

Let's Talk About Ink

with Ed & Lucy Faulkner



Farley's Ink

Farley ink bottles are very popular with both ink collectors and Stoddard glass collectors because the early amber embossed inks were made at glassworks in nearby Stoddard. Later aqua and clear Farley bottles were made elsewhere. These later bottles, which were label only, are actually much harder to obtain because so few labels survived.



Ebenezer Farley first settled in Marlow, New Hampshire in 1790. He started out as a farmer, settling on Road 26, one-half mile east of the village. He accumulated a lot of property which passed to his son, Bethuel. Bethuel started the Farley businesses in Marlow, along with his son Lucius, and later, grandson Frank. Bethuel's house was built in 1833 and was one of the first in the village of Marlow. The Farleys probably had a number of small business offerings. There are

references to the Farley Store, Farley Tanning Operations, and of course, Farley Ink. Bethuel Farley held many public positions in Marlow including town clerk, representative, deputy sheriff, census taker, land surveyor, and was admitted to the bar in 1856. Lucius continued the business after the death of his father in 1864.

We know Farley was manufacturing ink earlier than 1851 because at that time it won an award at the New Hampshire State Agricultural Society Fair. They manufactured ink until at least 1895. A Farley billhead from this period lists a distribution store in Boston as well as Marlow. They also sold by mail and from peddler's carts. Labels read "Extra fine Black Ink. This is a new chemical preparation, by one of the most celebrated chemists in the US and possesses the invaluable property of keeping free from mould or decomposition, corrodes metallic pens less than any other and is not injured by freezing."

Besides inks, the Farleys later produced flavoring and extracts, oils, even sewing machine oil.

Frank continued the extract business until about 1910. The shard of an extract bottle is the only picture found that represented this phase of the business.

References:

Web page of Historical Society of Cheshire County, NH., Alan F. Rumrill Gazetteer, Cheshire County, NH, 1736-1885, compiled and published by Hamilton Child, 1885.

Photos:

Amber master by Ed Gray.

Labeled bottle pictures courtesy of Jim Mitchell (from Mebane notebooks).

Photo in heading: Farley Ink and Flavoring Headquarters in Marlow (photo courtesy of the Historical Society).

Photo above left: Farley Select Flavoring Extracts letterhead dated Jan. 4, 1907.



A shard from an extract bottle.

