



## Rolling Through Time

By James Vannurden  
Director and Curator  
Official Newsletter of:  
National Museum of Roller Skating  
4730 South Street, Lincoln, NE 68506  
(402)483-7551 ex. 16

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### Who We Are

The National Museum of Roller Skating is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization located in Lincoln, Nebraska and the only dedicated roller skating museum in the world. We are committed to the preservation of the history of roller skating. With over 50 display cases, the museum educates the public on all aspects of roller skating, which dates back to the first patented skate from 1819.

### Curator's Corner

#### Happy Valentine's Day!



I'll fall for you most anytime, if you'll be my Valentine



Don't waste time, I'm in a hurry to be your Valentine.

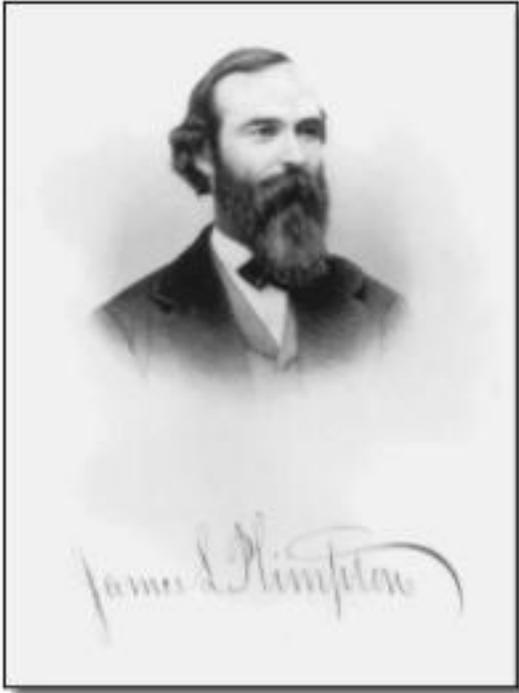


I've got a feeling I'm falling for you, My Valentine.



I hope you'll end up being my Valentine.

**James Leonard Plimpton**  
The Father of Modern Roller Skating



Born April 14, 1828 James Leonard Plimpton forever changed the leisure activity of roller skating in 1863 by creating and patenting a revolutionary, four-wheeled roller skate; his creation changed roller skating from a fad into a world sport.

The book *A Genealogy and Historical Notices of the Family of Plimpton or Plympton in American, and of Plumpton in England*, found in the museum archives, gives a brief story on how James Leonard created an industry. The following information comes from this cited text:

*In 1863, having improved his health from a season of ice skating, he invented and patented the first guidable roller skate known in this or any other country; and in 1867, to popularize this invention with the leading classes, he personally designed and superintended the erection of the complicated structure, known as Plimpton Building, in new York, containing a large room for roller skating, wherein he could study the exercise, and the best interests of the public in the use of his invention.*



*From this he created a new and useful form of social gathering; also a new industry which has already expanded to many millions of dollars.*

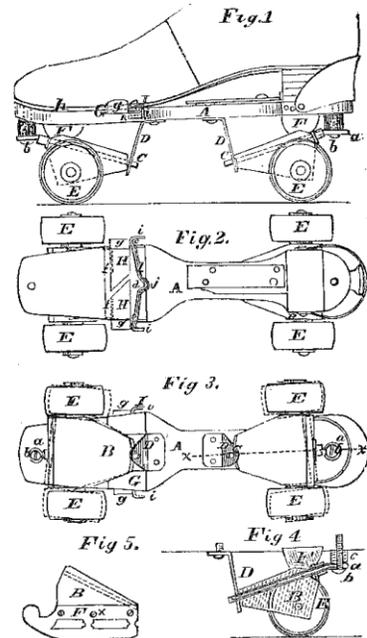
*Like most successful inventors, he has been troubled by infringers; there being over three hundred patents issued, in this and other countries, for guidable roller skates, all copying in some way his original invention.*

*Harriet [his wife, was able] to give her husband that assistance in the preparation of his patent cases that could not otherwise have been as thoroughly prepared within the time required. Her quick perceptions and correct impressions as to social, legal, and business points, coupled with the more studied reason of her husband, has much to do with the success of their joint efforts.*

*In 1874, to protect his co-workers in roller skating abroad, he, and his entire family, visited Europe, and after popularizing his invention, brought twenty-four Chancery actions in the English High Courts of Justice, against infringers; and after giving his opponents all the favors asked, and all fair advantages, each and all of such actions abroad resulted fully in his favor. His record for fair dealing, and uninterrupted success in patent litigation, is without equal in any country; this has enabled him to control and establish roller skating as a highly approved exercise and recreation in nearly every civilized portion of the globe.*

**United States Patent Office.**

Copy of the Drawings Accompanying Plimpton's Original Patent of January 6th, 1863.



And Division A. of the reissue No. 3906, dated April 5, 1870—reissue No. 4292, dated March 7, 1871

## Rink Photo

Tri-County Roll Arena  
Oliver Springs, TN



### New Members

Jordan Hansen  
Ella Hansen  
Trace and Shannon Hansen  
Hansen's Eastlake Skate Center  
Hansen's Holiday Skate Center

### Renewing Members

Gloria Manning  
Kathleen Tini  
Sue Ellis

### Wish List

**Unusual skates:** for example this convertible skate or the Chariot Skate



## Rink Sticker Collection

The museum has an extensive collection of roller skating rink stickers. Many skating rinks used to produce stickers as both an advertisement and fun way to for skaters to interact with one another, comparing the different location in which they skated. These were even traded as collectibles both informally and formally, under the Universal Roller Skating Sticker Exchange founded in 1948. Each newsletter, we will feature different rink stickers. Here are a few examples of the numerous stickers in the collection and on display at the National Museum of Roller Skating.



Thanks for supporting the museum!

