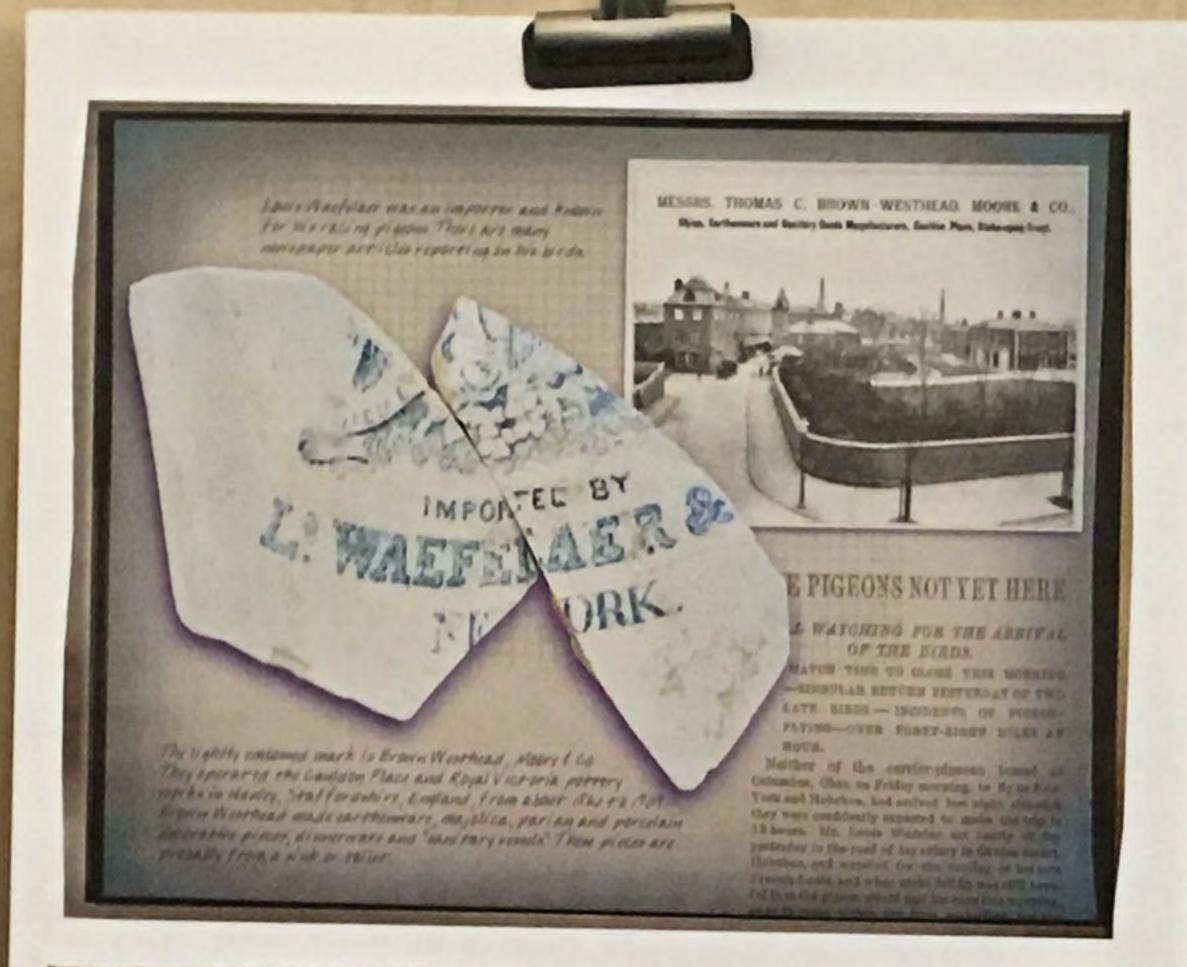


Diver

The collection started in 2005 with smooth bits of river glass and fragments of blue and white china. Walks along the bank of the Delaware River yielded tiny treasures at the dry high-tide line. For a while these small finds were displayed on a dresser in glass jars. Soon boots and neoprene gloves enabled exploration along the muddy low-tide line. Larger artifacts, sometimes whole bottles and pieces of ironwork made their way from the muck to the cleaning station at the kitchen sink. A small assemblage of tools released decades of grime.

As select artifacts began to amass, books and the internet became valuable tools in discovering their history. Cleaned, the pieces found a home in an old wooden eight-drawer glove dresser. It became a cabinet of curiosities or wunderkammer. Inspired by London's mudlarkers, Mark Dion's and 'Tate Thames Dig' [1999] in the Tate Modern, and a display at the Independence Living History Center in Philadelphia, the collection grew, and as it did, it required sorting and organizing. An enveloping sense that the collection needed to be curated in some way took hold. The idea of categorizing objects by type, photographing and presenting them with historical reference developed. Each object or group became a story.

While a broken bit of a china cup has little significance mixed with refuse on the river bank, the same bit, cleaned, photographed, researched and presented is transformed into an object of beauty and value. Individual fragments also become important when grouped in collections, allowing for comparisons and prompting visual discussions. Objects presented larger than life require consideration when subtle features and delicate colors are enhanced. Historic context gives each object or group its place chronologically and socially, and in a small way, an archeological and anthropological relevance.

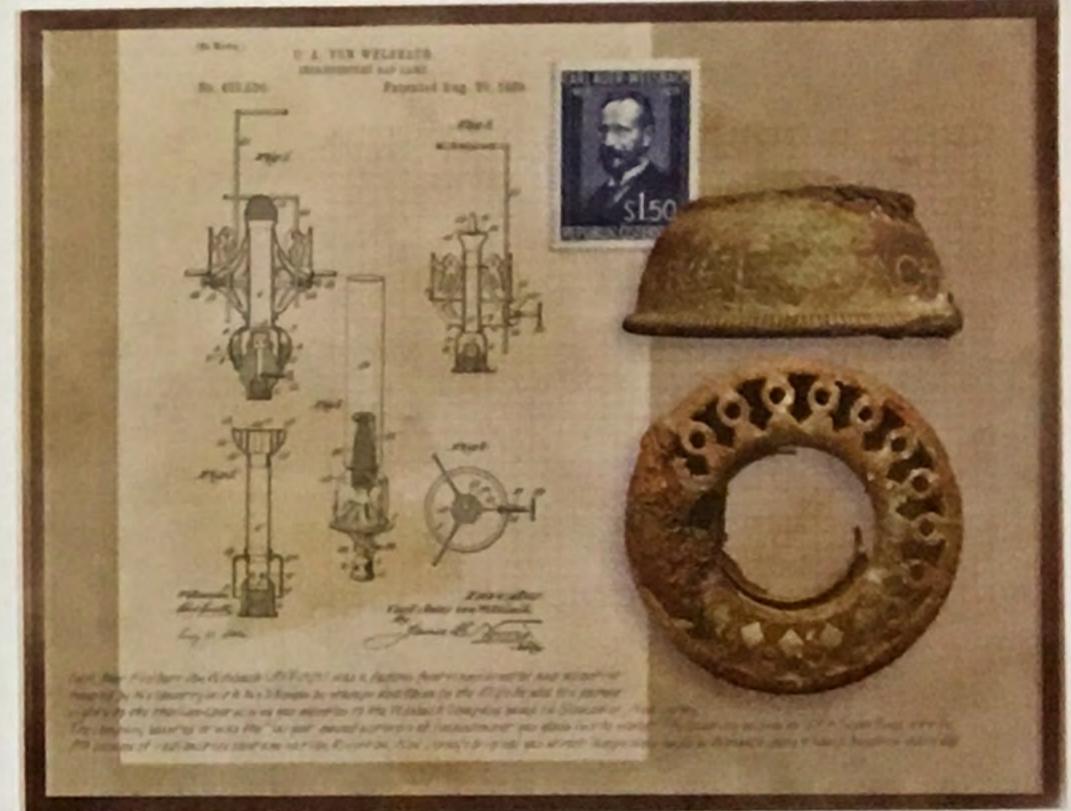
































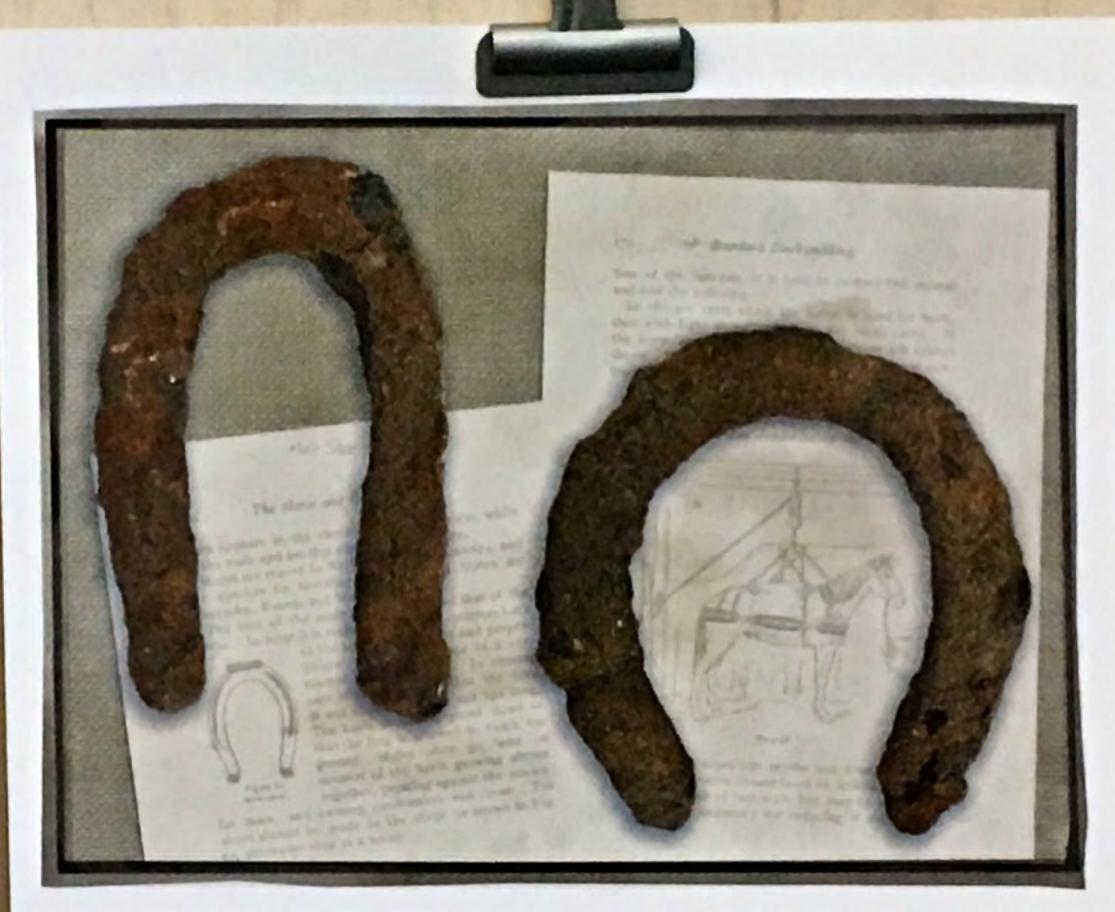




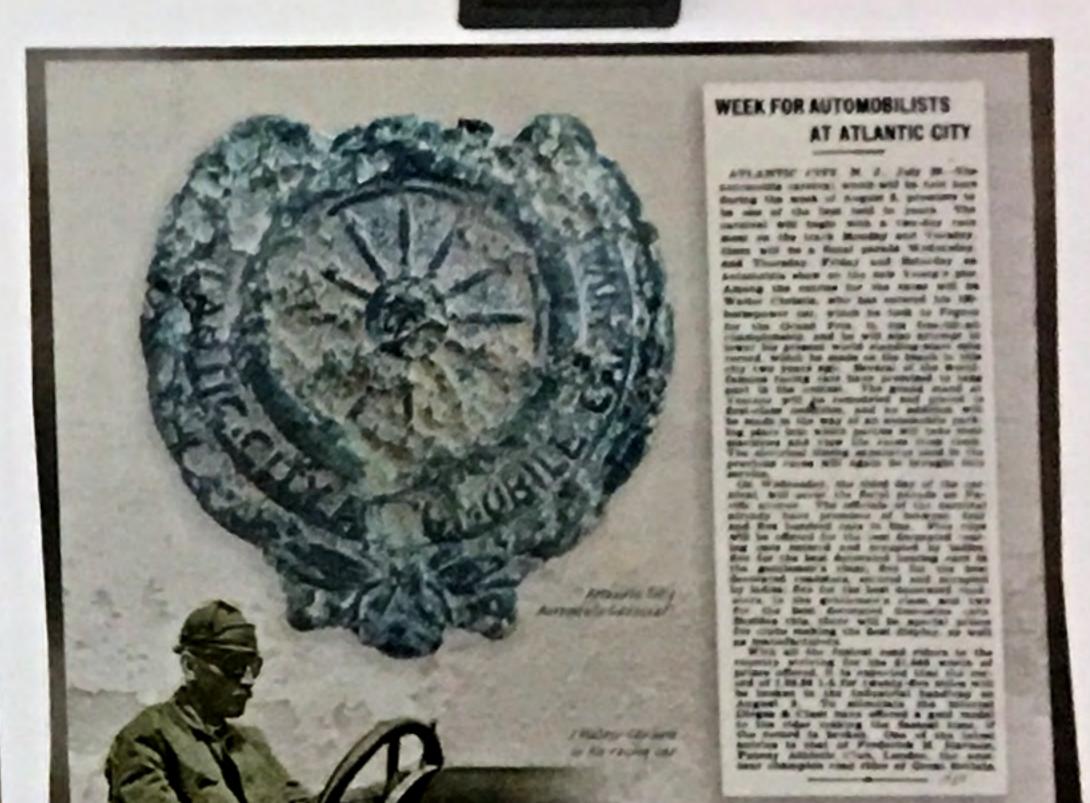


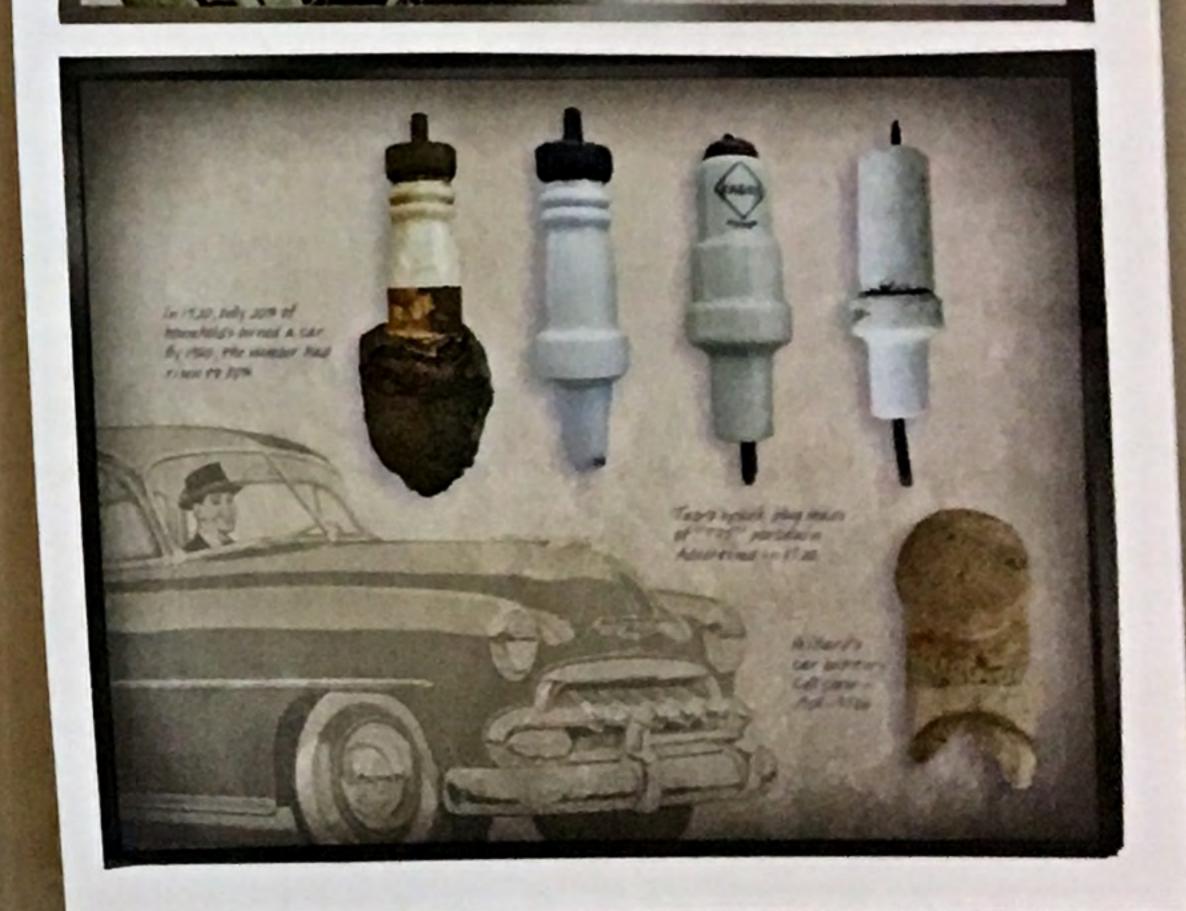






















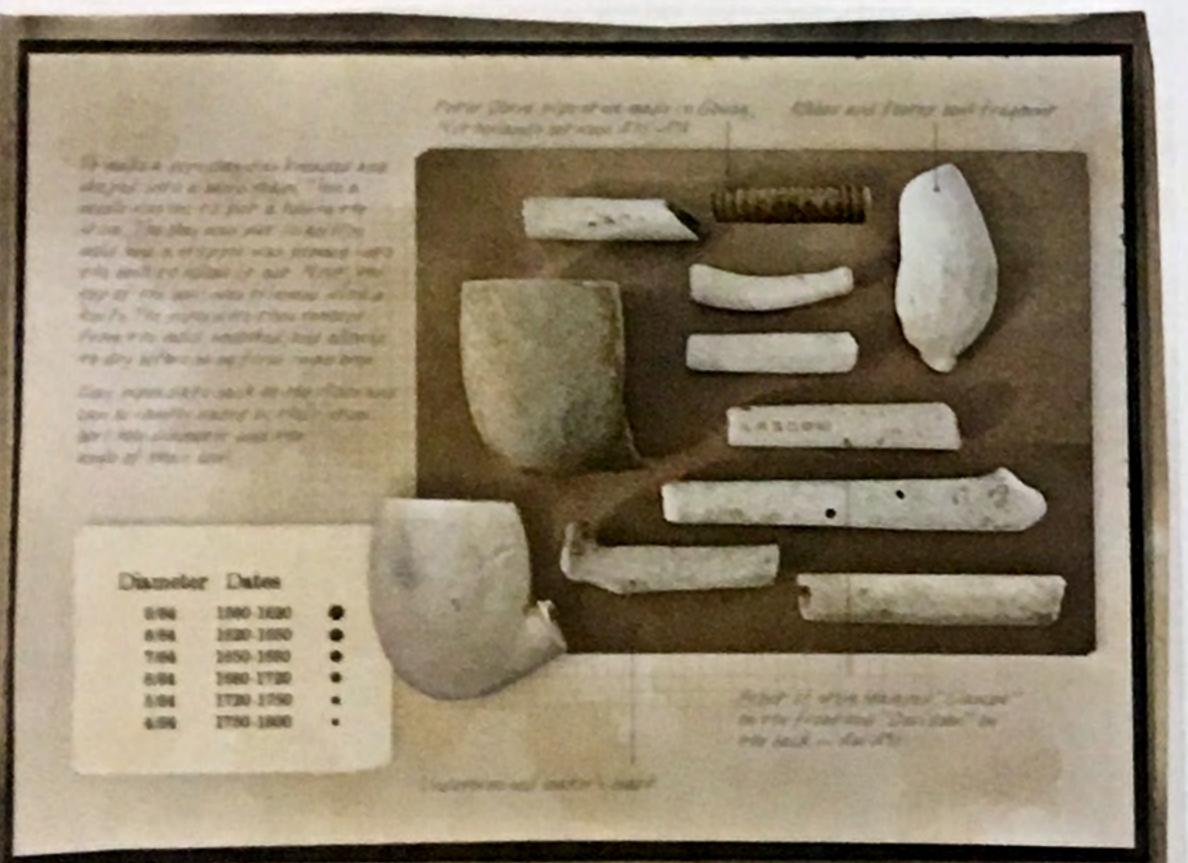


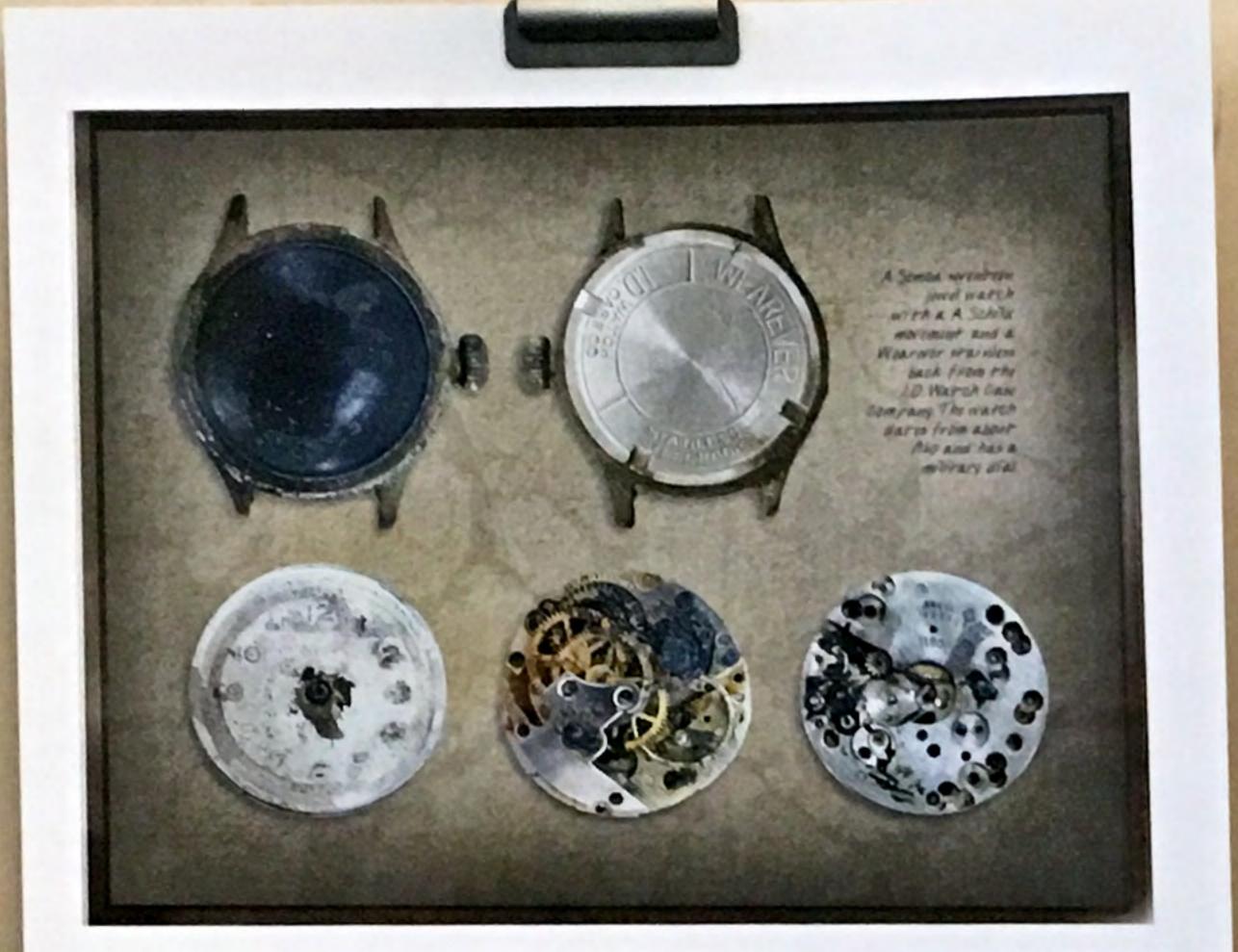












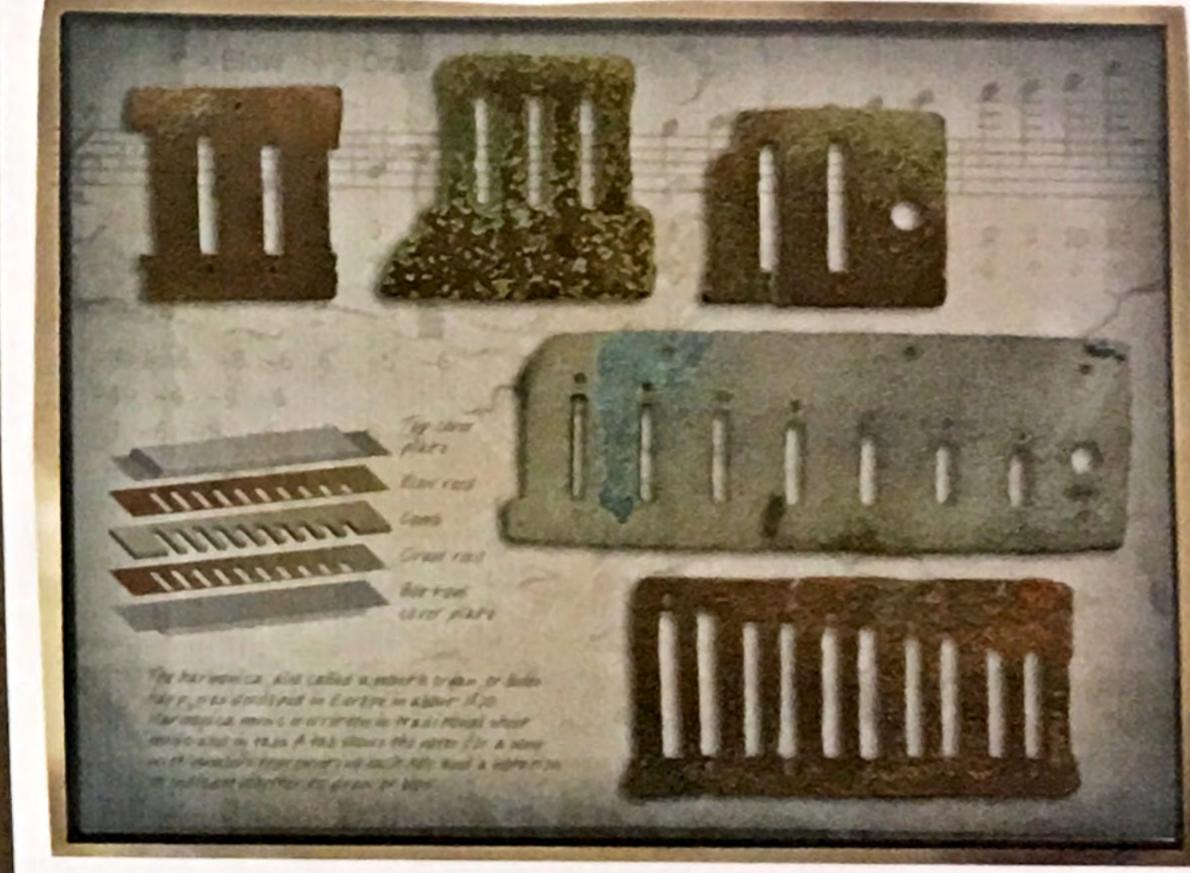




























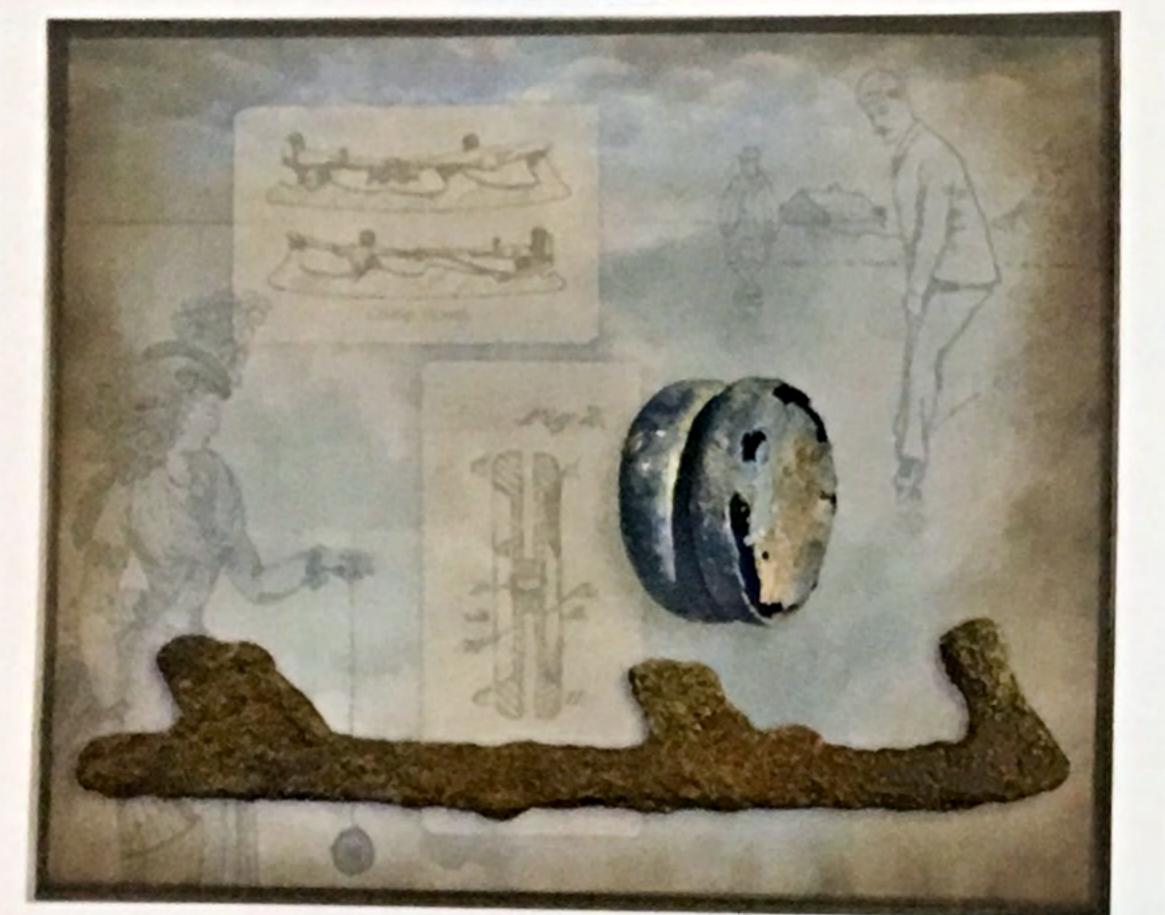






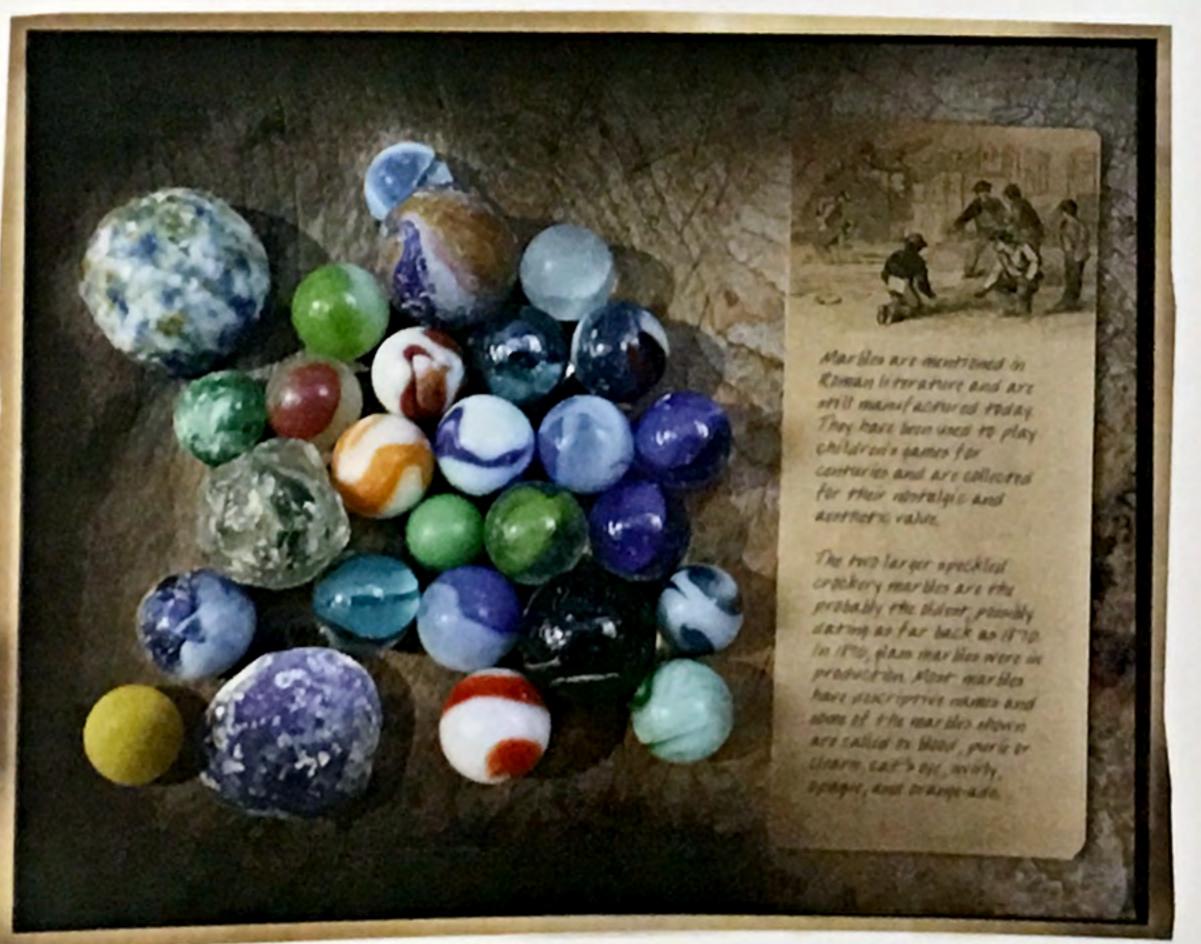














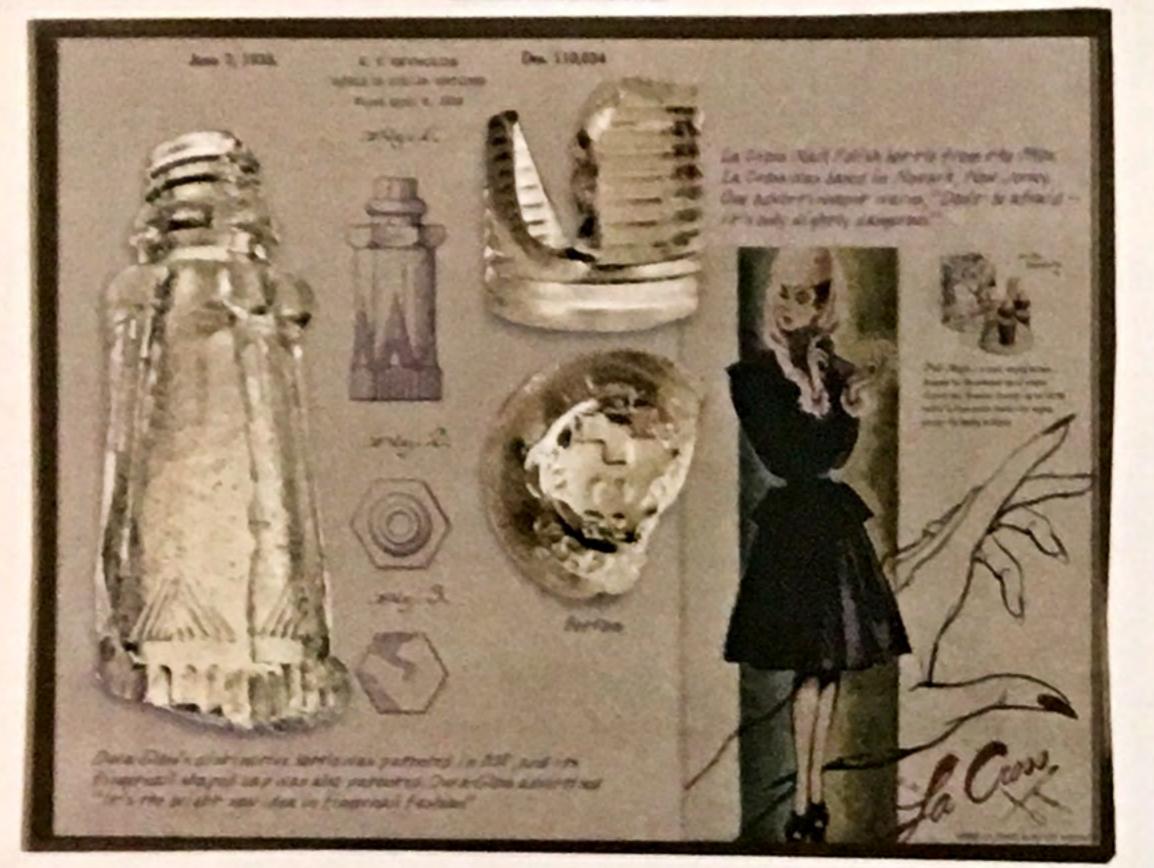
























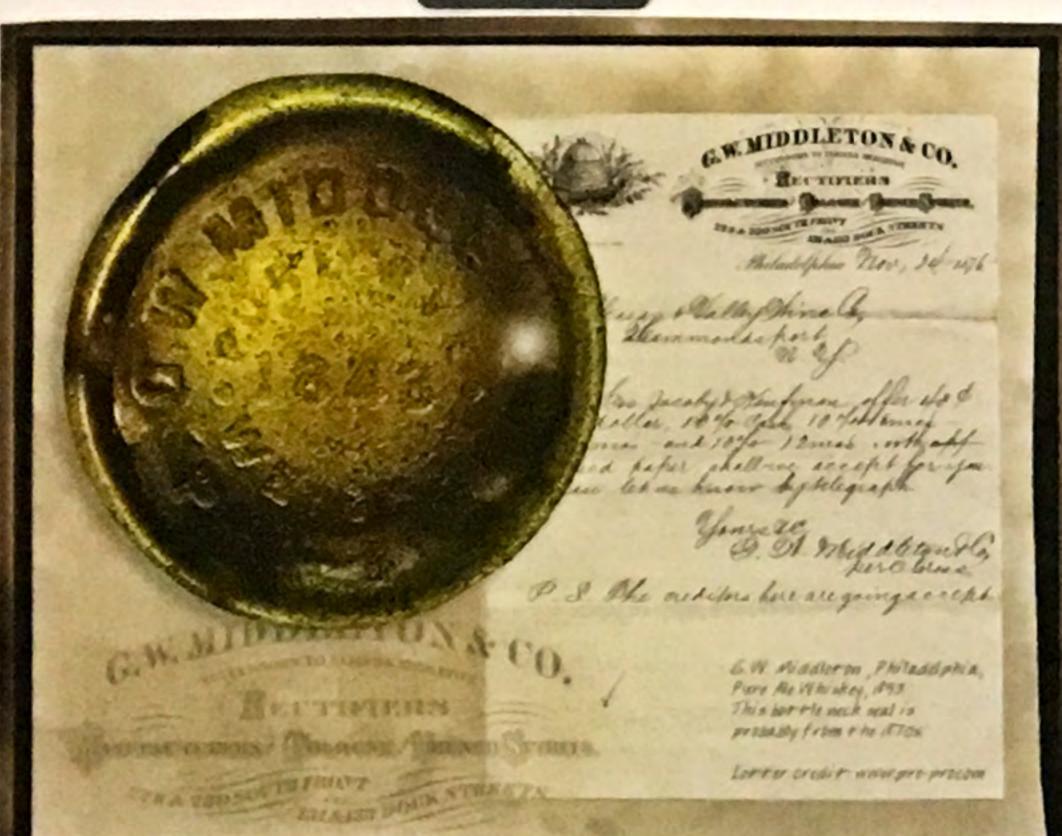




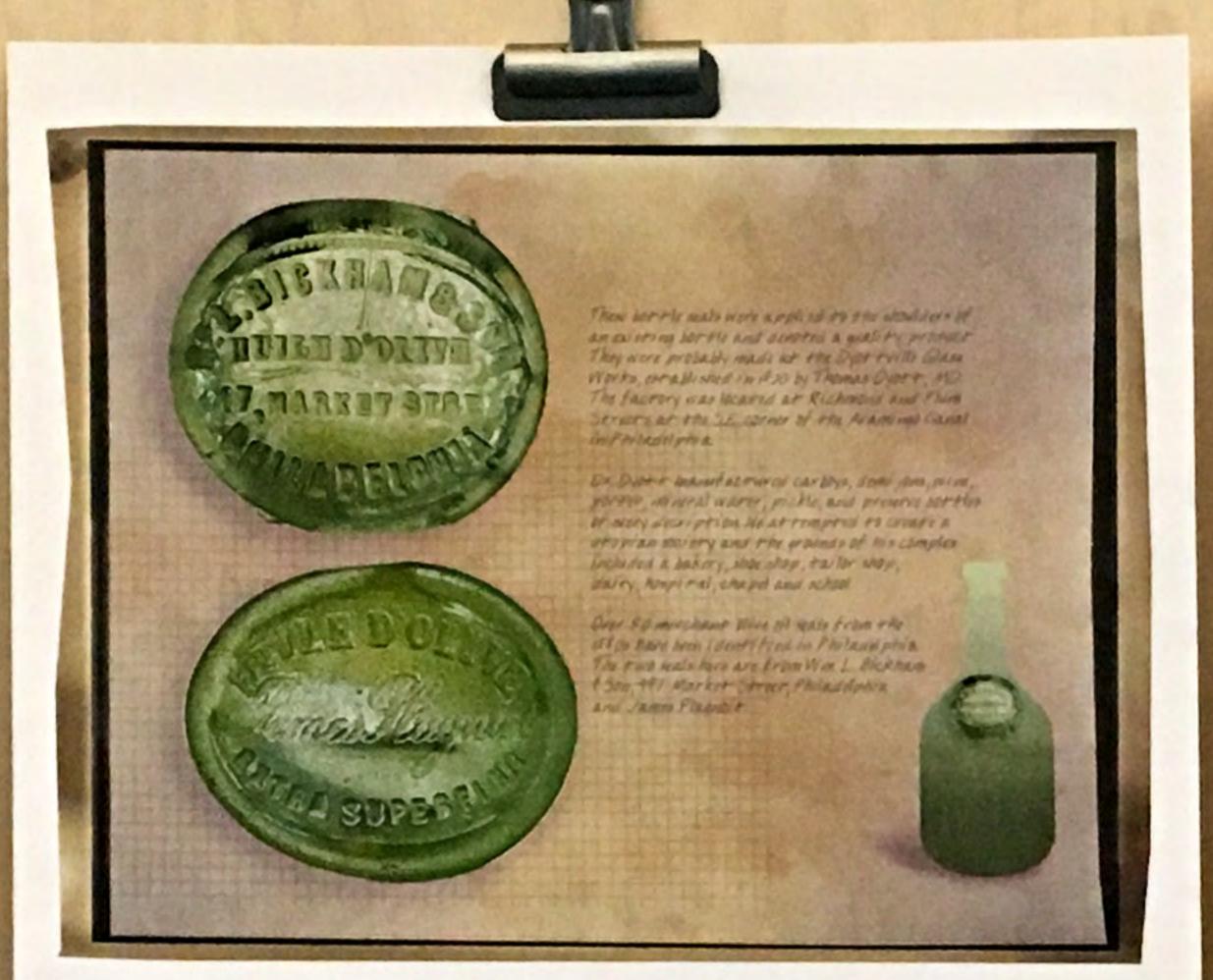








































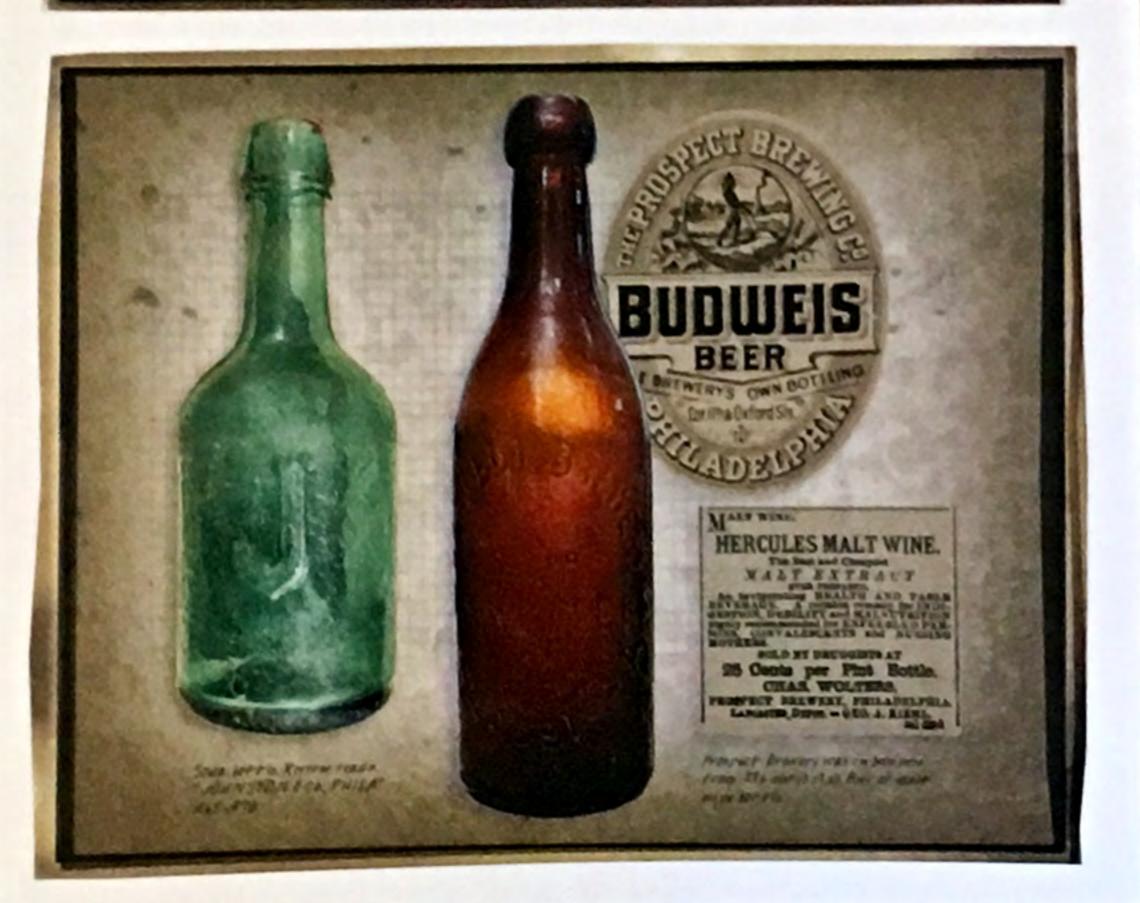


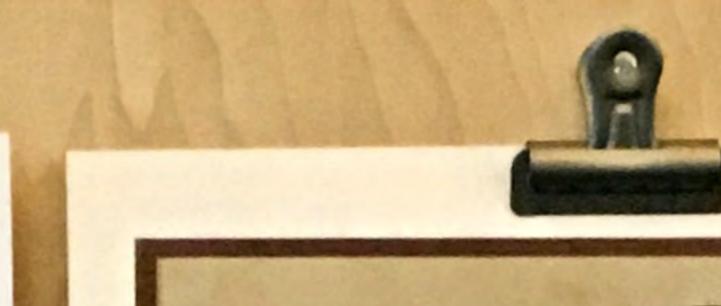






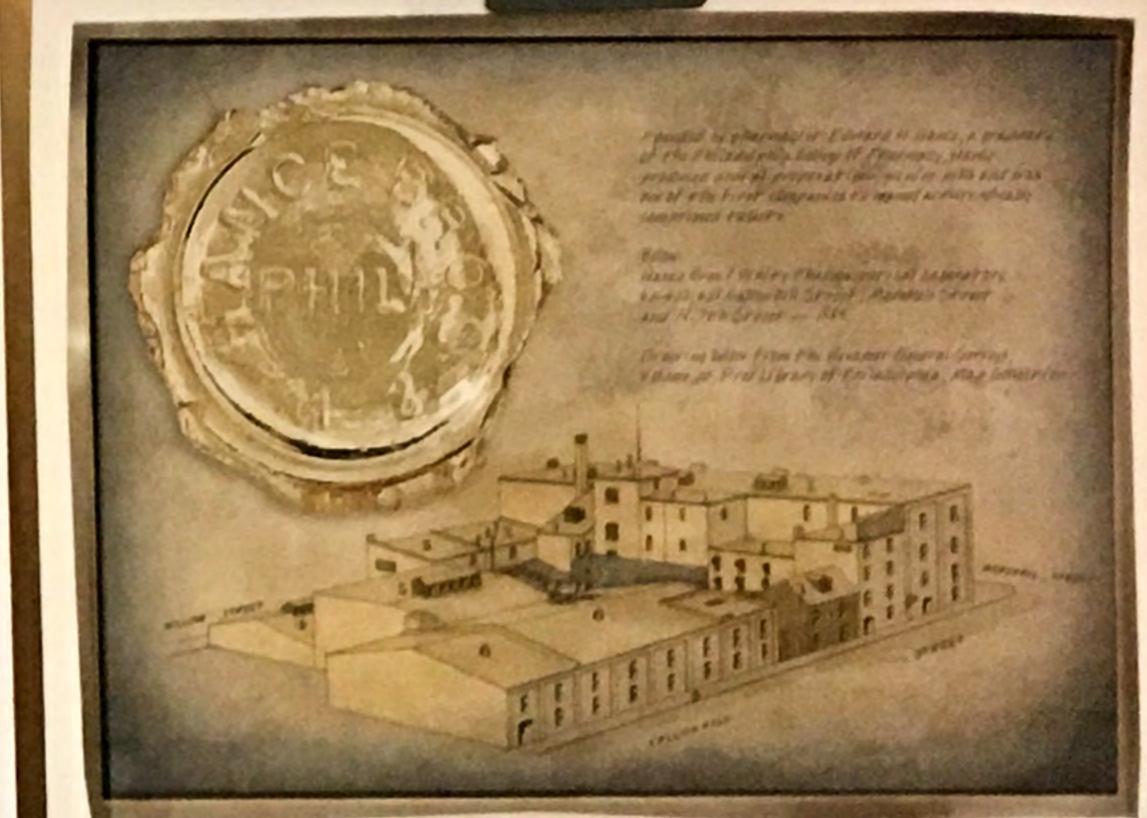
















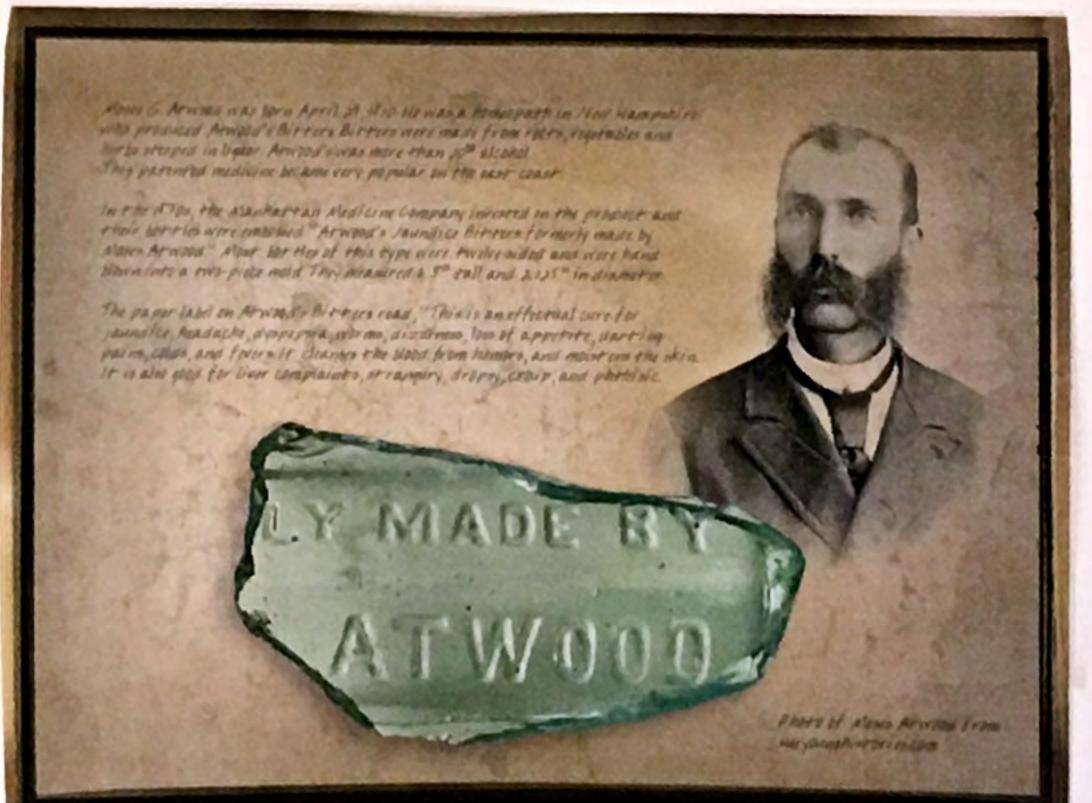
























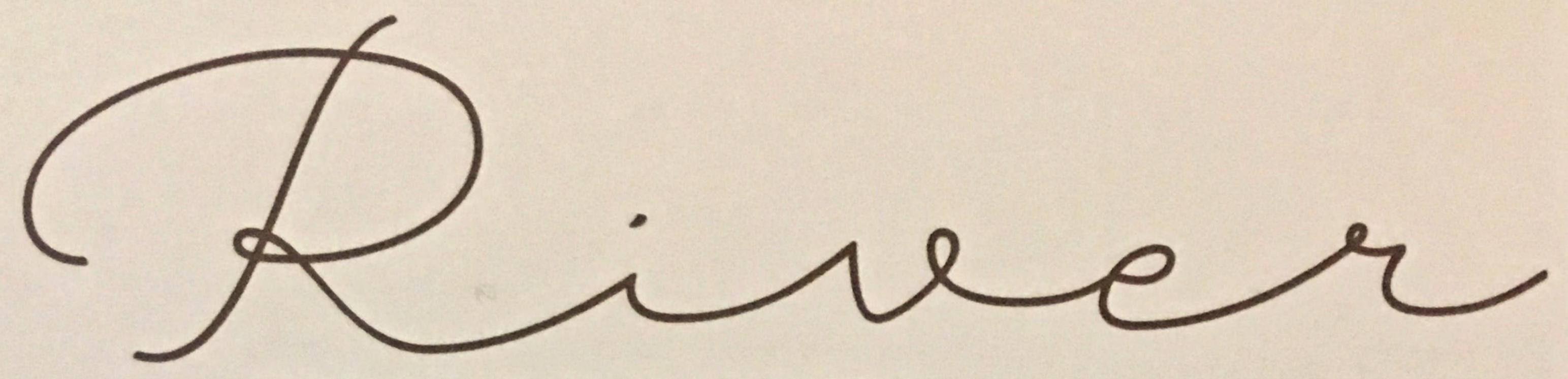












PROJECT RESOURCES

Beer Stoppers

http://www.rustycans.com/HISTORY/stoppers.html

Bottle Identification

http://www.collectorsweekly.com/bottles/overview http://www.sha.org/bottle http://www.antiquebottles.com

Bottle Seals

http://www.glswrk-auction.com/029.htm

Bottle Stoppers and Closures

http://www.rustycans.com/HISTORY/stoppers.html

Dreers

http://www.victoria-adventure.org/water_gardening/biographies/dreers/page1.html

Dyottville Glass Factory

http://www.philaplace.org/story/722/ http://www.manheim1762.org/files/Revised Dr. Dyott - 2.pdf

Mark Dion

http://www.tate.org.uk/learn/online-resources/mark-dion-tate-thames-dig

Milk Bottles

http://dairyantiques.com

Pitt Rivers Museum

http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk/index.html

Pottery Marks

http://trentonhistory.org/Made/Marks.html http://www.ceramic-link.de/icd/pages/marks/marksindex.htm

Riverton History

http://rivertonhistory.com http://www.riverton.k12.nj.us/rivertonproject/project.html

Thames Mudlarking

https://www.facebook.com/LondonMudlark http://www.thamesandfield.com/river-finds-1