

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 Major John André, 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. . . 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 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 (now 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."¹⁰¹

Benson J. Lossing, *Harpers' Popular Cyclopaedia of United States History*

For Reflection and Reasoning

- Review: What is a traitor? Why had Arnold changed from loving America to wanting to betray America?
- Using a map of New York, locate the Hudson River and West Point. Why was West Point important for the Americans?
- *Student Activity Page 23-2.* Reason from the Student Text to identify Arnold's plan: "Arnold planned to get command of West Point and then give it up to the British."

Reason from the Student Text to

identify the steps which were taken by Arnold and André to complete Arnold's plan.

- 1. Wrote to Sir Henry Clinton**
- 2. Asked for command of West Point**
- 3. Wrote letters to André**
- 4. Set a meeting with André to give maps and papers to the British**
- 5. Chose September 25, 1780 to surrender the fort**

- Read Psalm 37:12-13 and/or Proverbs 6:16-18. Reasoning from the verses, do you think God will bless Arnold's plan? Why or why not?

Leading Idea

Man proposes, God disposes

Student Text, pages 132-136

- "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 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. 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."¹⁰²

Benson J. Lossing, *Harpers' Popular Cyclopaedia of United States History*

● "On the morning when André crossed Pine's Bridge, a little band of seven volunteers went out near Tarrytown to prevent cattle being driven to New York, and to arrest any suspicious characters who might travel that way. . . . The circumstances of the capture are minutely narrated in the testimony of Paulding and Williams, given at the trial of Smith, eleven days afterward. . . . Myself, Isaac Van Wart, and David Williams were lying by the side of the road about half a mile above Tarrytown, and about fifteen miles above Kingsbridge, on Saturday morning, between nine and ten o'clock, the 23d of September. We had lain there about an hour and a half, as near as I can recollect, and saw several persons we were acquainted with, whom we let pass. Presently, one of the young men who were with me said, "There comes a gentleman-like looking man, who appears to be well dressed, and has boots on, and whom you had better step out and stop, if you don't know him." On that I got up, and presented my firelock at the breast of the person, and told him to stand, and then I asked him which way he was going. "Gentlemen," said he, "I hope you belong to our party." I asked him what party. He said, "The Lower Party." Upon that I told him I did. Then he said, "I am a British officer, out in the country on particular business, and I

hope you will not detain me a minute," and, to show that he was a British officer, he pulled out his watch. Upon which I told him to dismount. He then said, "My God! I must do any thing to get along," and seemed to make a kind of laugh of it, and pulled out General Arnold's pass, which was to John Anderson, to pass all guards to White Plains and below. Upon that he dismounted. Said he, "Gentlemen, you had best let me go, or you will bring yourselves into trouble, for your stopping me will detain the general's business;" and said he was going to Dobbs's Ferry to meet a person there and get intelligence for General Arnold. . . .

"When further questioned, Paulding replied, that he asked the person his name, who told him it was John Anderson; and that, when Anderson produced General Arnold's pass, he should have let him go, if he had not before called himself a British officer. . . .

"We took him into the bushes," said Williams, "and ordered him to pull off his clothes, which he did; but, on searching him narrowly, we could not find any sort of writings. We told him to pull off his boots, which he seemed to be indifferent about; but we got one boot off, and searched in that boot, and could find nothing. But we found there were some papers in the bottom of his stocking next to his foot; on which we made him pull his stocking off, and found three papers wrapped up. Mr. Paulding looked at the contents, and said he was a spy. We then made him pull off his other boot, and there we found three more papers at the bottom of his foot within his stocking."¹⁰³

Benson J. Lossing, *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*

● ". . . The 24th was the day fixed upon for the ascent of the river by the British, and the surrender of West Point into the hands of the enemy. Yet, with all this guilt upon his soul, Arnold was composed, and the day on which his treason was to be consummated, no change was observed in his usual deportment.

"Washington returned from Hartford on the 24th. . . anxious to reach Arnold's quarters by breakfast time, and they had

eighteen miles to ride. . . . When opposite West Point, the commander-in-chief turned his horse down a lane toward the river. La Fayette, perceiving it, said, 'General, you are going in a wrong direction; you know Mrs. Arnold is waiting breakfast for us, and that road will take us out of the way.' Washington answered, good-naturedly, 'Ah, I know you young men are all in love with Mrs. Arnold, and wish to get where she is as soon as possible. You may go and take your breakfast with her, and tell her not to wait for me, for I must ride down and examine the redoubts on this side of the river, and will be there in a short time.' The officers, however, did not leave him, except two aids-de-camp, who rode on, at the general's request to make known the cause of the delay.

"Breakfast was waiting when the officers arrived, and as soon as it was ascertained that the commander-in-chief and the other gentlemen would not be there, Arnold, his family, and the aids-de-camp sat down to breakfast. Arnold appeared somewhat moody. The enemy had not appeared according to arrangements, and Washington had returned at least two days sooner than he anticipated. While they were at table, Lieutenant Allen came with a letter for Arnold. The general broke the seal hastily, for he knew by the superscription that it was from Colonel Jameson, stationed at one of the outposts below. The letter was, indeed, from that officer; but, instead of conveying the expected intelligence that the enemy were moving up the river, it informed him that *Major André, of the British army, was a prisoner in his custody!* Arnold's presence of mind did not forsake him, and, although agitated, his emotion was not sufficiently manifest to excite the suspicion of those around him. He informed the aids-de-camp that his immediate attendance was required at West Point, and desired them to say to General Washington, when he arrived, that he was unexpectedly called over the river, and would soon return. He ordered a horse to be made ready, and then leaving the table, he went up to Mrs. Arnold's chamber, and sent for her. There was no

time to be lost, for another messenger might speedily arrive with evidence of his treason. In brief and hurried words he told her that they must instantly part, perhaps forever, for his life depended on reaching the enemy's lines without detection. Horror-stricken, the poor young creature, but one year a mother and not two a bride, swooned and sunk senseless upon the floor. Arnold dared not call for assistance, but kissing. . . his boy. . . he rushed from the room, mounted a horse belonging to one of the aids of Washington, and hastened toward the river. . . along a by-way down a steep hill, which is yet called *Arnold's Path*. At the dock he entered his barge, and directed the six oarsmen to push out into the middle of the stream, and pull for Teller's Point. . . .

"Washington arrived at Robinson's house shortly after Arnold had left. Informed that he had gone to West Point, the commander-in-chief took a hasty breakfast, and concluded not to wait, but go directly over and meet Arnold there. . . . While crossing the river in a barge, Washington expressed his expectation that they would be greeted with a salute, as General Arnold was at the Point; but, to his surprise, all was silent when they approached the landing-place. Colonel Lamb, the commanding officer, who came strolling down a winding path, was much confused when he saw the barge touch the shore. He apologized to Washington for the apparent neglect of courtesy, alleging his entire ignorance of his intended visit. The general was surprised, and said, 'Sir, 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.' This awakened the suspicions of Washington. He proceeded, however, to inspect the several works at West Point, and at about noon returned to the Beverly Dock, from whence he had departed.

"While ascending from the river, Hamilton was seen approaching with hurried step and anxious countenance. He conversed with Washington in a low tone, and returned with him into the house, where he laid several papers, the damning evidence of Arnold's guilt, be-

fore him. These consisted of the documents . . . which Arnold had placed in André's hands. They were accompanied by a letter from Colonel Jameson, and one from André himself. . . .

"As soon as the contents of the papers were made known, Washington dispatched Hamilton on horseback to Verplanck's Point, that preparations might be made there to stop the traitor. But Arnold had got nearly six hours' the start of him . . . When Hamilton arrived at the Point, a flag of truce was approaching from the Vulture to that post. The bearer brought a letter from Arnold to Washing-

ton, which Hamilton forwarded to the commander-in-chief, and then wrote to General Greene at Tappan, advising him to take precautionary measures to prevent any movement of the enemy in carrying out the traitor's projects. The failure of the plot was not known to Sir Henry Clinton until the arrival of the Vulture at New York the next morning, and then he had no disposition to venture an attack upon the Americans in the Highlands, now thoroughly awake to the danger that had threatened."¹⁰⁴

Benson J. Lossing, *Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution*



For Reflection and Reasoning

- Review: Who controls battles? How did God control in each of the following battles: Long Island, Trenton, Vincennes?
- What did Arnold plan? How did God overrule and control the events Arnold had planned?
- *Student Activity Page 23-3.* Reasoning

from the Student Text, identify how God overruled the plans of Arnold.

- What price did André pay for his actions as a spy? What price did Arnold pay for his actions as a traitor? Why was Arnold's punishment worse than that of André? How was Arnold's punishment just?

Cultivating Student Mastery

Choose a topic for a brief essay:

1. God's Providence in the defeat of Benedict Arnold.
2. How was Arnold's punishment just?
3. Benedict Arnold — An example of Proverbs 6:16-19.

God Controls the Battle	
ARNOLD'S PLAN	GOD'S PLAN
André planned to return to New York on the Vulture.	<u>The Vulture was fired upon and moved away. André had to travel by land.</u>
André believed the soldiers were British and declared himself an English officer.	<u>The American soldiers found the papers from Arnold. André was taken prisoner.</u>
Washington was to return to West Point on September 26.	<u>Washington returned early, before Arnold could carry out his plan.</u>