



# Land of Amber Waters: The History of Brewing in Minnesota

*Doug Hoverson*

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“A heartfelt paean to the pioneering breweries of the Midwest, packed with details and excellent photos.

Land of Amber Waters is sure to delight anyone interested in the storied history of American brewing.”

—Garrett Oliver, Brewmaster of The Brooklyn Brewery, and author of *The Brewmaster's Table*

“Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza.” —Dave Barry

For centuries, brewmasters both professional and homegrown have pursued the perfect pour—a delectable combination of barley, yeast, water, and hops—and few states can claim as devoted a relationship to beer as Minnesota. For a time it seemed that every town had its brewery and a beer garden was a highlight of every local celebration. Dedicated home brewers and casual pub crawlers alike will be amazed by the stories of Minnesota beers and breweries featured in *Land of Amber Waters*.

Starting with the first brewery in 1849, Doug Hoverson tells the story of the state's beer industry from the small-town breweries that gave way to larger companies with regional and national prominence, including Hamm's, Grain Belt, and Schell's, to the vibrant beer culture of today, led by a new wave of breweries such as Summit, Lake Superior Brewing Co., and Surly, and brewpubs like Town Hall Brewery, Fitger's, and Granite City Brewpub, and sustained by microbreweries, home brewers, and beer aficionados.

From the first illegal brewer at Fort Snelling to the craft brewers and major companies of today, nearly 300 breweries have opened and operated at one time or another in 125 cities and towns around the state.

Complete with a comprehensive list of Minnesota's breweries—including many never before published—and more than 300 tempting illustrations of beer and breweriana, *Land of Amber Waters*

marvelously chronicles Minnesota's rich brewing traditions.

Doug Hoverson teaches social studies and coaches the debate team at St. Thomas Academy in Mendota Heights, Minnesota. He is the assistant editor of American Breweriana Journal, an award-winning homebrewer, and a certified beer judge.

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