

# A FANCY CANDLESTICK WITH RELATIVES

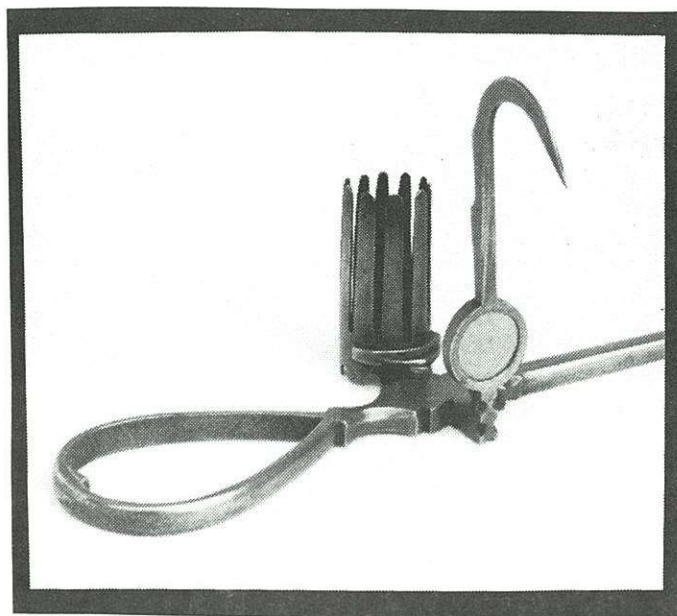
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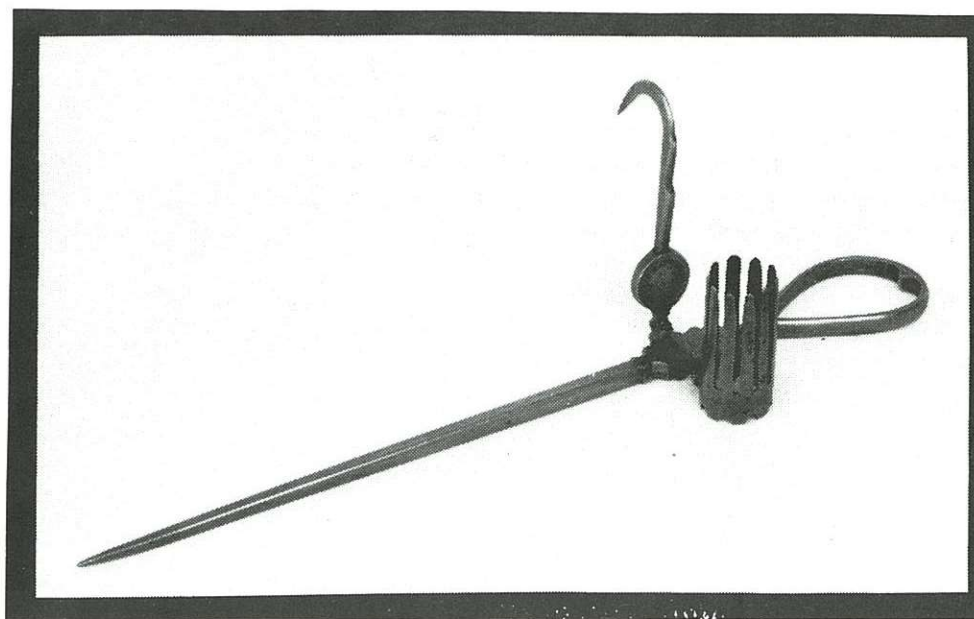
Fancy candlesticks in general, are very rare and will usually incorporate some kind of unique design or feature. When you see two or more fancy candlesticks with a similar design and workmanship, you can be pretty sure that they were all made by the same blacksmith. After all, if a blacksmith was talented enough to make a fancy candlestick, and make it well, I'm sure he would have made others with a similar design. I just can't see a blacksmith making only one candlestick any more than I can see an artist painting only one picture.

The candlestick you see in Figures 1 and 2 was acquired in a collection with several other fine candlesticks. One day, while studying that collection, it was noticed that one of them resembled a fancy candlestick illustrated in *A Collector's Guide to Antique Miners' Candlesticks* by Wendell E. Wilson and Ted Bobrink. That candlestick is beautifully illustrated in Figure 3. The unusual thimble designs, both without thumb tabs, the circular design incorporated into the hooks, the one-piece handles shaped like a heart, and the fact that the hooks and thimbles are dove-tailed into the spike, are all features that make it convincing that the same person designed and made both candlesticks.

**Figure 1.** A photo of a fancy candlestick with a length of 12 inches. Note the unique split thimble that uses the tension of the vertical fingers to hold the candle in place. (John C. Johnson collection)



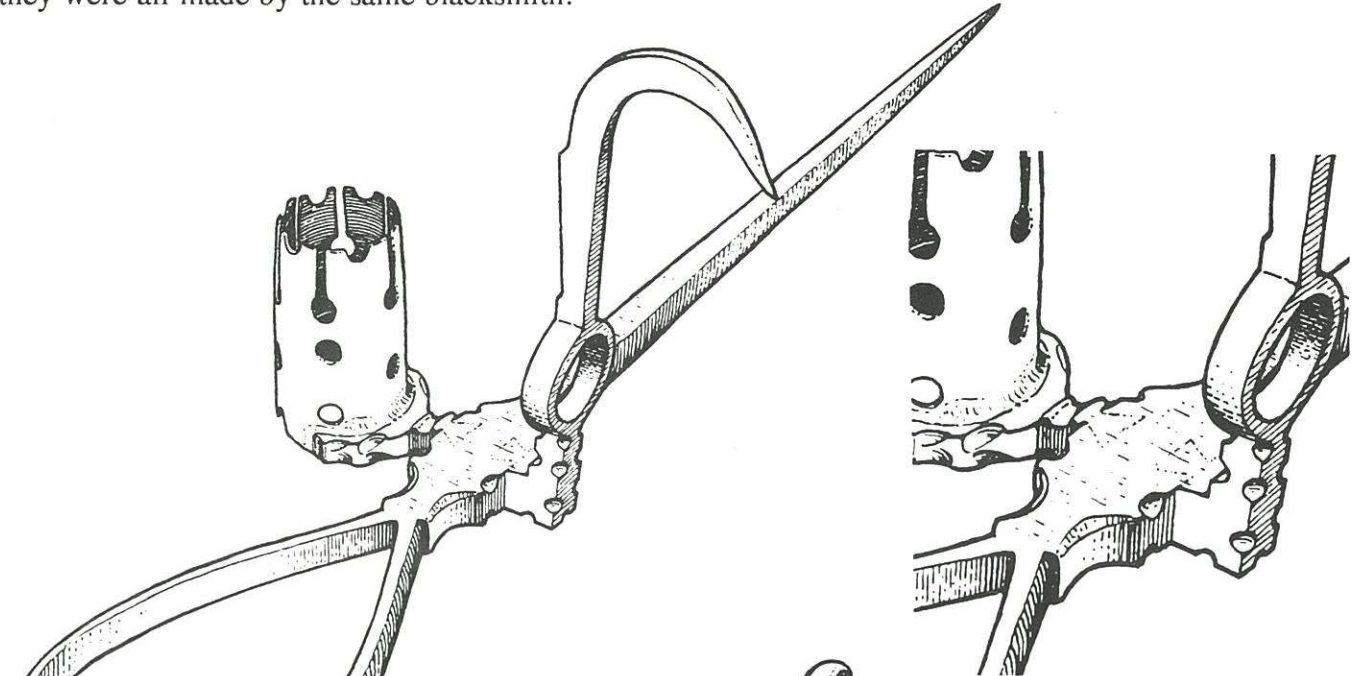
**Figure 2.** A nice view of the hook of the candlestick shown in Figure 1. Inlaid into the circle is a 1910 V nickel.



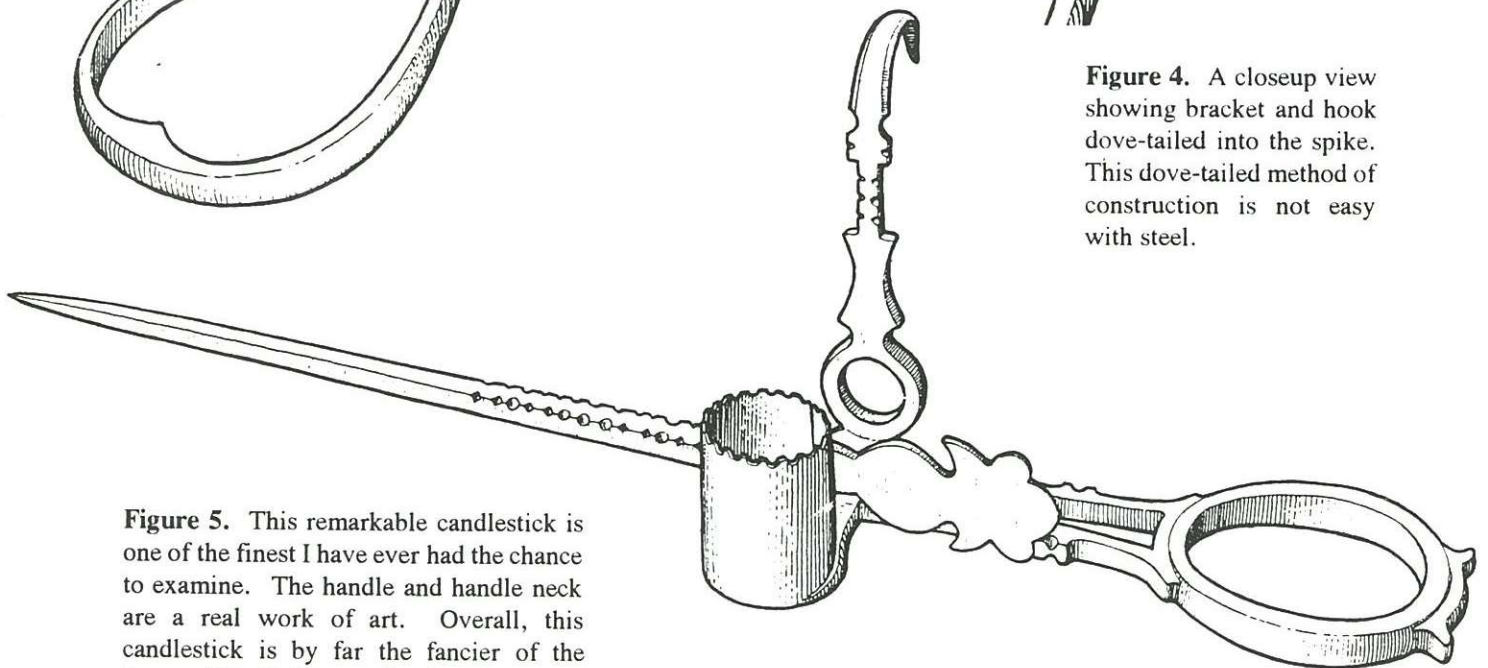
Another attractive candlestick (Figure 4) appears to have been made by the same maker also. Although this candlestick has a standard thimble and uses a thumb tab, there are many convincing similarities. The circular design in the hook. The fact that in all three models, the spike and handle are solid as opposed to being bent around. The use of dove-tailing the hook and thimble, and the overall excellent workmanship and finish. Both Ted and I examined these candlesticks together at one of the *MAC* reunions and are fairly confident that they were all made by the same blacksmith.

Hopefully some other collector out there has a similar candlestick and will send the *MAC* a photograph of it. A number of candlesticks were marked with the makers name on them and with that one similar candlestick, we will be able to identify the original maker of them all.

**Figure 3.** This 12" candlestick is virtually the same as the candlestick shown in Figures 1 and 2 except for the thimble cutouts, and the absence of a V nickel inlaid into the circle. (Jim Steinberg collection)



**Figure 4.** A closeup view showing bracket and hook dove-tailed into the spike. This dove-tailed method of construction is not easy with steel.



**Figure 5.** This remarkable candlestick is one of the finest I have ever had the chance to examine. The handle and handle neck are a real work of art. Overall, this candlestick is by far the fancier of the three. (Ken Roberts collection)