

# Dixie Glass Co.

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with contributions by Bill Baab

Located at Tallapoosa, Georgia, the Dixie Glass Co. made bottles for use by Southern firms. It was one of the few successful bottlers in the South prior to the spread of the Chattanooga Glass Co. Although its tenure was brief (1898-1907), Dixie left a rich tradition in its marked bottles. Although the Dixie Glass Bottle Mfg. Co. used a similar name in the early 1930s, the firm was unrelated to the earlier Tallapoosa company and used no logo that we could discover.

## Histories

### Dixie Glass Co., Tallapoosa, Georgia (1898-1907)

Located in Tallapoosa, Georgia, the Dixie Glass Co. was chartered as a Georgia corporation on September 10, 1898, with a capital of \$25,000.<sup>1</sup> The incorporators were E.E. Whited, J.J. Pennypacker, J.H. Williams, W.H. Meacham, H.E. Brown, G.F. Miles, John McCallister, Frank Pennypacker, William Bland, Edward H. Lang, Harry Dailey, John Lang, William Lang, W.O. Brown, Hardie Lang, William Charles, C.H. Pancoast, John Lutz, E.B. Johnson, and C.A. Norton (Figure 1). The purpose of the corporation – along with a lengthy discussion about owning, selling, or otherwise working with property – was to “erect buildings, manufacture glass bottles and all kinds of glassware and other products from raw materials” (Incorporation document).

In Witness Whereof We have hereunto set our hands this 28 <sup>th</sup> day of July, A.D. 1898.	
E. E. Whited	Harry Dailey
J. J. Pennypacker	John Lang
J. H. Williams	William Lang
W. H. Meacham	W. O. Brown
H. E. Brown	Hardie Lang
G. F. Miles	William Charles
John McCallister	C. H. Pancoast
Frank Pennypacker	John Lutz
William Bland	E. B. Johnson
Edward H. Lang	C. A. Norton
	Petitioner.

Figure 1 – Signatures of incorporators (Incorporation Document)

<sup>1</sup> The actual incorporation document stated that it was filed on July 28, 1898.

Pancoast was the president in 1899, and the firm apparently opened up in the plant formerly used by the Piedmont Glass Co. On October 22, of that year, the *Atlanta Constitution* called the firm “a co-operative effort which employs eighty hands, distributes \$1,200 a moth as wages and supports 400 people.” The plant was unable to keep up with all the orders it received. The *Boston Evening Transcript* added on March 23, 1900, that Dixie was “the sole plant of the kind in the Southern States. Among the expert workmen in the factory are artisans from foreign countries, from Switzerland, Bohemia and lands bordering the Mediterranean” (quoted in von Mechow 2015).

The plant sold flasks and bottles to the South Carolina Dispensary from 1899 to 1905 (Baab 2004b:52; 2007:32; Teal & Wallace 2005:101-102). Teal (Teal and Wallace 2005:101-102) cited a newspaper clipping stating that Dixie specialized in “beer and soda water bottles” but also made “an extensive line of prescription and liquor ware which is filling a long-felt want in the South.” The plant originally used a single furnace with 12 pots and one continuous tank with four rings (*National Glass Budget* 1898:3).

On July 2, 1902, wind from a major storm demolished Dixie’s large smoke stack. The plant expanded in December with the installation of a continuous tank. By 1903, the plant had a 5-ton day tank in addition to the 12-ton continuous tank. By this time E.P.C. Fowler was president and treasurer, with A.V. Howe as secretary and J.F. Hinckley, Sr., as superintendent (von Mechow 2015). The factory made “liquor and proprietary ware” in 1904 (*American Glass Review* 1934:173).

George W. Shepherd was the president in 1905, and the plant made some improvements and repairs the following year (von Mechow 2015). The company was not listed in the 1905 Thomas Register but appeared in the 1907-1908 edition. The firm was listed as Dixie Glass Works, making “Prescription; Beer; Soda; Wine; Brandy; Proprietary Medicine; Preservers’; [and] Packers” bottles (Thomas Publishing Co. 1907:156). On February 8, 1907, the *Atlanta Constitution* announced that the Dixie Glass Co. had been placed in involuntary bankruptcy. George M. Greeley purchased the plant for \$14,000 in mid-July 1907. Greeley incorporated the new firm as the Tallapoosa Glass Mfg. Co. (von Mechow 2015).

## **Dixie Glass Bottle Mfg. Co., Jackson, Mississippi** (before 1932-1932)

According to Haas (1970:27) the Dixie Glass Co. opened in 1930. The Dixie Glass Bottle Mfg. Co. made “bottles and containers, milk jars” by machine and hand production at one continuous tank in 1932. The following year, the plant was listed as an affiliate of the Knox Glass Bottle Co. (*American Glass Review* 1932:71; 1933:63). The plant became the Jackson factory of the Knox Glass Bottle Co. in 1932 (*Ceramic Age* 1933:119). This was not related to the Dixie Glass factory at Tallapoosa.

### **Containers and Marks**

#### **DIXIE** (1898-1907)

According to Huggins (1997:11), “‘DIXIE’ is a relatively uncommon glassmaker mark, especially the variation in which a *V* occurs below the primary mark. The name would suggest that this glassmaking company was in the South but research has not yet established its location.” Teal (Teal and Wallace 2005:101, 149) noted that the “Dixie”<sup>2</sup> mark was embossed on the bases of flasks and bottles for the South Carolina Dispensary from 1899 to 1905.

Bill Baab (personal correspondence) noted: “I have Augusta Brewing Company Hutchinsons and crown tops with the DIXIE imprint. There’s also a Koca Nola with the imprint, plus miscellaneous and unembossed utility bottles.” Baab (2004a) added that there is an “E.P.C. Fowler Hutchinson from Tallapoosa . . . . Fowler was an officer in the Dixie Glass Works of Tallapoosa, which manufactured the bottle. It has DIXIE embossed on the base.”

The mark may have only originated as a requirement of the South Carolina Dispensary. According to Teal (Teal and Wallace 2005:130):

The requirement for a glass house supplying bottles to the [South Carolina] Dispensary to have their initials blown into their bottles was a quality control measure that resulted from having more formal and specific bids and contracts.

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<sup>2</sup> The mark was probably always in upper-case letters – DIXIE.

All of the glass house contracts from 1897 forward in the Dispensary records at the State Archives carry this provision.

We have observed the mark on two bottles, one a solarized-amethyst panel bottle embossed “RAMON’S PEPSIN / CHILL TONIC / MADE BY BROWN MFG. CO.” on the front panel, with “GREENVILLE, TENN” on the left side panel and “NEW YORK, N.Y.” on the right (Figure 2). The base was embossed “DIXIE” (Figure 3). The second bottle was sent to us by Bill Baab. It is an aqua Hutchinson soda bottle from the Augusta Brewing Co., Augusta, Georgia, embossed with an identical “DIXIE” on the base. The “DIXIE” logo in both cases was embossed



Figure 2 – Ramon’s Pepsi Chili Tonic



Figure 3 – Dixie on Ramon’s base

horizontally across to center of the base in block capital letters with no serifs. Both bottles were mouth blown with tooled finishes. The Hutchinson logo also has a “double-stamp” that is offset from the embossed logo. A straight-sided Coca-Cola bottle also had a “DIXIE” basemark with a double-stamp (Figures 4 & 5).



Figure 5 – Dixie on Coke base (AntiqueBottles.net)

The 1922-1923 Obear-Nester catalog illustrated a Dixie Oval prescription bottle which it described as “a splendid bottle.” However, the drawing did not show any markings on the base (such markings *were* illustrated on the only known bottles to bear specific style names – Rex and AseptiC – so it is probably unrelated to those described above.



Figure 4 – Coca-Cola bottle (Antique Bottles.net)

Hutchbook (Fowler 2015) listed 81 Hutchinson bottles that Fowler attributed to the Dixie Glass Co. Of these, 77 had “DIXIE” embossed on their bases. The containers were used by bottlers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee – although the vast majority were from the first three states.

## **D.G.Co.**

Von Mechow (2014) noted that the “D.G.Co.” logo was used by the Dixie Glass Co. He listed 14 bottles from the Dixie Glass Co., only four of which – all Hutchinson bottles – were embossed “D.G.Co.” Fowler (2014) also listed four Hutchinson bottles embossed “D.G.Co.” on the base (one “D.G.Co. / D) that were used by Richard & Thalheimer or the Selma Produce Co., both of Selma, Alabama. He attributed the logo to the Dixie Glass Co. These included the same bottles noted by von Mechow.

Alternatively, these two bottlers may have taken advantage of a sale by the Diamond Glass Co. – a Pennsylvania glass house that used the D.G.Co logo – to order bottles. The two Selma firms may also have ordered their bottles after Dixie ceased operations in 1907 – possibly even during the period after Dixie closed and before the Tallapoosa Glass Co. opened. Bill Baab (personal communication) – a noted Georgia collector and researcher – stated that he did not believe that D.G.Co. was a Dixie logo.

## **Discussion and Conclusions**

There seems to be little doubt that DIXIE was the mark of the Dixie Glass Works. The company was open from 1898-1907, and the known bottles with the DIXIE mark display manufacturing characteristics (e.g., solarized amethyst color and “ghost” logos) consistent with that period. The use of the D.G.Co. mark by Dixie is controversial. While we grant the possibility that Dixie used the logo, we feel that the few bottles with that mark used by Southern bottlers indicate a purchase from the Diamond Glass Co.

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