

# Antonio Viera Stick?

*Exerpted from MiningCollect submissions by Scott Brady and Ted Bobrink*



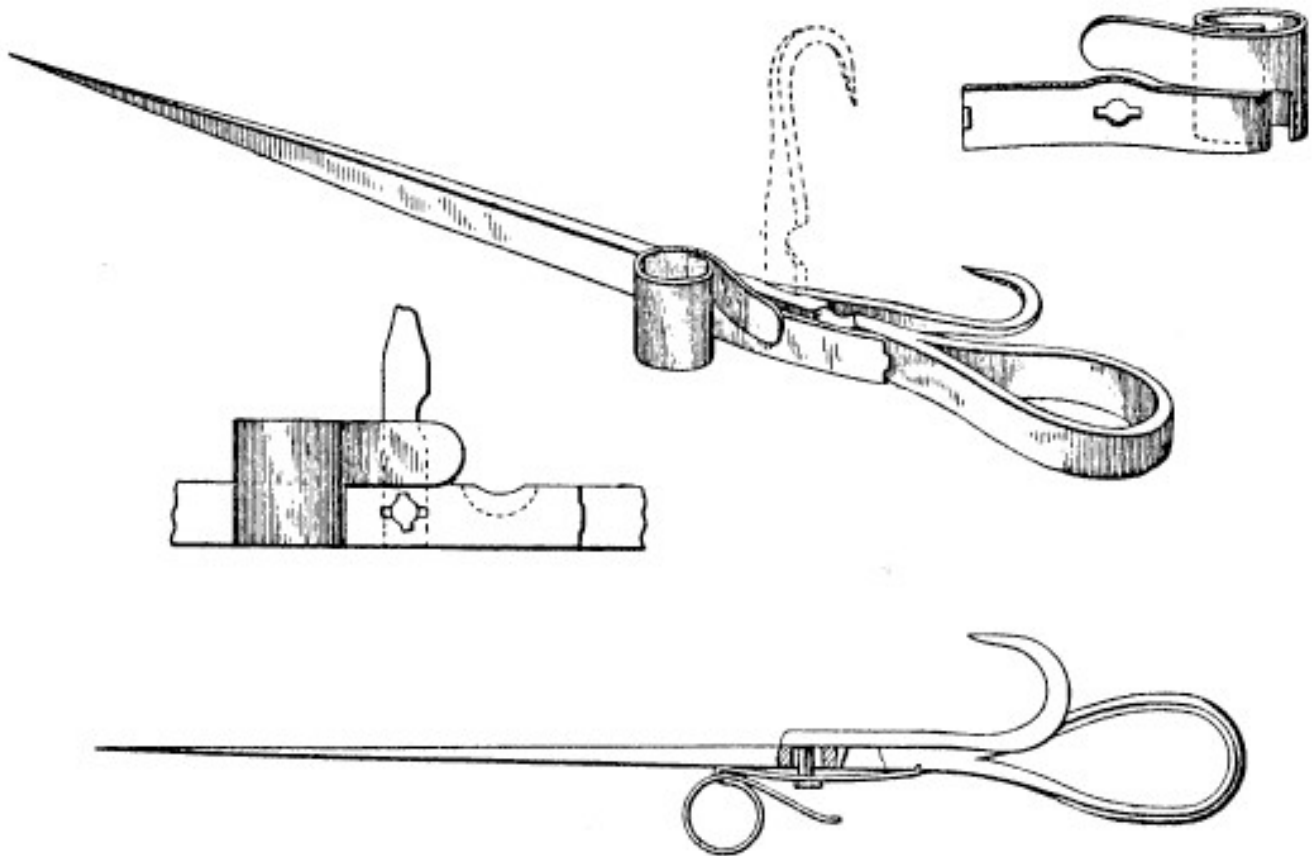
After Scott Brady found this folding stick, he subitted some photos to MiningCollect. Candlestick expert Ted Bobrink responed: "I will put my money on Antonio Viera". Before visiting Ted's analysis, here is Scott's description the folding mechanism:

"The handle and spike looks as if it has been casted in all one piece.. The candleholder and the hook turn. The candleholder has two thumb release one on top and bottom. There is a flat piece of metal that acts as a spring that hooks into a notch into the side of the handle and goes to the candleholder . When you push the candleholder in it releases it to turn."



Ted's analysis is an excellent bit of detective work:

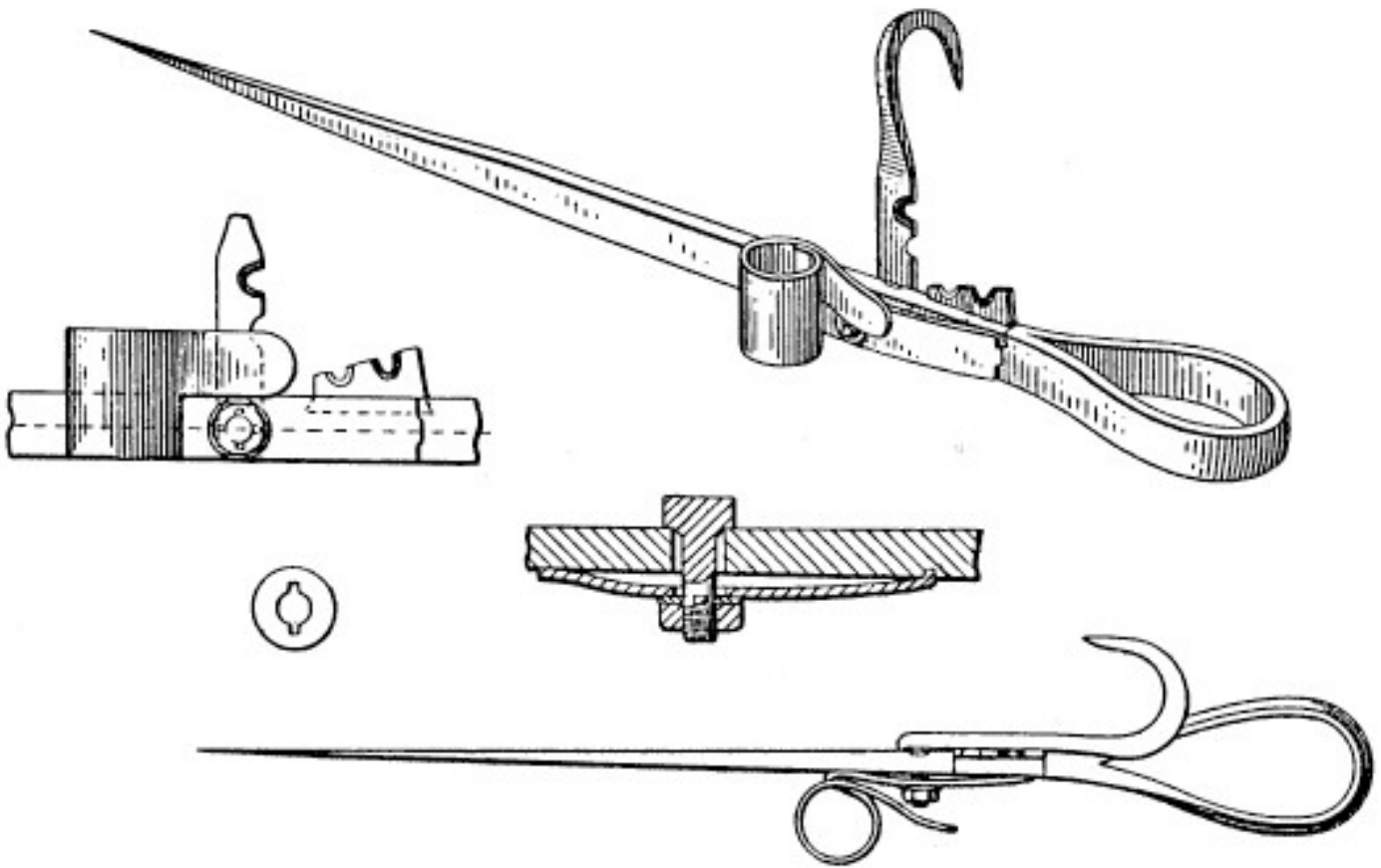
"One of the great things about collecting miners candlesticks is that you get to play investigator so much. One thing you have to remember about miners candlesticks is that there were only a few really good makers. What you have to look for are similar caristaristics. I have had the pleasure of seeing a hell of a lot of candlesticks and I get a kick out of finding sticks that I know were made by the same blacksmith. In folding candlesticks the number one unique feature is how it locks. Yours with the flat spring and detents on the side makes me think it is a stick made by Antonio Viera of Ray, Arizona. He patented two miners candlesticks very similar to yours with the same locking device and detents. They are stick #974,316 and #1,020,332 in Wendell Wilsons patent book. Those two sticks have cap crimpers built into them, and only the hook folds, but both have your very unique locking device and detents."



**Antonio Viera, Ray, Arizona Territory, "Miner's Candlestick"  
Patented November 1, 1910, No. 974,316**

Ted writes further: "Remember that any blacksmith that had the talent to make one unique fancy candlestick most likely made many. Every blacksmith has his own unique ideas and may use any one or more of them on any of the candlesticks he made. This is also the way we are able to spot the bogus candlesticks we see like the ones sold by Bob Plate in Northern California.

This is only my thoughts, but your broken handle may very well have been gal legs ? I have I candlestick from Butte that has two gal legs that come together and they start just like what's left of yours. This design renders the candlestick very weak in that area, but if the stick had to be driven into a beam, the hook could be folded down for greater strength and then folded up again. Anyway...I will put my \$\$\$ on Antonio Viera and who knows...someday we may find a stamped one with his name that will give us proof, but until then, we can only guess withwhatever information we know at the time."



**Antonio Viera, Ray, Arizona, "Miner's Candlestick"  
Patented March 12, 1912, No. 1,020,332**