

FOHBC NEWS



FOHBC Hall of Famer Dr. Burt Spiller dies

By John DeVolder
President, Genessee Valley Bottle Collectors Association

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – Dr. Burton Spiller, D.D.S., of Rochester, passed away on March 13, 2019 at age 87.

There was a chill in the air as the procession walked to the grave site. Taps played, the flag folded and was passed to one of Dr. Spiller's best friends. "You did good," Burt would often say. And Dr. Burton Spiller really "did good!"

Although frail, Burton's death was unexpected and he died peacefully in his sleep.

"Call this dentist!" "There's a dentist in Rochester, you want bottles, call this dentist!" That's what I would hear when I went to various antique shops around Rochester about 1965 looking for bottles. I even had that response when I made a trip into northern New England! His "network" was second to none. My call led to a friendship lasting more than 50 years.

Burton always assisted any person in their endeavors. In the early years of collecting, he promoted the Antique Bottle Collectors of California, predecessor to the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, as well as the Empire State Bottle Collectors Association of Syracuse, N.Y., and The Antique Trader.

Burt was a major reason that the Genessee Valley Bottle Collectors Association was formed in 1969 and flourishes to this day.

Burt authored many articles and supported many authors, but never assumed a leadership role. He would not be a chairman or president, but he and his resources would always be there, just behind the scenes to lend guidance and support.

In 1998, the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors honored Burt by inducting him into the Hall of Fame for his tireless efforts to promote the bottle collecting hobby.

In a surprise to many, in May of 2000 Burt sold his beloved bottle collection, but over the next 19 years, he enjoyed his superb advertising and souvenir china collections.



Most of all, Burton enjoyed the friendships that lasted a lifetime. A true person; a true friend.

Burton: "You did good!"

1970 LeRoy article from the Tryniski file

Hey Guys, just stumbled across this 1970 LeRoy article from the Tryniski file below..... thought you might want to use it in next club newsletters - GVBCA, ESBCA, FLBCA

Darryl Klutts

LE ROY HOUSE PROGRAM "THE BOTTLE AND I"
DR BURTON SPILLER, DDS ANOTHER LE ROY boy returns to LE ROY HOUSE to bring a fascinating story on bottles. Dr. Burton Spiller is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Spiller of Clay St, and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spiller.

Burton was born in Le Roy where he attended school, graduating as Valedictorian of his class; graduated from Cornell as a pre dental student; attended school of dentistry at U. of Buffalo. Since graduation he has attended extra courses at Columbia, Stanford and Tufts. He decided to specialize in Orthodontistry, and has his office in Henrietta. He enlisted in the armed forces and spent two years as a Captain in the Dental Corps of the U.S. Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base.

Urged by friends, he accompanied them to a "Flea Market" where he purchased his first bottle for \$4.50 which turned out to be a Halls Bitters bottle. This was the beginning of an interesting and educational hobby, which he calls "bottlitis" – "a fun disease, and who wants to be cured?"

Dr. Spiller has spoken in many places and has won many prizes and a tremendous reputation for his most knowledgeable presentation on the subject. He is a columnist for the magazine "THE WESTERN COLLECTOR" contributing many articles in a sec-



Dr. Burt Spiller and his collection (Photo courtesy of Dana Charlton-Zarro)

tion called “Bottles East.”

He urges each and every one to bring bottles to the meeting and offers to identify and appraise them for you. Who knows? – you too may become victims of “bottlitis” for some of these hobbies are of a highly infectious nature.

THE LE ROY GAZETTE, AUGUST 13, 1970

Federation Hall of Famer Dr. Burton Spiller dead

By Tom Kanalley

The Applied Lip Newsletter Editor

Finger Lakes Bottle Collectors Association

Dr. Burton Spiller, DDS, 87, and a member of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors, passed away on March 13, 2019.

He was a prominent orthodontist in Rochester, N.Y. for nearly 30 years. He was an avid collector of early American bottles, historical flasks and antique American advertising. His collection was known to collectors throughout the country and had been photographed and written about in various publications. He was well known for his expert knowledge on the subject of bottles and advertising and revered by many. In the late 1980s, he and his collection were featured on a segment of “Good Morning, America.”

Burt Spiller was probably the Finger Lakes Bottle Collectors Association’s first honorary member. In the early years of the hobby, he would always present a bottle program in Ithaca, if not two every year. He wore these custom-made antique bottle shirts that were really wild. He had a flair for the dramatic and even wrote and opened a play in Rochester.

I remember that Burt would come through Courtland, N.Y., every three weeks of so and buy bottles. It was hard for others to buy a good bottle because everyone was always saving it for the DOCTOR from Rochester. “Do you still have that old bottle I wanted?” a dealer would be asked. “I’m saving it for the Doctor from Rochester.”

Family history and research

Elizabeth,

My name is Elizabeth Creely, and I’m a local historian in the Mission District of San Francisco.

I work with the Irish American Crossroads festival and am presenting a workshop on March 30th called Tell Your Family’s Story: A Workshop for Bloggers, Writers and Family Historians <http://www.irishamericancrossroads.org/about-the-festival/2019-irish-american-crossroads-festival/>

This is intended to give participants a grounding in how to research their family’s history in San Francisco and how to work with primary source material, so that they can write their family’s story.

I’ll be discussing my work mapping my family’s history in SF as

well as writing about it.

Any help you can give connecting us is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Elizabeth C. Creely, writer and researcher

Cherokee Medicine Co.

Ferdinand,

Saw your post about the Cherokee Medicine Co. and L. Koester and thought you might like to see this photo of a jug from him fresh from a privy about a month ago. To say I was elated would be an understatement!

Brandon DeWolfe



Hostettters were originally Swiss

Dear Ferdinand Meyer V,

I talked to Richard Siri last week here in Santa Rosa. What are the odds that one of the preeminent Hostetter specialists would live in the same town I’ve lived in my whole life? I think that falls into the category of “small world.” I told him my story and he suggested I send this to you.

Now, I wonder how other people get started with the bottle collecting bug? Where does the spark come from? Ancestry research brought me to Hostetter bottles. I have been tracing my ancestry and only just recently tripped across the fact that I am a descendant of the Hostetter Bitters bottle family. Our family history had been only stories passed down. We’ve heard the family names for years: Roux, Irwin, Hostetter, Donovan and so on.

I found your article on the internet, posted October 30 2018 in the Peachridge Glass resources, “Jacob & David Hostetter – Dr. J. Hostetter’s Celebrated Stomach Bitters”. I was spellbound with all the information about MY family members. What a treasure. I’m thrilled to find they are so well known. I have subsequently discovered the clockmaker Hostetter and the congressman Hostetter. One Hostetter was a Tory loyalist to the king of England before the War for Independence and another fought in the Revolution. We’ve got history in our family to say the least.

I have some background information I would like to share with you regarding the family lineage. I don’t believe the Hostetter family is entirely of Dutch extraction. It is true they settled in York County, Pennsylvania after arriving in America in 1749. However, this Hostetter family originally came from Switzerland. I have traced my Hostetter family, including Dr. Jacob and his son David, back 4 generations (see the list below) that were born in Switzerland prior to arriving in America in 1749.

Ulrich Hostetter, Dr. Jacob’s grandfather, arrived in Philadelphia 1749 on the Ship Phoenix. I can see how the family may

have been thought to be Dutch for a couple reasons:

1. Their point of origin may have been mistaken for their homeland. The Ship Phoenix first departed Europe from Rotterdam, Netherlands. However the passengers were not all Dutch.
2. Or possibly because the Hostetters settled in York County, Pennsylvania, an area known for Pennsylvania Dutch
3. Or more likely because the generations following arrival married Dutch descendants living in Pennsylvania, Jacob Sr married Catherine Zimmerman, both born in Pennsylvania

It is entirely possible the Swiss Hostetter family line came to America, married into Pennsylvania Dutch and so we do have Dutch background, also.

Jost Hostetter I, born 1651 in Switzerland

Jost Hostetter II, born: 1676 in Bern, Switzerland (son of Jost Hostetter I)

Jost Hostetter III, born: 1651 in Bern, Switzerland (son of Jost Hostetter II)

Ulrich Hostetter Jr, born 1720 in Glarus, Switzerland (son of Jost Hostetter III) This is where the family came across the Atlantic in 1749.

Jacob Hostetter, born: 1754 in York Co, Penn. (son of Ulrich Hostetter)

Dr. Jacob Hostetter, born: 1785 in York Co, Pennsylvania (is a junior, son of Jacob Hostetter)

David Hostetter, born: 1819 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (son of Dr. Jacob Hostetter)

I got a couple Hostetters from Richard and am very excited to share my them with my sister and cousin. They will be thrilled too, I'm sure.

Cordially, Cherie Gooler, Santa Rosa California

President of Rex Bitters

Hello Ferdinand, I stumbled upon your site when I was doing some research on my great grandfather, W E Slaughter, cofounder and president of Rex Bitters. He was quite an entrepreneur. Your site is fabulous!!! I have heard bits and pieces of this line of our family but you have provided much more color. Just wondering if you have additional research notes/material which you might be able to share on W E Slaughter and family.



Thanks much, Charles Wilson

Wolford Z Whiskey barrel

Hi Ferdinand,

Wondering if you have ever seen a King Edward Reserve barrel. Looks like a Wolford Z Whiskey barrel and also a Chaplin Gore

Sour Mash 1867 barrel. The bottom has no embossing like the other 2 barrels have. It also has a applied top. I attached a few photos of my barrel. Its the same barrel that is listed in the DC Auction Price List. Which a got from a later auction house. Just wondering how rare it is. I have never seen an other one and posted it on facebook with the same results.

Thanks Frank.



List of bottle Clubs?

Dear FOHBC, as a new collector is there a way to find out what clubs are in my area? I hear of clubs in my area, but know nothing about them, where they meet, when...etc. Any help would be appreciate?

Thanks Mr. Curious

Response: Yes, please check at <https://www.fohbc.org/affiliated-clubs/> There is a complete listing of clubs by region. Once you click on a region there is an alphebetacle listing of clubs in that area. It also lists the times, places and contact of that club. Thanks and if you need anything else please contact us.

How to start a bottle club?

Ferdinand,

Can you give me any tips about starting a bottle club?

Thanks, Dr. David Ward

A Texas Find

Here is something you may be interested in knowing. My friend Bryce Gardner dropped his shovel to start opening up a newly found dump here in Texas this week. The shovel made a 1 in a million drop....right on this previously unknown Corsicana Texas saloon flask...

Brad Seigler



One of New Yorks oldest

I recently acquired one of new York's earliest hair bottles. Prop was out of business by mid 1830s solid rod pontil flint glass

Tho,s QuirksCassada Oil for the hair Broadway New York with embossing having the backwards N. and J W Townsend, Druggists, New York



Both are solid rod pontil flint glass

Brad Seigler

