



Issue No. 313

Bottles *Along the* *Mohawk*



May 2020

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY ANTIQUE BOTTLE CLUB

*Due to the Corona Virus
Precautionary Shut-downs*

**OUR MAY 11TH
MEETING IS CANCELED**

READ MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 3



THE BEAUTY OF ANTIQUE GLASS - SEE PAGE THREE

*Read Inside: Club member digs a
very rare Whitesboro, NY milk bottle*

President's Message...



Greetings Everyone,

I hope this letter finds you all well and staying safe during these stressful times. Our hobby has felt the strain of all of this as well.

Most all shows have been canceled and there will be no live auctions anywhere for a while. Thank goodness we still get our bottle magazines each month.

I miss our meetings and laughing and talking with everyone. This is just a setback for a while and down the road we all will be back together and having a great time which we should.

On a sad note the bottle hobby lost a great collector and person. Mark Vuono was killed in a robbery at his jewelry store a few weeks ago. Mark was a good friend and I still have not come to terms that he is gone. Like this virus it all seems untrue. I will close by saying we all need to enjoy life and make the best of what we have.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AND SHARING STORIES!



*Take Care,
Jim Bender*

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Visit us on Facebook – Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club



ON THE FRONT PAGE

This beautiful photo of colored bottles and glass was copied from our facebook page on the internet. Go to facebook and then type in: mohawk valley bottle club and you will see this photo. The bottles in the photo are from the collection of Jeff and Holly Noordsy who are members of our facebook page and sell antique bottles on the internet.

MORE ABOUT OUR BOTTLE SHOW RAFFLE TICKETS

Even though our show is canceled we can still have our bottle raffle (we love it)! Raffle tickets for our beautiful mint Summer/Winter historical flask were handed out at the March meeting (see photo of our raffle bottle on page 8 of this newsletter). People who were not at the meeting will have tickets mailed to them. Please try to sell them, they are our Clubs' largest fund raiser. We will have a drawing for the flask sometime this fall. **SOME LUCKY PERSON WILL BE THE NEW OWNER OF THIS BEAUTIFUL FLASK. THANK YOU!**

NEW MEMBERS

Our newest members are Lauren Laubenthal and Erik Genalo of Little Falls, NY and are married. They are general antiques collectors/dealers, but Erik enjoys military history and Lauren likes Victorian era items. **WELCOME TO OUR CLUB LAUREN & ERIK. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT ONE OF OUR MEETINGS WHEN THEY BEGIN AGAIN.**

REFRESHMENTS

Dates to be announced

At right: A photo of a seltzer water bottle from the Spring Bottling Works, Utica, NY. The lettering on the bottle was made by etching the surface with acid.



At left: A photo of a pottery T & C ginger beer bottle from the Spring Bottling Works, Utica, N Y.

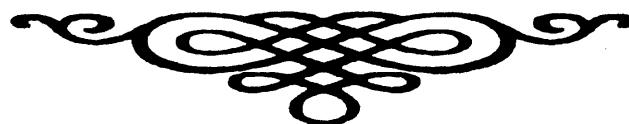


WHAT BOTTLE? THIS IS OUR HISTORY

Answer to last month's question.

A Utica pottery ginger beer bottle has the initials T. & C. printed on it, what do the initials stand for?

Answer: TARCZYNSKI & CZAMECKI, who were the proprietors of the Spring Bottling Works in Utica, NY. At left photos of a T & C pottery ginger beer bottle and T & C seltzer water bottle.



HOW THE DEATH OF TWO UTICA INFANTS HELPED TRIGGER THE PURE FOOD AND DRUG ACT OF 1906

On June 30, 1906 President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906. The bill which took effect on January 1, 1907 was an important piece of legislation and although it was not perfect, it was a revolutionary landmark in the history of consumer protection in America. Unfortunately, the case history of the accidental death of **two Utica, New York twin infants** had been one of the examples cited in a series of articles written by the *Ladies Home Journal* on the dangers of patent medicine use. In a 1906 article, the names of Adam and Eve Gnad of 15 Kossuth Avenue appeared at the top of a list of babies that had recently died after being given a patent medicine. The list was titled, "Thirteen Little Victims of Man's Greed." The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 was a result of the public outrage that was started by articles written by a journalist named Mark Sullivan for the *Ladies Home Journal* and later continued by free-lance journalist Samuel Hopkins Adams for *Collier's*, *The National Weekly* magazine. Adam's started the articles in 1905 under the cover title, "*The Great American Fraud*" and stirred up even more attention about quack medicines after following the campaign spearheaded by the *Ladies Home Journal*. The articles grabbed the attention of the American people about the dangers associated with patented medicines.

The Utica connection started with a newspaper article that appeared in the *Utica Herald Dispatch* on January 26, 1906 under the headlines which read, "TWIN BABIES DIED SUDDENLY, Coroner Dodd Investigating the Case - Were Irregularities – Doctor Preston Called to Attend Five Weeks' Old Children Who Had Been Given a Soothing Syrup- The Investigation." The commentary that followed was the tragic story of how Adam and Eve Gnad died and mentioned certain details about the parents that made the doctor and coroner a little suspicious about the circumstances surrounding the death of the babies.

An urgent call had been made to Doctor Preston to come to a house at 15 Kossuth Avenue, the home of Adam and Eve Gnad. It seems that Stanislaus Gnad, the father of Adam and Eve had administered a dose of a patent medicine named **Kopp's Baby Friend** to the infants and the next day they became seriously ill. Doctor Preston arrived just before they died and he decided to summon Coroner Dodd.

(continued on next page)



HISTORY IN A BOTTLE - SOME OF IT IS SAD!

The rare bottle shown above was recently dug by member Fred DeCarlo. It is embossed, **KOPP'S BABY'S FRIEND/ YORK, PA. U. S. A.** in cursive letters which makes it rare. Most KOPP'S bottles have the embossing in block letters. The history of the bottle is in the article above. It is sad so many infants had to die before any action was taken against the drug companies.

Coroner Dodd used an interpreter to take a deposition from Mr. Gnad. The parents of the babies lived in the same house although they were not married. The Polish couple had lived in the same boarding house in Cohoes, NY but, decided to come to Utica to work in the mills in east Utica. The mother of the children Caroline Stronczek was married but, her husband was away in Austria.

Mr Gnad, the father claimed the infants were ill and he didn't have money for a doctor so he bought some medicine with the name, "KOPP'S BABY'S FRIEND" at the store on the corner of Nichols and Bleecker Streets. The father gave Adam four drops of the medicine which was the prescribed dosage on the label and only two drops to Eve. The infants died the next day. Dodd noticed that a good amount of the medicine was gone from the bottle and the father stated that it had tipped over causing some of the contents to be spilled.

Dodd tried to subpoena the mother of the babies but he could not find her. It was stated she was out making arrangements for the burial of the children. The stomachs of the babies were removed and the contents were to be analyzed along with the medicine. Although the dosage was four drops, a rumor had circulated that the babies were given ten drops.

About one month later, the February 15, 1906 issue of the *Utica Herald Dispatch* carried a follow-up story of Coroner Dodd's decision on the death of Adam and Eve Gnad. Dodd stated that he did an autopsy on the bodies of the infants and analyzed the contents of their stomachs along with the medicine known as Kopp's Baby Friend. It revealed the babies had died from an overdose of Kopp's Baby Friend which **contained morphine**. His decision: "I find and decide that the said Adam and Eve Gnad, died from an overdose of "Kopp's Baby Friend," which was administered by their father, but without criminal intent."

After reading of the tragic deaths of Adam and Eve Gnad, the people of Utica, NY understood why the editor of the *Ladies Home Journal* and Samuel Hopkins Adams, journalist for *Collier's* had written and passionately campaigned against the patent medicine evils.

The manufacturing and sale of Patent Medicines in the second half of the 19th century escalated into a multi-million dollar industry in America. One reason for the successful sales of these nostrums was the huge advertising campaigns bankrolled by the people and companies making the medicines. Their ads often appeared in local newspapers almost on a daily basis and made outrageous claims about their products. Patent medicine makers usually claimed their elixirs would cure almost anything but whose ingredients were a trade secret. Unknown to the consumer, many quack medicines contained large doses of alcohol and some harmful narcotics such as cocaine, heroin, morphine and opium. These were unscrupulous people who would do anything to make a buck

There were no laws in the U.S. prior to 1907 that prohibited any person from mixing any kind of ingredients, bottling it, labeling it and claiming that the concoction would cure anything. Sadly, most newspapers were reluctant to print anything negative about patent medicines because advertisements of the elixirs were a large part of their advertising revenue.

Evidence began to build against the dangerous concoctions and the campaign to rein them in continued until strong public sentiment had been created against the whole business of patent medicines. Some conscientious newspapers stopped advertising patent medicines and several States passed legislation on the subject.

Finally, the public had been awakened to "The Great American Fraud" thanks to several people who were dedicated to the cause. Congress and the President could no longer ignore the reality of the patent medicines that were harming, addicting and often killing the men, women and children of our country. When the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 went into effect on January 1, 1907, it ended the "Patent Medicine Era" which was a shameful time in American history, but not before two small innocent victims from Utica, NY died at the age of one month and one day. The above information was taken from various old Utica newspapers.



RARE UTICA SNUFF BOTTLE

The rare amber
Maccaboy snuff bottle
(label only) shown on the
right reads as follows:

MACCABOY SNUFF

Manufactured by
Warnick, Bryan & Co.
No. 86 Genesee Street
UTICA



This bottle is owned by
**MUNSON WILLIAMS
PROCTOR INSTITUTE**
in Utica, NY. According to
their website the bottle is
ca. 1853 - 1860.

The bottle is 4 1/2 inches high
and the item was
purchased by the Museum.
Check out their other items
on their website at:

mwpai.org



A RARE SULLIVAN & SLAUSON DRUGSTORE BOTTLE



The rare Sullivan &
Slauson, Utica, NY
drugstore bottle shown on
the left is a deep teal-blue
color. When it is
photographed, the bottle
appears to be a cobalt blue
color. What a great bottle.

Fred DeCarlo Collection



REEDER'S DAIRY WHITESBORO, N. Y.

A RARE AND ELUSIVE MILK BOTTLE

By Jon Landers

I have been looking for a REEDER'S DAIRY, WHITESBORO, N.Y. milk bottle for about 20 years. My most serious collecting was always about Utica, NY bottles, although I started collecting Whitesboro, NY milk bottles some years ago, just because that is where I lived. I acquired a bottle from almost every Whitesboro dairy except for maybe three. That is pretty good because there are 41 known Whitesboro, NY dairies. Four or five Whitesboro dairy bottles are rare.

Some years ago I became friends with Mayor Richard Pugh and his wonderful wife Linda of Whitesboro. Richard Pugh was the mayor of Whitesboro for a number of years. He was a history buff and I am also; he collected Whitesboro milk bottles like I did and we both were members of the Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club. Yes, we were friends and sometimes met for coffee and often talked about our Whitesboro milk bottles.

Linda Reeder Pugh's father owned the Reeder's Dairy in Whitesboro in the 1930's. The family had only one Reeder's Dairy milk bottle left from their dairy. Somehow, the bottle accidentally got broken. When I found out Richard Pugh was looking for a Reeder's milk bottle for his family, I wanted to help him find one. Always, looking for one at bottle shows, antique shops and by advertising in bottle magazines. Richard and I never did find one.

(continued on next page)

Photo of the rare
and elusive
Reeder's Dairy
Whitesboro, NY
pint milk bottle.



The bottle is
embossed (34)
on the bottom,
(the year it was made).
Only example known
to local collectors.

Rare milk bottle dug by Fred DeCarlo & Scott Hastings on May 2, 2020

REEDER'S DAIRY

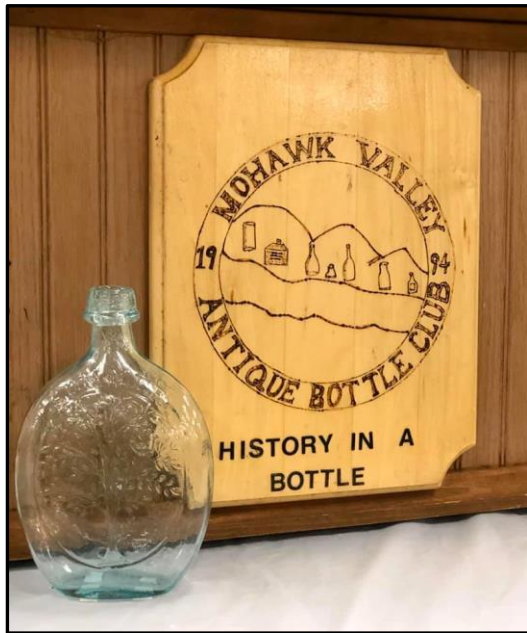
(continued)

Unfortunately, Richard Pugh passed away two years ago. I have continued looking for a bottle for the family. I look on EBay every day for one. This is not unusual because bottle collectors very often look for bottles for families who owned the businesses that used the bottles. Collectors are always looking for bottles for their own collections but most feel, families first.

About a week ago, I said to member Fred DeCarlo, "Freddy, find me a Reeder's Dairy, Whitesboro, NY milk bottle." I guess I didn't really think that he would ever find one because I have been looking for one for 20 years. The reason I told him to keep his eye open for one is because he has been finding and digging so many rare local bottles during the last two years. Our February newsletter had an article about the only known 1/2 pint Bagg's Hotel Dairy bottle that Fred had recently dug. He collects Utica, NY bottles and has put together an unbelievable collection in the last two years he has been collecting.

On Saturday, May 2, 2020 at about 11:30 am, I get a phone call from Fred DeCarlo and he says, "Jonny, guess what I just dug?" I asked, "what," because he digs so many rare bottles that I never know what he is going to find next. When he told me he dug a Reeder's Dairy pint milk bottle from Whitesboro, I could hardly believe it. I had only asked him to find one about a week ago. I asked him what condition the milk bottle was in. He told me that it didn't have any cracks or chips but, was very dirty and I could have the bottle.

About an hour later I was holding the bottle in my hands. Again, I couldn't believe it, after 20 years I had a Reeder's Dairy milk bottle. It only took Fred DeCarlo about one week to dig one. I washed the bottle and it is in mint condition. What a great story! On Monday, it will belong to the Richard Pugh family. GREAT DIGGING FREDDY AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Tom Andriach Photo

Keep selling our raffle tickets. We will have a drawing for our mint beautiful winter/summer historical flask sometime this fall.

WHAT BOTTLE? THIS IS OUR HISTORY

Stillman's American Balsam was manufactured in Central New York; exactly where was the establishment that made this elixir located?

The answer will appear in the next newsletter.





PROGRAMS



**ALL MEETINGS ARE CANCELED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE. MORE INFORMATION
WILL BE IN THE JUNE NEWSLETTER.
FOR NOW STAY SAFE AND WELL! BEFORE
ATTENDING ANY EVENTS CHECK TO SEE IF
THEY HAVE BEEN CANCELED**



BOTTLE SHOWS



June 7 (Sunday)

BALLSTON SPA, NEW YORK IS CANCELED



Unfortunately, the 41st Annual Saratoga Bottle Show is canceled due to the Corona Virus precautionary shutdowns.

July 11 (Saturday)

RICHMOND, RHODE ISLAND – The Little Rhody Bottle Club Tailgate Swap Meet, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Free set-up for all who wish to attend. Free coffee, donuts, and pizza for participants. Bring your own tables! Show Address: Jules Antique Center, 320 Kingstown Road, Richmond, Rhode Island (3 miles East of Route #95 on Route #138), Contact Info: William Rose 508.880.4929.

July 30 – August 3 (Thursday – Sunday)

RENO, NEVADA

Federation of Historical Bottle Collector's National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo, Grand Sierra Resort & Casino, Information: Richard Siri (rtsiri@sbcglobal.net) or Ferdinand Meyer V (fmeyer@fmgdesign.com), **Mini-Contract**, **FOHBC National Convention**

September 20 (Sunday)

CHEEKTOWAGA, NEW YORK

The Greater Buffalo Bottle Collectors Association's 22nd Annual Show & Sale. Pvt. Leonard Post Jr. VFW, 2450 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, New York 14225. General Admission \$4: Sunday 9 am – 2 pm. Contact chairman Joe Guerra, 29 Nina Terrace, West Seneca, New York 14224, 716.207.9948 or jguerra3@roadrunner.com, or www.gbbca.org,



Join Now!
You can become a "2020" member of the
Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club
for just \$10.00



Visit our website: www.mohawkvalleybottleclub.com



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Due to the Precautionary Shutdowns
Our May 11th Meeting is
CANCELED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

God Bless all of our Essential Workers

Visit our website: mohawkvalleybottleclub.com

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Individual Membership \$10.00 Family Membership \$10.00

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Collecting Specialty _____

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As a member you will receive the Club's monthly newsletter. **WELCOME!**