



THE ELIJAH J. MCCOY
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Grand Opening Gala

THE HENRY FORD
THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2012

Map of main floor The Henry Ford



Schedule of Events

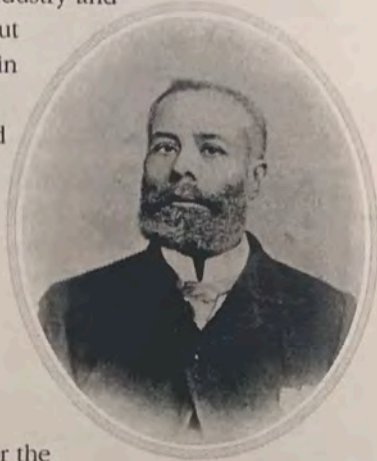
USPTO GRAND OPENING GALA

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2012

- 6:00 p.m. Sponsor Reception
- 7:00 p.m. Strolling Dinner
- 8:15 p.m. Introduction to The Henry Ford Museum by Mr. George Moroz, Special Assistant to the President of The Henry Ford Museum
- 8:20 p.m. Elijah J. McCoy Presentation
- 8:30 p.m. USPTO Event Speakers
- 9:15 p.m. Dessert and Music

ELIJAH J. MCCOY—DETROIT'S "REAL MCCOY"

Elijah J. McCoy was a prolific Detroit area inventor who revolutionized the railroad industry and was awarded 57 patents throughout his lifetime. He was born in 1843 in Ontario, Canada to former slaves who escaped via the Underground Railroad. At an early age, he demonstrated an aptitude for learning and a keen interest in mechanical devices. At the age of 15, he traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland to study mechanical engineering. After completing his studies, he settled in Ypsilanti, Michigan, working as a fireman for the Michigan Central Railroad.



One of Elijah J. McCoy's duties at the railroad was to lubricate locomotive engine mechanisms. In the early 1870s, trains were forced to stop frequently for manual lubrication, increasing travel time and costs. Faced with this problem, Elijah J. McCoy invented the automatic lubricating cup, the subject of his first patent: U.S. Patent No. 129,843 entitled "Improvement for Lubricators for Steam-Engines," dated July 23, 1872. The automatic lubricating cup revolutionized the railroad and industrial machine industries. Indeed, due to the high quality and ingenuity of his automatic lubricating cups, many historians have attributed the phrase "the real McCoy" to his lubricating cups.

Photograph courtesy of the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library.

Elijah J. McCoy continued his work in the field, inventing many other oil and lubrication devices and improvements. U.S. Patent No. 1,136,689, issued on April 20, 1915, was among his most lauded later patents and claimed a locomotive lubricator device that desirably permitted use of heavy lubrication oils comprising graphite. His interests were not limited to lubricating devices; he also received patents for various other inventions, including a folding ironing table (U.S. Patent No. 150,876 issued on May 12, 1874), a folding scaffold support (U.S. Patent No. 856,084 issued on June 4, 1907), a gauge (U.S. Patent No. 1,021,255 issued on March 26, 1912), and design patents for a turtle-shaped lawn sprinkler (U.S. Patent No. D031,549 issued on September 26, 1899), an eraser (U.S. Patent No. D039,542 issued on September 15, 1908), and a vehicle tire tread (U.S. Patent No. D063,107 issued on October 2, 1923), among others.

Elijah J. McCoy died in Detroit, Michigan in 1929 at the age of 86. In 2001, he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Ten years later, in 2011, Congress honored his achievements by designating the first USPTO satellite office in Detroit, Michigan as the "Elijah J. McCoy United States Patent and Trademark Office." The Washington, D.C. area USPTO may be the original, but the USPTO Detroit Office can certainly claim to be "the real McCoy."

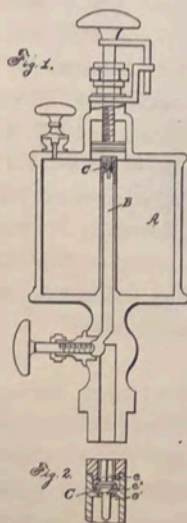
Sources: The Henry Ford Museum, the National Inventors Hall of Fame (www.invent.org), and Patricia Carter Sluby, *The Inventive Spirit of African Americans: Patented Ingenuity* pp. 66-67, 167, 251-253 Praeger Publishing (2004).

(No Model.)

E. McCOY.
LUBRICATOR.

No. 201,166.

Patented July 18, 1882.



WITNESSES
Samuel C. Jones
Richard H. Houser

INVENTOR
Elijah McCoy
By *W. C. Leggett*
ATTORNEY

A BEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY, NEW YORK, U.S.A.

Inventor Elijah J. McCoy's most important inventions involved automatic lubricating cups that revolutionized the industrial machine industry. His life and work remain an inspiration to this day. Pictured above is a representative patent to Elijah J. McCoy from 1882 and an actual model of a lubricating cup at right.



From the collections of The Henry Ford.

THE ELIJAH J. MCCOY
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
300 RIVER PLACE DRIVE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The new Elijah J. McCoy USPTO Detroit Office is located in the scenic River Place complex along the banks of the Detroit River, facing Canada. Listed on the National Historic Registry, the building was constructed in 1902 for Parke-Davis Laboratories.

The Parke-Davis and Company Pharmaceutical Plant was home to one of the most important and influential pharmaceutical companies in the United States. The plant was one of the first commercial research facilities built in the nation and facilitated ground-breaking discoveries, including new methods for producing and delivering drugs. At this location, Parke-Davis discovered new compounds and medicines to treat various conditions, including diphtheria and epilepsy.

In addition to its work in pharmaceuticals, Parke-Davis also heavily influenced the look of the Detroit River waterfront, constructing 26 buildings over a 60-year period. The property later became the Stroh's Brewery headquarters. Today, the River Place complex is a mixed use development, with retail, residences, and a hotel, in addition to the USPTO Detroit Office.

The USPTO Detroit Office will open on July 13, 2012, and is expected to have about 100 employees located there.

Sources: National Park Service (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/detroit/d8.htm>); USPTO Press Release dated January 11, 2012 (<http://www.uspto.gov/news/pr/2012/12-04.jsp>); USPTO AIA Implementation Act Blog dated May 18, 2012 from Janet Gongola, USPTO Patent Reform Coordinator (http://www.uspto.gov/aia_implementation/blog.jsp#heading-4); and <http://www.detroit1701.org/>.

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Manufacturing North America



Elijah McCoy.

Specification for improve-
ment in apparatus for
oiling slide valves &c.

Filed Mar. 12. 1887.