

Boston & Maine Railroad  
Historical Society Incorporated

File. No. 7

Lanterns, Marker Lamps, Switch Stand Lamps  
Part 2.

Hardware Collection



## Fixed-Globe Lanterns

Fixed globe lanterns date back to the earliest days of railroading. Their main characteristic is a globe that is fixed, that is, cemented into the lantern frame.

The heyday of this lantern type – roughly the decades before, during, and after the Civil War – preceded the era when a few large companies came to dominate the industry with standard models.

This was the time period when railroad construction in the U.S. was most active in the Northeast, so most railroad markings found on fixed globe lanterns are from lines in the region. Moreover, the large majority of these are from New England.

Gradually, fixed globe lanterns were superseded by lanterns with removable globes, a real advantage in dealing with breakage.

The 1890's are generally considered the end of the fixed globe lantern era, although there is evidence that the Boston & Albany Railroad used such lanterns later than this period.

Donation by; Frank Kyper



## Boston Lowell Railroad

Bellbottom Lantern w/ Clear Globe  
B. and L. R.R. embossed

The Boston & Lowell Railroad  
{1 of the first 3 Railroads chartered  
in Mass in 1831} 1835-1884.

Over the next four decades, the  
B&L competed with the B&M until  
the more successful Boston & Maine  
leased it on April 1, 1887

Donation by; Frank Kyper





## Cheshire Railroad

Bellbottom Lantern w/ Clear Globe B.& M.R.R. embossed  
The Cheshire Railroad was chartered in New Hampshire in 1844, the Cheshire Railroad was merged into the Fitchburg in 1890, becoming the Cheshire Branch. Passenger service ended in 1958, and the line was abandoned in sections, Winchendon north in 1970 ( after the bankruptcy of the Rutland Railroad ) and in 1984 for the rest.  
Donation by; Frank Kyper







## Concord and Montreal Railroad

C. & M. R. R. Bellbottom Lantern w/ Tall Clear Globe

The Boston, Concord & Montreal Railroad merged into the Concord Railroad in 1889, forming the Concord & Montreal Railroad, which itself was merged into the Boston & Maine in 1895.

Donation by Frank Kyper





## Boston & Maine Railroad

Bellbottom Lantern w/ Tall Clear Globe B. & M.R.R. embossed  
Armspear Manufacturing originally began operating as the Railroad Signal Lamp & Lantern Co. in the 1880's. At some point in the early 1890's, the company began marketing a line of lanterns and other high-quality lighting devices under the name 'Armspear'.

Donation by: Frank Kyper







## The Northern of New Hampshire Railroad

Bellbottom Lantern w/ Tall Clear Globe N.R.R.R. embossed

The Northern Railroad (sometimes called the Northern of New Hampshire Railroad) was a U.S. railroad in Central New Hampshire. Originally opened from Concord to West Lebanon in 1847, the Northern Railroad became part of the Boston & Maine system by 1890.

By the time of its lease, the Northern operated three railroads totaling 172 route-miles (277km)/ 99 miles (159km) of track were owned directly by the Northern.

In 1884, the last year of which data was reported, it reported 30,067,806 ton-miles of revenue freight and 7,465,569 passenger-miles.

Donation by; Frank Kyper





## Concord (NH) Railroad / 1842-1889

Embossed bottom Bellbottom Lantern  
Tall Clear Globe C.R.R.R. embossed







## Adlake Kero Lantern

Short Red Globe etched B&M w/ shades

Donation by; Frank Kyper







## Boston & Maine Railroad

### Dietz/Vista Lantern w/ Cobalt Blue Globe

Dietz Vesta name was applied by Dietz to a long series of lanterns, and the original version, introduced in 1896.

After World War One, Dietz redesigned the Vesta to make it smaller and competitive with newly-introduced short-globe lanterns and this shorter 'Lo-top' version.

The one common feature of all Vesta models was the ventilation design – the so called “cold blast” design whereby air was circulated through flanking tubes to produce a strong flame. Vista lanterns were used for decades until Dietz discontinued Vesta around 1960.

When a blue lantern was hung on a locomotive or any rolling stock it meant “*men working do Not Move!*” The blue lantern also was to be removed ONLY by the man who placed it. This still true today.

Donation by; Frank Kyper





Adlake Kero Lantern  
w/ Red Fresnel Globe

Dressel N.Y.C.S.  
Lantern w/ Short Red Globe

Donation by; Michael Lee



## Switch Stand Lamps – Steam Era

- Switch stand Lamps were for switches on the main line or in the yards.
- Each lamp has four lenses, a combination of two red and two green or two amber.
- Usually a green signal indicated the switch is set straight ahead.
- Depending on direction either a red {facing point} or amber {trailing point} signal indicated the switch was in the curved or siding position.
- Some are found equipped with metal disc of matching enameled colors attached around the lens to serve as day signals.





Adlake Non Sweating  
Switch Stand Lamp w/ reflectors

Donation by; Michael Lee







## Adlake Fourway

Switch Stand Lamp w/ Plastic reflector lens

Needed no illumination & harder to damage.

Circa 1970

Donation by: Michael Lee







## Dressel Switch Stand Lamp

Amber & Blue Lens

Donation by; Joseph Shaw







# Adlake Non Sweating Switch Stand Lamp

Red & Blues Lens

Donation by; Anonymous Donor







## Gray Boston MFG. Co.

MEC R.R. Switch Stand Lamp

Donation by; Anonymous Donor







## Dressel Stainless Steel

Switch Stand Lamp  
Red & Blue Lens

Donation by; Anonymous Donor







Portland & Ogdensburg R.R.

Switch Stand Lamp

Red & Blue Lens

Donation by; Robert Poore



## Dressel Fount & Burner

Marker Lamp / Switch Lamp

The Dressel Fount & Burner 6" T x 4 1/4" x 3 3/4"



## Adlake Fount & Burner

Marker Lamp

The Adlake Fount & Burner 3 7/8" x 6 1/8"





# Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society

## Acknowledgement

- The following donations have made it possible to preserve the B&MRR and our New England Railroad History.
- Anonymous Donors:
- Donors: Frank Kyper, Michael Lee, Robert Poore, Joseph Shaw

- Submitted by;  
Hardware Committee  
Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society