



*D. Kirkwood and ammunition.*

*On facing page: Factory-loaded shells and reloading components available today for the Kirkwood.*

Henry was the son of Thomas Mortimer and had worked with Kirkwood in Edinburgh. The partners performed general gunsmithing, converted muzzle-loading guns to breechloaders and built guns to order. The partnership dissolved around 1881 but David Kirkwood continued to build guns in Boston until his death in 1897. His daughter and two sons carried on the business under the same name until 1902 when the banner became Kirkwood Brothers. David's son, William, was also a skilled gunmaker and made guns marked W. Kirkwood until 1913 when the firm discontinued making guns and became import agents for guns made in England by William Cashmore. William Kirkwood and his sister Margaret continued in business until about 1950.



Back in the day, David Kirkwood became well known for producing made-to-order three-barreled guns during the 1880s and 1890s, such as the fine example we have here for study. Information suggests that the two most common rifle calibers were .32-40 and .38-55 and the shot barrels were either 12 or 10 gauge. More surprising to me is that these guns could be ordered with Paradox rifling in the shot barrels! Hmmm . . . a light twelve Paradox with a .32-40 barrel . . . wow! I have to keep my eyes open for one of those!

With the identity crisis relieved, my interest now turned, as it always does, to how well the piece would perform. Fine firearms are certainly works of art. Unlike some other art forms however, firearms are functional. They are most interesting to me if they function well. So naturally, I