

Refrigeration in American Breweries 1860-1920



Delaware Breweries

S. A. NEBEKER & CO.

Brewers,



4th and King Sts.

WILMINGTON, DEL.

WE CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC TO OUR

PATENT STEAM MASHER & AGITATOR

BY WHICH ALL OUR BEER IS MANUFACTURED, & WHICH IS NOW FOR SALE.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

WILMINGTON CITY DIRECTORY ADVERTISEMENT, 1866. The first lager brewery in Wilmington was started in 1859 by the Nebeker brothers, Aquilla, George, and Samuel, at the corner of Fifth and Morrow Streets. S.A. Nebeker and Company also maintained a saloon and branch brewery at Fourth and King Streets. Grain rationing, federal taxes, and licensing fees imposed during the Civil War put a strain on the business. By 1871, the Nebekers left brewing to pursue other interests. (WPL.)



HARTMANN & FEHRENBACH BREWERY, c. 1890. H&F undertook its most significant capital upgrades ever in 1888 when they added a 125-foot-long four-story structure, housing a new brewhouse and cold-storage facility. In addition, the old lagering vaults were retrofitted with a refrigeration machine. The Frederick Wunder–designed building increased the brewery’s annual capacity to 75,000 barrels, which, at that time, made it the largest and best-outfitted brewery between Philadelphia and Baltimore, Maryland. (DHS.)

THE HARTMANN & FEHRENBACH BRG. CO.

PORTER,
ALE

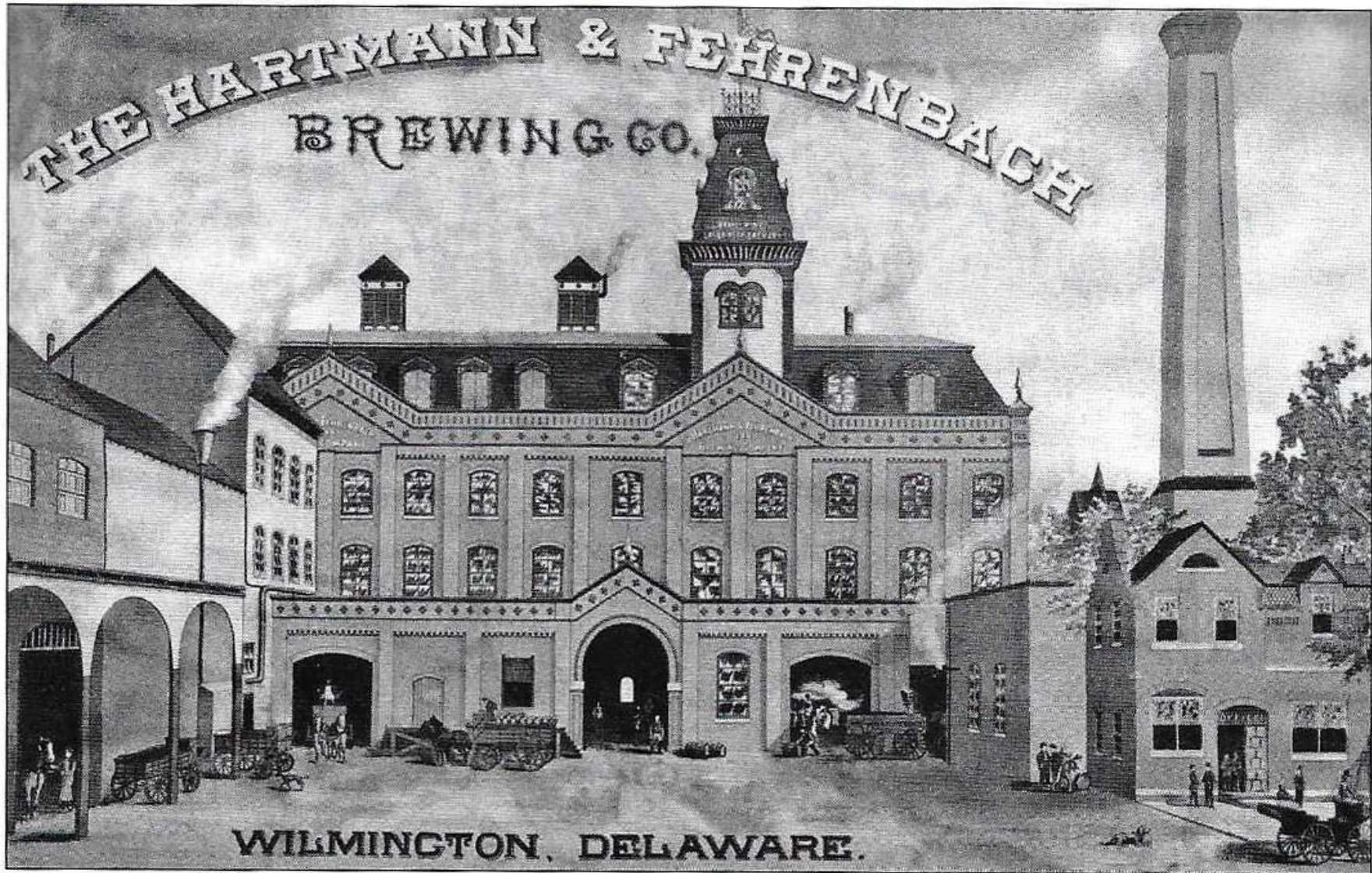
BROWN
STOUT



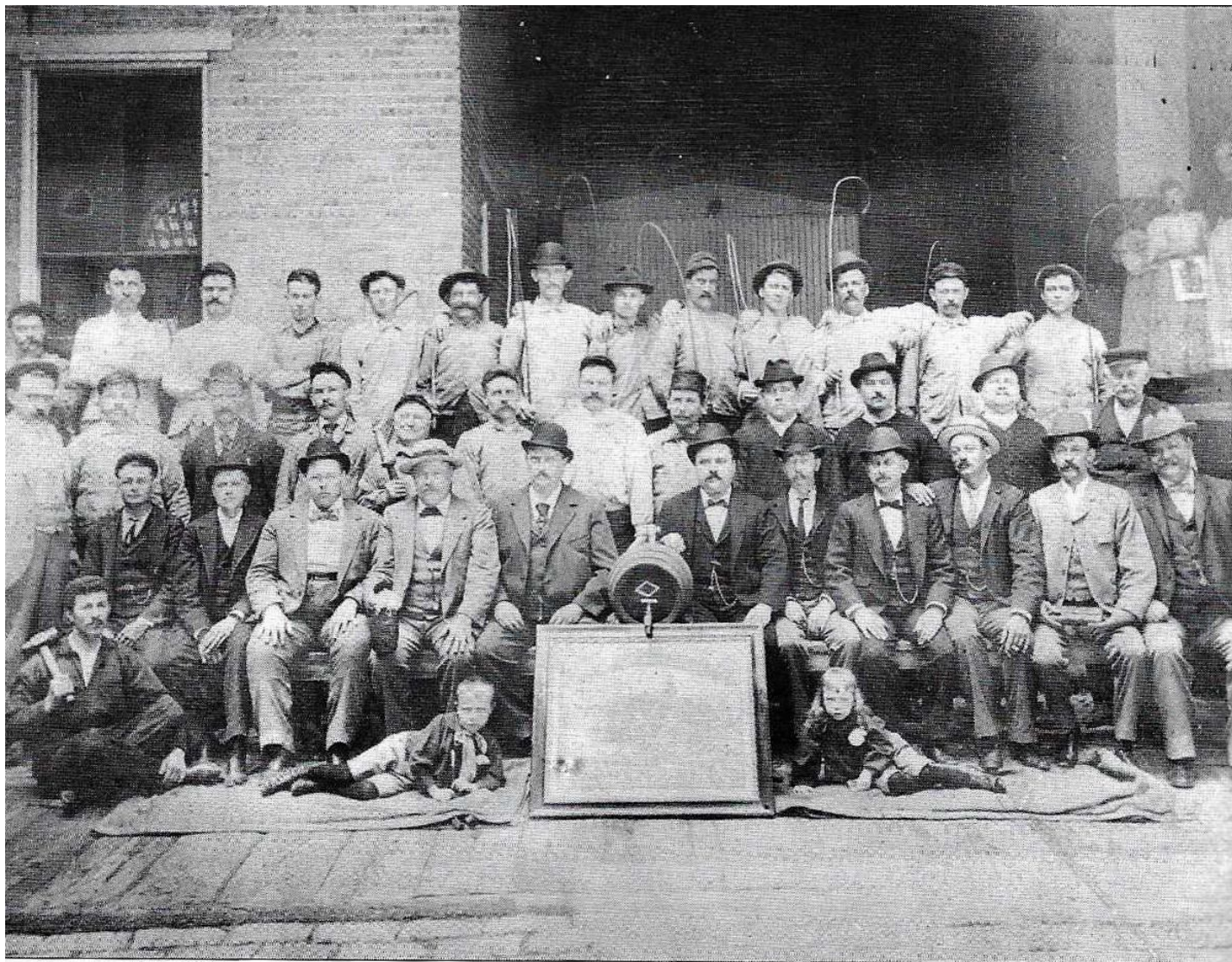
FINE BEERS. Wilmington, Del.



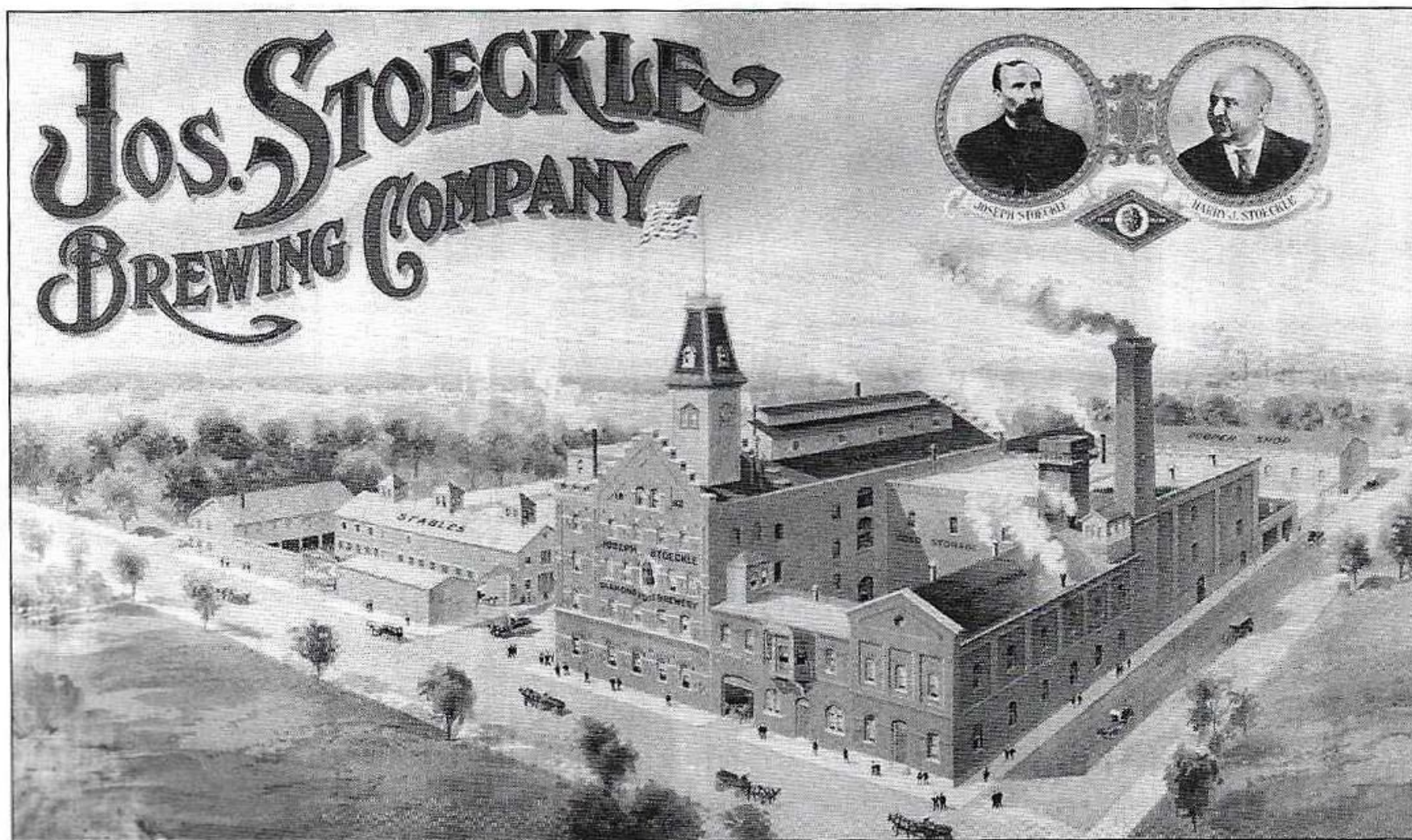
H&F BREWING COMPANY PRINT, c. 1900. This print shows the H&F brewery at its peak, with the new bottling plant located on the far right. To the far left is the refurbished stable house. A track was extended to go inside of the H&F complex, where railcars could be loaded with cases of beer for delivery to accounts throughout the Delmarva Peninsula, southeastern Pennsylvania, and northern Maryland. (HML.)



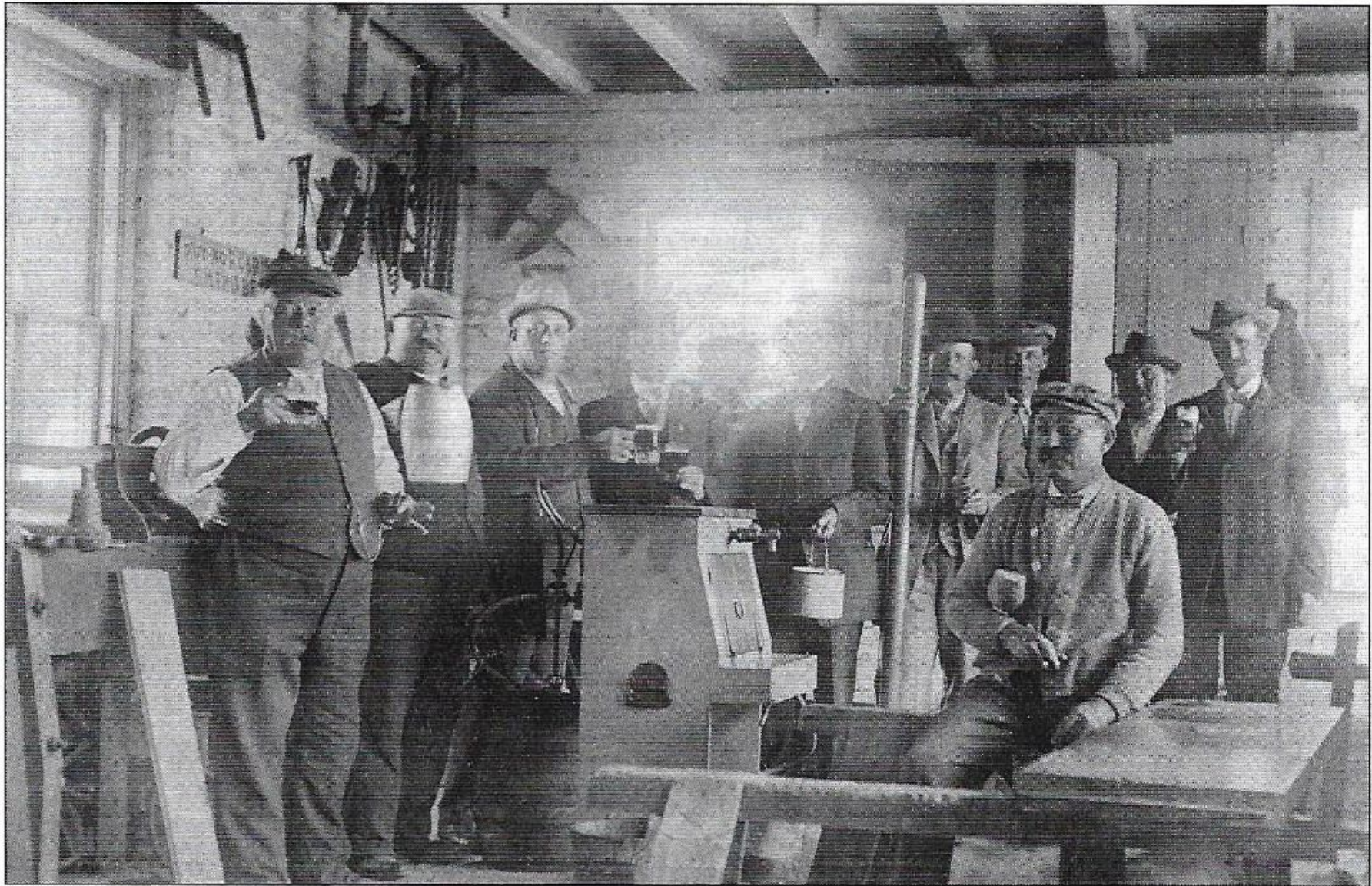
H&F BREWING COMPANY CHROMOLITHOGRAPH, c. 1900. As the temperance movement gained strength in the early 1900s, John G. Hartmann emerged as a leader of the “wet” forces in Delaware. The eventual passage of the 18th Amendment left the brewery little choice but to reorganize as the H&F Products Company. Its near-beer product, Good Cheer, proved unpopular, and the company was unable to sustain itself by bottling soft drinks. H&F ceased operations on August 25, 1920. (HML.)



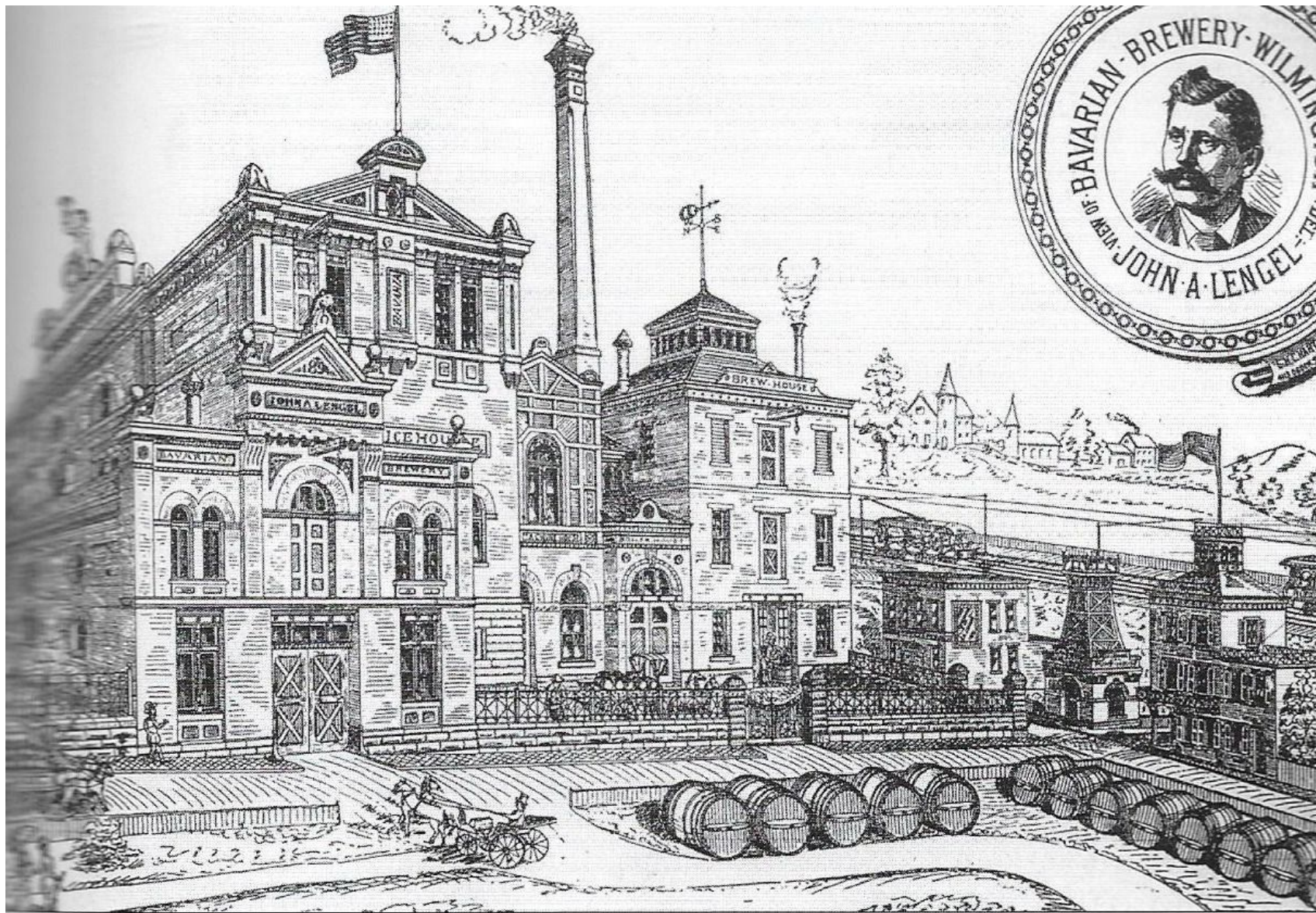
DIAMOND STATE BREWERY STAFF, c. 1898. Workers, associates, and Stoeckle family members pose for a photograph in the brewery courtyard. The following have been identified and are seated in the first row: Harry S. Neher, bookkeeper (third from the left); David Dangel Sr., board of directors (fourth from the left); Hermann Erb, brewmaster (fifth from the left); Harry J. Stoeckle, general manager (sixth from the left); and Morris Grubb, collector and solicitor (seventh from the left). Seated on the ground are Victor E. Ullmann, cooper (far left), and Leila Stoeckle, daughter of Harry S. Stoeckle (far right). (WHD.)



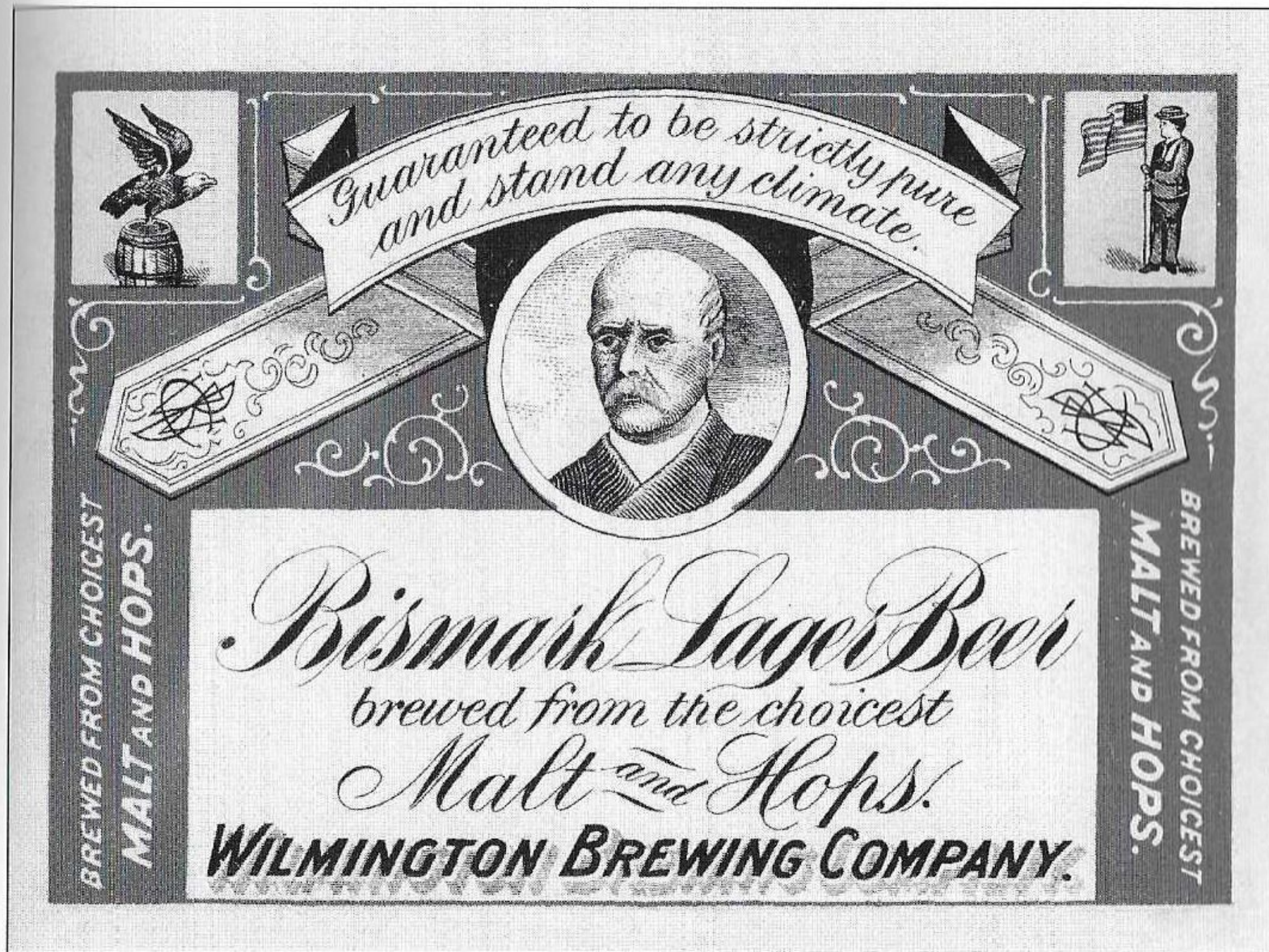
JOSEPH STOECKLE BREWING COMPANY'S DIAMOND STATE BREWERY, c. 1915. Tragically, the original Diamond State complex, framed mostly of wood, burned to the ground in October 1881. Stoeckle recouped the fire insurance money and within nine months opened a much larger, more complete brewery at the same location. This image, taken from a metal advertising tray, shows many of the buildings that were added as part of the 1881–1882 renovation. (HML.)



DAVID DANGEL AND SONS, WILMINGTON, c. 1910. Dangel's associates toast with mugs of beer in the company workshop at 506–508 North Van Buren Street. The men identified here are, from left to right, David Dangel and his sons David Jr. and Adolph. In addition to work on the city's three large breweries, the Dangels also built several notable Wilmington structures, including Zion Lutheran Church, the Garrick Theatre, and numerous homes on the city's west side. (WHD.)



BAVARIAN BREWERY, c. 1896. Although lager beer remained in high demand, Specht and Spahn were unable to compete with Stoeckle and Hartmann & Fehrenbach, two better-established breweries. In 1886, Specht and Spahn sold out to a firm called the Excelsior Brewing Company, headed by Evan Rice, president, and secretary/treasurer B. Frank Townsend. Despite the ownership change, the business languished and went out of business by 1889. The brewery sat idle until 1890, when it was purchased by John A. Lengel, who renamed it the Bavarian Brewery. (Author's collection.)



WILMINGTON BREWING COMPANY BEER LABEL, c. 1910. Blouth purchased several buildings just north of the Grand Union Hotel on French Street and in 1902 opened his own brewery. The Wilmington Brewing Company, which had a capacity of about 20,000 barrels, experienced steady growth until Blouth's unexpected death in 1913. His wife promptly closed the brewery and sold the machinery to her family's brewing company. (BKBL.)



STOECKLE BEER TRUCK, c. 1912. Brewmaster Hermann Erb, in the back center of this photograph, looks on as a truck loaded with kegs departs the brewery. In May 1917, Stoeckle opened its new power plant and boiler house, which was constructed on the south side of Fifth Street, opposite the brewery. In November of that year, rural New Castle County opted to go dry. Prohibition in Wilmington was inevitable. (Richard McElwee.)



Acknowledgment: Those black and white illustrations with captions are taken from *Brewing in Delaware*, John Medkeff Jr, Arcadia Publishing, 2015 and credited as shown where BKBL=Bob Kay Beer Labels; DHS=Delaware Historical Society; HML=Hagley Museum & Library; WHD=William H Day

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Breweries in Detroit

MICHIGAN

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13½ FLUID OZ.

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RIDGE 46.

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CHOICEST
MATERIALS

STORED IN
GLASS TANKS
INSURING
PURITY



PURE AND WITHOUT
DRUGS OR POISON

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