

The Potomac Pontil

The Potomac Bottle Collectors – Serving the National Capital

July - September 2012

In this issue:

Shots Seen (but not Heard) Around Maryland by Jack Sullivan.....page 2
Upcoming Area Bottle Shows.....page 5

Picnic – September 22nd at 1 PM

St. Mark's Orthodox Church, 7124 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817.

We are going to try having our picnic at outside our usual meeting location this year. We will meet rain or shine and simply head inside if the weather gets bad. The club will provide soft drinks and burgers. Please bring guests and a dish to pass.



Bill Porter poses with the soda fountain at the Schmidt Coca-Cola museum. The fountain was made for the 1893 Columbian Exposition out of alabaster, brass, onyx, and marble. It recently sold for an amazing \$4.4 million, so this may be Bill's last chance to belly up to the bar.

Meetings: 8:00 PM on the last Tuesday of each month January-June, October-November; picnic in September.

President: Andy Goldfrank

Vice President: Al Miller

Secretary: Jim Sears

Treasurer: Lee Shipman

Pontil: Jim Sears (email: searsjim@usa.net, PH: 609/472-5473) &

Andy Goldfrank (email: amg_sticky@yahoo.com, PH: 202/588-0543)

Web Site: www.potomacbottlecollectors.org

Maintained by Mike Cianciosi (chosi@cox.net)

Shots Seen (But Not Heard) Around Maryland

By Jack Sullivan

[Special to the Potomac Pontil]

Although distillers, whiskey blenders and liquor dealers in Baltimore were the most prolific producers of advertising shot glasses in Maryland in the pre-Prohibition era, a number of attractive, etched examples were issued by organizations in other cities and towns in that state. This article presents ten, beginning in the far west of the state and the city of Cumberland.

As one of the stops on the National Pike, Cumberland was a lively place in the 19th Century. One author marveled: "Never had there been such landlords, such taverns, such dinners, such whiskey, such bustle or such endless cavalcades of coaches and wagons." These travelers apparently were a thirsty crowd. According to the City of Cumberland and Allegheny County Directory, published in 1895, saloons were the most common business in town. It listed no fewer than seventy-nine of them.

Among the drinking spots was John J. Stump. Stump was a publican and a politician who spent at least one term of office in the Maryland General Assembly in 1900, representing Allegheny County. He ran a saloon and a liquor store at 22 Bedford Street in Cumberland. The 1885 directory indicates that a family member, William Stump, also worked in the establishment. Stump's highly elaborate shot glass (**Fig. 1**) leads off this group of shots, probably the product of one several Cumberland glass factories operating at the time. R. E. Johnson was another Cumberland saloonkeeper. His shot glass is equally elaborate and attractive (**Fig. 2**). Johnson called it a "souvenir" and so it was, given to certain highly favored customers.

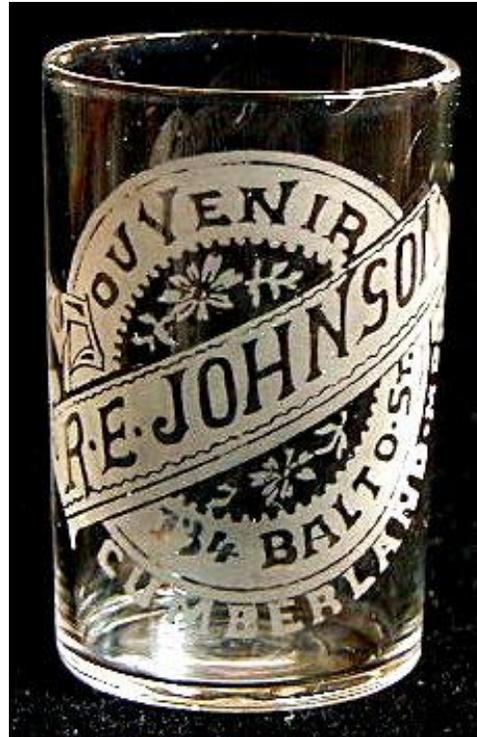


Fig. 2 - RE Johnson - Cumberland

Providing whiskey to seventy-nine saloons spawned a thriving distilling industry in and around Cumberland. One of the principal suppliers was James Clark and his James Clark Distilling Co. Clark was born in 1846, reputedly aboard a ship enroute to America from Ireland. When he arrived in Cumberland is unclear, but by 1895 he had his own distillery running full out. In addition to supplying spirits to the local watering holes, he had a thriving mail order business. His principal brand was "Braddock Rye," celebrating the fact that Cumberland was the place where the British General Braddock camped before marching off to fight in the French and Indian War, a conflict in which he lost his life. That apparently did not bother Clark who used the General's name and picture on his whiskey and issued several types of shot glasses, such as the one shown here (**Fig. 3**).

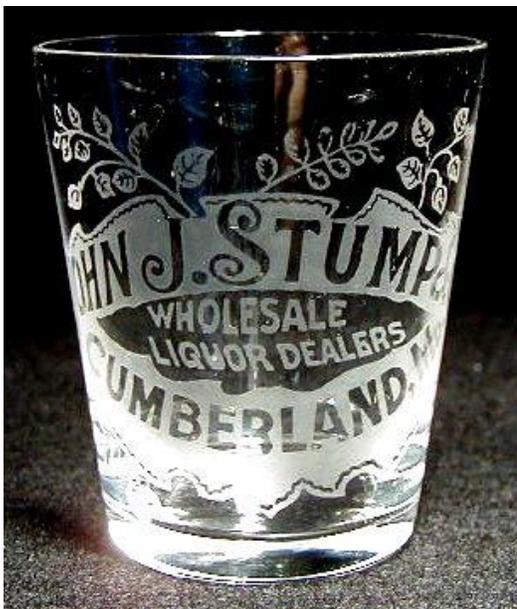


Fig. 1 - John Stump - Cumberland

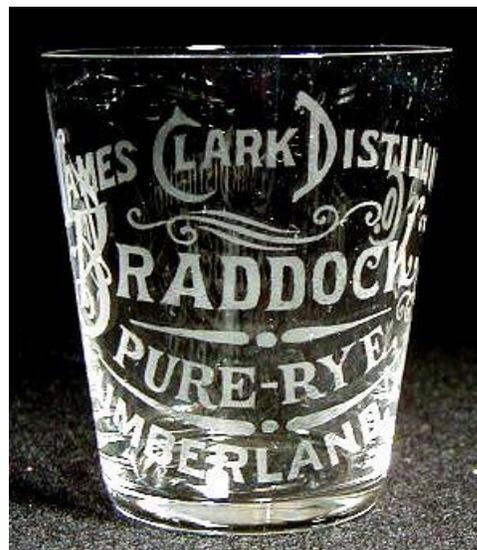


Fig. 3 - Braddock Rye - Cumberland

Clark's competition, also with a shot glass (Fig.4), was the Wills Brook Distilling Company. This distillery was located five miles from Cumberland at Ellerslie, Maryland. Like Clark's, this also was a big operation covering some sixteen acres. Organized in 1908 the company also ran a retail store on North Centre Street near Frederick Street in downtown Cumberland. The president was a local businessman named Herman M. Siefers. His vice president was the real spark plug of the organization, Alfred C. Piquet. Piquet was originally from Frederick, Maryland, and a master distiller. His flagship brand was Wills Brook Rye.

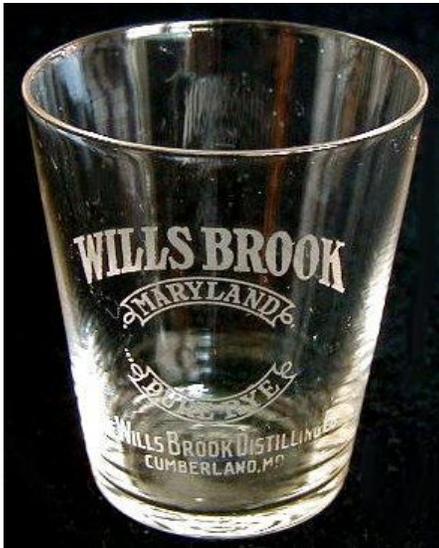


Fig. 4 - Wills Brook - Cumberland

A third distiller who was supplying the saloons of Cumberland was Melchior "Melky" Miller of Accident, one of the farmer-distillers of Maryland. Miller was a highly successful tiller of the soil who owned a large farm that stayed in his family for generations. He operated a distillery on the farm, using grain he grew himself. When his sons came into the business with him they expanded the whiskey business into Westernport, Maryland, where they warehoused their liquor and ran a substantial mail order business. The shot glass notes both locations (Fig. 5)

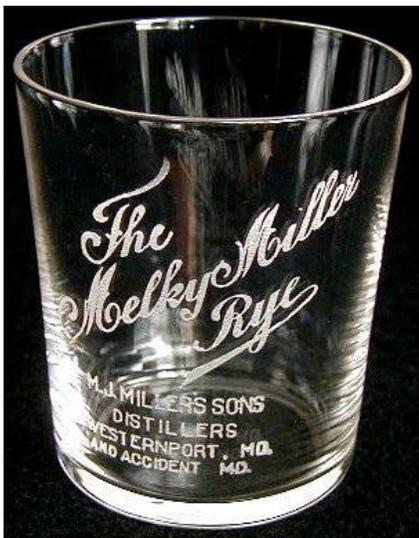


Fig. 5- Melky Miller - Accident

While Frederick, Maryland, was not a drinkers' mecca like Cumberland, it could boast a number of successful establishments. John H. Frazier ran a bowling alley and cafe there and issued a glass with an etched pig (Fig. 6). The admonition not to drown the pig alluded to the fact that one shot of whiskey would reach just below the feet of the porker, while a second shot would cover half his body. Third shot would cover him completely, "drowning" him and probably rendering the imbiber somewhat inebriated. Another Frederick stop for liquor was the store of E. B. Measell, located at 21 East Patrick Street. His advertising emphasized that he also provided "fancy groceries." His shot glass, however, is anything but fancy (Fig. 7).

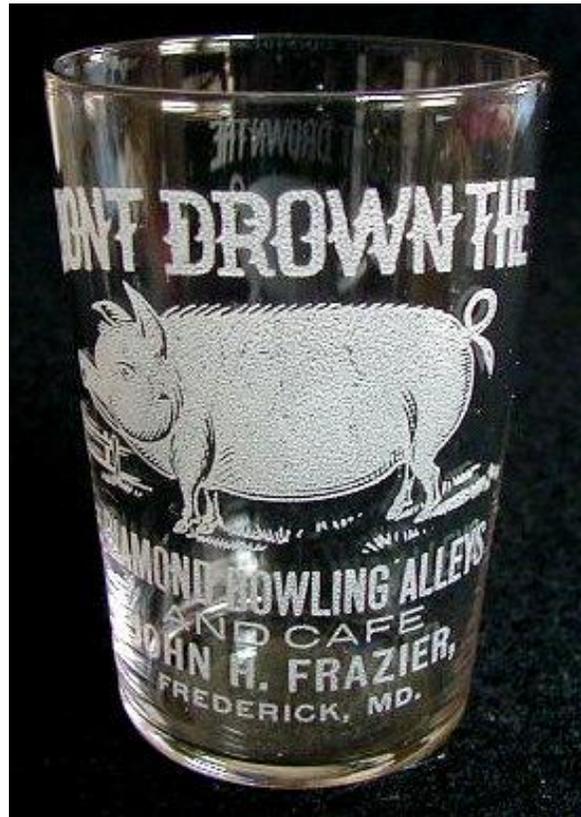


Fig. 6 - John Frazier - Frederick



Fig. 7- E B Measell - Frederick

The Westminster Liquor Store, located in the Maryland town of the same name, featured "Canvas Back Whiskey" in its shot glass (Fig. 8). Canvas Back, named for a duck long favored by hunters, was a brand produced by the I. Hecht and Brother company of Havre de Grace, Maryland. They trademarked the name with the Federal Government in 1909. "McGinnis," the single word on a shot glass (Fig. 9) signals that it was issued by the A. McGinnis Company. This outfit had Baltimore roots but about 1905 founder Arthur McGinnis built a distillery adjacent to the Western Maryland Railroad at a place that came to be called McGinnis Siding. It was located four miles from Westminster but Arthur chose to name the site "Carrolton," a place that existed only in his rich Irish imagination.

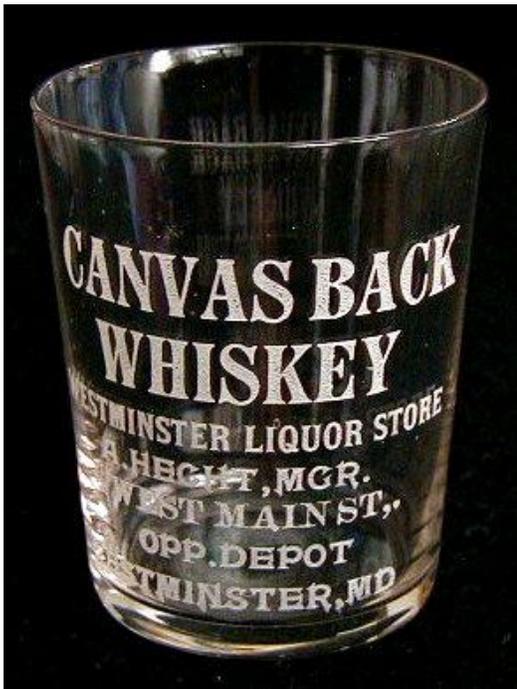


Fig- 8- Canvas Back - Westminster

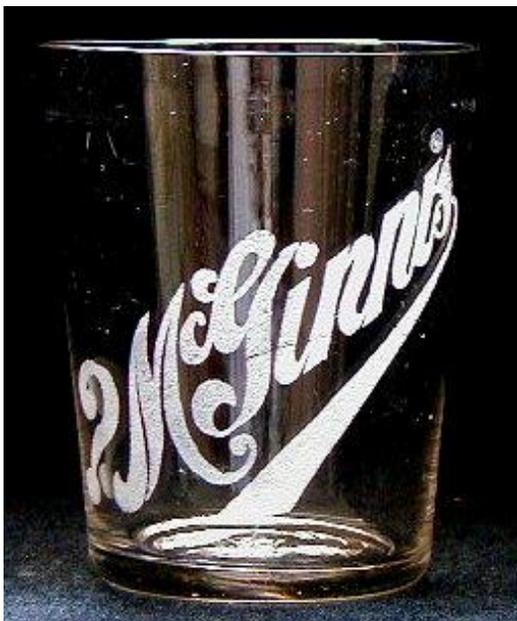


Fig 9- McGinnis - Westminster

Our final shot glass (Fig. 10) hails from Annapolis. The manager, Chas. Weiss, is touting two whiskies as his specialties, Amicus and No. 4. My research has yielded nothing on either brand. That leads me to believe Charlie was mixing them up in his back room and serving them up to the drinking public.

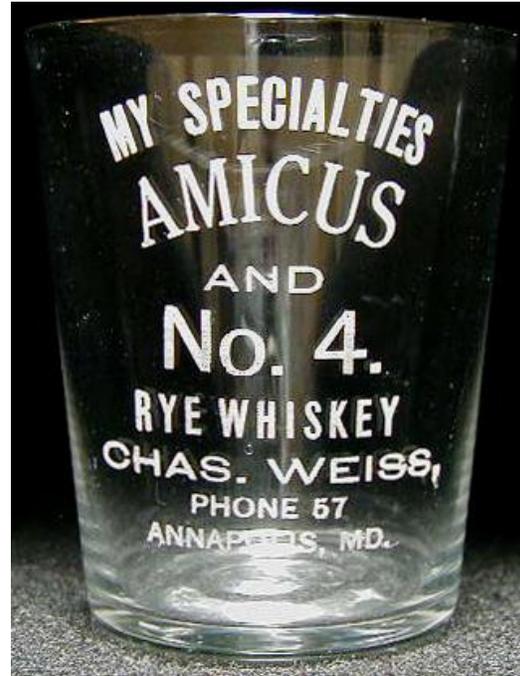


Fig. 10 - Amicus - Annapolis

Each of these ten shot glasses dates from the pre-Prohibition era. Since Maryland was one of the last states in the U.S. to go "dry," some could have been issued into the late 1910s. As a consequence, the not all these shot glasses qualify as antiques (100 years old or older), but they soon will.

Note: The information and images for this article is from a number of internet sources. Chief among them was Robin Preston's website, www.pre-pro.com.



Virginia Cokes displayed by Bill Porter at our June meeting

Upcoming Area Bottle Shows



06 October 2012 (Saturday)

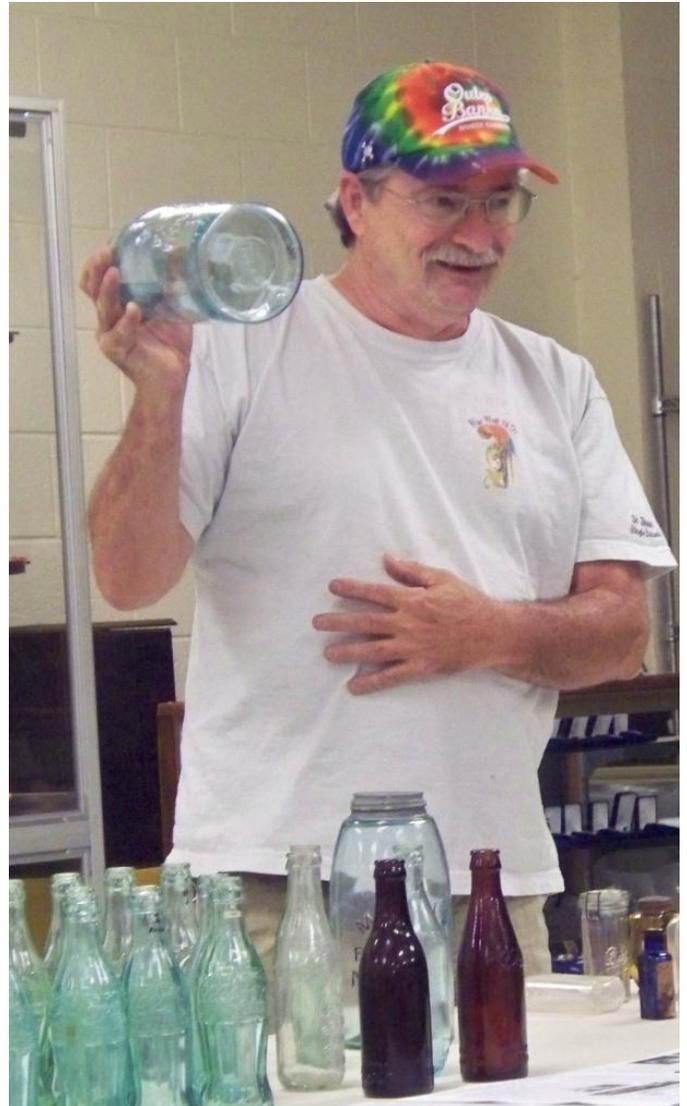
**Richmond,
Virginia Richmond 41st
Antique Bottle Show and
Sale, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm,**

Admission: \$3.00, Early
Admission: 7:30 am, \$10.00, Chesterfield County Fairgrounds,
10300 Courthouse Road, Chesterfield, Virginia 23832, Info:
RichBottleClub@comcast.net or Marvin Croker 804.275.1101
or Ed Faulkner 804.739.2951

**04 November 2012 (Sunday) Elkton, Maryland - The Tri-
State Bottle Collectors and Diggers Club 40th Annual Show
& Sale (9:00 am – 2:00 pm) at the Singerly Fire Hall, Routes
279 & 213, Elkton, Maryland, Info: Dave Brown, Tele:
302.738.9960, dbrown3942@comcast.net**

Sep 23 Greensboro, NC
Sep 23 Depew, NY
Sep 29 Albuquerque, NM
Sep 30 Lowell, MA
Oct 6 Point Pleasant, WV
Oct 6-7 Savannah, GA
Oct 7 Chelsea, MI
Oct 12-13 Santa Rosa, CA
Oct 21 Scriba, NY
Nov 4 Elkton, MD
Nov 11 Pittsburgh, PA
Nov 17 Milford, OH
Nov 18 Oakland, NJ

Sep 23 Steubenville, OH
Sep 29 Santa Ana, CA
Sep 30 Batsto, NJ
Oct 5-6 Canyonville, OR
Oct 6 Chesterfield, VA
Oct 7 Dryden, NY
Oct 7 Keene, NH
Oct 21 Findlay, OH
Oct 28 Glendale Heights, IL
Nov 9-10 Jacksonville, FL
Nov 11 Albany, NY
Nov 17 Terre Haute, IN
Nov 25 Bethlehem, PA



Roland Longerbeam showed two fruit jars made in the same mold using different base plates.



Peter Rydquist shows Virginia sodas



Our June meeting