

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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A Sign Of The Expedition In New Hampshire

The following article appeared in the Manchester Union Leader, Fall, 2015

The #197 sign is located at 15 Main St., Pittsfield, NH

What the sign says: "Jocky Fogg epitomizes the youth who suffered to defend our liberty during the Revolutionary War.

Hearing about the clash at Lexington and Concord while planting peas at this site, he

immediately marched to Cambridge and fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Fogg later survived the ill-fated winter march to Quebec under Benedict Arnold. Of the 1100 men who left, only half reached the city, cold and starved. Captured and imprisoned for nine months under deplorable conditions, Fogg returned to Pittsfield and married Sarah Cram, daughter of the town's founder."

The back story: In September of 1775, Col. Benedict Arnold led a force of 1,100 Continental Army troops from Cambridge, Mass., to the gates of Quebec City. As part of a two-pronged invasion, Arnold's expedition passed through what is now Maine. The other expedition, led by Richard Montgomery, invaded Quebec from Lake Champlain.

Problems beset Arnold's expedition almost from the beginning. The trip up the Kennebec River was grueling, as the boats frequently leaked, ruining gunpowder and spoiling food. More than a third of the men turned back before reaching land between the Kennebec and Chaudiere Rivers. The areas on both sides of the rivers were swampy, and travel was made more difficult by bad weather and inaccurate maps. Additionally, few of the troops had experience handling boats in white water and that led to the destruction of more boats and supplies, as well as drownings.

By the time Arnold reached the French settlements above the St. Lawrence River in November, his force was reduced to 600 tired, starving men. They had traveled about 350 miles through poorly charted wilderness, twice the distance they had expected to cover.

Assisted by Canadiens, Arnold crossed the St. Lawrence on Nov. 13 and 14 and attempted to take Quebec City. He failed, many of his men were captured, (cont. Page 2)

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Jocky Fogg Article
- Annual Meeting Held
- Director's Meeting
- New Interpretive Signs
- Officers and Directors Elected
- The Colburn House's Future

Page 2

(...cont. from Page 1, Jocky Fogg)
and he withdrew to Point-aux-Trembles to await Montgomery's arrival. Together, they launched a second unsuccessful attack on the city.

Arnold's route through northern Maine is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Arnold Trail to Quebec, and some geographic features in the area bear names of participants in the expedition.

Submitted by Laura Stewart

Officers and Directors Elected

At the Sept. 19th meeting of the AEHS, new directors and officers were elected.

Following is a list of those elected.

Officers elected for a term of one year:

President: Fred Clark, Winslow, ME

V. Pres: John Robbins, Richmond, ME

Treasurer: Alan Burnell, Eustis, ME

Secretary: Stephen Clark, Scarborough, ME

Directors elected for a term of three years.

Fred Clark, Winslow, ME

Thomas Desjardin, Pittsfield, ME

Henry Dillenbeck, Winslow, ME

Clayton McLaughlin, Fairfield, ME

John (Jay) Robbins, Richmond, ME

New President

Fred Clark was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and was raised in Dayton, Ohio. His father was in the US Air Force, and his family had the opportunity to live in many parts of the country. In 1954 he started moving to AF bases in Denver, Colorado, Chicopee, Massachusetts, Bossier City, Louisiana, Natchitoches, Louisiana and abroad in Guam. There were, however, always ties to Maine. Fred's grandmother owned a summer camp in the Farmington area which Fred's mother, aunts, uncles, and cousins enjoyed regularly throughout the years.

Fred graduated from Northwestern

State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana with a B. S. in Industrial Arts.

Fred moved to Maine in 1967 where he taught Industrial Arts at Winslow High School for several years, before becoming the director of transportation and building maintenance for the Winslow School system. He later worked in local plumbing and heating businesses before retiring to build the house in Winslow that he and his wife have enjoyed for over 15 years.

Fred has four sons. Fred has a gift for fixing almost anything mechanical or electronic. He has many interests, including photography, the Wiscasset Waterville & Farmington Narrow Gauge Railroad in Alna, the Taconnett Genealogy Society of which he is the current president, and US history. He has a particular interest in American colonial history, and is particularly interested in the history of Maine.

Did You Know That?

There is much hidden under the waters along the route of the expedition! Impoundments have covered portions of the route the soldiers saw and followed. From the mouth of Carrying Place Stream, where the men camped as they began the Great Carrying Place Portage, the Savanna, Hurricane Falls, the campsite of Natanis (Flagstaff Village) and Arnold Falls, all lay under the waters of Wyman or Flagstaff Lakes. And the many dams along the way now cover other sites where the soldiers camped. Even portions of the Megantic Swamp are now under water. Some of these waters cover the bones of brave soldiers, at rest under these waters.