01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

An old bottle. A new language.



JOS. A. MAGNUS & CO.

Joseph Magnus links a Cincinnati whiskey business with a modern house of blending and cask finishing. The original company dates to 1892; the revival began in Washington, D.C. in 2015. Those dates describe separate enterprises, rather than uninterrupted distilling. [2,3]

Preserved family whiskey gave great-grandson Jimmy Turner and a team of specialists a sensory reference. Nancy Fraley helped translate that old flavor into a modern approach. The discovery year conflicts across the producer’s accounts; its timeline dates the Louisville assessment to June 2014. [1,2,21]

Fraley created Cigar Blend in 2016. In May 2026 she described handing most Magnus responsibilities to Will Fabry while remaining available for selected work. The August rye announcement names him Head Blender. This is a living blending tradition, with a new generation doing the work. [13,14]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

Three homes. Different roles.

1892-1903
Cincinnati: company formation, a dealership and the later East Eighth Street business. [2]

1918-1927
The original whiskey chapter stops ahead of Prohibition. Michigan retirement and philanthropy become part of Magnus’s legacy. [2,3]

June 2014 / 2015
Family whiskey is assessed; the modern company is reestablished in Washington. [1,2]

2016 / 2017
Murray Hill Club and Cigar Blend appear, followed by the private-barrel program. [2,3]

October 2020
Operations move to Holland, Michigan. The dated announcement makes the change effective October 31. [4]

2024-2026
Calvados finishing, mother-blend notes and a rye release extend the modern range. [10,11,14]



Cincinnati
Historical trading and bottling home. The old address does not identify the distilling source of a current release. [3]

Washington, D.C.
The first operating home of the revived business, 2015-2020. [4]

Holland, Michigan
Current CraftCo production and visitor home. Oden and Petoskey belong to the founder’s northern Michigan story. They are separate places. [2,16]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Follow the blend. Read the batch.

Joseph Magnus Bourbon · 100 proof. Straight bourbon finished with Oloroso, PX sherry and Cognac cask influences. [5]

Murray Hill Club · 103 proof. Bourbon blended with light whiskey; numbered Special Releases have their own finishes. [6,8-10]

Cigar Blend · Armagnac finishing and a batch-led identity. Dated notes can disclose components and a shared mother blend. Proof and age are release-specific. [7,12,22]

10 Year Cask Strength Rye · Announced August 2026: 95% rye, 113.44 proof, ten years and nine months old. [14]

LINKED RESEARCH SOURCES

1. Our Story
2. Historical timeline
3. January 2025 history
4. 2020 relocation
5. Triple-cask Bourbon
6. Murray Hill Club
7. Cigar Blend overview
8. Special Releases 1-2
9. Special Release 3
10. Special Release 4
11. 2025 Fraley letter
12. Batches 207-212
13. 2026 Fraley interview
14. 2026 rye announcement
15. CraftCo portfolio
16. Social House
17. 2019 Ohio selections
18. 2025 awards
19. 2024 Fraley award
20. 2025 Fabry role
21. Homepage discovery
22. Batches 85-98



Research qualifications: discovery dates conflict; older staff biographies and static batch specifications can lag. Historical claims are attributed to producer records. Supplier disclosures apply only to named releases. All illustrations are symbolic. Complete notes accompany the website.