

A Toast to the New Nation

Taverns, ordinaries or public houses of the 18th century were essential for travelers and served multiple functions. Often located along roads and in the homes of tavernkeepers, strangers of mixed social classes sat at large communal tables sharing conversation. They provided a public space for locals to hear the news, receive postal mail, play card or dice games, and enter discussions relevant to the day all while enjoying beverages of rum, beer, and hard cider. Archaeology conducted at numerous tavern sites have recovered a wide variety of vessels for consumption of food, beverages, and pipe smoking. Debates about taxation, representation, and rights played out nightly, gradually identifying the democratic ideals that would define America and support revolution.



Worcester Punchbowl
Independence National
Historical Park



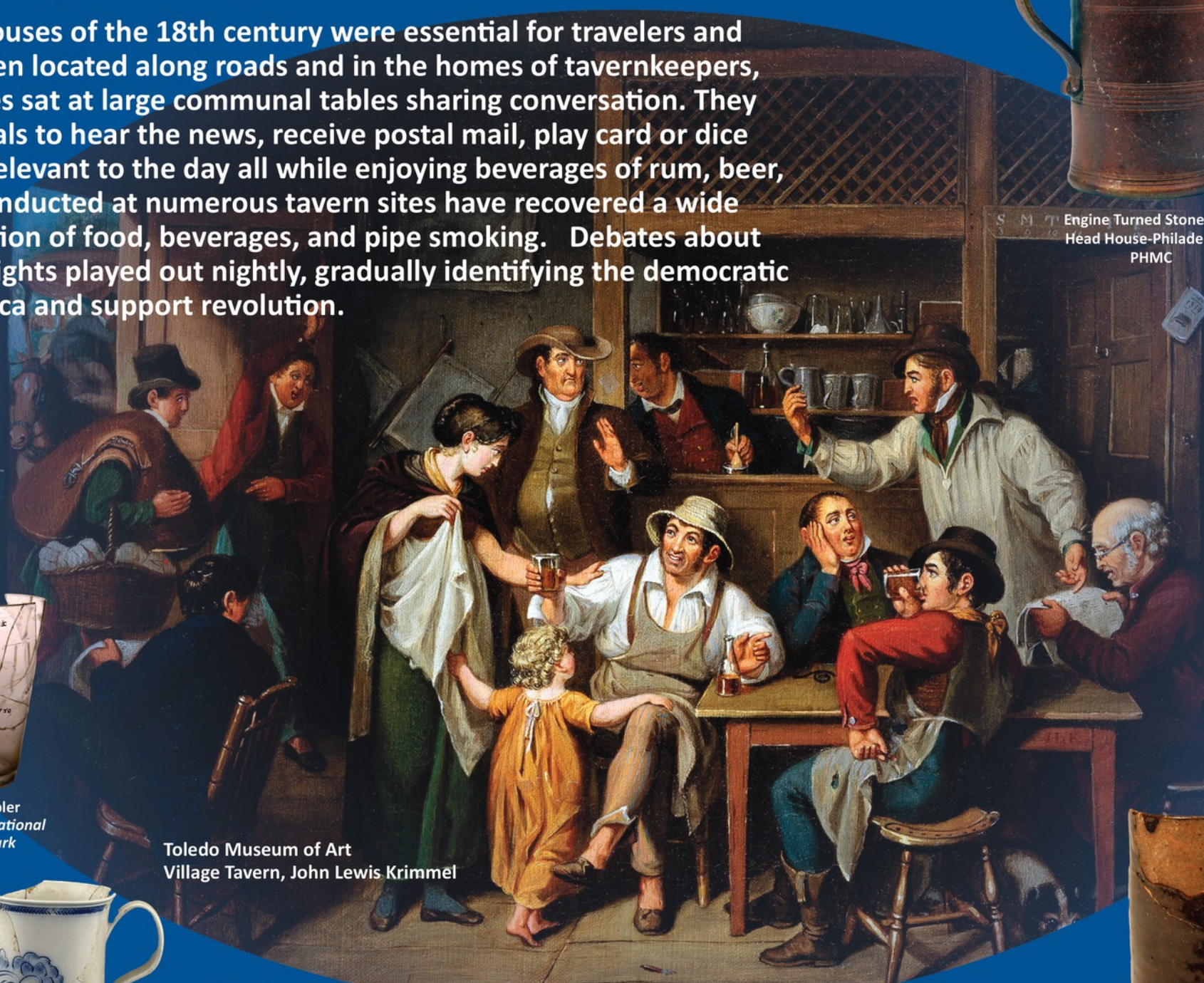
Liberty Tumbler
Independence National
Historical Park



Glass Flask
Christine Davis Consultants
3PNC Project, Pittsburgh



Stenton, NSCDA
Scratch Blue



Toledo Museum of Art
Village Tavern, John Lewis Krimmel

"Much study and experience, and a little liquor, are of absolute necessity for some tempers in order to make them accomplished orators," Ben Franklin.

Archaeology Month - October 2026
Save the Past for the Future



Engine Turned Stoneware
Head House-Philadelphia
PHMC



Salt Glazed
Head House Philadelphia
PHMC



Wine Glass
New Market Philadelphia
PHMC



Manganese glazed redware
Market Street Philadelphia
PHMC



Wine Bottle
Head House Philadelphia
PHMC

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