



Arnold Expedition Historical Society

Pittston, Maine, September, 2003 Newsletter 101

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday October 12th, Annual meeting

New Meadows Inn

West Bath

Annual Meeting:

Once again, this year's annual meeting is scheduled for the Sunday before Columbus Day, October 12th at the **New Meadows Inn, West Bath, ME**. 11:00 AM to 12 Noon will be set-up, registration and social time, 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM will be lunch, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM will be business meeting, election of officers, trail activity report, and restoration update at the Colburn House.. 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM will be a presentation by Ed Scallon, from Plattsburg, New York. Ed is actively involved in the Valcour Bay Research Project. He is an underwater dive expert and has led many efforts to locate remnants of artifacts from Benedict Arnold's activities at Valcour Island at Lake Champlain.

Ed comes highly recommended by our Historian, George A. Quintal, Jr, who has contributed a significant amount of data to the project. Ed has a tremendous story to share with our group. The bulk of the information he will be sharing with us will be from first hand, hands on efforts to trace Arnold's route, and the associated efforts to locate and preserve artifacts from these endeavors. We are very fortunate to have engaged Ed to be our speaker, and based on reports from previous presentations, we should find his presentation informative, educational and poignantly enlightening. I am told that the talk will be remembered as one of our better endeavors.

Cost will be \$14.00 per person. Lunch will be buffet, with a selection of three entrees, a variety of vegetables, chowder, cake for desert, and coffee or tea. There may be some variations as we are still making arrangements.

Directions are as follows: From Rt. 1, North of Brunswick or going South from Bath, take West Bath exit and turn left (from either direction). At the first stop sign you will see the restaurant, diagonally to the right.

Please be sure to call the society headquarters by Thursday evening, Oct. 9th, and leave your names, the number of reservations, as accurate attendance plans help keep the society costs down. We have enjoyed the company of your guests in the past and look forward to them being with us again this year. Only members will be permitted to participate in the voting process.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

John (Jack) W. Dwyer, a former resident of Mont Vernon, NH (28 yrs) and a member of Dearborn Company of New Hampshire and long time member of AEHS, died August 16, 2002 at his home in Locustville, VA, at the age of 75. He was a member of the winning batteau crew of the Eneguess, at the Great Batteau Race on the March to Quebec in 1975. He was also Captain of Dearborn Company at the Yorktown re-enactment in 1981. This note was sent to us by Joan P. Dwyer, PO Box 26, Locustville, VA, 23404-0026.



Following Their Footsteps

by Stephen Clark

160 pages

Softcover

Color Maps

8 ½ by 11

Retail \$ 18.95

ISBN 0-9741677-0-3

*Attack On
Quebec in a
Blinding
Snowstorm*

Following Their Footsteps is the first and only Travel Guide and the first modern history in over a half century—concerning the 1775 Revolutionary War Secret Expedition to capture the fortress city of Quebec, the key to all of Canada. It was led by Benedict Arnold, along with many other famous Revolutionary heroes such as Daniel Morgan, Henry Dearborn, Aaron Burr, and many more. The Expedition began in Cambridge, Massachusetts, ascended Maine's Kennebec and Dead Rivers through a savage wilderness, then into Canada and down the Chaudière River to reach the St. Lawrence and Quebec.

Following Their Footsteps, published by Clark Books, is actually two books in one, which is achieved by using a two column format. One column is the great story of the epic Expedition, the other column is a parallel, mile-by-mile closely related travel guide. It includes many historic illustrations and maps, as well as current photos along the route. It also contains information for educators on how to follow the route as a part of an educational experience. It is an exciting adventure into present and past.

Following Their Footsteps is packed with information on what to see and what to do along the 350 mile route of the Expedition, such as historic sites and markers, campgrounds, various scenic sites, hikes over the actual footpath and where to stay along the route. It also describes **five selected canoe trips** over natural sections of the river route. It has a list of present day campsites that were used by the Expedition. To guide the traveler along this historic adventure are **twenty detailed color maps**.

Jay Adams, Director of Old Fort Western in Augusta, Maine says, "This is a unique book. Steve Clark has researched it in a thorough way, and is very easy to use. It's especially useful to interest young people in American history." Steve Clark, a Maine outdoorsman and conservationist, is also the author of *Katahdin, A Guide to Baxter State Park*, now in its fifth edition and is past editor of the *Guide to the Appalachian Trail in Maine*.

For more information or to order, Contact:

Clark Books, 599 Shapleigh Corner Road, Shapleigh, Maine 04076

(207) 636-1769 or e-mail: clarkbooks@metrocast.net

*See special offer on last page of newsletter.
Excellent presentation.*

This illustration shows young Aaron Burr about to embark on the Arnold Expedition. It was drawn by the noted military artist George C. Woodbridge who based his illustration on a portrait of Burr painted by Gilbert Stuart in 1794 and a letter Burr wrote to his sister from Fort Western at the start of the campaign. Burr's letter is unique because it includes a description of his clothing and weapons. The letter reveals that Burr was wearing civilian clothing. This was typical for the soldiers on the Arnold Expedition since the Americans had no regulation uniforms at this point in the war. In contrast, a few of the officers on the campaign, including Arnold, probably wore uniforms that were made for them during their pre-war days as militia officers. Everyone else, including Burr, wore practical civilian clothing with a few personalized military touches. In his letter, Burr mentions that he had a bayonet which means that he was carrying a military musket. This weapon was unique among Arnold's musket regiment who were probably armed with small bore civilian muskets called New England fowlers.

Although he was only nineteen at the time, Burr was already a graduate of The College of New Jersey (today's Princeton University) and a successful law student. He participated in the Arnold Expedition as a gentleman volunteer which meant that he served without and or pay in the hopes of earning a commission through his hard work. Following the 1775-1776 Canadian campaign, Burr was appointed a lieutenant-colonel. He continued to serve with distinction until 1779 when poor health forced him into retirement.

The following is an excerpt from Burr's letter written from Fort Western to his sister. This eloquently penned note reflects the spirit and excitement of a young, educated man about to embark on his first military campaign. The original letter is owned by Yale University.

September 24th. [1775] Fort Weston 50 Miles up the River Kennebec and the Head of Navigation

To begin at the Foot--over a Pair of Boots I draw a pair of Woolen Trousers of coarse Coating. A short double breasted Jacket of the same, over this comes a Present from a Southern Gentleman [a reference to a Virginia or Pennsylvania rifleman] a short Shirt after the Rifle fashion--curiously fringed, with a Belt as curious. By way of Hat another Present--A small round Hat with a Brim turn'd up [a popular military style of the period made by cutting-off part of the brim of a civilian hat and turning the remaining front portion of the brim up to look like a light infantry cap]--on the Top a large Fox Tail with a black Feather curl'd up together--the Donor I suppose meant to help my Definccieny in Point of Size [Burr was a short, thinly built person]. My Blanket slung on my Back, as that's a thing I never trust from me [personal articles were commonly rolled-up in blankets for safe keeping]. To these add a Tommahawk, Gun Bayonet, &c. and you have your Brother--And pray how do you like him? I fear but indifferently--Remember however, that these don't alter his Heart--he is still Yours--as affectionately yours as Nature and Reason can make him.

In three Weeks or less we expect to be in Quebec--then or sooner I shall again tell you the old Faith.

The George C. Woodbridge portrait of Aaron Burr is reproduced with permission from the collection of Arthus S. Lefkowitz. Additional information about gentlemen volunteers in 18th Century armies can be found in Holly A. Mayer, Belonging to The Army (Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina Press. 1996.



NEW ACQUISITIONS -

We recently received a copy of the topographical maps of the section of the Dead River, now Flagstaff Lake, that includes Eustis, Bigelow, Flagstaff village and Carrying Place, but showing the original flowage of the Dead River. Dated from 19127-1928, it shows the many twists and turns that Benedict Arnold and his men encountered when they journeyed through that area. The map has been laminated and will be displayed at the Colburn House. This gift was the work of Frank Getchell.

New members since the last newsletter are:

Clinton L. & Anne Snyder, Erdenheim, PA; Barbara A. Walker, Searsport, ME.

Membership renewals are from:

Douglas & Louise Allen, Swampscott, MA; Gregor A. Andersen, Rumney, NH; Rusty Arsenault, Skowhegan, ME; Peter & Grace Avitabile, Braintree, MA; John & Ruey Baldwin, Winn, ME; Bruce & Betty Bishoff, Mechanicsburg, PA; Thomas S. & Madeline A. Bourke, Lynn, MA; Stephen Clark, Shapleigh, ME; Kenneth & Virginia Colburn, Dover, MA; Richard and Eleanor Currier, N.Jay, ME; Robert Donovan, Embden, ME; Jon P. Dulude, York, ME; Arthur & Jane Flitner, West Chester, PA; Frank A. Getchell, Vassalboro, ME; Stephen R. & Sue C. Havas, Glenfield, NY; Arthur S Lefkowitz, Piscataway, NJ; Taisto Maki, N. Anson, Me; John J. Newberry, Stowe, VT; Frank & Pamela Nixiolek, Springfield, IL; Paul Mathieu, Sherbrooke, QC; William P. Siebert, Dixmont, ME; Sanford Shelton, Equinunk, PA; Gregory A. Smith, Derry NH; James Thomas, Mexico, ME; Jane S. Tucker, Wiscasset, ME; Charles L. Twichell, Tucson, AZ;

Current life members include: John Armstrong, Harleysville, PA; Branin Boyd, Malvern, PA; John Cliché, Lacmégantic, QC, Canada; Kenneth & Virginia Colburn, Dover, MA; Delores Colburn, Calistoga, CA; Mrs Irving Colburn, Manchester, MA; James Colby, Scarboro, ME; Robert & Madonna Cutts, Honolulu, HA;

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS: Contact these society officers at:

President:

Daniel H. Warren, Jr.
RR4, Box 6895
Gardiner, Me, 04345
Ph (207) 582-7080

Historian:

George Quintal, Jr.
P.O.Box 6148
Lincoln Center, Ma,
01773

Treasurer:

Robert A. Cunningham
P.O.Box 6147
Lincoln Center, Ma, 01773
Ph (781) 259-8066

AEHS MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Student	\$ 3.00
Individual	\$ 10.00
Family	\$ 20.00
Contributing	\$ 50.00
Life	\$ 200.00

Gift ideas to enjoy & help the restoration effort:

Colburn House Christmas ornament \$10.75 + \$2.50 S&H
Arnold's March from Cambridge to Quebec by Justin H. Smith
(1903) republished in paper back at \$38.35 + \$4.00 S&H

Other items are available at the Colburn House

Checks made payable to AEHS can be sent to the society President at the above address.

ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOK OFFER

A special offer to members of the Arnold Expedition Historical Society:

Order your copy of *Following Their Footsteps*, By Stephen Clark at the special price of \$19.00 which will include sales tax and shipping. Please provide your mailing address and a check made out to Clark Books for the number of books you would like, using the lower portion of this page

Mail your order to:

Clark Books,
599 Shapleigh Corner Road
Shapleigh, Me, 04076

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