

Other W Marks

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As with every other letter, there were a few logos that did not fit into a larger write up and analysis, so we have addressed those here.

Containers and Marks

W (ca. 1853-1873)



Figure 1 – W2

Toulouse (1971:531) noted that “2 W” was “found on a Colgate two-ounce, handmade perfume, of oblong cross-section.” He dated the bottle pre-1900. Lockhart & Olszewski 1993; 1995)¹ also discovered a rectangular bottle (cross-section) that was either medicinal or household embossed “W2”

on the base (Figure 1). Yduarte (2009) included a drawing of “241 / W” on the base of a round, colorless bottle with a packer finish. She had no suggestions for dating or manufacturer – although her study was predominantly mid-20th century bottles (Figure 2). Also see lone W marks in the Weeks & Gilson and Wightman Glass Firm sections.

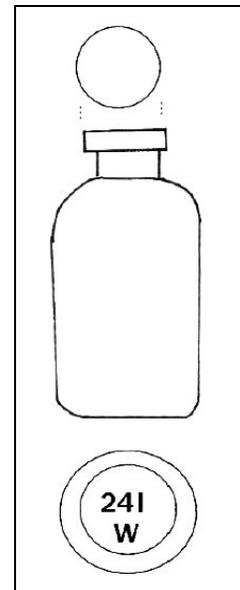


Figure 2 – 241 W (Yduarte 2009)

W with zigzag

Toulouse (1971:519) noted a “W” (from Fort Union) and “WG” (from Nara Visa, New Mexico), each with zigzag mark to the left of the initial or initials. The information originally came from May Jones No. 6, and Toulouse added that “the ‘WG’ bottle has a screw finish.” Although a “screw finish” suggests a more recent bottle, the “G” in “WG” from the Tucson

¹ This mark was not actually recorded in the published study, but it was entered in the notes and photographed when selected bases were re-shot in 2005.

Urban Renewal photo (Figure 3) shows the serif extending to the right – a style of “G” typically used during the 1870s. Although we have no photo of the actual bottle, the cup-bottom base with no machine scar and pitting also suggests a late 19th century production.



Figure 3 – Zigzag W (TUR)

Toulouse (1971:538) noted that both WG and WGCo were “found on separate bottles, which may or may not have any relationship with each other. These are unknown as to meaning.” Whether these were related to the bottles with the zigzag marks is unclear. Unfortunately, he gave no description of the bottles.

WATERFORD (ca. 1822-1880)

Both the American Bottle Auction and Glassworks Auction offered a clasped-hands flask embossed “WATERFORD” above a shield containing the hands (Figure 4). McKearin and Wilson (1978:94, 646-647) discussed and illustrated the flask (Figure 5). They



Figure 4 – Waterford (Glassworks Auction)

dated it ca. 1822-1880 – the entire tenure of the Waterford Glass Works, Waterford, New Jersey.

Hawkins (2013:14-17), however, had an entirely different take on the flasks. He suggested that the

Waterford flasks may

have been produced at the Brownsville Glass Works in Pittsburgh. He compared the Waterford flasks with the H&S flasks manufactured at Brownsville. Hawkins noted that finish styles “were often the signature of a glassblower and/or a specific glass manufacturer.” In this case, the

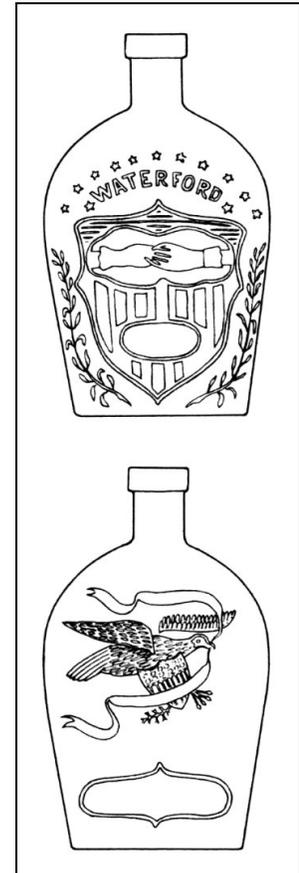


Figure 5 – Waterford (McKearin and Wilson 1978:647)

finishes on both flask types were generally a blocky, squared design that was found on no other flask of the period – although he noted that some Waterford flasks had double-ring finishes instead.

Another point of similarity was the “unusually shaped cartouche below the embossed eagle.” Both types of flasks had “an elongated oval with points at the top and bottom.” The only other flasks using that style of cartouche were the Adams & Co. “A&Co” flask and a similar one from C. Ihmsen & Sons, marked “C.I.&SONS.” This, too, suggests that the Waterford flasks were made in Pittsburgh. In addition, the eagles were very similar (Hawkins 2013:16).

Since “the vast majority of clasp hands flasks, excluding the calabashes which have glasshouse marks, are attributable to western Pennsylvania region, it is unlikely that a single one of that style would be made in New Jersey.” His final point was that all other identifications of a city or factory name occurred in one of the cartouches or scrolls. Only the word “UNION” appeared above the “clasp hands” – except on the Waterford flasks. Hawkins suggested that the name Waterford may have been the retailer, rather than a manufacturer (Hawkins 2013:17).

Hawkins (2013:15-16) noted that Haught & Schwerer produced at least three flasks (McKearin & Wilson GIV-39, GIV-40, and GIV-41) embossed with the “H&S” initials during the early 1860s. He suggested that “the H&S flasks may not have been the only historical flasks produced at the Brownsville glassworks during this period.” The Waterford flask may also have been made at that time and place.

Possible Manufacturers

Brownsville Glass Works, Pittsburgh (1825-1879+)

George Hogg & Co. built the Brownsville Glass Works in 1825 between the Monongahela River and Water St., near the intersection with Pearl St. at Brownsville, a Pittsburgh suburb. John Taylor & Co. leased the plant by 1828 and made a flask embossed “J.T.&Co.” Beginning ca. 1831, a long series of firms operated the factory, including a return of George Hogg & Co. and Carter, Hogg & Co. (Hawkins 2013:14-15).

Benedict Kimber took over the works in 1843. By at least 1851, P.&J. Schwerer operated the plant, although they had to sell it to Robert Rogers in 1853 or 1854. Within a year or so, Rogers leased the place back to the Schwerers, but the firm became Haught & Schwerer in the early 1860s. George Wells took ownership in 1864 and expanded the plant. About 1879, Robert C. Schmertz & Co. purchased the property, and several operators ran the plant intermittently into the 1890s (Hawkins 2013:15; Percy & Bright 1904:150-152).

Waterford Glass Works, Waterford, Connecticut (ca. 1822-1880)

Sometime between 1822 and 1824, Jonathan Haines built a glass house on wooded land and, later, named the village that grew up around it Waterford. Haines died, and Samuel Shreve, Thomas Evans, and Jacob Roberts became the owners. Joseph Porter purchased the Roberts interest upon Roberts' death, eventually acquiring the entire business and bringing his son to join him as Joseph Porter & Son. When the senior Porter died in 1862, his son, William Porter, ran the factory for about a year, when it passed to Maurice Raleigh. Raleigh shut the plant down in 1863 – probably from the effects of the Civil War – but reopened at some point. Eventually, the works belonged to Gaines, Padessus & Co., making lampshades. They abandoned the plant in 1880, and the buildings burned in 1882 (McKearin & Wilson 1978:94).

W.B., WB monogram, and WITTEMAN BROS., New York (1876-1929)

Fisher & Weidhardt (2011) listed 13 mouth-blown beer and soda bottles embossed with the WB-ligature on their bases. Most of the bases only had the ligature, but some had a two-digit number (28, 53, and 57 in the sample) below the logo. One had a base embossed “WITTEMAN BROS. / WB-ligature / 59 / . / N.Y.” Another had “WITTEMAN BROS. / WB-ligature / 57 / .. / N.Y.” The authors noted that the Witteman Brothers were listed in the Manhattan business directories from 1876 to 1906 and apparently had locations in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Von Mechow (2020) described 18 beer bottles – mostly champagne beers, one pony, and two Hutchinsons – from Witteman Bros. Most of these were described as having “WB” or “WB (monogram)” basemarks. Only two had “WITTEMAN BROS (arch) / N.Y.” embossed on the base and three with both the name and the monogram – “WITTEMAN BROS (arch) / WB monogram.” Several with the initials and one with the name and monogram had either a two-

digit number or a single letter below the mark. Three were reported as “W.B.” – clearly indicating initials rather than the monogram.

User

Witteman Bros., New York City (1885-at least 1922)

Adolf, Rudolph, and Jacob Wittemann began selling photographs taken by Adolf throughout the U.S. and Canada in 1876 as a sideline to their newly formed brewery supply business at 188-190 Williams St, New York. In 1885, they formed Witteman Bros., Spring Street, Brooklyn, New York, specializing in brewing supplies but continuing to print post cards and other types of books and booklets, mostly through Louis Glasser. In addition, the firm gradually became a bottle supply firm after it began printing labels for bottlers and brewers. In 1887, Albert withdrew to form the Albertype Co., apparently printing the documents for Witteman Bros. after that. In 1893, he moved the printing business to 67-69 Spring St. and to Beekman Place two years later (Metro Post Card 2017; von Mechow 2020).

The brothers incorporated in 1910 and moved to Buffalo about 1920. Business declined during World War I, and the quarreling between Rudolph and Jacob – that had in part driven Adolph into his own business in 1890 – reduced the company even further. Jacob retired but continued to disagree with Rudolph over business matters. When Prohibition killed the brewing business in 1920, Rudolph continued to supply soft drink bottlers. The firm remained in business until ca. 1929 (von Mechow 2020).

W.C (poss. ca. 1845-1855)

McKearin and Wilson (1978:560-561) illustrated and described a flask with an eagle on the front and a cornucopia on the reverse. Below the eagle was an oval labeling area embossed “W.C” (with no period after the “C”). The authors noted that the flask was made in the “Monongahela and Early Pittsburgh district, particular glasshouse unknown” (Figure 6).

Although none of the typical flask sources made the suggestion, the initials could have been for Wilson Cunningham, a well-know Pittsburgh glass producer. Cunningham began his

first plant ca. 1845 and may have remained connected to the business until his death in 1855. When we asked Jay Hawkins, noted historian of the Pittsburgh glass industry, about this hypothesis, he replied:

I concur. I have for some time felt that the W.C stood for Wilson Cunningham. The style of the flask is indicative of the earlier styled flasks that would fit the time period for Wilson Cunningham. I haven't come across anyone else that would fit both the timing and the right initials, except Cunningham."

See the section on the Cunningham family for more details.

WCD (1870-1887)

Roller (1983:240; 2011:361) discussed a jar embossed "MASON'S (slight arch) / PATENT / NOV 30th / 1858" on the side and WCD in an arch on the base (Figure 7). He suggested that W.C. DePauw's Star Glass Works at New Albany may have been the producer during the 1870s, or W.C. Depauw Co. during the 1880-1890s period. Creswick (1987a:138) also discussed (but did not illustrate) the mark, only suggesting DePauw's later company. Whitten (2020a) agreed with Creswick, and only added that numbers – e.g., "44" were below the logo. For more information on the Star Glass Works (or Star Glass Co.), see the Other S section.

Since W.C. DePauw became president in 1870, his initials could have been embossed on the jars that early. As both Star Glass and the W.C. DePauw Co. continued to produce the jars until at least 1896, the initialed jars could have been made at any time during that period. It is unlikely, however, that the plant continued the initials after DePauw's death in 1887. The jars were probably only

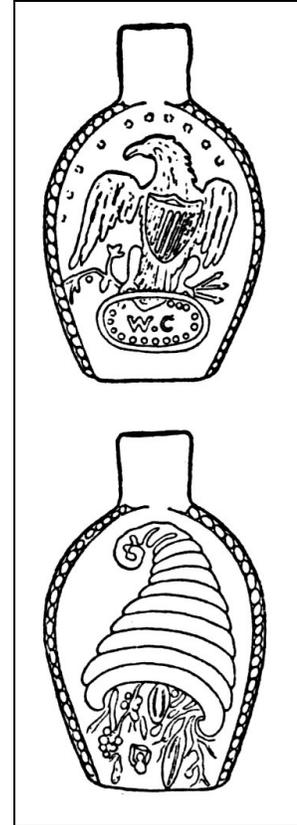


Figure 6 – WC (McKearin and Wilson 1978:561)



Figure 7 – WCD (North American Glass)

produced with the initials for a short period, possibly either a few years soon after DePauw became president of Star Glass in 1870 or right after he gained control of the factory in 1879.

Manufacturer

Star Glass Works, New Albany, Indiana (1869-1879)

John B. Ford & Sons founded the Star Glass Works at New Albany, Indiana, in 1865 to make plate glass, window glass, and fruit jars. Samuel Montgomery and Henry Hennegan gained control of the plant the following year, but it later burned to the ground. Ford repossessed or purchased the property again, and the new works were under construction by July 8, 1869 – and the plant began blowing glass on October 13 (Roller 1997d; Whitten 2005:45; Whitten 2020b).

On January 31, 1870, Ford joined with his cousin, Washington C. DePauw, John B. Winstandley, and W.D. Keys to incorporate the Star Glass Co. with a capital of \$60,000. The plant specialized in plate glass but also produced druggists' ware, liquor bottles, and fruit jars – including Mason jars and wax sealers. By at least 1872, DePauw was president with J.F. Leyden as secretary. Alexander Dowling became secretary by 1878, and Ford sold his stock in the firm, probably in 1879, when DePauw renamed the firm the W.C. DePauw Glass Co. (Roller 1997d; Whitten 2005:45; Whitten 2020b).

W.C. Depauw Glass Co., New Albany, New York (1879-1890)

After Ford departed in 1879, Washington C. DePauw bought out the remaining stockholders and renamed the operating firm the W.C. DePauw Glass Co. and the factory as DePauw's American Plate Glass Works. DePauw was the proprietor with N.T. DePauw as cashier and manager and C.W. DePauw as assistant manager (Roller 1997d).

Washington DePauw died on May 5, 1887, and his son, N.T. DePauw inherited the business. N.T. incorporated the firm with himself as president, C.W. DePauw as vice president, and W.D. Keys as secretary. The plant continued to make plate glass, skylight and floor glass, fruit jars and chemical ware. At this point, the factory made Mason jars for the Consolidated

Fruit Jar Co. The plant continued to produce Mason jars until at least 1886. However, by that time, the factory had run down considerably, and the firm was in receivership under the Union Trust Co. The plant was closed down by 1887 (Roller 1997d).

By 1902, the Ohio Falls Co-Operative Window Glass Co. had incorporated with Robert C. Perkins as president and F.L. Loebig as secretary – almost certainly taking over the old DePauw factory. The plant operated a single furnace with 12 pots. That firm, too, collapsed by ca. 1905 (Roller 1997d).

WCGCo (poss. 1915-1916)

An eBay auction and photo noted the “WCGCo” mark on a prescription bottle with a Pittsburgh paper label. A similar bottle in the David Whitten collection showed the basemark as double stamped (Figures 8 & 9). Although the West Coast Glass Co. used the mark, it was never known to have made pharmacy bottles, and, as a small



Figure 9 – WCGCo base (David Whitten)

California company, it would have been unlikely to have sold bottles in Pittsburgh. Toulouse (1971:535), however, noted, “In 1916 W.K. Wightman, president of the Wightman Glass Co. left to establish the Wightman Co-operative Glass Co. at Port Allegany, Pa. It lasted only a

year.” It is more likely that Wightman opened the concern in 1915 (see History section below). Since both Wightman’s predecessor, the Olean Glass Co., and his successor, the Pierce Glass Co., made medicinal bottles, Wightman may have made those also.



Figure 8 – WCGCo bottle (David Whitten)

Possible Manufacturer

Wightman Co-Operative Glass Co., Port Allegany, Pennsylvania (1915-1916)

W.K. Wightman left his position as president of the Wightman Glass Co. in 1915 to manage the newly organized Wightman Co-Operative Glass Co. at Port Allegany. We have not discovered the reason for his defection. The company took over the idle plant of the former Olean Glass Co., closed since 1912. The factory operated two continuous tanks with 14 rings in 1916, but its creditors forced the firm into bankruptcy on June 13 of that year with Wightman as receiver. The plant sold to the Pierce Glass Co. the following year (*National Glass Budget* 1916:2; Roller 1997c; Toulouse 1971:535).

W.D.&G

Whitten (2020a) reported the “W.D.&G” logo on an amber strap-side flask. He had no idea what the initials represented – nor do we. The “G” could equal glass, of course, but the letters probably indicated a jobber or retailer.

WESTFORD GLASS Co.

The American Bottle Auction and Glassworks Auctions offered several flasks embossed “WESTFORD GLASS Co. (arch) / WESTFORD, CONN. (horizontal)” on the front, all with a wheat sheaf on one side and the glass company name on the other. The plant made at least three styles of flasks, two wheat sheaf and one American eagle (Figure 10). One wheat sheaf flask was embossed “WESTFORD GLASS CO.” in an arch on the front and “WESTFORD / CONN.” on the reverse. The other wheat sheaf flask bore the inscription “WESTFORD GLASS CO.” on the reverse. The eagle flask was



Figure 10 – Westford (Glassworks Auctions)

marked “WESTFORD (arch) / GLASS / CO. (both horizontal) / WESTFORD (arch) / CONN. (horizontal)” (McKearin & Wilson 1978:152; Wilson 1972:156, 570-571, 662-663). The authors declined to speculate on dates for any of these flasks. However, they did note that Westford and the Willington Glass Co. “filled orders for each other on occasion” – citing an order from Willington for “three orders for the ‘Pint Westford Flasks’” (McKearin & Wilson 1978:152).

Manufacturer

Westford Glass Co., Westford (Ashford), Connecticut (1857-1878 or later)

The Westford Glass Co. incorporated on March 21, 1857, with Edwin A. Buck and John S. Dean as major shareholders. Thomas C. Cary was president with James Richmond as secretary – plus Buck, Dean, and Dan Chaffee as directors. The plant made at least carboys, Schnapps bottles, wines, inks, and demijohns at ca. 10 shops. The firm went bankrupt on May 18, 1865 (McKearin & McKearin 1941:609; McKearin & Wilson 1978:151-152; Wilson 1972:151-157).

The next step is unclear in the primary literature. E.A. Buck, along with George Foster, Charles L. Dean, and others formed E.A. Buck & Co. – a jobber selling glass products – later that year. E.A. Buck & Co. apparently reorganized the Westford Glass Co., operating it under its own name. The factory was one of the producers of the bottles sold by the Buck firm. George Foster, Charles L. Dean, and Albert G. Smalley defected from Buck to form Dean, Foster & Co., although Foster was soon replaced by his son, Elmer G. Foster. Although the relationship between Dean, Foster & Co. and E.A. Buck & Co. is unclear, Westford Glass apparently produced bottles for both firms.

An 1878 source claimed that a factory in Westford, Connecticut, made bottles for Dean, Foster & Co., although the Westford Glass Works was reported as closed in 1873. Since Dean, Foster & Co. did not open until 1874, this does not make intuitive sense. McKearin and McKearin (1941:609) referenced Van Rensselaer (1926) for the closing of Westford in 1873, but Van Rensselaer (1926:52) contained a very brief treatment of Westford and gave no attribution for his sources. Although Van Rensselaer did excellent research for the time period, the McKearins and others have discovered numerous errors in his work. The citing of Van

Rensselaer indicates that neither the McKearins nor Wilson actually discovered any information pertinent to the closing of the plant. It is thus clear that the Westford operation continued until at least 1878, and probably remained in business for a few years after that. For more information on any or all of these firms, see the section on Dean, Foster & Co.

WG

Creswick (1987:171) illustrated a fruit jar patented July 27, 1886, and embossed with the patent date around “WG” on the base (Figure 11). Despite the initials, she assigned the jar to the Salem Glass Works, Salem, New Jersey.

On May 27, 1886, William H. Dilworth applied for a patent for a “Design for a Fruit Jar.” He was awarded Design Patent No. 16,817 on July 27 of that year. There is no record that Dilworth assigned the patent to anyone. Since Dilworth resided in New Jersey, Creswick may have selected the Salem Glass Works as the manufacturer based on his address. She may also have made another connection. According to Pepper (1971:206), “John L. Dilworth, of a family long associated with the ownership [of the Salem Glass Works]” wrote to her about colors associated with Salem Glass.



Figure 11 – WG (Creswick 1987:171)

Creswick (1987:171) also illustrated and/or described six variations of the jar, only one of which had the WG in the center of the base. It is possible that the initials were intended to be “WD” – for the inventor of the jar – but they may also have been a manufacture’s mark. Nothing on the patent document suggests any reason for the initials.

“WG” could also indicate William T. Gray, one of the members of the firm of Kearns, Herdman & Gorsuch, glass makers in Zanesville, Ohio (McKearin & Wilson 1978:167). Gray was part of the firm in 1880, but we have not discovered when he left the company. This, of course, is less likely, as Zanesville is fairly distant from New Jersey. See the section on Kearns for more information. Of course, “WG” could indicate any glass house with the name “W . . .

Glass” – including the Western Glass Mfg. Co. Also, see “WG” on bottles in the Weeks & Gilson file and the W with zigzag section above.

WGBC° DEPTFORD

Anaeli Almeida reported a dark green (black glass) base embossed “WGBC° / DEPTFORD” in a Rickett’s mold with a



Figure 12 – WGBCo (Anaeli Almeida)



Figure 13 – WGBCo (PickClick)

mamelon in the center (Figure 12).

The bottle was produced by the Wear Glass Bottle Co., Deptford, England. A second bottle (posted on PicClick) was embossed “WGBCo (arch) / 427 / N (both horizontal)” on the base with no side embossing. The bottle was mouth blown with a one-part applied finish (Figures 13 & 14)



Figure 14 – WGBCo (PickClick)

Manufacturer

Several sources on the internet have confused the Wear Glass Works, the Wear Flint Glass Co., and the Wear Glass Bottle Co. – all of Deptford, England. The Wear jars – an American product – were completely unconnected to any of the English factories. They were made for Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank ca. 1910s-1920s. See that section for more information.

Wear Glass Works, Deptford, England (ca. 1826-1915)

About 1826, James Hartley & Co. (James and John Hartley) built the Wear Glass Works between Trimdon Street and Hylton Road, Deptford, Sunderland. John Hartley retired on January 1, 1840, leaving James as sole proprietor. James retired on December 31, 1869, and the next generation renamed the operating firm as James Hartley & Co. The company manufactured

flat glass. Family disputes and the use of outdated methods led to the demise of the firm in 1892, and the property was purchased by a trust that sold it in 1893 to a new James Hartley & Co., Ltd. The new group operated until 1915, still making plate glass (Wikipedia 2020a).

Wear Flint Glass Co., Deptford, England (1803-1892)

Christopher Thornhill, John White, Joseph Price, Thomas Young, and Joseph Tuer opened the Wear Flint Glass Co. on Trimdon St. in 1803. A series of reorganizations created White, Young & Tuer as the operating firm in 1816, changing to White, Young & Co. in 1822. Thomas Dawson joined White and Young in 1830 to form White, Young & Dawson. By 1834, however, William Booth & Co. acquired the operation, simplifying to Booth & Co. in 1840. The firm closed in 1892. Throughout its existence, the factory produced pressed glass tableware (Joyce 2010).²

Wear Glass Bottle Co., Deptford, England (?-1892)

Walker Featherstonehaugh opened the Wear Glass Bottle Co. – also known as the Deptford Bottle Works. The factory made all kinds of bottles. When Walker died in 1863, his sons, Albany W. and Edward Featherstonehaugh continued to operate the factory (G.H. Graham.org. 2017). In 1892, the plant had seven furnaces (House of Commons 1893:634).

WGCo Monogram

Roller (1983:218) showed a WGCo monogram found a jar with a “shoulder seal, zinc screw cap” (Figure 15). He did not know the manufacturer and did not include a date range. He also listed a grooved-ring wax sealer with W.G.Co. embossed on the base. This, too, was undated and no maker listed (Roller 1983:379; 2011:549). Also, see the W.G.CO. Logos section.



Figure 15 – WGCo monogram (North American Glass)

² The study was printed in German, so we were unable to tease out many details.

WG&Co

Creswick (1987:220) illustrated a grooved-ring, wax-sealer fruit jar embossed on the base with “W.G.&Co. (slight arch) / {cross}” and no embossing on the sides (Figure 16). Creswick failed to include a date range. Although “G” probably equals glass, we have been unable to find any company with these initials and the ampersand. This may refer to a jobber or retailer, or it could even be an engraver’s error for “W.G.Co.”

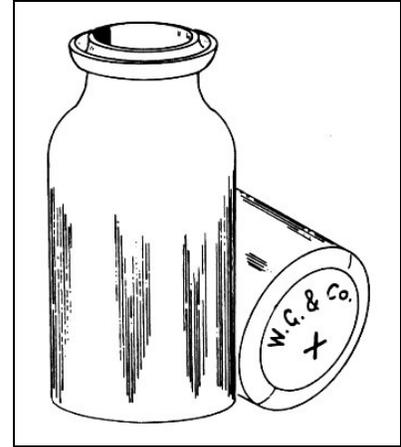


Figure 16 – WG&Co (Creswick 1987:220)

WG&S LTD



Figure 17 – WG&S Ltd (Laurence Stassen)

“WG&S LTD” was probably the mark of William Grant & Sons LTD – a distiller of Scotch – established in 1887 at Bellshill, North Lanarkshire, England (Figure 17). The firm remains in business in 2020 (Wikipedia 2020b).

WHEAT, PRICE & CO.

The firm of Wheat, Price & Co. made at least two types of flasks during 1830-1833. Both showed a bust on the front framed by “WHEAT, PRICE & C^o. WHEELING, VA.” (Figure 18). Note that West Virginia had not yet separated from Virginia at this point. A glass house was pictured on the reverse (presumably the Fairview Glass Works, operated by the company), with “FAIR” at the upper left, “VIEW” at the upper right, and “WORKS” below the house. The flasks were made in various yellow and green hues (McKearin & Wilson 1978:129, 552-553).

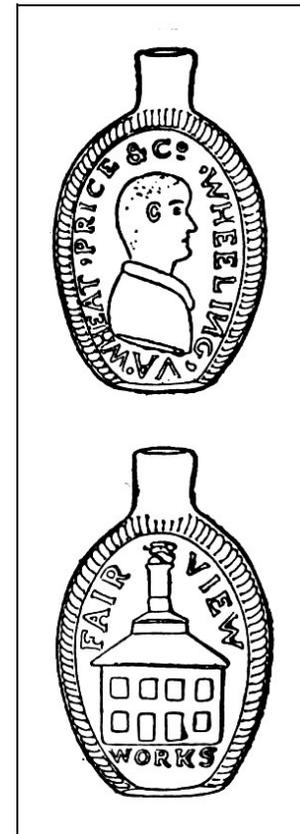


Figure 18 – Wheat Price & Co (McKearin & Wilson 1978:553)

Manufacturer

Wheat, Price & Co., Wheeling, West Virginia (1830-1833)

Wheat, Price & Co. purchased half the interest in the Virginia Green Glass Works and the flint works, Wheeling (West) Virginia, from Knox & McKee in 1830 and renamed both plants as the Fairview Glass Works. The full range of products is currently unknown, but the plant made at least two types of flasks. John and Craig Richie and George Wilson bought the factories under the name of Richie & Wilson on January 31, 1834. The firm was successful until the panic of 1837, when the plant was repossessed by the bank. However, Richie & Wilson continued to operate the window glass factory, leasing the bottle plant to Francis Plunkett and Hall Miller, who ran it for three years. Evans & Andersons leased the plant in 1845 and ran it until ca. 1848. Both plants were dismantled in 1849 (McKearin & Wilson 1978:129). For the earlier history of the property, see the Other K section, Knox & McKee. Also see the Fair View Glass Works in the Other F section.

WHEELER FRUIT JAR (ca. 1885-ca. 1887)

Roller (1983:397; 2011:549) discussed a jar embossed “WHEELER FRUIT JAR” on the base and sealed by a “glass lid held down by four-armed wire clamp hooking under jar finish.” He noted two variations of lids:

1. RW (monogram) PAT. APPLIED FOR embossed on underside (Figure 19)
2. WHEELER FRUIT JAR TRADE MARK embossed on top

“RW” likely indicated Richard Wheeler, president of San Francisco’s Wheeler Packing Co. in 1885. Joseph Perkins was the secretary by 1887. Roller suggested that the jar was made to the Joseph Perkins patent of March 22, 1887. Roller (1983:398) discovered an 1885 ad for the Wheeling fruit jars, made by the Campbell Glass Works, in the city directory (Figure 20).

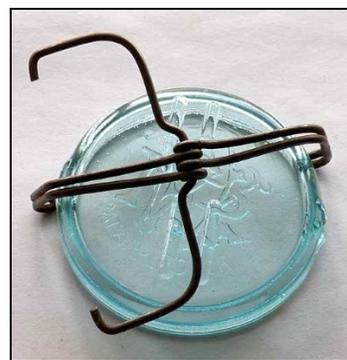


Figure 19 – RW (North American Glass)

We discussed the Campbell Glass Co. briefly in the Cohansey Glass Co. section – in conjunction with the “CGMCo” mark, claimed by Toulouse (1971:129) as the logo of the Campbell Glass Mfg. Co., West Berkeley, California, in 1885. We were unable to find the “CGMCo” mark on an actual bottle, although Teal (2005:74) discovered

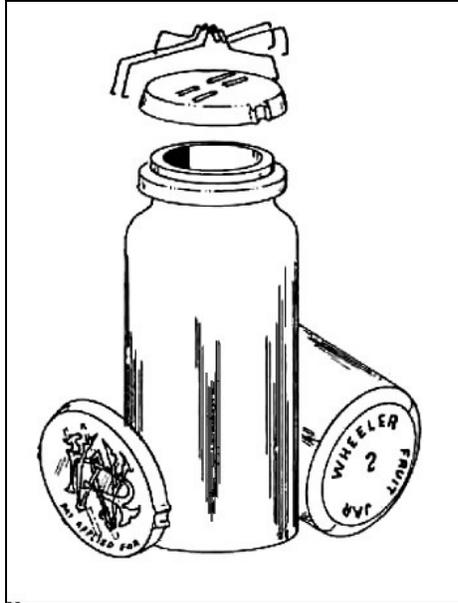


Figure 21 – Wheeler (Creswick 1987a:220)

a “CGM” mark on a single amber, pre-Dispensary (i.e., pre-1893) whiskey flask from Bamberg, South Carolina. We speculated that the flask was made by the Cohansey Glass Mfg. Co. See the section on Cohansey for more information.

Creswick (1987a:220) also discussed and illustrated the jar, agreeing with Richard Wheeler and the Wheeler Fruit Packing Co. as well as Campbell as the manufacturer (Figure 21).

Manufacturer

Campbell Glass Works, San Francisco, California (1885)

The 1885 Wheeler Fruit Jar ad copied by Roller (1983:398) indicated that J. Campbell & Co. (J. Campbell and J.B. Flickenger) was the proprietor of the Campbell Glass Works with a principal office at 223 Battery St., San Francisco. Roller noted that the plant was “built in 1885, but due to management difficulties and company reorganization, it was soon closed.”

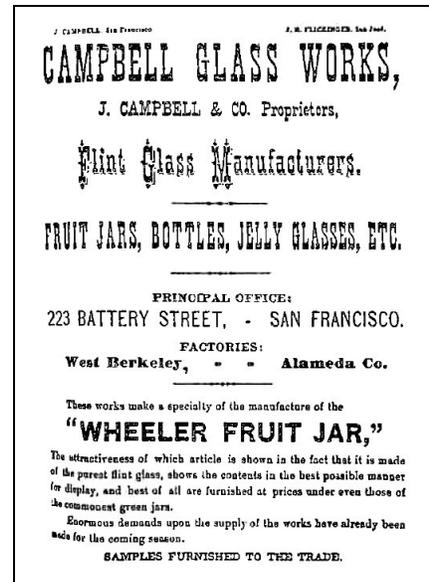


Figure 20 – Campbell ad (Roller 1983:398)

WHEELING GLASS WORKS (1860-1869)

McKearin & Wilson (1978:548-549) discussed and illustrated a flask embossed “WHEELING GLASS WORKS” on the reverse (with a bust of Benjamin Franklin on the front). The Wheeling Glass Works was operated by George W Robinson & Co. From 1860 to 1869 (Figure 22).

Manufacturer

Wheeling Glass Works, Wheeling, (West) Virginia (1860-1869)

See George W. Robinson & Co. in the Other R section for the history of the Wheeling Glass Works.

WICKSON

Dairy Antiques (2016) listed this as a mark of G.G. Wickson, a dairy supply house. Wickson had opened his business in San Francisco by 1881 but moved from 38 California St. to No. 3 and 5 Front St. in June of 1887 because the company had outgrown its smaller location. The firm remained in business until at least 1905 (*Pacific Rural Press* 1887:568).

WILLIAMSTOWN

A number of soda bottles bore the embossing “WILLIAMSTOWN (arch) / N.J. (horizontal)” on the front. According to von Mechow (2020), the Williamstown Glass Works made the bottle from ca. 1851 to ca. 1894. For more information see the section on the Bodine Glass Companies.



Figure 22 – Wheeling Glass Works (McKearin & Wilson 1978:549)

WILLINGTON GLASS WORKS or WILLINGTON GLASS Co.

According to Wilson (1972:129), “Despite the fact that the Willingotn Glass Company was in business for more than fifty years . . . very little is known about its products.” This suggests that most of the glassware made by the factory was unmarked.

The full name of the company was embossed around the edge of the base in a Rickett’s type mold on amber or blackglass, cylinder whiskey bottles. There were at least two minor variations. A photo on an eBay auction showed a “+” sign in the center of the base, and a photo in Wilson (1981:130) illustrated a very similar mark with three embossed dots in a line across the center of the base. The American Bottle Auction and Glassworks Auction included

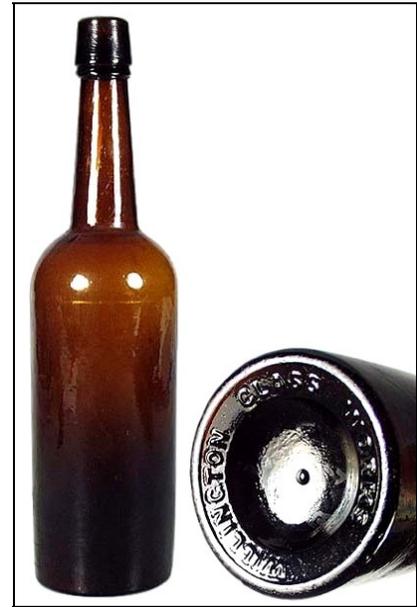


Figure 23 – Willington (Glassworks Auction)



Figure 24 – Willington (McKearin and Wilson 1978:571)

flasks (Figure 24), and one was discussed in Wilson (1972:130). The American Bottle Auction offered several flasks embossed “WILLINGTON (arch) / GLASS / Co (both horizontal) / WEST

photo

s of cylinder whiskey bottles with slight push-ups and small mamelons (Figure 23). When the steamer *Bertrand* sunk on April 1, 1865, it carried a few “bourbon whiskey cocktail bottles” embossed “WILLINGTON GLASS WORKS” on their bases (Switzer 1974:32, 73). One of these bottles and its base was illustrated in Wilson (1972:130).

McKearin and Wilson (1978:570-571) illustrated and/or described five variations of Willington

WILLINGTON (arch) / CONN (horizontal)” on the front (Figure 25). The flasks were dark olive green or amber in color and featured an eagle below the word “LIBERTY” on the reverse. These were similar to the ones illustrated in McKearin and Wilson.

Manufacturer

Willington Glass Works, West Willington, Connecticut (1815-ca. 1873)



Figure 25 – Willington (American Bottle Auction)

Frederick and Roderick Rose joined with Elisha Brigham, Spafford Brigham, and Stephen Brigham, Jr., John Turner, and Ebenezer Root to form a stock company in 1814. By the time the Willington Glass Works opened the following year, the partners had already shifted. Gilbert, Turner & Co. (owners of the Coventry Glass Factory Co.) purchased the plant on October 31, 1828. Gilbert, Turner & Co., in turn, sold the factory to Harvey Merrick, Elisha Carpenter, William Still, William Shaffer, Frank Shaffer, and James McFarlane, who incorporated as the Willington Glass Co. with a capitalization of \$6,500 on April 19, 1847. Although the plant remained in operation until it closed in 1872, it never recovered from the Panic of 1853. The firm “limped through another decade, its last years were mainly ones of phasing out the business and settling debts” (McKearin & Wilson 1978:111-112; Wilson 1972:129). According to Barber (1900:59), “some of the same people established glass works at Ellenville, Ulster County, N.Y., about 1848.

WI&P PITTSBURGH PA (1836-ca. 1837)

According to Hawkins (2009:516-517; 2011:39), “WI&P” indicates Whitehead, Ihmsen & Phillips. The firm built the Pennsylvania Flint Glass Works to make cut, plain, engraved, and pressed tableware and the Pennsylvania Black Glass Works for bottles, both in Birmingham (Pittsburgh). The company operated from ca. 1836 to ca. 1837.

The photo in both Hawkins studies shows the base of a blackglass porter bottle embossed “W.I.&P. PITTSBURGH PA” in a circle in a Rickett’s-type mold on the base – although Hawkins noted that at least one bottle was made with no periods after the initials (Figure 26). None of the bottles Hawkins found had a period after “PA.” Although the firm made various bottle types, the mark apparently only appeared in Rickett’s-style molds on the bases on blackglass, porter-style bottles with two-part (double-collar) finishes and improved pontils (Hawkins 2014:39).



Figure 26 – WI&P (Jay Hawkins)

Manufacturer

Whitehead, Ihmsen & Phillips, Pittsburgh (ca. 1836-ca. 1837)

According to Hawkins (2009:516), “Thomas I. Whitehead, Christian Ihmsen, Charles Ihmsen, and William Phillips formed a partnership about 1836. By 1837, operating in concert with C. Ihmsen & Co., they ran four separate factories in Birmingham [Pittsburgh]” – making flint glass, black glass, vials, and windows. The blackglass plant produced champagnes, clarets, wines, porters, Apollinaris, demijohns, carboys, and druggists’ ware.

William Ihmsen and Francis McGowan joined the company ca. 1836, after its formation. The firm was no longer listed in the 1839 directory, although the directory did include Whitehead, Sproul & Co. By 1840, William Phillips was involved with Phillips & Best. It seems likely that Whitehead, Ihmsen & Phillips dissolved because of the death of William Ihmsen in December 1836 (Hawkins 2011:38-39). For more information about the Ihmsens, see the section on the Ihmsen companies or Hawkins (2009:272-284).

W.L.

According to Whitten (2020a), “the “W.L.” logo was found “on the base of a small amber medicine bottle with black dropper lid and original label which is lettered in part

‘White’s Cod Liver Oil.’” Whitten assigned White’s Laboratories, Newark, New Jersey, as the user of the mark and dated it ca. “1940s?” The firm was open until at least 1960.

WNGCo

An eBay seller offered a lid embossed in the center with four interlocked circles. The top circle had a “W” embossed in it, with “N” in the left circle, “G” in the right, and “Co” in the bottom circle. Despite the “W” at the top, the initials are actually NWGCo for North Wheeling Glass Co. See the Other N section for more information.

WOOSTER

According to Toulouse (1971:543), the Wooster Glass Co. used this mark from ca. 1900 to 1904. At least one example had a double stamp on the base (Figure 27). Double stamps were typically used between ca. 1895 and ca. 1908. We have only found the logo on the bases of mouth-blown beer bottles.

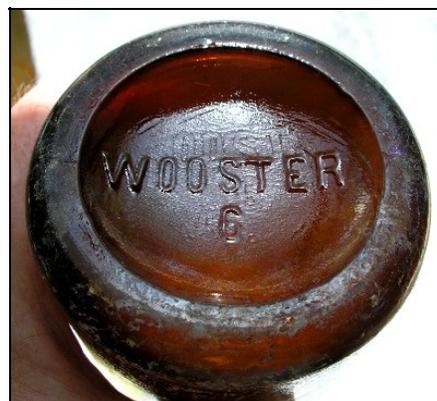


Figure 27 – Wooster

Manufacturer

Wooster Glass Co., Wooster, Ohio (ca. 1900-1904)

Controlled by J.F. Pocock, the company made beer bottles until it became part of the combine that formed the Ohio Glass Co. in 1904. Prior to the merger, the plant used one continuous tank with 16 rings to make its products. The firm added the Adolphus Busch Glass Mfg. Co. the following year to become the American Bottle Co. (*American Glass Review* 1934:163; Toulouse 1971:543). See the section on the American Bottle Co. for more information.

W.P.G.Co. (1890-1894)

An eBay seller offered a Massachusetts milk bottle embossed “W.P.G.Co.” on the “bottom.” The bottle did not have the Massachusetts seal, used between late 1909 and 1947. Several other auctions featured pumpkin-seed flasks with the mark embossed on the bases (Figure 28). The Midwest Archaeological Center bottle list (1997) included “DR DEWITTS LIVER BLOOD / & KIDNEY CURE / W. J. PARKER & CO BALTO MD [Base:] WPG CO Fike 1987:73, 97.” Fike, unfortunately, did not identify the mark.



Figure 28 – WPGCo

According to Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:129), WPGCo was used by W.J. Parker & Co., Baltimore, Maryland. They dated the mark “1900s.” Parker was apparently a dealer in medical supplies at Baltimore. He was not listed in the Baltimore glass companies in the Roller files. While we doubt this identification, the inclusion of the initials by Griffenhagen and Bogard suggests that the mark was also found on medicinal bottles (the subject of their book), although some drug stores *did* use flasks for various medicines.

Despite the assertion made by Griffenhagen and Bogard, the flasks were made by the West Penn Glass Co., Blairsville, Pennsylvania. Although only open from 1890 to 1894, the plant’s main output was quart, pint, and half-pint flasks (Roller 1997a).

There was also a West Penn Bottle Co. at Hyde Park, Pennsylvania, that listed 24 pots in 1898 and used one furnace with 12 pots, and one tank with three rings to make bottles, vials, flasks, prescription ware, and fruit jars in 1899 (*National Glass Budget* 1898a:7; Roller 1997b). Whether this was in any way connected with the West Penn Glass Co. is currently unknown to us. Dairy Antiques (2016) agree with West Penn.

Manufacturer

West Penn Glass Co., Blairsville, Pennsylvania (1890-1894)

The West Penn Glass Co. began production in April 1890. Although the plant made other bottles, its main products were quart, pint, and half-pint flasks. Little is known about the intervening years, but the “Whitney Glass Works, of Philadelphia” purchased West Penn about June 1894 (Roller 1997a). The anonymous author of *Treasures of the Past* (Anonymous 1891) presented this historical sketch of the company:

The West Penn glass works, as they are called, lie on the southern borders of the borough, along the West Pennsylvania railroad. They are built entirely of brick. The plant consists of warehouse, packing room, leer building, blacksmith shop and factory proper. The factory is two stories high and is known among the glass trade as the best arranged and ventilated in the State. It is always cool, although a sixteen-pot furnace is going at white heat continually. The product of the factory is a car-load of bottles per day. The members of the first firm – John T. Birney and Charles E. Barr – were killed in the wreck of a portion of the works in the high winds of about a year ago. The factory building was in course of construction and it was feared the storm would blow in the south gable. The managers were overseeing the work of strengthening the wall when it came down with a crash, burying them beneath the ruins. By a strange fate none but the managers of the company were killed. The work was taken up by other hands, however, and about 200 men and boys are now employed in the factory, and they are all residents of Blairsville or neighboring boroughs.

WRW&Co (1899-1900)

Toulouse (1971:543) noted that “WRW&Co” “was used on a handmade, amber ‘poison’ bottle, oblong in shape.” Unfortunately, he did not mention the type of bottle, and we have no idea whom the initials might represent. Two proprietary tax stamps – used on taxable products – were dated “1-11-99” and “6-12-1900” (Figure 29). While that does not give us any indication of the user of the stamps and mark, it does date the products to at least that one-year period.

Stamps of this kind were *not* used by glass houses, so “WRW&Co” was almost certainly the user of the bottle rather than the manufacturer.

WSMGCo or WSMCCo

Toulouse (1971:543) dated this mark as “probably after 1910.” He stated that “the initials are on a machine-made, red amber square bottle.” The BRG also found an amber, round-cornered, rectangular base (possibly medicinal or household) at the TUR collection that was embossed “W.S.M.G.Co.” (Figure 30). The TUR base had no serif on the “G.” Based on the next paragraph, the initials may be “W.S.M.C.Co” for the William S. Merrell Chemical Co.

Both “Cs” (or the “G” and “C”) are very similar on the TUR base. Although two bottles appeared on eBay embossed with these initials, the seller (same one in both cases) did not include photos of the bases.

Richardson and Richardson (1992:162) suggested that a similar mark “WSMCO” was used by William S. Merrell on the bases of containers from 1881 to ca. 1930. Griffenhagen & Bogard (1999:130) agreed, although they shortened the period to 1880-1920. William S. Merrell opened the Western Market Drug Store in 1828 at Cincinnati, Ohio. At some point, Merrell expanded into the wholesale drug business. When Merrell died in 1880, his sons formed the William S. Merrell Chemical Co. The firm flourished until the 1930s, when it merged with Lunsford Richardson to become Richardson-Merrell (Wikipedia 2009).



Figure 29 – WRW&Co stamps (eBay)



Figure 30 – WSMGCo (TUR)

W&T

According to Whitten (2020a), the “W&T” mark was “unidentified. Seen on the base of clear, handmade druggist bottle made for “DRS. REID AND STRANAHAN” of Rome, NY.” We have only found one example (Figure 31).



Figure 31 – W&T

W.W.VA.S.F.&Co.

Along with the McCarty Vacuum Seal Fruit Jar (see Other F section), Toulouse (1971:53-54) noted a second fruit jar that he attributed to the Frank Glass Co. This was apparently embossed ASF / WWVA on the base (although he did not specify the location).

Roller (1983:390; 2011:559) described a grooved-ring, wax-sealer fruit jar embossed “W.W.VA.S.F.&Co.” on the base. Aside from noting that the jar was a grooved-ring, wax sealer, he added no information. Creswick (1987:226) illustrated the jar and suggested the Frank Glass Co. of Wellsburg, West Virginia, as the possible manufacturer – almost certainly dividing the initials into “W.W.VA.” (Wellsburg, West Virginia) and “S.F.&Co.” as the glass house (Figure 32).

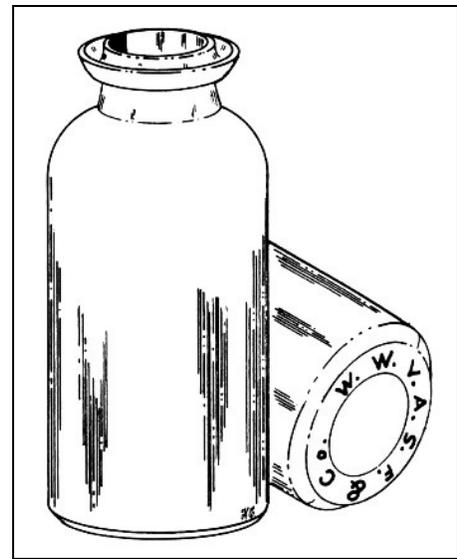


Figure 32 – WWVASF&Co – (Creswick 1987:226)

Vivian Kath (1997:46) noted that the jar “appears to be sort of a khaki (dirty green!) color and is base-embossed W.W.VAS.F.&Co with a reversed S. I can’t find any age or maker info on this one, but I venture to guess it was made in West Virginia.” Tom Caniff (personal communication, 12/18/2009) stated that he had begun an investigation into this jar/mark but had been unable to find anything beyond the typical sources.

The problem with the Toulouse and Creswick attribution of this mark to Frank has to do with the initials. The only Frank connected with the Frank Glass Co. was James A. Frank. While it is certainly possible that the “S” was an engraver’s error for “J,” there is still no record of the company being called “Frank & Co.” It was always the Frank Glass Co. in all records we have found (see the Other F section).

The only initials in any West Virginia town that begins with a “W” that are even close are those of the S. George Co. at Wellsburg (assuming that the “F” was an engraver’s error for “G”). However, the establishment was never listed as S. George & Co., and the chances of a double engraver’s error, while not unheard of, are more tenuous. The initials sound very much like the name of a railroad, although we have not been able to locate such a line. It is also possible that the “S.F.&Co.” referred to a business rather than a glass house.

Discussion and Conclusions

As frequently happens, we were able to diagnose most of the “W” logos and assign glass factories and dates to them. But, a few have remained either tenuous, or we have been unable to find a solution.

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