

# A Different Lee Bros. Lamp

Bob Guthrie, Silverthorne, CO

A couple of weeks ago I won this lamp on ebay (fig 1 and 2). When the bidding started, it was listed with a different patent date, which I knew was wrong. Indeed the patent date of April 25, 1876 was issued to John Q. Lee (fig. 3, 4).



Figs. 1 and 2: Lee Bros. lamp recently acquired.

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN Q. LEE, OF PLYMOUTH, PENNSYLVANIA.

### IMPROVEMENT IN MINERS' LAMPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 176,650, dated April 25, 1876; application filed February 17, 1876.

**To all whom it may concern:**

Be it known that I, JOHN Q. LEE, of Plymouth, in the county of Luzerne and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Miners' Lamps, of which the following is a specification:

The nature of this invention is an improvement in miners' lamps; and consists in making and hinging the top to the lamp, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, which forms a part of this specification, and to which—

Figure 1 is a section of the top of my lamp, also a blank top punched or cut out of one piece of sheet metal. Fig. 2 is a section of the top of my lamp, also blank of sheet metal, being a modification of the plan shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 shows the ordinary soldering the hinge-strap of metal to the top of the lamp.

In these figures, A is the top of the lamp, and B the hinge. The top A is punched or cut from one piece of sheet metal. The part A' is larger in diameter than the part A, which is concave, or formed as shown by the section of the top in Figs. 1 and 2, and which may be attached thereto or be a part thereof. The part A' is turned up and over the projecting flanges of the part A, securing the two parts together, thereby forming a top of two thicknesses, which are united without the use of solder.

The objection to soldering or to the use of solder is that when the lamp is exposed to a strong draft the flame from the spout is blown over the top and melts the solder, unites the top, and thereby renders the lamp useless.

B is the wire hinge passed through the eye in the top, then down through the inclined wall of the lamp, and clinched or otherwise secured therein. The eye of the top is formed by the connecting-piece, as shown by the blank top in Fig. 1.

The confirmation of this device is such that a very strong and secure top is fitted to the lamp.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A lamp-top composed of two thicknesses, and united by having one piece turned up and over the projecting flanges of the other, thereby dispensing with the use of solder, as described.

2. A lamp top, A, punched or cut from one sheet of metal, in combination with a hinge, B, substantially in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

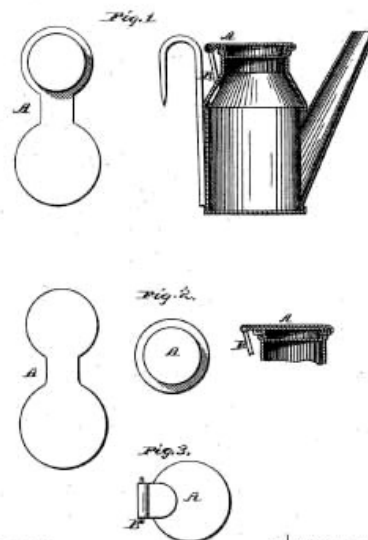
JOHN Q. LEE.

Witnesses:  
JOHN HUBBELL,  
Wm. G. ESO.

J. Q. LEE.  
MINERS' LAMP.

No. 176,650.

Patented April 25, 1876.



WITNESSES:

John Duhamel,  
Thomas Byrne.

INVENTOR:  
John Q. Lee.  
H. J. Abbott,  
ATTORNEY.

Figs. 3 and 4: 1876 Patent by John Q. Lee.

I went to my collection to find what lamps I had with the LEE BROS. Name and found only this one (fig 5, 6). This lamp, which many of you will recognize as the classic LEE BROS. lamp, has on the name and town of Plymouth, PA stamped into the lid (fig 5).



*Figs. 5 and 6: Unpatented Lee Bros. lamp with Plymouth, PA stamped into the lid.*

The patent cited above is for a lid modification and indeed this is what caught my eye about this new LEE BROS lamp. This construction eliminates the solder joint on the top of the lid. There are many other lamps out there that have lost the solder joint on the top or the entire top is gone. The other unique construction point is that the lid hinge is attached to the font by a steel wire that penetrates the font at both ends (fig 7). To add further stability, this part of the hinge is wrapped in tin plate soldered to the font (fig 8).



*Figs. 7 and 8: The patented lid eliminates the vulnerable solder joint at the lid, and is further strengthened by having the lugs penetrate the font. Also note the protective cover soldered over the hinge lugs.*

This last part of the lamp was not described in the patent of April 25, 1876. Unfortunately, the stamp on the new lamp is quite weak on the one side and only one E of LEE is readable. Most of PLYMOUTH, PA is readable. There is no doubt, however, that this is a LEE BROS. lamp.

I searched the patent base and found no other patents issued to LEE. Also, only John Q Lee is listed on the patent, but he must have had a brother or two somewhere. My favorite physics professor had a saying that he often used when confronted with a new finding, "Now that we know that, what do we know?" This seems to aptly describe this discovery.



*Fig. 9: Lee Bros. lamps compared.*