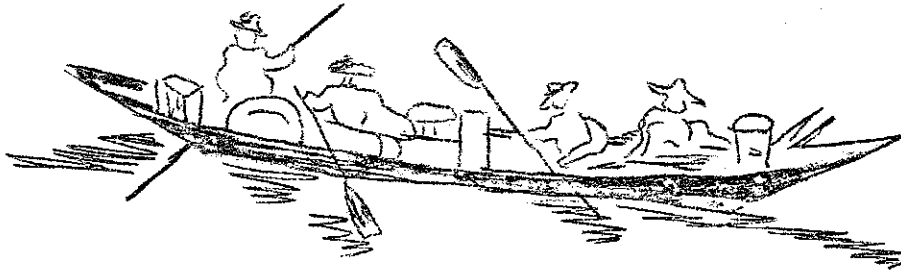


ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Newsletter No. 13

Jan. 13, 1972

Dear Members and Friends:

Semi-Annual Meeting

The semi-annual meeting of the AEHS, which was scheduled for January 23rd has been postponed to Sunday, February 13th at the Augusta House in Augusta, Maine.

It will be an all day affair with activities beginning at 10 A.M.

Dinner will be served at 1 P.M. with several interesting speakers on the slate. There will be one or more slide shows, with a good coverage of last summer's delightful tour of the Arnold Trail to Quebec City.

The featured highlight of the entertainment section will be Bill and Gene Banyon, Maine's outstanding folksong musicians and producers of tape, literary and TV performances. After hearing this delightful couple I am sure that you will be refreshingly impressed with their soul-searching, nostalgic ballads and songs relating to the days of early America. Don't miss them.

There will be a variety of exhibits, including maps, documents, flags, relics, artifacts, and models. You are all invited to bring your favorite 'thing' for exhibit. This is your show, please participate and be a part of it. Come and meet some interesting people. Kindly return intention poll on last sheet by return mail.

'ARCHY' SEMINAR PLANS

Members of the Archaeological Committee will meet at the Bath Marine Museum sometime early in February to formulate plans for our first archaeological seminar to be held sometime in April. At that time rules, regulations, and procedures will be determined for all archaeological work done within our Society.

It is hoped that all members, and interested persons, wishing to participate in our 'dig' activities will make a special endeavour to attend this session. Final information in our April Newsletter.

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COMMEMORATIVE BOOK AUTHORS

This is a reminder that members intending to contribute articles to our Commemorative Documentary book should file their intent directly to that Committee chairman, Thomas M. Griffiths, Monmouth, Maine 04259. Please give subject title & number of words expected.

This September first is the deadline, and it has a way of approaching fast! If you have any questions, write to Tom.

We are pleased, and honored, that Mon. Honorius Provost, Archivist at LeSéminaire de Québec has offered to contribute three valuable documents concerning the American Revolution, including papers of Benedict Arnold, (and some additional information) to our documentary book, or books.

We are indeed fortunate, and grateful to M'sieur. Provost, for this generous offer.

AEHS OFFICERS 1971-72

- Pres., White Nichols, Wiscasset, Me. 04578
- V.P., Robert A. Cunningham, Woodcock Lane, Lincoln, Mass. 01773
- Recording Sec., Fred Fassett, Jr., Newcastle, Me. 04553
- Membership Sec., Marguerite E. Kelley, 11 Pleasant Place, Waterville, Me. 04901
- Treasurer, Harold E. Brown, 19 Bedford St., Bath, Me. 04530
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NOTE: This committee will meet in early spring in an attempt to keep up with developments and land use problems. Advance notices will be mailed to committee members.

BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE

Chr. Thomas Griffiths, Monmouth, Me.  
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4. - Harold Brown, Bath, Maine  
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BICENTENNIAL PLANS

Our next regular newsletter, to be released about the first of April, will contain a general outline of our proposed Bicentennial activities and programs.

The affair promises to be the most outstanding historical pageant ever to be held in Maine. There will be many people involved, with numerous committees working and directing. Many volunteers will be needed. We want you all to be a part of it. Keep posted.

New York State already has their Bicentennial Commission. We have not been informed of such an appointment here in Maine. Our Society has already been contacted by a representative of the New York Commission with the possibility of some form of liaison.

We shall be pleased to accept any and all ideas that you may volunteer regarding this momentous affair.

TOUR GUIDES WANTED

Volunteer tour guides for the tours to Quebec City, Kennebec River Cruises and Arnold Trail trips, including canoe trips are wanted to register with us as we continue to expand our activities.

QUEBEC SPARK KINDLES

There is more encouraging news from our neighbor across the 'Height of Land'.

M'sieur Provost informs us that the Seminaire de Quebec can collaborate with us in the future. For instance, to help in obtaining historical plaques and boards along the Arnold Trail in Quebec.

M'sieur Provost has contributed three books to the story of the expedition and another is soon to be released, under the title: Chaudiere-Kennebec, Grand Chemin Séculaire (includes a long chapter on the Arnold expedition.)

Researchers and students interested in these valuable publications can get full particulars by writing to Mr. Honorius Provost, Seminaire de Quebec, c.p. 460, Quebec 4, P.Q.

Mr. John Cliche, executive of The Megantic Mfg. Co. in Lac Megantic, Quebec, informs us that a nucleus has been born in that area that may attempt to organize a Quebec Chapter before the summer season approaches.

John will be remembered, by those that participated in the Quebec tour last summer, as the congenial and gracious host that invited us to their delightful Nepress (Spider) Lake residence. He has some potential followers and we shall be pleased to hear of their successful venture. Coming in just in time for our Bicentennial!

#### MAINE STATE MUSEUM POLICY

Developments at the new State Museum seem to indicate that a definite policy on exhibit loan and gift arrangements is forthcoming.

It is strongly hoped that such a policy will have enough flexibility as to be more inviting to numerous collectors that hold rare and valuable items related directly to Maine's unique history and background.

Even in the short time that the new State Museum has been in existence, numerous irreplaceable relics have been sold, exchanged, stolen, or burned, and lost forever as far as Maine is concerned.

Our own Society has regretfully felt this loss and is greatly concerned about it. We believe that the Museum Commission is now more aware of this situation and will take remedial steps to improve their image in order to get public interest and cooperation. Time is awasting!

#### MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

We are very grateful to those members that have made contributions to our Society, several of which have been substantial. We realize that some are not in a position to help in this way, and we are therefore reluctant at this time to publicly announce the names of these donors unless they so desire.

We do feel confident that ours is a good cause and that all resources spent will be many times reaped by many people, including our children, and our children's children. Even our membership fees help to preserve some of Maine's valuable heritage.

Again, we are most grateful to our donors, and proud of our membership scattered over these United States.

Incidentally, this is a reminder that some members have forgotten to mail their 1971-72 dues payments. We due need it, and we do need you. And do remember that our fiscal and membership year begins on July 1st, and not January 1st. Thank you.

#### PICTORIAL MAPS

A firm reminder that our Society has serious commitments for this coming season, especially in the area of surveying and trail corridor projects, that involves monetary expenses.

One means of meeting that expense is by the sale of our Arnold Trail pictorial maps. How about becoming a one-member committee to turn these maps into cash to help defray these expenses?

As described in the last newsletter, the selling price is two dollars, postpaid. Schools, historical societies, libraries and AEHS members should all have them. Order yours now from AEHS, Wiscasset, Maine Q4578.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATION

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for semi-annual meeting dinner at the Augusta House, Augusta, Maine, Sunday, Feb. 13, 1972 at 1 P.M. Nominal rate.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I beg to remain your most humble and obedient servant,

Pres. AEHS White Nichols  
Tel. 207-882-7886 Wiscasset, Maine 04578

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## "GLEANINGS"

Under the above heading we propose bringing to you, in future editions of "Newsletter," interesting scraps of information often overlooked in the reading of Smith, Codman, and the Journalists. Indeed we feel that many of our members do not have knowledge or access to any of these books, so perhaps a brief sketch of them should be in order. Most, but not all, of the source of primary information relative to the march of the Army comes from the journals written by the participants, some officers and some, such as John Henry, mere boys in the lower echelons.

The "Journalists," as we use the term, were Col. (later Gen.) Arnold, Henry Dearborn, Return Meigs, Dr. Isaac Senter, Simeon Thayer, John Henry, James Melvin, Caleb Haskell, George Morrison, Abner Stocking, Simon Fobes, Ephraim Squier and John Pierce the expedition's engineer and surveyor. There are others, but the exhaustive research of author Kenneth Roberts has proven them to be close copies of some of the above, therefore of questionable value.

At the turn of the Century, two historians, Justin Smith, a Professor of History at Dartmouth College, and John Codman, were laboring to bring out the first history of the Arnold Expedition. Codman came out first with "Arnold's Expedition to Canada." Smith with "Arnold's March from Cambridge to Quebec," in 1903. They are generally assessed thus; Codman, "great" reading. Smith "dry" but accurate history. Only a few thousand copies of either of these books were ever printed. Therefore, they are to be found mostly only in the larger libraries and when on rare occasions are found in the used market command a price of 35 to 50 dollars.

A third book "March to Quebec" by Kenneth Roberts, in at least four editions, is a compilation of the above Journals edited and researched by the author; a most important book for the Arnold Expedition student. It also is out of print, but can be found more readily than the others and at a much lower cost.

Again, in future letters, we plan to bring you quotations and facts from the above and other sources.

Cecil Pierce