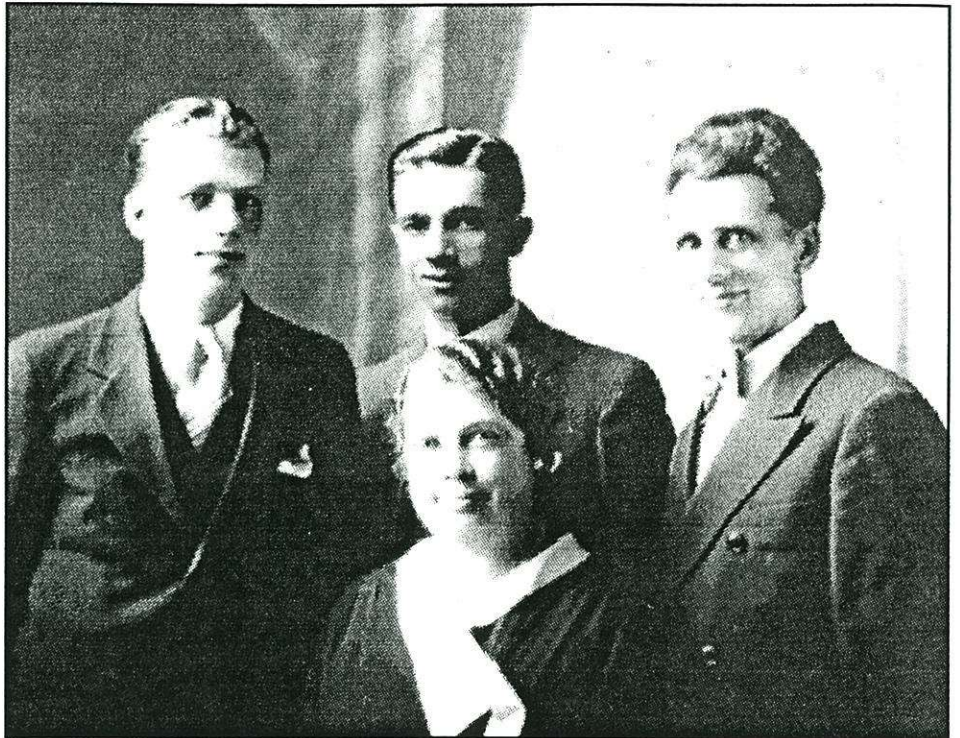


# H. Gall

by Mike McLaughlin

On December 7, 1886 in the town of Uny Lelant, England, in the county of Cornwall, district of Panzance, Harry Gall was born. Harry and his family left England and moved to America where they settled in Calumet, Michigan. There they remained several years until Harry moved to Ishpeming, Michigan in the county of Marquette, and the rest of the family moved to Butler, New Jersey. Harry had three brothers and two sisters. He married a young lady named Beatrice and was blessed with four children: son Clifford, son Harry, and two twin girls who passed away at the ages of eighteen days and twenty-one days.<sup>1</sup> Harry Gall inventor, passed away on November 15, 1946 at the age of 59. (Fig. 1)



*Fig. 1 The Gall family. Son Clifford, son Harry, wife Beatrice and inventor H. Gall (Harry Gall).*

Harry Gall worked at the Oliver Mine in Ishpeming, Michigan all of his life. His sons, Harry and Clifford, also worked in the Oliver Mine for a

short period of time.<sup>2</sup> The mine was first called the Holmes Mine and when U.S. Steel bought the Holmes the name was changed to the Oliver

Mining Company. One of Harry Gall's main jobs at the Oliver Mine was that of a machinist. (Fig. 2)



*Fig. 2 H. Gall (second from left) wearing carbide lamp underground in the Oliver Mine, Ishpeming, Michigan.*

In 1912, Harry set up his own workshop next to his house in Ishpeming, Michigan. He was the sole owner and the only worker of "the shop" and worked on the premises as a hobby. It was not a full time job or a formal business, just an evening and weekend hobby and repair shop. "The shop" as family members remember it, contained several lathes (one pedal operated), drill presses, taps, dies, grinders, cutting troches, and many other related tools. Harry kept adding onto the shop throughout the years until its last size of 20 X 30 feet. There was only enough room in the shop for Harry and at most, one other

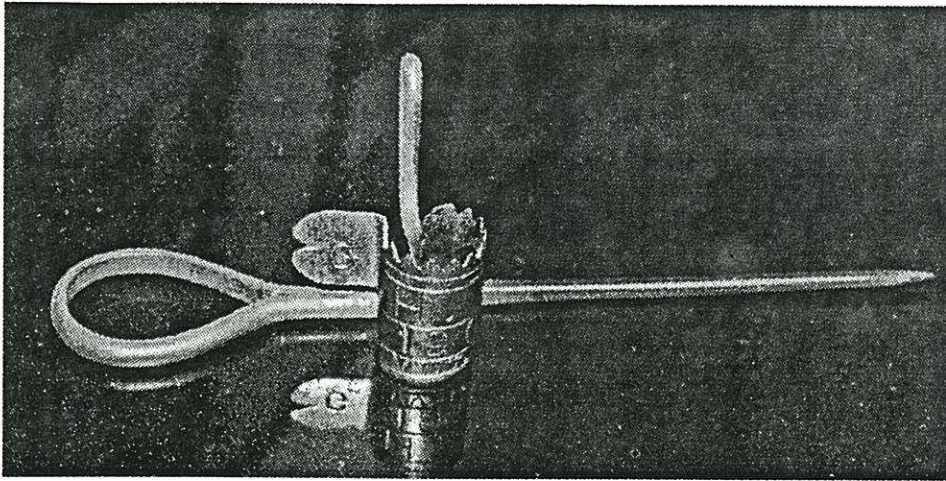


Fig. 3 (above) H. G. (Harry Gall) candlestick (Paul Johnson collection).

brother-in-law William Keskeys. The stampings are located on the thimble. The candlestick is 8 1/4" long and is made of steel. This stick is very well made with a serrated thimble and notched thumb lever. The thumb lever is stamped with a "G". Its hook design is typical of the sticks that were worn on the miners' caps in the Michigan area and the hook is referred to as a "Lake Superior" style.<sup>4</sup> This candlestick is the only specimen known to date. (Fig. 3)

person. It was very small and filled with a lot of equipment. "The shop" was torn down in 1990 due to deterioration and all of the contents were sold.<sup>3</sup>

Most of Harry's work in the hobby shop was spent repairing musical instruments. He not only repaired the musical instruments, but could play any he got his hands on. He was a very talented individual who loved music. In 1911 Harry received a copyright on a song he had published called "Holy Night". Family members also remember Harry Gall blowing glass in "the shop" as well as repairing guns.

Harry manufactured at least one miners' candlestick. It is stamped "H.G." (for Harry Gall), "1909", and "W.J.K." which may refer to his

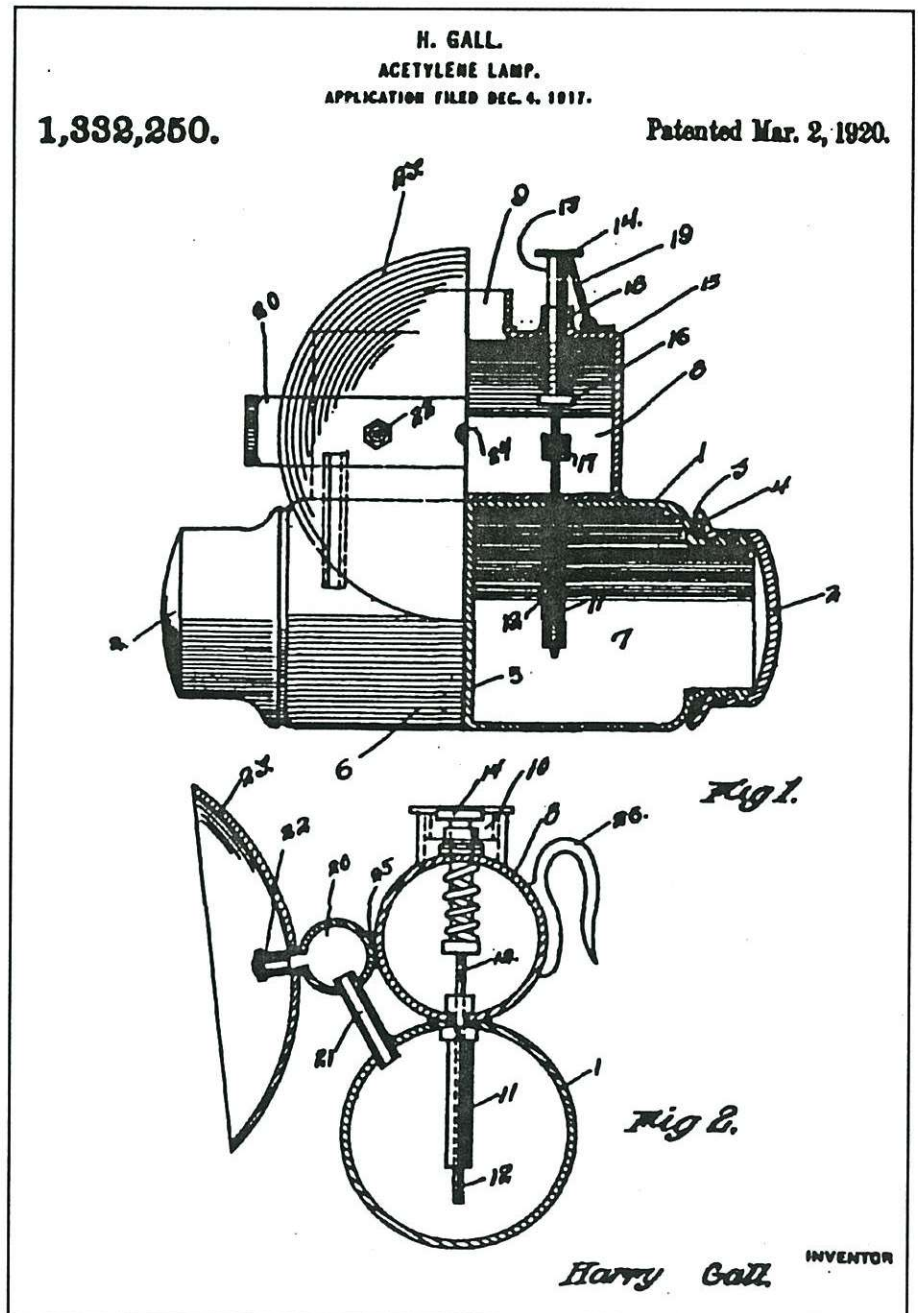
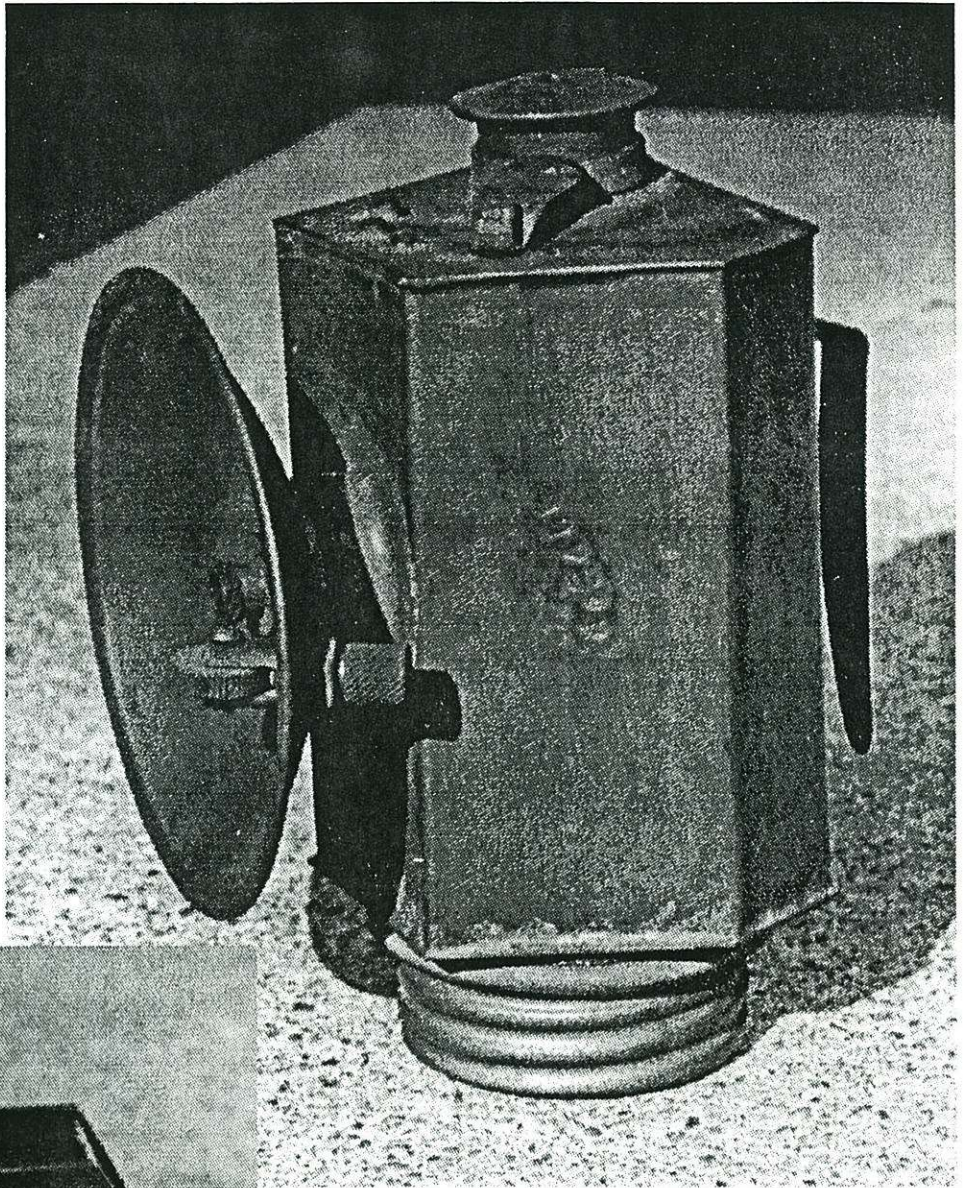
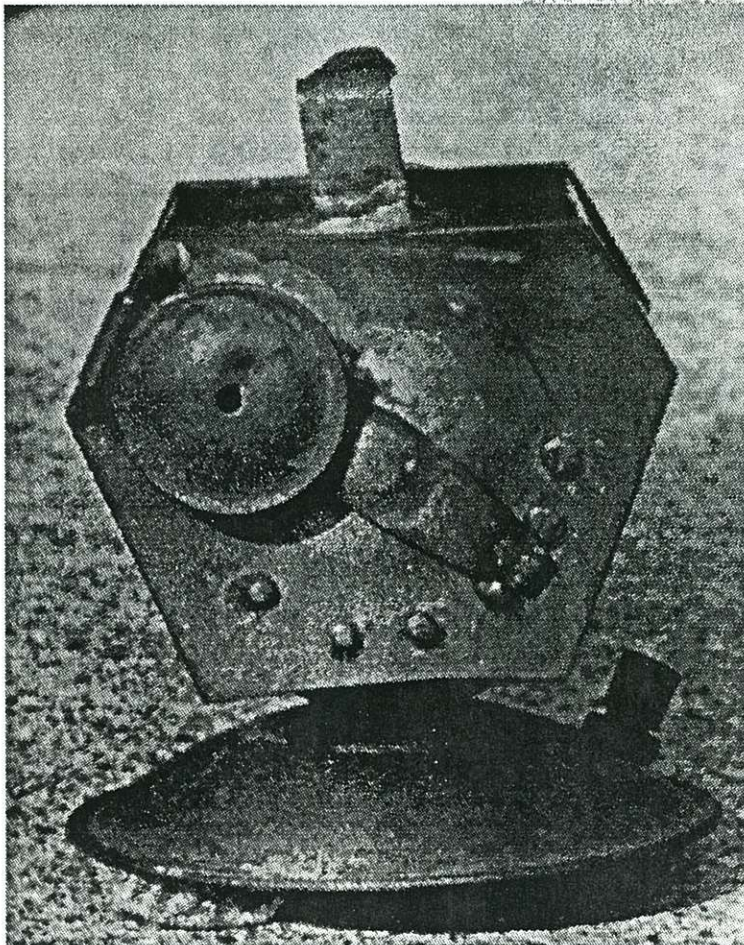


Fig. 4 H. Gall Acetylene Lamp Patent # 1,332,250. Granted March 2, 1920.

On December 4, 1917 Harry Gall filed an application to the United States Patent Office for an Acetylene Lamp. "The object of the invention was to construct a lamp with two independent gas chambers adapted to supply acetylene gas to burners so that when the carbide in one chamber became exhausted the other may be brought into operation to continuously supply light, the empty chamber being filled after the other is in operation so that one may be always ready for use on the exhaustion of the other..."<sup>5</sup> From this patent information, Harry had patented a Duplex style lamp! His patent for this lamp was granted on March 2, 1920, patent number 1,332,250.<sup>6</sup> At this time no known specimen has been located. (Fig. 4)



*Fig. 5 (above) H. Gall carbide cap lamp.*



*Fig. 6. (left) H. Gall carbide cap lamp (top view).*

Harry also invented another carbide lamp made of brass and stamped "H. Gall" on two front panels. The lamp has six sides with a central water feed. Carbide is added through the base by unscrewing a lid on the bottom of the lamp. The felt is located behind the burner tip and can be seen after the reflector is unscrewed. This carbide lamp also sports the "Michigan spade mount" attachment for the miner's cap. All in all, the lamp has many unusual features but was made with precision and excellence, typical of Harry Gall and his perfection in other endeavors. The lamp shown is the only known example that has been found at this time. (Figs. 5 and 6)

Even though Harry Gall's shop was part-time hobby work, he must have had a lot of local customers coming to him for repairs. Repairing musical instruments, repairing guns, operating as a machinist, and making all kinds of items; Harry must have seen the need to keep records of his work and to supply his customers with an invoice or receipt. Family members recall a book that Harry kept detailing charges which were typically 25 to 50 cents. This book has long since been discarded. A few invoices have been recovered however, and read as follows: "H. Gall, Ishpeming, Michigan, Repairs to all kinds of machinery and musical instruments, Lathe Work & Tinsmithing".

Another interesting mining related artifact left by Harry is an Aetna blasting cap tin. The tin is a 100 No. 6 size, Lion Brand, and is forest green in color with black writing.<sup>7</sup> Scratched on the top of the tin is H. Gall (for Harry) and C. Gall (for Clifford, his son). (Fig. 7)

Gathering information for historical record on mining collectibles is not an easy task and sometimes not even possible. That is why it is such an extra reward to find a wide variety of rare items and information that related directly to the late Harry Gall.

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*Fig. 7 Aetna cap tin (scratched H. Gall and C. Gall).*