

LESSON PLAN - A WALK THROUGH HISTORY WITH ABRAHAM WOODHULL

- INTRODUCTION:** Abraham Woodhull, chief of Setauket-based Culper Spy Ring, Setauket native son.
Attended school on the village green - where carriage shed is today
Classmates, friends - depended on each other
Main Spies: Abraham Woodhull, born 1750; Austin Roe, 1749; Caleb Brewster, 1747; Benjamin Tallmadge, 1754; Anna Smith (Nancy) Strong, 1740; Robert Townsend, 1753
- BATES LANE:** Area first settled by Native American Indians Algonquians-Setalcotts
Forest of white oak, chestnut & hickory during time of GGGrandfather Richard Woodhull
Also tulip & sassafras
First growth forest of Red Cedar, cherry, pitch pine,
Second growth forest today with soft wood Red Maple, Yellow Poplar (Tulip), Black Walnut, Locust, Dogwood
Farmland during Abraham Woodhull's time with corn, wheat, rye, and grasses.
Moist soils worked for centuries, retain rainwater
- SANCTUARY:** Now the Frank Melville Memorial Park's bird & wildlife sanctuary
Formerly farmland of Woodhull family, then Bates
Before that the forest of Setalcott Native American Indians
Native plants and trees used by Setalcotts (Algonquian)
Red cedar, seeds, mice & poop; Bamboo & other invasive species
Heritage Lane: tabular glacial boulder, southern CT, possibly part of joint sets
- WOODHULLHOME:** NYS Marker at home site. Original settler Richard Woodhull through Abraham Woodhull
Culper Spy Ring, Little Bay, Anna Smith Strong, Seaton's Neck (Strong's Neck), servant's house.
The folklore, Nancy's magic clothesline. Smith/Strong Graveyard. British St. George's Manor
Little Bay: fragmities & fresh water, lower Salt Marsh grass, Thatch or Cord Grass (salt hay).
Used for roofs, animal bedding, fodder, mulch
- FOREST:** Classic disturbed forest, white pine (5 needles), pitch pine (3 needles)
Black locust shading out red cedar,
Fences of locust (posts) & red cedar (rails)
Shhh! Quiet! Use all senses: listen, look, smell, feel, observe, look around.
- CONSCIENCEBAY:** Forest to wetland: marsh elder down to marsh grass (high marsh to low marsh)
Low marsh grass, extrudes salt to leaves (rare), erect 6 to 6.5 feet
Angular stem is sedge or rush, chair caning, fresh water plant (brackish ok)
High marsh grass, recumbant grasses, dominant spatina patens-why settlers came here,
Native salt marsh aster (spring & summer)
Cattle (foot blocks) during colonial period fed on Salt-Meadow Grass rich in nutrients
Native American Indians, fishing, cattails, grasses for houses
Brackish-fresh & salt water, breeding area for fish. Wildlife area for birds.
Boulder train, joint sets, vein quartz. Photograph with students on rock
Sweet Fern (toothache), Pitch Pine, Sassafras, White Oak
- FOREST TRAIL:** White oak, shipbuilding, homes, primary-Pitch pine & White pine. Ship & home interior- Boulder, real granite, large fels spar crystals, slow cooling, hot fluids in cracks, far underground- Ferns, covered North America.
- SET. GRIST MILL:** Grinding grains, Importance to colonial farmer, here since 1670s, reproduction mill today.
Sandstone grindstones.
- PATRIOT'S ROCK:** Rev. Nathaniel Brewster, Setauket's first minister-1665-35 families-first sermon-folklore & definition. Battle of Setauket-August 22, 1777-Captain of artillery Caleb Brewster-General Parsons-Zachariah Greene.
- VILLAGE GREEN:** From 1655-Meeting House Green-First Meeting House 1672-Presbyterian Church & Meeting House 1714. Site of town meetings. Pure democracy, everyone votes. Hold vote. Ox roast-Major Benjamin Tallmadge (brevet Colonel)

FIRST CHURCH: Setauket Presbyterian Church 1812-Madame Martha Smith first women in industry-off-shore whaling. William “Tangier” Smith 1690 in Setauket. Died 1705. Turned into fort during revolutionary War. Desecrate (disrespect).

CHRIST CHURCH: Timber frame (white oak). Construction. White pine. Red cedar. 1723 Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG)-Building 1729-Caroline Church 1730 in honor of Queen Karoline, wife of King George II. Mother of George III. Timber frame construction. British hospital during Battle of Setauket-attended by Tories during Revolutionary War. Restoration 1936 by Ward Melville. Share Village Green. Style of worship plain (Presbyterian) versus ornate (Anglican or Episcopal).

HANDS-ON: Tour-goers learn about Benjamin Tallmadge’s Spy Codes (primary document). Read letter together from Woodhull to Tallmadge. (Primary source). Write their own spy messages.

PREVISIT: *SPIES! How A Group Of Long Island Patriots Helped George Washington Win The Revolution.* (A copy is sent to every Field Trip teacher to review & read BEFORE the tour. TVHS web site

POST VISIT: Read one of the book below & discuss. Write a coded spy message. Write in Invisible Ink.

READING & RESEARCHING SUGGESTIONS (Elementary & Secondary)

SPIES! How A Group Of Long Island Patriots Helped George Washington Win The Revolution. Book. 16 pages. Color Maps, Documents, Photographs Three Village Historical Society (TVHS). The Story of the Culper Spy Ring and a companion book to the exhibit SPIES! Call: 751-3730)

Upon Secrecy, by Selene Castrovilla. Boyds Mills Press www.boydsmillspress.com
History & pictures for students. Story of George Washington’s spies in Setauket and their part in the successful effort to prevent the British from attacking the French as they landed in Newport, RI in July 1780, to assist Washington’s Continental Army. Historical Fiction. Beautifully illustrated.

By The Sword by Selene Castrovilla. Boyds Mills Press www.boydsmillspress.com
History & pictures for students. Story of Benjamin Tallmadge and the Battle of Long Island in Brooklyn in August 1776. Beautifully illustrated.

Spies on the Devil’s Belt by Betsy Haynes. Scholastic Book Services.
(Historical fiction for students-a standard for many years. Often out of print)

Redcoats & Petticoats by Kirkpatrick.
(Revolutionary War and spy history with beautiful watercolors of Setauket and Long Island)

Phoebe The Spy by Judith Berry Griffin. Scholastic Inc.
(Historical fiction for students. Story takes place in New York City)

Treason Stops at Oyster Bay by Anna Leah Sweetzer. Silver Moon Press.
(Historical fiction for students. Story surrounds Culper spy Robert Townsend)

Discover Setauket, Brookhaven’s Original Settlement book. Three Village Historical Society (TVHS). An essential local history workbook for students (Call: 751-3730)
Village Green Program, A Teacher’s Guide. TVHS. (100 page teacher’s guide for *Discover Setauket* workbook above. Available at half price with purchase of 10 or more student workbooks). Also available as a PDF file on my web site <http://HistoryCloseAtHand.com>

Walk Through History-A Guided Walking Tour of Brookhaven’s Original Settlement in Setauket. 97 color photos-9 historic photos-map. TVHS. (A beautifully illustrated books for tour-goers.)

ADDITIONAL READING & RESEARCH MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS

SPIES! How A Group Of Long Island Patriots Helped George Washington Win The Revolution. Book. 16 pages. Color Maps, Documents, Photographs Three Village Historical Society (TVHS). The Story of the Culper Spy Ring and a companion book to the exhibit SPIES! (TVHS 751-3730)

Washington's Spies, The Story of America's First Spy Ring by Alexander Rose. Bantam Dell. 2006. 370 pages. Illustrations, Maps, Documents. The definitive & essential book on the Culper Spy Ring.

Long Island: Our Story by the editors of Newsday. (A definitive account of Long Island history in full color. A must for every classroom!)

General Washington, Spymaster by National Geographic. (A complete account of Washington's importance as a leader of the spy operations)

SetauketSpyRingCellPhoneTour2014 Available as a PDF file to download from my web site <http://HistoryCloseAtHand.com> (On my web site under WOODHULL TOURS)

CURRICULUM THEMES EXPLORED DURING THIS PROGRAM

HISTORICAL: (Works within Standards 1 & 2-American culture, traditions, democracy & accomplishments; varied experiences & interpretations; timelines; world history roles and contributions; interpretation of layers of events): Colonial & Revolutionary Periods.

Geography (Standard 3): Geographic features of Long Island including: Run (stream); mill pond; bay; woodland-forest-farmland; habitats for birds & fish; wetlands and their uses; large glacial rocks & their uses.

Political (Standard 5): Explores the concept of structure & function of local government over 350 years of Brookhaven's history including: Rules & responsibilities of active and involved citizens in the community; Town meeting format in Setauket Meeting House (Presbyterian Church).

Economic (Standard 4): An awareness of how people in New York State have met their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter including: The structure of homes from 1655 to the present; Clothing in the colonial period, its use and importance.

Social (Standard): Cultural differences between local Dutch & English settlers, Native Americans (Indians), African Americans in the 17th & 18th centuries as reflected in churches, graveyards, homes, and public buildings.

INTERDISCIPLINARY:

Mathematics: Mathematical reasoning, operations & measurement: In exploring gravestones and historic buildings.

Language Arts (Reading Standards 1 & 3): Developing research & observational skills: In buildings, graveyards, and in decoding spy messages and alphabetical codes.

Science (Standard 2-living environment): The importance of water to the survival of living things. (Standard 3-physical setting): Exploring nature through land and water uses.

Art: awareness of the natural world

Physical Education: Wellness; safe environment

Health: Developing a positive self-esteem; Personal well-being

Music: Melodic patterns & sounds of nature; helping to develop an aesthetic response