

# OIL WICK LAMPS WITH UNUSUAL BRACKETS

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Two oil wick lamps in the author's collection have strap brackets in place of the normal hook.

The first, a cap lamp size lamp shown in Figure 1, has a bracket that would be suitable for mounting on a leather strap (mule harness?). The lamp, made of tin, is 2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches high at the lid and is unmarked.

The second lamp, shown in Figure 2, is a much larger lamp some 4 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches high to the screw lid and 5 inches high to the top of the spout. The lamp has a flat base soldered to the oil vessel that allows the lamp to sit on a horizontal surface and also has a horizontal strap that would allow the lamp to be mounted on a vertical tongue or holder, possibly on a coal car or again as a harness mounting. The lamp is made of tin and is also unmarked although similarities in manufacturing techniques around



Figure 2. Large strap mounted on an oil wick lamp.

the base of the spout are similar to "Crown" lamps as shown in Figure 3. I believe that this lamp was made by the manufacturer of Crown lamps. The quantity of fine coal dust around the base confirms its use around coal mines and the lamp was found in Pennsylvania.

Both lamps are unusual in their mounting method and the author would be interested in hearing from other collectors who have oil wicks with similar mounting straps.



Figure 1. Small strap mounted on an oil wick lamp.



Figure 3. Note the similarity at the base of the spout and the spout construction of these two oil wick lamps.