



A Major New Website on Early American Taverns

American Heritage, the leading magazine of American history for more than 70 years, plans a definitive website and videos to help Americans learn about the important role played by taverns and beer in the founding of our nation.

Taverns played a central role in American history as places where patriots planned the Revolution, debated the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, and celebrated the birth of a new nation.

However, despite their important part in American history, there is not a single place on the Internet where you can find a definitive list of these wonderful sites for dining, drinking, and learning about our past.

American Heritage will correct that major deficiency. A team from America's leading magazine of history has been crisscrossing the Thirteen Colonies to research, photograph, and write up more than 200 Colonial and Revolutionary War-era taverns. And discover American history in hallowed places such as Lexington and Concord, Boston, Williamsburg, and greater Philadelphia.

We will start at the Mount Vernon gristmill built by George Washington (who was America's largest distiller at the time), and visit establishments from New Orleans to Maine in our quest to find the most historic and authentic taverns.

The new research and detailed descriptions will be published in a new section of *AmericanHeritage.com*, one of the largest and most respected sources on American history. The website already has 70 years of writing by leading historians such as David McCullough, Joseph Ellis, and David Hackett Fischer, and we will integrate much of this trusted history with tavern information.

This website will be of great interest to beer lovers and history buffs. "To drink at a surviving tavern of the American Revolution is to interact with history on an entirely different level," says author and tavern expert Adrian Covert. "You can take a pint where the first shot of the American Revolution was fired or the Boston Tea Party was planned."



The White Horse Tavern in Newport, RI has been serving patrons since 1673.

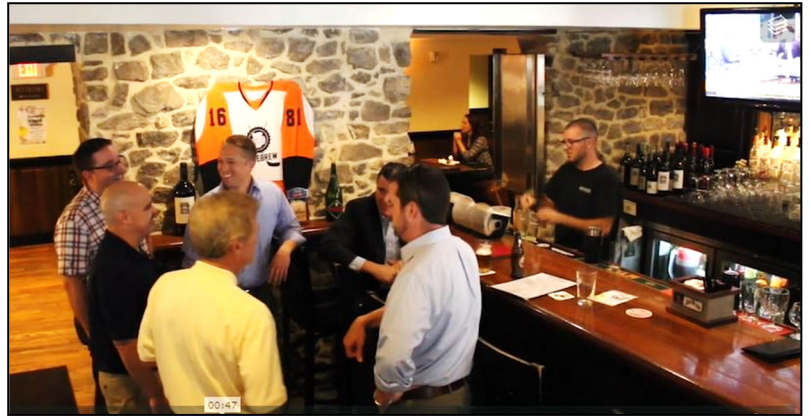


We have already compiled preliminary information and geodata on more than 200 taverns from the Colonial and Founding eras.

We will find and actively promote dozens of taverns and inns that are pleasant places to enjoy good food and refreshment, and reconnect with our common heritage. In the website, we will include Colonial-era buildings that have now been repurposed to offer fine food in a modern context.

Among our stops will include:

- The 25 oldest continuously operated pubs in America.
- The most historically important taverns, including many now preserved in National Parks and local historical societies.
- Nearly 40 taverns that George Washington is reported to have visited including Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria, VA, where he celebrated his birthday and took refreshment before the long coach ride back to Mount Vernon.
- The Old '76 House where British officer and spy John André was imprisoned for conspiring with Benedict Arnold, and later hanged.
- City Tavern in Washington, DC, where Washington, Adams, Jefferson and Madison dined (and Ronald Reagan remarked that it wasn't true that he had been there with them!)
- Jamestown, where we will interview archaeologists at the original settlement to uncover evidence about beer and spirits consumed there 400 years ago.



George Washington is said to have marched with his army several times past the Broad Axe Tavern in Ambler, PA.



This Bartmann jug, buried at Jamestown 400 years ago, once held German beer.

What We Need

But the nonprofit magazine *American Heritage* can't do this alone. We are seeking a sponsorship to help us cover the costs of:

- Extensive travel and research.
- Camera and video equipment,
- Web design and programming,
- Writers to describe more than 200 taverns,
- Script writing, filming, editing and producing 20 videos about individual taverns, and
- project management.



Please help support *American Heritage* in the quest to find the most authentic and enjoyable taverns and inns.

For more info, contact Edwin Grosvenor,
301-706-6064 egrosvenor@americanheritage.com.

What Taverns Are Saying

Tavern owners are very excited about the idea of a comprehensive listing of taverns with photos and maps, and are interested in participating in joint marketing. Here are some comments:

Fraunces Tavern, New York, NY

“A website dedicated to Revolutionary War taverns will be amazing! We are happy to work with you in making this happen!”

“During the American Revolution, taverns were watering holes for people of all backgrounds who would gather to receive news and debate the important social and political topics of the day. The foundations of freedom were laid in taverns across the thirteen colonies. Fraunces Tavern was a meeting place for the Sons of Liberty and one of George Washington’s favorite restaurants.

– Amy Kennard, communications and marketing manager

Dutch House Tavern, Fair Lawn, NJ

“We think this is a great idea!”

– Marlies Drahouzal, co-owner

White Swan Tavern, Chestertown, MD

“The White Swan Tavern would be happy to participate in the Revolutionary War tavern project! I’ve had a heck of a time finding other places similar to ours in history, so having a website where they are collected together would be a great help educationally. And of course, the first step in preserving history is knowing where to find it in the first place!”

– Sarah Crump, manager and head innkeeper

The 76 House, Tappan, NY

“The American tavern remains the birthplace of revolution and *American Heritage’s* mission of having a compendium of these vital structures dovetails with the nation’s awareness of its past – both politically and personally.”

– Robb Norden, tavernkeeper

Deerfield Tavern and Erastus Barnard Tavern, Deerfield, MA

“Revolutions don’t just happen, but understanding the process is hard to grasp because public life before and during the American Revolution is in some ways harder to understand than life at home. America’s meeting places – and taverns in particular – were critical to the revolutionary process, Whig and Tory alike. Each had their followings, and all were reliant on the most current news and secure places to plan and plot. In Deerfield, Massachusetts, for example, Whig and Tory taverns were neighbors (if not neighborly) and clearly involved in mutual harassment like the cutting in two of the Whig’s Liberty Pole during the night of July 28, 1774. The American Heritage project to identify taverns in use during the Revolution is a step towards finding the cradle of Liberty!”

– Philip Zea, former president of Historic Deerfield

