

Early 18th & 19th Century Glass Factories of Connecticut

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- 1747** **Thomas Darling** granted a patent for a 2-year privilege to manufacture glass in Connecticut (privilege not exercised)
- 17??-17??** **New Haven Glass Company** reportedly a glass works was to be established or was established but nothing in any records has been found to indicate whether the factory actually was built and produced glass
- 1783-1830** **The East Hartford Glass Company** East Hartford (now part of Manchester) established by William and Elisha Pitkin and Samuel Bishop under a 25-year General Assembly grant for a monopoly to manufacture glass. By 1810, J.P. Foster became the superintendent of the works and took over active management of the factory. The factory produces black and green bottles, flasks and hollow ware.
- 1808-18??** **John Mather** may have built a small factory in the Parker Village area of East Hartford not too far from the East Hartford Glass factory site (both located in what is now Manchester) along a creek that today runs along Mather Street. Products are unknown although some advertisements have been located that indicate the sale of bottles.
- 1813-1848** **Coventry Glass Company** built by a stock company organized by a group of entrepreneurs who knew nothing of producing glass. Nathaniel Root Jr. was their agent as well as investor. Apparently Capt. John Turner was employed later that first year to take over most of Root's duties and to run the company store. Principal bottles included flasks and figured flasks, hollow ware and inkwells and other liquor bottles and miscellaneous bottles for medicines, snuff, etc. In 1820 Thomas Stebbins operated the factory succeeded by Stebbins & Rufus Chamberlain. In 1848 the factory began closing possibly for lack of fuel (Another source indicates the lack of a supply of potash for making the glass forced the closing.)
- 1815-1872** **Willington Glass Company** located in West Willington was organized in 1814 by Frederick Rose, Roderick Rose, Stephen Brigham, Jr., Elisha Brigham, Spafford Brigham, John Turner and Ebenezer Root. Stephen Brigham sold his stock in 1815. Abiel Johnson Jr. was in the company for a short time. Bottles, flasks and hollow ware were produced. In 1831, Gilbert, Turner & Co., proprietors of the Coventry Glass Company, took over the factory. Rufus B. Chamberlain, Elisha Johnson and Gilbert Turner were among those in this venture. April 19, 1847 the factory was purchased by a new company composed of Harvey Merrick, Elisha Carpenter, William Still, William Schaffer, Frank Schaffer and James McFarlane before it was closed in 1872.

- 1857-1873 Westford Glass Company** organized in 1857 and began producing bottles, flasks, porters, etc. The three-pot factory was located not far from the West Willington works. Thirteen shareholders formed the company and the works were erected in 1857. About 1869 the business was taken over by E.A. Buck & Company, who continued to operate the works until 1873 when it closed. A considerable number of individual off-hand pieces in the form of pitchers, bowls, vases, glass canes, goblets, candlesticks and similar have been found in farmhouses in the immediate vicinity of the factory. Some were in the possession of descendants of some of the men who blew and molded them, or friends to whom they had been presented. It thus has been possible to identify the source of many interesting examples of these so-called "black" glasswares. Flasks marked with the glassworks' name exist as to many unmarked porters and other bottles attributed to the style of bottles blown at the factory. An archeological report based on the factory site had been in the works but not finished about the factory.
- 1874-18?? Meriden Flint Glass Company** was established in West Meriden in conjunction with the Meriden Silver Company. Founded by Horace & Dennis Wilcox. The main production was flint glass tableware and blanks for cutting (brilliant-cut) by other glass firms located mainly in Northeastern states. Also produced were two canning jars (Wilcox & WW Lyman) for two different factory owners. A records exist of the pieces made at the factory and its production. Author Diane Tobin published a book: "The Meriden Flint Glass Company" and is researcher ancillary glass industries that sprung up around the major factory and throughout the city. Her web site is" <http://www.freewebs.com/meridenflintglassco>
- 188?-1890? Wallingford Glass Company** A Hartford Courant article has been located about the search for and apprehension of a relative of the glass company owner who burned the factory down.