

# John and Mary compiled the largest known collection

By Dann Louis

Dr. John W. Wolf [G] [H] was born on June 12, 1944, and grew up in Piqua, Ohio. He earned his medical degree from Ohio State University and was a Major in the United States Army where he served as a medical officer. For many years, John worked as a pediatric allergist in Dayton, Ohio,

From the early age of five, John enjoyed the hunt for antiques. This passion never waned, as those who had visited John and his wife Mary [A] in their Ohio home can attest. The large home housed museum-quality antiques and Native American artifacts from room to room and floor to ceiling. John was a young adult when his interest in collecting bottles evolved. Eventually, John and Mary compiled the largest known collection of medicine bottles that claim to “Cure.”

John met one of his closest bottle-collecting friends through correspondence over the cures, Alan Blakeman [B], renowned in England for his influence and organization of the annual National Bottle Show and *British Bottle Review* magazine. Alan remained a true friend to John, visiting one last time just one week before John’s passing.



John was a regular attendee of many bottle shows, his favorites being the annual Mansfield, Ohio show and the English National every summer. He set up at every FOHBC national show and countless local shows in the Midwest—often with his “partner in cures,” Dann Louis. [C]

John met Dann while living and practicing medicine in Ann Arbor, Michigan; their mutual interest in cures cemented their lifelong friendship. Dann recalls the first visit to see the John Wolf collection in John’s Ann Arbor home. A modest bedroom housed the collection of nearly 600 bottles. [E] Mary welcomed Dann and his wife, Sue, with her talkative and engaging personality; she and John provided them with lessons in cure collecting and shared their interest in antiques in general.

In countless future visits to Ann Arbor and Dayton, Dann and John would spend hours deliberating which of the cure bottles was the best or which bottles John could relinquish to Dann and which would be sold at future bottle shows.



John collaborated with countless other cure collectors over the years, including Dan Cowman [D], Ed Nikles, Will Meysing, Carl Sturm, Bill Agee, and many others. [F] [K]

The John Wolf collection grew to over 2,200 different cure bottles. In addition to the glass itself, John collected and maintained information about known cures in written correspondence in published auction and sales catalogs and a library-style card catalog. John was forever searching for information to include in a future book of drugs and advertised in every bottle magazine he could. [I]

# lection of medicine bottles that claim to "Cure."

John passed away after a brief illness on September 26, 2023. He is survived by a brother, a niece, a nephew, and his many close friends. He was laid to rest in Piqua, Ohio next to his beloved Mary. John left his mark in the antique bottle community as the "go-to" guy for anything related to Cures.

John has bequeathed all his information, records, and bottles to his dear friend Dann Louis, who, along with his wife Sue, are currently endeavoring to compile John's information into the long-anticipated "*Guidebook for Cure Collecting*," a testament to their dear friend John Wolf. John will be missed.



[I]

[M]



[N]



[J]



[K]

[L]



[A] Mary & John Wolf

[B] Alan Blakeman & John Wolf

[C] John Wolf & Dann Louis

[D] Dan Cowman & John Wolf

[E] Early Wolf bottle room

[F] Dan Louis, Carl Sturm, John Wolf & Ed Nikles

[G] John Wolf in research room

[H] John Wolf hiking

[I] Calling card "Cures Wanted"

[J] Dayton bottle room with John holding the renowned Johnson's Fast Kidney & Blood Cure

[K] John Wolf, Will Meysing, Dann Louis, Ed Nikles

[L] Johnsons Fast Kidney & Blood Cure — Dan & Sue Louis collection

[M] The River Swamp (embossed alligator) Chill and Fever Cure Augusta, Ga. — FOHBC Virtual Museum

[N] Dr. Craig's Kidney Cure (Embossed Kidney) — FOHBC Virtual Museum



**Editor Note:** Make sure you visit FOHBC.org to see the John Wolf Cures Webinar #9 that occurred on 09 January 2024.

