

The American Cap Company by Mark Bohannon

The American Cap Company was started by Charles Loucke and John Ramsey at Scottdale, Pennsylvania in 1910. They manufactured their own fulminate which they then loaded into shells that were purchased from other companies.

In 1911, the Fort Pitt Powder Company was incorporated in Pennsylvania with George Reese as president and H. G. Luker as vice-president. The Fort Pitt Powder Company had a blasting powder mill at Putneyville, Pennsylvania which had a capacity of 400 kegs per day and was gradually increasing to 1000 kegs per day. The company also sold their own brand of dynamite which was manufactured by the Cameron Powder Company.

In order to include the sale of blasting caps along with their dynamite and blasting powder, the Fort Pitt Powder Company bought the American Cap Company in 1912. They continued to operate the blasting cap plant at Scottdale which now produced Fort Pitt blasting caps.

In 1916, the Atlas Powder Company acquired the Fort Pitt Powder Company, along with the old American Cap Company plant at Scottdale, and operated it until 1918. The blasting caps made by the Atlas Powder Company at the Scottdale plant from 1916 to 1918 were probably marketed under the Atlas brand name.

The American Cap Company blasting cap tin (Fig. 1) is painted dark blue with white lettering and dates from 1910 to 1912.

The Fort Pitt blasting cap tin (Fig. 2) is painted light blue with white lettering and dates from 1912 to 1916.

Both of these blasting cap tins are very rare due to the very short period in which they were manufactured.

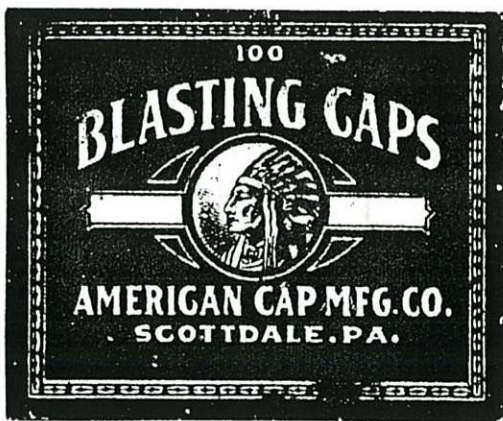


Fig. 1
Ted Bobrink Collection

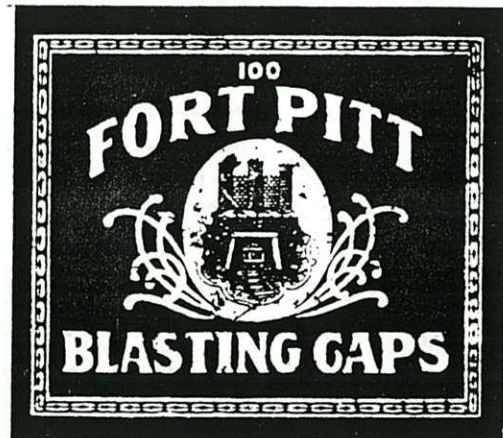


Fig. 2
David Crawford Collection