

## H.W. MASON

New York, NY

### H.W. MASON

H.W. MASON & COMPANY  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK  
SOUTH COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT



*Photograph of H.W. Mason.<sup>3</sup>*

Jim Sones in an article, "Notes on Fitch, Van Vechten & Successor Companies," in the November-December, 1991 issue of *The Rocky Mountain Bullets*, states: "In 1870, Henry W. Mason appears to have taken over the operation on 52nd Street and the company was renamed H.W. Mason. During the next year it was moved to South Coventry, Connecticut where it remained until it was absorbed into the Phoenix Metallic Cartridge Company in 1874. It appears from box labels that Mason's production was limited to exclusively Ballard (Merwin & Hulbert) rifle calibers such as the .38 and .44 Extra Long Ballard and a selection of paper and combustible cartridges."

When Henry W. Mason was in South Coventry, Connecticut, he produced both shaps percussion ammunition<sup>1</sup>, as well as rimfire cartridges. It is reported that he had been employed by Crittenden & Tibbals until they were purchased. In 1874 a restructuring of the business resulted in the Phoenix Metallic Cartridge Corporation. It is believed upon the death of Mason the firm changed names from Phoenix Metallic Cartridge Company to American Metallic Cartridge Company.

The American Metallic Cartridge Company price list for 1889 lists rimfire and centerfire cartridges as well as shot loads in both types. One of the major assets of the firm was H.W. Mason's patent number 219,491 of September 9, 1878. This patent was for the paper sabot for use in loading shot and multiball.

*Photo and article courtesy of George Kass*

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S-1     **.22 SHORT.** "100 No. 1 PISTOL CARTRIDGES". Green label with black printing. Black, two-piece, half-split box. No h/s on a copper case. Lead cast bullets

S-1



Image from the Rich Rains collection