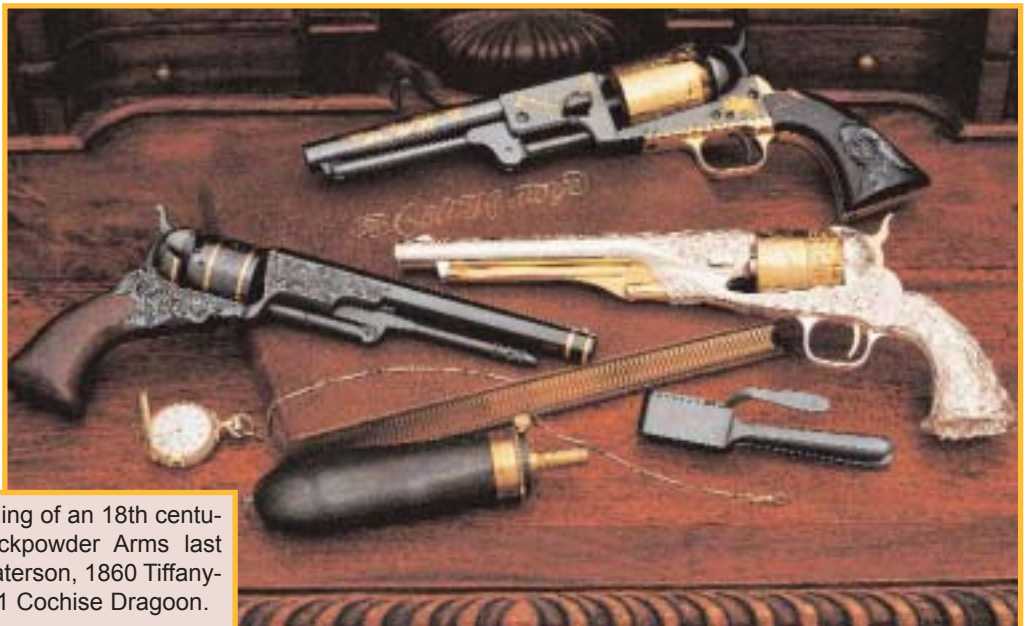
and the word Contemporary. In addition to the Engraving Samplers, in 1978-79 Jerry Berman & Sons of San Bernardino, California, commissioned 50 cased sets consisting of an 1851 Navy and Third Model Dragoon. The English fit presentation case held the pair which were enhanced with "C" engraving, gold inlaid frame border and barrel bands, and two-piece ivory grips with gold Colt medallions, along with Colt 1851 Navy and Third Model Dragoon accessory sets. The Berman Colts have sold for up to \$10,500.

Not quite as costly, but oddly, more rare, are the factory cased 1860 Army U.S. Cavalry Commemorative Custom Engraved sets. These were part of the limited edition Cavalry Commemorative model produced from 1977-1980, which consisted of a cased pair of 1860 Army revolvers, along with a single shoulder stock, powder flask, bullet mold, combination tool, and Eley cap tin. The standard set was originally priced at \$995. Of those, 40 were to be sent to the Colt custom shop where they would be embellished with class "A" vine scroll engraving on the barrels, class "B" engraving on the frames and stock mount, and wolf's head engraving on the hammers. The guns were to be further embellished with gold barrel bands, gold stars inlaid between each chamber of the cylinder, and the serial number XX of 40 engraved on the left side of each frame. With

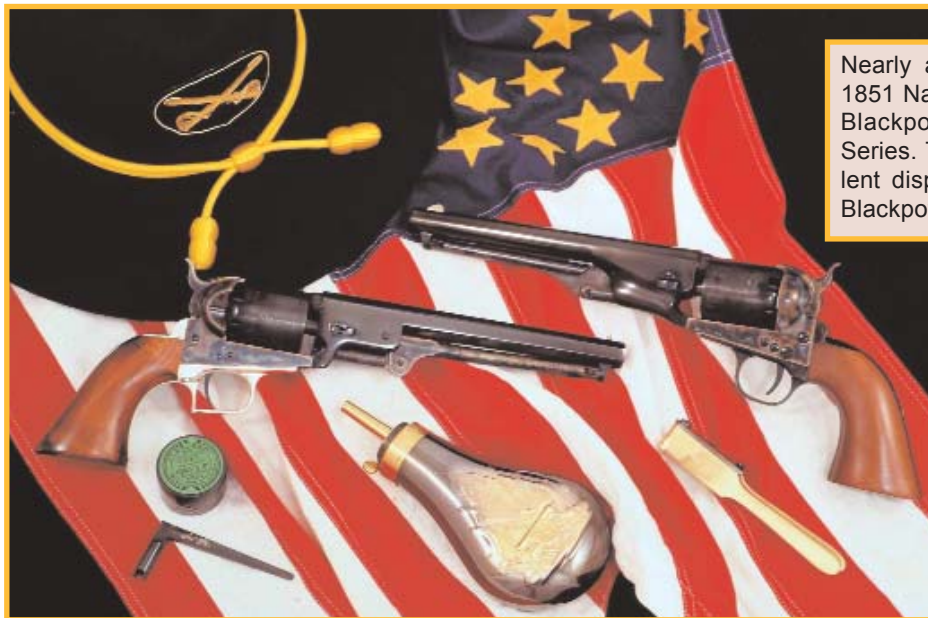
the exception of the cap tin, all of the factory accessories also were embellished with vine style engraving. Only 23 of the 40 sets were actually engraved and the remaining 17 had only the gold embellishments. Originally selling for \$4,500, a mint condition engraved set will command \$6,500 today.

THE 3RD GENERATION

A little over a decade passed between the end of the 2nd and beginning of the 3rd Generation Colt percussion revolver lineup. "It needed the time, the market needed to be cleansed, and after 11 years passed, my son

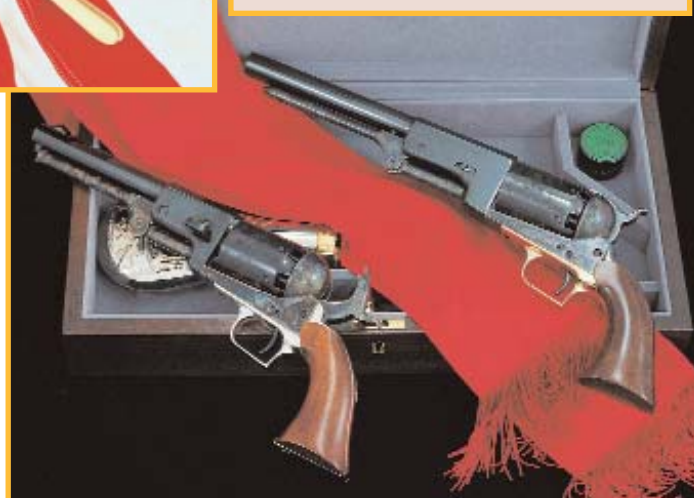


Framed by the ornate rococo styling of an 18th century Chippendale desk, Colt Blackpowder Arms last commemorative models: 1842 Paterson, 1860 Tiffany-style Army, and the massive 1851 Cochise Dragoon.



Nearly a decade apart in their original form, the 1851 Navy and 1861 Navy were introduced by Colt Blackpowder in the 3rd Generation Signature Series. These handsome revolvers make an excellent display pair for collectors. Hat courtesy Colt Blackpowder, flag from the collection of Hugh Tracy.

The 3rd Generation Colt Blackpowder Signature Series is highlighted by two of the earliest Colt models, the 1847 Walker and 1848 Whitneyville Hartford Dagoon. The Whitneyville Hartford was not produced in the 2nd Generation.



Anthony and I decided to bring them back one more time," explains Imperato. They organized the Colt Blackpowder Arms Company in Brooklyn, New York in 1993. A year later, the 3rd Generation Colt Blackpowder Signature Series was introduced under a licensing agreement with Colt's Manufacturing Company, Inc.

Under this new "licensing" arrangement, Imperato not only manufactured the 3rd Generation black powder revolvers, he was also responsible for quality control, final inspection, marketing, advertising, sales, distribution and shipping to distributors or customers. This "licensing" arrangement was significantly different from the "subcontractor" type agreement he had with Colt's for the production of the 2nd Generation percussion revolvers.

Under the old "subcontractor" agreement to produce 2nd Generation percussion models, Imperato's only responsibilities were to manufacture the revolvers to Colt's strict specifications and then ship the finished product to Colt's facilities in Hartford. Colt's then performed final inspection and shipped the revolvers to their distributors. This is why Colt historical letters for 2nd Generation percussion revolvers contain exactly the same type of information one finds in letters for original percussion models, Single Action Armys and other firearms that Colt's produced. Historical letters for 3rd Generation percussion revolvers that contain any kind of detailed information are rare. If a letter can be secured at all, they typically omit most of the details one finds in other Colt historical letters because these revolvers never passed through their facilities where production and shipping information was painstakingly recorded.

The first 3rd Generation model offered was the traditional 1851 Navy, followed by the 1847 Walker, 1860 Army, and 1849 Pocket, the one gun that had been omitted from the 2nd Generation line. With these first guns a new tradition was established. More than a reissue of the models offered from 1971 to 1982, each was embellished along the backstrap with the flamboyant signature of Sam Colt. On steel frame guns the signature was inlaid in gold, and engraved on silver-plated and polished brass backstraps. The Colt signature added a new sense of heritage to the guns, as well as a distinguishing characteristic from the 2nd Generation Colts.

By 1996, Lou and Anthony Imperato had recreated all of the original models, as well as adding two new historic Colts to the line that were not offered in the 2nd Generation, the aforementioned 1849 Pocket Dagoon, literally a scaled down First Model Dagoon chambered in .31 caliber, and the 1862 Trapper, a pocket-sized .36 caliber revolver of which Colt only produced 50 original examples in 1862. A variation of the 1862 Pocket Police, the Trapper was fitted with a short 3-1/2 inch round bar-



The big three, Colt Blackpowder's 3rd Generation Signature Series Dragoons. Pictured from left to right, 3rd Model Dagoon civilian, 3rd Model Dagoon steel backstrap, and 3rd Model Dagoon with fluted cylinder.

rel without loading lever and accompanied by a brass ramrod measuring 4-5/8 inches and designed to fit through the loading lever channel in place of the plunger.

The 3rd Generation Colts have become landmark models, expanding the variety of guns available to the collector and shooter. Within three years of their introduction, there were more than a dozen Signature Series Colts on the market, covering every caliber, size, and model produced in Hartford, including the transitional Whitneyville Hartford Dagoon, originally built in 1848. This was the first model assembled in Colt's new Hartford, Connecticut, plant, and only 240 were made before the First Model Dagoon went into production.

Introduced in 1996, the Colt Blackpowder Whitneyville Hartford was the first historic commemorative model in the 3rd Generation, and was also sold through America Remembers as a cased and engraved edition limited to 100 sets. The following year Colt issued the 150th Anniversary Walker Dagoon, with A Company No. 1 markings inscribed in gold on the barrel lug, frame and cylinder, to commemorate the Walker's use by the U.S. Mounted Rifles in the war with Mexico. The original A Company

models ended with serial number 220 and the 150th Anniversary Walkers began with number 221.

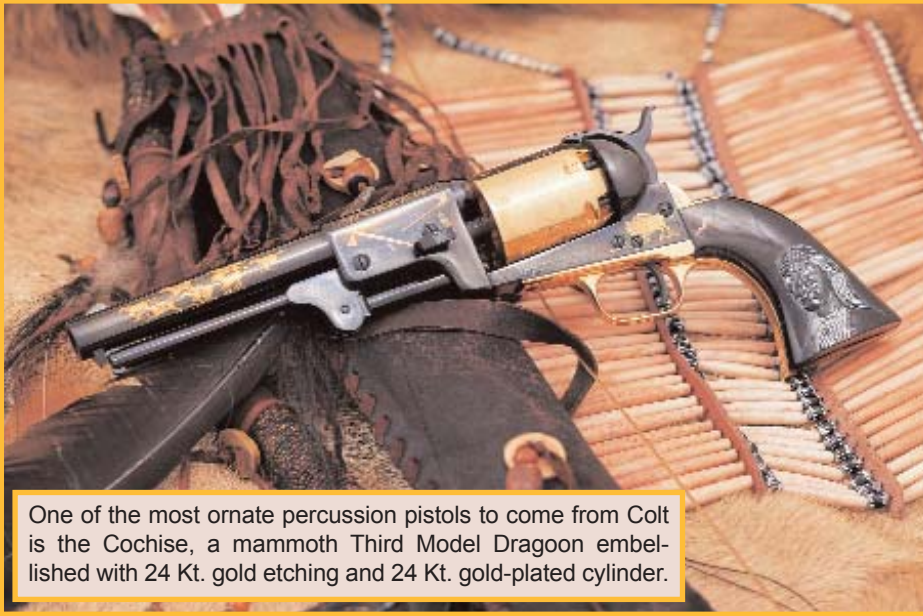
In addition to recreating historic pistols, Colt Blackpowder Arms also established its own contemporary commemoratives in the tradition of the 2nd Generation Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee set. The first in this new series was the General George Armstrong Custer 1861 Navy. The Custer had an

antique silver finish and was embellished in the Louis Nimschke style.

The Cochise Dagoon honoring the great chief of the Chiricahua Apache tribe followed the Custer. A Third Model Dagoon of the 1851 design, finely wrought with 24 Kt. gold inlay depicting a herd of stampeding wild

Chambered in .36 caliber, the George Armstrong Custer 3rd Generation 1861 Navy has an antique silver finish embellished in the style of Louis Nimschke, one of the premier engravers of Colt revolvers in the second half of the 19th century. Presentation stocks for the Custer are select rosewood, engraved with a carved American eagle over a shield on the left-hand side, with a deep checkered pattern appropriate to the era on the right. Reproduction of Custer's 7th Cavalry flag courtesy Hugh Tracy collection.

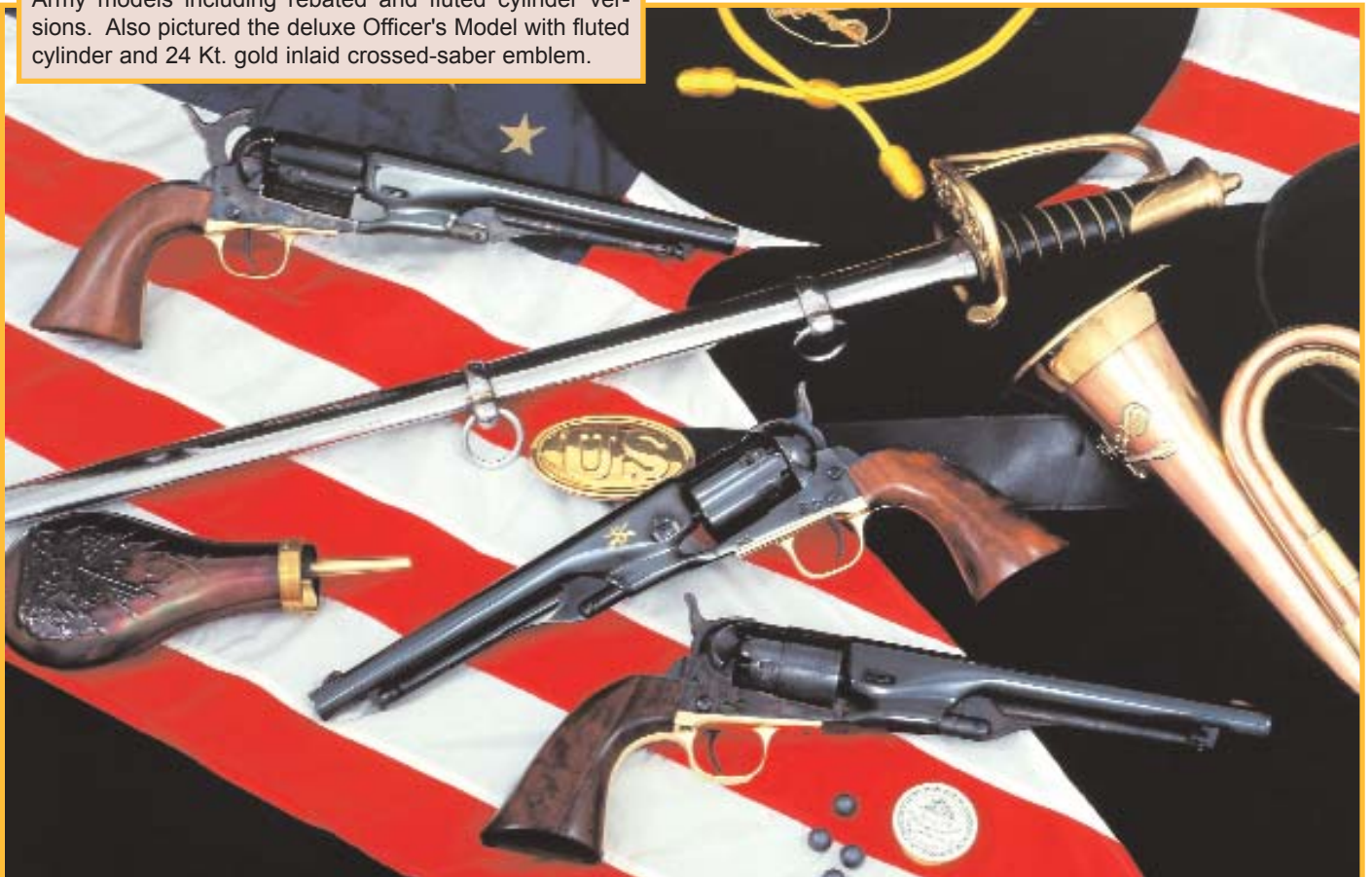




One of the most ornate percussion pistols to come from Colt is the Cochise, a mammoth Third Model Dagoon embellished with 24 Kt. gold etching and 24 Kt. gold-plated cylinder.

horses along the length of the barrel, the frame was embellished with a 24 Kt. gold inlay buffalo, and a gold tomahawk and peace pipe reproduced on the barrel lug to symbolize the role of Cochise as both a warrior and a peacemaker. The entire cylinder was 24 Kt. gold-plated, with the battle scene of the Texas Rangers and an Indian war party roll-engraved precisely as it was first executed for Colt in 1847 by master artisan Waterman Lilly

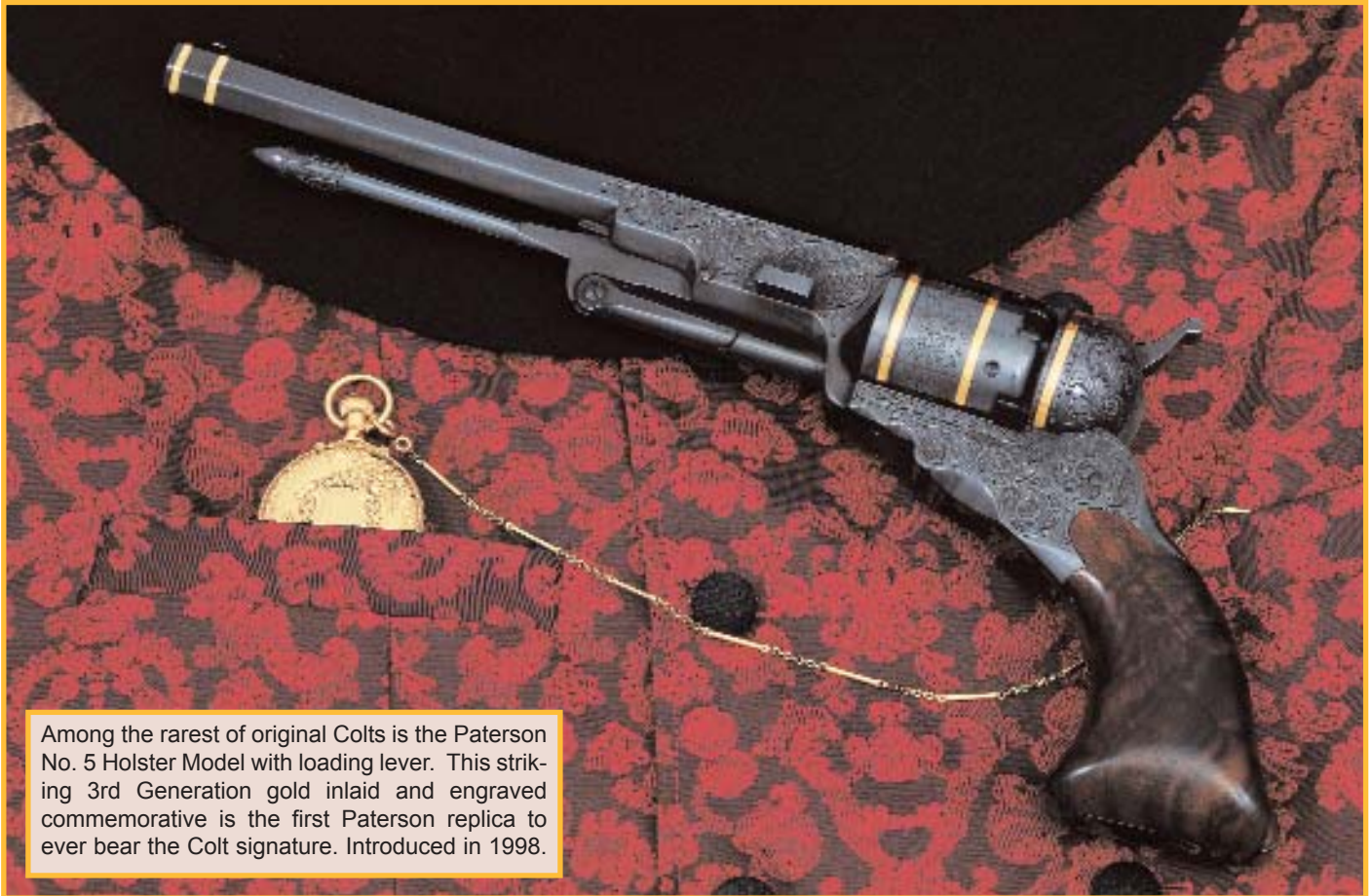
Colt Blackpowder Arms introduced the full line of 1860s Army models including rebated and fluted cylinder versions. Also pictured the deluxe Officer's Model with fluted cylinder and 24 Kt. gold inlaid crossed-saber emblem.



Ormsby. The finishing touch to this limited edition Dagoon was a grip set of grained black horn, engraved with a bust of the legendary Indian Chief.

Within the 1860 Army series, two special models were added to the standard rebated cylinder, fluted cylinder, and nickel-plated versions. The first was an 1860 Officer's Model with extremely brilliant blue finish and 24 Kt. gold crossed-saber emblem above the wedge. The gun had a fully fluted cylinder and four-screw frame cut for an optional shoulder stock. Colt Blackpowder, however, never offered the stocks.

The second special 1860 model introduced in 1996 was the Gold Cavalry, a deluxe version of the 1860 with a 24 Kt. gold-plated, rebated cylinder engraved with the crossed-saber emblem and 1860 markings in place of the traditional roll engraved battle scene. The frame, loading lever, plunger, and hammer were all color case hardened and 24 Kt. gold bands encircled the end of the muzzle. Both the backstrap and trigger guard were plated in 24



Among the rarest of original Colts is the Paterson No. 5 Holster Model with loading lever. This striking 3rd Generation gold inlaid and engraved commemorative is the first Paterson replica to ever bear the Colt signature. Introduced in 1998.

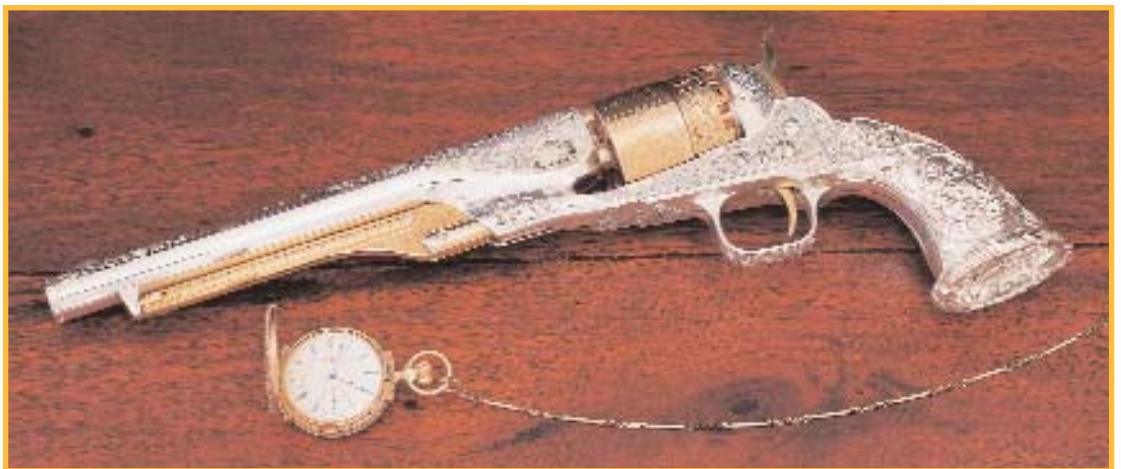
Kt. gold and protected with a unique patented lacquer.

Blackpowder Arms Company remains to be seen. In another decade, who knows? ■

The last Colt Blackpowder models, the Colt Heirloom 1860 Tiffany-style Army, engraved 1842 Paterson No. 5 Holster Model, 1849 Gold Rush pocket pistol, 150th Anniversary 1851 Navy, and standard Paterson No. 5, brought the total number of Colt 3rd Generation pistols to 29; the greatest number of reproductions in Colt percussion history.

The Colt Signature Series was another success story for the Imperatos, but the time had finally come once again to close the books. With the 2002 models the 3rd Generation was concluded. With the end of the 3rd Generation, their values will begin the slow spiral upward, riding the coattails of the 2nd Generation, as they become the next tier of affordable, and collectible Colt percussion pistols. Whether this is the final chapter in the history of Colt

The Colt Heirloom is a striking reproduction of the 1860 Army with Tiffany-style stocks marketed by the firm of Schuyler, Hartley and Graham during the 1860s. At \$5,000 it was the most expensive commemorative gun in Colt Blackpowder Arms history. It is so accurately reproduced that if you look closely at the cylinder engraving you can read W.L. Ormsby's signature!



COLT BLACKPOWDER 2ND GENERATION MODEL SPECIFICATIONS

- .44 cal. Model 1847 Walker**, Revolver, with Hinged Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 9½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Steel Backstrap, Brass Square Back Trigger Guard, US 1847 stamped above wedge screw, N.Y. Address. Produced 1980-1982.
- .44 cal. Model 1847 Walker Heritage**, Revolver, with Hinged Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 9½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Steel Backstrap, Brass Square Back Trigger Guard, US 1847 stamped above wedge screw, Gold Engraved Portraits of Capt. Walker and Samuel Colt on Left Side, Heritage Banner on Right, N.Y. Address. In Presentation Case With *The Colt Heritage* book by R.L. Wilson. Produced 1980-1981.
- .44 cal. 1st Model Dragoon**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Oval Cylinder Stop Slots, Brass Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address. Produced 1980-1982.
- .44 cal. 2nd Model Dragoon**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Rectangular Cylinder Stop Slots, Brass Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address. Produced 1980-1982.
- .44 cal. 3rd Model Dragoon**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Rectangular Cylinder Stop Slots, Brass Backstrap and Round Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address. Produced 1980-1982.
- .31 cal. Model 1848 Baby Dragoon**, Revolver, Pocket Pistol, no Loading Lever, 5 Shot, 4-inch Octagonal Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, Two line New York address. Produced 1981.
- .36 cal. Model 1851 Navy**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Octagonal Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address. [Also Made with Brass Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, or with Stainless Steel Finish.] Produced 1971-1978.
- .36 cal. Model 1851 Navy U.S. Grant Commemorative**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Octagonal Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Barrel Engraved, Ulysses S. Grant Commemorative Nineteen Seventy One. In Blue Satin and Felt Lined Presentation Case with Pewter Powder Flask and tools. Produced 1971.
- .36 cal. Model 1851 Navy Robert E. Lee Commemorative**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Octagonal Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Round Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Barrel Engraved, Robert E. Lee Commemorative Nineteen Seventy One. In Grey Satin and Felt Lined Presentation Case with Pewter Powder Flask and tools. Produced 1971.
- .44 cal. Model 1860 Army**, Revolver, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 6 Shot Rebated Cylinder, 8-inch Round Barrel, Steel Backstrap and Brass Trigger Guard, N.Y. U.S. America Address. [Also produced with Stainless Steel Finish.] Produced 1978-1982.
- .44 cal. Model 1860 Army**, Revolver, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 6 Shot Fluted Cylinder, 8-inch Round Barrel, Steel Backstrap and Brass Trigger Guard, N.Y. U.S. America Address. Produced 1980-1981.
- .36 cal. Model 1861 Navy**, Revolver, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Round Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Trigger Guard, N.Y. U.S. America Address. Produced 1980-1981.
- .36 cal. Model 1862 Pocket Navy**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 5 Shot Rebated Cylinder, 5½-inch Octagonal Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. U.S. America Address. Produced 1979-1981 and 1984.
- .36 cal. Model 1862 Pocket Police**, Revolver, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 5 Shot Semi-Fluted Cylinder, 5½-inch Round Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Round Trigger Guard, N.Y. U.S. America Address. Produced 1979-1981 and 1984.

COLT BLACKPOWDER 3RD GENERATION MODEL SPECIFICATIONS

- .36 cal. Model 1842 Paterson**, Revolver, No. 5 Holster Model with Hinged Loading Lever, 5 Shot, 7½-inch Octagonal Barrel, Steel Backstrap, Period-Style Scrollwork with Punch-Dot Background on both sides of Barrel Lug, Frame and Standing Breech, Loading Lever Rod Tip, Hammer and Backstrap. Two 18 Kt. Gold Bands inlaid at the Muzzle, encircling the Cylinder and one Gold Band around the circumference of the front of the Standing. Royal Blue mirror finish, premium Walnut Stocks, authentic " - Patent Arms Mfg.Co. Paterson, NJ - Colt's PL - " barrel address. Introduced in 1998.
- .44 cal. Model 1847 Walker**, Revolver, with Hinged Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 9½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Steel Backstrap, Brass Square Back Trigger Guard, US 1847 stamped above wedge screw, N.Y. Address. Introduced in 1994.
- .44 cal. Model 1847 Walker**, 150th Anniversary Edition, Revolver, with Hinged Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 9½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Steel Backstrap, Brass Square Back Trigger Guard, US 1847 stamped above wedge screw, A COMPANY No.1 Engraved on Left Side of Barrel, Frame, and on Cylinder, N.Y. Address. Series Begins With Serial Number 221. Introduced in 1997.
- .44 cal. Model 1848 Whitneyville-Hartford Dragoon**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Oval Cylinder Stop Slots, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1996.
- .44 cal. Model 1848 Whitneyville-Hartford Commemorative "Marine" Dragoon**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal

- Barrel, Oval Cylinder Stop Slots, Silver-Plated with 24 Kt. Gold-Plated Cylinder, Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Semper Fidelis engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1997.
- .31 cal. **Model 1848 Baby Dragoon**, Revolver, 5 Shot, 4-inch Octagonal Barrel, Silver Plated Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1998.
- .44 cal. **Model 1848 1st Model Dragoon**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Oval Cylinder Stop Slots, Brass Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1998.
- .44 cal. **Model 1850 2nd Model Dragoon**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, rectangular Cylinder Stop Slots, Brass Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1998.
- .44 cal. **3rd Model Dragoon**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Rectangular Cylinder Stop Slots, Brass Backstrap Civilian Model with Round Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1996.
- .44 cal. **3rd Model Dragoon**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Rectangular Cylinder Stop Slots, Steel Backstrap Military Model with Brass Round Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved in Gold on Backstrap. Introduced in 1996.
- .44 cal. **3rd Model Dragoon**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Fluted Cylinder, Rectangular Cylinder Stop Slots, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Round Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1996.
- .44 cal. **Model 1851 3rd Model Dragoon**, Cochise Edition, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Half Round, Half Octagonal Barrel, Gold Engraved Cylinder, Gold Backstrap and Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved on Backstrap. Gold Plated Pony Scene on Left Side of Barrel, Cochise legend on Octagonal Portion of Barrel along with Peace Pipe and Tomahawk, Gold-Plated Buffalo on Lower Corner of Frame, Blackhorn stocks with Cochise Portrait on Left Side. Introduced in 1997.
- .31 cal. **Model 1849 Pocket**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 5 Shot, 4-inch Octagonal Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1994.
- .36 cal. **Model 1851 Navy**, Revolver, with Hinged and Latched Loading Lever, 6 Shot, 7½-inch Octagonal Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved on Backstrap. Also available in London Navy Model. Introduced in 1994, London Navy in 1997.
- .44 cal. **Model 1860 Army**, Revolver, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 6 Shot Rebated Cylinder, 8-inch Round Barrel, Steel Backstrap and Brass Trigger Guard, N.Y. U.S. America Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved in Gold on Backstrap. [Also issued in nickel finish, and Officer's Model with Fluted Cylinder and Embellished with Crossed Sabers and the legend US 1860, Engraved in Gold on Right Side of Barrel.] Introduced in 1994, Officer's Model in 1995, Nickel in 1997.
- .44 cal. **Model 1860 Army Gold U.S. Cavalry**, Revolver, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 6 Shot Gold-Plated Rebated Cylinder Engraved on Both Sides with Crossed Sabers and the legend US 1860, 8-inch Round Barrel with Double Gold Bands around the Muzzle, Gold Backstrap and Trigger Guard, N.Y. U.S. America Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1996.
- .44 cal. **Model 1860 Army**, Revolver, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 6 Shot Fluted Cylinder, 8-inch Round Barrel, Steel Backstrap and Brass Trigger Guard, N.Y. U.S. America Address, Sam Colt Signature engraved in Gold on Backstrap. Introduced in 1995.
- .44 cal. **Model 1860 Army Tiffany Revolver**, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 6 Shot Rebated Cylinder, 8-inch Round Barrel, Fully Covered with L.D. Nimschke Style Scrollwork, Silver and 24 Kt. Gold-Plated, N.Y. U.S. America Address, Deluxe Tiffany-Style Grips plated in Pure Silver. Introduced in 1998.
- .36 cal. **Model 1861 Navy**, General Custer Edition, Revolver, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 6 Shot Non-Rebated Cylinder, 7½-inch Round Barrel, Steel Backstrap and Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature Engraved on Backstrap. Antiqued Silver Finish, Nimschke-Style Engraving on Barrel, Loading Lever, Cylinder, Frame, Hammer, Trigger Guard, and Backstrap. Walnut Stocks with Eagle and Shield on Left, Checkered on Right. Introduced in 1996.
- .36 cal. **Model 1861 Navy**, Revolver, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 6 Shot Non-Rebated Cylinder, 7½-inch Round Barrel, Steel Backstrap and Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature Engraved in Gold on Backstrap. Introduced in 1995.
- .36 cal. **Model 1862 Pocket Navy**, Revolver, with Hinged Loading Lever, 5 Shot Rebated Cylinder, 5½-inch Octagonal Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature Engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1996.
- .36 cal. **Model 1862 Pocket Police**, Revolver, with Creeping-Style Loading Lever, 5 Shot Semi-Fluted Cylinder, 5½-inch Round Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Square Back Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature Engraved on Backstrap. Introduced in 1997.
- .36 cal. **Model 1862 Trapper**, Revolver, No Loading Lever, 5-Shot Semi-Fluted Cylinder, 3½-inch Round Barrel, Silver-Plated Backstrap and Trigger Guard, N.Y. Address, Sam Colt Signature Engraved on Backstrap. Comes with Brass Ramrod. Introduced in 1995.

[1] Produced by the Colt Custom Shop between June 1982 and October 1982. Total number delivered 490 in the serial number range 29151s to 29640s.

[2] Produced by Colt Custom Shop in 1976. Factory engraved. Production, 174 units, each built to order and engraved on the backstrap with the owner's name.

COLT BLACKPOWDER

2ND GENERATION SERIALIZATION

Model No.	Serial # Range	Total Prod.	Prod. Began	Prod. Ended	Model No.	Serial # Range	Total Prod.	Prod. Began	Prod. Ended
MODEL 1851 NAVY					1862 POCKET NAVY				
C-1121	4201 - 25100	20,900	1971	1978	F-1400	48000 - 58850	5,765	12/79	11/81
C-1122	As above but at higher range of numbers	—	—	1978		and skip odd no's.			
					F-1400MN	S/N's As Above	25	1984	1984
						<i>Nickel/Ivory</i>			
MODEL 1851 NAVY, R. E. LEE					F-1401	S/N's As Above	500	1979	1980
C-9001	251REL - 5000REL	4,750	—	1971		<i>Limited Edition</i>			
MODEL 1851 NAVY, U. S. GRANT					1862 POCKET POLICE				
C-9002	251USG - 5000USG	4,750	—	1971	F-1500	49000 - 57300	4,801	1/80	9/81
						and skip even no's.			
MODEL 1851 GRANT-LEE PAIR					F-1500MN	S/N's As Above	25	1984	1984
C-9003	01GLP - 250GLP	250	—	1971		<i>Nickel/Ivory</i>			
3rd MODEL DRAGOON					F-1501	S/N's As Above	500	1979	1980
C-1770	20801 - 208	25	1974	1978		<i>Limited Edition</i>			
	<i>Prototype</i>				1847 WALKER				
	20901 - 24501	3,601			F-1600	1200 - 4120	2,573	6/80	4/82
						32256 - 32500	245	5/81	9/81
C-1770MN	S/N's As Above	20	1984	1984	1st MODEL DRAGOON				
MODEL 1851 NAVY					F-1700	25100 - 34500	3,878	1/80	2/82
F-1100	24900 - 29150	4,250	5/80	10/81	2nd MODEL DRAGOON				
F-1101	S/N's As Above	300	10/81	11/81	F-172	S/N's As Above and Mix at Random for			
	<i>W/Blank Cylinders</i>					1st, 2nd, & 3rd	2,676	1/80	2/82
F-1110	29151S - 29640S	489	6/82	10/82					
	<i>Stainless Steel</i>				3rd MODEL DRAGOON				
MODEL 1860 ARMY					F-140	S/N's As Above and Mix at Random for			
F-1200	201000 - 212835	7,593	11/78	11/82		1st, 2nd & 3rd	2,856	1/80	2/82
	<i>Rebated Cylinder</i>					31401 - 31450	50	10/81	11/81
F-1200EBO	S/N's As Above	500	1979	1979	F-1740EGA	Unknown	200	1982	1982
	<i>Butterfield</i>					<i>(Garabaldi Model — "GCA" prefix)</i>			
F-1200LNK	S/N's As Above	—	—	—	BABY DRAGOON				
	<i>Electroless Nickel</i>				F-1760	16000 - 17851	1,852	2/81	4/81
F-1200MN	S/N's As Above	12	1984	1984	F-1761	S/N's As Above	500	1979	1980
	<i>Nickel/Ivory</i>					<i>Limited Edition</i>			
F-1202	S/N's As Above	500	1979	1979	1860 ARMY				
	<i>Limited Edition</i>				F-9005	US 001/001 US to			
F-1203	207330 - 211250	2,670	7/80	10/81		US 3025/3025 US	3,025	9/77	1/80
	<i>Fluted Cylinder</i>					<i>Cavalry Commemorative (Two Gun Set)</i>			
F-1210	211263S - 212540S	1,278	1/82	4/82	HERITAGE WALKER				
	<i>Stainless Steel</i>				F-9006	01 - 1853	1,853	6/80	6/81
1861 NAVY									
F-1300	40000 - 43165	3,166	9/80	10/81					