

ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 16

June 10, 1972

Dear Members and Friends:

Another outdoor season has rolled around with a lot of interesting activities planned for your enjoyment. We don't want you to miss anything, so please note the dates and plan to participate.

In addition to our pleasures, we also have many responsibilities (which should also be a pleasure to responsible people!)

Some of you may not have a copy of our brochure which explains the aims and purposes of our Society, as well as some of our involving projects. The success of these undertakings require much thought and labor, which can be very rewarding.

We do not presently have any paid staff. The president's office has become a full-time job. Membership is steadily increasing while time is running out on certain phases of our preservation and acquisition program.

A partial answer to this serious problem is the formation of capable and efficient committees. With the 1975 Bicentennial planning and organization now underway, the pressure and tempo is increasing. We need more committees and more volunteer workers. Will you help us? We want everyone to participate in the Bicentennial. Would you care to work with one of these committees?

We also need volunteers in finance, fund raising, publications.

QUEBEC-ARNOLD TRAIL TOUR

On August 18, 1972, the Second Company, Governor's Foot Guard, of New Haven, Conn., founded in 1774, and one of the most famous military organizations in America, started a pilgrimage to Quebec, following the Arnold Expedition route through Maine. An incident of this pilgrimage was the dedication of a boulder monument at Fort Western, Augusta, where 137 years before, Arnold's forces halted for a week, on their memorable march. The boulder was erected to the memory of the Connecticut men who followed Arnold to Quebec.

At Augusta, the party continued on special trains, arriving in Quebec on August 19 and 20th.

Exactly sixty years later, to the day, our Society will tour the same landmarks via fifty passenger buses. On Friday morning August 18, at 8:00 A.M. we shall depart from the U. of M.A. Campus, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Augusta, Route 27, Belgrade Road.

We have made arrangements to park our cars on the Campus parking lot for the week-end. The area will be patrolled. We shall stop briefly at Fort Western before proceeding to Fort Halifax, where we will pick up other passengers.

We expect to arrive at Skowhegan about 9:30 (twenty minute coffee stop and pick up passengers at Whittemore's Restaurant). We shall follow the Arnold Trail most of the way with other stops at Cathedral Pines Campground, (11:30), Spider Lake and the Grand Falls of the Chaudiere.

We have been invited to use the beautiful lakeside estate of one of our Quebec members, Mr. Jean Cliche, for our picnic dinner. Bring your own lunch.

This site has a commanding view fo Spider Lake and the surrounding wilderness where Arnold's men became lost in the swamps.

The next stop will be at the Great Falls of the Chaudiere. Be sure to bring your camera.

Arriving at Old Quebec in the early evening, we shall all have dinner at the CHATEAU LAURIER. Later that evening we shall see the famous Quebec Diorama, depicting the sieges of Quebec including the Arnold-Montgomery siege. On Saturday morning, we shall have a special guided bus tour of the historic sites associated with this siege.

We are honored in having the Reverend HONORIUS PROVOST, Ptre, archiviste of the Seminaire de Quebec (where some of the sick and wounded of Arnold's men were quartered) to accompany us on this tour and comment. The Reverend has been most helpful in drafting an itinerary for this tour.

Saturday afternoon is scheduled for free time, shopping and sight-seeing. Sunday A.M. is open for your own pleasure. We shall depart Quebec City at twelve noon on Sunday, stopping enroute for lunch. We plan to be in Augusta by 7 P.M.

Only estimates on prices can be offered at this time, but transportation, including special Quebec tour will be \$25.00. Rooms will average \$10 per day, per person. All meals will be a personal determination.

A check for twenty-five dollars per person enclosed with your reservation is necessary. Rooms will be reserved. Deadline for reservations is July 15. Space is limited; first come, first served.

For tour information and reservations write: Robert A. Cunningham, Woodcock Lane, Lincoln, Massachusetts 01773 or Phone 617-259-8066.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the AEHS will be held at the Old Pownalboro Courthouse in Dresden, Maine, on June 25, 1972.

A Directors meeting will convene at 10 A.M. The membership meeting is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. This is an excellent site and opportunity to enjoy a picnic lunch at this historic site on the bank of the Kennebec River. Bring your family and guests. In case of rain, the courthouse building will provide shelter.

We will conduct a short guided tour of nearby Fort Richmond site (some of Arnold's men stayed here) and the Pownalboro Fort Frankfort-Shirley site.

The meeting place is on Route 128, about two miles north of the Richmond Bridge, east side of the Kennebec River.

BY-LAW AMENDMENT

At the business session it will be proposed that:

1. - We create the office of vice-president for each of the Colonial States and the Province of Quebec.
2. - That we include an affiliate membership to organizations of similar and related interests.

KENNEBEC RIVER CRUISE

Present plans call for another cruise of the Kennebec River from Fort Popham to the Colburn-Klopp bateau shipyard site. It is presently scheduled for Sunday, September 17th. Final details in the September news bulletin. We turned down many persons last season, so kindly make your reservations early to Mrs. Wolcott Andrews, Wiscasset, Maine, 04578 or phone 832-5578.

WANTED: INFORMATION AND OFFERS

We urgently need a trailer to hold and transport our 25 foot long bateau from its present location on the Dead River to various exhibit sites, Museums, etc. We also urgently need a transit for our field work in surveying the trail and trail corridor, as well as laying out base-lines and coordinates for our archaeological projects.

Do any of you members know where we can buy an used instrument at a reasonable price? Or, better yet, someone that would donate, or loan one to us?

HILTON PAINTING EXHIBIT

Seaverns Hilton, Maine's well known creator and painter of historic interpretive panels, seen in Maine's various parks and along the Arnold route, has loaned his twenty original paintings from his booklet "Arnold's March to Quebec" to our Society for exhibit at various Museums in the State.

The Bath Marine Museum will display part of the collection in conjunction with their Revolutionary War exhibit this summer.

Our Society has contributed the Arnold Expedition section of this exhibit.

From the Marine Museum the Hilton paintings will be given a full and special exhibit at the Lincoln County Museum in Wiscasset this fall, along with our bateau and other relics.

We take this opportunity to thank Seaverns Hilton for his generous offer of this valuable collection of paintings to our exhibits.

DICKSON DEED

Thanks to Tom and Geno Dickson, of Rumford, Maine, we are now the proud owners of a parcel of land with about 400 foot frontage on East Carry Pond, on the Great Carry, for use in conjunction with an historic park.

The Dicksons have also given us conservation easement rights to a 400 foot corridor enclosing the original Arnold Trail along the Great Carry.

It is hoped that this will be the start of a movement to preserve this National Historic Place for posterity.

BICENTENNIAL PLANS

Our proposed plans for a reenactment of the Arnold Expedition to Quebec will, no doubt, be the outstanding activity of the U. S. Bicentennial in 1975.

The plans and developments are so extensive in this project that a special newsletter will be necessary to inform our members of developments.

I do like to have it understood that every member is invited and expected to participate in the extensive activities to take place. There will be many ways to become involved. If you have any ideas to offer, we shall be pleased to hear from you.

All historic reactivated Militia Corps. are especially invited to participate. Let's hear from you.

EUSTIS-DEAD RIVER CAMPSITE

Duluth Wing, one of our prominent and well-known members from Eustis, Maine, has offered our Society, and its members, the use of a beautifully situated campsite on the banks of the Dead River, and overlooking the Bigelow Mtn. Range. We plan to hold at least one outing at this site this fall, when we shall invite our Quebec friends, and conduct more river searches for Arnold relics.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS

Henceforth, notices of 'Archy Digs' at the Carry Ponds Campground and the Solon 'Evergreens' Campground will be given to volunteer members only, requesting to be on this mailing list. Postage rate costs forbid extra mailings to uninterested persons.

There will be several more digs this season, as well as underwater searches. As yet these are unscheduled, but prospective participants will be notified in advance.

YORK, MAINE MILITIA MUSTER

Hopefully, many of us will be at the York Muster on August 4-5-6. This reenactment of an old-fashioned Militia Muster is expected to be one of the major summertime festivals in New England.

One of the numerous Militia Companies involved is one of our Bicentennial affiliates, the 1st York Militia Company, "The Governor's Foot Guards" of Maine. This will be a big affair; hope to see you there.

For further info contact: Governor's Militia Muster, c/o R. Moulton, Chairman, Box 1775, York, Maine, 03909

COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

Just a reminder: September 1 is the deadline for manuscript for contributions to our Commemorative book. Ten short weeks!

Bon Voyage,

White Nichols (Pres. AEHS)
Wiscasset, Maine CL578

Gleanings

Food

A careful and thoughtful study of the Journals suggests that food, or the lack of it, not the route, nor the weather — difficult as they were — laid the groundwork for most of the problems besetting the Expedition. All seems to have been going well until 15th October, when on the Great Carrying Place, orders were given for a food allowance of "3/4 pound of pork and 3/4 pound of flour per man, per diem". Soon after this Col. Enos and his men were to turn back. Presumably the looming specter of starvation was overwhelming to this division bringing up the rear. The remainder pushed on, but hunger will not combat cold and fatigue and the stoutest of men soon weakened. Haste became a priority, abandoning all equipment not absolutely essential they crossed the Height of Land with only a pittance of food, their guns, some military supplies, some specie and perhaps six bateaux. Much of the supplies, specie and bateaux were lost in the turbulent Chaudierre. There was food in the friendly French Settlements beyond. Reduced now to eating a pet dog and boiling and eating the leather trappings of their equipment, yet some would not live to benefit from the provisions which Gen. Arnold, days ahead, had purchased in the Settlements and sent back in their direction. Simon Fobes, the only Journalist to return by the same route, records the tragedy of starvation. "About this time we came upon human bones and hair scattered about on the ground promiscuously. It was doubtless the spot where some of our fellow-soldiers perished the Fall before on their way to Quebec."

Let us go back and examine what they had for food, how much, and what became of it. It consisted, of course, of the staples of the times, salt pork, salted beef, bread (in the form of biscuits) in barrels, flour, meal, dried peas, and the ever present dried salt codfish. How much did they have? We don't know. Take an arithmetic formula of two pounds per man per day — remember they were rationed at one and one half pounds — $1100 \times 2 \times 37$ days (time of setout from Augusta to first inhabitants on Chaudierre—Dearborn) the amount needed would be over forty tons. However, this would seem to be a conservative formula, but as 37 days was much longer than the predicted time perhaps we should be more conservative yet, and use a figure of thirty tons. Considerable provisions when noting that much of it, flour, fish, meal, and biscuits would be in a "dry" state. The commissary had orders to purchase "sixty barrels of beef of 220 pounds to the barrel." Major Coburn had orders "to bespeak all the Pork, and flour, you can from the Inhabitants upon the River Kennebec." Supplies were also brought from Cambridge on the ten transports. All in all even if the tonnage estimate is in error, there seems to have been great plenty of supplies at the start.

What became of it? Lost, a great portion of it. Dearborn was 14 days getting to the Great Carrying Place, by then the salt cod were spoiled by fresh water, the tons of salt beef were gone, some spoiled in the barrels, the biscuits and peas also fell victim to leakage. In short there is no evidence that any provisions other than salt pork and flour, some meal and bread which Dr. Senter's Journal Oct. 25 records "was condemned in consequence of the leaky casks", was taken over the Great Carry. Some fish, "Salmon Trouts", "Chubs" and game were killed and consumed along the way, but these were of small overall consequence. Those who won the battle for life were indebted to the fat from the salt pork and the stone ground flour containing all the nutrients of the hardy low yield wheat from which it was made.

Cecil Pierce

