



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Springfield Armory
National Historic Site

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Springfield Armory NHS News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Historic Firearm Returned to Armory Museum

A rare historic firearm, stolen 45 years ago, was recovered by the FBI and returned to its rightful home in the Springfield Armory Museum. FBI officials handed over the weapon to the Springfield Armory National Historic Site staff and Congressman Richard Neal in a September 26th ceremony.

The firearm, a Model 1839 Musketoon, was recovered by the FBI from a private collector who had innocently purchased the arm at auction. The musketoon is a "United States Model" arm and is designated on the weapon as "USM." The weapon is valued at \$50,000 and likely the only model known to exist. After a thorough examination, cleaning, and full documentation, it will be put on display for the public to view.

Armory National Historic Site Superintendent, J. Douglas Cuillard states, "We are very grateful to the FBI for taking the lead and recovering this weapon that belongs to all Americans. And we hope that this action will lead to the recovery of other historic weapons missing from the Armory's world famous Benton Small Arms Collection."

Throughout its long history as an Army museum, opening to the public in 1871, many other weapons in the collection were stolen or are missing. There is no statute of limitations on stolen federal property and, the National Park Service is actively seeking the missing weapons. The Springfield Armory National Historic Site, under the management of the National Park Service was established in 1978.

Attached is a partial list of weapons that are documented as stolen from the Springfield Armory Museum and an example of a firearm taken from one other National Park museum. Anyone with information on these arms is encouraged to contact either:

Cark D. Guy, Special Agent in Charge
Northeast Regional Office
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street, Fifth Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106 Fax: 215-597-8641 Tel: 215-597-7135

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Or Contact:

Springfield Armory National Historic Site
Attn: Law Enforcement Ranger
One Armory Square – Suite 2
SPRINGFIELD, MA. 01105

TEL: 413-734-6478 x. 232
FAX: 413-747-8062

CARBINES

ARMY – 161 – U.S. CARBINE MODEL 1873 TRAPDOOR SN# 76127

ARMY – 663 - U.S. CARBINE MODEL 1873 TRAPDOOR .45 SN# 11112 – This weapon was captured from Indians. The stock has been struck by a bullet and is also decorated with brass tacks.

ARMY – 1150 – U.S. CARBINE MODEL 1873 TRAPDOOR .45 SN# 33878

ARMY – 1152 - U.S. CARBINE MODEL 1873 TRAPDOOR .45 SN# 41153

ARMY-1176- U.S. CARBINE MODEL 1873 TRAPDOOR .45 SN# 75557

ARMY – 2484 – U.S. CABINE MODEL 1868 EXPERIMENTAL TRAPDOOR .50 SN# 2234 – This is one of the four experimental M1868 carbines made at Springfield Armory.

DERRINGER

ARMY – 5438 - COLT DERRINGER .41 SN# 5065 – This is probably a 2nd Model. We would be interested in any information regarding a Colt Derringer with SN# 5065.

MUSKETS

ARMY – 252 – U.S. MUSKET MODEL 1835 PATTERN MUSKET – This is a USM (United States Model) weapon with “13” on the barrel. “USM” is on lockplate, triggerguard plate, hammer and buttplate.

ARMY – 5456 – U.S. PISTOL MODEL 1842 SPRINGFIELD ARMORY PATTERN .54 – This is another USM weapon and is marked with “4” on the barrel.

PISTOLS, SEMI-AUTOMATIC

ARMY – 2183 - DANISH PISTOL SCHOUBOE SN# 44628

ARMY – 5572 - U.S. PISTOL MODEL 1911 SECTIONALIZED .45 SN# 78865

ARMY – 4865 - GERMAN PISTOL BECKER & HOLLANDER “BEHOLLA” 7.65MM SN# 3839

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ARMY – 5845 - U.S. PISTOL MODEL 1911A1 .45 SN# 1592104

ARMY – 6302 – ITALIAN PISTOL SN# 126053 – This is being described as a “PISTOL, AUTO. Farrions. Browning Patent.” The Army documentation then has written in pencil on its catalog record “Italian.”

**ARMY – 6666 – SPANISH PISTOL STAR MODEL B 9MM (PARABELLUM)
SN# 249049** – Nazi contract, WaA marked.

REVOLVERS

**ARMY – 1922 - COLT REVOLVER MODEL 1878 "FRONTIER" SECTIONALIZED .45
SN# 15720**

ARMY – 5022 – PLANT “ELLIS & WHITE PATENTED” REVOLVER .30 SN# 2866 – This was actually manufactured by the Plant’s Manufacturing Co. of New Haven, Ct. and this weapon contains the retailer’s markings of Eagle Arms Co., New York. Weapon is better known as a Plant Pocket Revolver. Weapon and box donated to the Museum by Corporal Ralph Berryman, Battery "D", 336th Heavy Field Artillery on July 20, 1932.

ARMY – 5437 – COLT REVOLVER MODEL 1855 .31 SN# 11646 – This Root sidehammer was stolen from the Museum in 1962.

ARMY – 9322 – COLT REVOLVER FIRST MODEL DRAGOON SN# 7590 – This weapon was donated to the Springfield Armory after the Army left in 1969. It was donated by Mrs. Ernst Walen in memory of her husband, Mr. Ernst A. Whalen.

NPS – ACCESSION # 41 – COLT-BISLEY REVOLVER SN# 255277 – This weapon was stolen from the National Park Service.

RIFLES

ARMY – 665 - U.S. RIFLE MODEL 1868 TRAPDOOR .50 SN# 40173 – This rifle was captured from Sioux Indians.

**ARMY – 1212 – U.S. RIFLE MODEL 1882 TRAPDOOR EXPERIMENTAL .45 SN#
197413** – This is an experimental rifle with 28” barrel and rod-bayonet.

ARMY – 1254 – U.S. RIFLE MODEL 1873 .45 SN# 164523

ARMY – 2482 – U.S. RIFLE MODEL 1868 TRAPDOOR .50 SN# 30648 – Weapon has been modified by Indians and has been shortened. The stock has been decorated with brass tacks.

ARMY – 4933 - REMINGTON RIFLE M24 .22 SN# 114781

ARMY – 5126 – U.S. RIFLE MODEL 1903 NRA SPORTER .30 SN# 1406970

ARMY – 5496 – U.S. RIFLE M1 .30 SN# 200225

ARMY – 5497 - U.S. RIFLE M1 .30 SN# 256849

ARMY – 5515 - WINCHESTER RIFLE MODEL 52 .22 SN# 47849

ARMY – 6156 – ITALIAN TRAINING RIFLE MODEL 1891 YOUTH SN# 47267 – This weapon also has “941” on it but 47267 is believed to be the serial number.

ARMY – 6926 - GERMAN RIFLE FG42 7.92MM SN# 02642

RIFLE-MUSKET

ARMY – 71 – U.S. RIFLE-MUSKET MODEL 1855 USM – This is another United States Model arm. “USM” can be found on the lockplate and hammer. The National Park Service is interested in seeing this arm in order to make a positive identification.

SUBMACHINE GUN

ARMY-5495 - U.S. SUBMACHINE GUN MODEL 1928A1 THOMPSON .45 SN# 250000 - This is a special presentation “Thompson” presented to the U.S. Ordnance Department from Auto-Ordnance. It was later transferred to the Springfield Armory with the order that it be put on display. This weapon was stolen from the display area at Springfield Armory sometime in May of 1965. The Army has the weapon listed also as serial number S250000 indicating manufacture by Savage Arms.

EDGED WEAPONS

ARMY – 1463 – MODEL 1906 SPRINGFIELD ARMORY EXPERIMENTAL CAVALRY SABER SN# 2

ROOSEVELT’S REVOLVER

The National Park Service is also seeking information on President Theodore Roosevelt’s Colt Model 1895 revolver stolen in April 1990 from Sagamore Hill National Historic Site. According to available records, the weapon is a standard six-shot, side-swing cylinder, .38 caliber revolver, with black checkered hard rubber Navy-type grips that are stamped at the top with an oval medallion bearing the name Colt. Weapon is equipped with the standard rounded blade front sight, and a notch cut in the top of the frame rear sight. The serial number of the weapon is 16334. This weapon was originally shipped to the government on 30 March 1895. Distinguishing marks on the frame include: Right side: JULY 1ST 1898/SAN JUAN/CARRIED AND USED BY/COL. THEODORE ROOSEVELT. Left side: FROM THE SUNKEN BATTLESHIP MAINE. Butt is marked: USN, 38 DA NO. 5770 NCT 16/334. NCT = Lt. Nathan C. Twining, USN.

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