

ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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NEWSLETTER NO. 30

JUNE 1, 1976

To All AEHS Members and Friends:

The reenactment of the Arnold expedition to Quebec 1775-1975 (AEQ-75) is now slowly passing into history. The most outstanding military reenactment ever conducted in this continent will forever be fondly remembered by every participant and spectator that was involved in this historic event.

As concept originator of AEQ-75 and deeply involved in its organization, I am taking this opportunity of personally expressing my appreciation to each and every individual that contributed so much to make it the terrific success that it became.

Time nor opportunity do not permit me to personally acknowledge this appreciation in writing. The list is seemingly endless, from Col. Thornton McGlamery, as Director; Bob Cunningham, Deputy Director; our outstanding Division Commanders; all the way down to the camp boys.

The list is not restricted to the Arnold Army, but extends to the officers and men of the Montgomery Army in New York State and our Canadian friends that made up the British forces in Quebec; the Maine National Guard that so efficiently transported us to Quebec and return; and last, but not least, our AEHS office staff that kept the home fires burning at the Colburn House during those hectic days.

To each and every one - my heartfelt thanks.

#### DISTRACTIONS

As this Bicentennial year passes before us with all its commemorative activities, let us not hesitate, nor deviate, from our devotion to the causes that helped to establish this Society.

Successful as the reenactment was; it did very little to help us to reach, or gain, on our established goals. In fact the event has caused us to lose much valuable time, and distracted many of us from our responsibilities.

#### PRIORITIES

A glimpse of our promotional brochure will reveal that the AEHS has a list of very worthwhile aims and purposes.

Topmost in priority is the establishment and acquisition of the Arnold Trail and protective corridor, and associated historic sites.

Next is the development of a Museum at the Colburn House complex.

Some progress has been made on both projects, especially on the Arnold Trail.

However, there is a tremendous amount of work to be done and I am deeply concerned about the present lack of initiative and involvement in some of our projects and activities.

I do hope to see more of our Society Members participating in more Society activities. We do need your assistance to help us preserve and manage our unusual historic heritage.

### SOCIETY INTERESTS

Our Society claims a large variety of interests from archaeology to zealotism. In between lies genealogy, conservation, historic preservation and research, burial sites, library and museum development, information and education, field and trail work, as well as Society promotion and development.

I mention these things in the hope that some of our members will become inspired to come forth and be recognized as potential workers for a good and interesting cause. We desperately need devoted members to come forth and offer their services to the Society and to participate in our activities.

We have accomplished much in our eight years of existence; but we have only begun. Without persistence and continuity of effort we cannot expect to survive in these days of rapid changes.

### ACTION URGED

We are enclosing a copy of our revised brochure. I urge you to peruse it. If you find that you believe in these things, let us hear from you and get involved in a worthwhile cause. Let us perpetuate the Bicentennial heritage.

You may also have a friend or acquaintance that would also like to become involved. Why not invite them to join you in some of our activities a boat cruise on the beautiful Kennebec River, a tour to historic Quebec, a visit to our headquarters and home of the AEHS (the Colburn House, Barn-Museum, gift shop and bateau boatyard site) on the bank of Kennebec River in Pittston.

For those that have not yet visited us at the Colburn House, we suggest that you do so as a patriotic complement to your Bicentennial commemoration.

The site is located 2½ miles south of Gardiner, Maine, just off of Route 27, where a roadside sign will direct you to a set of Colonial red buildings next to a little white church.

### ANNUAL MEETING

We shall hold our eighth annual meeting on Sunday, June 27th, at the Colburn House in Pittston. A business meeting with election of officers will be held at 10:00 a.m.

The Colburn Militia Company will hold an encampment and muster on the grounds. The Colburn Landing site will be the finish line of a canoe race of up to one hundred participants sponsored by the New England Division of the American Canoe Association. The race starts at noon at Fort Western. The Colburn Barn-Museum will be open, although only in its initial stages in development.

Hope to see you there. Bring a picnic lunch.

## BY-LAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

### ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2

"Any AEHS Officer, member of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or member of a standing committee that is absent from more than two successive meetings without an accepted reason in writing to the Board shall vacate that position, and shall be replaced by the Board of Directors as provided in Article VI Vacancies; or, in the case of a standing committee member, may be replaced by presidential appointment."

### COLBURN CAMPING RENEGE

Due to a misunderstanding in the interpretation of the rules and regulations of the State Bureau of Parks and Recreation regarding the use of the Colburn property, we have been obliged to cancel our invitation to members and friends to camp on the property while visiting us this season.

The reasons, as described to us, are logical, and I am humbly apologetic to those of you that were inconvenienced by this turn of events.

If we can be of assistance in locating a nearby camping site while in the area, kindly let us know.

### COLBURN HOUSE RESTORATION

The final stages of the Colburn House restoration is expected to be completed this summer. This will include a new chimney top on the main house, concrete and stone foundation work, and new wooden gutters and drain pipes.

The next stage will hopefully be interior restoration and period furnishing. Some private assistance has been offered. Financial or material contributions are invited.

### CARRY POND CABIN PAINTING BEE

On Memorial Day week-end, five Socety members spent two days at our Trail cabin on Middle Carry Pond. Your president, Taisto Maki of Skowhegan, and Norman Elliot of Round Pond completely painted the exterior (simulated log siding) of the cabin and wood shed. The color "New Pilgram Red" is nearly identical to the original.

The two ladies of the 'wilderness estate', Skip Nichols and Florence Elliot, cleaned, scrubbed, and put the interior in order.

The black flies made life miserable for the painters! The weather was beautiful.

Two of our Society members, Ken and Olena Taylor, of Anson, Maine, have volunteered to paint the porch floor and some inside and outside trim.

I wish to personally thank these devoted members for their dependability and unselfish attitude.

### 1976 DIGS

There will be no archaeological digs scheduled for this season unless more interest and enthusiasm is shown. However, such digging parties may be organized if enough interest develops.

### BATEAU STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION

All of the bateau that were used in the AEQ reenactment were damaged to some degree. Of the fifteen batteaux carried, three of them were severely damaged (possibly irreparable); the others were damaged in various degrees.

Two were sold to Lac Megantic and Ste. Georges municipalities.

One goes to a Canadian Museum in Ottawa, Canada. One will be on exhibit at our own museum. Three will be reserved for Society use.

John Briggs of Augusta and George Dyer of New Hope, Pennsylvania each own one. Others are spoken for, after repairing is done.

### FLAG GIFT

The most recent addition to our growing flag collection was a Vermont State flag donated by George Estee of Danvers, Massachusetts.

George was quick to respond after discovering that Vermont was the only State flag missing from our collection. Most of our flags were gifts from patriotic individuals (members and friends of our Society.)

### AEQ-75 SCRAPBOOK

Hundreds of news clippings and stories related to AEQ activities are being assembled and mounted in protective plastic folders (especially designed for long preservation purposes).

When completed, this scrapbook (in several sections) should be the most complete document of AEQ activities in existence. AEQ Tricentennial planners could forseably use this recording in 2075!

When finished, the book, or books, will be enclosed in an attractively decorated hard cover.

Audrey Hanks of Augusta, a diligent and industrious Society member, has assumed the responsibility of conducting this tedious project. With an occasional assist by a couple of our office staff much progress has been made to date. It is expected that a section of the AEQ scrapbook will be displayed during our annual meeting.

Colored or black and white photos are being solicited for a photo section in the book. Do you have any to contribute to posterity?

### COLBURN BARN MUSEUM

Until such time as we are financially able to build a second floor in the Colburn barn and make other necessary improvements, we shall utilize the space as a museum complement to the Colburn House.

As a subject theme, special emphasize will be directed to the development of the river bateau from Arnold's time to the present log-driving bateau.

Cecil Pierce has volunteered to work on this operation and will be producing an interesting and educational exhibit rather unique in presentation.

Thornton McGlamery will be heavily involved in this museum development and you can depend upon an attractive and appealing exhibit soon to be available for you and your friends to view and enjoy.

### GIFT SHOP

The Carriage Shop, which adjoins the barn, will become our gift shop. This transition should take place by Annual meeting time. We are enclosing a list of some of the items that will be on sale in this shop. Profit proceeds will hopefully bolster our anemic treasury.

SUMMER AND FALL ACTIVITIES

The two outstanding membership activities that will take place this season are the tour to Quebec and the Kennebec River cruise. These have proven to be popular events and we expect even more interest this year. Any profit over expenses will be applied to our treasury account to help defray the costs of administration and Colburn House upkeep. Enjoy the beauty and history of Maine while you contribute to the welfare of your Society

BUS TOUR TO QUEBEC

You will all receive (or have already received) a flyer giving the details of this tour which leaves Augusta on August 13th. This will be one of the last commemorative events of the Bicentennial. If you have not received your information sheet, contact us immediately.

KENNEBEC RIVER BOAT CRUISE

This annual event will occur on Sunday, September 26, 1976.

The cruise boat "Good Times" from Boothbay Harbor, piloted by Capt. Bob Fish, will leave Boothbay Harbor at 8:30 a.m. and proceed to Bath along one of the most beautiful waterways in the world. Pick-up will also be made at the Bath Municipal Landing where cars can be parked for the day. Leaving Bath at 10:00 a.m., the cruise will proceed up the Kennebec River past evergreen studded shores, abandoned ice houses and ship wharfs. Many species of shore and aquatic birds can be seen along the way. Foliage will start to color. You may also see one of our vanishing American eagles and the largest eagle's nest in America. You will see the oldest court house in Maine (Pownalboro), the site of Fort Richmond (1722) and finally the Colburn Shipyard site where Arnold's bateau fleet was constructed. We should arrive at the Colburn House about noon, in time for a picnic lunch on our spacious lawns overlooking the Kennebec River. There will be time for a walking tour of the Colburn complex and a visit to our barn museum and gift shop. We shall depart from the Colburn Landing about 2 p.m. and arrive at the Bath Landing about 4 p.m., and home port in Boothbay Harbor about 5:30 p.m. This all day trip will cost only \$10 per person, either from Bath or Boothbay Harbor. In case of severe weather, the cruise will be postponed to October 17 with the same schedule. There will be a first come, first served, priority.

Your humble and obedient servant will be taking a sabbatical leave for about six months starting on June 15th. However, between various assignments I expect to devote some time to Society commitments and responsibilities. Until I am able to resume more responsible positions with the AEHS I hope to see the same degree of involvement, participation and cooperation that I have enjoyed with my colleagues for the last eight years (without a vacation!).

Wishing you all a happy season.

White Nichols, Pres., AEHS

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RIVER CRUISE INTEREST POLL I wish to be included in the Kennebec River Cruise - Sunday  
 There will be \_\_\_\_\_ in my party, 9/26/76  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_