

Did You Know? North Carolina Prohibition

North Carolina enacted state statutory Prohibition in 1908 with an operative date of January 1, 1909. This law prohibited the sale and manufacture of intoxication liquors.

In 1911 the Prohibition was expanded to include near-beer, beerine and similar drinks containing alcohol, cocaine, morphine or other opium derivatives. This new rule included private clubs. The General Assembly passed an act in 1913 making the possession of one gallon of liquor evidence of guilt. In 1915 this was expanded to prohibit the delivery and receipt of more than one quart of liquor in 15 days. In 1917 a bill was passed making the manufacture of liquor a felony with a minimum sentence of 12 months upon conviction.

After July 1, 1917 the state became bone dry and liquor advertisements were no longer permitted to circulate through the mail.

North Carolina ratified the Prohibition Amendment to the Federal Constitution January of 1919.

It is interesting that in 1915 the booze continued to flow for personal use and was sold throughout Raleigh by the "blind-tiger" drug stores. It is noted that one Raleigh druggist within a three month period filled 3,990 prescriptions for whiskey, 555 for beer, 26 for gin, 50 for wine and 14 for brandy. Another druggist had received 835 gallon of spirits in a five month period.

More later on the illicit liquor trade during Prohibition and the special circumstances that allowed this liquor trade to exist in North Carolina.

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