

A Marked Coincidence: The CCGCo Logo of the Colorado City Glass Co. and Cream City Glass Co. Part 2 – Cream City Glass Co.

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As noted in Part 1 of this series, both the Colorado City Glass Co. and the Cream City Glass Co. used the same “C.C.G.CO” logo. Both were in business during the same period 1888 (1889 for Colorado City)-1893, and both ceased operations due to the Panic (Depression) of 1893. Despite these similarities, we have discovered ways to tell many of the variations of the marks apart.

The Cream City Glass Co. – the focus of this section – was the third in a series of glass houses that began with the Chase Valley Glass Co., followed by the Wisconsin Glass Co. All three firms produced glass at the same factory, although each made distinct changes to the plant. Cream City mostly specialized in beer and Hutchinson soda bottles, although the plant also made some flasks and fruit jars.

History

Cream City Glass Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1888-1893)

The former Wisconsin Glass Co. factory apparently remained idle for about two years after the plant closed in 1886. On August 8, 1888, however, a new group composed of Arthur P. Ayling, Richard Ogden, and Lewis M. Ogden prepared an incorporation document to create the Cream City Glass Co., with a capital stock of \$20,000 (Figure 1). Using the same plant as the former Wisconsin Glass Co., Cream City claimed its purpose to be

the manufacture and sale of glass-ware, and the manufacture, use, and sale of apparatus for the purpose of using crude petroleum for fuel purposes, and the buying and selling, mortgaging, leasing or otherwise dealing in such real estate as may be necessary in connection with said business (Incorporation Records).

According to Noyes (1962:5), the Cream City Glass Co. “leased *part* of the factory” to make beer bottles (our emphasis – see the “Ongoing Mystery” below). This was in recognition that one of the reasons for the collapse of the Wisconsin Glass Co. was over-diversification – although Cream City later added fruit jars and flasks to its product list.

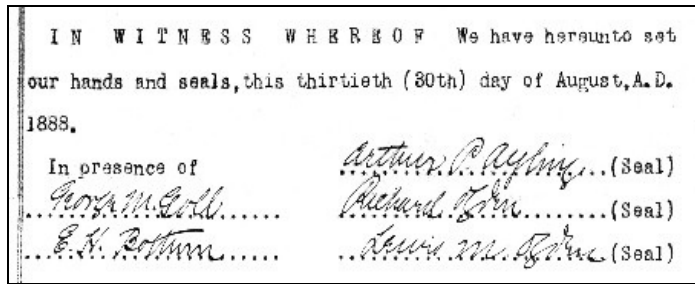


Figure 1 – Signatures of Arthur Ayling, Richard Ogden, and Lewis Ogden on the incorporation papers.

By September 8, 1890, Ayling was president with Richard Ogden as acting secretary. The amendments to the bylaws included raising the capital to \$35,000 and adding the office of vice president – although there was no indication that one was elected. The final meeting on June 26, 1891, increased the capital stock to \$50,000. Ayling remained as president, and Ogden was officially secretary (Incorporation Records).

On September 5, 1891, the *Commoner & Glassworker* reported an August 30 letter from a Milwaukee informant that Cream City had two large furnaces ready for production and a smaller one almost ready to go. “One entire furnace to make Mason jars the whole season, while another one will be nearly all taken up with ‘select’ ware, an order for which has been received from Pabst Brewing Co., which had heretofore gone to Streator Bottle Co.” In October the *Commoner & Glassworker* crowed that Cream City “now is the only factory in operation with 4 day tank furnaces, 1 furnace of 14 rings, and 3 furnaces of 6 rings each. Large ware is made exclusively, fruit jars & beers” (Roller 1998).

Cream City’s glass output for 1892 was valued by the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce at \$237,000. The firm employed 260 people with a total salary of \$117,000. Like its predecessors, the plant again failed, this time due to the depression of 1893, and the company was again reorganized as the Northern Glass Co. (Noyes 1962:5; Reilly 2004 [1997]; Toulouse 1971:119). Although Ayres et al. (1980:12), Noyes (1962:5), and Kupferschmidt & Kupferschmidt (2003:27)¹ all placed the closing date at 1894, the September 6, 1893, issue of

¹ The Kupferschmidts (2003) openly plagiarized the work of Noyes (1962), often copying exact wording with no attribution – although they added long quotations from area newspapers.

China, Glass & Lamps noted that the Cream City Glass Co. had “filed a voluntary assignment [i.e., a notice of bankruptcy]” to Charles F. Hunter on August 29. Chapman J. Root was the superintendent at the time of the closure.

The Ongoing Mystery of Plant No. 1

Originally, the Chase Valley Glass Co. was divided into two plants – No. 1 and No. 2. There is no record of the closing of Plant No. 1, but No. 2 became the Wisconsin Glass Co. and later the Cream City Glass Co. Toulouse (1971:119) claimed that the two plants were “reunited and reorganized as the Wisconsin Glass Co.” What became of the smaller plant (No. 1) after that, however, remains a mystery, but the Kupferschmidts’ notation that Cream City only leased *part* of the former plant may indicate that Cream City only occupied Plant No. 2.

As noted in the Wisconsin Glass Co. section, there is some circumstantial evidence that both plants were open during that period – using slightly different sets of marks. The C.C.G.C. logo described below also had “N^o 1” on the base. If there had only been one factory, why would there be a need for the “N^o 1” embossing? This, too, may be evidence for the use of both plants during this period. We will continue this speculation in our studies of the firms that followed – still in the same location – the Northern Glass Works, Northern Glass Co., and William Franzen & Son.

Bottles and Marks

Toulouse (1971:119) showed only one mark for this company: CCGCo, which he dated 1888 to 1894. Jones (1968:14) noted that the company advertised itself in the *National Bottlers Gazette* as the “only glass bottle Factory in the Northwest.” Reilly (2009) quoted Wayne Kroll as saying that Cream City continued “to use the older bottle moulds from Wisconsin Glass. Many of the Cream City ‘Export’ beer bottles look exactly like those used by Wisconsin Glass.” It is likely, however, that Cream City either peened out the Wisconsin Glass Co. basemarks or used new baseplates.

C.C.G.C. (1888-1894)



Figure 2 – C.C.G.C. N^o 1

We have in our possession an amber beer bottle embossed “E.L. HUSTING (arch) / MILWAUKEE (arch) / WIS. (inverted arch)” on the front in a plate, with “THIS BOTTLE / NOT TO / BE SOLD” on the reverse. The base was embossed “C.C.G.C. (arch) / N^o 1 (horizontal).” There is no question that the C.C.G.C. mark was used by the

Cream City Glass Co. See the discussion above for a possible explanation for the use of “N^o 1” on the base (Figure 2).

An eBay auction offered a Hutchinson bottle with a hexagonal “mug” base embossed “JOHN GRAFF (arch) / MILWAUKEE (horizontal)” on the front. The base was embossed “C.C.G.C. / 2 (both horizontal)” (Figure 3). The logo also appeared above what may have been a “14” (the embossing was unclear) on the base of an amber export beer bottle, offered at an eBay auction.



Figure 3 – C.C.G.C. 2 (Maas 2014)

CCGCo (1888-1894)

This mark appeared with only a single variation in Wilson (1981:114) on bases of amber beer bottles accompanied by the number, 11, in the center. The initials were in an arch at the top of the base (Figure 4). Jones (1966:7; 1968:14) also showed the same base (including the 11). Herskovitz (1978:8) found 22 of these marks on bottle bases accompanied in the center of the bases by numbers ranging from 3 to 21; however, he did not note the placement or configuration of the marks. Brose and Rupp (1967:90-91) noted a “3” associated with the



Figure 4 – C.C.G.CO. – arch (Fort Stanton collection)



Figure 5 – C.C.G.CO. – inverted arch (Fort Stanton)

mark on a quart beer bottle and “Y, X, or nothing” on 12-ounce examples. Unfortunately, they did not describe the configuration of the marks. Ayres et al. (1980) showed a single logo in an inverted arch at the bottom of the base (Figure 5).



Figure 6 – C.C.G.CO. – horizontal basemark (eBay)



Figure 7 – C.C.G.CO. – arch (eBay)

Peters (1996:9) clearly demonstrated that Cream City Glass Co. produced soft drink bottles as well as beers. He noted the C.C.G.CO. mark in



Figure 8 – C.C.G.CO. – horizontal heelmark (eBay)

numerous cases in his book on Wisconsin soda bottles. In addition, Peters (1996:100) noted that on one specific bottle type, the manufacture’s mark appeared on the back heel in one variation and on the base in another. He also listed the mark with full punctuation. Sellers on eBay have offered beer bottles with horizontal basemarks (Figure 6), arched logos on Hutchinson bottles (Figure 7), and heelmarks on Hutchinson bottles (Figure 8). Maas (2014) photographed a John Graf bottle that was identical to the one discussed in the section above, except that this one was embossed “C.C.G.Co.” horizontally across the base (note lower-case “o” in “Co.”).

The Cream City Glass Co. marks, like those of the Wisconsin Glass Co. (see above) divide neatly into two variations, suggesting that the two plants may have remained in operation. As discussed above, none of the histories of the company mention the closing of either of the Chase plants, so they may have both continued in operation. Each plant, therefore, may have used a different configuration of the mark. If the two-plant assumption is correct, the CCGCo mark at the top may have been the logo for plant No. 2 (the larger operation) based on numbers

– although our entire sample is painfully small. It is also possible that the two marks reflect two different time periods. Until and unless a sequencing is discovered, however, both “C.C.G.CO” and “C.C.G.C.” should be dated 1888-1894. In addition, both of these ideas are complicated by the presence of another participant.



Figure 9 – E.L. Husting / Milwaukee (eBay)

The CCGCo mark was also used by the Colorado City Glass Co., Colorado, Colorado, from 1888 to 1893, almost the same time period (see Part 1 of this two-part series for more information on the Colorado firm). As noted in the former section, logos from the two could easily be confused. Geographic proximity, however, should help separate bottles made by the two companies. Bottles found in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico were likely made at Colorado City, while those found in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and other Midwestern states were probably produced at Milwaukee (Figures 9 & 10). Containers marked with CCGCO that were used by Kansas and Nebraska soda bottlers or breweries, however, might be more problematical to positively identify.



Figure 10 – Heelmark on Husting bottle (eBay)

The discussion in Part 1 makes clear distinctions between many of the containers made by the two firms. See the hypotheses and Table 2 in the earlier section for more discussion – also Table 1 below. In summary, the C.C.G.CO. mark appears in the following configurations and bottles made by the Cream City Glass Co.:

1. Arch – base of Hutchinson bottles (Wisconsin *and* Colorado)
2. Arch – base of amber beer bottles (Wisconsin only) – some with very fat letters
3. Inverted arch – base of amber beer bottles (Wisconsin only)
4. Horizontal – base of Hutchinson bottles (Wisconsin *and* Colorado)
5. Back heel of Hutchinson bottles (Wisconsin only)
6. Arch – base of flasks (Wisconsin only) (Figures 11 & 12)



Figure 11 – Basemark on flask (eBay)



Figure 12 – Shoo-fly flask (eBay)

Table 1 – Cream City Logos and Bottles

| Basemark | Heelmark | Side Embossing | Bottle Type |
|--|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| C.C.G.CO. (arch) | | Wis. (round plate) | Hutch |
| C.C.G.CO. (arch) | | Wis. (no plate) | Hutch |
| C.C.G.CO. (inv. arch) | | Wis. (no plate) | Hutch |
| | C.C.G.CO.* | Wis. (round plate) | Hutch |
| C.C.G.Co. (horiz.) | | Wis (no plate) | Hutch |
| C.C.G.C. (horiz.) / 2 | | Wis. (no plate) | Hutch |
| C.C.G.C. (horiz.) / NO. 1** | | Wis. (no plate) | beer |
| C.C.G.Co. (horiz.) / # **† | | Wis. (round plate) | export beer |
| C.C.G.CO. (horiz.) / # ** | | none | export beer |
| C.C.G.Co. (arch) / # [fat letters] **† | | none | export beer |
| C.C.G.CO. (inv. arch) / # ** | | none | export beer |
| C.C.G.CO. (arch) / # [thin letters] ** | | none | export beer |
| C.C.G.CO. (arch) ** | | none | flask |

* Heelmarks are horizontal.

** All or some made in amber glass.

† The “O” in “Co” is slightly smaller than the other letters and is above a period or dot.

Mason Jars

Maas (2014) illustrated a Mason jar that he noted as a “Cream City Glass Co. fruit jar. Includes CCGC which could possibly have been made at Cream City Glass, but it’s not certain. They don’t turn up in the Milwaukee area, but it is known that Cream City Glass made fruit jars so it is a possibility” (Figure 13). The front of the jar is actually embossed “MASON’S (arch) / “CC” (with the second “C” mirroring the first one) / GC (with the “C” again in mirror) / PATENT / NOV. 30TH / 1858 (all horizontal)” (Figure 14). Roller (1983:233) discussed the jar:

Maker is uncertain but may have been at the Colorado City Glass Company in Colorado City, Colorado (1889-1893); the Cream City Glass Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (1888-1894); or the Crystal City Glass Company of Bowling Green, Ohio (1889-1893) all of which were reported to have made fruit jars.

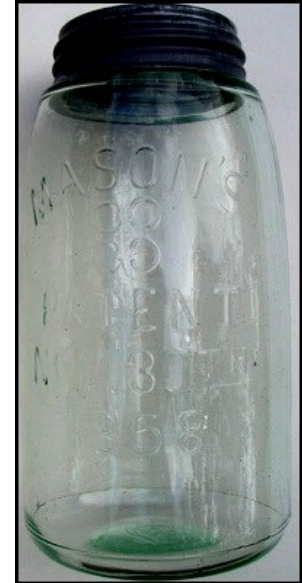


Figure 13 – Cream City fruit jar (Maas 2014)

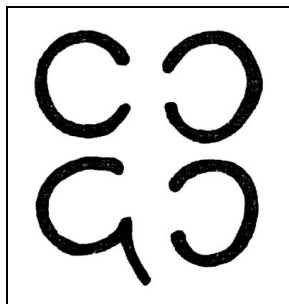


Figure 14 – CCGC logo (Roller 1983:233)

He added that a variation had “D in diamond” on the base. Unfortunately, no one illustrated the Diamond-D logo, and we have not located a photo. The Dominion Glass Co., Montreal, Canada, used a Diamond-D mark from 1928 to the 1970s (King 1987:248). All jars by that time

would have been machine made, but the jars with the “CCGC” logo were all mouth blown. We have not discovered a probable user a 19th century Diamond-D mark.

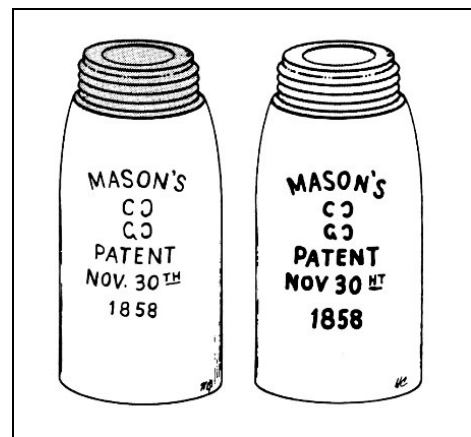


Figure 15 – Cream City fruit jar (Creswick 1987:114)

Creswick (1987:141) illustrated the jars and noted an error variation with “30^{HT}” instead of “30TH” (Figure 15). She did not speculate on the maker. The Roller update (2011:352) noted that “Jerry McCann added further clarification by observing that these jars turn up in the Milwaukee area suggesting Cream City Glass Company. In addition, they are too common to have [been] made by the Colorado City Glass Company and do not turn up in Ohio.”

Discussion and Conclusions

Because both the Cream City Glass Co. and Colorado City Glass Co. used the same marks on similar types of bottles, during an almost identical time period, it is has been difficult to determine which variations belonged to which companies. However, our assessment – presented in its entirety in “A Marked Coincidence, Part 1” – makes a clear distinction between the two firms for most bottle/logos types. On many others, the embossed labels indicated a geographical proximity that should help place the manufacturer. For dating purposes, the specific maker is irrelevant, however, as both firms were in production during almost the exact same period.

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