

Collections within our Collections: George B. Adams patent of 1896

by

Josef L'Africain



Several years ago, I was in England on a train with Fletcher Wallis on our way to the Newark Antiques Faire, and we were talking corkscrews, of course. And, at some point we were discussing a particular corkscrew maker, and Wally referred to the person as a "...pathological inventor."

In doing research into George B. Adams, and the myriad of patents that he was awarded, Wally's characterization seems similarly appropriate. Here are a few of his patents—the bolded ones are the patent dates present on the pinback corkscrew. Alma Adams (his spouse) was awarded one patent in 1898 (608,357) for a Badge, with a second patent (630,779) also for a Badge in 1899 with George B. being assigned half of the patent.

376,500 Cuff-Button 1/17/1888

397,955A Scarf-Holder 2/19/1889

405,687A Cuff-Holder 6/25/1889

409,159A Pouch or Bag 8/20/1889
 434,650A Knob 8/19/1890
 489,702A Garment Supporter 1/10/1893
 510,875A Trousers-Strap 12/19/1893
523,063A Trousers-Strap 7/17/1894
 539,400A Stud or Button 05/21/1895
 539,401A Cuff Holder 05/21/1895
558,334A Jewelry 04/14/1896
564,356 Badge Pin or Button 7/21/1896
 570,442 Key-Ring or the Like 11/3/1896
 572,237 Stamp or coin case 12/1/1896
 608,357 8/2/1898 Badge Alma Adams
 613,226 Luggage Carrier 11/1/1898
 630,579 Badge 8/8/1899 Alma *and* George
 644,752 Buckle 3/6/1899
 650,962 Badge 6/5/1900
 684,491 Badge 10/15/1900
 712,631 Garment or hose supporter 11/4/1902
 744,017 Clasp 11/17/1903
 943,212 Buckle 12/14/1909
 1,055,011 Clasp or Buckle 3/4/1913



As mentioned, there are three of Adams' patent dates that appear on the pinback corkscrew, and none of the patent drawings mention corkscrew, and each of those three patents were assigned to Whitehead & Hoag Company who were beyond prolific in their celluloid, pinback, and medal advertisement business.

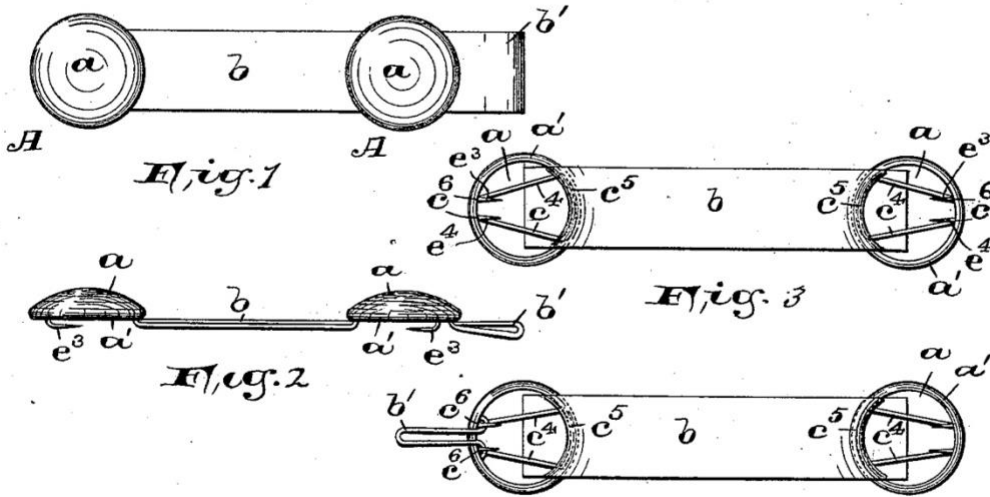
An advertisement for The Whitehead & Hoag Co. featuring various medals and banners. The text includes "The Whitehead & Hoag Co. MAKERS OF BADGES, FLAGS AND BANNERS." and "WILKINSON ENGINEER CORPS. NEWARK, N.J." The address is "Main Office & Factory 28, 30, 32 & 34 WARREN ST. 161 & 163 WASHINGTON ST. NEWARK, NEW JERSEY."

(No Model.)

G. B. ADAMS.
TROUSERS STRAP.

No. 523,063.

Patented July 17, 1894.



WITNESSES:

Wm. D. Campbell, Jr.
H. W. Marsh

Fig. 4

INVENTOR:

George B. Adams,

BY *Fred C. Praentzel,* ATT'Y.

(No Model.)

G. B. ADAMS.
JEWELRY.

No. 558,334.

Patented Apr. 14, 1896.

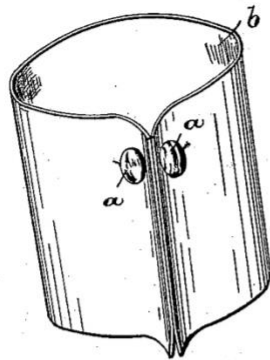


FIG. 1

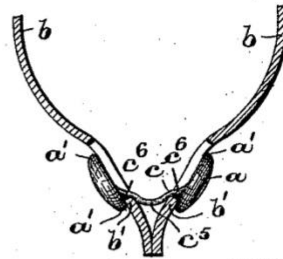


FIG. 2



FIG. 4

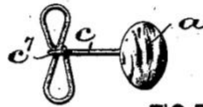


FIG. 5



FIG. 3

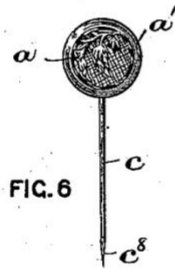


FIG. 6

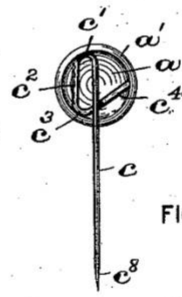


FIG. 7

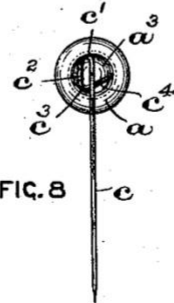


FIG. 8

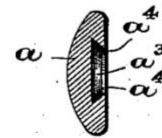


FIG. 9

WITNESSES:

Wm. H. Campfield Jr.
John A. Russell
[Signature]

INVENTOR:

GEORGE B. ADAMS.

BY

Frederic Fraentzel,
ATTORNEY

(No Model.)

G. B. ADAMS.
BADGE PIN OR BUTTON.

No. 564,356.

Patented July 21, 1896.

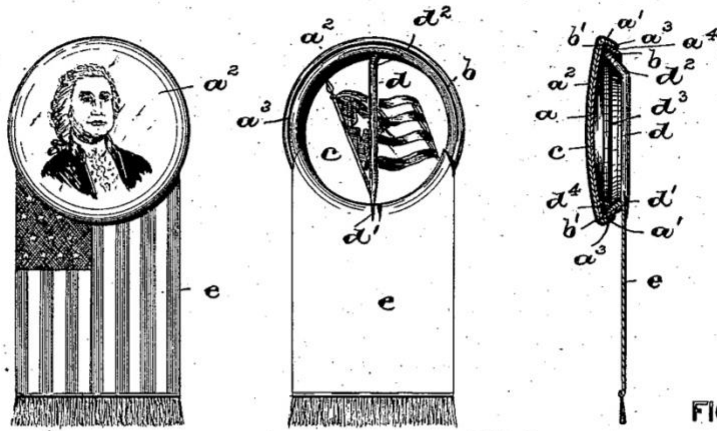


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

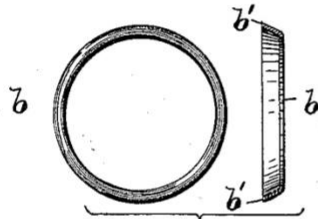


FIG. 4

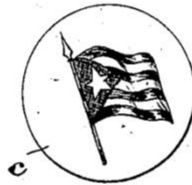


FIG. 5

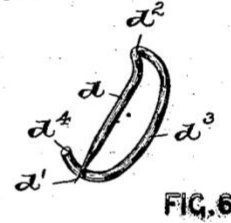


FIG. 6



FIG. 7

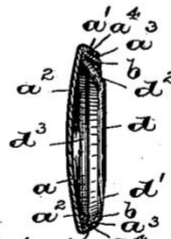


FIG. 8

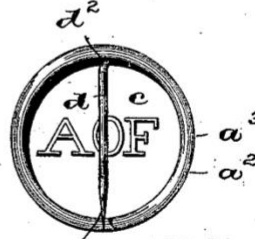


FIG. 9

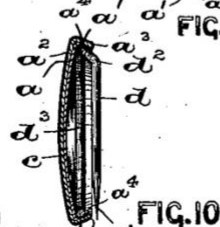


FIG. 10

WITNESSES:

Wm. W. Crawford
B. Mortimer Chasdeell.

INVENTOR:

GEORGE B. ADAMS.

BY

Fred C. Graentzel,
ATTORNEY

In 2007, collector Mark Woodard found an example of the R.V. PIERCE, M. D., Pres. World's Dispensary Medical Ass'n Adams patent pinback corkscrew on a non-eBay auction. And, in short order he sent information about his find to Don Bull, who featured the corkscrew on his *Weekly Screw*.



Around this time, Jack Bandy weighed on a past trade with Bull, that included a MANGELS & SCHMIDT'S pinback corkscrew, which Bull also shared on his *Weekly Screw* a week later.



It wasn't more than a few weeks later, that I found a similar pinback corkscrew, but with the slogan "I HAVE MY "EYE" ON YOU."



Ask Your Grocer for
MANGELS & SCHMIDT'S
BREAD.
Bakery, 348, 350 and 352 Court
 NEWARK, N. J.

When Bull sold off his collection of "American stuff," Tommy picked up the Mangels and Schmidt's, and at some point, I got a second R.V. Pierce corkscrew, which I offered in trade to Tommy in exchange for the Mangels.

After a while...he agreed.

Earlier this year, there was an auction that also had an Adams patent Whitehead and Hoag corkscrew. This example features advertising:

"COMPLIMENTS OF R. D. BRADNER, DRUGGIST, 85 BLOOMFIELD AVE., NEWARK, N.J."


HAVE YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS COMPOUNDED
 AT
BRADNER'S
 Prescription Pharmacy

2 grain Quinine Pills (Upjohn's), per dozen,	15 cts
2 grain Quinine Capsules (Parke, Davis & Co.), per dozen,	15 cts
Fresh Extract Witch Hazel, per pint,	15 cts
Lazell's Handkerchief Extracts, per half ounce bottle,	17 cts
Lazell's Handkerchief Extracts, in bulk, all odors, per ounce,	25 cts

BRADNER'S LUNG BALSAM!
 The great specific for Coughs, Colds and all Lung Affections, is prepared and for sale only at

R. D. Bradner's Prescription Pharmacy
 COR. BLOOMFIELD AND SUMMER AVES.

Drugs and Medicines.



Ha! Ha! Ha! I always believe in buying the BEST, especially when I can save money by doing so. Therefore I buy all my Drugs and Medicines, and have my prescriptions prepared at

**R. D. BRADNER'S
PRESCRIPTION
PHARMACY,**
Cor. Bloomfield and Summer Aves
BRICK BUILDING.

Dr. Pierce's Discovery.....	75c
Ayer's Sarsaparilla, per bottle.....	75c
Mellin's.....	75c
Mellin and Cod Liver Oil.....	75c
Hoof's Sarsaparilla.....	60c
Bradner's Hair Invigorator.....	50c
Phillips's Emulsion..... 50c and	67c
Castoria.....	25c
P. Davis's Pain Killer.....	15c
Cuticura Resolvent.....	75c
Pell's Chloride.....	25c
1 grain Quinine Pills, warranted, per 100.....	40c
Burdock & Aged Sarsaparilla.....	10c
Bradner's Sanguinaria Tonic, per oz.....	5c
Bradner's Lung Balsam.....	25c
Imperial Granum.....	25c
Vita Sanguinaria.....	25c
Shaker's Extract Roots.....	45c
Bradner's Instant Cure Kidney.....	15c
St. Jacob's Oil.....	50c
Pure Cod Liver Oil, per pint.....	60c

**A LARGE STOCK
OF THE BEST QUALITY OF
Drugs, Medicines, Etc.
CONSTANTLY ON HAND.**
Prescriptions Carefully Compounded,
Day or Night, at

**R. D. BRADNER'S
Prescription Pharmacy,**
Bloomfield & Summer Aves.
Brick Building NEWARK, N. J.

While there isn't much information out there about these pinback corkscrews, there are some coincidences with a couple of them. Mangels & Schmidt, R.D. Bradner, G.B. Adams, and Whitehead and Hoag were all located in Newark, New Jersey.

The odd man out would be R.V. Pierce whose medical association was located in Buffalo, NY.

Although, in looking at advertisements from the time, R.D. Bradner sold medicines made by R.V. Pierce.

Could there be a connection? Could Bradner have received a Dr. Pierce advertising corkscrew and thought it was a good marketing tool? Could it be that Dr. Pierce paid Bradner a visit in Newark?

Dr. Pierce's Discovery



An interesting mystery, as a corkscrew isn't mentioned in any of the patents that are shown on the back of the pinback corkscrew, but what other versions are out there?

Do you have a G.B. Adams / Whitehead & Hoag corkscrew with different advertising or slogans upon it?

Feel free to drop me a line at josef@vintagecorkscrews.com.