



Office of the Historian

January 4, 1984

Herb Glass
Bullville NY 10915

Past Historians:

Arthur Ulrich 1903-1941
Harold Hart 1942-1945
Charles Coles 1950-1965
Ron Wagner 1957-1972

Dear Mr. Glass:

In response to your request for historical information, we have researched our records and located the following pertinent data:

COLT MODEL 1861 NAVY REVOLVER

<i>Serial Number:</i>	<i>8402</i>
<i>Caliber:</i>	<i>.36/c</i>
<i>Barrel Length:</i>	<i>Not Listed</i>
<i>Finish:</i>	<i>Blue-Brass</i>
<i>Type of Stocks:</i>	<i>Not Listed</i>
<i>Shipped To:</i>	<i>Commander Davis</i>
<i>Address:</i>	<i>Cairo IL</i>
<i>Sold To:</i>	<i>United States Navy Department</i>
<i>Date of Shipment:</i>	<i>August 27, 1862</i>
<i>Number of Same Type</i>	
<i>Guns in Shipment:</i>	<i>100</i>

We trust the information supplied above will be of interest.

Sincerely,

M. S. Huber
Historian

MSH:bc



The 1861 Model Colt was produced between 1861 and 1873.

The total production ended with serial number 38,843.

By comparison, the Colt Model 1851 Navy model numbered 215,348 revolvers and 200,500 1860 Colt Army revolvers were manufactured.

The relatively limited number of 1861 Colt Navys has contributed significantly to its popularity among arms collectors. The grip design became the standard for the Colt Single Action Army.

The presentation 1861 Colt Navy revolver that I am offering for sale is serial number 8402. It was manufactured in 1862. It is one of 2,363 revolvers of this model that was purchased by the U.S. Government. Making this arm additionally interesting is the fact that it has been documented by the Colt Firearms Factory Historian as having been shipped in 1862 to the U.S. Navy Department in Cairo, IL. This factory letter places this revolver solidly among the U.S. Government contract purchases of this model. It is therefore an 1861 Colt Navy Navy. It does have a military inspectors marking.

The 8402 Colt is in excellent condition. It has all matching serial numbers, and has an even aged patina with no scratches or any signs of being overly cleaned. All screws are original and all nipples are in excellent original condition. There exists original varnish on approximately 60 % of the walnut grips. A faint trace of the original silver is visible at the rear of the triggerguard.

Herb Glass Jr., the foremost authority on early Colts in the U.S., has authenticated the presentation engraving. The engraving reads:

Byron A. Johnston 154th NYSV

Byron A. Johnston was born in Ellicottville, New York. He was a carpenter by trade who enlisted first in the 37th NYSV and later re-enlisted in the 154th. He became Chief of the Pioneer Corp. and built roads and bridges for the Regiment. He is known to have been well liked and rose to the rank of Captain before being discharged after 1865.

A copy of a photo of Byron and numerous copies of documents outlining his military history are included.

This Colt revolver is probably the best quality and most desirable firearm with a Cattaraugus County association to have survived any war.