The Rochester Glass Works and the Reed Family

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with contributions by Bill Porter

The Rochester Glass Works at Rochester, New York, had a somewhat capricious background with a series of operators between 1865 and 1877 with sporadic closures. Henry T. Kelly & Co. brought stability to the firm, when a group of seasoned glass workers from Clyde, New York, gained control of the plant in 1881. Eugene P. Reed purchased a share of Kelly & Co. – forming Kelly, Reed & Co. in 1885 – but Frank Reed pushed the factory into success when he succeeded Eugene in 1889. The Reed name was a common one is glass manufacturing, with several unrelated Reed families producing glass, often at the same time (e.g., see Reed & Co. in the "R" Volume). Although its sphere of influence was predominantly eastern in scope, the firm remained a major glass producer until bankruptcy brought the operation to a halt in 1956.

Histories

The history of this glass house is very complex. As is often the case, sources disagree, and primary sources are few for some important changes. The following histories follow the best sources we can find, predominantly newspaper accounts.

Rochester Cooperative Glass Works (1862-1864)

According to Toulouse (1971:432), workers from the Clyde Glass Works erected the Rochester Cooperative Glass Works ca. 1862. This name was not supported by any other source, and almost certainly was the Rochester Glass Works, operated by C.B. Woodworth (see next entry). Letters from the Rochester Glass Works from 1875 and 1888, claim that the plant was established in 1862, so that *is* the likely inception date for the firm. Toulouse almost certainly confused the workers from Clyde with the Henry T. Kelly & Co. operating firm that acquired the business in 1881 (see below).

Rochester Glass Works, C.B. Woodworth (1862-1867)
Rochester Glass Works, C.B. Woodworth & Son (1867-1870)

Along with Reuben A Bunnel, Chauncey B. Woodworth purchased a perfumery business in 1856, although Woodworth bought out Bunnel by 1860. The firm made perfumes, soaps and toilet articles. James Bryan opened the Rochester Chemical Works & Color Manufactory at 104 & 107 State St. in Rochester by 1851, but Woodworth & Bunnel had taken over the firm at some point prior to 1861 when they dissolved their partnership – by that time simply called the Rochester Chemical Works (Figure 1). Since Bunnel had sold his interest to John R. Eldridge, the new operating company was called Woodworth & Eldridge (Collecting Vintage Compacts 2011; *Rochester Time-News* 3/13/1851; 3/8/1861).

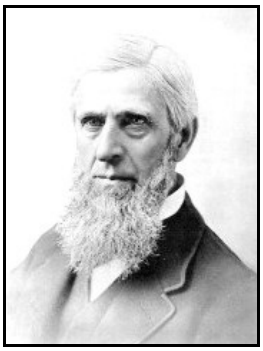
Figure 1 – Chauncey B. Woodworth (Collecting Vintage Compacts)

Although still involved in both the perfume and chemical businesses, Woodworth built a glass factory, the Rochester Glass Works – located at 178 Plymouth Ave. in Rochester – by 1864, but almost certainly in 1862 (the date noted on Rochester Glass Works stationery from 1875 and 1888). Although the factory name was not included, the 1864 Rochester city directory listed C.B. Woodworth as "glass mfr." at 178 Plymouth Ave. (Roller 1997). On November 22, 1866, the *Time-News* carried an ad for the Rocherster Glass Works: "C.B. Woodworth, Manufacturer of all kinds of Druggists and Perfumers Glassware, Prescription Bottles &c., is now prepared to execute all orders with promptness. Private Moulds made to order." In 1867, Woodworth apparently brought his son into the glass business. C.B. Woodworth & Son already had been the name of one of his other businesses, but now it applied to his glass works as well (e.g., *Lafayette Weekly Courier* 11/26/1867).

The 1868 directory was quite cryptic. Roller (1997) reported the listing as "Chauncey B. Woodworth & Son, perfumers & proprietors Rochester Chemical & Glass Works, 111, 113 & 115 Buffalo; home So. Washington. Glass works 178 & 180 Plymouth Ave." The names should have been the Rochester Chemical Works and the Rochester Glass Works – either a clerical error or a combination to save space. The *New York Commercial Bulletin* for October 16, 1869, added that the glass works had "when running at full capacity, 100 hands in the manufacture of druggists' and perfumer's glass ware, prescription bottles &c." Looking back from February 17,

1875, the *Daily Graphic* clarified that C.G. [*sic*] Woodworth & Son owned the Rochester Chemical Works and Rochester Glass Works. The chemical works made perfumes, and the glass works made the bottles for them. The *Rochester Times-Union* for June 4, 1868, told more of a story of disruption:

> Messrs. C.B. Woodworth & Son, proprietors of the Glass Works, which have not been in operation for some time past have started them again, and propose to largely increase the business. In addition to the ware being used by the proprietors in their perfumery establishment, they will manufacture lantern globes, lamp chimneys, and lamps. They have secured the services of James Samille of Brooklyn, as a superintendent. This gentleman has 20 years experience in the business of glassmaking, and understands it thoroughly.

Unfortunately, the phrase "have not been in operation for some time past" is terribly imprecise. However, it suggests more than the usual summer layoff, especially considering that such a layoff would have been just beginning in June. Apparently, Woodworth was not cut out for glass making. He leased the glass factory to T.A. Evans in mid-1870 probably to concentrate on his other interests.

Containers and Marks

Although we have discovered no manufacturer's marks used during the Woodworth period, the Rochester Glass Works apparently produced three types of fruit jars between 1863 and the early 1870s.

C.F. SPENCERS IMPROVED JAR (1863-ca. 1870?)

Charles F. Spencer patented two different closures that became actual fruit jars. Roller (1983:333) noted that the earliest jar was embossed "C.F. SPENCER'S (arch) / PATENT / ROCHESTER, N.Y. (both horizontal)" on the front. Roller (1983:334) described the closure for this one as "Stopper fabricated of rubber gasket between two tinned-iron disks sealed on inside of jar mouth, wire ring soldered on top of top disc to aid in removal of stopper." The stopper was stamped "C.F. SPENCERS PATENT FEB 10 1863" (Figure 2). Roller suggested the Rochester Glass Works, Rochester, New York, and noted that a jobber called Coleman & Barnes (also

Rochester) advertised the jar on June 22, 1867. The city directories listed Coleman & Barnes from 1868 to 1870 as "Fruit Jar Mfrs," 23 Exchange and 30 Main. Spencer held six patents for fruit jars and cans and was listed in the directories from 1861 to 1870 as "master mechanic, clerk." The firm was a jobber and did not actually manufacture fruit jars.

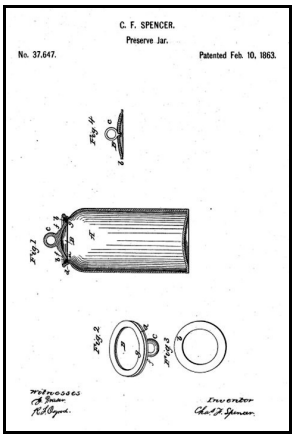

Figure 2 – Spencer 1863 patent

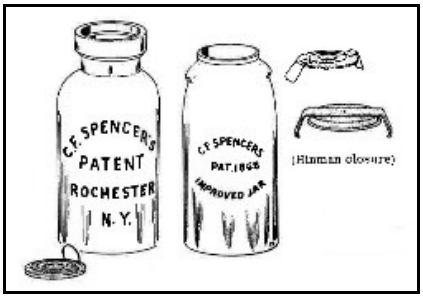

Figure 3 – Spencer jar (Creswick 1987a:196)

Creswick (1987a:196) illustrated the jar and listed four variations (Figures 3 & 4). Along with the variation listed by Roller, Creswick included one with "RCOHESTER," another with "PNTENT," the final one with an "X" after "N.Y." Spencer received Patent No. 37,647 on February 10, 1863, then received a reissue of the patent on May 15, 1866, and assigned it to R.A. Bunnel, also of Rochester.


Figure 4 – Spencer jar (eBay)

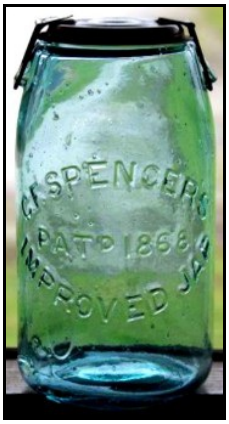

Figure 5 – Spencer 1868 jar (American Glass Auction)

The later patent jar was embossed "C.F.SPENCERS (arch) / PAT^{D} 1868 (horizontal) / IMPROVED JAR (inverted arch)" on the front. The superscript "D" was so high that it was actually on a separate line above "PAT" and had a period far below it (Figure 5). Roller (1983:333) described the closure as "straddle-lip top seal, tinned iron lid with two hinged wire loops soldered to the top edge that hook under lugs on jar neck." Charles F. Spencer patented the jar on January 28, 1868 (No. 73,846). Roller suggested that the Rochester Glass Works, Rochester, New York, was the maker. One variation was identical except that it lacked the "D" in "PATD."

Roller (1983:333) added:

These jars have previously been listed as using a metal lid with riveted metal spring clamp marked P.N. HINMAN PAT APL FOR. It is possible that Hinman's

lid and clamp were used on these jars, but it is more likely that the Spencer jars used Spencer patent closures.

Creswick (1987a:196) also discussed and illustrated this later jar (see Figure 3). She also discussed the Hinman closure (mentioned by Roller). Although the lid was embossed "P.N. HINMAN PAT APL FOR," Hinman received Patent No. 85,932 on January 19, 1869.

Figure 6 – Finish of Model Jar (North American Glass)

THE MODEL JAR (1867-1870 or later)

Roller (1983:254) noted two variations of THE MODEL JAR, both mouth-blown (Figure 6). One was embossed "THE MODEL JAR (arch) / PAT^{D} / AUG. 27. 1867 (both horizontal)"; the other added "ROCHESTER, N.Y." below the date (Figure 7). The cardboard cap cover stated "THE MODEL JAR PATENTED AUG. 27 1867 (eagle figure) J.J. VAN ZANDT PROPRIETOR & MANUFACTURER, ROCHESTER, N.Y." (Figure 8). Roller added that "J.J. Van Zandt was listed as a coffee and spice merchant in the 1860s Rochester city directories. These jars are found with two distinctly different finishes" (Figure 9) In addition, the numerals (27, 1867) on one variation were in a "fancy style" (Figure 10). He suggested the Rochester Glass Works as the probable maker. The update (Roller 2010:379) filled in the information from Creswick (below).

Figure 7 – Model Jars (North American Glass)

Figure 8 – Van Zandt cap (North American Glass)

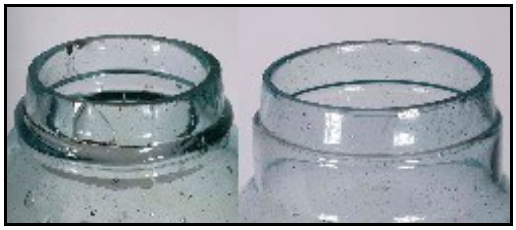

Figure 9 – Two finishes (North American Glass)

Figure 10 – Label variation (North American Glass)

Creswick (1987:159) illustrated both jars and added that Charles F. Spencer received Patent No. 68,319 on August 27, 1867 (Figure 11). The cardboard cover, of course, is very rare. Echoing Roller, she pointed out that the two jars "have slightly different necks but use the same sealing method." Van Zandt was a dealer in coffee, tea, and spices, beginning in 1844 and remained in business until he retired, being succeeded by his brothers, Benjamin and Macy Van Zant. Creswick was more certain that the Rochester Glass Works made the jars ca. 1867.

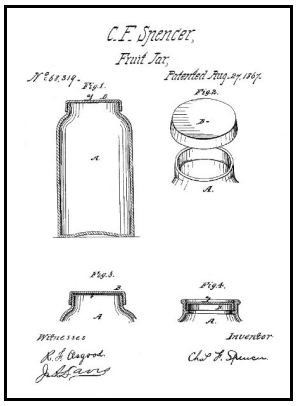

Figure 11 – Spencer 1857 patent

WHITMORE'S PATENT (ca. 1868-early 1870s)

Toulouse (1969:329) described a mouth-blown fruit jar with a "notched glass lid and spring wire bail" embossed "WHITMORE'S (arch) / PATENT (horizontal with a reversed "N") / ROCHESTER (arch) / N.Y. (horizontal)" on the side. He suggested the Rochester Glass Works as the probable manufacturer ca. 1868. The lid was embossed "PATENTED JAN'Y 14TH 68." He noted that he could not locate the patent – although North American Glass illustrated examples with an "L" or a reversed "P" above the numbers (Figure 12).


Figure 12 – Whitmore lids (North American Glass)

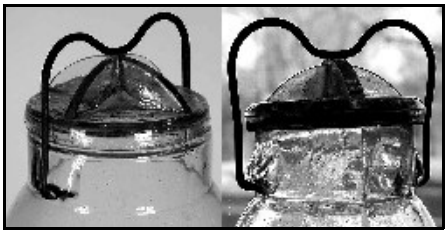
Figure 13 – Whitmore bails (North American Glass)

Figure 14 – Whitmore jars (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:381-382) described the lid as a "finned glass lid held down by lowed-wire bail hooking into bosses on jar neck" (Figure 13) The patent holder, Enos B. Whitmore, was listed in Rochester city directories from 1855 to 1878. Roller noted the variation with the reversed "N" and one with the "N" in normal aspect (Figure 14). A variation had a "compass & square design

embossed on the base," and another jar was embossed "WHITMORE'S PATENT" above "two rectangular areas of mold alteration" that may have covered "JAN 14TH 1868" (see Figure 14). He noted that the jars were "not made by altering a regular Whitmore jar mold." The dimensions of the jar were slightly different, and the bails were not interchangeable.

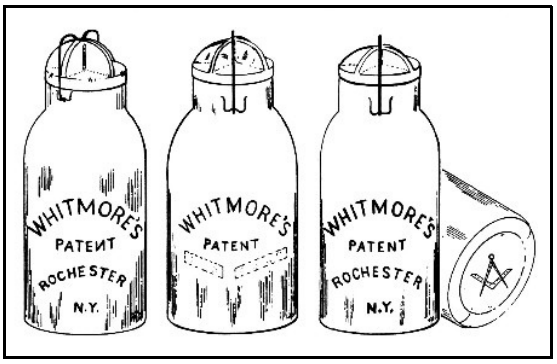

Figure 15 – Whitmore jars (Creswick 1987:221)

Creswick (1987:221) illustrated three variations, including the compass & square, the one with the reversed "N," and one with the rectangular blocked-out area (Figure 15). She noted that Enos B. Whitmore received Patent No. 73,271 on January 14, 1868 (Figure 16). She dated all three jars ca. 1868 and claimed the Rochester Glass Works as the maker.

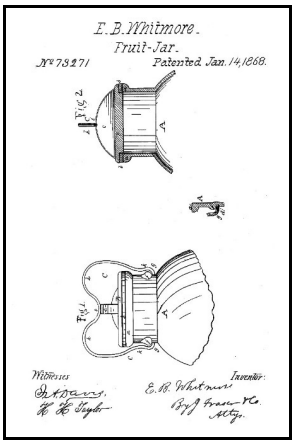

Figure 16 – Whitmore 1868 patent

The Roller update (2011:551) cited a trade card and a letter dated July 22, 1869, to trace the ancestry of the jars. Foster & Whitmore, 77 & 79 Exchange St., Rochester, listed themselves as "Proprietors and Manufacturers of The Whitmore Patent Fruit Jar," and E.G. Whitmore and G.H. Foster were actually the vendors of the jars. Although Roller called the maker "uncertain," he said it was "probably" made by the Rochester Glass Works. By at least July 22, 1869, Boughton & Powell had become distributors of the jars. Both the letterhead and the trade card illustrated the same jar – obviously the same patent.

Rochester Glass Works, Thomas A. Evans (1870-1872)

Thomas A. Evans, better known for his glass factory in Pittsburgh, gained control of the Rochester Glass Works by 1870. Evans had built the Mastodon glass factory at Pittsburgh in 1855 and sold the plant to William McCully in 1869 (Hawkins 2009:195-196). See the Other T section for more on T.A. Evans at Pittsburgh.

The *Rochester Time-News* June 24, 1870, placed an ad for the Rochester Glass Works stating that Evans had "leased the Rochester Glass Works, and is prepared to fill orders for all

descriptions of Perfumers' and Druggists' Prescription Glass Ware, Ink Bottles, &c., &c." Because he "had fifteen years' experience as a Glass Manufacturer in Pittsburgh, Pa., he flatters himself that he will be able to give customers entire satisfaction in quality and price." The product line almost certainly carried over from the Woodworth plant. The *Rochester Time-News* ran an exact copy of the 1870 ad on December 30, 1871, but called the plant the Rochester Flint Glass Works. The final copy of the ad (that we have found) ran on June 26, 1872. Although the reasons are unclear, C.B. Woodworth regained the business by June of the following year – probably before the end of 1872.

Containers and Marks

T.A. EVANS ROCHESTER (1870-1872)

Figure 17 – T.A. Evans (eBay)

An eBay auction offered a colorless flask embossed "T.A. EVANS / MANUFCTR / ROCHESTER NY" horizontally across the base (Figures 17 & 18). The label on Figure 15 shows that these were actually drug store flasks – whiskey for medical use – rather than containers to be sold in liquor stores. Evans owned the Rochester Glass Works from 1870 to 1872. See the above for a company history.

Figure 18 – Evans flask (eBay)

Rochester Glass Works, C.B. Woodworth & Son (1872-1874)

When the *Rochester Journal & Post Express* reported that the "C.B. Woodworth Glass Works" had a break in on June 10, 1873, by several kids, it is clear that the Evans tenure was over and probably ended in mid-to late 1872. The Woodworth firm was listed in the 1873 and 1874 city directories with a note that an ad was included at the end of the directory. Unfortunately, our sources did not include the ad section. On December 4, 1874, the *Rochester Journal & Post Express* noted that "Mr. Woodworth and Son are also proprietors of the Rochester Glass Works, which, by the way, is not now in operation." Although Woodworth had regained control of the plant, it is doubtful that it was open during any part of this period. By early 1875, the plant had a new operating company.

Rochester Glass Works, N.B. Gatchell & Co. (1875-1877)

Roller (1997) described an ad in the 1875 Rochester city directory for "N.B. Gatchell & Co., proprietors of the Rochester Glass Works, mfrs. of glass bottles, flasks, &c., 178 Plymouth Ave. Connected for 21 years with the Lancaster Glass Works." The *Buffalo Courier* for September 20, 1876, added that "about 1850 [Gatchell] removed from Niagara County to Lancaster and assumed the management of the Glass Works." If he took over the Lancaster Glass Works ca. 1850 and moved to Rochester 21 years later, that would place him at the Rochester Glass Works ca. 1871 – although he actually began four years later.

The 1877 Rochester city directory says that Nathan B. Gatchell was "removed from city" – i.e., left town – almost certainly marking the end of his tenure as proprietor (Roller 1997; von Mechow 2015). When George Clark assigned part of a British patent (No. 192,635) for an "apparatus for refining and aging alcoholic liquors" to several people, N.B. Gatchell of Lancaster, New York, was one of them. The patent was filed on May 7, 1877, and received on November 2, 1877 (Great Britain Patent Office 1878). This could mean that Gatchell had left Rochester and returned to New York early in 1877. Woodworth had continued to own the property, leasing to Gatchell.

Rochester Glass Works, Kelly & Co. (1881-1885)

On August 9, 1881, the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* reported that "C.B. Woodworth, owner of the establishment formerly and at present designated as the Rochester Glass Works, leased it yesterday to a company of practical glass makers and blowers from Clyde, N.Y." – adding that the new lessees "expect to make all kinds of bottle-ware including beer, seltzer and druggists' bottles. The new firm will arrive this morning to take immediate possession and make needed repairs." The *Rochester Times-Union* added on September 1, 1881, that "the Rochester Glass Works on Plymouth avenue are to be put in shape again, arrangements having been made by H.J. [*sic* – Henry T.] Kelly & Co. to that effect. It is expected that operations will begin in about a fortnight" (Figure 19). Several sources – e.g., the *Rochester Times-Union* for July 16, 1955 – repeating information

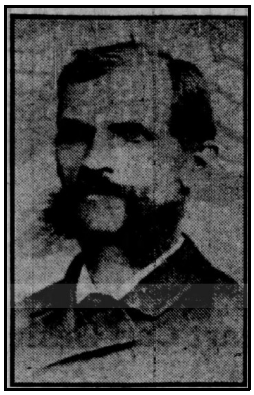

Figure 19 – Henry T. Kelly (*Rochester Times-Union* 12/16/1908)

from the Reed Glass Co. – stated, "For five years it was idle, until Clyde glass blowers, headed by one Henry Kelly, formed a cooperative and set up shop there." The Rochester city directory for 1884 listed "H.T. Kelly, H.W. Legg, R. Grag, E. Reed, T. Coughlin and F. Noy" as comprising Kelly & Co. – obviously the cooperative.

On February 21, 1885, the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* added that

> A world-famed Hop Bitters Manufacturing company, of this city, have just placed their order with Rochester Glass-works for 5,760,000 Hop Bitters bottles. This is the largest bonafide contract ever made for glass bottles, and speaks for itself for the success of and work turned out by our home factory, established here a few years since by Mssrs. Kelly & Co.

A July 8, 1885, billhead noted that the firm was "Manufacturers of Bottles." The address of the plant was 178 Plymouth Ave. with "178" (the number for earlier plant listings) crossed out and "380" written in by hand (Roller 1997). This suggests that the numbering system had recently changed rather than a new location for the plant. Kelly's obituary in the December 16, 1908, issue of the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* added that after Kelly had moved his family to Rochester, he "became the founder of the Rochester Glass Works. Three years later he gave up his trade of glass blowing." This suggests that Eugene Reed moved up into the business just about the time of this huge order for Hop Bitters bottles, changing the name to Kelly, Reed & Co. Note that Kelly was *not* the founder of the Rochester Glass Works.

Containers and Marks

ROCHESTER GLASS WKS. or WORKS (1881-ca. 1897)

We have observed variations of this mark on flasks and beer bottles offered for sale on eBay. They are obviously from the Rochester Glass Works. One beer base, illustrated in an out-of-focus photo on eBay, was embossed "GLASS WORKS / ROCHESTER (both arches) / N.Y. / U.S.A. (both inverted arches)" on the base. The bottle had a Baltimore loop or blob finish and was almost certainly mouth blown. A flask offered on eBay was marked "ROCHESTER (slight arch) / GLASS WKS. (slight inverted arch)" on the base (Figure 20).

Von Mechow (2015) described 12 beer bottles with variations of the Rochester logo on their bases. The vast majority of these were used by brewers in western New York, although one was as far east as Manchester, New Hampshire:

Figure 20 – Rochester Glass Wks (eBay)

1. "GLASS WORKS (arch) / ROCHESTER, N.Y. (inverted arch)" [8 examples] (Figure 21)
2. "GLASS WORKS (arch) / ROCHESTER (horizontal) / N.Y. (inverted arch)" [1 example] (see Figure 21)
3. "GLASS WORKS (arch) / PAT 85 (horizontal) / ROCHESTER, N.Y. (inverted arch)" [2 examples]
4. "GLASS WORKS / ROCHESTER / PAT (all arches) / 85 / N.Y. / U.S.A. (all inverted arches) [1 example] (see Figure 21)

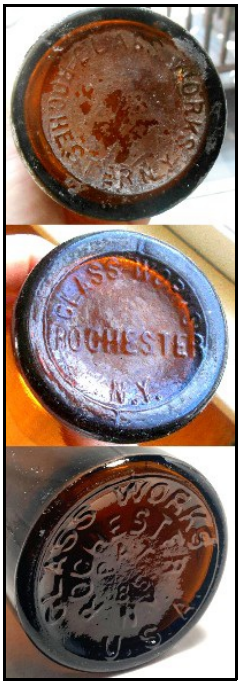

Figure 21 – Glass Works / Rochester (eBay)

The Baltimore Loop seal was patented in 1885, and bottles with the patent date embossed on the base were probably only made during the first few years or until the molds wore out. The vast majority of beer bottles with Baltimore Loop seals lack the patent date. Thus, the mark probably was used during the ca. 1885-1890 period.

Rochester Glass Works marks are relatively rare. Searches on eBay only have turned up a few examples, and von Mechow is the only other sources we have found that displayed them. The types of bottles associated with the mark were typically manufactured during the ca. 1880-ca. 1900 period, although they could have been made somewhat earlier or later. The 1885 patent date makes the most likely operating companies associated with Rochester Glass Co. marks either Kelly & Co. (1881-1885) or Kelly, Reed & Co. (1886-1888). Since E.P. Reed & Co. began using a distinctive mark during the 1888-1889 period, the likely cutoff date for the logo is 1887, although old molds almost always were used until they wore out. Dating, however, is somewhat tenuous, as this name for the factory (as opposed to the operating company) was used from at least 1864 until well into the 20th century.

Rochester Glass Works, Kelly, Reed & Co. (1885-1888)

In 1885, Eugene P. Reed moved up in the business hierarchy, and the firm became Kelly, Reed & Co. Reed had been associated with the glass works earlier. According to Toulouse (1971:433), "soon [after 1865], Eugene P. Reed, from Rochester, was employed as bookkeeper. As time went on Reed invested money in the business, and together with a Mr. Kelley [*sic*], finally took it over as 'Kelley, Reed & Co.'" The firm was short-lived. When Kelly retired from the firm in 1888, Reed gained control of the entire business (Dairy Antiques 2015; Creswick 1987a; Toulouse 1971:432). We have discovered no distinctive mark used by this firm, although it probably continued the Rochester Glass Works logo – or used none.

Containers and Marks

The Rochester Glass Works received a huge order for Hop Bitters bottles in 1885, just about the time of the change to Kelly, Reed & Co. Because of the sporadic operation of the works between its opening in 1862 and the end of the Gatchell firm in 1877, both John D. Doyle and Asa T. Soule purchased their bottles from several other U.S. Glass houses until Kelly & Co. provided quality and stability to the factory and its products in 1881, leading to a huge order from the Rochester Glass Works in 1885. For a history of the Hop Bitters Co., and much more about their bottles, see Appendix A – The Hop Bitters Co., Rochester, New York.

R (1881-1890)

Figure 22 – R basemark (eBay)

Some of the Doyle Hop Bitters bottles *and* some Dr. Soule Hop Bitters bottles were embossed on their bases with a single letter "R" (Figure 22). The bottles for both types were virtually identical – amber in color, square in cross-section with rectangular plates on all four sides; four trapezoids at the shoulder then a short neck with a "brandy" finish (i.e., two parts, the longer top one tapering upward with a sharp-edged ring below it) (Figure 23). Each shoulder panel was embossed respectively with "DOYLES (or D$\underline{^{R}}$


Figure 23 – Hop Bitters bottle (eBay)

SOULES)" / HOP / BITTERS / 1872" (Figure 24). The panel below "1872" (the date Doyle received his patent) had five hops leaves on a stem with two hops berries danging below and two paper labels in other panels. Ring & Ham (2002) illustrated 21 variations of the leaf-and-berry motif (Figure 25).

Figure 24 – Shoulder – Doyle (eBay)


Figure 25 – Dr Soule's (eBay)

Although some "DOYLES" bases had other embossing (e.g., "C&CO" – see Appendix 1 for more on glass houses and dating), the "R" is our focus for this study. Although we have found no evidence except for the 1885 newspaper article for the Rochester Glass Works huge order, the "R" certainly fits for "Rochester." Regardless of the name on the Hops Bitters bottles, the "R" basemark was used between 1881 and ca. 1890. See Appendix A for more details.

A virtually identical "R" appeared on the bases of similar square bottles embossed "D^{R} J HOSTETTER'S / STOMACH BITTERS" on two sides (Figure 26). Under various names, the firm produced the bitters at Pittsburgh from 1853 to beyond 1934. For more information about the bitters and the family, see Meyer (2018), and for a study of Hostetter basemarks, see Siri (2005).

Figure 26 – R base Hostetter's (eBay)

Rochester Glass Works, E.P. Reed & Co. (1888-1889)

Reed gained full control, and the company became E.P. Reed & Co. (Figure 27). According to the *Rochester Times-Union* for July 16, 1955, "F.E. Reed, a former traveling salesman, had become his [i.e., E.P. Reed's] partner" – probably the "& Co." in the name. An E.P. Reed & Co. billhead showed that Eugene P. Reed operated the glass works by at least October 8, 1888, still at 380 Plymouth Ave. A letterhead from January 16, 1890, noted that F.E. Reed & Co. was the successor to E.P Reed & Co. It is likely that Frank E. Reed took over the firm in late

Figure 27 – E.P. Reed (*Rochester Times-Union* 8/17/1894)

1889. The city directories erroneously continued to list E.P. Reed & Co. until 1894, the year Eugene Reed died on August 16 (Creswick 1987:276; Dairy Antiques 2015; Roller 1997; Toulouse 1971:432-434; von Mechow 2015).

Containers and Marks

E.P. REED & Co.

Von Mechow (2015) illustrated variations of an "E.P. REED & Co." basemark that he found on four beer bottles:

1. "E.P. REED & CO. (arch) / PAT 85 (horizontal) / ROCHESTER, N.Y. (inverted arch)"
2. "E.P. REED & CO. (arch) / ROCHESTER (horizontal) / N.Y. (inverted arch)"

One bottle was used by a brewer in Brooklyn, but the other two were in or close to Rochester. Von Mechow (2015) illustrated the second variation, but the only photo we have seen was not listed by von Mechow. This one was embossed "E.P. REED & CO. (arch) / GLASS WORKS (horizontal) / ROCHESTER, N.Y. (inverted arch)" (Figure 28). Both almost certainly were used only during the two years (1888-1889) when E.P. Reed & Co. was in business.

Figure 28 – E.P Reed & Co. (eBay)

REED & CO. (1888-1889)

We found a mouth-blown, aqua beer bottle with a one-part applied finish embossed "REED & CO. (arch) / PAT 85. (horizontal) / ROCHESTER, N.Y. (inverted arch)" on the base and "EDWARD M^{C}GINNIS (arch) / OGDENSBURG, N.Y. (inverted arch)" in a round plate on the front with "THIS BOTTLE / NEVER / SOLD" on the reverse (Figure 29).

Figure 29 – Reed & Co. (eBay)

Our only E.P. Reed & Co. bottle had "GLASS WORKS" across the center but was otherwise identical to this one with no initials (see above). F.E. Reed used "FER" on beer bottle heels followed by "FER & Co" (F.E. Reed & Co.) then "F.E.R.G.CO." (F.E. Reed Glass Co.).

Since F.E. Reed only used initials, and the "REED & CO." mark followed the earlier pattern, the bottle almost certainly was made by E.P. Reed & Co.

F.E. Reed (1889-ca. 1903)

Eugene P. Reed apparently retired from the business in 1889, and his brother, Frank E. Reed took over. By this point, there seems to have been a stronger identification with the operating firm than with the factory name (Rochester Glass Works). A January 16, 1890, letterhead noted that F.E. Reed was the successor to E.P. Reed & Co., and city directories identified F.E. Reed as operating the glass works at 380 Plymouth Ave. from 1890 to 1902. By 1897, the plant had two continuous tanks with ten rings. The factory was listed with 10 "pots" (almost certainly rings) in 1900 and remained at that level until at least 1902 (*National Glass Budget* 1897:7; 1898:7; 1900:11; 1901:11; 1902:11; Roller 1997; Toulouse 1971:433).

Containers and Marks

R Basemarks (poss. 1889-1911)

Including the one discussed earlier in the Kelly, Reed & Co. section, we have tentatively assigned three simple basemarks – the letter "R" – to the Rochester Glass Works. The two discussed below more likely were used during the F.E. Reed and F.E. Reed & Co. periods. Note that we only ascribed these three "R" logos as probably belonging to Reed. The users of many "R" marks are currently unknown (see the Other R section for more discussion).

Cursive R on Beer Bottle Bases (1900-1901)

Von Mechow (2015) assigned a cursive "R" to F.E. Reed (Figure 30). He noted the mark in the center of the base on three beer bottles, from the Pabst Brewing Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Deer Park Brewing Co., Port Jervis, New York; and Scully & Sweeney, Oswego, New York. Although the "R" in a fancy cursive design would be unusual as a manufacturer's mark, one of the bottles is very similar to one with the FER logo (see next entry). The mark could have been used any time during the 1889-ca. 1903 tenure of the firm. We discovered

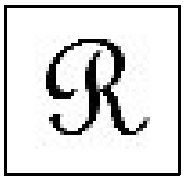

Figure 30 – Elaborate R (Von Mechow 2015)

photos of the small, fancy "R" on the bases of two beer bottles from the Deer Park Brewing Co., Port Jervis, New York (Figure 31).


Figure 31 – Elaborate R on beer bottle (eBay)

The Deer Park Brewing Co. was incorporated on March 18, 1900, with Henry Ruhl as one of the directors, and his name continued when the brewery filed for bankruptcy in 1901. A reorganization of the company later that year renamed the outfit as the Deer Park Brew Co. Bottles with the basal "R" embossing included the "ing" in the firm name. The question now is: Did the "R" indicate Ruhl or the Rochester Glass Works. An argument can be made for both cases:

1. Since the "R" mark appeared on bottles from a total of three different breweries, the idea of its representing Ruhl is superfluous; the logo more likely belonged to the Rochester Glass Works.

2. In at least three other cases, we discovered basal initials that apparently originated as an indication of the name of a manager or owner of a brewery.[1] But, the same baseplate was apparently used on bottles for one or more other bottlers where the initial or initials did *not* match the name or names of the brewery, owners, or managers. This seemed to indicate that the baseplate was used accidently or on purpose for these later bottles. Since molds were the most expensive part of bottle production, this may have been a money-saving option.


Figure 32 – Large elaborate R (eBay)

A similar basemark – a larger fancy "R" – was embossed on the bases of beer bottles from the Rochester Brewing Co., New York Branch (Figure 32). Although similar, this "R" almost certainly represented the Rochester brewery.

Block R

In 1865, the Curtice Brothers began their canning operation at Rochester, New York. The firm used a distinctive style of catsup bottle – their own patented design – and were far ahead of

[1] For a good example, see the "W.S.H." and "W.H.S." basemarks discussion in our study of the Diamond Glass Co. – U.S. Also see the "DBW" entry in the Other D section.

general canning industry in requiring their bottle suppliers to emboss a single letter, a set of initials, or a logo on the base of each Curtice bottle during the 1901-1911 period (Figure 33). Many of these marks were unique, used by glass houses that otherwise never marked their products. For more about the firm and its bottles, see our study of Curtice Brothers (Lockhart et al. 2026).


Figure 33 – Curtis Catsup bottles (eBay)

Curtice Brothers catsup bottles bore both the "F.E.R.&CO." and "F.E.R.G.CO" basemarks, although we have found very few examples. Since the Rochester Glass Works and Curtice Brothers both were located in Rochester, New York, this seems unusual. However, "R" below a single-digit number from 1 to 8 was more common in our admittedly small sample (Figure 34). All of the bottles were mouth blown. In our searches, F.E. Reed was the only glass house during the right time period, within a reasonable proximity, and producing catsup bottles. Since the Curtice Brothers only required a single initial, that may have spurred the use of the shorter logo on these bottles.

Although we have connected three "R" basemarks to the Rochester Glass Works (and/or the city of Rochester – including one discussed earlier in the Kelly, Reed & Co. section), it is important to note that *most* "R" initials on glass bottle bases were *not* associated with either Rochester or the glass works. For example, "R" basemarks on machine-made catsup bottles are far too late for either period when the Rochester Glass Works may have used the "R" mark. See the Other R study for more information.

Figure 34 – Block R on catsup bottle (eBay)

FER (1889-ca. 1903)

Rydquist (2002:5) noted the FER mark "on the heel of a blown crown beer bottle." This almost certainly was the mark of F.E. Reed before he added "& Co." Reed's grandson stated that any part of the name may have been used as a mark (see REED below). Mobley (2015) listed a single beer bottle marked with FER in his Dictionary of Embossed Beers, and von Mechow (2015) included two examples, each with "FER" embossed horizontally across the base. One bottle was used in Baltimore, Maryland, the other in Saratoga, New York.

We also discovered a generic (unmarked) amber Apollinaris-style bottle with the "FER" heelmark as well as two examples of the logo on the reverse heels of cylindrical amber bottles with one-part, tapered finishes. The latter were embossed "SARATOGA (slight arch) / LINCOLN SPRINGS Co. (horizontal)" on the upper body and "THIS BOTTLE / NOT TO BE SOLD" at the front heel (Figure 35). As with the "R" logo above, "FER" could have been used at any time during the 1889-ca. 1903 period.

Figure 35 – FER heelmark (eBay)

F.E. Reed & Co. (ca. 1903-1908)

Frank E. Reed brought his son, Arthur F. Reed, into the company at some point between 1902 and 1904 and renamed the enterprise F.E. Reed & Co., a copartnership. The company was listed as F.E. Reed & Co. in the 1904 glass factory directory. At that time, the plant used a single continuous tank with nine rings and one day tank with six rings to produce "prescription, liquor, proprietary and packers' ware" (*American Glass Review* 1934:161). The company remained F.E. Reed & Co. in the 1905 listing, with the factory noted as the Rochester Glass Works. Although the listing did not pick up the name change to F.E. Reed Glass Co. until 1915, the firm actually incorporated in 1908 (Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:104; 1915:578; von Mechow 2015).

FER&Co. (ca. 1903-1908)

Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:123) listed this mark as being used by the F.E. Reed Glass Co. from 1912 to 1920 on medicinal products bottled by the Guggenheim Mfg. Co. Toulouse (1971:432) did not show the mark but noted that the company was called F.E. Reed & Co. from 1898 to1927. Creswick (1987:273), however, dated F.E. Reed & Co. from 1909 to 1927. The mark fits the company name, although we have dated this operating company from at ca. 1903 to 1908. Pollard (1993:107) illustrated a blob-top soda bottle embossed "FER&CO (arch)" on the base. The brewer that used the bottle was in business from 1902 to 1911. Von Mechow (2015) added three more examples with "FER&Co." basemarks in both arched and


Figure 36 – FER&Co (Fort Stanton Collection; eBay)

horizontal variations (Figure 36). These were used by brewers in New York and Baltimore, Maryland. Some examples were accompanied by a three- or four-digit numerical code either above or below the logo. These were almost certainly model codes, although no codes appeared in the 1910 catalog. The firm also made catsup bottles for Curtice Bros.

The October 15, 1910, F.E. Reed Glass Co. catalog (F.E. Reed 1910) illustrated numerous examples of the F.E.R.&Co. mark (always with punctuation) on the bases of 12 different styles of prescription bottles (Figure 37). The styles included oval, rectangular, round, and square shapes (in cross section). This reflected the recent change from F.E. Reed & Co. to the F.E. Reed Glass Co. and the probable use of old molds until they wore out. A 1913 ad (*American Druggist and Pharmaceutical Record* 1913:88) showed a graduated oval copied from the catalog (Figure 37). This suggests that the mark may have been used at least as late as the 1910-1913 period. The mark was noted twice by Fike (1987:61, 142) and is mentioned and illustrated on several bottles on eBay and the internet. We have observed the mark on catsup, proprietary medicine, and prescription bottles. All examples of this mark that we have seen appear to be on mouth-blown bottles.

Figure 37 – FER&Co (F.E. Reed 1910; *American Druggist and Pharmaceutical Record* 1913:88)

F.E. Reed Glass Co. (1908-1947)

The August 1908 issue of *House Furnishing Review* noted the F.E. Reed Glass Co. as a new corporation with a capital of $165,000 taking over the business and good will of the earlier F.E. Reed & Co. Frank E. Reed was president. According to a brief history in the July 16, 1955, *Rochester Times-Union*, the firm relocated the factory to 860 Maple St. at that time. The earlier F.E. Reed & Co. actually initiated the construction of the factory at 860 Maple St. in 1907 (City of Rochester 1907:426).

A billhead, dated April 19, 1910, noted that Reed was "Manufacturers of Flint and Amber Bottles, Brewers' Ware, Patent Medicines, Flasks, Druggists' Ware And Milks Private Molds With Fine Lettering, Monograms, etc. Factories: Plymouth Ave., Maple St." (Roller 1997; von

Mechow 2015). The 1910 catalog named the firm F.E. Reed Glass Co., although the bases of bottles in the catalog were marked FER&Co. – as noted above. Ads in the *Glass Container* and other publications from 1913 to 1940 also called the company the F.E. Reed Glass Co.[2]

According to Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:104), Reed first promoted his graduated oval in 1912. By 1913, Reed was making a general line of bottles by both semiautomatic machine and hand methods at two continuous tanks with 15 rings (*Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* 1913:953). However, the city of Rochester did not appear on two machine lists from the *National Glass Budget* (1909:1; 1912:1) in 1909 and 1912. This suggests that semiautomatic production began ca. 1912 or 1913. A 1914 billhead only listed the Maple St. address, suggesting that the Plymouth Ave. plant had been closed by that time.

The plant was making "Flint, Amber and Green Glass" by at least 1921 (*Glass Container* 1921:36). The earliest ad we have found with a listing for machine manufacture was January 1922. Later that year, the firm bragged that "nearly all of our output is manufactured by latest machine methods. We have, however, retained a small portion of our plant for hand blown ware, which allows us to take care of small order special mould work" (*Glass Container* 1921:36; 1922a:26; 1922b:35). This almost certainly reflects fully automatic machinery, rather than the semiautomatic machines used earlier.

By 1927, Reed made "sodas, food containers, milks, [and] prescription ware" by both machine and hand processes at three continuous tanks with 24 rings. Arthur F. Reed was president by this time, with his father, Frank E. Reed, as vice president. Fred E. Reed was secretary and treasurer, with A.F. Reed as general manager, and William Johnson as superintendent. By 1929, an ad listed factories at 860 Maple St. and Mt. Read Blvd., both in Rochester. Since the earlier Plymouth Ave. plant apparently closed between 1910 and 1914, the Mt. Read factory was apparently a new one (*American Glass Review* 1927:143; Roller 1997).

By 1930, Reed used four continuous tanks with only 12 rings to make "druggists and proprietary ware, beverages, packers and preservers in flint, light green, emerald green and amber; milk jars." The manufacturing technique was not recorded, probably indicating a full

[2] Toulouse (1971:433) and others called the plant "Reed Glass Co." This probably reflects a fast reading of the directories. The company was often listed as "Reed Glass Co., F.E."

dependence on machines. The company added fruit jars in 1934, and the same listing continued until at least 1944 (*American Glass Review* 1930:95; 1934:98; 1944:106). Arthur F. Reed remained as president in 1935 with Fred E. Reed as 1st vice president & treasurer, Merton T. Reed as 2nd vice president, Frank E. Reed as secretary – according to the city directory for that year. It seems a bit odd that the listing still used the term "milk *jars*" a couple of decades after most glass houses used the term "bottles." The last Reed advertisement we have been able to find for milk bottles was in 1934. The company reorganized in 1947.

Containers and Marks

FERGCo (ca. 1910-1920s)

Toulouse (1971:197, 433) showed this mark for the F.E. Reed Glass Co., Rochester, New York. He dated the mark 1898 to 1927, although we have abridged the date for the company as 1908 to 1947. The mark, however, was probably only used from ca. 1910 to ca. 1925. Giarde (1980:41) followed Toulouse, although he had not been able to confirm the mark's use on milk bottles (his book's specialty area).

Figure 38 – FERGCo (eBay)

We have seen eBay photos of amber milk bottles with rounded heels, however, that were embossed "F.E.R.G.Co.-34 / 214" and "F.E.R.G.Co.-34 / 904" (Figure 38) as well as other two- to four-digit numbers on their bases, and the mark has been noted on similar bottles in dozens of eBay auctions (see the discussion of the number "34" in the REED section below). The logo also appeared on other eBay bottles (pharmaceutical, catsup, and household) with and without punctuation (Figure 39). Reed also furnished some bottles for Curtice Bros. catsup during this period (see Figure 39). All bottles in eBay photos appear to have been mouth blown (i.e., no machine scars or ejection scars), even though Reed should have had machine capacity during this period. The plant apparently only marked mouth-blown ware.

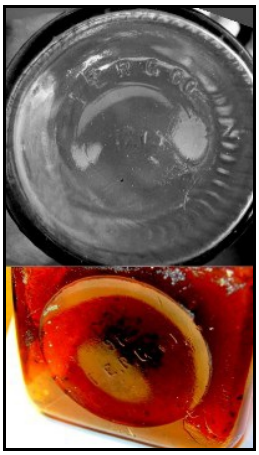

Figure 39 – FERGCo (eBay)

Dating of milk bottles made by F.E. Reed is a bit complex, but it helps date the marks, themselves. The October 15, 1910, catalog included a single style of milk bottles that may have carried the FERGCo mark as early as 1908. Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:123) noted the logo on pharmaceutical bottles but dated the mark 1898 to 1947. Since the authors cited Toulouse as one of their sources, the 1947 date probably referred to the change to Reed & Co. Jones (1966:16) showed the mark with punctuation (F.E.R.G.CO.). It is likely that the "F.E.R.G.Co." logo was only used to the mid-1920s.

REED (1920-1926)

Toulouse (1971:433) showed the "REED" mark as belonging to the F.E. Reed Glass Co. during the 1898-1927 period. He also described an interview with the grandson of Frank E. Reed who told him that "during the F.E. Reed Glass Co. period any part of the name, including the word 'Reed' alone might be used. No bottle carrying any of these marks would have been made prior to 1898." Oddly, we have only discovered this logo on two types of bottles: milk bottles and those used for Coca-Cola.

Coca-Cola Bottles

On hobble-skirt Coca-Cola bottles, "REED" was embossed at the heel, preceded by what may have been a model or catalog code and followed by a two-digit date code (Figure 40). Porter (2009) recorded codes, e.g.:

7 REED 20
4 REED 21
4 REED 23
787 REED 23
L 789 REED 24
788 REED L 25
790 REED L 26

Figure 40 – Coca-Cola bottles (eBay)

These indicate that this code system was used on Coke bottles from 1920 to 1926, although the Reed bottles were a darker green color during the earlier years (1920-1923).


Figure 41 – REED on Coke heel (eBay)


Figure 42 – REED on Coke heel & base (eBay)

However, the bottles with date codes of 24, 25, and 26 (and at least one with 23) had the R-in-a-triangle mark on the base in addition to the "REED" on the heel and were the more usual Georgia Green color – actually an aqua (see below for Triangle-R discussion). This overlap almost certainly was caused by allowing the old molds (with the "REED" heelmarks) to wear out, even though the new baseplates were in use. All of the "REED" marks are found on Coke bottles patented in 1915 (Figures 41 & 42). During the early part of this period, Coca-Cola bottles made by F.E. Reed were a deep blue color, shifting to the typical Georgia Green of most Coke bottles about the time that the Triangle-R logos were added to the bases. Typical Coke bottles of the period were embossed "MIN. CONTENTS 6 OZS." in the center labeling area. Bottles made for use in New York, however, were marked "CONTENTS 6 FL OZ" – except those made by Reed.

Milk Bottles

Giarde (1980:41-42) dated the mark from 1898 to the mid-1930s, slightly extending the Toulouse date. He noted that the company made green and amber milk bottles as well as round "baby tops" (i.e. bottles with a round extension at the top of the container to separate milk from cream – some of these were embossed with baby faces). An eBay seller noted that "REED" was embossed on the heel of his bottle with "P 34" on the base. Other eBay sellers have noted a "34" or P34" on milk bottle bases with "REED" on the heels, and one of the authors has in his possession a REED bottle embossed "A-34" on the base (Figure 43).


Figure 43 – Reed milk heel & base

The number "34" was assigned to F.E. Reed as a required use on milk bottles. In 1910, the State of New York demanded that each glass house selling milk bottles within the state borders must emboss a unique identification number, along with the manufacturer's name or initials, on each container (*Orange County Times-Press* 1910). Many other states followed suit. Although most companies obtained the same number in each state, a few ended up with different numbers in some states. Fortunately, multiple numbers are the exception. Reed appears to have always used the number "34." This was *not* a date code.

Milk bottles with the REED mark were quite unusual. The bottles had all the characteristics of a blow-and-blow machines, unlike the usual ejection mark and other characteristics of the press-and-blow machines usually used to make milk bottles. The color of the bottles appears to be of little help. According to Tutton (2003:10), amber milk bottles "were used before 1900," but he did not discuss the length of that use. In an earlier book, however, Tutton ([1997]:7) noted that amber milk bottles were "used before 1900 and during the thirties." He further noted that green milk bottles were used mostly for eggnog during the "thirties and forties," but these colors form an area that could use more research. Reed seems to have been one of the most prolific makers of amber and green milk bottles. Unfortunately, we have found no evidence of identifiable date codes on Reed milk bottles. Amber milk bottles almost always were used for chocolate milk.

It is pretty certain that the firm began using the F.E.R.G.Co. mark ca. 1910, and it is unlikely that the company used REED concurrently on milk bottles. The amber bottles marked F.E.R.G.Co. had more rounded heels and thinner finishes – a style generally used earlier than those marked REED. There was probably a bit of overlap between F.E.R.G.Co. and REED marks. Giarde must have had *some* reason for dating the bottles to the 1930s, although it is possible that he – or someone reporting to him – thought that "34" was a date code. Unfortunately, he did not explain why he chose that date, and it is not consistent with other data connected with the "REED" and later marks. Since we know that REED was discontinued in favor of the Triangle-R mark on Coke bottles in 1927, it is unlikely that the mark was used on milk bottles beyond that date.

Massachusetts "R" Seal (ca. 1924-late 1920s)

In 1900, the State of Massachusetts required that each milk bottle be "sealed" (i.e., certified that it contained the correct volume of milk) by having it checked with a local "sealer," then etched with whether it passed or was "condemned." In late 1909, the onus shifted to the manufacturers, who were then required to post bond and emboss each bottle with a seal.

Figure 44 – Mass R Seal (Al Morin)

The "R" seal only has been observed in a circular format – "MASS (arch) / R (horizontal) / SEAL (inverted arch)" – mandated in 1918 (Figure 44). However, Reed was not included in the Massachusetts 1918 list, although the glass house was in the state's 1924 publication and in ads

during that year (Figure 45). The R-seals are scarce and should be dated to the 1920-1926 period of the "REED" logo.

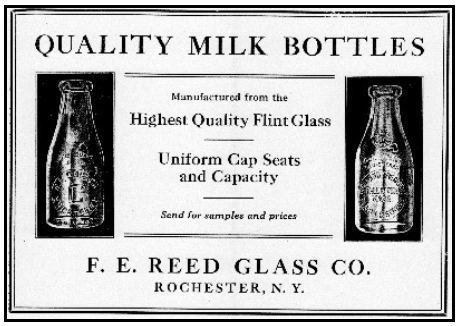

Figure 45 – Mass R ad (*Milk Dealer* 1924)

Minnesota "45" Triangle

Some bottles were embossed on the shoulder with the Minnesota triangle. This was the "seal" required by Minnesota, and it consisted of a triangle bisected horizontally by a line (although our only Minnesota example lacked the horizontal line). Above was a number – 45 for Reed – with "MINN" below (Figure 46). Each example we have recorded had a "REED" heelmark and "34" on the base. Although the dating of the MINN triangles is in its infancy, the triangle had probably migrated to the heel of the bottle by the early to mid-1930s. Since all the triangles we have found on these bottles were on the shoulders, they, too, should be dated to the 1920-1926 period of the "REED" logo.

Figure 46 – 45 MINN triangle

R in a Triangle (1923-1956)

Jones (1965:[22]) identified the R-in-a-triangle mark as belonging to F.E. Reed. However, she later (1966:18) dropped the identification, apparently deciding that she did not know who used the mark. Scholes (1941:129) stated that the mark was used in 1941 by F.E. Reed. Toulouse (1971:432) noted this mark as being used by the Reed Glass Co., 1927-1956. Giarde (1980:41) followed Toulouse, although he had not been able to confirm the mark's use on milk bottles (his book's specialty area). We have also been unable to locate any dairy containers with triangle marks.

Ads for Reed's triangle mark first appeared in *Glass Container* sometime between April and October 1925 and continued to at least 1940 – the last ad we have found (Figures 47 & 48). Many of the ads indicate that the mark was located on the base of the bottle, the only place we have seen it on actual bottles. Beer bottle ads began appearing by September 1933 accompanied by the

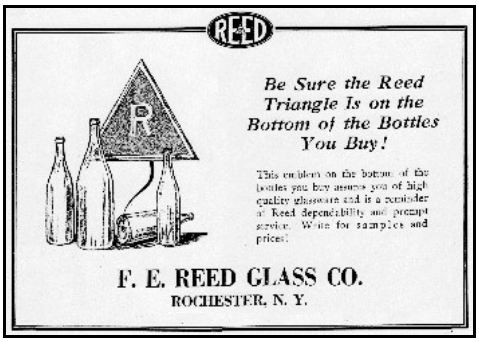

Figure 47 – Triangle-R ad (*Glass Container* 1927:34)

triangle logo. The series of ads make it clear that Reed continued to offer a general line of bottles until at least 1940.

Figure 48 – Triangle-R ad (*Glass Container* 1932)

The Toulouse date range was predicated on his belief that the company was called the Reed Glass Co. from 1927 to 1956. However, existing information (see below) indicates that he was probably pretty close, even if his logic was faulty. The mark was advertised by at least 1925 and as mentioned above, Bill Porter reported a single Coke bottle with the Reed Triangle-R logo and a "23" date code – as well as others with "24" "and later codes. We have thus dated the mark from 1923 to the closing of the plant in 1956.

Date Codes: Single Digit (1936-1940)

Except on Coke bottles, we have found no evidence of date codes used by Reed until the adoption of the Triangle-R mark, although our information on date codes is scanty. Some of the marks appear with no codes of any kind, but others had single-digit or double-digit date codes – notably soda and beer bottles.

In our study of Seven-Up bottles, the single-digit numbers "6," "7," and "8" to the right of Reed's Triangle-R logo consistently fit with the years 1936, 1937, and 1938 almost certainly confirming that those numbers are, in fact, date codes (Lockhart & Brown 2024). On other bottles, we have found date codes of "0" (1940), almost certainly the last year for single-digit date codes.

In addition, 1936 appears to have been the year that Reed adopted the date codes. Likely, this is more than a coincidence. The Seven-Up Co. had been dealing with the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. since the glass house's inception in 1929 and was used to having date codes on its bottles. When Seven-Up adopted ACL bottles in 1936, the firm expanded its web of bottle makers to include the Reed Glass Co. and the Glenshaw Glass Co. Glenshaw, too, had used date codes since 1929, so Seven-Up may have asked Reed to add dates to its bottles. In just a few years (ca. 1940), the use of date codes on soda bottles had become commonplace.

Date Codes: Double Digit (1940-1956)

Figure 49 – Triangle-R (eBay)

We recorded beer bottles with the R-in-a-triangle mark accompanied by two-digit date codes of 40, 42, 43, and 46 (Figure 49). The use of two-digit date codes on beer and soda bottles (possibly other types) likely continued until the factory closed in 1956. Beer bottles (and most soda bottles) carried two-digit date codes by 1940. Since we also had date codes of "0" in single-digit codes (see above), 1940 was the year of the switch.

As noted above, Porter (1996:5; 2009) reported the R-in-a-triangle mark in conjunction with "REED" heelmarks on Coca-Cola bottles of 23, 24, 25, or 26 (see Figure 43). As noted in many other studies (e.g., Lockhart & Porter 2010), Coca-Cola required date codes on its bottles in July of 1919. The triangle basemarks continued after the transition period on Coke bottles patented in 1923. Porter recorded several slight variations of numbers that accompanied the triangle basemarks:

790 8
791 8
792 9

The initial three-digit number is most likely a model or catalog code, and the separate, single-digit number is likely a date code (for 1928 and 1929). Thus, the R-in-a-triangle mark was probably used on hobble-skirt Coke bottles from 1923 to 1929. Unlike the earlier deep blue color, these Coke bottles were bluish aqua. Currently, we have found no indication that F.E. Reed made Coke bottles after 1929. Coke bottles made by Reed have only been found for New York, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and a single city (Warren) in Ohio.

Month Codes?

Laurer (2004) described the Triangle R mark on a Genesee beer bottle:

> In raised print on bottom of the bottle is an "R" enclosed in a triangle. Below the triangle are the numbers "Z8383" & in large letters "G6" . . . . The "R" enclosed

by the triangle on the bottom of the bottle probably was a manufactures coding and that of the Reed Glass Co. located in Rochester. A good assumption is that the large G6 is a date code of manufacture representing July 1936. This is definitely a post prohibition bottle from the mid 1930's.

Although Laurer did not explain his thinking, it is likely that he considered the "G" (seventh letter of the alphabet) to indicate July (seventh month) and the "6" as a single-digit date code. Because of Prohibition and the U-permit on the label, the bottle must have been made during the 1930s – thus the 1936 suggestion.

Our very small sample does not quite support the Laurer hypothesis. We have only recorded the letters A, B, C, D, and T which could equal January, February, March and April, although the "T" is far off the month scale. The single-letter date code, however, is somewhat supported. The "30" code on one bottle may indicate 1930, but there are two bases with a "0" and one with a "9" in the date code position. Most companies that manufactured soda bottles used date codes by the early 1930s, and federal law required beer and liquor bottles to use two-digit date codes in 1940. The 1933 federal law required single-digit date codes on liquor bottles beginning that year.

Other Codes

Other observed codes include:

R (in triangle) X / D 30 3 1 (see Figure 49)
R (in triangle) / MARTIN (horizontal) / T 37 7 (inverted arch) [soda bottle]
R (in triangle) / SYRACUSE / N Y (both horizontal) / A 519 9 (inverted arch) [soda bottle]
A 527 0 (horizontal) / ALA (large letters – horizontal) / R (in triangle) [soda bottle]
A 557 0 [soda bottle]
R (in triangle) X / B 43 4 2
203-A / R (in triangle)/ 7 12 46 (inverted arch) [Steinie beer bottle]
R (in triangle / C 6 9 4 46 (inverted arch) [soda bottle]
R (in triangle) / B 415 5 4 (see Figure 49)

An Unusual Finish for Soda Bottles

Rick Lease sent us photos of a very unusual soda bottle – colorless with the lower ring of a crown finish but continuous threads on the upper ring. The lower ring was embossed "PATENTED" on the front and "TWIST-OFF" on the reverse. A round plate on the front was embossed "HANOVER SPRINGS (arch) / BOTTLING WORKS (horizontal) / DANVILLE, PA. (inverted arch)" with "CONTENTS 7 FL. OZ." on the front heel and "THIS BOTTLE / NOT TO BE SOLD" on the reverse heel. The base was embossed "R-in-a-Triangle / G 1 9" (Figure 50). The "9" probably was a date code for 1939.

Figure 50 – Triangle-R (Rick Lease)

On September 17, 1928, Anthony Francis McDonnell applied for a patent for a "Double-Lock Bottle Cap" and received Patent No. 1,722,587 on July 30 of the following year (Figure 51). The closure was an obvious takeoff on the crown cap with an extra indentation to allow the cap to fit on a double-ring finish, crimping on *both* rings. A subset of his patent was ahead of its time. An adaptation allowed his crown to fit on a non-continuous-thread finish – a closure style that did not become popular until the mid-1960s (Figure 52).[3]

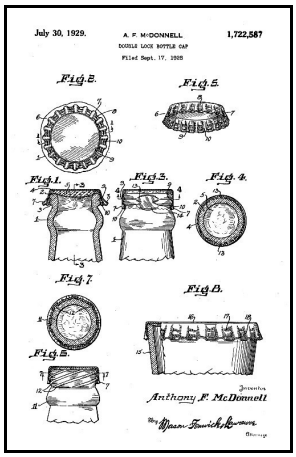
July 30, 1929. A. F. McDONNELL 1,722,587
DOUBLE LOCK BOTTLE CAP
Filed Sept. 17, 1928
Fig. 2. Fig. 5. Fig. 1. Fig. 3. Fig. 4. Fig. 7. Fig. 8. Fig. 6.
Anthony F. McDonnell

Figure 51 – McDonnell 1928 patent

About 1907, McDonnell operated a Scranton Glass Co. at Dunmore Pennsylvania – almost certainly as a glass jobber rather than a manufacturer. McDonnell still may have been acting as a jobber in 1939 and may have sold the patent to Reed Glass or licensed the firm to make the bottle. Although we have found no connection between McDonnell and Reed, Scranton is only 216 miles from Rochester (by road – probably less by rail), and Reed may have been the only one willing to make the bottle for the test market – and Hanover Springs the only bottler willing to try it. For more about McDonnell and the Scranton Glass Co., see "The Scranton Glass Firms" in the S section. Although twist-

Figure 52 – Twist-Off finish (Rick Lease)

[3] Almost all of the discussion about McDonnell and his patent was originally published in our "The Scranton Glass Firms" study.

off crowns became available in 1966 and quickly became the industry standard for soft drink and beer bottles, a 1929 patent and a 1939 test market bottle were both too early – an idea whose time had *not* come.

ICICLE

The F. E. Reed Glass Co., Rochester, New York, registered Trade-Mark #264,384 on November 26, 1929, for "ICICLE" – claiming a use of the mark since July 1, 1927. The mark was for "empty glass bottles" and was "applied or affixed to the goods, by blowing the same directly in the bottle."

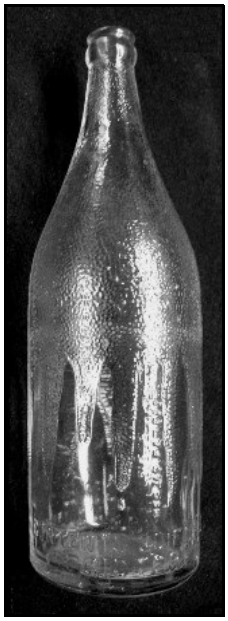

Figure 53 – Icicle (eBay)

This trademark was probably used for a soda bottle design that had icicles dripping down the bottle's sides and "ICICLE REG. U.S. PAT. OFF." embossed on the heel. An example was used by the Acme Bottling Works. The base was embossed "ROCHESTER, N.Y. (arch) / AC (horizontal – large) / PAT. APPL'D FOR (inverted arch)." The embossing suggests that Reed attempted to obtain a design patent for the bottle (Figures 53). Although at least two of the Reeds – Arthur F. Reed (Design Patent No. 68,594; October 27, 1925) and Fred E. Reed (Design Patent No. 83,751; March 24, 1931) – and an employee – William R. Johnson (Design Patent No. 69,353; February 2, 1926 – Figure 54) – received design patents for soda bottles, the one requested for the icicle style was apparently not granted. None of the designs appear to have been very popular.

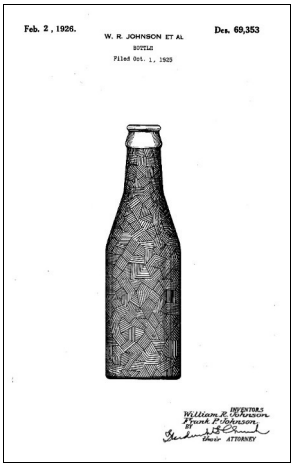

Figure 54 – Johnson 1926 patent

Reed Glass Co., Inc. (1947-1956)

The company reorganized in 1947[4] as the Reed Glass Co., Inc. and made "food packers

[4] Roller (1997) noted that the F.E. Reed Glass Co. name continued to be listed in the directories until 1949. However, because the continued listing of old names or even closed factories was very common in the directories, the Toulouse date is likely correct.

ware, [in] flint, emerald green, amber" at four continuous tanks with 14 machines between 1949 and 1956. Reed filed for bankruptcy on October 5, 1956, and the firm was listed as bankrupt the following year (Roller 1997; Toulouse 1971:434). The *Rochester Democrat & Chronicle* for September 1, 1956, reported the unusual circumstances under the heading "Many Orders, No Cash Close Reed Glass Co." The story continued: "Strange as it may seem, too much business can force a manufacturing concern to close, just as can too little business." The Reed Glass Co. "yesterday ceased production operations and filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy." The paper quoted President Merton T. Reed: "We've just run out of money. We lack working capital." Arthur F. and Fred E. Reed, sons of F.E. Reed, operated the firm until they retired just two years earlier in 1954. At the time of the closing, F.E. Reed's grandson, Merton T. Reed, was president, and his cousin, Frank E. Reed, was vice president and treasurer.

The Castle-Hanson Corp. took over the property in 1960 to make food bottles, and the Leone Industries purchased the operation in September 1973. Leone continued to run the plant until at least 1988 (Roller 1997). See the Other C section for a discussion of Castle-Hanson and the Other L section for Leone Industries.

Discussion and Conclusions

New sourcing, especially newspaper articles from the time periods, have greatly improved the dating of the various operating firms of the Rochester Glass Co. In addition, we have improved the dating of the various manufacturer's marks associated with the factory as well as adding several that were not known to us in the earlier studies. This especially includes the "R" basemarks on the Hop Bitters bottles – a study by itself – now Appendix A.

Acknowledgments

As always, our gratitude to Doug Leybourne for allowing us to use the Alice Creswick drawings and to Greg Spurgeon for granting permission to show photos from North American Glass auctions.

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Originally published 6/19/2015; Last updated 7/27/2026