

## **William McCully & Co.**

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William McCully was arguably one of the most important men in the glassmaking community in the mid-19th century. He was involved with several Pittsburgh glass factories, and his plants turned out an immense quantity of hand-made bottles. Although little known, McCully's workers produced the first export beer bottles, containers that "won the west" and became the standard for the industry after Prohibition. One of McCully's plants survived into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the firm stopped making bottles in 1896.

### **History**

All sources agree that William McCully began blowing glass with Bakewell at Pittsburgh, eventually transferring to the O'hara factory, where he came into contact with Frederick Lorenz (e.g., Hawkins 2009). After that, McCully's history in the glass business was very complex. Knittle (1927:319) stated that "William McCully . . . in time owned an interest in six or seven of Pittsburgh's glass-works." We have included capsule histories of McCully's involvement in all factories we could discover in a section below. The history section concentrates on an overview of the McCully firms.

After McCully's death in 1869, an 1878 article (*Crockery & Glass Journal* 1878:26) described the Wm. McCully & Co. holdings operated by his sons-in-law:

Messrs. Mark W. Watson and John McM. King control five glass factories—the "Pittsburgh," green vial house, on Twenty-second street; the "Phoenix," black bottle house, on Liberty street; the "Sligo" and Empire," window glass houses, on Carson street, South Side; and the Mastodon," white ware factory, at Twenty-eighth and Railroad streets. They have altogether six furnaces, but only three are in operation, and the black bottle house has been idle for about a year.

## **Hay & McCully, Pittsburgh** (ca. 1830-1832)

By the time William McCully teamed up with Captain John Hay, McCully was already an experienced glass blower and knew the business. Hay & McCully built the Union Flint Glass Works in late 1829 or early 1830. A major flood destroyed the plant in 1832. Although Hay rebuilt the works, McCully had moved on (Creswick 1987:285; Hawkins 2009; Knittle 1927:319-320; McKearin & McKearin 1941:599; McKearin & Wilson 1978:153; Monro 1927-1928:116; Welker & Welker 1985:96)

## **William McCully, Pittsburgh** (1833-1836)

In 1833, William McCully built the Phoenix Glass Works to make green and black bottles and vials. This was the longest lasting of McCully's enterprises, remaining in business until 1884 (*Crockery & Glass Journal* 1876:15; Hawkins 2009; Knittle 1927:320; McKearin & McKearin 1941:600). During this three year period, McCully also joined with William Ihmsen. Ihmsen had leased the Williamsport Glass Works in 1824, and he took McCully as a partner in 1833. McCully was only involved for a short time and had sold his interest by 1836, moving on to establish Wm. McCully & Co. (Hawkins 2009). See the Ihmsen section for more details. Everything changed in 1836.

## **William McCully & Co., Pittsburgh – First Partnership** (1836-1851)

McCully joined with Frederick W. Lorenz and A.W. Buchanan to buy the Sligo Glass Works for the production of window glass, adopting the name of William McCully & Co. Thomas Wightman joined the firm between 1840 and 1842, and the group opened a new plant, the Pittsburgh Glass Works, to make vials. About 1851, the group dissolved, with Lorenz & Wightman taking possession of the former Pittsburgh Glass Works (the original O'Hara & Craig glass factory, built in 1796) and renaming it the Penn Glass Works to avoid confusion with McCully's Pittsburgh Glass Works (Hawkins 2009). Meanwhile, McCully retained the other factories and continued business under the Wm. McCully & Co. name.

## William McCully & Co., Pittsburgh – Second Partnership (1851-1909)

McCully's son, John, joined the company about 1851 and was followed by sons-in-law Mark W. Watson and John M. King (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup> McCully was operating the Sligo, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, and the Empire Glass Works by 1857. Phoenix made bottles; Pittsburgh produced vials; and the other two plants were window glass operations. The main office was at 18 & 20 Wood St. (Figure 2). By the 1861 directory, an ad for William McCully & Co. listed Watson and King as the principals – making no mention of the senior McCully or his son. The 1865 ad added John H. McKelvey and Robert Maclardy, bringing the list of proprietors to four (Hawkins 2009).

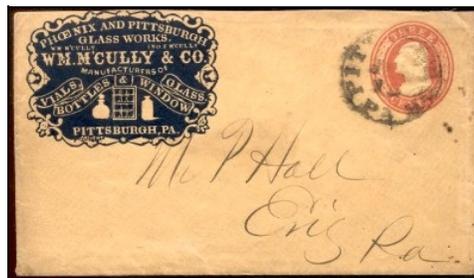


Figure 1 – McCully Postcard (eBay)

When McCully died in 1869, his sons-in-law and McKelvey (no mention of Maclardy) continued to run the business as Wm. McCully & Co. In May of 1871, the firm successfully sued Cunninghams & Ihmsen over infringement of the December 14, 1869, Holcomb patent (No. 97,920) (Public Resources, Inc. 2014; Roller 1997; 1998:23). For more information see the section on the Ihmsen Family Holdings.

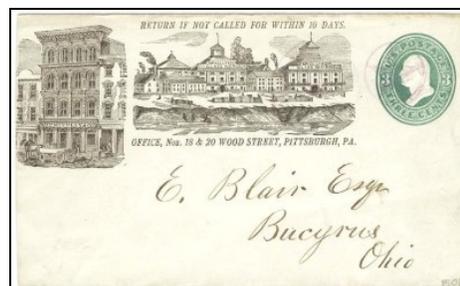


Figure 2 – McCully Postcard (Digital Collections)

Wm. McCully & Co. acquired the Mastodon Glass Works from T.A. Evans & Co. in 1870, possibly beginning the manufacture of flint druggists' ware at that time. The firm advertised Stoeckel's graduated prescription bottles (Hawkins 2009). G.W. Stoeckel patented a graduated bottle (No. 52,461) on February 6, 1866. Unlike later graduated bottles, the graduations were embossed on the front center of the container.

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<sup>1</sup> As usual, sources disagree about the timing of the addition of the others. Roller (1998), for example, suggested that Watson (the husband of McCully's daughter, Margaret) joined the firm in 1852, McCully's son, John, entered in 1854, and King (Jane L. McCully's husband) made his debut in 1855. John McCully quickly disappeared from the record and never joined the sons-in-law in management or ownership.

By 1872, Mastodon was a 12-pot operation. The plant suffered a severe fire on January 26, 1881, but the factory was rebuilt by August. The firm closed the Phoenix plant by 1884 and demolished the Pittsburgh Glass Works in August 1894, heralding the decline of the company. D.O. Cunningham leased the Sligo works in December 1900. After 1896, McCully only advertised window glass, and W.H. Hamilton & Co. leased the Mastodon plant for a short period. McCully never reopened the factory and demolished the buildings in 1900. The company ceased operations entirely in 1909 (Hawkins 2009; Roller 1998).

Hawkins (2009) quoted the November 25, 1896, issue of *China, Glass & Lamps* that

McCully & Co. are at present having a closing out sale of their old amber wide mouth screw tops, made a quarter of a century ago [1871], and relic hunters have been enjoying quite a feast for a week past laying in samples as moments [*sic* – mementoes] of the olden times.

### **Consolidation?** (1894)

On March 2, 1894, the *Monongahela Daily Republican* reported that William McCully & Co. joined with Thomas Wightman & Co., D.C. Cunningham, and Johnson & Co. to form a combine called the Pittsburgh Glass Co., planning to incorporate with a \$1,000,000 capital. The group purchased land near Elizabeth, Pennsylvania, naming the spot Watson after Mark W. Watson, the head of William McCully & Co. S. McKee & Co. announced its intention to join the group and move its window glass plants to the new location.

By May 16, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* called the firm the Pittsburgh Bottle & Glass Co. and added that the lots were being laid out for McKee's plate-glass factory, D.O. Cunningham's window glass plant, and McKee's window-glass house with the window-glass factory of Thomas Wightman & Son at Monongahela City. By April 27, Cunningham & Co., Ltd., was also involved. However, despite the land and plans, the company was not yet chartered. J.W. Scully was to be the president with L.S. Cunningham as secretary. Mark W. Watson, H. Sellers McKee, D.O. Cunningham, and W.S. Cunningham rounded out the executive committee (*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* 4/27/1894).

Before any construction began, the combine fell apart. The *Post-Gazette* reported that 26 “plate-glass people” had gathered in Pittsburgh “for the purpose of reviving old trade combines” and noted that the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. “was the indirect cause of the breaking of the old plate glass pool.” However, the newspaper failed to explain why the firm was the “indirect cause” of the combine’s breakup. Clearly, the 1894 attempt by McCully and his allies – failed.

## **McCully Factories**

Although virtually all sources suggested that McCully operated six or seven glass factories, the number *could* be as high as eleven. All primary sources we have accessed only listed five or six at any one time, and our eleven figure includes the early Hay & McCully plant and other factories where McCully may have only had an interest instead of being the primary operator – as well as the Penn Glass Works that reverted to Lorenz & Wightman in the 1851 split. Unless otherwise cited, our information came from Hawkins (2009). All these factories were located in Pittsburgh.

### **Union Glass Works – Hay & McCully (ca. 1830-1833)**

Captain John Hay and William McCully built the Union Glass Works along Railroad St. between 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Streets between late 1829 and early 1830. When a major flood destroyed the plant in 1832, Hay rebuilt it, but McCully moved on to establish his own business. Although we have not discovered the reason for the name, the term “Union” probably referred to the United States rather than a labor union.

### **Phoenix Glass Works – William McCully (1833-ca. 1890)**

When McCully broke with Hay, he built a new glass plant – the Phoenix Glass Works – at Liberty & 16<sup>th</sup> St. This factory made black glass bottles initially, graduating to “green” bottles and jars. The plant was one of McCully’s most successful, finally closing sometime between 1889 and 1891 – although a factory list noted that the plant was idle in 1884, apparently reopening at some point after that. Originally owned by McCully alone, the plant was part of the merger with Frederick Lorenz in 1840 that formed the first William McCully & Co., then remained part of the second William McCully & Co. and outlived McCully, himself.

Toulouse (1971:352) was the only source that addressed the reason for the name “Phoenix” – but he thought that the Union Flint Glass Works had burned down and that McCully had built at its location. He explained: “Working without Hay, McCully replaced the burned-out plant later in 1832 . . . . He renamed this venture ‘Phoenix Glass Co.,’ a popular name among glassmakers whose plants were destroyed by fire and rebuilt in the ashes of the old factory.” While other sources cited a flood, the name “Phoenix” indeed suggested the rebuilding of a burned plant.

#### **Williamsport Glass Works – Ihmsen & McCully (1834-at least 1836, poss. 1879 or later)**

Warne, Parkinson & Co. built the plant on Coal St., Williamsport, in 1816 but ran into financial trouble and sold the factory to Samuel Black, J. McGrew, and R. McGrew, who operated it until 1824, when William Ihmsen & Co. leased the plant. In 1834, Ihmsen took William McCully as a partner. Sources are conflicting about the disposition of the factory. McCully may have purchased the Ihmsen interest between 1834 and Ihmsen’s death on December 11, 1836. The plant made window glass. It is *very* unclear whether the partners ever owned the factory and how they (or McCully alone) disposed of it. Possibly, McCully let the lease expire after Ihmsen’s death. Since there was an unnamed extra plant listed in use in 1879, it could have been the Williamsport works.

Toulouse (1971:352) claimed that, along with the Williamsport Glass Works with William Ihmsen, McCully acquired “another Williamsport plant built by Warne, Parkinson, & Co. in 1816. McCully took over both works about 1840; and added them to the partnership in 1841 which lasted until 1851.” However, after the 1851 breakup, “the newly formed firm of Lorenz & Wightman did sell the former Lorenz-owned Sligo Glass Works to the continuing McCully & Co. This left McCully with Sligo, Williamsport (which was closed), and Phoenix.”

#### **Unknown Name – McCully & Johnson (1834-?)**

According to McKearin & Wilson (1978:155), McCully partnered with William Johnson in a window glass factory. No other source included this one, and the authors may have confused this plant with the Ihmsen & McCully plant at Monongahela.

### **Sligo Glass Works – William McCully & Co. (1836-1909)**

Frederick Lorenz built the Sligo Glass Works on Carson St. in 1824. When Lorenz and A.W. Buchanan joined McCully to form William McCully & Co. in 1834, the Sligo Glass Works was part of the deal. Thomas Wightman joined in 1840, but McCully purchased Sligo during the 1851 split, when Lorenz & Wightman left the firm. It is uncertain what became of Buchanan. The Sligo Glass Works outlasted all the others, finally closing in 1909.

### **Pittsburgh Glass Works – William McCully & Co. (1836-1851)**

This was the old O’Hara & Craig plant, originally opened in 1796. Frederick Lorenz had acquired the factory and brought it into the 1836 partnership. When the group broke up in 1851, Lorenz & Wightman kept the Pittsburgh Glass Works, renaming it the Penn Glass Works to distinguish the plant from McCully’s Pittsburgh Glass Works (see below for the McCully factory).

### **Unknown – William McCully & Co. (ca. 1843)**

According to Hawkins (2009:346-347) William McCully & Co. may have acquired this unknown glass house on Smallman St. between 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> – possibly the old Fahnestock & Gladdens works. We have not discovered the disposition of this plant.

### **Pittsburgh Glass Works – William McCully & Co. (poss. 1844-1894)**

The beginning of the Pittsburgh Glass Works is shrouded in mystery. The various sources act as if this plant were one of the early McCully works, but none of them addressed the founding of the factory. The 1844 Pittsburgh city directory listed the Pittsburgh Glass Works in 1844 – *but*, that could have meant the Pittsburgh Glass Works brought into the firm by Fredericks Lorenz in 1836. *This* Pittsburgh Glass Works was certainly part of the firm before the split in 1851, making black bottles – later green bottles. Hawkins (2009:351) noted that “McCully & Co. razed the Pittsburgh green glassworks on [22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>] streets in August 1894” – although it is unclear when the plant ceased operations.

### **Empire Glass Works – William McCully & Co. (at least 1857-1900)**

Hawkins (2009:1851) first mentioned the Empire Glass – on Carson St., in the same block as the Sligo Glass Works – in an 1857 list of McCully glass houses. This was another window glass plant. Hawkins added that “the West Carson Street glassworks were leased to D.O. Cunningham in December 1900.” This was almost certainly the Empire Glass Works.

### **Mastodon Glass Works – William McCully & Co. (1870-ca. 1900)**

T.A. Evans built the Mastodon Glass Works in 1855. McCully purchased the plant in 1870, making flint bottles. The Allegheny Valley Railroad bought the factory in 1900 or 1901.

According to Hawkins (2009:350), McCully operated six factories in 1879 – Sligo, Phoenix, Mastodon, Empire, Pittsburgh – and possibly the old William Ihmsen plant at Monongahela. Hawkins broke the plants into groups (almost certainly based on the 1879 reference) – “two each for window, flint, and green bottle glass.” The Phoenix and Pittsburgh factories made green bottles; Mastodon produced flint; Empire and Sligo were window glass plants. That only leaves the Monongahela plant (or one of the others that where we cannot account for the end) as the other flint glass producer.

However, by 1857, the Pittsburgh factory made vials – although these could have been green glass rather than flint. Therefore, the possibility exists that Pittsburgh was a flint plant by 1879, and the Monongahela factory made green bottles – although we consider that unlikely. See Table 1 for the list of McCully’s important factories.

## **Containers and Marks**

It is clear that much of McCully’s manufacturing activities centered around window glass. Although the Union Flint Glass Works originally made bottles, it is highly unlikely that they would bear any of the McCully marks. Bottles made that early were usually not marked by the manufacturer, and we would expect a Hay & McCully mark if anything.

**Table 1 – McCully & Co. Factories**

Factory (date)*	Original (date)**	Disposition (date)†	Products
Phoenix Glass Works (1833)	Wm. McCully & Co. (1833)	Closed ca. 1889-1891	Black and Green Bottles
Williamsport Glass Works [Monongahela] (1834-1836)	Ihmsen & McCully (1834)	poss. to 1879	Window; poss. Flint Bottles
Sligo Glass Works (1836)	Frederick Lorenz (1824)	Closed 1909	Window
Pittsburgh Glass Works (1836)	O’Hara & Craig (1796)	Lorenz & Wightman [Penn GW] (ca. 1851)	Unknown
†† Pittsburgh Glass Works (by 1850)	Unknown	Demolished August 1894	Black Bottles; later Green
Empire Glass Works (by 1857)	Wm. McCully & Co. (ca. 1857)	leased by D.O. Cunningham (1900)	Window
Mastodon Glass Works (1870)	T.A. Evans (1855)	leased by W.H. Hamilton & Co. 1896; demolished 1900	Flint Vials & Bottles

\* Name of the factory and date of Wm. McCully & Co. acquisition

\*\* Original factory owner and date of construction

† Disposition of factory (sold to or closed) and date of sale or closure

†† The sources seem to assume that this plant was operated by McCully before the 1840 partnership was formed, but none of the sources speculated about its origin.

Only three William McCully & Co. plants were listed in the literature as making bottles: the Phoenix Glass Works, the Pittsburgh Glass Works, and the Mastodon Glass Works. Pittsburgh made vials and possibly flint druggists’ ware. In 1883, the “Twenty-eighth Street factory” operated sixteen shops, making “prescription and flint goods” (*Crockery & Glass Journal* 1883:12). The three plants must have produced a prolific amount of bottles; the various McCully marks are quite common, an unusual occurrence on bottles made prior to the 1880s.

Although Mastodon was only listed as making flint glass, jars marked MASTODON were aqua in color – making it quite likely that the plant made other “green” glass products as well.

Wilson & 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. McCully advertised beer bottles in the journal from at least 1881 to November 1884. It is fairly clear from archaeological contexts that McCully ceased export beer bottle production about this time and that he was never a major producer, unless many of the export beer bottles with large single letters or various symbols embossed on their bases were made by McCully.

In describing the McCully marks, Toulouse (1971:353) stated:

Those marks shown without the qualifying “Co” *may* have been used by McCully before the partnerships of 1841, or when McCully was operating alone. They might also have been used after the formation of the partnership. All marks containing “Co” would be after the 1841 establishment of the partnership as McCully & Co. Apparently how much or how little of the company name went into the bottle or jar depended on the space available.

Toulouse, however, was way too early. Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:70) noted that they did not find pre-1860 bottles with *any* McCully marks and only found one porter or ale bottle and one soda bottle with both McCully logos and pontil scars from St. Louis. Of 93 soda and beer bottles listed by von Mechow (2020) – including porter and ale – only two had improved pontil scars. All of the others were made after the pontil era. It is thus *very* unlikely that any McCully logo was embossed on bottles prior to 1858.

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:70) also commented about the total of 12 variations in lettering and location of the McCully marks on Illinois bottles. They noted that “the reasons for these differences are not known, but are not obviously related to time differences or bottle style or size differences.” While we agree in general, the logos and McCully name were often associated with various traits of the bottles or jars that allow for more precise dating (pontil scars, bottles types, finish types, etc.).

According to Hawkins (2014:7), there were “eight separate variants of McCully base-embossed cylinders [i.e., cylinder whiskey bottles] known.” All of the bottles had applied finishes. However, there are a few nuances that we can generalize. First, as often happened in the glass industry, the more complex marks (e.g., Wm McCully & Co.) were used earlier, and the simple logos (e.g., McC) came later. This probably resulted from the cost of mold engraving. The simpler marks were cheaper, easier, and faster to produce – and accomplished the same thing as the complex ones.

This created a dichotomy, with the more complex logos being applied during the period when William McCully was still alive (ca. 1858-1869). The simpler marks appear to have first been used after McCully’s death by his sons-in-law. Some of the complex logos continued in use after McCully died. They were certainly used until the molds wore out. Possibly new molds for the same bottles continued to use the old, more complex marks, but that is uncertain. It is also interesting that the more complex logos always included “& Co” – while most of the simpler ones leave the final part out. We have thus addressed the logos below from complex to simple, dividing them into the earlier and later periods.

## **More Complex Logos** (ca. 1858-1896)

### **1. W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>C</sup>CULLY&C<sup>o</sup> or W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>C</sup>C&Co**

The key element in this cluster of logos is the abbreviation “Wm” – making these the most complex marks used by McCully. Dating of bottles by various means (see individual logo discussions below) suggest that they were first used ca. 1859 and continued as late as the 1890s. The mark apparently was used in only four styles, each based on the location: PITTSBURGH PA; PITTS PA; PITTS; and no location.

### **W<sup>M</sup>. M<sup>C</sup>CULLY & Co / PITTSBURGH P<sup>A</sup>** (ca. 1867-1896)

Toulouse (1971:351) recorded this as one of the seven marks used by McCully, although he showed the “m” in “Wm” in the regular position rather than superscript. The MAGIC FRUIT JAR was made with a ground rim for a glass lid with a metal and wire clamp. The front of the jar was embossed MAGIC / FRUIT JAR / W<sup>M</sup>. M<sup>C</sup>CULLY & Co / PITTSBURGH P<sup>A</sup> / SOLE

PROPRIETORS. Some had either No. 4 or 7 embossed below (Figure 3). The back was embossed PATENTED / BY / R.M. DALBEY / JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> 1866. Patent No. 339,083 was issued to Hermann Buchholz, a Pittsburgh machinist (Creswick 1987:112; Roller 1983:203; 2011:308). Creswick failed to assign a date to the jars, and Roller only suggested ca. 1867 – obviously based on the patent date. The jar was apparently not popular, so it is likely that only one production run was made. Toulouse (1971:353) also noted that “his ‘Magic’ fruit jar [was marked] by the full company name.”



Figure 3 – Magic Fruit Jar (North American Glass)

**WM. M<sup>C</sup>CULLY & Co / PITTS\_\_ (or PITTSBURGH) (late 1860s-ca. 1896)**

Creswick (1987:44) showed this mark on the base of “DICTATOR,” “DICTATOR A,” “DICTATOR B,” and “DICTATOR C” grooved-ring wax sealer fruit jars. The mark usually appeared as “W<sup>M</sup> M<sup>C</sup>CULLY & Co. PITTS\_\_” in a circle around the base (Figures 4 & 5). Most were embossed on the back with PATENTED (arch) / D. I. HOLCOMB (horizontal) / DEC 14<sup>TH</sup> 1869 (inverted arch). In one



Figure 4 – Dictator (North American Glass)



Figure 5 – Dictator base (North American Glass)

example – without the Holcomb information on the reverse or letters below “DICTATOR” – “W<sup>M</sup> M<sup>C</sup>CULLY”

(without “& Co.”) was embossed in an arch with “PITTSBURGH in an inverted arch at the bottom (Figure 6). In both configurations, the “M” in “W<sup>M</sup>” had two dots below it. The “o” in “Co.” was always in the normal position. Roller (1983:103; 2011:163) discussed the

same jars and configurations, dating all variations 1860s-1870s, adding that the DICTATOR without the patent may have been made earlier than the dated variations. An eBay auction also included an amber cylinder whiskey bottle embossed “W<sup>M</sup> M<sup>C</sup>CULLY & Co. PITTS P<sup>A</sup>” in a circle in a Rickett’s plate around the base.

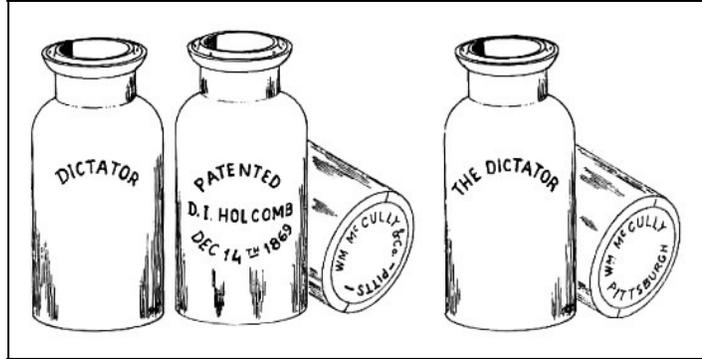


Figure 6 – Dictator (Creswick 1987:44)

**W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>C</sup>CULLY&Co.** (ca. mid-1860s-mid-1870s)

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:505-506) illustrated and discussed “W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>C</sup>CULLY&Co.” on the heel of a soda bottle with crossed lines embossed on the base. The bottle may have been made during the late 1860s, certainly by 1870. Jay Hawkins also contributed an amber base embossed “W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>C</sup>CULLY&Co.” (Figure 7).



Figure 7 – Wm McCully & Co. (Jay Hawkins)

Creswick (1987a:199) discussed several variations of the “STANDARD (arch)” grooved-ring, wax-sealer fruit jars. The McCully mark was embossed horizontally on the reverse above the heel in several configurations: “WM M<sup>C</sup>CULLY&Co.,” “W. M<sup>C</sup>CULLY&Co.,” and “W. M<sup>C</sup>&Co.” We have not discovered an example of the “WM M<sup>C</sup>CULLY&Co.” variation aside from Creswick (Figure 8). She dated the entire series ca. 1860-1887 – although we suggest that the final, shorter logo was used later than the longer ones. The jars sealed with a metal cap embossed “M<sup>C</sup>CULLY&Co. (arch) / GLASS (horizontal) / PITTSBURGH (inverted arch).” Roller (1983:338) agreed with all of Creswick’s variations, dating them ca. 1870-1880s, although the Roller update (2011:487) left out the “WM” variation.

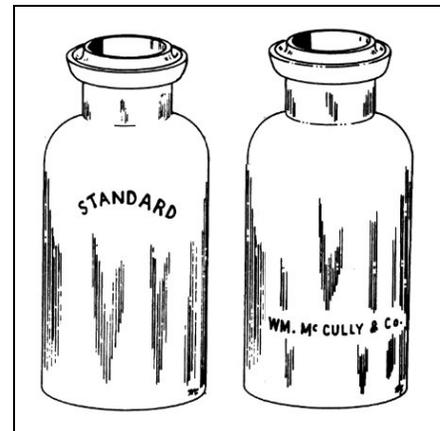


Figure 8 – Standard (Creswick 1987a:199)

**W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>c</sup>C&Co PITTS P<sup>A</sup>** (prob. 1860-1870s)

Von Mechow listed a mark of “W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>c</sup>C&Co PITTS P<sup>A</sup>” on the heel of a soda bottle, although we have been unable to find a photo.

**W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>c</sup>C&Co** (ca. 1859-early 1870s)

This mark was only listed in Griffenhagen & Bogard (1999:129) as used on a bottle from Thompson’s Philadelphia, from 1866 to 1891. The closest we could find to this company/mark was Thompson, Steel & Price Mfg. Co., Chicago and St. Louis. The bottle was marked “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” on the base (Fike 1987:79). Ring (87, 184, 324), however, listed three bottles bearing the mark. These included Blue Jacket Stomach Bitters, Francis & Spier, Peoria, Illinois; Eureka Bitters, Granger & Co., Tutusville, Pennsylvania (listed in directories from 1866 to 1891); and McKelvy’s Stomach Bitters, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We suspect that all these bottles actually had the much more common “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” logo.

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:626) illustrated and discussed the mark embossed horizontally on the base of a Blue Jacket Stomach Bitters bottle, dated 1870-1871. Von Mechow (2020) listed the mark in a circle on the base of a porter bottle. Von Mechow also listed a slight variation – “W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>c</sup>C&Co PITTS / P<sup>A</sup>” – on the heel of a soda bottle.

Both Farnsworth & Walthall (in their St. Louis study) and von Mechow included another variation – “W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>c</sup>C&Co PITTS / P<sup>A</sup>” – embossed on the lower body of a soda bottle with an improved pontil scar. The McCully data is in smaller letters and appears to have been added to an existing mold. The pontil scar makes this one of the earliest marks used by McCully – ca. 1859.

Finally, Farnsworth & Walthall (2011) illustrated a bottle embossed “DORRY & BROWN (arch) / REESE, ILL. (horizontal) on the front an “W<sup>M</sup>M<sup>c</sup>C&Co” on the reverse above the heel (Figure 9). As with most of this realm of marks, the “<sup>M</sup>” in “W<sup>M</sup>” had two dots below it.

## 2. W M<sup>c</sup>CULLY & Co. (ca. 1858-1890s)

Bottles and jars with the “W. M<sup>c</sup>CULLY & Co.” or “W. M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” logo were by far the most common in any of our samples. The variations were so complex that we have broken this group into two sections, this one concentrating on “M<sup>c</sup>CULLY,” while the next will cover “M<sup>c</sup>C.” These marks were used concurrently with “W<sup>M</sup> M<sup>c</sup>CULLY & Co.” – discussed above.

During the early period, William McCully & Co. only operated two factories that produced bottles: the Phoenix Glass Works, manufacturing bottles exclusively, and the Pittsburgh Glass Works, making window glass as well as containers. It is possible that the Pittsburgh Works, producing significantly fewer bottles than the Phoenix, used the “W<sup>M</sup> M<sup>c</sup>CULLY & Co.” logo, while the exclusive bottle factory, the Pittsburgh, concentrated on the “W. M<sup>c</sup>CULLY & Co.” or “W. M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” logos. Alternatively, the two variations may have been just whims of the mold makers.

To support our two factory-two logo hypothesis, the Phoenix concentrated on black glass in the beginning (1833), almost certainly expanding to amber and “green” (aqua) by the 1870s. The plant closed between 1889 and 1891. In our photo sample, the “W. M<sup>c</sup>CULLY & Co.” or “W. M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” logos were present on a significant number of black glass bottles as well as plenty made of “green” and amber glass. It was open – under McCully control – longer than than the Pittsburgh.

Meanwhile, the Pittsburgh Glass Works opened by 1850 and was demolished in 1894 – although we have not discovered when production ceased. The plant produced vials initially, expanding to bottles. Significantly, our admittedly much smaller photo sample was only comprised of a single amber glass whiskey bottle and a variety of “green” glass containers.

There was a considerable variance in containers embossed “W. M<sup>c</sup>CULLY & Co.”



Figure 9 – WmMcC&Co  
(Farnsworth & Walthall  
2011:626)

## W. M'CULLY & CO / GLASS WORKS / PITTSBURGH (1858-1860)

Von Mechow (2020) listed this mark as “W. M'CULLY & CO (arch) / GLASS WORKS / PITTSBURGH (both horizontal)” on the reverse body of a soda bottle with an improved pontil scar. During the mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the “Mc” and “Mac” in Scottish names were often written as “M” apostrophe rather than using the letters. This is the only example we have found of this use on a McCully bottle. It probably represents the whim of an individual mold maker. Von Mechow recorded these bottles in both green and blue colors and dated them ca. 1858-1860.



Figure 10 – W McCully & Co.  
(Jay Hawkins)

## W. M'CULLY & Co. PITTSBURGH PA (ca. 1858-1860s)



Figure 11 – W McCully & Co.  
(Fort Laramie)

Wilson (1981:125-126) showed five subtle variations of this mark. All were on cylindrical amber bottles (probably whiskey) with two-part finishes, and all were embossed on the bases with the marks ringed around the edge in Ricketts-style plate molds. Three of the variations included dots in the center of the bases. All contained essentially the same information; variations centered around the lower-case “c” in McCully, the city/state designation, and the basal design.

1. Period after W; PITT'S PA; two concentric rings and a dot on the kick-up (Figure 10)
2. Period after W; PITTS; one concentric ring on kick-up with no dot (Figure 11)
3. No period after W; PITTS PA; two pronounced concentric rings and a dot on the kick-up (Figure 12)
4. No period after W; PITTSBURGH PA; two concentric rings and a dot in center of the kick-up (Figure 13)
5. No period after W; PITTS PA; number is center (this may not have had a kick-up)



Figure 12 – W McCully & Co.  
(Jay Hawkins)

Variation 4 was also shown in Switzer (1974:29, 32) but with a single circle on the kick-up. Switzer’s illustration is valuable because it showed the shape of the bottle, including the finish and the way the Ricketts-style plate mold on the base actually fit into the entire bottle morphology (Figure 14). The bottles were amber in color and made in three-piece molds (i.e., dip molds with hinged shoulder sections). Switzer (1974:73), in his examination of glass containers excavated from the steamer



Figure 13 – W McCully & Co. (Jay Hawkins)

*Bertrand* dated the bottles

“after 1841, probably between 1856 and 1866, at the Phoenix Glass Co.” A case of these bottles was aboard the steamer, *Bertrand*, when it struck a snag and sank on April 1, 1865. This provides solid evidence that this mark on this style of base was made prior to 1865, although this does not indicate a cessation of the mark’s use after that date. These were probably “cylinder” whiskey bottles.

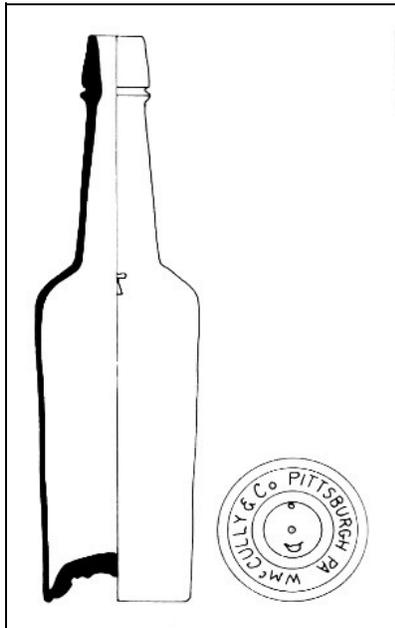


Figure 14 – W McCully & Co. (Switzer 1974:32)

Farnsworth & Walthall

(2011:171, 295, 300-302, 317-318) illustrated and described porter bottles with this mark embossing in a circle

around the bases (Figure 15). Rickett’s plates were in contexts as early as 1855-1858 and as late as 1865-1868. The mark was also used on a non-Rickett’s base in a 1858-1871 context. Von Mechow (2020) also listed the mark in an arch and in a “W. M<sup>c</sup>CULLY & Co. (arch) / PITTSBURGH (inverted arch)” configuration – both on porter bottle bases.



Figure 15 – W McCully & Co. (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:318)

**W McCULLY & Co. PITTS P<sup>A</sup>** (ca. 1858-early 1880s)

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:255-257, 300-305) in a circle around the base on porter bottles found in the state of Illinois (Figure 16). Some of these were in Rickett's plates; others were embossed directly on the bases. The "A" in "PA" was shown in various formats, including superscript (with and without two dots below the letter) and regular size. The Rickett's plate example was from a 1855-1858 context, but the regular basal embossing was from two periods: 1865-1875 and 1872-1873. Von Mechow (2020) included similar examples as well as some on the bases of Hutchinson bottles – which would indicate 1879 or later venues.



Figure 16 – W McCully & Co. (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:305)

**W. McCULLY & CO. PITTS** (ca. 1860s-1896)

Roller (1983:248; 2011:369) noted W. McCULLY & CO. PITTS embossed on the base of a fruit jar. He suggested that the jar was made in a four-part mold about the 1860s by William McCully & Co.

**W McCULLY&Co** (ca. 1860-1880s)

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:303-306) illustrated and discussed this mark on the heels of a porter bottle that was used in Illinois between 1865-1875. Von Mechow (2020) also noted this mark on similar bottles.

According to Creswick (1987:199) and Roller (1983:338;2011:487-488) these marks are found on grooved-ring wax sealer fruit jars made by William McCully & Co. during the 1860-1887 period (according to Creswick 1987:199). They are found on jars embossed STANDARD on the front or



Figure 17 – W McCully & Co. (Creswick 1987:199)

unembossed (Figure 17). The marks were embossed on the lower front of the jars noticeably above the heel. The jars were made in a variety of colors. A tin lid to fit the jars was embossed M<sup>c</sup>CULLY & CO (arch) / GLASS (horizontal) / PITTSBURG (inverted arch – note: no H in PITTSBURGH) (Figure 18). As mentioned above, bottle production ceased after 1896. Also, note that a single variation (discussed above) used “Wm” in place of “W.”



Figure 18 – McCully & Co. (North American Glass)

### 3. W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co. (mid- late 1860s-1890s)

These simplified logos apparently were begun later than the more complex marks discussed above – beginning in the mid- to late 1860s. As with the earlier logos, many continued into the later periods, used until the molds wore out. We have divided these into two sections – “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co. PITTS” or “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co. PITTS P<sup>A</sup>” and the even less complex “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” Included in the second group are some possible engravers’ errors or researchers’ typos.

#### W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.PITTS (or PITTS P<sup>A</sup>) (late 1860s-late 1870s)

Creswick (1987:155) illustrated “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co. PITTS\_\_” on the base of a wax-dipped cork fruit jar (Figure 19). The mark wrapped around the outside edge of the jar’s base to form a continuous circle. She dated the jar 1841-1888 – although the early part of that range is almost certainly in error. This marking was also embossed around the central concavity of a Hostetter’s Stomach Bitters bottle base. It was accompanied by a single-digit number in the center (Wilson & Wilson 1969:40). Ring (1980:360) listed this mark on a Gary Owen Strengthening Bitters bottle used by Ball & Lyons, a company in business from 1869 to 1875 (cf. Fike 1987:39). Siri (2005:59) illustrated this mark on Hostetter’s Bitters bottles, embossed in a circle around the inside of the post-

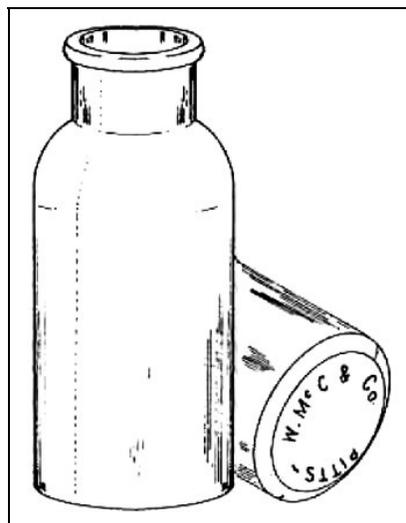


Figure 19 – W McC&Co (Creswick 1987:155)

bottom base. The two variations were “W.M<sup>C</sup>&Co. PITTS\_\_” and “W.M<sup>C</sup>&Co. PITTS.” around a large X (Figure 20).

A slight variation, “W. M<sup>C</sup>&Co.PITT<sup>S</sup> P<sup>A</sup>” (with two dots under both the superscript S and A) was illustrated by Clint (1976:125) on a Denver Ale Brewing Co. bottle. The bottle had an applied, two-part “brandy” finish and was dated ca. 1869-1871

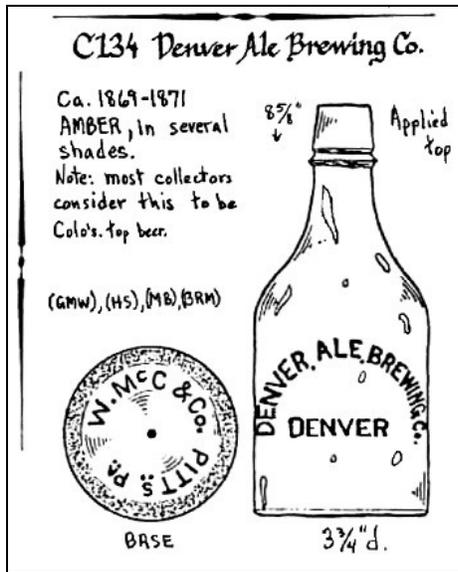


Figure 21 – W McC&Co (Clint 1976:125)

failed to speculate on a date of manufacture (Figure 22).

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:317-318) only found this mark in a circle around the base in a small Rickett’s mold on a single Illinois bottle – a porter bottle made during the 1858-1871 period. Von Mechow (2020) included bottles with similar markings, although the shape was less well defined. This mark was likely used during the late 1860s-late 1870s. See comments on dating this mark at the end of the “W.M<sup>C</sup>&Co.” section below and in the Discussion and Conclusions section.

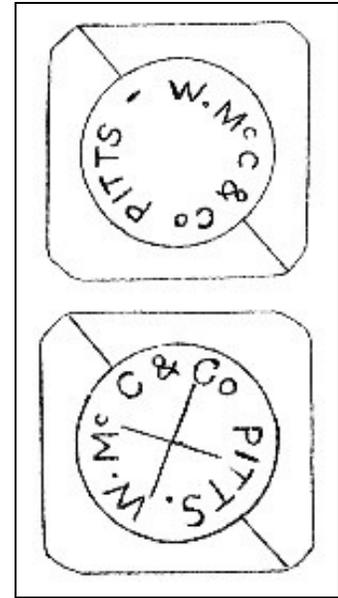


Figure 20 – W McC&Co (Siri 2005:59)

(Figure 21). Kroll (1972:63) noted that Fred Borchert & Son, brewers in Wilwaukee, used bottles marked “W

McC&Co” sometime during the 1874-1879 period.

McKearin & Wilson (1978:154, 581, 636-638) described and illustrated “W.M<sup>C</sup>&Co / GLASS WORKS / PITTS. PA.” on the side of an American Eagle flask – and two other similarly marked flasks – although they

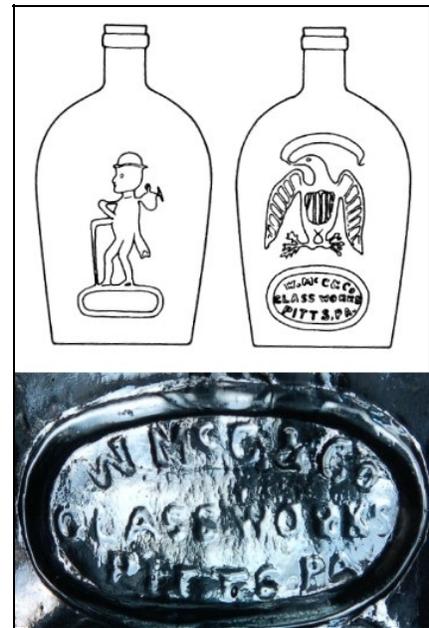


Figure 22 – W McC&Co (McKearin and Wilson 1978:638 & Jay Hawkins)

**W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.** (late 1860s-late 1870s)

Toulouse (1971:351) recorded “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” as one of the seven marks used by McCully. Photos from eBay show this logo with two dots under the superscript “c” on a fruit jar – as well as the superscript with no dots (Figure 23). The mark was also listed on a “blob-top” soda bottle made for W. Hekelnkaemper, Atchison, Kansas, a firm in business from 1863 to 1883 (Fletcher 1994:221), and Lynch (2000) showed it on the base of a Denver Ale Brewing Co. bottle. The bottle, incidentally, sold at an eBay auction for \$5,300!



Figure 23 – W McC&Co (eBay)

Roller (1983:338; 487:-488) discussed several variations of the “STANDARD,” grooved-ring, wax sealer fruit jars, including the “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” logo and more complex marks discussed above (Figure 24). These included a variation that had “MASTODON” erased but still visible on the back and another with “STANDARD” embossed atop a ghosted “MASTODON” on the front. Since Mastodon opened in 1870, the mark on the jar could not have been made prior to that date).



Figure 24 – W McC&Co (North American Glass)

Creswick

(1987:199-200)

illustrated the two ghosted variations

(Figure 25).

Creswick

(1987:200) showed the “WM<sup>c</sup>C” mark on the lower back side noticeably above the heel on grooved-ring wax sealer fruit jars (Figures 26 & 27). The jars were embossed on the front “STANDARD / FROM FOOTE, BAER & Co. / CLEVELAND.” Roller (1983:338; 2011:488) discussed both variations (regular and ghosted) but *correctly* noted

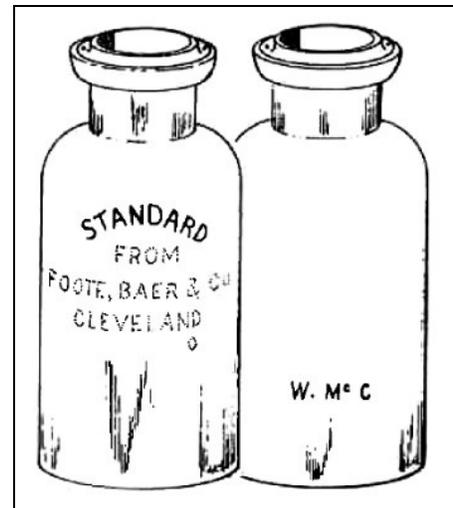


Figure 25 – Ghosted Standard (Creswick 1987:200)

that each was embossed with the “W M<sup>c</sup>C&Co” mark. He also added that Foote, Baer & Co. were listed in the 1870 city directory – but did not mention any other years. All but STANDARD was peened out but still visible.

Griffenhagen & Bogard (1999:129) listed the mark as being used from 1860 to 1880. They noted that the mark was used on bottles by Ball & Lyons, New Orleans, P.R. Lance & Co., New York, and on Hostetter’s Stomach Bitters (see below). According to Fike (1987:39), the wholesale drug firm of Ball & Lyons was in business from 1869 to 1875. Ring (1980:360) noted that I.L. Lyons & Co. also made the same product, but their bottles contained no manufacturer’s mark.



Figure 26 – Foote, Baer & Co. (Creswick 1987:200)

Ring (1980:133, 269, 329) also listed three other bitters bottles bearing the mark. These including Genl Frank Cheatham’s Bitters, Nashville, Tennessee; Jenkens’ Stomach Bitters (bottles also made by Lorenz & Wightman), advertised 1872; and Mishler’s Herb Bitters, Dr. S.B. Hartman & Co. The Mishler’s trademark was recorded April 1871; the company had been in business since 1869.



Figure 27 – Foote, Baer & Co. (North American Glass)

Wilson & Wilson (1969:38-40) showed two variations of the mark on Dr. Hostetter’s Stomach Bitters bottle bases. The most common mark is embossed in an arch around the concave central portion of the base with a single-digit number in the center. The alternative variation (one case) was embossed horizontally across the center of the base (with the bottle held so that one corner points up and the opposite one, down) with no accompanying number. McKee made the first embossed Hostetter’s bottle in 1858 (Wilson & Wilson 1969:34), so the McCully bottles could not have been made until ca. 1859 or later.

Siri (2005:59-60) illustrated the “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” mark on Hostetter’s Bitters bottles in two main variations, large and small letters, always embossed in an arch around the edge of the post-bottom of the base. The logo could appear alone or with letters B, D, E or G or numbers 6, 7, 8, or 9 embossed in the center. A final variation of the mark – actually “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&C.” with the “o” missing because the engraver ran out of room – was embossed horizontally across the post-bottom circle on the base, with a number below the mark (Figure 28). The baseplates were embossed with 4, 5, or 6 beneath the mark. Ring (1980:48) also listed this shortened variation on the base of a Dr. J.P. Allen Iron Tonic Bitters bottle from J.P. Allen, St. Paul, Minnesota.

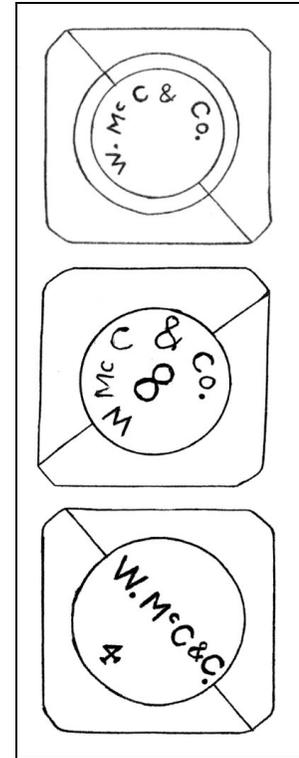


Figure 28 – Hostetter’s Bitters (Siri 2005:59-60)



Figure 29 – W McC&Co (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:308)

Although Ring (1980:255) noted the “W McG&Co / 6” mark on the base of a Dr. J. Hostetter’s Stomach Bitters bottle, this was probably a typographical error or a misreading on her part – although it *could* be an engraver’s error. Many have been reported from that time period.

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:303-308) listed this mark on the heels of several soda and porter bottles (Figure 29). In addition, they showed photographs of the logo in a circle on a concave post-bottom base of a champagne beer bottle. Most of the examples could only have been used during the mid-1860 to mid-1870 period, although one was limited to ca. 1872-1873 and another to ca. 1873-1874. The mark was also in an arch format on the base of an 1865-1875 porter bottle and embossed horizontally on the base of a Keystone Tonic Bitters bottle (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:255-257; 323; 473-474).

While the “W.M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” marks – without location indicators (PITT, PITTS, etc.) could have been used earlier, the bulk of the evidence points to the 1870s as the major use period. This is in keeping

with our hypothesis that the McCully logos – like those of most glass houses – evolved from complex to more simple, especially after McCully’s death and the operation of the firm by his sons-in-law.

### Less Complex Logos (ca. 1858-1869)

These abbreviations of the abbreviations were almost certainly the result of William McCully’s death and the shift in management to his sons-in-law.

#### 1. W.M°C (late-1870s-1896)

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:488-489) illustrated and discussed the “WM°C” mark on a bitters-style bottle for “DANIELS’ TANTA MIRACULOUS” – made by C.M. Daniels & Co., Elgin, Illinois (Figure 30). The researchers suggest that bottles were probably made during the 1860s, although Daniels was in business from at least 1864 to the 1880s. The use of the mark on medicinal bottles, one solarized to a purple color, indicates that the mark was probably used during the ca. late 1870s-1890



Figure 31 – W McC (eBay)

period, although the Daniels bottle may indicate a slightly earlier use. The “WM°C” mark also appeared at eBay auctions on a panel bottle for “FOGLE’S ELIXER OF LIFE” and on the base of a square bottle and at least one other square-with-chamfered-corners, medicinal bottle (Figure 31).



Figure 30 – W McC (Farnsworth & Walthall 2011:489)

#### 2. M°C&Co. (1870s-ca. 1880)

Toulouse (1971:351) recorded “McC&Co” as one of the seven marks used by McCully. He also noted (1971:353) that the Standard jars were marked McC & Co. McKearin & Wilson (1978:154, 580-581) described and illustrated a flask marked “PITTSBURGH / PA / M°C&Co.” but did not comment on the date range (Figure 32). Von Mechow (2020) noted the mark on the base of a champagne beer bottle.

Griffenhagen & Bogard (1999:126) suggested that the mark was found on pharmaceutical bottles used by Bennett Pieters & Co. from 1870 to 1880. Ring (1980:394), however, noted that the bottle marked McC&CO on the base was Red Jacket Bitters from Schwab Pieters. She listed five different types of Red Jacket Bitters bottles made by at least three separate glass houses. Fike (1987:40) stated that the “McC&CO” mark was found on Red Jacket Bitters made by Bennett Pieters & Co. He also noted that the company was called Bennett Pieters & Co. from 1864 to 1866 followed by Schwab, Pieters & Co. The bitters may have continued in production until the early 1900s, although the later Red Jacket Bitters may have been made by a different company.



Figure 32 – McC&Co (McKearin & Wilson 1978:581)

Siri (2005:60) included a single “M<sup>c</sup>C&Co.” logo in his study of Dr. J. Hosteter’s Bitters bottles. The mark was embossed across the center of the base with a single dot both above and below the ampersand. A “5” appeared below the logo (Figure 33). Two additional examples of the mark appeared on eBay auctions, one on a square, amber, bitters-type bottle, the other on an oval, solarized lavender medicinal or household bottle. With the exception of the flask reported by McKearin & Wilson, all examples had an underlined superscript “<sup>c</sup>” in “M<sup>c</sup>C.” We have only observed this underlined superscript “<sup>c</sup>” in these and the “M<sup>c</sup>C” logos discussed below – never in the older ones.

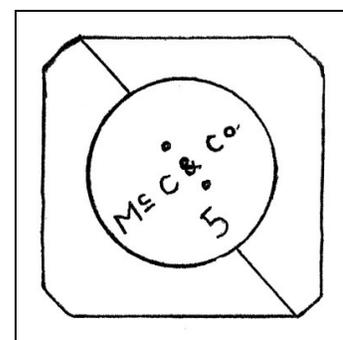


Figure 33 – McC&Co (Siri 2005:60)

### Mistakes or Mis-Strikes

Several sources have reported marks that were very similar to the ones in this section but with slightly different letters. These were likely typos, mis-readings of the basal embossing, or misunderstandings of someone else’s reports. Of course, any of them could be legitimate engraver’s errors. In one case, the embossing was correct but indicated a different company.

### **McC&Co.**

We observed this mark on the base of an amber, rectangular bottle embossed “McCormick & Co’s / CHILL TONIC / Baltimore, Md.” on the side. Although mouth blown, the bottle had numerous air venting marks (several on front and back shoulders, four on the base), an indication of a manufacture after 1900 (Lindsey 2020). The initials almost certainly indicated McCormick & Co. – *not* McCully & Co. Probably the key difference is in the placement of the “c” in “Mc”; in virtually all the McCully marks, the “c” is in superscript, often underlined.

### **Mc.&Co. (1860s?)**

Toulouse (1971:351) recorded this as one of the seven marks used by McCully (without punctuation). He called this “the lone anomaly” of McCully marks, probably because it did not have a second “C” in the abbreviation. Knittle (1927:442, 444) noted this mark as belonging to McCully & Co. and cited it as being found on “Union and Clasped Hands” flasks. This was probably an error on the part of Knittle, repeated by Toulouse. We have not found an example.

### **MCCo (1870s-1896)**

This mark, embossed across the center of the base of a grooved-ring wax sealer fruit jar, was accompanied by either a 3 or 4 just below it (Figure 34). The jars were made in aqua and amber colors. Creswick (1987:154) reported Wm. McCully & Co. as the possible maker. She dated the jars, 1841-1887. The maker could also have been the Mississippi Glass Co. See that file for a discussion. Since no other source reported this configuration, it may be a bogus logo.

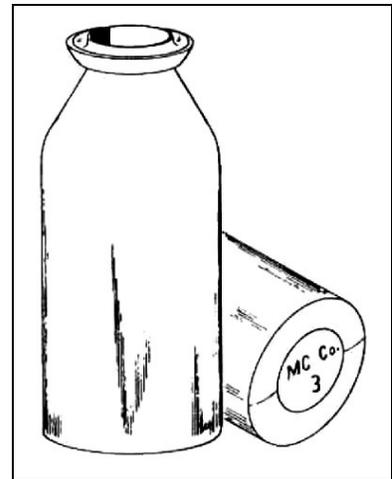


Figure 34 – MCCo (Creswick 1987:154)

### **M<sup>ε</sup>E &C<sup>σ</sup> (1870s?)**

Creswick (1987:168) and Roller (1983:274; 2011:405) both reported a continuous thread jar with an April 19<sup>th</sup> 1870 patent date marked with “M<sup>ε</sup>E &C<sup>σ</sup>” horizontally across the center of

the base with a number below the abbreviation. The jar was embossed “THE / PARAGON / VALVE JAR” on the side along with the patent date. The patent (No. 102,024) was issued to Robert McCully of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Creswick suggested that the jar was made by Wm. McCully & Co. and that the “E” was an engraver’s error, although – in a departure from her usual methods – she did not illustrate the base. A North American Glass photo clearly showed the unusual underline of both the superscript “c” and “o” (Figure 35). Creswick may have deduced William McCully & Co. as the manufacturer because the name of the patentee was Robert McCully.

### 3. M<sup>c</sup>C or M<sup>c</sup>C (mid-1870s-ca. 1896)

Toulouse (1971:351) recorded “McC” (note placement of “c” in “Mc”) as one of the seven marks used by McCully. He also suggested (incorrectly) that marks without “Co” might have been used prior to the



Figure 36 – McC (TUR)

1840 partnership that formed McCully & Co. This mark was apparently used by McCully on drug store (prescription) bottles, Hutchinson soda bottles, and bitters bottles. Bethman (1991:75) dated the logo from 1841 to 1886. Bethman (1991:451, 453, 720, 872) illustrated six Washington drug store bottles with McC embossed on their bases. These marks appeared in two formats: 1) “M<sup>c</sup>C” and 2) “M<sup>c</sup>C” (Figure 36). He dated bottles with the first configuration ca. 1884-1885 and the second ca. 1883-1886. Thus, they appear to have been used concurrently. Hawkins (2009) noted that McCully & Co. was last listed in 1909, but the listings from 1896 on were only for window glass. In addition, a notice in the *National Glass Budget* (McCully 1896:6) stated, “we have retired from the manufacture of bottles.” Thus bottle production stopped by 1896.

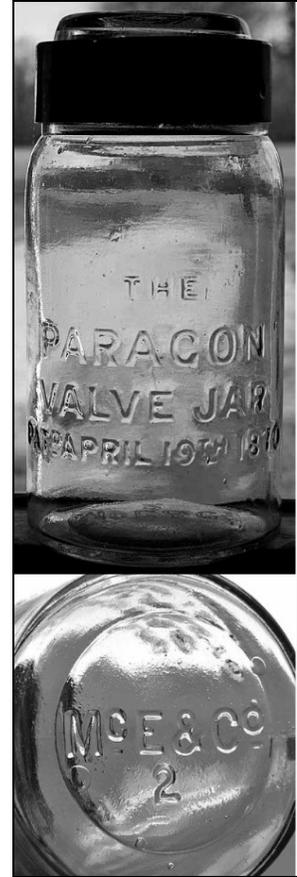


Figure 35 – McE&Co (North American Glass)

Griffenhagen & Bogard (1999:126) claimed that the mark was used by W.H. Culmer and W.E. Jarvis, both of New York; C.E. Johnson in Utah; and on White's Cure from Norfolk, Virginia. They dated the mark 1850-1885. According to Fike (1987:107), McC was found on the base of White's Neuralgia Cure. The product was advertised in 1895 and 1900. Fike (1987:143) also noted C.E. Johnson "MFG" from Salt Lake City but did not include any dates or other information. We have found no mention of W.E. Jarvis. Ring (1980:263) also listed an Indian Tonic Bitters bottle marked McC on the base. The product was made by F. Schulte, Jackson, Michigan. Finally, Ring (1980:416) noted the mark on the base of a bottle containing Saint Jacob's Bitters, made by the St. Jacob's Bitters Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. The name was trademarked December 1882. Similar bottles were marked KYGWCO.

Miller (1999:109) showed an example marked M<sup>c</sup>C on the base that he dated 1883-1884. Clint (1976:124, 145) illustrated two examples of the M<sup>c</sup>C mark, both embossed on the back heels. One bottle had a blob finish, the other a Hutchinson; both were applied. Clint's combined date ranges were 1883 to 1886. Preble (2002:459, 482) showed three examples of the mark with a combined date range of 1878-1886. At least one of the Hostetter's Bitters bottles was embossed M<sup>c</sup>C on the base with horizontal lines above and below the mark (Figure 37). At least seven variations of McCully marks appeared on Hostetter's bottles (Siri 2005:58-60).

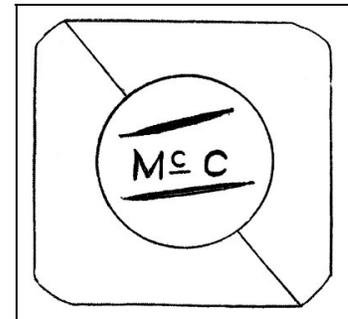


Figure 37 – McC (Siri 2005:58)

Feldhaus (1986:92-94), however, noted the mark on both heels and bases of Minnesota beer bottles. One of his marks was recorded as McG, but that is likely a typo (one of many). Date ranges for the breweries using bottles with the marks include: 1874-1877, 1876-1883, and 1882-1898. Feldhaus (1986:108) also listed an extract bottle from C.A. Mann, Minneapolis (1882-1885), marked McC on the base. The ranges all fall within the parameters set by Bethman.

Farnsworth & Walthall (2011:329-330) only found this logo in the 1878-1884 range. Von Mechow (2020) listed numerous examples of the mark including placement on bases and heels of soda, porter, champagne beer, and Hutchinson soda bottles.

The Bottle Research Group (BRG) found two variations on colorless, generic medicine or drug store bottles in collections at the California State Park Service office in Sacramento (Figure 38). These were not discussed in any source we have seen. One mark was “M<sup>c</sup>C” in an oval, on the bottom of a mouth-blown Richmond’s Samaritan Nervine bottle. The other was “M<sup>c</sup>C” in a diamond on a similar, colorless, generic bottle.

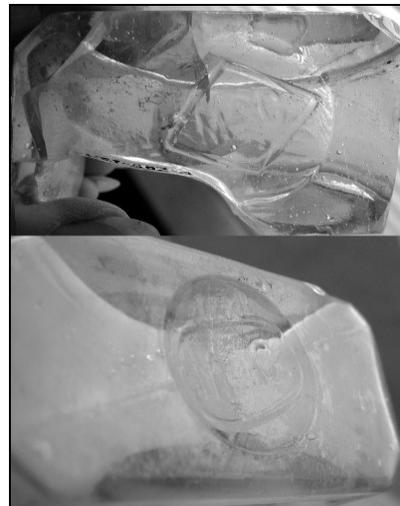


Figure 38 – McC (California Division of Parks)

Despite the date range set by Toulouse (and mostly followed by other researchers), empirical evidence (colorless bottles, style) and historic evidence (date ranges set for individual bottles or businesses using the bottles) indicate that the mark was likely used from the late-1870s to ca. 1896, with the heaviest use during the 1880s.

### **The Error – McG**

Herskovitz (1978:9) found a single beer bottle base embossed with “McG” and the numeral 1. Herskovitz did not attempt to identify the company that made the mark or to date it. The base was found in the trash dump of the second Fort Bowie, open from 1868 to 1894. This is likely either a misreading of the mark (many of the Fort Bowie bottles were very badly corroded) or an engraving error for “McC.”

### **McCULLY & Co. or McCULLY**

Toulouse (1971:351, 353) recorded “McCully & Co.” as one of the seven marks used by McCully (probably intending to indicate the W. McCULLY & Co mark) and noted that McCully’s “‘Dictator’ fruit jars are marked “McCULLY.” All other descriptions of the DICTATOR noted the mark as “WM M<sup>c</sup>CULLY.” As mentioned above, a tin lid to fit the STANDARD jars was embossed M<sup>c</sup>CULLY & CO (arch) / GLASS (horizontal) / PITTSBURG (inverted arch) (Creswick 1987:199). Von Mechow (2020) also noted the name on the base of a champagne beer bottle.

## **Hostetter's Stomach Bitters**

At least five bottle houses (McKee, McCully, Lorenz & Wightman, Chambers, and Ihmsen) and probably others made Dr. J. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters bottles. Wilson & Wilson (1969:38-39) described and showed two bottles made from a single mold, although they were marked by two different companies. One bottle contained the "L&W" mark used by Lorenz & Wightman; the other was embossed "W. McC. & Co." The Wilsons (1969:38) suggested that the mold "was evidently loaned to the McCully Glass Works to fill out an order." However, the loan could just as easily have gone the other way. Ring (1980:255) also noted both marks on the Hostetter's bottles but did not join in the mold controversy.

We suggest a simpler scenario. Lorenz & Wightman used the "L&W" logo on bottles and jars from 1863 to 1873. When Thomas Wightman & Co. took over the operation, the glass house lost or moved away from the Hostetter's account, probably selling the molds to McCully's sons-in-law – who replaced the baseplate with their own logo. Each time a new mold was placed in service, it was engraved with the current McCully mark, shifting from "W M<sup>c</sup>C&Co" in the 1870s to "M<sup>c</sup>C&Co." in the 1880s. See the section on the Lorenz Family Glass Companies for more on Lorenz & Wightman.

## **McCully and the Development of the Export Beer Bottle**

The McCully factory at "16<sup>th</sup> & Liberty" (i.e., the Phoenix Glass Works) produced the first export beer bottle in 1873. The container was designed by Valentine Blatz and embossed "Valentine Blatz Brewery, Milwaukee, Wis." diagonally across the body. Six gross (72 dozen) of the "green" glass bottles were all blown by John Nolan and Sebastian "Bostie" Urban, two of McCully's top gaffers (*National Glass Budget* 1909:4).

Some of the earliest of the export bottles were made in dip molds, and others were made by the turn-mold process. None were marked with any company logo. It is very possible that some of these were produced by McCully's Phoenix Glass Works. No export bottles with a known McCully mark have been identified, although bases from Fort Union (Wilson 1981:125-126) were marked with the McCully name in a Ricketts-type mold. As noted above, these were almost certainly cylinder whiskey bottles rather than beer bottles.

As noted in the history section, McCully only advertised in the brewery journals from 1881 to 1884. The only beer containers we have discovered with McCully logos have been champagne beer rather than export beer bottles. Although the unknown gaffer who shared his memories with the *National Glass Budget* in 1909 may have been in error, we think it that his memory was more likely correct but that McCully – for whatever reason – elected to drop beer bottle production soon, possibly after a single run. After briefly revisiting the beer trade during the early 1880s, the firm again concentrated on other container types.

## Discussion and Conclusions

We have been unable to find any specific mark for the Union Flint Glass Works, Hay & McCully, Phoenix Glass Works, Sligo Glass Works, or the Pittsburgh Glass Works. Since many of those only made window glass, that is hardly surprising for those factories. With the single exception of the MASTODON jar, all marks have been associated with the operating company rather than the specific glass works.

We can make two broad temporal generalizations about McCully marks. First, they can be dated according to manufacturing characteristics. Bottles with pontil scars were almost certainly used earliest. The use of Rickett's plates on bases was also generally early and ceased by the early 1870s. On the other end of the 1880s spectrum, champagne beer bottles were rarely used prior to the mid-1870s.

Second, the more complex marks were generally used earlier. This includes both length of the mark and complexity. The longer logos were the earliest and were often embossed in a circular pattern on bases. Those evolved into basal arches as they grew shorter and into horizontal lines. Gradually, the state abbreviation was dropped, followed by the city. The name "McCULLY & Co." became "McC&Co" – and finally "McC." Although the superscript "c" in "McCully" persisted, the superscript "o" in "Co" and the "A" in "PA" descended to the lower positions. The use of one or two dots below the superscript letters disappeared fairly early, but the unerlined "c" in "M<sup>c</sup>C" was only used on the final logos. The more complex marks were used while the senior McCully remained alive (i.e., until 1869), while the simpler ones were used after that time. See Table 2 for probable date ranges.

**Table 2 – McCully Logos by Dates and Plants**

Logo	Factory	Dates
W <sup>M</sup> M <sup>c</sup> Cully & Co	Phoenix Glass Works	ca. 1858-1860s
W <sup>M</sup> M <sup>c</sup> C & Co	Phoenix Glass Works	ca. mid-1860s-early 1870s
W M <sup>c</sup> Cully & Co.	Phoenix Glass Works	ca. 1858-1860s
W M <sup>c</sup> C & Co	Phoenix Glass Works	ca. 1869-1880s
W M <sup>c</sup> C	Phoenix Glass Works	1880s
M <sup>c</sup> C&Co	Mastodon Glass Works	ca. 1870s
M <sup>c</sup> C	Mastodon Glass Works	1880s

Attempting to assign the various marks to individual factories is much less certain. McCully used three glass houses for bottle manufacture – Phoenix Glass Works (1833-ca. 1890); Pittsburgh Glass Works (ca. 1840s-ca. 1890); and Mastodon Glass Works (ca. 1870-1896). Although we can find no *direct* evidence for this assertion, the Phoenix seems to have been McCully’s main bottle production plant during the 1830-ca. 1870 period. The plant certainly made black and “green” glass, almost certainly amber – and probably some flint (colorless) glass after 1870.

We suggest that this plant may have been the user of the W McCully series of logos. Both “W McCully & Co.” and “W McC&Co.” bottles and jars appeared in our sample in black, amber, green colors, and the “W McC” – a very small sample – was restricted to flint. The first two formats were by far the largest number in our sample. Assuming we are correct that the Phoenix made the bulk of the early bottles, it would almost certainly have used the “W McCully” series of logos, including minor production of flint bottles after 1870. The shortest mark in the series – “W McC” – was probably used after 1870.

The Pittsburgh was apparently a secondary bottle plant, often listed as making vials. These small medicine bottles were usually *not* marked, so we would not expect to see as many examples from this factory. The “Wm McCully” series had a *much* smaller sample – in keeping with our expectations. The bottles were made in amber, green and flint colors. A shortened

logo – “McC&Co.” – *may* have been used by the Pittsburgh Glass Works after 1870, but the sample we have is tiny. These were made in amber (possibly black), green, and flint glass.

The final logo – “McC” – was almost certainly used by the Mastodon Glass Works from 1870 to the end of production in 1896. These were made in amber, green, and flint glass.

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