

Words to Know before You Go!

American Revolution

Neutral

Patriot

Loyalist

Traitor

Conspiracy

Petticoat

Rebel

Betray

Fun Facts

John Jay was the eighth of ten children.

Today King's College, the school where John Jay was educated, is called Columbia University.

The John Jay Homestead has about 60 rooms.

When John Jay lived at the homestead the farm was around 750 acres. That's about 568 football fields put together.

Before proposing to Sarah, John had asked another woman to marry him. She said no.

When John and Sarah were married in 1774, John was 28 years old and Sarah was only 17!

John's brother James invented a type of invisible ink.

When John was negotiating the Treaty of Paris, his wife Sarah stayed in Ben Franklin's house in Passy, France until their daughter Nancy was born. Ben Franklin was a famous printer, publisher and inventor.

John Jay was good friends with George Washington. In fact, when Washington was sworn in as President of the United States, John Jay was standing on the same balcony.

Who was John Jay and why is he important?

John Jay was one of America's founding fathers, just like George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. During his life, Jay was a lawyer, diplomat, the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court and a governor of New York.

He was born in New York City in 1745 into a well-to-do family. Jay grew up on the family farm in the town of Rye in Westchester and was sent to King's College when he was 14. After graduation he worked as an apprentice in a law office.

In 1774, John married Sarah Livingston, the same year he was elected to the Continental Congress, which had organized to protest Britain's taxes on products used in the American colonies.

Angry that Britain would not listen to the colonists complaints, John Jay became a Patriot.

When the American Revolution began John and his wife Sarah traveled to Spain to try and raise money to help the colonists.

In America the British surrendered at the battle of Yorktown and John Jay traveled from Spain to Paris in order to help negotiate the treaty which ended the Revolutionary War.

When the Jays returned to the United States, John supported a new Constitution that created the government we have today. He wrote essays called the *Federalist* papers to convince New Yorkers to ratify the Constitution.

The Constitution was ratified in 1789 and George Washington appointed John Jay to be the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

In 1794 John Jay was sent by President George Washington to Britain to negotiate a treaty that would solve the problems that had not been fixed when the American Revolution had ended.

Americans disliked the Jay Treaty because they felt that it was more favorable to Britain. Today historians think that the Jay Treaty prevented a war that the new American nation would not have been ready to fight.

After returning to America John Jay became the Governor of New York.

In 1801, Jay retired to his farm in Bedford with his wife and three of their five children. John died in 1829 and was buried in the family cemetery in Rye, New York.



**John Jay Homestead State Historic Site
Katonah, NY**

A Little More History...

During the American Revolution not all the colonists wanted to declare their independence from Great Britain. The colonists who wanted to remain loyal were called 'Loyalists' and those who wanted independence were called 'Patriots'.

In the autumn of 1776, early on in the American Revolution, New York City was seized by the British. The New York Provisional Congress quickly relocated to Fishkill, a small town farther up the Hudson River. The congress was composed of influential colonists, including John Jay, who helped plan the defense of New York from the British and Loyalists. In addition to planning New York's defense, Jay was also the leader of the Committee and Commission for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies. He employed at least ten secret agents to spy and seek out information about the Loyalists.



Westchester County, the area in between rebellious upstate New York and British conquered NYC was called the 'Neutral Ground'.

Nowadays we think of neutral as something that does not take any side. The 'Neutral Ground' was actually the opposite. It was filled with men, women and children from both sides. This made Westchester County a very dangerous area during the American Revolution.

The main danger of the 'Neutral Ground' came from two wandering gangs. One gang called the Cowboys was led by a wealthy Loyalist, Colonel DeLancy. The other gang, the Skinners claimed their actions were in support of the Patriot cause. Both gangs terrorized anyone living in the 'Neutral Ground'.

During your visit to the Homestead you will learn details about the gangs that were a constant threat to the inhabitants of Westchester County. You will also discover John Jay's role as a spymaster and his contributions to the defense of New York during the American Revolution.

Think Like a Spy

Many spy rings developed codes that only the members of their group would recognize. One of these historic codes is displayed below. This code substituted the letters of the alphabet (the top row) for the letter beneath it (bottom row.)

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M

Figure it out....

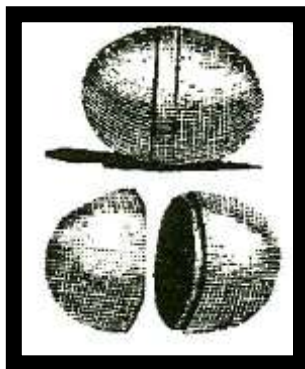
The words in *italics>* were written using a historic spy code. Replace each code letter with its real letter to reveal the secret words.



1. Spies used *fclynnffrf* like this to get a closer look at their enemies.



2. This is a self-portrait by *Znwbe Wbua Naqer*, a British spy, the night before his execution. You will find out more about him and his traitorous friends during your visit to the Homestead.



3. To the left is a silver ball that would contain a secret message. It was small enough that a person could *fnvybj* it if he or she was in danger of getting caught.
