**Colonists use secret spy ring in war effort**

By Doug DeBolt

After two years of intelligence failures, General George Washington has apparently hit upon a reliable plan to use spies to help win the war with Great Britain. Using average, everyday civilians, Washington has built a network of six secret agents who are regularly feeding details about British war plans back to the general and his staff. These plans are helping to turn the tide of the war toward an American victory.

At the center of the ring - nicknamed the "Culper Spy Ring" - is Abraham Woodhull, a Long Island farmer who has helped recruit others to the cause. Woodhull was himself recruited by one of his neighbors, Major Benjamin Tallmadge. According to Tallmadge, Woodhull's involvement has remained a closely guarded secret.

"Everything would be guarded with the utmost confidence," Tallmadge promised. "Only General Washington and I need know about [his] involvement."

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Benjamin Tallmadge, page 35

Abraham Woodhull, page 41

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