

# Women Bits of American History

## Real Estate Exchange

By Edward B. Clark

1812 headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution are situated in Washington. These women, who are engaged in the work of keeping alive patriotic memories, have in a nearly completed form, one of the most beautiful buildings in the city.

If the forming of the many societies in which membership is based on the having of an ancestor who fought or did something else for his country a century or so ago serves no other purpose, it at least is the means of bringing to light some more than half hidden bits of American history too interesting to be lost either to sight or memory. For the last few years the genealogy departments of the Congressional Library and of the reference libraries all over the country have been more popular with the masses than any other rooms in the buildings. There are gathered daily throngs composed of the flesh-and-blood part of women studying away for dear life in the endeavor to find trace of some ancestor who saw the whites of the British eyes at Bunker Hill or at the Cowpens in the Carolinas.

The discoveries made by these deliv-



ers into family histories, if put into a volume, would form a valuable addition to the graver records of a government. Some matters touching Benedict Arnold, which were perhaps well enough known a century ago, but which have lapsed into forgetfulness, were found not long ago by a "revolutionary daughter" who for certain reasons was trying to find something to lighten Benedict's black history.

When it is once said with truth that a man is a traitor to his country, the damnation is deep enough to keep his contemporaries and a following generation or two from any attempt to find anything that might redeem the traitor's soul from utter blackness. Benedict Arnold's name is blotted out of the revolutionary roll of honor on the walls of the chapel at West Point. On some monuments and on many a page of history Arnold's name appears, but nowhere may it be seen separated from the title "traitor."

The English, who were to have profited by Arnold's treason, hated the traitor after he had joined their ranks. British officers would hold no fellowship with him and his memory is execrated in England to-day. The British loyalists who left the colonies at the outbreak of the revolutionary war and went their way into New Brunswick showed Arnold when he afterward went to do among them that they held him in still fiercer loathing. Arnold, the American commander, in token of surrender, murdered the colonial soldier with the weapon which he had presented blit-

to his conqueror. This is the mid-night scroll and that upon it may appear a small tracing in letters of light is a matter of interest, though it may do nothing toward the redeeming of a name.

It was a Daughter of the Revolution, Mrs. Gilbert W. Warren of Hon. N. Y., who brought attention to the name of Benedict Arnold. She was a descendant of Col. William Ledyard, who was killed with his four children, who was rendered by an officer serving under Arnold. Naturally Mrs. Warren would not be moved by any honor conferred for Arnold to start her digging up nice things about him. It happens, however, that Mrs. Warren's husband, who survives her, is collaterally descended from Gen. Joseph Warren, who fell at Bunker Hill. This fact led to the discovery of something which was used as a sort of offset to Arnold's treatment of the unlucky Americans who met his forces along the banks of the Connecticut Thames.

Gen. Arnold had met Gen. Warren in the early spring of 1775 and had formed a strong personal liking for him. When Warren was killed it was found that he had left no means for the support and education of his four children. Arnold became deeply interested in the matter and brought the children's condition to the attention of the continental congress, which dilly-dallied over the matter. Arnold had an idea that the congress might not act quickly and so he wrote a letter to Miss Schooley, just before his treason. He was writing to Mrs. Warren, their mother having died some time before. In this letter Arnold, nearly impoverished himself, sent an order for \$500 with instructions that he should be drawn upon by more as soon as it was needed. This contribution of the traitor saved Elizabeth, Joseph, Mary and Richard Warren from destitution. Arnold was not satisfied with this, but he wrote spurring letters to Sam Adams and John Hancock, of the committee which had the proposed congressional appropriation in hand. Then he sent home some money and said: "Send Richard, who is now old enough to the best school that can be found, clothe him handsomely, give him all that he needs and call upon me for any future expense."

How much food for thought may be found in one of the letters of Benedict Arnold, traitor, written to Miss Schooley just before his treason. He had sent more money and had congratulated the children on the prospect that the money from congress would be speedily forthcoming. "A patriot," said Arnold, "should be ever grateful to the patriot who lays down his life in his defense. 'Greater love hath no man than this.'"

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begun negotiations with Clinton. School histories say that after the revolution Arnold passed all his time in England. He lived, however, for a long period in St. John, New Brunswick. There he engaged the company of a pirate, sending out trading vessels to the West Indies. His neighbors, though, as has been said, were largely refractory, had stood by the traitor and crown. They gave Arnold to understand that they did not like his company. They handed him in a petition, one of the words taken from the edgy bore the word "Traitor" in large letters. One night Arnold's place of business burned. The companies refused to pay, openly charging that either Arnold or his son had acted the incendiary. The case went into court and the insurance companies finally paid. Arnold pocketed the money and left the town, the occasion of his leaving being made one of tremendous rejoicing by the inhabitants throughout all the land.

It will be interesting to note whether or not a new chapel which is being erected at West Point the name of Gen. William Hull will appear on the wall with the names of other soldiers who served in the land forces of the United States during the second war with Great Britain. Gen. Hull surrendered Detroit to the British and was court-martialed for doing it.

The Society of the War of 1812. It is understood that the work of placing the tablets in West Point's new chapel. The officers' names, like the names of those who have served in the revolutionary war and which will appear in letters of gold upon a black base.

School histories as a rule, in giving an account of the Detroit surrender, state simply that Gen. Hull's conduct characterized as cowardly. Hull was tried and sentenced to be shot for cowardice is generally omitted. Hull was ordered to go to his Massachusetts home and there await the execution of his sentence. Old age overtook him many years afterwards. It is probable that the commemorating society will content itself with simply omitting Hull's name from its roll of heroes. The conduct characterized as cowardly by a competent court, could be made to stand as a warning to all the generations of young soldiers.

Occupying a considerable part of the wall space of the beautiful old West Point place of ceremony are already many black marble memorials bearing the names of all the general officers of the revolutionary war from Artemus Ward of Connecticut to George Washington of Virginia. Upon one of these tablets the cadets as they file in on Sunday see something which tells better than words of trumpet-tongued eloquence of the black legend which attaches to the name of a traitor. On one of the slabs appearing a place between two honored names there appears a black blot. Above and below it show the signs of a traitor. He is set forth in the words of the observer knave after a moment's study that which it is intended in the main to conceal. A black blot of marble set in the center of the tablet, the name of Benedict Arnold, traitor.

Touching on the treason of Benedict Arnold, there is a little-known story which had for the setting the year of the war of 1812, the year of the war under an assumed name. From that time on there came in the course of six months made a commissioned officer. He was of a retiring disposition, always courteous to his fellow officers and just to his men, but he sought to escape the war under an assumed name. He was a man whose devotion to duty amounted to a passion. He once sought and secured a change in command in order to have a more frequent field in the heavy fighting.

This soldier rose to the rank of a major. He was offered at one time a colonelcy. He declined. He fought every battle of the war of 1812, and he was at the end of the campaign and at the end of the war. The major headed his battalion in the great parade of the returning veterans up Pennsylvania avenue in 1815. He was the only man in the line of the troops. Less than a month afterward the colonel of a fighting regiment received a letter bearing a Toronto postmark: "I served all through the war under an assumed name. Trust that I did my full duty. I wish you to know that I did what I did in order that I might in some way make the statement of the fact that I was a man. Sir, I am a Canadian by birth and my name is John Benedict Arnold."

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BENEDICT ARNOLD

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Canine Etiquette

In their relations with one another, dogs have a keen sense of etiquette. A well-known traveler makes this unexpected remark about a tribe of naked black men, living on one of the South Sea islands: "In their every day intercourse there is much that is stiff, formal and precise. Almost the same remark might be made about dogs. Unless they are on very intimate terms, they take great pains

never to brush against or even touch one another. For one dog to stop for another is a dangerous breach of etiquette unless they are speaking of the same dog. It is no uncommon thing for two dogs to belong to the same person, and live in the same house, and yet never see the slightest notice of each other. We have a spaniel dignified that he will never permit another member of the dog family to pil-