

Major John André (1750-1780)

Major André was in the British army at the time of the War of American Independence and he undertook a mission to deal with Benedict Arnold, a traitor to the American cause, to gain entry to the fort at Westpoint on the Hudson.

While acting alone André was captured by the Americans, tried by a military tribunal and sentenced to death.

General George Washington refused an appeal and insisted he should be ignominiously hanged as a spy, rather than shot as a British officer.

The earliest reference yet found (1811) relating to the ownership of this house names André's three sisters – Mary Hannah, Louisa Catherine & Ann Margaret – as owners.

The wealthy André family lived at 22 The Circus and the sisters inherited this house, built on his land, from their uncle Andrew Girardot. He owned No.20 Belmont.

Some years later a memorial to Major André, the only one in that place to be erected by a sovereign, was erected in Westminster Abbey. It was designed by John Nash.

Louisa Giradot 1742-1829 buried Bath Abbey
lived 19 Marlborough Bldgs 1802-1819 Our Thomas d 1801

Marie-Louise Girardot dof Paul Girardot of Paris
m Anthony Andre

1 John André prob born Paris on 2 May 1751 the son of Anthony and Marie-Louise André nee Girardot

His father was a merchant residing in later life at Clapton, London; he died there on 14th April 1769 aged 52 and was buried in the family vault in St Augustine's churchyard, Hackney. His mother died in Bath on 22nd February 1813 aged 91.

John Andre had one brother, William Lewis, and three sisters. William was baptised at St Martin Outwich in London on 25th November 1760 and was later made a baronet by George III in honour of the memory of his brother. He died unmarried in 1802 and the title became extinct.

The sisters lived in **Bath** and all died unmarried

Ann Marguerite in 1830, **Louisa Catherine in 1835** and Mary Hannah in 1845.

In the Nave of Westminster Abbey there is a monument to Major John André, executed as a spy by the Americans in 1780. Designed by Robert Adam and carried out by Peter Mathias Van Gelder it was erected at the expense of King George III. It shows a mourning figure of Britannia with a lion, seated on the top of a sarcophagus. On the front of this is a relief showing George Washington in a tent receiving a petition and Major André being led away to execution.

The inscription reads:

SACRED to the MEMORY of MAJOR JOHN ANDRE, who raised by his Merit at an early period of Life to the rank of Adjutant General of the British Forces in America, and employed in an important but hazardous Enterprise fell a Sacrifice to his Zeal for his King and Country on the 2nd of October AD 1780 Aged 29, universally Beloved and esteemed by the Army in which he served and lamented even by his FOES. His gracious Sovereign KING GEORGE the Third has caused this Monument to be erected.

Major Andre's Description of the Mischianza. An Endnote to Chapter IV

"Philadelphia, May 23, 1778

Lord Cathcart, superbly mounted on a managed horse, appeared as chief of these knights; two young black slaves, with sashes and drawers of blue and white silk, wearing large silver clasps round their necks and arms, their breasts and shoulders bare, held his stirrups. On his right hand walked Captain Hazard, and on his left Captain Brownlow, his two esquires, one bearing his lance, the other his shield. His device was Cupid riding on a lion; the motto, Surmounted by Love. **His lordship appeared in honor of Miss Auchmuty"**

Then came in order the knights of his band, each attended by his squire, bearing his lance and shield.

Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution Vol 11 by Benson J Lossing 1850

Major John Andre

"Particulars of the Meschianza, exhibited in America at the Departure of General Howe:

Copy of a Letter from an Officer at Philadelphia to his Correspondent in London."

Gentlemen's Magazine and Historical Chronicle (London) 48 (1778).

Giradot

Jane Giradot a Huguenot of 13 Bennet Street Bath m1 Gen. Hamilton

m Arthur Blennerhasset Ballyseedy 1719-1799 IFR p.41

1 Jane Blennerhasset -1825 m 1783 1 B Headley -1798

2 Juliana Blennerhasset -1789 m 1779 Michael Tisdall - 1794 of Charlesfort, Meath

"For the first time in my life I write to you with unwillingness. The ship that carries home Sir William Howe will convey this letter to you; and not even the pleasure of conversing with my friend can secure me from the general dejection I see around me, or remove the share I must take in the universal regret and disappointment which his approaching departure hath spread throughout the army

Mischianza Ticket 2

Lord Cathcart, superbly mounted on a managed horse, appeared as chief of these knights; two young black slaves, with sashes and drawers of blue and white silk, wearing large silver clasps round their necks and arms, their breasts and shoulders bare, held his stirrups. On his right hand walked Captain Hazard, and on his left Captain Brownlow, his two esquires, one bearing his lance, the other his shield. His device was Cupid riding on a lion; the motto, Surmounted by Love. **His lordship appeared in honor of Miss Auchmuty.**

"Then came in order the knights of his band, each attended by his squire, bearing his lance and shield.

Endnotes

1 This is from a silhouette cut by Major Andrè.

2 This is a copy of the Mischianza Ticket, one half the size of the original, which, with the drawing of the head-dress upon page 100, were made by Major Andrè. These were presented to John F. Watson, Esq. by Miss Craig, one of the ladies who participated in the fête. These curious relics are attached to manuscript annals of Philadelphia, prepared by Mr. Watson, and by him generously presented to the Franklin Library of that city.

3 A little distance above the present Vine Street

4 A little below the present navy yard.

5 Captain (afterward Earl) Cathcart was a son of Lord Cathcart, the chief of the knights on this occasion.

6 Afterward Major Andrè. The lady in whose honor he appeared was daughter of Chief-justice Chew. His squire was his brother, a youth of nineteen, whom the king afterward knighted, as mentioned on page 767, vol. i.

7 Afterward the wife of General Arnold.

8 The costume of the ladies was as follows: those of the Blended Rose a white silk, called a Polonaise, forming a flowing robe, and open in front to the waist; the pink sash six inches wide, and filled with spangles; the shoes and stockings also spangled; the head-dress more towering than the drawing, and filled with a profusion of pearls and jewels. The vail was spangled, and edged with silver lace. The ladies of the Burning Mountain wore white sashes edged with black, and black trimmings to white silk Polonaise gowns.

There were no ladies of British officers at the entertainment, except Miss Auchmuty, the new bride of Captain Montessor. There were not exceeding fifty American young ladies present; the others were married, and these were few, for most of the ladies had left the city on the approach of the British. — Watson's Annals, ii., 293.

9 The chief portions of the decorations were painted by Major Andrè and Captain Oliver Delancy, of New York. The Sienna marble was on canvas, in imitation of scene-painting in theaters. They also painted the scenery for the theater that was established in Philadelphia that winter, the proceeds of which were given to the widows and orphans of their soldiers. — Watson's Annals, ii., 292.

10 All these mirrors and lustres, according to Mr. Watson, the annalist, were borrowed from the citizens, and were all sent back with the ornaments on. Mr. Watson derived much information on these points from Mrs. L----, the "queen of the Mischianza."