Charles Newton (1868-1932) & the .256 Newton Cartridge.

Shown below are three early 256 Newton loads with a current 25-06 Remington for comparison The shoulder angle difference is obvious. **BWG**

A lawyer and firearm enthusiast, Charles (Chas.) Newton's experiments with cartridge design led to the creation of the .22 Savage Hi-Power, which was adopted by the Savage Arms Corporation in 1912 as a commercial cartridge. This success was soon followed in 1913 by the.Newton-designed 250-3000 Savage. Both remain in modest use to the present.

At this period in time, Charles also experimented with wildcats based on the .30-06 Springfield case, most notably creating a forerunner of the .25-06 Remington. This 1914 cartridge was first introduced as the .25 Newton Special. There were probably no firearms produced in this caliber by Newton. It soon evolved into the .256 Newton, designed to use, at first, a 123-grain bullet followed by later upgrades to 129-grain and 140-grain bullets. Newton's premise was to use a large case for each caliber he developed with a large powder charge to propel the bullet at high velocity resulting in effective terminal ballistics. Newton developed several calibers. The best known are the .22 Newton (90-grain bullet), .256 Newton, .30 Newton (180-grain bullet), .33 Newton (200-grain bullet), .35 Newton (250-grain bullet) and .40 Newton (300-grain bullet). From 1914 until the late 1920s, he entered into various endeavours to promote and sell rifles in his proprietary calibers.

To promote his proprietary cartridges and ensure a supply of high-quality rifles capable of safely withstanding the high chamber pressure developed by them, Charles incorporated the Newton Arms Co. Inc. in 1914. The earliest of many catalogues issued by Newton offered Mauser and Sauer-Mauser rifles converted, probably by Fred Adolph, to Adolph and Newton calibers. Fred Adolph was a gunsmith in Genoa, New York. He and Newton worked together to design some of the early calibers. These cartridges were initially named Adolph calibers and later named using Newton in place of Adolph. In 1914, Charles Newton made arrangements with Mauser to import rifles in 6.5 caliber in order to convert them in the US to .256 Newton. One order of 24 rifles arrived in August 1914 and three more orders were never received due to the start of WWI. The outbreak of World War I led Charles to manufacture his own rifles. With the employment of noted barrel maker and gunsmith Harry Pope, Newton assured his rifles would be of the highest quality. These First Model 1916 rifles were made in Buffalo, New York. Due to financial difficulties and the inability to make ammunition because of the war efforts, the company produced rifles under Newton for 16 months. In this time, about 2400 rifles were manufactured. Newton Arms Co. Inc. went into receivership for the next 98 days. The receiver then sold out to a dealer in used factory equipment who in turn sold the equipment and left over rifles to the Newton Arms Corporation based in New York, NY. They were also in business about 16 months, were sued by Newton and sold the remaining rifles to Kirkland Bros Hardware. Approximately 1600 rifles were sold by Newton's successors making the total number of Model 1916s produced about 4000 rifles. Newton started the Chas. Newton Rifle Co. in 1919 and imported about 100 German-made Sauer-Mauser rifles, all in .256 Newton caliber. This model is known as the Model 1922 Newton.

The Buffalo Newton Rifle Co. was organized in 1923 for the purpose of manufacturing a newly designed rifle. The first rifles were made in 1924 and became the Second Model 1924 Buffalo Newton rifle. The factory was in New Haven, Connecticut. Only about 1000 of this model Newton rifle were produced. Charles Newton's last attempt at rifle manufacture was a Lever Bolt (straight-pull) rifle. Caught in the great depression of the day, the rifle never reached production status and only prototypes were made. Newton's innovative rifle and cartridge designs contributed much to the firearms industry. He held four patents on bullet design and another covering a unique set trigger assembly. Some of these developments are still used today.

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