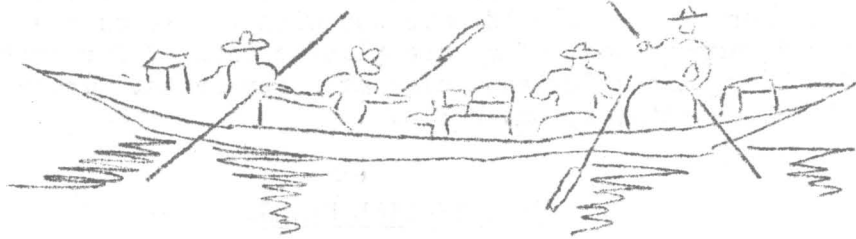


ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 14

April 15, 1972



Dear Members and Friends:

Although winter conditions still prevail in the northern wilderness area, Mother Nature's snow and ice-clearing crews are at work preparing for our reentry into the Arnold Trail country, to locate, clear and survey, remaining miles as the first phase in preserving our historic heritage.

Your directors met on March 19 at the New Meadows Inn in West Bath to discuss and plan our season's activities.

Weather, of course, is the determining factor; but we plan to gather at Tom Dickson's Middle Carry Pond Camp the week-end of May 20-21 to lay out grid-lines for further archaeological search at the so-called Hospital Site.

'Archy' dig and survey crews will camp out at Tom's camp and report for work on their arrival. The Dicksons have indicated that they intend to donate more land area to the AEHS to be used as an Historic Park as soon as enough archaeological and other evidence exposes the bounds of this important campground, which encompasses the Arnold Hospital "Fort Meigs" site. We do hope that we will have a good attendance at this gathering. There should be many artifacts there awaiting to tell us their story.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEMINAR

In preparation for this archaeological project, and hopefully, many others to follow, the Society held its first archaeological seminar in Augusta on April 16. Its purpose, of course, was to emphasize the importance of the amateur archaeologists, (who have exposed some of the most important and startling discoveries in the world) and to instruct all Society Members in the rudimentary procedures of archaeological techniques. About 60 persons attended this seminar.

Members of the AEHS Archaeological Committee (see last Newsletter) and prominent Maine Archys acted as speakers and instructors. This is

the first of a series of such seminars.

'Phil' and Helen Camp have prepared an excellent GUIDE booklet which all of our members should have who wish to dig on the Arnold Trail or associated campgrounds. They are plastic covered for protection in the field. There are a few remaining at fifty cents. Write Mrs. Wolcott Andrews, AEHS., Wiscasset, Me. 04578.

BICENTENNIAL PLANS

A report by our Bicentennial Committee chairman, Win Stowell, was also given at the March Director's Meeting. Most of the emphasis was placed on the proposed reenactment of the March to Quebec planned to take place in 1975. Developments along this line are very promising as more potential affiliates emerge from some of our Revolutionary Confederate states, especially in New York and Pennsylvania. It appears that we shall have little difficulty in enlisting enough militia-men to 'take Quebec' in time for a grand re-union with our Canadian friends in 1975.

An outline of plans and schedules for the Bicentennial ceremonies is expected to be ready for distribution to all prospective participants sometime in May. This outline will be presented to Bicentennial Commissions, Chambers of Commerce, DAR, American Legion, Historical Societies, and organized Colonial Revolutionary Militia of the State contributing to the ranks of Arnold's Army.

This proposed operation promises to be one of the most outstanding Bicentennial Activities to be held in the original Colonial States in 1975-76. We hope that all AEHS members will become active in this operation "Quebec Reenactment".

More details will be forthcoming in future newsletters as to some of the potential militia organizations, their active leaders, and outstanding personalities that are getting involved in this exciting venture.

LATEST GOSSIP

Don't look now, but there appears to be a romance developing between the AEHS and the Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association! This could develop into a mutually advantageous arrangement. The LCCHA owns Pownalboro Courthouse on the bank of the Kennebec River in Dresden, Lincoln County. Some of Arnold's ships anchored off the Courthouse site upon which was a block-house and known as Fort Shirley. This fact was noted in one or more of the journalist's notes.

The two societies are nearly the same size and both are headed by former school-mates, Wolcott Andrews, LCCHA, (now of Wiscasset) and White Nichols, AEHS, also of Wiscasset.

It has been suggested that we might hold cooperative meetings from time to time at this historic spot.

QUEBEC TOUR

Those that participated in the Quebec tour last summer will be pleased to know that we will conduct another this season. It will be a 3-day week-end affair, on August 18-19-20. Note this on your calender.

Bob Cunningham, our V.P. from Woodcock Lane, Lincoln, Mass., 01773, will conduct the tour this year. Contact him. Early reservations are important. More particulars in the next newsletter.

Note: there was no response to our appeal for volunteer tour guides to Quebec and the Kennebec River cruise! We know that there are a number of such qualified guides in our Society. May we hear from you?

KENNEBEC RIVER CRUISE

There have been many requests to re-run the Kennebec River Cruise from Fort Popham to Col Colburns (Dr. Klopp's) in Pittston, this fall. If arrangements can be made without imposing upon Barbara and Dr. Klopp (owners and residents of the Col. Colburn House) we shall be pleased to repeat this very successful and picturesque trip. Our next newsletter will contain the necessary information. Would you care to take this cruise, probably on Sept. 17?

OUR QUEBECOIS PATRIOTS

We plan to have one outing this season in the Eustis-Chain-of-Ponds area in which we shall invite our Quebec colleagues to participate. This meeting will probably be held in late summer, or fall, and will be noted in a later newsletter.

LAND USE COMMITTEE

Members of our Land Use Committee should soon receive notices for a meeting to discuss some of the problems involved in the management of land areas in our control.

Cecil Pierce of West Southport, Me., 04576 is Chairman of this important committee.

Trail marking, Appalachian Trail mutual-use, plaque-markers, trail use and abuse, regulation enforcement, public use, and parking area management are some priority items for the agenda.

OUR BATEAU

We are pleased to announce that, after years of searching, our Society is the proud recipient of a twenty-five foot bateau that was used on the Dead River log-driving operations.

This welcome gift was arranged through the courtesy of Mr. Norman Temple of the Central Maine Power Company. It will be moved to an appropriate site for exhibit and research purposes as soon as ground conditions permit.

This river model is believed to be similar to those that were used by Arnold on his Quebec expedition, although no specifications have thus far been found of the Colburn-Agry bateau. Further research continues.

FLAGS DESIRABLE

We feel that our Society should own, and use, three appropriately sized ceremonial flags for use at meetings, ceremonies, and occasions where both Maine and Quebec natives will be gathered.

As our Bicentennial rapidly approaches we shall feel the need of a Maine State flag, a Quebec flag and an American flag, especially when engaged in international gatherings. We think that these flags should be 4 x 6 feet in size and of good quality fabric. Does any member know where these can be purchased at wholesale prices. Or is some benevolent and patriotic soul willing to donate them to the Society?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

In our last newsletter we published a partial bibliography of Arnold Arnold and subjects related to the Expedition to Quebec. However, as new contributions arrive for our Commemorative Book, we find that we shall have an expanded and more complete list on these subjects. This should be of great assistance to students and researchers whose interest is devoted to the Arnold Expedition and related subjects.

DICKSON-AEHS LAND DEED

As this newsletter is being composed, the deed in which Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Dickson, Sr., of Rumford, Me., is transferring land easements on the Arnold Trail Corridor, and a gift of a parcel of land bordering the shore of East Carry Pond, for use as an historic park area directly to our Society, is at the signature stage.

This momentous occasion will be the first of a series of such easements and gifts that will eventually be necessary to preserve this historic landmark for not only our use and enjoyment but, hopefully, for generations to come.

The Arnold Trail and its protective corridor is the largest and longest National Historic Place in Maine. It is Maine's Revolutionary War heritage and was made famous by Kenneth Robert's novels, especially his well known "Arundel". Many Maine men contributed to the expedition as members of the army, or as guides, artificers, surveyors and portageurs.

PICTORIAL MAPS

Please be reminded that we have published pictorial maps of the Arnold Trail through Maine for sale as a fund raising project to partially pay for survey work being conducted along the Trail. We urgently need these funds to conduct this project this season. If you don't already have one, why not order one, or more, now. They measure $17\frac{1}{2}$ x $22\frac{1}{2}$ inches and, when framed, make a good conversation piece on the wall of your den.

The price is two dollars and they should be ordered from the Arnold Expedition Historical Society, Wiscasset, Me. 04578.

BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

This is also a reminder that September 1st is the deadline for written contributions to our forthcoming documentary book, or books.

Text will be limited to 7000 words; should be doubled spaced, written in the 3rd person, and as factual as possible.

All material and related correspondence should be addressed to Thomas M. Griffiths, Monmouth, Me. 04259, Chairman of the Commemorative Committee.

He is very busy, so please be patient in correspondence and oblige him with prompt remittance of manuscript.

Tom also wishes that someone would write a story related to the hardships and privation endured by the men in Arnold's army. This was an outstanding feature in the history of the expedition and deserves to be emphasized.

Also needed are clear, black and white, photos related to the manuscripts subject.

Help us to make a success of this project by contributing promptly with your photos and manuscripts.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Mrs. Wolcott (Anzie) Andrews of Wiscasset has launched a one- woman membership drive for the AEHS. This is a volunteered project and will be most appreciated as we head up the long trail to the realization of the Reenactment in 1975.

We should have every town along the march route well represented, as well as many of the descendants of the Expedition as possible on our roster.

Anzie was appointed to the executive-assistant post this winter and has already proven her value to our Society. She is also a member of the Archaeological and Bicentennial Committees.

A number of other members are becoming outstanding in various fields as we become more active. I am sure that others will emerge as they become more ardent. I am very pleased with the type and calibre of our membership in our Society.

ARNOLD HOSPITAL DIG

For the benefit of new members that expect to attend our first outdoor activity of the season - our Carry Pond Arnold Hospital dig and survey project on May 20-21:

For those that did not attend the Archaeological Seminar in Augusta, I recommend that you order one of our GUIDE booklets as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. Most of the necessary information will be in these booklets.

There are plenty of good camping facilities at the site for tenting and trailers. Bring your own food and blankets, and digging tools as suggested in GUIDE. The nights are cold and the air is refreshing.

This is beautiful wilderness country; so bring your cameras.

Drive to Bingham (from the south on U S 201); cross the Concord Bridge (Route 16); turn right and follow west shore of Wyman Lake approximately ten miles (one right fork about 4 miles up); turn left up hill at Carry Pond Camp sign about 3½ miles to East Carry Pond.

Watch for AEHS signs. This is mostly a gravel road.

We would appreciate knowing if you intend to join us in this outing.

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AEHS ANNUAL MEETING

The 1972 Annual Meeting of the AEHS will be held at the historic Pownalboro Courthouse in Dresden, Maine on Route 128 (about two miles north of Richmond Bridge) on Sunday, June 25th.

The spacious virgin-pine bordered grounds will be an invitation to bring your picnic dinners with you; so bring your family and friends and enjoy the day with good fellowship and pleasant surroundings. Come early and stay as long as you like. Business meeting at 1 P.M.

In case of rain there is plenty of room in the three story building which will be open to members. This a most interesting building and contains some very interesting historic relics and documents.

This will be the only notice so kindly note in your calender.

White Nichols, Pres. AEHS

Wiscasset, Me. 04578

Tel. 882-7886

GLEANINGS"THE BEAR FEAST"

The "History of Dresden Maine" is a fountain of information on Colonial history, and it's author, Mr. Charles Allen, a man whose historical work, like Caesar's wife, is above suspicion. Space does not permit the proper laudation of Mr. Allen but one fact alone should attest to the above. Mr. Allen, after nearly a lifetime of work, died before getting his manuscript published. It's publication, posthumously, was made possible by a special act and appropriation of the Maine State Legislature. There are many threads in this work which we can weave into the threadbare fabric of the Arnold chronicle.

Mr. Allen was a contemporary of our two special historians, Justin Smith and John Codman, and as such was well acquainted with them. From his research came the story of the bear feast at Augusta. He passed it on to both Smith and Codman who were in the process of writing their Arnold histories. Codman used it, Smith did not and a later historical novelist, Kenneth Roberts, did not "buy" it either.

Let us examine the story. It is so extended that we will have to here reduce it to it's essence. It begins on Swan Island where the Expedition, or some of it, stopped over night on their way up the Kennebec. Here Aaron Burr (the same A. B. of the famous or infamous dueling episode) met and fell in love with a Franco-Indian maiden by name of Jacataqua. Jacataqua, although none of the Journalists have recorded it, is supposed to have joined Burr and the Expedition. Upon their arrival at Augusta, the Expedition's host, Judge Howard, was found to be plagued, in his cornfield, by the depredation of bears. Jacataqua, famed as a huntress, and Burr went a hunting. She armed with a "trusty French rifle", he with an axe! Soon a large black bear with two cubs was found in the cornfield. As they traditionally react, the female reared up for fight, the cubs climbed the nearest tree. The beautiful maiden from Swan Island easily dispatched the big sow with a well placed ball. Her companion rushing upon the animal with his axe was badly clawed in it's dying struggles. Next they were attacked by the cubs, (credibility rears it's ugly head here) the reloaded rifle accounted for one, Burr's axe for the other.

These three bruins, supplemented by beef, quintals of smoked salmon, baskets of corn, and a hundred pumpkin pies, formed the nucleus of a feast for the Expedition back at the Augusta fort.

This story has lost most of it's glamour and interest in "shortening down". It is well worth the reading from Allen's pen. As noted before it has been both embraced and rejected, but in view of Mr. Allen's credentials and after noting throughout his work an antipathy for traditions having no supporting records, yet he has seen fit to label this story as having "a firmer foundation" than the one of Pilgrims landing upon Plymouth Rock, and his, "I believe it to be, in it's main features, absolutely true".

In view of the above, perhaps one should do much soul searching before discarding the story as having no historical value.

Cecil Pierce