

NEWSLETTER No. 27

July 10, 1975

To All AEHS Members and Friends:

Your president, secretary, executive committee and board of directors take this opportunity to invite all members and friends of the AEHS to visit the Colburn House and bateau shipyard site and to take part in our reenactment activities, as most appropriate way of commemorating the 200th Anniversary of our great nation.

The Montgomery-Arnold expeditions to gain Canada as our fourteenth colony started in September of 1775.

Our reenactment will begin September 20, 1975, marking the bicentennial of that historic event.

The Colburn House and complex has been undergoing extensive preparations for our grand birthday party.

Outside physical restoration of the main house and ell, carriage house and barn should be completed this month. All three buildings will be appropriately dressed up in a coat of Colonial reddish-brown paint.

The interior restoration will not be attempted until after the Bicentennial. The house is not period furnished and is occupied by our secretary and her husband, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Baker. You will find them very congenial and excellent hosts.

By necessity, house tours will have to be limited until restoration is complete. However, there is much to see. The view down the Kennebec River is magnificent. The grounds are extensive, reaching down hill to the shipyard site along several hundred yards of waterfront.

#### BOAT LANDING

A boat landing facility is now ready for marine travelers at the Colburn Shipyard site. The sailing vessels of the Arnold fleet from Newburyport will disembark their passengers here. Some of the soldiers will encamp nearby on the shore of the Kennebec during the reenactment.

Some of the bateau fleet can be seen here, at the site where 220 were built for the Arnold Army. Perhaps you would like to try one of these unique craft on the river!

The large barn will accommodate many for group meetings on rainy days; while the spacious lawns invite you to picnic in the shade or sun. Come and enjoy your heritage.

There will also be some exhibits in the barn.

The AEHS is most grateful to the officials of the State Bureau of Parks and Recreation for their excellent cooperation in preparing the buildings, grounds and facilities for use during the congested reenactment period.

They have also installed an efficient heavy duty landing dock, at the shipyard site, composed of pier, ramp and a series of floats sufficient to handle passengers embarking, or disembarking at this point.

Future river cruises on the Kennebec can now land directly at the Colburn complex, thereby eliminating extra bus transportation.

Fellow AEO-75 Members:

Recently an invitation was extended to Col. Arnold and the AEO-75 Forces to participate in the "First Annual AEO-75 Spring Reunion" to be held June 19-20 in Marlborough, Mass. This exciting event is being sponsored and paid for by the Friends of the American Revolution in Marlborough and the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission through various fund raising events.

In order to make the reunion successful a large attendance will be required. We have asked each of the Company Captains to contact you and supply us with a list of those planning to attend and their dependents - as this will be a family weekend. Col. Arnold will be informed by mid-March of the number of members attending. We do not intend to seek his support for anything less than 50% participation.

The Program promises to be colorful and exciting. A few of the weekend highlights are:

Saturday, June 19  
Bateau Race  
Colonial Fair  
Battle Re-enactment  
Campfire and Encampment

Sunday, June 20  
Large Colonial Parade  
Continuation of Colonial Fair  
Fife and Drum Concert  
Fireworks Display

Marlborough is about midway geographically between most of the AEO-75 participants and has the necessary facilities for such an event. The townspeople are enthusiastic and will be gracious hosts.

It will be preferable to have each company attend as a unit, but individual participation is welcome. Those who would like to display a craft or sell a product at the Colonial Fair please contact us to reserve a space.

One of the fund raising events previously mentioned will be an evening of colonial entertainment featuring some of the highlights of:

1775 - The Year it all Began

including a musical concert by the S.A.F.D. to be held on Saturday evening, March 20. Tickets for this event will be \$1.50 to AEO-75 members and \$1.00 for dependents. All seats purchased at the door will be \$2.00. A tour of the reunion area and planning session are planned prior to the concert. If you would like to attend either or both let us know.

Don't put off your decision to attend this reunion. June is just around the corner.

So we leave you with one thought "On to Marlborough!"

As always we remain,

*The Friends*

The Friends

FARM - Spirit of '76  
223 Main Street  
Marlborough, MA 01752

(617) 481-1776 Days  
(617) 485-7549 evenings  
(617) 485-8056 evenings