

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



September, 2017

Annual Meeting To Be Held

President Fred Clark has announced the Annual Meeting of the AEHS to be held on **Saturday, September 16, at 1:00 pm**. This will be located at the Colburn House in Pittston, Maine. The meeting will feature various reports from officers and committees working on special projects. There will be no election of officers or directors this year as under our new bylaws, the next election will occur in the fall of 2019.

The speaker will be Mr. Paul Lessard of Winslow who will discuss his research on one of the Kennebec Valley residents who volunteered to join the Expedition in 1775. He was one Charles Burget. He was assigned to be in Capt. Dearborn's company and was captured during the attack on Quebec. It should be a most interesting talk. During the morning, the AEHS Board will meet at **9:30 AM** at the same location. All members and guests are welcome to join in.

There will be a bag lunch held between the two meetings and again, all are invited. Bring your own food and drink. It should be a fine, warm fall day.

At Old Fort Western in Augusta, that same day, there will be an Arnold reenactment held. After our meeting is completed, it might be interesting to swing by the Fort and join in the activities. They will be conducting various activities during the afternoon of the 16th. There also will be activities conducted at the Fort on the 17th.

We hope all members and guests will join us!

Did you know that:

Col. Benedict Arnold co-led with Ethan Allen, the capture of Ft. Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. During the winter of 1776, the heavy cannon from the fort were laboriously hauled over the Berkshire Mountains by Gen. Henry Knox to Dorchester Heights just south of Boston. When they began to fire, this drove the British to evacuate Boston, thus ending the seige that had lasted for 11 months. Arnold's success at Ticonderoga was instrumental in Washington choosing Arnold to lead the expedition to capture Quebec.

Highlights

- Annual Meeting To Be Held
- Archeological Study Underway
- Hiking The Great Carrying Place
- Appalachian Trail Clubs Hold Conference
- Report on June Board Meeting
- Research Article: Middle Carry Portage Trail Restoration

Archeological Study to be Undertaken

The long awaited archeological study funded by the AEHS and Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) has finally worked out all its preplanning and began on August 14th of this year. The results of this undertaking will not be available for this edition of the newsletter, but will be published in the December newsletter.

The study is the first of its kind to be undertaken along the route of the 1775 Expedition. It will concentrate its efforts along portions of the Height of Land Portage Trail between Lost and Arnold Ponds. This is just west of the Chain of Ponds.

Its purpose is to identify areas where further more intensive exploration would be productive. In particular we are seeking not only to locate campsites, but the location of where many of the expedition's bateaux were abandoned. This will not be easy.

The AEHS was able to sponsor this study through the generosity of the Mabelle Haynes Family. Mabelle was a long time supporter of the AEHS for more than 29 years and served as one of its directors.

The project will be managed by the MHPC which has the knowledge and expertise to undertake such a study. A final report will be available later in the fall and will be published in the upcoming December edition of the newsletter.

Hike Over the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail

By Kevin Farmer

I contacted you [Steve Clark] back in May about your excellent work with the AEHS and your publications of the Arnold Expedition especially the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail pamphlet. I am pleased to tell you that Paul Norris and I hiked the trail on July 24 and benefitted immensely from the detailed knowledge you provided. I first want to

mention the Pine Grove Lodge about a mile from Carry Ponds Road. The owners, Bob and Andrea Howe, were very helpful and accommodating. We rented a cabin there for 3 nights and Andrea had informed us ahead of our arrival that she would be able to drop us off at the trail and leave our car at the other end. Although we had planned to hike the trail from east to west, it would have been quite inconvenient for the Howes and we agreed to hike west to east. The weather was a perfect 70 degrees for the entire day. I must say that we are not experienced hikers but in good physical shape (both in our mid-60s). Yet because of the mild weather and that we were hiking downhill, it was a pleasant and successful hike. It took quite a bit longer than we expected – 8 hours, and we realized it would have been quite a struggle if we had hiked east to west. It was an experience I will always cherish and to see the Maine wilderness where those brave patriots persevered was unforgettable.

Hikes on Great Carrying Place Trails Conducted by Appalachian Trail Conference

The ATC's large conference attended by more than 800 members was held at Colby College in Waterville on August 4-11. As a part of the meeting, several group hikes were scheduled and conducted over the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail in the Carry Ponds country. AEHS director Norm Kalloch who lives on West Carry Pond with his wife, Audrey, led several of the hikes.

It appears that the GCP Trail is becoming more well known and more frequented. The AEHS efforts to re-open this trail is beginning to pay off and will render not only a good first hand recreational experience, but a good experience in history as well. The last conference meeting was held in Maine during the summer of 1997.