

# EXPEDITION MESSENGER

## NEWSLETTER OF THE ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY



May, 2016

---

### Possible Archeological Exploration Near Chain of Ponds

For some time now, the events and route surrounding the expeditions passage over the Height of Lands portage trail have posed many questions. The portage trail was eight miles in length beginning at the west end of the Chain, at Round Pond, then followed Horseshoe Stream and a series of four small ponds which are the headwaters of the Kennebec River. Then from Arnold Pond, the trail headed north and west through a gap in the Boundary Mountains, then downhill to the Arnold River at the Beautiful Meadow. Along this trail, Col. Benedict Arnold had ordered the bateau to be abandoned in place. Only about twenty of them were carried across to the Arnold River and on to Lac Megantic.

It is our estimate that between 75-100 bateau were left behind. But where? If we knew, there would be better insight about the important transformation from a water borne army to one on foot.

We also do not know the exact route of the portage trail, nor where they camped along the route.

The AEHS is working closely with the Maine Historical Preservation Comm. to organize an archeological study to answer some of these important questions. It is possible that we may be able to undertake such a study during the 2016 season. This will be decided by early summer.

The first steps are to outline the objectives of such a study. This has already begun. Its main focus obviously is to better understand the history of the expedition's passage in this area and to possibly recover artifacts from that passage. Since this portage trail existed many years prior to 1775, we are also interested in more information regarding Native American usage of this route.

Maybel Haynes was a long time director and member of the AEHS and after her death in 2015, her family generously offered to support a major project along the expedition's route. The Society also has some funds from other bequests that could be added to this project. The Trust for Public Lands has applied for funds to do such a study through the National Park Service's Battlefields Protection program. This is highly competitive and is far from a sure thing. In any case, a reasonable start could be funded for this purpose.

All these efforts very well could bare fruit towards the goal of discovering important facts relating to the history of the expedition. It is one of the prime purposes of our Society.

#### HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Possible New Archeological Study
- Restoration Day At Colburn House
- What Ever Happened To The Bateau?
- Portage Trail Clearing Planned
- Member's Green Fingers Needed
- Colburn House At A Crossroads
- Directors Meeting To Be Held