

MILLERSBURG'S



VASELINE GLASS

2023

*Matt Young*

# FORWARD (2023)

I want to begin by telling you all what a pleasure it has been to be able to bring this book to you. I've learned so much about the topic in my time since I first sat down to write it, and more since the first draft was released in 2021. All of your feedback, support, thanks, and stories have been very rewarding, more so, I think, than even completing this book. I've said it many times before; it's not just the glass that draws us to a love of Carnival, it's also the friends we make along the way, and I am proud to call all of you my friends. *Thank you all for your contributions to this work.*

2022 and 23 been great years for Millersburg carnival glass. Many pieces have come up for auction that are true rarities, and several pieces have been discovered after years of sitting on a display shelf, unbeknownst to the world. Pipe Humidors, Blackberry Bark vases, a Peoples Vase, a Fruit Basket, many pieces with super electric iridescent colors, and one-of-a-kind pieces as well. It has been a Millersburg collectors dream.

Millersburg Vaseline has also had a good couple years. We've added another Vaseline Grape Wreath bowl, making two known in Vaseline for that pattern (Marie McGee would be giddy with excitement over this one!). There was also the first known Sugar Dish lid found, screaming PURE Vaseline (anyone have the dish?). Both of these pieces came out of a collection that was very private for many years; all the more reason to get those blacklights out and start scanning your collection! Personally, I found another Holly Sprig ruffled bowl, as well as a Rays and Ribbons deep flared bowl in Vaseline (which are now in my collection). Finally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> known Wild Flower compote came up for auction, the only other one being sold in 2021 at ACGA.

All of these additional pieces, as well as some additional and corrected information can be found in this version, released at the Millersburg Glass Association Gathering in 2023. Please keep sending me any info, pictures, finds, and whatever else you feel pertinent. It will go into the next version of this book. Thank you all again, and I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it.

# INTRODUCTION

I've always had an interest in Uranium Glass. When I bought my house built at the height of the Atomic Era, I began collecting it to fill the Mid-Century cubby holes in my walls. When you see me walking around an antique mall, you can put money on the fact that I have a black light with me, shining it at every piece of glass that catches my attention. I've done it so much, in fact, that I can pick out that Uranium Green color from a mile away, buried under 25 years of unsellable junk. I've only recently gotten into collecting Millersburg, however, and when I found out there were Uranium examples (or Vaseline as Millersburg collectors call it), I was gung ho to learn all I could. I was also anxious to begin adding it to my collection. When I began my search, I quickly realized that there was no good, single source to learn



about Millersburg's glowing glass. My quest then added a new goal; authoring that source.

By definition, Uranium Glass is glass that was colored using Uranium Oxide, AKA, sodium diuranate and a mix of uranium isotopes 234, 235, and almost entirely of 238, which is non

fissile and can't sustain a chain reaction in a thermal neutron reactor and between 2 and 25% by weight... Small disclaimer, I have NO idea what any of that means, it's just what they tell me. In layman's terms, yes, it contains Uranium. No, it won't blow up. No, you're not going to grow a third arm from being around it.

Truthfully, there is more radioactivity coming off of your quartz countertop or that banana you had for lunch than out of this glass. In fact, the EPA has deemed Uranium Glass safe to be around.

Uranium has been used to color glass since 79 AD, where a mosaic containing yellow glass with 1% Uranium Oxide was found in the Bay of Naples, Italy. It appeared in many patterns during the 1800's and reached its height with the production of Depression Glass.



Depression Glass was cheap and mass produced by machines. The common person could buy it and not break the bank, which was good, because it *was* the Depression. Theatres would use it as a free promotional item, handing out a plate one week and a cup the next in an effort to get people to keep coming to

their shows. After a few weeks of taking your entire family to the movies, you would have a full set of dishes. Products distributed in boxes such as dish soap and detergents would include a piece to keep people purchasing their products as well.

For the people that had more money, and during the era shortly after the Depression, there was elegant glass which also contained Uranium in some pieces. It looked similar to Depression Glass, but was handmade and generally had some sort of etching. The quality was much better than the glass mass produced by machines and was preferred by those who could afford it.

Widespread use of Uranium as a colorant ended in 1943 with the Manhattan Project and the building of the nuclear bomb. Uranium was deregulated in 1958, and some glass makers began to use it again, but many stopped because they had found other means to achieve the same color during the 15 year stretch that Uranium wasn't available. Many of these means were cheaper and easier to find than Uranium.

Glass makers produced multiple patterns with Uranium content during the depression era because it was cheap. Uranium was simply a waste byproduct. 20 years before the Depression Era, which began in 1929, and the height of Uranium Glass's popularity, Millersburg produced several of their Carnival patterns using Uranium Oxide. Collectors today call it Vaseline, the name given to the color of glass similar to



its petroleum jelly counterpart. Yes, all Vaseline Glass is Uranium Glass, but not all Uranium Glass is Vaseline Glass. The main component is the same; it just depended on how much the maker added and what it was mixed with. It wasn't called Vaseline at the time, however. The actual term wasn't used until 1938 when a Fenton Art Glass Catalog coined it, and the term stuck.

Millersburg Glass opened its doors in May of 1909 after its founder, John W. Fenton, had a falling out with his brother, left Fenton Glass, and convinced the citizens of Millersburg that opening a glass factory would hold people in the town and stop them from moving to the bigger cities. John was a wiz



Millersburg Glass Circa 1909

with color, and when he produced his patterns in Vaseline, if he put any finish on it at all, it was Radium, which was met with “glowing” reviews (did you catch that? It was a Uranium Glass pun). John was so popular because of his achievements and works, that he was even honored in the local paper. With patterns derived from his own life experiences and an eye for color, John produced many beautiful pieces and launched Millersburg right to the top of the Carnival Glass World. Like me, whether or not you collect Millersburg, if you have ever heard of Carnival Glass, you are certainly aware of some of the patterns that John created.



John Fenton

However, in 1911, facing several lawsuits, mounting bills, and delinquent taxes, Millersburg Glass started to crack (See there? Another glass pun). John was extremely creative, but wasn't much of a business man. The company sold in September of 1911 and became the Radium Glass Company with John as its Vice President, but it ultimately closed its doors the following year. While the iconic smokestack might be torn down, and the building housing a different company, Millersburg Glass' legacy still lives on to this day with the beautiful pieces it produced, and the desire of carnival glass collectors

everywhere to add it to their shelves. Of all the Carnival Glass lines, Millersburg has stood the test of time better than most regarding value and popularity.

To know the true color of a piece, you have to look at the base. On a Vaseline example, the base color will be the unmistakable yellow-Green of Uranium as seen here on this Holly Sprig bowl. Many Millersburg Vaseline pieces, however, have a Marigold overlay, which makes them easy to mistake for a plain Marigold piece, and the Uranium color hard to detect. I've seen them look almost completely Marigold, until a black light is shined on the base, as in the Night Stars Nappy below.



Example of the Yellow Green Base on a Holly Sprig Bowl sold at the 2020 MGA Auction

There are many different ways that people say you can identify Uranium (Vaseline) Glass. In truth, there are only two ways you can accurately identify it. The first is the use of a blacklight. The result will be a brightly glowing Green fluorescence, and I mean bright. Some other elements used to color glass, such as Manganese can produce a dull glow, but only Uranium will glow brightly. The second is the use of a Geiger counter, but that's too scientific for my taste.



Hard to ID Vaseline Night Stars base

Because of my initial love of Uranium glass, in this article, we are going to focus on the pieces that Millersburg produced in Vaseline. They are rare to find at auctions and next to impossible to find "in the wild" as Uranium Glass hunters call it. Only 23 out of Millersburg's 81 carnival glass patterns are known to be made in Vaseline. That's just 25% of their entire Carnival

line, and very few examples of each were produced at that. It's also very reminiscent of my college test scores. To top it off, we are dealing with a company that only lasted for thirty four months.

Vaseline Holly Sprig, sold at the 2020 MGA Auction



It is possible, however, that more examples exist, they just haven't been black lighted yet, such as the square Nesting Swan bowl that surfaced on eBay while I was writing this article. It is also possible that some pieces were produced and never made it past the shard pile out back of the factory. I find it hard to believe that one example of a pitcher was made in Vaseline, but no

tumblers were made to go with it. Devil's advocate, however, would say it is also highly possible that a pitcher was made, and the maker didn't like the way it looked, so the intent to create a full water set was scrapped. As with many Millersburg pieces, there is only one Vaseline example known. It is also highly likely that one example of a pattern was made in Vaseline, but succumbed to the trials of time and ended up in a trash can, shattered by an unruly toddler. I am also quite sure that there is a Vaseline People's Vase hidden in someone's basement just waiting to be unearthed. I'm still working hard to find that basement.

It was the content of Uranium glass that drove me to collect it. I liked the idea that it contained Uranium. For many people, it is merely the rarity of the color that drives them to want to add it to their collection. Some just collect an item in general and if one happens to be Vaseline, that's merely a bonus. Some people just enjoy learning about it.

Regardless of your reason for reading this, I hope you gain a more intimate knowledge of Vaseline Glass produced by the Queen of Carnival Glass, Millersburg.



Millersburg Peacock showing off a nice glow

# MILLERSBURG VASELINE

**ACORN COMPOTE:** Millersburg produced their Acorn pattern in both a compote and a vase from 1909-1911. The pattern can be found on the interior of the compote and the exterior of the vase, which we will discuss later in this article. The compote is similar in shape to Millersburg's Wildflower, with the flute shape exterior and clover base. You can find examples of both the compote and vase in Vaseline, along with the more traditional Millersburg Colors; Green, Marigold, and Amethyst. The compote has either a round or ruffled top with a scalloped base and stands just under 6" tall. One Vaseline compote has changed hands several times with an average market value of just over \$6,000.00. The highest it sold for was in 2020 for \$7,750.00. A "goblet" shaped version emerged for Lincoln Land in 2022, pictured above.



**ACORN VASE:** There are only five of the vases known, and only one in Vaseline, making it one of Millersburg's rarest patterns. The pattern is the same as the compote, but found on the exterior of the vase. There are two in Green and one each in Amethyst and Marigold. This vase's textured pattern bears a remarkable resemblance to Millersburg's Blackberry Bark vase, of which no Vaseline examples exist to date. The Vaseline example is part of Randy and Bo Jones' collection.





**BIG FISH:** One of the most Iconic Millersburg patterns is the Big Fish, produced from 1909-1911. John Fenton loved to fish, and he captured that love with this dish. It can be found in an entire array of different shapes including diamonds, squares, and rose bowls, but only bowl shapes were made. The pattern sports a...well...big fish (which is ironically a smaller fish than the one found on the Trout and Fly pattern) above rippling water, surrounded by flowering plants. There

are four Vaseline examples known and two reported. One with a crimped edge sold for \$6,000.00. The main one in question sold for \$27,000.00. It was a bowl that sported a crimped ruffled edge with a radium finish. A Vaseline tri-corner bowl also sold for \$15,000.00 in 2008 and again in 2010. In 2023, a 4 lobed shaped bowl sold at the HOACGA Convention. This pattern is extremely close to Millersburg's Trout and Fly, but is the only piece in the fish motif in Vaseline.

**BUTTERFLY AND CORN:** One of the most unique and scarce vases produced by Millersburg was the Butterfly and Corn, made between 1909 and 1911. The pattern consisted of an ear of corn with a butterfly suspended over the tallest leaf and a plain base. It shared similarities between the Acorn and Woodpecker vases. This pattern is found only in the 6" vase. In June of 2020, one Vaseline example sold for \$26,000.00 at the Christina Katsikas auction, along with one in Green, one in Amethyst, and one in Marigold. Not many of these vases exist in any color, making it a rare piece as is.





Cracked Country Kitchen Spooner

**COUNTRY KITCHEN:** More commonly recognized as a pattern in Crystal, Millersburg did produce some colored versions of this piece from 1909-1911. It was a busy pattern, consisting of multi-rayed stars on a plain background, triangular areas of file/diamond point, notched ribs, and fans. This pattern was produced in a wide variety of different shapes including table sets, sauces, and bowls. Full table sets are extremely rare. Two Vaseline examples of a spooner are known to exist. One sold in 2012. It was cracked and brought \$950. One covered sugar bowl has also been reported in Vaseline. This pattern is very similar to Millersburg's Potpourri pattern found only in a Water Pitcher, but no Vaseline examples exist there.

**FEATHER AND HEART:** Produced from 1909-1911 mostly as a water set with one example of a hair receiver and spittoon whimsy made from the tumbler mold, this geometric pattern is distinguished by feather-shaped designs around the upper portion and upside down heart shapes toward the bottom. A Vaseline example of a Pitcher has sold in 1994 for \$14,000, and again in 2017 for \$32,000.00. In 2021, it sold for \$52,500.00. The pitcher is a standard 7.5" tall, and is said to be the only Millersburg water pitcher in Vaseline.



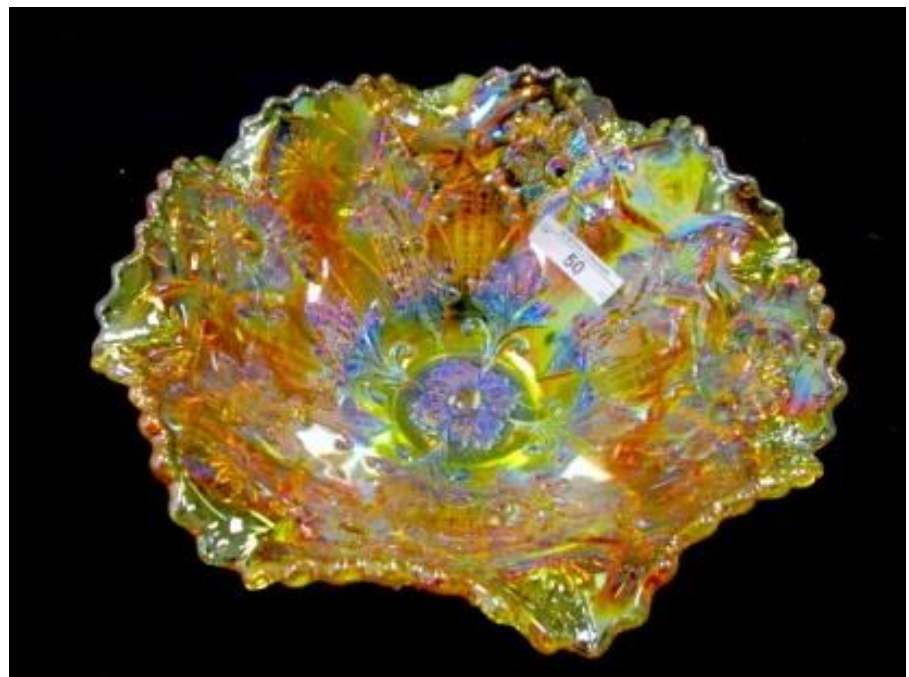
Most Recent Photo from the 2021 ACGA Auction



**FLEUR DE LIS:** This pattern, produced from 1909-1911, was made in two shapes; a bowl and a rose bowl with the back pattern of Country Kitchen, with rarities including rose bowls in both collar base and dome foot and a single Green compote. There is a Vaseline example of a spooner and covered sugar bowl. There is one compote known to exist in Green. The motif was created in association with the

royal families of France and can be found as an interior pattern of some Hobstar and Feather pieces. According to Hartung, because of the European background of many of the glass workers employed in America, you can find types of both flora and fauna that are foreign to America depicted in American glass. The pattern consists of a center four petal flower with Fleur de Lis extending outward, with alternating florals and Fleur de Lis above.

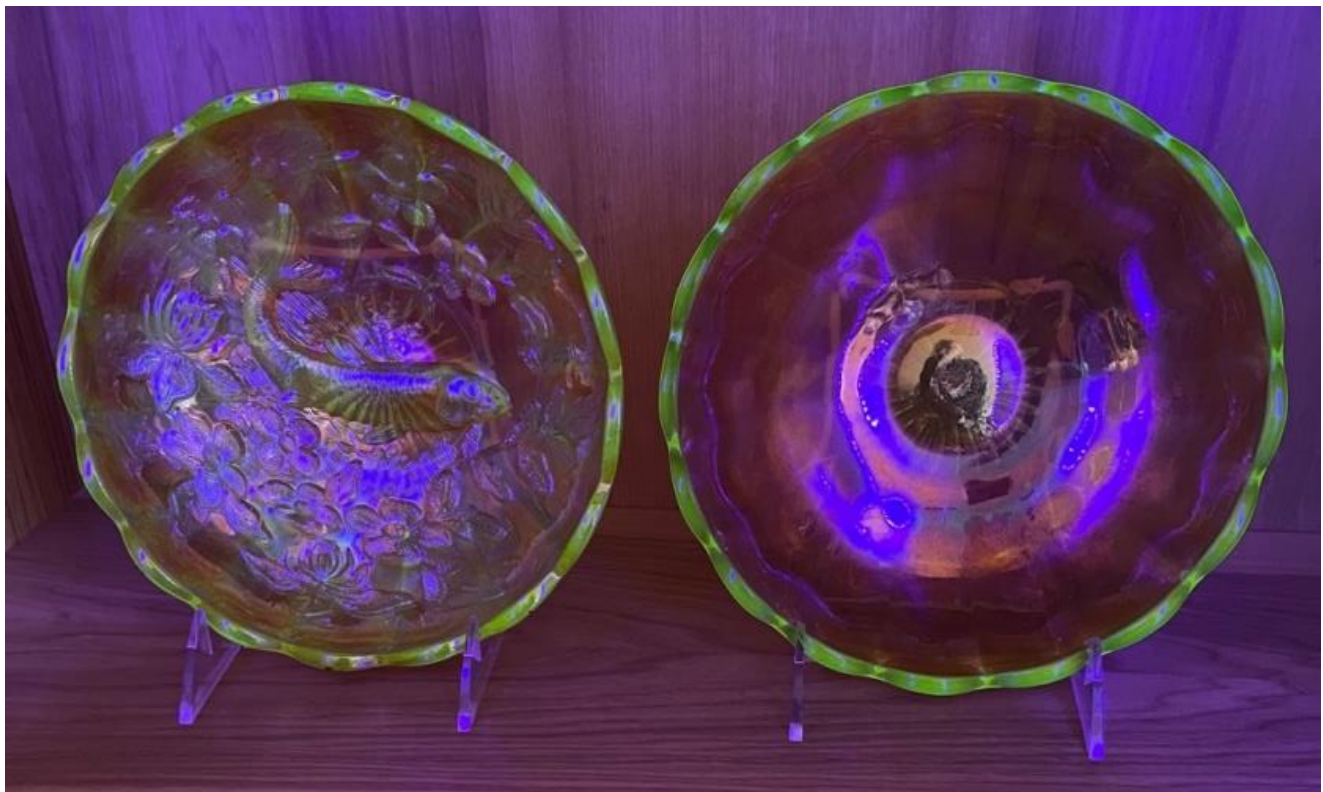
Several Vaseline examples can be found in the bowl shape, selling for an average of just over \$8,000.00. There are three with dome bases; two have minor damage and two with the standard collar base. They can also be found with a variety of edges, including square, tri-cornered, ruffled, ICS, and flared.



Fleur De Lis with Chips on Base, Sold for \$17,500 in June of 2018



**FLUTE (AKA TULIP):** This pattern is rarely seen and has been described as an “unpatterned Millersburg Compote” according to Marie McGee’s book. The compote stands 9” tall, and the bowl measures 6” wide. Smooth wide panels come from the nine-sided base. The top looks like an open tulip shape. Both the compote and bowl can be found in Vaseline. The Jelly Compote is also the blank of Millersburg’s Flowering Vine pattern, and the bowl is what Randy calls the Big Fish Blank (as per Randy, if it’s in your collection, you can call it what you want), which sits beside his Vaseline ICS Big Fish.



**GRAPE LEAVES:** Fruit was a very common motif among glass makers. Millersburg was no exception, with at least 9 of its patterns containing fruit. One of the most popular fruits in Carnival Glass, with 41 identified patterns, is the grape, and the queen of carnival glass wasn't going to miss the boat on this one. Millersburg produced this pattern in a bowl only from 1909-1911. Varying only slightly from its "Blackberry Wreath" pattern, the Grape Leaves pattern has clusters of berries and leaves on a vine going around the outer edge. The center has a single berry surrounded by four leaves.



One example in Vaseline with a Mayflower exterior sold in Mt. Hope for \$13,500.00. It measured 9.5" across. To add to its rarity, the bowl was tri-cornered, an unusual shape in this pattern (only one other tri corner existing in green). It had a radium finish, common on the "Grape Wreath." It was slightly damaged as noted in Marie McGee's book as well as Bill Edward's Queen of Carnival Glass book, but they both ask the same question...where is there another one? Well, "the other one" surfaced at NECG in 2022. It was a deep flared bowl.

Marie noted that she let the tri cornered bowl escape her twice, an action she often regretted. She credited this missed opportunity to her inexperience at the time, and the mistaken idea that all examples should be perfect. As I've learned in carnival glass, or collecting in general; if you like it, buy it.

**HOBSTAR AND FEATHER:** Another pattern more recognizable as a Millersburg Crystal piece is the Hobstar and Feather, produced from 1909-1912. This is considered one of the first patterns by Millersburg to be made in iridescent glass. A 1909 Butler Brothers catalog shows the large punch set and states that it was available in either crystal or “all over fire golden iridescent finish” (I had purchased one of these golden punch sets on eBay, and it was delivered shattered, one of the most disappointing moments of my life).



This pattern is a simple, yet elegant one. Hobstars with plumes of feathers in between, most likely inspired by the Peacock, a bird that John Fenton admired so much. Marie McGee has been on record saying that this was her favorite pattern produced by Millersburg. This pattern was made in an abundance of different shapes including Punch sets, Table sets, giant rose bowls, bowls, compotes, and bridge sets. In the carnival glass world, no other pattern can be found on bigger pieces than the Hobstar and Feather.



Four punch bowl bases, one spooner, a butter dish lid, and a sugar dish lid can be found in Vaseline. The punch bowl base sells for an average of \$1,150.00. Marie McGee owned the one pictured, and it is now in the collection of Randy and Bo Jones. One spooner sold for \$4,500.00 in 2017 and was owned by Ray

Miller. The Sugar lid surfaced in 2022 at the NECG Carnival Glass Convention at the auction of Mavis and George Loescher.

## HOLLY OR HOLLY SPRIG:

Millersburg produced the Holly pattern in an array of shapes from 1909-1911. It has been known by several different names over the years, and collectors now refer to it simply as “Holly.” Holly sprigs with leaves and berries circle the inside. The foliage does not go into the center, and some examples can be found with an 8 point star or feathered leaf in the center. This pattern is closely related to Millersburg’s Holly Whirl, of which there are no known Vaseline examples. Vaseline examples are known in bowls, nappy’s, sauces, and rose bowls.

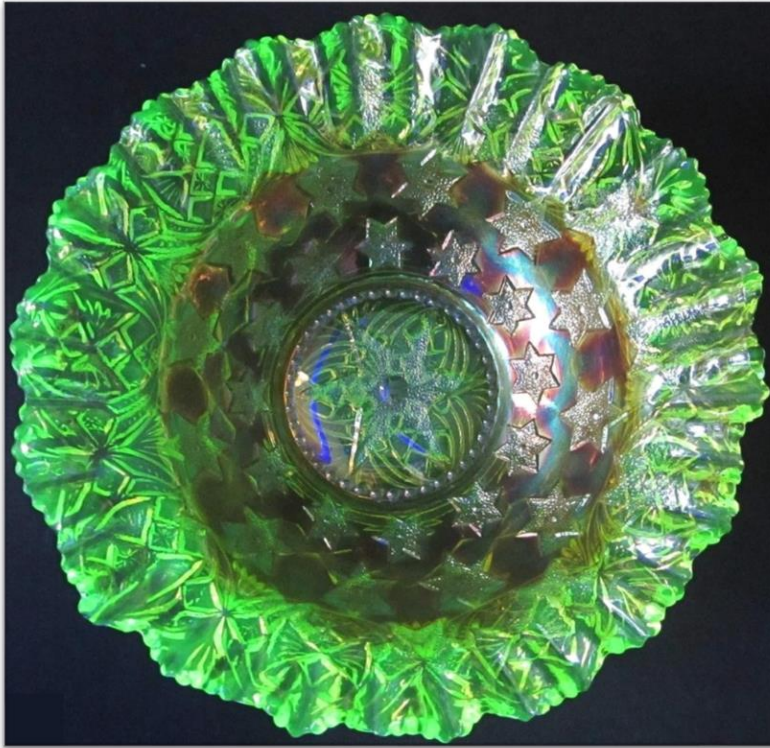


Holly Vaseline Rose Bowl, Sold for \$2,200.00



Holly Rose Bowl Base. Look at that Color!

The Vaseline bowls range from 6.5”-9” and are found in round, ruffled, and square. There is also one with an oddly numbered 8 ruffles that was owned by Galen and Kathi Johnson. They have sold for an average of \$1,200.00. The only known example of a rose bowl whimsy (not just in Vaseline, but with this pattern) sold in 2016 for \$2,200.00. The top showed heavy marigold overlay, but underneath told an entirely different story as pictured here. The sauce bowls have sold for an average of \$1,600.00 and the nappy brought \$1,600.00 in 1998. When Marie McGee wrote her book, there was only mention of the Rose bowl in Vaseline. I’m happy to see that there continue to be Vaseline examples unearthed, which gives hope for that Vaseline Peoples Vase. This was also the first piece of Millersburg Vaseline glass that I owned.



**MANY STARS:** One of my favorite patterns produced by Millersburg, Many Stars was in production from 1909-1911 and came in both a bowl and a chop plate. Three rings of stars encircle a center ring of beads. Within this beaded ring can be a five or six-pointed star. This pattern has an exterior pattern of Treefoil Finecut. Blue versions of this dish have surfaced and are always desirable among Millersburg collectors, most notably the

Bernheimer Brother's advertising bowls. Two Vaseline examples have sold in the bowl shape with an average price of just over \$4,300.00. They sported a 3N1 edge (with very faint glow and sold for only \$250, my guess is manganese, another element that will glow under a black light, but not uranium and not as bright) as well as a crimped edge with a center 6 point star. There are no known Vaseline versions of this dish with the 5 point star, a harder to find variation as it is.

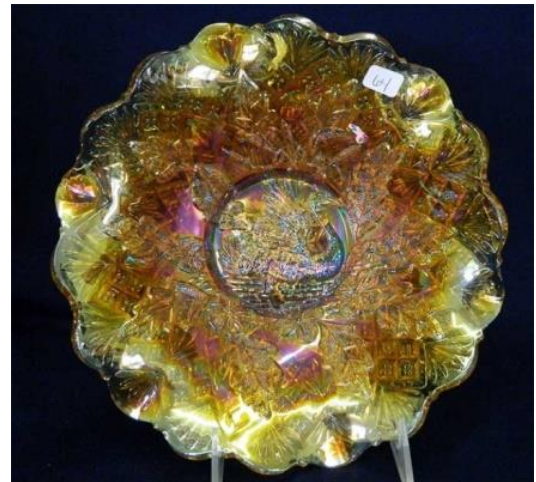
There is also a square example in Vaseline which sold for \$11,000.00 in 2011. It's too bad that no Vaseline examples exist with the Bernheimer Bro's advertising. What a find that would be! Just a friendly FYI, Ferdinand and Herman Bernheimer founded the Bernheimer Brothers Department Store in Baltimore in 1888. They would later add their brother Abraham to the mix. From the beginning, they were shooting for the low-end (cheap) buyer.



Many Stars with Crimped Edge, Sold in 2019 for \$8,500.00



**NESTING SWAN:** Available in the Butler Bro's catalog, Millersburg's Nesting Swan was available from 1909-1911 in a bowl, chop plate, and rare whimsied spittoon. The pattern is easily recognizable. A swan on water, sitting above some flowers, surrounded by leaves. One example of a Vaseline bowl with a ruffled edge and Diamond and Fan exterior sold for \$800 in 2012. The chips along the ruffled edge might have contributed to its low selling price. It had to have had this damage for a while, because it



sold for \$725 in 2009. A square Vaseline version unearthed itself during the writing of this article and sold for \$4,000 on eBay.

It has been told that John Fenton brought two swans back to Millersburg with him as inspiration for this design. Forgetting that swans require an abundance of water, they flew to the nearby Killbuck creek, never to be seen again.

Square Vaseline Nesting Swan found on eBay in 2021



**NIGHT STARS:** Night Stars was available in both a Bonbon and a Nappy and is one of the hardest pieces of Millersburg to find. Produced from 1909-1911, the pattern consisted of a single six-pointed star sitting in the center of a stippled background, surrounded by a ring of smaller stars. Both of

these shapes had a Vaseline example. The bonbon card tray sold for \$3,100.00 in 2016 and the nappy sold a year earlier at ACGA for \$5,200.00. There is currently only one known of each example.



Peacock Vaseline Rose Bowl From 2017



**PEACOCK:** Not to be confused with Fenton or Northwood, the Millersburg Peacock pattern was produced from 1909-1911. John Fenton loved peacocks and brought them with him when he settled in Millersburg. Visitors to the factory would try to enter the north door, but would change their plans when met with a very territorial, angry, old, peacock. There were five patterns used for this pattern for Millersburg alone, so it can get somewhat confusing. Throw in the Peacock and Urn with another five patterns and you have a recipe for disaster. The pattern depicts a

single peacock is standing in front of a pedestaled urn with leaves and flowers around it, but unlike the Peacock and Urn pattern, this one has no bee beyond the beak. Ron Britt breaks down the 10 different patterns in his article, “Birds of a Feather.”

One Vaseline bowl sold for \$24,000.00 in 2020. It had two sides turned up, forming a banana bowl. Two rose bowls in Vaseline also have recorded sales. The first one sold in 2017 for \$24,000.00, and one in 2019 for \$4,750.00 with two cracks. My suspicion is that it is actually the same piece, but had been dropped between sales. Both were whimsies, both were pattern “5”. Talk about a gut wrenching experience if that scenario is true. One large bowl sold for \$600 in 2006. The desirability of these bowls is somewhat higher than the desirability of the actual birds by the townsfolk of Millersburg, who were frequently upset by the...“remnants”... left by the flocks on the steps of the courthouse, and also throughout town.

Peacock Vaseline Banana Bowl

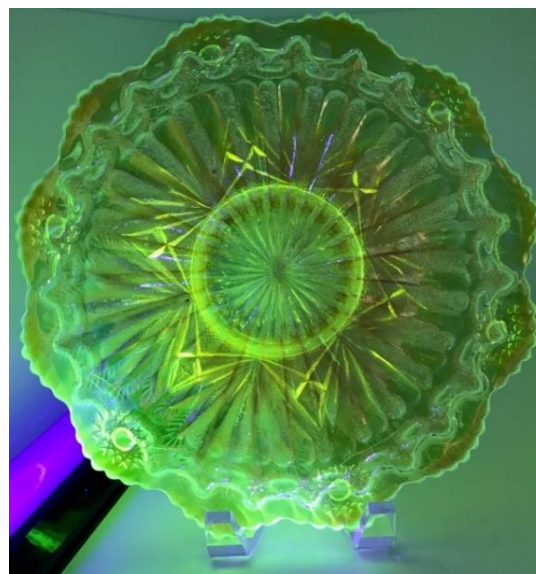


**PRIMROSE:** This pattern sold for the entirety of Millersburgs existence, from 1909-1911 and sold in the Butler Brothers Catalog. The pattern shows four leaves found in the center. Between the leaves, a primrose plant extends to the outer edge, each with two flowers at the top. The exterior is Fine Cut Heart. An oval crimped Ice



Cream shaped Primrose bowl is known to exist in Vaseline. It sold for \$7,200.00 in 2010, and twice before that with increasing increments of \$3,000.00. It seems to be a good investment piece. It is the only one known. This bowl has been noted as hard to identify because the Fine Cut Heart exterior pattern almost always shows through, especially in Marigold. The difficulty is evident in this picture.

**RAYS AND RIBBONS:** With a cactus exterior, Rays and Ribbons was available in bowls, chop plates, and rose bowls from 1909-1911. Rays extend from the center to within an inch of the outer edge. A ribbon forms a repetitive pattern in this outer edge. Only three Vaseline examples are found in the bowl shapes with different edges including flared and tri-cornered and also we find our first example in a chop plate. The 8.75" flared bowl sold in 2016 for \$2,100.00. The chop plate sold in 2017 for \$14,000.00. There is one known with a 3N1 edge, but it hasn't made it to public auction yet. I also found another flared bowl in Indiana, now in my collection.



### **STIPPLED DIAMONDS:**

Found only in a spade shaped nappy made from 1909-1911, Millersburg's Stippled Diamonds was produced in three colors; Marigold, Green, and Vaseline. The pattern shows rings of diamonds emanating from the center, which grow larger as they expand outward. The background is stippled. One example is known in Vaseline and sold in Millersburg, Ohio, for \$4,250 in 2017.



**STRAWBERRY WREATH:** Also known as the Millersburg Strawberry, it was produced in bowls, rose bowls, and compotes with a wide panel exterior from 1909-1911. The pattern is almost the same as the Blackberry Wreath and Grape Wreath patterns, but the unique shapes tend to set it apart. Four strawberries on a leaved vine are separated by tendrils; the center of the design is un-patterned except for a tiny dot known as a jewelers dot. Vaseline examples can be found in both bowls and compotes. There were 10 sales recorded of bowls with an average sale of \$2,300.00, one of the most sold Vaseline Millersburg pieces. Edges include tri-cornered and square, large bowls, sauce bowls, and a square whimsy. The compotes had some interesting variants, with one being square and one missing a leaf (made before the mold was finished). They have sold for an average of \$3,400.00, the most recent being the round version for \$3,000.00 in 2021.



**WHIRLING LEAVES:** This popular pattern was available through the Butler Bro's catalog from 1910-1911 and was only available in a bowl with the Fine Cut Ovals pattern as an exterior. The pattern consists of four leaves starting at the center and whirling out toward the edge. Four flowers sit along the outer edge between the leaves. Not only are there two Vaseline examples sold at auction (a 9" square version (or diamond, if you so choose) sold in 2018 for \$13,500.00 and again in 2022, and a 10" ruffled bowl in 2019 for \$2,000.00), there are several examples in Vaseline with a Marigold overlay. With the overlay, you'll find examples that are square, ruffled and crimped edges. They have sold for an average of just over \$3,900.00, with the square example selling for the most in 2019. These rarely make it to market, and thus command a higher market value. There was also a tri cornered version that sold at the 2022 HOACGA convention in Kansas City, MO.



**WILD FLOWER:** This pattern was available only in a 6" compote with a scalloped base and either a flared bowl or deep jelly top. The pattern shows vines with flowers and leaves circling the interior, accompanied by a flute exterior and was produced from 1909-1911. Two of these are known to exist in Vaseline, one with a ruffled top and one that was flared. The example with the ruffled bowl sold in 2014 for \$20,000.00 to Don Clark. The flared example sold at ACGA in 2021. With no Marigold and beautiful iridescence, it is probably the best example of a Vaseline piece known to Millersburg.

LOOK AT THAT COLOR!



**WOODPECKER AND IVY:** This pattern was only available in a 6” vase and was produced from 1909-1911. A woodpecker figure is attached to the side, while four Ivy leaves circle the top and flow down to a bark-like pattern. With only 3 known to exist, it is one of the rarest pieces of Millersburg out there today. One example is known in Vaseline and sold for \$15,000.00 in 2011 to Randy and Bo Jones, who also own the Marigold example. The last known owner of the other Marigold piece is Steve Maag. During what came to be called “The Dig,” a large excavation effort around the old Millersburg Glass Factory to extract shards buried in the ground, they found a solitary woodpecker

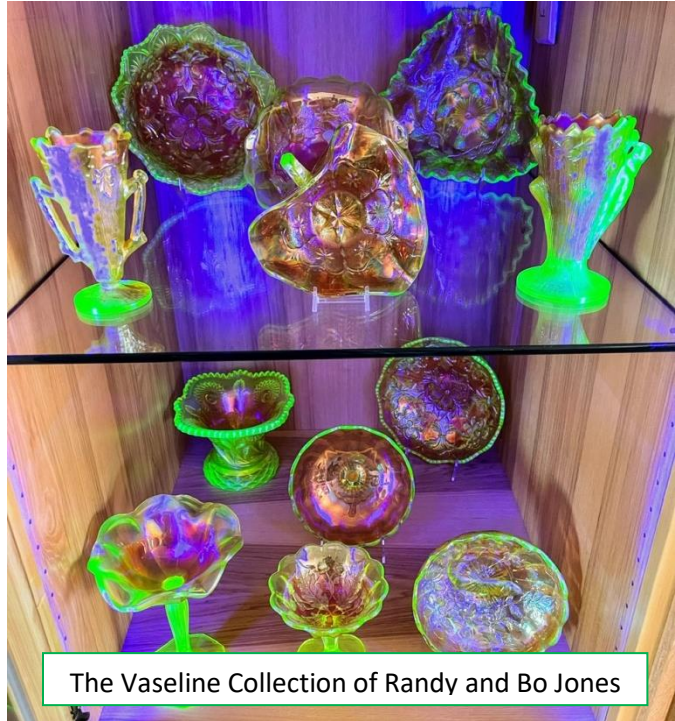
in Vaseline. It most likely belongs to one of these that didn’t make it out the door.

**ZIG ZAG:**, Millersburg’s Zig Zag pattern is one of the most beautiful patterns produced by the company from 1909-1911. It is a simple pattern, with wavy lines emanating from the center and going to the outer edge. The lines alternate between stippled and non-stippled. It doesn’t have a back pattern which is somewhat unusual for Millersburg. There is a 24 point star on the collar base. It also has a little feather design on the outer edge between the points. It was only available in a bowl, and one 9” Vaseline example sold in Millersburg in 2018 for \$16,500.00. It sported a ruffled edge with blue/pink iridescence, making it an extremely beautiful piece. Marie McGee would be delighted to know that a Vaseline example exists in this pattern. In her book, she asks the question, “has anyone ever seen a blue or Vaseline Carnival in this pattern? What finds these would be.”



# IN CONCLUSION

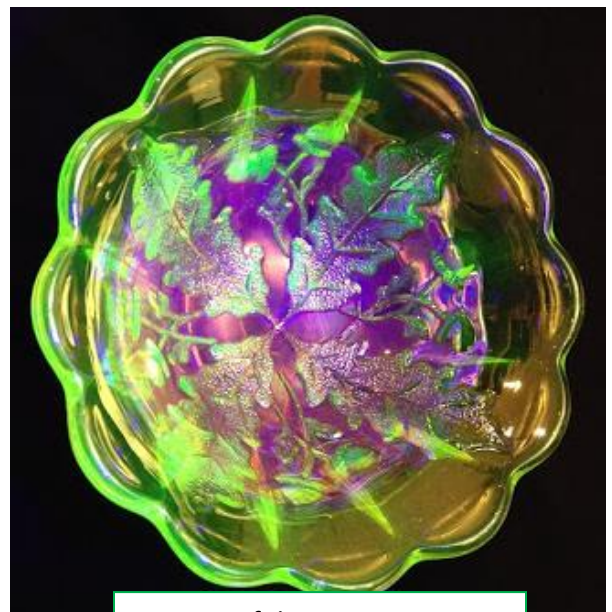
Uranium Glass is a fascinating piece of history, as is carnival glass. When you combine the two, you get an unmistakably unique and beautiful work of art that is worthy of any collection. Whenever there is a piece of Millersburg Vaseline listed in an auction, you can bet that I will be there, if only to get a personal look and to appreciate its beauty. The same way someone cherishes the opportunity to meet their favorite celebrity, I meet a piece of Vaseline Millersburg with that same excitement.



The Vaseline Collection of Randy and Bo Jones

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If you have any information that you feel should be included in this article, or there is information that you feel needs corrected, please reach out to Matt Young at 419-606-1826, or email him at [mattyoung21@gmail.com](mailto:mattyoung21@gmail.com).



Interior of the Acorn Compote