

ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2

February, 1969

FIELD EXPEDITIONS PROVE SUCCESSFUL

During the six months since newsletter number one was sent out the Society has continued activity. Two membership field expeditions proved very successful. The first was at The Evergreens at Solon, where some fifty members of the Society spent the weekend of July 27-28, engaged in an archeological dig, a tour of the Indian Petroglyph site on the opposite shore of the Kennebec, and a tour of the Carrying Place at Carratunkus Falls. The archeological investigation turned up three pottery shards with markings similar to some found at the Pemaquid settlement, a hand hoe, a number of pieces of Kineo flint, among other items. Saturday evening Duluth Wing and Cecil Pierce gave a slide show of their journey by canoe from Fort Western to the St. Lawrence retracing Arnold's route.

On the weekend of September 21 - 22, some fifty members of the Society met at the camps of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dickson of Rufford, at Middle Carry Pond. A major activity was the measuring and marking of the probable route of the Expedition between East and Middle Carry Ponds and further investigation of the probable site of Fort Meigs, the hospital building which was constructed by the Expedition in 1775. This activity followed up previous field surveys in The Great Carrying place led by White Nichols, during which pottery shards and bits of broken clay pipes were uncovered in ancient fireplace sites. The pipes have since been dated around the early 1800's.

BATEAU ACQUIRED THROUGH GIFT

Through the generosity of the Kennebec Log Driving Company there has been made available to the Society for study, preservation, and exhibition an authentic Kennebec River bateau. Craft of this sort have now become extremely rare and are considered museum pieces. In general design and structure they are the larger descendants of the bateau which were built at Agry's Point on the lower Kennebec under the direction of Major Reuben Colbourn for the transport of men and supplies as Arnold and the expedition moved North in 1775.

ARNOLD'S MARCH BOOKLET STILL SELLING STEADILY

The three color twenty page magazine size booklet, "Arnold's March to Quebec," which is the work of our fellow member S. W. Hilton and which is sponsored by the Society, continues to sell at a satisfyingly steady rate. Copies are available to members for \$ 1.00 and to others in stores for \$ 1.50. The booklet contains excerpts from the journals of Arnold, his officers and men, maps and scenes of hardships along the route.

MUSEUM ARRANGEMENTS MADE

Arrangements have been made with Mr. Robert Damm, director of the Maine State Museum, for a suitable section in the new museum building now under construction near the State House at Augusta, for display of relics and artifacts assembled as a result of the work of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP DUES AMMENDED FOR FAMILIES

Our membership roll continues to increase. By action of the Board of Directors October 12th the status of membership was clarified as follows:

Single adult (over 21 years of age and not enrolled as a student in a school or college), annual dues \$ 5.00.

Family membership (husband, wife and children under 18), inclusive annual dues \$ 5.00.

Individual over 18 enrolled as a full time student in a school or college, annual dues \$1.00.

The membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. Those enrolling before January 1, 1970, may be classified as charter members. Charter membership closes on that date.

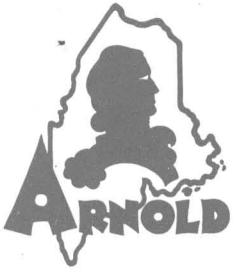
Membership application forms are available from White Nichols, President, Wiscasset, Maine 04578, or F. G. Fassett, Jr., Secretary, RFD, Newcastle, Maine 04553. They should be returned with dues to the secretary who will acknowledge them by sending along a membership card for each individual, family, or student membership enrolled.

It is hoped that in the ensuing six months through the efforts of the membership committee and of individual members our rolls may be substantially increased as is essential to meet the increasing business demands of the Society.

JOIN THE FUN

Watch the newspapers for new developments and activities now being planned. Join in the fun.

F. G. Fassett, Jr., Secretary



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Note from the President:

There are numerous fields of interest involved in the AEHS; a number of these fields can be classified as urgent, particularly in acquisition, or control, of certain land properties and preservation of historic sites and buildings.

There are many persons within our Society of high ability and potential interest that can contribute valuable assistance in the various fields of activity.

The AEHS can obviously become one of the most active and productive historical societies in New England. As an initial step in developing this potential, I propose more active membership participation in all phases of our activity; in committees, in research work, in field expeditions of various sorts, photographic records, trail work, archeological projects, artifact and relic cataloging, library and museum promotion, bicentennial planning, information and education, and promotion.

I cordially invite all interested persons to volunteer for committee participation in the field, or fields, of their particular interest.

1968 was an active year and I am optimistic that 1969 will eclipse it in all respects. The prescription is - join, participate, and promote. It is a membership group. Let us see and hear more from you.

A prosperous New Year to you.

White Nichols