



ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 1775

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NEWSLETTER NO. 33

"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

July 26, 1977

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT (Arthur Griffiths)

"The restoration project at the Colburn House is progressing well. Thanks to Ike Colburn and his restoration crew the former A.E.H.S. office has become an 18th century parlor with the floor restoration to its former level, new doors faithfully crafted to the design of others in the house, and mouldings, paneling and hardware in place. Meanwhile, John Briggs, of the State Bureau of Parks and Recreation, has had work done on the masonry of the room's fireplace to restore the hearth to its period condition.

I urge you to visit the house and inspect the fine workmanship that has gone into this first phase of our major restoration project.

At the annual meeting in June we were presented with a Bunker Hill flag by the Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association. This fine gesture on the part of our neighbors was a highlight of the meeting and the flag waved from our pole beneath the Stars and Stripes throughout the afternoon. We appreciate the thoughtful gift and will preserve it among our growing collection of historical material.

Crosby Milliman, our Second Vice President, has diligently pursued films of the AEQ-75 Reenactment in Canada and produced some of the fruits of his labors for viewing at the annual meeting. A special committee has been named, with Chuck Booth as Chairman, to follow through for the Society to inspect film clips and to acquire any of value to the Society for the archives. Paul and Anita Fournier graciously provided the facilities for screening the clips and Anita offered the Society some of her slides taken on the march for our files. We are indeed fortunate for this generous offer and for the excellent professional quality of this material.

Elsewhere in this newsletter will be found details of the forthcoming boat trip on the Kennebec. Now a popular annual event sponsored by the Society, the trip is open to everyone who wishes to enjoy a pleasant outing combined with the opportunity to see first hand the historic Kennebec. Remember - the limit of 100 persons will be rapidly attained - so reserve your place at once.

With the restoration of the Colburn House under way, your Directors are working to establish through documentation the location of the boatyard firmly in its place as an important part of this historical setting along the Kennebec. The program is an extremely ambitious project and requires the continued support of our membership.

As we enter our new fiscal year, I ask each of you to renew your annual membership promptly, bring new members with kindred interests into the organization, and visit the A.E.H.S. headquarters as often as you can. We need your support - both financial and moral - to help us achieve our goals.

We have begun the groundwork of a project which I hope will be of great importance to the entire Kennebec Valley from Augusta south. I have secured the aid of the Southern Kennebec Regional Planning Commission to assist us and other interested parties in a gathering of historical, economic and recreational data on the river to the end that a plan may be devised to assist the orderly development of the programs cited to the benefit of the residents and visitors alike. This project is just getting under way and should be in full swing by fall. Hopefully, by next summer, the project will produce results beneficial to the entire region.

Please keep a sharp eye out for artifacts or information to help us build our museum and library. Original documents and artifacts pertaining to the Arnold Expedition will be most welcome, of course, but we would also welcome copies of original documents and pictures pertaining to the expedition, and other source material to help us grow.

Best wishes to you all for the year ahead and thanks for the fine support in the year just passed."

A. G.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of A.E.H.S. was held on Sunday, June 26th. The following Directors and Officers were elected: Five directors to serve three year terms: Mrs. Harriet Barnard, Cecil Pierce, Crosby Milliman, Ned Schroeder and Irving Colburn. Officers to serve one year terms were: President, Arthur Griffiths; 1st Vice President, Audrey Hanks; 2nd Vice President, Crosby Milliman; Treasurer, Robert Cunningham; and Secretary, Mrs. Jannice Baker.

At the Directors' Meeting following the annual meeting, the resignation of White Nichols from the Board and several committees was accepted with sincere regrets. The vacancy on the Board and on the committees which White has served with dedication for so long will be filled shortly. White was awarded a life membership in A.E.H.S. at our semi-annual meeting in February in recognition of his eight years of service as President of the Society, and it is hoped that White will always be a participating member.

ENCAMPMENT OF MILITIAS

On August 20th and 21st, the following militia companies plan an overnight encampment at the Colburn House complex. Representatives of the Dearborn Company of New Hampshire, the Goodrich Company of York, the Colburn Company and perhaps others will gather. They will all be in uniform, perform drills and maneuvers, and take care of their own meals - a sort of mini-reunion for all who take part. They should be a colorful assembly and worthy of picture taking. Mark these dates as there will be something doing to please all ages.

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

The 108th Legislature of the State of Maine passed and the Governor signed into law, to become effective in 90 days, L.D. No. 1217 - An Act to Designate the Arnold Trail Highway. This Act reads as follows:

"Sec. 1. Arnold Trail Highway; designation. The State Department of Transportation shall erect appropriate markers at appropriate intervals designating the Arnold Trail Highway. The Arnold Trail Highway shall be as follows:

Beginning at Fort Popham, at Popham Beach, then to Phippsburg Center via Parker Head, then north on Route 209 to U.S. Route 1 in Bath; then east on U.S. Route 1 to its junction with Route 127 in Woolwich; then north on Route 127 to its junction with Route 128 at Day's Ferry; then north on Route 128 to its junction with Route 27 in Cedar Grove, Dresden; then north on Route 27 to its junction with Route 9 at Randolph; then north on Route 9 to its junction with Route 201 at Augusta; then north on Route 201 to its junction with Route 201-A at Skowhegan; then north on Route 201-A to its junction with Route 16 at North Anson; then west and north on Route 16 to its junction with Route 27 at Kingfield; then north on Route 27 to its junction with the Maine-Quebec border at Coburn Gore.

In addition, the Department of Transportation shall erect appropriate markers at appropriate intervals on the following spur line of the Arnold Trail: Beginning at North Anson at Route 201-A, then north on Route 201-A to its junction with Route 201 at Solon; and then north on Route 201 to a point approximately 9 miles north of Bingham marked at a turnout with interpretative signs and a plaque fixed to a boulder by the Daughters of the American Revolution, this point being the point where the Arnold expedition left the Kennebec River and carried across the Great Carry to the Dead River."

By this Act the Legislature repealed Sec. 2 PL 1931, c. 276 and Sec. 3 PL 1933, c. 98.

The Legislature also passed and the Governor signed five bills, being Resolves, Authorizing the Exchange of Certain Public Reserved Lands with the following companies:

L.D. 1390 - Brown Company; L.D. 1392 - Diamond International Corporation; L.D. 1683 - Oxford Paper Company; L.D. 1687 - the Dead River Group of Companies and L.D. 1879 - International Paper Company. These land swaps involved 67,887 acres to the State of Maine and 64,606 acres from the State to the companies.

When the deeds on this exchange of lands are actually signed and the agreements contained in the above Resolves are consummated we shall learn more from the State Bureau of Public Lands as to any management or lease of a land corridor enclosing the Arnold Trail in the Chain-of-Ponds Public Lot area, for A.E.H.S. purposes.

Your Directors are endeavoring to build up a small reference library at the Colburn House for the use of members, students and history buffs who wish to research Benedict Arnold, the Expedition to Quebec in 1775, and the Arnold Trail through the wilderness of the Province of Maine. With this in view, we are listing below source books needed, and would welcome the contribution of any of them by members of A.E.H.S. or their friends. Any donations will be properly acknowledged and credited to the donor.

(Note: A few books which were donated to our Society have been borrowed. Their return to the Colburn House promptly will be most appreciated.)

Restoration of the southeast parlor of the Colburn House to pristine condition has progressed and will be completed shortly through the thoughtfulness and generosity of Irving W. Colburn, an architect of Manchester, Mass., and a director of our Society. This is most encouraging towards accomplishing our long-range plans and goals.

If you care to contribute towards the purchase of some of these pieces so that this one room may be furnished at this time, it would be most helpful. The items we have in mind can be purchased through antique dealers. Contributions to A.E.H.S. are tax deductible. A permanent record of all contributors to this project will be kept in the southeast parlor of the Colburn House in the Major's desk.

Being involved in restoration and preservation of our heritage can be fun and a rewarding experience.