The Baker Brothers and the Baltimore Glass Works

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

The Baker Brothers operated the Baltimore Glass Works at Federal Hill from 1837 to the turn of the 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. When the Federal Hill factory burned in 1870, the Bakers moved their bottle operations to Spring Garden – dropping the Spring Garden name and calling the new plant the Baltimore Glass Works. They soon rebuilt the Federal Hill plant but only for the production of window glass. Actual manufacture ceased in 1894 or 1895, although two brothers continued as glass jobbers until 1915. The factories typically did not use manufacturer’s logos, but the plants did use identifying marks on several types of bottles and flasks.

Histories

Baltimore Glass Works (1800-1838)

The Baltimore Glass Works, also known as the Federal Hill Glass Works, the Patapsco River Glass-House, and the Hughes Street Works, was located at the “foot of Federal Hill” on Hughes St. (originally called G² Hughes or G. Hughes on maps). Frederick M. Amelung leased a one-acre plot of ground at there on November 16, 1799, the lease taking effect on January 1, 1800. Amelung formed Frederick M. Amelung & Co. along with his father-in-law, Alexander Furnival, Lewis Reppert (a “practical glassman”), and Jacob Anhurtz – and the group built the Baltimore Glass Works, set to begin production on July 1 (Knittle 1927:297, 299, 302; McKearin & Wilson 1978:71-73).

By 1801, the company was in so much trouble that Furnival placed an injunction on Amelung, taking over the business and advertising it for sale on August 11, 1802. When no one
stepped forward to buy the plant, Furnival declared bankruptcy in May, soon followed by Amelung. On November 2, Amelung dissolved the firm (McKearin & Wilson 1978:72).

Phillip R.J. Friese gained control of the factory in 1802, although Lewis Reppert (part of the “& Co.” of the Amelung firm) retained his interest. Surprisingly, Friese continued Amelung as plant manager until 1805 (McKearin & Wilson 1978:72-73). Friese finally purchased the leased land in 1810 for $5,800. 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 (January 1, 1822), his sons, George and Jacob, became partners with John F. Friese (Knittle 1927:297, 299, 302; McKearin & Wilson 1978:72-73).

After being “declared a lunatic” on July 1, 1830, 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 in 1835 (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.

McKearin & Wilson were off by a year. On June 4, 1838, the Baltimore Sun announced the sale of “Federal Hill or Friese’s Glass Works at Auction” including “all the improvements, Lots, Buildings, Water right &c. of this well known and long established place.” This was obviously the date when Baker purchased the factory for $18,000.

**William Baker, Baltimore (1838-1845)**

$5,650 worth of mortgages for the factory the following September and acquired the entire property a few months later (see above). It was not until January of 1845 that Baker executed the bill of sale, apparently retaining the name as the Baltimore Glass Works at the same time. Portions of both of these reports may be correct.

**Baltimore Glass Works, Baltimore (1845-1856)**

At some point, ca. 1845, William Baker and five associates with no experience in glass making – Thomas Flint, Cater A. Hall, William Woodward, Thomas William Hall, and John S. Gitting – incorporated the Baltimore Glass Works.¹ 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 1845 (McKearin & Wilson 1878:73; Roller 1998). The two announced a name changed to Baker & Bro. on January 1, 1848, in the *Baltimore Sun* and included Conrad Baker, Jr. In 1851, Charles J. and Henry J. Baker formed another copartnership – Baker Bros. & Co. – with Joseph Rogers, Jr., as the “& Co.” About 1849, the senior Baker had moved into semi-retirement.²

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, and we have attempted to clear up some of that “confusion.” McKearin & Wilson (1878:73) had thought that Baker Bros. & Co. had replaced C.J. & H.J. Baker in 1851. In reality, Baker Bros. & Co. was a separate partnership, and both continued until 1865, when a new Baker Bros. & Co. replaced them both (see below). The earlier partnership (C.J. & H.J. Baker) had been formed to sell the products of the Baltimore Glass Works as well as other glassware, paint, oils, and other goods. An 1848 map showed a “Glass Works” on Hughes St. at the edge of the “Basin” of the Patapsco River (Figure 1)

¹ Roller (1998) named the incorporators – not stated by McKearin & Wilson (1978), suggesting a separate source – we have found no other reference to this group nor to its end.

² 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).
Subsequent ads showed that Baker Bros. & Co. performed exactly the same service in the Baker & Bro. building. For example, an ad in the 1858 city directory illustrated a five-story building (32 and 34 S. Charles St.) with “BAKER & BRO.” at the top. The building was obviously not a factory, and the add noted “Windowglass, Glassware, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, Glue &c.” as the products. The ad went on to claim the group as “PROP’RS BALTO. WINDOW GLASS & DRUGGISTS GLASS WORKS, Jars, Vials, Wine, Porter, and Mineral Water Bottles” – suggesting that the partnership owned the Baltimore Glass Works (Figure 2). Even though the earlier partnership had not been disbanded, it seems obvious that Baker Bros. & Co. really had replaced C.J & H.J. Baker as the sales agency for the family plant at some point. An 1858 painting (John Hopkins Sheridan Library) also showed the Federal Hill factory at that time (Figure 3).

While the senior Baker owned the works, and his sons were involved in selling the products as agents apart from the factory, itself, a different firm actually operated the plant until 1865. By 1849 (almost certainly as early as 1838), Schaum, Reitz & Co. – Lewis Schaum, Frederick Schaum, Lews Reitz, and Frederick Eberhardt – ran the operation. The four were senior blowers at the factory (McKearin & Wilson 1978:73).

The year 1851 was an important one for the Baltimore Glass Works and the Bakers. The Baltimore Sun announced on August 9, 1851, that the Schaum, Reitz & Co. partnership had dissolved on July 1 to be replaced by Reitz & Eberhardt. The Schaum brothers had moved to the Spring Garden Works. Then, the Maryland Institute held an exhibition on October 20, 1851, that featured glass from both the Baltimore
Glass Works and the Spring Garden Glass Works (see below for the history of Spring Garden).
Lot No. 1348 included:

A lot of Window Glass and Shades made by Reitz & Eberhardt,
A lot of Glass Ware made at the Balto. Glass Works by F.&L. Schaum,
A lot of Glass Ware made at the Spring Garden Works by Garton, Lawson & Co., and all
deposited by Baker & Bro., 32 & 34 Charles street, Baltimore.

Reitz & Eberhardt won the First Silver Medal for Window Glass and Shades, and F.&L. Schaum won a Silver Medal for the Apothecaries’ Glass Ware category. The Bakers apparently allowed Frederick and Lewis Schaum to blow bottles in their own names for the exposition (before the move by the Schaum brothers to Spring Garden). Along with apothecary bottles (and probably others), F.&L. Schaum made porter bottles embossed with their name, at least 22 examples of which have survived to be sold at Glass Works Auctions (see descriptions and photos at the end the Containers and Marks section below). But, F.&L. Schaum was only listed for 1851. Reitz & Eberhardt went on to manage the Federal Hill (Hughes St.) factory until at least 1865.3

**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 Frederich and Lewis Schaum – made plans to create a new factory, almost certainly with the blessings of the Bakers. They called the operating firm F. Schaum & Co. Swindell, Garton, and Leigh rented land on Warner St. in late 1850 and began building what would become the Spring Garden Glass Works.4 Blowing commenced in 1851, and the Baker Brothers were the sole marketing agents for the factory’s products (McKearin & Wilson 1978:130).

3 Philip Reitz was variously listed during that period under his own name or with Eberhardt. Although Phillip Reitz & Co. appeared in the 1867 directory, Baker Bros. & Co. had almost certainly taken command of their own factory by 1865.

4 McKearin & Wilson (1978:130) said that the factory was on Eutaw St., leading us on a merry red herring to hunt for a non-existent plant. They confused the listing. Eutaw St. was an office and warehouse for the firm.
F. Schaum & Co. announced in May of 1854 that the plant would no longer retain the Baker Brothers as of June 14. Further sales would occur directly from the plant. 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. However, in 1856, William Baker took over the plant (McKearin & Wilson 1978:73, 130).

**Baltimore Glass Works under the Baker Brothers (1856-1895)**

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, both plants being called the Baltimore Glass Works (McKearin & Wilson 1978:73, 130-131). 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 (McKearin & Wilson 1978:73-74).

Apparently, 1865 was a year of great change, possibly inspired by the end of the Civil War on April 9, when Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse – easing wartime restrictions and constraints. The *Baltimore Sun* of September 13, 1865, posted two dissolution notices for the Baker family. The first was the end of H.J. Baker & Brother, “dissolved, by mutual consent” on September 1. Consisting of Henry J. Baker, Charles J. Baker, and Conrad Baker, Jr., the partnership was a jobber in paint, oils, and glassware – and this group probably had been defunct for several years. The second disbanding was for Baker Brothers & Co., consisting of Henry J. Baker, Charles J. Baker, and Joseph Rogers, Jr. – also on September 1. This was the group that acted as the sales agents for the Baltimore Glass Works and, until May of 1864 for Spring Garden. The final notice for the Baker family in the same issue was the formation of a new partnership – also called Baker Brothers & Co. – consisting of William Baker, Jr., and Charles E. Baker (both sons of the senior William), the two having purchased the shares of the other former partners.
In 1866, Baker Bros. & Co. bought the Federal Hill factory from William Baker (Sr.) for $45,000, and this probably heralded two major changes in policy. First, it certainly indicated the ending of a separate firm to sell the products made by the two plants; both former sales groups had been disbanded the previous year. Second, William, Jr., and Charles J. Baker probably took over active management of the business from their employees. Unlike their father, these two had been raised in the glass business and probably felt fully qualified to run the operation themselves. An 1869 bird’s eye view map showed the factory on Hughes St. with a branch of the Patapsco River directly behind it – a major aid to shipping during that era (Figure 4). The same map also illustrated the former Spring Garden plant on Warner St. – labeled “BAKER BR. & CO. BALT. GLASS WORKS” (Figure 5).

On November 15, 1870, the entire Hughes St. factory burned to the ground despite the brick construction of the main building – as reported by the Baltimore Sun on the following day. Two tanks had burst, causing the flames, and the total damage was $25,000, only $12,000 of which was covered by insurance. Although we have found no documentation, the firm obviously rebuilt the Federal Hill (Hughes St.) factory. Later ads, an 1877 catalog (with a woodcut drawing of the Hughes St. factory showing the Patapsco River in back), and an 1882 catalog referenced by Roller (1998) all prove that the plant remained in production (Figure 6). However, Federal Hill only produced window glass, while the former Spring Garden operation limited itself to containers (Figure 7). The new arrangement apparently worked well for the next two decades; no newsworthy changes occurred.

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The 1890 Sanborn map showed both the Hughes St. and Warner St. plants (Figure 8), but the old Federal Hill factory closed for the final time in August 1893 after almost a century in operation (Baltimore Sun 1/30/1899). The Baker Bros. placed a notice in the Baltimore Sun on February 8, 1895, offering the plant and property for sale, describing it as a “desirable water front, suitable for ice business, oyster-packing, coal and wood storage warehouse, or any manufacturing business.” On January 30, 1899, the Sun wrote the final chapter of the story of Baltimore’s oldest glass house:

Ground will be broken today on Hughes street, between Covington and Henry streets, for the new Citizens’ Ice Company’s factory. All last week about fifty men were engaged in tearing down the old building of the Baker Glass Works, which stood on the site to be occupied by the new enterprise.

Charles J. Baker died on September 22, 1894, at the age of 74, according to the Baltimore Sun for September 25. However, it was not until two years later, on January 24, 1896, that the Sun announced the dissolution of the “copartnership which existed between Charles J. Baker, deceased, and William Baker, Jr., and Charles E. Baker, trading as Baker Bros. & Co.” as of January 21. On the same date, William Baker and his brother, Charles E. Baker (both sons of Charles J. Baker), formed a new partnership of the same name.

Shortly after the death of Charles J. Baker, the remaining plant (the former Spring Garden Works on Warner St.) began to experience problems. Reacting to a 10-15% reduction in wages, the boy workers went on strike as reported by the Baltimore Sun on October 12, 1894. Seven month later, the Sun added on May 10, 1895, that

Eight former apprentices at the glass works of Baker Bros. & Co. sued Charles E. Baker and William Baker, Jr., surviving members of the firm, in city court yesterday, claiming $1,000 each for alleged breach of contract. . . . They claim
that the glassworks have been dismantled and they have not been employed in each of the five years, as their contracts required, and that $200 deposited by each of them during their apprenticeship has not been returned to them.

The claim that “the glassworks have been dismantled” suggests that the factory had closed a short time before – the end of glass manufacture by the family. The April 12, 1899, edition of the *Baltimore Sun* reported on an auction that led to the wrap up of the Charles J. Baker estate:

To close the estate of the late Charles J. Baker warehouse property 36 and 38 South Charles street and property on Warner street, formerly used as a glass factory by the late firm of Baker Bros. & Co., were sold. Both were purchased by . . . Ashley L. Baker . . . $19,100 and $11,600. The warehouse fronts 36 feet 3 inches on the west side of Charles street. The factory, with wharf, fronts 170 feet 9 inches on Warner street to the Middle Branch of the Patapsco river. It is improved by brick buildings, sheds, etc.

Soon after, Charles E. Baker brought suit against his brother, Ashley Lee Baker, claiming that Ashley had bought the properties for him, while Ashley claimed he had purchased them for himself. On November 19, 1901, the *Sun* followed up with a notice that Charles had dropped the suit, and the brothers settled out of court.

From the sale of the final glass house in 1895, the brothers had reverted to being jobbers, selling glass made by other factories, along with other items. On February 22, 1900, William Baker, Jr., and Charles E. Baker announced in the *Baltimore Sun* that “the partnership between them, under the name of Baker Bros. & Co., has been dissolved. Mr. Charles E. Baker and his son, Charles J. Baker, Jr., will continue business under the old name.” Although we have found no direct evidence, Charles and William had obviously had a falling out that resulted in splitting the existing glass stock, Charles and his son moving to a new warehouse. An article in the *Baltimore Sun* of June 22, 1915, noted that Baker Bros. & Co. had formerly “manufactured the articles it dealt in, but in recent years [i.e., since 1895] has been a jobber.”
Although the 1903 ad in the city directory claimed that Baker Bros. were “manufacturers of Window Glass, Druggists’ Glassware and Bottles,” it added that the firm was also “Importers of Chemicals, Paints, Oils, Glue, etc.” The address was 44 South Charles St., just down the block from the old warehouse and office – not the factory address. By 1906. Baker Bros. & Co. were at 220 W. Camden. The firm had moved to 108 South St. by 1910 (von Mechow 2022).

On June 22, 1915, the Baltimore Sun announced that Baker Bros. & Co. had become “financially embarrassed.” The court had appointed a receiver for the firm, although it allowed business to continue for 60 days in an attempt to pay off some of the debts. The Sun further reported the death of Charles J. Baker on October 15. For a summary history of the Baltimore Glass Works, its companion, the Spring Garden Glass Works, see Table 1.

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

William Baker, Jr., announced in the February 24, 1900, edition of the Baltimore Sun that he had “taken one-half of the stock of the firm of Baker Bros. & Co. in part payment of his interest in the firm” and that he would “continue the same line of business under the name of Baker Glass Company at 120 Hanover Street” – ironically, the same street where founder William had his first warehouse in 1837 (see above). While the directory ad of 1903 claimed the business as “Manufacturers,” the address had changed to 36-38 S. Charles St., the former Baker Bros. & Co. warehouse, now owned by brother Ashley. On March 5, 1904, however, the Baltimore Sun reported that Ashley had sold the property on 36 and 38 S. Charles St. to John Duer & Sons, wholesale hardware dealers, forcing William to move.

In 1904, the firm offered 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). The 1910 directory continued the “manufacturers” designation but indicated a move to 118 S. Eutaw St. The 1914 Sanborn map showed the Baker Glass Co. at Warner St., the location of the former Spring Garden factory – although the building was now labeled as a “Ware House” (Figures 9 & 10).
A 1913 federal list of firms involved in lobbying included the Baker Glass Co., and the Baker Glass Co. was still actively advertising bottles and other glass products in 1915 – the last believable date we could find for the firm (Committee on the Judiciary 1913:4271; National Glass Budget 1915:7). William had joined his brother in retiring from the glass trade.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Frederick Amelung built the first glass plant at Baltimore – Baltimore Glass Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1802</td>
<td>Phillip R.J. Friese takes over Frederick Amelung &amp; Co. (window glass &amp; bottles)</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. 1818</td>
<td>Philip retires, and John F. Friese takes his place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1822</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>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>Philip Friese buys the Reppert interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1838</td>
<td>William Baker buys Baltimore Glass Works – window glass, lamp shades, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ca. 1838</td>
<td>Schaum, Reitz &amp; Co. operate the plant (still owned by Baker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>William Baker incorporates Baltimore Glass Works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>C.J. &amp; H.J. Baker (sons of William) become sales agents for Baltimore Glass Works products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ca. 1849</td>
<td>William Baker (Sr.) retires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>Sales agents change name to Baker &amp; Bro.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Sales agents become Baker Bros. &amp; Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Reitz &amp; Eberhardt operate the plant</td>
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**Spring Garden Glass Works (Warner St.)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1851</td>
<td>Blowers 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; eject Baker Bros.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Davis, Lawson &amp; Co. take over Spring Garden (only lasts 3 months)</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>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Baltimore Glass Works**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Willaim Baker &amp; Charles J. Baker (sons of William Baker, Sr.) form new Baker Bros. &amp; Co. – now owners and operators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Federal Hill factory burned; rebuilt to produce only window glass; bottle production only at Warner St. plant (former Spring Garden Works)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Federal Hill factory closed permanently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Charles J. Baker died</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Warner St. factory close permanently; Baker Bros. &amp; Co. becomes jobber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Ashley L. Baker (another son) bought Warner St. plant and Charles St. warehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Charles &amp; William dissolved partnership; Charles continuing as Baker Bros. &amp; Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>William started Baker Glass Co., a jobber in competition with his brother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Charles declared bankruptcy; both firms closed</td>
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</table>
Containers 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).

The 1877 catalog (Baker Bros. & Co. 1877) included numerous options for prescription and other druggists’ ware in flint (colorless) or green (aqua) glass and illustrated three bottles embossed with “BAKER & BROS.” or a B&Co (no second B) monogram – neither of which have ever been reported on an actual bottle (Figure 11). It also included inks, various types of food bottles, mineral and beer bottles, demijohns, and various forms of wine, beer, and liquor containers – plus Mason jars, The Gem, and “Reservoir Mrs. Haller’s Patent.”

The catalog noted that the factory could “stopper all ware on the list, and can make in Flint, Green, Blue, Amber or Opaque for special orders.” The druggists’ section also claimed that “Flint Glassware has almost entirely driven greeware out of the market.” The liquor section featured “Ruby or Amber Glassware and warned to “always mention if light or dark shade is wanted. Our molds are so arranged, that for a very nominal cost, your name can be blown in.” Later, it added that “prescription ware can be made in “Amber Color,” which many druggists prefer to “Blue,” as being more desirable for the exclusion of light. . . . The quality and style of the Ruby Glass articles manufactued by us, are warranted equal to any, either foreign of domestic manufacture.”
Toulouse (1971:70) dated the “BB&CO” 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 only could have been made between 1904 and 1905 — assuming that the mark had actually been used by Berney-Bond. However, 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 12 & 13). 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 2022). Sellers on eBay have offered several other examples of medicinal and prescription bottles with the BB&CO. logo (Figure 14).

Griffienhagen 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

5 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.
was 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 15 & 16). Lomax only occupied that address ca. 1870 to 1872, demonstrating 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, and von Mechow (2022) reported three beer bottles with the same embossed logo. In all probability, the mark was used from 1870 to the closing of the last plant in 1894.

**BAKER BROS. & CO.** (ca. 1870s-1894)

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.” was probably in error; all other sources noted the mark as “BAKER BROS. & CO.” Roller (1983:26), however, dated the jars ca.
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 17).

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 (2022):

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. The full name was likely used from the early 1870s to 1894.

**BALT**° (ca. 1829)

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 18). 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, placed during an appropriate ceremony on November 19, 1829 (Figure 19; 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).

Each flask was embossed with the monument (without the Washington statue) and the word “BALT” on the heel (Figures 20 & 21), both characteristics 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 22; see Lindsey 2022 for a full discussion about fire polishing), and each had a pontil scar on the base (Figure 23).

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 addition 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 24). Although the embossings (and the monuments) are quite different, the Battle Monument has been mis-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 25). 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 26). 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 27).
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 28). Some of the flasks had more complex finishes (Figure 29), although some had simple, fire-polished rims. 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 molds wore out.

Baltimore Glass Works (1830s-1860s)

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 (1978:526-29) 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 30). One had the second “S” in “GLASS” added as an afterthought – a
much smaller letter. The other two (GI-22 & GI-23) were embossed “BALTIMORE x GLASS WORKS” – with a small “x” following the first word (Figure 31). One of them (GI-22) had the letter “S” reversed in all three locations (Figure 32). 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 33). 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 34). 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).
McKearin and Wilson (1978:664-665) also added three not quite identical 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 35). 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 similar styles. One was embossed “SPRING GARDEN GLASS WORKS” – discussed below. The other was embossed “RICHMOND / (anchor) / GLASSWORKS” in similar pennants (Figure 36). 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. See the speculations about these flasks in the Discussion and Conclusions section below.

**Fruit Jars**

Toulouse (1969:41; 1971:69) showed “BALTIMORE (slight arch) / GLASS WORKS” embossed on the side of a fruit jar with a single-bead finish. He dated
the jars ca. 1860-1870. Roller (1983:60) dated the jars ca. 1860. Creswick (1987:10, 14) agreed with the 1860 date and illustrated the jar with a wide-collared finish that she noted was for a cork or a Willoughby stopple (Figure 37). Roller (2011:95) included a variation with a much smaller rounded ring finish (Figure 38). These, too, were likely made between 1863 and the late 1860s.

MONUMENTAL CITY bottle (ca. 1880)

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 39). 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 40). 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 – even though it represented the works at New Bremen, Amelung’s earlier glass house to the north.

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 41 & 42). 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 43). Although there is no direct historical evidence, the flasks were probably made ca. 1851 to commemorate the opening of the Spring Garden plant. McKearin and Wilson (1978:131; 666-667) dated the flasks 1851-1856.

**F.&L. SCHAUM (1851)**

Von Mechow discussed and illustrated porter bottles embossed “F.&L. SCHAUM (shoulder) / BALTIMORE / GLASS WORKS (both on body)” on the front. The bottles were made in various amber and green colors with tapered, one-part finishes, push-ups on the bases, and pontil scars on at least some bottles. Von Mechow showed photos of 22 examples sold by Glass Works Auctions (Figure 44).

As noted in the history section (above), F.&L. Schaum only appeared in the historical record for a single year – 1851. McKearin & Wilson (1978:73) noted the name during that year, and it also appeared in the listings for the 1851 *Book of the Exhibition: Fourth Annual Exhibition of the Maryland Institute*. The most likely explanation is that the Bakers allowed the Schaum brothers (Frederick and Lewis, two of the
senior glass blowers at the Hughes St. plant) to blow a set of bottles embossed with their names. These bottles (and others without embossing) were entered by the Schaums in the exhibition, the embossed ones to clearly show who had made them. It is interesting that unembossed apothecary bottles won the silver medal rather than their embossed porter bottles.

Discussion and Conclusions

History

Sorting out the history of the Baker family for the revision has been both challenging and fascinating. While it was common during the 19th century for a factory to have a name that was different from that of the operating company, the Bakers had an additional layer – a different firm for the owners. To top that, yet another company acted as a sales agency. Because William Baker had no practical glass making experience, he hired operating companies composed of his senior glass blowers to oversee the day-to-day activities of the plant and had a firm consisting of his children to handle sales.

Soon after William Baker took over an ailing former-Amelung glass works, he began engaging some of his sons in the business. Charles J. Baker, one of his eldest sons, was the most active, and his two sons, Charles, E. and William eventually took over the operations. By 1900, the brothers had a falling out and split the business into two sales firms, no longer manufacturing their own products. Both operations closed in 1915, ending more than a century in the glass business.

Manufacturer’s Marks

Most of the factories’ products had no identifying logos, but 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 BALTO. 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 BALTO 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>BALT&lt;sup&gt;o&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
<td>1820s-1830s</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></td>
<td>1830s-1860s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F.&amp;L. SCHAUM</td>
<td>Baltimore Glass Works</td>
<td>1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BB&amp;CO</td>
<td></td>
<td>1870-1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAKER BROS. &amp; CO.</td>
<td></td>
<td>1870s-ca. 1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONUMENTAL CITY</td>
<td></td>
<td>ca. 1880</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* According to McKearin & Wilson, these *could* have been made by Baltimore Flint Glass Works – 1828-1834.

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 “BALT” 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 of 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.

Aside from the probable period of use and the design of the scrolls, any attempt to compare these flasks breaks down rapidly. One Baltimore Glass Works flask and one from Isablla had a lone sheaf of grain on the reverse side. Similarly, one Isabella flask and the only
one from the Richmond Glass Works both used similar factories as a reverse motif. However, not a single owner or user of any of the four factories was connected with any of the others (with the exception of the relationship between the Baltimore and Spring Garden works described in the history sections). While the factories were open during the same period, only Spring Garden and Baltimore were geographically close. The mileage between Richmond and Baltimore is 150, plus an additional 108 miles to connect the Baltimore plants with the New Jersey location. The flasks were certainly related by design, but that may only indicate the use of the same mold maker.

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. William Baker (Sr.) 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 (although that is probably off by one year). Evidence presented above suggests that Baker Bros. & Co. took over the operation of both plants in 1865.

Baker Bros. & Co. Became a jobber 1895, when the final factory closed until that firm declared bankruptcy in 1915. The Baker Glass Co., also a jobber, opened in 1900 and similarly ceased operations in 1915. Both were highly unlikely candidates for the use of an embossed
logo. 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, and its use almost certainly extended to the close of the last factory in 1895.

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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