

ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gardiner, Me. 04345

Tel. 207-582-7080

NEWSLETTER No. 26

April 10, 1975

To All AEHS Members, Associates and Friends:

This is the year, 1975, that marks the beginning of our 200th anniversary of this great nation; the battle at Concord and Lexington, the battle at Bunker Hill; the Arnold-Allen capture of Fort Ticonderoga, Gen. Washington forcing the British out of Boston in 1775; the burning of Fort Pownall in Maine by the British in 1775; the capture of Crown Point in the summer of 1775; and the capture of the British ships, Margarett and the Unity at Machias in June 1775.

These military actions, highlighted by the Arnold-Montgomery expeditions to Canada, mark the beginning of actual conflict and eventual separation between the colonies and England.

Although our various National and State bicentennial commissions emphasize the year 1776 in their publicity, some of the most significant action of the American Revolution occurred in 1775.

Consequently, the States of Massachusetts, Maine, New York, and several other northern states, will be ushering in the Bicentennial period this year with commemorative events that promise to outshadow others to follow. Probably the most outstanding and comprehensive of these events will be the Reenactment of the Arnold-Montgomery expeditions to Canada, to take place from September 20 to October 5.

This operation is sponsored by the AEHS, and is an interstate, inter-national affair, setting a number of unusual precedents in its organization and operation.

The states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania are directly involved, as well as the Province of Quebec in Canada.

Cooperation, in most cases, has been excellent, ranging from the private soldier to high military and political officials, and governmental agencies.

We have been especially pleased with the fine support and cooperation of the Canadian and Quebec officials. Unusual situations and problems have been ironed out with courtesy, speed and efficiency.

Recently, in the State of New Hampshire, the State Legislature, through an introduction by Representative Noreen Winkley, authorized the presentation of a ceremonial state flag to the AEHS to be used in the reenactment. The presentation includes a staff and stand. The New Hampshire Bicentennial Commission had previously endorsed our reenactment project.

Col. Thornton McGlamery, our Reenactment Director, from Mount Vernon, Maine, a native born Virginian has seen to it that the Virginia colors will be flying alongside those of her sister participating states as we march to Quebec this fall.

NATIONAL GUARD SUPPORT

The Maine National Guard has made a most significant contribution to the reenactment by furnishing a fleet of troop transports and other complementary vehicles to move the AEQ force from the Colburn Headquarters to Quebec City and return.

Some emergency vehicles, such as evacuation helicopters, will be on a stand-by basis in case of need.

This support from the Maine National Guard has eliminated one of our major problems. We are heavily indebted to them.

We take this opportunity to publicly express our gratitude to the Adjutant-General and his staff in helping to make Operation AEQ-75 a promising success.

FURTHER COOPERATION

There are others that have contributed, and will be contributing, to AEQ; they will be acknowledged at a later date. However, for the moment I would like to emphasize the need of further contributions in the form of sustenance for the participating troops.

As the army proceeds along the march route we are hoping that patriotic and civic organizations of the various communities will be able to contribute some meals in turn for the entertainment and education that the expedition will be presenting to the public. The Koussonic Chapter DAR, of Augusta, is the first such organization to offer such services. They will serve the first meal to the army upon arrival at Fort Western in Augusta, on September 27th.

STATE PLANNERS & COORDINATOR'S MEETING

State Planners and Coordinator's of the various states involved in the reenactment met on February 22nd at the home of Reenactment Director, Thornton McGlamery, at Mount Vernon, Maine.

Division commanders were briefed and some revisions in plans were made. More details were proposed pending final approval at a future coordinator's meeting.

Director McGlamery gave a detailed progress report noting a few unresolved problems. A buffet lunch was served by Col. and Mrs. McGlamery. It is evident that things are beginning to fall in place after months of planning, negotiations, meetings, letter writing and traveling, accompanied with occasional frustrations. Much credit is due to Thornton and members of his staff for their thoroughness in planning and detail.

COLBURN MILITIA COMPANY BALL

On the evening of February 22nd, the Colburn Militia Company held a costume ball and buffet dinner at the Holiday Inn, Augusta.

Many attractive uniforms and gowns were displayed by members of AEQ staff and personnel, including the Colburn, McCobb and Goodrich companies.

This was the first of several costume balls to be held by our organization during the Bicentennial period. The next is scheduled for May 16, as part of Fort Western Day ceremonies, in Augusta. Details elsewhere.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The AEHS Semi-annual meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in Augusta on Sunday, February 23.

Over one hundred people attended this successful event; a social and educational affair with interesting exhibits, reports from the various State coordinators and the Reenactment Director.

The entertainment was featured by musical interludes furnished by the Griffith Trio of Monmouth; also bagpipe solos played by David Holmes of Detroit, Maine and John Bearce of Gardiner.

Bob Cunningham, Society V.P., showed his excellent slide presentation related to AEQ activities.

Attendance included the states of Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, and St. Georges, Quebec.

An excellent buffet dinner topped the occasion.

FUTURE PLANS

We are frequently asked "What will happen to the AEHS after the reenactment?" Will you dissolve?"

To these questions I must answer that the reenactment will be only the beginning (a jet take-off for many years of education, recreation, entertainment and cultural advancement; all associated with good fellowship.)

Some of the plans and hopes include the development of the Colburn House complex as an educational center in the fields of research and history of the Arnold expedition (and related subjects); the Maine Indian (especially those that inhabited the Kennebec-Chaudiere travel route): a continuation of archaeological search and research (an unlimited area from Popham to Quebec); the exploration, acquisition, surveying, marking, and maintenance of the Arnold Trail (nearly 200 miles in Maine!):

Sponsoring and conducting tours along the march route; Kennebec River cruises, trail hikes, and bateau-canoe trips; the construction and use of a boat building facility at the Colburn shipyard site as a living museum depicting bateau building (a boat landing will be erected there this season); the reconstruction of the Colburn barn for use as a combination exhibition, projection and meeting rooms (this project has already been started by the State Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Unresolved at present is the source of funding for the construction of a second floor to be used for film projections, meetings, entertainment and militia drill by the Colburn Militia Company.)

Other work by the Parks Bureau includes the restoration of the old carriage house which will house the AEHS office that presently occupies the main house living room.

Three pictorial interpretative panels, created by S.W.Hilton Weld, Maine artist, will be erected this spring at the Route 27 intersection near the Colburn House.

A 30 foot flag pole will be erected on the front lawn, near the drive, for retreat and ceremonial services.

WORK UNDERWAY

New cedar shingles (220 bundles!) are now in the process of being applied to the house, barn and carriage house.

When this project is complete, work will start immediately on painting the outside of the buildings. Also three modern toilets will soon be erected at strategic locations on the property.

It now appears that we shall be shipshape for the arrival of the Arnold Army, their families and friends, when they arrive in September; thanks to the fine cooperation of the Parks Bureau.

REENACTMENT PLANNING & PREPARATION

On the week-end of June 28-29, Divisional and Company Commanders of the reenacted Arnold force will partake in a reconnaissance tour of the Arnold route to Quebec.

This recon group, led by Reenactment Director, Thornton McGlamery and several of his staff, will start at the Colburn House headquarters, follow, inspect and review the travel route, sites and campgrounds in readiness for the fall event.

The detail will involve the three divisional commanders, fourteen company commanders and the director with several staff members and guides.

ENLISTMENT NEARING COMPLETION

Enlistment level in the Arnold Army has now reached nearly 85% of full quota (about 600) with applications arriving daily.

Enrollment will be closed when full strength is reached, as logistical limitations forbid further personnel increase.

Some of the companies have already reached their quota. We regret this decision as many desirable persons will have to be rejected.

BOY SCOUT SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

This Boy Scout unit of thirty members, mostly Eagle Scouts, has reached its full quota according to Ed Knox, their Reenactment Leader from Pine Tree Council Headquarters in Portland.

They expect to be fully uniformed (Colonial period) in time to participate in Fort Western Day activities on May 17, at Augusta.

About half of this unit will serve as a color-guard in special ceremonies and parades during the reenactment. Others will serve in special capacities.

The full unit will also participate in a trail reconnaissance in late spring in order to become acquainted with the trail area.

BICENTENNIAL ENDORSEMENTS

Operation AEQ-75, the American Expedition to Quebec, 1975 has been officially endorsed by the Bicentennial Commissions of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut; while our Montgomery Expedition to Quebec has been officially endorsed by the New York Bicentennial Commission.

- We are awaiting action from the Pennsylvania Commission, if only to honor Capt. Dan Morgan, who served his country so well.

CANADIAN PARTICIPATION & INVOLVEMENT

Canadian interest, especially on the march route along the Chaudiere River, has increased to a point that now rivals our Kennebec neighbors.

The revised general plans for the reenactment now includes campovers and ceremonies at Lac Megantic, St. Georges, Ste. Marie and Levis along the Chaudiere River route.

We have been informed that the Provincial government will erect historic interpretative panels (similar to the Hilton panels) at roadside turnout sites in those communities, as well as plaques in Quebec City.

Municipal and private officials in St. Georges were the first of those communities to start planning and organizing for appropriate ceremonies and events when one of our divisions will make an overnight stop there on October 1st. St. Georges promises to become an excellent example of Canadian enthusiasm, initiative and cooperation.

Negotiations are proceeding well at Ste. Maire, while Lac Megantic and Levis are expected to follow suit.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

TV FILMING

On Saturday, March 8, a four man crew of cameramen and technicians from CBC spent the better half of a day filming winter scenes of Maine's reactivated Revolutionary soldiers of the Arnold expeditionary force simulating various military actions associated with the march to Quebec in 1775.

The cast, (including several women) all authentically dressed and equipped, set up tent, marched, charged, stumbled in a foot of snow while carrying three heavy bateaux; crowded around a wilderness campfire partaking of one lone skinny and smoky rabbit, while officers plotted their course through the Maine-Quebec wilderness.

The scenes, all unbelievably realistic, were to be part of a CBS 60 minute program devoted to our upcoming reenactment of the invasion of Canada to take place this fall.

The militia companies involved in these maneuvers were the Oliver Colburn Co. of Pittston, Camuel McCobb Company of Detroit, Maine and the Capt. Goodrich Company of York, Maine.

OTHER FILMING

No satisfactory movie filming arrangement has been finalized at the time of this writing, although there are several possibilities in the development stage.

We feel that it would be a great loss of opportunity not to take advantage of the resources that we have, and which will prevail for several months, to produce major dramatic and documentary filming of this momentous event. The time is closing in fast.

PHILATELISTS-ATTENTION!

The Maine Philatelic Society is featuring a special Bicentennial cachet cover depicting the March of the Arnold army to Quebec in 1775.

This cover will be postmarked "Gardinerstown" and carried to Quebec by the Reenactment Army in September; backstamped at Quebec City, and will be available in October after the march. Suggested as a desirable collector's item of historical significance.

The cost is \$1.25, and the MPS has agreed to divide one-half share of the profit with our Society. We can use it folks! Order now. Order direct from Earl C. Brooks, Maipex Sandy Point, Maine 04972. Enclose a large #10, self addressed, stamped envelope.

MAINE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION GRANT

We take great pleasure in announcing the receipt of a matching fund grant of \$6200 from the Maine American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. The grant, awarded March 25th, includes the sum of twelve hundred dollars for insurance involving various hazards in reenactment activity.

The balance will be deposited in our AEQ-Escrow Fund, and will be expended primarily for food and related logistical expenses. The AEQ is required to match these funds for the same purposes. We still need about two thousand additional dollars to balance our projected requirements.

We are deeply appreciative to the MARBC and its Director, Donna Thibodeau, for their fine support and cooperation. It is a good feeling to know that Maine people are 'at hand' when needed.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

This is an appropriate time for your president to also express his gratitude to all of our faithful members that are responding to our special fund appeal to support the costs of planning and organizing the reenactment expedition to Quebec this fall.

As costly as it will be, we believe that it is a good investment, with the resulting, rewards for surpassing the costs.

We appreciate the effect of the economic bind on the pocket-book, and are doubly grateful to all that have responded, regardless of the amount. It is the devoted folks like you that have put our Society in the high standing that we have the honor to claim. Again, our thanks.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

With the years of 1975-76 spotlighting the Bicentennial of the birth of America and one of its most outstanding military actions

(the Arnold expedition), we may witness the greatest participant and spectator activity in the history of our State, here in Maine.

Our reenactment will be the most outstanding Bicentennial attraction. We want everyone of our members to witness or take part in, this event.

Don't you have a friend, acquaintance, relative or family member, that would like to join in this birthday party, or get involved? Just one? If all of you could get one person to become a member of our Society, it would double the pleasure, education and fellowship of our great family, and assist us in further reaching some of our worthy goals.

Mail us names and addresses and we will do the rest. Invite someone to the reenactment events along the march route from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Quebec City through the scenic Kennebec, Dead River, and Chaudiere valleys.

It will never happen again. Last call!

RIVER CRUISES

Our Society is planning to conduct at least one river cruise on the Kennebec this season. Finalization of plans and negotiations will not be in time to give details until the June Newsletter (or a special bulletin).

For the first time we shall be able to land at the Colburn shipyard site, thereby eliminating the bus trip from Richmond to Pittston and return.

The State Bureau of Parks and Recreation plans to have a dock landing facility installed at the shipyard site by early summer.

Such a facility will contribute greatly to the convenience and comfort of marine visitors, especially during reenactment time, with the arrival of the Newburyport fleet and attendant followers.

QUEBEC TOURS

Again, finalization of negotiations and arrangements for several tour packages to Quebec this season, and during the reenactment, will not be in time to include this information in this Newsletter.

However, we do expect to have a tour package to fit your time and pocketbook; also to have the info in time for you to plan your schedule, even if we have to mail a special bulletin.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS

We hope to make additional important discoveries at several of our archaeological sites this season; the three main ones being the Carry Ponds Hospital site, the Evergreens Campground, and the Colburn Shipyard site.

Weather conditions will largely determine when digs will be conducted. Hopefully, one will be held on May 3rd at the Shipyard site; another on May 31-June 1, at the hospital site.

Those that wish to participate should submit their intentions now. Information will be forwarded only to those that are intended.

Harold Brown of Bath, and the Elliots from New Harbor, will again lead several of these digs. What valuable relic will be recovered this year?

GIRL SCOUT PROJECT

The Gardiner, Maine Girl Scout Cadette Troop #531, having expressed a desire to participate in the Bicentennial Commemoration have published and contributed to our Society 75 copies of an 80-p mimeographed booklet on "Ideas for Bicentennial Constumes, Designs and Details".

One note explains that: This is not a polished study, but is intended only to be a helpful guide in creating costumes for our bi-centennial.

Included are ideas and designs of elegant and everyday dress. Fabric samples are "similar: in color and texture as those suggested in the research."

The Scouts and their leaders devoted a lot of time and effort to this project, and the Society expresses its appreciation for this much needed contribution.

This is a non-profit project, although costly. I am sure that these girls would appreciate any contribution from those that may acquire one of these booklets at our office. If ordered by mail, kindly send 50¢ to cover mailing and postage costs.

Most of these girls will become baby-sitters at our campgrounds, during the reenactment.

CRAFTSMAN'S EXHIBIT

Preliminary plans are underway for an exhibit of Revolutionary period crafts at the Colburn House and Bar, this summer and fall. Metal, wood and leather crafts, costumes, weaving, and possibly a blacksmith shop are anticipated.

CHAIRS NEEDED

The Colburn barn will be available for use this summer for meetings (during inclement weather) and exhibits. However, we may have to sit on the floor unless some kind individuals will donate some chairs. We could use a hundred. Think of us when doing your spring cleaning!

CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, May 3rd is designated as our annual clean-up day at the Colburn House. We do need your assistance in preparing the grounds for a busy season. Bring a picnic lunch and spend the day with us. Don't forget to bring your favorite tools. If stormy, come on Sunday, the 4th.

YORK MUSTER

The third annual York Muster will be held on August 2-3 this year. Mark this date on your calendar; it will be an event well worth attending. Details forthcoming in our June Newsletter.

FORT WESTERN COLONIAL BALL

Saturday, May 17th will be a big day for Augusta and Fort Western devotees as the day is officially designated as "Fort Western Day" with a big parade, including three State Colonial Militia companies of the reenactment army, and other activities.

The event will be highlighted the eve before, Friday, May 16th, when a Fort Western Colonial Ball will be held at the National Guard Armory on Western Avenue. It is co-sponsored by our Society, the Colburn Militia Company, Friends of Fort Western, Dresden Historical Society and the Richmond Historical Society. Revolutionary period costumes are encouraged, but not essential.

Tickets are now on sale at the Colburn House, the Melody Shop in Augusta, Pierce's store in Richmond and Al Corey's Music Center, Main Street, Waterville, Maine. The pre-sale price of tickets is \$2.50 per person, and \$3.00 at the door. Al Corey's 12-piece orchestra with female singer, from Waterville, will furnish the music. The time 8:30-12:30. Reservations can also be made for ten-place party tables at \$2.50 per person. Organize your party now.

Make checks payable to FORT WESTERN COLONIAL BALL. Mail to AEHS, Box 1775, Pittston, Maine, 04345.

CAMP RENTAL

The Society's ranger cabin located at Middle Carry Pond (on the Arnold Trail) will be available to AEHS members for season rental this year. This simulated log cabin, sitting on the lake shore will sleep four. Gas lights, refrigerator and cooker. Also wood stove and kerosene lamps. Drive to door. Isolated, wilderness-like. A chance to get away from it all. Five hundred for the season. Inquire AEHS, Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine 04345.

EDMUND F. SKILLIN

Friends and relatives of Edmund F. Skillin of Freeport, will be saddened to know of the passing of one of our prominent and respected charter members. Ed, the father of John Skillin, AEHS researcher, and Captain of the Colburn Militia Company, was well known in Museum and historical circles for his outstanding collection of scrimshaw. — Sympathies are extended to family members.

Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant,

White Nichols

GLEANINGS

REUBEN COLBURN

Reuben Colburn - unlike that other great land owner across the river from him, Sylvester Gardiner - was a staunch Patriot and well known as such to those who were dedicated to freedom in Boston and other parts. He was destined to be, next to Arnold, the most important man as regards the Expedition to Quebec. For without the drive of this man, there would not have been built the crucial bateaux.

In 1759, the formidable Wolfe had taken the fortress of Quebec with a resulting treaty, in 1763, signed by France giving up Canada. This was the end of the French and Indian War. The Redman was no longer a menace to Maine lands. It was this year, and undoubtedly the cessation of hostilities, that brought Reuben Colburn - later he would become Major Colburn - and others to Gardinerston on the Kennebec. He settled on two hundred and fifty acres on the east side of the river, where the town of Pittston is today. Here he proceeded to build a shipyard, and back of it, on an eminence, a fine dominating home, which stands today much as it was originally built. Indeed, he must have been a man of extraordinary energy and prevision, for in the next ten years he was to acquire additional land by the square mile.

In August of 1775, Colburn made three trips, by horseback, to Cambridge where planning for a Quebec campaign was going on. He acted as a consultant on all matters relative to the route, type of conveyance, and availability of provisions on the Kennebec. On the third trip he brought home with him an order, the likes of which few men, then or later, would have had the courage to accept; an order to construct 200 bateaux complete with 800 oars, 400 paddles, 400 setting poles, all to be, of course, hewn out by hand. When completed, the bateaux placed end to end would reach up the river a mile! In about 20 days, Arnold and 1100 men would be in Gardinerston for them.

That journey home, which was to take two of his precious days, must have been laden heavily with thoughts of accomplishing this tremendous task of construction. Where would he get twenty thousand board feet of long wide boards? Would the sparse working population, half of them Torys, rise to the occasion? It would take thousands of hand made nails; were they, or the iron to forge them from, available? Of one thing he was certain, this bountiful region had unlimited supply of virgin pine and oak needing only to be cut and sawed, but would the water power mills on the little Nahumkeag Stream and Togus Stream, up river, have enough water running, in late summer, for operation? We, today, only know that he was successful in mastering all problems for when Arnold and the expedition arrived, the boats were ready.

After the Revolution, this influential man was a very successful shipbuilder and lumber producer; active as a Town Officer and the Region's first Representative to the General Court.

Today the granite shaft of his monument towers above the little grave yard, across the highway from his home, much as he did to his contemporaries in life.

Cecil Pierce

COMMODORE ARNOLD
FEATURED IN NEW BOOK

Capt. D. M. Bradford Williams has completed Volume One of "Commodore Benedict Arnold, Founding Father of Our United States Navy and Marine Corps." Captain Williams describes the book as "A Seaman's Biography of Benedict Arnold, the Untold Naval Saga of the American Revolution."

Capt. Williams, in his preview of the book, included three comments from 239 highly favorable comments on the Battle of Valcour island in his files. These were collected from American and foreign sources. They follows:

"Benedict Arnold scored the only significant American naval success of the American Revolution."

(This quotation from SEA POWER, A NAVAL HISTORY, the definitive naval history text employed at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Senior editors: The late Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, U. S. Navy, and Dr. E. P. Potter, head, Department of Naval History, U. S. Naval Academy.)

"Col. Benedict Arnold captured the British Royal Navy armed sloop at St. Johns, Quebec, Canada, 18 May 1775. Arnold renamed her ENTERPRISE. Those humble beginnings by Arnold were the first efforts made by any of the American colonies to develop armed forces afloat. The pay roll of Col. Benedict Arnold's captured ENTERPRISE is the earliest existing record of United States Marines."

(From a "History of the United States Marine Corps," by Lieut. Col. Clyde H. Metcalf, U.S. Marine Corps.)

"11-13 October 1776: Benedict Arnold's Fleet Saves The Nation."

(From "The U. S. Navy, A Chronological History." Division of Naval History, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Department of the Navy.)

Captain Williams states that his book contains all new material which had never previously reached the American public. His book is the result of 20 years of deep research: he was aided in this by the late Admiral Henry Kent Hewitt, U.S.N. of Orwell, Vt.

Commenting on the book, Captain Williams said:

"No other navy throughout recorded history got under way from speed zero by capturing its first two warships."

"This is the true and incredible story of the real birth of our Navy and Marine Corps. never, repeat never, previously related in toto. The truth emerges following two centuries of skillfully managed history."

"Our original Navy and Marine Corps were born at Skenesborough (present Whitehall), New York. Definitely not at Philadelphia or anywhere else. And quite definitely not created by George Washington, our Continental Congress, or anyone other than Commodore Benedict Arnold, British-American merchant marine."

"Capture of sloop-of-war Liberty, by Commodore Arnold's own seamen and original eight ratlin marines, was the very first aggressive/offense action taken by our American rebel patriots. The painless capture of Fort Ticonderoga by Commodore/Colonel Benedict Arnold and outlawed landgrabber Ethan Allen, occurred the following day."

"Commodore Arnold's original two-ship naval squadron, manned by salty seagoing seamen and ratlin marines from his personally owned merchant ships, maintained command of our inland sea - strategic Lake Champlain - throughout the summer and fall of 1775, when we captured Montreal, thereby precluding the recapture of Fort Ticonderoga by the British in Canada."

"Of far greater import, Commodore Ben Arnold's diminutive albeit potent navy precluded the British-planned double involvement of George Washington's inchoate ergo untrained Continental Army at Cambridge, Mass. That plan, formulated by Generals Gage and Howe in Boston and General Carleton at Montreal, was scuppered by Commodore Arnold's captured original U.S. Navy Squadron."

"Had Commodore Ben Arnold not secured and maintained command of the sea, that vital inland sea called Lake Champlain, our misnamed 'Revolutionary' War would have terminated disastrously during the summer of 1775."

"Obviously, there would have been no Declaration of Independence in 1776. Ergo, no United States of America.

"The sad fact that our frivolous, sterner sitting, landlubber Continental Congress placed Commander Ben Arnold's original U.S. Navy and Marine Corps under our landlubber Continental Army, rather than acknowledge the existence of Commodore Arnold's original American rebel Navy, constitutes one of history's most flagrant miscarriages of justice.

"Though fully documented, this most vital facet of our history has been suppressed since 1780, when Benedict Arnold turned traitor. It is told here in salty manner by a seaman who holds 16 seagoing battle stars and the Purple Heart from World War II, including service on the world famous USS Enterprise and heroic albeit ill fated USS Franklin.

foot note: Captain D. M. Bradford Williams, U.S.N., Ret., is a charter member of the AEHS. We take pleasure in introducing his work in our bulletin and most highly recommend the reading of this revealing biography to our members. We shall announce the publisher's name, date of release, price, and details as soon as available. Don't miss it.

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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION
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ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 1775

GARDINER, MAINE 04345

"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

March 20 1975

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

"These are the times that try mens souls....." Thomas Paine 1776

What Mr. Paine meant of course, was that the American Revolution had reached a critical point on its path toward freedom and independence. At that time, as you recall, the American cause was undergoing a severe test of commitment and resolve. Fortunately, for the cause of liberty, our country responded to Thomas Paine's pen with affirmative action.

Commitment and resolve are once again being called upon for, in another sense, that the Arnold Expedition Historical Society faces a similar dilemma. We envision 1975 to be the most promising and exciting year since our inception. Yet, our energies and fervor are beginning to outstrip our resources. A number of proposals designed to produce revenue for the AEHS have been planned to coincide with AEQ-'75 march to Quebec this coming September. The financial fruits of these endeavors will enable us to move forward on many of the goals and objectives, upon which this Society was founded. Unfortunately, operating and planning capital is required now in order to achieve these ends by September.

In light of the vast potential that AEQ-'75 offers the AEHS, I, as your President, would like to suggest the following action :

1. Payment of annual membership dues upon receipt of this letter, rather than at the semi-annual meeting in June.
2. A self-imposed special assessment for whatever amount is consistent with your interest and budgeting limitations.

I realize that the action I propose is unusual, however, I firmly believe that if acted upon, these suggestions will strengthen the Arnold Expedition Historical Society by making it possible to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by AEQ-'75.

Thomas Paine's remarks succeeded in promoting unity at a time of crises. I would hope that we would be as equally successful.

The degree of success of this venture, the most significant international Bicentennial commemoration of our 200th anniversary, depends upon your support.
Thank you,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

White Nichols.

White Nichols, Pres.