

American Ordnance Preservation Association, LTD

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Consultants to...

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Stephen R. Reed, Mayor
City of Harrisburg
City Government Center
Harrisburg, PA

May 1, 1996

Dear Mayor Reed:

It is with great pleasure that we are able to present **The Cameron Family Grouping**. It comes to fruition after almost nine months of effort. Extensive research went in to locating the artifacts including hours at various libraries, review of death records and probated estates etc....

Among the various artifacts are a *Cased pair of Presentation Pistols presented to Simon Cameron from Colonel Colt* on November 1, 1861. They have been featured in *The Book of Colt Firearms* and are referenced in *The National Rifle Association's Gun Collectors Guide*. We had the opportunity to view a similar set of pistols that were presented by Col. Colt to **Adjutant General Lorenzo Thomas** on the same date. The numbers on the Thomas' pistols were **Serial Number 1805** on his Colt 1861 Navy (*twenty digits away from Cameron's 1861 Navy Pistol*) and on Thomas's 1860 Army is **Serial Number 11710** (*two digits away from Cameron's 1860 Army*). On the date of November 1, 1861, Colonel Colt furnished several high ranking Generals and Politicians with Presentation sets possibly in an effort to curry favor. *Confirmation of the closeness of Serial Numbers provides excellent confirmation of authenticity.*

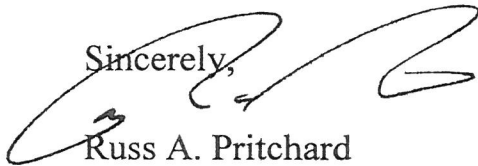
Also provided in the grouping are a number of Civil War artifacts from Major Brua Cameron including his *1850 Staff and Field Officer's sword*,

utensil set, tent foot post, and a beautiful oil portrait of Brua in Uniform. Heitman's Historical register lists Major Brua Cameron as a Paymaster from May of 1861 until retirement on November 4, 1863. Brua dies on January 13, 1864. There is also a *Model 1872 Cavalry Officer's sword* of unknown origin, but came from the Cameron family with the above material.

Of special note are *eight handwritten pages of family genealogy* done in what appear to be *Simon Cameron's hand* on his personal letterhead in 1886. It provides history and genealogy on the family back to 1772 and Inverness, Scotland.

We hope these artifacts find an appropriate home in **The National Civil War Museum at Harrisburg**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russ A. Pritchard', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Russ A. Pritchard

PAID FOR LOT \$256,400

11/19/1996