



The Rocky Creek Brewery

By Brenda Lincke Fisseler

In Lavaca County, when someone mentions a brewery, most people will immediately think of the Spoetzel Brewery in Shiner Texas that was established in 1909. Or they might mention the Kreische Brewery in Fayette County outside La Grange that began operation in the late 1860s. This month, I will leave the confines of Lavaca County to talk about a forgotten brewery located in Fayette County just north of Moulton, Texas.

The Rocky Creek Brewery or Old Moulton Brewery was located one mile east of the former Scott School or about miles north of Moulton in Fayette County, Texas. The brewery was located south of the Schutz Gin.

Johann (John) Richter Sr. settled in the area in 1870. He partnered with his half brother, Vincenz (Vincent) Richter, and founded the Rocky Creek Brewery in 1875. They operated the brewery with Gus Chilka serving as brewmaster.

The business consisted of a wooden two-story building which housed a three-to-four-hundred-gallon copper vat on the first floor. The second floor was used as a dance hall and the cellar was used as storage.

During it's hay day, beer was shipped from the brewery by wagon as far away as Hallettsville.

When the railroad arrived, beer was crated and shipped in ice-packed freight cars from other locations. The local brewery faced the issue of a lack of ice for preserving their beer.

The Rocky Creek Brewery closed in the Spring of 1882.

Later a home was erected on the same location on top of the old brewery cellar. In 1956, the big copper kettle was located on property occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schoenwietz.

Note:

Johann (John) Richter was born on August 7, 1834 in Bohemia and immigrated to Texas on May 6, 1871. He married Theresia Biechel in 1864 and the couple had three children.

He died on May 11, 1925 at the age of 91 years and one month and is buried in the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Moulton, Texas.

In the 1880 US Census, Richter listed his occupation as a farmer/brewer.

Sources:

Lavaca County Tribune
June 8, 1956

Moulton Eagle
June 8, 1956

Hallettsville Tribune Herald
December 7, 2022

www.ancestry.com

www.findagrave.com

*Please share this newsletter
with any one who might be
interested!*