

## Another Mystery Solved:

# Hack-Sanner Hardware Co. Oil Wick

by Dave Johnson

Many collectors are familiar with those oil wicks which feature the name SANNER HDWE CO. SHAMOKIN PA and their unusual stamping with a blank space in front of Sanner. The question has always been, why the blank space? These uncommon but not rare oil wicks were all produced by Trethaway Bros (Richard, William, Joseph, John and Charles) of Parsons, PA.

As well as producing lamps under the Trethaway Bros. label, they are also known to have produced lamps under private labels for Tracy Wells Co., Sanner Hardware Co., P. F. Lennon, Alex. E. Hunt, and L.C. & N. Co. (Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co.). They also produced the various UMWA labeled

oil wicks. A previously unreported private label Trethaway Bros. product that I recently added to my collection is a brass oil wick with a tin lid that is marked HACK-SANNER HDWE CO. SHAMOKIN PA.

The stamping on my three different Sanner Hardware Co. oil wicks are identical to the stamping on my Hack-Sanner Hardware Co. oil wick except for there being a blank space where the word Hack has been deleted.

I checked the holdings of the Shamokin-Coal

Township Public Library for information on Hack-Sanner and Sanner Hardware Companies. The 1896 Shamokin City Directory listed Emil D. Sanner as a clerk living at 230 E. Independence. There was no listing for Sanner or Hack-Sanner Hardware Companies. The 1913-15 Directory listed W. C. Hack & Sons



*Brass Sanner Hardware Co. oil wick w/ steel hook.*

as dealers in grocers' hardware, sundries, mine, railroad and builder's supplies located at 6-10 W. Independence. Alan G. Hack was listed in partnership with William C. Hack (also 1st V.P. of the Dime Trust & Safe Deposit Co.).



It also listed the Sanner Hardware Co. as dealers in grocer's hardware, sundries, mine, railroad and builders' supplies, located at 30-32 E. Independence. Emil D. Sanner was listed as president and treasurer.

The 1915-17 Directory had the identical listings as 1913-15. The 1930-31 Directory showed W. C. Hack & Sons having stores in Shamokin, Mt. Carmel and Frackville. There was no listing for Sanner Hardware Co.

Unfortunately these were the only early City Directories held by the library, all other years having been lost.

Since the Hack-Sanner Hdwe. Co. stamping is of a completely symmetrical design and the Sanner Hdwe. Co. stamping is asymmetrical due to the space where Hack should appear, I would feel safe in guessing that a Hack-Sanner partnership existed sometime prior to 1913 and that when the partnership dissolved that Sanner continued to have lamps manufactured by Trethaway Bros. with the same stamp but with Hack left out, thus the blank space on the Sanner Hdwe. Co. lamp stampings.



*Brass Hack-Sanner Hardware Co. oil wick w/ tin cap.*



*Tin Saner Hardware Co. w/ brass collar.*



*Sanner Hardware Co. oil wick w/ brass dome cap.*