

Two New Oil Wick Lamps

by Dave Johnson

I recently acquired a tin oilwick face lamp with a previously unreported stamping: F. JOHNSON FROSTBURG. This unfired lamp measures 2 $\frac{1}{16}$ " to the top of the cap, the base diameter is 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ " and the double spout is 2 $\frac{7}{16}$ " long. This lamp is very similar to the early oil wick lamp manufactured by Fred B. Zais of Frostburg, MD stamped: FRED B. ZAIS FROSTBURG MD 1876. The base, hinge assembly and hook reinforcement are identical.

This lamp is distinctly different from the later lamp in the area of the base, hinge and hook reinforcement configuration. I was unable to obtain any information on the existence of an F. Johnson from Frostburg, MD being listed in the City Directory as either a tinsmith or lamp manufacturer from the Frostburg Library.

The second lamp is a tin oilwick face lamp with a threaded or screw cap. This lamp is unlike any of those produced under the Winfield patent. This lamp has an unusually low hook curve, most oilwick hooks rise above the cap before they make the 180 degree downward turn. This lamp measures 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ " to the top of the cap, the base diameter is 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ " and the single spout is 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ " in length. The cap is 1 $\frac{1}{16}$ " at the top and flares out to 1 $\frac{3}{16}$ " at the bottom. This lamp has an unusually short shoulder for a vertical font lamp. I have absolutely no clue as to who the manufacturer of this lamp was, none of its components bears any resemblance to other marked lamps, but the lamp bears a striking resemblance to the earliest Winfield Patent drawing (May 23, 1871).

