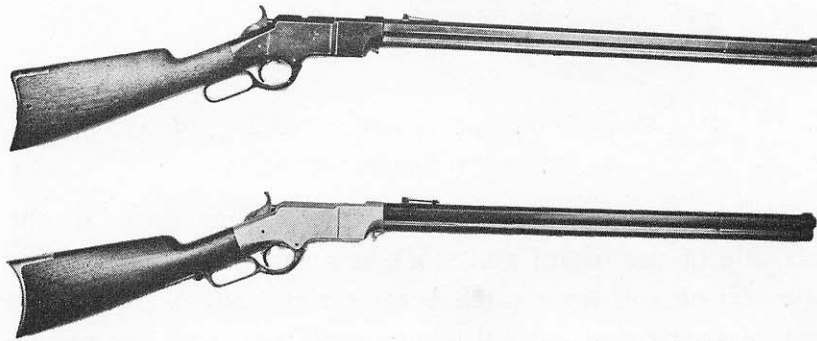


the fact that we are too hard pressed for the gun in its present form to spare the time."

There were, however, variations in material, in minor parts and in finish. Several hundred of the first rifles made had receivers or frames of iron, instead of the brass found in all later produced. Each gun bore a consecutive serial number, the highest known to the author with an iron frame being 279,



Iron and Brass Frame Henry Rifles, Serials 279 and 8,618

*Collection of Ed Baldwin*

the lowest 12. Brass was, however, introduced for receivers during this range, six specimens, numbers 9, 20, 30, 181, 205 and 250 being known. Peculiarities of the early iron frame Henrys are that they have no thumbscrew for securing the finger lever at the small of the stock, and no projection on the end of the lever to engage a catch. Likewise none examined are equipped with sling swivels. The butt-plates are made of iron. Wiping rods of hickory in four sections, which could be threaded together at the iron joints, fitted into a recess in the stock. The graduated rear sight of the early Henry could be mounted in two and sometimes three alternative positions. Slots for it were cut on the rear of the barrel, on top of the receiver near the hammer, and sometimes on the frame forward of the carrier. The receiver slot also accommodated a