

THE GLASS BLOWERS OF VERONA, NY

by Jon Landers

An important source of information for researchers is old city directories which were usually printed every year. Another excellent source from the past is old county business directories, but these unfortunately were made only periodically. These aged documents provide researchers with the name, address, occupation of any of the residents in addition to other interesting tidbits such who were the proprietors of a business etc. Also, the directories contain numerous business ads. In rural towns, post office addresses and lot numbers were listed instead of street addresses.

The Oneida County Business Directory of 1869 is one of these historically significant treasures that people can use to do research. During this period in our history the occupation of most inhabitants of nearly all the towns in Oneida County with the exception of Utica and Rome were farmers.

When reviewing the names from the town of Verona one would notice that a lot of the men were associated with the glass industry. During this time there were two glass houses in operation in Oneida County and both were located on the banks of the Erie Canal. Fox & Company in Durhamville manufactured window glass and at one time employed about 125 people. This glass factory was probably the largest and most successful of any of the Oneida County glasshouses. The Dunbarton Glass Works in State Bridge was much smaller but also made window glass. Both glass houses used the cylinder method of blowing window glass.

The following names and information of people with occupations relating to the glass industry are listed in the 1869 Oneida Business Directory for the town of Verona:

- Ashburn, William**, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass blower.
- Bannkratz, Ignatius**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass flattener and farmer 13.
- Barber, Joseph**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass blower.
- Barnard, John**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass blower.
- Bendorf, Paul**, (State Bridge,) lot 101, batch maker at Fox's glass works and farmer 22.
- Best, John**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass flattener.
- Buck, Lawrence**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass blower.
- Cooler, Frederick**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass flattener.
- Falkner, Henry**, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass blower.
- FOX & CO.** (Durhamville,) (*Samuel H. and Henry W.*,) lot 53, P.P., glass manufacturers.
- Fox, Henry W.**, (Durhamville,) (Fox & Co.).
- Fox, Samuel H.**, (Durhamville,) (Fox & Co.).
- Garland, Frederick**, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass blower.
- Geisenhoff, Adam**, (Durhamville,) glass blower and farmer.
- Hamilton, Albert**, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass flattener.
- Hamilton, Samuel**, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass flattener.
- Herrington, Abraham**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass cutter.
- Howard, Lucius**, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass blower.
- Keisenhoff, Adam**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass blower.
- Kinny, Charles**, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass blower.
- Lilley, James**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass cutter.
- MUNROE & COWARDEN**, (State Bridge,) (*Loring Munroe and Anthony Cowarden*,) lot 8, props. of Dunbarton Glass Works.
- Noton, Anson**, (Durhamville,) lot 49, glass blower.
- Schlernitzauer, Mathias**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass blower.
- Schlernitzauer, Nicholas**, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass blower.

Souders, Lewis, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass blower.
Souders, Reeves, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass blower.
Town, George, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass cutter.
Valance, Nicholas, (State Bridge,) lot 8, glass blower.
Vannamen, William, (Durhamville,) lot 52, glass cutter.

This interesting list of 30 people can be broken down into the following categories:

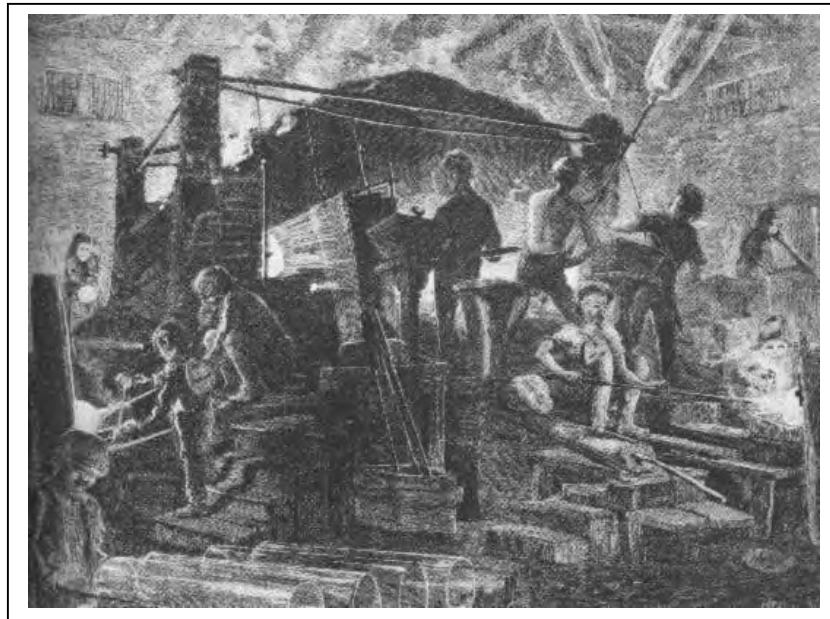
FOX BROTHERS GLASS WORKS, DURHAMVILLE

2 proprietors
1 batch maker
7 glass blowers
3 glass flatteners
2 glass cutters

DUNBARTON GLASS WORKS, STATE BRIDGE

2 proprietors
8 glass blowers
2 glass flatteners
3 glass cutters

Without a doubt they must have employed other people who lived in other towns and are not listed in the directory under the town of Verona. I browsed through the listings of names from other nearby towns listed in the directory but did not notice any people involved in the glass industry.



BLOWING CYLINDER WINDOW GLASS IN PHILADELPHIA CIRCA 1876

Editor's note: Fred Capozzella was able to borrow a copy of an 1869 Oneida County Business Directory from which I was able to extract this information.