

It happened in Setauket...
General Washington's
Culper Spy Ring



Emma S. Clark
Memorial Library

120 Main Street, Setauket, NY 11733
"The Heart of the Three Village Community"
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Recommended Materials & Web Links • Interactive Map spyring.emmaclark.org

Recommended Materials

- ADKINS, EDWIN.** *Setauket: The First Three Hundred Years, 1655-1955.* Setauket, New York: Three Village Historical Society, 1980. (974.725 ADKIN)
- BLEYER, BILL.** *George Washington's Long Island Spy Ring: A History and Tour Guide.* Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2021. (973.385 BLEYE)
- EMMA S. CLARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY.** *Setauket During the Revolution: What You Didn't Know but Aren't Afraid to Ask (DVD).* Emma S. Clark Memorial Library, 2015. (DVD 974.725 SETAU)
- GRIFFIN, DAVID.** *Chronicles of the British Occupation of Long Island.* Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2023. (974.721 GRIFF)
- GRIFFIN, DAVID.** *Lost British Forts of Long Island.* Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2017. (974.721 GRIFF)
- KILMEADE, BRIAN.** *George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved the American Revolution.* New York: Penguin Group USA, 2013. (973.385 KILME)
- KLEIN, HOWARD.** *Three Village Guidebook: The Setaukets, Poquott, Old Field & Stony Brook.* East Setauket, New York: Three Village Historical Society, 1986. (917.472504 KLEIN)
- LENGLE, EDWARD.** "Spymaster in Chief" in *Military History*. June-July 2009. (973.385 MILIT)
- NAGY, JOHN A.** *George Washington's Secret Spy War: The Making of America's First Spy Master.* St. Martin's Press, 2016. (973.385 NAGY)
- PHILBRICK, NATHANIEL.** *Valliant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of the American Revolution.* New York: Viking, 2016. (973.3 PHILB)
- ROSE, ALEXANDER.** *Washington's Spies: The Story of America's First Spy Ring.* New York: Bantam, 2006. (973.385 ROSE)
- TYLER, BEVERLY C.** *Setauket and Brookhaven History: History Close at Hand.* Setauket, New York: The Author, 2020. (974.725 TYLER)
- WELCH, RICHARD F.** *General Washington's Commando: Benjamin Tallmadge in the Revolutionary War.* Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2014. (B TALLMADGE)

Reference Books in the Long Island Collection

- FERNOW, BERTHOLD.** *New York in the Revolution.* Albany, New York: Weed, Parsons and Company, 1887.
- FORD, COREY.** *A Peculiar Service.* Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1965.
- HALL, CHARLES SWAIN.** *Benjamin Tallmadge: Revolutionary Soldier and American Businessman.* New York: AMS Press, Inc., 1966.
- MARHOEFER, BARBARA.** *Eye Witness, 1776.* New York: Long Island Lighting Co., 1976.
- MATHER, FREDERIC GREGORY.** *The Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut.* Albany, NY: J. B. Lyon Company, 1913.
- ONDERDONK, HENRY JR.** *Revolutionary Incidents of Suffolk and Kings Counties [...].* Port Washington, NY, (1849), 1970.
- PENNYPACKER, MORTON.** *General Washington's Spies on Long Island and in New York.* Brooklyn, New York: Long Island Historical Society, 1939.
- REYNOLDS, JOHN.** *Long Island Behind the British Lines During the Revolution.* Setauket, Long Island: The Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, 1960.
- ROBERTS, JAMES A.** *New York in the Revolution as Colony and State.* Albany, New York: Weeds-Parsons, 1901.
- TALLMADGE, BENJAMIN.** *Memoir of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge.* New York: Gilliss, 1904.

Turn over 

Related Databases Available Through the Emma Clark Library Website (Go to emmaclark.org and click on the FIND IT tab)

Ancestry (AVAILABLE FOR IN-LIBRARY USE ONLY) — Research family history using one of the premier tools for genealogical research.

Biography Reference Bank — A reference tool for researching famous people.

Daily Life Through History — Gives a detailed portrayal of life for ordinary people in different cultures and countries throughout history. (To see what daily life was like during the American Revolution, select Topics, then Exploring New Lives, the 17th & 18th Centuries, then Revolutionary America)

Heritage Quest — Trace your ancestors with this helpful database of genealogical resources.

History Reference Center — Comprehensive, full text, history reference database designed for secondary schools and undergraduate research. Features full text for 2,000 reference books, encyclopedias and non-fiction books.

Web Links

The Three Village Historical Society in Setauket, NY — Information about the exhibit “Spies: How a Group of Long Island Patriots Helped George Washington Win the Revolution”, historical tours and more (tvhs.org)

Special Collections, Melville Library, Stony Brook University — George Washington and the Culper Spy Ring (guides.library.stonybrook.edu/culper-spy-ring)

History Close at Hand — Historian Beverly Tyler's listings of historical walking tours, including “Walk Through History with Farmer & Spy Abraham Woodhull” and articles on the early history of Setauket and Brookhaven Town (historycloseathand.com)

Tri-Spy Tours — Margo Arceri will guide cyclists, walkers and kayakers through the actual trails where the British and Patriots once roamed during the Revolutionary War on Long Island. Those participating will follow in the actual footsteps of the Culper Spy Ring, and along the way historical places of interest will be pointed out and discussed. (culper.com)

The Ward Melville Heritage Organization — Visit the historic Brewster House, 1665, home of the Joseph Brewster (1735-1818) first-cousin to Caleb Brewster who is thought by some to be the bravest of all the spies. On-site programs for all-ages offered including “Become a Spy” and “The Spy Next Door”. (wmho.org)

Clements Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor — Spy Letters of the American Revolution. Most pertinent are “Stories of Spies” and “Secret Methods and Techniques” (clements.umich.edu)

Mount Vernon — Spying and espionage in the Revolutionary War and George Washington's role as one of our nation's first spymasters (mountvernon.org/spy)

Mount Vernon — The Culper Code Book (digitized) (mountvernon.org/george-washington/the-revolutionary-war/spying-and-espionage/the-culper-code-book)

American Heritage — “George Washington, Spymaster” by Thomas Fleming (americanheritage.com/george-washington-spymaster)

The Second Continental Light Dragoons — Sheldon's Horse is a congressionally recognized modern continuation of the original 2nd Continental Light Dragoons (dragoons.info)

Hollywood & History in AMC's TURN: The Setauket Spy Ring — Some readings and contexts, fact and fiction in *Turn*, including source materials and true/false quizzes for selected episodes (history.pmlib.org/spectools/espionage)

TURN to a Historian — A historian's blog, for those seeking historically accurate information and analysis of *Turn* (spycurious.wordpress.com)

BBC — The secrets of the mysterious Culper Spy Ring (bbc.com/reel/video/p08kdvj0/the-secrets-of-the-mysterious-culper-spy-ring)

Book for Children

ALBERTI, ENIGMA. *Anna Strong and the Revolutionary War Culper Spy Ring*. New York, NY: Workman Publishing, 2019.

CASTROVILLA, SELENE. *Upon Secrecy*. Honesdale, PA: Calkins Creek, 2009.

CURRIE, CATHERINE. *Anna Smith Strong and The Setauket Spy Ring*. Precise Printing, 1992.

DURST, SARAH BETH. *Spy Ring*. New York, NY: Ciarion Books, 2024.

FULLAM, KATHLEEN. *The Setauket Spy*. Privately published, 1973.

HAYNES, BETSY. *Spies On the Devil's Belt*. New York: Scholastic, 1974.

KIRKPATRICK, KATHERINE. *Redcoats and Petticoats*. New York: Holiday House, 1999.

September 2024