

# THE BRICKLINER

The Newsletter of the New Jersey Antique Bottle Club

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## 2014 Manville Show Report



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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

You are reading the first edition of our digital newsletter. Club member Matt Waholek has volunteered to publish and send out our newsletter every two months. Matt would like to focus on bottle digging present and past. If you have any stories or pictures from bottle digging adventures, please email them to Matt at [philatiques@aol.com](mailto:philatiques@aol.com). If you know anyone else who may wish to receive this free newsletter please send their email address to Matt and he will add them to the distribution list. Our Manville Show was held Super Bowl Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Manville VFW on Washington Street in Manville, NJ. The show was a huge success thanks to Bob Strickhart and his team of volunteers. Bob has successfully moved the show from South River (1996-2013) to Manville (2014-?). Bob found an absolutely perfect hall for our show and he's not done yet. Bob plans on growing the show and making it bigger and better year after year. We had two displays this year and we would like to fill the stage with displays so if you have a collection or grouping you would like to display next year at the show please email Bob at [strickhartbob@aol.com](mailto:strickhartbob@aol.com). The Batsto Antique and Bottle Show will be held outdoors on Sunday September 27<sup>th</sup> at Batsto Village in Wharton State Forest. Once again our club will be hosting this show and volunteers are needed. Any club members wishing to volunteer can contact Paul DelGuercio at [paulhavoc@comcast.net](mailto:paulhavoc@comcast.net) or Joe Butewicz at [botlman@msn.com](mailto:botlman@msn.com). Our next meeting will be Tuesday May 27<sup>th</sup> at the East Brunswick Museum, 16 Maple Street, East Brunswick, NJ - Joe Butewicz New Jersey Antique Bottle Club



# New Jersey Antique Bottle Club

## LAST MEETING'S MINUTES

### and Privyledged Information

.....  
In Attendance: Hubert Mertes - Chris Eib - Bob Strickhart -  
Jim Walker - Arne & Janice Englund - Charles Dascenzo -  
Wilson Kline - Joe Butewicz

Meeting was held at East Brunswick Museum on  
January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and:

- 1) Bob Strickhart gave an update on the Manville Show
- 2) The Newsletter was introduced
- 3) Joe Butewicz gave a Treasurer's Report

The club welcomed new member Wilson Kline. Wilson has been collecting bottles since the 1980s and has dug with several club members in the past. Chris Eib, Jim Walker and Wilson Kline brought bottles to show. The club thanks them for this effort. Refreshments were provided by Chris Eib. Chris also proposed a name for the newsletter: Privyledged Information. Jim Walker brought in a Garnier pottery bottle. Garnier was in Philadelphia and made figural cobalt blue liquor bottles. This is possibly a c1920s Philadelphia piece. Wilson Kline - All of Wilson's bottles/jars were purchased at a local estate/tag sale recently.



Chris Eib showing off some bottles from his collection at the club meeting.



Jim Walker's Garnier pottery bottle.

*Continued...*



**Some great bottles brought to the meeting  
by NJABC member Chris Eib.**

**Some of which were on display at the 2014  
Manville Show.**



**Wilson Kline**

**Some more great bottles brought to the meeting  
by NJABC members Wilson Kline and Jim Walker.**

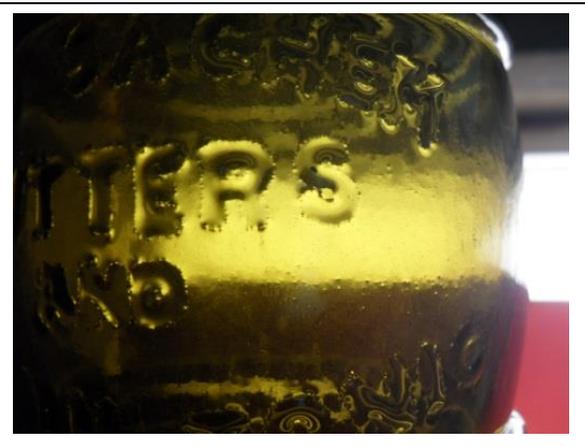
**Jim Walker**



## Privyileged Information

### 'SEPTEMBER 2013 CLUB MEETING'

First is this pair of fake barrel bitters that Bob Strickhart brought in to the 2013 September club meeting. Bob got them from Jim Bender who was a dealer at our 2014 Manville show. Jim and Bob have found that these bottles are made in China for re-enactors and they cost about \$32 each. The only way to tell them apart is by the lettering and the white residue between the rings. Let's give Bob credit for getting the information to the club before it got out to the public through the AB&GC magazine. You can read the full article written by Bob Strickhart in the January, 2014 issue of AB&GC Magazine.



'September 2013 Club Meeting' *continued...*

## Privyledged Information

**'SEPTEMBER 2013 CLUB MEETING'**

Second item for the September 2013 club meeting subsection of the Newsletter is this sign from Starkey who was a New Brunswick, NJ bottler. I think he was Selo M. Starkey bottler. Billy Neugebauer brought this sign in to the meeting, there was another one that was missing one board but he did not bring that one to the meeting. Bill thought they were for Starkey's bottling building but Glenn Vogel suggested that they may be wagon signs since they were so thin, only about an inch thick and they may have been mounted directly to the side of a delivery wagon.

The following information on Starkey was forwarded by club member Kenny Blaine –

Selo M. Starkey was born in NJ in 1875. Both of his parents were German. His wife Amelia Starkey, also born in 1875 was born in New York. They had two children together: Helen Starkey born 1897, and Franklin C Starkey born 1904. This info is pulled from the 1910, 1920, and 1930 US Census records. One of Starkey's patent listings mention his trademark used since 1896.

It is apparent that his mainstay was non-alcoholic beverages during the prohibition era, although it is unsure what he bottled prior to prohibition. The American Carbonator and The American Bottle Magazine (October 1905 issue) mentions "Mr. S. M. Starkey, bottler of soft drinks, 267-669 Comstock St., New Brunswick, NJ informs us he gets a deposit on all his quart bottles and has more trade on the deposit system than he had on the loaning. The 1920 and 1921 Beverage journal show patent listings for a cereal malt beverage. The U.S. patent office 1921 records show patent listings for non-alcoholic beverage and cider, and Vinegar.

Research provided by Jerry Pevahouse, Cranbury Historical Society.



## Privyledge Information

**'SEPTEMBER 2013 CLUB MEETING'**

Here's the third item from the September 2013 meeting. It's a C. A. Richards green cylinder from Boston. C. A. Richards is known for the embossed square amber bottles that are quite common. I've never seen another one of these green cylinders but that means nothing, I'm no expert on Boston bottles. This one was brought in by our own botlboy Chris Eib.





# 2014 Manville Show Report

Photo credit – Strong Photography, NYC

## 2014 Manville NJ Bottle Show sponsored by The NJABC – REPORT

The first annual Manville, New Jersey bottle show located at the VFW Hall in Manville NJ was a **HUGE HIT** – thanks to the great effort put forth by the club’s one and only Bob Strickhart and NJABC members. Promotion and hard work from Bob and the 2014 Manville Show team gave way to 78 tables sold – 280+ attendees - a plethora of great bottles, stoneware, miscellaneous treasures and a whole bunch of fun. When the doors opened at 9AM, a good sized crowd of buyers poured into the VFW hall. The layout of the show was about perfect – big rectangular dealer tables were filled with ‘provisions’ for every type of collector.



Arne & Janice Englund VERY happy to be set up with a sales table the 2014 Manville Show.

Two great raffle bottles were given away at this year’s show – A fantastic open pontiled Washington Taylor flask and an even more enticing LL Beland Newark, NJ squat soda.



Marianne Strickhart showing off the raffle bottles.



Bob Strickhart – show chairman – holding up the raffle bottles to the sunlight.

**“I think the Manville show which is the new location for the South River show was a success. It was a better location for parking and for interior room and lighting and heating. The tables were sold out. A good bunch of sellers and buyers alike. The kind of show you were happy to attend.” – John Franssen**

*Continued...*



Tom Kennedy-Jansen showing off his freshly dug Armstrong oval slug plate pontiled Philadelphia soda.



Riverhead Long Island, NY native Kevin Cobey checking out the goods on Jim Hagenbuch's table.



Bob Strickhart raffling the flask and soda donated by John Lawrey.

**"The show was thoroughly enjoyable. The room was much better, and of course so was the parking. I bought a few things and sold a few things. Which is all one can ask. I'll certainly be doing the show again next year!"**

- **Jim Hagenbuch**



This gem was spotted on New Jersey's own – Jim Dews - table.



Norm and Liz Heckler – absolutely ecstatic to be at the 2014 Manville Show.

*Continued...*

"I've organized this kind of event many times before and knew what needed to be done. I strove to make the show a smooth running, fun event. Weather could have been an issue but my luck held. I plan to improve on what we did this year next year.....I'm considering a set up time the night before with a bit of a buffet....also we're looking in to having more displays....they're great!!!

Bottom line, I was able to accomplish what I set out to do, have a fun show with little or no stress. My motto always is "It's a hobby.....keep it in perspective".

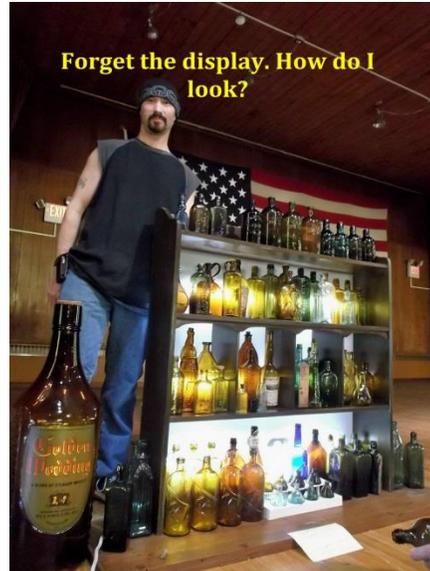
But here's where we should spread some credit around. You can't overlook the help and advice I received from Charlie Dascenzo and others. Also, John Lawrey donated 2 really nice raffle bottles and has for many years. Hubert is the king of running a raffle and the clean-up crew never missed a beat in all these years."

"Jim Bender has gracefully agreed to write up the show report for Antique Bottle & Glass..... it will most likely appear in the April issue."

- Bob Strickhart,  
Manville Show Chairman



Kevin Kyle brought his superb 'Jersey Has The Blues...And Teal And Amber Too!!' display. The display featured rare – yet exotic – pontiled blue, teal and amber sodas from New Jersey. Awesome bottles Kev – Thanks.



Chris Eib brought wonderful squares, cylinders – flasks and more...oh myyy. Special thanks to Chris for setting up this display for all to enjoy.



John Pastor, Jim Hagenbuch, Norm Heckler and NJABC President Joe Butewicz standing in front of the display stage.



Show view – picture courtesy of Chris Eib.



## Recent New Jersey Bottles Auctioned On eBay

- 1.) [G.A. COOK & BRO PHILLIPSBURG NJ PONTIL SQUAT BOTTLE](#)



This great circa 1850's Phillipsburg squat ended on November, 15, 2013. With 27 bids and 7 bidders it brought a fine price of \$405.01 + \$13.85 shipping. The squat was commissioned to be made by Dyottville Glassworks in Philadelphia, PA by G.A. Cook & Bro. The Dyottville embossing on the reverse is weak – no damage to this one. According to Kevin Kyle and [sodasandbeers.com](#) (Tod Von Mechow) – there are two similar slug plate squat variations and a soda variation – all pontiled. The soda variant is the rarer one to find. Maybe you will be the next to find one at an Indiana yard sale? (see bottle #4 for the explanation)

- 2.) [killer SPARK'S PERFECT HEALTH FOR KIDNEY & LIVER DISEASES CAMDEN NJ](#)



'Killer' in this 1870's Camden, NJ bottles' description says it all. With only a small open bubble and no other damage - the beautiful color and pictorial embossing helped this bottle attract 17 bidders and 29 bids to achieve \$330.50 + \$9.00 shipping. The sellers description describes the bottle very well but according to Tom Kennedy (THE Camden go-to guy) - there are fewer than 12 examples to his knowledge making this stately bottle RARE. Tom was also able to tell us William H. Sparks was located at 212 Federal St in Camden NJ from 1886-1888 then moving to 2 other addresses until about

1910ish – while his known products are limited – quite a bit of advertising items exist. Again with Tom's great knowledge of medicines particular to Camden, NJ – he explained to me that there are two variations of a large size (paneled like this one and a Warners shaped variant) – 2 aqua sample sizes with different embossings and an amber sample size variant exists also! Below is a Spark's advertising tray that was offered for sale at the Manville show.



- 3.) [Jas. O'Hagan - West Asbury Park, N.J. - Vintage Blob Top Beer Bottle](#)



James O'Hagan was bottler/brewer in West Asbury Park, NJ for one year in 1889. Glenn Vogel, our Monmouth County bottle aficionado club member tells us O'Hagan was located Bangs Street according to the family. O'Hagan was also located in Howell in 1890 but that is the only information known about James O'Hagan's business. The final sale of this bottle on December 25, 2013 is quite interesting. Selling for \$255.00 + \$6.85 shipping with 8 bids – the seller and 4 bidders are most likely surprised – along with anyone else who knows a thing or two about plain aqua round slug plate blob top bottles! To our knowledge this is a rare Monmouth County bottle but probably not as valuable? Keep reading - When this bottle was offered for sale, a local collector spotted it on eBay and told his wife he needed one for the collection. Being it was Christmas time, his wife took the liberty to plug in a bid of \$250.00 to make sure she got it for her husband's collection. In the last minutes of the auction, someone had the same concept to put in a high amount and snipe it at the end. The winning bidders amount exceeded the \$250.00 by \$5.00 and behold this \$261.85 West Asbury Park NJ aqua round slug plate blob top beer! Glenn suspects the ancestors of James O'Hagan purchased the bottle.

- 4.) [L.L. BELAND NEWARK NJ. SQUAT PORTER /SODA, IRON PONTIL, BLUE GREEN COLOR, NMINT!](#)



The title for this L.L. Beland squat states ‘NMINT’ – and that is an understatement. This Newark soda is known to NJ collectors and soda freaks alike – however – this particular Beland is probably the nicest one ever offered for sale. 10 bidders knocking in 22 bids total brought this Beland to realize \$227.50 + \$8.75 shipping on January 12, 2014. A bottle tumbler could never replicate the sheen to the glass. The iron pontil looked as if it was hot off the press. The seller describes the bottle ‘Here’s another nice porter/soda from the same Indiana yard sale.’ Don’t we all wish we were at that same Indiana yard sale minutes before the seller? According to Kevin Kyle – the NJ soda Jedi Master – this L.L. Beland comes in green and this light aqua green color. Who wants to get a NJABC field trip together and go check out some Indiana yard sales?

- 5.) [RARE NEW BRUNSWICK NJ 1/2 PINT FLASK -- ISAAC FELL -BEAUTIFUL AMBER!](#)



- 6.) [RARE NEW BRUNSWICK NJ FLASK - LEACH - AMBER STRAPSIDE 1/2 PINT --WHISKEY BOTTLE](#)



Numbers 5 and 6 on this list belong together for a few reasons but let us first take a look at the Isaac Fell flask. This rare pretty amber slug plate flask interested 6 bidders and 22 bids to realize \$205.00 + \$6.85 shipping on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. Not much is known about Isaac Fells except for his 125 Albany St address embossed in the round slug plate on the flask. An internet search finds him advertising in The Daily Times of New Brunswick, NJ on 12-19-1898. *Choice Ales, Beer, Wines, Liquors and Cigars 125f Albany St, Isaac Fells prop.* Now the equally pretty and rare George Leach flask only caught the attention of 5 bidders and 15 bids for a runner up price of \$192.50 + \$8.00 shipping back on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. Again – not much is known about George Leach’s business except he was located in New Brunswick at the same time. The assumption that both dealers were probably competitors is because of our club Presidents dig 6 years ago in New Brunswick. Joe B was able to save 3 Isaac Fell flasks and 3 George Leach flasks from the same hole on Livingston St across from the State Theater. Check out the pictures and story [HERE](#) on our club website. Both of these flasks featured in this article are indeed from the same hole Joe found. All six flasks were eventually purchased by none other than Barry Kenner. Barry sold one of each flask to a local collector – 1 to a NJ flask collector – he traded another for a script jug and that left him with two (one of each). While perusing the pages of the NJ Bottle Forum, Barry saw a ‘want ad’ virtually begging for these types of flasks. Turned out that the guy looking for the flasks (located in South Carolina), was willing to pay \$450.00 for the pair. After a short period of time, for reasons unknown, these flasks appeared in separate listings on eBay months apart. As far as both bottles are concerned – no other products such as bottles or stoneware are known from either dealer. Before the 3 Fell flasks and 3 Leach flasks were dug by Joe in that wood-lined glory hole, Barry said he has only seen 3 amber Fell flasks, 1 clear Fell flask and 2 amber Leach flasks. When will these rare flasks be offered again for sale? Who will be lucky enough to find the next cache?



# The Long Island Wet Bandits

with Kevin Cobey and Bruce White  
by Matt Waholek

Riverhead natives and supporters of the NJABC – Kevin Cobey and Bruce White – have submitted EXCLUSIVE digging pictures and recent finds brought to light from the current dump they are digging on Long Island. The dump’s actual location is disclosed but you the reader will be able to follow them in the next couple issues of the Brickliner as they save bottles and artifacts from complete destruction. The dump is no secret to seasoned Long Island diggers. The wet mucky conditions have halted many from completely excavating many of the artifacts. Since at least the 1970’s – few diggers have braved this dump’s physically demanding layout. Situated along a tidal river in Suffolk County, the dump is immensely overgrown in the warmer months and the wet conditions don’t make digging here a walk in the park. The dump’s thickest juiciest layers consist of mainly an 1880’s – 1920’s context but small veins of pre-1880’s layer have been found – one rumor is of a veteran digger finding a cluster of pontiled medicines and sodas. With recent development and the nod given by construction crews – Kevin and Bruce are enduring the conditions to save Long Island history and provide provenance to the material culture left behind by Long Island’s previous inhabitants.



Kevin getting ready to suit up.

To dig the dump, a few tools are a lifesaver to the process – after a few trial and error digs, the team of avocational archaeologists have an arsenal of tools to aide them in recovery. Besides the normal shovels and buckets, Bruce has customized a sump pump to filter out muck because the tidal river floods into any hole that is dug. The pump is energized using a simple car battery. Heavy duty arm length rubber gloves are must to keep hands and arms dry while digging in the winter at this place. Some of the dump is very compact and digging bars are used to break through modern gravel. Kevin has always indirectly told me that digging bottles is what he is meant to do. His long time digging partner Bruce defiantly gives off the same positive energy – if not more. On the evening of February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – Kevin sent me a text message – ‘Tomorrow we are suiting up’. When I read the text message on my cracked iphone (damaged from a digging accident) – I knew that he meant him and Bruce were going put on their waders (another necessity) and confront the soon to be bulldozed dump featured in this article. With almost 14” of snow on the ground – these guys went out the next morning to

chase their passion without blinking an eye. About 85% of the 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century landfill is dug out, but the two diggers have devised a system to make sure they can save everything without missing – or covering undug dump. A 5’ x 5’ area is carefully selected and excavated in a slow delicate manner to map out each layer – saving select broken artifacts and complete vessels in the process. To save small artifacts – a sifter is used as they backfill into the excavated area – using the pump to wet screen for small objects of general interest.



The previously dug crater was filled with this lovely mess.



Custom pump in action – flowing like a champ.



Bruce is ‘in the zone’.



Kevin with a freshly dug Carmeliter bitters.



The cleaned Carmeliter Stomach Bitters.



Kevin showing off a porcelain Apollo Chocolates sign.



Warner's Safe Cure.



Bruce checking to see what variation of Warner's they found.



Trying to keep up with the water.

Most of the pictures in this article are from the morning of February 15th, 2014. At 6:30 AM, Kevin and Bruce made sure to layer on clothing because of low temperatures. On arrival at the dump – they decided to use the custom pump to remove water from a hole still of interest from the previous weekend. Three pictures in this article are of a Carmeliter Bitters and Apollo Chocolates sign they found in the same area of excavation within the last few visits. After removing chunks of ice – the team pumped out the water and got down to business. The natural bottom of this section they were digging in was only 3 ½’ deep and the main layers were inches apart close to the natural sandy bottom. Clusters of bottles and artifacts were found in the walls of this previously dug hole. Typical Bromo Seltzer bottles – un-embossed medicines and embossed Long Island pharmacy bottles saw the light after 100 years. Long Island tooled crown top beers and blob top beers were also found by the team – some of which will aide in local research. To great enjoyment to the duo - a nice Warner’s Safe Cure was found within the mucky ash of awesomeness. While a few smaller artifacts like marbles and buttons were sifted out – one marble stuck out – a nice PERFECT condition swirled pontiled marble – as pictured in this article. With the tide coming up – and snow beginning to fall again on Long Island – the team packed up and headed home to clean and catalog the recovery. In final – we look forward to the next round of pictures from this duo of Long Island Wet Bandits. *(to be continued...)*



Pontiled marble after found in sifter.



Grouping of the cleaned booty.



Close-up shots of the recovery from Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.

