



The Spouter

NEWSLETTER FOR COLLECTORS OF SARATOGA-TYPE BOTTLES

ISSUE NUMBER 103

SEPTEMBER 2017

SARATOGAS AT SPRINGFIELD

2017 National Show in Springfield MA. brings out some great Saratogas!

It was hundreds of hours of work over the last two years, but Team Springfield pulled off a great bottle weekend August 3rd -6th at the Mass Mutual Center in Springfield Ma. The 2017 FOHBC National Show had everything you could ask for. Pictured below are the Co-Chairmen, Bob Strickhart (left) and Jim Bender. These guys, along with many other volunteers and friends put together a show to remember.



It all started out on Thursday night with the "bottle battle". One of the categories, of course, was best Saratoga Type Bottle. With several great entries, Rich Strunk of Palatine Bridge, NY blew away the competition with his quart Excelsior Rock Spring in a gorgeous peachy amber. Rich also took 2nd place honors with his crude John Clark magnum quart. This is the only example I have ever seen with an exaggerated beveled base edge. What a piece! (see photos inside) Then as a surprise, the crowd was treated to a close up look at the ten wide mouth Saratoga Type Jars of the Watson Family Collection. The sons of the late Dick & Elma Watson graciously allowed us to display these jars in our SBSCS display for the show. So to showcase this, we brought them out at the bottle battle to highlight them and show them off for the first time other than at the Watson family house in New Jersey.

(Continued inside on Page 6)

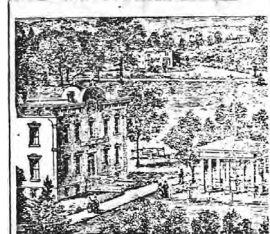
DICK & ELMA WATSON HONORED AT BANQUET

The highlight of Friday night at the 2017 Federation of Historic Bottle Collectors banquet was the touching and heartfelt presentation dedicated to the late Dick and Elma Watson of New Jersey. It was more than obvious that the Watsons were more than just iconic bottle collectors to the 200 plus in attendance on August 4 at the Mass Mutual Center.....

(Continued inside on Page 8)



EXCELSIOR SPRING



THE EXCELSIOR SPRING

Is situated in EXCELSIOR PARK, one of the most beautiful spots in Saratoga, approached by drives and walks through a magnificent grove.

This water has been favorably known to the public for many years, and is highly recommended by eminent physicians for its valuable medicinal qualities.

It is sold on draught and in bottles by leading druggists and first-class hotels throughout the country.

For analysis, circulars, &c., address
FRANK W. LAWRENCE,
Proprietor Union and Excelsior Springs.

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Editor's Scattered Thoughts

Well I hope everyone had a great summer! I know it rained a lot around here but overall it wasn't too bad. Being retired now, I have more time to go out to things like auctions, sales, flea markets and most importantly bottle shows and bottle club meetings! It has been fun reconnecting with people and making new friends.

The Springfield show was a blast from start to finish. It was fun setting up the display. We had around 15 new people sign up for the newsletter! All I have heard over the last year of two was that "Saratogas" were fading out and prices were low. I have found that even though there are some good bargains to be had, interest in the mineral waters is still pretty strong. I think it's just the transition of one generation to the next. Several old time collections are getting sold and the next group of collectors are putting their collections together. It's all a big cycle. I think the hobby is strong. It may not be like it was in the "old days" but then again, what is?

I would like to have our reorganization meeting in October. Right now, I am looking at Saturday, October 28th at around noon time at the National Bottle Museum in Ballston Spa, NY. I have spoke to the museum director and that day works for them.

We need to put together a slate of officers for this to work. We will have a business meeting, followed by a "Show & Tell" or maybe even a "Spout-Off"!! We would then have plenty of time later in the afternoon to "poke around" in Ballston Spa & Saratoga Springs. I will send out an email in the next couple weeks looking for RSVP's and Volunteers to be an officer. I will volunteer to be Newsletter Editor & maybe even Secretary, but we need to fill the other spots!!

No heavy lifting, We just need some people to step up a little to make this work!!

SBCS Officers & Contact Information

At this time, all previous officer terms have expired. A new slate of officers will be nominated and selected at the next membership meeting. Due to the fact that we have funds in the Society's account, Ron Rainka, who has been the treasurer will remain in that position until new officers are elected.

SBCS BUSINESS & MEETING INFORMATION

****This section will eventually contain a summary of meetings along with a treasurer's report****

Please consider writing an article or submitting pictures or any new finds to me so I can share it with the Society.

Thanks!! Jeff

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Bottle Spotlight

Excelsior Spring Company

Editor's note - the information for this article was taken from "Saratogas" by Bernie Puckhaber as well as previously published newsletters.

Two brothers, John & Ziba Taylor operated a large general store in Saratoga Springs during the late 1700's. They recognized the need for grist mills and saw mills near the rapidly growing village. In 1794, the brothers bought a large tract of land approx. a mile east of the High Rock Spring property. They built both a saw mill and grist mill on the property and proceeded to make their own fame and fortune.

In 1814, John Taylor discovered the first spring on the property. Within a short time of the initial discovery, the Taylor brothers located nine other springs on their land and the area was appropriately named "The Ten Spring Woods". They named one of these springs "Excelsior" and it became one of the principal springs east of the village. The brothers were never really able to market the spring properly.

The man responsible for finally creating a demand for Excelsior Water was H.H. Lawrence. In 1859 Lawrence had bought the property and arraigned for re-tubing of the spring. The work involved an excavation of 56 feet, 11 of which was through solid rock in order to get to the true source of the mineral water.

From 1860 to 1865 it appears that H.H. Lawrence ran the operation with his sons Henry and Albert (A.R) Lawrence. H.H. Lawrence eventually transferred ownership of the Excelsior Springs to these sons. The company made great strides during these years. They introduced the dispensing of the water by draught and refused to sell water to druggists unless they agreed to dispense the water through their trademarked draught system. (illus. below) All the major Spring Water companies were selling water in barrels except the Congress Spring. The Congress Spring Company owners were telling the public that buying water in barrels was no better than shipping it in open containers where the gases would evaporate. With this in mind, the Lawrence s family developed and patented a shipping barrel lined with pure block tin that sealed the water in just as in a glass bottle. They also devised a gas tight system that prevented the water from losing it's "fizz" during the dispensing process ***"thus retaining all the Carbonic Acid which exists in the water naturally"*** This method was later acclaimed by the American Pharmaceutical Association in 1867. The company also shipped bottled water in pints and quarts embossed as below: (S-21)

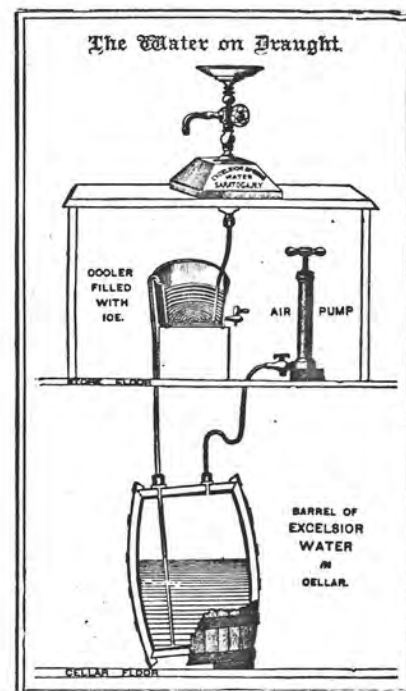
EXCELSIOR SPRING



SARATOGA SPRINGS, N. Y.



1860-1870



Bottle Spotlight Cont....

By the mid 1870's, the management of the firm was turned over to A.R. Lawrence as Henry had other business to attend. He changed the name of the Spring to the Excelsior Rock Spring (S-22) and eventually added his initials to the reverse side of the bottles inside a slug plate. (S-23) The Rock Spring variants come in both pints and quarts but to my knowledge, the bottles with the A.R.L & Co. slug plate only come in the pint size. A.R.

Lawrence ran the company until 1882. With this long of a run, it would seem that these bottles would be as common as the S-21 bottles, yet these bottles continue to be very rare to find. It is possible that he continued to use the initial S-21 molds until they wore out, then had the new S-22 molds made. Later, he decided to put his initials on the pints (S-23) by use of a slug plate. Why there no quarts with his initials is unknown. Maybe one will pop up!



1871-1884



A.R.L
&
CO
(Back)



In 1883, Henry reassumed control of the company after Albert's retirement. Unfortunately he died shortly after and control of the company went to his wife Caroline. Caroline and their son, Frank Lawrence inherited the business. They changed the name of the company back to the original name of the Excelsior Spring Co. / Saratoga N.Y. The molds were modified by peening out the words "Rock Spring" and adding just "Spring" in the center. The reverse slug plate was changed from "A.R.L & Co." to "Saratoga Excelsior Spring Company" (S-24). There is also a variant where the slug plate is visible but no embossing is present (S-25). It's unknown if the blank slug plate came first or after. Also, to my knowledge, there are no quarts with the "Rock Spring" embossing peened out. Only pints. If you have a quart or any other variant, let me know.



S-24



Reverse



S-25



Reverse

These bottles are also extremely rare. It appears that eventually Frank Lawrence had new molds made as there are some more common examples of Excelsior Spring pints and quarts (S-26). The use of true Saratoga type bottles was slowly being discontinued by the 1890's. The S-27 molds were both crown top bottles with Saratoga type bodies. These bottles were more mass produced and are fairly common to find.

The story of the Lawrence family and the Excelsior Spring is very complex. Look up an issue of the February 2016 **Antique Bottle & Glass Collector** magazine and read the article written by Donald Tucker. He explains the family history and relationships in much greater detail and also explains the connection with the Union Spring.

Bottle Spotlight Cont....



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Show Reports

FOHBC National Show Report — Continued from cover page:

These Wide Mouth Jars or “Salt Jars” as they are sometimes called are all in sparkling mint condition. I was able to handle each one of them and it was amazing to be able to see these rarities. There was the John Clark Quart, a Missisquoi Spring Quart, a Clarke & White Pint, a Geyser Spring Pint, a shoulder embossed “Saratoga” Quart, a Congress & Empire Spring Pint, a G.W. Weston Quart, a base embossed Congress Spring Co. and two different Congress & Empire Spring (Hotchkiss & Sons) Quarts. One of these quarts is just a gorgeous yellow green and has the most crude gloppy lip you will ever see. (See Photos below) These jars can be seen on the second & third row of our SBSCS display case shown below.



Watson's C & E Quart.



(Above) Rich Strunk & MC Rick Ciralli with Rich's 1st & 2nd Place awards at the “Bottle Battle”



Watson's Geyser Pint

The weekend continued on Friday with seminars which covered a wide array of categories and interests. Sandwich glass, Milk bottles, New England glass, Historical Flasks and “snake oil” bottles were all covered in some very informative ways. Society members Rich Strunk & Mark Yates gave a great talk and update on their excavation of the Mt. Vernon Glassworks. Several of the early Saratoga bottles were produced there. These seminars will eventually be available for downloading on the Federation Site in the near future.

Later, on Friday night, the Federation Banquet was held. As we talked about in our previous issue, one of our charter members, Jon Landers was inducted into the FOHBC Honor Roll. Jon received his plaque and gave a short speech to thank everyone. There were many more awards and all can be seen on the FOHBC website.

The highlight of the banquet in my opinion was the presentation by Jim Bender, Bob Strickhart and Phyllis Koch as a tribute to the late Dick & Elma Watson. There were many stories and never seen before pictures of the Watson collection and family. They did a great job and I believe everyone enjoyed it! Of course on Saturday morning was the Watson One auction. This was the first offering of over 100 bottles from the Watson collection. See the auction report section for more on how the Saratoga type bottles did in this sale.

The show itself opened up on Saturday afternoon and continued on Sunday. It was well attended and most people I talked with sold (and bought) very well. Here's a few photos from the floor: (Courtesy of the FOHBC)



Would you buy anything from this guy?



Ron is writing me a check to put his picture in this newsletter!



Top row left to right, Fran Hughes, Ron Rainka, Jack Stetcher, Keon Kellogg with Tom Kanalley and last but not least, on the right, Burt Spiller. Burt celebrated his birthday at the show!



Dick & Elma Watson Honored at Banquet

Continued from Cover Page:

The tribute was put together by Jim Bender, Bob Strickhart and Phyllis Koch. All three were long time friends of the Watsons. Bob started off the program with some of his memories of Dick & Elma and the good times they shared with friends and family at their New Jersey home. Bob told about their passion for the collection and the dedication it took to publish not 1, but 2 books on bitters bottles. He showed some of his favorite photos of Dick & Elma together.



Phyllis Koch then talked about Elma. Phyllis and Elma were very close friends. It was very emotional for her but she did a wonderful job of talking about Elma and all the good times their families shared over the years. She talked about family gatherings and fishing adventures. Elma was very proud to always seem to out fish everyone!



Finally, Jim Bender spoke about his friend Dick and the relationship they had over the years. Jim told some great stories about bottle shows, visits to the Watson house as well as the stories behind some of the great bottles in the collection. They all did a great job! The entire Watson family was in attendance. It was a great tribute to some amazing people that will always be a huge part of our hobby and a huge part of the foundation of the Saratoga Type Bottle Collectors Society.



Above left, Jim Bender and Dick at the Watson House. Above right, Bob Strickhart and Dick's son Steve. Below, several photos of the Watson's main bottle room and a portion of the massive mineral water collection!





Saratogas in the Auctions (prices shown include buyers premium)

Here are a few of the Saratoga bottles offered in Springfield at the Watson One Auction (Courtesy Glassworks Auctions)



Lot 53 Albany Glass Works, Quart. Tucker M-84. Base Crack. \$488.00



Lot 1 Clarkes Gorham—Congress New Haven, Tucker M-12. A very scarce Conn. Spring water. Tiny base bruise. \$3,730.00



Lot 22 High Rock Springs / Saratoga, Tucker S-40b, dark amber. \$1,950.00



Lot 109 Geyser Spring / Avery N. Lord, 66 Broad St. Utica, NY. Tucker S-31 quart. Tiny lip bruise. \$632.00



Lot 61 Saratoga High Rock C&W Saratoga NY. Tucker S-38b Dk Em Green \$200.00



Lot 43 Geyser Spring, Quart Tucker S-29a Unusual single collar top. \$375.00

Blast from the Past

Photos from members of the old days of the SBCS

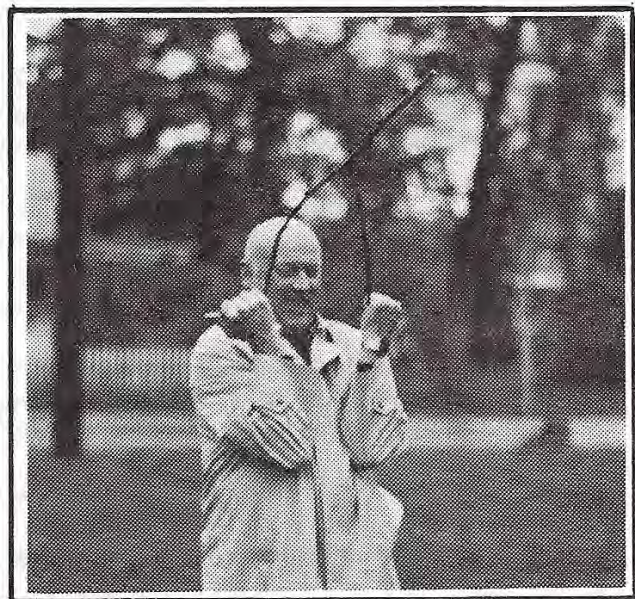


SBCS members visited the home of Ray and Anne Mae Bennett which originally belong to one of the Congressville glassblowers. Front row: Mrs. Bennett, Betty Capron, Eleanor Work, Jean Garrison, Lillian Dean Rosemary Wilson and Phil Wilson. Back row: Mr. Bennett, Clint Capron, Lorretta Zimmerman, Bernie Puckhaber, Elma Watson, Dick Watson, Howard Dean, Bill Zimmerman and John Heller.

1983 & 1984



JOHN HELLER, GERRY STRUBEL & FRAN MIKALONIS



Bernie "Water Witch" Puckhaber is shown dowsing for and finding the Round Lake Spring.



Mailing Label here

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