G. HARRAL

THE BEST OF GEORGIA

In the last decade or so it has become increasingly popular for collectors of antique bottles to rate or compare them in various categories. These categories are many and varied with parameters that are rather conjectural but somewhat understandable by the collecting community. The task of rating is often given to a group of individuals at bottle shows who are familiar with the attributes of certain bottles. Included in this game of top spot for a certain category is the best bottle for a regional area, eg. Western or Southern. Also included may be a sub-category as in best Southern soda bottle or bitters bottle. At the recent FOHBC National Convention in Augusta, Georgia, was just such a competition. As is usually the case the judging parameters were somewhat subjective and left up to the individual judge's experience to make a determination. They usually confer and either come to a mutual decision or vote, with the bottle entered into the competition garnering the most votes declared the winner. One of the three categories judged at Augusta was best Georgia bottle. As flawed as the subjective mutual decision may be, it is all in fun with the owner of the winning bottle walking away with bragging rights – at least until next time.

Interestingly, the winning item of the best Georgia bottle was also a previous winner of Top 25 Georgia bottles back in 2003. Possibly the only example known, the G. HARRAL / DRUGGIST / SAVANNAH / GA bottle is so heavy with 'historicity', that it is hard to beat. The fabric of the bottle is similar to many that were produced during the late 18th and early 19th century, but its applied glass seal speaks volumes for its deserved top Georgia bottle spot. This is a case where history beats aesthetics – and rarity helps too.

What is known about George Harral has not been well investigated with regard to his business activities; however, his genealogical record has been fairly well documented. His German-born father, George Harral, Sr., immigrated to Charleston, South Carolina about 1765 and married the English-born Barbara Ann Muilin there on February 24, 1778. He was the second child of George and Barbara Harral. He was born in Charleston on October 1, 1780, and raised there until he moved to Savannah, Georgia. His education has not been well documented; however one source notes that he was trained in the field of medicine. It is certainly possible that he was either trained or indentured to someone with experience in the medical field for he often addressed himself as a doctor. It should be clarified that this title was often used loosely at this period in time and did not require any formal training as a physician. It should also be noted that when he opened his drug store in Savannah, in 1797, George Harral was only seventeen years of age. His young age and apparent business acumen implies that he had some tutelage from a more experienced and funded individual – perhaps even his father.

The year of 1799 was important to young Harral. He was married April 14, 1799, in Savannah, to Charlotte Wright, born in London, England, June 4, 1779, daughter of Edward and Ann Wright. Then, his father died in Charleston on December 20, 1799.





New Medicine Store. The Subseriber most respectfully informs his Friends and the Public, that he has taken the Store next to Mr. Cloland's, in Duke street, Market-Square, where he is just opening a compleat affortment of fresh and genuine Drugs, Medicines, &c. Which he offers to the Public, at the most reduced prices; and every article in his line will be war-ramed of the very first quality. Topics from his assistant and attention to business, to meet with the patronage of the public. The following are seen of the articles he has on hand, as the whole would too tedious to enumerate. EST pale Bark. Do. red do. Proflian Blue, from No. Rose Pink Refined Camphor. Allum. Glauber Sales. Crude Antimony. Double Aquafortis. Fartar Emetic. alap. Hippe. Rhubarb. Nipple Pipes & Shells. Smelling Bottles. Tooth Brufhes. White Vitriol. Glafs of Antimony. Vermillion Effence Bergamot, Le-mon de Levender. fing Glafs. Borax. Zuickfilver. Patent Medicines. ream Tartar. Anderson's Pills. affron. Bareman's Drops. amoraile Flowers. Daffie's Elixer. u phur. Effence Mint. Hooper's Palls. Affafætida James's Powders. Squire's Elixer. Best Soccotrine Aloea Turlington's Ballam. Manna, lake and community of the Precipitate. N. B. MEDICINE CriesTS, with fultable directions for Shipping and Plantation uses, put up on the hortest sotice, with neatness and dispatch. Opium. Bel Soccotrine Aloes. G. HARRAL. July 25. n.42.

The earliest advertisement located for George Harral, in the Columbian Museum & Savannah Advertiser, of July 28, 1797, wherein he states, "New Medicine Store, The subscriber most respectfully informs his Friends and the Public, that he has taken the Store next to Mr. Cleland's in Duke street, Market-Square, where he is just opening a complete assortment of fresh and genuine Drugs, Medicines, &c."

Beginning as early as July 1797, Harral advertised a large selection of drugs, medicines and also fitted up medical chests for use by ships, plantations and doctors. By September of the same year, Harral added a mortar and pestle to the design of his advertisements. His later advertisements noted his store was located, "at the sign of the Man and Mortar, (perpetual motion,) Market Square, Savannah." The perfection of perpetual motion still has yet to be achieved so it may be assumed that his sign was, somehow, actuated by wind energy. He consistently advertised the sale of patent medicines and chemicals generally used in the pharmacy trade as well as perfumery, confectionery, surgical instruments, paints and shop furniture. A considerable amount of his stock was being imported directly from England. Much of his early advertisements focused on the sale of patent

medicines of the day, such as Cordial Balm of Gilead, Anti-Impetigines, or the Charleston produced, Dr. Dalton's Concentrated Tincture of Yellow Bark.

Not unusual for this period in time, Harral embodied strong religious beliefs and became involved with the Presbyterian Church of Savannah, where he was one of its trustees. (1) He was also an early treasurer to the church which included the task of collecting subscriptions from pew holders. (2) Reserving a particular pew was a common practice of the time. During this time, Harral was also one of the first managers of the Georgia Bible Society, whose charge was Christian philanthropy, disseminating bibles and other religious tracts. His likely early success in his business also afforded him status in the city of Savannah.

As the incorporated city expanded its boundaries Harral was appointed as one of five individuals to oversee the process of public sale of eleven newly created lots of property assigned to the Franklin Ward, on the bay, and bounded on the NW by

West Broad Street and to the East by property owned by Telfair and Clay, two prominent citizens.⁽³⁾ In March 1804, Harral left Savannah for three months, presumably for business purposes, either in England or New York.

With regard to this absence, it is also noted that two undeliverable letters were sent to Harral in Washington, DC, which may be an indication that he had resided in that city for some period of time prior to 1806.⁽⁴⁾

Not unusual for the gentry of the South, Harral was a slave holder. While we would like to think that he was benevolent to his human property, he still had issues with this now unthinkable practice. Prior to his temporary absence from Savannah in 1804 one slave, named Rachel, decided to leave her master which motivated Harral to advertise for her return. Not to be the last time this happened, he offered a reward of fifty dollars for her capture. (5) No further notice was forthcoming about the fate of Rachel.

Fifty Dollars Keward.



RANAWAY, on the night of the 16th inft. a country born negro wench, named RACHEL, about 35 years of age, the is of a fmall fize and has a

very quick walk, artful and impertinent when spoke to, and is very fond of drink; the is well known in Savannah as the formerly belonged to Major Frederick Shick, deceased; she had on when the went away a drab colored bath coating wrapper and peticost, and carried off with her on old green fluff and a white negro cloth peticost; as there is no doubt the was inticed away from me and is now harbored by fome white person, the above reward will be given for detecting and profecuting my person who may harbor her, or ten dollars reward will be paid for delivering her to the goaler of Savannah, or to the subscriber. All persons are forbid harboring the faid wench or carrying her out of the state, under the severest penalties of the law.

GEORGE HARRAL. February 25

The notice for the capture and reward for George Harral's slave, Rachel. (*Columbian Museum* [Savannah, Georgia] February 29, 1804)

By the beginning of 1807, Harral found it necessary to deal with the many delinquent accounts on his books by placing a rather lengthy advertisement in the Georgia Republican, calling for payment or suffer the consequences of legal action. "The subscriber earnestly requests all persons indebted to him, by notes and open accounts, to settle their respective dues early in the present year so as to enable him to meet his own engagements at that time – from the repeated delinquency of many whose accounts have been standing open for several years, he is now obliged to insist on a settlement; therefore all of this description, not paid by the first of

March next, will be placed in the hands of an attorney for collection, as no longer indulgence can possibly be given." (6) True to his word, for the next several years, the local newspapers often contained notices of legal action whereby the courts awarded Harral the proceeds of sheriff's sales, as well as property, including slaves, as payment for debts owed him.

Business for Harral appears to have been good for the next few years and in 1807 he advertised for additional help at his store for, "Two smart lads, of respectable connections, are wanted to the Drug Business; great care and attention will be paid to their morals and improvement". (7)

As well as his usual importation of drugs and sundries, Harral also imported glassware in 1807, including:

"50 boxes Crown Window Glass, 8 by 10 and 10 by 12

1 hhd. (hogshead) 2 quart specie bottles, with lacquered tin top.

7 crates assorted phials

20 casks assorted glass ware, put up for country stores, containing in each —

4 dozen quart decanters, tops fitted

4 ditto pint ditto

4 ditto ½ pint ditto

12 ½ dozen ½ pint tumblers

2 ditto ½ pint goblets

6 ditto welted (?) wine glasses

2 ditto salt cellars"(8)

It is also evident that Harral had amassed enough funds to engage in the real estate market. By the end of 1808, he advertised for rent "a small two story dwelling house, with convenient out buildings, situated in the upper end of Broughton Street." (9) This property would also be near to his own residence. Later in that year, Harral and 82 additional subscribing members, banded together and formed the Savannah Poor-House and Hospital Society. (10)

One Hundred Dollars REWARD.

BSENTED berfelf from my fervice on or about the roth of October, 1806, my NEGRO WOMAN, JUDY, the is about forty years of age, fmooth black com-plexion, rather above the middle fixe, and usually dresses in a long wrapper, and hand-kerchief bound right around her head; speaks very pleafantly and artfully. She has been frequently feen in the neighborhood of Augusta and Campbellton, and it is well known, the was long harbored by a free negto wo-man, called Flora Fishburne, an aunt of the runaway. She has a pass, and a paper licenting her to work out, both which are forged. The probability is, that the is now harbored in the same neighborhood, as the wife of an Augusta Boatman. Said woman was raised by the Houstonn family, and formerly belonged to Dr. Brickell of Savannah, and during the time he owned her the was abfeat shout twelve months, all which time the was near Augusta and Campbellton, where the is extremely well known. ward of One Hundred Dollars will be paid on the delivery of her to me or the keeper of the jall in Savannah, or Fifty Dollars will be paid by Dr. Thomas I. Wray, for apprehending and lodging her in the jail at Augulls, or any other prilos in the flate. If the returns of her own second the will be forgiven, and have permission to chose berielf a mafter.

GEORGE HARRAL.

An undeniable evil of the time, this practice should not be pushed aside but noted well, for it should never be repeated. (Augusta Chronicle, December 2, 1809)

Toward the end of 1809, Harral repeated his call for the return of a slave, named Judy, who chose to leave her "master." He apparently thought more of herat least her economic value to his service than his slave, Rachel, as his reward for Judy's return was \$100. Again, no further information on this situation was noted.

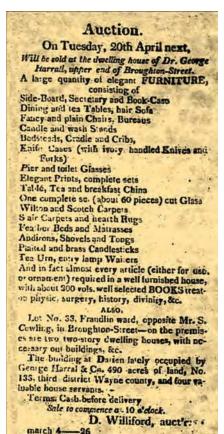
It appears that by 1810, Harral had determined to rent out his own dwelling, including the smaller house that he rented a few years earlier. His advertisement notes, ... "To be rented, and possession given immediately, The subscribers large and pleasantly situated dwelling house, on the corner of Broughton and West-Broad streets, containing twelve well

finished rooms, with eight fire places, kitchen, wash-room, wood house, and apartments for servants. In the yard, are an excellent

stable, carriage-house, etc."⁽¹¹⁾ For those familiar with the City of Savannah, this property would be in the Franklin Ward. George Harral served as an alderman for the City of Savannah from September 10, 1810 to September 6, 1811.

Harral was present in Savannah at least until 1811 when he appointed William Lloyd to act as agent during his absence. (12) Harral landed in New York, along with his family, on the Schooner, Edmund, as noted in the *New York Gazette & General Advertiser*, on July 11, 1811. He would have had six of his twelve children at this date. By early 1812, Harral was back in Savannah and on January 2 of that year, announced a new partnership with Edward Coppee. (13) In May 1812, Harral advertised for sale, "his carriage and horses, which are inferior to none in the city. To save unnecessary trouble, the lowest price will be fifteen hundred dollars." (14) In a notice dated September 1812,

Harral gave his first confirmation that he would soon be leaving Savannah "to the northward." In consequence of his decision, he also terminated his short lived partnership with Edward Coppee. (15) But not idle in his business activities, he became a founding stockholder in a new business titled The Insurance Company of City of Savannah, on December 10, 1812. (16)



Notice of the auction sale of Harral's Savannah residence and its contents, which occurred on April 20, 1813 (Savannah Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, March 13, 1813).

There is some indication that Harral first went to Washington, DC, since there are notices of undelivered mail for him in 1813; however, by 1815 he was acting more like an unspecialized commission merchant when he advertised the sale of turtle shell and pearl handled lancets in Philadelphia on April of 1815, at 134 Market Street.(17) By July of the same year, and still operating in Philadelphia at the same address, Harral was up and operating as he did in Savannah, advertising his usual stock of drugs, medicine, painters colors and surgical instruments – a formula that served him well in Savannah. He also included a somewhat larger stock of glassware as noted in the following ad. (18)

Having fully established himself in Philadelphia, Harral then looked back home and partnered with Robert Worrell who would take charge of their new store in Savannah under the name of

ALSO, ... DAILY EXPECTED, By the ship Catharine, from Liverpool, TWENTY SIX HOOSHEADS OF WHITE FLINT GLASS,

Wide and narrow mounted Phiale, asserted, Patent Phiale of all kinds, Bed Urinale, Globe Chimples, Milk Bottles, Graduated Measures, Mortare and Peatles, Funnels, Nipple Pipes and Shells, Sorelling Phials, Long Essence Phials, Specie and Tindure Bottles, Round and equare Phials, Glass Stoppers, &c.

REAL SARATOGA Or BALLSTON WATER. FROM THE SPRING,

For Sale at the following places-OHORGE HARRAL, 134 Merket street, four doors above Fourth. IBREMIAH MORRIS, 191 Market etrent, between Seventh and Bighth streets,
CHRISTOPHER MARSHALL, No. 19 north Fourth street,
B LAIMB, No. 15 south Fourth street, WILLIAM MORGAN, 1. 1 Chemus street, nest to the Post Office, At the North-West corner of Second and Wal-

Harral also ventured into the sale of mineral water as this advertisement attests. (Poulson's American Daily Advertiser [Philadelphia, PA] August 13, 1816)

NOTICE TO DRUGGISTS, PHYSICIANS, AND COUNTRY MERCHANTS.

The Sunscriber respectfully unforms his friends in Georgia and South Carolina, that he will in a few days recommence his Drug, Oil and Colour Rusiness in Mannada, in connection with his present extabilishment is Philadelphia, and that he has taken into Co-partner, ship with him, Mr. Itobert Worrell, Jr. who will attend to, and conduct the business under the firm of Hannad & Wonkell, they will open in a few days, two hundred and thirt packages of Drugs, &c. which have been carefully selected in the European and Northern Markets, and can he confidently recommended as of a very superior quality. All orders to the firm, onto the subscribes in Philadelphia, will be promptly attended to, and charged at the lowest prices.

George Harral,

Philadelphia, Novinder Sth, 1818.

December 27

The Mitors of the State Gasette, Columbia, will NOTICE TO DRUGGISTS, PHYSICIANS.

The Editors of the State Gazette, Columbia, will please insert the above 12 times, and transmit their bills to the office of the City Gazette.

Notice of George Harral opening his second store in the city of Savannah in partnership with Robert Worrell, first printed in the City Gazette of Charleston, on January 4, 1817.

Harral & Worrell.(19) The partnership of Harral & Worrell was dissolved on December 14, 1818.(20). Robert Worrell was the succeeding partner who continued to operate the store. In 1821, Worrell began the manufacture of mineral water at his drug store. He died in Savannah in 1823.

Harral then decided to sell his Philadelphia business and closed his shop on June 12, 1819, assigning his store to his creditors, Charles Perry and Charles Carpenter.(21)

Perhaps short of capital by this time, Harral then entered into a partnership with Wm. A. Dunham at 161 Pearl Street in New York City, selling drugs, chemicals, etc.(22)

George Harral became a member of the South Dutch Reformed Church of New York City on June 8, 1820, per church records. This short - lived partnership with Dunham ended about 1822 and Harral likely moved to

Albany, New York, for a short time prior to settling in Rochester, New York. The years between 1823 and 1825 are not well documented for the whereabouts of Harral, but he was known to be residing in Rochester in 1826 where he was listed as a physician in the city directory. His penchant for patent medicines persuaded him into selling his own concoction when he claimed to have invented a cure for drunkenness. One advertisement noted, "The doctor will insure a voluntary abstinence from liquor for one year, to all patients who will faithfully take the medicine, as prescribed, for one week."(23) The medicine was apparently a failure.

In 1828, Marshall & Dean of Rochester were selling, "Japan Paste Blacking, For Boots and shoes, made by Dr. George Harral, druggist and chymist, Rochester, N.Y."

George Harral was in Rochester on August 18, 1829, when his son, H. W. Harral became associated with his father at Apothecary Hall, corner of Exchange and Buffalo Streets.

Anti-Intemperance; A Cure for Drunkenness

HE subscriber confidently recommends L to the attention of the publick, a safe, and effectual medicine for the cure of Intemperance, or Drunkenness, discovered and prepared by himself only. It has been and prepared by himself only. It has been used by several persons here, and found equal, if not more effectual, in its operation and cure, than Dr. Chambers' medicine, or any other now in use. Certificates may be procured from persons who have taken the medicine, with the most happy and bene-ficial effects; and references will be made o others, who do not wish their names pub-lished. They have all, since taking the medicine, no desire for spirituous liquors : they feel vigorous—have a good appetite and sleep well. The first or second do generally disgusts them for the use of appetituous liquous, and taking it for a week will ensure a cure.—A small phial contains a sufficient quantity of the medicine for one quart of any liquor you have been in the habit of drinking, with suitable directions for its use. It may be had at Docter L. Touser's, and Mr. Wn. PITKIN'S Drug Store, or at the subscriber's Medical Office, in Mortimer, near River-street, East Rochester.-Price, ONE DOLLAR

GEORGE HARRAL. June 19, 1827 -6w37

Advertisement for George Harral's ill-fated cure for drunkenness. *Rochester Album* (Rochester. New York) June 1827

His last documented stay in Rochester was a marriage notice for his daughter, Lucy Ann Harral, who married Alanson Penfield of Cleveland, Ohio, on October 27, 1831. George Harral was noted as living in Rochester. No later records could be found.

Some genealogical records for Harral have noted that he retired about 1849 and enjoyed a life of living with his many children some of whom were quite successful in a variety of businesses. His wife, Charlotte Wright Harral, died in New York City on February 13, 1847. George Harral died December 17, 1856, in Tarrytown, New York.

They are buried together at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

With available research revealing no positive clues about when Harral commissioned his sealed black glass bottles, or to what use they may have had, we can still make at least one conclusion. His business tenure in Savannah occurred between 1797 and 1813. The bottle should have been made between those two dates, but a more specific time line would have to rely on speculation. Due to the extreme rarity of the bottles, they were likely produced in small numbers and for a short period of time. It could be that they were produced at the inception of his business as a marketing strategy. Of course, this same strategy could have been employed at any time within his residence in Savannah. With that same idea in mind, Harral may have made the bottles for a special run of alcoholic beverage that he either sold or gifted to his clients. The bottle is an unusual form for a druggist to use in his practice, and I would expect the story behind the manufacture of his bottles to be unusual as well. Not likely to happen, a labeled example would go a long way to helping to solve the mystery of why this 'Best of Georgia' bottle exists.

- 1. Columbian Museum [Savannah, Georgia] March 4, 1803
- 2. Ibid, December 3, 1803
- 3. Ibid, December 21, 1803
- 4. National Intelligencer and Washington Advertiser (Washington, DC1 October 13, 1806)
- 5. Ibid. February 25, 1804
- 6. Georgia Republican (Savannah, Georgia), February 17, 1807
- 7. Savannah Republican, July 9, 1807
- 8. Columbian Museum [Savannah, Georgia] Oct 23, 1807
- 9. Ibid. December 16, 1808
- 10. Savannah Republican, December 28, 1808
- 11.lbid. February 8, 1810
- 12.lbid. July 2, 1811

- 13.lbid, February 29, 1812
- 14.Ibid, May 12, 1812
- 15.Ibid. October 10, 1812
- 16.Ibid. December 24, 1812
- 17. Poulson's American Daily Advertiser [Philadelphia, PA1 April 4, 1815]
- 18.Ibid, December 12, 1816
- 19. City Gazette [Charleston, South Carolina] January 4, 1817
- 20. Savannah Daily Republican, December 22, 1818
- 21. Philadelphia Gazette, June 17, 1819
- 22 Evening Post [New York New York] October 23 1820
- 23. Pawtucket Chronicle and Manufacturers' and Artizans' Advocate [Pawtucket, RI] June 30, 1827