

ANOTHER ROUND-WIRE CANDLESTICK

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A number of candlestick designs made entirely from one length of round steel wire are pictured in *Antique Miners' Candlesticks* (2021). The “Steel Coil” (Figs. 86-87), the James patent (Fig. 158), the Powell patent (Fig. 160), the Pleasants patent (Fig. 166-167), the Nash patent (Fig. 169-170), and the Packer patent (Figs. 176-177) all stand out. In the Michigan and Minnesota mines, several different designs have been found, offered by local hardware companies but none identified as to maker. These (Fig. 162-165) are all characterized by a Midwestern-style tight-bend hat hook and a four-loop thimble.

Dan Castle has come up with a new variety, acquired from an estate sale in Mass City, Michigan, possibly used in the Mass Consolidated Copper mine. It has a three-loop thimble, and the two wires leading to the handle from the top and bottom edge of the thimble cross over like an “X” to make a very long thimble neck. One wire then passes under the spike, wraps around it once, and then forms the hook. It *might* be a three-loop variant of the four-loop Marshall Wells Hardware Company models (Figs. 163-164), but the Marshall Wells sticks have a short thimble stem and the handles are tear-drop shaped whereas Dan’s stick has a parallel two-wire handle neck leading to a round handle. It measures about 7¼ inches long.

