



“SUSANNAH G. HAYDOCK 2123 LOCUST ST. PHILADELPHIA”

# TWO BOTTLES: TWO PIONEERS

By Henry Eichman

The embossed glass pharmacy bottle era dates from the late 19th century to approximately the mid-1920s. Because of Philadelphia, Pa.’s large size and proximity to various glasshouses, there are probably several hundred to several thousand distinct embossed druggist/pharmacy bottles from the City of Philadelphia. These bottles run from the small-time corner druggist to the large wholesale druggist manufacturers who had multiple locations. Partly due to the large volume produced, embossed Philadelphia pharmacy bottles generally do not bring that much attention from diggers or collectors. This is understandable, as there are many out there. That being said, sometimes these bottles have really interesting backstories that can be revealed with a little research.

Out of the many bottles that a digger or collector owns, there will be a couple that stand out not in financial terms but in terms of historical interest. In my case, it is two druggist bottles from Philadelphia that stand out in appeal. I found the first in a circa 1925 dump in the suburbs of Philadelphia. The other, I traded for from a fellow digger who found it outside of Philadelphia in a circa 1900 dump. Although these bottles look like the rest of the hundreds of pharmacy types from Philadelphia, there is one characteristic that makes them unique—they were both made for women pharmacists in the City of Philadelphia. Although not

unheard of, not many late 19th and early 20th century women were pharmacists in a male-dominated industry. Both bottles seem to be uncommon, but this may be due to the fact that they may have not garnered much attention or research. The following provides a quick overview of two pioneers in their field who left their legacy in glass. They may not be well-known today, but I have no doubt that the work of Susannah Garrigues Haydock and Carrie Emily Howard is as important to know as it was then.

The first bottle was found in a circa 1925 dump and is embossed “Susannah G. Haydock 2123 Locust St. Philadelphia.” It is BI-MAL (Blown in Mold, Applied Lip), and the base is marked “W. T. Co K USA” for Whitall Tatum Co. of Millville, New Jersey. Based on the mark and the fact that the lip is the later cork type found on embossed pharmacy bottles, I would guess that it was blown in the late 1910s to the early 1920s. I was delighted to find a rare female druggist bottle, although I knew that a couple existed from Philadelphia. When I got home, I researched the bottle to learn more about Ms. Haydock. Fortunately, there is a lot of material online contributed by diggers/collectors about late 19th and early 20th-century pharmacy bottles. Research would reveal that Ms. Haydock was one of the women pioneers in the early pharmacy industry.



## “CARRIE E. HOWARD GRADUATE IN PHARMACY PHILADELPHIA”



Picture of Susannah Garrigues Haydock in *The Pharmaceutical Era*, Volume 39, 1908, p 63

Some early background on Susannah Garrigues Haydock’s life is provided in the *American Druggist and Pharmaceutical Record*, Volume 47, Jul-Dec 1905. Susannah was born to a long-time Philadelphia family and was a schoolteacher for ten years before beginning her study of Pharmacy at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Furthermore, *The Spatula*, Volume 25-26, October 1918, states she was advised by her doctor, a woman, to give up January – February 2023

school teaching due to her poor health. Inspired by her doctor’s example, she decided to pursue medicine and, more specifically, pharmacy, graduating from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1893. She opened her pharmacy at 21st and Locust Streets. Not content with just running a successful retail pharmacy, Susannah would go on to become President of the Society of Women Pharmacists and a professor of theory and practice at Temple College (now Temple University) in Philadelphia. In addition to these accomplishments, she published several articles in druggist trade magazines about general business matters and challenging the notions that women would not make good pharmacists. *The Spatula*, Volume 25 also describes how she helped train many women as pharmacists and helped others discern if that was the right career for them. It seems that she died around 1928, although this has not been confirmed.

The second bottle was found in a circa 1900 dump and is embossed “Carrie E. Howard Graduate in Pharmacy Philadelphia.” It is BIMAL, and the base is marked “W. T. & Co D USA.” Again, based on the mark and the fact that the lip is the earlier cork type found on embossed pharmacy bottles, I would assume it was blown in the late 1890s to early 1900s. I traded for this bottle from a fellow digger because, as mentioned previously, I had not seen many female druggist bottles from Philadelphia. Research would reveal that, although facing adversity, Ms. Howard would become the first registered female pharmacist in the City of Philadelphia.

A quick note on sources before I continue. Sometimes in research, one finds conflicting contemporary sources. For example,



two different trade publications list either Susannah Haydock or Carrie Howard as the first registered female druggist in Philadelphia. As a lot of these sources were written years after the events by people not directly involved, it is possible for mistakes to happen. A publisher back then could not just “Google” to find primary sources of events that happened decades before. Additionally, in the case of both proprietresses, these sources were probably written by men who used their preconceived notions to fill in any knowledge gaps in their summaries. For example, one trade journal states that Catherine E. Howard continued the pharmacy business of her husband upon his death, while another says that after her husband’s death, she went into the pharmacy business with a partner as her status in life changed.



Picture of Carrie Emily Howard in *The Spatula*, Volume 1, October 1894, p 367-368

Moreover, as both Haydock and Howard were in a field uncommon for females at the time, it would also have been in their best interest to have themselves placed in the most favorable light. As such, I will report the most probable summary for Mrs. Howard’s life and career.

Carrie Emily Howard was born in Beverly, New Jersey, and was a saleswoman in a Philadelphia department store. After the death of her husband, she partnered with another woman in buying out an older druggist’s business at 16th and Christian Streets in 1886. According to *The Spatula*, Volume 1, October 1894, they initially sold everything that did not require a pharmacy license but later hired a pharmacist and physician to help with prescriptions.

Although having great business acumen, Catherine desired to learn more about pharmacy and was admitted into the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at age 45 in 1888. She graduated with honors in 1890 to become the first registered woman pharmacist in Philadelphia.

Although successful, it was not easy. Ms. Howard is quoted in *The Spatula*, Volume 1, October 1894 as “I cannot say that I regret taking up pharmacy as a business, although the hours are long and tedious.” Moreover, she recollected in a student essay recorded in *Drugstore Memories: American Pharmacists Recall Life Behind the Counter*, that “When I first entered the business there was a great distrust of me, and neighbors gave me only six months to remain in it, but it is a gratifying fact that each day lessens the prejudice against me as a Pharmacist.” In addition to her business life, Carrie was also noted for her numerous philanthropic activities. She retired four years before dying at 69 in 1911.

These are brief summaries of the work of two pioneers in the pharmacy field. Although they lived and worked over a century ago, the lessons they learned are still relevant today. It would be hard in today’s world to take up a completely new career and line of schooling mid-life that one has no experience in, as both Susannah and Carrie did. Moreover, they succeeded in a time when there was not much precedent for women in pharmacy or even an expectation of success for that matter. Doubtless, there are probably hundreds of other interesting stories from common-type bottles from across the United States. Their stories just have to be discovered.

### Select Sources

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