November 2026



Colorado Gun Collectors Association

From the President

The elections are over for another two years. While we won't have all of the political advertisements and text messages for a while, we may have to put up with the results. We will always have to be an ambassador for lawful gun ownership and the Second Amendment no matter what year it is because every year the liberal legislators come up with more anti-gun laws. Enough said.

Our annual charity auction is this month so please search your basement for things you don't use anymore and help make our auction fun and worthwhile for a good cause. Dave Sanders from Poulin always does a great job as our Auctioneer. In the past we have used the proceeds to support things like youth shooting groups, the fallen officers' fund, or the diabetes foundation. Please let me know if there is another organization that you would like us to consider.

The Christmas/Holiday party is fast approaching next month. Those that have attended in the past have always had a great time. Some people can't make the monthly meetings, but they come to this to catch up with old friends. Please consider coming out to support this great function as well as having a good time with friends.

I was recently up in South Dakota doing some pheasant hunting. One night the farmer we were staying with brought out a nice little Winchester 1892 rifle that his grandfather bought in 1918. It was a nice example, made in 1913, with most of its blue left but the bluing was dull and the bore was black as night. I think he just kept them in his safe as a memento from his grandfather but never oiled them or cleaned them. I offered to oil a few of his guns for him.

He had another gun from his Great Grandfather who fought in WW I. It was an 1884 Trapdoor Springfield which I am guessing was not his service weapon in WW I. This one also had better than average finish but was in a state of neglect. The fun part about it was that it had some markings on the stock. On top of the stock right in front of the butt plate tang was a number 3, which I assume was a rack number of some sort. On the right side of the stock was stamped a "1" over a "B". That was a little out of the ordinary for most of the trapdoors I have seen. This gun also had an early 1873 sight replacing the original sight that it should have had at serial number 2023xx. In addition, the ramrod was missing.

Since I was away from my reference library, I thought I would just email my friend and frequent displayer at our CGCA show, John Spangler. I have queried John about Trapdoors before as he is a dealer in old military firearms and has a phenomenal encyclopedic knowledge of many subjects. I didn't expect much but I just thought I would ask about these markings just for fun.

What a surprise when John got back to me with some interesting history. First, he pointed out that the 1873 sight was a replacement for what was, or had been changed to, a Buffington sight since the lower barrel band had the "notch" for the Buffington sight. (I had never paid attention to this notch before, so I learned something). Then he told me that this particular gun was listed by serial number with about 87 other known guns as belonging to the 1st U.S. Volunteer Engineers, which were Federal troops. He explained that "the 1st USV Engineers were organized in New York in June 1898 from recruits in the mid-Atlantic region, missed all the fighting (Spanish-American War), but went to Puerto Rico on occupation/public works building duty for about three months (Aug-Nov. 1898) before returning home." He said "they mostly focused on Ponce, a large port on the south-central coast. Further research upon returning home allowed me to find the complete roster of the company as well as a more detailed explanation of the work they did (engineering, surveilling, and constructing roads, defensive works, and timber/masonry bridges.

Military guns in particular, lend themselves to researching their past, with their various markings and inspectors' marks. They really teach us about history in an interesting way. I bet if you took a gun like this, or any other artifact, into a classroom and talked about its history, the kids would really remember that history. Somehow it brings it to life!

Rick Wilson

Thank you to Rick Wilson for his presentation on “Engraved Guns”. There is so much to learn about the engraving type, the engraver and the methods used.

Our next meeting will be November 17, 2026, at the American Legion Post 1; 7:00 PM. It’s time for our Charity Auction.

It’s time to search the closets, attics, and crawl spaces for those items that you no longer need and bring them to our annual auction. **Our auction will be November 17**. Proceeds from our auction go to charity. Please bring your treasures by 6:15 so that we can get all items cataloged for the auction.

We will **NOT** have a meeting in December.
We are accepting reservations for our Christmas Dinner. Dinner is on December 5. We are dining at Maggiano’s I25 & Dry Creek from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. A reservation form is attached. Seating is limited. We are keeping the prices the same as last year, even though the club is paying a higher rate. If you would like to make an additional donation to cover extra expenses, there is a line on the reservation form. We look forward to seeing YOU at our dinner.

NEW PRIVATE OPPORTUNITY

FOR SALE: Newly Discovered *E co.No.68* 1847 Colt Walker.

Probably one of the finest, very high condition military Walkers in existence. All properly Matching SN’s on brass trigger guard, wedge, butt stock, frame, barrel, and rear of cylinder.

- Published, copyrighted “Metals Fingerprinting” report on Colt Walker *E co. No.68* 1847 Colt Walker by industry scholar Fred Holabird (2026).
- Published article by Fred Holabird, “The American Gun Project” (January 2013).
- Published authentication report on Colt Walker *E co. No.68* by Colt Walker Specialist Steve Winters (Reno, NV, 2025).

In 2023 we notably possessed what we believed was the largest collection of authentic Colt Walkers in the U.S. By 2024 we sold five of these to a prominent collector for display in his museum. This was a private sale.

Considering serious offers.

Respectfully, Robert Ulbricht 715-772-4992

Please visit our website at www.CGCA.com for club news and updates.

New pictures are on our website.

If you have questions, please contact:

President - Rick Wilson, President@cgca.com

Cindy Jewell, Secretary/treasurer 303-750-5645; sectreas@cgca.com

Chris Brownell, Show Chairman 720-482-0167 CGCAShow@cgca.com

CGCA Christmas Dinner
Saturday, December 5, 2026

Maggiano's Italian Restaurant
7401 S Clinton St
Englewood, CO 80112
I 25 and Dry Creek, Exit 196

Time 3:00 - 6:00pm

Cost: $20.00 per person member
Cost: $40.00 per person non-member

The meal will be served family style.

Make check payable to CGCA – mail slip and check NO LATER THAN
NOVEMBER 23rd to:

Cindy Jewell
1164 S Quince Way, Denver, CO 80231-2005

Questions: Craig Blancett: 720/427-2430

Detach Here and Remit with payment

Name: _____

Guest Name: _____

Donation Amount _____

- *Amount Enclosed:* _____

Aarron Davis Lugers and Luger 101 Presentation





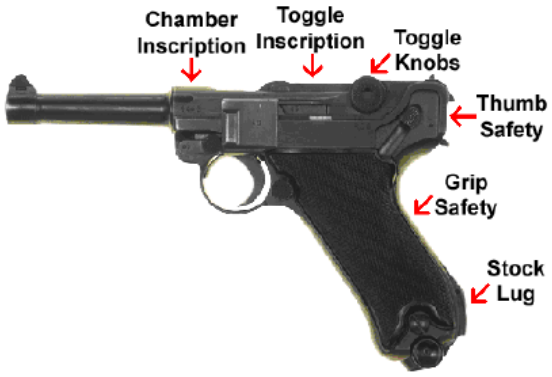






What's my Luger? They were produced for nearly 46 years, for dozens of countries, for two world wars. Confusion and curiosity abounds. However, what we do know, what we have sorted out is a vast body of knowledge. This article will get you started on applying that knowledge to identify your Luger.

Luger model identification starts by looking at the big, obvious features, which narrows the possibilities down to the likely suspects. The picture below shows these big features.



I always start by looking at the toggle inscription. This almost always has the name or initials of the manufacturer. There were several manufacturers, but almost half of all Luger pistols were produced by Deutsches Waffen und Munitions Fabriken (The German Weapons and Munitions Factory) or DWM. Their stylized initials (shown here) will be found on pistols produced or assembled from 1900 to about 1928.

During WWI production was augmented by the Imperial arsenal in Erfurt Germany. These will carry the toggle mark

ERFURT

The Swiss absolutely adored the Luger (which was known as the Parabellum Pistol in Europe. While most Swiss consumed Lugers were made by DWM, some were made by the Swiss themselves. These will have a cross in shield on the toggle.

WWI provided some unusual circumstances for Luger production, including the final machining and assembly of some Dutch contract Lugers by the British company Vickers. These will simply be stamped **Vickers Ltd.** On the toggle.

With the tight controls on military arms production imposed on Germany after WWI, all "official" Luger production was by **Simson & Co.**, and were marked with just the name.

German corporations were heavy in interlocking boards of directors. In the late 1920s DWM became part of Mauser. Soon after, the DWM toggle stamp was changed to the Mauser logo.

MAUSER

As WWII approached, most Luger's manufactured for the German military have a toggle stamp intended to disguise who the manufacturer was. **S/42, 42** or **byf** toggle stamps still indicate Mauser, but for military consumption.

The final manufacturer was Krieghoff. They were a WWII era manufacturer as well, born out of German Air Force needs and Herman Goering's influence. The toggle on these Lugers is marked with the Krieghoff logo and name.

H K
KRIEGHOFF
SUHL

Next, look at the toggle knobs. 95% will be flat and serrated. From the start of production in 1900 thru late 1903 the toggle knobs will be dished out, wider at the leading edge. Because all production of this earlier type was by DWM, this feature is probably the first thing you notice. It immediately dates the Luger as a 1900 or 1902 model.

Next, I look at the chamber inscription. The two most common marks to find here are either a national crest, or a date. A national crest will tell you that it was a commercial or military contract pistol. A date will tell you that it was for the German military or police. Most dates are the 4-digit year. Starting in early 1939 that changed to a 2-digit year. A very few variations have a single letter stamped on the chamber, which is a date code, but a date none the less. One of the more interesting ones is called Double Dates. These will have the original date along with a 1920 date added. This indicates that the gun was subject to inventory control by the post WWI Allied Control Commission.

There are a number of Luger variations that have a blank, unmarked chamber. Odds are that these are either commercial or police guns from the Weimar (between the World Wars) era.

With those three things described, you can differentiate 80% of all Lugers.

Next, start looking at the second tier of characteristics. Start with the stock lug, or absence thereof. Up till about 1914, most Lugers had no stock lug. From 1914 on, most Lugers have a stock lug.

Next, look for a grip safety. Sometimes the presence of a grip safety is all that differentiates variations.

The last overt feature to look at is the thumb safety. You are looking for two things; how it is marked, and whether it is safe with the lever up or down.

With these 6 features identified, you can now distinguish between 95% of all known Luger variations.

The last 5% is where it gets tougher. Now you have to look at serial number ranges, proof mark variations, whether it has a rust blue or salt blue finish, what type of eagles are in the stamps, what inspector numbers are in the proof marks, and other subtle features. There are too many exceptions and subtleties to do justice to this last 5% in an article.

Instead let's talk about some of the short cuts. There are a couple feature patterns that let you peg the era of a Luger.

Collectors characterize the common configurations by the year that combination of features became a standard.

1900 Pattern
These were the first commercially successful Lugers. In 1900 and 1901 the Luger was only made in 7.65 mm (.30 Luger).

1900 Pattern Lugers will have the following features in common:
- The dished type toggle knobs with the toggle lock feature.
- A flat top breechblock
- A metal grip safety.
- No Stock Lug (except carbine models)
- They will be chambered for 7.65 mm (.30 Luger)
- 4 groove rifling, 1 turn in 25 cm.

The 1900 Pattern will be found in commercial and contract models. Military test models are also found in this pattern, but no German military production models.

The 1900 Pattern was produced and sold from 1900 through 1905.

1902 Pattern
Some refer to a 1902 Pattern, which is simply the 1900 Pattern chambered for 9 mm Parabellum. Feedback from military test trails with several nations' made Georg Luger begin offering the Luger chambered for this new round of his invention.

The 1902 Pattern will have the following features in common:
- The dished type toggle knobs with the toggle lock feature.
- A flat top breechblock
- A metal grip safety.
- No Stock Lug (except carbine models)
- 9 mm Parabellum
- 6 groove rifling, 1 turn in 25 cm.

One exception to this classification is the 1902 Carbine, which was still in 7.65 mm. It is not typically called a 1900 Carbine to prevent confusion with a prior carbine model.

The 1902 Pattern will be found in commercial and contract models. New military test models are also found in this pattern, but no German military production models.

The 1902 Pattern was produced and sold from 1902 through 1905.

1904 Pattern
This is actually a preview of some 1906 Pattern features which first made their debut on the first German military model, the 1904 Navy.

1906 Pattern
The 1906 Pattern saw the only substantial redesign of the Luger, marking the change from the old model to the new model. Externally the design change is identified by
- Flat, checkered toggle knobs.
- Grip Safety
- No Stock Lug (accept carbine and navy models)
- 6 groove rifling, 1 turn in 25 cm.

1908 Pattern
The 1908 is the configuration of features which, coupled with the 9 mm Parabellum cartridge, captured the attention of the German army.

1908 Pattern Lugers will have the following features in common:
- Flat, checkered toggle knobs.
- No Grip Safety
- No Stock Lug (except carbine models)
- 6 groove rifling, 1 turn in 25 cm.

1914 Pattern
The 1914 Pattern represents the combination of features which constituted the majority of military and commercial Lugers in WWI and through the Weimar era.

The 1914 Pattern is identifiable by the following features:
- Flat, checkered toggle knobs.
- No Grip Safety (except for special models like the Simson Grip Safety, and the Swiss Bern model).
- Stock Lug
- Rust Blue Finish
- Wood Base Magazine
- 6 groove rifling, 1 turn in 25 cm.

1929 Swiss Pattern
- Flat, smooth toggle knobs.
- Grip Safety
- No Stock Lug
- Straight Grip Front Strap

1934 Pattern
The 1934 Pattern is nearly identical to the 1914 pattern, with a change to aluminum based mags, and a change to salt bluing starting in 1937, both introduced by Mauser. The 1934 Pattern constituted all Nazi era commercial and military Lugers, with the exception of a few throw-back 1906 Pattern models.

The 1934 Pattern is identified by the following features:
- Flat, checkered toggle knobs.
- No Grip Safety (except for special models like the Mauser Banner Grip Safety and the Krieghoff Grip Safety models).
- Stock Lug
- Salt Blue Finish
- Aluminum Base Magazine
- 6 groove rifling, 1 turn in 25 cm.

Reworks
So far we have focused on Lugers in their factory original configuration. However a military or police pistols that was a standard sidearm from 1908 to 1945, can be expected to have seen some rework, reuse, and reissue. These constitute both a fertile area of collecting, and a very confusing area of knowledge.

The best way to go about sorting these out is to start with what has been laid out above. Determine what the Luger started life as. Then look at and define the idiosyncrasies that indicate subsequent changes, features, and a second or even a third life. The most interesting Luger I own started life at a WWI military pistol. Was then double dated to indicate life in the Weimar military between the world wars. Then it has arsenal rework marks and armorer's kit replacement parts dating from the early Nazi era. This pistol saw German military service from 1916 thru the end of WWII. That is the kind of history that makes this hobby so much fun.