

**01-16571**

**Keen and Walker breechloading carbine, 1862**

Standard 21.5-inch barrel, .52 caliber, marked "P" ("proved") on top of barrel next to single block rear sight. Assembly mark "II" on the frame, breechblock, lower strap and in the stock in the top strap mortise. No other markings. Solid brass receiver, all other parts iron. Action functional.

**Condition:**

Jack Meyer cleaned and conserved this arm in August 1995. The barrel, bore, and buttplate still have some residual pitting, but metal is otherwise in good condition. Wood has numerous dents and scratches indicating hard use. There was a split on the right side of the lower strap mortise and another toward the rear of the mortise on the same side; both have been repaired. Bore and breech are still protected by heavy gun oil; rest of the arm is protected by a wax coating.

**Curator's comments:**

This unusual Confederate breechloading carbine is one of approximately 280 made by Keen, Walker & Company of Danville, Virginia, between May and September 1862, making it one of the rarest and most important artifacts in the AHC collection. Yet there is another example in the Wray Collection.