

## Later Smalley Companies

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In 1905, Albert G. Smalley's youngest son, Edgar, broke away from his father's company (now run by his mother and older brother) along with John L. Kivlan (a former secretary for A.G. Smalley & Co. and Charles F. Onthank. The trio formed the Smalley Jar Co., until the original firm sued the new upstarts, forcing a name change to Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank in 1907. Like A.G. Smalley & Co., all of the offshoots were jobbers in jars and other products rather than manufacturers. When Edgar Smalley died in 1921, his partners carried on as Kivlan & Onthank until ca. 1929. The firms mainly relied on Kivlan's numerous patents to provide new closures.

### Patents – John L. Kivlan

The mainstay of the three glass jobbers addressed in this study was a series of patents owned by John L. Kivlan, one of the partners/incorporators of the firms and a prolific inventor. He patented at least ten jar-related inventions, including six closures and a machine for attaching fittings to a jar. The companies addressed below embossed the dates of five of the Kivlan patents on their products.

February 23, 1909

John L. Kivlan applied for a patent on October 31, 1908, and received Patent No. 913,214 for a "Jar-Closure" on February 23, 1909 (Figure 1). This was the first patent to use Kivlan's idea of two metal clips to hold a glass lid in place and was probably the patent most extensively used by Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank. It may have been the idea that sparked the trio into opening the business three years prior to the patent application.

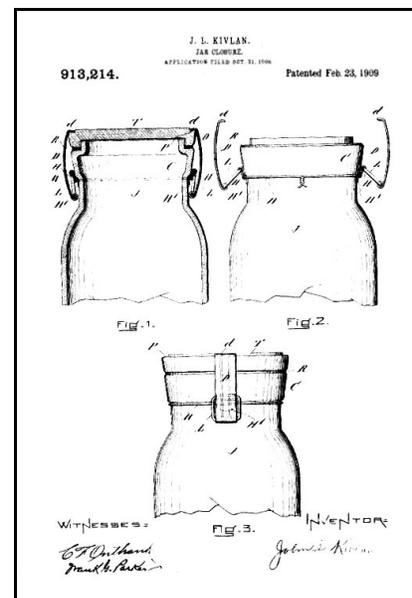


Figure 1 – Kivlan's first 1909 patent

Caniff (2007:6) explained that the earliest recorded use of these clamps was on a “BLUE RIBBON” fruit jar on an August 10, 1909, Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank billhead, although the jar was embossed “PATENT APPLIED FOR” – a sure sign that it was produced prior to the patent date (see below). Caniff (2007:6) added that the clasps were called “KOLD-PROSSO KLASPS” – referring to cold-process canning, and the lids were named “KANT KRACK COVERS.” The latter name was based on the occasional cracking of the lids of the Lightning closures. We can speculate that the heavy use of the letter “K” in the names is a lightly disguised nod to John L. Kivlan.

April 27, 1909

Kivlan applied for a patent on September 3, 1907, and received Patent No. 920,068 for a “Combined Cover and Handle for Milk Jars and the Like” on April 27, 1909 (Figure 2). This was apparently only used on the Handy Jar, made only for Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank (see below). This patent was apparently only used for a single application.

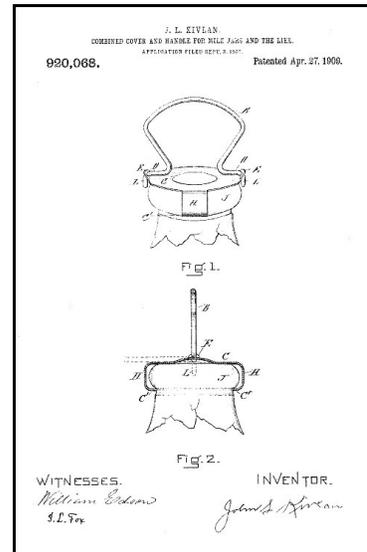


Figure 2 – Kivlan’s second 1909 patent

December 7, 1915

Kivlan filed for a patent for a “Jelly Jar and Cover Therefor” on July 26, 1915 and received Patent No. 1,163,547 on December 7 of that year. Although this was not listed by any of the fruit jar sources, it was apparently used on a jelly jar featured on TreasureNet.com (Figure 3).

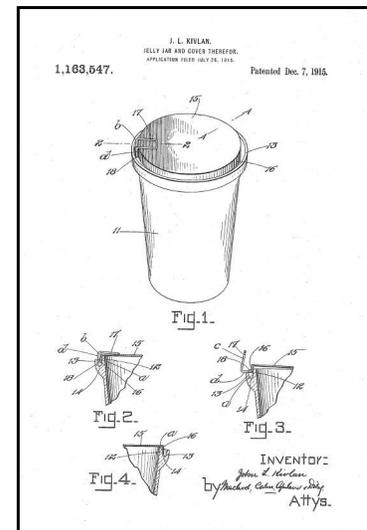


Figure 3 – Kivlan’s 1915 patent

August 3, 1920

Kivlan applied for a patent on April 28, 1920, and received Patent No. 1,348,808 for a “Canning Process” on August 3 of the same year. The process was actually for “hermetically sealing vessels generally.”

November 23, 1920

On January 15, 1920, Kivlan applied for a patent for a “Jar-Lifter” and received Patent No. 1,360,227 on November 23 of the same year.

June 21, 1921

Kivlan applied for a patent on March 7, 1919, and received Patent No. 1,383,285 for a “Jar-Closure” on June 21, 1921 – more than two years and three months later (Figure 4). This patent was an improvement on the 1909 double-clasp closure used for a few product jars made for Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank as well as product jars, Queen jars, and Victory jars produced for Kivlan & Onthank. The main change seems to have been the replacement of the metal strips (as clips) by wire devices. Interestingly, the wire device shows up on some of the Creswick drawings of jars with the 1921 patent (see below).

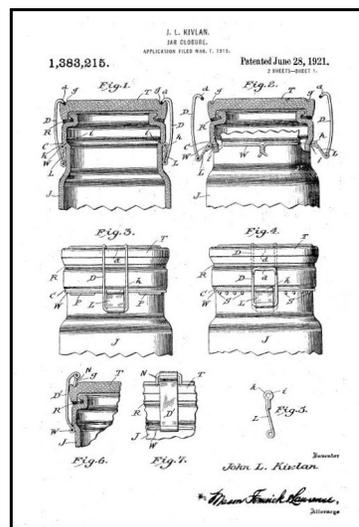


Figure 4 – Kivlan’s 1921

May 22, 1923

On January 12, 1921, Kivlan applied for a patent and received Patent No. 1,456,276 for a “Jar-Trimming Machine” on May 22, 1923. This machine was for applying the trimmings (i.e., the metal wires) to fruit jars.

November 15, 1927

On February 16, 1925, Kivlan applied for a patent for a “Closure for Fruit Jars” and received Patent No. 1,649,599 on November 15, 1927. This was the only one of Kivlan’s closure patents that was apparently never used.

April 2, 1929

Kivlan applied for his final patent on March 11, 1927 but did not receive Patent No. 1,707,439 for a “Spring Jar Closure” until April 2, 1929 – almost two years later (Figure 5). The

patent returned to metal clips (replacing the wire devices of the 1921 patent) but the size and style were much reduced in size. This patent was used on Victory jars and was embossed on the bases of some Queen jars with the Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank name on the bases – even though that firm became Kivlan & Onthank in 1921 (see discussion in the Queen section below).

## Histories

A.G. Smalley & Co. succeeded A.E. Buck & Co., jobbers in bottles, jars, and related goods, in 1877 and remained in business until 1906, the year Smalley suffered a crippling stroke.

Smalley’s widow, Elizabeth, and son Frank H. Smalley,

incorporated the business that year as A.G. Smalley & Co., Inc.

In 1915, they reorganized the firm as the Smalley Fruit Jar Co. The Business failed in 1917 or 1918. See the section on A.G. Smalley & Co. in the “A” volume of this work. Although all of these firms “advertised as though they were bottle makers, they were, in fact, jobbers of bottles, china, and related supplies” (Toulouse 1971:312).

## Smalley Jar Co., Boston, Massachusetts (1905-1907)

Toulouse (1969:355; 1971:447-448) noted that the Smalley Jar Co. was a subsidiary of A.G. Smalley & Co. that was established in 1905 and closed in 1911. Roller (1997) called earlier writings “incorrectly written histories” of the company. Roller noted that Frank Smalley’s younger brother, Edgar, began working for the firm by ca. 1894. Upon the death of the senior Smalley in 1906, Edgar separated from his mother and older brother in A.G. Smalley & Co. – along with John L. Kivlan and Charles F. Onthank; the three formed the Smalley Jar Co. in 1906. In reality, Edgar Smalley, John Kivlan, and Charles Onthank incorporated as the Smalley Jar Co. on January 25, 1905, with a capital of \$1,000 (Olin 1945:46).

Mrs. Smalley and Frank sued Edgar and his two partners over the name and won. The partners then called themselves Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank. Kivlan had been a secretary of the firm since at least 1900 and was the inventor of several jar closure designs. It is likely that the

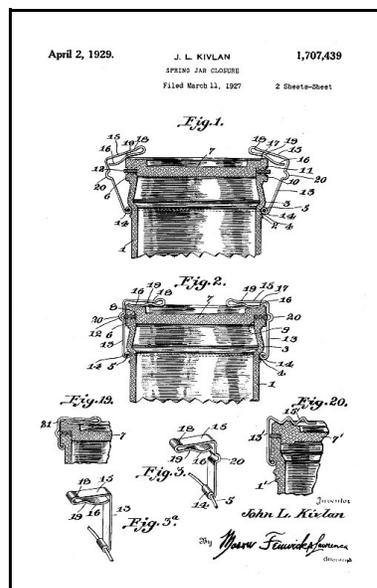


Figure 5 – Kivlan’s 1929

partners set up this firm to take advantage of Kivlan's earliest invention, even though he did not apply for that patent until 1908.

### **Containers and Marks**

We have found no jars embossed with the Smalley Jar Co. name. However, it is possible that the earliest "Double Safety" jar, embossed with an SKO monogram, was made for this firm and continued in use by the successor, Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank (see below).

### **Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank, Boston, Massachusetts (1907-1921)**

Information about this firm is sparse. After the lawsuit that forced them to discontinue the use of the Smalley Jar Co. name, Edgar Smalley, John L. Kivlan, and Charles F. Onthank reorganized as Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank at 21 Blackstone in 1907. Toulouse (1971:312) set the date when the firm became Kivlan & Onthank at 1919, but Roller (1983:301) noted the reorganization after Edgar Smalley's death in 1921. Even though John Kivlan and Charles Onthank stopped using Smalley's name in 1921, they did not officially end the business until the courts forced involuntary bankruptcy on the pair as Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank on September 15, 1925 (*Boston Herald* 9/16/1925).

### **Containers and Marks**

Caniff (2015:17-20) composed a report on the four Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank pamphlets collected by Dick Roller. These provide a wealth of information. Along with its own brands (discussed below), the firm discussed nine jar trade names from other companies (mostly jobbers and grocers), such as Chef, Empire, Green Mountain, Monarch, Wears Jar, etc. It is interesting that all of these additional jars (at least the ones illustrated by Caniff) had old-style Lightning closures. He showed an interesting exception on the page of Chef fruit jars. Of three jars illustrated, two of them had the Lightning closures, but the third jar had the double-clip closure of Kivlan's 1909 patent.

Roller (1983:301) suggested 1919 as the approximate date for the pamphlet, probably based on that date on a Queen jar page (see the Queen section below). The Queen pamphlet (and

probably the rest) certainly could not predate 1919 and could not postdate the change in company name in 1921. They thus provide a cameo shot of the firm shortly before Smalley’s death.

**SKO Monogram (1907-ca. 1910)**

This monogram appeared only on the base of a single variation of the Double Safety jars (Figure 6). This was probably one of the very first jars produced for the firm, possibly by the original company – the Smalley Jar Co. – in 1906. The mold was probably used until it wore out – although the firm may have replaced the baseplate with one embossed with the Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank name.



Figure 6 – SKO monogram (Creswick 1987:44)

**SKO (1909-1921)**

Toulouse (1971:475) specified that “the initials often appeared as part of the side design of the fruit jars they sold” and gave the “Royal” line of jars as an example. “SK&O” was included as an integral part of the design on the face of the jars. However, Toulouse was mistaken. The initials only appeared just above the shield on jars of the Queen line in a fan-shaped design with three segments partly surrounding a small circle; each letter (S, K, and O) was in its own segment – with no ampersand (Figure 7).



Figure 7 – SKO (eBay)

**SMALLEY, KIVAN & ONTHANK (1907-1921)**

Roller (1983:372-373) discussed jars embossed “SMALLEY, KIVLAN & ONTHANK BOSTON PATD FEB. 23, 1909” or “SMALLEY, KIVLAN & ONTHANK BOSTON PAT’D JUNE 28 21” on the base but no side embossing. Creswick (1987:123-124) illustrated and discussed five jars, all but one square in cross-section (the exception was oval), all with no side embossing and using

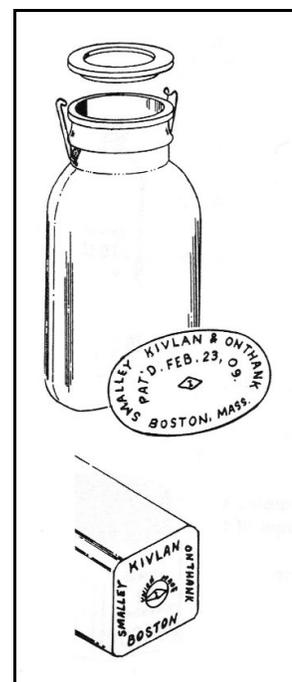


Figure 8 – Smalley Kivlan & Onthank (Creswick (1987:123)

KantKracK lids made to Kivlan’s 1909 patent. All were embossed on the base with “SMALLEY, KIVLAN & ONTHANK, BOSTON” – sometimes with other words, such as “MASS,” “UNION MADE,” or variations of the patent date (Figure 8).

### **BLUE RIBBON (1908-1911, poss. 1915?)**

Roller (1983:68) discussed a jar embossed “BLUE / RIBBON” in a ribbon design on the front and “SMALLEY, KIVLAN & ONTHANK BOSTON, MASS. PATENT APPLIED FOR” on the base. The clamp was stamped “PATD FEB 23 1909.” Creswick (1987:30) illustrated and discussed the jar – made to Kivlan’s 1909 patent but was only produced in one style – suggesting that it was not use for long (Figure 9).

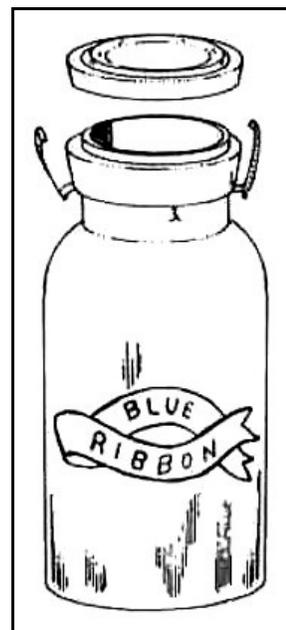


Figure 9 – Blue Ribbon (Creswick 1987:30)

As noted in the Patent section, Caniff (2007:6) discovered an ad for the jar on August 10, 1909 – the earliest known use of the 1909 patent. Since Kivlan applied for the patent in February of October 31, 1908, and received it on February 23, 1909, the jar was probably first made in 1908. It was *certainly* produced prior to the receipt of the patent. Roller (2011:107) added that “another piece of ephemera” from Smalley, Kivlan & Onthak offered Blue Ribbon jars in 1911, making a range of 1908-1911 virtually certain – although sales could have continued for a few more years.

### **Double Safety (1907-1921)**

Toulouse (1969:96-97) listed five variations of jars all embossed “Double / Safety” in upwardly slanted cursive. One base was embossed “A.G. SMALLEY & Co., BOSTON, MASS” – certainly the earliest with an old-style Lightning closure – that he dated ca. 1905 (Figures 10 & 11). A second basemark was “SMALLEY, KIVLAN & ONTHANK, BOSTON, MASS.” (1907) with “PAT. FEB 23, 1909” added to the next variation. An oddity had an SKO monogram on the base in place of the names. The final one (ca. 1920) was embossed “K&O” on the base.



Figure 10 – Double Safety (eBay)



Figure 11 – Double Safety base (eBay)

Roller (1983:108; 2011:170) did not include the A.G. Smalley variation and replaced the “K&O” initials with the full firm name – “KIVLAN ONTHANK CO. BOSTON PATD.” He added that the KantKracK lid was used on the jars with the 1909 patent date (Figure 12). All but the 1909-patent jars used the old-style Lightning closures; the newer ones had the twin-wire Kivlan



Figure 12 – KantKracK lid (eBay)

clamps (Figure 13). Creswick (1987:44-45) discussed and illustrated a total of 12 variations (including error embossing) – all embossed “SMALLEY, KIVLAN & ONTHANK” on the base (no A.G. Smalley or Kivlan Onthank). She noted the word “TIGHT” embossed on the necks of the Lightning closure jars, replaced by “IMPROVED” on those with the 1909 patent. Creswick also added a variation with no side embossing that was marked “DOUBLE SAFETY” on the neck and had the 1909-patented closure (Figure 14).

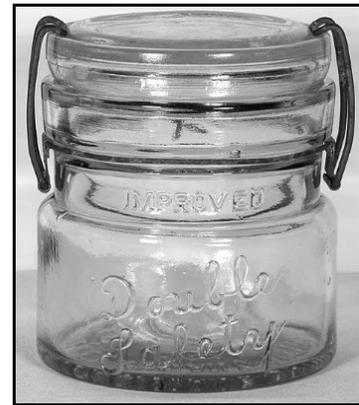


Figure 13 – Double Safety (North American Glass)

Caniff (2007:6) quoted Dick Roller as explaining the meaning of Double Safety: The name ‘Double Safety’ referred to the fact that these jars could be ‘adjusted’ by turning the wire eyes to the TIGHT position embossed on the jar neck, which produced a tighter seal.”

Caniff (2015:18-19) discussed and illustrated a July 3, 1907, postcard carrying an illustration of the of the Double Safety jar with a Lightning closure. While not surprising, this confirms the early date for these jars – at least the beginning of Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank. What *was* surprising,

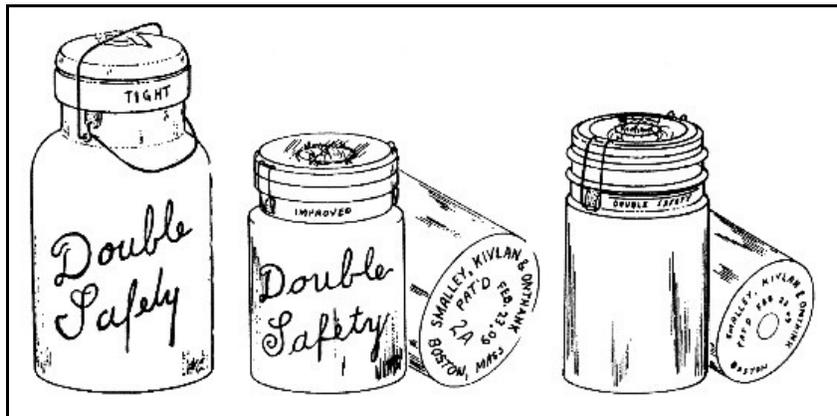


Figure 14 –Double Safety (Creswick 1987:44-45)

however, was an ad in the Kingston Daily Freedom of July 29, 1937, offering “Glass Top Double Safety Fruit Jars” – eight years after the approximate closing of Kivlan & Onthank. These were probably made for the Onthank Mfg. Co., open until at least 1939.

**HANDY (1910-1915)**

Creswick (1987:62) added a jar, square in cross-section, embossed “HANDY / {design} / JAR” on the front and “MADE BY SMALLEY, KIVLAN & ONTHANK, BOSTON, MASS. PATENTED APRIL 27 1909” on the base (Figures 15-17). Roller (2011:230) illustrated and discussed the same jar, adding that it was marketed for milk, syrup, and basic liquid food products – rather than as a fruit jar.

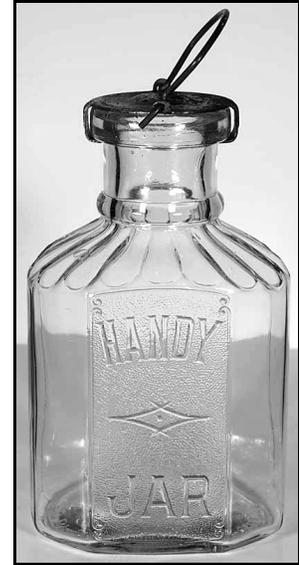


Figure 15 – Handy Jar (North American Glass)



Figure 16 – Handy base & lid (North American Glass)

Caniff (2015:20) discussed four pamphlets from Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank, one of which featured the Handy Jar as “Packers Glass Ware” – also called product jars. He noted that the cover was stamped “TO OPEN PRESS DOWN AND SLIDE SIDEWAYS PATENTED APRIL 17 09.” The jars were “handy” because the handle made it easy to carry them home from the store. An ad from August 18, 1914, however, also suggested the use of the container as a fruit jar. An ad in the August 16, 1918, issue of the *Boston Herald* claimed that the firm was “Makers of Queen Square, Double Safety Round, and King Oval Jars.”



Figure 17 – Handy Jar (Creswick 1987:62)

**Jelly Jars (1915-1921)**

Although not shown in any of the typical jar sources, the firm sold jelly jars made to Kivlan’s 1915 patent. These were flared up to the rim, which had a groove reminiscent of the one in groove-ring,



Figure 18 – Jelly jar  
(Treasurenet.com)

wax-sealer fruit jars. A lid fit into the groove, held in place by a single wire clip. The base was embossed “MFG BY SMALLEY KIVLAN & ONTHANK” in a circle around “PATD / BOSTON / DEC 7 15” (Figures 18 & 19).

**KING (1907-1921)**

Roller (1983:182-183) discussed two jars that were embossed “KING” in a banner flanked by flags with a crown above on the jar front (Figure 20).

One was embossed “SMALLEY, KIVLAN & ONTHANK BOSTON MASS.” on the bases and “TIGHT” on both sides of the finish (Figure 21). This jar had the “old style neck, full-wire bale” finish. Roller (1983) copied a trade card – that he claimed was ca. 1919 – showing the jar with the old-style finish.



Figure 20 – King jar (North American Glass)



Figure 19 – Jelly jar  
(Treasurenet.com)



Figure 21 – King base (North American Glass)

Roller (1983:183) also discussed an identical jar (same front embossing) but no “TIGHT” on the finish and a basal embossing of “SMALLEY, KIVLAN & ONTHANK BOSTON MASS PATD FEB 23 09.” The lid was embossed “KantKracK PATD. FEB 23 09.” A variation lacked the patent information on the base. He noted that both styles were made in ca. 1919 but otherwise failed to discuss dates. The jar was made to Kivlan’s 1909 patent. Creswick (1987:75) discussed and illustrated the jar, noting both basal embossings (Figure 22). Roller (2011:281) added more variations, including one with no basal embossing. It is possible that the King jar followed the same pattern as the Queen and was not carried until 1909 with the change to Kivlan’s 1909 patent closure in 1919.



Figure 22 – King jar  
(Creswick 1987:75)

## Queen (1909-1921)

Roller (1983:301) discussed two major variations of a jar embossed “Queen (cursive) / TRADE MARK” both upwardly slanted in a stippled shield with a single star in the upper left and lower right corners. Above the shield were three letters – S, K, and O – each in its own small shield in an arch around a large dot. Below the main shield was “WIDE MOUTH” in an arched outline and “ADJUSTABLE” in a horizontal outline (Figure 23). Probably, the older variation was embossed “SMALLEY KIVLAN ONTHANK BOSTON” on the base and “TIGHT” on the neck, It had the old-style neck, full-wire bale.



Figure 23 – Queen jar (eBay)

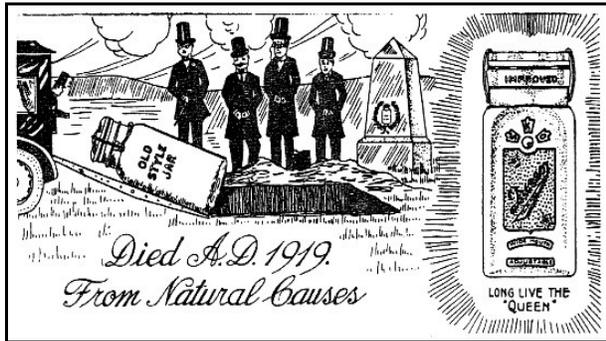


Figure 24 – Trade card (Roller 1983:301)

The second variation had the same front but was embossed “IMPROVED” on the neck and had several variations of the Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank name on the base and the double-wire closure. Roller (1983:301) illustrated a ca. 1920 trade card showing mourners watching as an old-style jar was slid from a hearse into a

grave with the new Queen jar to the left in a sunburst with “LONG LIVE THE QUEEN” below it. (Figure 24). Obviously, the “IMPROVED” version indicated the use of the 1909 Kivlan-patent lid.

Creswick 1987:109) illustrated and discussed three variations of the jars with “TIGHT” on the necks and Smalley, Kivlan and Onthank on the base. As noted by Roller, all of these had the old-style, single-wire closures. Creswick (1987:108-110) also included ten variations of the jars with “IMPROVED” on the neck, two with errors in the embossing, and three “MADE IN CANADA” (Figure 25). All the “IMPROVED” jars

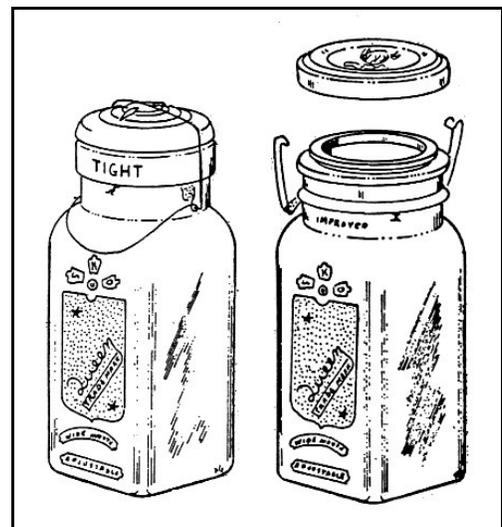


Figure 25 – Queen jars (Creswick 1987:109)

included the lid, which she illustrated: “PATD FEB 23 09 (in a banner) / KANTKRACK (with each “K” much larger than the other letters – in a segmented circle)” (Figure 26 – also see Figure 12).

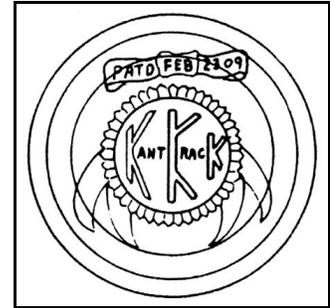


Figure 26 – KantKrack lid (Creswick 1987:110)

We have good information for dating these Queen jars. Caniff (2015:18) stated that Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank received the trademark for “Queen” in 1911 (actually June 27, 1911, No. 82,475), claiming a first use on October 10, 1910. This effectively dates the beginning of Lightning-style Queen jar sales in late 1910. The “funeral” card noted above showed the Lightning-style jar being lowered into a grave with a shining new Queen jar topped with Kivlan’s 1909 patented closure and “Died A.D. 1919” below the older jar.

The three major baseplate styles may suggest a slightly earlier manufacture of the Queen. The first of these was embossed “SMALLEY” up the left side, “KIVLAN” across the top, “ONTHANK” down the right side, and “BOSTON” across the bottom. The next likely style added “TRADE MARK” in an arch below “KIVLAN.” The patent information “PAT’D FEB 23 09” was also in an arch in the exact position as “TRADE MARK” on the previous jar (Figure 27). Although it is impossible to be certain using only photos, the patent information appears to be in a peened out space, suggesting a reuse of the molds. Therefore, “TRADE MARK” could have been added to the original mold, then the patent information



Figure 27 – Queen bases (eBay)

could have been placed over the “TRADE MARK” embossing. The lack of “TRADE MARK” on the original jars suggests that they were made *prior* to the 1910 first use claim. However, a billhead dated March 15, 1910, *only* illustrated the Double Safety jar – but these billheads could have been printed as early as 1907. Our final suggested date range for the old-style Lightning closure Queen jars is ca. 1909-1919.

## **Kivlan & Onthank, Boston, Massachusetts (1921-1929)**

When Edgar Smalley died in 1921, the remaining partners dropped his name, and the firm became Kivlan, Onthank & Co. (Roller 1983:301). Despite this reference, virtually all other sources suggest that the name was Kivlan & Onthank – the version almost always embossed on the jars. Toulouse (1971:312) dated Kivlan & Onthank 1919-1925 but included no discussion about the firm. Roller (1983:373) suggested ca. 1929 for a closing date – which would be more in keeping with the April 2, 1929 patent date embossed on a few jars.

### **Containers and Marks**

According to Toulouse (1971:312-313), Hazel-Atlas contracted with Kivlan & Onthank in 1921 and became the sole supplier for the firm until its closure in 1925. Toulouse (1971:481) went on to say that the firm “named two of their jars ‘Agee Queen’ and ‘Agee Utility,’ an euphonic rendition of the A and G initials of their former partner.” Toulouse was a bit confused here. Edgar Smalley was the partner of Kivlan and Onthank. A.G. Smalley was his father. Both Roller (1983:4-6; 2011:16-19) and Creswick (1987:2-3) discussed and illustrated several variations of Agee jars made by the Australian Glass Manufacturers Co., Kilkenny, South Australia – even noting that two examples used lids with twin wire closures – but neither connected the Australian jars with Kivlan & Onthank.

### **K&O (1921-1925)**

According to Toulouse (1971:312), Kivlan & Onthank used the “K&O” logo during the full tenure of their business. These initials actually appeared above the shield on the Queen jars as described in the Smalley, Kivlan and Onthank section above. In this case, however, the two letters and the ampersand were in separate sections of the “fan.”

### **K&O Co.**

Toulouse (1971:312-313) stated that “only one reference adds the letters ‘Co.’ to the more familiar ‘K&O.’” Although he had seen the other marks, he added, “I think that the report of ‘K&O Co.’ may be discounted.” We agree that this mark is almost certainly bogus.

## KIVLAN & ONTHANK (1921-1925)

In his first book, Toulouse (1969:175) described a jar with a “glass lid, held by twin toggles on opposite sides that was embossed “KIVLAN & ONTHANK (arch) / PATD / 1 / H over A (all horizontal) / JUNE 28’ 21 / BOSTON (both inverted arches)” on the base (Figures 28 & 29). He dated the jar ca. 1921. In his later book, Toulouse (1971:312) dated the full name of the firm to the entire length of the company’s operations.

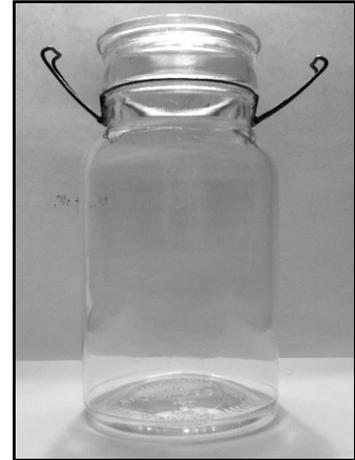


Figure 28 – Kivlan & Onthank jar (eBay)



Figure 29 – Kivlan & Onthank base (eBay)

Creswick (1987:78) discussed embossed “KIVLAN ONTHANK PATD BOSTON” or “KIVLAN & ONTHANK BOSTON” on the bases.

Each jar referenced the Kivlan 1909 patent and had a lid embossed “KantKrack PATD FEB 23 09.” Creswick (1987:33, 64, 108) included variations of the jar embossed “Bunte (cursive) / CHICAGO”; “HORMEL GOOD FOOD”; and “PYREX / REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.” – all with the Kivlan & Onthank name on the base. Roller (2011:537) noted that these were all product jars based on Victory jar style (see below). Caniff (2000:6-7) discovered that the jars were made between 1924 and the late 1930s.

## Queen (1921-1929?)

Roller (1983:301) discussed a single version of the Queen jars (discussed in detail above) embossed “IMPROVED” on the neck and “KIVLAN & ONTHANK PATD. JUNE 28’ 21” on the base. Creswick (1987:110) also illustrated a single variation from Kivlan & Onthank, still using the KantKrack lid. The firm may have discontinued the brand once the new mold wore out – although they may have continued the old molds from Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank. The jar style was advertised by Onthank in the late 1930s.

## Victory (1921-1929)

Kivlan & Onthank made Victory jars in two basic formats. The first was made to Kivlan's 1921 closure patent, the second to his 1929 patent. Roller (1983:372-373) discussed four variations of a jar with no side embossing but with "VICTORY" or "VICTORY JAR" on the base along with variations of the Kivlan & Onthank name (Figure 30). The jars were made to Kivlan's 1921 patent by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Co., Illinois Glass Co., "and probably other glasshouses" ca. 1917-1920s. Although Kivlan & Onthank registered the "VICTORY" trademark (see below), they claimed a first use in 1917 – still during the years when Smalley remained with the firm. Roller (2011:535) noted three lid variations:



Figure 30 – Victory jar (eBay)

1. design / six slash marks / star offset to left / VICTORY in stippled shield (top)
2. design / six slash marks / star offset to left / VICTORY in stippled shield / THE VICTORY JAR in banners (top) (Figure 31)
3. unembossed

Roller (1983:372-373) discussed jars embossed "VICTORY below KIVLAN ONTHANK BOSTON PAT'D APRIL 2 1929" – made to Kivlan's 1929 patent. Roller discussed the patent, received by John L. Kivlan who assigned half the rights to Emma A. Onthank and half to Ella L. Donahue. He dated the jar ca. 1929 by an unknown glass house. Roller (1983:373) suggested that "these were probably the last in the Kivlan Victory jar family, for Kivlan, Onthank & Co. supposedly went out of business about 1929." This variation had two lids:



Figure 31 – Victory base (eBay)

1. PAT. NO. 1,707,439 stamped into top
2. PAT'D APR 2 1929 stamped into top

Creswick (1987:134-135) discussed and illustrated four variations of the Victory jar, all with some form of the Kivlan & Onthank name embossed on the bases, most with patent dates (Figure 32).

Caniff (2002:8) provided a fitting postscript for the Victory jars, recalling a letter from Charles F. Onthank to Dick Roller:

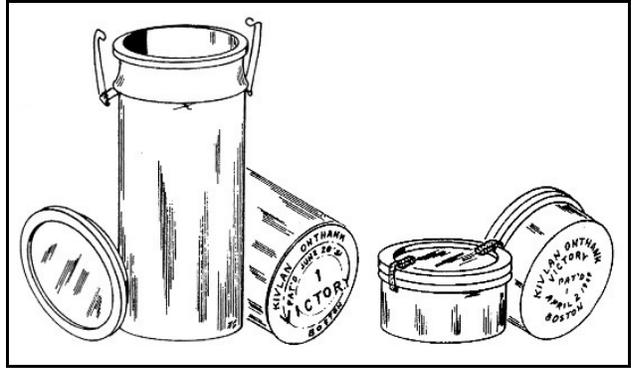


Figure 32 – Victory jar (Creswick 1987:135)

Sometime in the 1930s, according to his son, Paul, Charles F. Onthank sold the jar business to Crown Cork & Seal Co., who produced the jars base embossed CROWN CORK & SEAL CO. BALTIMORE. MD. PATENT VICTORY JAR, with milk-glass lids and aluminum Kivlan clamps stamped PAT. NO. 1,707,439.

### **Onthank Mfg. Co. (1929?-1939)**

Caniff (2015:19) noted a communication from Bruce MacGregor, married to the granddaughter of Charles F. Onthank, claimed that Onthank remained in business in the 1930s as the Onthank Mfg. Co. and the Onthank Rubber Co. MacGregor even believed that Onthank may have sold King, Queen, and Double Safety jars into the 1940s. Our searches disclosed that the Onthank Mfg. Co. paid \$14.40 in city taxes on July 11, 1939 (Kelly 1939:4922).

### **Containers and Marks**

Although we have found no direct evidence of the products sold by the Onthank Mfg. Co., there is no question that Double Safety jars were advertised in 1937. It makes sense that Onthank was the jobber behind the sale of the jars.

## **Discussion and Conclusions**

Although the dates of operation for the three companies viewed in this study are probably correct, we have few details for their actual operation. The extensive patent information,

however, fills in some of the gaps. Those two historical source areas, plus the information from the typical jar sources, are sufficient for creating an approximate chronology for the jars produced by each firm. See Table 1 at the end of the Discussion and Conclusions section.

This summary will address each jar alphabetically (beginning with product jars). In most cases, the minor variations in basemarks are not datable (e.g., absence or presence of “BOSTON” or “MASS”), more likely indicating the whim of an individual mold maker than any temporal change.

### **Product or Packers’ Jars**

These jars were made for both Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank and Kivlan & Onthank – during the entire tenure of each firm – and were marked by the firm’s name on the base. It is probable that the original outfit – Smalley Jar Co. – also sold product jars unmarked with the firm name, although such a jar may be discovered with an SKO monogram on the base. The latter firm landed contracts for Bunte, Hormel, and Pyrex jars – embossed with those names, but most were unmarked (except for the glass house name on the base) for use with paper labels.

### **Double Safety**

It is likely that the Smalley Jar Co. carried the original Double Safety jar, likely the one embossed with the SKO monogram on the base. Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank certainly continued the brand in two distinct styles. The first of these – by far the most common – used the old-style Lightning closure and was embossed with the company name. The second was made to Kivlan’s 1909 patent and bore the patent date along with the name on the base. Although we have found no reference that Kivlan & Onthank continued to carry the brand, it was advertised again in 1937, possibly sold by the Onthank Mfg. Co.

### **Handy Jar**

The only example of this jar had the Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank name on the base as well as a 1909 patent date for Kivlan’s second patent for a jar with a handle built into the closure. The jar was almost certainly not popular and was only made during a few years after the patent, possibly until ca. 1915.

## **Jelly Jars**

Kivlan received a patent in December of 1915 for a jelly jar design and closure that Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank probably carried from 1916 until the name change in 1921.

## **King**

Like the Double Safety, the King series were made in two styles – old-style Lightning and Kivlan’s 1909 patent. The older ones likely began production in 1909 and were probably phased – about the same time as the Queen (see below) in 1919. The patented closure use probably began at that time and continued until the change to Kivlan & Onthank in 1921.

## **Queen**

As noted in the text above, Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank claimed that the trademark for the Queen jars was first used in 1910, although the actual jars may have been first produced a year earlier. The postcard noted above makes it clear that the Lightning closure was discontinued in 1919, so the Kivlan patent Queens were almost certain sold between 1919 and 1921. Kivlan & Onthank continued to offer the Queen in some form, possibly for its complete existence from 1921 to 1929 – although the firm apparently only used a single mold for the jar and probably no longer offered it after that mold wore out.

## **Victory**

The Victory was only carried by Kivlan & Onthank – again in two formats. The first bore the date of Kivlan’s 1921 patent and was certainly used until the firm disbanded ca. 1929. The second was made only briefly – to Kivlan’s 1929 patent.

It is possible that Kivlan & Onthank also offered some of the other jars marked with the Smalley, Kivlan & Onthank name, using the old molds until they wore out before discarding the brands from their lists. Unfortunately, there is no way to be certain about the continuation of the older name.

**Table 1 – Products Carried by the Later Smalley Firms**

<p><b>Smalley Jar Co. (1905-1907)</b> Product Jars (1906-1907) Double-Safety (1906-1907)     Lightning Closure – TIGHT (1906-1907)     SKO monogram on base (1906-1907)</p> <p><b>Smalley, Kivlan &amp; Onthank (1907-1921)</b> Product Jars (1907-1921) Double-Safety (1907-1921)     Lightning Closure – TIGHT (1907-1919)     SKO monogram on base     full company name on base     1909 patent closure – IMPROVED (1919-1921)     full company name on base</p> <p>Handy (1910-1915?) Jelly Jars (1915-1921) King (1909-1921)     Lightning Closure – TIGHT (1909-1919?)     full company name on base     1909 patent closure – IMPROVED (1919?-1921)     full company name on base</p> <p>Queen (1909-1921)     Lightning Closure – TIGHT (1909-1919)     full company name on base     1909 patent closure – IMPROVED (1919-1921)     full company name on base</p> <p><b>Kivlan &amp; Onthank (1921-1929)</b> Product Jars (1921-1929) Queen (1921-1929?)     1921 patent closure – IMPROVED (1921-ca. 1923)     full company name on base</p> <p>Victory (1921-1929)     1921 patent closure (1921-1929)     full company name on base     1929 patent closure (1929)     full company name on base</p> <p><b>Onthank Mfg. Co. (poss. 1930-ca. 1939)</b> Double-Safety (poss. 1930-1939)</p>
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