

NEWS FROM
THE ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PITTSTON, ME.

UPCOMING EVENTS WORTH NOTING

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 80

April, 1995

- May 12/16 Trail Outing at Eustis to locate Enos turnaround site
June 10 Maine Museum Day-Colburn House & Arnold Museum open
July 9 Box Lunch Social/Music Entertainment/Colburn House
Aug 19/20 Old Colonial Days at Colburn House and Kennebec River

GOOD NEWS FROM
THE COLBURN HOUSE RESTORATION FUND

from D. Warren

Last fall we were successful in obtaining from the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation enough architectural shingles to re-roof the Colburn House and the Carriage Shed. They have also committed to provide the necessary incidental supplies to get the job done. Our restoration fund will provide the money to hire professional roofers to complete the project.

As most of you know, we have received much encouragement and support from the Pittston Historical Society. They share our desire that the Colburn House be preserved as an historic landmark. Last December they sponsored an Old Fashioned Christmas event which included an open house, bake sale, musical entertainment, and much socializing. Half the proceeds were donated to the restoration fund, to be used to repair the window sash. It seems ironic, but the many coats of paint make it impossible to open the sash, yet the putty is so bad that the glass is falling out. People in the know tell me these are the original sash. One by one we should see some improvement.

DUDE WING OF EUSTIS SENDS GREETINGS AND TRAIL PROJECT NEWS:

IT'S TIME TO GET GOING!

from Duluth Wing

And it's got to be before the bugs and leaves come out yet the frost must be out too. So, in this narrow window of time our great ambition is to determine the spot where Enos turned back.

Bill Richards and I feel there must have been lots of equipment abandoned here. We have set May 10 as a work day for he and I to scout the various sets of rapids above Eustis and lay out some of the areas that should be hunted with metal detectors. By the 12th we will be ready for you folks. If you aren't proficient with a detector, don't have one or can't borrow one, come anyway and we'll appreciate you cutting bushes or digging "targets" already located by others.

By the 13th we should be well under way and are in hopes the weekenders will give us a boost. We'll work thru the 16th if you can stay. We may break into groups and work more than one site. We suggest you bring hip boots, knee pads, pruning shears, a detector, small shovels or digging tools.

TWO IMPORTANT POLICY POINTS: Any artifacts found belong to the landowner whom we hope will give them to A.E.H.S. as they have in the past. Then they become part of the Arnold Expedition Museum at the Colburn House with your name attached, if you wish. All ground disturbances or holes will be filled in so nobody can find fault with our archeological digs.

For accommodations, new member Dick Matthews at Natanis Point Campground has offered free sites (tent or trailer) for this May outing. Donations would be appropriate. Also Dude Wing has offered tenting in his field on Rt. 27 or along the river. There is outside water and one electric outlet.

Arnold Pond-Later this year we plan a scuba dive at Arnold Pond to possibly locate some of the Batteaux that are certainly there. We also want to continue the Height of Land search at the Canadian Border.

Some other good news-I am presently working with Andre Blais who represents the Mount Megantic Trail Club which is working on a footpath from Megantic Mountain to the Eustis area. Benedict would have appreciated this!

MAINE MUSEUM DAY

JUNE 10TH

THE MAINE ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS is sponsoring Maine Museum Day on June 10th (a statewide open house of historic sites) and the Colburn House and Arnold Expedition Museum will be open free of charge. Tours will be provided, cookies and punch will be served, and no doubt there will be a fire in the fireplace. George Quintal and I have talked about sprucing up the Arnold Expedition displays in the Carriage Shed. Any volunteers or suggestions for improving our exhibits would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers to man the Carriage Shed and provide membership and reenactment information are greatly needed. Contact Dan, George, or Karen Milliman for more information.

SUNDAY BOX LUNCH SOCIAL AT THE COLBURN HOUSE

JULY 9TH

The Pittston Historical Society has organized an old fashioned Box Social for Sunday July 9th on the lawn of the Colburn House. The event begins at 11:30 A.M., regardless of the weather (we have a wonderful two story barn if it rains). Musical entertainment will be provided by two groups, a 16 member barbershop group and the four member group, the Sonlight Singers, from the Congregational Church of Pittston. More details will be provided later, but lets hope there will be Strawberry Shortcake for desert! Contact Connie Warren for more information.

OLD COLONIAL DAYS

AUGUST 19 & 20

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the re-enactment of the Arnold March to Quebec. There have been many suggestions of how to celebrate this memorable milestone. It seems that re-enactors look forward to such occasions with great enthusiasm.

We hope that our third annual Old Colonial Days will be a bigger and better event than the previous two. Capt. Bill Seibert from McCobb's Company will be helping plan this event. Any suggestions on improving this event, providing better news coverage, or designing new programs would be greatly appreciated. More information will be available in the next news letter.

NEWS FROM GEORGE QUINTAL, JR.-ROSTER OF PARTICIPANTS ON THE ORIGINAL 1775 ARNOLD EXPEDITION TO QUEBEC

Steady, deliberate progress continues on the Arnold roster project. Thanks to Jannice Baker, I had a warm home this winter in which to do research and thanks to Bob & Margaret Cunningham, I was able to make several research trips to Waltham, Mass.

As of 12/31/1994 the inventory of research is as follows:

Total names compiled	1,235
Individuals confirmed as being on the march	916
Personal biographies completed	158
Number of references cited	391

A total of 3,000 hours have been spent in research through 1994 and an additional 773 have been spent through 3/31/95.

Since last fall, much progress has been made. A total of 85 research trips have been completed. My estimate is that the project is 60% to 70% completed. Much of the remaining time will be spent on the road, with the majority of that time spent at Waltham, Mass.

I still have great need for a SUN Sparcstation computer, and once again ask members for help in obtaining one.

AEHS OFFICE

I'm planning an AEHS office, and I need your help. The Arnold Expedition Historical Society has been managed by several people from Maine and beyond. There has not been (in recent year) one central office where all our records are kept; they seem to be scattered hither and yon.

As I meet with those who are interested in the goals of the A.E.H.S., I reflect back on all that has been accomplished by this group. I also look for ways to expand our membership and improve our museum and invariably think of projects that seem to need our attention.

Later, however, I hear that one of my great ideas has already been done, or that someone started that a while ago. To help pull all this good work together is one of my goals. Having an office at the Colburn House complex where all our records can be kept, safe and secure, would be a great benefit to the society, myself and the interested public.

If anyone has documents or information pertaining to our society, or has information that they feel should be preserved by our society, please contact me. I really would like to pull this information together in one location.

COLBURN HOUSE, ARNOLD ROAD, ROUTE 27, PITTSTON, MAINE

The Colburn House is open every weekend in July and August, from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Resident caretakers and tour guides are Crosby and Karen Milliman. The house is open other times by chance, but it's always best to call ahead, rather than be disappointed. Knock loudly, be persistent, and try all the doors. Remember old unheated houses can be colder than a barn, so dress warmly.

MEMORIAL NOTES

Willis (Bill) Letteney, 78, McCobb's Company, died March 31, 1995

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS-CALL OR WRITE

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Here's hoping my first attempt at a news letter provides you with some useful information and sparks an interest in one of our events.