

The Stenger Brewery of Naperville, Ill.

Ray Stenger is the senior historian for the two branches of our family that immigrated to St. Leon Indiana. He is a descendant of Franz who came in 1841. He collaborated with Bernadette Stenger, whose husband Leo was also a member of the Franz clan, to assemble a most comprehensive history of both the Franz and Henry (our ancestor) families. Unfortunately Bernadette and Leo have passed away and I never met them. In response to a letter to St. Joseph church in St. Leon Ind., one of their daughters, Marylin Stenger Heffelmire, of Aurora Indiana, introduced me to Ray and to her mother's work, which is now available in the genealogy section of the library in Lawrenceburg Indiana. Bernadette included the families of the wives including the Frey And Knect clans. Marylin launched my investigation. I will always be grateful for her help and for introducing me to Ray. He sent me a copy of two CD's which list the individuals and their families who descended from Henry and Franz in addition to their ancestors in Germany. They are accessed using "Family Tree Maker" from Ancestry.com.

Recently Ray Stenger, who is our elder genealogist has sent me a beer can and the relevant history of the Stenger Brewery. The can was issued in 1981 to commemorate the Brewery which was located in Naperville, Illinois, southwest of Chicago. The president of the company was John Michael Stenger who was born in Gramschatz, Bavaria on Aug. 29, 1825. He was the fifth child of Peter Stenger, [Born Jan. 6, 1793] and Barbara Stark Stenger, [Born 1794]. Gramschatz is located about 40 miles east of Mombris, our ancestral home. His father, Peter was born in Geiselbach which is only 4 miles from Mombris. It is virtually certain that this Stenger clan is among our relatives who were scattered about in the western part of Bavaria near Aschaffenburg on the Main river.

I have a listing of Peter's family from the 1850 Federal Census of Du Page Co. Ill. indicating that the parents and children were born in Germany and were living in Naperville in 1850. Ray sent a copy of the obituary prepared for John at the time of his death on April 26, 1911 at age 85. I have copied it verbatim and I believe it is an excellent description of a man and his family who truly lived the "American Dream." It was written by Patricia Sabin of Naperville.

"John Stenger departed this life at his home on Washington St. early Wednesday morning April 26, 1911 (in Naperville) from heart disease, aged 85 years and 8 months (parents and siblings) engaging himself carpentering in New York for a short time, then months. He was born in Gramschatz, Bavaria, Germany, Aug. 29, 1825 and came to America in 1846 (with he came to Naperville Illinois. In 1848 he sailed from New York to the isthmus of Panama around the Cape Horn to San Francisco Cal. He worked in a gold mine until 1850. He returned to Naperville and married Anna Mary Stenger in 1850. This union was blessed with ten children, four sons and six daughters, three of whom died as infants. The youngest son, Carl, preceded them to a better land in 1882, his wife, Mary and daughter, Caroline [Mrs. Louis Bapst] in 1893, and another daughter, Mary, [Mrs. John Shamberger] in 1906. The surviving children are, Mrs. Barbara Egerman, Mrs. Henry Germann, Mrs. Teresa Stenger Allen, Mr. Peter Stenger. Also surviving are his Brother, Nicholas 88 years old, New London Conn., 27 grandchildren and 11 gr. grandchildren.

"Mr. Stenger had maintained a prominent position among foremost citizens and businessmen for many years, holding various offices of the city and the school board. He was always interested in furtherance of public and private undertakings and had a charitable and kind heart for the poor and afflicted, leaving today a record of an honorable career. In his business he had a comprehensive intellectual grasp and ability in constructing, masonry and mechanics. In 1877, he founded a cheese factory on Eagle St. With his brother Nick, Mr. Stenger successfully conducted the brewery in this city, one of the oldest establishments of its kind in the state, from 1851 to 1864, when the partnership was severed by the death of Nicholas, John continued the business until 1893, when he retired and later moved to his farm with his daughter, Mrs. Henry Germann, and family"

“Mr. Stenger took great pleasure in working his large garden, planting shrubbery and fruit trees until about one year ago. For more than 20 years he had suffered acutely from rheumatism; finally his great energy and activity had to submit to a life of retirement. However he was still able to partially care for himself, read the daily newspapers, and walk with the aid of his two canes until his last day. In his great sufferings, he was resigned and spent many many hours in prayer, often asking Our Heavenly Father for a peaceful end, which came to him so quickly at day break on Wednesday morning.

“Funeral services were held from S.S. Peter and Paul Church at 9:30 on Friday morning, Father Wenker officiating. The grandsons, John and Carl Stenger, August Germann and Alfons Bapst, and John and Lewis Egermann, acting as pallbearers, did the last honors to their departed grandfather and carried him to his last resting place on the family lot in the Catholic Cemetery. May he rest in peace.”

Please note, Mr. Stenger had two brothers with a similar first name, Nicholaus [Nick], his business partner and Nicklaus [Klaus] who lived in New London Ct”.

The following notes were printed on the STENGER BREWERY can issued in 1981 as the Naperville, Illinois Sesquicentennial Beer.

“The Stenger Brewery, located on the northeast corner of Franklin Ave. and Weber St. was the largest and most famous of three Naperville breweries that flourished after the Civil War. The brewery was established by Jacob Engelfritz in 1848. Peter Stenger Sr. was the first active proprietor. His son John Stenger took over in 1851 and went into business with his brother Nicholas Stenger. The brewery made both ale and lager beer.

In 1854 it was one of the first breweries in Illinois to make a lager beer. Stenger Beer was sold throughout the Chicago area, from Elgin on the north to Ottawa on the south. Adolph Coors worked here before opening his own brewery at Golden, Colorado in 1873. In 1893 the brewery was closed, shortly after John Stenger had sold it to a Chicago firm, Henn and Gabler”.

The sesquicentennial can was filled by beer brewed by Jos. Huber Brewing Co., Monroe, Wi. A painting of the brewery by Lester Schrader has been reproduced on the front of the can.

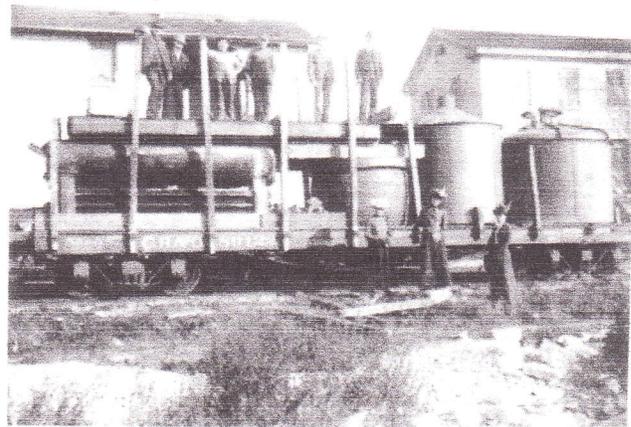
Dick, Dec. 2010

Building and Industry Flourish in Naperville

History by the barrel

Besides a few fragments of bottles, a large 46" x 80" x 7" limestone block carved with the words, "J. & N. Stenger Brewery 1856," and a handful of paper records, there is no physical evidence of the one-time great and flourishing brewing industry in Naperville.

Jacob Engelfreidt is considered Naperville's first brewer. Engelfreidt bought two lots from Joseph Naper on the northwest corner of Jackson and Webster where a small brewery was built. This building was later purchased by Xavier Egermann and operated as the Egermann and Sons Brewery (c. 1860-1872). In 1872, this brewery was sold to George Von Hollen and Charles Kluetsch of Chicago and renamed the DuPage Brewery, but the business was short-lived.



Some time between 1842 and 1848, Engelfreidt built a larger brewery four blocks north on the northeast corner of Webster and Franklin. This brewery was purchased in 1849 by Peter Stenger, an immigrant from Bavaria, Germany. The Stenger family built and operated their first brewery sometime prior to 1849 on the northwest corner of Eagle and Jackson. Between this brewery and the Egermann Brewery, massive stone-lined and arched tunnels were built into the limestone on the north bank of the DuPage River. These tunnels were used to keep the beer cool while processing and storing.

After a devastating fire, Stenger, with the help of his sons, Nick and John (who had just returned from the California gold fields), would rebuild the brewery, forming the backbone for the largest brewery in Naperville. Among the many employees was a young German immigrant, Adolph Coors, who brewed for the Stengers from 1869-1872.

Tragedy struck the Stengers when brother Nick died suddenly. John was left to manage the brewery. Of John's three daughters, two married into brewing families—the Egermanns of Naperville and the Schamburgers of Oregon. By the 1890s, large Chicago brewers began to syndicate and the smaller Naperville brewery was threatened. Joseph Schamburger operated the Stenger brewery one year and then took the equipment and his family to Oregon.

For years, the brew and malt houses were vacant before the windows were boarded up and long rows of mushroom beds installed. For 25 years, mushrooms were grown in the cool dark buildings and tunnels that once brewed rich dark, lager beer. By the mid 1950s, the large castle-like buildings were abandoned and were eventually torn down.

The few remaining artifacts of this once-flourishing Naperville industry are housed in the Naperville Heritage Society archives at Naper Settlement. Stenger Brewery's carved limestone, building date stone is now part of a permanent exhibit, "Brushstrokes of the Past: Naperville's Story," at Naper Settlement.

Agri-Business

Breweries

Hotels

Knoch Cigar Store

Kroehler Manufacturing Company

Naperville Newspapers

Naperville Nurseries

Scott's Block

Adolph Coors

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Adolph Herman Joseph Coors, Sr. (February 4, 1847 – June 5, 1929) was a brewer who started the Adolph Coors Company in Golden, Colorado in 1873.

Contents

- 1 Early years
- 2 Golden Brewery
- 3 Marriage and Family
 - 3.1 Immediate Family
 - 3.2 Siblings
- 4 Death by suicide
- 5 See also
- 6 References
- 7 External links

Early years

Adolph Coors was born in Barmen in Rhenish Prussia on February 4, 1847, the son of Joseph Kuhrs (c1820-1862) and Helena Hein (c1820-1862). He was apprenticed at age thirteen to the book and stationery store of Andrea & Company in nearby Ruhrort from November 1860 until June 1862. His mother died on April 2, 1862. The Kuhrs family moved to Dortmund, Westphalia. In July 1862, Adolph was apprenticed for a three year period at a brewery owned by Henry Wenker in Dortmund. He was charged a fee for his apprenticeship, so he worked as a bookkeeper to pay for it. His father died on November 24, 1862. Orphaned, Adolph completed his apprenticeship and continued to work as a paid employee at the Wenker Brewery until May 1867. He then worked at breweries in Kassel, Berlin, and Uelzen in Germany. Early in 1868, he immigrated to the United States. He sailed from Hamburg to New York City and then moved to Chicago arriving on May 30, 1868. His name was changed from "Kuhrs" to "Coors". He worked in the spring as a laborer, and during the summer he worked as a brewer. In the fall and winter he worked as a fireman, loading coal into the firebox of a steam engine. In the spring and summer of 1869 he worked as an apprentice bricklayer and a stone cutter. He became foreman of John Stenger's brewery on August 11, 1869, in Naperville, Illinois, about 35 miles west of Chicago. He resigned from Stenger's brewery on January 22, 1872, and arrived in Denver in April. He worked in Denver as a gardener for a month, then on May 1, 1872 he purchased a partnership in the bottling firm of John Staderman. In the same year he bought and assumed control of the entire business.^[1]

Page 4