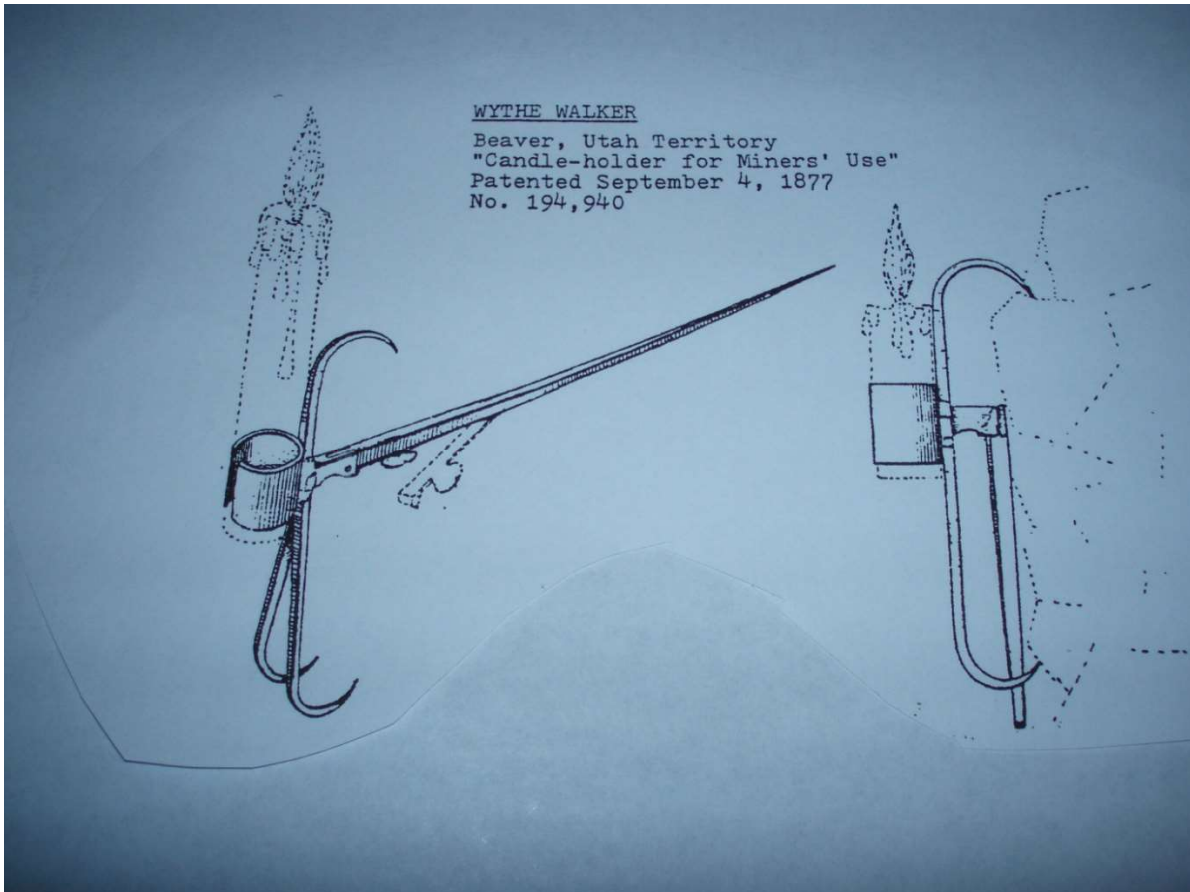


# Walker Candlestick

*by Al Winters*

Wythe Walker patented his miners' candlestick in Beaver, Utah Territory on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1877. His candlestick patent # 194,940 is the 4<sup>th</sup> oldest known and the neat design incorporates a folding spike and claw.



**From W. Wilson's Patent book**

The Walker stick is an oddball and very rare. Only 2 examples were known prior to the new discovery. Roger Peterson of Amador City, CA and the Smithsonian Museum had the only known examples. The third example was purchased on e-bay and was in very poor condition. It was missing the thimble, had a broken claw point, unreadable patent date, missing locking lever and was pitted.

Roger agreed to try and restore the stick and was able to use his own example to duplicate the missing parts. The manufactured stick varies from the patent drawing in that it incorporates a handle which makes sense in that a miner could more effectively push on the handle verses the thimble to insert the spike into the wall of the mine opening.



**Restored Walker Candlestick. (7 inches long—6 ½ inches folded)**





**Walker candlestick folded**



**Patent date**

As can be seen from the photographs, Roger has done an excellent job in this restoration project and has brought back to life a rare artifact. The Walker stick is unusual and not very practical for severe mine use. As such few were likely made and sold and those that were used probably did not survive, hence the rarity. Other Walker examples will most likely turn up over time but it is suspected new discoveries will be few and far between.