

Glass Conglomerates

United States Glass Company

There has always been imitation of popular patterns and forms of one company by another but in the US there was also a rather unique situation that took place in 1891 and again in 1899. Smaller individual glass companies were finding it harder to survive on their own. In 1891 the United States Glass Company was formed. For a comprehensive read on the story and history of the United States Glass Company, please refer to *Victorian Colored Pattern Glass Book 5 U. S. Glass from A to Z* by William Heacock and Fred Bickenheuser.

As of September 1, 1891 the following companies became part of the United States Glass Company conglomerate and the letters assigned to each factory became their only identity. USGC catalogs refer to Factory A, B, C, etc.

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| A | Adams & Company, Pittsburgh, PA | |
| B | Bryce Brothers, Pittsburgh, PA | |
| C | Challinor, Taylor & Company, Tarentum, PA | |
| D | George Duncan & Sons, Pittsburgh, PA | |
| E | Richards & Hartley, Tarentum, PA | |
| F | Ripley & Company, Pittsburgh, PA | |
| G | Gillinder & Sons, Greensburgh, PA | |
| H | Hobbs Glass Company, Wheeling, WV | |
| J | Columbia Glass Company, Findlay, OH | |
| K | King Glass Company, Pittsburgh, PA | |
| L | O'Hara Glass Company, Pittsburgh, PA | |
| M | Bellaire Goblet Company, Findlay, OH | |
| N | Nickel Plate Glass Company, Fostoria, OH | |
| O | Central Glass Company, Wheeling, WV | |
| P | Doyle & Company, Pittsburgh, PA | |
| R | A. J. Beatty & Sons, Tiffin, OH | Added 1/1/1892, 1893 burned down, rebuilt |
| S | A. J. Beatty & Sons, Steubenville, OH | Used as warehouses only |
| T | Novelty Glass Company, Fostoria, OH | 10/6/1892 Sold molds and tooling to USGC |

Over the years, other glass companies were added to USGC and some burned down and were not replaced. By 1904, these were the operating factories:

- A Adams & Company
- B Bryce Brothers
- E Doyle & Company
- F Ripley & Company
- K King Sons & Company
- R Tiffin (formerly A. J. Beatty & Sons)

Also in 1904, these plants were added:

- D Gold decorating plant
- H Plate-etching plant
- U Tank operation in Gas City, IN

This is VERY important:

While factories operated under the name of United States Glass Company, it was possible for one company factory to use the molds originally designed and previously owned by another company. That could be why we see such conflicting information on who made what, and when. The “when” is what really matters most. Only company catalogs and information dating before the creation of USGC are accurate in determining the original manufacturer of a pattern. There are many USGC catalogs showing wares made and attributed to one factory or another. While it is true that, for instance, the Factory A (Adams) may have actually manufactured an item, it could have been made from a mold that originally belonged to another company, perhaps a factory that burned down. Most companies did, for the most part, manufacture their own original patterns. But if a pattern was still popular and the original company factory had burned or been shut down, then any of the remaining factories may have produced the item. With this in mind, it is only accurate to state that something made by one of the first 16 companies (A-R) after 1891 was made by the United States Glass Company. Distinct company attribution and dating of any particular item may be impossible.

By the end of 1910, there is no longer any past company name distinction. Each factory made only specific items as shown next. Some glassware made after 1914 has a US mark as shown here.



- A** Lead blown tumblers
- C** Decorating plant
- D** Gold decorating plant
- E** Common tumblers and jelly glasses
- F** Jars and specialty items
- G** High grade tableware
- H** Fancy deep etched ware
- K** Pressed tumblers, mugs and stemware
- N** Decorating shop built in 1910
- O** New factory built in 1910
- R** Lead blown tumblers, stemware and cut glass
- U** Pressed tumblers, beer mugs, jelly glasses and tableware

In 1938, USGC moved its offices to Tiffin, OH. By 1940 all glassware produced bore a Tiffin label. In 1951, the only remaining plant is Tiffin. It closed in 1980.

National Glass Company

On November 1, 1899 another conglomerate named the National Glass Company was organized under President Henry C. Fry. The nineteen glass companies were:

- * McKee & Brothers, Pittsburgh, PA
- * Rochester Tumbler Company, Rochester, PA
- * Northwood Glass Company, Indiana, PA
- Greensburg Glass Company, Greensburg, PA
- Keystone Tumbler Works, Rochester, PA
- Dalzell, Gilmore & Leighton Company, Findlay, OH
- * Ohio Flint Glass Company, Lancaster, OH
- Crystal Glass Company, Bridgeport, OH
- * Royal Glass Works, Marietta, OH
- West Virginia Glass Company, Martins Ferry, OH
- * Indiana Tumbler & Goblet Company, Greentown, IN
- Robinson Glass Works, Zanesville, OH
- Carter Glass Works, Marion, IN
- * Beatty-Brady Glass Company, Findlay, OH
- * Model Flint Glass Company, Findlay, OH
- Central Glass Company, Summitville, IN
- * Riverside Glass Works, Wellsville, WV
- * Fairmont Glass Company, Fairmont, WV
- * Cumberland Glass Works, Cumberland, IN
- * Canton Glass Company, Canton, OH and Marion, IN #20 - Joined soon after formation

By 1902, only the twelve companies marked by a red asterisk remained.

By 1903 Henry C. Fry left to open his own company. Mr. Dalzell left to join Fostoria Glass. Harry Northwood had also left to reorganize his business in Wheeling, WV.

New plants were built in Jeanette, PA (Jeanette Glass Company) and Cambridge and Lancaster, OH but by 1904 the remaining plants were either idle or leased by other companies. The National Glass Company was very short lived in comparison to the United States Glass Company.
