

# FOHBC NEWS



## FROM & FOR OUR MEMBERS

### Year of the comet bottle 1811

Hello! My name is Mark Eastman. I am a young (26) antique collector and glass/precious metal artist out of the Philadelphia area. I have had this bottle in my collection for a few years now and am starting to get interested in vintage time pieces. My birthday is coming up on the 22nd and I would like to be able to get myself a piece from the 70s that I can hand down to future generations. I am contacting you to see if you have any interest in my bottle to fund this and because I believe it would be in the best hands. I found this bottle lamped believe it or not, thus the hole in the base. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

[FOHBC] This is a cool bottle but unfortunately, the hole in the bottom negates any real value. The Great Comet of 1811 was a comet that was visible to the naked eye for around 260 days, a record it held until the appearance of Comet Hale-Bopp in 1997. The comet was discovered March 25, 1811 by Honoré Flaugergues at 2.7 AU from the sun in the now-defunct constellation of Argo Navis. After being obscured for several days by moonlight, it was also found by Jean-Louis Pons on April 11, while Franz Xaver, Baron Von Zach was able to confirm Flaugergues' discovery the same night. The comet of 1811 was thought to be responsible for the long, hot summer and dry autumn and the following abundant harvest that year. As it turned out, the year 1811 turned out to be particularly fine for wine production, and merchants marketed 'Comet Wine' at high prices for many years afterwards.



### Question about a Cleveland O. Bottle



Hello! I am doing repairs on my 1868 home in Brecksville, Ohio and found a small medicine bottle under the porch marked "E.A. Palmer & Bro, Cleveland, O." Google hasn't given me much to work with as far as information. I was wondering whether you would have any idea on its history or worth?

Thank you!  
Katherine Ramsey

### Dr. Woodruff's Dysentery Cordial - Columbus, Ga.

Hi Ferd, Jack Klotz here in Missouri. I dug a bottle a while back and recently noticed it may be an unlisted variant. It is listed in Digger Odell's pontiled medicine book but the embossing on mine doesn't exactly match up. I have a pontiled, aqua, "Dr. Woodruff's/Dysentery/Cordial" all embossed on a front flat panel in three lines and no other embossing. Odell has one listed as embossed with "Dysentery/Cordial" on one side and "Columbus, Ga." on opposite side. Also, the size of Odell's listing is 9" whereas mine is 7 1/4" tall. I have had a running search on eBay since digging it and never got one hit. I did notice it came up on a search on the list of 25 Top Georgia bottles as #18 compiled by Bill Baab. It was unclear how the embossing was on Bill's list for the bottle but it seems the known ones all have the city embossing, unlike my bottle. I figured I'd check with him if he had seen this particular variant or not, however I could find no contact info for him, so tag, you're it! Any help appreciated.

[Bill Baab] Jack: Ferdinand forwarded your email. That bottle is extremely rare in Georgia and elsewhere. The very first example I became aware of came from a privy in Old Williamsburg, Va., and was in a report from the archaeologist, now deceased. I think that collector Tom Hicks in Eatonton, Ga., had an example, but am not certain. I will call Tom (his computer is down) and see what he has to say. It is quite possible yours is a variant. Bottles from Columbus, Ga., also are scarce. The only other one I know of is a John Ryan cobalt soda (Ryan had branches in Augusta, Atlanta and Columbus during the late 1860s). I can't recall who had the bottle I used in my Top 25 listing. After I talk to Tom, I'll get back to you.

### A couple of bottles from the Charles Gardner collection

Hi Ferd, I recently picked up a couple of bottles from the Charles Gardner collection. Seeking any more info and possibly the catalog description of these bottles. One is lot #116, looks like a globular pontiled "swirl" bottle, the other is lot # 1131, a light olive green ribbed swirled flask. Thanks for any help!

David Bethman  
Hamilton, Montana

### Binger's Regulator flask

Dear FOHBC, I noticed some time ago, a Binger's Regulator flask sold at auction. What was the selling price?

Sincerely, Alex Prizgintas



[Jim Bender] To answer the question about the Binger flask, as he calls it, this is the clock bottle. Like any bottle, condition and quality of glass is everything. The amber clocks bring \$400 to \$800 and the aqua bottles bring \$1,400 to \$2,500.00 depending on the example. There have been a few wild card bottles that bring more than that in auctions prompting the thought, "who paid that!" The clock bottles seem to be a bottle everyone likes.

**Bottle been on the shelf for 55 years**

Hi Ferdinand - I think I have a great bottle. The bottle is in perfect condition. It has no chips, cracks, or fractures. It has been on a shelf in my husbands 200+ year old home for his 55 years and most likely longer. The house and its contents have been in his family for at least five generations. We've recently begun selling off some of the antiques that don't have sentimental value. While researching the bottle, I came across the Peachridge Glass website...what a wonderful resource! Is this something you'd be interested in purchasing? If not, we will most likely put it on an auction site like eBay. If there are additional pictures that you'd like to see in a certain light, or a certain angle please let me know and I will send them along. Thank you for sharing your bottle knowledge & all the best,

Karen Potts  
North Truro, Massachusetts



[Ferdinand] Oh, you're right. This is a super bottle. Typically found in stunning colors, the Old Schem's Bitters and Wigwam Tonic is a classic figural barrel. The aqua version actually comes in two sizes and some examples are pontiled. Here are my examples in aqua.



**Mid-19th century bottles unearthed during the demolition and subsequent excavation of Chicago's 'S' curve**

Elizabeth Meyer, our Business Manager, subscribes to Urban Remains Chicago and suggests we visit their website at *UrbanRemainsChicago.com* to read a wonderful historical digging post with found bottles.

For over 10 years, Urban Remains has dealt exclusively in the reclamation of American architectural artifacts, antiques, and other oddities found among industrial buildings, and commercial or residential structures. The website displays well over 25,000 recovered artifacts, dating from the mid-19th century to the late 1960s. They do not deal in any new or reproduction materials, and the majority of pieces are directly salvaged at demolition sites within Chicago. New items are added to the website daily, reflecting everything that is available to the public in their West Town warehouse.



**Frank's Laxative Tonic Bitters**



Mr. Ferdinand: My name is Teresa Paulson. My husband Roy Paulson, passed away the end of July.

He had an extensive bottle collection and sold a lot of stuff to his friends before his death. He had this bitters bottle at a bottle show on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and one of his friends took a picture and put it online. He told me that he had a person from Houston that was interested but he never left me a name. I looked it up online and ran across your article. Are you the

same person interested in buying the bottle? If so, I am interested in selling it, please let me know.

**Hotaling Sign**

Good morning all; I spotted the inquiry regarding the Hotaling sign within this month's *Bottles and Extras*, from Maurice Chevalier IV. Attached are two photos, one of Mike Dolcini's framed sign, the other of the actual building taken on or about April 20th, 1906, subsequent to the firestorm passing through the commercial district.

Based on a careful examination of the photo of the actual building / buildings using Photoshop, it would appear that the artist who created the sign picturing the structures took some liberties, as there is nothing painted on them in the photo.

Bruce Silva  
*WesternWhiskeyToolTopGazette.com*



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## Dealing with "Snow-Snuffers" on the side

This next new listing for *Bitters Bottles Supplement 2* reminds us of the thousands of lawsuits against opioid companies. Seems like our druggist friend, U. M. Weaver had quite a few side rackets. Here are two. Running a Gambling Den in the back of his drug store and selling heroin, cocaine, and morphine to addicts on the side... "Snow-Snuffers." These cool trade cards are from Joe Gourd.

### Trade card

W 57.5 **WEAVER'S STOMACH BITTERS**, Handsome card set, ie. Illustrations of juggler, pushing baby carriage, fancy ladies. Every time you purchase drugs of U. M. Weaver, you get a Handsome Card. We will send the Full Set to any address, upon Receipt of 6 Cts. U. M. Weaver, Harrisburg, Pa. Reverse: Weaver's Remedies. Toothache Drops. Liniment. Baby Drops. Cough Mixture. Aque Cure. Stomach Bitters. Peruvian Ointment.



**WEAVER'S REMEDIES.**  
TOOTHACHE DROPS.  
Cures Toothache in five minutes.  
**LINIMENT-**  
For aches and pains, it has no equal.  
**Baby Drops.**  
A certain remedy for Diarrhoea.  
COUGH MIXTURE.  
A never failing remedy.  
**AGUE CUBE.**  
Cure Guaranteed or money Refunded.  
**Stomach Bitters.**  
For General Debility & Biliousness.  
**Peruvian Ointment.**  
For Old Sores, Relieves pain from Burns.



## DOPE PEDDLERS HELD FOR COURT

### Nine Snow-Snuffers and Local Druggist Nabbed in Clean- Up Raid Must Face Trials

As a result of the hearing given nine victims of the drug habit, and U. M. Weaver, an East Side druggist yesterday afternoon before Alderman Adam Leake, all were held for court and must face trials for peddling and selling cocaine, heroin and morphia to people of questionable character and dwellers in the city's tenderloin districts.

District Attorney Marion D. Patterson, of Hollidayburg, was present at the hearing and questioned the ten men implicated in the sale of habit-forming drugs in the city, who, it is alleged, have established a drug traffic as a regular business. A sensation was sprung upon those in the courtroom of Alderman Leake's office, when U. M. Weaver, proprietor of a drug store on the East Side, was brought in by County Detective James Spangler. Weaver was charged with disposing of morphia, heroin, etc., without prescriptions from physicians, to persons not of full age and not of respectable character, according to the information given on the warrant issued from the office of the First ward magistrate.

Hundreds of persons, including the curious-minded and friends of the victims caught in the sudden clean-up raid on Saturday night, lined the streets around the office of the alderman. Men, women and boys hung upon porches across the street and other points of vantage from where the court proceedings might be glimpsed, if not heard.

As a result of the evidence adduced Ralph Jackson, the negro accused of furnishing heroin to Charles Dum, alias McMin, was held for court in default of \$500 bail. Weaver waived a hearing and entered bail. Ed. and Pat Donnelly, with Roy Dougharty, were bailed by their friends, while Charles Knox, the colored pugilist, Ray English, William Rice and William Evers, white, and Eddie Green, colored, were unable to secure bail and were taken to the county jail, immediately following the hearing, by County Detective Spangler.

There was a noticeable difference in the number of frequenters of Teuth avenue last night, as the word has passed around that the traffic is to be wiped out in the city. Few of the "cookers" desire to be witnesses, and thus occurs the scatterment.

## Nine Snow-Snuffers and Local Druggist Nabbed



## CHARGE WEAVER WITH RUNNING GAMBLING DEN

U. M. Weaver, a druggist, of 413 Fourth street, is in the toils of the law, charged with maintaining and conducting a gambling house in the rear of his store, where it is alleged that persons congregate to pass the time, and incidentally their money, in games of chance, much to the discomfort and hardship of those dependent upon them for support.

It is alleged by Miss Mary Weckland that on March 26, 1916, one Hayden Weckland took part in a gambling game conducted and maintained by U. M. Weaver, losing his entire check which he earned, as Weckland swearing to an information for the arrest of U. M. Weaver before Alderman George Buchanan, of Eighth ward, who placed the warrant in the hands of Constable Bradley, of the Second ward.

Weaver was rounded up and brought before the magistrate, where he furnished bail for a hearing to be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock. The hearing promises to be somewhat sensational, as it is said many prominent persons will figure in the proceedings.

Dope Peddlers Held for Court: *Altoona Tribune*, Tuesday, March 17, 1914

Charge Weaver With Running a Gambling Den: *Altoona Times*, Wednesday, April 5, 1916

Submitted by  
Ferdinand Meyer V

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## Two Good Projects that the FOHBC should consider...

Matt and Louis, I've been meaning to write you for a while and now is as good of time as any I guess. I have two projects that I feel the FOHBC should undertake, neither are terribly resource intensive, and would attract new members, I believe.

### Project #1: BOTTLE PRICE GUIDE COMPUTERIZED DATABASE

As both of you know, many collectors love price guides. Over the years, there have been many including Brown's, John Odell, Jim Mitchell and D&C Auction Price Results. All of these are gone to my knowledge, but they did have valuable information. As such, the FOHBC should develop a database similar in content to Jim Mitchell's book. All of the information is in the public domain so copyright laws are not an issue. The database should contain a description, condition, price, McKearin and or Ring/Ham number (as applicable),

date of sale etc. In my opinion, the data should go back to the Gardner Sale, and should only include auctions (e.g., Heckler, Skinner's, Glass Works, eBay, etc.) and not private sales.

Once developed, the database would be assigned to a person to update on a yearly basis. The database should have a cutoff on prices meaning bottles below certain price point (e.g., 100 dollars) would be excluded. Also, common bottles such as amber Drakes would not need to be recorded every time one sold, perhaps only the latest. Once developed, the database would be a great tool for collectors and dealers to use. It would be on the FOHBC web site and available to members. Perhaps a yearly user fee of \$10 could be charged if desired. This exact tool is used extensively by the Art/Painting market. Also, it could be developed in phases, Flasks, Bitters, Medicines, etc. Eventually, it could be linked to the Virtual Bottle Museum.

### Project #2: REVISED/UPDATED MCKEARIN FLASK CHARTS

As historical flask collectors, I'm sure both of you would agree that



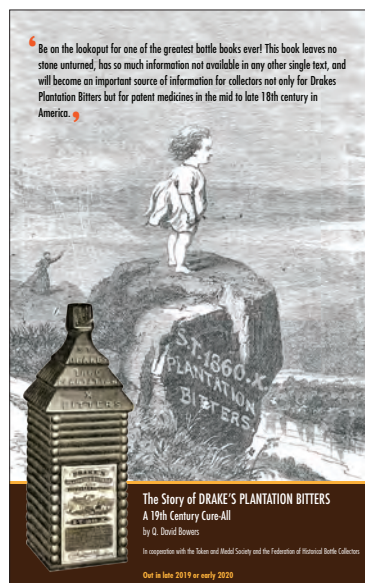
the backbone of the bottle hobby are flasks, and the support structure for flasks are the McKearin charts. The last time the charts were updated was in 1978, when Helen McKearin and Ken Wilson published “American Bottles and Flasks and Their Ancestry.”

I believe the FOHBC should take over the flask charts and develop and maintain them on a searchable database. First, the charts as published in 1948 and 1978 were focused on molds first and color second. This can be very confusing to new collectors, especially in deterring desirability. Also, many new molds and colors have come to light. If I’m not mistaken, Mark Vuono has developed an updated list of new molds and colors. I believe this project is vital to collectors, dealers, and researchers.

I plan on attending the Ohio Bottle Show in September where we could discuss both projects. Thanks

Chris Hartz  
Arroyo Grande, California

**The Story of Drake’s Plantation Bitters**  
A 19th Century Cure-All



Ferdinand Meyer V tells us that he worked as a research and image consultant on the new Drake’s Plantation Bitters book by FOHBC life member, Q. David Bowers.

Ferdinand also wrote the foreword and prepared the full-page advertisement for David that appeared in the Augusta souvenir program. Stay tuned for more information. This book has a lot of information and images that have not been seen before or presented in a way that tells the story of the most famous bitters bottle of all.

**Mishler’s Herb Bitters article**

Dear Mr. Meyer, I wanted to thank you for your informative article on Mishler’s Herb Bitters from October 2015. My name is Dale Mishler and I am a descendant of the family that founded the company. Having a BA in history, I enjoyed the article, however, when comparing information that I have with your article, I noted a few minor inconsistencies in the early history of Mishler’s in Pennsylvania. I have a family history written by John Milton Mishler, dated, July 1, 1921, which indicates that Joseph Mishler (the first Mishler of this family line) was born in 1757 in Switzerland. Joseph was the father of John and the grandfather of Benjamin. Joseph and John are buried in Denver Union (Denver Mennonite) Cemetery, Lancaster County, Pa. Benjamin’s brother Issac went on to establish the Mishler Theater in Altoona, Pa. Another one of Benjamin’s brother, Lyman, was a West Point grad and Union Officer. He was one of three Union Officers killed at the Battle of Valverde, during the Civil War. If you would be willing to share an alternate information on the subject, I would love to see it. If you would like to discuss the subject or want a copy of the history please let me know. Respectfully;

Dale P. Mishler, DHSc, ARNP, Captain, USPHS

**Looking at a Moffat Billhead**

Medicine ephemera authority and collector, Ben Swanson, submitted this important illustrated billhead in the form of a stampless folded letter dated 1846 to Dr. William Washington Fritts of Carlisle, Kentucky from Dr. William Brinckerhoff Moffat proprietor of Phoenix Bitters. Hand written and signed.



**Moffat Billhead**

Hi, Ferd, I loved your post on “Looking at a Moffat Billhead!” I adore Moffat’s Phoenix Bitters, and found the document fascinating. The street lamp in front of the building on the billhead (first attachment) is identical to the street lamp in front of the nearby New York Hospital (second attachment), thus helping to confirm the (probable) accuracy of the graphic. Of additional related interest is A.M. Bininger & Co. (338 Broadway, in green in the attached map) was located across the street from Moffat’s Phoenix Bitters (335 Broadway, in blue in the attached map). This locational relationship lasted for a short time only, however, as A.M. Bininger & Co. relocated to 19 Broad Street after spending only one year at 338 Broadway. Thanks for the great posting! Regards,

Chris Bubash  
Dayton, Ohio

The street lamp in front of the building on the billhead is identical to the street lamp in front of the nearby New York Hospital.

