

# Remembering the Whiskey Rebellion

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As a fundraiser for the Allegany Museum of Cumberland, Maryland, a Whiskey Rebellion Commemoration will be held on **June 10-11, 2016**.

Allegany Museum displays information spanning over 200 years of whiskey, beer and moonshine. From the Whiskey Rebellion, through industrial growth, prohibition, the Great Depression, and post-war production, the focus on assorted libations has undergone many changes in Cumberland's history.

During the 1790s, in order to help fund the National Debt, Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton proposed placing an excise tax on domestically distilled spirits. The tax was unpopular with frontier farmers who often supplemented their income by operating small stills. In 1794, rioting was taking place in Pennsylvania, and farmers in Western Maryland attempted to force the tax collector to surrender his office.

On July 16, 1794, George Washington came to Fort Cumberland calling up militia to suppress the rebellion. A force of 12,000 loyal troops gathered at Fort Cumberland and Fort Bedford. The rebellion collapsed as the army marched into Western Pennsylvania, and the Whiskey Rebels fled westward.

Participating in the "Whiskey Rebellion Commemoration" event are four Maryland boutique distillers; Lyons from St. Michaels, McClintock from Frederick, Twin Valley from Rockville, and White Tiger from Kent Island. Hosting tasting stalls at the Whiskey Rebellion Bash in the Allegany Museum Ballroom, from 6 to 11 pm, Friday June 10, 2016, tastings of Manatawny, from Pennsylvania, and Makers Mark, from Kentucky, will also be available.



## Whiskey Rebellion *continued*

This will be the first major outing for whiskey from White Tiger. White Tiger is the first handcrafted Laotian style whiskey distilled in Maryland. The rice-based whiskey recipe was handed down through three generations of the Ounnarath family from Laos, and produces a sweeter and smoother whiskey.



Brett Goodrich, partner at Manatawny says, "The Bash will be a great way to reintroduce the great tradition of whiskey making in our area and the innovation and renewal that is happening in the distilling business." Advance tickets to the Bash in the Allegany Museum Ballroom are \$50 (\$75 if purchased the night of the event). They include tastings, a commemorative whiskey glass, photos with 'George Washington,' reenactments, period tavern games, canapes, and music by Grand Ole Ditch.

The Beer Garden will be open Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, at Canal Place in front of the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad Station, and will serve former local Old German Beer and other craft brews. The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corp will head the entertainment. Guests will also have the opportunity to win museum quality brewing collectibles. Embassy Theatre actors will portray the young Washington as commander of troops and other scenes from our colonial history, and there will be chances to interact with amusements popular in mid-18th century colonial Maryland. Admission to the Beer Garden is free.

[www.alleganymuseum.org](http://www.alleganymuseum.org)

*A special thanks to the Board of the House of Yoder, Grantsville, MD, for the use of their facility for photography. Also to our reenactors, Ryan Cuba and Bob Bantz.*

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