

Dewey's Slug

**WILLIAMSON'S AMERICAN
CARTRIDGE CORKSCREW, No. 080**
(PATENTED)



Full Nickel Plate
Crucible Steel
Temper Warranted
Quick Sellers at 25 cts.
each

"Neat and Compact for
the Pocket,"

A good 100 per cent
Profit

Order a box containing
2 dozen from your
jobber, or we will
mail a Sample Card
on receipt of \$1.35

**WILLIAMSON CO.,
NEWARK, N. J.**

Cartridge Cork Screw

or...
"Dewey's Slug"

**GOLD PLATED BODY
NICKEL PLATED TIP**

No. 80, 1 Doz. in a box . . . \$2.00 net
No. 080, 1 Doz. on a card . . . \$2.00 net

Williamson Wire Novelty Co.
Camp and Mulberry Sts., NEWARK, N. J.

Williamson advertisements from 1899 issues of the The House Furnishing Review.



Dewey's Slug with copy on the advertising plate:
"Dewey's Slug/Two Fred's/59 So. Prairie St./Galesburg,
ILL." *Courtesy of Jack Bandy.*

On January 11, 1897 William A. Williamson filed an application for a patent for his invention of a corkscrew which is concealed inside a small bottle shape. The ends thread together and when unscrewed, a helix pivots at an angle to the base. The two pieces are then screwed back together to form the handle. The bottle had already been introduced in 1893 at the Chicago Columbian Exposition as a souvenir. In the ensuing years, a number of breweries, distillers, cafes, etc. used the bottle as a promotional item. On June 1, 1897, U. S. Patent #583,561

was issued.

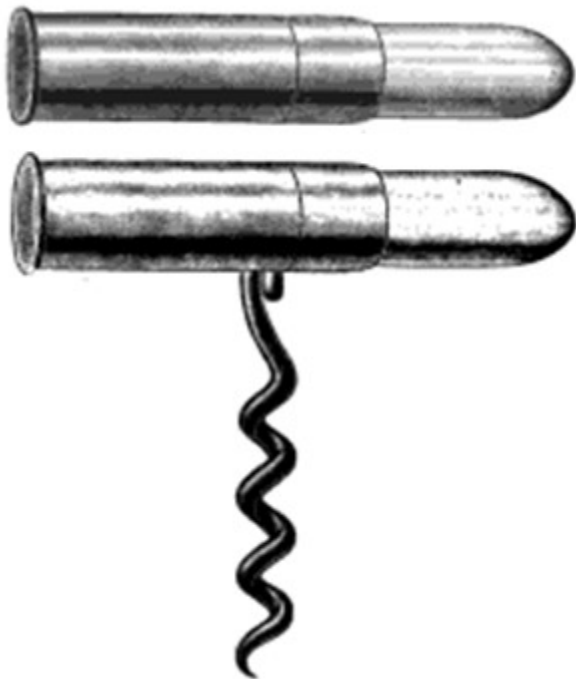
In 1899 Williamson introduced the "Cartridge Corkscrew" or "Dewey's Slug" using the same functional design as the bottle. The "Slug" is in the shape of a cannon projectile. The "Slug" was most likely introduced in celebration of the end of the Spanish-American war and to commemorate the capture of the "Dewey Cannon."



The Spanish-American war had begun with the 1898 sinking of the *USS Maine* in the Havana, Cuba harbor ("Remember the Maine"). Blaming fingers were pointed at the Cubans and the Spanish by Americans while Spanish and loyalist Cuban opinions theorized that the U. S. government may have caused the sinking to go to war with Spain. The U. S. declared war on Spain on April 25, 1898. The first battle took place at Manila Bay in the Philippines on May 1, 1898 with Commodore George Dewey (1837-1917) commanding the U. S. Navy's Pacific fleet. The war was very short with fighting ending on August 12, 1898 and a treaty was signed on December 10, 1898.



The story of the "Dewey Cannon" was reported in the media as "The Filipinos captured the gun from Spaniards who were throwing up earthworks on Corregidor Island, preparatory to use against the United States forces. The cannon was taken aboard the United States revenue cutter McCulloch and Commodore Dewey - for he was not an admiral then - decided to give it to the national monument committee as his contribution to the monument fund provided for the erection of a suitable monument to the martyrs of the battleship *Maine* and the soldiers and sailors of the Spanish-American war."



From *The House Furnishing Review* published by I. B. Scott, January, 1899.

The Williamson Company, Newark, N.J. are putting upon the market their newly patented Cartridge Corkscrew called "Dewey's Slug," shown by the accompanying cuts. This pocket Corkscrew makes one of the most useful, durable and saleable articles now on the market, being, as it is, an appropriate souvenir of the times. The upper portion, or tip of the cartridge, is finished in nickel plate, the lower portion is a light bright copper shape, while the corkscrew is heavily nickeled. The "Dewey Slug" makes a decidedly up-to-date novelty, and sells readily for twenty-five cents, giving good profit to the retailer.



Two Dewey Slugs marked with the 1897 Williamson patent date. One is "Compliments of Pittsburg Bridge Company" and the other advertises Old Crow Whiskey.



The large Dewey slugs on the left and the right are marked with the 1897 date. The one on the right is silver. The third and fourth also have 1897 marks and are from The Turner Looker Co. of Cincinnati and the Lemp Brewery of St. Louis. Looking closely at the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th slug, the reader can see a difference in the very bottom (rimless). These three are the 1900 patent of Ralph Jorres. On September 4, 1900 Ralph W. Jorres was granted U.S. Patent #657,421 for his version of the Williamson corkscrew. Jorres attached the helix to the top of the bottle/bullet instead of the base.



Cannon Cartridges



On July 16, 1899, the Michigan town of Three Oaks celebrated the installation of the “Dewey cannon” with a parade, patriotic speeches, fireworks, and special electrical decorated lighting. The cannon was awarded to the town by Admiral Dewey for raising the most money per capita for the *USS Maine* memorial monument fund. The cannon's installation in Three Oaks was officially dedicated on October 10, 1899 by President William McKinley. The official unveiling, however, was planned for 1900 in hopes that Admiral Dewey would attend.

In early May, 1900, Three Oaks received news that Admiral Dewey would visit the town. At the end of May, Dewey announced that he would not attend. The unveiling date was then set for June 28, 1900 with the guest of honor being Helen Miller Gould, daughter of financier Jay Gould, a nurse during the Spanish-American War, and a major contributor to the Spanish-American war campaign.



June 28, 1900 - Unveiling of the cannon