1891 - 1896

Henry Smith and Leopold Walter build a brewery on Mill Street at Josephine. After the pair defaulted on the mortgage in 1892, the brewery and its assets were purchased by Alex Wills and operated from 1894 to 1896.

1893

Robert Reisterer, with partner Jeizener open a brewery in Nelson under the name Robert Reisterer & Co., located on Mill Street at Ward.

1897

Robert Reisterer & Co. change the company name to the Nelson Brewing & Ice Company Ltd.

1897 - 1904

William Gosnall owns and operates the Castle Brewery on Chatham Street in Fairview (Bogustown). It would be bought out by the Nelson Brewing Company in 1904, of which Gosnall would also be one of the principals.

1898

Fire destroys the Nelson Brewing & Ice Company Ltd. brewery located on Mill Street at Ward.

1899

Nelson Brewing & Ice Company Ltd. commence operation from their new facility at 510 Latimer Street.

1901 - 1902

Robert Reisterer's nephew Julius Reisterer and Emerson open the Imperial Brewery on Hall Mines Road, closing in 1902 after a labour dispute at the mine curtails business.

1904

After Robert Reisterer died in 1902, a group headed by William Gosnall, John J. Malone and August Thomas purchase the brewery from his estate, shortening the company name to the Nelson Brewing Company.

1906

Nelson Brewing Company opens a subsidiary in Princeton to extend the market for its beers. After 1913, the brewery became known as the Princeton Brewing Company, with the Nelson Brewing Company retaining ownership until approximately 1928.

1911

In early September, the Nelson Brewing Company's buildings on Latimer were devastated ($50,000 damage) by fire by the infamous Nelson Firebug who attacked all the local industries' buildings one by one late that summer.

1917

Prohibition begins in Canada, ending in our province in 1920. A challenging time for breweries, who either go out of business or expand their production of soft drinks, as well as developing new varieties of beer with lower alcohol content.

1926

The Nelson Brewing Company acquires the Columbia Brewing Company in Trail and operates it as a branch of Nelson Brewing.

1928

The Nelson Brewing Company change the company name to Kootenay Breweries Ltd.

1950

Interior Breweries Ltd. is incorporated, amalgamating four Kootenay Breweries:

· Fernie Brewing Company Ltd. (Fernie)
· Cranbrook Brewing Company Ltd. (Cranbrook)
· Kootenay Breweries Ltd. (Nelson and Trail)

1960 – The end of an era

Interior Brewing consolidates their operations at their newly constructed plant in Creston, closing their remaining breweries in Nelson and Fernie. The breweries located in Trail and Cranbrook were closed earlier in 1956. This would mark the first time since the 1890's that Nelson would be without its own brewery.

1970

Interior Breweries Ltd. (Creston) change their name to Columbia Breweries Ltd., reflecting their intention to expand their markets into other parts of the province.

1974

Labatt Brewing Company acquires the Columbia Brewing Company.

1991 - New beginnings

A group of local businessmen, having bought the old brewery building on Latimer Street, reopen a brewery in the building under the name the Nelson Brewing Company. The brewery continues operation to the present day, now selling several varieties of organic beer primarily throughout the Kootenays. The brewery building also includes artist/artisan studios, as well as several other prominent local businesses including Oso Negro and Silver King Tofu, in many respects a true microcosm of Nelson business.

1995 - The continuing story.....

Labatt is acquired by the large Belgian multinational brewer Interbrew (now Anheuser-Busch InBev). Today, Anheuser-Busch InBev is one of two multinational brewing companies which combined account for 90 percent of all domestic beer sold in Canada. They are also the largest brewer in the world by volume, with a 13% global market share (as of 2004).

(Sources : Richard Sweet / the Big Chief Brewarianist, Touchstones Nelson Archives, Wikipedia)