

The Diamond Glass Co. of Royersford, Pennsylvania

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Although the Diamond Glass Co. of Royersford, Pennsylvania, was long-lived (1886-1990), its market area seems to have been mostly restricted to eastern Pennsylvania and the surrounding states. Its main manufacturer's mark was a diamond embossed on bottle bases – with some variation. In addition, Diamond likely used a DGCO basemark with or without the diamond logo at some point.

Histories

The Diamond Glass Co. grew out of the Penn Glass Co., a short-lived works that nonetheless formed a solid factory background for its more successful follower.

Penn Glass Co., Royersford, Pennsylvania (1884-1886)

In October of 1884, the Penn Glass Works, operated by Harbison, Bartlet & Co. “commenced the manufacture of . . . bottles and vials of all kinds” (Bean 1884:626). The *Harrisburg Telegraph* announced on September 1, 1886, that the Penn Glass Co. had incorporated that day with a capital of \$50,000. The firm almost immediately ran into trouble, closing just a month later near the end of October of the same year. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* announced on November 2, 1866, that Sheriff Stahlnecker had “levied on the personal property” of the firm and that “claims for wages, amounting to about \$2000, will be given the preference.”

Diamond Glass Co., Royersford, Pennsylvania (1886-1990)

The Diamond Glass Co. grew out of the Penn Glass Works at Royersford, when a partnership consisting of I. Merritt Schellinger, Charles Raiser, William J. Ralston, Addison A. Murray, J. Adam Frederick, John W. Hiller, Daniel D. Holcomb, J. Blackwood Hertzell, Joseph Buzby, and Jacob Stokley purchased the plant and renamed it the Diamond Glass Co. in 1886. The group acquired land at Royersford on April 19, 1888, possibly with a view of expansion. In 1889, the plant used one furnace (Ruoff 1895:192-193; Toulouse 1971:550; von Mechow 2025).

In an interview celebrating his 44th anniversary as an employee of Diamond Glass Co. on March 17, 1936, Fred I. Peterman told the *Pottstown (PA) Mercury* many details that we have not found elsewhere. Peterman began his employment on March 15, 1892, as a “boy helper” making just \$7 per week. Along with Marr Latahaw, J.K. Steinmetz, and A. Melvin, Peterman was part of the group that purchased Diamond Glass in 1920, and he served as president for 14 years. In recalling the early days, he noted that the “concern was established” on December 20, 1886, and the “first bottle was turned out” on January 17, 1887.

On August 28, 1890, the *American Pottery & Glassware Reporter* noted that Diamond Glass doubled its capacity

last year . . . and again during the summer shutdown they have built so that they are now one of the largest concerns for the manufacture of green glass bottles in Eastern Pennsylvania. This sign of prosperity is largely due to the energy of their secretary, Mr. J.M. Schellinger [actually I.M. Schellinger], coupled with the uniform good quality of the bottles they make (quoted in Roller 1997).

The *Reporter* later stated that on January 25, 1891, fire destroyed “one of the factories” of the Diamond Glass Co., but it would “be rebuilt at once, and the company will try and fill its orders with the remaining furnace.” By February of that year, however, *China, Glass & Lamps* reported that there were three furnaces in operation. By the 1890s, the company letterhead noted that the plant made soda and beer bottles, druggists’ ware, wines and flasks in green, blue, and amber colors (Tyson 1971:14). The firm survived the panic (depression) of 1893, so the business must have been stable.

China, Glass & Lamps reported on August 8, 1894, that the Diamond Glass Co. had chartered as a Pennsylvania corporation with a capital pf \$100,000. The Board of Directors – Isaac M. Schellinger, A.A. Murray, Charles Raiser, William Ralston, and John Hill – elected I.M. Shellinger as president, with Adam Frederick as vice-president, W.J. Ralston as secretary, A.A. Murray as treasurer, Charles Raiser as general

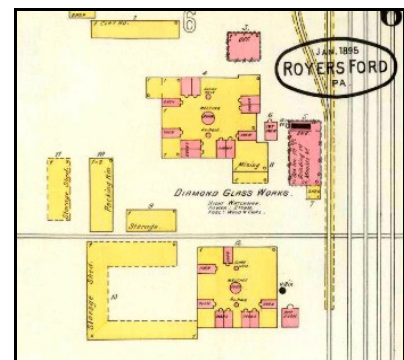


Figure 1 – Diamond Glass Co. (Sanborn map, 1895)

manager, and John Hilbert as his assistant (Roller 1997).¹ By this time, the 1895 Sanborn map showed that Diamond Glass had its own mould shop (Figure 1). In 1897, Diamond Glass operated two furnaces with 10 pots, along with one day tank with four rings (Roller 1997). The *National Glass Budget* (1897:5), however, noted that the plant was “operating one 5-pot furnace on amber, blue and colored bottles.”

In 1904, the plant made “prescription, liquor and proprietary ware and milk jars” with the same equipment. Schellinger remained as president, with Ralston and Murray in their respective positions (*American Glass Review* 1934:165). The Thomas Registers (Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:104; 1907:161, 799; 1909:202, 1101) listed the plant as making soda water, wine, bitters, druggists’, beer, and medicine bottles from 1905 to 1909 and fruit jars in the 1907-1909 period.

By 1913, the Diamond Glass Co. made “a general line [of bottles] in special colors” using two furnaces with 10 pots. (*Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* 1913:953). The identification of furnaces and pots with hand manufacture suggests that all Diamond bottles were still mouth blown by 1913. The *National Glass Budget* (1916:1) listed orders for O’Neill machines “within the last ten days” (i.e., from July 1, 1916), and the Diamond Glass Co. of Royersford was on the list. Toulouse (1971:550-551) noted that the company blew bottles by hand until 1917, when it acquired semi-automatic machines, although he probably referred to the 1916 acquisition.² At the end of 1918, the company installed “one large O’Neill machine for the manufacture of quarts and large size bottles” (*Glassworker* 1918:12). By the following year, it was completely automated (apparently with semi-automatics).

As noted above, Peterman and three others purchased the business in 1920, electing Peterman as president, a position he held until the group sold the firm in 1934. In 1922, A. Melvin sold his share to H.B. Kastle, and the plant became fully automated – machines with

¹ Peterman stated in his March 17, 1936, interview with the *Pottstown (PA) Mercury* that the firm incorporated on July 31, 1894. This may have been the date of the directors’ meeting or the application rather than the date of the charter. Peterman agreed with the other officers but maintained the J.W. Hiller was manager.

² Peterman (*Pottstown (PA) Mercury* 3/17/1936) recalled that Diamond Glass replaced one pot furnace with a continuous tank in 1912 installed its first semiautomatic machines in 1914 – but this does not fit with the other sources.

feeders – two years later (*Pottstown (PA) Mercury* 3/17/1936). The plant had four continuous tanks with 32 rings in 1923.

By 1927, the plant made “prescriptions, vials, flint, green, and amber beers and minerals, patent, proprietary, liquors, flasks, packers and preservers” by both machine and hand methods at three continuous tanks with 16 rings. The liquor listing – probably outdated, since this was during Prohibition – was dropped in 1928, and all production was by machine. Despite the early stage of the Great Depression, the company refurbished the plant, installing three continuous tanks that were larger than the former ones in 1931.³ In 1934, Frank B. Foster – apparently *not* one of the Fosters who were connected with such plants as the Granite Glass Co. or Dean, Foster & Co. – purchased all the common stock in the firm, but production was limited to seven rings. Beginning to feel the Depression, production dropped to the use of only two of the tanks in 1935 (*American Glass Review* 1927:132; 1928:133; 133; 1929:96; 1935:83; Toulouse 1971:550-551).

In 1936, the plant apparently went to all flint production, listing “flint beers and minerals, patent, proprietary, packers and preservers,” using the same equipment. In 1937, the factory produced “flint private mold work only” at one continuous tank with eight rings. Although the number of rings varied after that point, the listing was essentially unchanged through 1944 (*American Glass Review* 1936:89; 1942:99; Toulouse 1971:551). Even though Giarde (1980:35-36) included the company as a milk bottle manufacturer based on an identification by Gordon Taylor, we have only discovered a single milk bottle with a diamond basemark (see Containers and Marks below).

The firm seems to have been remarkably stable during the period from 1940 to the 1980s. We have found very little information from this period, even in Pennsylvania newspapers. On May 28, 1946, the *Chester Times* reported that the Civilian Production Administration approved the application of the Diamond Glass Co., Royersford, for \$698,000 to construct three buildings, and this certainly heralded an expansion of the plant. Diamond Glass also sponsored a basketball team – not very originally called the Basketeers – during 1947 and 1948, although there were no newspaper reports on the team before or after those years.

³ Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:99) added that the factory was destroyed by fire in 1931, but we have not confirmed that in any other sources, including newspaper searches.

The *Pottstown Mercury* named Local 18 of the Glass Bottle Blowers Assn. in connection with Diamond Glass on September 9, 1952. Although this is the first actual notice we have found for union activity, the very silence likely indicates that the firm had a union shop from the beginning – with no labor problems. Typically, union discussions in existing records centered around non-union plants.

From at least 1947 to 1971 (probably both earlier and later than that period), Diamond Glass advertised to purchase broken glass to be used as culet (glass pieces that were melted to be used in conjunction with raw materials to form a new load of molten glass for the tanks). By 1971, John H Foster (son of Frank B. Foster, who had gained control of the firm in 1934) was president, with other family members – Frank B. Foster, Jr, J.C. Foster, and F.B. Foster III serving as vice presidents (Toulouse 1971:551). Toulouse (1971:551) noted that “for quality Diamond has long been the “glassmaker’s glassmaker.”

In 1985, Diamond operated 12 IS machines, making “cosmetic containers, liquor containers, miniatures, private mold containers” at two plants, both in Royersford (Perrine 1985:18). At some point in 1985, Diamond acquired the Dorsey Corp., which had engulfed the Glass Container Corp. in 1983 – and the new firm became Diamond-Bathurst. Diamond, in turn, became a subsidiary of Anchor Hocking in 1987, and Royersford became Plant No. 9 of the Anchor Glass Container Corp. Anchor closed the plant in 1990 (*New York Times* 1988; Owens-Illinois 2001; Whitten 2025).

Containers and Marks

Although Diamond Glass may have used no mark on many of its products, it is clear that the firm’s primary logo was a simple elongated diamond with no internal letters or numbers. Diamond Glass also used a Diamond with a dot in the center, Diamonds with numbers and/or letters, DGCO in a Diamond and probably a DGCO basemark as well. The DGCO heelmark, however, likely was used by the Duquesne Glass Co. (see that section for more information). Even more controversial, von Mechow (2025) assigned basemarks of “WHS” and “WSH” to Diamond Glass Co.

Fruit Jars (ca. 1887-ca. 1900)

Creswick (1987a:227) showed a single grooved-ring wax-sealer fruit jar embossed on its base with a horizontally elongated diamond, but she gave no details about the jar, dates, or manufacturer (Figure 4).

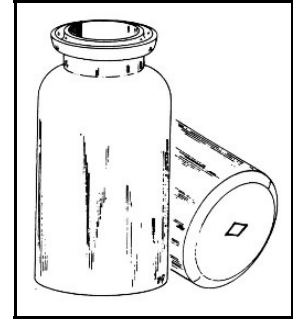


Figure 4 – Diamond wax-sealer (Creswick 1987a:227)

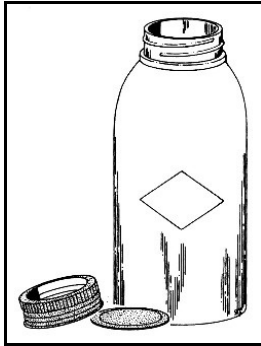


Figure 5 – Diamond jar (Creswick 1987b:42)

These jars certainly could have been made by the Diamond Glass Co. (U.S. – not Canada) during the 1887-1900 period. Creswick (1987b:42) illustrated a single “insert and screw band” jar with a horizontally elongated diamond embossed on the front (Figure 5). She identified the Diamond Glass Co., “Montreal, Quebec & elsewhere” as the manufacturer. She made no attempt to assign a date to the jar, although this second volume was about 20th century jars. The U.S. Diamond Glass Co. seems to be a more logical choice.

Soda and Beer Bottles (1887-1986)

Von Mechow (2014) reported the elongated-diamond logo on 63 beer and soda bottles. He noted cryptically that “most marked bottles date 1886 to 1890 and have smooth bases” (Figure 6). The Diamond Glass catalog on his webpage – from the ca. 1900-1905 period (ca. 1907-1910 by our reckoning) – showed a variety of beer and soda bottles (including both crown and Hutchinson finishes) and couple of liquor bottles, but no other types. The actual bottles illustrated by von Mechow had Hutchinson, blob, crown, and Baltimore Loop finishes, indicating that the Diamond logo was used on soda and beer bottles during the early period of the firm’s existence. The distribution of the bottles was limited to the area around eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, although it extended into southern New York and northern Maryland. The back page of the catalog also showed a Diamond enclosing a drawing of the plant and a much larger variety of bottles (Figure 7). As noted in the history section above, Diamond made a large selection of bottle types and styles.



Figure 6 – Diamond Logos (eBay)

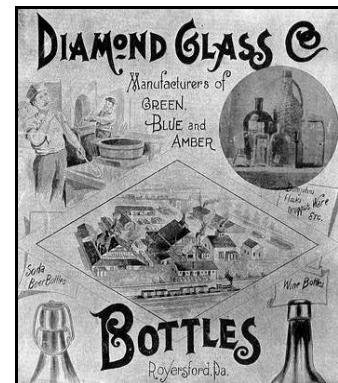


Figure 7 – Diamond Glass catalog – back page (von Mechow 2025)

Von Mechow (2025) included some interesting variations, including DGCO in a diamond, 14 in a diamond, B in a diamond, 12 in a diamond, 8 in a diamond, and a dot in a diamond (Table 1). We can add a colorless base with a machine scar and “B2” in a diamond (Figure 8). The DGCO in the diamond forms a connection with the DGCO logo discussed below. Von Mechow noted close matches between several of the bottles with these basal variations from the ca. 1900-1905 (ca. 1907-1910) Diamond catalog. This provides solid evidence that Diamond Glass used most of these variations.

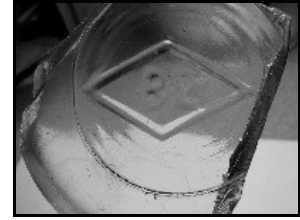


Figure 8 – Diamond B2

Table 1 – Diamond Basal Variations – after von Mechow (2025)

In Diamond	Bottle Type	Location	Number
DGCo (325 below)	champagne beer	NJ	6
DGCo	champagne beer	NJ	1
B	Hutchinson	NJ	1
14	Hutchinson	PA	2
12	Hutchinson	PA	1
12	Hutchinson	NJ	3
8	Hutchinson	PA	1
dot	champagne beer	PA	5

Whitten (2025), however, added that “some bottles may well be products of the Illinois Glass Company, Alton, IL., a firm that used a diamond mark enclosing numbers and/or letters on many types of bottles.” In some cases, the “I” inside the Illinois Glass Diamond-I logo may be very faint and can be mistaken for an empty diamond mark. Although not mentioned by Whitten, some of the Illinois Glass Co. variations used a dot in the center of the diamond (Figure 9). While most of those occurred on smaller bottles, we have seen the dot on larger containers.



Figure 9 – Left - Diamond Dot; right - Illinois Glass Dot (eBay)

There is obviously some overlap between the Diamond Glass Co. Diamond logo and the Illinois Glass Co. Diamond-I and similar marks. As noted by Whitten (also see Lockhart et al. 2005), the Illinois Glass Co. made a significant number of bottles embossed with basemarks consisting of a diamond with a two- or three-digit number, sometimes with letters. These numbers often corresponded to bottles listed in various Illinois Glass Co. catalogs, although some were for private molds (i.e., molds only used for individual customers). At this point, we have never found the Illinois Glass Co. numbered-diamond logo on soda or beer bottles. Admittedly, our sample of these bottles is limited, but it may be that the glass houses can be distinguished by bottle type. Since Diamond Glass apparently was limited in area to eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey, that should also help researchers to identify marks. In addition, machine-made bottles from the Illinois Glass Co. would also have the distinctive feathered Owens basal scar (see Figure 9).

Liquor Flasks and Bottles (1934-1964)

From 1934 to 1964, the federal government required a number assigned to each glass house that produced liquor ware along with a logo (or initials), date code, and a code for the distillery, rectifier, or importer. Diamond Glass Co. received number 18, and our sample of flask and bottle bases shows a use between at least 1936 (“6”) and 1962 (“62”) – almost certainly for the entire 1934-1964 period. All of our examples had machine scars and no hint of anything inside the diamond (Figure 10).



Figure 10 – Diamonds on flasks (eBay)

Other Bottle Types (1887-1986)

We can add diamond marks on a few other bottles. One was a Parker’s Hair Balsam bottle with a “3” to the left of the logo but with no body embossing (Figure 11). Another was on a bottle embossed “LISTERINE” on the shoulder, “LAMBERT / CHEMICAL Co.” on the heel, and “13D / {empty diamond} / 57” on the base – likely a date code for 1957. Both were machine made. An earlier mouth-blown bottle had the empty diamond basemark with “MISSIMER’S WINE OF HERBS / POTTSTOWN PA” embossed in an oval plate on the side and a tooled prescription finish (Figure 12).



Figure 11 – Diamond on Patent Medicine bottle

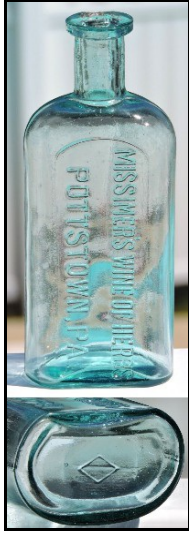


Figure 12 – Mismser’s Wine of Herbs (eBay)

Two more are oddities. One was a pint milk bottle embossed with a large R in a round plate on the shoulder with “HALF” on one side and “PINT” on the other. On the body was “BOTTLE PREPARED / AND FILLED BY (slight arches) / H. ROSENTHAL INC (arch) / 1334 / S. UNION AVE. (both horizontal) / CHICAGO, ILL. (inverted arch)” – with a diamond and an ejection scar on the base (Figure 13). The reverse had another round shoulder plate (empty of embossing) and “SEALED / THIS BOTTLE NOT SOLD / WASH AND



Figure 13 – Pint Milk (eBay)

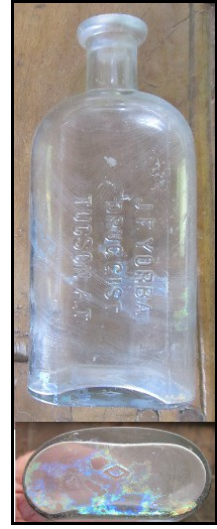


Figure 14 – Yorba Bottle (Cole Lewellen)

RETURN” on the body. The only listing we have found for

milk bottle production by Diamond Glass was in 1904, but manufacture apparently continued into the 1920s when the use of machines became common.

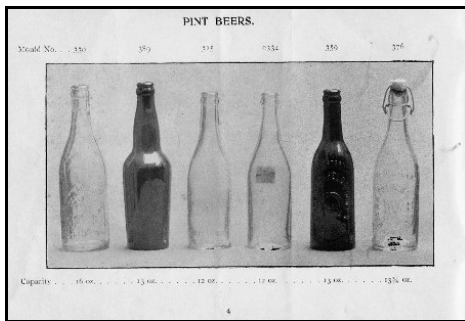


Figure 15 – Diamond Glass catalog (von Mechow 2025)

The final example was embossed “J.F. YORBA / DRUGGIST / TUCSON, A.T.” on the side and an empty diamond on the base (Figure 14). Mike Miller (1999) dated this bottle (with the empty diamond basemark) 1881-1882, four years too early to have been made by Diamond Glass.



Figure 16 – Bottle matching catalog (von Mechow 2025)

However, Yorba continued as a druggist

until at least 1886, the founding date for Diamond Glass (*Arizona Daily Star* [Tucson] 3/14/1886). This makes it possible that Diamond Glass made the bottle although still unlikely unless the druggist was in business later.

DGCO in a Diamond

As noted above, DGCO-in-a-diamond was used by the Diamond Glass Co. at Royersford as demonstrated by von Mechow (2025). Von Mechow connected examples of bottles with the

logo and identical bottles in the 1900-1905 Diamond Glass Co. catalog that he reprinted on his website (e.g., Figures 15 & 16). A discussant on the New Jersey Bottle Forum (2011) posted a 1915 Diamond Glass Co. ad that illustrated a W.A. French bottle (Figure 17). French was one of the bottlers listed by von Mechow as using the Diamond-DGCO / 325 mark. The bottle third from the left in Figure 15 bears the catalog number 325. This is the same bottle

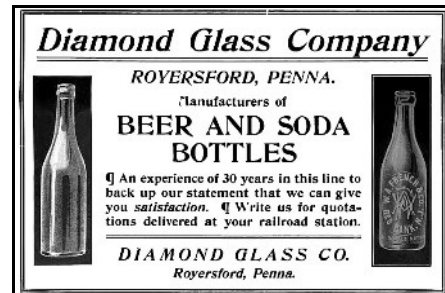


Figure 17 – 1915 Diamond Glass ad (New Jersey Bottle Forum)

shown in Figure 16 and on the right in Figure 17. This positively connects the logo with the Diamond Glass Co. Diamond Glass probably only used the mark between the mid-1890s and ca. 1915 but only on soda bottles used by a small group of bottlers within a 25-mile radius of each other along the Atlantic coast of New Jersey. All of our examples had almost identical base logos – “DGCo” in an elongated diamond in the center of the base with “325” below. However, the “DGCo” was upside down in relation to “325” (Figure 18). This was also the only example of a basemark with a lower case “o” in “Co.”



Figure 18 – Diamond DGCO 325 (eBay)

DGCO Basemarks

Von Mechow (2025), Fowler (2015), and Whitten (2025) all listed, discussed, and/or illustrated bottles that used the DGCO logo on bases and heels of bottles (heelmarks discussed below). Von Mechow suggested three different glass houses as users of the mark – none of which included the Diamond Glass Co. Fowler followed von Mechow, but Whitten included Diamond as a possibility. Soda/beer bottles with DGCO basemarks were few in number and clustered in only two areas: 1) an arc along the East Coast extending from northern Delaware to southern New York; and 2) Southern states, especially Alabama. Our discussion begins with the East Coast cluster and includes von Mechow’s hypotheses.

DGCO basemarks on East Coast Bottles

Von Mechow (2025) listed six Hutchinson bottles and one champagne beer bottle embossed “D.G.CO.” on their bases. The containers were used by bottlers in New York, New Jersey, and Delaware, and he dated them ca. 1895-ca. 1900. Our online searches agree with his opening date but extend the end to ca. 1910. The locations of the bottlers who used bottles with

the DGCO basemark followed an arc that began in central Delaware, moved to the lower Atlantic coast of New Jersey and extended north to just above New York City. In addition, we found a single amber flask embossed “D.G.CO. / C85” on the base (Figure 19). Although the location for the use of the flask is unknown, Diamond Glass certainly made flasks.



Figure 19 – DGCO flask (eBay)

Von Mechow’s Unknown Glasshouse Hypothesis

Von Mechow (2025) suggested that these logos belonged to a currently unknown glass house that probably was located in New Jersey or near New York City. We searched diligently for a glass house with the DGCo initials and found three plants that fit von Mechow’s requirements – at least for location. The Demuth Glass Mfg. Co. at Brooklyn made prescriptions, wine, preservers and was in business early from 1897 to 1936. Although the firm made “bottles,” we found nothing to indicate soda or beer bottles. The term “Mfg.” also does not quite fit the initials.

Similarly, the Douglas Glass Mfg. Co. at Cape May Courthouse in New Jersey does not quite fit the initials, but the timing – 1896-1905 – was perfect. Unfortunately, we only know that the plant produced bottles, not what type – and we could not find *any* evidence for beer or soda bottle production. Finally, the Durand Glass Co. of Vineland, New Jersey, was ideally located but apparently made mostly art glass and novelties – although the firm was listed under bottles during 1915. The plant was in business from ca. 1909 to the early 1920s (see the section on the Kimble Glass Co. for more information). Unless we discover more information on these firms or discover another one, this approach is a dead end. In conclusion, we find no reason to accept von Mechow’s hypothesis. We consider the Diamond Glass Co. a much more likely choice.

DGCO Basemark on Alabama Bottles

Von Mechow (2025) and Fowler (2015) both listed five Hutchinson bottles with DGCO basemarks that were used by two bottlers in Selma, Alabama, and identified the bottles as being made by the Dixie Glass Co. of Tallapoosa, Georgia – a firm well known for the “DIXIE” logo embossed on the bases of its bottles (see the section on Dixie Glass Co.). The two bottlers were Richard & Thalheimer and the Selma Produce Co., both of Selma, Alabama. Richard &

Thalheimer was open from at least 1904 to at least 1913, and the Selma Produce Co. was in business around the turn of the century.

Von Mechow’s argument was based on the location of the bottlers in the Deep South and the similarity in marks. Both bottlers used bottles embossed “DIXIE” or “DGCO,” and all of these were Hutchinson bottles. Dixie Glass was a definite maker of Hutchinson containers.



Figure 20 – DGCO & DIXIE (eBay)

In a closer view, Richard & Thalheimer used five Hutchinson bottles (Fowler 2015).

Four were embossed “DGCO” on the base, and one had a “DIXIE” basemark. Four of these bottles (including the DIXIE) had 10-panel heels (often called a “mug” bottom); the other (a DGCO) was cylindrical to the base. One panel-heeled bottle had a “D” below “DGCO,” and one panel-heeled “DGCO” bottle had an error – “RICHRD.” On the Hutchbook database, two DGCO and the DIXIE bottles had virtually identical descriptions. The only photos we have found – one with each mark – show virtually the same bottle (Figures 20 & 21). However, the same bottle is shown (last one on the right) on page 9 of the ca. 1900-1905 (ca. 1907-1910) Diamond Glass Co. catalog presented by von Mechow (Figure 22). It should also be noted that most glass houses that made Hutchinson bottles offered this style.



Figure 21 – Richard & Thalheimer bottles (eBay)

We have less historical data on the Selma Produce Co. bottles, but the Hutchbook database (Fowler 2015) listed four bottles for Selma Produce, each with a different logo:

DGCO (base)

DIXIE (base)

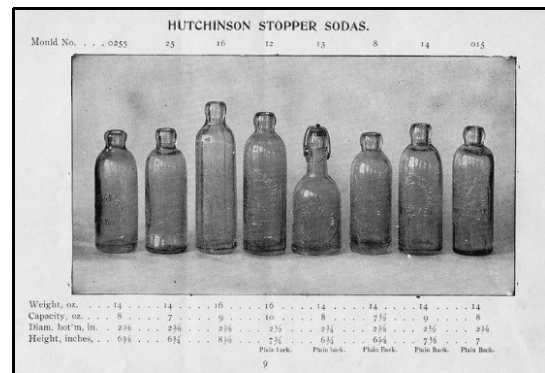


Figure 22 – Diamond 1900-1905 catalog (von Mechow 2025)

no logo

N.B.B.G.CO. (heel)

The N.B.B.G.CO. logo was used by the North Baltimore Bottle Glass Co. of North Baltimore, Ohio – a Midwest manufacturer. This brings up an important point in relying on proximity to assign producers. Many bottlers in the South purchased bottles from glass houses far to the north – most notably Pennsylvania and the Midwest. It may also be important to note that the successor to Dixie Glass – the Tallapoosa Glass Co. – was listed as making prescription, liquor, mineral water, and beer bottles. Hutchinson bottles were not typically used for any of those (most often used as soda bottles), so Tallapoosa made not have made them. If this is correct, the Selma bottlers would have had to have gone outside the South to find such bottles after 1907. See the section on the Dixie Glass Co. for a history of Tallapoosa Glass.

We consulted Bill Baab, a noted collector and researcher of Georgia bottles and glass houses. Baab said that he had not heard of any local collectors ascribing the DGCO logo to the Dixie Glass Co. Although this is more intuitive than scientific, in a personal communication, Baab stated that “my gut feeling is the D.G.Co. isn’t a Dixie mark.”

We concur. It is more likely that the two Selma bottlers purchased their containers from a Midwestern glass house – the Diamond Glass Co. It is notable that these DGCO logos are on the bases of the bottles – like the ones we had already ascribed to Diamond Glass (see above).

DGCCO Heelmark (1905-1920)

Von Mechow (2025) and Fowler (2025) both listed 18 Hutchinson bottles embossed “D.G.CO.,” usually followed by a one- to three-digit number, each on the reverse heel of the bottle (Figure 23). Even though almost all of these bottles were used in western Pennsylvania, von Mechow suggested that the Duquesne Glass Co., Paden City, West Virginia, was the user of the mark. Although not absolute, von Mechow’s argument for Duquesne Glass – along with our testing – was so compelling that we have accepted it. Open from 1905 to 1920, the Duquesne Glass Co. fit the probable time period for the use



Figure 23 – DGCO heelmark (eBay)

of the DGCO heelmark perfectly. See the section on the Duquesne Glass Co. for more information.

W.H.S. / W.S.H.

Although the W.H.S. and W.S.H. basemarks were *not* Diamond Glass Co. logos, they may have been made by Diamond Glass based on von Mechow’s logic. Von Mechow (2025) noted that W.H.S. basemarks appeared “on the base of Hutchinson bottles mainly from Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas of Pennsylvania.” He identified the initials as being on 18 bottles manufactured by the Diamond Glass Co., citing three reasons:

1. A bottle used by O’Brien & Keenan, Pottsville, Pennsylvania, had a “W.H.S.” basemark, and the ca. 1900-1905 Diamond Glass catalog illustrated an identical bottle.
2. Bottles von Mechow had discovered with the “W.H.S.” logo were found within the same distribution area already attributed to Diamond Glass.
3. Some “W.H.S.” bottles had embossed front labels with the word “AND” at an upward slant in the bottler’s name – a characteristic found on bottles made by Diamond Glass.

Von Mechow (2025) suggested that the “first user” of the “W.H.S.” basal initials was William H. Shipley on his bottles used at Frederick, Maryland. He found additional bottles with the same initials on their bases used in Eastern Pennsylvania and North Eastern New Jersey. Often, bottlers using Hutchinson bottles embossed an initial or initials on the bases because Hutchinson stoppers sealed with a leather gasket which had to be kept wet to keep from leaking. Hence, the bottles were stored in cases with the finish end down, leaving the bases exposed. An identifying mark on the base allowed a bottler to tell at a glance if all bottles in a case belonged to his firm or to a competitor. William H. Shipley fits the “W.H.S.” initials perfectly, leading to von Mechow’s naming Shipley as the “first user” of such bottles (Figure 24).

Since all of these bottles had tombstone-shaped front plates, Von Mechow’s (2025) reasoning seems to have suggested that bottles with “W.H.S.” initials that were used by other bottlers had all been made on the



Figure 24 – W.H.S. bottle (eBay)

same mold initially used by Shipley – even though the initials did not fit the name of their firms. Making mold sections was known in the glass industry as the most expensive single part of the bottle-making process, so both glass houses and customers wanted to use a mold or mold parts (like the baseplate) as long as possible. The continued use of “W.H.S.” plates on bottles for users with different initials may have been an oversight on the part of the glass house, or the glass house may have offered a financial incentive for other bottlers to use the baseplate even though the initials did not fit.

However, the only example of a Shipley bottle that we could find was embossed “W.H. SHIPLEY (arch) / FREDERICK, / MD. (both horizontal)” *not* in a tombstone plate plus “W.H.S.” on the base. *All* of the other bottles with “W.H.S.” basemarks had bottler information embossed in tombstone *plates* (Figure 25). Therefore, the remaining “W.H.S.” Hutchinson bottles could not have been made with the same mold as the original Shipley bottle. Von Mechow (2025) claimed that the Shipley bottle in his sample *had* the embossing in a tombstone plate. It is possible that there were two bottle styles, but it is more likely that von Mechow’s information came from a third party. No photo accompanied von Mechow’s description of the Shipley bottle.



Figure 25 – No plate vs. tombstone plate (eBay)

While it is likely that the “W.H.S” initials indicated William H. Shipley on the bottle, we can find no other explanation for the same initials on the bases of bottles used by other soda bottlers. If the original bottle had used a tombstone-shaped basemark, the others would make some sense, but there remains one possible explanation, although Von Mechow offered no additional information.

Throughout the history of bottle manufacture, there have been numerous errors of various types that left evidence on the completed bottle. These ranged from various forms of physical deformities to spelling errors in embossing, missing words, extra words, virtually illegible date codes, and many others. We have recorded so many of these errors that we have created a character we call “Drunken Gus” – a worker who drank on the job and created all these foul ups. In this case, Drunken Gus may have mis-sorted the baseplates so that they were used on the wrong molds – adding “W.H.S.” to bottles that should have had other initials or none at all.

Although von Mechow’s three-pointed hypothesis that Diamond Glass Co. produced the bottles with “W.H.S.” basemarks is somewhat tenuous, we can offer no better solution.

W.S.H.

Von Mechow (2025) added in his discussion of the “W.H.S.” basemark that “an alternative mold reverses the ‘H’ and ‘S’ and adds the number 15 to the base” (Figure 26). The five bottles he discovered with the “W.S.H.” initials were used by bottlers from Eastern Pennsylvania and North Eastern New Jersey. Two such firms, J. C. Boyer of Lebanon and the Hellertown Bottling Works, used bottles with both “W.H.S.” and “W.S.H.” – so von Mechow attributed the “W.S.H.” mark to Diamond Glass based on the same argument he used for “W.H.S.” (see above).



Figure 27 – Colorless (eBay)

However, two Hellertown bottles were made of colorless (flint) glass, a hue not used by Diamond Glass Co. during the Hutchinson bottle era (1880-ca. 1920). Von Mechow suggested that the Allentown Flint Bottle Co., a firm that specialized in colorless glass, produced the two bottles for Hellertown Bottling Works. Only about ten miles separated the two towns, making the glass house a logical choice. Along with glass color, these bottles were embossed “REGISTERED (arch) / HELLERTOWN / BOTTLING WORKS (horizontal) / PENNA. (inverted arch)” in a round plate (Figure 27). The bottle with “W.S.H. / 112” had a ten-sided “mug” base, but the one with “W.S.H. / 110” had the more typical round base.



Figure 26 – W.S.H. (eBay)

Allentown Flint Bottle Co., Allentown, Pennsylvania (1903-1913)

In 1901, the Standard Bottle & Glass Co. moved its plant to Allentown from Rochester, New York. When the firm fell into financial straits the following year, David E. Smith purchased the factory in the fall. By December, the plant manufactured soda, beer, whiskey, and prescription bottles as well as flasks (von Mechow 2025).

The Allentown Flint Bottle Co. received a charter from the state of Pennsylvania on January 5, 1903, with a capital of \$20,000. The factory planned to begin operations on January 5, making beer and soda bottles, flasks, and prescription ware. David E. Smith was president with R. Peter Steckle as treasurer, Arthur J. Dennis as secretary, and John Wickman as factory manager (*Allentown Leader* 1/12/1903; *Wilkes-Barre Semi-Weekly Record* 1/9/1903). The 1911 Sanborn map showed one building of the plant extending almost across Sumner Ave. (Figure 28).

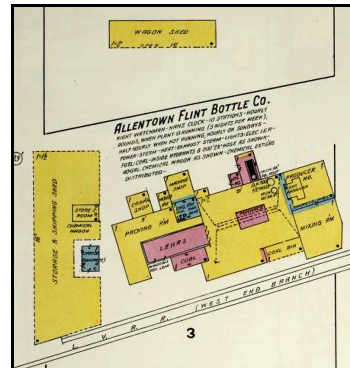


Figure 28 – Allentown Flint Bottle (Sanborn map, 1911)

The location was a poor one, with issues of obtaining sufficient water and a series of fires leading to its liquidation in late 1915 after being idle for two years (von Mechow 2025). Frank P. Lauer and Louis Rafetto purchased the operation at a trustees’ sale for \$18,650. They planned to reopen soon but apparently never did (*News of Cumberland County* 1/17/1916; *Reading Times* 12/30/1915). Fire destroyed the building in November of 1917 (von Mechow 2025). The plant was clearly open during the correct period to have made the bottles.

Although he gave no explanation, von Mechow (2025) associated the number “110” on Hutchinson bases with the Allentown Flint Bottle Co., almost certainly basing that choice on the presence of the number on the bases of the bottles with the “W.S.H.” basemarks. Indeed, our sample of bottles with “110” basecodes all had the round base (versus the “mug” base on “W.H.S. / 015” bottles) and had round plates on the front. We concur that the same glass house likely made all the Hutch bottles with “110” basemarks.

Alternative Hypotheses

Although von Mechow provided no explanation for why “S” and “H” were reversed on these bottles, William S. Huber owned the Hellertown Bottling Works from at least 1900 to 1915, when he sold the business to O.A. Heft (*American Bottler* 1915:61; U.S. Census 1900). Huber’s initials fit the basemark perfectly. Once again, however, two additional bottles were unaffiliated with Huber as far as we could find. We consider Huber a likely explanation for the “W.S.H.” initials.

The final question for this section is: When did the Diamond Glass Co. first produce colorless (flint) glass. Although we have found no definitive answer, the historic record provides strong hints. The *Phoenixville (PA) Republican* printed an interesting blurb on July 21, 1905:

The Diamond Glass Co. intend the erection of another plant [at] Royersford, to be operated in connection with their present plant. The new plant will be equipped with a flint glass tank and will be erected a hundred yards or more below their present plant. The present plant now contains two pot furnaces. An increase in trade it is said warrants the erection of the new plant.

Neither the 1902, 1909, nor 1921 Sanborn map shows such a new plant. The 1902 map showed a melting furnace in each plant with two glory holes. The same drawing appeared in 1909. By 1920, the two factories had three glass tanks (i.e., continuous tanks) (Figure 29).

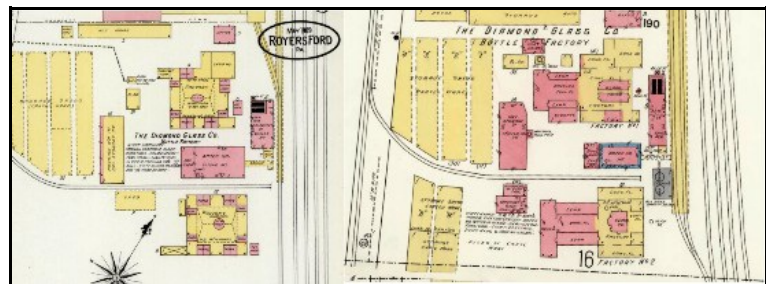


Figure 29 – Diamond Glass (Sanborn maps, 1909, 1921)

Our history section (above) indicates that the plants had two 10-pot furnaces by 1897, and each pot could contain a different color of glass. One furnace had pots for “amber, blue and colored bottles” that year. It was not until 1917 that the business acquired semi-automating machines, almost certainly including continuous tanks (as shown in the 1921 Sanborn map).

The three maps conclusively show that the proposed flint tank was never built – but, the newspaper report suggests a strong need for flint glass in 1905. This strong need could easily have been fulfilled by using several of the pots for colorless (flint) glass. Each furnace had ten pots, so it would have been easy to have colorless, amber, and blue glass at several of the pots. Von Mechow’s undated Diamond Glass catalog, for which he suggested the ca. 1900-1905 period (ca. 1907-1910 by our reckoning), did *not* include flint for beer and soda bottles, but Diamond Glass was listed as a flint glass manufacturer by the *Philadelphia Times* on November 14, 1900, so the factory *could* have made flint Hutchinson bottles any time after 1900 (or earlier). Therefore, the Hutchinson bottles with “W.S.H.” basemarks *could* have been made at Diamond Glass rather than the Allentown Flint Bottle Co. Please note that this does not eliminate the Allentown factory from consideration, but we now have two competing hypotheses.

DBH in a Diamond

When Diamond Bathurst sold to Anchor Hocking, the factory made one last run of colorless flasks in commemoration on August 12, 1987. Each flask had three crowns embossed at shoulder and heel with “DIAMOND GLASS CO. / 4-1-1885 - 4-17-1985 / DIAMOND BATHURST / 4-17-1985 - 8-12-1987 / {DBH in a Diamond} / LAST BOTTLE / PRODUCED” on the front and a large stylized crown on the reverse with an empty diamond and DBH in a Diamond in an embossed oval plus “375 ML” on the heel (Figures 30 & 31). The opening date of April 17, 1885, is incorrect. Since the original group bought the Penn Glass Co. in 1886 and renamed it Diamond Glass Co., the opening date on the flask – April 1, 1885 – may refer to Penn Glass, although Penn Glass opened in 1884. It was common for glass firms to claim the earliest date for the *factory* even though the *company* took over the plant later. Also common was claiming an incorrect first date. In this case, Diamond Bathurst may have confused the opening of the nearby Royersford Glass Co. (later to become the Newborn Glass Co.) that incorporated on March 6, 1885 (*Harrisburg Patriot-News* 3/7/1885).

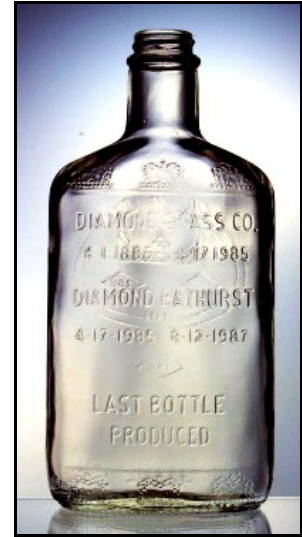


Figure 30 – Last Diamond Bathurst bottle (eBay)



Figure 31 – Reverse (eBay)



Figure 32 – DBH Sign (eBay)

Although not very clear, the base was marked with what appeared to be an empty diamond and “4 87.” However, a search for bases marked with the Diamond-DBH logo failed to find a single one. The mark appeared on several other commemorative bottle *bodies*, but the bases were embossed with the empty diamond. It is clear that Diamond Bathurst continued to use the diamond without initials. The DBH apparently was only used in ads and signs (Figure 32).

While not specifically relevant to this study, the same eBay seller offered a second flask, emerald green this time, to commemorate



Figure 33 – Last Anchor bottle (eBay)

the last glass production of Plant No. 9, Anchor Glass Container Corp. on August 24, 1990. This flask was embossed “ESTAB. CLOSED / 4-1-1889 8-24-1990 / {mirrored Gs to form an anchor logo} / LAST BOTTLE / PLANT #9 / ROYERSFORD PA.” on the front with “375 ML” on the reverse heel and the double-G (anchor logo) 22 06 / 9 90” on the base (Figure 33).

Other Diamond Marks

Diamond Fruit Jar Marks

Toulouse (1969:91-92; 1971:161), Roller (1983:102), and Creswick (1987b:42) all listed and/or illustrated two diamond marks embossed on machine-made, round fruit jars (Figure 34). Each consisted of variations of “TRADE MARK,” “DIAMOND,” “FRUIT JAR.” and, in one case, “IMPROVED” associated with a horizontally elongated diamond. The logo was actually used by the Federal Glass Co. and is discussed in more detail in that section.



Figure 34 – Trade Mark Diamond (Creswick 1987b:42)

Diamond (vertically elongated)

Peterson (1968:16) illustrated a vertically elongated diamond mark used by A.H. Heisey & Co., Newark, Ohio, beginning in 1900 on “pressed or blown glassware” (Figure 35). This was a match for Heisey’s H-in-a-diamond mark that was also used from 1900 on pressed glassware. As far as we know, the Heisey mark without the “H” was not used on bottles. See Illinois Glass Co. section for more on the Heisey Diamond-H mark.

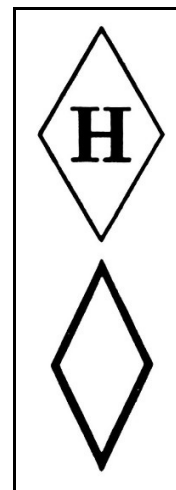


Figure 35 – Heisey Diamond marks (Peterson 1968:16)

Diamond on Insulators

A horizontal diamond – virtually identical with the one used on bottles by the Diamond Glass Co. – was embossed on glass insulators (Figure 36). Both the McDougalds (1990:154-155) and Whitten (2025) attributed these insulators to the Diamond Glass Co. of Manitoba, Canada.

Discussion and Conclusions

There seems to no question that the horizontally elongated diamond mark (unfilled) was used by the Diamond Glass Co., Royersford, Pennsylvania. An 1889 letter requested the empty diamond logo, so the mark probably was used from the beginning of the firm's glass production in 1887. Since the logo was listed as late as 1982, and Whitten (2014) illustrated a photo of a diamond heelmark with a 1986 date code, the logo was almost certainly used until the sale to Anchor Glass in 1989 – confirmed by commemorative bottles. All the early marks seem to have been on bases, and that apparently continued into at least the late 1940s. Heelmarks on Diamond Glass Co. bottles – including date codes – were probably a later format, although our sample is insufficient to provide a closer date (Figure 37). As noted in the text above, the Duquesne Glass Co. was the most likely user of the empty diamond heelmark between 1900 and 1915.



Figure 36 – Diamond insulator (eBay)

The vertically elongated diamond mark was also certainly used by the Heisey Glass Co., apparently only on tableware. Since it would be difficult or even impossible to tell whether the diamond was embossed vertically or horizontally on a base, the difference in products is important. Also see the discussion on the possible use of Heisey logos on prescription bottles in the Illinois Glass Co. section. Creswick identified the Diamond Trade Mark fruit jar logos as being made by the Federal Glass Co., Columbus, Ohio.



Figure 37 – Diamond heelmark (Whitten 2015)

Horizontally elongated diamonds were used by Diamond Glass, of course, as well as the Illinois Glass Co. and the Dominion Glass Co. of Manitoba, Canada. The Diamond-I logo of Illinois Glass is notable for the “I” in the center, and the Dominion mark had a central “D.” The only real issue centers around the diamonds with numbers or a single dot inside. As noted above, Diamond Glass seems to have used the numbered and/o lettered diamonds on soda and beer bottles, while Illinois Glass embossed the mark with numbers and/or letters on medicine and packer bottles. In addition, most (probably all) of the Illinois Glass logos were accompanied by Owens basal scars. Diamond Glass used the Diamond-Dot logo by at least 1889 but

discontinued it early. Some Illinois Glass diamonds also have a dot so tiny that it appears as an “I” – usually on smaller bottles but not always.

The user of the DGCO logo, however, has been in dispute, despite the obvious connection between Diamond Glass Co. as shown by the Diamond-DGCO logo. However, a great deal of other evidence supports the identification of the Duquesne Glass Co. as the user of the DGCO heelmark. See the section on Duquesne Glass for more information about that firm and logo. We suggest that “DGCO” basemarks – with or without diamonds – were applied by the Diamond Glass Co.

The “W.H.S.” and “W.S.H.” basemarks were almost certainly initials for the owners of the bottling concerns rather than manufacturer’s marks. Evidence points to the Diamond glass Co. as the producer of the “W.H.S.” bottles even though the initials do not match up to the bottlers in some cases. Colorless bottles marked “W.S.H.,” however, may have been made by the Allentown Flint Bottle Co., although Diamond Glass cannot be fully eliminated.

Although DBH in a diamond appeared on the sides, front, or back of bottles commemorating the close of Diamond Bathurst factories, it was never used as a basemark. The empty diamond continued in use during the Diamond Bathurst period, 1985-1987.

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