

## The Dean and Foster Companies

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Several glass houses – including Dean, Foster & Co., Dean, Foster & Dawley, A.M. Foster & Co.; Foster-Forbes Glass Co.; Marion Flint Glass Co.; Millgrove Glass Co.; Sheldon Glass Bottle Co.; Sheldon-Foster Glass Co.; Upland Co-Operative Glass Co.; and Upland Flint Bottle Co. – trace their ancestry back to Joseph Foster, who opened a factory in Stoddard, New Hampshire, in 1842. Foster’s sons (George, Charles, Wallace, and Joseph Jr.) built the New Granite Glass Co. at Mill Village (Stoddard) about 1860, and George went on to help found Dean, Foster & Co.

George Foster’s sons – Thomas K. Sheldon, Adelbert M. Foster, Elmer G. Foster (Adelbert’s father) – along with Charles L. Dean, were intertwined in a series of glass works and jobbers that specialized in medicinal and prescription containers, selling bottles that were made by Foster glass houses (and others), and non-glass druggists ware produced at its own plant. In addition, the firm sold a more general line of bottles and jars, including milk bottles and jars. This section features the two main jobbers operated by Dean and Foster as well as the glass factories that supplied them.

### Histories

As with many glass company histories, sources for Dean, Foster & Co., and their satellite, Dean, Foster & Dawley, are contradictory. However, the three main accounts provided sufficient evidence to trace the history of the companies. See Table 1 at the end of the Histories section for a chronology of the Dean and Foster firms.

#### **George W. Foster, Boston, Massachusetts (1862-1874)**

On July 26, 1867, George W. Foster advertised himself as an agent for “Druggists’ Glassware, Demijohns, wine bottles, flasks, &c. at 14 Blackstone St., Boston. According to Caniff (2007:6), George W. Foster listed himself as a “Manufacturer and Dealer” for the same

products in October 1869. The listing noted that the firm was “established 1862.”<sup>1</sup> The company almost certainly was the ancestor to Dean, Foster & Co. This was the same George Foster who – with his brothers – opened the New Granite Glass Works at Stoddard, New Hampshire, ca. 1860. He may have created the jobber firm to vend the glassware produced at New Granite. When Foster and his brothers sold the firm to Charles B. Barrett in late 1867, the jobber firm probably began to sell products from other glass houses. This would certainly have been true after the Stoddard plant burned in 1871. See the section of the Granite Glass Co. for more information.

The connection between Foster’s firm and A.E. Buck & Co. has not been explored. Both firms claimed the 14 Blackstone St. address at Boston during the 1870s. Foster’s future partner, John S. Dean was one of the major shareholders – along with Edwin A. Buck – in the Westford Glass Co., Westford, Connecticut, when the company incorporated on March 21, 1857. When the glass house went bankrupt on May 18, 1865, Buck (with Dean) reorganized the company as A.E. Buck & Co. – a glass jobber – later that year. Arthur J. Dawley and Albert G. Smalley also worked for Buck.

Although the sources are unclear, the Westford Glass Co. also seems to have reorganized – retaining its old name – and was operated by E.A. Buck & Co. The glass house probably served both Buck and the Dean, Foster combine (McKearn & McKearin 1941:609; McKearin & Wilson 1978:151-152; Wilson 1972:151-157). The sharing of the address obviously placed Dean and Foster in close contact with each other, and set the scene for the next reorganization. A.E. Buck & Co. remained in business until at least 1906. For more information about the Westford Glass Co., see the Other W section in the W Volume.

### **Dean, Foster & Co., Boston, Massachusetts (1874-ca. 1911)**

Sources disagree as to the founding date of Dean, Foster & Co. O’Leary and Czaplewski ([1898] 2002) suggested that company was actually established in 1877, but another early source (Ashford, Connecticut Biographies [1889] 2004) placed 1874 as the founding date. The official

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<sup>1</sup> The 1862 date was also claimed as the founding year in the Adelbert M. Foster 1907 catalog.

company history (Foster-Forbes [ca. 1966]) set the inception date at 1871, and Caniff (2007:6) claimed that the partnership began in 1872. The 1874 Boston city directory listed A.E. Buck & Co. but did not include Dean, Foster & Co. Dean, Foster & Co. first appeared in the following (1875) edition. Leonard (1905:244) noted that Adelbert M. Foster entered Dean, Foster and Co. on October 14, 1874, so the business was certainly in operation by that date. We thus accept late 1874 as the most likely date that George Foster, Charles L. Dean, and Albert G. Smalley formed the original firm of Dean, Foster & Co., glassware jobbers (wholesalers), at Boston, Massachusetts.

Foster's other son, Elmer G., entered the business the following year and was listed as replacing George as president. Smalley vanished from the records at some point after 1875. Arthur J. Dawley joined the firm in 1876. Under the name of Dean, Foster & Dawley, he opened the branch at Chicago in 1883 (Bethman 1971:75; Connecticut Genealogy 2004-2005; Foster-Forbes [ca. 1966]; O'Leary & Czaplewski [1898] 2002). The branch reverted to the Dean, Foster & Co. name, when Dawley withdrew in 1889.

Although the firm had offices in Boston and Chicago, most of the bottles were made in Connecticut during the 1870s. In announcing the winning of a bronze medal in the "glass" category in 1878, the judges noted that the exhibit had "good quality and form, and neatly gilded and decorated labels, its bottles for druggists' use deserve special commendation" The 1878 source also stated that "the manufactory for [Dean, Foster & Co. is] in Westford, Connecticut" and noted that some of its products came from the "well-known Dorflinger Glass Company, of White Mills, Penn." (Charitable Mechanic Association 1878:76).

Dean, Foster & Co. was a wholesale house for druggists' ware and ceramic jugs. The jugs, as well as the early pharmacy bottles and associated glass implements, were made by the Westford Glass Co. After Westford closed (possibly ca. 1878), the stoneware jug business at Dean Foster seems to have ceased. C. Dorflinger & Co. certainly made some of the fancy "shop furniture" for Dean, Foster & Co. In fact, Dorflinger may have built an entire factory to supply the products. The *Wayne Citizen* noted in May 1875 that "Mr. Dorflinger is erecting for some New York parties upon his property at White mills, a building . . . for the manufacture of decorative glass ware, such as druggist labels, etc." (Barbe & Reed 2003:142). This was almost certainly the company noted in 1878.

A Dorflinger subsidiary, the Honesdale Glass Co., may have supplied more mundane druggists' bottles at some point. Opened by at least 1873, the plant made green and amber containers, including druggists' bottles (see descriptions of both companies below). The Marion Flint Glass Co., Marion, Indiana, with A.M. Foster as secretary, almost certainly picked up most of the business when it opened in 1888 and probably continued supplying Dean, Foster & Co. (Barbe & Reed 2003:44-47, 143). A Dean, Foster & Co. letterhead from 1892 included a drawing of the "Marion Factory" – an obvious reference to the Marion Flint Glass Co. as the firm's supplier (Tyson 1971:13).

In 1884, a billhead for Dean, Foster & Co. claimed the firm was "Manufacturers of Druggists' Green And Flint Glass Ware, Rubber Goods And Sundries, Demijohns, Bottles And Flasks, Lager Beer Bottles And Lightning Stoppers. Factory At Philadelphia" (quoted in Roller 1998a). The Philadelphia factory may have been the Storm Brothers, who made druggists' bottles at the West Philadelphia Glass Works (Roller 1998b). We have discovered no other Philadelphia factory from that time period that was making druggists' goods.

By at least 1892, Dean, Foster & Co. offered milk bottles. The firm wrote to Charles Yockel, a Philadelphia mold maker, ordering a quart "milk jar" with the request that the molds be sent to J.T. & A. Hamilton in Pittsburgh (Tyson 1971:13). Hamilton was a noted milk bottle manufacturer at the time and probably became the regular supplier for milk bottles for Dean, Foster customers.

The company also sold Mason jars. On March 9, 1893, the *Pottery & Glassware Reporter* reported:

Not many firms can refuse to sell goods except in car load lots alone. This, however, is the case with the fruit jars from the factories of Dean, Foster & Co., Glass Manufacturers, 120 Lake Street, Chicago. Their immense factory is at Marion, Ind., and turns out a line of jars that can always be depended upon (quoted in Roller n.d.)

The jars described were labeled "MASON / PATENT / NOV. 30<sup>TH</sup> 1880."

Bethman (1971:75) noted that the company was in business “past the turn of the century,” and Caniff (2007:6) stated that the 1909 catalog was the last known mention of the company. The Thomas Registers (Thomas Publishing Co. 1905:103; 1907:158; 1909:200) listed the firm until 1909, although there was a gap in publication between 1909 and 1912. The firm most likely closed ca. 1911, when Foster bought the Upland Flint Bottle Co.

**Table 1 – Chronology of Foster-Family Related Glass Operations**

Company	Dates in Business	Type of Business
South Stoddard Glass Works	1850-1873	Factory
New Granite Glass Works	1860-1871	Factory
Dean, Foster & Co.	1874-1911	Jobber
Dean, Foster & Dawley	1883-1893	Jobber
Marion Flint Glass Co.	1887-1922	Factory
A.M. Foster & Co.	1893-1928	Jobber
Sheldon-Foster Glass Co.	1894-1911	Factory
Millgrove Glass Co.	1903-1911*	Factory
Upland Flint Bottle Co.	1911-1929	Factory
Foster-Forbes Glass Co.	1929-1971	Factory

\* C.H. Modes incorporated the company in 1898, but A.M. Foster did not acquire control until 1903.

**Dean, Foster & Dawley, Chicago, Illinois (1883-1889)**

In 1883, Arthur J. Dawley opened a branch of Dean, Foster & Co. in Chicago under the name of Dean, Foster & Dawley, “occupying the whole of a five-story building at 120 Lake Street in Chicago, and the other two partners being in Boston” (O’Leary & Czaplewski [1898] 2002). When Adelbert M. Foster entered the firm, he was either in Chicago or soon moved there. On April 14, 1885, the building was damaged by fire but not destroyed. Because of poor health, Dawley severed his connection to the company on April 1, 1889. It is likely that A.M.

Foster continued to operate under the Dean, Foster & Dawley name until he purchased the Chicago business October 9, 1893, and renamed it A.M. Foster & Co. (Bethman 1971:75; O’Leary & Czaplewski [1898] 2002; von Mechow 2014). See the section on A.M. Foster for more information on that firm. The company still made bottles and glass jars in 1928, there were no more listings after that time (Bethman 1971:73).

## Containers and Marks

### D.F.&D. (1888-1893)

According to Bethman (1991:74), Dean, Foster, and Dawley produced and distributed “many styles of prescription bottles, but one particular style of prescription bottle, the Chicago Oval, has the base markings of D.F.&D. The bottle design was patented on May 15, 1888, and was a very popular early prescription bottle. They continued to offer the Chicago Oval for sale until about 1900.” Bethman obviously included Dean, Foster & Co. as “they” because Dean, Foster & Dawley closed by at least 1893. The design was actually patented by Adelbert M. Foster, Design Patent No. 18,309. The bottle continued to be listed in the A.M. Foster 1907 catalog (Figure 1).

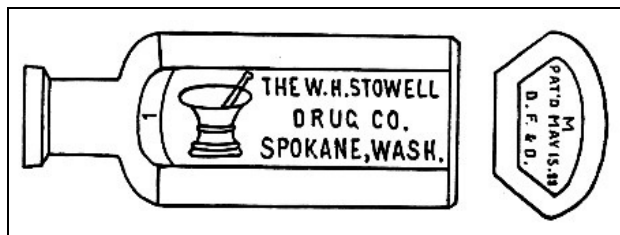


Figure 2 – D.F.&D. on Chicago Oval (Bethman 1991:762)

Bethman (1991) illustrated numerous bottles embossed with D.F.&D (Figure 2). All bottles were the same style, and all were identically embossed with “M / PAT’D

MAY 15 88 / D.F.&D.” The same style bottle was identically marked except for the substitution of D.F.&CO. (e.g., Bethman 1971:397). All D.F.&D. bottles shown in Bethman were dated between 1888 and 1890. Examples from eBay, however, show bottles without the “M” and one marked “D.F.&D. (in a very slight arch) / PAT’D MAY 15 88 / F” (Figure 3). In all cases we



Figure 1 – Chicago Oval (A.M. Foster 1907 catalog)

have seen, the mark is read with the oval side of the bottle up. Examples in Burgraaf and Southard (1998:511, 545), Clint (1976:118), Feldhaus (1986:9, 10, 29), Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:123), Kroll (1972:62, 135, 140, 142), and Preble (2002:475, 696) all fall within or close to the date range set by Bethman.

The accompanying letters likely represent the manufacturing glass houses. The “M” is an obvious indicator of the Marion Flint Glass Co., a Foster affiliate. The “F” probably indicates the Sheldon-Foster Glass Co. as suggested by Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:41). If so, the bottles were made after A.M. Foster took charge of the Chicago firm; Sheldon-Foster did not open until 1894. A mold and baseplate may have been shipped to Sheldon-Foster and the “M” altered to an “F.” It would be interesting to observe an actual example of the “F” mark to see if an alteration is noticeable. This all suggests that the bottles with the “M” bases were the only ones made prior to 1894, but bottles with both letters could have been made after that time.



Figure 3 – D.F.&D. M variation (eBay)

The D.F.&D. logo also appeared on beer and/or soda bottles. Mobley (2014) featured a single champagne beer bottle with an applied blob finish with the logo on the base. Hutchbook (Fowler 2014) included a single example of a Hutchinson soda or beer bottle embossed “D.F.&D. / 21” on the base.

### **D.F.&Co. --no rays (1890-at least 1901)**

Toulouse (1971:160) noted the “DF&Co / M” mark but listed it as “maker unknown” and dated it “circa 1890 to 1900[;] technique.” In most cases, however, the “M” was embossed above both the mark and the patent date. As noted above, the “M” likely represented the factory at Marion, Indiana.

Bethman (1991) illustrated numerous bottles embossed with D.F.&CO. without the “rays” (see “ray” discussion below). All bottles were the same style, and all were identically embossed with “M / PAT'D MAY 15 88 / D.F.&CO.” These were the same Chicago oval that was also marked “D.F.&D.” (see D.F.&D. above). All D.F.&CO. bottles (without “rays”) shown in Bethman were dated between 1889 and 1893.

Elliott and Gould (1988:199) listed a single milk-glass ointment jar embossed on the base DF&CO1898. The jar was used ca. 1898 by the Hollister Drug Co., Honolulu, Hawaii. This is the only example we have seen embossed with a date, although the year could refer to a patent, or it could be a model or catalog code. On cylindrical bottles, the DF&CO mark may have been used until the end of the company. Ring (1980:86) listed a “DF&Co / 14” mark on the base of a Blahnik’s Celebrated Stomach Bitters bottle. Unfortunately, she provided no dates or other information. The bottle was square, however, and was unlikely to have had the “rays.”

The 1901 Dean, Foster & Co. catalog (Freeman 1964:X8 [plate]) illustrated the Chicago Oval, embossed “M / PAT MAY 1888 / D.F.&CO.” (although some of the letters in the catalog are covered by the number “22” pasted on the base – also see Figure 1). The Chicago Oval was available in 1901 in ½- to 32 ounce sizes plus 3- and 4-ounce wide mouth styles. The “no rays” variant is only found on Chicago Ovals. Miller (2008:210, 225), showed a total of four drug store bottles embossed “M / PAT MAY 1888 / D.F.&CO.” (Figure 4). He dated the bottles within a range of 1890-1893 based on local company information.

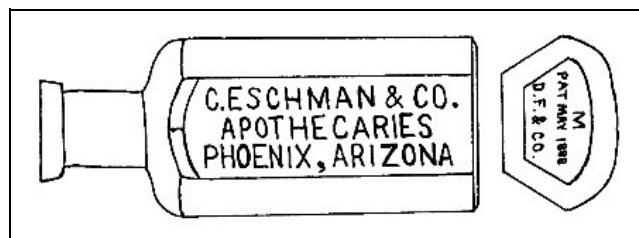


Figure 4 – D.F.&CO. on Chicago Oval (Miller 2008:225)

Although the use of the full company name was more common (see below), the firm sold at least one Huitchinson bottle embossed “D.F.&CO” on the base (Fowler 2014). Neither soda nor beer bottles appeared in the 1901 Dean, Foster & Co. catalog or the one from A.M. Foster & Co. in 1907.

### **D.F.&Co. – with rays (1894-1911)**

This mark – D.F.&CO. with “rays” or a sunburst design – was used by Dean, Foster & Co., probably from the inception of the Sheldon-Foster factory to the end of Dean, Foster – 1894 to 1911. The rays could vary in number and shape (from at least 20-27), probably depending on the size of the bottle and the individual mold maker (Figure 5). Bethman (1991) illustrated numerous examples of the mark with “rays” and dated those between 1890 and 1898. Bethman





Figure 5 – D.F.&CO. with rays

also illustrated the same bottle embossed on the base with

a “2” or “3” surrounded by rays (Figure 6).



Figure 7 – Eastlake Oval (A.M. Foster 1907 catalog)

These were almost certainly also made for Dean, Foster.

Miller (2008:210, 225), Pollard (1993:233-234) and Preble (2002:419, 651-652) also illustrated the mark, with date ranges within the 1880-1900 period. Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:123) dated the mark 1888 to 1900, probably echoing Bethman.

The 1901 Dean, Foster & Co. catalog (Freeman 1964:X8 [plate]) showed a base with “rays,” but the catalog makers photographed bottles for the catalog with numbers applied to the center of the bases. On bottle #20, the number covered up all initials, only exposing the rays. The general outline of the base and form of the bottle are identical with those illustrated by Miller and others. The style was called an Eastlake Oval, and it was offered in ½- to 32-ounce sizes (Figure 7).

Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:42) also noted that the initials with “lines radiating outward around them” were found on Eastlake Ovals, probably using information from the catalog.

### DFCO (after 1900?)

Preble (2002:596) illustrated this mark on a single drug store bottle. It is almost certainly a typographical error for DF&CO or an engraver’s error. However, at least one blob-top soda bottle offered on eBay was embossed on the base with “D.F.Co. (arch) / E (large) / BOSTON (inverted arch).” See next entry for a discussion of date range.

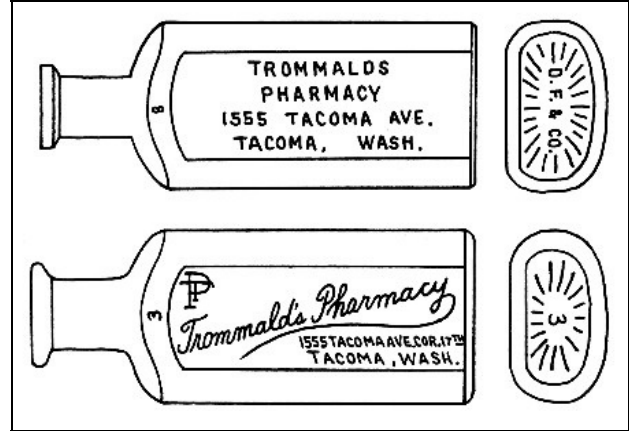


Figure 6 – D.F.&CO. or numbers with rays (Bethman 1991:817)

## DEAN FOSTER CO. (1900-1901)

Miller (1999:238) showed this mark embossed on the base of an unusual oval bottle with a non-traditional finish (Figure 8). Although marked with a circular plate mold from a Tucson, Arizona, drug store, this looks more like a toiletry bottle than a typical pharmacy bottle. Miller dated the bottle 1900-1902. It is possible that bottles made in 1900 and later used this mark; however, this could also be a mark used only on specialty bottles made for Dean, Foster. A final possibility is that the company dropped the ampersand (&) in 1900 and used either the name or initials. The bottle did not appear in either the 1901 Dean, Foster or 1907 A.M. Foster catalogs.

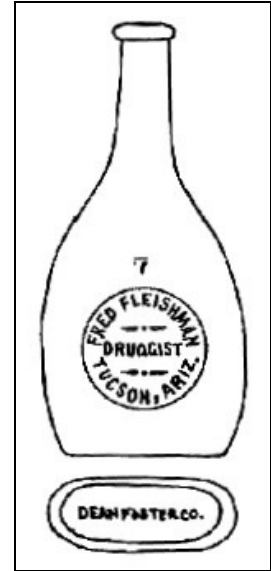


Figure 8 – DEAN FOSTER CO. (Miller 1999:238)

## DEAN FOSTER & CO. (1874-early 1890s)



Figure 9 – DEAN FOSTER & CO. base (eBay)

Lincoln (1970:86) illustrated cylindrical blob-top bottles marked on the base with “DEAN FOSTER & CO. (downward arch) / MADE BY (horizontal) / BOSTON (upward arch) and noted six examples of the mark on New England bottles (Figure 9). Unfortunately, Lincoln made no attempt to date any of the bottles he presented, so the mark must be dated for the

entire tenure of the company (1890-1911). Kroll (1972:108, 133) also listed two Wisconsin beer bottles marked Dean, Foster & Co. The two breweries operated from 1884 to the 1890s. Kroll (1972:3) noted that “most bottles marked with Dean, Foster & Co. are very early (1870’s–1890’s).” Pollard (1993:50, 99, 132) also illustrated bottles with the mark. An eBay example of the bottle with the mark showed a champagne soda bottle with an applied finish (Figures 10 & 11)



Figure 10 – Champagne soda bottle (eBay)



Figure 11 – Applied finish (eBay)

DEAN FOSTER & CO. was also embossed on the bases of some baby bottles (Whitten 2008). The firm continued to offer nursing bottles in the 1901 and A.M. Foster 1907 catalogs, although soda and beer bottles had been discontinued by that time. The company offered Citrate of Magnesia bottles with blob tops and Lightning fasteners that are quite reminiscent of the older soda bottles (Freeman 1968:26X, 18X).



Figure 12 – Stoneware jug (eBay)

Dean, Foster & Co. also contracted out to the Westford Glass Co. for stoneware jugs. One such jug was 12" tall and had the company name and location



Figure 13 – Dean, Foster stamp (eBay)

(Boston) stamped on the shoulder. A “cobalt folate decoration” occupied the body of the jug (Prices for Antiques 2000-2007). An eBay auction presented a three-gallon jug stamped “DEAN FOSTER & CO. (slight arch) / 14 BLACKSONE ST. / BOSTON (both horizontal)” (Figures 12 & 13).

### PARIS (1900-ca. 1904)

Another bottle shared by both Dean, Foster & Co. and A.M. Foster & Co. was the Paris Square Prescription – shown in both the 1901 Dean, Foster and 1907 A.M. Foster catalogs (Figure 14). These were rectangular (almost square) in cross-section and were only made for a few years – 1900 to ca. 1904. For more details, see the A.M. Foster section.



Figure 14 – Paris Square (A.M. Foster 1907 catalog)

**SHELDON** (ca. 1890-1911)



Figure 16 – Sheldon base

The Sheldon Oval appeared in both the Dean, Foster & Co. 1901 catalog (Freeman 1968:X8 [plate]) and the 1907 A.M. Foster catalog (Figure 15). The base was embossed “SHELDON” in backslanted letters (Figure 16). The bottles were probably made between ca.

1890 and the end of Dean, Foster, but A.M. Foster likely continued the production until 1911. Also see the A.M. Foster and Sheldon-Foster sections.

**EL&CO** (ca. 1901)

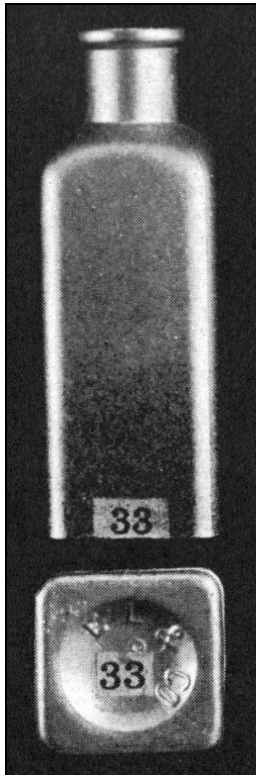


Figure 17 – EL&CO basemark (Freeman 1968:10X)

A bottle with an EL&CO basemark was shown in the 1901 Dean, Foster & Co. catalog (Freeman 1968:10X [plate]). It is not listed in any publication we can find. The catalog calls it a “French Square” with “Homeopathic Wide Mouth” (Figure 17). The bottle was available in ½- to 8-ounce sizes and “could be lettered.” The basal initials most likely indicate a customer. The bottle was not shown in the 1907 A.M. Foster catalog. According to Griffenhagen and Bogard (1999:118), the French Square was patented in 1866 by George W. Stoeckel. The patent would have been long expired by the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, the only Stoeckel patent we could find (No. 52461) was issued on February 6, 1866, for an “Improved Graduated Bottle.” Regardless, the French Square was an early prescription bottle and would not have had any patent protection by this time.

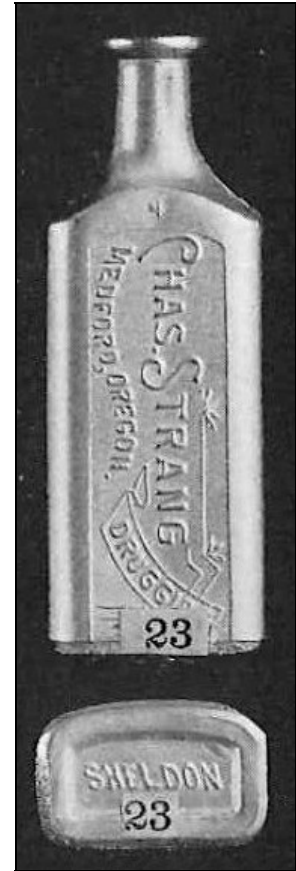


Figure 15 – Sheldon Oval (A.M. Foster 1907 catalog)

## Milk Bottles

The 1901 catalog also showed the Seal Milk Jar, using the “Thatcher Paper Disk” (as well as Lightning-style fasteners) in half-pint, pint, quart, and two-quart sizes (Freeman 1968:44X), and the same “jars” were illustrated in the A.M Foster 1907 catalog (Figure 18). Doug and Linda of the Antique Dairy Site (2014) noted that they had never seen any milk bottles with the D.F.&CO. logo or any other used by the Foster firms.

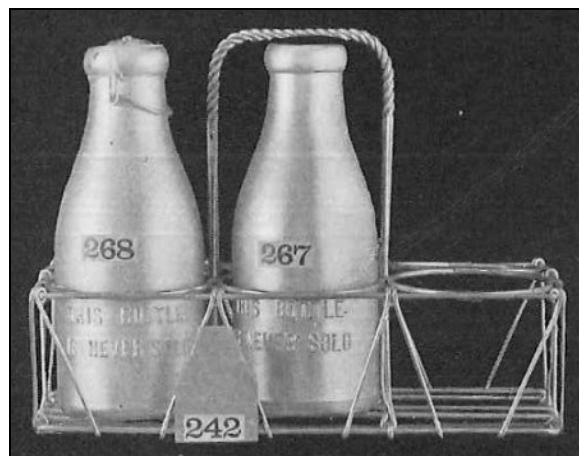


Figure 18 – Milk jars (A.M. Foster 1907 catalog)

## Bottle Manufacturers

Table 2 shows a list of known and probable manufacturers of the druggists’ glassware used by Dean, Foster & Co. and A.M. Foster & Co., both jobbers or wholesalers – not glass makers. All of the drug store bottles that were actually marked with model names or marks that reflect Dean, Foster & Co. or A.M. Foster & Co. appear to have been made by the two glass factories controlled by the company: Marion Flint Glass Co. and the Sheldon-Foster Glass Co. Since Marion was the older of the two, it made the initial bottles for Dean, Foster & Co., including DF&D and the DF&Co mark without the “rays.” Thus, the DF&Co mark with no rays may have been used as early as 1888.

When Sheldon-Foster opened in 1894, it may have taken over the production of bottles for Dean, Foster. The new bottles with the DF&Co mark were surrounded by “rays” extending to the outside of the base. Bottles marked with “SFGCo” (Sheldon-Foster Glass Co.) were also made with the “rays” on the base. Some bottles were virtually identical with the ones marked “DF&Co” with rays, except that instead of the company logo, there was a single-digit number. These indicated the volume of the bottle in ounces and matched the number on the shoulder. It is likely that these were also made by Sheldon-Foster.

**Table 2 – Probable Suppliers for Dean, Foster & Co. and A.M. Foster & Co.**

Company	Dates in Business	Dates as Suppliers
Westford Glass Co.	1857-1878+	1874-1878+
Dorflinger Glass Works*	1865-1918	1874-1912
Storm Brothers**	1861-1885	ca. 1879-1885
Honesdale Glass Works†	1856-1902	ca. 1885-1887
Marion Flint Glass & Bottle Co. Marion Flint Glass Co. Marion Bottle Co.	1887-1922	1887-1922
J.T.&A. Hamilton	1879-1918	ca.1890s-ca.1911
Sheldon-Foster Glass Co.	1894-1912	1894-1912
B.F. Leach & Co. B.F. Leach Glass Co.	1898-1905	1898-1905
Upland Flint Glass Co.	1911-1929	1911-1928

\* Dorflinger made fancy shop glass items for the Foster companies – not drug store bottles.

\*\* An 1884 billhead noted that the factory for Dean, Foster & Co. was in Philadelphia. The only Philadelphia plant we could find that made prescription bottles was the Storm Brothers.

† Honesdale was an affiliate of Dorflinger and may have filled the Foster orders during the period between the Storm Brothers and the opening of the Marion Flint Glass plant.

It is likely that bottles with “SHELDON” basemarks were also made by Sheldon-Foster, and these were sold by Dean, Foster & Co. Because “SHELDON” was embossed with back-slanted letters, it is also likely that “PARIS” basemarks (also with back-slanted letters) were made by Sheldon-Foster. Thus, from its opening, it is likely that Sheldon-Foster made virtually all the bottles for Dean, Foster & Co.

When A.M. Foster & Co. opened in 1893, its main line of bottles, marked “AMF&Co,” may have been primarily made by the Marion factory, along with “KLONDIKE” series. However, the “KELLOGG” line, with its back-slanted, capital letters, was probably made by Sheldon-Foster. Sheldon-Foster may have also made some of the bottles marked “AMF&Co”;

the mark was embossed in two styles – horizontal and in an arch. It is not possible, using current methods, to determine which glass house used which mark. See Table 3 for a list of probable relationships between the marks, manufacturers, and distributors of drug store bottles.

**Table 3 – Logos on Prescription Bottles Made for Dean, Foster & Co. & A.M. Foster & Co.**

Brand	Distributor	Dates	Prob. Manufacturer
D.F.&D.	Dean, Foster & Co.	1888-1893	Marion
D.F.&Co. (no rays)	Dean, Foster & Co.	1890-1901	Marion
D.F.&Co. (with rays)*	Dean, Foster & Co.	1894-1911	Sheldon-Foster
SHELDON	Dean, Foster & Co.	1894-1911	Sheldon-Foster
A.M.F.&Co.	A.M. Foster & Co.	1893-1911	Marion
KLONDIKE	A.M. Foster & Co.	1895-1900	Marion
KELLOGG	A.M. Foster & Co.	1897-1902	Sheldon-Foster
PARIS	Dean, Foster & Co.	1900-1904	Sheldon-Foster

\* The “rays” are virtually identical to those embossed on similar bottles with “SFGCo” in the center.

Dean, Foster & Co. also bought other bottle types from different companies. The DFCo logo was embossed on the base of at least one soda bottle – note lack of ampersand. The name “DEAN FOSTER CO” – again with no ampersand – was embossed on an unusual bottle that appeared more like toiletry than pharmaceutical. The full name “DEAN FOSTER & Co” was embossed on the bases of soda bottles, baby bottles, and ceramic jugs. The jugs were made by the Westford Glass Co., Dean, Foster’s initial supplier of drug store bottles. Jug production almost certainly stopped before 1880. The makers of the soda, baby, and possible toiletry bottles are currently unknown. At least some milk bottles were made for the firm ca. 1892 by J.T. & A. Hamilton, although none have been found with any type of Dean, Foster marks.

Finally, the “shop furniture” and other glass and non-glass pharmaceutical items were mostly – possibly entirely – by Christian Dorflinger’s glass houses. Many of the non-glass items may also have been made by firms outside the purview of this study. For more information on

the Marion Flint Glass Co., the Sheldon-Foster Glass Co., and the Westford Glass Co., see the sections on those firms. Brief histories of the Dorflinger firms are presented below.

### **Dorflinger Glass Works, Brooklyn, New York (1852-ca. 1879)**

Christian Dorflinger built the Dorflinger Glass Works at Brooklin, New York, in 1852. The factory made tableware, lamp chimneys, and druggists' ware at one furnace with five pots, although the plant soon increased to seven pots. The company was known for its high quality flint glass. By ca. 1863, the firm's name was Dorflinger & Co. J.S. Hibbler purchased an interest ca. 1866, but the name apparently did not change. In 1879, however, the firm became Hibbler & Rauch. After a change to Hibbler & Co. in 1889, the plant was last listed in 1893 (Knittle 1927:410; McKearin & McKearin 1941:608).

### **Dorflinger Glass Works, White Mills, Pennsylvania (1865-ca. 1918)**

Christian Dorflinger purchased land at White Mills, Pennsylvania, in May 1865 and erected his glass works there by September. The plant originally made lamps and chimneys. C. Dorflinger & Co. soon enlarged the operation opening a glass cutting shop in mid-1867 and branching out into the manufacture of fancy tableware. The plant specialized in blown ware and only used presses for making stoppers (Barbe & Reed 2003:131-138).

Dorflinger opened the "lower factory" in May 1875 to make "druggist's bottles, with gilded decoration burnt in the glass." Barbe and Reed (2003:142) quoted the *Hawley Times* that Dorflinger was

the only manufacturer of glass labels which are part of the bottle itself. . . . The old style of labels, he claims, was liable to fall off from the effects of excessive cold or heat. His labels being a part of the bottle, remedies this difficulty. Those who work for him are imported from France, England and Bohemia.

At some point, the firm also became known as the Dorflinger Glass Co., but it became C. Dorflinger & Sons in 1881, as his offspring joined the business. The firm rebuilt both factories in 1892, following a disastrous fire on the night of May 25. The Dorflingers built a third plant in



April 1902 with a 6-pot furnace. The family incorporated the company in March 1904 as a private (as opposed to public) corporation and began blowing electric light bulbs for the first time in August 1905. The noted Charles O. Northwood joined the firm in January 1907 (Barbe & Reed 2003:138, 146-154).

The Dorflinger plants began to have hard times during the early 1900s. Sales dropped dramatically, and parts of the plant were periodically shut down. In June 1917, another fire destroyed two buildings. The Gillinder Brothers rented the upper factory while their own plant was being rebuilt (see Franklin Flint Glass Works entry in the “Other G” section) in 1919, and part of that building burned in September. The Gillinders moved to the lower factory, occupying half of the remaining Dorflinger plant. The brothers terminated their lease on July 31, 1920, and moved their machinery to their new plant at Port Jervis (Barbe & Reed 2003:155-158).

The passing of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment on January 16, 1920, sounded the death knell for the Dorflingers. One of the mainstays of the factory was liquor-related articles, such as decanters, bitters bottles, mixing tumblers, high ball glasses, brandy, whiskey, and soda tumblers. The plant operated intermittently. On May 7, 1921, Dorflinger closed down for the last time, but the books remained open as the family sought a buyer for the property. The Welwood Corp. bought the property on October 30, 1925, and the era of glass at White Mills was over (Barbe & Reed 2003:157-162).

The Dorflinger Glass Works at White Mills made some items for Dean, Foster & Co. These were probably limited to the cut-glass window show globes shown in the 1901 catalog or may have extended to other items (Freeman 1964:46X). It is highly unlikely that Dorflinger made mundane drug store bottles, although the firm’s affiliate, the Honesdale Glass Co., may have handled that chore for Dean, Foster. Pullin (1986:108) illustrated a single logo used on tableware and fine-cut glass. The mark had the word “DORFLINGER” in an arch above a decanter and two goblets, all surrounded by a circle (Figure 19). It is unlikely that the mark was used on druggists’ ware. Peterson (1968:14) also noted marks of “COLONIAL” and “LORRAINE” for Dorflinger, but these were both only used on cut glass.



Figure 19 – Dorflinger logo (Pullin 1986:108)

**Tracyville Glass Works, Honesdale, Pennsylvania (1846-1848)**

**Honesdale Anthracite Glass Works, Honesdale, Pennsylvania (1849-1856)**

**Honesdale Glass Works, Honesdale, Pennsylvania (1856-1902)**

Around November 1846, Jacob Faatz established the Tracyville Glass Works at Honesdale, Pennsylvania. The plant made wash-bowls, pitchers, flower pots, jars, lamps, candlesticks, glass milk pans, and general tableware. An out-of-control fire on June 14, 1848, destroyed the dried wood supply for the factory, a telling blow that caused the company to go out of business (Barbe & Reed 2003:35-40).

The former Jacob Faatz factory was sold at a sheriff's sale on October 3, 1849, to William H. Dimmick for \$4,800. Dimmick renamed the company the Honesdale Anthracite Glass Co. on November 1, 1849, but soon sold the plant to James M. Brookfield. From ca. 1856, the plant was known as the Honesdale Glass Works. The plant primarily made window glass, although it produced some bottles and jars in colorless, amber, and green (probably aqua) glass. This plant also made milk pans as well as lamp chimneys, rolling pins, and other glass products. The factory was destroyed by a flood in 1861 and again sold in a sheriff's auction, this time to Samuel Dimmick (Barbe & Reed 2003:40-44, 49).

Although Brookfield may have once again purchased the property, Christian Dorflinger may have been the next one to establish a glass plant on it, possibly as early as 1864. Little is known about the operation, however, until Dorflinger actually purchased the property in 1873. The plant then made green and amber glassware and druggists' ware at two furnaces, with five-pot and seven-pot capacities, respectively. By the 1880s, the factory also made demijohns, lamp chimneys, bottles, and fruit jars. The plant had problems in 1892, selling its remaining goods at local auction. By at least December 1895, however, the plant was back in fire, making beer bottles. The business failed again, placing the plant in receivership by February 1897. A new company was formed in 1899 (Barbe & Reed 2003:44-47, 143).

The *National Glass Budget* (1897:7; 1898:7) listed it under the "Green Bottle and Hollowware" heading with 27 pots in 1897 and 1898. The plant shut down again in 1902, this time permanently. On September 5, the factory was reported as being dismantled, with the useable material transported to Dorflinger's White Mills plants (Barbe & Reed 2003:48).

## Discussion and Conclusions

The DF&D mark was apparently only used on the Chicago Oval. DF&Co (without rays) was used on the same type of bottle but was also occasionally found on other container types, notably on a jar and a bitters bottle. DF&Co (with rays), however, was only embossed on bases of Eastside Ovals. Blob-top soda bottles made by the company were embossed DEAN FOSTER & CO., although at least one was marked DFCo – with no ampersand. At least one oval bottle was similarly marked DEAN FOSTER Co – again with no ampersand. These may have been engraver's errors, although they may have indicated separate manufacturers (see below).

Although "E.L.&Co" was embossed on a base in the 1901 catalog, the letters probably indicate a drug store or other customer that ordered the bottle. Similarly, a bottle marked "SHELDON" was illustrated in the catalog with no description. It was probably offered but was likely made by the Sheldon-Foster Glass Co.

### A Note on Catalogs

Because the illustrations in the 1901 Dean, Foster & Co. catalog (Freeman 1964) were small and not in clear focus, we have used the identical photos from the A.M. Foster & Co. 1907 catalog.

## Acknowledgments

Our gratitude to the Rackow Library for sending us an electronic copy of the 1907 A.M. Foster & Co. catalog.

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