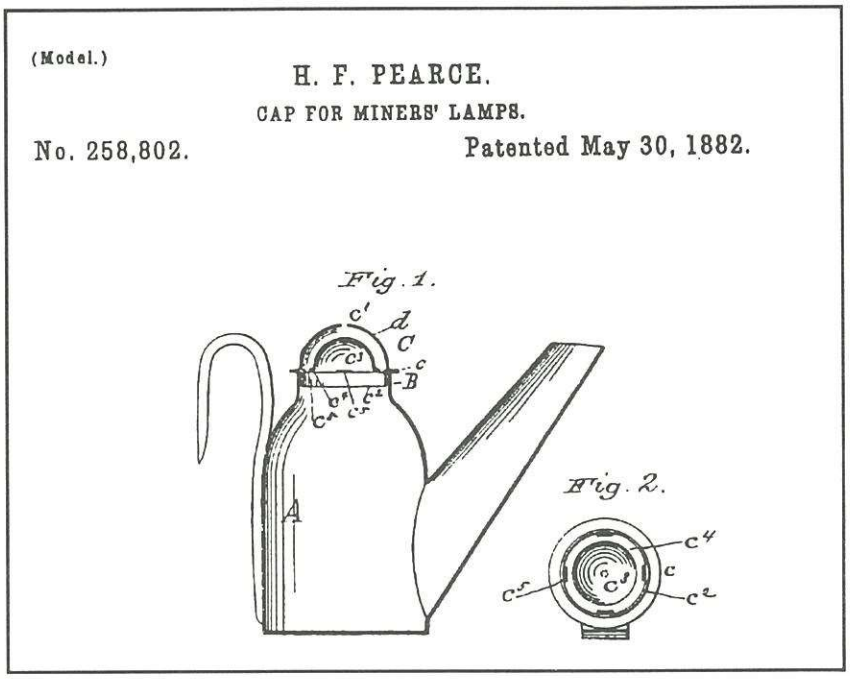
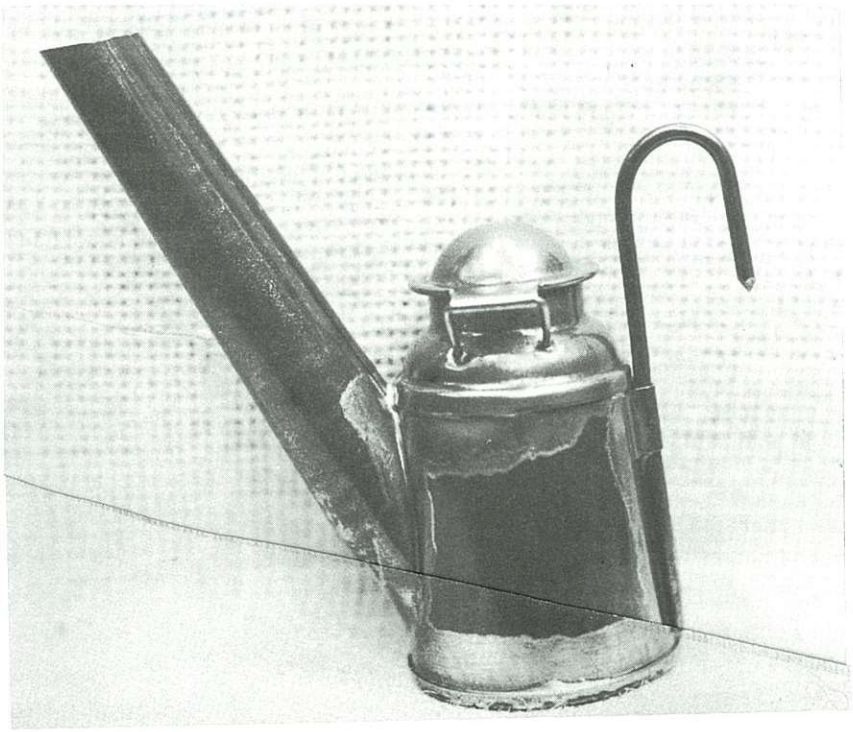
H. F. Pearce
Miner's Lamp Patent

by Dave Johnson

On May 30, 1882, Henry F. Pearce, of Hyde Park, PA, received patent 258,802 for the design of a cap for oil wick lamps. The patent claims "As an article of manufacture, a cap for a miner's lamp, having a lining arranged to form a space, d, and having the annularly located perforations C5, whereby none of the perforations in the lining directly communicate with the vent in the cap, substantially as shown and described".

I have been unable to obtain any information about Henry Pearce.





The unfired lamp shown here has the May 30, 1882 patent date stamped around the flat brim of the brass cap. The one-piece shoulder/collar is brass, as is the hinge. The remainder of the lamp is tinned steel. The single spout measures 4 ⅛" in length, 2 13⁄16" in height to the top of the domed cap and the base is 1 11⁄16" in diameter. There is no indication of who actually manufactured this lamp.

(Left) Tin lamp with brass collar and cap.