

# Kurly Klips

by Lynne Belluscio

This summer, Emma Delooze sorted through all the papers that came from Elinor Townsend's house. Many of the papers were part of the genealogy from the Keeney family. There were many letters and some business papers from the N.B. Keeney and Son Company. Those will all go into the archives. The genealogy will go into the genealogy files and the newspaper clippings will be sorted into the history files and the clipping files.

Earlman J. Wright in 1877. These inventions were possible because of the development of steel wire and machinery that could bend the wire into the desirable shape. The advantage of a paper clip was that it did not damage the paper. Many people used straight pins to hold papers together. (We have removed hundreds of rusty straight pins from papers while sorting through the files.)

The Gem clip, which is the one most familiar to us today

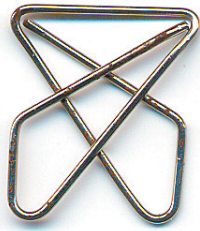
in 1867. It was advertised under a variety of names, including Cinch, Climax, Clinch, Cyclone and Uneedit. Fay's patent mentioned that the clip could be used to attach a paper ticket to another piece of paper. Of course we had Gem Paper Clips. The Townsend papers were also fastened with the Ideal Paper Clip, also known as the Triumph. It was patented in 1902 and is still manufactured today in a variety of sizes by ACCO Brands.

Supply Company in Boston. I discovered on the internet that Owl Clips are still sold today and their claim to fame is that they don't get tangled up like the Gem Clip. The Ezeon Paper Clip was known as the Handi-Grip and was patented in 1920.

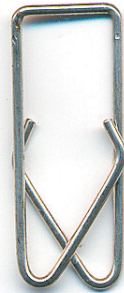
The Keeneys used all of these clips, but the one that was most unusual was a small brass Kurly Klip. Sometimes called a Kodye Kurly Klip or a Clipiola, it was patented in 1936. A similar design



Owl - 1908



Ideal - 1902



Ezeon - 1920



Common Sense - 1904



Weis Clip - 1904



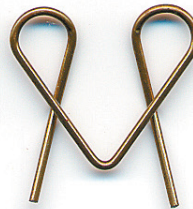
Gem - 1892



Philadelphia - 1867



Rinklip - 1905



Niagara Clip - 1897



Kurly Klip - 1936

As she was sorting the papers, she was taking off the metal paper clips and replacing them with archival plastic clips that won't discolor the papers. As I looked at the pile of old paper clips on the table, I said, "There's an unusual collection right here. Look at all the different kinds of paper clips!" They were in all different shapes and there was one brass circular clip that fascinated me. So it was time to Google "paper clip history" and I learned quite a bit. The best web site was the early Office Museum. There were illustrations and descriptions.

Several people claim to be the first to invent the modern paper clip, but it is generally accepted that Samuel B. Fay invented the first bent-wire paper clip in 1867. A second clip was patented by

was introduced in 1892 and was never patented, instead the name was trademarked. (An interesting note - Pearle Wait chose not to patent Jell-O, but to trademark the name.) In 1899, a Norwegian named John Vaaler patented a paper clip, but because Norway had no patent laws, he had to register his paper clip in Germany. During World War II, when Norway was occupied by Nazi Germany, Norwegians were prohibited from showing any type of loyalty to the king. Instead, in protest they wore paper clips. When the Germans discovered the reason for the paper clip display, they began arresting people who wore them.

In our collection of paper clips I discovered a version of the early Fay Paper Clip invented

We found a Niagara Clip that looks like two loops. It was patented in 1897 and was advertised as recently as 1950. The Clipper Paper Clip known as the Duplex was manufactured in Long Island and was patented in 1904.

One of my favorites was the Common Sense Paper Clip, patented in 1904 and manufactured by the Jackson Manufacturing Company in Jackson, Michigan. It is a round clip with a v-shaped center. The Rinklip Paper Clip was patented in 1905 and manufactured by A.A. Weeks in New York and Cushman and Denison. It looks like two balloons. The Owl Paper Clip was available in 1908 and it is still available today. The Owl is a rectangle with a double loop in the center. It was manufactured by the Owl

was patented in 1907. Just out of curiosity I tried to find Kurly Klips and discovered a roll of them for sale on eBay. I bought them for the LeRoy House collection. I've used paper clips to hang ornaments on the Christmas tree when I ran out of hangers. I've made paper clip chains and I've used one to poke the switch on the computer. When I spin wool on a treadle wheel, a paper clip is just the right size to thread the yarn from the spool through the orifice. In a pinch I've used a paper clip to thread a draw string through a sewn tube. They are also handy when you need a key ring. I also discovered plans on the internet to make a paper clip launcher with a ballpoint pen. The great thing about a paper clip collection -- it doesn't take up much room.