



Colburn House
582-7080

Arnold Expedition Historical Society

Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine 04845

Jannice Baker, Sec'y
582-3648

Newsletter # 78

Sept. 4, 1994

Members and Friends of the AEHS

Old Colonial Days Weekend

Our Second Annual Celebration of Colonial Life held at the Colburn House on August 20 & 21st turned out to be even better than last years event ! The weather cooperated nicely, it was warm, but not hot, and a drenching thunderstorm arrived about 6 PM on Sunday, after the tents, flags, tables and chairs had been safely put away.

Captain Bill Siebert's McCobb Company, and Captain Duke Delt's Newmarket Militia set up authentic tent encampments on the lawns adjacent to the Colburn House, and cooked their meals on campfires.

Newmarket's colorful display of provincial flags added beauty to the scene.

Stealing the hearts of the visitors and participants alike was the music of the Tuppence Three -- a string sextet made up of children ranging in age from 6 to 10. Playing 2 harps, two violins,

Town of Pittston.

Annual Meeting

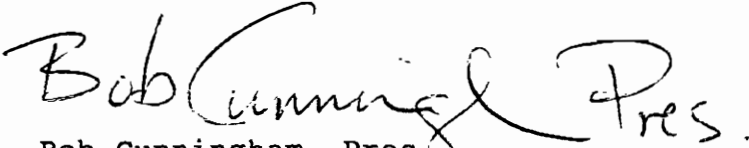
Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 9th, at the Dresden Inn, Rt. 27, Dresden Mills, Maine. Social hour 11:30 AM, dinner at 12 Noon, Meeting at 1 PM. Menu will be roast turkey buffet, price \$ 8.00 including tip. Please make reservations with Mrs. Jannice Baker, tel. 1-207-582-3648, before Oct. 5th. Featured speaker will be Mrs. Clare Brandt, of Rhinebeck, N.Y., author of the enthralling new biography of Benedict Arnold -- The Man in the Mirror. Recommended by Cecil Pierce (and your editor) the book will be available for sale at the Meeting for \$ 26.50. Mrs. Brandt will sign copies after the Meeting.

Coupon Opportunities !

It is not too soon to think of Christmas. A wonderful heirloom keepsake gift is our Colburn House gold-plated Christmas Tree Ornament. Proceeds benefit the Restoration Fund.

Clare Brandt's -- The Man in the Mirror -- would make a wonderful gift as well. If you can't make the Annual Meeting fill out the coupon and we'll mail it to you.

Kindest regards,


Bob Cunningham, Pres.

a viola and a cello, the youthful group enchanted the audience. Led by Mrs. Carol Taubl of Derry, N. H., the group earned a front page picture and story in Monday's Kennebec Journal.

Peter Cain's blacksmith shop, Steve Sander's What Is It ? early tool table , and Steve's masterful auctioneering, Barbara Patterson's spinning wheel, the basket makers, the fifers, Connie Warren's barbecue grill, Fred Gowen and the Massachusetts Provincial Militia, the Newington Militia's impressive cannon -- all contributed immensely to the fun and excitement of the weekend.

Mike & Pete, the two huge holstein oxen owned by Greg & Sue Baker of Pittston were on hand for bateau and cannon drawing. The pair weigh 3200 pounds this year, having gained 200 pounds apiece since last August. They will be 4 years old in October.

Thanks are due to the Pittston Historical Society, which opened the old Colburn Schoolhouse for tours, and the Millimans & Jannice Baker for handling the Colburn House tours.

Joe & Ruth Brown, George Quintal, Danny Warren, Jr., Vic Brum and his grandson Matthew, Gene Lockyer and many others contributed greatly to the success of OCD. With the help of a generous check gifted by Mrs. Alice W. Kingston of Clearwater Beach, FL we cleared \$ 892.44, which was added to the Restoration Escrow Fund. This fund now totals \$ 8,457.05, with a thousand dollars due from the



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COLBURN HOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT

We have arranged for the design and production of a stunning, gold-plated silhouette ornament of the historic Colburn House, just in time for Christmas ! The size is 2 3/4 " wide by 2 7/8 " high.

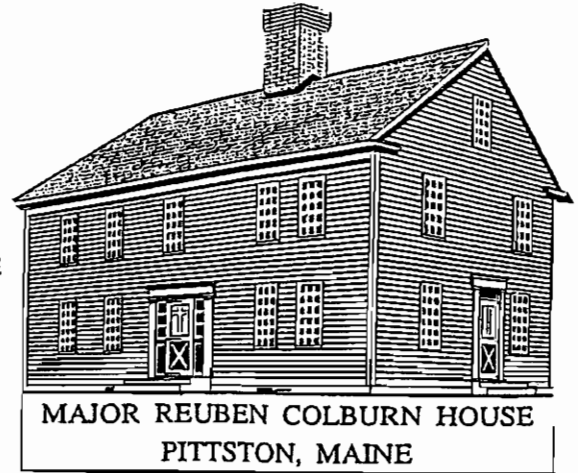
It comes packed in a flat blue box lined with suede-type paper, with a card describing its history in the lid.

A perfect collectible family heirloom, it will add sparkle and excitement to any tree !

Best of all, all profits go right into the Colburn House Restoration Escrow Fund.

Please order early. Send check or money order made out to AEHS to :

Mr. Bob Cunningham
P.O. Box 6147
Lincoln Center, MA 01773



MAJOR REUBEN COLBURN HOUSE
PITTSTON, MAINE

Please send Colburn House Ornaments to me at

name	Ornament is \$ 10.00 each
street or PO box	Maine Sales Tax .60 each
city	Postage & Hdl. 1.75 each
state & zip	Amount enclosed equals \$12.35 X number ordered.

THE MAN IN THE MIRROR

Please send copies of Clare Brandt's new autobiography of Benedict Arnold to me.

name	Book is \$ 25.00 each
street or PO Box	ME Sales Tax 1.50 each
city	Postage & hdl. 3.00 each
state & zip	Total cost \$ 29.50 each

Please make check out to AEHS and mail to
Bob Cunningham
P.O. Box 6147
Lincoln Center, MA 01773

Colonial weekend offers peek at the past

By DOUG VANDERWEIDE
Staff Writer

PITTSSTON — Though the attendance numbers were disappointingly low, those involved with Old Colonial Days at the Colburn House over the weekend thought the event was a general success.

"The attendance this year, we think was a little better than last, but for what we offered, we hoped to have more, said Dan Warren Jr., president of the Pittston Historical Society and a director of the Arnold Expedition Historical Society.

"We had a real fun time," said Mark Ryan of Hampstead, N.H., one of the colonial-era re-enactors.

"It's better than knocking golf balls around," he said, as his wife and children, who are also re-enactors, listened in.

"We'd have as good a time if it was raining out."

"There could have been more people," said Duke Delp of Epping, N.H., captain of the First New Market Militia of Newmarket, N.H. "(But) the people that were here, I think were impressed."

The local groups putting on the re-enactment at the Colburn house fell about \$100 short of their \$1,000 fundraising goal, said Warren.

Less than 100 people attended to watch demonstrations on militia drills, musketry and cannon fire and bateaux demonstrations.

A bateaux is a double-ended, flat-bottomed rowboat.

There were also several displays and activities, from tours of Maj. Reuben Colburn's home near the Kennebec River to blacksmithing, ox-pulled cart rides and spinning, basket making and other "ladies' handiworks."

The second annual re-enactment weekend was designed to raise money for repairs to the Colburn House, a stop along the Benedict Arnold Trail where the famous Revolutionary War traitor — then still affiliated with the American cause — stopped over and picked up bateaux during his march on Quebec City.

He planned to paddle up the Kennebec River, believing it to be part of a "water highway" to the key Canadian city, Warren said.

The Kennebec failed to provide that easy access, and Arnold's force, beleaguered by a difficult march through the wilderness of Maine and Quebec province, was defeated soundly in the ensuing



Kennebec Journal / JOE PHELAN

Revolutionary War re-enactors from the First New Market Militia of New Hampshire fire a barrage during a mock battle Sunday as part of Old Colonial Days at the Colburn House in Pittston.

battle.

"The primary reason we started doing the Old Colonial Weekend: to raise awareness of condition of old Colburn House and raise money for renovations," said Warren. "It needs sill work, roof work, foundation work — there isn't much that doesn't need immediate attention."

Colburn, a shipbuilder whose yard was along the banks of the Kennebec, built the house in 1765.

Now in the hands of the state, the house is used by the local historical society and as a museum, Warren said.

"Over the years, they (members of the Arnold Society) had it open as a museum and they thought having an event that would draw people would make it more visible to the (structural) problems," Warren said.

"We talked about different things, and thought this was a good way to get started. Our group saw it as our chance to help preserve the place and have some local access to the property."

"This type of American history is not being taught in the schools anymore," said Delp of the re-enactment.



Kennebec Journal / JOE PHELAN

Annabelle Taubl, 7, of Derry, N.H., plays Scottish music on her harp during a performance by Tuppence 3, a children's musical group.

