



SPENCER CARBINE – 2ND MASS CAVALRY

Spencer Repeating Carbine- 2nd Mass Cavalry. This is an original and unaltered Spencer Civil War carbine in very good condition with even brown patina with traces of blue and case hardening. Wood stock is fine with minor handling marks, two clear cartouches. Correct Spencer patent markings on top of frame, worn but present. Barrel has nice plum patina with excellent bore.

This carbine was the property of Wesley C. Howe, of Co. M of the Cal Battalion who served with the 2nd Mass Cavalry. Howe enlisted on 20 Mar 1863 as a Sergeant. He was a 30-year old miner, originally from Shippensville, Pennsylvania, but he enlisted in San Francisco.

Howe was promoted to 1st Sergeant, and 2nd Lieutenant (25 Mar 1864) but was captured during fighting at Winchester, Virginia and sent to Libby Prison. He was paroled 23 Feb 1865 and returned to the regiment, now assigned to Company A, and holding the rank of 1st Lieutenant. Lieutenant Howe was then present during the closing months of the Civil War and witnessed the surrender of Confederate Forces at Appomattox Courthouse in 1865.

The carbine is accompanied by a notarized letter with provenance from Howe's daughter, Mary Howe Ryan to a friend, Robert D. Nichols and then to this collection.

