

Glass Firms of the Hagerty Brothers

Bill Lockhart, Bill Lindsey, Carol Serr, and Beau Schriever

Most researchers (with the notable exception of von Mechow 2016) have conflated two separate businesses – one a jobber, the other a glass factory – both operated by the Hagerty Brothers. Bernard B. Hagerty, likely the oldest brother, joined with Harry Lear to form a jobbing firm in 1849. James, Edward, and Michael Hagerty entered the business, and it became Hagerty Brothers by ca. 1867 – Hagerty Brothers & Co. in 1869. Even though Michael, the last of the brothers, died in 1908, the firm continued operate under the Hagerty name until 1953.

Bernard Hagerty bought into the Hamilton Glass Works ca. 1869, and the reorganized firm renamed the plant the Brooklyn Green Glass Works. Hagerty Brothers & Co. acquired the works ca. 1873, again changing the name – this time to the Hagerty Glass Works. It is virtually certain that Bernard, then the other brothers, used the glass house to feed their jobbing business. The glass works closed sometime between 1900 and 1904.

Histories

Jobbers and Distributors

Hagerty & Lear, New York (1849-ca. 1857)

B.B. & J. Hagerty, New York (ca. 1857-ca. 1867)

Hagerty Brothers, New York (ca. 1867-1869)

Hagerty Brothers & Co., New York (1869-1953)

According to their advertisements, the earliest form of the Hagerty family firm began in 1849. Researchers have discovered Hagerty & Lear (Bernard B. Hagerty & Harry Lear), suppliers of druggists' ware, as early as 1851, but this was very likely the 1849 company. By 1857, James Hagerty apparently purchased the Lear share of the business, and the firm had become B.B. & J. Hagerty at 8 & 10 Platt St., New York City. The company retained that name until at least 1863 but had become Hagerty Brothers by 1867 (with the inclusion of brothers Edward & Michael H. Haggerty). By 1869, the brothers renamed the business Hagerty Brothers

& Co., and it retained that name until it closed in 1953 (Dairy Antiques 2016; von Mechow 2016). As with many firms, we have much better information on the early days of the company than more recent times – although the earlier period is much more relevant for this study.

Glass Houses

Hamilton Glass Works, Brooklyn, New York (1851-1854)

McKearin admitted, “I have to confess ignorance of this glass factory, which I surmise operated in the last half of the 19th century” (McKearin & Wilson 1978:243). Von Mechow (2016), however, tracked down the rest of the story. M.H. Meyer advertised the Albany Glass Works for sale with the “price low and terms of payment made easy” in the *Albany Evening Journal* on November 29, 1851. Daniel O. Ketchum was apparently the high bidder for the firm. On December 19, he advertised “D.O. KETCHUM & CO., Manufactures of Demijohns of all sizes, Druggists’ Glass, Vials, &c., of superior quality; Carboys, Wine, Porter and Mineral Water Bottles, also, Patent Medicine Bottles, and all other articles made in Private Moulds will receive particular attention.” (quoted in von Mechow 2015).

The plant was located at the corner of Hamilton Ave. and Smith St. in Brooklyn. Ketchum named the plant the Hamilton Glass Works, obviously based on the location. He continued to advertise until at least 1852, although the factory remained listed in the city directory the next year. Ketchum was listed as “commission merchant, 59 Cortland” and separately as “glass” at the same address in the 1854 edition – the last listing for the firm. The plant later became the Brooklyn Green Glass Works, then the Haggerty glass plant (von Mechow 2016).

Brooklyn Green Glass Works, Brooklyn, New York (ca. 1864-ca. 1873)

Hagerty Glass Works, Brooklyn, New York (ca. 1873-ca. 1900)

This glass house was originally the Hamilton Glass Works on Smith St., between 9th & Hamilton in Brooklyn (see discussion of the firm above). Toulouse (1971:243-244) confused the Hagerty jobbers with the Hagerty glass house and thus conflated the two, drawing heavily from McKearin & McKearin (1949).

By 1864, Bernard B. Hagerty, William W. Gardiner, and William Burrows had renamed the plant the Brooklyn Green Glass Works, with the Haggerty Brothers as the sales outlet for the factory. By at least 1873, B.B. Hagerty & Co. reorganized the plant as the Hagerty Glass Co., operated by Hagerty Brothers & Co. At that time, the firm employed 200 men and boys. By 1886, the plant operated two furnaces. Under the style of A.J. Hagerty & Co., Annie J. Hagerty (wife of Bernard B. Hagerty) assumed control of the firm by 1888, and she remained in charge until at least 1896, although the factory closed in 1893 “for an extended period because of the depression.”¹ The plant reopened by at least 1898 and remained in operation until at least 1900, possibly as late as 1904 (Dairy Antiques 2016; Griffenhagen & Bogard 1999:100; Roller 1998; von Mechow 2016).

The obituary of Michael H. Hagerty noted that he was “the last member [probably the last *founder*] of the old firm of Hagerty Brothers & Co.” Hagerty became a member of the family business in 1858 (although he was probably not a partner until 1867). He died of heart failure on February 10, 1908 (*Pharmaceutical Era* 1908:218). Michael was the inventor of the family. He applied for a patent for a “Design for a Fountain-Bottle” on April 9, 1880, and received Design Patent No. 11,868 on July 13 of that year (Figure 1). Despite the name, the bottle was for ink not fountain syrup. Hagerty’s design created the lowest part of the body of the bottle where the quill was dipped into the opening (to take advantage of the last drop of ink) and had two grooves on the top – presumably for holding quills (also see the section on HB&CO in three rings below). For further description of the bottle/ink well, see Lindsey (2016).

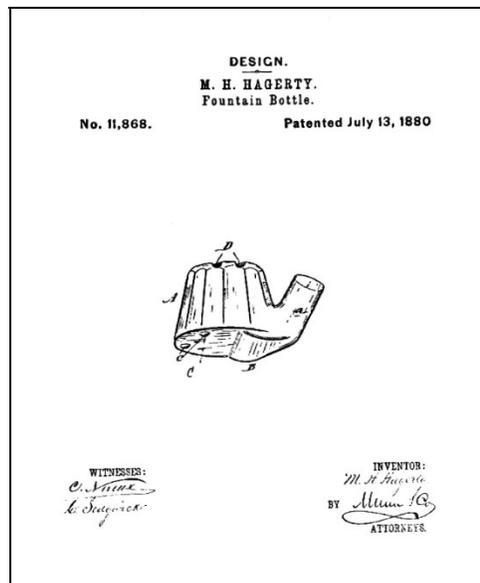


Figure 1 – Hagerty 1880 patent

¹ The depression was caused by the Silver Crash of 1893, followed by the Wilson-Gorman Tariff Act in 1894 that reduced import taxes on foreign glass. The Act remained in effect until 1897. See the section on A Marked Coincidence, Part I in the “C” volume for more discussion.

Hagerty received another patent on July 23, 1889, for a “Mold for Glassware” (Patent No. 407349). He had applied for the patent on April 8 (Figure 2). The mold was for wide-mouth jars “where the opening is equal to the whole interior circumference of the article.” The mold included a blow-over section on the top that was hinged so that it could be opened immediately after the jar was blown to make the blow-over part brittle, so that it would break off easily and not expand any cracks into the container, itself.

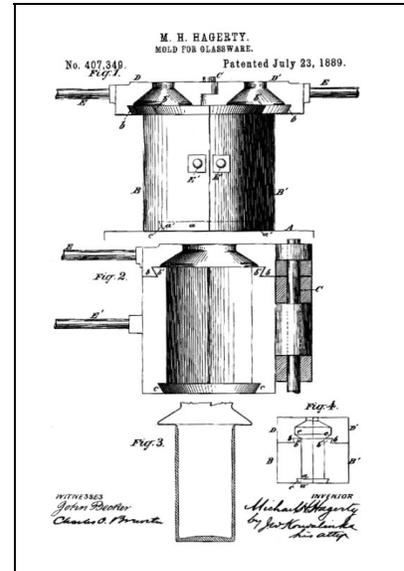


Figure 2 – Hagerty 1889 patent

Containers and Marks

Because many of these marks may be ambiguous as to whether they were used by the jobber or the glass house, we have placed all logos in the same section.

According to an ad in the June 15, 1876, issue of *Crockery & Glass Journal*, Hagerty Brothers & Co. offered “Druggists’ Glassware, Patent Medicine & Mineral Ware Bottles, Large Bier, Wine, Brandy, Ale & Porter Bottles, Flasks, etc., ‘Mason’s Fruit Jars’” (Roller 1998). A Hagerty & Co. ad from the 1890s called the firm “Mfrs. of Bottles, Mineral, Lager & Weiss Beer Bottles, Hocks, Clarets, &c, &c. (Roller 1998).” Catalogs from Hagerty Brothers & Co. remain in existence from 1876, 1879, 1890, 1893, and 1898. They show a large variety of bottles made for and/or by the company.

HAMILTON GLASS WORKS N.Y. (1851-1854)

McKearin & Wilson (1978:243) described a bottle embossed “HAMILTON GLASS WORKS (arch) / N.Y. (horizontal)” on the body. These early soda bottles with improved pontil scars, push-up bases, and rounded taper finishes were further described and depicted by von Mechow (2016), and one was offered on American Bottle Auction – Figure 3).

HB (ca. 1870s)



Figure 3– Hamilton Glass Works (American Bottle Auction)

Both Ring (1980:302) and Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:124) noted the HB mark on the base of a Mrs. Leonard’s Dock & Dandelion Bitters bottle. Griffenhagen and Bogard attributed the mark to the Hagerty Brothers & Co., but we have found no other reference to this product. Von Mechow (2016) listed a single example of a blob-top, champagne beer bottle embossed “SCHNADERBECK & RUNGE / FARMINGDALE (both arches) / L.I. (inverted arch)” in a round plate on the front and “HB / 8” on the base. He suggested that the initials indicated the Hagerty Brothers.

Unfortunately, we could find no online information about Schnaderbeck & Runge. Van Wieren (1999:224), however listed Schnaderbeck & Co. (1862-1870) and Runge & Seidler (1874-1877). Although unlisted, Schnaderbeck & Runge would logically fall into the 1870-1874 period. If this logic is correct, the HB logo was likely used during that period by Hagerty Brothers & Co.

H-B (ca. 1905–1920s)

We recorded an H-B mark (note the hyphen) at the Tucson Urban Renewal collection on a small, colorless, prescription bottle, blown into a two-piece mold. This could also fit into the timeframe for the Hagerty Brothers. We found a second, virtually identical bottle at the Fort Bliss collection (Figure 4). The bottles had graduations on both sides and reinforced prescriptions finishes – characteristics of bottles made during the ca. 1902-1920 period. This was probably the Hagerty Oval noted by Griffenhagen & Bogard (1999:118) as being advertised in 1905.



Figure 4 – H-B (Fort Bliss)

Another example, also virtually identical, was shown on the base of a machine-made, crown-finished, 12-sided catsup bottle at an eBay auction. These machine-made bottles were probably produced during the ca. 1920-1940 period. This later bottle may have been made for the Hagerty jobbing firm or may have been unrelated to the Hagerty clan in any way. It was too late to have been made by the Hagerty Glass Works.

HB monogram (1869 - late 1870s)

Von Mechow (2016) included a single example of an HB monogram on the base of a blob-top, champagne beer bottle embossed “STATEN ISLAND / LAGER (both arched) / BIER / ADOLPH ANTHES (both inverted arches)” in a round plate – featured also in Mobley (2016) (Figure 5). Anthes was listed as the bottler of Staten Island Lager Bier in the 1876 and 1877 Boston Almanac & Directories. This places the monogram in the Hagerty Brothers & Co. era (1869 - late 1870s).



Figure 5 – Anthes bottle (Mobley 2016)

H.B.CO. (1872-1902)

Both Toulouse (1971:243) and Griffenhagen & Bogard (1999:124) identified this logo as belonging to the Hagerty Brothers. Toulouse (1971:243-244) cautioned, however, that “there is a discrepancy—the company name during the period 1880 to 1900 included the ampersand.” Neither source mentioned the type of bottle that carried the mark.

The only examples we have found for the “H.B.CO.” initials were on the bases of cobalt blue poison bottles that were made by Whitall Tatum & Co. at least as early as 1872 (Figure 6). Charles A. Tatum applied for a patent for this bottle on January 31, 1884, and received Patent No. 15,120 on July 1, 1884. The bottles appeared as late as the 1902

			<i>Stop-</i>
			<i>For Corks. per doz.</i>
	In 1 gross assorted		
	boxes.....	\$ 8 50	
	1/2 ounce.....	3 75	\$11 00
	1 “.....	5 00	12 00
	2 “.....	6 25	13 00
	3 “.....	7 75	16 00
	4 “.....	9 25	19 00
	6 “.....	11 25	22 50
	8 “.....	14 00	27 00
	16 “.....	22 00	40 00
THE SAME DISCOUNT AS ON FLINT-GLASS.			

Figure 6 – Poison bottle (Whitall Tatum & Co. 1872 catalog)

catalog but were not in the one for 1909 (Figure 7). For more information, see the section on Whitall Tatum & Co. Since we have found no other reason for the use of the initials on poison bottles made by Whitall Tatum, these could have been produced for the Hagerty Brothers & Co. jobber business. Although probably irrelevant, Whitall Tatum discontinued the bottle style just about the time that the Hagerty Brothers closed its factory.

H.B.&Co. (ca. 1880s-1990s)



Figure 7 – H.B.CO. base (eBay)



Figure 8 – Esselborn bottle (eBay)

Von Mechow recorded two bottles embossed with “HB&Co” basemarks. One was an aqua bottle embossed “C. ESSELBORN² / 613 & 615 (both arches) / WEST 47TH ST. (horizontal) / NEW YORK (inverted arch)” in a round plate on the front and “WEISS / BEER” on the reverse (Figure 8). The base was embossed “MADE BY (arch) / 6 / H.B.&Co. (inverted arch)” (Figure 9). The finish appears to be a modified crown (Figure 10). The



Figure 9 – H.B.&CO. base (eBay)

second bottle was embossed “A. KOCH (arch) / 455 / 1ST AVENUE / NEW YORK (all horizontal) on the front and “THIS BOTTLE / (shield motif) / NOT TO BE SOLD” on the reverse (Figure 11). The base was marked “MADE BY (arch) / HB&CO. N.Y.” Von Mechow (2016) identified the seal for the unusual finish as the Kutscher 1869 Closure

² This was almost certainly G. Esselborn, not C.

(Figure 12). Frederick Kutscher received Patent No. 91,349 on June 15, 1869. Von Mechow described the closure as:

basically flipped over the top of the bottle and snapped on to the tie wire on the neck. This closure was initially used on glass weiss beer bottles on the East coast, close to its inventors home in New Haven, Connecticut. However, it was used much later to about 1890 on pottery beer bottles from Wisconsin.



Figure 10 – Esselborn finish (eBay)

Von Mechow (2016) identified the mark as used by Hagerty Brothers & Co., Brooklyn, New York. Van Wieren (1999:243) listed George Esselborn with no address from 1877 to 1879; and a West 47th St. from 1879 to 1884. From 1884 to 1900, the listing was for G. Esselborn's Sons. Although Andrew Koch was listed at other addresses from 1891 to 1867, he was at the

First Ave. address from 1874 to 1891. He was replaced by A. Koch & Sons in 1891 and by A. Koch's Sons in 1899 (Van Wieren 1999:241). The dates suggest that the H.B.&CO. logo was used during the 1880s and 1890s.



Figure 11 – Koch bottle (eBay)

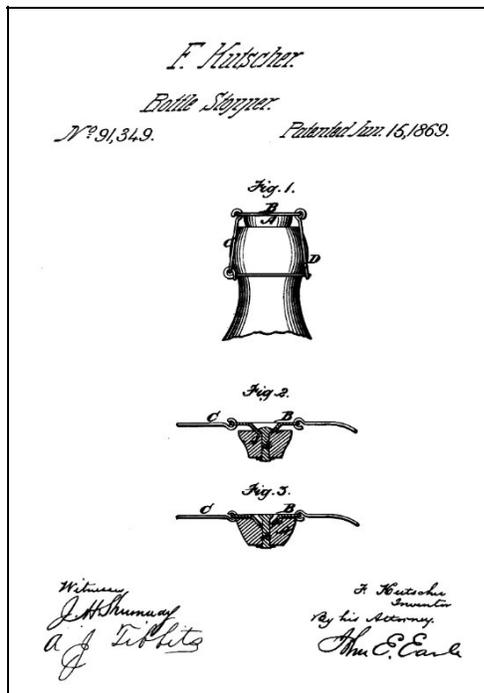


Figure 12 – Kutscher 1869 patent

HB&CO in three rings (1880-1900)

The bottle/ink well patented by Michael Hagerty in 1880 (discussed above) was embossed on the base either “PAT. APP^D FOR” or “PAT JULY 13TH / 1880” – along with a three-ring logo that probably enclosed the initials of the firm (Figures 13 & 14). On both examples we examined, the top ring enclosed two letters, the first of which is illegible; the second is probably a “B.” An ampersand (&) joins the three



Figure 13 – Hagerty ink bases (eBay; Lindsey 2016)



Figure 14 – Hagerty ink bottle (Lindsey 2016)

circles. The letter in the lower left circle is almost certainly a “C” – and the final letter appears to be an “O.” Although not absolute, the logo is very likely “HB&CO” in the circles (Figure 15).



Figure 15 – Three-ring logo (eBay)

HAGERTYS GLASS WORKS (ca. 1873-1900)

Von Mechow (2016) also included a blob-top porter bottle embossed “HAGERTYS (arch) / NY (horizontal) / • GLASS WORKS • (inverted arch)” on the base (Figure 16). The container was clearly made by the glass house during the ca. 1873-1900 period. There were no other markings on this bottle, so it may have been a salesman’s sample.

HAGERTY (ca. 1890s-early 1900s)

Dairy Antiques (2016) added **HAGERTY** on milk bottle bases, although the milk bottles were likely made during the 1890s or later. These may have been made for the Hagerty Brothers jobbing firm after the close of the Brooklyn factory (see below).

Discussion and Conclusions

It is clear from the dearth of examples that the Hagerty Brothers did not regularly use identifying marks on their products – from either the jobbing firm or the glass house. We could only find one bottle that identified the glass *factory* – “HAGERTY’S GLASS WORKS” – in a basemark, but it was likely a salesman’s sample. It is thus pretty certain that the glass house did not use a specific logo.

It is equally clear that the “HAGERTY” basemark on milk bottles identified the family. Even though the state of New York was one of the earliest to use milk bottles, the bulk of milk bottle sales (even in that state) took place after 1900. The name therefore probably indicated Hagerty Brothers & Co. – the jobber.

The identification of the remaining marks – HB, H-B, HBCo, and HB&CO – continues to be somewhat speculative. All of them certainly fall within the time frame of the Hagerty Brothers, and all were used on products sold by the family. In addition, we have found no other glass house or jobber that fits the initials. It is clear, however, that the Hagerty Brothers typically did not require their suppliers to place logos on the products they sold.



Figure 16 – Hagerty’s Glass Works (von Mechow)

Sources

Dairy Antiques Site

2016 “Milk Bottle Manufacturers.” Dairy Antiques Site.

http://dairyantiques.com/Milk_Bottle_Makers.html

Griffinhagen, George and Mary Bogard

1999 *History of Drug Containers and Their Labels*. American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, Madison, Wisconsin.

Lindsey, Bill

2016 “Historic Glass Bottle Identification & Information Website.”

<http://www.sha.org/bottle/>

McKearin, Helen and George McKearin

1949 *Two Hundred Years of American Blown Glass*. Bonanza Books, New York.

McKearin, Helen and Kenneth M. Wilson

1978 *American Bottles & Flasks and Their Ancestry*. Crown Publishers, New York.

Mobley, Bruce

2016 “One Man’s Junk . . . Is Another Man’s . . . Treasure: Beer Bottle Library of Embossed Beers.” <http://brucemobley.com/beerbottlelibrary/index.htm>

Pharmaceutical Era

1908 “Michael H. Hagerty Dead of Heart Failure.” *Pharmaceutical Era* 39 (7):218.
[February 13]

Ring, Carlyn

1980 *For Bitters Only*. Nimrod Press, Boston.

Roller, Dick

1998 “Brooklyn, NY History Notes.” Dick Roller files.

Toulouse, Julian Harrison

1971 *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*. Thomas Nelson, New York.

Van Wieren, Dale

1995 *American Breweries II*. East Coast Breweriana Association, West Point, Pennsylvania.

Von Mechow, Tod

2016 “Soda and Beer Bottles of North America.”

<http://www.sodasandbeers.com/SABBottleManufBeerSoda.htm>

Last updated 5/14/2016