



ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Box 1775

GARDINER, MAINE 04345

NEWSLETTER NO. 37

TO MEMBERS OF A.E.H.S.

"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 24, 1978

REPORT ON ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of A.E.H.S. was held at the Colburn House in Pittston on Sunday, June 25th, on a sunny day. A good turn-out of members was in attendance in the Keeping Room. Arthur Griffiths, President of our Society, presided.

Our Secretary, Mrs. Jannice Baker, read her report of activities, and copies of the Treasurer's Report (Robert A. Cunningham) were handed to those in attendance.

Audrey Hanks, Membership and Public Relations Chairman, commented on the stability and support of our members during the past year and plans for encouraging new members.

Cecil Pierce, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a proposed slate of officers and directors for the ensuing year. On motion duly made and seconded, the slate was accepted and the following elected:

President; Arthur Griffiths of Monmouth, Maine
1st Vice Pres: Edward (Ned) Schroeder of New Gloucester, Me.
2nd Vice Pres: Crosby Milliman of Georgeville, P.Q., Canada
Treasurer: Robert A. Cunningham of Lincoln, Mass.
Secretary: Mrs. Ray S. (Jannice) Baker, Sr., of Pittston, Me.

Five members of the Board of Directors of A.E.H.S. were due for election to 3-year terms and the following were elected:

Thornton McGlamery of Mt. Vernon, Maine
Joseph E. Brown of Sudbury, Mass.
Dr. Victor C. Brum of Augusta, Maine
Mrs. Florence Winter " "
Miss Audrey Hanks " "

These five directors complement the total of 15 making up the Board.

Ivy Norton, a native of Pittston, a neighbor of the Colburn House and a member of the Conservation Commission of the Town of Pittston, well versed in its history, gave an

interesting account of the area and early history. She has recently joined our Society and has volunteered to do some gardening of the old fashioned type on the Colburn House grounds. We welcome her membership and her interest.

AUCTION CANCELLED

The auction planned for August 19th for the Colburn House Benefit has been cancelled at this time by the committee in charge due to a dearth of items contributed. It takes an ample stock to conduct an auction and carry out an advertised event.

However, the articles already received will be secured and used for the benefit of the Colburn House when we can accumulate a sufficient stock in the future. Also, the cash donations made in lieu of articles for sale will be devoted expressly to the purpose for which they were given - Restoration of the Colburn House. Thanks to all members who generously contributed in either form.

Mrs. Harriet Barnard, a Director and the spark plug of the auction, offered an alternative fund-raising effort. We had the offer of the contribution of \$60.00 worth of groceries for the auction from Cottle's Food Centers in Augusta and Gardiner. So, not to look a gift horse in the mouth, raffle tickets at \$1.00 each are being offered and the committee will endeavor to sell these at a number of events. The drawing will take place at the Colburn House on August 26th. The winner will be notified and may pick up the gift certificate and the groceries from Cottle's at their convenience. Anyone interested in a single ticket at \$1.00 or a book of ten tickets for \$10.00 has only to mail their request to A.E.H.S., P.O. Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine, 04345, attention of Jannice Baker, Secretary.

We never give up in the pursuit of funds to assist us in reaching our goals.

GIFTS

Recent donations towards the Colburn House Restoration Fund were received from:

Mrs. John P. Riesman of Bradford, Conn., and So. Bristol, Me. Eugene Miller of Nutley, N.J., The Forrest Bradshaw's of Sudbury, Mass., Mary Goodrich of Augusta, Me., Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Arthur of Bristol, Maine, and Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Awalt of Auburn, Maine. Many thanks to each of them.

We have also received the gift of Audio-Visual equipment from Robert A. Cunningham, a most welcomed addition for publicity purposes, and a copy of Kenneth Roberts' "Arundel" from Mrs. Paulina F. Ervin of Lynwood, Washington. And many thanks to each of them.

WHO'S WHO - President of A.E.H.S.

May I present our genial President, Arthur Griffiths of Monmouth, Maine.

Arthur is the son of Thomas M. and Esther George Griffiths and was born in Waterville, Maine, on December 21, 1928. He attended elementary and high schools in Waterville and is a graduate of Bates College in Lewiston, Class '50. He was employed as principal of Limington Academy in Limington for two years, worked at Radio Stations WLTV and WLAM in Waterville and Lewiston for three years and served as Director of the News Bureau of Bates College from 1957-1975, when he became Director of Planning for the Twin City Printery, Inc., in Lewiston.

Arthur and Lois Spofford were married July 18, 1948 and have four children: Thomas Alan, John Howard, Linda Joyce (who played the part of Jacataqua in AEQ-75) and Carol Susan. They have one grandchild, Jennifer Sue, (Tom's daughter).

Arthur is a charter member, director and president of A.E.H.S. He belongs to the Mason's, Androscoggin Valley Square & Compass Club, Cochnewagan Agricultural Association (Monmouth Fair), and Professional Photographers of America. He is Chairman of Zoning Board of Appeals of Monmouth and is a member of the South Kennebec Valley Regional Planning Commission.

His hobbies consist of historical research, travel, photography, sailing and farming, with a bit of genealogy mixed in through Lois' hobby. They recently had a chance to combine several hobbies in a 3-week visit to Oxford, England, where their daughter Linda is located. Visiting some out-of-the-beaten path historical sites, they found several "family estates," including an outlaw's cave, returning with lots of colored slides. Arthur thoroughly enjoys being a grandfather for the first time.

Arthur has shown a willing, knowledgeable and progressive leadership of A.E.H.S. and in his quiet but productive manner is working continually to help accomplish the purposes and goals of our Society. What more could we do but elect him for another term as President at our Annual Meeting in June and support his endeavors to turn our long-range plans into short-range reality. Long may he serve and may \$ucce\$\$ crown his efforts!



CAPT. SIMEON THAYER'S JOURNAL

Crosby Milliman, our 2nd Vice President, calls attention to a hand-written copy of Simeon Thayer's 1775 Journal entitled: "Journal of his March through the Wilderness to Quebec." This manuscript is a hand-written copy produced by Wm. W. Burr in July of 1839. It is in legible but frail condition. Burr was a grandnephew of Simeon Thayer. The original document is on file with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass.

The owner of this hand-written copy has quoted Crosby Milliman a price of \$1,500. to our Society, to include "A Journal of the Sufferings of Simeon Thayer in the Last Two Wars in America" by Frederick C. Cady, a great grandson of Wm. W. Burr. As you may recall, Capt. Simeon Thayer commanded a Company in the Expedition to Quebec under Arnold in 1775, and, in the 1975 Reenactment, Harold St. John of Newport, R.I. portrayed Capt. Thayer.

Because of our limited funds and current contributions being devoted to the restoration of the Colburn House and, hopefully, provision for a resident caretaker, your directors did not feel that we should accept the offer. We do have a printed copy of this journal in Kenneth Roberts' "March to Quebec" in our reference library.

However, if any members of A.E.H.S. or participants in Simeon Thayer's Company in the 1975 Reenactment, or others, wish to underwrite its purchase, the door is open.

S. W. HILTON - ARTIST

Those mounted posters which mark the entrance to our headquarters at the Colburn House in Pittston, those on the river bank in Hallowell, those in the blockhouse at Ft. Western in Augusta and those beside the highway on the Arnold Trail represent the artistic work of the late Seaverns W. Hilton of Weld, Maine. Mr. Hilton died March 22, 1977 but his sketches and cartoons live on to tell the story of what happened on Arnold's March to Quebec.

Born in Providence, R.I., February 8, 1898, he was educated in Rhode Island schools and graduated from Brown University. During World War I he served in the U.S. Navy as a naval architect. He moved to Weld, Maine in the early 1920's.

Mr. Hilton was an artist, a designer and writer. After 40 years of producing in his own inimitable style, he designed and executed the famous Arnold Trail markers located at several historic sites along the Trail. For many years, he was associated with the woodworkers of Weld, a business which produced wooden novelties.

His illustrations of what happened along the Trail tell the story with discernment and humor. They are one of a kind and we are most fortunate to have benefited from his talents. Our illustrated brochure will become a collector's item when our limited edition supply is exhausted.

DAVID HOLMES REPORTS

David Holmes of Detroit, Maine, (also known as Capt. Samuel McCobb of "A.E.Q.-75" and Col. McCobb of "Penex-79") reports on what "Samuel McCobb" has been up to lately, as follows:

"On McCobb's return to Cambridge from the march, his company was posted there. Jan. 1776 saw his commission as Captain in the Continental Army from militia captain. February he was promoted to Major and in March he was promoted to Colonel and sent back to Maine to raise the Lincoln County Regiment which he continued to command through the rest of the War. The regiment generally consisted of 5 to 9 companies with the usual variations in numbers. History for the rest of the war is somewhat sketchy, but in '77 it is mentioned that there was participation in the St. John Expedition and he also was involved in fighting in Rhode Island. Whether or not anything happened as the war moved south, I don't know. And in 1779 Colonel McCobb led the regiment on the attack on the heights in the infamous "Penobscot Expedition."

"As McCobb, I have tried to follow the history of the man after the '75 March. In 1976 I passed command of the company to my executive officer, Eric Wight, and assumed the command of the ethereal "Lincoln County Regiment." One of the companies in that regiment was commanded by Samuel's brother James. Eric, in his job as District Supervisor Game Warden, had had an increase in responsibility and was unable to make the time to continue with the McCobb company. The company then developed on its own, and, as I understand it, has about twenty members now.

"My relationship with the Lincoln County Regiment is only in development of the regimental staff and equipment that would accompany same. I will be participating in the Penobscot Expedition in '79 and we do go off on occasional out-of-state reenactments (but not as McCobb) as I have a 16' x 22' x 12' regimental marquis tent that adds a lot to encampments. Due to the research in gearing up McCobb's Company for A.E.Q.-75, we have developed a line of 18th Century tents for sale on order, along with edged weapons that I made for the march. Pole-arms and other smaller implements also on order."

David Holmes by employment maintains a studio on Ward Hill Road, Plymouth, Maine (mailing address Detroit, Me. 04929). He is a wood-carver and does sculpture in wood, metal, stone and ivory. David was a colorful company commander in A.E.Q.-75 and should prove equally so in "Penex-79."

THE COLBURN MILITIA - SUMMER OF '78

The Colburn Militia is very active this summer with musters, parades, mock battles, etc. Current activities include participation in Fort Western Days in Augusta (sponsored by down-town merchants) when the militia bivouacked on the Fort grounds and enacted a mock battle. They participated in the 4th of July parade in Augusta and won a trophy for the most symbolic unit. Also in July, they were involved in the Belfast Broiler Festival and staged a mock battle with British sloops at the ocean front.

In August they will be involved in a muster of colonial troops in Windham, Maine, with competition in musket and rifle firing, pistols, motars and cannon.

On August 29th they will be in Rhode Island to take part in a reenactment of the Battle of Rhode Island, its 200th anniversary, when almost a thousand troops will be involved.

So realistic are their portrayals of the colonial period militia that there is no end to the invitations received to perform at patriotic events. The original Colburn Militia, headed by Captain Oliver Colburn, was active in Arnold's March to Quebec in 1775 and their counterparts are stalwart men and women, with their children, perpetuating the tradition, a happy, interesting and talented group. It is a close-knit, enthusiastic organization and, best of all, every member participates with authenticity and gusto.

The present officers of the Colburn Militia are: Paul Daiute, Captain; Don Brann, executive officer (1st Lieut.); Carol Chavarie, ensign (2nd Lieut.) They have a roster of about 35 active members at this time.

PENOBSCOT EXPEDITION REENACTMENT

The Penobscot Expedition in 1779 - largest American naval fleet assembled during the Revolutionary War (37 colonial vessels against 7 British; 2000 men against 750; a half-built earthen fort at Penobscot (Castine) was a staggering military defeat for the Americans. Commodore Dudley Saltonstall, chief naval officer, and Colonel Paul Revere, chief artillery officer, were accused of cowardice and court-martialed. Read the story about the huge, but little-known battle, and the men who fought it, as told by professional historian and diver John E. Cayford.

In the Reenactment planned for 1979 many familiar names of participants in A.E.Q.-75 appear. This reenactment has been nicknamed "Penex-79." The roster of some 600 to 700 men is filling up and some of the veterans of A.E.Q.-75 are listed as follows:

Portraying the American figures (volunteers to date) --

General Solomon Lovell	- - - - - ? - - - -	???
Brig. Gen. Peleg Wadsworth (2nd in command)	- -	Crosby Milliman
Lieut. Col. Paul Revere	- - - - -	Roger Shorey
Commodore Dudley Saltonstall	- - - - -	Don Brann
Col. Samuel McCobb	- - - - -	David Holmes
Capt. Archibald McAllister	- - - - -	Paul Daiute
Nathaniel Jones (Surgeon)	- - - - -	Dr. John M.H. Barnard
Eliphalet Downer (Surgeon General)	- - - - -	Dr. O. Thomas Feagin
Capt. Nathan Merrill	- - - - -	Larry Ziebler
Capt. Peter Warren	- - - - -	C. Harvey Warren
Col. Jonathan Mitchell	- - - - -	Everett Millet
Maj. Daniel Littlefield	- - - - -	Richard Schanda
Capt. Benjamin Plummer	- - - - -	Peter Aiken
Rev. John Murray	- - - - -	White Nichols

British Forces (volunteers to date) --

Gen. Francis MacLean, Commander-in-Chief (Naval) - - -	Neil MacLean
Capt. Henry Mowatt - - - - -	Eugene Johnson
Capt. Andrew Barclay - - - - -	?
Dr. John Calef, Clerk of Council at Fort George - - -	John E. Cayford
Mr. John Nutting, Overseer of Carpenters at Ft. George -	?
Commodore (Sir) George Collier - - - - -	?
Lieut. John Moore - - - - -	?
Capt. John Perkins - - - - -	?
Sir Henry Clinton - - - - -	?

(Note: Any errors or omissions in the above listings are unintentional. This is the best information your correspondent could come up with at press time.)

The Executive Director of Penex '79 is John W. Skillin of Dixfield, Maine (late Captain of the Colburn Militia) and portraying Capt. John Gray.

The Director of Public Relations is Lee Farrell of So. Gardiner who will portray Col. John Marston, Gen. Lovell's Secretary.

The scenario and schedule of Penex'79 will be covered in our fall newsletter. The Maine State Museum has a number of books available on the history of the Penobscot Expedition in 1779, priced at \$6.95 + 35¢ Maine Sales Tax.

GOOD NEIGHBORS - On the Arnold Road

Our Historical Society is most fortunate in having good neighbors on the Arnold Road. Bob and Bunny Cummings across the road, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Metz next south and the First Congregational Church of Pittston next north.

Bob Cummings and his wife, Bunny, own the attractive Cape house across the way. Bunny has offered assistance at many events at the Colburn House and she and Bob have kept an eye on the property to say nothing of answering false alarms in the early hours of the morning. We hope this situation has been taken care of. The Cummings have three boys.

Dr. Joseph R. Metz and his wife, Judy, to the south of the Colburn House on the shores of the Kennebec River, have been improving their property, planting a garden, constructing a garage and installing a wharf, besides painting the house. They are canoe enthusiasts and have a family of three boys who visit us from time to time.

The First Congregational Church of Pittston, formed in 1783, built a meeting house on land belonging to Reuben Colburn on the spot on which the present church structure stands. The meeting house, because of lack of funds of parishioners, was finally completed by the town (sometimes referred to as a town house) where services were held

for several years. On November 17, 1812, an Ecclesiastical Council representing churches from Hallowell, Newcastle, Bath, Augusta and Winthrop were invited to Pittston to form the First Congregational Church in the West Parish of Pittston. The meeting was held at Major Colburn's house, the property now owned by the State of Maine. (Reuben Colburn was a zealous Congregationalist.) Daniel Henrick, who had a license to preach, was examined by the council, ordained and invited to settle with them in the Gospel Ministry.

Later, a Union Meeting House was built and dedicated in 1832 where St. Andrew's Episcopal Church now stands. Old church records show three rows of names under the headings: Congregational 25 names, Methodists 9, and Universalists 8. As Congregationalists were greatest in number, therefore, the Congregational minister preached the greatest number of Sundays during the year, the Methodists and the Universalists in proportion to their number.

It is interesting to note that in the old days in this church there used to be thick planks in the bottom of the pulpit that were used to regulate the height of the minister who was preaching at the time. If he were medium height, the planks were removed, but if he were short the planks were placed one upon another to bring him up to the desired height to see or be seen.

When the bridge between Pittston and Gardiner was built in 1853; church people living in the part of the town now known as Randolph found it more convenient to attend in Gardiner and gradually left the Old Pittston Church.

Since most of the congregation who were left lived in the south end of the town they decided to build a hall on the site of the old meeting house for the purpose of meetings, socials and entertainment. During the time of building, plans were changed and instead of a hall a church was built. This was dedicated June 17, 1894. Rev. Herbert McCann was the pastor during the building program and Rev. Charles Thorp was the pastor when the church was dedicated.

Between 1918 and 1946 this church had been closed with the exception of the Annual Business Meeting and a few services held during the summer months.

On June 5, 1946, a meeting was held in this church vestry with twelve members present to consider the advisability of re-opening the church for public services of worship. The Rev. Ernest L. Harvey of the Park Street Congregational Church in Boston, who was engaged in Church Rehabilitation Work in Maine, offered to assist by serving as acting pastor until the church was financially able to call a regular, full-time minister to serve them. It was voted to accept the offer and attempt Public Services for Worship each Sunday morning.

Since the church re-opened in 1946 many repairs and improvements have been made. A former owner of the Colburn House, Mr. Paul Plummer, gave permission to use the water from his well, thus furnishing running water for the kitchen. The present membership is 67. Bob Cummings is Trustee and our own Jannice Baker is deaconess. On numerous occasions the church has cooperated with A.E.H.S. by catering to special events and loaning chairs for gatherings, for which we are most thankful.

DUES


We have had a fine response to our membership dues notice in our last newsletter which is most encouraging. We are still waiting to hear from quite a number who, no doubt, in these busy summer days with family gatherings and vacations just haven't had the time to respond. Remember? We enclosed a self-addressed return envelope for your convenience. Our special thanks to all of you who responded promptly and we are confident we will be hearing from others shortly. You won't want to miss our next announcement in Newsletter No. 38.

Life Members and Honorary Members should disregard this notice because you have already made the total commitment.

"A word to the wise is sufficient, and many words will not fill the till." Anon Amos

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Hope this summer reading will meet with your approval.


Membership & Public Relations