

Washington’s Spy Ring

Benjamin Tallmadge assigned to gathering intelligence

By Ron Jacobs
Contributor

We have been exposed to a great deal of information dealing with our first President, George Washington.

We know of his youth, his military career, his service as the first President of the United States, and his retirement to his home, Mount Vernon, but did you know that during the Revolutionary War he established and operated a spy ring?

The spy ring was an intelligence network named the Culper Spy Ring and was highly successful. George Washington assigned Major Benjamin Tallmadge to gather military intelligence from the British who were occupying New York City during the early days of the Revolution.

The network worked to avoid the mistakes of earlier spies like Nathan Hale who was captured and killed by the British. The speech he gave before his death is still quoted today. “I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

A Cupler Code book was developed using specific numbers to replace common words, names and places. For example 711 stood for George Washington, 727 meant New York and 745 meant England.

The agents wrote messages using a unique chemical mixture. The writing remained invisible until treated with a second chemical. This allowed the agent to hide letters between the lines of normal correspondence.

The ring gathered intelligence that helped expose Major General Benedict Arnold’s treasonous plot to surrender West Point to the British officer John Andre.

The spy ring also alerted Washington to a British plot to forge and flood the colonies with fake Continental currency to collapse the American economy.

To protect the identities of the spy ring, even from Washington, the spies all used code names. Major Benjamin Tallmadge was the ring’s leader and chief handler.

Other known spies were Abraham Woodhull who worked from Long Island; Robert Townsend, a Manhattan merchant and journalist; Austin Roe, a tavern keeper in New York City; Caleb Brewster, a whaleboat captain; Anna Strong, who used her clothesline laundry patterns to give signals; and finally, Agent 355, an unknown female agent whose true identity remains a great mystery.

This secret history remained hidden until the 20th century. A handwriting analysis tied Robert Townsend to



Photo Provided
Benjamin Tallmadge oversaw the Culper Spy Ring, operating out of New York.

a Culper letter.

The name Culper was chosen by Washington and refers to Culpeper County, Virginia.

The spy ring was certainly successful because it remained a secret for many years. The spy ring went out of business after the British surrender in 1783.

Is this the beginning of the CIA, the Central Intelligence Agency?



Photo by Lawrence Anderson

Attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Rodriguez Tire Shop were Lauren Minyard, left, Andy Cumberledge, Paula Williams, Chad Rutledge, Aracely Rico, Brylun Anderson, Candelaria Rodriguez, Rosa Suarez, Miguel Rodriguez, Lucy Suarez, Aracely Rico, Luis Rico, Andrea Snow, Adrian Rico, Richard Cochran, Adrian Rico, Elias Rojo, and Ivan Calleros.

Rodriguez Tire Shop opens in Marietta

The Love County Chamber of Commerce was delighted to host a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday, August 24, 2026, to celebrate the official opening of Rodriguez Tire Shop in Marietta.

Located at 802 West Broadway, Rodriguez Tire Shop is owned and operated by Miguel Rodriguez.

The ribbon-cutting provided an opportunity for Chamber members, community supporters, and local residents to welcome Rodriguez and celebrate the addition of his business to the Love County community.

The Chamber is pleased to welcome Rodriguez Tire Shop as its newest member and looks forward to supporting the business as it grows and becomes an active part of the local economy.

Small businesses play an important role in strengthening communities by providing local services, creating opportunities, and keeping dollars circulating within the local economy. The Love County Chamber encourages residents to support Rodriguez Tire Shop and other locally owned businesses.

Congratulations to Miguel

Rodriguez and Rodriguez Tire Shop on this exciting milestone.

The Love County Chamber wishes them continued success and looks forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in Marietta and throughout Love County.

Remember to shop local and support the businesses that make our community strong.

Here’s stuff you should know from Oklahoma Watch

Oklahoma Schools Embraced Big Tech’s Devices and Curricula. Now the Reckoning Is Starting.

New York Times technology reporter Natasha Singer spent years interviewing more than 100 education and tech industry figures and reviewing hundreds of school and corporate documents for her new book, “Coding Kids: Big Tech’s Battle to Remake Public Schools.”

Her conclusion: Google, Microsoft, Apple and their peers have used free devices, sponsored teacher training, and corporate-funded curricula to shape American public schools in ways that serve industry interests more than students.

Oklahoma’s experience fits the pattern closely.

Jenks Public Schools manages approximately 20,000 Chromebooks across nine schools for about 12,700 students.

Norman, Edmond and

most other large Oklahoma districts built comparable programs through the 2010s, and the COVID-19 pandemic pushed nearly every remaining district toward some form of 1:1 device access using federal relief funds.

Singer describes how Google conquered classrooms not just by offering cheap hardware but by building an ecosystem – free apps, device-management software, and curriculum materials – that made districts dependent and students into future customers.

Chromebooks now account for 59% of mobile devices shipped to U.S. schools nationally.

Schools in Oklahoma, like those in Kansas, Michigan and Wisconsin, adopted nearly identical language straight from Google’s marketing

materials about devices that would “empower students to maximize their full potential.”

The climate is shifting.

Oklahoma’s legislature voted 95-0 in the House this year to cap elementary screen time at one hour per school day.

The Senate let the bill die, but the vote itself signals something.

Governor Kevin Stitt signed a permanent bell-to-bell cellphone ban in May, though it explicitly exempts school-issued devices used for instruction.

Districts including Bartlesville and Sallisaw are pulling back take-home Chromebook access for younger students.

State Superintendent Linda Fields has said “less is more” for pre-K and kindergarten device exposure.

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LOVE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)

BILLY BOB PRICE, Deceased.) PB-2026-36

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR PROBATE OF LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, DEVISEES AND LEGATEES, AND ISSUANCE OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons interested in the Estate of BILLY BOB PRICE, Deceased, that BOBBY DAN PRICE, CINDY KAY MULLER AND SHERRY JEAN SAWYERS, have previously produced and filed in the District Court of Love County, Oklahoma, an instrument, in writing, purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Billy Bob Price, Deceased, and also filed in said Court their Petition, together with a copy of the Last Will and Testament of Billy Bob Price, Deceased, praying for the Probate of the Will and asking that Letters Testamentary be issued to Bobby Dan Price, Cindy Kay Muller and Sherry Jean Sawyers, as Co-Personal Representatives.

Pursuant to an Order previously entered by this Court Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of September, 2026, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., the Petition will be heard in the District Courtroom, County Courthouse, Marietta, Love County, Oklahoma, when and where all persons interested in the Estate of BILLY BOB PRICE may appear and contest the same.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of August, 2026.

/s/ Todd Hicks
Judge

GREG BARNARD, OBA #16107
GREG BARNARD LAW, PLLC
222 Stanley Ave. SW
Ardmore, OK 73401
(405) 826-4104
Attorney for Petitioner

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Public Notice

DISTRICT COURT OF LOVE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

In Re: The Name of)

Erica Lynn Floyd) CV-26-65

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

TO: All interested parties.

Take notice that Erica Lynn Floyd has petitioned to change his/her name to Justin Blake Lynn Shaw.

A Hearing on said petition is set for 9:00 o'clock a.m. on the 17th day of September, 2026, before Judge Hicks at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in courtroom, third floor, at the Love County Courthouse. Should you know of some reason why this change of name should not be allowed you must file a written protest in the above styled and numbered cause prior to the above date with the Clerk of this Court. Should you fail to do so, the petition for change of name may be granted as prayed.

(seal)

COURT CLERK WENDY HOLLAND
/s/ Hailee Hawkins
By: DEPUTY

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Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MARIETTA, LOVE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
TOMMY DALE SMITH,)
Deceased.) Case No. PB-2026-38

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR ANCILLARY PROBATE OF FOREIGN WILL, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, AND DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND LEGATEES

REBECCA MCNEELY has filed herein a *Petition* for Ancillary probate of a Foreign Will in the Estate of Tommy Dale Smith, Deceased, requesting admission of said Will, appointment of REBECCA MCNEELY as Personal Representative and that *Letters Testamentary* be issued to REBECCA MCNEELY and that, for purposes of executing *Consents* and *Waivers*, the heirs-at-law, devisees, and legatees of the Decedent be determined.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said *Petition* be and is hereby set for hearing in this Court in the Love County Courthouse, Marietta, Oklahoma, on the 16th day of September, 2026, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the courtroom of the undersigned Judge, when and where all persons interested may appear and contest said *Petition*.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice be given as required by law.

WITNESS my hand this 20th day of August, 2026.

/s/ Todd Hicks
T. TODD HICKS
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

ALEXA STUMPF WHITE, OBA #33056
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ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

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Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF LOVE COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
JIMMY GLENN SAMPSON, DECEASED.) No. PB-2026-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

All creditors having claims against estate of Jimmy Glenn Sampson, Deceased, are required to present the same, with a description of all security interests and other collateral (if any) held by each creditor with respect to such claim, to the named Personal Representative, Brandon Abraham Sampson, c/o Richard A. Cochran, Jr., Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 262, 309 West Main Street, Marietta, Oklahoma 73448, on or before the following presentment date: September 23, 2026, or the same will be forever barred.

Dated: August 19, 2026.

/s/ Richard A. Cochran, Jr.
Richard A. Cochran, Jr., OBA #1747
Richard A. Cochran, Jr. P.C.
P.O. Box 262
309 West Main Street
Marietta, Oklahoma 73448
Telephone (580) 276-5111
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Attorney for Personal Representative

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