



ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 12

Our Society has growing pains, and this condition was encouraged at the last director's meeting when it was voted that progress was to be emphasized and supported. The best panacea for these growing pains is cooperation and participation. In order to maintain the standard and image that we have already acquired it will be necessary for more cooperation and participation from individual members.

We are an active Society and have committed ourselves to responsible goals. We have a high percentage of able and accomplished persons listed in our membership roster. Most of you have listed your interests, and background on our membership application forms.

However, we as individuals are scattered over every corner of these United States, making it somewhat difficult to participate in group activities. We are aware of this problem and its handicaps. Our newsletters and publications are our main medium of communications. However remote, we want you to feel as a part of us. We need any assistance that you can give in the line of various fields of research involved in our objectives; donations of books, maps, letters and documents would also be most welcome. Committee volunteers are urgently needed as we rapidly approach Bicentennial time. We want every member to participate in these activities. There will be a large amount of money involved. Our treasury needs to be built up rapidly. Our main source of revenue is from membership dues, which barely pays operating expenses.

Your president devotes nearly his full time to the operation of this Society without pay. Travelling expenses alone (which I pay) is a very considerable amount. I have already traveled over 10,000 miles this year on missions directly, and indirectly, related to Society business.

If each member would enlist one, or more, additional members, it would help considerably to defray the costs of more trail survey work to be done next season.

Is there any benevolent soul, that is interested in the preservation of Maine's outstanding historic landmark and the history woven around it that would remember our Society in their will? Arrangements could be made to dedicate a section of the Arnold Trail to such a person. Donations to this Society are tax deductible. There is probably no other Historical Society within the State that has such a wide field of interests and responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is to acquire and preserve, for posterity, the trail route, main campgrounds and historical buildings and landmarks associated with the Arnold Expedition.

The Arnold Trail is the outstanding historical landmark in Maine, and is now designated as a National Historic Place by the Department of the Interior. However, one provision of the Act requires the meets and bounds and exact location of the "place" or site. This responsibility was given to our Society, and is long overdue.

It is very obvious that the cost of research, field explorations and surveying of the Arnold Trail from the Col. Colburn house in Pittston to the Height of Land (approximately 150 miles) is far beyond our means and would take several months to accomplish with a crew working full time.

In my opinion, this is a project that should be done by the Federal Government, or the State of Maine, and done now, if we can expect this designation to have any legal support. I am sure that we would be willing to lend our support in whatever way possible, including research and technical assistance.

In the meantime, we shall have field research and land surveying of our own as more of the Trail corridor is eased to our custody.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Dickson, Sr. of Rumford, Maine, are to be congratulated as the first donors of a Trail corridor in the Carry Pond section of the Arnold Trail. In addition, they have also given to the Society, a sizeable lot at East Carry Pond for use as an historic park.

There were two Society outings in this area during the summer that assisted in the Trail traverse survey, clearing and marking. Another group conducted 'digs' at the army's campsite. For further details about this see account below in this newsletter.

Several other property owners have expressed an interest in our Trail acquisition project and hopefully will contribute toward the preservation goal before land development or other encroachment takes over.

We are especially grateful to the Central Maine Power Company, through the courtesy of Vice-President Norman Temple, for granting us the privilege to cut a foot trail with orange-glow (AEHS Trail Mark) paint sprayed upon the tree bark, and to run a trail survey line through their property. Mr. Temple also volunteered assistance in erecting a bronze plaque at each end of the Great Carry between the Kennebec and Dead Rivers.

Of particularly good news to the Society is the fact that the Coburn Gore Township, containing the area where the Arnold Expedition left their bateaux and climbed over the Height of Land, was sold to a family party, whose interest, according to one member of the family, was for preservation reasons.

Mr. Aldrich Edwards, II, one of the purchasing party has become one of our ardent members. We are proud to have Aldrich and his wife with us.

Mr. Edwards is a Yale man and evidently while doing some Arnold research in their archives, he uncovered a roster of the Arnold army when they were encamped at Point-Aux-Trembles in Quebec in 1775. Historians and students have searched for such a roster for over a century. We are now negotiating for permission to use the document for our Society.

At about the same time, your president acquired the roster of the British forces at Quebec at the time of the Montgomery-Arnold siege, in 1775-76. These two rosters should make a substantial addition to our proposed Bicentennial documentary books.

QUEBEC TOUR AND KENNEBEC RIVER CRUISE

Judging from the response and turnout of both of these tours it is quite possible that we shall want to make this type of educational activity an annual affair. They were both very successful. A poll will be distributed this spring to determine if we shall conduct a repeat of both trips and/or a water cruise from Newburyport to the Kennebec River.

CARRY POND - GREAT CARRYING PLACE PROJECT

One of our productive activities of the summer season was the Trail survey and archaeological dig held at The Carry Ponds in September. A considerable length of the Trail corridor on the Dickson property was surveyed, as well as a lot on the southeastern shore of East Carry Pond for use as a historic park. This property is the gift of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Dickson, Sr.

A section of the Trail starting at Wyman Lake was established, and with the approval of the C.M.P. Co. this section was spot blazed pending a survey next season.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECOVERIES

There were three outstanding finds as a result of another dig near, or at, the site of Arnold's hospital at Carry Ponds.

One was a pottery jug, presumably a rum jug, which has been dated by Smithsonian Institution, (through the courtesy of Helen Camp of Round pond) to the mid eighteenth century, or Arnold's time. Another of our 'Archys', Florence Elliot, also of Round Pond, assembled the sections with patience and dexterity. Although a few pieces are missing Florence still has hopes of recovering the complete jug.

The second outstanding artifact was an intact two-tine table fork with either an ivory or bone handle. It was recovered at the same site and dates back to the same period. Further research will be done on it.

The third item was a cast iron kettle, nearly intact, of a design that also dates to the same period. Helen Camp is researching this specimen through the co-operation of the Smithsonian Institution.

ARNOLD CANNON?

We have another mysterious archaeological find. It is a small brass cannon that was reported and displayed to us while at a banquet in Megantic, Quebec, last summer during the Quebec tour.

Mrs. Jacqueline Dumas, our Quebec liaison officer, first reported the find by a Woburn resident on the Arnold River. It is a small type weapon of about one inch bore and it was suggested by Cecil Pierce, one of our researchers from the coastal area, that it was a type used on ships for signaling purposes, especially at night when signaling pennants were not visible.

It is possible that this cannon is one of two of such devices that have been so strongly rumored as being transported by Arnold on his Quebec expedition. If so, the location of the find is a very logical point to have abandoned it. Further research is needed.

UNDERWATER SEARCH TEAM

An interesting section of our Society is our underwater search team, which is now headed by Francis Cassidy of Winslow and his colleague, Bettina Young. This is a very potential team with such outstanding members as Sen. Donald Bernard of Auburn, and U.S. Attorney Peter Mills of Farmington contributing to its success. Much work remains to be done for this team on the Kennebec and Dead Rivers and some of the ponds along the march route.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

We are planning an archaeological conference to be held sometime late this winter at a time and place yet to be announced. Its purpose is to develop a plan and system of organized digging at any and all sites associated with the Arnold Expedition. It is necessary that all digging be done in an orderly and professional manner. Accurate records must be kept.

A number of professional and well-known amateur archaeologists will be invited to attend this session. All members that are interested in digging at any of our locations should attend this session.

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We urgently need background history and information on the so-called Norridgewock Campground and Old Point. Arnold's army encamped here for several days in September, 1775. It was the site of Father Rales Missionary Massacre before the expedition. We would like to know anything about its history; its present owners on each side of the river; what outstanding artifacts have been recovered here and their present ownership and location; old photographs associated with the site; also references and bibliography.

This is a good subject for some well-informed person to write about and contribute to our documentary Bicentennial book.

BICENTENNIAL BOOK

Plans now well underway call for the publication of one, or more, documentary books as one of our commemorative contributions to the 1975 Bicentennial. Present indications show that about fifteen different subjects will be covered in the edition.

Anyone is welcome to contribute to this documentary volume. The prime requirement is that the subject be historically accurate. A considerable amount of new information has developed since the birth of this organization. This should all be included.

Mr. Thomas Griffiths of Monmouth is chairman of the Bicentennial Book Committee. Those interested should contact him soon. Several have already done so. Submission deadline is September 1, 1972.

ARNOLD TRAIL PICTORIAL MAP

In response to a wide demand for information and location of the Arnold Trail your president has designed a pictorial map of the Maine section of the trail showing the location of ten of the outstanding landmarks in pictorial fashion on simulated birch bark marginal scrolls. In addition to the Trail it also shows the nearest adjacent public highway and other pertinent information. The professional art work was done by our able artist, Ray Shadis, of Edgecomb, Maine. It is printed in a well-blended three color arrangement, with an antique motif. It's size is about 17 X 25 inches.

This map will be off the press and available for the Christmas demand as soon as you receive this notice. It will sell for two dollars postpaid. Make checks payable to the AEHS, c/o White Nichols, Wiscasset, Maine 04578.

As this is a fund raising project necessary to defray expenses of directing and administration of our Society's activities, we hope that every member will purchase at least one and consider others on their Christmas list. These are fine documentary specimens printed on heavy quality paper and very adaptable for framing. They will be a collectors item for the Bicentennial 1975.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

We plan to hold our second semi-annual meeting this winter, probably on Sunday, January 23rd. Last years affair was very successful and warrants a repeat with some additions. More info later. See you there.

AEHS directors will meet at the Augusta House at 10 A.M. on Sunday, December 5, 1971 for a full day session.

BICENTENNIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

This is the second Bicentennial committee to be appointed. Its duties will be to outline plans for this momentous affair being planned for our Society in cooperation and affiliation with other historic and patriotic organizations from the original colonial states. Present members of this committee are Ned and Pamela Schroeder, Dick and Vicki Mainville, all of Cape Elizabeth, Maine, and Win Stowell of Freeport, Maine.

Maine will lead the Nation in this celebration in 1975 with a one year jump on the States that celebrate in 1976. Our program should be the outstanding affair in New England.

Any individual or organization that is interested in participating should contact us at once as plans are in the making.

BATH MARINE MUSEUM EXHIBIT

Included in the 1972 exhibit plans of the Bath Marine Museum will be one room devoted to Maine's contribution to the Revolutionary War.

An outstanding segment of this exhibit will be items related to the Arnold Expedition to Quebec. Plans are now being developed with the cooperation of our Society. Final details in next Newsletter.

DEPARTING MEMBERS

The Great Historian has seen fit to call some of our esteemed members for more important assignments. We thank Him for the good that they have done here, although we shall miss them.

His roster includes the names of Mrs. William Clark of Kennebunkport; Mrs. Ruth Potter of Leicester, Mass.; Kenneth Corey, Damariscotta, Maine; and Fred Leary of Augusta.

Our sympathy goes to their loved ones.

PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL NOTE TO MEMBERS:

My correspondence has been piling up on me. Presently it is more than I can handle. Our Society has no correspondence secretary, nor have I a personal secretary. Consequently, until such time as we can afford to man a full time office with an executive secretary, or similar arrangement, there will be delays and subsequent inefficiencies in our administration. It is very important that the secretary be in close contact with the president, or director of an organization like ours, with membership scattered over the entire nation.