



There were advantages to this ink bottle or can when constructed as described. The cost would be less than glass, weight when shipped would be less, thus lower shipping costs, not subject to breakage, and not as likely to freeze in cold weather. After making these changes, Levi H. Thomas of Chicago, Illinois patented his version of this bottle on December 8, 1885. Both dates are printed on the label of bottles he used for his ink. It is assumed that Thomas manufactured these containers and made them available to other companies as we know of several others who used this type container.

These bottles are scarce because most likely they were thrown away when the ink was gone and would not survive in dumps for long. The ones seen most often are the

Thomas labeled bottles. More companies may have used them, but the ones shown here are the only ones the authors have seen. Also pictured is an advertising cardboard ad by Thomas. This ad is the only one we have seen for this type of bottle. No reference has been found for the length of time used, or popularity of these bottles. It seems this style would be awkward to use. With no pour spout, it would be hard to fill an inkwell, hard to know the amount of ink left in the bottle, and difficult to see how far the pen was dipped into the ink. It is our guess that these bottles were not used for a long period of time.

The Thomas bottles had at least two different labels. Others shown are Palmer's, mentioning they are the maker of Dessau's black ink, Carter's, Sanford's



Another version of Thomas ink showing the patent date.

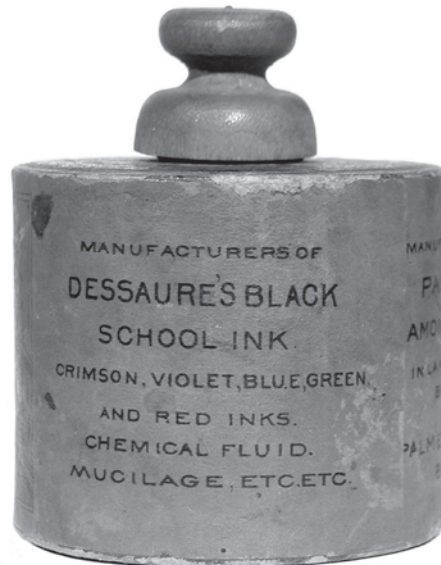
and Williams.' Williams was just a local Richmond, Virginia company.

The Carter, Sanford and Thomas School Ink pictures are courtesy of John Hinkel.

Ed and Lucy Faulkner, 4718 Kyloe Lane, Moseley, Va. 23120



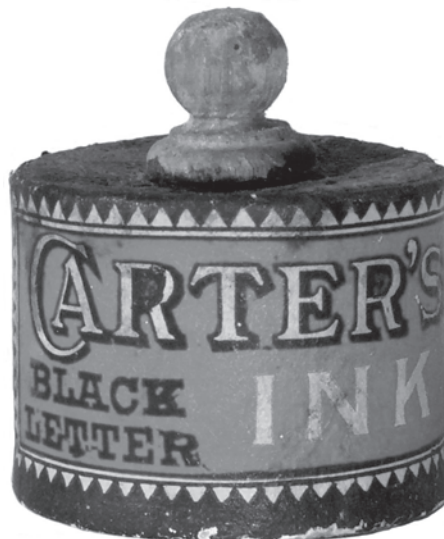
Palmer's lists their company as maker of Dessau's ink.



Williams, local Virginia company.



Sanford's Ink Co.



Carter's front and back.

