Lincoln Town Hall

Lincoln Road,
Lincoln, Massachusetts

Archives/Special Collections

Glass Objects Collection

2026.002
ca.1940s-1972

Created by Matthew Lincoln
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Summary Information

Note: Exact dates of creation of individual items are unknown; date range is based on manufacturer records and historic use.

Creator: Manufacturers unknown for milk bottles, Hemingway Glass Company for insulators.

Extent: 1.92 linear feet, 2 boxes

Abstract: This collection consists of milk bottles from local dairy farms in Lincoln, Massachusetts, and electrical glass insulators manufactured by the Hemingray Glass Company (1848–1972). The milk bottles bear the names of the farms but were likely purchased from commercial glass manufacturers. The Hemingray insulators represent the largest U.S. production of glass insulators and reflect the history of electrical infrastructure. The collection documents both local agricultural practices and industrial manufacturing, and provides material evidence of 19th- and 20th-century everyday life and technology.

Call Number: 2026.002

Language: English

Access and Use

Acquisition Information: The materials in this collection were donated by local townspeople of Lincoln. Donations include dairy milk bottles and electrical glass insulators that reflect the region's agricultural and industrial history.

Access Restrictions: none

Copyright: The glass items in this collection, including milk bottles from local dairy farms and Hemingray electrical insulators, are physical artifacts and are not protected by copyright. Any design patents or trademarks associated with these items have expired or do not restrict scholarly or educational use.

Researchers may photograph, reproduce, or study these items for personal, educational, or research purposes. Any restrictions on access or handling are due solely to the physical condition of the objects (e.g., cracked or fragile bottles), not copyright.

Cite as: [item], folder, box, Institution, place holding the records

Background Information

History: The Glass Items Collection reflects both local agricultural practices and industrial manufacturing in the United States. The milk bottles were used by dairy farms in Lincoln, Massachusetts, during the mid-20th century, bearing the farm names but likely produced by commercial glass manufacturers. These bottles provide insight into regional dairy distribution and packaging practices.

The electrical glass insulators were manufactured by the Hemingray Glass Company, the largest U.S. producer of glass insulators, which operated from 1848 to 1972. Hemingray insulators were widely used in telegraph, telephone, and electrical lines, and their inclusion in this collection illustrates the development of electrical infrastructure in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Together, the collection documents everyday life, technology, and industrial production, preserving artifacts that highlight both local history and broader patterns of manufacturing in the United States.

Scope and Content: The Glass Items Collection consists of milk bottles from Lincoln, Massachusetts, dairy farms and electrical glass insulators manufactured by the Hemingray Glass Company. The milk bottles include one-pint and one-quart sizes, bearing the names of Donaldson Dairy Farm, DE N, Woodridge Farm, and Glendale Dairy. While the bottles carry farm branding, the original manufacturers are unknown, reflecting standard commercial production practices of the mid-20th century.

The collection also includes four Hemingray glass insulators, produced between 1848 and 1972. These insulators were used in telegraph, telephone, and electrical lines, representing the widespread application of industrial glass in infrastructure.

The collection provides insight into local agricultural history, commercial glass production, and the technological development of electrical infrastructure. It documents material culture from both everyday life (milk bottles) and industrial production (insulators), offering researchers tangible evidence of 19th- and 20th-century practices in the United States.

Series Description

Series: 1. Glass Containers for Milk Distribution
2. Electrical Glass Insulators (Hemingray)

Subject Terms

Milk bottles–Massachusetts–Lincoln
Milk bottles–United States
Dairy Industry–Massachusetts–Lincoln
Dairy farms–Massachusetts–Lincoln
Milk container (Glass)--Massachusetts–Lincoln
Glass bottles (Milk)
Woodridge farm (Lincoln, Mass)--Milk Bottles
Glendale Dairy (Lincoln, Mass)--Milk Bottles
Glass insulators (Electrical equipment)
Hemingray glass company (Cincinnati, OH)--Glass insulators
Glass industry–United States
Glassware–United States

Related Materials:
2003.007 Keeping Traditions Alive
2025.010 Donaldson Collection

Container List

Series 1: Glass Containers for Milk Distribution

Box #	Folder #	Description
1		Milk Bottle-One Quart Liquid, Donaldson Dairy Farm, Lincoln Registered. Cracked and chipped
1		Milk Bottle-One Quart Liquid, DE N, Lincoln Registered
1		Milk Bottle-One Pint Liquid, Woodridge Farm, H Registered, Lincoln Mass.
2		Milk Bottle-One Quart Liquid, Glendale, Dairy Registered, Lincoln
		Series 2: Electrical Glass Insulators
2		4 Hemingray Glass Insulators. The Hemingray Glass Company ran continuously from 1848-1972. It was the largest manufacturer of glass insulators.