

**Handouts & Presentation:
Available on GSCC website.**

General Benedict Arnold

Arnold – Brilliant aggressive field commander. The key to Saratoga and earlier valiant efforts:

- * 1775 With Ethan Allen, captured Ft Ticonderoga – cannons moved to Boston for to drive British out.**
- * 1775-6 Led the arduous march through Maine and attacked British at Quebec.**
- * 1776 Battle of Valcour Island in Lake Champlain – disrupt British Navy control on Lake.**
- * 1777 Battles at Saratoga leading to Burgoyne's surrender.**

**Highly respected by his troops and Gen. Geo. Washington, but not in favor with Gen. Gates and some of Congress
Became bitter with accomplishments not being recognized and passed over for promotion.**

After Saratoga, Gen. Washington appointed him Military Governor of Philadelphia as he recuperated.

Married into loyalist family which fed his bitterness.

His court martial was only for misuse of government resources and profiteering. (PHIL)

Geo. Washington still gave him command of West Point.

For an English bribe of £20,000 & Commission, he offered up West Point to the British forces in 1780.

His briber Major John André was discovered, tried, and hanged.

Arnold escaped to the British and lead British troops in battles in Connecticut.

Moved to England in 1782.

Gates and Arnold Relationship

Arnold was known for being temperamental but aggressive and effective battlefield tactician, e.g., earlier Invasion of Quebec, among other battles, and not politically inclined. Gates, on the other hand, was just the opposite. Defensive strategy, politically minded and poor battle tactician, but had friends in Congress. The two were not friends. The “Conway Cabal” in Congress tried to replace Geo. Washington with Gates.

Arnold aggressively pushed a reluctant Gates to engage the British. At Freeman’s Farm Battle, Arnold’s forces initiated the battle and inflicted heavy losses (600) on Burgoyne and halted the British advance. Gates, taking credit, in his report to Congress did not even mention Arnold’s name. Learning of this, Arnold stormed into Gates’s Headquarters and an argument of “*high words and gross language*” erupted between them. Gates responded by stripping Arnold of command.

A short time later, 7 October 1777, in the latter stages of the Battle of Bemis Heights, Arnold, without command, was on the field leading the men into the rear of the defenders of **Breymann Redoubt**, taking it, and forcing **Burgoyne** to order his forces to retire to the “**Great Redoubt**”, closer to the Hudson River to regroup. Arnold suffered a severe wound to the same leg injured at Quebec earlier.

Gates quickly reported the victory at Bemis Heights to Congress, this time giving due credit to Arnold. This entire experience soured Arnold deeply.

American Revolution Sources of Interest

- * The Northern Campaign of 1777 - “americanhistorycentral.com**
- * Battlefield Trust - battlefields.org**
- * SAR Revolution Education - “education.sar.org”**
 - Menu – “Keyholes to History” (key battles of the Revolution)**
- NARA – Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications - “archives.gov”**
- Google: * “American Revolutionary War”**
 - * “Saratoga National Historical Park” Boot Monument**



The Northern Campaign of 1777