

Recent Finds

While perusing the sales tables at the Reno Show in July, I came across a pint coffin flask previously unreported. Embossed FAUST HALL / 40 - 44 EDDY ST. / BAUER & SACHAU, it was felt to be from San Francisco and a search of the San Francisco City Directories have confirmed such.

The history of a liquor establishment known as Faust Hall goes back to at least 1884, and may pre-date that. In 1884, the directory has a listing for Charles Stepp, proprietor of the Faust Hall at 16 - 18 Geary Street. But, a search of the earlier directories finds an initial listing for Charles Stepp in 1877, when he is listed as a clerk for Adolph C. Weber, president of the Humboldt Savings and Loan Society at 18 Geary Street. No listing for Faust Hall in either the residential section or the liquor section exists and there is no listing for either Weber or Stepp in the liquor sections prior to the 1884 listing of Charles Stepp. I have found no indication of an alternate individual as a potential proprietor prior to 1884, but it is possible that there was one that might even pre-date the earliest directory I have available to me (1876).

Our first listing for John D. Sachau is in the 1885 directory as a clerk for Henry J. Hinck, a gentleman in the grocery and liquor business at 743 Ellis Street. No additional listings appear until 1892, when he is noted as the proprietor of the William Tell House at 317 Bush Street. He remains there through 1895.

The initial listing for Lawrence Bauer is in the 1890 directory as a clerk for Henry A.E. Buttelmann, groceries and liquors at the NE corner of Howard and 11th. In 1892, he has established his own business in wines and liquors at 121 Pine Street, a business locale which he remains at through 1899.

Charles Stepp continues to be listed as the proprietor of the Faust Hall at 16 - 18 Geary Street through 1895, with Adolph Weber maintaining the Humboldt Savings and Loan Society at 18 Geary Street, as well. In 1896, the Faust Hall comes under the proprietorship of a partnership between Charles Stepp and Joseph Straub. In the meantime, Charles Stepp has expanded his operations at this address to ultimately include being a mining broker, an owner of a mine and a vice-president of E.A. Fargo & Co. This partnership maintains through 1897 and in 1898 Straub takes over the proprietorship of Faust Hall, which he runs through 1900.

In 1901, the Faust Hall comes under the ownership of Lawrence Bauer and a gentleman with the last name of Gerke. In 1902, Lawrence Bauer and John Sachau form their initial partnership to run the Faust Hall, still at 16 Geary Street. This partnership dissolves in 1904 and John Sachau establishes a new partnership with John D. Schroeder, running a saloon at 515 California Street in 1905. Bauer is noted for a residence, only. The partial directories for 1906 do not list Bauer, Sachau or Faust Hall and only in December is John D. Schroeder noted, now as part of the firm Schroeder Brothers, which has a grocery and liquor business at 1600 Geary.

The 1906 quake apparently destroyed the Faust Hall on Geary Street and 1907 finds Bauer and Sachau operating a saloon called the Faust Hall at 40 - 44 Eddy Street, the locale corresponding to the pictured flask. They remain at this locale through 1913, at which time no further listings are found for Faust Hall or for Lawrence Bauer. John Sachau apparently passed away in 1915, as the 1916 directory lists his wife Ella as a widow.

