

The Ohio Valley Glass Co. and Related Firms

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This study centers around the 1882 and 1883 patents awarded to William M. Wallace and the glass houses that made the jars and lids associated with the patents. Three Bridgeport, Ohio, firms – Nail City Glass Co., Ohio Valley Glass Co., and Bridgeport Glass Co., all sequentially using the same factory – and the Cadiz Glass Co. of Cadiz, Ohio, each made one of more of the jars. The study explores the connections between the firms and the jars as well as other jars and two additional Ohio Valley Glass Companies.

Histories¹

The primary producers of the majority of the jars made to the Wallace 1882 and 1883 patents (and the Fry 1885 patent) were all part of a single sequence of companies, all located at the same factory. The Nail City Glass Co. began production in 1881 and was reorganized as the Ohio Valley Glass Co. in 1883. Ohio Valley failed in 1886 and was replaced by the Bridgeport Glass Co. in 1887. Bridgeport Glass remained open until 1896.

Nail City Glass Co., Bridgeport, Ohio (1881-1883)

The Nail City Glass Co., of Bridgeport, Ohio – a West Virginia corporation – was chartered on April 12, 1880, with a capital of \$10,000, by Hugh Sterling, Alfred Paull, Harry W. McLurie, J.T. Harris, Thomas Prince, G.W. Franjer, T.J. Hughes, George Dits, and George Mathews to manufacture beer and wine bottles, fruit jars, flint and green prescription vials and flasks. The firm purchased land just north of Bridgeport, Ohio, on July 20 and November 28, 1880, and built their factory during that year. The initial production of beer bottles began in early October of 1881 with fruit jars following in late November. Hugh Sterling was the president with Alfred Paull as secretary (Roller 1997a; Swies 2006).

¹ Some of this information also appears in the Other C section, but we dealt with both the histories and the jars in much less detail in that earlier study.

Alfred Paull was the president of the Nail City Lantern Co. at Wheeling, West Virginia, from 1878 to 1891 then Nail City Stamping Co. from 1891 to 1893. Since Bridgeport is just across the Ohio River from Wheeling, Paull may have been instrumental in the selection of the name. However, Paull did not remain involved for long.

By March of 1882, Charles M. Rhodes was president, and William M. Wallace had received his patent for a process to make fruit jar lids on September 12 (see below for more about the patent). On September 14, Nail City advertised that it was “making a screw cap for fruit jars, recently patented” (i.e., the Eclipse Jars). The plant made bottles (including beer bottles), fruit jars, flasks, and druggists’ ware. The plant burned on September 21, 1882, although it was rebuilt by the end of the year, again producing the Eclipse Jars (Roller 1997a; Swies 2006).

On April 19, 1883, *Crockery & Glass Journal* reported that “Charles M. Rhodes, of Bridgeport, and George Beatty, of Steubenville, who recently purchased the Wallace patent for making glass screw caps, are greatly annoyed by infringements. Mr. Wallace sold these gentlemen his right absolutely.” The demand for the jar was greater than the ability of the factory to make it in 1883. During the summer closure, the firm renovated the plant for the next season. The company apparently overreached its capital while making repairs and changes, so it never reopened under the Nail City name. The firm sold to the newly organized Ohio Valley Glass Co. on November 21, 1883 (Legislature of West Virginia 1881:457; Roller 1997a; Swies 2006).

Containers and Marks

Although there is a remote possibility that Nail City made some of the Cadiz Jars and/or Hoosier Jars, it is unlikely.

ECLIPSE JAR (1883-1884)

Roller (1983:113; 2011:178) discussed a jar embossed “ECLIPSE / JAR” on the front that used a cap made to the same 1883 patent as the Cadiz and Hoosier jars (Figure 1). William M. Wallace received the patent and assigned half to C.M. Rhodes. Rhodes was the president of the Ohio Valley Glass Co. ca. 1884-1886. Roller added that “the connection between these jars and the Ohio Valley Glass Co. is

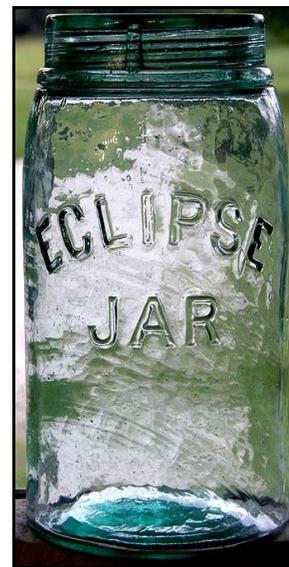


Figure 1 – Eclipse Jar
(North American Glass)

strengthened by known jars embossed **OVGCo** (monogram) **JAR 1881** with ECLIPSE ghosted through the OVGCo monogram.”

Creswick (1987:51) illustrated the jar and lid, noting that the lid included both Wallace’s 1882 and 1883 patent dates: “PAT SEPT 12 1882 JAN 3D - 1882” in an outer circle and “ECLIPSE (arch) / JAR (inverted arch)” in an inner circle (Figures 2 & 3). The lids of the Eclipse were made in at least three variations:



Figure 2 – Eclipse Jar (Creswick 1987:51)



Figure 3 – Eclipse lids (North American Glass)

1. “ECLIPSE JAR”; “N” in “JAN” is reversed – sans serifs “N”
2. “ECLIPSE JAR 2”; “N” in “JAN” is in correct aspect
3. “ECLIPSE JAR 3”; “N” in “JAN” and the “D” in “3D” are reversed – serifs “N”

Creswick suggested the LaBelle Glass Co. (also at Bridgeport) and Ohio Valley Glass Co. as manufacturers and included the Greenfield Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. as a possible maker. LaBelle, however, was in business from 1872 to 1888, but only made flint tableware – while the Eclipse and other jars discussed here were all made of aqua glass. Although the plant advertised “jars” – *not* fruit jars – in 1872 and 1879, these were probably fancy jars (like cracker jars) for table use.

William M. Wallace received two jar-related patents. He applied for the first one – for a Mode of Making Glass Screw Caps” – on March 18, 1882, receiving Patent No. 264,379 on September 12 of the same year (Figure 4). He assigned half the

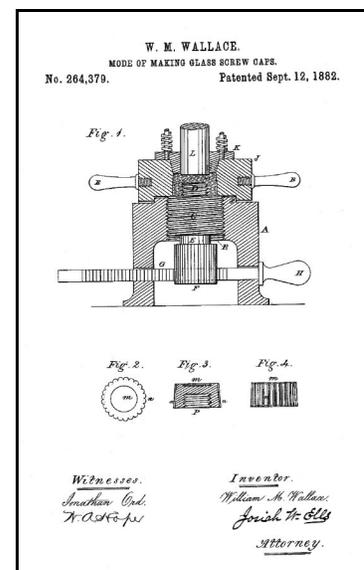


Figure 4 – Wallace 1882 patent

patent to Charles M. Rhodes. On October 10, 1882, Wallace applied for another patent for a “Mold for Forming Glass Screw Caps” and received Patent No. 270,162 on January 2, 1883 (Figure 5). He assigned this patent entirely to Rhodes. Although Wallace received a third patent – for a glass press – in 1883, it was not directly related to jars or lids.

On October 19, 1882, the *American Pottery & Glassware Reporter* noted that the Nail City Glass Co. had “just patented a glass fruit jar cap; it works with a screw and can be used on any screw jar. They have named this new article the ‘Eclipse.’” *Crockery & Glass Journal* followed up on January 4, 1883, that the new works would be completed on January 1, adding, “They will then begin the manufacture of their Eclipse fruit jar” (Roller 1997a). Although the first mention of the jar was in 1882, this suggests that production of the jar did not begin until after the 1883 patent.

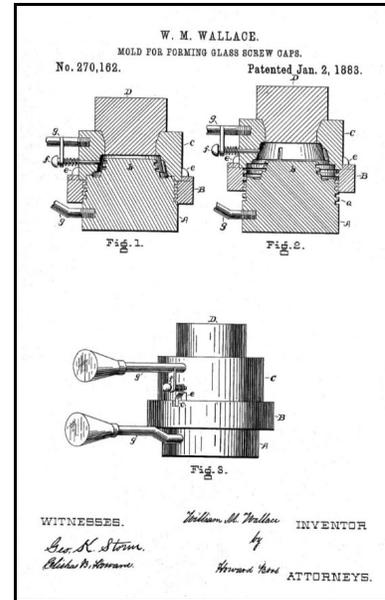


Figure 5 – Wallace 1883 patent

All typical jar sources reported lids embossed with both the 1882 *and* 1883 patent dates – and all examples we have found had both dates. These could not have been made in 1882. First made by Nail City, these were manufactured until at least April of 1884 – but this was probably the last year of production because of the Wallace patent infringement suit (also see the discussion of the OVGCo monogram below). The journals reported that these were the most popular jars made by both Nail City and Ohio Valley, and McCann (2017:169) noted that “the jar is relatively common, while the glass screw cap [is] very rare” – however, he priced the jars without caps at \$100-250.

NAIL CITY GLASS CO. (poss. 1881-1883)

The Nail City Glass Co. also *may* have made “standard” jars or grooved-ring wax-sealers as demonstrated by a tin lid of the sort used to seal those jars – that was featured in a North American Glass auction. The lid was embossed “NAIL CITY GLASS CO. (arch) • WHEELING, W. VA. • (inverted arch)” (Figure 6).



Figure 6 – Nail City lid (North American Glass)

This lid is enigmatic. There was no Nail City Glass Co. at Wheeling. The Wheeling firms were the Nail City Lantern Co., followed by the Nail City Stamping Co. The Nail City Glass Co., however, was just across the river from Wheeling at Bridgeport, Ohio. We have found no direct evidence that *any* of these firms made wax-sealer jars. The Wheeling firms, however, specialized in lantern globes and fixtures, while the Bridgeport company concentrated on containers – making Bridgeport the most likely contender for this lid.

Ohio Valley Glass Co., Bridgeport, Ohio (1883-1886)

On November 21, 1883, Nail City reorganized as the Ohio Valley Glass Co. with Jacob Boney Steele, William Keohline, C.M. Rhodes, Louis Franzheim. and Jacob Berger as incorporators. Rhodes was the president, with Franzheim as secretary. Because of failing health, Franzheim retired in July and was replaced as secretary by Frank Siegel, Jr. Like Nail City, Ohio Valley made beer and mineral water bottles, fruit jars, and druggists' ware. Again, like their predecessors, the company's best seller was the Eclipse jar.

However, all was not well between the inventor and the glass house. The *Belmont Chronicle* reported on May 15, 1884, that "W.M. Wallace, of Wheeling, has filed a complaint in the U.S. Circuit Court at Columbus against the Ohio Valley Glass Company, and others for alleged infringement on his patent on a device for making certain kinds of glass ware." The May 22 edition added that "the defendants in the case are Charles M. Rhodes and Thomas Hill, of Bridgeport, and George Beatty and Beatty & Sons, of Steubenville." Although we have not discovered the outcome, this marked the end of the Ohio Valley production of Wallace-patent jars.

A.J. Beatty & Sons grew out of Beatty & Co. in 1877, specializing in tumblers and jelly glasses until the firm joined the merger that created the United States Glass Co. in 1891. We can find no record of fruit jar production by the firm, so the reason why Beatty joined Rhodes to purchase the patent is unclear (see the section on the Nail City Glass Co. – above – for the announcement of the sale to Rhodes and Beatty). George Beatty was one of the sons of Alexander J. Beatty (Roller 1998).

To place all this in perspective, Wallace had received his two jar-lid production patents, respectively' on March 18, 1882, and January 2, 1883, assigning half of the first patent and all of the second one to Charles M. Rhodes. Rhodes and George Beatty had purchased at least one of the patents “absolutely” by April 19, 1883 – although the Nail City Glass Co. had been making the Eclipse jars with Wallace lids since at early January. As noted above, it is unclear how Beatty fit in, but Rhodes had apparently been part of the package since March of 1882. Wallace sued Rhodes and Beatty in May of 1884, just after the formation of the Cadiz Glass Co. on April 19 of that year. How Wallace could claim infringement is equally unclear, but he obviously won his case and almost certainly ejected Rhodes from Cadiz Glass (see the section below on Cadiz Glass Co.).

Alternatively, the patent referred to could have been Wallace’s 1883 patent for a glass press. This would make much better sense for the Beatty involvement, since the press was made to produce fruit jar lids, jelly jars, and specialized goblets – although it could have been adapted for other uses. Even if the suit did not directly involve the earlier two patent, it clearly marked a break in the cordial relationship between the inventor and the glass houses.

The factory was entirely destroyed by fire on April 1, 1885, but, fortunately, the entire \$12,000 to 14,000 loss was fully covered by insurance. By that time, the plant was reported as making beer bottles, fruit jars, and telegraph insulators. After the fire, Ohio Valley contracted with the Cadiz Glass Works, Cadiz, Ohio, to fill its orders, while it rebuilt the factory (Roller 1997a).

The firm rebuilt the plant during the summer break and began making the Economy Sealer, a fruit jar, as well as beer and mineral water bottles and green druggists’ ware. However, the company went too deeply into debt. In late July 1886, Ohio Valley permanently closed its factory because of excessive liabilities. The *Belmont Chronicle* (7/29/1886) reported a sheriff’s sale on August 9, 1886, featuring “about 600 dozen Mason’s glass fruit jars; about 100 gross beer bottles; two draft mules.” The remaining equipment, buildings, and land sold at another sheriff’s sale on January 24, 1887 (*Belmont Chronicle* 12/23/1886). In March 1887, a new firm, the Bridgeport Glass Co., purchased the plant and resumed operations, continuing to produce fruit jars to at least 1893 (Roller 1983:272; 1997a).

Containers and Marks²

Ohio Valley continued to produce the Eclipse jars, until a dispute with the inventor caused the firm to redo the brand with its own monogram. The disagreement also created a switch from the Hoosier Jar to the Mason's Jar. In 1885, Ohio Valley moved away from jars made to the Wallace 1883 patent entirely to concentrate on the Economy Sealer.

On July 21, 1886, the *Wheeling Register* listed the creditors against the Ohio Valley Glass Co. – including the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. This suggests that Ohio Valley was one of the glass houses that made jars for Consolidated. The factory probably used the Consolidated products in an attempt to ameliorate the lost revenue when the 1884 dispute with Wallace forced Ohio Valley to cease production of the popular Eclipse jar.

ECLIPSE JAR (1883-1884)

As noted above, the Nail City Glass Co. first produced the Eclipse Jar in 1883 (see the discussion in the Nail City section). The Ohio Valley Glass Co. initially continued production of the jars until 1884 – when Wallace sued Ohio Valley for patent infringement – and the factory peened out the name and replaced it with the OVGCo monogram, apparently using the altered molds until it ceased production (see below). Since Wallace's patent was for the *lid*, Ohio Valley was within its legal rights to continue manufacture of the altered jar.

OVGCo monogram (1884-1886)

Toulouse (1969:230) listed the OVGCo monogram on a shoulder-seal Mason jar, with the date "1881" embossed below both the monogram and the word "JAR." He noted the maker as the Ohio Valley Glass Co., Bridgeport, Ohio, and dated the jar ca. 1886 based on a listing of the company in a directory that year. In his later book, Toulouse (1971:408) repeated the information but dated the company 1881-1886, based on the date on the jar. Roller (1983:272; 2011:401) agreed with the Ohio Valley Glass Co. as the maker but suggested ca. 1883-1888 as the period.

² As noted in the History section, we addressed the Cadiz, Eclipse, and Hoosier jars in the Other C section, but this is a much more thorough coverage.

Creswick (1987a:166) illustrated two variations of the jar, one with the OVGCo monogram above a ghosted “ECLIPSE” (Figure 7). She, too, noted Ohio Valley as the maker and dated the jars ca. 1881-ca. 1888. *Crockery & Glass Journal* reported on April 24, 1884, that the “Ohio Valley Glass Works are making a large number of their ‘Eclipse’ fruit jars for the summer trade, as they expect a big run” (Roller 1997a). This was probably the last production of Eclipse jars. The mold department then peened out the ECLIPSE name and added the OVGCo monogram, making new molds as the older, ghosted ones wore out.



Figure 7 – OVGCo monogram (Creswick 1987a:166)

Roller (1983:235; 2011:355) noted a very different monogram on a Mason jar – between “MASON’S” and “PATENT / NOV. 30TH / 1858” – suggesting that the Ohio Valley Glass Co. may have been the manufacturer, ca. 1884-1886 (Figure 8). Creswick (1987:144) illustrated the jar, agreeing with the Ohio Valley Glass Co. as the maker. This monogram had very similar elements to the one discussed above – notably identical serifs on the Vs and the same diamond embellishments on the Os – strongly supporting a use by the same glass house.

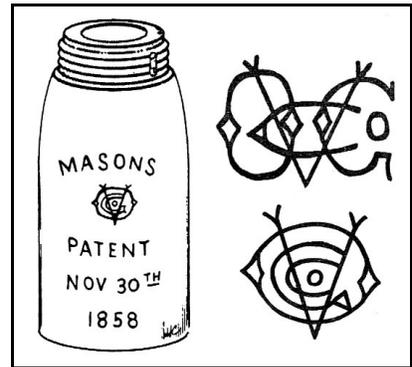


Figure 8 – OVGCo monograms (Roller 1983:235)

HOOSIER JAR (1883-1884)

Roller (1983:158; 2011:244) discussed a jar embossed “HOOSIER / JAR” on the front and “HOLLWEG & REESE (arch) / INDLS. IND. (inverted arch)” on the base (Figure 9). The cap was embossed “PAT^D SEPT 12TH 1882 JAN 3^D 1883” in a circle around “HOOSIER (arch) / JAR (inverted arch)” (Figure 10). He suggested the Ohio Valley Glass Co. as the manufacturer ca. 1884-1886 and noted that the lid was made to the Wallace 1880 patent discussed above. Ohio Valley likely made the jars for Hollweg & Reese – a firm of glass jobbers until they began their own production in 1891. See the section on the Firms of Greenfield, Indiana,

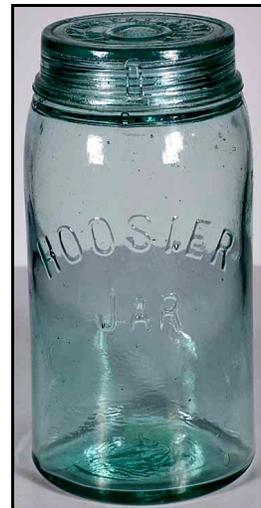


Figure 9 – Hoosier Jar (North American Glass)

for more information about Hollweg & Reese. Roller (1983:223; 340) also noted a jar embossed “MASON’S JAR” on the front with “HOOSIER” ghosted under “MASON’S.”

Creswick (1987:85) included both jars but added that one jar had an error spelling of “HOLLWIG” on the base, and some bases were only marked with a number (Figures 11 & 12). She also noted that the “N” in “JANUARY” was reversed on some lids (see Figure 10). She suggested LaBelle, Ohio Valley, or Greenfield Fruit Jar & Bottle Co. as possible manufacturers. As noted elsewhere, LaBelle made flint tableware, so it was unlikely. The lids for the Eclipse and Hoosier jars were virtually identical except for the names (Figure 13).



Figure 12 – Hoosier base (North American Glass)

The lids for the Eclipse and Hoosier jars were virtually identical except for the names (Figure 13). McCann (2017) noted that the jars were “not available” – pricing them from \$1,000 to \$1,500. This probably represented a limited run (or series of runs) for Hollweg & Reese.



Figure 10 – Hoosier lid (North American Glass)

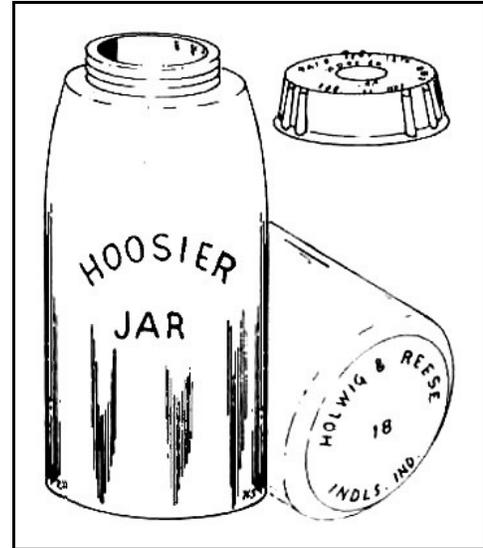


Figure 11 – Hoosier Jar (Creswick 1987:85)

An interesting feature about these lids is that the two rings appear to be removable plates. The Hoosier Jar lids are identical to the Eclipse lids (see above) – including all three variations – except for the jar name in the inner ring. It is beyond the realm of probability that both the “N” and “D” could have been accidentally reversed *twice* – on both Eclipse and Hoosier lids. However, the inner ring showed no evidence of restamping, so it must have a plate that was replaced. Where two of the Eclipse variations included numbers after then name (on the inner ring), these digits were missing on the Hoosier lids. See Figure 13 below for a comparison.



Figure 13 – Eclipse & Hoosier lids (North American Glass)

MASON'S JAR (1884-1886)

As noted above, jars embossed “MASON’S / JAR” with “HOOSIER” ghosted beneath “MASON’S” were discussed by both Roller and Creswick. As with the Eclipse jars, this marked the 1884 dispute between Wallace and the Ohio Valley Glass Co. When Wallace withdrew his patents, Ohio Valley peened out the term “HOOSIER” and continued to produce the jars as Mason’s Jars with non-patented lids (Figure 14).



Figure 14 – Mason’s Jar (North American Glass)

ECONOMY SEALER (1885-1886)

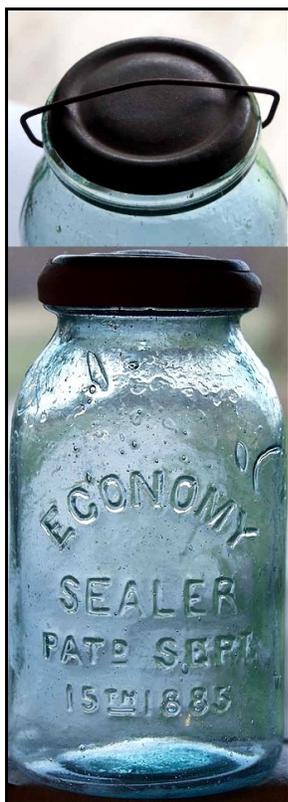


Figure 15 – Economy Sealer (North American Glass)

Toulouse (1969:106-107) discussed a wax sealer embossed “ECONOMY (arch) / SEALER / PAT^N SEPT 13 / 1858 (all horizontal)” on the front (Figure 15). He dated the jar ca. 1858 but did not know the maker. He added that September 13 was not a “patent-issue” date and could not locate the patent. He noted a variation with an erroneous date of 1885. Roller (1983:114; 2011:178) discussed the ECONOMY SEALER, a wax-sealer jar patented by Charles H. Fry, Jr. of Wheeling, West Virginia (Figure 16). He claimed the jar was made ca. 1885-1886 by the Ohio Valley Glass Co. He noted that “a tinned-iron lid . . . Embossed PAT APPL’D FOR, may have been used on these jars.” Some jars were embossed with the correct patent date “SEPT 15TH 1885” but others had “SEPT 13TH 1858” – an engraving error.

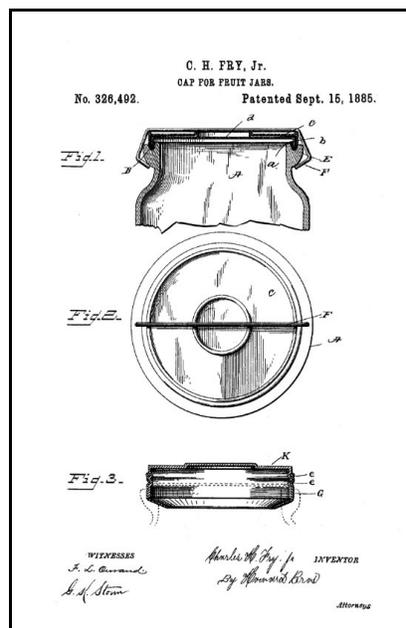


Figure 16 – Fry 1885 patent

Creswick (1987:52) illustrated or discussed four variations of this jar, three of them embossed “ECONOMY (slight arch) / SEALER / PAT^D SEP^I / 15TH 1885 (all horizontal).” The fourth was embossed the same but with an error date of “PAT^D SEP^I / 13TH 1858” with all the embossing peened out – appearing ghosted. Three of the variations were grooved-ring wax-sealer fruit jars, although one had the two-piece lid held in place by a wire clamp. The final variation was made for a metal lid with a wire clamp but lacked the grooves in the top (Figure 17).

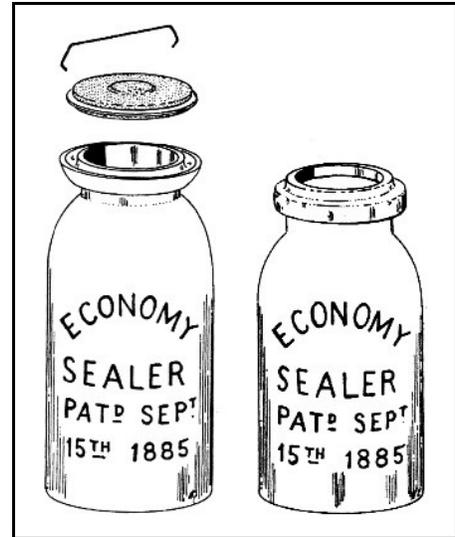


Figure 17 – Economy Sealer (Creswick 1987:52)

Creswick (1987:52) stated that Charles H. Fry was issued Patent No. 326,492 on September 15, 1885 (applied for on January 26) and assigned half of the patent rights to Charles M. Rhodes. She noted that Rhodes was on the Board of Directors for the LaBelle Glass Co. and suggested that LaBelle may have made the jars. However, information from Roller (1997a) showed that Rhodes on the Board for LaBelle from 1872 to 1884 was Ebenezer P. Rhodes – not Charles M. Rhodes – and that was too early for the assignation. Charles M. Rhodes served as the president of the Nail City Glass Co. from 1880 until the reorganization that created the Ohio Valley Glass Co. in 1883, then subsequently served as president of Ohio Valley until about the time the business collapsed in 1886. The Economy Sealer was only advertised by the Ohio Valley Glass Co.

On Oct 22, 1885, the *Pottery & Glassware Reporter* noted that the “Ohio Valley Glass Co. have just patented a new fruit jar cap, called the Economy sealer, which will be placed on the market next season.” It was advertised until at least June 10, 1886 (Roller 1997a) and was almost certainly made until the plant shut its doors in July. The variation with all the wording ghosted probably indicated that the Bridgeport Glass Co. used the molds but not the name until those molds wore out (see the Bridgeport Glass section below). McCann (2017:139) noted that the jars were “occasionally available, especially in ghosted form.” He priced jars without closures at \$200-300 and ghosted jars at \$25-30.

Bridgeport Glass Co., Bridgeport, Ohio (1887-1896)

On February 10, 1887, the *Belmont Chronicle* noted that “the actual purchasers of the Ohio Valley glass works, at Bridgeport, sold at sheriff’s sale, a couple of weeks ago, were J.J. Holloway and W.T. Graham.” When Graham & Holloway purchased the plant, they renamed the operation the Bridgeport Glass Co. and began production of fruit jars and bottles at a single furnace. Sandborn maps for 1886 and 1893 clearly show that Ohio Valley and Bridgeport Glass used the same plant (Figure 18). By April of 1891, *China, Glass & Lamps* reported the firm’s main concentration – fruit jars – as “Mason’s and Standard.” Production continued until at least June 1896, but the factory was reported as “formerly Bridgeport Glass Co.” on the May 1897 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Roller 1997a).

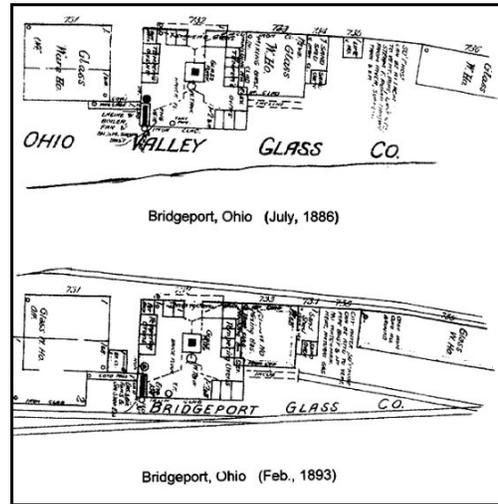


Figure 18 – Sanborn maps (Swies 2006)

Containers and Marks

ECONOMY SEALER (ghosted) (1887-ca. 1889)

It is virtually certain that Graham & Holloway continued to use the molds made by the Ohio Valley Glass Co. Since the “Economy Sealer” name was no longer appropriate, and molds were the single most expensive item in the production sequence, the firm almost certainly used existing molds as long as possible – after peening out the older embossing (Figure 19). Just how long these molds could have continued in production depends on how many jars the company manufactured, so we have estimated an additional two years after Bridgeport Glass began production.

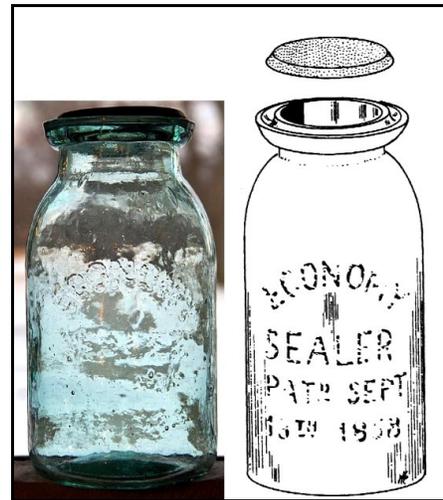


Figure 19 – Ghosted Economy Sealer (Creswick 1987:52; North American Glass)

The Cadiz Glass Co. and Other Ohio Valley Glass Companies

Cadiz Glass Co., Cadiz, Ohio (1884-1886)

C.M. Rhodes, William M. Wallace, Edwin Pierson, John Kitson, and other local businessmen from Bridgeport and Bellaire, Ohio, formed the Cadiz Glass Co., Cadiz, Ohio (23 miles northwest of Wheeling) on April 19, 1884. The actual incorporation took place on May 8, with William M. Wallace, D.B. Walsh, Edward Pearson, M.G. Kennedy, W.S. Paulson, J.M. Garvin, J.M. Estep, J.M. Brown, H.S. McFadden, W.L. Houser, John Conroy, A. Quigley, and R.S. Timmons as stockholders. McFadden was president, with E.W. Houser as secretary, when the plant began production of fruit jars, glass jars for oil cans, beer bottles, and a general line of green glass at a single continuous tank on July 22. As discussed above, Wallace sued Rhodes and Beatty in May, so Rhodes was almost certainly ejected from Cadiz Glass at that time or soon after. An unnamed glass house offered Wallace \$15,000 for his patent (possibly Rhodes), but apparently he refused the offer (Roller 1997b; 2011:121).

The timing was odd. The company was apparently formed in reaction to a dispute between Wallace and the directors of the Ohio Valley Glass Co. – yet Rhodes was one of the founding incorporators of Cadiz Glass. Nail City and Ohio Valley had produced the Eclipse Jars until Wallace sued Ohio Valley in May 1884 for patent infringement (*Belmont Chronicle* 5/15/1884 – also see the report in the Ohio Valley section above). Cadiz Glass began producing insulators in response to a contract in November (77 Insulator Companies 2014; Roller 1997b; 2011:121).

The dispute between Wallace and Ohio Valley was apparently short lived. After a fire destroyed the Ohio Valley plant on April 1, 1885, the officers negotiated a plan to lease the Cadiz factory for one blast, apparently gaining control of the entire plant. After Ohio Valley resumed its own production at Bridgeport, the Cadiz factory advertised the Cadiz Jars on March 11, 1886, but the Lythgoe brothers leased the plant in February 1887, making fruit jars. By March 31, the brothers had apparently purchased the factory, renaming it Lythgoe Bros. The firm made jars for the Consolidated Fruit Jar Co. and other glass jobbers. The Lythgoe brothers moved to Bowling Green, Ohio, in July 1887, and the factory remained idle until a sheriff's sale disposed of the works in 1896 (GlassClub.org 2009; Roller 1997:c).

Containers and Marks

The Cadiz Glass Works was created to manufacture the Cadiz Jar in 1884 and certainly continued production until the Ohio Valley Glass Co. leased the factory in May 1885 – resuming control and resuming jar manufacture at some point in 1886.

CADIZ JAR (1884-1886)

Roller (1983:79; 2011:121) discussed a jar embossed “CADIZ / JAR” on the front (Figure 20). He

listed two glass screw caps embossed “PAT^d CADIZ JAR” and “PAT^d 1883 CADIZ JAR” on

their respective tops (Figure 21). He suggested the Cadiz Glass Works as the manufacturer, noting that Wallace, the patentee, was one of the founders of the works. Creswick (1987:25) illustrated the jar and both lids, also claiming the Cadiz Glass Works as the maker. The factory made the jar from its inception in 1884 to May of 1885, when Ohio Valley leased the plant and again when Ohio Valley left in 1886 until the plant closed later that year.



Figure 21 – Cadiz lids (North American Glass)

The Roller editors (Roller 2011:121) illustrated an ad for the Cadiz Jar that named John Connell as president and E.W. Houser as secretary of the firm. The ad noted that the plant made “Fruit Jars,

Beer Bottles, and the All Glass Self Sealer Cadiz Jar” (Figure

22). The editors dated the ad June 1880, but

that is unlikely, since Wallace did not apply for the patent until 1882. Despite the ad, the Cadiz Glass Co. probably made the Cadiz jars from 1884 to 1886. The Nail City Glass Co. (see below) made the jars from 1882 to 1884.



Figure 20 – Cadiz Jar (Creswick 1987:25; North American Glass)

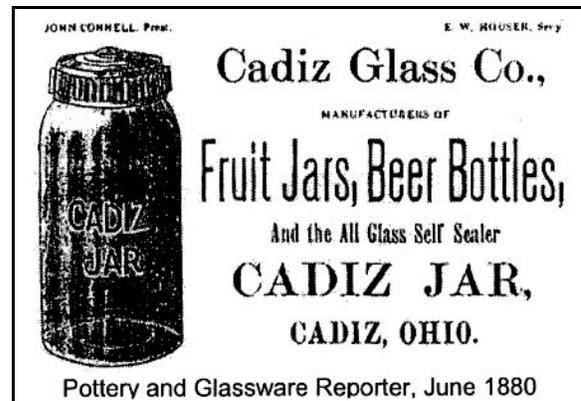


Figure 22 – Cadiz ad (Roller 2011:121)

Other Ohio Valley Glass Houses

Both of these glass houses made other glass products – not bottles or jars (except for battery jar in one case – *very* different from fruit or product jars). Because of the different lines of manufacture, it is highly unlikely that there should be any confusion between the glass houses.

Ohio Valley Glass Co., Pleasant City, Ohio (1902-1905)

In 1902, F.A. Rothier, R.J. Lewis, B.L. Kilgour, P.S. Kiechler and J.H. Cabell incorporated, possibly as the Ohio Valley Glass Co., building a factory – the Pleasant City Glass Works – with a 12-ton continuous tank. By September 22, 1904, H.E. Cobb was president, with W.E. Stephenson as vice president, W.B. Stier as secretary, and J.B. Sullivan as treasurer and manager. The factory made insulators and battery jars at a single continuous tank with eight rings. The short-lived company was in receivership by January 1905, and the Hemingray Glass Co. bought the plant in August 1906 (*American Glass Review* 1934:163; Swies 2006)

Containers and Marks

O.V.G.CO. (1902-1905)

The Ohio Valley Glass Co., Pleasant City, Ohio, used the O.V.G.CO. mark on insulators, but we have not seen or heard of it on bottles or jars (Figure 23). This should not be confused with the Ohio Valley Glass Co. located at Bridgeport, Ohio, that made fruit jars and bottles or the one at Paden City, West Virginia, that made flat glass. See next entry.



Figure 23 – OVCo (Jim White)

Ohio Valley Glass Co., Paden City, West Virginia (1904-at least 1980)

Paul Wissmach opened the Ohio Valley Glass Co. at Paden City, West Virginia, on October 13, 1904. The plant produced raised glass letters, wired glass, colored, rolled sheets and tubing, changing the name to the Paul Wissmach Glass Works in 1910. A gas-line rupture created an explosion destroyed much of the plant on February 18, 1927, although Wissmach rebuilt soon thereafter. The firm remained in business until at least 1980 (Swies 2006).

Discussion and Conclusions

Like many other glass houses, the history of these firms is complex and often confusing. The series of Bridgeport firms began with the Nail City Glass Co. (1882-1883), followed by the Ohio Valley Glass Co. (1883-1886), then the Bridgeport Glass Co. (1887-1896). The Cadiz Jar Co., Cadiz, Ohio, was apparently begun because of a dispute in 1884 between William Wallace, the inventor of the lid process and Charles Rhodes, president of the Ohio Valley Glass Co. The two apparently resolved their differences by 1885, when the Ohio Valley plant burned, and the firm leased the Cadiz factory for a season. Sadly, the dispute in 1884 probably caused the ultimate demise of both the Ohio Valley and Cadiz Glass firms. The OVG jars and Cadiz Jars never achieved the popularity of the Eclipse Jars.

Table 1 – Probable Jar Chronology

Jar	Glass House	Patents	Dates
Eclipse Jar	Nail City Glass Co.	Wallace 1882 & 1883	1883
	Ohio Valley Glass Co.	Wallace 1882 & 1883	1883-1884
OVGCo monogram	Ohio Valley Glass Co.		1884-1886
Hoosier Jar	Ohio Valley Glass Co.	Wallace 1882 & 1883	1883-1884
Mason’s Jar	Ohio Valley Glass Co.		1884-1886
Cadiz Jar	Cadiz Glass Works	Wallace 1883	1884-1886
Economy Sealer	Ohio Valley Glass Co.	Fry 1885	1885-1886
Economy Sealer*	Bridgeport Glass Co.	Fry 1885	1887-ca. 1889

* These would have been the jars with all the embossing ghosted.

To compound the confusion, two other glass firms used the name Ohio Valley Glass Co. – but neither made fruit jars. Although we included brief histories of each of these – and the OVGCo logo used on insulators – they are of no further interest in this study.

By combining historical references, the typical jar sources (primarily Roller 1983 and Creswick 1987), and physical evidence from the jars, we have been able to identify the manufacturers with relative certainty and date the jars within tight parameters. Table 1 provides a chronology of the jars and firms.

We agree with Roller and Creswick that both of the OVGCo monograms were used by the Ohio Valley Glass Co. As noted in the discussion above, both monograms had distinctive similarities that strongly suggest that they were made by the same glass house. The purpose and dating of the smaller monogram, however, still needs more research.

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