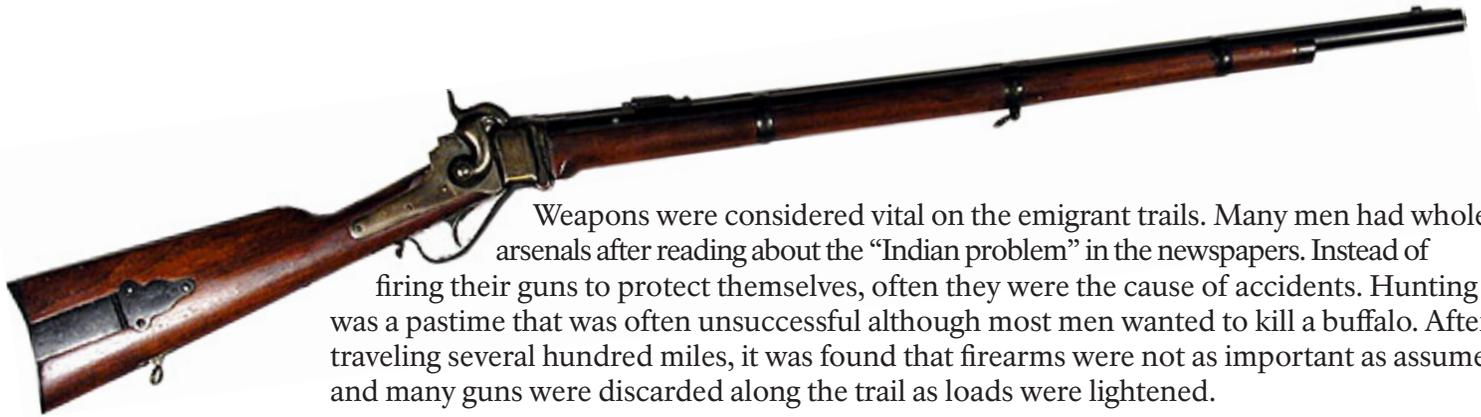




## Frontier Weapons Displayed at Scotts Bluff



Weapons were considered vital on the emigrant trails. Many men had whole arsenals after reading about the “Indian problem” in the newspapers. Instead of firing their guns to protect themselves, often they were the cause of accidents. Hunting was a pastime that was often unsuccessful although most men wanted to kill a buffalo. After traveling several hundred miles, it was found that firearms were not as important as assumed and many guns were discarded along the trail as loads were lightened.

### Navy Colt Revolver

The .36 caliber Navy Colt revolver on display is a six shot cap and ball pistol with an octagonal barrel. It has a bent front sight, a brass trigger guard and wood grips. The number on the cylinder is “77828”. The number “99429” matches the number on the frame.



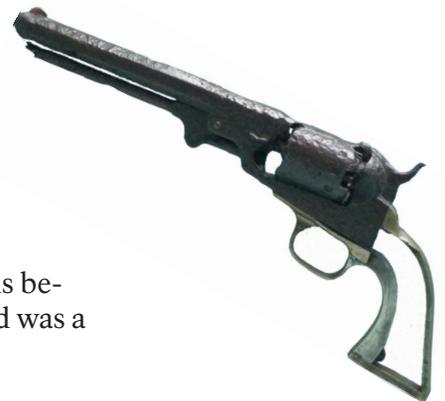
Designed by Samuel Colt between 1847 and 1850, the revolver remained in production until 1873.

Despite the “Navy” designation, the revolver was chiefly purchased by civilians and military land forces.

This revolver was purchased by Scotts Bluff National Monument in 1960.

### Model 1849 Colt Pocket Revolver

A 1849 model Pocket Colt revolver, this is a six shot pistol with an octagonal barrel and bullets retained in the cylinder. The backstrap is broken and the grips are missing. There is also a brass trigger guard.



With a .31 caliber single action revolver, it is a smaller version of the Colt 1851 Navy revolver.

This badly rusted and pitted pistol was found in the Badlands between the Monument and the North Platte River in 1906 and was a gift to the Monument in 1935.

### Ballard Buffalo Gun

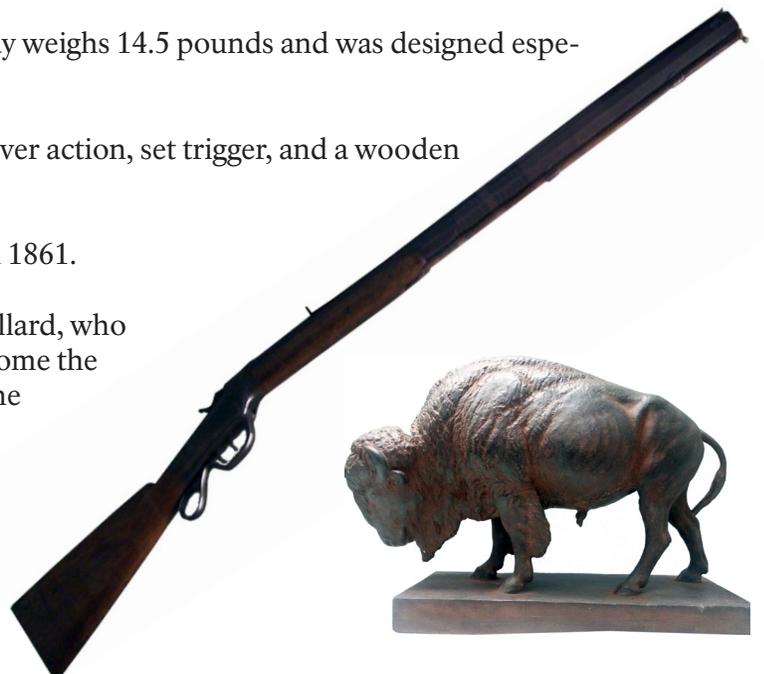
The heavy caliber Ballard rifle on display weighs 14.5 pounds and was designed especially for buffalo hunters.

This weapon has an octagonal barrel, lever action, set trigger, and a wooden ramrod.

Ballard Rifles were initially produced in 1861.

Not much is know about Charles H. Ballard, who designed and patented what was to become the finest single shot action rifles made in the United States.

Reputedly, this rifle was used by the donor to kill mountain sheep on Scotts Bluff, and has been on loan to the Monument since 1936.



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**Manhattan Revolver**

This is a .36 caliber percussion, six shot cap and ball revolver.

A. B. Liggett reportedly carried this revolver over the Oregon Trail and used it in two fights with Indians. It is stamped “Manhattan Firearms Company, Newark, NJ”, and has a serial number of 37673 with a patent date of 12-27-1859.



No one knows exactly which year any particular gun was manufactured. During the company’s existence, they produced approximately 175,000 pistols. The New Jersey factory was destroyed by a fire in 1910.

This pistol was a gift to the Monument in 1937.

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**Ames Box Lock Pistol**

Made for the U. S. Navy, this is a .58 caliber percussion, single-shot pistol.

The pistol has a round barrel, smooth bore, brass handle, single-piece stock and grip, square butt with a brass butt plate, brass trigger guard and lock plate. The ramrod has a swivel attachment to the barrel which allows it to be positioned with the ramrod flush with muzzle. “RPP” is marked on the barrel. The bolt through the stock and lock plates are replacements. On the lock plate is “N.P. Ames Springfield Mass” and “USN 1844”.



A notch may indicate that it killed a man. This pistol was reportedly traded in the 1850’s by a man returning east on the Oregon Trail.

This pistol was a gift to the Monument in 1936.

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**Colt Revolver**

An early pattern .32 caliber, this six shot Colt revolver has chipped hard rubber grips. The grips appear to have been broken and repaired. The mechanism is in workable condition. It has a Colt trademark on the grips.



This pistol was a gift to the Monument in 1936.

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**Sharp’s Rifle**

The 45-90 Sharp’s rifle on display has an octoganal barrel, folding rear sights and set triggers. The serial number is 42108.



This type of rifle fires a cartridge developed for hunting and is known for its long range and accuracy. The typical load for the 45-90 was a powder charge 90 grains gunpowder with a bullet weighing 400 grams. Hunters fired heavy rifles like this in the wholesale destruction of the American Bison.

Found in a cave along with steel knuckles near Horseshoe Station in Wyoming, this rifle was possibly part of an outlaw cache.

The rifle was a gift to the Monument in 1936.

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**Pepperbox Pistol**

An unusual looking gun, the Allen and Thurber model 1837 Pepperbox pistol has a combination revolving cylinder/barrel and top hammer. The cylinder contains six separate barrels. The wood grip on this pistol is missing.



The Pepperbox, known as the “Gun that won the East”, was the most common repeating handgun prior to the invention of the revolving cylinder. Its name may have been coined by Samuel Clemens, and was commonly used during the California Gold Rush.

This pistol has been on loan to the Monument since 1936.