

BOOK REVIEW**Adam Lemp and the Western Brewery****Naffziger, C.****St. Louis: Saint Louis Patina****2025, Pp.238, \$20.00****ISBN: 979-8-9912967-0-0**

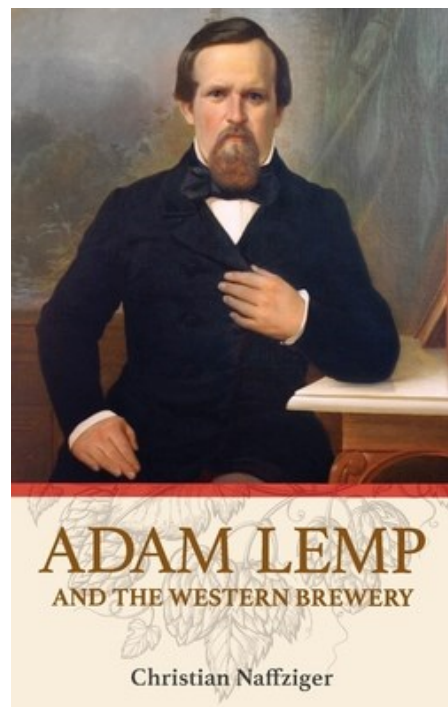
Adam Lemp and the Western Brewery charts the life and work of one of America's most important founding brewers and a person central to the development of St. Louis. Little is known of the early years of Johann Adam Lemp. He was born in Grüningen some 50 kilometres north of Frankfurt. His date of birth is problematic with various sources giving it some time between 25 May 1793 and 20 May 1795. What is known is that he married his first wife – Anna Elisabeth Clermont – in 1816, by whom he had a daughter. Anna died in 1832 aged 40 and within 15 months he had remarried, this time to Justina Anna Charlotte Baum. Together they had two sons, Wilhelm and Jacob, the former dying at the age of four.

When Lemp was 18 he began his career in Eschwege, a town 140 kilometres north-east of Grüningen, at the city's brewery. By the early 1830s he was brewing at his own house as well as operating a restaurant and a beer garden. However, they were unsuccessful and, to evade his creditors, he fled to America in 1836 abandoning his family. His movements over the next four years are uncertain, but it seems likely that he was living in Cincinnati under a pseudonym. It was during this period that he wedded his third wife, Louise Bauer, a fellow German immigrant who had also been married twice before.

By 1840 they were living in St. Louis. Here Lemp went into partnership with Louis Bach and within a year or two they had established the Western Brewery. Bach later became a prominent entrepreneur and politician in St. Louis and appears to have brought much-needed experience to Lemp's business dealings. In 1843 a third partner entered the company, John William Kaeckell, and the brewery began to expand. By 1845 a lagering cave was in operation and was described in the local press as

... one hundred yards long, and is divided into three compartments: the average width is about twenty feet, and the arch is turned with regularity. Mr L has now stored in it about 3,000 barrels, and more may, when his arrangements are complete, be stored in it. The cave, and the style in which it is fitted up, and the taste displayed in the laying of the grounds, will richly repay a visit.

Bach left the partnership in the late 1840s amicably and around the same time Lemp's son from his second marriage, Jacob, arrived in St. Louis where he changed his name to William. Lemp became the sole owner of the brewery around 1850 when Kaeckell left the partnership – he would die in 1853 in mysterious circumstances. The Western Brewery continued to grow through the 1850s and William began to take a more active role in the business from around 1857. Lemp died of cirrhosis of the liver in 1862 and the brewery passed on to William and his half-nephew, Charles Brauneck, who was the son of Lemp's daughter from his



first marriage. Just two years later bought out Charles, the latter dying of tuberculosis in 1870. The brewery kept expanding under William and his son's stewardship right up until the dawn of prohibition which brought about its eventual collapse.

This is an extremely well researched book of a complicated story. Due to its complex nature it would have been beneficial to provide a family tree. The author has to be commended for producing a highly readable work, one that illustrates how a German family established a brewery of national importance.

TIM HOLT