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Arnold Expedition Historical Society

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Edited by Daniel H. Warren, Jr.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 39th annual meeting was held at the Ground Round Restaurant, Augusta, Me, on October 7th, 2007. Attendance was sparse, but included the die-hard core attendees.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. The report provided a list of outstanding bills and balances of the business checking account, the endowment fund and the restoration fund. Total society funds were \$27,392.24.

Tom Desjardin informed the society of progress being made at the Colburn House, including the formation of a "Friends of the Colburn House" group, recent acquisitions and future plans. Susan Hutchins was thanked for all of her work in organizing tours of the house and for training the tour guides this past summer.

Tom Desjardin provided information about two new web sites devoted to the Society and the Colburn House. (Additional information is provided elsewhere in this newsletter).

Ron Gamage reported on trail work needed on the Wyman Lake-Carry Ponds section, which should be scheduled in the spring of 2008. While the trail needs maintenance, it was suggested that two groups of three could do the project in less than a day.

Recent visits to section of the trail above Eustis finds much work needing to be done as the trail has become quite overgrown with small brush. Larger blow-downs have been cleared by some unknown volunteer.

Election of officers. For a three year term to expire in 2010, Robert Cunningham, Mabelle Haynes, and Daniel H. Warren, Jr. were re-elected. New directors elected were John Parsons and Lori Ann Desjardin. Dan Warren Jr. was elected President and Treasurer
Jay Robbins was elected Vice President
Lori-Ann Desjardin was elected secretary

A Colburn House Committee was appointed, and includes: Tom & Lori-Ann Desjardin, Dan Warren, and Susan Hutchins.

Lee Cranmer gave an informative presentation of the history of Fort Halifax.

INTRODUCTION TO OUR NEW DIRECTORS

John Parsons

John Parsons, Monroe, NY, was elected director at the October, 2007 Annual Meeting. John's family was from the area which is now Flagstaff Lake. During his childhood, his family made several summer trips

to Maine. About 8 years ago John resumed those trips, camping at Cathedral Pines, in Eustis, after having been given a guided tour of the Carry Ponds area by Dan Warren, Jr. John first became a "Contributing Member" in 2002.

While John has a strong interest in his family's past connection to the area, he has developed just as strong an interest in the Arnold expedition. With the guidance and advice of Dude Wing and other knowledgeable individuals, and with the help of a select few volunteers, John has successfully searched and found artifacts each year since he began his quest. They are maintained in a display labeled "Parsons Collection". John has been a good resource, as he is willing to do historical research before attempting an archaeological project.

Lori-Ann (Jordan) Desjardin

Lori-Ann grew up in Pittsfield, Maine, and can remember seeing the last log drive on the Kennebec River in 1974, near Skowhegan. An avid history enthusiast, her ancestry here in Maine dates back to Vassalboro where her family lived near the Getchells, many of whom served as guides for Arnold's march. In Quebec, her forebears were prominent citizens dating back to the early 1600s. She is married to AEHS Director Tom Desjardin and lives in Hallowell with their Newfoundland dogs Molly Brown and Henry Dearborn.

Lori-Ann is an alumna of Maine Central Institute, Colby College, and the University of Southern Maine and administers a program for children with autism and other special needs.

TRANS-CANADA GRANT

Our society is very fortunate to have received funding that will bring two very worthwhile projects to completion. Considerable work has been completed, although much remains to be done, on the creation of an interpretive map of Arnold's route from the Kennebec River to the height of land, possibly going on to LacMagantic, Canada. Numerous significant sights will be identified, with many journal references to illustrate the significance of these sights.

A second project is the completion of an oral history, with professional audio and video presentation. This is a multi-purpose project, with the intent that valuable history be preserved and that the finished project may be usable to secure other grants at some future time.

Three directors have been meeting diligently with the project organizers. Although we took a break during the holiday period, we plan to get back to these projects shortly. This is a big project and the society needs your help to complete this project. We know there are many knowledgeable people out there who could contribute much to this project. If you are willing to contribute such stuff as locations of historic events along the trail, other historical data, identify journal entries, please contact the society at our address above. You may contact us by phone (leave your name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address) or send a written letter indicating your desire to help. All offers will be considered by the committee and by the map makers. Their experience is outstanding and they recognize the significance of data even better than we do. It's all about presentation. Please help if you can.