



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

A Prelude to the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976

NEWSLETTER NO. 38

October 18, 1978

TO MEMBERS OF A.E.H.S.

HISTORIC COASTAL TOWN - PHIPPSBURG

Your Directors held their September meeting at the inviting summer home of Bob and Margaret Cunningham on Noble Hill in historic and scenic Phippsburg, Maine. After the meeting the Directors, joined by their spouses, toured the restored colonial home, built in the mid-1800's, with its five fireplaces and high posted rooms, facing southeast and overlooking the bay. Following a delicious buffet luncheon, served by the ladies, they also visited the large barn and viewed the site of Fort Noble located on the Cunningham property, now only the rough foundation rocks showing above ground, but what a spot for archeological research!

Phippsburg, in Sagadahoc County, was first settled in 1607 under Sir George Popham, and was originally part of Georgetown. By 1716 it was controlled by the Pejepscot Proprietors as part of the Pejepscot Purchase by the Pejepscot Company. It was later depopulated, in the time of Lovell's war, by the Indians in their devastation of coastal towns in the Province of Maine. It was resettled about 1737. It was incorporated as a town in 1814 and named for Sir William Phipps.

It lies between the Kennebec River and Casco Bay, and is a forested peninsular thrusting into the Atlantic Ocean about half-way up the Maine coast, wrested from the wilderness by the white man over 350 years ago. The peninsular contains 10 villages, and evolving through the years of shipbuilding, sawmilling and ice cutting, this area today is mostly a vacation retreat, with fishing the remaining industry. Many noted artists have found inspiration here, for history and nature have given Phippsburg the serenity and unspoiled charm so valued and challenged in stressful times. Only eight miles south is historic Popham Beach where the Arnold sloops entered Maine waters to proceed up the Kennebec.

The Phippsburg Historical Society maintains a museum, summer programs and tours, exhibits and lectures. An interesting book on Phippsburg, compiled by this Society, is entitled "Phippsburg - Fair to the Wind" (published by Twin City Printery, Lewiston, Maine, 1964).

GROCERY CERTIFICATE

Reporting on the results of the raffle tickets sold for a chance on a grocery certificate, value \$60.00, contributed by Cottle's Food Centers, Harriet Barnard announced that the winning ticket was drawn by Miss Judy Browe, a college student, who lives in Charlotte, Vermont. The raffle netted your Society \$260. which, together with \$78. cash donated for the auction, enriched our Treasury by \$338. Thanks to Harriet and all who sold the tickets and contributed cash.

McCobb's COMPANY OF MILITIA

A reactivated Maine Revolutionary Militia Company, formed in 1974 to take part in A.E.Q.-75, the McCobb Company has since been reorganized and reactivated. Sally Morong, Executive Director, is the editor of their newsletter, of which A.E.H.S. receives a copy. They have participated in the Belfast Broiler Festival activities, with their tents and equipment, portraying both American and British forces, as well as Camp Followers. They have also participated in a reenactment of the Battle of Rhode Island, in the Maine Muster at Windham, Maine, and in other musters and parades, as well as in the Battle for Pinkham Notch in New Hampshire, with 18th century encampments.

These militias are carrying on the traditions of the original units to perpetuate their history and to put a little pep into local patriotic celebrations.

We would be pleased to hear from other active militias who participated in A.E.Q.-75 with a resumé of their activities.

WHAT IS A MILITIA?

A militia is a military organization formed on a voluntary basis as a permanent force for service only in times of emergency. In a broader but still a technical sense, the militia of a country is the entire body of able-bodied male citizens capable of military service. Town and provincial companies in the British colonies of North America were considered in His Majesty's service, but this did not prevent them from defending the colonies against all enemies, even the Crown, as well as to defend the early settlers against the Indians. The minutemen of Lexington and Concord are used as a sample of the worth of the militia. Militias were called into service in all of our wars in the 19th Century. These various companies, however, were superseded by the National Guard in the 20th Century.

WHO'S WHO

This will introduce you to Kenneth Taylor of Anson, Maine, a charter member and director of Arnold Expedition Historical Society.

Kenneth was born April 8, 1911 at Flagstaff Plantation, Maine, son of Philander and Bertha (Wing) Taylor. (This plantation, formerly known as Township 4, Range 4, was so named from the fact that Benedict Arnold encamped for several weeks here with his forces and erected the national standard. This plantation as well as Dead River plantation has since been inundated by the creation of the hydro-electric dam by Central Maine Power Company in 1949.)



Kenneth was educated in the elementary school of Dead River Plantation, he attended Kent's Hill School and Abbott School, and the University of Maine in Orono. He attained his B.S. degree at Farmington Teachers College and a masters degree at the University of Maine.

He was employed at Flagstaff High School from 1932-1934, at the Flagstaff Grammar School 1936-1947 and was principal of Garret Schenck School in Anson 1947-1972. He married Olena Viles of Flagstaff in 1934. He is actively retired, teaching Maine History at Garret Schenck School.

Active in the Madison Congregational Church of Christ, Kenneth is Deacon and member of the Building and Mission Committees, as well as a member of the choir.

In civic affairs, he serves as 3rd Assessor and is Secretary of the Water Committee. Kenneth belongs to the Masons and the Lions Club, the National and Maine Retired Teachers Associations and is a member of the North New Portland Fair Association.

He is an ardent cross-country skier (with 175 miles covered in 1977-78); he plays golf when time affords, works two gardens every year and is an ardent fisherman (fly-fishing, that is).

An outdoorsman, familiar with the Upper Kennebec, Dead River and Flagstaff territory, he is well versed in woods lore and the Arnold Trail. Kenneth is a respected citizen of his community and a valued member of A.E.H.S.

A CABIN ON THE TRAIL

A pleasant trip to the Maine wilderness was enjoyed by some venturesome souls in late September when they visited the Society's camp on Middle Carry Pond, in Township 2, Range 3. Bob and Margaret Cunningham, Florence Winter, Jannice Baker and Audrey Hanks motored to this scenic area on a Sunday morning, supplied with a picnic lunch and a route map. We stopped at North New Portland to say "hello" to Kenneth Taylor who was officiating at the country fair and obtained further directions to the off-the-beaten-path backwoods camp, a paradise for outdoorsmen.

The sun was shining, the foliage had adorned its fall beauty of myriad colors with the mountains mirrored in the lakes, and a day made-to-order for a tour on the Arnold Trail. A four-mile tote road leads in to the Middle Carry Pond, which gives one a realization of Maine wilderness, a wildlife paradise. Fifty feet off the road we came upon a cow moose and yearling that appeared from a swampy area amidst dri-ki, who obligingly stood statuesque still, staring at us, for some quick snapshots and then wandered away.

The cabin, perched by the shore of the Pond, consists of two rooms, the main room approximately 12 x 20' containing a gas hot-plate for cooking, a slate sink, a small wood stove, table and chairs, a few cooking utensils, a cupboard, a bench bed and gas lights. The second room, approx. 8 x 12', contains two cots. So the cabin comfortably sleeps 4 - more on the floor. Fresh water springs are nearby. A utility shed for wood storage is in the rear and an out-house 30 feet back.

Your Society plans to advertise the cabin for seasonal rental in the spring for the months of June, July and August for \$600. for the season. The rental for the 3 months to Members only will be \$500. So, in this newsletter, we are giving our members advance notice for reservation for the season at the reduced rate prior to advertising. This camp is primitive, rustic and secluded for a simplistic vacation retreat, for wildlife enjoyment and exploration of the Carry Ponds Area. All inquiries should be addressed to our Secretary, Jannice Baker, P.O. Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine, zip:04345.

If you want to know what it is like to live in a northern Maine wilderness camp, I can recommend a recent book entitled "A Home in the Wilderness -- Away from it All in the Allagash Woods of Maine" by Dorothy Boone Kidney, published by A. S. Barnes and Co., Inc., Cranbury, New Jersey 08512 (1976). Good winter reading. When the snow is blowing and it's murky overhead, take a good book and snuggle in your bed.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING - LOOKING AHEAD

Plans for our semi-annual meeting, scheduled for Sunday, March 4, 1979, are now being formulated. The date was chosen with the feeling that traveling conditions might be better in that month. We have lined up an outstanding speaker, and are now checking up on a suitable meeting place with meal accommodations at a reasonable price.

A special mailing will be sent out in January to give our members all the details of the agenda, the program and the meal, with an opportunity for reservations and choice of main course in advance. This may seem a long way off, but the days go by as quickly as a wink, and we hope when you hang your 1979 calendar you will take the time to mark this date as a reminder for a good time.

LAST CALL FOR DUES

More renewal memberships have come in since our July newsletter when we called attention to dues payable on July 1st. Now that we have returned from summer and fall outings to our fall and winter routines, this notice is for the special attention of those who have not yet responded.

There is a sign in front of the Three Jolly Sailors Tavern in Philadelphia, displaying a sailor stropping a block of wood, and saying:

"Brother Sailor, please do stop
And lend a hand to strop the block;
And if you do not stop or call
I cannot strop this block at all."

Here at A.E.H.S. headquarters, we have a block that needs a couple of strops, ... one from me and one from you. I'll apply the first strop by reminding you that dues are past-due, and you can apply your strop by sending a check for your Membership renewal. Please, - and Thank You!

Audrey Hanks
Membership & Public Relations