



Colburn House
582-7080

Arnold Expedition Historical Society

Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine 04345

Jannice Baker, Sec'y
582-3648

Newsletter # 73
Members & Friends of the AEHS

November 15, 1992

Annual Meeting

The 24th Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Dresden Inn on Sunday Oct. 11, 1992. Thirty-five people attended.

After an excellent turkey dinner, Mrs. Nancy E. Smith, of the International Paper Company presented a check for \$1500 to President Bob Cunningham. This grant is from the International Paper Foundation, and funds two new display cases for artifacts of the Arnold Expedition found in the Lost Pond area. We much appreciate the interest and support of IP !

By coincidence, the two men who located the artifacts, Cecil E. Pierce, and Duluth Wing, were the featured speakers at the Meeting. Illustrated by color slides, each recounted his unique experience in following the Arnold Expedition wilderness route from Fort Western to Quebec City by canoe. To fully appreciate this trip, we have to understand that they paddled and portaged the whole way ! Up the Kennebec and Dead Rivers, down the Chaudiere, and across the St. Lawrence to Wolfe's Cove !

We are hopeful our Renaissance Man, Cecil Pierce, will make this journey the subject of his next book.

New Officers

Pres-Treas. Robert A. Cunningham
1st V.P. Dr. Victor Brum
2nd V.P. Crosby Milliman
Sec. Jannice Baker

New Directors for Three Years

Duluth Wing
Cecil Pierce
Crosby Milliman
Ronald Gamage

Friends of the Colburn House

The first meeting of a new committee of the AEHS to be called the Friends of the Colburn House was held in the Colburn Barn Bateaux Museum on Sunday afternoon, September 27th.

A very good article in the Kennebec Journal helped attract a group of about 20 local residents, concerned with the future of the Colburn Complex. Their goal is to broaden the support, interest and use of the Colburn House State Park.

Any of our readers who would like to serve on this Committee are invited to contact Mr. Danny Warren, Jr., R #4, Box 8005, Gardiner, Maine 04345, tel. 1-207-582-7083.

Colburn House Restoration News

In October the Society paid to have the gutters cleaned and part of the ell roof gutter replaced with treated wood. New drain splashes were installed, and a waterproof tarpaulin was placed over the cellar bulkhead. The grounds were cleaned up, the gift shop and the bateaux museum were tidied up. The Millimans installed two new doors in the ell, had a new front step built, and the wiring checked by an electrician.

While not major expenditures, these efforts should help the house weather the winter without dire consequences.

Trail News

New orange plastic trail markers with our three men in a bateau logo were purchased earlier this year. On Sept. 11th the lower buckboard road trail was marked and cleared up to the Dickson Road. Ronnie Gamage marked our East to Middle Carry Pond trail at another time. Dude Wing has marked the new Lost Pond Trail, so good progress has been made this year in identifying our trails.

On October 17th six semi-stalwart members spent most of the day climbing up the side of Louise Mountain on the Height of Land. This is the area where the AEQ left Arnold Pond to cross into Canada.

After climbing over rocks, blowdowns, and bog holes, up a vertical slope of about 35%, we finally came out on the International Border, which now is cut and marked with round bronze markers set in the ledges.

We used metal detectors, but the only items found were some horseshoe nails and a two foot piece of heavy logging chain. We suffered one casualty - Steve Sanders twisted his knee (it's now O. K.), but the general feeling was that if the Indians and AEQ went the way we did, they were foolish indeed !

People

Our ubiquitous Society mentor, Cecil E. Pierce, has popped up again in an article called " Southport's Master Woodworker " in the Noveember 1992 issue of Down East Magazine. We recommend it to you.

Our Curator, Crosby Milliman, continues to improve from his stroke. He recently completed an eight page architectural history of the Colburn House, which was most helpful at the Sept. 27th Friends Meeting.

Have a good winter ! Robert A Cunningham, Pres.

Robert A. Cunningham Pres.



Colburn House
582-7080

Arnold Expedition Historical Society

Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine 04345

Jannice Baker, Sec'y
582-3648

SPECIAL APPEAL !

HELP SAVE THE COLBURN HOUSE !

Maine is about to lose one of its genuine Revolutionary War Treasures -- the Colburn House, located on the banks of the Kennebec River in Pittston, a few miles south of Augusta. Here, in 1775, Major Reuben Colburn built 220 river bateaux for the American Army, and then sent a company of local craftsmen along to repair them on the ill-fated March to Quebec.

Built in 1765, this stately colonial has survived wind and weather for almost 230 years -- but it may not survive the recession.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and owned by the State of Maine's Bureau of Parks and Recreation since 1970, the House served as headquarters for the 1975 Bicentennial Reenactment of the Arnold Expedition to Quebec. Newly painted, roofed, and refurbished then, it was a showplace.

Now it is a mess. No funds are available for its maintenance, let alone restoration. The roof of wooden shakes is curling and cracking. The gutters are rotting out. The window frames are porous and the whole structure needs paint.

Worse than this, the foundation is cracked, the sills and carrying beams are rotted, and the walls have settled 6 inches out of square. If left alone for another two years, there is a strong likelihood the whole house will fall into the cellar.

So what can we do about it ? How can we help ?

The answer is simple -- make out a check for whatever amount you can afford and send it along to Dude Wing right away !

Every little bit helps ! The latest issue of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust newsletter makes the point that 90% of the funds raised for non-profit organizations last year came from individual donors. Only 6 % comes from foundations.

Your donation is tax deductible. We are an IRS approved charitable educational organization.

We have a new separate Escrow account in the Fleet Bank in Bath. The money will go there and be used only to repair and restore the Colburn House.

(Over)

(2)

We did not ask for this task -- but we do care about the survival of the House. It is up to us until things get better for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

Our goal is \$80,000. Please do your best !

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert A. Cunningham, Pres." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Robert A. Cunningham, Pres.

Please make checks payable to:

COLBURN HOUSE RESTORATION ESCROW FUND

Mail to:

MR. DULUTH WING, BOX 27, EUSTIS, ME 04936

Many thanks !



Colburn House
582-7080

Arnold Expedition Historical Society

Box 1775, Gardiner, Maine 04345

Jannice Baker, Sec'y
582-3648

SPECIAL APPEAL !

HELP SAVE THE COLBURN HOUSE !

Maine is about to lose one of its genuine Revolutionary War Treasures -- the Colburn House, located on the banks of the Kennebec River in Pittston, a few miles south of Augusta. Here, in 1775, Major Reuben Colburn built 220 river bateaux for the American Army, and then sent a company of local craftsmen along to repair them on the ill-fated March to Quebec.

Built in 1765, this stately colonial has survived wind and weather for almost 230 years -- but it may not survive the recession.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and owned by the State of Maine's Bureau of Parks and Recreation since 1970, the House served as headquarters for the 1975 Bicentennial Reenactment of the Arnold Expedition to Quebec. Newly painted, roofed, and refurbished then, it was a showplace.

Now it is a mess. No funds are available for its maintenance, let alone restoration. The roof of wooden shakes is curling and cracking. The gutters are rotting out. The window frames are porous and the whole structure needs paint.

Worse than this, the foundation is cracked, the sills and carrying beams are rotted, and the walls have settled 6 inches out of square. If left alone for another two years, there is a strong likelihood the whole house will fall into the cellar.

So what can we do about it ? How can we help ?

The answer is simple -- make out a check for whatever amount you can afford and send it along to Dude Wing right away !

Every little bit helps ! The latest issue of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust newsletter makes the point that 90% of the funds raised for non-profit organizations last year came from individual donors. Only 6 % comes from foundations.

Your donation is tax deductible. We are an IRS approved charitable educational organization.

We have a new separate Escrow account in the Fleet Bank in Bath. The money will go there and be used only to repair and restore the Colburn House.

(Over)

We did not ask for this task -- but we do care about the survival of the House. It is up to us until things get better for the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

Our goal is \$20,000. Please do your best !



Robert A. Cunningham, Pres.

Please make checks payable to:

COLBURN HOUSE RESTORATION ESCROW FUND

Mail to:

MR. DULUTH WING, BOX 27, EUSTIS, ME 04936

Many thanks !