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Ft. Ticonderoga, the scene of famous events during America's Revolutionary War, as seen from nearby Mount Defiance. Image by Mwanner, online via Wikimedia Commons. License: <u>CC BY-SA 3.0</u>

Born in 1741, the <u>son</u> of a wealthy Connecticut widow and her second husband, Benedict Arnold was an early Patriot. Living in New Haven, Connecticut during the Boston Massacre of 1770, he was said to have exclaimed:

Are all the Americans asleep and tamely giving up their liberties?

As a militia captain, marching with his men to Boston to render whatever aid he could, he thought about one of the colonists' biggest needs: cannon with which to force the British out of Boston. He knew where such cannon existed: at the British-held <u>Ft. Ticonderoga</u>. (Follow this link to view numerous "stereoscopic views" of the fort's ruins and the <u>surrounding</u> area, courtesy New York Public Library's digital collection.)

Convincing the Massachusetts <u>Committee of Safety</u> to make him a Colonel and grant him permission to take the fort, Arnold went to New York. It wasn't just the fort that Arnold wanted to take, however. The story is told he also wanted to take the command (and the glory) from men who were themselves planning a surprise attack on Ticonderoga: Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys.

Unimpressed with Arnold's official papers, <u>Allen</u> was willing to share the fight but would not relinquish command. The Americans surprised the British who <u>gave up</u> the fort without a battle. It was <u>May 10, 1775</u>.

When Arnold returned to Massachusetts, he turned in his expenses for the trip to New York. Legislators carefully looked over his claim and accused him of padding the bill. It amounted to \$60,000 in today's money.

It was not the last time people who controlled the purse strings would second-guess Arnold's expenses.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/EARLY-PROMISE-Benedict-Arnold

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/EARLY-PROMISE-Benedict-Arnold

Media Stream



<u> Ft. Ticonderoga - Surrounding Area</u>

Image online, courtesy the U.S. National Archives. View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ft.-Ticonderoga-Surrounding-Area

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<u>Ethan Allen - Statue</u> Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ethan-Allen-Statue</u>

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