

Collection #
P 0863

**LOGANSPOUT BREWERY WORKERS PHOTOGRAPHS
CA. 1908-1911, N.D.**

Collection Information	1
Historical / Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	4
Contents	4

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 OVA photograph folders; 1 Cirkut photograph folder
COLLECTION DATES:	Ca. 1908–1911, n.d.
PROVENANCE:	Gift from Karen J. Mullen of West Lafayette, Ind., May 2023
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ACCESSION NUMBER:	2023.0071
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The United Brewery Workers Union No. 78 was organized in Logansport, Cass County, Indiana, on 11 February 1892. Its first president was John Blum. The Columbia Brewing Company took over the Logansport Brewing Company plant on High Street in Logansport in 1894. Columbia's manager, John G. Keip, greatly enlarged the building and installed the latest machinery including an ice and cold storage facility. By 1913, Columbia had forty-five employees and produced 25,000 barrels of beer annually.

According to Jehu Z. Powell's *History of Cass County*, it was about 1866 when August Frost established a brewery at 418–422 High Street, west of Fifth Street. Some years later he sold it to John Hurbner who in turn was succeeded in the business by John Mutschler (1839–1890). John Mutschler, a German immigrant, was listed as a brewer in Greencastle, Putnam County, Indiana, in the 1870 census. By 1880 he and his family had moved to Logansport.

About 1889 a Chicago syndicate bought the brewery under the name of the Logansport Brewing Company, with Eugene Prager as president and manager. At some point the brewery was purchased by the Binz family under the management of August Binz. The company defaulted on payments owed to the city, which led to its being taken over by the Columbia Brewing Company in 1894. As manager, John G. Keip expanded the plant to 412–424 High Street at the northwest corner of High and Fifth Street. By 1915, Jacob Maier was the brew master.

In 1919 passage of the 18th amendment to the U.S. Constitution made beer production illegal and relegated Columbia to making soft drinks. On 16 November 1919, the *Logansport Daily Tribune* reported that “many thirsty souls of Logansport would undoubtedly have taken a swim in the chilly waters of the Eel River last week if they had only known what occurred near the Columbia Brewery. A large quantity of 8 percent beer, which had been held at the brewery in the hopes that prohibition would be defeated, was poured into the river. A hose attached to the vat in which the beer was contained and throughout the week a continual stream of the liquor was poured into the river. The plant will now be closed down until the quantity of dry beer which is now on hand is disposed of.”

By 1921, Columbia was out of business and the High Street building was used by various other businesses. When prohibition was repealed in 1933, brewers lined up to return the facility to operation. The Schmidt family gained control of the brewery and began producing K.G. Schmidt's beer in 1935. The name K.G. Schmidt came from owner George K. Schmidt Sr.'s deceased son, Kasper. Then, as the major mass-produced beer companies in Milwaukee and St. Louis consolidated the American beer market, most of the country's smaller breweries were forced to sell out to the big corporations or close. The K.G. Schmidt Brewery closed in 1951.

Carl Bauer [Sr.] is identified in one of this collection's photographs of the Columbia Brewery. He was the great-grandfather of the donor of this collection. Carl Wilhelm Bauer Sr. was born in Germany on 29 December 1865. About 1894 he married Katherine Bayerlein. Their first child, Carl Jr., was born in Germany. They immigrated to the United States in 1895 and were listed in the 1900 census in Logansport, with Carl's occupation as brewer. They had six more children: William, Freda (grandmother of this collection's donor), Elsie, Anna, Louise, and Bertha. City directories in 1901 and 1903 list Carl as a

cellarman working for the Columbia Brewing Company. By 1919 he is listed as superintendent at Columbia. During Prohibition, he worked in an automobile factory in 1920 and by 1924 as a janitor at Longfellow School. Carl died on 10 August 1931 in Logansport.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 11 July 2023):

Find a Grave
Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017
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U.S., City Directories, 1822–1995

Burkett, Kevin. “Logansport’s brewing tradition makes a resurgence.” *The Network* (Logansport & Cass County, Indiana), 14 December 2021 thenetworklogansport.com/post/logansport-s-brewing-tradition-makes-a-resurgence Accessed 11 July 2023.

Conrad, T. “Logansport’s Famous Brewery.” Cass County Indiana History, 11 November 2015 <http://cassindianahistory.blogspot.com/2015/11/logansports-famous-brewery.html> Accessed 11 July 2023.

Powell, Jehu Z. *History of Cass County, Indiana: From Its Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*. Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1913, vol. I, p. 350, p. 400. Reading Room Collection: F532 .C4 P6 1972

“Where’s Prager? . . . His Disappearance Causes a Change in the Columbia Brewing Company.” *Logansport Pharos-Tribune*, 31 July 1894, p. 20.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is composed of four photographs of workers in the brewery industry in Logansport in Cass County, Indiana. Two photographs show workers with barrels, bottles, and crates, believed to be employees of the Columbia Brewing Company. One employee is identified as Carl Bauer, who did work for Columbia, and who was the great-grandfather of the donor of this collection. The other two photographs show members of the Brewery Workers Union No. 78.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Mounted photo of two men standing in a room with barrels [at the Columbia Brewery Company]. On the back is written: Carl Bauer / Fortanz / Racking room. n.d.

Mounted photo of four men in a room with bottles and crates [likely at the Columbia Brewery Company], n.d.

The Brewery Workers Union No. 78 on Labor Day, 8 September 1908. Mounted photo shows thirty men standing outside a brick building (photo by Harrington of Logansport, Ind.). [Labor Day was actually on September 7th in 1908.]

Panoramic photograph (8" x 49") showing horses and about twenty-eight members of the Brewery Workers Union No. 78 posing with banner that reads "National Union of the United Brewery Workmen, Local Union No. 78, Logansport, Ind." (Cirkut photo by Harrington of Logansport, 4 September 1911 [Labor Day].)

CONTAINER

OVA Photographs,
Folder 1 of 2

OVA Photographs,
Folder 1 of 2

OVA Photographs,
Folder 2 of 2

Cirkut Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1