

## **Benedict Arnold Primary Sources and Timeline**

“Good God, are the Americans all asleep and tamely giving up their Liberties?”

Benedict Arnold after the Boston Massacre (1770)

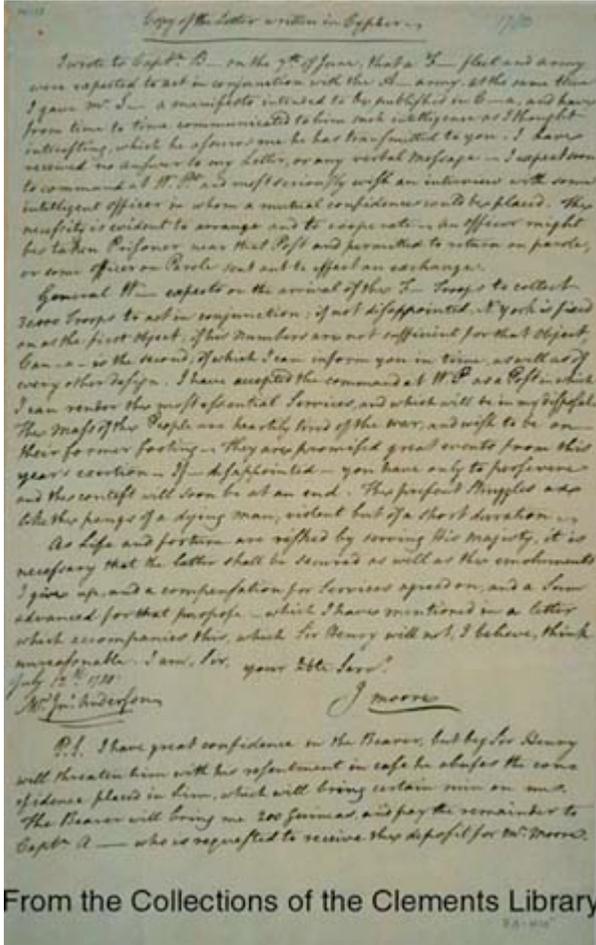
“Having . . . become a cripple in the service of my country, I little expect to meet (such) ungrateful returns.”

Benedict Arnold in letter to George Washington (1777)

“I daily discover so much baseness and ingratitude among mankind that I almost blush to be of the same species.”

Benedict Arnold in a letter to his wife Peggy Shippen (1779)

**July 12, 1780 -- Benedict Arnold to John André (Decoded)**  
 From the Clinton Collection



From the Collections of the Clements Library

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[Decoded letter in Jonathan Odell's hand]

I wrote to Captn B[eckwith]-on the 7th of June, that a F[rench]--- fleet and army / were expected to act in conjunction with the A[merican]--- army. At the same time / I gave Mr. S[tansbury]-a manifesto intended to be published in C[anad]---a, and have / from time to time communicated to him such intelligence as I thought / interesting, which he assures me he has transmitted to you. I have / received no answer from my Letter, or any verbal Message - I expect soon / to command W[est] P[oin]t and most seriously wish an interview with some / intelligent officer in whom a mutual confidence could be placed. The / necessity is evident to arrange and to cooperate - An officer might / be taken Prisoner near that Post and permitted to return on parole, / or some officer on Parole sent out to effect an exchange.

General W[ashington]--- expects on the arrival of the F[rench]--- Troops to collect / 30,000 Troops to act in conjunction; if not disappointed, N[ew] York is fixed / on as the first Object, if his numbers are not sufficient for that Object, / Can-a- is the second; of which I can inform you in time, as well as of / every other design. I have accepted the command at W[est] P[oin]t. As a Post in which / I can render the most essential Services, and which will be in my disposal. / The mass of the People are heartily tired of the War, and wish to be on / their former footing - They are promised great events from this / year's exertion -- If - disappointed - you have only to persevere / and the contest will soon be at an end. The present Struggles are / like the pangs of a dying man, violent but of a short duration---

As Life and fortune are risked by serving His Majesty, it is / Necessary that the latter shall be secured as well as the emoluments / I give up, and a compensation for Services agreed on and a Sum / advanced for that purpose - which I have mentioned in a letter / which accompanies this, which Sir Henry will not, I believe, think / unreasonable. I am Sir, your humble Servant. / July 12, 1780 J. Moore / Mr. Jn Anderson / P.S. I have great confidence in the Bearer, but beg Sir Henry / will threaten him with his resentment in case he abuses the confidence placed in him, which will bring ruin on me. / The Bearer will bring me 200 Guineas, and pay the remainder to / Captn A----- who us requested to receive the deposit for Mr. Moore

“On the 13th Instant I addressed a letter / to you expressing my Sentiments and expectations, viz, that / the following Preliminaries be settled previous to cooperating. - / First, that S[ir]. Henry secure to me my property, valued at ten thou- / sand pounds Sterling, to be paid to me or my Heirs in case of / Loss; and, as soon as that happens [strike out] shall happen, ---- hundred / pounds per annum to be secured to me for life, in lieu of the / pay and emoluments I give up, for my Services as they shall / deserve - If I point out a plan of cooperation by which S[ir}. H[enry]. / shall possess himself of West Point, the Garrison, etc. etc. etc. twenty / thousand pounds Sterling I think will be a cheap purchase for / an object of so much importance. At the same time I request / thousand pounds to be paid my Agent - I expect a full / and explicit answer –

Excerpt from decoded letter from Benedict Arnold to John Andre (July 15, 1780)

Treason of the blackest dye was....discovered. General Arnold...lost...every sense of honor of private and public obligation.”

George Washington (1780)

**Benedict Arnold Timeline**  
(adapted from Humanities Web Timeline)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Benedict Arnold</b>
1741	Born January 14 in Norwich Ct
1756	Apprenticeship at an apothecary (pharmacist)
1756	Runs away from home and enlists in the Connecticut Army
1758	Runs away from home joins the army during the French and Indian War
1760	Enlists in the army, serves in New York
1762	Moves to New Haven and works as apothecary and bookseller
1767	Marries Margaret Mansfield
1775	Captures Ft Ticonderoga with Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys. Resigns his commission after a dispute with an officer. Is wounded in the leg in Quebec. Wife dies
1776	Promoted to brigadier general. Faces accusations of misconduct over plundering (stealing) in Montreal. Fights in a series of naval battles on Lake Champlain
1777	Promoted to major general. Drives the British out of Danbury CT. Resigns his commission because of a fight with Congress over his rank (he withdraws his resignation at George Washington's request). He is relieved of command by General Gates for Insubordination.
1778	Washington gives Arnold command of Philadelphia
1779	Marries Peggy Shippen. Arnold is court-martialed and charged with using his military office for private gains. He begins sending information to the British commander in chief, Sir Henry Clinton
1780	Given command of West Point and offers to surrender it to the British for 20,000 pounds
1781	Attacks and burns Richmond Virginia and invades New London Ct as a British Officer. Moves to England
1785	Moves to New Brunswick intending to continue the occupation of West Indian Trader
1792	Returns to England and fights a duel with the Earl of Lauderdale
1793	Establishes a West Indian Trading Company
1795	Returns to England
1801	Dies in June in London, England

