

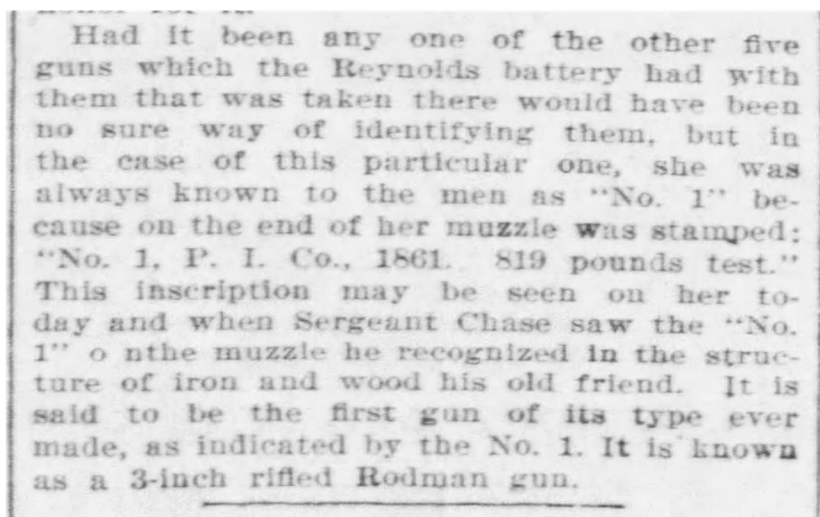
History of the Guns

After the disaster at Bull Run, President Lincoln put out a call for 300,000 more men for service. The Rochester Union Grays, a New York Militia regiment at the time, answered the call. Recruiting was done by John A. Reynolds, Edwin Loder and Charles Anderson, and men from Monroe, Ontario and Wayne counties flocked to the recruiting offices to join the artillery regiment.

On October 8, 1861, 81 men and officers swore an oath to the Union and were mustered into federal service while stationed in Elmira, NY. Under the direction of the State of New York, twelve artillery companies were formed with Reynolds Battery given the designation of Company L. They transferred to Albany on November 14, the training ground for all NY State Artillery, having reached full strength of 115 men. On November 23, 1861 Company L reported for duty at Camp Barry, Washington, D.C. under the command of Captain John A. Reynolds. John Reynolds used his own personal funds as a guarantee to secure the first six Model 1861 3" Ordnance Rifles from the Phoenix Iron Works. These guns would not arrive until May 1862, but would bring a great deal of fame for Reynolds Battery as being the only battery in US Service to have the first six consecutive guns in any series of any cannon in their battery. On February 23, 1862, Reynolds Battery was assigned to Baltimore, Maryland to guard the Capital. After six months of waiting, they were called into action at Harpers Ferry. (Paulson Brothers Ordnance Corporation Website)

Today research has told us that Reynolds' Battery six guns are in the following locations:

Gun # 1 – This gun was located behind the Regimental Quartermaster store in Gettysburg, PA in private ownership. (See newspaper clipping from December 27, 1904, Democrat and Chronicle below).



In the late 1970's, George Lomas, owner of the Regimental Quartermaster store in Gettysburg PA., avid Civil War enthusiast and collector of military artifacts, had tracked down the infamous No.1 gun to private owner in Exeter PA. Having offered a significant dollar amount, that owner, was still refusing to sell the piece. In 1980, George received a phone call from this person that was in a financial crunch and told George that if he would get him \$15,000 that afternoon, No.1 was his. George was there in 3 hours, cash in hand.

After George had the #1 gun in his possession, he live-fired it at the North-South Skirmish Association Nationals in Winchester, VA, for a few years, but they disqualified the gun because it kept winning. Fired against reproductions, it was just so much more accurate that they determined he could not field it anymore, because it was an unfair advantage. For many years the gun was place in the backyard of the Regimental Quartermaster shop on Steinwehr Avenue in Gettysburg PA.

George Lomas, passed in September of 2016. His wife, Susan, and other close friends and family have worked diligently to let the public be able to view George's collection of historic items. They have opened the Lomas Museum in November 2021, at 55 Mayor Alley, Gettysburg, PA 17325 where there is an extensive display of Military items, plus artillery pieces including the No. 1 gun that Reynolds' Battery 'L' used and lost at Gettysburg July 1st, 1863. <https://lomascenter.org/>

Gun # 2 -

Gun # 3 -

Gun # 4 - Was for sale (\$69,000.00) by the Paulson Brothers Ordnance Corporation of Clear Lake, Wisconsin. SOLD at auction by Rock Island Armory and are not divulging to whom or where the gun has gone. - lost track (July 2023).

Gun # 5 - Is located on Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg, PA.

Gun # 6 -