

CHOWNING'S Tavern



All Day Fare

STARTERS

Brunswick Stew— <i>Made with young Fowl and fresh Garden Vegetables served with Corn Muffin</i>	\$7.75 cup \$11.25 bowl
Roasted Corn Chowder— <i>Leeks, golden Potatoes, Virginia Ham Dust</i>	\$7.00 cup \$9.00 bowl
White Bean and Ham Soup— <i>Ham, Leeks and Carrots simmered in a Chicken Broth</i>	\$7.00 cup \$9.00 bowl
A tasting of Soups— <i>A Serving of each of our Cook's Soups</i>	\$9.00
Garden Greens Salat— <i>Mixed Greens, Carrots, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Apples, and Sunflower Seeds drizzled with Apple Cider Vinaigrette</i>	\$6.75
Mildred's Chef Salat— <i>Mixed Greens, salty Ham, smoked Turkey, Eggs, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, shaved Parmesan Cheese, Buttermilk Herb Dressing</i>	\$9.00
Crock of Cheese— <i>An 18th-century Spread of Cheddar Cheese and Horseradish-spiced Port Wine served with Sippets</i>	\$10.00
Baked Goat Cheese— <i>Over Tomato Ragout with Rosemary Pesto and roasted Garlic served with Sippets</i>	\$8.00
Loaded Red Skins— <i>Red bliss Potatoes, Bacon bits, Cheddar Cheese, Green Onions, Horseradish Cream</i>	\$8.00

FAVOURITES

Welsh Rarebit— <i>An 18th-century Savory of Cheddar Cheese and Mustard-spiced Beer sauce over toasted Sippets</i>	\$9.00
<i>Add a Rasher of Virginia salty Ham</i>	\$2.50
Josiah's Tasting Platter— <i>Crock of Cheese, Loaded Red Skins, Gunpowder Wings, pulled Pork Sliders, and Coleslaw, Serves Two</i>	\$24.00
The Plow Man's Favourite Flat Bread— <i>Italian Sausage, Salami, Prosciutto Ham, Mozzarella Cheese and Garden Tomato Sauce, served with Choice of Side</i>	\$13.50
Mildred's Garden Vegetable Flat Bread— <i>Rosemary-roasted Vegetables with Tomato Basil Serifina Cheese, served with Choice of Side</i>	\$12.50
Beef Trencher— <i>Caramelized Onions, aged Cheddar Cheese and Beer spread, Horseradish Sour Cream, served with Choice of Side</i>	\$12.50
Warm Smoked Turkey Sandwich— <i>Smoked Turkey, baby Spinach, Swiss Cheese, Applewood-smoked Bacon, Basil Pesto, served on flatbread with a Choice of Side</i>	\$12.00
Gunpowder Wings— <i>Spicy Southern fried Chicken Wings with Celery Sticks, Buttermilk Herb Dressing or Bleu Cheese dressing, and Chowing's Alehouse hot Sauce, served with Choice of Side</i>	\$12.00
Virginia Pork Barbeque Sliders— <i>Slow-cooked Pork served with Tavern Slaw and Choice of Side</i>	\$11.00
Shepherd's Pye— <i>Savory Stew of Lamb, aromatic Vegetables, and smashed Colcannon Potatoes, served with Choice of Side</i>	\$14.50

Tavern Sides

Slaw, Sour Cream and Chive Potato Salad or Chowning's Chips

**Consuming raw or undercooked meats, poultry, beef, pork, lamb, seafood, shellfish or eggs increases your risk of food borne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions.*

Josiah Chowning first appeared in local records when he advertised in the Virginia Gazette on July 3, 1752, for a horse that had strayed from his James City County plantation. Chowning owned 235 acres in rural James City County about three miles from Williamsburg. Some years later, in October 1766, he opened a tavern in town. While documents indicate Chowning had a residence in Williamsburg for only a couple of years, he remained a resident of the vicinity until his death in 1772. His estate, consisting of land, an enslaved worker, livestock and “a great variety of household furniture, beds &c.” was sold at public auction in 1773.

Very little is known about his background or family connections. The county records for the time he lived in James City County are among those that were destroyed during the Civil War. No information has been found about his place of birth, parents, or siblings, but it is known that he was married. Chowning and his wife, Mildred, were coplaintiffs in suits recorded in York County Court from June 1771 through April 1772, at which time one of the suits abated because Josiah had died. Mildred Chowning survived her husband, but she disappears from historical records after May 1773.

Tavern furnishings varied from basic to luxurious and included numerous tables, chairs and beds but did not include bar stools as we think of them. The bar in a tavern was usually in a corner and patrons did not sit at it; it was just for dispensing drinks. The bar got its name from the lockable, slatted gate that kept expensive liquor, sugar and fruits secure.

Despite the laws forbidding games – except billiards, backgammon, and bowls – and betting on the hands of those who played, facilities for gambling were provided at all taverns. Inventories show cards, dice and game tables for cards, backgammon and billiards. Since the tavern keeper charged for the use of his facilities, he encouraged the gambling tendencies of his customers.

During the 18th century, Virginians considered drinking alcoholic beverages as wholesome, refreshing and beneficial. The “morning draught” was believed to offer protection for the bad air and water of the marshes as well as providing soothing relief from the indulgences of the night before. The most popular beverages were Madeira, claret and port; ales, beers and cider from Great Britain; rum, imported brandy and brandy made of local fruits, such as peaches and apples; and punch made from rum, arrack or brandy. Inventories from Williamsburg taverns listing stills indicate that some of the tavern keepers likely brewed or distilled their own spirits.

As a result of increasing taxes imposed on the colonists by the British government, John Mercer advertised his undertaking of a brewery at his plantation in Marlborough, northeast of Fredericksburg. He advertised “Strong Beer and Porter at 18d. and Ale at 1s. the gallon, Virginia currency, in cask, equal in goodness to any that can be imported from any part of the world.”

Colonial Williamsburg® and Chownings Tavern® are registered trademarks of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Your patronage of Colonial Williamsburg hotels and restaurants supports the educational mission of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the not-for-profit organization that operates the Historic Area. Thanks to the contributions of friends across the nation, Colonial Williamsburg is able to inspire millions with the lessons of our nation's founding and their relevance to our liberty and democracy today. To learn more about supporting Colonial Williamsburg, please call 1-888-CWF-1776 or visit us on the web at www.history.org.