



## 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

*A Prelude to the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976*

NEWSLETTER NO. 41

July 25, 1979

TO MEMBERS OF A.E.H.S.

### MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT - ARTHUR GRIFFITHS

"A hearty "thank you" to our membership! My request for aid in the last newsletter was met with a generous response and I was delighted to announce at our Annual Meeting that the Upton cabin on Middle Carry Pond was ours - paid in full!

I am also pleased to report that the Crosby Milliman's, both long-time members of A.E.H.S. and key participants in AEQ-'75, are in residence at the Colburn House. Cros and Karen moved to Pittston from Canada just prior to the annual meeting and the members attending were treated to a tour of the premises furnished with period furnishings from the Milliman's own collection. The ell of the house has been renovated into a comfortable apartment for our curator-in-residence and Cros told the members that their house is open to inspection 365 days a year. Restoration of the house will continue as funds become available. The apartment was completed under the direction of Cecil Pierce, who guided the project through to completion on a shoestring budget and with Yankee ingenuity.

We secured a grant from CETA which provided the services of two carpenters who are available to us until March of 1980. With the completion of the apartment, they are working on the barn - museum, installing a second floor meeting room for the Society. This project will be completed during warm weather since no plans for heating this addition are contemplated.

However, with the onset of cold weather, we hope to raise funding for materials to permit them to work inside the Colburn House. We would like to restore the "keeping room" and boatyard office which was an important part of the house when Major Colburn occupied the premises in 1765.

Since the Society's meager funds have been husbanded to best use on the projects completed to date, the state of the Treasury is gravely depleted.

(over)

We need:

1. Prompt dues payments from our loyal members (which are payable as of July 1st.)
2. More loyal members to pay dues promptly, as well as additional members.
3. Additional contributions to provide materials for our restoration project.

Let me reemphasize that we are CETA funded through March for all our labor costs, and you all know how much those labor costs could be if we had to raise the money. We have the labor. We need only to secure the materials.

It seems to be the lot of all presidents of non-profit organizations to be on the constant search for funds to complete the vital programs so necessary for the meaningful growth of a society such as ours. So, here I am, hat in hand, knocking on the door and looking for more help.

Prior to the June meeting, my mind traversed the brief span of time since White Nichols and a tiny group of colonial history buffs met at the now demolished Augusta House and founded A.E.H.S. What amazing progress has been made since that day! We have acquired for all time a part of the Arnold Trail through some of Maine's most beautiful wilderness, and we have demonstrated our zeal for preserving that wilderness for those generations yet to come.

We staged a Bicentennial Reenactment on an international scale involving participants representing a broad geographical area. We were among the first of the Bicentennial events in the nation. We had no precedent to emulate save that of Arnold's men as recorded in their journals, yet we gave the nation a birthday example second to none.

We acquired the Colburn House as a State and national historic site, not only for the significance of its role in providing the Arnold bateaux, but also for its role as a key point in the development of colonial America. In my opinion it is essential to preserve certain relics of our heritage as reminders to our children of the dedication and effort that went into the heritage with which they are so fortunately blessed. If we remember the past, perhaps we can shape the future with the wisdom that must be exercised to overcome the complex problems with which we are faced. And what better way to remember the past than to maintain select reminders? This is our small contribution to the future generations yet unborn - whose memories will best be shaped if they can experience at first hand a tidbit of their inheritance as it once was.

Indeed, A.E.H.S. has come a long way in a short time. In our own small way we have made significant and lasting contributions for the general well-being of our fellows. With your continued aid and support we will proceed on the course we have chartered. "

Arthur Griffiths

WHO'S WHO

Introducing Sumner A. Webber of Coopers Mills, Maine, a director of Arnold Expedition Historical Society.

Sumner is the son of Marvelle C. and Emeroy (Kinsman) Webber and was born in Rutland, Vermont, June 27, 1936. He attended the elementary school in Hallowell, Maine and the Millbrook High School in Millbrook, N.Y. He is a graduate of Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont. He served as a Captain the U.S. Army 1961-64.

Since 1963, Sumner has been a teacher at the Hall-Dale High School in Hallowell, Maine (speech and social studies).

He married Catherine McConnell in Bangor, Maine, in 1964 and they have two children - Sarah, age 13, and Sumner, Jr., age 8.

Sumner served as chairman of the Whitefield School Board for two years. He is a member of the Maine Archaeological Society. His hobbies include gardening, restoring a circa 1810 (Cape) house, cross-country skiing and bicycling.

Besides his teaching job, Sam, as he is affectionately known, is curator of old Fort Western in Augusta. This wooden fort, built in 1754 by the Kennebec Proprietors, pre-dates the American Revolution and the only fort left from the French and Indian Wars period in the United States. It has been designated a national historic landmark. Sam has instituted many programs at the Fort of particular interest to children and assisted in the maintenance of the artifacts and general housekeeping, as well as welcoming visitors to the Fort.

In the 1975 Reenactment of the Arnold Expedition to Quebec (AEQ-'75), sponsored by the Arnold Expedition Historical Society, Sumner portrayed Captain James Howard, the first and only commander of Ft. Western. In 1775 Arnold's Army stopped at Ft. Western and in 1975 during our country's Bicentennial Celebration "Arnold's men stopped at Ft. Western where Captain Howard invited Arnold to establish his office in the meeting room of the fort, repeating the invitation extended 200 years ago."

A history major at college, Sumner's knowledge and experience make him not only highly qualified as the curator of Ft. Western, but those same qualifications and his willingness to serve, in spite of his heavy schedule, stand the Arnold Expedition Historical Society in good stead to have him a member of our Board of Directors.



(over)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We acknowledge with appreciation the cash contributions of the following directors and members in making it possible to pay off the debt to Tom Dickson on the Carry Pond Camp (Upton Cabin):

Robert A. Cunningham	Ronald Gamage
Irving W. Colburn	Erastus Corning II
Mrs. Harriet Barnard	Mr. & Mrs. Taisto Maki
Arthur Griffiths	Cardace Sawyer
Dr. Victor C. Brum	Mr. & Mrs. John V. Wing
Mrs. Helen Colburn Pomeroy	Mr. & Mrs. Henry Dillenback
Floyd F. Allen	Dr. & Mrs. Robert Kellogg
Mr. & Mrs. Duluth Wing	

An opportunity to help replenish our depleted treasury is ever present for any members so inclined.

ANNUAL MEETING - June 30, 1979

The weather held passing fair for our annual meeting held on the Colburn House lawn on Saturday, June 30th, 1979 at 1:30 p.m.

Arthur Griffiths, President, greeted the members and his message, recorded above, covers the highlights of his comments and announcements.

Cecil Pierce, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of officers for the ensuing year and replacement of directors whose 3-year terms had expired. The following were unanimously voted as elected:

Officers (for a 1-year term):

President - Arthur Griffiths of Monmouth, Maine  
 1st V.P. - Dr. Victor C. Brum of Augusta, Maine  
 2nd V.P. - Crosby Milliman of Pittston, Maine  
 Treasurer - Robert A. Cunningham of Lincoln, Mass.  
 Secretary - Mrs. Jannice Baker of Pittston, Maine

Directors (for a 3-year term):

Robert A. Cunningham  
 Arthur Griffiths  
 Sumner Webber  
 Kenneth Taylor of Anson, Maine  
 Mrs. Janet White of Pittston, Maine

Cecil also spoke on the completion of the apartment construction and the work proceeding in the barn museum.

Bob Cunningham, Treasurer, gave a summary of our financial situation and the condition of our treasury which has been depleted by reason of the cost of the apartment development, other improvements and regular operating expenses.

Our Secretary, Mrs. Jannice Baker, reported on the meetings and events of the past 12 months.

ANNUAL MEETING (Continued)

Audrey Hanks reported on our present membership status and plans for hopefully adding new members, particularly from the Kennebec Valley area.

White Nichols mentioned a scheduled week-end trip of twenty Boy Scouts to the Carry Pond Camp to assist in clearing a portion of the Arnold Trail at that location.

Arthur Griffiths, president, reported on current events as covered by his message on Page 1 and then introduced Crosby Milliman, our curator/caretaker, who spoke on his plans for occupancy of the Colburn House, followed by a tour of the rooms.

OPEN HOUSE DAY - July 12, 1979

This event was sponsored by the Friends of Gardiner's Heritage who had arranged for a tour of ten historic houses in Gardiner and Pittston, including the Colburn House. This group's ticket income went for the benefit of their local projects. The A.E.H.S. cooperated, covering a tour of the Colburn House, and Mrs. Jannice Baker, our secretary, put on a noon luncheon, the income from which went to the Society's treasury. We had nearly a hundred visitors to the Colburn House and our office/gift shop and much interest was shown in the restoration work going on. Assisting Mrs. Baker in coverage of several posts were:

Mrs. White Nichols of Wiscasset  
 Mrs. Wilberta West " "  
 Miss Gene Lockyer of Farmingdale  
 Mrs. Florence Winter of Augusta  
 Mrs. Doris Godfrey of Litchfield  
 John Milliman of Pittston  
 Miss Audrey Hanks of Augusta

Besides enjoying a pleasant visitation, our treasury was enriched by the event.

BOOKS

Recent donations to our reference library are:

SARATOGA - the decisive battle, by Rupert Furneaux (1971) published by George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. London, England

GENEALOGY OF THE COLBURN FAMILY, presented by Mrs. Mabel Hersey Colburn in memory of her husband, Warren E. Colburn

THE KENNEBEC PROPRIETORS (1749-1775) by Gordon E. Kershaw (1975) presented to A.E.H.S. by Audrey Hanks.  
 Sub-titled "Gentlemen of Large Property & Judicious Men."

OF INTEREST

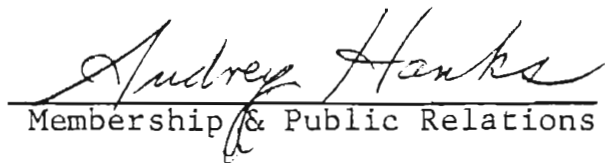
The Natural Resources Council of Maine, with offices in Augusta, are planning a "Kennebec River Conference" on August 15, 16, 17 & 18 and have requested a visitation of the Colburn House on Thursday afternoon, August 16th, and seeking a narrator of its history by a member of A.E.H.S. They asked us to include the following in our newsletter:

- Wednesday, August 15 - Kennebec River Rafting Trip on the headwaters of the Kennebec.
- Thursday, August 16 - Tour and explore the Kennebec by trips to areas of historic and natural significance, industrial tours, beach walks, in three choices:
1. Upper River Tour
  2. Middle River Tour
  3. Lower River Tours
- (All field trips must be pre-registered!)
- Friday, August 17 - Runnals Union, Colby College, Waterville, Me. 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Morning & afternoon workshops and panel discussions on: water quality, energy potential, shoreland zoning, river management, urban greenways, anadromous fish, rare plants, eagle restoration and more.  
- Lunch  
- Banquet  
Slide presentation on the History of the Kennebec Valley
- Saturday, August 18 - The Kennebec River - Canoe Trip  
- Merrymeeting Bay Boat Ride  
- Swan Island Tour  
- Kennebec River Bluegrass Jamboree - Colby College 1:00-5:00 p.m.

For further information and registration materials, contact Jeanne Roy, NRCM, 335 Water Street, Augusta, Maine (622-3101).

REMINDER - MEMBERSHIP DUES

July 1st is the date renewals of memberships in A.E.H.S. are due and payable. Your officers hope our efforts and accomplishments warrant prompt payment. The classifications are: Student - \$3.00; Individual - \$5.00; Joint - \$7.00; Contributing - \$25.00; Life Membership - \$100.00. Hope to hear from you soon.

  
Membership & Public Relations