



Mohawk Valley Antique Bottle Club

Since 1994

Preserve Our History ... Collect Antique Bottles

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The Shipman Ink Company – Utica, New York by Frank Starczek



Frank Starczek, Bruce Shipman, his wife Janice and his sister Glenis

Howard Dean wrote an interesting article on the Shipman Ink Company about 10 years ago. I decided to do a little research to see if I could add to his findings on the subject.

A recent search of the Utica City Directory has turned up some new information on C.D. Shipman Ink Company. At this time, we find Shipman listed in the directory from 1886 – 1889 at 28 Liberty Street. It seems that Shipman had a very short career as an ink manufacturer in Utica. There are also some examples of ink manufacturing by Shipman in Mohawk, NY.

Several advertisements in Utica newspapers and Utica City Directories indicate that in addition to all kinds of ink, Shipman also manufactured mucilage and laundry bluing. Shipman offered bluing in bottles; kegs and barrels. I am not aware of any existing mucilage or

bluing bottles from Shipman.

An 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (*made 2 years before the first listing of Shipman at 28 Liberty St*) details a shoe factory at 26, 28 and 30 Liberty Street. My research revealed that Charles D. Shipman was born November 18, 1838 and died July 1, 1915 at the age of 77.

Our club was honored to have Bruce Shipman, his wife Janice and his sister Glenis attend our March meeting. The Shipman's are descendants of C.D. Shipman. They also plan on joining our club. Frank Starczek is standing on left.

If anyone has additional knowledge on this company, please contact Frank Starczek at: fjstarz@aol.com



Of the five pottery master ink bottles, 3 are marked "UTICA, N.Y." and 2 are marked "MOHAWK, N.Y."



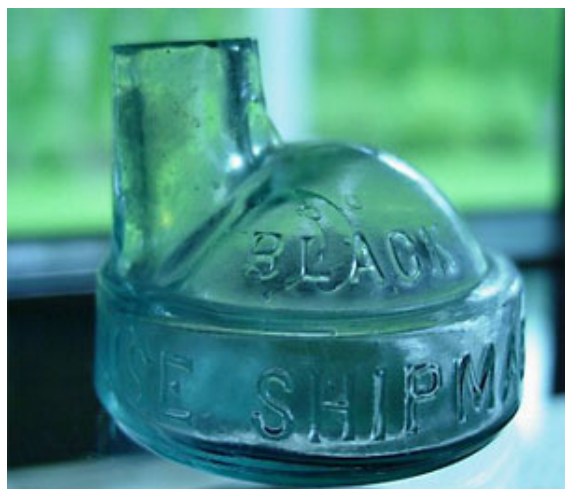
Pint pottery master ink bottle, one marked Utica and the other Mohawk



Shipman's aqua cone ink with label – Frank Starczek Collection



Pottery Shipman's Master Ink bottle with Label. John Hinkel Collection



Rare aqua turtle ink bottle embossed "BLACK INK" on top and "USE SHIPMAN'S INK UTICA, N.Y." on side

C. D. SHIPMAN'S Inks and Laundry Bluing.

These Inks and Writing Fluids are in use by the Banks and nearly all of the leading Business Houses in this city. Some of the larger cities which have adopted Shipman's Jet Black Ink for School use, are: New York City, Jersey City, N. J., Brooklyn, Boston, Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Binghamton, Chicago, Ill., and many others.

Shipman's Laundry Bluing has no superior. It has been adopted as the Standard by over 100 of the leading grocers in this city. Ask your grocer for Shipman's goods. Chemical Laboratory

28 LIBERTY STREET, UTICA, N. Y.

Advertisement from 1889 Utica City Directory (page 47) – was Shipman a chemist or pharmacist?

C. D. SHIPMAN'S, CELEBRATED LABORATORY PRODUCTS.

Inks and Writing Fluids.

Green-Black, Blue-Black, Jet-Black, Carmine, Green, Royal-Purple, Combined Writing and Copying and American Excelsior Copying—the finest flowing, the most brilliant and permanent fluids made:

Mucilage

Of pure gum arabic, very adhesive.

Laundry Bluing.

Liquid in bottles, kegs and barrels; Paper box and dry packages.

A copy of a testimonial for Shipman's Inks taken from a Utica newspaper.

SHIPMAN'S INK.

C. D. SHIPMAN, Esq., Utica, N. Y.

Dear Sir—We have used your ink over a year now, and find it far superior to any ink we have used, having tried nearly all kinds now in the market.

Yours respectfully,

A. D. MATHER & Co., Bankers.

After a year's trial of Shipman's Writing Fluid we cordially indorse the above.—E. P. PERKINS.

A copy of an advertisement taken from an 1886 Utica City Directory.