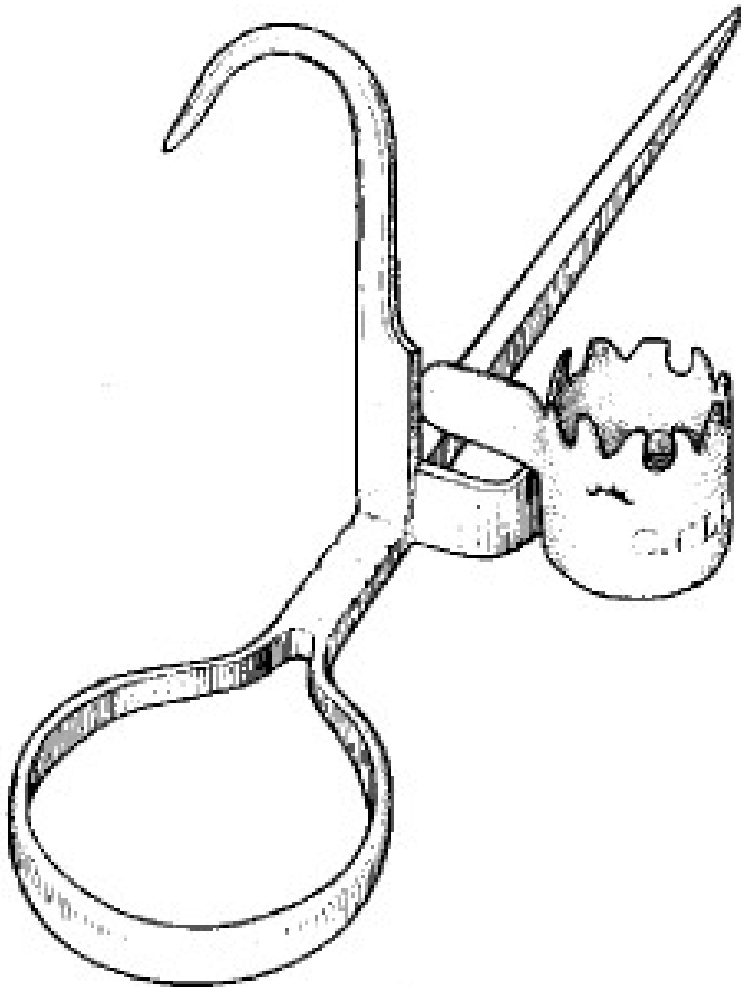


C. Cleaves Identified

by Dave Thorpe



His name appears on the thimble of miner's candleholders, but until now, he was unknown to collectors. He was **Charles Samuel Cleaves** and he lived in Weaverville, California from his birth in 1860 to death in 1918. Herb Dick did the original detective work, and we have now interviewed several descendants who remember him. They relate that C. Cleaves owned a blacksmith shop in Weaverville where he made candlesticks, spurs, bits, and bells for freight horses. He would travel to Oregon periodically and trade items (including old watches) for wild horses on the indian reservation, which he returned to Weaverville and broke.

C. Cleaves was born to Jeremiah Cleaves, of Maine, and Margaret Jane Linney, who was born on an Irish immigrant boat in Quebec Harbor. He married M. J. Hobart in 1887, and had a son Charles De Forest Cleaves in 1889. The middle name De Forest was taken from his wife's grandfather De Forest Amos Hobart, who came to California in 1851 from Courtland County, New York. A grandson of C. Cleaves states that he learned blacksmithing in Chicago.

Although the son (Charles De Forest Cleaves) also learned blacksmithing, he did not achieve the skill of his father. Charles D. worked at the La Grange, a hydraulic mine, in Weaverville. He died at age 87, coming out of the mine on his way to the dog house. He was also a well-known "packer", taking hunters and fishermen into the Trinity Alps. A granddaughter Jo Ellen relates that one of his clients was Clark Gable!