

# Setauket & The American Revolution

## — TIMELINE —



**October 7, 1750** – Abraham Woodhull (alias “Samuel Culper, Sr.”), leading member of the Culper Spy Ring, was born in Setauket.

**February 25, 1754** – Benjamin Tallmadge was born in Setauket. Tallmadge was the organizer and leader of the Revolutionary War Setauket Spies, and son of the minister of the Setauket Presbyterian Church.



Only surviving portrait of Robert Townsend

**November 25, 1753** – Robert Townsend (alias “Samuel Culper, Jr.”), member of the Culper Spy Ring, was born in Oyster Bay.



**July 4, 1776** – Declaration of Independence approved. The thirteen American colonies declare themselves no longer under British rule.

**April 1775** – American Revolution begins (Gunfire at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts was famously described as “the shot heard round the world.”)

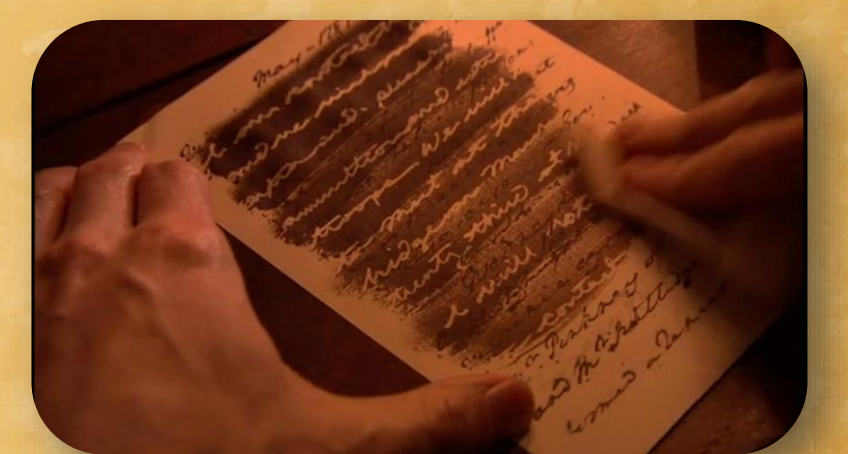


**August 25, 1778** – Washington wrote to Tallmadge, agreeing to his choice of Abraham Woodhull as spy leader in Setauket, the point at which correspondence would cross the Sound from Long Island to Connecticut.

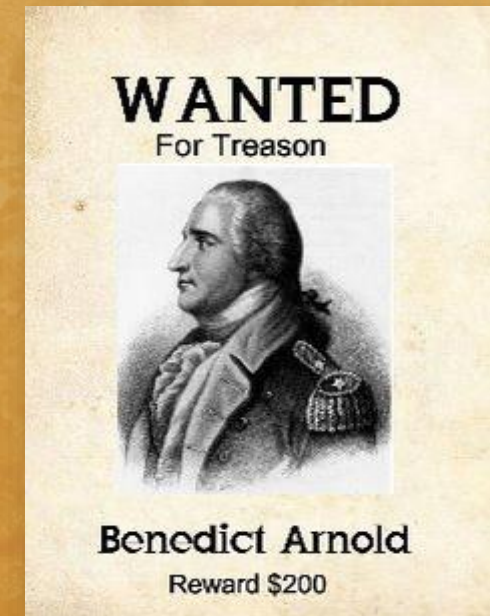


**Summer of 1778** – Benjamin Tallmadge, under orders from General Washington, established a chain of American spies on Long Island and in New York City.

**April 1779** – Washington forwarded a vial of invisible ink to Woodhull in response to his concern that his letters might be intercepted, leading to his discovery.

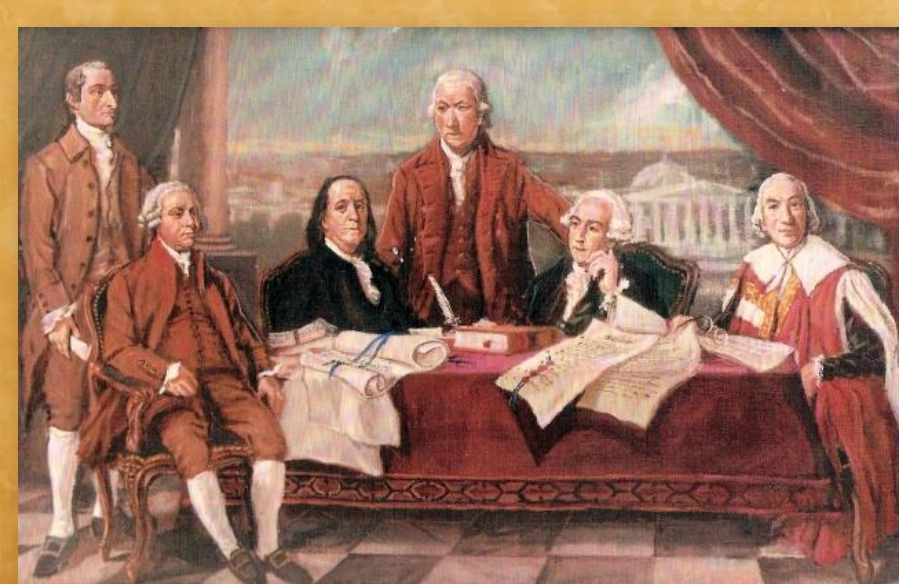


**1780** – Culper Spy Ring uncovered information that prevented the British from attacking the French fleet when they arrived in Newport, RI. and led to the detection of Benedict Arnold’s treason.



**May 4, 1780** – as noted by Woodhull in a letter, Robert Townsend decided to resign because he felt it was only a matter of time until he was uncovered.

**April 1783** – peace treaty with the British was signed, ending the American Revolution.



Emma S. Clark Memorial Library

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Special thank you to local historian Beverly Tyler.  
More information can be found at [spyring.emmaclark.org](http://spyring.emmaclark.org).

