



### Dr. H. Clay Glover, V. S.

Dr. Henry Glover produced the most extensive line of, for dog only, veterinary patent medicines in America. Dr. Glover based his empire in New York City. His production, based on the number of surviving examples, far overshadows his closest rivals. Drs. Clayton and Dent, both based in Chicago could not match Dr. Glover's volume. Even the champion of all veterinary medicine producers, Dr. A. C. Daniels does not seem to have had the production demand for his small animal medicines that Glover enjoyed. Surviving examples of Dr. Glover's Mange Medicine and his Distemper Remedy are probably two of the most common animal patent medicine bottles in existence.

Despite the huge number of surviving medicine and paper ephemera, almost nothing is currently known about the life of Henry Clay Glover. No historical information has surfaced, therefore, almost all the information that we have has come from the company's own publications and medicines. Henry Clay Glover started practicing veterinary medicine sometime prior to 1877. In 1888, his medicines were awarded the medal of superiority by the American Institute of New York. He identified himself as a "Specialist in Canine Diseases." As a reference, he stated that as of 1897, he had been the Veterinarian to the Westminster Kennel Club for 20 years.

I have attempted to date the production of Glover medicines, to determine the order of his various medicines and to discover rarity. I have used three sources for this information: company booklets, postal covers, and trade cards. I submit the following information for your consideration. Any additional information that adds light to Dr. Glover's life or business would be greatly appreciated.

The first known address for Dr. Glover is 1293 Broadway, New York City. Tins with this address state "H. Clay Glover, V.S. Prop." Medicines with this address are the earliest Glover items of which I am aware. Some time prior to 1914, the company moved to 118 West 31st Street.

Glover was still a sole proprietor. By 1917, the company was incorporated and the tins stated "H. Clay Glover Co". The address after the incorporation was still West 31st Street.

The company moved to 127-129 West 24th Street in 1923. Medicines with this address seem to be the most common survivors, however the company was only there for two years. In 1925, they moved to 119-121 5th Avenue. The 5th Avenue address would seem to indicate a prosperous company. A 5th Avenue address in New York City today would give the impression of high class shopping and big money. However, the company medicine tins of this time show a marked decrease in their graphic quality. Elaborate packaging with dog images gives way to very plain package designs. Was this change the result of cost cutting brought on by decreased consumer demand for patent medicines in general? Dr. Glover's company did stay at this address for twelve years, so they obviously had carved out a niche, however small, in the dog care industry. The final New York City address was 462 Fourth Avenue, which they moved to in 1937. Sometime after 1937, the company moved operations to Toms River, New Jersey. His company eventually went into the human hair care industry and was bought out in the 1950's or 60's.

#### CHART OF APPROXIMATE DATES OF NEW YORK CITY LOCATIONS:

~1888 (?) - ~1914 (?): Broadway  
 ~1914 (?) - 1923: West 31st Street  
 1923-1925: West 24th Street  
 1925-1936: 5th Avenue  
 1937- (?): 4th Avenue

The 1931 edition of the "Glover Dog Book" contains a dedication to the memory of Dr. Henry Clay Glover. It states that he was "one of the earliest in the Veterinary profession of the United States to specialize in the study and treatment of diseases of dogs." It is therefore fair to assume Dr. Glover died around 1930.

Dr. Glover's bottled medicines and tins for dogs have long been a favorite to veterinary collectors.

Medicines directed specifically to dogs, were not produced in the abundance as were horse and cow remedies. Consequentially, today the demand for dog remedies by collectors far outstrips the available supply. Glover was in business long before and after the 1906 Food and Drug Act. It is interesting to trace the changes in the name of his medicines as time and government intervention went on. As with most early patent medicine companies, his first products were cures. Glover's Distemper Cure was a big seller based on the number of surviving embossed bottles. The name was changed to Distemper Remedy and finally to Distemper Medicine. All variations are easily available today.

Glover advertising posters, signs, and counter display containers are scarce and highly sought by collectors today. Booklets are the most common ephemera available. As for medicines, collectors are seeking examples with the most complete packaging. Bottles in original wrapper and tins in original boxes command the highest prices. Early lithographed tins with the company's Broadway address are easily the most graphic and beautiful. Amber embossed bottles range from very common to very rare. The most uncommon Dr. Glover medicine in my opinion, is his Sore Foot for Dogs medicine. This embossed bottle is very scarce and I have never seen an example with any label or box.

On a final note about Dr. Glover embossed bottles, I must pass on information that was given to me in the early 1980's by a then long time bottle and veterinary medicine collector. It seems that in the 1960's colored glass examples of Dr. Glover's Distemper Remedy embossed bottle began showing up. These bottles were discovered in colors such as peacock blue, yellow green, and yellow, among others. The collector tracked these colored bottles down to florist shops. It seems that the florists were buying the bottles to place in flower arrangements. All the examples that this collector obtained had a sticker on the bottom of the bottle stating: "Made in Italy." I have personally seen some of these bottles with original stickers. These bottles were indistinguishable from their amber brothers except by color. One must surmise that the original bottle mold somehow ended up in Italy. Among veterinary collectors today, only amber Glover bottles are considered original. There is no evidence to indicate that other colored glass bottles were ever produced by the company.