

HISTORIC GLASS BOTTLE WEBSITE

The official title of an extensive website is Historic Glass Bottle Identification & Information Website. This internet resource first was developed around the turn of the twenty-first century. By early 2005, this website had reached 160-plus pages if one had wished to print the entire website. Since the author regularly has added information over the years, this website has continued to expand. Originally hosted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the website now can be found online at the home of the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA).

The author compiled this extensive resource to help archaeologists, educators, collectors, and the general public identify bottles and jars of the U.S., and Canada to some extent, dating from the early 1800s through the 1950s. Of course, the compiler could not provide examples of every American bottle manufactured over those 150 years, but rather intended to provide enough examples (actually hundreds) with explanations, so the user can determine age, function, and method of production of most American bottles from period of concern.

The basic sections of this internet resource include the following: dating, types/shapes, glassmaking methods, colors, finishes (lips) and types of closures, body/seams, bases, ID with fragments, glossary, references, and links. While this website is extensive, the user easily can use the many provided lines for clicking to go to other parts of the site.

This website does provide many cautions, often related to misinformation or misinterpretation of sources. Within the section on body and seams, the site gives Grace Kendrick's 1963 The Antique Bottle Collector as the first of many sources to say that the higher a seam the more recent the manufacture of the bottle. This position says a seam only up to the shoulder would indicate manufacture before 1860 while a seam extending up through the lip would be of a bottle manufactured from 1900 on. The author emphatically states that the rationale behind this method of dating is a myth, especially considering that seams or portions of seams could be erased during manufacture. On the other hand, information can be correct but misused due to technology lag. This is explained in the section on dating. When a technology was developed, every manufacturer did not necessarily immediately switch to the new possibility for a number of reasons, including the expense of retooling a plant. Example: The patent for the crown cap was granted in 1892, and many manufacturers did switch to that technology within ten to fifteen years, but internal-stopper styles prevailed among some manufactures. One of many such producers was a St. Louis pop (soda) company that still was not using the crown cap in the 1920s.

When trying to identify a bottle or jar, one obvious place to start is the section on types and shapes. This section is divided into the following types: liquor or spirits, wine, beer, soda or mineral water, medicine or chemical, food and canning, non-food household, and miscellaneous including some common foreign bottles. After gleaning information for a specific type of bottle in question, one then can proceed through other sections of the website to determine further characteristics of that bottle or jar. —Mary Conrad

KCAS AT JACKSON COUNTY PARKS APPRECIATION DINNER

Each year Jackson County Parks + Rec recognizes all volunteers that work at all the many Jackson County parks, lakes, historic sites, and golf course. On April 17, 2018, Sally Bell, Gail Lundeen, and Jim Roberts represented KCAS for its members volunteering at Ft. Osage and Missouri Town, at Adams Pointe Conference Center in Blue Springs.