



ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 1775

GARDINER, MAINE 04345

NEWSLETTER NO. 35

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

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT (Arthur Griffiths)

"There is always pleasure in being able to anticipate good things, and as I write this with the snow piled high on the sides of the roads and banked to the sills of the house I am warmed by the thought that Spring is not far away. Neither is the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Society.

Reserve the date March 5, 1978 as a must on your calendar. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the details of the meeting, but be assured it will be an event worth attending. Among the participants will be Earl "Bud" Warren of the Bath Iron Works, who has done extensive research on the shipbuilding on the Kennebec River. Bud will share with us some of his findings. Also, I am pleased to have Paul Rivard, Director of the Maine State Museum, as a guest of the Society at the meeting. New to the post, Paul has already instituted some exciting things at the Museum and I would like you to meet and talk with him.

At the January meeting of the AEHS Directors further plans for the development of the Colburn House were formulated. We plan to begin renovation and restoration of the kitchen and central area around the great fireplace to the front door. This will be a most ambitious project, but one which will make it possible to open the house to the public in about a year in an extremely presentable condition.

As most of you know, our Secretary, Jannice Baker and husband, Ray, have been "housesitters" since the Society acquired use of the property. The Bakers have now purchased a home, not far from the Colburn House, and she will continue her services to the membership from her new home — same address as before — and will keep her watchful eye on the Society holdings from that vantage point. It was the Bakers' decision to move that caused us to step up our timetable on renovation, but in so doing, we have created a new problem for AEHS.

The ambitious project is also an expensive one. We must raise about ten thousand dollars for this year's work and another ten thousand dollars to complete this phase of the project in 1979.

While the Directors are busily searching for foundations, individuals and other sources of income, I am making this plea to our friends and members to help us restore this marvelous seventeen century symbol of our colonial heritage.

"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
February 2, 1978

)over)

Therefore, here's an offer for your consideration. I have found a limited number of pewter mugs which were cast for the Reenactment of the March to Quebec in 1975. The quantity is strictly limited, but for contributions to the AEHS Restoration Fund of \$250.00 or more I will send a mug, engraved with the donor's name, as a thank you until we exhaust the supply. The mugs are rapidly becoming collectors' items, since they were available mainly for the participants in the March in 1975. I urge you to avail yourself of one of these by sending your donation (which is tax exempt) made out to the A.E.H.S. Restoration Fund; mailing address: A.E.H.S., Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine, 04345. Of course, smaller donations are enthusiastically received as well and will assist our project greatly.



AEQ-75 mug

May I express my personal thanks to all of you who have given generously of your support to the Arnold Expedition Historical Society and to me as President during the past year. The task of leadership has been made so much easier with the willing cooperation of so many of you. Thanks so very much.

Arthur M. Griffiths (signed)
President, A.E.H. S. "

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

Your Directors meet regularly for planning and scheduling. At their November meeting Kenneth Taylor of Anson, Maine, an elementary school principal and teacher, and long time member of our Society, was elected a director to fill the vacancy caused by White Nichols' resignation.

Ned Schroeder of New Gloucester, Maine, a Director of A.E.H.S. was appointed by Arthur Griffiths to act as liaison with the Maine Bureau of Public Lands and the Land Use Regulation Commission for our Society to fill a vacancy.

WHO'S WHO

This will introduce you to Mrs. Florence Winter of Augusta, Maine, a charter member of A.E.H.S. and a director, who has contributed much to the advancement of our Historical Society.

Florence was born in Somerville, Mass., on February 13, 1898, the daughter of Benjamin W. and Jessie (Adams) Small. She attended elementary schools in Massachusetts and in Chelsea, Maine, to which she moved when about 9 years old.

She married William Winter in 1914. She attended Farmington Normal School and taught elementary school No. 6 in Chelsea, Maine, for many years. This was a one-room, 9 grade school, which her children also attended. During World War II she transferred to the Augusta School System where she taught at Williams, Smith and Webster Schools. She was Acting Principal at Smith and for a while a Principal at Webster. From there she went down to Gardiner to teach at the new Pray Street Elementary School. She was teaching there when her husband died in 1956. She then went to the University of Maine in Orono to obtain her degree in the spring of 1958. She also taught in Old Town and Lubec, as well as Winslow, and retired about 1965.



Florence has 3 children, 12 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren. She claims descent from 6 Revolutionary ancestors. Her hobbies are historical and genealogical research, and craft work. She is a member of the Kennebec Historical Society and The Friends of Fort Western.

Her contributions to A.E.H.S. have been many - research into the history of the southern Kennebec Valley area, the Reuben Colburn family, the bateaux built at the Colburn House site.

Wherever Florence taught, she acquired the history of the area and knew its people. In these one-room school houses where a teacher was responsible for 9 classes, you could truthfully call her the principal in principle if not in name, and discipline was a must. Nobody fooled around in her classes.

Florence's magnum opus was her authorship of "The Kennebec-Chaudiere 'Arnold' Trail" which she completed in 1977, being a study of the ancient means of travel between the eastern seacoast and the St. Lawrence River at Quebec, and the early history of the Indians and white man on trading expeditions and religious endeavors from 1605-1761. Although the annals predate the Arnold expedition to Quebec in 1775, they lead up to that historical event. A copy of this study is in our reference library.

On the celebration of her 80th birthday this month her associates wish her good health and happiness for the day and the year.

REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP

Since the build-up in membership during the 1973-74-75 period when we climbed to 513 due mostly to the enthusiasm generated for the 1975 Reenactment event, we dropped to 248 members in 1976, which was to be expected. Our current record of paid memberships at the end of 1977 is 224, including life and honorary members. These are solid, sustaining members who renewed their memberships during that period and thus evinced an in-depth interest in the early history of the Province of Maine, of the Arnold Expedition and Trail, and now in our goals for future projects as we pick up the threads of the original purposes of our Society.

Alex Haley's book "Roots" created a wide-spread interest in beginnings, and we could use another Kenneth Roberts type novel, such as "Arundel" to excite the younger generation in the early history of Maine, a novel in design but factual in history. We have in our reference library the genealogy of the Colburn family of Pittston, and hope to add local histories of the early industry and development of the area.

Our enthusiasm for the future of A.E.H.S. is high, and a good turn-out at our semi-annual meeting (announced on Page 5) will reenforce that optimism. We can't all give the time to the everyday chores of operating our Society, but do you realize that if each one of us secured just one new member, we'd double our income from that source to help us reach our goals? Think about it and focus on it, please.

CONTRIBUTION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Since our report in the October newsletter, further cash contributions have been received from Leroy H. Colburn of Santa Monica, California, and from Mrs. Helen Colburn Pomeroy, San Francisco, Cal., her second contribution in recent months.

Crosby Milliman of Georgeville, Quebec a director and participant in the 1975 Reenactment, has presented A.E.H.S. with a mezzotint (steel engraving) of Col. Arnold, about the time of the Expedition, a valued acquisition. For these gifts we are most grateful.

Three books for which your Membership Secretary is now searching are: Justin H. Smith's "Arnold's March from Cambridge to Quebec" published in 1903; G. P. Putnam's Sons. This book is considered the "bible" of the march and trail and was well researched.

John Joseph Henry's "Benedict Arnold, Account of Arnold's Campaign against Quebec," published in 1877 in Albany by Joel Munsell.

"History of Gardiner, Pittston and West Gardiner, With a Sketch of the Kennebec Indians & New Plymouth Purchase, (with genealogical sketches of many families) 1602-1852" by John Wesley Hanson, published in Gardiner in 1852.

These out-of-print books are hard to come by, but by pursuing used-book dealers and book auctions, they may come to light. It takes persistent pursuit and unending search. What an addition to our Reference Library they would be!

