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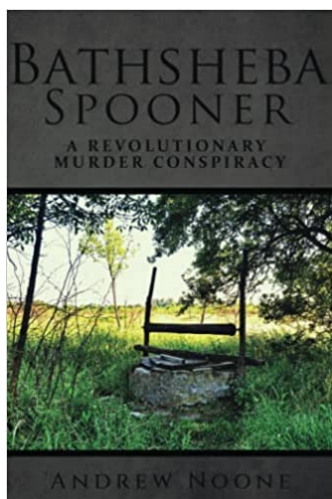
January 2023

No. 4

Continuing the Tradition ~ Preserving Our History

bvhsri.org • 1873 Old Louisquisset Pike (Rte 246) • PO Box 125, Lincoln RI, 02865

Author Andrew Noone To Give Talk at BVHS on a Revolutionary War Murder



Cover of the book *Bathsheba Spooner, A Revolutionary War Conspiracy* by Andrew Noone

What possessed a woman from the elite of eighteenth-century New England society to conspire with American and British soldiers to murder her husband at the midpoint of the American Revolution? The story of Bathsheba Spooner has alternately fascinated and baffled residents of Worcester County for centuries. Beyond central Massachusetts, the tale is largely unknown. It was, in fact, the most sensational “true

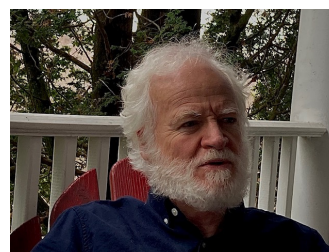
crime” tragedy of the American 1700’s.

Bathsheba Ruggles Spooner, (1746–1778) was the first woman in American history to be executed after the Declaration of Independence.

Spooner was the daughter of a leading Tory lawyer, Timothy Ruggles, who served several terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives before the Revolution, and afterwards settled in Nova Scotia. Bathsheba had an arranged marriage to wealthy farmer Joshua Spooner in Worcester and remained in Massachusetts. After becoming pregnant by her lover, 17-year old Continental soldier Ezra Ross, she enlisted the assistance of Ross and two former British soldiers to mur-

der her husband. On the night of March 1, 1778, Spooner was beaten to death and his body hidden in a well. Bathsheba and the three conspirators were soon arrested, tried, and convicted of Spooner’s murder, and sentenced to death. She was buried in an unmarked grave in Green Hill Park in Worcester.

About the author



Andrew Noone

Andrew Noone became interested in Spooner when he realized that his house was adjacent to Green Hill Park where she was buried. He became

fascinated with the story, and began to research the murder and trial.

Andrew Noone is an independent scholar with graduate degrees in art history and musicology from Syracuse University. He was music specialist in the Worcester Public Schools and has taught courses in the humanities at several colleges in Massachusetts, including Clark University.

2:00 p.m. Sunday,

January 22

Bathsheba Spooner

A Revolutionary Murder

Conspiracy

Talk by author

Andrew Noone

BVHS, 1873 Old

Louisquisset Pike,

Lincoln, RI

**Donations are always welcome to help keep up North Gate,
the Fire Station and the Bakery!**

**Most events are free.
Everyone is welcome.
Donations are gratefully accepted.**

2:00 pm Sunday, January 22: Andrew Noone, author of “Bathsheba Spooner, A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy,” will give a presentation.

2:00 pm Sunday, April 16: Jim Bailey will speak about his research and his upcoming new book about Captain Henry Every, the pirate.

1:30 pm Sunday, May 21. Annual Meeting and talk by Kevin Klyberg, Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park Ranger.

Brick Walk to Bakery

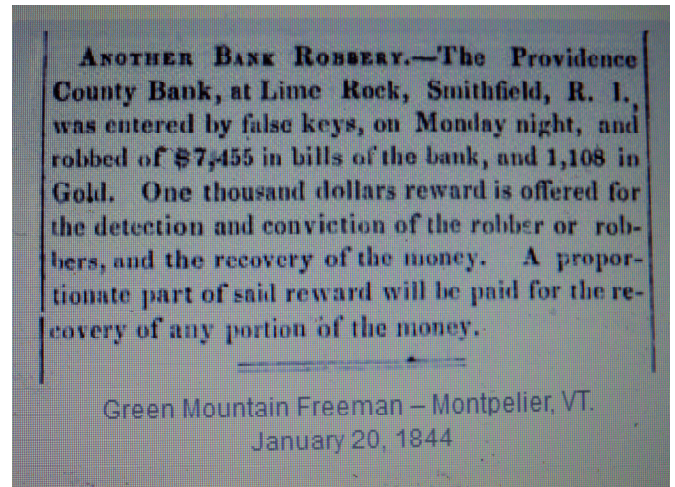


Joyce Bethel holding a memorial brick for Jim Bethel, while Jason Dionne holds a brick with Joyce Bethel's name.

BVHS is planning to repair the brick walk to the

bakery. Many members and supporters in the past bought bricks with their names on them for the walkway. We will be offering this opportunity again this spring to support BVHS.

In the photograph, Mrs. Bethel and Jason Dionne show off the newest bricks in front of the bakery.



Article about an 1844 bank robbery at the Lime Rock Bank on Great Road near North Gate, discovered by Danny Bethel

History Lost: Knock on Wood



Knock on Wood Furniture Store/
Lonsdale Hall after the fire. Photo by
Danny Bethel

On December 1, the Knock on Wood furniture store at 1661 Lonsdale Avenue in Lincoln was destroyed by fire. The building was built around 1869 by the Lonsdale Company as a

community meeting place and commercial center. It originally contained the local library, various club rooms, and a meeting hall with a dance floor on the second level. The first level had small shops.

In 1888, according to the National Register, the first floor held a drug store, a barber shop, a dry goods store, and a bakery. It was once considered to be the social and commercial center of Lonsdale. Some residents still remember attending junior high school dances there.

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