

British Ordnance Muskets of the 1830s and 1840s

George Lovell's Legacy

*By Adrian Roads
with contributions from De Witt Bailey*

I am pleased to advise that this long anticipated book is finally available. It is a 'must have' reference work for any collector, researcher, cataloguer or dealer of Ordnance firearms and bayonets of this period. Reading from the first chapter to the last readers will experience an engaging history of the development, influences and manufacture of percussion muskets. It has also been formatted specifically as an easy-to-use reference for any relevant Ordnance musket or bayonet that a collector or researcher may hold. It will come as a surprise to many just how inaccurately muskets of this era have been covered to date and how much has been 'glossed over', especially when it comes to the effects of the 'devastating fire' at the Tower in late 1841.

The book, comprising 390 pages, 28 chapters and profusely illustrated in full colour, deliberately overlaps into territory encompassed by Dr. Christopher Roads' well known standard reference 'British Soldiers Firearm - from smoothbore to smallbore 1850-1864'. As well as being a proof-reader and contributor, Christopher generously provided his personal research material which has added immeasurably to this book.

Included are numerous condensed appendices of original material, the vast majority of which have been contributed by renowned author De Witt Bailey, transcribed during his many years researching in Ordnance archives. The interpretation of this important material has underpinned many chapters in this book and has been deliberately provided in full as a treasure trove of further research material seldom made available that will, in many cases, enable the examiner of a relevant musket to learn a great deal more about any particular example of interest.

Due to the importance and relevance of the nature and depth of the subject matter the Royal Armouries, as well as facilitating in-depth research of collection objects and providing many of the studio quality photographs within, have undertaken the publication and distribution of this book to ensure worldwide distribution.

Website link: [British Ordnance Muskets 1830's & 1840's George Lovells Legacy – Royal Armouries](https://shop.royalarmouries.org/products/british-ordnance-muskets-1830s-1840s-george-lovells-legacy)

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British Ordnance Muskets identifies and analyses in detail 18 ordnance muskets from the 1830s and 1840s. As well as providing the history and details of the muskets of this important period when the Ordnance transitioned from flintlock to percussion arms, it also covers the impact of two arms shortages, material losses suffered in the Tower of London fire (1841) and the obsolescence of all existing arms for the Militia and Volunteers. By consulting original records, Adrian Roads also offers much about the gun contractors themselves: what drove them, what irked them and their capacity for work. It includes appendices that facilitate in-depth research into any British ordnance percussion musket held in a collection or under consideration for acquisition, making it an invaluable resource for researchers, students of arms and collectors alike.

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