

George Madis
P. O. Box 545
Brownsboro, Texas 75756

Model 1866 First Model Carbine Number 14820

A careful inspection has been made of this one Winchester, and I find it is all original or made by Winchester and is noted here. This inspection includes all of the inside components and markings as well as the outside.

First models have many unique features which are found only on this model. This includes a receiver very similar to the Henry rifle, the immediate predecessor to the 1866 model. The form of the receiver at the top rear, sideplates dovetailed at front and rear, no forearm flange at the front of the receiver and the additional wood screw in the top of the upper tang are all early variations of first models.

Records from the Winchester archives show this serial number was assigned to the 1866 model in 1867.

Twenty inch round barrels are standard for all carbines in the 1866, and, as on this carbine, the barrel working includes the Henry and Henry's patents. Soon this working was changed to the style continued to the end of production.

Front sights of early carbines were integral with the front barrel band, and the rear sight for a wider, one-half inch

wide dovetail in the barrel. This early rear sight is graduated one, three and five.

Earlier guns such as this have the magazine cap threaded into the magazine tube; later it is held in place by a screw.

All standard 1866 models were made in caliber .44 Henry rifle, and here the breech bolt, firing pins and chamber remain in the original rifle configuration.

The saddle ring and its retaining staple are original to this gun.

Walnut of nice dense grain with some burl is seen on number 14820; this would be "extra finish" walnut, and it remains in very good condition.

Current buttplugs were used for earlier 1866 carbines, and in the stock compartment in the current early cleaning rod with brass tip.

Serial numbers of earlier models are found on the left side of the lower tang, inside, and on the inside toe of the buttplug as well as in the stocks under the upper tang. All of these numbers match and are correct.

Loading port covers of earlier First models are flat, as seen here. Later they were indented. Earlier covers were retained with two screws while later only one screw was used.

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Trest model 1866 Number 14820

Bronze was used for receivers and butflde of the 1866 model, and this material was rather soft. Use and abuse often resulted in damage to the bronze parts, but on this Corbin the bronze is in unusually fine condition. This Winkler shows use but no abuse.

Mechanically this Corbin functions perfectly, a tribute to the design and to Winkler's craftsmanship.

The steel and iron parts here are in excellent condition, with the smooth, even patina of age forming.

With the age of well over a century, originality, condition and historical value, number 14820 is an outstanding collector's Winkler and it merits a prominent place in any fine collection or museum.

George W. Jones