

# The Moore Family Glass Houses of New Jersey

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

When John M. Moore acquired the Fislerville Glass Works in 1856, he set up a successful business that would last for more than half a century. The firm went through six reorganizations and continued through the renaming of the town from Fislerville to Clayton in 1867. When the glass industry revitalized to machine production in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Moore family closed the plant in 1912.

## **Jacob P. Fisler, Fislerville, New Jersey (1850-1856)**

Jacob P. Fisler, Jr., and Benjamin Beckett founded the Fislerville Glass Works in 1850, under the firm name of Fisler & Becket. At the end of the first year, Beckett sold his interest to Edward Bacon, and the firm became Fisler & Bacon.<sup>1</sup> Both men were involved in a serious train accident on August 31, 1855, resulting in Bacon's death and serious injuries to Fisler. During Fisler's recovery, the business failed, so he sold the furnace to John M. Moore, although Moore rented the property (Gloucester County Historical Society 1970:21; Old South Jersey Glass & Antiques 2017; Pepper 1971:183; Toulouse 1971:366).

## **John M. Moore, Fislerville, New Jersey (1856-1859)**

As noted above, John M. Moore rented the factory from Jacob P. Fisler in 1856. Born in 1827, Moore was only 29 years old when he rented the property. The plant made flasks and presumably other bottles (Gloucester County Historical Society 1970:21; Old South Jersey Glass & Antiques 2017; Pepper 1971:183; Toulouse 1971:366). The November 22, 1871, issue of the *West Jersey Press*, however, stated that Moore "bought out bought out the glass business" on January 1, 1857. That *may* mean that Moore purchased the business but not the land and/or buildings. A July 15, 1863, cursive note from the Moore Brothers & Co. still called the plant the Fislerville Glass Works (South Jersey Glass 2004), so the name almost certainly continued during the Moore years (Figure 1).

---

<sup>1</sup>Old South Jersey Glass & Antiques (2017) claims the name was Fisler, Bacon & Co.

## **John M. Moore & Co., Fislerville, New Jersey (1859-1863)**

When Moore took on George C. Hewitt and Jeremiah D. Holgate as partners in 1859, he purchased the entire property from Fisler, and the company became John M. Moore & Co. Over the next three years, the firm enlarged the plant. Moore was well to do prior to his involvement with the glass house, so his rental of the property seems strange. However, he was apparently quite fond of Fisler and may have waited until Fisler was close to death before he made any major changes to the factory (Gloucester County Historical Society 1970:21; Knittle 1927:364; Pepper 1971:183; Toulouse 1971:367).



Figure 1 – Fislerville Glass Works note (eBay)

## **Moore Bros. & Co., Fislerville, New Jersey (1863-1864)**

According to Pepper (1971:183) and Toulouse (1971:367), Moore's brother, D. Wilson Moore, purchased Hewitt's share in 1863, and the name became Moore Bros. & Co. – the Gloucester County Historical Society (1970:21) claimed that Wilson bought both other's interests, changing the firm name in 1863. The Moore brothers were well known and well liked in Fislerville. John, in particular, had far-ranging connections – including those with the railroad – and these could certainly have been a big help in getting the business off to a good start.

## **Moore Bros., Fislerville, New Jersey (1864-1867)**

Holgate sold his share to the Moores in 1864, and the name was simplified to Moore Bros. (Toulouse 1971:367). According to the Woodbury *Constitution* of August 20, 1865, the plant used three furnaces, each with six pots – one fueled by coal, the other two by wood. The firm made its own clay pots for the furnaces as well as its own shipping boxes – and had an entire room filled with molds for its products. The company employed 800 people, and built a community around the plant to house and care for the employees. The factory made a large variety of bottles, including pickles, preserve and jelly jars, druggist and perfumer's glassware, wine bottles, and other forms. The firm planned to expand its jar business in 1866 (Gloucester County Historical Society 1970:21-22).

## **Moore Bros., Clayton, New Jersey (1867-1880)**

The town of Fislerville officially became Clayton in 1867, causing a change of the factory name to the Clayton Glass Works about that time. This may be more evidence of Moore's loyalty to Fisler (Gloucester County Historical Society 1970:21-22; Pepper 1971:183; Roller 1983:257-258; Toulouse 1971:367). On March 18, 1868, the *West Jersey Press* reported that the glass demand plummeted in 1867, and many New Jersey glass factories suspended operations. At other plants, workers voluntarily took as much as a 30% reduction in wages to keep the factories in operation. The article did not specifically mention where the Moore Brothers fit.

While the Moore Bros. survived the Panic (depression) of 1873, the *West Jersey Press* reported on December 10, 1873, that the firm had closed one "factory" (probably tank) and were closing another one the following day. However, a few months later, on March 6, 1874, a reporter from the *Trenton State Gazette* visited the plant and noted "three of four furnaces in full blast. The first two we visited, we found everything in order. The third, being the new one just built, at an expense of some \$35,000, went a little beyond our expectations. The reporter also visited the machine shops, indicating that the firm manufactured its own molds.

## **Moore Bros. & Co., Clayton, New Jersey (1880-1896)**

In 1880, Francis M. Pierce, Harry Steelman, and Charles Fisler (possibly a son of the original founder, Jacob P. Fisler) joined the firm, and the name became Moore Bros. & Co.<sup>2</sup> By 1880, the plant had four furnaces (called the Big House, the Little House, the Dinky, and the Wild Cat Furnace), five warehouses, a general store and several other buildings. The firm employed 400 people in the 1880s and owned about 100 tenant houses for its workers. Most of the blowers, however, owned their own homes (Pepper 1971:183; Toulouse 1971:367).

---

<sup>2</sup> Pierce started F.M Pierce & Co., building another glass factory in Clayton – in apparent competition with the Moores. His plant also produced bottles and closed about the same time as the Moore Bros. Although the families were united through marriage (D. Wilson Moore to Anna C. Pierce, the sister of Francis M. Pierce), we have not discovered the business relationship – if any – between the plants.

On April 26, 1881, that copartnership – officially named Moore Bros. & Co., Glass Mfrs. – was dissolved and was replaced by Moore Bros. & Co., consisting of John M. Moore, Francis M. Pierce, and Harry Steelman. Charles Fisler and D. Wilson Moore were no longer members (Roller 1995). According to the *Camden Post* of February 14, 1888, it was not until that month that Moore Bros. & Co. actually purchased the Clayton Glass Works factory (Clayton Historic Preservation n.d.).<sup>3</sup> The timing may not have been good. The *Bridgeton Evening News* reported on December 19, 1881, that a fire broke out that morning, causing more than \$100,000 in damages.

### **Moore Bros. Glass Co., Clayton, New Jersey (1896-1912)**

The name changed again, this time to the Moore Bros. Glass Co. in 1896 (Toulouse 1971:367). The Moores had one day tank and two five-pot furnaces making green bottles and jars in 1897, a total of 35 pots in operation. The following year, the number was reduced to 30 pots, with a further reduction to 25 pots in 1900. That number held steady, however, until 1902 (*National Glass Budget* 1897a:7; 1897b:4; 1898a:7; 1900:11; 1901:11; 1902:11).

According to the April 7, 1899, issue of the *Bridgeton Evening News*, D.W. Moore, Jr., John M. Moore, and Howard Moore averted a strike by the blowers by granting them an 18% increase in wages, while promising to hire 10-12 additional blowers along with 30 more men and boys to help. An undated trade card for the Moore Bros. Glass Co. listed D.W. Moore, Jr. as president with John M. Moore, vice president, Howard Moore, treasurer, and Charles C. Moore, secretary (Roller 1995). The firm was obviously completely under family control. The *Evening News* went on to report on September 18 that 1,132 blowers and apprentices went on strike at nonunion plants across the state, the most dramatic strike in glass factory history. The Moores, however, agreed to unionize, so their workers remained on the job.

Labor issues did not run so smoothly in 1903, when 150 snapping up boys struck for a raise from 46 to 65 cents per day and were joined by 50 carrying in boys who wanted \$1 each

---

<sup>3</sup> It is unclear what this means. The Gloucester County Historical Society (1970:21) stated that, in 1856, Moore “purchased the personal property [from Fisler] and rented the real estate, and continued the business three years alone. In 1859 he purchased the whole property.” The 1888 purchase *may* mean that the partnership bought the factory from Moore.

day. The strike tied up the Moore Bros. factory, which was “rushed with orders,” so the March 28 *Woodbury Daily Times* predicted an early settlement. Despite the prediction, the strike continued until April 6, when the *Times* reported that the parents of the boys stepped in and sent their children back to work – for the old wages.

Dr. E.K. Moore remained president in 1904, and the factory used one five-pot furnace, three day tanks, and one continuous tank – with a total of 62 rings – to make flint and amber prescription and proprietary ware, fruit jars, and milk jars (*American Glass Review* 1934:157; Toulouse 1971:367). The plant was listed as making “Green; Prescription & Druggists” ware and fruit jars in 1905 and continued production of those wares until the 1914 listing (Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:103, 577; 1914:530).

The factory added a second continuous tank in 1906, replacing one day tank. On January 5, the *Woodbury Daily Times* announced that “a special trainload of 1600 cases, one gross to each case, the largest shipment ever made from the Moore Bros. factory, left Clayton yesterday, to go direct [*sic*] to Europe, for a brand of perfume.” The *Bridgeton Evening News* noted on November 12 that the plant was installing electricity, with two tanks in operation and the rest of the factory to follow.

By 1907, the plant used two day tanks, two continuous tanks, and one furnace, and the *Evening News* reported that one of the tanks collapsed on June 17. The *Daily Times* remarked on March 14, 1910, that “Not a single piece of machinery is as yet on this firm’s premises and there are no indications that mechanical devices will be introduced in the near future.” The plant’s infrastructure was getting old a beginning to crumble. On June 6, the *Daily Times* reported that the “big tank” had collapsed and would not be repaired.

Although reports were conflicting, that may have been the end of production at the Moore Bros. factory – although there is some indication that the blowers were still working as late as November. In December, however, Edward Moore, president of the firm, asked for a receiver, and the courts appointed William M. Pierce to take that responsibility. Although Pierce attempted to restart the operation as well as trying to sell the plant, the firm never reopened. Several sales were attempted, but none resulted in any change (*Bridgeton Evening News* 9/12/1911; 12/11/1911; 12/18/1911). See Table 1 for a chronology of firms and factories.

Even though the business had failed, the Moore Brothers' problems continued. The *Bridgeton Evening News* explained on April 28, 1914, that George W. Dickensheets, Joseph Best, and Harry Stille

were members of a bond committee of the bankrupt Moore Bros.' Glass Company of Clayton. Best is alleged to have said the committee examined the accounts of the concern and discovered that Charles Moore, the secretary, had embezzled \$8000. The defendants are said to have agreed to turn the alleged evidence against Moore over to members of his family if Moore would give the committee \$5000 in cash and agree in writing to assume the payment of 200,000 in bonds, principal and interest.

The receiver continued to try to sell the out-of-date factory with no success, and the buildings began to collapse. The Moore family continued to be taxed at a high rate for the property, while still struggling to pay the required remuneration resulting from the collapse of the business and the embezzlements (*Bridgeton Evening News* 10/13/1914; 2/2/1915; *Woodbury Daily Times* 7/26/1917; 1/2/1918).

**Table 1 – Moore Companies**

Dates	Operating Firm	Factory
1850	Fisler & Becket	Fislervill Glass Works
1851-1856	Fisler & Bacon	Fislervill Glass Works
1856-1859	John M. Moore	Fislervill Glass Works
1859-1863	John M. Moore & Co.	Fislervill Glass Works
1863-1864	Moore Bros. & Co.	Fislervill Glass Works
1864-1867	Moore Bros.	Fislervill Glass Works
1867-1880	Moore Bros.	Clayton Glass Works
1880-1896	Moore Bros. & Co.	Clayton Glass Works
1896-1912	Moore Bros. Glass Co.	Clayton Glass Works

## Containers and Marks

Although the Moore family produced numerous types of bottles and jars, the factory apparently never embossed its name or logo on anything except a few types of patented jars. The embossing changed along with the company names through three jar types. The earliest of these was for the John B. Wilson patent of December 3, 1861. Even though the Willoughby jar was patented by James D. Willoughby on January 4, 1859, it was the second type used by Moore. The final container was a Mason jar with the Moore name embossed on the base.

**Table 2 – Moore Fruit Jars**

Jar Embossing	Firm	Dates
Wilson 1861 Patent		
JOHN M. MOORE & Co. – J.B. WILSON’S AIR TIGHT FRUIT JAR	John M. Moore & Co.	1861-1863
John M. Moore & Co. / Manufacturers (cursive)	John M. Moore & Co.	1861-1863
John M. Moore & Co. (cursive) / MANUFACTURERS	John M. Moore & Co.	1861-1863
Moore’s PATENT	Moore Bros. & Co.	1863-1864
Moore’s PATENT	Moore Bros.	1864-1868
Willoughby 1859 Patent		
Moore Brothers & Co. (cursive)	Moore Bros. & Co.	1863-1864
MOORE BROTHERS & CO. / FISLERVILLE	Moore Bros. & Co.	1863-1864
MOORE BROTHERS (ghosted & CO) / FISLERVILLE	Moore Bros.	1864-1867
Moore Brothers	Moore Bros.	1864-1867
Mason Jars		
MOORE BRO’S / GLASS CO.	Moore Bros. Glass Co.	1885-1914

Toulouse (1971:366) included five marks for the Moore firms, all of which seem to be correct except one – JOHN M. MOORE – 1856-1859 – a mark we have not seen nor found in

any other source nor have we seen it on a container. We also disagree with his dating of the MOORE BROS. & Co. embossing, which he dated 1863 *and* 1880-1896. The jars bearing “& Co.” were probably only made during the 1863-1864 period (see below). See Table 2 for a Moore jar chronology.

### **Fislerville Glass Works** (ca. 1856-1859)

We discussed these Jenny Lind calabash flasks in detail in the Other F section, making the assumption others have made that Jacob P. Fisler made the flasks at the Fislerville Glass Works between 1850 and 1856. However, the plant remained the Fislerville Glass Works after John Moore acquired the factory in 1856, so Moore could easily have continued to use the molds for several years. McKearin & Wilson (1978:135) dated the flask 1850-1860 or later, implying that Moore may have continued to make the product. Since Jenny Lind toured the U.S. from 1850 to 1852, it is highly likely that the original molds were made during the time period.

### **Wilson 1861 Patent Jars** (1861-1867)

Joseph B. Wilson received Patent No. 33,870 on December 3, 1861, for an “Improvement in Preserving Vessels” assigning the patent “to himself and John M. Moore” (Figure 2). Toulouse (1971:220) described the finish as “handmade round, pressed laid-on-ring” closed with a “glass stopper, held by yoke and thumb-screw. Wilson lived at Williamstown and had associations with the Bodines – another glass making family. Wilson received three patents in 1861 (No. 31,854 on March 26 and No. 32,809 on July 9). He assigned the March 26 patent to John Bodine and retained the other one for himself. Wilson was apparently a freelance inventor. Bodine may have refused to use the December patent, so Wilson may have offered it to other glass houses until John Moore adopted the stopper. See the section of the Bodine family for more on those glass houses.

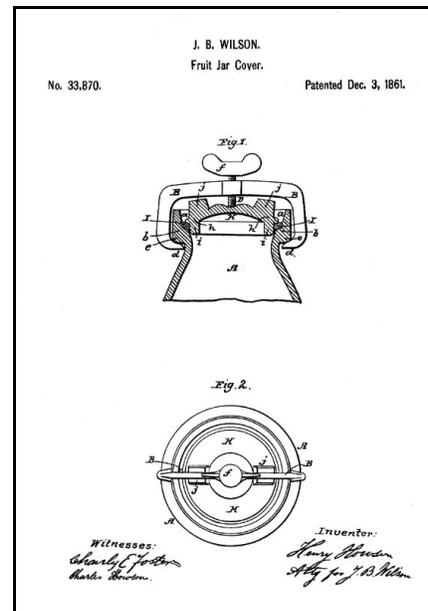


Figure 2 – Wilson 1861 Patent

According to the Gloucester County Historical Society (1970:21), the Woodbury *Constitution* of August 20, 1865, bragged that the Moore Brothers had “been largely engaged for some time in making fruit jars of the different varieties. Among these are the Lyman, Excelsior, Willoughby and Moore’s patent. The latter is their own invention.” The “Moore’s Patent” was actually the J.B. Wilson 1861 patent. Roller (1983:258; 1995) cited an 1867

advertisement of Fislerville Glass Works, Fislerville, Clayton Twp., Gloucester Co., NJ, office 33 So. Front St., Philadelphia. Moore Brothers, mfrs. of Druggists’ & Perfumers’ Glassware; Wine, Porter & Mineral Water Bottles; Pickle, Preserve, Jelly, & Air-Tight Fruit Jars; Syrup, Sauce, Capor & Olive Bottles. Mfrs. of Moore’s Patent Air-Tight Fruit jars. John M. Moore, D. Wilson Moore (Figure 3).

Roller (1995) also discovered an ad for the Clayton Glass Works from the 1868/69 *Gopsill’s Philadelphia City Directory* for “Moore Brothers, mfrs. of Bottles & vials, also Patent Fruit Jars, Druggists’ Glassware; Wine Bottles, Soda Water, Porter & Ale Bottles. No. 33 So. Front St., Philadelphia.” In both cases, the Philadelphia address was a sales office.

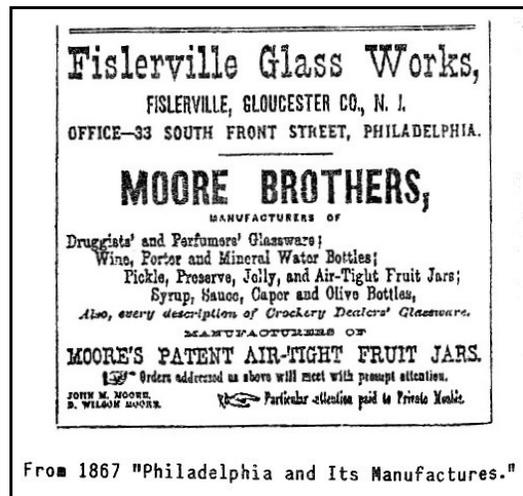


Figure 3 – 1867 ad (Roller 1983:258)

Three of the four jars with the Wilson patent date were embossed John M. Moore & Co., although the final one only noted “Moore’s Patent” and the Wilson patent date. As discussed below, Moore took credit for the Wilson patent, and he probably continued to use all four of the jar molds until they wore out. The use of the term “Patent Fruit Jars” in the 1868 ad suggests that Moore had discontinued the Wilson/Moore patent jar by that time, so the firm apparently made the jars from 1861 to ca. 1867.

### **JOHN M. MOORE & Co. (1861-1863)**

Toulouse (1969:220) listed a single jar embossed on the front with “JOHN M. MOORE (arch) / MANUFACTURERS / FISLERVILLE / N.J. (all horizontal)” and on the reverse with

“J.B. WILSON’S / AIR TIGHT FRUIT JAR / PATENTED / JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> / 1861 (all horizontal).” Toulouse noted that the jar was made by John M. Moore & Co. ca. 1861. Roller (1983:258; 2011:382) discussed this jar but stated that the top line was “JOHN M. MOORE & Co.” He dated the jar ca. 1861-1863. Creswick (1987:161) illustrated the jar, noting that the lid was embossed “PATENTED (arch) / JUNE 20, 1983 (inverted arch)” and agreeing with the Roller dates (Figure 4).

This is an interesting jar. As noted above, John P. Wilson received his patent on December 3, 1861. However, the patent date was embossed on a jar that obviously used Wilson’s closure was June 20, 1861, but nowhere in the patent document did Wilson allude to an earlier patent. As Toulouse (1969:220) noted, it is possible that Wilson applied for the patent on June 20, 1861, and the mold makers somehow engraved the application date on the jars rather than the actual patent date. Another possibility is that Moore wanted to get the jar into production before Wilson actually received the patent and so used the application date. The subsequent jars had the correct date. In either scenario, the jar would have been made in 1861, although the mold would have been used until it wore out.

**John M. Moore & Co. (cursive) (ca. 1861-1863)**

Toulouse (1969:220) enumerated one jar embossed on the front with “John M Moore & Co. (arch) / Manufacturers / Fislerville NJ (horizontal – all three lines in cursive).” Below that was PATENTED DEC 3<sup>D</sup> 1861” (Figure 5). Toulouse noted that a variation had an engraver’s error, leaving off the final “r” in “Manufacturers.” He dated the jar “Circa 1863 only [company name change]” (his brackets). Glass lids for these jars were embossed “PATENTED (arch) / DEC. 3<sup>D</sup>

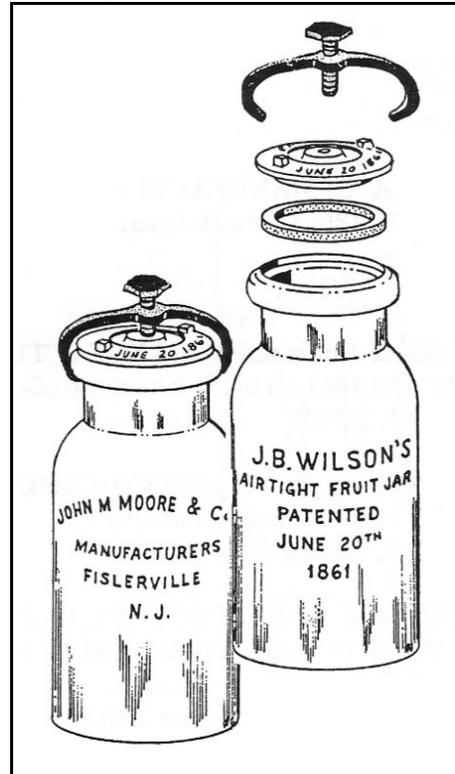


Figure 4 – Wilson Air-Tight (Creswick 1987:161)



Figure 5 – John M. Moore (North American Glass)



Figure 6 – Moore lids  
(North American Glass)

1861(inverted arch)” (Figure 6). Roller (1983:258; 2011:383) also discussed this jar, noting two mouth diameters, as well as a variation that had block letters for “MANUFACTURERS / FISLERVILLE NJ.” Pepper (1971:185) noted that one of these had sold in South Jersey in 1970 for \$125. She exclaimed that “John M. Moore would have been incredulous at such prices for his fruit jars.” Creswick (1987:160-161) illustrated both variations, centering on the front label, also noting the two mouth diameters (Figure 7). She dated all variations ca. 1861-1863.



Figure 7 – John M. Moore  
(Creswick 1987:160)

### Moore’s PATENT (1863-1864)

Toulouse (1969:221) included a jar embossed “Moore’s (slight arch – cursive) / PATENT / DEC 3<sup>D</sup> 1861 (both horizontal)” on the front with the same type of lid as the Wilson patented jars previously discussed (Figure 8). Roller (1983:258) dated the jar ca. 1860s. Creswick (1987:160) illustrated the jar, dating it ca. 1861 and later, adding that collectors had discovered several cobalt-blue lids but no actual jars in that color (Figure 9). The Roller update (2011:382) clarified from Jerry McCann that “a group of cobalt blue colored lids were dug together complete with original gaskets still clinging to them” but agreed that no cobalt blue jars had been found.

Toulouse (1969:221) suggested that we “note the ‘delicate’ process of withdrawing the inventor from the limelight! The first MOORE jar used his name in full; the next made no mention of him but quoted the correct patent date; and the last called it Moore’s

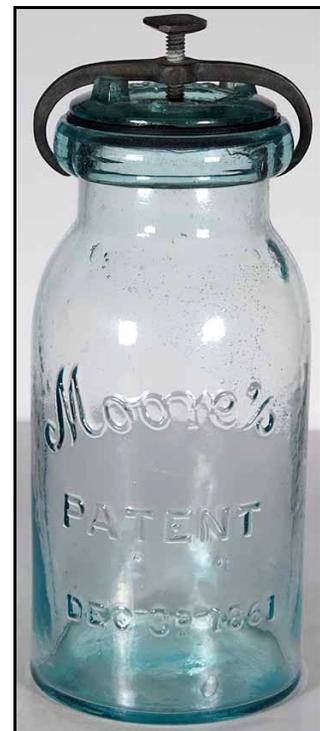


Figure 8 – Moore’s Patent  
(North American Glass)

Patent!” If Toulouse is correct, this mold would be at the end of the Wilson’s patent sequence, probably created ca. 1863. The *Bridgeton Evening News* reported on April 11, 1884, that “the Woodbury Glass Works have bought a patent jar from J.B. Wilson of Clayton” effectively providing a closing date for the Moore Brothers’ manufacture of these jars.

### Willoughby 1859 Patent Jars

James D. Willoughby received Patent No. 22,535 for a “Improvement in Sealing Bottles and Cans” on January 4, 1859 (Figure 10). He assigned the patent to C.M. Alexander, a patent attorney, who undoubtedly sold the rights to a number of glass houses. The finish was similar to the one on the Wilson-patent jar discussed above. Roller

(1983:385) described the closure as a “rubber gasket compressed by two metal disks and wingnut seals on inside of jar mouth, wider top disk rests on jar lip.”

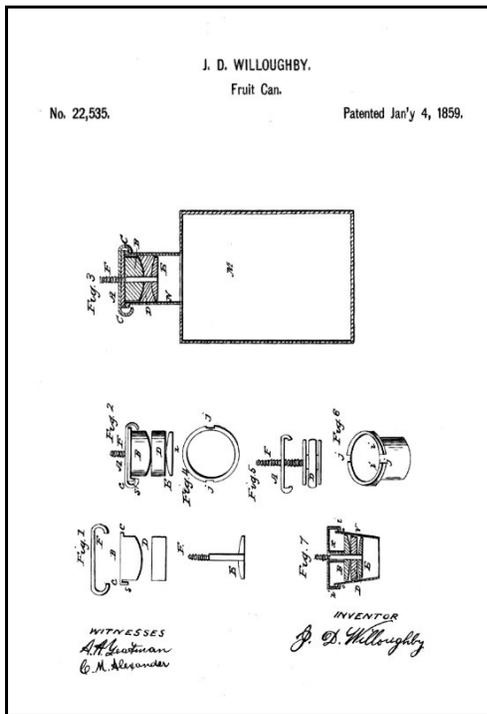


Figure 10 – Willoughby 1859 patent



Figure 9 – Moore’s Patent (Creswick 1987:160)

The jars bore the names of Moore Brothers & Co. and Moore Brothers, dating the jars from 1863 to as late as 1880. As noted above, the August 20, 1865, *Constitution* article included the Willoughby jar, but the 1867 ad only listed the “Moore Patent.” The Moore Brothers & Co. name was not used until 1863, so the jars could not have been made earlier than that, but the ad suggests they were no longer in production later than 1867 – despite four different variations of the embossing (see below).

## MOORE BROTHERS & CO (1863-1864)

Roller (1983:257) noted three variations of this jar, all made to the Willoughby 1859 patent. One was marked “Moore Brothers & Co.,



Figure 12 – Moore Brothers lid (North American Glass)



Figure 11 – Moore Brothers & Co. – ghosted on left (North American Glass)

(cursive)” – another “MOORE BROTHERS & CO. (arch) / FISLERVILLE N.J. (horizontal).”. Both jars used the Willoughby stopper (see entry just above). The final variation had a ghosted “& CO.” (Figure 11). He dated all three jars to the 1863-1864 period. Each stopper was stamped “J.D. WILLOUGHBY PATENTED JANUARY 4 1859” (Figure 12). Creswick (1987:160) only illustrated and discussed a variation with cursive letters in a slight arch and no town/state designation (Figure 13). Creswick dated the jar 1880-1896. We followed the Roller dating. The ghosted variation (in cursive) was almost certainly created in 1864, when “& Co” was dropped.

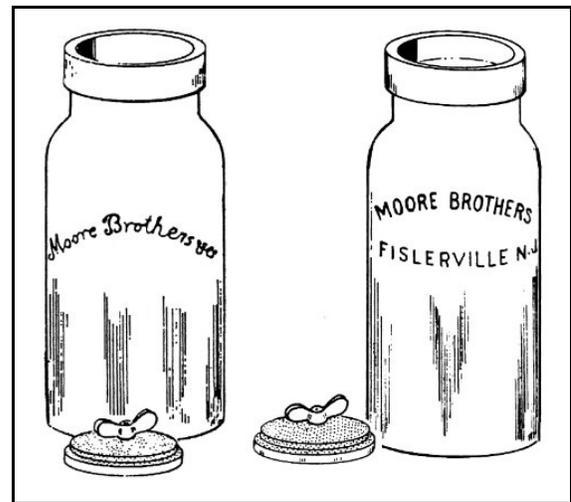


Figure 13 – Moore Brothers & Co. (Creswick 1987:160)

## Moore Brothers (1864-1880)

Roller (1983:257; 2011:382) noted a jar marked only “Moore Brothers (cursive)” with a lid stamped “J.D. WILLOUGHBY PATENTED JANUARY 4 1859.” He dated the jar ca. 1864-

1867. Creswick (1987:160) illustrated two variations, one embossed “Moore Brothers” in a cursive arch, the other “MOORE BROTHERS (slight arch) / FISLERVILLE N.J. (slight inverted arch)” – but this block-letter jar was almost certainly the MOORE BROTHERS & Co. noted above (Figure 14). Creswick dated the cursive jar ca. 1964-1880 and the block lettered variation ca. 1863-1864. The jars could have been made throughout the entire Moore Brothers period, although they may have been discontinued prior to 1880.

### Wilson’s 1884 Patent

Allen F. Wilson, probably the brother of inventor, Joseph B. Wilson, applied for a “Fruit-Jar” patent on July 11, 1884. He received Patent No. 306,984 on October 21, 1884 and assigned three-quarters to David W. Moore and Joseph B. Wilson. Neither Roller (2011) nor Creswick (1987) mentioned this patent, so it was almost certainly never used on a fruit jar.

### Mason Jars

As noted in the section on the Mason Fruit Jar Co., John Mason’s 13-year extension for his original patents expired in 1885, so numerous glass houses began making Mason jars during that year. The Moore Brothers Glass Co. was probably one of those firms. Although there is no way to tell what forms of the jar (or others) were eventually made by Moore, the only one with an embossed Moore Brothers name was the shoulder-seal jar.

#### MOORE BRO’S GLASS CO. (ca. 1885-1914)

The front of these jars was embossed “MASON’S (arch) / PATENT / NOV 30<sup>TH</sup> / 1858 (all horizontal) with “MOORE BRO’S (arch) / {number} / CLAYTON, / N.J. (all horizontal) / GLASS CO.

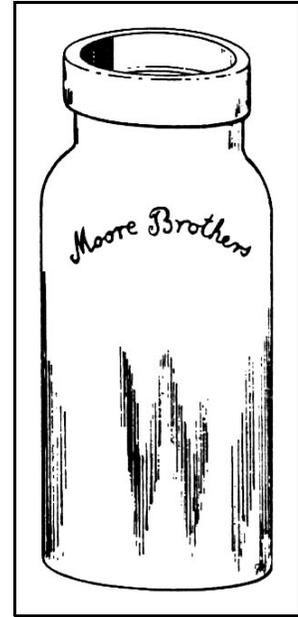


Figure 14 – Moore Brothers (Creswick 1987:160)



Figure 15 – Mason Patent (eBay)



Figure 16 – Mason base (eBay)

(inverted arch)” embossed on the base (Figures 15 & 16). Toulouse (1969:221) dated the jars 1875-1880. Roller (1983:238; 2011:359) noted the jar and dated it ca. 1870s-1880s but added nothing else. Creswick (1987:138) illustrated the base and dated the jar ca. 1896-1914 but added no other information (Figure 17). As noted above, the patents for the shoulder-seal

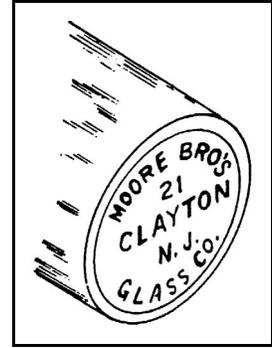


Figure 17 – Mason base (Creswick 1987:138)

Mason jar expired in 1885, so this jar could not have been made prior to that date. The jars were probably produced until the baseplates work out (likely the entire mold set), then subsequent Mason jars were generic – lacking the Moore Brothers name.

## Discussion and Conclusions

It is virtually certain that Moore never used marks to identify the vast majority of his wares. Aside from the possible exception of the Jenny Lind calabash flasks, he apparently only marked the patented fruit jars that he made, along with one Mason jar. Some of the sources seem to have been a bit confused about a few of the jars as well as the dates, but we mostly agreed with their assessments.

## Acknowledgments

Our gratitude to Doug Leybourne for allowing us to reproduce the Alice Creswick drawings and to Greg Spurgeon for letting us use the North American Glass photos. As always, we also want to thank Wanda Wakkinen for her tireless proofreading.

## Sources

### *American Glass Review*

1934 “Glass Factory Yearbook and Directory.” *American Glass Review*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Includes reprint of the *Glass Trade Directory for 1904*. Commoner Publishing Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Clayton Historic Preservation

n.d. "Glass Industry Comes to Clayton."

<http://www.claytonhistoric.org/glassindustryofclayton.html>

Creswick, Alice

1987 *The Fruit Jar Works, Vol. I, Listing Jars Made Circa 1820 to 1920's*. Privately printed, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Gloucester County Historical Society

1970 "Fislerville Glass Works." *Bulletin of the Gloucester County Historical Society* 12(6):21-22. [taken from the *Constitution* August 20, 1865]

Knittle, Rhea Mansfield

1927 *Early American Glass*. Appleton-Century, New York.

Old South Jersey Glass & Antiques

2017 "History of Glass Making in Fislerville (Now Clayton)."

[http://oldsouthjerseyglass.com/article\\_details/MTe=](http://oldsouthjerseyglass.com/article_details/MTe=)

McKearin, Helen and Kenneth M. Wilson

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

*National Glass Budget*

1897a "Glass Directory." *National Glass Budget* 12(42):7.

1897b "Flint and Green Glass Review." *National Glass Budget* 13(26):4-6.

1898a "Flint, Green and Cathedral Glass Factories of the United States and Canada in Operation." *National Glass Budget* 13(38):7.

1898b "Flint Bottle Factories." *National Glass Budget* 14(18):3.

1900 "Complete List of Glass Factories in the United States and Canada." *National Glass Budget* 15(48):11.

1901 "Complete List of Glass Factories in the United States and Canada." *National Glass Budget* 17(1):11.

1902 "Complete List of Glass Factories in the United States and Canada." *National Glass Budget* 17(52):11.

Pepper, Adeline

1971 *Glass Gaffers of New Jersey*. Scribner's Sons, New York.

Roller, Dick

1983 *Standard Fruit Jar Reference*. Acorn Press, Paris, Illinois.

1995 "Clayton, NJ History Notes." Dick Roller files.

2011 *Standard Fruit Jar Reference: 2011 Update*. Edited by Jerome McCann and Barry Bernas. Fruit Jar Annual/Phoenix Press, Chicago.

Thomas Publishing Co.

1905-1906 *The Buyers' Guide: Thomas' Register of American Manufacturers and First Hands in all Lines*. Thomas Publishing Co., New York.

1914 *Thomas' Register of American Manufacturers and First Hands in All Lines: A Classified Reference Book for Buyer and Sellers*. Thomas Publishing, New York.

Toulouse, Julian Harrison

1969 *Fruit Jars*. Thomas Nelson & Sons, Camden, New Jersey.

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

Last updated 1/16/2017

