

Historical Glass Museum



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The Museum has a page on Facebook, for those who like to indulge in social media. Search for REDLANDS HISTORICAL GLASS MUSEUM

Keeping in Touch

Things have been moving along at the Museum during the past couple of months. We had 41 visitors in February, and 135 visitors in March,

GIFT SHOP NEWS

March action in the Gift Shop was particularly brisk, with nearly \$2,000 in sales. This really helps support the Museum.

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS

We held a workshop in February. The topic was H. C. Fry Glass Co., and it was led by Barbara Jenks and Wendy Steelhammer. Eighteen people attended. Pictures on page 6.

PARKING LOT SALE

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the planned parking lot sale, due to a lack of volunteers needed to present it. We plan to reschedule it sometime in the fall.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

We have scheduled several maintenance projects for the coming months: exterior lighting, some fence and stairs work, and some electrical upgrades indoors. These will be paid for out of the Restoration Fund. Contributions gratefully accepted. Thanks to Andy Hoder for coordinating these improvements.

FROM THE COLLECTION

Here are a couple of interesting Fostoria items from the collection:



Experimental American candlestick



Fostoria 5 in. Ball c. 1940
Bubble Baby Carving



Fostoria #300 – 12 in.
Deep Etched Vase

For those who attended the Oct Workshop on American Verlys, here's a 1939 Advertisement. Recognize any pieces?

Water Lilies" Bowl
 Diam. 13 1/2" - \$6.50

Gems" Vase - Height 6 1/2" - \$6.50

Tossels" Bowl - Diam. 11 1/4" - \$4.00

Swallows" Ash Tray
 4 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 1 1/2" - \$3.00

Wild Ducks" Bowl
 Diam. 13 1/2" - \$5.00

Verlys
The Gift that will be Treasured for Many Yuletides

There is no token more worthy of giving than an exquisite piece of Verlys... Peerless in sculptural design, in glowing beauty, in perfection of craftsmanship, Verlys has well merited its reputation for masterpieces in glass. A classic collection of Verlys is now on display for holiday selection - including the newest conceptions, in the Chinese influence, shown right below. Verlys designs, all hand-molded and hand-sealed, are available from \$1 to \$20. Write for interesting booklet, sent without charge. If Verlys is not obtainable locally, please write to us.

Monarchs" Vase
 Height 9 1/2", Diam. 5 1/4" - \$12.50

Chrysothemum" Bowl
 10 1/2" x 6 1/2" x 4 1/2" - \$10.00

Flowers" Bowl
 Width 9 1/2" - \$10.00

VERLYS OF AMERICA, Inc., 342 Madison Avenue, New York

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT FOSTORIA?

By David Adams

The **City of Fostoria** is located at the convergence of Hancock, Seneca, and Wood counties in northwest Ohio. There were *13 Different Glass companies* operating in Fostoria, Ohio during the years 1887-1920. During the boom years of 1887 through about 1892, there were about seven or eight plants at one time operating in Fostoria.

Northwest Ohio had a short "gas boom", starting in 1886 after the Karg Well was drilled near Findlay, Ohio (about 14 miles southwest of Fostoria). Because of Fostoria's five major railroads and the City offering businesses *free gas*, investors found the city an ideal location to build glass plants. Numerous businesses were started in the area, and *collectively they depleted the natural gas supply by the early to mid 1890s*.

Of the 13 glass companies that operated in Fostoria, in this article we will focus in on four of them.

FOSTORIA GLASS COMPANY

The Fostoria Glass Company began in Fostoria in 1887, and operated for four years, but a depleting natural gas supply caused them to move out on December 31, 1891. Even though the Fostoria Glass Company was in the city of its birth for only a few years, the owners felt that the quality of the glass and its nationwide reputation made the name "*Fostoria*" the company's most valued asset and so they retained it.

After moving to Moundsville, West Virginia, the company achieved a national reputation. Fostoria was considered one of the top producers of elegant glass. It had over 1,000 patterns, including one (*American*) that was produced for over 75 years. Showrooms were located in New York, Chicago, Dallas, San Francisco, and other large cities. The company advertised heavily, and one of its successes was sales through bridal registries. Fostoria products were made for several U.S. presidents. The company employed 1,000 people at its peak in 1950.



Fostoria's *Victoria* pattern
first manufactured in Fostoria, Ohio

During the 1970s, foreign competition and changing preferences forced the company to make substantial investments in cost-saving automation technology. The changes were made too late, and the company's commercial division was losing money by 1980. Fostoria sold the *Navarre* pattern to Lenox in 1982, and Lenox continued making the pattern for several years. The Fostoria plant was closed permanently on February 28, 1986. Several companies continued making products using the Fostoria moulds, including the Dalzell-Viking Glass Company, Fenton Art Glass Company, and Indiana Glass Company—all now closed.

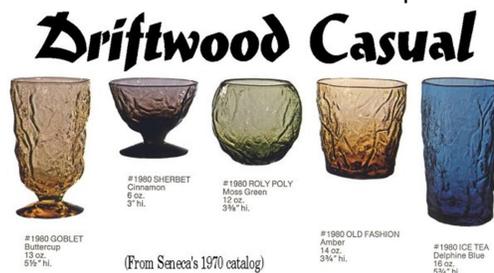
SENECA GLASS COMPANY

Seneca Glass Company was a glass manufacturer that began in Fostoria, Ohio, in 1891. The company took possession of the Fostoria plant after it was vacated by the Fostoria Glass Company, and the name came from its being located in Seneca County.

Otto Jaeger was the first president of Seneca Glass Co., and he had been part of the original Fostoria Glass Company management team. When the gas ran out in 1896, he moved the company to Morgantown, West Virginia, taking the Seneca name with it, and continued to produce high-quality decorated glassware, both etched and cut.

At one time Seneca was the largest manufacturer of blown tumblers (drinking glasses) in the United States. The company was also known for its high-quality lead (crystal) stemware, which was hand-made for nearly a century. Customers included Eleanor Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson, and retailers such as Marshall Field and Company, Neiman Marcus, and Tiffany's.

During the 1950s, Seneca introduced its Driftwood Casual table setting pattern in an attempt to capture a less formal segment of the glassware market. This pattern was produced for nearly 30 years, and became especially important to the company as formal glassware became less popular. In 1982, the company was sold to a group of investors that renamed the firm Seneca Crystal Incorporated. The firm filed for bankruptcy in 1983. Today, the Seneca Glass Company building in Morgantown is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and contains small retail shops and offices.



(From Seneca's 1970 catalog)

(continued on page 4)

THANKS TO OUR DONORS ...

We would like to acknowledge the donations of glass or other items, to be used either for display at the Museum or to be sold in the Gift Shop to support the Museum's operations. The following people donated glass and/or other items since the last newsletter. Thanks to all for your support of the Museum.

NON-MONETARY DONATIONS

FEBRUARY

Estate of Mary K. Manley
Randi Gonzalez
Patti Anderson

MARCH

Karen Tuma

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of these donors for their generosity.

NOTE: We have recently received several LARGE donations of glass, putting a strain on our all-volunteer crew. If you can, please hold off on glass donations to allow us to catch up on processing what we have.

A RECENT DONATION

by Kathi Jablonsky

The museum received a very large donation of pressed glass in February. It came from the San Diego, California estate of Mary K. Manley, a longtime collector and member of the Early American Pattern Glass Society. In the past, she displayed part of her collection at our museum.

Consisting of almost (900) goblets and miscellaneous pressed glass pieces (a few shown below), an article on Mary's collection was published in the July 2004 issue of *Antique & Collectables Newsmagazine*. The collection came with detailed information (thank you).

We are doing additional research with the assistance of the Early American Pattern Glass Society and their vast pattern database. In addition, we received Mary's extensive library of research books. We are thankful to her family for this very generous donation.

A majority of the collection is Early American Pattern Glass (EAPG), a type of clear (and later colored) pressed glass manufactured in America starting in the 1830's. It was made for everyday use. During the peak period between 1850 to 1910, there were hundreds of makers and thousands of patterns being made into everything from goblets to full sets of tableware.

We plan on doing an initial exhibit of part of the collection in one of the rotating display cases at the front of the museum. From there, much of it will be added to the museum collection.

A huge thank you to Jacque Rocha and Connie Wheeler for their help in processing this huge donation. We are looking for assistance with processing donations and with the inventory project. If someone is interested and available on weekdays or weekends, please contact us through the museum website to volunteer.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We welcome the following new members:

Patti Anderson
Ruth Lyons

The Museum recently joined the Redlands Chamber of Commerce, and we hope this will result in an increase in interest in the Museum itself, and an influx of new members in the area around Redlands.



Richards & Hartley c. 1880
No. 51 (Pointed Ovals)



Richards & Hartley c. 1880
No. 25 (Three Panels)



Canton Glass Co. c. 1890
Dew Drop Pattern

(continued from page 2)

CONSOLIDATED LAMP AND GLASS COMPANY

The Consolidated Lamp and Glass Company was formed in Fostoria, Ohio in 1893 from the merger of the Fostoria Shade and Lamp Company with Wallace and McAfee Company. When the factory burned down only two years later, the company moved to Coraopolis, Pennsylvania.

In the 1890's they produced some art glass vases and bowls, but for many years their main production was high quality lamps, globes and shades. The firm made every type of lamp imaginable. It was said that it made 60% of the lamps in the United States during the time it was located in Fostoria.

Consolidated made tableware of every type and description. They were especially adept at making "cased glass" -- more than one layer of glass in a single piece. It was very rare for this company to make clear glass -- almost all of it was in vivid colors and treatments.

In 1932 the depression was badly affecting Consolidated and the owners decided to close down temporarily to stop their losses. So in 1933 they transferred the moulds to Phoenix Glassworks to allow production to continue. Phoenix made the "Martele" designs under the name "Phoenix Reuben-Line" from 1933 to 1936, when Consolidated re-opened and reacquired their moulds. Consolidated Lamp and Glass Company and the Phoenix Glass Company were quite separate companies at all stages.

Consolidated continued to produce their *Martele* designs until the company closed down in 1963. Until the end they were still producing lighting products, and many of the *Martele* vases were also offered as lamp bases.



Consolidated *Martele* line vase and console bowl

NICKEL PLATE GLASS COMPANY

The Nickel Plate Glass Company began operations around the same time as the others mentioned here. The company name came from the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad, commonly known as the "Nickel Plate Road", which had tracks adjacent to the new glass plant.

The Nickel Plate Glass Company was most imaginative in making colored glass, particularly opalescent glass in unusual patterns. They made beautiful kerosene lamps in sweeping, alternating clear-to-opal patterns

On July 1, 1891, Nickel Plate Glass Company joined the United States Glass Company Trust, becoming Factory N. The Trust controlled more than a dozen glass plants that made tableware. Initially, the Trust did not get involved with Factory N's operations.

The firm's problems began when an economic depression, also known as the Panic of 1893, began in January 1893. More problems arose when the natural gas supply slowed. On August 12, 1893, the Trust closed Factory N permanently. After several attempts to restart the plant failed, the facility burned to the ground on August 28, 1895.



Nickel Plate's *Greek Key* pattern

Today you can visit the City of Fostoria, Ohio and see examples from all of the 13 glass companies that operated in Fostoria at the Museum listed below.

Editor's note: portions of this article were taken with permission from the web site of:

The Glass Heritage Gallery
109 N. Main St.
Fostoria, Ohio 44830
<https://fostoriaglass.com>

Group Tours of the Museum



The Museum is currently limiting group tours, as we are temporarily short-staffed. We are working to find a permanent group tour coordinator. Any volunteers?

If you do have an interest in a group tour, use the "Contact Us" form on our web site and we *may be able* to accommodate you. Please be sure to include your contact information.

RESTORATION FUND

The Board of Directors established a Restoration Fund designated to set aside funds for restoration and maintenance of our century-old building.

The current balance in the fund is: **\$6,380.63.**

The building does require periodic maintenance and the Restoration Fund is still an active need. The Board welcomes cash donations designated for the Restoration Fund. You may also designate "in Memory of" or "in Honor of" with your donation.

Checks should be made out to the Museum, with a note designating the Restoration Fund. Send to:

Historical Glass Museum
P. O. Box 9195
Redlands, CA 92375-2395

APRIL 2025 FROM THE PRESIDENT:

In the last issue of our newsletter, I wrote that one of the Museum's most important needs is to increase our pool of docents who serve during our operating hours on weekends. This time, I would like to tell you about Museum tours. For many years, former Museum Vice President Bill Summers was the contact person for groups wishing to book a tour of the Museum. These tours were calendared, and often led, by Bill. A little over a year ago, Bill had to resign from the Board and his position as "tour coordinator extraordinaire" due to health concerns. Since then, both positions he held have been vacant.

Though the Museum has regular business hours of noon to 4 PM on Saturdays and Sundays, we have historically booked tours during those hours, as well as on "off days" when the Museum is not open. Some months we have several tours; other months pass without any tours. Without a person to coordinate tours, we must turn down these groups, miss out on the admission fee each visitor pays, and miss out on the income from attendees' purchases in our Gift Shop. In a good month, Gift Shop sales (from both regular visiting hours plus tours) often cover our regular monthly expenses, such as utilities.

We very much need a volunteer who can respond to inquiries from groups who would like to tour the Museum, calendar tours, and reach out to our pool of Museum docents to help staff the tours. The time commitment is only a few hours a month. Will you step up? If you're willing, please call any Board Member, or contact us via the web site. Thank you!

Michael

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Shirley Barnett
Stephen Barnett
Koral Ahmet



The Museum was featured in the February issue of Inland Empire Magazine. You can find the article on page 38.

This is their annual visitor's guide to the Inland Empire. We have already had one visitor in February who found us via this article!

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP H.C. FRY GLASS CO.

The Museum held a workshop on February 15. The topic was the Fry Glass Co., of Beaver Valley, Pennsylvania, and it was led by Barbara Jenks and Wendy Steelhammer. Here are some photographs from the seminar.



Wendy and Barbara

