

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



December 2018



Rediscovery Of GCP Trail Section

During the past two years, the AEHS has discovered a previously unknown section of the old Great Carrying Place Portage Trail near Middle Carry Pond. This was accomplished by careful analysis of several of the Expedition's journalists and several exploratory field trips. This process has been lead by AEHS director, Norm Kalloch.

The section is only about 0.3 mi. in length and begins from the shore of Middle Carry Pond where it narrows into the pond's inlet, Sandy Stream. It then ascends a rise away from the pond until crossing the gravel Lane Pond Road. At this point the Appalachian Trail and the original portage trail join and follow an esker extending westward. Just beyond this esker is the infamous narrow swamp so vividly described in soldier's journals.

This discovery of the short portage trail section is on land owned by the National Scenic Appalachian Trail, managed by the National Park Service. Permission to construct and reestablish this part of the GCP Trail has been submitted to the Maine Appalachian Trail Club which manages the AT in Maine. It has been approved at this initial level but it will be considered at higher levels. It is presumed that this proposal will be field inspected by National Park Service officials this coming summer. If approved, the Society can then open the foot trail as a part of the GCP Portage Trail.

Mr. Kalloch has carefully flagged the route as the first step in reopening this short 0.3 mi. section. However, no further work can be done until approval is obtained from the NPS.

The AEHS has been attempting to reestablish the old portage trail as close as possible, to its original location during the past decade. Both ends of the portage trail now lay under impoundments. Over many years other portions of the trail have been altered by human activities. However, much of the original route is still intact and allows hikers to follow its eleven mile length.

The soldiers of the 1775 Expedition followed this old Native American route on their epic journey to Quebec. The Appalachian Trail utilizes about three miles of this same route between Middle and West Carry Ponds.

The Society maintains this route and publishes a 16 page guide to enable hikers to follow the portage trail. It can be obtained through our secretary. See the back page of this newsletter.

- **Discovery of Old GCP Trail Section**
- A Passing
- Moving On
- Boundary Marking
- Report of Board Meeting
- Pictorial Section

Page 2

A Passing

We regret to inform our members of the passing of long time member, Betty Wing on October 14th. She and her husband Duluth were original members of the Society. She was 90 years old and attended our last annual meeting in September of this year.

She is survived by her son, Kenny Wing currently an AEHS director, a daughter Judy Lambert and several grandchildren.

Burial was at the Flagstaff Memorial Chapel in Eustis. There was a well attended memorial gathering in Stratton as well. Several officers and directors of the Society were in attendance.

Betty was very active in numerous social and service organizations in the area. She was also involved in the placement of a memorial headstone for the Indian woman Natanis at Chain of Ponds.

She will be greatly missed.

Fresh, Hot Donuts on the Trail.

In September Mike and Pat Holt, AEHS directors decided to graciously feed hikers on the Appalachian Trail. This was done on the AT near their camp on Pemadumcook Lake. They set up their donut and coffee operation right on the trail to feed starving thru hikers as they came along the trail.

Can you imagine their surprise to see the Maine version of Dunkin' Donuts on the AT in the middle of the 100 Mile Wilderness? And it was free! AT hikers northbound towards Katahdin, after completing 2000 miles on the AT have notorious appetites. More than 15-18 thru hikers soon had Mike and Pat cleaned out.

The two very kind men are doing this to perfect their technique for the upcoming 250th reenactment anniversary of the Arnold Expedition to be held in 2025! They cannot stand the terrible vision of reenactors passing over the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail in a starving condition, similar to that experienced by the original 1775 Revolutionary War soldiers! The ghosts of the soldiers will be very envious if they too will not enjoy the wonderful donuts and coffee whipped up and fresh fried by Mike and Pat! Being ghosts has its drawbacks!

Movin' On!

Since 2005 this newsletter has been edited and managed by Steve and Sherri Clark. This is the 39th and last edition they will put together. They have initiated the tradition of a December edition of color photos rather than just more text.

We have tried to keep it interesting and fresh for our members, but it is time for a new editor to keep it fresher. The next edition under a new editor will commence with the 2019 May edition. No new editor has yet been appointed. Any takers?

Boundary Marking

Patrick and Mike Holt traveled to Middle Carry Pond near the Nichols Cabin to finish clearing the new boundary line path and marking it. This is on the new land swap which was added to the Nichols lot. This new addition would protect a part of the portage trail as well as the shore line next to the cabin..

There's no need to mark the west side of the new lot since the pond's shoreline does that nicely.

The north boundary we did in June and the East boundary we did during this visit. You can now start on the shoreline at the northwest corner of the property and follow the blazes to the northeast corner and from there to the southeast corner.

All of the tree blazes are painted red and the sight path has been cleared of obstructing branches and young growth. However, our work came to a screeching halt when we tried to mark from the southeast corner back to the pond.

We couldn't find any pins or flagging for the south line. The other boundary lines were flagged and there were pipe or rebar marked corner-posts. The deed reads that the south line runs from a rebar (which we found) at the southeast corner. (Cont. on Page 7)