This week our feature article will be on Carl August Weist who was the original owner of one of the most historic buildings in Princeton - The Tiger Brew.   Weist was born October 5, 1829 in Arnsdof Prussia (now Germany), the son of Christian B. Weist.

At age 18, Weist received an apprenticeship in brewing and by age 21 he had received his Master Brewer's Certificate in Hirschfeld Germany. In 1854, Weist left Hamburg Germany and traveled to America.   Being only 25 years old, this was a great trek for a young man to undertake, traveling to a new world to begin a new life. When Weist arrived in the United States he traveled for a brief time and then applied for naturalization papers in St. Louis.   During his travels, Weist met Tobias Fischer who also was a brewer.   They settled in Wisconsin and opened one of the first breweries in Oshkosh which was called "The Fifth Ward Brewery".   A short time later history states that the two men had a falling out and Weist traveled to Princeton to start a brewery of his own.   The year was 1857 and this was the beginning of a Tiger Brew story.

The site of the building figures prominently in Princeton's early history. Henry Treat and Nelson Parsons had obtained the original patent on the land, with numerous transactions involved from the time the site was platted. Lot 36 was sold in 1856 to Noah Hall for $400. Just four years before it brought $150 and in 1851 it had sold for $20 indicating the great increase in land values in the growing village of Princeton.

Searching for sites that would fit his needs, Weist found this property situated between S. Farmer Street and the Fox River. In the early days, this location originally housed a blacksmith and wagon shop, however with the proximity of the river, the Tiger Brew was built.   Barges hauled kegs of the brew down the busy Fox River behind the building. It was said that at threshing time farmers hauled away kegs at 75 cents each to reward their thirsty farm hands. Business at the brewery was very good until the prohibition amendment forced the brewery to shut down.

Carl's personal life found him marrying Ernestine Wilhemina Krueger who was born on July 11, 1837, in Saale-Holzland-Kreis, Thuringia, Germany. Records indicate that Carl and Ernestine had three sons, Adolph born in 1867, Herbert born in 1870, and Carl born in 1879, and three daughters Pauline born in 1866, Adaline in 1875, and Anna born in 1876.   Carl and Ernestine's last child was born when Carl was nearly 50 years old.

Although Weist had a wife and family, the Civil War was going on and he joined the Wisconsin Cavalry to serve his country.   Holding the rank of Private, Weist was a part of the First Regiment. This Regiment was organized in Ripon and Kenosha between September 1861 and February 1862.   The group left Wisconsin in route to St. Louis in March 1862 and remained in the Missouri area scouting and patrolling the area for some time.   During his time, Ernestine oversaw the brewery and records indicate that the hops and sprouts spoiled which was part of the demise of the brewery as originally started.

Ernestine died on October 10, 1902 in Princeton at the age of 65, and Carl was a resident of the National Home for Disabled Soldiers in Milwaukee and passed away on July 20, 1905 having lived a long life of 75 years.

Anyone who has information on those buried in the City of Princeton Cemetery is encouraged to contact Mary Lou Neubauer or Cheryle Nickel by email mneubauer@cityofprincetonwi.com or cnickel@cityofprincetonwi.com, by mail at PO Box 53, Princeton, WI 54968, by phone at 920-295-6612, or stop at City Hall which is located at 531 S Fulton Street, Princeton. Mary Lou and Cheryle write the articles for Scenes from Princeton's Past, so any stories or information about the people buried in the City Cemetery would be appreciated. Maybe someone buried in the cemetery was your friend or neighbor or a distant relative and you remember something or about anyone in the cemetery any and all information is important to preserve the information about the people buried in the cemetery.