

UTICA, NEW YORK BREWERIES

by Jon Landers
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The following is a list of Utica Breweries that I have researched during the last 20 years. All breweries did not bottle beer. Some breweries bottled their beer some of the years they were in business but some years did not. Many of them sold their beer only in kegs to saloons, taverns, hotels and bottlers. Some breweries had agents bottle, sell and deliver their beer for them. Many of these bottlers had their names embossed on the bottles instead of the breweries name. In addition to bottlers, early Utica directories have people listed as "beer peddlers." Some early breweries may have used unembossed or unlabeled bottles. If a brewery never had their beer bottled, of course no bottles would exist today.

During the Civil War the government levied a dollar a barrel tax on beer. To make it easier to ensure that the tax was paid on every barrel, the law dictated that breweries could not bottle their own beer. During this period, if a brewery wanted to have their beer sold in bottles they had to have a separate bottler bottle the beer. Most breweries used glass bottles but Dr. Cronk stoneware bottles have been dug in the Utica area. The bottles are debossed "Dr. Cronk" and do not have Utica, N.Y. on them. Pint and quart stoneware beer bottles were manufactured by Whites Pottery in Utica. After the Civil War ended, the government still kept the tax on the beer and it was some years before breweries were allowed to bottle their own beer.

At the present time, bottles from only nine of the Utica breweries are known to exist by area collectors. Hopefully more bottles from Utica breweries will be located in the future. The following is a list of Utica breweries and does not include the names of the numerous Utica bottlers who bought beer to bottle and sell:

1. Charles Bierbauer Brewery, 93 Third Street, his first brewery in Utica, 1850 - 1853, made the first lager beer in Utica. No bottles are know to exist.
2. Charles Bierbauer Brewery, (West Utica Lager Beer Brewery) 5 Edward Street, 1853 - 1885. This could have been where the West End Brewing Company got the idea for the name of their brewery. No bottles are known to exist.
3. Edward Bright Brewery, Varick Street near Hamilton, Utica City Directory. No bottles are known to exist.
4. Callahan Brewery, 96 - 106 Catherine Street, successor to Fort Schuyler Brewing Company, in business only one year, 1901. No bottles are known to exist.
5. Columbia Brewing Company, successor to Charles Bierbauer Brewery, 5 Edward Street, incorporated 12/17/1885 - 1887. No bottles are known to exist.
6. Columbia Street Brewery (G. Ralph & Sons, Proprietors), 57, 59, & 61 Columbia Street, 1865 Utica City Directory. G. Ralph was associated with the Oneida Brewery for 23 years and then started his own brewery. No bottles are known to exist.
7. Consumers Brewing Company, 105 Third Avenue, corner of Mary and Third. Incorporated 10/9/1896 - 1900. Several bottles of one kind exist.

8. J. Crinan Brewery, Broad Street between Mohawk and Third, Historical Map of Utica, 1839. No bottles are known to exist.
9. Eagle Brewing Company, NE corner of Third and Jay Streets, incorporated 9/18/1888. Many embossed and labeled bottles exist.
10. Robert Edwards Brewery, Lansing Street, manufacturer of Dr. Cronk's Beer, 1853 - 1854 Utica City Directory. Dr. Cronk's stoneware bottles exist.
11. Empire Brewing Company Limited, east corner Blandina, incorporated, 6/28/1883, was only in business one year. No bottles are known to exist.
12. Fort Schuyler Brewing Company (Failey, Joyce & Co.), NW corner of Second and 98 Catherine Street, 1885 - 1900. No bottles are known to exist. Fort Schuyler Brewing Company, after being the Callahan Brewery for one year (1901), was changed back to Fort Schuyler in 1902 under new owners, John Boyle, president, Henry Moore, treasurer, Frank J. Winslow, secretary. A few blob top bottles with a slug plate are known to exist.
13. Globe Brewing Company, successor to the Gulf Brewery, Jay and Third Street, 1933 - 1936, Gulf and Globe combined in 1933. Labeled bottles exist.
14. Joseph Goodliff Brewery, corner Columbia and Varick, 1828 Utica City Directory through 1875. No bottles are known to exist.
15. Gulf Brewery, south side of Jay Street and Third, 1827 1933. One of the three Utica breweries that were in business for more than one hundred years. No bottles are known to exist.
16. Thomas Harden Brewery, Broadway, 1817 Utica City Directory, this was the first year the directory was printed. No bottles are known to exist.
17. Holyoke Brewing Company, part of operation in Utica and part in Chicopee Mass. No bottles are known to exist.
18. Charles Hutten or (Hutton) Brewery, NE corner of Third and Blandina Streets, successor to Charles Bierbauer's first Brewery, 1855, also called Hutten's Lafayette Brewery, made Lafayette Lager. 1891 - 1895, was known as Lafayette Brewery, Ernest J. Hutten prop. A few Lafayette Bottling Works bottles exist but are very scarce.
19. William Inman Brewery, corner of Broadway and Whitesboro Streets, said to be the first Utica brewery, 1801, was also called The Utica Brewery. No bottles are known to exist.
20. Mohawk Valley Brewing Company, incorporated 6/6/1880 and failed in 1882. No bottles are known to exist.
21. National Brewing Company, 193 - 203 South Street, 4/9/1890. No bottles are known to exist.
22. Oneida Brewery, SW corner of Court Street and State Street, 1832 - 1941. One of the three Utica breweries that was in business for over 100 years. Many embossed and labeled bottles exist.
23. People's Brewing Company, NW corner of Second Street and Catherine Street. Started in 1889, incorporated 11/6/1890. A few bottles are known to exist.

24. Frank Schaub, 44 Varick Street, 1889 had Frank Schaub's Hall, Saloon, Restaurant and Lager Beer brewery. No bottles are known to exist.
25. South Street Brewery, SE corner of St. Vincent Street and South Street, 1896 Atlas of Utica. No bottles are known to exist.
26. S. Thompson Brewery SW corner Bleeker and Third Street, 1839 Historical Map of Utica. No bottles are known to exist.
27. Utica Brewery, (J. Myers & Co.), SW corner of Mohawk Street and Jay Street, 1874 - 1882. No bottles are known to exist.
28. Utica Brewing Company, (Winslow, Moore & Co.), later Winslow & Co.) South corner of St. Vincent, 1880 - 1891, later address 198 South Street. No bottles are known to exist.
29. Utica Brewing Company, 1933, John Lawlor president, located in Old Fort Schuyler Brewery, corner of Catherine and Second Streets. Bottled Fort Schuyler Lager, combined with Globe Brewery in 1836, moved to their location, former Gulf Brewery. In 1958 the UBC consolidated into the West End Brewing Company and was called the Fort Schuyler Division of the WEBC. Many Fort Schuyler labeled bottles exist both from their early operation and from after the merge with the WEBC.
30. Utica National Brewing Company, 1898, 193 - 203 South Street, successor to the National Brewing Company. No bottles are known to exist.
31. Utica Star Brewing Company, (J. Myers & Co.), successor to Utica Brewery, SW corner of Mohawk and Jay Street, 1883. No bottles are known to exist.
32. West End Brewing Company, now called the F.X. Matt Brewing Company, was incorporated 3/15/1888, 811 Edward Street. It has been in business longer than any other Utica brewery. It is one of the three Utica breweries that were in business more than one hundred years. **ONE OF THE TOP RATED BREWERIES IN THE UNITED STATES.** Many embossed West End Brewing Company and Utica Club bottles exist. Many labeled West End Brewing Company and F.X. Matt Brewing Company bottles exist. F. X. Matt II, grandson of the founder died on February 15, 2001.

