



Preserving The History of Our Nation's First Major Industry"
National Bottle Museum®

THE BOTTLE MUSE

Fall 2022

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From the Desk of Ellie Dillon

Dear Friends and Members,

Once again we at the museum have had a productive year. 2023 will see many new project goals.

The building continues to be updated. The third floor windows have been replaced and plywood has been removed from front the window. New signage was posted on our parking lot and the partnership with the Brickyard and the museum was renewed.. And finally a major clean out was undertaken with a dumpster filled and hauled away. The Building Projects for 2023 will include rewiring of outside lighting for all three floors and flags for visitor center and Art shows to be displayed street side. The backdoors on all three floors will be winterized.

The carpet was replaced on the stairs and newly designated research area. The Interior Project for 2023 is relighting existing exhibits as needed. A major permanent exhibit Glass Factory Mountain was installed through an Alfred Z Solomon Charitable Trust Grant. The museum also received significant donations of bottles to add to the collection. The Permanent Exhibit Project for 2023 is to redesign the 50 states exhibit.

Deborah Cangi joined the board of Trustees as our first zoom Trustee. The Trustee Project for 2023 is to hire a director and recruit 2 more Trustees.

We have not been idle. We are a volunteer board and proud of what we have accomplished. We look forward to working on the 2023 projects!

Ellie



Contact us:

Tel. (518)-885- 7589

Email:

Info@nationalbottlemuseum.org

FB: National Bottle Museum



Coming soon: Glass Factory Mountain: Making Bottles and Making History



We are seeking pre-machine made bottles from Alaska, and New Mexico to complete our 50 state exhibit!



The JRM Artists' Space:

Contact: Fred@neustudios.com



The JRM Artists' Space @ The National Bottle Museum Presents

OAKROOM ARTISTS 2022 Annual Show



On Display
10/8-11/26
15 Artists

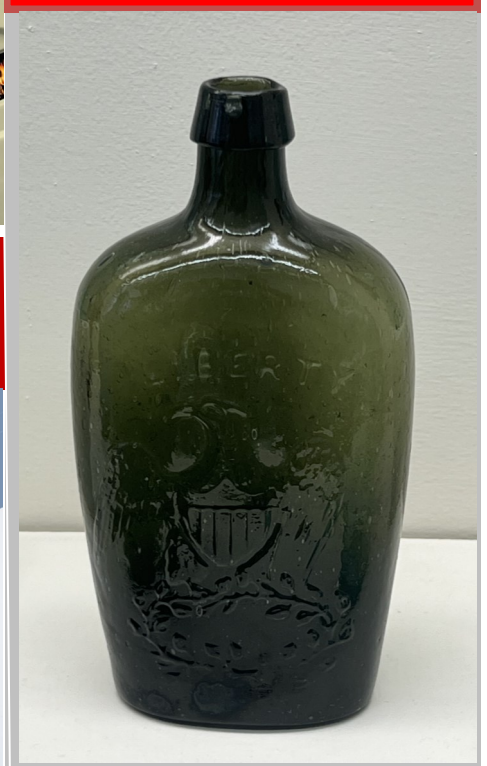


•Sculpture•
•Collage•
•Photography•



National Bottle Museum 76 Milton Ave Ballston Spa NY 518-885-7589

Extended till 12/2022!



Connecticut:

This dark green pint Willington Glass Co flask has an eagle with a shield emblazoned on it's breast and grasping a laurel wreath. These flasks were made from 1865-1872. The bottles held gin and spirits. The Wilmington Glass Co. was incorporated in 1847 and employed 11 glass blowers. It closed in January, 1873.

Renew your membership today for **2023!**

Form is at end of newsletter.

FOHBC link to bottle shows:

Find a Bottle show near you!

www.fohbc.org/shows/

Saratoga Bottle Show—June 4th 2023

Contact

Roy Topka : rmt556@yahoo.com

Adam Stoddard: acstoddard63@gmail.com

Phil Bernnard: 1-518-429-7641

The Saratoga Bottle Show is celebrating 43years! Reservations will be available to reserve in January 2023.

Info@nationalbottlemuseum.org



**Annual Meeting November 3,
2022**

2023 Budget approved

Officers for 2023:

President of Board: Ellie Dillon

Vice President— Phil Bernnard

Secretary —Shirleyan Ebert

Treasurer— Adam Stoddard

Interim Director —Meg Stevens



Digs and Stories from the Desk of Roy Topka



Greetings all.

Rest assured that the hot, dry weather has not made digging any easier. It's like you go to push your probe in the ground and it laughs at you. Anyways, I lost a series of digging pictures when I got a new phone, not that any good bottles were found.

In late June I received permission for side by side lots in Schenectady I've wanted to dig for years. I did not really need to research the lots, having dug many in the area including the four adjoining lots. This area was divided for lots I believe in 1873. An 1875 birds eye map shows houses in the area. An 1880 Hopkins map has houses pretty much filling one side of the street. While these are newer lots at far as looking for privies is concerned, the previous dug lots we're bottle rich, the sandy soil leaning more to just digging a new hole instead of cleaning the old one. Thus I ended up with nine privies on four lots. Probing the two lots, three pits on one and two on the other were found.

Just for the heck of it I decided to check all 6 lots against Sanborn maps from 1889, 1894, and 1900. Out of 14 privies only one showed the location where a privy was and it was on the 1889 map. The 1880 Hopkins map was also checked and it shows some outbuildings but is not reliable for privies. I just mention this as sometimes diggers get in discussions on the accuracy of Sanborn maps. Not trying to draw firm conclusions, but they are pretty good. If a building doesn't show, it was probably not there when the map was done.



It is well known that privy pits continued on as trash pits after normal use was done, sometimes the buildings were left, often they were removed. The use layers on three of the five pits just dug could be dated early-mid 1870s to the late 1880's. Two of the

pits were after 1900. Water was shown on the street in 1889, which no doubt led to the demise of the privies.

Why two privies were dug after 1900 is a little bit of a mystery. It was noted there was no privy use layer detected in both wood lined pits. Anyways, only one pit produced a few bottles, older Weller hutch's going back into gravitating stopper bottles and some older meds.

A few pits were dug in my annual trip to Amsterdam, and just the other day a pontil and pit was opened in a Troy construction site. It looked cleaned out when clay sewer pipe was run through, which was replaced by PVC. The few pontil bottles in the hole were, of course, damaged. Oh well, good digging all.



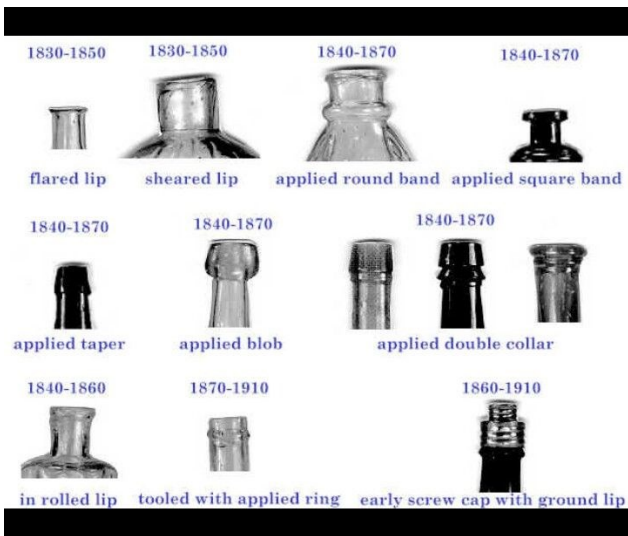
Meg Stevens has been a fixture at the museum for 30 years. She has held all positions but most importantly she has held the museum together! To Honor Meg she was awarded a life time achievement award at the Annual Meeting. Meg is stepping away from the museum in January, 2023. Though we wish her well we hate to see her go!!

The Research Room has been relocated to the second floor and is now open. Please contact the museum at 518-885-7589 to make your appointment to access hundreds of books and magazines.



Quick guide to determining approximate age of a bottle you find.

- A. Machine made bottles were made after 1903 with the Automated Bottle Machine (ABM) perfected by M.J. Owens. They are identified by the mold seams going from base to over lip.
- B. If the mold seams (one on each side) stops before the lip the bottle was probably made between 1860-1903.
- C. If there are 3 mold seams, one around the middle of the bottle and one on each side running from 1st mold seam to neck then it was made in a 3 piece mold circa 1820-1890;
- D. If there are no mold seams but faint horizontal lines running parallel then the bottle most likely was made in a turn mold where spinning of mold erases mold seams. Circa 1860-1890.
- E. Lips also contribute to age identification.



Pontil marks, Embossing and base marks also contribute to dating bottles.

Free blown bottles will have a pontil mark on bottom where pontil rod holds a hot bottle while glass blower finishes off the lip. The rod is dipped in molten glass and attached to bottom of bottle. After the lip has been finished, the pontil rod is broken off leaving a scar or pontil mark.

A gentleman walked into the museum the other day with a bottle that was discovered under the porch during a renovation. Obviously, it had been in the ground a long time. Now enter Fran Hughes from the Capital Region Antique and Insulator Club. Fran took this blue Knickerbocker Soda CM and restored it to its glory. Thank you Fran. The bottle will proudly join our collection!



And another beauty came in this quarter. Christy Hale reached out to the museum looking for a home for this Baltimore Corn of the World Flask. This gift also will be accessioned into the collection. Thank you Christy!



When the National Bottle Museum receives donations, they are carefully researched and cataloged into the collection if needed. Thank you to all of you out there who have given bottles to the museum. They are gratefully received.



2022 Memberships, Donations and Grants

(As of 07/2022)

Grants

The Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust
Non Profit COVID Relief Fund — County of Saratoga, NY

CORPORATE DONORS

Hudson Valley Bottle Club
Stewarts Foundation
Village of Ballston Spa
Town of Milton

BENEFACTORS

Stewart Wagner	Larry Rappoport
Somers Antique Bottle Club	Ben Bouck
Oakroom Artists	Larry Rutland
Steven Kowalski	Empire State Bottle Collectors Assn.
Adam Stoddard	Frank Panczyszyn
Caleb Eck	

SUPPORTERS

David Wright	Mike Polak	Robert Rasera
David Mytych	Terry McMurray	Jim & Gert Healy
Marilyn Bradley	Robert Latham	Anonymous
Andrew Davies	Ron Tetrault	Gerald and Kathy Dexter
Frances Martone	Vance Heroth	
Jeff Ulman	Roy Topka	
Darlene Furda	Jon Sterngass	

FRIENDS

JoAnn Weber	Allan & Nancy Repp	Anna Goldberg
Ellie Dillon	Kristen Tomasicchio	Vincent Holmes
Kevin Dillon	Linda Brown	Fran Hughes
Meg Stevens	Alan Kristuff	Rich Strunk
Bill Britton	Stephan Dickinson	John Ackner
Barara Trypaluk	Brian Speck	David Smith
Jim Finnance	Thomas Lager	Brian Wade
Phil Bernnard	Gerald Dexter	Jason Orivle
Shirleyan Ebert	Gary Mercer	Jennifer Karson
Ann Sheyon	Jennifer Greenwood	Anna Morgan
Hannah Cwik	Randy Woodbeck	Deborah Cangi
Audrie Sturman	Lori Hahn	

Support the Museum!!



NATIONAL BOTTLE MUSEUM®

76 Milton Ave.

Ballston Spa, N.Y. 12020

(518) 885-7589

www.nationalbottlemuseum.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP in the National Bottle Museum is open to one and all in the following categories:

\$20.00 up to \$49.00 ---FRIENDS

\$50.00 up to \$149.00 ---SUPPORTERS

\$150.00 and up-----BENEFACTORS

\$500.00 and up-----CORPORATE DONORS

The NATIONAL BOTTLE MUSEUM is a non-profit (501 C-3) educational institution chartered by the Board of Regents of the New York State Department of Education. The museum is not subsidized, but raises all of its own funds and is governed by an elected volunteer Board of Trustees, operating under universally accepted museum policies. Museum memberships include: The Museum Association of New York, The Southern Adirondack, Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association, and the Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce.

Members receive our newsletter containing information on the museum and upcoming shows. Each spring, the Museum sponsors a Bottle Show & Sale known as "The Saratoga Show" which attracts enthusiasts from coast to coast in the United States and several provinces of Canada.

PLEASE PRINT NAME & FULL MAILING ADDRESS

Please make checks payable to National Bottle Museum & mail to:

Membership Chairman
National Bottle Museum
76 Milton Ave.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Name: _____ Phone : () _____

Street or P.O. Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ New: _____ Renewal: _____ Gift: _____ Date: _____

Bottle Club (if any): _____ Email Address _____