

*Journal of the*

# I. B. C. A.

**International Brick  
Collectors Association**

*Summer 2025*

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VOLUME 43 - NO. 2

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**Publications of the International Brick Collectors Association are intended to stimulate and maintain interest in the hobby as well as encourage research resulting in articles of general appeal. IBCA is a non-profit organization issuing official journals each Spring, Summer, and Fall. Membership is \$20.00 per year. Family affiliates are an additional \$5.00 yearly and include individual membership cards and full voting privileges. Journals and newsletters to sponsoring members only.**

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## 2025 - 2026 SWAP SCHEDULE

### 2025

July 25-26

Blue Grass, IA

Glenn Houghton & Jeff Adams

September 12-13

Middleport, OH

Jordan & Calee Pickens

### 2026

April 2026

Sauget, IL

Emory Cox Nat'l Bldg. Center

June 12-13

Grand Marais, MN

Jeff & Dana Bartheld

Please contact Becky Meacham if you are  
interested in hosting a Brick Swap.

# **RAFFLE OF INDIAN BRAND SHAWNEE BRICK**

*Submitted by Jim Hart*

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Destination Shawnee, a local non-profit 501-C-3 in Southern Perry County, Ohio, will be raffling off a locally-made brick to raise funding for local projects. This unique Indian Brand Shawnee Brick once belonged to Bill Harvey, a local man who is now deceased. The Harvey family gave the brick to a local brick collector, Tom Colvin, with the understanding that it was to be raffled off to raise monies for the Village. Tom chose Destination Shawnee as the group to oversee this raffle. This group promotes a local Farmer's Market, various family and children's activities, Second Saturday musical events, and also purchases military flags and banners for the town.



The Village of Shawnee, with a population of just over 500 people, is located in the midst of the many brickyards of southern Ohio. This village was home to the Shawnee Flash Brick Company and The Ohio Mining and Manufacturing Company, who both had brickyards up the same hollow for many years.

The winner of the Indian Brand Shawnee Brick will be drawn Saturday, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. during the Second Saturday event.

Up until the drawing date, tickets will be available during Second Saturdays, the Farmers Market, as well as at several Shawnee businesses. (The brick will also be displayed during Destination Shawnee events).

Think about coming to visit, and be there for the drawing!!

Tickets may be purchased on Venmo at @destinationshawnee

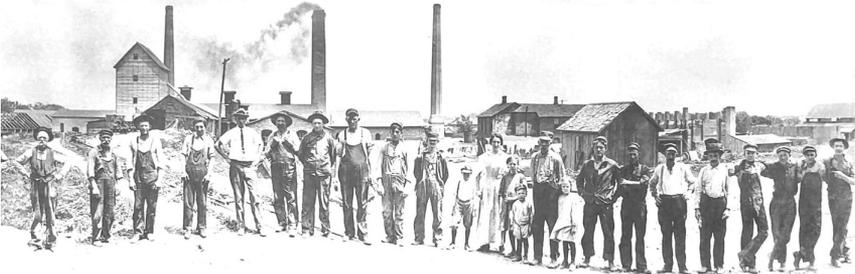
Ticket price will be 1 (one) ticket, \$5, or \$20 for 5 (five) tickets.

For additional information, call or text Bev Trovato at 740-856-8253.

If the winner resides out of the area, the brick will be shipped to them.

# Yankee Hill Brick's History

<https://www.yankeehillbrick.com/about-us>



FOR MORE THAN 140 YEARS, YANKEE HILL BRICK MANUFACTURING COMPANY HAS LED THE WAY IN CLAY BRICK MANUFACTURING AND INNOVATION. FROM FACE BRICK, PAVERS AND TO SPECIAL SHAPES. YANKEE HILL BRICK CONTINUES ITS HISTORIC TRADITION OF PAVING NEW ROADS IN THE BRICK INDUSTRY.



## *Clay Brick History*

Brick is a timeless, classic building material. The Babylonians, Chinese, and Egyptians understood the value of the simple rectangular solids more than 3,000 years ago. Invented in antiquity, brick remains the one exterior building material with a human scale, rich variegated colors, and flexibility of use. Modern man has crafted building materials from concrete, plastic, glass and steel, but none approach this unique elementary product.

The brick making process is essentially unchanged from primitive times. Clay is mixed with water to form a pliable mass. The clay is then formed with a mold, dried and baked to nearly 2000 degrees.

Brick makers brought this ancient skill from Europe with them as they landed in the New World. It was such a wide spread craft that many early Americans built their homes with bricks molded from the clay excavated from the foundations.

As Americans moved west in the 1850's and 60's, some passed southwest of

*continued on page 6*

present day Lincoln, NE. A small community of New Englanders settled in the hilly area, built a store and blacksmith shop, and named the community Yankee Hill. In 1881 Joseph E. Stockwell began to make brick from the wonderful clay deposits located a mile or so west of the village. The manufacture of brick at this same location has continued to this day.

Yankee Hill Brick was incorporated in 1902 as the Yankee Hill Brick Manufacturing Company with principle stockholders – Sumner Burnham and W.H. Ferguson. Over the years the plant has had several kilns. Early on, the brick were fired in scove kilns [rectangular masses of brick stacked loosely together, covered with clay], and fired for weeks. Later the European Hoffman kiln came into use. It used coal as a fuel and fired brick in less than two weeks. Beehive kilns with their distinctive round shape were also frequently used. Another early coal-burning kiln called a Udahli is now depicted on Yankee Hill's logo with its multiple chambers and small smoke stacks.

### ***The brick making process***

We no longer make brick at the pace of the Egyptians. While the process is essentially the same, the advent of earth moving equipment, powerful electric motors, and modern tunnel kilns has made brick making much more automated and productive. But, we still begin with clay dug from the earth.

### ***Clay mining and preparation***

A few miles from Yankee Hill Brick we mine clay using large backhoes, dozers, and diesel trucks. We segregate the clay, which is from the 100 million-year-old Dakota formation, into several colors. From the same pits we also recover sand, essential to the process. We stockpile the clay in separate piles at the plant site and then blend them back together in specific proportions to achieve the colors for which we are so famous.

We grind the clay and sand together in a two-hundred horsepower, high-speed hammer mill, where hardened steel hammers rotating at 1150 rpm shatter the clay into small pieces. The milled mixture is screened to the consistency of coarse sand and stored until we're ready to make it into brick.

### ***Forming***

Forming is the one manufacturing step that differs markedly from ancient times. We mix the clay with water and knead it into a pliable mass. Three-thousand years ago it was hand-made one brick at a time; now mixing is in a pug mill – a one-hundred horsepower tub with shaft-mounted knives that slice and cut the moist clay until it is uniform. Immediately after pugging we remove trapped air in a vacuum chamber, extrude the clay with a powerful auger extruder, and form it into a continuous column. The next step is a cutter, strung with piano wire, which slices the clay column into separate bricks. Once formed, we set

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the bricks on drier cars to ensure they are dry prior to firing.

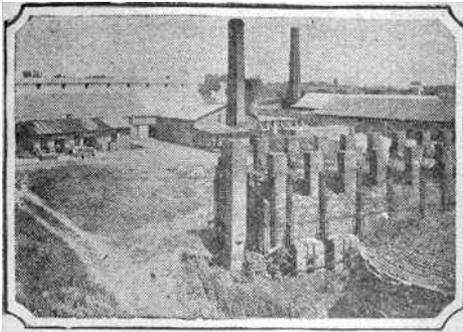
### ***Drying and Firing***

Over a period of several days the brick gradually warm until they are bone dry. Any residual moisture would make them explode in the kiln. We then load them onto refractory lined kiln cars with steel undercarriages and narrow gauge railroad wheels. The cars enter the kiln at the cool end. Back to back in a continuous train of cars, they push one another through the tunnel kiln. They are propelled by a powerful hydraulic ram that inches them slowly down the length of the 268-foot kiln.

As one car comes out the kiln exit, another goes in the entrance. On their passage through the kiln, they gradually increase in temperature as they pass dozens of flaming, gas burners. When they reach 2100 degrees the brick are mature, having developed their color and vitrified hardness -- which makes them durable for centuries. They gradually cool until they exit the kiln thirty-six hours after they entered.

### ***Packaging and Delivery***

After cooling, we inspect the brick and stack them into neat bundles held together by strong plastic straps. The straps hold the brick together for ease of transport around the brickyard by forklifts. We then load the brick onto trucks or into railroad cars for delivery anywhere in the United States.



## ***IN MEMORIAM***

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***Nancy P. Freeman***

Nancy P. Freeman, age 80, of Verona, KY, passed away peacefully at home on March 17, 2025. The daughter of the late James Arvle Byrd and Georgia {Green} Byrd, Nancy was born in Oneida, TN on October 1, 1944. She was the proud owner and operator of Star Building Materials for over 50 years. Nancy worked tirelessly, providing excellent service to her community while building a legacy of dedication and hard work.

In her younger years, she loved traveling, exploring new places, and making lasting memories with those closest to her. She was also a dedicated artist, with a particular fondness for painting ceramics. A natural green thumb, Nancy took immense pride in nurturing her many plants, creating a lush and vibrant home filled with the beauty of nature. Nancy had a particular passion for bricks, amassing an impressive collection throughout the years. She was an active member of the International Brick Collectors Association, where her enthusiasm for this unique hobby found a welcoming community of like-minded individuals. Nancy was a devoted member of Immanuel Baptist Church and additionally held memberships with the Eastern Star - Bradford Lodge and the Women's Council at the NKY Building Industry Association (BIA).

Nancy is survived by her husband of 64 years, Hershell Freeman; children David (Laura) Freeman, JoEllen (David) Thompson, and Donna (Bob) Flannery; sisters Jean Leonard and JoAnn (Danny) Bernard; grandchildren Amanda (Philip) Cannady and Jacob Freeman; great-grandchildren Lorelei and Arthur Cannady; and her dog Bonita.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her brothers Johnny, Bert, and Ricky Byrd; sister Bonnie Panter; and grandson Zachary Freeman.

Nancy will be laid to rest at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens in Taylor Mill, KY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Gallatin County (ATTN: Gallatin Co. EMS) at 200 Washington St. P.O. Box 144 Warsaw, KY 41095.

# Quality Control

*Submitted by Peter Hoffmeister*

I am an artist who creates sculpture and large temporary installations using a variety of materials, depending upon the idea I have. I've used more materials than I have room to list here, but ceramic is one that I have kept returning to over the years. In 2019 I started harvesting clay directly from the ground, after a friend tipped me off to a nice deposit at Montauk Point on the tip of Long Island.

At first I wasn't sure what to do with the clay I was digging. I had been using commercial clay for a while, but I wanted to develop a project for this harvested clay that was conceptually linked to how I was sourcing it. I arrived at an answer in 2021, when I was invited to do an artist residency at Lighthouse Works on Fishers Island, off the coast of Connecticut. I was drawn to the island because I knew there were clay deposits there, and the residency had an electric kiln for me to use.

Upon further research, I learned that the Fishers Island Brick Manufacturing Company had operated on the island in the 19th and early 20th century, and had made bricks from the same clay I was planning to dig. And so it made sense that I should do the same. The company had ceased operations in 1909, when they had dug deep enough to hit the water table, permanently flooding the clay pits. The first time I dug the clay I went into the flooded pits barefoot, and when I emerged I found that a few leeches were stuck on my feet. One or two were also hiding between my toes, and after plucking them off I realized I needed some waders. Luckily someone had a pair, and I didn't have to deal with the leeches again.

I went into the pits many more times that summer, bringing the clay back to my studio to process into slip, casting the slip into plaster molds I had made of bricks (mostly blank at that point), and firing the results in the kiln. I made about 150 bricks in total while on the island, and began experimenting with them, not sure where the project was going to go. Since slip casting always gives you a hollow result, I ended up with vessels that look like bricks, but aren't actually bricks. I thought it was important that the viewer understand they were hollow, so I started breaking the forms open and deforming them before the firing process, as if I was searching for something inside. I quickly realized I did not want to permanently join the cast bricks together, so that I could endlessly create new formations like a child does with building blocks. For this reason I was drawn to mason line, which is normally used to create straight lines to follow when building walls, but in my project has replaced mortar as the joining substance.

*continued on page 10*



*Strike (Excelsior, v1, 2023,  
Ceramic and iron oxide,  
4" x 4.5" x 15".*



*Quality Control  
(Studio install),  
2021,  
Ceramic and  
mason line,  
10' x 4' x 9'.*

In the years since I have made around another two hundred bricks, using them to create temporary installations both indoors and outdoors. Most locations have been in NYC, including Wave Hill, Governors Island, The Bronx Museum, and The Fashion Institute of Technology, among others. As the project has grown I've collected many bricks to make molds from—I have about 30 molds now—and have traveled to Vermont, the Hudson Valley, New Jersey, Virginia, and North Carolina to dig clay. I became a member of the IBCA in late 2022, and Jean Bear introduced me to Steve Blankenkemper after hearing I was making versions of bricks, who I went to visit in North Carolina. He very generously showed me around the production line of Taylor Clay Products, which he manages, and their clay pits, where he helped me dig clay. Steve also introduced me to John Morgan, who gave me many bricks from various states. I cannot thank Jean, Steve, and John enough for their incredible generosity and support. Jean recently sent me some beautiful bricks with blank frogs. My project has grown a great deal thanks to them!

While I do continue to work on other projects, Quality Control will occupy me for years to come. What keeps me interested is how my labor as an artist echoes the once active factories that in many cases have disappeared, and all of the mud diggers, brick makers, and bricklayers that came and went with them. My ultimate goal is to continue sourcing bricks from across the United States, and to likewise continue traveling to different regions to dig clay, creating a portrait of the country through the land itself. I look forward to meeting more members of the IBCA along the way!



*Digging clay with Steve Blankenkemper  
near Seagrove, North Carolina January  
2023*



*Quality Control (Wave Hill), 2023,  
Ceramic and mason line, 24' x 5' x 13'.*

## ***IN MEMORIAM***

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***Joseph Cubanski***

PRESTON – Joseph Felix Cubanski, age 85, passed away in the early morning of Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Joe was born on November 4, 1939 in Norwich, son of the late Peter Cubanski and Jennie Cubanski of Preston. Joe graduated from Norwich Free Academy in 1957. He was a carpenter by trade and a gifted one, retiring from the Carlin Construction Company as a foreman. Joe was a proud Veteran, and served in the Connecticut Army National Guard from 1962 to 1968. He married the former Ceil Piechowski in St. Joseph's Church in Norwich in October 1964; they were married for 60

years and built a beautiful home and life together.

Joe is survived by: his wife Ceil; their two sons David (Nita) and Douglas (Maggie) and several grandchildren, all of whom he was very proud; his three brothers Peter, Martin, and Kenneth and their families; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Joe and Ceil were fortunate to have traveled extensively throughout the USA and Europe. Joe was a faithful and deeply involved member of St. Catherine's Church in Preston. He will be missed and lovingly remembered by all those whose lives he touched.

A mass in Joe's memory was held at 10:30 AM at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Preston on Thursday March 13, followed by an internment ceremony at Poquetanuck Cemetery.

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### ***Florence Ruth Dailing***

Florence Ruth Dailing, age 90 passed away Monday morning January 27, 2025. She was born February 10, 1934, to William and Francis Vander Stelt of Muskegon, Michigan where she grew up. On January 20, 1950, she married Earl L. Beals. They had seven children, Steven L. (Carol), Gregory E. (Karen), Victor A. (Karen), Claudia R. (Bill), Bradley A., Mark R. (Sue), and Harley C. (Magdalena). On May 12, 1995, she married Kenneth Dailing. Along with his children, Shane, Frederick, Carrie, Erik, Payton and Randuel Dailing. She was blessed with 27 grandkids, 54 great grandkids, and several great, great grandchildren by both marriages. She was preceded in death by sons Bradley and Victor Beals; her parents; three brothers, Charles, Gary and David Vander Stelt; son-in-law, Bill Flagg; and late husband, Kenneth Dailing.

Florence was a woman of strong faith and a longtime member of the Success Baptist Church. She loved all of her family, church family and many friends. She loved her home and working in her yard, going through the newest flower magazines to order something new for her yard. Her and Kenneth enjoyed traveling and brick collecting together.

## ***THE BRICKS THAT BUILT WHITEWATER***

Throughout Whitewater's historic buildings, one common element stands out, the use of cream colored bricks. Much of the downtown is constructed of these bricks and many of the city's most historic houses are constructed of bricks. These bricks are often commonly and incorrectly called "cream city bricks," named for the cream-colored bricks produced in Milwaukee, which was nicknamed the "cream city" because of their extensive use there. It is, perhaps, not as well known that Whitewater had a thriving brick industry, an industry that also produced cream colored bricks and that most of the Whitewater's old brick buildings are constructed of this local "Whitewater brick."

The reason historic bricks took on certain hues was because early brick makers used local clays. In south central and southeastern Wisconsin, there were significant concentrations of light clays that produced cream-colored bricks. In central and western Wisconsin, there were significant concentrations of clays that produced red bricks and communities in these areas of the state have large numbers of red brick buildings. During the early twentieth century, large brick making firms took over the business from local kilns and both the centralization of brick making and changing architectural tastes during that time resulted in the use of generic tan and red bricks for buildings throughout the state.



*Whitewater Brick and Tile Company. Image from the collections of the Whitewater Historical Society.*

*continued on page 13*

Whitewater's local bricks were an important building material for both residential and commercial buildings during the nineteenth century. In fact, the use of Whitewater brick gave the community a distinctive appearance. Most of the prominent houses in Whitewater built during the mid to late nineteenth century used Whitewater brick. For example, the brick houses along Main Street, just west of downtown Whitewater, were all built from locally produced bricks. In the downtown, most of the commercial buildings were built with Whitewater brick. Many of these buildings have been painted, but historic photos show that their original appearance was one of cream bricks. Because Whitewater bricks were made in small, relatively low-heat kilns, they are very soft. In the downtown, the wear and tear of commercial use took a toll on the building fronts, so they were often painted to make their appearance more pleasing.

Most of the brick construction in Whitewater is seen in larger houses or commercial buildings, but brick was also used for some smaller houses. For example, there are a series of smaller brick houses along Janesville Street that were built during the nineteenth century. The use of Whitewater brick in these houses give them a more elegant and cohesive appearance that enhances the neighborhood. One of the most important nineteenth century buildings constructed of cream bricks was the old elementary/high school that was fondly known as the "Big Brick." It was located in the aptly-named "Big Brick Park."

In many small communities like Whitewater, the appearance of a brick house might be unusual, but due to the output of Whitewater's historic brick makers, this city has a large concentration of brick buildings, giving it a distinctive historic appearance.

*Carol Lohry Cartwright, "The Bricks that Built Whitewater," 2012, Whitewater Historical Society website, Whitewater, WI.*

## The Peerless Brick Company,

Philadelphia.

OFFICES:  
No. 1003 Walnut Street.

WORKS:  
Old York Road and Nicetown Lane.

JOSEPH CHAPMAN, President,  
W. B. H. BELCHER, General Manager,  
S. B. VICELLI, General Assistant,  
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Special Designs

made to order.

For Moulded and  
Ornamental Bricks.



PEERLESS CARVING BRICKS.—Made homogeneous; can be carved in wall of any design, or on separate bricks at works, so as to be laid in red mortar in the building.

Brick for Arches

Plain or Moulded.

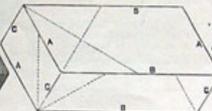
Straight, Segmental, Elliptical, &c.

Ground to any Radius.

Working Plans sent with Material.



STANDARD SIZE OF BRICKS:  
Length, 8 1/2 inches; Width, 4 1/4; Thickness, 3 1/4.  
Pressed Bricks, concave on both sides.



In isometrical views, only those parallel lines which are horizontal or vertical in the object, can be removed, as A, B, and C, in the above outline.



Ten-inch Front Brick, four of them making a square. The joints may be vertical and horizontal.

# Portland Stone Ware Co., Inc.

<https://www.portlandstoneware.com/>



Portland Stone Ware Co., Inc. has been a family owned and operated business dating back to its inception in 1847. There have been two families at the helm, the Winslow family (1847) and now the Schuler family (1970). Portland Stone

Ware was founded by John T. Winslow who started out making pottery, clay jugs and pots for food storage. Under the direction of his son, Edward B. Winslow, Portland Stone Ware developed into one of the largest manufacturers of Vitriified Salt-Glazed sewer pipe and firebrick on the east coast. The once large factory was located at the salt marsh in Back Cove, Deering Point on 253 Forest Ave, Portland, ME. It had excellent facilities for shipping and receiving via the shipping channel through Back Cove. At high tide, sailing vessels of 1500 tons could easily come up to the large wharf delivering raw goods and transporting finished goods. It also had two rail spurs connecting it to the Boston and Maine. A sales office was located on 42 Oliver St., Boston, MA in early 1900, eventually moving to 177 Pemberton Street, Cambridge, MA in 1959. Ronald A. Schuler Sr. joined the firm in 1954, as a sales representative. He was eventually promoted to General Manager of the Cambridge location.

The Federal government took the property in Portland, ME by emanate domain in 1970, for the purpose of constructing Interstate Route 295, which closed the Portland facility. At this time Ronald Schuler Sr. purchased the Cambridge facility from the Winslow-Clark family. Ronald Schuler Sr. changed the focus of the company as clay sewer pipe requirements were diminishing throughout the area. He developed the fabrication of the Portland Cement Filled Column. Before his early morning coffee he would make cement using a small hand mixer in order to fill the columns. These became officially known as Portland Cement Filled Columns. He would then change his clothes and make in person sales calls to customers .

Ronald Schuler Sr.'s children, Donna Morgan, Ron Jr. and Robert joined him in the business in the late 70's. As the family expanded the product lines to serve the lumber and masonry industries a need for a larger facility developed. The business moved from the Cambridge, MA to its current location at 50 McGrath Rd in Dracut, MA in 1999. Ronald Schuler Sr. passed away in 2008.

As the company continues to grow and expand heavily into the stone/hard-

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# THE SIMONS FAMILY BRICKYARD

*By Richard B. Simons ~ Arlington, VA 1982; rev. 1986 and 1990*

*Submitted by Clem Reinkemeyer*

Delphos was a bustling little town in the 1860's and 1870's. The opening of the Miami-Erie Canal in 1845, and the completion in 1854 of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad (later a part of the Pennsylvania Railroad main line) brought rapid growth. In the mid-1870's, the population of Delphos was estimated at 5-6,000 and it was larger than Lima or Van Wert (the neighboring county seats). According to an 1880 county atlas, the town was a shipping point for the grain and lumber produced in the area, and had considerable manufacturing as well. The still abundant timber resources supported 2 steam saw mills, 2 planing mills, 1 handle factory, 1 "tight barrel" factory, 2 stave factories, and a wheel factory. The list of retail establishments included 6 hotels, 36 saloons, and numerous stores. The building boom consequent to all this supported 2 brick yards. Adam Simons was proprietor of one of them.

Family lore has it that after the Civil War, grandfather Adam worked in Delphos for several years in a brick yard where he learned the trade. After his marriage in 1868 to Maria P. Hoffman, the 1870 CENSUS shows that he took over the running of the family farm a mile east of Upper Sandusky. We know from his biographical sketch in an Allen County history that he moved to Delphos in 1872 and ran a brick yard. It is at this time that he shortened his name from Simonis to Simons.

Little is known about Adam's Delphos brick yard. As is usual for small businesses, no records from that brick yard have survived. A plant map of Delphos drawn in 1870's shows that he owned nearly 10 acres on the southeastern edge of town (and lived nearby on the northeast corner of Scott and Bridge Streets). How many bricks he produced each year, and how profitable the business was, we do not know; but he was successful, and well thought of in the community - he was elected to the town Council.

Perhaps the clay deposit he was working on the edge of Delphos was nearly exhausted by the late seventies; and perhaps business prospects in Lima looked more promising. What-ever the reasons, by the time of the 1880 CENSUS, Adam and Maria had moved to Lima. The new brick yard was located on the south side of East Kibby Street on what is now the site of the Superior Body Company's plant. In the decades that followed, Lima boomed. It became a transportation hub (with 5 trunkline railroads), and a center of manufacturing. Oil was discovered in the city in 1885, and by the 1890's the Lima oil field produced about 20,000,000 barrels a year. It was the largest field then producing in the United States; the price of "Lima crude" (which averaged 60 cents a barrel in the 1890's) was the benchmark for the petroleum market until it was displaced by East Texas oil at the turn of the century. The population of Lima grew rapidly; it doubled by 1890, and reached 21,723 in 1900. Even after oil production began to decline, Lima's population growth continued, thanks to

*continued on page 16*

manufacturing, to 30,508 in 1910 and 41,326 in 1920.

The fortunate decision to move to Lima and much hard work made the Simons brick yard a thriving family business. All the sons started work there in the summers, when school was out; and for years the city directories show Frank and Henry A. as brick makers. They left their mark on the city. To name a few structures: the Allen County courthouse was built of Simons brick, as was the St. Rose Church's rectory and its old high school (now torn down). Some of the older buildings on the public square and in the business district of downtown Lima likewise were built with brick manufactured by Adam Simons and Sons. They also made paving bricks.

In this era of mechanization it's difficult to appreciate the amount of hard physical labor required by the methods of making bricks used a century ago in most brick yards. One faded photograph has survived from the Simons brick yard on Kibbly Street, showing men at work on the clay bank: a man with a large horse-drawn scoop pauses after dumping several cubic feet of clay beside a small four-wheel trolley on a narrow gauge track; men with shovels stand ready to load the clay, then trundle it into a work shed, to make the clay ready for processing, men with shovels, removed any pebbles or "hard pan" and sometimes had to add sand or ground cinders to the raw clay so that it would have the proper consistency. The prepared clay was shoveled into a barrel-shaped machine called a pug mill, and carefully measured amounts of water were added. Vanes in the pug mill were turned by a horse harnessed to a sweep until the clay was sufficiently malaxed; it was then allowed to extrude from an aperture at the bottom of the pug mill. The clay had to be plastic enough to flow into the moulds, yet stiff enough to keep its shape when unmoulded. To keep the clay from sticking, the wooden moulds were dipped into water, then dusted with sand. The raw bricks were emptied onto smooth planks and set out in racks to air-dry for two to three weeks, exposed to the sun and protected from the rain. The bricks were fired or "baked" to stone like hardness in kilns that had to be stoked with coal day and night for about 72 hours, then sealed, to cool slowly so that the bricks would not crack. The finished bricks were loaded onto wagons by hand: one man standing beside the kiln trolley, pitched bricks two at a time to a man on the wagon. At the building site or the railroad siding, the bricks were unloaded in the same fashion. The brick yard could not operate during the 3 months of freezing weather. So, given the fact that production at the Adam Simons & Sons brick yard averaged about a million bricks a year, it's clear that the 12-15 men employed there were skillful as well as hard workers.

When the Kibby Street clay bank was worked out, grandfather Adam bought 24 acres of land on the Spencerville Road, with access to the electric inter-urban line, just west of Lima. The brick yard was moved to that site, apparently in 1907. In early 1910, Adam (then 65 years old) broke his leg and could no longer carry on the business. Dad, who was at Purdue University studying engineering, had to drop out of school before the end of his Sophomore year to come home and take over the management of the yard. He found the business not very profitable, mainly because of two factors: the plant needed to be

*continued on page 17*

modernized to meet the competition; and a proper book-keeping system had to be started.

Grandfather Adam kept the brick yard's books in his hat. That is not just a metaphor; it was literally true. As Dad explained to us (and Byron Langan likewise told Blanche), Adam kept track of what he owed, and what people owed him, on slips of paper he stashed behind the sweatband inside his hat. When Dad and Byron Langan got into the problem they found that some people hadn't even been sent a bill. That situation was remedied by Byron Langan, who started keeping the books and handling the billing. Over the winter Dad helped with the bill-collecting, and the accounts receivable were sharply reduced. Adam had a policy of selling brick to his Church at cost, and that continued; but with accurate books at least the cost-price was more realistic.

Meanwhile, Dad set out to modernize the plant. Calling on his engineering training he installed a steam engine to power the pug mill. To cope with a labor shortage, a bunkhouse was built to house migrant workers from the South and the work force was increased to about 30 men (many of them black). The 1912 city directory shows that Henry had rejoined the firm and, in the 1914 directory, Adam and his sons Henry A., Raymond J. and Early J. all were listed as members of the firm "Adam Simons and Sons," brick manufacturers.

The electric inter-urban railroad made it possible to reach beyond local markets; in forays on his motorcycle Dad found new customers as far as 50 miles away, notably the Lutheran Church at Anna, Ohio, and the Seminary of St. Charles, built by the Catholic Order of the Precious Blood at Carthagen, Ohio. Production was increased to about 2 million brick per year. Profits improved. Dad told me that the sale price of brick varied between \$6 and \$7 per thousand, so gross sales were \$12-\$14,000 a year. As a basis for comparison, remember that sirloin steak sold then for 10 cents a pound, a large loaf of nourishing bread for 5 cents; to translate gross sales into current dollars, multiply accordingly.

With the increased profitability of brick yard came a decision to expand and rename to the Lima Clay Products Co. The 1916 city directory shows Adam as President, Raymond J. as Vice President; Byron Langan was Secretary-Treasurer. A major contract that year was the Seminary of St. Charles; an extract from its records shows deliveries of 1,051,100 Simons bricks. The base contract price for the Catholic Order of the Precious Blood was \$4.00 per 1,000, and the total cost-price paid was \$5,428.54, or \$5.17 per 1,000, or about 15% below the minimum commercial price. The Order mad an advance payment of \$1,000 on bricks to be delivered in 1917.

The Spencerville Road clay bank was nearly worked out by the end of 1916, so it was decided to open a new plant on the north edge of Lima. A rival brick maker, J.J. Snyder, had gone out of business; Alpheus McPherson bought his property, and joined the family firm as "manager". The new clay bank was located beyond the city limit at the intersection of Robb Avenue and N. Jefferson. In the winter of 1916-17 Dad built a new plant of that site, equipped to produce all kinds of Common Building Brick, Hollow Block and Drain Tile. The start-up was delayed by a problem of the bricks cracking when fired; Dad

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*continued from page 14*

scape distribution and fabrication market, we found the need to expand our yard space. In 2017, PSW built a new building, located down the street in Methuen, MA to accommodate the fabrication of house columns and bollards. The new building and acreage doubled our footprint. In November of 2018, we acquired Dean Column Co. of Queensbury, NY and began to manufacture products with a patented locking system, known as the Structural Lock System.

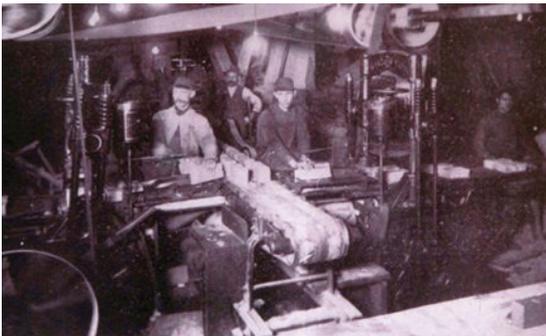
The PSW family is carrying on the tradition of top quality, innovative products and first class service for the masonry and lumber industries as a wholesaler in the Northeast and mid Atlantic states.

### ***Mission Statement***

Portland Stone Ware is a rock solid family owned and operated company dating back to 1847 serving the masonry and lumber industries. We marry modern technology with old fashion values to provide superior service and top quality innovative building products for our customers as they are the bedrock of our business.



*Portland Stone Ware Company*



*Making Bricks at Portland Stone Ware Company*



# The Bloomington, Illinois, Spring 2025 Brick Swap

*by James Kraft, Secretary*

Before I begin my review of this swap, let me say that the greatest strength of the I.B.C.A. is the people who are members. We currently have 285 family groups and 423 total members and associates. We have so many people behind the scenes who make unheralded financial contributions, dedicate their time and energy hosting tremendous swaps, volunteer in a multitude of ways, and have incredible talents, backgrounds, and careers. That being said, the Spring Swap in Illinois, hosted by Ed and Beth Wagner, was a perfect example of what I am talking about. The Wagner home site was truly a piece of Americana that Norman Rockwell would have fully appreciated. An untold variety of chicken breeds “crowed all day long” about how proud they were of their place of residence. The family dog greeted every single person as they went through the chow line inspecting their plates to be sure that each person got enough to eat with hopefully a few leftovers. This dog also gave a rousing greeting fit to start any coon hunt as auctioneer Jeff Bartheld asked if we were all having a good time. After the roar of laughter died down, Jeff commented that in all of his years of auctioneering, this was the funniest, loudest, and most unique greeting response that he has ever gotten before the first bid was even made. A traditional red barn in the background, which served as one of the most beautiful chicken coops ever, was so pretty that in the past, passing photographers on the road have not only photographed it, but had its image published and for sale in local book and gift shops. A multitude of gardens...flower gardens, vegetable gardens, geode gardens, and boulder gardens provided more to look at than one can imagine.



A garden sculpture created with clay tile, brick, and porcelain tile.



Only Ed and Beth know how many varieties of chickens wandered the grounds. This is their private access door to the big red barn.



Boulder Garden with columnar basalt volcanic rock.

# Bloomington, IL Brickswap

The Spring Swap was held on May 30th and 31st in a rural setting surrounded by windmills whose blades reached almost 500 feet to the heavens where the sky was decorated in blue with white, fluffy clouds. Ed and Beth Wagner were assisted by Mary Boesdorfer and Carole Harp who helped at the auction along with many other jobs such as directing parking, setting up, cleaning and many other behind-the-scene tasks. Members Alan and Jackie Fuhrmann came in early Friday morning and set up tables and coolers. Ed's parents, John and Jolleen Wagner, also came to the farm and helped with the hundreds of tasks that go into making the "perfect swap" a reality.

Ed is a geology teacher and his collection of rocks, geodes, fossils, and columnar basalt (volcanic rock such as that found in Devil's Tower, Wyoming) were truly spectacular. Some people have a "brick barn" and others a "brick shed". Some members display their bricks in sidewalks or walls. Ed did all of those plus he had brick mazes that went on-and-on meandering from one building to another.



*Ed Wagner combined concrete with geodes in a home-made mold to create these marvelous garden liners which surround a beautiful flower garden.*



*Who doesn't love a pergola with a brick floor, side geologic dry beds, and natural gourd martin houses?*

After beautiful weather Friday afternoon with trading, gathering around tailgates, visiting, and soaking in the country vibe, everyone headed out to the White Oak Community Building in nearby Carlock, Illinois, around 5 p.m. There they enjoyed an all you-can-eat buffet line, drinks, appetizers, and a quilt display made from photos of many, many I.B.C.A. members. By my count, there were at least 62 people at the evening dinner.

Saturday morning, 40 vehicles parked in an open, elongated L, and an astonishing number of high quality bricks were laid out behind the many vehicles. Many vehicles were decorated to show ownership as well as member numbers. This was once again at the Wagner's homestead on the west end among a vari-

# May 30th - 31st, 2025

ety of trees, menacing dinosaur creatures, and a gorgeous boulder garden with no visible weeds. When the whistle sounded at 9 a.m., there was the usual pandemonium and aerobic bending and walk-running to keep everyone in top physical shape. An estimated 80 people took part and learned once again that 8 to 10 pound weights test physical limitations when multiples of four to six bricks are at-tempted at once.

Around 10:30 a.m., the bricks had found new homes and it was time for the fund-raising auction. As mentioned, Jeff Bartheld did a wonderful job of combining speed and humor to get top dollar bids for items. Fifty-two items were auctioned off for a total of \$1852.50. The top selling item was a “CROWN TIGER” brick which raised a generous \$175 and was purchased by Pat Haberman. At this point, some people packed up for home or continued on to numerous midwest cultural or historic attractions. Others took their seats in the shade and enjoyed a lunch that had been pre-ordered and was provided by a local food wagon.

In summary, “kudos” to the Wagner family on a spectacular swap and we all “thank you” for your hospitality and hard work.



**Jeff Bartheld emphasizes that swatting at flies may cost you \$100 during the auction.**



**Crown Tiger brick purchased by Pat Haberman**



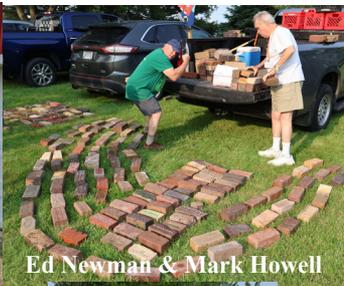
**Mark Walters of Lawrence, Kansas, poses with one of the fabulous and interesting items sold at the Saturday auction. This was an Allwine Liberty Bell sculpture celebrating our nation’s bicentennial.**

# Bloomington, IL Brick Swap Photos

Photos by Mike Shelton



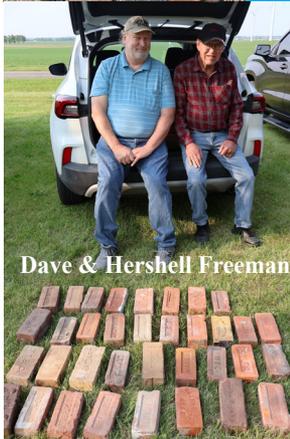
John & David Lambert



Ed Newman & Mark Howell



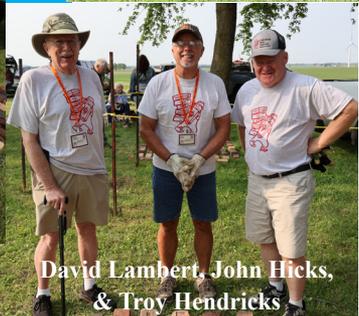
Beth & Ed Wagner



Dave & Hershell Freeman



Steve & Natalae Tillman



David Lambert, John Hicks, & Troy Hendricks



Jeff Nickels



Lisa Miller



IBC Quilt



Laurie Traxier & Jean Bear

# Bloomington, IL Brick Swap Photos

Photos by Mike Shelton



Jackie & Terry Taraba



Tom Somerville & Chris Jones

Susan Somerville, Maria Nickels, & Darla Hendricks



Steve Axtell



Joe Vargo



Dan, Isaac, Noel & Susan Strance



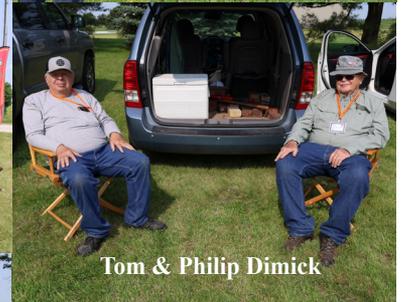
John Morgan & Wendy Patzewitsch



Before Brick Swap



T-Rex



Tom & Philip Dimick



Justin & Carmen Kenner



Mark Walters



Mike Shelton & Jake Huey

# Just in Time for the New Year - Bricks, Pavers, Hexes and Beams

<https://lindaapplewhite.com/just-in-time-for-the-new-year-bricks-pavers-hexes-and-beams>

By Linda Applewhite



Happy New Year! Welcome to our first blog post of 2024, with apologies for our absence these past few months. Here at our Golden Gate jobsite, we've had weekly challenges with rainy, stormy, icky weather saturating our steeply graded property. Fortunately, the hardscape elements we built on our precipitous hillside have successfully protected us from serious mudslides.

Adding to our weather woes, we had a Marin Municipal Water District failure in our cul-de-sac that caused flooding and thousands of dollars' worth of damage to the property. Yes, it has been a wet, drizzly, surprised-filled fall and winter for us here in Northern California!

But there is sunlight in this saga as well. Our team of skillful masons, gifted tile setters and masterly carpenters now has a roof over their head as they install the historic architectural elements you'll soon see on the upper two floors of the house. The rugged architectural bricks, pavers, hexes and beams not only support the framing, but also embellish the floors, walls and ceilings in truly magical ways.



*Newly-built reclaimed brick structure*

The image above is of a crusty, smoke-tinged pile of 100-year-old American bricks and rubble that we saved from the original 1927 turret. Although the reclaimed bricks are primarily rusty red, we found a source for distressed vintage

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bricks in black, white, yellow, orange, pink and cream. We interspersed the original battered blocks of red clay with multi-colored vintage bricks, creating a distinctive new structure that emulates the earlier turret's presence in a new way.



On a recent afternoon at the job-site, our mason, Jon Smith, announced that “brick is back” as he described the new homes his company is working on in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys. And while I don’t follow trends, my heart skipped a beat when Jon spoke the words “traditional architecture.” I was thrilled to hear homeowners in Napa and Sonoma were actually building classical homes again with authentic brick facades.

Jon’s crew has just resurrected our 25’-tall, old-world turret. It had cracked during excavation, requiring the whimsically unique fairy tale structure to be torn down and lovingly rebuilt.

We were fortunate in our search for historic architectural materials to discover antique French pavers at the San Francisco Design Center. The century-old 9”x 14” terra cotta pavers in colors of butter-yellow and creamy-peach had shipped from France and were perfect for



the two main floors of our home. They beautifully re-created the look of old Spanish flooring that I have admired for years in my collection of books on Spanish Revival architecture.

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said it was solved by adding carefully measured amounts of crushed cinders to the clay as it was being malaxed in the steam driven pug mill. In the Spring of 1917, at the beginning of the first production run, the new plant burned down.

By the time I started working on these essays, Dad could no longer recall the month and day of the fire, because a stroke had impaired his memory. Still, one would think it would be easy to find the date of a fire that size, but it wasn't, because there is a gap in the newspaper files: all the issues for the months of April and May 1917 are missing from the microfilm of both Lima papers, and June is also missing for the morning paper. In William Russler's *STANDARD HISTORY OF ALLEN COUNTY* (pub. 1921), the destruction of the Lima Clay Products plant with a loss of \$12,000 is included in the list of the "most disastrous" fires in the county's history. But the date Russler gave (January 17, 1917) was in error (a fire in the railroad repair shops took place that day). Finally, at the Allen County Museum a staff member found in the basement a ledger book in which were recorded all of the alarms answered during several decades by the Lima Fire Depart, and there was the date: June 7, 1917. With that guidance I then found the account in the evening newspaper, copied here in the original format:

The cause of the blaze was no mystery to Dad. He told us that to start a fire in the kiln, the night watchman had to put a long piece of plank on the kindling in the firebox; when he couldn't close the firebox door he left it open, with the piece of wood sticking out, and went off to supper. The plank burned through, and the end fell out of the firebox onto some boards. The conflagration was well started when the watchman returned.

Both newspaper stories and the fire department records confirm that there was no fire insurance on the brick yard's new buildings and equipment. Why? Dad told us: "The insurance was so expensive we just couldn't afford it at that stage". The prohibitively high insurance rate is explained by the fact (brought out in the newspaper) that the plant was not within reach of Lima's fire hydrants. But that is not the entire story, as I learned a year or so after Dad's death from cousin Blanche Langan, whose father Byron was treasurer of the company. With much difficulty he had finally managed to raise the money for the insurance, and on the morning that production was to start he gave it to Alpheus McPheron, then president of the company. Uncle Alpheus was to have gone

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THE LIMA DAILY NEWS  
Friday [afternoon], June 8, 1917, page 13.  
col. 1

**FIRE DESTROYS  
BRICK PLANT IN  
NORTH END CITY**

**Lima Clay Products Company  
Suffers \$15,000 Loss By  
Night Blaze.  
All Buildings Are Destroyed  
With Exception of the  
Main Office.**

Fire of an unknown origin, first discovered in one of the dry kilns by the night watchman, resulted in a \$15,000 loss to the Lima Clay Products company last night. Lack of water with which to fight the flames, left the fire department helpless after arriving at the scene in time to have saved all the buildings including the kiln in which the blaze started. The destroyed plant is located just north-east of the city limits at the intersection of the end of east O'Connor avenue and the C. H. & D. tracks.

According to A. McPheron, president of the corporation, the plant is a total loss, having been covered by only \$3,000 insurance. All buildings were destroyed with the exception of the main office on which Fire Chief Mack concentrated all efforts with water buckets and chemicals, after realizing the impossibility to save the rest of the plant.

Thousands of people, many in automobiles, witnessed the blaze. It took on such dimensions as to push the crowd back within a quarter mile to escape the intensive heat. The fire could be seen in nearly all the surrounding townships, and local telephone operators were kept busy answering long distance calls. The sky was illuminated for miles. The plant will be rebuilt, the work of erecting new buildings to begin at

down town right away to pay the fire insurance premium, but as Blanche put it: "Something came up, and he didn't go". The next day it was too late.

The rebuilding announced in the newspaper did not take place, for the reason that they decided it was impossible to meet some new competition from out of town. As Dad described it: "Just about that time an Illinois firm started delivering brick to the railroad siding in Lima at a price lower than our cost of production. They had a 30 foot clay bank on which the clay was dug mechanically, which was something we could not hope to do on the 4 foot clay bank we had. So we didn't rebuild".



**FOR SALE**

**I . B . C . A .**  
**T-shirts and Hats**

Look for us at the Brick Swaps  
to purchase your t-shirts, sweatshirts,  
hats, key chains, bags,  
or license plates.

[darlahendricks@frontier.com](mailto:darlahendricks@frontier.com)

A cartoon illustration of a man in a blue uniform and cap, carrying a tall stack of red bricks. The bricks have various text on them, including "I.B.C.A.", "T-shirts", and "Hats". The man is walking towards the right.

# Rattler Revisit

*Submitted by Jean Bear, IBCA #622*

Early in my brick-collecting “career,” I learned about the existence of the rattler test for paving bricks. My interest in the process led me to extensive research that resulted in a story published in IBCA Journals; installments can be found in Volume 24 #2 through Volume 24 #2. For those readers who missed the series, I will begin with a brief summary.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, the United States began to have interest in bricks as a possibility for use in paving its city streets. Engineers tested bricks for crushing strength and water absorption to learn whether bricks could withstand heavy loads and freeze/thaw cycles. However, the major challenge on streets was pounding and abrasion from the cleated horseshoes and iron-bound wheels of the carriages and wagons that crowded the streets.

Engineers began to look for ways to test the abrasion-resistance of bricks; after all, it made little sense to invest in paving a street with costly bricks if they wore out within a few years. They considered using the type of machine that was commonly used in foundries. There, rattlers were used to tumble and clean rough castings by rotating them in a drum that also held smaller chunks of metal. Engineers in various cities rented or bought rattlers from foundries, and every man had his own ideas about how to test bricks in the rattler and about which bricks performed well enough to be used in his city’s streets.

Eventually, through much trial and error, as well as two sets of rules that were later rejected, standards were created and accepted in 1911, and all paving bricks to be tested were subjected to the same test. Ten dry, clean bricks were inserted into the standard rattler, a horizontal barrel made up of 14 staves with gaps between them to allow escape of dust and chips. Besides the ten bricks, the rattler also held 10 cast iron spheres 3.75” in diameter (75 pounds total), and about 252 small spheres that were 1.875” diameter (225 pounds, total). These spheres were made of cast iron with a very specific chemical composition, and rules were set to ensure that worn spheres were replaced as needed.

The loaded rattler was bolted shut and then rotated at 30 rpm for 1800 revolutions to be completed in one hour. At the end of this noisy test, a stove was unbolted, and the bricks were removed and weighed again. The percent of weight loss indicated the bricks’ ability to withstand pounding and abrasion. Good bricks might lose 12%; poorer ones might suffer breakage and lose more than 40%. Individual city engineers had the opportunity to reject bricks that lost more weight than they felt was acceptable, and order products from another company.

Asphalt and concrete became more popular over time; rubber tires caused less wear on streets, and the rattler test fell out of favor. It is likely that most of the machines were melted down for scrap during WWII. My research

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led me to Ohio State University, where Professor Edward Orton, Jr. conducted extensive testing to develop the standards for the rattler test. His laboratory was located in the basement of what is now Orton Hall, the campus library. Although I was thrilled to be allowed to handle and copy his handwritten records, I was not allowed to go into his lab, which apparently still exists but is closed to the public. For many years, I have wished to see an actual rattler.



*PORTER paving brick that has gone through a rattler test, contrasted with an untested PORTER. Some of the lettering can still be seen, and traces of the lugs are barely visible.*

When visiting the W. A. Young & Sons Foundry and Machine Shop in Rices Landing, PA, I learned that the shop had opened in the very early 1900s, and when it closed about 70 years ago, everything was left behind. Now, tours are available from time to time, and the public can see how these old foundries/machine shops operated. I was thrilled to see a rattler, tucked away in a corner and surrounded by old scrap! Though definitely larger than the Standard Rattler for Paving Bricks, this machine was the type that was first used for testing bricks, so I was excited to see it.



*W. A. Young & Sons Foundry and Machine Shop in Rices Landing, PA, and their old rattler.*

# HOLY YEAR BRICK

<https://www.papalartifacts.com/portfolio-item/brick-of-the-holy-door-of-st-peters-basilica-from-1900>



In the context of Roman Catholicism, "bricks" and "pope" are connected through the Holy Door ceremony, which marks the beginning and end of Jubilee Years at major basilicas in Rome. The bricks are used to seal the Holy Doors, and the pope plays a role in symbolically opening and closing them during these special years.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

## ***Holy Doors and Jubilees:***

The Holy Doors at the four major basilicas in Rome (St. Peter's, St. Paul's Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran, and St. Mary Major) are closed with bricks between Jubilees.

## ***The Pope's Role:***

The pope traditionally plays a part in the ceremony of opening and closing the Holy Door. In the past, the pope would literally use a hammer to smash through the brick seal, but this practice is now discontinued due to safety concerns.

## ***Bricks as Symbols:***

The Holy Door bricks are ornate and decorated with the papal coat of arms and other symbols of the papacy. They serve as a tangible reminder of the Jubilee Year and the special spiritual indulgences associated with it.

## ***Remembrance and Souvenirs:***

In the past, people would collect pieces of the bricks from the opening ceremony as mementos or relics of the Holy Year. Today, the bricks are removed in advance and distributed to people working at the Vatican.

## ***Jubilee of 2025:***

The upcoming Jubilee of 2025 includes the opening of the Holy Door, marking the start of the special spiritual year, according to Vatican News.



## Don't Ask Me!

By Jim Graves, IBCA Librarian

Write: "Don't Ask Me!" - 3265 N. Hood Ct. - Wichita, KS 67204

e-mail: k\_jgraves@hotmail.com

IBCA LIBRARIAN JIM GRAVES INVITES MEMBER'S BRICK RELATED QUESTIONS

*Hello,*

*I am looking for information about a brick that was supposedly produced in your state, presumably by Pyro Fire Clay Co. Brick with OkilO stamp. I accidentally discovered this brick in Russia in the Republic of Tatarstan in the suburbs of Kazan on the banks of the Volga River. I am attaching a photo of this brick, I darkened the stamp with a pencil for contrast. There was another brick with the PYRO STEEL stamp next to it. I would like to know the years of production of these bricks, and perhaps there is information about exports to Russia. Thank you very much.*



Hi Evgenii,

Thank you for your email. It never ceases to amaze me how bricks get around this world. I found bricks from Northern Ireland in Saudi Arabia years ago and bricks from Scotland are found on the West Coast of the U.S as well as the East Coast of Canada. Your two bricks were made by the Pyro Clay Products Co. at Oakhill, Ohio. Unfortunately, I am unable to date them as they are listed in my earliest brand listing of 1921 and my latest of 1958. I am attaching a brief history of the company but essentially, Pyro Clay Products operated circa 1909-1953 when the name was changed to Pyro Refractories 1953-1956. It was then purchased by A.P.Green and operated until 1965. All three companies report making both brands. Interestingly, the OKILLO is reported to be a 2nd quality brick while the PYRO is a 1st quality brick. (I could never understand why a company would make 2nd quality wares but I have seen brick marked 2nd QUALITY.) Unfortunately there no records available to show shipping details. Kazan is a long way from the ocean but I assume there is shipping up the Volga.

I hope that this answers some of your questions.

Jim

*Good afternoon!*

*My brother and I found some brick labeled "J (CBMA) B" when we were removing a faux fireplace from our house. We were curious about it so I was reading some information online about bricks local to our area. It appears as if they are bricks from "Jackson Brothers."*

*Our house was built in 1903 in Troy very close to the RPI college campus, but I doubt the faux fireplace was original to the house. The "J (CBMA) B" bricks were on the interior, and then bricks stamped "CUSHWA" and "Hanley Co" on the exterior of the structure.*

*I saw the "J (CBMA) B" brick listed in the "Andy Van Der Poel Collection" but not the pictorial "Brick Collection and Identifier" on the main website. I was wondering if you had any information on Jackson Brothers, and if there was any chance you might want any of the bricks?*

*Sincerely,  
Amy*

Hi Amy,

Thanks for reaching out to me. I always enjoy questions such as yours as I get to search the internet and find new items for the library. I had the same information that you did from Andy about the J (CBMA) B brick so I did some searching to see if I could find some dates of operation. Imagine my surprise when I couldn't find a Jackson Bros in N.Y. After a few days of searching, I finally found this listing of the Jackson Bros. in 1893. They weren't listed in any other year or publication. That brought up a couple of problems, 1. the CBMA wasn't formed until June 1918 and 2. the report says they made no common brick, a few pressed brick and a lot of tile. My next search was of the C.B.M.A. records. Years ago, I had made a database of almost 600 members from the years 1919-1930. There was a Jackson Brick in Jackson, Mississippi but I didn't think that it was the one so I kept on digging. It turned into a rabbit hunt with lots of twists and turns which resulted in my finding six years of membership records (which I haven't had time to go through yet) and a lot of other information about the C.B.M.A. including a note in the March 1920 Brick & Clay Record that the trademark was being dropped because of a legal decision that organizations couldn't have trademarks. (what about union symbols?) If this is true, then the symbol would have only been used for a few years. Of note, I have been going through the Patent Gazettes searching for brick trademarks for the last couple of months and never found it listed.

I'm afraid that I haven't answered your question and in fact have opened it up to a lot more speculation. I'll start work on the membership records and see if I can find any J B's to fit your brick.

Jim

Jim,  
 New to me...found on beach of lake erie.  
 It's not on brick name so I'm going to have to look it up in the book.  
 David Fortney



David,

Great find. I attached this to your post. I was planning to send this to Darla.

Jim

**Send for Agecrost Window Details**

THERE are two complete series of Agecrost window specials, (1) a double splay series for solid masonry and (2) a single splay series for brick veneer.

Design details are available for every feature of brick assembly, window installation and trim, including casement or double hung windows.

These window specials have the lovely Agecrost surface, a wonderful medium for the reproduction of well weathered models from early English and colonial sources.

**AGECROST**  
 Oldstyle MEDAL Brick

-DETAILS- OF- SINGLE-SPLAY- AGECROST-WINDOW-DRICK-  
 -IN- VENEER- WALL- DRAWING- ARRANGEMENT- OF- INTERIOR- TRIM-

HUED- DRICK- OPENING- JAMBES- BE- INCREASED- 3/4"-  
 WIDTH- &- HUBS- ADAPT- SPEC- OPEN- ON-  
 -COLUMBIA- WINDOW- OPENINGS-

-PLAN- OF- JAMB- -PLAN- OF- MULLION-  
 -SCALE- ONE- QUARTER- FULL- SIZE-

**THE MEDAL BRICK & TILE COMPANY, WOOSTER, OHIO**

Good day Jim!

I have been searching for info on bricks marked KOHLER that I found amongst the fresh remains of a building in Toledo, Ohio. A picture is listed on brickname.com but no other info. I have included a picture of mine as an attachment. If you have any other info on them it would be greatly appreciated!

Thanks so much,  
Tina Merrell



Hi Tina,

Thanks for the photo. There was a Koehler Brick co. in Toledo circa 1891-1923. I guess it probably made the bricks you found. The date of the building would clench it.

Keep on bricking,  
Jim

---

Hi

Any idea?

With appreciation, Todd



Hi Todd,

Your brick was made by the Glen-Gery corporation. I couldn't remember when they started using that logo so I did a bit of searching and found the trademark registration. As you can see, they started using it in 1968. Unfortunately, there isn't any way to tell which plant yours came from.

Keep on bricking,  
Jim

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SN 317,035. Glen-Gery Corporation, Reading, Pa. Filed  
Jan. 21, 1968.



**Class 1—Raw or Partly Prepared Materials**

For Fluorspar Briquettes (Int. Cl. 1).  
First use Aug. 30, 1968.

**Class 12—Construction Materials**

For Fired Brick and Building Tiles (Int. Cl. 19).  
First use Aug. 22, 1968.

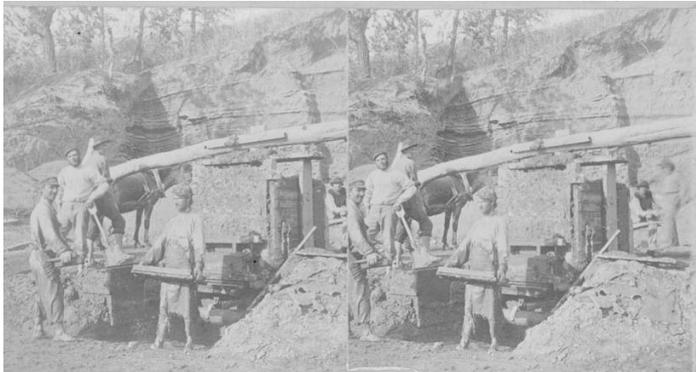
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# Hebron Brick Company

<https://www.ndstudies.gov/gr8/content/unit-iii-waves-development-1861-1920>

The first brick buildings in what is now North Dakota were probably constructed at Fort Stevenson on the Missouri River in the 1860s. The buildings were of adobe (dried dirt and clay bricks), but the chimneys were of fired (hardened) bricks. The basement of the commissary storehouse was also made of brick. The bricks were brought up-river from St. Louis. The bricks made a heavy and space-consuming load. It was not long before military engineers discovered clays on the surface of Dakota Territory that were of a good quality for making bricks.

Soldiers at Fort Ransom replaced their drafty cottonwood log buildings in 1868 with bricks they made at the fort. Around 1870, soldiers and civilians at Fort Totten were also making bricks for fort buildings. Both forts used local clay deposits for their bricks and small kilns to fire the bricks. (See below)



By the early 1870s, Fargo was a growing city with a couple of brickyards. These brickyards did not stay in business long. Other towns in the Red River Valley also made use of local clay deposits to produce bricks for local use. These brickyards were not large businesses. Most brickmakers did not expect to build a business big enough to ship bricks to another city or state.

In 1883, when the territorial capital moved from Yankton to Bismarck, it was necessary to build a new capitol building. (See Image 4.) There was a brickyard in Bismarck that supplied bricks for local construction. However, the bricks from the Sims brickyard in western Morton County were thought to be of better quality. The new capitol was built with Sims bricks. These bricks, however, had bits of lime in the mix. Over the years, the bricks were exposed to weather that caused the lime to wash out. The building remained structurally sound, but the brick face appeared rough.

*continued on page 36*

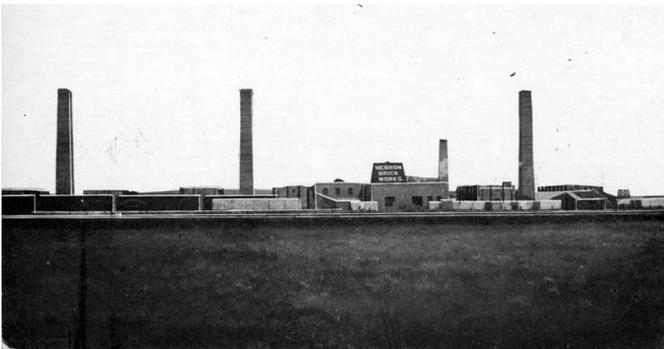
Brick buildings helped solve one of North Dakota's problems. There were few trees to harvest for lumber. Bricks provided a solution to the lumber problem. They were made from locally supplied clay were relatively inexpensive for new buildings.

Fire was another problem that all cities faced. Wooden buildings burned easily and fire brigades were ill-equipped to fight a city-wide fire. After a fire, many cities re-built with brick which was far less likely to burn. City leaders and insurance companies encouraged building with brick because the city was far less likely to burn to the ground if many of the buildings were constructed from brick. In the 1870s, the territorial legislature required schools to be built of brick. Towns with brick factories tried to comply with the law. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company identified brick and wooden buildings in each city as well as fire departments and water systems. Owners of brick buildings paid lower premiums for fire insurance than owners of wood buildings.

The largest and most important brick manufacturing company in North Dakota got its start in Hebron in 1904. One of the founders of the business, Charles Weigel, was a German immigrant and experienced ceramist, or someone who works with clay. Weigel arrived in Hebron in 1891 and spent his spare time locating clay deposits and testing them for quality. He found several likely sources of clay. Weigel and his partners established a brickyard that produced 3,000,000 bricks in its first year. While people were building houses of brick in Hebron, there were few other markets for Hebron brick. But Weigel and his partner Ferdinand Leutz kept on making bricks. Soon the quality of their product was well-known.

In 1916, Hebron Brick had orders for 3,000,000 bricks. The company was so prosperous that it built a short rail line to bring clay from the deposits about five miles north of town to the plant in Hebron. The company employed 125 men "at good wages" and the plant was "running day and night."

The Hebron brick company had several problems in common with other brick companies. A fire destroyed the plant in 1926. There were labor disputes. A labor shortage forced the company to hire workers from Romania who soon left because they did not like North Dakota winters.



*Hebron Brick Works Plant*



The Trading Post is where members can list bricks they are looking to add to their collections. Please email this information to [darlahendricks@frontier.com](mailto:darlahendricks@frontier.com) for upcoming Journals.

**WANTED:**

I am searching for two McFeely bricks from Pennsylvania. Please contact Jordan Pickens #1805 at 740-416-9667.



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**WANTED:**

Looking for a raised letter “Bay City” paver. Willing to trade “McManigal 1892 or a sidewalk Star paver.

Also, I am looking for a “SWAT THE FLY” brick.

I am willing to trade certain old U.S. coins for early IBCA Journals - Issue One, Number One I am particularly wanting.

Please contact Phil Deckenbach, IBCA #3, 2564 Beaufort Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43613

# IBCA FINANCIAL REPORT

January 15, 2025 - April 30, 2025

**Beginning balance**

**Deposits**

Dues, Contributions  
Normal, IL Auction

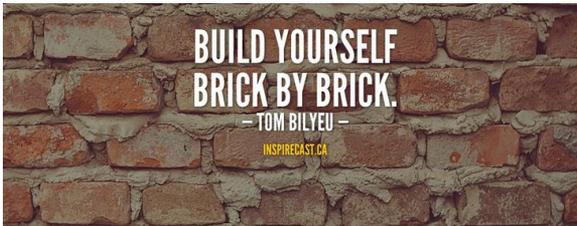
**Expenses**

Spring 2025 Journal & Mailing  
Brickname.com annual expense  
Treasurers expense (2-6-24 / 4-30-25) -  
Bank charge back and fee (3.00)  
Domain name services (5 yr.)

**Ending balance**

**Investment fund**

**TOTAL FUNDS**



**Mail Dues:**

**Dan Strange**  
**1450 Blue Run Road**  
**Minden, LA 71055**

# My Favorite Brick



*Tyler Hampshire and Chris Jones*

We provided each other with our favorite bricks.  
Tyler received a Capital brick and  
Chris received a Spiderweb brick.