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BrewCats: Taft's Nellie Ale

Stephanie L. Smith | Staff Reporter | Posted: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:51 pm

Taft's Ale House is resurrecting Cincinnati history with their brewery taproom, and paying homage to key Cincinnati figures and locations with their beers.

The Over-the-Rhine microbrewery opened last April. Its home is the former St. Paul's Church, the oldest parish in the city, named after Cincinnati native President William Howard Taft.

While the president has four beers in his honor on tap, First Lady -- and Prohibition opponent -- Helen "Nellie" Taft is not forgotten with Nellie's Key Lime Caribbean Ale.

Her namesake starts off with a frothy snow-white head, almost three fingers tall, topping a crystal yellow body. The carbonation is off the charts, similar to champagne. Both deliver a refreshing experience.

Key lime pie dominates the aroma and taste due to the use of Nellie and Joe's Famous Key West Lime Juice.

At the fore, there is a tartness, which continues throughout, but the wheat tempers it. The lime essence becomes more noticeable as the beer warms to room temperature. The coriander gives it a light graham cracker crust finish.

There is a reason why Nellie's is the most popular beer at Taft's Ale House: light and smooth, it makes one eager for spring, and at 4.8 percent ABV, it is an excellent session beer for hot summer days.

Brewcats is a weekly beer review column, appearing in TNR every Wednesday.



Nellie