

Come celebrate Long Island's Revolutionary story

An invitation to the
4th annual Culper Spy Day

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Inside: Event Guide and Map

VISIONS OF CULPER SPY DAY 2017



CULPER SPY DAY

Fourth annual Culper Spy Day celebrates our Revolutionary story

BY HEIDI SUTTON

‘Lucky is the child who listens to a story from an elder and treasures it for years.’

— Barbara Russell,
Town of Brookhaven Historian

Margo Arceri first heard about George Washington’s Setauket spies from her Strong’s Neck neighbor and local historian, Kate W. Strong, in the early 1970s. Arceri lights up when talking about her favorite spy, Anna Smith Strong.

“Kate W. Strong, Anna Smith Strong’s great-great-granddaughter, originally told me about the Culper Spy Ring when I used to visit her with my neighbor and Strong descendant Raymond Brewster Strong III. One of her stories was about Nancy (Anna Smith Strong’s nickname) and her magic clothesline. My love of history grew from there,” she said.

Five years ago Arceri approached the Three Village Historical Society’s President Steve Hintze and the board about conducting walking, biking and kayaking tours while sharing her knowledge of George Washington’s Long Island intelligence during the American Revolution.

Today, Arceri runs Tri-Spy Tours in the Three Village area, which follows in the actual footsteps of the Culper Spy Ring. “I wanted to target that 20- to 60-year-old active person,” she said. “I have to thank AMC’s miniseries “TURN” because 80 percent of the people who sign up for the tour do so because of that show,” she laughs.

It was during one of those tours that Arceri came up with the idea of having a Culper Spy Day, a day to honor the members of Long Island’s brave Patriot spy ring who helped change the course of history and helped Washington win the Revolutionary War.

“Visiting places like the Brewster House, which is owned by The Ward Melville Heritage Organization, the grave site of genre artist William Sidney Mount at the Setauket Presbyterian Church cemetery (whose paintings are at The Long Island Museum) and the Country House, which every one of the spies visited,” Arceri thought “there has to be a day designated to celebrating all these organizations in the Three Village and surrounding areas; where each of us can give our little piece of the story and that’s how Culper Spy Day developed.”



Photo by Darren St. George, Preservation Long Island

Meet Big Bill the Tory at the Sherwood-Jayne Farm in East Setauket on Culper Spy Day and learn the TRUTH about George Washington’s pesky band of renegade spies!

After a successful three-year run, the fourth annual Culper Spy Day will be held on Saturday, Sept. 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. offering self-guided tours of 24 locations including eight new spots for the ultimate Culper Spy Day experience. “The more the merrier,” laughs Arceri.

One new event you won’t want to miss is an interactive tour at the Sherwood-Jayne Farm in East Setauket where you’ll experience a different spin on George Washington’s Culper Spy Ring. Maintained by Preservation Long Island, the property boasts a 1700s saltbox home, apple orchard, barn, an ice house, corn crib, a pasture and nature trail.

According to Darren St. George, education and public programs director at Preservation Long Island, the farm was originally owned by the Jayne family.

“The property was purchased by Mathias Jayne in 1730 [who built a lean-to saltbox dwelling] which is eventually passed down to William Jayne II in 1768 who expands the house after his second marriage,” he said, continuing, “[William] was involved with local government, he was a constable, so he had some stature and clout in the community and it was nice to have a more substantial home.”

However, when the Revolutionary War broke out, Jayne chose to remain a Loyalist and a steadfast supporter of the crown.

“William Jayne II was a known Tory in the neighborhood,” said St. George. “Long Island was occupied by many Tories, many people still supported the king and didn’t want to upset the status quo, but as the war concluded, most Tories moved to Canada or Connecticut or they turned their back on the king entirely, but Jayne doesn’t. He still stays a Tory, he has his reputation and still thrives in the community,” eventually acquiring the nickname Big Bill the Tory.

When Jayne passed away, the home remained in the family until it was sold in 1908 to Preservation Long Island’s founder, Howard C. Sherwood, who used the home to showcase his many antiques. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009.

During Culper Spy Day, ticketholders will be able to take part in a 20-minute guided tour of the first floor of the home, specifically the Jayne Parlor (which was added after the Revolutionary War), the Sherwood Living Room (which was the original 1730 home) and the Tap Room (kitchen/dining room).

One of the more interesting features of the home are the original late-18th-century hand-painted floral wall frescoes on the walls of the Jayne Parlor. Commissioned by William Jayne II, they were rediscovered underneath wallpaper by Sherwood in 1916 who had them restored by well-known artist Emil Gruppé. “One small panel was left untouched so that you can see how it’s weathered through the years,” St. George pointed out during a recent tour.

The home contains artifacts that specifically relate to the American Revolution, including paneling on the fireplace wall and shutters on a bar in the Tap Room that came from the Tallmadge House of Setauket, believed to be the birthplace of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge, a founding member of the spy ring who would become George Washington’s chief intelligence officer.

As a special treat, Big Bill the Tory, portrayed by David Burt, will make a guest appearance during each tour and share his views on the Culper Spy Ring and the noble intentions of King George III. “He’ll explain what life has been like for him as a Loyalist — the other side of the story that we’re really not hearing too much of,” explained St. George.

Parking will be in the field next to the property and visitors are asked to line up at the back door for the tour, which will be ongoing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Apple cider and donuts will be available for purchase.

Arceri’s favorite part of the day is “seeing all these different organizations coming together as a whole. It really is our Revolutionary story,” she said. “Everywhere you turn in the Three Villages you are looking at an artifact, and as the historical society believes, the community is our museum and that I would really love to put on the forefront of people’s minds.”

Admission is \$25 adults, \$5 children ages 6 to 12 and may be purchased in advance at the Three Village Historical Society (TVHS), 93 North Country Road, Setauket, by calling 631-751-3730 or by visiting www.tvhs.org. Veterans and children under the age of 6 are free.

Tickets may be picked up at the TVHS from Sept. 11 to 15. At that time, participants will receive a bracelet and a copy of the Culper Spy Day map with all event listings and include access to 24 Culper Spy Ring locations. If available, tickets on the day of the event may be purchased at the historical society.

Participating organizations:

The fourth annual Culper Spy Day is presented by Tri-Spy Tours, the Three Village Historical Society, the Long Island Museum and The Ward Melville Heritage Organization in collaboration with the Benjamin Tallmadge District of the Boy Scouts; Campus Bicycle; Caroline Church of Brookhaven; Country House Restaurant; Custom House; Discover Long Island; Drowned Meadow Cottage Museum; East Hampton

Library, Long Island Collection; Emma S. Clark Memorial Library; Fairfield Historical Society, Fairfield Museum & History Center; Frank Melville Memorial Park; Fraunces Tavern® Museum; Gallery North; History Close at Hand; Huntington Historical Society; Huntington Militia; Joseph Lloyd Manor House; Ketcham Inn Foundation; Northport Historical Society; Old Methodist Church; Paumanok Tours; Port Jefferson Chamber of Commerce; Port Jefferson Free Library;

Preservation Long Island; Raynham Hall Museum; Rock Hall Museum; Setauket Elementary School; Setauket Harbor Task Force; Setauket Neighborhood House; Setauket Presbyterian Church; Sherwood-Jayne Farm; Stirring Up History; Stony Brook University Libraries, Special Collections; Stony Brookside Bed and Bike Inn; Three Village Community Trust; The Three Village Inn; Times Beacon Record News Media; and the Underhill Society of America Inc.



Image from Beverly Tyler

Mural by Vance Locke, 1951, depicts Abraham Woodhull, left, bringing secret messages to Caleb Brewster.

HISTORY CLOSE AT HAND

BY BEVERLY C. TYLER

What was the situation on Long Island during the Revolutionary War? Why do we know so little about the Setauket-based Culper Spy Ring? Who were they? What did they accomplish? Well! The Setauket spies were just commonplace men and women who grew up in a small farming community on the North Shore of Long Island — ordinary people who did extraordinary things.

ABRAHAM WOODHULL, a descendant of Richard Woodhull, an early Brookhaven Town leader and magistrate, was born on his family's farm in Setauket, overlooking Little Bay, in 1750. He was a farmer by occupation. Probably because of his elder brother Richard's death at the early age of 32, Abraham inherited the family home (circa 1690) and farm. The land had been in the family since Richard Woodhull came to Setauket, sometime between 1655 and 1657.

From the beginning of the Setauket spies in 1778, Woodhull was in charge of day-to-day operations. His code name was Samuel Culper and the spy operation came to be known as the Culper Ring. Woodhull was referred to as Samuel Culper Sr. after he recruited Robert Townsend, who became known as Culper Jr. Not only did Woodhull direct field activities, but he also risked his life countless times by personally collecting information in New York and on western Long Island.

Woodhull was responsible for evaluating the reports received from all sources, determining what was to go forward to Washington's headquarters and seeing that the dispatches were carried across the Sound by Caleb Brewster. His health was poor, partly caused by stress as he lived in constant fear of discovery.

After the war, Woodhull became the first judge of Suffolk County. He died Jan. 23, 1826, and his grave in the Setauket Presbyterian Church graveyard was marked by the Mayflower Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1936.

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CULPER SPY DAY

Let's take a walk through history

Visit Revolutionary War spy locations on Culper Spy Day

BY BEVERLY C. TYLER

It happened in Setauket! A clandestine operation to provide General Washington with information on the activity of the British on Long Island and in New York City existed in Setauket during the Revolutionary War. You too can explore the sites that figured in the operation of the Culper Spy Ring, as it was known.

On Saturday, Sept. 15, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., many historic locations in the Three Villages and the surrounding areas dating as far back as 1655 will open their doors to the public as we celebrate the fourth annual Culper Spy Day — Our Revolutionary Story, offering docent-led tours, exhibitions, demonstrations, children's activities and more. Start at whichever location you like and go at your own pace.

Ticket holders will be entitled to admission to the following locations and events:



1. THREE VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 93 North Country Road, Setauket. Located in the circa 1800 Bayles-Swezey house. Here you can purchase tickets for Culper Spy Day and obtain a copy of the story of the Culper Spy Ring.

Take part in an invisible ink project, meet Anna Strong and her famous clothesline, attend a book signing by award-winning children's book author, Selene Castrovilla, and enjoy Colonial music presented by the Three Village Chamber Players from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Grab a snack or lunch at the Tavern on the Field next door and visit the society's gift shop.

The Huntington Militia will be encamped out on the field next door with Colonial cooking and camp life demonstrations throughout the day.

The staff of Raynham Hall Museum in Oyster Bay will be on hand to portray Robert Townsend (Samuel Culper Jr.), one of George Washington's most important spies during the Revolutionary War, and his wife, Sally Townsend. Your Culper Spy Day 2018 ticket also grants you access to the Raynham Hall Museum the entire weekend. See more on page C11.

Walk across the street to Gallery North's Studio to view the historical society's TURN memorabilia auction and sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a live auction at 2 p.m. (see listing #3). 631-751-3730.



2. THOMPSON HOUSE, 91 North Country Road, Setauket. Built in 1709, this five-room saltbox farmhouse was home to five generations of the Thompson family. According to his diaries, Dr. Samuel Thompson treated members of the Culper Spy Ring, including Abraham Woodhull and Austin Roe. Samuel and his father Jonathan Thompson were members of the Colonial Militia in 1775. After the British occupation of Long Island, Samuel, Jonathan and their families became refugees in Connecticut.

Costumed docents will guide visitors through the house discussing the architecture and fascinating history of the family including Thompson's allegiance to the Patriot cause. Explore the question of whether it could be possible that Thompson was a spy, and role-play being a patient of Thompson's to learn of the treatments he would give, including herbs and bloodletting. 631-751-2244.



3. THE STUDIO AT GALLERY NORTH, 90 North Country Road, Setauket. Originally a one-room Mobil gas station built in 1935, the building was expanded in the 1970s. Today it functions as the Studio at Gallery North, a green work space that provides printmaking, painting, drawing and other collaborative classes and programs for artists of all ages and abilities. Attend the Three Village Historical Society's TURN memorabilia auction and sale at Gallery North's Studio from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and don't miss the live auction at 2 p.m. Items to be auctioned off include a dragoon coat and musket from AMC's television series "TURN: Washington's Spies." 631-751-2676.



4. FRANK MELVILLE MEMORIAL PARK/GRIST MILL, 1 Old Field Road, Setauket. Walk past the post office into the park until you come to the 1937 reproduction of the Setauket Grist Mill. Here you will hear from docents the story of the construction of the park and the history of the grist mills that operated in Setauket from the 1660s until the 1930s, grinding the wheat, corn and other grains of Setauket farmers. 631-689-6146.



5. SETAUKET NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, 95 Main Street, Setauket. The original part of the house, where the central chimney is located, was built in the early 1700s. In 1820 it was moved to its present location from its original site on Setauket (Conscience) Bay by Dr. John Elderkin. After the death of Elderkin in 1836, his son, John, moved from New York City and took up residence in the old home. He added the sections to the right and left of the original house sometime around 1835. The house then became Ye Old Elderkin Inn. Besides running the inn, John continued his drug business, which began in the city, had a general store, post office, bank and a Franklin Library in the building.

During the 1860s, the inn served as a home for a stage coach line that ran between Setauket and the Lakeland Railroad Depot near Ronkonkoma before the Long Island Railroad line was built on the North Shore.

John Elderkin's wife Renelcha was a woman of great refinement, energy and ambition, and the inn was noted for its hospitality and fine

food. Many famous people made this their stopping place. Robert Bonner of the New York Ledger was a frequent visitor and many residents remembered his famous trotting horses, Dexter and Goldsmith Maid.

Docents on hand to discuss the history of the home that dates back to the early 1700s. Steve Boerner and Frank Sorrentino of the East Hampton Library Long Island Collection and the Underhill Society of America Inc., will be on hand discussing their ongoing Culper/American Revolutionary War in New York project. (See more on page C11) Visit the Culper Spy Day information booth on site to help plan your day. 631-751-6208.



6. PATRIOTS ROCK HISTORIC SITE, Main Street, Setauket. This glacial erratic boulder is said to be the location of the Battle of Setauket on Aug. 22, 1777. Hundreds of Patriot soldiers, under General Parsons, crossed Long Island Sound and attacked the fort erected around the Setauket Presbyterian Church. Under the direction of Captain Caleb Brewster, the Patriots mounted a cannon next to the boulder. Loyalist forces, under Colonel Richard Hewlett of Queens, successfully defended the fort. Stop here to meet representatives from the Three Village Community Trust who will discuss the importance of Patriot's Rock and its local and environmental history. 631-689-0225.



7. CAROLINE CHURCH OF BROOKHAVEN AND CEMETERY, 1 Dyke Road, Setauket. Built in 1729, this timber frame building has maintained its Colonial appearance. Now an Episcopal Church, during the Revolutionary War the Caroline Church was Anglican

and a Colonial extension of the Church of England. During Long Island's more than seven years of occupation, American Loyalists, British officers and soldiers worshiped here. The graveyard contains the remains of seven Patriot soldiers as well as soldiers from World War I and II. Enter the church for a guided tour and don't miss the church's History Center featuring an exhibit on the church and the community in the 1800s on the lower level of the Parish House. 631-941-4245.



8. SETAUKET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CEMETERY, 5 Caroline Ave., Setauket. The previous church (1714–1811) was a part of British fortifications during 1777. The fort was under the command of Loyalist Commander Col. Richard Hewlett. The present building dates from 1812. The minister before and during the Revolutionary War was Reverend Benjamin Tallmadge, father of Major Benjamin Tallmadge, soldier, patriot and head of General Washington's secret service. Come into the church sanctuary to hear from docents about this church that served the congregation from the 1660s.

Leaving the church, walk to the left, go through the gate into the cemetery, turn left alongside the church and then left behind the church and right to the brick-encased memorial marker that is the grave site of Abraham Woodhull of George Washington's Spy Ring. Docents will give more details about some of the famous people who are the permanent residents of the cemetery, which dates to the founding of Setauket and the Town of Brookhaven in 1655. 631-941-4271.



9. SETAUKET VILLAGE GREEN, Main Street, Setauket. Following the end of the Revolutionary War and the departure of all the British and Loyalist forces from Long Island in 1783, the residents of Setauket held an ox roast on the Setauket Village Green in honor of their native son Benjamin Tallmadge, son of the Setauket Presbyterian

Church minister, Benjamin Tallmadge, and General Washington's intelligence chief. Tallmadge was responsible for the design and implementation of the Setauket-based Culper Spy Ring that provided Washington with complete and accurate details on British and Loyalist activities in New York City and on Long Island.

Members of the Setauket Harbor Task Force will be stationed here to discuss the changes of water quality over the years and the challenges Caleb Brewster would have met on the Long Island Sound also known as the Devil's Belt.

Meet Margo Arceri of Tri-Spy Tours here at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. for an abbreviated walking tour of the historic district.

Representatives from Paumanok Tours will be on hand to discuss marine life in our bays and harbors as well as the route Caleb Brewster would have taken to meet Abraham Woodhull and cross the sound. Find out about the organization's kayak rentals, lessons and guided spy tours.



10. SETAUKET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, 134 Main Street, Setauket. Completed in 1951, the auditorium contains the murals of artist Vance Locke. A gift of Ward and Dorothy Melville to the community, the murals tell the stories of Setauket/Brookhaven history.

In 2018, Setauket School fourth-grade students wrote and recorded the story of each mural from the community life of the Setalcott Native Americans before European contact to cutting ice on the Setauket Mill Pond about 1900. On the east wall between the full-length windows are the five murals of the Revolutionary War depicting the British control of Long Island (1776), the Battle of Setauket (1777), the Culper Spy Ring (1778 and 1779) and the Battle of Fort St. George (1780). The auditorium is open to the public only on Culper Spy Day. Each mural section contains a QR code that brings the students recorded story to life.

The head of the Culper Spy Ring, Abraham Woodhull, portrayed by historian Beverly Tyler, will be stationed in the Setauket School Auditorium to discuss the Revolutionary War murals and will also be glad to answer any questions about his life and times. 631-730-4600.

CULPER SPIES

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Sketch by Col. John Trumbull

Benjamin Tallmadge, c. 1781, in his dragoon (cavalry) uniform

BENJAMIN TALLMADGE, organizer and leader of the Revolutionary War Setauket Spies, was born in Setauket on Feb. 25, 1754. The son of the minister of the Setauket Presbyterian Church, he was the youngest of the Culper spies. The home where he was born is still standing in Setauket at the end of Runs Road. Tallmadge grew up in Setauket, attended school here with his close friend Abraham Woodhull and, like many residents of Suffolk County, he grew to have a healthy distrust for British authorities in New York. A classmate of Nathan Hale, Tallmadge graduated from Yale in 1773 and, like Hale, taught school for a time in Connecticut.

When the Revolution began, Tallmadge enlisted in the Continental Army and was soon awarded the rank of major. Later, General Washington appointed him head of his secret service and tasked Tallmadge with establishing an espionage network against the British in New York City. To conduct this vital undercover operation on Long Island, Tallmadge chose his boyhood friend Abraham Woodhull. Together they chose other friends and neighbors from Setauket; men and women who could be trusted and who would prove to be so discreet in all their contacts that their identity would not be discovered until the 20th century.

Major Tallmadge, referred to by the code name John Bolton, not only led Washington's secret service but was also in most of the battles involving the Continental Army in the northern states. Among his many exploits was the capture of Fort St. George at Mastic in November 1780. After the war was over, Tallmadge retired from the Army with the rank of colonel. In 1784 he married Mary, eldest daughter of General William Floyd of Mastic — Long Island's signer of the Declaration of Independence. Tallmadge lived in Litchfield, Connecticut, and represented that state in Congress for 16 years. He died in Litchfield in 1835 at the age of 81.

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CULPER SPIES

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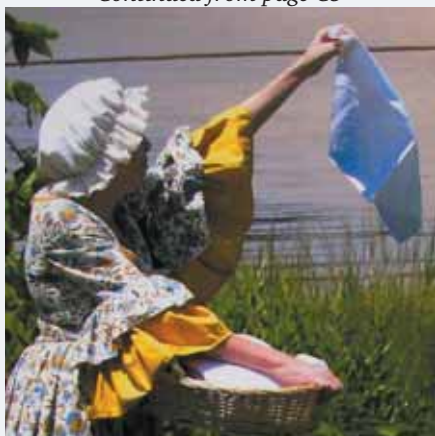


Photo from Bev Tyler

Anna Smith Strong and her magic clothesline as portrayed by Donna Smith

ANNA SMITH STRONG, the great-granddaughter of Setauket's lord of the manor, Colonel William (Tangier) Smith, was a strong and ardent Patriot. She devised, according to a folklore story first detailed by Morton Pennypacker in his book "George Washington's Spies," a wash line signal system to identify for Abraham Woodhull the whereabouts of Caleb Brewster's whaleboat, so that Woodhull could find him and pass along the messages meant for General Washington.

As detailed by Pennypacker and embellished by Strong family historian Kate Strong in her "True Tales," to avoid detection by the British it was necessary for Brewster to hide his boat in six different places, each identified by a number. "Nancy" Strong, as she was known by friends and neighbors, hung her laundry from the line in a code formation to direct Woodhull to the correct location. A black petticoat was the signal that Brewster was nearby, and the number of handkerchiefs scattered among the other garments on the line indicated the meeting place. Using the most ordinary of personal items and improvising on the most ordinary of personal tasks, Anna made an extraordinary contribution to the cause of freedom.

Anna Strong lived on Strong's Neck with her six children throughout the war. Her husband, Selah Strong, was confined in a New York prison in January, 1778, for "Surreptitious correspondence with the enemy." She got permission to bring him food, which evidently saved his life, and she obtained his release by appealing to her Tory relatives. He was still in danger and spent the rest of the war in Connecticut.

While British officers luxuriated in the Manor House (no longer standing — a 19th-century manor replaced it), Anna lived in a small cottage across the bay from Woodhull's farm, staying there to also protect her family's rights to the estate. A good friend of Caleb Brewster, as a member of the Culper Spy Ring in Setauket, she was a vital link between the Continental Army officer Caleb Brewster and Abraham Woodhull, the Patriot spy posing as a Loyalist.

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11. EMMA S. CLARK MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 120 Main St., Setauket. The library (circa 1892) will present songs, chanteys and sea slang from Colonial days with the Royal Yard (the duo of Stuart Markus and Robin Greenstein) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the library lawn. Bring a folding chair or blanket. There will also be a children's Colonial craft from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as a display case of Revolutionary War soldiers' equipment in the library's lobby. Learn about the library's Culper Spy Ring website (www.spyring.emmaclark.org) and check out related materials at the information tent adjacent to the front entrance. Tickets are not required for library activities. 631-941-4080.



12. JOSEPH BREWSTER HOUSE, 18 Runs Road, corner of Route 25A, Setauket. Circa 1655, it is considered to be the oldest house in the Town of Brookhaven. During the Revolutionary War, the house was owned by Joseph Brewster, first cousin of Culper Spy Caleb Brewster and neighbor of the ring's founder, Benjamin Tallmadge. In order to preserve his home and property from confiscation, Joseph Brewster operated a tavern out of the home, hosting the occupying British forces.

Docents depicting Joseph and Rebecca Brewster will lead you on a tour of the house and show artifacts from an archaeological dig of the site while 18th-century cook and living historian Diane Schwindt of Stirring Up History will be serving up some tasty and authentic treats from America's past on the front lawn. 631-751-2244.



13. SHERWOOD-JAYNE FARM, 55 Old Post Road, East Setauket. Originally built around 1730 as a lean-to saltbox dwelling, the house and farm were maintained as an operational farmstead for over 150 years by members of the Jayne family. In 1908, Preservation Long Island's founder, Howard C. Sherwood, acquired the property to showcase his lifetime interest in collecting, studying and living with antiques. Restored by Joseph Everett Chandler of Boston, one of the leading Restoration/Colonial-Revival architects of the time, the house contains period furnishings and features original late-eighteenth-century hand-painted floral wall frescoes. The farm features walking trails, a barn, outbuildings, an apple orchard and pasture.

Come tour the historic house and hear William Jayne II, aka Big Bill the Tory (played by David Burt) in his full Loyalist regalia, explain the noble intentions and virtuosity of King George III. Enjoy apple cider and donuts while Big Bill tells you the TRUTH about George Washington's pesky band of renegade spies! Refreshments are available for purchase on site.

In addition, artifacts from Preservation Long Island's collection with a connection to members of Long Island's famous Culper Spy Ring will be on exhibit at the Sherwood-Jayne House. Among these are items from the home of Colonel Benjamin Tallmadge, a founding member of the spy ring, who would become George Washington's chief intelligence officer.

Your Culper Spy Day 2018 ticket also grants you access to Preservation Long Island's other properties the entire weekend, Sept. 15 and 16, including the Custom House in Sag Harbor, Joseph Lloyd Manor in Lloyd Harbor and the Old Methodist Church in Cold Spring Harbor. (See more on page C10) 631-692-4664.



14. THE COUNTRY HOUSE RESTAURANT, 1175 North Country Road, Stony Brook. Built in 1710, the restaurant was originally a home and used as a farm. Throughout the centuries, it was used for many different purposes such as a stagecoach drop-off. In the 1800s it became home to the

famous English actor Thomas Haddaway. Spiritual seances would be held there, with neighbor William Sidney Mount trying to conjure up past spirits, a popular practice at the time. In 1970 it became a restaurant known as the 1710 House. In 1975 it was reopened as the Haddaway House and in 1978 it became The Country House Restaurant. On Culper Spy Day the restaurant will serve up a special spy-themed lunch with seatings at noon and 2 p.m. Adult meals start at \$14. Children's meals, which includes a soft drink, are \$10.95. Kids can decode a secret spy code and win a free dessert (everyone's a winner). Call 631-751-3332 for reservations.



15. THE LONG ISLAND MUSEUM, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook. The museum is a Smithsonian Affiliate with permanent and changing exhibitions on American history and art, along with the finest collection of horse-drawn carriages in the country, some of which belonged to Revolutionary War heroes.

Activities during the day will include blacksmith demonstrations in the Samuel West Blacksmith Shop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and lessons with a schoolmarm in the one-room Nassakeag Schoolhouse (1877) from 2 to 4 p.m. The Benjamin Tallmadge District of the Boy Scouts will set up a Revolutionary era encampment on museum grounds and give cooking demonstrations over an open fire all day. Culper Spy Day tickets will also be accepted on Sept. 22 and 23 for visitors to the new exhibition, Elias Pelletreau: Long Island Silversmith & Entrepreneur, opening Sept. 21 in the Art Museum. 631-751-0066.



16. STONY BROOK GRIST MILL, 100 Harbor Road, Stony Brook. Long Island's most completely equipped and working mill, the Stony Brook Grist Mill, circa 1751, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. During the Revolutionary War, occupying British forces confiscated much of the grain to provision their own troops. A miller will be on hand to demonstrate the workings of the mill from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 631-689-3238.



17. THE STONY BROOKSIDE BED & BIKE INN, 48 Main Street, Stony Brook. Start your Culper Spy Day adventure from Stony Brook on bicycle. Enjoy breakfast at the Three Village Inn or take a tour of the Stony Brook Grist Mill before starting a guided bike ride to Setauket to complete your Culper Spy Day experience. Park in Stony Brook Village and meet at the Stony Brookside Bed & Bike Inn at 9:45 a.m. with your bike. Return guided bike ride to Stony Brook from Setauket will take place at 1:30 p.m. For ages 14 and up. First come, first serve. Space is limited. Call for more details and reserve a spot today. 631-675-0393.



18. THE THREE VILLAGE INN, 150 Main Street, Stony Brook. Known as the Old Homestead, the original structure of Mirabelle at Three Village Inn was built in 1751 by Richard Hallock. In 1835, Jonas Smith, one of the country's most prominent ship owners, purchased the Hallock Homestead for use as a summer house. After his death in 1867 the house had a series of owners until 1929 when Jennie Melville purchased and renovated it for use as a Women's Exchange. As people visited the area, she started serving tea, sandwiches and refreshments. What began as a simple tea room in the 1930s became a large restaurant with rooms to accommodate overnight guests in 1939 and the Three Village Inn was born.

The restaurant will feature a special spy breakfast at 8 a.m. to kick off the day. Buffet menu will feature scrambled eggs, muffins, croissants, a fruit platter, French toast, orange juice, coffee and more. Cost is \$10 per person plus tax and tip. Reservations are required. 631-751-0555.

19. CAMPUS BICYCLE, 1077 Route 25A, Stony Brook. Taking the Long Island Rail Road to Stony Brook? Rent a bicycle for the day! The bicycle store, located across from the train station, will offer a special Culper Spy Day rate of \$30, which includes a helmet and lock. When making reservations, please mention Culper Spy Day. 631-689-1200.



20. STONY BROOK VILLAGE CENTER, 111 Main Street, Stony Brook. Costumed docents from the Ward Melville Heritage Organization's Youth Corps will be stationed in front of the post office as well as in front of the Hercules Pavilion on historic Main Street to point out areas of interest from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 631-751-2244.



21. STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY, Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library, 2nd floor, Room E-2320, 100 Nicolls Road, Stony Brook. SBU's Special Collections will hold a special Open House from 11 a.m. to noon and again from 1 to 2 p.m. View two original Culper Spy Ring letters authored and signed by George Washington in 1779 and 1780. Free parking in the parking garage near the Wang Center (west campus). 631-632-7119.



22. ROE TAVERN MARKER, Route 25A, Setauket at the corner of Bayview Avenue. Stop here on your way to Port Jefferson to view the sign marking the former site of Roe Tavern. Originally a home built by Selah Strong, it was sold to the Woodhulls, who sold it to Captain Austin Roe, a member of the Culper Spy Ring, who made it into a tavern. General George Washington slept there in 1790.



23. DROWNED MEADOW COTTAGE MUSEUM, corner of West Broadway and Barnum Avenue, Port Jefferson. The Revolutionary War era Roe House was originally constructed circa 1755 and Phillips Roe, a member of the Culper Spy Ring along with his brother Nathaniel and cousin Austin, was known to have lived there. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., costumed docents will lead tours of the house, which will showcase painting, prints and photography exhibits. Enjoy Colonial activities including games, cooking demonstrations, children's costume and coloring station, reading activities and time period music. 631-473-4724.



24. PORT JEFFERSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 118 West Broadway, Port Jefferson. Built in 1682, the John Roe House is saltbox in design and originally stood at the edge of the salt marsh. John Roe, an Irish shoemaker from Maspeth, Queens, built this home with added additions for his family in the early 1700s. His son Nathaniel Roe came to the property in 1710. Nathaniel Roe Jr. and other Roes including Austin were all part of the Culper Spy Ring. In 1840 Henry Townsend divided the home into two halves and inserted a two-story addition in the center, creating the Townsend House Inn.

Upon entering the home you can see exposed hand-hewn timbers supporting the second floor, mortise and tenon joints pinned with tree nails and lath construction consisting of narrow wood strips. It was moved in 1896 to a location near the railroad tracks where it served as a bar for the trainmen after working hours. The house was moved to its present site in 1982 and now serves as a community information center and home for the Greater Port Jefferson Chamber of Commerce.

Visit the house on Culper Spy Day and view books on the Revolutionary War on loan from the Port Jefferson Free Library. Costumed volunteers will help children create a secret spy message using invisible ink, set up Anna Smith's clothesline and create their own mini clothesline using secret coded messages.

CULPER SPIES

Continued from page C8

In one letter during the spying operation Brewster noted that he was "up behind the Strong's." In a letter written to British Intelligence Chief Oliver Delancy in February 1781, British spy William Heron wrote, "Private dispatches are frequently sent From your city to the Chieftain [Washington] here by some traitors. They come by the Way of Setalket [sic], where a certain Brewster receives them at, or near, a Certain woman's." The certain woman was almost certainly Anna Smith Strong.

After the war Anna and Selah were reunited and Selah led Washington's carriage and party to the Roe Tavern in April of 1790 when the then President Washington made his tour of Long Island. Anna died in 1812 and Selah in 1815. They are buried in the Smith-Strong family graveyard along Cemetery Road on Strong's Neck.

CALEB BREWSTER was perhaps the most bold and daring of the spies. He was the only one of the group that the British had definitely identified as a spy. When the Revolutionary War broke out, Brewster enlisted in the local militia.

After the August 1776 battle of Long Island in Brooklyn, Brewster joined the Continental Army with the rank of a lieutenant of artillery. He returned to Setauket in August of 1777 as part of the attacking force from Connecticut that fought in the battle of Setauket. In November 1780 he was one of the officers under Major Benjamin Tallmadge who captured Fort St. George at Mastic. They returned to Connecticut with the entire complement of the fort captured.

In spite of his service designation, one of Brewster's task throughout the war was to command a fleet of whaleboats operating from the Connecticut shore against British and Tory shipping on Long Island Sound (known as the Devil's Belt). This, together with his knowledge of the Long Island shoreline, his work as a mate on sailing ships and his boyhood association with Benjamin Tallmadge, made him an ideal choice to carry intelligence back and forth across the Sound.

It was Caleb Brewster who most likely gave Benjamin Tallmadge the idea to use Setauket as a center for intelligence operations. Beginning in 1777, Brewster gathered information on the activities of British and Loyalist units on Long Island from his friends, relatives and other contacts and gave the mostly verbal information to his boyhood friend Tallmadge.

Once Tallmadge formalized the activities of the Culper Spy Ring, Brewster took his whaleboat crews to Setauket and neighboring coves to bring messages back to Fairfield, Connecticut, for Major Benjamin Tallmadge to deliver to General Washington. Brewster also made numerous trips with his whaleboat crews into Long Island Sound to attack British and Loyalist ships. This activity also provided opportunities for gathering intelligence for General Washington.

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CULPER SPIES

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Image from Bev Tyler

Vance Locke mural of Austin Roe riding from the Brooklyn Ferry with spy messages

AUSTIN ROE ran a tavern in East Setauket where food and drink were served and where travelers could stay overnight on their way to or from the south or east end of Long Island. The original location of the tavern (it was moved in 1936) was along what is now Route 25A, just west of the south end of Bayview Avenue. The site is marked by a state road sign that details a few of the most important facts about Austin Roe and the tavern. Captain Austin Roe used his position as a tavern owner to justify his trips to New York City (Manhattan).

While in New York, Roe gathered supplies he needed for the tavern and expensive materials and goods for Anna Strong. These trips provided the cover he needed to obtain the spy messages he carried to Abraham Woodhull in Setauket that had to be relayed to General Washington.

Born in 1748, Austin Roe was 29 years old when he first agreed to be a part of the Setauket spies. He made the 110-mile round trip at least once a week.

The road was heavily traveled by British and Tory troops and by highwaymen (thieves and robbers). Captain Roe would receive information (usually directly from Robert Townsend). The messages were written in code or invisible ink.

Roe would ride back to Setauket and pass the information to Woodhull, who would secretly meet Brewster. The intelligence would then go across the Sound to Fairfield and then to General Washington. Captain Austin Roe made numerous trips to New York and was never discovered. He moved to Patchogue in 1798 where he founded Roe's Hotel. He died there in 1830 at the age of 81.

The present location of the Roe Tavern, where on April 22, 1790, President George Washington enjoyed the hospitality of Austin Roe and spent the night, is off Old Post Road. The house is private and not open to the public.

ROBERT TOWNSEND (code name Samuel Culper Jr.) coordinated the efforts of the spy network in New York. We will probably never know all the spies who contributed information on British movements, but we do know that Townsend was the principal contact in New York between most of 1779 and 1781.

During portions of that time Abraham Woodhull (Samuel Culper Sr.) took over from Townsend, as he had done before recruiting Townsend. The Culper Spy Ring supplied General Washington with vital information concerning British troop movements, fortifications and intentions in New York and the surrounding area during the perilous war years from 1778 to 1783.

The sensational intelligence transmitted by the spies led to the capture of Major John Andre (he was hung as a spy on orders of General Washington) and the discovery of Benedict Arnold's plot to turn over West Point to the British. The spy ring also supplied Washington with information that enabled him to prevent the British from attacking the French Army as they arrived in Newport, Rhode Island, in July 1780, and possibly also destroying the French fleet that transported them to Newport.

One of the most important contributions of the Culper Spy Ring was to provide General Washington with accurate and detailed intelligence. In many instances, Washington was able to check the veracity of information received from other sources by comparing it with intelligence received from the Culper Spy Ring.

There were many other Patriot spies reporting to General Washington, some known and many still unknown. They all risked their lives, soldiers and civilians alike, to provide vital intelligence that allowed General Washington and the Continental Army to defeat the greatest army in the world and to "turn the world upside down."



Image courtesy of LIM

Robert Townsend decodes a spy message from George Washington in 'Culper Spy' by Mort Künstler.

Auxiliary Revolutionary War and Culper Spy Ring sites to visit

A. HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, headquarters at 209 Main Street, Huntington. The society maintains the 1795 **Dr. Daniel Kissam House Museum**, 434 Park Avenue, Huntington. The house now standing on this historic site, one of the original home lots that faced the old Town Green, was built in 1795 by Timothy Jarvis, a housewright. It was first occupied by Dr. Daniel Whitehead Kissam, a physician from Oyster Bay. Considered one of the most outstanding three-quarter plan houses on Long Island, it is noted for its fine architectural details. In 1840, Dr. Charles Sturges, the son-in-law of Dr. Kissam, added a "modern" kitchen wing and converted the old kitchen to a formal dining room. The home was purchased by the society from the estate of Hilda Taylor in 1967 and restoration and reinterpretation of the interior was begun by the society in 1984.

Built in 1790 in the nearby farming community of Lloyd Harbor, the barn on the property can be historically traced back to the Rogers family, who used the structure on their homestead for livestock housing. Legend has it, however, the barn also housed British troops who were quartered there during the Revolution. The museum is open by appointment.

The society also maintains the **David Conklin Farmhouse**, 2 High Street, Huntington. The Conklin house contains artifacts and is decorated to illustrate three periods of the country's history: Colonial, Federal and Victorian. When you visit this National Register property, occupied by the Conklin family for over 150 years, you will see the original rooms of the house constructed c. 1750 and a table and chair used by George Washington during his tour of Long Island in 1790. You will also see the area where Sybel Conklin and her children lived and worked while her husband, David, was held prisoner by the British in 1777. One of the earliest museums on Long Island, this home was given to the society by Ella Conklin Hurd in 1911. The property is open Fridays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. and by appointment. 631-427-7045.

B. NORTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 215 Main St., Northport. Second Lieutenant Henry Scudder, a resident of a large farm near Crab Meadow, was captured by the British after the Battle of Long Island in August of 1776. He was paroled in a prisoner exchange and fled to Connecticut rather than take an oath of allegiance to the British Crown. From Connecticut, he planned and led numerous raids on Long Island, becoming a courageous and elusive spy for the Continental Army.

Scudder often penetrated enemy lines, sending back important information on troop movements. During one spying mission on British held Fort Slongo, Scudder and Bryant Skidmore drew a plan of the fort and sent it to General Washington. Utilizing the map, 100 American raiders rowed across the Sound and launched a successful attack on the fort in 1781. Only one American

was wounded, Sgt. Elijah Churchill, who became the first recipient of the Purple Heart. Hours are Tuesdays through Sundays from 1 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 631-757-9859 or visit www.northporthistorical.org.

C. PRESERVATION LONG ISLAND, www.preservationlongisland.org. In addition to Sherwood-Jayne Farm in East Setauket, Preservation Long Island (formerly the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities) maintains and interprets historic sites and collections that embody various aspects of Long Island's history including:

1. **Old Methodist Church**, 161 Main Street, Cold Spring Harbor. Headquarters for Preservation Long Island, the Cold Spring Harbor Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1842 by Israel Valentine during the heyday of whaling on a site acquired from Judge Richard M. Conklin, one of the partners in the Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Company. After serving its congregation for 149 years, the church closed its doors and the society acquired the building in 1996 for adaptive reuse as its exhibition gallery, program and meeting space and administrative offices. Visitation by appointment. 631-692-4664.

2. **Joseph Lloyd Manor**, 1 Lloyd Lane, Lloyd Harbor. Completed in 1767 for Joseph Lloyd, the second lord of the Manor of Queens Village, the Joseph Lloyd Manor House was the seat of a 3,000-acre agricultural estate. The British occupied it during the Revolutionary War, and it was the home of Jupiter Hammon, one of the first published African American authors. Enslaved by the Lloyd family for most of his life, Hammon wrote powerfully about the paradoxes of American freedom and slavery. The house remained in the Lloyd family until 1876 and eventually became the country house of Mrs. Anna Matheson Wood who donated the property to Preservation Long Island in 1968. Today, Lloyd Manor is furnished to the 1793 inventory of Joseph's nephew, John Lloyd II, and occupies a spectacular 2.5-acre setting overlooking Lloyd Harbor. The property is open for tours on Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day and by appointment. Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 children ages 7 to 14. 631-692-4664.

3. **Custom House**, 912 Main St., Sag Harbor. This was the residence and office of Sag Harbor's first United States Custom Master, Henry Packer Dering, who lived in the house with his family from 1790 until 1822. The house was originally located at the corner of Union and Church streets before moving to its current site in 1948 by the Old Sagg-Harbour Committee in order to save it from demolition. In 1966, Preservation Long Island acquired the property. Today, it is interpreted to reflect the work and daily activities of Dering, his wife, and nine children. The property is open for tours Saturdays and Sundays in September through Columbus Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 adults, \$5 seniors, \$3 children ages 7 to 14. 631-692-4664.

D. RAYNHAM HALL MUSEUM, 20 West Main St., Oyster Bay. Home of George Washington's intelligence operative, Robert Townsend (code name Samuel Culper Jr.) who spent the war in New York City (Manhattan). Purchased by Robert's father Samuel around 1740, this home tells the story of the Townsend family during the Revolutionary War. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. For admission fees and other information, call 516-922-6808 or visit www.raynhamhallmuseum.org.

E. KETCHAM INN, 81 Main St., Center Moriches. The historic Terrill-Havens-Terry-Ketcham Inn during the Revolutionary War was the home and tavern of Benjamin Havens, a spy for the Culper Spy Ring, who married Abigail Strong of Setauket, sister of Selah Strong. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison lodged here in 1791 while on a trip to visit Gen. William Floyd of Mastic. The beautifully restored Ketcham Inn is open for tours by appointment only for \$15 per person. The museum office and Book Barn are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. For additional information, call 631-878-1855 or visit www.ketchaminn.org.

F. MANOR OF ST. GEORGE (FORT ST. GEORGE), Neighborhood Road, Shirley. This was the South Shore home of William "Tangier" Smith who purchased the land from Native Americans in 1691. Smith's North Shore home on Little Neck (now Strong's Neck) was called St. George's Manor to differentiate it from his

other home. Culper spy Anna Smith Strong is a direct descendant of William Smith.

During the Revolutionary War the British erected Fort St. George on the site. The fort was a depository of stores, dry goods, groceries and arms to supply British forces in Suffolk County. In November 1780 Benjamin Tallmadge and a detachment of dismounted dragoons attacked, captured and burned the fort and the British ships in the harbor loaded with stores, without the loss of a man. On the way back to the North Shore they burned the British supply of winter forage in Coram, thus ending British rule and influence in that part of Long Island.

Visiting hours for the manor are Thursday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Oct. 30. Free admission. For more information, call 631-281-5034.

G. FAIRFIELD MUSEUM & HISTORY CENTER, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT. Currently on view through Nov. 1 in the Ruth Carlson Horn Gallery is an exhibit titled The Culper Ring: The Spies of George Washington. A series of graphic novel-style panels designed by illustrator Kirk Manley, they tell the dramatic story of the spy ring that operated between New York City, Long Island and Fairfield, Connecticut, during the Revolutionary War. Visitors will be able to see, through the eyes of specific historical characters, the risks that both military officers and ordinary civilians were willing to take to help their cause and the motivations and contributions of the spy ring. Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and ages 6 to 22. 203-259-1598.

H. EAST HAMPTON LIBRARY, LONG ISLAND COLLECTION, 159 Main Street, East Hampton. The Morton Pennypacker Long Island Collection at the East Hampton Library is one of the premiere collections of Long Island and New York historical records. Of particular note in regard to the Culper Spy Ring story are the library's significant collections of Townsend, Woodhull and other important families' business, real estate and personal archives. Working with the Underhill Society for the past seven years they have methodically cataloged, digitized, transcribed and indexed a large portion and continue to do so until finished. 631-324-0222.

a. The Underhill Society of America, Inc. is a family organization dating back to the late 19th century. All members are descendants or married to descendants of Captain John Underhill, a military engineer and adventurer who arrived in New England during the tumultuous Indian Wars period. Committed to the genealogy, biography and history of their extensive and prolific family, the society's archives and museum are in Oyster Bay. Critical to the success of the Culper Spy Ring was Amos Underhill and other family members. www.underhillsociety.org.

J. ROCK HALL MUSEUM, 199 Broadway, Lawrence. One of the finest pre-Revolutionary War homes on Long Island, Rock Hall was built in 1767 for Josiah Martin, a wealthy West Indian plantation owner. The

Georgian Colonial was occupied by American Patriots during the winter of 1776. The Georgian-style home was then purchased by the Hewlett family who lived there from 1824 to 1948. The property was then deeded to the Town of Hempstead. After an extensive restoration, it opened as a museum in 1953. Hours are Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. Free admission. 516-239-1157.

I. FRAUNCES TAVERN @ MUSEUM, 54 Pearl Street, 2nd floor, New York City. Fraunces Tavern Museum's mission is to preserve and interpret the history of the American Revolutionary era through public education. This mission is fulfilled through the interpretation and preservation of the museum's collections, landmarked buildings and varied public programs that serve the community. Your Culper Spy Day ticket is valid for free museum admission for its third annual Spy Week from Sept. 15 to 22 — a week-long celebration of America's Revolutionary War spies with guided tours, children's spy-themed activities and a viewing of an interactive exhibition, Confidential: The American Revolution's Agents of Espionage! 212- 968-1776, www.frauncestavern.com.

Beverly C. Tyler is a writer, author, photographer, interpreter and lecturer on local history for the Three Village Historical Society. He pens a biweekly column for Times Beacon Record News Media titled "History Close at Hand."



On the cover:

From left, Major Benjamin Tallmadge (Art Billadello) and Abraham Woodhull (Beverly C. Tyler) read a copy of The Royal Gazette dated July 21, 1780 on the grounds of the Sherwood-Jayne Farm in East Setauket as Big Bill the Tory, aka William Jayne II (David Burt), looks on. Billadello is wearing a dragoon coat from the AMC television series 'TURN' that will be auctioned off at Gallery North's Studio during Culper Spy Day.

Photo by Heidi Sutton



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CULPER SPY DAY COMMITTEE FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION.







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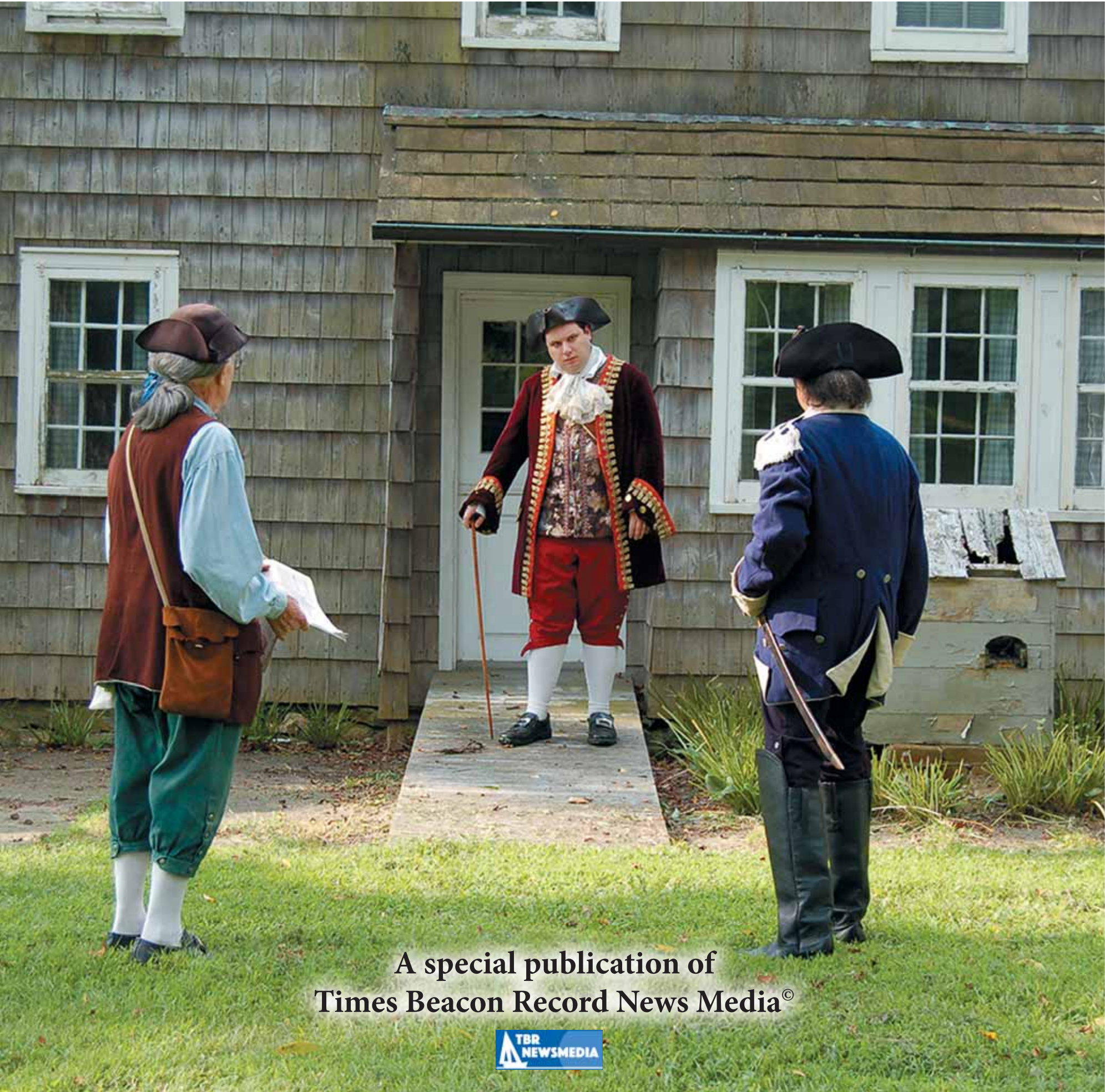
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