

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Revolutionary War Reenactment Over The Great Carrying Place

On Columbus Day weekend, a group of Revolutionary War reenactors from Northern Virginia will be coming to Maine. They will be marching the entire Great Carrying place from what was then the Kennebec River, now Wyman Lake, to what was then the Dead River, now Flagstaff Lake. This route is roughly a distance of 11-12 miles. They will be in period dress uniforms using arms and tents similar to those used in 1775.

The Great Carrying Place was at that time, a long portage to avoid rapids, falls and fast water in the Upper Kennebec River to reach the more navigable Dead River. It had been used by Native Americans for hundreds of years. The original portage was 13 miles in length. It took the Expedition five torturous days to march and haul their bateaux and equipment across this rugged portage.

In 1775, the small army, led by Col. Benedict Arnold ascended the Kennebec and Dead Rivers on their way to attempt to capture the then English stronghold of Quebec City. The route led through an utter wilderness.

The lead company in the 1100 man army was a company of soldiers from Northern Virginia, the tough Daniel Morgan's Riflemen. It will be this Revolutionary War company that inspires this reenactment.

It will take two days to traverse the rugged terrain. Luckily they will not be carrying 400 pound bateaux and a half ton of equipment and food, as did the Expedition's men. They will set up a camp on Middle Carry Pond for two nights, during the march.

Since much of this route is difficult for the public to reach, the best time to view and meet the reenactors is on Saturday morning October 9 at 8:00 AM. This will be at a location on the Carry Ponds gravel road, in Pleasant Ridge Plantation, where the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail crosses and follows the Carry Ponds Road for about a half a mile.

This point can be reached via US 201 in Bingham, then follow the Pleasant Ridge Road, on the West side of Wyman Lake, and then onto the Carry Ponds Road. It is about 10 miles from US 201 to reach this point. There will be cars parked near this point so you will recognize the location. The marchers will be passing this point just for a short time. Then they will enter the wooded foot path

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Reenactment, Great Carrying Place
- Annual Meeting to be held
- Election of Officers and Directors
- New Woodshed At Nichols Cabin
- Two Trail Clearing Trips in Spring
- No Gold, Silver or Artifacts
- News from the Colburn House
- The Second Portage, Skowhegan Falls