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THE COVER

Over 30,000 hinged barrel, breechloading carbines patented by Gilbert Smith of Buttermilk Falls, N.Y., were purchased by U.S. Ordnance during the Civil War. This 1857 model uses a cal. .50 separate-primed rubber cartridge ignited by a regular musket cap. A complete description of this engraved and cased sample is given on page 17. Photo by Associate Editor Rolfe M. Baggett.

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