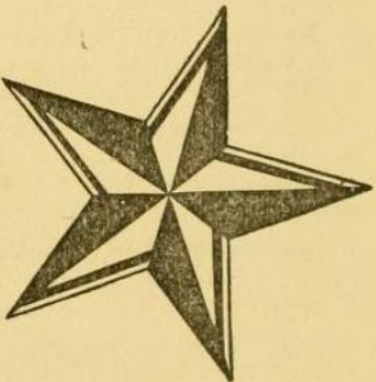



The Star Salt Caster Company

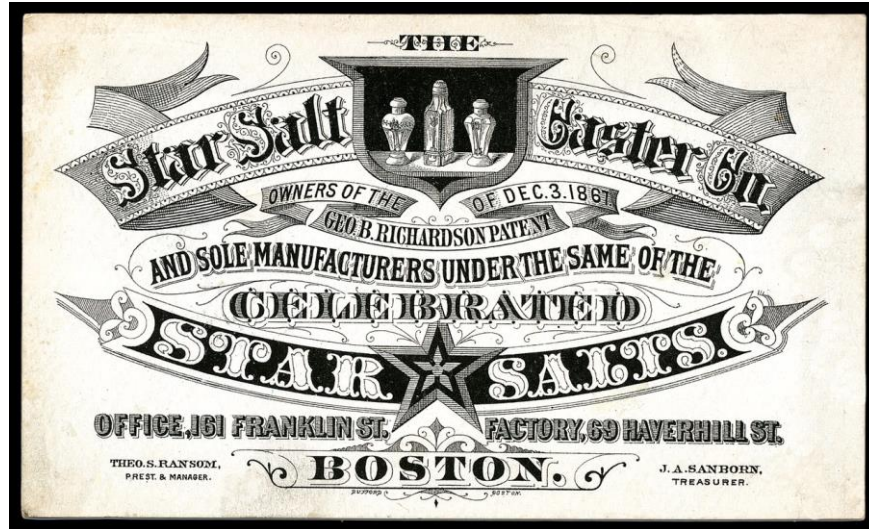
Boston, Mass.

1876 - 1882

THE STAR SALT CASTER CO.
Owners of the Geo. B. Richardson Patent of Dec. 3, 1867,
AND SOLE MANUFACTURERS
UNDER THE SAME, OF THE
CELEBRATED
Star Salts
Office, 161 Franklin St.,
Factory, 66 Beverly Street,
BOSTON.



THEO. S. RANSOM, Prest. and Manager. **J. A. SANBORN, Treas**



The Star Salt Caster Company

By Dan Edminster

George B. Richardson of Boston, Massachusetts, received a patent for an “Improved Salt Bottle or Caster” on December 3, 1867. This patent, number 71,643, would form the basis of the founding of the Star Salt Caster Company some ten years later. The company defended the Richardson patent vigorously and aggressively over the years as it was the primary marketing pitch of their product line.

Richardson’s invention was basically a small metal rod with multiple projections on each end. This device was placed inside the salt bottle and shaken, the motion of which would break up and pulverize the clumped salt, thereby allowing it to flow more freely through the perforations in the cap. The device is depicted here. Note the patent date is visible on the ends of the pulverizer.



Trade card, top of page, courtesy Dick Sheaff.

Chronological entries from the Boston City Directories for The Star Salt Caster Company:

- 1876 -- no entry --
- 1877 103 Milk, factory, 69 Haverhill, T.S. Ransom president
- 1878 161 Franklin, factory, 56 Beverly, T.S. Ransom, president
- 1879 161 Franklin, factory, 56 Beverly, T.S. Ransom, president
- 1880 161 Franklin, factory, 66 Beverly, T.S. Ransom president
- 1881 88 Purchase, T.S. Ransom president
- 1882 88 Purchase, G.A. Wadley, president
- 1883 -- no entry --

The Star Salt Caster Company was incorporated in Connecticut on April 24, 1876. A legal notice in the *Hartford Courant* on January 19, 1877, reads:

“We, the subscribers, hereto, do hereby associate ourselves together, for the purpose of organizing a corporation under, and by virtue of the general laws of the state of Connecticut, and purchasing certain patent rights, machinery, moulds, dies, tools, implements and fixtures mentioned in a certain agreement with one Francis L. King of even date herewith; also any other patents relating to the business, that may be deemed expedient by the company, and carrying on a general business of manufacturing and selling salt casters the corporation to be known as

THE STAR SALT CASTER COMPANY.”

The Articles of Association note that the principal office is to be located in Hartford, Connecticut and that the capital stock is to be fixed at twenty-five thousand dollars with each share being valued at twenty-five dollars and distributed as follows:

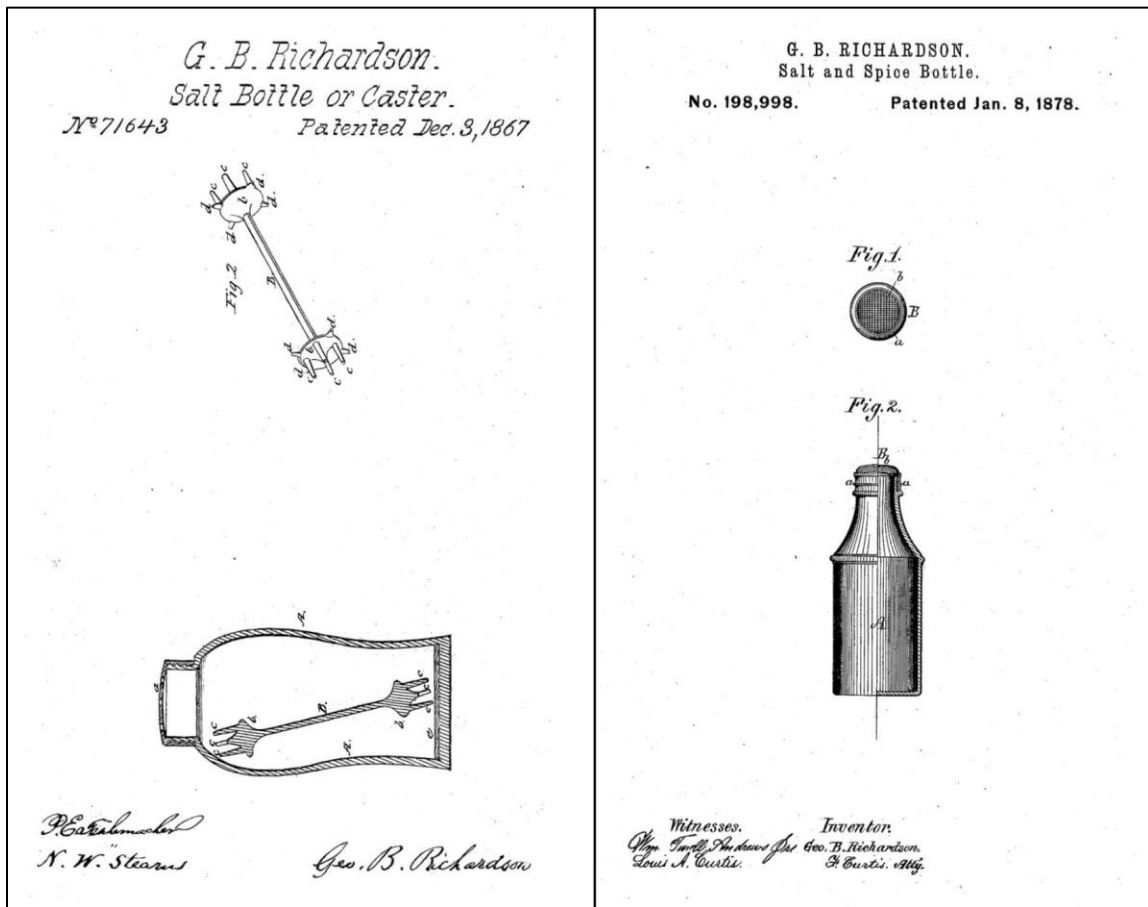
<u>Name</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Shares</u>	<u>Value</u>
-------------	------------------	---------------	--------------

A little biographical and background information about the principal players:

J. A. Sanborn was the first company treasurer and served until around 1879-80. A cursory search turned up no additional biographical information on Sanborn. From 1880 through 1882, G. F. Wadley was listed in the Boston City Directories as the Secretary & Treasurer of the Star Salt Caster Company.

Francis L. King was born in 1827. He was a practicing attorney, having been admitted to the Suffolk bar on April 10, 1863 (Bench and Bar). He was also an avid inventor. Some of his inventions include a boring machine, a machine for dressing stone, and an eggbeater. He was also assigned at least four design patents pertaining to doorknobs by **Alonzo E. Young**, some of whose other patents are noted in the Star Salt Caster Company's advertisements. Young's design patents were assigned to King in 1872, so it appears that King was somehow involved in the manufacture of doorknobs years before the company was formed. According to one of the early advertisements (posted on the following page), Francis L. King must have assumed the initial role of president of the company and was subsequently succeeded by **Theodore S. Ransom**.

George B. Richardson was, of course, the patentee upon which all this enterprise revolved. In addition to the widely known patent, George B. Richardson also patented another Spice or Salt Bottle in 1878. The major claims were about the design of the top which consisted of a fine metal mesh, or screen, affixed to the threaded cap. The author has seen caps like this before and was unaware at the time what their purpose was. Both of his related patents are posted below.



George B. Richardson's patents for caster bottles: Pat. No. 71,643 dated December 3, 1867, and Pat. No. 198,998 dated January 8, 1878.

Theodore Sedgwick Ransom was born on November 24, 1839, and died on April 3, 1893, in New York, where he had lived for some time. His obituary posted in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle noted that "... in 1870 [he] was made chemist of the New England Glass company and President of the Star Caster Company, both large manufacturing concerns in the city of Boston. He was subsequently a partner in the firm of J. Kittel and Co. of New York, extensive importers of pottery." During various years of the late 1860's and early 1870's his occupation is listed as "Traveling Agent." His 1880 Federal Census entry lists his occupation as "Agent, Glass Ware."

In 1863, **Horace Edward Pitkin** joined up with his older brother, William L. Pitkin (b. April 16, 1830, d. February 17, 1885), to form **W. L. & H. E. Pitkin** in Hartford, Connecticut. William was a well-known and experienced silversmith, and together they built a business that would endure over thirty-one years. In addition to the manufacturing of silver items, they also built up a substantial business re-plating older silver goods to extend their life. The firm closed on July 1, 1894. As far as K. D. Pitkin goes, this may refer to Horace's wife, Katie D. Pitkin. Little else was found.

<p>W. L. & H. E. PITKIN,— —MANUFACTURERS OF— Silver and Plated Goods, Spoons, Knives, Forks, Tea Sets, Castors, &c. Also, jobbers in Gold and Silver Plating. Old work re-plated in the best manner. Solid Silver Ware made from coin. All goods warranted as represented. Cash paid for coin and old silver. NO. 55 PEARL ST., HARTFORD. sep 22 1yd</p> <p>WANTED IMMEDIATELY— 6 Good Burnishers, At No. 55 Pearl street, Hartford. sep 22 tfd W. L. & H. E. PITKIN.</p>	<p>PLATED WARE. 415</p> <p>W. L. & H. E. PITKIN, MANUFACTURERS OF Silver Spoons, Forks, LADLES, BUTTER KNIVES, &C. FROM PURE COIN.</p> <p>ALSO, MANUFACTURERS OF PLATED GOODS <i>OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS,</i> FROM BEST ALBATA AND WHITE METAL. AND JOBBERS IN GOLD & SILVER PLATING, Salesroom & Factory, 17 Hicks St. We manufacture and have constantly on hand PITKIN'S SILVER DETERGENT which is an excellent article for cleaning SILVER AND SILVER PLATED WARE. <i>CALL AND TRY IT.</i></p>
<p>W. L. & H. E. PITKIN No. 174 PEARL ST., Manufacture at Wholesale and Retail. SOLID SILVER, STERLING QUALITY Spoons, Forks, Knives, &c., AT \$1.50 PER OUNCE. CASES FURNISHED SUITABLE FOR PRES- ENTS. Also, Triple Plated Spoons, Forks, Knives, Castors, Cake Baskets, &c. Triple Plated Knives and Forks, \$3.50 per doz. Castors, 5 Bottles, Cut Glass, Triple Plate, \$2.25. Old Ware Replated at one-half price of new. Gold, Silver and Nickel Plating done to order.</p> <p>W. L. & H. E. PITKIN. 17 PEARL STREET. Two doors from Hartford Fire Insurance Building.</p>	
<p>Solid Silver and Plated Ware At the manufacturers, at COST FOR CASH. Spoons, Forks, Knives, Ice Pitchers, Tea Sets, Castors, etc., etc. Old Ware repaired. W. L. & H. E. PITKIN, 17 HICKS STREET, First door from P. Jewell & Sons' Belt Factory. jan 1 1yd</p>	

Advertisements for W. L. & H. E. Pitkin. Left side, top to bottom, as found in *The Hartford Courant*: November 11, 1863, October 9, 1883, and May 22, 1877. The advertisement on the right is from the *Hartford City Directory*, 1876.

BE IT KNOWN, that we the undersigned, being all the stockholders of the Star Salt Caster company, joint stock corporation organized under the statute laws of the state of Connecticut, regulating the formation of joint stock corporations, and located in the city and county of Hartford, in said state, in pursuance of said statute laws, hereby agree to amend the Articles of Association under which the said corporation was organized by adding the following clause, after the words "Salt Caster," to wit:

"And manufacturing and selling House Furnishing Hardware, and all business incidental to the proper management thereof."

Dated at Boston, Mass., this 4th day of March, A. D. 1878.

HOLLIS HASTINGS,
 NATHANIEL K. PITNAM,
 GARDNER T. SAMSON,
 JOHN D. NORTON,
 THEO. S. RANSOM,
 J. A. SANBORN.

1w33 Boston, Mass, March 4, 1878.

A legal notice in the *Hartford Weekly Times* on March 21, 1878, noting that the company amended their Articles of Association to include "And manufacturing and selling House Furnishing Hardware, and all business incidental to the proper management thereof." Surely this was related to their doorknob trade.

BOSTON, November 20th, 1878.

BE IT KNOWN, That we the undersigned, being all stockholders of the The Star Salt Caster Company, a joint stock corporation organized under the statute laws of the State of Connecticut, regulating the formation of joint stock corporations, and located in the city and county of Hartford, in said State, in pursuance of said statute laws, hereby agree to increase the capital stock from the sum of Thirty Thousand Dollars to the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars, and divided into two thousand shares of the par value of twenty-five dollars each.

The above increase of capital stock having been provided for by the amendment of Articles of Associations adopted and published the 14th day of May, A. D. 1878.

Dated at Boston, this 20th day of Nov, A. D. 1878.

THEO. S. RANSOM,
 HOLLIS HASTINGS,
 NATHANIEL H. PITNAM,
 J. A. SANBORN,
 GARDNER S. LAMSON,
 JOHN D. NORTON.

1w34

A legal notice in the *Hartford Weekly Times* on November 28, 1878, noting that the company had increased their capital stock from \$30,000 to \$50,000, each share valued at \$25.00.

NOTICE.

HARTFORD, Conn., Oct. 2, 1882.

NOTICE is hereby given that on Saturday, the 4th day of November, A. D., 1882, at 12 o'clock noon, will be sold at public auction at the office of Chas. S. Warner, No. 16 Mulberry street, in said Hartford, Two Shares of Stock of the Star Salt Caster Company, a corporation established under the laws of Connecticut, and having a place of business in the city and county of Hartford, in said state; said stock standing on the books of said company in the name of Theodore S. Ransom. Said sale to be made to enforce a lien which said company has against said stock by reason of the indebtedness of said Ransom to said company.

GEO. F. WADLEY, Sec'y.

The company last appeared in the Boston directories in 1882. The legal notice above was posted in the *Hartford Courant* on October 20, 1882. This is around the time the Star Salt Caster Company is thought to have gone out of business. The author can find no additional information on its closure; was there a bankruptcy or just disbanding of the partnership? In the legal notice George F. Wadley is identified as Secretary. Wadley was listed in the resident's section of the Boston directories as the secretary/treasurer of the Star Salt Caster Company from 1880-1882. In the business section of the 1882 directory, he was listed as the company president and T. S. Ransom no longer appears in the Boston directory. In 1883 G. F. Wadley was listed as "Removed to Colorado."

By mid-1882 at the latest, the Meriden Britannia Company had "...purchased all patents, machinery, tools, stock, &c. of the STAR SALT CASTER CO." Some catalog images from the time following the closure are depicted in the appendices that follow. The company was gone, but the products that it manufactured endured.

835. STAR SALT-CASTER COMPANY, *Boston, Mass.* — Salt and Pepper Casters. — Each bottle contains a rod which is finished at each end with a star. This rod is useful in separating the particles in the bottle. The Executive Committee award a

Bronze Medal.

922. STAR SALT AND CASTER CO., *Boston, Mass.* — Caster Bottles. — A fine exhibition, which attracted general attention; the bottles containing a patent movable pulverizer, which keeps the salt free in the bottle, and very convenient for daily use. The most approved device in the market for the purpose intended.

Bronze Medal.

Medals won at the Twelfth (no. 835) and Thirteenth (no. 922) Exhibitions of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association held in varying locations in Boston in 1878 and 1881, respectively.

1450 NEW ENGLAND BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

THE STAR SALT CASTER CO.,
Owners of the Geo. B. Richardson Patent of Dec. 3, 1867, and
SOLE MANUFACTURERS
UNDER THE NAME OF THE
CELEBRATED
Star Salts,



No. 69 HAVERHILL ST., **BOSTON, MASS.**
FRANCIS L. KING, President. J. A. SANBORN, Treasurer.

An advertisement, circa early 1877, noting Francis L. King as president. King was succeeded soon thereafter by Theodore S. Ransom.

GOODS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
USEFUL & BEAUTIFUL PRESENTS FOR THE HOME CIRCLE.

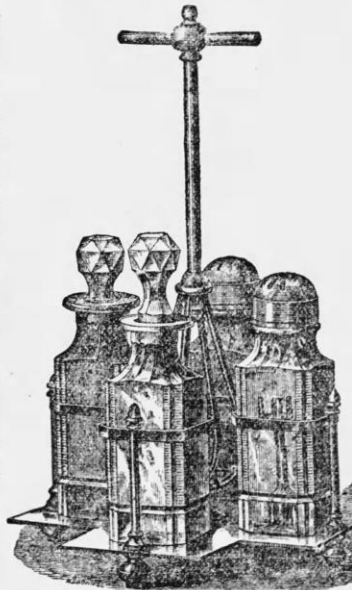
THE STAR SALT CASTER COMPANY,

Manufacturers and Dealers in Star Salts and Casters, have ready for the Holiday Trade

New Designs
 IN
RICH CUT GLASS
 AND
IMPORTED GOODS.



NOVEL DESIGNS
 OF
Longwy,
Dresden,
Chinese and
Japanese
WARES,
 Mounted with
HEAVY SILVER PLATE
 OR
STERLING CAPS.



A full line of our goods can be purchased at the wholesale and retail Crockery Ware Stores, Jewelers and at the Fancy Goods Stores.

SALESROOMS,

161 Franklin Street, Boston.

All Our Goods
WARRANTED
 TO BE OF THE
FINEST QUALITY AND
FINISH.



NEW STYLES
 IN
CASTERS,
 MANUFACTURED FOR
HOLIDAY TRADE!

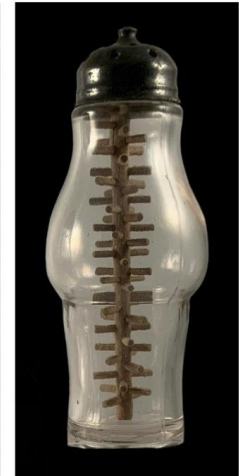
A wonderful display ad from The Boston Globe on December 14, 1879, gearing up for the Christmas holiday season. The Star Salt Caster Company produced and imported a vast array of shakers over the years. They made two- and four-bottle caster sets and pressed and cut-glass shakers. All their ads feature the Richardson patent breaker in some manner, and many mention it by name, as seen below from the Crockery & Glass Journal in 1878.

THE STAR SALT CASTER CO.
 (Owners of the GEORGE B. RICHARDSON PATENT of Dec. 3, 1867), and
SOLE MANUFACTURERS,
 UNDER THE SAME, OF THE
CELEBRATED
STAR SALTS.
 Office, 161 Franklin St.,
 Factory, 69 Haverhill St., **BOSTON.**




THEO. S. RANSOM, Pres't and Manager. J. A. SANBORN, Treasurer.

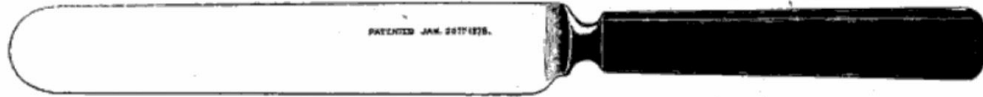
Star Salt Caster Company vs Charles P. Crossman et al.—
 A patent was granted to the first respondent, Sept. 15, 1863,
 for an improvement in salt boxes, casters, etc., and the plain-
 tiffs are the owners of a subsequent patent for a pulverizing
 rod made of cast metal. The patents were such that the sec-
 ond patent could not be used without the consent of the
 owner of the first, and the owner of the second patent could
 not use the invention covered by the first patent. The par-
 ties entered into an agreement and the opinion of Judge
 Clifford holds that the defendants have made and sold salt
 boxes or casters provided with metallic pulverizers in viola-
 tion of the agreement, and that they knew of that agree-
 ment. Decree for the complainant and for an injunction
 and an account.
 C. Smith and G. A. Bruce for complt.; T. Weston, Jr.,
 for dfts.



A case between Star and **Charles P. Grossman** as reported in The Boston Post on October 10, 1878, regarding the use of similar methods to break up salt. The case was in reference to Grossman's patent number 39,889 for an **Improved Castor Bottle** which was granted on September 15, 1863. An example of Grossman's shaker (author's collection) is seen above.

A green glass salt shaker with a black cap and a vertical metal pulverizing rod inside. The rod has several horizontal bars or teeth along its length.	<p style="text-align: center;">Court Reports.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT. [Lowell, J.]</p> <p>Feb. 23. <i>Star Salt Caster Company vs. Dana K. Alden.</i> The Court has now given a decree for complainants. The opinion is: "The plaintiffs own the Richardson patent, No. 71,643, for an improved salt bottle. The defendants make a bottle under the later patent of White, No. 198,554. No evidence has been produced to impeach the validity of the Richardson patent as improvement upon the salt bottles in use at its date. They were Crossman's and Beach's, and Richardson improved on the former and defendant on the latter. Both appear to be patentable improvements, but that of the defendant contains the distinguishing characteristic of Richardson's, which is a movement of the pulverizer up and down when the bottle is used in the ordinary way."</p>
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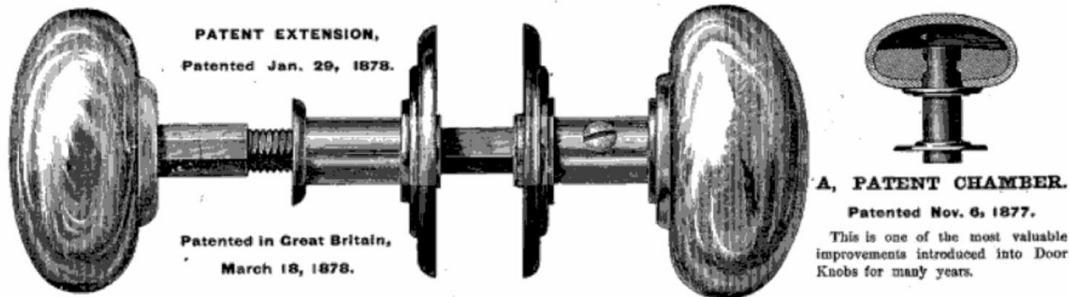
Here, **Star Salt Caster Company vs. Dana K. Alden**. This dispute arose over the rotary salt agitator patented by Hiram J. White and assigned to Alden. This was patent number 198,554 granted on December 25, 1877. An example of the Alden Salt Caster Company "Family" shaker is shown. This was reported in the Boston Evening Transcript on February 23, 1882. Shaker image courtesy Daniel Baldwin.



PATENT ENAMELED HANDLE TABLE KNIVES.

SOLID STEEL.

Warranted not to crack—are not affected by boiling water—and will retain their lustre.



We also call your attention to our new

PATENT EXTENSION STAR DOOR KNOBS.

Our new method of extension is simple, durable and perfect, being easily adjusted to doors of any thickness without the annoyance of the old-fashioned washers and pins. Your especial attention is called to our "SILVER GLASS," and "ENAMELED" KNOBS, the latter being an entirely new article.

We manufacture Knobs in every variety of style, and feel confident that a trial of their merits will make plain their superiority over any other Door Knobs in the market. Illustrated Catalogues of Star Salts and Door Knobs sent on application at the office of the sole owners and manufacturers—

THE STAR SALT CASTER CO., BOSTON, MASS., U. S. A.

Advertisement from The American Exporter, 1878.

Patents noted in the above advertisement:

<u>Patent Date</u>	<u>Pat. No.</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>Invention</u>
• November 6, 1877	196, 852	Alonzo E. Young	Attaching shank to doorknob
• January 29, 1878	199,771	Alonzo E. Young	Doorknob extension
• January 29, 1878	199,743	Theodore S. Ransom	Enamel-coated fork & knife handles

No. 5963. ALONZO E. YOUNG, of Boston, Mass., assignor to Francis L. King, of the same place, for a "Glass head for door knobs."
 No. 5964. ALONZO E. YOUNG, of Boston, Mass., assignor to Francis L. King, of the same place, for a "Glass head for door knobs."
 No. 5965. ALONZO E. YOUNG, of Boston, Mass., assignor to Francis L. King, of the same place, for a "Glass head for door knobs."
 No. 5966. ALONZO E. YOUNG, of Boston, Mass., assignor to Francis L. King, of the same place, for a "Glass head for door knobs."

Design patents of Alonzo E. Young for glass doorknobs conveyed to Francis L. King in 1872.



The author believes that the shaker on the left, which bears Richardson's patent date of December 3, 1867, around the bottom of the base, was manufactured prior to the formation of The Star Salt Caster Company in 1876 as this style shaker does not appear in any of the numerous advertisements the author has discovered. The shaker on the right is the "PLAIN SALOON" and is depicted in many different company advertisements. As can be seen, the salt breaker has been used (possibly abused!) excessively and the ends are peened inward.

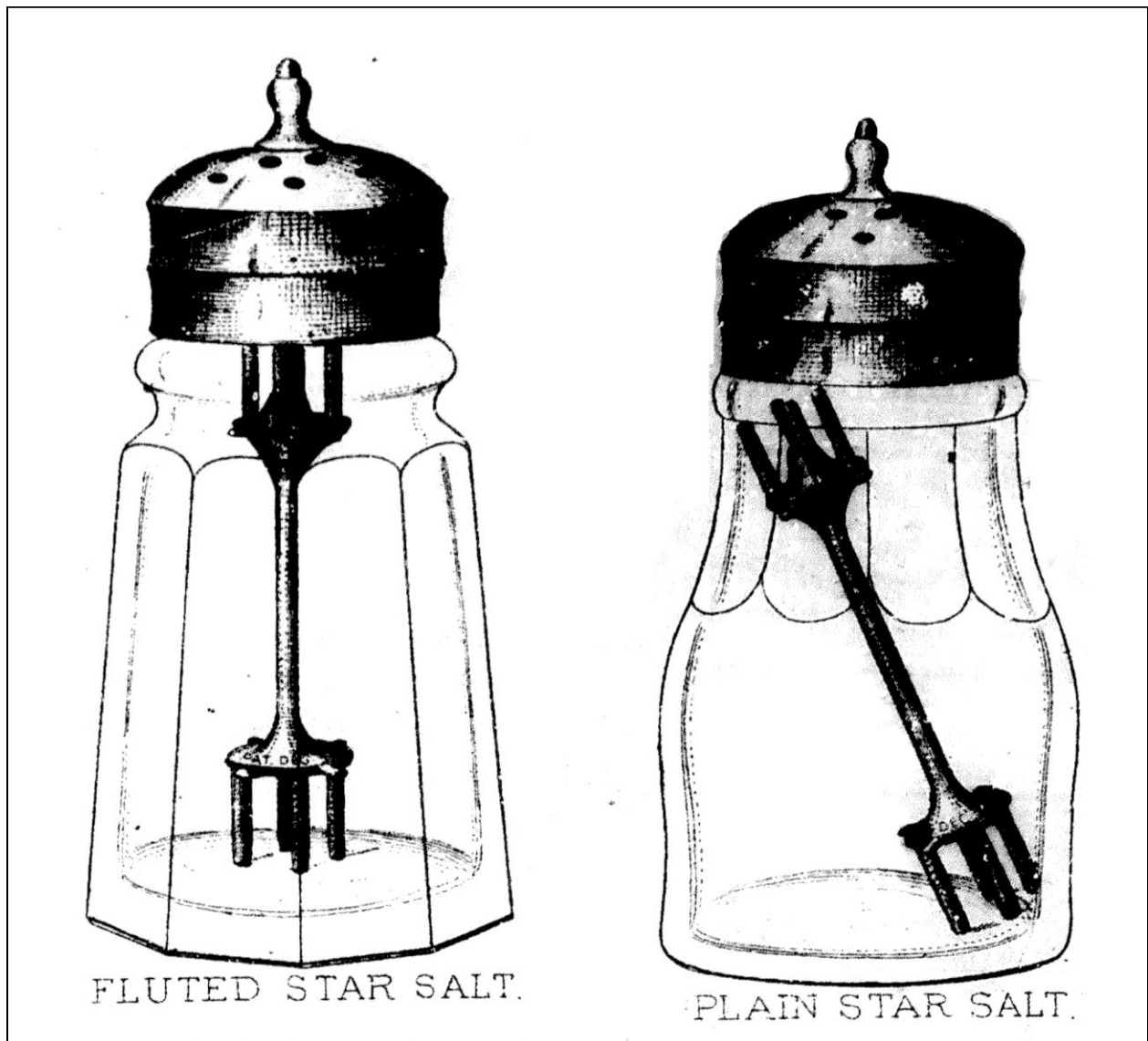


Three more STAR SALTS. On the left is the FLUTE. The center shaker was named “Richardson” by Arthur G. Peterson. This shaker is the “little brother” of the shaker on the left in the previous image and is also believed to pre-date the formation of The Star Salt Caster Company. Lastly, is the PLAIN INDIVIDUAL, the shorter version of the PLAIN SALOON seen above. FLUTE image courtesy Tom Foozer; others from eBay auctions.



The resolution of this image is terrible in a larger size, hence the diminutive picture! This shaker was sold by Green Valley Auctions along with a group of other shakers in 2008. This is referred to as the “#6 Individual Cut Glass” shaker in the company advertisement, and as the “No. 317 SALOON” in the Meriden Britannia Company ad in the appendix. The author is uncertain whether this was made in two sizes as the “saloon” designation generally refers to a larger-sized shaker with greater capacity.

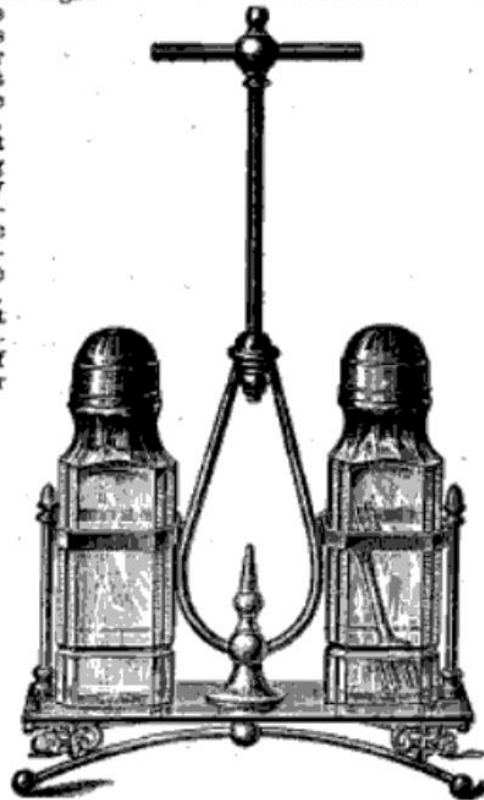
In her article entitled "Star Salts – The Duncan Connection," Neila Bredehoft made the discovery that George Duncan & Sons produced at least some of the shakers for The Star Salt Caster Company. She had uncovered an entry for "Star Salts – Patented" in a price list dated September 1, 1877. Sid Lethbridge provided the author with the following catalog cut from a circa 1880 Duncan catalog which depicts these shakers. Based upon the apparent popularity of Star Salts in general, and the amount of advertising that the company did, it seems probable that they had more than one glasshouse employed in their production.



Star Salts from the George Duncan & Sons catalog circa 1880. The engravers of the time were so detailed, that if the image is enlarged, the patent information of the ends of the breakers can be read! Catalog image courtesy Sid Lethbridge.

THE STAR SALT CASTER CO.

AMONG the many manufacturers of Glassware in the United States, the Star Salt Caster Co., Boston, is one of the youngest, and, at the same time, it is one of the best known. It was organized in 1876 with Theo. S. Ransom as president, and J. A. Sanborn as secretary and treasurer, and it is no disparagement to any other officials to say that the present degree of success attained by the company is largely due to Mr. Ransom's excellent management of its affairs. In the beginning of their career they made only what are known as small "individual salts," but they have gradually worked into the manufacture of fine cut goods suitable to the most elegant dinner table. A glance at the smaller cut shown at the side of this paragraph will convince any one of the great utility of the pulverizer



on the inside, as by its use all inconvenience arising from caking of the salt is thereby prevented. All their casters, whether for two or four bottles, have this patented improvement, and as they are made in such graceful shapes they give universal satisfaction. These goods are now being exported in considerable quantities to foreign countries, where they are meeting with the same favor as at home. It would seem probable that these "Star Salts" would almost entirely supersede the old fashioned salt cellar in many localities, and they surely will wherever convenience is consulted in the least degree.

The Star Salt Caster Co. are manufacturers of a patent extension door knob, made in "silver glass" and "enamel," which is meeting with much favor in the hardware trade. They are also manufacturers of a patent enameled handle table knife, an article which possesses many advantages over the ordinary style. Both the two last mentioned articles are now beginning to find their way abroad. We shall speak more fully of them in a future issue.

A glowing testimonial that appeared in The American Exporter in 1878. It's a little fuzzy but was the only copy that the author could locate. Hopefully the reader can interpret the out-of-focus print!

The Star Salt Castor.

In the discharge of the duties of ordinary avocations, the ingenuity of man has provided many convenient helps which, from their proven adaptability, become of such common use that we never stop to consider how great and real is their value, or how much of time and effort have been expended in the development of their manufacture; and yet such articles are, in almost every instance, the basis of great commercial and manufacturing enterprises. We would call the attention of the reader to the case of the "Star Salt Castor," which is rapidly taking the place of the orthodox salt-cellar. The great advantage of this invention is to keep the salt pulverized at all times, upon the principle of an ordinary pepper-box, and thus prevent the spilling of the salt upon the table. It is also an attractive piece, the bottle being cut into beautiful designs and handsomely mounted. These specialties, including castors of novel designs, are manufactured by the Star Salt Castor Company, 161 Franklin street, Boston, to whose establishment we lately paid a visit of inspection. We were surprised, on entering

the warerooms, at the elegance and variety of the specialties on exhibition. Solid silver and heavy plated caps have lately been introduced, for private families and hotel use, and are in the most beautiful designs that artistic skill can execute.

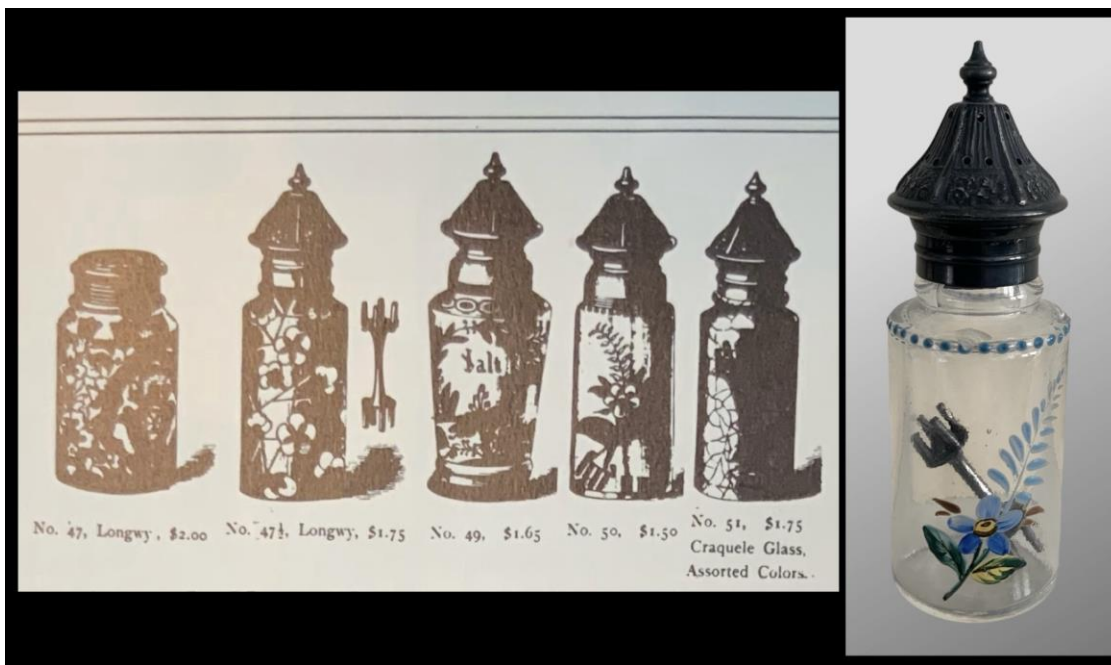
The company was incorporated in May, 1876, and is now one of the most prosperous in the city.

Its officers are, Theo. S. Ransom, president and general business manager, and J. A. Sanborn, treasurer. The company is indebted to the above-named gentlemen for its present prosperity.

The large and growing operations of the company necessitate proportionate facilities and premises. The salesroom is neat and large, and faces on two wide streets; and the factory, located at 69 Haverhill street, is complete in every improvement, and a large number of workmen is employed.

We wish to call the attention of the china and glassware trades to the fact that many new varieties in fine-cut bottles and castors have lately been introduced, in addition to the regular goods of the company, and great advantages are offered.

A small article from the Crockery & Glass Journal on March 7, 1888.



An advertisement from Rogers, Smith & Company, Meriden, Connecticut, showing Longwy, Craquele Glass in assorted colors, and other shakers from the 1882 Electro Gold and Silver Plate Catalog, along with a shaker from the author's collection.

Ad from Arthur G. Peterson, Glass Salt Shakers: 1000 Patterns, 1970, p. 178.

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Thirteenth Exhibition of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, in Building on Park Square, Columbus Avenue and Pleasant street, Boston, September and October, 1878, Boston: Alfred Mudge & Son, Printers, 1878.

United States Federal Census for the years 1860, 1870 and 1880, Ancestry, www.ancestry.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:


The author would like to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following:

- **Scott Beale**, for the image of his scarce blue Haines shaker,
- **Brad Gougeon**, for images of the “Bird and Fly” salt/pepper shaker and mustard pot,
- **Sid Lethbridge**, for a copy of the *Glass Collector’s Digest* article, a catalog cut from the circa 1880 George Duncan & Sons catalog, the Boston Silver Glass Co. ad, and his general assistance,
- **Dr. Virginia R. Jewell**, Director of the **Meriden Historical Society**, for the copy of the Meriden Britannia Catalog of Star Salts,
- **John Mount**, for the ca. 1877 Meriden Britannia Catalog page of Star Salts,
- **Jay Rogers**, for the image of the Boston Silver Glass Company caster set,
- **Dick Sheaff**, for the use of The Star Salt Caster Company trade card.


CROCKERY AND GLASS JOURNAL

THE STAR SALT CASTER CO.,
Office and Salesroom, 161 FRANKLIN STREET, BOSTON.
SOLE PROPRIETORS AND MANUFACTURERS OF THE

CELEBRATED STAR SALTS.



AWARDED FOR SALTS AND PEPPERS




AWARDED FOR DOOR KNOBS AND KNIVES



PLAIN INDIVIDUAL



PLAIN SALOON




No. 3--CASTER WITH TWO VINEGARS



FLUTED SALOON


QUEEN



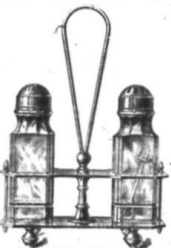
PATENT ENAMELED-HANDLE TABLE KNIVES.--SOLID STEEL.
Warranted to RETAIN their LUSTRE. Are DURABLE. Are NOT AFFECTED by boiling water.



INDIVIDUAL CUT GLASS



INDIVIDUAL CUT GLASS ENGRAVED



No. 4--BREAKFAST CASTER



No. 5 INDIVIDUAL CUT GLASS

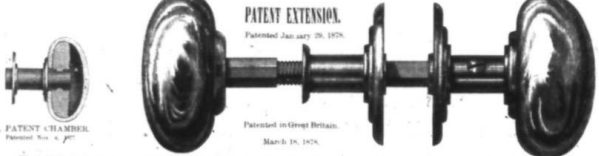


No. 6 INDIVIDUAL CUT GLASS

We warrant all goods of our own manufacture to be of the finest quality, in every respect.



Casters made in various designs of rich cut glass, with silver mountings, suitable for hotels or private families.

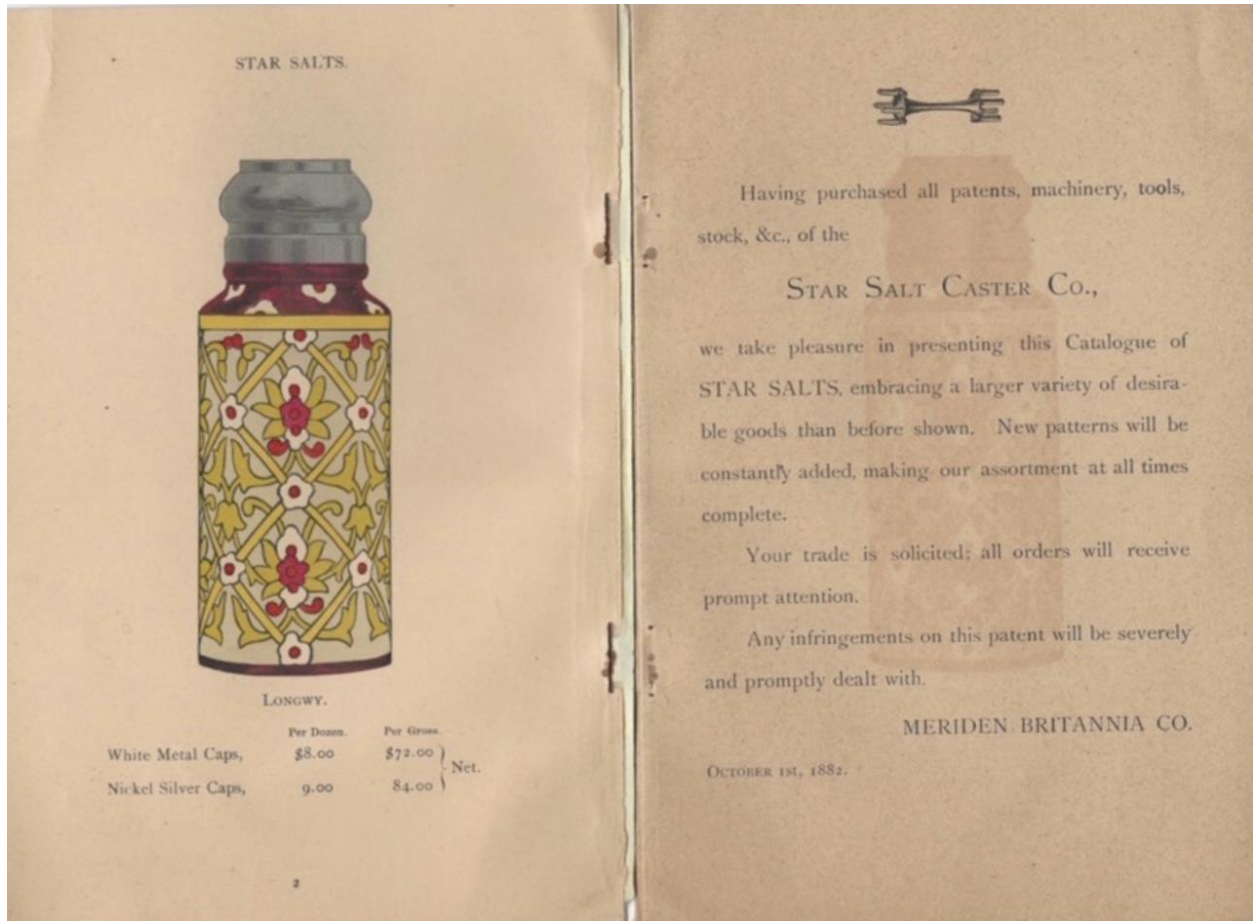


PATENT EXTENSION STAR DOOR KNOB.
SIMPLE, DURABLE, AND PERFECT. EASILY ADJUSTED, and without the aid of pins or Washers.
MANUFACTURED IN EVERY VARIETY OF STEEL. CATALOGUES SENT ON APPLICATION.

Full page advertisement from The Crockery & Glass Journal, 1878.

APPENDIX A:

“Catalogue of Star Salts Manufactured by The Meriden Britannia Company”



Catalogue of Star Salts Manufactured by The Meriden Britannia Company from the Joslin Hall Rare Books Catalog #361, A Selection of Books & Ephemera for Spring, 2016.

The catalog reads:

“Having purchased all patents, machinery, tools, stock, &c. of the STAR SALT CASTER CO., we take pleasure in presenting this Catalogue of STAR SALTS, embracing a larger variety of desirable goods than before shown. New patterns will be constantly added, making our assortment at all times complete. Your trade is solicited: all orders will receive prompt attention. Any infringements of this patent will be severely and promptly dealt with.

MERIDEN BRITANNIA CO.

October 1st, 1882.”

The following pages are from a copy of the catalog in the archives of the Meriden Historical Society. It is reprinted here in its entirety, with actual examples of some of the shakers depicted in the catalog.

STAR SALTS.



No. 200, per doz. \$12.00



No. 201, per doz. \$18.00



No. 205, per doz. \$12.00
Blue or Green.



No. 206, per doz. \$15.00



No. 202, per doz. \$12.00



No. 207, per doz. \$18.00
Assorted Colors.



No. 203, per doz. \$12.00



No. 204, per doz. \$12.00



No. 208, per doz. \$12.00



No. 209, per doz. \$18.00

4

5



No. 209, per doz. \$18.00



No. 207, per doz. \$18.00
Assorted Colors.



No. 202, per doz. \$12.00

Shaker images from the author's collection.

STAR SALTS.



KIOTO.
No. 210, per doz. \$15.00



MALACHITE.
No. 211, per doz. \$21.00
Blue, Green, Rose,
and Amber.



No. 215, per doz. \$21.00



No. 216, per doz. \$27.00



AGATE.
No. 212, per doz. \$18.00



JASPER.
No. 214, per doz. \$21.00
Blue or Green Ground.



No. 217, per doz. \$30.00
Assorted Colors.



FAIENCE.
No. 213, per doz. \$15.00



MINTON'S FIBRE.
No. 218, per doz. \$24.00



No. 219, per doz. \$21.00

6

7



No. 217, per doz. \$30.00
Assorted Colors.



No. 219, per doz. \$21.00



MALACHITE.
No. 211, per doz. \$21.00
Blue, Green, Rose,
and Amber.



Shaker images: Worthpoint, author's collection, Worthpoint.

STAR SALTS.



LIMOGE.
No. 220, per doz. \$18.00



AGATE.
No. 221, per doz. \$18.00



No. 222, per doz. \$30.00



No. 226, per doz. \$24.00
Assorted Colors.



No. 223, per doz. \$21.00



No. 224, per doz. \$18.00



No. 225, per doz. \$30.00
Gold Ground



QUEEN DRESDEN.
No. 227, per doz. \$18.00



No. 228, per doz. \$15.00

8

9



No. 225, per doz. \$30.00
Gold Ground



QUEEN DRESDEN.
No. 227, per doz. \$18.00



No. 228, per doz. \$15.00



Shaker images: left and center from Worthpoint, right courtesy of Jay Rogers.

STAR SALTS.



No. 229, per doz. \$72.00
Assorted Decorations.



No. 230, per doz. \$72.00
Assorted Decorations.



No. 231, per doz. \$36.00
Gold Ground.



MINTON'S FROSTED.
No. 232, per doz. \$60.00



No. 233, per doz. \$60.00
Assorted Decorations.

STAR SALTS.



SALT.
No. 47½, each, \$1.75



SALT.
No. 47, - each, \$2.00



MUSTARD.
No. 47, - each, \$2.00



PEPPER.
No. 47, - each, \$2.00

No. 47 Pepper, Salt and Mustard, put up together in neat paper case,
\$6.00 per set.

10

11



PEPPER.
No. 47, - each, \$2.00



SALT.
No. 47, - each, \$2.00



SALT.
No. 47½, each, \$1.75

Shaker images from Worthpoint.

STAR SALTS.



No. 51.
X Gilt, - each, \$2.50



No. 04, - each, \$2.00



No. 50.
X Gilt, - each, \$2.00



No. 300, per doz. \$30.00



No. 301, per doz. \$36.00



No. 57.
Silver, - each, \$4.00
X Gilt, - " 4.50



No. 53.
Silver, - each, \$2.25
X Gilt, - " 2.75



No. 56.
Silver, - each, \$3.25
X Gilt, - " 3.75



No. 303, per doz. \$36.00



No. 302, per doz. \$48.00



No. 304, per doz. \$36.00

All goods on this page subject to our regular Hollow Ware discounts.

STAR SALTS.



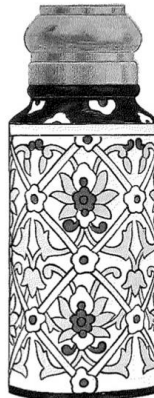
MUSTARD.
No. 47, - each, \$2.00



No. 231, per doz. \$36.00
Gold Ground.



LONGWY.



Shaker images: Left courtesy of Jay Rogers, center and right from Worthpoint.

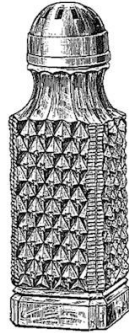
STAR SALTS.



No. 305, per doz. \$18.00



No. 306, per doz. \$21.00



No. 307, per doz. \$44.00



No. 308, per doz. \$13.50



No. 309, per doz. \$48.00

14

STAR SALTS.



No. 09, per doz. \$12.00



No. 310, per doz. \$13.50



No. 311, per doz. \$13.50



No. 312, per doz. \$36.00



No. 313, per doz. \$16.50



No. 314, per doz. \$15.00

15

STAR SALTS.



No. 316, per doz. \$21.00



No. 315, per doz. \$16.00



No. 317, per doz. \$18.00



No. 319, per doz. \$15.00



No. 318, per doz. \$24.00



No. 320, per doz. \$16.50

16

STAR SALTS.



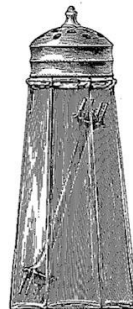
FLUTED INDIVIDUAL.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$24.00
Plated Caps, 27.50
Eng'd Plated Caps, 41.50
Cut Plated Caps, 45.50



EMPRESS INDIVIDUAL.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$24.00
Plated Caps, 27.50



PLAIN INDIVIDUAL.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$21.00
Plated Caps, 24.50



FLUTED SALOON.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$36.00
Plated Caps, 43.00
Eng'd Plated Caps, 57.00
Cut Plated Caps, 63.00



QUEEN.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$30.00
Plated Caps, 37.00
Eng'd Plated Caps, 55.00



PLAIN SALOON.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$36.00
Plated Caps, 43.00

17

STAR SALTS.



OWARI.
No. 234, - per doz. \$18.00

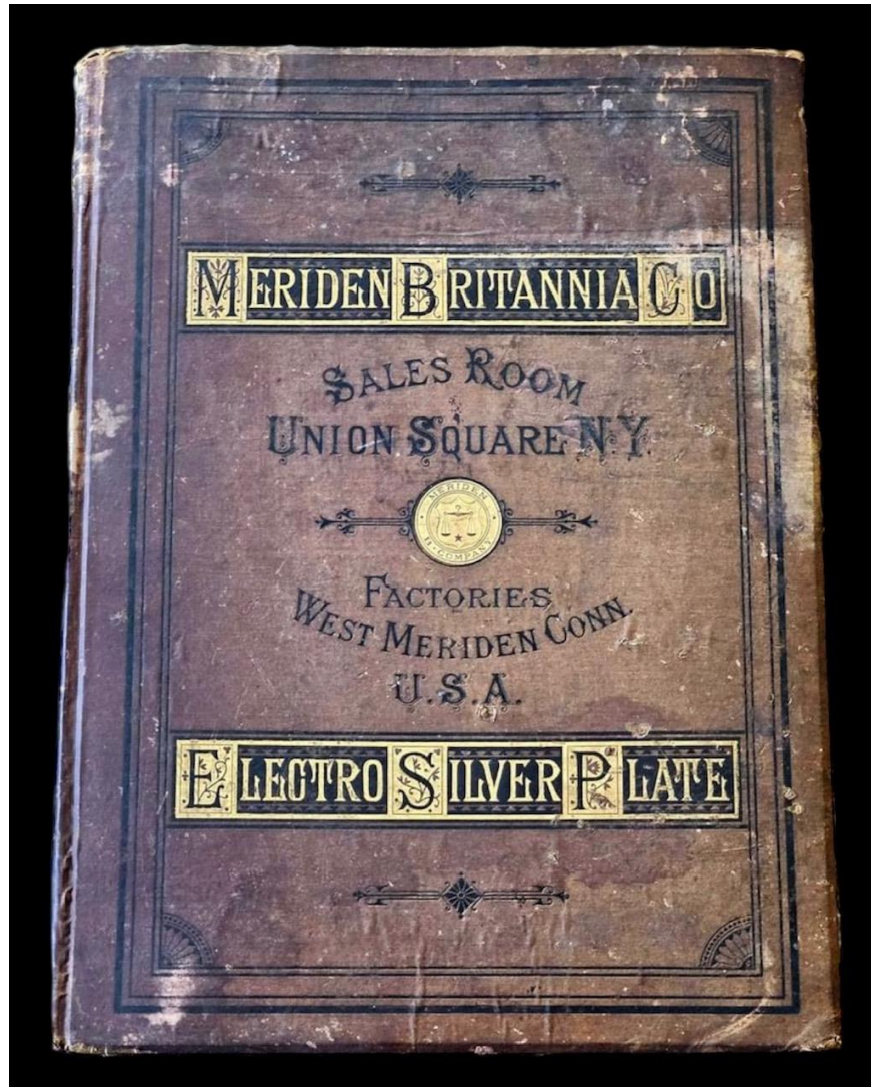
ROYAL WORCESTER.
No. 235, - per doz. \$40.00

As can be seen, many of these shakers are imported and include Dresden, Longwy, Bohemian, Japanese and Chinese wares. Shaker #209 was manufactured by Bates, Gildea & Walker, Burslem, England, circa 1878-1881. This is part of their YOKOHAMA line. Shaker #202 was made by Ridgways, also English, and is part of their HAWTHORN DEN lines, and was also produced in green and blue. This shaker bears an English Registry Mark indicating the pattern having been registered on April 15, 1880.



APPENDIX B:

This undated Meriden Britannia Company catalog is believed to be circa 1877, or later. There are the remnants of a medallion from the 1876 Exposition, so it must post-date that event. Images were provided by John Mount, who had posted this catalog to an ephemera group on Facebook. The catalog is in rough shape, missing almost all its pages, and much of the remaining pages are water damaged. Of the roughly 125 pages of the original, only twenty pages remain. Fortunately, the page of Star Salts was virtually intact, albeit water-damaged, and was the last numbered page in the index.





TRADE MARK FOR WHITE METAL.

STAR SALTS.



TRADE MARK FOR NICKEL SILVER.



No. 8. QUEEN.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$30.00.
Plated Caps, 37.00.



No. 7. EMPRESS INDIVIDUAL.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$24.00.
Plated Caps, 27.50.



No. 4. PLAIN INDIVIDUAL.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$21.00.
Plated Caps, 24.50.



No. 6. FLUTED INDIVIDUAL.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$24.00.
Plated Caps, 27.50.



No. 3. PLAIN SALOON.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$36.00.
Plated Caps, 43.00.



No. 1. FLUTED SALOON.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$40.00.
Plated Caps, 47.00.

No. 5. FLUTED INDIVIDUAL ENGRAVED.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$38.00.
Plated Caps, 41.50.

No. 10. FLUTED SALOON CUT.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$60.00.
Plated Caps, 67.00.

No. 11. FLUTED INDIVIDUAL CUT.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$42.00.
Plated Caps, 45.50.

No. 2. FLUTED SALOON ENGRAVED.
Per Gross.
Britannia Caps, \$54.00.
Plated Caps, 61.00.

THE FOLLOWING ARE CUT GLASS AND SILVER PLATED.



No. 1X. ENGRAVED.
Per dozen, \$13.50.



No. 2E. ENGRAVED.
Per dozen, \$13.50.



No. 3X. SALOON.
Per dozen, \$16.00.



No. 5X. SALOON.
Per dozen, \$16.50.



No. 6X. SALOON.
Per Dozen, \$15.00.



No. 7X. SALOON.
SILVER PLATED AND MOUNTED.
Per dozen, \$21.00.



No. 8X. SALOON.
Per dozen, \$18.00.

THE BEST PREPARATIONS FOR CLEANING SILVER WARE.

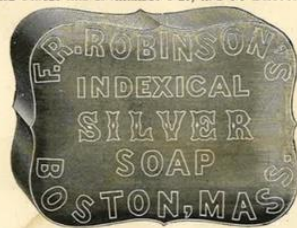
THESE PRICES ARE INVARIABLY NET, AND NO DISCOUNT.



PER DOZEN \$1.20, NET.

This Powder is prepared by us, is especially adapted for cleaning and restoring the original luster to Gold and Silver Plate, and all bright metallic surfaces. It will be found superior to anything in market.

Neatly put up in packages of one dozen boxes, with full directions for use.



INDEXICAL SILVER SOAP.
PER DOZEN \$1.00, NET.

Unequaled for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Silver-Plated, Britannia and Tin Wares, &c.

CAUTION.—The original and only Genuine SILVER SOAP, is known world-wide as the, "INDEXICAL SILVER SOAP," (See fac simile.) All others are cheap imitations, and most of them totally unfit for use on Jewelry, Silver, or Electro-Plated Goods.

Warranted to contain neither Salt nor Acid, and is perfectly harmless under all circumstances.



M. NIVER'S POLISHING FLUID.
PER DOZEN \$3.00, NET.

For Cleansing and Polishing Gold, Silver, Plated Ware, and all fine Metallic Surfaces, Mirrors, and Plate Glass.


The genuine Polishing Fluid is neatly put up for the trade in bottles containing five fluid ounces, with full directions for use. To avoid counterfeits, see that the words "M. NIVER, Niverville, Columbia County, N. Y.," are blown in the glass of the bottle, and that his signature is upon each label.

Warranted chemically pure, and free from Mercury, Acid, Alkali, Ammonia Cyanide of Potassium, Grit, or any injurious or poisonous substance, and not to injure or mar the finest surface, hands, or clothing.


MERIDEN BRITANNIA CO., Agents.

This catalog page is interesting in that it notes that the "FLUTED" and "SALOON" bottles were available in both cut and engraved versions. To date, the author has not seen any examples of these cut/engraved versions of Star Salts.

Below are two full pages from the Meriden Britannia Co. Catalog of Gold and Silver Plate, Meriden, Conn., 1886-87 which feature Star Salts. They acquired the lines around 1882, so they apparently remained popular, and seemingly expanded the selection to include many porcelain shakers.


























STAR SALTS AND PEPPERS.



(Half Size.)

PRICES PER DOZEN. DISCOUNT SAME AS HOLLOW WARE.

					
No. 337. . \$7.50.	No. 341. . \$11.00.	No. 335. . \$16.00.	No. 343. . \$9.50.	No. 347. . \$11.00.	No. 336. . \$7.50.
					
No. 345. . \$10.50.	No. 344. . \$12.00.	No. 339. . \$10.00.	No. 320. . \$10.00.	No. 334. . \$12.00.	No. 273. . \$4.75.
					
No. 270. . \$5.00.	No. 269. . \$4.75.	No. 261, Assorted, \$5.00.	No. 265. . \$6.00.	No. 267. . \$4.75.	No. 268. . \$4.75.
					
No. 257, Ruby, \$8.00.	No. 262, Assorted, \$5.00.	No. 255. . \$6.00.	No. 264. . \$5.00.	No. 272. . \$6.00.	No. 271. . \$5.00.

(254)



GOLD AND SILVER PLATE.



No. 311.
Per dozen, . \$9.00.



No. 317. SALOON.
Per dozen, . \$10.00.



No. 313.
Per dozen, . \$10.00.



No. 305.
Per dozen, . \$11.00.



No. 306.
Per dozen, . \$13.50.



No. 315.
Per dozen, . \$12.00.



No. 302.
Per dozen, . \$30.00.
(Three-Quarter Size.)



No. 307.
Per dozen, . \$24.00.
(Three-Quarter Size.)



No. 308.
Per dozen, . \$10.00.



No. 309.
Per dozen, . \$30.00.



No. 4. PLAIN INDIVIDUAL.
Per Gross.
Metal Caps, . \$18.00.
Plated Caps, . 21.00.



No. 3. PLAIN SALOON.
Per Gross.
Metal Caps, . \$27.00.
Plated Caps, . 33.00.



No. 1. FLUTED SALOON.
Per Gross.
Metal Caps, . \$27.00.
Plated Caps, . 33.00.



No. 6. FLUTED INDIVIDUAL.
Per Gross.
Metal Caps, . \$18.00.
Plated Caps, . 21.00.

DISCOUNT SAME AS HOLLOW WARE.



While positive attribution is nearly impossible, these two porcelain shakers in the author's collection are virtually identical to STAR SALTS AND PEPPERS on page 254 of the Meriden Britannia Company catalog reproduced above. These shakers are consistent with numbers 261 and 267 respectively, albeit with slight differences in the decoration. They even have the gilt band as seen in the catalog image.

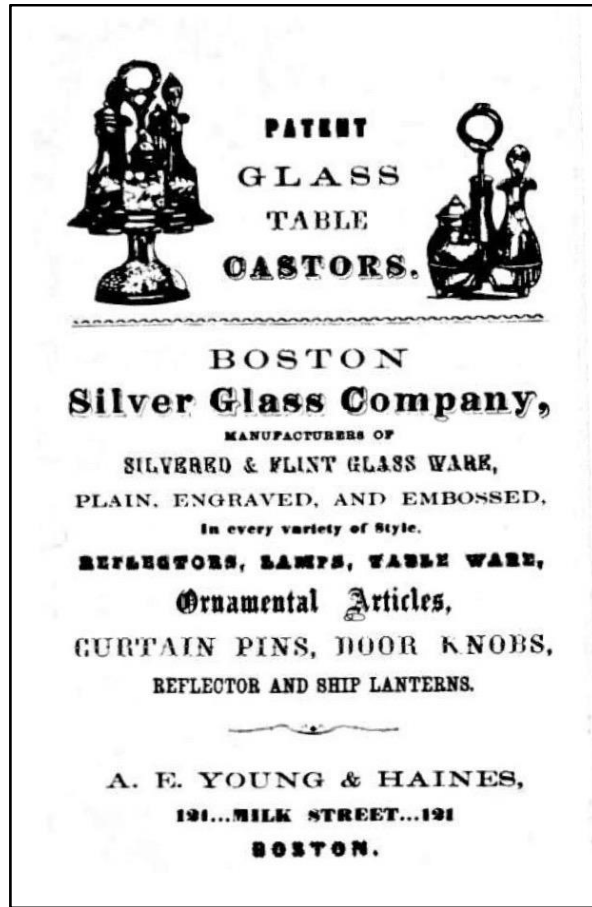


This beautifully executed mustard pot and shaker are consistent with the catalog image for item number 255 on page 254 of the catalog above. These items are porcelain, not glass, and part of a three-piece set. Arthur G. Peterson called this pattern "*Bird and Fly.*" Image courtesy Brad Gougeon.

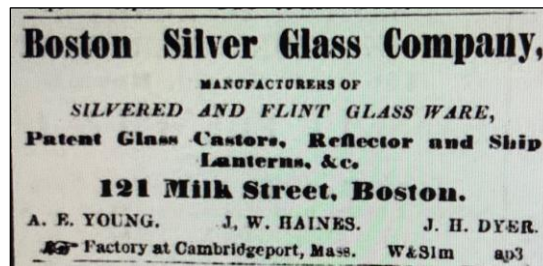
APPENDIX C:

The Curious Connection of Alonzo E. Young, John W. Haines, and The Boston Silver Glass Company.

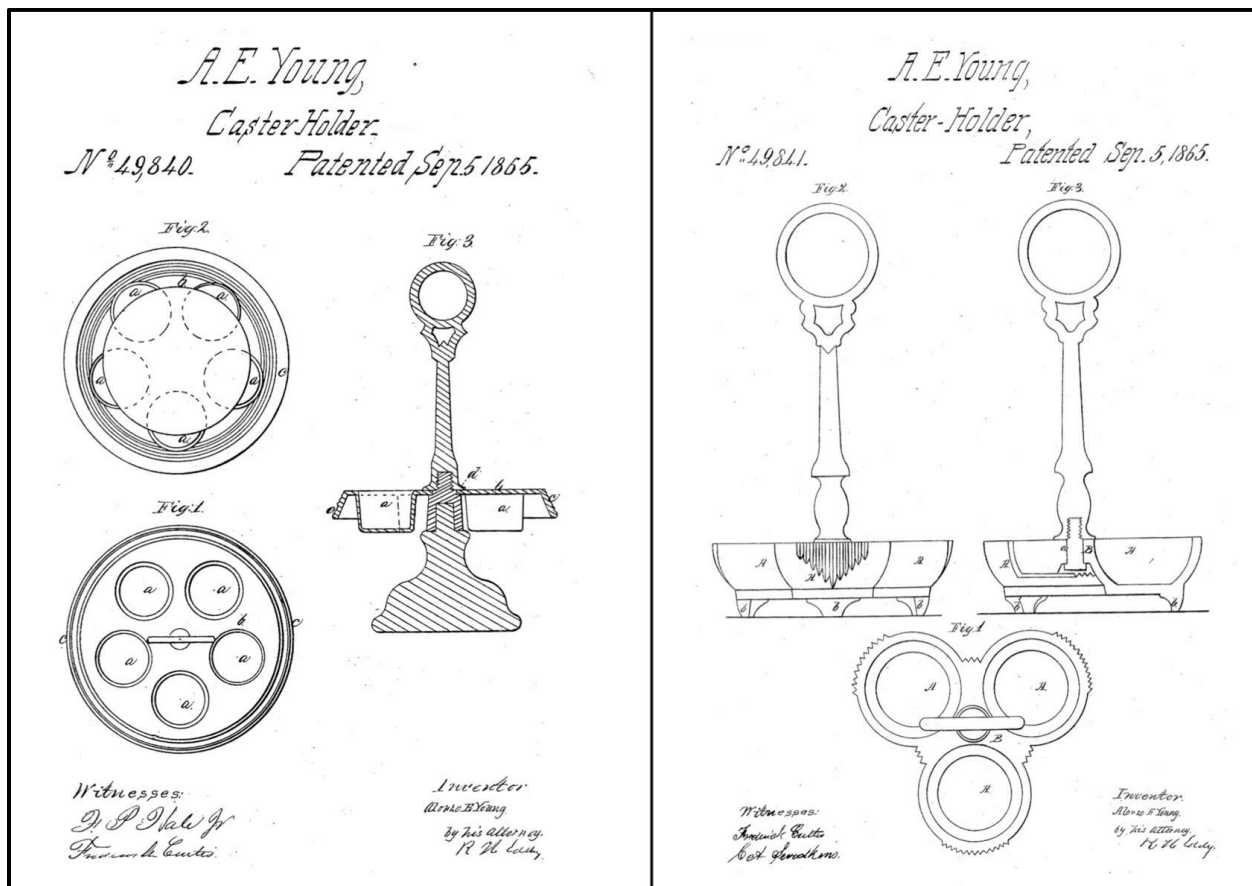
The **Boston Silver Glass Company** operated from 1857 to 1871 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with a showroom in Boston. They produced a wide variety of glass items including tableware, lamps, lamp reflectors, doorknobs, and more. Young and Haines were the original principals in the company. At some point, J. H. Dyer joined the firm as noted in the second advertisement below.



Advertisement for The Boston Silver Glass Company. Courtesy Sid Lethbridge.



Advertisement from the Boston Post, April 3, 1867. Note J.H. Dyer now a partner.



Above are two patents granted to Alonzo E. Young on September 5, 1865. The patent numbers are 49,840 and 49,841. Both patents were assigned to both Young and John W. Haines. The one on the left has a silvered glass base and a pressed glass bottle holder, similar to the example shown below. The second caster is merely pressed and not silvered. These two casters are quite like the ones depicted in the advertisement at the top of this appendix.

Alonzo E. Young was born in March 1813 and died on February 18, 1901. Selected census entries are listed as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>State/Fed.</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
• 1860	Federal	Glass Silverer
• 1865	State	Glass Manufacturing
• 1870	Federal	Silvered Glass Manufacturer
• 1880	Federal	Glass Manufacturing

(Boston City directory entries for 1874-76 note "silver glass door knobs.")

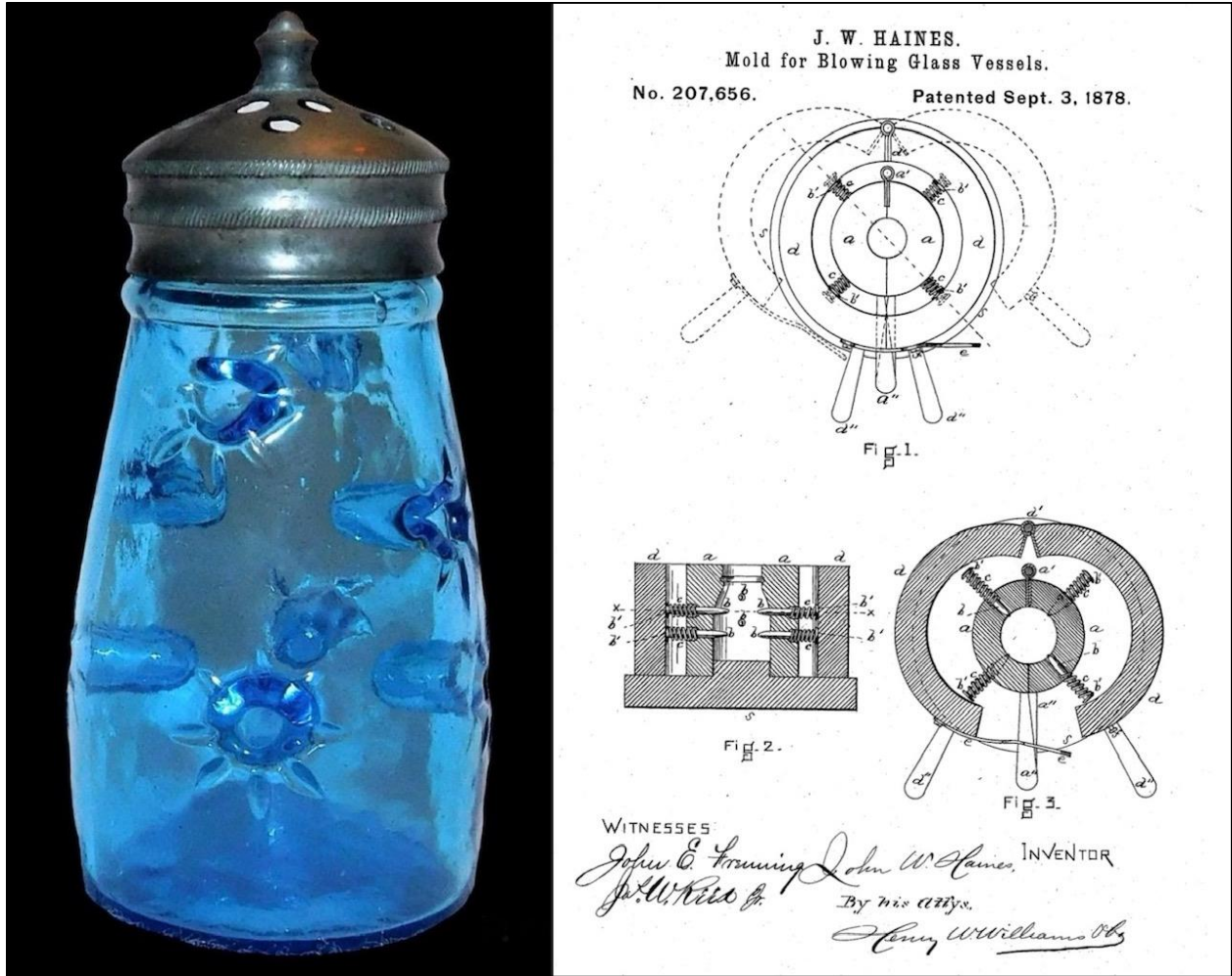
Alonzo E. Young's connection to The Star Salt Caster Company is outlined in the main article. He was somewhat of a prolific inventor, having several patents to his name including no fewer than nine for doorknobs, three for glass casters, and one for a glass mould.



*Caster set marked with Young's Pat. No. 35,799 & dated July 1, 1862.
Caster photo courtesy of Jay Rogers.*

Like Alonzo E. Young, John W. Haines held several patents including a number for doorknobs, a silvered glass reflector for a kerosene bracket lamp, a glass piano key, a method of decorating composite kerosene lamps, the saltshaker with inwardly protruding glass "nubs" that is known by collectors as "The

Haines shaker," and the apparatus necessary to manufacture that shaker. His earliest patents appear to be circa 1865 and pertain to forming and silvering glass items. Haines is also known to have worked for the Union Glass Company, Somerville, Mass., having assigned one of his patents to them in 1872. His tenure there may have come after the end of The Boston Silver Glass Co. circa 1871.



John W. Haines' patent for a "Mold for Blowing Glass Vessels, Pat. No. 207,656, dated September 3, 1878 can be seen on the right. The patent on the shaker was granted three months earlier having Pat. No. 204,564, dated June 4, 1878. Blue Haines shaker courtesy Scott Beale.

One must wonder if there was a connection between the Boston Silver Glass Company ending around 1871, Francis L. King somewhere in the middle, and the beginning of The Star Salt Caster Company around 1876, especially considering that Alonzo E. Young was a party to both firms, and both companies produced silvered glass doorknobs, and likely other similar products.