



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

At Prelude to the U. S. Bicentennial in 1976

NEWSLETTER NO. 32

May 9, 1977

TO MEMBERS OF A.E.H.S.:

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT (Arthur Griffiths)

" Our semi-annual meeting, held February 27th, is now history, but what a fine turn-out we had! The Dresden Inn put on a delicious buffet, several outstanding exhibits were on display, and we heard excellent presentations from members and guests.

One of my fond hopes is to establish a strong working relationship with the other historical societies and museums in the Kennebec Valley region. We took a major stride in this direction by inviting representatives from these organizations to attend the semi-annual meeting, and from this has come a committee charged with the responsibility of formulating programs of joint cooperation for the mutual benefit of us all. One suggestion, for instance, is for all of us to share in the preparation and distribution of a map of the valley, showing our locations, stating our hours and a description of our offerings, perhaps with illustrations, with special emphasis on the access both by automobile and by boat up the Kennebec. Past president White Nichols is representing our society on the committee.

We are undertaking a major task in restoration of the Colburn House. As you know, the house was purchased by the State of Maine, at our request, as an historical landmark. Our relationship with the Bureau of Parks and Recreation (our landlord) is a most rewarding one. By agreement, the State maintains the exterior of the buildings, while the Society is responsible for general upkeep and any renovation.

We desire to restore the house as best we can to its 1775 condition when Colonel Arnold visited there en route to Quebec. Several of our members have labored over the do's and don'ts of such a project and the Board of Directors voted to proceed at its April meeting.

A general plan for the development of the entire complex has been developed and phase one will start immediately. This will entail two projects.

First, we intend to restore the room on the southeast corner - formerly the Society office - this summer. Among our hopes is that of uncovering the period construction of the room -- floors, moldings, the restoration of missing woodwork and doors -- and ultimately decorating and furnishing the room with as much historical accuracy as is possible.

While this is going on, a second project, the continued development of the barn into a museum, meeting place for the Society, will continue. We will install a second floor and stairway in the structure and attempt to expand the museum collection and display facilities.

Needless to say, your directors entered into these undertakings with the same great enthusiasm which characterized our magnificent "March to Quebec" in 1975. Bolstered with the knowledge that we are capable of bringing to fulfillment a labor that many would say was an impossible folly, we invite you to participate in this next adventure with the same splendid attitude of help we have come to expect from our members and friends.

We are looking for period furnishings for the house, and, of course, we are in need of financial assistance, as usual. The entire project of renovation will run to several thousands of dollars before it is completed and we will do the job without Government aid. I believe firmly and sincerely that if this project is worth doing at all, then it is up to us to roll up our sleeves in the best Yankee tradition and get the job done with pride and craftsmanship.

I hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Sincerely,

Arthur M. Griffiths "

CANOE TRIP

The Land Use & Trail Committee of the A.E.H.S. will conduct an all day canoe trip on the Chain of Ponds on Saturday, June 5, 1977, in conjunction with the Natural Resources Council's Environmental Congress to be held at Sugarloaf on June 3-4-5, '77.

All A.E.H.S. members and friends are cordially invited to attend this interesting event, which is expected to draw as many as a hundred participants.

If you do not have a canoe, they can be rented for the day from Chip Caret, Box 157, Kingfield, Me. 04947; tel. 265-2273. Or, if you prefer not to go canoeing, we suggest that you come and spend the day at Natanis Campgrounds (north end of Natanis Pond) and/or at the Upper Farm (one of the Arnold Army campsites). Have a picnic lunch there with us and explore the area.

All of this area is included in the land parcel offered to A.E.H.S. on a management basis by the Maine Bureau of Public Lands and includes five miles of the Arnold Trail land and water route. It is a most scenic area with all of the lakes surrounded by mountains of the Long-fellow Range. It is quite unspoiled; in a wilderness or semi-wilderness state, with very few buildings evident. Route #27, which passes along the east shore side, is designated as a Scenic Highway from Kingfield to the Canadian border.

Some of the ponds abound with salmon, lake trout, squaretails, yellow perch and smelt. Clear, cold and clean spring waters are everywhere. An ideal spot for picnicking, swimming or bathing. We strongly suggest that you come up and get acquainted with this delightful area that we expect soon to become a part of the Arnold Trail reservation.

Details of the canoe trip will be forwarded to those who plan to participate. Write to White Nichols, Trip Leader, R.F.D. #3, Wiscasset, Me. 04578, or tel. 882-7886, or A.E.H.S. Headquarters, Pittston, tel. 582-7080.

BOAT TRIP

The annual boat cruise on the Kennebec River to the Colburn House and Shipyard site will be held on Sunday, October 2, 1977. This has become a very popular event and many people were turned down last year as the boat reservation was filled to capacity well in advance. Early reservations are important. Full details in summer newsletter.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS

As soon as the land transfer agreement is finalized on the Chain of Ponds property, which includes the Upper Farm campsite, plans will be made for exploratory digging at that site, which produced some Arnold relics at the turn of the century. Legislative hearings on the subject will be concluded by the time you read this. There is no apparent objection to the proposal, either from the State, the property owners, or the A.E.H.S.

ARNOLD TRAIL ZONING

That section of the Arnold Trail just below the Chain of Ponds, known as Jim Pond Township, is now classified as an "Unusual Area", by virtue of its historic background, by the Land Use Regulation Commission. This classification gives the trail corridor added development protection.

This new permanent status was applied for by the A.E.H.S. Land Use & Management Committee, with the legal assistance of Cliff Goodall, of Lund & Goodall, Augusta attorneys. Final hearing was at Jackman, Maine, this winter. Hearings on the balance of the wildland sections of the Trail will be held this summer. We have enjoyed the greatest of cooperation and assistance from all of the State Agencies in A.E.H.S. projects. It has been a pleasure working with them.

ON ARNOLD'S TREASON (by Florence Winter)

"Arnold's treason, while not condonable, can be understood with sympathy. Reasons for his action stand out against the background of the times. For 100 years, France and England had been in bitter contention for supremacy in North America. Every English family had had first or second-hand experience with Indian raids inspired by the French leaders. Now, only 20 years after the fall of Quebec, French aid against Britain had been sought and given. French domination over the new country loomed as a threat in the minds of men who had suffered and fought to

prevent that occurrence. Arnold appears to have been one of those. Also, he could not have been unaware of England's admiration for him, which the following quotes illuminate."

(Copied from The American Revolution by George Otto Trevelyan, edited by Richard B. Morris, 1964)

"p. 223. The American officer, who, at this period of the struggle, had especially caught the fancy of Englishmen, was Benedict Arnold. His dash and fire, his hairbreadth escapes, the stories which were afloat about his rollicking and masterful demeanour, his cheerfulness in defeat -- and, above all, (for so Englishmen are made,) his hard-won successes, -- commended him to a people which, next to a trusty servant, loves a gallant enemy. His picture was in shop-windows, and on the walls of many private rooms. Since it was pretty clear that the wound which would keep him quiet was not known to surgery, men prayed that he might be captured and brought a prisoner to England; but they would have been sincerely sorry if he had been carried off by death. Among the most severe, and, (if such supremacy were possible) quite the worst-rhymed, of all the contemporary pasquinades was addressed to 'the partial paragraphist of the Gazette who, after being obliged to recount Colonel Arnold's rapid march, and his bravery and conduct, thought fit to obscure his merit by calling him "one Arnold." Resentment against the carping and jealous attitude of his own Government - which rankled in Arnold's heart, and at last impelled him to his undoing, - was pointed and intensified by a knowledge that his martial qualities were cordially appreciated by that British adversary who had so thoroughly tested them in the field.

p. 454. Recounting the traitor Arnold's disillusioning experiences in England after the war, the author concludes: "It would have been well for him if the memory of his existence upon earth had perished with him. The time arrived when the mind of America was once again stirred from its depths by the secession of the Southern States. Her historians then had something fresh to write about; but during the whole of the intermediate period, between 1782 and 1861, their industry was almost entirely concentrated upon the events and personages of the War of Independence. The Revolutionary heroes, great and small, received each of them his allotted meed of national gratitude; while the name of Benedict Arnold, which once promised to be only less renowned and honoured than that of George Washington, was regarded by three generations of his fellow-countrymen as a byword for treachery."

EXCERPT FROM WARREN WEEKLY NEWS - WARREN TAKES SECOND SPOT IN "CHALLENGE" BATEAU RACE

Answering a challenge by Great Northern to a bateau race from Kenduskeag Village to Bangor wasn't easy; Hon. Captain Karl Dornich, Navigator Ron Leonard and Oarsmen Dave Clement and Bob Fletcher first had to find an authentic bateau. A call to the Kennebec River Co. was to no avail; their last one was on its way to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. But then someone remembered the reenactment of the Arnold Expedition last year, and our heroes borrowed one of the bateaux built for that trip from Ned Schroeder, Coating Dept. Great Northern entered two boats, one borrowed from the Lumbermen's Museum in Patten,

and the fourth entry came from the Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society; this one had seen service on the Carrabasset. The Warren entry was the first into the water, the crew consuming the requisite can of beer before taking to the boat in record time. While the PPCS craft won the First (and possibly the last) Annual Bateau Race, both Great Northern entries were left far behind. Our informant credits this to "superior bailing" by the Warren crew. (This was first bateau built by Cecil Pierce for George Dyer of New Hope, Pa., an authentic replica. The crew was quite impressed with how well the bateau handled in the white water involved.)

ANOTHER CHALLENGE BATEAU RACE

Bill Stearns, Box 121, Stillwater, Me., 04489 informed us that there was to be another bateau race this summer. The championship team from Penobscot Paddle & Chowder Society will accept challenges for a return match during the second East Branch of the Penobscot Canoe Race from Hay Brook to Medway on July 17th. All who may be interested (probably present bateau owners) should get details and confirmation of date and place direct from Bill Stearns.

NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL MEETING

Arthur Griffiths and Audrey Hanks attended a meeting of the Natural Resources Council in Augusta on May 6th, principally to hear Lee M. Schepps; Director of the Bureau of Public Lands, report on the proposed public land swaps in Northern Maine and the legislation necessary to complete negotiated transactions with the land owners. This proposed legislation is of special interest to all associated clubs and societies interested in having the lands conserved and passed on to future generations as a great public trust.

CLEAN-UP DAY AT COLBURN HOUSE COMPLEX

An enthusiastic group of officers, directors and members turned out on Saturday, May 7th, for clean-up day at the A.E.H.S. headquarters to work on the grounds with rakes, shrubbery cutters, lawn mowers, paint brush and strong backs to move furniture and files to new locations. Our secretary, Jannice Baker, produced a delicious luncheon for the noon-time intermission. To give credit where credit is due, those reporting were: Arthur Griffiths, Robert Cunningham, White Nichols, Cecil Pierce, Chuck Booth, Ned Schroeder, Florence Winter, Sumner Webber, Sr., and Audrey Hanks. Also, members: Norman and Florence Elliot, Dr. Victor Brum, Ken Taylor, Mrs. Lois Griffiths, Mr. Thomas Griffiths, Mrs. Shirley Nichols and daughters, Beryl and Wilberta. And the children, Frances and James Schroeder and Sumner Webber, Jr. It was a good, healthy spring day outing and such is the spirit of our membership!

SUMMER HOURS AT THE COLBURN HOUSE COMPLEX

The Colburn House Complex will be open for visitors on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays) from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through July and August. Hosts and hostesses for these weekends will be drawn from the slate of officers and directors and members, serving on a voluntary basis and by request. Cooperation in this coverage is essential and can be very enjoyable. Some have already volunteered but with 9 weekends involved we need a lot more for one or two days each, and our Secretary will be pleased to hear from you.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual Membership Dues in A.E.H.S. are payable July 1, 1977. The schedule of membership classifications and dues therefor are: Student \$3.00; regular individual \$5.00; regular joint \$7.00; contributing \$25.00; Life \$100.00. Members receive the seasonal newsletter, use of the Colburn House Complex for gatherings and events with which they are associated when cleared with our secretary, use of our historical reference library, access to the museum and gift shop, picnic area and docking facility. And, hopefully, members will volunteer their services as hosts and hostesses on the weekends (for one day or two) in July and August when the complex is open to visitors. It can be fun.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of A.E.H.S. has been scheduled for Sunday, June 26th, starting at 1:00 p.m. for the election of officers, directors and reports from committee chairmen. The meeting will be preceded by the presentation of a 1775 flag by the Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Society, with a ceremonial flag raising program, followed by the annual meeting. Come early, bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the premises.

5-9-77

ARTHUR GRIFFITHS, President
Arnold Expedition Historical Society

ARNOLD EXPEDITION
P. O. BOX 1775
GARDINER, MAINE 04345
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SAYS :

IT'S CLEAN-UP TIME AT THE COLBURN

HOUSE : AND YOU'RE INVITED TO :

HELP US DO A LITTLE RAKING, MOVE

A LITTLE STUFF, HEAR ALL THE NEWS

AND BEST OF ALL HAVE A FREE BAKED

BEAN LUNCH on SATURDAY MAY 7 1977

10:A.M. - 4:P.M. OLD CLOTHES -

OLD TOOLS - OLD FRIENDS

THE MANAGEMENT

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S & RECREATION
MAINE 04333

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