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# Arnold Expedition Historical Society

Pittston, Maine, December 2007 Newsletter 110  
Edited by Daniel H. Warren, Jr.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The 39<sup>th</sup> annual meeting was held at the Ground Round Restaurant, Augusta, Me, on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Attendance was sparse, but included the die-hard core attendees.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. The report provided a list of outstanding bills and balances of the business checking account, the endowment fund and the restoration fund. Total society funds were \$27,392.24.

Tom Desjardin informed the society of progress being made at the Colburn House, including the formation of a "Friends of the Colburn House" group, recent acquisitions and future plans. Susan Hutchins was thanked for all of her work in organizing tours of the house and for training the tour guides this past summer.

Tom Desjardin provided information about two new web sites devoted to the Society and the Colburn House. (Additional information is provided elsewhere in this newsletter).

Ron Gamage reported on trail work needed on the Wyman Lake-Carry Ponds section, which should be scheduled in the spring of 2008. While the trail needs maintenance, it was suggested that two groups of three could do the project in less than a day.

Recent visits to section of the trail above Eustis finds much work needing to be done as the trail has become quite overgrown with small brush. Larger blow-downs have been cleared by some unknown volunteer.

Election of officers. For a three year term to expire in 2010, Robert Cunningham, Mabelle Haynes, and Daniel H. Warren, Jr. were re-elected. New directors elected were John Parsons and Lori Ann Desjardin. Dan Warren Jr. was elected President and Treasurer  
Jay Robbins was elected Vice President  
Lori-Ann Desjardin was elected secretary

A Colburn House Committee was appointed, and includes: Tom & Lori-Ann Desjardin, Dan Warren, and Susan Hutchins.

Lee Cranmer gave an informative presentation of the history of Fort Halifax.

## INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW DIRECTORS

### John Parsons

John Parsons, Monroe, NY, was elected director at the October, 2007 Annual Meeting. John's family was from the area which is now Flagstaff Lake. During his childhood, his family made several summer trips



to Maine. About 8 years ago John resumed those trips, camping at Cathedral Pines, in Eustis, after having been given a guided tour of the Carry Ponds area by Dan Warren, Jr. John first became a "Contributing Member" in 2002.

While John has a strong interest in his family's past connection to the area, he has developed just as strong an interest in the Arnold expedition. With the guidance and advice of Dude Wing and other knowledgeable individuals, and with the help of a select few volunteers, John has successfully searched and found artifacts each year since he began his quest. They are maintained in a display labeled "Parsons Collection". John has been a good resource, as he is willing to do historical research before attempting an archaeological project.

### **Lori-Ann (Jordan) Desjardin**

Lori-Ann grew up in Pittsfield, Maine, and can remember seeing the last log drive on the Kennebec River in 1974, near Skowhegan. An avid history enthusiast, her ancestry here in Maine dates back to Vassalboro where her family lived near the Getchells, many of whom served as guides for Arnold's march. In Quebec, her forebears were prominent citizens dating back to the early 1600s. She is married to AEHS Director Tom Desjardin and lives in Hallowell with their Newfoundland dogs Molly Brown and Henry Dearborn.

Lori-Ann is an alumna of Maine Central Institute, Colby College, and the University of Southern Maine and administers a program for children with autism and other special needs.

### **TRANS-CANADA GRANT**

Our society is very fortunate to have received funding that will bring two very worthwhile projects to completion. Considerable work has been completed, although much remains to be done, on the creation of an interpretative map of Arnold's route from the Kennebec River to the height of land, possibly going on to LacMagantic, Canada. Numerous significant sights will be identified, with many journal references to illustrate the significance of these sights.

A second project is the completion of an oral history, with professional audio and video presentation. This is a multi-purpose project, with the intent that valuable history be preserved and that the finished project may be usable to secure other grants at some future time.

Three directors have been meeting diligently with the project organizers. Although we took a break during the holiday period, we plan to get back to these projects shortly. This is a big project and the society needs your help to complete this project. We know there are many knowledgeable people out there who could contribute much to this project. If you are willing to contribute such stuff as locations of historic events along the trail, other historical data, identify journal entries, please contact the society at our address above. You may contact us by phone (leave your name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address) or send a written letter indicating your desire to help. All offers will be considered by the committee and by the map makers. Their experience is outstanding and they recognize the significance of data even better than we do. It's all about presentation. Please help if you can.



## **MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - Conservation Project**

Maine's historic preservation commission has offered to conserve, free of charge, any metal artifacts relating to the March to Quebec that any one may have. This would be a "no strings attached" offer and all items would be returned to the current owner once they are conserved.

Conserving means treating them in a bath that stops the chemical reactions that occur in old metal (lead musket balls reportedly do not need conservation) and hastens their decay, followed by a few other steps including a light waxing to prevent further corrosion.

From an archaeological standpoint this is a tremendous offer, and one that should be considered by anyone owning metal artifacts (not lead or wood items). The society itself was a repository for many years of such artifacts, however, unfortunately as recent as last summer, nearly all the Arnold artifacts have been taken back by their owners. While we have had conversations about the return of artifacts for display at the museum, and negotiations continue, but none have been returned to date. Those wishing to pursue conservation of their artifact should contact Arthur Spiess directly at 207-287-2132.

## **FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT - Carrying Place Township**

Back in 1996 the Board of Directors was heavily involved in approving a forest management project of Boise Cascade Paper Group. The project covered land adjoining the Arnold Trail between the Ridge Road near Wyman Lake and the town line between Carrying Place Township and Carrying Place Town Township. The timber harvesting operation did not include the 250 foot strip of land which had been designated a PUA Zone (protected unusual area) by the Land Use Regulation Commission. The resulting permit did permit three crossing areas. The project was completed with minimal disruption to the Arnold Trail.

During the summer of 2007 we received another request for in-put into an updated request from Bayroot, LLC, the successor land owner to the above mentioned land. Comments submitted on behalf of the AEHS and the Maine Forestry Service have resulted in the issuance of another permit to harvest timber. Conditions imposed on the harvesting operation are similar to those previously imposed, however this time we are to be allowed to inspect the trail damage prior to departure of the woods operation. Comments received from the project manager at LURC indicate that the site forester is committed to preserving the trail. Signs will be posted during the harvest operation so that trail users will be aware of heavy equipment in the area.

A recent visit by two AEHS directors, while noting extensive harvesting outside the trail area, seems to confirm the land owner's commitment to leave the trail unaffected. This recent trail inspection did note some erosion problems that need to be addressed by the trail work group. Creation of effective water-bars is urgently needed to divert water out of the trail. The trail committee needs to address this project soon.

## **COLBURN HOUSE PROJECTS**

Tom & Lori-Ann Desjardin are working on changing the tour presentations at the Colburn House. Tom hopes that we can focus on the day-to-day life at the Colburn House, and has already begun to change furniture, layout and presentation material. The old East Lake sofa that sat in front of the fireplace is gone. It's being bartered for a more period appropriate sofa and some household objects that Reuben & Elizabeth would recognize, such as candle molds and other tinware. Tom also hopes to add kegs and crates to the bateau display, to demonstrate how crowded the boats might have been.



We are looking for some volunteers to help with spring projects at the Colburn House. These projects require the help of some able bodied men who would have a few hours to spare. Projects include:

- 1) Lower the flag pole and apply a new coat of paint, then replace the rope and raise the pole. This would be a two day project requiring at least 3 strong men. (The paint needs a day to dry.)
- 2) Replace the yard-arm that holds the Colburn House sign at the intersection of Rt. 27 and RipleyRoad/Arnold Road. Probably a four hour project requiring at least 2 men.
- 3) Open a walkable path to the river that can be mowed on an ongoing basis. Many people enjoy walking to the river during their visits to the Colburn House.

## ANNUAL DUES NOTICE

A couple of years ago, the process of soliciting membership dues was changed so that we might get as much dues money in prior to the start of the summer tourist and work-bee season. It is anticipated that reminders will be sent out in January, February, and lastly in March. Yearly dues paying members who do not renew their membership will be dropped from the newsletter mailings until they have made their much needed contribution. For those who send their contributions early, we offer a sincere thank you. For those who procrastinate, we hope our frequent reminders will help spur your interest to continue your membership. We are a volunteer organization, with many putting in numerous hours of help in additional providing financial support. Your contributions help keep the Colburn House museum open and assures continued effort to preserve Arnold's route, provide additional signage, and preservation of what few artifacts we have.

## WEB SITE

Director Tom Desjardin has contributed a new web site to the society. An active historian, and avid researcher, he has posted many interesting items to our new site. Additionally, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Conservation has a web site devoted entirely to the Colburn House. For those who have home computers, these sites are additional resources which you will enjoy. From time-to-time activity information will be posted there and may be more timely than the newsletter. For those who do not have a home computer, make a trip to your local public library, where there is much assistance and free access to the web. Please add the following sites to your list of favorites:

[www.arnoldsmarch.com](http://www.arnoldsmarch.com)

<http://www.maine.gov/colburnhouse>

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS: Contact the society at the above address or:

### SOCIETY PRESIDENT & TREASURER

Daniel H. Warren, Jr.  
33 Arnold Road  
Pittston, Me, 04345  
Ph (207) 582-7080

### AEHS MEMBERSHIP CLASSES:

Individual	\$ 20.00
Family	\$ 25.00
Contributing	\$ 50.00
Life	\$ 200.00

E-MAIL: [dwarrem1775@ghi.net](mailto:dwarrem1775@ghi.net)



# HARPER'S ENCYCLOPÆDIA of UNITED STATES HISTORY

FROM 458 A.D. TO 1902

BASED UPON THE PLAN OF

**BENSON JOHN LOSSING, LL.D.**

SOMETIME EDITOR OF "THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL RECORD" AND AUTHOR OF  
"THE PICTORIAL FIELD-BOOK OF THE REVOLUTION" "THE PICTORIAL FIELD-  
BOOK OF THE WAR OF 1812" ETC., ETC., ETC.

WITH SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS COVERING EVERY PHASE OF AMERICAN HISTORY AND  
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PROF. OF LITERATURE AT UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

**WILLIAM T. HARRIS, Ph.D., LL.D.**  
U. S. COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

ETC., ETC., ETC., ETC.

**WOODROW WILSON, Ph.D., LL.D.**

PROF. OF JURISPRUDENCE AT PRINCETON

**GOLDWIN SMITH, D.C.L., LL.D.**  
PROF. OF HISTORY UNIV. OF TORONTO

**MOSES COIT TYLER, LL.D.**  
PROF. OF HISTORY AT CORNELL

**EDWARD G. BOURNE, Ph.D.**  
PROF. OF HISTORY AT YALE

**R. J. H. GOTTHEIL, Ph.D.**  
PROF. OF SEMITIC LANGUAGES AT COLUMBIA

**ALFRED T. MAHAN, D.C.L., LL.D.**  
CAPTAIN UNITED STATES NAVY (Retired)

WITH A PREFACE ON THE STUDY OF AMERICAN HISTORY BY

**WOODROW WILSON, Ph.D., LL.D.**

PROFESSOR OF JURISPRUDENCE AND POLITICS AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, AUTHOR  
OF "COLONIES AND NATION" ETC., ETC.

WITH ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS, PORTRAITS, MAPS, PLANS, &c.

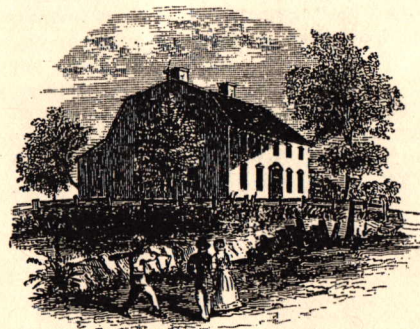
COMPLETE IN TEN VOLUMES

VOL. I

**HARPER & BROTHERS PUBLISHERS**  
NEW YORK - 1902 - LONDON

**Arnold, BENEDICT**, military officer;  
born in Norwich, Conn., Jan. 14, 1741. As  
a boy he was bold, mischievous, and quar-  
relsome. Apprenticed to an apothecary,  
he ran away, enlisted as a soldier, but de-

serted. For four years (1763-67) he was  
a bookseller and druggist in New Haven,  
Conn., and was afterwards master and  
supercargo of a vessel trading to the West



BIRTHPLACE OF BENEDICT ARNOLD.

Indies. Immediately after the affair at  
Lexington, he raised a company of volun-  
teers and marched to Cambridge. There  
he proposed to the Massachusetts Com-  
mittee of Safety an expedition against  
Fort Ticonderoga, and was commissioned  
a colonel. Finding a small force, under  
Colonels Easton, Brown, and Allen, on the  
same errand when he reached western  
Massachusetts, he joined them without  
command.

Returning to Cambridge, he was placed  
at the head of an expedition for the cap-  
ture of Quebec. He left Cambridge with  
a little more than 1,000 men, composed  
of New England musketeers and riflemen  
from Virginia and Pennsylvania, the latter  
under Capt. Daniel Morgan. He sailed  
from Newburyport for the Kennebec in the  
middle of September, 1775. They rendez-  
voused at Fort Western, on the Kennebec  
River, opposite the site of the present city  
of Augusta, Me., and on the verge of a  
wilderness uninhabited except by a few  
Indian hunters. At Norridgewock Falls  
their severe labors began. Their bateaux  
were drawn by oxen, and their provisions  
were carried on their backs around the  
falls—a wearisome task often repeated as  
they pressed towards the head-waters of  
the Kennebec, often wading and pushing  
their bateaux against swift currents. At  
length they left that stream and traversed  
tangled ravines, craggy knolls, and deep

morasses, until they reached the Dead  
River. The stream flowed placidly on the  
summit of the water-shed between the St.  
Lawrence and the Atlantic, and they  
moved pleasantly over its bosom until  
they encamped at the foot of a high moun-  
tain capped with snow. Sickness and de-  
sertion now began to reduce the number of  
effective men. October was passing away.  
Keen blasts came from the north. A  
heavy rain fell, and the water, rushing  
from the hills, suddenly filled the Dead  
River to its brim and overflowed its  
banks. Some of the boats were over-  
turned and much provision was lost or  
spoiled. Food for only twelve days re-  
mained. A detachment was sent to get  
a supply, but did not return. The floods  
began to freeze and the morasses became  
almost impassable. Through ice-cold wa-  
ter they were frequently compelled to  
wade; even two women, wives of soldiers,  
endured this hardship. At length they  
reached the Chaudière River, that empties  
into the St. Lawrence. Starvation threat-



ARNOLD'S ROUTE THROUGH  
THE WILDERNESS.

ened. Seventy miles  
lay between them  
and Sertigan, the  
nearest French set-  
tlement. Leaving  
his troops on the  
banks of the upper  
Chaudière, Arnold  
and fifty-five men  
started down the  
river for Sertigan  
to obtain food. Two  
or three boats had  
been wrecked just  
before their depart-  
ure, and much of  
their scanty supply  
of food was lost. Ar-  
nold and his party  
reached the settle-  
ment. Indians were  
sent back with pro-  
visions and as  
guides for the rest  
of the troops to the  
settlement. When  
the forces were join-

ed they moved towards the St. Lawrence;  
and on Nov. 9, in a heavy snow-storm,  
they suddenly appeared at Point Levi, op-  
posite Quebec, only 750 in number. It



## ARNOLD, BENEDICT

was almost two months after they left Cambridge before they reached the St. Lawrence. Their sufferings from cold and hunger had been extreme. At one time they had attempted to make broth of boiled deer-skin moccasins to sustain life, and a dog belonging to Henry (afterwards General) Dearborn made savory food for them. In this expedition were men who afterwards became famous in American history—Aaron Burr, R. J. Meigs, Henry Dearborn, Daniel Morgan, and others.

Arnold assisted Montgomery in the siege of Quebec, and was there severely wounded in the leg. Montgomery was killed, and Arnold was promoted to brigadier-general (Jan. 10, 1776), and took command of the remnant of the American troops in the vicinity of Quebec. Succeeded by Wooster, he went up Lake Champlain to Ticonderoga, where he was placed in command of an armed flotilla on the lake. With these vessels he had disastrous battles (Oct. 11 and 13, 1776) with British vessels built at St. Johns. Arnold was deeply offended by the appointment, by Congress, early in 1777, of five of his juniors to the rank of major-general. He received the same appointment soon afterwards (Feb. 7, 1777), but the affront left an irritating thorn in his bosom, and he was continually in trouble with his fellow-officers, for his temper was violent and he was not upright in pecuniary transactions. General Schuyler admired him for his bravery, and was his abiding friend until his treason. He successfully went to the relief of Fort Schuyler on the upper Mohawk (August, 1777), with 800 volunteers; and in September and October following he was chiefly instrumental in the defeat of Burgoyne, in spite of General Gates. There he was again severely wounded in the same leg, and was disabled several months. When the British evacuated Philadelphia (June, 1778) Arnold was appointed commander at Philadelphia, where he married the daughter of a leading Tory (Edward Shippen), lived extravagantly, became involved in debt, was accused of dishonest official conduct, and plotted his treason against his country. To meet the demands of importunate creditors, he engaged in fraudulent transactions, for which his official posi-

tion gave him facilities, and charges of dishonesty and malpractice in office were preferred against him before the Continental Congress. A tribunal before which he was tried convicted him, but sentenced him to a reprimand only by the commander-in-chief. Washington performed the duty with great delicacy, but the disgrace aroused in the bosom of Arnold a fierce spirit of revenge. He resolved to betray his country, and, making treasonable overtures to Sir Henry Clinton, kept up a correspondence on the subject for a long time with MAJ. JOHN ANDRÉ (q. v.), the adjutant-general of the British army. This correspondence was carried on mutually under assumed names, and on the part of Arnold in a disguised hand. Feigning great patriotism and a desire to serve his country better, he asked for, and, through the recommendation of General Schuyler and others, obtained the command of the important post of West Point and its dependencies in the Hudson Highlands. He arranged with Major André to surrender that post into the hands of a British force which Sir Henry might send up the Hudson. For this service he was to receive the commission of a brigadier-general in the British army and nearly \$50,000 in gold. He made his headquarters at the house of Beverly Robinson, a Tory, opposite West Point, and the time chosen for the consummation of the treason was when Washington should be absent at a conference with Rochambeau at Hartford. Arnold and André had negotiated in writing; the former wished a personal interview, and arrangements were made for it. André went up the Hudson in the British sloop-of-war *Vulture* to Teller's (afterwards Croton) Point, from which he was taken in the night in a small boat to a secluded spot near Haverstraw, on the west side of the river, where, in bushes, he met Arnold for the first time. Before they parted (Sept. 22, 1780) the whole matter was arranged: Clinton was to sail up the river with a strong force, and, after a show of resistance, Arnold was to surrender West Point and its dependencies into his hands. But all did not work well. The *Vulture* was driven from her anchorage by some Americans with a cannon on Teller's Point, and when André, with Arnold, at Joshua H. Smith's house, above

## ARNOLD, BENEDICT

Haverstraw, looked for her in the early morning she had disappeared from sight. He had expected to return to the *Vulture* after the conference was over; now he was compelled to cross the river at King's Ferry and return to New York by land. Haverstraw, looking for her in the early morning she had disappeared from sight. He had expected to return to the *Vulture* after the conference was over; now he was compelled to cross the river at King's Ferry and return to New York by land. Haverstraw, looking for her in the early morning she had disappeared from sight. He had expected to return to the *Vulture* after the conference was over; now he was compelled to cross the river at King's Ferry and return to New York by land.

*I am in behalf of m<sup>r</sup> m. — and Co*  
*Sir*  
*Mr John Anderson*  
*merchand*  
*your Obedt. Able Servant*  
*Gustavus*

FAC-SIMILE OF ARNOLD'S DISGUISED HANDWRITING.

*Let me entreat you to favour*  
*a matter so interesting to the par*  
*ties concerned.*  
*John Anderson.*

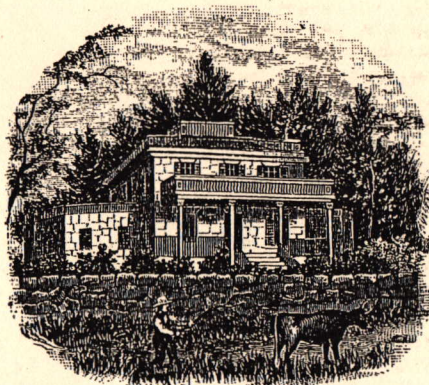
FAC-SIMILE OF A PORTION OF ONE OF ANDRÉ'S LETTERS.

He left his uniform, and, disguised in citizen's dress, he crossed the river towards evening with a single attendant, passed through the American works at Verplanck's Point without suspicion, spent the night not far from the Croton River, and the next morning journeyed over the Neutral Ground on horseback, with a full expectation of entering New York before night. Arnold had furnished him with papers revealing the condition of the highland stronghold. At Tarrytown, 27 miles from the city, he was stopped (Sept. 23) and searched by three young militiamen, who, finding those papers concealed under the feet of André in his boot, took him to the nearest American post. The com-



## ARNOLD, BENEDICT

Soon after his flight to the British army, Arnold published an *Address to the Inhabitants of America*, in which he attempted to gloss over his treason by abusing the Congress and the French alliance. He also published a *Proclamation to the Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Army*, in which he contrasted the wretchedness of their condition with the prompt pay and abundant supplies of the British service. To induce them to desert he of-



SMITH'S HOUSE.

ferred \$15 to every private soldier, and to the officers commissions in the British army according to their rank and the number of men they might bring with them. This effort by a traitor to corrupt those whom he had sought to betray produced no result except to excite the contempt and scorn of the American soldiers. With great generosity Virginia had sent her best troops to assist the Carolinians in their attempt to throw off the yoke laid upon their necks by Cornwallis. To call these troops back from Greene's army, the British, at the close of 1780, sent Arnold into Virginia with a marauding party of British and Tories, about 1,600 in number, with seven armed vessels, to plunder, distress, and alarm the people of that State. In no other way could Arnold be employed by his master, for respectable British officers refused to serve with him in the army. He arrived at Hampton Roads on Dec. 30, 1780. Anxious to distinguish himself, he immediately pushed up the James River as far as Richmond,

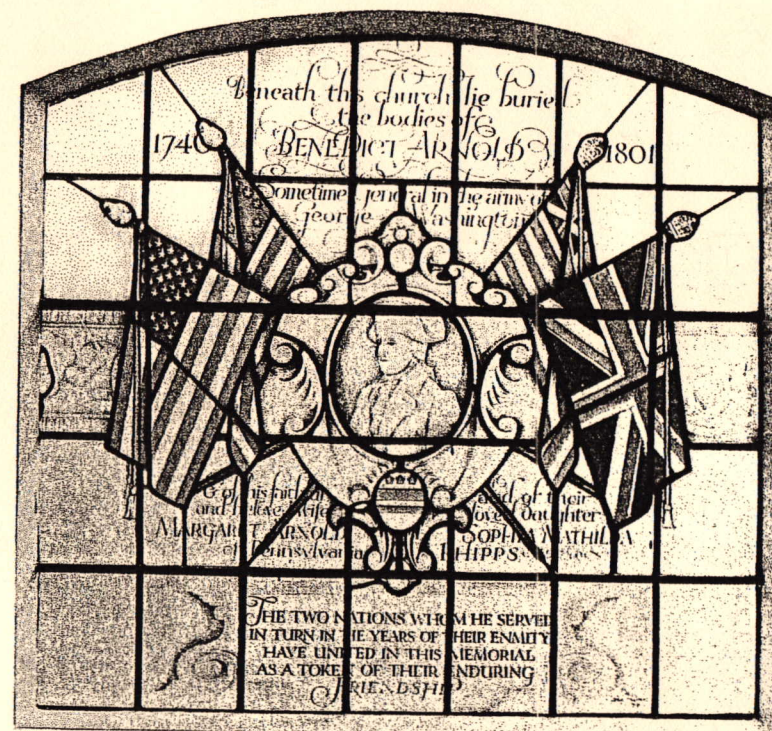
when, after destroying a large quantity of public and private stores there and in the vicinity (Jan. 5, 1781), he withdrew to Portsmouth, opposite Norfolk, and made that place his headquarters for a while. Earnest efforts were made to capture the marauder, but in vain. Jefferson offered \$25,000 for his arrest, and Washington detached Lafayette, with 1,200 men, drawn from the New England and New Jersey levies, who marched to Virginia for that purpose and to protect the State.

A portion of the French fleet went from Rhode Island (March 8) to shut Arnold up in the Elizabeth River and assist in capturing him. Steuben, who was recruiting for Greene's army in Virginia, also watched him. The effort failed, for Arnold was vigilant and extremely cautious. He knew what would be his fate if caught. "What would the Americans do with me, if they should catch me?" Arnold inquired of a young prisoner. "They would cut off and bury with military honors your leg that was wounded at Saratoga, and hang the rest of you," replied the young American soldier. General Phillips joined Arnold (March 26) with more than 2,000 men, and took the chief command. The traitor accompanied him on another expedition up the James River, in April, and then returned to New York, for Cornwallis, who came into Virginia from North Carolina, refused to serve with him.

When Sir Henry Clinton found that the allied armies were actually going to Virginia, he tried to alarm Washington by threats of marauding expeditions. He sent Arnold, with a band of regulars and Tories, to commit atrocities in Connecticut. Arnold crossed the Sound, from Long Island, and on Sept. 6, 1781, landed his troops on each side of the Thames, below New London. He plundered and burned that town, and a part of his force took Fort Griswold, opposite, by storm. It was gallantly defended by Colonel Ledyard and a garrison of 150 poorly armed militiamen. Only six of the garrison were killed in the conflict, but after the surrender the British officer in command (Colonel Eyre) murdered Ledyard with his sword, and, refusing to give quarter to the garrison, seventy-three were massacred.

Then the wounded were placed in a baggage-wagon and sent down the slope towards the river, with the intention of drowning them in the stream at its foot, but the vehicle was caught by an apple-tree. The cries of the sufferers could be heard above the crackling of the burning town by persons across the river. With this atrocious expedition the name of Benedict Arnold disappears from the records of our history.

Arnold went to England at the close of the war, where he was despised and shunned by all honorable men. He was afterwards a resident of St. Johns, New Brunswick, engaged chiefly in trade and navigation, but was very unpopular. He was there hung in effigy. His son, James Robertson (an infant at the time of his father's treason), became a lieutenant-general in the British army. Arnold's second wife, whom he married when she was not quite eighteen years of age, survived him just three years. Arnold died in obscurity, but in comfortable pecuniary circumstances, in Gloucester Place, London, June 14, 1801.





ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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1240187129 R006

