

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



December 2008

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Sunday, 10-12-08 Annual Meeting – Augusta

In the absence of President and Treasurer Dan Warren, the other officers delayed the business meeting until after the dinner. Vice President **Jay Robbins** ran the meeting.

President and Treasurer Reports:

Absent, no report.

Colburn House:

Jay announced that \$1200 of AEHS funds had been spent on an oil spill at the Colburn House cleaned up by Maine DEP in September.

Jay explained briefly the proposed new relationship between AEHS, Maine's Bureau of Parks and lands (BPL) and the Colburn House, then introduced Tom Desjardin, AEHS historian and BPL Historic Site Specialist to explain further.

To summarize, the AEHS no longer has any responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the Colburn House, including the caretaker, and utility bills. The AEHS is allowed and even encouraged to continue to take advantage of the property to display artifacts, hold meetings, etc. The AEHS can retrieve any of its items it wants from the Colburn House property with a simple vote of the directors at any time. The house will still be used to promote the AEHS and its work as it is an important part of the public awareness and member recruitment for the society.

BPL and the AEHS board will formalize this new relationship in a memorandum of agreement in the next few months.

Reports:

Dude Wing informed the group that the book about the Arnold Expedition he has been helping Arthur Lefkowitz write for some years now is published and available. He and Arthur spoke recently at the Revolutionary War Round Table in New York.

Trail Map

Transcanada, a Canadian wind power company that is planning a wind farm on Kibby Mountain – has given AEHS a \$10,000 grant to create a full color, GIS-based map of the trail from Lake Wyman Dam to Canada. It will include mile markers with Fort Western as Mile "0". The map is ready for press except for the narrative section which will go on the back. Community GIS in Farmington is producing the map. Transcanada has informed AEHS that annual grant money may be available in the future.

Ron Gamage informed us that the trail [Great Carrying Place] has not been worked on in at least three years and will need some clearing this coming spring.

Nichols Cabin, Middle Carry Pond Ron and **Rusty Arsenault** have built new front and rear steps on the cabin as well as a ladder for shoveling snow from the roof. {cont. Page 2}

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- *Annual Meeting*
- *New Contacts for AEHS*
- *AEHS Director's Directory*
- *Short Stuff*
- *Message; A Time to Reflect*

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Nominations Committee Report:

Bob Cunningham and Jay Robins served as the nominations committee.

The following slate of officers and directors was nominated and elected for 2008-09. Directors were elected for three years.

President: Steve Clark

Vice President: Jay Robbins

Treasurer: Bob Cunningham

Secretary: Sherri Clark

Expiring Directors Terms

Susan Hutchins

Jean Lockyer

Rusty Arsenault

New Directors (three year term): Terms Expire 2011

Rusty Arsenault

Stephen Clark

Sherri Clark

Guy C. Grant

Actions Voted Upon:

- Report of the nominations committee accepted unanimously.
- The new Colburn House arrangement accepted unanimously.

Speaker:

James Lockyer, author and retired Bates College professor regaled the members present with a fascinating talk on Rev. Jacob Bailey, a minister in Dresden, Maine from 1760-1779.

Adjourn: 2:30 pm Minutes taken and submitted by historian **Tom Desjardin**

New Contacts for AEHS

Because of the changes at the Colburn House, where we will no longer have an AEHS representative, there will be some changes for people to contact the AEHS.

Phone: we will no longer maintain a phone at the Colburn House. For those wishing to call us, please call the president and secretary's home phone in Shapleigh, Maine. Someone is there most of the time. That number is (207) 636-1769. Best time to catch them is anytime after 7:00PM, except during a Red Sox night game.

US Mail:

The new US mailing address for the Society is at the president and secretary's home address in Shapleigh, Maine. Here is that address:

Stephen or Sherri Clark

599 Shapleigh Corner Road

Shapleigh, Maine 04076

Website: arnoldsmarch.com

Email: You can use the forwarding email address within our web site arnoldsmarch.com or feel free to contact the president at his email address, [<clarkbooks@metrocast.net>](mailto:clarkbooks@metrocast.net)

The secretary, Sherri's email address is: [<scspringhill@metrocast.net>](mailto:scspringhill@metrocast.net)

To contact any other officer or director, refer to the AEHS list of officers and directors, found within this edition of the *Messenger*.

Meet your New Directors

Sherri Clark

Sherri, wife of Steve served as the Society's secretary from 2005-06. She helped to update the Society filing system and membership organization. She has also traveled most of the Expedition's route and has taken striking photographs along the way. She provided many of the photos for *Following Their Footsteps*.

She has successfully operated a home care facility in Sanford and Shapleigh, Maine since 1976 to the present and is the mother of three. She has undertaken many charitable projects, being involved with the beginnings of the Maine Meals on Wheels and was voted Maine Woman of the Year by the JC's in the late 1970's.

Steve Clark

Steve served as president of the Society during 2005-06. He lives in Shapleigh, Maine with wife Sherri. Professionally an educator and coach for many years at Waterville High School and Kennebec Valley Community College. He has also been associated with the Appalachian Trail project for more than 50 years and has served in many capacities within that organization. He has four children.

He has written several books, including the *Guide to Baxter Park and Katahdin* in its sixth edition and *Following Their Footsteps* a guide and history of the Arnold Expedition.

He has been a life long environmentalist, being deeply involved with the Bigelow Preserve Referendum in 1978 and recently, the battle to prevent the building of a huge industrial wind development on Western Maine's Redington and Black Nubble Mountains.

At one time he owned a home built in 1797 on the east shore of the Kennebec, just below Fort Halifax in Winslow and has often imagined the men of the expedition, poling up the swift Kennebec to the Ticonic Falls portage. He has canoed and hiked all of the expedition's route from Fort Western to the Chaudiere River.

Meet... (continued)

Guy C. Grant Jr.

Guy lives in Orono, Maine with his wife. He has interesting connections to the Expedition's history. One might make a guess as to his middle initial and they would be right! It is Carleton, and is named after the very able leader of Quebec City's defense in 1775. He is one of Sir Guy's descendants. Sir Guy was the Royal Governor of Canada and commanded the English forces within the City, opposing the Americans besieging the city during parts of 1775-76. He was later Knighted for his efforts. So Guy has a direct connection just through his name.

He also summers at a cabin in Eustis, right on the Dead River, and is able to view the route of the expedition every morning when he rises. .

He is a retired optical engineer who worked at a firm in Lexington, MA. After retirement in 1991, he and his wife ran a bed and breakfast six months a year and wintered in Barbados the other six. He also is involved in researching history there, investigating an old 1630's Sugar Mill owned by one William Arnold. There may be a connection to another Arnold we are familiar with. He is also doing interesting research on other old sugar mills there. He is also aiding in the restoration of a 1720 sugar mill with the Barbados National Trust.

With this background and experience, he will bring much to the Society.

Dan Warren Resigns as Director

In early November, Daniel Warren Jr., long time director, AEHS president, and caretaker of the Colburn House in Pittston since 1995, submitted his resignation as a director.

For the many projects that Dan accomplished in behalf of the Society, we thank him and wish him well. He has moved to his farm in Pittston.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AS OF Oct. 12, 2008

President

Stephen Clark

Vice President

Jay Robbins

Secretary

Sherri Clark

Treasurer

Robert Cunningham

DIRECTORS, GROUP 1

Term expires, Oct. 2011

Rusty Arsenault

248 Malbons Mills Road

Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Tel. (207) 474-9296

Stephen Clark

599 Shapleigh Corner Road

Shapleigh, Maine 04076

Tel. (207) 636-1769

clarkbooks@metrocast.net

Sherri Clark

599 Shapleigh Corner Road

Shapleigh, Maine 04076

Tel. (207) 636-1769

scspringhill@metrocast.net

Guy C. Grant Jr.

7 Linden Court, Dirigo Pines

Orono, Maine 04473

(207) 866-2873

frangrant1@verizon.net

**Arnold Expedition Historical
Society**

599 Shapleigh Corner Road

Shapleigh, Maine 04076

(207) 636-1769

Email

clarkbooks@metrocast.net

DIRECTORS, GROUP 2

Term expires, Oct. 2010

Robert A. Cunningham

P.O. Box 6147, 7 Woodcock L

Lincoln Center, MA 01773

Tel. (781) 259-8066

Winter address Jan thru March

650 9th Ave. South

Naples, Florida 34102

Tel. (239) 434-6718

Mabelle Haynes

May thru Dec

5 Seascap Drive

East Boothbay, Maine 04544

Tel. (207) 633-2364

Dec. Thur April

388 Harbour Drive

Naples, Florida 34103

Tel. (239) 434-8209

Trail Committee

Rusty Arsenault

Ronald Gamage

Duluth Wing

DIRECTORS, GROUP 3

Term expires, Oct. 2009

Ronald Gamage

650 Beckwith Road

Cornville, Maine 04976

Tel. (207) 474-3530

William H. Richards

179 Holley Road

Farmington, Maine 04938

Tel. (207) 778-9392

billrichards@verizon.net

Duluth Wing

1301 Arnold Trail

Eustis, Maine 04936

Tel. (207) 246-6211

Thomas Desjardin

Bureau of Parks and Lands

#22 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

(207) 287-4975

Tom.Desjardin@maine.gov

Jay Robbins

P. O. Box 9

Richmond, Maine 04357

Tel. (207) 737-

robbinshistorical@gmail.com

Short Stuff!

Colburn House Painting

This summer saw the long anticipated, long needed painting of the Colburn House. This was done by a cooperative agreement between the Society and the State BPL. It looks great! "Paint covers a multitude of sins!" Hope all can view it! Reuben and his whole family would have liked it too!

Carriage House to be improved

The so-called Carriage House on the Colburn property is to receive major improvements during the next several years. The sills and some outside clapboards need replacement before a complete painting is done. The State Bureau of Parks and Lands under the able oversight of Historian Tom Desjardin, will be gradually accomplishing this work, as money becomes available.

Inside, the Society will be considering if it should become our main meeting place and what will be needed to make it more functional and presentable. More on this in our spring edition.

Mapping project nearing completion

The mapping project, underway for more than a year now, is almost finished. Directors Dude Wing and Tom Desjardin are editing the final text that will appear on the back of the colored map. It will provide a detailed presentation of the route of the Expedition from the Kennebec River, over the Great Carrying Place, then up the Dead River to the Boundary Mountains. It will be produced in both a handy folded format, or a rolled sheet, suitable for wall mounting. It should be available for sale in the spring. The map has been produced by the Center for GIS Services in Farmington, through the generosity of The Transcanada Corp, the firm that is constructing a wind power facility in the Kibby Mountain area. It should be a great addition for AEHS members as well as the public.

New AEHS Brochure In the Making

Sherri Clark, new AEHS secretary has been hard at work on a new and long needed brochure for the Society. It should be ready for distribution in the spring. It will feature a small map of the entire Expedition's route from Cambridge to Quebec City.

Director Vacancies

The Society has several vacancies in our directorship. If any member would like to consider helping us manage the Society's efforts, write to president Steve Clark for more details on what this would entail. It involves no more than three meetings a year.

Articles Needed

In future editions of the *Messenger* we would like to present a variety of articles regarding the various aspects of the Expedition or its participants. We suspect that many AEHS members had ancestors who marched to Quebec. We would like to hear about them and share these stories with all. For instance, Frank Getchell of Vassalboro has shared stories about the Getchell brothers who played such an important part in guiding the expedition through the wilderness.

By all means, we would like to share these stories with the readers of this newsletter.

Thanks For Your Many Contributions !

Susan Hutchins and Jean Lockyer both resigned as directors of the AEHS this summer past. Susan in particular worked many hours at the Colburn House hosting and guiding visitors around the property in period dress. Jean also helped around the House, particularly in the gardens.

We hope both will still be able to help under the new State management of the property.

A Time To Reflect

With the major change of the Society no longer being responsible for the care and maintenance of the Colburn House, it may be wise to reflect and consider the efforts, programs and priorities that the Society may wish to consider for the next several years.

It is not a case of "washing our hands" of the Colburn House. It has been too much a part of the Society's efforts in the past. Rather it will be one of supporting and complimenting the State Bureau of Parks and Lands in the property's management. The Society's directors will be in discussions with State officials during the next year or so to define how best the Society can compliment the State's efforts.

Periodically any organization needs to examine itself, and determine how best to achieve the purposes for which the organization was founded. It appears that with the changes in our involvement with the Colburn House, it is an appropriate time for us to do this self examination. It is not a dialog that just the Society's officers and directors should undertake. The entire membership, to the extent they wish, should become involved. Such a process is a part of renewal that invigorates volunteer organizations such as ours.

Therefore as your president, I would urge that you read and consider the following suggested list of possible directions we might undertake. Remember, these are just possibilities. They obviously cannot all be accomplished at once, so they must also be prioritized. They are intended to generate thought and discussion. Feel free to suggest others.

We need a period of time to do this. May I suggest we use this winter and coming summer to do just that. We do have a directors meeting in early June, 2009, which could be expanded to include members in an open forum. These ideas could then be further crystalized. Maybe we can designate other meetings to discuss these further as interest dictates. But in any case, may I further suggest we need to make decisions during the coming year. We could finalize this process at our annual meeting in October of 2009. This seems to give us ample time to reflect and formulate future plans.

Here are some suggested possibilities.

1. Refurbish the Carriage House at the Colburn property in order to make it an appropriate meeting place not only for the Society, but for other groups who wish to learn more of the history of the Expedition and the Colburn House itself.

2. The future use and management of the Nichols Cabin and property on Middle Carry Pond: This cabin is only sporadically used by Society members and is reaching the point where it will require serious repairs in the near future.

3. The Society owns a five acre lot of land on the southeast corner of East Carry Pond. This was donated some time ago by the generosity of Thomas Dixson, who wanted to ensure the Society would always have access to the pond. It is currently just a wood lot with shore frontage on the pond. How best to manage this lot, or should we continue to leave it as is?

4. Duluth Wing and others have long sought to establish a foot trail that follows the route of the original Height of Land portage trail. It would extend from Natanis Point on the Chain of Ponds and pass by Round, Lost, Horseshoe, and Mud Ponds, ending at Route 27, near Arnold Pond. The State currently owns part of this land and the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) has designated a narrow historic corridor along this route. But it will require the cooperation of both the State and several local land owners.

5. The Society has established a trail corridor and foot trail from the Kennebec River as far as Middle Carry Pond. The trail over the Great Carrying Place needs to be completed to Flagstaff Lake. This will again require the cooperation of local land owners, the Carry Ponds Assoc., the National Park Service, Appalachian Trail and the State.

6. A prime but very complicated project would be to establish and install a series of roadside interpretive signs all the way from Cambridge, MA to Quebec City. There would be approximately 34 stops in Mass., Maine and Quebec Province. Many of these signs would have to be in both French and English. This complex and costly project would have to involve many organizations and agencies such as the Kennebec-Chaudiere Corridor Commission, the Maine Tourist Bureau, Dept of Transportation in all three jurisdictions, town governing bodies and many other groups. It would be a major undertaking, but would fulfill one of the major goals of the Society.

7. Produce an audio-visual program to be used for public meetings. This could be used by officers and members to explain and tell the story of the Expedition. It could also be produced in a DVD format to for sale.

8. Investigate possible methods and strategies to ensure the long term display, protection and security of the many invaluable Expedition artifacts owned by the Society and those that may, from time to time, be donated to the Society for display purposes.

Well, this is an ambitious list in itself. I hope others may add more. Please feel free to suggest as many others as you think reasonable.

We will have two editions of the Society's newsletter coming out prior to our next annual meeting in October, 09. Submitted suggestions could be published in either edition in May and September. Get your suggestions to the president a month prior to publication and he will see that they appear in either of these newsletters.

Thank you for your consideration of these vital Society issues.

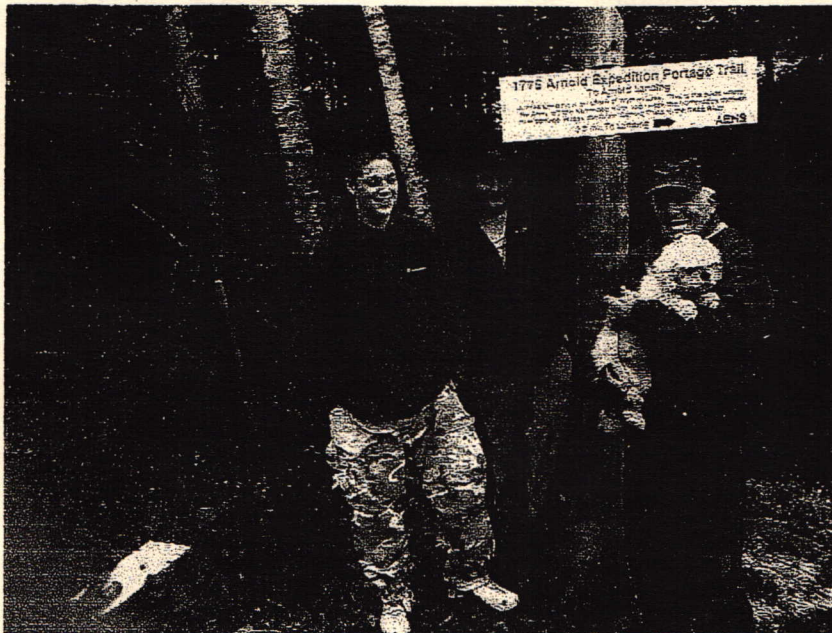
Battle For Quebec

On the night of Dec. 31 1775 the American Army under the Command of Gen. Richard Montgomery and Col. Benedick Arnold, led a two pronged attack on the Fortified City.

In this drawing, Arnold's men are assaulting the Lower Town in a raging snow storm. The attack failed and many of the little army were killed or captured. Arnold was wounded and Montgomery and two of his officers died in a cannon blast.

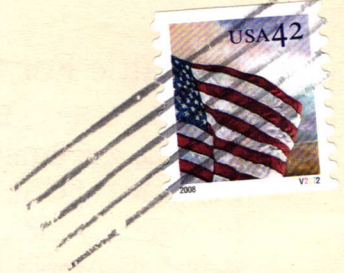
Courtesy of the Library of Congress





AEHS Trail Crew and guard dog, installing new directional signs on the Great Carrying Place. L to R, Casey Clark, Jay Leggett, Ron Curtis and Maggie.

Arnold Expedition Historical Society
599 Shapleigh Corner Rd.
Shapleigh, Maine 04076



To:
Mr. ROBERT ROTH
31 SOUTH ROAD
KINGSTON, NY 12401