

The Beer Bottles
and Breweries
at
Fort Stanton
New Mexico



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Part 1

Ten Wagon Loads of Beer Bottles: A Study of Fort Stanton Trash Deposition

Bill Lockhart

Part 2

Do Numbers Matter? A study of Beer Bottle Bases

Bill Lockhart, Carol Serr, and Bill Lindsey

Part 3

The Biedermann-Rufley Brewery

Bill Lockhart

Preface

Aside from my wife, Wanda Wakkenin, I have three major passions in life: local history of Southern New Mexico, El Paso, Texas, and Juarez, Mexico; bottles in general; and the study of manufacturer's marks on glass artifacts. This book provides an opportunity to combine all three. Since Wanda has taken photographs, helped record artifacts, aided in measuring sites, and wandered all over parts of Fort Stanton with me, this has a family component as well.

Although they center on Fort Stanton, New Mexico, and have many commonalities, the three studies presented here are all very different. Each analyzes a unique aspect of the larger picture. Possibly most important, all were fantastically fun projects, both in the field and in the analysis. Who could ask for more?

“Ten Wagon Loads of Beer Bottles: A Study of Fort Stanton Trash Deposition” was inspired by the clearly defined dump areas to the south and east of the main fort complex. Dumping generally takes place in areas that confound the analysis of individual depositional episodes. I knew that these discrete piles of beer bottle fragments had a story to tell. I could never have guessed how well that story would unfold.

My fascination with what the numbers and letters associated with manufacturer's marks led to “Do Numbers Matter? A study of Beer Bottle Bases.” Julian Harrison Toulouse, in what many regard as the “bible” of glass manufacturer's marks, stated: “All such numbers . . . were *not* part of the trademark, and . . . they give no information of dates.” He was wrong. Some numbers *were* an integral part of logos, especially on early 20th century milk bottles, and many numbers are *very* helpful in dating – as I hope this study shows.

Wanda and I only visited the site that led to “The Biedermann-Rufley Brewery” in an attempt to demonstrate a connection between the beer bottles at the fort dumps and the brewery, itself. Because of a series of floods in the area, the brewery's dump or dumps may never be found. The ruins of the brewery, however, soon took on a life of their own, and I simply could not ignore them. Maybe someday we will find solid evidence of the earlier brewery.

To the archaeologist, local historian, bottle collector, or the merely curious – enjoy!

