

# Canadian Candlestick Patents

by Tony Moon and Hal Post

Last year during one of those lazy afternoons I (Tony) stumbled upon a Canadian patent office web site that allowed for patent searches. In about an hour ten Canadian patents for miners' candlesticks were found. Of the ten Canadian patented miners' candlesticks, nine were patented first in the US by US residents and then patented later in Canada. There was one candlestick that is unique in that it's the only Canadian patented stick that originated in Canada.

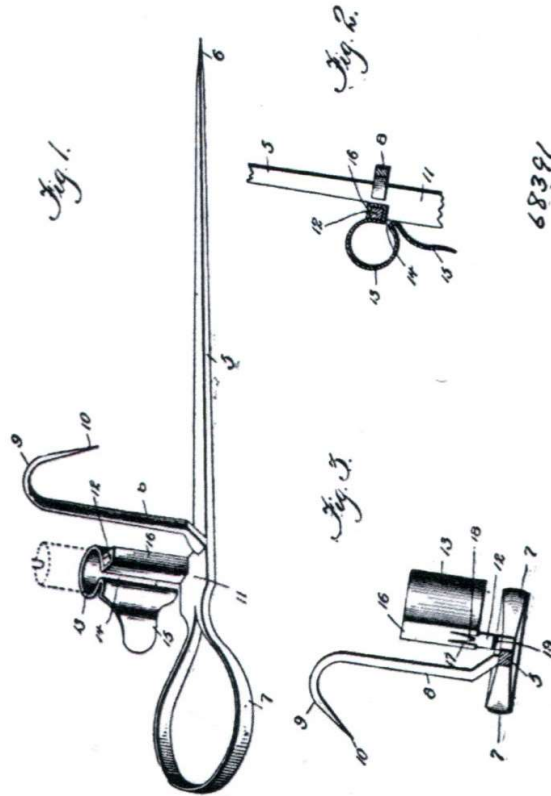
## Miner's Candlesticks - Canadian Patents

Inventors	Canadian Patent No	Date Issued	US Patent No	Date Issued
Buys	142,959	24-Sep-1912	996,308	27-Jun-1911
Clinch	58,487	23 Dec 1897	589,594	7 Sept 1897
Cornell & Troughton	72,729	13-Aug-1901	665,067	1-Jan-1901
Fielding & Peterson	86,601	19-Apr-1904	735,578	4-Aug-1903
Hansen	167,656	15-Feb-1916	1,163,912	14-Dec-1915
Howard & Howard	73,736	12-Nov-1901	662,565	27-Nov-1900
Lincinium & Lewis	54,154	23 Nov 1896	549,925	19 Nov 1895
Lindahl & Phillips	101,519	16-Oct-1906	801,465	10-Oct-1905
Walker	68,391	8-Aug-1900	None	
Winchester	128,039	6-Sep-1910	961,190	14-Jun-1910

The patents can be downloaded as adobe files from the web site generally in three parts – the initial description, claims, and the drawing. The copies of the written material are poor reminding one of third generation carbon copies (for those of us who remember carbon copies!). The drawings are the same as shown on the US patents. There is no rhyme or reason that can be seen as to why the US inventors pursued Canadian patents – only two (Lindahl and Fielding & Peterson) could be considered commercial successes, only two examples of the Buys patent have surfaced to date, and no examples of the other six have been found. The inventors are scattered over several states including Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Nevada and Colorado. It's interesting to note that all ten patents were issued in Canada over a 20 year period starting in 1896. Maybe the incentive was the inventor's ego or the enthusiasm of the patent attorneys!

The tenth patent is the most interesting. This candlestick was patented as Canadian patent No. 68,391 on August 8, 1900 by James Young Walker, a resident of the historic mining town of Rossland, British Columbia. The candlestick was only patented in Canada – no trace of a US patent. The patent drawing taken from the Canadian Patent Office Record is shown in Figure 1. There are three claims in the patent with the most interesting being "*A candlestick, provided with an upstanding stem, and a thimble fitted removably to the stem and having detachable interlocking engagement therewith, substantially as described*". The known examples of this candlestick are built with an upstanding stem separate from the hook and the thimble looks like it could be removed – but with considerable effort and who would want to try!

No. 68,391. Candlestick. (Chandelier.)



James Young Walker, Rossland, British Columbia, Canada, 8th August, 1900 ; 6 years. (Filed 9th June, 1900.)

Figure 1 Patent Drawing

The topic of the Walker patent became even more interesting when earlier this year, a Walker patent stick was offered on ebay. I (Hal) was fortunate to win the auction helped by the fact that very few realized what it was. Discussions at our weekly lunch bunch of ourselves along with Paul Kouts and occasionally Jack Purson led to more research on the inventor. Walker was born in Scotland on July 11, 1869 to parents Alexander Walker and Mary Young. He immigrated to Canada in 1894 eventually settling in Rossland. He is first listed in the Rossland business directory in 1898 as a blacksmith on W. Kootenay Ave. He's listed in 1899 as a blacksmith at 29 N. Washington St. and again at the same address in 1900. In the 1900-1901 directory he's shown as a blacksmith in the partnership of McKay and Walker back at W. Kootenay Ave. After 1901 he's no longer listed in the Rossland business directory. His whereabouts are unknown until 1921 when he shows up living in Vancouver BC with his wife Alberta and working as a wire weaver for the Anchor Fence Co. The Vancouver business directories show him continuing as a wire weaver for several years. Walker died on Dec. 31, 1939 and is buried in Vancouver. His patented candlestick is marked on the thimble PAT. AUG. 8. 1900. Figure 2 shows one of three examples of this stick so marked that are known in collections. A close-up of the riveted thimble attachment on another of the known sticks is shown in Figure 3.

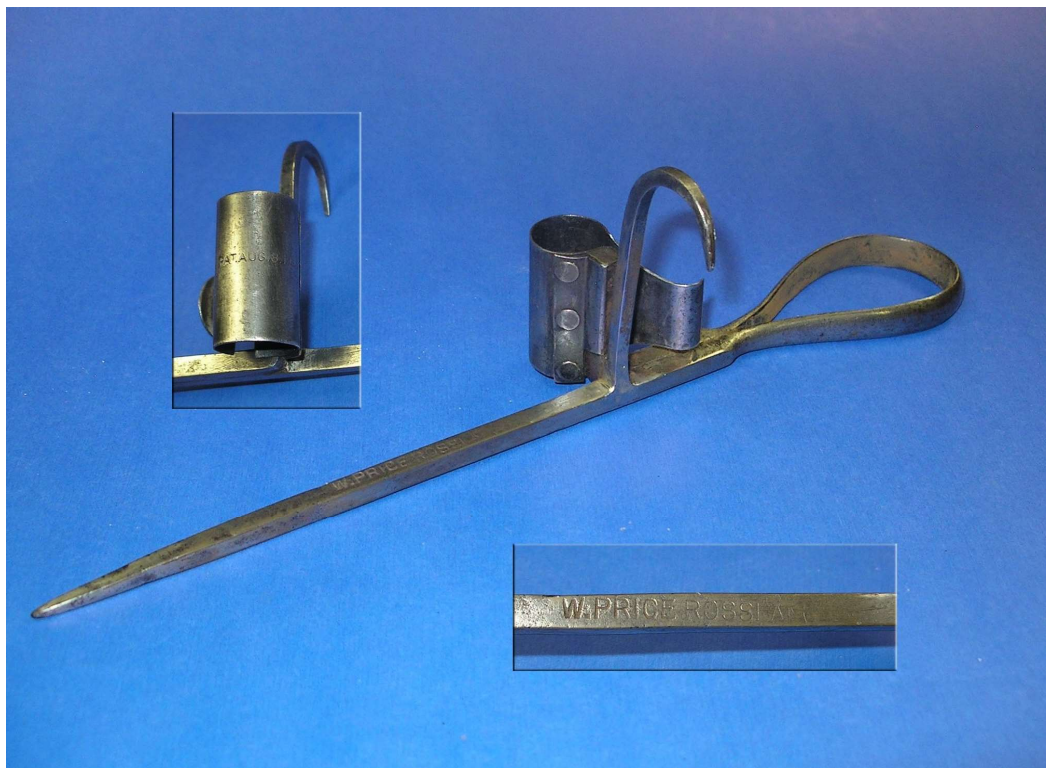


*Figure 2 Example of Walker candlestick (Tony Moon collection)*



*Figure 3 Close-up of hook and thimble of Walker candlestick (Hal Post collection)*

Two examples are known that include the marking W.PRICE ROSSLAND on the top of the shaft forward of the hook. Figure 4 shows an example of this variation. William Price is listed only in the 1900-1901 Rossland directory as a blacksmith and candlestick maker. Some slight differences are noted between the Price marked stick and the other style. The most notable is the shape of the hook with an offset bend as shown in the patent drawing unlike the Price marked stick. Our conjecture is that Walker made his early patent sticks, those with the offset hook, that are identical to the patent. Unfortunately we were unable to learn anything of the Price-Walker relationship and the sticks made by Price. It seems clear that Walker's patented candlestick was likely far from successful. However, they do turn up occasionally so keep an eye out.



*Figure 4 Example of candlestick by Price (Paul Johnson collection)*

#### References

Canadian Intellectual Property Office – Canadian Patents database:  
<http://www.ic.gc.ca/opic-cipo/cpd/eng/introduction.html>  
This will get you to the page where you can start your patent search.

Private communication – Al Winters August 2015