



Colburn House  
582-7080

# Arnold Expedition Historical Society

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Jannice Baker, Sec'y  
582-3648

DECEMBER 26, 1985

NEWSLETTER NO. 58  
MEMBERS & FRIENDS OF A.E.H.S.

## WE CAN'T BEGIN TO TELL YOU

Or maybe we can-- what a wonderful time and what an all around success our October 11-14 1985 trip to Quebec City was. It was, indeed all that a tenth reunion of such an outstanding event, could ever be. Three happy bus drivers with three busses of happy people left Mass. & Maine & arrived in Quebec at just about the appointed time, even though we digressed just a little to permit two members to get married at Flagstaff Lake ! Hotel accomodations, banquets, & all activities went just as planned; the foliage was at it's height to those of us who are really familiar with that season. Everybody had a great time and we all know who & why this went so well; that is all went just as we're saying up to a point & here's the point :

## AN AWARD FOR BOB

Just how any one person ( running a ???? million dollar business, travelling around the world, taking care of his numerous pieces of property & relatives ) can possibly pull off a perfect trip is that which leaves us all in awe. However- when it came to the final award - we were aghast that NOBODY gave one to the one man responsible for such a magnificent performance. The awards which Bob Cunningham was presenting at our farewell dinner atop the Le Concorde Hotel while we were going round & round were hilarious and we felt sure SOMEONE would certainly recognize what he had done to make all this possible. NOBODY DID.!! So WE WILL HERE & NOW. WE DECIDED ON THE BUS TRIP HOME TO SHOWER HIM WITH OUR THANKS. WE'RE SUGGESTING THAT WE EACH SEND HIM A LITTLE SOMETHING, BE IT A NOTE, A 1-10 \$ BILL, YOUR FAVORITE KEEPSAKE OR JUST YOUR OLD SHOE FOR WE REALLY DO APPRECIATE HIM. FURTHERMORE - THE POOR GUY RAN HIS LEGS OFF FOR US & HERE'S HOW :

Under Bob's directions ( perfect to the very end ) we were told to assemble in the Lobby of the Le Concorde & be ready for an 8:30 A.M. departure for the Auberge des Gouverneurs Hotel to pick up the rest of the party. He brought down one load of A.E.H.S. paraphernalia & returned to his room for another load ( makes a good baggage boy). When he got down this time the bus had taken off; his quick thinking told him that the bus driver had misunderstood & had gone on to the Auberge to pick him up there. Wanting to be on time, Bob hailed a taxi & told the driver to hurry to the other hotel BUT they drove the length of the hotel, careened around the corner & came to an abrupt halt when Bob cried "STOP- I WANT TO GET OUT". He paid the driver for his 30 second ride & stood panting on the sidewalk. The bus had been holding up traffic in front of the hotel & been asked to move to the side entrance. We were all pleased to see Bob arrive

but our bet is that the Taxi Driver was the most pleased to see him depart. Wouldn't you be if your fare, wearing a three cornered hat & carrying a sword, had you race half way around a hotel & then demand to get out ? So - can we all show just a little bit of appreciation to Bob for all this ? He's

R.A. Cunningham  
Woodcock Lane  
Lincoln MA 01773

THE KENNETH ROBERTS CENTENNIAL  
1885 - 1985

Purposes - The Kenneth Roberts Centennial Commission, Inc. is formed to coordinate events & projects marking this 100th anniversary year of Roberts birth. The Centennial purposes are: to renew interest in, and publicize, Kenneth Roberts as one of America's foremost historical novelists; and to establish a permanent collection of his works in Kennebunk or Kennebunkport. Membership - Any person who subscribes to the purposes of the Kenneth Roberts Centennial Commission, Inc. & pays the \$10 fee, may become a member. Benefactors who contribute \$50 or more, will receive a signed sketch ( being used on the cover of a more complete brochure ). Benefactors & members will be recognized on a scroll to be hung at the location selected for the permanent Roberts collection.

The above information was brought to our attention by an attractive display in the library of our State Museum, featuring "Arnold's March To Quebec "; very well done and informing the public of our Society activities.

A FRIEND WRITES -

An excerpt from a friend in Quebec to President John Skillin follows :

' For some time I have been picking up information in order to write the story of the militia men of my home town, Levis, a place that was then called Pointe-Levy. Before the arrival of General Arnold to that place in the second week of November, 1775 the British ordered the south shore militia to stand & fight " the rebels" before they could cross the river. Pointe-Levy was then the headquarters to the militia of the south shore, a force of about 700 men of all ages. Without the knowledge of Quebec City, a meeting of all the able men was called on the first day of Novemembr. On the spot, the officers of the local parish companies discovered that they had been called illegally & feared repression from the Quebec garrison. An articulated group from Point-Levy, led by a certain Augustin Halle, strongly opposed to fight the "Bostonnais". Doing so, they suggested neutrality, & who knows, perhaps association. The meeting ended in a general brawl. From then on every parish down the river set up the guard to fight any tentative repression from the Quebec garrison. Whe Pointe-Levy finally heard that the " Bostonnais" had emerged from the woods, a certain Ignace Couture was charged to carry the message to Arnold asking him to speed up to Point-Levy before the Quebec garrison could take a hold of that place. Arrived in Point-Levy, Arnold wrote his surprise to see the number of married men that had been waiting for his army. Traditionally, the people from my home town Levis, speculate over

the place where General Arnold spent the long week before he could find some boats & cross the river. The house of Ignace Couture still stands in the center of Levis. From one generation to the other, & personally I hold it from my father, it is said that General Arnold was once a distinguished guest in that house.

Most of what I have written here comes from the Quebec archives. I know I could learn a lot more from you & the members of your Society. This is why I ask your help to complete this episode of the story that the men of Pointe-Levy wrote with the " Bostonnais" in the fall, in the winter & in the spring of 1775-1776. To be more precise, I would like to,learn more about the " spies" that crossed back & forth the Beauce area before the invasion. I would like to know what role the Frenchman Regnier de Rossi played. Why is it that Clement Gosselin was designated as the Canadian leader after the disastrous action of New Year's Eve ? What names (Canadian ) can we find in the U.S. archives in relation with the men of Point-Levy & with their fellow militia men of the south shore ? I think that if we find out more about this, we will prove that the friendship existing between our two nations started in the fall of 1775 when the troops of Congress received a warm welcome from Sartigan to Point-Levy on their way to Quebec City .

Signed ,  
Yvan M. Roy  
4128 Cote de Cap Rouge  
Cap Rouge ( Quebec ) Canada GIY IVI

Am sure anyone who has time to help with this would be most appreciated. This all came about from our appearance in Quebec (in costume ) in October. Another plus from our great reunion !

#### AND ANOTHER INQUIRY -

Mrs. Thomas B. Martin from Skowhegan, Me. discovers that one of the men in Dearborn's Co. was a first cousin of a direct ancestor. The name of that man was Nathaniel Martin. She seeks information on when, where, & how Dearborn's men returned to the States after their imprisonment was over. We hope for some further information on these men from our good friend Mrs. Dorothy Thompson in Conway N.H.

#### OUR DEEPEST CONCERN

Goes to our long time great friend Dr. John Barnard & his family, as we continue to read daily reports of his progress in recovering from a series of gunshot wounds which took place in his office in Augusta on December 19th. A shock we could hardly believe as word spread that Dr. Barnard had indeed been seriously wounded by an unsuspected intruder that morning. Details are still to be divulged, but we know our "boy " who means so much to just everyone is coming along to date. You will remember him as being very much with us, as well as his son & wife on our 1975 trip to Quebec. He remains in the Kennebec Valley Medical Center, Augusta, Me. 04330.

#### LEST YOU FORGET !!

And we all do - that in our last newsletter we announced a change in our fiscal year which now runs from January 1 - December 31.

Annual dues are now due JANUARY 1 Still \$ 7, ( family ) \$ 5 ( INDV )  
\$ 3 ( student)

## WHO WAS JEMIMA?

Jemima Warner was the 16 year old bride of Rifleman James Warner and the daughter of Sgt. and Mrs. Joseph Greir (Rebecca). Mother and daughter marched off to war from Lancaster County, Penna., with their husbands, members of the Pennsylvania Rifle Company that answered the call of General Washington during the summer of 1775 to all Minute Men, Militia, and others to gather at Cambridge, Mass. to form the Continental Army. These two women marched all the way, arriving August 8th.

September 16th., the Pennsylvanians were placed under the command of Col. Benedict Arnold for the attack on Quebec, and these two women were the only females in the expeditionary force of 1100 men who began the crossing of trackless wilderness, swamps and forests, with the exception of an Indian maiden who also joined the force.

November 2nd., James Warner perished at the Chaudiere River in Southern Quebec Province. He had sacrificed his very meager rations to keep his bride alive until he succumbed to pneumonia. His bride reluctantly left him covered with leaves, the ground too hard for her to bury him, and shouldering his rifle and other implements she finally caught up with her parents in the line of march, but soon showing signs that she, too, had contracted pneumonia, she was left with some hospitable nuns in the village of Sartigan, who nursed her back to health. Jemima finally arrived at Quebec City just prior to Christmas, 1775.

When the New Year's Eve initial attack failed, the army settled down for a long seige which was not lifted by the British until the last week in April. One week previous to this, Mrs. Joseph Greir was hit by a stray bullet and became the first woman to die in the American Revolution as the result of military action! When General Thomas ordered the retreat to Three Rivers, Jemima accompanied her father, Sergeant Greir - who was raised to the rank of Captain.

During a foray, Captain Greir was captured - and never heard of again! Jemima made her escape with men under Col. Anthony Wayne, arriving at Fort St. Jean, on the Richelieu River. From here, she travelled in General Sullivan's party, when he was ordered back to report to the Continental Congress. She finally reached the city of Philadelphia in the party of Gen. Horatio Gates, in 1777.

The war heroics of the young widow at an end, she lived in the city with two brothers for the next seven years, and on January 9, 1783, she was joined in marriage to a young man by the name of Jacob Knorr, the grandson of one of the first settlers in Germantown, Penna. The wedding took place in the Old Swede's Church, Gloria Dei, in Philadelphia.

The Rev. Dr. James Wilson Knorr, Jemima and Jacob's great, great, great Grandson, served as Brigade Chaplain and a member of Arnold's Staff in the reenactment that took place in September and October and which climaxed in a great mock battle staged on the Plain of Abraham, adjacent to the Citadel, in Quebec, on Saturday, October 4, 1975.



\*\*\* Available from us at \$1.50 per package \*\*\*  
10 sheets of note paper with the above picture of the Colburn House,  
10 sheets of plain paper and 10 envelopes.  
Kindly add 50 cents if by mail.



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