

Harpers Ferry 1855 Rifles and Their Variations. I wrote an article on 1855 rifles which appeared in the March of 1987 issue of the "The Gun Report" which is now no longer in circulation. I have listed those with one more here.

BEWARE OF FAKE 1855 RIFLES ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH BRASS MOUNTS. I will authenticate your rifle for \$100. Email for more details.

1. Brass mounts with figure 8 patchbox, long range rear sight and long brass nose cap riveted front of stock. Usually dated 1858. Early dated 1857 rifles has a slightly different stamped eagle on primer door. Barrel has browned finish.

2. Brass mounted as above with short range rear sight which is found on all other 1855 rifles. The leaves on the rear sight usually stamped with an R for rifle. Usually dated 1859 with a few dated 1858.

3. Iron mounted rifle with long brass nose cap riveted in place. Figure 8 patchbox in stock. Blued barrel bands with case colors on patchbox lid, trigger guard, and buttplate. Browned barrel. All are dated 1859.

4. Iron mounted rifle without patchbox and buttplate isn't cut for patchbox lid. All with brass nose caps with a few being like the longer nose cap as seen on the early production rifles riveted in place. All are dated 1859 and the barrels have browned finish. Approximately 180 were made and later issued to Kansas regiments stationed around Washington D.C.

5. This variation has an oval patchbox with a short brass nose cap riveted in place. Several were issued to southern states especially Mississippi. All dated 1859.

6. This minor variation rifle is all iron mounted with a few having iron nose caps riveted in place dated 1859. Most have rack numbers and letters stamped on rear band or on the breech of barrels.

7. The remainder of production from 1859 to 1861 are all iron mounted with iron nose cap secured with a screw. There are several rifles with mixed parts that are considered Confederate assembled rifles before the Fayetteville production began. Photos of each are coming.