

APRIL 2022

HERITAGE is the newsletter for Pabst Mansion, Inc., a historic house museum dedicated to the restoration of the Pabst Mansion and the preservation of the Pabst family legacy.

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## CAPTAIN PABST AND THE PORT WASHINGTON DRAFT RIOTS

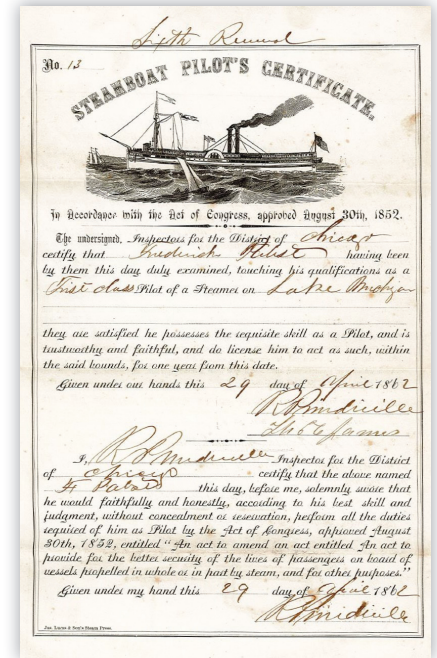
BY DAVID ZEH

Before he became the brewmaster we know today, Frederick Pabst was a Great Lakes steamship captain. He began working as a cabin boy at the age of 14 while he and his father were still living in Chicago. The Goodrich Steamship Line hired Pabst in 1858 where he worked as a first mate on a number of ships before quickly advancing to the rank of captain one year later when he took command of the *Huron*. By 1860, he was given control of the *Comet*; one of Goodrich's finest vessels and at the time it was said to be the "swiftest sailer on Lake Michigan." During the early 1860s, the Goodrich Steamship Line was perhaps the most popular steamboating business on Lake Michigan. Their ships would make daily trips to cities like Chicago, Milwaukee and Detroit, but would also stop at smaller ports like Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Two Rivers and Port Washington.

Despite Wisconsin's growing prosperity, the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 marked a dramatic change for Wisconsin and its citizens, many of whom were first-generation immigrants from Europe who left to escape political and social unrest. Captain Pabst could also personally relate to these concerns as he and his family fled Saxony during the Revolutions of 1848-1849. The first year of the war proved to be difficult for the Union and President Lincoln decided that more troops needed to volunteer in order to continue the fight against the Confederacy. However, as the war continued the number of volunteers began to dwindle and a draft was instituted in certain counties that failed to fill their quota of volunteer soldiers. Ozaukee was one of these counties because they were seven to eight hundred men short, a substantial amount of soldiers considering it is the smallest county in the state.

When the draft was announced in Ozaukee County during the fall of 1862, many were immediately upset because they believed that the draft administrators were discriminating against Catholic immigrants from Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany by favoring the wealthier Protestant Freemasons. Tensions continued to rise after many Ozaukee County citizens paid hundreds of dollars to exempt themselves from the draft and felt betrayed when they discovered that their exemption did not count. On the morning of November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1862, Ozaukee residents gathered outside the courthouse in Port Washington to hear the draft commissioner, William A. Pors, list the names of the men that were to be drafted. Unfortunately for Mr. Pors and his party, nearly two hundred angry protestors gathered outside the courthouse to voice their complaints. Eventually, the crowd grew violent and the protestors, now considered rioters, seized the boxes, destroyed the papers, and proceeded to grab William Pors and threw him down the courthouse steps.

After Mr. Pors and his fellow officers fled the scene, the angry and intoxicated crowd made their way towards downtown Port Washington where they began destroying property. During their march, protestors also carried banners that read, "No Draft" and targeted buildings whose owners



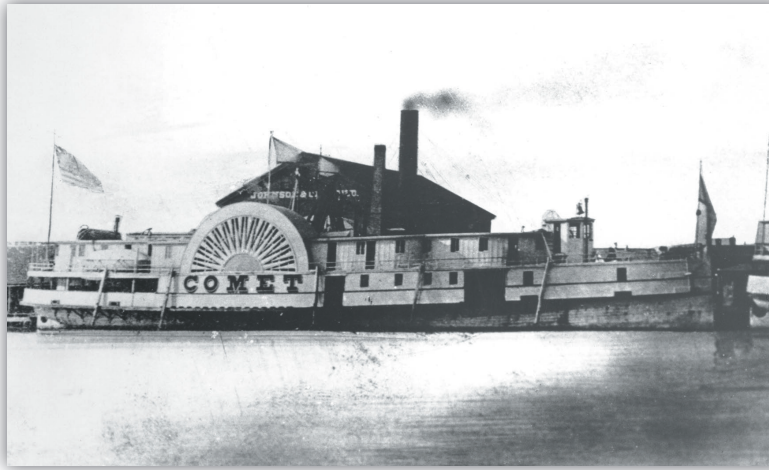
Captain Pabst's 1862 Steamboat Pilot's Certificate



## Captain Pabst and the Port Washington Draft Riots *cont. from page 1*

supported President Lincoln and the war. As the rioting continued in the downtown area, William Pors fled his hiding spot at the post office in Port Washington and made his way towards Milwaukee after procuring a carriage. Upon his arrival, a telegraph was sent to Governor Salomon informing him about the ongoing riots. Governor Salomon decided to reach out to Colonel Lewis of the Twenty-eighth Regiment and asked him to send eight companies of troops who had already made camp in Milwaukee. In an effort to move these 600 troops efficiently, the Governor chartered the steamers *Comet* and *Sunbeam*, under the command of Captain Pabst and Captain Morgan.

The *Comet* and *Sunbeam* departed for Port Washington at 3:30 in the morning on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Before the captains departed, the driver of the mail coach from Port Washington informed them that the rioters attempted to destroy the pier the night before. While they were ultimately unsuccessful, the rioters still managed to damage a considerable amount of the pier and planted three pieces of artillery near the shoreline to prevent any boats from docking. In response, to take the rioters by surprise, the steamships landed at Port Ulao, which is roughly six miles south of Port Washington, and had two companies of troops march around the rear of the town. The other four companies were brought to the front of the town and were dropped off at the pier by both of the steamships



*The Steamer Comet*

allowing the companies from the Twenty-eighth Regiment to surround and capture fifty rioters. After initial arrests were made, it was discovered that the ringleaders of the riot were actually prominent citizens of Port Washington. The ringleaders along with nearly one hundred prisoners were brought back to Camp Washburn in Milwaukee on the *Comet* later that day. Unfortunately, although the riots were short-

lived, many buildings were destroyed, including six homes and the Ozaukee Stone Mills. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of November, Captain Pabst brought another three hundred prisoners from Ozaukee County and transferred them to Camp Washburn. By the end of November, all of the prisoners were escorted from Milwaukee to Camp Randall in Madison where they would be imprisoned for a few months before they were able to return home.

After the war, it was discovered that the men from Ozaukee County fought bravely and the war record indicates that they compared favorably against larger counties. Almost a year after the riots ended, Captain Pabst was caught in a terrible winter storm and had to beach the *Seabird*, another steamship owned by the Goodrich Steamship Line, in order to save everyone on board. This event led Captain Pabst to reconsider the trajectory of his career and become a brewer after purchasing half of his father-in-law's brewery. Thirty years later, the Pabst Brewing Company became the largest lager brewery in the entire world.



**Bird's Eye View of the Village of Port Washington in 1865**

*Rendering of Port Washington, WI in 1865. Image courtesy of Port Washington Historical Society*



# PABST MANSION VOLUNTEERS

## *Make the House Feel Like a Home*



Volunteer Council President, Dave Fehlauer, giving a Pabst Mansion presentation



Restoration of Adolf Schreyer's 'Halt Before a Wallachian Station' was graciously funded in part by the Volunteer Council

The Pabst Mansion comes to life thanks to its dedicated community of volunteers. Currently there are about twenty-five active volunteers: some logging as many as 800 hours a year! Their love for the home and the stories it tells make the Pabst Mansion 'Milwaukee's Mansion', and not just another historic house. Though all docents receive the same extensive training, each tour is unique, reflecting the guide's own point of view and interests.

In addition to docent-led tours, volunteers also assist in the museum shop and lead some of the specialty offerings, such as Family-friendly Tours, Blue Ribbon Happy Hour Tours, Sunday Mimosa Tours, Art of the Pabst Mansion Tours and Behind-the-Scenes Tours, as well as assist with special events and programming.

The Volunteer Council, an elected group that represents all volunteers, meets monthly to further its mission "to support the Mansion volunteers through training, social and educational opportunities; to facilitate communication between the volunteers and the Mansion staff and board; to support the mission of the Mansion through volunteer service and through financial support of special projects; and to broadcast public awareness of Mansion activities."

The Council has significantly contributed to over fifteen special projects, including: the recreation of the reception hall chandelier, restoration of the leaded-glass windows in Captain Pabst's study, and conservation of artworks such as "Abschied von der Heimat" by Wilhelm Kohler and "Halt Before a Wallachian Station" by Adolf Schreyer. The Council's most recent project was the restoration of the walls and replication of the stenciling in Elsbeth's bathroom, completed in October 2021.

Beyond working onsite at the Pabst Mansion, the Volunteer Council also runs programming for community outreach lectures. The speakers' group was originally started by Dan Emmer (after whom the Milwaukee County Historical Society's 'Dan Emmer Recognition Award' is named) and was revitalized in 2017. Since then, there have been over sixty presentations to groups including those attending conferences, conventions and lifelong learning programs, as well as others organized by libraries, social organizations, and senior living communities.

Currently three core presentations are offered:

- ◆ **A Pabst Mansion View** – This presentation focuses on the Pabst family, Milwaukee at the turn of the century, Pabst beer, and of course, a visual tour the Mansion itself.
- ◆ **Christmastime at the Pabst Mansion** – This program includes rarely seen photos of the Pabst Mansion; many set during that magical time of the year when the Mansion is decorated in its Christmas splendor!
- ◆ **Pabst Mansion – Unseen Treasures** - Although many people have previously toured the Pabst Mansion and/or attended a prior lecture on this iconic landmark, there is so much more to learn! In this presentation you will see some of the seldom seen artifacts and collections, giving even more insight into the Pabst family and their legacy.

*Our dedicated volunteers are looking forward to another year of welcoming visitors and showing off our Victorian gem! If you are interested in volunteering at the Pabst Mansion or learning more about the Volunteer Council and their projects, please contact us via email at [info@pabstmansion.com](mailto:info@pabstmansion.com) or telephone at 414-931-0808.*



# UPCOMING EVENTS AND SPECIAL TOURS

## FLORAL REFLECTIONS: IKEBANA AT THE PABST MANSION

*April 29 – May 2, 2022*

*Self-guided Tours Daily: 10am-4pm*

*An Ikebana Evening: Saturday, April 30 4:30pm-7pm*

The Pabst Mansion has partnered with the Milwaukee chapter of Ikebana International to synthesize the beauty of the Mansion and the art of Japanese floral arrangements. Over twenty ikebana displays will be positioned throughout the historic home to express the symbolic qualities of each floral element while also drawing upon the aesthetic, history and design of the Pabst Mansion. By interpreting the past, present and that which flows between through these meditative floral compositions, visitors are invited to reflect not only on this home and the family that once inhabited it, but also their own connections to the wider space and place around them.

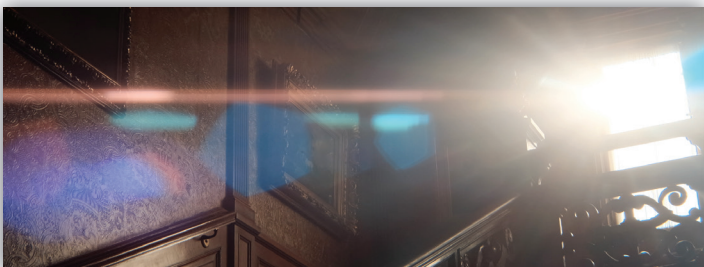


All tours are self-guided, there will be both Pabst Mansion docents and ikebana artists present for each tour date. Live ikebana demonstrations will take place on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at noon, and on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1pm. There is no additional cost for viewing demonstrations. For those wanting to visit afterhours, *An Ikebana Evening* invites guests to take in the splendor of the exhibition while enjoying live music and floral-inspired cocktails.

## ART OF THE PABST MANSION TOURS

*Select ~ ursdays and Sundays, 11:30am*

View the Pabsts' Gilded Age aesthetic world through the nuanced lens of the museum's art collection. Remembered for the brewery which bears his name, few realize that Captain Pabst and his wife Maria were among the most prominent 19th century art collectors in the Midwest. Today the Pabst Mansion's art collection is comprised of pieces that originally hung in the Pabst home, those purchased by the Pabsts for business properties, and works from collections of other prominent Milwaukee families. This specialty tour explores how cultural showcasing, social status and personal taste influenced this impressive collection.



## FAMILY-FRIENDLY TOURS

*Saturdays, 9:30am*

Abbreviated half-hour tours for those wanting to engage their youngsters with the home and history in a way catered to them! See which animal friends you can find in the art and architecture, peek inside a secret cabinet, and imagine yourself as young Elsbeth Pabst growing up in the Mansion on this tour which leans less beer and more playful cheer.

~ anks to BMO Harris Bank,  
children attend free of charge all year long!



## BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS

*Sundays, May-September, 1:30pm*

Behind-the-Scenes Tours are back! Ever wonder what's beyond a classic Pabst Mansion tour? Here is your chance to explore the areas behind the ropes and closed doors. This in-depth look at the home, all the way from the basement to the attic, is for those who just want to see it all!

*\*Please note this tour lasts approximately two hours and involves stairs, uneven ~ oors, narrow doors, and constant standing/walking.*



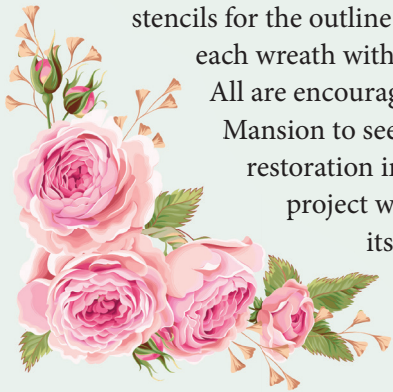


# Elsbeth's Bathroom Walls Bloom Again

The original paint colors and stencil work in Elsbeth's bathroom on the second floor had been uncovered for some time, but it was only in October of 2021 that the paintwork had finally been restored to its original beauty. Dave Strickland of Affiliated Artists of Wisconsin, who has completed a number wall and ceiling restoration projects for the Mansion, skillfully undertook the project. When carefully removing subsequent layers of paint, Dave noticed something – originally the paint had been a light blue which closely matched the decorative wall tile, but the Pabsts had it later repainted pink.

While we can only wonder what prompted the decorative change, the choice was made to return the room to its original color as it would have been in 1892. Through this careful stripping of paint layers Dave was not only able to discern paint colors, but also the unique stencil work upon it. To recreate the pattern of floral wreaths with ribbons Dave hand-cut stencils for the outline and completed each wreath with freehand finishes.

All are encouraged to visit the Mansion to see this beautiful restoration in person! This project was funded in its entirety by the Pabst Mansion Volunteer Council.



Elsbeth's bathroom during painting restoration. Note the uncovered floral wreath and pink wall color in the upper right corner.



The completed bathroom restoration harmoniously ties together the wall tiles and stencil work.

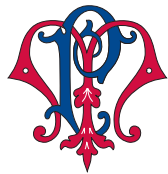
## Welcome the Wilhelm Schroeter!

In summer of 2021 Clair and Mary Baum donated this beautiful untitled painting completed by Wilhelm Schroeter in 1887. While records indicate that the Pabsts owned another work by Schroeter entitled *The Forest*, there are no known images or written descriptions of the piece. Having arrived at the Mansion still in its ornate 19th century gilded frame, the painting was able to be immediately hung in the master bedroom.



Untitled painting by Wilhelm Schroeter, completed in 1887





PABST  
MANSION  
MILWAUKEE

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## *Send Some Love and Let it Grow*

with Pabst Mansion  
Cute Root Cards!



Now you can send cards and flowers in one! Cute Root cards are made with seed paper, which is 100% recyclable post-consumer material mashed into a pulp and sprinkled with plantable wildflower seeds. Simply write, send, plant and enjoy the blooms!



## PABST MANSION *tours & admission*

### DAILY CLASSIC TOURS

#### GUIDED

Monday-Saturday 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm  
Sunday 11am, 1pm, 2pm 3pm

#### SELF-GUIDED

Daily noon-1pm

Closed: Easter

Adult: \$15

Senior/Student/Military: \$13

Child (6-17): \$8

Child (5 and under): Free

Member: Free

*Prices and hours subject to change.*

### SPECIALTY TOURS

The Pabst Mansion has an array of year-round and seasonal specialty tours.

Visit [pabstmansion.com](http://pabstmansion.com) to learn more!

*Located on 20th and Wisconsin Avenue.*

*Limited parking is available. Wheelchair accessible.*