

# Report of the 2017 Midwest Meeting of the Rushlight Club

It was a perfect day Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> for the Midwest Regional Annual meeting, sunny and no snow in the forecast. The meeting this year was held at the home of members Chris and Lanny Green in Bensenville, Illinois. As usual members came from near and far, 25 members in total from California, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

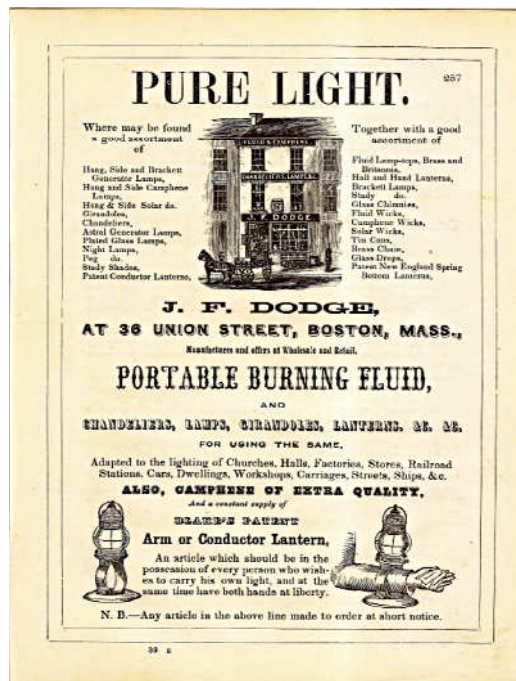


Lunch was the first item on the agenda; the pot luck was excellent as always. This was followed by a lively discussion on items members brought to share.

Some of the highlights were the automatic candle extinguishers and candle guards Chuck Leib brought. He set up a display to show how the extinguishers worked. After the candle had been burning for a few minutes the extinguisher dropped and put out the candle flame. Keith Letsche had a very unusual “arm lantern” to show. He supplied the following information on the lantern:

*“Philos Blake, of New Haven, Conn., received a patent on January 13, 1852, for a lantern for “railroad conductors, freight agents, and others” that was “made to rest securely . . . on the top of the forearm . . . leaving both hands at liberty to perform manipulations.” The arm band is marked “Blake’s Patent/ January 13, 1852.” It was made by D. D. Miller of New York and burns sperm oil. The arm band and globe were acquired separately within 4 months of one another. It may be the only example complete with original globe and guard rings.”*

John Shallcross had what looked like a pair of brass candlesticks but were in fact Wax Jacks. Other items that were up for discussion were: Marine and Railroad Lanterns, Tin Match Boxes, Cigar Lighter, Iron Candle Holders, Rushlights, Tin Lamps, Brass Candlesticks, Candle Mold and a Tavern Lamp. As you can see there was something for everybody and made for a very interesting meeting.



Courtesy of Chuck Leib