

Brotherhood of the Wilderness Traces Washington's Rise Through Indigenous Alliances and Colonial Spycraft

Lew Geoffrey Bennett's historical novel explores wilderness knowledge, social divisions, and personal bonds shaping a president's path from surveyor to leader.

NEW YORK CITY, NY, UNITED STATES, October 21, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- George Washington's development unfolds through wilderness survival, Indigenous relationships, and the exchange of guarded information in Lew Geoffrey Bennett's *Brotherhood of the Wilderness: Colonial Williamsburg: Before the Culper Spy Ring*. Opening with Seneca Chief Guyasuta watching Washington take the presidential oath in New York City in 1789, the novel looks back at the colonial experiences behind that transformation, placing scouts and a secretive brotherhood alongside military leaders and governors.

The story returns to Augustine and Mary's Ferry Farm on the Rappahannock River, where George tests plantation rules and attracts his neighbors' attention. Indigenous ceremonies are woven into his formative years. Guyasuta, a spiritual leader close to the Brotherhood, meets him at Logstown and gives him the nickname Tall Hunter. Passages from scouts' notebooks and journals bring wilderness survival and knowledge of battle outcomes into their connection.

Against the struggle between Britain and France, Washington moves from surveying to military command. Governor Dinwiddie sends him to carry messages to the French Army in the Ohio Valley, and he later leads a Virginia Colonial Regiment in the French and Indian War. An exposed dead-drop involving Jacob Van Braam in Port Alexandria adds an espionage element, while the narrative suggests connections between wilderness spycraft and later Culper methods.

Beyond its military story, the book depicts a graded social order encompassing landed gentry,

BROTHERHOOD OF THE WILDERNESS

*Colonial Williamsburg:
Before The Culper Spy Ring*



LEW GEOFFREY BENNETT

Brotherhood of the Wilderness:
Colonial Williamsburg: Before The
Culper Spy Ring by Lew Geoffrey
Bennett

farmers, Indigenous people, and enslaved people. Washington's relationships challenge those divisions, while family support, friendship, and a wife's love and patience receive attention alongside battlefield experience. This combination gives readers interested in colonial society a perspective that extends beyond ranks and campaigns to the personal ties surrounding the novel's central figure.

Trade and information networks provide another dimension of the book's colonial world. The narrative describes Indigenous networks stretching from Nova Scotia to the Spanish Colony of Florida, and relationships linking fur traders with Canadian and American colonists and enslaved people. Its attention to heritage, songs, routes, and weaponry makes cultural knowledge part of the story, rather than treating the wilderness solely as a setting for military encounters.

Bennett hopes to reach readers interested in the American path to freedom and the principles that shaped the nation. He describes the Brotherhood as people seeking freedom from oppressive monarchies and governments. That stated purpose frames the novel's interest in independence: alongside Washington's rise, it asks readers to consider the relationships, practical knowledge, and shared commitments represented in the Brotherhood's experience.

"I decided to write the book when I became a member of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution."

— LEW GEOFFREY BENNETT

Lew Geoffrey Bennett identifies the Brotherhood's celebration of life for George Washington and his wife at Boone Mountain as the part of his novel that means the most to him.

Available now. Get your copy here:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1977294545>

For review copies, interview requests, or additional information, please contact:

Lew Geoffrey Bennett
BrightKey PR
media@brightkeypr.com

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/951286507>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2026 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.