

# History Timeline of Beringer Brothers Family & Winery

By Mariam Hansen

St. Helena Historical Society 2016

Mainz is the capital of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate in Germany. The city is located on the river Rhine at its confluence with the river Main opposite Wiesbaden. Mainz had been a wine growing region since Roman times.

1840 Jan 29 Frederick born to parents Ludwig Beringer & Marie Gruber Beringer. Ludwig was born in Prussia.

1841 Dr. Bale was awarded the Mexican Land Grant for Rancho Carne Humana.

1845 May 4 Jacob Ludwig born. He says he is born in Mainz, Hesse-Darmstadt

1848 David Hudson bought 300 acres from Bale for \$10,000. William Spurr helps him build a house. He plants a vineyard (deed recorded in 1852)

1002-0002215	DB	215	E	BALE EDWARD T DCSD	O	9/29/1852	DEED
1002-0002215	DB	215	E	SOBERANES DE BALE MARIA IGNACIA	O	9/29/1852	DEED
1002-0002270	DB	270	E	DE BALE MARIA YGNACIA S	O	12/6/1852	DEED

1850 Sept. 9 California was admitted to the Union and Napa County formed.

1862 Frederick arrived in the US

1866 Fritz is a malster In New York

1867 Jacob worked at J.A. Harth & Co in Mainz

1868 Fritz married Bertha. Jacob arrived in the US, works for Truche & Winkenbach Wine Cellar (Gregory p285)

1870 Jacob left New York for Napa Valley, begins working for Karl Krug as cellar superintendent

1872 David & Frances Hudson sell to Wm & Marie Daegener for \$25K in gold, who continue to improve the vineyard

1002-0016463	DP	463	E	HUDSON DAVID	O	8/22/1872	DEED
1002-0016463	DP	463	E	HUDSON FRANCES	O	8/22/1872	DEED

1874 Frederick became a US Citizen in New York (Voter Register)

1875 Sept 6-Wilhelm & Marie Daegener sell 215 acres (180 acres in vineyard-Gregory p286) to Jacob for \$14500

1002-0021239	DU	239	O	BERINGER JACOB L	E	9/6/1875	DEED
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1875 St. Helena Viticultural Society is founded by Charles Krug

1876 Feb Phylloxera was becoming a problem. A new cure was to place iron filings at the foot of each cutting or placing them around the roots of older vines. The crop report showed the progress of this year's grain, corn, hay, grape, almond, plum, cherry, berry and hops production.

1876 March 30 Governor signed the St. Helena city incorporation bill. First mayor (chairman of the board of trustees) is Henri Pellet. City charter was amended to exempt wine and brandy cellars from city taxes. In April 10 the first city election was held. Joe Straus caught 105 trout in York Creek.

1876 July 4 A grand celebration was held in Napa for the whole county with a wondrous parade. In St. Helena flags waved in profusion. A continuous roar of every known type of explosive was heard, from Chinese fire crackers to a six pounder cannon

1876 Sept This year's vintage report showed seventeen cellars making wine locally. It is estimated that 848,000 gallons of wine will be made. A murder occurred in Chinatown when one man shot another over a gambling debt. The killer escaped into the hills.

1876 Jacob spent two months on the east coast, attending the Centennial celebration on July 4.

1876 December excavations began for Beringer's new cellar of 64 X 100 feet

1877 March 2 Star reports Jacob's workers have just finished excavations for the foundation of the winery.

1877 March 30 Star reports on laying the cornerstone of the new winery with 100 of the leading citizens of St. Helena and Calistoga attending. The stone was chiseled by Mr. Baillie "B.B. 1877". Laid inside were a copy of the SH Star, carte de visite of those attending, photos, a \$20 gold piece, and bottles of wine and champagne. A fine lunch with wine and champagne followed, with many speeches.

1877 7-27 Star reports articles of incorporation of the St. Helena Water company were filed to supply the town with water from the upper reservoir. Directors were Krug, Beringer, Ewer, Gluyas, York.

1877 8-27 Star reports the winery is complete and ready. Size is 40 X 104 feet. Walls of cut stone. Two stories with a roof for crushing made of asbestos. Gravity flow design. Expect to make 20,000 gallons this year

1877 11-30 Star-Jacob is the storekeeper at the St. Helena Bonded Warehouse at Beringer (their Church Street building completed in 1878).

1878 Jacob living in Hudson House. Quit Krug in February (2-8-1878 Star), replaced by Memminger. Working 24/7 to finish winery, add to vineyard. Was elected to the city council. Jacob "a kindly hospitable man, who had many warm friends. Property was always open to visitors and hospitality dispensed lavishly on many occasions.

1878 3-1 Star reports the new winery withstood a severe winter easily. Excavation of the caves continues.

1878 10-4 Star reports about grapes transported by wagon to a road behind the winery on level with the roof. After crushing there, the juice flows down to the next story and so on. The whole cellar is run by 6-8 men, who can crush more than most other wineries in a day. The finished section of the caves are used for a bonded warehouse until moving to the new warehouse on Church St. Contract for 100 feet of tunnel to be excavated.

1878 11-22 Beringer is now grading for a new winery building. They made 100,000 gallons in 1878.

1878 12-13 Star says Beringers have received a magnificent tank elegantly finished with the monogram "BB" of the owners in a grape wreath.

1879 1-31 Star reports work has begun on a new winery of 34 x 54 feet, one story high. Excavating the caves continues. Making them 17 feet wide and 100 feet long; casks on each side with 6 feet in between. A new distillery building foot print is marked out of 24 x 44 feet, using the "French Continuous" method of running all the time.

1879 2-21 Jacob has built a new earth sidewalk along the front of his place, making an almost continuous walk to Krug's

1879 April 5 Jacob & Agnes Tscheinig got married, Bertha B. arrived from NY. Distillery building built

1879 8-8 Star reports two wagon loads of heavy machinery came through town. One was a steam boiler 3 feet by 14 feet long, weighing four tons. The distilling apparatus came from Sonoma. The wine to be distilled will flow from the cellar in pipes and a steam pump will move it to the distillery. Steam power will also be used for crushing and other work. C. Schaer is the skilled wood carver who carved the casks.

1880 1-2 Star reports underground cellar excavations nearly complete in the rear of their winery. The tunnels penetrate the hill at right angles from the winery, connecting to the winery by a 12 foot long arched passageway. The tunnel is 94 feet from the inner end of the arch, 18 feet wide and 12 feet high. Chinese are digging the caves.

1880 Jacob+Agnes baby son died. Cook is Ah Sing Chow. Clerk is W.B. Mackinder. Jacob adds to winery,

1880 March 5 Star reports Beringer Brothers establish a store and cellar in New York City at 180 Fulton Street. Albert Scantzlen, former bookkeeper in SH, is the manager. Fifteen thousand gallons of wine have already arrived and 20,000 more are on the way.

1880 Us Census Fritz+Bertha=Anita born in New York. Fritz opened a wine store. Fritz+Bertha=Frederick, Jr., Eda, Census shows Frederick, Jr, Ida, Nettie (Anita). Fritz is a malster by occupation. They have two German women servants living with them.

1880 The St. Helena Viticultural Club meets in their new hall. President is Charles (Karl) Krug. Also present is Jacob Beringer.

1880 Aug 20 Star reports Beringers will operate their crushing machinery by steam. John Heald provided the equipment and visited SH from Vallejo. Using one crusher, they will process 80 tons per day. The roof crush pad is now an enclosed third story. The floor is made of asbestos and is water and fire proof. They have added 32 one thousand gallon casks to the middle floor.

1880 oct 22 Star describes the Beringer Brothers crush. Capacity is 175,000 gallons. Their winery is 'as near perfect...as earthly things get to be. The hauler empties his grapes right at the crusher, which can crush 10-15 tons an hour. It separates the stems clean and dry...All goes by steam.. furnished by the boiler in the distillery and is applied by a separate engine in the crush area."

1881 St. Helena Turn Verein German Society founded with 30 members, eventually growing to over 100. Presidents have been Fritz Beringer, Carl Heymann, Max Schuneman, Heinrich Kirchweger, W.W. Lyman, Louis

Zierngibl, Heinrich Rammers, Henry Lange, Baron Von Schilling. (3-5-92 Star column Good Old Days Feb 1923)

1881 list of St. Helena vineyards: Beringer 30 acres bearing. Neighbors: William Castner (Morlet) 14 acres, Charles Krug 114 acres, Jean Laurent (Markham) 6 acres, John Weinberger (Wm Cole) 30 acres

1881 Jan 28 Star reports the tunnel is being expanded with a drift to the south of 100 feet. The tunnel expansion is planned to total 300 feet.

1881 Oct 7 Star described the use of steam power; "Takes the grapes from the wagon, crushes them, distributes their products to the proper places, pumps the wine from one cask to another, and converts the proper portion into brandy." They have added a wooden distillery to the plant, finished to match the other building.

1882 April 14 Star reports Jacob is having the land above the Lemme place on Spring Mountain cleared.

1883 Apr 8 Jacob+Agnes= Bertha born. Fritz will move to SH and is having a house built. Albert Schroepfer (famous for Parrott home at Spring Mtn, Niebaum home at Inglenook, Thomann home at Sutter Home, Odd Fellows Lodge in SH and his own home-now Grace Family) is the architect. Hudson House was moved to a new site. The Rhine House foundation laid Sept 3. (photo p79) Contractors were Joseph Cudlon (Cadloli?) and Charles Martini. Mariano Bale (son of Dr. Bale) supervised the carpentry.

1883 April 11 *SF Merchant* reports that a Gala Welcoming was given for Fritz Beringer on his first visit to Napa Valley.

1883 8-21 Star reported on the "Barn Warming Dance" at Beringers on a warm summer evening. Young people from the upper Napa Valley danced under the Chinese lanterns. The upstairs floor was 48 x 60 feet, on a very smooth surface perfect for dancing. The band consisted of Mssrs Friedburg, Dietrich, Juarez and Garrod. At 11pm Beringer invited everyone to the winery for a glass of wine. Paul Bieber (bookkeeper) served the wine.

1884 Jan 11 The completion of the Rhine House will take about a year longer. A large army of craftsmen are at work, but the design is so elaborate as to take much more time. Beringers do everything first class.

1884 11-6 Bertha Beringer arrived from New York to live in St. Helena.

1884 Germans hold a huge New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. It was the largest party ever held in St. Helena.

1885 Jan 1 Fritz has arrived to live in SH permanently. The Rhine House is now being furnished and the finishing touches added. In a few days it will be ready to move in.

1885 Jacob+Agnes=Martha born. Turn Verein German Club built their hall on Main Street (Lyman Park today)

1885 4-30 Star reports there was a fire in the Rhine House.

1885 Aug 7 Workers are still digging in the tunnel and have connected the two main tunnels.

1886 Producing 175,000 gallons a year

1887 Apr 25 Jacob+Agnes=Otto Frederick born. Sept 3 Jacob became a citizen at Napa (Voter Register)

1887 July 11 story about a visitor who lodges at the Rhine House. States the hill vineyard on Spring Mountain is 200 acres, with 85 in vines. The tunnels now go back 130 feet into the hill behind the winery, which can store 250,000 gallons of wine. In 1886 they distilled 50,000 gallons of brandy.

1888 Jacob got a land grant patent 1001-0004058	P4	5 8	E	U S A	O	9/12/1888	PATENT
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1889 Sept 23 Jacob+Agnes=Charles Tiburcio. Riesling Wines win a silver medal at the Paris Exposition. Caves expanded. Producing 230,000

1891 Sept 12-14 St. Helena Turn Verein German Club organizes a Vintners Festival. Leaders are Fritz, Jacob, Karl Krug, John Thomann, Henry Lange, Conrad Meyer, Louis Zierngibl. All active fun loving gentlemen, they are organized the first grand festival. The key note speaker was Fritz Beringer, once the president of the Arion Society of New York (German-American musical society founded in 1854), who spoke in German. Lunch for 500 was served. All the prominent German societies of Northern California were invited.

1897 Fritz is president of the Board of Trade (forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce). He is chairman of the Vintners Festival held September 18. After a day of partying, a dance was held in the German Hall on Main Street.

1898 Sept 29 SF Call-Fritz is nominated for assemblyman on Democratic ticket.

1899 Frederick has Bright's Disease, Chronic kidney disease like Brights/nephritis/glomerulonephritis is often genetically inherited. The disease tends to run in families.

1890 Oct 14 Daily Alta Calif reports a mass meeting of Democratic Central Club of German-Americans is planned. Fritz invited to speak.

1891 Sept 1 Jacob+Agnes=Agnes (Young)

1900 Census Jacob's Cook is Ah Chung. Clerk is Edward Schuneman. Fritz, Bertha, dau Anita. Cook is Sam Kee. Turn Verein German Club invite 100 Germans from San Francisco for a weekend party. Organizers met the guests at the train depot. Fritz Beringer gave a speech of welcome, followed by singing and celebrating in the Turn Verein Hall.

1900 Feb the stone wall next to Main Street was built.

1901 July 12 Frederick Died

1903 A new storage cellar was built to hold 14 tanks of 5,000 gallons each.

1906 earthquake collapses the distillery, a chimney and the glass conservatory on the south side of the Rhine House

1910 US Census: Otto F & Jacob Jr are winemakers. Jacob & Agnes's cook is Quong Wong

1912 Jacob married Adela Rammers

1913 Otto married Ethel Baxter (Martha Jane, Otto, Jr)

1914 Aug 14. Bertha, wife of Frederick, sells the Rhine House to Harold W. Cane. 1002-0111006 Bertha departs for San Francisco. Children not interested in winery. Aug 30 Otto Roy, Jr was born. At the September Vintage Festival Beringer's exhibit was a model of the distillery made entirely of corks. It stood on a bank of moss in a pergola.

1915 Harold W. Cane sold the Rhine House to Charles & Marguerite Teague. 1002-0095300

1915 Oct 23 Jacob Died. Winery president: Charles , Sec-Mgr: Bertha

1916 Charles is president (age 27). Bertha is secrty/mgr (age 32) Jacob, jr is foreman. Otto is cellarman. Martha=bottling dept.

1919 Prohibition begins. Beringers dry grapes for shipment, make altar wine

1923 Agnes, wife of Jacob, died.

1925 Beringer Brothers donate \$25 to develop Lyman Park (Star 7-3-1925)

1927 11-2 Teagues default on their mortgage. Dr. & Mrs. Myron Booth assume the mortgage. 1927-0002423

1929 Jacob. Jr sells his shares and departs.

1932 Fred Abruzzini is hired as general manager- first non-family member to run it. Charles remained president, but operated out of SF. Repeal was coming.

1933 Roy Raymond began working at the winery in the fall crush. Dec 5 Prohibition ended. Winery races to bottle and ship orders.

1934 Beringer is first NV winery open to public tours.

1935 Sales going well. Build new fermenting bldg., office, hydraulic presses, barrel room with cooperage for 200,000 gallons. Vintage Festival features Tom Mix & his traveling circus.

1935 July 27 NAPA WINERY COUNTY STARTS NEW BUILDINGS-from Healdsburg Tribune

Ground was broken this week for expansion of the Beringer winery located at the northern limits of St. Helena. Three cement buildings will be erected, at an outlay of approximately \$25,000. The first unit will be a fermenting room 25x85 feet, and even the fermenting tanks will be of cement. A new storage wing, adjoining the main building on the north will be 100x42 feet and will contain cooperage for 200,000 gallons. It will also house two hydraulic presses. A new distillery 85x30 feet will be located on a hill to the north, in which a Krinz still, with output of 60 to 80 gallons an hour will be installed. The old Pot still, which has been sealed up since prohibition became law, will be put into operation again when the new distilling plant is put into operation.

1936 Martha Jane Beringer (dau of Jacob+Agnes) married Roy Raymond.

1939 Beringer invited attendees of the Golden Gate International Exposition to visit the winery; the winery also invited Hollywood stars including Clark Gable, Charles Laughton, and Carole Lombard to visit (Wikipedia) In 1939 Abruzzini had buses take them up to the Napa Valley and Beringer where he had big barbecues waiting for them. NVR 5-26-2005

1942 War years with rationing, labor shortages. Otto Roy & Ramona live at 1335 Madrona

1942 March 5, Healdsburg Tribune-Included among the officers elected at the eighth annual Wine Institute meeting in San Francisco this week are vintners prominent in nearby wineries. Among those chosen directors of District 5 was Charles T. Beringer, St. Helena.

1945 Booths sell Rhine House to BB, Inc. Jack Dempsey drops by for a visit

1948 BB Inc leases the Rhine House to Edward Smith for an exclusive hostelry (Country Manor)

1947 Otto Roy (winery worker) & Ramona, 1335 Madrona. Otto (vineyard worker)& Ethel 1458 Kearney

1948 Jacob, Jr died. Wife Adela. Children Clarice Beringer-married Rudy Mihelich(1916-1983), Fredrick L Beringer(1914-1939), Eda

1951 General Electric conventioners visit in 60 busloads, theme was western clothing. Purchased Garetto Winery, 600 acres in vyd, 2mm gallons capacity total

1954 Charles Tiburcio, manager for 40 yrs, died. Son Arthur Beringer

1956 Roy named head wine maker. Son of Roy + Martha, Roy, Jr becomes vineyard manager. Abruzzini retired as winemaker/mgr. The Rhine House opens as new hospitality center

1957 President: Bertha B; vice pres Martha (both 2000 Main); Sec-treas Olga (Spring Mtn Rd); Ethel (widow otto) 1458 Kearney; Otto, Jr+Ramona rt1 Box 401. Miss Universe pageant beauties visit the winery.

1960 President: Bertha B; vice Martha (both 2000 Main); Sec-treas Olga (Spring Mtn Rd); Stockholder: Otto R +Ethel (1458 Kearney) Otto Roy B. Jr+Ramona (rt 1 Box 403);

1960 March 10 Healdsburg Tribune: Beringer bought the property known as the Holmes' ranch, in Knights Valley, from Mr. and Mrs. John A. Radway. The property consists of 305 acres and included a handsome three-story home. The sale price was more than \$160,000. A spokesman for the Beringer family said that the major part of the property would be planted to grapes and work already has begun on the new vineyard.

1960 Oct 16 Otto Frederick died, widow Ethel Baxter B. Walter Raymond joins Roy in wine making. (Heintz)

1963 Beringer President: Bertha B; vice Martha B; Sec-treas Olga B (Sausalito); Gen Mgr-Otto Roy B. Jr; Dept Super-Ethel (widow of Otto, Sr), Ramona B( wife of Otto Roy)-clerk.

1967 Winery is named a California State Historic Landmark.

1966 President:Otto (Ramona) Beringer, jr; Martha VP; Olga (wife of Charles) sec-treas; Ethel-dept super; Fred (Cathy) salesman; Ramona-clerk

1968 Knights Valley vineyard threatened by dam. Acquire land in Yountville, new vines get frosted. Jan 3 Agnes B. Young died.

1969 Martha died. No children. Ethel died

1970 Sept 1 Bertha C died. No children

1971 The Beringer family sold the Beringer name and winery to Nestlé in 1971 (wki) Nestle entered the California wine business in 1971 with the acquisition of Beringer Vineyards in St. Helena. It later bought Chateau Souverain, Napa Ridge, Meridian Vineyards in Santa Barbara County (SFgate) Included 700 acres of vineyards. Myron Nightengale hired as wine maker.

1975 12-15 Desert Sun reports Air California has announced the institution of the first inflight wine service available in the state of California with the availability of Beringer wines on all flights.

1975 city directory Crosse & Blackwell Vintage Cellars, Inc. Guy Kay mgr.

1976 April 29 Otto Roy, Jr died

1977 city directory Crosse & Blackwell Vintage Cellars, Inc. Guy Kay mgr.

1979 city directory Crosse & Blackwell Vintage Cellars, Inc. Guy Kay mgr. Bemingenbeu Vyds. Michael Maleu, pres. Bob Steinhauer joins as viticulturalist.

1981 City Directory: Beringer Vineyards, Inc. Richard L Maher, pres

1986 City Directory: Beringer Vineyards, Inc. Richard L Maher, pres

1990 City Directory: Beringer Vineyards, Inc. Richard L Maher, pres

1996 Nestle sold the enterprise to a group led by Texas Pacific Group; the company went public the next year.

National Register of Historical Places[1] and as a California Historical Landmark.[

2000 winery was owned by Foster's Group.

After further difficulties in the division resulting in an additional A\$1.3 billion write-down in early 2011, at a meeting in Melbourne on 29 April 2011, 99% of Fosters Group shareholders agreed to split Fosters Group business into separate brewing and wine companies.

Treasury Wine Estates officially became a separately listed company on 9 May 2011, with David Dearie as its CEO. The scheme of arrangement for the demerger of Treasury Wine Estates from Foster's Group was implemented on 20 May 2011. (Wikipedia)

Further write down of stock worth around \$160m (AUD) took place mid-2013, followed by the redundancy of David Dearie and appointment of interim CEO Warwick Every-Burns. This left the business in a more fragile state as shares have dropped almost \$2 (AUD) to just above \$4. TWE now works with Accolade to promote bottling efficiency across regions, stronger re-enforcing its performance in Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. The business is divided into four global regions: Australia and New Zealand; The Americas; Europe; Middle East & Africa and Asia. Globally the company manages over 12,000 hectares of vineyards with 4,000 employees in 12 countries, with sales totaling over 35 million cases of wine annually, generating revenues of A\$2 billion. [