

TED MEREDITH  
Confederate Handgun Collector



Feb 27, 1985

Dear Mike:

It's been since Jan '83 that we've last corresponded. I have a item recently acquired that really excites me, and I'm sure it will have the same effect on you.

As you probably know Robert Abels - senior antique gun collector and bowie knife book author - died a year ago last Nov. I have a friend here in Boca who was a close & long time friend to Bob Abels. When he died in Ft. Lauderdale he left behind a collection of handguns and a bunch of Bowie Knives. My friend had the chance to buy the entire collection from a young man who lived with Abels - Abels was unmarried.

Anyway to make a long story longer - This 62 Police was in the collection with an inscribed B.S. "P. H. Jones 154<sup>th</sup> NYV." - When I saw that I was sure it was Patrick Jones. I sent for his records and received a notebook full.

I was telling my friend George Oldenbourg - a dentist from Berkeley, Cal. about the gun and he suggested that

I tell you about it - I had fully intended to write to you about it but have been bogged down with the aftermath of the flu and trying to get my income tax records together.

Getting back to the gun. - I'm sending you a couple polaroids of it so you can get some idea. I'd like to sell it as I'm in the process of adding to my Confederate handgun collection. I recall your earlier money problems so I'm not pressing you, but maybe you could direct me to someone who can appreciate this bit of history.

I'm asking \$2500 for the gun - It would be nice to donate it to the 154th NY archives but I'm strapped for money like everyone else. - with two daughters in college (both starting out - one wants to become a nurse and the other has ambitions to be a dentist (eight years)) you know the story Mike.

The gun's serial number is early - 1862 production #6998 - It is untouched - has a little blue left and some silver on the backstrap & trigger guard. It functions perfectly, and has a nice set of grips. - It's a real piece. Let me hear from you  
Mike  
My best to you  
Ted Meredith



Ted Meredith, D.D.S.

Dear Dr. Meredith:

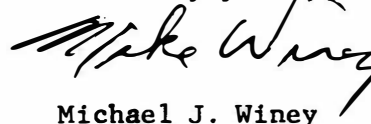
Dr. George Oldenbourg wrote to me a couple of days ago, before I got your letter, concerning the P.H. Jones pistol. It is amazing that you have had in such a short period of time two M1862 Police Colts, both inscribed to members of the 154th New York. Thank you for writing to me about the pistol, for sending the photographs and for your offer to sell it to me.

However, Dr. Meredith, I really do not believe you know that you and Dr. Oldenbourg are living in a different world than I am. Anyone who can afford to collect Confederate handguns, who advertises as such and who has his own stationary printed to reflect the same is not in the same class as a salaried worker who last year made \$30,000.00. Very little, and I mean less than \$200.00 of that yearly salary went into my hobby, and that is obviously not collecting guns! As a matter of fact, \$2,500.00 is the price quoted to me for my daughter's two-year stint with Orthodontics that we just found out last month, and the Orthodontist goes to the same church I go to and told me he would give me a price I couldn't refuse! He may be able to buy guns (I don't believe he collects guns, however) but I sure cannot. Frankly, I could not even think of it if you offered the piece to me for \$500.00. Some of us poor folks must use all of our salary just to live and pay taxes.

Anyhow, enough for feeling sorry for myself. I would love to have the P.H. Jones pistol but I doubt if I will ever even have one unengraved Colt pistol, let alone one used by a Colonel of a regiment whose regimental history I wrote (and for which I have yet to realize any royalties!).

Thank you for your good intentions in offering the pistol to me.

Sincerely yours,



Michael J. Winey