01 / ORIGINS & PEOPLE

Widow Jane

Brooklyn hands. Rosendale water.



A whiskey can acquire its Brooklyn character after beginning life elsewhere. Widow Jane selects, blends, finishes and bottles mature spirit, while also distilling its own. Rosendale limestone water ties those roles together. [2, 3]

Curiosity, then patience

Daniel Preston, an aerospace engineer, founded Cacao Prieto to make chocolate in Red Hook. Rum and acquired bourbon barrels followed. Widow Jane began in 2012. Its company history and the ages of its sourced whiskey run on different clocks. [1, 24]

Sienna Jevremov grew from tasting-room weekends into distilling and blending. Michele Clark, a design intern in 2012, is now vice president. Their corn project with farmer John Gill required years of selecting and replanting heirloom kernels before Baby Jane reached a national audience. [1, 12]

AT A GLANCE / Red Hook, Brooklyn, New York
Established 2012 / Founder Daniel Preston
Heaven Hill family since the 2022 Samson & Surrey acquisition. [7, 24]

02 / HISTORY & PLACES

A city workshop. An upstate connection.

The working home is 218 Conover Street in Red Hook. Rosendale supplies proofing water: the detailed producer page places extraction in a sealed section of a nearby mine, distinct from the publicly visited namesake cavern. [3, 22]



1830 / heritage

Century House dates the namesake mine opening to 1830. This is industrial history, not a whiskey founding date. Jane LeFever Snyder is the documented namesake; why the mine took her name remains uncertain. [4, 5]

2012-2016

The whiskey company begins in 2012. A 2014 founder announcement presents Brooklyn-distilled heirloom bourbons. Samson & Surrey acquires Widow Jane in April 2016, per the later reported chronology. [6, 24]

2019-2022

The Vaults begins in 2019; Decadence follows in 2020. Heaven Hill acquires Samson & Surrey in February 2022. Lisa Wicker’s departure is announced that October. [7-10]

2023-2024

Paradigm Rye brings Brooklyn distillate into a national blend in 2023. The national Baby Jane bourbon follows in 2024, combining Brooklyn and Kentucky production. [11-13]

2024-2026

Black Opal debuts in 2024. Borough Blend launches in 2025, followed by a second city-bartender selection in 2026. Greek oak, Ocho casks and a longer Mizunara finish extend the wood story. [14-19]

03 / WHISKEY, STORIES & SOURCES

Read the expression. Follow the wood.

The signature 10 Year is a 91-proof, five-barrel blend; Lucky Thirteen is at least 13 years and 93 proof. Paradigm Rye includes Red Hook spirit plus Kentucky and Indiana rye. Baby Jane's current page names Brooklyn and Kentucky distillation. Ownership does not identify an unnamed source distillery. [13, 20, 21, 25]

Decadence uses former Crown Maple syrup casks. The Vaults 2025 is at least 15 years, 99 proof, finished in Greek oak. Its wood's one-to-two-year air seasoning is not the finishing duration. The 2026 Ocho finish lasts eight months; Black Opal 2026 blends 20-year bourbon before a 13-month Mizunara finish. [10, 16-18]

The historic mine's rock became cement for a growing nation. Its modern role as a name, a heritage site and a link to proofing water makes a more interesting story than a simple claim that every drop was distilled in New York. [3-5]

Sources & research notes

[1] New York origins & people, 2026

[2] Official story & production

[3] Official water-source detail

[4] Century House: the real Jane

[5] Century House: mine history

[6] Heirloom announcement, 2014

[7] Heaven Hill acquisition, 2022

[8] Leadership announcement, 2022

[9] The Vaults / Amburana, 2024

[10] Decadence / maple, 2025

[11] Paradigm national launch, 2023

[12] Baby Jane national launch, 2024

[13] Current Baby Jane Bourbon

[14] Black Opal debut, 2024

[15] Borough Blend debut, 2025

[16] The Vaults / Greek oak, 2025

[17] Tequila Ocho finish, 2026

[18] Black Opal return, 2026

[19] Borough Blend second release

[20] Current Lucky Thirteen

[21] Current 10 Year Bourbon

[22] Official visit & tour

[23] Brooklyn expansion plan, 2023

[24] Reported company chronology

[25] Current Paradigm Rye

Accessed October 22, 2026. Producer sensory claims are attributed. Expansion plans are not confirmed openings. The 2026 Borough Blend announcement has an apparent ABV typo; 91 proof is retained. Interpretive watercolor art, not historic photographs.

