



Nelson McCoy Pottery Company Employee Photo from 1928

About two years later, the Kildow, Williams and McCoy Pottery Co. was renamed the Midland Pottery Co. In 1898, the company was sold to the Roseville Pottery Co. The next year, J.W. McCoy formed a pottery company solely under his own name. He began his pottery business by producing the same type items as before, those related to foodstuff preparation and storage. Most likely during the later part of the 1800s, J.W. and his cousin Wilber had an arrangement where pottery was produced with the stenciled inscription, "W.F. McCoy Wholesale, dealer of Stoneware Zanesville, Ohio." It seems the arrangement to supply Wilber with pottery could not have been between J.W.'s father and Wilber back in 1848. Wilber would have been only six years old at that time and living in Harper's Ferry.

As early as 1904, the J.W. Pottery Company branched out into the new field of art pottery. This art pottery consisted of decorative vases, jardinières and pedestals, umbrella stands, and flowerpots. These pieces proved to be desirable to consumers, and the new undertaking was successful. The J.W. McCoy Pottery Co. continued in business under that name until 1911. The directors decided to purchase the Globe Stoneware Co. and the old Owens Pottery building in Zanesville which included molds and equipment. George Brush, owner of the old Owens Pottery building and its equipment, acquired a controlling interest in the J.W. McCoy Pottery Co. when he suggested they purchase his assets in the building. Subsequently, the business became the Brush-McCoy Pottery Company. In 1918, the McCoy family sold their interest in the Brush-McCoy Pottery Company. However, it was not until 1925 that the McCoy name was dropped. The Brush Pottery Co. continued in operation until 1982 when it closed.

The McCoy Pottery story did not end with their sale to the Brush Pottery Co. In 1910, four years before his death, J.W. McCoy assisted his son Nelson in establishing the new Nelson McCoy Sanitary Stoneware Co in Roseville, Ohio. It is the pottery produced by this company about which our three Volumes have been written! Although the new pottery specialized in utilitarian stoneware, while Brush Pottery concentrated more on decorative pieces, there was some direct competition between the two companies.

Around 1933, with demand for stoneware decreasing and the demand for decorative pieces on the rise, the company simplified their name to the Nelson McCoy Pottery Co. This company operated for 57 years until sold in 1967 to the Mount Clemens Pottery Co. that retained the Nelson McCoy Pottery name and continued to run under Nelson McCoy Jr.'s leadership. Interesting to note that for a short period after purchase, they did not include the "McCoy" name on the pottery. The company was again sold in 1974 to Lancaster Colony, but they also chose to retain the company name with Nelson McCoy Jr. at the helm. Nelson retired in 1981. In 1985, with declining sales, the company was sold to Designer Accents that merged the company into theirs and renamed it Nelson McCoy Ceramics. Five years later the company shut down.