



Wethersfield Historical Society

Where history happens every day.

American Revolution in Wethersfield Scavenger Hunt

Directions: You are a spy during the American Revolution. Another spy has important information for you. Search for clues in the following places in Wethersfield to decode the name of the spy that you need to meet with to get that information.

1. Broad Street Green

In 1765, the people of Wethersfield were outraged when Great Britain passed the Stamp Act. The Stamp Act required that people pay for a new stamp that would be placed on paper documents, including newspapers, legal documents, and even playing cards. In Connecticut, Jared Ingersoll was chosen to make sure people paid for the new stamps.

Find the Wethersfield Heritage Walk sign on the Broad Street Green to discover what happened to Ingersoll when he came to Wethersfield.

- If Ingersoll was forced to resign, the first letter is A
- If Ingersoll was tarred and feathered, the first letter is S

2. Ezekiel Williams House

226 Broad Street

Tension between the people of Wethersfield and Great Britain continued to rise when the Townsend Act was passed in 1767. The Townsend Act placed new taxes on paper, paint, lead, glass, and tea. In response, the people of Wethersfield decided not to buy goods from Great Britain until these new taxes were eliminated.

Visit the home of Sheriff Ezekiel Williams who, as head of the Inspections Committee, made sure that people were not buying goods from Great Britain. Read the sign on his house.

- If his house was built before the Townsend Act was passed, the second letter is N
- If his house was built after the Townsend Act was passed, the second letter is U

3. Col. John Chester Tavern

25 Garden Street

The American Revolution presented Wethersfield's enslaved men with an opportunity to earn their freedom by fighting in the war. One man who seized this opportunity was named Caesar. David Griswold agreed to grant Caesar his freedom if he served in the Continental Army for 3 years. Caesar did such a great job serving in the 5th regiment of the Continental Army that he was formally recognized on his discharge papers as having served "with reputation."

Visit the Col. John Chester Tavern, where Caesar probably worked for Col. John Chester before being sold to David Griswold, and read the sign on the house.

- If this is half of the Chester house, the third letter is N
- If this house was built in the 1600s, the third letter is R



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4. Capt. Ashbel Wright House

133 Main Street

On April 19, 1775, the Revolutionary War began with the Battles of Lexington and Concord. When news of this battle reached Wethersfield, Captain Ashbel Wright, an African American man named Timon Negro, and more than 90 other men from Wethersfield immediately volunteered to fight the British.

Visit Ashbel Wright's House.

- If his house is painted white, the fourth letter is E
- If his house is painted red, the fourth letter is A
- If his house is painted blue, the fourth letter is O

5. Silas Deane House

203 Main Street

In 1776, Silas Deane went on a secret mission to France. There, Silas Deane bought ammunition and recruited French officers to fight in the war, including the Marquis de Lafayette.

Thanks to France's help, America would win the American Revolution. Silas Deane and Benjamin Franklin convinced France to join the American Revolution on America's side in 1778. Read the brown sign in front of Silas Deane's House.

- If his house was built before France entered the war, then the fifth letter is S
- If his house was built after France entered the war, then the fifth letter is R

6. Joseph Webb House

211 Main Street

In 1781, George Washington, the commander of the Continental Army, visited Wethersfield. This house is where George Washington slept when he stayed in Wethersfield.

Read the brown sign in front of the Joseph Webb House to find out which battle George Washington planned when he was staying at this house.

- If the Saratoga Campaign was planned here, then the sixth letter is A
- If the Yorktown Campaign was planned here, then the sixth letter is T

7. Ancient Burying Ground

Many Wethersfield soldiers who fought in the American Revolution are buried in the Ancient Burying Ground.

Find the gravestone of Francis Bulkley. Need help finding Francis Bulkley's gravestone? Check out Wethersfield Historical Society's website: <https://www.wethersfieldhistory.org/burying-ground-digitization/>

- If his gravestone mentions the Lexington Alarm, then the seventh letter is R
- If his gravestone mentions Bunker Hill, then the seventh letter is E



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8. Richard Robbins House

320 Main Street

This is where the French soldiers slept when they visited Wethersfield in 1781.

During the American Revolution, a different building was located here. Read the rock in front of this house to discover the name of that building.

- If this building was called Bunce’s Tavern, then the eighth letter is A
- If this building was called Stillman’s Tavern, then the eighth letter is O

9. Allyn Stillman House

330 Main Street

During the American Revolution, American privateers would attack British ships in the Atlantic Ocean. Privateers were a multiracial group. For example, the crew of the *Minerva*, a ship built in Wethersfield, included African American sailors Peter and Gist. Other Connecticut privateering ships, like the *Oliver Cromwell*, had greater numbers of African American and Native American crewmen. Wethersfield’s privateers captured about 35 British ships.

Visit the home of Allyn Stillman, one of Wethersfield’s privateers.

- If his house has only one door, then the ninth letter is C
- If his house has more than one door, then the ninth letter is N

10. Isaac Goodrich House

451 Main Street

More than 70 men from Wethersfield fought in the 1776 Battle of Long Island. The Battle of Long Island ended in a dreadful loss for the Americans that allowed the British to take control of New York City for the rest of the war.

Visit this house that once belonged to William Griswold Sr., who was injured during the disastrous Battle of Long Island in 1776. About two months later, he died due to his injuries.

- If there are 5 windows on the front of the house, then the tenth letter is K
- If there are 9 windows on the front of the house, then the tenth letter is G
- If there are 12 windows on the front of the house, then the tenth letter is D

Write the Spy’s Name Here:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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