



# PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE PANNEBAKKER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

## Frank Knox Morton Pennypacker (1872–1956)

ADVENTURES IN THE LOVE OF HISTORY III

### MORTON'S LEGACY IN MAINSTREAM POP CULTURE

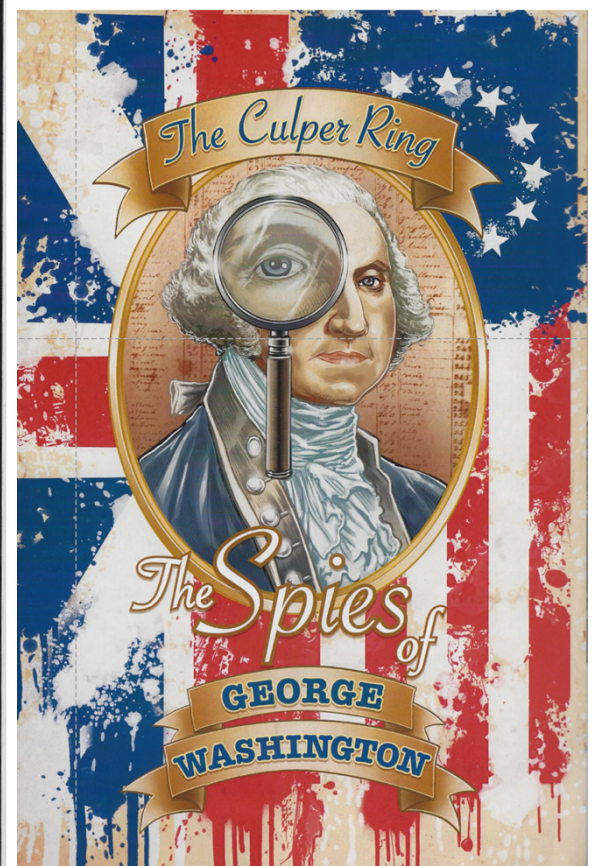
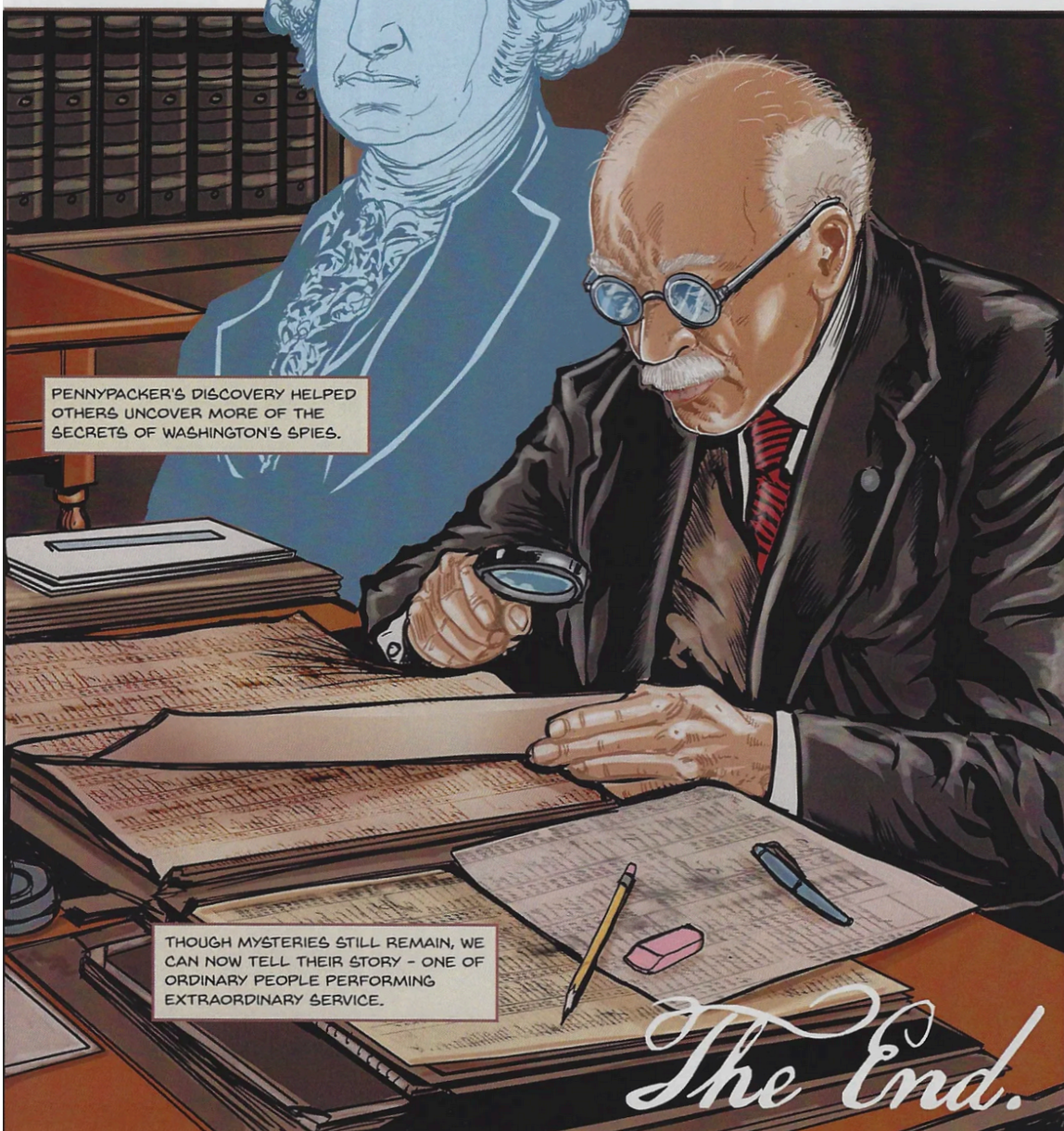


*The Culper Ring: The Spies of George Washington*, a comic book, published by the Fairfield Museum (Fairfield, CT) is illustrated by Kirk Manley. The comic is available in the museum's gift shop. The Culper Ring operated in and around Fairfield, so the Museum wanted to bring this part of local history to light for younger readers.

#### A SPY RING

#### FINALLY UNCOVERED

According to the comic, the work that the Ring did was so secretive that it wasn't until the 1930s that Morton Pennypacker, an historian from Long Island, discovered Robert Townsend's involvement with the Culper Ring, and uncovered much of the work that they did.



THOUGH MYSTERIES STILL REMAIN, WE CAN NOW TELL THEIR STORY - ONE OF ORDINARY PEOPLE PERFORMING EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE.

# PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS

**“WASHINGTON DIDN'T REALLY OUTFIGHT THE BRITISH. HE SIMPLY OUTSPIED US.”**

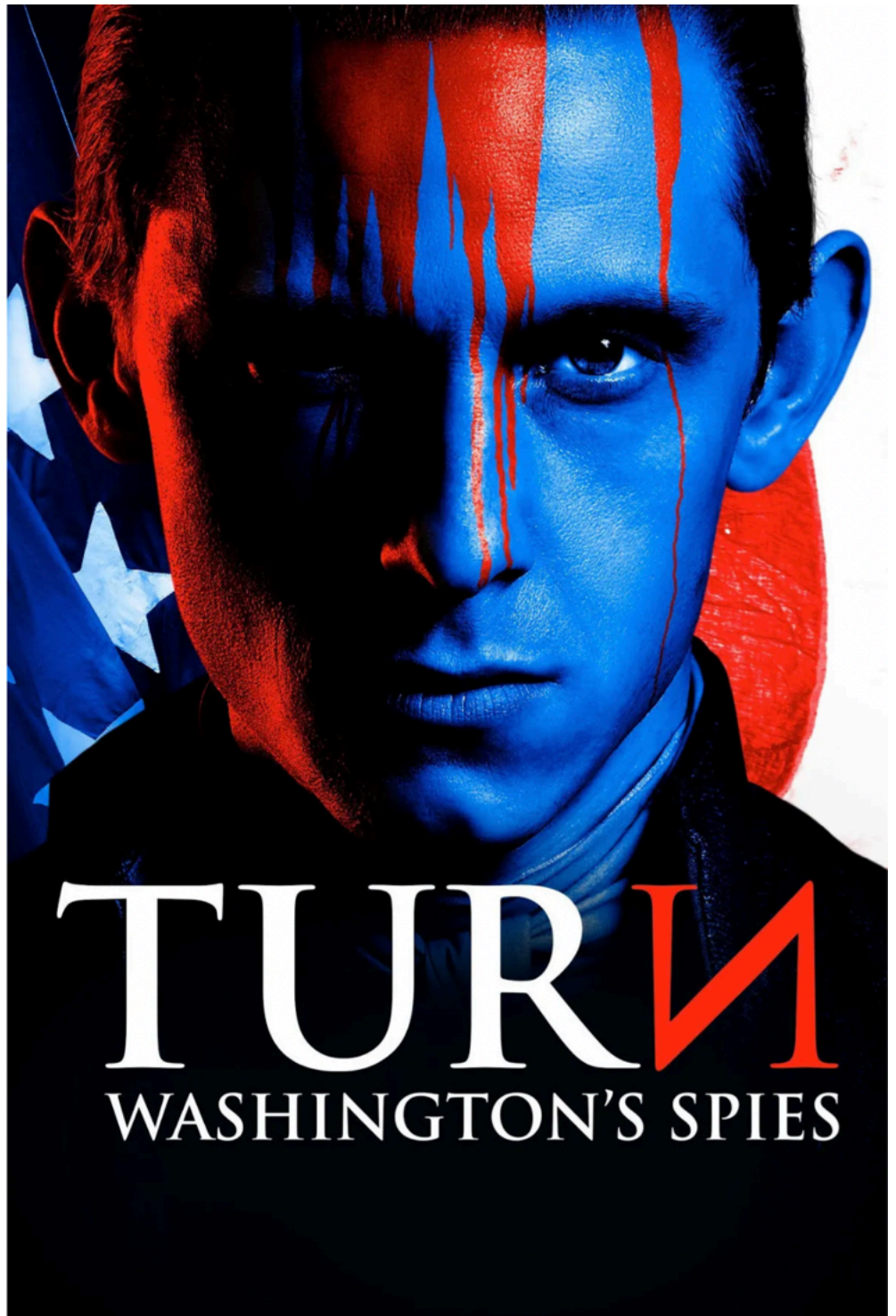


## Lieutenant General Sir George Beckwith

He distinguished himself as a regimental officer in the **American Revolutionary War**, where he was assistant to Major Oliver Delancey **responsible for British Intelligence**. In July 1782 he replaced Delancey.

After the war Beckwith worked in Canada. His efforts were aimed at stirring up trouble in Vermont, Florida, Kentucky and Tennessee. At the time, Britain thought the weak new American government might ask for British help.

*His Excellency Lieutt Genl Sir George Beckwith, KB, Govr of Barbados Commander of His Majesty's Forces in the West Indies', 1814*



The TV series aired from  
April 6, 2014 to  
August 12, 2017 on AMC.

**It is based on the novel  
*Washington's Spies*,  
---- which is based on  
Morton's books.**

It currently can be seen  
online on several services.

## INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR WHOSE BOOK ABOUT THE CULPER SPY RING INSPIRED THE “TURN” TV SERIES

**--THANKS TO MORTON--**



Alexander Rose



*I found this interview self-serving and snarky. See if you agree.*

**June 15, 2017** We had the pleasure of interviewing Alexander Rose, whose book about the Culper spy ring inspired the TV series TURN.

**Q.** Your book *Washington's Spies: The Story of America's First Spy Ring* is the best known of several recent works on spycraft during the American Revolution. What drew you to research and write about this aspect of the war?

**A.** The subject was barely mentioned, if at all, in biographies of Washington. Now, there are all sorts of reasons why Washington was so rarely identified with espionage—it was an ungentlemanly pursuit, he could not tell a lie, etc.—but the omission was startling. Yet the more deeply I researched, I found ever-mounting evidence that both the British and the Americans had fought a long shadow war. There was a system, in other words. *(I disagree that Washington bios didn't cover espionage. Even The Central Intelligence Agency website cites Washington as a founder of American Intelligence.)*

**It was then that I stumbled across the Culper Ring in a 1930s book by an elderly amateur historian named Morton Pennypacker and it went from there. The problem with Pennypacker, who I should say did much sterling work, was that he was informed by a kind of High Victorian romanticism, lacked the inclination to provide footnotes, and had a weakness for lavishly embroidering sometimes rather skimpy material. From the get-go, I was determined to examine the Culper Ring's activities from a scholarly point of view: Base the narrative on written sources, avoid anachronism as much as possible, demolish encrusted, if cherished, myths, and tell the story warts-and-all.**

*"The problem with Pennypacker . . ." The New York Times and the American History establishment didn't think there was a problem. Why would you need footnotes when you are working from original sources? Furthermore Morton published the majority of the spies' letters still in existence and joined them with a running narrative. He did the bulk of your research for you. \*\*\*\**

The Culpers were a godsend: Almost uniquely in the annals of serious intelligence literature, where anonymous codenames are the rule, they had left behind a trove of documents and letters detailing their exploits, fears, and frailties. *(Yes, and thanks to Morton we know who they were.)* Their varied personalities shone through. We also had Washington's letters to his agents, so you can actually see their summoner, almoner, and confessor reacting in real-time to their activities. Put it all together, sort the letters into chronological order, and decrypt the coded ones, and you had the biography of Washington's personal spy ring, a vast, heaving underworld of Revolutionary espionage. There were scores, maybe hundreds, of agents operating, with varying levels of ability, duration, and loyalty throughout the war.

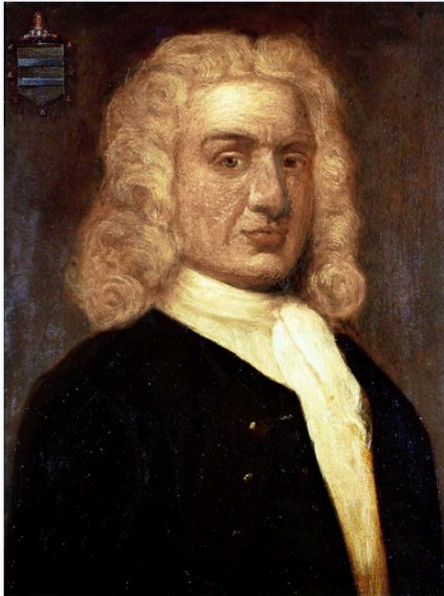
Over the course of the show, I've received hundreds of emails from viewers saying that TURN has inspired them to go to the library to check out books on the Revolution; every year, I get enquiries from excited middle-schoolers telling me they're submitting a project on the Culper Ring to the National History Day competitions; and I'm often invited to address local historical societies about, say, George Washington and espionage. *(Morton preceded you in this.)* I can't give you exact numbers, of course, but from what I can gather, visitor attendance at the various sites associated with the Culper Ring has risen significantly. *(A TV show will do that for anything. Again, thanks belong ultimately to Cousin Morton.)*

**\*\*\*\*Reminds me of Henry Muhlenburg (founder of the Lutheran Church in America) attacking Hendrick Pannebackker. We'll explore that in a later Newsletter.**

## “KIDD OF THE FICTION WRITERS SO CONFUSED THOSE ANXIOUS FOR FACTS THAT THERE WAS AN URGE TO DISCOVER THE REAL MAN.”

What better person to ask than the historian who had revealed the Culper Ring?

New York State Historical Association, 1944. Paper published in New York History Vol. XLII 1944 upon request of members.



Morton knew Kidd since he had studied all things Gardiner.

Members of the Gardiner family built a fireproof room to house Morton's Long Island Historical Collection

CAPTAIN  
WILLIAM KIDD  
(C. 1645-1701)

### CAPTAIN KIDD:

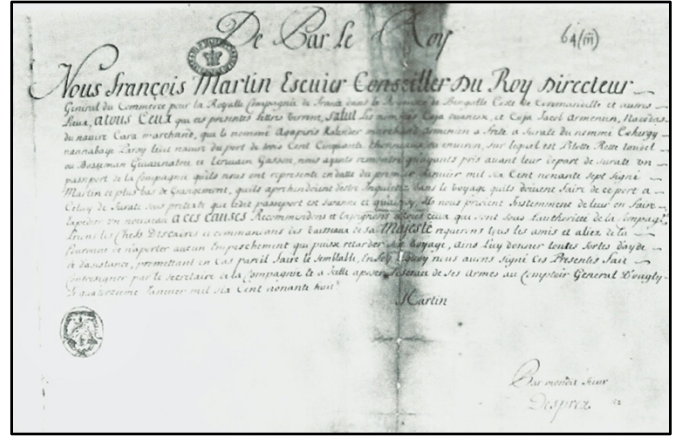
### HUNG, NOT FOR PIRACY BUT FOR CAUSING THE DEATH OF A REBELLIOUS SEAMAN HIT WITH A TOY BUCKET

MORTON PENNYPACKER

**I**T may disappoint some to learn that Captain Kidd's treasure has been found! Hidden on Gardiner's Island, it was recovered in July, 1699, taken to Boston and delivered into the hands of officials; so there is no occasion for any of us at the present day to continue digging for it. Strange as it may seem, as lately as ten years ago permits were granted and companies organized to hunt for the treasure on Gardiner's Island by persons unaware of the fact that so long ago it had all been recovered.

At Boston an inventory was taken, an original copy of which is still in possession of the Gardiner family, and a duplicate has been deposited in the library at East Hampton, Long Island. Many have made facsimiles of it and one will be found among the appendices herewith. This inventory shows a total of 1111 ounces of gold, 2353 ounces of silver and 17¾ ounces of jewels, besides a great deal of miscellaneous material of value. Kidd seems to have prized most of all a chest that the inventory does not account for. In it were three small bags of fever medicine, several pieces of silk striped with silver and gold, cloth of silver, about a bushel of cloves and nutmegs, several books of fine white calicoes, several pieces of fine muslins, and several pieces more of flowered silk and similar material. In a separate enclosure were nine or ten fine India quilts, some of them with fringes and tassels. All in the chest was his personal property, Kidd declared, which may account for its not being inventoried.

The French pass, or safe conduit paper, found by Kidd in the Armenian ship *Quedah Merchant*.



Among documents found in the early 20th century in London court papers. It supported Kidd's account of his actions.

The part played by Richard Coote, Earl of Bellomont, governor of New York and New England—in 1695 Kidd's partner and in 1699 his most rabid enemy—in the recovery of the treasure, can be told in Bellomont's own words. His letter to the Board of Trade, dated the 26th July, 1699, reads: <sup>1</sup>

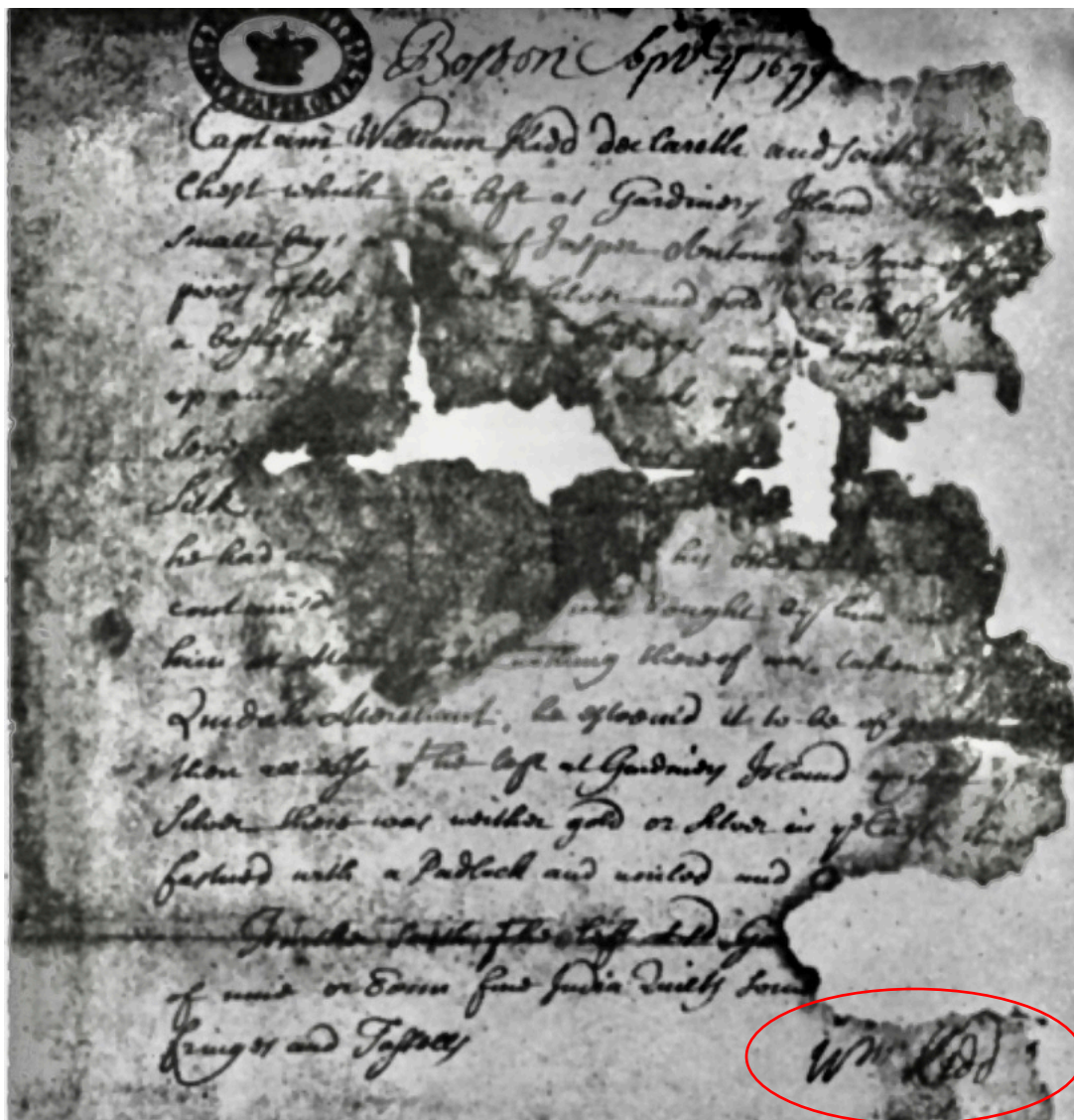
Your Lordships will see in the middle of the inventory a parcel of Treasure and Jewels delivered up by Mr. Gardiner <sup>2</sup> . . . The recovering of which is owing to my own care and quickness. I heard . . . that a man had offered £ 30 for a Sloop to carry him to Gardiner's Island, and Kidd having owned he had buried some Gold on that Island . . . I reflected that that man (who I have since discovered to be one of Kidd's men) was to defeat us of that Treasure; I privately posted away a messenger by land with a peremptory order to Mr. Gardiner in the King's name to come forthwith, and deliver up such Treasure as Kidd or any of his Crew had lodged with him; acquainting him that I had committed Kidd to Goal, as I was ordered to do by the King. My messenger made great haste, and was with Gardiner before anybody, and Gardiner, who is a very substantial man, brought away the treasure without delay, and by my direction delivered it into the hands of the committee.

\* \* \*



A vessel of comparable design to Kidd's vessel *Adventure Galley*

# PANNEBAKKER FAMILY NEWS



**Declaration Regarding Chest Left at Gardner's Island with autograph of Captain Kidd**

## **CAPTAIN WILLIAM KIDD (C. 1645-1701)**

was a Scottish privateer turned pirate who, despite only ever capturing one significant prize ship, the *Quedah Merchant*, has become legendary thanks to the persistent rumor that he buried a fantastic treasure that nobody has yet found.

Captain Kidd was a most unlikely pirate given that he had received a royal commission for a privateering expedition in the Indian Ocean.

Ill luck, poor timing, and his abandonment by the publicity-shy English authorities who had backed his original mission, all ensured that Kidd was found guilty of piracy and murder.

Kidd was arrested, sent to England and found guilty on all charges (murder and five counts of piracy). He was sentenced to death and hanged in Wapping Old Stairs in a public execution on 23 May 1701, at Execution Dock, Wapping, in London. He had to be hanged **twice**. On the first attempt, the hangman's rope broke and Kidd survived. Not only was he hanged, but Kidd's body was left to rot in public for years as a conspicuous warning to others.



**In one chest they found over 200 bars of silver, an enamelled silver box inlaid with diamonds and a diamond ring. In another casket they discovered no less than 67 rubies.**

Yet the hoard unearthed from Gardner's Island may have only been a tiny fraction of Kidd's fortune.

**GARDNIER'S ISLAND MANOR HOUSE 1639** This painting, by an unknown artist about 1800. **Photo by Morton Pennypacker.** The original was destroyed in the Manor House fire, 1947.

## MORTON AS LOCAL TOUR GUIDE

### **History Pilgrims Retrace Capt. Kidd's Trail, Visit Site of Buried Gold on Gardiner's Island**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

EAST HAMPTON, L. I., Oct. 5.—Opening their annual meeting here, members of the New York State Historical Society spent the afternoon on Gardiner's Island, visiting the spot where Captain Kidd buried a chest full of gold, diamonds, rubies and other treasures in 1699, the historic manor house, the Gardiner family cemetery and the forests of oak trees which have been untouched by man. To do the sightseeing the historians braved a choppy sea of six miles from the mainland to the island and tramped five miles over rough roads in spite of intermittent showers.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday there will be meetings held at the Parrish Memorial Art Museum, Southampton.

Morton Pennypacker of Kew Gardens and East Hampton, L. I., donor of the Long Island collection to the East Hampton Free Library, reviewed the history of Gardiner's Island. Dr. A. C. Flick of Albany, New York State historian; Peter Nelson of Albany, Frederick B. Richards of Glens Falls, Secretary of the New York State Historical Association, and Colonel Walter F. Barnes of Riverhead, secretary of the Suffolk County Historical Association, were among the seventy visitors to the island.

After inspecting the manor house and the rough frame buildings which were old slave quarters, the party

tramped a mile to the small granite monument erected fifty years ago by the Gardiner family, which read: "Captain Kidd's treasure was buried in this hollow and recovered 1699."

At this point Mr. Pennypacker told the story of how Captain Kidd, arriving from the West Indies, buried his pirate's loot and swore to secrecy at a pistol's point David Gardiner, the son of Lion Gardiner, the first settler to receive a King's grant to the island in 1639.

The historians visited the Gardiner family cemetery, where the first Lion Gardiner and his wife, Mary Williamson, are buried. Walking through the wooded country north of the manor house, the visiting historians stopped at the Indian burying ground where British soldiers were buried in 1812.

The six-mile boat trip from the promised land docks to Gardiner's Island was made in a choppy sea and during showers.

An official welcome will be extended to the historians at Southampton tomorrow evening when L. Emory Terry, chairman of the Southampton reception committee; Mayor J. Foster Terry, and Colonel Walter E. Barnes, president of the Suffolk Historical Society, will extend greetings in the name of Eastern Long Island. Dr. Dixon Ryan Fox of Columbia University, president of the association, will speak tomorrow night.

The New York Times

Published: October 6, 1932

Copyright © The New York Times

## MORTON SETTLES A PROPERTY ISSUE

### LONG ISLAND ROW IS ENDED AT LAST

Southampton Wins Decision on  
Priority of Settlement  
Over Southold.

#### ANCIENT RECORDS CITED

Latter Town Belonged to New  
Haven Until 1649—Former  
Was Founded in 1640.

By ALBERT RUHFEL.

Special Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SOUTHAMPTON, N. Y., May 19.—It appears that the controversy of many years' duration over the claim of Southold and Southampton for priority of settlement is at last ended. As a community records establish Southampton's claim, with Southold a close second. For actual family settlement, however, East Hampton is a year older, a fact that never has been disputed.

Southampton is the oldest English town in New York State, according to Morton Pennypacker, Long Island historian. Records of the township are in good condition. The claim that Southold's early records were lost is disapproved, says Mr. Pennypacker.

The Southampton Colonial Society delved recently into the reports that Southold's records for the first decade had disappeared. The forty-five-year-old controversy was immediately taken up and as a result Mr. Pennypacker went before the society with his revelations.

The historian stated that the records were not lost, but that in fact they were not kept because Southold in 1640 was a part of New Haven, Conn., which established a colony on the island and exercised governmental jurisdiction until 1649. After that year Southold still remained under the protection of New Haven, but began to organize its own government and started to keep its own books.

Established in 1640.

Southold was established by the Rev. John Youngs in September or October of 1640, when it was known as Yennycott. It was a Puritan settlement under Connecticut domination. Southampton was founded in June of the same year, records reveal.

"If Southold will review its his-

tory in the light of new evidence," said Mr. Pennypacker, "it will be discovered that few of its records are missing. It has never been claimed that any records were lost after Libers A and B began to be kept, and it has always been understood that the community's growth was continuous and more rapid during the second decade than the first. It will be found in examining Liber B that only twenty-four pages were used between 1654 and 1664. In Liber A, seventy pages were required to transcribe the real estate transactions up to 1664, but because of the regulation of 1654 announcing that they now had a book for that purpose and requiring that the bounds of all property be entered therein, a good portion of the seventy pages is used for records of the first decade.

"This gives us a clear view of Southold in its cradle days. It differed from many in that it required no separate government. It was a part of New Haven—actually owned by that town. It was the Southold of New Haven, and perhaps because they had a good opinion of the ancient town by that name in the home land, it being near the home of their pastor, they preferred it to the Yennycott of the Indians and adopted it as a permanent name.

#### Bible Guided Settlers.

"The Rev. John Youngs was a worthy minister and had come through great trials before reaching New England. There was no opening for him there, but New Haven's Southold was not yet settled, and so permission was given him to plant his church there. The land was free to those who came, but only those willing to join the church and obey its ordinances were permitted to settle. The Bible was their book of laws.

"At length the time came when the community outgrew those primitive methods. New Haven voted in 1649 to release its title to its Southold to those who had settled there and after that date it became an independent community. It still remained under the protection of New Haven, but began organizing its own government. A set of books was procured in which to keep records, and these are still in existence, known as Libers A and B."

The first settlers of English birth on Long Island were Lion Gardiner and the families he brought with him to Gardiner's Island in East Hampton Township in 1639.

"Only a ruling as to what constitutes a settlement can decide the question of priority for Southold, and even then if the rule should be changed to date from the arrival of the first Englishman," said Mr. Pennypacker, "Southold would still be a year late."

The New York Times

Published: May 20, 1934

Copyright © The New York Times

**Officers**

**President:** Ron Pennypacker  
520 Loch Alsh Ave.  
Ambler, PA 19002  
(484) 302-6842  
[r.pennypacker@yahoo.com](mailto:r.pennypacker@yahoo.com)

**Vice President:** Linda Millerick  
751 Monterey Salinas Hwy. Salinas,  
CA 93908-8953 (831) 484-2834  
[lmcnealmillerick@yahoo.com](mailto:lmcnealmillerick@yahoo.com)

**Secretary:** Marcea P. Kligman  
4170 Summit Way  
Marietta, GA 30066-2346  
(770) 928-9055  
[mpklig@bellsouth.net](mailto:mpklig@bellsouth.net)

**Treasurer:** Ed Pennypacker  
271 Hafner Rd.  
Royersford, PA 19468  
[ed@jepcosales.com](mailto:ed@jepcosales.com)  
Tel 610 948-7867

**Membership/****Newsletter/WebMaster/****Genealogy:**

Bruce Pennypacker  
201 Shady Brook Drive Langhorne,  
PA 19047 (215) 380-1748  
[throwcoach@gmail.com](mailto:throwcoach@gmail.com)

**Newsletter**

Mary Bullock  
105 Cassidy Place 2R  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
[marybullock@gmail.com](mailto:marybullock@gmail.com)

**Board of Directors**

Tom Armstrong, Branchburg, NJ  
Mary Bullock, Staten Island, NY  
Susan Costantini, Royersford, PA  
Bruce Pennypacker, Langhorne, PA  
Ed Pennypacker, Royersford, PA  
Ron Pennypacker, Ambler, PA  
Sandy Pennypacker, Langhorne, PA

## *Pannebakker Family Association*



The Pannebakker Family Association is an outgrowth of the family reunion held at Pennypacker Mills, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on July 2-4, 1999. The reunion celebrated the 300th year wedding anniversary of Hendrick Pannebecker and Eve Umstat, in Germantown, Pennsylvania in the year 1699. In the words of the Steering Committee of the reunion, "We hope that the 1999 Pfannebecker-Umstat Reunion will lead to the growth of a family association, which will provide a forum for conversation, collection and preservation of information, and a sense of lasting community among the heirs of this rich cultural heritage."