

Eastern Stone Ware Factory

Sheboygan, Wisconsin

1863 - 1885

Sheboygan's first stoneware factory grew out of an earlier earthenware pottery operated by Bavarian immigrant Peter Berns. In 1855, Berns purchased the north 1/3 of lots 5 and 6, Block 44, City of Sheboygan, at the southeast corner of Ninth Street and Superior Avenue, across the street from Holy Name Catholic Church. He apparently lived upon the same parcel which contained the pottery business, and in 1859 advertised in Sheboygan's Dutch-Language newspaper, *Nieusbode*:

Peter Berns, pottenbakker in de negende straut, nabij de onde Plank Road, Sheboygan, Wis. bevelt xijnen vorrand van pottenbakkerswaren nau, on beloeft eene goede bedizening en civiele prijgen.¹

[Peter Berns, potter in the ninth street, near the lower Plank Road, Sheboygan, Wis. commands his order of pottery wares, unpromised good service and civil praise.]

In 1860 at 36 years of age he was living with his Bavarian-born wife Rosina (37) and their Wisconsin-born daughter Mary (six months).² At this time their home and business were valued at \$1300, along with personal property worth \$100. He estimated only \$100 invested in the pottery business, which consumed 60 tons of clay worth \$10 and 40 cords of wood valued at \$50.³ His motive power was described as "*hand*", and he employed an average of two helpers in the shop which cost \$50 per month. Together they produced "*20,000 pieces of pottery*" during the past year, valued at \$720.⁴ These were red earthenware vessels, made from local clay.

Berns' exuberance for his product can easily be seen in local newspaper advertisements, which he placed in Sheboygan's German-language newspaper National Demokrat Feb. 8, 1861, through Feb. 15, 1862, translated from the original German language newspaper advertisement:

[POTTERY OF PETER BERNs]

On the 9th Street, between the Plank Road and the Catholic Church.

I hereby inform my [fellow] German country-people that I have on hand a pretty selection of Pottery, saucepans and all my precisely thrown articles of my carefully-fashioned pottery.

Particularly, I draw your attention to my clay ovens [Kachelofen] of good and inexpensive manufacture and assembly.

Orders will be quickly and punctually delivered.

P. Berns

Sheboygan February 8, 1861.]⁵

Of particular interest is reference to a Kachelofen, or European-style clay tile stove. For centuries, different forms of these radiant heating devices had been popular throughout Europe from France to Russia, Sweden to Italy. The idea was to circulate warmed air through a clay tile labyrinth to warm the tiles and thereby the surrounding air and room. The potter formed a series of dimensional hollow clay tiles of planned shape and size; once fired, these tiles were assembled to form a hollow radiant heating

stove. Tiles could be cylindrical or pot-shaped held within a mortar matrix, while other designs utilized square molded tiles, which were assembled as one might lay-up brick or modern concrete block. Some stoves were designed with an integral iron or brick-lined firebox, while others were built against a wall and connected through the wall with a more expensive and durable iron stove in the adjacent room. A fire was kindled in the iron stove and the warmed air passed through the wall into the tile stove to warm the Kachelofen, then back again into the iron stove and up the chimney, providing "free" heat to the second room for the same expenditure of fuel.

Clay tile stoves met several European needs very well, particularly regarding the scarcity and expense of both fuel and iron stoves. But in mid-nineteenth century America these scarcities better were met by expansive forests and extensive iron works, making cheap firewood and cast-iron stoves available to almost anyone. A number of recently arrived immigrant potters offered the Kachelofen among their product line, but soon adapted to American tastes and markets and abandoned this production. None of Peter Berns' tile stoves or individual clay stove tiles are known to survive.

There are no pottery examples that can be attributed to Peter Berns known to the authors. It is unlikely that Peter Berns marked his wares, and the clay and glaze colors could be similar to those of other Sheboygan County potteries such as the Langenberg Pottery in Franklin. It is quite possible that surviving Berns pottery may be mis-attributed as Langenberg pottery.

In April, 1861 Democrat Berns was elected Alderman from Sheboygan's Fourth Ward.⁶ Later that year he purchased 2 1/2 acres of land on lot 50 of Bates addition in the far northwestern corner of the city along the Sheboygan and Calumet Plank Road,⁷ perhaps to expand or relocate his business from the downtown area. One year later Alderman Berns announced expansion of his business but at a different location:

Stone Ware Manufactory. -- We learn that several new manufacturing and business enterprises are in contemplation to be started in this city the present season. Among these is a large Stone Ware Manufactory for making crocks, jars, jugs, churns, &c., and we believe even the better kind of glazed ware for household purposes; such as is now manufactured very extensively in Ohio, and much of which finds its way into this section.

There are seven persons engaged in this enterprise, one of whom is said to be Mr. Peter Berns, who owns the Pottery in the 4th Ward, and the others are from abroad. We are informed that they have obtained a five years' lease of the old Candle Factory Building on Jefferson Avenue, east of Eighth street, together with the lots adjoining between that and Lyman's Ashery, with the privilege of extending it five years longer if they desire it. The works are to be erected on a large scale, the oven alone requiring 35,000 bricks for its construction. The clay of which the ware is to be made, will be brought from Ohio.⁸

Change of Programme -- The transformation, by lease, of the old Candle Factory and adjacent lot, on Jefferson Avenue, into an extensive stone ware manufactory, as we announced two weeks since, has since been abandoned, the projectors of the enterprise having purchased the building and lot owned by Mr. C. Riecke, on the corner of Eighth and Wisconsin streets, for that purpose. They paid for the property \$1,075, and we believe, intend to take immediate steps to convert it into an extensive manufactory of all kinds of Ohio stone ware.⁹



Sales of Property:

Mr. C. Rickie [sic] sold to Messrs. Peter Berns & Co., the building and lot next to the corner of Eighth and Wisconsin streets, for \$1,075. The above building is immediately to be converted into a Pottery, by the purchasers, who intend to carry on the business extensively.¹⁰

Just six weeks later they announced:



Figure 1 Six-gallon crock with stamp at the upper left: "TH. GUNTHER / & / BERN'S / SHEBOYGAN." in an oval and incised "6". Private collection.

The new pottery, in this city, will soon be completed and in operation.¹¹

The Stoneware Factory of Messrs. Guenther & Berns, corner of Eighth and Wisconsin streets, is nearly ready for operation [June 13, 1863]. The oven or kiln in which the ware is baked and glazed, and which not a little resembles some ancient fort or tower, is up and enclosed in a large building on the rear of the lot, and an apartment for grinding the clay has been constructed in the cellar of the building in front, so that it can be used in the winter as well as summer. This manufacture promises to be an important item in the business of our city.¹²

Just a week later a cargo of clay was landed at the port of Sheboygan for

Gunther and Berns. At that time and given sufficient drought, Lake Michigan sailing vessels could run up the Sheboygan River past the Pennsylvania Avenue drawbridge to deliver their cargo. It is likely that the clay was off-loaded along Water Street and trundled uphill to the pottery in wheelbarrows and wagons.

*Schooner Fannie & Floy. - Capt. T. A. Long, arrived at this port last Tuesday from Buffalo, loaded with water lime and clay. The clay was brought for the new Pottery, in this city. The Fannie & Floy was to sail again last Thursday for Buffalo. She had on board 5,500 bushels of wheat. This schooner is making her regular trips, and doing a good business in the freight line.*¹³

The previous newspaper advertisement also announced the other prime mover in the Eastern Stone Ware Factory, Mr. Theodore Gunther:

*Theodore Gunther ... was a native of Metz, Province of Elsass [sic], Germany, where he was born Sept. 16, 1826.... He learned the pottery trade in Paris, and came to America in 1855, going first to Akron, O[hio], where he worked at his trade, about a year, then going to Dubuque, Iowa, he followed the liquor business about 6 months. He then went with an exploring party through Minnesota, but returned to Ohio, thence to Detroit, Mich., where he married Miss Bertha Schafer, Oct. 30, 1858. After working there about a year he moved to Milwaukee where he remained a little over two years, working at his trade, and moved to Sheboygan April 16, 1863.*¹⁴

In 1862, Theodore Gunther was living in Milwaukee at 318 East Water Street in the home of Charles Hermann, proprietor of Milwaukee's largest stoneware factory who also maintained a grocery store and broom factory at the same address.¹⁵ Just a year later local newspapers noted the opening of Sheboygan's new "Eastern Stone Ware Factory":

*Stone Ware Manufactory. - We call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Messrs. Gunther & Berns' Stone Ware Manufactory in to-day's paper. This establishment is destined to occupy an important position among the manufacturing enterprises of Sheboygan, and every dealer in or user of the wares there made should bestow his patronage upon it, for we believe he will find it to his advantage to do so. We shall refer to this establishment again when we have more leisure than we have just now.*¹⁶

EASTERN STONE WARE!
manufactured by
TH. GUNTHER & BERNs,
Cor. Eighth & Wisconsin Sts., Sheboygan.

The undersigned have recently commenced the manufacture of Eastern Stone Ware of all descriptions at the place above named, which they will warrant equal to the best imported, and which they will sell at wholesale or retail at the lowest possible rates. Being made of New Jersey Clay, it is of a much finer and superior quality to the Ohio ware.

A full stock of the different kinds of ware kept constantly on hand, and any style of ware desired will be made to order. Dealers will find it to their advantage to give us a call before buying elsewhere.

TH. GUNTHER
Sheboygan, Aug. 15, 1863.¹⁷

PETER BERNs

That their ware was "*equal to the best imported*" was declared later that year at the Sheboygan County Agricultural Society, which awarded a discretionary premium to "Berns & Co." for "*best show of pottery.*"¹⁸ Also of note is a reference that "*any style of ware desired will be made to order,*" reflecting Gunther's willingness to innovate, to produce stoneware forms out of the mainstream which fit a need and generated additional business. He produced several forms of stoneware churn which utilized crank-driven iron gears and wooden paddles to churn butter in a new way, creating a stir among the public here and elsewhere:



Figure 2 Mechanical dasher from a Gunther butter churn. Private collection.

*A Whirlwind Churn is now on exhibition in Vermont and attracts much attention from dairy men. Its peculiarities are a "dasher," whose arms, arranged spirally around the axis, work the cream in one direction, and a simple apparatus by which a current of fresh air is constantly forced in an opposite direction through the cream while so worked. The dasher breaks the globules or sacs, and the fresh air at once stiffens their contents, and the butter is immediately made. On actual tests this churn has made good butter from cream in one minute and a half of churning, and from sweet milk in from four to five minutes. When the butter is made from the milk directly, the milk remaining, it is claimed, may be again used for the manufacture of cheese, giving two products from the same milk.*¹⁹

Gunther later went on to supply stoneware "*bellies*" for rectangular wooden churns manufactured by August Meyer of Port Washington during the 1870's. These resemble crocks of approximately 8-gallon size, sliced vertically in two, with a clay slab applied to close off the open end and a reinforced drain hole in the bottom to facilitate removal of the buttermilk. An iron crank drove two cast iron gears which generated a slow and a fast speed, to power a four-blade wooden dasher. The whole apparatus is supported on three improbably slender wooden legs.²⁰

*Fine Stone Ware. - The Stone Ware manufactured by GUENTHER & BERNs, in this city, is gaining the reputation wherever known and used, of being the best of the kind made anywhere in the country, either East or West. As a consequence, their sales are largely increasing, and will in turn demand increased facilities for manufacturing. Indeed they can now scarcely keep up with their orders. See their advertisement in another column.*²¹

In June, 1866 another load of clay is noted dockside:

*The Schooner Jenniebel is landing a cargo of clay from New Jersey, for Messrs. Gunther & Berns Stone Ware manufactory in this city. A gentleman after carefully examining the quality of the material expressed an opinion that the same kind of clay was to be found near Elkhart Lake. If so, it is a fortune for somebody. We believe nothing of the kind has been discovered west of Ohio.*²²

Just as the stoneware factory enjoyed early success, partner Berns departed the scene, possibly due to health reasons. By 1866, Peter and Rosina Berns had been blessed with three daughters, Mary (7), Caroline (2), and infant Theresa. But on June 28, 1866, Peter Berns sold his half-ownership in the stoneware factory to Theodore Gunther, who continued the business as a sole proprietorship.



Figure 3 Gunther churn body which was fitted with a mechanical dasher, no longer extant. Private collection.

Know all men by these presents, that I, Peter Berns of Sheboygan City, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, of the first party, for and in consideration of the sum of

"One thousand Dollars"

lawful money of the United States, to me in hand paid at or before the ensealing and delivery of these presents by Theodore Guenther of the same place of the second part ... do bargain, sell, grant & convey ... all the goods & chattels, mentioned & contained in the annexed list and statement

*Sealed, signed & delivered
in presence of*

Chas. Adolphi

Jos. L. Moore

PETER BERNS [seal]²³

Yet another form of innovation appeared in a Sheboygan crockery merchant's 1868 advertising notice:

*Mason's Patented Glass and
Gunther's Stone
Fruit Jars
For Sale At
Wm. Reichel & Co.²⁴*

A year later, a different merchant carried Gunther's fruit jars at a time when stoneware vessels began to encounter serious competition from glass and tinned steel containers:

*JARSI JARS! JARS!
ALL GLASS FRUIT JARS.
Just received, the celebrated Whitall's Patent
Fruit Jars combined with Millville Atmospheric Patent
Jars. These jars are the best in market being all glass*

*and perfectly atmospheric: will keep fruit for any length
of time and give perfect satisfaction. Wholesale and
retail at manufacturer's prices, at
L. A. DESCOMBES!
Also Agent for Gunther's Stone Ware Fruit Jars.²⁵*

Another clay delivery in 1869 suggests a busy and prosperous condition:

*The Prop[eller] ADRIATIC arrived [in Sheboygan] from Buffalo, on Wednesday last, and
came into the river to Raab's dock drawing 11 1/2 feet of water without touching
bottom. She had on board 158 tons of Potter's Clay for T. Gunther, of this city ...²⁶*

This vessel landed Sept. 8, unloaded her cargo of clay, and departed again for Milwaukee Sept. 10, meaning the entire 158 tons was unloaded in less than two days!

Gunther also achieved modest success in the local political arena at this time. He was elected Alderman in the Second Ward of Sheboygan 1868, 1869, 1870, and 1871.²⁷ In 1870 he was appointed Poor Master for Sheboygan,²⁸ at a time when his personal fortunes seemed very comfortable as reported in the census. "Theod. Günther" (43), born in "France," wife Bertha (33), a native of Darmstadt, and sons Wilhelm (11) born in Detroit, Michigan, and Emil (2) of Wisconsin. Gunther's home, adjacent to the factory, was then valued at \$2800, and he possessed a "Personal Estate" (usually savings) of \$4,000.²⁹

The stoneware factory then was valued at \$10,000 and employed five men and two children who worked "by hand" (with assistance from 1 horse) at an annual labor cost of \$1,900. The factory operated during the entire year. Raw materials included 200 tons of day (\$3,000), 7 barrels of sand (\$24), 15 barrels of salt (\$21), 20 barrels of slip clay (\$126) and 350 cords of wood (\$1,000). They manufactured 50,000 gallons of "good jars [churns], butter tubs, milk pans, jars, jugs" valued at \$5,500 and 3,000 gals. of damaged ware or seconds worth an additional \$300.³⁰

While Gunther's business or economic outlook might then have appeared quite prosperous, the local crockery merchant's advertisement referenced above was modified by 1870 to reveal serious competition from other products and suppliers:

FRUIT JARS.

*I have just received a large supply of Glass and Stone Ware Fruit and Jelly Jars of the
most approved patterns, which I will sell at low rates. Among them are the Rockingham
(stone) Jar - fine for pickles and fruit that needs to be kept from the light - the "Hero"
and the "Maiden" Glass Jars, new patent of self-sealers ...*

L. A. Descombes.³¹

Stoneware described as Rockingham usually carries an attractive mottled and very shiny tortoiseshell glaze, though it is not clear whether the appearance of the more modern product or cost factors caused the merchant to change suppliers.

Not only was Gunther in competition with glass jars, but now he had to contend with imported stoneware as well. The author examined several of Gunther's jars at the home of one of his descendants and found them to be about 6 1/2 inches tall, 4 1/4 inches in diameter, and slightly ovoid in shape. They were hand-thrown on the potter's wheel (not molded) with a small hand-thrown cover having a button knob, and were finished in both buff salt glaze or deep brown Albany slip. None of these small jars were marked with the company name. Family descendants owned fruit jars of quart, gallon, and two-gallon size.³²



Figure 4 Grouping of Gunther stoneware - butter churns, stackable mixing bowls and a butter churn component.

It appears that former partner Peter Berns had passed away by this time, as his widow Rosina (47) and daughters Mary (11), Caroline (6) and Theresa (4) continued living without him in Sheboygan.³³ In 1871, Alderman Gunther was appointed to the City's Claims Committee.³⁴ Arrival of another schooner load of clay in that year indicate the factory still used New Jersey clay for their Eastern Stone ware:

MARINE ITEMS.

Port of Sheboygan

The sch[oone]r Fleetwing, from Buffalo, arrived here on Saturday last, with 300 tons of New Jersey potter's clay, for Theodore Gunther, of this City.³⁵

The Fleetwing arrived in port Aug. 5 and sailed for Chicago Aug. 9, requiring 4 days to unload 300 tons of clay, compared with 2 days to unload 158 tons two years earlier.

In 1873, a nearby fire threatened Gunther's home and business:

A fire broke out near the roof in the south west corner of the hay loft of Hoberg's Livery Stable, in this city, about 11 o'clock on Monday night, and though not far advanced when discovered, owing to the difficulty of getting water, it was consumed with a small quantity of hay and some grain. The horses, vehicles, harness, robes, &c., were all saved. Finding that the building could not be saved, the efforts of the firemen were directed to saving the stone ware manufactory and dwelling of Mr. T. Gunther, the former of which the rear end of the stable abutted against and also a small dwelling adjoining the stable on the south side. The effort seemed a hopeless one, for already the flames were upon them. In a few moments, however, one of the [fire] engines succeeded, after several trials, in finding water, and began playing upon the endangered buildings so effectively that, with the help of buckets of water in the hands of others, they were saved from burning tho' badly charred on the side next the stable. The fire is supposed to have originated in a defective chimney³⁶

Perhaps in reaction to the fire, Gunther's Brother-In-Law Weimar Remi and his family now arrived in Sheboygan from Milwaukee where he had been working in the stoneware factory of Charles Hermann. Remi was born in the Hessian state of Nassau in 1824 and immigrated to America in 1852.³⁷ By 1857 Weimar and his brother Charles both were boarding in the household of Milwaukee stoneware manufacturer Charles Hermann on Johnson Street between East Water and River³⁸ later numbered 39 Johnson. Potters Anton Girz (or Gertz) and Jacob Hoffman indicated they also boarded with Hermann and Remi.³⁹ Brother Charles Remi remained with Hermann through 1859 but had departed by time of the 1860 census, which found Weimar married and boarding with yet another Hermann potter, Bavarian immigrant John Stoeckart, his wife Catherine and three children. Stoeckert went on to establish a pottery at New Ulm, Minnesota in company with another Hermann alumnus, Christian Dauffenbach, where they produced vast numbers of hand-thrown stoneware bottles.

Remi and wife Maria (in the census called Mary) both reported age 36 in 1860; Maria Remi is the sister of Theodore Gunther, whom it will be recalled boarded with Hermann while he worked at his stoneware factory in 1862. Remi continued to work for or with Charles Hermann until 1873, the year of Gunther's fire.

By 1875 he was living in Sheboygan on St. Clair Avenue east of Eighth,⁴⁰ later numbered 723 St. Clair. It appears the Remi family arrived in Sheboygan soon after the fire, very likely to assist with the reconstruction.

A new two story brick dwelling house is going up on Wisconsin street, just west of the Stone Ware Manufactory. Mr. Theodore Gunther, we believe, is the proprietor.⁴¹

Das neue zuerrichtende Wohnhaus des Herrn Theo. Gunther an der Wisconsin-Strasse naht sich seiner Vollendung und ist jedenfalls eine Zierde für genannte Strasse.⁴² [The new dwellinghouse of Mr. Theo. Gunther on Wisconsin Street is approaching completion and is a credit for the named street.]

In addition to brother-in-law Remi, Theodore Gunther's brother Peter, also a potter, located in Sheboygan at about this time, boarding at the Wisconsin House. Peter Gunther was yet another alumnus of the Charles Hermann Stoneware Co. of Milwaukee, in 1866 boarding at 43 Johnson Street in that City.⁴³ Peter Gunther apparently led something of a knockabout life, as later recalled:

.... Peter Gunther was married to a woman from Peoria, Illinois, and they had two daughters ... After the [Civil] war they were divorced, and Peter came back to Sheboygan, and was subsequently married to my father's mother [Johanna Margraf, on March 16, 1872], who was a widow with teenage or grown children. Peter Gunther is buried somewhere near Jackson, Michigan, where he was found drowned in a river about the time my father was three years old.⁴⁴

Another small pottery appeared briefly in Sheboygan during 1875, run by August Goebel on Superior Avenue west of 12th, with his residence on that corner.⁴⁵ It is believed that it was Goebel who made clay bottles for Thomas Schlachter's brewery, located just a block distant. And one Theodore Mies established a small earthenware pottery, presumably at his residence on Erie Avenue west of Eighth Street.⁴⁶ Mies, son of a shoemaker and apprenticed to Gunther in 1870, went on to establish the Northwestern Stone Ware Factory and Sheboygan Pottery Co. later in the century.

More clay arrived in 1876, again from eastern sources:

Marine [News] ...

Arrivals ...

[Sept.] 12 Sch[oone]r [Named] '7th Ohio' [arrived from the Port of] Buffalo, 100 tons Potters clay ...

Departures ...

*[Sept.] 14, Schr. 7th Ohio [bound for] White Lake, light [empty].⁴⁷
[Again, less than two days time to offload 100 tons of clay.]*

Something of the flavor of the stoneware factory neighborhood may be discerned in a local editor's attempt at humor:

The corner of Eighth and Wisconsin street, adjoining Gunther's Pottery, is not to be "improved" so shabbily as at first seemed probable. The little old patched up, jumbled together, many-roofed, one story long shed-like looking tenement that, as [Sheboygan Mayor] Bell's Confectionery Store, was last week moved on to it, and which when once brought out into daylight where it could be seen, looked like the first architectural experiment of the medieval ages, -- is not to ornament the two streets in its newly developed unsightliness. Its multi-form, angularized and hooded roofs have been taken off, the side frame work of the building carried up another story through its entire length, with a uniform roof on the whole, and we believe it is to have a new front. This will be so great an improvement on its original form as to give it an appearance of comparative respectability.⁴⁸

Mayor Bell may have expressed some displeasure at this description, as the editor later went out of his way to extol the virtues of Bell's new confectionary store, boasting

"... the largest plates of glass of any building in the city, and is, as a whole, the most noticeable one, not to say decidedly the handsomest. A merchant could not ask [for] a better front in which to display fine and costly goods."⁴⁹

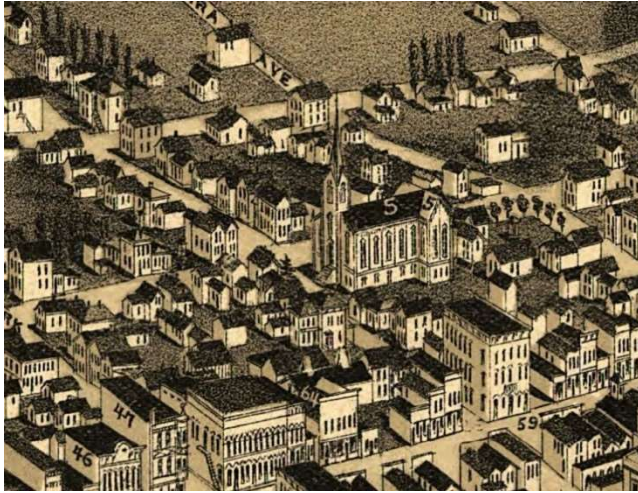


Figure 5 This 1885 Birdseye view shows the pottery immediately behind a store building marked "64".

A map and birds-eye view provide a glimpse of the stoneware factory. It was a long, narrow frame structure extending north/south from Wisconsin Street to a midblock alley. Turning rooms and sales area filled the two-story street section, with large windows for natural light and an exterior staircase to the west. A single-story frame warehouse was attached immediately behind the front block and led directly into a rambling wooden kiln shed. Two large brick kilns were enclosed within a frame structure described as 1 1/2 story on the map but revealed as a long-gabled shed with two large, tapering chimneys at the peak in the birds-eye view. Two other attached frame sheds on the back of the lot probably represent a horse stable with storage for harness, hay, wagons, and the like.⁵⁰

The 1880 Census enumerated "Pottery factory" owner Theodor Gunther (53), his wife Bertha (44), "Keeping house," and sons Willie H. (20) "Employed in Pottery" and Emil (12) "at school."⁵¹ The pottery was considered less valuable than a decade earlier at \$7,000. They still operated 12 months of the year and employed 7 men and 2 children to work a 10-hour day, paying \$3.00 per day to skilled potters and \$1.00 per day for unskilled labor. Total wages rose by 10% over the previous decade to \$2,100, value of materials declined by half to \$2,200, and value of product rose 29% to \$7,500.⁵²

This is yet another aside, having nothing directly to do with pottery, but rather with the same community and the author's great-great grandparents. And with peas:

The story related that during one harvest season, father [Eric Kolb, 1839-1913] was making trips to town, probably to market wood. There was a ... patch of peas that needed to be cut with the scythe, and mother [Emma Steinhaus Kolb, 1849-1913] was attempting to work at it, day after day, cutting a little each day. Aware of the effort it was costing her, she being pregnant at the time, father arose quietly in the night, took the scythe and went to work on the peas. It was a bright moonlit night, so he was able to make a considerable dent in the patch. Then he quietly went back to bed. Mother's remark the next day was, "I thought the angels had come to help me."⁵³

She really believed the angels had come down from Heaven to help her cut peas. Emma Kolb died in 1888 giving birth to her 13th child. She was 39 years old. Her youngest son Roland [1884-1975] described to the author the terrible finality of the occasion he witnessed at age 4, as the heavy clods of earth thumped and thudded on his mother's coffin as the grave was covered over. Her husband never remarried and raised their thirteen children alone. The [Langenberg charcoal foot warmer](#) [2nd photo in the picture gallery] descended in the Kolb family, and likely warmed Emma's feet as she and Ernst traveled by sleigh from farm to church on many a frosty Sunday morn.

Part of the decline in materials costs resulted from a change to buying clay from Illinois rather than from New Jersey as in previous years. Gunther's granddaughter later recalled that a pall of gray smoke hung over the kilns while burning, and that the stoneware was sold throughout the countryside from a fleet of blue-painted wagons with built-in racks. She also recalled experimentation with local clays, but her grandfather had no success with it and went to Superior for at least part of his clay supply.⁵⁴

The 1880 Census similarly found brother-in-law Weimar Remi (56) living with wife Maria ("Mary"), daughter Lena (17), elderly widow Charlotte Furestock (77) and potter son Johann ("John"), age 20. They reported their address as 723 St. Clair over the next several years.

The pottery had achieved a fair degree of success as judged by Bradstreet's Reports, which estimated Gunther's wealth in 1884 at \$5,000 - \$10,000 and rated his credit as "good."⁵⁵ In 1880 a local newspaper published the names of Sheboygan property holders who paid upwards of \$100 in annual property taxes. In descending order of magnitude, we find Theodore Gunther listed as No. 57, paying \$154.91.⁵⁶

A regional history of 1881 provides a biographical sketch having but few inconsistencies with previously described accounts:

THEODORE GUNTHER, stoneware factory, Sheboygan; came to Wisconsin in 1859; located at Milwaukee and was employed in [the Hermann] stoneware factory for some four years. Came to Sheboygan in 1863, and commenced manufacturing stoneware in company with P. Berns; they continued together in that line of business two and a half years; since that time he has carried on a stoneware factory alone; employs ten men, and manufactures 8,000 gallons of stoneware monthly. The clay is brought from Whitehall, Illinois. Was Alderman of the Second Ward for the years 1867-68-69 and 1870 and was also Poormaster in the years 1869 and 1870. Was born in [Metz] France, Sept. 6, 1826; learned trade there and in Germany. Came to America in 1855, and was engaged in manufacturing stoneware at Detroit, Mich., for some three years. Married, at Detroit, Mich., Nov. 1, 1859, to Bertha Schaeffer, born in Germany; they have two children - William, studying medicine at Rush Medical College, Chicago, Ill., and Emil.⁵⁷

A chance notice regarding the Sheboygan Mineral Water Company appears to answer the purpose and function of large stoneware bottles which still turn up in the Sheboygan area. These oversized bottles are impressed with the old company stamp "TH GUNTHER / & BERNS / SHEBOYGAN", dating from production 1863-1866. It is believed that an earlier newspaper account alludes to these stoneware bottles:

... Mr. Kausler has kept several men constantly employed in the manufacture of his soda water, and four teams in distributing it to his customers, requiring the use of nearly ten thousand bottles, which are gathered up and refilled as often as emptied⁵⁸



Figure 6 Gunther & Berns bottles were used by the Sheboygan Mineral Water Co. and others.

Later, in 1881, it appears the same bottles still circulated in the area:

The bottling establishment of the Sheboygan Mineral Water Company has been running with a full head of steam for the past two or three weeks, charging the water with pure carbonic acid gas to disguise the (to many) unpalatable magnesium and chloride of sodium taste in its natural state, and give it the palatable pungency of ordinary soda water; and thus improved, putting it up in two-quart stone bottles, corked and sealed for market. They are packed for shipment in barrels filled with saw dust, or in crate baskets filled in with straw, fifty in a package. Four and five persons are now employed in this work in the packing house⁵⁹

Two hundred and fifty barrels and cases of Sheboygan Mineral Water, numbering 12,500 bottles, were shipped by the Mineral Water Co. this week, to various points.⁶⁰

A rush of orders for the now celebrated and popular Sheboygan Carbonated Mineral Water, is keeping the proprietors with their fifteen employees at work pretty lively to fill them.⁶¹

That Gunther was associated with or did business with the Sheboygan Mineral Water Company is amply borne out by existence of at least one extraordinary water cooler with impressed lettering reading "SHEBOYGAN / MINERAL / WATER." which carries the Gunther name stamp. It stands 24 inches tall and just over 10 inches in diameter, with applied ear handles, a reinforced bung to receive a wooden spigot, and tall, graceful cover with an acorn-like finial. The cooler was finished in salt glaze, the cover, rim, base, and inscribed lines surrounding and within the lettered area appear in bright cobalt blue - truly a work of art.

*According to family accounts twelve water coolers of this type were produced by Theodore Gunther's Eastern Stone Ware Factory for use in the dining rooms of local hotels and steamships serving Sheboygan.*⁶²

The author was able to examine a substantial collection of Gunther stoneware owned by his descendants in 1972, some of it decorated and some unmarked but all of it saved from the family residence on Wisconsin Street. A soup tureen in brown Albany slip and a large salt-glazed flowerpot with braided handles and attached saucer (said to have been made by Dr. William Gunther while a lad working in the pottery) may have been unique items made for family use.⁶³ The collection also included unmarked jugs, pitchers, mugs, preserve jars, butter pots, a mixing bowl and covers as well as marked crocks, jugs, churns, and bottles. The bottles generally appear in salt glaze but also are known in brown Albany slip, and all carry the early Gunther & Berns impressed stamp.

*Schooner Island City departed [Sheboygan] for Ahnapee [today known as Algoma] with pottery.*⁶⁴

In 1883, a Sheboygan newspaper commented upon another custom order:

*"Like a jug handle, all on one side," is a well known and old time comparison. M. R. Zaegel, the druggist, is spoiling the force of the comparison. He is having a lot of jugs made at Gunther's for his own use, with handles on both sides. But then Zaegel is always studying up original ways of doing things.*⁶⁵

By 1884, Sheboygan had assigned street numbers to its downtown properties, which placed the stoneware factory at 809 and 811 Wisconsin Street, and Gunther's residence at 821 Wisconsin.⁶⁶ A rare surviving sales slip dated a year later provides a glimpse of Gunther's prices:



Figure 7 Salt-glazed Water dispenser made for the Sheboygan Mineral Water Company at the Th. Gunther Pottery. 20" tall. Private collection.

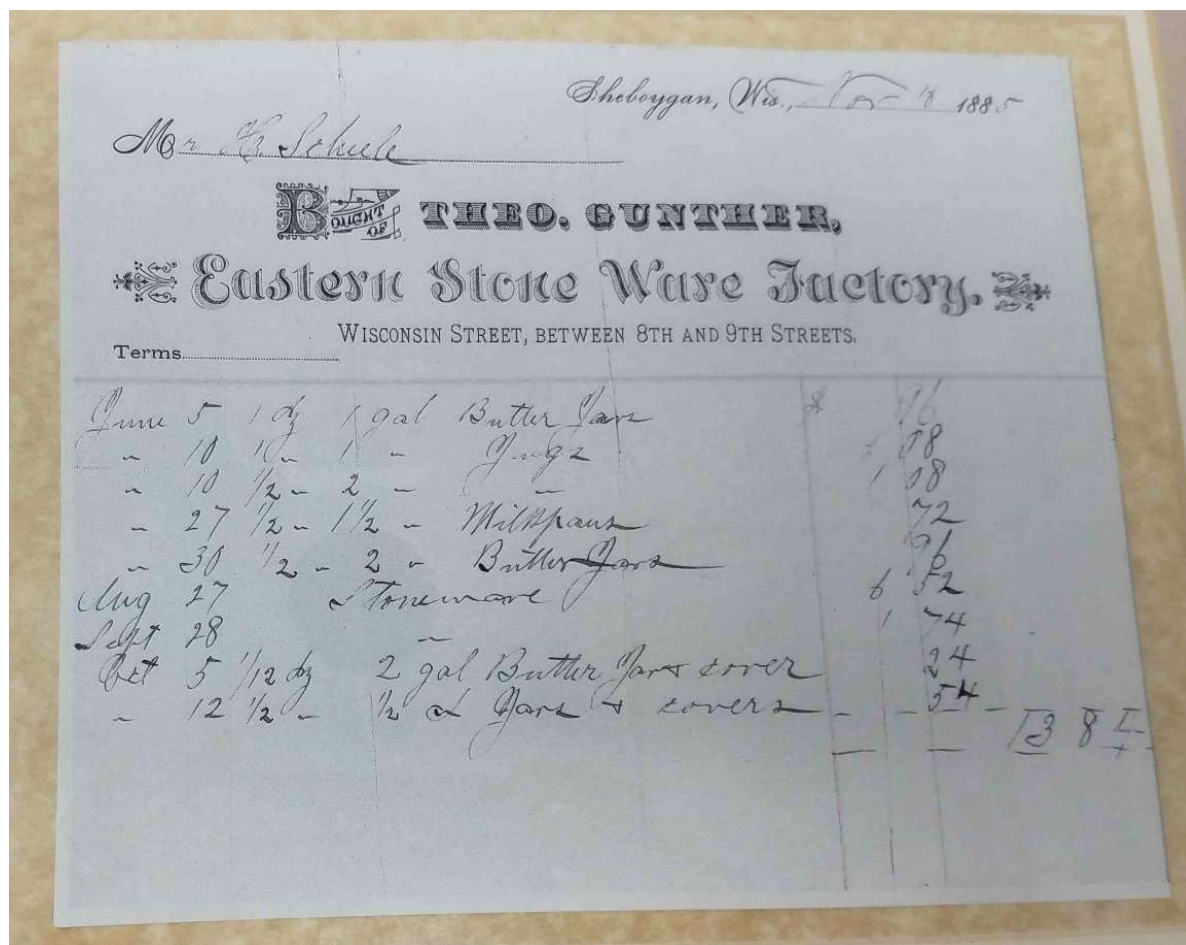


Figure 8 A rare surviving account statement dated Nov. 10, 1885 a Mr. H. Scheele for purchases made in June through October 1885 provides a glimpse of Gunther's prices. That sale was among the last made at the Eastern Stone Ware Factory, for Theodore Gunther died at the end of the month, Oct. 27, 1885.⁶⁷

June 5	1 dz 1 gal. Butter Jars	.96	[8 cents ea.]
" 10	1 " [dz] Jugs	1.08	[9 cents ea.]
" 10	1/2 " [dz] 2 gal. Jugs	1.08	[18 cents ea.]
" 27	1/2 " [dz] 1 1/2 gal. Milkpans	.72	[12 cents ea.]
" 30	1/2 [dz] 2 gal. Butter Jars	.96	[16 cents ea.]
Aug 27	Stoneware	6.52	
Sept. 28	" [stoneware]	1.74	
Oct. 5	1/12 dz. 2 gal. Butter Jar and cover	.24	[24 cents ea.]
Oct. 12	1/2 dz. 1/2 gal. Butter Jar and covers	.54	[9 cents ea.]
		\$ 13.84	

An old and much respected resident of the city, Mr. Theodore Gunther, proprietor of the Stone Ware manufactory on Wisconsin street, died at his residence, Tuesday afternoon, at the age of 59 years. He has been in poor health for several years, during which his constitution has gradually given away.

The funeral was very largely attended on Thursday afternoon, Rev. R. W. Blow officiating. The remains were preceded to Wildwood cemetery by about seventy-five of

the Society for the Aid of the Sick, of which he was a member, and followed by a long line of carriages with sympathizing friends and acquaintances [sic]. The deceased leaves a wife and two sons (one of whom is Dr. W. H. Gunther) to mourn his loss.⁶⁸

OBITUARY

Theodore Gunther, whose death from bronchitis was announced in these columns last week, was a native of Metz, Province of Elsass, Germany, where he was born Sept. 16, 1826, consequently his age at death was 59 years, 1 month and 21 days. Deceased had suffered for many years with a nervous disease but had always been active and able to attend to his business, which he did almost to the time of his death. Even Tuesday morning he was up in the house and at 2 P.M. of that day he died

... Here [in Sheboygan] he started in the pottery business with John [sic] Berns continuing with him nearly three years when they desolved [sic] and Mr. Gunther has carried on the business ever since, shipping goods to all parts of this and several other states. Deceased leaves a wife and two sons, Dr. W. H. Gunther and Emil of this city, four sons having died when young. The funeral was attended at 2 P. M. Thursday, and the burial took place in Wildwood Cemetery, Rev. R. W. Blow officiating.

There was singing at the grave by some of the old gentlemen, who, with Mr. Gunther, were members of the Concordia Society when it was first organized. The pall bearers were from the Sheboygan gegenseitigen Kranken-Unterstuetzungs Verein, of which deceased was a member. The surviving widow and two sons have the heartfelt sympathy of the community in their sad affliction.⁶⁹

And what of the stoneware factory?

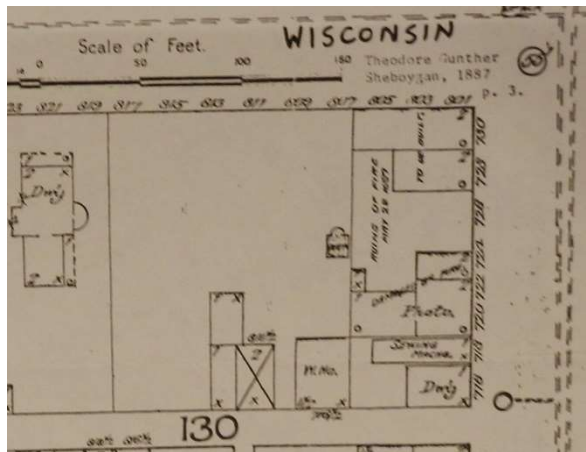


Figure 9 The pottery site is marked "RUINS OF FIRE / MAY 28, 1887" on this Sanborn Fire Insurance plat map.

A \$14,000 BLAZE. UPON WHICH THERE WAS \$7,000 INSURANCE - MAYOR BELL AND HIS NEIGHBORS BURN OUT.

Shortly before 10 o'clock Monday night as the Common Council meeting was drawing to a close and the last act of the "Devil's Auction" was amusing a large audience at the Opera House, an alarm of fire rang out that startled all upon whose ears it fell The Council hastily adjourned and the audience at the theatre dispersed to find that a fire had

broken out in the building of Mrs. Theo. Gunther just back of Mayor Bell's store, and occupied by Aug. L. Mohr Jr. as a bakery. The flames fanned by a strong south-west wind were spreading rapidly and it was at once evident that Mr. Bell's store must go, if not Mannville's photograph gallery together with adjoining buildings and some across the street. The fire department, though a long time in getting a stream on the fire, worked

nobly and faithfully to the last, while an army of helping hands took hold and assisted in removing goods from the various endangered premises. The flying embers were carried with the wind blocks away and threatened the destruction of other property, necessitating the wetting down of Bandmann's building, the old Baptist Church building and other buildings across the street. The losses as near as could be estimated by the individual losers yesterday are as follows:

Mrs. Theo. Guenther, two story frame building, valued at \$2,500, total loss, insured for \$1,000 in Northwestern National, of Milwaukee with Jas. H. Mead. [the stoneware factory]

Aug. L Mohr Jr., bakers oven, tools, furniture, fixtures, stock, etc., in same building, insured for \$400 ...

Chas. Bandmann and family lived upstairs in the same building, but escaped with nearly all their effects and moved the same night into Mr. Koenig's house, corner 10th and Huron Sts.⁷⁰

Grosses Schadenfeuer!

Verlust etwa \$12,000.

Versicherung \$7,000.

Am Montag Abend wurde die Stadt von einem grossen Schadenfeuer heimgesucht. Um etwa 10 Uhr, an genanntem Abend, entdeckte man in der Bäckerei des Hrn. Aug. L. Mohr, Jr., an der Wisconsin Strasse Feuer, und sofort wurde Alarm gegeben. Die Feuerwehr war prompt zur Stelle und arbeitete sehr wacker, doch konnte sie es nicht verhindern, dass 4 Häuser total, und eins theilweise eingeäschert wurden.

Das Feuer entstand in der Backstube des Hrn. Mohr, auf welche Weise, konnte nicht ermittelt werden. Von einem starken Westwind angefacht, verbreiteten sich die Flammen sehr rasch und hatten in sehr kurzer Zeit das ganze Gebäude, Eigenthum der Wittwe Theo. Günther, vollständig eingehüllt. Sodann ergriffen sie die beiden Frame-Häuser des Mayor Bell, an Ecke der 8. und Wisconsin Strasse. Das eine dieser Häuser wurde von James Bell für seine Conditerei und Spielwaaren-Handlung, und das andere von Frau Annstrong für ihre Putzwaaren-Handlung benutzt. Dann wurde das danebenstehende Haus des Hrn. Louis Meier ergriffen. Diese 4 Häuser wurden total eingeäschert

Wittwe Theodor Günther erlitt an ihrem Gebäude einen Verlust von etwa \$2500, Dem eine Versicherung von \$1000 gegenübersteht.⁷¹

[This German-language version is essentially the same as that which appeared the next day in the English-language Sheboygan Times which appears immediately after.]

FIRE GETS IN ITS WORK / FIVE BUILDINGS BURNED.

LOSS NEARLY \$15,000 / INSURANCE ABOUT \$7,000.

On Monday night about ten o'clock, a fire broke out in the bakery of A. L. Mohr, on Wisconsin street next to Bell's confectionary store, and although the alarm was quickly given, it increased rapidly, aided by the wind that was blowing quite strongly from the

southwest, and carried it directly to Mr. Bell's buildings which were but a few feet away. The latter soon took fire and the blaze swept with great rapidity through them. A crowd of people had quickly gathered there, and the contents of the sales room of the confection store were mostly removed, but a large quantity of goods were stored in the second story, which with Mr. Bell's household goods, library, etc., were destroyed. Mr. [Mayor] Bell was presiding at the Council meeting at the time of the breaking out of the fire.

Mrs. A. B. Armstrong's millinery store was next door south of Bell's and took fire simultaneously with it. Her large stock of goods was mostly got out in about five minutes, but necessarily considerably damaged and hardly was this done before the building was all aflame.

A small building next south occupied by John Henne for storing willow ware, and by Louis Sontag, gas and steam pipe fitter, was quickly ablaze, but the contents of both were mostly saved.

In the very short time in which this work of destruction was being done, the fire steamers had taken position at the nearest point on the river, six blocks away, nearly 2,500 feet of hose had been laid by each, and they began playing with full force upon the fire, four buildings being a mass of seething flames, sending off a thick shower of burning cinders for several blocks distance, and setting on fire the roofs of one or two other buildings, among them the Baptist church. F. W. Manville's new building had also taken fire, and was well burning on the north end, occupied by the Gas Co. and Sheboygan Coal Co. as offices. The good work of the steamers, however, prevented the destruction of the whole building, although badly damaged, as there were but a few feet between it and the bakery where the fire started.

The wind was in a favorable direction, but had it been as strong as in the afternoon of that day, the flames must have swept over one or two blocks or more⁷²

The frames of three new buildings, comprising five lower-floor business rooms are now being enclosed on the late burnt district, corner of Eighth and Wisconsin streets. The Messrs. Gunther are building the one two stories high fronting on Wisconsin street, Mayor Bell the two-story double building on the corner fronting on Eighth street, and F. W. Manville the double one story building between that and the art buildings. It is a pity these buildings are not constructed of brick.⁷³

For years, the beehive shaped mound that was once the big kiln stood on the spot of the old factory and Margaret Gunther (Mrs. Ray Van Handel Sr.), granddaughter of Theodore and Bertha Gunther, remembers climbing about the ruins in the early 1900s.

No pictures of the pottery exist, and pictures of the work crew fail to identify Gunther among the other workers. It is known that Dr. Emil and Dr. William Gunther, sons of the potter worked there in their youth.⁷⁴

Dr. W. H. Guenther has acknowledged the receipt of a six-foot four inch skeleton from Chicago the past week.⁷⁵

Another of Sheboygan' old and well-known citizens, Weimar Remy, passed away last evening, at his residence on St. Clair Street, aged 66 years. Mr. Remy came to America in 1852 and resided in this city for the last seventeen years. His wife and two children, a son, John whose home is in Milwaukee, and a daughter Lena who has resided with her parents, survive him. The funeral will take place on Wednesday afternoon, Rev. Mr. Blow conducting the services, and the interment will be in Wildwood cemetery.⁷⁶

*Remy, Weimer [sic]
White Male
Born Jan. 15, 1824
Died Feb. 2, 1890
Father's Name William Remy
Mother's Name Elizabeth Remy
Occupation - Potter
From Germany
Wife - Mari Anna Remy
Cause of Death - Sarcoma
Attending Physician -
W. H. Gunther⁷⁷*

Sheboygan ...

Mrs. Mari Remy died Thursday night in her home on St. Clair Street. She was 70 years old. The deceased was an aunt of Drs. W. H. and Emil Guenther. The funeral took place on Wildwood Cemetery.⁷⁸

*Maria Anna Remy
White, Female
Born Feb. 28, 1824
Died Nov. 17, 1893
Father's Name - William Gunther
Mother's Name - Anna Gunther
Occupation - Housework
Born - Germany
Husband - Weimer Remy
Cause of Death Bronchitis
Burial - N. S. Catholic Church [sic]
Attending Physician -
W. H. Gunther, MD⁷⁹*

Theodore Gunther's widow Bertha lived with her son Dr. William H. Gunther at 821 Wisconsin Street 1889⁸⁰ - 1891⁸¹ She then moved next door to live with her younger son, medical student Emil, at 817 Wisconsin until her death in 1893.⁸²

Mrs. Bertha Gunther, mother of Drs. Wm. and Emil Gunther, died at her home on Wisconsin street, Sunday afternoon, at the age of 59 years. Her funeral was largely attended at the residence Wednesday afternoon, Rev. F. W. Merrill officiating, and the burial made at Wildwood.⁸³

Mrs. [Bertha Schaefer] Gunther was born Oct. 16, 1833, in Giessen, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany. She came to this country in 1856 alone, and settled in Detroit, where she was married [to Theodore Gunther Nov. 1, 1857 and where eldest son William was born July 24, 1859.] Her parents died in their native land.

In the fall of 1857, Mr. and Mrs. Gunther removed to Milwaukee, Wis., where Mr. Gunther was employed for several years at his trade. In 1863, he removed with his family to Sheboygan, where he engaged in the manufacture of stoneware, and in that line carried on an extensive and profitable business till near the close of his life. His death occurred October 27, 1885. Mrs. Gunther died in Sheboygan, August 27, 1893.⁸⁴

At this time (2022) the Gunther and Berns stoneware factory site is occupied by Sheboygan's Mead Public Library, where the pottery faced Wisconsin Street near the Wisconsin Street entrance. The author has found a few broken pot shards working themselves to the surface along Wisconsin Street just west of Ninth and believes the waste dump to have extended from beneath a residential housing unit at that location to the low and formerly marshy land to the west along the Sheboygan River.



Figure 10 This undated photo shows Th. Gunther holding a crock and fourteen workmen, presumably employees of the pottery.



Figure 11 Collection of Th. Gunther Pottery. The name stamps on these crocks are near the left ear and capacity numeral is located front and center. On later Gunther pieces both stamps appear on the right. The tulip decorations tended to be larger and more elaborate on early than on later pieces.

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- ¹ *Nieusbode*, Nov. 2, 1859.
- ² 1860 Manuscript Census, Sheboygan Co., Vol. I, P 93.
- ³ 1860 Manuscript Census, Sheboygan Co., Vol. I, p. 93.
- ⁴ 1860 Manuscript Census, Sheboygan Co., Vol. I, p. 223.
- ⁵ *National Demokrat*, Sheboygan, Wis., 8 February, 1861, p. 3/5.
- ⁶ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., April 6, 1861 and *National Demokrat*, Sheboygan, April 13, 1861.
- ⁷ Sheboygan Co. Register of Deeds, Grantee Volume 8, May 25, 1861.
- ⁸ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., April 1, 1863.
- ⁹ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., April 25, 1863, p. 112. The same article appeared in the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, April 29, 1863, p. 2/4, perhaps courtesy of Berns' partner, Theodore Gunther. The factory did not stand immediately upon the corner of Eighth and Wisconsin but was located half a block west on the south side of Wisconsin Street.
- ¹⁰ *Sheboygan Journal*, April 23, 1863, p. 3.
- ¹¹ *Sheboygan Journal*, June 4, 1863, p. 3.
- ¹² *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., June 13, 1863, p. 112.
- ¹³ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., June 20, 1863.
- ¹⁴ Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, name file, uncited newspaper clipping dated Nov. 4, 1885.
- ¹⁵ *Milwaukee City Directory* for 1862, A. Bailey, 1862, p. 113.
- ¹⁶ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., Aug. 15, 1863, p. 1/3.
- ¹⁷ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., Aug. 15, 1863, p. 4/3. The same ad continued to appear into 1865.
- ¹⁸ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., Oct. 17, 1863, p. 1/5.
- ¹⁹ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., Dec. 3, 1864, p. 312. Sounds almost too good to be true!
- ²⁰ Author's collection.
- ²¹ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., Feb. 10, 1866. This advertisement was the same as in 1863.
- ²² *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., June 23, 1866p, p. 1/3. The famed Red Wing, Minnesota clay deposits were worked in a limited way at this time but did not yet receive national notice.
- ²³ Copied from original bill of sale in possession of the late Mrs. Ray Van Handel, Sheboygan, a granddaughter of Theodore Gunther.
- ²⁴ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., Aug. 29, 1868, through Oct. 3, 1868, 1/1.
- ²⁵ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., July 17, 1869, p. 1/2.
- ²⁶ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., Sept. 11, 1869, p. 1/8.
- ²⁷ *One Hundred Years of Sheboygan 1846-1946*, J. E. Lebennan, Introduction.
- ²⁸ *The Sheboygan Times*, May 14, 1870, p. 3/4. Poormaster is the name of a now obsolete job position similar to that of Paymaster.
- ²⁹ 1870 Manuscript Census, Sheboygan Co., Vol. I, p. 545. Gunther was born in Metz, in a border region between Germany and France. This region was part of France at the time of Gunther's birth and during the 1870 Census, but following the German victory in the Franco-Prussian War of 1871, this territory was ceded to Prussia. Gunther's birthplace therefore was in France, but the same region had become part of Prussia or Germany by the time of his death.
- ³⁰ 1870 Manuscript Census, Sheboygan Co., Vol. 11, p. 519.
- ³¹ *The Sheboygan Times*, July 30, 1870, p. 3.
- ³² Letter, Mr. Ray Van Handel to Mark Knipping, Sept. 29, 1977.
- ³³ 1870 Manuscript Census, Sheboygan Co., Vol. I, p. 598. Daughter Mary died of consumption in Sept., 1877.
- ³⁴ *The Sheboygan Times*, June 10, 1871, p. 3/4.
- ³⁵ *The Sheboygan Times*, Aug. 12, 1871, p. 3/4.
- ³⁶ *The Sheboygan Times*, J30. 11, 1873, p. 3/1-2.
- ³⁷ Uncited obituary clipping at Sheboygan Co. Historical Research Center 071/ OB3 / 1890.
- ³⁸ *Erving, Burdick & Co.'s Milwaukee City Directory for 1857 & 1858*, King, Jermain & Co., 1857, p.218.
- ³⁹ *Erving, Burdick & Co.'s Milwaukee City Directory for 1857 & 1858*, King, Jermain & Co., 1857, pp. 90, 91, and 119.
- ⁴⁰ *Pryor & Co.'s Sheboygan City Directory 1875-76*, Pryor & Co, 1875, p. 64.
- ⁴¹ *The Sheboygan Times*, July 24, 1875, p. 3/1.
- ⁴² *National Demokrat*, Sheboygan, Wis., 29 Juli, 1875, p. 3/2.
- ⁴³ *Edwards Annual Director of the City of Milwaukee, 1866*, Edwards, Greenough & Deved. 1866, p. 149.
- ⁴⁴ Letter, Agnes Taubenbeim to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Van Handel, Sheboygan, July 10, 1966.
- ⁴⁵ *Pryor & Co.'s Sheboygan City Directory 1875-76*, Pryor & Co., 1875, p. 88.
- ⁴⁶ *Pryor & Co.'s Sheboygan City Directory 1875-76*, Pryor & Co., 1875, p. 57.

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- ⁴⁷ *The Sheboygan Times*, Sept. 23, 1876, p. 3/4.
- ⁴⁸ *The Sheboygan Times*, Aug. 23, 1879, p. 3/1.
- ⁴⁹ *The Sheboygan Times*, Dec. 27, 1879, p. 3/1.
- ⁵⁰ See Sanbourn-Perris Insurance Maps of Sheboygan, 1884, p. 3, Block 130; The same series map of 1887 shows the Gunther home intact at 821 Wis. The horse stable and wagon shed survived, and a warehouse at the back of the lot appears to be the same size as the alleyway kiln shed. The rest of the stoneware factory had disappeared entirely. Some of the area on the map still was described as "*ruins offered May 2d 1887*"; see also Sheboygan, Wis. Panoramic Map or Birds-Eye View, drawn by H. Wellge in 1885.
- ⁵¹ 1880 Manuscript Census, Sheboygan City, Ward 2, p. 9.
- ⁵² 1880 Manuscript Census, Sheboygan Co., Vol. III Products of Industry, no page number.
- ⁵³ "The Story of an Epoch in the Life History of a Segment of the Kolb Family" Roland A. Kolb, 1956, pp. 17-18.
- ⁵⁴ Conversation Mark Knipping with Mrs. Ray Van Handel, May 8, 1972.
- ⁵⁵ Bradstreet's Reports of the State of Wisconsin, The Bradstreet Co., 1884, p. 437.
- ⁵⁶ *The Sheboygan Times*, Feb. 14, 1880, p. 311.
- ⁵⁷ The History of Northern Wisconsin, 1881, pp. 982 and 988-989.
- ⁵⁸ *Evergreen City Times*, Sheboygan, Wis., Sept. 12, 1868, p. 1/5.
- ⁵⁹ *The Sheboygan Times*, May 14, 1881, p. 3/2.
- ⁶⁰ *The Sheboygan Times*, July 29, 1882, p. 3/1.
- ⁶¹ *The Sheboygan Times*, Aug. 19, 1882, p. 3.
- ⁶² "Nineteenth Century Sheboygan County Potteries" published by the John Michael Kohler Arts Center of Sheboygan to accompany an exhibition mounted in 1985 which featured the stoneware of Theodore Gunther and redware of Conrad Langenberg who operated an earthenware pottery in the nearby village of Franklin, ca. 1856 -1893. The text of the museum catalogue was written by this author and the Arts Center provided label copy.
- ⁶³ The tureen, large flowerpot, preserve jar and two pitchers appear with a portrait identified as Theodore Gunther in *Wisconsin Heritage* by Bertha Kitchell Whyte, 1956, p. 234.
- ⁶⁴ *The Sheboygan Times*, May 5, 1883, p. 3/5.
- ⁶⁵ *The Sheboygan Times*, Oct. 6, 1883, p. 3/1. Zaegel's Drug Store advertised cloth, hair and toothbrushes, writing material, inkstands, albums, playing cards, and drugs.
- ⁶⁶ Sheboygan City Directory For 1884, A. G. Wright, 1884, p. 58.
- ⁶⁷ Date of death established by gravestone marker, Wildwood Cemetery, Sheboygan, Block 15, Lot 9.
- ⁶⁸ *The Sheboygan Times*, Oct. 31, 1885, p. 3/2.
- ⁶⁹ Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, name file, uncited newspaper clipping Nov. 4, 1885.
- ⁷⁰ *The Sheboygan County News*, May 4, 1887, p. 1.
- ⁷¹ *Sheboygan Zeitung*, 6 Mai, 1887, p. 4.
- ⁷² *The Sheboygan Times*, May 7, 1887, p. 3/3.
- ⁷³ *The Sheboygan Times*, Aug. 6, 1887, p. 3/2.
- ⁷⁴ *The Sheboygan Press*, Dec. 11, 1976, section 11, p. 19. The writer was able to interview Mrs. Van Handel directly. A copy of a portrait said to be Theodore Gunther appears in Wisconsin Heritage by Bertha Kitchell Whyte, 1954, p. 234.
- ⁷⁵ *The Sheboygan Times*, July 7, 1888, p. 312.
- ⁷⁶ Sheboygan Co. Historical Research Center, 071 /)B3 I 1890 obituary clipping file, Feb. 2, 1890.
- ⁷⁷ Sheboygan Co. Register of Deeds, Index to/Certificate of Death, Vol. 5, p. 259.
- ⁷⁸ Plymouth Post, Plymouth, Wis., Nov. 23, 1893, translated from German by Sheboygan Co. Historical Research Center, Sheboygan Falls. Original Plymouth Post no longer accessible.
- ⁷⁹ Sheboygan Co. Register of Deeds, Index to/Certificate of Death, Vol. 6, p. 159.
- ⁸⁰ Wright's Directory of Sheboygan Co. for 1889-1890, A. G. Wright, 1889, p. 83.
- ⁸¹ Wright's Directory of Sheboygan Co. for 1891-1892, A. G. Wright, 1891, p. 90.
- ⁸² Wright's Directory of Sheboygan Co. for 1893-1894, A. G. Wright, 1893, p. 92.
- ⁸³ *The Sheboygan Times*, Sept. 2, 1893, p. 1/4.
- ⁸⁴ Portrait and Biographical Record of Sheboygan County. Wis., Excelsior Publishing Co., 1894, p. 702.