
EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 2020



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Remembering Robert Cunningham

After a long and great life of 95 years, Robbie passed away peacefully on Saturday August 22, 2020 with his son Jonathan at his side. Born and raised in Newton, Robbie attended Newton South High School, and later Harvard, class of 1946. He loved his time at Harvard and met his wife, Margaret Garfield, after a Crimson football win. During World War II, Robbie was stationed in Hawaii and then Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant.

Robbie joined the Lincoln Minutemen and was sure to attend all their events. The annual highlight was the march from Lincoln to Concord for the April 19th celebration, and parade commemorating the battles of Lexington

and Concord. Robbie loved history and one of his favorite passions was the Arnold Expedition Historical Society. In 1975, to celebrate the 200-year anniversary, he led 600 people on a reenactment of the march.

Robbie believed in giving back and paying forward. He felt that the world was becoming faster, but that did not necessarily make it better. Robbie was a great communicator and while recognizing the importance of technology, he wished people would converse more and come together instead of being buried in technology.

He leaves his son Jonathan and wife Kathryn of Lincoln, grandchildren Susan, Michelle and Amy; brother Tony Cunningham and his wife Aurora, and their children Lydia and Charlie. A service was held September 4th at Lincoln Cemetery. Military honors were presented. The family requested no flowers, and asked well-wishers instead to consider donating to the [Pine Street Inn](#) for homeless men and women, 444 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118. (For the [full text](#) of the obituary see the [Dee Funeral Home](#) website.)

Need Email Addresses

Dear New Members — glad to have you with us! Please send us your email address at arnoldexpedition@gmail.com. We use email to contact members for events such as the recent hiking tour of the Carrying Place Portage Trail (see writeup below). Also please advise if you would prefer the electronic version of this newsletter, which includes links and more color photos. Same goes for old members if you have changed your email or never sent one.

Treasurer & VP Needed

The “Help Wanted” section of a newspaper is usually near the end but this seems like a better spot. The AEHS now finds the officers of Treasurer and of Vice President are open. My job as newsletter editor can be handled remotely but these really cannot, people on the scene in Maine are needed. Please contact Fred Clark, President, at the AEHS address below, or email us at arnoldexpedition@gmail.com.

Trail Tour Oct 11

The AEHS held a tour of the Great Carrying Portage Trail on October 11. This date coincided with the army’s march across the portage 245 years ago. Norm Kalloch reports:

We started a 9 AM and ended at Flagstaff after 2 PM. We were at the portage entrance at 10 AM, the exact time Arnold wrote in his diary that he arrived, 245 years earlier. Everyone got a kick out of that. We looked for his ghost, but it never showed. Great weather, cool with a slight wind, and beautiful views of Bigelow and beyond. I feel the tour went very well. We had 19 participants. Kenny Wing did a great job as usual. We had a lot of good discussions. Bob Donovan, Clayton McLaughlin and Fred Clark

added to the discussions as well. They also were critical in shuttling vehicles and that helped to keep things moving smoothly.

I believe publicizing the event made a big difference. The announcement was on the Facebook pages of [Old Fort Western](#) and the [Skowhegan Historical Museum](#), as well as in the Town Line weekly newspaper. Simon Rucker of the ATC spread the word as well.

Roof Repair Project

by Mike Holt

October 23rd and 24th were work days at the White Nichols Memorial Cabin on Middle Carry Pond. We started about 7:30 each day and took our time. Cold mornings and the sky spit at us a couple of times but the wind died each day and for the most part we worked in comfortable weather. We were happy the forecast didn't include an October hurricane as it did for Arnold.

All in all, both days were fun. It's amazing how much gets done when everybody is willing and better yet eager to help. A good time working with like-minded people and talking some history. Yes, there were 80-year old + volunteers up on the roof. My brother Pat and I are going up soon to put the "snow load" support posts in and to finish placing the stove. [Done, Nov. 15; also plan flag the border with neighbor to the south.]

Road Plaques

Clayton McLaughlin has been traveling the Arnold route documenting the commemorative plaques along the way. This issue we feature the first of these, at the southern end, Fort Western. He reports this placard was placed on September 19, 1912 by the Old and Honorable Second Company Governors Foot Guard of



Above: Bob Cunningham; the 1975 March.



Steve Clark, Alan Burnell, and Kenny Wing at September meeting, Colburn House.

October trail trip, start.



Nichols cabin maintenance

Stove repositioned to eliminate horizontal run of stovepipe



Bob Donovan trimming the Bunkhouse roof cover. Note the job supervisor perched at the top of the ladder. Our work is Canada Jay approved.

Kenny Wing (blue jacket), Fred Clark (yellow), Norm Kalloch (red). Note old stovepipe on rail - we won't head-bang that again)

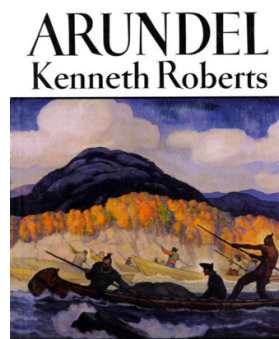
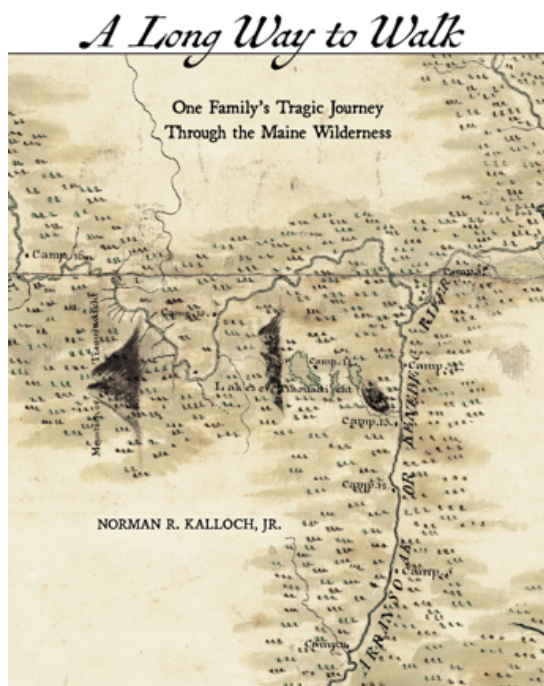




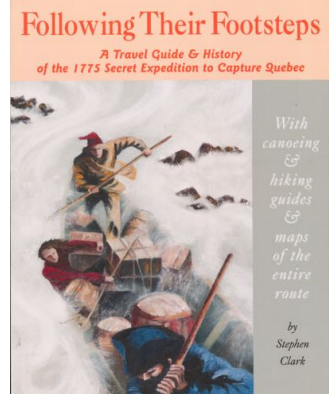
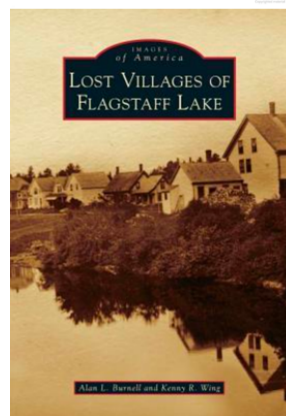
Pond-side finished, starting side two. Clayton McLaughlin on the ground cutting shingles. On the roof, left to right, Norm Kalloch, Kenny Wing, Fred Clark, Pat Holt, Bob Donovan. The wind blew and gusted while we were doing the lake side. We moved to the lee of the peak and the wind died

Marker at
Fort Western

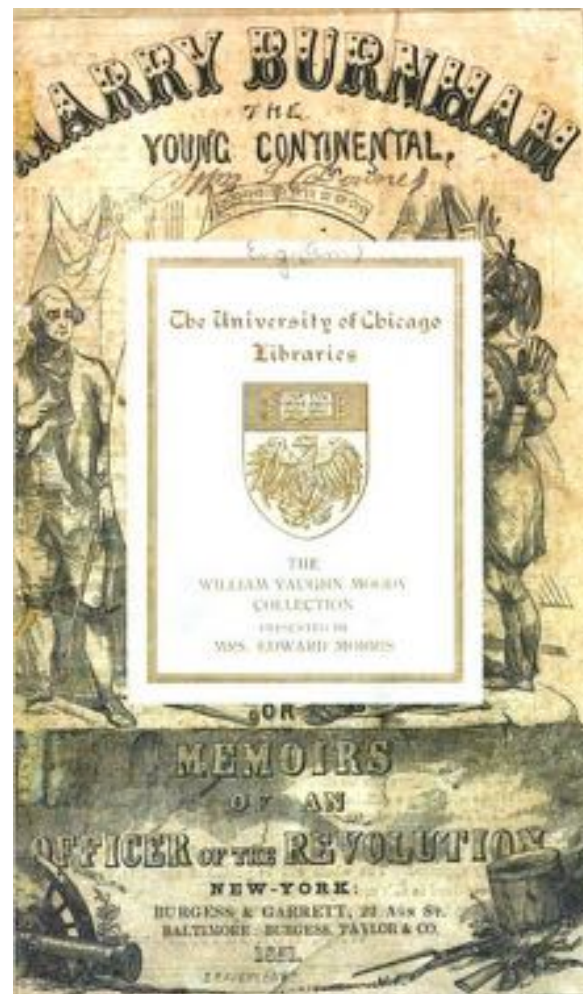
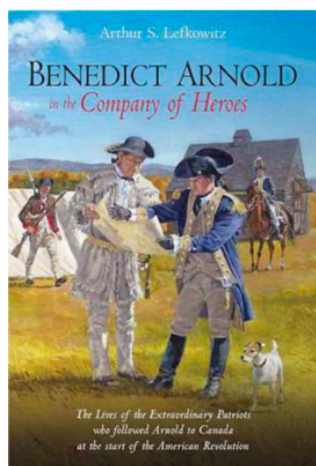
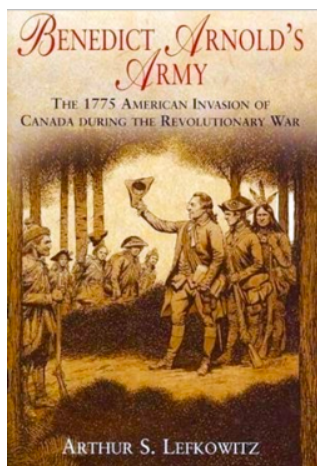
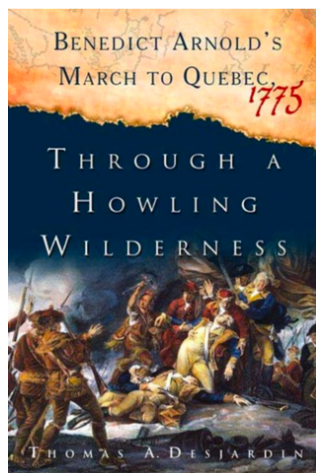
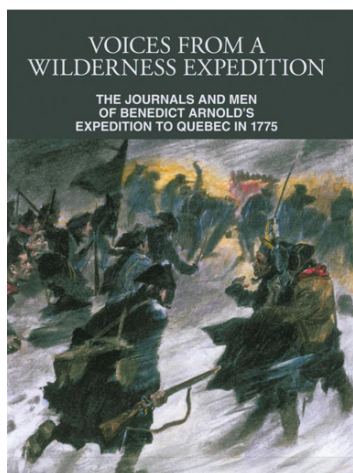




THE ACCLAIMED FIRST NOVEL BY A
PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING MAINE AUTHOR
"A novel to defy the years."—*The Philadelphia Inquirer*



Books in this issue



New Haven, Connecticut. It is on a boulder some twenty feet above the river, about 100 feet south of the southwest Block House; almost directly in front of the site of the trading post built by the Pilgrims in 1628 in what was then called [Cushnoc](#). In the flood of 1987 the boulder holding the placard was almost lost, it may soon have to be moved back from the edge.

Good Reads by AEHS members

by Laura Stewart

It would be interesting to determine how many of our members were drawn to the AEHS from having read [Kenneth Roberts's](#) historical novel, *Arundel*. When it comes to impactful books, I indulge my compulsive nature. In the case of Roberts, I hunted down nearly every book he wrote and have read many of them twice.

Along the way, one finds other gems related in one way or another- whether to the Arnold Expedition or the fascinating area of the Maine Wilderness. At our annual September meeting, I was surprised to learn that one of our members, Norm Kalloch, had written a couple of books in recent years. I picked up [A Long Way to Walk](#) and could not put it down. Based on the true story of a family “fresh off a boat” from England to Quebec in 1783, the book puts the reader into the shoes of a young family who prove to have terrible luck and reasoning skills. They attempt to walk to Maine, using an “old Indian trail” once used by Benedict Arnold’s army only a few years earlier. They are swindled by some but mostly helped along the way by the kindness of others whom they are lucky to come across in the desolate wilderness.

It’s a great read, which made me think it worth listing additional books written by our members which others might find of interest.

Norman R. Kalloch Jr.: [A Long Way to Walk and 45th Parallel](#)

Stephen Clark*: [Following Their Footsteps](#)

[Thomas A. Desjardin: Through a Howling Wilderness](#)

[Stephen Darley: Voices from a Wilderness Expedition](#)

Arthur S. Lefkowitz: [Benedict Arnold’s Army](#) and [Benedict Arnold in the Company of Heroes](#)

Kenneth Wing and Alan Burnell: [The Lost Villages of Flagstaff Lake](#)

* The other titles are available online, but Steve Clark’s book was self-published so if you want a copy, send him \$25 at 60 Burnham Rd., Scarborough ME 04074. It will be autographed! Or email sclark60@live.com.

A New Expedition Journal?

AEHS member Rob Stevens has found a “new” fictional account of the Expedition — [Harry Burnham, the Young Continental](#), by Henry A. Buckingham, published in 1851! It contains a journal which seems very authentic. The entire novel is available on Google Books, which as you can see from the illustration, scanned a copy from the U. of Chicago. More on this in future issues.

AEHS Membership Form

Mail this form with your check to: AEHS, c/o Fred Clark, 9 Randall Rd., Winslow ME 04901
Include your phone number and email address if this is acceptable, and please advise whether or not
you want to receive the newsletter electronically. Make check payable to AEHS.

Category:

_____ Individual Membership \$30

_____ Family Membership \$35

_____ Contributing Membership \$75

_____ Life Membership \$220 (one-time payment)

Additional donation for Society programs _____ (tax-deductible)

To order the 16-page booklet-guide to The Great Carrying Place Portage Trail, send check for \$5.00 to
AEHS. Non-members, please add one additional dollar for postage.

To order the AEHS 18 x 28 color, two-sided map of The 1775 Expedition's Route from the Kennebec
River to Lac Megantic, Canada send check for \$5.95. These can be ordered unfolded, for framing or
wall mounting, for an additional \$6.00 to cover cost of shipping tube and postage.

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