

Samuel McKee & Co. and the McKee Family Holdings

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

Past researchers have had great difficulty attempting (usually unsuccessfully) to sort out the complex holding of long-term family glass operations (see the section on the Ihmsen glass factories for a good example). Numerous researchers, including Knittle (1926:323-324), McKearin and McKearin (1941:601), Van Rensselaar (1969:181, 184), McKearin and Wilson (1978:155), Ayres et al. (1980:24), Welker and Welker (1985:70-71), Creswick (1987:279), and Toulouse (1971:476-477), have attempted to present histories of the McKee glass plants, often trying to combine diverse holdings into a single entity. Hawkins (2009:127-131, 357-369) has used a combination of primary and secondary sources to create a more palatable history of the various McKee family holdings. We have followed Hawkins but added the Knox & McKee company as well as a few other sources.

Histories

Knox & McKee, Wheeling, (West) Virginia (1824-1830)

The predecessor to Knox & McKee – Lane, Knox & McKee – was a forwarding house (organizing the shipment of goods from the producer to the market) at Pittsburgh prior to 1819. By 1819, the firm was called Knox & McKee, still a forwarding house. Although apparently unrelated to the later McKees, the firm was composed of Redick McKee, Charles Knox, and Noah Zane (Harvard Business School 2012; Toulouse 1971:311). We have not discovered the relationship between Redick and the other McKees discussed below. In 1824, Knox & McKee decided to enter the glass business, purchasing a factory at Wheeling, (West) Virginia.¹

The Wheeling factory was constructed by George Carruthers, Peter Yarnell, and Thomas McGiffin in 1820, producing window glass and all kinds of bottles – although the partnership disbanded the following year. Carruthers then acquired more partners only recorded as Gregg and Pennell (Pennell, Greg & Caruthers), but the primary financial backer, George List,

¹ West Virginia did not become a separate state from Virginia until June 20, 1863.

foreclosed on the property for lack of payment in 1824 – leading to a sheriff’s sale of the property to Knox & McKee for \$4,367 (Toulouse 1971:311-312).

Knox & McKee operated the plant as the Virginia Green Glass Works until 1830 – probably still making both window glass and bottles – when they leased it to Ensell & Plunkett. The lease expired in 1833. By that time, Knox & McKee had built a flint works on the property, but they sold half of their interest in both factories to Jess Wheat and John Price. The group changed the factory name to the Fairview Glass Works with Wheat, Price & Co. as the operating firm. Wheat, Price & Co. made two flasks embossed “WHEAT, PRICE & C^o” on one side and “FAIR VIEW WORKS” on the other. For more information on Fair View Works and the flask bearing that name, see the Other F section. On January 31, 1834, the group sold the plant to John and Craig Richie and George Wilson, who closed the flint works in 1837, only making window glass after that point. Operations finally ceased in 1848. (Freeman 1964:70, 81-8`2; Knittle 1927:389-393; McKearin & Wilson 1978:128-129).

Knox & McKee apparently continued in business as commission agents (jobbers) at 50 St. Clair St., moving to 323 Liberty Ave. at some point – until the firm ceased operations in 1867 or 1868 (Allegheny West 2018; Pittsburgh city directory 1960).

Containers and Marks

Although Knox & McKee certainly made other products, the only container ever recorded as marked with the company name was a single flask.



Figure 1 – Knox & McKee (Norman C. Heckler)

KNOX & MCKEE (1824-1830)

Knittle (927:441) first identified Knox & McKee as the users of this mark on flasks. McKearin & Wilson (1978:128-129, 540-541, 546-547, 556) described and illustrated three flasks, each marked “WHEELING” in an arch at the top of one side and “KNOX & McKEE” in an inverted arch at the bottom of the same side (Figures 1 & 2). At least one of these was also

described by Freeman (1964:70). Toulouse (1971:310) dated the mark from 1824 to 1829, the full tenure of the company (Hawkins [2009] set the closing date at 1830).

K&M

Toulouse (1971:310) cited Knittle (1929:441) as “the authority” for the “K&M” logo, although he noted that “the two historical flasks by Knox & McKee are signed in full.” The initials probably do not exist on flasks.

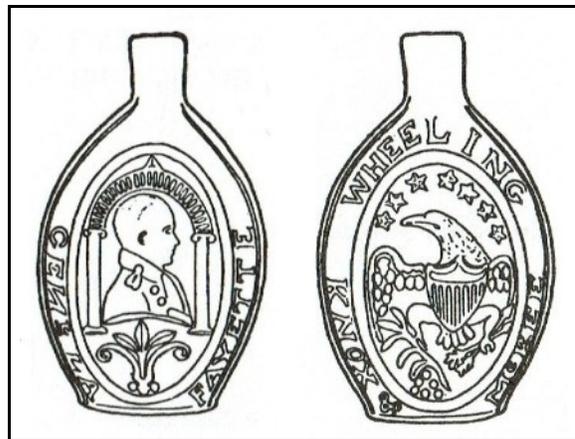


Figure 2 – Knox & McKee (McKearin & Wilson (1978:541)

Samuel McKee & Co., Birmingham (Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania (1836-ca. 1908)

Samuel McKee initially entered the glass business with his brother, James McKee, and James Salisbury – as McKee, Salisbury & Co. (Figure 3). The partners constructed the Sligo Glass Works in 1834 (see the section on William McCully & Co. for more on the Sligo Glass Works). Samuel McKee sold his interest and, with brothers James and Thomas, built the Pennsylvania Glass Works at Birmingham (later a suburb of Pittsburgh) two years later in 1836 – calling themselves S. McKee & Co. The factory was located on the block bordered by South 12th St. (Denman), 13th St., Washington St., and Duncan Alley.² The plant initially made only window glass but was producing bottles and jars by 1839. By 1855, the factory made window glass and a variety of bottles along with fruit and other jars and telegraph insulators. With the deaths of James and Thomas, Samuel was the sole proprietor of the three factories that had evolved on the site by 1860 (Hawkins 2009:364-365; Thurman 1885:179).

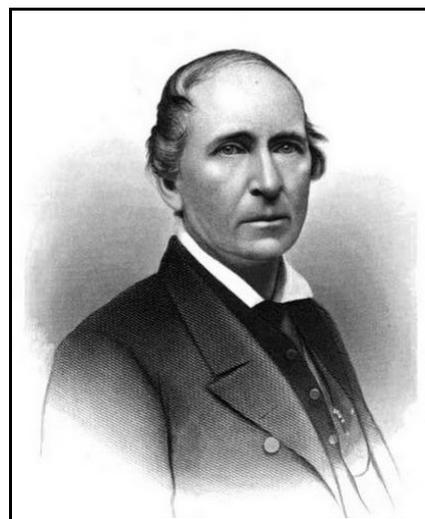


Figure 3 – Samuel McKee (Thurman 1885:378)

² Carson and 16th St. according to Thurman 1885:179).

When Samuel died on July 3, 1876, his sons, Daniel McKee and Christian Ihmsen McKee, along with A.C. Dravo, ran the business, consisting of two window-glass plants (one furnace each, total of 20 pots) and one bottle factory (one furnace, 7 pots). In 1879, the new group demolished the bottle factory and rebuilt a new, eight-pot plant in its place, making beer bottles and druggists' ware. By 1883, they constructed a third window-glass plant. The company announced in 1886 that it would no longer be producing bottles. The plants continued manufacturing window glass until ca. 1908, the last listing for the company, and the factory burned in 1911 (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 1882:59; Hawkins 2009:366-367; Thurman 1885:180; von Mechow 2019).

Containers and Marks

S. M^cKEE & Co (1872-1886)

The "S. M^cKEE & Co" logo has been associated with a number of container types, most notably beer bottles, fruit jars, Hostetter's Bitters, flasks, and insulators (although the last category is not a container).

Beer Bottles

Wilson (1981:124), illustrated this mark as "S. M^cKEE & Co" with superscript "c" and a lower case "o" in "Co." The mark was on the base, in an arch, with a number ranging between 1 and 7 in the center (Figure 4). He found three amber examples at Fort Union (1863-1891). Herskovitz (1978:9) excavated 15 beer bottles with the logo at Fort Bowie (1863-1894), although he did not specify the shape of the mark. However, he recorded numbers from 1 to 8. The pattern noted by Ayres et al. (1980:unnumbered page) had the "1" cocked slightly at an angle compared to the logo



Figure 4 – McKee beer (TUR)

but was otherwise as shown in Wilson including the lower case "o" and the superscript "c." Examples we have seen also had the numerals cocked at an angle to the logos. Jones (1966:8) showed essentially the same mark. Strangely, she did not enumerate the logo in her final volume (Jones 1968). Compared to most beer bottle manufacturer's marks, those from McKee are relatively scarce.

Wilson and Caperton (1994:70) recorded all beer bottle advertising in *The Western Brewer* between 1883 and 1890 as well as samples from issues between 1878 and 1882. S. McKee & Co. (Pennsylvania Glass Works) advertised beer bottles in the journal from mid-1882 to mid-1883. This short timespan may have been the only period when McKee made amber beer bottles. If so, this would explain the paucity of export beer bottles with the S. McKEE mark. It is also possible that the firm had enough customer demand to cease advertising.

Since this mark has been mostly associated with export beer bottles with no side embossing as well as a few champagne beer containers, it can be dated from the mid-1870s to 1886 – although it may only have been used during part of that period. The example viewed by the Bottle Research Group at the Arizona State Museum in 2006 had a two-part, applied finish with a sharp lower ring, indicating a manufacture prior to ca. 1882 (see Lockhart 2007). The TUR example had a lower case “o” in “Co.”

Wax-Sealer Fruit Jars

Toulouse (1969:214-215) recorded “S. M^CKEE & Co.” in an arch at the top of the bases of grooved-ring wax-sealer fruit jars (Figure 5). In his later book, under a heading of McKee & Co., Toulouse (1971:353) corrected himself that it was “more properly S. McKee & Co.” – then more accurately addressed the mark as “S. McKEE & Co., PITTS.” in the “S” section of the book, dating it ca. 1880 (Toulouse 1971:476). Although he did not directly indicate it, he was almost certainly referring to the wax-sealer basemarks.



Figure 5 – Wax-sealer shoulder (North American Glass)



Figure 6 – McKee lid (Roller 1983:249)

Herskovitz (1978:9) also noted this mark, although he recorded the mark as “S. MCKee & Co / Pitts. PA.” Roller (1983:249; 2011:372) listed three variations of the jars and illustrated a metal lid embossed with a key in a keystone at the top, “SM^CKee&Co” in the center, and “PITTSBURGH” in an inverted arch at the bottom (Figure 6). He dated the jars ca. 1860s-1880s.

1. S. M^CKEE & Co. (shoulder)
2. S. M^CKEE & Co. (arch – base)
3. S. M^CKEE & Co. PITTS, PA. (base – in a circle) [We have corrected punctuation throughout – according to examples we have seen.] (Figure 7).

Creswick (1987:155) added several minor variations. She showed the “PITTS, PA” basemark in circles of two different sizes and noted the basemark without the city/state designation both with a number in the center and without – as well as one lacking the “c” in “McK^CEE” (Figure 8).



Figure 7 – Wax-sealer bases (Jay Hawkins, eBay)

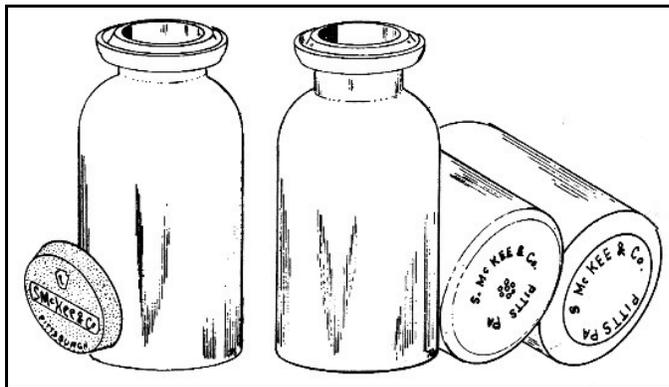


Figure 8 – Wax-sealer variations (Creswick 1987:155)

She noted a final variation – with the city/state – that was also embossed “W McC & Co.” – the logo of William McCully & Co. She had no explanation for the mixing of glass houses – nor do we. The most likely suggestion is a misreading by a collector who reported the mark to Creswick. Creswick also noted the metal lid described by Roller.



Figure 9 – Star base (North American Glass)

In addition, Creswick (1987:155) included four variations of basemarks on wax-sealers embossed “S. M^CKEE & Co.” on the shoulder.

1. Small, five-pointed star on base (Figure 9)
2. S. M^CKEE & Co. PITTS, PA in a circle
3. S. M^CKEE & Co. (arch) above a large, five-pointed star
4. S. M^CKEE & Co. (arch) but a ghosted S. McK^CEE & Co. on the shoulder (Figure 10).

In our sample, the “PITTS, PA.” designation only appeared on wax-sealer fruit jar bases – not on other container types. According to Hawkins (2009:368), S. McKee & Co. made at least ten variations of wax-sealer fruit jars.

Hostetter’s Bitters

Wilson and Wilson (1969:36-37) showed DR. J. HOSTETTER’S STOMACH BITTERS bottle bases embossed with the “S. M^CKEE & Co.” marks (Figure 11). In one case, the “S” and “K” were reversed (although we have not seen that example). They dated the bottles at 1870 and 1871. However, the Wilsons (1969:34) noted that McKee made the first of the embossed Hostetter’s bottles in 1859 – although many other glass houses followed suit. Fike (1987:36) also stated that



Figure 11 – Hostetter’s bottle (eBay)

McKee made Hostetter’s bottles but failed to address the specific marks. Ring (1980:255) noted that the S. M^CKee & Co. marks were accompanied by the numbers 1 and 7. Siri (2007:60) illustrated the same mark and noted numbers “1” or “6” in the center. The base with a reversed and upside-down number “1” was embossed with the logo in an inverted arch (Figure 12).

The actual numbers and variations are much more interesting than those noted in the literature above. Because the Hostetter’s bottles are popular with collectors, we have discovered an interesting set of patterns (with a sample mostly from eBay auctions). These are in three formats: 1) 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 below an arched logo; 2) a reversed 1 above a mark with an inverted arch; and 3) a 3 below “S. M^CK & Co.” In addition, the letters 1, 2, and 4 appear in two different forms.

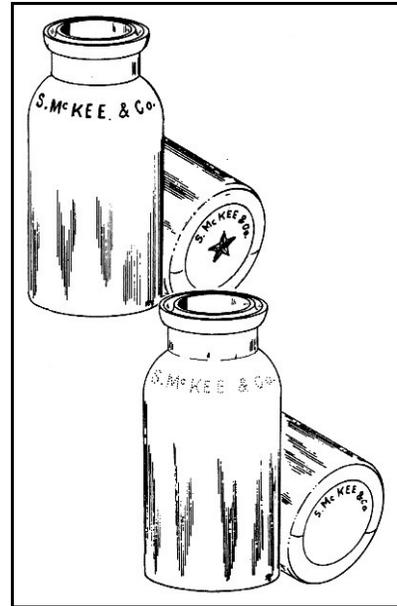


Figure 10 – Wax-sealer variations (Creswick 1987:155)

McKee made Hostetter’s bottles but failed to address the specific marks. Ring (1980:255) noted that the S. M^CKee & Co. marks were accompanied by the numbers 1 and 7. Siri (2007:60)

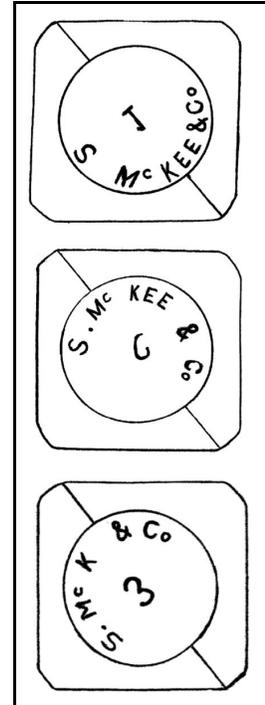


Figure 12 – Hostetter’s bases (Siri 2007:60)

One set of numbers (1, 2, 4 – apparently the earlier set) was much more crudely made than the later series (Figure 13). As noted above, this earlier 1 was reversed and was upside-



Figure 13 – Hostetter’s bases (eBay)



Figure 14 – Hostetter’s base (eBay)

down in relation to the inverted arch “S. M^CKEE & Co.” In the second example, the 2 was looped at the bottom and upside-down in aspect compared with the arched “S. M^CKEE & Co.” The 4 in this series was very crude and was sideways in relation to the arched logo. We can hypothesize that these were the first set of Hostetter’s bottles, made by McKee in 1856. These molds may have worn out (including a probable No. 3 mold) to be replaced by a second set of seven molds, or the others may have been made

later. Several glass houses made Hostetter’s bottles, many with no manufacturer’s marks, but, as far as we know, only Siri (2005:58-60) has seriously attempted to create a chronology.

Numbers in the second set were less crudely engraved and were generally in line with the accompanying logos. Numbers 1, 3, 4, and 5 were embossed in the correct aspect compared to the arched logos. No. 2 was seriously cocked to the right, but 6 and 7 were only tilted at slight angles. All of the marks were arched, and, as noted above, only No. 3 used the “M^CK” initials instead of the full last name (Figure 14).



Figure 15 – Flask

Flasks

Hawkins (2009) also noted that the mark had been found on plain-sided coffin flasks. We have recorded an interesting variation of that use, where “S. M^CKEE & Co.” was embossed

horizontally across the base (Figures 15 & 16). What makes this mark unusual is that it was placed across the mold lines on the base. Making all three parts (the two sides and the post-bottom baseplate) match – or engraving while holding all three parts together – must



Figure 16 – Flask base



Figure 17 – Flask base (Jay Hawkins)

have been quite a feat! At least two molds were embossed across the lines, each with the lettering in a different place (Figure 17).

Insulators (ca. 1960s)

McDougald and McDougald (1990:15) noted that the firm made CD-731 insulators “during the mid-1860s” and marked them “S. M^cKEE & CO.” Threadless insulators were replaced by threaded ones beginning in 1865. Few threadless insulators were produced after that date. Hawkins (2009:368-369) confirmed the identification, describing the insulators as “the threadless type in aqua and light-blue glass” (Figure 18).



Figure 18 – Insulator (Jay Hawkins)

S.M'KEE (1836-1870s)

The S.M'KEE mark appears on the side of a single style of scroll flask (Hawkins 2009; McKearin & McKearin 1941:574;



Figure 20 – M'Kee (Jay Hawkins)

McKearin & Wilson 1978:155; 423, 623). The mark was probably early and can be dated from 1836 to the early 1870s (Figures 19 & 20).

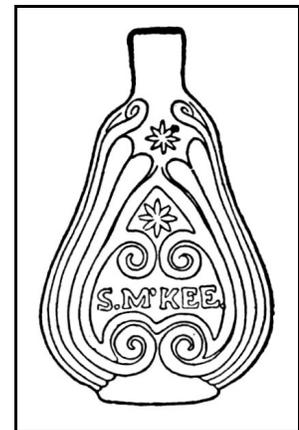


Figure 19 – M'Kee flask (McKearin & Wilson (1978:623)

S. M^CK & Co (1872-1886)

Wilson and Wilson (1969:36-37) showed the “S. M^CK & Co.” mark on a single Dr. Hostetter’s Stomach Bitters bottle base. Siri (2005:60) illustrated the same base (see Figure 12). He only found the mark with a “3” in the center of the base (see discussion of the Hostetter’s basemarks above).

Bryce, McKee & Co., Birmingham, Pennsylvania (1850-1854)

James Bryce, along with Robert, John, Frederick, and James McKee, plus eleven others, initiated the firm of Bryce, McKee & Co. in 1850 at the corner of South 21st and Wharton Streets at Birmingham, Pennsylvania (later to become Southside Pittsburgh). The firm had three separate plants, each with its own furnace, a total of 31 pots. Although the plant was established to make tableware, it also produced some bottles and lamps. The partnership dissolved in 1854 (Hawkins 2009:98-99). We have discovered no marks used by this firm.

John was the brother of Thomas, James, Samuel, and Daniel, the eldest in the family. When Thomas and James joined Samuel to form S. McKee & Co., John struck out with Bryce – along with Frederick and James, the sons of Thomas. Why James and Frederick followed John into business with Bryce instead of joining their father with Samuel is unknown.

F.&J. McKee, Birmingham, Pennsylvania (1854 to 1858/59)

Upon the dissolution of Bryce, McKee & Co., Frederick and James McKee (sons of Thomas McKee) formed F.&J. McKee & Co., also in Birmingham, in 1854 and built their factory on the corner of S. 18th and Bingham Streets. The plant was small, with a single furnace and nine pots. Despite the size, the brothers manufactured tableware, bottles, vials, and window glass, although tableware was the primary product. In 1859, the firm again reformed as F. McKee & Brother (Hawkins 2009:357).

Containers and Marks

Stout (1972:24-25) illustrated a large variety of marks used by this branch of the McKee family. The marks are all taken from tableware, however, and are not pertinent to our discussion of bottles. Stout (1972:13, 85, 403-406) noted the limited involvement of the McKee Brothers with bitters bottles and showed various bar bottles offered by the company at various times. As noted above, production from this branch of the McKee family was predominantly tableware, although the plants certainly made some jars and bottles.

F&J McKEE / PITTSBURGH / PA

This mark is found on the lids of colorless, pontil-scarred fruit jars. Roller (1983:250; 2011:372) noted that the jar was unembossed, but the lid was embossed on the bottom with “F.&J. M^CKEE (arch) / PITTSBURGH. / PA (both horizontal)” (Figures 21 & 22). He dated the jars ca. 1850s and added that “this bell shaped jar was one of the earliest forms of food preserving containers.” Creswick (1987:156) illustrated the “M^CKEE” variation and an earlier lid that was embossed “PATENT APPLIED FOR” in an arch and had what appeared to be a cut knob on the lid – more like a tableware closure than that of a fruit jar. The patent was apparently never received. The later one was embossed as noted above and had a rounded knob (Figure 23).



Figure 22 – F.&J. McKee lid (North American Glass)



Figure 21 – F.&J. McKee jar (North American Glass)

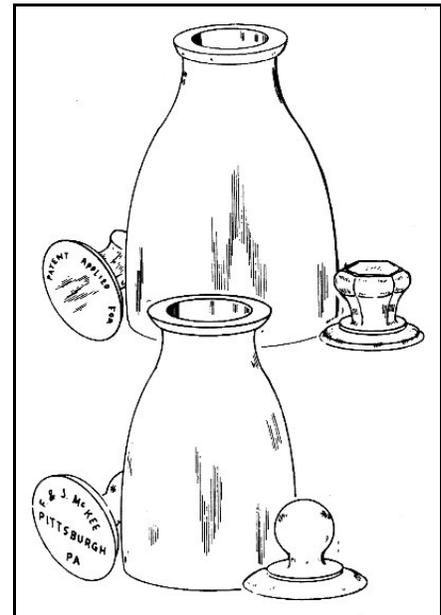


Figure 23 – F.&J. McKee jar (Creswick 1987:156)

Creswick dated the lids/jars at 1853-1857, although they may have been made as early as 1850. She further explained:

These two blown jars from the collection of Norman Barrett, have flanged lips that are ground. The bottom of the stoppers are also ground, and the seal was made by wetting the two surfaces and joining. The vacuum caused by the cooling fruit, aided in the sealing.

F. McKee & Brother, Birmingham, Pennsylvania (ca. 1859)

McKee & Brother, Birmingham, Pennsylvania (ca. 1859/60 to 1867)

McKee & Brothers, Birmingham, Pennsylvania (1867 to 1899)

For reasons never explained, the firm was renamed F. McKee & Brother in 1859, simplifying the name to McKee & Brother the following year. Another brother, Stewart McKee, joined the firm in 1864. When he became a full partner in 1867, the company was renamed McKee & Brothers. By 1876, the brothers operated four furnaces with a total of 40 pots. They built a new plant in March 1880, with a new Nicholson furnace. Production was reduced in 1884, when a flood caused severe damage (Hawkins 2009:359-361).

The brothers built a new factory at Jeannette, Pennsylvania, in 1888, apparently making the same or similar products. Hawkins (2009:360) left the cryptic message that “the glassworks appears to have been part of or attached to the same as the bottle works erected at Jeanette in 1888 by Chambers & McKee Glass Co.” See Chambers & McKee below.

At that point, they leased the Pittsburgh factories to the King Glass Co. and transferred everything but an office to the Jeannette location. King relinquished the lease the following year, and the plant fell into disuse (for more on the King operation, see the Other K section). The McKee Brothers joined the combine to form the National Glass Co. in 1899 – at which point, the remaining McKees retired from the glass business – and the company remained a part of that group until 1903, when it became the McKee-Jeannette Glass Co. (Hawkins 2009:360-361).

McKee-Jeannette Glass Co., Jeannette, Pennsylvania (1904 to 1908)

McKee Glass Co., Jeanette, Pennsylvania (1908 to 1951)

A new group, formed around former McKee manager, Andrew Jackson Smith, leased the Jeanette plant from National ca. 1904, under the name of the McKee-Jeanette Glass Co. The

firm reorganized as the McKee Glass Co. in 1908, still making tableware. In 1951, the Thatcher Mfg. Co. bought the firm – operating as the McKee Division of the Thatcher Glass Co. – but sold it to the Jeanette Glass Co. a decade later (November 1, 1961). Another decade passed, and the firm became the Jeanette Corp. (1971). The plant finally closed in 1983 (Hawkins 2009:360-361). See the Other J section for more on Jeanette.

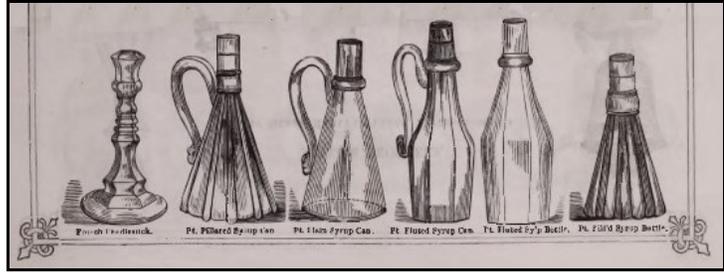


Figure 24 – 1868 McKee Bros catalog

Containers and Marks

Several Jeanette products – especially bases in archaeological contexts – could be mistaken for bottles. Such items as jelly glasses, molasses cans, beer, ale, and champagne glasses, decanters, water bottles, and other types of tableware are all containers and have similar body shapes to bottles or jars as shown in the McKee & Brothers catalogs for 1868 and 1882 (Figures 24 & 25). Therefore, we have included the McKee Glass Co. logos most likely to be identified as bottle marks below.



Figure 25 – 1882 McKee Bros catalog

McK in a Circle

The McKee Glass Co. embossed the McK-in-a-circle logo on the bases of pressed-glass items (Hawkins 2009:363). Although Hawkins was not specific about products, tumblers and similar tableware often were made using a press system rather than blowing (Figure 26).

McKEE



Figure 27 – McKee Hone (Jay Hawkins)

Hawkins (2009:363) noted that “McKee” was embossed on the “bottom of a ‘glass safety razor hone’ and other pressed glass”

(Figure 27). The actual piece was embossed “MCKEE / GLASS SAFETY / RAZOR HONE / PAT. APPLIED FOR.” In addition, eBay sellers have offered colorless nursers embossed “MCKEE / NURSER / HEAT /



Figure 26 – Circle-McK (Jay Hawkins)

RESISTING / GLASS” inside a keystone on the side and “MADE IN U.S.A.” on the base (Figure 28). The combination of the name and the keystone makes the family identification certain, and “MADE IN U.S.A.” indicates a manufacture later than the adoption of the McKee Glass Co. name in 1908. The nursers were probably made between ca. 1920 and 1940, when continuous-thread finishes became popular on nursers.



Figure 28 – McKee Nursers (eBay)

McK. G. CO. (1908-1951)

Sellers on eBay have offered colorless glass cruets embossed “McK. G. CO. / U.S. 1951” on the bases (Figure 29) and an identically marked cream pitcher (with the logo and date reversed (Figure 30). The logo clearly belongs to the McKee Glass Co., but “1951” could be a model number – although a date cannot be entirely ruled out. These were certainly made by the McKee Glass Co. during the 1908-1951 period, and the 1951 *could* have been commemorating the sale of the firm that year.

Chambers & McKee, Pittsburgh (1888-1889)

Chambers & McKee, Jeanette, Pennsylvania (1888-ca. 1892)

McKee Glass Co. (1892-1899)

The successor to A.&D.H. Chambers (see that section), Chambers & McKee had several principals, including James A. Chambers and H. Sellers McKee (another son of Thomas – see above). Construction of the new plant began on January 4, 1888, at what would soon become the town of Jeanette, Pennsylvania, built around the glass house. Meanwhile the company continued to use the former A.&D.H.

Chambers factory in Pittsburgh for another year. In all, the company operated four separate window-glass factories at the same Jeanette location (Figure 31). The plants produced their first glass in May 1889, and the firm closed the Pittsburgh plant at that time (Hawkins 2009:129-130).



Figure 30 – McG Co pitcher (eBay)

business until purchased by American Saint-Gobain in 1958 (Hawkins 2009:130).

Chambers & McKee also built a new glass house at Jeanette in 1888 to produce bottles. In 1890, H. Sellers McKee adopted the semiautomatic machines invented by Michael Owens. Along with bottles, the



Figure 29 – McG Co cruet (eBay)

Chambers suffered financial difficulties in 1893 and withdrew from the firm. McKee renamed the company the McKee Glass Co. Chambers rebounded well, however. He formed the American Window Glass Machine Co. in 1899, uniting the McKee Glass Co. and 19 more. The firm was renamed the American Window Glass Co. in a

1904 reorganization, and it remained in the flat-glass

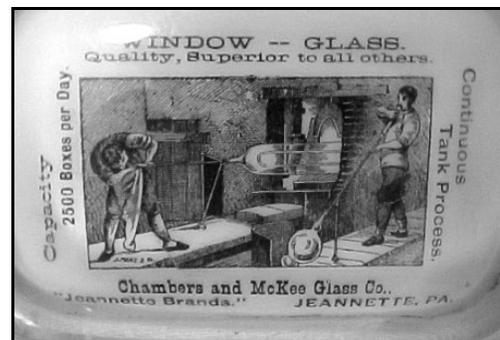


Figure 31 – Chambers & McKee paperweight (eBay)

plant made jars, tumblers, and lamp chimneys. Hawkins (2009:131) noted that “the final disposition of the glassworks is unclear.” Although Chambers & McKee used a logo of an eagle holding a blowpipe and a “C” with “CHAMBERS” at the top surrounding a five-point star, these were only used on window glass, and we have not discovered a mark for containers. See the section on A.&D.H. Chambers (A Volume) for more information on the Chambers holdings (including Chambers & McKee).

Discussion and Conclusion

With the exception of Daniel, Jr., all of the sons of Daniel McKee – John, Thomas, James, and Samuel – entered the glass business, although the father of the clan never seems to have been involved, himself. Thomas and James joined Samuel in S. McKee & Co., while John formed a partnership with Thomas’ sons – Frederick & James – in Bryce, McKee & Co. When that firm dissolved, Frederick and James set out on their own as F.&J. McKee, adding younger brother, Stewart, in 1864. The McKees seem to have left the business in 1904, shortly after the move to Janette. A final son of Thomas, H. Sellers McKee, joined James A. Chambers as Chambers & McKee in 1888. The remaining McKee children apparently followed other lines of work.

As detailed above, S. McKee & Co. used the firm name to mark fruit jars and certain bottle types (beer, Hostetter’s Bitters, and some flasks) as well as insulators. The vast majority of the firm’s products were almost certainly not identified in any way, and all but the wax-sealer fruit jars were probably produced during limited periods.

Since McKee used mold numbers on his beer and Hostetter’s Bitters bottles, we can speculate about length of manufacture. As noted in the discussion in the report above, the Hostetter’s numbers suggest two different periods of production, one much earlier because of the crudity of the engraving. These were numbered 1-4 with the second set of molds numbered 1-7. Since McKee produced the very first Hostetter’s bottles ever used, these early ones may have been made in 1856. The second production likely indicated a later large order from Hostetter.

The beer bottles had numbers 1-8, also probably indicating a fairly brief production history – possibly until the molds wore out. When Wilson & Caperton reviewed advertisements

in the *Western Brewer*, they only discovered ads for McKee during the period from mid-1882 to mid-1883, so the bottles may not have been made for a much longer time.

The other McKee family holdings all manufactured tableware – and only few containers – with just a few markings relevant to this study. Of particular interest is the early (and quite unusual) fruit jar made by F.&J. McKee.

Acknowledgments

We wish to express our gratitude to Greg Spurgeon for allowing us to reproduce the photos from North American Glass and Doug Lebourne for letting us use the drawings from the Alice Creswick books. Additional thanks to the Norman C. Heckler & Co. for granting us permission to use the photos from auctions. A final bouquet of gratitude to Wanda Wakkinen for proofreading these volumes.

Sources

Allegheny West

2018 “The Knoxes.” <http://alleghenywest.org/the-knoxes/>

Ayres, James E., William Liesenbien, Lee Fratt, and Linda Eure

1980 “Beer Bottles from the Tucson Urban Renewal Project, Tucson, AZ.” Unpublished manuscript, Arizona State Museum Archives, RG5, Sg3, Series 2, Subseries 1, Folder 220.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1882 *Annual Report of the Secretary of Internal Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Part II: Industrial Statistics, Vol. IX, 1880-81*. Lane S. Hart, State Printer and Binder, Harrisburg.

Creswick, Alice

1987 *The Fruit Jar Works, Vol. I, Listing Jars Made Circa 1820 to 1920's*. Douglas M. Leybourne, N. Muskegon, Michigan.

Fike, Richard E.

1965 *Handbook for the Bottle-ologist*. Privately printed, Ogden, Utah.

Freeman, Larry

1964 *Grand Old American Bottles*. Century House, Watkins Glen, NY.

Harvard Business School

2012 "Cambridge Core: Manufacturer's Drummer, 1832."

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/business-history-review/article/manufacturers-drummer-1832/953D71CF6C37872A4C830F622209D0DD#>

Hawkins, Jay W.

2009 *Glasshouses & Glass Manufacturers of the Pittsburgh Region, 1795-1910*.

iUniverse, Inc., New York.

Herskovitz, Robert M.

1978 *Fort Bowie Material Culture*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Jones, May

1966 *The Bottle Trail, Volume 6*. Nara Vista, New Mexico.

Knittle, Rhea Mansfield

1927 *Early American Glass*. Appleton-Century, New York.

Lockhart, Bill

2007 "The Origins and Life of the Export Beer Bottle." *Bottles and Extras* 18(3):49-57, 59.

McDougald, John & Carol McDougald

1990 *A History and Guide to North American Glass Pintype Insulators*. Volumes 1 & 2.

The McDougalds, St. Charles, Ill.

McKearin, Helen and George McKearin

1941 *American Glass*. Crown Publishers, New York.

McKearin, Helen and Kenneth M. Wilson

1978 *American Bottles & Flasks and Their Ancestry*. Crown Publishers, New York.

McKee & Brothers

1868 *Prices of Glassware Manufactured by M'Kee & Brothers*. McKee & Brothers, Pittsburgh. [Corning Museum of Glass]

1882 *Illustrated Catalog, McKee & Brothers*. McKee & Brothers, Pittsburgh. [Corning Museum of Glass]

Ring, Carlyn

1980 *For Bitters Only*. Nimrod Press, Boston.

Roller, Dick

1983 *Standard Fruit Jar Reference*. Privately published.

2011 *Standard Fruit Jar Reference: 2011 Update*. Edited by Jerome McCann and Barry Bernas. Fruit Jar Annual/Phoenix Press, Chicago.

Siri, Richard

2005 "Hostettters Variants." *Bottles and Extras* 16(3):58-60.

Stout, Sandra McPhee

1972 *The Complete Book of McKee Glass*. Trojan Press, North Kansas City, Missouri.

Thurman, A.G.

1885 "Samuel McKee." *National Magazine* 3:379-380.

Toulouse, Julian Harrison

1969 *Fruit Jars*. Thomas Nelson & Sons, Camden, New Jersey.

1971 *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*. Thomas Nelson, New York.

Van Rensselaer, Stephen

1969 *Early American Bottles and Flasks*. Rev. Ed. J. Edmund Edwards, Stratford, Conn.

Von Mechow, Tod

2019 "Soda & Beer Bottles of North America: Bottle Attributes - Beer & Soda Bottle Manufacturers." <http://www.sodasandbeers.com/SABBottleClosures.htm>

Welker, John and Elizabeth Welker

1985 *Pressed Glass in America: Encyclopedia of the First Hundred Years, 1825-1925*. Antique Acres Press, Ivyland, Pennsylvania.

Wilson, Bill and Betty Wilson

1969 *Western Bitters*. Old Time Bottle Publishing Co., Salem, Oregon.

Wilson, John P. and Thomas J. Caperton

1994 "Fort Selden, New Mexico: Archaeological Investigations of the Latrines and Magazine, 1974-1976." *The Artifact* 32(2-4):i-ix,1-145).

Wilson, Rex

1981 *Bottles on the Western Frontier*. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Last updated 2/18/2019