

ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 17

September 1, 1972

Dear Members and Friends:

Having just returned from the delightful experience of having Quebec capture and hold forty-three members of the AEHS for three days in which we were subjected to ideal weather conditions, most appetizing Quebecois food, a la Francois, and the most congenial confrontation with Father Honorius Provost and his habitation at the Seminaire de Quebec; we are now preparing for our annual Kennebec River Cruise, details of which follow.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for a systematic approach to data collection, ensuring that all relevant information is captured and stored in a secure and accessible manner. The document also discusses the importance of data analysis in identifying trends, patterns, and areas for improvement.

KENNEBEC RIVER HISTORIC--SCENIC CRUISE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1972

Members and friends of the AEHS will again enjoy a fall boat cruise along the stretch of the Kennebec River that Major Arnold and his small 11-ship fleet traversed on their way to Pittston in 1775 to pick up smaller boats, known as bateaux, to continue their trek to Quebec over more shallow and rough waters.

Due to conditions beyond our control, we are required to postpone this cruise, originally scheduled for September 17 to Sunday, September 24th.

In case of severe weather, it will again be postponed to October 8. The foliage color should be pleasing at this time. Nature lovers will enjoy the many water and shore birds, as well as the Bald Eagle, and what is believed to be the largest eagle nest in North America.

At 8:30 A.M., Sunday, September 24th, three buses will leave the Bath Municipal Waterfront parking area (leave your cars here for the day) for a 12-mile tour to Popham. Here you will board the 100-passenger cruise boat "Goodtime", piloted by well-known pilot Bob Fish, of Boothbay Harbor.

The time of departure is 9:30 A.M. at Popham.

The next 35 miles will unfold some of the most scenic and historic river scenes in New England, including the sites of some of the most active wooden shipbuilding yards of the nation, (the first American-built English vessel, the 30-ton pinnace "Virginia" was built at the Popham settlement in 1607.) There were also fifteen forts of various designs erected in the early days of settlement.

The Richmond-Dresden river banks were dotted with ice-harvesting plants, shipping their commodity to various parts of the world.

At our destination point, the Col. Colburn estate, where the 220 bateaux were built at Agry's shipyard, we will be hosted by the owners, Dr. Donald Klopp and his wife, Barbara, as well as Mr. and Mrs. James Erwin who also own and occupy some of the Colburn-Agry complex.

We have been invited to have our picnic lunch on their spacious lawns overlooking the Kennebec River where Arnold and his army spent several days transferring their loads from the schooners to the bateaux.

We shall conduct a tour of this area, and the Klopps have invited us to an open house tour of their lovely colonial home built in 1765.

From here we shall take busses to Richmond where we will embark for the return trip via the west side of Swan Island, the former home of Abenaki tribes and now the home of several American bald eagles, white-tailed deer, ducks and geese.

Several of our members, well versed in various historical aspects of the Kennebec River will keep you informed as we cruise along in the good fellowship of the AEHS.

The schedule may vary according to conditions, but we expect to return to Bath about 6:00 P.M.

For those that participated in the Quebec tour this cruise will complete the coverage of the Arnold Expedition route through Maine to Quebec City as completely as can be done by vehicle.

The cost of the all day Kennebec cruise, including the boat and busses, will be ten dollars, paid in advance with your reservation. Make checks payable to AEHS, marked "Cruise." Deadline is September 15. First come, first served basis. Members and friends are invited.

Wear casual clothes & soft-soled shoes. Be prepared for a variety of weather conditions. Suggest sun glasses, binoculars, and camera. Don't forget your picnic lunch and hot drink. Happy cruising.

For further information contact:

White Nichols, Wiscasset, Maine 04578 Tel. 882-7886

CALDWELL'S MILLSITE LOCATED

Congratulations are in order to Cecil Pierce, one of our prominent researchers from Southport, Maine.

Cecil, along with a number of other interests, is the Author of our 'Gleanings,' a regular contribution to our Newsletters.

He recently found a long sought answer to the question as to where Caldwell's Mill was located in Levis, Quebec.

Caldwell's Mill was, you will recall, the site where Arnold had based some of his supplies and embarked, mostly in birch canoes and under the cover of darkness of a cold November night, for the Quebec side of the St. Lawrence River, where they landed at Wolf's Cove.

Inasmuch as modern historic researchers had been unable to locate the site of the old mill on the Scie River; Cecil and some of his colleagues, during the recent tour to Quebec, were finally successful in locating the mill-site at the confluence of the rivers Scie and St. Lawrence.

Be sure and read this issue of 'Gleanings'.

YORK MUSTER

The second York Militia Muster, sponsored by one of our affiliates, the First York Militia Company, (now officially designated as the Governor's Footguards of Maine) was held at York Village on August 4-5-6.

It was a most colorful affair, with over thirty units participating in the Sunday parade. The New England States and New York were well represented with Minute-men, drum and bugle corps, and various representations of the Continental Army.

This successful affair bids to become a yearly affair. Many of the units and individuals involved will be participating in our reenactment of the Arnold Expedition to Quebec in 1975.

Congratulations to the York Muster Committee and members for their fine work. This unit is in command of Capt. John Penny of York, Maine.

You may also be interested to know that the organizer and first Captain of this company, Don Marcum, also of York, is now a member of the Maine Bicentennial Committee.

Don, along with Tarry Schulten, of Woolwich, our regional member of the commission should be in a position to expedite and coordinate our plans for the 1975 reenactment.

HILTON PICTORIAL EXHIBIT

The original twenty paintings for S. W. Hilton's booklet "March to Quebec" will be on exhibit at the Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association's Old Jail Museum during October and the first week of November.

Mr. Hilton, a native artist from Weld, Maine, is well known for his historic interpretative panels throughout State, Federal and Municipal parks in Maine. He is a charter member of the AEHS.

His paintings will feature an exhibit devoted to the Arnold Expedition to Quebec, along with other relics and paintings.

The Bath Marine Museum had to postpone their scheduled showing of this exhibit until next year due to insufficient space. Arrangements are being made for presentation at other Museums in the State.

BATEAUX

The first two bateaux of a planned fleet of such boats now lie in repose at Cecil Pierce's boat-house in Southport.

The first, a twenty-seven foot river log-driving craft, built at St. George, Quebec, was given to the Society this spring by the Central Maine Power Company, (Courtesy of V. P. Norman Temple) Cecil, our No. 1 Handyman, as well as No. 1 craftsman, used his boat trailer to transport it to his home, pending more permanent quarters.

It now has a mate!

Number 2 was contracted to be designed and built by Cecil for George Dyer, of New Hope, Pa. (our New York Bicentennial co-ordinator and Liaison between our Society and The Company of Military Historians.)

This boat measures twenty-two feet long and can be lifted by two men. George plans to use it during the reenactment activities and as a prototype for others to follow.

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

At our annual meeting held at the old Pownalboro Courthouse in Dresden, on June 25th, your president, White Nichols was re-elected, as was Bob Cunningham, as V.P.; Harold Brown as Treasurer. Jane Stevens of Bath, replaced Fred Fassett as recording Secretary.

Although Fred, a charter member, was forced to withdraw because of other commitments, he will continue with us in a research capacity.

Jane, a former reporter-photographer, is now Deputy Register of Deeds for Sagadahoc County, in Bath. She also has a particular interest in the lower Kennebec River history. Welcome to our ranks Jane.

APPOINTMENTS

Crosby Milliman, of Eaton Center, N. H. has been appointed Technical Advisor on Arms and Accoutrements.

This appointment is the first of a number of such offices to be filled in order to conduct our reenactment project in the most efficient and authentic manner.

George Dyer, of New Hope, Pa. has been appointed Coordinator for the State of Pennsylvania, as well as Liaison between the AEHS and the Company of Military Historians.

Tom Nolan, of Arden, N. Y. is Coordinator for the State of New York; Bob Cunningham for Massachusetts, and Crosby Milliman for the State of New Hampshire. Rhode Island and Connecticut vacancies will soon be filled.

SPECIAL-EMERGENCY DIRECTOR'S MEETING

All members of the Board of Directors are urged to attend a special meeting of the board, on Sunday, September 10 at 10:00 A.M. at the Klopp's (Col. Colburns) residence in Pittston.

Bring a lunch. We have been offered the use of their grill for hamburgs, frankforts, etc.

This is urgent.

CLEANINGS

In the year 1774, two men, John Halstead of New York and John Mercier of New Jersey, purchased a lot of land in Quebec City on the bank of the Saint Lawrence right under Cape Diamond. On this land they built a wharf and were in the process of building a three story warehouse 120 ft. long when it was interrupted by the arrival of Arnold's forces in November of 1775. These two men, one at least - Halstead - known to and trusted by Arnold were to play a key role to the expedition there.

It was Halstead to whom Arnold sent the message, from Dead River by Indians, of his impending arrival. Either by error or subversity the letter never reached Halstead, instead it came to the hands of Lt. Gov. Cramahe. This was the first notice received by Quebec of the invasion. Branded as rebels, and of course, rightly so, they fled Quebec, although it appears they went not further than across the Saint Lawrence to Point Levy. Here at Caldwell's mill, the landmark from which the Expedition crossed to Wolf's cove, Halstead was already acting as Operator of Col. Caldwell's flour mill.

What bitter irony for this man, Col. Caldwell, in command of a regiment of British Militia, to have to write his commanding General Murray, thus. "In the 8th of November they (Arnold's Column) got to Point Levy when they took a post at my mill. The fellow (Halstead) whom I had employed to put the mill in order, turned out to be a great scoundrel, put me to such expense and has proved to be in the rebel interest. He contrived to detain flour and 200 bushels of wheat for the rebels use and he was afterwards appointed their commissary of provisions." The land and storehouse, which was in frame, that they so hastily abandoned was seized by the besieged fortress and the 10 x 10 and 10 x 12 framing members were used to build batteries at St. John's and St. Lewis' Gates to the city. Many years later Halstead and Mercier petitioned for compensation and it was finally paid in the form of rent for the land and recompense for the building frame. Thus did Canada "turn the other cheek."

CECIL PIERCE