



ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 1775

GARDINER, MAINE 04345

MAJOR COLBURN HOUSE

NEWSLETTER NO. 22

"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

TEL: 582-7080

APRIL 10 1974

THE COLBURN MILITIA

The newly organized Colburn Militia Company is rapidly filling its ranks with about twenty-five men and officers listed now. This is a reactivated unit from the original forty two man company, commanded by Captain Oliver Colburn, a brother of Major Reuben Colburn, who built the batteaux for Arnold's army. They were commissioned by Gen. George Washington to follow the army as carpenters to maintain the batteaux.

The present company expects to reach its full strength by this fall in time for them to participate in the reenactment next year. Many of the members already have their uniforms, made mostly by their wives.

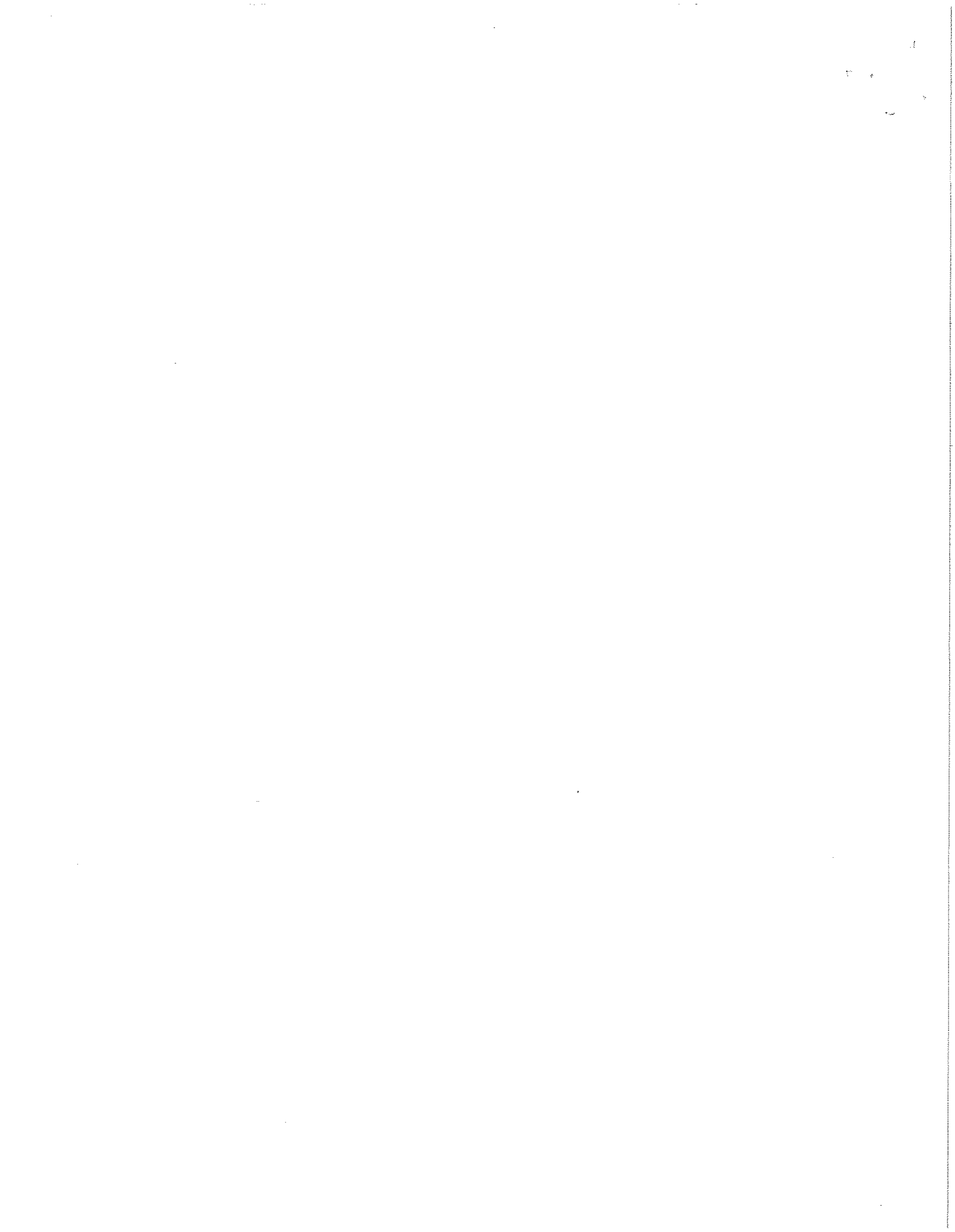
This unit is well organized and led by Captain Neil MacLean of Farmingdale, who is also an official of AEHS.

ATTENTION : HISTORY BUFFS

The most recent addition to our collection of VIP books pertaining to the Revolutionary Period is "Landmarks of the American Revolution" by Mark Boatner III; born in Alexandria, Virginia; he is a member of the AEHS, and has direct family ties with prominent statesmen and soldiers of the American Revolution; this book provides an introduction to each state that recapitulates its Revolutionary War history, evaluates local efforts to preserve and mark historic sites, and gives sources of current information produced annually by local tourist sites, and historical agencies. Enough historical background is given for each site to indicate its significance, the most detail being provided for those where information is least likely to be found at the location. This book is highly recommended by the AEHS and the Maine section contains much accurate information of the Arnold Trail through Maine.

Published by Stackpole Books
Cameron and Kelker Streets
Harrisburg PA 17105

Priced at \$10.00



FORT WESTERN RESTORATION PROJECT

Old Fort Western (1754) in Augusta, Maine, where Arnold and his army stayed for several days while making final preparations for the trip to Quebec, has been declared as in a state of deterioration with a minimum need of \$40,000 for a restoration and preservation project.

The AEHS is working with the Trustees, and Friends of Fort Western to do whatever we can to see that this historic site is maintained, managed and developed in such a manner that not only Augusta and Maine people but others may visit and enjoy their rightful heritage.

As this is being written, a representation of the Fort Western Trustees is meeting with officials of the AEHS at the Colburn house, to present plans and proposals for consideration in a mutual endeavor to make the most of this heritage.

Augusta was slated to host a substantial contribution in the form of pageants, parades, musters, dances, balls and banquets during the reenactment activities in the fall of 1975. Much of this planned ceremony would have to be deleted if Fort Western were not to be included.

REENACTMENT 1975

Plans and organization for the reenactment of the Arnold expedition to Quebec, AEQ-'75, slated for next fall, are proceeding at a rapid pace. Colonel Arnold's army is being recruited from the New England States, New York, and Pennsylvania. Dan Morgan's (Colonel George Dyer) regiment of riflemen is fast taking shape in Pennsylvania, while the musketmen are organizing in the New England States. A reactivated British force to meet us in Quebec is beginning to form.

We are happy to announce that the Bicentennial Commission of the State of Massachusetts has given the AEHS official endorsement for our reenactment project. We are most grateful to the Massachusetts Commission for this action. Much credit for this action is due to our Vice-President Bob Cunningham from Lincoln, Mass.

We should remember that Maine was the Territory of Maine and a part of Massachusetts when the Revolutionary War started and the expedition to Quebec took place.

Most Bicentennial celebrations will take place in 1976, while ours will begin next year, therefore any assistance that may be forthcoming must come soon. The success and scope of our program will be determined by the financial aid that we receive in the next few months.

AEQ-'75, Arnold Expedition to Quebec, 1975, is not only an inter-state operation; it is inter-national as well, with several thousand persons involved. It should not be considered as just a big parade. There are a number of aspects, and implications involved, including the educational, cultural, social and economic aspects. There are also others.

For the historical documentary records, if for no other reason, this event should be recorded on film. This reenactment will probably never take place again. It offers an opportunity for movie producers to take advantage of this event.



Kenneth Roberts " Arundel " was a best seller. Certainly the movie should also rate high. We do have a filming committee studying the various possibilities, but presently nothing promising has developed. We are looking for a sponsor to finance at least a 60 minute film. If any filming is done, most of it should be shot this fall.

STATE PLANNERS & COORDINATORS MEETING

Our State Planners and Coordinators from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and Pennsylvania met at the Holiday Inn, in Augusta, Maine on February 2, 1974, to continue plans and organization of our forthcoming reenactment.

Also present, as our guests, were Abbe Henrius Provost, Archivist, Quebec Historical Society; Jean-Claude Simard, Director of International Affairs, Quebec; Michel Gagnon representing the Urban City of Quebec, Mr. Jules Blanchet, Quebec City Councillor, Donna Thibodeau, Executive Director of the Maine American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and Dennis Violette, Governors Special Assistant for Canadian Affairs.

The initial proposals for the Canadian participation were presented and cooperation assured between the AEHS and Quebec officials. Canadian enthusiasm appears to be high. Details for activities in Quebec Province are being studied and should be firm by this fall.

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND MEETING

The next State Coordinators and Planning meeting is scheduled for May 11-12 at Newport, Rhode Island. This meeting will be attended, for the first time by the Captains of the various musket men and riflemen companies involved in the reenactment. Canadian plans will be discussed, committee assignments presented, and details added to the general plans. More consideration will be given to organizing a Montgomery Army in New York State to meet our Arnold army in Quebec. Additional details will be presented on the guided tour to follow the route of the reenactment with all of its interesting activities. This additional feature will start as a schooner cruise from Newburyport along the coast to the Kennebec river. Chip Paul, one of our members from Pennsylvania, is conducting this tour. He can be reached through our headquarters office.

An attempt will be made to firm plans for producing a documentary film of the reenactment. Any AEHS member that has an interest in any phase or aspect of producing such a film is invited to present their views to our office at the earliest opportunity. We need your assistance.

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MONTGOMERY ARMY

Tom Nolan, our New York State Coordinator, from Arden, New York, reports that preliminary attempts to organize a Montgomery Army in his state are encouraging. If this attempt is successful, Montgomery and his army will 'march' through New York State to Montreal; then down the St. Lawrence to meet our Arnold army in Quebec.

Tom Nolan is a bundle of energy, and we expect him to lead his men, as General Montgomery, to meet us for a grand finale in Old Quebec.

BRITISH (CANADIAN) ARMY

Reactivated British and Canadian military units, and individuals, are responding and becoming interested in participating in our reenactment. This growing army will be assigned to defend the Quebec strong hold in 1975.

It can well be that we shall have three armies organized and involved in the 1975 reenactment proceedings. (An international affair, without question !).

COLBURN HOUSE RESTORATION

The Maine Parks and Recreation Department has received a grant, to be matched with State funds, amounting to \$24,000 to be used in restoring the Major Colburn building complex in Pittston, Maine, to its original design of 1765.

The last Colburn descendant to live in the Revolutionary period home, Mrs. Helen Colburn Pomeroy from San Francisco, California, left nearly forty years ago. (She re-visited the old homestead last fall). During the last 209 years, a number of physical changes have taken place in the building, mostly in the form of modern improvements. The buildings (a 10 room house, barn and carriage-house) are basically sound and in good repair.

The restoration committee of well qualified persons is composed of three members appointed by the Society and three others appointed by the Parks Department. The committee will be augmented by an architectural specialist to plan and direct the restoration, which is expected to be completed by this fall, 1974, thereby becoming available for the many activities scheduled to take place on the complex during 1975.

Present plans call for the carriage-house to be used for our office and the barn will become a meeting place with projection room and exhibit gallery. These facilities will be financed by the Society.

Down on the river front, we are planning to erect a rock-filled pier and landing float. This location would be at the original Colburn shipyard site, and hopefully will be completed in time for use during our fall river-cruise and the waterfront activities during the reenactment next year.

We need plenty of volunteer help in constructing this landing, if we are to use it this fall. Please let us know if you can contribute a truck for hauling lumber and rocks; carpenter work and a lot of muscle. We'll also need a small back-hoe. Stanley Griffin,, draw tender at the Richmond bridge has volunteered his experience and expertise in such matters in starting the project.



CECIL'S LATEST BATEAU

Cecil Pierce, AEHS member, director and boat builder from Southport, Maine, has initiated another personally inspired bateau project. You will recall that Cecil researched, planned and built our first replica of a bateau believed to be of the same design as those that Major Colburn built for the Arnold army. This craft was twenty five feet in length. Documentary evidence indicates that the Colburn boats varied from eighteen to twenty-five feet in length.

In the early summer of 1973, the hull of an eighteen foot bateau was discovered in the attic of Mrs. Jennie Everson's house in Dresden, Maine; about six miles below the Colburn house, on the bank of the Kennebec river. This ancient craft (in sound condition) believed to be the oldest relic of its kind in the country (Revolutionary period) was donated to the AEHS and will be exhibited at the Colburn house.

Now Cecil's new project has been to give the Everson relic a mate, in the form of a full replica of its ancestor, which is all hand-made, including the nails and oak limb knees. Plans call for the two craft to be exhibited side by side, with two hundred years difference in age.

BOY SCOUT AFFILIATION

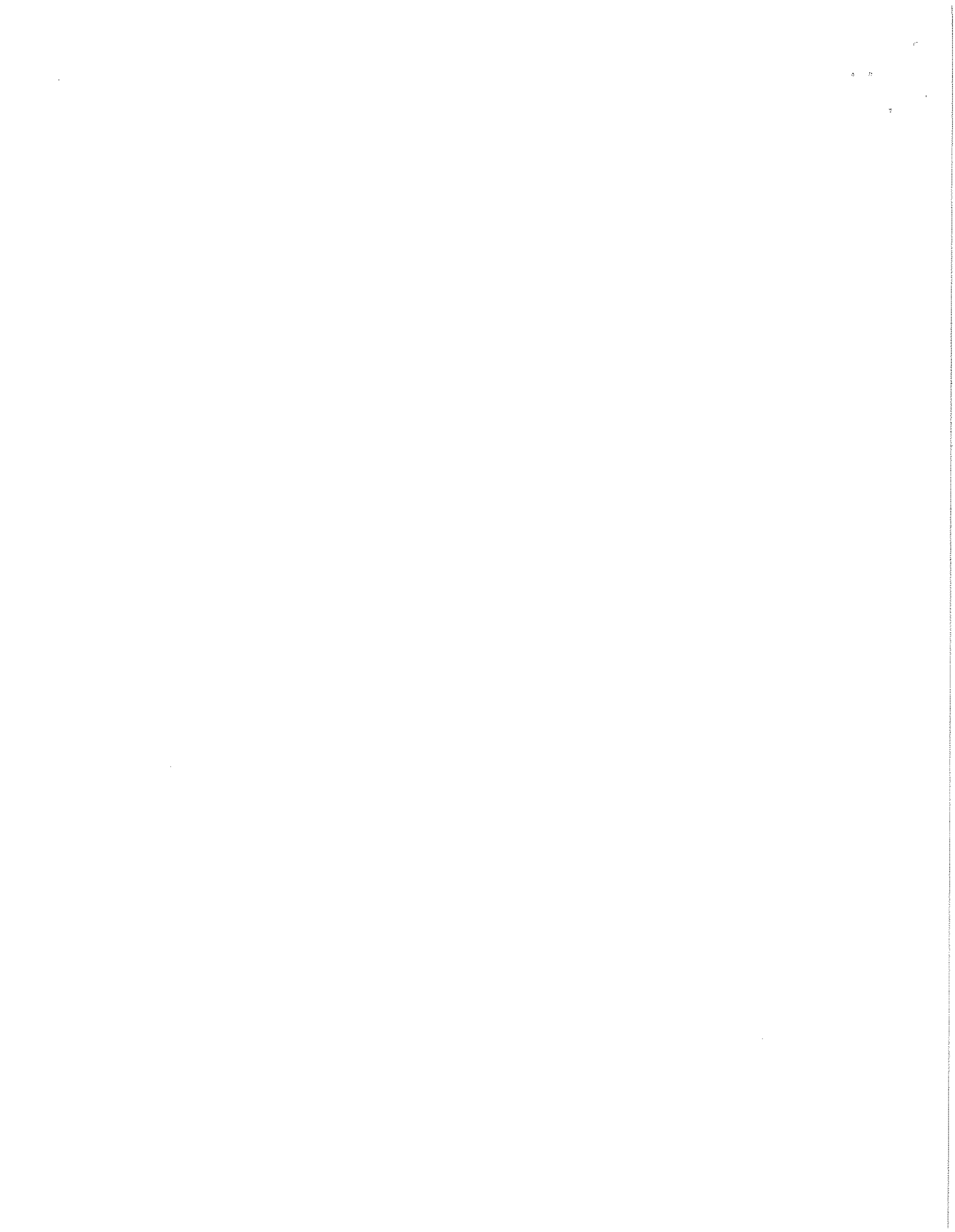
One of the most promising developments in the history of our Society is revealed in the official announcement that the Pine Tree Council, Boy Scouts of America has become affiliated with the AEHS in a jointly managed and operated project involving the Scouts participation in the American Revolution Bicentennial Commemoration 1975-1976.

This involvement will include a series of seminars and workshops, to be conducted by the AEHS to teach the boys the history of the Arnold expedition and local history of the various historic sites along the march route; also guide the Scouts over the Arnold Trail to Quebec in an attempt to train them to become guides during the 1975 reenactment.

In return the Scouts will act as guides, first-aid volunteers, messengers, and contribute other services during the reenactment. They will also assist in trail clearance and maintenance. At the same time, they will be allowed to use our six-acre camping and parking facilities at East Carry Pond, enabling them to work on various merit badge requirements in an appropriate environment.

The Pine Tree Council area constitutes about 17000 Boy Scouts in 579 troops, covering the southern half of Maine. The Arnold Trail in Maine falls entirely within the Council area. The availability of the Arnold Trail opens the door to one of the most outstanding historical trails in America to the Boy Scout organization, enabling them to more easily pass their requirements for the Historical Trail Award as well as several other popular awards.

Plans are underway to expand this new joint program to the National level. The Pine Tree Council program has been accepted and confirmed by Boy Scouts of America officials at the Portland headquarters, successfully culminating a five year dream of your President.



LOG CABIN FOR RENT

The AEHS rangers cabin at Middle Carry Pond will be available for renting this season, from June 1 to Sept. 1 to AEHS members only.

The cabin is directly on the Arnold Trail and on the shore of the wilderness lake of Middle Carry Pond, about four miles west of Wyman Lake and twenty miles northwest of Bingham.

A private gravel road, and drive, leads directly to the spot. The building is ell-shaped, with dual kitchen-dining room, closet and bedroom. It will comfortably sleep four. There are gas, and kerosene lights, as well as wood and gas stoves. Bedding is furnished. Cut your own wood on site. Spring water nearby. The price is five hundred dollars for the season. Arrangements can be made by writing to AEHS, Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine 04345. Telephone : 207-582-7080.

RIVER CRUISE & QUEBEC TOUR

We are planning on conducting both excursions this season, if interest prevails, and the gas crisis gets no worse. We are endeavoring to construct a boat landing at the Colburn shipyard site, thereby enabling us to eliminate the bus trips formerly required, and improving the trip considerably. Details will be included in the June newsletter.

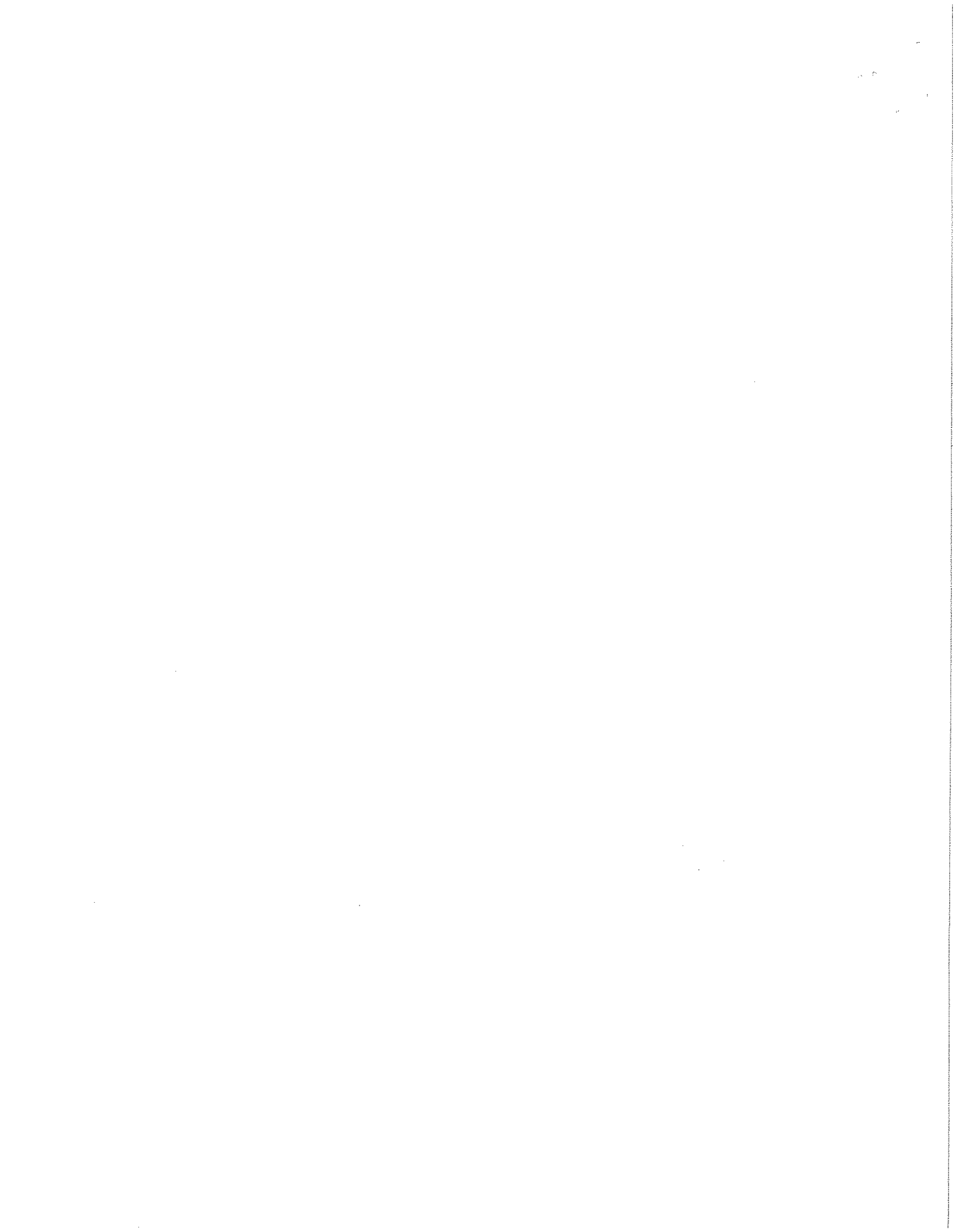
REENACTMENT GUIDE BOOK

A guide book (or books) is being prepared for publication for the guidance of all prospective participants and spectators during the Bicentennial Reenactment of the March to Quebec, in 1975 (AEQ-'75) .

It will probably be printed in three volumes. Volume I will include the scheduled program of the reenactment activities, maps associated with the march route, a list of lodging facilities, campgrounds and trailer parks, pictorial maps, showing historic site locations, a list of markers and monuments.

Volume II will be an illustrated catalogue of recommended authentic uniforms, dress, and accouterments required for all participants in the reenactment; a list of recommendations for camping, canoeing, and back-packing; with advertising by Maine's leading dealers and suppliers, outfitters and makers of boats, trailers, campers, tents, wearing apparel and other items associated with an operation such as our unique reenactment of the 1775 march.

Volume III will be mostly a collectors souvenir booklet of the whole event from Cambridge, Mass. to Quebec City, including photographs of outstanding historic sites, monuments and markers, soldiers in uniform, prominent persons involved in Project AEQ-'75, and a brief accounting of the original expedition. There will also be other attractive features. The format and price has not been determined. The first volume is expected to be available this fall. Limited advertising space is now open with rates also to be determined.



BICENTENNIAL REENACTMENT PARTICIPATION

The 200th anniversary of the founding of America will be commemorated by a big birthday-party starting next year with the AEHS sponsoring, with the support of the Maine American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, one of the largest and most impressive programs of the Bicentennial. Eight States and the Province of Quebec are involved.

Plans are fast firming up as interest mounts in every area. Thousands are involved. Will you be taking part in America's greatest Birthday party ?

Active participation parts are fast being filled. The number is limited, although there are a number of ways in which to participate, such as volunteer office work, publicity and public relations work, physical labor, services, guides, traffic control, hosts and hostesses, information booth tenders, first-aid, and others.

We would be delighted to see everyone dressed in appropriate Revolutionary period attire, dress, or uniforms. Such dress would add much to the spirit of the event. Period style dress patterns are expected to be included in one of our guide books to be released in time for you to make your own, or they can be rented at several costume shops. The Drapeau Costume Shop in Lewiston, Maine is one source.

MAINE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

ENDORSES ABQ-'75

As this newsletter is going to the printers, confirmation by phone has confirmed that the MARBC has endorsed our project ABQ-'75 (the Reenactment of the Arnold Expedition to Quebec, in 1975). This news is most encouraging, following the endorsement of the Massachusetts American Revolution Bicentennial Commission only a few days previous.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those responsible for passing this action ' through the mill '.

FIFE & DRUM MUSICK

Fred Silverstein of the Old North Bridge Records, Concord, Mass. has graciously donated to the AEHS a sound tape of thirteen assorted fife and drum musical selections. One, or several, of these selections will be incorporated into our TV, record and film presentations, which are in the process of development.

This music is from an album titled " Grand Musick." Being a presentation of Revolutionary Fife and Drum musick as performed by selected Minute and Militia Companies of the Massachusetts Bay Colonie ". It will be released about May 1st. Copies may be ordered from Old North Bridge Records, P.O.Box 1976, Concors, MA 01742, for \$3.98.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Lee Farrell, of South Gardiner, Maine has been appointed as Public Relations Director for the AEHS. Lee, a hospital laboratory technician, and band leader, manages to devote time to arrange and participate in lectures, radio and TV shows and militia meetings in promoting our Society and the Colburn Company, of which he is also a member. Congratulations Lee !

BUSY BEES

Time and space does not allow me here to mention and describe the time and labor contributed by many of our loyal and devoted members. However, I would like to mention a few of them as I personally express my feeling of thanks and gratitude to all of you who are helping to make some of our dreams become realized.

Dr. George B. Dyer, Pennsylvania State Coordinator, also playing the part of Capt. Dan Morgan of the Pennsylvania & Virginia Riflemen; Tom Nolan, New York State Coordinator, and organizer of General Montgomery's Army; Bob Cunningham, AEHS First Vice-President, AEQ-'75 promoter and AEHS-Washington Liaison Officer; Crosby Milliman, New Hampshire State Coordinator, Authenticity Specialist and Committee member; John Skillin, Member of State Planners Authenticity Committee and Historical Researcher; Colonel Anthony Walker, Rhode Island State Coordinator and Historical Researcher; Ed Williams, Connecticut State Coordinator; Joe Brown, Massachusetts State Coordinator; Neil MacLean AEHS officer and Aide-de-Camp to the President; Lee Farrell Publicity Relations Officer; and Colonel Thornton McGlamery, Reenactment Director AEQ-'75.

In Quebec, Father Provost is an outstanding and devoted worker who has contributed much time and effort in liaison assistance to the AEHS.

No doubt a number of other Canadian friends are about to emerge as outstanding individuals in our mutual undertakings involving U.S.-Canadian cooperation. Among these are Mr. Jules Blanchet, City Councillor of Quebec City; Mr. Jean-Claude Simard, Director General of International Relations, Quebec; Mr. Michel Gagnon, Representing Urban City of Quebec, and Mayor Gillies Lamontagne of Quebec City.

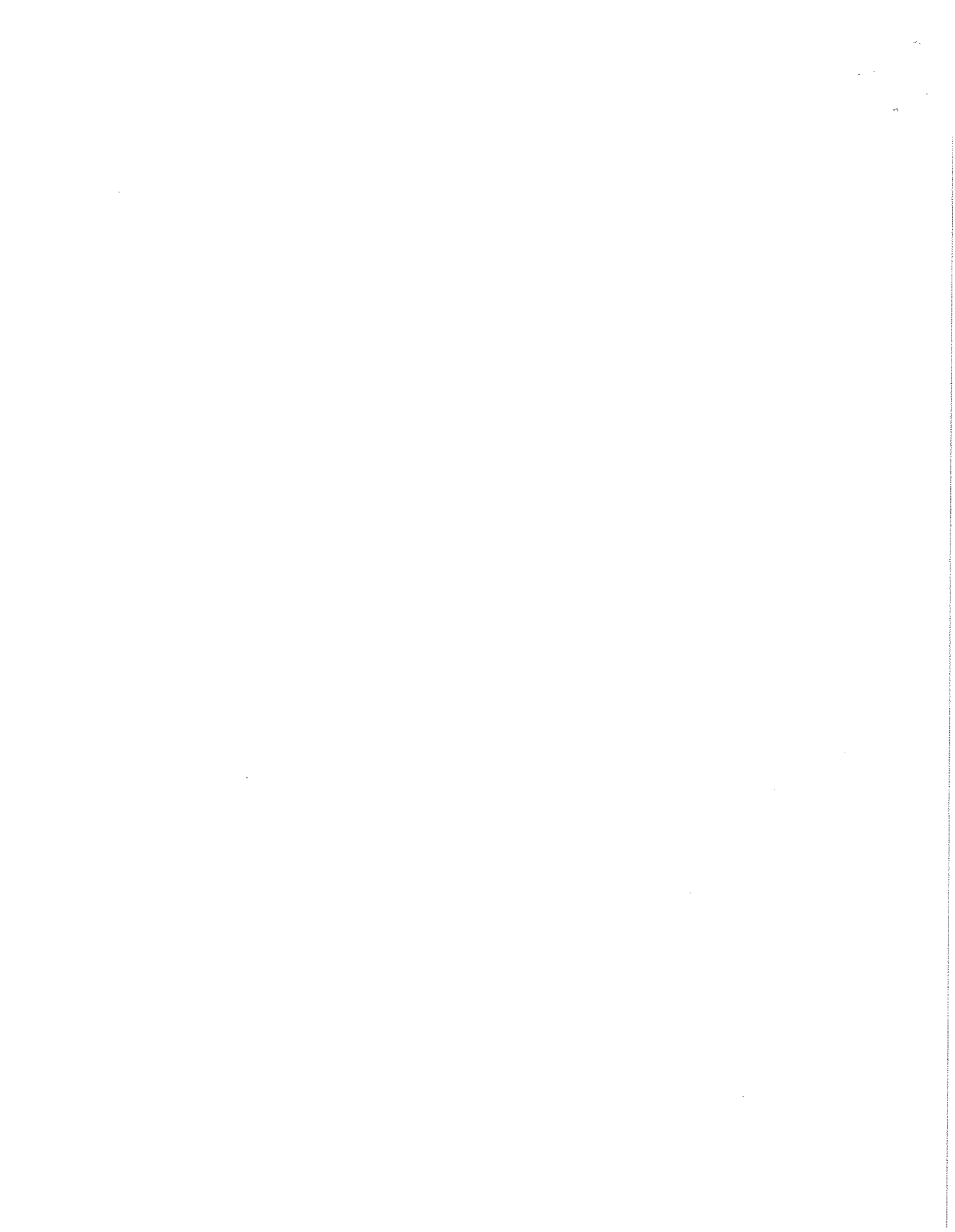
There are many others in our fast growing organization of devoted workers. They will be listed in further publications. Many thanks to you all.

MARBC GRANT

In June 1973, The Maine American Revolution Bicentennial Commission granted to the Arnold Expedition Historical Society the sum of seven thousand dollars for planning funds for project AEQ-'75. However, these funds were dispersed in different categories to seven states and the Province of Quebec. Our Society and a number of patriotic and enthusiastic individual members, including the several State Coordinators have expended from their own pockets many thousands of dollars and hours in time in planning and organizing this project. I am proud of each and every one of them. The Spirit of '76 still prevails.

I am dear Friends, and Members, your most Humble and Obedient Servant.

White Nichols, Pres.



CLEANINGS

NAILS AND WROUGHT IRON

Nails, so commonplace to-day, were not always so. Hand forged from European wrought iron, itself in short supply to a young nation at war, their availability was crucial to the building of the batteaux at Colburn's. This fact was of course recognized by the early planners of the Expedition when in an exploratory letter to Major Colburn, relative to the building of 200 batteaux, the only question was " whether a sufficient quantity of nails can be procured with you ". All else, the sufficiency of lumber, labor and expertise was assumed. Thus it was a way of life in those times, nails were not to be presumed. Colburn's answer must have been in the affirmative for he later received the order to build the batteaux.

What of these nails, so critical, and the material from which they were made ? First the material, wrought iron, the only ferrous metal known to the eighteenth century and used for all forging applications from anchor chains to Kentucky rifle barrels. The first reduction of iron ore produces so-called pig iron which in turn is melted and by a hand puddling process the result of which is wrought iron, sometimes called puddled iron. It's qualities are ductility, forge weldability, extreme resistance to deterioration by rust, (after perhaps 200 years the nails in the Everson bateau are in excellent condition) comparative low tensile strength and an almost complete lack of carbon so essential to tool steel. It was early learned, by accident, that repeated heating and subsequent hammering or forging, refined the metal and in the heating process carbon was slowly absorbed from the fire and thus the first tool steel came from wrought iron. Thirty years before the Revolution an Englishman discovered a process for adding carbon to the molten metal in a crucible and the product was called Cast Steel. Although the process has not been used for at least half a century cutting tools for wood working made from this metal have never been improved upon, indeed if equalled. This was the tool steel from the Mother Country with which, in hands of skilled men, the batteaux were hewn and hammered into shape in record time.

Hand making of nails was a three operation procedure, all of them at a red hot temperature. First the two to three foot long square nail rod was removed from the forge and on the anvil the hot end was hammered on all four sides to a tapered point after which (second operation) it was cut off to the desired length on the anvil's hardy; third, the cut off nails were reheated and a head quickly hammered out. This nailmaking went on everywhere, there professionals who did nothing else and part timers who did it in the home with a small forge incorporated into the fireplace. Thomas Jefferson's name is wrapped up in the subject of nail making (attesting to the respectibility and patriotism of the profession). A letter from Jefferson, dated at Monticello, April 29 1795, to M.de Meunier, quote " in our private pursuits it is a great advantage that every honest employment is deemed honorable. I am myself a nail maker ".

The nails used in the Expedition's batteaux, it would seem safe to presume, closely resembled contemporary nails found in the Everson bateau and in the construction of the Colburn home. That is a tee headed square nail about two inches in length made by the above process. The heads are rather crude, but none the less effective, indicating perhaps their source being " partimers " of the Kennebec Valley.

Cecil Pierce

