

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United States Presidential Culinary Museum® Celebrates America 250 with Launch of “The Washington’s Famous Syllabub Drink”

GROVER, NC. – In honor of the Semi quincentennial—America’s 250th anniversary of independence—the United States Presidential Culinary Museum® is continuing to promote the national celebration with a unique culinary tribute: the Founding Families Syllabub, a fun, free-wheeling drink of the beloved Colonial-era libations. The celebration will be hosted with The United Tastes of America Cooking School on July 4, 2025, featuring their motto of E Pluribus Yum!

America’s 250th anniversary is officially being marked by a year-long series of national events, beginning Memorial Day 2025 and rocketing into July 4, 2026. With events spanning the federal government, local institutions, nonprofits, and the public, this multi-faceted celebration is meant to rekindle our country’s rich history and spirit.

Syllabub, a frothy, sweet drink traditionally made with cream, sugar, and wine or brandy, has a storied past dating back to the 1500s during the reign of the Tudors starting with King Henry VII, son of Edmund Tudor, 1st Earl of Richmond, and Lady Margaret Beaufort. It remained a favorite for more than 300 years. Long before eggnog with a dash of cinnamon became the seasonal staple, Syllabub was enjoyed year-round—both in England and in the American colonies.

The drink’s popularity grew immensely in the 1700s, despite sugar being heavily taxed and politically controversial for British colonists. In America, even amidst this taxation tension, Syllabub became a fashionable indulgence. By the time of the American Revolution, it had become a signature at social gatherings, particularly among Founding

Fathers and First Lady Dolley Madison, who famously served it at White House receptions.

Syllabub wasn't just a drink—it was an experience. It had its own glassware, utensils, and preparation techniques designed to create the perfect whipped froth on top. Initially served in clay mugs, its visual appeal led to the development of clear glass vessels, which triggered a consumer revolution of insanity purchasing. Middle-class households began purchasing specialty Syllabub sets, and merchants advertised entire fancy collections in their shops.

During the Revolutionary War, the drink remained popular—even when fancy glassware was hard to come by. Colonists, considering themselves British Americans, were keen to keep pace with fashion trends from the U.K.—from food and drink to décor and dress. Owning Syllabub glassware was as much about identity as it was about indulgence.

Today, the United States Presidential Culinary Museum® is proud to revive this historic beverage with an authentic, verified recipe from George and Martha Washington.

Syllabub was famously served at the Washington Mount Vernon estate, Jefferson's Monticello, the Madison's Montpelier, according to historical records and is featured there today as well as at Williamsburg, The American Revolutionary War Living History Center, and Old Salem Village.

Event Highlights:

- Launch reception on July 4, 2025, at 3:00 PM in the Museum's Presidential Dining Room
- Syllabub tasting stations, menu pairings, and live culinary demonstrations including non-alcoholic versions and how to create those
- Historical talk series, "Sips from the Past: Colonial Drinks & Diplomacy" streamed on the PRESENTS™ Network via YouTube, LinkedIn LIVE, Instagram, TWITCH, and Facebook



Former White House Master Chef Marti Mongiello with his wife, Executive Chef Stormy Mongiello, Museum President, and Tournant Chef Barry Mongiello note: "Food—and

drink—tell stories. Our syllabub bridges gastronomy and history, letting people taste, touch, and smell the touch of Colonial America. We're proud to be part of the nation's 250th celebrations."

About the United States Presidential Culinary Museum®

Located in Grover, NC., the town celebrates being named after President Grover Cleveland and is in Cleveland County, NC. It's dedicated to preserving and sharing the culinary traditions of America's presidents, first ladies, and their families. Through exhibitions, TV appearances, keynote speeches, White House replica luncheons and dinners, recipes, and tastings, it explores how food and drink reflect cultural and historical moments. Marti and Stormy Mongiello serve as the leading chefs, and both are disabled veterans of 36 years combined military service.

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Historic Recipe: Washington Family Syllabub

From the Kitchen of President George and Martha Washington. Perfected by Executive Chef to the Washington's, Hercules Posey – who later ran away from being a slave.

Ingredients:

- 1 Quart of heavy cream
- 1 Cup of white wine
- 6 Tablespoons white sugar
- 1 whole nutmeg (grated) or ground nutmeg
- 2 Tablespoons of rose water (can be bought or made with hot water and rose petals)
- Zest of 1/2 lemon
- Sprig of Rosemary
- Salt (a pinch)

Instructions from the manuscripts given by Francis Parke Custis to Martha

Washington: Scald the cream together with the nutmeg, cut in quarters. Remove from the fire and when cool, pour in a glass jar. Let stand overnight. Mix the white wine, rose

water, sugar, and a pinch of salt. Pour the cream over this and lay in the rosemary and lemon peel. Let stand for five or six hours until the curds form.

The modern method: Pour cream into a bowl and beat with a whisk or electric mixer until soft peaks appear. Add sugar, lemon zest, salt, rose water, nutmeg and beat briefly. Pour in the wine (experiment with sweet or dry wines, etc.) and mix then put into glasses and place into the refrigerator overnight to separate into cool layers. Decorate with more lemon zest and the sprigs of Rosemary. All types of other decorations can be fantasized about and made as well as adding even more whipped cream on top with grated nutmeg.

Traditionally served in Syllabub glasses to show off the distinct layers, this recipe was a favorite of all of the revolutionary founding families and frequently offered at elegant affairs at the White House, private first family estates, on Presidential yachts and rail cars, and at the Camp David Resort and Conference Center. A “Whipt Syllabub” of the era would include many different flavor ideas of lemon and strawberry and other ideas and could be made with egg whites and heavy cream mixed with sugar and wine beaten to a froth.

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