



Meerschaum tobacco pipe bowl excavated from Piper's Old Corner Bar.

Photo by Ron James.



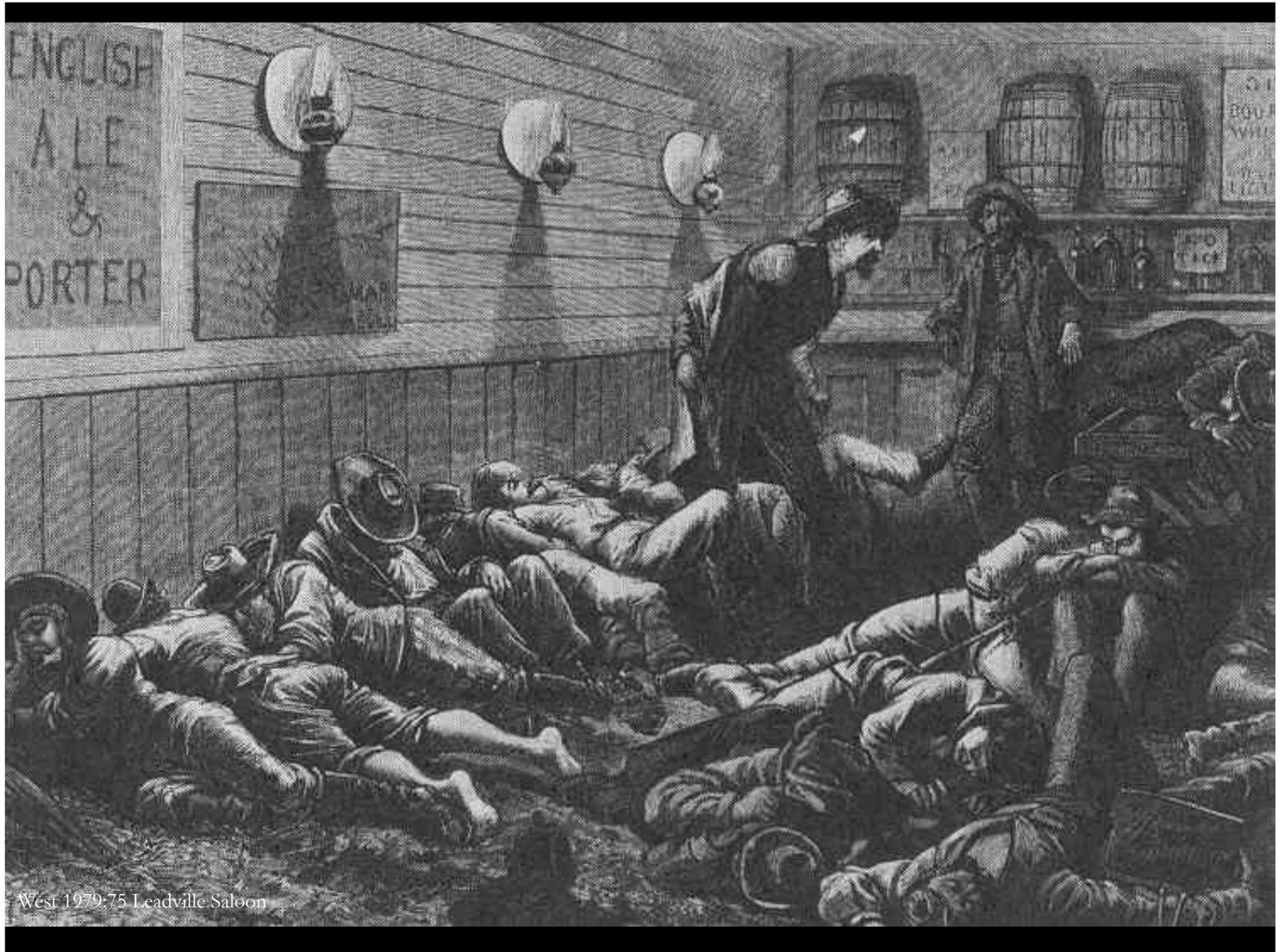
Stemware from the Boston Saloon and Piper's Old Corner Bar.

Photo by Ron James.



Stoneware ale bottles discovered at the Boston Saloon.

Photo by Ron James.



West 1979:75 Leadville Saloon



Tobacco pipes recovered during the Boston Saloon dig.

Photo by Ron James.



Spittoon (mended) discovered in Piper's Old Corner Bar.

Photo by Ron James.



Gordon's Dry Gin
bottle fragments
from the
Boston Saloon.



Crystal decanter stopper from O'Brien & Costello's Saloon and Shooting Gallery .

Photo by Ron James.



Munitions (.22 long shells) from O'Brien & Costello's Saloon and Shooting Gallery .

Photo by Ron James.



Poker chips from the Boston Saloon.

Photo by Ron James.



German mineral water jug found in various saloons (zoom shows the vessel's seal detail).

Photo by Ron James.



Bale seal from the Hibernia Brewery.

Photo by Ron James.



Cribbage board discovered in Piper's Old Corner Bar.

Photo by Ron James.



Garter clasps found among the Hibernia Brewery's ruins.



Red clay tobacco pipes unearthed from the Boston Saloon.

Photo by Ron James.



Amber tobacco pipe mouthpiece from the Hibernia Brewery
(note teeth clench marks on left side).



Beer mug discovered in Piper's Old Corner Bar.

Photo by Ron James.



Hostetter's Essence of Jamaica Ginger from the Boston Saloon.

Photo by Ron James.



Tobacco pipe details (found in various saloons).



Photo by Ron James.



Button from a woman's garment from O'Brien & Costello's Saloon & Shooting Gallery.

Photo by Ron James.



Cantrell & Cochrane
Soda Water bottle
(from the Boston Saloon and the Hibernia Brewery).

Photo by Ron James.



Dice recovered from the Hibernia Brewery.

Photo by Ron James.



Domino fragment from the Boston Saloon.

Photo by Ron James.



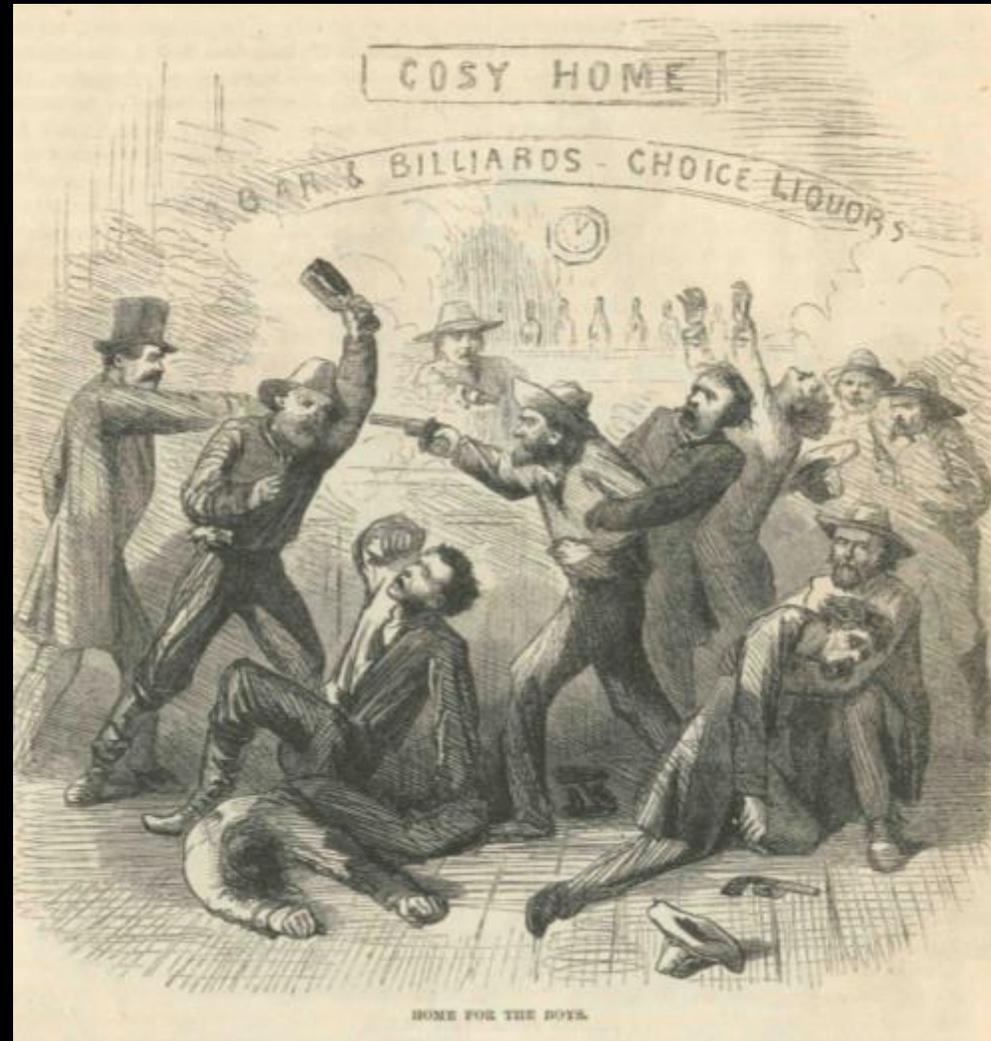
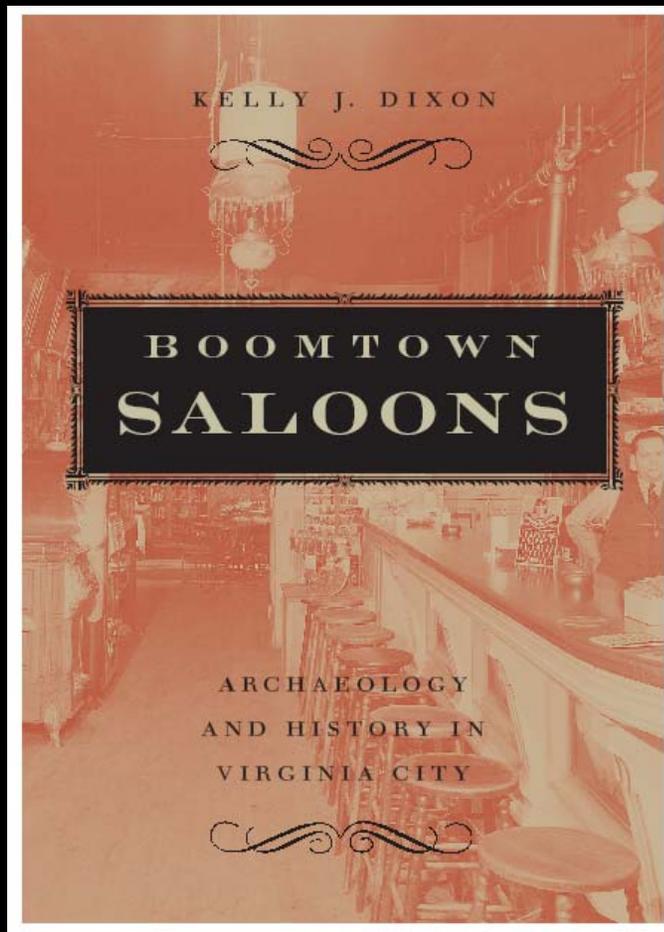
The Piper's Old Corner Bar Exhibit at the Silver Legacy, Reno.



Gold coin unearthed from the Boston Saloon (obverse with burn damage & reverse).

Saloon Archaeology in Virginia City, Nevada

Kelly J. Dixon, The University of Montana



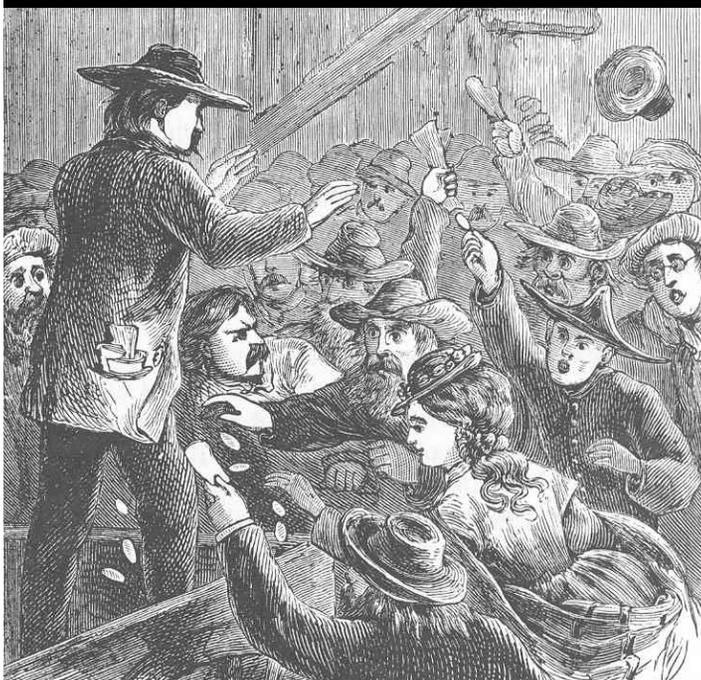
"Home for the Boys" (J. Rosse Brown 1860/1863)



Virginia City, Nevada



People from all over the world came to work in the mines...and to “mine” the miners.

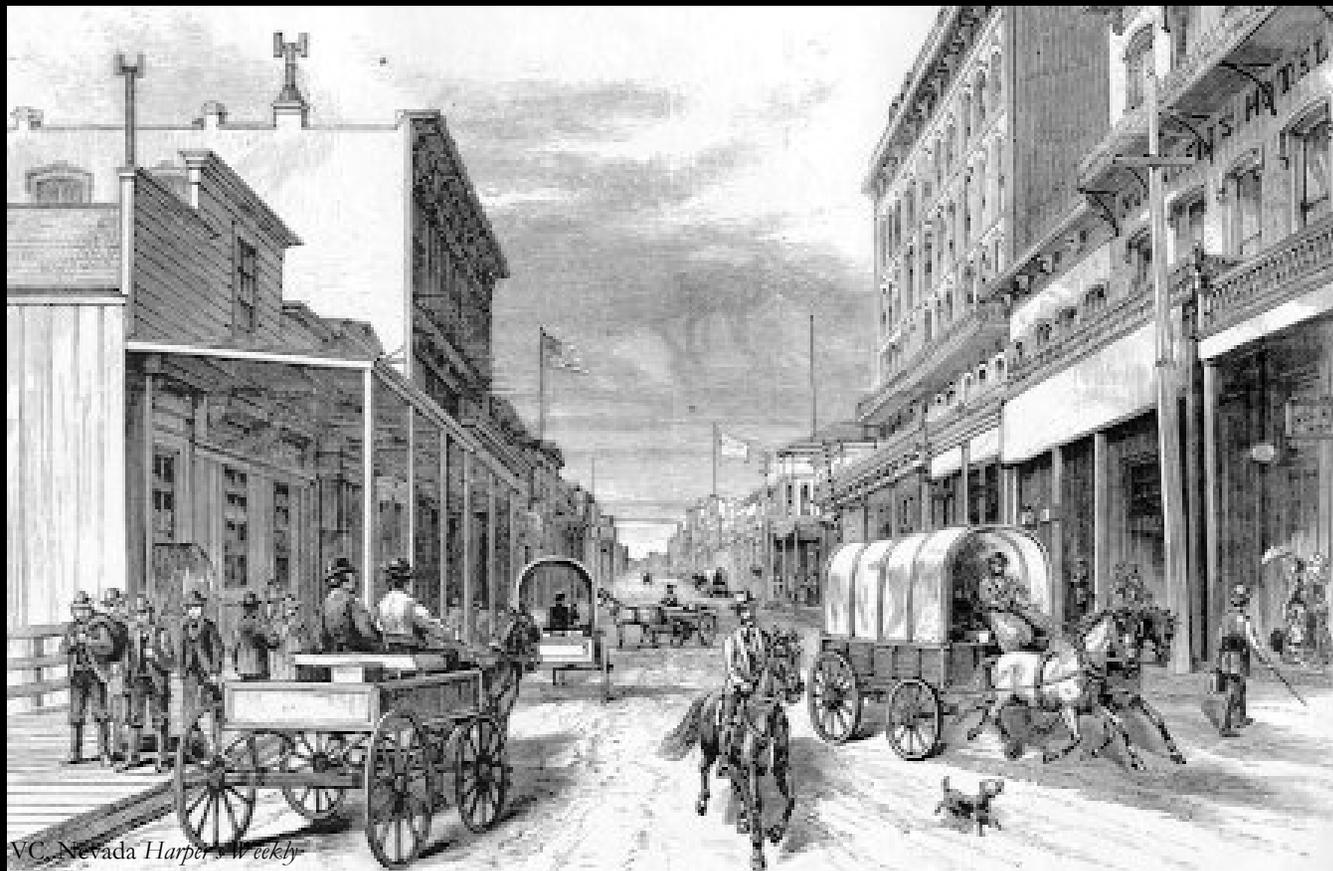


D Street, Virginia City, 1866, Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley

Saloons usually outnumbered all other retail establishments in mining boomtowns.

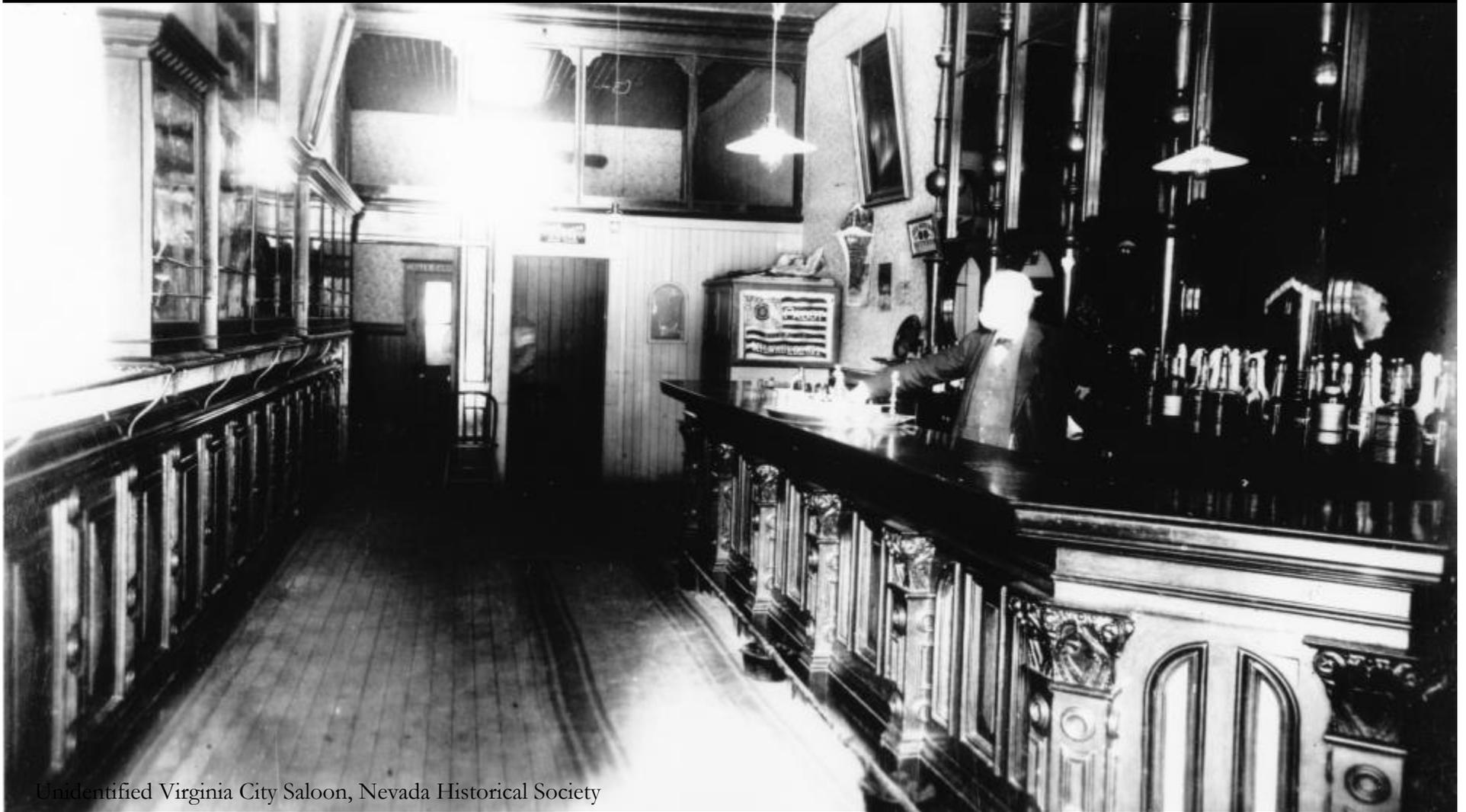
Over 100 saloons operated in Virginia City during the 1870s.

(Eliot Lord *Comstock Mining and Miners* 1883)



VC, Nevada *Harper's Weekly*

One-bit, two-bit, and beyond...



Unidentified Virginia City Saloon, Nevada Historical Society

An assortment: "...spacious rooms furnished with walnut counters, massive mirrors, and glittering rows of decanters..." versus those consisting of a, "cheap pine bar with its few black bottles..." (Lord, *Comstock Mining and Miners*, 1883/1959:93).

Yet a more violent, oversimplified saloon story has prevailed.



On slow news days, some journalists were known to

“...let fancy get the upper hand of fact...when there was a dearth of news...”

Mark Twain



“A Friend Indeed” (Twain 1985 [1873]:113)

Hollywood has continued to play on the occasional, but highly sensationalized brawls and (often) fatal troubles to be had in saloons.



Gregory Peck shot Richard Jaekel in a saloon in *Gunfighter* (Fox 1950).

Charlie King (as 'Henchman Badger') and Tex Ritter go at it in the saloon brawl from *Utah Trail* (Grand National, 1938).

Virginia City saloons continue the tradition of peddling leisure centered on alcohol, gambling, socializing, and endless forms of entertainment.



What can archaeology and history reveal about this national symbol—and about the multicultural “wild West”?



“Hurdy Gurdy Girls” (J. Rosse Brown 1863)



Gregory Peck shot Richard Jaeckel in a saloon in *The Gunfighter* (Fox 1950)

All...things that people do can be put into historical perspective.

Barbara Little and Paul Shackel (1989:496)



Roman tavern scene from a wall painting in Pompeii (A.D. 79); cylinder seal shows a pair of seated figures sipping ale from a large vessel through pipes or straws (3000 B.C.) British Museum Catalog of Cylinder Seals Plate 125.

What if we focus on a handful of saloons in a rugged boomtown as one “stop” along the timeline of public drinking?

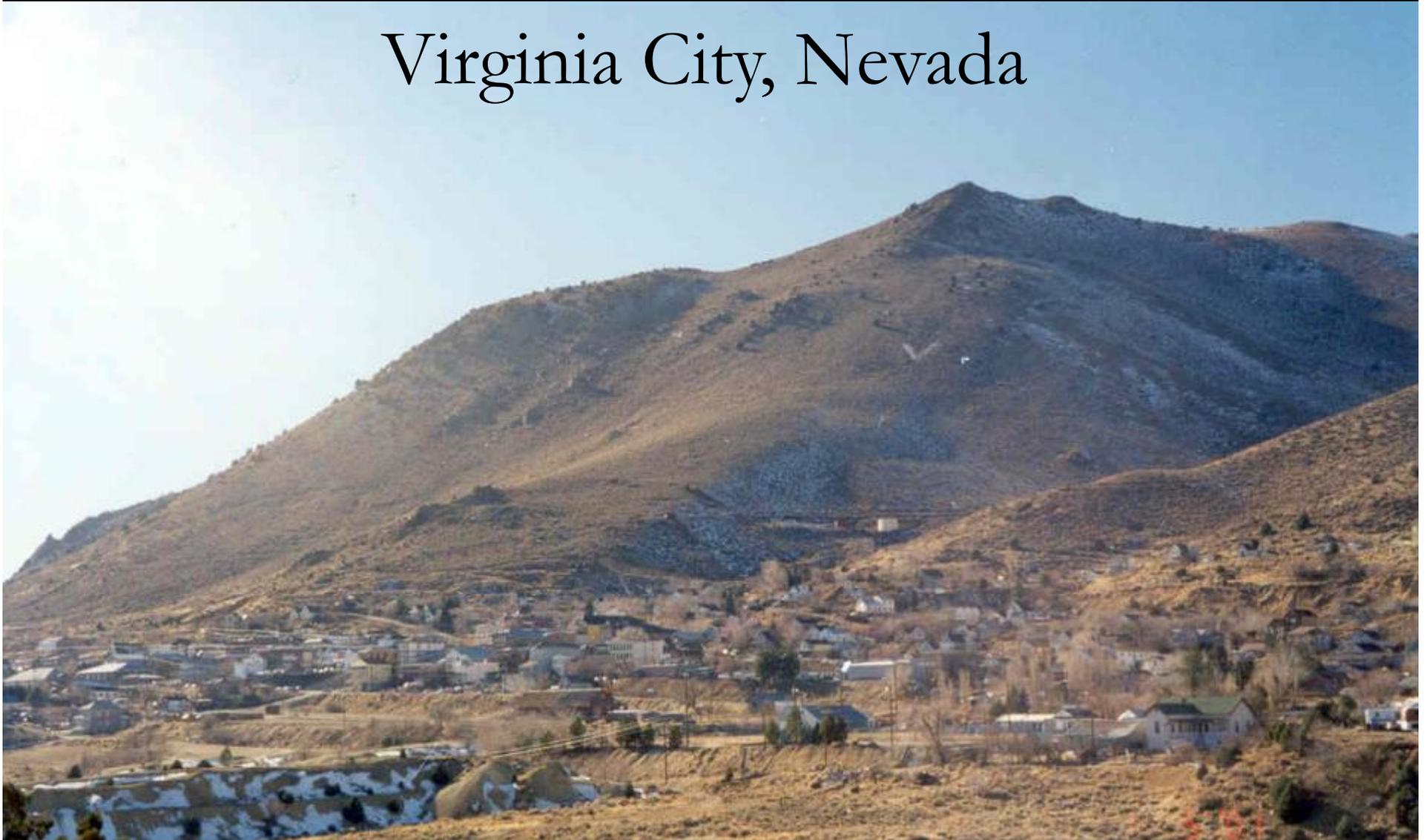


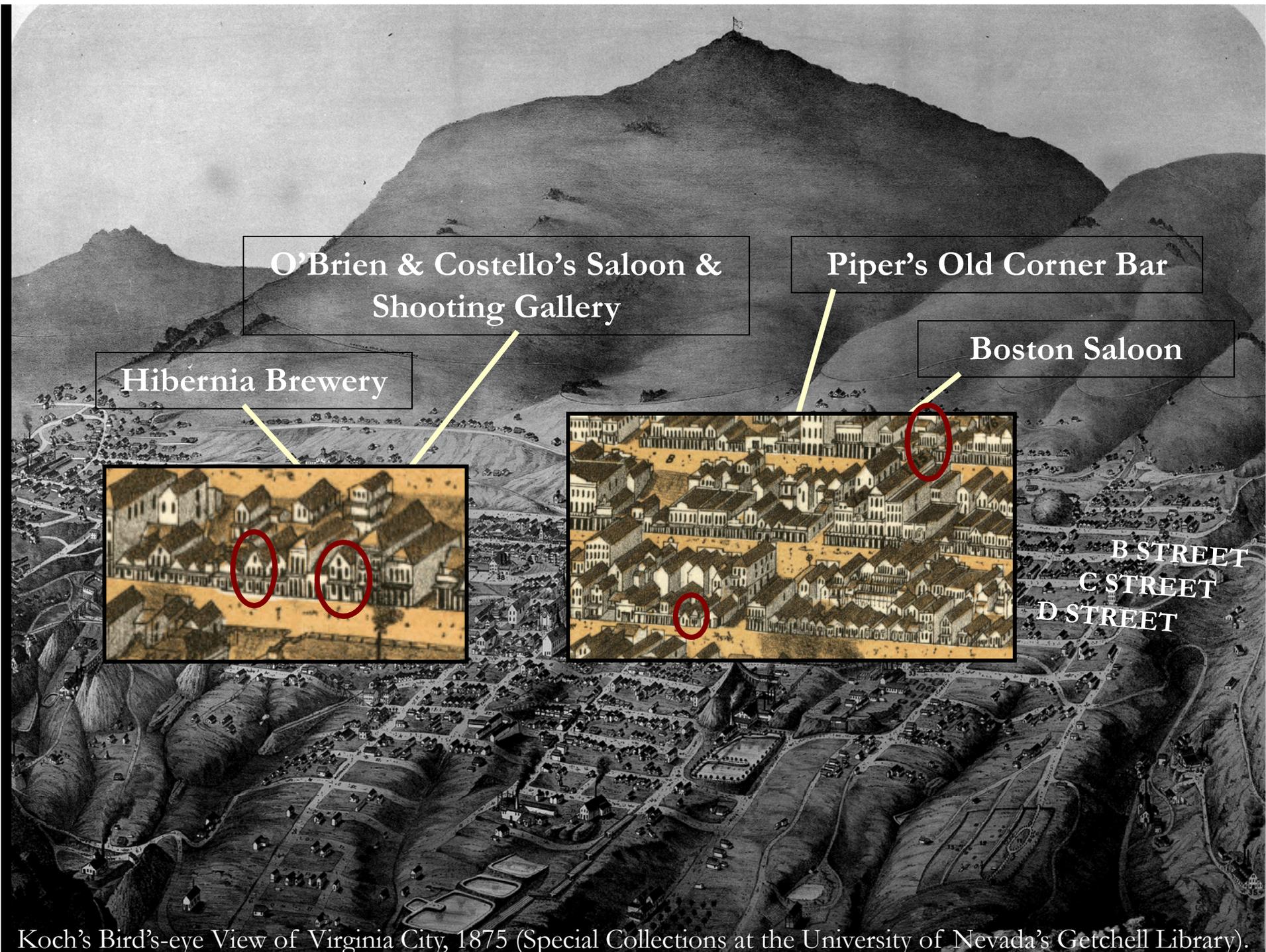
“...one kind of archaeology is a science, which provides credible and hopefully useful knowledge...one kind of archaeology is a humanity, which provides meaning and perspective on life within the human condition over time and across space...”

Barbara Little (2009:115)

Left to right: clay pipe bowl and 2 1/1 dollar U.S. gold coin, Boston Saloon excavation; button, O'Brien and Costello's; Piper's OCB Excavation.

Virginia City, Nevada





O'Brien & Costello's Saloon & Shooting Gallery

Piper's Old Corner Bar

Hibernia Brewery

Boston Saloon

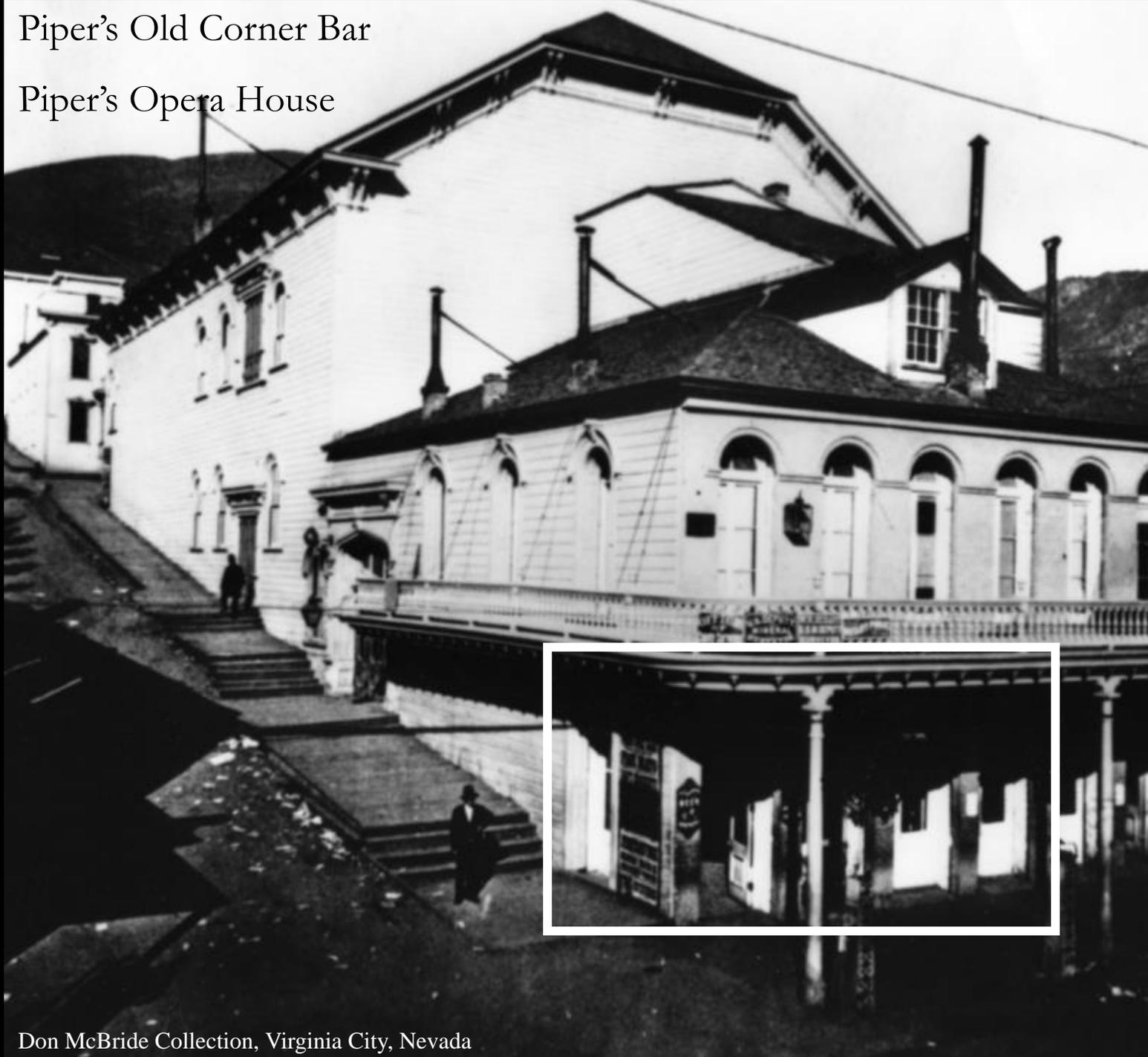


B STREET
C STREET
D STREET

Koch's Bird's-eye View of Virginia City, 1875 (Special Collections at the University of Nevada's Gatchell Library).

Piper's Old Corner Bar

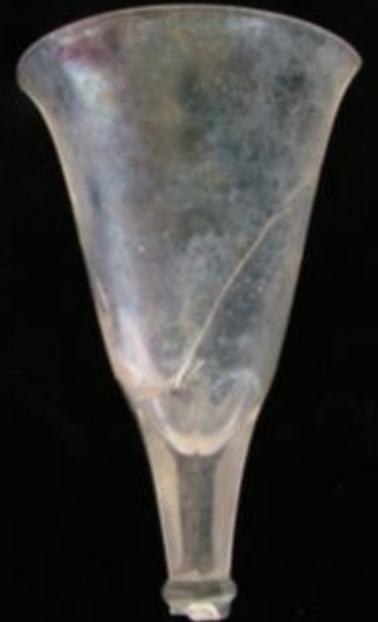
Piper's Opera House



Don McBride Collection, Virginia City, Nevada

Inside Piper's Old Corner Bar Beneath Piper's Opera House







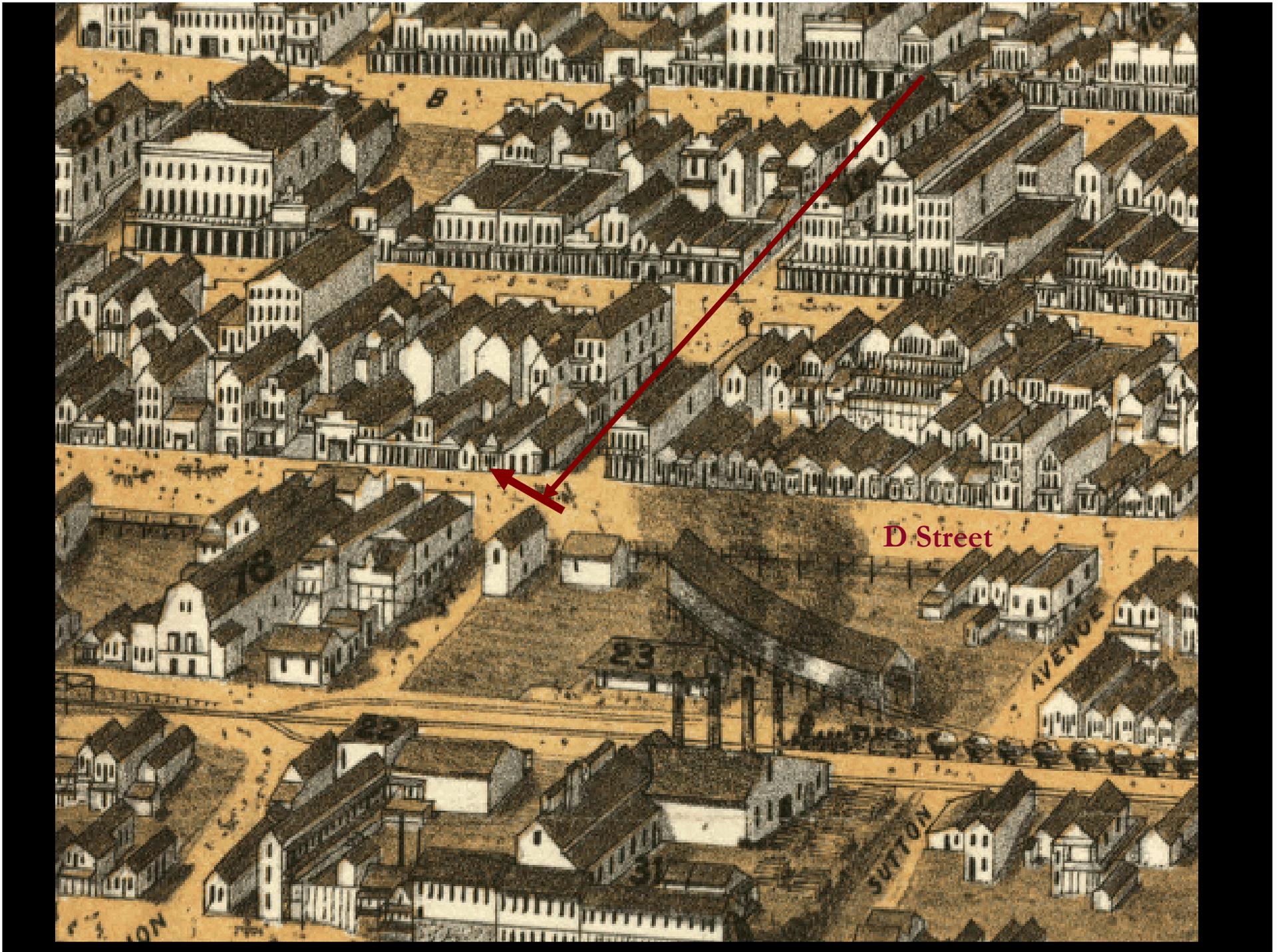
Master's Thesis by Robert Leavitt

“Taking the Waters: Stoneware Jugs and the Taste of Home They Contained”
The University of Nevada, Reno, Department of Anthropology

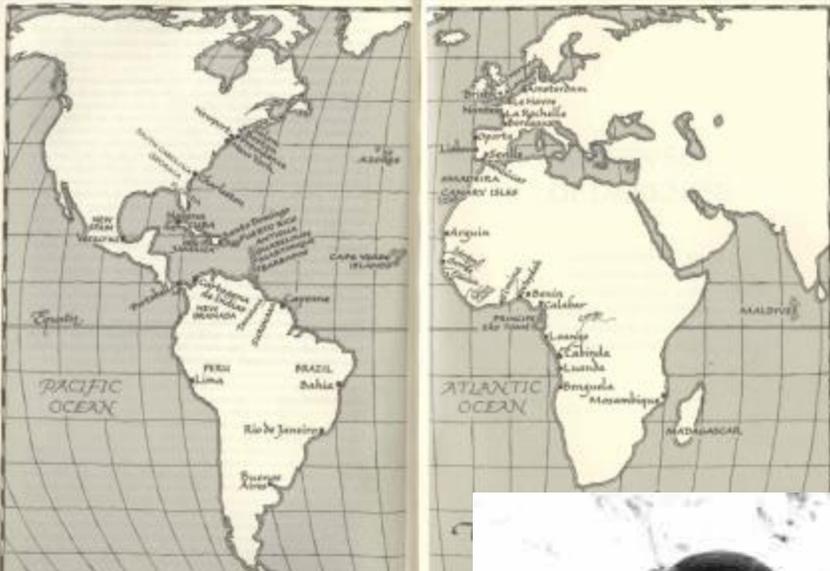


German mineral water jug found in various saloons (zoom shows the vessel's seal detail).





African Diaspora Archaeology in the West?



Hugh Thomas *The Slave Trade* (1997)



10th Cavalry, St. Mary's, Montana, 1894. Montana Historical Soc



Nat Love ("Deadwood Dick"), 1854-1921.

Territorial Enterprise

August 7, 1866

ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING— At the Boston Saloon kept by W.A.G. Brown, corner of D and Union Streets, which is the popular resort for many of the colored population, about 11 o'clock Sunday evening, a party of them were sitting around a table indulging in a "friendly game of poker," each one

THE PACIFIC APPEAL

"Truth crushed to earth will rise again."

L.—NO. 5.

SAN FRANCISCO, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1870.

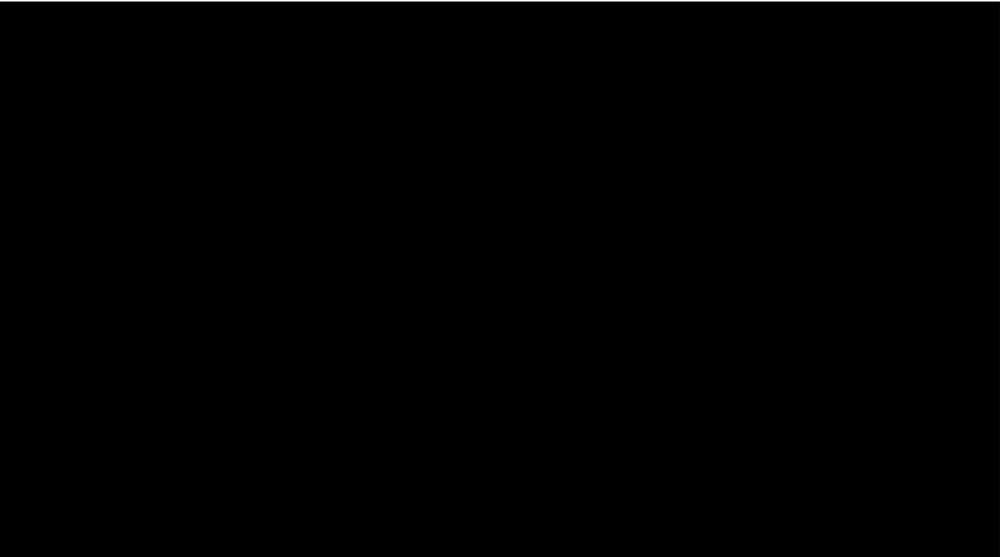
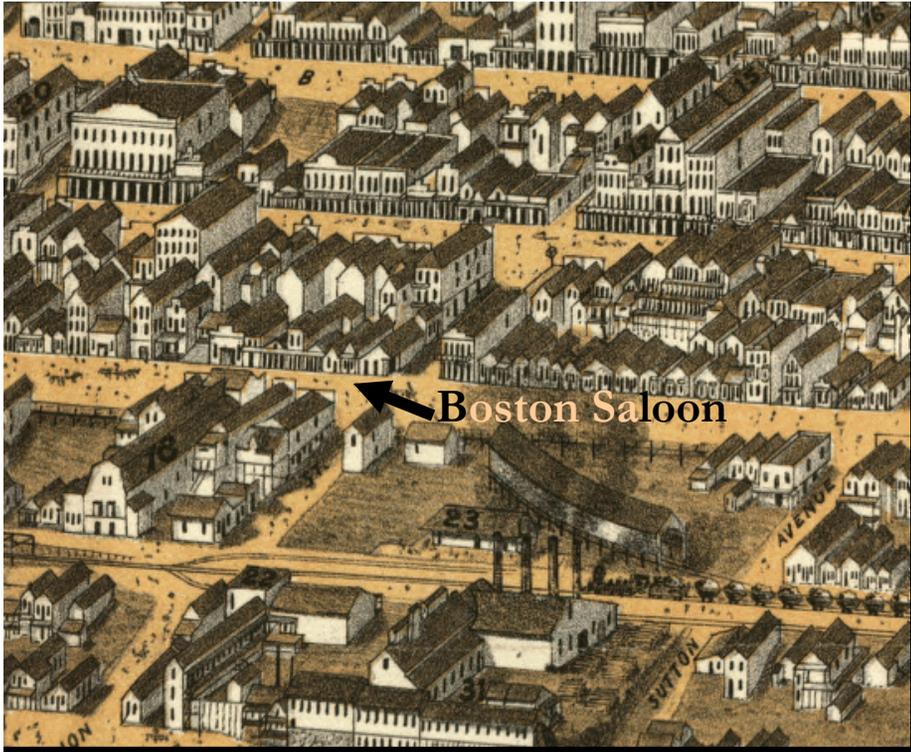
WHO

"...popular resort for many of the colored population..."

Territorial Enterprise August 7, 1866

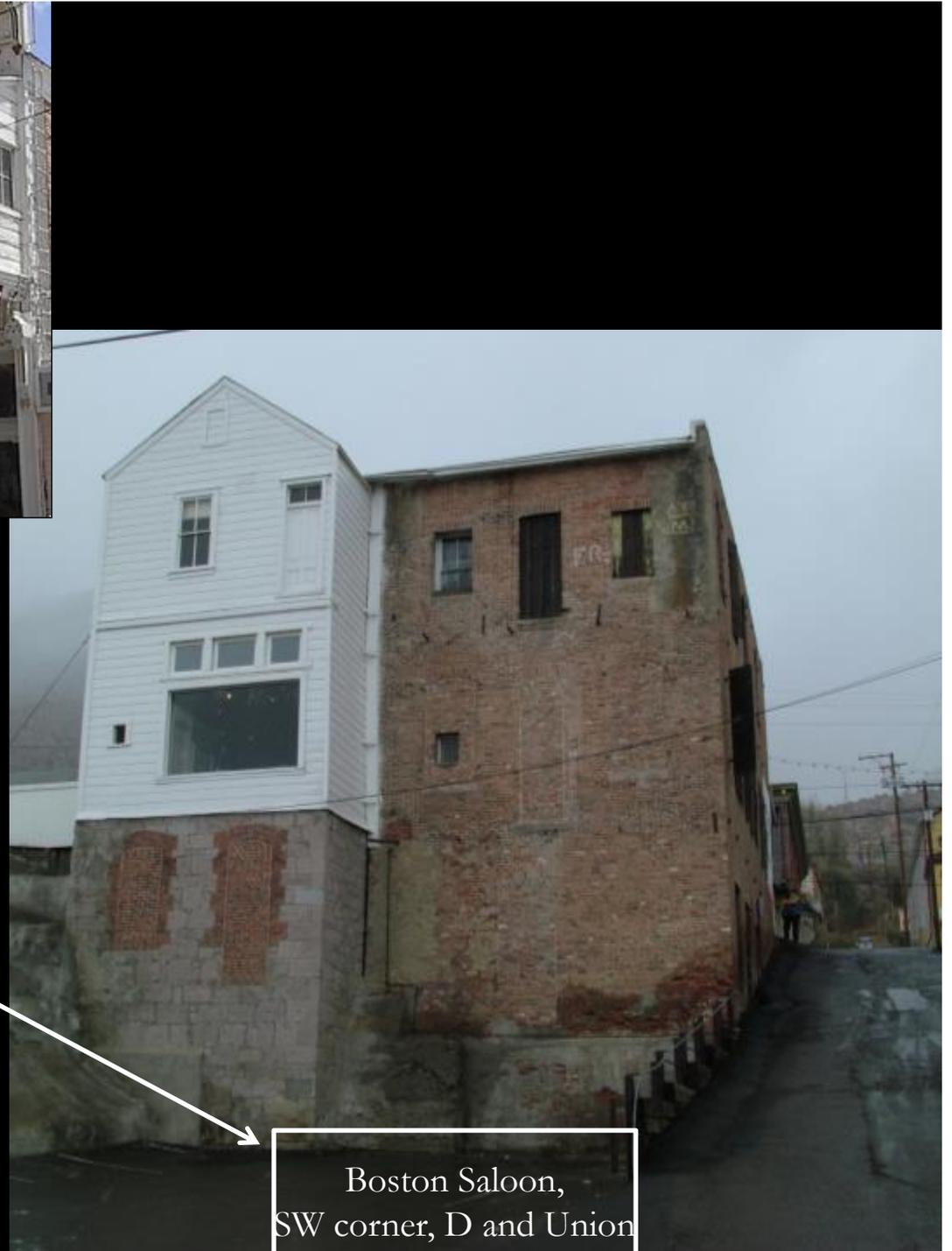
"...a place of recreation of our own..."

Pacific Appeal October 26, 1875



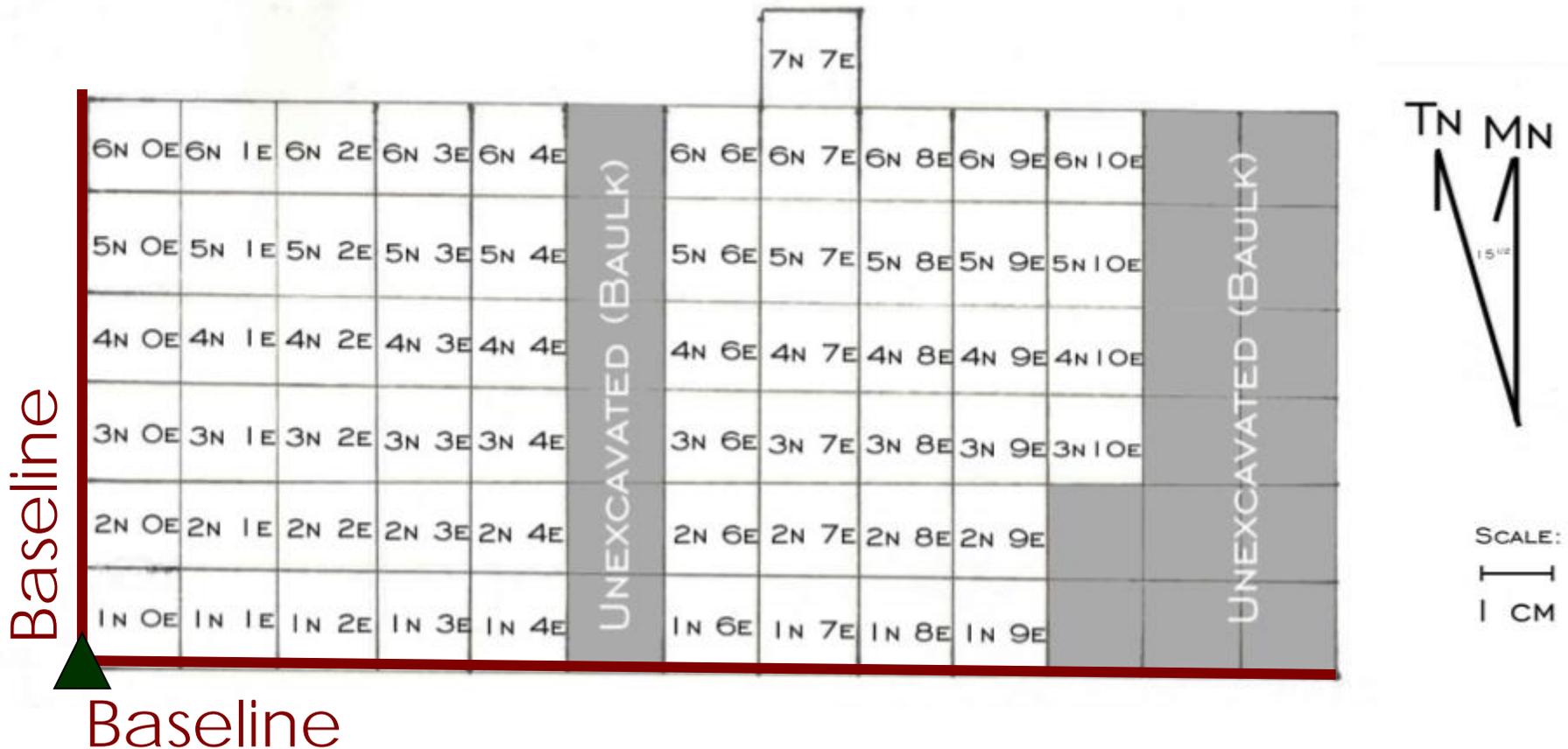


Today the tourist-favorite
Bucket of Blood Saloon
owns the lot.



Boston Saloon,
SW corner, D and Union





- ▲ **Datum** = a fixed reference point on an archaeological site from which measurements are taken.







Photos by Ron James



Photos by Ron James



Photos by Ron James

SIDEBAR: forensic science experiments

1844 hollow needle invented

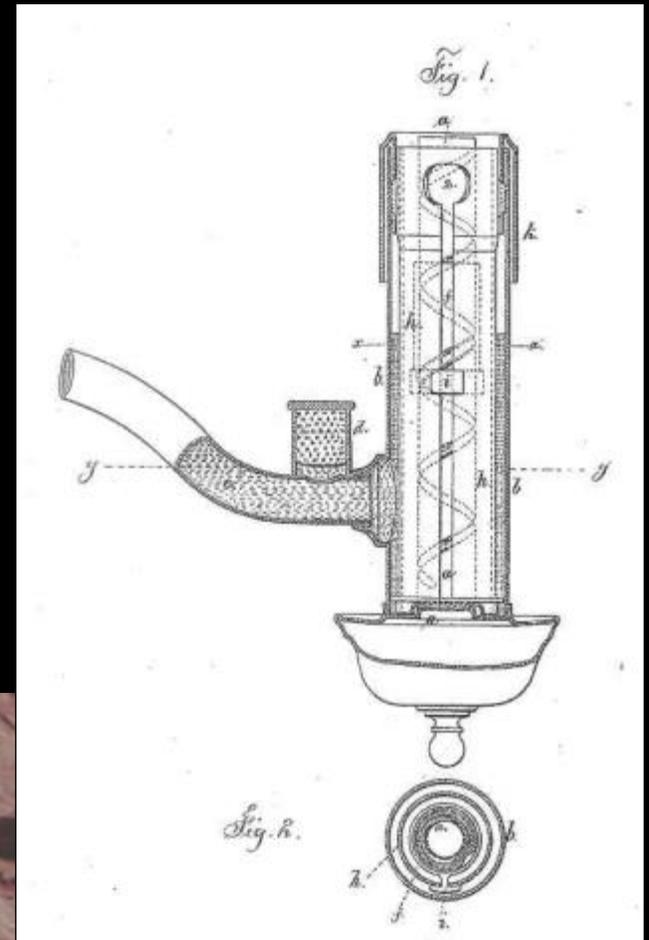
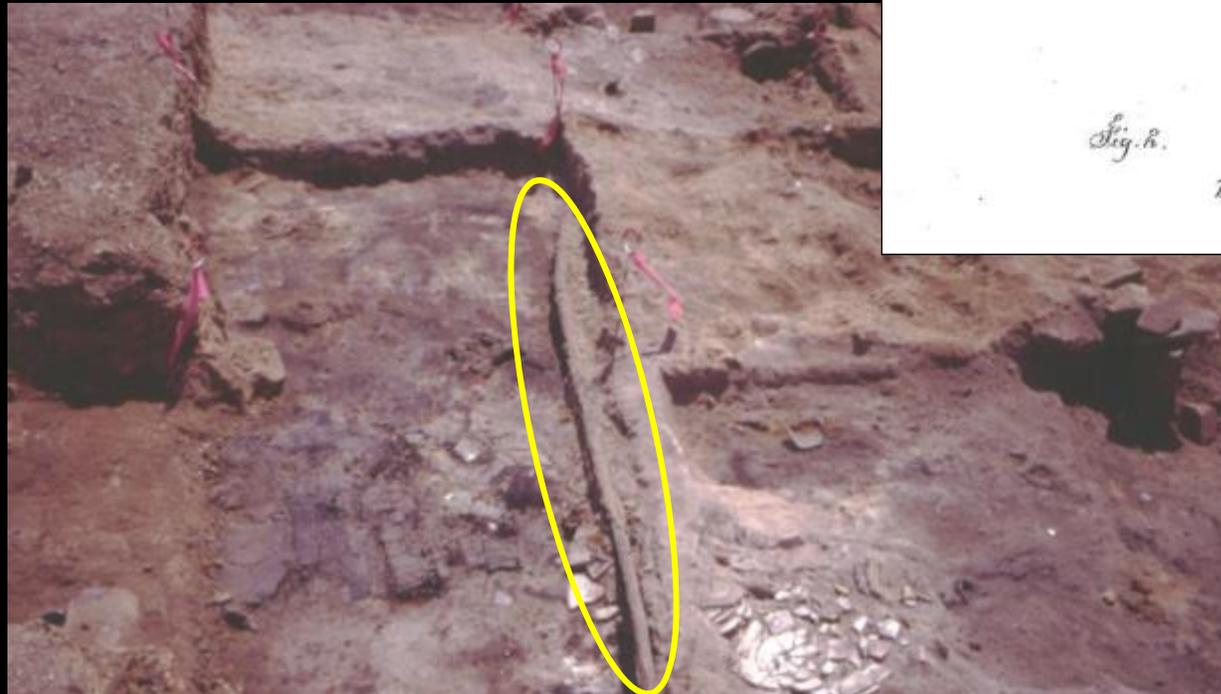
1853 hypodermic syringes developed

(combined metal syringe and the hollow pointed needle that could penetrate skin without cutting an opening)

Photo by Julie Schablitsky



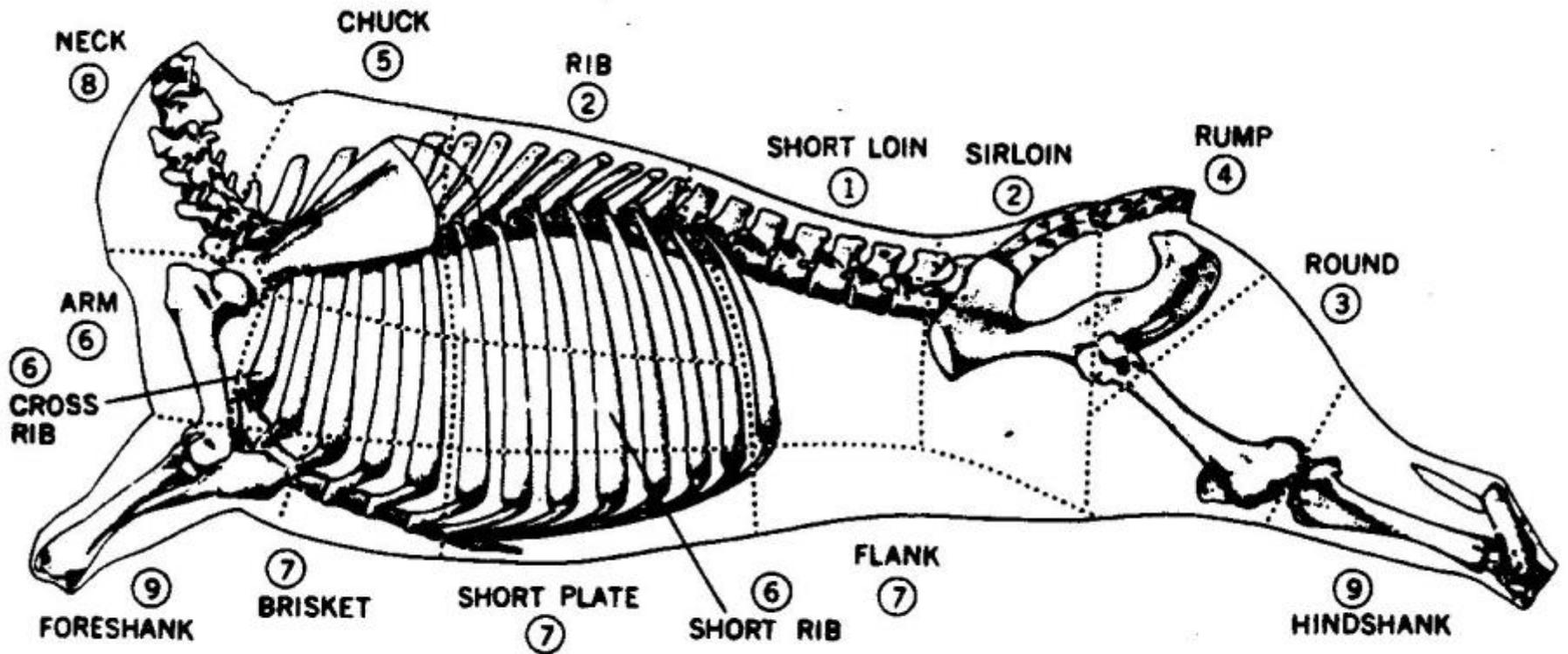
Photos by Ron James





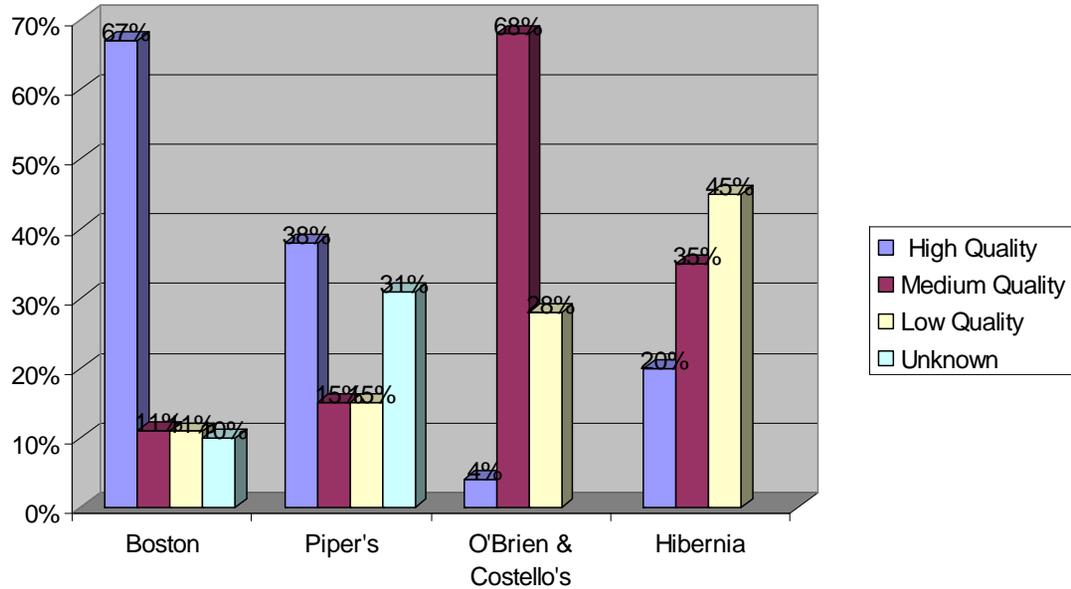


But what were they eating?

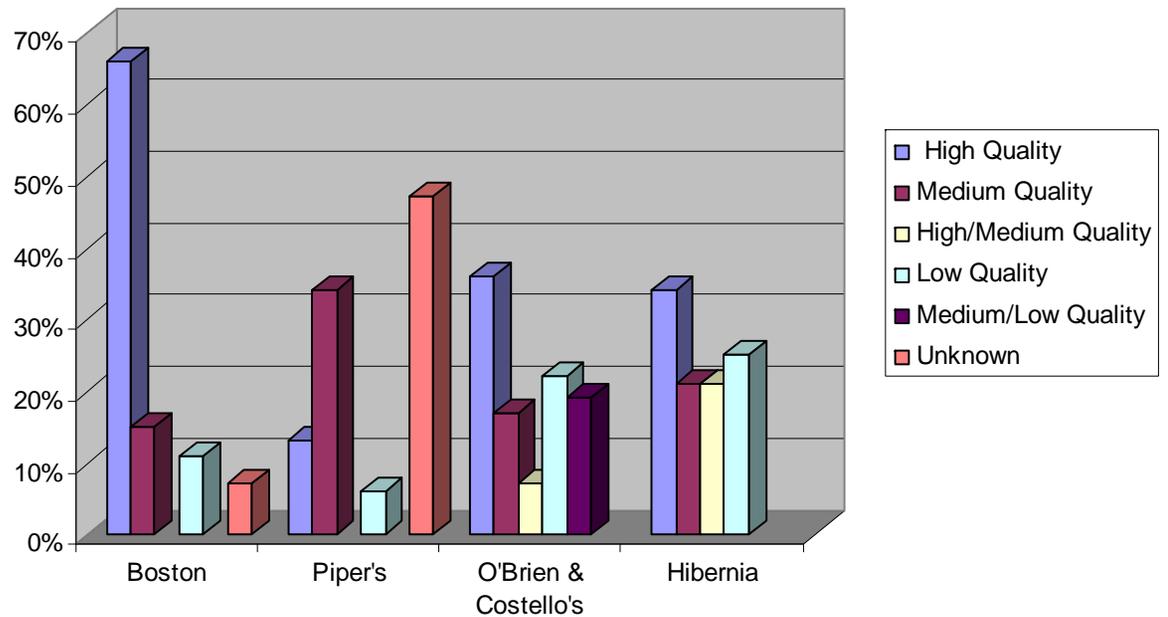


Cuts of beef ranked according to nineteenth-century retail vales, with the numbers 1, 2, and 3 representing high values, while 4, 5, and 6 are middle values, and 7, 8, and 9 are low values (Schulz and Gust 1983:48); sheep cuts extrapolated from this ranking.

% of Sheep Quality Cuts from Virginia City Saloons



% of Cow/Beef Cuts from Virginia City Saloons





Photos and artwork by Ron James

Orser, Charles E. and David W. Babson

1990 Tabasco Brand Pepper Sauce Bottles from Avery Island, Louisiana,
Historical Archaeology 25 (2):107-114.





MATERIAL: Glass **GLASS COLOR:** Colorless

LIP STYLE: Hand applied, relatively thin lip (1.6 cm d.).

NECK STYLE: Elongated, nearly as long as the body (12 cm tall)

[** Neck height ~5.5 cm ** Body height ~6.5 cm]

SHOULDER STYLE: Angular (2.3 cm d.)

BODY STYLE: Round in cross-section; 6.5 cm tall.



BASE STYLE: Round (3.4 cm d.). Embossed Mark: "TABASCO//PEPPER//SAUCE" & 2, six-pointed stars

NOTES: All of the above traits were not rare. However, this bottle style, with its relatively thin lip in combination with the above traits, is so rare that this is the only one of its kind that has been recovered by anyone. Tabasco historians thought that the earlier bottles like this were only made with thicker lips. It dates from 1869, the first year that Edmund McIlhenny ceased using secondhand cologne bottles to hold his pepper sauce and began using those specially-made like this, with the embossed label, to 1870 when McIlhenny's company changed to the style with thicker lips. Recent archaeological excavations at the original Tabasco Sauce "laboratory" on Avery Island, Louisiana have recovered various specimens of the bottles with similar marks, angular shoulders, and thicker lips. These were thought to represent the earliest bottles made especially for this product. A similar type of bottle, with the angular shoulders, but without the embossed Tabasco label on the base and with a thin applied lip instead of the thicker lip, was also recovered during excavations at the Avery Island pepper sauce laboratory. However, because of the lack of identifying marks on this bottle, the archaeologists and Tabasco researchers did not conclude that it represented a bottle that was manufactured and/or used for the sauce. Interestingly, **the bottle from the Boston Saloon, with its thin lip, angular shoulder, and its basal mark reading "TABASCO//*PEPPER*//SAUCE," represents something of a "missing link" between the unmarked bottles with the thin lips and the earliest versions of the bottles with that same mark and thicker lips.** Thus, this bottle from the Boston Saloon appears to be the earliest surviving form of a bottle used by the company, because the bottle's thin lip appears to be of a type similar to early bottles without the Tabasco embossing. Thus, the object provides the only known example of a transitional form of Tabasco bottles from the company's bottles during its earliest years (circa 1869-1870) of bottle production [Orser and Babson 1990; Shane Bernard (Tabasco Company Historian) and Ashley Dumas, personal communication, 2002]. Artwork & photo by Ron James.



Photos by Ron James

Saloon soundtrack?



Mouthpiece from a valved instrument, such as a B-flat tenor horn, a B-flat tenor saxhorn, or a B-flat baritone horn.

In comparison with the other saloons examined, the Boston Saloon and sported an upscale atmosphere; the Shooting Gallery tried to do so, too. ...but are there any “African American-isms” in the archaeological record? What about the other saloons? Are there “Irish-isms” or “German-isms”?



Meerschaum pipe bowl
(Piper's Old Corner Bar)



Mineral Water Jug
(Piper's Old Corner Bar)



Tobacco pipe mouthpiece
(Hibernia Brewery)



Bale seal,
lyre from Ireland
(Hibernia Brewery)



Cantrell & Cochrane
[Dublin & Belfast]
Soda Water bottle
(Boston Saloon and the Hibernia)



Munitions (.22 long shells) from O'Brien & Costello's Saloon and Shooting Gallery .

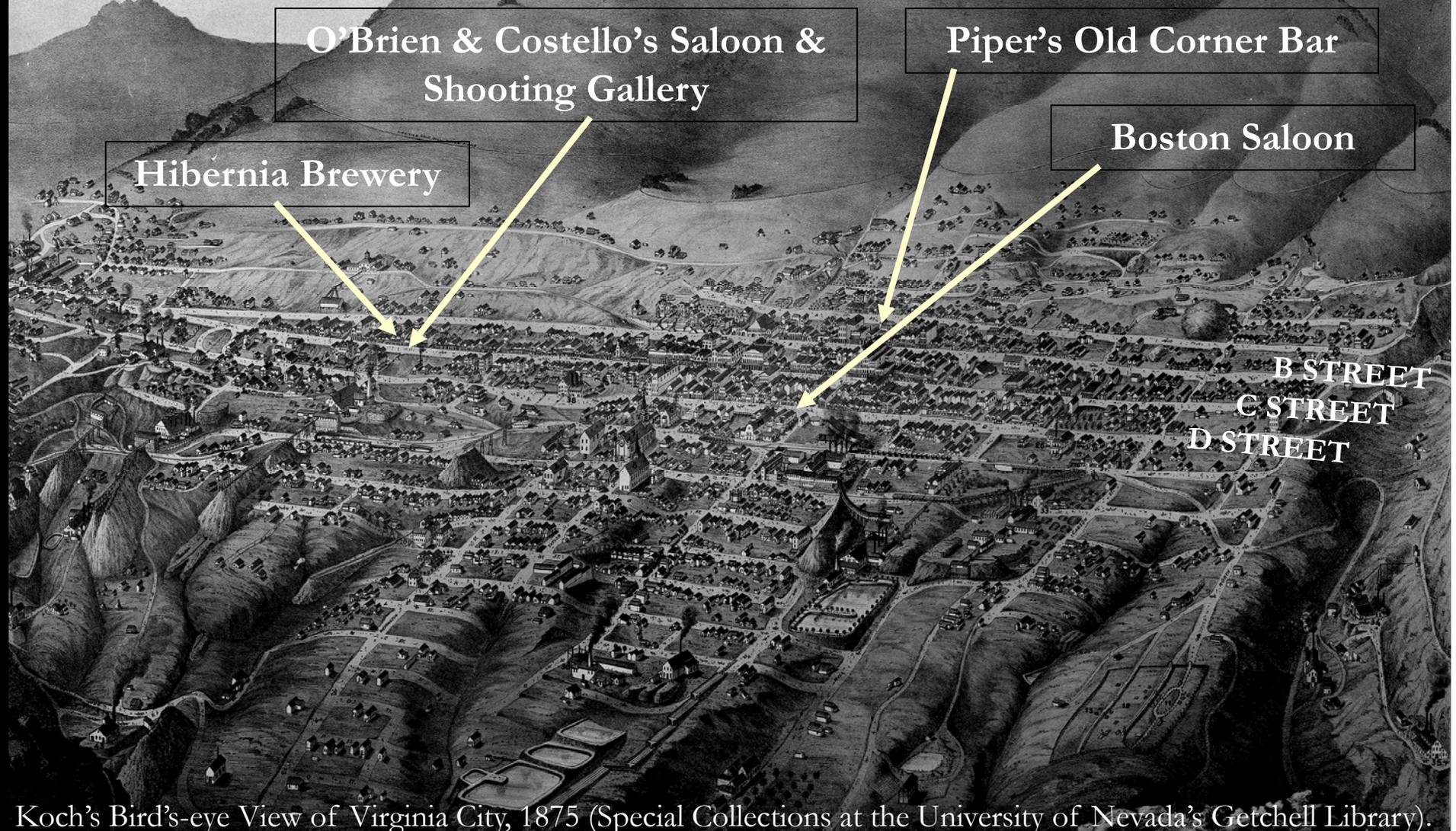
Photo by Ron James.

Domino fragment from the
Boston Saloon



Dice recovered from the
Hibernia Brewery

Historical archaeologists view artifacts (and buildings and roads) as active objects that helped create, structure, and maintain life (e.g., Orser 2004:53).



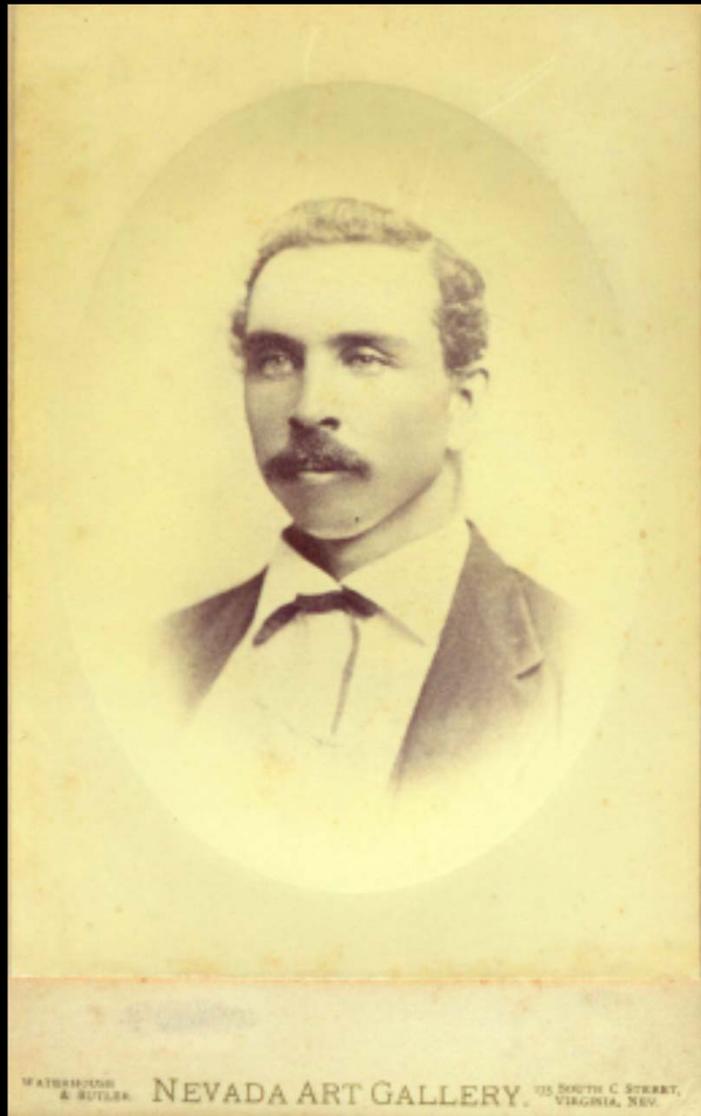
Koch's Bird's-eye View of Virginia City, 1875 (Special Collections at the University of Nevada's Gatchell Library).

What you find, archaeologically, has everything to do with what you look for...and yet you almost never find all or only what you expect...as enigmatic and fragmentary as it is, the archaeological record has the infinite capacity to surprise...

Alison Wylie 2002:xiv

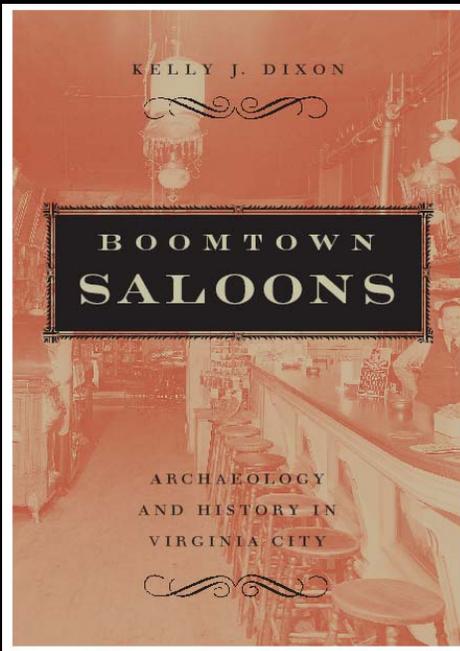


Epilogue: power to the public!



Special thanks to Joe Curtis and the Mark Twain Bookstore, Virginia City, Nevada.

Acknowledgements



Butte Mine Design and Closure Conference Organizers

Portland State University

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Nevada Humanities Committee

Comstock Historic District Commission & Comstock Archaeology Center

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The University of Nevada Graduate Student Association

The University of Nevada's 2000 Archaeological Field School

Am-Arcs of Nevada

Storey County

Ronald M. James

Donald L. Hardesty

Carrie Smith

Dan Urriola

Robert Leavitt



The University of Montana, Department of Anthropology



Dime minted 1853-1860
(pinhole-sized perforation)

1865 Silver Half-Dollar
(2 punch marks and a cut)

While it is difficult to unequivocally interpret ethnic or cultural identity from these collections, it is possible to draw some preliminary conclusions about the various levels of sophistication (Hibernia had few to no frills?).



Beer mug
(Piper's Old Corner Bar)



Stemware
(Boston Saloon)

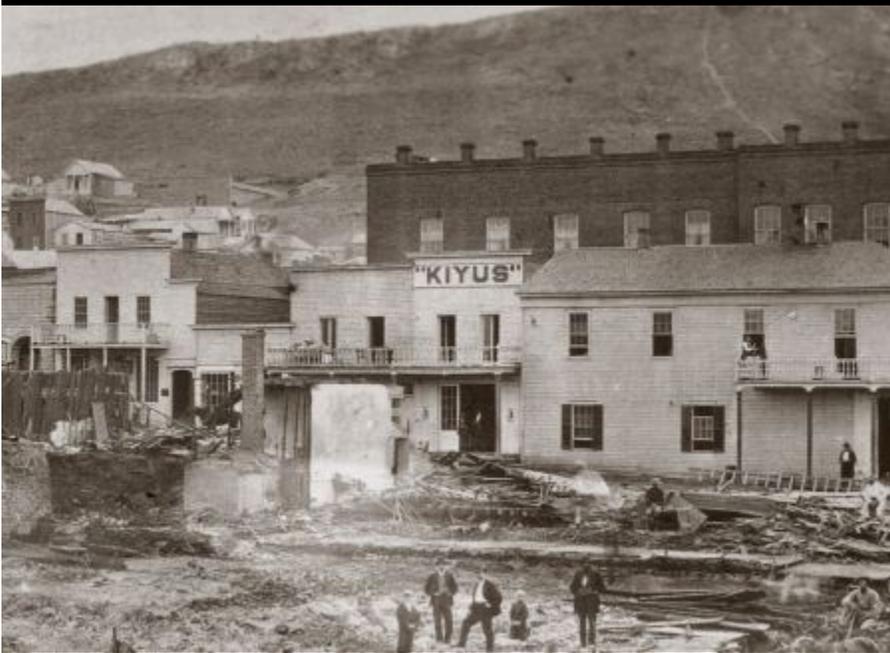


Decanter Stopper
Some material refinement
amid the "underworld"?
(O'Brien and Costello's)



Fluted Stemware
(Piper's Old Corner Bar)

How can all of this shed light on the human condition amid the context of the multicultural “wild West”?

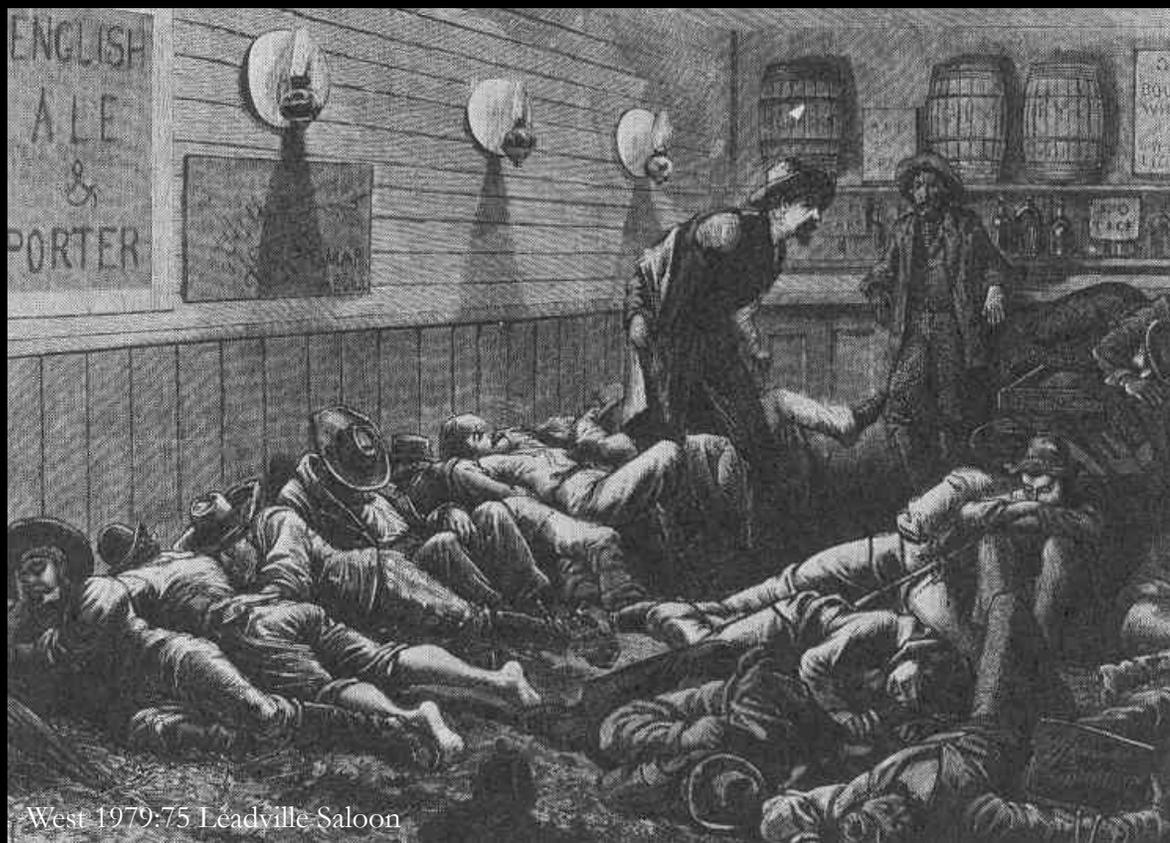


Kiyus Saloon, Helena, Montana, 1870s, Yesteryear News



Kelly's Saloon, Garnet, Montana, BLM and Garnet Preservation Ass'n

New immigrants to the West sought to “soften the blow” of the anxiety and hostility associated with the transition to new lives...prejudicial treatment likely inspired people to use saloons as places to relax and socialize with those sharing similar backgrounds and experiences...encouraging segregation rather than a “melting pot.”



West 1979:75 Leadville Saloon

(e.g., Dixon 2005:153-154; see also Ronald M. James, 1994, “Defining the Group”; Gwendolyn Captain, 1995, “Social, Religious, and Leisure Pursuits of Northern California’s African American Population”).

The Boston Saloon

1866-1875



Artwork by Ron James

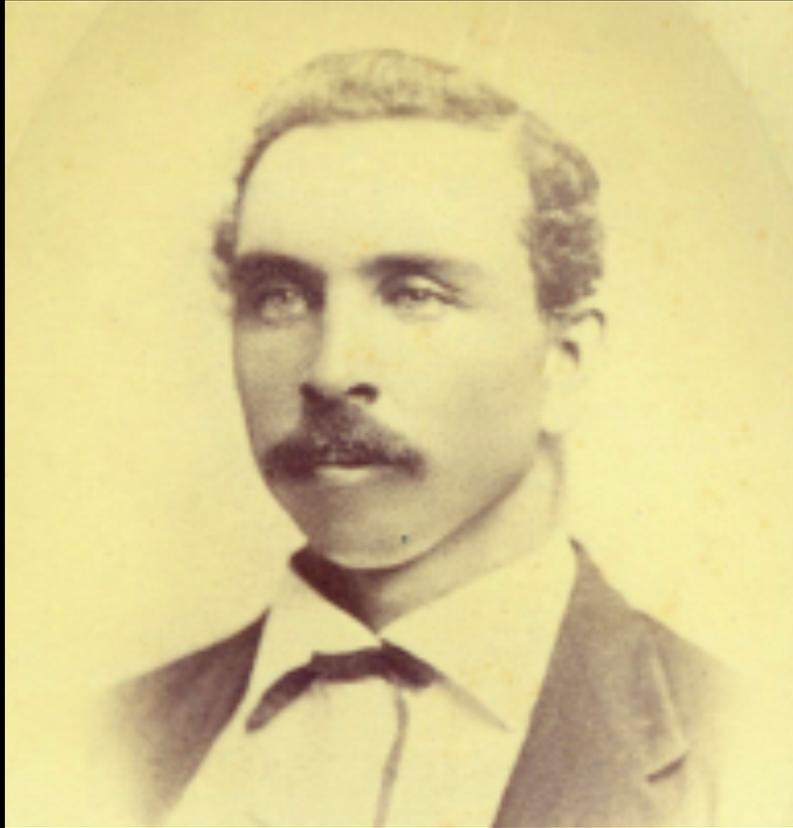
It is necessary to continue to promote and expand upon this story of a shared heritage to highlight a sense of mutual respect for the diverse cultures comprising the history and current character of this country.

Molefi Asante 1998



"Hurdy Gurdy Girls" (J. Rosse Brown 1863)







A LESSON...

A construction worker in Piper's Old Corner Bar/Piper's Opera House used his access to pillage the resource (privy pits). He destroyed valuable information, breaking artifacts and ruining their context.

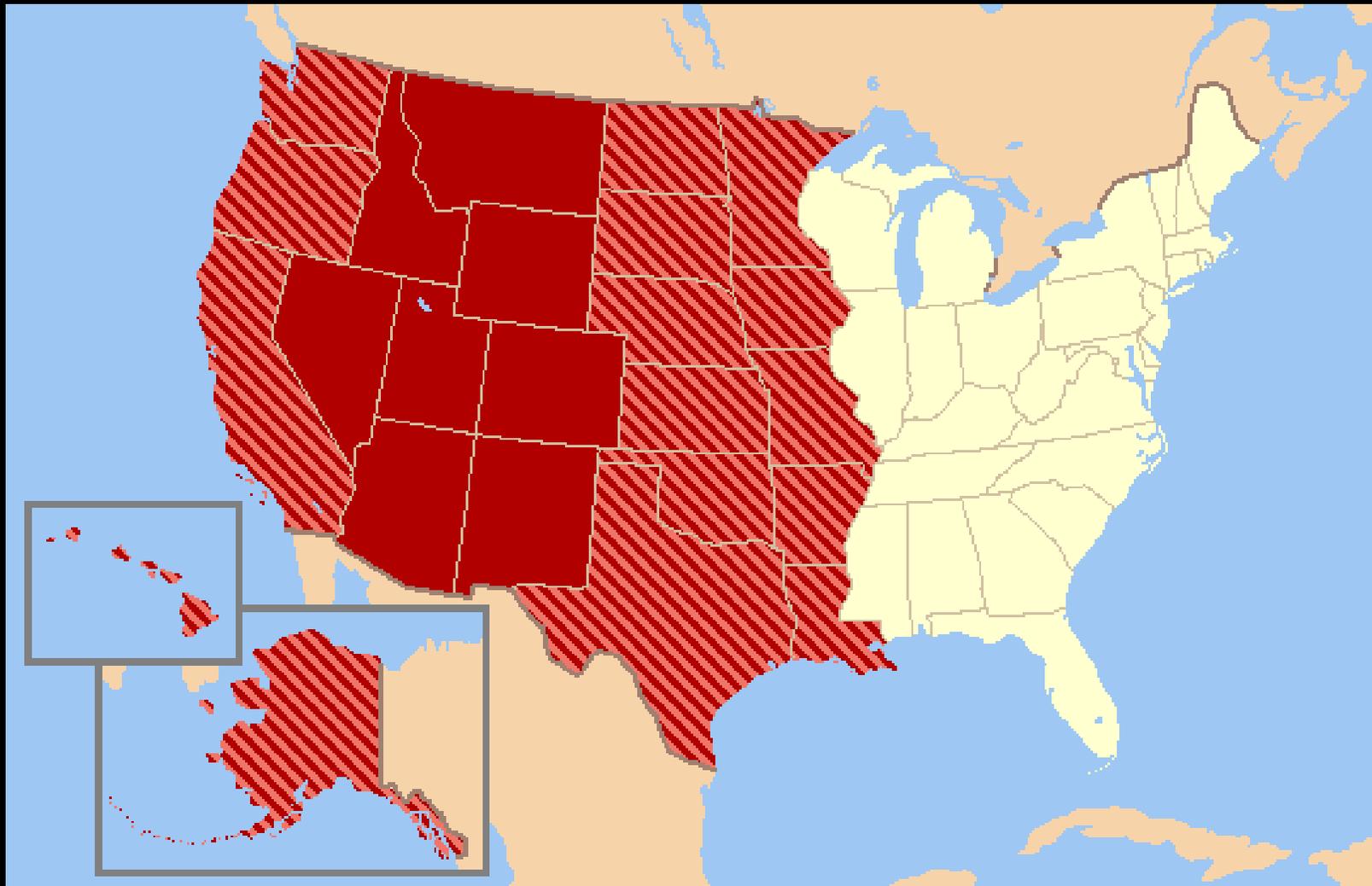
This "Dr. Wonser's Indian Root Bitters" bottle, purportedly one of eleven known examples, was recovered as evidence, having sold for \$16,000.

It played a pivotal role in convicting the worker of theft, but the information he destroyed can never be recovered.

The bottle was manufactured around 1871 in San Francisco.

Without a context, however, we will never know anything about who placed it there.

The West = traditionally refers to the region comprising the westernmost states of the United States. Since the United States has expanded westward since its founding, the definition of the West has evolved over time. The Mississippi River is often referenced as the easternmost possible boundary of the West, as is the 100th meridian.

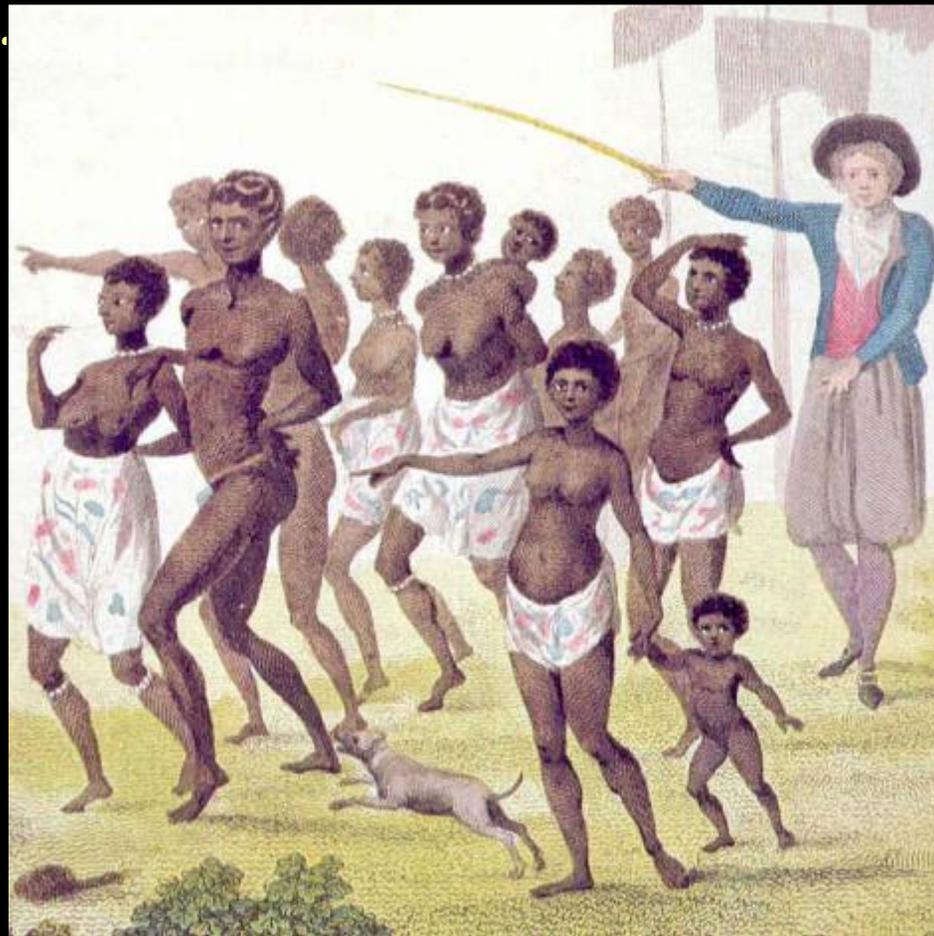




Prohibition 1919-1933.

“RACE”

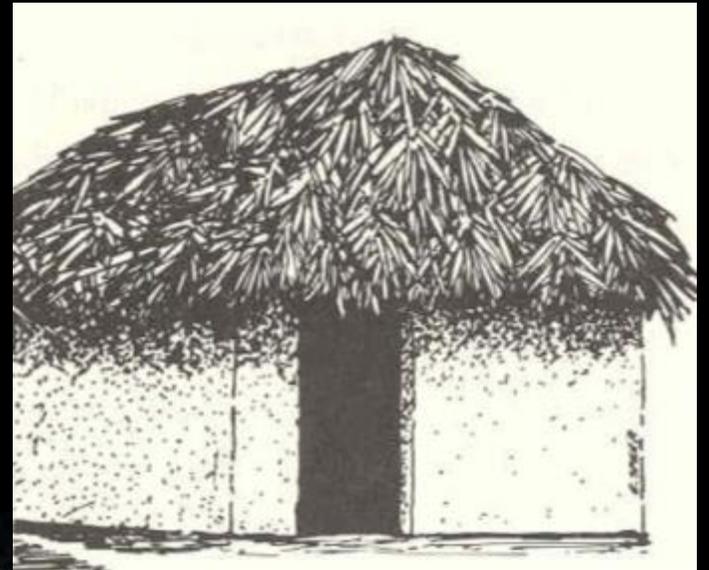
Range of constructed labels applied to subordinate groups [to rationalize inequality]...it is certainly not REAL in any essential biological or cultural sense but shapes how most people in the colonial and post-colonial worlds define themselves...and others (from Mullins in Orser 2002:264).

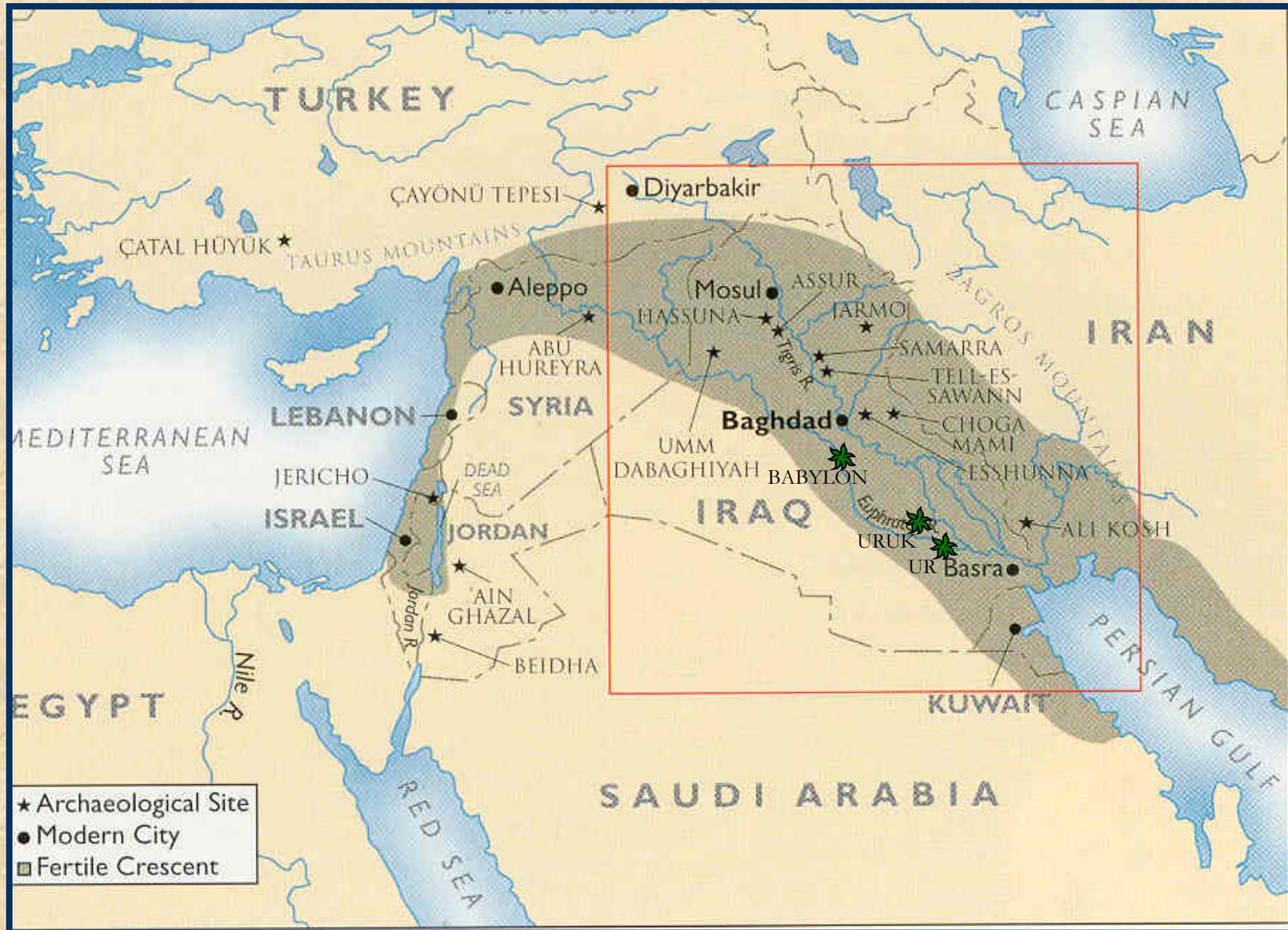


Henrietta Marie Slave Ship, in National Geographic August 2002 p. 57

ETHNICITY

ascribed and self-ascribed **SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED** & publicly recognized identity based on shared feeling of belonging to the same group defined by kinship and biology (ancestral background, language, customs, history, and religion).





Syria 3800 ya

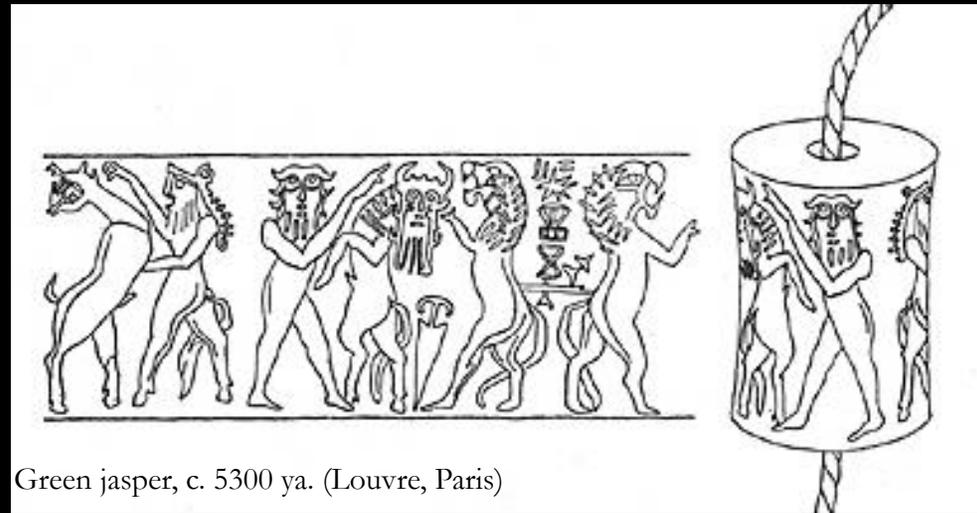
(steatite, 2.7 x 1.6 cm)



Basalt, Kish, Ancient Sumeria c. 5300 ya. (The Field Museum, Chicago, 4300 ya, A113395-6/FM156668)



Green jasper, c. 5300 ya, Louvre



Green jasper, c. 5300 ya. (Louvre, Paris)

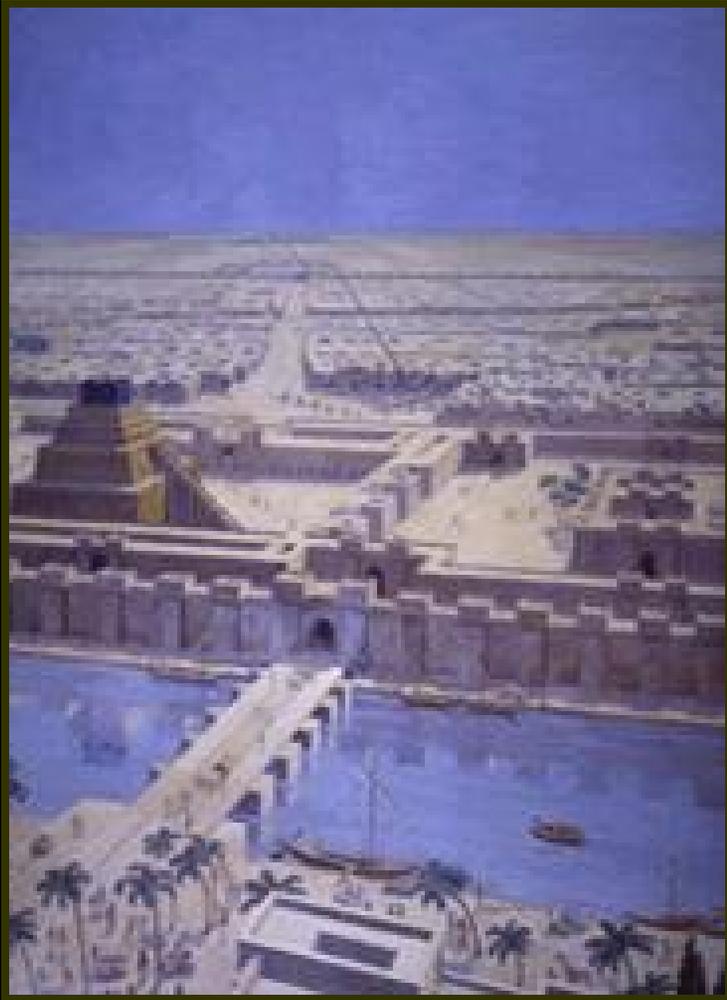


Richard Scott slide collection





Among the streets of Babylon...



A View of the City of Babylon,
Oil on canvas, 1936, Herbert Anger,
Oriental Institute, University of Chicago.



http://users.rcn.com/zap.dnai/bible_pictures/babylon.jpg.

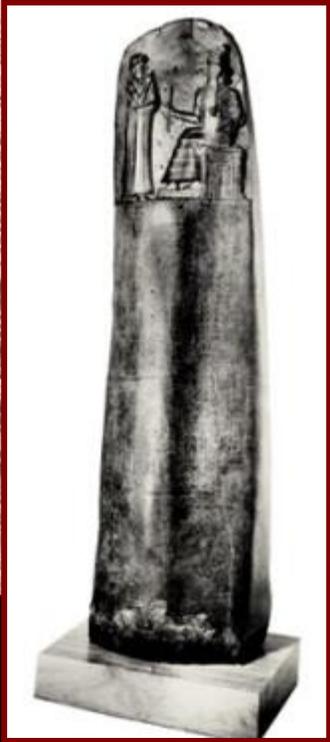
The Code of Hammurabi Translated

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/medieval/hamframe.htm>

Codex of Hammurabi

Law 109:

“If criminals plot in a *sabitum*'s house and she does not arrest them ...that *sabitum* shall be put to death.”



Stela from the reign of Hammurabi, c. 1792-1750 B.C.E., Old Babylonian Period, Diorite; Oriental Institute, University of Chicago.

Sabitu: tavernkeeper/innkeeper

Why is the female form of the third person pronoun used in Hammurabi's code of laws?



The First Cities 1975



Codex of Hammurabi

Law 108:

“...if the price of the drink is less than that of the grain...”

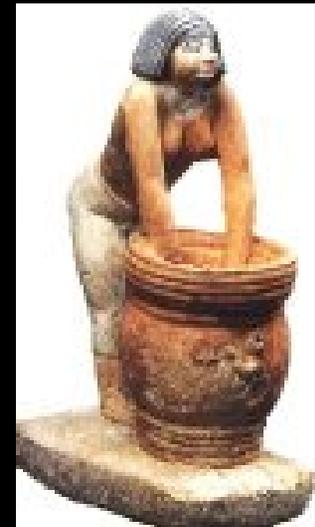
Codex of Hammurabi

Law 110:

“If a preistess/nun should open a tavern door or enter a tavern to drink, she shall be burned...”

Early documents: women figured prominently in beer brewing in the ancient Near East

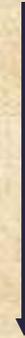
(e.g., texts from 4100 ya suggest that free & enslaved women were involved with brewing; married women were given dowries that consisted of tools and ingredients to make beer).





4100 ya

sabitu had high social standing



3700 ya

Laws of Hammurabi

(textual references to *sabitu* cease)