Ordinaries, or taverns, were the center of 17th century town life. They were often operated by independent women. The Ordinarie served as the town hall and was so important that it would often be built before the church or the school. Of course, food and drink were essential to the daily life of the Ordinarie.

Join the Department of American Studies of the University of Maryland as we eat and drink delicious and authentic 17th century tavern fare while learning about the lives of the people who owned and frequented them from:

Dr. Nancy Struna, who is exploring changes in taverns as an industry and as sites of ordinary life in Baltimore County and City;

Tom Flores, Beer Scholar and Brewmaster of Brewer’s Alley who has researched and reproduced beers made in Maryland with local farm ingredients;

and Erin Ryan, (BA, AMST) curator, St. Mary’s College, on how stuffed ham traveled from colonial slave cabins in Saint Mary’s County to become a treasured heritage delicacy. Her research was her American Studies senior thesis.

Brewer’s Alley’s location, at 124 North Market Street, is steeped in Frederick history. The first residents of Frederick held a lottery to raise money to build a town hall and market house on this location in 1765, completed in 1769. This structure served its purpose for over 100 years and was witness to the birth of Frederick as a city. The Market House spanned the Civil War, including the ransoming of the city by Confederate General Jubal Early. (Documents will be on display.) In 1873, the bustling town of Frederick replaced the Market House with the "new" multifunctional offices, and provided space in the rear for the Frederick Farmer’s Market. Later, the rear of the building was replaced by the present parking deck; the first of its kind in town.

The Original Brewer’s Alley was located on what is currently South Court Street. Beer production ceased in 1901 when a large fire consumed the brewery of John Kuhn, who was the last in a long line of brewers to occupy space along the banks of Carroll Creek. For over 153 years, from the very beginning of Frederick County, Brewer’s Alley was a fixture in the social and economic landscape of Frederick.
Menu

Saint Mary’s County Stuffed Ham and Sourdough Buns
Local Artisanal Cheese and Seasonal Fruit
Oysters in Light Sherry Broth
Rainbow Trout with Barley
Chicken Pot Pie
Vegetarian Bubble and Squeak (Seasonal Root Vegetable Stew)
Pumpkin Gratin
Smith Island Cake with Peanut Butter Ice Cream

Beers include 1634 Saint Mary’s County Ale, made from an historic recipe with local Rye, and India Pale Ale, made with oats, both in the British colonial style

Cost: $75.00 per person. Please use the attached credit card authorization form.

Contact: Betsy Yuen for more information
1102 Holzapfel Hall
College Park, MD 20742
(301) 405-1354
americanstudies@umd.edu

Bed and Breakfast, Hotel packages available

With State funding on a steep decline, we are also grateful for your financial support that helps us to expand undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, lecture programs, and professorships. Your gift is tax deductible and creates opportunities for members of the American Studies community. To contribute, please use the attached form and contact the American Studies main office at the contact info listed above.