

Haviland & Co. known for porcelain, but how 'bout those drug store bottles?"

By Bill Baab

Collectors living along the east coast and in the South are familiar with drug store bottles embossed Haviland & Co., New York, Charleston and Augusta. Some are pontiled, some are smooth-based.

What many don't realize is that the company is connected to the same family who established a porcelain manufactory in Limoges, France.

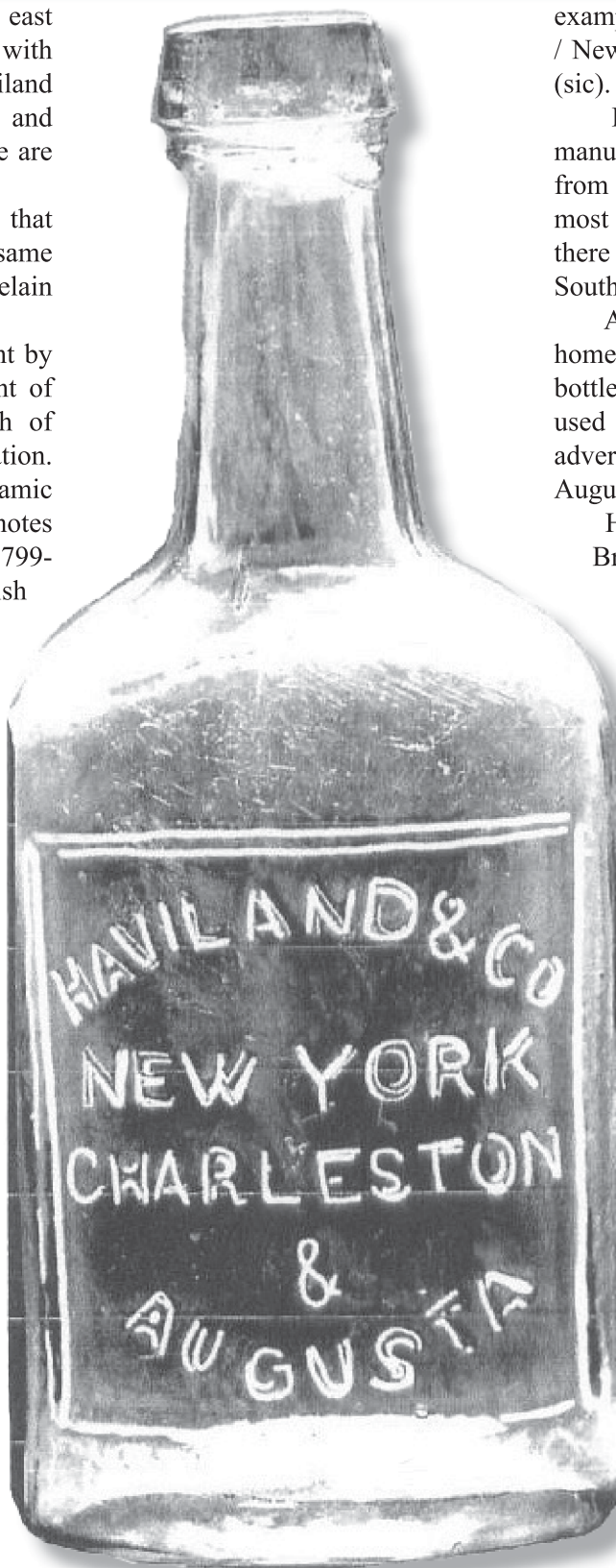
That fact was brought to light by Robert Doares, of the Department of Training and Historical Research of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. In his story in the American Ceramic Circle Journal, Volume XVI, he notes that Daniel Griffen Haviland (1799-1864) "had gone south to establish branches of the family wholesale drug company in Augusta, Georgia by 1822 and in Charleston (S.C.) by 1825; a third subsidiary would open in Mobile, Alabama in 1844."

I've never seen a Haviland bottle from Mobile.

Daniel was one of seven sons of William Haviland and his wife, Anna Griffen, of Purchase, New York. David, the eldest (1814-1879), established the great porcelain family in Limoges, France in the mid-19th century.

The four bottles in my collection include two small (6 inches high and 5-3/8 inches high) pontiled examples in light aquamarine, a small (5-1/2 inches) dark aqua, smooth-based example and a large (10-1/2 inches high) dark aqua, smooth-based bottle. It is embossed Haviland & Co. / Druggists (embossed mortar & pestle) / New York / Charleston & Augusta.

The 6-inch-high pontiled



The pontiled Haviland & co. Bottle

example is embossed Haviland & Co. / New York / Charleston / & / Augusta (sic).

Doares said the bottles were not manufactured in the South, but came from glass manufacturers in the North, most likely New York. It is a fact that there were no glass factories in the South until well after the Civil War.

A few years ago, Doares visited my home and took photos of my Haviland bottles. I also own an 1850s postally used cover containing a broadside advertising Haviland, Risley & Co., of Augusta. The broadside reads, in part:

Haviland, Risley & Co., 274
Broad Street, near Globe Hotel,
Augusta. Wholesale dealers in
drugs, medicines, paints, oils,
window glass, dye stuffs,
Rosendale hydraulic
cement and calcined
plaster of paris. Agents
for all the popular patent
medicines of the day. Also
agents for the celebrated
Pekin Tea Company.
Being connected with
Haviland, Harral & Risley,
importers and jobbers
of drugs, New York, and
Haviland, Harral & Co.,
wholesale druggists,
Charleston, S.C., we are
able to offer inducements
unequalled by any House
in the South, Orders
executed with neatness
and dispatch.

(Signed) J.C.
Haviland, James Harral,
H.W. Risley, T.W.
Chichester.

A mortar and pestle design in green on the back of the business envelope reads: Haviland, Risley & Co., Medicines, Chemicals, Paints, Oils,

&c., Augusta, Ga. The author was able to date the broadside to the 1850s through the imperforate stamp on the cover. Scott's Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps and Covers lists it as the 1851 orange brown No. 10 3-cent featuring George Washington, with an outer frame around all four sides of the stamp. Its blue postmark includes 3 paid, which was the rate for circulars. It was mailed in Augusta to Mr. Jared Olmstead in Redding, Fairfield County, Connecticut.



The pontiled Haviland
Spelling Error Bottle

