Washington was also suspicious of the letter, & sought to find someone who could interpret it for him.

"Interpret" was the word used in those days for CRYPTOANALYSIS.

Washington was shocked & alarmed. Doctor Church was a well-known surgeon who provided medical services to the revolutionary ARMY.

General Washington questioned the young lady. She was reluctant to confess, but eventually said she had received the letter from Doctor Benjamin Church for delivery in Boston.

As your commander, I am asking you to tell me about this letter.

I understand. Then you will not mind giving me, your commander, the cipher key to read your letter in plain language.

Very simple. My brother is stuck in Boston, and I need to inform him of some family news.

Alas, sir, that I cannot do.

Washington knew that enciphered letters were common, used by many people to protect private information in the mail system. He offered Doctor Church a chance to explain.

Bring Doctor Church to me!