



German Brewing Culture in Cincinnati

Brewing culture is an important part of our German-American identity. It is a living custom, not only during various Oktoberfest celebrations throughout the country, but also because it cheers up the sports games and brightens the “gemütliche Stammtischrunde.” A new book by German Life’s Book Review Editor, Don Heinrich Tolzmann,

Christian Moerlein: The man and his Brewery (Little Miami Pub. Co.) connects Cincinnati local history with the nationwide German-American story.

A native Franconian, yet of Lutheran faith, trained blacksmith, and already experienced brewer Christian Moerlein (1818 to 1897) settled in the Queen City of the West in 1842, after having lived and worked in several places since his arrival in the United States the preceding year. In 1853, Elm Street blacksmith Christian Moerlein co-founded a modest brewing business. In 1866, Moerlein became the sole owner of the company.

By the time of Christian Moerlein’s death in 1897, his brewery was a vast enterprise in income, number of buildings, and with a size amounting to the largest brewery in the city, the largest in Ohio, and the fifth largest nationwide.

Tolzmann’s book features images and photographs of the Moerlein company buildings – past and present – as well as several portraits of the Moerlein family members. It is also enriched by a valuable appendix, which contains, among other things, concise biographical sketches of other “Over-the-Rhine” district brewing entrepreneurs. For further information, go to: www.littlemiamibooks.com.

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