

## TUN TAVERN

Tun Tavern was built in 1685 by Samuel Carpenter. When it was built it sat at the intersection of King (later Water) Street and Tun Alley in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It served as a founding or early meeting place for a number of notable groups. It is traditionally regarded as the site where what would become the United States Marine Corps held its first recruitment drive during the American Revolution. It is also regarded as one of the birthplaces of Masonry in America."

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In 1732, the tavern hosted the first meetings of St. John's Lodge No. 1 of the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Temple. (The Masonic Temple of Philadelphia also recognizes Tun Tavern as the birthplace of Masonic teachings in America.). There remains a question as to whether or not the lodge was properly warranted or chartered. However, Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has in its archives the minute books for the Tun Tavern Lodge from 1749-1755.<sup>1</sup> Benjamin Franklin was a member of Tun Tavern Lodge and later became the Third Grand Master of Pennsylvania. Later he published Anderson's Constitution believed to be the first masonic book published in America.

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A committee of the Continental Congress met at Tun Tavern to draft a resolution calling for two battalions of Marines able to fight for independence at sea and on shore. The resolution was approved on November 10, 1775, officially forming the Continental Marines. As the first order of business, Samuel Nicholas became Commandant of the newly formed Marines. Tun Tavern's owner and popular patriot and freemason, Robert Mullan, became his first captain and recruiter. They began gathering support and were ready for the Revolutionary War by early 1776.

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In 1781 Tun Tavern burned down. Its former structure stood at a location now occupied by Interstate 95, where it passes Penn's Landing.

<sup>1</sup> Barrat, Norris S. & Julius Sachse. *Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, 1727-1907, As Shown by the Records of Lodge No. 2, F. & A.M. of Philadelphia*. Philadelphia: New Era Printing Company, 1908. p. 3-4.