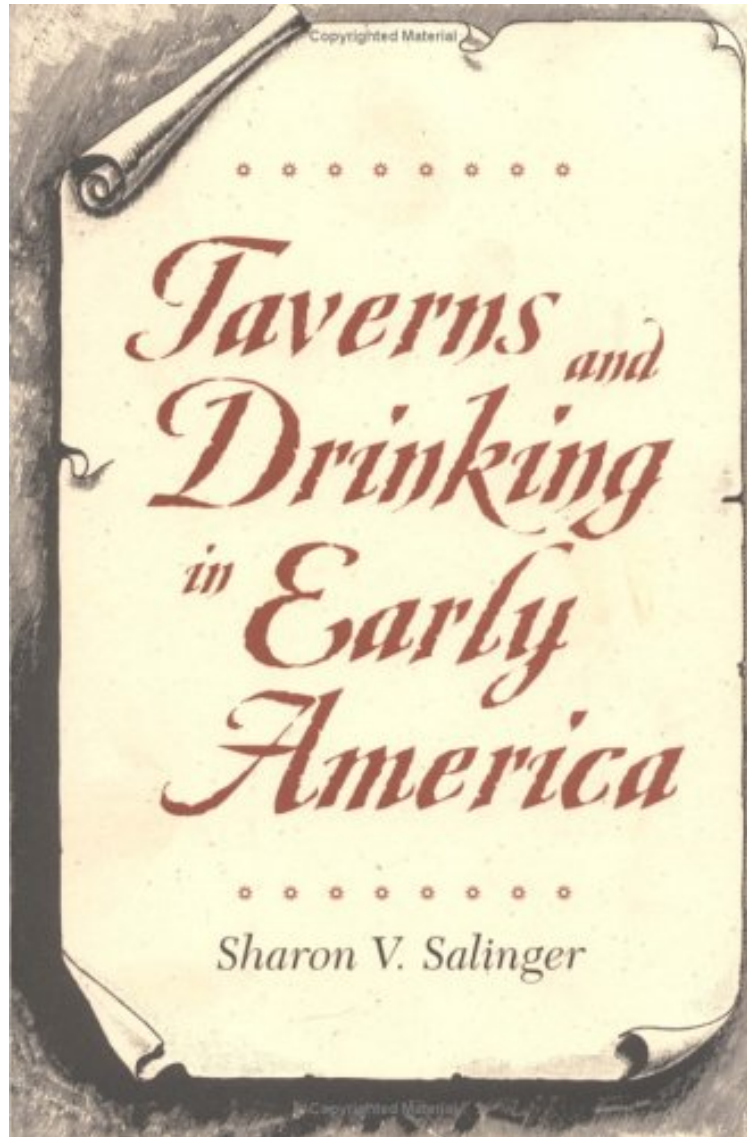


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## Taverns and Drinking in Early America

*Sharon V. Salinger*

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**Sharon V. Salinger : Taverns and Drinking in Early America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Taverns and Drinking in Early America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy godmotherx4A great addition to my family history library3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. tackles an ignored subject at the center of colonial lifeBy Gray oneMy sixth great grandfather was a tavern keeper in colonial Reading, PA. Other than the well known complaints by famous travelers such as George Washington, it is difficult to find much about colonial taverns. I never

suspected the full range of activities regularly conducted in the colonial taverns. As a scholarly study, this isn't always an easy read, but I learned a lot. As usual with colonial works, it focuses on the English, ignoring the Germans such as my ancestor, but I am still well satisfied with it. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. GREAT BOOK ON EARLY AMERICAN TAVERNS By VINTAGE VIC'S PRIMITIVES GREAT BOOK, VERY INFORMATIVE ON EARLY AMERICAN DRINKING HABITS AND TAVERNS

Sharon V. Salinger's *Taverns and Drinking in Early America* supplies the first study of public houses and drinking throughout the mainland British colonies. At a time when drinking water supposedly endangered one's health, colonists of every rank, age, race, and gender drank often and in quantity, and so taverns became arenas for political debate, business transactions, and small-town gossip sessions. Salinger explores the similarities and differences in the roles of drinking and tavern sociability in small towns, cities, and the countryside; in Anglican, Quaker, and Puritan communities; and in four geographic regions. Challenging the prevailing view that taverns tended to break down class and gender differences, Salinger persuasively argues they did not signal social change so much as buttress custom and encourage exclusion.

"The most comprehensive survey to date of this curiously underinvestigated aspect of early American social life... [Contains] a wealth of illustrative and amusing anecdotes... Well researched and informative." (Simon Middleton *William and Mary Quarterly*) "Offers a fresh perspective on one of the colonial period's most important social institutions and the drinking behavior that was central to it... Salinger's work is compelling throughout... A significant and satisfying book." (Mark Edward Lender *American Historical*) "A richly detailed study that helps us understand popular and genteel culture in early America, the place of drink in everyday life, and the relationship between law and perceptions of disorderly behavior." (Paul G. E. Clemens *Journal of American History*) "Taverns and Drinking in Early America pulls together the results of many other works focused more narrowly on particular colonies or regions and provides a much greater synthesis than we have ever enjoyed before... A well-written, very entertaining overview of an important subject." (Daniel B. Thorp *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*) "A thorough overview of this often overlooked institution in early America." (George Brown *North Carolina Historical*) "Salinger gives us the best description yet available of the nature of tavern life and the efforts of colonial governments to manage it." (Elaine Frantz Parsons *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*) "Salinger's book offers the broadest study yet of the role of taverns in colonial life, and readers will find a good deal of useful information presented in clear and accessible prose." (Matthew Mulcahy *South Carolina Historical Magazine*) "This important book offers the first recent attempt at a comparative synthesis combined with a general interpretation of tavern life." (Richard P. Gildrie *Journal of Southern History*) "Full of information and bristling with insights, this fine book on the many functions of alcohol and taverns in early America deserves a place on the bookshelf of every American historian. Working from a variety of sources, Salinger sweeps across all the mainland British colonies and shows the centrality of taverns in the conduct of colonial life." (Gary B. Nash, UCLA) About the Author Sharon V. Salinger is chair of the Department of History at the University of California, Riverside.