



**J. FOSTER  
HISTORIC SIGNS**

*Handcrafted signs  
in the style of  
18th & 19th  
century artisans.*

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## CHARLES JULIAN COFFEE HOUSE, 1784

In 1751, Charles Julian, a baker in Norfolk, Virginia, was granted an ordinary license to open a coffee house. When he joined the new Masonic lodge in 1756, the meetings were held 'at brother Julian's' until the lodge meetings were moved to the new Town House in 1763 in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

The coffee house in America grew out of the demand for "exotic" beverages which included coffee, tea and chocolate. However, coffee-houses were not always a socially acceptable place for everyone. Celebrated by some, deplored by others, these stimulating brews gave rise to a number of important social institutions, such as the coffeehouse, the tea garden, and the ritual of afternoon tea. By the mid-1700s, coffee and tea were becoming staple drinks for early Americans. Colonial coffeehouses, following the London model, became powerful social catalysts; centers for trade and politics.

George Washington was at Julian's on Christmas Eve of 1771 to confer with the overseer of the Washington Farm, just across the Rappahannock River and known today as George Washington's Ferry Farm.

As a Revolutionary War hero, George Washington was honored at a public dinner at Julian's in 1784. Thirteen toasts were drunk, with a discharge of 13 rounds of artillery for each toast. The toasts began with "The Thirteen United and Sovereign States of America" and concluded with "The memory of all our gallant heroes who have bravely fallen in defense of American liberty."

Sign painters and makers often painted over old signboards, so one might faintly see names or dates behind the primary sign information, which is simulated here on this sign.



*This sign was painted on a reclaimed panel board using water-soluble oils. The pediment is hand sawn and fastened with wood dowels. The reverse side treated with sealing oils. The size is 13-1/2" wide by 34" high. Please message for pricing.*

*Note: the photo contains a watermark for artwork rights protection. To receive an image of the sign minus the watermark, please message us.*