

COLORADO BOTTLE COLLECTING

by John M. Eatwell

THAT BOTTLE LOOKS FAMILAR

Often when holding a bottle or flask in my collection, which I do periodically, I get the feeling that I have seen it before.

After some in-depth research, I may have linked the Wm. S. WALKER and CYRUS EATON & CO. bottles. Study the photographs, and then read the articles below to understand why the bottles look alike.

W. S. WALKER & CO.

Messrs. W. S. Walker & Co., who are opening a new wholesale wine and liquor house in Cole's block, on Larimer Street, received this morning a portion of their stock. They propose to keep the largest and best stock of imported and domestic liquors, wines, cigars, etc., to be found in Colorado, and will doubtless enjoy a large trade, as they deserve to. Mr. Cyrus Eaton will be the resident partner, and will be found a most pleasant gentleman with whom to do business. (1)

DEATH OF WILLIAM S. WALKER

Taken sick eight days ago with inflammation of the bowels, he was not considered dangerous until a short time before his death, a sudden change coming over him on Tuesday night, he never again rallied, although medical skill exerted its utmost to save his life.

Dissolution came yesterday noon, only ten minutes after he had signed his will. William S. Walker was in his forty-first year.

Mr. Walker was a gentleman of large heart and cordial manners. His friends socially and in a business point, were legion, and he will have many mourners to lament his untimely taking off. Wherever known, he was held in highest esteem, and the city could ill afford to lose so upright a citizen, so honorable a man.

CYRUS EATON

Born in 1832 in Plymouth County, Mass., he received a thorough elementary education in his boyhood, and afterward, the advantage which academical course of studies could bestow. When eighteen years old, he entered upon a business life in

Hoston, gradually acquiring capital. In 1867, he removed to the west and traveled through Nebraska and Wyoming territories, embarking in various business enterprises, until June 1869, when he settled in Denver. In connection with A. K. Tilton, Mr. Eaton instituted his present wholesale and retail business, which they have steadily enlarged, extending sales through Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and into the territory of Arizona.

Mr. Eaton is now in the prime of life, married and one of fine personal presence. Residing with his family in Denver, and owning property in the state, he may be accepted as a sample of the enterprising merchants, who are fully alive to the growth and progress of the community. (2)

A NEW BUSINESS HOUSE

Amongst the recent business changes in the city is that of the late firm of W. S. Walker & Co. The sudden death of Mr. Walker several weeks ago left the entire house under charge of Mr. Cyrus Eaton, the Junior members of the firm and a gentleman well-known and highly

respected in all business circles in the west. Mr. Eaton has just associated himself with Mr. A. K. Tilton, a young man well-known in the liquor trade, and carries to the new firm a knowledge of the business and a large circle of friends that will materially increase the already immense business done by this popular establishment. (3)

CYRUS EATON ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On Grand Jury list, 1870 (4)

Elected delegate, Republican Primary, 1871(5)

Entitled to a seat, Republican County Convention, 1874 (6)

Member of Reception Committee for U.S. Grant, 1880 (7)

Director, Board of Trade (8)

Membership Committee, Denver Board of Trade, 1881 (9)

Signs Garfield Resolution, 1881 (10)

EATON DIVORCE

Mr. Eaton, president of the Eaton - Ritchell Manufacturing Company, one of the largest tinware factories in the west, has been charged with gross immorality.

Mrs. Eaton alleges that for the past eleven years, the defendant has been habitually guilty of having improper relations with women he has supported. The names of two of the women the plaintiff declines to give unless required



by the court. Plaintiff alleges further that about three years ago, her husband began improper relations with one Mrs. Rae M. Shipley, now residing at 2914 Lincoln Ave., that these relations still continue and that Mrs. Shipley is supported by the defendant. (11)

ONE MONTH LATER

The wife of Cyrus B. Eaton of the former Eaton - Ritchell Manufacturing Company, whose plant was burned last week, has changed her mind regarding a compromise with her husband on the divorce proceedings. She was led to believe that her husband was worth only about \$20,000 and considered the settlement to be an equitable one. Now she claims to have discovered that Eaton's fortune is not less than \$100,000, and demands half of that amount, besides \$1,200 a year for six years for the education of her minor son. She claims

that the day after the settlement, Eaton left the city with a woman to whom he had been devoted for years. (12)

WEALTHY MANUFACTURER TO MARRY AGAIN AFTER DIVORCE

Mrs. Shipley says they expect to be married, but will wait until the year prescribed by law has expired. Color has been given to the rumor by the fact that Mr. Eaton and Mrs. Shipley have taken up their residence in the old Eaton home at 2000 Lafayette Street. Mrs. Shipley says that she is simply housekeeper there, but "is proud of it."

The housekeeper herself was not the least attractive feature of the room. She has an imposing figure that just verges on the dangerline of being too large, but her features are clear cut and profile of her face is remarkably fine. Certainly Mrs. Shipley is an attractive woman. Everything about her is satisfying and pleasing. Even

her well-modulated voice has a soothing intonation.

There might be a few collectors that would describe the bottles in a similar manner!

The only variants that have been found to-date are quart cylinders, as follows:

Wm S. WALKER & Co / DENVER / ONE QUART / "YOU BET" (amber)

Wm S. WALKER & Co / 378 & 380 / LARIMAR S / ONE QUART / DENVER, COLORADO (clear)

CYRUS EATON & Co / DENVER / ONE QUART / "YOU BET" (amber)

CYRUS EATON & Co / DENVER / ONE QUART / "YOU BET" (clear)

CYRUS EATON & Co / 370 & 380 / LARIMER ST / ONE QUART / DENVER, COLORADO (clear)

All five variants have individual molds!

Look up the history of your favorite bottle and discover the company, the person, the date, and who knows what else

References:

- (1) Rocky Mountain News, July 15, 1869.
- (2) Vickers, History of Denver, 1880.
- (3) Rocky Mountain News, Sept. 18, 1873.
- (4) Rocky Mountain News, Dec. 25, 1870.
- (5) Rocky Mountain News, Sept. 2, 1871.
- (6) Rocky Mountain News, July 30, 1874.
- (7) Rocky Mountain News, Aug. 7, 1880.
- (8) Rocky Mountain News, Nov. 13, 1880.
- (9) Rocky Mountain News, Jan. 12, 1881.
- (10) Rocky Mountain News, Sept. 23, 1881.
- (11) Denver Times, April 6, 1901.
- (12) Denver Times, May 28, 1901.
- (13) Denver Times, Sept. 22, 1901.

John M. Eatwell is a past-president of the FOHBC, and a member of the FOHBC Hall of Fame. He is an advanced collector of Colorado whiskeys and Pike's Peak flasks. Copies of his book, PIKE'S PEAK GOLD, an authoritative text on Pike's Peak and the bottles associated with it, are available for purchase by calling him at (303) 922-0815.



CYRUS EATON & CO.,
WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
PURE KENTUCKY WHISKIES.
IMPORTERS AND JOBBERS OF
FOREIGN WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS.
378 AND 380 LARIMER ST., DENVER.