

## *True or False in AMC's TURN: Washington's Spies (Season 3: 2016)*

### **Episode 1: Valediction**

1. Thomas Hickey, one of the two soldiers shown, was hung either for counterfeiting or for trying to slip Washington a plate of poisoned peas.
2. Hickey was the first American hung for treason, by Americans, and he hanging was done on Washington's orders.
3. The hanging took place in 1778, as the show indicates.
4. Benjamin Tallmadge had to administer the coup de grace to a one of the hung conspirators, on a nod from Washington.
5. Cabbages were Abraham Woodhull's main crop.
6. Benjamin and Mary Woodhull were recovering from marital difficulties in 1778.
7. Mary is known to have been a American spy, and a brilliant one at that.
8. Peggy Shippen is believed to have acted as a British spy, helping lure Benedict Arnold to treason.
9. Joseph Reid was Benedict Arnold's next door neighbor.
10. Reid, a former confidant of Washington's, had written derogatory comments to Charles Lee about Washington. The letter was presented to Washington, who returned it to Reid. The friendship had implicitly ended.
11. Reid launched a series of punitive prosecutions of mostly wealthy Tories, losing nearly all cases, but hanging 2 Quakers. In response, Arnold held a party for mostly wealthy prominent Tory-leaning individuals, and didn't invite Reid (not shown in TURN).
12. Reid needed no anonymous letter, as President of Pennsylvania's Executive Council, to investigate and prosecute Arnold for corrupt practices (war profiteering) under his military governorship.
13. By 1778, Benedict Arnold had still received none of officer's pay from the Continental Congress or Washington.
14. The Queens American Rangers had performed well at the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, NJ., and were commended.
15. Simcoe's Rangers led the rear guard there.
16. By 1778, all that remained of Abraham Woodhull's farmhouse was its cellar.
17. The Woodhull house was still intact.
18. Edmund Hewlett was desperately in love with the (still married) Anna Smith Strong.
19. Edmund is the incorrect first name Richard Hewlett, who was a Tory from East Rockaway, and would have donned a green (not red) uniform, and was a Colonel, in rank.
20. The Setauket Spy Ring had been active since 1776, as indicated in TURN.
21. The Setauket (Culper) Spy Ring first became active in 1778.
22. Mary Woodhull was the brains behind their operations.
23. Richard Woodhull informed on his son, to Hewlett, declaring him a criminal, traitor, and rebel spy for the Continental Army.
24. Red tape, so casually mentioned by Major John Andre, could be either red or pink, and had been in use to bind official documents in England, since 1736. (Red tape would later come to mean tied up in bureaucracy.)
25. Robert Rogers was conducting a very personal, covert vendetta against John Andre in 1778, that would eventually see the latter captured and hung.
26. Rogers was in England in 1778, and when he returned it was to Nova Scotia, Canada, not to Setauket, NY.

**Answers:** 1. T ; 2. T.; 3. F; 4. F.; 5. F.; 6. F; 7. F.; 8. T; 9. T; 10. T; 11. T; 12. T; 13. F; 14. T; 15. T; 16. F; 17. T; 18. F; 19. T; 20. F; 21. T; 22. F; 23. F; 24. T; 25. F; 26. T.

## Episode 2: Cold Murdering Bastards

### ■ True or False?:

1. James Rivington was the editor and publisher of the leading Loyalist newspaper in New-York.
2. The *Royal Gazette*, had gone under several names, before and during the Revolutionary War, and would go under another name, after the war.
3. It was called royal due to royal patronage.
4. Rivington had a sideline as a British spy, who would change sides late in the war. The Culper Ring was unaware of Rivington's role as an American spy, until the reoccupation of New York, at war's end.
5. James Rivington and Robert Townsend became partners in a (New) York City tavern, popular with British and Tories alike. Rivington's notoriety as a devout Loyalist, and Townsend's avowed Loyalism, provided the latter with a great cover and fertile ground for information gathering.
6. The direct conversation between John Andre and Robert Townsend, portrayed in *TURN*, is known to actually have occurred.
7. Rev. Worthington was a British agent in the American camp, who led two members of Washington's Guard to seek Washington's murder (and was trying to subvert others). The plot failed in 1778, and both members of the guard were hung. But, Worthington would have to be quietly murdered, with Washington's approval, to keep the identity of Culper, Jr., secret.
8. Washington was in Valley Forge, PA, in the summer of 1778, immediately following the Battle of Monmouth Court House, NJ.
9. Washington left Valley Forge in pursuit of Clinton's Army, which had been retreating from Philadelphia to New York. After Monmouth, Washington would again resume a position guarding the Hudson (or North) River and Its Highlands
10. The Battle of Monmouth, though a draw, was critical departure from earlier American defeats, in which an initial retreat (which got Charles Lee sacked on the spot by an infuriated Washington) was followed by the steadying of the American lines, which having been drilled in European tactics (by Baron von Steuben), held, in a European-style confrontation, and beat back all British attacks. The Americans held the field, but the British continued their retreat to Sandy Hook, and New York City.
11. Robert Townsend's father, Samuel, is known to have been a courier in the Culper Spy Ring.
12. Robert Rogers posed as a somewhat inept version of Austin Roe, in order to obtain and decode a message sent to Setauket from Robert Townsend.
13. Robert Rogers was nowhere even close to Long Island, much less Setauket in the summer of 1778.
14. Edmund [i.e., Richard] Hewlett and his troops were still garrisoning Setauket in the summer of 1778.
15. One of Simcoe's rangers was flogged, and in reprisal Simcoe, brutally beat and prepared to do a retaliatory flogging.
16. Simcoe's and Hewlett's troops hated each other, as did their commanders; and they nearly attacked and bayoneted each other.
17. Richard Hewlett and his troops had left Setauket at the beginning of 1778, having demolished the fort.
18. While in Valley Forge, Benedict Arnold went to Washington to vent about the charges made by Joseph Reid, to seek redress and advice on getting back pay due him.
19. Washington's Headquarters, at the time of Arnold's visit, months prior to the battle of Monmouth, were in Middlebrook, NJ.
20. Arnold had considered resigning his commission and becoming landed gentry in upstate New York, on a confiscated estate.
21. Washington suggested that Arnold demand a court martial, to take the trial out of the civil authorities' hands, and place it in those of the Army, to more easily clear himself of charges.
22. Washington, despite his dislike of Reid, and respect and friendship for Arnold, politically had to assume a middle position, rather than risk alienating and eroding Philadelphia and Pennsylvania patriot support.
23. Love-smitten, and missing Peggy Shippen, Arnold returned to Philadelphia (which proved his greatest mistake), to Reid's harranging, and unsubstantiated charges, that would eventually lead to a Congressional investigation and court martial.

24. Arnold went into serious debt in 1779, when he bought Mount Pleasant, as an estate to demonstrate that he was able to support Peggy in her accustomed high style.
25. Continental dollars were progressively devalued during the war, partly due to repeated Congressional authorizations of printings of notes, and by British counterfeiting, until they became the currency became essentially worthless. British pounds were more eagerly sought, often via illegal trade with the enemy, as British pounds better retained their value.
26. The scene in which Maj. [actually Col.] Hewlett nearly shot Abraham Woodhull, but was saved by the pleas of his two lovers and his own quick thinking, humiliating Hewlett, while promising his Tory father that he would never see his grandson again, actually occurred.
27. Richard Hewlett knew that Abraham Woodhull was a spy and Culper, Sr.
28. In 1778, Andre and Simcoe were aware that the code name of a major L.I. spy was Culper.
29. Maj. Hewlett and Abe Woodhull reached an accord to spring a trap in Rocky Point, to kill Simcoe.
30. The originator of the plot was Anna Smith Strong, wife of the absent Selah Strong, mistress of Abraham Woodhull, and it appears, now of Edmund Hewlett, unrequited love of the ever-monstrous Maj. Simcoe.

### Answers:

1. T; 2. T; 3. T; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. F; 8. F; 9. T; 10. T; 11. F; 12. F; 13. T; 14. F; 15. F; 16. F; 17. T; 18. F; 19. T; 20. T; 21. F; 22. T; 23. T; 24; 25. T; 26. F. 27. F; 28. F; 29. F; 30. F.

## Episode 3: Benediction

### ■ True or False?

1. Rocky Point, NY, is a real location along Long Island's North Shore, which in the Colonial and Revolutionary eras, was known as dangerous place to navigate, much less to land, even though there was one landing place and a road leading to it.
2. As shown in TURN, there would have been no cliffs or rock outcroppings (glacial erratics) at Rocky Point, on land and in its nearby waters, to impede a landing by Caleb Brewster, and no glacial kettle holes to impede a forest march or battle.
3. The Beekman family were prominent Tories in Rocky Point, NY, and were bound and gagged by Brewster and his men.
4. There is colonial era Beekman House in Manhattan, and a still-popular inn (Beekman Arms) Rhinebeck, NY, in the Hudson Valley, where that family was prominent.
5. Caleb Brewster knew that John Graves Simcoe and the Queens Rangers were being lured to the Beekman house, but brought over insufficient American troops to ambush and defeat Simcoe's men.
6. Simcoe knew the code name "Samuel Culper" in 1778, and rode with the Queens Rangers, to capture him at Rocky Point, once Edmund Hewlett, in league with Abraham Woodhull (now known by Hewlett to be a spy), presented him with a set of false facts.
7. The Queens Rangers were an infantry, not a cavalry force, but a mixed force (legion) of cavalry and infantry
8. Reed tried Tories in Philadelphia, and Benedict Arnold, angered by this invited them to parties, along with Reed, at one point, which further enraged Reid.
9. Washington never really abandoned Arnold as a friend and respected general, until his treason was revealed; though at one point Congress ordered him to rebuke Arnold for his indiscretions, with which Washington was forced to comply. But, he would soon afterward offer Arnold command of an Army, and profer his friendship.
10. The fictitious Lt. Gamble neither killed "old man Sackett" (who survived the war), nor did he capture Benjamin Tallmadge, in or out of uniform. Nor did Tallmadge's escape, while literally horse-bound, take place.

11. Tallmadge was nearly captured in uniform, in Westchester County, later in the war, when his forces were taken by surprise, and fled.
12. An officer, captured out of uniform, could be hanged or shot as a spy, as in the case of Nathan Hale, and later, John Andre.
13. Abraham Woodhull, his cover blown, by his Tory father, kept Hewlett in check, and thereafter more openly and brazenly conducted espionage for Washington.
14. Abraham Woodhull, was normally scared nearly out of his wits that he might be exposed as a spy, and summarily executed. Simcoe would come calling, and finding him absent, badly rough up his father. But that was not in 1778.
15. Benjamin Tallmadge duly dispatched (i.e., murdered) Reverend Worthington, after capturing him in the act of passing on a message to his contact (later revealed to be Gamble), at a safe drop.
16. Tallmadge donned civilian dress to pursue Worthington, and better quietly murder the latter, with Washington's blessing. Worthington was killed when he called Washington a fool, to Tallmadge's face.
17. The whole Worthington incident never took place. But, it is indicative of the divisions of loyalty and patriotism among late colonial and Revolutionary era clergy.
18. Tallmadge foolishly kept Worthington's crucifix, which in another episode will undoubtedly come back to haunt him, by implicating him in the latter's murder.
19. While Gamble's role is a figment of the scriptwriters' fertile imagination, both sides had effective and ineffective intelligence agents, and even the effective agents had their good days and bad.
20. Irregular forces, known as Cowboys and Skinners, were a fairly constant menace to both sides, and passers-by, in the wide and changing swath of "no mans land" in Westchester County, during much of the war, as Andre would later fatally discover.
21. Selah Strong, having made his way to recently liberated Philadelphia, readily took up with another woman, and sent a letter demanding a divorce from his wife, Anna Smith Strong, so he might remarry, citing Anna infidelity with Woodhull (and perhaps, oh so many others), as cause.
22. Anna Smith Strong was a Revolutionary era sex bomb, whom no man in authority had the power to resist.
23. Anna Smith Strong was a matronly, middle aged woman, with stretch marks from the births of six children.
24. Anna Smith Strong and Major Edmund Hewlett were engaged to be married. She hoped to get him safely out of Setauket (where he was in mortal danger from Abe Woodhull and Simcoe), to his home in Scotland.
25. When Anna says "There is no us." to Abraham Woodhull, she is right. In actuality, there never was a love affair between the two. The Strongs were, and remained happily married, throughout the years, and neither Hewlett, nor Simcoe, nor Andre, nor Tallmadge, nor Washington, nor Benedict Arnold, nor Lafayette, nor the Howe Bros., nor King George III, are known to have had a thing for, or fling with, her.
26. We strongly suspect that Anna (nicknamed Nancy) was a member of the Culper Spy Ring, as her descendant, Kate Strong, penned several articles presenting the family tradition that, and how, she was involved (e.g., "Nancy's Magic Clothesline"). If the case remains technically unproven, it's a *strong* one.
27. Richard [not Edmund] Hewlett's home was in East Rockaway, NY, not somewhere nebulously in Scotland.
28. The Penn Mansion, as shown in TURN, is actually the Governor's Palace at Colonial Williamsburg.
29. The night battle (skirmish) in Rocky Point between Caleb Brewster's forces and the Queens Rangers, actually occurred.
30. Robert Rogers saved Caleb Brewster's life and helped him narrowly escape to his boat with an Indian accomplice in full warpaint.
31. John Graves Simcoe and Robert Rogers fought a vicious personal, hand-to-hand duel at Rocky Point, Simcoe gouging out one of Rogers' eyes, Rogers making good his escape by lighting a spark with his tomahawk, then hurling a distracting explosive device or grenade, narrowly avoiding being shot by Simcoe.
32. Peggy Shippen is believed to have encouraged Arnold's defection to the British, offering to introduce him to Andre, with whom she may or may not have had prior sexual relations.
33. Arnold's treason was slow to emerge, and had many causes. But it does seem to have percolated while he was in Philadelphia, and his lifetime quest to restore his family's damaged honor, was part of his undoing.
34. The son, over whom Abraham Woodhull so tenderly dotes, in TURN, didn't exist in 1778; and Richard Woodhull and his son Abraham were both in sympathy with the same Rebel cause.

## Answers:

1. T; 2. F; 3. [F]; 4. T; 5. F; 6. F; 7. T; 8. T; 9. T; 10. [T]; 11. T; 12. T; 13. F; 14. T; 15. F; 16. F; 17. T; 18. Probably T; 19. T; 20. T; 21. F; 22. F; 23. T; 24. F; 25. T; 26. T; 27. T; 28. T; 29. F; 30. F; 31. F; 32. T; 33. T; 34. T.

## Episode 4: Hearts and Minds

### ■ True or False?

1. An 18<sup>th</sup> century lady, alone and unescorted was likely to step outside into surrounding woods, on a dark, rainy night, in disputed territory between the lines of contending armies, to investigate a strange noise, armed only with a musket, and would have never heard the maxim “keep your powder dry.”
2. Battles were usually avoided when it rained, as gunpowder, when wet, tends not to spark, and even in good weather might simply “flash in the pan,” rather than fire. Guns became clubs, unless fixed with bayonets, in which case they became short spears. Edged weapons were at risk of later rusting if kept out too long in rain or snow. Artillery could become useless, and cumbersome to move, and cavalry could become bogged down, if there were mud.
3. That Lt. Gamble, firing at Benjamin Tallmadge from behind, by firelight, while the latter was tied, face down, on a fleeing horse, was likely to have hit Tallmadge in the stomach, and to have known that fact, is highly likely.
4. Though Tallmadge had no affair with a Tory woman, these scenes are generally indicative of some of the kinds of pillaging, murder, rape, and other fears, and depredations, to both sides, that one might encounter in the gray areas, and gray area personalities, that one risked encountering between the lines.
5. The incidents depicted involving Tallmadge in this episode are factually accurate.
6. Stomach wounds are particularly nasty and painful, rendering sex unlikely soon afterwards. (Try reading the *Iliad*, or talking to a veteran, or physician who has treated combat injuries.)
7. Abraham Woodhull was afforded the courtesy of an explanation that he would be aiding Anna Smith Strong to marry British Maj. Edmond Hewlett, by providing a convenient excuse for her divorce from Selah Strong, due to her infidelity with honest Abe.
8. Arnold, not Andre chose *both* code names “Monck” and later “Gustavus,” to identify himself. Who those people were is correctly identified in TURN.
9. The correspondence between Arnold and Andre commenced in 1779, not 1778.
10. Abraham Woodhull foiled Anna Smith and Edmund Hewlett’s attempt to marry, by revealing through his father, that the letter requesting a divorce was not in Selah Smith’s hand.
11. Anna had forged the letter, but shifted the blame on Hewlett, who went along with it.
12. The events in 10 and 11 actually occurred.
13. Hewlett left Setauket, late in 1778, because he resigned his commission in disgrace, and planned to return to England, feeling betrayed, even by Anna, and by everything in the New World had seemed to promise.
14. Due to all that had transpired, Anna sent Abe a final “Dear John” farewell, and disappeared into the mists of a Setauket Bay with Caleb Brewster, headed for Connecticut, and a more straightforward life, despairing of the American cause.
15. Tory (not British) Col. (Not Maj.) Richard (not Edmund) Hewlett is not known to have been romantically involved with Anna Smith Strong, nor was Abraham Woodhull, nor John Graves Simcoe, nor anyone but Selah Strong, dull though that may seem.
16. Hewlett left Setauket, with his Tory troops, in early 1778.
17. By late 1778, Andre, Peggy Shippen, Arnold, Hewlett, Woodhull, and Anna and Selah Strong all felt betrayed by love.

## Answers:

1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T; 5. F; 6. T; 7. F; 8. T; 9. T; 10. F; 11. F; 12. F; 13. F; 14. F; 15. T; 16. T; 17. F.

## Episode 5 – Hypocrisy, Fraud, and Tyranny

### ■ True or False?

1. Henry Dawkins was arrested as a counterfeiter, not by the British, but by Congress.
2. He was eventually released, due to information that he provided Congress, implicating Thomas Hickey, of G. Washington's Life Guard, as a Tory counterfeiter and spy, which resulted in Hickey's death by hanging. But this was in 1776, not in 1777.
3. Dawkins had used Rivington's press to print counterfeit Continental currency, under John Andre's orders.
4. The London Trade (illegal trade with the enemy in both directions) across Long Island Sound was quite profitable for those unscrupulous enough to ply it, and would have been a natural vehicle for British efforts to flood the U.S. market with counterfeit Continental currency.
5. George Washington knew exactly who Anna Smith Strong was, and of her role as "the Signal of Setauket", in the spy ring.
6. G. Washington is believed never to have met Anna Smith Strong, at Middlebrook, NJ, or anywhere else. Nor did he want to know the names of anyone associated with the Culper Ring, other than Benjamin Tallmadge.
7. A meeting was held in the basement of the Rivington-Townsend tavern, in NYC, under John Andre's direction, in which a plot to distribute phony Continental currency was outlined and set into action, based on Benedict Arnold's information that Washington's Army was vulnerable to inflationary measures.
8. This plot was overheard by Robert Townsend, who sent a message via his father, Samuel, to Abraham Woodhull, to try to stop it.
9. A trap was set in which the counterfeit currency was burned, and an old enemy (Lt. Gamble) was personally dispatched by Tallmadge and Brewster.
10. Austin Roe was not a frequent courier in the Culper Spy Ring, but Samuel Townsend filled that role.
11. The invitation to a Thanksgiving dinner at Samuel Townsend's house would not have been the version most familiar to Americans today, as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in November was not made an official annual holiday until 1941. Yet, in celebration of the victory at Saratoga, the Continental Congress did declare a day of Thanksgiving in late 1777. Congress did declare occasional days of Thanksgiving during the remainder of the Revolution. But, the dates were erratic.
12. Abraham Woodhull and Robert Townsend were cousins, who knew each other before the war, and met in New York and Oyster Bay, occasionally during the war.
13. Samuel Townsend's house (Raynham Hall) was under British occupation for most of the war, and is today a museum.
14. Robert Rogers was on L.I. in the fall of 1777, and after participating in hand-to-hand combat with Simcoe, confronted Abraham Woodhull and his wife in the basement of their burned out house in Setauket. On gaining information on John Andre's weakness, he set off for New York City on a mission of retribution against Andre, bloodying Woodhull in the process.
15. Anna Smith Strong went to Washington's camp during the Revolution.
16. Simcoe returned to Setauket, to murder Hewlett and his force, and was still hunting Robert Rogers, whom he believed to be Samuel Culper.
17. Robert Rogers had flown from England to Canada, to Long Island on British Airways, Air Canada, and American Airlines, taken the Bridgeport Ferry to Port Jefferson, en route to Setauket, texting his resentments all the way.
18. Rivington and Townsend did not know (though partners), that each was a spy.
19. The British government did counterfeit American currency, in a successful bid to devalue it.
20. Samuel Townsend invited son Robert, then Abe Woodhull, to a Thanksgiving turkey dinner. Wild turkeys existed then on Long Island [recently reintroduced to LI], but weren't yet part of an established (T-day) holiday tradition.

### Answers:

1. T; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T; 5. F; 6. T; 7. F; 8. F; 9. F; 10. F; 11. T; 12. T; 13. T; 14. F; 15. F; 16. F; 17. F; 18. T; 19. T; 20. T.

## Episode 6 – Many Mickles Make a Muckle

### ■ True or False

1. Benedict Arnold negotiated the terms of his treason, with the British, but it hadn't yet occurred in 1777.
2. In the midst of murdering a Queens Ranger, Robert Rogers cited an apparently unforgiveable violation of one of his *Rules of Ranging*.
3. Robert's *Rules of Ranging* is still used by U.S. Rangers today.
4. Abraham Woodhull ordered Caleb Brewster to launch an attack on Samuel Townsend's property and person, with American troops (in the guise of Queens Rangers), to outrage Robert Townsend, and drive him more wholeheartedly into the orbit of the Culper Spy Ring.
5. Both Abraham Woodhull and Robert Townsend, cousins, were very fearful of being caught, and hung, as spies. Both spies ceased their activities, at times.
6. Anna Smith Strong was known to be a courier for the Spy Ring, working in tandem with Caleb Brewster and Samuel Townsend.
7. Austin Roe was merely a pseudonym, used by Robert Rogers.
8. Austin Roe was the name of a Setauket tavern keeper, who, using the convenient excuse of resupplying his tavern, was able to serve as one of the principal couriers of the Culper Spy Ring, making repeated dangerous trips between Setauket and New-York, to pass intelligence information, instructions, and qualms in both directions.
9. Washington did attempt to shorten the route across L.I. Sound ("the Devil's Belt") to speed the passage of intelligence information.
10. But, it proved far more dangerous at the narrower (more easily patrolled) end of the Sound and more likely to be intercepted by British or Tory ships or boats, based at New-York and Lloyd Neck, near Huntington and Oyster Bay.
11. Oyster Bay became a major Loyalist troop cantonment on L.I., and nerve center of British control of Nassau and Suffolk Counties.
12. Samuel Townsend's house, Raynham Hall, became British Headquarters at Oyster Bay, with many distinguished British commanders as guests.
13. Robert Townsend, leaving his Loyalist tavern in Manhattan, would have loudly proclaimed that he was (innocently) heading out to celebrate Thanksgiving with his father, on turning the tavern over to an assistant.
14. Robert Townsend, making such an announcement, would have been quickly arrested and thrown in prison, by British and Tory officers and soldiers who frequented in his tavern (and from whom he would gather information), had he made any such announcement. Thanksgiving in November 1777, was a holiday proclaimed by the Americans, celebrating the major British defeat and surrender at Saratoga, that October. (This would not have been received lightly by the losing side.)
15. There was little to no chance that Anna Smith Strong would not have heard of Austin Roe or his tavern, in Setauket.
16. Caleb Brewster would have likely worn a black leather biker jacket.
17. The Thanksgiving follies, involving (in order of appearance) Samuel Townsend, Abraham Woodhull, Anna Smith Strong, Robert Rogers (alias Austin Roe), Caleb Brewster (alias Queens Ranger leader), Robert Townsend, and John Graves Simcoe (*et al.*), as depicted, in TURN, are a complete fiction.
18. Events at Benedict Arnold's Philadelphia reception party for George Washington, unfolded exactly as depicted.
19. The Quaker attitude, stated by both Samuel, then Robert Townsend, "The spirit of Christ will never move us to war, with outward weapons" is a fair depiction, though some did take sides during the war (e.g., General Nathaniel Greene), though they risked being "read out of meeting" (the Quaker form of excommunication).
20. Many (screenwriting) muggles make a muddle (of history).

### ■ Answers:

1. T; 2. F; 3. T; 4. F; 5. T; 6. F; 7. F; 8. T; 9. T; 10. T; 11. T; 12. T; 13. F; 14. T; 15. T; 16. F; 17. T; 18. F; 19. T; 20. T.



**Raynham Hall Museum**  
(Samuel Townsend House, Oyster Bay, NY)



**Abraham Woodhull House**  
(Setauket, NY burned down in 1931)



**Caleb Brewster House, Setauket, NY**  
(Ward Melville Heritage Association)

## Episode 7 – Judgement

### ■ True or False

1. The near-shooting of Abraham Woodhull by John Graves Simcoe, with Woodhull's own monogrammed pistol, for not having turned it in to the British, when required, and due to other longstanding suspicions (despite Simcoe's own predisposition to sadistic homicide), never took place, because Woodhull managed to first amuse Simcoe, then provided "proof" of his statements.
2. Simcoe used Woodhull as bait to trap Robert Rogers, whom he believed to be Samuel Culper.
3. Mary Woodhull deliberately put Caleb Brewster in harm's way, to perpetuate the myth that Rogers was loose, skulking in the Setauket woods, murdering Queens Rangers at will, lying in wait to kill Simcoe at the first opportunity, in revenge for his lost eye, and lost command. Brewster and Woodhull later caught on, and played along with the charade.
4. In late 1777, Mary and Anna Smith Strong were the real brains behind the success of the Culper Spy Ring, just as Peggy Shippen was the prime reason for Arnold's treason. Denied their historical due, the men they worked with were basically dolts, who received too much of the credit.
5. Women did play a major role, usually on the home front, sometimes with the army, sometimes behind enemy lines, sometimes in their influence, wisdom, intelligence, inspiration, and in espionage, during the American Revolution. (Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, Martha Washington, Molly Pitcher, and Anna Smith Strong come to mind.)
6. Mary, with dead-eye accuracy, though intending to kill him, shot Simcoe in the ear, using a purloined ranger's musket, taking her shot from a fair distance in the woods, say 100 yards, at night, through a second-floor window of her house. On the way back, to the house, she managed also messily murder a Queens Ranger, replacing the bloody rifle, and washed off her own bloodstains, hiding her dress, all before Simcoe returned to the house, to burst in on her bathed in blood, while Caleb Brewster played Robert Rogers, outdoors
7. The Tallmadge-Sarah, Andre-Philomena, Arnold-Peggy affairs, highlight some inherent risks of dangerous liaisons in the midst of a Revolution (that is also a civil war), when consorting with the enemy, or how sticking to one's guns, (or principles) could get you killed. It's better here to look more at the generalities, than TURN to specifics, here.
8. Simcoe got to view Woodhull's messy basement and spy paraphernalia, and Robert Rogers' bloody eye patch. But, setting a trap, he would have confiscated none of it.
9. Arnold, acquitted of most charges, would receive a required reprimand from George Washington, which Washington was loath to do, but which was one more stain on Arnold's sense of honor.
10. "Over the Hills and Far Away," (sung by Philomena) was a tune (with many other lyric variations) that could well have been sung in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or even 17<sup>th</sup> century. [A version of it was also the theme song to the TV *Sharpe* series, set in the Napoleonic Wars.]
11. Philomena's abandonment by Andre, probably will set the stage for the heavy price of a woman's scorn.
12. Benedict Arnold's court martial took place, not in late 1777, as presented in TURN, but in 1779.
13. Benedict Arnold's conversation with Henry Knox about back pay and Arnold's burning of his court martial proceedings (a figurative burning of his bridges) are intended as indicative of things to come.

### ■ Answers

1. F; 2. F; 3. F; 4. F; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. F; 9. T; 10. T; 11. T; 12. T; 13. T.



George and Martha Washington  
(George Washington's Mount Vernon)

## Episode 8: Mended

### ■ True or False?

1. Washington's Army was encamped at Middlebrook, NJ, from 11/30/1778-6/3/1779.
2. Benjamin Tallmadge offered to resign as intelligence officer to Washington, in 1779, because both Culpers ceased to operate. Washington refused the resignation.
3. Culper, Sr. and Culper Jr. did temporarily cease espionage operations, or threatened to do so, several times in the war.
4. Abigail, enslaved to Anna Smith Strong, then to John Andre, is known to have be the mysterious Culper "Agent 355".
5. Betsey Ross was really Anna Smith Strong, and one of her flags was flown over the fortifications at Stony Point.
6. Gen, Henry Clinton was able to figure out where Washington was encamped, only through a letter from Arnold, indicating that his court-martial was held there.
7. It was snowing in Middlebrook in July 1779.
8. The British took Stony Point bloodlessly, on 5/28/1779, and Verplank's Point, on the opposite side of the Hudson.
9. It was a premature news item in Rivington's Royal Gazette announcing that Washington's location had been discovered by the British, that sped Robert Townsend to Setauket, just in time to witness, with Abraham Woodhull, Simcoe's savagery, and Woodhull's patriotic reaction, that helped persuade both Culpers back to their espionage duties, surprising and delighting both Tallmadge and Washington.
10. Tryon outflanked Arnold at the Battle of Ridgefield (in 1777), during the British retreat from their Danbury Raid.
11. Arnold had set up a blocking position, at Ridgefield, led a brilliant defense and was nearly captured, but escaped, after a horse had been shot out from under him. Congress made him a Major General for this action, backdated to give him rank over other generals, and presented him with a fully equipped horse. So, there was some recognition, from that direction, after all. Arnold had set up a 2<sup>nd</sup> blocking position at Compo Hill, but the British went around him and a counterattack secured their escape to their ships.
12. Gen. Tryon took militia from Stony Point to "bag the fox" (i.e., Washington), at Middlebrook, NJ, in 1779. But, the fox had flown the coup, by the time he arrived. So, he drowned his sorrows at the Rivington-Townsend bar and grill.
13. Simcoe murdered John Robeson, whom Woodhull accused of murder, and of spying for Robert Rogers, though Roberson accused Woodhull of the murder. Simcoe simply chalked up his murder of Robeson as an accident, blaming it on the victim's clumsiness, then turned on the tavernkeeper, at which point the entire community of Setauket was placed at risk.
14. Robert Townsend punched Caleb Brewster in the face, for what Brewster had allowed happen to his father.
15. Washington's Army was not in Middlebrook but had moved between Stony Point and West Point, to protect the latter.
16. Benjamin Tallmadge was put in charge of a small dragoon operation that took Stony Point, at night, at the point of the bayonet. It was a triumph for Tallmadge, as well as Washington.
17. Tallmadge captured 93 British soldiers in the raid.
18. Rev. Richard Tallmadge handed a list of the personal secrets of his parishioners, in this one-church village, to Simcoe.
19. Washington personally reconnoitered the Stony Point defenses.
20. Gen. ("Mad") Anthony Wayne was charged with seizing Stony Point, with 4 infantry regiments, (one of which, in Wayne's main column, was commanded by Return Jonathan Meigs, who had successfully raided Sag Harbor, L.I. in 1777). The Americans had some light horse, placed with a regiment in the center. But, they were just to demonstrate to hold British attention. The center force was the only one permitted to fire, the northern and southern thrusts would be at the point of the bayonet, converging on the central fortification. The surprise assault was launched on the dark night of July 15, 1779, and was a complete American victory. Soon after, the fortifications were demolished and Wayne's forces were withdrawn.
21. Gen. Wayne captured 546 enemy soldiers in the assault, when his opponent, Henry Johnson, surrendered.
22. Robert Rogers and Philomena Cheer arrived at an accord to plot together their revenge against John Andre.
23. Anna Smith Strong and Edmund (i.e., Richard) Hewlett met, uncomfortably at the Rivington-Townsend tavern, favored by British officers and Tories, where she announced that she was a rebel spy, and no one blinked an eye.
24. Hewlett, jilted at the altar, was cashiered and sent back to Britain in disgrace for his supposed attempted bigamy.

### ■ Answers

1. T; 2. F; 3. T; 4. F; 5. F; 6. F; 7. F; 8. T; 9. F; 10. T; 11. T; 12. F; 13. F; 14. F; 15. T; 16. F; 17. F; 18. F; 19. T; 20. T; 21. T; 22. F; 23. F; 24. F.

## Episode 9: Blade on the Feather



Benedict Arnold



Benjamin Tallmadge



John Andre



G. Washington



Peggy Shippen

### ■ True or False

1. West Point, built at a low-lying spot on the North (or Hudson's) River, was barely fortified, and poorly defended.
2. The Hudson was chained at West Point to protect a vital crossing, to stop British warships from crossing or, failing that to render them vulnerable ("sitting ducks") to artillery and small arms fire from the defenses, while they tried to pass over them, and to command a turn in the river, which generally required shifting favorable winds for sailing vessel's passage.
3. Maj. (i.e., Lt. Col.) Edmund (i.e. Richard) Hewlett paid a surprise visit to John Andre (in his last day before being shipped to Britain, as a disgraced attempted bigamist. During the visit, Hewlett informed Maj. Andre that Culper was not Robert Rogers, after all, but a Setauket cabbage farmer named Abraham Woodhull.
4. The events of # 3 never occurred.
5. Andre signed a warrant for Woodhull's arrest, in full knowledge that he was the spy ringleader, Culper [Sr.].
6. Woodhull was set up by the redcoat captain, who, the previous day, had a ceramic mug smashed across his face by Simcoe, for not toasting a Queens Ranger who had just spit into his drink. Next day Woodhull proposed the good Capt. look the other way while Woodhull murdered Simcoe. Woodhull punched Simcoe and was wrestled and beaten to the floor, while Simcoe called for a rope, his boot on Woodhull's head.
7. Poor Maj. Andre was interrupted Hewlett, then by Philomena, who feigned pregnancy, as he tried a second time to make his way to his ship. Philomena passed information to Rogers who raced ahead to cause fatal mischief to Andre.
8. Andre's ship was called H.M.S. Vulture, and this was not the first voyage that Andre took to meet with Arnold. His ship was chased away downstream, by fire from the shore.
9. Arnold told Andre to take a hike, dressing Andre in civies (inadvertently ensuring that he would be hung as spy, for being caught out of uniform).
10. Andre was given the plans of West Point, and a pass signed by Arnold through the American lines.
11. We are dead certain that Andre bargained with Arnold for possession of Peggy Shippen, and Arnold deliberately gave Andre civilian clothes to ensure that his rival would be hung, if captured.
12. Lt. Col. Alexander Hamilton became an aide to Washington in 1777, despite his being first introduced in AMC's TURN at some later year. It's not clear whether it is 1778, 1779, or 1780, though the actual betrayal occurred in 1780.
13. Alexander Hamilton, on introduction, actually started rapping, then broke into a break-dance, with the Marquis de La Fayette, following suit en francais (i.e., in French).
14. A major party of high-ranking American officers, including Washington, stayed overnight at West Point the night before it was about to be betrayed.
15. Arnold did plan to kidnap Washington (solo) and present him to Clinton. But Washington was late for breakfast that day, and Arnold got news (not too brightly passed on to him by his subordinate, Col. Jameson) of Andre's capture that forced him (Arnold) to skedaddle, leaving Peggy to fend for herself.

16. Tallmadge knew of the name John Anderson, as a British spy, and learning of Arnold's treason from L.I., and of Anderson's capture, he ordered Andre held, and raced to Jameson. Jameson foolishly insisted on notifying Arnold (tipping the latter off), while forbidding Tallmadge from racing to West Point (to arrest Arnold), allowing the latter to escape.
17. There was no symbolic boat salute / pistol shot scene between Tallmadge and Arnold, emphasizing Arnold's innate bravery, and Tallmadge's reluctant respect.
18. It was Robert Rogers who persuaded three of Skinners' irregulars to rouse the artillery of West Point to fire on HMS Vulture. He then had them waylay Andre, beat him (to which Rogers also made a contribution, for the sake of revenge), empty Andre's boots, only to find the incriminating documents. Rogers ordered them to Arrest Andre, spirit the latter off as a spy to Col. Jameson, setting the stage for Andre's final act.
19. It was Anna Smith Strong who discovered through Abigail and her son, that Arnold was a traitor, racing from L.I. to tell Caleb Brewster.
20. It is a popular L.I. legend, that may be true, that Sarah ("Sally") Townsend of Raynham Hall, Oyster Bay overheard British officers discussing the betrayal of West Point, and saw a letter addressed to John Anderson, passing the news on to her brother, Robert Townsend, who relayed the news to Setauket and across the Sound, via Woodhull and Brewster, to Tallmadge. Tallmadge arrived too late to capture Arnold, but was able to keep Andre under arrest.
21. It was Washington, not Arnold who placed Col. John Jameson at Tarrytown, NY, though he reported to Gen. Arnold.

■ **Answers:**

1. F; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T; 5. F; 6. F; 7. F.; 8. T; 9. T; 10. T; 11.F; 12. T; 13. (sadly) F; 14; 15. T; 16. T; 17. T; 18. F; 19. F; 20. T; 21. 21. T.

**Episode 10: Trial & Execution (see next page)**

## Episode 10: Trial & Execution



Nathan Hale Monument



Abraham Woodhull Gravesite, Setauket, NY



John Andre (final self-portrait)

### ■ True or False?

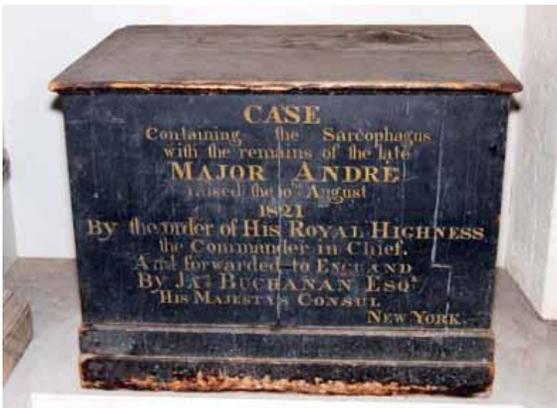
1. Abraham Woodhull's punching John Graves Simcoe in the ear (or elsewhere) never occurred.
2. But had it occurred, summary justice would have been more likely than a trial.
3. Richard Woodhull was maneuvered, by Simcoe, into prosecuting his own son.
4. The British-controlled portion of the Province/State of New-York was subject to martial, not civil, law.
5. One of the greatest British failures was to restore civil government to the southern New York Colony.
6. Nathan Hale's famous last words, were indeed: "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country."
7. Henry Clinton, in saying, "Just cut through the red tape, man" is referring to the red or pink ribbon that was used to tie official government (including military) documents, in this case, Andre's incoming mail. Even then the phrase, "to cut through red tape" was coming to have its modern connotation of cutting past bureaucratic roadblocks.
8. G. Washington offered to exchange John Andre for Benedict Arnold. Henry Clinton refused.
9. Clinton sent a moving appeal that Andre's life be spared. Washington remained unmoved.
10. In TURN, Clinton says "We do not murder prisoners." But, intentionally, or unintentionally, through graft, neglect, starvation, prevailing thoroughly unsanitary and pestilential conditions, some 30,000 prisoners in the jails, sugarhouses, prison and hospital ships of Wallabout Bay, L.I., of and other prisons in New York City, died under horrific conditions, during the war: more than in all the battles of the war, combined. That was the true price of the Revolution. Remains would wash up on the shores of Wallabout Bay, alone, for a century. (Alliance with Britain since WWI has cast a veil across that episode.)
11. Peggy Shippen Arnold staged a wonderfully convincing crazy act, after Benedict Arnold's betrayal was exposed, for the benefit of Washington, personally, and of his staff, so they would take pity on her and to allay suspicions of her. It worked and she was allowed to join her husband in exile.
12. Contrary to TURN, Washington refused to see, or to directly interview, John Andre.
13. Robert Townsend, Abraham Woodhull, and the other members of the Culper Ring, were terrified that Benedict Arnold might know enough to have them arrested, imprisoned, hung. The Ring went into a brief eclipse, while British security measures in New York tightened.
14. It was Benedict Arnold who, with his vindictiveness, convinced Townsend to continue spying.
15. Robert Townsend wrote that he was glad that Arnold did not know his name.
16. Sadly, Hale was ill-suited and incompetent as a spy, a Connecticut Yankee (on an unfamiliar Island), in "King George III's court".
17. It was G. Washington, and staff, who decided to change Nathan Hale's final words to more memorable ones, for propaganda purposes, turning him from obedient soldier to American martyr.
18. According to a witness at Nathan Hale's death, British Capt. Frederick MacKenzie, who wrote a diary entry for Sept. 22, 1776, "He behaved with great composure and resolution, saying he thought it the duty of every good officer to obey any orders given to him by his commander-in-chief; and desired the

spectators to be at all times prepared to meet death in whatever shape it might appear.” TURN, while having Washington quote only part of this, gets that much right, though it is highly doubtful that Washington would have had access to MacKenzie’s private diary.

19. It was Hale’s friends, William Hull, and others, who long after the fact, put the famous final phrase in Hale’s mouth. It was lifted from a favorite play of Hale’s (also Washington’s favorite, which you can see performed in Colonial Williamsburg), Joseph Addison’s *Cato*, perhaps as wishful thinking, perhaps to afford Hale memorable dignity, and raise him into the American pantheon of heroes.
20. Arnold threatened Washington with bloody retribution if Andre is killed.
21. Arnold later sent a letter to Tallmadge, inviting him to change sides, offering him the same rank, if he would join him in treason. Tallmadge immediately showed it to Washington.
22. Abraham Woodhull killed his own brother in the Liberty Pole Riots in New York, which Abe had a hand in starting.
23. Clinton and Arnold got along pretty well.
24. Arnold was indeed made a brigadier general, and raised a Loyalist regiment, that was called the American Legion.
25. Abraham Woodhull was saved from the gallows, only by his father’s intervention, Simcoe’s superior who is angry that his own lands have been pillaged, and is sending Simcoe to the front, and the village people, who are all for that.
26. Woodhull, though never far from it, escaped ever going to the noose.
27. Capt. Simcoe was actually Lt. Col. Simcoe, later a well-regarded Governor General of Canada.
28. The Rivington/Tallmadge tavern was actually a popular New-York coffee house.
29. John Andre’s last words were: “I pray that you all bear me witness that I meet my fate like a brave man.” There reputedly wasn’t a dry eye among the witnesses, including Tallmadge.
30. Today, John Andre’s sarcophagus may be found in the Poet’s Corner of Westminster Abbey, London.

■ **Answers**

1. T; 2. T; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. F; 7. T; 8. T; 9. T; 10. T; 11. T; 12. T; 13. T; 14. F; 15. T; 16. T; 17. F; 18. T; 19. T; 20. T; 21. T; 22. F; 23. F; 24. T; 25. F; 26. T; 27. T; 28. T; 29. T; 30. T



**Sarcophagus case, Maj. John Andre Westminster Abbey, London**



**Saratoga Battlefield Monument to Benedict Arnold’s Leg (no mention of its owner), wounded at Quebec & Saratoga**



**Crypt of Benedict Arnold & Peggy Shippen Arnold (St. Mary’s of Battersea, London)**