

Weeks & Gilson and the South Stoddard Glass Co.

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Throughout most of the factory's tenure, Weeks & Gilson operated the South Stoddard Glass Co. at South Stoddard, New Hampshire – 1853-1873. It is unsurprising, then, that the certain marks associated with the company all contained the name Weeks and that a base speculated to be from the plant were marked with the letter “W.”

History

South Stoddard Glass Co., South Stoddard, New Hampshire (ca. 1850-1873)

A group of five men, Luman Weeks, Almon Woods, Ebenezer A. Rice, Nicolas Hilt, and Frederick A. Gilson, incorporated the South Stoddard Glass Co. on July 4, 1851, and began construction of their factory October of 1850.¹ The plant also produced glass under the name of Weeks and Gilson as well as the Weeks Glass Works. In 1852, Woods and Hill left the operation, and Rice followed a year later (Field 1975:31-32; Historical American Glass n.d.; Wilson 1972:170).

On August 17, 1854, the plant had a close call when a nearby fire spread into the woods owned by the firm, destroying 200-300 cords of stacked firewood – narrowly missing the factory, itself. Weeks and Gilson remained in business until 1873. The main product of the plant was Saratoga Springs water bottles, although the factory also made vases, jars for Kimball's Jaundice Bitters, and other bottles (Field 1975:31-32; *State Capital Reporter* 8/25/1854; Wilson 1972:170).

¹ Of interest, the *Mirror & Farmer* of June 28, 1851, included the “South Stoddard Glass Manufacturing Company” in its list of bills to incorporate by the State Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 1851.

Containers and Marks

Although the South Stoddard Glass Works produced a large variety of bottles and other glass items, almost all of it was unmarked. We have discovered only three manufacturer's marks – two certain, the other possible – used on products made by Weeks & Gilson.

W (ca. 1853-1873)

Unlike the “W” used on Lorenz & Wightman bottles, this one was found on a blackglass snuff bottle, supposedly made by the South Stoddard Glass Co., Stoddard, New Hampshire. The “W” was embossed offset to the right of the center and was slightly skewed (Figure 1). The bottle was rectangular in shape with chamfered corners (Schulz 2006:58). Since Weeks and Gilson owned the company from 1853 to 1873, these are the most likely years that the mark was used. (Field 1975:80). Also see lone W marks in the Wightman Glass Firm and Other W sections.

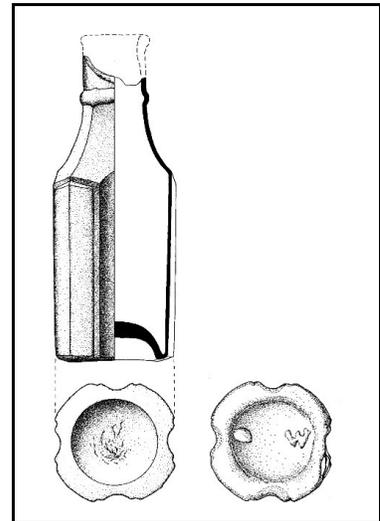


Figure 1 – W (Schulz 2016:58)

WEEKS AND GILSON, SO. STODDARD, N.H. (ca. 1853-1873)

Weeks and Gilson (South Stoddard Glass Co.) made cylinder whiskey bottles embossed in Rickett's mold bases with “WEEKS AND GILSON, SO. STODDARD, N.H.” in a circle (Figures 2 & 3). Judging from the photos, the bottles were blown into dip molds or made with three-part molds (Field 1975:33). Wilson (1972:118, 171) illustrated and discussed a jar blown from the same bottle mold as the cylinder whiskey bottle. The shoulders were apparently forced in after the bottle was molded, and the neck flared open.



Figure 3 – Weeks & Gilson (Norman A. Heckler)



Figure 2 – Whiskey Bottle (Norman A. Heckler)

WEEKS GLASS WORKS (ca. 1853-1873)

Some cylinder whiskey bottles were embossed “WEEKS GLASS WORKS” on the base in a circular format on a Rickett’s mold (Figure 4). These were blown into dip molds or three-piece molds (Field 1975:58).



Figure 4 – Weeks Glass Works (Norman A. Heckler)

Discussion and Conclusions

Although Weeks & Gilson made a large variety of glass products, our focus is only on the ones with manufacturer’s marks. The whiskey bottles with “WEEKS AND GILSON, SO. STODDARD, N.H.” and “WEEKS GLASS WORKS” basemarks were obviously products of the South Stoddard Glass Co. when Weeks and Gilson were the owners. The “W” presented by Schulz (2006) is much less certain – although it fits into the correct period.

Acknowledgments

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