

MANY OF AMERICA'S HISTORICAL EVENTS TOOK PLACE IN ROWDY COLONIAL TAVERNS

It's amazing the number of great American historical events that have taken place in taverns.

Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence — one of the great documents of all time — while sitting in Queen's Tavern in Philadelphia.

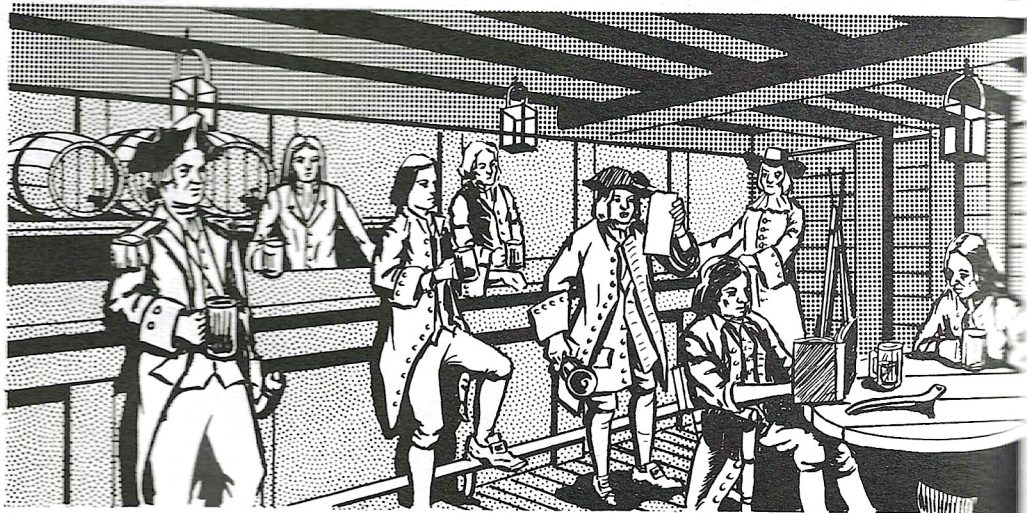
In the days of the American Revolution, Paul Revere recorded this fact in his diary: "In the fall of 1774, I was one of upwards of 30 men who formed ourselves into a committee for the watching of movements of British soldiers and the Tories in our midst. We met at the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston."

Tavern-owning was a respectable business in the early days. John Adams, second U.S. president and father of the sixth, owned and managed his own tavern from 1783 to 1789.

George Washington's headquarters in New York City was centered in a tavern . . . Ben Franklin was a great tavern habitant (he was probably filled with grog when he thought up daylight saving time!)

The first official recruiting office for the United States Marine Corps was set up in the Tun Tavern in Philadelphia.

And Gen. George Washington selected Fraunces' Tavern in New York City — as the place to bid his officers in the victorious Continental Army a fond farewell.



The tavern keeper, in the old days, was an important man around town. He was, in many cases, the political leader of the community (most modern political leaders still hang around bars) . . . He was also the town banker, the town gossip — and his wife was, in many cases, the community's social and cultural leader.

In the old days, most taverns acted as the community post office . . . and also the town's reading room. Taverns would subscribe to hard-to-get newspapers and the

populace would drop in for a flagon of ale and the latest news.

In olden days, court trials were held in the local tavern and, in many cases, the town jail was on the second floor.

In many communities, the town tavern was also the town library — it was the only building in town that boasted any books. It was a cultural center. When a leading poet or writer or scholar came to town, a held court in front of the fireplace at the local tavern.

LITTLE KNOWN TID-BITS OF U. S. HISTORY

The smallest state in the Union — Rhode Island — has the longest name. The official name of the state is: "The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations."

There are more miles of railroad in the United States than in all of Australia, South America, Asia and Africa combined.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the writer and poet, was the first American to have indoor plumbing. He installed a kitchen sink and a toilet bowl in his Cambridge, Massachusetts house in 1840.

Warren Harding played the flute in the town band when he was a young man . . .

John Quincy Adams was the only baldheaded man to become President of the United States.

Andrew Jackson was the first American President to travel by train.

THE LAST MAN TO INVADE U. S. ENDED UP AS GUEST AT BANQUET



Did you ever hear about the Canadian Army Captain who set out to invade the United States — and ended up honored guest at a banquet? It actually happened . . . back in 1865.

One morning Capt. Gustave Drolet started to think about the American Revolutionary war and what a raw deal the British received in the battle to win freedom.

He decided on the spur of the moment to leave his Canadian Army base and make a sneak attack on Fort Montgomery in New York State.

He and his orderly crossed the border in a horse and wagon, and were making good progress along the country roads until they reached the town of Champlain Village.

The townsfolk were holding a parade to mourn the assassination of President Lincoln. The Canadian Captain and his orderly were caught in the procession and swept into a local church.

Spotting the Canadian Army Captain in his uniform, the town officials greeted him as a representative of the British Empire and Queen Victoria.

The startled Canadian and his orderly were given a seat of honor. After the services, the invading Canadian Captain was invited to be guest of honor at a special banquet. He drank toast after toast to Canada, to the Queen, to the new American president, to the Colonies — and to many other things.

As a result, Capt. Drolet became squiffed. He was gently placed in his wagon, and his orderly drove him back to his Canadian barracks.

The captain didn't conquer any of the United States on his invasion attempt.

But he had a lot of fun. Old records still verify this story — the last attempt of Canada to invade the United States.