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In 1845, Asher Brown Durand (1796–1886) created this artistic interpretation of the capture of British Major John Andre. The oil-on-canvas, which measures 25 × 30 inches (63.5 × 76.2 cm), is currently maintained at the Birmingham Museum of Art (in Birmingham, Alabama). Click on it for a better view.

Benedict Arnold insisted on a personal meeting with John Andre. Knowing such a meeting would require him to go behind enemy lines, Andre initially resisted but finally gave in.

He would wear his uniform, however. To dress in disguise, or use a false name, would automatically render him a spy, if he were caught.

The meeting with Arnold (on September 21, 1780) took longer than expected, but Andre left with priceless documents. Benedict Arnold gave him key data about West Point, including troop placement.

Because his ship (the *Vulture*) had moved up river, Andre was stranded. He would have to return by land, inside American lines.

Against his better judgment, Andre wore a disguise and used passes (prepared by Arnold) in the name of John Anderson. Joshua Hett Smith, who was later court-martialed but found not guilty, traveled with him. (To clear his name, Smith wrote *An Authentic Narrative of the Causes which Led to the Death of Major André.*)

Smith also traveled with a pass signed by Arnold.

Believing he was safe, once the two men reached neutral territory on September 23rd, Andre continued alone. By 9 a.m. that morning, he was apprehended by suspicious militiamen. Searching Andre, the men (John Paulding, Isaac Van Wart and David Williams) found the West Point documents.

It was the beginning of the end for John Andre.

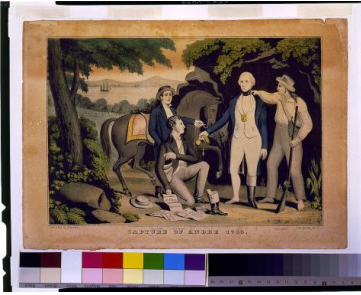
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/TREASON-MOST-FOUL-American-Revolution-Highlight>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/TREASON-MOST-FOUL-American-Revolution-Highlights>

Media Stream

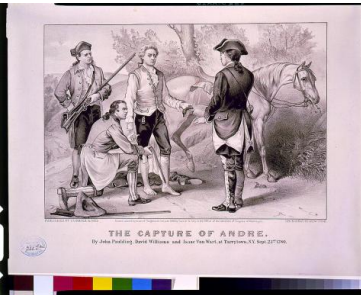


John Andre - Captured While Wearing a Disguise

Print by Currier & Ives, c. 1845. Library of Congress, image LC-USZC4-2396.

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Searching John Andre

The Capture of Andre ... at Tarrytown, N. Y., Sept. 23, 1780. Lithograph by Currier & Ives, 1876.

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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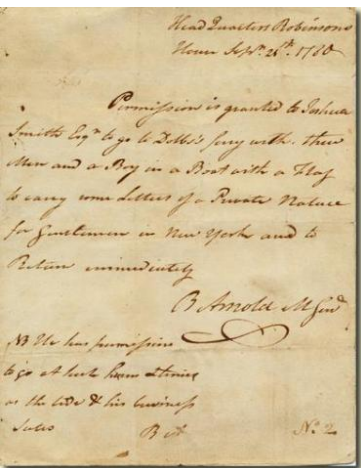
West Point Documents - From Benedict Arnold

Capture of Major John Andre by John Paulding, David Williams & Issac Vanwart. Lithograph by J. Baillie, 1845.

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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Pass Signed by Benedict Arnold

Image of Pass for Joshua Smith, 1780, side 1 of 2, online courtesy New York State Archives: *New York State Archives. New York (State). Governor (1777-1795 : Clinton). Papers found on British spy Major Andre ("Andre Papers"), 1780. Series A4681-99, Smith Pass 1.*

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TREASON MOST FOUL

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