

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



December 2016

President's Report

We learned of the sad news that long time AEHS director Rocky Freeman lost his life to cancer on Oct 30, 2016. It is a great loss for all his family, friends, and the Arnold Society. A celebration of Rocky's life was held at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center on November 11, 2016, Veterans Day. A large group of friends and family attended the memorial gathering with old friends telling of many light moments with and about Rocky over the years. One comment I particularly liked compared Rocky to a loaf of French bread: hard and crusty on the outside and soft in the middle. We will miss his humor and help on many projects over the years.

As many of you know, the state Attorney General's office put a hold on the archeological survey this year in the Chain of Ponds area, because of new required contractual requirements. This matter apparently was not spelled out in the agreement with the Maine Historical Preservation Commission. We will be working on this in the coming months and try again for next year.

An AEHS land's committee is working on the possible sale of the approximately 4 ½ acre lot the Society owns on East Carry Pond. If we are successful, we hope to purchase a shore front lot on Middle Carry Pond, next to the Nichols Cabin. This would also protect a part of the original portage trail between East and Middle Carry Ponds.

This lot and other land around Middle Carry Pond has recently been put up for sale. Purchasing this lot would help to create a buffer and maybe expansion of the cabin area.

As you can see, we have many items on the agenda for the coming years.

Fred Clark

HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

- President's Report
- Elections Held
- New Interpretive Signs
- Winter Lecture Schedule
- Directors Meeting Notes

New Interpretive Signs

Kenny Wing of Eustis recently reported that the Maine Dept. Of Transportation has installed the first of three interpretive signs along Rt. 27. We have worked with them to ensure an accurate description on each sign. The first of these is at a new scenic turnout near the So. Branch Dead River in Eustis. The site overlooks the west end of the Bigelow Range and Flagstaff Lake. This is near the point where the expedition began their journey up the No. Branch of the Dead River.

There are to be two other interpretive signs along Rt. 27 at Sarampus Falls and the other at a turnout overlooking Natanis Pond near the Canadian border. Once these are completed, there will be a completed chain along the Dead River.

There are a number of signs left to be installed along the Kennebec River route to complete the entire route of the expedition in Maine. The citizens of Lac Megantic in Canada have also installed an interpretive sign on the route near the outlet of Lac Megantic and the beginning of the Chaudiere River.

In the early 1900's the Daughters of the American Revolution installed a series of bronze plaques mounted on large rocks along the route of the expedition. The last of these were installed in 1919. Most still exist today. However these plaques, while honoring the soldiers and marking their passage along the route of the expedition, provided only minimal information for the public.

The new series of interpretive signs, provided by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, the DOT and the AEHS, include much more information regarding the expedition's progress along the 350 mile route from Cambridge to Quebec.

These fine all weather interpretive signs are mounted on long-lasting granite posts, and are pictorial in nature. It will take several years to complete the chain in Maine. We contemplate having a complete series of 12 signs from the mouth of the Kennebec in Popham to the Canadian border at Coburn Gore.

This series of interpretive signs, once completed, will provide an outstanding way to

share information with the public in regard to the 1775 Quebec Expedition, fulfilling one of the prime goals of the Society.

Officers and Directors Elected.

At our September 2016 Annual Meeting held at the Colburn House, the following slate of officers and directors were elected.

President: Fred Clark, Winslow

Vice Pres: Rocky Freeman

Treasurer: Alan Burnell, Eustis

Secretary: Lucas Freeman, Readfield

Directors: Stephen Clark, Scarborough, Robert Cunningham, Lincoln Ct. MA, Robert Donovan, Emden, Norman Kalloch, Carrying Place Township, Clayton McLaughlin, Fairfield, John Parsons, Sussex, NY, Laura Stewart, Manchester, NH.

All officers and directors were elected for a term of three years under our new bylaws. There is a vacancy of one directorship that will be addressed by the Board later. [A second vacancy for the position of VP has also occurred since the election].

Notes from the Directors Meeting of 9-17-16

1. The Hilton book, mounting costs for the Carriage House would be, \$12.50 each for the 16 pages. No action was taken.
2. We reviewed the archeological study by Kenny Wing.
3. Reviewed the Colburn House potential agreement. It is due in draft form according to Gary Best, Bureau of Parks and Lands, by early December 2016. No action taken.
4. Betty Wing's birthday was celebrated by the Society.
5. The Treasurer's and Secretary' reports were given.
6. Sale of Land next to the Nichols Cabin, by Dirigo Land was discussed. They want \$80,000 for it. Norm Kalloch, Bob Donovan and Alan Burnell will check on the "parking lot" land value and if camp lots could be built on it for a possible sale.
7. Possibilities for storage of AEHS records was discussed. Two four draw files would be needed. Inquiries for storage with the Kennebec Historical Society In Augusta will be made.