

Suncook Glass - (Suncook Glass Works, aka Pembroke Glass Works)

The company was originally established in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, as the Chelmsford Glass-Works by Hunnewell and Gore in 1802, and was successful for nearly twenty six years. Eventually the business was sold and the new owners incorporated the operation as the Chelmsford Glass Company on June 11th, 1828. (1)

Two noteworthy events may have affected the products produced by the new Chelmsford Glass Company. First, the Town of Lowell was incorporated in 1826 from part of the Town of Chelmsford causing the glass works to be now located in Lowell. Second, in 1829, the Boston and Lowell Railroad was started, and received a charter from the State of Massachusetts on June 5, 1830. (2)

With these events in mind, what better endeavor for the new Lowell company to undertake than to produce a new commemorative bottle celebrating these local events. Although unproven, it is believed that the *Lowell Railroad* bottle, embossed with both “Railroad” and “Lowell,” was made at this time by the newly reorganized Chelmsford Glass Company. (3)

On July 4th, 1839 the company was incorporated for the second time as the Chelmsford Glass Company, but this time in New Hampshire. (4) The entire glass factory was moved from Lowell to the village of Suncook, which lies in part of the Town of Pembroke. (5) (6) (7) The factory was located on the west end of Buck Street (later known as Glass Street) and produced many beautiful aqua pieces known to us today as Suncook glass.

After only eleven years, operations at the Suncook Glass Works ended in 1850. The reasons cited were the high cost of transporting quality sand, the use of natural gas as a fuel, and the lowering of the foreign glass import tariff.

(1) *Session Laws – Massachusetts, 1828*

(2) Boston and Lowell Railroad, Wikipedia

(3) Johnson O’Connor, “The Lowell Railroad Bottle,” *Antiques*, 1923

(4) *Journal of the Senate and House, June Session, 1839*

(5) *History of Pembroke, N. H. 1730 – 1895*

(6) *Contributions of the Old Residents' Historical Association*, Lowell, MA, Volume 2, 1883

(7) *Images of America: Suncook Village*, 2008