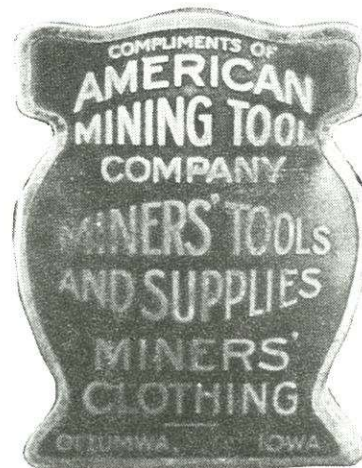


# American Mining Tool Co.

by Dave Johnson



Another member of that large club of seldom seen oil wick brand names is the American Mining Tool Co. of Ottumwa, Iowa. While a scarce brand name, the firm was quite large with a broad product line. Ottumwa was also the home of the better known and much larger Hardsocg Manufacturing Co.

The American Mining Tool Co. was formed in 1906 as a corporation with a capitalization of \$100,000. F.W. Simmons served as President, with George B. Simmons as Secretary/Treasurer and General Manager of the manufacturing facility.

The manufacturing plant, office, and warehouse

complex consisted of half a dozen brick buildings situated on 4 1/2 acres between the Burlington and Rock Island Railroad tracks, at the corner of Main and Ash Streets. Like many other plants of the day, proximity to a busy intersection was essential. The factory was reportedly equipped with the latest in manufacturing machinery in its machine, foundry, forging, and smithing departments.

American Mining Tool manufactured and advertised a full line of miner's tools and supplies, as well as miner's clothing. Like their local competitor Hardsocg, they made picks, shovels, pry bars, drills, oil-wick lamps, oil cadgers, canteens, powder bottles and other items.



*(top) Brass desk organizer promotional item.*

*(center) Tin American Mining Tool Co. face lamp.*

*(left) Copper American Mining Tool Co. oil cadger.*

The firm's president, F.W. Simmons, died August 20, 1920 and was succeeded by George Simmons as head of the firm. J.A. Hallender was named General Superintendent, having been with the firm since its founding.

As well as producing mining tools and supplies, the American Mining Tool Co. machine shop and forging shop were often used by other local firms and mining companies to repair machinery and equipment.

*(below left) American Mining Tool Co. driver's lamp with face shield*

*(below right) Face shield showing stamping.*

*(bottom left) American Mining Tool Co. logo commonly found stamped on their oil wick lamps and accessories.*

*(bottom right) American Mining Tool Co. driver's lamp with large diameter spout.*



The firm continued to produce at least a portion of its product line until 1942 when all production ceased and the firm went out of business.

#### Reference

**Ottumwa Yesterday and Today** by Glen Meagher and Harry Munsell, in commemoration of Ottumwa's Diamond Jubilee and Homecoming, August 7-11, 1923.