

Comments by
Charles 'Cap' Cresap
ccresap@sbcglobal.net
on

History of Three Pound Verbruggen Gun and Its Use in North America 1775-1783

by
Stephen G. Strach
Eastern National Park and Monument Association
1986, unpublished

The gun in Perth, Canada¹ is the only remaining Pattison, not a Townsend. It is 36 inches long and about 188 pounds. The Pattison more closely resembles the Congreve but is lighter though the same length and has more ogives and fillets. The [2 guns](#) on page 6 in *Grasshoppers and Butterflies*² are correctly labeled Pattison and Light 3 (which is the Congreve). They are similar in length and not too different in outline.

The Townsend is the gun by Mr. Ward from Ireland which Townsend introduced. It is not a variation of the Pattison but is shorter and has a different shape. A letter from Bloomfield to Cleveland in 1775 specifies the Townsend to be 32 inches. That is the length of the guns at West Point³ and the Smithsonian⁴. They have the elevation lug under the cascabel.

You will also note that on the [drawing of the 4 guys doing the "Irish carry"](#)⁵ that there is no ogive and fillet just forward of the fillet in front of the trunnion as seen through the spokes of the wheel. The Pattison has an ogive and fillet there as well as another set at the muzzle end of the chase. That is 2 sets, one just behind the muzzle and one just forward of the trunnion and trunnion fillet. Why all this? The Townsend gun, which is the one at West Point and at the Smithsonian with the elevation lug under the neck of the cascabel, doesn't have an ogive and fillet forward of the trunnion fillet either. The Townsend would be the gun shown in that drawing.

Additional comments via email, 20 Dec 2011:

Caruana made an oops on page 7 with the photos of the 2 guns in Canada. He said that Pattison's and Townsend's guns were ordered about the same time in February, 1775. However, in discussing the 2 Canada guns, photos B and C, he says that the Pattison is dated 1775 and the light 3 pounder, which he mistakes as a Townsend, is dated 1776. The 1776 is not a Townsend. The 1776 gun in the photo is 3 foot long as is the 1775 Pattison. The drawing of the 2 guns, page 12, Pattison and Lt 3 are both 3 foot long. The 2 guns in Canada are both 3 feet and the table listing the brass guns, page 5, shows the Pattison and the light 3 are both 3 feet. The curator at the courthouse in Perth, Ontario confirms that the 2 guns at that location are the same length, 3 feet.. One is the Congreve AKA light 3 pounder and the other is the Pattison. They are both correctly drawn and pictured in Caruana's book on page 12.

The Pattison has astragals and fillets at the muzzle end of the chase and at the rear of the chase. The Congreve has an astragal and fillets only at the muzzle end of the chase but it has no re-enforce and ogive around the trunnions. It is quite plain. The gun shown in the drawing of the Irish carry, page 6,

1 Strach discusses Perth guns on pages 22, 26, 155, 156, 174, 230, and 248.

2 Adrian B. Caruana, *Grasshoppers and Butterflies: the Light 3-pounders of Pattison and Townshend*, Museum Restoration Service, 1980. This illustration is also shown on p.29 of Strach's work.

3 Strach discusses the gun at West Point on pages 18, 52, 69, 135, 140, 148, 153, 167, 187, and 228

4 Strach discusses the gun at The National Museum of American History on pages 18, 135, 149, 218, 220 and 222.

5 Strach's book, p. 47, top.

and in the drawing of the gun mounted in the grasshopper carriage on page 8 has one astragal and fillet at the muzzle and re-enforces with ogives around the trunnions. That design corresponds with the Verbruggens found at West Point and the Smithsonian. Those 2 guns were made in 1775 at the same time as the Pattison. However, they are 32 inches, which is the same length as that specified in the letter by Cleveland. Caruana has all 3 guns drawn in his book and pictures of the 2 at Perth which are Pattison and Congreve designs. However, he doesn't correctly identify Congreve's guns which he confuses with Townsend. The Townsend is shorter and has a ring under the neck for the elevation screw. The other 3 three pounders , Pattison and Congreve, use a yoke under the neck.

[Footnotes added by John Robertson]