

Mixers and Shakers

Tracing your Saloon, Tavern, and Bar Keeping Ancestors Before Prohibition

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Beyond the Local Pub

Common places your ancestor would have purchased alcohol to consume on premises or to take home

- Tavern
- Saloons
- Dramshops – Commercial establishment where spiritus alcoholic beverages are sold in small quantities
 - Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, and Texas
- Stillhouses - a distillery or place where the distilling process takes place
- Hotels
- Inns
- Grocers
- Breweries
- Drug Stores

Making Drinks at Home

Early American cookery books included recipes for brewing beer, making wine, cider and mead, or creating spirits at home. Examples of these recipes can be found in Maria Rundell's 1823 book *American Domestic Cookery: Formed on Principles of Economy, for the Use of Private Families by an Experienced Housekeeper; to which is added The Complete Family Brewer* -

<https://bit.ly/3F388s8>

Breweries

The United States was home to several hundred small scale local breweries in the 1840s and 1850s. Prior to prohibition, breweries owned or controlled many

saloons, which were a dominant retail outlet for alcohol. Shipping breweries used innovations such as pasteurizing, bottling, and transporting local breweries supplied draft beer in wooden kegs and barrels

- Gravity Fed 1850s Brewery - Carillon Brewing Company in Dayton, Ohio - <https://bit.ly/3d16nyX>
- Townsends visit to Carillon Brewing Company <https://bit.ly/3o2wSuj>

Licenses

Search through county court files for applications, licenses, bond books, excise books, and other paperwork

FamilySearch – www.familysearch.org

- *Massachusetts State Archives collection, Colonial Period, 1622-1788*
- *New Jersey, Applications for Tavern Licenses (Various by County) 1753-1860*
- *Coventry Twp., Chester County, Pa. : Tax Lists, Road Dockets, Wills, Tavern Papers and Public Officials*
- *Ohio, Record of Licenses for Taverns (Various by County), 1815-1839*
- *Kentucky, Tavern Bonds & Licenses (Various by county), 1842-1903*
- *Pennsylvania, Court Dockets (various by county), 1753-1879*
 - Dockets include appointments of civil officials, and issuance of tavern and peddler's licenses.
- *Virginia, Fee Books (various by county), 1750-1795*
- *Indiana, Porter County, Miscellaneous Records, 1885-1910*

Local, State, Territorial, & Commonwealth Laws and Statutes

Local, state, territorial, commonwealth laws outline very clear expectations of making, distributing, serving, and selling alcohol. These laws and statutes include:

- Logistical process of how to acquire a license
- Limitations on where a business can be placed
- Limitations on how much product can be sold
- Circumstances of how or when a license can be revoked
- Process of how and when tax revenue is collected
- Limitations on sales
- Sunday Sales

- Minors
- Habitual Drunkards
- Specific Products (wine, beer, or cider)

Some examples of laws and statutes include:

- *General Revenue Law of the State of Missouri, also the Laws Regulating Taxation of Auctioneers, Billiard and other Tables, Brokers, Collateral Inheritances, etc., Dramshops, Ferries, Insurance Companies, Manufacturers, Merchants and Peddlers* <https://bit.ly/3ifEE0g>
- *Laws of the Territory of Michigan (1833)* <https://bit.ly/3crJftg>
- *The General Statutes of the State of Connecticut - Acts Relating to Taverns and Spirituous Liquors (1866)* <https://bit.ly/3oE5l1f>
- *The Revised Statutes of the State of Illinois (1905)* <https://bit.ly/3ntCT2G>

National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Program Records - <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/20812721>

The National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

This record series at the National Archives contains records documenting the building, architectural, and cultural aspects of places officially designated as worthy of historic preservation.

Among the attributes provided about each property are: name, address, list date, period of significance, theme or historic context, and architectural classification. When known or important additional descriptive elements about properties include architect or builder, significant person, and major changes.

Appeals Court

A business owner/operator may violate municipal codes, or local and state laws. Their license may have been stripped from the business owner. The owner would then have the option to present their case to an Appellate/Appeals court.

Labor Unions

- *Mixer and Server - Hotel and Restaurant Employee's International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America (1903-1925)*
<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/005876199>
- *Book of Membership and Constitution of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America* <https://bit.ly/30WpPKM>

City Directories and Gazateers

- Ancestry.com - *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995*
- HathiTrust - <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
- Internet Archive - <https://archive.org/>
- Digital Public Library of America - <https://dp.la/>
- FamilySearch - United States Directories -
[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Directories](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Directories)

Business and Industry Publications

- *Bonfort's Wine and Spirit Circular*
 - Google Books - <https://bit.ly/3rSjZ6G>
 - HathiTrust - <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100033582>
- *Ridley & Co.'s Monthly Wine and Spirit Trade Circular* -
<https://bit.ly/3rSkeyC>

Travelogues

- Travelogues: Scenic and Wilderness Travel Literature, c.1850-1920
<https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amrvhtml/consbib1.html>
- Burton Holmes the American traveler, photographer and filmmaker, who coined the term "travelogue" - <https://bit.ly/3cUnzWM>
- Library of Southern Literature: Travel Writing -
<https://docsouth.unc.edu/southlit/travel.html>
- Alexander von Humboldt's *Personal Narrative of Travels to the Equinoctial Regions of America, During the Years 1799–1804* <https://bit.ly/3oYnaZ8>

- Basil Hall's *Travels in North America, in the Years 1827 and 1828* - <https://bit.ly/3l8ZLmv>

Account Books

Found in university, college, municipal, archival and historical society collections. Will contain information such as:

- Name of Patron
- Type of Charges
- Drink Names/Bottle Type
- Date of Charges
- Total Amount
- Payment Rendered

WorldCat – <http://search.worldcat.org>

- Saloon Account Books
- Hotel Account Books
- Tavern Account Books

Businesses or Social Associations under a Saloon/Inn/Tavern

- Bath House
- Miner's Exchange
- Cigar Shop
- Bowling Alley
- Brothel
- Telegraph Office
- Dance Hall
- Solders' Home
- Dry Goods/Grocer
- Polling Place
- Church/School
- Gambling Hall

Newspapers

- National Police Gazette (1845-1906) <https://bit.ly/3DsSYvd>
 - ProQuest Men's Magazine Archive - *National Police Gazette 1845 – 1977*
- Chronicling America - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
- Google Newspaper Archive - <https://news.google.com/newspapers>
- Fulton Search (Alternate Interface for Old Fulton NY Post Cards) <https://fultonsearch.org/>

Bar Keeping and Drink Making Guides

The Bartender's Guide: A Complete Cyclopeda of Plain and Fancy Drinks by Jerry Thomas (1862)

American Bar-Tender or the Art and Mystery of Making Drinks by E.A. Simmons (1874)

Behind the Bar - The Complete Bartender Art of Mixing Plain and Fancy Drinks, Royal Publishing Company (1884)

Fancy Drinks and Popular Beverages by The Only William (1896)

Modern American Drinks by J. Kappeler (1900 & 1906)

Cocktail-Ology by Count Benvenuto Martini (1916)

National Police Gazette Bartender Award Winners and Recipes

- Hoffman House Bartenders Guide (1905) <https://euvs-vintage-cocktail-books.cld.bz/1905-The-Hoffman-House-Bartender-s-Guide-by-Charles-S-Mahoney>
- Hoffman House Bartenders Guide (1910) <https://euvs-vintage-cocktail-books.cld.bz/1910-The-Hoffman-House-bartender-s-guide-how-to-open-a-saloon-and-make-it-pay>
- Hoffman House Bartenders Guide (1912) <https://euvs-vintage-cocktail-books.cld.bz/1912-Hoffman-House-Bartender-s-Guide-by-Charley-Mahoney>

Books and Resources

- *A Useful Guide, for Grocers, Distillers, Hotel & Tavern-keepers, and Wine and Spirit Dealers, of Every Denomination* By William Beastall (1829) <https://bit.ly/3oEQp2T>
- *Stage-Coach and Tavern Days* by Alice Morse Earle (1900) <https://bit.ly/3x0ZCGB>
- *Tavern Anecdotes and Sayings Including the Origin of Signs, and Reminiscences Connected with Taverns, Coffee-houses, Clubs* by William West (1881) <https://bit.ly/3oJwXlC>
- *Rules of the Tavern Club of Boston with a List of Officers and Members* (1894) <https://bit.ly/3crCrfi>
- *A Sketch of Fraunces Tavern and Those Connected with Its History* by Henry Russell Drowne (1925) <https://bit.ly/3wXz1dw>

- *The Taverns and Stages of Early Wisconsin* by John Henry A. Lacher (1915)
<https://bit.ly/3ntsZhN>

Websites and Digital Resources

- EUVS Vintage Cocktail Books - <https://euvs-vintage-cocktail-books.cld.bz/>
- Library of Congress Photo Collection
<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?q=Tavern&sp=1>

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