

AN UNUSUAL FOLDING

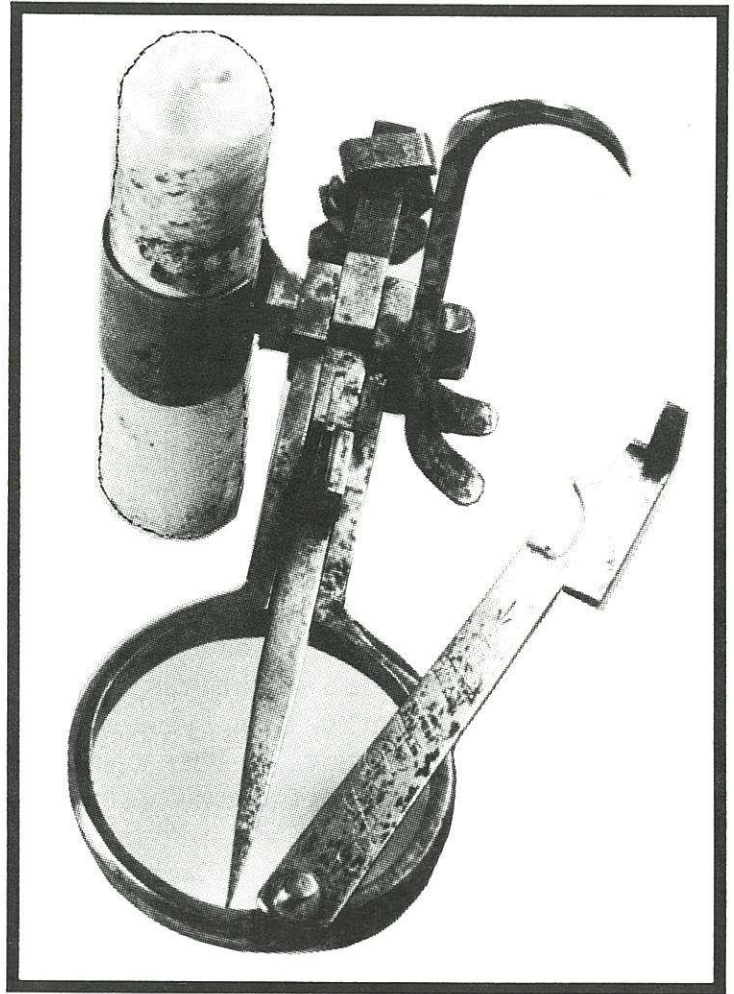
CANDLESTICK

by **Tony Moon**
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About four years ago, during my one and only trip to the Lead, South Dakota area, a friend took me around the local museums. The Black Hills Mining Museum was a highlight of the trip, but at the Adams Museum in Deadwood, I was greatly surprised to find one of the most remarkable candlesticks I have ever seen. There tucked away in a back case buried behind mundane items was a fantastic, engraved folding candlestick. As I crawled on my hands and knees (literally!) and peered into the case, I wondered how many people, even serious mining history buffs, had overlooked this remarkable item.

Well, Al and Brenda Winters have come to our rescue! First, I must thank them for the excellent photograph that accompanies this article, and second, for providing the information on John Blatchford. As can be seen from the photograph, the point folds into the handle as well as the hook which folds into a special recess. I believe the swing-out arm is part of a locking mechanism, but it may be part of a cap crimper. Only detailed examination of the piece itself will tell us the whole story.

The top of the arm is engraved with the name "J. Blatchford." John Blatchford was superintendent of the Golden Reward Mining and Milling Company of Terry, South Dakota, which was in operation between 1887 and 1918. The Golden Reward Mining and Milling Company was formed in May 1887. The president of the company was Harris Franklin. All of the mines, the Golden Reward, Toronado, Double Standard, Boscobel, and Little Bonanza, were under the direction of John Blatchford. In 1918 the mines



were closed after over 30 years of continuous bullion production. From 1902 to 1918 the Golden Reward properties under John Blatchford's direction produced 956,992 tons of ore from which 371,381 ounces of gold and 734,223 ounces of silver were recovered. No accurate records were kept from 1887 to 1902 when the richer ores were processed.

I understand that the museum has now placed the candlestick in a more prominent location. Perhaps those who go to the Black Hills Mining Collectors Meet over the Memorial Day weekend can visit the Adams Museum and see this remarkable artifact for themselves. The Adams Museum also has other mining items on display, including a very nice pocket gold scale in its tin with the Seattle Hardware Company logo on the lid. To see the logo, crawl on your hands and knees and peer upward into the case! Good Lock!