

# The Hutchinsons of Sydney

By Zang Wood

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Three Sydney soda water companies used Hutchinson. They were:

## Pioneer Aerated Water Company Limited, 1887 - 1892.

Sydney merchant John Hyam Nathan established the Pioneer Aerated Water Co. He had been a partner in a firm of Sydney importers, watchmakers, wholesale jewelers, and tobacco and cigar manufacturers. This firm also had a Melbourne branch and connections in London, Switzerland and France. In 1888, a new company, The Pioneer Aerated Water Company Limited was formed. This change netted Nathan 1250 pounds (approximately \$2000) plus 200 fully paid-up shares in the new company of which a few were allocated to his nominee, Joseph Barnard Benjamin. The assets, at the time, included a patent filling machine, a patent American aerated water machine, a corking rack, a capsule machine, a cordial corking machine, and a marble fountain and fittings, a wagon, 2 horses with harness, 45 casks ranging in capacity from 5 to 300 gallons, two 800 gallon tanks, a copper boiler, colouring pans, buckets, crates, racks, and office equipment. Sugar, lemonade, cordial and seltzer bottles completed the inventory.

In 1887, Benjamin registered a Diamond shaped label for "Moxie", a new beverage described as a temperance drink. It originated in the US, where it was known as "Moxie Nerve Food", a tonic claimed to be beneficial for numerous ailments. The Benjamin Co also acted as agents for Dr. Morse's Sarsaparilla, made fruit champagnes, cordial, syrups, and aerated waters of all descriptions, according to a July, 1888 advertisement. J.B.B Benjamin and Co. managed the

works until 1890. Benjamin was also the proprietor of the American Exchange Hotel on George Street, Sydney, and the company was sole agent for Hutchinson patent bottles as well as Wagner & Todds aerated water machinery. Sydney brewers J.T. & J. Toohey filed a petition for Benjamin's bankruptcy on July 17, 1889. Benjamin owed Toohey's more than 416 pounds for liquors purchased for his hotel. His total debts were more than 1,800 pounds. The creditors included two other Sydney aerated water companies of the day. Benjamin confessed that he knew little about the hotel business! His bankruptcy also terminated his management of The Pioneer Works.

Henry Thomas Garde took over the Pioneer Works. Between January and November, 1890, Garde purchased 4,032 split size (small 6 oz.) Codd's patent bottles, citric acid, kegs of bicarbonate of soda, cream of tartar, sulphuric acid, casks of whiting, sweet orange oil, oil of cloves, bulk lime juice, ginger, orange peel, castor oil, quinine, essence of vanilla, raspberry, brandy colouring, oil of lemon, wintergreen, sassafras, and corks. Garde also ordered about 8,000 bottles from Sydney's Botany Works in the first ten months of 1890. These presumably were also Codd's patent bottles. The Codd bottles bear the figure of a "Pioneer" - a person wearing head gear, pantaloons, and what appears to be an axe-headed pike being carried in an "on-guard" position. It may portray a "guard" to represent "Gardes" name. It was registered by him as a trademark in August, 1889.

The Hutchinson patent bottles were in three forms. One had the word "Pioneer" over "J.B. Benjamin" on one side with "Works" over "Sydney" on the other. The embossing is near the base.

After Benjamin ceased being manager, another Hutchinson with Benjamin's name erased was used. The third Hutchinson used was em-

bossed with the company name on one side and the monogrammed initials "PAW" in a shield on the other side.

Garde also experienced financial difficulties borrowing from The Australian Banking Company Limited, issuing promissory notes which he could not honor, and getting in such a predicament that on November 3, 1890, he declared himself bankrupt. Redfern Cordial maker Joseph S. Carter, became manager of the Pioneer Works. However, it ceased operation by October, 1892.



### H.T. Smith & Co 1881 - 1908

Hugh Thomas Smith was born in 1836 near Bristol, England. He became a successful engineer but planned to emigrate to Australia with his brother aboard the sailing ship "Dunbar". Hugh's wife, Rebecca, wished to go to Canada, instead. She won out and they avoided Hugh's brother's fate when he was tragically drowned as the "Dunbar" was wrecked outside Sydney Heads on the night of August 20, 1857. (Moral: Listen to your wife).

Hugh and Rebecca spent time touring in Canada before settling in Toronto. Hugh entered partnership with Thomas Millichamp and by 1859, the business was listed as a Brass foundry, and plumbing and gas fitting service at 95 Queen Street. Hugh entered the soda water manufacturing business in the late 1860s as evidenced by soda bottles bearing the date 1867. An advertisement in the Toronto City Directory proclaims Hugh as proprietor of "The Toronto Steam Soda-Water Manufactory".

By 1876, the factory was located at 13 Elizabeth Street. Hugh's inventiveness and improvements, made to the aerated water machinery soon made him the leading manufacturer of soda fountains and dispensing apparatus, not only in Canada, but, also in the US according to his biography.

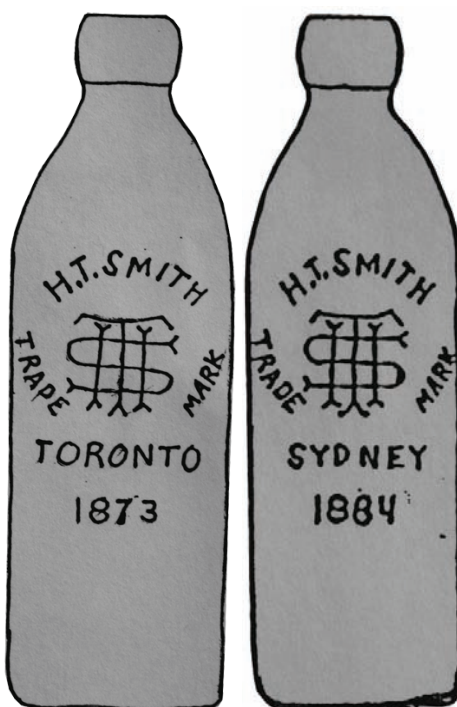
Smith exhibited in the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, on a grand scale. Acting on the advice of the Australian Commissioners in Philadelphia, he shipped his exhibits to the 1877 Sydney show. He was awarded ten first place medals. He devoted several months to fitting gas lighting to New South Wales railway carriages before returning to Toronto. He returned to Sydney in 1879 with a new exhibit which won him additional awards and honors.

He then toured Australia, exhibiting in Perth, Hobart, Adelaide, and other large exhibitions including the 1880-1881 Melbourne Intercolonial Exhibition. He had established a firm in Sydney which secured contracts to install gas lighting in Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmanian

railway carriages. Around 1881, Rebecca and children joined Hugh in Sydney, sailing aboard the American mailboat "Zealandia".

Hugh and a Mr. Hamilton traded as "Smith & Hamilton" manufacturers of "Needles Patent Gas Apparatus" at 43 Sussex Street, Sydney. In 1884, Hugh's name was associated with "The Australian Wine Store" at 104 King Street, Newtown, a Sydney suburb. Hugh's 23 year old son, Harry, established a cordial manufacturing business at 687 George Street, trading as H. Smith & Co. It appears that Hugh's Toronto bottles (blob-top corkers embossed "HTS" monogram and "Toronto 1867" on one side, plus "H.T. Smith Steam Soda Water Maker") and Matthews gravitating stopper patent bottles embossed with the same monogram, plus "H.T. Smith Toronto 1873" were not all left in Canada. The latter types are often recovered in Australia.

Additionally, a Hutchinson patent bottle embossed "H.T. Smith" in curved letters above a "HTS" monogram, with "trade mark" either side, plus "Sydney" below, centered above "1884". Smith died May 4, 1907, at his Sydney home "Toronto Villa", and the company appears to have wound up in 1908. Rebecca died on June 4, 1910.



### Boston Aerated Water Works, 1889 - 1890

The factory was located in the heart of East Sydney, at 199 Liverpool Street. It is known that the factory produced various soda waters and Ginger beer. Bottles found to-date include Lamont's Patent, Hutchinson's patent and stoneware ginger beers. All are marked "Boston Aerated Water Works, Sydney". Little is known about the company or its proprietors. It moved into its Liverpool Street location prior to October, 1889, but it had closed within a year.

Zang Wood has collected Hutchinson Patent Bottles for more than 35 years. He is interested in purchasing any from Australia.

If anyone can help, Zang, please keep him in mind.

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