

T. B. Bickerton Safety Lamps

by J. Roger Mitchell

Thomas Benjamin Bickerton was born December 15, 1838, the son of the real estate magnate Benjamin Bickerton and Anne Errickson. In 1871, Thomas Bickerton started a business with his cousin Joseph Andrews Errickson at 12 South Fourth Street in

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania selling railroad supplies. T.B. Bickerton & Co. operated at this address until 1889 selling railroad, machinists' and miners' supplies, as shown on their letterhead and stamped on their Davy safety lamp.

Order No.

CLAIMS FOR ERRORS MUST BE MADE UPON RECEIPT OF GOODS.

Heimer Machine Works Philadelphia, July 6 1876



Bought of **T. B. BICKERTON & CO.,**

DEALERS IN

RAILROAD, MACHINISTS' AND MINERS' SUPPLIES,

Terms CASH.

NO. 12 SOUTH FOURTH STREET

1 *Davy's Lamp*
orals & acid

65

~~75~~

75

Duphuch & Co.

OFFICE OF

T. B. BICKERTON & CO.,

RAIL ROAD,

MACHINISTS' AND

MINERS' SUPPLIES

No. 12 South Fourth Street.

Philadelphia, August 1876

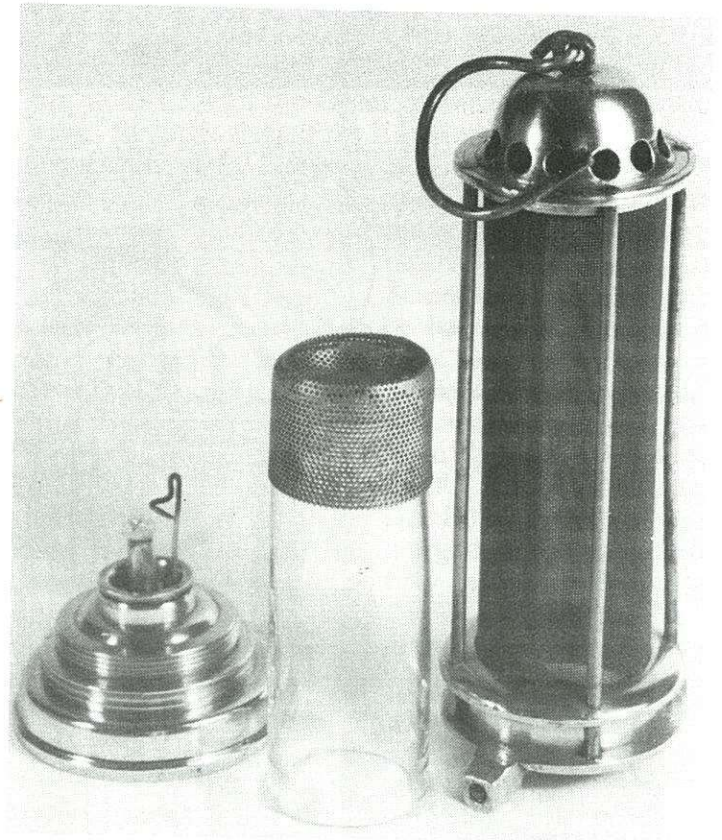
T.B. Bickerton & Co. letterheads from the Bill Lorah collection.

After several minor address changes, the company settled in 1900 at 23 North Sixth Street, Philadelphia, still listed in the City Directory as selling railroad supplies, with no mention of miners' lamps. In 1910, Joseph A. Errickson left to become a conductor with the railroad, and died on December 12, 1912. The Philadelphia City Directory does not list T.B. Bickerton & Co. after 1915, although Thomas himself lived until December 8, 1928.

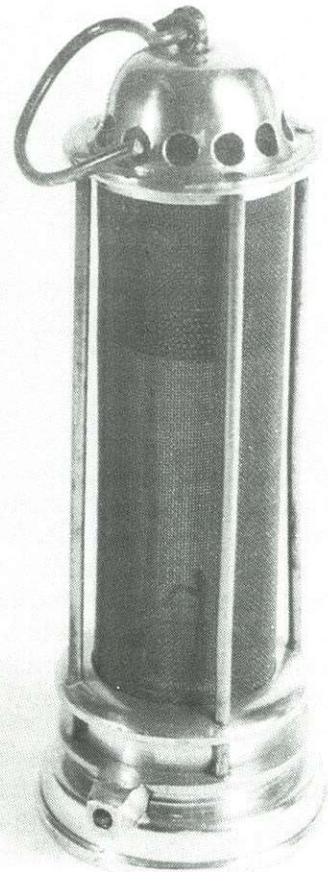
My research uncovers no other information on the Bickerton Company or the safety lamps sold with their stamp. The Davy and Clanny lamps shown here were probably manufactured for Bickerton by an established foundry and lamp manufacturer and custom stamped.



T.B. Bickerton Clanny lamp is 10 inches high, and stamped on the top. From the J. Roger Mitchell collection, photo by R. Pearl.



T.B. Bickerton Davy safety lamp (manufactured by Everhart). Photos courtesy of Bill Lorah.



T.B. BICKERTON & CO.
NO. 12 S. 4TH ST.
MINERS SUPPLIES
PHILADELPHIA