

EPISODE 483

[00:00:00] AH: I'm really excited to speak to both of you about this, especially because it's about Philadelphia, which is one of my favorite cities in the United States. But before we look at the *Spy Sites of Philadelphia*, the thought that strike me, how did you gentlemen first meet? And how is your partnership lasted so long and been so successful? Because I know a lot of authors, and I know a lot of people that have tried to coauthor stuff, and it doesn't always end well. But you guys are really going strong. And this is yet another quality Melton-Wallace production. So just tell us a little bit more about how you first began to collaborate and what is the secret?

[00:00:40] RB: Keith, do you remember when we first met?

[00:00:43] HKM: Bob, it was in the mid-1990s. I believe it was getting closer to one of the anniversaries of 50th of OTS. It may have been before that.

[00:00:57] RB: I think it was the summer before the 50th anniversary of the CIA in 1997. Keith had generously loaned to the CIA many of his artifacts, many of his Cold War artifacts for a display that we would have at the CIA headquarters that fall. This would be part of our overall celebration. And I was the Acting Director of the Office of Technical Service at the time. So we were also contributing as some of our artifacts to that exhibit.

The piece that I remember most vividly is a bit humorous, because there were some items that we had that the CIA did not want to declassify. Keith Melton had some of those same gadgets in his collection, because he had gotten them from the Russians. But we like to say that if you want to see the best display of CIA gadgetry and devices in the world in addition to the International Spy Museum, you should go to the KGB Museum in Moscow. So that's the point at which Keith Melton and I became acquainted. And I guess it would be fair to say that we developed a very good friendship thereafter.

[00:02:33] AH: It does seem like a marriage made in heaven, because you were in the Office of Technical Services, Bob. And I know that, Keith, you're really fascinated by the technology and this tradecraft of espionage.

[00:02:47] **HKM:** I would add that Bob is extraordinarily detailed and patient. And so it's been a pleasure to work with him on so many years. When we wrestled through a project, we approach it from complimentary positions. Bob is very good at looking at the human element and wanting to make sure that the broad themes and the overarching story is told. I like to look at what millimeter film were they using, and what was the exact radio frequency of the covert communication. Between the two, we approached it from generally different areas, but we're both very consumed with making sure it's factual. And hopefully there are stories well told.

[00:03:34] **RB:** Our collaboration on a book didn't begin until 2003. The summer of 2003, I retired from the CIA. And, again, I recall very clearly in a conversation that I was having with Keith, he suggested we began thinking about putting together a book about the development of CIA gadgets, particularly the devices that support espionage operations. And Keith's point was that he had many of the devices, many of the gadgets. He had the details on the technology. And perhaps through my contacts with people, retired people at the agency, we could develop a number of stories about how these gadgets were developed and how they were used. So that conversation eventually led to us collaborating with Henry Schlessinger, a New York writer, on Spycraft. Mr. Schlesinger had in fact profiled Keith's – Probably two or three years previously, Keith, in an article in the Smithsonian Magazine.

[00:04:49] **HKM:** He had. We've all three kind of generally been busy on some espionage-related project I think since about them in various degrees of focus. But it's been many interesting stories to tell. And there's been a number of very interesting books that have resulted.

[00:05:09] **AH:** And what number of book is this now?

[00:05:12] **RB:** We have done five books now together. The Spy Site Series, which is three books, Philadelphia, Washington, and New York. We did Spycraft, which was the original book. And between those two, there's the official CIA Manual of Trickery and Deception. Really quite a fascinating little piece we put together in 2009, 2010. And that book has subsequently done quite well on the commercial market. It has been translated into 10 different languages. And so

it is literally published around the world. I suppose our Chinese friends have learned quite a lot about the CIA tradecraft from the 1953 document that is the core of that book.

[00:06:10] HKM: Also, we've had very interesting two plus years with a television series Spycraft. It debuted earlier this year on Netflix.

[00:06:20] AH: And I really enjoy that series. And I would encourage our listeners to watch it too. So moving on to the book now. So Philadelphia, we had Washington, DC, we had New York City. And know how Philadelphia. So could you just tell us a little bit more about the role that Philadelphia plays? In the book you say that it's the birthplace of American espionage. Can you just walk us through the birth?

[00:06:44] RB: Keith, I think it would be helpful if you would sort of set the background of how the whole Spy Site Series was developed. Because, as Andrew mentioned, we had two books before we did Philadelphia. So kind of the backdrop of those other two books, I think it helps us inform Philadelphia,

[00:07:07] HKM: Bob and I, in building, and first, an archive of stories and an archive of – Which resulted now to be thousands of espionage related images. We also begin collecting details of sites. It was interesting to know where someone was born, where they died, but also where they did a drug drop, where they had a safe house, where there was an assassination. And as the archive began to grow, we pondered once, would it be practical to do a guide to a city, but just focusing on places that espionage took place? And from that we looked in where in the US could you really support? Was there enough espionage that you could support a book?

We looked at the country, essentially three cities jumped out. Of course, Washington, DC, but also New York City, and Philadelphia, because those three cities had the preponderance of espionage that would cover going back to the American Revolution, and certainly up to the current day. And we began with Washington. A couple of years later did New York City. But we needed to end with Philadelphia. And the three cities were in many ways operations in one also were conducted with the other. But the books were designed to not just be a site that says, “On this corner, XYZ took place.” But to say, “Here's what happened. Here's how it was conducted.

Here's what it means." So, cumulatively, they probably give leaders very good insight into tradecraft and clandestine operations. But Philadelphia turned out to be very special.

[00:08:57] RB: Yes, Philadelphia fascinated me when we started to get into it. I had not really appreciated the role that Philadelphia played in the development of the American intelligence capability absent the research we started to do with this book. I like to say that Philadelphia before the founding fathers, or esteemed founding fathers, they were spies. It was a gang of spies that created the Declaration of Independence.

A year before the Declaration of Independence was drafted and signed, the Continental Congress in 1775 authorized the Commander in Chief of the Army, the just appointed Commander in Chief of the Army, George Washington, they secret fund to conduct intelligence operations. That was done in June of 1775. And less than a month later, George Washington made his first draw on that account an amount of about \$333 that he gave to an unidentified person. Still, we don't know who that was, but an unidentified individual to organize the America's first aspiring in the Boston area, in the New England area. So that was the beginning of the American espionage enterprise.

[00:10:35] AH: One of the things that you talked about in the book is the Committee on Spies. Could you tell our listeners a little bit more about that committee?

[00:10:42] RB: The Committee on Spies, I suppose if one wanted to draw a current analogy with it, it would be the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. If the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence had the role of creating and implementing the spy organization, not simply overseeing the operations of US intelligence. So this committee was made up of names that people know, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson. And these founders of America were also part of the Committee of the Spies.

Now the Committee of the Spies also recognized almost immediately that there were two elements to spying. One was the acquisition of information. And the other was the protection of their own information, protection from British spies. Let's not ignore the fact that the British intelligence apparatus was also in full swing across the colonies at the time. The British was

interested in what was going on in the forming revolution as the revolutionaries were in getting rid of the British. So we had a spy versus spy situation in America in 1775.

So the committee that you refer to had both obligations, and much of the was what I would call them distributed kind of spying. The various colonies had their own separate organizations that were more or less coordinated by this committee. In terms of the counterintelligence function, the man appointed to head that counterintelligence in New York was John Jay, the man who later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. With respect to New York, the importance of Jay's appointment there is that New York was occupied by the British. That was where the British command for their military and the colonies was located in New York. So quite reasonably, the British were running a number of spy operations against the Patriots out of New York. That's kind of the broad brush on the role and function of the committee. Keith, do you have something to add there?

[00:13:18] HKM: We dismissed our forefathers as unsophisticated and really not aware and it's not up to date as we are today. I would ponder or posit that, as Bob and I have discussed, all the fundamental goals of intelligence and counterintelligence that are in place today, the basic principles were very well recognized at the time. The only thing that's really changed is the methodology by which we accomplish those goals.

And as Bob and I once tried to define good trade craft, and trade craft being systematized techniques and practices of clandestine behavior, we decided that good trade craft is never constant. It's always being updated by new and available technology. And sometimes it's been backdated, because a technology is so old, it becomes useful again. And it's been off the shelf so long, you can begin to use it. So they were very aware they use the best available tools at the time. And George Washington very successfully used intelligence and psychological warfare and took advantage of the fact that the majority of the people in the country supported the revolution. And he used it to the disadvantage of the British.

[00:14:43] RB: Andrew, as you mentioned, a lot of interest on the part of both Keith and I and the technology of the time. And I think I want Keith to comment on this, but I would make one immediate note that John Jay also had a brother, a brother who lived in Britain at the time was a physician. And he had access, because of his physician status, to all types of chemistry and

chemicals and the various things available. And John Jay's brother supplied John Jay and ultimately the Patriots with some of the special things that can be used for secret writing. Keith, maybe you would like to speak just a little bit more about the various technologies that were available during the Revolutionary War.

[00:15:34] HKM: Certainly. Much of what was used at the time has been popularized in the television series Turn. And it's a very interesting series. It certainly gets some of the points right. At times, it's highlighting technologies that wouldn't even come around for another 10, 20 years or even longer. And some things are fungible. But the core of espionage is communication. It's one thing to have the capability or either have someone that knows secrets, or can steal secrets, but they're no good if you can't convey that information to the service of the person or the part of the military that can in turn use them. And so it's that tenuous link between an agent and a service. That was essentially the focus of the CIA's Office of Technical Service was originally to provide technology agent transferring that information. But during the revolution, they felt the same thing.

So they first had to say, "Well, how do we protect the information?" And the height of coldcom, covert communication of the day, was secret writing. And they called it sympathetic stains. And at the time, they developed techniques that would be well used throughout the Cold War, and perhaps even to the current day of taking a letter, turning it at a right angle, and either writing a message in a sympathetic stain that would not appear unless you either subjected to heat or you applied a liquid reagent that would make the original message appear. And this proved to be very effective.

Some of the individual stains, they were referred to by General Washington that he used, have still never been identified. So it's very, very interesting. It lacks the sophistication that came with greater technology at a later point. But the ability to know your ink and know the reagent and use it was core to being a spy at the time. And also, conversely, being caught with secrets inks was timely facie evidence of espionage. So there's the flip side of it. But the fundamental tenants of understanding the protection of information, and General Washington wrote a famous letter, it said, "For the lack of secrecy, all else may be lost," and I'm paraphrasing him. But the document was in many ways one of the founding documents of the CIA, because it recognized that you need to have secrets and you need to protect secrets if we will have an effective

democracy. It was all of our democracy. And especially during the revolution, depended on could the leaders communicate secretly in order to plan for a future country or enact a war?

[00:18:31] RB: Part of the secrecy of the Revolutionary War also involved cryptology. We tend to think perhaps of cryptology as being a more modern science. But in fact, Thomas Jefferson is known for having created a wheel, a wooden wheel, which could be used for encrypting messages. Perhaps a more significant person than Jefferson was a man named James Lovell, who was kind of the advocate for the use of cryptology among the Patriots. And he also created a cipher machine that was that was used during substituting numbers for letters during the Revolutionary War. He also was effective as a cryptologist himself. And he was successful in personally decrypting messages from British generals, between British generals that had been intercepted by the Patriots. And this information is generally thought to be of a special importance to George Washington at the final battle of Yorktown in 1781.

[00:19:48] AH: And one of the questions that I was thinking about when both of you were speaking there was we spoke about the Committee on Spies. We spoke about George Washington as America's first spy master. We spoke Philadelphia is the birthplace of American espionage. But I was wondering, where did that skillset come from that they have to start from scratch? Was it from books? Was it stuff that they borrowed from the British? Help us understand a little bit more about how they developed that skillset at the birth of the country.

[00:20:20] RB: I'll make a comment on that, and then kick it back to Keith. There is evidence that George Washington was a learner of mistakes, or by mistakes. And George Washington's activity, military activity during the French and Indian War, was not nearly as successful as his leadership during the Revolutionary War. So George Washington picked up a number or is believed to have learned a number of experiential lessons from his cracking Indian War experience that he applied then, especially in the area of secrecy and learning agents to his revolutionary war apparatus.

Benjamin Franklin, who was a real rascal in terms of just personality, he must have been a delightful man to have known, was a publisher throughout his adult life. And he and he was an "old man". Put that in quotes, since I'm of his generation now myself, was an old man. He's seven years old at the time of the revolution. But he had a keen awareness, a keen sense of the

power of the press. And he was quite deliberate and quite active in doing all kinds of influence operations through the press, through the printing press, which was the primary means of communication at the time. He was not at all above, creating and publishing false stories. If there was a father of fake news, that might have been Benjamin Franklin. Keith, maybe you could add an item or two.

[00:22:06] HKM: I would observe that the fledgling revolution learned the necessity to be able to hold [inaudible 00:22:13] without being detected by the loyalists. They were able to evade the early version of the police, the British counter intelligence. And those lessons that they learned to survive going into 1776 would ultimately serve them well. Because even when they took power, the necessity to maintain secrecy of communication was key, especially in the fledgling meetings, you had to have a Committee of Secret Correspondents, because if you couldn't communicate secretly, you couldn't run a government, and you certainly couldn't fund clandestine activities or military.

But with our military disadvantage and with the overpowering might have the most powerful Navy in the world, the colonies were a great disadvantage. Intelligence and espionage proved to be one of the areas that was asymmetrical. We use that very effectively. And General Gage, one of the British generals later communicating after the war made the broad observation that they, the colonials, outsiders, and it was used very well. And if we look back at one of the great spy masters in our history, one might nominate General Washington is perhaps one of the first of his ability to task and use information directly. It was somewhat without parallel for a person of his stature and position.

[00:23:53] RB: There were two really ugly incidents for the Patriots that also formed their attitude towards buying, but also encouraged them to be very careful in their spying. The one was the capture and execution of the first and probably the most famous of the Revolutionary War spies, Nathan Hale, someone who was – He'll train to be a spy. The British quickly captured him after he had attempted to infiltrate, and executed him. This led to, in part, a friend of his, by the name of Benjamin Tallmadge, creating and running the Culper Ring out of New York, which arguably became one of the most successful of the Patriots by rings.

Tallmadge's recollection, or that memory of his college classmate being executed, I'm sure gave Mr. Tallmadge many sleepless nights in terms of thinking about how he would protect the security of the Culper Ring. But the second kind of slap across the face was Dr. Benjamin Church. And Dr. Benjamin Church was right at the center of this core of founding fathers. He went to Philadelphia to the Continental Congress, and was such a respected man that he was named the Director General and Chief Physician of Washington's army. What none of the founding fathers understood at the time was that he was a spy for the British and he was reporting to the British generals back in New England what was going on at the Continental Congress and all of these sorts of things.

He probably would not have been captured or detected had it not been for tradecraft air in which one of his letters, for reasons that are just completely not understood by me, but he used his mistress as a courier for one of his letters. And this letter eventually fell into Patriot hands, and Benjamin Church was identified as a British spy.

And the fascinating point on it is, though Washington couldn't do anything about it really, as in he couldn't hanging, because the Continental Congress hadn't passed any authorization for execution of spies. They did that quickly. But Benjamin Church was spared until he decided to sail for Central America. And sometime in during his sailing to Central America, his ship went down in the West Indies, and he was lost. So we never had the final memoir of Dr. Benjamin Church, which have been fascinating had we had it.

[00:26:51] AH: Just to concretize the book in Benjamin Church a little bit more, could you just tell us about the Spy Site of Philadelphia that's connected to him?

[00:26:59] RB: The Spy Site of Dr. Church is Independence Hall and Carpenters Hall, both of which were meeting locations for the Continental Congress.

[00:27:11] AH: I think for some listeners, when they think about Philadelphia and espionage, for the Continental Congress, that will seem more obvious the connection. But the story doesn't stop there, does it? Because in the book you've got a chapter where you're looking at the 19th century. And we'll come on to World War One and World War Two, but give us a couple of your favorite spy sites of Philadelphia that [inaudible 00:27:35] in the 19th century.

[00:27:38] **HKM:** One that I thought was very interesting is perhaps America continued to do, after we would have a war, we would traditionally disband not only much of our military, but much of our intelligence and counterintelligence capability. So after each great war, we go into a lull. And then we have to suddenly try to be prepared for the next war. So going into the American Civil War, we had no organized intelligence or counter intelligence capability. But one man stood clearly out at the very beginning. And that would have been a man named Allan Pinkerton. Began a private detective service in the 1850s. And his branch office was on South 3rd in Philadelphia. And by the way, a site that is still there. He would employ one of his detectives named Kate Warne, who would be remembered by him is perhaps one of the five greatest detectives that ever lived.

So Pinkerton would be pressed into service. Bob can go into more depth. But all manners of things including protecting president-elect Lincoln as he transited through Philadelphia more than once on its way to Washington. And Pinkerton – The company is still in business today. But Pinkerton would become one of the major sources of intelligence for the Union Army. There were other competing sources within military intelligence. But it's certainly linked with Philadelphia, and it has a rich history. Bob and I were always fascinated. And I think he'll talk about the link with President Lincoln.

[00:29:26] **AH:** I was really hoping that, yes, we're going to mention Pinkerton, because he was born in the same set as me, Glasgow, before he came to the States. So yeah, sorry. Over to you, Bob.

[00:29:39] **RB:** Well, the Pinkerton Detective Agency, which was really formed to protect the railroads in the 1850s, became well known for its effectiveness and it's good to detect the work. And so this is one of those cases where, essentially, a group of civilians, citizens if you will, citizen spies, were brought in to the United States government to protect the president. There were credible threats that Abraham Lincoln's life was threatened during the time that he was traveling by train from Springfield to Washington for his inauguration. And the center of that conspiracy seemed to be in Baltimore.

Lincoln, after he left in New York, the train route was to Philadelphia with then a stopover in Harrisburg. Lincoln wanted to make a speech in Harrisburg. That was the state capital. And that he wanted to recognize the admission of Kansas to the Union as a free state, which had occurred one month before. So there was quite an elaborate operation developed to move Lincoln both clandestinely and at times in disguise from Philadelphia to Harrisburg, and then back to Philadelphia, and onward to Baltimore, where he would then go down to New York.

So one of the detectives, Kate Warne, was assigned in part because she was a female, and she had the ability to move among people that just a regular old dirty guys, detective guys, probably couldn't, and hear things and know things. And she said that on that train trip from Philadelphia to Baltimore, she never slept a wink. And that is reported to have given rise to the Pinkerton Detective Agency slogan "We Never Sleep".

I wanted to mention, Andrew, in terms of technology is really significant in the Civil War. And Philadelphia plays a role in that. The principal technologies over the civil – The new technologies that are related to espionage in the Civil War were photography, the telegraph, and balloons, aerial surveillance. And the man who really developed the aerial surveillance capability, the balloon capability, was Thaddeus Lowe. Thaddeus Lowe was from Chester County, in Philadelphia. And some of his early experiments in the late 1850s 1860 were done in Philadelphia and in that area. Eventually, in '61, he came to Washington, where, in June of 1861, he really flew the first maiden flight of a surveillance balloon launching it over in the area of the Smithsonian, where the Smithsonian now is, and observing the confederate forces outside of Washington. Thaddeus Lowe, we note him has been one of the prominent contributors to espionage from Philadelphia.

[00:33:10] AH: One of the things that I was thinking as well was Philadelphia connected into the campaign when Lee came into Pennsylvania?

[00:33:20] RB: Philadelphia was rumored to be a target of Lee. But this rumor had no real credibility. It was investigated, looked at, by Union soldiers, Union generals. And it was dismissed. In fact, the Lee Campaign in Pennsylvania, Gettysburg, the idea was not to continue east toward Philadelphia, but to swing south to Washington, to attack Washington from the north. So, no, neither Philadelphia nor New York were threatened during the Civil War.

[00:34:00] AH: How do you do the research for these books? So the various locations, do you get out and walk the sites? Or is that kind of a combination? Or is it mainly work that you do in a library? Or give us an understanding of how it all comes together?

[00:34:16] RB: I'm going to ask Keith to tell the story of how we went out and found the Site of Lassie.

[00:34:26] HKM: Sometimes, providence and research combined together to come up with some serendipitous moments. It's kind of the chicken in the egg. Do you find a famous case and then look for a site? Or do you stumbled upon the sites that lead you to cases? And I would say the answer is both. We were always drawn to sites where we could find a specific location we wanted to know an address. And, of course, addresses change over the centuries. And street address is often very different. But we look for specific locations where we could tie events. That was critical.

The second thing, if they had buildings that were still existing, that even made it more interesting, and brought in some other challenges in transitional neighborhoods. If you want to get out with being 70 years old and walking around with a camera in some neighborhoods taking pictures of buildings was not often seen as a welcoming act by the individual to live there. So we developed some very, very interesting techniques, such as take those kinds of pictures are ask Hank, our researcher, to take those pictures probably about 6am in the morning, thinking that perhaps anyone that would be most vociferous in their objection probably was still asleep from the night before. So we had some very interesting stories with some very interesting sites that we have snaps of, but we did so very hurriedly. We didn't linger around and try to explain what we were doing. And in one of those, we ended up kind of crossing over into the world of Hollywood and discovering the burial site of Lassie. And I'll let Bob explain this tenuous connection to the world of espionage.

[00:36:22] RB: Well, Lassie, as perhaps many of our listeners know, is a classic book, Lassie Come Home. And it was written in 1940 by Eric Knight. Eric Knight lived about 40 miles north of Philadelphia in a place called Springhouse. It's on Springhouse Lane in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. Eric Knight was an Englishman, a Yorkerhman. Andrew, are you a Yorksherman?

[00:36:55] AH: No. A little bit further north.

[00:36:58] RB: Okay. Well, he was a Yorksherman, and he never forgot that he was. He was always very proud of that. Came to the United States and became a successful writer, but had no success like that of the book Lassie. Well, Eric and I then was in the Second World War. He had served with the British in the in the First World War. In the Second World War, he became part of the American intelligence activities in the Second World War. And he died in a plane crash in 1943, military transport that was on its way to establish some radio stations, war related operations in Cairo. And so he was killed in that plane crash. So this we thought was a particularly fascinating connection to intelligence. So Lassie, as a spy, is not actually the name of the book. But I think one could write a pretty good story along that line. That's Eric Knight, one of those just remarkable finds. Unexpected gems that one finds doing this research.

[00:38:14] AH: That reminds me of that seeing, if we knew what we were doing, it wouldn't be called research.

[00:38:21] RB: I like that.

[00:38:23] AH: Walk us up to the 20th century, because I think that the two chapters that use, the two sections that you have on World War One and World War Two to me are some of the most fascinating ones in the book. Could you just pull out that era for us a little about more and maybe discuss a couple of the sites that you were particularly drawn to or that surprised you or that are your favorites?

[00:38:48] RB: There are a couple of points on World War Two, World War One and World War two that I think are related on Philadelphia. First point is that Philadelphia had a very large German immigrant population. Germany being the adversary, the enemy in both World War One and World War Two. Germany saw Philadelphia as a location where potentially they could place, they could recruit, they could handle, they could run spies by burying them in that German community. The German community would have people that were naturally sympathetic to the to the homeland. And the German intelligence have sought to exploit that.

The second piece that I think is fascinating about Philadelphia is at the time Philadelphia would have been a key center for technology, for industry, for shipbuilding, for ammunitions building in the United States. So Philadelphia was also a target for the Germans in terms of both sabotage as well as collecting information from the facilities, from the capabilities that were in Philadelphia. Philadelphia had an interesting link, and Keith will talk about this, I hope, to the American atomic bomb. And arguably some of the most significant individuals in the Soviet to discover how the atomic bomb was made, the technology behind that. Some of their most important assets had a strong Philadelphia linkage. Keith?

[00:40:35] HKM: Sadly, but one of the greatest espionage operations of the war, was what the Soviet government did us. At times we believe we know much about their operations, but then there're times that it surprises us. In 2006, a book came out in Russia in reference to one of their great unknown spies. An individual, an officer by the name of Delmar. And it was only when President Putin subsequently in 2007 gives an award that historian ties it that the nameless person that he now had revealed, whose name was George Koval, who was living in Philadelphia during the war, was a scientist at a little known scientific research site called the Thermal Diffusion Pilot Plant, which was buried and secreted inside building 638 of the Philadelphia Navy Yard. And he successfully provided information from that. It was provided to a contact in New York City. And it was subsequently that he was considered to be one of the most important assets that the Soviet Union had.

He subsequently went to New York and actually hidden a secret station there for the Russians. At the end of the war, he graduated from CCNY. And then about 1946 disappears. Returned back to the Soviet Union and goes into history, until suddenly his memory and his name were provided in 2006-2007. So a fascinating tidbit to come up is probably little known or certainly little remembered by even vintage Philadelphians at this point.

[00:42:29] RB: One of the stories that we recount in the book is about Brooke Dolan. Brooke Dolan was an OSS officer, is residence. So we were able to photograph the Brooke Dolan home. And Brooke Dolan has an important role, because in the early 1940s, he took a message from President Roosevelt to the Dalai Lama in Tibet. And this was an effort to solidify a relationship between the OSS and the Dalai Lama.

Now, at the time, the Dalai Lama, it was just a child. But the mission was considered a success. Unfortunately, Book Dolan did not outlive the war, but he had delivered to the Dalai Lama the pocket watch from the president. And just in the past 10 years, the Dalai Lama visited Washington again. And his possession was that watch, that pocket watch that he had been given by the OSS officer, Brooke Dolan. And he again expressed his appreciation for the United States and for the support over the years it has given him and his people.

[00:43:52] AH: Talking about the OSS. They're moving on to another OSS figure whose story in the book I found really interesting, Richard Helms, the former Director of Central Intelligence. He's got a connection to the spy states of Philadelphia. Can you sketch out that for us a little bit?

[00:44:09] RB: Richard Helms was born in one of the suburbs of Philadelphia. And he became a journalist. Perhaps, Keith, do I have this right? I believe Richard Helms, he interviewed Hitler. Or he was at an interview with Hitler? I'm sorry that when this just is coming to my mind immediately, I'm not clear on the detail. But Richard Helms was a successful journalist. And then like many of his contemporaries, who had special skills, he joined the OSS. And after the OSS was disbanded at the end of the war and CIA was created, Richard Helms was one of those few. There were not a lot, but there were several OSS veterans who then joined the CIA and made it a career. Richard Helms eventually became the director of operations at CIA. Then served for seven years as the director of the agency from 1966 until 1973. Richard Helms is a revered figure among agency professionals, I believe, because of the skill that he handled a number of operations and a number of assignments during his career.

Keith, do you have any specific stories on Mr. Helms that you'd like to share?

[00:45:34] HKM: I knew him personally. He wrote the introduction to one of my early books. He was patrician, highly thought of, very intelligent, but very gracious and polite director that was well-liked by those that worked for him. He often stood on a principle. I think I remember that where there had been some discussion should the CIA be involved with assassination. And he said, "That's not what we do. He did not want to further the CIA activity in that area." And he did not believe that the CIA should play a role in assassinating foreign leaders. So he stood on principle. And he's a good friend, and he's still revered, and well-remembered.

[00:46:19] AH: Could you pull out another spy site that is connected to the Cold War that's particularly interesting? I want to give you some free rein to choose what you want. But I also found it quite interesting that Richard Ames was also born there not to be confused and not related to Aldrich Ames. But I'll leave up to you, the Cold War and Spy States of Philadelphia.

[00:46:42] HKM: I'll make an observation that one of my favorite, and one that we have some nice displays on in a museum would be the Glomar Explorer. The Howard Hughes Ship was built at the Naval – Well, at a shipyard there. It was actually sun building and dry dock company. And that's where the Howard Hughes vessel was originally constructed. I believe it was later outfitted down in Virginia, in Norfolk. But it's ultimately project Azorean was at least partially successful, I believe in recovering part of a sunken Russian submarine in 16,500 feet of ocean. One that I know, we have some very interesting displays in the museum, and I believe a complete set of plans for the ship. So we have – It's a fascinating story. And very few people remember that its origin was in Philadelphia.

[00:47:40] RB: Another major program in Philadelphia supported the first American satellite, the Corona Satellite Systems. Again, interestingly, the 100 years before the Corona, Philadelphia had been instrumental through Thaddeus Lowe and the aerial surveillance from the balloon. And now 100 years later, Philadelphia is playing a critical part in the surveillance from satellites. So I think that technological element of Philadelphia perhaps is not well-recognized.

[00:48:19] AH: Walk us up to the present era, because the story doesn't stop with the Cold War. Does it?

[00:48:25] HKM: Bob, I would offer I think one of the more contemporaneous stories is a story of a man by the name of David Coleman Headley. And though in this country, we don't often remember the importance of the terrorist attack in Mumbai, which took place in November of 2008. But for counterintelligence and counterterrorism officials, it was one of the most successful attacks where a group of 10 jihadis from Pakistan use cellphones and small arms as weapons of mass disruption. And it was one of the most well-coordinated and well planned attacks in which the 10 people essentially held a city of millions hostage and drew world attention for almost 72 hours as the 10 individuals effectively paralyzed the entire community.

And it all goes back to a site at 56 South 2nd Street in Philadelphia known as the Khyber Pass Pub. And Dave, whose mother, Serrill Headley, the former wife of a Pakistani diplomat, but herself, a bit of a wayward girl from the Philadelphia Blue Line. Their son was David. She passionately was asking the divorce, finally got him out of Pakistan. He came back from a Pakistani military academy, and suddenly finds himself managing his mother's pub and drinking establishment.

He quickly decided some of the very rigid Islamic fundamentalist training he'd received was not anything to compare with sex, drugs and rock and roll. And he took over as the manager of the pub. And it would ultimately lead him into a life of procuring drugs in Pakistan, trying to smuggling them back. Each time he did, he was very unsuccessful as a mugger. He'd be caught, and he turned. State's evidence have a prison term. And it's continued until 2003. He had betrayed everyone essentially that he had tried to buy drugs from. And the only way he could avoid being killed was he became a radical jihadist. And from that was spotted because he didn't look as a typical terrorist was imagined to look. He looked "Western." He had one blue eye, had one brown eye, wore his hair in a ponytail. He was a bodybuilder. Spoke flawless English. And he was a jihadist spy. And he did the reconnaissance work into Mumbai. And it was sadly one of the most of their successful events in 2008. He watched it all happen from his home in Chicago.

Ultimately, he wanted to follow it up with attack to kill Kurt Vestergaard, the Danish cartoonist who had drawn the cartoon of the prophet wearing a turban a headband, shaped as a bomb, and his plan was codenamed Mickey Mouse. And he wanted to go storm the publisher, capture the publisher, and Kurt Vestergaard draw them all up to the top roof on the building. Draw the world's press to photograph. And then he wanted to behead them and throw their heads at the reporters. Fortunately, he was arrested in Chicago in August of 2009 as he was in route to fly to Philadelphia to say goodbye to his mother before he headed Pakistan. And ultimately, true to form, he would immediately flip on everyone that he had worked for in the jihadist movement and would [inaudible 00:52:24] the entire operation. So the Khyber Pass Pub is the key to where it all began. And incidentally, a place that I actually had a dinner at one time a number of years ago without realizing its colorful history.

[00:52:40] AH: This is a question I have been trying to save for getting towards the end, because it's one I'm excited to know the answer to. What Spy Site Philadelphia was each of your individual favorites? Which one really connected with you? Or what's one that you would like to tell the listeners about?

[00:52:59] RB: Well, I thought one of my favorite spy sites was not in Philadelphia, it was outside of Philadelphia. It goes back to the Revolutionary War. And that site was the home of a woman who was an artist, who was a sculptor. And she was one of these widow ladies before the Revolutionary War who lost her husband. She had four or five kids at home. And she needed to entertain them. And so she began to make wax sculptures. This is the story of Patricia Wright, who became then a very well-known wax sculptor. Went to England, and with introductory letters from several prominent Philadelphians, she began to get work with the elite of London, including some of the high government officials in London.

What she heard of the subjects who were sitting for her wax sculpting profiles was a lot of gossip and a lot of information about what the British were thinking about the war, and attitudes toward the war, and plans and that sort of thing. She would write this down and then secret these messages inside the heads of the wax images that were being sent back to the United States. If you were a general in the British Army, instead of having a portrait of the President in your office, you had a wax sculptor of the head of whatever, the Prince of Wales, or whomever. So this was a way to smuggle the information back to the United States. The people who were receiving the images understood that there might be messages in them. And before they delivered them to their intended recipients, these messages were taken out. So her home, which was built in 1700, is still standing. And that's just outside of Philadelphia. It's actually on the New Jersey side in Watertown, New Jersey. Fascinating site, fascinating story of a woman whose story I don't think is otherwise very well known.

[00:55:20] AH: And did you have a favorite, Keith?

[00:55:22] HKM: I do. And I believe we forget that Bob and I were often talked about how amazed we were to look at the preponderance and success of German espionage during First World War. And the very active campaigns that existed in the First World War and the Second World War to sway American opinion against both improving Europe's war in getting involved

again in combating Germany. But it also highlighted a failure in United States, in that we lacked the sufficient laws to prosecute spies as a National Crime, because each jurisdiction, in effect, had their own local laws that spying is a crime, but it was not a national federal crime.

And in this vacuum, there was a need to protect the country against American spies, against foreign spies. Bob and I had counted some 110 significant acts of sabotage that took place roughly in that 1914 to 1918 period in the East Coast. And one could see why there was a need. A group of citizen spies called the American Protective League were founded. It operated at what was the site of now the Bellevue Stratford Hotel, and it ultimately numbered thousands of individuals who are authorized to carry weapons. They had their own local command structure. And they effectively reported into the Department of Justice, but their mission was to go out. And if your neighbor said something on another neighbor, you volunteered, join your local unit, got some ranking. You carried an ID card and a badge, and you went in and investigated treason and spies. It was far more well-intended than it was practical and functional. We have a very interesting display on it in the museum. Some of the original ID cards and badges. But from that was, of course, the reason that we needed the National Police Force. And from that, the Bureau of Information ultimately became the Federal Bureau of Investigation. And that was the answer to the problem that they, at least at one point, proposed a solution to.

[00:57:58] AH: If people listen to the SpyCast, and they're based in Boston, or Miami or Houston, can they look forward to the possibility of a spy, say, coming to their city? Or are you just kind of closing the book on the spy sites now?

[00:58:14] RB: I'm laughing because, to quote Keith, "That would be easy to do."

[00:58:24] HKM: Bob, we could get it done in two or three months at the most.

[00:58:28] RB: Yes. Maybe Andrew would like to sign up to be one of our researchers. Sure, spy sites in every American city. That is we go back through the history of the United States. That would be the case. The primary ones are, however, going to be in cities that have major consulates. Particularly since World War Two, the spy sites will be in cities like Houston, Dallas, Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco. In the Revolutionary War, of course, they're going to be all concentrated on the eastern part of the United States.

There probably are not any cities that are as rich and available spy sites to us as what we have done in these three cities. Now, I think you could do a whole series of spy sites, Chinese spy sites in America in the last 20 years. But a lot of that information, or most of that information still remains classified. Keith?

[00:59:42] HKM: Bob, you hit it on the head. Seldom is there any other city that alone could justify it without opening up the FBI's voluminous files, which probably could say that, yes, enough has happened in Los Angeles area to do it. But it's not in the public record. Because there's so many ongoing investigations and sources, it's unlikely that there will be enough to justify one in a single city.

[01:00:10] RB: I think that, to a final point on that, it's a significant observation, because, arguably, Philadelphia was the most difficult of the three cities that we did, because none of us had ever been a resident there. And we did not know the cities. When we did New York, Hank Schlesinger has been a lifetime resident of New York. So that was helpful. Washington, both Keith and I know Washington very well. But none of the three of us knew Philadelphia. So it was a different type of research and collection effort that we had to do there as contrasted to the other two cities.

[01:00:51] AH: I think the fatal question would be, it's not another spy sites, but what's next on the cards for you? I really enjoyed your Netflix series. And I'm just wondering what's coming down the pipeline next or –

[01:01:04] RB: Well, Keith is the principal organizer of these things. As I mentioned earlier, he starts out by saying, "Oh, this will be easy." I say, "Okay," and then it's too late.

[01:01:18] HKM: Andrew, we are looking for targets of opportunity. We have some strong expectation that there'll be a second series of Spycraft with Netflix. And we're very excited about that, and looking at interesting sites to further the global audience of Netflix. Espionage is core to the operation of every major government in the world. Every government in the world of any size has an intelligence service. So it's certainly not going away. The stakes get bigger every year. There's a cost to research and development. Sadly, it's cheaper to steal your research

than it is to do it yourself. And the Chinese have certainly shown us how effective it can be done. So we look forward to looking to see what's ahead. And hopefully if you've been listening to the podcast will come visit us at the Spy Museum and see all the amazing sites that are there in our wonderful new building.

[END]