The Baker Brothers and the Baltimore Glass Works

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

The Baker Brothers operated the Baltimore Glass Works at Federal Hill from 1837 into the 20th century. The works, themselves, were much older, dating to 1800. The various firms involved with the factory specialized in flat glass of many types – primarily window glass – but also made a variety of bottles. In 1851, a group of glass blowers opened a new factory – the Spring Garden Glass Works – to make bottles.

Within a few years, this cooperative ceased operation, and the Baker Brothers acquired all interests. Eventually, the Brothers closed the Federal Hill factory and moved all operations to Spring Garden – dropping the Spring Garden name and calling the new plant the Baltimore Glass Works. The factories typically did not use manufacturer’s logos, but the brothers did use identifying marks on several types of bottles and flasks.

Histories

Baltimore Glass Works (1800-1870)

The Baltimore Glass Works was also known as the Federal Hill Glass Works, the Patapsco River Glass-House, and the Hughes Street Works. The plant was initially operated by Frederick M. Amelung & Co. (Knittle 1927:297, 299, 302). Located at the “foot of Federal Hill,” the company was instigated on November 16, 1799, and production commenced on January 1, 1800. Phillip R.J. Friese gained control of the factory in 1802, although Lewis (possibly Louis) Reppert (apparently the “& Co.” of the Amelung firm) retained his interest.

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2 Freeman (1964:84), however, described a “Monumental City” bottle embossed “Baltimore Glass Works Est’d 1780. Baker Bros. & Co.” The date almost certainly indicated the ancestral factory to the Baltimore Glass Works – the New Bremen Glass Manufactory – operated by Frederick Amelung. The plant was actually built ca. 1774 and was purchased by Amelung in 1784. As noted above, Amelung built the Baltimore Glass Works in 1800.
Phillip’s younger brother, John Frederick Friese, took over the actual operation of the plant, when Phillip retired ca. 1818. Upon the death of Lewis Reppert, his sons, George and Jacob, became partners with John F. Friese (McKearin & Wilson 1978:71-73).

John Friese died in December 1831, forcing Phillip to abandon his retirement and return to the business. As the former partnership officially dissolved, the Ruperts apparently forced Phillip Friese to purchase their share of the business ca. 1833 (McKearin & Wilson 1978:72-73). McKearin & Wilson (1978:73) told the next segment of the story:

In his need for financial backing, Phillip turned to William Baker, a judge in the Orphans Court of the City of Baltimore and a son of the William Baker, who had founded William Baker & Sons, a dry goods house. An interest in the Baltimore Glass Works was natural, for, according to an 1837 Baltimore directory, William Baker had a glass warehouse on Hanover Street.

Although the Baltimore Glass Works continued to operate for 25 more years, the rest of the story appears in the accounts below.

**William Baker, Baltimore (1837-1845)**

By 1837, William Baker had already acquired a “glass warehouse on Hanover Street” – although it is unclear whether the property was only for storage of glass or if this were a glass factory. McKearin & Wilson (1978:73) were also unclear about what products were produced or stored in this “warehouse.” Because this property is not mentioned further, it was likely only for storage.

In March of 1837, William Baker became involved with Friese in the Baltimore Glass Works. Baker assumed $5,650 worth of mortgages for the factory the following September and acquired the entire property a few months later. The plant was located at 3 N. Liberty St. and apparently only made window glass. It was not until January of 1845 that Baker executed the bill of sale, apparently incorporating as the Baltimore Glass Works at the same time (McKearin & Wilson 1978:73; Roller 1998).
**Baker Bros. & Co., Baltimore** (1845-ca. 1905)

William Baker, along with his brother, Charles, and four associates, bought the Baltimore Glass Works in January 1845. William’s sons, Henry J. and Charles J. Baker began serving as commission merchants and agents, selling the products made by the Baltimore Glass Works and the New Jersey Glass Works (probably Coffin, Hay & Bowdle) under the name of C.J. and H.J. Baker in 1851. The name was changed to Baker & Bro. by 1850 and became Baker Bros. & Co. in 1851 – with Joseph Rogers, Jr., as the “& Co.” About 1849, the senior Baker had moved into semi-retirement (McKearin & Wilson 1878:73; Roller 1998).

McKearin & Wilson (1978:73) described the 1837-1850 period as “some confusion” over the relationships and people involved with the operation of the Baltimore Glass Works. It seems clear that the senior Baker owned the works, and his sons were involved in selling the products as agents apart from the factory, itself. However, at least for awhile, there was apparently a different firm actually operating the plant. During at least some of the 1837-1850 period, Schaum, Reitz & Co. ran the plant. Both Lewis Schaum and Lewis Reitz were blowers at the factory. F. & L. Schaum took over in 1851. Frederick and Lewis Schaum were sons of the Lewis Schaum of Schaum, Reitz & Co. (McKearin & Wilson 1978:73).

**Spring Garden Glass Works, Baltimore** (1851-1856)

In 1850, several glassblowers from the Federal Hill plant – Jacob Leigh, William Garton, David Lawson, William Swindell, and Frederick and Lewis Schaum – made plans to create a new factory. They called the operating firm F. Schaum & Co. Swindell, Garton, and Leigh

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3 A letterhead dated September 10, 1879, included a drawing of a phoenix rising from the flames. Above was the inscription “ESTABLISHED 1790” (Tyson 1971:5) – another reference to the earlier Amelung plant.

4 For a thorough discussion of the emergence of the Baker Brothers, see Knittle (1927:300-303) and McKearin and Wilson (1978:73-74).

5 Although several other authors, including Knittle (1927:300-303); McKearin & McKearin (1941:587); Toulouse (1971:62-64); and Van Rensalear (1969: 192-193, 197), discussed the Baltimore Glass Works, their efforts were completely overshadowed by McKearin and Wilson (1978).
rented land on Eutaw St. in late 1850 and began building what would become the Spring Garden Glass Works. Blowing commenced in 1851, and the Baker Brothers were to be the sole marketing agents (McKearin & Wilson 1978:130).

F. Schaum & Co. announced in May of 1854 that the plant would no longer retain the Baker Brothers. According to local tradition, William Swindell disagreed with this policy, withdrew from the group, and immediately returned to Federal Hill, where he became superintendent. In June 1855, William Garton and Frederick Schaum also withdrew from F. Schaum & Co. and returned to the Baltimore Glass Works. The remaining workers reorganized and formed Davis, Lawson & Co. (Jacob Leigh, David Lawson, John W. Davis, and Edward G. Sturgeon. This group, too, dissolved – in just three months – and Sturgeon became the sole proprietor. On June 16, 1856, William Baker acquired all the assets of the Spring Garden Glass Works. The plant became the bottle production unit for the Bakers and ceased to have a separate identity in 1863 (McKearin & Wilson 1978:73, 1930-131).

Baltimore Glass Works under the Baker Brothers (1856-ca. 1904)

The Spring Garden factory lost its identity by 1863, and both plants were called the Baltimore Glass Works. In 1865, Charles J. Baker purchased the interests of Joseph Rogers, Jr., and Henry Baker in the Spring Garden plant and introduced his two sons, William and Charles J., along with nephew, George B. Baker, into the firm (Figure 1). The following year, Baker Bros. & Co. bought the Federal Hill factory from William Baker for $45,000. About 1865 or 1866, Philip Reitz & Co. took over the management of the Baltimore Glass Works, and all production at the Federal Hill branch ceased in 1870⁶ (McKearin & Wilson 1978:73-74).

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⁶ At our request, Doc Anderson checked Baltimore city directories from 1870 to 1900 and could find no listing for the Federal Hill Glass Works. This confirms the McKearins’ claim that the Federal Hill factory ceased production in 1870.
There is some contention in the secondary literature about the closing of the Spring Garden factory. McKearin and Wilson (1978:74) claimed that “about 1890, Baker Brothers & Company drew their fires in the Baltimore Glass Works and, as did so many glass manufacturers, went west. In Findlay, Ohio, they established a ‘modern’ window-glass plant, one using natural gas as fuel.” However, the plant was listed as continuing until 1905 by Van Rensselaer (1969:199) and McKearin and McKearin (1941:587). Toulouse (1971:63), however, noted: “A report that they did not close until 1905 has not been confirmed, since they were not listed in the 1904 directory.”

In this case, most of the secondary sources were in error, although all contained part of the story. The Ohio Window Glass Co., was indeed founded by a Baker firm on June 23, 1887; however, John Baker, the prime mover of the corporation and a long-time Ohio resident, was unrelated to the Baltimore Bakers. In 1893, John Baker and his brother, George, moved the plant to Fairmount, Indiana (Paquette 2002:51-54). This was not a relocation of the Baltimore factory.

Baker Bros. & Co. continued to make “green” and “flint” bottles in Baltimore, Maryland. The firm was listed in the Thomas Registers from 1905 to 1909. In 1912, the firm was listed as both Baker Bros. & Co. and as the Baker Glass Co., both in Baltimore (Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:103; 1909:200; 1912:479). These listings, coupled with Van Rensselaer’s insistence that the firm operated until 1905, suggests that 1905 was, indeed, the last year the plant was open under the name of Baker Bros. & Co. The Thomas Registers were notorious for continuing listings long after a factory had closed. However, the plant operated as the Baker Glass Co. by 1904, making that the likely final date for Baker Bros. & Co. For a summary history of the Baltimore Glass Works, its companion, the Spring Garden Glass Works, and a time line for container production, see Tables 1 & 2.

**Baker Glass Co., Baltimore (1904-ca. 1917)**

The firm advertised as the Baker Glass Co. by at least 1904. That year, the plant made flat glass (including picture glass, gas tank windows, patterned rolled glass, and mirrors), as well as “druggists’ flint and green glassware, demijohns, wine bottles, flasks, etc.” (National Glass Budget 1904:10). The Thomas Registers listed the Baker Glass Co. from 1905 to at least 1921 (Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:103; 1921:781). Baker Glass Co. was no longer listed in 1927, the next glass factory directory in our possession (American Glass Review 1927).
The Baltimore city directories continued to list the firm as Baker Bros. & Co. until 1917, with no listings in 1918 or later. Although directories are not entirely reliable for closing dates, ca. 1917 is the best estimate we have. The directories also bring up another point. During the 19th century, Baker Bros. & Co. had an address at 32 & 34 S. Charles St. By 1906, they were at 220 W. Camden. The firm had moved to 108 South St. by 1910 and were located at 27 S. Gay St. by 1916. The 1916 directory also included a listing for the Baker Glass Co. at 118 S. Eutaw (von Mechow 2013). Factories are simply not that mobile, so the 20th century addresses must indicate offices.

The directory listings are supported by at least two other sources. A 1913 federal list of firms involved in lobbying included the Baker Glass Co., still at 36-38 S. Charles St. In addition, the Baker Glass Co. was still actively advertising bottles and other glass products in 1915 (Committee on the Judiciary 1913:4271; National Glass Budget 1915:7). The best closing date is therefore ca. 1917.

Table 1 – Chronology for Events Affecting Production at the Baltimore Glass Works

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1774</td>
<td>Glass plant built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1784</td>
<td>Frederick Amelung buys the Baltimore plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1779</td>
<td>Frederick Amelung starts Baltimore Glass Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Production begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Phillip R.J. Friese takes over Frederick Amelung &amp; Co. (window glass &amp; bottles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818</td>
<td>Philip retires, and John F. Friese takes his place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>??</td>
<td>Repper dies, and his sons, George &amp; Jacob, replace him</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>John Friese dies, forcing Philip out of retirement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 Although the street numbers do not match, this is still obviously the same location.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1831</td>
<td>Philip Friese buys the Reppert interests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hanover St.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1830s?</td>
<td>William Baker buys a “glass warehouse on Hanover Street”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Federal Hill (Fells Point)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>William Baker buys Baltimore Glass Works – window glass, lamp shades, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ca. 1837</td>
<td>Schaum, Reitz &amp; Co. operate the plant (still owned by Baker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>William &amp; Charles Baker, now full owners, incorporates Baltimore Glass Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>C.J. &amp; H.J. Baker become sales agents for Baltimore Glass Works products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ca. 1849</td>
<td>Senior Baker retires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Sales agents change name to Baker &amp; Bro.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Sales agents become Baker Bros. &amp; Co.; F. &amp; L. Schaum operate the plant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring Garden Glass Works**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Blowlers from Baltimore Glass Works open the Spring Garden Glass Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>F. Schaum &amp; Co. operate Spring Garden with Baker Bros. as sales agents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854</td>
<td>F. Schaum &amp; Co. decide to sell Spring Garden’s products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Davis, Lawson &amp; Co. take over Spring Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Edward G. Sturgeon replaces Davis, Lawson &amp; Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>William Baker acquired the assets of Spring Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Use of the Spring Garden name ceased; became Baltimore Glass Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>Baker Bros. &amp; Co. purchased Spring Garden from William Baker</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Baltimore Glass Works**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ca. 1866</td>
<td>Philip Reitz &amp; Co. began management of Baltimore Glass Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Federal Hill factory ceases production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ca. 1904</td>
<td>Baker Bros. &amp; Co. reorganizes as the Baker Glass Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ca. 1917</td>
<td>Baker Glass Co. closes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bottles and Marks

The Baker Brothers had at least some of their molds made by Charles Yockel of Philadelphia. On September 10, 1879, the brothers ordered molds for the “Ayre’s Oval” – almost certainly referring to Ayer’s Hair Vigor. In an October 8, 1881, letter, the Bakers specifically asked for a set of “flint molds.” This is the only reference we have found that suggests different molds may have been used for making colorless glass – as opposed to those for “green” or “black” glass, the typical bottle colors (Tyson 1971:5).

BB&CO (1870-ca. 1904)

Toulouse (1971:70) dated this mark as used by Berney-Bond ca. 1900. Later, in the same book, Toulouse (1971:74) found the mark on “one of the Pierce Medical Co.’s handmade bottles for Dr. Pierce’s Golden Medical Discovery.” Because of the dates involved (see Toulouse for more discussion), he decided that the bottle could only have been made between 1904 and 1905 – assuming that the mark had actually been used by Berney-Bond. There is no reason for the Berney-Bond Glass Co. to have used a logo with an ampersand.

Teal (2005:74) noted this mark on two pre-Dispensary (i.e., pre-1893) whiskey flasks from South Carolina. He added that “both bottles have applied tops, a type of top not used after the early 1890s.” The 1890s date is supported by a prescription bottle offered at auction on eBay. The base of the bottle was embossed “Pat D June 4 89 B BB&CO.” Although the mark on the drug store bottle had a capital “O” in “CO,” another example on an Extract of Malt Co. bottle had the “o” in superscript, underlined by a single dot (Figures 2 & 3). The bottle had a packer finish and a cup base. In the center of the base was a circular concave area, where the logo was embossed (Lindsey 2013). Sellers on eBay have offered several other examples of medicinal and prescription bottles with the BB&CO. logo (Figure 4).
Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:122) identified the BB&CO. mark as being used by the Baker Brothers, “Patented 1889.” The pre-1900 dates for the mark effectively refute the Toulouse identification. On April 29, 1889, William Baker, Jr., Baltimore, applied for a patent for a “Design for a Bottle.” He received Design Patent No. 19,125 on June 4, 1889, for a bottle design similar to the “Blakes” but with sufficient alteration to deserve a patent. Unfortunately, the drawing is unavailable from the patent office. However, the patent date, coupled with the BB&CO initials, makes the identification of Baker Bros. & Co. as the user of the logo virtually certain.

Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:42-43, 98), however, noted that the Baker Bros. called the design a Royal Oval, although the Swindell Bros. offered an identical design that they called the Gem Oval. Where the base of the Royal was embossed “BB&Co,” the Gem was marked “S.B.” The authors illustrated both a photo and a drawing of the Gem Oval from a Swindell Bros. catalog. William Swindell had been the plant manager for the Bakers in the 1850s, so the Swindell Bros. – in business in the same town and with long-standing ties to the Bakers – may have inherited the rights to the patent at the close of the Baker plant or may have used the design after the patent expired.

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:28) reported a soda bottle bearing the BB&Co logo, used by John A. Lomax at 14 & 16 Charles Place (Figures 5 & 6). Lomax only occupied that address ca. 1870 to 1872, illustrating that the BB&Co mark was in use at least that early. An eBay auction also described a BB&Co mark on the back heel of a Hutchinson soda bottle.

Blakes were somewhat generic prescription bottles, rectangular in cross-section with chamfered corners and rounded shoulders. They were made by virtually all glass houses that produced pharmacy bottles.
BAKER BROS. & CO. (ca. 1870s-ca. 1904)

Toulouse (1969:28; 1971:62) described this mark on the base of fruit jars as “‘BAKER BROS., BALTO., MD.’ in a circle” and illustrated it in his second book. He dated the mark “circa 1853 to circa 1900” almost certainly reflecting his understanding of when the company was in business under that name. His listing of “BAKER & BROS.” is probably in error; all other sources noted the mark as “BAKER BROS. & CO.” Roller (1983:26), however, dated the jars ca. 1870s-1880s. Creswick (1987:10) illustrated the jar and dated its use ca. 1860s-1870s, presumably based on her closing date for the Baltimore Glass Works (Figure 7).

At least one flask was marked BAKER BROS. & Co (Baab 2005:4). The flask bore the 1876 Newman patent, and an identical flask was found in a ca. 1880 context. According to Lindsey (2013):

Carlton Newman was a glassblower at the Pacific Glass Works in San Francisco in the 1860s, then went on to co-found the San Francisco Glass Works in 1865, which became the San Francisco & Pacific Glass Works in 1876 where these flasks were likely made (Toulouse 1971). In 1876, he patented a design for a flask which was sealed with a screw cap that was large enough to double as a shot “glass” also. The threads were at the bottom of the shot cap. Embossed on the base of these flasks is C. NEWMAN’S PAT. OCT. 17 1876 which is also stamped on the outside bottom of the shot cup.

Aside from the 1880 context, we have no information as to how long this logo was used on flasks. It is likely that Newman granted or sold the eastern rights to the patent to the Baker Brothers.
McKearin and Wilson (1978:527-529) listed three flasks (GI-20, GI-21, and GVI-2) that are without a doubt early products of a Baltimore factory, as that style was a firmly antebellum type – 1820s to 1840s – from the eastern glass works like Baltimore (Figure 8). All three of these flasks were embossed with the Fells Point Monument. On July 4, 1815, the cornerstone was laid for the monument, the structure planned by Robert Mills, designer of the Washington Monument at Washington, D.C. Construction took 24 years, culminating in the addition of the George Washington statue, place during an appropriate ceremony on November 19, 1829 (Figure 9; Meyer 2012a).

However, these flasks (or at least the molds) – embossed with the Fells Point monument that lacks the statue of Washington – were certainly made prior to the addition of the statue (see McKearin & Wilson 1978:75).

Since each flask was embossed with both the monument (without the Washington statue) and the word "BALT\textsuperscript{o}" on the heel (Figures 10 & 11), both characteristics are indicators of a pre-1829 manufacture – although McKearin and Wilson (1987:76) placed them at 1829. Each of these had a simple finish, where the bottle was cracked off or otherwise removed from the blowpipe, then fire polished (Figure 12; see Figure 8 – BALT\textsuperscript{o} abbreviation and Fells Point Monument drawings (McKearin & Wilson 1987:529, 605)
Lindsey 2013 for a full discussion), and each had a pontil scar on the base (Figure 13).

McKearin and Wilson (1978:76) initially suggested that these three flasks were made at the Baltimore Glass Works. One of the authors, however, dissented from this popular opinion, stating: “I now believe that it is possible, if only barely so, that the molds were made originally not for the Baltimore Glass Works but for the short-lived Baltimore Flint Glass Works.” The plant was apparently built at the foot of Fells Point in 1828 and was in operation by November. The factory closed in 1834.

This identification would also explain a purpose for a flask depicting the unfinished monument. Such a flask would have been offered to advertise the Baltimore Flint Glass Works – and made during late 1828 or 1829 – prior to the erection of the statue. McKearin and Wilson also suggested that the molds “could have been acquired by the Baltimore Glass Works when production ceased at the Fells Point glassworks.”

BALTIMORE (1829-early 1830s)

McKearin & Wilson (1978:527, 605-608) illustrated and discussed several additional flasks embossed with the word “BALTIMORE” and one of two statues. Their flask GVI-3 was embossed “LIBERTY / & / UNION” on one side and “BALTIMORE” in an arch above the Battle Monument on the other (Figure 14). Although the embossing (and the monuments) are quite different, the Battle Monument has been identified in the past as the Fells Point Monument.

The Battle Monument commemorates the War of 1812, and the cornerstone was originally laid on July 4, 1815 (Figure 15). Although the statue of Antonio Capellano – a female figure representing the City of Baltimore – was placed on its pedestal on September 12, 1822, the structure
was not completed until 1825 (Wikipedia 2013). The crossed column wrappings make the monument distinctive.

Four other flasks (GVI-4, GVI-5, GVI-6, and GVI-7) were struck with “CORN FOR THE WORLD” in an arch above an ear of corn on one side and the Fells Point Monument above “BALTIMORE” in an inverted arch on the other (Figure 16). An additional flask (GVI-4a) was the same but lacked the word “BALTIMORE.” In each case, the Fells Point Monument was complete with the statue of George Washington, setting the date for the manufacture of the molds at 1829 or later (Figure 17).

McKearin & Wilson (1987:77) dated all the BALTIMORE flasks as being made during the 1840s. Two of the Fells Point Monument flasks lacked pontil scars, but such marks were present on the others (Figure 18). Some of the flasks had more complex finishes (Figure 19), although some had simple, fire-polished lips. Although McKearin & Wilson used a variety of factors to date flasks, the intuitively obvious reason for a
flask with the Washington statue on the Fells Point Monument would be to commemorate its completion. That would make the dates of manufacture during the 1830s – although the flasks may have been produced until the mold wore out.

**BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS (1830s-1850s)**

Freeman (1964:68, 84, 94, 104), McKearin and Wilson (1978:526-529, 664) and Van Rensselaer (1921:6, 17) all described and/or illustrated flasks embossed with the BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS name. These were made in two very different styles from two disparate periods. In addition, Toulouse (1969:41; 1971:69), Roller (1983:60; 2011:95), and Creswick (1987:10, 14) illustrated and discussed fruit jars with the same designation

**Flasks**

McKearin & Wilson (1978:526-529) illustrated and discussed six flasks embossed “BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS” in an arch around the bust of a noted leader, or, in one case, the Battle Monument. Although individual descriptions are beyond the scope of this work, a bust of Washington was always a central figure. Each of these had a simple, fire polished finish, and each had a pontil scar on the base.

McKearin and Wilson (1978:77) dated the first four of these (GI-17, GI-17a, GI-18, & GI-19) during the 1820s-1830s period (Figure 20). The other two (GI-22 & GI-23) were embossed “BALTIMORE x GLASS WORKS” – with a small “x” following the first word (Figure 21). One of them (GI-22) had the letter “S” reversed in all three locations (Figure 22). McKearin and Wilson (178:77) dated these last two ca. 1832-ca. 1840s.
The researchers also discussed and illustrated flasks embossed “BALTIMORE (in a pennant) / {anchor} / GLASS WORKS (in pennant)” with either a sheaf of grain or a phoenix head on the reverse (Figure 23). This style was popular during the Civil War and shortly after and morphed into the union oval style (GXIII-48 - GXIII-54). The finishes varied considerably, including burst-off and fire polish, single-ring, and double-ring finishes, and one flask (GXIII-52) was even a calabash style (Figure 24). These Baltimore flasks were made with or without pontil scars, suggesting a later manufacture than the ones discussed above. The McKearins (and other collectors – e.g. Antique-Bottles.net 2013) have noted variations in the pennants, lettering, and anchor details, so several molds were used for this style. The authors dated all of these ca. 1850s (McKearin and Wilson 1978:77, 664-665).

Figure 22 – BALTIMORE x GLASS WORKS flasks with each S reversed (American Glass Gallery)

Figure 23 – BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS pennant flask (Antique Historical Flask Hall of Fame)

Figure 24 – BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS pennant flasks (McKearin & Wilson 1987:665)
McKearin and Wilson (1978:664-665) also added three very similar flasks embossed “ISABELLA / {anchor} / GLASS WORKS” in similar pennants (GXIII-55 - GXIII-57). The reverse of one flask was embossed with a sheaf of grain very similar to one on a Baltimore Glass Works flask. The other two had a factory scene (Figure 25). These are found with or without pontil scars but all have the simple, fire-polished finishes. The authors dated the flasks 1850 – possibly 1860 or 1870.

McKearin and Wilson (1978:666-667) included two other styles. One was embossed “SPRING GARDEN GLASS WORKS” – discussed below. The other was embossed “RICHMOND / {anchor} / GLASSWORKS” in similar pennants (Figure 26). The reverse had a factory similar to the ones on the Isabella flasks. The finish was simple and fire polished, but the base had no pontil scar. The authors dated the flasks 1855-1865.

Fruit Jars

was for a cork or a Willoughby stopple (Figure 27). Roller (2011:95) included a variation with a much smaller rounded ring finish (Figure 28). These, too, were likely made between 1863 and the late 1860s.

**MONUMENTAL CITY bottle**

As mentioned in footnote #1, Freeman (1964:84) described a “Monumental City” bottle. The container was a figural bottle, shaped like the Fells Point Monument, even down to lines indicating individual cut stones (Figure 29). The bottle was colorless and was embossed “MONUMENTAL CITY / 1880 / SESQUICENTENNIAL” on one side and “BALTIMORE GLASSWORKS / ESTABLISHED 1780 / BAKER BROS&CO” on the other (Figure 30). The bottle was obviously made to commemorate the 1880 celebration, and the 1780 date was almost certainly selected to create a 100th anniversary for the Baltimore Glass Works.

**SPRING GARDEN GLASS WORKS** (1851-1856)

The Spring Garden Glass Works made bottles, exclusively, but most of these were apparently unmarked. However, a single type of flask – made in the same design as one of the Baltimore Glass Works flasks – carried the factory name. These were embossed “SPRING GARDEN (in a pennant) / {anchor} / GLASS WORKS (in pennant)” on one side with a log cabin on the other (Figures 31 & 32). The flasks were topped with a different finishes, including
a simple finish and a
double-ring (GXIII-58-
GXIII-61). At least one
base had no pontil scar and
showed the seam of a
bottom-hinge mold (Figure
33). Although there is no
direct historical evidence,
the flasks were probably
made ca. 1851 to
commemorate the opening
of the Spring Garden plant.

Discussion and Conclusions

The earliest containers
with any kind of marks that
identify the Baltimore Glass
Works were the flasks with
George Washington busts and
those embossed with the Fells
Point Monument – without the
statue of George Washington.

The earliest of these flasks were also embossed with BALT°. All of
these were almost certainly made prior to the addition of the Washington statue in 1829, so either
the monument (without the statue) or BALT° indicate a manufacture during the 1820s, probably
the late 1820s.

Although the flasks could have been made as early as 1815, it is more likely they
commemorated the semi-final stage of construction. These were certainly made during the John
Friese years of the Baltimore Glass Works, prior to the advent of the Baker family. If McKearin
and Wilson are correct about the Baltimore Flint Glass Co. making the flasks, however, an 1828
or 1829 date is almost assured.
**Table 2 – Logos or Marks by Factory and Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logo or Mark</th>
<th>Factory</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BALTO</td>
<td></td>
<td>1820s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fells Point Monument (no statue)</td>
<td>Federal Hill</td>
<td>1820s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fells Point Monument (Washington statue)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1829-1830s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALTIMORE</td>
<td></td>
<td>1829-1830s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING GARDEN GLASS WORKS</td>
<td>Spring Garden Glass Works</td>
<td>1851-1856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS</td>
<td>Baltimore Glass Works</td>
<td>1863-1870s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB&amp;CO</td>
<td></td>
<td>1870-ca. 1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAKER BROS. &amp; CO.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1870-ca. 1904</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next set of flasks likely commemorated the completion of the monument in 1829, and these were probably only made for a few years after that event. On these flasks, the Fells Point Monument distinctly shows the statue of Washington at the top. In addition, the only examples we can find were embossed “BALTIMORE.” Thus, flasks with both “BALTIMORE” and the statue atop the Fells Point Monument were made in 1829 or later. As noted above, the Fells Point Monument should not be confused with the Battle Monument – illustrated on other flasks.

We should note here that the terms “BALTO” and “BALTIMORE” instead of “BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS” may have been used for a reason. As noted in the early history, this plant was known by a variety of names, and the Baltimore Glass Works may have only become an official term when Baker incorporated under that name in 1845. Thus, the name or abbreviation of the city may have been used on the early flasks because of the ambiguity of the factory identification.

As noted in the text, two different types of flasks were embossed “BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS” – along with one style of fruit jar that was made with two finish variations. The earliest flask genre depicted George Washington in some format, with “BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS” in an arch around a bust or the Battle Monument. Because of the emphasis on
Washington, these were probably made between 1829 and the mid-1830s, still during the pre-Baker period, when John Friese operated the plant.

The second style – almost certainly later – had “BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS” embossed in two elaborate pennants with an anchor in between. These were made both with and without pontil scars and had more advanced single- and double-ring finishes. They were certainly made later than the flasks described in the previous paragraph. Both jars embossed “BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS” were likely made during the 1860s.

The flask embossed “SPRING GARDEN” – another of the “pennant” flasks – was made at the Spring Garden Glass Works, open between 1851 and 1856. The logical reason for such a flask is to commemorate the opening of the works. That would place the original date for the flasks at 1851, although they may have been made for a few years.

Since the pennant flasks were made by four factories, it is tempting to create a chronology for their use (Table 3). However, a close examination of the graphics on the reverse sides makes it clear that none of these molds were reused. It is thus almost certain that this style of flask was popular along the East Coast during the 1850s.

Table 3 – McKearin and Wilson (1878) Dates for Pennant Flasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Front</th>
<th>Reverse</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BALTIMORE GLASS WORKS</td>
<td>Sheaf of Grain</td>
<td>1850s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPRING GARDEN GLASS WORKS</td>
<td>Log Cabin</td>
<td>1851-1856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISABELLA GLASS WORKS</td>
<td>Sheaf of Grain</td>
<td>1850s or later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Factory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHMOND GLASS WORKS</td>
<td>Factory</td>
<td>1855-1865</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The beginning of the name “Baker Bros. & Co.” as the owners/operators of the Baltimore Glass Works is a bit unclear, although the 1851 city directory signifies the use of the name by at least that date. It is highly unlikely that the name was used in that context any earlier than ca.
1849. However, the important date for the use of the name and/or initials on bottles is when Baker Bros. & Co. began operating the Baltimore Glass Works. The firm acquired the assets of the Spring Gardens Glass Works in 1856, but Philip Reitz & Co. was managing the Federal Hill plant as late as 1866. Baker Bros. & Co. may not have actually run the operation until they closed the Federal Hill plant in 1870.

Baker Bros. & Co. probably ended ca. 1905, when the firm reorganized as the Baker Glass Co., so bottles, flasks, and jars bearing the Baker Bros. name or initials could have been used any time during that period. Thanks to the 1889 patent document, the connection between the BB&CO mark and the Baker Bros. is virtually certain. The Illinois study (above) also indicates that the logo was in use by at least the 1870-1872 period.

The Baker Glass Co. was in business from 1904 to ca. 1917, but we have found no evidence that the plant used any manufacturer’s mark. All examples of the BGCo mark (e.g., on export beer bottles) were too early to have been used by the Baker Glass Co. The Baltimore Bakers were not associated with the Baker Brothers in Oklahoma, Kansas, or Ohio.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Doc Anderson of the Baltimore Bottle Club for checking directories for us and generally responding to Baltimore questions. Our ongoing gratitude extends to Doug Leybourne for allowing us to use the Alice Creswick drawings of fruit (and other) jars and to Greg Spurgeon for granting us the use of the North American Glass photos.

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