

# Long Island in the American Revolution: A Partial Chronology, 1775-1783:

## Mainly Cross-Sound Invasiveness, Covert & Overt Intelligence

### 1773

March 15 **Brookhaven Town** sends a committee (Justices **Jonathan Thompson** and **Selah Strong**), who meet with the people of the **The Manor of St. George**, who desire annexation to Brookhaven Town.

Very close friends **Benjamin Tallmadge** and **Nathan Hale** graduate from Yale College and continue to correspond. Both teach.

### 1773-1775

Tallmadge, teaching in Weathersfield, CT, meets Silas Dean, John Chester, and Jeremiah Wadsworth

### 1774

March 31-June 11 Parliament passes the **Coercive Acts** (called the **Intolerable Acts** in the colonies), following the Boston Tea Party; these consisted of the *Boston Port Act* (closing the port of Boston), *Administration of Justice Act* (any trial could be arbitrarily transferred to Britain), *Massachusetts Government Act* (Royal Governor's powers enhanced at the expense of the Legislature and town meetings were curtailed), *Quartering Act* (troops could be quartered in private houses, not previously permitted), and *Quebec Act* (made the Ohio Valley part of Quebec, and established Catholicism as Quebec's official religion). The Ohio Valley was an area claimed by several other colonies, and making Roman Catholicism the official religion sparked Protestant protestations.

June 13 **South Haven Parish** appoints a local **Committee of Correspondence**

### 1775

April 19 Battles of **Lexington & Concord** – *Over the Fields and Far Away* the Revolution begins

After **Bunker (Breed's) Hill** (June 17, 1775), **Tallmadge** rides to Cambridge, to get a closer view of the conflict outside Boston, and meets college friend, **Capt. Chester**, who urges him to enlist. Resistant at first, he will only gradually change his mind, and heads home.

May 25 **William Smith** (of the **Manor of St. George**) informs Congress and the Brookhaven Town Board of his suspicion that parties in the **Winthrop Patent** [southeast Brookhaven Town] have been communicating with British ships off Sandy Hook, supplying them with food, secreting and running Connecticut Loyalist refugees to the British; a **Capt. Gyer**, and one **Mr. Fountain**, a gunsmith, are named as felons.

June 8 **Brookhaven Town** elects a 16-man **Committee of Observation**

June 27 **Brookhaven Committee of Observation** meets in **Coram**. **John Woodhull**, appointed Chairman, **Samuel Thompson**, Clerk. Affirming loyalty to the Continental Congress, it approves resolutions objecting to Parliament's treatment of the colonies, and esp. Boston, apologizes to Congress for being so late to the cause, due to strong Loyalist opposition in some parts of the Town, and pledges to keep a strict watch that no provisions reach the enemy

- July 8 **New York Provincial Congress** appoints **Cols. Phineas Fanning, David Mulford, and Capt. Timothy Earle** muster masters for **Suffolk County, NY**
- July 22 **Benjamin Tallmadge** is appointed **regimental adjutant**
- Aug 3 **Thomas Helme**, Chairman, **Brookhaven Committee of Safety**, denounces, to Congress, **Parson James Lyon, Benjamin Floyd** [a relative of **Abraham Woodhull**], Dr. **Gilbert Smith, Joseph Denton, Richard Floyd**, and **John Bayliss**, Inkeeper, as Tories, who “wish all congresses in hell”, and are suspected of provisioning British warships
- Aug 5 **NY Provincial Congress** sets standard pay and equipment of troops
- Aug 8 **Gardiners Bay**: A **British squadron** of 13 ships, including 2 warships (under Capt. **Abijah Willard**) arrives, offering to purchase livestock, under implicit threat of seizure. Abraham Gardiner refuses.
- Aug 11 **Continental Congress** is informed by the **Brookhaven Town Committee of Safety**, of six disloyal individuals (Loyalists)
- Aug 11-13 **Gardiners Island**: Capt. **Abijah Willard** orders his troops to **plunder the island**, afterward sails off. Gardiner’s Island will later serve as a British fleet anchorage for most of the war, guarding the Sound’s eastern approaches and exits, providing a rallying point for British naval sweeps and raids, and safeguarding British and Tory requisitioning, commandeering, and pillaging of Long Island’s East End.
- Aug 15 **New York Provincial Congress**: Companies of troops raised in Suffolk County are ordered to **Saratoga** and to report to **Major General Schuyler**, “with all dispatch”
- Aug 22 **NY Provincial Congress** enacts a detailed **Militia Act**
- Sept **Huntington Arsenal**, becomes a rebel depot
- Sept 5 **2<sup>nd</sup> Brookhaven Company** officers elected: **Ebenezar Miller**, Captain, **Caleb Woodhull**, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., **David Davis**, Ensign
- Sept 7 **Capt. Hulbert’s NY militia company** marches, under orders, from Montauk to New York, thence to **Ft. Ticonderoga** (captured earlier by Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold, “in the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress”)
- Sept 13 Officers approved, **1<sup>st</sup> Brookhaven Militia Co.**: Capt., **Samuel Thompson**; **1<sup>st</sup> Lt., Abraham Woodhull** [not exactly the bystander, stay-at-home-farmer depicted, until after the British occupation, in AMC’s TURN]; 2d Lt., **Isaac Davis**; Ensign, **Daniel Satterly**. Commissioned September 13, 1775. **2<sup>nd</sup> Brookhaven Militia Co.**: Capt., **Ebenezar Miller**; **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James Davis**; Ensign, **Davis Davis**. Commissioned September 13, 1775. **3<sup>rd</sup> Brookhaven Militia Co.**: Capt. **William Brewster**; **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Isaac Davis**; **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Uriah Smith**; Ensign, **Benjamin Woodhull**. Commissioned September 13, 1775.
- Oct 12 **\*Hempstead’s Political Divide** – The largely **Whig northern half of Hempstead Town** declares its independence (**extra-legally secedes**) from domination by the **heavily Tory southern half** (with the blessing of the NY Provincial legislature. This is confirmed only in 1784, *after* the war, by their official separation into the present towns of *Hempstead* and *North Hempstead*.)

**Notes on L.I. Villages, Towns and Counties, & NYC, at the Onset of the Revolution:**

- *Suffolk County* then included only **7 Towns**: Huntington, Smithtown, Islip, Brookhaven, Southold, Southampton, and East Hampton
  - The area of today's Babylon Town was part of *Huntington Town* (usually known as Huntington South).
  - Today's Shelter Island and Riverhead Towns were then part of *Southold Town*.
- *Kings County* included the Towns of Brooklyn, Bushwick, Flatbush, Flatlands, Gravesend, and New Utrecht.
  - Brooklyn was still a village (containing the main ferry to New York City), and was not yet an alternative name for Kings County, though it was also the name of a Town, *within* Kings County.
- *Queens County* contained the Towns of Newtown, Flushing, Jamaica, Hempstead\*, and Oyster Bay. The latter two (later three\*) towns occupied what would, *after 1900*, become Nassau County.
- *Kings* and *Queens Counties* (both still rural), did not become boroughs of Greater New York City *until 1899*.
- *New York City* then only included the lower tip of Manhattan Island (central and northern Manhattan being still relatively rural). A large swath of western New-York City (about ¼ of the city) would be devastated by the Great Fire of 1776, in the wake of Washington's withdrawal from lower to upper Manhattan. The devastated area would be rebuilt, along new lines, after the Revolution.

- Oct 13      New-York's **Royal Governor Tryon** (under threats to his life) boards *HMS Dutchess of Gordon*, effectively yielding Royal control of the city and colony of New-York to the rebels and their (extra-legal) **Provincial Assembly**
- Early Nov    **Queens County Tory candidates overwhelmingly win elections**, and vote not to send representatives to the Continental Congress or to the Provincial Legislature; Patriots ask the Provincial Congress for help against this effrontery.
- Late Nov     **Richard [not Edmund] Hewlett**, a leading Hempstead Tory, **receives arms, ammunition, and an artillery piece**, from patrolling frigate *HMS Asia*, **fortifies his house** in **East Rockaway**, NY, creating a rallying point, and **raises a company of Loyalist militia**.
- Dec 15      **Caleb Brewster** is named **2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant** of the **3<sup>rd</sup> Company of Brookhaven Minutemen**.
- Dec 31      **American Assault on Quebec**: led by **Gens. Montgomery** (kia) and **Arnold** (wounded in leg).

## 1776

- Jan 3        **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress** assigns **Nathaniel Heard** and **2 New Jersey Continental regiments**, accompanied by some rough types, **to disarm and bring into proper line Queens County Loyalists** – Loyalists will not forget the *humiliations, thefts, beatings, robberies, threats, intimidation, arrests, and general reign of terror* that accompanies their disarming; and will soon have 7 years to terrorize their present tormentors. But, for now, there is a general show of subservience to the Patriot faction, Hewlett and company excepted.
- Feb 15      **Dr. Samuel Thompson, Captain, 1<sup>st</sup> Brookhaven Militia Company**, sends **maps showing depths of Setauket and Stony Brook harbors** and description of beaches, to the **Suffolk County Committee of Safety**, as ordered. Also **recommendation that a fort be built** on the high banks of **Mount Misery Point fort** with 6 or 8 guns [artillery], some of which should be 9 or 12 pounders, overlooking the entrance to the harbor, and that a "capable gunsmith" be sent to them.

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- Defense of New York:** George Washington, still outside Boston, orders construction of a series of fortifications to protect the Hudson (or North) River, East River, seaward approaches to New York and Manhattan Island. **In Kings County**, Charles Lee lays out, Israel Putnam, and Nathaniel Greene supervise construction of well-sited chain of forts, redoubts, fleches, and other fortified positions across Brooklyn Heights, and to protect key passes through the heavily forested and thicketed Heights of Gowanus (or Guan), positions most likely to be threatened in an invasion. These include Fort Box, Fort Brooklyn, Fort Corkscrew (Cobble Hill or Spiral Fort), Ft. Fish (Redoubt on the Left), Ft. Defiance, Ft. Greene, Ft. Putnam (& Lunette Salient), Ft. Sterling, Gowanus Creek Entrenchments, Milldam Crossing Fleches, Narrows Forts, Oblong Redoubt, and nearby Flatbush Pass Breastwork, Governors Island Breastworks, and Red Hook fortifications, in addition to a fort on Governor's Island.
- March 4 Suffolk regiments are ordered to be kept in readiness to march at "a moment's warning"
- March 6 **Montauk vicinity:** British prize ship *Sally* is run aground, her prize crew (from *HMS Asia*) are taken prisoner and jailed in New York
- March 27 **Nathaniel Roe** and **Samuel Thompson** certify election of **Selah Strong, Capt.**; **John Clark, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt.**; **Caleb Brewster, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.**; **Nathaniel Brewster**, Ensign of a Minute Company in Brookhaven. These officers were commissioned on April 4.
- April 4 **Josiah Smith** is designated *Colonel*, **John Hulbert, Lt. Col.**, and **Ebenezer Dayton, Quartermaster** of the **Suffolk County Regiment of Minutemen**.
- Selah Strong** is designated **Captain**; **Caleb Brewster**, as **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt.** of the **Brookhaven, Smithtown, Manor of St. George & Moriches Company of Minutemen**.
- Apr 7-8 **British warships** appear North & South of **Montauk**. **Jonathan Dayton** parades his 40 men around a hill changing their appearances, before they reappear, to give the impression of being a much larger force, a time-honored (often successful) **ruse**. The British make a half-hearted attempt at a landing which is repulsed. Their ships weigh anchor and sail away.
- Apr 17 The 6-gun Sloop **Montgomery**, under **Capt. William Rogers**, is commissioned, to be fitted out as part of the **NY Provincial Navy**
- April 18 8 individuals are elected to represent **Suffolk Co. in the Provincial Legislature**, including: **Nathaniel Woodhull** (soon its president, and then a general, and *a relative of Abraham Woodhull*), **Thomas Tredwell**, **Selah Strong** (a judge, not a tavern keeper, & husband of **Anna Smith Strong**, mother of 6), **John Sloss Hobart**, **Thomas Wickham**, **David Gelston**, **Daniel Brown**, and **Ezra L'Hommedieu**.
- April 19 Having been fitted out, the sloop **Montgomery** was **ordered to begin raiding** the enemies of the United Colonies, anywhere **from Cape May to Montauk Point**, though some of these territorial waters were outside NY jurisdiction (in NJ waters).
- May 10 **Fort Ticonderoga** is taken by **Ethan Allen's** Green Mountain Boys from VT and **Benedict Arnold's** CT Militia
- June 8 **Jonathan Baker** and **Stephen Fountain** are convicted of taking up arms, fomenting discord, and corresponding with British ships, and are exiled to Congress for incarceration.
- June 16 British win a pyrrhic victory at **Bunker (Breed's) Hill**.

- June 19 **Fire Island Inlet** – American patrol boats *Montgerie* and *Schuyler* guard this entrance/exit, to/from [Great] South Bay, to interdict any Loyalist attempt to supply British warships.
- June 20 **The Continental Congress has orders the raising of Provincial troops.**
- New York Provincial Legislature** issues detailed, *“Instructions for the Inlisting of Men”*. **Robert Livingston**, President, New York Provincial Congress.
- Connecticut raises troops.** **Tallmadge**’s friend, now **Col. Chester**, offers him a post as **Lt.** in his regiment. **Tallmadge** accepts. **Gov. Jonathan Trumbull** (the only Royal Governor in the colonies to change sides) signs the commission. Chester’s regiment is ordered to New York, attached to **Jeremiah Wadsworth’s Brigade**
- June 22 or 23 **“Battle” of Hempstead Swamp** – **Richard Hewlett**, having raised and armed a small force of Loyalists, ambushed and defeated a small militia force sent to disarm him. This is usually regarded as the *first military engagement of the American Revolution on Long Island* (unless you count the earlier landing attempt near Montauk) and first skirmish of the Revolution *as civil war* on L.I.
- June 27 Brig. Gen. **Nathaniel Woodhull** (but not Selah Strong) is among those elected to a **4<sup>th</sup> Provincial Congress** (later called the Provincial Convention), with powers to establish a new form of government.
- July 2 **British forces begin landing on Staten Island**, opposite Manhattan and Long Island. American signal stations (established as an early warning system) line the western Kings County shore.
- July 2- 4 **U.S. Declaration of Independence** – **William Floyd** (Mastic, NY), **Francis Lewis** (Whitestone, NY), and **Philip Livingston** (owned a 2<sup>nd</sup> house in Brooklyn Heights, NY) have **no approval** as yet from the NY Provincial Legislature, **to sign**.
- July 22 **Benjamin Tallmadge** is promoted to regimental adjutant.
- Aug 10 **Josiah Smith** is ordered to move his troops west to join **Nathaniel Greene**’s brigade
- Aug 20-22 **British flatboats**, protected by warships, **land Sir William Howe’s invasion force on Long Island**, and they begin to expand from the perimeter of their beachhead. American Forces retreat northward, well ahead of them.
- Aug 24 **Robert Townsend** is appointed **Commissary** to **Gen. Nathaniel Woodhull’s Brigade** [**Townsend** is a cousin of **Abraham Woodhull**, and related to **Nathaniel Woodhull**, and is obviously not the neutral bystander, depicted in TURN]
- Aug 24 **Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Woodhull** is ordered to march half the western regiment of Suffolk County into western Queens County; Queens militia and troop of horse (of doubtful reliability) are to be called out to prevent stock and other provisions from falling into enemy hands, by removing or killing them
- Aug 25 **Committee of Deputies of Suffolk and Queens** order stock to the east end of the **Hempstead Plains**, under **Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Woodhull**
- Aug 26 **Lt. Col. Gilbert Potter** reports that the enemy landed between **Old Mans** [Mount Sinai, NY] and **Wading River**, and were shooting cattle. **Potter** expected the enemy to be in **Huntington**, by morning.
- Late Aug Chester’s regiment is transferred to Brooklyn

- Aug 26-27 **British and Hessian forces** (under **Gens. Grant and Von Heister**) threaten American forces guarding three passes through the **Heights of Guan**, masking the movement of **Sir William Howe's** main force of 10,000 (under **Gens. Howe, Clinton, Cornwallis, and Percy**) which stole a night march around **Washington's** virtually unguarded left flank, easily forcing **Jamaica Pass**. A small American patrol at **Jamaica Pass** is overwhelmed and captured. **Benjamin Tallmadge's** regiment tries to defend **Flatbush Pass** and retreats with the remnants of the American Army to the American fortified lines, then to Manhattan. His brother Sgt. **William Tallmadge** is taken prisoner, and dies on a prison ship. (That, certainly, fanned the flames of desire for revenge.)
- Aug 27 **Gen. Woodhull** reports cattle driven east to the boundary between Kings and Queens counties, but that the enemy camp is only 6 miles from him.
- Aug 27 **Battle of Long Island:** This was the **largest single battle of the Revolution**, in terms of forces engaged, and was very nearly decisive. By daybreak **G. Washington's** forces were about to be surprised and rolled up by **Howe's** brilliant flank march, as his forces simultaneously attacked the passes, pinning the Americans before them, until **Howe** arrived in overwhelming force, surrounding and capturing American generals **Alexander** and **Sullivan**, and considerable portions of these and other commands. American delaying actions allowed some of their forces to escape to the safety of the chain of fortifications, or through the marshes of **Gowanus Creek** to the fortified lines beyond. **Washington** had suffered a devastating defeat. But, Howe now faced Americans in imposing fortifications. Still fresh in his memory were the very serious losses that his forces paid in their head-on assaults at **Bunker (Breed's) Hill**. He halted. Rather than risk victory, or a reverse in the roll of fortune in an immediate assault on a demoralized enemy, he began to lay out siege parallels. It would only be a matter of time, before the American line was breached, and **Washington** and his army would be forced to surrender. Or, so he thought.
- Chester's regiment** is one of the defenders of **Flatbush Pass**, until overwhelmed by flanking British forces, under Howe, advancing from the east. Remnants, including **Tallmadge**, retreat to the American **Brooklyn Heights fortification line**. His brother, **William**, is captured and will die of starvation aboard a British prison ship.
- Aug 28 The British **17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons**, under **Oliver DeLancey, Jr.**, surround and seriously wound American **Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Woodhull**, who later dies of his wounds; and whose wife is given permission to bury his remains at their Mastic, NY, property. (Whether it was DeLancey who wounded or spared the general, who was a relative, is a matter of conflicting sources and conjecture.) The general was related to **Abraham Woodhull**, with whom this martyrdom was not likely to have sat well, and may have made his decision to become a spy a bit easier, perhaps as a matter of covert revenge.
- Cols. **Josiah Smith** and **Jeronus Remsen** are ordered to **Gen. Woodhull's** aid, and **Woodhull** is ordered to destroy all stock and grain in Queens and western Suffolk that cannot be moved to safety. **Gen. Woodhull** will never receive these orders, as he is captured by dragoons under **Oliver De Lancey, Jr.**, and severely wounded.
- Aug 28-29 **Washington's Army Evacuates Long Island:** Under cover of fog, with the British fleet held at a distance by contrary winds, the Americans slowly evacuated their positions, and marched to Brooklyn Ferry, while their fires were maintained, in a very risky operation. Moving supply wagons, ordnance, and

artillery with muffled wheels, trying to keep the horses quiet, marching as quietly as possible, and using small boats with muffled oars, manned by **Gen. John Glover's** seasoned Marblehead mariners, **Washington** oversaw a masterful and very narrow escape to Manhattan. Though a mostly dispiriting series of defeats, retreats, and desertions would ensue, the Continental Army itself would survive, to fight another day, and that was a key to ultimate victory. However, **with the evacuation to Manhattan, Long Island was forfeit.** A flood of refugees would soon flee Long Island, and those who remained would endure seven years of martial rule, which would devastate the island, punish the inhabitants, sometimes brutally, sometimes indiscriminately, and open the door to devastating raids in both directions across L.I. Sound. Many Long Islanders of neutral or loyalist persuasion in 1776, were won over the patriot cause, by the brutal behavior of the British Army, even on occasion toward its allies.

**Benjamin Tallmadge** is one of the last to leave for Manhattan. Then, according to legend, remembering a favorite horse, he received permission to risk going back, retrieved it, and was ineffectually fired on by British muskets as they arrive at Brooklyn Ferry, successfully rowing the safety of New York City.

- Aug 29 **New York Provincial Convention** recommends removal of as many women, children, slaves, livestock and grain, to the mainland, and the Convention will pay the expense. A major exodus follows, men included, partly depopulating the Island, for the duration of the war.
- Aug 31 The British advanced to **Newtown, L.I.**
- Sept 1 British **17<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons** arrive in **Huntington, NY.**
- Sept 1 & 5 **Intelligence blackout:** **G. Washington** orders generals **William Heath** and **George Clinton** to “establish a channel of information” on the British occupied Long Island side. He then repeats the urgency of the need for intelligence on British intentions and movements.
- Sept 3 **George Washington** tells the **New York Convention** that he can't spare troops to protect L.I. cattle. As, **Cols. Smith** and **Remsen's** regiments are believed to have disbanded, **Washington** recommends that Westchester and coastal New England committees watch all boats going to L.I., that *no armed American soldier in the New York service* be allowed to pass over to L.I.
- Early Sept. **Capt. Nathan Hale** transfers to **Knowlton's Rangers.** **Knowlton** is asked by **Washington** to send spies to L.I., by the back door, after a direct attempt yields worthless information. There are no volunteers, except **Capt. Nathan Hale**, who is warned that he lacks the necessary guile.
- Sept 11 **Staten Island Peace Conference** (Bilop Manor, Staten Island, NY) – The **Howe brothers** (Gen. William and Admiral Richard Howe), the British commanders, meet briefly with **Benjamin Franklin, John Adams,** and **Edward Rutledge.** Negotiations quickly fail, as the Americans insist on British recognition of U.S. independence, and neither side has the authority or the disposition to negotiate their view of that point.
- Sept 15 **British Land at Kips Bay** (Manhattan), *from L.I.* – After a short holding action, both armies race northward along roughly parallel lines; **Washington** manages to escape being cut off, reaching the safety of **Fort Washington;** as Howe tries to trap him, to force an American surrender.
- Sept. 15-16 **Nathan Hale** arrives at **Norwalk,** escorted to the **Huntington, L.I.** area by the ships *Schuyler* and *Montgomery.* **Robert Rogers,** aboard HMS *Halifax* seems to have had news from a Norwalk informant, who saw 2 men of military bearing board the *Schulyer,* but only one debark. *Halifax* arrived too late to intercept, learning that the 2 ships had deposited someone, and sailed back to CT. A game of cat and mouse began with the spy's capture **Rogers'** determined object.

- Sept 16 **Battle of Harlem Heights** – British are held at bay. A large portion of his army (6,000) will remain to hold **Ft. Washington**, when the main American Army eventually moves north. **Nathan Hale** moves westward to get closer to enemy lines., tracked by **Rogers**, who has sailed ahead of him, and lies in wait for him.
- Sept 20 **Nathan Hale** is tricked into revealing his mission to **Robert Rogers**, who poses as a fellow American spy.
- Sept 21 **Rogers**, bringing witnesses (introduced as friends of the cause), arrests **Hale**, takes him to **Sir William Howe**, who signs a death warrant.
- Sept 22 **Nathan Hale is executed**, for his honesty. The site of his initial landing place (perhaps **Halesite**, NY) and execution near the British Artillery Park had long become matters of debate, as were the famous last words attributed to him (which still remain the stubborn stuff of legend). Those memorable words, “I regret that I have but one life to give for my country” were put into his mouth by friends, many years later, who wished he had said it. The words are from taken one of Hale’s favorite plays in college (also, coincidentally, George Washington’s favorite play), Joseph Addison’s *Cato*. What *is* reasonably certain is that his death marked a sea change in the life of Hale’s former Yale College roommate, and chum, **Benjamin Tallmadge**. The motivation it gave **Tallmadge** might also have figured in **Washington’s** decisions to promote **Tallmadge**, and later, to hang **John Andre**.
- Loyalist **Capt. Jacob Smith** authorizes **Ensign Samuel Glover** to raise a company, to round out his 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, (Oliver DeLancey, Sr’s. Brigade) “in His Majesty’s service, **for the defense of the liberty of America.**”
- Sept 24 **Setauket** – **Capt. Daniel Roe** (a veteran of the French & Indian War), in attempting to spirit away his family and belongings to the safety of CT, ran into first one Tory, then another, who brought reinforcements. Abandoning his belongings, in the skirmish that followed, Roe, his wife and crew, narrowly escape.
- Early Oct **Tallmadge** succeeds **John Wyllys** (kia) as **Wadsworth’s brigade major**; in that capacity, he reports daily for orders, to George Washington, with other brigade majors, and relays those orders to his regimental adjutants
- Oct 11 **Valcour Island: Benedict Arnold’s** navy, though defeated by a more powerful British fleet, on Lake Champlain, halts the British advance from Canada, for that year.
- Benjamin Tallmadge** is promoted **brigade major**, filling a vacancy, and reports daily for orders, with other brigade majors, to **Washington**. His brigade remains east of the Hudson River until December, when it rejoined the main army.
- Oct 12 **“Battle” of Throgs (or ye Frogs) Neck** – A British force *from northwest L.I.*, lands in an attempt to outflank Washington, and trap him on Manhattan Island. The effort is frustrated by a small, well-positioned American force that has disassembled the sole bridge.
- Oct 18 **“Battle” of Pelham** – American **Col. John Glover** leads a series of well-executed actions, behind successive stone walls, delaying a British landing (*also launched from northwest L.I.*) on Pell’s Point (fought in the area of today’s Pelham Bay Park). These Fabian tactics allow Washington time to take the bulk of his army north, escaping being trapped in a pincer movement, if only to be defeated at the...
- Oct 18 **Capt. Jacob Smith** orders **Samuel Glover** (1<sup>st</sup> Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, DeLancey’s Brigade) to impress wagons and horses for His Majesty’s service. The number is unlimited; therefore do not stint the cause. If you

can't get a sufficient number of wagons, teams will answer – a driver for every team [forced labor], which you'll send without loss of time to White Stone [a British naval base], near Flushing....”

- Oct 24 The **Committee of Correspondence of Suffolk County**, *dissolves itself*, with permission of [i.e., under threat from] Gov. William Tryon, and asks for leniency.
- Oct 28 **Battle of White Plains** (Chatterton's Hill), another British victory, if a hard-fought one. Washington later loses a large portion of his army (6000 men), when Howe unexpectedly turns south, capturing **Ft. Washington**. It renamed Ft. Knyphausen, after the leader of Howe's German mercenaries. Loss of **Ft. Lee**, across the Hudson will follow.
- Oct 28 **Setauket Raid** – **Caleb Brewster**, **Daniel Roe**, & **George Smith** who were supposed to be rescuing goods from **William Floyd's** house, in Mastic, *divert the operation to Setauket*. Starting as a “cutting out” raid, they seize the cordwood sloops *Princess Mary* and *Lily*, then land, capturing **Capt. Jacob Smith** and 23 Tory soldiers of an under-strength company of the **1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Delancey's Brigade**, plus, “75 excellent muskets.” It was also disparagingly, condescendingly noted: “The prisoners are a motley *herd*, half being negroes and Indians.” [*Questions for historians: Who were they? What motivations led them to Tory service? What became of each of them, in CT? How did they fare, compared to their other fellow captives? What happened to each after the war?*]
- Oct 28 **Setauket Raid**: 36 men in 6 whaleboats, with 3 transports in tow, commanded by Lt. Cols. Livingston and Richmond, assigned to rescue William Floyd's effects from his home in Mastic Beach, gets sidetracked. Capts. **Caleb Brewster** & **Daniel Roe**, and **Lt. George Smith** persuade the expedition to go to Setauket, where they seize the sloops *Princess Mary* and *Lily*, both loaded with “requisitioned” cordwood. Livingston's troops land, surprise and take **Capt. Jacob Smith** and 23 soldiers of his company, half of whom are African Americans or Indians, plus “75 excellent muskets”. The expedition then returned to Connecticut, with its prisoners and prizes.
- Nov 16 **Fall of Fort Washington**. 6,000 American troops fall into British hands. Many will die in prison.
- Nov. 20 **Fall of Ft. Lee**, across the Hudson. **Washington** evacuated the fort and retreated southwest, through NJ.
- Note:** Horrific conditions await **American prisoners** in Manhattan and in Wallabout Bay. Before the war's end, some 30,000 Americans, including many from L.I., in British-held New York prisons, more than perish in all the battles of the Revolutionary war combined. (A searing account of it is presented in Edwin Burrows' [Forgotten Patriots: The Untold Story of American Prisoners During the Revolutionary War](#). New York: Basic Books/Perseus Book Group, 2008.)
- Nov 26 **Newport, RI** – A British Fleet, with 6,000 troops, under **Gen. Henry Clinton**, sails to seize the city.
- Dec 12 **Benjamin Tallmadge** accepts a **Captaincy** in **Elisha Sheldon's** elite **2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Light Dragoons**. **Tallmadge** was sent to CT to negotiate for horses and equipment, with Gov. Jonathan Trumbull and the CT Legislature.
- 1776-1780 **Sag(g) Harbor Fort** – Sag Harbor was a major whaling port before the war. With the Royal Navy in the area, esp. after Washington withdrew from L.I., privateers on the loose, a significant portion of the L.I. populace having made an exodus to New England, whalers found it more lucrative to obtain **letters of marque and reprisal**, and become raiders, rather than remaining profitable, tempting targets. The British, meanwhile, were commandeering supplies and boats to ship supplies to their army and fleet. One of the eastern centers of depot building and shipping was Sag Harbor. It also contained a hilltop fort (in today's Old Burying Ground) and an arsenal.

Dec 25- Jan 3, 1777 Campaign and Battles of Trenton-Princeton. Tallmadge is still in CT seeking horses.

## 1777

- **The British built a chain of forts and signal stations across northern L.I.**, mainly to control the western and eastern approaches of L.I. Sound (a/k/a The Devil's Belt), keeping their land and naval units apprized of enemy movements and activities, protecting the shipping of commandeered or plundered L.I. goods to New York, providing early intelligence of pending enemy raids, setting the stage for cross Sound raids by their regular and irregular forces, and making it easier for their forces to control eastern L.I., and supply themselves. One thing that tends to be overlooked in general histories is that **not all these forts existed at the same time**. They were **built and abandoned at different times**. Some were short-lived, like the **Setauket Fort**, or were destroyed by American raids, like **Fort Slongo**. Others withstood such attempts, or were abandoned, after repeated assaults.
- January 28 **William Duer**, on being asked, recommends **Nathaniel Sackett** of the **New York Committee for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies**, to Washington, as a potential spymaster.
- Jan/Feb **Ensign Caleb Brewster** transfers from **2<sup>nd</sup> Co./4<sup>th</sup> Battalion/4<sup>th</sup> NY Regiment** to the **2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Artillery**, which allows him the time he needs for covert operations.
- February 4 **Sackett** is offered the job. He accepts, and has many good ideas, but little success gaining useful information. **Washington**, eventually lost his patience with **Sackett** and fires him. (**Sackett** lives to a ripe old age and is not murdered, as shown in TURN, even applying to **Washington** for a pension.) **Tallmadge** is in charge of **Sackett's** courier service.
- Feb 25 **Major John Clark** (whom **Tallmadge** had gotten to **Setauket**, to spy along L.I.'s north shore) pays **Caleb Brewster** to carry a report to **Benjamin Tallmadge**, indicating no enemy troops in **Setauket**, but 2 under-strength companies at **Huntington**.
- March 7 **Sackett** sends a spy to NYC, who disappears, and is not heard from again.
- April 7 **Tallmadge** is promoted to *Major* (his former rank).
- April 22-28 **Danbury Raid & Battle of Ridgefield** – **Gen. Tryon** leads a successful, destructive raid on the American supply depot at Danbury. But their retreat was repeatedly contested by American brigadier generals, Wooster (kia), Silliman, and heroically, by **Benedict Arnold**. Thanks to a counterattack by **Gen. William Erskine**, the invasion force escapes to their ships, returning to **Whitestone**, L.I.
- May The sloop **America** seized 4 British ships (sloop *Generous Friend*, schooner *Success*, and 2 more sloops, one the *Polly*)
- May 24 **Meigs' Raid on Sag Harbor** – In retaliation for the **Danbury Raid**, a major British supply depot was sacked in an extraordinarily successful American raid: supplies, ships, forts, and prisoners were taken, The American raiders destroyed all they couldn't carry. British defenses were not rebuilt until 1780.
- **Southampton Fort** – British Fort (Windmill Lane, near Old Fort Pond)
- Early July The **2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Light Dragoons**, now mounted and equipped, are ordered to NJ, scouting for Washington's Army, having frequent clashes with enemy cavalry, also probing for useful intelligence.

- 1777-1778 **Fort Setauket** – The local Presbyterian Church on a rise on Strongs Neck Road near the village green (then larger than now), contained a palisaded earthwork, surrounded by an abatis, with swivel guns in 4 of the upper story windows. The lower story was converted into a stable. The Loyalist fort successfully resisted 2 American raids, in (Aug. & Dec.) 1777. **Richard (not Edmund) Hewlett** built and defended it, and some gravestones were knocked down by his Tory troops, though the fort was much much sturdier than in TURN, had a palisade, a surrounding abatis, but no tombstone artillery embrasures. It was ordered abandoned in early 1778, as a measure to consolidate his forces, while the main army with Sir William Howe was still in Philadelphia. The Presbyterian Church (which was used as a stable, and the Anglican Church (Church of England) next door (which was generally treated with respect) received some damage in the skirmishes. The Presbyterian Church burned down much later, and the present structure replaced it in 1811.
- Aug 22 **“Battle” of Setauket** – **Samuel Parsons**, with a sloop and 6 whaleboats (one commanded by **Caleb Brewster**), launches a raid on recently established Tory **Fort Setauket** (commanded by **Richard Hewlett**). Hewlett’s troops, have ransacked the **Presbyterian Church**, built a palisade and abatis around it, and mounted carronades (small swivel canons) in 2 upper church windows. (One is shown in the ground-level window in TURN.) The pastor of the church is not **Richard Woodhull** (who incidentally was not a Tory), but **Benjamin Tallmadge, Sr.** (father of the spymaster). His troops (as opposed to the village people, in TURN), have pulled down tombstones in the cemetery, but there is no record of their having used them as artillery embrasures, or of the fort being weakly constructed. After a polite 18<sup>th</sup> century parley, Hewlett declares his intents to defend the fort. A musket and artillery duel ensues. A massive glacial erratic in the woods, today called Patriot Rock, serves as a partial shield for American artillery during the duel. Apparently, the walls of the fort were not breached and the small caliber of the swivel guns in the church did little, except to keep the Revolutionaries at a distance. When it is learned that British ships have been sighted in the distance, Parson, begs leave of Hewlett, and his force make for his boats and the safety of Connecticut, stealing some Tory horses, including Hewlett’s en route. [The raid, to repeat, was led by **Samuel Parsons**, not by **Benjamin Tallmadge**, as in Season 1, Episode 10 of TURN, as Tallmadge was in New Jersey, though **Capt. Caleb Brewster**, also shown in the AMC version, actually was present, as commander of one of the raiding whaleboat crews, and perhaps as guide.
- Sept 11 **Battle of Brandywine.** **Washington** is again flanked by Howe, but manages an orderly withdrawal. Afterward, Philadelphia, the U.S. capitol, is abandoned to the British.
- Sept 19 **1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Saratoga (Freemans Farm):** **Benedict Arnold** halts an attempt by Burgoyne to flank the American fortifications, while American commander, **Gates** awaits the British assault, behind his fortifications.
- Oct 4 **Battle of Germantown:** **Tallmadge’s** dragoons are among **Gen. Sullivan’s** lead elements during the American night attack, covering the American withdrawal, after coordination of the assault goes awry, and the British rally and counterattack.
- Oct 7 **2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Saratoga:** Against orders, **Benedict Arnold** attacks British forward fortifications, forcing Burgoyne to retreat, while being severely wounded in the same leg wounded at Quebec. **Gen. Gates**, later accepts Burgoyne’s surrender, and takes full credit for the victory, which brings **France** into the Revolution on the American side.

- Dec 9-10 **Setauket and Southold Raids** – launched from New London. Both fail. The former was intercepted by the frigate *HMS Falkland* (an American sloop, 2 schooners, and 60 infantry were taken), the latter was foiled by pursuing infantry.
- Dec 14 British light horse surprise Tallmadge near Germantown, murdering 3 of his dragoons after they surrendered. Tallmadge will later capture the culprits, but reluctantly refrains from reciprocation (a far cry from the torture-happy scenes in TURN).

## 1778

- Feb [13-]16 **Coram Raid** – 12 Americans launch a series of thefts, ending with 2 wagons seized
- April 11 **Blue Point Raid** – **Ebenezer Dayton** captured 3 sloops, sank another ship, then returned to New Haven with his prizes; Blue Point was an important gathering and shipping point for goods extorted, commandeered, or seized on L.I. for trans-shipment to British HQ, N. America, in New York City
- April 11 **Stony Brook Harbor Raid** – 2 American whaleboats seized an armed sloop and a schooner
- April 14 **Tallmadge is reprimanded by Washington**: for failing to maintain his unit in fine trim, based on a report on his unit's condition the previous winter. Desertions took their toll over the winter, and continuous skirmishing previously had resulted in shortages of arms, equipment, mounts, pay, discipline, morale, and too much extended leave. An inspector went through at the worst moment, and made his report. **Washington** was livid. Tallmadge sent **Washington** excuses. **Washington**, unmoved, froze him out, for several months.
- May 10 **Blue Point Raid** – by **Ebenezer Dayton** and **William Clark**, with 2 whaleboats, seized 5 Tory ships well-armed and laden with oysters, and it was reported, might have take more ships but for the lack of sufficient crew to man them
- May 15 **Fire Island Inlet Raid** – American Capts. **Ebenezer Dayton & William Clark** seize 5 loaded coasting vessels
- May 20 **Henry Clinton** becomes **Commander-in-Chief, British Forces, North America**, succeeding **William Howe**, who resigned. **Clinton** soon commences retreat from Philadelphia to New York.
- Late May **Tallmadge** is ordered to Peekskill, then to Dobbs Ferry, NY, under Gen. Horatio Gates's command.
- May 25 **Blue Point Bay** – blockaded by 4 American whaleboats
- June 3 **2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Light Dragoons**, are stationed at Dobbs Ferry, NY.
- June 5 **Long Island Sound** – **Ebenezer Dayton**, in the armed schooner *Suffolk* accompanied by 4 whaleboats, seize 4 British merchant ships (*Dispatch, Polly, Lively, and Jane*)
- June 5-6 **A series of successful American Whaleboat Raids** on *Blue Point, Southampton, Setauket, and Drowned Meadow* [Port Jefferson]
- June 28 **Battle of Monmouth Courthouse**. After an initial American rout, the Americans rally, hold their lines, hold the field, and Clinton resumes his retreat unmolested to Sandy Hook, then by sea, to NYC. Washington's forces form *cordon sanitaire* (a large arc), to contain, if not besiege **Clinton**.

- With another **information blackout on British Forces in New York**, **Washington** again needed intelligence agents placed to learn the organization, intentions, and anticipated movements of the enemy.

July According to one story **Abraham Woodhull** is captured by a Continental warship while sailing to sell his farm produce to the British, in New York. He is released from a Connecticut prison, by **Gov. Jonathan Trumbull** (the only Royal Governor to change sides, through **Benjamin Tallmadge's** intervention. **Tallmadge** approaches **Woodhull** to spy for the Americans. **Woodhull** agrees. Another source says that it was an **Abraham C. Woodhull** who was captured and released, not the spy.

July 22 Admiral D'Estaing's fleet arrives off New York

July 29 Admiral D'Estaing's fleet arrives off Newport, RI, to coordinate operations against Gen. Pigot's British forces, with American Gen. Sullivan.

Aug 7 **Lt. Caleb Brewster** writes to **Washington**, from Norwalk, CT, offering to gather intelligence information.

Aug 8 **Tryon's March** – Royal Governor Tryon arrives in Setauket, at the head of 1000 men, orders all grain threshed, cattle turned over to the British Army, and offers a choice: (a) take *oaths of allegiance* to the King, or (b) vacate to Connecticut.

Aug 12-13 the After **D'Estaing** and **Admiral Howe** form lines of battle, a **violent storm** (perhaps a hurricane) scatters French and British fleets, severely damaging many. After some small ship-to-ship actions both fleets retreat for repairs, D'Estaing to Boston, Howe to New York

Aug 27 **Caleb Brewster reports** seeing the ships-of-the-line, *Isis* (50 guns) and *Renown* (64) severely damaged, and frigate *Apollo* (36) arriving at New York. He also reports about 1,000 British troops in the Brookhaven area, preparing to move out, and 26-30 ships in Huntington Harbor, preparing to sail to RI. Several regiments have been moved from NYC to Brooklyn. **Washington** is duly impressed.

Sept 1 **Clinton** arrives at Newport with 10 regiments

Sept **Gen. Charles Scott**, who has charge of the American Light Infantry, is pressed by **Washington** to insert spies behind enemy lines to gather intelligence. He is placed in charge of **Caleb Brewster** and is assigned **Benjamin Tallmadge** to help. **Scott** is less than thrilled, and lets **Tallmadge** handle most of it (having received some training from **Sackett** and **John Clark**).

Sept 10-12 **Gen. Charles Scott** demonstrates his traditional espionage approach (quick in/quick out), by sending 1 individual, then 3, then 1, offering comparisons. The individuals who went in singly returned. The 3 who went at the same time were caught.

Sept 25 **Washington** o.k.'s **Benjamin Tallmadge's** approach.

Late Oct **Tallmadge** prepares **Brewster** and **Woodhull** for active service

**Culper (or Setauket) Spy Ring is formed**, with **Benjamin Tallmadge** at its head, reporting to **George Washington**, **Abraham Woodhull** as spy chief on L.I., **Caleb Brewster** covering the sea route across Long Island Sound, and **Anna Smith Strong** (alias "Nancy") believed to be signaling **Woodhull** when Brewster had landed, and in which of six coves he could be found, and **Brewster**, in which cove it was safest to land, via placement and color of laundry on a clothesline. [Strong, Kate Wheeler. "Nancy's Magic Clothesline." *Long Island Forum*, 18(2) Feb. 1955: 37-38.]

- 1778-1782 **Fort Franklin** – on northwestern Lloyd Neck, named after **William Franklin**, former Royal Governor of New Jersey (Benjamin Franklin’s estranged, Loyalist son) stood on a high promontory with a sweeping view of the Sound toward CT, guarding the sea approaches to Huntington and Oyster Bay. It also guarded a **Loyalist whaleboat fleet (the Armed Boatmen)**, and served as a base for raids on the New England Shore and for depredations against L.I. It became a favored target of counterattacks by American forces, as did the whaleboat fleet. It contained a square fort with a central blockhouse. HQ was at the Lloyd Manor House, where a local slave, **Jupiter Hammon**, who was encouraged in his literacy, was to become America’s first published black poet. The British remained here, a thorn in America’s side, 1778-1782. Privateers, pirates, raiders and kidnapers found safety here, and **Benjamin Tallmadge** was briefly kidnapped, and nearly taken here.
- Oct 5 **Blue Point Raid** – **Ebenezer Dayton** captured 2 sloops
- Oct 29 **Narragansett** – **Silas Talbot**, in the CT sloop *Hawk*, seized the 8-gun British schooner *Pigot*
- Nov 19 **John Graves Simcoe (Queens American Rangers)** moves from Kingsbridge to **Oyster Bay**, constructing a **hilltop fort** (on what is today Capital Heights, Orchard & Prospect Sts.) protected by fascines, with loopholes, and a surrounding abatis, made by cutting down **Samuel Townsend’s** orchard, the Simcoe’s HQ was at **Raynham Hall**, Townsend’s house (now a museum). He desecrates the Presbyterian Church and the Quaker Meeting House, turning the latter into an arsenal). Elite Highland and Grenadier companies guarded the beach against American raids. The village served as a cantonment, and today’s *Oyster Bay Historical Society HQ was once a British Barracks*. **Oyster Bay was occupied, 1778-1783**, and was the main British base in eastern Queens County (today’s Nassau Co.). It had as strong Loyalist leanings, as Huntington, next door, had strong Patriot leanings.
- Nov 20-21 **Raid on St. George’s Manor** – **Ebenezer Dayton** tried to seize 4 vessels, 2 each day, suffered losses, was captured ashore while attending his wounded, and imprisoned in New York
- Nov. 27 **Setauket kidnapping** – Tory **Col. Benjamin Floyd** a relative of **Abraham Woodhull**, who had vouched for Woodhull’s loyalism at least twice saving his neck, was kidnapped from his bed, and spirited off to Norwalk, CT, for exchange with a high ranking American prisoner. **Abraham Woodhull** somewhat frantic at losing his protector, appealed to **George Washington**, who eventually, reluctantly released Col. Floyd.
- [1778]-1781 **Fort Slongo (Salonga)** – Treadwell’s Neck (on Rte. 25A) – Earthwork redoubt, central blockhouse (behind 46 Brookfield Rd.), ditch and 7 ft. high wall, garrisoned by Tories, captured by Americans and destroyed, Oct. 1781. The garrison was supposedly drunk at the time, having no sentries posted.

## 1779

- Feb 5 **Maj. Gen. D. Jones, Commandant of New-York issues permission to de-fence and defoliate rebel estates.** “Permission will be granted to the Farmers and Gardeners of these islands that have not wood on their lands proper for fencing) to cut railing for fences, on the lands of persons not under the protection of Government, on Long Island, or Staten Island.”
- March 10 **Huntington** – Loyalists post a “Warning to Travelers” of a party of rebel highwaymen, reputedly headed by **Jesse Brush**, centered at Bread and Cheese Hollow.

- April 24 **Simcoe Raids Setauket** – Based on an informer’s denunciation, looking for **Abraham Woodhull**, and not finding him at home, Simcoe took his vengeance out on his father, and had his troops loot his father’s property.
- July 3-14 **Tryon’s Raid on CT** – His fleet sailed from New York (JI 3) to assault **New Haven-East Haven** & take **Black Rock Fort** (JI 5), then assaulted **Fairfield** (JI 8-9), rested and refitted in occupied **Huntington**, L.I. (JI 10-11), then sailed to attack **Norwalk** (JI 11-13), returning to **Huntington**, L.I. (JI 14), where Tryon was recalled to New York. G. Washington sent CT militia to counter the invasions, but his Army remained in place, defeating Clinton’s intent to draw the main rebel army into the open and defeat it. While it was a destructive and vindictive raid, drawing condemnation from both commanders, it changed little except perhaps to intensify whaleboat warfare, while lowering moral strictures against retaliation.
- Aug 14-15 **Coram-Setauket-Crane Neck (Old Field)-Drowned Meadow (Port Jefferson) Raid**, led by **Ebenezer Dayton**
- Sept 5 **Lloyd Neck Raid** – **Benjamin Tallmadge** and 130 dragoons sailed from Stamford, CT, surprised the Tory encampment, burned their huts, burned their boats, seized or destroyed supplies, seized prisoners, though nearby **Ft. Franklin** was alerted, and the chance to take it by surprise was lost. Still a highly successful American raid. The camp and fleet would be rebuilt and reinforced by a couple of small British warships. The Loyalists would live to raid again.
- Oct 1 **Blue Point Raid** – **Isaac Deming** captured 2 sloops
- Oct 9 **Blue Point Raid** – **Thomas King** captures a transport bearing 122 soldiers and 7 German officers.
- Oct **Newport, RI** -- British forces withdraw
- Nov 6 Loyalist Judge **Thomas Jones** (Massapequa, NY) is captured for later exchange by patriot raiders
- Oct 31-Nov 1 **Setauket-Old Man’s (Mount Sinai) Raid** – 3 American whaleboats landed, raiders robbed Capt. Solomon Davis (at Old Mans, on Oct 31); next, the hapless Col. **Benjamin Floyd**, and **Andrew Seton** (both of Setauket, on Nov 1)

## 1780

- **Good Ground** (Westhampton) -- en route to Southampton, **Sir Henry Clinton** has **John Andre** sketch a map showing the Canoe Place portage area, with an eye to establishing British fortifications across the peninsula to discourage American raids into Great South Bay and on the South Fork of L.I.
- Apr 20 **Blue Point Raid** – **David Hawley** captures 11 ships, destroying 7
- **Fort St. George** -- A triangular fort built by Tories in 1780, connecting 2 buildings in the Smith estate, to a square fortified structure, to the northwest, guarding a British supply base, near Old Inlet. The main fortification contained a palisade, moat, and nearly surrounding abatis. It was taken and destroyed shortly after its construction, and it never had its full complement of artillery, nor was it rebuilt.
- July 15 **Setauket Hostage Raid** – Dr. Punderson was captured to exchange for John Smith; William Jayne, Jr. was seized to exchange for William Philips

- Aug 17      **Setauket** – **Caleb Brewster** and crew fight Tory **Cpts. Glover and Hoyt** and their crew. The Tories withdraw, and Brewster returns to CT, with vendetta in mind
- Oct 5        **Great South Bay** – **Elisha Elderkin's True Blue**, seizes **Daniel Pardue's Betsey** as a prize
- Nov 21-23   **Tallmadge Raid** : "**Battle**" of **Ft. St. George (Mastic) & Burning of the Salt Hay Depot (Coram)** – Sailing From Fairfield in a cross-island raid, initially delayed by rain, the fort was surprised, its garrison was captured, ships in the harbor were set afire, and en route back George Washington's prime target a massive hay stack was destroyed, in one of the most successful American raids of the war. (Today's Tallmadge Trail commemorates the route taken, though not exactly.) Later, Washington will award the **Badge of Military Merit (first Purple Heart)**, to **Sgt. Elijah Churchill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Dragoons** (now commemorated by a public house in Northport).
- Nov. 27     **Setauket Raid** – **Col. Benjamin Floyd**, a Tory officer and relative of **Abraham Woodhull**, was captured and spirited off to CT, only to be very reluctantly released, at **Woodhull's** pleading, as **Floyd** had vouched for **Woodhull's** Tory credentials, and already saved him, more than once.
- Dec. 21     Loyalist **Capt. Nehemiah Marks** (of the Armed Boatmen), usually based at Lloyd Neck, writes from Flushing, L.I., to inform **Oliver De Lancey, Sr.**, that the two Roe brothers of Drowned Meadow, L.I. (today's Port Jefferson), have been aiding the enemy: **Phillips Roe** providing supplies and goods, **Nathaniel Roe**, providing intelligence, notably to **Caleb Brewster**. The activity also extends along Old Mans Road (Old Mans being the former name of Mount Sinai, NY). **DeLancey**, in turn, advised not to arrest, but keep an eye on them (hoping to catch bigger fish).

## 1781

- Jan 23      **HMS Culloden 74-gun ship-of-the-line, runs aground in a storm** – After repeated, unsuccessful attempts to refloat the battleship, some of her armament was removed to the British naval base at Gardiner's Island, some spiked and thrown overboard. Culloden was then burned to the water line, to prevent the Americans from refloating and using her. The American's had nothing comparable in their navy, and the British were not about to risk such a prize falling intact, into enemy hands. A fair number of the artillery were recovered and offered to G. Washington. The shipwreck site, now Culloden Point, near Montauk, is today on the National Register of Historic Places, and a popular dive site.
- Feb         **Long Island Sound** – **Caleb Brewster's** 3 whaleboats ambush and capture a Tory whaleboat. Prisoners are sent under guard to Gen. Parsons (2 escape en route).
- March 31   **Skirmish in L.I. Sound**: 3 Loyalist ships (2 armed with swivel guns) are attacked by 4 American whaleboats. The latter were defeated.
- Apr 17     **Long Island Sound** – **Ebenezer Hathaway's** (Tory) boat is captured. His crew and he are taken to Simsbury mines as prisoner.
- May 18     **Simsbury Mines** – **Ebenezer Hathaway** leads a breakout, later providing information to the British compromising one of **Tallmadge's** temporary spies (**Nathaniel Ruggles**), who had just returned to CT, narrowly avoiding capture and hanging.
- June        **Long Island Sound** – The 6 gun CT galley *Adventure* recaptures the British schooner *Sword Fish*.

- July 12      **Battle of Ft. Franklin** (Lloyds Neck) – An unsuccessful Franco-American assault, on the key to destroying the center of Loyalist whaleboat raiding activity. British artillery repeatedly forced Franco-American assault forces to falter, then retreat to their boats.
- Oct 3        **Battle of Ft. Slongo** (Ft. Salonga) – successful American raid by forces under **Benjamin Tallmadge**, the fort and its supplies were destroyed, the garrison, supposedly drunk at the time, was taken prisoner. An historic marker on Route 25A, outside a strip mall shopping center (not far from Elijah Churchill’s Public House), marks the rough vicinity of the fort.
- Sept 6       **New London / Ft. Griswold (Groton, CT) Raid** -- **Benedict Arnold** led a devastating raid on his home town (from Greenport, L.I.), setting New London ablaze, condoning a Tory massacre of much of the surrendered garrison of **Ft. Griswold** (Groton, CT), opposite the town.
- Nov 1        **Blue Point Raid** – **Elisha Elderkin** captured a 35 ton schooner
- Winter       **Norwalk-Long Island Sound-Norwalk** – Attempting to chastise **Capt. Hoyt** for smuggling, **Tallmadge** boards *Shuldham*. Hoyt casts off, *kidnapping Tallmadge*, sailing directly for **Lloyd Neck**. A threatening match ensued. Presented with the certainty of hanging, **Hoyt** (who’d pretended to have changed sides) relented, and sailed back to Norwalk, where he jumped ship, and soon resumed his guise as a Tory, while continuing to pillage both sides. **Benjamin Tallmadge** returns to duty. But, Hoyt’s days are numbered.

## 1782

- May 5        **Setauket** – **Abraham Woodhull** reports peace terms are about to arrive, and the British army is beginning to stand down, 3 months ahead of official news.
- May 8        **Blue Point Raid** – **James Young** captures a British schooner
- \_\_\_\_\_      **Fort Golgotha** built on **Benjamin Thompson’s** orders (**King’s American Dragoons**), by using timber from barns, from the local Presbyterian church, and tombstones from its graveyard, as fireplaces, ovens, tables, paving stones, and local forced labor. **Benjamin Tallmadge** planned raids on the fort, but the fort was abandoned, later the same year, eliminating the need. Huntington’s Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building, honoring Civil War Veterans, is built in front of the site of the 2 acre palisaded enclosure, Fort Golgotha, the Old Burial Hill Cemetery. After the Revolution, both the Cemetery and the Presbyterian Church were rebuilt and re-consecrated. (Golgotha is Greek for Calvary.)
- Dec 7        **Skirmish in Long Island Sound** -- As **Benjamin Tallmadge** was embarking **2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Light Dragoons** for a raid on Huntington, 3 Tory whaleboats appeared in view. **Caleb Brewster** was detailed to chase them down and capture them, with his superior force. The elusive **Captain Hoyt** commands the enemy squadron. Two of his boats are captured, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> escaped to **Lloyd Neck** to sound the alarm. In a rather bloody struggle between the two lead ships, **Brewster** was seriously wounded, **Hoyt** was killed. **Tallmadge**, with the element of surprise lost, called off the raid. **Tallmadge** and **Brewster** receive plaudits from **Washington** for their judgment and conduct. The **Huntington raid** was to have been in retaliation for **Benjamin Thompson’s** humiliation of the town, and to destroy **Fort Golgotha**. The residents of Huntington’s private reactions can only be imagined.

## 1783

- March 2      **Fire Island Inlet** – **Thomas Wickham** captures a 50 ton schooner
- March        **Huntington: The Kings American Dragoons** burn their barracks at **Ft. Golgotha**, perhaps in anger at their sense of betrayal by Britain.
- Sept 3      **Treaty of Paris** – peace breaks out, U.S. independence is recognized.
- Sept 8      **2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion\***, **DeLancey's Brigade** – 60 Loyalists from this unit elect to be discharged and remain in the United States (\*formerly the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, reorganized as the 2<sup>nd</sup>, when the original 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions were combined, as the 1st)
- Nov 25      **Evacuation Day** – the last British troops leave New York

**A note on the London Trade** – Though trading with the enemy was officially forbidden by both sides, officialdom often winked at the ongoing trade because, in part, it provided needed supplies to both armies, and with the L.I. Sound something of a “No Man’s Land”, it could neither be stopped nor regulated and controlled, esp. when trade went through unofficial channels, and operated in relative secrecy. The L.I. Sound “London Trade” was a necessary irritant to both sides, and war profiteering was endemic on both sides. Niceties slowly began to vanish, as the profit motive increasingly trumped patriotism and loyalty. Traders began to be intercepted en route by privateers or pirates, who found the pickings easier on the Devils Belt, between L.I. and Connecticut bays, harbors, and villages, than on riskier ventures. Finished goods sold at increasingly higher prices in the former colonies as inflation became rampant. Raw products fed British needs, and provided British specie (hard currency), otherwise in short supply in the colonies, particularly things that were hard to obtain in a land frequently pillaged and laid waste like L.I. Fortunes were there to be made by traders and speculators, if they were not jailed. There were efforts to police the traffic in the Sound and arrest offenders. It nearly cost Tallmadge his life, and Caleb Brewster was on patrol to catch illegal traders as the war drew to its close. Policing the trade was a dangerous business. The overall balance of trade favored the British, while the overall balance of whaleboat warfare and pillaging favored the American cause.

Mark Rothenberg