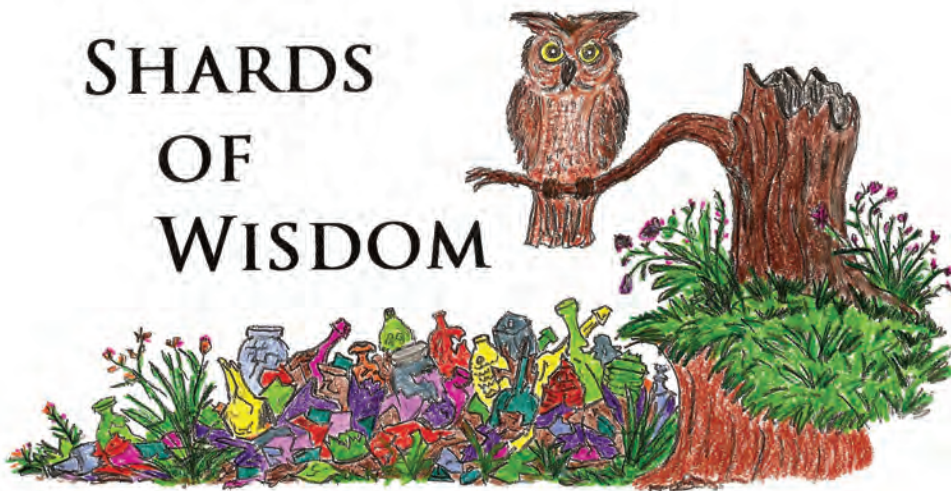


# SHARDS OF WISDOM



## Society for Historical Archaeology

By Martin Van Zant

Every once in a while, I think it's important to revisit some websites that we have covered in the past. I am seeing too many people talk about things they just don't understand or maybe they just don't know about. There are many wonderful websites out there on the world wide web, but which are helpful and which are not? There is a lot of misinformation out there especially in these bottle forums I see on Facebook. Some of the things I read just blow my mind, people regurgitate something they've heard that is not factual in the slightest. Then that misinformed person will continue to spread the nonsense. I could spend all day correcting people on some forums but I don't.



We need to guide them in the right direction to seek out information on their own and not believe everything they've heard because it was convenient. I am going to start with the very basics, and show you a website that is most informative, not only dating bottles but has a wonderful bottle glossary. The Society for Historical Archaeology has a wonderful website for the beginner to learn terminology as well as how to date a bottle. SHA.org is a wonderful way to learn the basics and there are a ton of people who would benefit from just one or two visits. This website will have an image corresponding to what they are describing. This website is very comprehensive and full of good information!

<https://sha.org/bottle/glossary.htm>

## The Glass Works after the Earthquake

By Warren Fridrich

*Images are Courtesy of University of Southern California's digital archives library.*

Here are two pictures of the Pacific Coast Glass Co that emerged after the ending of the S.F. & Pacific Glass Works in 1900. Pacific Coast Glass Works were started by Carlton Newman's son George in 1902 and ran thru 1925. These pictures were taken by Charles Pierce, a San Francisco photographer just after the 1906 earthquake.



This was the glass works responsible for such bitters bottles as Marshall's Bitters, Star Kidney and Liver Bitters, Wait's Wild Cherry Tonic, Wait's Kidney and Liver Bitters, Lash's Liver Bitters, Wm. Johnson's Pure Herb Tonic Sure Cure for All Malarial Diseases and other collectible "squares".

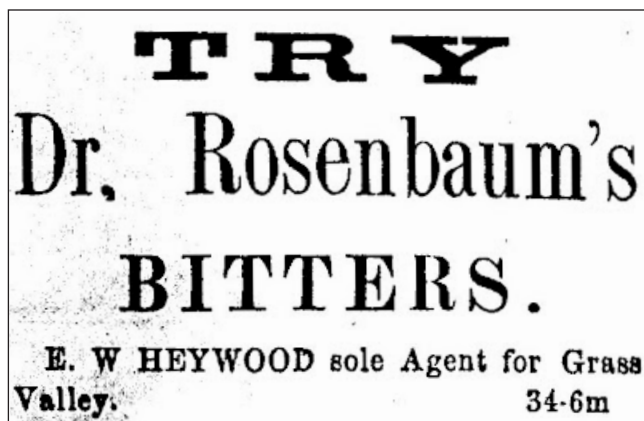
A glassblower who was 90 years old in the early '70's was interviewed and he said that they were still blowing glass bottles by hand at this glass works when he worked there.

Taken from the <http://www.westernbitters.com/2009/04/>

## The First Mention of Rosenbaums Bitters

By Rick Simi  
(RIP)

ROSENBAUMS BITTERS - N.B. JACOBS & CO.  
SAN FRANCISCO - Circa: 1864 – 1868



The first mention of Rosenbaums Bitters is in an 1858 advertisement listing George Thatcher, a liquor merchant residing in San Francisco, as an agent for the product and Dr. Rosenbaum of Philadelphia as proprietor and manufacturer. In 1859, N.B. Jacobs was listed as the general agent for Rosenbaums Bitters while he was working at the George Thatcher & Co. In November of 1859, N.B. Jacobs removed himself from Thatcher & Co. and started his own liquor concern, still advertising that he had the depot for Rosenbaums Bitters. Meanwhile, Thatcher & Co. is still advertising that they are also an agent for Rosenbaums Bitters. In 1860, Jacobs starts to advertise more aggressively, pushing the Rosenbaums Bitters in several large ads, stating that he is the sole agent for the Pacific Coast. In an advertisement for Rosenbaums in 1860, he cautions the public about another firm counterfeiting these bitters, saying that it is put up in similar bottles with the name Rosenschief's Bitters, and to beware that it is of externally similar style, and to look for the name, N.B. Jacobs & Co., branded on the top of every cork. In 1861, N. B. Jacobs becomes the proprietor of Rosenbaums Bitters, suggesting that he is now the owner of such brand and we do not see anymore advertisements with Dr. Rosenbaum of Philadelphia as manufacturer and proprietor in any of his ads.

The Rosenbaums Bitters comes in various shades of green and also in amber. There are two variants of this bottle; the large variant is believed to be the earliest, and is thought to have been blown in the east. The small variant is believed to be a later western blown bottle. These bottles are considered rare with possibly thirty some specimens known.

#### **Relation to Sierra County:**

One whole medium green example of the large size Rosenbaums was dug by the author at Indian Hill in Western Sierra County. This bottle had a small base chip and was sold to a collector from Redding, California. A broken green small variant Rosenbaums was also uncovered at Indian Hill by a Nevada City digger in the 1990s. A base of a dark green large size Rosenbaums was discovered above the Ruby Mine by the author in 2008. To my knowledge these are the only examples of the Rosenbaums discovered in Sierra County.



## HISTORY'S CORNER

In Memory of Dick Watson

longtime FOHBC Historian

By Jim Bender

The Royal Ruby Beer Bottles. Have you ever been at a bottle show or Flea Market and spotted a Ruby Red Beer bottle only to have the dealer tell you they are rare?

The fact is they are far from rare. In 1949 and again in 1950 the Schlitz Beer Company made and sold over 50 million of these bottles in a quart and 7oz size. They were made by the Anchor Hocking Glass Company and called Royal Ruby, a name which Anchor Hocking used for its red glass. However, the beer bottles are the only thing ever marked Royal Ruby. The marketing of red beer bottles quickly failed, and they dumped the idea of selling red beer bottles. The red bottles, even though made with a copper formula instead of a gold formula, were still more costly than the standard amber bottles. But once again in 1963, they tried the Royal Ruby Red bottles. This time in a 12oz size. This time only 4 million bottles were made. Once again it proved that beer drinkers did not like drinking from a red bottle.



On a side note, in 1971 the Schlitz Beer Company became the first major beer company to make their own in house aluminum cans. Looks like they got that one right!

Watch each issue for a new installment of History's Corner.

### HutchBook.com is a great reference

By Martin Van Zant

Here is another example of a great website to check out. Hutchbook.com is a great historical reference with correct information. There are several ways to look up bottles and information. There is also the history part of the website that can be very



helpful to the newbie as we would call them.

There are over 21,000 Hutchinson listings and most with images to compare your bottle to. Also, the author of the website is super friendly and will respond to questions. I've even heard he will reach out to authors if he sees something different from what he has listed. Check out Hutchbook.com for more

