



Wannalancet Indian Bitters fresh out of the package, with a little washing and clean-up for this article and Houston 24. Bitters Bottles listing below.

W 27 WANNALANCET INDIAN BITTERS

// sp // E. W. HOYT & CO. /

LOWELL MASS. // sp //

Try Wannalancet Bitters Made by Crowell & Harrison, (Successors to E. W. Hoyt & Co.)

Apothecaries, 139 Central, Cor. Middlesex St. Lowell.

7 x 2 (4 3/8) 3/8

Square, Cobalt, 4sp, Extremely rare

Copyrighted 1872

Tom Paskiewicz, Wannalancet Indian Bitters, Quincy Chamberlain, Lowell, Massachusetts, Charlie Martin Jr. and the last sachem of the Pennacook.

Compiled by Ferdinand Meyer V



I received a phone call last fall from a gentleman with a thick Yankee accent who took me on a journey. You see, he said, he had this rare cobalt blue bitters and would I like to display it at our upcoming Houston 2024 Exposition. I was all ears!

PART I – Call, Letter and Package from Tom

My name is Tom Paskiewicz, and I am an antique bottle collector from Billerica, Massachusetts, 25 miles north of Boston and eight miles South of New Hampshire. I have been collecting for about 47 years, plus or minus—who keeps track of time? My wife Nancy and I are 82 years old and have been married going on 53 years.

When I first started collecting in 1977 or so, I had to decide what to collect, and I ended up collecting Billerica, Mass. items, (milk bottles, etc.) second, Lowell, Mass. milk and medicines, etc., and third, bitters bottles—so I have three types of collections. And if I get a milk bottle that I do not have, it's just as thrilling as getting a good bitters!

After a while, I discovered a bottle club in the Lowell area, joined and made many friends. The bottle club started in 1969 or so. One of those friends is Charlie Martin, FOHBC Northeast Region Director, and I am still in close contact with him. Another was Quincy Chamberlain, the “Dean of bottle collectors in the Lowell, Mass. area.” My wife and I became close friends with Quincy and his wife, Phyllis. I used to visit Quincy once a week to admire and talk about his Lowell bottles. One of those bottles was a Wannalancet Bitters (W 27). I believe he dug the bottle on Maple Street in Lowell at a very old dump site. At the time, the odd thing was that no one seemed to know how rare the bottle was or if it was the only one known.

As the years went by—bottle shows, flea markets, etc. came 1988. Quincy called me to go to his house one evening. While sitting in his bottle room, he said he wanted me to have the Wannalan-

cet Bitters. I was snookered, and then we talked about price, and that night, I went home with the bottle. Not long after, I can't remember the date, Quincy passed away. He knew he was sick and did not tell anyone, so that's how I am the keeper of the W 27 bottle. I am the third owner, and who knows who the original owner was who put it in the old Lowell dump.

After all these years, a good question is if the Wannalancet Bitters is unique. Is it the only example known? No other examples have been reported, including glass, shards, pieces...nothing. Another question is why the three cobalt blue figural bitters are the only examples known?

When I heard about the Houston 24 Expo, I thought you might like to borrow the bottle, display it, and tell the story, as I am too far away to travel, and I need to take care of my wife. I am also sending some go-withs to support my bottle and would like them back after the show.





[Left] For support, Tom provided a copy of an authentic advertising trade card for Wannalancet Bitters.



PART II – Quincy Chamberlain & Lowell

From *Old Bottle Magazine*, April 1977, *A Passion For Lowell Bottles*

“This is what really got me started collecting bottles,” said **Quincy Chamberlain** of 11 Crowley Rd. as he reached into his wallrack of bottles.

A Winan’s Bros. Indian Cure “for the blood” and for one dollar, a considerable amount of money in the 1800s. An Indian has been embossed on the small clear bottle that had been hand-blown in the mold. What was an “Indian Cure?” “A lot of alcohol,” said Chamberlain with a smile.

Quin Chamberlain collects old bottles, and unlike others, he collects them with a passion. In fact, he has over 300 bottles from the 19th century from Lowell, the largest collection of Lowell bottles that he knows of, among his general collection of 600 19th century bottles.



“I said I’m going to save bottles in the first place,” he said. “And I knew I had to specialize.” So his specialty became any bottle with the word “Lowell” on it, whether directly embossed onto the glass or printed on a paper label.

And in a special room, lined up in his specially hand-built wall rack, there they are, the humorous reminders of 19th century medicine: Indian Restorative Bitters for Dr. George Pierce, tiny clear C. I. Hood pill bottles, blue wedge-shaped poison bottle from Bailey & Co. pharmacy, another clear, medium-sized bottle of Clement’s Genuine Osceola Liniment “prepared by J. Cochran.” Four different sizes of clear bottles from Butter’s Drugstore...

The two embossed sides of the cobalt blue Wannalancet Indian Bitters.



For support, Tom provided a copy of his issue of the April 1977 *Old Bottle Magazine* with an article profiling Quin Chamberlain called “A Passion For Lowell Bottles,” by David Sylvester that had been reprinted from *The Lowell Sun*.

“As far as the city of Lowell, I don’t believe there’s another city in the U.S. that has as many good bottles as Lowell,” Chamberlain said as he slid the glass doors of the rack open.

...Faint green mineral water bottles from Pawtucket Springs, near the falls, with a “blob” top, a series of beer bottles between 1898 and 1904 with elegant script of the Consumer’s Brewery Company, four spray seltzer bottles with the label stenciled in frost for Patrick Kelley of 27 Davidson St.

“It’s amazing how I find them,” he said. “That Father John’s—a man on the other side of Syracuse, New York had it. I saw him in a bottle show, but he wouldn’t sell it. Three weeks later I got a letter from him saying he was ready to sell it.”

...Twenty clear, graceful milk bottles from different Lowell dairies, Kidder’s Bitters from Bailey & Co., four Father John’s bottles, “one with a paper label that is awfully hard to get,” a clear flask with pewter ribbing encasing it from the Hotel Richardson, off Middlesex Street...

Chamberlain's prize possession is a E. W. Hoyt & Co. Wannalancit (sic) Indian Bitters bottle, "the only one known." It's a special bottle because it is blue glass and it has the word "bitters" on it.

PART III - Charlie Martin, Jr.

From the FOHBC.org website.

Charles (Charlie) Martin, Jr., FOHBC Northeast Region Director, lives in Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, with his wife Jane. They have three grown children from a blended family that lives in Old Lyme, Connecticut, San Diego, California and Georgetown, Massachusetts.



Charlie has been a collector his entire life with baseball cards, comics, coins, stamps, specimen seashells, and especially antique bottles. He is a past president of the Merrimack Antique Bottle Club of Massachusetts. A highlight of his tenure as president was getting Carlyn Ring to speak at a club meeting while she was still compiling her *For Bitters Only* book. He was fortunate to have several unlisted bitters in his collection that she did not know about. His primary focus in collecting is Clarke's Vegetable Sherry Wine Bitters. He has been working on a run of these bottles with all sizes and variants for many years. Just when it appeared that he might complete the run of sizes and variants, Ring, Ham and Meyer issued their *Bitters Bottles Supplement 2*, which included two previously unknown variants! Back to the hunt. Charlie also collects all ephemeral material related to bitters products: trade cards, handbills, almanacs, labels, invoices, and letterheads, to mention a few categories. Label-only bitters are also a favorite of his collecting passion. Charlie retired from his position as Superintendent of Schools twenty years ago and notes that the issues he was dealing with back then are still the same issues his friends and colleagues are wrestling with two decades later. Charlie is assembling an Atwood's Jaundice Bitters bottles group for his seven-year-old grandson, who lives in Georgetown, MA. He believes that those of us in the bottle-collecting hobby must create an opportunity for the next generation of "guardians of the glass" to ensure our wonderful hobby survives.

PART IV – Wannalancet

From *Bitters Bottles* by Carlyn Ring and William C. Ham

Wannalancet was the son of the great King Passaconaway, ruler of the Pawtucket monarchy, which had Lowell as its capital in the 1600s.

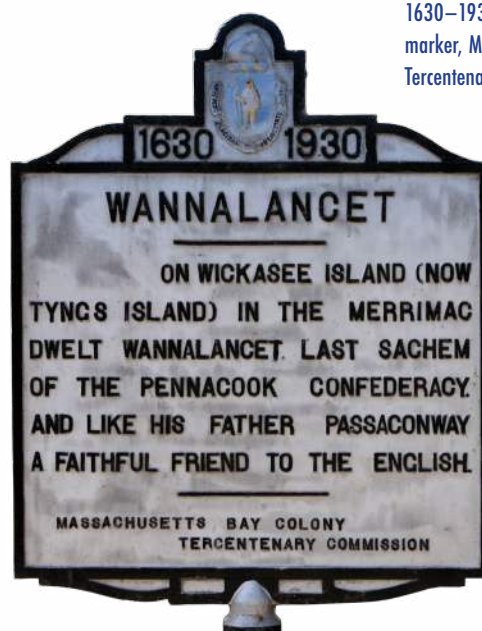
As the capital of the Pawtucket monarchy, this place was the seat of government of the great Indian King Passaconaway, the first great sachem of the Pawtuckets, with whom the white settlers formed an acquaintance. Passaconaway was a self-made man. He began life as an Indian conjurer or pow-wow and became distinguished for his skill in the kindred arts of politics and necromancy. Pushing his way with his own strong arm, he became

successively a priest, a sachem, and finally, a grand sachem and basheba of the Pawtuckets. He divided his time between Pawtucket Falls and Pennacook.

The first white visitor to Lowell, of which visit any records remain, was Rev. John Eliot, of West Roxbury. He was employed, under the colonial authorities, as Agent and Missionary among the Indians. The apostolic beauty of his life and doctrine, the goodness of his heart, and the nature of his vocation won him the endearing name "The Apostle to the Indians." He first came here about the year 1648 and remained many days preaching to the natives who heard him with willing ears. He frequently repeated his visit during the following quarter century, and reports note that many received the gospel.

When Passaconaway first saw the Apostle Eliot, he expressed much fear of the "long-faced man with the black book under his arm." But in 1651, Eliot visited him, labored with him, and made him a convert to Christianity. He submitted to the English jurisdiction in 1644 but frequently appeared at the Governor's Court, in great pomp, with his two sons, to repeat the ceremony of submission and never was false to his professions of friendship. The English always regarded him as a brave, sagacious, whole-souled man and admired him for his artful address, his finesse, and his skill at Indian diplomacy.

In 1660, Passaconaway, having become very old, followed the example of Charles the Fifth, Emperor of Germany, who resigned the government to his son and retired from the world. A great concourse of chiefs, braves, and lesser tribes of the Pawtucket confederacy was called. Many eloquent speeches recounted heroic experiences related to the assembled orators and sages of the tribe, enough to make the fortune of a hundred novelists. The last words and dying speech of old Passaconaway drew rivers of tears from the people over whom he had ruled so ably and so well for so long. He pronounced his paternal blessing on Wannalancet, his son and successor, and exhorted him and his people, again and again, never to quarrel with the English. Wannalancet reigned for many years.



1630–1930 Wannalancet historical marker, Massachusetts Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission.

