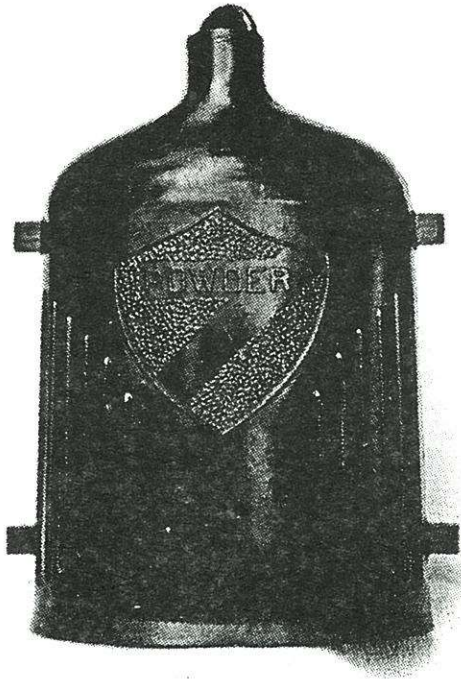


Hardsocg Powder Flask



The Hardsocg Manufacturing Co. was founded by Martin Hardsocg in Avery, Iowa in 1878. In 1885 Hardsocg moved his business to Ottumwa. His firm was at one time the largest single manufacturer of mining tools and supplies in the work (See EUREKA NO. 1 for complete history). In 1894 the firm expanded its operation by opening a manufacturing branch in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This operation was known as the Martin Hardsocg Co.

Among the items produced in Pittsburgh was the black Bakelite powder flask with a threaded cap. The flask measures 10 1/2" in height and its oval base measures 4" x 6 1/2". There are 4 loops to attach a rope strap or handle. The flask is marked "POWDER" in a large crest on one side and "MARTIN HARDSOCG CO. PITTSBURGH, PA." on the other side in raised letters. I am aware of two other varieties of Bakelite power flasks manufactured by Hardsocg, both cylindrical. Dave Johnson

L. B. Prichard Oil Flask

L. B. Prichard & Co. was a hardware retailer in Frostburg, Maryland. Prichard had driver and face lamps manufactured with their own label, as seen in the accompanying photo. The Prichard lamps are identical to lamps produced by Morris and George Zais, sons of Fred B. Zais, an early oilwick manufacturer, also of Frostburg, Maryland.

I recently acquired an oil flask made of galvanized tin with the same Prichard label found on their oilwick lamps. The flask has a single belt loop and a threaded cap made of an alloy material. The flask is horseshoe shaped and measures 5 1/8" tall to the top of the cap, which is 7/8" in diameter. The body is 4 1/2" wide at its widest part and is 2" thick. The body is flat on the back side where the belt loop is attached and is slightly bulged outward on the front. The body is constructed of three pieces - front, back and single piece wrap around sides, with separately attached cap threads. This a very well and heavily constructed flask.

Dave Johnson

