

RECENT FINDS



Figure 1

From Wayne and June Lowry, Raymore, Mo.

This "The Standard Improved Fruit Jar" was dug in New Zealand last November and was acquired by us shortly thereafter.

Previous to this "improved" midget pint, it had only been reported in the quart and half-gallon size. Even though it is stained and cracked, we are elated to acquire it because it is a pint, which is our main area of collecting, plus it is a "new" old jar. [Figure 1]

This is another example of items that are still out there to be found.

From Carl Sturm, Longwood, Fla.

This month's new find is absolutely the crudest piece of black glass that I have ever seen. It is a German, circa 1780, utility bottle, blown in a two-part wooden mould with a blow-pipe pontil scar. The wooden moulds were wetted down to prevent them from burning out so quickly. Apparently this mould was very wet and when the molten glass

was put in the mould, steam formed and caused the crudeness that is seen in this specimen. It would be extremely hard if not impossible to duplicate this effect. It must be remembered that this was a utility bottle and not a piece of artwork.

This bottle is 8" in height, 6" in width and 3" in depth. The marks of the two-piece mould are apparent. The pontil scar is weak but can be seen. The string is applied about 1/8" below the top of the bottle and tapers from the bottom to the top. A picture of a like bottle with a seal is pictured in *Antique Glass Bottles* by Willy Van den Bossche on page 270. It does not have the crudeness shown by the bottled pictured here. [Figure 2]

From Tom Feltman, O'Fallon, Illinois:

Here are some pictures of two rare pontiled blob top sodas I dug from a privy in St. Louis, Mo. First is a rare pontiled soda, TERRY & BARIL - MASSILLON, O. [Figure 3]. Second is an emerald green BRANDON & FEASBY - CAMP SPRING - SODA WATER - ST. LOUIS, MO. [Figure 4].

There are three variants of the Ohio bottle, all iron pontiled and date to the 1850s.

Besides the one pictured, one has Terry & Baril / Massillon, O (Massillon misspelled) and the other has large double outline letters spelling TERRY completely around the circumference of the bottle with John Terry / Massillon, O. in smaller letters. Of the three, John "Digger" Odell said that the John Terry bottle was the oldest and rarest. Terry likely took in a partner after getting established or either retiring. Odell also speculated that due to no smooth-based bottles being known, the firm apparently went out of business before the Civil War.

The Brandon & Feasby soda water bottle is listed on Curt Faulkenberry's list of scarce Missouri bottles as number three (*Bottles and Extras*, Spring 2003, pg. 47).



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4