

“When near Tarrytown a man with a gun sprang from a clump of low trees by the roadside, seized the reins, and cried out, ‘Where are you bound?’ At the same time two more men came up. André thought they were British, so did not show his pass, but asked them where they came from. ‘From below,’ said they. André thought that this meant that they came from New York, and he said, ‘So do I. I am an English officer, and in great haste

to get back to my post. So let me go on my way.’

“‘You belong to our foes!’ they cried. ‘You are now in our hands!’

“They searched him, and found in his boots Arnold’s maps and plans, which gave proof that they had caught a spy. André was struck dumb for awhile, and scarce knew what to do. Then he told the men they might have his horse, his purse, his watch, and that a large sum of gold would



be sent to them from England, if they would let him go. But they would not; and he was borne by them to Colonel Jameson, who was in charge of the outposts.

“Jameson, who had no thought but that Arnold was a true man, wrote him at once that one Anderson, who bore a pass signed by him, had been seized on the road to New York.”<sup>44</sup> He also sent a note to Washington to inform him of Andrés capture.

Washington planned to visit West Point on September 26,

and Arnold planned for his evil work to be completed before Washington arrived.

God, in His wisdom, had Washington complete his work early, and on September 24 he rode toward West Point. Two of his aides were sent to the Arnold’s home to notify Arnold that Washington would be arriving later.

Arnold, his family, and Washington’s aides were at breakfast when the note from Jameson arrived. Arnold recognized the letter was from Colonel Jameson, and, with



fear, opened it quickly. The letter informed Arnold that Major André had been taken prisoner. Arnold had thought he had two days before Washington would be back. He knew immediately that his plans would be discovered. He rushed from the room, saying that he was needed at the fort.

“He at once made haste to his wife’s room, and cried out ‘All is found out! André is a prisoner! Washington will soon know all! Burn all my papers! I fly to New York!’ He then kissed her and their child, rushed from the room, seized the horse of one of the officers, and fled to the Hudson, where he had a barge with men at the oars. He threw himself into it, and in a short time was on board the *Vulture*.”<sup>45</sup>

When Washington arrived at Arnold’s home, he was informed that Arnold had left. Washington decided to ride on to the fort and meet Arnold there.

As Washington crossed the river in a barge, he told his

men that he thought there would be a salute from the fort. But, to his surprise, the fort was quiet.

The commanding officer, Colonel Lamb, greeted General Washington and apologized for not having a salute for his arrival. Colonel Lamb told Washington he had not been informed of Washington’s visit. General Washington asked, “Is not General Arnold here?” “No, sir,” replied Colonel Lamb, “he has not been here these two days, nor have I heard from him within that time.” Washington was suspicious of what had happened to Arnold. But, he continued with his inspection of West Point.

As Washington was preparing to leave West Point, a messenger arrived with Jameson’s letter. Washington then knew of Arnold’s betrayal of his country. He sent men on horseback to try to stop Arnold, but it was too late. Arnold had escaped.<sup>46</sup> “André was tried as a spy and hung, at Tappan,