

14-McLellan



15-Gruhler, J.



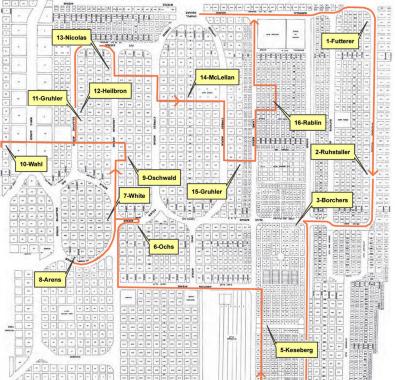
16-Rablin



1-Futterer



13-Nicolas



FUSTALLE

2-Ruhstaller



3-Borchers



12-Heilbron

11-Gruhler, C.



4-Gebert



10-Wahl



Self-Guided Walking Tour



5-Keseberg



9-Oschwald



4-Gebert

MAP

CITY CEMETERY
Sacramento, California

7-White



6-Ochs

1. Futterer, Frederick 1843-1909 (St. Louis Brewery, Ohio Brewery)

A 2 Frederick Futterer temporarily ran the St. Louis Brewery with 2 partners, which was sold again in 1873 to Ohio Brewery co-owner Fritz Futterer and another man for \$9,000.



C. Hatch

The tour group seated alongside the Ruhstaller plot for a presentation by Dr. Bob & speakers from the Sacramento Historical Society on the historical importance Frank Ruhstaller and others played in the early years of Sacramento's first Breweries, along with other historical artifacts displayed behind.

2. Ruhstaller, Frank 1847-1907 (City Brewery, Buffalo Brewing Company)

B 6 Swiss immigrant Captain Frank Ruhstaller purchased Sacramento's City Brewery, founded by Hilbert & Borchers in 1881, which produced a steam beer. He also built another brewery at 12th and H Streets and sold his beer under the Ruhstaller label. With the growing popularity of cold-brewed lager beer, Ruhstaller discontinued production of steam beer and merged his holdings in 1897 with Buffalo Brewing Company, founded by Henry Grau in1889. The Ruhstaller family eventually became the major shareholders and managers of Buffalo Brewing Company. Buffalo beer was available locally on draft or in bottles, and was sold under a number of names over the years including the Ruhstaller's, Gilt Edge and Buffalo brands.

Hurt by cut-throat price wars during the mid-1930s, **Buffalo Brewing Company** finally folded in 1942. The operation was sold to **Grace Brothers**, which owned other breweries in Los Angeles and Santa Rosa, but was closed soon thereafter. In the 1950s the classic brewery was torn down and is now the site of the *Sacramento Bee* newspaper's offices and printing plant. However, Ruhstaller's impressive three-story Victorian headquarters building at 9th and J Streets still stands today. Originally it also housed a saloon, which featured his **Ruhstaller** beer.

3. Borchers, William F. 1815-1887 (Union Brewery, City Brewery)

B 118 William Borchers was listed as a "brewer of ale" at the Union Brewery, in operation from 1853-1856. He also, along with fellow Turnverein member Eugene Schaeffer, rented the City Brewery for an undetermined length of time, until 1857, when Schaeffer transferred his interest to Benedict Hilbert. Charles Schwartz bought in on the ownership also and in 1860 owners and operators were listed as Hilbert and Borchers. The brewery was at 10th and I Streets until at least 1859 or 1860, when it burned, and was rebuilt in 1861 at 12th and H Streets. The brewery had been started by John Merker in 1855. Benedict Hilbert died in 1866 leaving Borchers and Schwartz as sole proprietors. They hired a 20 year old from Switzerland named Frank Ruhstaller in 1865 as a brewers' apprentice. He had worked at breweries in Kentucky and Indiana, having arrived in America in 1862. Schwartz retired in the late 1870's leaving Borchers as the sole owner. He chose to sell his brewery to former employee Frank Ruhstaller in 1881.

4. Gebert, Jacob 1847-1899 (Union Brewery)

B 121 Jacob Gebert came from Alsace-Loraine in France (which later became part of the Empire of Germany) and **established the last pioneer brewery** in May of 1880 at 20th and O streets. He was hired by **Catharine Miller** (the first woman to head **brewer** and general supervisor) who then owned **Union Brewery**...and he later opened his *own* **Union Brewery** at 2000 O Street, using the same name...

He came to Sacramento with a trading company in 1858, first working at the **Columbus Brewery** in the late 1850s, returning to France then back to Sacramento

about 1866. He was a hard working employee, working at **Gruhler's** twice, as a barrel washer, malster and wagon driver. He was both skilled and transient. After working in San Jose at the **Almaden Brewery** he returned to **Gruhler's** for a third time and after a year moved to **George Ochs' St. Louis Brewery**, remaining for two years. He received an offer from **Scheld's** partner **John Ochswald** at the **Sacramento Brewery** offering him \$40 more weekly and moved there in 1874. After a year he bought a 160 acre farm worth over \$8,000 in the Florin area and grew produce.

In 1881 he established the Union Brewery at 2000 O Street...(the second brewery to have that name)...the same year that Ruhstaller purchased and rebuilt the City Brewery...which added two modern equipped breweries to Sacramento. Gebert, per tradition, included a saloon on the premises. It was stated that "His brewery probably best represented the national trends in modern construction and brewing techniques". He also made other investments...buying several lots for \$400 each, grading and improving the streets, and 9 years later selling them for 10 times as much. He also built a large residence next to the brewery where he lived with his wife Mary and son Charles

On December 13, 1887 a large fire, apparently started by employees living above the brewery, caused a great deal of damage. Loss was over \$12,000, insurance only covering half. He rapidly rebuilt and in 5 months reopened...9800 square feet compared to the prior brewery's 2100. It was 4 stories tall and he was able to double his prior production, to 24 barrels per day. He abruptly closed it in 1893 though the saloon remained open. He died in May, 1889 and was given an official Schiller Lodge funeral at the I.O.O.F. hall on 9th and K.

In 1899 his son Charles, a 20 year old, opened the Jacob Gebert and Son Saloon at the brewery site. It closed after one year and Charles went to work at the City Brewery for Frank Ruhstaller. Various saloons occupied the site until at least 1915 but as Charles died in 1914 and Mary, his wife, in 1911, the Gebert family history came to an end. The closing of Union Brewery symbolized the end of an era for pioneer style breweries in Sacramento. While fellow brewery owners joined the larger conglomeration of either or both the Sacramento and Buffalo Brewing Companies between 1889 and 1893, Gebert did not...letting him be the only active brewer in Sacramento to resist this change. He did join his fellow brewers in an 1883 beer price regulation act, however.

5. Keseberg, Louis (*Phoenix Brewery*)

NH Vet area Louis Keseberg, the last member of the Donner Party to be rescued from their winter shelters in the Sierra Nevada, had endured great humiliation due to the accusations of cannibalism. He owned a restaurant and also owned and operated the popular Lady Adams Hotel in Sacramento. "He sold it at auction for a large sum of money, to be paid the next day. However that night the terrible fire of 1852 occurred and swept away the hotel...and ruined the purchaser so Keseberg could not collect one cent". In 1853 he converted an old bar room and restaurant at 28th and M streets into the Phoenix Brewery...a local brewing giant for almost a decade. The brewery was close to Sutter's Fort, still a thriving trading and commercial post in 1853. In 1854 he attained membership in the Sacramento Turnverein, which gave him additional status and stability. About the same time he, and his partner known only as Schmidt likely introduced the first lager beer to Sacramento. In 1854 they enlarged their establishment and reduced the price from 75 to 65 cents per gallon.

Around 1856 he started distilling spirits using local produce such as peaches to produce brandy...he produced about 100 gallons of malt whiskey per day. The brewery averaged 1500 barrels a week out of a maximum capacity of 3000. He had 9 employees and a 4 horse wagon team that delivered up to 500 gallons of beer a week to the mines and local customers. He even employed a cooper for producing barrels and kegs, and a beer faucet manufacturer. Unfortunately in the great storm in the winter of 1861-1862 his business was destroyed. He then left Sacramento to run a distillery in Calistoga for his friend, **Sam Brannan**, returning to Sacramento in 1872 where he lived a quiet life until 1895 when at age 81 he died a charity case and likely was buried at the Sacramento County Hospital Cemetery.

6. Ochs, George 1822-1878 & Magdalena 1825-1893

(Ohio Brewery, Pacific Brewery, St. Louis Brewery)

A 63 The Ohio Brewery opened in 1855 with several owners until 1858 when future brewing magnate George Ochs purchased it. Previously he was involved with the construction of the Pacific Brewery, which opened in 1858. He had been involved in brewing as a laborer and businessman previously, and used his experience to solidify the Ohio Brewery's standing. He sold the Ohio Brewery in 1859 to Martin Arenz and returned to the Pacific Brewery, implementing improvements. He relied on former City Brewery employee Frank Ruhstaller to assist him for 3 years. He later re-purchased the Ohio Brewery in September, 1869, shortly after selling his Pacific Brewery for \$21,000 and by that time had risen among the ranks of Sacramento businessmen. Ochs changed the name of the brewery to the St. Louis Brewery around 1870 or 1871 when he took in as partners, or sold, or leased it to Frederick Futterer, Henry Alpeter and Frank Ruhstaller. By 1872 Ochs had again assumed full control, running the brewery until his death in 1878. His wife Magdalena then assumed ownership until it closed in the early 1880's…the second woman to own this brewery.

7. White, DeWitt Clinton 1822-1903 (McLennan and White Brewery)

A 73 DeWitt C. White was involved with Henry McLennan in Sacramento's most short-lived post-1851 brewing operation. The McLennan and White Brewery opened in 1870 and closed the next year. It was located on K St. between 12th and 13th, and was listed as making "Hinckley Beer". After the partnership dissolved, White then operated the Telegraph Stables on 10th between H and I sometime before 1873 until 1881. He died in 1903 after his arm was crushed by a train. Dewitt was a Louisiana native and opened one of Jackson, California's earliest hotels, the Louisiana House, in 1852. It operated through the late 1850's.

8. <u>Arenz, Martin</u> 1827-1903

(Ohio Brewery, Sutterville Brewery, Capital Brewery)

B 125 Martin Arenz purchased the Ohio Brewery in 1859, possibly in partnership with Jacob Linn, a Frenchman, running the brewery as "Arenz and Company". "Martin, a German born California pioneer came to Sacramento in 1849 and was the Chief Engineer of a fire department...a position of status...and was described as one of Sacramento's...most prominent citizens...His success in the wholesale liquor trade and saloon ownership after he sold the brewery in 1860 to the original owner, Antone Miller, suggested his great skills". Martin then opened the Sutterville Brewery in December, 1861, the first new brewery of the 1860's. It was located on Sutterville Road and had an attached beer garden. He sold it in 1868 for \$7,600 and immediately set out to open the Capital Brewery at 12th and I Streets...one block from Ruhstaller's City Brewery. The building was originally designed for storing malt but was open and running as a brewery on January 1st, 1869. He took in another part owner in 1869, Louis Nicolaus.It was sold again in 1873 to Ohio Brewery co-owner Fritz Futterer and another man for \$9,000.

9. Oschwald, John 1820-1891 (Sacramento Brewery)

A 67 In 1869, John Ochswald became a partner with Philip Scheld, a countryman, who started the Sacramento Brewery in approximately 1854. Philip eventually wanted to return to Europe, and needed a partner he could trust. Though Ochswald was not a known brewer he had experience in retail and liquor trades. He assumed at least a majority of the brewing activities in 1872, allowing Scheld to pursue other interests including the director of the Sacramento Savings Bank.

10. Wahl, Christian F. 1859-1893 (Columbus Brewery)

B 100 Christian Wahl came from Wurteemberg (sic), Germany in 1869, having apprenticed in the brewing trade as a youth including extensive travel throughout Germany. Arriving in San Francisco from New York he found work at the John Wieland Brewery, and then at the Chicago Brewery until he purchased the Columbus Brewery, established in 1852, from Elias Gruhler in 1881. It is unclear how he came to own such a large brewery but over the next decade proved to be an intelligent brewery owner and businessman. He hired his brother, Gustav, to help run the family business, "becoming one of the most productive and popular breweries in Sacramento". He incorporated the Columbus Brewery in October, 1890, agreeing on a 50 year commitment with his four other stockholders to manufacture and sell beer and other malt liquors and to purchase and hold real estate and personal property and to sell the same. They raised \$30,000 to make improvements enabling the brewery to produce 20,000 barrels a year, enabling them to better compete with larger regional and national firms. It was said..."The trade, which extends throughout northern California and western Nevada, and is also extensive in San Francisco, is constantly increasing under his judicious management.'

The continued association with others from his homeland is evident in the comment... "Christian, formerly a member of Concord Lodge, I. O. O. F., San Francisco, now belongs to Schiller Lodge. He is also a member of Sacramento Turn-Verein; of the Verein-Eintracht, and of Germanic Lodge, No. 138, K. of H., San Francisco." Christian was described as "a public-spirited man, who takes an interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of Sacramento". Sadly, just 3 years after the incorporation Christian Wahl committed suicide at age 34, despondent over problems with his wife. He hung himself in the cellar under a saloon at 4th and K streets, ending the brewery's almost 40 year run. The corporation apparently dissolved as none of the others had any experience in such an operation, and Christian's brother Gustav had succumbed to pneumonia 5 years earlier. He left his wife and 5 children to carry on without him.

11. Gruhler, Jacob 1818-1877 (Lager Beer Saloon)

A 70 Jacob Gruhler joined his brothers, Christian & Elias in opening a popular "lager beer saloon" at 6th and J streets with profits from his successful tobacco shop in Cincinnati. The saloon became the brewery's official beer depot.

12. Heilbron, Adolph 1833-1913 (Buffalo Brewery)

A 70 In 1888 Adolf Heilbron was one of the founding incorporators of the Buffalo Brewing Company of Sacramento, which became the largest brewery west of the Mississippi in its time. He served as its president thereafter, as well as carrying on his many other endeavors which were remarkable for a man of his time. Born in Hanover,

Germany in January 18, 1833, "he acquired his education in the schools of his native town, and became an assistant in his father's store. He also learned the trade of manufacturer of tobacco, which is considered a very important one in the fatherland". In 1852 he "sailed to New York, arriving after a voyage of fifty-six days....proceeding thence to St. Louis, where he had a brother living, and there he secured work at his trade, being employed in that capacity until 1854, when he came to California by way of New Orleans and the isthmus route".

For a short time Adolf remained in San Francisco, later prospecting for gold in El Dorado County in connection with two other young men, with moderate success. He came to Sacramento in the fall of 1856, joining his brother in the livestock and meat market business. In 1874 they leased a grant of land in Tulare and Fresno counties on the Kings River known as the Rancho Laguna de Tache, increasing these holdings to 69,000 acres when it was sold in 1891. "However they still conducted their San Francisco and Sacramento houses, also the wild flower stock farm in Fresno County, where they are breeding the celebrated Durham and Hereford cattle. Their herds are known as the best in the state; and not alone the stockmen of California have drawn young stock from them to improve their herds but also those of Nevada, Oregon, Mexico, Central America, the Hawaiian Islands, and Japan".

Describing Adolf was not easy... "excellent business ability, resourceful and energetic, and has been an active promoter of many enterprises....including being one of the originators of the Germania Building and Loan Association in 1876, the first association of its kind organized in California...one of the incorporators of the Capital Telephone & Telegraph Company.....director of the California State Bank.... one of the organizers and a director of San Joaquin Ice and Creamery Company, one of the largest institutions of the kind in the state.... and involvement in the wholesale hardware firm of Shaw, Ingram, Batcher & Company. In 1879 he was elected sheriff and tax collector of Sacramento County, which office he held for two terms". It was befittingly written of him: "The mind of Mr. Heilbron is many-sided, but no side is abnormally developed, all being harmonious and even. To whatever he gives his time and attention he carries through to successful completion. He is ever just and also generous; others must do the part they agree with him to do, and never has he been known to fail on his part.... As a man his business ability has been constantly manifested in one phase or another, showing unlimited possibilities, nothing too great to grasp and master; and the extensive concerns...some of the largest in California...of which he is now the head are monuments to his wonderful power". It becomes quite obvious he was a driving force behind the Buffalo Brewing Company's success, along with others he partnered with.

13. Nicolaus, Louis 1829-1903 (Capital Brewery, Sacramento Brewing Co.)

A 69 Louis Nicolaus was a native of Germany, born on January 5, 1829. In 1846 he came to America, sailing to New York, a fifty-five day voyage. He proceeded to Buffalo, and there entered an apprenticeship at the cooper's trade. In 1848 he went to Canada, returned to Buffalo, and later to Cleveland, where he worked on the canal to Dresden for a few months. He then went to Cincinnati in 1848, then to St. Louis, and from there to Lexington, Missouri, splitting staves for Waddle & Co. In the spring of 1850 a company of forty-three was organized under Captain Joe Waddle (a Mexican war veteran), for the purpose of going to California. With Louis as a member they proceeded to California via Ft. Kearney, Ft. Laramie, Sublette's cut-off and the Truckee route, Mr. Nicolaus being sick most of the way. He and those with his wagon, four in all, stopped at Nevada City and engaged at mining for a short period, then mined at Hess's Crossing until the fall of 1851. Mr. Nicolaus then came to Sacramento. He married Susannah Kerth in 1857 and from here went up to Amador County. He mined awhile there, then started in the butcher business and raising stock until the fall of 1868, when he again came to Sacramento where Louis assumed part ownership of the Capital Brewery, with Martin Arenz, in October, 1869. Even though he lived in Amador County he kept close connections with Sacramento, with his children all being born in Sacramento. His brother in law, Wendell Kerth, helped finance the brewery. Arenz and Nicolaus were partners until Kerth replaced Arenz as co-partner in 1873. Nicolaus then initiated a total overhaul of the brewery as there was an advance toward mechanization.

About 1875, Louis Nicolaus Jr. began working for his father and became chief brewer in 1887, retiring to ranching in 1895. In 1883 a fire caused major damage, but it was rebuilt and in 1884 he began brewing a beer superior to any lager...the famous "Winer" Lager. The Capital Brewery prospered and in 1888 Nicolaus, and Kerth, invested \$10,000 in the Buffalo Brewery becoming original stockholders. Kerth died in 1892 and Nicolaus would continue as sole owner, playing a major role in the great changes in Sacramento's brewing industry in the 1890's. He consolidated with Frank Ruhstaller's Sacramento Brewing Company in 1892 and agreed to cease brewing operations, the Capital Brewery being converted into a malt house. Nicolaus enjoyed the last years of his life as a successful pioneer brewer until his death in 1903.

Mr. Nicolaus was a member of Schiller Lodge, No. 105, I. O. O. F., and of the Sacramento Hussars. It was said "He is a popular man, and counts his friends by the score." He was also described as a "jovial, big-hearted man" and left an enormous estate totaling over \$100,000 which went to his four living children, as his wife had died before him.

14. McLennan, Henry K. 1833-1908

(McLellan and White Brewery, Phoenix Saloon)

A 51 Henry K. McLennan was born in Franklin County, New York in 1833 and arrived in California over the Isthmus of Panama. He became a stage driver in San Francisco and moved to Sacramento in 1869 when he started the McLellan and White Brewery with D. C. White. In 1872 McLennan was part owner of the Phoenix Saloon at 107 K Street. He then went to Chico and returned to Sacramento to operate first the Capital Hotel then the Union Hotel until his death in 1905.

15. Gruhler, Christian 1830-1878 & Elias 1825-1883 (Columbus Brewery)

A 44 The Gruhler Brothers (Christian & Elias) arrived from Germany in 1845 with their cousin, Jacob, and came to California from Cincinnati. They were involved in the San Francisco grocery trade in 1853 before coming to Sacramento in 1854.

Christian Gruhler was born September 12, 1830. After the discovery of gold in California, he determined to come to the Pacific coast and, with his brother and others, eight wagons in all and ox teams, came the overland route across the continent. They were 105 days on the way, and arrived here in 1852. He worked in San Francisco until the following year, when he engaged in the grocery trade. In 1854, when arriving in Sacramento, he joined the Turnverein and briefly operated a saloon in 1854 on the corner of 11th and J streets. He died in October, 1878 at age 48, leaving his wife Catharine, 4 children and a large estate. "His probate demonstrated the extensive fraternal connections and support system of the Sacramento German business and social community...he had relied on fellow countrymen for most of his needs, demonstrating the cohesion as a community and the extent of penetration by the German Community in Sacramento's commerce".

Elias Gruhler became the sole proprietor of the brewery after Christian's death and operated it until 1881, when he sold it to fellow Turnverein member, Christian Wahl. Elias died suddenly in 1883, leaving his wife and one son.

The Gruhler Brothers' Columbus Brewery opened in October, 1854 at 2^{nd} and O Streets in an area known as Columbus Gardens. In 1855 the brewery was moved to 16th and K streets where it remained for almost 40 years. They employed 2 or 3 men and a cooper, and produced approximately 52 barrels a week during the brewing seson. They were noted for their hop usage...18-20 pounds per brewing...indicating possibly a unique beer style. In 1857 they constructed a distillery to produce malt whiskey...about 50 gallons per week. They continued to produce beer and malt whiskey through the 1860's. In 1867 they replaced the wooden brewery with a 2 story brick building and used a steam engine previously powering the Adams printing press for the Demorcratic State Daily Journal Newspaper which increased the efficiency. The brothers continued their upward climb in Sacramento's business and social circles and were considered upright Citizens..." for eighteen years (they have) done business among us without the slightest discord or ill feeling between them-a fact worthy of note in California, so subject to shifts and changes of all kinds and at short intervals". Their success allowed them to move into new homes with their families. With upgrading in their brewery they increased from 52 to 143 barrels weekly.

16. Rablin, James 1808-1860 (Franklin Brewery, English Brewery)

A 38 From Cornwall, England, James Rablin's involvement in brewing occurred in the Franklin and English Brewery, in operation from 1853 to 1868, at 31 st and K Streets. The original brewery had been started by Philip Yager in 1853 at K Street between 27 at and 28 m... near Sutter's Fort. The original building had been a shelter for emigrants, a store, a granary, a makeshift jail, and Sacramento's first private hospital.

Rablin moved into the new brewery at 31st and K Streets in 1854 naming it the Franklin Brewery. It evolved from producing common beer and ale to lager. He sold it after 3 years to Robert and William Smith who were Wisconsin natives. The role of James Rablin, a Cornishman, is unclear...whether he was a partner or involved in financial backing. Regardless of his role, it was one of the few non-German owned breweries in the 1800's. It operated as Smith, Rablin and Company, later renamed the English Brewery in 1857, when they reverted to brewing English style ale and porter.

They produced three styles of beer, sold to local outlets and saloons, including **Rablin's Exchange** on 10th and K, which he owned and operated:

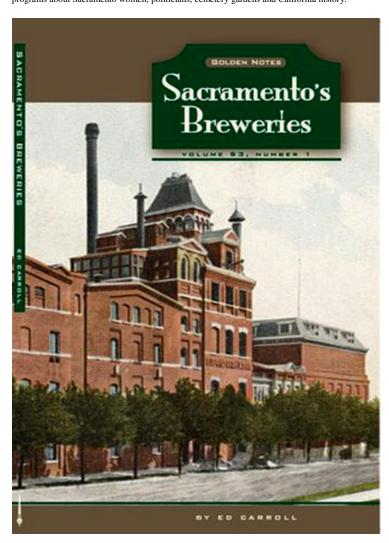
- •Porter brewed in the winter and aged for over a year in their cellar.
- •Ale brewed during winter and bottled for summer consumption...known as Smiths' Sacramento Cream Ale
- $\hbox{\bf \bullet Light Ale} \hbox{sold under the name of $Rablin's Tiger Ale}. \\$

Assembled from research and notes compiled by Dr. Bob LaPerriere, who leads many tours of this type and is dedicated in his efforts to historic preservation in Sacramento. He is a founding member of the Old City Cemetery Committee (OCCC) and Sacramento County Cemetery Advisory Council (SCCAC), focused on preserving the cultural heritage of long-forgotten cemeteries and other historic sites throughout the county. His tours offer an exciting way for the general public to learn more about Sacramento's early Gold Rush years.



Sacramento Bee / Manny Crisostomo

Dr. Bob LaPerriere, a local historian leads a tour of pioneer brewers buried at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery. The program, sponsored by the Sacramento County Historical Society, is part of Sacramento Beer Week celebrating the heritage of a thriving local industry founded by mostly German immigrants during the Gold Rush. LaPerriere led a group of about 45 people through the tombstones and mausoleums telling stories about pioneer brew masters and bar owners thru a microphone connected to white speaker he strapped to his chest. Sacramento Historic City Cemetery routinely offers themed tours of its grounds, and the Old City Cemetery Committee, a volunteer group, organizes many free tours with historical themes. Upcoming events include programs about Sacramento women, politicians, cemetery gardens and California history.



Sacramento's Breweries, by historian Ed Carroll, and published by the Sacramento County Historical Society as part of their Golden Notes series, is the story of Sacramento's breweries from the Gold Rush through Prohibition, illustrated with historic photographs provided by the Center for Sacramento History. Copies of the book may be purchased for \$15 from the Sacramento County Historical Society, www.sachistoricalsociety.org or at Beers Book Center, 915 S Street, Sacramento.