

Chronology of Glassmaking in Frederick County Maryland

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1759 - 1770

Jacob Frederick Dannwolf, a glassblower, and Peter Engel, a glass cutter had a small village type glassmaking concern in Frederick Town. Dannwolf died in 1771. Elsewhere, another German immigrant, William Henry Stiegel, arrived in Mannheim Pa in 1750 and was eminently successful in the glassmaking industry from 1764 -1774.

Tuscarora Glass House

1771 - 1787

Entries in Joseph Doll's ledger, beginning December, 1771, indicate that the Tuscarora glasshouse (Tuscarora Creek being just off the Monococy River) was part of a small industrial complex that included a sawmill, a charcoal pit and coal house, a malt hill, and possibly a brewery. References to "Monococy ale" put up in bottles date back as far as 1753, but the type and origin of the bottles is not known.

The Foltz, Kramer, Everhart Glassworks

1778 -1780

In 1778, German immigrants Balthazar, Adam, and George Kramer, Martin Eberhart and Conrad Foltz, formerly of the Stiegel Factory in Mannheim (which ceased activities in 1775) arrived in Frederick Town. In 1780 they formed a successful glasshouse partnership near Bennett's Creek, which operated through 1784.

New Bremen Glass Manufactory of John Frederick Amelung

1784 - 1795

In 1784 Conrad Foltz died, and during the winter of 1784-85 when the glassblowing year ended in May, George Kramer and Margaret Foltz sold the land, the glasshouse, the equipment, and the inventory to **John Frederick Amelung**. Amelung, another German immigrant, acquired additional land, built a new glass-works and a complete community for his workers and called it New Bremen.

Much has been written about Amelung's grand design for New Bremen, his successful appeals to Congress for financial support and his prolific expansion. It is said that at the peak of operations, he employed 400 – 500 skilled glass men recruited from Germany. But in short, his lofty ambitions, combined with a miscalculation of the American market appear to have outstripped his resources some time around 1795, at which time the business was passed on to his son, John Frederick Magnus Amelung.

Interestingly, an 1884 U.S. Census Office *Report on the Manufacture of Glass* states that "the works of Amelung were moved to Baltimore in 1788, and located on the South Side of the basin".

The notion that Amelung's Glass works was moved to Baltimore could be a mistaken reference to the Baltimore shop of Amelung's son in law, Andrew Keener, who apparently was an agent for the sale of his bottles, including "green glass bottles from pint to gallons" as advertised in 1788 (McKearin, page 256).

The report also states that the Baltimore Glass Works was established at Federal Hill in 1790, but that "*The Chronicles of Baltimore*, page 236, makes the date 1799" so there appears to be some uncertainty about the ownership and establishment of the first Baltimore-based glass concern in the report.

Johnson and Aetna Glassworks

1787 – 1801

The Tuscarora glasshouse tract was transferred to Governor Thomas Johnson in 1787. The tract included the Johnson Glasshouse farm on Bush Creek (south of Frederick Town) and the nearby Aetna Glass works. Governor Johnson offered 800 acres of Tuscarora land for sale in 1793. A glasshouse, sawmill, tanning yard, and a grist mill were included in the advertisement. The 1798 tax record shows that the glasshouse was "out of repair" when William Goldsborough bought the land upon which it stood in 1801.



1794 map of Tuscarora Creek with location of the Etna (Tuscarora) Glass Works clearly marked

Like the Johnson's Glassworks, the "Aetna" or "Etna" Glass House may also have been an outgrowth of the Tuscarora Glassworks. It too was part of the property put up for sale by Johnson in 1793, having made one 9-month blast prior to that time, but remained unsold. Some time before 1799 Lewis Reppert (another German glassblower brought to New Bremen by Amelung) became superintendent of the Etna Works, which may have continued to operate until as late as 1810, or could have been sold as early as 1800.

As to the glass supplied to Baltimore merchants in the 1790's, it would still appear to have been produced in Frederick County either by Amelung's New Bremen Works near Bennet's Creek, later by John Frederick Magnus and his partners Adam Kohlenberg and George Christian Gabler, or possibly by either the Johnson's or the old Etna Works at Tuscarora Creek, the latter under the supervision of Lewis Reppert for a time. All four works were in production during the 1790's.

But of the four, it is likely that Adam Kohlenberg's "New Glasshouse", built in 1796, may have continued the legacy of Amelung and the New Bremen Glass Manufactory into the 19th century.

Kohlenburg Glass Works

1796 -1810

Adam Kohlenberg, a skilled glass blower who originally came to New Bremen with Amelung purchased property on Bear Creek around 1796. By virtue of the partnership with John Frederick Magnus, the Kohlenburg Glass Works may have already succeeded the New Bremen Glass Manufactory in substance, if not in name, by that time.

In 1799 John Frederick Magnus formally transferred ownership of his father's business to Kohlenberg and Gabler. On Varles 1808 map of Frederick County the Glass House is referred to simply as "A Kohlenberg / New Glass House".

The Kohlenburg venture may have been successful enough to have been the glass works reported in the 1810 Frederick County census as producing "4000 bottles per year". If so, it had a longer history of production than New Bremen and its output would cross over into the era of the Baltimore Glass Works, established in 1799.

Baltimore Glass Works

1799-1880's

The Baltimore Glass Works of Frederick M. Amelung & Company was the new venture of John Frederick Magnus Amelung, Alexander Furnival, Jacob Anhurtz and former Etna superintendent Lewis Reppert.

Though this initial partnership was ill starred from the outset, dissolving within 3 years partly due to the Amelung family debts that came with it, it can be said that the legacy of the early Frederick County glass artisans was carried over to the inception of the Baltimore Glass Works, which was to exemplify the style and characteristics of the German glassmaker's trade for decades to come.