



Introducing the Tun Tavern Brown Ale

The Beer: We are pleased to present the Tun Tavern American Brown Ale (formerly the Dark Tavern). Tun Tavern is a dark smooth malty American brown ale with a very light hop characteristic. Dark Tavern has been rededicated as the Tun Tavern to commemorate the birthplace of the Continental Marines and the United States Marine Corps.

Tun Tavern: For nearly a hundred years from 1693 to 1781, Tun Tavern served residents and visitors of Philadelphia near the Delaware River waterfront with food, spirits, and sociability. Also a meeting place for social and military organizations, Tun Tavern is best remembered as the “birthplace” of the United States Marine Corps. Its patrons included such noteworthy Americans as Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and two of the first Marine officers: Samuel Nicholas (1744-90) and Robert Mullan.

Founded at the corner of Water Street and Tun Alley by Joshua Carpenter in 1693, the three-story Tun Tavern derived its name from the Old English word “Tun” for keg or barrel of beer. Conveniently located near Philadelphia’s riverfront wharves, Tun Tavern became popular among seafarers.

Tun Tavern’s first associations with American defense occurred in the decades prior to the American Revolution. In 1756, with Pennsylvania colonists in conflict with Native Americans on the frontier, Benjamin Franklin used Tun Tavern as a recruiting point for the Pennsylvania Militia. Beginning in the fall of 1775, the Naval Committee of the Continental Congress met several times at Tun Tavern to discuss naval and maritime affairs and plan operations for the fledgling Continental Navy.

The tavern gained its status as “birthplace” of the Marine Corps because of its role in recruiting the American colonies’ first Continental Marines, which the Continental Congress authorized on November 10, 1775. As captain for the new Marines, Congress appointed Samuel Nicholas. Nicholas in turn called upon his friend Robert Mullan, the son of Thomas and Peg Mullan and co-proprietor of Tun Tavern, for assistance in recruiting men to serve. Robert Mullan, commissioned as a first lieutenant, logically

selected his place of business as the Marines’ recruiting station. Marines to the Bahamas

Although Congress authorized two full battalions of Marines, no formal battalions were ever established but provisional units were established as needed. The first Marines recruited for service at Tun Tavern were intended to support a naval expedition to Nova Scotia. However, their mission was changed to raiding the Bahamas Islands to capture weapons, supplies, and munitions from British garrisons. Under the command of Commodore Esek Hopkins (1718-1802), this expedition consisted of eight hastily armed and equipped ships and approximately 250 Marines, including Nicholas and Mullan. After departing Delaware Bay in February 1776, in March the expedition conducted an amphibious assault on New Providence Island in the British Bahamas. Under the command of Nicholas, 220 Marines and sailors captured Forts Nassau and Montague, Nassau’s Government House, and the town of Nassau. They then withdrew, taking with them a great quantity of munitions and guns desperately needed by George Washington’s Continental Army.

Tun Tavern continued to serve as a recruitment station for Continental Marines throughout the War for Independence. Although destroyed in a fire in 1781, the tavern continued to be remembered as “Birthplace of the Marine Corps.”



This drawing by Frank Taylor depicts the Tun Tavern as it stood in the late eighteenth century