

ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAJOR COLBURN HOUSE, BOX 1775, GARDINER, MAINE 04345

NEWSLETTER NO. 21

JANUARY 7, 1974

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The AEHS semi-annual meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Augusta, Maine, on Sunday, February 3, 1974.

The program will start with a business meeting at 10 a.m. This has been a busy and important year for our Society and the next two years will become increasingly more so. Although reports will be brief, there will be some very interesting information released at this session. This will be an excellent chance to become well acquainted with what is happening and what we hope will happen in the future.

There will be much more than the business sessions. Crosby Milliman, one of our outstanding firearms authorities will exhibit and talk on his beautiful collection of antique and Revolutionary War weapons and powder horns.

There will be a beautiful display of ceremonial flags representing the various states from which the soldiers came from that were involved in the ill-fated expedition to Quebec in 1775. Also in this group will be the flags of our Canadian neighbors, the Canadian National, and the provincial flags.

A special flag ceremonial will make this an impressive event. We hope to have a delegation of Quebec officials as our guests at this gathering. Folk song musical accompaniment will be furnished by the charming Marguerite and John McLaren from Westport, Maine.

Dr. George Dyer, our State Coordinator from Pennsylvania, has organized a cast that will present a half hour historically related skit that I am sure will be most amusing and educational. Don't miss this one.

Arthur Grenier, organizer and promoter of the Fr. Rasles Missionary restoration project and museum at Old Point, Norridgewock Indian site, will display his ingenious project model. This is a very ambitious project and deserves the endorsement of our Society. Congratulations to Arthur and his co-partner, Gene Bouchard for their work.

The original paintings of Maine's well known artist, Sevearns Hilton, that were used in the publication of his booklet "March to Quebec" will also be displayed. The booklets will be on sale at the display.

There will be a delicious Yankee pot roast luncheon, served at 12:30 p.m. The fee for the banquet, rooms, gratuities, tax and entertainment will be \$5.00 per person. Reservations should be made in advance, with check enclosed, made out to 'AEHS Banquet', and mail to AEHS, Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine, 04345. Only in case of extreme weather will the meeting be cancelled. Deadline for reservations is January 25. Our phone number is 582-7080. <WRITE IT ON YOUR PAD NOW!>

Members wishing to stay overnight may get special rates at the Holiday Inn (\$9.75 single and \$12.75 double) by making reservations through our office. See phone and address info above.

STATE COORDINATORS MEETING

A State Coordinators meeting for continuing reenactment planning is scheduled for Saturday, February 2, 1974 at the Holiday Inn in Augusta, Maine. The meeting will convene at 10 a.m.

Expected to attend will be the seven State Coordinators from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania; representatives from Canada, the Province and City of Quebec; the Executive Director of the Maine American Revolution Bicentennial Commission; a representative of the Mayor of Augusta, our Society President and Reenactment Director, and a representative from the Governor's office.

A progress report is expected from all coordinators; a review of the program and a presentation of Canadian proposals and plans will fill the agenda.

The last State Coordinators meeting was held at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Mass. on October 28, 1973. At that session, each coordinator was given specific assignments and deadlines for completion. Colonel Thornton McGlamery, our Reenactment Director, conducted a very successful meeting.

REENACTMENT STAFF

The organizational staff committed to planning, organizing and implementing the reenactment of Arnold's expedition to Quebec (to take place in September-October 1975) is composed of AEHS President, White Nichols, Thornton McGlamery, Reenactment Director with Advisory Staff, General Samuel Griffith, USMC, Ret., Me., Colonel Anthony Walker, USMC, Ret. R.I., Neil MacLean is aide-de-camp to the President. Contact with this staff should be directed to Society Headquarters, AEHS, Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine 04345.

The State Coordinators are Crosby Milliman, Eaton Center, N. H., 03832; Joe Brown, 7 Pleasant Ave., Sudbury, Mass., 01776; Colonel Anthony Walker, 4 Tuckerman Terrace, Middletown, R. I., 02840; Edwin E. Williams, R.F.D #1, Stonington, Conn., 06378; Tom Nolan, Arden, N. Y., 10910; George B. Dyer, Diabase Farm, New Hope, Penna., 18938.

John Skillin of Freeport and Dixfield, Maine is Historical Researcher; Neil MacLean is aide-de-camp. Mrs. Jannice Baker is Society Secretary.

Canadian and Quebec delegates and representatives are expected to be appointed at a meeting to be held in Augusta on February 3, 1974.

A special bulletin publication will be published and issued as soon as the information is all available, on all important matters concerned with the Reenactment planning and organization.

REENACTMENT GUIDE BOOKLET

A booklet will be published and available by early summer containing pertinent information for all of our potential Reenactment AEQ-'75 participants and spectators.

It will contain a map, or maps, plans, program and schedule of Bicentennial activities associated with our Reenactment; lists of lodgings, accommodations, campgrounds, pageant sites, tours, special attractions; ads related to personal requirements related to the Reenactment participation and photographs of historic sites, bateaux and interpretive panels.

This appealing booklet will become a popular souvenir of the Bicentennial. Any profit from its sales will be used to defray some cost of the Reenactment operation. Price will be available at time of publication.

REENACTMENT DRESS AND UNIFORM

One of the prime requirements for persons wishing to participate in the 1975 reenactment of the March to Quebec is that they wear authentic dress (or uniform) for the occasion. This requirement also applies to arms and accouterments. For information on this subject, contact John Skillin, 4 Sugarloaf Ave., Dixfield, Me. or Crosby Milliman, East Madison Road, Eaton Center, New Hampshire, as they are our authorities.

For those that prefer to make their own uniforms, we recommend that you acquire a copy of the "Sketch Book '76", "The American Soldier 1775-1781" by Robert L. Klinger, assisted by Richard A. Wilder, and published by R. L. Klinger, 4505 N 20th St., Arlington, Va. 2207.

CAPT. COLBURN S COMPANY

We are proud to announce the organization of a reactivated militia company from the Gardiner, Maine area known as the Captain Oliver Colburn Company. This 42 man unit was led by Capt. Oliver Colburn, a brother of Major Reuben Colburn (who contracted to build the 220 bateaux for the expedition). The company was composed mostly of artisans and guides that worked at Colburn's shipyard. They were assigned by General Washington to attend the expedition to repair and maintain the bateaux for a period of twenty days.

The reactivated company is led by Capt. Neil MacLean of Farmingdale, Maine. John Gardner of Pittston is company Lieutenant; John Skillin of Dixfield, Ensign; and Don Brann of Hallowell is Company Sergeant.

This is the second Maine Company assigned to the expedition. The other was Capt. (later Brigadier General) Samuel McCobb's Company from Phippsburg, Maine. This company is not presently reactivated, but we do hope to have it so by this fall. It was composed of fifty four men and officers.

FILLING RANKS

The ranks are filling fast for the organization of the four division army. We hope to have the thirteen companies fully organized by this fall. Those individuals wishing to participate in this great event in any capacity should signify their intention at the earliest opportunity. There will, undoubtedly, be many disappointed people when the event begins who wished that they had applied earlier for a place which is limited to 1150 men (and three women, including Jacataqua, the Indian princess). Will you be a part in celebrating and participating in America's 200th Anniversary? It will never happen again!

HELP WANTED

There will be many ranks to be filled in the organization and administrative departments of our Society in the next several months. All of these positions are on a volunteer basis, and require sincere interest, devotion and responsibility.

We do need, immediately, a public relations agent, a municipal activities coordinator, a communications director (for the reenactment); a script writer (for filming productions); campground superintendent; news writers, office help, hostesses, receptionist, field guides, seamstresses, and company recruits. Write to our headquarters office, or phone 582-7080, if interested and available.

RECENT ACQUISITION

We take great pleasure in announcing the acquisition of the so-called Allen property (a postage-stamp lot lying within the Colburn land property). It was through the interest and action of State Parks and Recreation Bureau Director Larry Stuart, and Historian John Briggs of that Bureau, that we are indebted for this important addition to the Colburn complex.

It is not certain at this moment, about the history of this property, but local legend claims that the house was used as a tavern at the time of the Arnold expedition in conjunction with the activities of the Colburn shipyard which was also on the property.

The main advantage at present is that we now have full access to the waterfront, enabling us to erect a boat landing of some kind at the same location as an original landing. This site has access by a good gravel road.

RESTORATION GRANT

The National Park Service has issued a grant of \$24,000 to the Maine State Parks and Recreation Department for restoration work on the Colburn house and buildings in Pittston, Maine. The project includes the restoration, repair and alteration of the main house and ell, as well as repair work on the 200 year old barn.

The specifications for the project will be determined by recommendations presented by a Parks Service restorationist and our Restoration Committee. The work is slated to be finished before the 1975 Bicentennial activities begin.

In addition, the Parks Department will remove dead elm trees and stumps and prune others, sometime this winter.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS

Extremely wet weather during our digging season restricted our archaeological crews from much digging although one dig at the Carry Pond site did produce additional artifacts, including three tinder-box covers, additional sherds of the 16 inch Cathedral pickle bottle and two ancient eating forks.

Florence Elliot, most successful digger by her own right, now has her position challenged by her husband, Norman, who easily eclipsed Florence by recovering a greater number of items on this expedition. I expect to see this family team to really plow the ground up next season while trying to hold their positions!

Francis Cassidy and his underwater crew, with Bettina Young, were grounded several times by high and muddy water.

With good water conditions this year, we hope to locate the exact location of the Colburn shipyard site, with its ways and blacksmith shop. This site should produce many interesting artifacts related to early ship building days.

Only those persons expressing their wishes to participate in these digs will be notified of the time, place, and related information. No schedule at present.

TRAIL SEMINAR

Plans are under way for our Society to co-sponsor with the Natural Resources Council, a Wilderness Trail Management and Control Seminar, to discuss ways and means and policies for the management and control of our wilderness trails, including the two longest in the State of Maine, the Arnold Trail and the Appalachian Trail.

Serious problems have been evolving to threaten the very existence of many of our much used trails. The most serious being ground surface erosion, created by human traffic and improper trail location; overcrowding of trail and camping areas; littering and various forms of pollution; vandalism, fires, improper cutting of trees and vegetation; trespassing on private property, etc.

Property owners of land upon which trails cross, the Natrual Resources Council, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, are all expected to contribute ideas and proposals for resolving these problems; also taking an intense interest will be the Sierra Club, Audobon Society*, and the AEHS.

*State Parks Department, Maine Forest Service and LURC.

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY TRAIL CLEARANCE

Gratitude is hereby expressed to Mr. Noram Temple, Vice-President of C.M.P. Co. and Norman Gilman, claims adjuster, for their quick response and action in correcting a destructive woods operation on the Arnold Trail on the Carrying Place, near the Kennebec River.

This kind of cooperation is very encouraging, and certainly contributes to good public relations.

WINTER SNOWSHOE EXPEDITION

Plans and arrangements are being made by Professor of History William A. Riley, and a corps of students from Franklin Pierce College, Rindge, New Hampshire, to snowshoe a section of the Arnold Trail from the Kennebec River at Carrying Place and across the Great Carry to the Dead River, for six days and nights. They plan to start about January 15th. At the end of this trek they will proceed by automobile to Quebec for a week of tour and study of the historic sites, especially associated with the Arnold expedition.

The expedition will officially start at the Colburn house in Pittston where the University of Michigan students launched their Quebec canoe trip last summer. Here, they will be guests of the AEHS.

This is a new type of Venture (and adventure) for followers of the Arnold Trail. At present, the ice and snow conditions are not very favorable for the proposed trip, but Mother Nature can change these conditions very fast. We wish these boys a pleasant and successful trip.

CEREMONIAL FLAG DONATIONS

Four new flags have been added to our growing collection of ceremonial flags. Mr. & Mrs. John Holmes of Clark's Summit, Pennsylvania, have contributed the Pennsylvania State flag; Ed Williams of Stonington, Connecticut presented the Connecticut State flag; while Crosby Milliman of Eason Center, New Hampshire has added the New Hampshire and Massachusetts State flags.

These flags will be presented in a ceremony at our semi-annual meeting in Augusta on February 3rd.

BIRCH-BARK CANOE DONATED

Our ancient Revolutionary War period bateau found in a Dresden, Maine attic, now has a playmate. John Hill of North Belgrade, Maine, a student of the Maine Indian history, and archaeologist, has donated to our Soelety, a twenty foot birch-bark canoe of an old vintage. (150-200 years old)

This beautiful specimen of Old Maine Indian craftsmanship is believed to have been built on the upper Kennebec River at least one hudnred and fifty years ago, and is in good shape.

Further information on this find and gift will be published in a future edition of our newsletter, pending the outcome of John's research on the history of this beautiful craft. This is indeed a rare specimen and we shall be proud to display it in our new museum as soon as we are able to have a suitable building for the purpose.

We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to John Hill for this very valuable addition to our growing collection.

NOTE: Arnold and his men used at least thirty birch-bark canoes on the expedition to Quebec, especially from St. George onward.

THANKS TO CONTRIBUTORS

The officers and Board of Directors of this Society take this opportunity to thank all of you that have made contributions in our fund-raising drive. Regardless of the amount, we do appreciate all of such assistance from our members. Our operating expenses have certainly kept pace with the times, and we are constantly faced with financial problems, as I am sure most of you are.

We shall soon be devoting more attention to other means of raising funds, such as through the sale of publications, photo-cards, souvenirs, replica models of bateaux, maps, powder horns and items associated in the Reenactment AEQ-'75. We hope to have something that appeals to you.

We shall be needing funds to construct more bateaux for the expedition. We expect to defray some of this expense by selling some of these unique craft after the Bicentennial. With an official bronze plaque on them, they should be a collector's item.

TREASURER RESIGNS

Harold Brown, Curator of the Bath Marine Museum, has been obliged to resign his position as AEHS Treasurer because of an overload of his responsibilities in his field of interest. Harold is a Charter member of the Society and has been treasurer since its inception. However, he will remain as a member of the Society for which we are grateful.

We were most fortunate in having Mrs. Kathryn Chase, of Pittston, to take over Harold's duties as treasurer. Mrs. Chase recently retired from the Togus Veteran's Administration, after spending thirty years of handling federal funds. She is well qualified for the position. Welcome to our ranks, Kathryn.

BOARD DIRECTOR RESIGNS

We also regret to announce the resignation of Dr. Waldeck Mainville of Cape Elizabeth as a member of the Board of Directors. 'Dick' is also a Charter Member of the Society and has been on the Board since 1968. Dr. Mainville is Assistant Dean and Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of Maine in Portland, and gave his reasons for resigning as responsibility pressure of his duties at the University. We shall miss him on the Board and hope to see him often on some of our outings.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

We take pleasure in announcing the publication of North Callahan's latest book "George Washington : Soldier and Man", published by William Morrow & Co., 105 Madison Ave., N.Y.C. 10016.

Also excellent is Callahan's "Dan Morgan : Ranger of the Revolution" reprinted by the A.M.S. Press, 56 East 13th St., N.Y.C. 10003.

Although we have no review available at this time, we also note the publication of "Benedict Arnold : The Dark Eagle" by Brian R. Boylan and published by W.W. Norton & Co., Inc., of New York. It sells for \$6.95.



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Box 1775

GARDINER, MAINE 04345

Tel: 582-7080

"Spirit of '75"

Join us in the 1975 Reenactment of the
Arnold Expedition to Quebec in 1775
In Commemoration of Maine's Outstanding
Revolutionary War Heritage

A Prelude to the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976

SEPTEMBER 10 1974

SOLON BARBECUE-DIG-TOUR-BARN DANCE-MOVIE FILMING

"THE EVERGREENS", SOLON, Me. SEPT. 21-22 1974

Members and friends of the AEHS and AEQ-'75 (Reenactment participants) are advised that plans are well underway for a week-end of recreation, good-fellowship and enjoyment on the week-end of September 21-22, 1974 with activities centered at " The Evergreens " in Solon, Maine.

The feature for Saturday is an outdoor beef barbecue scheduled for 5:P.M. Menu: barbecued beef, baked potatoes, corn on cob, home made bread and butter, beverage, Indian pudding w/ice cream. The price is \$4.50 (payable at site). This will be followed by an old fashioned barn dance at a nearby member's (Myron Varney's) barn. Donations will be accepted at the dance to defray expenses. Order of the evening calls for a grand march, waltzes, fox-trots, two step and requests. (galler ?).

There will also be a ' dig ' at " The Evergreens " site starting at 10:A.M. Saturday. Another ' dig ' is scheduled for the hospital site at the Carry.

A tour to the Caratunk (Solon) Falls carry site and another to the Carry Ponds is also planned.

There will be preliminary movie taking of authentically dressed, colonial soldiers on the trail, as well as men maneuvering batteaux, at unannounced sites on the Kennebec River on these two days. Camera work to be conducted by professional and semi-pro men.

River and trail reconnaissance by AEQ staff members, in preparation for the 1975 reenactment, is scheduled for Sunday and Monday.

Campsites are available at " The Evergreens " for tenting, trailers and campers. There is still some cabin space available on a first come, first served basis. If the Perry's are unable to accomodate you they will be pleased to make other arrangements for you.

There are plenty of sites available for tenting, trailers, hot showers, hook-ups and toilet facilities. Rates are reasonable.

Continue north on Route 201 from Skowhegan to Solon, turn left at blinker; one mile to " The Evergreens ", owned and operated by Bill and Ruth Perry, Solon, Maine 04979. Tel: 207-643-2324. Be prepared for variable fall weather. Informal warm apparel is recommended. Lunches and meals may be obtained at " The Evergreens "; otherwise bring your own lunch material for the " off the site " locations. Grocery store and gas handy. Diggers bring tools. Don't forget camera and film.
NO RESERVATIONS FOR BARBECUE AFTER SEPTEMBER 18th.