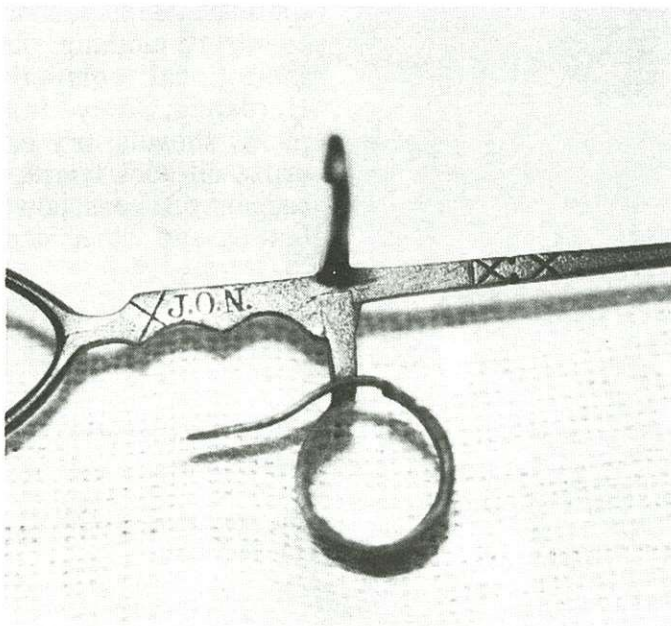
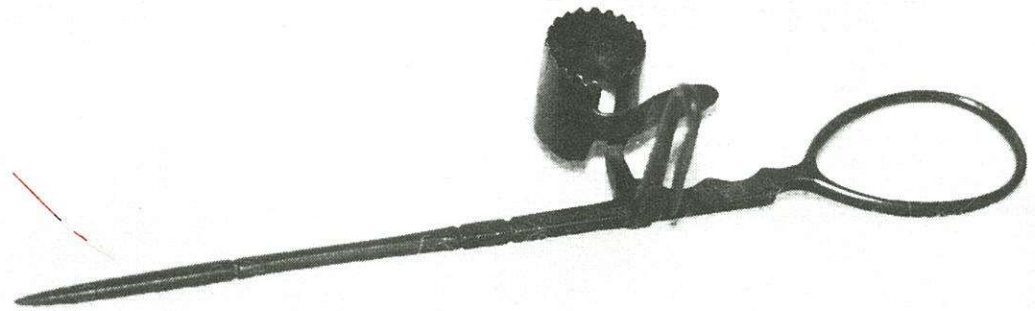


"J. O. N." Michigan Candlestick

by Dave Johnson

The candlestick pictured here was used by John O. Nichols, of Calumet, Michigan. In 1889 he reportedly worked sinking the famous Red Jacket Shaft for the Calumet & Hecla Consolidated Copper Company. Nichols, according to a descendent, worked in several Calumet & Hecla mines between 1887 and 1904, when he left the Copper Country for the Goldfield, Nevada area. He returned to the Copper Country about 1910, working in several mines over the next decade before relocating near Ironwood, Michigan in 1920.

This stick, which measures 8 3/8" in length, is a semi-fancy model with the owner's initials J. O. N., stamped between the handle and the hook.



Detail of stamping showing owner's initials and design stamped into surface.

The stick has the traditional Lake Superior style hook made to be worn on the miner's cap or helmet. Like many sticks designed for wearing it has the long stem on the thimble to keep it further from the wearer's head.

The handle is teardrop-shaped and is very finely made, not heavy and awkward like many larger sticks. The handle neck is uniquely shaped, while the thimble is castellated with a small thumb lever. The spike, at the point, begins square, becomes octagonal in the center before returning to square, with decorative engraving all around.

No information is available on the blacksmith who made this stick. The stick was purchased in the Ironwood, Michigan area from the granddaughter of the original owner.