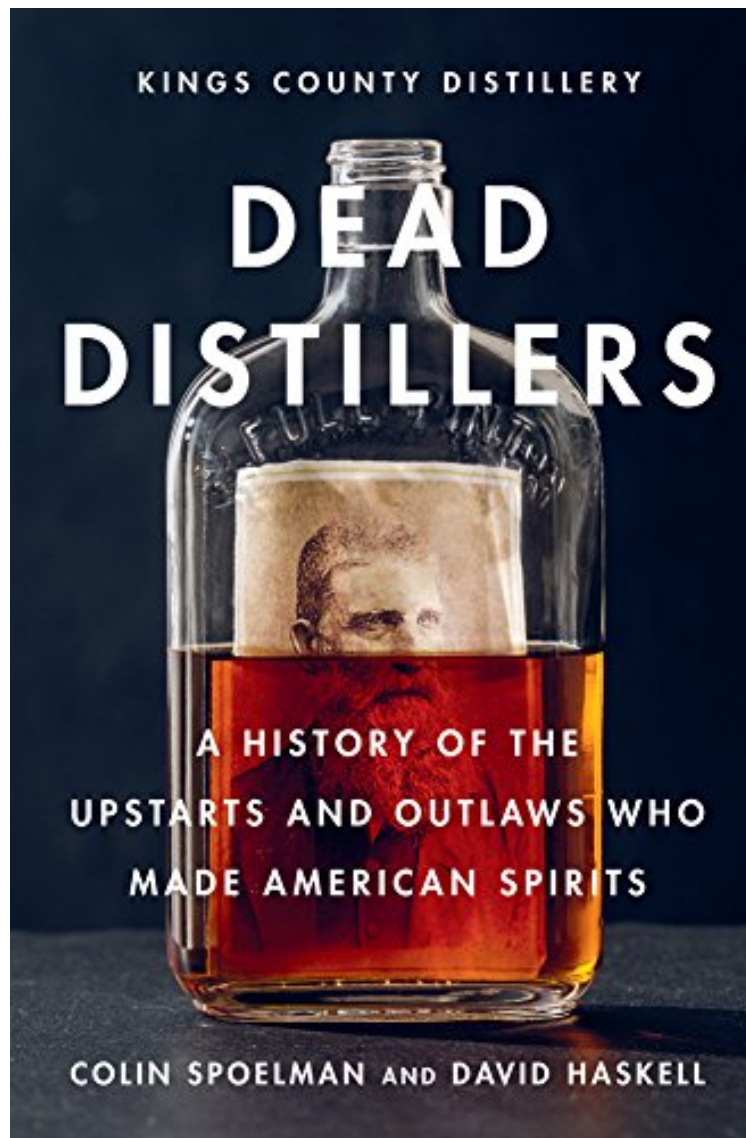


Dead Distillers: A History of the Upstarts and Outlaws Who Made American Spirits

Colin Spoelman, David Haskell, Kings County Distillery
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Colin Spoelman, David Haskell, Kings County Distillery : Dead Distillers: A History of the Upstarts and Outlaws Who Made American Spirits before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dead Distillers: A History of the Upstarts and Outlaws Who Made American Spirits:

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History of the Upstarts and Outlaws Who Made American Spirits
By CustomerDead
Distillers: A History of the Upstarts and Outlaws Who Made American Spirits is a book written by Colin Spoelman and David Haskell who are the founders of Kings County Distillery which is New York City's oldest and largest whiskey distillery. You may think that producing whiskey isn't necessarily a prerequisite for writing a book on distillers, but this is clearly a passion project for the authors who delve into the history of some of America's prominent distillers. The book focuses on several different graveyards throughout the United States that these distillers and bootleggers are buried in. These graveyards are illustrated maps that serve as bookends throughout the chapters in the book since early graveyards hold the remains that colonial distillers and the book works its way through the twentieth century. It's an interesting way to organize what could have been a disjointed history of distilling in the USA. Among the more prominent distillers like George Washington, Jasper "Jack" Newton Daniel and Joseph Beam are newspaper articles about less fortunate souls who met their untimely ends in distilling mishaps, but made the evening news with their deaths. These act as nice, bite-size palate cleansers to the main entries. This book could easily serve as a history book in classrooms to provide a primer on America's spirited past since the details seem to have been researched very thoroughly. The maps of the graveyards would provide the curious with a plain road map for any tourist to visit these graves. The authors definitely know their history of distilling and it shows in the writing — they debunk some of the distilling mythology that people assume is true from the stories that the distilleries tell. This is refreshing since the authors concentrated on the factual basis of the truths and the timelines and didn't give into the established tropes. The time went by quickly when I was reading it, and I finish very few books these days. If you are a person interested in distilling history this should be on your bookshelf and when you are reading it you should probably have a glass of Kings County Distillery Moonshine. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must like history and whiskey to enjoy
By tallhapa
All about the life and death of the people behind America's whiskey history. I was hoping for more depth about the more well known players, but no matter how big the name they only get a page or two. That being said, if you appreciate all the unknown/never heard of folks that had an impact, you might like this. Crazy spider web of ties and links from past to present, well known to unknown. If you're serious about the history of whiskey in America you'll like this. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Unique History Of Distilling In America With Cemetery History Too
By Frederick S. Goethel
This is an interesting look at the distilling of spirits in the United States from about the 1600s forward to modern times. It includes legal and not so legal distillers and vendors over that time, along with their histories and where they are buried. The combination is quite unique. The authors provide relatively short histories of various people involved in distilling in the U.S. along with fascinating tidbits about their lives and how they became involved in distilling. They also provide information on their deaths and where the bodies (if known) are buried. It is a truly weird mix of distillery history along with cemetery history. I give the authors credit for the number of maps, photos, newspaper articles and photographs that are liberally spread throughout the book. It brings things to life (so to speak) and provides interesting background material. This should be of interest to anyone with an interest in the history of distilleries as well as with some of the cemeteries mentioned. The book is oddly unique!

Founders and award-winning distillers of Kings County Distillery Colin Spoelman and David Haskell follow up their successful Guide to Urban Moonshining with an extensive history of the figures who distilled American spirits. The book presents 50 fascinating — and sometimes morbid — biographies from this historic traders' bygone days, including farmers, scientists, oligarchs, criminals, and the occasional US president. Readers may be surprised to find the names George Washington, Henry Frick, or Andrew Mellon alongside the usual suspects long associated with booze — Jasper "Jack" Daniel, Jim Beam, and Julian "Pappy" Van Winkle. From the Whiskey Rebellion to Prohibition to the recent revival of craft spirits, the history of whiskey, moonshine, and other spirits remains an important part of Americana. Featuring historical photos, infographics, walking-tour maps, and noteworthy vintage newspaper clippings, it's a rich visual and textual reference to a key piece of American history. Dead Distillers is a spirited portrait of the unusual and storied origins of forgotten drunkenness.

About the Author
Colin Spoelman, a former rooftop moonshiner from Kentucky, and David Haskell, the great-grandson of a prohibition-era bootlegger from New York, founded Brooklyn's Kings County Distillery in 2010 to make small-scale batches of moonshine, bourbon, and other whiskeys. Spoelman is a full-time distiller and writer; Haskell is deputy editor at New York magazine.