



ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER NO. 9

May 1, 1971

To all of our members and friends:

The forthcoming year promises to be the most active, entertaining, educational and hopefully fruitful of the Society's infancy.

The directors join me in appealing to all members to participate in as much of the activity, and the projects, as possible. In order to maintain the impressive image that we have already created, it will be necessary for us to face the challenge that can be so rewarding in knowing that we have helped to preserve a substantial segment of Maine's outstanding historical heritage; that we have helped to preserve an area of not only historical value, but also a wilderness area of rare scenic beauty to be enjoyed, not only by us, but for generations to come.

Now that sections of the Arnold Trail have been assigned to the Society in conservation easements and one tract of lakeside property has been given to us by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dickson, of Rumford, Maine, it has become necessary that the trail and tract area involved be surveyed before the deed is finally drafted and signed.

Announcement of the gifts were made by Tom Dickson at the semi-annual meeting held in Augusta last January. It is the most promising development in our plans to acquire, or gain control of, a land corridor containing the Arnold Trail through Maine. Although most of the area through which the Arnold Trail passed is in various stages of commercial recreational development, several of the developers are agreeable to the idea that it is good business to accomodate such a trail corridor through their property. The agreements state that the corridor will be left in an undeveloped wilderness state. We hope for additional segments to be offered to us this year.

SURVEY PROJECT

As soon as woods conditions permit, we plan a survey party to run a traverse line in the Carry Ponds section of the 12-mile Carry from Wyman Lake (Kennebec River) to Flagstaff Lake, a total distance of approximately ten miles. Also included in the project will be a survey of a 500 x 600 feet tract of land on the east end of East Carry Pond.

This survey is very necessary in determining the deed descriptions; also a requirement for the designation of the Arnold Trail as a National Historical Landmark.

The cost of this survey will be born by the AEHS, and may be quite substantial. In anticipation of a cost in excess of \$500 for the 12-mile Carry survey, we are appealing for fifty of our members to make a special contribution of ten dollars each. This money is tax deductible, as we have tax free exemption status. Make checks payable to SURVEY AEHS FUND.

A sizeable crew of AEHS members are also contributing several weekends to the project in trail clearing and marking. They will camp at Tom Dickson's Middle Carry Pond Camp, as his guests. All members are invited and welcome. Those wishing to participate should contact White Nichols, Wiscasset, Maine 04578. First field party can be expected about May 22-23.

QUEBEC TOUR

Detailed plans for the Society's tour along the Arnold Trail to Levis and Quebec City will be given in the next Newsletter. Present plans call for a week-end tour on July 17-18. We shall have several bi-lingual translators (interpreter?) with us in case you do not speak or understand French. We have been invited to meet with the Mayor and several Arnold buffs in LacMegantic, Quebec, and will probably have lunch there.

Arnold Expedition landmarks in Levis and the Plains of Abraham and a diarama devoted to the attack on Quebec by Arnold and Montgomery's forces will be visited. There will be much more. It should be a very educational, scenic and enjoyable trip. Be sure and reserve those dates, and if you have not signified your intentions, fill in and mail the intention poll on the last page of this Newsletter. Reservations close on June 30.

KENNEBEC RIVER CRUISE

The intention poll must also be received before final arrangements can be made for the cruise up the Kennebec River, along Arnold's route, from Fort Popham to Col. Coburn's house and the site of the bateaux construction. This is scheduled for the same day of the year that Arnold's 11-ship fleet of schooners also started up the Kennebec River from Fort Popham, namely, Sunday, September 19. Don't miss the good fellowship and interesting features of this cruise.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the AEHS may be held at the new State Cultural and Museum building in Augusta; a most appropriate location. The determination depends upon the construction finish date. Further information as to time and place will be forthcoming.

PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT

A. - The Board of Directors recommend passage of the following amendment making an addition to Article II - "Purposes" in the By-Laws of the Society:

"In carrying out the purposes specified above, the corporation shall be guided by the best recognized practices of conservation of natural resources; following to the best of its ability the basic principles of good land management and, as opportunity offers, associating with other organizations in joint efforts for these purposes"

B. - Under Article III - Officers - Membership Secretary

There shall be included in the list of officers, the post of Membership Secretary, whose duty shall also include the composition and publication of a quarterly newsletter.

BICENTENNIAL PLANS

A Bi-centennial Committee, appointed for the purpose of organizing and planning the re-enactment of the Arnold Expedition in 1975, is composed of: Thomas M. Griffiths, Monmouth; Norman Mathews, Waterville; Ernest C. Marriner, Waterville; Mildred Burrage, Wiscasset; Arthur Griffiths, Monmouth; Ed & Pam Schroeder, Cape Elizabeth.

This event will probably be the largest and most elaborate pageant ever held in New England.

Rehearsals of several segments of the affair are planned in 1974. It is hoped that every member will contribute their utmost to make this event an outstanding success. Discussions and negotiations are underway with The Company of Military Historians, The Brigade of the American Revolution and The Concord Minute Men for their affiliation in this event.

Several movie producers are interested. Various fund raising projects are being planned, including:

1. - Designing, minting and sale of an appropriate Arnold Expedition Commemorative Medal.

2. - The publishing of a documentary book composed of numerous chapters on various aspects pertaining to the history of the Expedition and written by members of the A.E.H.S.

Members are invited to contribute their papers or articles of their choice to this project. Suggested subjects would be:

Archaeological recoveries along the Arnold Trail; The Solon-Emden Petroglyphs; Arnold Expedition Campsites; The Archaeological Potentials of the Solon area; The Evergreens Campsite at Solon; its Historic and Pre-historic Background; Fort Meigs Hospital and the Carry Ponds Campsite; The 194 mile Arnold Trail through Maine; Maine Men Associated with the Arnold Expedition; Arnold, Pro and Con; Existing Buildings and Landmarks Associated with the Arnold Expedition; The Gene Miller Arnold and Revolutionary War Collection; The Medical Aspects of Arnold's Army; A Bibliography of the history of the Arnold Expedition and Major Arnold; Maine's Outstanding Military Landmarks; Trail Markers, Signs and Monuments along the Arnold Trail; etc.

OTHER FUND RAISING PROJECTS

One of our well known members is designing, and will produce, a limited quantity of commemorative bottles appropriately dedicated to the Arnold Expedition. The bottle will be unique and appealing in design and craftsmanship and no doubt will be in great demand by collectors. Further details in next Newsletter.

A colonial doll dressed in a fully authentic Revolutionary War uniform such as Arnold's men wore will also be available for fund raising purposes. The designer and maker is well known for her abilities as a doll maker.

DUMAS BOOK OF POEMS

One of our active members, Jacqueline Dumas (Mrs. Paul Dumas) of Coburn Gore, Maine is the author of a book of poems, emphasizing considerable detail to the Arnold Expedition, including photos. It is expected to be available this summer for your enjoyment. Further details in next Newsletter. Keep a place in the Maine section of your library for this one.