



Colburn House
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Arnold Expedition Historical Society

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Jannice Baker, Sec'y
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NOVEMBER 22, 1986

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 59
MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF THE A.E.H.S.

TIME TO TELL YOU -

What's going on with all of us at A.E.H.S.. We note that our last Newsletter dated May 15, 1986 gives us an opportunity to bring to date our summer & fall activities. Our July lobster bake at the Freeport Campground was well done by President John Skillin, well attended & netted us a small profit. On July 13, as we had announced the Millimans hosted Maine parents of the three United States Academies - a delightful Sunday introducing lots of new people to the Colburn House. October 12, brought us together for our 18th Annual Meeting; held at the Colburn House, we received advance notice that our very capable young President would no longer be able to fulfill the many obligations he felt bound to. This meeting was presided over by our 1st Vice-Pres. Dr. Victor C. Brum. Our nominating Chairman presented the following slate of officers for the ensuing year & all regular business was readily taken care of :

President - Robert A. Cunningham

Treasurer- Ruth Brown

1st. Vice-Pres. Dr. Victor C. Brum

Secretary - Jannice Baker

2nd. Vice-Pres. Crosby Milliman

OUR NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are commencing our 18th year of association together as members of The Arnold Expedition Historical Society. Banded together, we have accomplished things we never could have done alone; preservation of the Colburn House, improvement to it's ell & barn, purchase of the Upton Cabin, securing a 50 foot easement through the woods between East & Middle Carry Pond, construction of 13 colonial river batteaux, plus assemblage of a collection of historic Kennebec River craft. These are deeds of which we can be justl proud. And perhaps the brightest jewel in our collection has not been listed - the AEQ-'75 Bicentennial Reenactment.

In making the effort to bring all these projects to successful conclusions, we have become acquainted & then become friends. I know of no otherclub or group that can hold a candle to the genuine warmth & helpful spirit of the people of the A.E.H.S.. However, this does lead to the great sense of loss we feel as the years go by & our A.E.H.S. friends drop off & leave us behind. Some of these were our Charter Members, Florence Winter, Tom Dickson, George Dyer, Norman Elliott; some are no longer able to function with us & to those families who have recently loss (Mary McGlamery) (Ray Baker) we miss you. It is with deep regret that we tell you that our first President White Nichols is now confined at The Augusta Mental Health Institute (Augusta, Me. 04333). But - with such rich experience behind us, we must avoid pitfalls of living in a nostalgic past & forgetting to plan & work for the future. There are new generations out there now - kids & adults who never read "Arundel ", who never heard of the AEQ. It is our job & my new responsibility to plan & build for the future. We need to educate the young, involve & interest the older people & run an excitingviable program for all to participate. It's a New Year. We need **your** check for dues & even more your suggestions & ideas to make 1987 a better year.

Please Write me at P.O. Box 147, Lincoln Center MA 01773

Many Thanks Bob Cunningham

THE LAST DAYS OF ARNOLD

FROM " BETRAYAL AT WEST POINT: THE BENEDICT ARNOLD CONSPIRACY, 1780 "
WITH THE KIND PERMISSION OF RICHARD J. KOKE, CURATOR, N.Y. HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Though Arnold failed to bring about the surrender of West Point, the British kept their part of the bargain. The fact that Arnold came empty handed to the British cancelled out the original price of L 20,000 he was to receive. Never-the-less, Arnold was given L 6,315, was made a Brigadier-General with a pension on retirement and was given command of a Loyalist Regiment serving with the British, named ironically, in view of the present organization of Veterans of the same name the American Legion.

Arnold's wife Peggy was given a yearly pension of L 500, his children were each given L 100 and in 1798, Arnold was granted more than 13,000 acres of land in Canada for services in the then current war with France. Literally, Arnold made crime pay on a grand scale. Carl VanDoren, who did serious research on the treason wrote that "... No other officer made as much money out of the war as Arnold did ". On the other side of the ledger, however, apart from the money gained, were his indignities which he had to suffer for the rest of his life. The officers of the British Army were courteous and proper with him in the line of military duty, but apart from that he was shunned and kept at arms length. In 1781 Arnold served his King with ruthless efficiency against his old countrymen. Fighting in Virginia and in the attack on New London. And to give a state of his mind it is interesting to note the comment of one of the German Captains who served under Arnold in Virginia that " Arnold always carried a pair of small pistols in his pockets as a last resource to escape from being hanged ". Benedict Arnold was determined he would not be taken alive by his old countrymen. In December of 1781 Arnold, Peggy and the children, who had been permitted by the Americans to join with him within the British lines, sailed from New York for England and he never again set foot in the United States.

With the coming of peace in 1783 and the disbandment of his regiment Arnold was at loose ends. He tried without success to obtain active service with the British Army and then turned his attention to mercantile pursuits and fitted out shipstrading with the West Indies and Canada. The end result, though was financial difficulty through unwise investmenst and to the end of his days, Arnold remained in financial straits. What a gulf existed between the early days of glory when he went on the march through Maine, fought at Valcour, Quebec and Saratoga and finally to wind up in London (as illustrated by Howard Pyle) " where the broken down man walks with his still faithful wife by his side and broods over his ruined life ". Throughout the entire sorry tale, from beginning to end, Peggy remained loyal to her husband. There are always those who have faith in the strange, unloved men of history.

It was in 1801 that Arnold died in London and was buried in the Church of St. Mary at Battersea on the bank of The Thames. There is a familiar story that as he lay dying he called out to those about him "Bring me my old Contintenal uniform and the sword knots that Washington gave me". May God forgive me for ever having put on any other ". But this like so many other stories in our 19th century history is a fabrication. His wife who was with him at the end wrote that he died without saying a word.

TO ALL OF YOU =

We wish you the very best as you gather with your families over the holidays, and as we go into the New Year may our country remain strong in it's faith, loyal to our Constitution and forever at peace with all the world.

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