

Comments by
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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
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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.

Addendum, added 9/19/2011

I just spoke with the curator in Perth, Canada about their guns, 1775 and 1776 Verbruggen 3 pounders, She measured them at my request and says that they are the same length - muzzle to breech 36" and tip to tip 40". That differs somewhat from Strachs book. He gives the length of one as 38". Strach has apparently got models 1 and 2 mixed up. Model 3 is the Congreve. Model 1 has the loop under the neck and is 37 " long tip to tip and 32 " muzzle to breech. This is the length specified by a 1775 letter as the length of the Townsend. There are two of these guns today, one at the Smithsonian and one at West Point. Model 2 is the gun from Perth and it is the same length as the Congreve. According to Caruana both the Pattison and the Congreve are both 36" long muzzle to breech and 40" tip to tip. Model 1 is the Townsend and Model 2 is the Pattison.

[Endnotes added by John Robertson]

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.