

Restoration of the Statue of Liberty

For close to 100 years, the Statue of Liberty has served as the doorway to America. An enduring symbol of freedom, it has represented the hopes and dreams of millions of immigrants. Yet time and erosion have taken their toll on the Statue, and Ellis Island, reducing both to an unfitting reminder of America's heritage.

In an effort to restore the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission, a group of private citizens committed to restoring the Statue and Ellis Island was formed. This restoration effort will require \$230 million from the private sector, there is no government funding for the project.

If you wish to contribute, please send checks to:

Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund
c/o First Bank of Mankato
P.O. Box 548
Mankato, MN 56001

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MUSEUM NEEDS LIST Can You Help Us Out !!!

Heavy duty extension cords 50-100 ft.
Electric drill with bit set
Screwdrivers, phillips and flat blade
Pliers/needlenose
Small tool box
Used but workable 30-50 cup coffee pot

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Special Thanks To:

Twin Town Box Company for Archives Storage Boxes.

AROUND THE COUNTY



The Mankato Mdewekanton Pow Wow will be held at Land of Memories Park (Sibley Park), considered to be ancient ceremonial grounds, to renew friendships, share traditional dances, Native American foods and crafts. The Pow Wow takes place September 20-22nd. The gathering resembles something between a family reunion and a business meeting among tribal leaders. Everyone is welcome. For additional information, contact Jayne Larsen, P.O. Box 3608, Mankato, MN 56001, 389-6125 or 388-4417.

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If you wish to submit an item for the "Around The County" section of the newsletter, please write or call Jan, 345-4154 before the 10th of the month preceding publication.

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Sunday On Broad Street

The Blue Earth County Historical Society, the Mankato Area Arts Council, and Cherry Creek Theatre and Design are jointly sponsoring a community celebration called, "SUNDAY ON BROAD STREET". The event is designed to celebrate the cultural diversity of our area. It is a way of sharing what we do to enhance our lives and raise community awareness of the cultural institutions here in the Mankato area, and what these organizations have to offer. The committee is planning to establish a fund from which to encourage the development of cultural opportunities for youth in this area.

We are still in need of many volunteers among our membership to help out the day of the event, Sunday, September 8, 1985. John Christenson is looking for helpers for set-up and clean-up duties. He can be reached at 625-6169 or 278-3550. Barb Maher is seeking volunteers to help out with Country Store and Weed Store, Refreshment Booth, and Information Booth. Barb can be reached at 388-5577. We certainly hope you all can pitch-in and help out for a couple of hours that day. You can also contact Jan Gullo at the museum, 345-4154 or 625-3733.

SEE YOU AT "SUNDAY ON BROAD STREET",
SEPTEMBER 8, 1985, 12-5 p.m.

Blue Earth County Historical Society

606 South Broad
Mankato, MN 56001

Address Correction Requested

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Mankato, MN 56001
Permit No. 343

Published monthly by the Blue Earth County
Historical Society, 606 So. Broad St.,
Mankato, MN 56001

Editorial Staff: Jan Gullo, Inella Burns,
Audrey Hicks, Denise Hudson, Gail
Palmer, Louisa Smith



BLUE EARTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

September 1985

Calendar of Events

- Sept. 7 Homestead Players, "**When We Were Young**" at the "Town and Country Fling" Mapleton Town and Country Leisure Center 7:00 p.m. Performance
- Sept. 8 "**Sunday On Broad Street**"
* A Community Celebration *
Mankato 12-5 p.m.
- Sept. 15 Homestead Players, "**When We Were Young**" at FarmAmerica in Waseca
1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. Performances
- Sept. 21 "**Wild Trapping and Furs**"
Program for children by John Kolbe
- Sept. 28 Southern Minnesota Historical Assembly, Winona, MN
Topics: Oral History How-to's
Restoring a House: A Case Study
Miscellaneous topics
- Sept. 28-29 Southern Minnesota Genealogy Conference, Winona, MN

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WELCOME

New Members Of
Blue Earth County Historical Society

- Annual: John Rice ✓
- Couple: Dr. and Mrs. E.L. Markey ✓
Bud and Adeline Carlson ✓
Willard and Doris Vetter ✓
Herbert and Leona Hanel ✓

Early Mankato Breweries

1857 - 1890

PART II

It might be interesting to note that contradictory or confusing information was sometimes given in local papers regarding the Mankato area breweries. This is the case of the Blue Earth Brewery as listed in the following:

1878

The MANKATO CITY DIRECTORY gives the following information in various sections of the directory.

On page 78 of the Blue Earth Brewery is listed as operated by William Gessler on Front Street in West Mankato.

On page 4 the Blue Earth Brewery is listed as Gessler and Company located on South Front Street.

On a colored ad (purple) in the advertising section of this directory, this information is given: Blue Earth Brewery, Joseph Ibach, proprietor. Blue Earth Street, West Mankato.

On page 21 Joseph Ibach was listed as operating a brewery at the Blue Earth River bridge.

This information leads to some questions:

1. Were there two breweries in West Mankato operating at the same time by two different proprietors yet both named Blue Earth Brewery?
2. Did Front Street continue as far south as the Blue Earth River bridge and intersect Blue Earth Street at the bridge so the two descriptions are actually the same place? Were two breweries located in close proximity?
3. Was the compiler of the 1878 directory in error about the name of one of the two breweries?

1879

In 1879 Graeber (also spelled Graber) and Company purchased the brewery of Peter Welsh. Graeber and Company were two brothers, John and Nicholas Graeber. In 1881 their residences were listed as at the south end of Front Street.

The transaction was reported in the MANKATO FREE PRESS dated May 14, 1880 as follows:

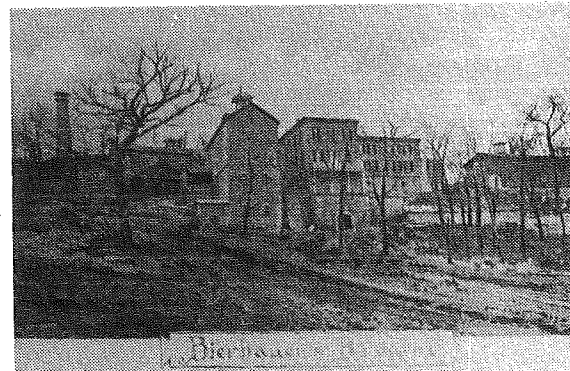
"The Welsh Brewery located near the Blue Earth River bridge has been sold to Mr. Graeber of Red Wing."

1882

The June, 1882 MANKATO FREE PRESS SPECIAL EDITION contained this article:

BREWERIES

"Mankato has three of these industries which turn out thousands of gallons of beer and consume thousands of bushels of barley and other products. Probably one of the finest and largest of these outside of St. Paul is William Bierbauer's. Located upon the terrace back of the city, its commanding position makes a conspicuous object. But its dimensions and surroundings cannot be seen or appreciated except by visiting them. The buildings are of brick and stone, substantially built, and contain the very latest of modern improvements for manufacturing the foamy beverage. Large vaults cut the solid stone furnish receptacles for storing a year's product and warehouses for holding materials used are of huge dimensions. His residence opposite the factory is a large, roomy brick edifice, surrounded with a green lawn and arbor covered porch. Mr. Bierbauer is a successful businessman and highly esteemed as a prominent citizen.

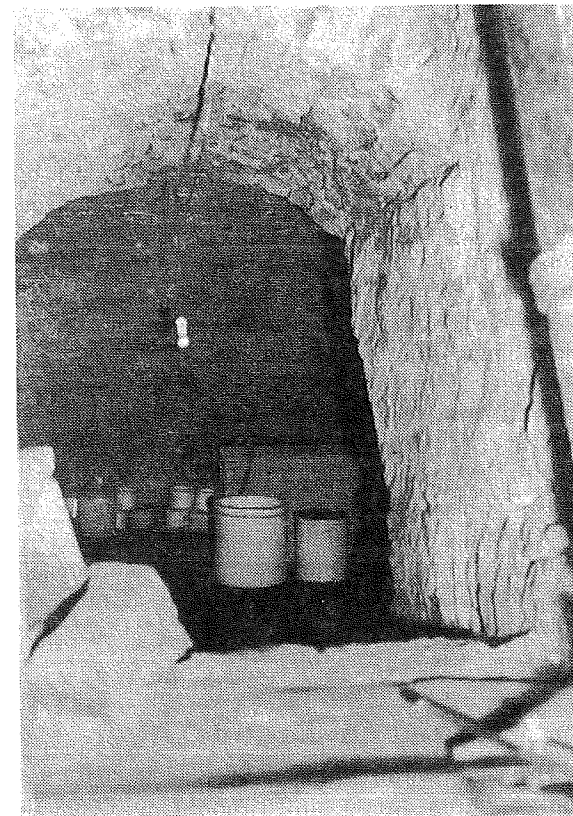


Bierbauer Brewery

Gessler and Company are an old established firm in West Mankato, who turn out a large quantity of beer.

Joseph Ibach is located in Tinkcom's Addition, and has a substantial edifice suitable for his business."

Through the years several breweries operated in West Mankato. West Mankato was an excellent choice for the location of a brewery, in that excavations in the limestone bluffs furnished spaces for vats for cooling, aging, and storing beer before electricity was available for refrigeration. The close proximity of the bridge over the Blue Earth River linked this area by road, not only to Mankato, but to south going traffic. The Blue Earth and Minnesota Rivers furnished water transportation for bringing in needed supplies and shipping out the finished product. The Chicago, St. Paul, Milwaukee, and Omaha Railroad which ran through West Mankato furnished another avenue of transportation.



Bierbauer Vaults

1893

An 1893 Mankato plat map clearly shows the area near the old government bridge over the Blue Earth River. There is Welch's Subdivision. Shown are the properties of William Gessler and Nicholas Graeber, along with their residences. In the same are lots owned by Stephen Lamm. The B. Yobst's property is there, too. This is where Mr. Yobst operated one of the early saloons.

Between 1857 and 1890 there were the following breweries in Mankato. There may have been others.

William Bierbauer Brewery-700 block of No. Front and 628 Rock Street

Haas and Schmidt-West Mankato

George Leiferman-West Mankato

Stephen Lamm-West Mankato

Carl Boelke-Tinkcom's Addition

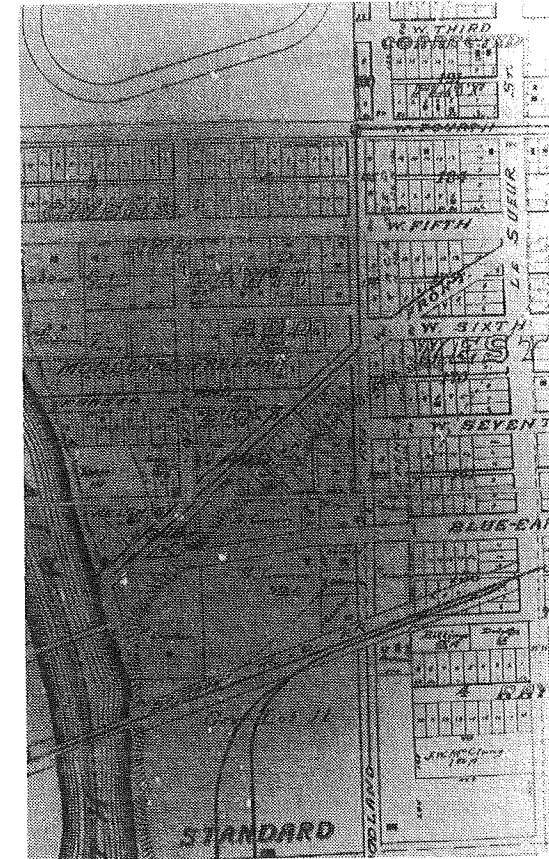
Anton Jacoby-Tinkcom's Addition

Wolf and Trout-West Mankato

Graeber and Company-West Mankato

William Gessler and Company-West Mankato

It seems ironic that out of all these breweries which existed before 1890, only the William Bierbauer Brewery survived.



Plat Map including brewery locations.

Article Submitted by: Gail Palmer

SOURCES:

Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota, A.I. Andreas, 1874; *History of the Minnesota Valley*, Reverend Edward D. Neill and Charles S. Bryant, 1882; *History of Blue Earth County*, Thomas Hughes, 1906; *Mankato City Director* 1871, 1873-74, 1878, 1885-1886; *Mankato Record*, March 2, 1867; June 8, 1867; March 3, 1876; *Mankato Union*, February 21, 1868; and *Mankato Review*, March 13, 1883.