

# Quirin:

## The First American Surveyor's Safety Lamp?

*by Neal Ressler*

I recently copied this photo of the Quirin foundry and brass works. To my knowledge, only two U.S. companies made surveyor's safety lamps: Everhart and Quirin. The photo belongs to the grandson of Peter Quirin, the owner of the factory whose lamps are stamped with his name. The factory was located in St. Claire, PA. Quirin safetys look remarkably similar to Everhart lamps, both using the three-armed support of the top cover. They are differnt in that the Quirin is smaller, and does not use a separate internal reflector, but rather uses the back wall of the horizontal portion of the lamp to reflect light.

Both Everhart and Quirin would appear to use the 1884 Mauchline patent, which suggests that the Quirin may have been the first surveyor's safety lamp in America:

"I am aware that a lamp has heretofore been provided with a concave reflector and a lens on opposite sides of the burner..."

I am impressed with the nice yard that Mr. Quirin had beside his shop.

