

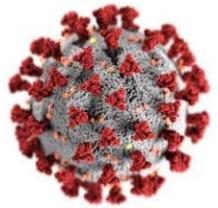


CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S NEWS & VIEWS MAY 2020

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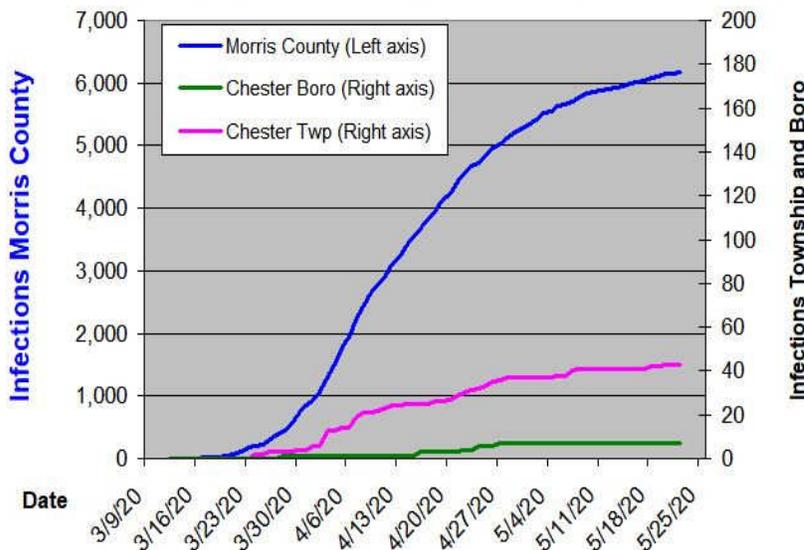
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Dear Chester Historical Society Members and Friends, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and sane. My wishes for a speedy recovery go out to the 50 reported Chester folks with COVID-19 and to all who are afflicted directly or indirectly. Thanks to all the medical personnel, first responders, caregivers, and folks who are helping us get through the pandemic while putting their own health at risk,



This newsletter will feature articles on Tippett bottles and the Chester Furnace Historical Site. However, to start, I am going to diverge from the past to focus on the present. The history of our time is being written using a vocabulary we never imagined: coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 (CDC image above), RNA, COVID-19, N95, PPE, asymptomatic, intubation, R naught (R_0), herd immunity, killer T-cells, virtual, SIP, and Zoom.

CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF REPORTED COVID-19 INFECTIONS



We are not sure when the COVID-19 virus first arrived in the USA. The first recorded infection in Morris County was on 3/12/20 and the first in Chester Township around 3/24¹. County infections total over 6,000. Gov. Murphy issued an executive order on 3/21/20 putting New Jersey in lockdown. Most businesses closed and residents had to stay at home. As of 5/22/20, there were 43 COVID-19 infections in the Township and 7 in the Borough.

¹ Data are from <https://health.morriscountynj.gov/coronavirus/>. NB the recorded infections are much less than actual.
Web: historicchesternj.com email: chester.historical.society@gmail.com phone: (908)866-6717 PO Box 376 Chester NJ 07930

Signs of the Times – Coping with COVID-19 in Chester
Give Thanks, Adapt, Encourage, Protect Each Other - Edward Ng² – CHS



² Images of signs around town on a walk on 5/15/20 taken by Edward Ng. These are only a selection, there are many more.
 Web: historicchesternj.com email: chester.historical.society@gmail.com phone: (908)866-6717 PO Box 376 Chester NJ 07930 2

Charles E. Tippet – The Bottles and The Man

By Edward Ng – Chester Historical Society



Why are “Tippet Bottles” of such historical significance? There are very few 19th and early 20th century artifacts that are indisputably from Chester. Because bottles were meant to be reused they were sturdily made and some have survived. **“CHARLES E. TIPPETT”** appears in several forms, but **“CHESTER N.J.”** was always on his bottles. Because they contained carbonated beverages, they had thick glass and were stoutly made.

The Man: Like other entrepreneurs of that era (e.g. William J. Taylor, father of the Chester Furnace), Charles E. Tippet came from a well-to-do family, but chose to come to Chester to seek his fortune. His father, Samuel Tippet, emigrated from Cornwall, England in 1848, where, like many

Cornishmen, he was well trained in mining. Samuel steadily worked his way up from the Lake Superior copper mines to the iron mines of Morris County NJ. He formed the Glendon Iron Company that worked the vast Hibernia, NJ, iron mines. Samuel and wife Julia (Call) had six sons, of which three survived. The middle son was Charles, born in November 1863 in Rockaway, NJ.³ His older brother Francis was a successful real estate and insurance agent and the tax assessor in Dover, NJ.

We do not have much information about the first 25 years of Charles' life, but writing for the newspaper, *Dover Index*, in 1913, he recalled first coming to Chester: ***“I remember upon arriving in March of 1888, just previous to the great blizzard. I was very much impressed with the location. Noting the elevation of the town, inhaling the pure, crisp air as the breezes wafted by, led me to think I had adopted an ideal place to locate, and as proof, I am a living testimonial to the healthfulness of this locality.”***

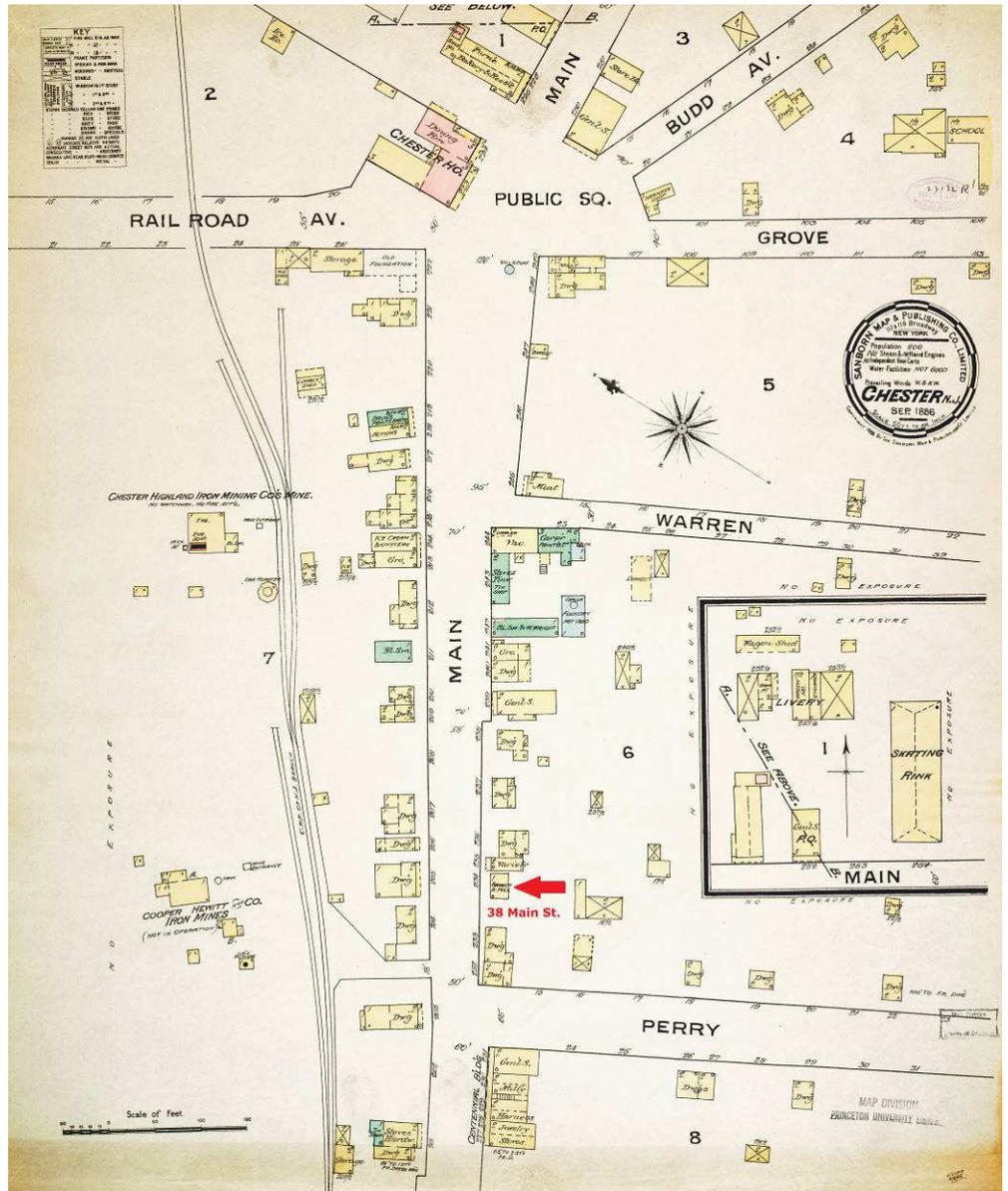
1880 statistics show there were 2,337 residents, 150 houses and 20 shops in the village. Two railroads served Chester: the Central of NJ and the Delaware Lackawanna and Western (DL&W). Though the iron mining boom had peaked, Chester was still a prosperous town in 1888 when Charles arrived.



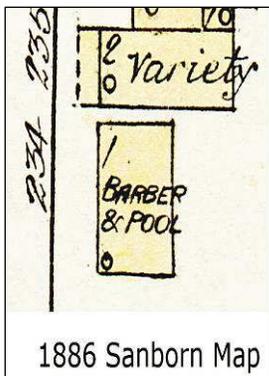
³Henry Cooper Pitney. *A History of Morris County, New Jersey: Embracing Upwards of Two Centuries – Vol. 1. Pages 41-42*

Charles survived the Great Blizzard and by May had applied for a saloon license (*The Iron Era* May 5, 1888) and purchased the property at 38 Main St. We know that and much more minutiae about Chester from the Dover-based weekly newspaper, *The Iron Era* which had news from Dover and many towns nearby. The paper covered everything from international trade to presidential politics to play-by-play Dover baseball games. From 1888 to 1905, Charles E. Tippet was in 33 stories. However, the paper doesn't tell us why he became a saloon owner, brewer and bottler of beer and soft drinks.

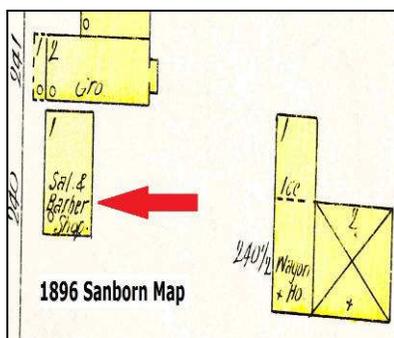
The Sanborn Insurance Maps for Chester contain a wealth of information about the buildings and businesses. The western half of the 1886 map is shown above. An enlarged portion of the map,



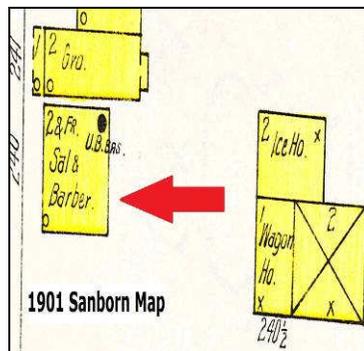
below left, shows that the 38 Main St. location was a "Barber & Pool" business in 1886 before Charles came to Chester. By 1896, after his purchase, he added a saloon as indicated by "Sal & Barber" shop on the map. "Sal" is the abbreviation for saloon. By 1901 the map shows he added a framed second floor ("2&FR") and an upright boiler in the basement ("U.B.BAS"). In 1920 Congress enacted the 18th Amendment prohibiting alcohol production and consumption in America, closing Charles' brewery and saloon. The 1923 (far right) map indicates that Tippet's businesses had closed, replaced by a store (indicated by the "S").



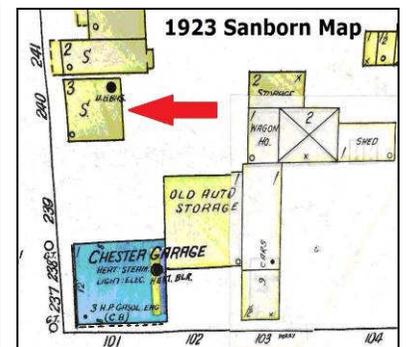
1886 Sanborn Map



1896 Sanborn Map



1901 Sanborn Map



1923 Sanborn Map

Prior to Prohibition, *The Iron Era* tracked Charles' business progress, providing details to the Sanborn maps:

January 26, 1894: "C.E. Tippet and Robert Skellenger are filling their ice houses this week." The "Ice" house can be seen behind the main building;

January 22, 1897: "Charles E. Tippet is enlarging his bottling establishment." The enlargement was most likely the addition of the second floor to his building. His bottling operation was in the basement. We don't have images, but it probably looked something like the one from Iron Mountain Brewing in Michigan in 1915 (above).

January 4, 1897: "Mr. Charles E. Tippet has improved the appearance of his bottling room by the addition of a handsome sign."

Nov. 17, 1899: "Mr. Tippet will have a fine building when it is completed. That section of our town is very much improved."

Dec. 2, 1899: "George E. Conover and Son have the contract to paint Charles E. Tippet's building on Main St."

May 23, 1903: "Mr. Charles E. Tippet has a fine new beer wagon."

Jan. 13, 1905: Meetings of the Washington Camp, No. 8, Patriotic Order of the Sons of America "meets every Tuesday night at the Tippet Building."



We don't have any images of Charles' bottling operation in the basement, but we do have a 1915 image from the Iron Mountain Bottling operation in Michigan (<http://sha.org/bottle/soda.htm>).

Unfortunately for researchers, the accessible copies of *The Iron Era* end in November 1905, 10 years before its demise. Subsequently *The Iron Era* facilities were bought by the *Dover Index*. Here are images of the Tippet building about 100 years apart, 1915 on the left and 2018 on the right. That may be William Savage, the barber, in front in the earlier photo. In the recent image, the bottling sign is no longer there and no sign of the beer wagon!



↑ Tippet Building ~1915 - Main St. looking west



↑ 38 Main St. 2018 looking west

Following the additions and embellishments to his building, *The Iron Era* reporting on Charles shifted, showing him quietly gaining more prestige and responsibility in Chester's governance. The first news involved President McKinley: Dec. 1, 1899 *The Iron Era* reported that "Messrs. Smith and Tippettt witnessed the funeral of Vice President Hobart⁴ in Paterson last Saturday." In local elections, the March 16, 1900 paper reported "Chester did not vary from her usual Democratic course, except that Charles E. Tippettt, Republican, was elected

Tax Collector by a majority of 10..." The October 13, 1905 *The Iron Era* listed "Chas. E. Tippettt" as serving on the Morris County Grand Jury. Finally, the 1921 *Conover Store News* reported that during the Ladies Aid Congressional Fair in Chester seven arrests were made by policemen and "were disposed of by Police Judge Charles E. Tippettt."

Though Charles seemed to be a model citizen, the July 27, 1900 story in *The Iron Era* shows that he was not to be messed with. After all, he ran a saloon! Rather than being part of the Chester column, this story ran in its own column (see left) and it's not surprising that Chester was "agog". A few weeks after the "dispute" with Charles, Mr. Pitney's buildings suffered a fire, but not Tippettt's buildings nearby. Charles paid to run a "**Card of Thanks**" (below left) in the Aug. 24 edition of *The Iron Era*. "Revenge is best served cold." On August 31 *The Iron Era* had two Pitney reports and no arsonist ("incendiary") was ever found.

A Line Fence Breeds Dispute.
 The whole community is agog over a boundary dispute between Charles Tippettt and Edwin Pitney. The trouble began when, about a week ago, Mr. Pitney started to build a fence between a house he owns and Mr. Tippettt's barber shop and bottling establishment. Mr. Tippettt recently had his land surveyed by Lewis Carey, and when Mr. Pitney started to set his posts Mr. Tippettt raised the objection that the proposed fence would encroach upon his property. It is said that in the course of the resultant dispute Mr. Pitney threatened to strike Mr. Tippettt with a crow bar and that Mr. Nichols, one of Mr. Tippettt's employees, wrenched the crowbar away from Mr. Pitney. Now it so happened that Mr. Pitney, whose health has been bad for a year, was on Friday night seized with a hemorrhage of the stomach, for which he blames Mr. Tippettt. He has even retained Lawyer King to sue Mr. Tippettt for damages. It is said that the physicians who are acquainted with the circumstances pooch-pooch the idea of a hemorrhage being caused by a dispute over a line fence, and the whole community is awaiting the outcome with no little interest, especially as this not the first lawsuit instituted by Mr. Pitney, who is regarded by many as a man of a somewhat contentious disposition.

Card of Thanks.
 Through the medium of your paper I desire to earnestly extend my sincere thanks to all who worked so diligently to save my buildings which were in danger at the recent fire that destroyed Edwin S. Pitney's building.
 CHARLES E. TIPPETT.
 Chester, N. J., Aug. 23, 1900.

Herbert England, of Washington, spent a couple of days at the home of Edwin Pitney last week.
 Efforts are being made to find the incendiary who set on fire Edwin Pitney's house last week.

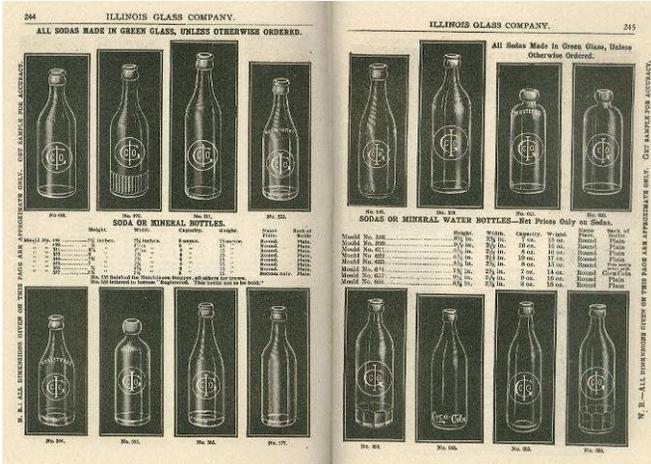
The Bottles: This Tippettt jingle appeared in the 1920 program for Chester Dramatic Club's performance of *Breezy Point*:

*With a merry Cheer - When you're warm and dry
 Be sure to try - TIPPETT'S Soft Drinks, Porter or Lager Beer*

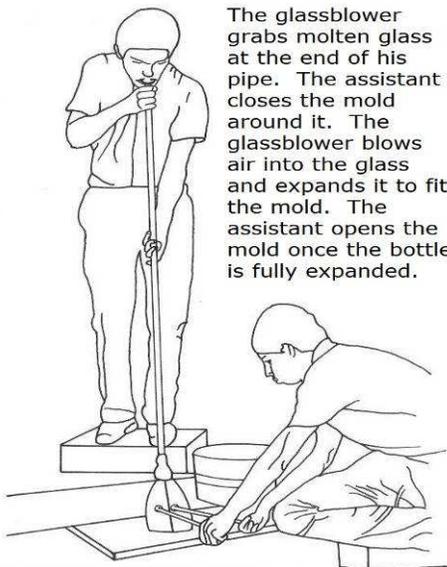
Of course Charles required bottles for his brews and drinks. Bottles for carbonated drinks had to be of thick enough glass to withstand the pressure and be reusable. This also meant that bottles had a higher chance of surviving to the present. Many of the Tippettt bottles in the CHS collection were generously provided by Len and Lois Taylor. Len did a lot of research dating Tippettt bottles and I've adopted and expanded his process and guidelines.

⁴ Garrett Hobart was born and grew up in New Jersey and was vice president to President McKinley. Theodore Roosevelt became vice president after Hobart's death in 1899. Roosevelt then became president after McKinley's assassination in 1901.

Charles did not make his own bottles, but purchased them. Some Tippet bottles have bottoms embossed with the name of two of his suppliers: Karl Hutter (center) and Wittemann Bro. (right) of New York. They may have sourced their bottles from manufacturers like the Illinois Glass Company (IGC). Two pages from IGC catalog from 1906 (left) show a wide variety of bottle types with round nameplates, but other nameplate styles were available. The bottles could also be embossed on the back and the bottom.

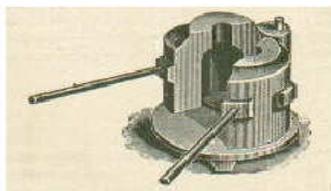


Bottle manufacturing was undergoing a dramatic change over Charles' brewing tenure. Bottle making machines were introduced in the early 20th century. However, I believe most Tippet bottles were handmade. A drawing of the glassblower and his assistant is shown below left and a bottle mold is shown center. I know from personal experience (right image) blowing glass is hard work.



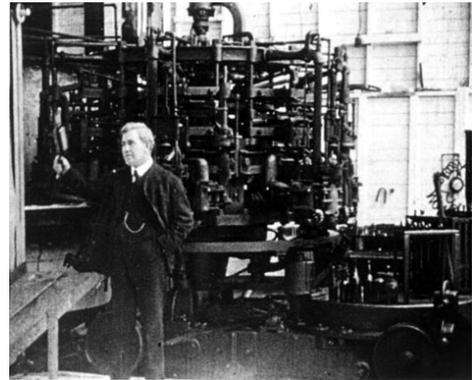
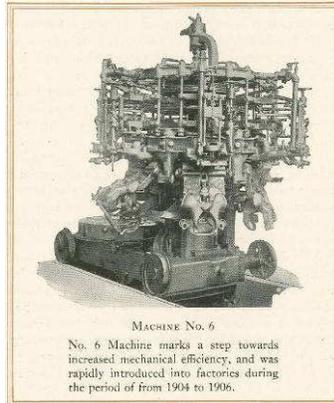
The glassblower grabs molten glass at the end of his pipe. The assistant closes the mold around it. The glassblower blows air into the glass and expands it to fit the mold. The assistant opens the mold once the bottle is fully expanded.

A 1906 Illinois Glass metal bottle mold.

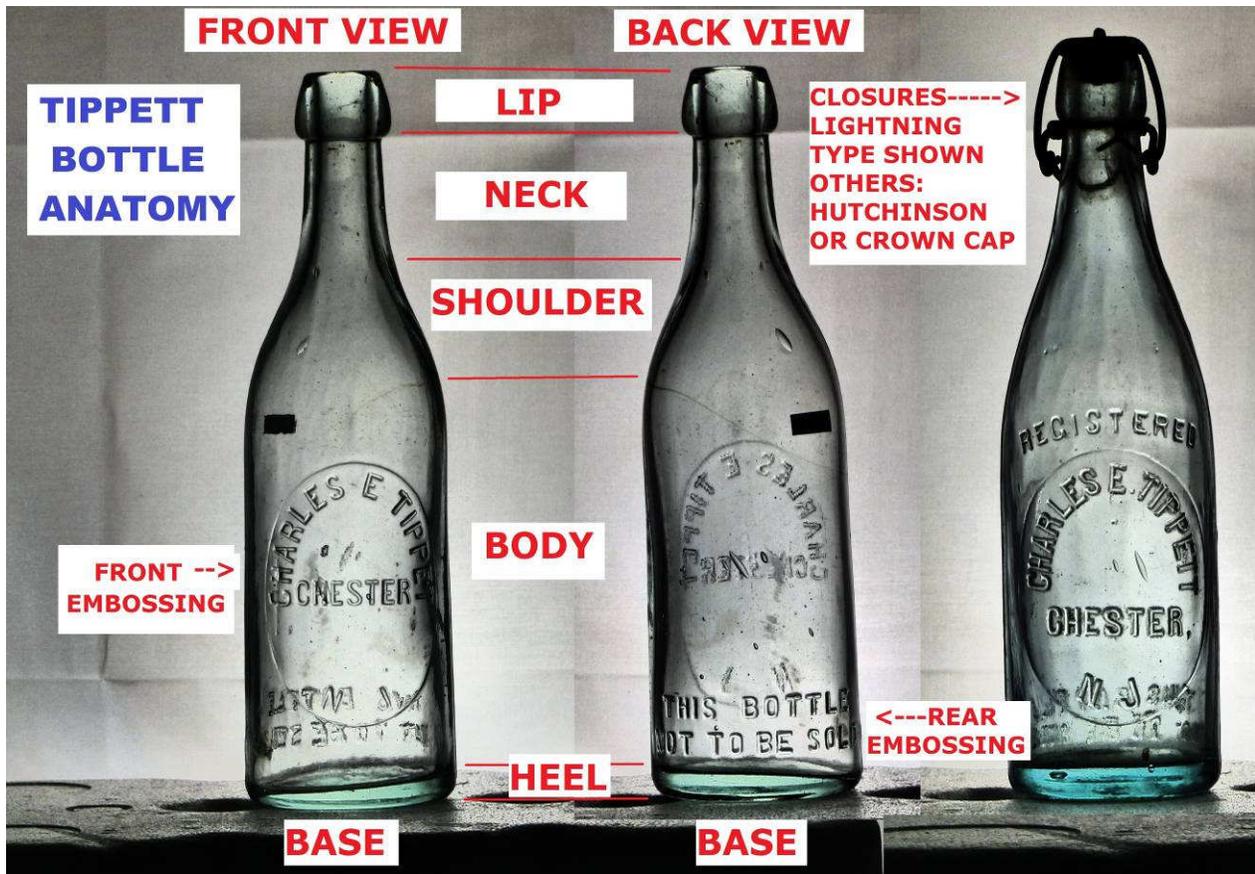


New bottle mass production technology was already on its way. The 1908 image on the next page is from a Grafton West Virginia glass factory and shows a "gaffer" (blower) at work to the far left with his crew. This is a typical mouth-blown shop crew which included the "mold tender" boy (lower right) with a set of "tongs" in his right hand, the "gatherer" (behind

gaffer) with the next gob of glass for the gaffer on a second blowpipe, and the "snapper up" (to the right, standing) with a snap case tool in his left hand. The caption to the photo is: "Glass Blower and Mold Boy. Boy has 4 1/2 hours of this at a stretch, then an hour's rest and 4 1/2 more: cramped position (Lewis Hine photo, Library of Congress). Owens' fully automated bottle making machines were first introduced into factories from 1904-1906 (below center and right). By 1920, the Owens bottle machine had become a 30-ton colossus with 10,000 parts. The machine could produce more bottles in an hour than a team of human glassblowers could produce in a day. Michael J. Owen in 1910 is shown (below right) holding a bottle made by the machine he invented.



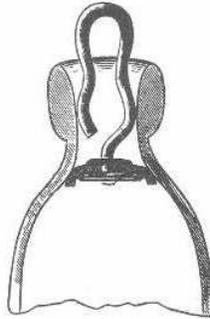
To bring order to the CHS Tippett Bottle Collection, it is natural to try to date them. Using Tippett bottle anatomy (below) and building on the research of Len Taylor, I have developed a system to estimate when a bottle was first used by Tippett.



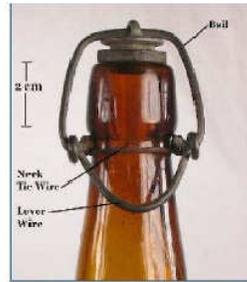
There are 8 main characteristics we can use to date the bottles:

1. **Type of closure** (Hutchinson, Lightning, or Crown cap)

Hutchinson



Lightning



Crown cap



2. **Neck length** (short, less than an inch; or long, greater than an inch)

3. **Lip finish** (flat or ridged)

4. **Size** (7 ounces up to a quart),

5. **Embossing on the front** (CHESTER, N.J., CHARLES E TIPPETT, REGISTERED, PROPERTY OF, THIS BOTTLE TO BE RETURNED, THIS BOTTLE NOT TO BE SOLD)

6. **Embossing on the back** (blank, THIS BOTTLE NOT TO BE SOLD),

7. **Embossing on the base** (blank, WITTEMANN BRO. N.Y., KARL HUTTER NEW YORK)

8. **Color** (clear, green/aqua, some are pink or purple, but I am not sure that's original)

To date a bottle, the first characteristic to look at is the neck and/or type of closure if present. According to Len Taylor's research, a Hutchinson-type spring closure and/or a short neck indicate a circa 1895 Tippett bottle. A Lightning-type closure and/or a long neck without a lip indicate 1900-1915. A long neck with a lip and/or crown cap indicates circa 1920 or later. Those dates fit with the patent dates for the closures. The Lightning closure was invented and patented first by Charles de Quillfeldt in 1875. The Hutchinson stopper was patented in 1879 by Charles G. Hutchinson. The crown cap was patented by William Painter in 1892. By 1920 most soda and beer bottles used crown caps.

HOW TO APPROXIMATELY DATE A TIPPETT BOTTLE
Look at: Type of Closure (if present) - Lip Finish - Neck Length

Hutchinson Spring Closure	Lightning Closure	Crown Cap Front	Crown Cap Back
Short neck -->	Flat lip -->	<--Long neck	<--Crown bead on lip
~DATE ~ 1890	~ 1895-1915	~ 1920	~1920
CLOSURE Hutchinson	Lightning	Crown Cap	Crown Cap
LIP FINISH Flat	Flat	Crown bead	Crown bead
NECK LENGTH ~1 inch	~2.5 inches	~2.5 inches	~2.5 inches

Epilogue: In 1920 the 18th Amendment to the US Constitution was adopted and "the prohibition of liquor" ended Charles' saloon and brewing business. Charles died in 1926, but his glass legacy, hundreds of surviving Tippett bottles, lives on. They are an enduring artifact of Chester's late 19th early 20th century history. Furthermore, they have an austere beauty.

Chester Furnace Historic Site Update

By Bruce Clark – Patriots' Path Steward and Trail Volunteer

What better way to shake off your cabin fever once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted than to hike our local Patriots' Path! The section of Patriots' Path from Furnace Rd. to Tanner's Brook Rd. has special historical significance for us locally. Running through the site are the remains of the Chester Furnace which played a major role in New Jersey's iron mining industry in the late 19th century⁵ – the trail also offers a scenic view of the Black River Wildlife Management Area.

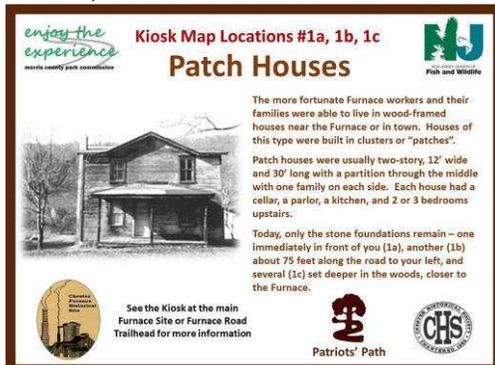


The entire 50-acre site is managed collaboratively between the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Morris County Park Commission, with volunteer efforts being focused on improving the safety and accessibility of the many interesting aspects of the Furnace and nearby railroad lines.

In case you haven't had the opportunity to visit the site for a while, we'll share a brief summary of recent improvements (the numbers that appear on the following informational placards correspond to maps that are posted at the two kiosks – one at the Furnace Road trailhead, and the other further along the trail at the center of the Furnace operation).

The Patch House Foundations (#1a, #1b, #1c)

One of the first historic artifacts that a visitor encounters upon entering the trail from Furnace Road, are the two stone foundations that lie adjacent to the roadway.

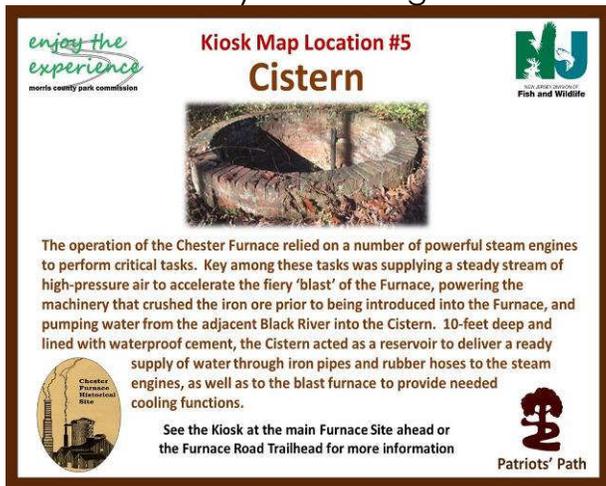


⁵ See the December 2015 News & Views Newsletter at <http://historicchesternj.com/newsletters.html>

Originally providing housing for selected Furnace workers and their families, the open foundations invite a closer look. To reduce the possibility of unintended falls, both foundations have had safety railings installed.

A Path to the Cistern (#5)

Since many of the interesting remnants of the Furnace lie deep in the woods and are surrounded by thick vegetation and fallen trees, providing easy and safe access to these historic locations is a continuing focus of the trail volunteers. One of the remnants is the in-ground storage Cistern that held a reservoir of water which was in constant demand by the Furnace's many steam engines.



Kiosk Map Location #5
Cistern

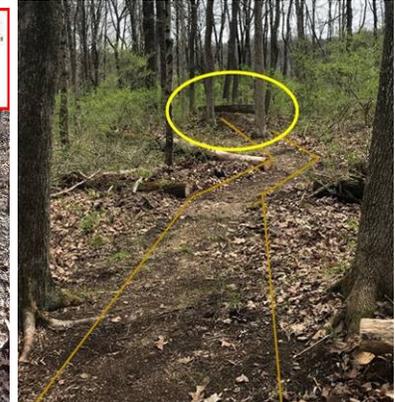
The operation of the Chester Furnace relied on a number of powerful steam engines to perform critical tasks. Key among these tasks was supplying a steady stream of high-pressure air to accelerate the fiery 'blast' of the Furnace, powering the machinery that crushed the iron ore prior to being introduced into the Furnace, and pumping water from the adjacent Black River into the Cistern. 10-feet deep and lined with waterproof cement, the Cistern acted as a reservoir to deliver a ready supply of water through iron pipes and rubber hoses to the steam engines, as well as to the blast furnace to provide needed cooling functions.

See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site ahead or the Furnace Road Trailhead for more information

enjoy the experience
morris county park commission

NJ
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF Fish and Wildlife

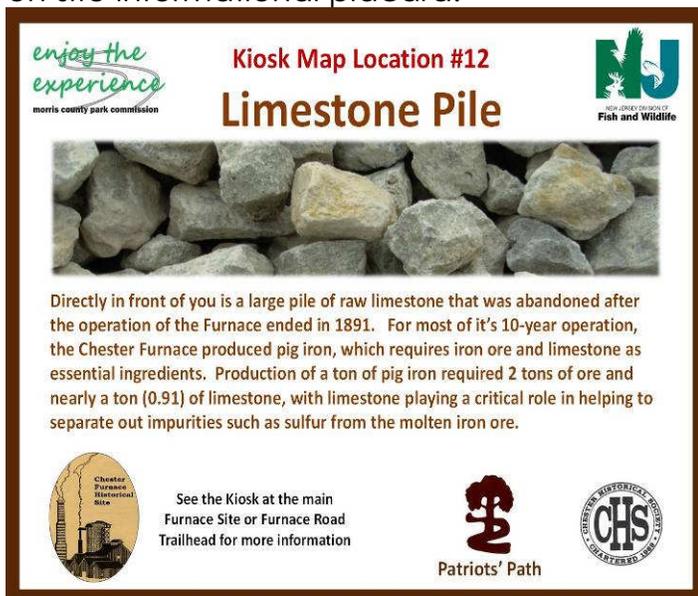
Patricots' Path



For the nearly 130 years since the Furnace ceased operation in the early 1890s, the 8-foot deep Cistern remained uncovered and a potential falling threat for anyone who lost their balance while looking over the edge. To make the Cistern safer and easier to visit, a safety lattice was installed, together with a new access path off the main trail.

A Path to the Limestone Pile (#12)

Limestone was a key ingredient for the Furnace's production of pig iron, and a large pile of raw limestone was left in place when the Furnace ceased operation. To make the pile easier to inspect, a walking path was cleared and a sample piece of limestone was added to the on-site informational placard.



Kiosk Map Location #12
Limestone Pile

Directly in front of you is a large pile of raw limestone that was abandoned after the operation of the Furnace ended in 1891. For most of its 10-year operation, the Chester Furnace produced pig iron, which requires iron ore and limestone as essential ingredients. Production of a ton of pig iron required 2 tons of ore and nearly a ton (0.91) of limestone, with limestone playing a critical role in helping to separate out impurities such as sulfur from the molten iron ore.

See the Kiosk at the main Furnace Site or Furnace Road Trailhead for more information

enjoy the experience
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Patricots' Path

CHS
CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1927



The Lake Takene Train Station (#14a/b and #15)

The April 2015 CHS newsletter relates the sad tale of the Lake Takene resort community that was planned in 1919, but never fully realized. To enable prospective purchasers to get to and from the site via the New Jersey Central rail line, a train station was built near the Furnace site. The surviving rock and concrete foundation supports have been excavated, and the surrounding area cleared so that visitors can get a better look.



Going Forward

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed work on the site, additional access improvements are on the drawing board. Patriots' Path has reopened so be sure to visit this delightful section of the trail while adhering to social distancing recommendations.

Announcements

The Chester Library has undertaken a program "Documenting a Historic Event – COVID-19 and Chester", seeking public input. The details are at <https://localhistory.chesterlib.org/>.

Chester Historical Society's annual meeting usually takes place in September. However, given the pandemic, we are considering holding a virtual meeting on Zoom. Please let us know what you think about a virtual meeting: send a note to Chester Historical Society, Box 376, Chester, NJ 07930 or email chester.historical.society@gmail.com.

Acknowledgments and Contact Information

CHS Trustees and Officers: President– Edward Ng Vice President– John Pfaff
Treasurer– Anita Rhodes Corresponding Secretary– Lois Taylor Recording Secretary- vacant
Archives – Edward Ng Programs – Meryl Carmel Membership– Alison Dahl
Historian– Ed Hanington Additional Trustees: Elaine Hanington and Marla Jackson

CHS Newsletter Editor: - Edward Ng - Historical photos and maps are usually from the CHS archives. Thanks to Bruce Clark for his article, graphics, photos, and for making the Historic Chester Furnace Site safer. Thanks to Sandy Jacobsen and Alison Dahl for proofreading aid. Other modern photos are by Ed Ng except as noted. If you would like to join CHS or if you have stories or pictures to share, please talk to a Board member or contact us at (908) 844-6717 or chester.historical.society@gmail.com, or CHS Box 376 Chester NJ 07930. Membership information and a downloadable membership form are available at <http://historicchesternj.com/home/membership.html>.