

Collecting American Face Pipes

by Max Bell

While collection American made face pipes, it has become obvious that although many different pipes and mold variations exist very little factual information exists about who made these pipes and what years they were manufactured. The bottle digging communities throughout the United States have been able to help date certain pipes by the age of the sites they were recovered from and excavations of some of the known pipe producing factories has been able to shed light on where some of these pipes were made. That being said, separating fact from speculation is still a fine line.

In this endeavor to bring to light some of the information gathered by the past chroniclers of this uncertain history, I hope to give a picture of the beginnings of pipe making and pipe makers in the United States. Included in this history is a pictorial inventory of some of the known examples of American made face pipes and their approximate age.

American Indians were the first people to introduce clay tobacco pipes to the white settlers as early as 1586. Indian pipes were carried to Europe to serve as models for English and Dutch pipes later exported to America in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The first clay tobacco pipes were made as early as 1690 in Philadelphia where in 1720 they were advertised by Richard Warder. Newspaper ads of 1725 mention "good long Tavern tobacco pipes for sale" and in New York a 1735 ad describing property for sale mentions "about twenty acres of clay ground fit for making tobacco pipes." By the early 19th century other clay deposits were found in Virginia, the Carolina, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Pipes were being made at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania of both red and white clay. Pipe bowls in the shape of a man's head were being made at New Berlin and black glazed bowls were being made at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. John Gribble was another Pennsylvania potter who made pipe bowls shaped like Indian heads using red clay.

Clay pipe manufacturing was an important industry in New Salem, North Carolina. These pipes were made well into the 19th century and the craft is carried on today in the restored Single brothers

house in Old Salem, where visitors may buy pipes made in the old designs.

Other potteries making pipes in New England were the Shakers at Shirley. Also, John Tabor made pipes in Wells, Maine before moving to East Alton, New Hampshire in 1863. Excavations at East Alton produced three types of pipes. The first was covered with little nubs to make it look like a corn cob. The second displays a claw or talon gripping a plain bowl. The third is the head of bearded man who is believed to be General Grant.

Excavators at a pottery site at Point Pleasant, Ohio which was in operation from about 1838-1880 found four style pipes. The four designs were geometric, plain, special designs or initialed and face pipes. They were found in many shades of color from a light tan to almost black. Some were salt glazed and some unglazed.

These old clay pipes are to be found in most old dumpsites today. They were made of inexpensive clays and sold for a few pennies. They were often discarded and been found in Northern California, The Dalles, Oregon, Louisville, Indiana, Wyoming, New Mexico, South Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania and on many old army forts in the west.

Among collectors the most highly prized pipes seem to be the face pipes. There are about sixty short stem American face pipes known to me.

From the factory sites and information gathered from bottle diggers, their production seems to have been between 1845 and 1870.

The California gold rush area and especially San Francisco has produced a large number of these pipes. The largest known cache of these pipes ever uncovered was in Nevada City, California where, when excavating for a foundation on a house built about 1900, the owners started uncovering face pipes in large numbers mixed with ashes and rubble from a fire. There were approximately 300 pipes uncovered many damaged by fire, but some were in excellent condition. After some research, this site turned out to be E.H. and A.H. Hirschman's cigar store. It was a two story building destroyed in the fire of 1855. From the twenty-five different varieties of face pipes found at

this site it is possible to see which pipes were definitely produced in 1855.

The most intriguing face pipes to me are a number of presidential and presidential candidate faces attributed to Barney Spring of Rochester, New York. A set of presidential bowls was produced and presented to the Smithsonian in the 1890's from the original molds and dies Spring had used years before.

The following summary of this series of pipes might prove helpful.

George Washington was president from 1789-1797. He was a military hero and father of our country. This pipe appears to have been made and distributed from 1850-1855. It is marked simply "Washington" on the left hand side of the stem. I only know of one mold of this pipe. [Fig. 1]

Zachary Taylor who was known as "Old Rough and Ready" was a Virginian who migrated to Kentucky. Taylor was elected as a Whig in 1848 but died sixteen months after taking office. He was succeeded by then vice president, Millard Fillmore. This pipe is made in at least three different molds, one having script writing saying "Rough and Ready" on the left side of the stem. Another is in block lettering and two lines on the left side of the stem. The third variation is in script but has a slightly smaller bowl. [Fig. 2]

Millard Fillmore was president from 1850-1853. This pipe is marked "president" on the left side and "Fillmore" on the right side of the stem. Two years after succeeding to the presidency due to Taylor's death, he lost the Whig party nomination to General Winfield Scott. In 1856 he was nominated again but once again was defeated. This pipe appears to have been made and distributed from 1850-1855. I only know of one mold of this pipe. [Fig. 3]

Franklin Pierce, 1853-1857. This pipe is marked "president" on the right and "Frank Pierce" on the left side of the stem. As the Democratic candidate, he won the 1852 election by an overwhelming electoral vote to become the youngest American president. This pipe is made in at least two molds with the same marking. Only the lip finish on the bowl is different. This pipe appears to have been made and distributed from 1853-1858. [Fig. 4]

Lewis Cass, nominated Democratic presidential candidate in 1848 but lost the



[Fig. 1]



[Fig. 2]



[Fig. 3]



[Fig.4]



[Fig. 5]

Democratic nomination to James Polk of Tennessee. Polk lost the presidential election to Zachary Taylor. This pipe may have been distributed as early as 1848-1849 and has been found in California gold rush sites. I only know of one mold of this pipe. [Fig. 5]

Henry Clay was a presidential candidate in 1824, 1832, and 1844. The pipe is marked "Henry" on the left and "Clay" on the right side of the stem. Although Henry Clay was a member of the House of Representatives and the Senate, he was denied the presidency three times. In 1824 he lost to John Quincy Adams, in 1832 he lost to Andrew Jackson and in 1844 he lost to James Polk. This pipe appears to have been made and distributed from 1850-1855. I know of two molds of this pipe. The difference is a ring of stars on the stem and slightly different hair. [Fig. 6]

Ulysses S. Grant, 1869-1877. This pipe has no name appearing on it and may not be attributed to Barney Spring. Lura Watkins excavated a reddish-orange Grant pipe on the site of the John Tabor pottery which was in production from 1863-1872. President Grant won two terms, defeating Horatio Seymore in 1868 and Horace Greeley in 1872. This pipe appears to have been made and distributed from 1865-1870. There are at least three known molds of this pipe. [Fig. 7]

Many other face pipes of this era are so rare and so little concrete information is available that it is only speculation as to when they were made and by whom. In the future, excavations at known potteries may shed light on the makers. Until then I will continue to enjoy them for their beauty and mystery.

Anyone wishing to contact me regarding exchange of information, collecting, buying or especially anyone interested in selling even one of these pipes can reach me at:

Max Bell
852 Holly Hills Drive
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 823-3315

My sincere thanks go all those who have helped in this endeavor. Special thanks to Byron Sudbury whose work "Historical Clay Tobacco Pipe makers in the United States of America" sets the mark for all who strive to bring the past to light.

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[Fig. 6]



[Fig. 7]



Rainier Beer

1883-1916

by Dave Scafani

Andrew Henrich and John Kopp formed a partnership in 1883 and opened up the Bayview Brewery.



Green bottles from three eras.



Rainier Beer tray, date unknown.



1903 Rainier Beer tray.

Bibliography

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The first year's production was only 200 barrels. John Kopp left the partnership in 1884 to start the North Pacific Brewery in Astoria, Oregon. At this time, Henrich reorganized the brewery as Bayview Brewery Incorporated.

In 1892, a major merger with Albert Braun Brewing Association and Malting Company became one of the most widely distributed beer on the Pacific Coast.

In 1897, the North Pacific Brewery in Washington joined, followed in 1901 by Standard Brewing Company.

As of 1904, annual production of

Rainier Beer had reached 300,000 barrels per year. Distribution was now world wide. Bottlers such as John Rapp and Sons in San Francisco distributed Rainier Beer to their local areas.

Andrew Henrich died in 1910 at only 54 years of age. His two sons took control and by 1914, Seattle Brewing and Malting was the largest industrial enterprise in Washington. 1916 brought prohibition to Washington and the brewery closed. The name "Rainier" was sold to a California brewery and was not used again until after prohibition ended.

North Pacific Brewery 1884-1916

by Dave Scafani

Astoria's largest and most successful brewery was established in 1884 by John Kopp.

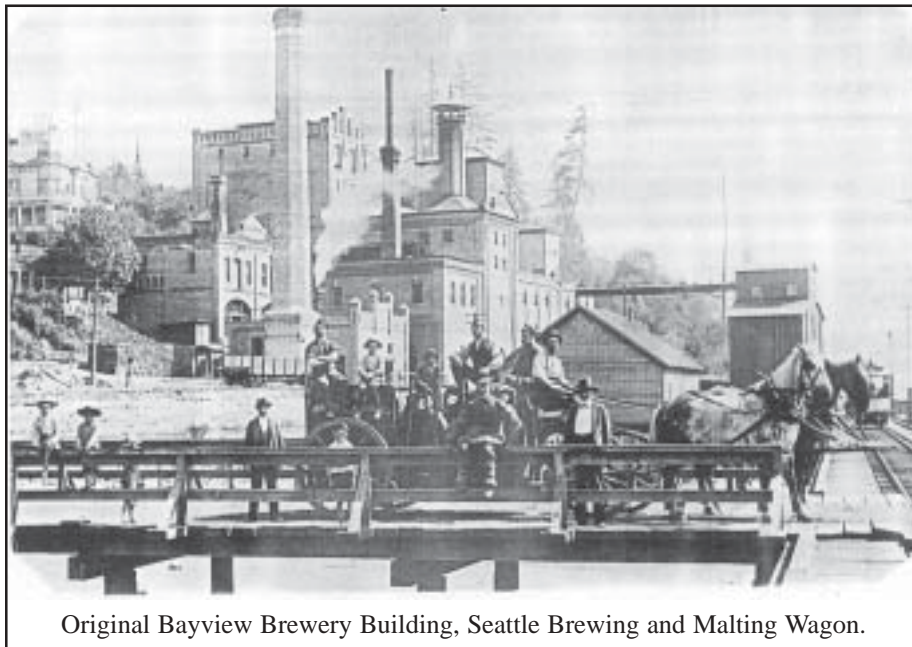
The previous year, he had started the Bayview Brewery in Seattle, which would eventually be part of the giant Seattle Brewing and Malting Company, producer of Rainier Beer.



The North Pacific Brewery, located at 31st and Franklin, gradually increased its annual production to 15,000.

The brewery was destroyed by fire in 1889, but was rebuilt larger and greatly improved. As business increased, a branch brewery was opened in Portland in 1905 at 19th and Upshur. A downtown Portland sales and distribution office was also opened.

All operations ceased with the coming of state prohibition in 1916.



Original Bayview Brewery Building, Seattle Brewing and Malting Wagon.



Rainier Beer advertisement.



1906 Rainier Beer Calendar

Dave Scafani,
416 Greenbrae Dr., Medford, OR 97504
scafaniind@cs.com.



Left: North Pacific Brewery bottles, circa. 1902-1916. An older, rare blob-top exists with JOHN KOPP / JK / ASTORIA, ORE.



Below: Wagon horse's breast plate for North Pacific Brewery.