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Paper 45

Political Campaign Torches

Herbert R. Collins

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"As phase of campaign enthusiam," a cartoon from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, November 13, 1880.
(*Photo courtesy Library of Congress.*)

Herbert R. Collins

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN TORCHES

The political custom of the torchlight parade so characteristic of mid-19th-century campaigning reached its peak in 1876 and continued until the end of the century, when campaign techniques changed. From the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, the Patent Office, and elsewhere, have been gathered pictures of these torches and information about them. Although most political campaign torches are not marked with any type of identification, many have been identified by means of the patent drawings submitted by the patentees. The torches illustrated in this study are listed by date from 1837 to 1900.

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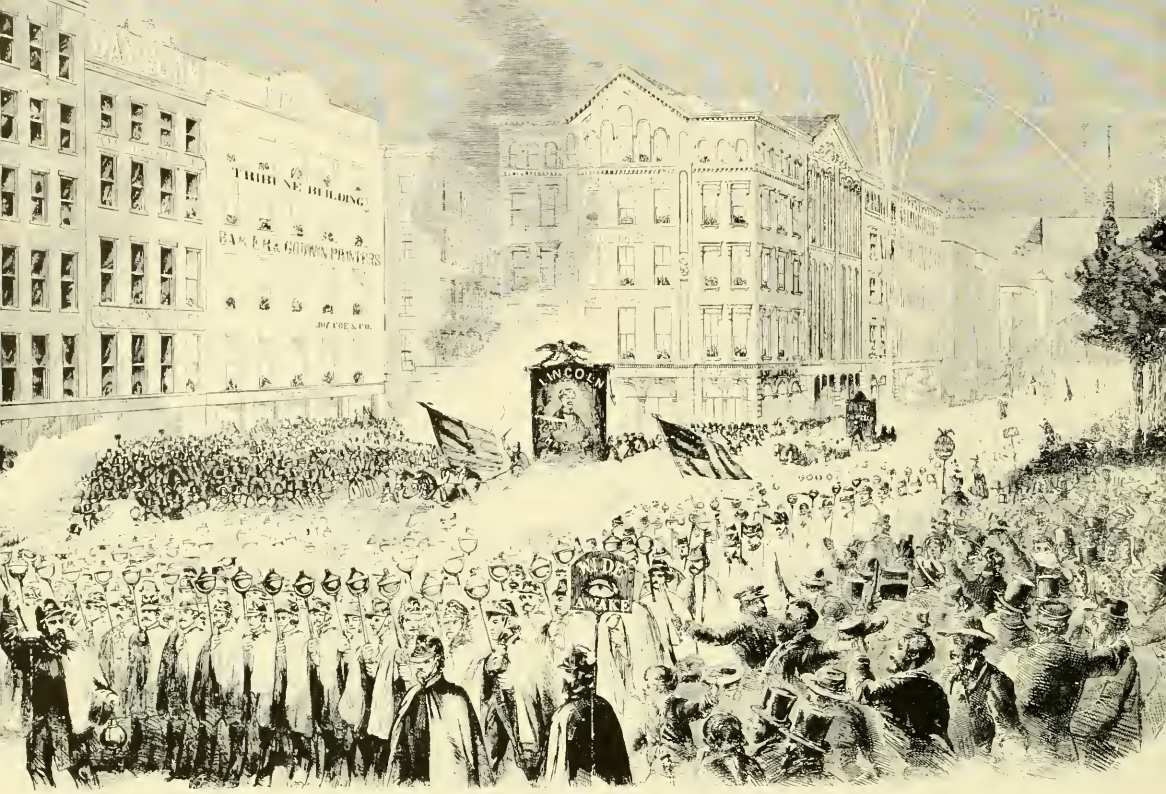
Introduction

THIS CATALOG is a descriptive and interpretive listing of political campaign torches and related lighting devices used in street parades and rallies. Although political campaign torches were patented as early as 1837, it was not until 1860, with the organization of the "Wide-Awakes" and other marching clubs, that torchlight parades achieved prominence in political campaigning. The author will not attempt to analyze what prompted the beginning or ending of torchlight parades. The fact that the parades served as entertainment in the communities, when other types of diversion were unknown, was probably an important factor. It is a recognized fact that these celebrations did much to advertise the candidates, in addition to entertaining the spectators. The parades were given wide coverage throughout this country and even abroad. As early as 1864, *The Illustrated London News* printed exciting stories about the American celebrations.

The marching habit, developed by the "Wide-Awakes" organized for Lincoln in 1860 and continued by veterans' groups after the Civil War, also served to maintain the tradition of marching groups in political parades in the late 19th century. The groups which participated in the torchlight parades were sometimes highly trained paraders who executed a manual of arms similar to that used by the military marching groups. Many were hired marchers who



"Grand procession of wide-awakes at New York on the evening of October 3, 1860," from *Harper's Weekly*, October 13, 1860.

THE WIDE-AWAKE PARADE

[Excerpt from *Harper's Weekly*, New York City, October 13, 1860, p. 650.]

Thousands of torches flashing in high, narrow streets, crowded with eager people, and upon house-fronts in which every window swarms with human faces; with the mingling music of scores of military bands, and the rippling, running, sweeping, and surging sound of huzzas from tens of thousands, but generally a silence like the quiet flow of a vast river; with the waving of banners and moving transparencies of endless device; and through all, out of all, and over all, the splendor of exploding fire-works, of every color—these combined, at night, are an imposing spectacle; and these everyone in the city saw at the Wide-Awake festival on Wednesday night.

It was certainly the nearest approach to a purely poetic popular demonstration that we have had. Torches have no dangerous antecedants. Fireworks are of no party. Splendor and beauty are not yet prescribed. Every man who has at heart the municipal honor or New York (municipal honor?) must have been glad and gratified on Wednesday evening. There was never, perhaps, so immense a political fête which passed off more peacefully. Even the bitterest political opponents of the party to which the organization belongs could not but confess how beautiful the scene was.

Standing at midnight in Broadway, near the corner of Tenth Street, and looking up toward Union Place, you saw the entire street sheeted with flickering light, and Union Place bright with showers of fireworks; while down town, as far as the New York Hotel, and beyond, there was the same blazing torrent of life and enthusiasm, from which, in profuse and incessant explosion, burst the Roman candles of every celestial hue.

* * *

were paid up to $2.00 per person for the job and were not loyal to any one party, but were merely doing an assignment. A large number of these so-called "hired marchers" were actually very young boys who were below the voting age. Fire companies were another group who usually participated in the parades. Already trained in parade tactics and usually possessing uniforms, the firemen could be readily used. Rain or shine, these paraders performed their duty and, in many instances, moved from city to city as the candidate traveled. Business men participating in the parades were sometimes reported to have worn the distinctive apparel of their occupations, but generally the marchers had special uniforms of patriotic colors. Some of these uniforms are in the collections of the division of political history, Museum of History and Technology.

The parades often lasted two to three hours. Banners, torches, flags, and transparencies were carried and, quite often, objects were conveyed through the streets as floats are today. The participants sang campaign songs and shouted slogans. Streamers were strung across the streets and the houses along the parade routes were gayly decorated. The torches were at first rather clumsy, and the paraders wore colorful oilcloth capes to protect their clothing from the kerosene drippings. This led to the development of marching uniforms which enterprising manufacturers later sold complete with a torch for each participant.

Many torches were patented during the last half of the 19th century, but it is doubtful whether all of them were ever actually manufactured. Most of the patents dealt with improvements in the supporting device of the torch, although some involved changes in the design of the torch bowl itself, and a few related to improvements in the wick or burning mechanism. A few homemade torches which were never patented are also known to exist. In 1876, when torchlight parades were nearing their peak, at least five improved or different torches were patented. Techniques in campaigning changed at the turn of the century, however, and torchlight parades declined in frequency and importance.

This study is based on objects in the Museum of History and Technology acquired from Ralph E. Becker, George H. Watson, Carl Haverlin, Mrs. R. A. Hubbard, the estate of Dora R. and Stuart P. Heitmuller, Sam A. Cousley, and The Unexcelled Fireworks Company, all of which are in the collections of the division of political history; on the Anton Heitmuller Collection and the collection of U.S. patent models in the division of cultural history; on the Jewett Tin Collection in the department of arts and manufacturers; and on the private collections of J. Doyle DeWitt, Hartford, Connecticut, and Mrs. Grace D. Williams, Akron, Ohio. Illustrations have also been used from the prints and photographs division and the serials division, Library of Congress; and Patent Office records.

Two of the best sources of documentation for torches have been the United States patent applications in the U.S. Patent Office and the company trade catalogs found in the collections of the Library of Congress and in the Smithsonian Institution. The United States patent records, interferences, and correspondence in the National Archives have also provided useful information. Most of the scenes of the torchlight parades were engravings rather than photographs and, as such, do not lend themselves to correct identification of the torches used.

The following newspapers in the collections of the Library of Congress and the Ralph E. Becker Collection in the Museum of History and Technology, were used: *Harper's Weekly*, *The World*, *New York Daily Tribune*, *Boston Daily Advertiser*, *The Daily Times and Dispatch*, *The Presidency*, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, and *The Illustrated London News*. Also used were items from the Becker Collection: an 1880 circular of E. G. Rideout & Co.; an advertising card of the National Campaign Equipment Company; an illustrated listing of objects sold by Robert Sneider; a scrapbook of Rhode Island newspaper clippings kept by Rt. Rev. W. H. Chandler; and other manuscript material.

Most political campaign torches are not marked with any type of identification. Only in very rare instances does one find the patent date on a torch. However, many can be identified with the patent drawings submitted by the patentee. In some instances, the patent models themselves have been located and these have been included in this study. Considering the number of torches manufactured and sold during the last half of the 19th century, it is amazing how few have survived.

While the real purpose of this study has been to trace the development of political campaign torches made of tin, other lighting devices of a related nature have also been briefly treated, in part because of the difficulty of separating the two types and in part to give the reader a general idea of all lighting devices used in parades.

"Presidential electioneering in New York—torchlight procession of the M'Clellan party," from *The Illustrated London News*, October 15, 1864.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONEERING IN NEW YORK

[Excerpt from *The Illustrated London News*, London, England, October 15, 1864.]

We have engraved two sketches by Mr. C. D. Shanly, of New York, who explains their subjects in the following passage from his letter, dated the 18th ult.:—

"On the night before last there was another tremendous demonstration here in favour of M'Clellan and Pendleton for the presidency and vice-presidency of the United States, respectively. The railings which surround the Park of Union-square (the park is a circle within the square) were hung everywhere with coloured lanterns, and the ten stands erected for the speakers of the night were similarly illuminated. The cannon seemed to be louder, and the fireworks more brilliant and complicated, than I remember to have heard and seen at any similar celebration here. There was an endless torchlight procession of the M'Clellanites belonging to the several wards of the city; and the torches, every now and then, discharged globes of fire and showers of sparks into the air. All was a blaze of many-coloured light, contrasting finely with the cold splendour of the moon, which rose up very bright and clear while the scene was at its height. Conspicuous in the procession were a number of large waggons, draped with the national flag and hung

"Presidential electioneering in New York—a street scene,"
from *The Illustrated London News*, October 15, 1864.

around with Chinese lanterns and other luminous objects. So crowded were these vehicles that they resembled moving pyramids of acrobats. They all displayed an immense variety of transparencies, stranger in their suggestions than Longfellow's 'banner with a strange device'; and I noticed one of them with a large stuffed eagle mounted over it upon rods, in a position intended to represent the sweeping soar of that noble bird. The jokes of Mr. Lincoln were a favorite subject for the legends upon the transparencies—the rather grim one of 'Coal, 14 dols. per ton' being greeted by the populace with groans as it swayed past. One of the waggons bore the ship 'Constitution' — a good-sized vessel, barque rigged, and manned with a crew of young fellows in red shirts. Passing through a dark by-street, a man on horseback galloped past me, pulling up his horse with a jerk every few yards, and discharging a shower of fireworks from some contrivance carried in his hand. As he disappeared into the dark, through which he loomed up here and there in a glory of his wildfire, he suggested the idea of a mounted *ignis fatuus*, come up from his native swamps to contribute to the harmony of the occasion. The sentiment throughout this demonstration was one of disgust with the war; the feeling, that with the election of M'Clellan peace will be restored—somehow."

* * *

GRAND PROCESSION of the "Boys in Blue" at Philadelphia, October 2, 1868. Sketched by Theodore R. Davis. From *Harper's Weekly*, October 17, 1868.

"Procession of the Boys in Blue—The Republican Barbecue in Brooklyn." From *Harper's Weekly*, November 11, 1876.

THE REPUBLICAN BARBECUE

[Excerpt from *Harper's Weekly*, New York City, November 11, 1876, page 915.]

Barbecues are a novelty in this section of the country, although in the West and South they are not uncommon. The Republican barbecue lately given in Myrtle Avenue Park, Brooklyn, of which we give illustrations on page 916, attracted a vast throng of interested spectators—not less than 50,000, it was estimated. The speeches made were listened to with attention and enthusiasm; but curiosity turned to the novel operation of roasting two huge oxen, one weighing 983 and the other 1,000 pounds. This culinary process was performed within an inclosure made of pine logs, gayly festooned with bunting and Chinese lanterns; and about noon sandwiches were made and rapidly distributed to the crowd. The torchlight procession of the "Boys in Blue" in the evening was a striking feature of the festival and a great success.

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THE TOUR OF A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

[Excerpt from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, New York City, October 4, 1884, p. 163.]

Mr. Blaine's campaign tour was marked last week by remarkable displays of popular enthusiasm in some of the principal Cities of New Jersey and New York, and also in Philadelphia. On Monday, the 22d ultimo, leaving New York in a special train, he proceeded to Newark, where he was welcomed by an ovation altogether unprecedented in the history of the city, over 60,000 people uniting in the demonstration, not including 9,300 torchbearers, members of uniformed clubs, who paraded in his honor. At Elizabeth, Rahway, New Brunswick, Princeton, and Trenton, the distinguished candidate was greeted by fresh exhibitions of enthusiasm—vast multitudes assembling to welcome him. At Philadelphia, on the 23d ultimo, he was formerly received by the Union League, and there was a parade of 30,000 men, whose route was a blaze of light and lined by cheering multitudes. Returning to New York, Mr. Blaine, after a night's rest, started in a special train, accompanied by a few friends, on a tour through New York and Ohio. The train was composed of two parlor cars, the Mohawk and Richfield, and one combination parlor and baggage-car. The rear of the Mohawk was handsomely decorated with the National colors. Some thirty persons in all were in the party. At all the towns along the route crowds of people were assembled, and in all cases, Mr. Blaine was welcomed with great enthusiasm. This was notably the fact at Yonkers, Peekskill, Poughkeepsie, Albany, Utica and Syracuse. At the latter place, where Mr. Blaine remained for the night, the whole population seemed to go wild with excitement. The streets were blocked, the houses were illuminated, and all traffic was stopped. For nearly two hours Republican clubs, with torches and fireworks, bands of music, gaudy uniforms and banners, from all the country round marched through the streets. The crowd only dispersed when Mr. Blaine, after reviewing the procession, made a brief address and gracefully said goodnight.

On the following day Mr. Blaine continued his journey to Buffalo, stopping *en route* at the Oswego County Fair. At Auburn 10,000 persons, nearly all voters, welcomed him. Seneca Falls, Waterloo, Geneva and Canandaigua turned out their thousands, and Rochester greeted him by an immense outpouring of people. Batavia and other small towns brought other thousands to greet the candidate; while the day was closed by a monster demonstration in Buffalo. From Buffalo Mr. Blaine proceeded to Cleveland, where he remained over Sunday.

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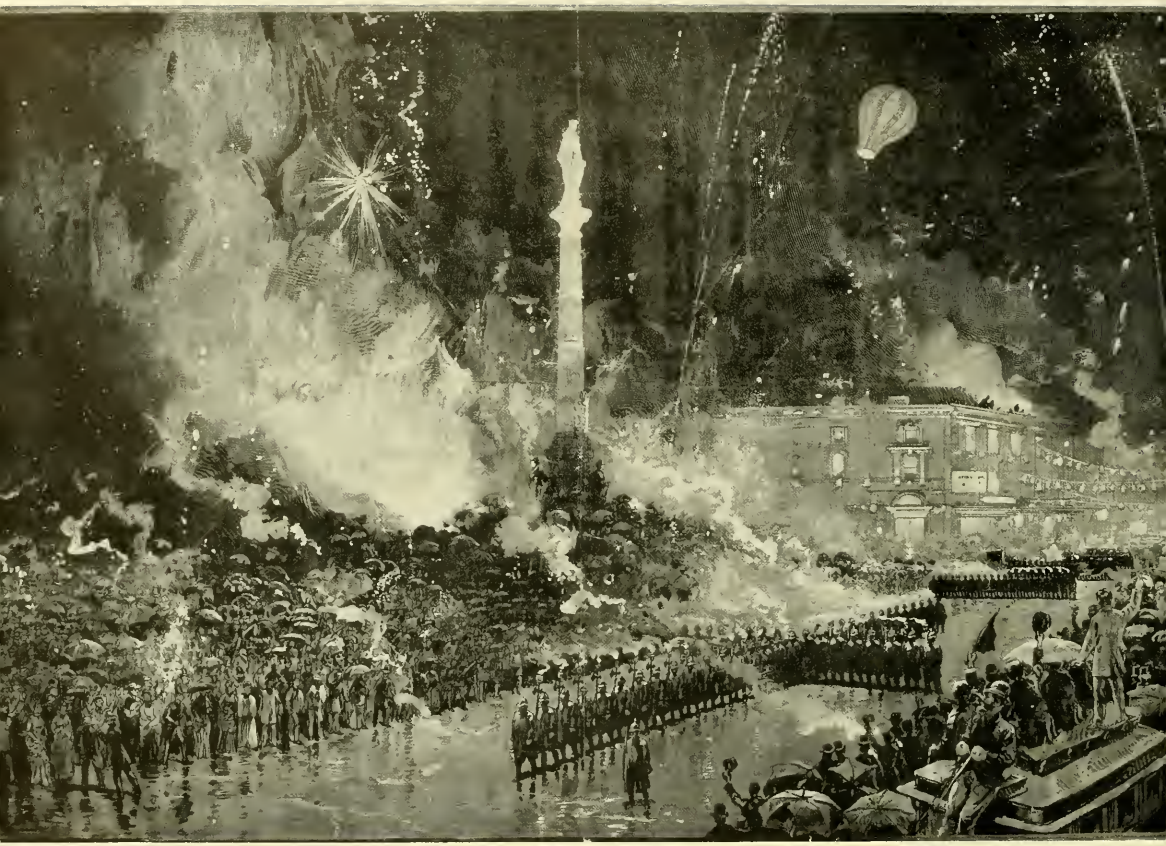


"The grand popular reception of Governor Cleveland in Buffalo—the procession passing through Main Street." A torchlight procession welcoming the governor. From *Harper's Weekly*, October 11, 1884.

GOVERNOR CLEVELAND IN BUFFALO

[Excerpt from *Harper's Weekly*, New York City, October 11, 1884, p. 669.]

In spite of the pouring rain which deluged the streets of Buffalo from morning till late at night, the reception of Governor CLEVELAND in that city of the 2d inst. was a grand popular success. No demonstration of equal magnitude and enthusiasm was ever before witnessed in Buffalo. From the moment of alighting from the train until he bade the cheering throng good-night at his hotel, he was greeted with constant tributes of popular esteem and honor. The city blazed with illuminations and fire-works, and the crowded streets presented an aspect of general festivity and rejoicing.

The Governor and his party left Albany about half past one in the afternoon in a special train for Buffalo, and all along the route was greeted by enthusiastic crowds wherever the train stopped. He reached Buffalo a few minutes after eight o'clock; and as soon as the party had entered the carriages at the station, the procession, which was waiting on the streets nearby, formed in line. The rain now came down harder than at any previous hour through the day, and hundreds of men who had intended to march in the line withdrew, declaring that they could not stand the deluge. The procession was thus much reduced, but the greater number, moved by an earnest determination to show their devotion to Governor CLEVELAND, pluckily took their places. "We ought not to shrink," said Chairman SCHEU, of the County Committee. "Four years ago, at our biggest demonstration, Governor CLEVELAND marched over the whole line carrying a torch, and it rained as hard as it does to-night."

All the principal streets of the city were decorated with flags, transparencies, and pictures of the Governor. Chinese lanterns were burning all over the front of many buildings and upon ropes stretched from one building to another across the streets. Colored fire burned on the tops of many business blocks. The Governor's carriage was drawn by eight white horses. When it appeared on Main Street, that thoroughfare seemed to be ablaze with fire-works. Cheer after cheer went up as he passed along through the thronging multitude. The scene was such as had never been witnessed before in Buffalo. As the procession marched up the street, its magnificent proportions became apparent. Well to the front came the Buffalo Legion, the finest body of men formed into a political club in that city in years. Following them came various political organizations of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Batavia, Jamestown, and almost every other city and town in Western New York. Many of them carried torches, and nearly every club carried a transparency. The mottoes were various, but the majority referred in some way to the admitted honesty of Governor CLEVELAND and the bad reputation of Mr. BLAINE. The route chosen for the procession was about four miles long, going up Main Street, around several blocks, and back to the Genesee House. When Governor CLEVELAND had been over the route the procession had little more than half passed. The procession was fully two hours passing a given point, and must have included at least 18,000 men.

When the Governor's carriage was driven up to his hotel, he was again greeted with loud and prolonged cheering, and his appearance on the balcony, when the procession had fully passed, was again the signal for a tremendous burst of applause. Mr. HENRY MARTIN, President of the Manufacturers' and Traders' Bank, delivered an appropriate and telling address of welcome, to which Governor CLEVELAND made a brief felicitous response, thanking the people of Buffalo for their demonstration of esteem and confidence. In conclusion he said:

> "Because I love my State and her people I can not refrain from reminding you that she should be in the van of every movement which promises a safer and better administration of the general government, so closely related to her prosperity and greatness. And let me leave you with the thought that your safety lies in impressing upon the endeavor of those intrusted with the guardianship of your rights and interests a pure, patriotic, and exacting popular sentiment. The character of the government can hardly rise higher than the source from which it springs, and the integrity and faithfulness of public servants are not apt to be greater than the public demand."

The counter-march of the procession began at midnight, and for two hours the Governor remained on the balcony watching the parade. Thus ended the largest and most significant political demonstration ever witnessed in Buffalo.

* * *

GOVERNOR CLEVELAND'S RECEPTION IN BROOKLYN

[Excerpt from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, New York City, October 25, 1884, p. 151.]

A great Democratic demonstration took place in the City of Brooklyn on the 16th instant. Two of the principal features were a barbecue at Ridgewood Park and a parade in honor of Governor Cleveland, who was the guest of the Democracy of the city. In the forenoon, the Governor was given receptions in the Academy of Music and the Pierrepont House, where he was waited upon by a large number of prominent citizens. The procession was some three miles in length and was one of the most notable which has been seen in Brooklyn. The Governor rode in an open carriage drawn by four horses, and was everywhere received with great enthusiasm. The streets were crowded with people, and the houses in many places gayly festooned. When passing No. 90 Lafayette Avenue, some fifty children dressed in white appeared with hands full of flowers which they threw into the Governor's carriage . . . .

The procession reached the park shortly after two o'clock, amid the booming of cannon and the cheers of the crowd already on the ground. In the large dining-room of the hotel was spread a table for 250 guests. Three oxen had been roasted, and were ready for carving at twelve o'clock. They were Kentucky steers, and weighed in the aggregate of 5,500 pounds. The beef was cut in juicy slices, while a corps of forty men made them up into delicious sandwiches. It is estimated that the multitude consumed 60,000 sandwiches, washed down with 5,000 kegs of beer. Later in the day, Governor Cleveland made a brief address to the multitude, and in the evening reviewed a torchlight parade.

THE TORCH-LIGHT PARADER

[Excerpt from *Harper's Weekly*, New York City, October 8, 1892, p. 971.]

"Campaign equipments," as lavishly advertised and sold for a month past, do not mean tabulated statements of the workings of the McKinley bill, or party platforms, or any other kind of furnishing for the intellectual apparatus. They are tin helmets and breastplates, wooden spears and battle axes with kerosene torches at their tops, and leggings, capes, and tunics in limitless variety of shape, material, and color. The American voter is not without the sense of humor, and will probably take it in good part if, when he has rigged himself out in all this fantastic toggery, he is compared to that gorgeous squad that formed the military escort of Dromedary Dodd's Hebdomadal Picnics in Mr. Stevenson's story of "The Wreckers." Describing the punctual picnic band, "booming down street with . . . . some score of gratuitous asses prancing at the head in bearskin hats and buckskin aprons, and conspicuous with resplendent axes," Mr. Dodd adds that the band was paid, but that, thanks to a passion for public masquerade, the asses pranced for the love of it, and cost nothing but their luncheon.

Our torch-light campaigners resemble Mr. Dodd's assistants in being gratuitous, but whether they are equally entitled to rank as asses depends partly on the state of the spectator's liver, and partly on whether they are justified in the impression that torch-light parades stir up political enthusiasm, influence the doubtful voters, and help to keep wavering allies in the field.

Men banded together are much more subject to a common impulse than individuals taken separately, and there is some practical political sense in getting the party-men together, and rubbing them up against one another in the promotion of a common end. The contagion of endeavor reaches the listless ones, their interest is stirred, and they not only take hold themselves but go out and bring other waverers in. There is no easier way of binding a man to a cause or a party than to get him to do a little work for it. All men cannot be orators, or editors, or ward bosses, or even patient listeners, but any man with arms and legs can carry a kerosene torch around the streets, and come reasonably near keeping step with a band. The theory is that the fidelity of the voter who undertakes such simple political labor is clinched, and that his example has an effect besides on the unorganized multitude. Of course the shinier his helmet is, and the more elaborate his costume, the farther his example will reach; so that very considerable sums of money are spent every four years in tricking him out and paying the musicians whom he follows. It is an odd use of money, and a curious form of political energy, but the torch-light procession habit seems to be firmly fixed on both parties just now, and they show no signs of shaking it off. Every four years a good many former enthusiasts attain to the conclusion that it is asinine to prance, but their dereliction is more than made up by new voters whose discrimination is less sophisticated, and whose passion for masquerade has not yet been appeased. And so the spectacular end of politics is regularly attended to, and the trade in "equipments" continues brisk.

CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENTS.

N. EAMES & CO.,

46 West Broadway, New York City,

Manufacturers and Dealers in Banners, Caps, Capes, Torches, Shirts, Belts, Campaign Tenor Drums, Transparencies, Flags, Streamers, Bunting, Eames's "Official" Campaign Badge, Portraits of Candidates in six oil colors (two by three feet) for Banners, Club-Rooms, &c., Presidential Grand March Campaign Song-Book, entirely new Campaign Songs, Fireworks, Colored Tableaux, Lights for Meetings at night, embracing more articles than all other dealers combined. Furnish latest patterns and designs at rates 10 to 50 per cent. less than others in the business.

The **Eames "Official" Campaign Badge,** adopted by all the leading Clubs and political organizations in the Union—trade price, $12 per gross, net cash. Samples of each sent, postpaid, on receipt of 25c.

We offer greatly reduced rates on open-work Banners with candidates' Portraits in six oil colors, and have facilities for producing 100 Banners per day, at rates 25 per cent. less than other dealers. Send address on "postal" for mammoth Illustrated Sheet, containing *fac-simile* designs of our campaign goods in great variety, at reduced rates.

Clubs send address on "postal," and receive our Colored Circular. Special inducements offered. Clubs or parties sending address on "postal" will receive our grand Supplement, issued Sept. 1st and Oct. 15th, containing over 100 designs of our goods. Do not delay, but send immediately.

N. EAMES & CO.,
46 West Broadway, New York City.

ADVERTISEMENT OF CAMPAIGN EQUIPMENTS, including torches, in *Harper's Weekly*, September 9, 1876.
(*Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.*)

MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF POLITICAL TORCHES AS COMPILED FROM NEWSPAPERS AND TRADE CATALOGS

Aikman, S. M. & Co., 261 Pearl Street, New York, N.Y. (1872)

Campaign Manufacturing Co., 10 Barclay St., New York, N.Y. (1884)

Detwiller, Street & Co., Manufacturers, No. 9 Dey St., New York, N.Y. (1876)

The Domestic Mfg. Co., Wallingford, Conn. (1888)

The Eagle Fire Works, East Williamsburg, Long Island, N.Y. (1888). (A company established in Long Island in 1859.)

Eames, N. & Co., 46 West Broadway, New York, N.Y. (1876)

Hitchcock, B. W., 98 Spring St., New York, N.Y. (1868)

Horsman, E. I., 100 Williams St., New York, N.Y. (1872)

Kelley & Co., 95 John St., New York, N.Y. (1872)

The Masten & Wells Fireworks Manufacturing Company, Boston, Mass. (1896)

McCurdy & Durham, 16 South Fifth St., Reading, Pa. (1884)

National Campaign Equipment Company, 13 East Houston Street, New York, N.Y. (1884)

Naughton, John W., 175 William St., New York, N.Y. (1868)

New England Campaign Uniform Co., 115 & 117 Hanover, Cor. Friend St., Boston, Mass. (1888)

Novelty Manufacturing & Publishing Company, 432 Broome St., New York, N.Y. (1872)

O'Brien, J. T. & Sons, 626 Penn St., Reading, Pa. (1884)

Peck & Snyder, Manufacturers, 124 & 126 Nassau St., New York, N.Y. (1872, 1876, 1880, 1884)

Pitkin & Co., 110 Chambers St., New York, N.Y., and 71 North Second St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1872)

Reed, G. M. & Bros., Manufacturers, 206 Broadway, New York, N.Y. (1868)

Rhode Island Toy and Fireworks Company, 23 Weybosset St., Providence, R.I. (1888)

Richards & Markt, 55 Murray St., New York, N.Y. (1868)

Rideout, E. G. & Co., 10 Barclay St., New York, N.Y. (1880)

Smith, Geo. D., Agent, 886 River St., Troy, N.Y. (1880)

Snyder, Ward B., Manufacturers, 84 Fulton St., New York, N.Y. (1876)

Spalding, A. G. & Bros., Manufacturers, 108 Madison St., Chicago, Ill. (On March 1, 1876, Albert G. Spalding and J. Walter Spalding of Chicago, Ill. founded the firm of A. G. Spalding & Bro., with a capital of $800. Two years later, their brother-in-law, William T. Brown came into the business and the firm was changed to A. G. Spalding & Bros.)

Wilkinson, John & Co., 55 State Street, Chicago, Ill. (1888)

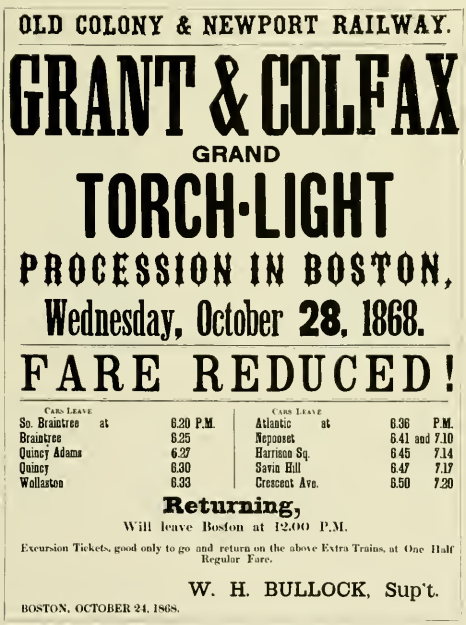
The Unexcelled Fireworks Company, New York, N.Y., and St. Louis, Mo. Incorporated in 1874 with establishments at both New York and St. Louis. (1883, 1888, 1889)

United States Campaign Equipment Manufacturing Company, 667 Broadway (in Grand Central Hotel block), New York, N.Y., Frank J. Atwell, Manager. (1884)

ADVERTISEMENT OF CAMPAIGN GOODS illustrating torches in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, November 13, 1880. (*Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.*)

ADVERTISEMENT of Smith's musket torch in *Harper's Weekly*, September 25, 1880. (*Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.*)

Advertisement of Shaler's patent parade torch in *Harper's Weekly*, August 31, 1872. (*Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.*)



Broadside announcing a torchlight procession in Boston, 1868. (USNM 227739; Smithsonian photo 52705.)

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Hough, Walter. *Collection of heating and lighting utensils in the United States National Museum.* (U.S. National Museum Bulletin 141.)

Masten and Wells Fireworks Mfg. Co. *Descriptive catalogue of fireworks, flags and decorations, balloons, lanterns, Fourth of July and campaign goods.* Boston, Massachusetts, 1896.

Peck and Snyder. *Peck and Snyder price list of out and indoor sports and pastimes.* New York (130 Nassau Street), 1886, pp. 126, 128.

Spaulding, A. G. and Bros., Inc. *Seventy-first Annual Report* [for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1947].

Thompson, B. F. *The Wide Awakes of 1860. Magazine of History with Notes and Queries* (November 1909), vol. 10, pp. 293–296.

Unexcelled Fireworks Co. *Illustrated campaign hand book manual of arms and tactics, and catalogue of equipments for political organizations for the presidential campaign of 1888.* New York and St. Louis, 1888.

———. *Catalogue of Unexcelled Fireworks Co.* New York and St. Louis, 1883.

———. *Catalogue of Unexcelled Fireworks Co.* New York and St. Louis, 1889.

———. *1884 campaign hand book and illustrated price list of campaign goods and fireworks of the Unexcelled Fireworks Co.* New York (9 & 11 Park Place), 1884.

U.S. Politics. *Life* (July 4, 1960), vol. 49, no. 1, pp. 90, 91.

MANUAL OF ARMS FOR CAMPAIGN CLUBS

[The following "Manual of Arms" is from the 1888 *Illustrated Campaign Handbook*, The Unexcelled Fireworks Company, pp. 91–95.]

1, *Carry*, 2. Arms.

1. The piece is in the right hand; the barrel nearly vertical, and resting in the hollow of the shoulder, the guard to the front; the arm hanging nearly at its full length, near the body, the thumb and forefinger embracing the guard, the remaining fingers closed together and grasping the stock just under the hammer, which rests on the little finger. This is the position of *carry arms*.

1. *Present*, 2. Arms.

2. Carry the piece with the right hand, in front of the centre of the body, at the same time grasp it with the left hand at the lower band, the forearm horizontal and resting against the body. (Two.) Grasp the small of the stock with the right hand, below and against the guard.

1. *Carry*, 2. Arms. Resume the carry with the right hand. (Two.) Drop the left hand by the side.

1. *Support*, 2. Arms.

3. Carry the piece in front of the centre of the body; grasp it with the left hand at the lower band, and raise this hand to the height of the chin; at the same time grasp the piece with the right hand, four inches below the hammer. (Two.) Carry the piece opposite the left shoulder, barrel to the front; pass the left forearm extended between the right hand and the hammer, support the hammer on the left forearm, the left forearm horizontal, the wrist straight. (Three.) Drop the right hand by the side.

1. *Carry*, 2. Arms. Grasp the piece with the right hand under and against the left forearm; turn the piece with this hand, and carry it in front of the centre of the body; grasp it with the left hand at the lower band, the left forearm horizontal. (Two and Three.) Same as from *present*.

1. *Order*, 2. Arms.

4. Grasp the piece with the left hand, the forearm horizontal, let go with the right hand; lower the piece quickly with the left, regrasping it with the right above the lower band, the little finger in rear of the barrel, the hand near the thigh, the butt about three inches from the ground, the left hand steadying the piece near the right, the fingers extended and joined. (Two.) Lower the piece gently to the ground with the right hand, drop the left hand by the side, and take the position to be described.

Position of Order Arms.

5. The arm hanging naturally, elbow close to the body, the back of the hand to the right, the fingers extended and joined; the barrel between the thumb and forefinger extended along the stock; the toe of the butt against the toe of the right foot, the barrel to the rear and vertical.

To Rest.

6. Being at order arms, the instructor commands: 1. *In place*. 2. Rest.

To resume the attention, the instructor commands: 1. *Squad*, 2. Attention.

Resume the position of *order arms*.

Being at order arms, to give the men rest, imposing both steadiness of position and silence, the instructor commands:

1. *Parade*, 2. Rest.

7. At the command *rest*, carry the muzzle in front of the centre of the body, the barrel to the left; grasp the piece with the left hand just above, and with the right hand at the upper band; carry the right foot three inches straight to the rear, the left knee slightly bent. To resume *order arms*, the instructor commands: 1. *Squad*. 2. Attention.

1. *Carry*, 2. Arms. Raise the piece vertically with the right hand, grasping it at the same time with the left above the right, resume the carry with the right hand. (Two.) Drop the left hand by the side.

1. *Trail*, 2. Arms.

8. Same as the first motion of *order arms*. (Two.) Incline the muzzle slightly to the front, the butt to the rear; drop the left hand by the side.

1. *Carry*, 2. Arms. At the command *carry*, bring the piece to a vertical position with the right hand, the little finger in rear of the barrel; at the command *arms*, execute what has been prescribed for the *carry*, from the position of *order arms*.

Being at a carry, the instructor commands:

1. *Right Shoulder*, 2. Arms.

9. Raise the piece vertically with the right hand; grasp it with the left at the lower band, and raise this hand till it is at the height of the chin; at the same time embrace the butt with the right hand, the toe between the first two fingers, the other fingers under the plate. (Two.) Raise the piece and place it on the right shoulder, the lock-plate up, the muzzle elevated and inclined to the left; so that, viewed from the front, the line of the stock from the toe to the guard, shall appear parallel to the row of buttons; slip the left hand down to the lock-plate. (Three.) Drop the left hand by the side.

1. *Carry*, 2. Arms. Carry the butt slightly to the left, and lower the piece with the right hand; grasp it with the left at the lower band, the hand at the height of the chin, the barrel to the rear, and vertical. (Two.) Resume the carry with the right hand. (Three.) Drop the left hand by the side.

10. Being at a support, to come to a right shoulder, the instructor commands:

1. *Right Shoulder*, 2. Arms.

Grasp the piece with the right hand at the small of the stock, and carry it in front of the centre of body, grasping it with the left hand at the lower band, the hand at the height of the chin. (Two.) Carry and place the piece on the right shoulder, the lock-plate up, the right hand embracing the butt; slip the left hand to the lock-plate. (Three.) Drop the left hand by the side.

1. *Support*, 2. Arms.

11. Carry the butt slightly to the left, and lower the piece with the right hand in front of the centre of the body; grasp it with the left hand at the lower band, the hand at the height of the chin; change the right hand to the small of the stock, four inches below the hammer. (Two.) Carry the piece opposite the left shoulder, barrel to the front, the hammer resting on the left forearm. (Three.) Drop the right hand by the side.

CARRY ARMS

PRESENT ARMS

SUPPORT ARMS

ORDER ARMS

PARADE REST

RIGHT SHOULDER ARMS

ARMS PORT

SALUTE ARMS

Being at a carry, the instructor commands:

1. *Arms*, 2. PORT.

12. Throw the piece diagonally across the body, the lock to the front; grasp it smartly at the same instant, with both hands, the right at the small of the stock, the left at the lower band, the barrel sloping upward and crossing opposite the point of the left shoulder, the butt proportionately lowered. The palm of the right hand is above, and that of the left under the piece, the nails of both hands next the body, to which the elbows are closed.

1. *Carry*, 2. ARMS. Resume the carry with the right hand. (Two.) Drop the left hand by the side.

1. *Sergeants*, 2. SALUTE.

13. Being at a carry, raise the left hand and arm horizontally to the front, palm of the hand down, the fingers extended. (Two.) Bend the left elbow, carrying the hand around till the forefinger strikes the piece in the hollow of the right shoulder, retaining it there till the salute is acknowledged. (Three.) Return to the position of the first motion. (Four.) Drop the left hand by the side.

14. The recruits being at order arms, torches fixed, the instructor commands:

1. *Salute*, ARMS.

Each recruit tosses his piece quickly with the right hand opposite the left eye, catching it with the left hand between the rear-sight and the lower band, the thumb extended along the stock, the barrel to the right, and inclined slighty to the front, the hand at the height of the chin, dropping the right hand by the side.

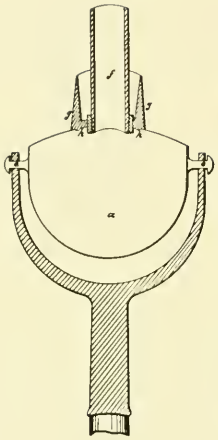


Figure 1.—Campaign torch, 1837, as shown in patent 248, issued June 30, 1837.

Figure 2.—Patent model of 1860 campaign torch. (Smithsonian photo 50555.)

Figure 3.—Double-burner campaign torch, 1860, Jewett Tin Collection. (Smithsonian photo 50550.)

Catalog of Torches

CAMPAIGN TORCH, 1837 *Figure 1*

No example found.

One of the earliest patented torches on record in the U.S. Patent Office, was that patented by Jeremiah Martin of Boston, Massachusetts, in 1837. This particular torch was designed with a receptacle cup to catch any oil which might leak or flow from the bowl, especially if the torch was tilted while carried by hand. The excluded oil would then run back into the reservoir or bowl of the torch. Classified by the patentee as a "campaign torch," it was made to swivel and could be tilted when used in parades.

CAMPAIGN TORCH, 1860 *Figure 2*

USNM 332319, (Patent model)

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

In 1860, an important feature was added to the parade torch. L. T. Pitkin of Hartford, Connecticut, patented a frame which featured a ring to form a revolving and oscillating frame containing the lamp or torch. With the development of this feature, the torch bowl would always remain in an upright position regardless of how it was tilted. This was a great improvement over the old type which required the paraders to wear oilcloth capes in order to prevent

Figure 4.—Campaign torch, circa 1860. (Smithsonian photo 49927–A.)

Figure 5.—Small tin torch, 1860. (Smithsonian photo 49457–B.)

the drippings from falling on their clothing. Another feature of this invention is that when tilted, the joints from which the lamps are hung do not come into direct contact with the flame. The patentee pointed out that earlier models made of soft metal had resulted in melted joints, causing them to unsolder and fall apart. The bowl of this torch measures 5 inches in diameter and is 3½ inches high, while the inner oscillating frame is 6¼ inches in diameter.

DOUBLE-BURNER CAMPAIGN TORCH, 1860 *Figure 3*

USNM 245425 (Jewett Tin Collection)

C. H. Cooper of New York, in 1860, also patented a similar torch to the one illustrated in figure 2, using the same device which L. T. Pitkin had devised, but increasing the lighting effect by adding another wick thus making a double-light torch. The bowl of the torch also was made so that the double burner could be removed and a single one inserted if desired.

CAMPAIGN TORCH, CIRCA 1860 *Figure 4*

USNM 245215.1 (Watson accession)

This funnel-shaped torch follows the same patented idea as that of L. T. Pitkin. The bowl is 5 inches high and the diameter is 4½ inches. The burner is rather crude and contains a cork stopper pushed into a 1-inch-high receptacle soldered to the top of the bowl. An additional patent was not located for this torch, and since the mechanism is so similar to that of Pitkin's, it was probably never issued.

SMALL TIN TORCH, 1860 *Figure 5*

USNM 240719 (Haverlin accession)

This small tin fount torch contains a simple burner and a wick. The legend "Hurrah for Lincoln" appears to be contemporary and suggests that it was used either during the political campaign of 1860, 1864, or both. The torch is inscribed on the bottom as having been used in South Haven, Michigan. It is 5¾ inches high including the wick and has a diameter of 3¼ inches. The supporting device is 11 inches high.

Figure 6.—Rifle torch, 1880.
(Smithsonian photo 46685-A.)

Figure 7.—Platform torch, 1860.
(Smithsonian photo 49457-A.)

RIFLE TORCH, 1860 AND 1880 *Figure 6*

USNM 15386 (Unexcelled Fireworks accession)

This very interesting torch of the 1860 vintage is made as a replica of the Civil War musket and similar to that claimed to have been used by the "Wide Awakes" of 1860.[1] It is composed almost completely of wood with metal fittings. The muskets were very lightweight and if the common swivel-type torch was affixed to the barrel, the torch had a tendency to become top-heavy. Thus, the torch proved clumsy for the manual of arms; also, when tilted at various angles, the reserve burning fluid would spill and the flame would be adversely affected. Many collectors believe the torch illustrated in figure 6 to be of the 1860 period; however, the writer feels that the earlier ones did have the swivel-type torch bowl such as the one found illustrated in the cited reference in footnote 1, rather than the stationary tube type illustrated in figure 6. The end of the barrel of the illustrated torch seems to suggest a later date, for a torch of this type was not actually patented until 1880.[2] Made primarily of wood and metal, this torch is 54 inches long including the wick. The stock, made of wood and forming part of the barrel, measures 40½ inches. The muzzle of the barrel is made of tin. The trigger guard and the imitation percussion lock are both made of metal; the percussion lock was of the type used in military weapons from 1855–1863.

[1] J. Doyle DeWitt, *America Goes to the Polls* (Hartford, Connecticut: The Travelers Insurance Companies. August 1960).

[2] See figure 27 on page 27 of this study for the patent of G. D. Smith on the rifle torch.

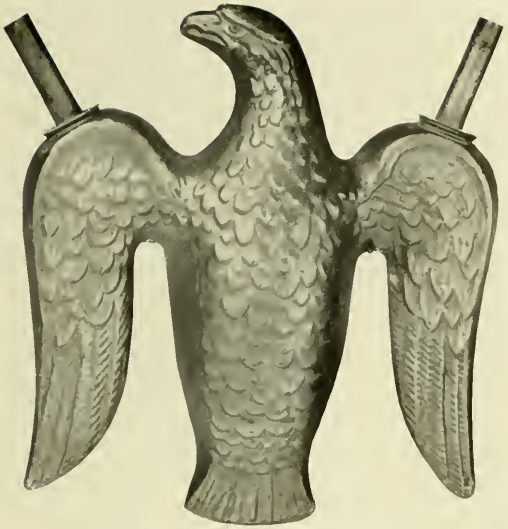


Figure 8.—Eagle torch, 1860.
(Smithsonian photo 50553.)

Figure 9.—Fireman's torch, 1860.
(Smithsonian photo 50548.)

PLATFORM TORCH, 1860 *Figure 7*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

Of a more unusual nature is this platform torch made of tin, containing three wicks. This particular torch, with a cylinder 10 inches long and 4½ inches in diameter, has been attributed by some collectors as being from the campaign of 1860. Since no patent or contemporary illustration has been located for this example, the writer has been unable to either prove or disprove this theory. The flames illustrated are artificial for display purposes.

EAGLE TORCH, 1860 *Figure 8*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

Unusually refined in design, this eagle torch, painted bronze, is identical to one which is claimed to have been used in the campaign of 1860 and now is in the collection of the Detroit Historical Society. Another is in the J. Doyle DeWitt Collection and is identified as an "Eagle torchiere carried by the 'Roman Legion' in Harrison's inaugural parade" in 1841. Other examples have been seen by the writer in other collections. The torch in figure 8 is supported by a loop under each wing and a torch-wick opening appears on the top of each wing. The body of the eagle serves as a receptacle for the oil. Wingtip to wingtip, the eagle torch measures 9 inches and the body of the eagle measures 10 inches. No record of a patent or contemporary illustration has been found by the writer for this model.

FIREMAN'S TORCH 1860 *Figure 9*

USNM Collection

This fireman's torch is believed to have been used in the Lincoln campaign of 1860. It consists of a wooden handle with a funnel-shaped end on which is meshed wire and a wick. The torch is 26½ inches long including the handle. The head of the torch is 3¼ inches in diameter.

HOMEMADE TORCH, 1860 *Figure 10*

USNM 289457 (Heitmuller accession)

Homemade torches, crudely made of tin and fitted with a gas-pipe wick tube and claimed to have been used in a torchlight procession during the Lincoln campaign, were in the possession of the Heitmuller family of Washington in the early 20th century. One such torch was given the United States National Museum on December 11, 1915, and can be found in the

Figure 10.—Homemade torch, 1860.
(Smithsonian photo 30818–G.)

collections of the division of cultural history. Two other examples of this torch were acquired by the United States National Museum on September 17, 1959, from the Heitmuller heirs and are now in the division of political history. Other examples were put on the open market and are now in the hands of dealers and collectors. An illustration and description of this torch also appears in a United States National Museum publication entitled *Collection of heating and lighting utensils in the United States National Museum*. The diameter of this torch is 4½ inches, the torch bowl is 7⅝ inches high and the overall length including the metal rod handle is 34 inches. The torches swivel and the weight of the pipe in the top cause them to be top-heavy. Some of the torches appear to have been weighted to give them balance.

TRANSPARENCY, 1860 *Figure 11*

USNM 238747 (Hubbard accession)

Color transparencies were widely used during the campaign of 1860. Made of cheesecloth canvas supported by a wooden frame, these objects contained torches and were quite effective in parades. One example often seen in engravings was that bearing an extremely large eye showing the eyeball and lashes and bearing the wording "Wide Awakes." Such a transparency appears in the illustration shown on page 4. Another interesting transparency is this triangular object which has a legend on each side with one side having both a legend and a cutout engraving of Abraham Lincoln. A three-burner torch fastened to the inside came with the transparency illustrated in this figure. Each side of the transparency is 27½ inches wide and 21½ inches high.

Figure 11.—Transparency, 1860.
(Smithsonian photo 48331–A.)

TIN LANTERN, 1864 *Figure 12*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

In 1864, several interesting illuminating lanterns appeared on the market. This one, made of tin, contains three panels, each measuring 6¼ inches by 8 inches and each containing a glass with a design pasted on the outside to prevent its paper from burning. This particular lantern features a likeness of George McClellan on one side, the legend "Union and the Constitution" on the second side, and the legend "Little Mac" on the third side. The paper inserts were often copyrighted and examples are found in the collections of the prints and photographs division, Library of Congress. Although some have survived, the paper flakes off very easily and, for that reason, they are likely to deteriorate beyond recognition without proper care.

Figure 12.—Tin lantern, 1864. (Smithsonian photo 84721.)

Figure 13.—Campaign lantern, 1864, as shown in patent 1971, issued July 19, 1864.

Figure 14.—Tin lantern with glass panels, 1864. (*Courtesy of The New-York Historical Society, New York City.*)

CAMPAIGN LANTERN, 1864 *Figure 13*

No example found.

Similar in style to the lantern illustrated in figure 12, this campaign lantern was patented by I. S. Clough and Vincent Fountain, Jr., of New York, July 19, 1864 (patent 1971). There is a medallion-type panel on one side for any portrait; the one illustrated is that of Lincoln wearing a beard, and surrounded by a blue ground on which there are white stars representing the "Union." On the two other sides, there are alternately red and white horizontal stripes representing the field of the flag. On one of the two sides bearing the stripes, is the wording "Lincoln the man." The three sides combined thus make up the design of the American flag with a medallion upon its "Union." Although the author has not seen this particular lantern, a similar four-paneled lantern is owned by The New-York Historical Society and is discussed in the following item.

TIN LANTERN, 1864 *Figure 14*

The New-York Historical Society Collections

This particular lantern is made of tin and only two of the panels contain a design. On one is an engraving of Lincoln wearing a beard, while on the other is an eagle and shield inscribed "Union"; the third side is painted pink, and the fourth is plain.

CAMPAIGN TORCH, 1868 *Figure 15*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

This very plain torch, with a bowl composed of two cups of equal size soldered together, is of the 1868 period. On the torch, probably applied by the parader, are the last names of the Republican candidates in the campaign of 1868. The torch bowl measures 4 inches in diameter and is 3¾ inches high.

TIN TORCH, CIRCA 1868 *Figure 16*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

This torch has a supporting device of tin with turned edges. It is similar to one in the collection of J. Doyle DeWitt which is claimed to be of the 1868 period. The torch is of simple construction and was probably produced very economically. The bowl of the torch is 5 inches high and 4⅜ inches in diameter. The supporting device is 8 inches in length. A rivet fastens the torch to the swinging device.

DOUBLE-BURNER TIN TORCH, CIRCA 1868 *Figure 17*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

A second torch of the type just described, is similar in construction to that in figure 16, but differs in shape, and has two burners instead of the usual one. The torch is fastened to the frame by heavy wire. The two representations of flames have been added

Figure 15.—Campaign torch, 1868. (Smithsonian photo 49457–C.)

Figure 16.—Tin torch, circa 1868. (Smithsonian photo 49926–A.)

Figure 17.—Double-burner tin torch, circa 1868. (Smithsonian photo 49927–D.)

Figure 18.—Small tin torch, circa 1868. (Smithsonian photo 49926–C.)

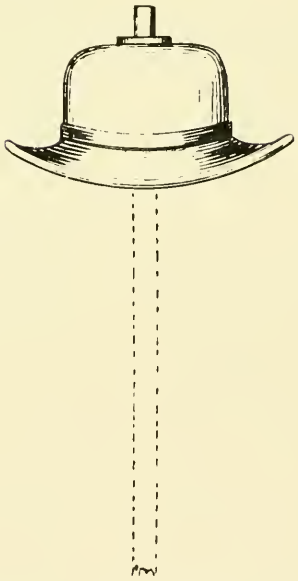


Figure 19.—Horace Greeley hat torch of 1872 as shown in patent 6119, issued September 10, 1872.

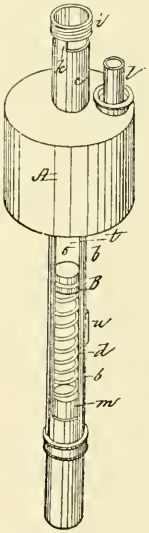


Figure 20.—Combined torch and candle holder as shown in patent 185147, issued December 5, 1876.

Figure 21.—Patent model of 1876 tin torch. (Smithsonian photo 50551.)

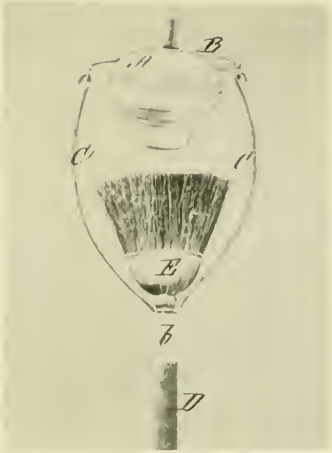


Figure 22.—Broom torch, 1876, as shown in patent 9411, issued August 1, 1876. (Smithsonian photo 53299.)

Figure 23.—Patent model of 1876 tin torch. (Smithsonian photo 50549.)

recently for effect and are in no way associated with the original device. The torch bowl is 6 inches in diameter at the top, 3 inches at the bottom, 5½ inches high, and the supporting frame is 7 inches high.

SMALL TIN TORCH, CIRCA 1868 *Figure 18*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

Of a smaller size, but of the same general construction as those in figures 16 and 17, this torch bears a lamp-type burner marked "Meriden B. Miller & Co., Conn." The torch bowl is only 2⅞ inches high and has a diameter of approximately 2⅛ inches.

HORACE GREELEY HAT TORCH, 1872 *Figure 19*

No example found.

A most unusual and interesting campaign torch is this one patented in 1872 by Thomas Adams of Hudson City, New Jersey. Shaped like the crown of a soft hat, with a burner in the upper part and with the base of the lamp designed like the brim of a hat, this torch was made to resemble Horace Greeley's hat. The staff or carrying pole forms no part of the design.

COMBINED TORCH AND CANDLE HOLDER, 1876 *Figure 20*

No example found.

By 1876, torchlight parades were nearing their peak and during that year some five or more improved or different torches appeared. This type was patented by Augustus Tufts of Malden, Massachusetts, in 1876. This invention consisted of a combined torch and holder for Roman candles, colored lights, and rockets.[3]

TIN TORCH, 1876 *Figure 21*

USNM 332317 (Patent model)

George F. Hollis of Boston, Massachusetts, in 1876 patented this improvement in the swinging torches by adding a double-swing device made of wire rather than the old type made of sheet metal. The bowl of this torch measures 4 inches high and has a 5-inch diameter; the diameter of the wire bracket is 6½ inches. The burner is of brass. This invention made it possible to produce a cheaper torch.

[3] The third claim of the original patent regarding the spring-feeder device in the handle of the torch infringed on one patented by S. W. Francis (patent 147926 issued February 24, 1874), and thus was denied to Tufts.

Figure 24.—Patent model of 1876 flare torch. (Smithsonian photo 10342-F.)

Figure 25.—Collapsible lantern, 1876. (Smithsonian photo 49927-F.)

Figure 26.—Patent model of two-burner tin torch, 1877. (Smithsonian photo 50546.)

BROOM TORCH, 1876 *Figure 22*

No example found.

Carrying his invention still further, G. F. Hollis, in 1876, sought to procure a design patent on the same torch combining it with a broom or brush. This device was designed for use in political and other clubs. The supporting wires were somewhat longer than those described in patent 180585, so that they could be fastened to the stick which is below the straw portion of the broom. In seeking this patent, Hollis identifies this device as something to be "Used as an emblem or symbol of victory." No patent model was submitted with the patent request.

TIN TORCH, 1876 *Figure 23*

USNM 332317 (Patent model)

This torch, patented by Moritz Saulson in 1876, and assigned to Minnie Saulson of Troy, New York, includes such improvements as a bent shank. The shank has at one end a pair of arms which are pivoted to the cup and at the other end a swiveled connection with the torch handle. The diameter of the torch bowl is 5 inches and the bowl is 3¾ inches high. The purpose of this invention was to provide a torch whose bowl would remain always in a vertical position regardless of how it was carried. Although such a torch was devised as early as 1860,[4] Saulson claimed his device to be cheaper and more effective. Another example of this type of torch is in the J. Doyle DeWitt Collection.

FLARE TORCH, 1876 *Figure 24*

USNM 251746 (Patent model)

A great contribution was made to parade paraphernalia when, in 1876, Ira W. Shaler of Brooklyn, New York, patented a more elaborate torch known as the "flare torch." This torch is made of tin, painted red, and has a long bulbous handle. The torch is composed of an ordinary lamp or reservoir, such as is used for burning heavy oils, and is provided with a wick tube. A small tube passes through the lamp; the upper end is close to the wick tube and the lower end extends through the cylindrical projection formed on the bottom of the lamp. A metal tube forms part of the handle of the torch. Near the lower end of the tube is a cross-partition. Above this, the tube is filled with sawdust saturated with benzine, naphtha, or other volatile hydrocarbon liquid. A perforated

[4] Claims 1 and 2 of the original patent request interfered with those met by L. T. Pitkin, September 18, 1860, in a patent on lamps.

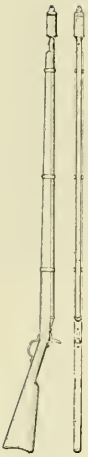


Figure 27.—Rifle torch, 1880, as shown in patent 233039, issued October 5, 1880 (see also figure 6). (Smithsonian photo 53300).

diaphragm then is pressed down on the sawdust. A mouthpiece is screwed into the tube. When the torch is lighted the heavy oil burns at all times with the same flame except when a brighter flame is desired. By uncrewing the mouthpiece and blowing through it, one causes a gust of air to pass through the sawdust and light oil, suddenly igniting the flame and producing a so-called "flash light." Repeating this in no way interferes with the light of the torch itself. This torch is patented both in the stationary type and the swivel type, and the patent model is 24⅝ inches in length.

The Shaler flare torch, although not patented until 1876, appears as early as 1872 in an advertisement found on page 678 of *Harper's Weekly*, August 31, 1872. (See illustration on p. 15 of this study.)

COLLAPSIBLE LANTERN, 1876 *Figure 25*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

Collapsible lanterns were used profusely in street parades during the latter half of the 19th century. Made in China and Japan and sold through agencies in this country, these paper lanterns were usually very colorful. When the candle was lighted, the effect was quite spectacular. This particular lantern bears the likeness of Rutherford B. Hayes on one side and that of William A. Wheeler on the reverse. A stripe with stars appears at the bottom and top. The lantern is 7¼ inches in diameter and expands to approximately 13 inches in height.

TWO-BURNER TIN TORCH, 1877 *Figure 26*

USNM 331365 (Patent model)

An improved two-burner torch was patented by James A. McPherson of Brunswick, New York, on February 13, 1877, and features a torch frame which can be removed from the torch bowl, when desired, and reassembled. Malleable iron was preferred for the frame so that it could be cast in one piece and be sufficiently flexible to allow the arms to swing apart from the eyes of the cup of the bowl. The framework of the swivel is designed in such a way that whenever the torch is picked up by its handle, the cup must immediately assume a perpendicular position. The pivots can be sprung from the eyes of the bowl and returned on the same bowl or another. In this way, if either the cup or frame of the torch became damaged, the damaged portion could be removed and one would not have to throw away the entire torch. The model is 12 inches in length with only a small section of the pole. The diameter of the bowl is 5 inches and the height without the brass burner is 3½ inches.

RIFLE TORCH, 1880 *Figure 27*

From patent drawing.

G. D. Smith, in 1880, patented an important improvement in the rifle torch used in night processions by devising a tube-type torch which formed part of the rifle barrel. This also gave the torch a more definite shape resembling that of a common musket with a lamp or burner on the muzzle of its barrel. By having such a device, the parader could conveniently execute the usual military manual of arms for the musket while the torch was burning. The torch was provided with a feature whereby reserve burning liquid could be kept in the torch away from the lamp or burner, to prevent vaporization of the liquid in the torch and also to prevent it from being top-heavy. Torches of this nature were sold consistently throughout the 1880's and appeared in the sales catalogs for that period. No patent model was submitted at the time of the patentee's request.

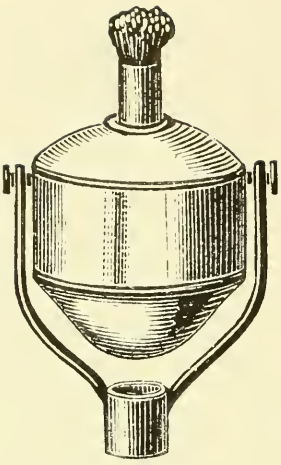


Figure 28.—Tin torch, circa 1880. (Illustration from advertisement sheet.)

Figure 29.—Ballot-box torch, 1880. (Smithsonian photo 49926.)

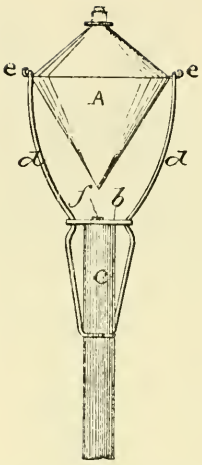


Figure 30.—Tin torch, 1880, as shown in patent 232265, issued September 14, 1880.

TIN TORCH, CIRCA 1880 *Figure 28*

No example found.

This small and well-proportioned torch was illustrated in an advertisement circular distributed by E. G. Rideout & Co., New York, in 1880. The bowl, composed of three portions joined together and containing a single burner, does not represent any great advance in torch development.

BALLOT-BOX TORCH, 1880 *Figure 29*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

This most appropriate torch was devised in 1880 for use in torchlight processions, especially for political organizations, and for other similar purposes. This torch representing a globe ballot box, was patented by J. McGregor Adams of Chicago, Illinois. The torch is composed of upper and lower metal plates joined by four posts, making a skeleton frame similar to the frame of a globe ballot box. The frame measures approximately 4½ inches square and is 4 inches high, and within it is a glass oil receptacle made in the form of a globe. The wick tube rises from the upper portion of the globe and extends above the upper plate, occupying the relative position of the slot through which ballots are deposited in a ballot box. The patentee suggested that appropriate inscriptions applicable to the special use be applied to the glass globe. Whether any of the globes did have such inscriptions is not known. The only examples seen by the author have been without inscriptions. Other than the one illustrated, there is one in the U.S. National Museum that has a celluloid flyer attached to one of the posts and bears portraits of Harrison and Reid and the date "1892." The posts of this torch are painted red and blue.

TIN TORCH, 1880 *Figure 30*

No example found.

In 1880, C. Otto Hammer of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, patented this improvement in the supporting device of the torch. The patent was assigned to Dora Hammer. This invention consists of a method of suspending the lamp by a wire or bail, part of which is first loosely coiled around the staff on which the lamp is carried, then confined by a revolving plate on top of the staff, and finally secured by eyes on hooks at the side of the lamp, allowing the staff to be turned in all directions without upturning the lamp. The lamp is similar in form to two cones of unequal height but equal united bases, the smaller cone representing the

Figure 31.—Tin torch, 1880.
(Smithsonian photo 49927-G.)

top and the larger the bottom. By its weight when filled with oil, the lower portion serves as a counterbalance to keep the lamp always in a vertical position. The lamp is suspended by hooks on either side of the juncture of the two cones. The wire supporting the torch is loosely coiled around the staff and the ends are brought upward on opposite sides and bent toward each other at a point near the plate, which is pivoted on the end of the staff by a screw. The distance between the coil and the shoulders of the bracket is not more than two or three inches. These torches were designed especially for torchlight processions.

TIN TORCH, 1880 *Figure 31*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

An improvement in the pivoting frame appeared when Herménégilde Préfontaine of Troy, New York, in 1880, patented a frame made of one single piece of wire coiled at the bottom to resemble a mandrel rod. A nail passed through the coiled wire fastens the supporting frame to the staff. The claim for this invention was to simplify the construction and thus cheapen the cost of the torches.[5] No patent model was submitted at the time the patentee submitted his request. The diameter of the torch bowl is 3½ inches at the top and 4 inches at the bottom. The bowl is 3 inches high.

[5] Claim 3 of the original patent request was denied in that it interfered with a patent on coffeepots previously acquired by Gibson (patent 98244), issued December 28, 1869. This claim had to do with the manner in which the supporting device was received in the sides of the torch.

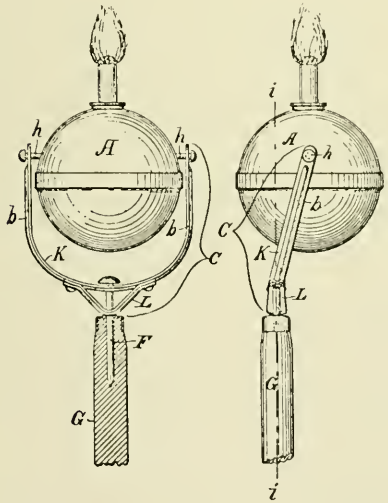


Figure 32.—Tin torch, 1880, as shown in patent 288476, issued June 8, 1880.

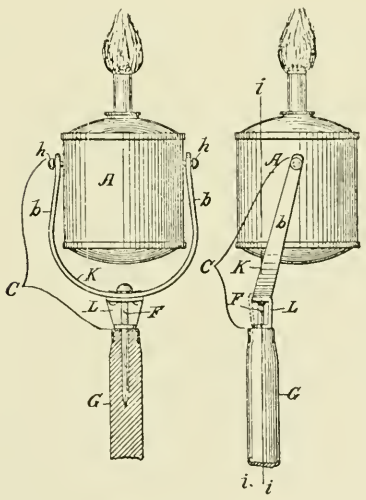


Figure 33.—Tin torch, 1880, as shown in patent 288476, issued June 8, 1880.

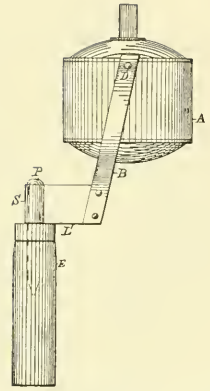


Figure 34.—Tin torch, 1883, as shown in patent 270600, issued January 16, 1883.

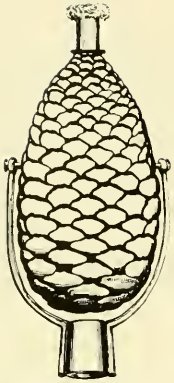


Figure 35.—Pine-cone torch, 1884, as shown in patent 15206, issued August 5, 1884.

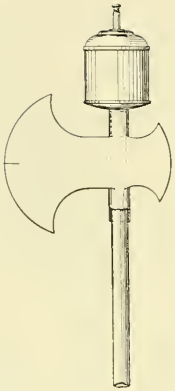


Figure 36.—Combined torch and battle ax, 1884, as shown in patent 309370, issued December 16, 1884.

TIN TORCH, 1880 *Figure 32*

No example found.

A second torch was patented by Herménégilde Préfontaine in 1880, securing the lamp at diametrically opposite points above its center of gravity to the end part of the two arms of a frame. In its middle, the frame has a socket, through which a pin pivots and secures the frame to the handle. The object of this invention is to keep the lamp and the bifurcated frame always in a vertical position by having their weight serve as a counterbalance. Through the end of the arms of the supporting device are pivot perforations.

The supporting frame, slightly offset, is made of wrought or sheet metal, the lower portion being reinforced by a V-shaped metal strap. The pin around which the torch pivots passes through the frame and strap and is fastened into the head of the staff. The patentee claims this to be an improvement over the method devised by Moritz Saulson in patent 183332, dated October 17, 1876, and assigned to Minnie Saulson (fig. 23). Similar to this improvement, Préfontaine devised a second improvement on the same patent in which the V-shaped reinforcing strap is replaced by a U-shaped single piece of metal bent at the top and bottom to give it lips, but open on one side and the ends. The pin passes through perforations in the lower portion of the metal strap and through the lips into the staff. No patent models were submitted to the Patent Office on these inventions.

TIN TORCH, 1880 *Figure 33*

No example found.

This torch is approximately the same as the one illustrated in figure 32 with the exception of the shape of the bowl, and is from the same patent drawing.

TIN TORCH, 1883 *Figure 34*

No example found.

An improvement on the torch previously patented in 1877 by James A. McPherson was made in 1883 when Henry McPherson of Troy, New York, devised and assigned to James A. McPherson a change in the supporting device. Mr. McPherson's invention consisted of an offset support, the lower portion of folded metal (see fig. 34), which permitted it to be rotated around the pole.[6]

PINE-CONE TORCH, 1884 *Figure 35*

No example found.

The pine-tree state of Maine held many rallies for their favorite son, James G. Blaine, and a torch showing a pine cone was patented in 1884 by F. C. Goodwin of Chelsea, Massachusetts.

[6] The original patent claim was rejected in that it interfered with one earlier patented by Préfontaine (patent 228476), issued June 8, 1880, on torches.

Figure 37.—Wooden ax torch handle, 1884 and 1888, as shown in a sales catalog.

Figure 38.—Tin torch, 1884. (Smithsonian photo 49926-D.)

Figure 39.—Union torch, 1884 and 1888, as shown in a sales catalog. (Smithsonian photo 53811.)

COMBINED TORCH AND BATTLE AX, 1884 *Figure 36*

No identical example found.

This combined torch and battle ax first appeared in 1884, as a part of the Plumed Knight's Armor and was patented by Abraham Wolf of New York City. It was designed especially for use in torchlight processions. The ax is made of two plates soldered to each other at their front and rear edges and provided with sockets to receive the staff; to the upper socket is soldered the torch. Many confuse this combination torch and battle ax with the rail-splitter's ax used during the Lincoln campaigns of 1860 and 1864, examples of which are preserved in the Lincoln Museum, Washington, D.C., and in the U.S. National Museum. No patent model was submitted at the time of the patent request.

WOODEN-AX TORCH HANDLE, 1884 AND 1888 *Figure 37*

Example from a sales catalog.

This is one of many wooden axes which sold by the hundreds during the 1880's. The torches were not included with the ax, and thus one could attach any type of torch desired. An example of the combined battle ax and torch is in the Becker Collection and bears a torch patented by John Dunlap and Ewalt Riedel in 1884. Still others are illustrated in The Unexcelled Fireworks catalog of 1884, having metal ax heads either polished or painted red, white, and blue with a spear at the top instead of a torch.

TIN TORCH, 1884 *Figure 38*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

This torch patented by A. J. Duncan of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1884 (patent 304919, issued September 9, 1884), is an improvement in the manufacturing of torches in that the cups containing the burning fluid are supported by revolvable arms, fastened to a socket that turns on a pin in the end of the staff. The arms and the socket were made of one piece of sheet metal without riveting or other means of attachment. Although the torch illustrated on the patent request is of an inverted funnel shape, others were produced using the same supporting device. The one illustrated has a somewhat rounded bowl, is 4½ inches high, and has a diameter of 4 inches.

UNION TORCH, 1884 AND 1888 *Figure 39*

USNM 332319 (Patent model)

This torch was known both as the "Union torch" and as the "telescope torch." It was sold in lots of 100 during the campaigns of 1884 and 1888. The overall length of the torch is 4 feet 2 inches and closes to half its length. The handles are turned and stained.

Similar to the Union torch was the colored torch

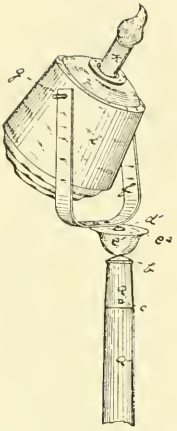


Figure 40.—Tin torch, 1884, as shown in patent 305377, issued September 16, 1884.

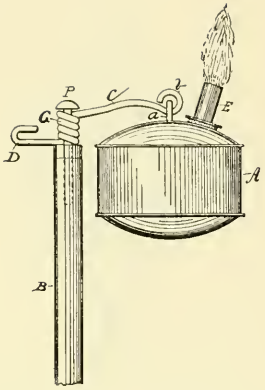


Figure 41.—Tin torch with stacking attachment, 1884, as shown in patent 299411, issued May 27, 1884.

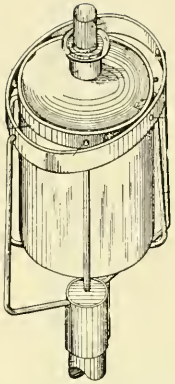


Figure 42.—Double-swinging glass-bowl torch, 1885, as shown in patent 316440, issued April 28, 1885.

consisting of a long tube case with a handle, used for the purpose of carrying it in a procession. It made a brilliant colored illumination along the line of march, burning blue, red, or green and lasting about fifteen minutes. Carried in the hand at a slight incline, they were claimed to be undoubtedly the best thing for the purpose ever introduced and were "just the thing for lawn illuminations."

TIN TORCH, 1884 *Figure 40*

No example found.

This torch was patented by John Dunlap and Ewalt Riedel of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1884, and assigned to John Dunlap.[7] It contains an improvement in the arrangement and construction of devices for securing the frame of the lamp to the stock. The supporting device is fastened on the bottom to a hollow metallic cup having one end closed by the convex piece. The other and open end of the socket fits over the end of the torch pole and is secured by a rivet. A bolt fastens the supporting arms to the cup. No patent model was submitted to the Patent Office for this patent.

[7] The original patent request on torches interfered with a claim already met by McPherson (patent 270600), issued January 6, 1883, and Hammer (patent 232265), issued September 15, 1880.

TIN STACKING TORCH, 1884 *Figure 41*

No example found.

James A. McPherson of Brunswick, New York, in 1884, further improved on his patents of 1877 and 1883 (see p. 30), when he developed a torch which could be stacked like military arms.[8] The torch frame consisted of a single piece of wire, bent at one end to support the torch and coiled in the middle. The nail or pin passed through the coiled portion to fasten it to the carrying pole. The other end of the torch frame contained a hook. With this device, three or more of the torches could be stacked when not being carried in the parade. No patent model was submitted with the request for a patent.

DOUBLE-SWINGING GLASS-BOWL TORCH, 1885 *Figure 42*

No example found.

This torch was patented by Charles L. Betts of

[8] Claims 1 and 4 of the original patent request were denied in that they infringed upon patents on torches earlier obtained by McPherson (patent 270600), issued January 16, 1883, and Saulson (patent 188332), issued October 17, 1876, also on torches. One new invention claimed by McPherson was the employment of one arm instead of two in the supporting device. Another feature was the room saved in packing, for the old type with the bifurcated arms occupied twice as much space.

Figure 43.—Cone torch, 1887, as shown in a sales catalog.

Figure 44.—Ax torch, 1884 and 1888. (Smithsonian photo 53811.)

Chicago, Illinois, in 1885.[9] The bowl was made of glass and had a groove at the top with a metal band around the bowl under the groove. A larger metal ring fitted around this first one and pivoted on the first. Supporting arms then fastened into the second ring and connected to the supporting pole, giving the torch a double-swinging action. No model was submitted to the Patent Office for this device. The request stated that one half of this patent was assigned to R. E. Dietz, Warren McArthur, and John E. Dietz.

CONE TORCH, 1887 *Figure 43*

No example found.

This cone-shaped torch was patented in 1887, by George F. Seavey of Boston, Massachusetts, and Isaac S. Lauback of Cambridge, Massachusetts.[10] Although no patent model was submitted at the time of the patent request, this type of torch was produced and appeared for sale in trade catalogs. This torch had a double-swinging action and a tin burner. The oil capacity was 1½ pints. The improvement claimed in this patent related to the hanger or bail and permitted the lamp to be suspended from the ends of the hanger or bail so that, when the pole to which the hanger was secured was in a vertical position, the bowl would hang to one side of the center line of the pole.

AX TORCH, 1884 AND 1888 *Figure 44*

USNM 15386 (Unexcelled Fireworks Collection)

This ax torch, advertised as the "'UNXLD' Axe Torch" appeared on the market in 1884 and 1888. Being somewhat different from the earlier ax torches, this torch does not contain the usual torch bowl, but rather has the torch made into the end of the ax head. Its composition is similar to the "Union Torch" mentioned in figure 39 and is suggestive of the method illustrated in figure 27 relating to the rifle torch. The torch tube and the ax head are made of tin while the handle is made of wood. The overall length of the torch is 48 inches, the metal end being 14 inches long. The ax blade is 5¾ inches wide and 8¾ inches front to back. The illustration is taken from a sales catalog.

TIN TORCH, 1888 *Figure 45*

No example found.

A device termed as a "torch-yoke" was patented by

[9] This patent, as originally presented, infringed on earlier patents obtained by Nichols (patent 205203), issued June 25, 1878, on lamp collars; by Préfontaine (patent 233163), issued October 12, 1880, on torches; by Parker (patent 123415), issued February 6, 1872 on lamp collars; by House (patent 76764), issued April 14, 1868, on lamp collars; by Benson (patent 186102), issued January 9, 1877, on vapor burners; by Wharton (patent 211484), issued January 21, 1879, on lamp collars; and by Drake (patent 197109), issued November 13, 1877, on lamp collars.

[10] The first application for this patent was rejected and thus amendments were submitted. Some interfered with patents earlier received by Evans (patent 5578), issued September 23, 1873, on metallic vessels, ears and bails, and Friedman (patent 238883), issued March 15, 1881, on pots and kettles.

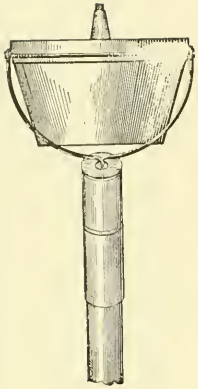


Figure 45.—Tin torch, 1888, as shown in patent 391665, issued October 23, 1888.

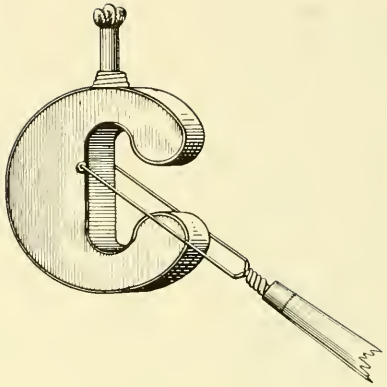


Figure 46.—Cleveland tin torch, 1888, as shown in patent 18611, issued September 18, 1888.

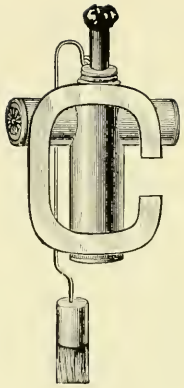


Figure 47.—Initial campaign torch, 1888, as shown in a sales catalog.

Henry J. Vogel of Brooklyn, New York, in 1888 Like most of the patents on torches, this consisted of an improvement in the supporting device only, and not in the torch bowl. The supporting device, that portion containing two arms which fastened to the bowl, was termed the "yoke." The yoke is made of a single piece of wire with its central part formed into a stem. A box washer is suspended on the end of the ferrule through which the stem passes and goes into the ferrule. The ferrule is adapted to take the end of the handle and to receive and hold the box washer. A cap on the upper end of the ferrule holds the stem in place; however, the arms of the support turn free of the cap. When the box and cap are united around the stem, the stem is held tightly in the ferrule and prevents unnecessary shaking of the torch. No model was submitted to the Patent Office.

CLEVELAND TIN TORCH, 1888 *Figure 46*

No example found.

By 1888, the concept of making a torch convey an idea or an image had found its way into the patents, and during that year, Lester C. Beardsley of Cleveland, Ohio, patented two torches, using initials on the body of the torch. The one illustrated containing a "C" represented the Democratic candidate, Grover Cleveland.

INITIAL TIN TORCH, 1888 *Figure 47*

No example found.

This torch, similar in purpose to the one illustrated in the previous figure, appeared in a sales catalog of 1888. The body of the torch was made in the shape of a "T" suggesting the vice-presidential candidate Thurman, with a "C" made of metal and soldered thereon.

HARRISON TIN TORCH, 1888 *Figure 48*

No example found.

Made in the shape of an "H" representing the Republican candidate, Benjamin Harrison, this torch was also patented by Lester C. Beardsley. The initial was hollow and acted as a receptacle for oil.

INITIAL TIN TORCH, 1888 *Figure 49*

No example found.

This torch, similar to that illustrated in figure 48, appeared in an Unexcelled Fireworks sales catalog of 1888. The body of the torch was made in the shape of an "H" representing Benjamin Harrison and an initial of smaller size was soldered below the bridge in the letter "H." Since the catalog in which this was advertised stated that a patent had been applied

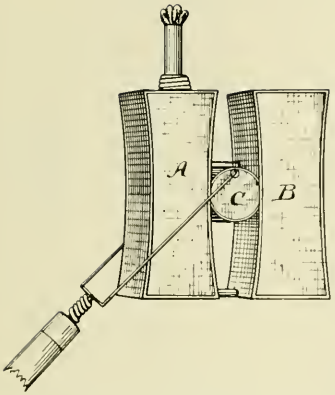


Figure 48.—Harrison tin torch, 1888, as shown in patent 18715, issued November 6, 1888.

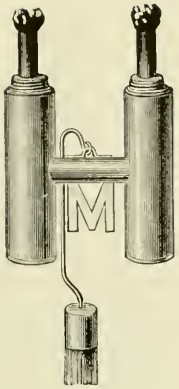


Figure 49.—Initial campaign torch, 1888, as shown in a sales catalog.

Figure 50.—Nickel torch for cap, 1888. (Smithsonian photo 49927-C.)

for, it is quite possible that these torches might have been based on the patent obtained by Lester C. Beardsley in 1888.

NICKEL TORCH FOR CAP, 1888 *Figure 50*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

Small nickel torches to be worn on caps appear in the sales catalogs of 1888. These torches are very light, weighing only 3 ounces. The bowl is approximately 2¾ inches high excluding the wick and, at its broadest point, the diameter is 2½ inches. A nickel shield measuring 1¼ inches by 1½ inches fastens the torch bracket to the front of the blocked cap. A similar device had been patented as early as June 1885 (patent 319382), when C. E. Bartram devised a swinging lamp having rods in the sides and wire standards attached to a metal ring that fastened to the crown of the parader's hat.

NICKEL TORCH FOR CAP, 1888 *Figure 51*

USNM 235936 (Cousley accession)

This small nickel torch for a cap is similar to the type and size illustrated in figure 50, differing only in its design. A nickel nipple is shown covering the wick when the torch is not in use.

BRASS TORCH FOR CAP, 1888 *Figure 52*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

In weight and size, this torch is similar to the cap torches previously illustrated. It was made by J. W. Pepper of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The torch is 4½ inches high including the wick, and the diameter at the bottom is 2½ inches. The supporting wire is 4¾ inches high.

CAP WITH NICKEL TORCH, 1888 *Figure 53*

No assembled example found.

This blocked-front cap clearly illustrates the use of a lightweight torch similar to that in the Sam A. Cousley accession. The caps were of patriotic colors which blended with the parade clothing.

NICKEL-PLATED HELMET AND TORCH, 1888 *Figure 54*

No example found.

Nickel-plated helmets had oval-shaped tin torches which were fastened by wire brackets to the crown of the helmet. Although the author has never seen an example, illustrations of this combined helmet and torch appear in the sales catalogs of 1888.

Figure 51.—Nickel torch with nipple over the burner, 1888. (Smithsonian photo 49926-E.)

Figure 52.—Brass torch for cap, 1888. (Smithsonian photo 49927-B.)

Figures 53 through 59:

53.—Cap showing the nickel torch, 1888, as it appears in a sales catalog.

54.—Nickel-plated helmet and torch, 1888, as it appears in a sales catalog.

55.—Helmet flash torch, circa 1888, as it appears in a sales catalog.

56.—Torchlight pin, 1888. (Smithsonian photo 63323.)

57.—Campaign torch, 1888, as shown in patent 18585, issued September 4, 1888.

58.—"Tip-a-canoe" torch, 1888, as shown in patent 18669, issued October 2, 1888.

59.—Metal torch, 1888, as shown in patent 391669, issued October 23, 1888.

HELMET FLASH TORCH, CIRCA 1888 *Figure 55*

No example found.

A unique device was also patented whereby a torch was affixed to the crown of the helmet and a rubber tube passed from the torch as a chin strap and into the mouth. By blowing into this tube, the parader could produce a large flash, thus this device became known as the "helmet flash torch." There were many varieties of flash torches and they were very spectacular in political parades.

TORCHLIGHT PIN, 1888 *Figure 56*

USNM (Political History Collections)

By 1888 the torchlight had become such an integral part of political campaigning that stickpins bearing a miniature torchlight were being sold by Robert Sneider, manufacturer of campaign badges in New York. Plated in gold or silver, these badges were exact reproductions of the single swivel-type torch with the pole forming a stickpin. The wick is made of red, white and blue cotton. The overall length is 3½ inches. Just how many of these pins have survived is not known. The pin illustrated is gold plated.

CAMPAIGN TORCH, 1888 *Figure 57*

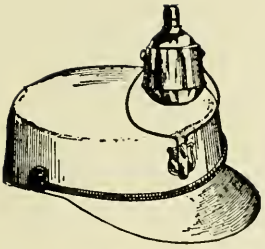
No example found.

This torch in the shape of a human bust, another of the suggestive types of this period, was patented by Oliver Carmelia of Ottawa, Illinois. The oil reservoir was shaped externally to represent a human head or bust and was supported between the forks of a bifurcated torch stick. This was patented specifically for a campaign torch and a patent model was submitted, but the model has not been located.

"TIP-A-CANOE" TORCH, 1888 *Figure 58*

No example found.

Made in the shape of a canoe, this torch is one of the most interesting of the patented torches. When the canoe was tipped or tilted, it might suggest Benjamin Harrison, grandson of the famed "Tippecanoe" Harrison of 1840. This torch was patented by John W. Rohm of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Neither the patent model nor an example of this torch have been located by the writer.



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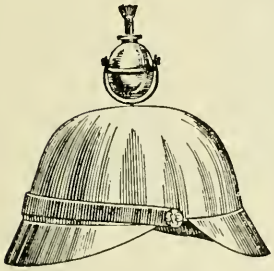

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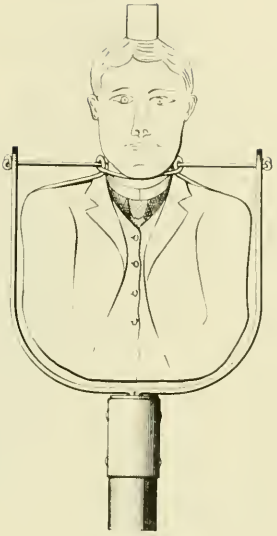

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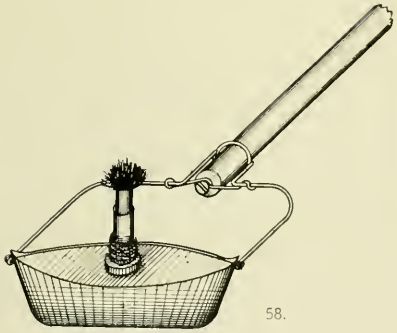

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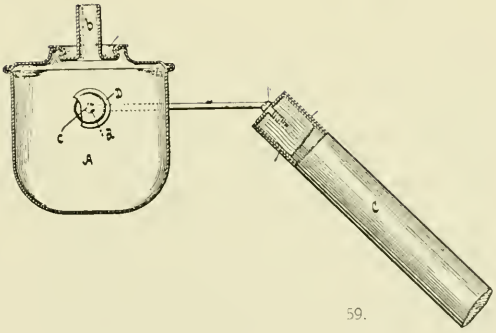


59.

METAL TORCH, 1888 *Figure 59*

No example found.

Richard Whitaker of New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1888, patented this improved feature in torches, whereby the supporting device of earlier torches was modified.[11] This patent was assigned to The Consolidated Fruit Jar Company of New York. A revolvable head, made of sheet metal, contained longitudinal sockets which held the ends of the supporting arms. Over the end of the handle a metal cap was loosely fitted, secured by a screw through the top so that it could revolve around the handle. The supporting arms of the torch were crumped firmly to this cap by a collar, thus permitting the torch and cap to rotate together. No patent model was submitted with the patent request.

[11] This patent interfered with patent 233163, issued October 12, 1880, to Préfontaine; patent 365706 issued June 28, 1887, to Seavey and Laubach; and patent 316440 issued April 28, 1885, to Betts (torches).

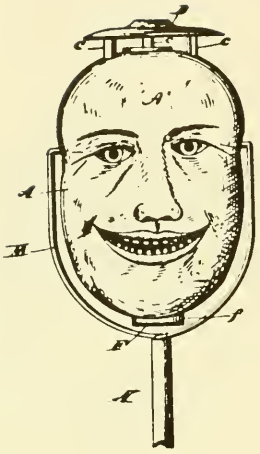
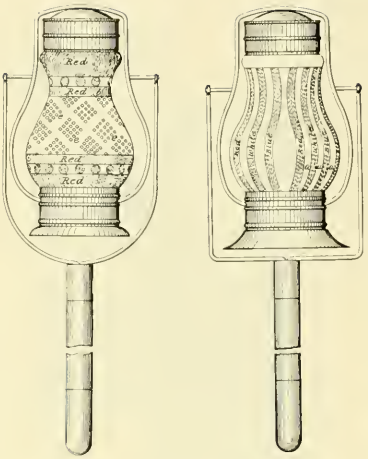


Figure 60.—Jack-A-Lantern torch, 1889, as shown in patent 396252, issued January 15, 1889.



Figures 61 & 62.—Campaign lanterns, 1888. Lantern on left, as shown in patent 18717, and lantern on right, as shown in patent 18716. Both patents were issued on November 6, 1888.

Figure 63.—Lantern frame, 1888. (Smithsonian photo 49926-G.)

"JACK-A-LANTERN" TORCH, 1889 *Figure 60*

No example found.

This Jack-A-Lantern torch was invented by George A. Beidler of Middletown, Pennsylvania, in 1889, as a toy for amusing children, and in addition "might be used as a campaign torch for celebrations, torch-light processions, political meetings and other like occasions where an effective pyrotechnic display is desirable."[12] The body of the torch was constructed of sheet metal, papier-mache, glass, or other material capable of being shaped. The torch is made of two pieces so that when placed back to back it would present a likeness of a human face on each side. The portions representing the eyes, nostrils, and mouth were to be cut away for illuminating. At the top of the torch was an opening, over which was an elevated hood to permit the escape of the vitiated air, yet keep out the rain or snow. A disk at the bottom of the torch served as a resting place for a candle or a lamp. The supporting device was made of wire. No model was submitted to the Patent Office, and the writer has never seen an example of this torch. After the turn of the century, other Jack-A-Lantern torches, somewhat resembling the earlier one, were patented.

[12] The original patent claim included ears, but this claim was later struck out because they did not appear in the drawings. The patent also claimed exclusive right to the original idea of molding material in the shape of a human head. This was rejected since it interfered with British patent 14806, issued in 1887 to Barker and Nuthall for lamp shades, and French patent 194815, issued September 4, 1777, on masks. The French claimed there was no novelty in molding a material in the shape of a human head and the English claimed there was nothing new involved in the making of a head with translucent apertures. A similar American patent 313343 was issued on March 3, 1885, to Kitchen for signs. Also conflicting with Beidler's patent is that granted to Wattles (patent 104516) June 21, 1870, on lamp shades.

Beidler's idea of having the support for the candleholder or lamp attached to the main part by a bayonet joint was rejected in that it had previously been exhibited by DeForest (patent 29472, issued August 7, 1860) for lanterns and Pratt (patent 166223, issued August 3, 1875) for candlesticks. Other portions of the patent interfered with patents granted Hollis (patent 180585, issued August 1, 1876) and Préfontaine (patent 233163, issued October 12, 1880) for torches.

Figure 64.—Collapsible paper lantern, 1888. (Smithsonian photo 46685-D.)

CAMPAIGN LANTERN, 1888 *Figure 61*

No example found.

This is one of several lantern bodies patented by Walter C. Beckwith of Fostoria, Ohio, during the campaign year of 1888. This one involved a lantern which could be used either as a torch suspended from a pole or as a lantern which could be hung.

CAMPAIGN LANTERN, 1888 *Figure 62*

No example found.

Another lantern body patented by Walter C. Beckwith was this one showing a slightly different base and another variation of the globe from those shown in figure 61. Both of the lanterns bore red, white and blue globes which were modifications of the U.S. flag, and, for light, burned candles. The patent stated that both were "particularly applicable to lanterns for campaign purposes, being somewhat characteristic of one of the political parties now in the field." Within the two patents, Mr. Beckwith illustrated five globes of different designs.

LANTERN FRAME, 1888 *Figure 63*

USNM 215215.2 (Watson accession)

This torch frame is similar to one illustrated on both of the two previously mentioned patents submitted by Walter C. Beckwith. This particular frame was patented by R. H. Taber on May 3, 1887 (patent 362331). It is 12 inches high with a diameter of 3 inches at the top and 4½ inches at the bottom. Candles are used for lighting the lantern. Various globes with patriotic designs were used on this type of lantern as illustrated in the patent by Beckwith.

COLLAPSIBLE PAPER LANTERN, 1888 *Figure 64*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

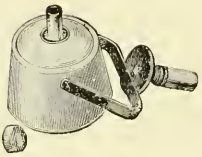
This paper lantern with a wire and wood frame is one of many which were produced for parade use during the late 19th century. Light is provided by a candle on the inside. The colorful paper covers bore pictures of the candidates, log-cabin motifs, and other symbols relating to the issues of the campaign. It was manufactured by Sprague and French of Norwalk, Ohio. Collapsed, the cover is 23¼ inches long and 7 inches wide in the middle, tapering on the ends.

METAL CAMPAIGN TORCHES

WITH STICKS AND WICKS COMPLETE

65.

66.



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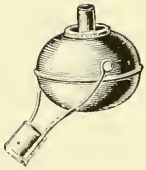

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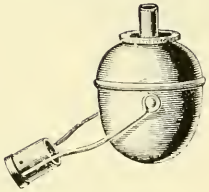

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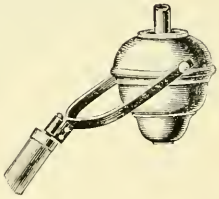

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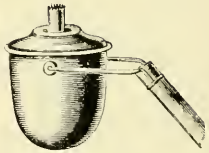
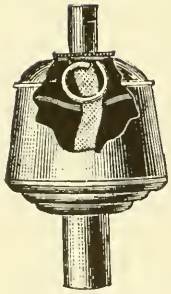


73.

SIPHON VENTED TORCHES



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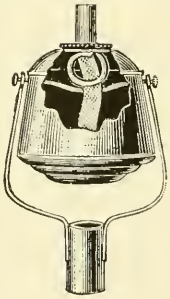

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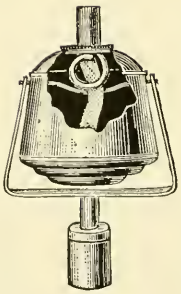
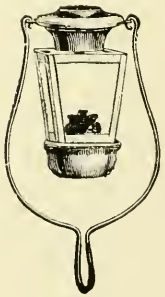


76.

COLORED GLASS CAP TORCH



77.

The campaign torches of the 1880's illustrated in figures 65 through 77 on page 40 were shown in the 1888 "Illustrated Campaign Handbook" of The Unexcelled Fireworks Company.

CYLINDER REVERSIBLE TORCH *Figure 65*

No example found.

This cylinder reversible torch with brass burners and Russia-iron frames had an oil capacity of 1 pint.

SINGLE-SWING CAMPAIGN TORCH *Figure 66*

No example found.

Another torch illustrated in the trade catalog is this single-swing torch with brass or tin burners with an oil capacity of 1 pint.

DOME REVERSIBLE TORCH *Figure 67*

No example found.

The dome reversible torch is believed to be of the 1888 period and has an oil capacity of 1½ pints.

ANGLE-FRAME SWING TORCH *Figure 68*

No example found.

Known as an angle-frame, double-swing torch with an improved oil drip and wire frame, this torch has an oil capacity of 1½ pints.

DOUBLE-SWING GLOBE TORCH *Figure 69*

No example found.

This conventional-type torch was advertised as a double-swing globe torch with either a brass or a tin burner. The oil capacity was 2 pints.

SINGLE-SWING BALL TORCH *Figure 70*

No example found.

This well-proportioned torch is known as the single-swing ball torch and is shown as it appeared in the 1888 trade catalog.

SINGLE-SWING EGG TORCH *Figure 71*

No example found.

Because of its shape, this torch is generally referred to as an "egg torch." It has an oil capacity of 2 pints and the supporting frame may be either of the single- or double-swing design.

SINGLE-SWING ACORN TORCH *Figure 72*

No example found.

From the general style of this torch, one would compare it with that described in patent 304919, dated September 9, 1884 (fig. 38). Known as the "acorn torch," the supporting frame could be either that of the single- or double-swinging device. The oil capacity is 1¾ pints.

DOUBLE-SWING CAMPAIGN TORCH *Figure 73*

No example found.

This torch, known as a double-swing parabola torch, had an oil capacity of 2 pints.

UPRIGHT SIPHON-VENTED TORCH *Figure 74*

No example found.

One of three siphon-vented torches sold during the campaign of 1888, this was of the stationary type, had no swinging device, and was known as the upright siphon-vented torch. It had an oil capacity of 1½ pints.

SINGLE-SWING, SIPHON-VENTED TORCH *Figure 75*

No example found.

This torch had an oil capacity of 1½ pints.

UNIVERSAL SWING-TYPE, SIPHON-VENTED TORCH *Figure 76*

No example found.

This type of siphon-vented torch was known as the universal swing type. The patent application claimed that the burner used on these torches prevented overflowing, explosion, and gave a clearer and brighter light with less smoke and better combustion.

NICKEL-FRAME CAP TORCH *Figure 77*

No example found.

Besides the cap torches of light tin already discussed, small lanterns were also manufactured for use on blocked caps. An example of such a lantern, with colored glass panels and a nickel frame, is illustrated in figure 77. The height of the lantern was 5 inches.

222 412—66——4

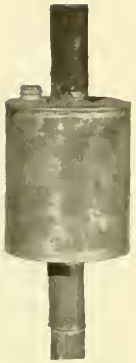


Figure 78.—Upright can-and-socket torch, circa 1888. (Smithsonian photo 49926-B.)

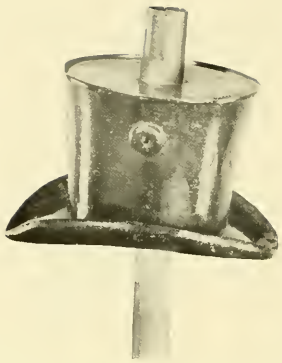


Figure 79.—Beaver-hat torch, 1888. (Smithsonian photo 49457.)

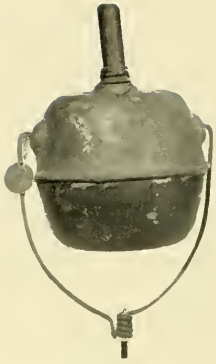


Figure 80.—Tin torch, 1888, with campaign medal attached. (Smithsonian photo 49927.)

UPRIGHT CAN-AND-SOCKET TORCH *Figure 78*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

Known as a can-and-socket torch, this torch has an oil capacity of 1 pint and has burners of either brass or tin. The torch illustrated is attributed to the campaign of 1888. It has a bowl which measures 4¼ inches high and is 3½ inches in diameter.

BEAVER-HAT TORCH, 1888 *Figure 79*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

Similar to the idea patented in 1872 suggesting the Horace Greeley hat, this torch imitates the beaver hat for the Harrison campaign of 1888. A slogan was devised around this hat which went as follows: "Grandfather's hat fits Ben. He wears it with dignified grace. So rally around, we'll put Uncle Ben right back in his Grandfather's place." The torch had the burner in the top of the crown and a swinging device, both of which are missing in the photograph. The crown of the hat is 4 inches high with the diameter of the hat being 4½ inches. The brim is 6½ inches front to back.

TIN TORCH, 1888 *Figure 80*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

Obviously, some thoughtful parader fastened an 1888 Harrison medal to this torch. The torch bowl measures 4½ inches, both in diameter and in height.

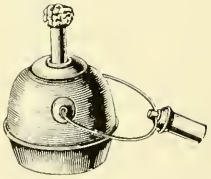


Figure 81.—Double-swing C.V. torch, circa 1889, as shown in sales catalog.

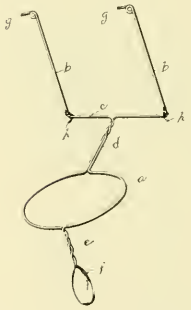


Figure 82.—Supporting frame for torch, 1896, as shown in patent 26200, issued October 20, 1896.

The burner is made of tin, and the torch is painted red on the upper half of the bowl and blue on the bottom.

DOUBLE-SWING C.V. TORCH, CIRCA 1889 *Figure 81*

No example found.

Advertised as the "C.V. Double Swing Torch" with a tin burner and an oil capacity of 1½ pints, this torch appears in a trade catalog of 1889.

Figure 83.—Sheep campaign torch illustrated on a souvenir photograph, 1896. Original photograph is in the private collection of Grace D. Williams, Akron, Ohio.

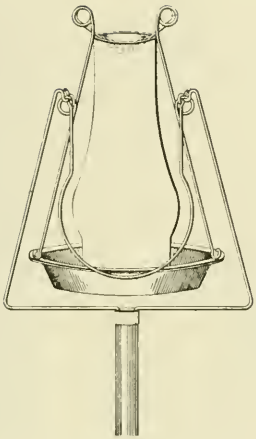


Figure 84.—Combined lantern and torch, 1897, as shown in patent 585756, issued July 6, 1897.

SUPPORTING FRAME FOR TORCH, 1896 *Figure 82*

No example found.

The supporting frame illustrated in this figure was patented in 1896 by Octavia Frasher of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The feature of this patent was that the entire frame could be made of one single piece of wire and could slide over the end of the carrying pole.

SHEEP CAMPAIGN TORCH, 1896 *Figure 83*

No example found.

This unusual torch was made to resemble a sheep and suggested the wool issue of 1896. The size of the torch was 6 by 9 inches and the burner was located in the top of the sheep's head. Application was made for a patent on this device, and a photograph of it was distributed by Schmid photographers, 716 Broadway, Buffalo, New York. The original photograph from which this illustration was made is in the private collection of Mrs. Grace D. Williams of Akron, Ohio.

COMBINED LANTERN AND TORCH, 1897 *Figure 84*

No example found.

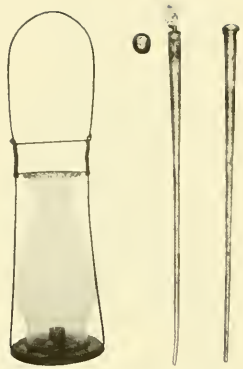
This combined lantern and torch, similar to those patented by Walter C. Beckwith in 1888, was patented by Nelson M. Hinman and John F. Hertzler of Lawrence, Kansas, in 1897.[13] The model was designed so that it could be carried either by a handle or with a pole support. Lanterns similar to these were used on the McKinley front porch during the campaign of 1896, as illustrated in figure 87.

LANTERN, 1894 *Figure 85*

USNM (Political History Collections)

This lightweight candle lantern was patented November 27, 1894, and was manufactured by R. Givens, Corpus Christi, Texas. A wire bar is forced down onto the top of the glass chimney by two springs. The lantern is very simply constructed and may have

[13] As originally submitted, the patent request was rejected on many grounds. In the first place, it interfered with earlier lanterns patented by Seys (patent 532400 issued January 8, 1895, and patent 544833 issued August 20, 1895), by Jarmin (patent 530049 issued November 27, 1894), and Beidler (patent 195744 issued October 2, 1877). Also, the patent officials could see no relation between the torch as such and the lantern and, therefore, objected to the designation "combined torch and lantern." Beidler's invention had proven that there was no invention in making the spring coils integral with the side arms or arranging them above the globe. Seys' invention had proven that there was nothing new in hanging the lantern in a common torch handle. This was also shown by a patent granted to Seavey and Lauback (patent 365706 issued June 28, 1887)



Figures 85 & 86.—Lantern, 1894, on left (Smithsonian photo P–63334). On right, combined torch and cane, 1896 (USNM 227739; Smithsonian photo P–6479).

Figure 87.—Campaign lanterns hanging from the eaves of the McKinley front porch, 1896. (*Photo courtesy of Library of Congress.*)

been used on front porches during the campaign rallies of 1896. It is 10½ inches high and has a diameter at the bottom of 4¾ inches. The handle is 6¼ inches high.

COMBINED TORCH AND CANE, 1896 — *Figure 86*

USNM 227739 (Becker Collection)

Termed by the manufacturers, The Pettibone Bros. Mfg. Co., 626 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, as "The McKinley cane and torch," this torch is made of tin and measures 33½ inches in length. The head of the cane may be unscrewed to reveal a hidden torch wick. The stick of the cane serves as a receptacle for the oil. There is a paper motif pasted around the top of the cane under the head which bears the likenesses of McKinley and Hobart and the legend: "Protection—Sound Money." On the reverse side of the motif, which does not appear in the photograph, is the manufacturer's name and the name of the object.

TIN TORCH, 1900 — *Figure 88*

No example found.

The last lightweight parade torch on which a record has been found in the United States Patent Office, this one was patented in 1900 by William W. Climenson and William D. Winger of Honey Brook Pennsylvania.[14] One of the chief advantages of this invention was the wick which would neither leak oil nor soil the hands, thus indicating that this was a parade torch. The wick, which extended from the bottom of the bowl to the top, was enclosed in a perforated neck made of metal.

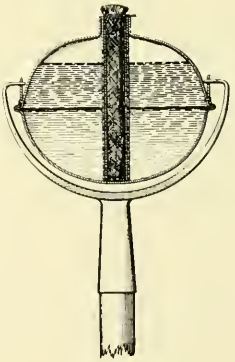


Figure 88.—Tin torch, 1900, as shown in patent 653617, issued July 10, 1900.

[14] The original claim interfered with British patent 9370, issued 1887 on chimneyless lamps; and Aldrich, patent 173893 issued April 11, 1876, on torches.

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