

Belmont Historical Society hosts program on Benedict Arnold, patriot and traitor

BELMONT — The Belmont Historical Society will host a program "Benedict Arnold, Patriot and Traitor" on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m. at the Belmont Corner Meeting House.

George Morrison, a retired history teacher from Bow, will take guests along an interesting journey through New England, Québec Province, and New York exploring historic and modern images of places where Arnold fought. The program is sponsored by the Belmont Historical Society with funding from the New Hampshire Humanities Council.

We all know Benedict Arnold, the traitor of 1780, but this ignores his many patriotic exploits of 1775, 1776, and 1777, when the dream of independence was at its most fragile. His is not just the story of a traitor to the American cause, but also one of an ardent patriot, who, after many sacrifices on behalf of that cause, became disillusioned and disheartened.

His story goes back to a tiny American army advancing through a howling wilderness; an attack against impossible odds in a blinding snowstorm and a scratch American naval fleet overwhelmed by the Royal Navy, but able to delay an invasion for another fateful year. You will hear about a besieged American fort, relieved through a clever ruse, and how decisive action was taken in the most vital battle of the war.

This program is free and open to the public and light refreshments will be served.
