



T AVERN T ALKS

White's Tavern
(Basking Ridge, NJ)

Hosted by:



2 Clerico Ln Building 4
Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844



What's brewing in New Jersey?

What happens when a loyalist, a patriot, and a pacifist walk into a tavern? Join RevolutionNJ in the age-old tradition of exploring revolutionary ideas in bars with friends.

Step into the past when arriving at Flounder Brewing Co., a 250 year-old barn-turned-brewhouse. Reenactors will immerse participants in a history mystery surrounding the identities and ideals of the Revolutionary period. You might find that the past is closer than you think!





What to Expect!

- 1) Arrive early, sign in, and get comfortable. Grab a drink and don't be afraid to sit with someone new and start a conversation.
- 2) Reenactors will be mingling throughout the tavern, feel free to engage them at any time. Don't be shy!
- 3) After introductions, we will go into the first half of the event.

It is the early days of the American Revolution. With your friends and fellow tavern goers, try to piece together what beliefs each reenactor holds about the American Revolution and why. Hearing these stories and reflecting on your current situation, what position would you have likely sided with?

Note: The personas that you are meeting today each demonstrate the complication and messiness of Identities, beliefs, and life experiences. Use the questions in this guide and the notes pages to help you navigate and understand the various motives at play. Talk with each other and cross examine the different reenactors to get different viewpoints and information about them and the American Revolution. Think of yourself as a time traveling historical detective!

- 4) For the second half of the event, we will take everything we learned from the past into the present. Turn to your neighbors and start the conversation using our contemporary discussion questions and discussion guide. Using the prompts on [page 5](#), forge connections between the messiness of the past with the complexity of your present. The goal is to walk away with a different understanding of your neighbor than the one you came in with.
- 5) Take pictures and tag us @revolutionnj and @flounderbrewing with the hashtag #taverntalks. Have fun, drink responsibly.

Tell us about your experience today!



REENACTOR QUESTION GUIDE



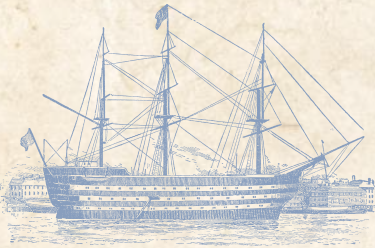
General Questions:

- 1) What is your name?
- 2) Where are you from?
- 3) What do you do for a living?
- 4) What is your biggest concern right now?
- 5) What would most help your current situation?



Concerning the Revolution:

- 6) What are your thoughts about the Revolution? How does your position in society shape this belief?
- 7) What do you think people should do today facing the current state of affairs in the colonies? How did you come to believe that?



Concerning Neighbors

- 8) Do your family and friends agree with your stance? Why do you think that is?
- 9) Are there tensions between you and your neighbors? What is the root cause?
 - 10) What is an acceptable form of disagreement/ protest? What is considered crossing the line?
- 11) Have you ever pressured anyone to take your side? How did it go?
 - 12) What is next for you?



*Check the back of your note sheets for more hints and tips.



Tavern Talks Discussion Guide/ Tips

Adapted from a guide by Deonté Griffin-Quick
(RevolutionNJ Civic and Community Engagement
Working Group Co-Chair)

Be present. Step up/Step back

If you don't normally speak up, make your voice heard. If you find yourself doing a lot of talking, step back and practice listening. Allow for silence, let the group process the question asked and allow space to hear different voices. As much as possible, eliminate distractions such as texting or email. Don't check-out even if you are uncomfortable.

Get comfortable with being uncomfortable

We may address some hard topics and change is uncomfortable. Allow yourself to sit with discomfort in order to analyze what makes you uncomfortable. Don't make your discomfort someone else's problem.

Listen for understanding

Rather than to debate, Acknowledge there may be communication differences. Allow for pause in order for others to digest statements or questions. In this room, everyone has an equal seat at the table and everyone's point of view is worthy of respect and attention.

Lead with "I" statements

Do not generalize or speak for others in the room. We each can only speak for ourselves and our lived experience.

Assume good intentions

We are creating a space for shared learning and growth. Remember that even good intentions do not displace the impact your words may have on others.

Address conflict directly

Practice "Ouch" and "Oops". Acknowledge if you said something hurtful or insensitive to someone. Take feedback as an opportunity to learn and do better rather than a personal attack.

Take care of yourself and each other

Take care of your needs when we are gathering. Let organizers know what accommodations you require to have your needs fully met.

CONTEMPORARY DISCUSSIONS



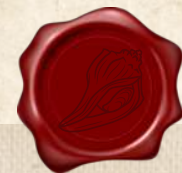
QUESTION 1

There are many different threads to a story. Yet often instead of embracing multiple perspectives, it's easier to simplify complex situations and make assumptions. What are the dangers of telling a single story? How can understanding the complexity of situations help you push against your own biases surrounding people, places, and events? Why is this important to do?



QUESTION 3

Debates in the past were fierce and polarizing with many folks trying to influence public sentiment for their own gain. Today, things like news articles, videos, and images are used to the same effect. How do you know when a particular story or sentiment is being manipulated? How do you know if the source you are engaging with is being fair and thorough or reflecting back your own viewpoints? What can you do to break today's echo chambers?



QUESTION 2

The historical figures from today were all very different people with various experiences and viewpoints. This continues to be the case as we live with and navigate differences every day. However, sometimes we get caught up in our own worlds. What are some barriers and obstacles that make it difficult to be a neighbor today? What can you do to re-stitch the fabric of your communities? What are the consequences of "keeping to yourself" and not living with differences?

"How do you get people to want to live in time, to have a sense of the importance of time for growth, development, of the need for ups-and-downs, of non-homogenized development? [...] A revolution in the U.S. is only going to be led and made by people with some sense of the thickness of time, of time as duration, of time as heterogeneous, of development through contradiction, not in a straight line."

— James Boggs, *Conversations in Maine: Exploring Our Nation's Future*

MORE READINGS

Overview: The American Revolution: A History by Gordon S. Wood

<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/read-the-revolution/the-american-revolution>



Overview: The Ideological Origins of the American: Revolution by Bernard Bailyn

<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/read-the-revolution/the-ideological-origins-of-the-american-revolution>

Season of Independence Big Ideas

<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/season-of-independence-big-ideas>



Creating the United States: Revolution of the Mind

<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/creating-the-united-states/revolution-of-the-mind.html>



Visit www.rev.nj.org/resources for more reading suggestions, videos, and tools!

Join Us in the 250th!



RevolutionNJ

ENGAGE THE PAST. SHAPE THE FUTURE.

COMMUNITY

The 250th Anniversary of the United States is coming in 2026! This once-in-a-generation opportunity allows New Jerseyans across the state to create a lasting legacy. We are asking counties and municipalities to join us in commemorating the 250th by facilitating new partnerships, programs, and events that will engage local businesses, non-profits, artists, scholars, schools, universities, and colleges, libraries, civic organizations, historic sites, community members, and visitors from all over. Pass a resolution to become an official RevolutionNJ Community today.

For more information and a draft of the resolution, visit:

www.revnj.org/communities



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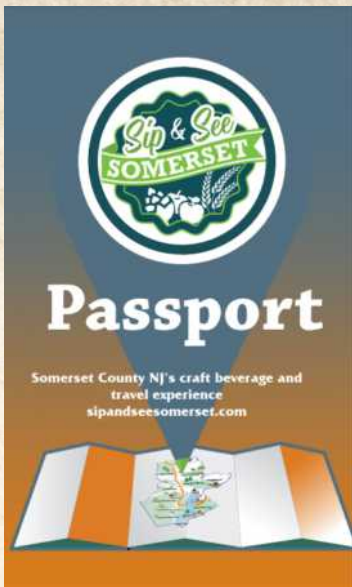
PROUD PARTNER

As New Jersey plans to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, we aim to create a statewide experience that invites participation from everyone.

We invite all organizations to join us in this endeavor by submitting an application to become a RevolutionNJ Partner. Please reference our [Partner Brand Guidelines](#) for more details.

www.revnj.org/revnjpartners

SOMERSET 250



For more information on what Somerset County is doing for the 250th, visit: <http://soconj.gov/250th>

<https://visitsomersetnj.org/play/sip-see-somerset/>



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For more information about RevolutionNJ visit:
www.RevNJ.org

For updates and future events, follow us on:

Instagram: @revolutionnj
and

Facebook: www.facebook.com/revolutionnj

RevolutionNJ is a partnership between the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC), a division of the New Jersey Department of State, and the nonprofit Crossroads of the American Revolution Association to plan the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in New Jersey.