

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



September, 2009

New Arnold Route Map Completed

In late July, the long awaited route map for the 1775 Arnold Expedition Trail was completed. It is a four color illustrated map showing the route of the Expedition from the Upper Kennebec River to Lac Megantic in Canada. This portion of the route was chosen to allow a more detailed description rather than the smaller scale of the entire route from Cambridge to Quebec. Also, this was the most critical portion of the route, and the part which is still relatively undeveloped.

On this map is the Great Carrying Place, the Dead River, much of which is now under the impoundment of Flagstaff Lake. It also shows the many critical portages along the Dead River's North Branch including Ledge Falls and Camp Disaster, where the Expedition was hit by a hurricane. Also shown is the Chain of Ponds, the final portage over the Height of Land and finally the break-up of the Expedition near Lac Megantic.

The map is a topographical on one side, showing many details of the route. On the backside is guide information on current hikes, canoe routes and other historical data.

The map was designed and produced by the Center for GIS in Farmington, Maine and assessed by a number of AEHS directors including Dude Wing, Steve Clark and Tom Desjardin. At this time, free copies have been sent to all AEHS members, by vote of the Directors. If you inadvertently have not received your copy, by all means contact us and we will correct this oversight. Additional copies may be ordered from the AEHS Secretary, Sherri Clark. Also, the Society has a supply of unfolded maps which are suitable for wall mounting or framing. They will make great gifts for all occasions. See the order form on the back of the newsletter.

Major Renovations At The Colburn House.

In 2009 the Colburn House has seen major renovations conducted by the State Bureau of Parks and Lands under the supervision of Tom Desjardin. These renovations are extensive and apply to all three buildings. They are the most extensive undertaken in many years.

They include the following projects;

- Complete burial of all utility lines restoring the property's rustic appearance.
- Restored, replastered and repainted the Arnold Bed Room, Dining and front hall..
- A major rebuilding of the Keeping Room Fireplace and the wooden surrounding..

Continued.... page 4

Highlights in this issue

- New Route Map Produced.
- Major Renovations at Colburn's
- Annual Meeting Scheduled
- Election of Directors
- Middle Carry Work Report
- Trail Clearing Trip to Carry Ponds
- History: The Bigelow Firetower

by John Parsons

AEHS Annual Meeting Scheduled

The Annual Meeting of the Society has been scheduled for Sunday, October 11th at the Ground Round Restaurant in Augusta, Maine.

A director's meeting will be held at 10:00 AM. Any member is welcome to attend this meeting. After, lunch may be obtained on their own at the adjoining restaurant

The business meeting and election of officers and some directors will begin at 1:00 PM. Reports of this busy year of activities will be reviewed as well as discussions on activities for next year. We encourage members to attend.

After the business meeting is concluded we have a real treat for all attendees. Jay Adams, Executive Director of the nearby Old Fort Western will speak to us regarding the Expedition's stay at Fort Western. He will also discuss the comparisons between known facts and folk lore that develops over time. He is one of the foremost authorities on Kennebec Valley history, particularly as it pertains to what was then known as Cusnoc. It promises to be a most interesting presentation.

There will be no charge for members and guests. A noon meal can be purchased at the Ground Round Restaurant

The site is easy to reach as it is just off I-95 from the Augusta North, exit. Go south towards Augusta and turn into Civic Center Drive. The Ground Round Restaurant is in the same building as the Holiday Inn. The meeting will be in the function room.

We look forward to seeing and socializing with members at this meeting. Plan to be there! Good weather assured!

Officers and Directors to be elected

The nominating committee under long time director, Robert Cunningham has presented a slate of officers to be voted upon at the Society's annual meeting on Oct. 11, 2009. The slate of officers to be voted upon for a one

year term is:

President: Stephen Clark
Vice President: John (Jay) Robbins
Secretary: Sherri Clark
Treasurer: Robert Cunningham.

Directors to be voted upon for a new three year term are as follows:

Thomas Desjardin
Ronald Gamage
John (Jay) Robbins
Duluth Wing

Nominations from the floor are accepted under our by-laws.

Middle Carry Work Report

Bob Donovan and Sara Camenga traveled to the cabin at Middle Carry Pond on June 20, 2009 for a clean up day. This is their report.

"The major project was the storage area under the couch. We opened the lid - Bob screamed - it was a six foot mouse nest. How do such tiny creatures make such a big smelly mess? Droppings, feathers, dust, unbelievable! Unfortunately, most of the stored items were unsalvageable because they were caked with droppings and urine. I wore gloves and filled nine trash bags. I kept having to escape the smell and dust and go out on the porch to breathe for a while. This is how you catch hangovers! The items that had to be discarded included bedding, life preservers, and what appeared to be rubber blow up mattresses or boats. There were three orange cushions that I cleaned with Lysol and aired outside hoping they would be usable. They still smelled when we left but we will check them on our next visit. I could not bring myself to discard the moose antlers but they REALLY smelled. I soaked them in the pond, scrubbed them with Lysol and left them in the sun. After all the nest material was removed from the couch I brushed all the mouse droppings out of the tight corners with a gloved hand, swept and then scrubbed with Lysol repeatedly. See couch before and (continued next page)