

A.R. Cox & A. Scheidt Breweries of Norristown Pa.

By: David C. Hess

Area & History

Norristown is located approximately 16 miles northwest of Philadelphia, as the crow flies. It is the county seat from Montgomery County Pennsylvania. In its early days continuing through the present time Norristown has been a center for all types of manufacturing. All this was enhanced by the early development of the Schuylkill Canal (1820s) and later on the arrival of the reading railroad system. This allowed for easy access of products to and from Philadelphia and for going further Westward into rural areas. Hence with all this going on it brought about the development of local breweries.

A. R. Cox Brewery

Around 1830 the brewery was established by Morgan James and Abraham Eschbach in a small building located at Main and Markley Streets, Norristown. They were producing about 5 to 7 barrels of beer per week. When Morgan James left the business, A. R. Cox became a Eschbach's new business partner. A nearby property was being offered for sale and Mr. George Cole, Cox's father-in-law, persuaded Mr. Cox to purchase it. Mr. Cole provided the funding and improvements that were made to upgrade the building and equipment. New larger cedar vats were built with each having the capacity to hold 200 gallons of beer. Eventually Eschbach withdrew from the company, and in 1870 it became the A.R. Cox brewery. Over the subsequent years they increased their production to at least 3,000 or more barrels of beer per year. Around 1891, Adam Scheidt purchased the A.R. Cox brewing Co. and operated it as an additional brewery.



Squat Soda, A. R. Cox Bottle in Aqua