



GRISWOLD & CAST IRON QUARTERLY

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Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays...

Greetings to all the Griswold & Cast Iron Cookware Association Members and family out there. Hope everyone is staying safe and getting ready for the holidays and time with family. I believe even during these unprecedented times it is still important to keep family traditions going and spend time with your family and friends over the holidays (be safe and aware of course). You just never know when you will have the opportunity to see your family and friends again and have everyone together telling stories and reminiscing about the past.

I know in our family Christmas is somewhat like a small convention. There could be some room sales and trades taking place. Someone is definitely going to get cast iron as a gift. We will have as much antique items being exchanged as new items, and it will always be a room full of love. Of course, some family members love the new items and think we are a little crazy or just odd at collecting the old stuff, or junk, as they call it.

As you think about the Christmas time and trying to find that perfect gift I believe it is always fun to find someone special that piece of cast iron that they have been looking for, or to get that new collector started with a skillet and lid to cook with. Maybe a small skillet or miniature for the grandchild, hoping to spark an interest in collecting one day, and even start the process of passing on your collection. No matter the circumstances it is still exciting to give the gift of cast iron and know it will be around and possibly used for many more decades. How many new gifts will last that long and can be a family treasure in the years to come?

Be a part of getting that next person interested in cast iron and maybe, just maybe, being a future collector. It is always great to meet someone new in the cast iron world and they tell you the story of how they got started; I never thought about collecting and I was just looking for a cast iron skillet like my mom or grandma used to cook with and I wanted to find one just like that. And the next thing I knew I had a room full of cast iron cookware, or the person just wanting a skillet to use while camping and then the bug hit. We all know the stories and it is great to be a part of the spark that got someone started in being a cast iron user and a future collector.

Then after you have an amazing holiday and Christmas with your family – then please keep the party going thru New Years Day so we can make sure and get 2020 in the rear view mirror and on to a great 2021, and on to the Erie convention in May...

As you know the convention is a great event and a highlight for me and for all the members each year getting to attend. With that, we will just have to make sure that Erie is an awesome convention and get everyone to make plans to attend in May 2021. I know I will be there, and I know Dave Lange and the Erie Convention Team has been getting ready for the awesome event and making plans to celebrate our 30th year.

- **Make plans to attend the Erie convention** - Remember the amazing time we had at the last several conventions. Let us keep it going with another great convention in Erie. With the convention being scheduled for May 2021, you have time to make plans to attend now. The convention is easily the best way to learn more about cast iron, buy and add to your collection, or sell some of the items you want to move on from, plus meet some great folks and make new contacts while there. Plus get to see Erie and where this cast iron craze originated.
- **Invite someone** - Would also like to see how many new Members we can sponsor and get to attend their first convention, and or just come back for another convention. Once you attend and get that rush of excitement, buy some treasures, and meet everyone, you will be back every year. Our club thrives when we have new Members – let us all have a goal of inviting someone new this year to the convention. Your club will be better and stronger for it.

- **Volunteer** – We always need Members to volunteer. That is what makes the club function and the world go around. Volunteer to do table topics. It is always great to see what someone brings and talks about. Volunteer to help set up, or be in the hospitality room, or the check in room, or join a committee. Let me know if you need some guidance or have a passion and we can make it happen.
- **Dues** - Send in your annual dues to Gail or pay with PayPal. It is so easy to do and the cost is minimal – plus you get to brag about being in a great club and get to keep receiving our great newsletter that the team puts together.
- **Convention registration** – please send in the convention registration right away so Dave can start planning head count and have funds to operate on. As we did this past year, if the decision is made by the club to cancel the convention, then we would refund your registration. However, we hope that the virus is behind us and the vaccine is out and readily available by this time.
- **Auction items** – Sonny will again be looking for some stellar items to auction off on Friday night. Please think about getting some items in the auction. It is always a great time and a really good way to pass on your pieces to a fellow collector. So please send Sonny your auction details.
- **Committees** – Another great way to get engaged in the club and help support the conventions. I would like us to think about how we have committees that support each convention. An example would be a committee for table topics. Each convention this committee makes the calls and works towards having the table topics organized and ready to go. By having teams work on convention tasks like this, it will reduce pressure on the hosts and help make the convention organization a larger team effort. The goal is to make it possible to have a convention in any location with minimal work for the hosts, etc. Think about joining and we will talk about more in Erie and each of the committees we will have in place, etc.

So please think about being a volunteer – today my ask is for:

- Participation – Have some fun and join the participation. You can participate by:
 - i. attending the convention (awesome)
 - ii. participate at the convention with table topics, a seminar, being a host
 - iii. participate by writing an article – I know you can do it and we want to hear from you
 - iv. Get online with social media and share your stories and pictures on the Facebook site
 - v. Help host a convention – we will need to lock down location for 2022 and 2023
 - vi. Share ideas and help us keep the momentum going

Our club is as good as our volunteers and I really do appreciate the individuals that make a great effort to volunteer their time and keep this club going strong. Thank you so much!

Take care, stay safe and see you in Erie....

My contact info is: Phone / text: 479-866-2421, evenings and weekends are best

Email / slmccarter@cox.net

Thanks Scott McCarter

DAVID LANGE STRIKES GOLD AGAIN!

On a recent buying opportunity, I bought about 30 pieces and in the mix was a piece that I have never seen before. It was Griswold cobbler's tray, completely signed, just like listed in the original Harned book. After collecting for over 30 years, it goes to show you that there are still pieces out there. With a little bit of lady luck on your side, this could happen for you as well!

Happy Hunting!



And the Countdown Continues for my Top 50 List....

In the last three plus years I have talked about my favorite pieces of cast iron/aluminum and the steps and decisions that were needed to identify that all-time favorite piece, the one I must have, would grab and secure in an emergency, dream about, and of course would never part with. I have shared the first 34 items that I have ranked in my top 50. I can only guess that will change over time, so please do not hold that against me. Plus, I hope to find some new items that will modify the list.

So, after much thought and sleepless nights thinking about this, I will reveal the next **4** items on my top 50 list. Remember, it is not about the retail value of an item, but about being a piece that I enjoy looking at and treasure. So, some items on the top 50 will not always be high priced but they will be a treasure in my eyes. Drum roll please;

#16 – The Griswold #12 small logo cast iron skillet – with an added touch of porcelain. This skillet has a light blue exterior in porcelain with a bright white porcelain interior. This must have been the Cadillac of skillets when new and being purchased. Someone said I need a little color in the kitchen and went out and bought this beautiful piece of cast iron. One seldom sees the large skillets in porcelain, and this is the first small logo #12 I have seen in porcelain.

This #12 small logo porcelain skillet was purchased from a fellow collector whom I had the opportunity to meet at one of the National Conventions. Another great reason to attend the conventions, meet some great people, and get to buy some seriously cool pieces.



#15 – Coming in at #15 is the #8 hinged skillet and lid in what I would describe as a beautiful green. I have seen this skillet and lid in the dark blue or almost black variation, but this is the first I've seen in the green. The interior is regular cast iron. It took years to put this set together, as I purchased the skillet first with hopes that the lid would show up one day. How many times have you done something similar in hopes of putting a set together?

Also purchased this skillet from a fellow collector that I meet at a National Convention and then found the lid several years later for a match made in heaven...



#14 – Coming in at #14 is this huge #12 skillet and lid in chrome. The skillet has the wood handle with the high polished sides on the outside of the skillet and the high polished interior. The lid is a full writing lid with the chrome finish.

I love the wood handle skillets in chrome – really sets off the collection and they’re one of my favorite skillets to collect.



#13 – Coming in at lucky #13 is one of my all-time favorite pieces – hard to pick a favorite but this skillet and lid rank very near the top. The lid is a #3 full writing lid with two odd variations; the first variation you will notice is it is nickel and not polished finish, and then, the second variation is the double finger loop handle. I bought this lid for the nickel variation and only when getting it home realized to my delight it had the double finger loop. To say the least, I was very stoked over the find. The lid resides on a #3 block smoke ring skillet with the same nickel variation.

I placed it beside a fellow #3 lid in polished chrome and the standard single finger loop for comparison.



I also believe when you mix in some chrome and nickel in the collection it helps add a little pop to the collection and really stands out well within the black iron.

So, you start to see the dilemma on identifying that one favorite piece. Is it possible, and how do you decide on that? Whatever your answer, and however you can get to one favorite piece, it really is about the journey, the stories, and the amazing times.

Do you have a request for a favorite Griswold piece you would like to see highlighted in the next article? Turn in your submission and I will add to the story (if I have the piece of course).

So please share your list and bring that favorite item to the Erie convention in 2021. We would love to hear the story. Or, take a few minutes and write a quick story and send to Joseph for the next newsletter article. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas, concerns, your passion to volunteer, ideas for a future article, or wanting to host a convention.

Take care and see you soon

My contact info is: Phone / text: 479-866-2421, evenings and weekends are best

Email / slmccarter@cox.net

Thanks Scott McCarter

COLLECTING LADLES, SCOOPS AND SHOVELS PART 2, SOAP AND DETERGENT SCOOPS

In the days before disposable plastic, these scoops were used to measure powdered laundry soap for both domestic and commercial use.

The name Oakite was trademarked in 1924. A box of all-purpose detergent from the 1940s is pictured. Started in New York, the corporation is now in New Jersey and produces specialty chemicals for industrial cleaning, metal finishing, food service sanitation, and paint strippers.



This next group of detergent scoops, marked with the names Soapalite, Escolite and Cowles are all interconnected.

The names begin with the Cowles Electric Smelting and Aluminum Company and the Cowles Syndicate Co. Limited of the United States and England respectively. The American operation was based in Lockport, N.Y. Both started up in the mid 1880s. The convoluted tale of Cowles' involvement in the early days of aluminum smelting is a story all by itself. Sometime around 1895, likely as a result of patent right issues with other aluminum producers, the company became The Electric Smelting and Aluminum Company, still based in Lockport, N.Y.

It is unclear when the production of detergents was added to the aluminum smelting business. Soapalite is mentioned in the 1908 Patent Gazette. In 1921, Electric Smelting and Aluminum Company of Lockport, NY had the trademark for a commercial laundry soap called Alumina Soapalite. This is based on advertisements in 1921 issues of 'The National Laundry Journal' and 'Modern Hospital'. The January 1923 issue of 'The Metal Industry' states that the company was producing Alumina Soapalite, Escolite and other detergents congruent with their aluminum smelting operations. In order to operate the detergent business more efficiently and better serve their detergent customers, a separate corporation was founded. Thus, Cowles Detergent Co. was established in Lockport, N.Y. on Jan. 1, 1923. In 1926 Cowles Detergent Co. renewed patents on Escolite, a washing compound. There is a reference to the insecticidal use Soapalite in 1939.





At the start of this series, I mentioned that one appealing thing about collecting these cast iron artifacts was their connection to American industrial history. Researching the names on these detergent scoops, even in a superficial manner, has certainly provided a glimpse back into that time.

ADDENDUM TO PART 1 OF THE COLLECTING LADLES, SCOOPS AND SHOVELS SERIES

G&CICA member Blake Ashlee Williams was kind enough to send me some photos of a wax ladle related to one pictured in my first article about ladles, scoops and shovels. The ladle I pictured had a name on the handle that was not fully legible.



The photos Blake sent reveal that the name on the handle is J PEET. The photo of the bottom of the ladle confirms it is a wax ladle and indicates Cincinnati, Ohio as its source. Unfortunately, I have not yet been able to find solid references to a J Peet in Cincinnati that can be positively linked to these ladles.



WAPAK #2 INDIAN LOGO SKILLET By: Blake Ashlee Williams

I am excited to get to share with you the find of a lifetime. We have all seen the blue book state that the Wapak Indian head set was made in sizes 2-14. The collecting community had accepted that it was a misprint, until now. About 3 months ago the #2 skillet surfaced. The gentleman that found it said he found it at a flea market in PA along with a number 3. I was apprehensive to begin with as I'm sure some others were but the size seemed to match what a #2 should be relative to a #3 and the details on it made it certain for me and the others I asked about it that it was the real deal. I am happy to be the caretaker of it for a while. How likely is it that the 13 and 14 was made also, especially since Wapak has a history of making a number 14 skillet, but no history of making a number 2 skillet. I am detailing some measurements in these photos.







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GRISWOLD MAIL BOXES by: Brad Schwarting

The [Griswold #4 Post Box](#) is first found in the 1890-91 catalog, listed as a #4 Post Box. It has no peep hole and Post Box is raised lettering on a raised slug plate. They were marked Selden & Griswold Mfg Co Erie PA on raised bosses inside the lid.



On the next variation the Selden & Griswold was removed and just the raised boss No 4 was left. On the back of the body, the top cross bar has a raised 4 in the center and three screw holes for mounting.



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The lids and flaps are held on with a riveted on clip on each side similar to the ones used on the #3 mail box but larger in size. I have found no pattern numbers on these. They were listed as 6" wide X 12" long 2 3/4" deep at \$12.00 per dozen.

In 1900-1905 the Post Box slug plate was moved up and a "smile" peep hole was added. The peep hole was part of federal regulations requiring a visible way to check for mail without opening the box.

Variations include the addition of pattern numbers. These numbers were incised on the back of the top mounting bar #354, and #355 on the lid, #356 on the flap.

About the #40 catalog dated 1910 there was the addition of a long tongue with a mounting hole in the center of the back cross bar. (Photo3, center) The body was changed to have an integral holding of the lid and flap molded into the left side top, facing it, and the riveted clip on the right side only. They were listed in the #40 catalog as coming japanned and gold, still at \$12.00 per dozen. I have a white enameled variant of this.



On the next variation, the long tongue mounting on the back became a short tongue. (Photo 3, right) The lids were marked with incised Griswold Erie, PA USA. The lids and flaps were incised or raised #355 and

#356. The slug plate with Post Box was removed, leaving just a raised Post Box on the front of the body. Finally, the lid was fully marked inside with raised lettering, Griswold Mfg. Co. Erie, Pa., U.S.A. 355, and on the outside, No 4.



In catalog #52 dated 08/1925, they were \$5.00 per dozen 4 ½ dozen bulk in a 220lb barrel. They came in non-rustable black and gold embossing. In the 8/12/33 catalog the price went to .70 each. The catalog dated 12/50 was the last catalog that the #4 Post Box was listed in. All variations of the Griswold #4 Post Box came with a slide-in tin back. As with the #3 mail box variants, different lid and flap pattern number combinations come up.

#4 Post Box time line

- >1890-91 catalog first shows up
- >1890-1900 Post Box low on front on a slug plate, no peep hole, marked Selden & Griswold under lid
- >1900-1905 Post Box slug plate moved up on front and peep hole added. Pattern numbers show up
- >1910 Long tongue mounting on back and lid/flap mounting changed
- >1930-1950 #4 on outside of lid fully marked on inside
- >1950 last appeared in catalogs

Griswold #5 Post Box

The Griswold #5 Victorian style Post Box is in the 1890-91 catalog and continues thru #45 dated 1915. It is listed as being 6 1/4" wide X 12" tall X 3" deep and \$14 per dozen in the 1890-91 catalog. In catalogs

#40 and #45 they were listed as jappaned and gold embossing for \$14.00 per dozen or antique bronze for \$18.00 per dozen. I also have have a chromed variation.

I have only seen them with incised pattern numbers. Both lid and flap being 358 or the flap 398. I have heard of them not having pattern numbers and seen them with faint almost ghosted pattern numbers. They have a slide in tin back.



#1 The first toy waffle iron is the most common it is marked 406 ,407 and 40 and has a bail handled base. It came with the zero set, which included a skillet, teapot, griddle and Dutch oven. Dates circa 1930s.



#2 This toy waffle iron is cast iron marked Griswold MFG co Erie, Pa USA on one side and patent date of 1901 on the other side. The American. It has a side-handled base with pattern number 3273. The paddles are 407, 406. The date is probably around 1910.



#3 This toy waffle iron is the same as #2 except it has no pattern number which would make it a tad earlier and the paddles are aluminum and not cast iron.



#4 This waffle iron is a rare bird and the only one known to exist. I am its third owner. It went from Chuck Wafford, to Bob and Doris Mosier and then to me. I am extremely proud to own it now. Thanks once again to Doris! It has the rare finger hinge and handled base with drip tray under the hinge assembly. It is the only one known and probably dates to late 1800's.



#5 I believe this is another one of a kind. It is an "O" Sidney Hollow Ware with bailed base. The paddles have what I call a barrel hinge, but I do not know the actual name. I bought it 20 years ago and have never seen another. It dates circa 1890s.



FACSIMILE WAFFLE IRONS

#1 These waffle irons are all only the size of a silver dollar in diameter. They are salesman samples. Pictures of 1,2 and 3 all have the same markings on the paddles. One side says Facsimile American Waffle, the other side says Griswold MFG CO Erie, Pa. The difference between # 1 piece and #2 piece is #1 has standard grid and #2 has an 1888 calendar. The difference between #1 and #3 is that #3 has aluminum paddles, which is much more rare. Dating is circa 1880's.



This last facsimile is marked no 2 on one side and Griswold on the other. It comes with other pieces in a set which includes skillet, handled griddle, bailed pot, handled pot and a tea kettle. All have a slant logo and no pattern numbers. This set is very tough to acquire. All pieces are quite rare, especially the waffle iron. They date around 1925.



Reminder of What's to Come from National Secretary, Gail Parthree

Thank you to those members who have paid their 2021 dues. **All renewals are due by December 31, 2020 (membership runs the calendar year).** Please pay as soon as you can so that I do not have to send out reminders!! For those paying through PayPal, I cancel all recurring payments made through PayPal so that all renewals come due the same time. Easy way to pay is using this link: <https://www.paypal.me/griswoldiron> If paying by check, please make payable to G&CICA and mail to Gail Parthree, G&CICA Secretary, 210 Kralltown Road, Dillsburg, PA 17019. **Memberships are as follows: Family \$30.00; Single \$25.00; Student \$10.00.**

If you have any changes or corrections to your information, please make changes on the renewal card if paying by check, or if paying by PayPal, show your changes in the note section or contact me via email gail.parthree@comcast.net

Looking forward to hearing from you.

G&CICA 2021 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 2021 Griswold 30th Anniversary Convention will be held at the Belair-Wyndham Hotel in Erie, Pa. located at 2800 West 8th Street Erie, Pa. 16510 phone number is 814-833-1116 the date for the convention is May 13th, 14th and 15th. The Hotel rate will be \$89.99 + tax this rate will be good from May 11th-May 16th . You must say GRISWOLD CONVENTION to get this rate. Cutoff date will be April 23rd, 2021 with no exceptions! The convention rate will be \$125.00 per person which includes (2) lunches and (2) dinners. Friday & Saturday. Anyone registered at hotel will receive complimentary free hot breakfast for everyday of your lodging.

This is a no frills Convention I will tie you down with the possibility of a Thursday Museum Display, also Friday and Saturday events , but you will be free to do whatever you want the rest of your stay -Beautiful Presque Isle of lake Erie just down the road from the hotel, Presque Isle downs Casino within 9.6 miles , NY side of the falls : Niagara Falls 120 miles 2hours and 15 minutes Canadian side of the falls is 120 miles 2 hours 22 minutes Bring your passports we also have Wine country. Spend your extra time doing what you want to do. We will try and have a hospitality room for you all Thursday night so you can enjoy your extra time just visiting with friends you only see once a year. The weather should be good ?? this time of the year but we can't control the winds and temperature that comes off good old Lake Erie. Hope to see you all here. We will try to make this an eventful stay for everyone as well as we can. God Bless each one of you on a safe drive here. And don't forget to pack your castiron and checkbooks

*See you all here in ERIE
David, Gary, and Nancy*

****Please find loose inserts for Convention and Auction Registrations**

G&CICA SECRETARY **STILL** NEEDED

As we all know the club's annual convention was postponed from the end of April first of May to the middle of August and then sadly canceled. By now all that had registered should have a check for your fees returned. I would personally like to thank Diane and Jeff Nicholas for all their hard work and the efforts they have put into making the convention that wasn't.

Because the convention was canceled, the club never got to elect a new secretary or treasurer. This means that next year in Erie the club will need to elect a secretary and treasurer for one year and a president and vice president for two years and a board member for two years and one for three years.

I have in the past two years asked for someone to come forward and volunteer to be secretary. Gail Parthree has been secretary for two terms of her own, was board appointed for a term and now will be sitting in for one year making her tenure seven years. She has done an excellent job as secretary but her time is up.

So this is the perfect time for someone to step forward and try their hand as secretary because they would only have to serve one year of their first term and if worked out for them a second term making three years total.

Please think about volunteering and contact myself, Gail, or any board member if you are remotely interested to find more out about the duties.

Thank you and stay safe Brad Schwarting

REGIONAL CHAPTER CONTACT UPDATE REQUEST

Your newsletter editor desperately needs a list of regional chapter officers and contacts. I am having a difficult time compiling an up-to-date list.

If you want your Chapter news, including the dates and locations of regional Chapter meetings and get-togethers to appear in this newsletter, PLEASE give me emails and/or phone numbers of the proper people to contact. I put a request on the FB page for this information, but have not received any responses.

Please contact me by email; bogwalker@frontier.com

My home phone is 919-471-3079

Thank you; Joseph Zawadowski

Dealing with cleaning and restoring large CI items such as cauldrons requires a lot of hard labor or some special labor saving set-ups. An electrolysis tank made from a 100-gallon water tank sure helps.



The big ones don't fit in the oven for seasoning either. If one saves things like old water tanks and heavy wire gates, one has stuff lying around that can be used to make an outdoor seasoning station.



Rusty, painted, covered with grease and carbon, they can be rescued and given a new life!



