



Colburn House
582-7080

Arnold Expedition Historical Society

Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine 04345

Jannice Baker, Sec'y
582-3648

January 10 1983

NEWSLETTER NO. 52

MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF A.E.H.S.

FROM UNDER THE CURATOR'S QUILL

AND THE SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Although many other Historical Societies and Museums go into hibernation with the coming of winter, The Colburn House has remained quite active. We continue to hold meetings in the parlor for the Pittston Literary & Historical Society and his Majesty's Independent Company of American Rangers & Woodsmen.

In September our very thoughtful friends up at Fort Western forwarded some correspondence to us via Audrey Hanks from our Boulder Colorado member The Rt. Reverend Robert M. Hatch who expressed a desire to donate some artifacts from the Arnold Trail. I immediately got in touch with Bishop Hatch and by the first of October the AEHS had received the box of artifacts, including an iron S-hook, several nails and marked fragments of pottery, and a most interesting round sheet of metal which may very well be the cover to the case of a pocket watch. "All were dug up at a fireplace near the log hospital between the first and second Carry Ponds". We are grateful to Bishop Hatch for this gift and much obliged to the folks at Fort Western for the professional manner in which they handled this addition to our collection.

In November I received a series of letters from my dear friend John J. Seitz up in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada. You will recall that John was the bilingual and very capable Adjutant and Aide-de-Camp for Colonel Thornton McGlamery on AEQ-'75. During our recent correspondence, John bequeathed to the AEHS Museum nearly his entire Bicentennial wardrobe and accoutrements, including of course everything he wore and accumulated all along the AEQ-'75 Trail from Cambridge to Quebec City. I was nearly overcome with emotion. What more can I say.

Excitement continued to mount right into December when it was confirmed that many of us AEQ-'75 veterans are going to France for the Bicentennial celebration of the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1983. This is endorsed by the Rhode Island Heritage Commission and Governor J. Joseph Garriety. It is the expressed desire of Governor Garriety that "Colonel Milliman lead us again, up in the Champs Elysées" during the military review parade to the Arc de Triomphe. Here again mere words cannot express my feelings.

The Rangers met here on December 12th to take care of their regular business, including plans for their annual meeting and Company social to take place in the Colburn House on January 23rd. About 25-35 people are expected at the family dinner. I hasten to inject here that it was at the December meeting that Ranger Bill Soklowski presented a gift to the AEHS Museum of 18th Century artifacts, including

local Indian stone tools, pottery fragments and a French cannon ball bearing the Royal Fleur de Lis. Bill's generosity makes a handsome addition to our display of contemporary artifacts here at the house.

Late in December, the cross bar supporting the AEHS sign out by the road was returned to our woodcarver Dave Holmes up in Plymouth. Dave is going to add "The Colburn House" in incised letters on both sides. The sign has received many raves and compliments and this addition should more clearly identify the house for what it is.

With the great cooperation of the staff assistant in the Executive Department up in Augusta, I have, currently before Governor Joseph Brennan a request to officially restore the Governor's Ceremonial Footguard. I feel that the benefits of militia activities go beyond the education and recreation of the participants themselves. Militiamen have become indispensable adjutants to public ceremonies and parades in countless communities. But there is also a more profound benefit for the community to be derived from major militia undertakings such as AEQ-'75. The extensive publicity given to such projects, and the magnificence of the productions themselves, serve to alert Americans to the richness of their heritage. The authentic reenactments also serve to highlight certain historical facts that may not have been fully apprehended before.

And so it is being planned that every recreated unit in Maine will be expected here at the Colburn House during the semi-annual meetings and the upcoming annual meeting of the AEHS. Hopefully, Governor Brennan can arrange to be present to take the Pass-'n-Review as the colorful units parade up the Arnold Road in front of the Colburn House.

We receive several letters a year from people across the country, contemplating not only a tour of the house but of the Arnold Trail as well, including requests for a clear, concise map of the actual route of Arnold's March. We look forward to working with the Trail Committee this winter and spring and coming up with a map that is not only practical but profitable to the Society.

Cros. Milliman

THE PROPRIETY : LEADING LIGHTS

After more than two years of preparation, the Kennebeck propriety, spurred on by the enthusiasm of Dr. Silvester Gardiner, Nathaniel Thwing, and William Bowdoin, was ready to begin settlement of its tract in Maine. The occasion was momentous. The faces of the proprietors assembled in the low-ceilinged room of Samuel Wetherhead's Boston inn for that meeting on Friday, December 6, 1751, undoubtedly mirrored much excitement. Proprietary action must be quick if the opportunity of the moment was to be captured. Attendance was fair considering the difficulties of winter travel. Most of those present lived in Boston, but others attracted by the enthusiasm generated by the impending proposal, travelled some distance. Samuel Goodwin journeyed all the way from Kennebec River to give a first hand report on conditions there. In addition to Gardiner, Thwing, Bowdoin, and Goodwin, heavy shareholders in attendance included Edward Winslow, Thomas Marshall, Jacob Wendell, William Brattle, James Pitts, David Jeffries, and John Tufts. One can imagine the proprietors seated around a massive gateleg table, with pipes, ale cans, and punch cups much in evidence. Edward Winslow called the meeting to order, and Thomas Marshall, acting as temporary clerk for the company, read the roll. Without further ceremony, Winslow proceeded to the important business at hand.

These great proprietors and their lesser fellows were united in their desire to wrest wealth from their Kennebeck Patent, and formed a cohesive working organization. A clear cut majority acted quickly to accept motions that would provide a basis for

early company activities on the Kennebec; the first proprietary town would be laid out on the east side of the river opposite Fort Richmond, each settler would receive one hundred acres in two sections, a "Defencable House of 400 feet square" would be built for the "Greater Security of the Settlers" and a group of German Protestants who had recently arrived in Boston would be encouraged to migrate to the new lands. The membership also appointed Gardiner, Thwing, and Bowdoin, the three who had proposed the undertaking and had been instrumental in bringing it to a head, to set the conditions of settlement, supply the immigrants with provisions, and otherwise assist them during their first year on the river. Undoubtedly there was much discussion and some spirited argument before the motions carried. Predictions of exorbitant expenses, the dangers of planting a new town in harsh winter weather, and the possibility that German immigrants fresh to the wilderness would make poor settlers, were important enough issues to have created a division of opinion and defeat the proposal. The leaders boldness coupled with their compelling arguments, ambition and assurance, enabled them to carry the day at the proprietary meeting, and they moved ahead with their plans to plant the town of Frankfort. Control of corporate affairs was now in the hands of a new clique among the great proprietors.

NEXT NEWSLETTER : EDWARD WINSLOW (1714-1784)

Disassociates from the Clique

Among our personal membership notes; we offer our very deepest sympathy to our new Director Florence Elliott in the loss of her son in a tragic accident, only a few weeks following the death of her husband. Our sympathy also is extended to the wife of our President and her family in the loss of her mother at the Christmas season.

Correspondence continues on an even level and we have discovered a collector of Revolutionary War books residing in an Ohio Township, who has contributed a long list of the books which he has and also states that he is interested in knowing of more books for sale.

We continue to extend thanks to all of you who constantly contribute financially beyond the necessary dues, and include here a reminder that our annual dues are not due officially until July 1 of 1983. Plans for our semi-annual-social meeting will be firmed up and announced in our next newsletter due you about mid-March. (Mr. & Mrs. Secretary expect to spend a few weeks in Florida this year but will return in time to get back to you all). A steam boat trip up and down the Kennebec is just about a sure thing for our June get together.

May the year 1983 bring many blessings to all of us

Peace without Violence

Jannice Baker



*** Available from us at \$1.50 per package ***
 10 sheets of note paper with the above picture of the Colburn House.
 10 sheets of plain paper and 10 envelopes
 Kindly add 50 cents if by mail.



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