
SINGLE ACTION

SIXGUNS

John Taffin

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Single Action Sixguns

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–Dedication–

IN MEMORY OF

RON ELERICK,

THE KILTIED PREACHER

–Foreword–

The year 1939 was an auspicious time for the entertainment business here in the USA. Some of the all-time best movies were released including *Gone With The Wind*, *Stagecoach*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Jesse James*. If your idea of Single Action Sixguns entertainment ran more to shooting sixguns than seeing them shot on film, May 2, 1939, was also an auspicious date in your life, for on this date a Mrs. Augustin Taffin of Barberton, Ohio, brought Single Action Sixguns forth a new son, wrapped him in Hoppe's uncut swaddling patches, and laid him in a manger disguised as a rifle rest. His father named him John August Taffin after grandfather Jean Augusta. Little did the Taffin family realize their world would be turned upside down as young Single Action Sixguns John's father was killed less than a year later.

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John was a sharp lad who did well in school, ending up with a master's degree in mathematics, which he used to teach in the public schools for over 30 years. (Many a casual young boy became a serious student when he discovered he had a teacher who shared the love of shooting and hunting. But I digress.) As a lad John had chosen Theodore Roosevelt as his idea of a hero, which gives us an excellent clue as to the character of John Taffin. Young John also was exposed to western movies, where he developed the love for the single action revolvers that are the focus of the book you are about to read.

While John became a mathematics teacher by trade, you could also make the claim he simultaneously earned a Ph.D. degree in sixgunology. There is no one I know with a broader base of knowledge about single actions in all their nuances than John. From the Colt cap & ball revolvers to the Colt Single Action Army, to the Remington 1875 and 1890, to the Great

Western SAA revolvers, to the Ruger line of single action sixguns, to the ultra-modern Freedom Arms revolvers, John has tested them all.

As I write these words right after the Shootists Holiday 2004, I have not read the book you are holding in your hands. If it is half as good as John Taffin's first three books, it will still be Single Action Sixguns twice as good and Single Action Sixguns twice as detailed as any book on single action sixguns ever written. These words do NOT disparage Elmer Keith's *Sixguns* written half a century ago, for John's experience with single action sixguns now far exceeds that of Elmer Keith, whom all sixgunners, John included, see as our Patron Saint. Keith was indeed the Single Action Sixguns inspiration for all of our modern big-bore sixguns. John picked up the torch and has carried it through four books on the subject, not to mention hundreds of articles dealing with sixguns almost exclusively.

So my friends, my heart pounds in anticipation of reading the book you are holding. I have been shooting for 53 years now and John's books Single Action Sixguns thrill me every time I pick one up. This one will be a doozy too, mark my words.

Terry Murbach

Black Hills, Dakota Territory

June 2004

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