

The Tale Of Two Cities

aka, the Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters Story

By Gordon Hubenet

This story begins in 1872, when C.W. Jennings came to Grand Rapids, Michigan. The other story is when C.W. Jennings opens a branch company in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I will tell both sides of the story. My approach to this article is adapted from resources in my own personal library. As "history detectives," it is important to know how to look at and interpret a story. Important as well, is knowing how to find information in books and on the Web.

C.W. Jennings had an inkling to start in company in 1872. It was called C.W. Jennings and Company and specialized in making inks, extracts, baking powder, bluing, and perfumes. His company soon began to grow, so he had his brothers, Wm. H. and Richard B., join the company in the early 1870s. Sales throughout the 1870s greatly increased.

Later in the 1870s, C.W. Jennings and Co., which had consisted of C.W. Jennings and his two brothers, underwent changes. In 1878, C.W. Jennings changed the name to Arctic Manufacturing Company. His brother, Richard B., left the company. Wm. H. continued as a traveling salesman. Also in 1878, negotiations took place with J.A. Stolz and L.A. Barbour, to start a branch company of the Arctic Manufacturing Co. in Minneapolis. They manufactured flavoring extracts, baking powder and other things.

In 1879 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the Arctic Manufacturing Co. has an ad in the G.R. Directory (Figure 1). Jennings

GRA AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY. GRA "1879" 613

ARCTIC MANUFACTURING COMPANY

C. W. JENNINGS,

Proprietor and Wholesale Dealer in

Grocers' and Druggists' Sundries

No. 18 and 15 South Division St., GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.

Manufacturers of Jennings' Flavoring Extracts, Arctic Baking Powder, Bluings and Inks, Jennings' Perfumes, Toilet Articles, and Extracts.

FIGURE 1: Arctic Manufacturing Co. ad in the 1879 Grand Rapids Business Directory.

THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF INTERNAL REVENUE,
WASHINGTON, July 28, 1879.)

Since the date of the Official notice given in the INTERNAL REVENUE BUREAU, published March 10th, 1878, this Office has decided that the following additional articles and preparations shall be classed, for purposes of taxation under the Internal Revenue law, as medicines, subject to stamp tax under Schedule A, Revised Statutes of the United States, and, when properly stamped, they may be sold without subjecting the vendor to liability to pay special tax as liquor dealer:

Aromatic Blackberry Brandy.....	Lawrence, Kan.
Adkins Golden Stomach Bitters.....	Kansas City, Mo.
Amazon Aromatic Tonic Bitters.....	New York City.
Aromatic Tonic.....	Washington, D. C.
Capitol Bitters.....	Buffalo, N. Y.
Columbia Stomach Bitters.....	St. Louis, Mo.
Centennial Bitters.....	Wheeling, W. Va.
Campbell's (Dr. Alexander) Scotch Bitters.....	Lynchburg, Va.
Dunlap's Anchor Bitters.....	Grand Rapids, Mich.
Dr. Hardy's Western Stomach Bitters.....	St. Joseph, Mo.
Foley's (Dr. James) Bitters.....	Louisville, Ky.
Fitzpatrick's Fifty-cent Stomach Bitters.....	Helena, Ark.
Griffith's Medicinal Blackberry Cordial.....	St. Louis, Mo.
Great Western India Bitters.....	Dallas, Texas.
Greenback Bitters, or Gentian Tonic.....	Little Rock, Ark.
Granger Tonic.....	Little Rock, Ark.
Gordon and Dilworth's Blackberry Brandy.....	New York City.
Home Strengthening Cordial.....	St. Louis, Mo.
Hunter's Stomach Bitters.....	Knoxville, Tenn.
Hayes' Superior Stomach Bitters.....	St. Joseph, Mo.

FIGURE 2: Dunlap's Anchor Bitters noted on this 1879 Internal Revenue Record.

GRA AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY. GRA 609

ESTABLISHED 1872.

C. W. JENNINGS,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

SPECIALTIES

FOR

DRUGGISTS

AND

GROCERS

STATE AGENCY FOR:

Eastman's Kitchen Crystal Soap, Seal of Michigan Toilet Soap, Cirage (or French) Blacking, Union Dressing.

20 LYON ST., CORNER CANAL,

Grand Rapids, Mich.

USE JENNINGS' FLAVORING EXTRACTS

FIGURE 3: C.W. Jennings ad in the 1881 Michigan Gazetteer and Directory.

also sent a letter to the Internal Revenue Service stating that his Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters was a medicine, not a drink or liquor (Figure 2).

C.W. Jennings' Role In Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters

In Grand Rapids, C.W. Jennings was doing business, as shown by the full page ad he placed in 1881 in the *Michigan Gazetteer and Directory* on page 609 (Figure 3). This image can be found on the internet and magnified on a computer screen. Notice, on the building, under the sign "C.W. Jennings," various products are listed:

Line 1: Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters,
Line 2: Dr. Warren's Cough Mixture,
Line 3: Dr. Warren's Camphor Cream,
Line 4: Jennings Jamaica Ginger,
Line 5: Jennings Camphor Ice,
Line 6: Jennings Dentary and
Line 7: Jennings Cocoa Tolleline.

Advertised over the door on the building is "Jennings Flavoring Extracts." Near the top of the building is a sign "Arctic Manufacturing Company." The building was located at 20 Lyon St., corner of Canal. Twenty five years ago, we dug near this site on the river. Boy, did we find the bottles from the Jennings' Company. But again, that is another story!

In 1882, Jennings was at the same address. Four years later, C.W. Jennings sold off the Minneapolis branch and took on another partner, Walter A. Smith. The Arctic Manufacturing Co. of Grand Rapids had been making Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters for three years. In 1883, Arctic became known as Jennings and Smith, and the company put up a bottle of Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters. The last year of this bottle the label had July 7, 1883 on it and "This is a medicine, not a drink." This action was taken to avoid paying a liquor tax, but it did contain liquor (Figure 4).

On a personal note, a friend named Dave Nolton, from Holland, Michigan, as well as Chicago, received a call from a woman

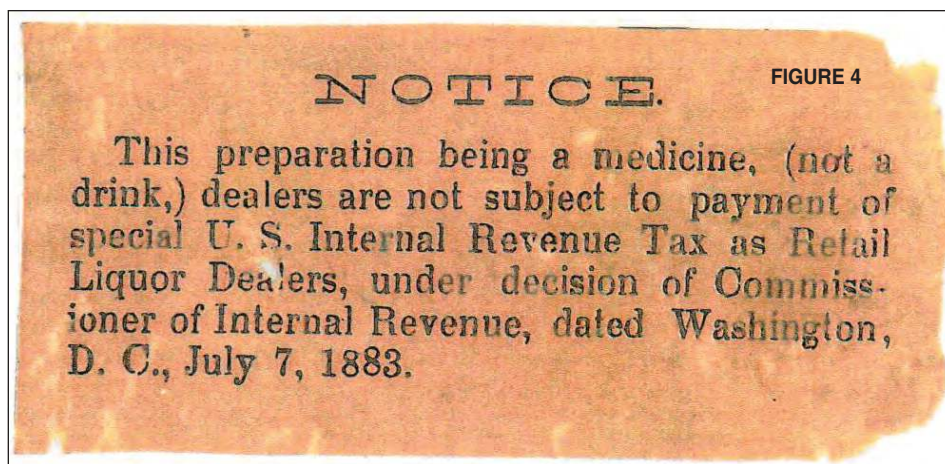


FIGURE 4

who had found bottles in the attic of her Holland home. The bottles consisted of Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters, with labels. Although all the bottles had damage to the labels, they each bore the "Not a drink" label as in Figure 4.

On the Peachridge Glass site, Anchors Away Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters provides images of a label which says "Not a drink) this preparation being a medicine." Additionally, there is a red front label with the bottom torn off (Figure 5). The one pictured (*at right*) is from the Peachridge Glass site and is from Grand Rapids. I will add the bottom of my bottle's front label, which was broken by Dave's cat. He sold the rest, two at his amazing annual garage sales.

The Peachridge Glass site also has a tan back label with "C.W. Jennings" on the bottom of the label. It's written in cursive and has "C.W. Jennings" signature, but it too, is torn in half. Dave had five bottles.

There are many different colors to the 10 1/2" tall bottle, ranging from very light yellow (you can read through it) to very dark root beer, and amber, which is the most common. Dave Nolton's were all amber and had a small anchor pinged out over the big anchor on the panel side. Although Dave was the original recipient of the five bottles, they have been passed into the hands of other collectors. I have one, I know of two others, and one on the Peachridge site. Where is the last one?!

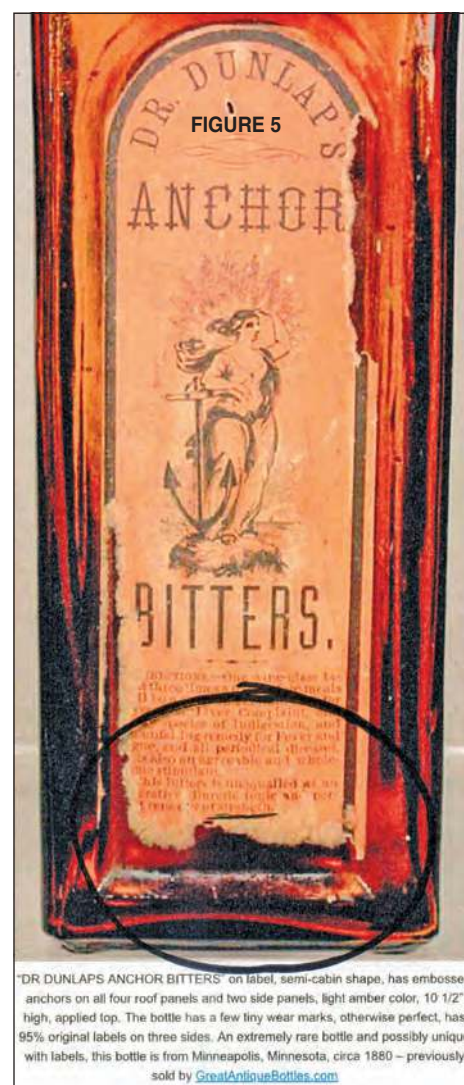


FIGURE 5

A final word regarding the 10 1/2 inches tall bottle of Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters. Thirty five years ago, Bob Davidson and I were digging on a bank of a creek in Ada, Michigan, about 10 miles from Grand



FIGURE 6

label under the anchor. I would like to see this bottle, but I don't think it exists or it could be an early label from Grand Rapids. Carlyn also has a bottle in the book, D123, Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters, 9 1/4" tall embossed, square, amber. I would to see this bottle, too. It could also be an early bottle from Grand Rapids. This Hostetter's-type bottle is an early bottle from Minneapolis (Figure 6).

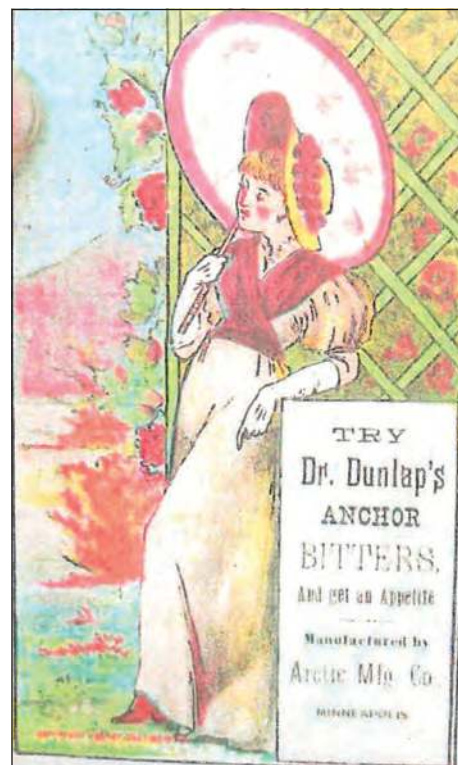
C.W. Jennings' Role in Dr. Dunlap's Bitters in Minneapolis

There were four labeled bitters bottles on Ebay. Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters was one of them and had an address Arctic Manufacturing Co., sole proprietor, 17 Fourth St., South Minneapolis, Minn. It had no embossing on it but had a front and back label. The front was black with print and the back was red with print. It was the Hostetter's bitters-type bottle. This bottle on eBay prompted me to start writing this story. I tried to buy this bottle but had no success.

In 1878, C.W. Jennings started a branch company of the Arctic Manufacturing Co. in Minneapolis with two men, R.A. Stolz and Loren A. Barbour. They were a druggist and chemist from Grand Rapids. These three men started in a small way because there is nothing in the directory in 1878. In 1879, there is no ad in the directory but there is a listing for Arctic Manufacturing Co. It lists C.W. Jennings, L.A. Barbour, R.A. Stolz, druggists and grocers specialties, 250 First Street Ave, South in 1879/1880 directory.

Then, in the 1880-81 directory, there is an ad for the Arctic Manufacturing Co. Only C.W. Jennings and Loren A. Barbour are listed. R.A. Stolz had left the company. The address was No. 250 First Ave. South, Minneapolis (Figure 7). Later in the year 1881 in another Minneapolis directory, there is an ad, Arctic Manufacturing Co., Merritt, Barbour and Co.

PHOTOS (at right, from top):
FIGURE 7, FIGURE 8, and FIGURE 9.



Rapids. We found 20 or more of the Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters bottles broken on the bank. We also found broken bottles near a big rock. There were all colors of the bottle, including very light amber, medium amber, and very dark. Bob Davidson gave me a very light, translucent bottle as a gift for saving his cats from a fire. What a great guy and so very missed by many people.

Carlyn Ring has written *For Bitters Only*, and on page 175, D122, the bottle size is wrong and should be 10 1/2 inches by 2 7/8 by 2 7/8. It also has a small



C.W. Jennings, which had moved back to Grand Rapids. They were selling Barbours' Flavoring Extracts and Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters, 250 First Ave. S, druggist and grocers (Figure 8).

A lot of changes happened to the Arctic Manufacturing Co. In late 1881, they would bring more money in to the company. C.C. Merritt and G.D. Merritt, L.A. Barbours were the major partners. C.W. Jennings was still a partner in a small way. They started to print trade cards for Arctic Manufacturing Company (Figure 9). They also started to use the trademark of a polar bear. There is a trade card from the Gourd collection that has a polar bear killing a seal in the Arctic. This is a nice trade card (Figure 10) and has the address 17 Fourth St., South. It advertises Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters for the Arctic Manufacturing Company, Minneapolis.

Steve Ketchum has a bottle in his collection that says on the front label, Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters. It also has a big anchor and in gold lettering the address Arctic Manufacturing Company, sole proprietors, 17 Fourth Street, South, Minneapolis. It is the same as the bottle on eBay that started this story. I will name these bottles "Hostetter's-type" (Figure 11).

These are not embossed. This would date these bottles and the Victorian trade cards from late 1881 to early 1882, because the name changed. C.W. Jennings will sell the company and products. He will move on. Also, in 1882-83, the new company name became Arctic Spice Mills and Manufacturing Co., still at 17 Fourth St, South, Minneapolis. Mason, Mendel and Co. would also sell Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters and had a polar bear on ice trade mark (Figure 12). In the 1884-85 directory, Minneapolis has the same ad.

In the 1885-86 directory, the company had a name change. It became Arctic Cracker and Spice Co., Minneapolis. The address is Nicollet Island on the Mississippi River. They sold Dr. Dunlap's



TOP: FIGURE 10, the Arctic Manufacturing Co. trade card that shows a bear killing a seal.

LEFT: FIGURE 11, The Steve Ketchum bottle that says Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters on the front label, along with an image of a big anchor.

ABOVE: FIGURE 12, Arctic Spice Mills ad with the polar bear on ice trade mark.

Anchor Bitters with a polar bear trademark (Figure 13). In 1887, they were still on Nicollet Island and used the name Arctic Cracker and Spice Co. There were new owners for the company. In 1888, the company is gone and Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters is gone in Minneapolis.

I would like to finish the "Story of Two Cities" with a summary. The Arctic Manufacturing Co. was selling Dr. Dunlap's Arctic Bitters in 1882, put up in Hostetter's-type bottles in Minneapolis. C.W. Jennings bottled Dr. Dunlap's Bitters in Grand Rapids in 1883 in a semi-cabin. I don't think the semi-cabin bottle with the big anchor was sold in Minneapolis, only in Grand Rapids.

As I close on Dr. Dunlap's Anchor Bitters, I'd like to share what Alexander Smith said: "I go into my library and all history unrolls before me."

I will be sending a Dr. Shepards Wahoo Bitters trade card 1870 to this magazine to be put in the "I Heard it Through the Grapevine" section. This is new to the hobby and I will do a story "In Search of the Dollar Bottle," the story of C.N. Shepards and his bitters. This will come directly from the book I'm writing: *Michigan Medicines and Saratoga Type Mineral Waters Bottles from Michigan*. Please send all related information for my book to Gordy Hubenet, 10895 Settlewood, Lowell, Mich. 49331 or call 616-826-4663.

REFERENCES

The Men Behind the Gun in Making of Greater G.R. Mich.
History of Grand Rapids and its Industries, Dwight Goss
For Bitters Only, Carlyn Ring
Grand Rapids Public Library and City Directories from 1872-86
Minneapolis Library and City Directories from 1878-87
Peachridge Glass Website: "Anchor's Away"
Steve Ketchum's bottle from Webpage or Twitter
Bob Davison for the years we had in the hobby
Dave Nolton, What a Collector
History Detectives



LEFT: FIGURE 13.

RIGHT: Anchor Bitters reverse with label.



LEFT: A comparison of the yellow and amber examples.

ABOVE: The accidental loss bottle.