

## Hardsocg Watch Fob

The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania branch of the well-known Hardsocg Manufacturing Co. opened in 1894, with the Imperial brand name being adopted in 1898. This nickel-plated brass advertising watch fob obviously dates from this time or later.

Illustrated in relief are picks, hammer heads, a hat, a shovel, a breast drill, a drill steel, and a blasting needle. Advertising items such as this for mining equipment manufacturing firms are quite rare, especially those illustrating company products. The only exception are the watch fobs produced for Ingersoll-Rand which illustrate rock drills and are commonly seen with fob dealers.



## Oilwick Watch Fob

This watch fob, made in the shape of an oilwick lamp, is unusual since it does not advertise a lamp but rather shovels and scoops. The front reads: "The Best Scoops are marked CLAY BANK Simmons Hardware Co. U.S.A." The obverse reads: Always use Simmons Clay Bank Shovels and Scoops Because They Are The Best, Simmons Hardware Co. U.S.A." A patent date of 12/12/07 appears on the back, along with the name Whitehead & Hoag, a large manufacturer of badges and related items. One must surmise that this piece was made for distribution in a mining area hence the oilwick lamp shape. Does anyone have any information on the location of the Simmons Hardware Co., or whether they were the E.C. Simmons Hardware Co. of Philadelphia who sold a variety of mining items during the early 1900's?

