



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. 39

February 7, 1979

TO MEMBERS OF A.E.H.S.

COMING UP - SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING (Sunday, March 4, 1979)

The semi-annual meeting of A.E.H.S. has been scheduled for Sunday, March 4, 1979, at New Meadows Inn at West Bath, Maine.

This attractive and highly recommended Inn affords us a private dining room with adjoining room for displays, excellent meals, bar facilities in the Alliquippa Lounge; also, rooms for two or a cottage for the family for overnight accommodations.

We usually gather from 10:00 a.m. on, and the business meeting starts at 11:00 a.m. Dinner is served at 12:30 p.m.

On the afternoon program, our guest speaker is Dr. Robert M. York, Maine State Historian. Dr. York is Dean of Graduate Studies at University of Maine, Portland-Gorham (now called the University of Southern Maine) and teaches Maine and U.S. history. He earned his M.A. and Ph.D. at Clark University at Worcester, Mass. He is a Trustee of the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums. We look forward to an interesting topic.

We will be entertained by a group of Contra Dancers from Carroll County, New Hampshire and Fryeburg, Maine, under the supervision of Brownie Thompson, a caller and teacher of this 18th Century folk dance form. Mr. & Mrs. Brownlow Thompson are Life Members of A.E.H.S. and reside in Conway, New Hampshire.

Overnight accommodations may be arranged for directly with New Meadows Inn, West Bath, Maine, zip: 04530, Tel. (207) 443-3921.

You have already received advance notice of this meeting with our special mailing in January, with a return envelope for your convenience in making dinner reservations and choice of main course. Returns are coming in daily and we hope not only to meet our minimum guarantee but to surpass it considerably. Don't wait too long. Any questions with reference to this event should be addressed to our Secretary, Mrs. Jannice Baker, P.O. Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine, zip: 04345, Tel. (207) 582-3648.

(For Directions on reaching the Inn, see last page.)

(over)

THE OTHER "ARNOLD SOCIETY"

In 1973, Vincent A. Lindner of Scotch Plains, New Jersey, formed an Arnold Society "dedicated to the belief and in the furtherance of the premise that Major General Arnold was a loyal, dedicated officer primarily concerned with his country's welfare." Although his later actions tarnished that premise, Lindner feels that the greatest Revolutionary War general was maligned in the final judgment. Active along with Lindner in the pursuit of a posthumous presidential pardon for Benedict Arnold is George E. Estee of Dover, New Hampshire, who has done exhaustive research and has become so enamored of the heroic side of this Revolutionary figure which he feels far overshadows that of the traitor, that he has become a "committee of correspondence" in pursuit of a presidential pardon.

The Arnold Society is unique in that it does not hold formal meetings and the majority of contact is done by mail. The information exchanged is merely on Arnold. In order to view the whole man, one should look at his enemies, his friends and the times in which he lived. Active members use their numerical strength in sending letters to editors, congressmen and the White House, and the Society's membership consists of people truly interested in the General and willing to work for his absolution through research, genealogy and diligence. A great, great grandson of Major General Arnold, Mr. Vere A. Arnold of Andmore, Near Chester, England, corroborates in the pursuit of this goal.

Arnold's military service to the colonies extended from 1775 to 1779. He defected to the British in 1780. His fame as a military leader in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, his march to and assault on Quebec and in the Battle of Saratoga are a matter of record. He fought for the British against the colonies in 1781 before going into exile in Britain and Canada. Major General Benedict Arnold died at Battersea, England, on June 14, 1801.

Records of Arnold's service and sacrifice to his country and the accolades bestowed by military authorities throughout our country's history affirm his stature and bravery. The list is too numerous to mention in this space. His court-martial, witnessed to by jealous peers, is also a matter of record. Most interesting, according to Lindner, is that "what most people don't realize is that Arnold was never convicted for turning over the plans of West Point to the British. His court-martial was based on charges he used 'public wagons for private use' and showed disrespect to the Supreme Executive Council of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania while he was military governor there," Lindner said. "If this case were brought today, it wouldn't stand up for a minute." "There was no substance to the charges," he said. "Congress investigated the situation and found in Arnold's favor, but Joseph Reed, the president of the Council, wouldn't accept that ruling and Congress was very timid about stepping on the toes of state's rights." Lindner said Reed was 'guilt-ridden and remorseful' after Arnold was publicly reprimanded. Reed, in fact, wrote a letter to George Washington, asking him to forget the sentence, Lindner said. Lindner is writing a book about his hero.

A pardon cannot erase a man's mistakes, but, rendered in the crucible of history, perhaps the time has come to reassess, especially in view of the recent posthumous pardon granted by President Carter to Jefferson Davis, President of the Southern Confederacy, who seceded from and battled against the Union in the Civil War. The Christian doctrine decrees forgiveness, so let those who condemn the traitor give a thought to the hero and his times.

Introducing Crosby Milliman of Georgeville, Quebec, a Life Member, a Director and 2nd Vice President of Arnold Expedition Historical Society, who portrayed Major Return Jonathan Meigs in "A.E.Q.-75" and acted as a Division Commander. Crosby was born October 21, 1928 in Worcester, Mass., son of Julian Ives Milliman and Majorie Pitts Chadbourne. He was educated in The Sedgwick School of West Hartford, Conn., and the Choate High School of Wallingford, Conn. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., and the University of Maine at Orono, Me. Crosby married Karen White of West Hartford on Sept. 6, 1952. They have three children: Lisa Jean, Martha Ann and John. Crosby is a member of St. George's Anglican Church of Georgeville, P.Q.

He served as an aviator in the U.S. Navy Atlantic Fleet during World War II and in Middle East Photo Reconnaissance at Floyd Bennett Field, N.Y. 1948-1956. He was employed as Senior Test Engineer, technical writer-designer at United Aircraft Corp. in Windsor Locks, Conn; also, as a teacher of French and Science at Fryeburg Academy at Fryeburg, Maine, and taught Physics at Kennett High School in Conway, N.H. Crosby is President of the Quinn Bay Marina, Ltd., at Lake Memphremagog in Georgeville, Quebec.

He is a fellow and life member of Company of Military Historians and belongs to the American Society of Arms Collectors. His hobbies include authentic bi-centennial re-enactments, collecting antique flintlock firearms, engraved powder horns, etc. He has published "The Kentucky Rifleman ... An American Heritage in Pictures" and is currently preparing for publication "Return ... Up Front with Crosby Milliman" recounting "A.E.Q.-75." Membership in and support of numerous patriotic organizations too many to mention, and active in civic affairs as a speaker on his various interests and experiences round out an active and interesting career. He also enjoys hunting and fishing.

Crosby has a keen sense of history and a flair for preservation of records and artifacts of our Colonial heritage so that future generations may appreciate what happened in the formation of our freedom and system of government back in 1775 and since. His knowledge of military weapons and accoutrements qualifies him as an authority on the firearms of the American colonies and an expert in their use. These attributes make him admirably suited as a Director of A.E.H.S. in the development of our Society's museum and planned activities. As a soldier and teacher we hold him in grateful respect.



G. B. Dyer, scholar and soldier, dies

November 9, 1978

By Beatrice Johnson and Bill Newill
Courier Times Staff Writers

George Bell Dyer, 75, soldier, scholar and conservationist, died Wednesday night after suffering an apparent heart attack at his home in Upper Makefield Township.

Dr. Dyer, who served as an army intelligence officer under Gen. George Patton during World War II and later taught political science at Yale and the University of Pennsylvania, was perhaps best known to Bucks Countians as an organizer and avid participant in historical re-enactments, often playing the role of Gen. George Washington in recreations of Revolutionary War events.

He is survived by his wife, Charlotte Leavitt Dyer, former president of the Council Rock School Board and former chairman of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors. The couple had no children.

Born in Washington, D.C., Mr. Dyer was the son of Commander George Palmer Dyer, U.S. Navy, and Dorothy Sturges Bell Dyer.

He was a graduate of Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and Yale University. He received a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Pennsylvania.

Following his graduation from Yale in 1925, he worked briefly as a reporter for the San Francisco Examiner and then as a freelance writer. During the 1930s, he published seven novels, one of which was made into a Hollywood film, "Fog Over Frisco."

During World War II, he served as a lieutenant colonel in intelligence under Gen. Patton during the general's heralded European campaign. In 1947, Dr. Dyer published a history of the campaign titled, "XII Corps, Spearhead of Patton's Third Army."

George Bell Dyer and Charlotte Leavitt were married in June 1930, and moved to Bucks County two years later.



George B. Dyer

Both he and Mrs. Dyer, who served as an officer in the Women's Army Corps during World War II, returned to active military service during the Korean Conflict.

The Dyers later taught political science at Yale and the University of Pennsylvania and founded the Dyer Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies at Diabase Farm, their 126-acre Upper Makefield estate. They retired from teaching in 1967.

Their careers were marked by controversy in the mid-1960s when they were accused in a Ramparts magazine article of operating a CIA "spy course" at Penn. The Dyers emphatically denied the allegation.

In retirement at Diabase Farm, Dr. Dyer continued to write and pursue his interest in history and natural conservation.

With Mrs. Dyer, he helped found Open Space Inc., an organization dedicated to preservation of farmland and open space. He had served as a member of its board of directors since 1971.

Dr. Dyer also served as chairman of the Upper Makefield Historical Commission and was chief organizer of the township's Bicentennial observance.

A robust, active man throughout his life, Dr. Dyer was an expert horseman and canoeist. He enjoyed wearing colonial costumes and riding horseback in Revolutionary War pageants and was considered an expert in the military tactics employed by both

the British and American forces during the Revolution.

Whether dressed in colonial garb or casually attired as a country gentleman, he was known for his dignity, charm and conversational ability.

"We were never at a loss for something to talk about," said Michael Haider, a Council Rock High School teacher and filmmaker who worked closely with the Dyers in recent months producing a film on farmland preservation commissioned by Open Space Inc.

Michael Strange, chairman of the Upper Makefield supervisors, said Dr. Dyer will be remembered "for his efforts at preserving our tradition, our historical Revolution and the development of our country."

Dr. Dyer was a member of the Company of Military Historians, Society of American Military Engineers and the American Military Institute.

He also was a member of the Cosmos, Yale and Faculty clubs and Zeta Psi Fraternity.

He was the author or co-author with Mrs. Dyer of 14 books, including novels, works of history and political science texts.

A private funeral service has been scheduled.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, Nov. 20, at 2 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, Solebury.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Trustees of Reservation, 224 Adams St., Milton, Mass. 02186.

George Dyer was a Division Commander in "AEQ-'75", portrayed Captain Daniel Morgan in the 1975 Re-enactment, and continued his support of Arnold Expedition Historical Society in its plans for the future.

The Directors of A.E.H.S., on learning of his death, passed a Resolution as an expression of their sorrow in his passing and the loss of a faithful friend and cooperative member. A copy of the Resolution was forwarded to his wife, Dr. Charlotte Dyer.

WHAT'S DOING WITH THE MILITIAS

From time to time we hear of activities of the militias that participated in "AEQ-75". The latest offering comes from Palmer True of Derry, New Hampshire, who portrayed Company Commander Samuel Ward in the Re-enactment. He reports on the activities of Captain Ward's Company during the last three years. In 1976-77 that Company remained together and participated as a unit in the 200th anniversary battle re-enactments at Valcour Island, White Plains, Second Trenton, and Princeton. The rolls increased to some 60 officers and men.

In early 1977 Captain Ward's Company was renamed the Fourth Middlesex Regiment, Massachusetts Militia, thus identifying itself with a unit whose military life spanned the entire time period of the American Revolution. Palmer True is still the commanding officer and Jim Barry the executive officer. During that year, the Fourth Middlesex took part in the 200th anniversary re-enactments at Hubbardston, Fort Ann, Bennington, Saratoga, and Valley Forge. As was the case 200 years ago, the men of today's Fourth Middlesex initially belonged to several area (Massachusetts) militia companies -- primarily Sudbury, Westborough, Northborough, Framingham, Lincoln and Concord. As members of these companies they participated in the anniversary events commemorating the Boston Massacre, the Battle of Lexington and Concord, the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, and the Battle of Bunker Hill.

They were first brought together as a single unit during preparations for the 1975 re-enactment of the march to Quebec under General Benedict Arnold. All were enlisted into Captain Samuel Ward's Company, re-activated for the specific purpose of taking part in the two-week AEQ-75 re-enactment in September/October, 1975. Forty-two officers and men of this Company participated in this unique re-enactment, culminating in a large-scale battle on the Plains of Abraham.

In 1978, they have taken a number of men from the Hanchette Company into their membership, including Ron Davis who played the roll of Captain Hanchette in 1975. They have turned out 40 - 55 men for each event they've attended, so interest is still running very strong. "In our case," says Palmer, "AEQ-75 started something that just can't be stopped." In 1978 they participated in the re-enactments of the Battle of Monmouth and the Battle of Rhode Island. In 1979, they hope to participate at Savannah, Ga., and in the Penobscot Expedition. The men of the Fourth Middlesex Regiment wear a wide variety of 18th century civilian clothing, as befits an irregular militia unit of 1775-1783. The lack of uniforms is quite appropriate, and lends an authentic balance to modern-day re-enactments. It is their intention to continue to accurately portray the trained New England militia of 200 years ago, and the important roll they played throughout the war. Military skills and deportment of the unit have evolved in a manner similar to that of the original regiment.

A feature of the Fourth Middlesex is its outstanding 15-man fife and drum group. Most of the men have appeared with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall, at Sturbridge Village, and at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, as well as at countless concerts and musters. They served as the official musical unit for both the Arnold Expedition and the Valley Forge re-enactments. The fifers carry muskets slung on their backs, and thus easily assume the role of musketmen when a large musical group is inappropriate.

(over)

The unit is headquartered at Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Mass., where they regularly gather for musters and drills. It is an interesting historical note that the Inn, one of the oldest in America, was called the Red Horse Tavern 200 years ago and its innkeeper, Colonel Ezekiel Howe, was the commanding officer of the Fourth Middlesex Regiment - Massachusetts Militia, from 1776-1779.

So, this militia is keeping up the spirit of '75 and '76, lending color to authentic re-enactments of historical events for the benefit of this and future generations. We will be pleased to hear from others to include in future newsletters.

UPDATE ON "PEN-EX-79"

Our Newsletter No. 37, dated July 24, 1978, gave a partial list of the officers, etc., involved in the 1979 Penobscot Expedition Re-enactment, known as "Pen-Ex-79." Rounding out those portraying the American forces is the leader, John W. Skillin of Dixfield, Maine, who portrays Brig. General Solomon Lovell. The balance of the officers as listed remain the same, with possible additions. Lee Farrell of South Gardiner, Maine, will portray Gen. Lovell's Secretary, Col. John Marston. Dr. O. Thomas Feagin will portray Eliphazer Downer, Surgeon General.

The British forces are headed by Neil MacLean of Farmingdale, Maine, who portrays General Francis McLean, Commander-in-Chief, (Naval). Others, to date, are:

Eugene Johnson of Stockton Springs, Me., as Col. John Campbell	
William Fraser	" Capt. Henry Mowatt
Admiral Edward Rogers (Maine Maritime Acdy.)	" Sir George Collier
Dean Mayhew	" Capt. Andrew Barclay
John Cayford	" Dr. John Calef

There are a few more yet to be confirmed but the above is the latest advice obtainable.

The preliminary scenario (subject to change) is as follows:

Phase I - June 15,16,17	- Occupation of Castine by British troops
Phase II - " 22,23,24	- Muster of American forces at Boothbay Hbr.
Phase III - July 27,28,29	- Arrival of the American fleet at Castine and assault on Ft. George
Phase IV - Aug. 10,11,12	- Arrival of British reinforcements at Castine and retreat of American forces.
	- Parade through Augusta, Maine, etc.

A.E.H.S. will follow the planned events with interest. The Friends of Fort Western, in Augusta, who are involved in a week-long festival (Aug. 6 - 12th), are cooperating with Lee Farrell in the Augusta activities of Pen-Ex-79, culminating in a parade.

(over)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to acknowledge a gift to our reference library from John L. Butler, a member, of Stamford, Conn. He has presented us with "Traitorous Hero -- The Life and Fortunes of Benedict Arnold" by Willard M. Wallace (Harper Bros. publishers, 1954) for which we thank him.

We are still patiently waiting the return to our library of the Society's copy of "Benedict Arnold - The Dark Eagle" by Brian Richard Boylan (1973). This was borrowed in 1975 and never returned.

Slowly, but surely, one by one, we add to our library. We are particularly hopeful of obtaining a copy of Justin Smith's "Arnold's March from Cambridge to Quebec," published by G. P. Putnam's Sons (1903). This is a rare book difficult to come by but not impossible if pursued through used book dealers and book auctions. Indexed in college and university libraries and in Washington, D.C. archives are more than a hundred books and journals relating to Benedict Arnold, so we may be selective in acquiring some for A.E.H.S. As you know, we are trying to build up a small reference library at the Colburn House for the use of our members, for 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. All donations will be acknowledged and are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIPS

Thanks to all of you who paid their dues before the end of the year. The total is very encouraging.

Regretfully, we have a short list of lapsed members, those not renewing their membership for our fiscal year, July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1979. And, because the receipt of our newsletter is one of the privileges of belonging, we will be removing their names from our mailing list at this time. To become reinstated, just mail your dues in arrears to our Secretary and become the frosting on our cake. We do care.

Audrey Hanks
 Membership & Public Relations

DIRECTIONS FOR REACHING NEW MEADOWS INN, WEST BATH, MAINE

From the north, take Interstate 95 to Lewiston exit; proceed on Route #196 to Topsham-Brunswick Exit; pick up U.S. 1-A at Brunswick and watch for signs to West Bath, New Meadows Inn.
 From the south, take Interstate 95 to the Brunswick Exit; pick up U.S. 1-A (north) at Brunswick and watch for signs. (Approx. 5 mi.)