

ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO. 23

JUNE 1, 1974

Greetings to AEHS Members and Friends

ANNUAL MEETING

On June 30th we will celebrate our sixth birthday. This event, known as our annual meeting, will be held at the Major Colburn House in Pittston, Maine.

A business session is scheduled for ^{1:00 P.M.} ~~ten thirty (10:30) o'clock in the morning~~, at which time a slate of officers will be presented for election.

Also of importance: we have drafted a number of proposed changes in our by-laws which will be acted upon at this session.

A copy of these proposed changes is enclosed for your perusal. We feel that these changes are necessary to keep our Society in an efficient operating condition. The most important changes will be to add a second vice-president as an officer, and to add several new membership classifications.

Members and guests attending the annual meeting are invited to bring a picnic lunch and spend the day. Hot coffee will be served. The Board of Directors will also meet at ten o'clock, preceding the general meeting.

NEWPORT, R.I. MEETING

Twenty five officials involved in the Reenactment to Quebec, 1975 (AEQ-75) met at Newport, Rhode Island, on May 11 - 12 for further planning and organizing of this great undertaking. The Company Commanders for their first session met with the State Planners and Coordinators, mainly to discuss rules and regulations concerning the safety factors of the march and simulated battle at Quebec. About fifteen wives who were Mother's Day guests at the gathering enjoyed a guided tour of the Newport area, as well as dinner at the Pier. The next meeting will be held in Pennsylvania in October.

MONTGOMERY'S ARMY

Tom Nolan of Arden, New York, who is our New York State Coordinator, is organizing General Montgomery's Army to follow the route of the original expedition north, along Lake Champlain to Montreal; then to Quebec to meet Arnold's army for the simulated attack upon the city. The grand reenactment now involves three armies; Arnold's, General Montgomery's and the British Army in Quebec. There is no question but this will be the most grandiose event of the American Revolution Bicentennial, involving eight states and the Province of Quebec, as well as the United States and Canadian Federal governments.

REENACTMENT PARTICIPATION

We would like to freshen your memory that the American Revolution Bicentennial Commemorative Activities of the 200th Birthday of our Nation will start next year; and that your Society, the AEHS, has been planning for two years for one of the most outstanding events of this momentous occasion.

We want you all to participate in this great birthday party, which will never again happen. It is your Society and your party. Become involved. Take part. Contribute. If you must be a spectator, dress for the occasion. Get a costume of the Revolutionary times. Join in the fun. The spirit of '75 still burns in American hearts.

QUEBEC TOUR

Chip Paul, Box 63, Trenton, New Jersey, 08613, who is conducting the grand guided reenactment tour to Quebec next year, is conducting a four day tour to that city along the Arnold Trail route this year. His flyer is enclosed in this mailing.

KENNEBEC RIVER CRUISE

Plans have not materialized yet for our annual river cruise up the Kennebec River. Problems related to docking and bussing have not been resolved as of this writing. However, we hope to have arrangements made in time for notification in our next Newsletter.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS & UNDERWATER SEARCHES

There is a tremendous amount of archaeological digging to be done at the various dig sites along the Arnold Trail in Maine; especially at the Agry Shipyard in Pittston, the Colburn Shipyard, the Evergreens Campground and Cartatunk Falls portage in Solon, and the Carry Ponds Campground.

There are many campfire sites to be located and excavated as well as the log hospital site (known as Fort Meigo) in the area where so many interesting artifacts have been found.

Unfavorable, muddy, and high water conditions have hindered and delayed underwater surveys of the Agry and Colburn Shipyard sites in Pittston. These are potential sites and we hope to make important finds in these areas this season.

All parties interested in participating in any of these projects should notify us at once, to enable us to schedule a working session. No projects will be scheduled otherwise. Dig procedure booklets for AEHS projects are available for fifty cents at our office.

FUND RAISING

All AEHS members are reminded that we are now in the midst of great activity involving the planning and organization of the great reenactment of the March to Quebec in 1975. This involvement includes thousands of hours of volunteer time by many of our loyal members. It also involves many thousands of dollars in monetary spending.

Any possible monetary gain from this operation will be used for trail and site acquisition and maintenance, also for our museum and library.

A major fund raising program is now being launched. Maine industry, in particular, will be asked to contribute to Maine's most outstanding Bicentennial event.

Our filming committee is endeavoring to locate a movie producer for developing a top quality film on the Arnold expedition. Several arrangements are

being considered, including a documentary film, as well as the filming of the reenactment. We are in a position to offer our resources and technical assistance to any producer that wants to work with us. We expect to be able to announce that a deal has been arranged in time for our summer Newsletter.

MINOR FUND RAISING PROJECTS

We now have several fund raising projects underway to partially offset the accelerating costs of administration, including office expenses.

We are now offering for sale, a limited number of pewter-alloy medallions about the size of a silver dollar. The face design depicts four men in a bateau on the water of a wooded background. The reverse commemorates the epic trek of 1100 soldiers under Col. Benedict Arnold across 300 miles of wilderness from Fort Western, Maine to storm the British fortress at Quebec, September, December, 1775.

It is also designed for use as a pendant. By mail, postage paid, in a plastic case, it is available to AEHS members for \$2.75. Order from Gardiner, Maine.

BUMPER STICKERS

Made of durable vinyl, size 3 x 18 inches, color forest-green on white. Inscribed "ON TO QUEBEC! JOIN AEQ-75". Price \$1.00 prepaid.

PICTORIAL TRAIL MAPS

Shows route of the Arnold Trail through Maine with pictorial highlights, simulated birch bark, antique motif, 17½ x 22½ inches. Fine for framing. \$2.00 postpaid.

PICTORIAL BOOKLET - ARNOLD'S MARCH TO QUEBEC

20 page, 3 color documentary pictorial booklet by S. W. Hilton, Maine's well known historical interpretive panel artist. \$1.60 postpaid.

LAPEL OR TIE PINS

Beautiful gold or silver plated pins of Arnold bateau. Most appropriate AEHS symbol for the Bicentennial Commemoration. \$5.00 postpaid.

All of these items can be obtained from AEHS Headquarters, Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine 04345

All funds collected from this source will be used for AEHS and AEQ-75 projects.

1974-75 DUES

Membership dues for the 1974-75 fiscal year are payable on June 30th. Checks should be made out to AEHS. All funds received before July 15th, can be used to match a Bicentennial grant for our reenactment. Let's make it worth while.

Your most humble and obedient servant...

White Nichols, Pres., AEHS