

THE BREWERIES OF CLINTON, IOWA

By Mark Wiseman, Donald Roussin, and Kevin Kiouss

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mark Wiseman's purchase of two crown top beer bottles from the Tritschler & Tiesse Brewery during the auction of the late Bill Wharff's collection several years ago led him to begin research for this article.

Introduction

Clinton, Iowa, is a town of about 30,000 located on the Mississippi River. The northern portion of Clinton is still referred to as Lyons, once a separate town that was annexed in 1895.

Both towns have interesting brewing histories. Like all Iowa breweries (and saloons), they were under almost constant assault from state prohibition laws. Enforcement of these laws tended to be spotty, especially in eastern Iowa. Thus the breweries in Clinton and Lyons may well have remained open continuously, despite the state legislature, until the successful statewide dry law that took effect on January 1, 1916.

Early in the 20th century, the brewing interests in the two towns combined forces in a new, modern plant. Women also played considerable roles in local brewing, including several named Caroline. Clinton has also participated in the microbrewing revolution, and one of the town's pre-Prohibition brand names has even returned, albeit at a cross-state brewery.

The Early Years

In the middle of the 19th century, the towns of Clinton and Lyons became a center of the lumber industry. The calls of thirsty lumbermen and sawmill operators for fresh ale and beer were answered by brewers in both towns.

The area's pioneer brewer was John Koll, a native of Bavaria born into a farm family in 1822. Koll apprenticed



PERSPICITIVE VIEW OF THE NEW PLANT OF THE CLINTON BREWING CO., CLINTON, IOWA.

as a brewer and pursued that trade in his native land prior to coming to the United States in 1849. He worked as a brewer in Milwaukee for seven years, then headed to Lyons to strike out on his own.

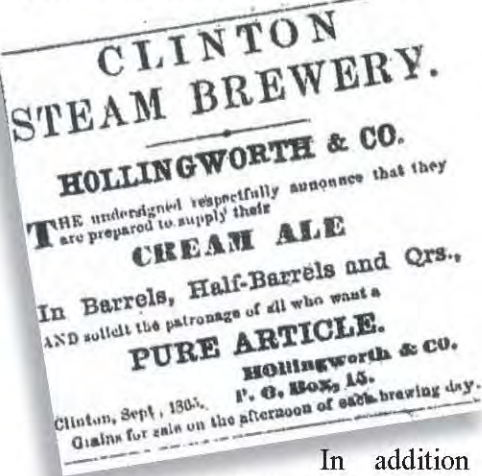
John Koll left Lyons in 1859 to start a brewery in Anamosa, Iowa, and continued in the state's brewing business for many years. He worked at a brewery in Dyersville and then helped start a new brewery there, and in 1868 went to Ft. Dodge, where he operated a brewery until 1885.

The 1860 census lists four brewers living in the village of Lyons—Edward Thomas, George Schneider, George Wietmans and Theodore Marx. How this quartet divided up the brewing duties is anyone's guess, but as Schneider is listed as the owner of \$1,000 worth of real estate, it may have been he who bought the facility from John Koll. Thomas, a native of Wales, listed \$700 in personal property, perhaps some of it equipment used in the brewery. Edward Thomas and Theodore Marx both stayed in the area

for many years. Marx later farmed, and then went into the local saloon business where he remained until the 1890s. Meanwhile, Thomas became a rectifier and wine and flour dealer.

Competition quickly appeared for the Lyons Brewery in the form of the Western Brewery of William Ebersberger & Company. Both Lyons breweries were on Main Street, with Ebersberger on the western edge of town on the south side of the street, and the Lyons Brewery on the north side between 9th and 10th streets.

Breweries likewise sprang up next door in Clinton. The first was established by the Hollingworth family. Francis S. Hollingworth had been in the local wholesale beer, wine and liquor business since 1856. His son, Francis R., joined him in that business. Newspaper ads from 1865 advertise the Clinton Steam Brewery of Hollingworth & Co., which provided its cream ale in full, half- and quarter-barrels, and also sold spent grain on the afternoon of each brewing day.



In addition to its own brew, Hollingsworth & Co. sold ale for the Chicago Ale & Malt Company. The Clinton Steam Brewery must not have lasted very long, as 1869 ads for F.R. Hollingworth's wholesale liquor business do not mention beer.

An 1869 Clinton city directory lists the Clinton Ale Brewery of James

Guiton, located on the south side of 17th Avenue between 5th and 6th streets. Like the Hollingworths, Guiton was a native of England. In 1860, he was in town working as a commission merchant. It is unclear if Guiton had started a new brewery or if his was a continuation of the Hollingworth brewery.

Another brewery also appears in Clinton in the 1869 directory, the Clinton Brewery of Charles Hermann, located northwest of the city limits. Joining Hermann at his lager beer plant were Harry Hermann, John Hoffman and foreman Clemens Gendken. In a newspaper ad from the spring of 1869, Charles Hermann stated, "I manufacture a superior quality of lager beer and pay careful attention to filling all orders from both town and country."

Back in Lyons

Over in Lyons, a pair of men who would have lasting influence in the local beer industry had arrived in town. Phillip Tritschler was born in Germany in 1828, came to Pennsylvania at age 20, and in 1856 established a brewery in Fulton, Illinois, right across the river from Clinton and Lyons. He either purchased the Lyons Brewery or started a new brewery in 1865, and began calling it the Eagle Brewery.

John Tiesse was nine years younger than his countryman, and had arrived in the U.S. at age fifteen. He spent time in Philadelphia, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and California before coming to Pekin, Illinois in 1862. Four years later, he came to Lyons to become a partner with William Ebensberger in the Western Brewery. The duo remained in business together until



Ebensberger's death in 1870. In 1872, crosstown brewer Phillip Tritschler closed his Eagle Brewery, and bought the Ebensberger interests from the estate.

The renamed Western Union Brewery of Tritschler and Tiesse became quite prosperous. When John Tiesse died on January 30, 1880, his widow Caroline took over his share of the business. Sons Fred and August would likewise help manage the brewery. By 1883, Tritschler & Tiesse was producing nearly 5,000 barrels per year.

The Tritschlers had only one child, a daughter named Julia. But they nonetheless found a Tritschler to take over the business in the form of their nephew Louis, who at age 11 moved from Allentown, Pennsylvania to live with them in 1875. Louis learned the brewing business and further solidified his position in the Western Union Brewery with a different sort of union, his 1889 marriage to Emma Tiesse, daughter of brewery partner Caroline Tiesse.

INCORPORATED 1892.

Tritschler & Tiesse Malting Co.,

BREWERS.

CLINTON, IOWA.

MANUFACTURERS OF THE BEST

**Barrel and
Bottled Beer**
IN IOWA.

All made from the Purest
and Best Materials and with
the very latest machinery.
Family trade in Case Goods
at Specials.

THE TRITSCHLER & TIESSE MALTING CO.

Telephone Nos. 100 and 1014.



Examples of bottles from the Tritschler & Tiesse Malting Co., Clinton, Iowa.

Phillip Tritschler died around 1890. His widow Caroline took over his share of the brewery, leaving the business in the hands of two widows named Caroline. Mrs. Tritschler was the former Caroline Littig, a native of Rock Island, Illinois and a member of a family of brewers. She soon sold out

to her nephew Louis P. Tritschler and his business partner, Frank Drasda of Dubuque.

In 1892, the brewery was incorporated as the Tritschler & Tiesse Malting Company. One can only speculate that the reason for leaving "Brewing" out of the business name was to divert the wrath of the



The Lyons Brewery was officially known as Western Brewery. It was one of two breweries in Lyons, Iowa in 1866.

BOTTLERS AND OTHER COMPETITION FOR BREWERS IN CLINTON

There were 31 saloons in Clinton in 1870, giving the breweries there and in Lyons ample local outlets for their product. Not all of them served the local brews, however. An early Lyons tavern photo shows a bartender posing in the doorway surrounded by a pair of corner signs, one from George Wagner's Atlantic Brewery of Rock Island, Illinois, the other from Philip Best of Milwaukee.

Various local bottlers also competed with the breweries. One of them was the Clinton Bottling House, operated by Charles Arlen and his son, Edward, at 600 1st Street. Charles had worked as a shoemaker and a baker, Edward as a cigar maker prior to their entering the hotel and saloon business in 1870. At first, they bottled lemon beer (of which the authors have no clue to the recipe) at their Mississippi House hotel. A couple years later they added soda and apparently converted the hotel and saloon into a bottling works. In addition to temperance drinks, Arlen & Son soon began producing wine and bottling ale, porter and Milwaukee beer while also serving as an agent for Best's beer "in all sized packages."

There were plenty of other local bottlers in the early 1870s. In Clinton, Thomas McCormick manufactured mineral water, while Lyons featured the soda-making business of Charles Boldt and Louis Brevitt, plus root beer producer W.W. Witacker. Later in the decade, former brewer Theodore Marx (or Marks) went into the soda water business, while Charles Walker was an ale and porter bottler in addition to a cigar importer. At Walker's Ferry Saloon, beer could be had for 10 cents a bottle.

A longer lasting rival was the Iowa Bottling Company, at 210 7th Avenue in Clinton. In 1876, it was being run by S.D. Dye. By 1883, new owners A.D. Paige and Herbert W. Campbell were producing ginger ale, cider, and birch beer, while also bottling soda and mineral waters, according to a city directory ad. William Richardson soon replaced Paige as Campbell's partner. By 1887 John Schmide had joined the business, operations were moved to 110 4th Avenue, and beer, ale and porter were being bottled.

Campbell carried on the business himself for a number of years and moved to 518 3rd Avenue around 1905. He may have quit bottling beer well before then. The old 4th Avenue location became an agency for the John Gund Brewing Company of LaCrosse, Wisconsin, and at least, according to the 1911 city directory, was bottling Gund's beer. As Iowa's 1916 Prohibition law approached, Edward W. Voelpel took over the Iowa Bottling Works from Herbert Campbell, while the Gund depot moved to still-wet Fulton, Illinois. The bottling shop would operate for many more decades and was later renamed the Iowa Bottling Company.

Meanwhile, over at the Clinton Bottling House, joining manager E.A. Arlen in the business (after the 1890 death of his father) was Martin Ingwersen, who started working for the Arlens in 1885. In 1890 the pair was selling coal, wood, and temperance drinks. Doing business as Arlen & Ingwersen, the company also sold beer from the Pabst Brewing Company of Milwaukee and the Schoenhofen Brewing Company of Chicago.

By 1904, the Arlen & Ingwersen Bottling Company had dropped Schoenhofen but in addition to Pabst was selling Tosetti beer from Chicago and the products of Anheuser-Busch of St. Louis, as well as around 16 different flavors of soft drink. Ingwersen also served as the president of the Clinton County Liquor Dealers' Association. Arlen and Ingwersen both retired from the business around 1915, with Arlen's sons taking over under the Arlen Brothers Company name.

Edward F. Arlen has previously been a bookkeeper at the bottling house, while his brother Charles A. had served as Clinton County treasurer and was also involved in the Clinton Book Bindery. At Arlen Brothers, they sold coal and coke, and bottled "Arlens Purity Drinks." The business continued to provide employment for members of the Ingwersen family as well, with Andrea Ingwersen taking over bookkeeping duties and her sister Ella performing stenography. But the era of local companies bottling beer made elsewhere was over.

Needless to say there was considerable out-of-town competition for the post-Prohibition Pointer and Gateway breweries in Clinton, too. One of many was the Zoller Brewing Company of Davenport, for which former Pointer Brewing Company vice president J.F. Maxheim became the local agent after Pointer shut down.



prohibitionists. Officers in the new company included president/treasurer Louis P. Tritschler and vice president/secretary Frank Drasda, with August Tiesse serving as plant superintendent.

The new partners wasted little time in expanding the brewery. On April 28, 1893, work began on a new brew house and other buildings. In 1896, a new bottling house was completed. Brew master August Tiesse must have begun suffering from some type of illness. *The Western Brewer* reported that he was spending the summer in Hot Springs, Arkansas for health reasons in 1896. The next year, he left Clinton to take a brew master position at the Sacramento (California) Brewing Company. His mother

Caroline continued in her ownership role, with brother Fred Tiesse later becoming corporate vice-president. By 1902, the brewery was producing over 15,000 barrels per year.

CLINTON BREWERY.

CHAS. HERMANN, Prop'tor.
CLINTON, IOWA.

I manufacture a superior quality of Lager Beer, and pay careful attention to filling all orders from both town and country

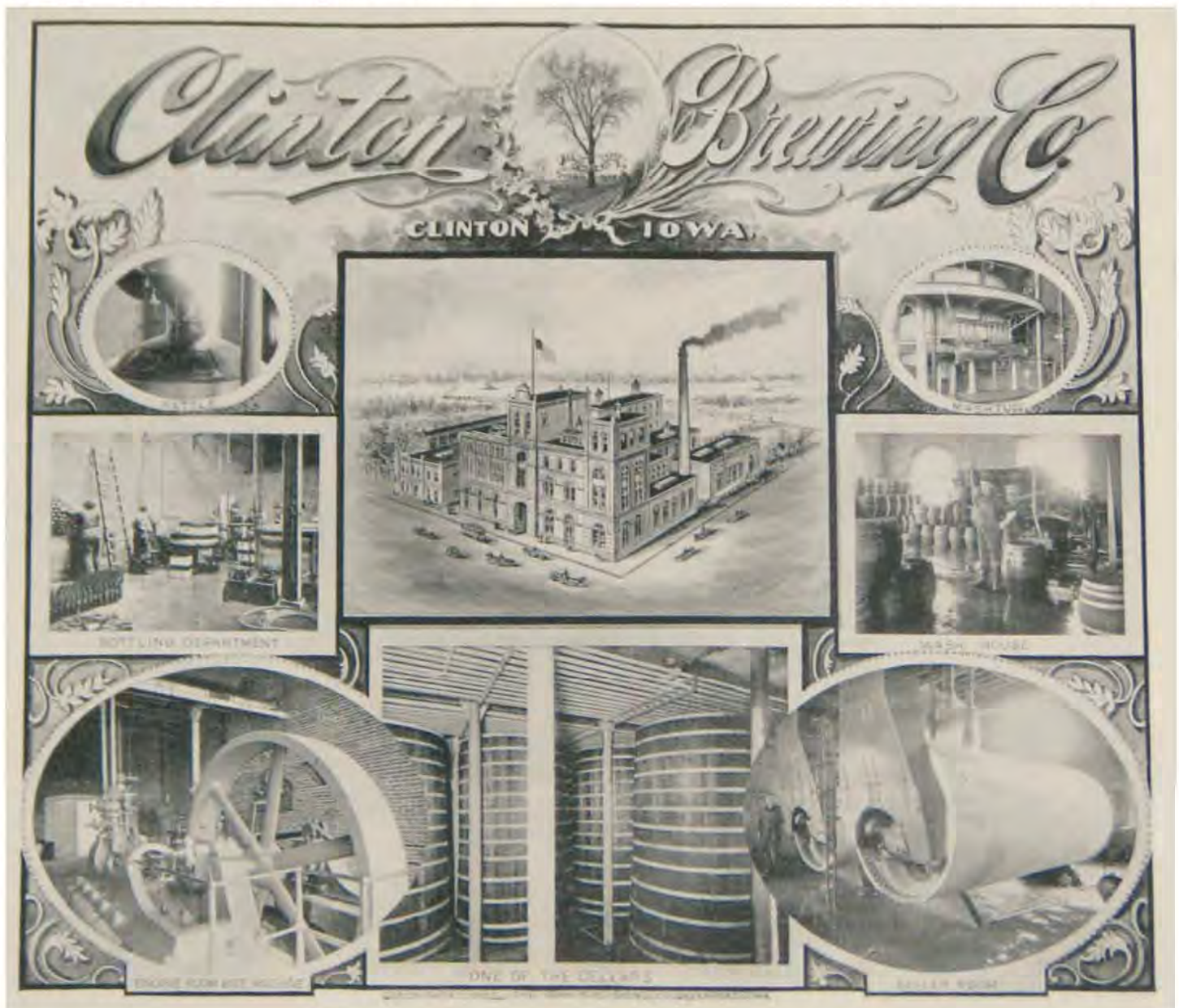
Meanwhile, Back in Clinton

Clinton had likewise seen several changes in its brewing scene. Christian Trefz had taken over the Clinton Ale Brewery around 1870, but it was soon closed.

Henry Hillberg and Henry Gerhard took over the lager-producing Clinton Brewery from Charles Hermann in 1869. Hillberg's main business was a meat market, while Gerhard had formerly owned the large Gerhard House hotel in Clinton; he left the hotel to run the brewery though he soon went back to it. A later biography stated that Gerhard lost money on the brewery for the two years he ran it.

American Breweries II lists Clara Becker as a brewer in Clinton in 1874-75. No further information has emerged on Ms. Becker, so whether she was briefly operator of either the ale or the lager brewery is unknown.

Another brewery had also started in Clinton. Located one-half mile west of



town on Ravine Road, it was opened in 1872 by Charles Seeser, who soon had a partner named Mathias Lauer. The men called their business the West End Brewery. Lauer jumped ship around 1877 to team up with local businessman George Allen, who had ended up owning the Clinton Brewery.

Charles Seeser continued at the West End Brewery until his death around 1882. His widow Caroline ran the brewery for a couple years, with Charles Diener as manager, before it was closed.

Lauer and Allen continued in business together at the Clinton Brewery for a number of years. George Allen had been in Clinton since 1856, where he counted restaurateur, vinegar maker, and liquor and cigar dealer among his occupations before becoming interested in the brewery. Following his death, his widow Elizabeth Allen replaced him as Matt Lauer's brewery partner. According to the annual *Wing's Brewers Handbook*, during the 1883-84 brewing year, Lauer & Allen produced between 1,500 and 2,000 barrels of beer. The same book listed Henry Frahm as a brewer in Clinton with less than 500 barrels production. Frahm was a sawyer turned boarding house/saloon owner. Whether he had turned his saloon into a brewpub or was somehow briefly involved with either the West End or Clinton breweries is a mystery.

Anna Lauer succeeded her late husband at the helm of the Clinton Brewery in 1888. Evidence suggests that she briefly leased the brewery to Jacob Stroh, then ran it herself as Lauer & Co. until 1891. That year the brewery was taken over by Julius Andressen (who at one point had a partner named Beahn). Julius Andressen was previously a saloon owner in Clinton. Frank Maxheim had served as brewery foreman for Mrs. Lauer and continued at that job for Andressen.



In February of 1901, *The Western Brewer* reported the following:

Julius Andressen, brewer, Clinton, Iowa, has sold all his stock and materials to The Independent Malting Co., of Davenport, Iowa, who will close down the plant April 1, 1901. Mr. Andressen, it is stated, contemplates a visit to Germany, and on his return may build a new brewery.

Andressen may have sold out and gone on vacation (or perhaps it was a working trip), but the prediction of the brewery closing did not come true. For the rest of the year through 1902, the brewery continued operating under the Frank Maxheim & Company name. *The Western Brewer's* other prediction about Julius Andressen proved



accurate following the 1903 formation of a new company called the Clinton Brewing Company. Andressen and partners announced plans to erect a completely new 30,000 barrel brewery that included an office, barns, and a bottling house, while the company would operate out of the old plant until the new one was ready.

The New Brewery and The Big Merger

The new facility of the Clinton Brewing Company was built at 2nd and Arnold streets, and was completed near the end of 1903. It was featured in an article in *The Western Brewer* that November, complete with an illustration of the plant, which was designed by Chicago brewery architect Bernard Barthel. Its first beer may have been tapped (and/or bottled) on January 1, 1904 as years later (in 1935) that was given as "first use" in a trademark renewal of the Pointer brand name, which became Clinton's best-known brew.

The Clinton Brewing Company was capitalized at \$75,000. Corporate officers were Julius Andressen, president/treasurer; Frank Maxheim, vice president; and Emil Tiesse, secretary. August Tiesse became general manager, while John and V.F. Maxheim also worked at the brewery.

The head man at the crosstown Tritschler & Tiesse Malting Company



WHAT THE HECK IS A MULCT LAW?

The Western Brewer and *The American Brewer*, two monthly publications covering the brewing industry, devoted lots of ink to keeping readers informed about prohibition laws. With its active dry lawmakers, Iowa was often a focus of the magazines' attention.

One scheme for legalizing saloons in the state involved the use of a so-called "mulct" law, where, in the absence of licensed sellers, a property owner could operate a saloon provided he or she pay a \$600 tax penalty. Payment of this tax would serve to bar the enforcement of any prohibitory laws on the property. Iowa legislators saw fit to pass such a mulct law in 1894. The term comes from the Latin *mulcta* meaning fine or penalty, and such laws were immediately challenged by drys in the courts.

The law in Iowa provided that citizens in towns of over 5,000 population could establish a mulct law by filing a petition signed by over half the registered voters, while smaller towns' petitions required 65% of voters for approval. It was reported by *The Western Brewer* in March, 1895, that

the praying mania has been revived in many places of Iowa, where saloons have been started under the mulct law; the praying and singing women cause the unhappy saloon keepers a great deal of trouble.

The ladies' praying was not successful in this case, for two months later the Iowa Supreme Court ruled that the Mulct Law was constitutional. Such laws were still subject to the whims of local courts, though, and a Des Moines judge succeeded in closing the saloons there by ruling that the saloon keepers had too few names on the petitions needed to approve the mulct law. *The Western Brewer* went on to praise the editor of the *Des Moines Register* newspaper, which had run an editorial in favor of mulct laws and who placed "the furious hypocrites who want to annihilate a man for the sale of a glass of beer in one line with those who burnt witches at Salem in the last century, and declares all clergymen who propose such steps, to be genuine anarchists."

The mulct tax became a point of contention in Clinton in 1898. Seventy-five of the town's liquor dealers refused to pay their \$450 tax, contending it was too high. Local authorities compromised and only charged them \$150, on the condition that it be paid quarterly.

While there are still some outdated beer laws confronting today's Iowa brewers, at least they don't have to work around the mulct law, which persisted into the early 1900s, only to be followed by something much worse.

was still Louis P. Tritschler, who was also a director of the City National Bank and involved in other businesses. It would be interesting to have his perspective on the formation of the Clinton Brewing Company, but the authors couldn't find his diary. Considering the involvement of his brothers-in-law in the new brewery, he was surely abreast of what was going on, and could possibly have been involved in it from the start.

Soon he was both financially and visibly involved, for early in 1905 *The Western Brewer* announced that T&T was being "acquired" by the Clinton Brewing Company, and that while the T&T malt house might stay open, no more beer would be made there. Following elections at the January board of director's meeting, Louis P. Tritschler found himself sitting in the president's chair at the Clinton Brewing Company. Capitalization of the brewery was increased to \$200,000. In addition to Tritschler,

Henry Koetter, a wholesale liquor dealer, must have also brought some cash to the table, as he was named corporate secretary, with Julius Andressen demoted to vice president.

Business must have been good for what had become the only brewery in town. A new brick stable with twenty stalls was built in 1906 (presumably to house the teams brought over from T&T), and other improvements were started at the plant in 1908. Frank Drasda had come over from T&T to serve as brewery foreman and on the corporate board, and then replaced Andressen as vice president. Brought aboard to be brewmaster around 1909 was John W. Tschirgi, a member of a famous Iowa brewing family. Around the same time, Fred Tiesse became a corporate officer.

Aiding the brewery in the distribution of Pointer beer was a business called the Pointer Supply Company. This firm was listed in the 1911 city directory as operating next

to the brewery, but it then moved to Fulton, Illinois. While listed as a beer bottler in city directories, whether Pointer Supply was bottling or just distributing Pointer beer is unclear. We are also disappointed to report that no information could be located concerning the reason the brewery (and the supplier) chose the "Pointer" name.

Changing Times

Sadly for the thriving Clinton Brewing Company, the seeds planted by the prohibitionists in the previous decades finally began to sprout.

In 1914, Charles Proebstle moved from his position as brew master at the Star Union Brewing Company in Peru, Illinois, to man the kettle in Clinton. It proved to be a poor career move, as in 1915 Iowa passed a statewide prohibition law set to take effect the next year.

The board and officers of the Clinton Brewing Company decided

to close the plant they had built just thirteen years prior. In March, 1916 *Brewer & Maltster* reported that 28 large fermenting tanks, loaded two per railroad car, were leaving Clinton bound for a Cincinnati brewery that "Clinton capital is interested in." Most of the other brewing equipment had already been shipped there. The same issue reported that Fred Tiesse had accepted a position with the Cincinnati Home Brewing Company. The prohibitionists had finally prevailed in Iowa, and within a few years they succeeded nationally.

Brewing Returns to Clinton

At least some of the brewery buildings were rented out during the dark days. When beer was made legal again in 1933, they suddenly became of interest again to potential brewers. In June 1933, the former Clinton Brewing Company plant was sold to a group headed by M.D. Anderson of Des Moines. Anderson was named president of the new Pointer Brewing Company, while the Maxheim name

was again associated in the Clinton beer business by Pointer vice president John Maxheim. The new company spent over \$300,000 on buildings and equipment to get the brewery ready to operate.

They were up and running in time for Pointer beer to hit the market on December 27, with free samples provided that day at the brewery's grand opening. In addition to its namesake Pointer label, the brewery would also produce Pointer Select, Pointer Draught, Pointer Winter, Corn Belt, and Ritz beers. Twelve-ounce, quart and picnic bottles were all filled over the years.

The Clinton Brewing Company name still existed in the 1930s as well, at least on paper. Local directories list its secretary/treasurer as Evangeline Dreessen, who was also in the insurance business. She was apparently one woman who did not want to run a brewery in Clinton (we assume she would have wanted to reopen the brewery if her name had been Caroline).

August Tiesse, who was born on the

grounds of the old Tritschler & Tiesse Malting Company but had left Clinton in 1905 to help open a new brewery in Virginia, Minnesota, returned to town to help supervise the first brew. But the guiding force of the post-Prohibition Clinton brewing business was Pointer brewmaster Marcus C. Maegerlein.

Maegerlein was a well-known figure in U.S. brewing. He started his brewing career as an apprentice at the Ferd. Heim Brewing Company in Kansas City prior to graduating from the Seibel Institute brewing school in 1905. Before Prohibition he had worked at the Gambrinus and Citizens breweries in Chicago.

During the dry era, he had served as president of the Master Brewers Association of the Americas and was credited with keeping that organization intact during those rough times. Maegerlein stayed active in the MBAA while at Pointer, serving as a chair of both the scholarship and brewing materials committees.

In addition to Maegerlein, Maxheim, and Anderson (who in addition to



serving as company president was also advertising manager), helping run the brewery by 1935 was a pair of additional vice presidents – Glenn Lynch and M.E. McCrabb; secretary W.J. Leshner, assistant brewer R.B. Bennett, chief engineer William Hunter, and bottling superintendent R.E. Young. Glenn Lynch was a busy man at the brewery, also wearing the hats of general manager and sales manager.

Despite these gentlemen's efforts, the Pointer Brewing Company was quickly in financial trouble and went into receivership. The brewery remained open while the business was reorganized.

In June 1936, Pointer announced that the Pointer DeLuxe brand was being packaged in stubby bottles. These no-deposit, no-return packages were attractive because of their lighter weight, and also easier to store in that they were 31% shorter than standard 12-ounce bottles. The stubbies must have been a hit, since Pointer's beer sales for 1936 amounted to a 35% increase over the previous year.

For a time it appeared the brewery had turned the financial corner. An article in the May 1937 issue of *Modern Brewer* stated that it was looking like a banner year for the Pointer Brewing Company, at least according to Marcus Maegerlein and bankruptcy trustee Frank Verbest. Daily gains in sales were being recorded, and Maegerlein noted the brewery was opening up new outlets for sales and operating "full speed ahead."

The article also mentioned the case of Mrs. Marie Stewart, the widow of a notable local businessman who had \$60,000 worth of Pointer stocks and bonds "dropped in her lap." Hopefully Mrs. Stewart quickly stood up and got them off her lap, for if indeed the Pointer Brewing Company was operating at full speed, it soon ran into a sandbar. The brewery was broke again and closed by early 1939. In March, *Modern Brewer*,

Age announced that all the company's assets had been purchased by W.R. Huston for \$29,700. Huston was mum on his plans for the buildings, so it appeared possible that brewing in Clinton was again over.

But by the spring of 1940, a new group calling itself Gateway Brewing Company was formed. A bank, the First Finance Company of Des Moines, had ended up owning the property. Gateway was set up as a stock company and a large number of Clinton residents had been convinced to subscribe.

Marcus Maegerlein stuck around town and became Gateway's president, master brewer and purchasing agent. The general manager was Frank Tharinger, who moved to Clinton from Milwaukee, with R.B. Weibold as secretary/treasurer and Martin Claussen supervising the bottling shop.

Beer was being brewed again by May, with the company's goal to have it on sale by July 4. Approximately 50 employees were back on duty and two different beers were being produced – a pilsner and an amber lager.

The Gateway Brewing Company wanted to concentrate on selling its beers locally. The strategy failed, as by the end of 1941 the brewery was back in the hands of a bankruptcy receiver. The next January it was sold to Louis Harris of Rock Island for \$33,000. A couple months later, the new Clinton Products Company began remodeling the brewery to turn it into a commercial alcohol-producing facility. After World War II, the buildings were torn down.

Marcus Maegerlein had stayed in town for a while to help out at the Clinton Products Company. Then in October, 1942, he made a move similar to the one Fred Tiesse had made 26 years earlier when brewing ceased in Clinton – heading to Cincinnati, where he became brewmaster for Red Top. Once more, locals were left to get by on beer made in other towns.

Brewing Returns to Clinton (Again)

After a 60-year absence, brewing returned to Clinton in 2000 with the opening of Upper Mississippi Brewing. The business opened at 132 Sixth Avenue South in the old Clinton Paper Company building, located across from the police station. A large number of different styles of beer were brewed, but the brewpub closed in 2006. A restaurant and bar calling itself Patrick's Steakhouse and Brewery took over the building, but apparently never did any brewing and later sold the equipment.

If thirsty Clintonites are willing to travel west, though, they can still have a Pointer Beer. This version of Pointer is a brown ale brewed by the Court Avenue Brewing Company in downtown Des Moines. The brewpub uses imagery for the 106-year-old Pointer brand similar to those used by the old Clinton and Pointer brewing companies. Court Avenue has also borrowed a couple of other Iowa brands from the past, serving both Topping Pale Ale and Black Hawk Stout, two old Davenport labels.



Mark Wiseman and his digging companion, Elsie.