



## Summary:

An irreplaceable piece of history of a Colt Single Action Army which was shipped to **Abercrombie and Fitch**. This is a rare your opportunity to own a historic Colt Collectable that will last for eternity.

Comes with its original marked box, papers and Colt Archive Letter.

In 1928, Fitch retired and sold the business to his brother-in-law, James S. Cobb. Under his ownership, he made many strategic deals with firearms manufacturers (like Colt) to sell their guns at A&F. This is when the business really started to bloom as a firearms retailer.

A few of the most famous Abercrombie & Fitch customers; Amelia Earhart, Theodore Roosevelt, and Earnest Hemingway.

One of the most famous women to sport the brand was Amelia Earhart with her A&F flying jacket. Another notable customer was former president and known outdoorsmen Theodore Roosevelt. His whole Rough Riders unit was dressed head-to-toe in Abercrombie apparel during the Spanish-American War. Roosevelt became a lifelong customer buying tents, sleeping bags, and clothes for his safari trips. It would be humorous to see what the former president's view of the retail store would be today. Another famous shopper in the firearms department was Ernest Hemmingway who would go on sprees while in A&F. In fact, a sad bit of history is that the shotgun he shot himself with most likely was purchased from the store.

Abercrombie Co. was the original name of Abercrombie & Fitch and was established in 1892 by David T. Abercrombie. Abercrombie was born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1867 and was the first of six children born to John and Elizabeth Abercrombie. Abercrombie's father was a prestigious news manager for the American News Company, a very dignify[?]ed position for the time. Following in

his father's footsteps, Abercrombie attended Baltimore City College and, after he graduated in 1885, he decided to become an engineer at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA). By today's standards, it may seem strange to attend an arts college to pursue a science based career, but he attended the school when it had just begun its transition from science-focused to the arts. This unique blend of visual design courses and science based study was one of his early influences into creative innovation and impacted his decision to eventually enter the clothing and textile business. This schooling experience awakened his inventive spirit.

Abercrombie endeavored into a career as a civil engineer and topographer after he graduated. During his studies of landforms mainly in the Appalachian Mountains, he developed a deeper appreciation for the outdoors and hunting while learning as much as he could about living in nature and understanding how to be an outdoorsman. He was mapping untraveled territory embarking on month long expeditions while living on the land. He investigated and developed fabrics that could keep him and his team of men safe and dry in the varied weather conditions they faced. This practical experimenting with textiles was his first experience with clothing innovation.

Abercrombie loved his time in the wilderness, but his career was cut short due to failing eyesight and farsightedness. Topographers with vision issues would be a liability in uncharted land since they needed glasses to properly see. A person just never could expect what wildlife or strangers they'd encounter in the undiscovered areas. So, in 1892, he had to retire and pursue other business ventures since a person had to have nearly perfect eyesight to be an expedition.

It is stated in the Abercrombie family memoirs, written by David's brother Ronald, that David was an "inventive man" and on the cutting edge of all things new to the outdoors world. This forward thinking nature could have well been why in the same year he quit his job as a topographer, he went to work for the National Fiber Waterproofing Company, a business that focused on manufacturing clothing for people who worked in nature and all weather conditions. The company was in New York, the mecca of retailers and shopping in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Abercrombie bounced around a few companies working on clothing technology learning as much as he could about the developing environment of outdoors fashion. In 1898, after six years of working in the textile industry, he decided it was finally time to open up his own storefront.

The location of the original Abercrombie Co. store was prime for the high-end customers the brand wanted to attract. The retailer was on the shore in

Manhattan at 36 South Street, a very prominent area where wealthy New Yorkers would purchase goods. The exclusive sporting goods store was an immediate success and attracted many high profile customers. From hunting rifles, backpacking equipment, camping gear, and highly innovative all-weather clothing, the store was on the cutting edge of clothing technology.

People of all different high income careers went to the store to prepare for their hunting trips. One man, a lawyer named Ezra Fitch, was a particularly loyal customer buying all different kinds of items from Abercrombie Co. regularly. He became so fascinated with the business that he asked to become a partner in 1900. Abercrombie was hesitant since he had a vision for the store as strictly an outdoor living and lifestyle brand and he feared that letting anyone in could cause change to that desired image. He needed the investment money from Fitch, so he agreed to let him buy shares in the company. A few shares were not what the bored attorney wanted however, he wanted a complete partnership and a new career. With much more convincing over the next few years, Abercrombie agreed to become partners and Fitch quit his day job to join the business full-time. The company's name was changed to Abercrombie and Fitch Co. (A&F) in 1904 making the partnership public. The partnership meant expansion for the business and the company moved to a much larger storefront on Reade Street in Tribeca neighborhood of Manhattan.

With the expanded facility, options soon extended for goods with the introduction of smoking jackets, fishing equipment, flasks, many leather goods, and a large firearms department. In the first year of the partnership, the company printed an almost 500 page catalog to advertise all the items available at the store. The catalog was shipped to customers free-of-charge and available for no cost in the store. The production and printing alone nearly bankrupted the company, but the return on investment lead to vast profits. This kind of expansion was not in the vision of what Abercrombie had hoped the retailer would expand into. After three years in the partnership, Abercrombie broke out from the company granting Fitch full ownership and he pursued his own fabric business. Even after A&F went their separate ways, the David T. Abercrombie textile company still supplied materials for clothes and other fabric based items for the sporting goods retailer.

The brand continued to operate under the name Abercrombie and Fitch and lead the way with innovation in sporting goods retail. In 1910, it became the first store in New York City to offer both men's and women's clothing in the same building. The store also relocated quite a few times with its eventual landing on the famous Madison Avenue to a 12-story tall storefront.

