

# GLASS BOTTLES AND STEEL TRAPS

On the opposite end of the strength scale with one being easily broken and the other being built to withstand everything mother nature can through its way, glass bottles with raised lettering and steel traps were not necessarily known to go together. It is rare to find a trap manufacturer who also sold a product contained in a glass bottle with raised lettering. I am excluding lure bottles as they were usually smooth with a paper label attached to it.

Two trap makers who did sell products in glass bottles with raised letters were the Oneida Community (OC) and Hotchkiss and Sons. Most trap collectors are familiar with the two different bottles that the OC made. One with the letters O and C side by side and the other where the O is over lapping the C. These jars were sold filled with fruit or jelly.

The other that trap collectors may not be as familiar with was Hotchkiss' Sons. In 1878, the Congress and Empire Spring Company, of Saratoga New York, was the largest mineral water bottling company in the world with sales of over one million bottles annually.

The Congress Spring and the Empire Spring retained their individual identity. Customers who wanted Empire water, purchased bottles with a designating "E" while proponents of the Congress Spring bought bottles embossed with a "C".

In 1879, the business changed hands with the Hotchkiss family becoming the principal stockholders of the Congress and Empire Spring Company. The name "Hotchkiss' Sons" was added to the regular bottle embossing. Under the leadership of Benjamin Berkley Hotchkiss, the company became an international organization with agents in all of the major cities of Europe.

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