

THE JACKSON HAND POWER ROCK DRILL

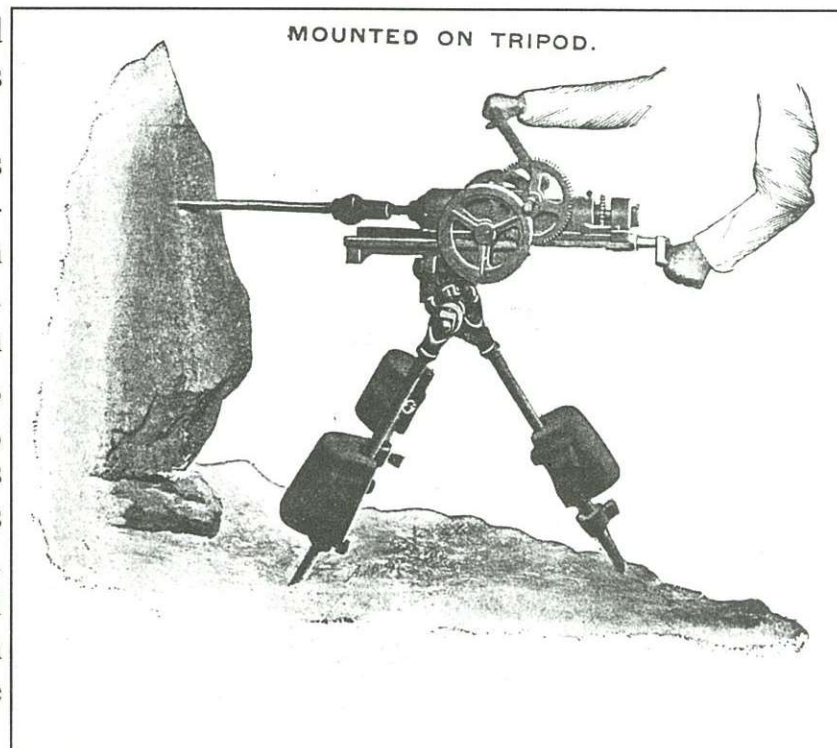
By Leo Stambaugh

The Jackson Hand Power Rock Drill was patented on May 17, 1898 and improvements were patented less than one year later on March 7, 1899. The drill was manufactured as a mining drill powered by a hand crank that turned a cam which released a tightened spring ram to hammer the drill point. The cam activated $3 \frac{1}{4}$ times per crank revolution and a tension screw regulated the force of power from fifty to five hundred pounds per strike. The catalog made claims of two hundred fifty to five hundred strikes per minute, but even the minimum two hundred fifty would need seventy seven cranks per minute.

The drill was marketed as a prospectors drill, small enough for one man to operate. It could be mounted on a column, a crossbar, quarry bar or tripod, only the column was standard, the others were special orders. The price of the drill was \$125.00, which was supposed to be

cheap because one miner could do the work of two to four hand drillers. With a drill weight of one hundred seventy five pounds, the single miner who could set it up would be a real sight to behold.

The drill sold reasonably well in the Colorado area, it was manufactured in both Denver and New York City. H. D. Crippen was the President and General Manager in Colorado. The Eastern states and foreign countries were represented in New York by licensee and manufacturer Thornton N. Motley (and crew).



There are numerous examples around the Colorado area, some in private collections, one on display in a front yard in Idaho Springs, one at the Lebanon Mine State Historic site in Georgetown, and a partial one in the Powder Cache Museum in

Georgetown. There are a few other makers of hand powered drills; Dixon and Jones are two makers that made known drills. Any other names or known examples would be a welcome addition to future articles on this subject.

What Practical Miners Say About "The Jackson Hand Power Drill"

Jamestown, Colo., June 23, 1898
Gentlemen: - In regard to work I have done with your Drill. I am pleased to state that in ground what I call good hard double hand, and too hard for single jack work, I did double the work with your Drill of any two men with hammer. At times we made 2½ inches per minute. The tunnel is 6¼ x 5 feet and over 70 feet have been driven with your Drill since it arrived.

Very respectfully,
G.T. Hoge

San Diego, Cal., Nov. 11, 1898
Gentlemen: - I have used two of your Hand Power Rock Drills which gave perfect satisfaction. One man can do the work of three and with much less exertion, thus making a great saving in expense. No mine can well afford to be without it.

Yours respectfully,
W.A. Ptolemy

Ward, Colo., Sept. 28, 1899
Gentlemen: - I am pleased to report the following on the Jackson Drill I have been using for the past nine months in the Colonel Dick tunnel at this place: I am drilling in very hard granite easily

three times as fast as I was with hand and hammer. Such results I acknowledge are an agreeable surprise to me as well as money making. I set up and operate the drill entirely alone, and find it easy for one man to handle.

Very turly,
A.F. Steuart

Roger Peterson

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