

Figure 1 — On the left a Civil War example of the 1860 Staff & Field. Inscribed: Maj. W. S. Clark / Staff / 21st Reg. Mass. Inf. / Aug. 23, 1861. Blade marked: Ames Mfg. Co., Chicopee, Mass. On the right a regulation example of the 1850 Staff and Field Officers' sword marked: W.H. Horstmann & Sons, Phila. Note the somewhat more curved blade than is usually found on this model.

Key Factors in Determining Civil War Era Staff and Staff Corps Swords (3, pg. 179)



# Sword For Officers Of The Staff And Staff Corps

Leonard J. Garigliano

BEGINNING ON AUGUST 28, 1860 regulations permitted staff and field officers to wear a lighter and less functional sword than the Sabre for Staff and Field Officers. Figure 1 shows the two swords under consideration. On the left is the sword Peterson refers to as #121, Staff and Field Officer's Sword, 1860; and on the right, the Staff and Field Officer's Sword, 1850, Peterson #118. Apparently, officers had a choice of wearing this newly developed sword or the sturdier, more serviceable, and prettier 1850 Staff and Field Officer's Sword. This choice, according to Peterson, was short-lived: "In 1872, however, this sword became mandatory for all officers except medical staff, paymasters, mounted officers of infantry, cavalry and light artillery." (5, pg. 135)

One cannot help wonder whether this sword's lack of popularity among collectors is due to the difference between Peterson's and the Ordnance Manual's designation or to our not knowing which characteristics are associated with the Civil War period. Because of their relative abundance and low cost I have accumulated enough of these swords and sufficient information about them to attempt a preliminary look at these two questions.

The Ordnance Manual of 1862 establishes the basic characteristics of this sword for the Civil War period:

## Sword for Officers of the Staff and Staff Corps. (Plate 28.)

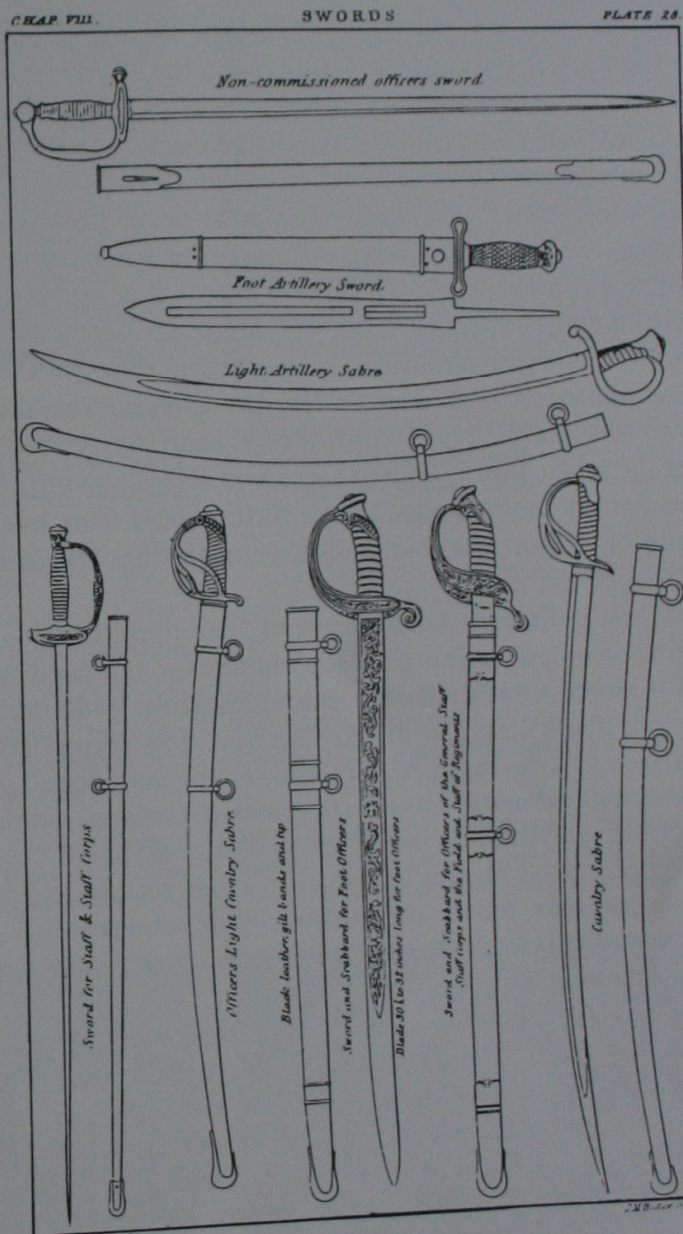
**BLADE.** - Straight, two edges, with an aris in the middle between the two edges; etched scrolls, colors, and shield on the left side; eagle, guns, colors, and scrolls on the right side; *tang*, riveting.

**HILT.** (brass, chased and gilded.) - *Pommel*, an inverted frustum of a cone, with an eagle chased on one side.

**GUARD.** - *Principal branch*, chased, mortised for the swordknot, shoulder for the lower ferrule; *fixed shell*, bearing an eagle and flags, chased; *movable shell*; plain; *button* for the spring; *cross-bar*. *Gripe*, (black horn,) wrapped spirally with gold cord; 2 *ferrules*, chased. Weight of sword, 1.2 lb.

**SCABBARD.** (steel or leather.\*) - The steel scabbard 2 *brass bands and rings*, gilded and chased; *tip*; *mouthpiece*, (brass.) The leather scabbard has *brass ferrule* and *hook-tip*. Weight of steel scabbard, 0.69 lb. (4, pg. 223-224)

\* Leather scabbards have only been observed on late NCO models.



Ordnance Manual, 1862. (4)

Utilizing Schuyler, Hartley and Graham's 1864 Military Goods Catalog, the 1862 Ordnance Manual and actual examples, an attempt will be made to clarify these Civil War era characteristics and establish a rough chronology (the figures are in order from earliest to the most recent) for this long used and important sword. Because of variations over time, and due to different manufacturers, a collector may not observe all of the Civil War properties listed or discussed. Judgement based on a number of factors present, will still have to be



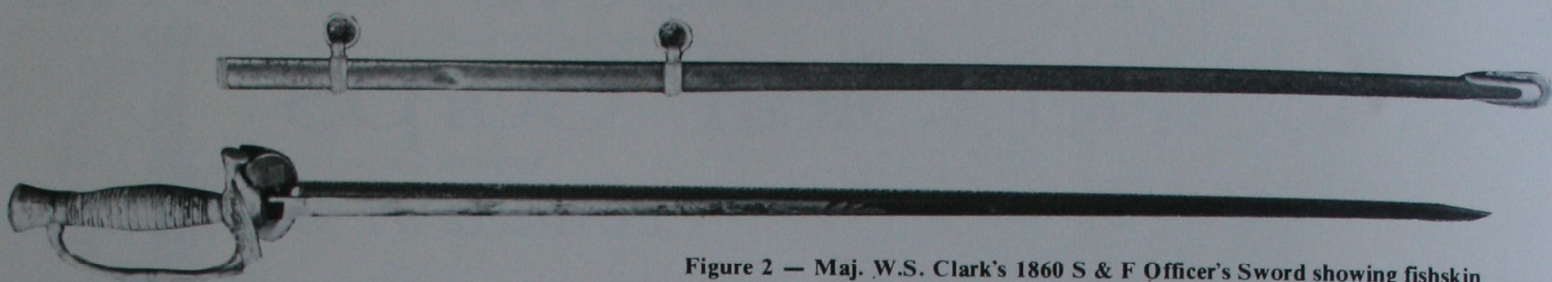


Figure 2 — Maj. W.S. Clark's 1860 S & F Officer's Sword showing fishskin rather than blackhorn grips.

employed when determining Civil War vintage 1860's.

Looking at figures 2, 3, 4, and 5 and the "Key Factors Chart", we can begin to develop a set of characteristics, not all listed in the Ordnance Manual, which are attributable to Civil War examples of this sword. The sword illustrated in Figure 2 has most of the properties mentioned in the Ordnance Manual. The most obvious difference is the grip, which on this sword is well worn fishskin with a braided brass wire wrap. Grip variations from the 1862 regulations appear frequently. In Civil War photos of Gen. Joseph Hooker carrying the 1860 Staff and Staff Corps sword, the grips are fairly clearly not dark blackhorn. One of Gen. McClellan's swords of this pattern in the United States National Museum has a "grip of . . . tortoise shell and is wound with 13 turns of gilt wire." (1, pg. 59)

Many collectors have assumed, based, I think, on Peterson's description of blade shapes for the Medical Staff sword, that Civil War examples of the 1860 must have a blade elliptical in cross section. The regulations call for an "arris in the middle between the two edges;" an arris, defined as a ridge between two surfaces, could produce a diamond-shaped cross sectional blade. The specimen illustrated is elliptical in cross section. Since there are so many other Civil War characteristics associated with this sword, blade shape *alone* should not be used judgementally.

The plain reverse counter-guard is inscribed: "Maj. W. S. Clark/Staff/21st Ref. Mass. Inf./Aug. 23, 1861." In addition, the iron, two-ring scabbard, symmetrical drag, sword knot mortise, and blade decorations help to confirm it as a Civil War specimen. The maker's name, Ames Mfg. Co., Chicopee, Mass., although not conclusive evidence in this form, does place it prior to 1881 when the Ames Sword Co. mark went into service.

Another 1860 S & F observed on a friend's list unfortunately ended up on another collector's wall. A description follows in order to build more reliability into our judgements regarding these pieces:

Overall 37", blade 31½", ¾" wide at the hilt. Blade is diamond shaped in cross-section, no etching, near mint marked Horstmann on one side and with a beehive and "Philadelphia" struck twice. Grips are very dark bone (*blackhorn?*), deeply

grooved for wire but none present. Hinged guard bears this five line inscription: "Presented to/Adj. H. Walker/4th Ms. Inf./April 22, 1861/Minute Men." Quillon terminates in a lion mask. Scabbard is iron and has a brown lacquer finish, gilded brass mounts, two single rings and drag.

The biggest discrepancy here is the plain blade. Regulations called for etching. The presence of other Civil War characteristics probably outweigh this deficiency.

Two swords observed in museum collections show a variation in scabbard mounts but are definitely Civil War era pieces. In the processes of compiling these data, swords of the 1860 pattern that could have been used by their owners after the Civil War were eliminated from consideration. Since Lt. Col. Julius P. Garesche, whose sword is illustrated on Plate 21 of Belote's Bulletin 163 (1), was killed during the Battle of Stone River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862, there is little chance that it was of post-war manufacture. The scabbard differs in that it has fancy mounts and three, rather than two, rings for suspension. Three ring scabbards are more common in recent 1860 S & F's. The three ring scabbard pattern was not new in 1860 and it seems reasonable to assume that method of suspension common in 1840 Foot Officer's, Medical Staff's, Militia Staff Officer's swords, etc. would be available on the developing 1860 Staff Officer's sword.

The 1860 Staff & Field Officer's swords in the Military Arms Museum at West Point are interesting and support the theses presented here. The sword, "Presented to Brig. Genl. G. K. Warren by his Staff/3rd Brig. 2nd Div. 5th Army Corps/Jan. 1, 1863", possesses the thin diamond-shaped, in cross-section, blade usually associated with more recent examples. The scabbard is silver-plated, has three rings and a long pointed drag. There is no maker's name. This and other dated examples should lay to rest the contention that Civil War period 1860 S & F's *must* have elliptical shaped blades and two ring scabbards.

*Famous First Facts* (2) reports that nickel plating was invented by William H. Remington of Boston who obtained patent No. 82877 on October 6, 1868. A Civil War era 1860 S & F, therefore, ought *not* to have a nickel-plated scabbard unless it is a replacement or was nickeled





Figure 3 — A regulation sword for Officers of the Staff and Staff Corps. This unmarked specimen has the blackhorn grips and folding counter-guard.  
Author's collection.



Figure 4 — Tortoise shell grips and a diamond-shaped blade (raised arris) are present on this regulation Civil War period 1860. The blade is marked: Ames Mfg. Co., Chicopee, Mass. and the two-ringed, browned scabbard terminates in a plain symmetrical drag.  
Author's collection.



Figure 5 — Another Civil War era 1860 S & F with a wider than normal blade and raised arris. It is marked Klingenthal on the ricasso. There is no US or other military motifs on the blade.  
Author's collection.

Figure 6 — Usually encountered in this slightly later form, the 1860 S & F shown has a three-ring nickel-plated scabbard with the drag containing a flower design. The blade is narrow, diamond-shaped, and marked: Bent & Bush, Boston, Mass.  
Author's collection.



Figure 7 — Springfield Armory examples of this sword show both the fixed and folding counter-guard. They are of excellent finish and workmanship. The nickel-plated, three-ring scabbard has a large, plain symmetrical drag characteristic of S.A. manufacture. The fixed counter-guard model shown has inspector's initials S.W.P. on the drag. The more elegant folding counter-guard model bears a C.G.S. on the ricasso of its diamond-shaped blade.  
Author's collection.



Figure 8 — An ornate 1860 S & F of the 1880's. The folding counter-guard is engraved on its underside: "Presented to Company B's Booth by / Washington Continentals Albany N.Y. / Awarded to Capt. B.J. Hornbeck / Co. B. 20th Bat. N.G.S.N.Y. / Feb. 25, 1881." The blade is marked: Baker and McKenney, N.Y., and is closer to elliptical than diamond-shaped in cross-section.  
Author's collection.







Figure 9 — A non-commissioned officers' version of the 1860 S & F Officers sword. Spanish-American War photos show the sargeants wearing this variation. Examples observed have both leather and metal scabbards. This one has a W.C. on the blade where U.S. is usually found. The blade is marked: Gaylord Mfg. Co., Chicopee, Mass. The sword could be a fraternal piece since the pattern was used by many organizations. Another with a metal scabbard in the author's collection does bear a US on the ricasso.



Figures 10 and 11 — Sons of Veterans (*left*) and the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) both used the 1860 S & F pattern for their fraternal swords.

Author's collection.



Figure 12 — This very small (28 $\frac{1}{4}$ " O.A.) example was purchased as a "drummer's sword." The blade is 21 $\frac{3}{8}$ " long unmarked, plain,  $\frac{3}{8}$ " wide with square rather than sharpened edges. Solid brass cast grips and a beautifully cast counter-guard are key features of this yet unidentified variation of the 1860 S & F.

M. Carr collection.

Figure 13 — An 1860 S & F with no reverse counter-guard. Note the more recent type blade etching. The blade is marked: Germany and Francis Bannerman / Military Goods / 501 Broadway / New York.

Author's collection.







Figures 14 and 15 show post-1902 use of the 1860 S & F. Both gentlemen are graduates or graduating from W. H. S. in these 1904 dated photos. Their swords are 1860 S & Fs.



in more recent time. One would have to look for the two ring style, the plain symmetrical drag, and decorations on the mounts that match those on the hilt to be sure a nickel-plated scabbard was original to an early 1860.

Manufacturer's and/or dealer's names are frequently not found on early examples of this sword. When there are signatures like W. H. Horstmann & Co. and W. H. Horstmann & Sons, both of Philadelphia; Ames Mfg. Co., Chicopee, Mass.; Clauberg, Solingen; Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, N.Y.; Klingenthal; Tomes & Son; etc., and most of the characteristics discussed, collectors can be fairly positive of having a Civil War vintage specimen.

The variety and relatively large numbers of this sword available at reasonable prices should entice more collectors to consider them. They have a long history, lasting beyond the official 1902 adoption of another regulation, and it is now possible to more accurately determine Civil War examples of the Sword for Officers of the Staff and Staff Corps.

#### Manufacturers and Dealers Listing for the 1860 Staff and Field Officers Sword (as of June 1, 1979)

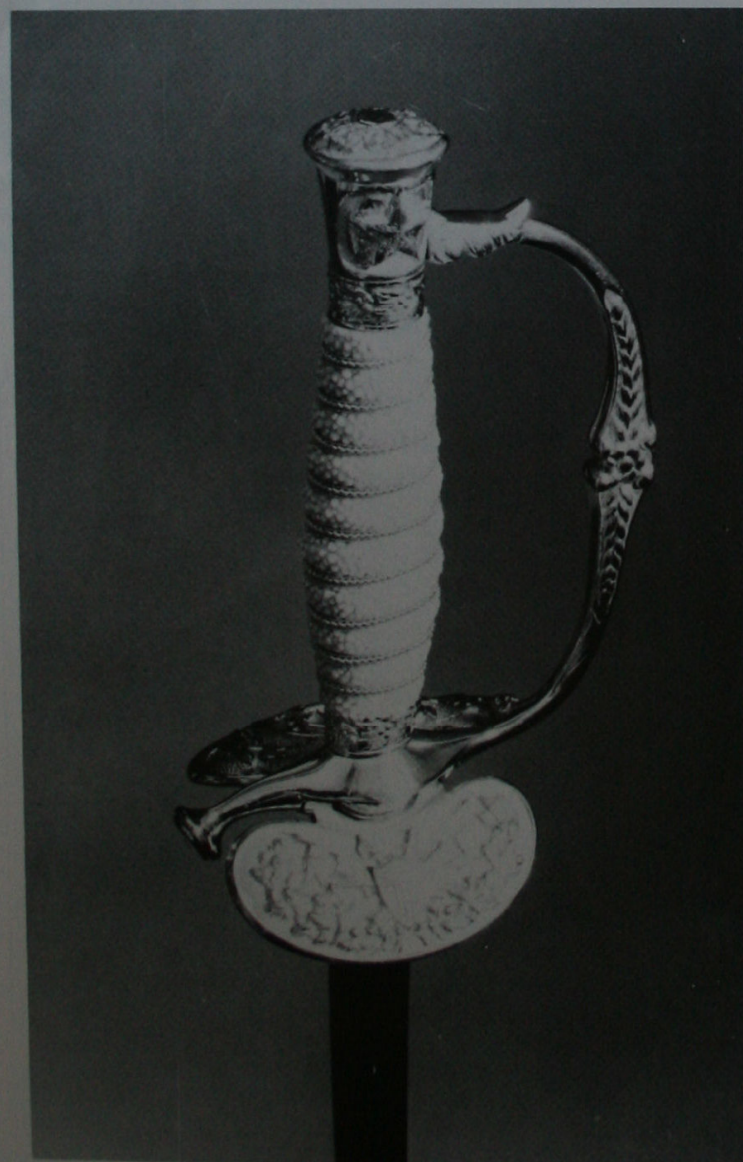
OEHM Co., Baltimore (NCO model belonging to an artillery sergeant)  
Jacob Reed & Son, Phila., Penn.  
G.F. Foster Son & Co., Chicago, Ill.  
B.M. Whitlock, New York, N.Y.  
J.J. Hirschbuhl, Louisville, Ky.  
Oak Hall Clothing Co., Boston, Mass. (NCO)  
F.J. Heiberger, Washington, D.C. (Dated June 18, 1897)  
Clauberg, Solingen  
W.A. Raymold, N.Y., N.Y.  
Willet & Pnuff, Wash., D.C.  
G.A. Simmons  
U.S./Armory/Springfield, Mass.  
Gaylord Mfg. Co., Chicopee, Mass.  
J.H. Wilson, Co.  
Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, N.Y.  
Pettibone, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Baker & McKinney, N.Y. (McKenney?)



M.C. Lilly, Columbus, Ohio  
 Bent & Bush, Boston, Mass.  
 Wilson, Philadelphia  
 Horstmann, Phila. & N.Y.  
 G.W. Simmons & Co., Boston  
 Iver Johnson Sporting Goods, Boston, Mass.  
 (Had 1915 date)  
 B.F. Harley & Co., New Market, N.H.  
 Wm. Reed & Sons/Boston, Mass. (1899-1900 dated)  
 Klingenthal  
 Tomes & Son, Maiden Lane, N.Y.  
 B. Pasquale & Sons, San Francisco, California  
 Warnock, N.Y.

Dean, Syracuse, N.Y.  
 Francis Bannermann, Mil. Goods, 501 Broadway, N.Y.  
 Ridabock & Co., N.Y.  
 Horstmann Bros. Co., Phila.  
 Pettibone Bros, Mfg. Co., Cinti., O.  
 J.H. Wilson, Phila.  
 Ames Mfg. Co., Chicopee, Mass.  
 Ames Sword Co.  
 Geo. Evans & Co., Phila.  
 S.O. Barnum & Co., Buffalo, N.Y. (Dated 1883)  
 Schnitzler, A & A, Solingen (Dated 1883)  
 T.D. Gard, Worcester, Mass.  
 J.R. Merrill & Co., Portland, Maine

Figure 16 — The basic 1860 pattern survives today as the U.S. Public Health Service Sword.  
 (Photo compliments of HQ, Ltd.)



#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- <sup>1</sup> Theodore T. Belote, *American and European Swords in the Historical Collections of the United States National Museum*, Smithsonian Institution, United States National Museum, Bulletin 163, Washington, 1932, 163 pp.
- <sup>2</sup> *Famous First Facts*, 3rd Ed., pg. 418.
- <sup>3</sup> *Illustrated Catalogue of Arms and Military Goods: Containing Regulations for the Uniform of the Army, Navy, Marine and Revenue Corps of the United States*, Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, 19 Maiden Lane and 22 John Street, N.Y., 1864.
- <sup>4</sup> *The Ordnance Manual for the Use of the Officers of the United States Army*, J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1862.
- <sup>5</sup> Harold L. Peterson, *The American Sword 1775-1945: A Survey of the Swords Worn by the Uniformed Forces of the United States from the Revolution to the Close of World War II*, Ray Riling Arms Books Company, 1965, 287 pp.

Not cited:

William S. Sullivan, "Fancy Edition," *Monthly Bugle*, page 4, July/August 1975. A description of a presentation grade 1860 S & F with a single-edged blade and counter-guard release button on top of the guard. Marked, "Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, New York" on the blade.

John Brewer Brown, *Sword and Firearm Collection of the Society of the Cincinnati in the Anderson House Museum, Washington, D.C.* Washington, 1965. Photograph and description of a Spanish-American War 1860 marked, F.J. Heiberger/Washington, D.C.