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Mrs. Christie Janis  
144 Via Fuchsia  
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Oct. 12, 2021

Dear Mrs. Janis;

We have today examined your Colt N.Y. Militia revolver for the purpose of analysis and authentication. This revolver #138263 was a new listing to our survey and falls between two Artillery revolvers i.e. #138251 and #138264 in this data-base. This revolver was manufactured during 1891 (Shipped c. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>) and ordnance inspected by Capt. Stanhope E. Blunt. The Ordnance Sub-Inspector during 1890 & 1891 was Rinaldo A. Carr and his initials "RAC" may be observed on the frame, barrel and cylinder of this example.

Historically, we could not locate this revolver's serial number in the National Archives records available to us. We do however note that all of the listed serial numbers between #137790 & #139504 are cited in the Artillery configuration. These listings confirm that several of these high numbered Cavalry revolvers had actually served with a Cavalry unit before being recalled.

After serving with the U.S. Cavalry our subject revolver was recalled during 1893 and placed into storage at the Springfield Armory. Then during 1895 a large group of 2000 of these former Cavalry revolvers were returned to the Colt factory to be completely refurbished and refinished. The first group of 800 revolvers were especially refurbished for the State of New York. Their barrels were not shortened but remained at the 7 1/2 inch length. All serial numbers were kept matching and those revolvers with serial numbers higher than #9999 were stamped with the missing prefixed digits of the revolver's primary serial number on their barrels and cylinders. These 800 New York destined examples were refinished into "as-new" condition and their hammers were completed with a "bright-blue" finish. No ordnance inspector's cartouches were applied to the grips of these revolvers during this period. Our subject revolver #138263 was shipped from Colt's after being refurbished on October 23rd 1895.

We have noted that this revolver's right butt area is stamped with "hollow" letters "NY" and the left butt with a "hollow" "8". This is our first encounter with this type of unit identification. We find that this is because according to the 1896 Adjutant General's report there

## *Letter of Authentication*

*Co-Author of: A Study of the Colt  
Single Action Army Revolver ~*



*Co-Author of: Cavalry & Artillery  
Revolvers A Continuing Study ~*

were only two revolvers issued to the "Eighth Separate Co." during this year. Our subject revolver #138263 remains today as being one of these two revolvers. The other revolver (serial number unknown) has never surfaced in our records.

This revolver remains today in very nice original (as refurbished in 1895) condition. Much of this revolver's blue finish has thinned, but the "feather" markings adjacent to the front sight remain strong. The barrel address of this revolver was re-rolled during the 1895 refurbishing. This barrel now sports the "Short Block lettered" address as was being rolled onto the barrels of the Colt refurbished revolvers during 1900 through 1903. The hammer of our subject revolver has been replaced. It now sports one of the 1909-1910 style hammers with the "concave" checkering. These 1895 New York refurbished revolvers were furnished with "Fire-blue" finished hammers.

The initial "K" as we find stamped on the triggerguard and backstrap is the initial of a Mr. A. Kind a Colt factory employee who inspected these military-destined components during 1890 and 1891. This initial "K" was also found at the tip of the ejector during these years. Strangely we have noted that the ejector fitted to this revolver is a Second-Style. This style ejector tube was superseded at serial #114450. We can only assume that this tube had been swapped onto this revolver sometime during its Cavalry service and that Mr. Kind then stamped his initial "K" onto this tube when it was being refurbished. This was certainly a rather unique observation. This observation also suggests that Mr. Kind was still employed at Colt's during 1895.

We trust that the foregoing information will be found to be of interest.

Respectfully,

*John A. Kopec*  
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