

# The Potomac Pontil

The Potomac Bottle Collectors – Serving the National Capital

December 2013

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## No December Meeting

While we will have a club meeting this month, Lee Shipman will welcome visitors at her annual open house on December 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 PM at 6403 E. Halbert Road, Bethesda, MD 20034.

## January 31st Meeting

The January meeting will feature our annual club contest for the best bottle, go-with, dug item, and shard acquired during 2013. We will collect annual dues of \$10 per person or family at our January meeting. If you are unable to attend, **please send dues to Potomac Bottle Collectors, c/o Jim Sears, PO Box 370, Garrett Park, MD 20896**

## Ken Anderson

We are saddened to learn of the death of former club member Ken Anderson of Fairfax, Virginia. Ken passed away on June 1, 2013 at the age of 84. He was an avid collector of bottles and advertising that featured Native American themes. Ken served as our club treasurer for many years and also hosted club meetings at this accounting office.



Ink bottles were the theme at our November meeting. Bad weather kept some of our members away, but those of us who braved the rain used a book by Ed and Lucy Faulkner to find information on some of our bottles. Jim Sears had purchased a few bottles from the Faulkners, and his H&T ink shown above is the same example pictured in their book. The wood-cased traveling ink (above right) was made by S. Silliman and Company of Chester, Massachusetts. We learned that these traveling inks were advertised as early as 1854 and were very popular with Union soldiers during the Civil War.

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](http://www.potomacbottlecollectors.org)

Maintained by Mike Cianciosi (chosi@cox.net)

# Chugging (and Jugging) Around Virginia

By Jack Sullivan

[Special to the Potomac Pontil]

It has long puzzled me why so many souvenirs are presented in the shape of jugs. They have no practical use like a shot glass or a refrigerator magnet or even an ashtray. They just sit on a shelf and gather dust. Nevertheless, as demonstrated here, it is possible tour the Commonwealth of Virginia accumulating a substantial collection of souvenir jugs.

Our journey around “Ole Virginny,” begins from the District of Columbia with a drive down the George Washington Parkway to Mount Vernon which has spawned many a souvenir item, including a variety of jugs. The one shown here (**Fig. 1**) is among the most colorful.



Fig. 1: Mount Vernon

Continuing south and east on Interstates I-95 and I-64 we are brought to Williamsburg, the first capital of the Commonwealth, today a place “swimming” in souvenirs. One jug features the Governor’s Palace (**Fig. 2**). Although Williamsburg has lots of attractions, too much history can get boring so we head on down the interstate to Virginia Beach (**Fig. 3**). Sun, sand and sea are the attractions there. The Virginia Beach jug seems to be threatening a tsunami, so we will not linger there



Fig. 2: Governor’s Palace, Williamsburg



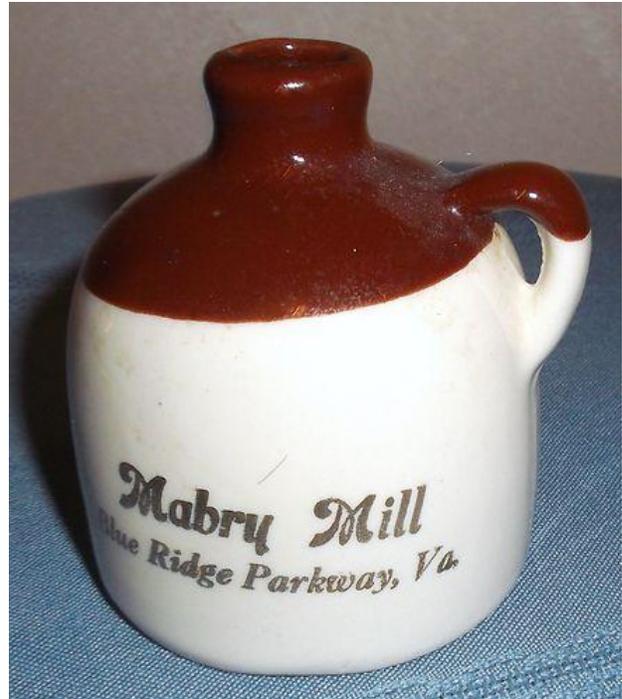
Fig 3: Virginia Beach

Along sometimes scenic, sometimes not, Route 58 running the length of the bottom of the state, our journey of many miles then takes us to Rocky Mount in Franklin County (**Fig. 4**). There we can view memorials to such disparate figures as Confederate General Jubal Early and civil right activist Booker T. Washington, both born in the vicinity.

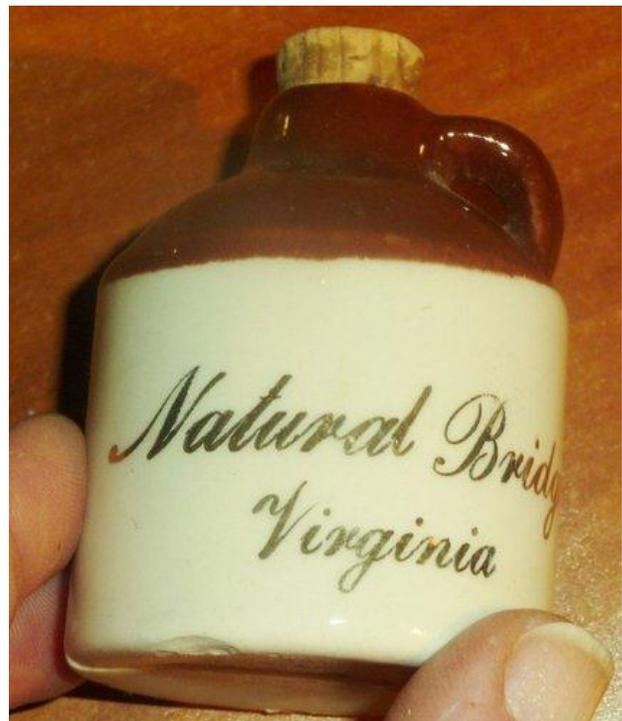


**Fig. 4: Rocky Mount**

From Rocky Mount it is just short drive to the Blue Ridge Parkway and a stop to pick up a souvenir (**Fig. 5**) at Mabry Mills, a picturesque old mill along a mountain stream. This jug has a mark on the base that indicates it was made by Paden City Artware (P.C.A.). That West Virginia outfit, about which I have written before, turned out tens of thousands of souvenirs for all parts of the U.S, including our next purchase. We have detoured off the Parkway to Route 11 and have headed north, which literally takes us over the Natural Bridge. The souvenir shop there is huge and provides us with the requisite item (**Fig. 6**).



**Fig. 5: Mabry Mills**



**Fig. 6: Natural Bridge**

After viewing this awesome natural formation, our tour takes us back to the Skyline Drive. In the mountains no souvenir jug would be complete without an illustration of a hillbilly, the last vestige of political in-correctness. As shown here (**Fig. 7**) the mountain man usually is in a recumbent position, carrying a gun and grasping a jug of moonshine whiskey. As we travel the Skyline Drive we enter Shenandoah Nat'l Park. A jug awaits there illustrated by a similar hillbilly figure (**Fig. 8**). A carved wooden head acts as a stopper.



Fig. 7: Skyline Drive

From the Shenandoah we head west to Mt. Solon in Augusta County and the Natural Chimneys State Park. It is a rock formation that towers as high as 120 feet above ground level. Oh, yes, despite being at a somewhat isolated location there is a gift shop on the grounds where we can buy our souvenir jug (Fig. 9). By now we recognize it as another P.C.A. product. Then it is on to Luray Caverns where, as their ad says, "even the rocks sing." The Luray jug seems to belie my assertion that they cannot be put to any good use. It is a bank (Fig. 10). But think about it, in order to retrieve the cash, it would need smashing. Not practical.



Fig. 9: Natural Chimneys



Fig. 8: Shenandoah National Park



Fig. 10: Luray Caverns

From Luray we head up Route 211 and back to our starting point, Washington, D.C. We have missed several tourist sites, notably Gadsby's Tavern, Monticello, the University of Virginia, the State Capitol at Richmond, but some of those sights can be picked up on just one souvenir (Fig. 11). That container can help plan our next trip as we chug (and jug) around Virginia.

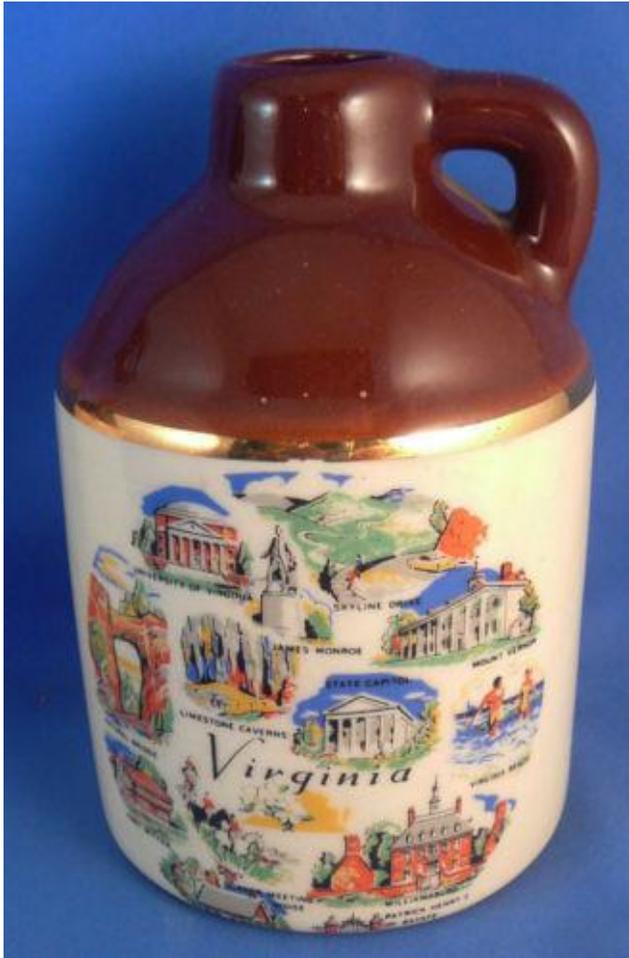


Fig. 11: Assorted Virginia Tourist Sites

Note: All of the jugs shown here date from the last Century and were made in the USA. Although I have visited all of the places indicated, except Rocky Mount, the gift stores more recently feature little else but "Made in China."

# Upcoming Area Bottle Shows



- Jan. 10-11 Palmetto, FL
- Jan. 12 Muncie, IN
- Jan. 12 S. Attleboro, MA
- Jan. 18 Jackson, MS
- Jan. 25 Anderson, CA
- Feb. 1 Rome, GA
- Feb. 2 Manville, NJ
- Feb. 9 Milwaukee, WI
- Feb. 15 Columbus, OH
- Feb. 22 Grand Rapids, MI
- Feb. 28 Phoenix, AZ
- March 7-8 Chico, CA
- March 15 Athens, GA
- March 16 St. Louis, MO
- March 28-29 Morro Bay, CA
- Feb. 14-15 Columbia, SC
- Feb. 15-16 Las Vegas, NV
- Feb. 23 Enfield, CT
- March 2 Baltimore, MD
- March 14-15 Deland, FL
- March 16 Flint, MI
- March 23 Bloomington, MN
- March 30 Brewerton, NY

The  
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**[www.baltimorebottleclub.org](http://www.baltimorebottleclub.org)**

August 1-3, 2014 FOHBC National Show in Lexington, KY