

## OHIO JUGS NORTH OF I-70

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(Special to the Ohio Swirl)

Few if any are states like Ohio where an interstate highway is a demarcation line between the northern and southern halves. I-70 as it slices the Buckeye State in two serves that purpose admirably. And it can serve as a dividing line for a look at large ceramic jugs, in this case from the northern half of the state.

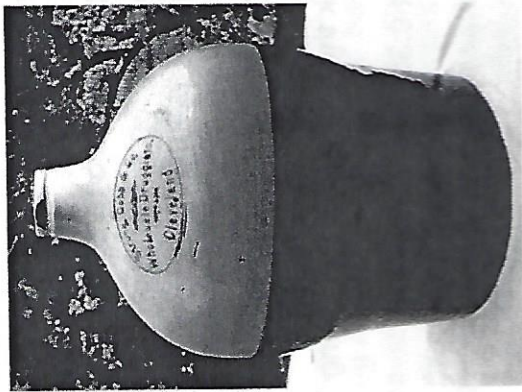


Figure 1

label on them and sold them out front.

Strong and Cobb's flagship brand was "Puritan Club." The company appeared in Cleveland business directories from 1882 until 1910. It was located at three addresses on Superior Street from 1882 to 1907, moving to 206 Central Viaduct SE in 1908 and remaining there until it apparently terminated business.

They include several from Cleveland. The first is a handsome ginger jar shaped stoneware item (Fig. 1). It has a dark brown Albany slip base and a Bristol glaze top. The oval label brands this as a product of Strong, Cobb & Co., Wholesale Druggists. During the pre-Prohibition period, from which this item dates, druggists often mixed up their own whiskey brands in the back room, slapped a



Figure 2

The Guggenheim Bros. jug shown here is a Bristol glaze stoneware with a blue label (Fig. 2). This Cleveland whiskey dealer advertised widely his "Gorman Rye" brand which he admitted was a blend. The symbol for his whiskey was a blindfolded goddess with the scales of justice in her hand. On side of the scale was "quantity," on the other side, "quality." The company first shows up in directories at two locations on Michigan Street (1882-1895). The third move was to the 183 Prospect address listed on the jug. That would date the ceramic as issued in the period between 1897 and 1904. The firm subsequently moved to Bolivar Street where in 1909 it disappeared from directories.

The Benton Myers firm figured prominently in my recent Swirl article on Duroy wines. These were druggist who not only bottled and sold wines, but all manner of alcoholic beverages, many of them in ceramic like the beehive jug shown here (Fig. 3). The company began as Benton, Myers & Canfield in 1874, located at 127 Water Street. By 1882 Canfield was gone and the name changed to Benton, Myers & Co. It stayed that way until 1905 when Myers dropped off and the name became Benton, Hall & Co. That firm moved to 1370 Ninth St. NW in 1906 and terminated in 1909.

Few are the clues to the origins of the Penn Liquor Company. As the two-toned "shoulder" jug shown here (Fig. 4) says on its simple label, the firm was located at 588 10th Avenue in South Lorain.

Schwartz & Klein, according to Youngstown business directories, were wholesale liquor dealers. Although their whiskey jug shown here does not reveal it (Fig. 5) the com-



Figure 3



pany featured a distinctive house brand called "Regina Pure Rye." Schwartz & Klein was founded in 1904 and survived until Ohio established statewide prohibition beginning in 1917. It was located at 321-325 East Federal Street at the outset, moving in 1909 to 401-403 East Federal.

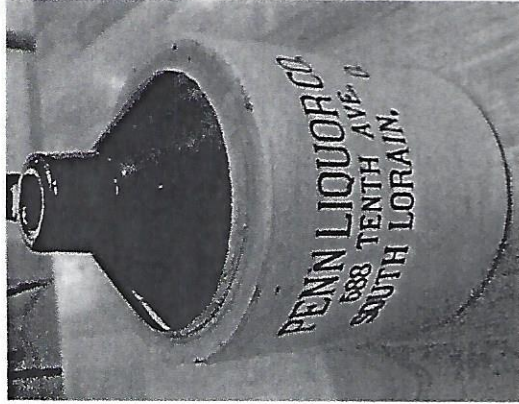


Figure 4

That liquor firm had a neighbor in The Jacobson Bros. Company. It was located at 231 West Federal but was a short-lived establishment, showing up in Youngstown business directories only from 1914 to 1917. Likely its demise was a sign of bad timing since the state voted "dry" in 1916. Unlike the other containers shown here, Jacobson Bros. put their whiskey in glass jugs with an embossed label and bail handle (Fig. 6).

As with several of the other whiskey jugs shown here, the Steinbacher jug (Fig. 7) was the product of a wholesale druggist.



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

Like other druggists, Erhard Steinbacher was mixing up his whiskey in the back room, blending the products from a range of distilleries, most of them located in Kentucky. Steinbacher's firm first shows up in Akron directories in 1873, located at 104-106 East Market Street with another outlet at 114 South Main. The last directory entry for the Main Street facility was 1887. In

1903, the year of its apparent demise, the company moved from the 104-106 East Market Street address to 8 East Market. It also is possible that the street numbering changed that year.

J.J. Vollmayer made it clear on his jug that the contents were the well-known Baltimore whiskey, Hunter Rye (Fig. 8). A product from the Lanahan family of the Maryland city, this whiskey was a best seller nationwide. Vollmayer was a liquor dealer located at 125 Superior Street in downtown Toledo. His business appears to have been short-lived, appearing in directories only from 1900 to 1906. The jug can be dated to this period.

The H. Bayer shoulder jug has an especially attractive underglaze label in cobalt blue (Fig. 9). The Bayer Company was a wholesale liquor dealer with two Columbus locations, 139 East Town, opened in 1900, and a second store at 1020 Mt. Vernon Avenue, opened in 1903. By 1905 both locations had disappeared from directories. This jug may be dated within a two year period,



Figure 8



1903 to 1905.

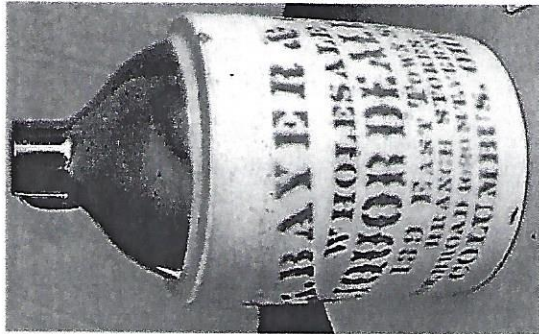
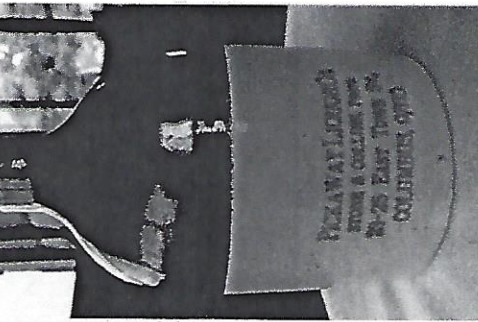


Figure 9

I have been seeking information about the Pickaway Liquor Company for a number of years. The firm seems to have had outlets in several Ohio cities.



This jug may hold clues to

Figure 10

identification, naming Stone and

Collins as proprietors (Fig. 10).

This Pickaway liquor store was located at 23-25 East Town Street, not far from the H. Bayer Company. The jug is notable for its cobalt blue label.

The Hayner Company may have been the largest mail order whiskey company in Ohio during the pre-Prohibition era. The company was established by Louis Hayner in 1866, just after the Civil War. The original headquarters was Springfield, Ohio, at 424 Main Street, as indicated on the two gallon Bristol glaze shoulder jug shown here (Fig. 11). This jug can be dated as having been issued prior to 1898. At that time the Hayner Company moved its

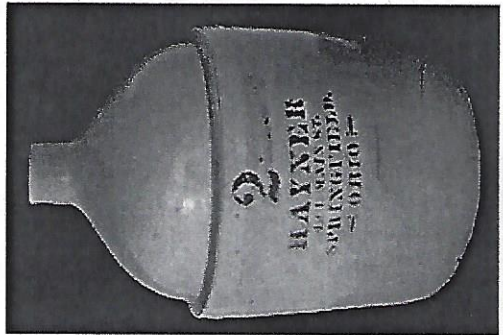


Figure 11

main office and shipping depot to Dayton Louis' nephew, William M. Hayer, then was president, the founder having died in 1892.

There they are, eleven whiskey jugs whose origins lie north (or nearly so) of Interstate 70, All can be dated as pre-Prohibition, some from the 19th Century. Moreover, in this age of high speed transportation, it is startling to remember that man of the individuals responsible for these containers never drove an automobile or saw an airplane.

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### LIST OF JUG ILLUSTRATIONS:

- Fig. 1: Strong, Cobb, Druggists, Cleveland
- Fig. 2: Guggenheim Bros. Co., Cleveland
- Fig. 3: Benton, Myers, Druggists, Cleveland
- Fig. 4: Penn Liquor, South Lorain
- Fig. 5: Schwartz, Klein, Youngstown
- Fig. 6: Jacobson Bros., Youngstown
- Fig. 7: E. Steinbacher & Co., Akron
- Fig. 8: John J. Vollmayer, Toledo
- Fig. 9: A. Bayer & Co., Columbus
- Fig. 10: Pickaway Liquor Company, Columbus
- Fig. 11: Hayner, Springfield