

Basic Detail Report

Title Rifle

Date 1868

Primary Maker Frank Cheney Sr.

Medium Steel, wood, brass, rope

Description Finely engraved Spencer Repeating Rifle presented to Frank Cheney

Sr. in 1868. The Spencer is a sporting gun in .44 calibre, and has a three piece

sight including a cylindrical sight at the end of the muzzle, a short flip sight

mounted before the breech, and a tall flip sight mounted behind the breech

mechanism. There is a cylindrical tube located in the butt stock of the rifle that

holds seven cartridges and is removed by turning to the right and pulling out

from the rear end. The rifle is extensively engraved, and is signed on the left side

of the breech, "Eng. by / L. Nimschke". The sides of the breech are decorated

with two different scenes; on the right hand side is a man hunting a bear, and on

the left side is a scene of a Civil War cavalry man shooting at enemy soldiers.

Both scenes are surrounded with decorative scroll work. The outside of the

hammer is engraved with the image of a wolf's head, and all screws on the rifle

are engraved with a floral pattern. Engraved on the rear end of the barrel at the

breech is, "Frank Cheney / South Manchester, / Conn." Stamped on the breech

is, "Spencer Repeating / Rifle Co. Boston Mass. / Pat'd March 6, 1860." The rifle

was presented and remains in a mahogany case lined with green felt. Also

included within the case is a screwdriver tool for disassembly of the gun, a

wooden cleaning rod, and a cord with bristled end for cleaning.

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Dimensions Primary Dimensions (overall length): 43in. (109.2cm) Other (barrel length): 26in. (66cm)