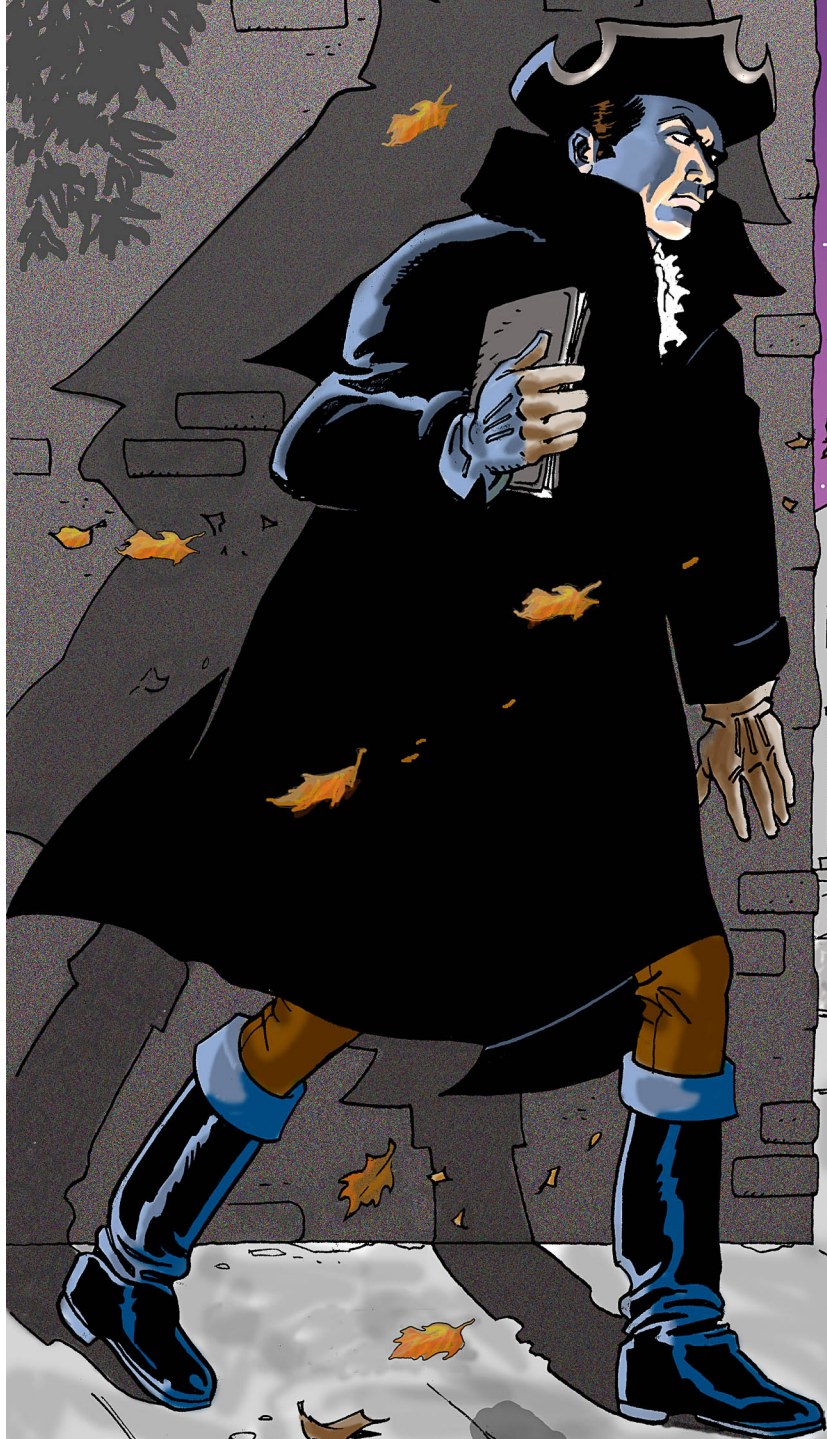


Raynham Hall Museum
presents:

A SPY FOR GENERAL WASHINGTON



RUTH ASHBY
ERNIE COLON

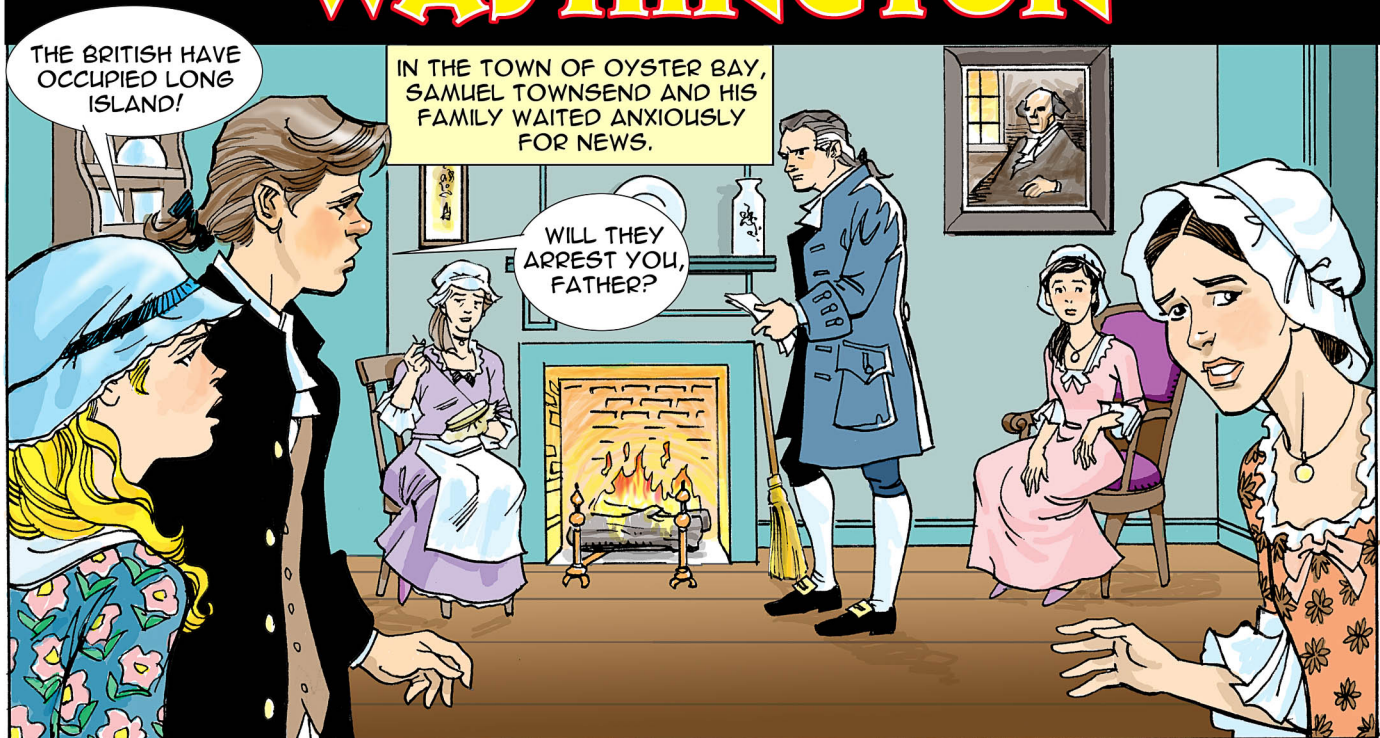
IT WAS AUGUST 27, 1776, AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION HAD BEGUN!
IN THE FIRST MAJOR BATTLE OF THE WAR, BRITISH REDCOATS MET GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON'S CONTINENTAL
ARMY ON THE HEIGHTS OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK. OUTNUMBERED AND OVERPOWERED,

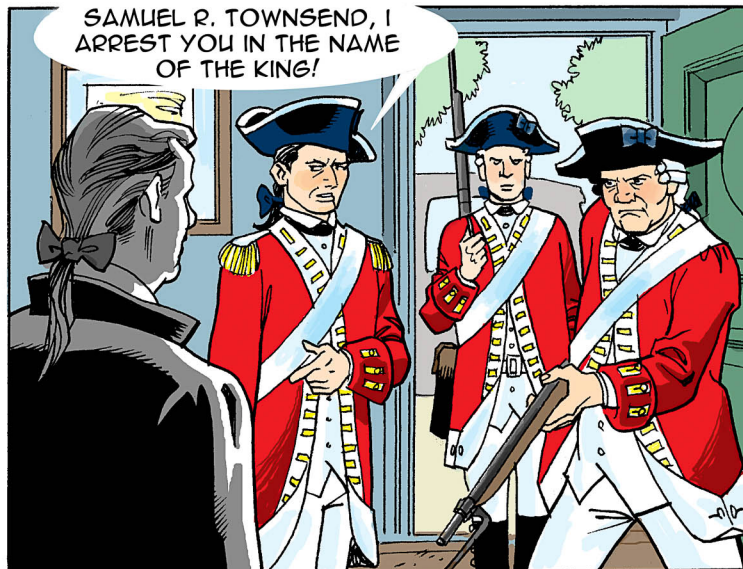
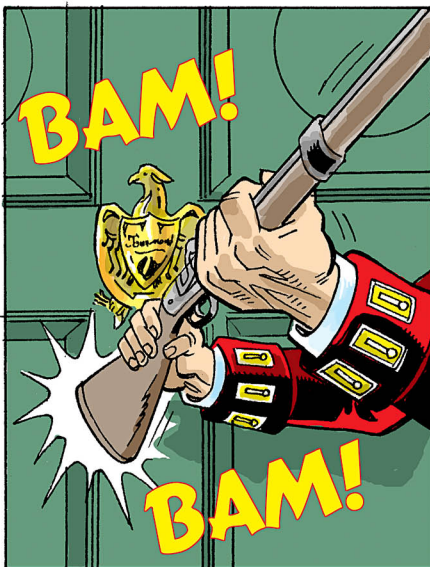
THE PATRIOTS LOST THE BATTLE.

THE DEFEATED REBELS SLIPPED BACK INTO MANHATTAN UNDER COVER OF NIGHT.
GEORGE WASHINGTON KNEW THAT IN ORDER TO DEFEAT THE BRITISH IN THE LONG CONFLICT TO COME, HE WOULD
HAVE TO RELY ON STRENGTH... AND CUNNING.



A SPY FOR GENERAL WASHINGTON





SAMUEL R. TOWNSEND, I ARREST YOU IN THE NAME OF THE KING!

THE OFFICER HUSTLED SAMUEL INTO A COACH. OFF IT SPED TO THE BRITISH COURT IN JAMAICA.

THE DAY OF THE TRIAL, TWENTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD ROBERT ARRIVED TO SUPPORT HIS FATHER.



SAMUEL R. TOWNSEND, YOU ARE CHARGED WITH AIDING THE REBEL CAUSE. AS A MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK PROVINCIAL CONGRESS, YOU VOTED TO RATIFY THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ON JULY 9, 1776. HOW DO YOU PLEAD?

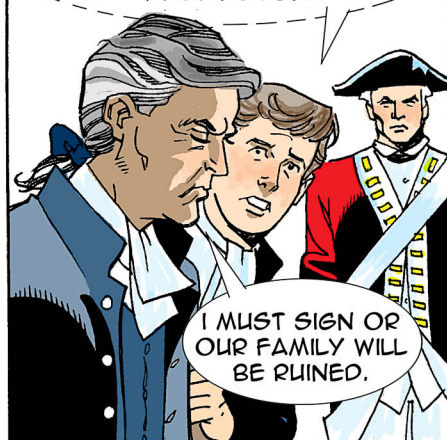


I MUST FOLLOW MY CONSCIENCE, YOUR WORSHIP.

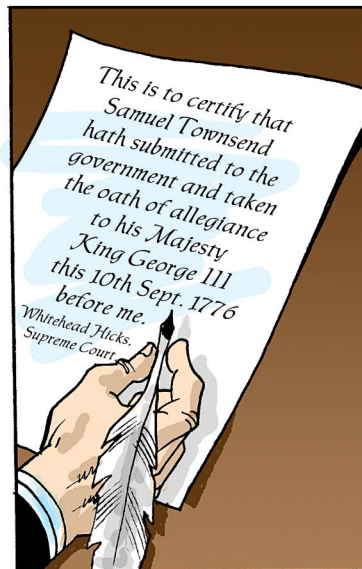
YOU HAVE JUST ONE LAST CHANCE TO CLEAR YOUR NAME. SIGN A LOYALTY OATH TO HIS MAJESTY, KING GEORGE III.



SIGN, FATHER! IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID PRISON! WE WILL FIND ANOTHER WAY TO AID GENERAL WASHINGTON.



I MUST SIGN OR OUR FAMILY WILL BE RUINED.



This is to certify that Samuel Townsend hath submitted to the government and taken the oath of allegiance to his Majesty King George III this 10th Sept. 1776 before me.
Whitehead Hicks,
Supreme Court

BRITISH TROOPS SWARMED ACROSS LONG ISLAND. THEY INVADDED PEOPLE'S HOMES, CUT DOWN THEIR TREES AND STOLE THEIR VALUABLES.

IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHERE YOU HID YOUR SILVER, YOUR HOME WILL BE BURNED TO THE GROUND.



PEOPLE TRIED TO PROTECT WHATEVER THEY COULD.

HIDE BESSY IN THE WOODS, CHILDREN, SO THE REDCOATS WON'T FIND HER.



MANY LONG ISLAND PATRIOTS ESCAPED TO CONNECTICUT. FROM THERE THEY CONDUCTED WHALEBOAT RAIDS ACROSS LONG ISLAND SOUND. THEY DESTROYED BRITISH FORTS AND CAPTURED BRITISH SOLDIERS.



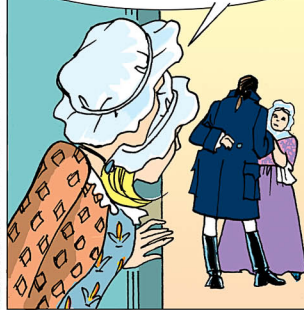
AT RAYNHAM HALL, THE TOWNSEND'S AVOIDED THE BRITISH AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. THEN IN FALL, 1778, A HANDSOME STRANGER APPEARED AT THEIR DOORSTEP...

LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE AT YOUR SERVICE, MA'AM. ON ORDERS FROM GENERAL SIR HENRY CLINTON, I REQUEST THE USE OF YOUR HOME AS MY NEW HEADQUARTERS.



AND SO SIMCOE SETTLED IN AT RAYNHAM HALL. SUDDENLY THE HOUSE WAS FULL OF BRITISH OFFICERS. SIMCOE MADE THE FRONT PARLOR INTO HIS OFFICE.

THE COLONEL IS THE COMMANDER OF THE QUEEN'S RANGERS.

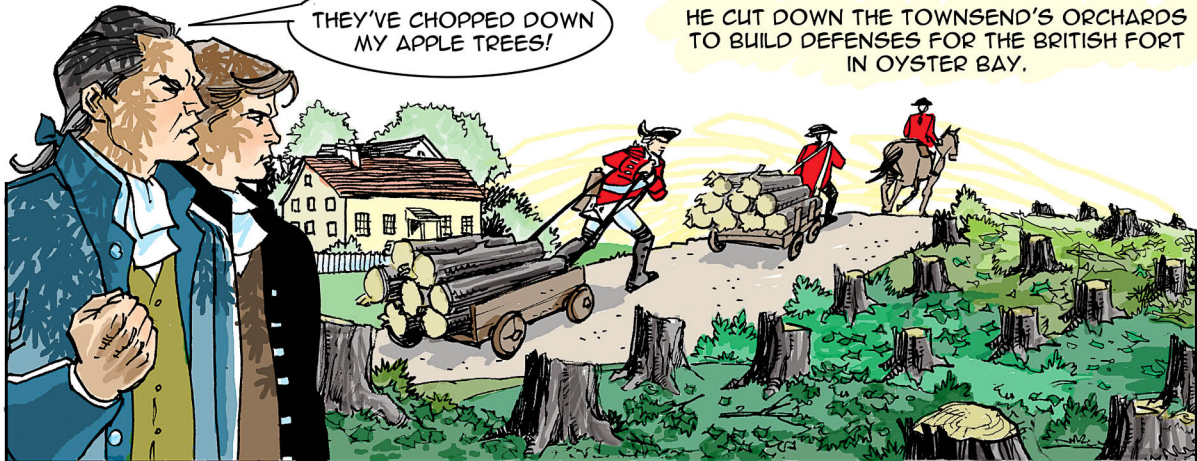


DELIVER THIS REPORT TO GENERAL CLINTON AT ONCE!



THEY'VE CHOPPED DOWN MY APPLE TREES!

HE CUT DOWN THE TOWNSEND'S ORCHARDS TO BUILD DEFENSES FOR THE BRITISH FORT IN OYSTER BAY.



AND HE ENTERTAINED REGULARLY, FILLING THE OLD HOUSE WITH WITH THE SOUNDS OF LAUGHTER AND REVELRY.



PERHAPS TOMORROW, MISS SALLY, YOU AND YOUR SISTERS WOULD CARE TO ACCOMPANY ME ON A PICNIC. I UNDERSTAND THE VIEW FROM COVE HILL IS EXCELLENT.

SIMCOE PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD SALLY.

WE SHOULD BE HONORED, SIR.



ROBERT COULD TELL THAT SALLY WAS FALLING FOR THE HANDSOME COLONEL. HE DIDN'T APPROVE-- NOT ONE BIT. BUT HE HAD MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON HIS MIND.



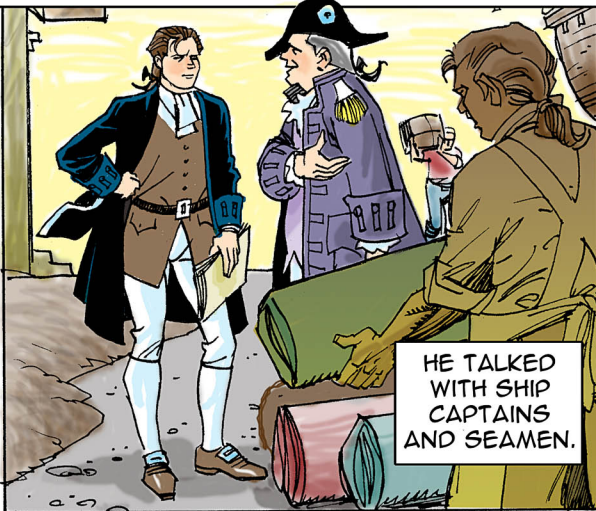
...DANGEROUS THINGS.

IN 1778, ROBERT TOWNSEND WAS LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY. THE BRITISH OCCUPIED CITY WAS OVERCROWDED, DIRTY AND DANGEROUS.

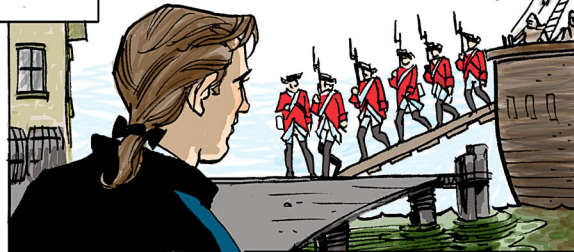


ROBERT WAS THERE TO RUN HIS FATHER'S BUSINESS. EVERY DAY HE WENT DOWN TO NEW YORK HARBOR TO BUY AND SELL GOODS.

HE WATCHED BRITISH SHIPS SAIL IN AND OUT OF THE HARBOR.



HE TALKED WITH SHIP CAPTAINS AND SEAMEN.

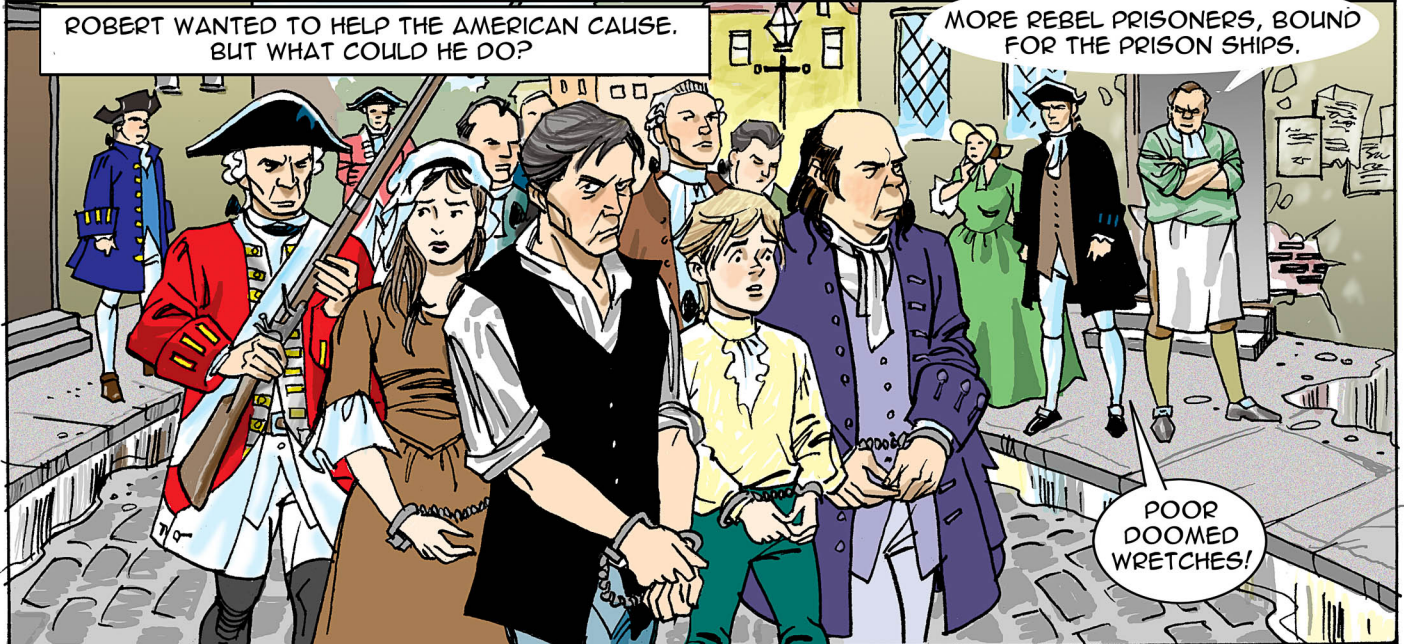


AND HE SAW THE BRITISH PRISON SHIPS, ANCHORED ACROSS THE EAST RIVER IN BROOKLYN.



ROBERT WANTED TO HELP THE AMERICAN CAUSE. BUT WHAT COULD HE DO?

MORE REBEL PRISONERS, BOUND FOR THE PRISON SHIPS.



POOR DOOMED WRETCHES!

ONE DAY HE FOUND OUT. HE WAS VISITED BY AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE, ABRAHAM WOODHULL OF SETAUKET, LONG ISLAND.

ROBERT, I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU. IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE!

WOODHULL HAD AN AMAZING SECRET. HE WAS A SPY FOR THE CONTINENTAL ARMY!

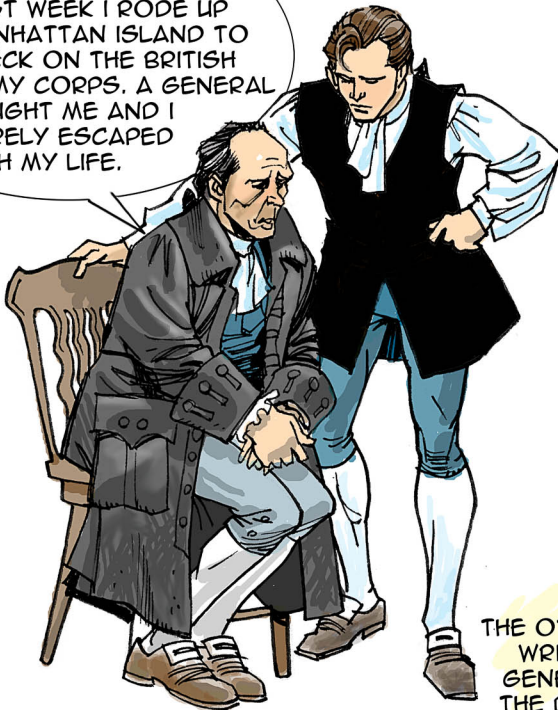


I AM AT YOUR DISPOSAL, SIR.



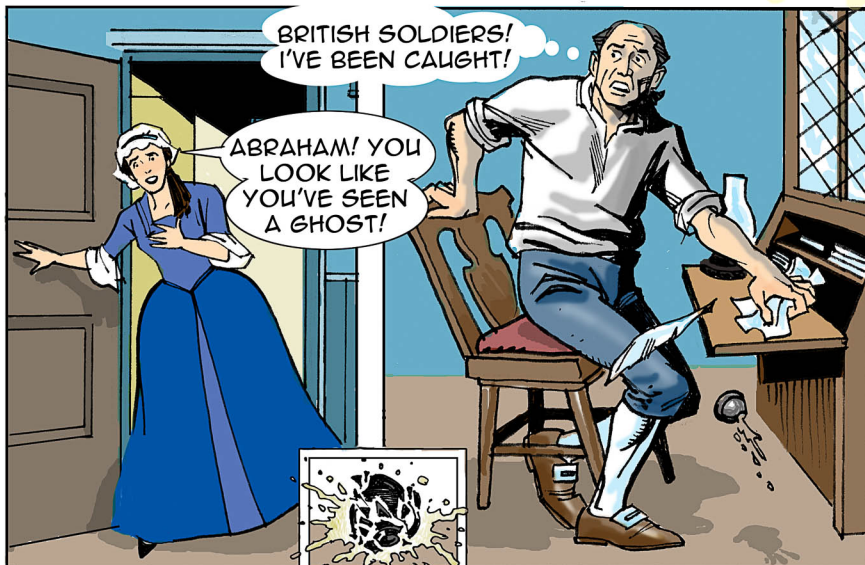
I GATHER INFORMATION BEHIND BRITISH LINES IN NEW YORK CITY AND LONG ISLAND. IT IS VERY DANGEROUS AND I AM MOST ANXIOUS.

LAST WEEK I RODE UP MANHATTAN ISLAND TO CHECK ON THE BRITISH ARMY CORPS. A GENERAL CAUGHT ME AND I BARELY ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE.



THE NEXT TIME I CATCH YOU POKING ABOUT, I'LL THROW YOU IN PRISON!

THE OTHER NIGHT AS I WAS WRITING A LETTER TO GENERAL WASHINGTON, THE DOOR BURST OPEN.



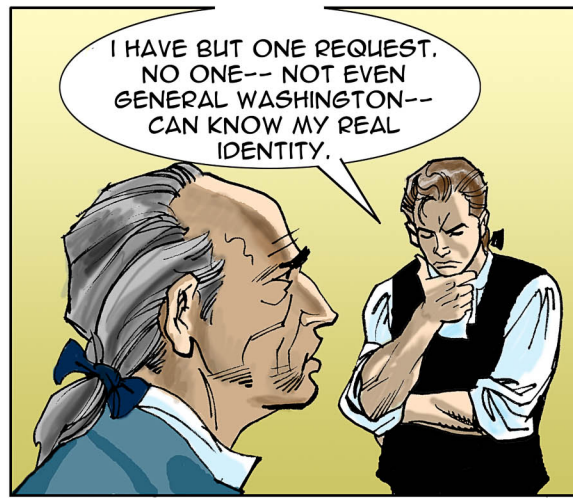
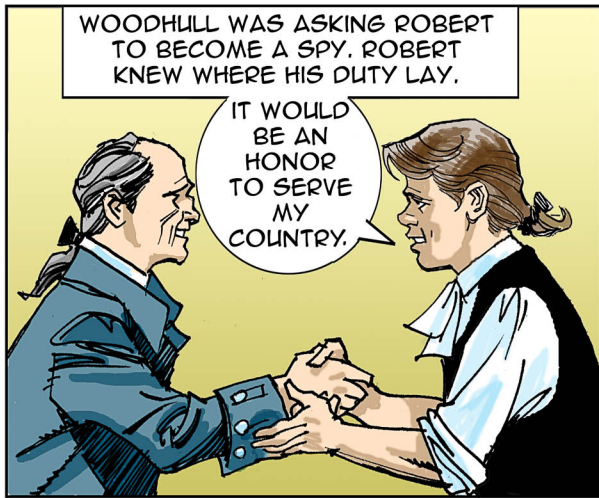
BRITISH SOLDIERS! I'VE BEEN CAUGHT!

ABRAHAM! YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!



IT WAS ONLY MY SISTER. BUT MY BOTTLE OF INVISIBLE INK WAS SHATTERED.

I FEEL MY ENEMIES CLOSING IN. I MUST LEAVE THE CITY. WILL YOU CONTINUE MY WORK HERE?

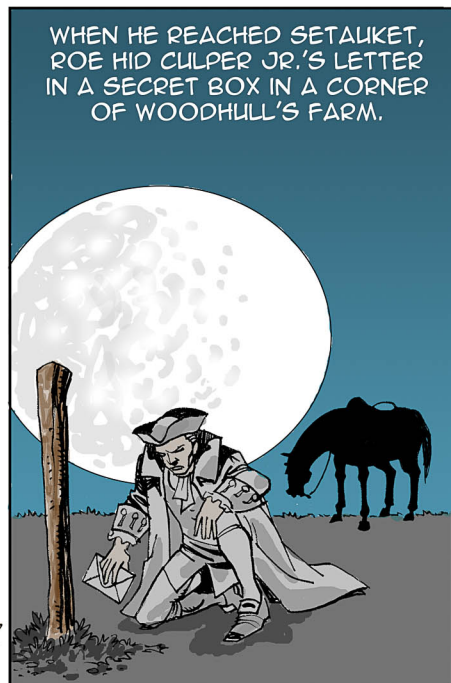


WOODHULL'S SPY NAME WAS SAMUEL CULPER, SO ROBERT TOOK THE NAME SAMUEL CULPER JR. AND JOINED THE CULPER SPY RING. HERE'S HOW IT WORKED. FIRST ROBERT WOULD GATHER INFORMATION.

HE WOULD PASS THE INFORMATION ON TO AUSTIN ROE, A DETALKET TAVERN KEEPER WHO RODE INTO NEW YORK ONCE A WEEK TO PURCHASE SUPPLIES.

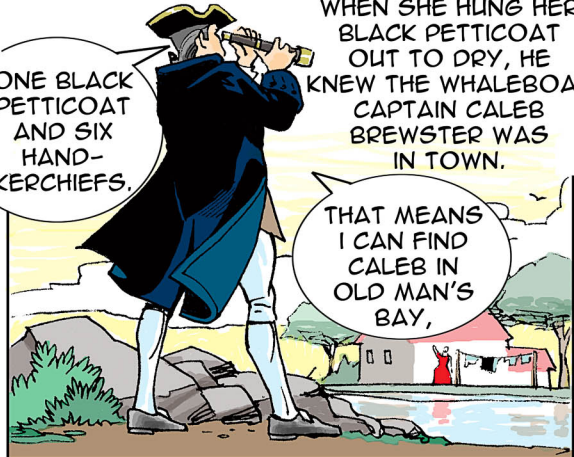


ROE RACED THE 55 MILES BACK TO SETALKET. THE ROAD WAS DANGEROUS AND INFESTED BY BANDITS.



THERE ABRAHAM WOODHULL RETRIEVED THE LETTER. FOR DAYS HE WATCHED ANNA STRONG'S CLOTHES LINE.

ONE BLACK PETTICOAT AND SIX HAND-KERCHIEFS.



WHEN SHE HUNG HER BLACK PETTICOAT OUT TO DRY, HE KNEW THE WHALEBOAT CAPTAIN CALEB BREWSTER WAS IN TOWN.

THAT MEANS I CAN FIND CALEB IN OLD MAN'S BAY,



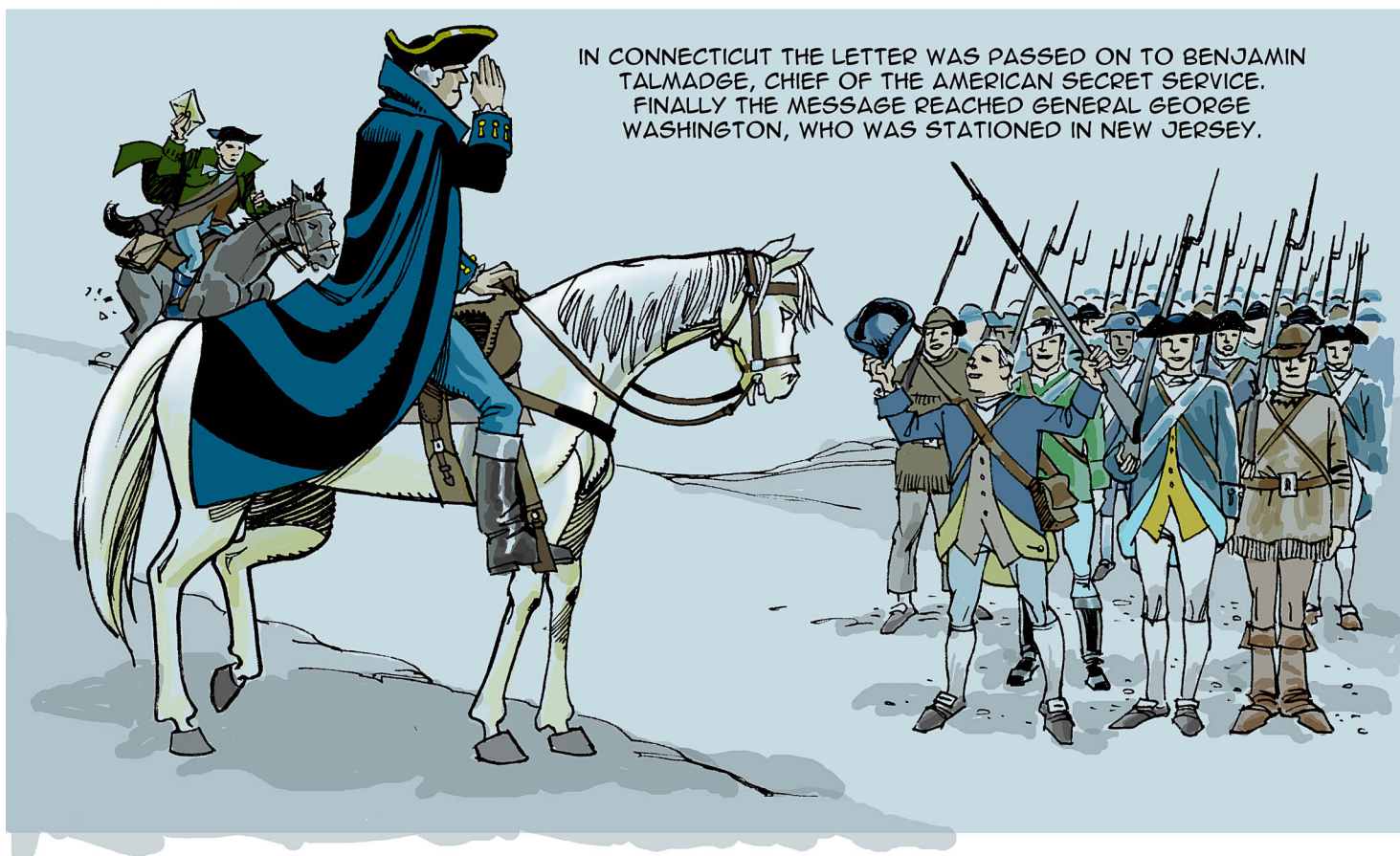
UNDER COVER OF NIGHT, WOODHULL WOULD MEET BREWSTER AND HAND HIM THE MESSAGE.



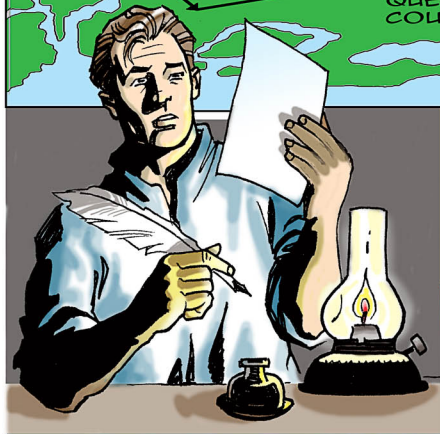
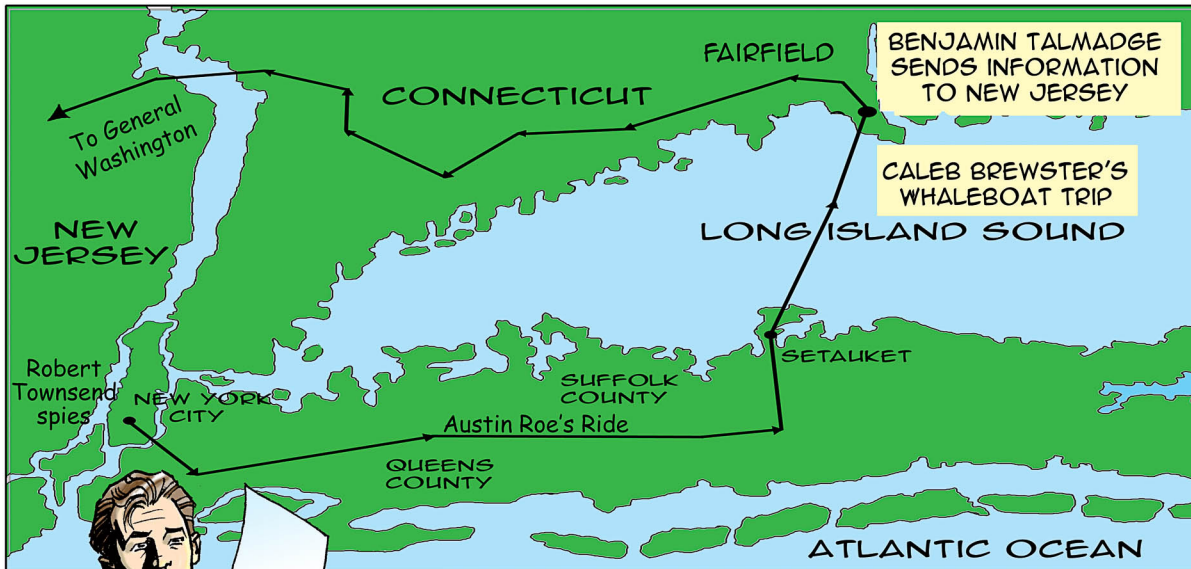
THEN BREWSTER AND HIS MEN WOULD ROW BACK ACROSS LONG ISLAND SOUND.



THE WHALEBOAT WOULD GLIDE SILENTLY PAST THE WATCHFUL BRITISH SHIPS AND LAND SAFELY ON THE CONNECTICUT SHORE.



IN CONNECTICUT THE LETTER WAS PASSED ON TO BENJAMIN TALMADGE, CHIEF OF THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE. FINALLY THE MESSAGE REACHED GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON, WHO WAS STATIONED IN NEW JERSEY.



WHEN THE SHEET WITH THE INVISIBLE MESSAGE WAS SLIPPED INTO A STACK OF NEW PAPER, IT LOOKED BLANK. EVEN IF BRITISH GUARDS SEARCHED AUSTIN ROE'S SADDLEBAGS, THEY COULDN'T FIND IT.



BENJAMIN TALMADGE ALSO DEVELOPED A SECRET SPY CODE. HE GAVE NUMBERS TO PEOPLE, PLACES AND COMMONLY USED WORDS.

- Appointment 28
- August 29
- Camp 73
- Ink 286
- Infantry 307
- Letter 356
- Man 371
- War 680
- Written 691
- George Washington 711
- Benjamin Talmadge 721
- Robert Townsend 723
- New York 727
- Long Island 728
- Setauket 729
- London 746

EVERY LETTER OF THE ALPHABET ALSO HAD A SUBSTITUTE LETTER.

- A = e
- B = f
- C = g
- D = h
- E = i
- F = j

A CULPER SPY RING MESSAGE MIGHT LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

729 29 15th 1779

Sir. Dqpeu Beyocpu agreeable to 28 met 723 not far from 727 & received a 356... every 356 is opened at the entrance of 727 and every 371 is searched, that for the future every 356 must be 691 with the 286 received.

TRANSLATED IT WOULD READ:

Setauket. August 15th, 1779
 Sir. Jonas Hawkins [an early spy] agreeable to appointment met Culper, Jr. not far from New York & received a letter... Every letter is opened at the entrance of New York and every man is searched, that for the future every letter must be written with the ink received.

ROBERT TOWNSEND RARELY HAD TIME TO GO HOME TO RAYNHAM HALL NOW. WHEN HE DID, HE SAW THAT SIMCOE AND SALLY WERE CONTINUING THEIR ROMANCE.



ON VALENTINE'S DAY, 1779, SIMCOE GAVE SALLY A VALENTINE HE WROTE HIMSELF



BUT WARTIME ROMANCES MUST COME TO AN END-- AND SO DID THIS. IN MAY WHEN SIMCOE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE FRONT, IT WAS TIME TO SAY GOODBYE.



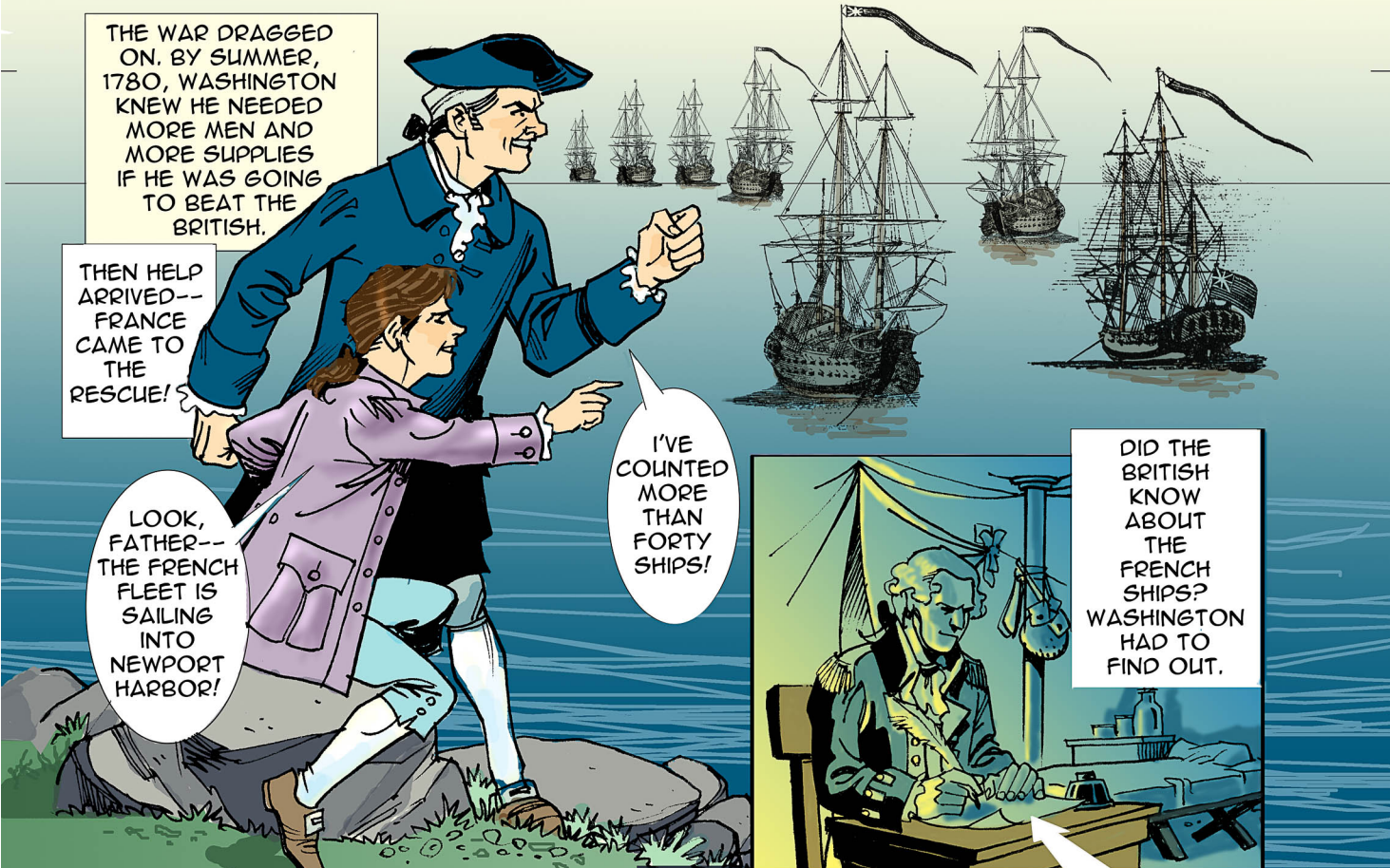
THE WAR DRAGGED ON. BY SUMMER, 1780, WASHINGTON KNEW HE NEEDED MORE MEN AND MORE SUPPLIES IF HE WAS GOING TO BEAT THE BRITISH.

THEN HELP ARRIVED-- FRANCE CAME TO THE RESCUE!

LOOK, FATHER-- THE FRENCH FLEET IS SAILING INTO NEWPORT HARBOR!

I'VE COUNTED MORE THAN FORTY SHIPS!

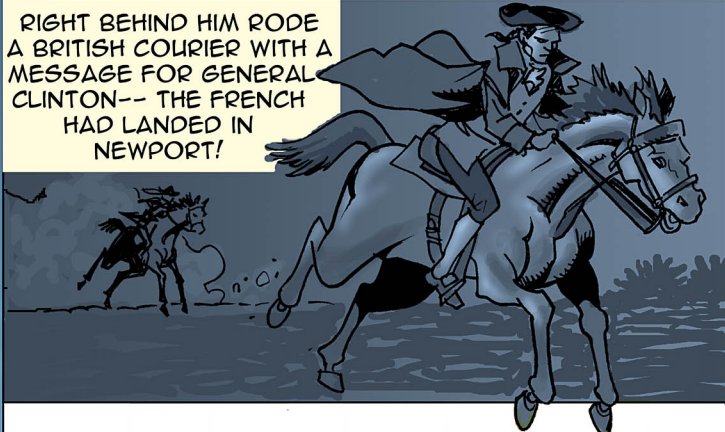
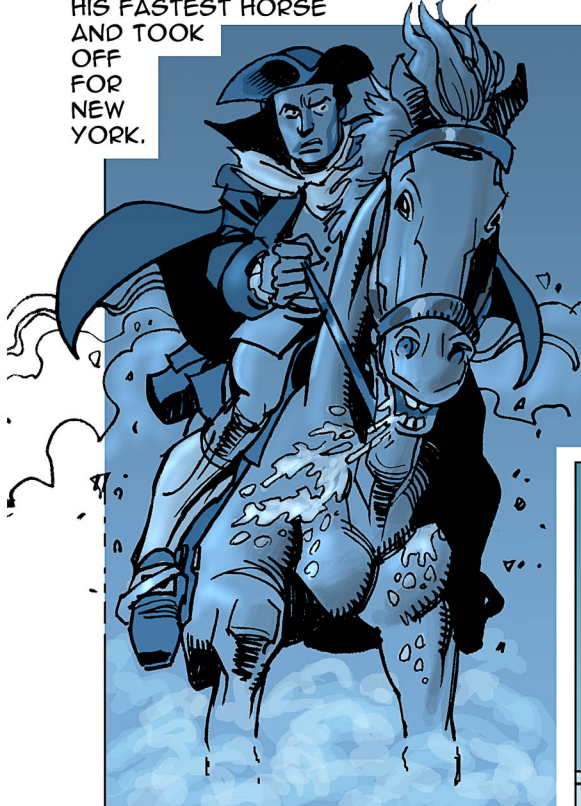
DID THE BRITISH KNOW ABOUT THE FRENCH SHIPS? WASHINGTON HAD TO FIND OUT.



AS SOON AS THE GENERAL'S MESSAGE REACHED HIM, AUSTIN ROE SPRANG ON HIS FASTEST HORSE AND TOOK OFF FOR NEW YORK.

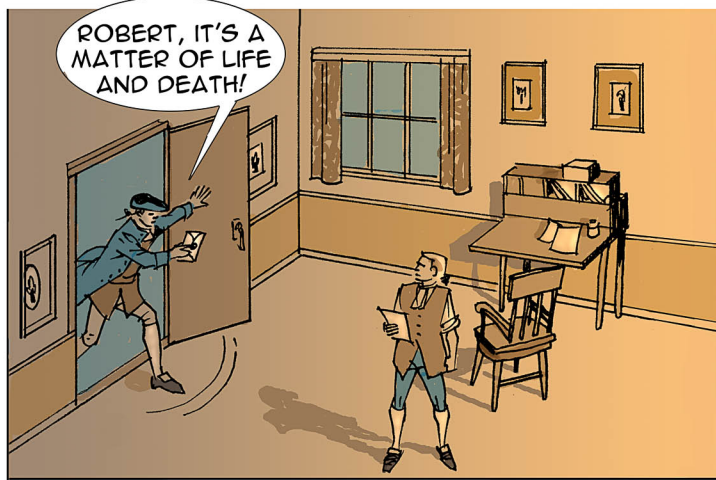
"JULY 11, 1780. AS WE MAY ANY MOMENT EXPECT THE ARRIVAL OF THE FRENCH FLEET... CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE CULPERS WILL BE OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE."

RIGHT BEHIND HIM RODE A BRITISH COURIER WITH A MESSAGE FOR GENERAL CLINTON-- THE FRENCH HAD LANDED IN NEWPORT!



6,000 FRENCH TROOPS HAVE LANDED ON AMERICAN SOIL.





ROBERT, IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

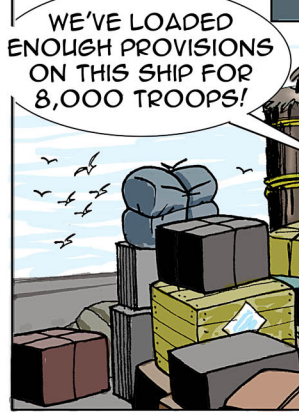


WE MUST ATTACK THEM IMMEDIATELY!

OH, THERE YOU ARE TOWNSEND. SORRY I CAN'T MAKE OUR CARD GAME TONIGHT.

WE SET SAIL IN THE MORNING.

WITH THE CLOCK TICKING, CULPER JR. WENT TO WORK. HE VISITED THE COFFEEHOUSES... AND THE WATERFRONT...



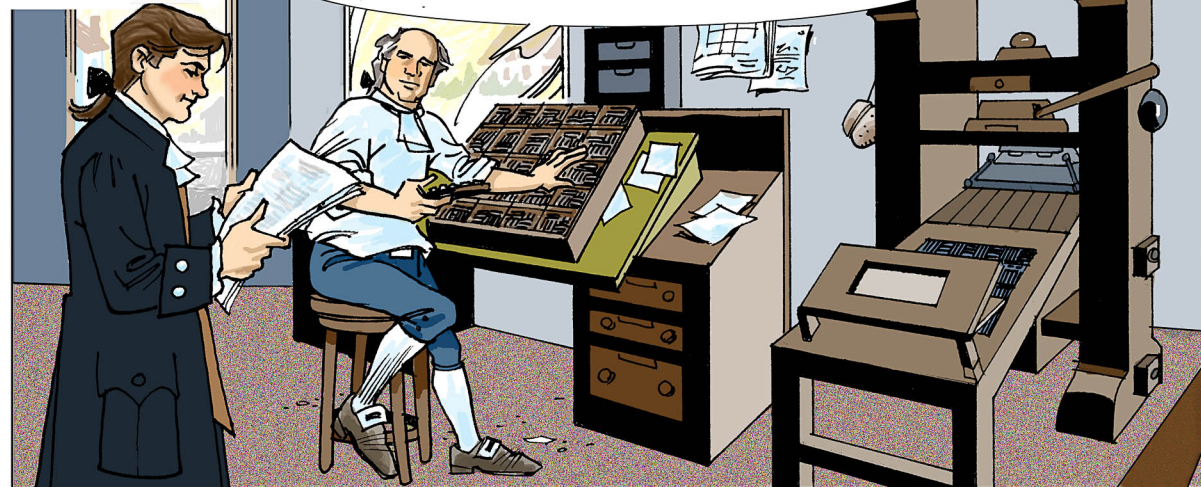
WE'VE LOADED ENOUGH PROVISIONS ON THIS SHIP FOR 8,000 TROOPS!

IT WILL SURELY SINK!



AND A TORY NEWSPAPER OFFICE...

THERE ARE TEN WARSHIPS ABOUT TO SAIL UP TO NEWPORT. IT WOULD BE A GRAND SHOW.

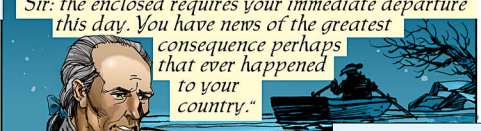


IN GREAT HASTE, CULPER JR. WROTE A MESSAGE IN INVISIBLE INK TO GENERAL WASHINGTON. HE HANDED IT TO ROE...



WHO GALLOPED BACK TO SETAUKET, AND DELIVERED IT TO CULPER SR...

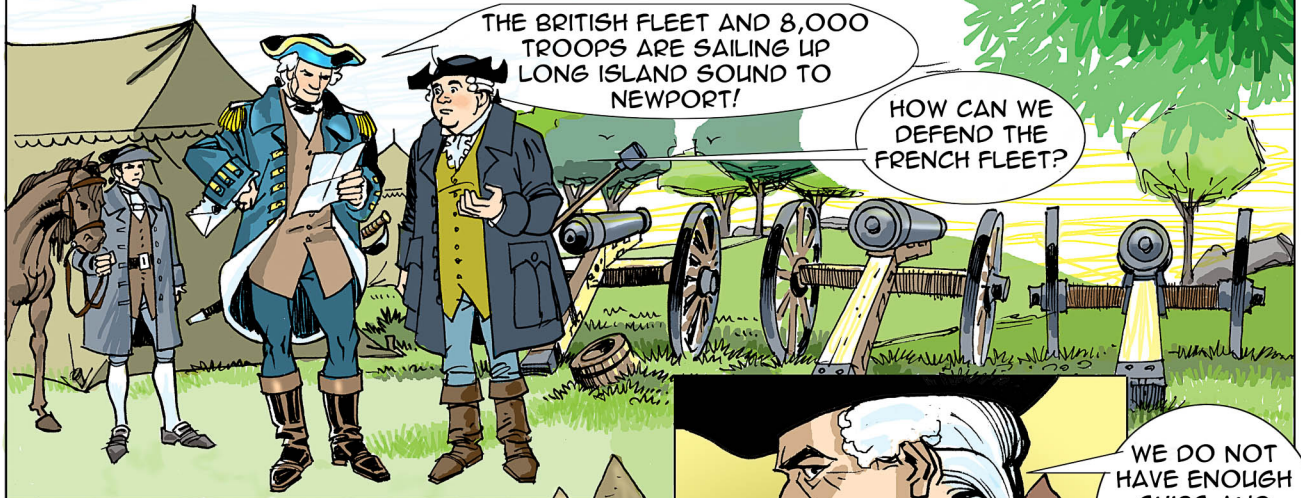
WHO SCRIBBLED A MESSAGE TO CALEB BREWSTER...



"Sir: the enclosed requires your immediate departure this day. You have news of the greatest consequence perhaps that ever happened to your country."

WHO RODE BACK TO CONNECTICUT WITH THE NEWS.

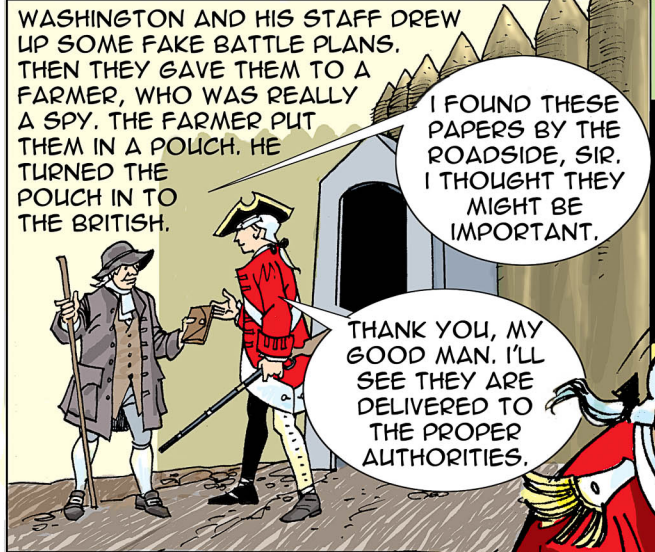
WASHINGTON HAD HIS INFORMATION BY 4P.M. ON JULY 2. IT WAS THE FASTEST WORK THE CULPER RING HAD EVER DONE!



THE BRITISH FLEET AND 8,000 TROOPS ARE SAILING UP LONG ISLAND SOUND TO NEWPORT!

HOW CAN WE DEFEND THE FRENCH FLEET?

WASHINGTON AND HIS STAFF DREW UP SOME FAKE BATTLE PLANS. THEN THEY GAVE THEM TO A FARMER, WHO WAS REALLY A SPY. THE FARMER PUT THEM IN A POUCH. HE TURNED THE POUCH IN TO THE BRITISH.



I FOUND THESE PAPERS BY THE ROADSIDE, SIR. I THOUGHT THEY MIGHT BE IMPORTANT.

THANK YOU, MY GOOD MAN. I'LL SEE THEY ARE DELIVERED TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.



WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH SHIPS AND MEN TO DEFEAT THE BRITISH IN BATTLE.

GENERAL CLINTON WAS FURIOUS WHEN HE READ THE FAKE BATTLE PLANS.

WASHINGTON IS GOING TO ATTACK NEW YORK CITY WITH 12,000 MEN!



WE CANNOT DEFEND OURSELVES, SIR. THE ARMY IS ON ITS WAY TO NEWPORT!

THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GET IT BACK!

THAT NIGHT, SIGNAL FIRES BLAZED DOWN THE LONG ISLAND COAST.

THERE MUST BE AN EMERGENCY. WE MUST RETURN TO NEW YORK.

REVERSE COURSE!

WASHINGTON WASN'T REALLY GOING TO INVADE NEW YORK. HE HAD TRICKED THE BRITISH.

HE AND THE CULPER RING HAD SAVED THE FRENCH FLEET!

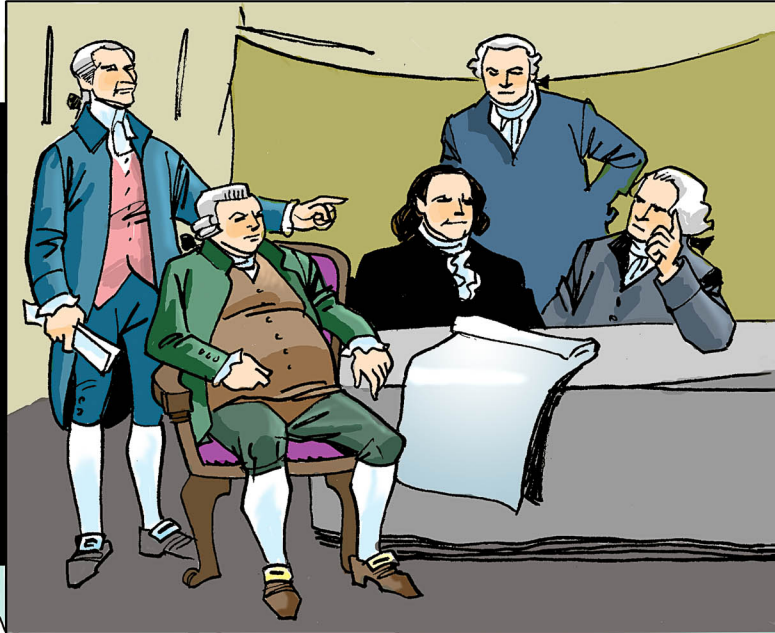
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WORE ON FOR MORE THAN A YEAR.

BLAM!

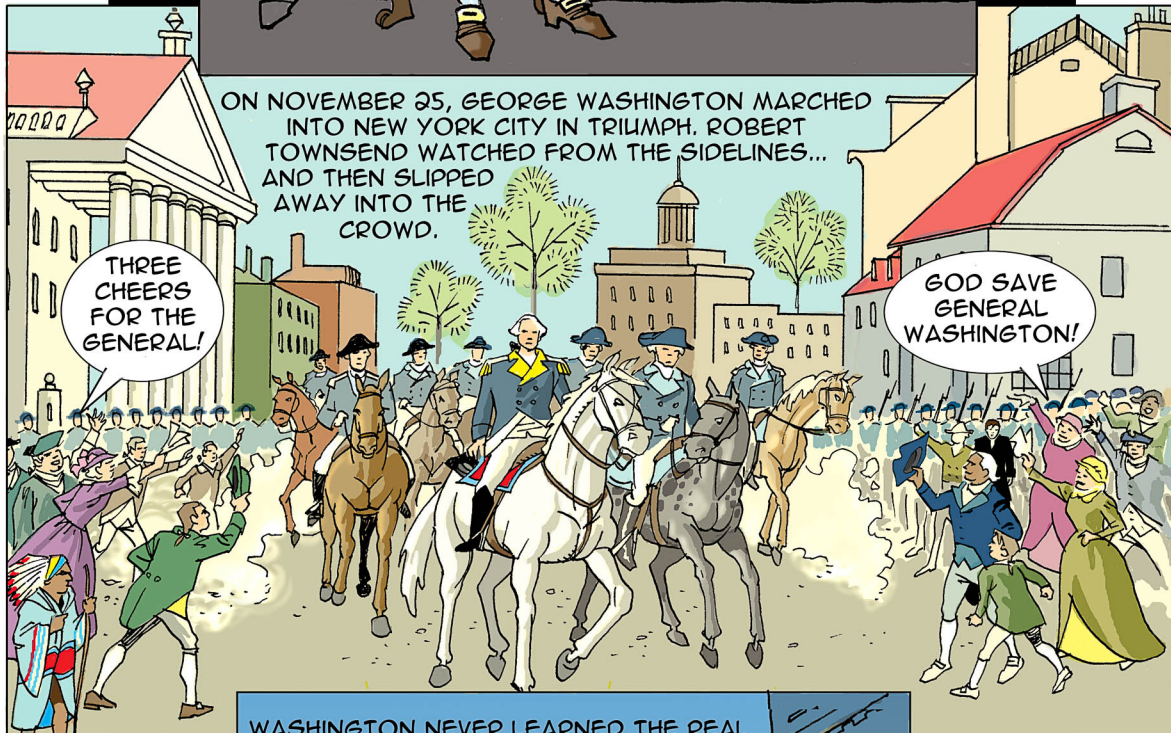
AGH!

FINALLY, WASHINGTON BEAT THE BRITISH AT YORKTOWN-- AND THE BRITISH GAVE UP. ON OCT. 18, 1781, BRITISH GENERAL CORNWALLIS SURRENDERED!

THE PEACE TREATY BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES WAS FINALLY SIGNED IN PARIS ON SEPTEMBER 3, 1783.



ON NOVEMBER 25, GEORGE WASHINGTON MARCHED INTO NEW YORK CITY IN TRIUMPH. ROBERT TOWNSEND WATCHED FROM THE SIDELINES... AND THEN SLIPPED AWAY INTO THE CROWD.

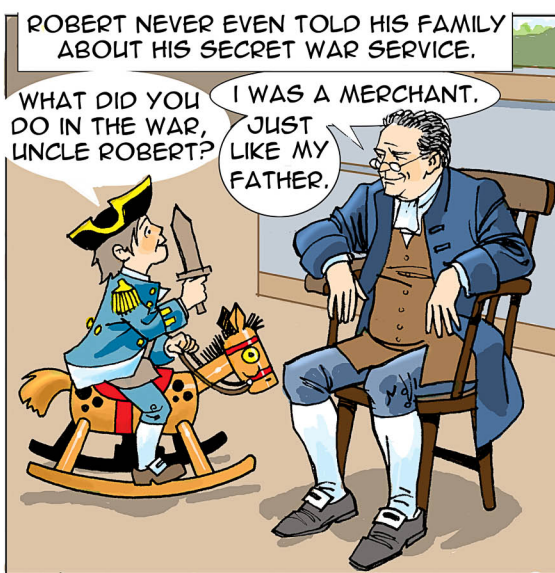


THREE CHEERS FOR THE GENERAL!

GOD SAVE GENERAL WASHINGTON!

WASHINGTON NEVER LEARNED THE REAL NAME OF HIS MOST IMPORTANT SPY.

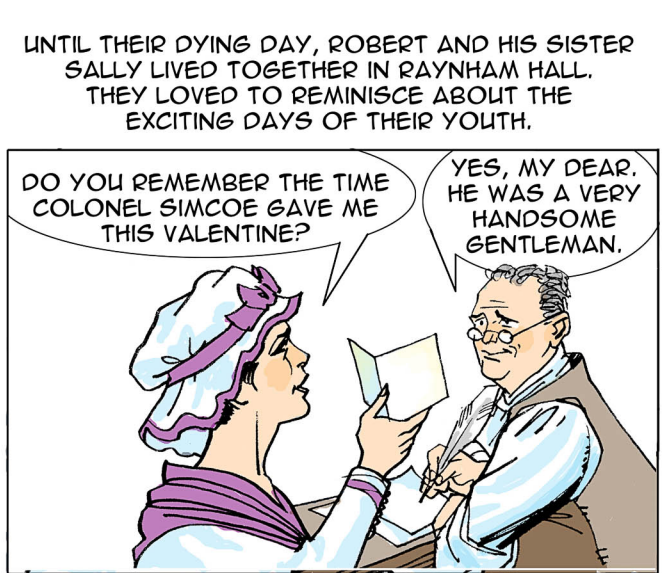




ROBERT NEVER EVEN TOLD HIS FAMILY ABOUT HIS SECRET WAR SERVICE.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, UNCLE ROBERT?

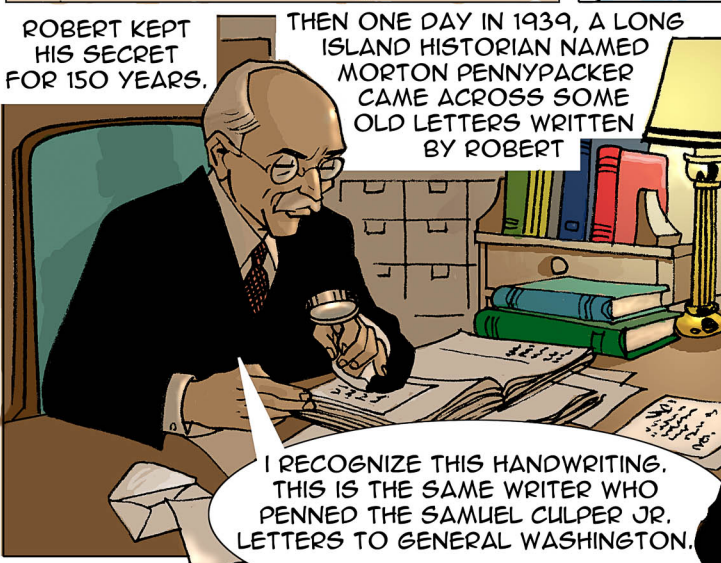
I WAS A MERCHANT. JUST LIKE MY FATHER.



UNTIL THEIR DYING DAY, ROBERT AND HIS SISTER SALLY LIVED TOGETHER IN RAYNHAM HALL. THEY LOVED TO REMINISCE ABOUT THE EXCITING DAYS OF THEIR YOUTH.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE TIME COLONEL SIMCOE GAVE ME THIS VALENTINE?

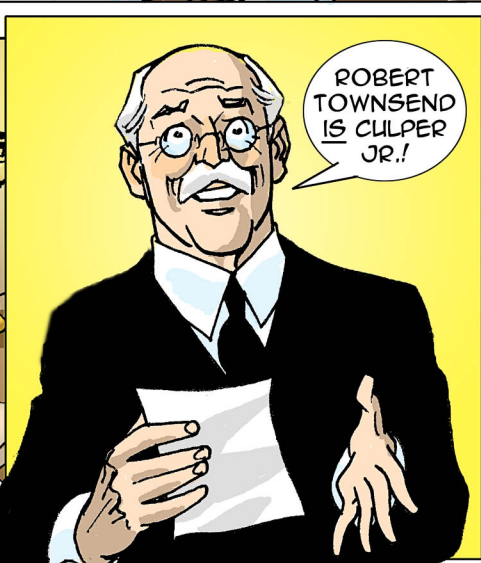
YES, MY DEAR. HE WAS A VERY HANDSOME GENTLEMAN.



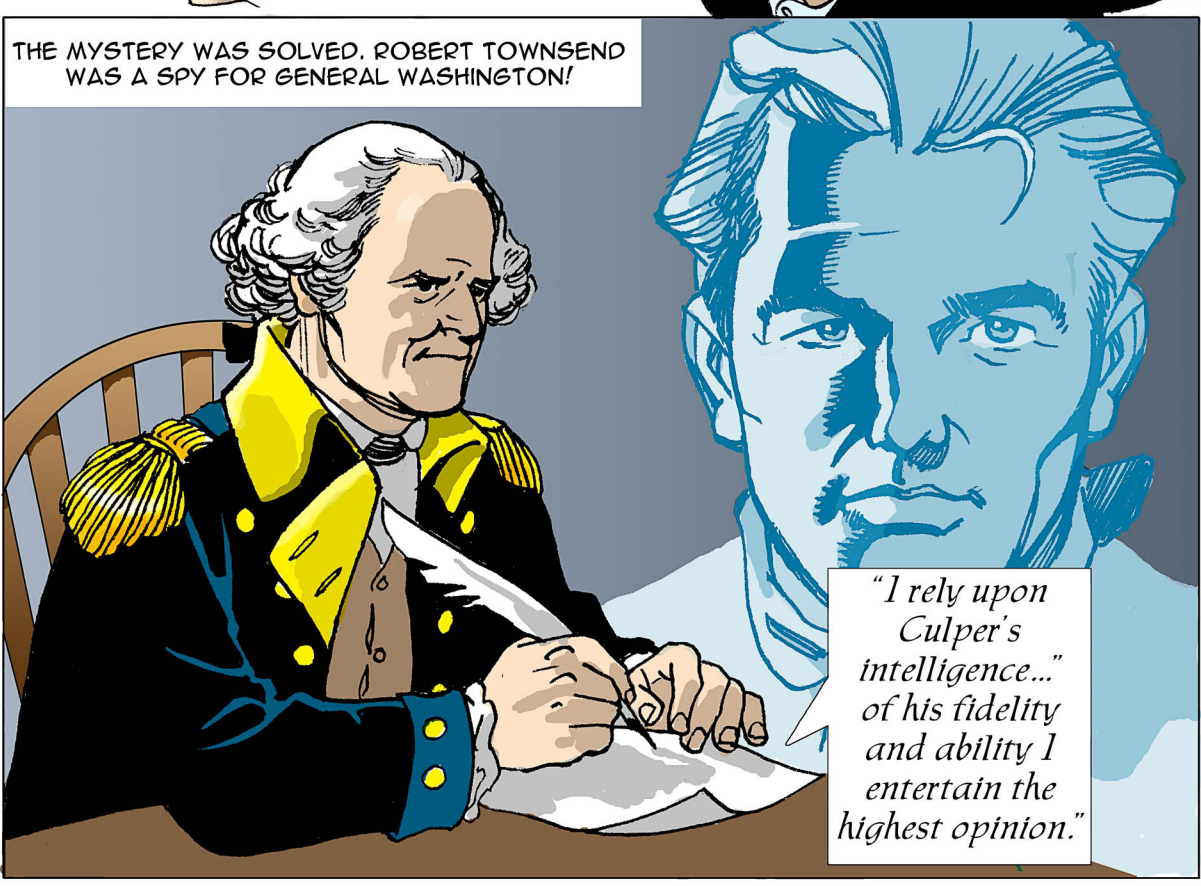
ROBERT KEPT HIS SECRET FOR 150 YEARS.

THEN ONE DAY IN 1939, A LONG ISLAND HISTORIAN NAMED MORTON PENNYPACKER CAME ACROSS SOME OLD LETTERS WRITTEN BY ROBERT

I RECOGNIZE THIS HANDWRITING. THIS IS THE SAME WRITER WHO PENNED THE SAMUEL CULPER JR. LETTERS TO GENERAL WASHINGTON.



ROBERT TOWNSEND IS CULPER JR.!



THE MYSTERY WAS SOLVED. ROBERT TOWNSEND WAS A SPY FOR GENERAL WASHINGTON!

"I rely upon Culper's intelligence... of his fidelity and ability I entertain the highest opinion."