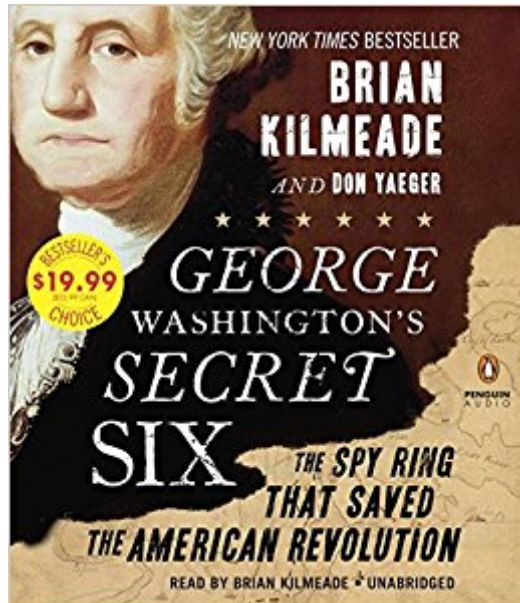




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# George Washington's Secret Six: The Spy Ring That Saved America



## Synopsis

“As a Long Islander endlessly fascinated by events that happened in a place I call home, I hope with this book to give the secret six the credit they didn’t get in life. The Culper spies represent all the patriotic Americans who give so much for their country but, because of the nature of their work, will not or cannot take a bow or even talk about their missions.”

—Brian Kilmeade

When General George Washington beat a hasty retreat from New York City in August 1776, many thought the American Revolution might soon be over. Instead, Washington rallied thanks in large part to a little-known, top-secret group called the Culper Spy Ring. Washington realized that he couldn’t beat the British with military might, so he recruited a sophisticated and deeply secretive intelligence network to infiltrate New York. So carefully guarded were the members’ identities that one spy’s name was not uncovered until the twentieth century, and one remains unknown today. But by now, historians have discovered enough information about the ring’s activities to piece together evidence that these six individuals turned the tide of the war. Drawing on extensive research, Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger have painted compelling portraits of George Washington’s secret six: Robert Townsend, the reserved Quaker merchant and reporter who headed the Culper Ring, keeping his identity secret even from Washington; Austin Roe, the tavern keeper who risked his employment and his life in order to protect the mission; Caleb Brewster, the brash young longshoreman who loved baiting the British and agreed to ferry messages between Connecticut and New York; Abraham Woodhull, the curmudgeonly (and surprisingly nervous) Long Island bachelor with business and family excuses for traveling to Manhattan; James Rivington, the owner of a posh coffeehouse and print shop where high-ranking British officers gossiped about secret operations; Agent 355, a woman whose identity remains unknown but who seems to have used her wit and charm to coax officers to share vital secrets. In *George Washington’s Secret Six*, Townsend and his fellow spies finally receive their due, taking their place among the pantheon of heroes of the American Revolution.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“James Bond is a rank amateur compared to the heroic efforts of the Culper Ring. Brian Kilmeade and Don Yaeger’s work demonstrates why the story of the secret six should be anything but a secret in American history.”  
—HARVEY MACKAY, author of *Swim with the Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive*  
“A rollicking read by Kilmeade and Yaeger, acknowledging a long overdue debt to six American heroes.”  
—KARL ROVE  
“We would not have won the Revolution and secured our freedom, were it not for the leadership of George Washington and the courage of the spies he set in motion. George Washington’s Secret Six is a gripping and informative read.”  
—CONGRESSMAN PETE KING, chairman of the Counterterrorism and Intelligence Subcommittee, House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security  
“It would have been an honor to have served with Robert Townsend and the rest of the Culper spies in any of the deep-cover intelligence operations I spearheaded over twenty-seven years.”  
—WAYNE SIMMONS, coauthor of *The Natanz Directive*; CIA’s Outside Paramilitary Special Operations  
“Freedom is not free, never has been, and never will be. Kilmeade and Yaeger have done a wonderful job in reminding us all of the cost. Great read.”  
—GENERAL TOMMY FRANKS (U.S. Army, ret.)  
“A historical gem. I loved it.”  
—DONALD TRUMP --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Brian Kilmeade cohosts Fox News Channel’s morning show *Fox & Friends* and hosts the nationally syndicated radio show *The Brian Kilmeade Show*. The author of two previous books about sports, he lives on Long Island. Don Yaeger has written twenty-three books, including seven New York Times bestsellers. He lives in Tallahassee, Florida.

First I would like to say that I started reading this book Saturday morning and finished it Sunday night. It was really fun to read. The reason I give it only a three star review is that is not exactly a scholarly work (no footnotes, for example) so I was left with a sense of wondering about the veracity of everything in the book. I imagine there are other books about the Washington spies and this book has made me curious enough to read another account. I have to chuckle at all the 1 star reviews. Virtually all of them protest to the book because of the author, Brian Kilmeade. I did not know the author was a commentator for Fox News until I read those reviews. Impugning a history book simply because of the political views of the author is inane. George Washington's Secret Six is not a book espousing a political agenda of some sort, as these reviewers would have one believe. Another reason for the 3 star is that it was a rather bit over-priced given content. In any event, if you know little about the spy ring, this is as good a place to start as any.

Amazing! This book reads like a thriller, and is even more thrilling because it's not fiction! Not only is it a fantastic way to absorb American history- it's one for all ages! I'm a home schooling mother of three (a twelve year old and two teens) who has just added it to required reading for the year! This is a must read- even for people who love history but hate to read!

Very interesting bit of American history that I never knew anything about. I think it would be better if more of the intrigue was delved into, but I also understand there is a necessary lack of many details involving this whole subject. It's a little vague how the author connected some documents in the beginning of his research, but he tries to explain it. The rest of the book is quite informative and contains as much detail as possible, given the nature of the subject. The most interesting thing to me is that the information gathered by these civilian volunteers and given to the military, played a key role in the war for the independence of Britain's American colonies. If it weren't for these people the struggle would most likely have gone on much longer, and certainly would have resulted in more patriots' deaths. It's even possible that without them, the Americans might not have won the Revolutionary War. Nevertheless, I was never taught any of this in my history classes when I was a kid. This is basically the written version of the television series "TURN: Washington's Spies" by the A & E Network, but without the suspense and the drama. However, I don't mean to imply that the TV series and this book are related in any way, because they are not, except the subject of both is the same thing. I bought it because of my interest in military history, my like for the TV series, and because Washington's spy master, who has the same last name as I do, was a cousin of one of my

ancestors. Ironically, very little is mentioned of him in this book. It's a pretty quick read, but worth it, in my opinion, for anyone interested in U.S. history, colonial times, or espionage (especially pre-dating the electronic age).

The minute details, which I admit were very important to the actual participants, where life or death weighed in the balance of the spy life, for me, kept my reading like having to push myself to and through the next section or page or chapter. The story line, again "for me" was a bit hard for me to keep interested in, but admit the actual historical reality was new to me and most impressive; raising my admiration for our original Founders who put their lives and money and time into achieving our Independence. I came away with a new level of how precious are the Liberties and Freedoms "We the People" of today, enjoy and often find so easy to criticize and rebuke. Shame on those who do!

The author takes great liberties with history and invents many conversations between historical figures. He is able to read the minds of the dead - for example he tells you what Washington was thinking in great detail...Evocatively describes life for Americans during that time, but the ahistorical speculation turned me off and I gave up after 50 pages. A waste of money.

This book brings to the reader information concerning the secret spy ring reporting to George Washington that was probably unknown when the reader was taking history in high school. This small band of patriots were a major reason the colonies won the war. One identity is still unknown and one of the leaders, Robert Townsend, never allowed his name to be given even to Washington. He served in total anonymity until letters were recently uncovered that named him as "Culper, Jr.," Culper being the code name for the spy ring. Great reading for anyone interested in history.

It never occurred to me how much spying was necessary to win the Revolutionary War. I realize there is always some espionage involved in warfare. It was the depth, and Washington's involvement that I found fascinating.

kinda glossed over the entire war a little too simplistically for me. the book made it seem like there were minor skirmishes here and there and then washington and co holed up in valley forge till brit navy codebook was stolen and the code book gave the french naval superiority and then the war was over. the spy ring info was cool but i'd like it to be set up with more context about what was going on in the war more specifically. I think the reader could gain more perspective of the ring

members' day in/day out worries and dangers.i enjoyed reading about the candidates for agent 355 the most.

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