

Early Kinston Bottling Works And Related Enterprises

Wagner Bottling Works (c. 1891-1895) John Wagner, Proprietor. Bottler of lager beer and soda.

Wagner began a general bottling trade around 1892 and continued under his name until late 1894 or early 1895. The business was interrupted in late 1892 due to a fire. Bottles of that period are embossed Wagner Bottling Works. As time progressed the advertised name changed and so did the bottle markings. By the late 1890s Wagner was focused on the wholesale and retail ice business. The 1900 census lists him as a general merchant.

Kinston Bottling Works (c. 1896-1899) Ida V. Wagner, Proprietor. Bottler of lager beer. By 1896 the company name had changed and I. V. Wagner became proprietor. I. V. is thought to be Ida Vanderford Wagner the wife of John Wagner. In 1898 the malt liquor license was issued to I. V. Wagner with no mention of John Wagner or Wagner Bottling.

Kinston Bottling Works - Little is shown in the period after the Wagners were involved with bottling under the same name, but there is some evidence William F. Tyndall may have been associated with the company shortly after the Wagners moved to Wilmington in 1907. Tyndall also owned a general store on South Queen Street. The bottling plant was located at 122 W. King Street when directory listings showed Tyndall as proprietor during the 1920s.

I. V. Wagner & Company (c. 1900-1904) Ida. V. Wagner, Proprietor. Bottler of beer and soda water.

By the end of 1904, as local prohibition approached, the Bottling Works asked for a malt liquor license refund or transfer to another town in Lenoir County. There is no evidence the license was moved. Note: all the Wagner names associated with bottling are likely connected.

Phillips & Stokes (c. 1884) W. F. Phillips and Calvin Stokes, Proprietors. Bottler of all types of beer and ale.

John Wagner operation in New Bern:

Wagner, John (c. 1904-1906) Bottler of beer and soda water.

Wagner leased the building at 22 or 24 Middle Street for the purpose of bottling Bartholomay Brewing Company beer. This business was likely opened because of the loss of bottling permits in Kinston due to prohibition. There is no mention of the business after 1906.

John Wagner operation in Goldsboro:

Bergner & Engel Brewing Company (c. 1883-1886) William Genaust, Branch Manager. Bottled lager beer.

B & E opened the first branch office under the Bonitz Hotel with G. A. A. Puppie as Agent.

Later in 1883 the operation was expanded and moved to Walnut Street with William Genaust as Manager. Genaust continued as manager until 1886 when he closed out the branch. John Wagner continued the bottling business at the old stand on his own account.

The Coca-Cola Bottling Works - Starting about 1904 G. H. Hutaff advertised regular shipments of Coca-Cola from the New Bern Bottling works to Kinston. There were articles that stated Hutaff searched for a facility in Kinston but it appear that did not happen. This ad campaign continued for a number of years until Harvey C. Hines became the home of Coca-Cola around 1908. By the early 1920s, all ads were for The Coca-Cola Bottling Works with Harvey C. Hines as Proprietor.

Pepsi-Cola Bottling Works – In 1900, G. W. Sumrell and H. H. McCoy established the wholesale grocery business of Sumrell & McCoy and over the years grew to occupy a three story brick building that held the grocery business and Pepsi-Cola plant in 1906. It is possible this was one of the first bottling plants opened after the home plant in New Bern. By 1915, the facility was equipped with the latest equipment that could process over 800 dozen bottles per day. About 1920, it appears McCoy took control of the business and proceeded on his own.

John Wagner Operation in Wilmington:

Bludwine Bottling Company - As early as 1912, John C. Wagner (Kinston bottler) and John C. Wagner, Jr. were operating the Bludwine bottling works at Five Dock Street. Later, the Wagners merged the business with Pepsi-Cola Bottling, then managed by John W. Brooks.

Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Wilmington - In November of 1905, C. D. Bradham announced plans to open a bottling facility in Wilmington at a location on Market Street. The planned opening date was January 1, 1906. A charter for the company was issued in November of 1906 with L. L. Benson of New Bern as well as J. W. Williamson and W. M. Bellamy of Wilmington as incorporators. The capital authorized was \$15,000 with an increase

to \$25,000, if needed. Daily ads for Pepsi-Cola appeared in the local press with an advertised capacity of 1,200 bottles per day in 1909, at which time A. D. Wessell, Jr. had entered the business. Unfortunately, the venture was short lived as the plant contents were offered at a mortgage sale in May of 1912. A new charter was formed later that year with J. W. Brooks, J. C. Wagner, Jr. (son of John Wagner, Kinston bottler), E. L. Matthews (Matthews Candy Company) and others. Among the new owners were former operators of the Bludwine Bottling Company as this venture represented a consolidation of the two businesses. It was announced in 1919, the Pepsi-Cola plant would have a new owner by the name of H. W. Lupton of Tarboro who had an interest in several other Pepsi plants in eastern North Carolina. Shown here are an interesting ad from the presidents' page in 1909 and plant location in 1910 (the plant moved to Orange Street around 1915).

By 1927 there were only three bottlers listed in Kinston:

Coca-Cola

Pepsi-Cola

Kinston Bottling Works

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