

The Fahnestock Companies

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Beginning with Benjamin A. Fahnestock in 1829, the Fahnestock family operated two separate companies that both manufactured white lead (used in paint and pharmaceuticals) and a series of patent medicines, until Benjamin L. Fahnestock died in 1888, bringing the empires to an end. Fahnestock's Vermifuge was a major product sold by both branches. In addition, B.L. Fahnestock operated two glass factories – Fahnestock, Albree & Co. and Fahnestock, Fortune & Co. – between 1860 and 1873. All of the firms were located at Pittsburgh.

Drug Company Histories

B.A. Fahnestock & Co. (1829-1868)

B.A. Fahnestock & Co. opened at 19 Wood St. in 1829. The firm was a wholesale drug firm and manufacturer of white lead (Thurston 1876:240). According to Rishel (1990:106), “Dr. Benjamin A. Fahnestock (1799-1862), a physician who accumulated a huge fortune in the wholesale drug business, was also a botanist and horticulturist. He is also noted for introducing improved strains of poultry and livestock.” Fahnestock was apparently joined by B.L. Fahnestock from the beginning of the business. The relationship between Benjamin Augenbaugh Fahnestock (1799-1863) and Benjamin Latshaw Fahnestock (1811-January 3, 1888) is unclear, but B.L. was *not* a son or brother of B.A. Since there was only a 12-year difference in their ages, B.L. may have been a cousin – or possibly even a nephew. With the similarity in names, it is virtually certain that they *were* related (Historical Society of Pennsylvania 2009; My Heritage 2015; *Pittsburgh Legal Journal* 1893:243). See the section on B.L. Fahnestock & Co. below for more on that firm.

B.A. Fahnestock's son, George Wolff Fahnestock (1823-1868), joined him in the business at some point, probably in his late teens (ca. 1840), a pretty normal age to pick up family management at that time. Aurelius B. Hull was also connected with the firm. Some of the more popular products were Vermifuge (made from castor oil, oils of worm-seed, turpentine,

and tincture of myrrh), Antibilious Pills, Cough Balsam, Liquid Opodeldoc, Eye Water, Rubifacient, although the firm also sold other items (Hoolihan 2008:233). Fahnestock advertised regularly in the Pittsburgh city directories (Figure 1).

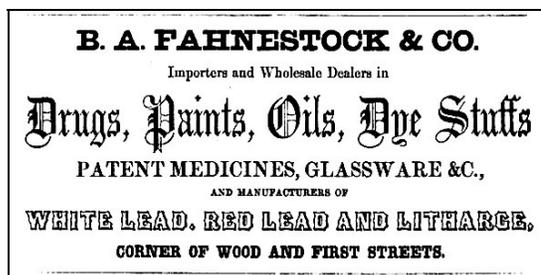


Figure 1 – B.A. Fahnestock ad (Pittsburgh city directory, 1856)

The firm published B.A. Fahnestock’s Free Almanac from ca. 1847 to 1860, when B.L.

Fahnestock continued the tradition (Hoolihan 2008:233). B.L. Fahnestock left the firm to form B.L. Fahnestock & Co. – a wholesale drug firm in competition with his former employer – in 1857. At that point, he also opened the Fahenstock White Lead Co. – again in competition (Everts 1876:117). After the separation, B.L. Fahnestock continued the popular Fahnestock’s Vermifuge, although he seems to have otherwise adopted different products from his former company.

Upon the death of B.A. Fahnestock in 1863, George operated the company as B.A. Fahnestock's Son & Co. until his death in 1868, warning customers in the *Terre Haute Weekly Express* (9/9/1868) to make sure that the initials “B.A.” appeared on the bottles of Fahnestock’s Vermifuge – an obvious stab at the new B.L. Fahnestock product. After George Fahnestock’s death, the firm split into Fahnestock, Haslett & Schwartz, making white lead, and Schwartz & Haslett, making medicines (Hoolihan 2008:233). The firms were apparently unsuccessful; the last mention we found for Fahnestock, Haslett & Schwartz was in the *Rock Island Argus* of October 8, 1877, and Schwartz & Haslett seems to have been equally short lived – although the latter firm used some beautiful cobalt-blue bottles (Figure 2). Apparently, the B.L. Fahnestock products were more popular.



Figure 2 – Schwartz & Haslett bottles (Peachridge Glass)

Containers and Marks

Most patent medicines sold by this early drug firm were packaged in vials – small, cylindrical glass containers. Of the various products sold by the firm, we have only located bottles for Vermifuge, Liquid Opodeldoc, Eye Water, and Neutral Ink. It is possible that some of the other items were sold in pill form and packaged in cardboard boxes. We have presented these products in the probably order based on embossing.

DR. FAHNESTOCK'S VERMIFUGE (1829-1863)

Possibly the earliest vermifuge bottle may have come in two variations, one embossed “DR•FAHNESTOCK’S / VERMIFUGE,” the other with the “F” upside down, the “N” reversed, and the “C” missing – although the error embossing is the only example we have found (Figures 3 & 4). The use of the abbreviation “DR” may have been to lend legitimacy to the product. As noted above, Fahnestock was apparently a noted physician. We have not seen a photo of a base for this vial, but the embossing and container are crudely made, so we have placed this in the oldest position. This was almost certainly made by a glass house that was in business much earlier than either Fahnestock factory (see below for a discussion of the Fahnestock glass plants).

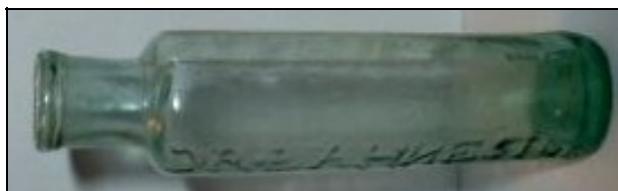


Figure 3 – Dr. Fahnestock’s (eBay)



Figure 4 – Dr. Fahnestock’s Vermifuge (eBay)

FAHNESTOCK'S (1829-1863)

Possibly the second generation of vermifuge vials was simply embossed “FAHNESTOCK’S / VERMIFUGE” (Figure 5).¹ Again the vial was crudely made and had a blowpipe pontil scar. A similar vial was embossed “FAHNESTOCKS / EYE WATH” – note the

¹ Vermifuge is a medicine that expels or destroys worms.

misspelling of “wash” and the lack of the apostrophe in the Fahnestock name (Figure 6). Another interesting bottle was made in a six-petal shape in cross section. Three indentations were embossed “FAHNESTOCK’S / NEUTRAL / INK” (Figure 7). Like most of the others in this section, the base had a blowpipe pontil scar, but this was by far the best made.



Figure 5 – Fahnestock’s verifuge (eBay)



Figure 6 – Eye Wath (Antique Bottles.net)



Figure 7– Fahnestock’s Neutral Ink (eBay)

B.A. FAHNESTOCK’S (ca. 1850s-1868)

At least two types of vials were embossed on the sides with B.A. Fahnestock’s name. The most common was “B.A. / FAHNESTOCK’S / VERMIFUGE” (Figure 8). As noted above, the bases of these vials had blowpipe pontil scars (Figure 9). Gerth (2006:36) noted that examples of this vial were found in the wreckage of the SS Republic, sunk in 1865, so they must have been made prior to that date. This dating is supported by the blowpipe pontil scars on the bases of these vials. Another vial was

embossed “B.A. / FAHNESTOCK’S / OPODELDOC” on the side (Figure 10). These, too, had blowpipe pontil scars and were crudely made.



Figure 8 – B.A. Fahnestock Vermifuge (eBay)



Figure 9 – B.A. finish (eBay)



Figure 10 – B.A. Fahnestock's Opodelloc (eBay)

B.L. Fahnestock & Co., Pittsburgh (ca. 1860-1886+)

Innes (1976) provided a medicine price list pamphlet that claimed B.L. Fahnestock & Co. made and distributed glassware. Hawkins (2009:207-208) found no additional evidence for the company's existence and suggested that Fahnestock may have “briefly re-entered the glass business after the Panic of 1873, or Fahnestock simply carried over this advertising from previous years[,] when he was still engaged in manufacturing glass.”

In reality, B.L. Fahnestock & Co. was the druggist firm, while B.L. Fahnestock, Fortune & Co. and Fahnestock, Albree & Co. were glass factories (Everts 1876:117; Thurston 1876:240). As noted above, Benjamin Latshaw Fahnestock (1811-1888) joined B.A. Fahnestock in the drug business in 1829. B.L. Fahnestock split from the older firm in 1857, probably because of the poor health of the founder. B.L. Fahnestock & Co. also produced B.L. Fahnestock & Co.'s

Almanac in 1860, replacing the almanacs previously published by B.A. Fahnestock & Co. In addition to B.L. Fahnestock's Vermifuge – an obvious successor to B.A. Fahnestock's Vermifuge – the newer firm carried B.L. Fahnestock's Fluid Extract of Sarsaparilla, B.L. Fahnestock's Bronchial and Lung Syrup, and Dr. R.A. Wilson's Pills – products that were never made by B.A. Fahnestock & Co. (Hoolihan 2008:233).

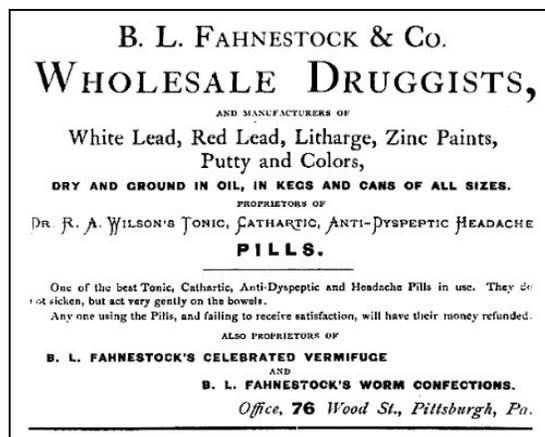


Figure 11 – 1869 ad (*Pharmacist & Chemical Record* 1869c)

An 1869 ad showed that the firm was involved with drugs and white lead (*Pharmacist & Chemical Record* 1869c:120) (Figure 11). Fahnestock incorporated the Fahenstock White Lead Co. in 1872, and both firms remained in business until Fahnestock's death on January 3, 1888. For a number of years, Fahnestock's son, Benjamin Seymour Fahnestock (1838-1907), operated the company as B.S. Fahnestock (Everts



Figure 12 – 1886 ad (Hackett 1886:278)

1876:117; Hackett 1886:278; *Pittsburgh Legal Journal* 1893:243). The son still advertised Fahnestock's Vermifuge as late as 1886 – although the ad was in French (Hackett 1886:278) (Figure 12). A catalog, entitled *Geo. A. Kelly & Co., Formerly B.A. Fahnestock & Co., Wholesale Druggists, Catalog, 1888; Cor. Wood St. and First Ave.; Pittsburgh, PA; Established 1829* indicates that Kelly acquired the firm in 1888.

Containers and Marks

We have only discovered a single product carrying the B.L. Fahnestock name – his Vermifuge. These embossed bottles may date from 1857, when B.L. broke away from the earlier firm, although he may have used generic containers until his glass house – Fahnestock, Albree & Co. – leased a factory in 1860. The firm apparently used generic vials with paper labels for other products.

B.L. FAHNESTOCK'S (ca. 1857-ca. 1870s)



Figure 13 – B.L. Fahnestock vial (eBay)

An apparently later variation of the Vermifuge line was embossed “B.L. FAHNESTOCK'S / VERMIFUGE”



Figure 14 – B.L. base (eBay)

(Figures 13 & 14). Gerth (2006:36) noted that both this and a variation described above were found in the wreckage of the SS Republic, sunk in 1865 – thus the vials had to have been made at least that early. These vials were apparently made prior to the opening of either Fahnestock glass house.

Glass House Histories

B.L. Fahnestock entered the glass business with Robert C. Albee in 1860 – apparently to make bottles for his drug business – but he branched out into soda, beer, and liquor bottles almost immediately. He joined with William Fortune to build a separate glass plant in 1866 – this one apparently to make druggists ware along with fruit jars, although both produced vials. There was apparently little, if any, competition between the two plants. Both factories closed during the 1872-1873 period – likely victims of the Panic (depression) of 1873.

Fahnestock, Albee & Co., Pittsburgh (1860-ca. 1871)

McKearin and Wilson (1978:63), in their discussion of the Penn Glass Works (formerly Pittsburgh Glass Works), begun by James O'Hara in 1797, stated that “for a short time the glassworks was rented to Fahnestock, Albee & Company – the lease is said to have run from sometime in 1860 – until a new firm of Lorenz & Wightman was formed in 1863” (see the section on Lorenz & Wightman for the full history of the factory). Benjamin L. Fahnestock and Robert C. Albee originated the firm, and virtually all of the usual sources for early glass companies confirmed the dates (Innes 1976:28; Jones 1968:16; Knittle 1927:321; Toulouse 1971:195-196; Van Rensselaer 1969:179).

Roller (1983:121), however, extended the date of Fahnestock, Albree & Co. to 1869, citing Pittsburgh city directories. He noted that the firm continued making glass at the Eclipse Glass Works in Temperanceville. Hawkins (2009:206) confirmed Roller’s research, stating that Fahnestock, Albree & Co. moved to – and probably built – the Eclipse Glass Works (between Water,

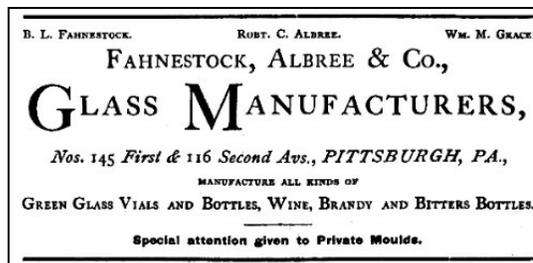


Figure 15 – 1869 ad (*Pharmacist & Chemical Record* 1869a)

Alexander, Main, and Mill Streets) after their lease at the Penn Glass Works expired. The firm was actually in business until late 1871 or early 1872, when it sold the factory to Lorenz & Wightman. An 1869 advertisement noted B.L. Fahnestock, Robt. C. Albree, and Wm. M. Grace as the principals. The plant manufactured “All Kinds of Green Glass Vials and Bottles, Wine, Brandy and Bitters Bottles” (*Pharmacist & Chemical Record* 1869a) (Figure 15).

Containers and Marks

In a major study of Illinois bottles made between 1840 and 1880, Farnsworth and Walthall (2011:55, 63) discovered that the 18 soda bottles embossed with FA&Co logos were all made during the ca. 1860-1863 period – when the firm leased the Penn Glass Works. The researchers checked the city directories for the firm and discovered that the Eclipse Glass Works was generally listed as making window glass, with bottles only listed in 1866, and “glassware” in 1868. They suggested that the bottles and glassware mentioned were pharmacy products. Based on “bottle style and manufacturing technology, combined with our research on local bottler histories,” they concluded that all of the bottles in their sample with the “FA&Co” initials produced during the 1859-1861 period. Hawkins (2009:206), however, cited the 1870 Industrial Census of Allegheny County that Fahnestock, Albree & Co. had \$160,00 worth of window glass and \$115,000 of “Glassware Packages” on hand at that time – suggesting a strong continuation in bottle production. The 1869 ad cited above clearly listed various bottle types, including wine, brandy, and bitters; therefore, we have dated bottles from the firm 1860-ca. 1971.

Surprisingly, all glass houses using embossed initials to identify bottles used in Illinois during the 1840-1880 period were located at Pittsburgh. Of five early manufacturers (Arthur Arbogast, Frederick R. Lorenz, A.&D.H. Chambers, Wm. McCully & Co., and Fahnestock,

Albree & Co.), the FA&Co initials were by far the most common. Farnsworth and Walthall hypothesized that Fahnstock, Albree & Co., if not the first to adopt initials on bottles, were certainly the driving force that catapulted Pittsburgh glass houses into the widespread use of company initials (rather than full factory names) as manufacturer's marks.

A follow-up study (Farnsworth, personal correspondence, 12/8/2011) of bottles used at St. Louis during the same period disclosed that Christian Ihmsen, Lorenz & Wightman, William McCully & Co., and Frederick R. Lorenz all used initials to mark bottles on occasion during the period between 1853 and 1857 – with A.&D.H. Chambers joining in by 1860. Once again, however, when Fahnstock, Albree & Co. bottles appeared in 1860, they dominated marked containers in assemblages.

FA&Co (1860-ca. 1871)

Wilson (1981:115) showed the “FA&Co” mark in what appeared to be a Rickett's-type plate on the base of an amber bottle with a broad, sloping collar and ring finish (probably a cylinder whiskey bottle). The mark, itself, was in an inverted arch at the bottom of the base (Figure 16). Wilson identified the maker as Fahnstock, Albree & Co. Since Fort Union, New Mexico (Wilson's excavation area), was open between 1862 and 1891, the bottle was likely deposited there during the early tenure of the Army at that location.

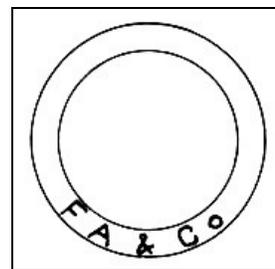


Figure 16 – Beer or whiskey base (Wilson 1981:115)

Jones (1968:16) showed two configurations of the mark. One was an inverted arch at the bottom of the base; the other was horizontal in the center of the base. There could be a chronological connection between the two that *may* mark the difference between the two plant locations (Penn Glass Works 1860-1863; Eclipse Glass Works 1863-ca. 1871). It is also possible that the varied configurations of the mark only reflect different bottle types or the individual whims of engravers.

Soda Bottles



Figure 17 – Soda base (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:518)



Figure 19 – Soda bottle (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:517)

Von Mechow (2015) described and/or illustrated 27 examples of soda bottles embossed with “FA&Co” on either the base or reverse heel. These were almost all “pony” styles – squat with applied, “blob” finishes. Most of these finishes were tapered upward

rather than rounded. Bottles in von Mechow’s sample were mostly sold west of Pittsburgh, notably in Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri, with one as far away as Little Rock, Arkansas. Farnsworth & Walthall (2011) also illustrated a variety of these bottles with both heelmarks (Figures 17 & 18) and basemarks. The basemarks were in inverted arch formats (Figures 19 & 20).



Figure 18 – Soda bottle (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:518)



Figure 20 – Soda base (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:517)

Flasks



Figure 21 – FA&Co flask (McKearin and Wilson 1978:655)

McKearin and Wilson (1978:64, 655) noted that the FA&Co mark was found on three different types of flasks (Figure 21). They attributed the mark to Fahnstock, Albree & Co. but followed the established dates – 1860-1863 (Figure 22). The mark was also listed on the same flasks by Van Rensselaer (1921:7), Freeman (1964:69, 77), and Innes (1976:220). Toulouse (1971:195) dated the mark 1860-1862.



Figure 22 – FA&Co flask (North American Glass)

Fruit Jars



Figure 23 – FA&Co jar (North American Glass)

Toulouse (1969:115) described a stopper-finished fruit jar with “FA&Co” embossed on the base and ascribed it to Fahnstock, Albree & Co. (Figure 23). Roller (1983:121; 2011:187) noted the same jar with a pontiled or plain base and dated it ca. 1860s. Photos from North American Glass and eBay showed “FA&Co” in an arch on pontiled bottles

and those without the scars but only showed an inverted arch on



Figure 24 – Base marks (North American Glass; eBay)



Figure 25 – Cork & wooden stoppers (North American Glass)

ones with no pontil scars (Figure 24). The photos also showed both cork and wooden stoppers (Figure 25). Roller also listed a grooved-ring, wax-sealer embossed with “F.A.&Co.” in cursive on the side (Figure 26).

Creswick (1987:57) illustrated a grooved-ring-wax sealer fruit jar with “FA&Co” in cursive embossed on the side and a similarly marked jar with a finish made for corks. She also noted cork-stoppered jars with the mark embossed in an arch on the slightly-pushed-up bases – one with an iron pontil scar, the other without. She dated all the jars to the 1860-1862 period. She added that one of the cork-



Figure 26 – Wax-Sealer (North American Glass)

stoppered jars could have also taken a Kline or Willoughby Stopple as a sealer and illustrated a stopple with a jar (Figure 27). It is possible that the cursive variation was made at the Penn Glass Works, and the block letter variations were made at the later Eclipse Glass Works, although the difference could also reflect the whims of engravers.

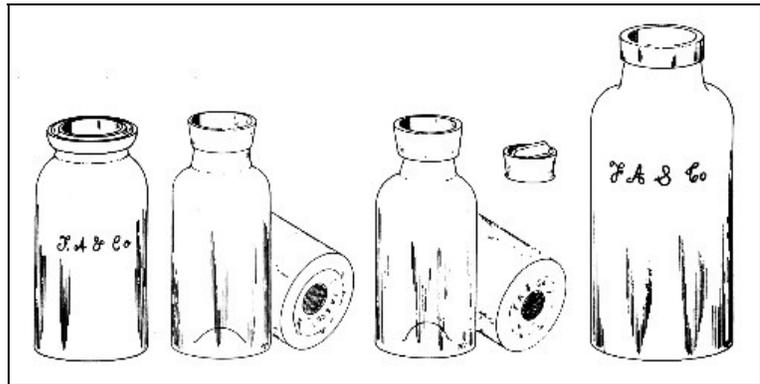


Figure 27 – FA&Co jars (Creswick 1987:57)

F.&A.

Knittle (1927:321-322) noted that Fahnestock & Albree “probably turned out more marked flasks than any other bottle-works in the country in the same length of time” – thinking that the firm was only in business for three years. She claimed that the “F.&A.” mark was located “either in the panel or on the bottom of the bottle.” On page 441, she

noted the mark as “F.A.&Co.” of Pittsburgh but used “F.&A.” on page 444. Toulouse also dated this mark 1860-1862, following Knittle. We suspect that these initials constituted a typographical error or a misunderstanding of a reported mark. This logo probably does not exist.

Roller (2011:187) included an “F&A MASONS JAR PATENTED JUNE 27, 1876” and noted that “an example can be seen at the Corning Museum of Glass in Corning, New York.” The jar was mouth blown (ground rim), but the editors listed the maker as “unknown.” We have been unable to find the mark in any of the earlier sources, and it was almost certainly not the “F.&A.” listed by Knittle. We can find no other information on this apparently very rare jar.

FB&Co

Toulouse (1971:197) noted this mark as being found on a grooved-ring wax-sealer fruit jar. He surmised that the letter “B” might have been an engraver’s error and should have been an “F.” In that case, the mark would fit Fahnestock, Fortune & Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 1866-1873. We note that the error could also have been for an “A” – making the mark FA&Co -- a much more likely logo. However, no other source has mentioned this mark.

F&Co (ca. 1875)

Hawkins (2009:208) noted that “F&Co” was embossed on a Pike’s Peak and eagle flask and noted that it could be the mark of the B.L. Fahnestock Co. We remain skeptical because of the lack of the ampersand, but we have found no other firm with the correct initials. In possible support for Hawkins, McKearin and Wilson (1978:642) noted two flasks that could have been alterations of the FA&Co mark. The first had a frame below the eagle embossed with a blank area followed by “& Co.” The second had an “F” in the blank area of the first flask, but it was set far apart from the ampersand as if another initial (an “A”?) had been obliterated. McKearin and Wilson (1978:643) illustrated the first variation but not the second one (Figure 28).



Figure 28 – “&Co” flask (McKearin and Wilson 1978:643)

FAHNESTOCK ALBREE & Co. (1860-ca. 1872)

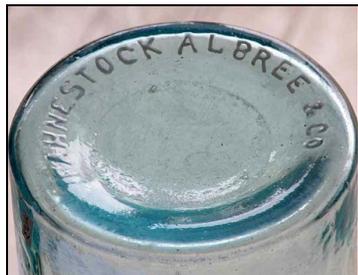


Figure 29 – Fahnestock base (North American Glass)

Toulouse (1969:57) noted the full company name (without PITTS PA) on a stopper-finished fruit jar. Roller (1983:212; 2011:187-188) included variations of “FAHNESTOCK ALBREE & CO.” on the base of a pontiled jar with a cork finish and both “FAHNESTOCK ALBREE & Co.” and

“FAHNESTOCK ALBREE & Co. PITTS. PA.” on wax sealers (Figures 29 & 30). The “o” in “Co” in photos is just slightly smaller than the “C”; the “o” was probably intended to be lower case, but it is *very* close in size to the other letters. Creswick (1987:57) illustrated the two different jars (and described a subvariation). She dated the marks at 1860-1862 (Figure 31).



Figure 30 – Fruit jar (North American Glass)

B.L. Fahnestock Fortune & Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (1866-1873)

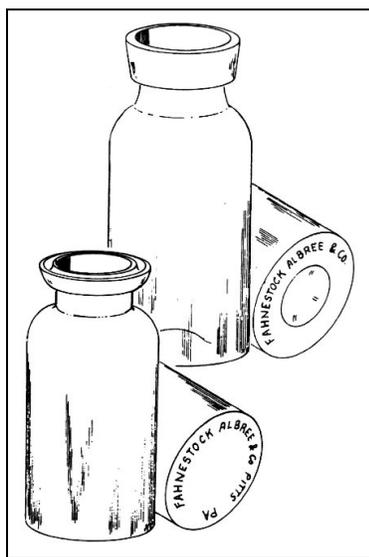


Figure 31 – Fahnestock jars (Creswick 1987:57)

According to Toulouse (1971:199), B.L. Fahnestock and William Fortune built a factory at Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania, in 1866 and operated it until they sold out to Evans, Sell & Co. in 1873. Roller (1983:121) placed the closing date at 1872 and noted that fruit jars were made at the firm’s Keystone Glass Works between 21st and 22nd Streets. McKearin & McKearin (1941:612) were less certain about the company, noting that it was operating in 1867 or 1868. They claimed neither a beginning nor an end date, although they agreed that the

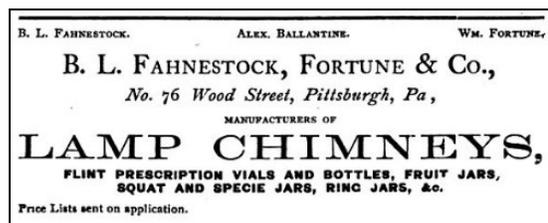


Figure 32 – 1869 ad (*Pharmacist & Chemical Record* 1869b)

firm of Evans, Sell & Co. were the next owners. An 1869 ad for the firm listed the principals as B.L. Fahnestock, Alex. Ballentine, and Wm. Fortune, “Manufacturer’s of Lamp Chimneys, Flint Prescription Vials and Bottles, Fruit Jars, Squat and Specie Jars, Ring Jars, etc.” (*Pharmacist & Chemical Record* 1869b) (Figure 32).

Hawkins (2009:208) agreed with the 1866-1873 date range and noted that the office of the firm was located on the grounds of the Keystone Glass Works. He suggested that the firm produced its own bottles, some tableware, and “a short line of fruit jars that they embossed with their name.” When the firm dissolved in 1873 (probably due to the “panic” or depression that year), the partners sold the factory to Evans, Sell & Co. According to Innes (1976:226), the company, by then B.L. Fahnestock & Co., had become a wholesale druggist selling numerous concoctions under the Fahnestock name. Innes (1976:53) also noted that Fahnestock made bottles and vials.

Containers and Marks

B.L. FAHNESTOCK FORTUNE Co. PITTS. PA. (1866-1873)

Toulouse (1969:115) noted the “B.L. FAHNESTOCK FORTUNE & Co.” name on a wax-sealer fruit jar but only gave the McKearins’ date of “1868-?” Roller (1983:121) listed the same jar and dated it ca. 1866-1872. Creswick (1987:57) added that the mark was embossed on the bases of two types of fruit jars – cork-stoppered and grooved ring wax sealers – and dated these jars 1866-1873 (Figure 33). Most – possibly all – of the jars had a one- or two-digit number embossed in the center of the base (Figures 34 & 35). Roller (2011:188) stated that the firm made these jars at the Keystone Glass Works on Josephine St., between 21st & 22nd Streets. The editors noted two slight variations: “B.L. FAHNESTOCK, FORTUNE & Co PITTS, PA.” and “BL FAHNESTOCK, FORTUNE & C^O PITTS, PA.”

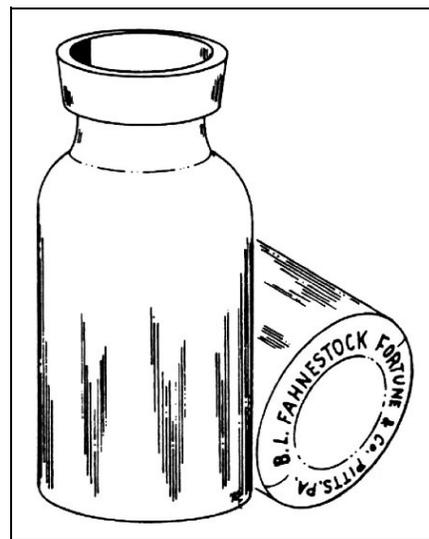


Figure 33 – B.L. Fahnestock Fortune jar (Creswick 1987:57)



Figure 34 – Fahnestock Fortune base (eBay)

It is interesting that only fruit jars carried the mark of this firm. Vials were too small to take a name or any logo larger than a single letter. This may have heralded Fahnestock's use of generic containers.

Discussion and Conclusion

The history of the Fahnestock companies is complex and informative. Benjamin A. Fahnestock – producing medicinal products and white lead – had an interesting set of vials and bottles made for his patent medicines and inks from 1829 to 1868. Unfortunately, most of the early Pittsburgh glass plants manufactured vials, so it is impossible to determine who actually made the vessels. Even though Benjamin's relative (possibly cousin), another Benjamin (L.) produced his own vials and bottles from 1860 to 1873, there was animosity between the firms (see discussion above), so it is *very* unlikely that the Fahnestock glass houses made any of the B.A. Fahnestock vials.

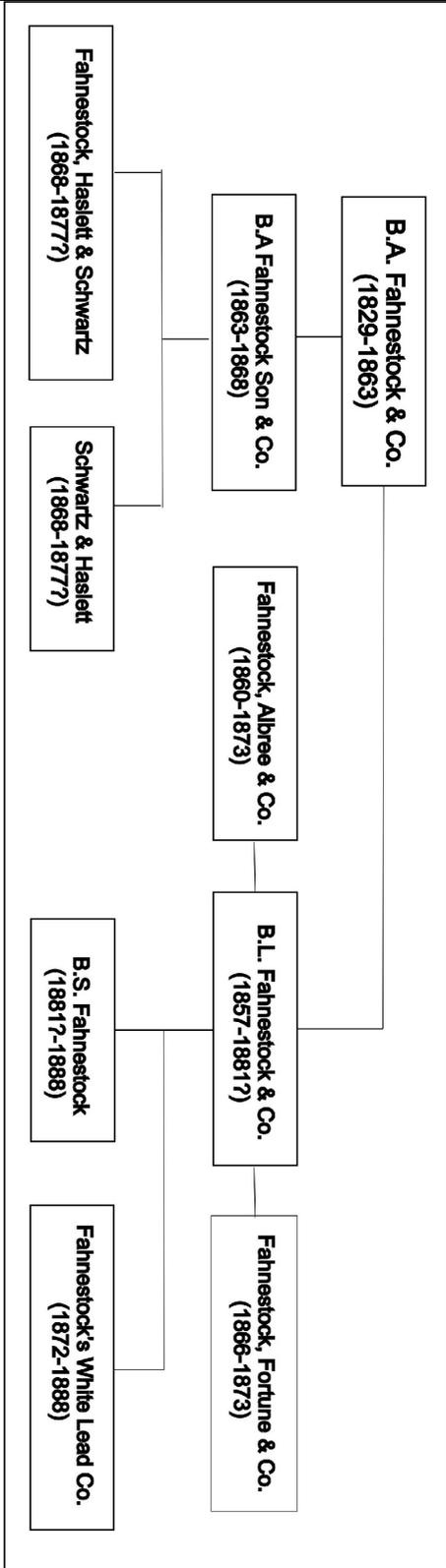


Figure 35 – Fahnestock Fortune jar (eBay)

Benjamin L. Fahnestock broke away from B.A. Fahnestock in 1857, making patent medicines – notably Vermifuge – and white lead in direct competition with his relations and former employer. When B.A. Fahnestock died in 1863, his son, George, operated the business until his own death in 1868. B.L. Fahnestock was apparently more successful than George or George's successors, remaining in business until his death in 1888. At that point, the Fahnestock empire collapsed (Figure 36).

Of more relevance to this study are the two B.L. Fahnestock glass houses. The work by Roller and Hawkins makes it clear that Fahnestock, Albree & Co. was in business much longer than the three years claimed by other researchers. The second plant was in business from 1863 to ca. 1872. Fahnestock's second glass house – B.L. Fahnestock, Fortune & Co. (1866-1873) – was apparently unconnected with the earlier and better-known company. However, it seems likely from the 1869 ads that Fahnestock, Albree & Co. primarily made soda and liquor bottles, while B.L. Fahnstock, Fortune & Co. concentrated on druggists items and lamp chimneys –

Figure 36 – Fahnestock Flow chart



although both made vials. It is virtually certain that B.L. Fahnestock & Co. obtained all of its glassware from these two factories during the dozen years that they were jointly in business.

Although McKearin and Wilson (1978:64) claimed that Fahnestock, Albre & Co. was “the only recorded firm fitting ‘FA&Co,’” there was one other glass house with identical initials. Frederick Amelung & Co. began making bottles in July 1800 at the foot of Federal Hill in Baltimore, Maryland. Like many other companies, Amelung succumbed to the depression experienced by Baltimore merchants between 1800 and 1805 and was out of business by 1803. The company was succeeded by the Baltimore Glass Works (McKearin & Wilson 1978:71-72). See the section on the Baltimore Glass Works for more information on the succeeding firm.

Knittle (1927:297-298) placed the erection of the factory at 1799 and stated that “on August 11, 1802, the partnership [that formed Frederick Amelung & Co.] was dissolved by mutual consent.” McKearin and McKearin (1941:587) clarified that Amelung leased the land for the factory on November 16, 1799. McKearin and McKearin (1941:587) noted that Frederick Amelung & Co. advertised “all kinds of white hollow glass, black and green bottles and window glass.”

Because Frederick Amelung & Co. was in business so early (1800-1802), the firm almost certainly was not the maker of the flasks, soda bottles,

and fruit jars marked with “FA&Co.” Fahnestock, Albree & Co. was almost certainly the manufacturer. The “FA&Co” mark on a bottle found at Fort Union (1862-1891) solidified the identification of the later company as the mark’s user. The bottle would have had to have been stored in some form for 60 years to have been made by Amelung. While such storage is possible, it is less likely than a more recent manufacture. The embossing of the entire Fahnestock, Albree & Co. name on the bases of fruit jars solidly identifies the maker.

Knittle’s identification of the F&A mark is likely a typographical error. The mark can be considered fictitious – except for the Mason jar reported by Roller (2011), which is apparently very rare. Similarly, initials, such as “FCo,” “FBCo,” or “F&Co” are likely engraver's errors or errors in the reports of Toulouse sources. The various full names -- e.g., “B.L. FAHNESTOCK, FORTUNE & Co.” -- certainly represent their respective companies and should be dated accordingly.

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