

A SKETCH OF BENEDICT ARNOLD.

A Well Written and Concise Sketch of the Life of this Arch Traitor Composed by a High School Student of Jacksonville.

The following sketch of the career of Benedict Arnold was written by Jesse Carr Applegate, a pupil in the Tenth grade of the Jacksonville High School, and submitted in the contest held by the Order of Sons of the American Revolution which closed January 15th and was open to all the pupils of the public schools of Oregon. It received honorable mention from the committee and would have been awarded a prize had the first part been as well written as the last part. It is a very creditable production for a Tenth grade scholar and is quite a compliment to the done in the Jacksonville High School.

Benedict Arnold was born in America in 1741. He was cruel, disobedient, reckless and profane, caring little or nothing for the good will of others. While a youth he was apprenticed to an apothecary but he ran away and enlisted in the Colonial army. He soon deserted however, and set up as a druggist in New Haven. He spent all the money he made as soon as he received it, and ended the business by becoming bankrupt.

Arnold was brave, talented, energetic and ambitious. It would seem, however, that he never really was a patriot. He does not appear to have taken part in the revolution for the sake of his country, but rather for the fame, glory, or wealth, that might come to the General of a victorious army. He was an obscure bookseller and druggist when the war began and he saw the opportunity for a man of such education and talents, as he knew himself to possess to gain distinction and wealth if the revolution should prove a success.

He distinguished himself in the campaign against Ticonderoga, and in the subsequent one against Quebec, where although the Americans were defeated and the gallant Montgomery killed, Benedict Arnold won honor and fame by his valor in battle and the patience and fortitude shown in the long disastrous march from Cambridge to Quebec. Arnold's conduct was heroic and brave from the beginning of the struggle, when as a private he fought in the capture of Ticonderoga in 1776 until as a Major-General his heroism turned the tide of battle at Saratoga in 1777.

After the battle of Stillwater, as he was wounded and unfit for service in the field, he was given the military governorship of Philadelphia which led to his ruin. "Fond of show and feeling of the importance of his station, Arnold now began to live in a style of splendor and extravagance which his income would not allow and his pecuniary embarrassments were soon fearfully augmented." He saw no honorable means of delivering himself from the dilemma. The net of difficulty was gathering more closely around him. He had just married Miss Margaret Shipper, the daughter of a Tory resident of Philadelphia, a young beautiful girl, whose friends and intimates were British officers and Royalists. He lived in the old William Penn mansion, gave grand banquets, kept fine horses, a coach, servants in livery, and rather than retrench his expenses and abandon this life of show and vanity he became a thief. He presented large claims to congress against the government for money which he alleged that he had expended for the public service in Canada. He forbade the shopkeepers of Philadelphia to buy or sell, and he put their goods in the hands of his own agents to be sold at enormous prices, the greater portion of which he put into his own purse. His transactions which were frauds on the commissary department of the army amounted in this way to one hundred and forty thousand dollars.

His overbearing and despotic conduct towards the people brought him into collision with the city authorities. They complained to congress at Philadelphia and the charges were brought before a court-martial. He was found guilty and the question of punishment was left in the hands of Washington. Part of his claims were disallowed as an attempt to cheat the government by false financial statements, and Washington mildly reprimanded him for his conduct in the following words:

"I reprimand you for having forgotten that in proportion as you have rendered yourself formidable to our enemies, you should have been guarded and temperate in your department to your fellow citizens.

"Exhibit anew those noble qualities which have placed you on the list of our most valued commanders.

"I, myself, will furnish you as far as is in my power with opportunity of regaining the esteem of your country."

Arnold was acquitted of two of the charges and the reprimand of Washington was given in all kindness, but Arnold was deeply wounded. He had made an elaborate defense in which he boasted of his services to the army, and solemnly proclaimed his patriotic attachment to the country.

He had expected from the court a triumphant vindication of his honor, and was prepared in the event of an unfavorable verdict to seek revenge at any cost. Arnold's young wife had been a belle, and intimate in the social life and gaiety of Philadelphia, while the British held control of the city. She still kept up association with Royalists and corresponded with Major John Andre of the British army in New York. Through Major Andree, Arnold began a correspondence with Sir Henry Clinton with a view of selling something to that General for money.

It is not known at what date this treasonable correspondence really began, but it had been in existence before Arnold's court martial, and at the very time he was making his promises of patriotism, he knew himself to be at heart a traitor, waiting only to ascertain just when the betrayal of his country would bring the highest price. The leniency of the court the kindness of the commander-in-chief, only hardened the heart of the most vindictive and malicious man of whom history keeps a record. He ascertained that Sir Henry Clinton was very anxious to possess West Point, which was the most valuable arsenal and depot of military stores in America. He became convinced that a higher price would be paid for possession of that fortress than for anything else. Concealing his malice, he professed to Washington great sorrow over his late mistakes, and a great wish to make amends for them, but insisted that the wounds he had received at Stillwater made it impossible for him to ride, to do active service, and asked that he be given the place of Commandant of West Point. After some little delay Washington finally consented and Arnold who had already practically assumed command at West Point on the 31st of July, received his authority over "that Post and its dependencies, from Fish Kill to Kings Ferry," dated August 3rd, 1780.

Before the month had ended Arnold was in active correspondence with the enemy. On August 30th he wrote to Major Andre: "A speculation of this kind might be easily made with ready money;" meaning the surrender of West Point. The plan was for Arnold to keep Sir Henry Clinton informed in regard to Washington, who proposed to make a march against New York, at which time a large amount of stores would be deposited at West Point. When the army started the British General was to send a fleet up the Hudson to West Point, and Arnold under the pretense that the garrison was weak, would surrender the fort and stores. The bargain through the instrumentality of Major Andre was finally made. Arnold was to receive a Brigadier General's commission in the British army and 10,000 pounds in money,—rather cheap, to sell honor, country, the respect of friends, the society of decent people, for \$50,000 dollars. For this money he received the contempt of the people to whom he sold himself, and the ignominy and shame that has attached itself to his name for more than a hundred years.

People think of him as they do of Judas Iscariot who sold the Savior of man for thirty pieces of silver. But Judas, though an ignorant unlettered Jew, was so ashamed that he brought back the thirty pieces of silver and threw it down at the feet of the High Priests. He was so ashamed and repentant of his crimes that he went out and hanged himself after it was over. Arnold on the contrary took his command in the British army and at its head marched against his late comrades, the men with whom he had toiled and fought and starved through four long years of war and hardship. Wherever he could inflict a cruel and destructive blow upon his countrymen he did it with the vindictive spirit of a devil rather than a man. He stood in the tower of the old church at New London and saw the people of his native state shamefully and brutally abused by the British soldiers under his command, their houses and barns destroyed, themselves driven homeless and naked into the world, and this almost in sight of the spot where he was born. Sixty-seven dwelling houses containing ninety-seven families were destroyed by his order on this occasion, to say nothing of barns, stores, and public buildings of other kinds pillaged and burned.

This murderous expedition against the neighbors of his youth and childhood, was such a climax to his treachery that Britons themselves, even though they had profited by his treason, despised the

Chris Ulrich

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We have in our hands at present a large number of Bargains in FARM, FRUIT and GARDEN LANDS, and TOWN PROPERTY, of which the following is a partial list.

- No. 1**—Is 550 acres more or less, 300 acres Rogue River bottom land, all fenced, good house, barn and other buildings. The balance, about 250 acres, good for timber and pasture. This place is situated on Rogue River, near town. The land is of fine quality. Price per acre.....\$25
- No. 2**—Is a tract of 1520 acres, all fenced, 1200 acres good alfalfa land; a stream running through it of 150 miners' inches of water with which the whole 1200 acres can be irrigated. The other 320 acres is higher ground, which is well situated for reservoirs and feed grounds. This tract is situated in Klamath county, about 20 miles from Klamath Falls, a county road running by it and a railroad now within about 50 miles and building rapidly towards it and is certain to pass near by it, or cross it in the near future. A good farm house and barn and corrals on the place. One of the best bargains in all Southern Oregon. Price per acre.....\$10.
- No. 3**—House and 4 lots in Phoenix. Price.....\$600
- No. 4**—204 acres of good land, all fenced and in cultivation. A good farm house and barn. A No. 1 farm. Near town and railroad. Price.....\$9,500.
- No. 8**—55 acres, house and 2 barns, 12 acres bottom land, the balance, 43 acres, all good land, ¼-mile from depot; 12 acres under ditch at the head of the ditch. Price.....\$5000
- No. 9**—400 acres, within four miles of Medford; is a fine farm, well improved good buildings, small orchard; the best bargain for a farm in Jackson county. Price per acre.....\$10.
- No. 10**—23 acres all fenced and in cultivation. A house and barn, about 50 fruit trees just coming into bearing. 1½ miles from town. Price.....\$1,000.
- No. 11**—145 acres on Butte creek, 25 acres in cultivation, 25 acres more to put in; all fenced, fair buildings, Jackson county, Oregon. A bargain.
- No. 12**—264 acres, all under fence, good 5-room house, good spring, water conveyed to house by pipe, 2 good barns, 215 acres of choice land in cultivation, good for all kinds of grain, 30 or 40 acres would produce good alfalfa. This is one of the best farms in the valley, 2½ miles from Phoenix. Price per acre.....\$35
- No. 14**—400 acres, 6 miles from Medford, a good house, 2 barns 100 acres in cultivation Phoenix.
- No. 15**—138 acres on Rogue River, 100 acres of as good land as any man could wish for. No improvements. Thirty acres of it could be made ready for the plow with 15 days labor. Price.....\$500
- No. 22**—House and barn in Phoenix. 2 lots 60x120 feet. Price.....\$650.
- No. 25**—House and 3 lots in Phoenix, lots 60x120 each; good house well finished.
- No. 26**—House and 2 lots in Phoenix, lots 60x120 feet each.
- No. 30**—18 acres well improved, house, barn and other out buildings; one-half in young orchard; near Phoenix. Price.....\$1200.
- No. 31**—An 80 acre farm seven miles from railroad, level land, good soil, 15 acres cleared and fenced, 26 acres in pasture, remainder easily cleared. Dwelling house well finished, cost over \$500. Bearing orchard; fine well and springs; is sub-irrigated, and can be made one of the best small farms of Jackson county. Is owned by a non-resident who will give a bargain in order to sell quick.
- No. 33**—15½ acres, all in cultivation; house, barn, etc., near Phoenix; will be sold all together or divided.
- No. 34**—1200 acres all improved. Fine bottom land, Rogue River running through it; 500 acres under irrigation and balance easily watered. Good buildings and other improvements; six miles from railroad; near postoffice and school. Fine alfalfa, fruit or garden land. Is the cheapest land in Jackson county. Price per acre.....\$30
- No. 36**—1743 acres of pasture land on Rogue River. Will be sold at a bargain.
- No. 37**—1560 acres, 800 acres of it fine plow land; all well watered by fine creek and springs. Large part under cultivation and all under fence. Will be sold in tracts to suit purchasers. Convenient to market and in good neighborhood.
- No. 39**—2½ acres, three-fourths of a mile from Medford. Good garden land. Good box house.....\$350
- No. 40**—30 acres, on a creek affording plenty of good water; good soil and fine fruit land. Three acres in alfalfa; good buildings; near good school and other advantages. \$1500, one-half cash balance on time. Is a big bargain.
- No. 41**—4000 acres of choice land selected in an early day. Will be sold in tracts to suit. Will make a dozen or 20 fine farms. This is an opportunity to secure a home in the best part of the Rogue River valley.
- No. 43**—40 acres of unimproved land. Has some good fir, pine and oak. Most of land can be easily cleared; good soil, plenty of water; half a mile from school and church. Six miles from Bybee bridge. Price per acre.....\$10.
- No. 45**—Over 80 acres of good alfalfa land; 50 acres Bear creek bottom land with a large irrigation ditch. Two first-class houses, two good barns and a fine spring house. Adjoining land selling for \$200 an acre. Price per acre \$130
- No. 47**—City property, 2 acres, fine new house, good well and barn. Good land, 4 blocks from central school.....\$750.