

## Du Bois Glass Co.

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with Contributions by Al Morin

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Growing out of three other briefly functioning glass houses, the Du Bois Glass Co. was short-lived, with a tenure of only four years. The company only produced milk bottles, and we have found no mention of other dairy containers. The factory used a single manufacturer's mark and the Massachusetts Seal.

### History

**Fitzpatrick Glass Co., Falls Creek, Pennsylvania** (1900-1908)

**Crystal Window Glass Co., Falls Creek, Pennsylvania** (1908-1911)

**New York Glass Co., Falls Creek, Pennsylvania** (1913-1914)

The Fitzpatrick Glass Co. opened at Falls Creek, Pennsylvania,<sup>1</sup> in 1900, making window glass by the cylinder method. J.J. Fitzpatrick was the president and treasurer. The plant operated one tank with 48 blowers. The company became the Crystal Window Glass Co. in 1908 but went out of business in 1911 with the advent of machines to make window glass (Aravich n.d.; Roller 1997). According to the *Punxsatawney News* for July 31, 1912, the property was “seized and taken in execution and to be sold . . . for taxes.”

The DuBois Area Historical Society (2005:62) published a study of “rare photographs and early postcards” including a post card entitled “Glass Factory, Falls Creek, Pa. / No. 11 – Published by Falls Creek Drug Co.” – a photo of the Fitzpatrick Glass Works – clearly identified by a sign on the building. Written on one side in cursive was “Mar 26 ‘06” (Figure 1).

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<sup>1</sup> Schadlich ([ca. 1990]) placed the location at Du Bois, Pennsylvania, a more intuitive identification. Falls Creek is actually located just over two miles northwest of Du Bois, and the factory owners probably chose the name of the larger community, simply because of its size.

V.W. Pancoast and T.H. Pancoast, both of Falls City, and Walter Hatten of Du Bois reorganized the New York Glass Co. to manufacture “all articles made from glass” at Falls Creek, Pennsylvania, in April of 1913. With T.H. Pancoast as the secretary, the company began with a capital of \$75,000” (*Industrial World* 1913a3; 1913b:iv). An unusual event took place on May 5 of that year – called by the *National Glass Budget* (1913:9) a “Rather Expensive Gum Sucking”:

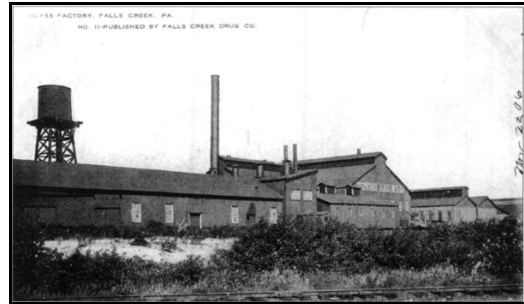


Figure 1 – Fitzpatrick Glass Co. Post Card (DuBois Area Historical Society)

For kissing Mrs. Frank Deitrick of DuBois, the 24-year-old wife of a fellow workman in the DuBois glass works, James McCoy, also of DuBois, was today found guilty of assault and battery and sentenced to pay \$100 fine by Judge Singleton Bell. McCoy is about 40 years old and is married, his wife residing in Philadelphia.

The firm probably had been a jobber when it was located at Jersey City, New Jersey, from 1888 until the move to Falls City in 1913. The factory apparently began milk bottle manufacture after the move. See the Other N section for more on New York Glass at Jersey City. Sanborn maps for 1901, 1906, and 1913 clearly show that the Fitzpatrick Glass Co. and New York Glass Co. occupied the same factory (Figure 2).

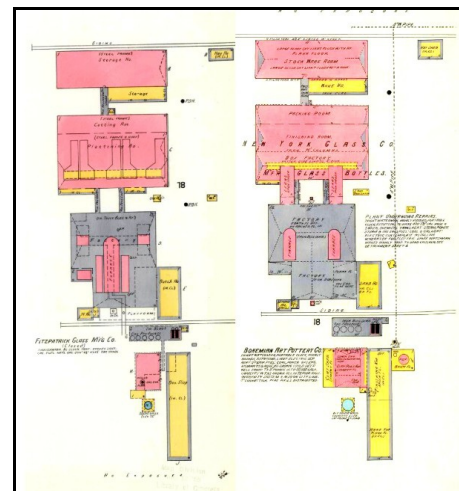


Figure 2 – Fitzpatrick & New York glass plants (Sanborn maps, 1906 & 1913)

The firm apparently experienced much more serious problems. In early March of 1914, the courts placed the New York Glass Co. in the hands of receiver, Clyde Hatten, who arranged a sale. A group of bondholders, most of whom resided in the nearby town of Du Bois, purchased the plant and all its equipment, intending on a reorganization of the firm. The group intended to resume operations within six weeks (*National Glass Budget* 1914:6).

## Du Bois Glass Co., Falls Creek, Pennsylvania (1914-1918)

The Du Bois Glass Co. took over the old Fitzpatrick/Crystal Window/New York Glass factory in 1914 and sold the old paraphernalia for junk. The plant had its own mold section, operated by James McCoy to make milk jar molds (*American Flint* 1914:35; Aravich n.d.; McKnight 1917:472). The *News of Cumberland County* for September 23, 1914, added that the factory “resumed operation on August 17 and made an excellent start. The company are [*sic*] operating five machines, three side levers and two semi-automatics, and are making milk bottles.”

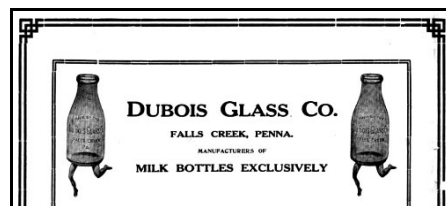


Figure 3 – Du Bois ad (*Milk Reporter*)

A notice in the *National Glass Budget* (1915:2) heralded a reorganization of the firm on October 15, 1915. Unfortunately, we have found no details of the meeting. A 1917 ad claimed that Du Bois Glass was “Manufacturers of Milk Bottles Exclusively” with representatives at New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Buffalo. Running legs on the milk bottles in the ad made a cute eye catcher (Figure 3). The Du Bois Glass Co. was listed in the Thomas Registers as a milk bottle manufacturer from 1915 to at least 1921 (Thomas Publishing Co. 1915:578,582; 1921:782, 784), and the firm advertised often in dairy journals (Figure 4).

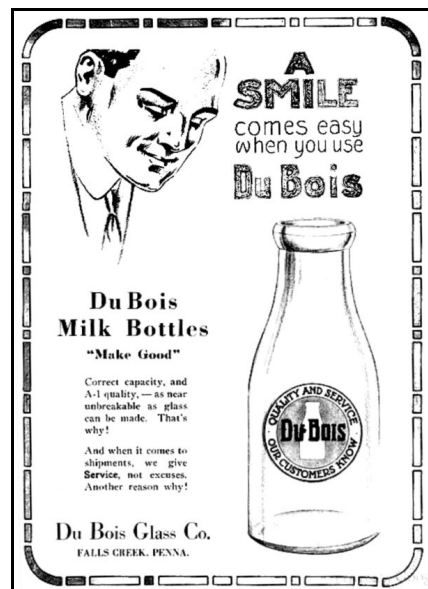


Figure 4 – Du Bois ad (*Creamery and Milk Plant Monthly* 1918:64)

On July 23, 1921, however, the *Clearfield Progress* (Clearfield County, Pennsylvania) reported that “the Du-Bois Glass company at Falls Creek which has stood idle since 1918, was sold yesterday morning. By November of 1921, the *Chemical & Metallurgical Engineering* (1921:848) announced that

the Du Bois Glass Co. . . . manufacturer of glass bottles is making a number of improvements in its plant including the installation of new equipment and is said to be planning for a resumption of production at an early date. The works have been closed for many months.

The *Punxsutawney Spirit* for July 23, 1921, explained further. The DuBois plant “has been sold to the Pittsburgh Lens Glass Co. . . . the new owners expect to start work at the plant as soon as the necessary repairs have been made. . . will manufacture refractory and trajector lenses.”

The Michigan State Department of Agriculture (1924:125) listed the DuBois Glass Co., Falls Creek. As one of the “Bottle Manufacturers who have Filed Bonds and Complied with Legal Requirements Authorizing them to Distribute and Sell Milk Bottles in Michigan,” but this should be correctly interpreted. The bonds lasted several years, possibly even a decade, so closed glass factories frequently continued to be listed long after they had closed.

## Containers and Marks

Because the Du Bois Glass Co. was short lived and exclusively made dairy containers, the plant is only represented by a single manufacturer’s mark and the Massachusetts Seal, although the New York Glass Co. used a similar embossed log with the same milk bottle number.

### **N.Y.G.CO. 30** (1913-1914)

According to Dairy Antiques (2016), the New York Glass Co. used the “N.Y.G.CO. 30” logo on milk bottles. Our repeated searches have failed to discover a single example, not surprising since the factory was only open for 14 months at most – April of 1913 to March of 1914 – probably in production less than a year.

### **DBGCo 30** (1914-1918)

Al Morin (personal communication, 2/16/2007) noted that bottles in his collection with the Massachusetts “D” seal, were accompanied by heel codes of DBGCo30 or D.B.G.CO.30 (Figure 5). Schadlich & Schadlich (1984:4-5) cited the Massachusetts Department of Standards Bulletin #11 (1918) as listing the Du Bois Glass Co. as the user of the “D” seal. This solidly associates both the Massachusetts D Seal and the number “30” with the Du Bois Glass Co.



Figure 5 – DBGCo logo (Al Morin)

A numbering system for milk bottle manufacturers began in 1910 at New York. By 1912, both New York and Wisconsin required that any glass house selling milk bottles within the boundaries of these respective states had to have a number that represented the factory embossed on each milk bottle. Other states joined in, and the number system was pretty solidly in place nationwide by 1916 (Dept. of Commerce and Labor 1912:318; *Milk Dealer* 1916:58-59; *Orange County Times-Press* 1910). Clearly, New York Glass applied for and received the number 30, and the number transferred to the Du Bois Glass Co. when Du Bois purchased the factory in 1914.

### **Massachusetts D Seal (1914-1918)**

From 1910 to 1947, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts required that all glass factories selling bottles to dairies within the state mark their containers with a Massachusetts seal. From some point after 1910, factories embossed the seal on the shoulder of each bottle, usually in a circular form embossed “MASS (arch) / {factory designator} / “SEAL (inverted arch).” These often appeared in a small round plate. The Du Bois Glass Co. used a “D” in the Massachusetts seal embossed at the shoulder of its bottles, in a round plate in our small sample (Blodget 2006:8; Schadlich [ca. 1990]). The mark probably was used from 1914 to 1918, the full tenure of the firm (Figure 6).



Figure 6 – Mass D Seal (Al Morin)

## **Discussion and Conclusions**

Between the manufacturer’s mark and the company number, there is no mistaking a bottle made by the Du Bois Glass Co. Many of these bottles were also embossed with the Massachusetts “D” Seal, although it is likely that many also were made for dairies in Pennsylvania.

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