01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

A legacy, rediscovered

Coffee, meat and whiskey stood at the center of Charles Nelson's Nashville grocery trade. The producer traces its heritage to 1860. The Greenbrier facility's documented history has its own dates. That distinction is where this story begins. [1,2,3]

1860 HERITAGE / 1870 PROPERTY PURCHASE



Charles purchased the Greenbrier property and distilling equipment in 1870. The local museum dates sour-mash production to 1872. The business grew into an important Tennessee whiskey enterprise, connecting local resources with Nashville distribution. [2,3]

Louisa carries the business forward

After Charles died in 1891, Louisa Nelson assumed control. Tennessee Prohibition ended the original operation in 1909. The modern revival honors that family history while recognizing the long break in production. [1,3]

The brothers and the revival

Charlie and Andy Nelson's family rediscovery in 2006 became a new venture. Fundraising began in 2010; the first Nashville barrel followed in 2014. A familiar name returned in a new place. [1,4,5]



02 / HISTORY & PLACES

Old site. New home.



1867 / 1870

An earlier Greenbrier plant; Charles buys the property. [2]



1891 / 1909

Louisa leads the business; Tennessee Prohibition closes it. [1,3]



2003 / 2006

A historical marker; a family rediscovery. [1,3]



2012 / 2014

Belle Meade returns; Nashville fills its first barrel. [4,14]



2016 / 2019

Minority investment becomes majority ownership. [5]



2023 / 2024

Nashville expands; Constellation buys the remaining interest. [4,6]

Greenbrier, Nashville and the route between

The original Greenbrier property is the historic industrial site. Modern production and tours are at 1414 Clinton Street in Marathon Village, Nashville. Historically, rail connected Greenbrier distilling with Nashville bottling and distribution. Shared heritage does not mean identical facilities. [2,3,12,13]

03 / WHISKEY & STORIES

Grain, charcoal and casks

Green Brier Tennessee Whiskey uses corn, wheat and malted barley, with sugar maple charcoal mellowing. The current original expression is 91 proof. Its six-year Bottled in Bond companion identifies one Nashville distilling season and 100 proof. [7,8]



Two whiskey families, different roles

Nelson Brothers spans bourbon and rye. Reserve is currently 107.8 proof, with the producer describing an average age of six to seven years. Brand geography alone does not prove the distiller of every component. [9,11]

A cask’s second life

The finishing program explores Sherry, Cognac, wine and honey-seasoned barrels. The 2026 Honey Cask collaboration uses barrels returned from TruBee Honey. Those release-specific details are a finishing story, not a blanket distillation claim. [10]

The Belle Meade connection

Belle Meade was in Green Brier's 2019 portfolio. Its current history describes a separate family-owned, sourced and blended bourbon brand. A historical relationship is retained without substituting current specifications for an older bottle. [5,14,15]

Read further / linked primary sources

[1] Producer story
[2] National Register record
[3] Greenbrier museum
[4] Modern anniversary
[5] 2019 ownership release
[6] 2026 annual filing
[7] Original Tennessee whiskey
[8] Bottled in Bond
[9] Nelson Brothers Reserve
[10] Cask Series archive
[11] Product portfolio
[12] Official visitor program
[13] Nashville address
[14] Belle Meade history
[15] Current Belle Meade Reserve
[16] Constellation portfolio