

## North Carolina Brewers and Bottlers, 1774-1908

By David Tingen, Raleigh, North Carolina

A Book Review by Bill Baab

Why would a book documenting the brewery industry in North Carolina be of interest to collectors from Georgia and Virginia and perhaps elsewhere? Well, I'll tell you:

The Augusta Brewing Company was established in Augusta, Georgia in 1888, selling its Belle of Georgia flagship lager and its Belle of Carolina Export Beer.

I had researched the Augusta brewery in depth, speaking to surviving members of the founding Herman and Schweers families, delving into back issues of *The Augusta Chronicle* and learning that the company had sold beer in Havana, Cuba just after the Spanish-American War.

The brewery had even sold its Export Beer to branches of the state-run South Carolina Dispensary during the latter's 1893-1907 operation.

What I didn't know was that the Augusta Brewing Company had established branches of its own throughout North Carolina. I had never seen mention of it in family memoirs or newspaper accounts.

Longtime Raleigh Bottle Club member and collector David Tingen has written and published "*North Carolina Brewers and Bottlers, 1774-1908*," covering most of that history until Prohibition appeared on the scene and forced the beer industry to become extinct.

His 87-page, spiral-bound book includes more than 60 colored bottle images and includes a companion CD with more than 400 images of additional bottles, ads and articles.

So I was reading and on Page 9 there is a reference to Pat McIn-

tyre (1898-1900) as "Agent and bottler of Augusta Brewing Company Beer" in Asheville. Whoa! I'd never seen mention of that during research on the Augusta brewery.

On Page 10, there is a listing of Augusta Brewing Company (1893-1900), with B.L. Weddenfeller, Manager. "The bottling works opened shortly after the purchase of Mecklenburg Bottling (Works) which allowed Augusta instant access to bottling and the local (Charlotte) market."


On Page 60, the Augusta Brewing Company (1895-1907) is listed in Salisbury, with J.C. Black as manager. "Bottler of Augusta Brewing Belle of Carolina Export beer." John F. Ludwick was in 1904 appointed sole agent and bottler for the Augusta firm.

The Augusta brewery wasn't the only one to establish branches.

The Robert Portner Brewing Company, of Alexandria, Virginia, also had established "beer depots" throughout North Carolina as well as in Charleston, South Carolina and Augusta.

Tingen's book makes numerous references to branches affiliated with Portner until the latter's death in 1907. After his passing, and with the advent of Prohibition, Portner products disappeared from the marketplace.

The highly recommended book and its accompanying CD sell for \$30 and can be ordered from the author postpaid at 9412 Greenfield Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27615.



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For more information contact:  
 Bob DeCroo 724.326.8741  
 Jay Hawkins 724.872.6013

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