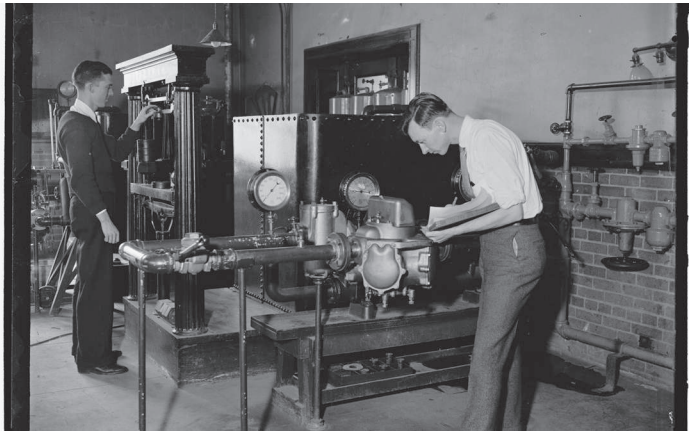
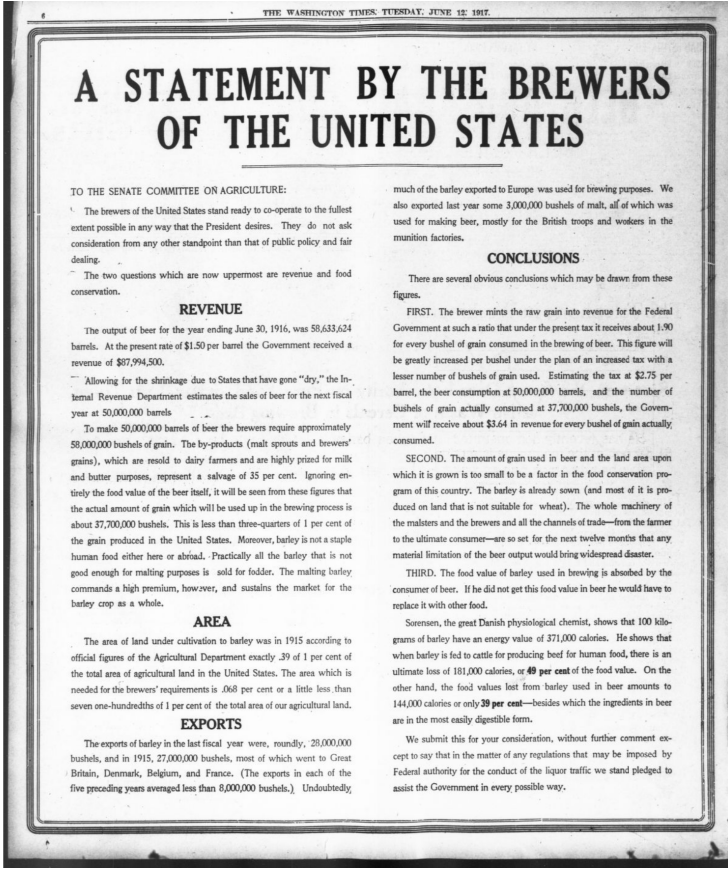
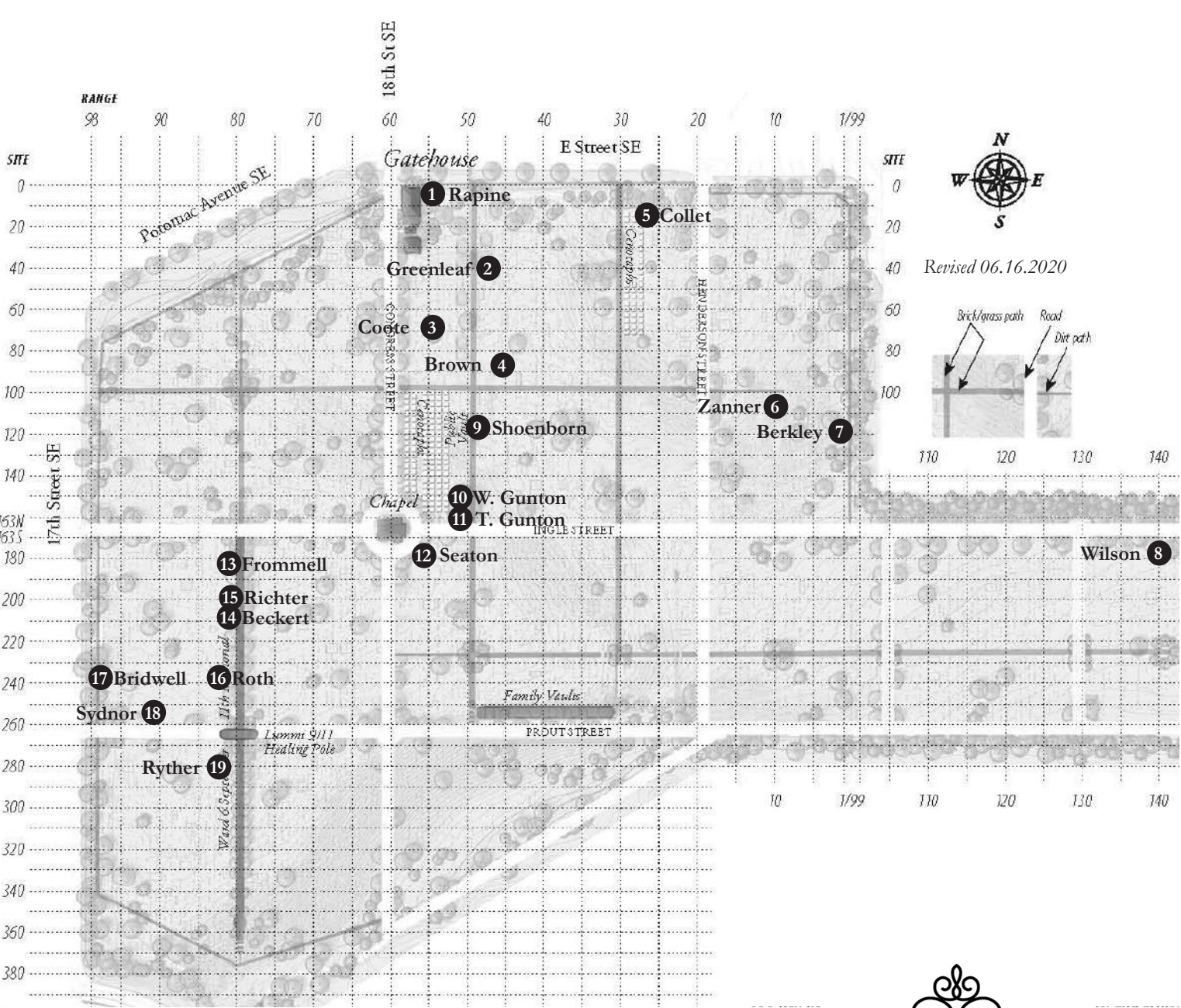


Local Prohibition in 1917 shut down two major breweries on Capitol Hill: the Washington Brewery (where Stuart-Hobson Middle School now stands), and the National Capital Brewing Company on 14th Street, SE. This latter site was home to a long series of breweries, starting with Beckert’s Park in the 1850s. During Prohibition, it became an ice cream factory, then was torn down in the 1960s. It is now the Safeway, just three blocks from here. Along with Prospect Hill Cemetery, Congressional Cemetery today has the lion’s share of historic Washington brewers.



And now a beer meter. Washington, D.C., May 1, 1937. To aid Uncle Same in collecting the tax on the millions of barrels of beer brewed in this country every year, the National Bureau of Standards has designed a master beer meter for use of the alcohol unit of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, U.S. Treasury. Government inspectors employ this master meter in checking the accuracy of the brewery beer meter to determine the volume of beer brewed. In the photograph the large tank receives the liquid [after passing] thru the meter where it is weighed to get [the] true volume.



**A WORD OF CAUTION:** The centuries have made many grave markers and sites unstable. Please be careful near grave markers and watch where you step: depressions and sink holes lie hidden in grass, and footstones and corner markers can trip the unwary.

*Join us!*  
The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1976 and dedicated to the restoration, interpretation, and management of Congressional Cemetery. It is predominantly a volunteer-based organization relying on over 400 neighbors, history buffs, conservators, dogwalkers, and armed forces personnel each year to help restore and maintain this national treasure. In 1979, the Association succeeded in having Congressional Cemetery listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It became a National Historic Landmark in 2011. Please join the Association or make a donation and help in the third century of service to the Nation’s Capital.



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Funding for the preservation and maintenance of Historic Congressional Cemetery is provided in part by the Congressional Cemetery Endowment, which was created with matching funds provided by the Congress of the United States and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The property is owned by Christ Church Washington Parish.



**Association for the Preservation of  
Historic Congressional Cemetery**  
*Walking Tour*  
**BREWERS**

History comes to life in Congressional Cemetery. The creak and clang of the wrought iron gate signals your arrival into the early decades of our national heritage. Surrounding you are the men and women who shaped the new capital and gave substance to the new nation: congressmen and tradesmen, diplomats and domestics, explorers and architects, soldiers and musicians. And brewers.

Brewers were once the second-largest employer in Washington after the federal government. Early brewers were often English immigrants who focused on producing ale. The Washington Brewery, which operated near Navy Yard from 1805 to 1836, had numerous owners. Brewing gre dramatically after the 1850s once German immigrants settled in Washington and introduced lager, a more palatable beer for Washington’s hot, humid summers. George Beckert was one of the first to produce lager locally.

This BREWERS TOUR highlights just a few of the hundreds of fascinating people buried in Congressional Cemetery. As you walk the trail of this self-guided letterboxing tour, note the artistry and craftsmanship of the memorial stone carvings and try to decipher the cultural language of the iconography.



The following are numbered to correspond with the map on the back. Please also refer to the Range (R) and Site (S) grid numbers to help locate each grave site.

1. DANIEL RAPINE (1768–1826)

He served as Washington’s second mayor, lived on Capitol Hill and owned a bookstore that sold Washington Brewery beer – the first recorded retail outlet for beer in the city.

R54/S6 NO MARKER



Library of Congress LC-DIG-pga-02166

An 1879 advertisement touting lager beer as a healthy family-friendly beverage.

2. JAMES GREENLEAF (1765–1843)

He was a major investor in Washington real estate and Dr. Cornelius Coningham’s business partner for the Washington Brewery – the first brewery in the City of Washington.

R49/S23

3. CLEMENT T. COOTE (1784–1849)

An English immigrant, he was the fourth operator of the Washington Brewery near Navy Yard, a city alderman, dry goods store owner, and justice of the peace. He closed the brewery in 1836.

R54/S59

4. GEORGE ROTHWELL BROWN (1879–1960)

A Washington Post columnist and author of Washington: A Not Too Serious History (1930) that told the history of many bars, beer gardens and saloons in the city.

R45/S83



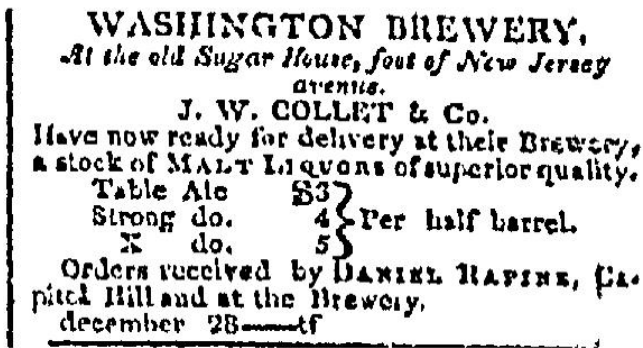
Library of Congress LC-USZ62-132149

The National Capital Brewing, Co. on Fourteenth Street, SE

5. JOHN W. COLLET (c.1749–1814)

The second owner of the Washington Brewery near the Navy Yard – he was thus the second brewer in Washington. He died in September 1814, six weeks after the British raid on Washington during the War of 1812.

R26/S20



John W. Collet’s advertisement for the Washington Brewery in the National Intelligencer on January 18, 1812 showed the price of beer and where to find it - including Daniel Rapine’s Capitol Hill bookstore.

6. WILLIAM ZANNER (1825–1911)

First, he owned a brewery, then later a beer bottling operation in Southwest.

R12/S114

7. HATTIE BERKLEY (1882–1895)

At thirteen years old, she was riding a bicycle on April 4, 1895 when she collided with a National Capital Brewing delivery wagon at Ninth and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. She fractured her skull and soon died.

R3/S115

8. GEORGE WILSON (1830–1910)

He ran the Arlington Brewery near Georgetown 1873–1874. He moved to Washington from Massachusetts during the Civil War.

R138/S181

9. HENRY SHOENBORN (1833–1896)

A Beckert son-in-law and business partner to brewer Herman Richter, his remains were placed in the Public Vault briefly after his death, then relocated to Oak Hill Cemetery in Georgetown.

PUBLIC VAULT

10. WILLIAM A. GUNTON (1826–1854)

Born in England, he ran a drugstore at Pennsylvania and Ninth Street, and brewed beer at the Washington Brewery with his brother Thomas from 1826–1832.

R51/S155

11. THOMAS GUNTON (1783–1853)

Born in England, he brewed beer at the Washington Brewery with his brother William from 1826–1832.

R51/S165

12. WILLIAM SEATON (1785–1866)

A former mayor of Washington, Restaurateur Edward Abner tore down Seaton’s downtown mansion to build a beer garden.

R57/S165

13. FRANCIS FROMMELL (–1866)

He operated a Civil War-era brewery at 504 D Street, SE from 1864 until his death two years later.

R82/S165 NO MARKER

14. GEORGE (1810–1859) & THERESA BECKERT (1813–1889)

Together they ran Beckert’s Park restaurant, brewery and beer garden on Capitol Hill, where the Safeway now stands on 14th Street, SE. George may have been the first to brew lager in Washington. A German immigrant, George opened Beckert’s Park on Capitol Hill in the 1850s and brewed lager to sell in his adjacent beer garden. After her husband’s death, Theresa sold the brewery to her two sons-in-law but took over the family restaurant and ran it for years. Much of the Beckert family is buried in the surrounding plot.

R82/S219-220



Brewer and restaurant owner George Beckert and his wife Theresa.

15. HERMAN RICHTER (c.1825–1874)

His white obelisk is just inches away from Theresa Beckert’s grave; he was one of the two Beckert sons-in-law who took over the family brewery after George Beckert died in 1859.

R82/S217

16. JACOB ROTH (c.1827–1888)

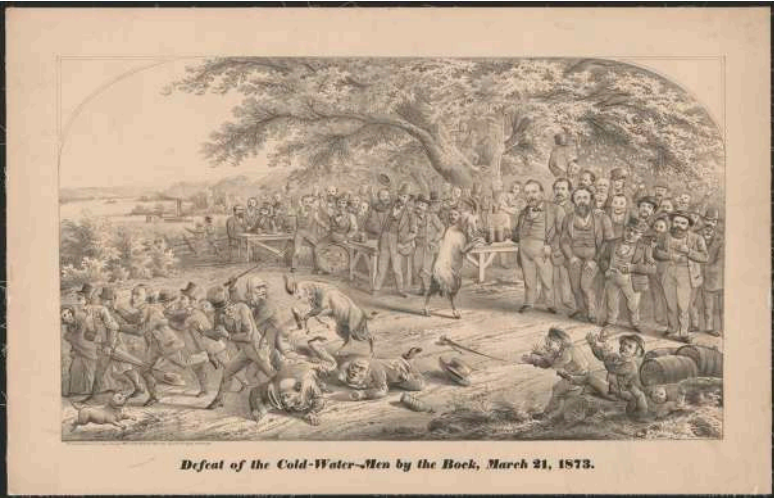
He ran a Capitol Hill brewery at 318 First Street, NE.

R83/S228 NO MARKER

17. MOSES R. BRIDWELL (1824–1892)

He was a beer bottler in Southwest. Until 1890, federal law prevented brewers from bottling on premises, so most outsourced it to bottling plants.

R98/S226



Library of Congress LC-DIG-jpmisce-43711

A March 1873 brewer’s advertisement for Bock beer, the lager brewed over winter. The Bock (billy goats in German) are routing the cold-water temperance men while upstanding beer drinkers cheer them on.

18. WILLIAM SYDNOR (–1872)

As a driver for Whitney & Lander’s Brewery and conducting his daily rounds on July 5, he died from the heat.

R91/S251

19. EDWIN RYTHER (1822–1875)

He purchased the Arlington Brewery at K Street and 27th Street, NW with a business partner in 1874, and briefly ran it until his death less than a year later.

R82/S280



Library of Congress LC-DIG-pga-00192

The oldest known image of a brewery in Washington is from George Cooke’s 1833 painting, “City of Washington from Beyond the Navy Yard.” The Washington brewery is the tall brick building on the Anacostia River. Clement Coote owned the brewery at the time.