

# ONE CASE CURATION: *Finds on a Hartland Farm By Abraham Dunne*

Main Street Museum White River Jct., VT

January-March 2023

## 1. Art Nouveau Style Lamp

This piece is one of the largest things I have found and is one of the more interesting. It is an old metal table lamp, which has a floral pattern at the bottom and at one point may have had a gold plating. It has no maker's marks of any kind, which makes it a little hard to date, but based on the style, I would guess 1910s to the 1930s.

## 2. J.C. Child's Clock

This is an intricate clock frame made by J.C. Child's. It says "Green Label Beef Iron & Wine " and "J.C. Child's & Co New York ". John C. Childs was born in Bakersfield, VT. He then started a liquor store in New York City around 1885. At this store, he also sold a medicine, which later turned out to have the alcohol content of vodka, called Green Label Beef Iron & Wine. His company closed some time between 1915 and 1920. This clock is potentially from the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, also known as the Columbian Exposition, commemorating the 400 year anniversary of Columbus's voyage. I have been unable to find anything like it online and it may be the only one in existence. It seems to be made of cast iron with a copper/copper alloy covering.

## 3. Green Mountain C.A. Co. Jar

This jar was made here in White River Junction. It reads Green Mountain C.A. Co. It was made by the Cross Abbott Company, which was a grocery at 4 Gates Street in White River Junction. The Company started in 1894 when Cross Grocery Co. of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and the Abbott Grocery Co. of Keene, New Hampshire, merged. The company moved to Hartford after the building was bought by the White River Paper Company. This jar was made about 1910-1915. It would have had a metal bail seal with a glass top.

## 4. Hood Milk and Dairy Bottle

This bottle is a H.P. Hood & Sons half pint milk bottle from Boston, Massachusetts. If the name sounds familiar, it's because Hood is now one of the

most famous milk brands in the U.S. On one side, it is embossed "H.P. Hood & Sons TradeMark Boston Registered " and has a pictorial H in a box in the middle. On the other side it is embossed "Mass T Seal HOOD Half Pint". On the bottom, it has a date of either 1920 or 1922 (it is a little messed up from how the bottle was made). This bottle is in excellent condition and has no cracks or chips.

## 5. Hayner Distilling Company Whiskey Bottle

This whiskey bottle was made by the Hayner Distilling Company in Dayton, Ohio. It has a patent date on the bottom of Nov. 30TH 1897. The embossing reads "Hayner Distilling Company Distillers & Importers Dayton, Ohio. U.S.A." It has a mug base (The panels on the bottom) and a decorative neck. The only real damage is a chip on the very top of the top. The interesting thing about this bottle is that because of Vermont's Prohibition law, that was put into effect in 1853, this bottle would have been illegal to have owned here in Vermont.

## 6. Penn-Rad Motor Oil Can

This can was found just off the side of an old road next to my house. I kept it because of the amazing preservation of the paint on the front of the can. Penn-Rad Oil was made by the Radbill Oil Company, which was based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The other sides did once have paint and designs on them but they are pretty much rusted away. On the front it reads "World's Most Economical Motor Oil Penn-Rad Motor Oil Guaranteed 100% Pure Pennsylvania Oil Rad Bill Oil Company, Philadelphia, PA., U.S.A." It also has the United States Testing Co. Inc. seal on it.

## 7. Early Paines Vegetable Compound

This bottle is a very special bottle to me, despite the fact that it is broken. This is a Paine's Celery Compound bottle, an extremely popular medicine invented by Milton K. Paines, a druggist from Windsor, VT. He started bottling it in 1882. In the

late 1880s, the product was bought by Wells, Richardson & Co. who operated out of Burlington, VT. Most Paines bottles you will see will be ones from Wells, Richardson & Co. but this one is an early one from Windsor. It could supposedly cure basically everything that might be bothering you. They said it could fix arthritis, Kidney infections, Liver problems, and basically anything else. I found it in a few pieces, but I glued what I had back together as it is the rarest bottle I have found. On one side, it says "Celery Compound" and on the other, it has a pictorial image of a celery stalk and the word "Compound". This is a very good example of what bottle diggers call a Heartbreaker.

### **8. George W. Charon Machine Shop Tag**

This item is from a machine shop in Woodstock, VT owned by George W. Charon. According to the Woodstock history center, George was originally a blacksmith and was in the machine shop business in the late 1930s and 1940s. He lived on Court Street, right next to Mechanic Street. This piece reads "George W. Charon Machine Shop, Welding and Water Thawing TEL. 125.W Woodstock, VT." I am not sure what this would have gone on, but the Woodstock History Center thinks it's a tag of some kind.

### **9. Red Seal Flashlight**

This is the best condition flashlight I have found. It has all of its original paint, an intact glass lens, and a well preserved switch. On the bottom it says "RED SEAL Pat'd 11-4-22 Made In The U.S.A REG. U.S. PAT. OFF. The black and red paint is in very good condition, the lens is fully intact and has no chips or cracks. The past date is 1924, meaning this is from the mid 1920s to probably the early to mid 1930s.

### **10. Whiting & Davis Co. Mesh Purse**

This item is a woman's mesh purse made by Whiting & Davis Co., probably made in the later 1920s. Whiting & Davis Co. started in 1876 and are still in business today. During the roaring 20s, they were very popular, especially in places like speakeasies. In the early 1920s, they tended to be unpainted, while in the later half you would get interesting designs in many different colors, like the one that I have. On the inside, it says "Whiting & Davis Co. Mesh Bags". It has a couple of holes and

some rusting, but you can still see the original pattern in green and white on it.

### **11. Silver Plated Sash Buckle**

This sash buckle dates to around the 1890s. It is silver plated, with a design and the hook for the sash on the front. The pin is broken, and it is a C-Clasp design. There are no maker's marks on it or any other identifying symbols.

### **12. 1901 World's Fair Souvenir Tray**

This tray is a souvenir from the 1901 World's Fair in Buffalo, New York. (The scene of President McKinley's fatal shooting). It reads "1901 Pan American Exposition, Buffalo." It also has an image of a buffalo on it. These were sold at the fair and many different variants exist. It is in OK condition, missing a piece in the bottom left corner and it has some corrosion.

### **13. Fight Polio Fly Swatter**

This is an early plastic piece, most likely from the 1916 Polio Epidemic. At the top, it reads, "Fight Polio" with a little fly in between. The handle is broken off, but on the connector piece it reads "Exel O Craft" and on the other side "Fly Swatter Washable Pat No 166 920". The main piece has a spider web design. I have been unable to find much on this specific piece but it is most likely from the anti-fly campaign. During the 1916 epidemic, people didn't know what was causing and spreading Polio, and so people began blaming it on the flies. Because everyone would get Polio, the rich and the poor alike, people would say that the flies would carry Polio from the slums to the better parts of the city.

### **14. Ring of Iron Skeleton Keys**

I dug this out of the dump near my house and it is probably my favorite iron object I have ever found. It is an iron ring with 12 iron keys on it, 11 of which are skeleton keys and one is a little different. It is flat with a cut out star in the middle. Two of the keys are broken and are no longer on the ring. All of them are different sizes, thicknesses, and designs, some of them have wider bodies, different rings around the bodies, and different tops. I wonder if this was an intentional throw away or maybe some poor person left it in their pants? That would have been a very bad day.

### **15. Alfred Meakin Semi-Porcelain Bowl**

This bowl was made in Windermere, England, most likely in the 1880s. On the back it is marked "Royal Semi-Porcelain Alfred Meakin LTD England". Then in a different mark "Alfred Meakin Windermere". Alfred Meakin operation from 1875 to 1976. The front has a green floral design and it is in decent condition, not having many cracks or scratches.

### **16. Open Work Silver Plated Brooch With Green Glass Center**

This is a silver plated brooch with an open work design, green glass center, and a short C-Clasp pin. The pin is still intact and the length and style of the pin tells me it most likely dates from 1900-1910, as shorter pins started being used more around 1900. There are no maker's marks of any kind on it. It is square in shape, with an open work dot design on the sides. In the corners, there are what appear to be little fleur de lis. The center piece is a piece of cut green glass. The glass has a minor chip on one side.

### **17. Trellis T Pattern Bowl**

This bowl was made by the Homer Laughlin China Co., sometime between the late 1920s and 1932, when they stopped producing the design. The line was actually used as a promotional basis for Quaker Oats. The Trellis pattern is the pattern in the pottery, not the floral design. The floral design has 3 flowers, made up of multiple different colors and has a good amount of detail.

### **18. Benzedrine Inhaler**

This is a rather nice Benzedrine Inhaler I dug out of an old dump. I have dug multiple of these but this one is by far the best condition one I have dug. Benzedrine Inhalers were a type of medicine used to help with nasal congestion. You would take off the caps, insert the end of the tube into your nose, and inhale through your nostril while closing the other one. The 3 main ingredients in these were Amphetamine (0.325 GM), Menthol (0.032 GM), and Oil of Lavender (0.097 GM). These inhalers started selling under the brand of Benzedrine in the 1930s and were banned in the U.S. in 1965 after several reports of abuse and overdose. This one is particularly interesting as it is marked as a physician's sample.

### **19. 1920s National Cast Iron Cap Gun**

This is the second Cap Gun I have found and is definitely the coolest one I have found. This was made by National (I have been unable to find a lot of information on the company). This is cast iron, which is why this is interesting. It is really late for cast iron cap guns as most companies stopped making them out of cast iron around 1900. It is very rusted but has everything still there.

### **20. A.J. Dodge Maple Sugar Thermometer**

This Thermometer was made by A.J. Dodge in Peterboro N.H. It has a Patent Date of Nov. 15 (18)91. It is missing the bottom piece and the glass piece is broken on the bottom. There is still intact wood on the back. It has many different markings on it, including Cakes, Dry Sugar, Sugar Tothe, Gal., and Lbs., along with many numbers. The Patent describes many advantages to this "new" design, including more accurate temperatures, the ability to easily hang it on the pot, it is cheap to make, it has suggested temperatures on it for best results in whatever you are making (sugar, syrup, etc.), and many others.

### **21. Iron Bell Toy**

This is an iron bell toy that has been dated to the mid 1800s. It would have had an iron ball in the middle and probably a little horse in the front. As the toy rolled, the ball would bounce around and make a ringing noise.

### **22. Conastoga Bell**

This bell is from a conestoga wagon, a type of covered wagon. It is made out of an alloy known as Tombac. Tombac is a brass alloy, made of copper and zinc, and sometimes lead, tin, or arsenic for color. The iron dinger is rusted out, but is otherwise in good condition. This is one of the oldest things I have found, as it is from the late 18th to early 19th century.

### **23. Frozen Charlotte Doll**

Frozen Charlotte dolls were a type of doll made from 1850 to 1920, first in Germany and then later in England. Their name comes from the old ballad "Young Charlotte". The ballad is about a vain girl who froze to death because she didn't want to cover

herself up with blankets. The bright white color of the dolls made people think of the song. This one is a little under 3 inches tall, but they can be anywhere between 1 and over 18 inches in height.

#### **24. Decorative Copper Mirror Frame**

This is a copper mirror frame with a classic Victorian/Art Nouveau design on the back. The glass is missing, and there is some damage to the Handel, but it is otherwise in decent condition.