

BOSS & CO. OF LONDON

~ 12-BORE DOUBLE GUN, CIRCA 1858 ~

Boss bar-action hammer gun no. 1633, with 31" Damascus barrels and a Jones rotary underlever, was built in 1858 for The Rev. Thomas Owen Rocke, B.A. (1823-1892), the Rector of St. Cuthbert's Church on his family's estate at Clungunford, near the towns of Shrewsbury and Ludlow in Shropshire, England.

This Boss illustrates the rapid evolution of shotgun ignition systems in the second half of the 19th century: starting life as a percussion muzzleloader, it may have been converted to a breachloading pinfire before its final conversion to central fire. It was also retrofitted with rebounding locks, which were patented in the mid-1860s.

Among the Victorian landed gentry, "first sons" usually inherited the family estate, and "second sons" -- like T. Owen Rocke -- often became local clergymen supported by the estate. This provided the squire's "spare" son with a suitable occupation and income (for Rev. Rocke, an annual stipend of something like \$500,000 today), and it also reinforced the estate's influence over its tenants and workers. Rev. Rocke grew up in Clungunford House, his family's Georgian manor. His church dated back to 1305, and his rectory was made with stone and half-timber construction in the 1500s. In the 1890s, the church was enlarged and a new red-brick rectory was built in the gothic revival style. Like Rev. Rocke's shotgun, all of these structures are still being used today.

The Rev J. Proctor Wickett 305
Clungunford Rectory, Shrewsbury



Ordered
Double Gable



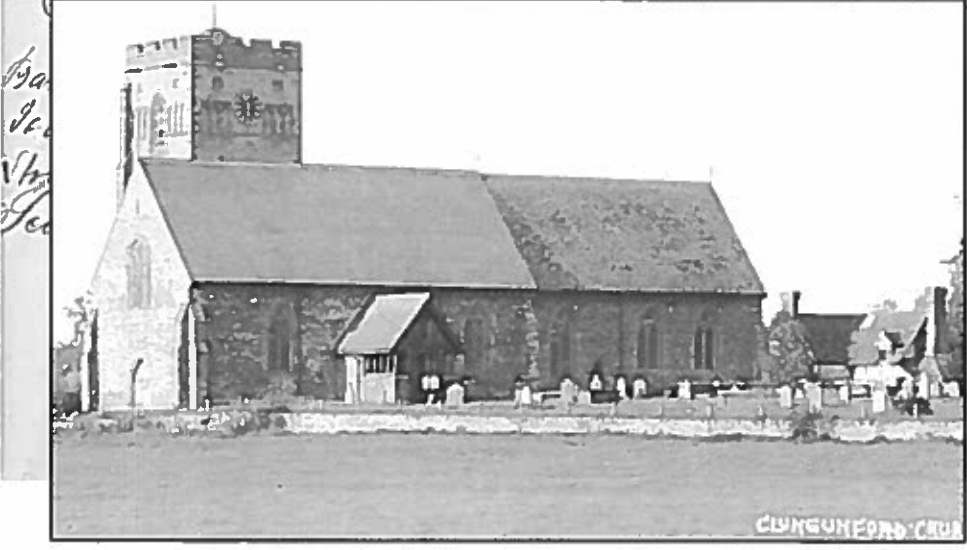
with side bays - Sub-roof left slightly elevated
to be fitted in old case but they'd beyond Executioners



1/16 }
1/16 }
1/16 }
Se
He
See



Cast-off steel 1/8
P... 3/8
... of rock
Receipt 4 1/2 lb
... 3 1/2



CLUNGUNFORD CHURCH

Rev. Rocke Photos

Top left: Clungunford House, near Ludlow in Shropshire, England – the manor house where Rev. Rocke grew up.

Top right: The medieval “Old Rectory” where Rev. Rocke first lived as the Rector (parish priest) on his family’s estate.

Mid-left: The “New Rectory” that was completed around 1890.

Mid-right: The interior of Rev. Rocke’s ancient church, named St. Cuthbert’s.

Bottom: The exterior of Rev. Rocke’s church.

Background: Boss’s order book showing Rev. Rocke’s gun, no. 1633.

Boss's Order Book Entry for Rev. Locke's Gun

The Rev. J. Locke
 Clergyman's Rectory, Shrewsbury - 305
 1041 Register St.

No 1700

Completed & sent by rail
 Order August 11th 1858
 New Double Gun

12 bore 2 ft 7, long without rammer, Remond's barrel
 Low top piece - right bit in - weight of gun 7 lbs
 with side bars - Subvent left slightly elevated
 to be fitted in old case but changed beyond execution
 cast on steel - a mantle on a Rock.

Bore at Heel	1 7/8 1/16	}	Length	14 1/16
Do at Face	1 3/8 1/16		Heel	14 1/4 1/16
Shunt hole	1 5/8 1/16		Toe	14 3/4 1/16

Cast-off Steel	1/8	}	Full of Locks	
Do Tire	3/8		Right	4 1/2 cl
			Left	4 3/4 -

Barrel's receiver requires the above Rec Out 6"
 it is said
 Weight of Gun 14 1/2 lbs
 Secured to Smith Nov 1/58

Transcription of Boss's Order Book Entry for Rev. Roche's Gun

The Rev'd T. Owen Roche

305

Clungunford Rectory, Shrewsbury

10 Gt. Ryder St.

No. 1633

Ordered August 11th 1858

Completed &

Sent [...] Rail

A new Double Gun

12 Bore 2 ft. 7 long without Ramrod, Damascus Barrels.

[.....] Sight let in ___ weight of Gun 7 pound,

with Side barrs ___ Falsbreech left slightly elevated

To be fitted in old case Not Checq'd beyond Escutcheons

Crest on Silver --- a martlet on a Rock.

Bend at Heel	1 7/8 1/16	(Length	14 1/16
Do. at Face	1 3/8 1/16)	Heel	14 1/4 1/16
Thumbhole	1 5/8 1/16	(Toe	14 3/4 1/16

			Pull of Locks	
Cast-off Heel	1/8		Right	4 1/2 lbs
Do. Toe	3/8		Left	4 3/4 --

Barrels ordered – Squires Aug 26, 58 Rec'd Oct 6th.

[.....]

Stocked Whitehouse Weight of Gun 6 lbs., 14 ozs.

Screwed W. Smith Nov. 1, 58

BOSS & CO. OF LONDON

~ 14-BORE DOUBLE GUN, CIRCA 1861 ~

Boss back-action hammer gun no. 1875, with 30" Damascus barrels and a Jones rotary underlever, was built in 1861 for Lt.-Col. James Halifax Western, R.E., C.M.G. (1842-1917).

This early Boss breechloader is a 14 bore, a chambering used for muzzleloaders and pinfires which carried over to some early central-fire guns. It was long-ago converted to rebounding locks, which were patented in the mid-1860s. Due to the scarcity of 14 bore cartridges, it has been fitted with Briley 28 ga. and .410 full-length tubes.

Col. Western, a Royal Engineer in the British Army, served as the Chief Engineer of Public Works in India, and as Director-General of Works in Egypt. In the late 1880s, his success on the "Nile Barrage" project – which partially dammed and regulated the Nile River – for the first time allowed year-round irrigation throughout lower Egypt. This marvel of Victorian engineering and agriculture earned Col. Western a royal appointment as a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (with a post-nominal of "C.M.G." – cheekily defined as "Call Me God"). He was also awarded the Insignia of the First Class of the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Medjidieh, by the Khedive of Egypt under authority of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey. From Britain to India to Egypt and now the United States, Col. Western's Boss has truly seen the world.

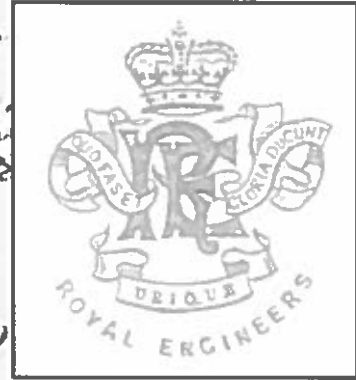
Colonel Western

31 Goodwood

Ordered March
Sunderland



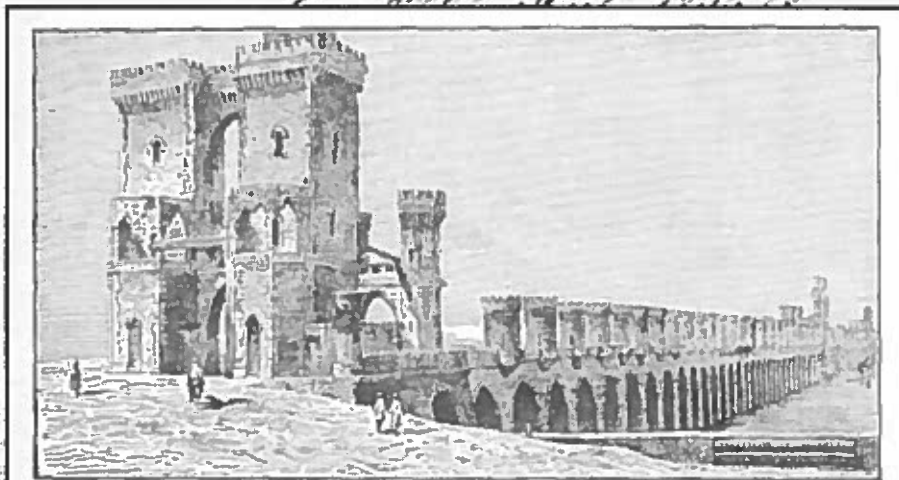
Brecon Castle



Spent 6 long hours in
excursion to the island.
The surrounding heights
to the N. of the castle
apparently to complete
the work of the
the other side of the
the bridge.



Spent at least 2 1/2 hours



THE NILE BARRAGE.

Col. Western Photos

Top left: Royal Engineers' cap badge, incorporating Queen Victoria's "VR" (*Victoria Regina*) cypher.

Top right: Cypher of the Royal Engineers.

Mid-left: The badge worn by Companions of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, as awarded to Col. Western by Queen Victoria.

Mid-right: The Insignia of the First Class of the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Medjidieh, as awarded to Col. Western in Egypt by the Ottoman Empire.

Background: Boss's order book showing Col. Western's gun, no. 1875.

Boss's Order Book Entry for Col. Western's Gun

Colonel Western

21 Grand Street

11/18/75

Ordered, November 15th 1871

Quantity, 1000

1/2

(1/2) Break Loader

1/2 Break Loader
 The same model as the one used by the
 1st Regt. in the war, bright iron,
 finished to the order of the
 Ordnance Department
 The handle to be of iron, the
 with rubber rollers and
 carriage rollers and
 with (rubber rollers)

Send to Genl. S.	Quantity 1476
" " " "	Price 1476
Amount Paid	\$00 1476

Cost of material 1/2	Locks
" " " " 1/2	Key
	Left

Patent
 Action
 Stock
 Lever
 Bolt

Boss's Order Book Entry for Col. Western's Gun (higher resolution detail)

at Concord Mass

1875
 Ordered March 28th 1861
 Granted September 1861

Col. Breach Loader.

14. Bore 2 feet long narrow low Rib
 the same mount as the short J. Williams
 the Gun is Fairman's; weight when
 finished 6 lbs 8 oz. the Gun is 14 inches
 long & apparatus & complete
 the Gun is to be in the
 City of Boston. the Gun is to
 carry 12 rounds of ammunition and
 with 1/2 inch bore

Head at Head. 2	Length 14 3/16
" " Faces 1 3/8 1/16	Steel 14 1/2 lb
Mount Hole	Soe 14 3/4 3/16

cut off at Steel 1/8	Locks
do Soe 3/8	Right
	Left

Barrels Lewis
 Actions Hodges
 Stocks }
 Screws } Byrnes
 Screws }