

The Dean and Foster Companies

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Several glass firms – including Dean, Foster & Co., Dean, Foster & Dawley, A.M. Foster & Co.; Foster-Forbes Glass Co.; Marion Flint Glass Co.; Millgrove Glass Co.; Sheldon Glass Bottle Co.; Sheldon-Foster Glass Co.; Upland Co-Operative Glass Co.; and Upland Flint Bottle Co. – trace their ancestry back to Joseph Foster, who opened a factory in Stoddard, New Hampshire, in 1842. Foster’s sons (George, Charles, Wallace, and Joseph Jr.) built the New Granite Glass Co. at Mill Village (Stoddard) about 1860, and George went on to help found Dean, Foster & Co.

George Foster’s sons – Elmer G. Foster and Adelbert M. Foster – along with Thomas K. Sheldon and Charles L. Dean, were intertwined in a series of glass works and jobbers that specialized in medicinal and prescription containers, selling bottles that were made by Foster glass houses (and others), and non-glass druggists ware. In addition, the firm sold a more general line of containers, including milk bottles and jars. This section features the two earliest jobbers operated by Dean and Foster as well as the glass factories that supplied them. In addition, we have discovered the relationship between Dean, Foster & Co. and E.A. Buck & Co., their immediate predecessor.

Histories

As with many glass company histories, sources for Dean, Foster & Co., and their satellite, Dean, Foster & Dawley, are contradictory. However, the three main accounts – augmented by newspaper evidence – provided sufficient information to trace the history of the companies. See Table 1 at the end of the Histories section for a chronology of the Dean and Foster firms.

George W. Foster, Boston, Massachusetts (1862-1874)

According to Caniff (2007:6), George W. Foster listed himself as a “Manufacturer and Dealer” for “Druggists’ Glassware, Demijohns, wine bottles, flasks, &c.” at 14 Blackstone St., Boston in October 1869. The listing noted that the firm was “established 1862.” The A.M.

Foster & Co. 1907 catalog included the same date almost certainly setting 1862 as Foster's first year in operation. The son of Joseph Foster, founder of the first glass factory at Stoddard, New Hampshire, in 1842, George grew up in the glass industry.

The first Boston directory we have found listed Foster as “glassware, 11 Custom House street” in 1866 – possibly his first location. Despite the designation in his ad, Foster was *not* a “manufacturer” at least not of glassware. The firm was a jobber or wholesaler of bottles and flasks probably all made at that time at the New Granite Glass Works (see next paragraph) and possibly the Westford Glass Works, Ashford (Westford), Connecticut. However, Foster had moved to 14 Blackstone St. by the following year, advertising a large variety of glass containers in the 1867 directory (Figure 1). At some point, George brought his son, Elmer, into the business. George W. Foster continued in business until 1871, when E.A. Buck & Co. arrived in town. The 1870 census listed George Foster as “Glassware” and his son, Elmer G. Foster as “bookkeeper.” Elmer was 19 years old at the time.

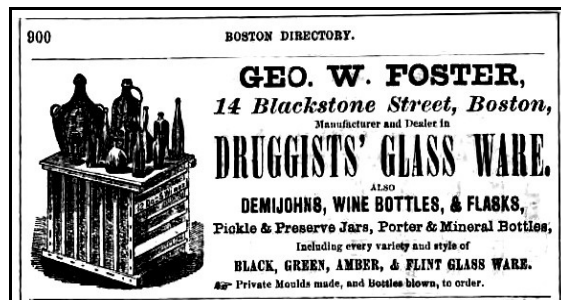


Figure 1 – George W. Foster ad (1867 Boston Directory)

This was the same George Foster who – with his brothers – opened the New Granite Glass Works at Stoddard, New Hampshire, ca. 1860. He may have created the jobber firm to vend the glassware produced at New Granite. When Foster and his brothers sold the glass house to Charles B. Barrett in late 1867, the jobber firm at Boston probably began to sell products from other factories. When the Stoddard plant burned in 1871, Foster likely sold the jobber business to E.A. Buck & Co. – possibly a merger. Both George and Elmer continued to be listed at 14 Blackstone St. during the entire tenure of E.A. Buck & Co. at that address, so they certainly were connected with Buck during that period. See the section of the Granite Glass Co. for more information on that factory.

A.E. Buck & Co., Ashford (Westford), Connecticut (1865-1874)

A.E. Buck & Co., Boston, Massachusetts (1871-1874)

The Westford Glass Co., Westford, Connecticut, incorporated on March 21, 1857, and went bankrupt on May 18, 1865 (see the Westford section of the Other W chapter for details

about that incorporation). Although the operating firm was the Westford Glass *Company*, the factory was almost certainly called the Westford Glass *Works*. During the 19th century, it was very common for a company with one name to operate a factory with another one.

In 1865, Edwin A. Buck along with Charles L. Dean, John S. Dean and others incorporated E.A. Buck & Co., an operating firm that purchased the Westford Glass Works. Two maps from 1869 show Buck at different locations. One (Historic Map Works 2025) showed E.A. Buck & Co. as the second building west of an unnamed intersection with “Glass M.f.y.” about 40 rods (ca. 500 feet) northwest of Buck (Figure 2). The factory is missing in the second map (eBay), and A.E. Buck & Co. was near the Bigelow River along another unnamed road. Buck’s home was ca. 70 rods (ca. 1,200 feet) southwest of the company with John Dean ca. 60 rods (ca. 960 feet) northeast. The map also showed the residences of some of the original stockholders and officers of the Westford Glass Co. (Figure 3).

Secondary sources (e.g., Knittle 1927) claimed that Westford closed in 1873, confirmed by the *Stafford Springs Press* (CT) of April 9, 1896. However, the *Press* (Connecticut) reported on September 3, 1896, that the Westford Glass Works “have suspended operation and gone into an assignment. . . . They have a large amount of goods unsold, and if the property sells well they may pay good dividends to their creditors.” “The term “gone into an assignment” indicates bankruptcy, although when the plant had reopened and why is a mystery.

This discrepancy requires a bit of discussion and some speculation. The 1873 date of closure fits well with all known evidence – especially the dissolution of E.A. Buck & Co. in

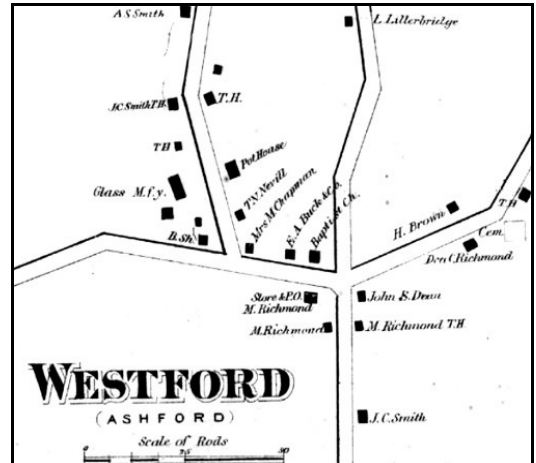


Figure 2 – Westford Map (Historic Map Works 2025)

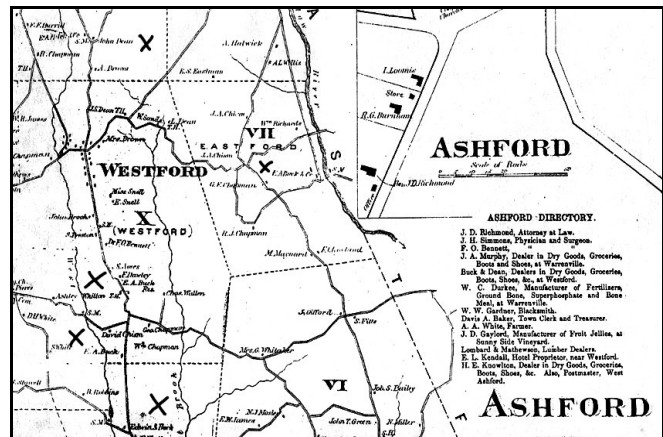


Figure 3 – Westford Map (eBay)

1874, concurrent with the beginning of Dean, Foster & Co. Especially poignant is the continuation of Charles L. Dean between the two firms. It makes sense that E.A. Buck & Co. would have disbanded shortly after the closing of the factory that the firm depended on for its goods.

To add to the confusion, an exhibition program sponsored by the Charitable Mechanic Association in 1878 claimed that “the manufactory for [Dean, Foster & Co. is] in Westford, Connecticut.” This was five years after the 1873 closure. It is possible that another operating company or individual purchased and reopened Westford Glass after its closure in 1873, although the area newspapers seem to have been very quiet about the firm.



Figure 4 – Charles L. Dean (Malden Historical Society 1910)

As noted above, E.A. Buck & Co. took over the 14 Blackstone St. address at Boston on July 17, 1871 – possibly the same year that Buck opened a similar jobber operation in New York City. Charles L. Dean and his son, John S. Dean, operated the Boston distribution warehouse and office (Figure 4). Arthur J. Dawley and Albert G. Smalley also worked for Buck.

Dean, Foster & Co., Boston, Massachusetts (1874-1909)

Sources disagree as to the founding date of Dean, Foster & Co. O’Leary and Czaplowski ([1898] 2002) suggested that company was actually established in 1877, but another early source (Ashford, Connecticut Biographies [1889] 2004) placed 1874 as the founding date. The official company history (Foster-Forbes [ca. 1966]) set the inception date at 1871, and Caniff (2007:6) claimed that the partnership began in 1872. The 1874 Boston city directory listed E.A. Buck & Co. but did not include Dean, Foster & Co. Dean, Foster & Co. first appeared in the following (1875) edition.

The *Boston Post* for October 20, 1874, settled the confusion. The copartnership of E.A. Buck & Co. “dissolved by mutual consent” on October 15, 1874, succeeded by Dean, Foster & Co., “carrying on the General Glassware Business,” on the same day. The founders of Dean, Foster & Co. were Charles L. Dean, Elmer G. Foster (son of George W.), and A.G. Smalley.

According to Leonard (1905:244), Adelbert M. Foster (Elmer's brother) joined Dean, Foster and Co. on October 14, 1874, a day before the official formation noted above. Smalley vanished after 1875, reappearing in his own glass jobber business (see the section of A.G. Smalley in the "A" Chapter for more about Smalley). A drawing in the December 1889 issue of *American Druggist* showed Smalley's new building on 8 Blackstone St. as well as a view of Dean, Foster & Co. three doors to the west – 14 Blackstone St. (Figure 5). Arthur J. Dawley joined the firm in 1876. Under the name of Dean, Foster & Dawley, he opened the branch at Chicago in 1883 (Bethman 1971:75; Connecticut Genealogy 2004-2005; Foster-Forbes [ca. 1966]; O'Leary & Czaplewski [1898] 2002). The branch reverted to the Dean, Foster & Co. name, when Dawley withdrew in 1889.



Figure 5 – Smalley & Dean, Foster buildings (*American Druggist* 1889)

Although the firm had offices in Boston and Chicago, most of the bottles were made in Connecticut during the 1870s. In announcing the winning of a bronze medal in the "glass" category in 1878, the judges noted that the exhibit had "good quality and form, and neatly gilded and decorated labels, its bottles for druggists' use deserve special commendation." The 1878 source also stated that "the manufactory for [Dean, Foster & Co. is] in Westford, Connecticut" and noted that some of its products came from the "well-known Dorflinger Glass Company, of White Mills, Penn." (Charitable Mechanic Association 1878:76).

Dean, Foster & Co. was a wholesale house for druggists' ware and ceramic jugs. The jugs, as well as the early pharmacy bottles and associated glass implements, were made by the Westford Glass Co. After Westford closed in late August or early September of 1896, the stoneware jug business at Dean Foster seems to have ceased. C. Dorflinger & Co. certainly made some of the fancy "shop furniture" for Dean, Foster & Co. In fact, Dorflinger may have built an entire factory to supply the products. The *Wayne Citizen* noted in May 1875 that "Mr. Dorflinger is erecting for some New York parties upon his property at White mills, a building . . . for the manufacture of decorative glass ware, such as druggist labels, etc." (Barbe & Reed 2003:142). This was almost certainly the factory noted in 1878.

A Dorflinger subsidiary, the Honesdale Glass Co., may have supplied more mundane druggists' bottles at some point. Opened by at least 1873, the plant made green and amber containers, including druggists' bottles (see descriptions of both companies below). The Marion Flint Glass Co., Marion, Indiana, with A.M. Foster as secretary, almost certainly picked up most of the business when it opened in 1888 and probably continued supplying Dean, Foster & Co. (Barbe & Reed 2003:44-47, 143). A Dean, Foster & Co. letterhead from 1892 included a drawing of the "Marion Factory" – an obvious reference to the Marion Flint Glass Co. as the firm's supplier (Tyson 1971:13).

In 1884, a billhead for Dean, Foster & Co. claimed the firm was "Manufacturers of Druggists' Green And Flint Glass Ware, Rubber Goods And Sundries, Demijohns, Bottles And Flasks, Lager Beer Bottles And Lightning Stoppers. Factory At Philadelphia" (quoted in Roller 1998a). The Philadelphia factory may have been the Storm Brothers, who made druggists' bottles at the West Philadelphia Glass Works (Roller 1998b). We have discovered no other Philadelphia factory from that time period that was making druggists' goods.

By at least 1892, Dean, Foster & Co. offered milk bottles. The firm wrote to Charles Yockel, a Philadelphia mold maker, ordering a quart "milk jar" with the request that the molds be sent to J.T. & A. Hamilton in Pittsburgh (Tyson 1971:13). Hamilton was a noted milk bottle manufacturer at the time and probably became the regular supplier for milk bottles for Dean, Foster customers.

The company also sold Mason jars. On March 9, 1893, the *Pottery & Glassware Reporter* reported:

Not many firms can refuse to sell goods except in car load lots alone. This, however, is the case with the fruit jars from the factories of Dean, Foster & Co., Glass Manufacturers, 120 Lake Street, Chicago. Their immense factory is at Marion, Ind., and turns out a line of jars that can always be depended upon (quoted in Roller n.d.)

The jars described were labeled "MASON / PATENT / NOV. 30TH 1880."

Bethman (1971:75) noted that the company was in business “past the turn of the century,” and Caniff (2007:6) stated that the 1909 catalog was the last known mention of the firm. The Thomas Registers (Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:103; 1907:158; 1909:200) listed the company until 1909, although the *Era Druggists Directory* continued to carry the firm until 1911. According to the *Boston Evening Transcript* of July 30, 1909, Charles L. Dean died on July 29, probably signaling the end of the firm; although it is possible that the business continued until 1911, when the Foster family bought the Upland Flint Bottle Co.

Table 1 – Chronology of Foster-Family Related Glass Operations

| Company | Dates in Business | Type of Business |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| South Stoddard Glass Works | 1850-1873 | Factory |
| Westford Glass Co. | 1857-1896 | Factory |
| New Granite Glass Works | 1860-1871 | Factory |
| George W. Foster | 1862-1874 | Jobber |
| E.A. Buck & Co. | 1865-1874 | Jobber |
| Dean, Foster & Co. | 1874-1909 | Jobber |
| Dean, Foster & Dawley | 1883-1893 | Jobber |
| Marion Flint Glass Co. | 1887-1922 | Factory |
| A.M. Foster & Co. | 1893-1928 | Jobber |
| Sheldon-Foster Glass Co. | 1894-1911 | Factory |
| Millgrove Glass Co. | 1903-1911* | Factory |
| Upland Flint Bottle Co. | 1911-1929 | Factory |
| Foster-Forbes Glass Co. | 1929-1971 | Factory |

* C.H. Modes incorporated the company in 1898, but A.M. Foster did not acquire control until 1903.

Dean, Foster & Dawley, Chicago, Illinois (1883-1889)

In 1883, Arthur J. Dawley opened a branch of Dean, Foster & Co. in Chicago under the

name of Dean, Foster & Dawley, “occupying the whole of a five-story building at 120 Lake Street in Chicago, and the other two partners [i.e., Dean & Foster] being in Boston” (O’Leary & Czaplewski [1898] 2002). When the branch opened, Adelbert M. Foster moved to Chicago. On April 14, 1885, the building was damaged by fire but not destroyed. Because of poor health, Dawley severed his connection to the company on April 1, 1889. It is likely that A.M. Foster continued to operate under the Dean, Foster & Dawley name until he purchased the Chicago business October 9, 1893, and renamed it A.M. Foster & Co. (Bethman 1971:75; O’Leary & Czaplewski [1898] 2002; von Mechow 2014). See the section on A.M. Foster for more information on that firm.

Containers and Marks

D.F.&D. (1888-1893)

According to Bethman (1991:74), Dean, Foster, and Dawley produced and distributed “many styles of prescription bottles, but one particular style of prescription bottle, the Chicago Oval, had the base markings of “D.F.&D.” The bottle design was patented on May 15, 1888, and was a very popular early prescription bottle. They continued to offer the Chicago Oval for sale until

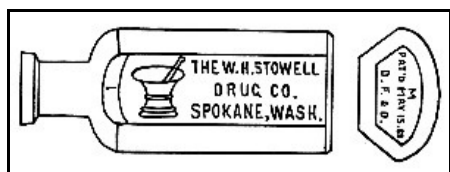


Figure 7 – D.F.&D. on Chicago Oval (Bethman 1991:762)

about 1900.” Bethman obviously included Dean, Foster & Co. as “they” because Dean, Foster & Dawley closed by at least 1893. The design was actually patented by Adelbert M. Foster, Design Patent No. 18,309, received on May 18, 1888, and continued to be listed in the

A.M. Foster 1907 catalog (Figure 6). The Chicago Oval name almost certainly derived from Foster’s location in Chicago.



Figure 6 – Chicago Oval (A.M. Foster 1907 catalog)

Bethman (1991) illustrated numerous bottles embossed with D.F.&D (Figure 7). All bottles were the same style, and all were identically embossed with “M / PAT’D MAY 15 88 / D.F.&D.” After the close of Dean, Foster & Dawley, the same style bottle was identically marked except for the substitution of D.F.&CO. (e.g., Bethman 1971:397). All D.F.&D. bottles

shown in Bethman were dated between 1888 and 1890. Examples from eBay, however, show bottles without the “M” and one marked “D.F.&D. (in a very slight arch) / PAT’D MAY 15 88 / F” (Figure 8). In all cases we have seen, the mark is read with the oval side of the bottle up. Examples in Burgraaf and Southard (1998:511, 545), Clint (1976:118), Feldhaus (1986:9, 10, 29), Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:123), Kroll (1972:62, 135, 140, 142), and Preble (2002:475, 696) all fall within or close to the date range set by Bethman.



Figure 8 – D.F.&D. M variation (eBay)

The accompanying letters likely represent the manufacturing glass houses. The “M” is an obvious indicator of the Marion Flint Glass Co., a Foster affiliate. The “F” probably indicates the Sheldon-Foster Glass Co. as suggested by Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:41). If so, the bottles were made after A.M. Foster took charge of the Chicago firm; Sheldon-Foster did not open until 1894. This suggests that the bottles with the “M” bases were the only ones made prior to 1894, but bottles with both letters could have been made after that time.

The D.F.&D. logo also appeared on beer and/or soda bottles. Mobley (2014) featured a single champagne beer bottle with an applied blob finish and the logo on the base. Hutchbook (Fowler 2014) included a single example of a Hutchinson soda or beer bottle with a basal embossing of “D.F.&D. / 21.”

D.F.&Co. – no rays (1890-at least 1901)

Toulouse (1971:160) noted the “DF&Co / M” mark but listed it as “maker unknown” and dated it “circa 1890 to 1900[;] technique.” In most cases, however, the “M” was embossed above both the mark and the patent date. As noted above, the “M” likely represented the factory at Marion, Indiana.

Bethman (1991) illustrated numerous bottles embossed with D.F.&CO. without the “rays” (see “ray” discussion below). All bottles were the same style, and all were identically embossed with “M / PAT’D MAY 15 88 / D.F.&CO.” These were the same Chicago oval that was also marked “D.F.&D.” (see D.F.&D. above). All D.F.&CO. bottles (without “rays”) shown in Bethman were dated between 1889 and 1893.

Elliott and Gould (1988:199) listed a single milk-glass ointment jar embossed on the base DF&CO1898. The jar was used ca. 1898 by the Hollister Drug Co., Honolulu, Hawaii. This is the only example we have seen embossed with a date, although the year could refer to a patent, or it could be a model or catalog code. On cylindrical bottles, the DF&CO mark may have been used until the end of the company. Ring (1980:86) listed a “DF&Co / 14” mark on the base of a Blahnik’s Celebrated Stomach Bitters bottle. Unfortunately, she provided no dates or other information. The bottle was square, however, and was unlikely to have had the “rays.”

The 1901 Dean, Foster & Co. catalog (Freeman 1964:X8 [plate]) illustrated the Chicago Oval, embossed “M / PAT MAY 1888 / D.F.&CO.” (although some of the letters in the catalog are covered by the number “22” pasted on the base – also see Figure 6). The Chicago Oval was available in 1901 in ½- to 32 ounce sizes plus 3- and 4-ounce wide mouth styles. The “no rays” variant is only found on Chicago Ovals. Miller (2008:210, 225), showed a total of four drug store bottles embossed “M / PAT MAY 1888 / D.F.&CO.” (Figure 9). He dated the bottles within a range of 1890-1893 based on local company information.

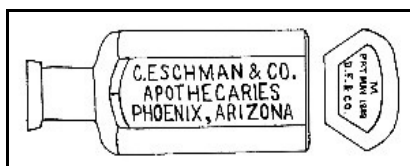


Figure 9 – D.F.&CO. on Chicago Oval (Miller 2008:225)

Although the use of the full company name was more common (see below), the firm sold at least one Huitchinson bottle embossed “D.F.&CO” on the base (Fowler 2014). Neither soda nor beer bottles appeared in the 1901 Dean, Foster & Co. catalog or the one from A.M. Foster & Co. in 1907.

D.F.&Co. – with rays (1894-1909)

This mark – D.F.&CO. with “rays” or a sunburst design – was used by Dean, Foster & Co., probably from the inception of the Sheldon-Foster factory to the end of Dean, Foster – 1894 to 1909. The rays could vary in number and shape (from at least 20-27), probably depending on the size of the bottle and the individual mold maker (Figure 10). Bethman (1991) illustrated numerous examples of the mark with “rays” and dated those between 1890 and 1898. Bethman also illustrated the same bottle embossed on the base with a “2” or “3” surrounded by rays (Figure 11), and we have found examples of those as well as rays with no numbers or initials (Figure 12). These were



Figure 10 – D.F.&CO. with rays

almost certainly also made for Dean, Foster. Miller (2008:210, 225), Pollard (1993:233-234) and Preble (2002:419, 651-652) also illustrated the mark, with date ranges within the 1880-1900 period. Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:123) dated the mark 1888 to 1900, probably echoing Bethman.

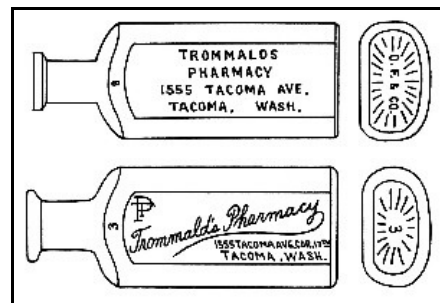


Figure 11 – D.F.&CO. or numbers with rays (Bethman 1991:817)



Figure 12 – numbers or blank with rays (Nate Briggs)

The 1901 Dean, Foster & Co. catalog (Freeman 1964:X8 [plate]) showed a base with “rays,” but the catalog makers photographed bottles for the catalog with numbers applied to the center of the bases. On bottle #20, the pasted-on number covered up all initials, only exposing the rays, but no embossing extended beyond the paper. Likely, these were the bottles with “2” or “3” noted above. The general outline of the base and form of the bottle are identical with those illustrated by Miller and others. The style was called an Eastlake Oval, and it was offered in ½- to 32-ounce sizes (Figure 13). Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:42) also noted that the initials with “lines radiating outward around them” were found on Eastlake Ovals, probably using information from the catalog.

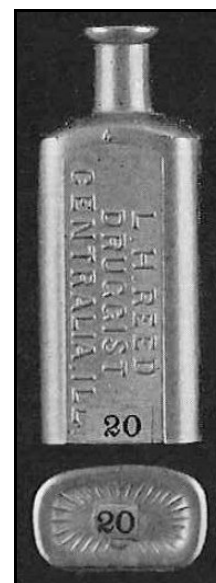


Figure 13 – Eastlake Oval (A.M. Foster 1907 catalog)

DFCO (after 1900?)

Preble (2002:596) illustrated this mark on a single drug store bottle. It is almost certainly a typographical error for DF&CO or an engraver’s error. However, at least one blob-top soda bottle offered on eBay was embossed on the base with “D.F.Co. (arch) / E (large) / BOSTON (inverted arch).” See next entry for a discussion of date range.

DF&C^o / DEPOSE

An unusual mustard bottle on eBay was embossed “DF&C^o / DEPOSE” on the front with serifs on the “D” and “F” and the underlined “o” in “Co” in superscript (Figure 14). The bottle was mouth blown into a mold and had a circular blowpipe pontil scar on the base (Figure 15).

This was unusual for a Dean, Foster & Co. bottle. Not only was the font more fancy and complex, the initials were on the front of the bottle. All other examples we have found had basal embossing. In addition, this is the only known food bottle with the “DF&Co” initials and the only one with a pontil scar. Dean, Foster & Co. organized in 1874, a bit late for pontiled bottles.



Figure 14 – DF&Co / DEPOSE (eBay)

In all likelihood, this bottle was of French origin. In context with bottles, the word “Depose” in French roughly translates to “Registered” in English. Zumwalt (1950:286) illustrated a mustard bottle embossed “Moutarde / Descaulx & Freres” [sic – Desegaulx] Based on an 1877 ad, “DF&Co” probably indicates Desegaulx Freres & Co. (Desegaulx Brothers & Co.), makers of “Moutarde Impériale” (Imperial Mustard) – no connection to Dean, Foster & Co.



Figure 15 – Pontil & finish (eBay)

DEAN FOSTER CO. (1900-1901)

Miller (1999:238) showed this mark embossed on the base of an unusual oval bottle with a non-traditional finish (Figure 16). Although marked with a circular plate from a Tucson, Arizona, drug store, this looks more like a toiletry bottle than a typical pharmacy bottle. Miller dated the bottle 1900-1902. It is possible that bottles made in 1900 and later used this mark; however, this could also be a mark used only on specialty bottles made for Dean, Foster. A final possibility is that the company dropped the ampersand (&) in 1900 and used either the name or initials. The bottle did not appear in either the 1901 Dean, Foster or 1907 A.M. Foster catalogs.

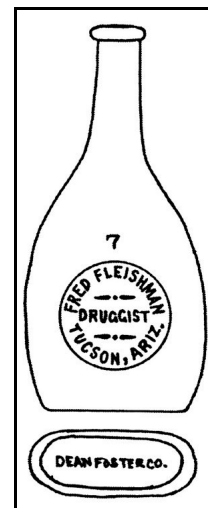


Figure 16 – DEAN FOSTER CO. (Miller 1999:238)

DEAN FOSTER & CO. (1874-early 1890s)

Lincoln (1970:86) illustrated cylindrical blob-top bottles marked on the base with “DEAN FOSTER & CO. (arch) / MADE BY (horizontal) / BOSTON (inverted arch) and noted six examples of the mark on New England bottles (Figure 17). Unfortunately, Lincoln made no attempt to



Figure 17 – DEAN FOSTER & CO. base (eBay)

date any of the bottles he presented, so the mark must be dated to the entire tenure of the company (1890-1909). Kroll (1972:108, 133) also listed two Wisconsin beer bottles marked Dean, Foster & Co. The two breweries operated from 1884 to the 1890s. Kroll (1972:3) noted that “most bottles marked with Dean, Foster & Co. are very early (1870’s–1890’s).” Pollard (1993:50, 99, 132) also illustrated bottles with the mark. An eBay example of the bottle with the mark showed a champagne soda bottle with an applied finish (Figures 18 & 19)



Figure 20 – Stoneware jug (eBay)



Figure 21 – Dean, Foster stamp (eBay)

DEAN FOSTER & CO. was also embossed on the bases of some baby bottles (Whitten 2008). The firm continued to offer nursing bottles in the 1901 and A.M. Foster 1907 catalogs, although soda and beer bottles had been discontinued by that time. The company offered Citrate of Magnesia bottles with blob tops and Lightning fasteners that are quite reminiscent of the older soda bottles (Freeman 1968:26X, 18X).

Dean, Foster & Co. also contracted out to the Westford Glass Co. for stoneware jugs. One such jug was 12" tall and had the company name and location (Boston) stamped on the shoulder. A “cobalt folate decoration” occupied the body of the jug (Prices for Antiques 2000-2007). An eBay auction presented a three-gallon jug stamped “DEAN FOSTER & CO. (slight arch) / 14 BLACKSONE ST. / BOSTON (both horizontal)” (Figures 20 & 21).



Figure 18 – Champagne soda bottle (eBay)



Figure 19 – Applied finish (eBay)

PARIS (1900-ca. 1904)

Another bottle shared by both Dean, Foster & Co. and A.M. Foster & Co. was the Paris Square Prescription – shown in both the 1901 Dean, Foster and 1907 A.M. Foster catalogs (Figure 22). These were rectangular (almost square) in cross-section and were only made for a few years – 1900 to ca. 1904. For more details, see the A.M. Foster section.

SHELDON (ca. 1890-1911)

The Sheldon Oval appeared in both the Dean, Foster & Co. 1901 catalog (Freeman 1968:X8 [plate]) and the 1907 A.M. Foster catalog (Figure 23). The base was embossed “SHELDON” in backslanted letters (Figure 24). The bottles were probably made between ca. 1890 and the end of Dean, Foster, but A.M. Foster likely continued the production until 1911. Also see the A.M. Foster and Sheldon-Foster sections.

EL&CO (ca. 1901)



Figure 24 – Sheldon base

A bottle with an EL&CO basemark was shown in the 1901 Dean, Foster & Co. catalog (Freeman 1968:10X [plate]). It is not listed in any publication we can find. The catalog calls it a “French Square” with “Homeopathic Wide Mouth” (Figure 25). The bottle was available in ½- to 8-ounce sizes and “could be lettered.” The basal initials most likely indicated a customer. The bottle was not shown in the 1907 A.M. Foster catalog. According to Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:118), the French Square was patented in 1866 by George W. Stoeckel. The patent would have been long expired by the 20th century. However, the only Stoeckel patent we could find (No. 52461) was issued on February 6, 1866, for an “Improved Graduated Bottle.” Regardless, the French Square was an early prescription bottle and would not have had any patent protection by this time.

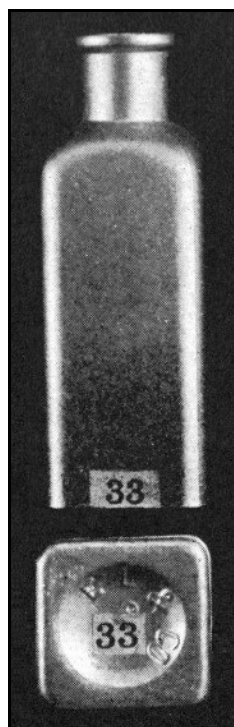


Figure 25 – EL&CO basemark (Freeman 1968:10X)



Figure 22 – Paris Square (A.M. Foster 1907 catalog)



Figure 23 – Sheldon Oval (A.M. Foster 1907 catalog)

Milk Bottles

The 1901 catalog also showed the Seal Milk Jar, using the “Thatcher Paper Disk” (as well as Lightning-style fasteners) in half-pint, pint, quart, and two-quart sizes (Freeman 1968:44X), and the same “jars” were illustrated in the A.M Foster 1907 catalog (Figure 26). Doug and Linda of the Antique Dairy Site (2014) noted that they had never seen any milk bottles with the D.F.&CO. logo or any other used by the Foster firms.

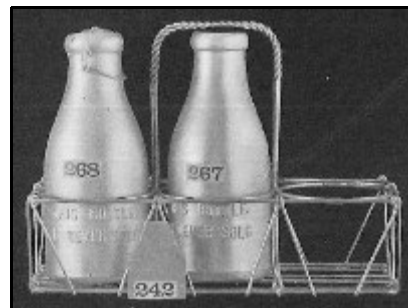


Figure 26 – Milk jars (A.M. Foster 1907 catalog)

Bottle Manufacturers

Table 2 shows a list of known and probable manufacturers of the druggists’ glassware used by Dean, Foster & Co. and A.M. Foster & Co., both jobbers or wholesalers – not glass makers. All of the drug store bottles that were actually marked with model names or marks that reflect Dean, Foster & Co. or A.M. Foster & Co. appear to have been made by the two glass factories controlled by the company: Marion Flint Glass Co. and the Sheldon-Foster Glass Co. Since Marion was the older of the two, it made the initial bottles for Dean, Foster & Co., including DF&D and the DF&Co mark without the “rays.” Thus, the DF&Co mark with no rays may have been used as early as 1888.

When Sheldon-Foster opened in 1894, it may have taken over the production of bottles for Dean, Foster. The new bottles with the DF&Co mark were surrounded by “rays” extending to the outside of the base. Bottles marked with “SFGCo” (Sheldon-Foster Glass Co.) were also made with the “rays” on the base. Some bottles were virtually identical with the ones marked “DF&Co” with rays, except that instead of the glass house initial, there was a single-digit number. These indicated the volume of the bottle in ounces and matched the number on the shoulder. It is likely that these were also made by Sheldon-Foster.

Table 2 – Probable Suppliers for Dean, Foster & Co. and A.M. Foster & Co.

| Company | Dates in Business | Dates as Suppliers |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Westford Glass Co. | 1857-1878+ | 1874-1878+ |
| Dorflinger Glass Works* | 1865-1918 | 1874-1912 |
| Storm Brothers** | 1861-1885 | ca. 1879-1885 |
| Honesdale Glass Works† | 1856-1902 | ca. 1885-1887 |
| Marion Flint Glass & Bottle Co. Marion Flint Glass Co. Marion Bottle Co. | 1887-1922 | 1887-1922 |
| J.T.&A. Hamilton | 1879-1918 | ca.1890s-ca.1911 |
| Sheldon-Foster Glass Co. | 1894-1912 | 1894-1912 |
| B.F. Leach & Co. B.F. Leach Glass Co. | 1898-1905 | 1898-1905 |
| Upland Flint Glass Co. | 1911-1929 | 1911-1928 |

* Dorflinger made fancy shop glass items for the Foster companies – not drug store bottles.

** An 1884 billhead noted that the factory for Dean, Foster & Co. was in Philadelphia. The only Philadelphia plant we could find that made prescription bottles was the Storm Brothers.

† Honesdale was an affiliate of Dorflinger and may have filled the Foster orders during the period between the Storm Brothers and the opening of the Marion Flint Glass plant.

It is likely that bottles with “SHELDON” basemarks were also made by Sheldon-Foster, and these were sold by Dean, Foster & Co. Because “SHELDON” was embossed with back-slanted letters, it is also likely that “PARIS” basemarks (also with back-slanted letters) were made by Sheldon-Foster. Thus, from its opening, it is likely that Sheldon-Foster made virtually all the bottles for Dean, Foster & Co.

When A.M. Foster & Co. opened in 1893, its main line of bottles, marked “AMF&Co,” may have been primarily made by the Marion factory, along with the “KLONDIKE” series. However, the “KELLOGG” line, with its back-slanted, capital letters, was probably made by Sheldon-Foster. Sheldon-Foster also may have made some of the bottles marked “AMF&Co”;

the mark was embossed in two styles – horizontal and in an arch. It is not possible, using current methods, to determine which glass house used which mark. See Table 3 for a list of probable relationships between the marks, manufacturers, and distributors of drug store bottles.

Table 3 – Logos on Prescription Bottles Made for Dean, Foster & Co. & A.M. Foster & Co.

| Brand | Distributor | Dates | Prob. Manufacturer |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| D.F.&D. | Dean, Foster & Co. | 1888-1893 | Marion |
| D.F.&Co. (no rays) | Dean, Foster & Co. | 1890-1901 | Marion |
| D.F.&Co. (with rays)* | Dean, Foster & Co. | 1894-1909 | Sheldon-Foster |
| SHELDON | Dean, Foster & Co. | 1894-1911 | Sheldon-Foster |
| A.M.F.&Co. | A.M. Foster & Co. | 1893-1911 | Marion |
| KLONDIKE | A.M. Foster & Co. | 1895-1900 | Marion |
| KELLOGG | A.M. Foster & Co. | 1897-1902 | Sheldon-Foster |
| PARIS | Dean, Foster & Co. | 1900-1904 | Sheldon-Foster |

* The “rays” are virtually identical to those embossed on similar bottles with “SFGCo” in the center.

Dean, Foster & Co. also bought other bottle types from different companies. The DFCo logo was embossed on the base of at least one soda bottle – note lack of ampersand. The name “DEAN FOSTER CO” – again with no ampersand – was embossed on an unusual bottle that appeared more like toiletry than pharmaceutical. The full name “DEAN FOSTER & Co” was embossed on the bases of soda bottles, baby bottles, and ceramic jugs. The jugs were made by the Westford Glass Co., Dean, Foster’s initial supplier of drug store bottles. Jug production may have continued into the 1890s. The makers of the soda, baby, and possible toiletry bottles are currently unknown. At least some milk bottles were made for the firm ca. 1892 by J.T. & A. Hamilton, although none have been found with any type of Dean, Foster marks.

Finally, the “shop furniture” and other glass and non-glass pharmaceutical items were produced mostly – possibly entirely – by Christian Dorflinger’s glass houses. Many of the non-glass items may also have been made by firms outside the purview of this study. For more

information on the Marion Flint Glass Co., the Sheldon-Foster Glass Co., and the Westford Glass Co., see the sections on those firms (Other W for Westford). Brief histories of the Dorflinger firms are presented below.

Dorflinger Glass Works, Brooklyn, New York (1852-ca. 1879)

Christian Dorflinger built the Dorflinger Glass Works at Brooklyn, New York, in 1852. The factory made tableware, lamp chimneys, and druggists' ware at one furnace with five pots, although the plant soon increased to seven pots. The company was known for its high quality flint glass. By ca. 1863, the firm's name was Dorflinger & Co. J.S. Hibbler purchased an interest ca. 1866, but the name apparently did not change. In 1879, however, the firm became Hibbler & Rauch. After a change to Hibbler & Co. in 1889, the plant was last listed in 1893 (Knittle 1927:410; McKearin & McKearin 1941:608).

Dorflinger Glass Works, White Mills, Pennsylvania (1865-ca. 1918)

Christian Dorflinger purchased land at White Mills, Pennsylvania, in May 1865 and erected his glass works there by September. The plant originally made lamps and chimneys. C. Dorflinger & Co. soon enlarged the operation opening a glass cutting shop in mid-1867 and branching out into the manufacture of fancy tableware. The plant specialized in blown ware and only used presses for making stoppers (Barbe & Reed 2003:131-138).

Dorflinger opened the "lower factory" in May 1875 to make "druggist's bottles, with gilded decoration burnt in the glass." Barbe and Reed (2003:142) quoted the *Hawley Times* that Dorflinger was

the only manufacturer of glass labels which are part of the bottle itself. . . . The old style of labels, he claims, was liable to fall off from the effects of excessive cold or heat. His labels being a part of the bottle, remedies this difficulty. Those who work for him are imported from France, England and Bohemia.

At some point, the firm also became known as the Dorflinger Glass Co., but it became C. Dorflinger & Sons in 1881, as his offspring joined the business. The firm rebuilt both factories

in 1892, following a disastrous fire on the night of May 25. The Dorflingers built a third plant in April 1902 with a 6-pot furnace. The family incorporated the company in March 1904 as a private (as opposed to public) corporation and began blowing electric light bulbs for the first time in August of 1905. The noted Charles O. Northwood joined the firm in January of 1907 (Barbe & Reed 2003:138, 146-154).

The Dorflinger plants began to have hard times during the early 1900s. Sales dropped dramatically, and parts of the plant were periodically shut down. In June 1917, another fire destroyed two buildings. The Gillinder Brothers rented the upper factory while their own plant was being rebuilt (see Franklin Flint Glass Works entry in the “Other G” section) in 1919, and part of that building burned in September. The Gillinders moved to the lower factory, occupying half of the remaining Dorflinger plant. The brothers terminated their lease on July 31, 1920, and moved their machinery to their new plant at Port Jervis (Barbe & Reed 2003:155-158).

The passing of the 18th Amendment on January 16, 1920, sounded the death knell for the Dorflingers. One of the mainstays of the factory was liquor-related articles, such as decanters, bitters bottles, mixing tumblers, high ball glasses, brandy, whiskey, and soda tumblers. The plant operated intermittently. On May 7, 1921, Dorflinger closed down for the last time, but the books remained open as the family sought a buyer for the property. The Welwood Corp. bought the property on October 30, 1925, and the era of glass at White Mills was over (Barbe & Reed 2003:157-162).

The Dorflinger Glass Works at White Mills made some items for Dean, Foster & Co. These were probably limited to the cut-glass window show globes shown in the 1901 catalog or may have extended to other items (Freeman 1964:46X). It is highly unlikely that Dorflinger made mundane drug store bottles, although the firm’s affiliate, the Honesdale Glass Co., may have handled that chore for Dean, Foster & Co. Pullin (1986:108) illustrated a single logo used on tableware and fine-cut glass. The mark had the word “DORFLINGER” in an arch above a decanter and two goblets, all surrounded by a circle (Figure 27). It is unlikely that the mark was used on druggists’ ware. Peterson (1968:14) also noted marks of “COLONIAL” and “LORRAINE” for Dorflinger, but these were both only used on cut glass.



Figure 27 – Dorflinger logo (Pullin 1986:108)

Tracyville Glass Works, Honesdale, Pennsylvania (1846-1848)

Honesdale Anthracite Glass Works, Honesdale, Pennsylvania (1849-1856)

Honesdale Glass Works, Honesdale, Pennsylvania (1856-1902)

Around November 1846, Jacob Faatz established the Tracyville Glass Works at Honesdale, Pennsylvania. The plant made wash-bowls, pitchers, flower pots, jars, lamps, candlesticks, glass milk pans, and general tableware. An out-of-control fire on June 14, 1848, destroyed the dried wood supply for the factory, a telling blow that caused the company to go out of business (Barbe & Reed 2003:35-40).

The former Jacob Faatz factory was sold at a sheriff's sale on October 3, 1849, to William H. Dimmick for \$4,800. Dimmick renamed the company the Honesdale Anthracite Glass Co. on November 1, 1849, but soon sold the plant to James M. Brookfield. From ca. 1856, the plant was known as the Honesdale Glass Works. The plant primarily made window glass, although it produced some bottles and jars in colorless, amber, and green (probably aqua) glass. This plant also made milk pans as well as lamp chimneys, rolling pins, and other glass products. The factory was destroyed by a flood in 1861 and again sold in a sheriff's auction, this time to Samuel Dimmick (Barbe & Reed 2003:40-44, 49).

Although Brookfield may have once again purchased the property, Christian Dorflinger may have been the next one to establish a glass plant on it, possibly as early as 1864. Little is known about the operation, however, until Dorflinger actually purchased the property in 1873. The plant then made green and amber glassware and druggists' ware at two furnaces, with five-pot and seven-pot capacities, respectively. By the 1880s, the factory also made demijohns, lamp chimneys, bottles, and fruit jars. The plant had problems in 1892, selling its remaining goods at local auction. By at least December 1895, however, the factory was back in fire, making beer bottles. The business failed again, placing the plant in receivership by February of 1897. A new company was formed in 1899 (Barbe & Reed 2003:44-47, 143).

The *National Glass Budget* (1897:7; 1898:7) listed it under the "Green Bottle and Hollowware" heading with 27 pots in 1897 and 1898. The plant shut down again in 1902, this time permanently. On September 5, the factory was reported as being dismantled, with the useable material transported to Dorflinger's White Mills plants (Barbe & Reed 2003:48).

Discussion and Conclusions

The DF&D mark was apparently only used on the Chicago Oval. DF&Co (without rays) was used on the same type of bottle but was also occasionally found on other container types, notably on a jar and a bitters bottle. DF&Co (with rays), however, was only embossed on bases of Eastside Ovals. Blob-top soda bottles made by the company were embossed DEAN FOSTER & CO., although at least one was marked DFCo – with no ampersand. At least one oval bottle was similarly marked DEAN FOSTER Co – again with no ampersand. These may have been engraver's errors, although they may have indicated separate manufacturers (see below).

Although "E.L.&Co" was embossed on one base in the 1901 catalog, the letters probably indicate a drug store or other customer that ordered the bottle. Similarly, a bottle marked "SHELDON" was illustrated in the catalog with no description. It was probably offered but was likely made by the Sheldon-Foster Glass Co.

A Note on Catalogs

Because the illustrations in the 1901 Dean, Foster & Co. catalog (Freeman 1964) were small and not in clear focus, we have used the identical photos from the A.M. Foster & Co. 1907 catalog.

Acknowledgments

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