



Colburn House
582-7080

Arnold Expedition Historical Society

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Jannice Baker, Sec'y
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NEWSLETTER NO. 46

November 21, 1980

TO MEMBERS OF A.E.H.S.

EVENTS

Jannice Baker, our Secretary, organized and catered to a group of Senior Citizens from the Pittston area in June. She served a delicious noon-time meal to about a dozen guests, with the assistance of Mrs. Katherine Lane, Mrs. Robert Cummings and Janice Choate, after which the group was invited to tour the Colburn House in which there appeared much interest. Florence Winter narrated the historical background of the site.

So, for the second time this summer, Jannice should be credited with carrying out the only invitational affairs held at our headquarters, as she has done so often in the past. Always a gracious hostess and performing the welcoming posture of the Colburn House. Her activities have contributed to the fund-raising efforts of our Society and to good public relations.

THE GREAT KENNEBEC RIVER WHATEVER RACE

This annual event took place on Saturday, July 5th, starting at the Augusta boat landing and ending at the Gardiner boat landing, about six miles distant. Every imaginable floatable vessel, some 400 entries, gathered at the start - everything from rafts, canoes, sailboats, war canoes, pirate ships, batteaux and Norsemen venturers - no gasoline propelled boats, no noise or fumes therefrom. Seen in one of the batteaux was the Milliman family - Crosby, Karen and son John; the Dwyer's of New Hampshire in the second batteau. Although 39th in landing at the finish line, the occupants and the batteaux made a good showing representing A.E.H.S. The citizenry of Augusta, Hallowell, Chelsea, Farmingdale and Gardiner showed great interest in the event and the crowds along the river banks were estimated at seven thousand enthusiasts.

SCOTTISH GAMES & FESTIVAL

The 2nd Annual Scottish Games & Festival were held in Newcastle, Maine, on August 23rd, sponsored by The Saint Andrew's Society of Maine. Bagpipe bands, Singers and Dancers, a Champion Fiddler, Clan Booths, Scottish "Things", Athletic Events, Including the Scottish Classics: Tossing The Sheaf and the Caber, Games for Children and Scottish Food made for a colorful and memorial day. A short segment of the program was shown on TV and recognized among the participants were David Holmes of Plymouth, Maine, and John Milliman of Pittston, members of A.E.H.S., in full regalia. It was held on the Lincoln Academy Grounds, and witnessed by an enthusiastic crowd from surrounding towns.

GIFTS

Recent gifts to A.E.H.S. are a privately printed book authored by one of our members, Mrs. Mary R. Calvert of East Boothbay, Maine, entitled "Maine Captured in Color," copyright 1980 and printed by Twin City Printery, Lewiston, Maine. This is a beautiful edition and worthy of gift-giving. More about Mary follows on another page, but she also presented to our Society a small pump-organ. I found no manufacturer's name or date on the instrument; it has 23 keys and is about 30" high, by 30" wide, by 19" deep. Mrs. Calvery tells me that it is an itinerant minister's organ that could be loaded onto and transported in his wagon (early 1800's). She bought it of an antique dealer. Perhaps we can recruit someone to play it at a future social event.

PITTSTON LITERARY & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Pittston Literary & Historical Society, organized in June of this year, elected its officers this summer, who are: President, Marjorie Trussell; Vice Pres., Roy Gutfinski; Treasurer, Gwen Dunbar; Recording Secretary, Roberta Schacht; Corresponding Secretary, Ivy Norton. They have been meeting from time to time at the Colburn House, and their next meeting will be held at the Old Bailey House, located at the corner of Route #27 and the Kelley Road, which was built in 1764, a year before the construction of the Colburn House.

COLBURN MILITIA

In June, at their annual meeting, Don Brann of Gardiner was elected captain of the Colburn Militia.

Other officers elected were Lee Farrell of South Gardiner, lieutenant; Ron Theberge of Sabbatus, ensign; John Dumont of Hallowell, quartermaster; and Marion Fuller, paymaster sergeant. Named members-at-large were Bob Lanphier and Neil McLean.

The Colburn Militia has executed its agreement with the State of Maine for occupancy of the Allen House, down by the river, on the Colburn estate, for its headquarters. They are looking for the gift of chairs, any style - any period, to help furnish their rooms, along with tables and other appropriate furnishings. We are enthusiastic about their occupancy of these quarters and hope to lend a hand.

A LITTLE HISTORY (Quoted from Jak Dowling's column "At Large" in K.J.)

"The ring of the caulking hammer and the "thunk: of the ship-builder's adze once sounded along the Kennebec River, from Richmond to Waterville, as uncounted shipyards built nearly 1,000 wooden vessels. Shipbuilding was a major source of jobs; the yards' needs were supplied by hundreds of secondary businesses such as sawmills, ropewalks, sail lofts, ship chandleries and wholesale provisioning firms. Crewing of ships allowed hundred of farm boys who had never been more than a day's travel from home to see the wonders of faraway ports. Many rose to command their own tall-masted ships. The heyday of shipbuilding on the upper Kennebec was during the 1800s."

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

A subject which has been somewhat neglected in our recent newsletters is one of our purposes - "conducting archaeological searches, collecting and exhibiting all available relics and artifacts related to the expedition." Fortunately, our Society has as long-time members Mr. & Mrs. Norman W. Elliott, Sr., of Round Pond, Maine.

Mrs. Florence Belle Lane Elliott was born Jan. 10, 1924 at New Harbor, Maine, 7th of 14 children of Perl E. Lane and Flora B. Morton. She attended the Hawthorne Elementary School of Pemaquid Beach, Maine, and matriculated at Bristol High School at Pemaquid Falls, graduating in 1941. She married Norman Webber Elliott on Jan. 25, 1942 at Damariscotta, Maine, and is the mother of five sons by Norman, and they have 13 own grandchildren.

Florence has experienced several employments, i.e., as a painter and paper hanger (still at it); a forelady at a local fish plant; worked at Boothbay fish plants for 15 years, and also for Medomak Canning Co. She is a charter member of A.E.H.S., having joined in 1968 at Solon, Maine; a member of Maine Archaeological Society for 16 years; the Vermont Old Cemetery Association; Vermont Genealogical Society; Mayflower Society (descended from William Bradford, William Brewster, John Alden, William Mullins and Richard Warren).

Her hobbies are: coin collecting, dolls, Indian relics and old bottles, as well as genealogical research. The figured clay pipe bowl, pictured in the photo above, was unearthed at the Arnold "hospital site" at East Carry Pond by Norman Elliott. At a later date, Florence will relate her discovery of fragments of a rum jug (attributed to Arnold's army) which she subsequently reassembled to nearly original appearance and donated to our Society.

Norman Webber Elliott, Sr., was born Feb. 17, 1902 at Round Pond, Maine, son of Myrick Marson Elliott and Isadora Webber. He attended Washington (Me.) grammar schools and graduated from Bristol High School in 1919. He taught school at Pemaquid Harbor, and became a carpenter under the watchful eye of his father. He worked in the Bath Iron Works during World War II. He is the father of 8 boys and one girl, grandfather of 23 children, and a great-grandfather of three. Norman is a member of the Mayflower Society (descended from Myles Standish, Richard Warren, Edward Doty, John Alden, William Brewster and William Mullins.) He is also a member of the Maine Archaeological Society. Two sons served in World War II and four sons by Florence served in the armed forces between 1960-68.

This couple, so involved in archeology, genealogy and historical research are an asset to A.E.H.S. and we look forward to hearing more from them as they pursue their interests.

Our Society is also fortunate in having as a member Mrs. Robert (Juliet) Kellogg of Bangor, Maine, who has been involved in an archaeological field school conducted by Unity College. Due to the request of the professor conducting the class and "digs", we cannot in good faith reveal the location, but can mention only that it was on the banks of the Kennebec River and the process pursued. Mrs. Kellogg's most interesting report follows. (Deletions made by your editor in compliance with the professor's request.)

"I have had a life-long interest in Maine archeology as an amateur, and am well aware of the losses to our knowledge because of poorly conducted digging and sometimes the absence of proper and complete records by generations of well-meaning amateurs like myself. So my purpose in taking the course was to learn a few of the basics of how archeological exploration should be done and what records should be kept and how.

"The introduction to the course consisted of clearing a path to the site. Chopping through dense puckerbrush, and clipping ubiquitous poison ivy on a blisteringly hot July day constituted what might rightfully be termed a Baptism of Fire, by the method of total immersion in a wash of honest sweat! Luckily I did not get poison ivy rash, but just looking at a sea of shiny, three-leafed trailing vines made me ich all over.

"With a usable path cut, the next step was becoming familiarized with the history and background of the site *****
 **** The location has had a most interesting succession of activities -- Indian campground, early trading post, lumbering and shipbuilding, farming and ice harvesting. *****

"The actual digging the first week was a series of test pits, with the information from them providing the determination of the most likely area **** for the laying out of the squares.

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"The hope was to hone in on the early Indian activity at the point. Each student was assigned a square for excavation, but in the second week, I did not get deeper than the plow-zone or luck onto any unusual 'finds'. But I did get an appreciation of the real work of archeology --the pains-taking, back-breaking effort that goes into the discovery of useful archeological information. And I found I loved it. And for me there is something about the Kennebec River that keeps my historical imagination going full tilt. While I am digging in the dirt and sifting pail-full after pail-full, I am imagining Indians paddling by, fur traders driving a bargain, ***** a farmer plowing with a wooden plow; and when I am sure I am perishing with the heat, my mind wanders to the *****.

"So what if I did get archeologist's knee, a lame back, and stiff elbows, I had a wonderful time; and at least the daily hikes on the trail, plus the work of digging and sifting vast quantities of dirt, sure beat going to Weight Watchers."

Mrs. Kellogg is a charter member of A.E.H.S. and this well-written and informative dissertation on archeology is most appreciated by your editor.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

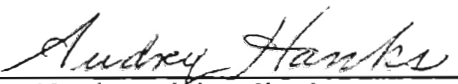
Announcement of the mid-winter, semi-annual meeting will be made when plans are finalized on the date and location. However, Arthur Griffiths has lined up the special speaker, who is Joel W. Eastman of the History Department of the University of Southern Maine, whose topic will be "Military Installations in Portland Harbor." A biographical sketch of the speaker will follow.

DUES, CONTRIBUTIONS AND GIFTS

May I remind our members that A.E.H.S., like all other non-profit organizations, depends heavily on members' dues and contributions for our bread and butter operations. Have you paid your dues for the fiscal year 1980-1981 (duly July 1, 1980)? With the holidays coming up and many items of unfinished business, why not cross one item off your list by sending a check to our Secretary before the end of the year. Thank you! (Address on our letterhead.)

Needless to say, monetary contributions and gifts made to our Society are tax deductible. Bequests, legacies, and gifts to or for our use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes. The Arnold Expedition Historical Society is a non-profit, tax exempt organization, incorporated in the State of Maine in June, 1968.

Healthy and Happy Holidays to all of you,



 Membership Chairman