



ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 1775

GARDINER, MAINE 04345

Major Reuben Colburn House, off
Route #27, Pittston, Maine
Headquarters of Arnold Expedition
Historical Society.

On the National Register of
Historic Places --
An Historic and Cultural Heritage

NEWSLETTER NO. 45

July 25, 1980

TO MEMBERS OF A.E.H.S.

REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING

The 12th Annual Meeting of the A.E.H.S. was held on Sunday, June 29th, 1980, at the Colburn House in Pittston, Maine. Assembling in the new, commodious meeting room developed on the second floor of the barn museum, about 30 members heard the greetings from our President, Arthur Griffiths; report of the Secretary, Jannice Baker; Treasurer's report submitted by Bob Cunningham; report of Cecil Pierce, supervisor of the improvements accomplished through the work of the CETA carpenters, and a summary from Membership Secretary, Audrey Hanks. Other comments were offered by Curator, Crosby Milliman on planned activities and projects; White Nichols on the Arnold Trail and a report from Tom Nolan on a planned reenactment this fall of the conspiracy of Benedict Arnold and John André, the British spy. The accounts of this conspiracy are documented in the books "Benedict Arnold, The Dark Eagle" by Brian Richard Boylan, and "The Traitor and the Spy" by James Thomas Flexner. Nolan invited all interested A.E.H.S. members and AEQ-75 veterans to attend this event.

Cecil Pierce, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, submitted a slate of officers for a one-year period, and five directors for a three-year period, plus a director for a one-year period to fill a vacancy. This slate was unanimously approved, as follows:

President	-	Arthur Griffiths
1st Vice Pres.	-	Dr. Victor C. Brum
2nd Vice Pres.	-	Crosby Milliman
Treasurer	-	Robert A. Cunningham
Secretary	-	Mrs. Jannice Baker

Five Directors, whose terms expire this year, generously consented to serve another three-year term. They are:

Mrs. Harriet Barnard of Augusta, Maine
Irving W. Colburn of Manchester, Massachusetts
Cecil Pierce of West Southport, Maine
Crosby Milliman of Pittston, Maine
Ned Schroeder of New Gloucester, Maine

Donald E. Purdy of Gardiner, Maine, was elected to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Florence Winter, resigned, for a period of one year. Mr. Purdy is a member of the Colburn Militia and was a participant in AEQ-'75.

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Ivy Norton, who is on the Planning Commission of Pittston, advised that the Pittston Historical Society is being rejuvenated. A.E.H.S. will be pleased to cooperate in any way possible. Ivy has volunteered to assist in bringing back to life the flower gardens back of the Colburn House. Florence Winter provided home cooked food and candy for sale in the gift shop on Annual Meeting Day. Such contributions of time and talents are much appreciated.

On adjournment of the meeting, members were invited to tour the restored Colburn House where a brass plaque has been installed in the "keeping room", recognizing Cecil Pierce's services and contributions in Phase 2 of the restoration project. Members also visited the office/gift shop where displays of photos and the scrap-book on AEQ-'75 are located in the carriage house, which had been improved and gone through a "spring cleaning" through the efforts of Jannice Baker and Audrey Hanks.

D.A.R. GATHERING AT THE COLBURN HOUSE

Before the official opening of the Colburn House for the summer season (weekends in July and August), a gathering of officers of the D.A.R. took place on June 19th through arrangements with our Secretary, Jannice Baker, with luncheon being planned and catered by Jannice for a price. 68 officers of the various chapters of the D.A.R. from throughout the State attended the meeting, held in the First Congregational Church of Pittston, our next-door neighbors. The accommodations for a luncheon for a group this size were obtained by Mrs. Baker, a deaconess of the church and a nutritionist by profession. She enlisted the assistance of members: Mrs. White Nichols, Mrs. Fred West, Miss Gene Lockyear and others in the kitchen, Karen Milliman in the Colburn House and Audrey Hanks in the gift shop. After their meeting and luncheon, the D.A.R. officers enjoyed a tour of the Colburn House and visited the gift shop. The State Regent, Mrs. John Atwood of Machias, Maine, thanked Mrs. Baker for the use of the Church quarters and the delicious luncheon. Such gatherings contribute greatly to publicizing A.E.H.S. and bringing its purposes and goals to the attention of the public, as well as contributing to our treasury. Jannice plans on working up more of these group gatherings, including the Senior Citizens clubs.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Mrs. Maybelle Haynes, a member from Fayetteville, N.Y., has donated to A.E.H.S. an antique candle snuffer. Bob Cunningham, our Treasurer, has loaned to our Society an antique blanket chest for use in the "borning room", and two sections of bookcases for use of our library. Audrey Hanks has contributed 14 folding chairs for use in our new meeting room in the barn.

These contributions are much appreciated and we seek further furnishings and artifacts for the Colburn House, a good way to preserve items no longer wanted by our members. And, books for our library, dealing with the history of the southern Kennebec Valley are continually sought. Just let us know what you have to offer.

OUR TREASURE - THE KENNEBEC - IN HISTORY AND POETRY

The beautiful and historic Kennebec River which flows past the Colburn House property around the bend southward to join the sea at Georgetown is wrapped in the history of exploration, settlement and industry of the Province of Maine. Inhabited by the Indians, it was explored by the Norsemen, the English and the French and fought over in their quest for its treasure of natural resources and bounty. It provided a highway to colonization of the new world, to commerce and a source of wealth and beauty. Virgin country, it tested the stamina and steel of all who coveted its potential.

A study of this majestic river from its source at Moosehead Lake to its mouth at the Atlantic Ocean stirs curiosity and memories of days long past, such fascinating reading of the early settlements along its banks, through ship building, fishing, log driving and water power - a rich field for historic research and serious study - an endless story of blood, sweat and tears. Tragedy and comedy are woven into the fabric of the developments bordering its course. And, in poetry ---

OUR RIVER

By Olive E. Dana (1860-1904)

Before the mart, before the town,
 Before the first rude fortress' frown,
 Ere ever woodman's axe had rung
 The earliest forest-shades among,
 Its noble course our river knew
 From wooded lake to ocean blue.

For many a dusky face, and grim,
 Its ripples made a mirror dim;
 Its banks, in all their lovely reach,
 Re-echoed Hiawatha's speech,
 A highway for the traffic rude
 'Twixt wilderness and solitude,

They made, full soon, a pathway meet
 For even the Plymouth Pilgrims' feet;
 For, from that town beside the sea, -
 Nest, hardly-built, of liberty, -
 With a prevision swift, they came,
 A free-hold here, as there, to claim.

And here we trace the ebb and flow
 Of that fierce tide of battle-woe
 That up each sheltered inlet crept
 As o'er the virgin land it swept,
 The war of races sent its din
 Ev'n these secluded vales within.

While echoes came, that could but be
 The unerring guns of liberty
 At Concord and at Lexington;
 They summoned every settler's son
 And these green banks were bivouac
 For Arnold, on 'is valorous track.

(over)

Stilled, stilled long since, the battle-roar;
 Lo! on the curving, emerald shore,
 Where waved the forest, wound the trail,
 The market's murmur, merchant's "Hail!"
 O'er home and school and church-spire broods
 The sun that searched those solitudes.

Yet now, O river fair and strong
 To you, as then, men's thanks belong!
 Your might it is the swift wheels turns
 A city's strength your play inurns;
 The pulsing tides that gave it form
 Still serve its every vein to warm.

And all our life with yours is twined;
 On your low terraces we find
 The heralds of our tardy springs;
 Here the wild rose its blush out-flings;
 Here summer's starry bloom out-rays;
 Here wind the autumn's flame-lit ways.

The rhythm of your flow allies
 Itself with home's own harmonies;
 Youth sends its hopes a-down your stream;
 Friends, lovers, old men, by you dream;
 While, of love's treasures last possessed,
 On your still shores our dear ones rest.

The home-curving rails disclose
 First to our wistful eyes where flows
 Your own familiar stream. From far
 Our thought turns where your green banks are;
 The tides of life, love, longing, blend
 With yours, dear river, to the end!

(Note: Above poem copied from Augusta Centennial Souvenir booklet,
 Issued by the Daily Kennebec Journal, June 9, 1897.)

DUES ARE DUE! As reminded in Newsletter No. 44, dues were payable
 on July 1st and to date we are encouraged by the prompt response
 of many, although we still anxiously await the receipt of more renewals.

Although your editor was assigned the title "Membership Secretary",
 she prefers the designation "Membership Chairman" because she looks to
 every member of A.E.H.S. to encourage others of kindred interests to
 join our Society, transmitting their enthusiasm for what has been
 accomplished to date and what is planned for the future. We will
 follow up any suggestions you have for subjects you would like covered
 in the newsletter, and we grow on the talents of our members. You
 already have a return, self-addressed envelope for forwarding your
 check for dues and any comments which you have to offer, both of which
 will be gratefully received.


 Membership Chairman