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## **Belmont Historical Society presents talk on Benedict Arnold on Sept. 20**



**GEORGE MORRISON**, a retired high school history teacher, will discuss 'Benedict Arnold—Patriot (and Traitor)' at the Corner Meeting House in Belmont at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20. The presentation is being sponsored by the Belmont Historical Society. (COURTESY)

BELMONT—Was Benedict Arnold misunderstood?

That will be one of the issues raised during a talk given by George Morrison at 7 p.m. on Tuesday,

Sept. 20 at the Corner Meeting House in Belmont. The event is sponsored by the Belmont Historical Society. The program is titled, "Benedict Arnold—Patriot (and Traitor)."

Arnold's name continues to be synonymous with the words "traitor" and "betrayal." His infamous act of betrayal took place during the Revolutionary War when he switched sides— from the American patriots fighting for independence to that of the British.

Arnold was in charge of fortifications at West Point, the site of the future U.S. Military Academy, which overlooks the Hudson River and is about 50 miles north of New York City. In September 1780, Arnold's plan to hand over the fortifications to the British was exposed. He then went on to fight for the British side. After the surrender of the British at Yorktown in 1782, Benedict left the country and spent the rest of his life in England.

Before his act of treason, Arnold fought valiantly for the American side in a number of battles.

However, he felt his contributions were not recognized, and gradually he became disheartened and disillusioned.

Arnold was a protege of George Washington, who commanded the American Continental Army.

Arnold's act of betrayal was a crushing blow to Washington, who considered Arnold a close and loyal associate, and made it a point to nurture the careers of a number of younger officers.

Morrison is a retired high school history teacher from Bow, who taught for 27 years. He will explore the context of Arnold's decision to go over to the British side, and the complexities of the fight for American independence.

The Sept 20 presentation at the Corner Meeting House is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

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