



Colburn House
582-7080

Arnold Expedition Historical Society

Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine 04345

Jannice Baker, Sec'y
582-3648

August 15 1983

NEWSLETTER NO. 53

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

OUR 15th. ANNUAL MEETING

As stated in our by-laws, our annual meeting was held on the last Sunday in June, this year being held at "Benedicts Restaurant" in Hallowell. Following coffee and danish our routine business was quickly taken care of and it was with appreciation and regret that our nominating committee relieved President Arthur Griffiths of his office and with equal appreciation welcomed our Life Member "Ned" Schroeder of New Gloucester, Maine as new President. Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer were able to hold on to their positions, most securely. The meeting was adjourned at 11:A.M. that those wishing to sail down the Kennebec on The Governor King might not miss the boat. However a disappointed group stood on the wharf for one and one half hours only to have Captain Kellogg decide he did not choose to run that day. The next stop for our same group was the landing in Richmond where we enjoyed our bag lunches and hoped to continue on to Swan Island. This part of the day was also a part of Captain Kelloggs package and likewise left us without connections for the trip to the Island. A beautiful June day was to be our greatest pleasure. A.E.H.S. Members are not prone to giving up and on July 17th. we did sail to Swan Island for a picnic-tour trip WITHOUT CAPTAIN KELLOGG. CHEERS ! A more detailed account of our Annual Meeting and current news is covered in the following items:

IN MEMORIUM

Our deepest sympathy was expressed to the family of our first Vice-President Dr. Victor C. Brum and his children in the loss of their wife and mother in mid-July.

It was with regret that we learned of the passing of long time Mayor Erastus Corning II, of Albany, New York. Mayor Corning had been a long time member and a delightful correspondent and contributor to our Society.

FROM UNDER THE CURATOR'S QUILL

Our "Colburn House " sign is now very complete and before time gets away I take this opportunity to cite all those who contributed so much of their resources toward the very successful carving and installation of our beautiful sign:

Harriett Barnard
Samuel C. Brown
Ewing Buysse
Erastus Corning II
Taisto Naki
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Crosby Milliman & John
Russell C. Squires
Col. Anthony Walker
Mrs. Janet White

Quentin Tracchia
Ed. Fitzgerald
Mr. & Mrs. John Hunt & Malcolm
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cunningham
Mr. & Mrs. David Holmes
Dr. John Barnard (in memory
of Mrs. Florence Winter)
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Viles
Mrs. Mark Doty

UNDER THE CURATOR'S QUILL CONT'D

Inside the house, on display in the large glass case, are four collections of original artifacts of the 18th Century, many recovered from along the Arnold Trail between the Kennebec and Dead Rivers on the site of Arnold's Hospital. The first collection including the neck and fragments of a medicine bottle, a uniform button, watch case lid, nails, an S-hook, fragments of clay pipes and dishes - one bearing the name HALL -, all this was given to the A.E.H.S. by The Rt. Rev. Robert M. Hatch, now living in Boulder, Colorado. We also received musket and rifle lead balls, several encrusted connected small links (watch chain ?) and pieces of carbon found at an Arnold campsite by the Arthur Griffiths.

Included with the special collections on display this summer is a gift to the A.E.H.S. by William Sokolwski; a Rogers Ranger friend of the Society's, from Sabattus, Me. The collection is comprised of prehistoric stone tools of the area as well as later iron and an array of round shot and cannon balls, one incised with the French Fleur-de-lis. The fourth display consists of 18th. century accoutrements from the Milliman collection typical of what might have been carried along the Arnold Trail two centuries ago.

We are very excited about the prospects of having the local Samuel Grant Chapter of the D.A.R. use the house for meetings. This is the D.A.R. Chapter who placed the bronze plaque on the boulder in front of the house back in 1913. They have been left without headquarters and we now house several boxes of archive material, until such time as they reconvene in the fall to officially establish new headquarters. I can't think of a more suitable place in the area with so much Revolutionary background as the Colburn House.

Much renewed interest has been shown with regards to our budding AEQ-'75 Museum. Not only has President Schroeder managed the return of the original bateau, built by Cecil Pierce for George Dyer, but arrangements are being made by Cecil with Col. Thornton McGlamery to pick up the Colonel's "Arnold" uniforms, the large painting of Peter Merrill done for Kenneth Roberts and other AEQ-'75 memorabilia.

In this same period there have been several inquiries by individuals mostly, but some representing groups, with regard to hiking over the original Arnold Trail. This posed an immediate need for an accurate map. Cecil Pierce was quick to respond with a series of handy connecting maps with his accurate depiction of the original trail and including Cecil's own extremely helpful notes and cautions. Bob Cunningham has since presented a series of larger Land Use Guidance Maps with the Arnold Trail shown on a larger scale. We are all now looking forward with enthusiasm to the planned dig to find artifacts and pin down the exact location of the Trail up along the international border in October; Details follow in this newsletter.

In the meantime "History In The Ground", The Archaeology of Fort Western "an evacuation has been going on up in Augusta. Each week has had a summary of the dig, lectures on life along the Kennebec during the 1600-1800 period. Several A.E.H.S. members have attended these.

Scheduled for August is the annual Vacation Bible school put on by the nearby Congo. Church and using Colburn House facilities; Peter Cain continues to work on the new hinges for the upper barn doors, and Parks & Recreation Personnel are being urged to meet with us at The Colburn House, with their means as well as ours for furthering publicity.

Finally, I take this opportunity to tip my hat to Arthur Griffiths and say thanks most sincerely. Karen and I suspect that Arthur endorsed and supported us at a time when certain of our neighbors (new to us) thought we were going to the dogs.

Secretary's Note: While the Millimans are (at times) most modest concerning their own family, the rest of us are proud to announce for them that following his Dad's path up to this point, John Milliman has completed his preparatory education and entered the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

FOR SALE

One of our AEQ-'75 participants writes to say that due to increasing poor health and hospital costs he is reluctantly putting up for sale his collection of items from his activities in our 1975 Reenactment. Any interest may be directed to either Crosby or myself, to help this young man out.

OUR MOST IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS !!

Thank-you so much for those of you who paid your dues on time. And to those of you who have let it slip your mind, we are forced to remind you that our Dues Due Year begins on July 1, each year. While we have been able to NOT raise our membership we are feeling the proverbial "pinch" and must devise a means of paying our insurance and current costs.

Single Membership	\$ 5.00
Joint or family	\$7.00
Student	\$3.00
Contributing	\$25.00
Life	\$100.00

ABOUT OUR FALL ACTIVITY OCTOBER 7,8,9,10

The date has been set; the perfect fall weather has been ordered, and final details of our upcoming fall trip are in order.

The week-end of October 7-8-9-10 1983 or as long as you can stay has been decided upon for a big dig and get together. Here are the facts established by Cecil Pierce and Duluth Wing:

There will be FREE USE of the Cathedral Pines Camping Area; there is no electricity, there are pit toilets, but plenty of trailer and camper and tenting space with spring water nearby.

The Stratton Community Hall is available; the Stratton Museum has one of our batteaux and many interesting things inside .

The Arnold Trail Inn has recommended accommodations at super prices. \$15.00 per single; \$20.00 per double. We understand the food is excellent, but several days reservation is required. Their phone number is 1-246-2000. Breakfast and lunch are selected from the menu and they are willing to put up our bag lunches for \$3.00 each. The dinner meal will be selected from the menu UNLESS we have enough of a group to warrant a special reduced price. Sounds so good lets try for that !

There are also overnight facilities in nearby Kingfield and Rangeley.

The Stratton Motel, owned by Mr. & Mrs. John Pare also offers overnight rates at \$20.00 for either one or two people.

Betty Wing has canoes to rent - very reasonable to us we are sure; and there is a lot to see around Sugarloaf as that will be Skiers Homecoming week-end and the Gondola will be running to the summit. \$4.00 per adult ; \$2.00 per junior.

There will be a slide show - risque or not we do not promise but can be sure it will be AEQ-'75 and Arnold History show; a collection of some sort will be necessary for this event, a pass the hat, contributions etc. just for this event.

We will be inviting The Maine Archaeological Society BUT All ARTIFACTS FOUND AND JUDGED TO BE OF ARNOLD'S EXPEDITION ORIGIN ARE TO BE GIVEN TO THE A.E.H.S. FOR IT'S HEIGHT OF LAND EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM.

The Foliage will be great! We urge you to come, bring your family and friends and your metal detectors. Better that we remind you warm clothes are awful handy too.

NEXT ITEM CONCERNS ONE OF OUR OWN MEMBERS

" A TORY AMONG US "

An eye witness account of the attack by the British on Danbury Conn. April 1771, taken from the diary of Lt. Gilbert Purdy of the Guides and Pioneers, 250 men attached to the Loyal American Regiment. Submitted by A.E.H.S Member & Director Donald Purdy who is a direct descendant of Lt. Gilbert Purdy.

Gilbert Purdy was born at White Plains, N.Y. in 1751, one of five brothers . At the time of the start of the American Revolution Gilbert Purdy was a tenant farmer for Frederick Philipse, a staunch Loyalist whose estate of 90,000 acres was confiscated by the Patriots. Of the five Purdy brothers from White Plains, the two oldest joined General Washingtons Army. The three youngest joined the British Army. Being in the Fairfield Ct.

Greenwich, Rye, N.Y. White Plains area since 1635, half of the Purdy's went to the Loyalists and half to the Patriots. The Purdy home at White Plains, N.Y. was used by General Washington as his headquarters just before the Battle of White Plains and is now restored and owned by the local Historical Society; the battle went right through the Purdy farm. After the Danbury Ct. raid, Gilbert Purdy participated in the Philadelphia Campaign under General Howe, attached to the artillery taking discharge from the Guides and Pioneers in Dec. 1777. A full account of the Philadelphia Campaign is also in his diary. A copy of Gilberts diary pertaining to the Danbury raid and the Philadelphia Campaign was donated to Crosby Milliman and may be seen by any member who is interested. Gilbert journeyed to Morrisania, the Loyalist stronghold (now the Bronx) to join his wife and child, and then joined Col. James Delancy's Infamous Westchester Refugee Corps, as Lt. and Capt. before disbanding in Canada in 1783. He and his wife and child left N.Y. on the ship "Cyrus" August 21, 1783 for St. John New Brunswick. Receiving his land allotment, he settled in Malagash, Nova Scotia becoming Col. of Militia, dying in Wallace, N.S. in 1838.

" Memorandum of Lt. Gilbert Purdy for ye year 1777-

March 15th engaged under Major Samuel Holland in the Corps of Guides and Pioneers, embarked Saturday 27 April on board the Lord Howe Sloop with 50 men (22 sail) from New York. Came to in the evening at New City Island. Rode there at anchor untill the 23 in the afternoon weighed anchor near 3 oclock & came to in the evening about 1 League above Hart Island Friday 25th sailed and came too at Greens farms at 5 o'clock and landed by 6 in the afternoon and marched for Danbury at 10 at night had a skirmish that night, had 3 men wounded. Arrived at Danbury near 3 o'clock in the afternoon with 1350 men. On the road took seven ox Teams and Stores were Innumerable of all sorts at Danbury, 6000 barrels of pork, beef and flour and all other commodities, most of which we destroyed and on Sunday 27th Instant marched for Greens farms to the aforesaid landing place. At 12 o'clock on 3 Day was attacked by the Rebels at the entrance of Ridgefield and was smartly engaged by them in the rear (see note # 1) (Gen. Arnold engaged) . The Rebels was posted behind stone fences and rocks and on every eminence but were soon dislodged with considerable loss and not without some loss on our side. The numbers of Rebels not known though greatly superior to ours, the Rebels dispersed and we destroyed a quantity of stores there and remained there until next morning then marched at 6 in the morning ye 28th near 11 o'clock were attacked by the Rebels had a smart engagement the remains of that day on all sides of the army in order to cut us off from shipping (see note # 2 Arnold). Near 3 o'clock they made a general attack with about 4000 (note # 3) men with which we charged Bayonets Drove them off and embarked without any molestation. Weighed anchor at 6 o'clock and arrived at New York the 29th".

Note #1. General Arnold - After the British destroyed the supplies at Danbury they left toward Ridgefield by the western road. Brig. General Gold Selleck Silliman, with a force of 500 militia and 100 continentals was under forced march hurrying toward Danbury. Brig. Gen. Benedict Arnold joined him and with 400 of the Troops reached Ridgefield at 11:A.M. cutting off the British. Charging the British rear guard, Brig. Gen David Wooster, with the remains of the American Troops created a "smart skirmish ". Gen. Wooster was mortally wounded. Gen. Arnold holding the front against three cannon for about an hour, had his horse shot from under him and killed a soldier who ran up to take him prisoner. The uncoordinated attack (British) in 3 waves under Gen. Erskine eventually dispersed the Americans. The British encamped on the battlefield that Evening. The Patriots regrouped 15 miles farther South at the bridge over the Saugatuck River and were joined by reinforcements.

Note # 2 The British column set off again at daybreak on April 28, molested by irregular fire from Rebels in the undergrowth beside the road. A Group of Americans at the Norwalk River bridge were outflanked by the British by crossing on a route further upstream. The British again outflanked the Americans at the Saugatuck River. Arnold had collected 500 troops above the bridge to the south, but the British crossed 3 miles north and headed over Finch's Hill there the British turned on their Pursuers and with bayonets fixed four regiments charged. Despite their exhaustion after a days march they drove back the Americans a mile and one half. Duncan prepared a defense for the reembarkation and loaded 1000 troops in ten minutes. The remainder soon followed and the fleet got under way at 5:P.M. for the voyage back to New York.

Note # 3: My Grandfather states in his diary that they were attacked by 4000 Americans. Most books on the subject of the Danbury Raid state Silliman with about 500 troops unless Arnold with his 500 were able to reinforce Silliman bringing the American total to 1000.

May we forgive my Grandfather of a discrepancy of about 10 to 1 and take into consideration his exhaustion of the retreat from Danbury or maybe he just got into the rum ration ?

Donald Purdy, a fine young family man is not only a member and Director of our A.E.H.S. but also a prominent Augusta barber (living in Gardiner) THE leather craftsman who did the cover for our AEQ-'75 scrapbook and a dedicated member of the Colburn Militia Company. He is an excellent history student and says the diary was copied verbatim, which of course makes it more meaningful to all of us.

THE PROPRIETY; LEADING LIGHTS, CONT'D
(Excerpts from THE KENNEBECK
PROPRIETORS" 1749-1775)

If you kept (or remember) your last newsletter of January, 1983, you will recall that we had a bit of history about the early settlers and how they came to be there along the Kennebec; since this came about as a result of Dr. Silvester Gardiners enthusiasm, we feel it is of interest to follow a bit more of their progress. As of now in our reporting, each settler would receive one hundred acres in two sections , a "Defencable house of 400 square feet". Edward Winslow who had called the meeting to order, now disassociates himself from the clique.

Edward Winslow (1714-1784) although only thirty-seven and at the peak of his powers, resigned as Moderator after this meeting and became inactive in the Company. In contrast, Dr. Silvester Gardiner (1707-1786) made an immediate impact on his associates. He went on to become the most active and influential of the Proprietors. He was soon elected to the Standing Committee, a position which enabled him to dominate Company meetings. As a contemporary observed some years later, " Dr. Gardiner... was then the mainspring and acted as the mouth of the Company". He became Moderator when William Bowdoin relinquished the post in 1764, and held this place of honor with evident enjoyment until the beginning of the Revolution. A man of conviction, he remained a member of the Church of England and clung tenaciously to his allegiance to the mother country. When the war occurred, he sacrificed a fortune because of his Loyalist adherence and was forced into exile. This man's personality shaped the Kennebeck Company's character during its most active period. Neither the Company nor the doctor regained a commanding position after the Revolution.

THE AMERICANS ARE COMING

To Paris ! As of now we understand a pretty good sized representative group from A.E.H.S. and AEQ-'75 will leave the USA around August 29, 1983 to be present in Paris France for the reenactment of the signing of the Paris Treaty. Good luck to you all and we will expect a full report from you at Cathedral Pines in October.

REMINDER TO A.E.H.S. DIRECTORS

Our next meeting will be held at the Colburn House on Sunday, September 11th.
at 9:30 A.M.