

NM Collector Software JE (Java Edition)

Printable Help

1/9/2010

This file is for those who wish to print out their help. The online version is better for those who don't mind using web pages for help and want to be sure they have the latest.

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Introduction

About nmCollector.Net LLC

nmCollector.Net LLC is a New Mexico based company that was officially licensed in April of 2001 to develop and sell collecting software over the internet. Our flagship product is NM Gun Collector Software which was developed specifically for gun collectors and runs only on Microsoft Windows operating systems. It has been carried by many well known distributors including Brownells. Our current efforts are focused around a more general product applicable to any collection which can be run on any computer operating system. This product is called NM Collector Software JE (Java Edition).

Contacting Us

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NM Collector Software JE

About

NM Collector Software JE (Java Edition) is a truly portable software designed to be run on any computer with any operating system from a USB Flash drive. Although it can be installed on the computer hard drive it is also designed to run entirely off of a USB flash drive that can be plugged into any computer making it a truly portable application.

* Java 6 run-time engine required - comes with Windows, Mac OS, and Linux

In addition to well defined fields for gun collections there are also templates for coin collections, knife collections, Japanese sword collections, stamp collections, gem collections and others. You can even define your own collection types from scratch if you wish. If you have suggestions for what to include for any collection type please let me know so I can make them available to others.

With NM Collector Software JE you can customize to your preferences:

- * Look and Feel - pick and choose your own Fonts including style and size as well as foreground and background colors.
- * Field Headings - standard headings available which you can modify and/or make your own.
- * Drop Down Values - many provided for each type of collection but you can add and modify your own.
- * Collection Type Templates - many are provided and you can create your own.
- * More ... see for yourself what you can do ...

If you do not like the fields provided you can redefine them to your own. You get over 32 fields that you can define.

Overview

The NM Collector Software JE user interface is broken down into two major components; a tree view and tabs.

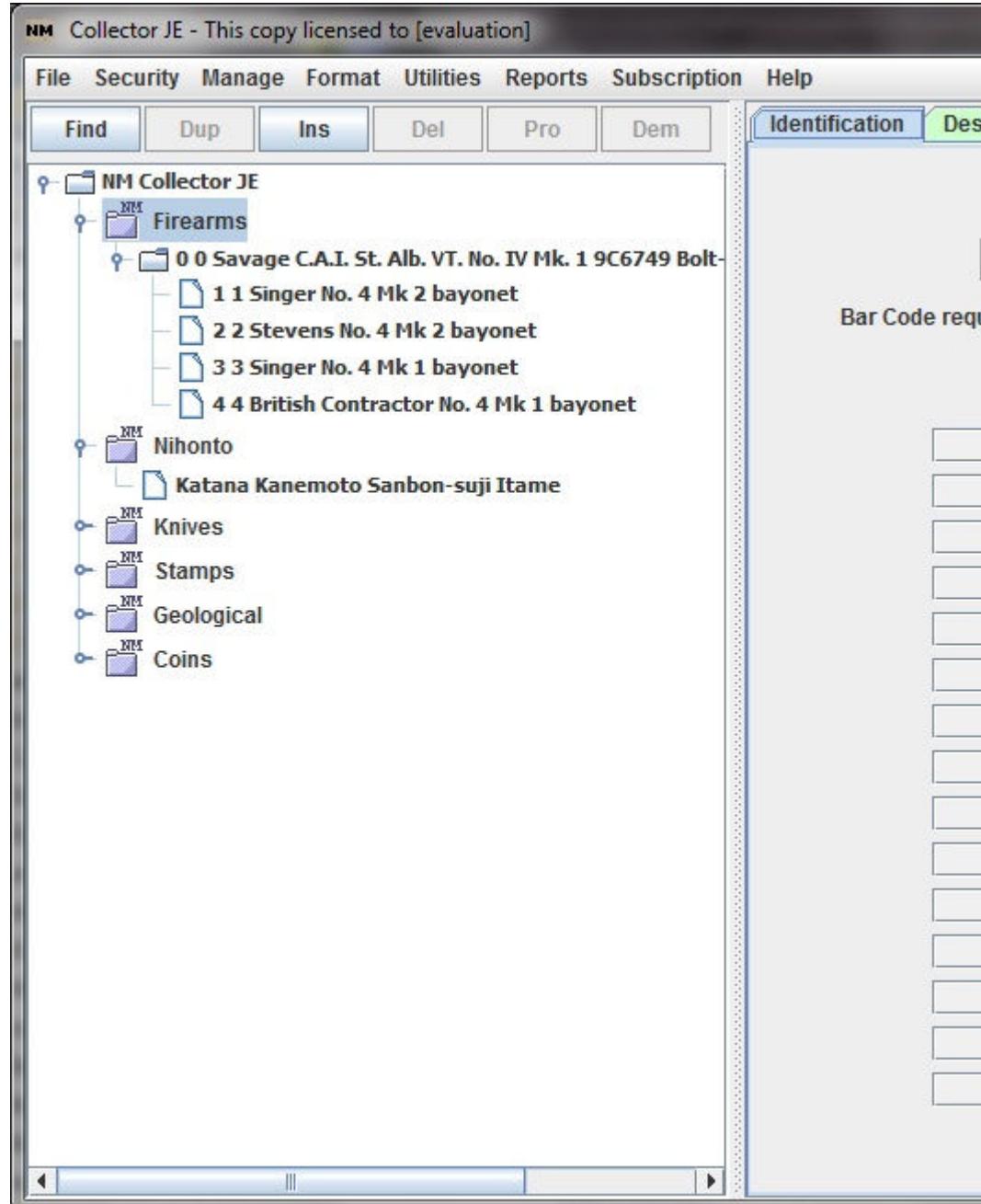
The tree view provides your main interface to entire contents of your collection. Using the tree view you can add, delete, and select items to view and update. You can also modify their location relative to other items in the tree view. It also provides you with a means to search large collections for specific items.

The tabs provide a means for organizing, viewing, and updating data specific to the individual item selected in the tree view. There is room for a lot of data so the tabs provide a logical and intuitive organization for that data.

Tree

Overview

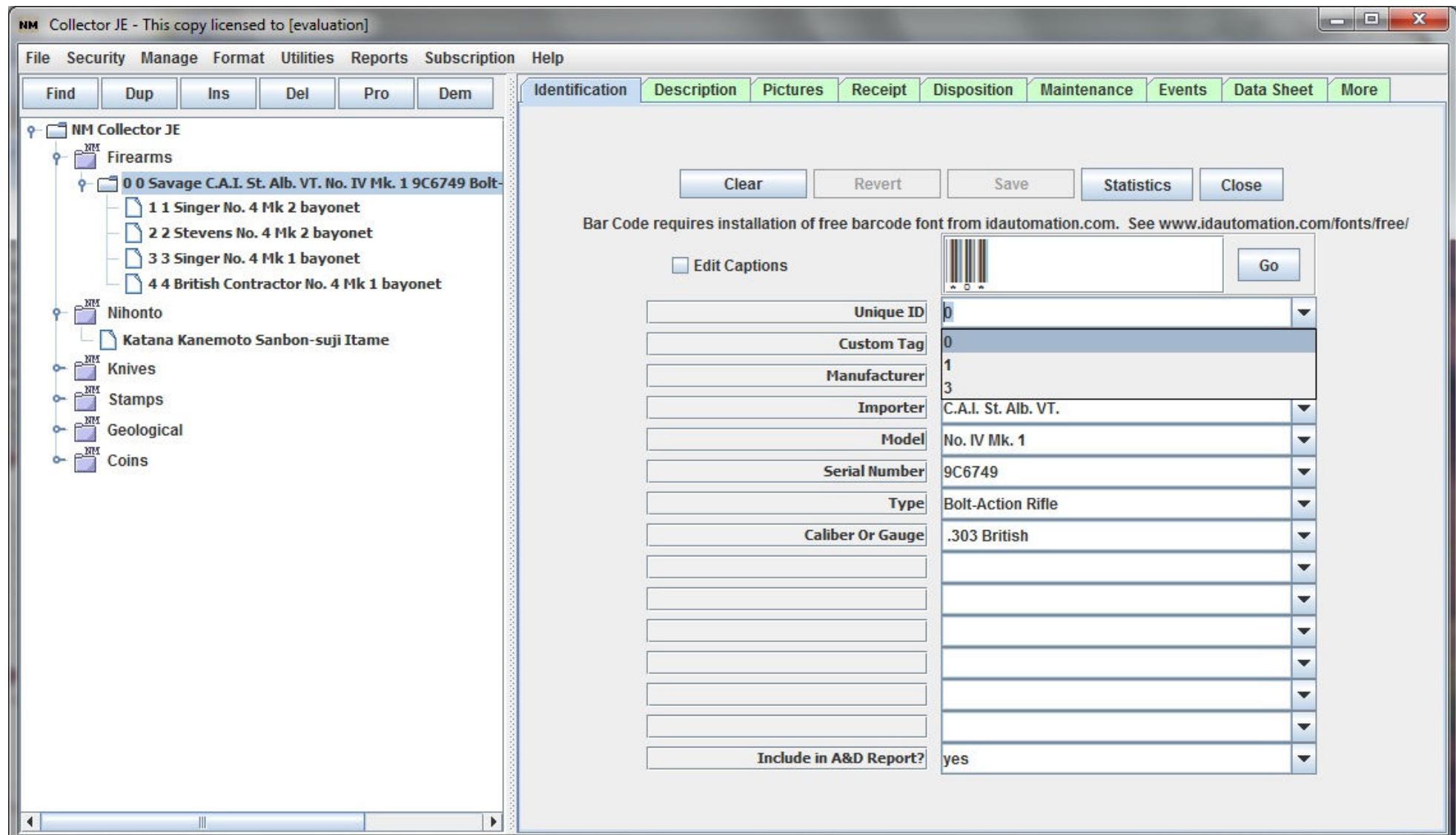
The tree view is your main tool for organizing your collection and selecting the items you wish to edit. Following the screen capture below is a description of the tree functionality. Please see my examples web page (<http://www.nmcollectorssoftware.com/examples/>) for ideas on how to use this tree.



As you can see from this excerpt, we can view all or parts of our collections in this tree view. Collection types are shown as a special "NM" folder while items in the collection type are listed under the collection type. Some items themselves look like folders while others look like a simple sheet of paper. More on this later under "Sub Folders" (below).

The buttons at the top are enabled and disabled as appropriate to where we are in the tree. In this case we have a collection type (Firearms) selected so only buttons that apply to an entire collection type are enabled. At this point it makes sense to Find an item in the collection or to Insert (Ins) a new item in the collection. More on the buttons later.

Select an Item



In the picture above we have selected an item to edit. The values for the selected item are populated in the tabs for easy viewing and editing. Also note that all of the buttons above the tree are now enabled. All of them make sense when an individual item is selected.

Drag and Drop

At this point it makes sense to discuss dragging and dropping items in the tree view. You can move an item to any location you wish by simple clicking on it and holding the mouse button while you move it in the tree then letting go of the mouse button where it is where you want it.

Sub Folders

As noted above, some items look like folders while others don't. You can create sub folders to associate items with other items or to collect items for whatever reason makes sense to you. To convert an item to a sub folder simply select it and click the "Ins" button to insert a new item to be associated with it or "Demote" (Dem) the item located directly below it. Now you can add other items to the folder by inserting new items in the sub folder or dragging and dropping other items to it. Notice that the sub folder still retains its identity as an item so you can manage information about it or, if it makes sense, you don't need to manage any information about it. An example of a folder that would not require any data would be a location folder (such as bedroom safe) created simply to manage the location of items.

Buttons

Now is the time to discuss the functionality of each individual button.

Find - locate any item in the tree based on a text value in one of the first Identification fields. This is particularly useful for large collections.

Dup (Duplicate) - create a new item based on the currently selected item. All relevant ID, Description, Receipt, and Disposition data will be copied. This is particularly useful if you acquire many similar items at the same time. Be sure to change something immediately after the duplication so as to distinguish the items one from another.

Ins (Insert) - create a new item from scratch. If a collection is selected when the Ins button is pressed, the new item will be inserted as a member of that selected collection. If an item is selected when the Ins button is clicked the currently selected item will be converted to a folder and the newly inserted item will be automatically associated with that item. If this is not your intent you can use the Dem (Demote) button below to make the newly inserted item an equivalent to the selected item.

Del (Delete) - delete the current item. Be careful with this as there is no recovery unless you recover your database from backup.

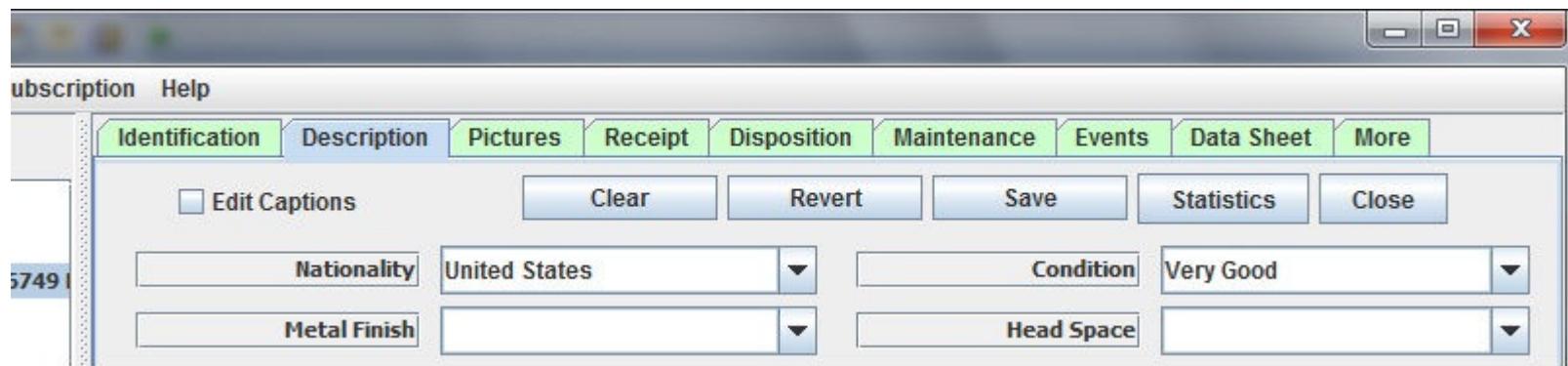
Pro (Promote) - promote (shift left) the selected item.

Dem (Demote) - demote (shift right) the selected item.

Tabs

Buttons

There are buttons at the top of each tab. The actual buttons vary by tab. When a button is not enabled that means it does not apply to the current situation.



The function of the buttons is as follows:

Clear - clears the contents so you can start from scratch.

Revert - if changes have been made on the current page, this button is enabled. It allows you to revert your data to the last saved values.

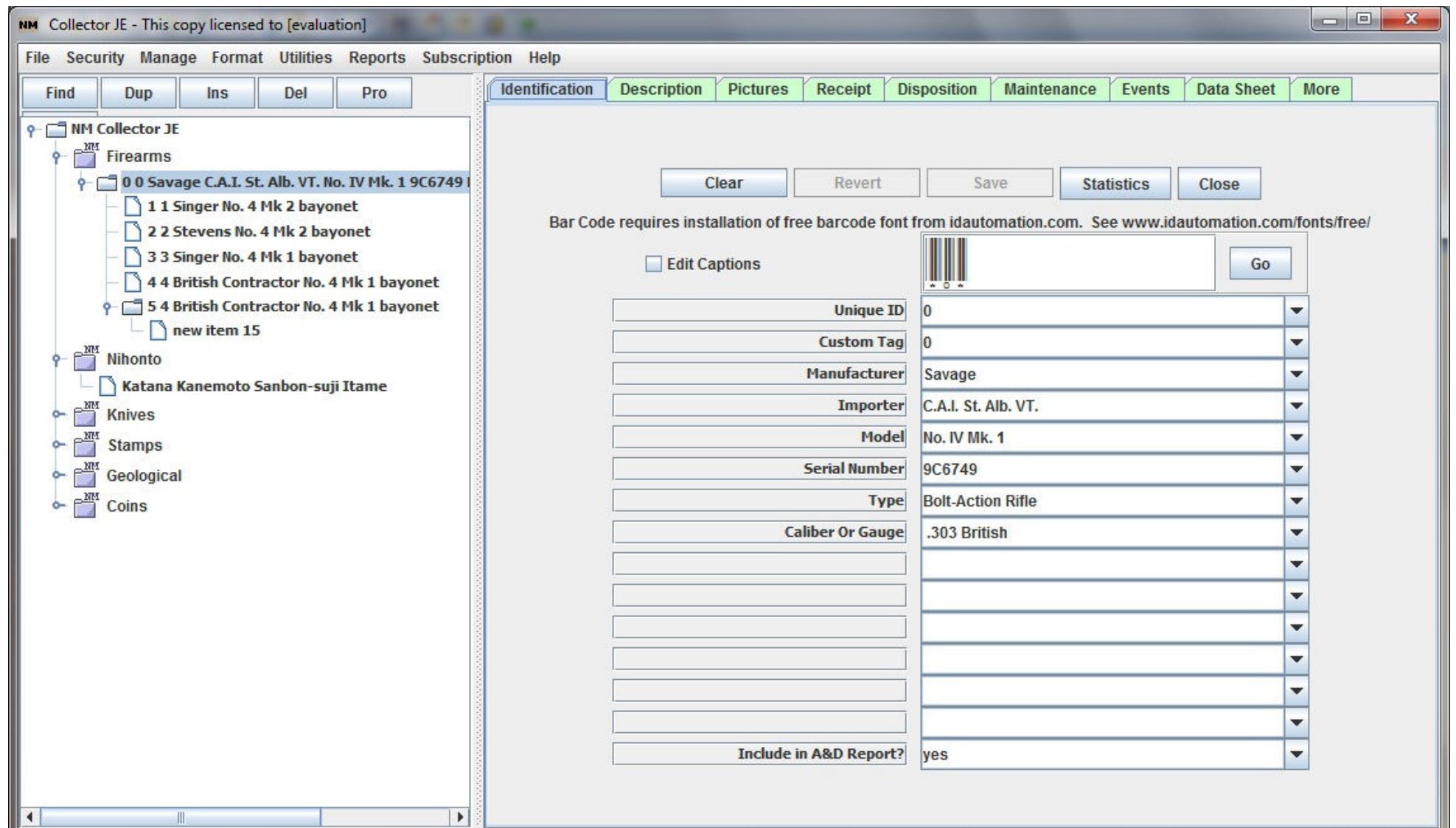
Save - if changes have been made on the current page, this button is enabled. It saves the current values.

Statistics - this takes you to the [Statistics](#) page.

Close - closes NM Collector Software JE.

Identification

This tab is used to capture identification information.



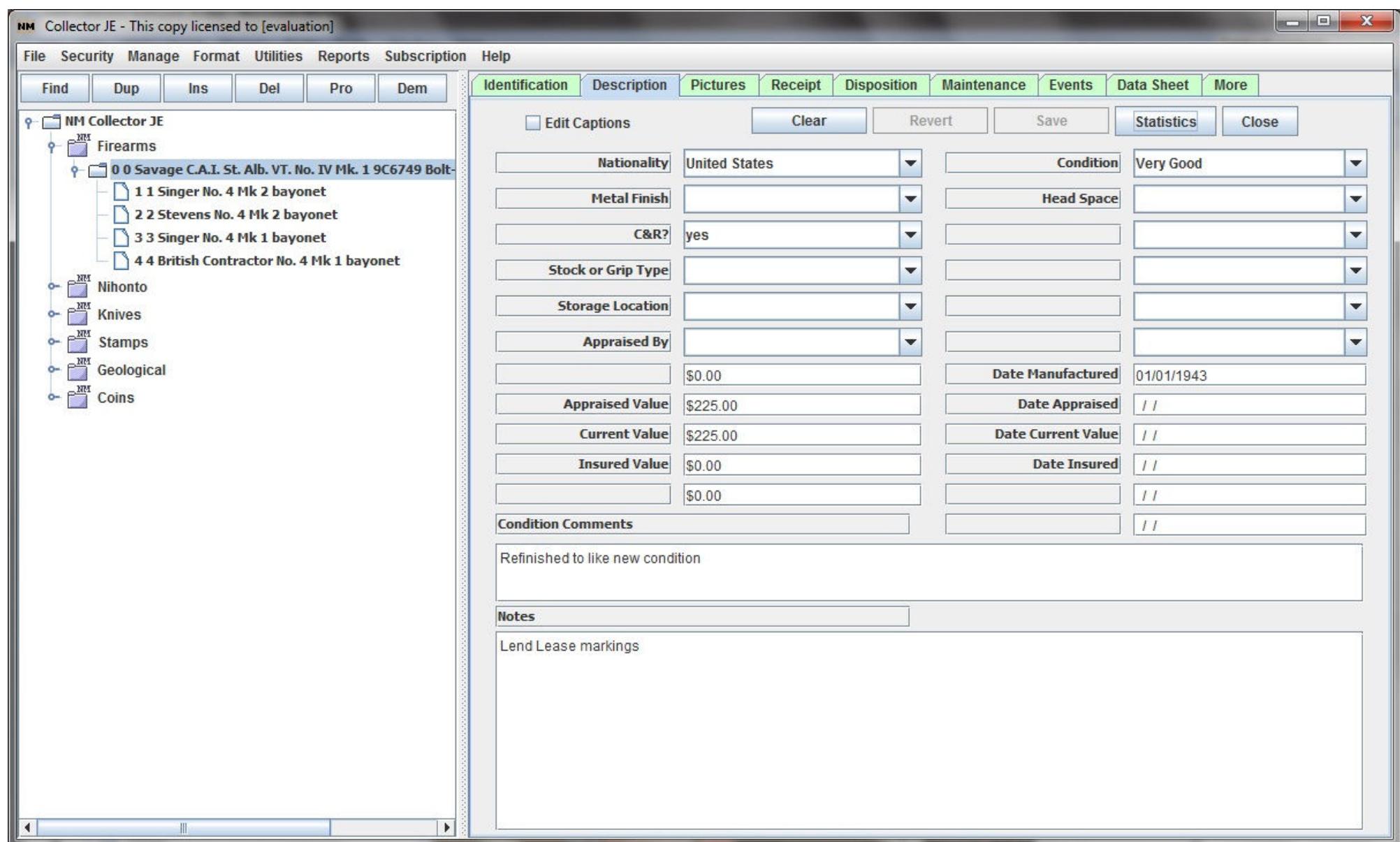
Captions are initially populated based on the collection template selected. These captions can be customized to your preferences. Of course, changing a caption within a collection type will apply to all items within that collection type. More on that under [Edit Captions](#).

All fields are editable so use them as you wish. Where there are drop down lists, an existing item can be selected or new items can be added simply by typing a new value in the drop down field. The next time you need the item it will appear in the drop down and can be selected.

The bar code is an automatic conversion of the Unique ID into a bar code. This field can be used to quickly locate an item based on a scan of the bar code. For example, you can print bar codes to hang tags and tie them to each of your items. While inspecting an item you can scan the bar code into this bar code field and the system will immediately locate and make that item current.

Description

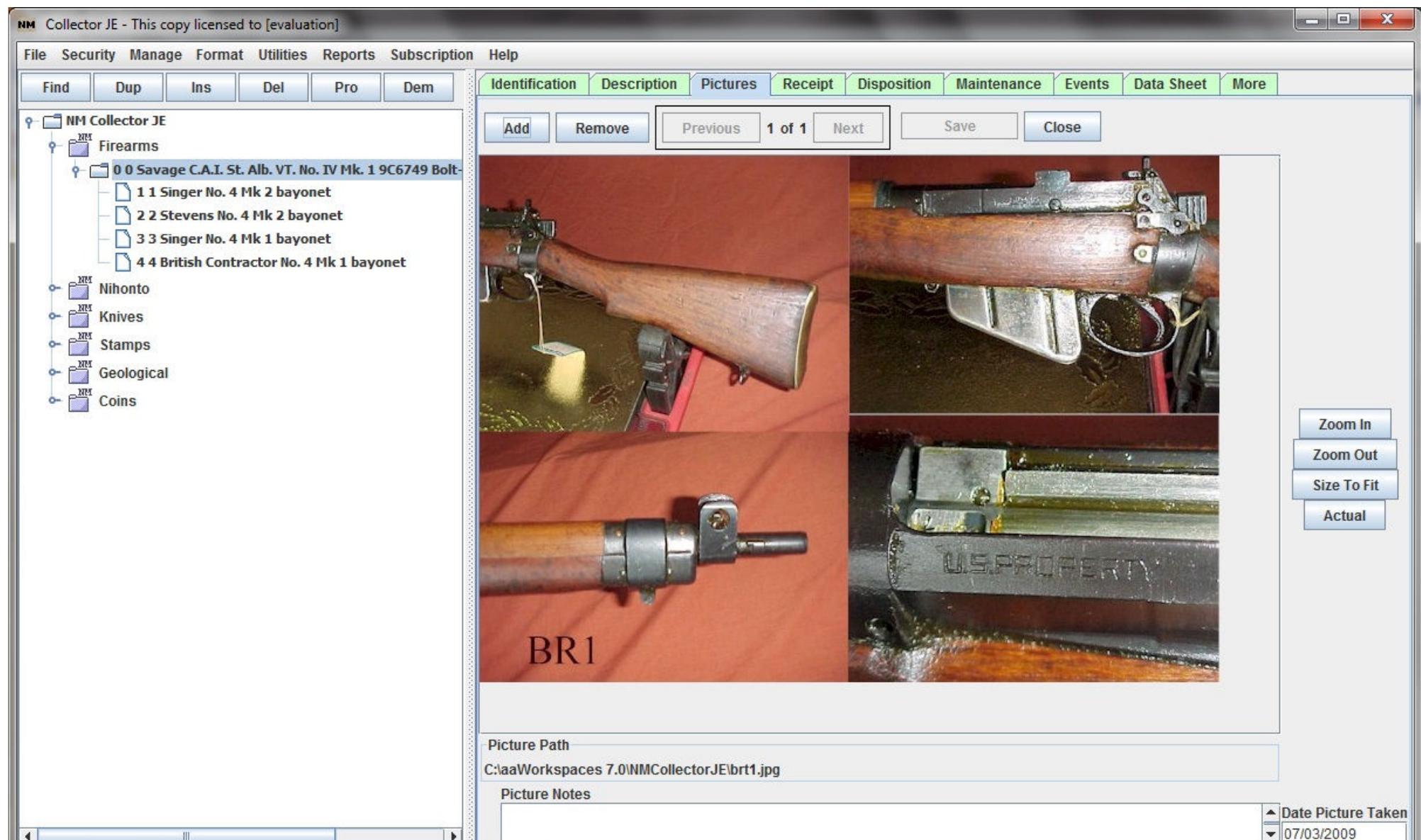
This tab is used to capture descriptive information that is in addition to basic identification information.



As with the identification tab, captions can be changed and all fields are editable. The dates expect the following format: "MM/DD/YYYY" and will not be captured if that format is not used.

Pictures

This tab is used to capture detailed pictures of the selected item.

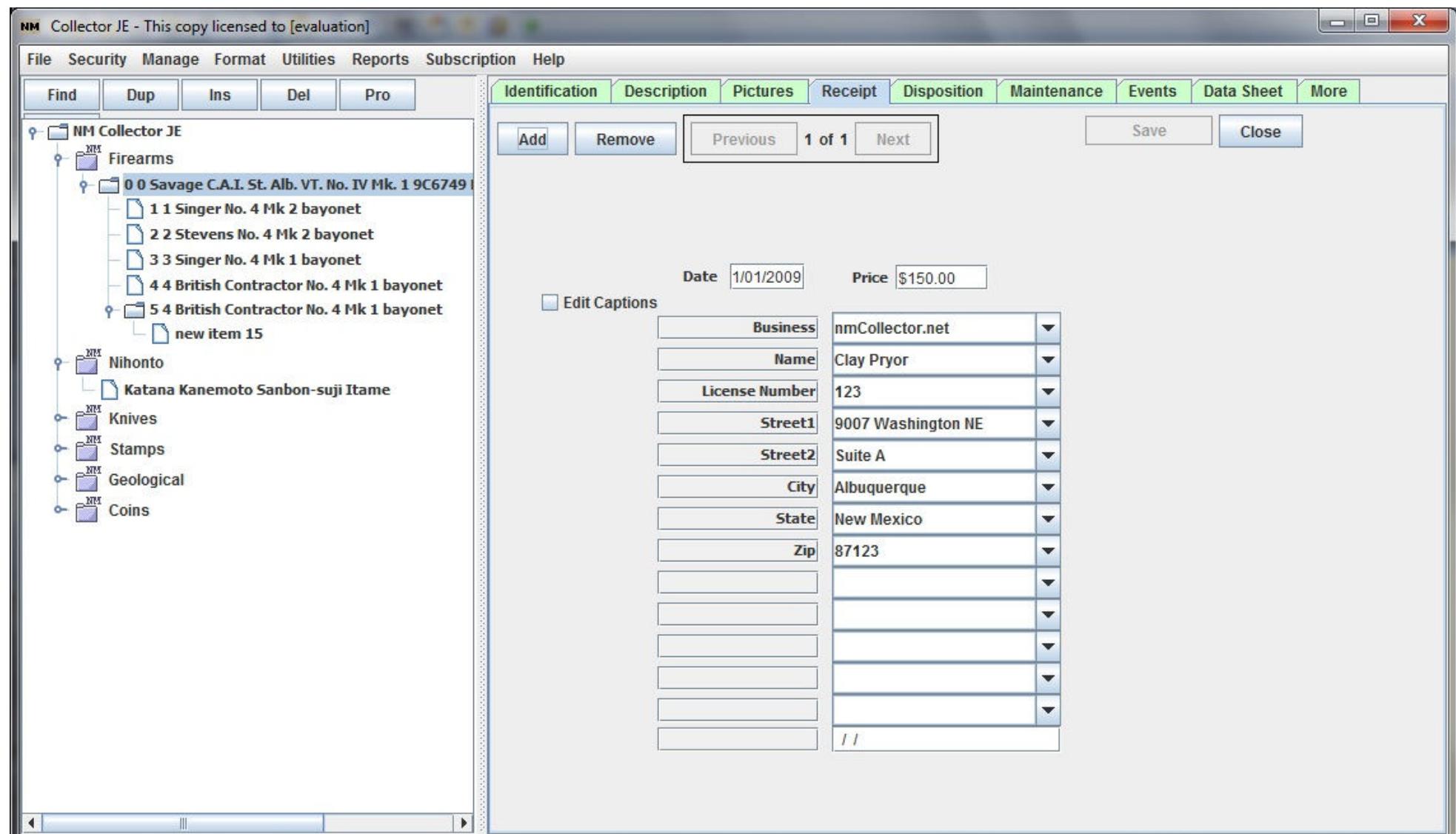


This page should be self explanatory. It is important to note that although the original Picture Path is displayed the actual picture is loaded into the database. Whenever the picture is displayed it is brought in from the database not the file system.

Also, if the pictures are too large they can affect the performance of the application and may not load properly or show up in reports with images. Please keep them as small as reasonably possible. I have successfully loaded pictures as large as 2048 x 1360 pixels (1,400 KB) with no problems.

Receipt

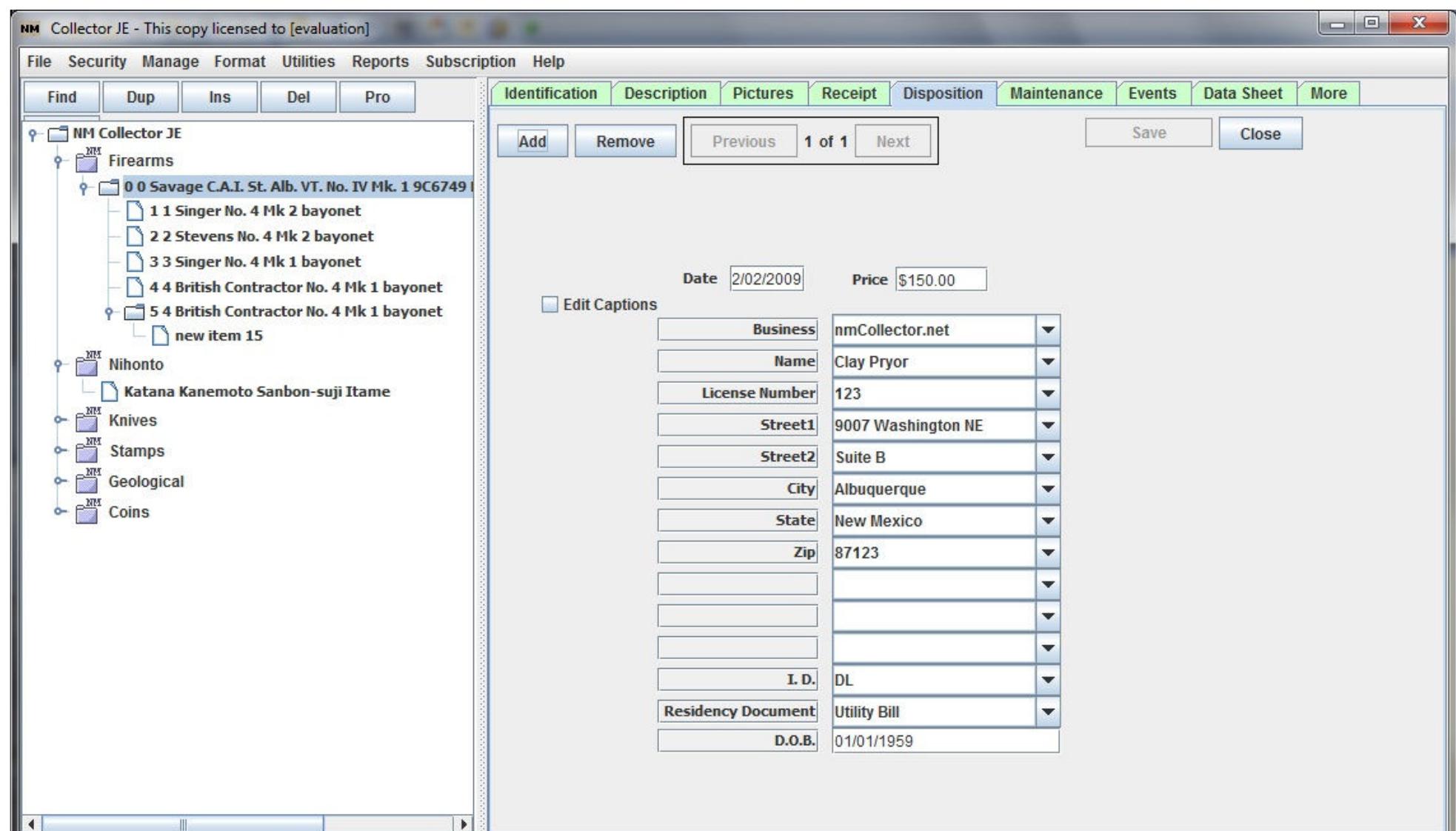
This tab is used to capture information on your acquisition of the item.



There can be multiple receipts for any item since an item can be disposed of and then brought back into the collection for one reason or another.

Disposition

This tab is used to capture information on your disposition of the item.



There can be multiple dispositions for any item since an item can be disposed of and then brought back into the collection for one reason or another and then disposed of again.

Maintenance

This tab is used to capture maintenance and repair that has been performed on the selected item.

The screenshot shows the NM Collector JE software interface. The left pane displays a hierarchical tree of items, with the selected item being '00 Savage C.A.I. St. Alb. VT. No. IV Mk. 1 9C6749'. The right pane is the 'Maintenance' tab, showing details for this item. The 'Operation' is listed as 'Clean Bore'. The 'Completed' date is '01/01/1998', 'Cost' is '\$0.00', 'Increment' is '50', and 'Units' are 'rounds'. 'Performed By' is 'Myself'. The 'Description' field contains a list of steps: 1. Swab with wet patch coated with solvent, 2. Swab with dry patch until patch remains clean, 3. Repeat until both patches come out clean. Below this, there is a section for 'Next Due' with a date of '1/1', an 'Increment' of '250', and 'Units' of 'rounds'. A note states 'Left some solvent soaking in the bore'.

The intent of the Increment and Units field is to identify the interval (other than date) at which the operation was performed and is to be performed next. For example, if you were to change the oil in your car every 3 months or three thousand miles, your Completed Increment would be the actual miles at which the oil change was performed and the Units would be miles. The Next due date would be three months later and the Next Due increment would be the current increment plus 3000 miles.

Events

This tab is used to capture events such as shows and outings with the item.

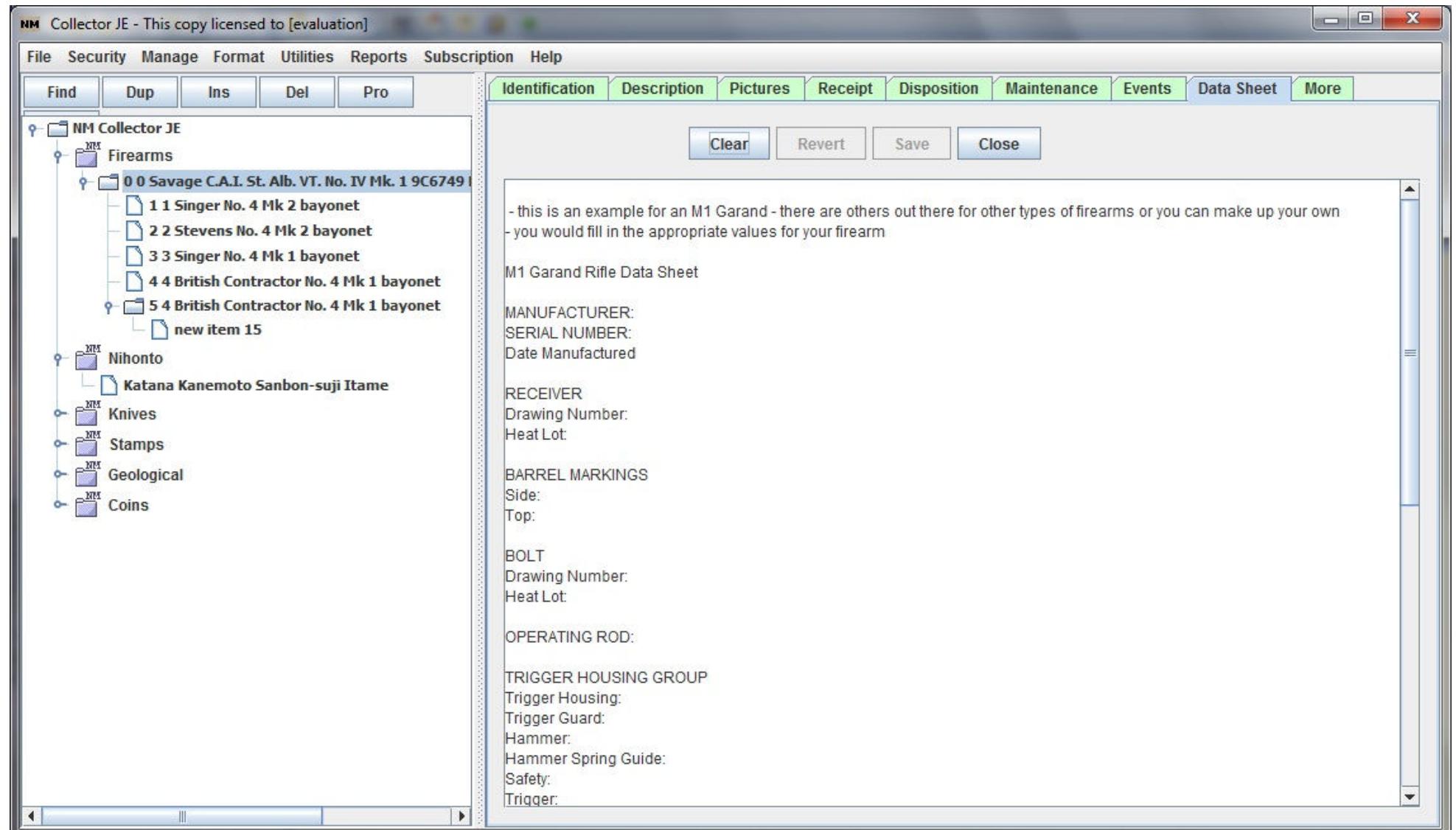
The screenshot shows the NM Collector JE software interface. The left pane displays a hierarchical tree of items, with the selected item being '00 Savage C.A.I. St. Alb. VT. No. IV Mk. 1 9C6749'. The right pane is the 'Events' tab, showing details for this item. The 'Event' is 'New Mexico State Fair'. The 'Location' is 'Albuquerque, New Mexico - Fine Arts Building'. 'Helpers' are 'Date' (08/23/1998), 'Cost' (\$0.00), and names 'Michelle' and 'Elijah'. The 'Description' is 'Annual State Fair'. Below this, there is a 'Results' section with the text 'Blue Ribbon as part of a three gun display'.

This should be self explanatory.

Data Sheets

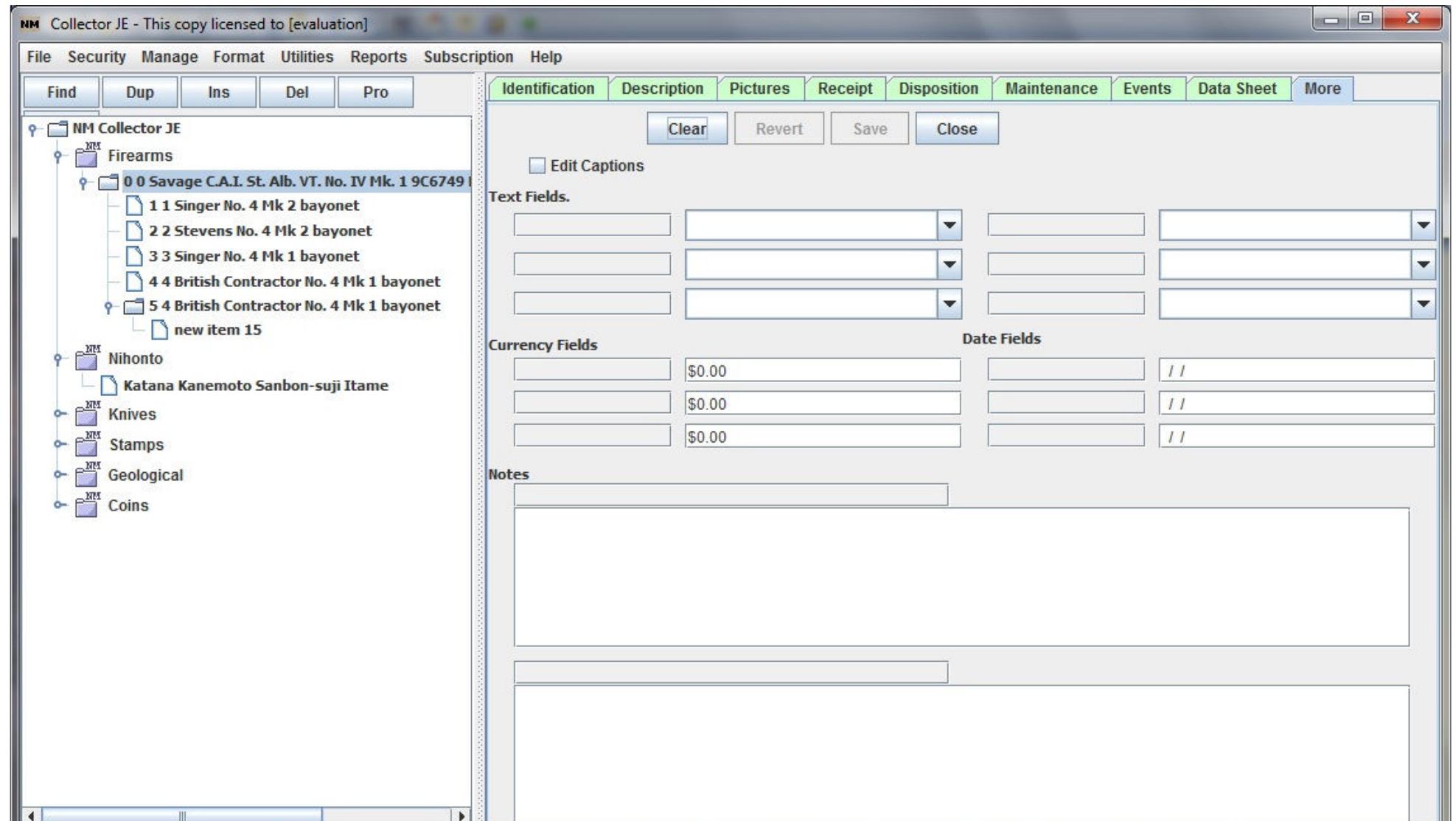
Some advanced collectors, particularly with regard to many U.S. military firearms, require extensive detailed documentation of the components found within an item. There is no way to capture these details other than through the use of a Data Sheet designed specifically for that item. Images of data sheets can be captured in the pictures section. However, this tab allows a person to enter textual data sheets that can be reviewed and updated as appropriate.

Here is an example of a blank M1 Garand Data sheet.



More

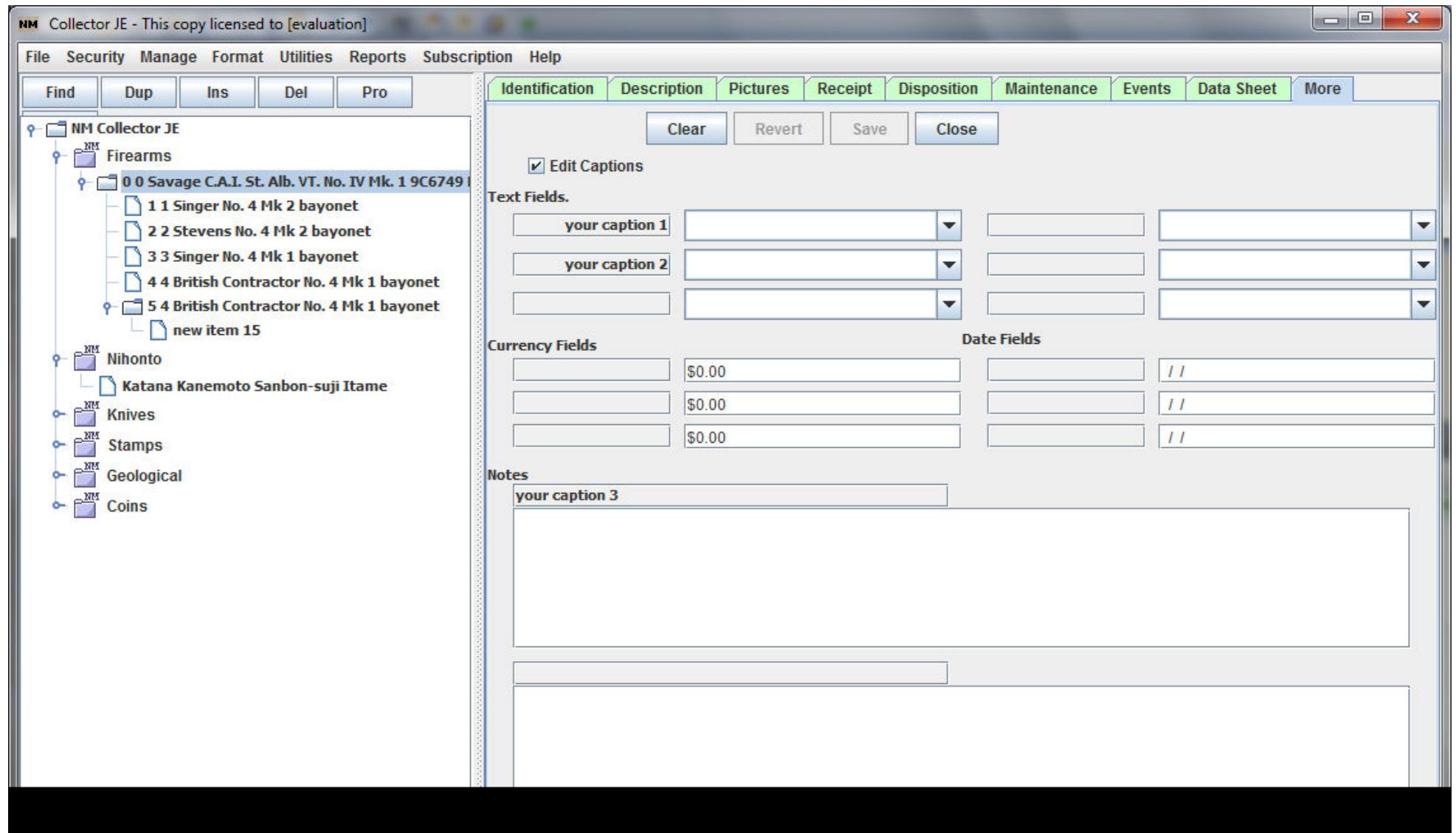
Capture even more descriptive information here. Many more fields are provided for your customization.



Please note the pre-defined field types including Text (with drop downs), Currency, Date, and Notes. These field types come with certain pre-defined expectations for that field type so please use the appropriate field type for your data.

Edit Captions

Captions can be changed to meet your needs on any tab simply by checking "Edit Captions" and making your changes. Uncheck "Edit Captions" when you are done.



Menu

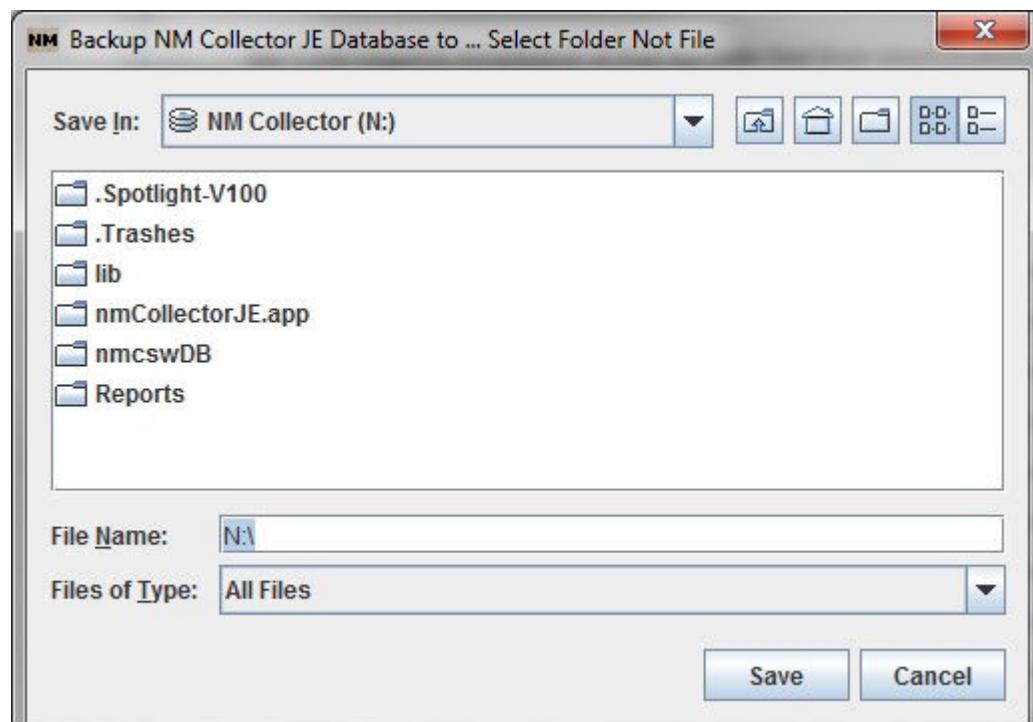
File

Backup Database

There are many ways to backup your database in case of data loss. This is one of them. Others can be found in our Best Practices support Forum at <http://www.nmcollector.net/forum>.

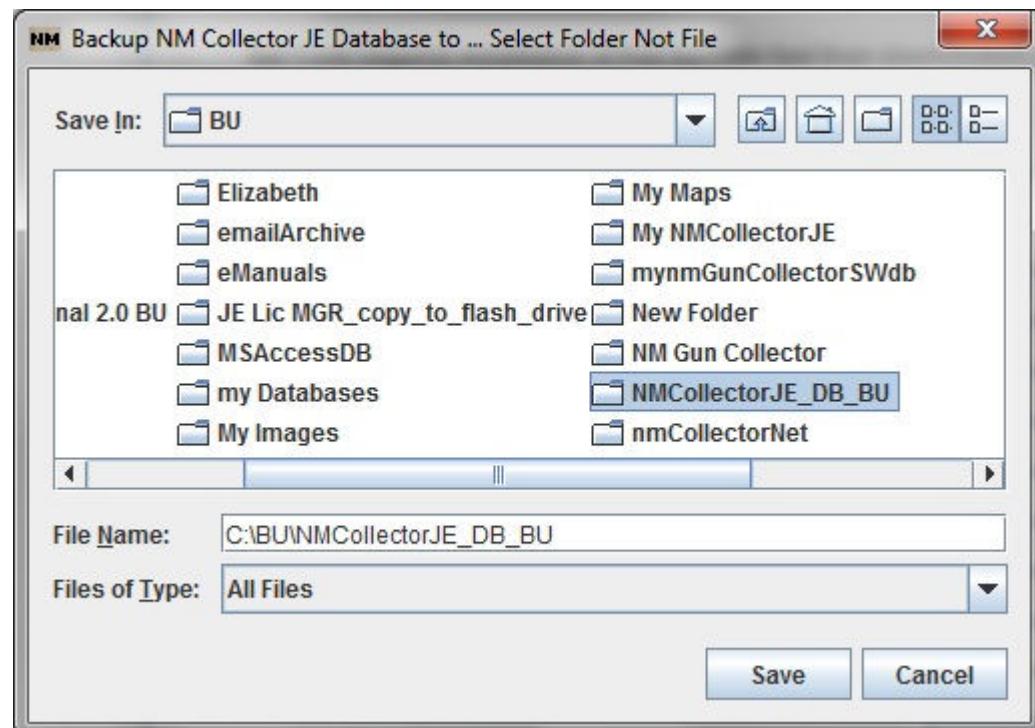
To Backup your data:

- From the main menu, select "File > Backup Database" which will present you with the following window.



This window is a bit confusing because I want you to select a directory and I restrict what gets displayed to directories only, but due to a known Java bug, it asks you to specify a "File Name." (if interested, please see the following url for more information on the bug: http://bugs.sun.com/bugdatabase/view_bug.do?bug_id=6438246),

b. Navigate to the backup location of your choice. You can create a new directory if you wish. Here I have created and selected a directory named NMCollectorJE_DB_BU in the existing C:\BU directory path.



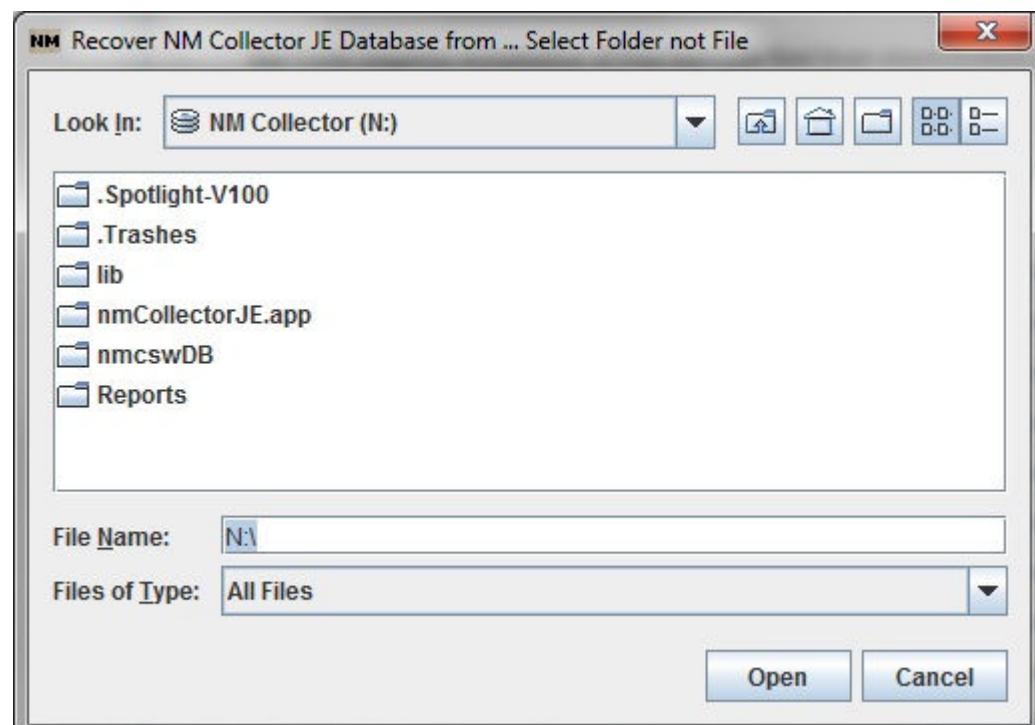
c. Once you have selected your desired backup location simply click the Save button to create the back up in that location. The backup is named, simply enough, "nmcswDB_backup."

Recover Database

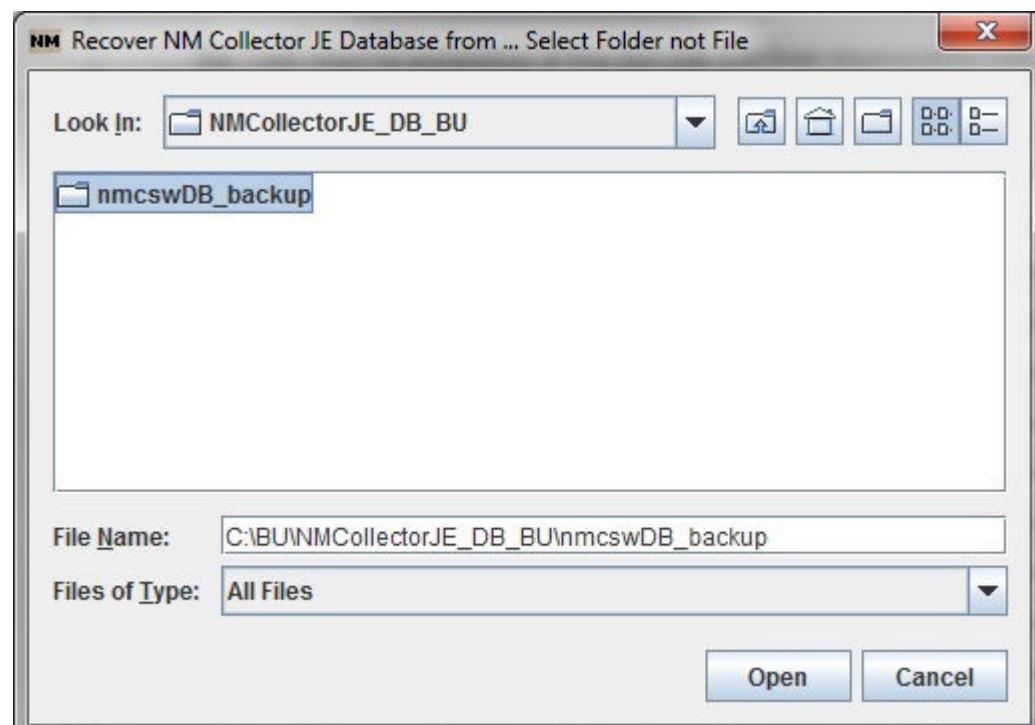
Hopefully you will never need your backup. However, if the occasion ever presents itself in which you have to recover your data, just follow these steps.

To Recover your data:

a. From the main menu, select "File > Recover Database" which will present you with the following window. Again, it is a bit confusing as indicated above in that it asks for a File Name when you really just need to select a directory.



b. Navigate to the backup directory that you saved your backup to. As shown below, select the file named "nmcswDB_backup" that was created for you when you backed up your data.



c. Once your recovery database is selected, simply click the "Open" button and it will be loaded.

You will have to restart NM Collector Software but once you do your data will be recovered.

Import > NM Gun Collector Data

This menu item has one purpose - to facilitate the migration of data from NM Gun Collector Software to NM Collector JE. Additional information can be found at <http://www.nmcollectorsoftware.com/support/import.htm>.

Security

You can set a password and enable security to prevent others from using your copy of NM Collector Software. Be sure to put the password in a safe place for you will need it to use NM Collector Software after you enable security!

Manage

Manage Collection Types

Use this functionality to add, delete, or change Collection Types.

ID	Name	Description	Show In Tree
1	Firearms	Firearms	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Nihonto	Japanese Swords	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Knives	Knives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Stamps	Fossils, Rocks, Minerals, Gems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Geological	Fossils, Rocks, Minerals, Gems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Coins	Numismatics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

You can edit values (other than the ID which is set for you and maintained by the system) by clicking a value within the table and typing within that cell. The "Show in Tree" checkbox determines whether or not the Collection Type will be displayed in the tree.

The following is a description for each button:

Resynch - used to update the main tree view with your changes. This will also happen automatically when you close the Collection Types window.

Export - use this button to export the selected collection. You select a collection for export by clicking the name prior to clicking the Export button or from a drop down after you have clicked the Export button. This can be used to share your collection type definition with others.

Import - use to import an exported collection type. If the name of the imported collection type already exists it will be renamed prior to import so as not to over write your current definition.

Insert - use to create a new collection type. Once created go to the main tabs to set the headings.

Delete - delete the selected collection type.

Print - print the table of collection types.

Close - close the Collection Types window.

Edit Drop Down Lists

Use this functionality to edit drop down lists on each tab.

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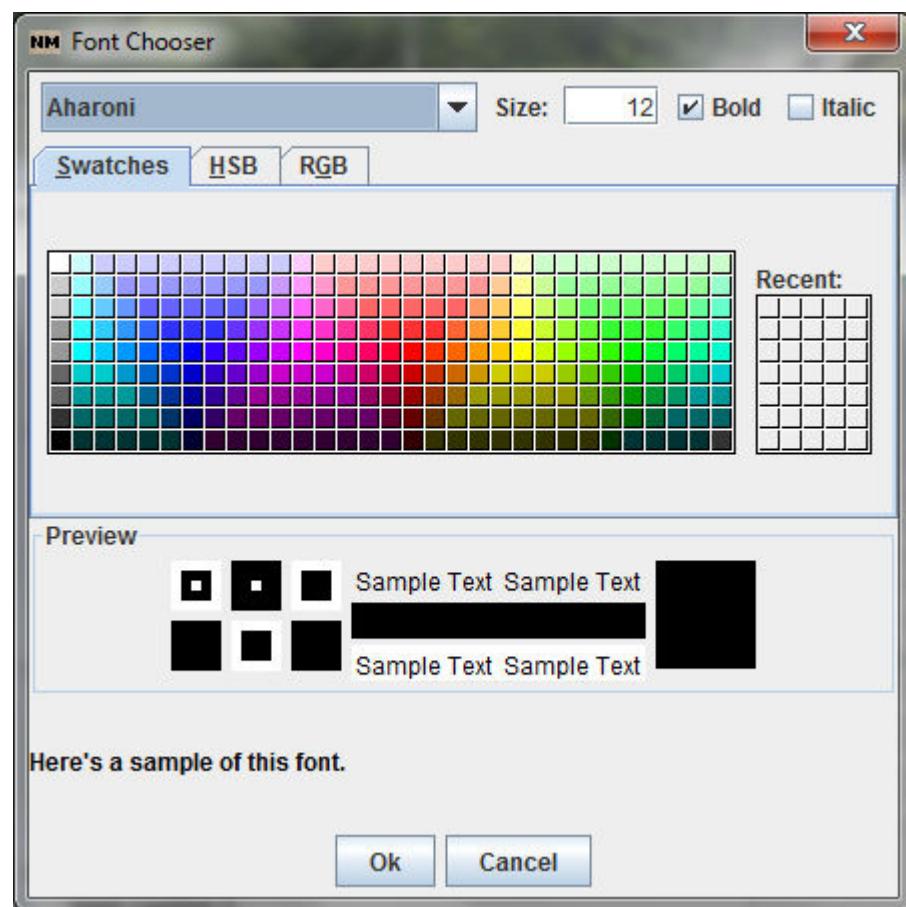
Edit **Manufacturer** Drop Down List for Collection Type: **Firearms** Delete Add New Print Close

	DDTEXTNOTE	DDTEXTGENERAL1	DDTEXTGENERAL2	DDTEXTGENERAL3	DDTEXTGENERAL4
Unique ID	null	null	null	null	null
Custom Tag	null	null	null	null	null
Manufacturer					
Importer	null	null	null	null	null
Model	null	null	null	null	null
Serial Number	null	null	null	null	null
Type	null	null	null	null	null
Caliber Or Gauge	null	null	null	null	null
Carcano	null	null	null	null	null
Chaterault	null	null	null	null	null
Colt	null	null	null	null	null
DOT	null	null	null	null	null
Dragunov	null	null	null	null	null
Dreyse	null	null	null	null	null
Eddystone	null	null	null	null	null
Enfield	null	null	null	null	null
FN	null	null	null	null	null
Galil	null	null	null	null	null
H&R	null	null	null	null	null
Hakim	null	null	null	null	null
High Standard	null	null	null	null	null
Holland and Holland	null	null	null	null	null
Hopkins and Allen	null	null	null	null	null

Select the Collection Type from the drop down and then the list you want to edit from the other drop down list. These lists are automatically populated as you add new values to the drop downs on each tab. Sometimes you will unintentionally add an item that does not belong or need to correct the spelling. Use this tool to make those corrections.

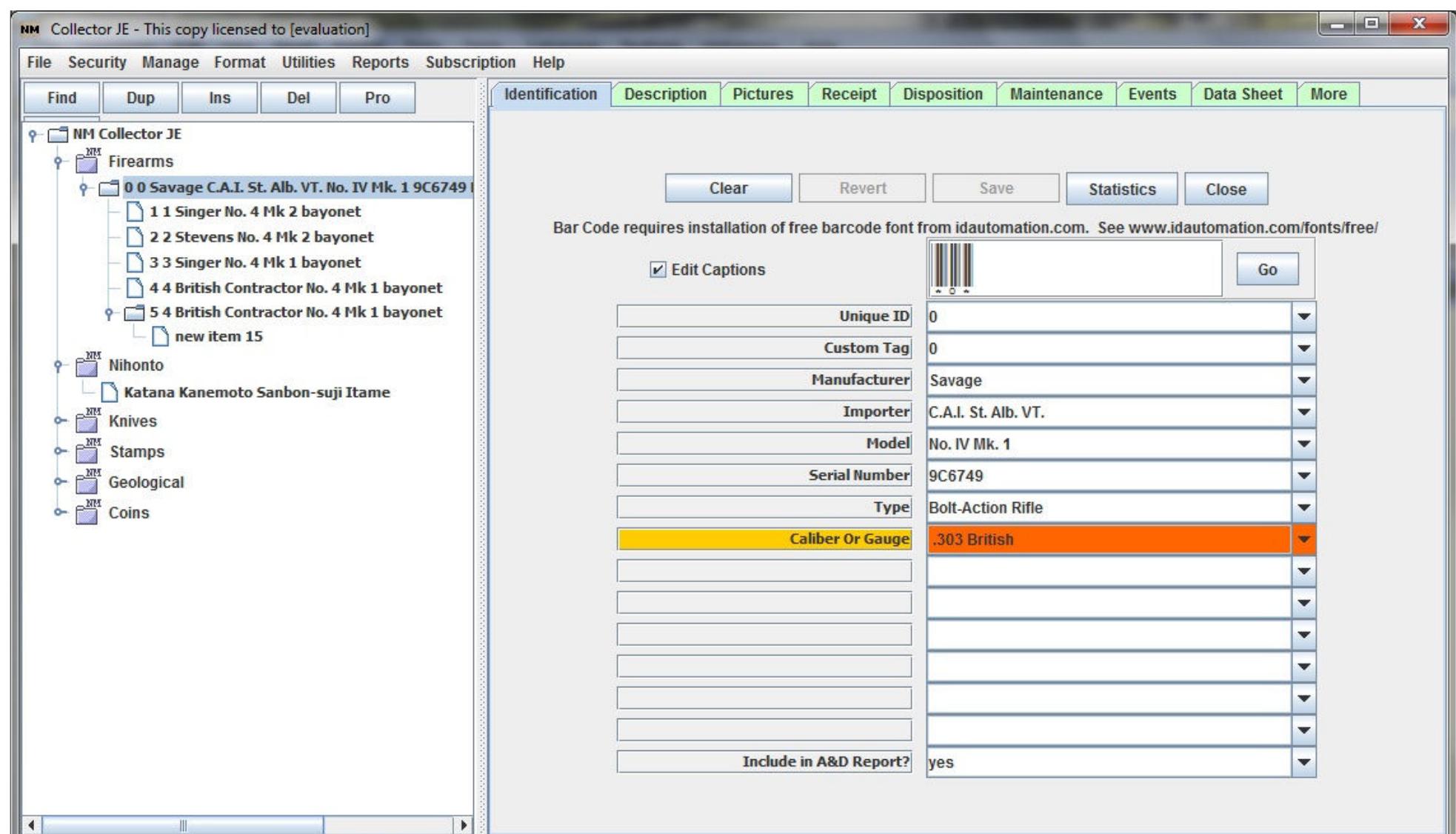
Format

Use the Format menu to change the default formats for buttons, captions, and fields. Here is an example for fields:



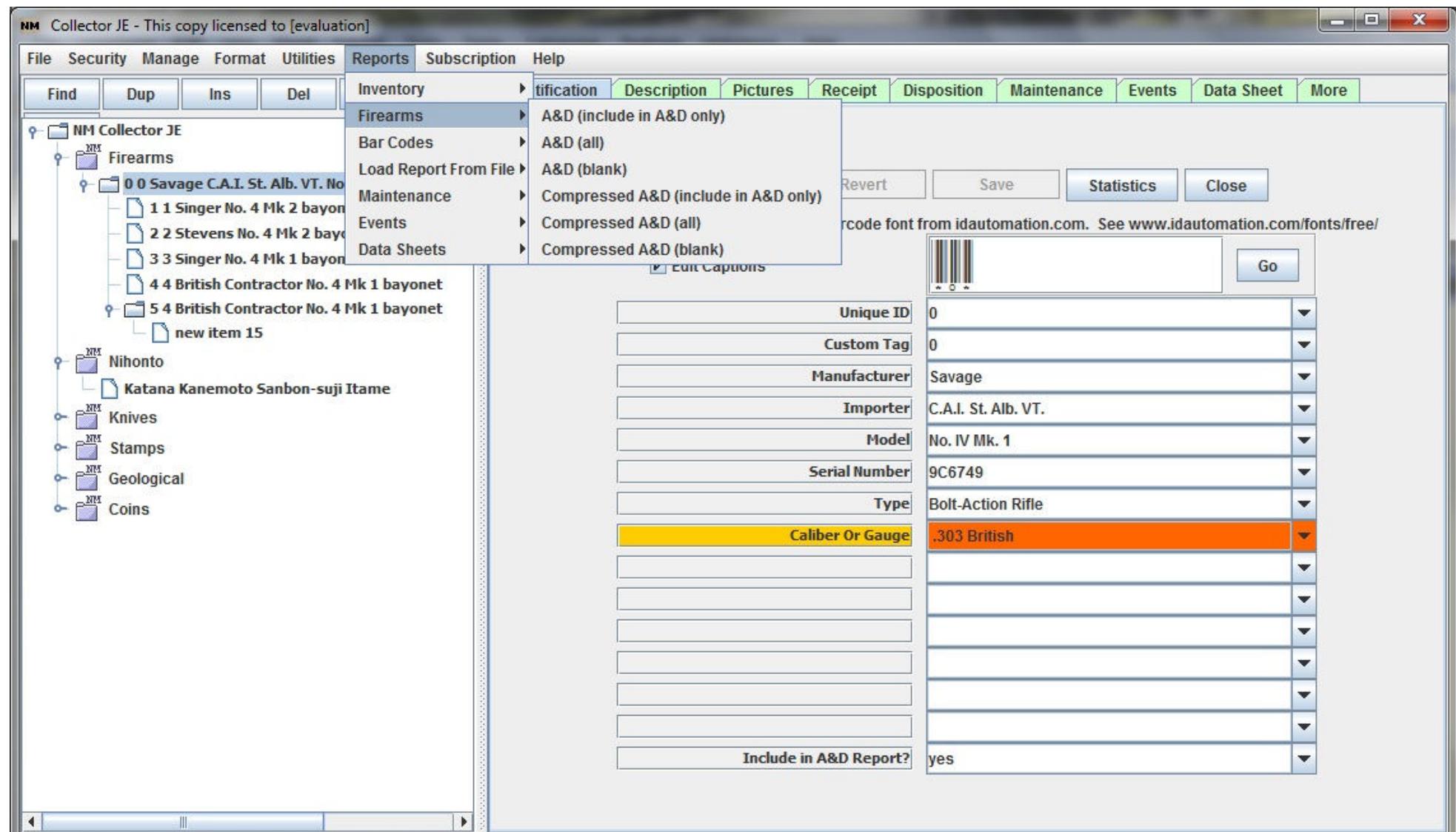
You can change the font type, font color, and background color.

You can also change individual items by double right clicking the item and selecting the appropriate values to change from the pop up menu. Here is an example of a special format applied to a key identification field:



Reports

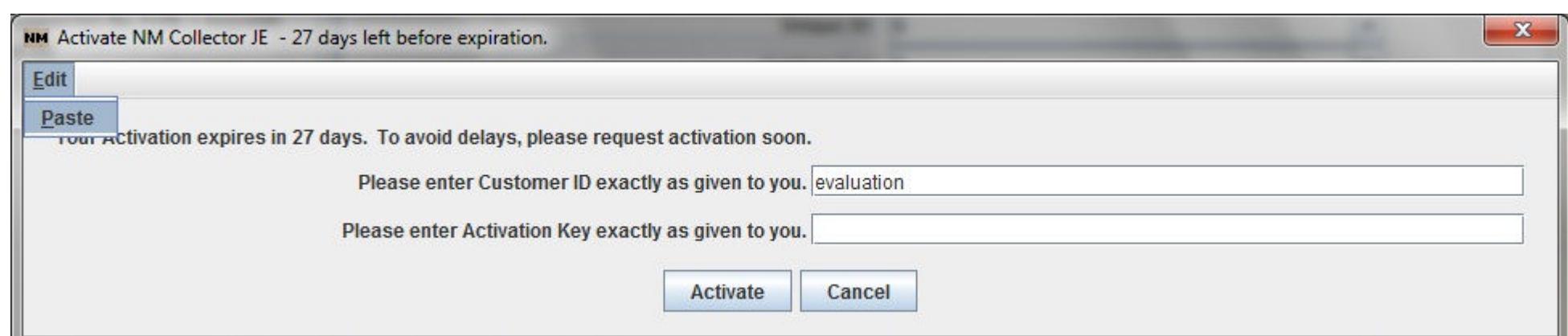
There are many reports available. You can select them through this menu item.



If you need a report that you can not find, please let us know what that report is so we can develop it for you and others.

Subscription

Manage your subscription here. If you purchase a lifetime subscription you need only enter it once and never again after that.



Use Edit > Paste to simplify entry of the subscription information.

Help

Various links to help are provided here.

Statistics

This tab can be your best friend if you have a large collection. It is also extremely useful if you track purchase, sale, and appraised values as it will summarize total cost and values for you.

Make changes here or double click on an item in the table to go to it in the main window. Export the data in various forms including HTML, XML, and CSV (for importing into Excel). The Refresh button is used to update any changes made here in the main window.

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Collection Statistics for Collection Type: Firearms				Filter	Refresh	Export HTML	Export XML	Export CSV	Print	Close
Item Count:	5	Total Current Value:	265.0	Net:	115.0					
		Total Appraised Value:	225.0	Net:	75.0					
Cost:	150.0	Total Insured Value:	0.0	Net:	-150.0					
		Total Proceeds:	150.0	Net:	0.0					

Usage Notes:
Single click column heading to sort by that column.
Double click row to go to that item in the tree.

COLLECTIONTYPE	NAME	Unique ID	Custom Tag	Manufacturer	Importer	Model	Serial Number	Type	Call
Firearms	0	0		Savage	C.A.I. St. Alb. VT.	No. IV Mk. 1	9C6749	Bolt-Action Rifle	.303 Briti
Firearms	1	1		Singer		No. 4 Mk 2		bayonet	
Firearms	2	2		Stevens		No. 4 Mk 2		bayonet	
Firearms	3	3		Singer		No. 4 Mk 1		bayonet	
Firearms	4	4		British Contractor		No. 4 Mk 1		bayonet	