

J. D. PAIGE, proprietor of Paige's Bottling House, Joliet; was born in Oneida Co., N. Y., March 27, 1837; in 1844, he accompanied his parents to Jefferson Co., Wis.; in 1857, he left home and came on foot to Joliet, with \$1 in his pocket; he went at once to work, and has been at work ever since; he has now one of the largest and best-appointed houses in his line of business in the West; besides which he has established branches of his business in Grand Rapids, Mich., Marshalltown, Iowa, and Braidwood, Ill.; he was appointed Fire Marshal of Joliet in May, 1877, and has given much study and his best efforts to the Department; during his administration the Department has been changed from a voluntary to a paid organization, the Gamewell fire-alarm telegraph has been introduced, the horses are now owned by the Department (instead of being hired wherever opportunity occurred, as was previously done), and are kept at all times in the engine-houses, with harness on, ready to be hitched up at ten seconds' notice; many other improvements have been added, and the proficiency to which the Joliet Fire Department has attained under the administration of Mr. Paige is evident from the fact that at the National Firemen's Tournament in Chicago, in September, 1878, the Joliet Steamer Company No. 1 carried off first honors in extinguishing burning buildings, with a prize of \$350 cash and an elegant silver set, and also took two other prizes, one of \$100 and the other \$75; Mr. Paige is at present Township Assessor, to which office he was elected in April, 1878.

The 1878 History of Will County, Illinois, (Wm. Le Baron Jr. & Co. 186 Dearborn Street, Chicago), has the following biography of J.D. Paige:

"Farmer," with \$100 of personal estate born in New York, his wife Electa age 40 born in Connecticut, and the children are May E. age 20, Betsy age 15, John D. age 13, Lena age 10, and Leroy age 6, all born in New York.

That's right, as children John D. Page (or Paige) and John D. Vail lived next door to each other in Wisconsin, and John D. Page would marry John D. Vail's sister Ruth, making the two "Brother-in-Law". I think it is safe to say these two men were as close as brothers could be during their lives, and the following historical information will testify to this.

The August 8th, 1860 Census for the Town of Cold Spring, Jefferson County, Wisconsin lists in dwelling location 1724/1538, the family of John D. Vail. His father Delos Vaile age 43, a "farmer," with \$50 in personal estate born in New York. His mother Relief Vaile age 40, born in New York, sister Ruth A.

Bottled Soda Water.

J. & H. HICKEY

ARE now manufacturing their superior BOTTLED SODA WATER, and are prepared to furnish all who may desire it. They feel thankful for past favors and trust from their long experience in the business and strict attention, to receive your liberal patronage. All orders from the country accompanied with a remittance, promptly attended to.

TERMS—We are now selling at the reduced price of 25 cents per dozen. We would also say that private families who wish, can have it left at their residences by leaving their orders at the factory. Corner of Hickory and Bridge Streets, or at the Post Office, Box 9. Address—J. & H. HICKEY, Joliet, Ill.

May 21m3.

The Joliet True Democrat, June 11, 1859

SODA WATER.—In behalf of the printers of this office, we tender thanks to Messrs. J. & H. Hickey for two dozen bottles of the superior Soda Water, manufactured at their establishment in this city. All pronounce it a tip-top drink which can be imbibed with much satisfaction and without doing violence to their well established temperance principles. For further particulars see advertisement.

The Joliet True Democrat, June 11, 1859

Vaile age 20, born in New York, John D.B. Vaile age 18, born in New York, sister Mary A. Vaile age 16, born in Wisconsin, sister Frances Vaile age 14, born in Wisconsin, sister Lelian Vaile age 11, born in Wisconsin, brother Fred Vaile age 8, born in Wisconsin, sister Abby Vaile age 5 born in Wisconsin, and living in the same household a John Kassin age 22, a "laborer" born in Germany.

The "E" on the end of the name Vail makes no difference, the family in 1860 was at home, still in Cold Spring Wisconsin. I still have not figured out the "B" in John D. Vail's name in the 1850 and 1860 Census listings. The Paige family lived nearby in dwelling 1716/1530. William Page age 55 a "farmer" with \$8200 of real estate, and \$275 of personal estate, born in New York. Leda Page age 49, born in Vermont, Leroy Page age 16 born in New York, Angelica Page age 9 born in Wisconsin, Kate Page age 6 born in Wisconsin.

You will note that John D. Paige is not listed in the Page family Census listing in 1860, that is because reportedly he had gone to Joliet, Illinois in 1857 to make his fortune.

The 1878 History of Will County, Illinois, (Wm. Le Baron Jr. & Co. 186 Dearborn Street, Chicago), has the following biography of J.D. Paige:



Ruth Vail Paige and John D. Paige: Marriage photo

Another later source says he had gone to work immediately for John and Hiram Hickey on Merchants Row along Bluff Street, and worked there from 1857 to 1861-1862 before buying the bottling works from his employer. I have not been able to find John D. Page (or Paige) in the 1860 Census. The July 3rd 1860 Joliet, Will County, Illinois Census lists Census lists: John Hickey a 33-year-old "Soda Water Manufacturer" owning \$700 of real estate, and having \$1000 of personal estate, born in Canada, with

his wife age 29, born in New York, three daughters Alvaro age 7, Alice age 5, and Jennie age 3, born in Wisconsin, and one-year old son Theodore born in Illinois.

He must have made some money because there is a marriage record dated October 15, 1861, where he married Ruth Angel Vail in Cold Springs, Wisconsin, Reverend Montague presiding. There is a photo of them on their marriage day.

I searched the Internal Revenue Assessment Lists better known as the Civil War Tax Records. The federal government levied taxes to help pay for the Civil War by an act of Congress on July 1, 1862, but were not levied until September 1, 1862. The records for Joliet, Illinois are located in the 6th District, 17th Division, and the records of these taxes that I could search were from 1864 through 1866. The way in which the taxes were levied varied from year to year, and the tax rate on soda water manufacturers in 1865 and 1866 was 6% of the gross production value. I could find no records for John D. Paige or John D. Vail in 1864, I found them both together in 1865, and John D. Paige alone in 1866. It may well be that The federal government was simply not taxing the manufacture of soda water in 1864 and before, which fits my searches on this subject in the Iowa Tax records.

John D. Page's bottling works continued after J.D. Vail moved to St. Louis. The June 21st, 1870 Census for the 3rd Ward of Joliet, Will County, Illinois, John D. Page and his family is listed in dwelling 44/49, with John D. Page age 33 listed as a manufacturer of soda water, owning \$3700 of Real Estate, and having \$4000 of personal estate, born in New York. His wife Ruth Page, (J.D. Vail's sister) age 30 keeping house, born in New York, son Chester age 9, born in Illinois, daughters Mintie age 7, Inez age 5, and Onie age 2 all born in Illinois. Also listed in the household is Frances Vail age 22 listed as a domestic servant born in Wisconsin. Obviously Frances Vail is Ruth's sister helping with the children and household. They likely were living in the soda water manufacturing business building because living at this same ad-

Internal Revenue Tax Records, (Civil War Taxes) Division 17 of the 6th District, State of Illinois, Recorded on Microfilm for 1862-1866. Soda Water, City of Joliet, From May 1865 through July 1866.

Date	Firm	Town	Description	Value	Rate	Tax
May 1865	Page & Vail	Joliet	Mnfrs. License	\$10.00		\$10.00
May 1865	Paige & Vail	Joliet	Soda Water	\$692	6%	\$41.52
June 1865	Paige & Vail	Joliet	Soda Water	\$1683	6%	\$100.98
July 1865	Paige & Vail	Joliet	Soda Water	\$1400	6%	\$84.00
August 1865	Paige & Vail	Joliet	Soda Water	\$1027	6%	\$61.62
September 1865	Paige & Vail	Joliet	Soda Water	\$1104	6%	\$66.24
October 1865	Paige & Vail	Joliet	Soda Water	\$105	6%	\$6.30
November 1865	Paige & Vail	Joliet	Soda Water	\$34	6%	\$2.04
December 1865	(No Listing)					
April 1866	John D. Paige	Joliet	Soda Water	\$129.00	6%	\$7.74
May 1866	John D. Paige	Joliet	Mnfrs. License	\$10.00		\$10.00
	John D. Paige	Joliet	Income	\$261	5%	\$13.05
May 1866	John D. Paige	Joliet	Soda Water	\$425	6%	\$25.50
June 1866	John D. Paige	Joliet	Soda Water	\$1060	6%	\$63.60
July 1866	John D. Paige	Joliet	Soda Water	\$928	6%	\$55.61



Two variants of the Paige & Vail bottles, on the left "JOIET", and "JOIET" on the right

We understand that a gentleman by the name of Page, from Joliet, Illinois, anticipates erecting a large brick building for an ale depot, somewhere in Marshalltown. Mr. Page is a large ale and porter manufacturer at Joliet and has considered it profitable to build a depot somewhere in Iowa for the sale of his goods. After visiting several other points he finally struck Marshalltown and after careful consideration concluded that Marshalltown was the place.

The Marshall Statesman, August 7, 1875

J. D. VAIL
 Manufacturer of
MINERAL AND SODA WATER
AND GINGER ALE.
 Agent for
MICHIGAN AND OHIO CIDERS,
 Marshalltown, Iowa.
STOCK ALE.
 I am now bottling Porter's celebrated Joliet Stock Ale, which is fully equal if not superior to the best imported Ales.
 Depot under Rice's Block.
 18-1f J. D. VAIL Prop.

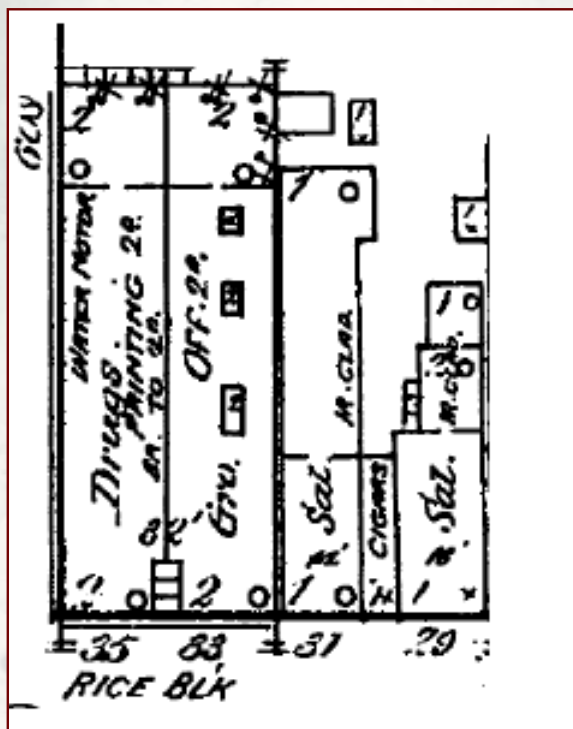
The Marshall Daily Times, November 2, 1875

dress is listed a John Grott age 22 born in Mschlenberg, Germany, and John Ranft age 26, born in Wisconsin, both listed as "Work in Soda Water factory". Another man listed one door away at 46/51 is a William H. Smith age 26, and his wife Mary also 26, both listed as born in Wisconsin, with William listed as "Works in Soda water factory".

The Marshall Statesman, a *Marshalltown newspaper*, started its Volume 1. No. 1 on July 31st 1875. There are no mentions of John D. Vail in that newspaper in its early months. On August 7th 1875 The Marshall Statesman has the following article.

The Marshall Daily Times, November 2, 1875
 1884 Sanborn Map of Rice's Block at the NE Corner of 1st and Main

The earliest item linking John D. Vail and Marshalltown I have found is an advertisement in the Marshall Daily Times, starting on November 1, 1875. The Marshall Daily Times is available at the Marshalltown Library, on microfilm, starting on October 30, 1875, without a J.D. Vail advertisement. The location of his business is listed as "Depot under Rice's Block." Rice's Block was at the northeast corner of Main and First Streets. It appears this was John D. Vail's first place of business listed as a "depot." However, he was bottling "Porter's celebrated Joliet Stock Ale" likely shipped to him with the assistance of John D. Paige. The question arises what type of bottles was he using? Digging in Marshalltown and surrounding cities including Tama and Toledo have produced quite a few seam-based blob soda bottles embossed "J. D. Paige, Joliet, Ill." with a "TW & Co." glass house mark on the rear. (Thomas Wightman, Pittsburg 1874-).



1884 Sanborn Map of Rice's Block at the NE Corner of 1st and Main

It appears the first bottles J.D. Vail began using in Marshalltown were J.D. Paige bottles.

The Marshall County Property records reveal that John D. Paige did indeed buy a property in Marshalltown. On December 15, 1875 the Town Lot deed records in Book 57, Page 465, record the transfer of the West one third of Lot 5 in Block Number 16 in the original Town of Marshall, Marshall County, from Thaddeus Binford and Angie Binford his wife of Marshall County, to John D. Paige of Joliet, Illinois, in consideration of the sum of \$2580.60.

The deed also states:

"Except and reserving the east half of the east wall of the two-story brick building now on said above described lots for the purpose of building then to and also the taxes for the year 1873 which the paid above grantee assumes and agrees to pay." This deed was filed for record on December 20, 1875. John D. Paige obtained a mortgage on this same property from Thaddeus Binford. The Mortgage signed on December 17th, 1875 reads that John D. Paige of the city of Joliet, Illinois and Thaddeus Binford of Marshall, and the sum of \$1,580.60, "and the said Paige agrees to keep all Insurance on the building on the above described property in some good responsible company in the sum of Fifteen Hundred Dollars for the benefit of the Grantie herein." The mortgage required the payment of one thousand dollars on the 1st day of July in 1877, and the payment of \$580.16 on the 1st day of July, 1878. The mortgage signed by John D. Vail on December 17th, 1875 states "This mortgage is given to secure Part of the Purchase money of the above described Real Estate." So, John D. Paige had put a thousand dollars down to pay for a property for J.D. Vail's bottling works.



Here is a seam-based blob soda bottles embossed "J. D. Paige, Joliet, Ill." with a "TW & Co." glass house mark on the rear. (Thomas Wightman, Pittsburg 1874-)

John D. Paige and his wife Ruth A. Paige (of Will County, Illinois), would sell the same property "The West one third (1/3) of Lot Number Five (5) in Block numbered Sixteen (16) in the original Town of Marshall, Marshall County, Iowa" to John D. Vail of Marshall for the sum of \$3,000, signed on July 11th, 1877. There was a corresponding mortgage for \$3,000 that John D. Vail would have to pay to John D. Paige on or before the 1st Day of October 1882, with 10% interest per annum. John D. Paige's Mortgage to Thaddeus Binford was satisfied on July 10th, 1877, and John D. Vail's Mortgage to John D. Paige was satisfied on January 31st, 1881.

The 1877 Joliet City Directory lists:
J.D. Paige propr. Paige's Bottling House, and manfr. Of all kinds

J. D. Paige's Bottling House.

Among the many institutions in which the "Stone City" may justly congratulate herself in possessing, the bottling works of Mr. J. D. Paige, stands forth the only one of its kind. They were first established in the year 1857, by Mr. Paige, where he conducted a rather small business at first, but by dint of close attention and strict integrity in all transactions it gradually developed until the building in which he had conducted it was no longer commodious enough. After securing a larger establishment, the business gradually assumed larger proportions, until to-day we find the bottling house of J. D. Paige one of the most complete in the West, and at the same time possessing the most extensive trade in this section.

The works, which are thorough and complete in all their appurtenances, are located at 61 North Bluff street, and we had the pleasure personally of examining the many unique features of the establishment, and to say we were astonished at the singular contrivances which were shown us, would be but to reiterate the opinion of every visitor. The charging fountains are the only ones of their kind in use, being Mr. Paige's own inventions, who, however, has never taken the trouble to patent them. Mr. Paige's process of bottling is peculiarly his own, and entirely different to the ordinary method. He bottles under pressure, and charges the liquid with carbonic acid gas, which imparts to it health-giving properties, which are not found in the old-time system. Everywhere in his establishment the curious visitor may find new and improved methods for each department of the business, and which are not to be found in any other bottling house in the country. The facilities enjoyed by Mr. Paige are complete in every respect, and the many improvements he has personally made from the orthodox methods are sufficient proof that he not only runs the business, but that he gives to it his whole mind and attention.

His many ingenious inventions have rendered the employment of a large number of men unnecessary, and with but a few men Mr. Paige can turn out of his establishment an equal quantity of goods with firms who employ a far greater number of persons. Thus it will be seen that with the obviation of so much expense in his course of manufacturing, Mr. Paige is enabled to sell his goods cheaper than any other firm, and at the same time give the purchaser as fine a quality of goods as can be found in the country. He has a miniature water-works in his establishment, an artesian well, with a stand-pipe of thirty feet, which gives an immense pressure.

Mr. Paige has established works at Grand Rapids, Braidwood, Ill., and at Marshalltown, Iowa, all of which are in a flourishing condition. Personally Mr. Paige is one of the most affable and pleasing of gentlemen, and has well earned the honorable position he occupies in the "Stone City" and among her prominent business men.

The 1877 Joliet, Illinois City Directory

of mineral waters & Co., 61 N. Bluff, res same.

This directory has a rather complimentary and effusive article on John D. Paige's Bottling Works, that does not appear to have all the facts and dates correct. However, it is worth reviewing here because of the following statement in this biography:

"Mr. Paige has established works at Grand Rapids, Braidwood, Ill. and at Marshalltown, Iowa, all of which are in a flourishing condition."

It does appear to be true based on the information found that John D. Paige had been the monetary force enabling John D. Vail to run his bottling works in Marshalltown, now purchased from his Brother-In-Law John D. Paige.

The 1881 Joliet, Illinois City Directory lists:

James D. Paige, president Telephone Exchange, proprietor Paige's Bottling Works, rooms 2 and 3 P.O. Block Ottawa, res 61 N Bluff

PAGE'S BOTTLING HOUSE,

NO. 61 BLUFF STREET.

J. D. PAIGE, PROPRIETOR.

JOLIET, - - - ILLINOIS.

Mineral Water, flavored or raw, in Bottles, Jugs, or Siphons.

Raw and Clarified Cider kept constantly on hand, for sale in bottles, kegs or barrels.

Also Spruce and Birch Beer, in any quantities desired.

FOUNTAINS CHARGED AND TO RENT.



1881 Joliet, Illinois City Directory



Paige's bottling house, notice the wagon says A. Ranf, fine bottled drinks

John Ranf, saloon 105 Jefferson, res same
Wm. E. Vail carriage painter, 32 Ottawa, res Bluff cor Main
Wesley Vail, painter, bds Bluff cor Marion
Fred Vail, painter, bds Bluff cor Marion

John Ranf would later take over John D. Paige's bottling works in Joliet, and Fred Vail, appears to be John D. Vail's brother. The Business directory does not list the John D. Paige bottling works but has this listing for the Telephone Exchange:
Telephone Exchange Office rooms 2 and 3 P.O. Blk. Ottawa

This advertisement follows the Business Directory:

JOHN D. PAIGE



Chief John D. Paige is proudly pictured here with the departments trophy won in 1878 at the National Fireman's Convention



J.D. Paige as Fire Chief of Joliet, Illinois

first telephones to Joliet. Although he wore many hats in Joliet, J.D. Paige is best known for being the city's first fire chief. He built the first professional fire department in the city. In 1916, Paige died at the age of 79. - *Joliet Herald News* (ILLINOIS), by John Whiteside

"He was appointed Fire Marshal of Joliet in May, 1877, and has given much study and his best efforts to the Department; during his administration the Department has been changed from a voluntary to a paid organization, the Gamewell fire-alarm telegraph has been introduced, the horses are now owned by the Department, (instead of being hired wherever opportunity occurred, as was previously done), and are kept at all times in the engine-houses, with harness on, ready to be hitched up at ten seconds' notice; many other improvements have been added, and the proficiency to which the Joliet Fire Department has attained under the administration of Mr. Paige is evident from the fact that the National Firemen's Tournament in Chicago, in September, 1878, the Joliet Steamer Company No. 1 carried off first honors in extinguishing burning buildings, with a prize of \$350 cash and an elegant silver set, and also took two other prizes, one of \$100 and the other \$75; Mr. Paige is at present Township Assessor, to which office he was elected in April, 1878". - WILL County Illinois Biographies from History of Will Co., 1878

"Through the years, J.D. Paige also served as mayor, police chief, Township supervisor and Township assessor. One story told about him when he was police chief happened on Collins Street, which was known as Whiskey Row because of the saloons. One night while he was patrolling Whiskey Row, he ran into a gang of toughs. They disarmed him, removed his clothing and put him inside a piano, which was nailed shut. Fortunately, he was found by a couple of his officers." "He was also involved in bringing the



Paiges Ale and Cider bottles found in the basement in attic mint condition, still having the original tie string

