

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



December 2009

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AEHS Annual Meeting Held

On October 11 at the Ground Round Restaurant in Augusta, the AEHS annual meeting was held. 27 members and guests attended. President Clark presided at the meeting.

Sherri Clark, secretary reported that the current membership stood at 135 in all categories. She has spent considerable time in bringing the membership roles up to date. She reported that the AEHS has extended 18 one year gift memberships as a part of a campaign to encourage new members to join. She also said that 14 new members had been signed up this year and some former members had come back into the Society.

She went on to discuss a new AEHS brochure which is being developed. The new eight panel information brochure will be printed during the first half of next year. It will contain a two panel route map and four other images. The AEHS has not had a new brochure for more than 15 years. There is a strong possibility that the new brochure will be printed in color.

Next, Treasurer Bob Cunningham gave the Treasurer's report. He stated that various accounts had been consolidated into one general account and that the current balance was \$4583.79. He also stated that the Endowment Fund stood at \$ 17,388. The Restoration Fund of slightly more than \$ 7,400 had been spent to undertake the many repairs accomplished at the Colburn House property this past summer. All bills have been paid as well.

President Clark went on to describe the process that has resulted in the Society's new four color map and that all members had received it free. Bob Cunningham reported that \$ 785 had been received to date on map sales. A reserve fund will be set up to ensure that money will be available for reprinting. The original cost of the map's production and printing was funded by a generous grant of \$ 10,000 from the TransCanada firm that is building a wind power facility near Kibby Mtn. In northern Franklin County.

Director Tom Desjardin provided a written report on the substantial repairs and improvements accomplished at the Colburn House this year. It is the greatest improvement in more than 20 years. See the separate report found elsewhere in the newsletter.

A committee consisting of directors Robbins, Spiess, and Desjardin has been working on a new set of policies and procedures to deal with Society artifact protection, preservation and security. Jay

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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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- About The Nichols Cabin
- Benedick Arnold After The Revolution
- AEHS Directors Needed
- Arnold's Adversary

Robbins read a report of their activities to date. This report is reprinted elsewhere in the newsletter. They plan to finalize recommendations by the summer of next year.

President Clark went on to describe activities on the improvements of the Great Carrying Place trails and at the Nichols Cabin on Middle Carry Pond. He reported that the foot trail had been cleared and is up to standard as of this spring. He also mentioned that considerable cleaning of the cabin had been done this summer by several persons, including the Donovans from Emden and John Dulude from York.

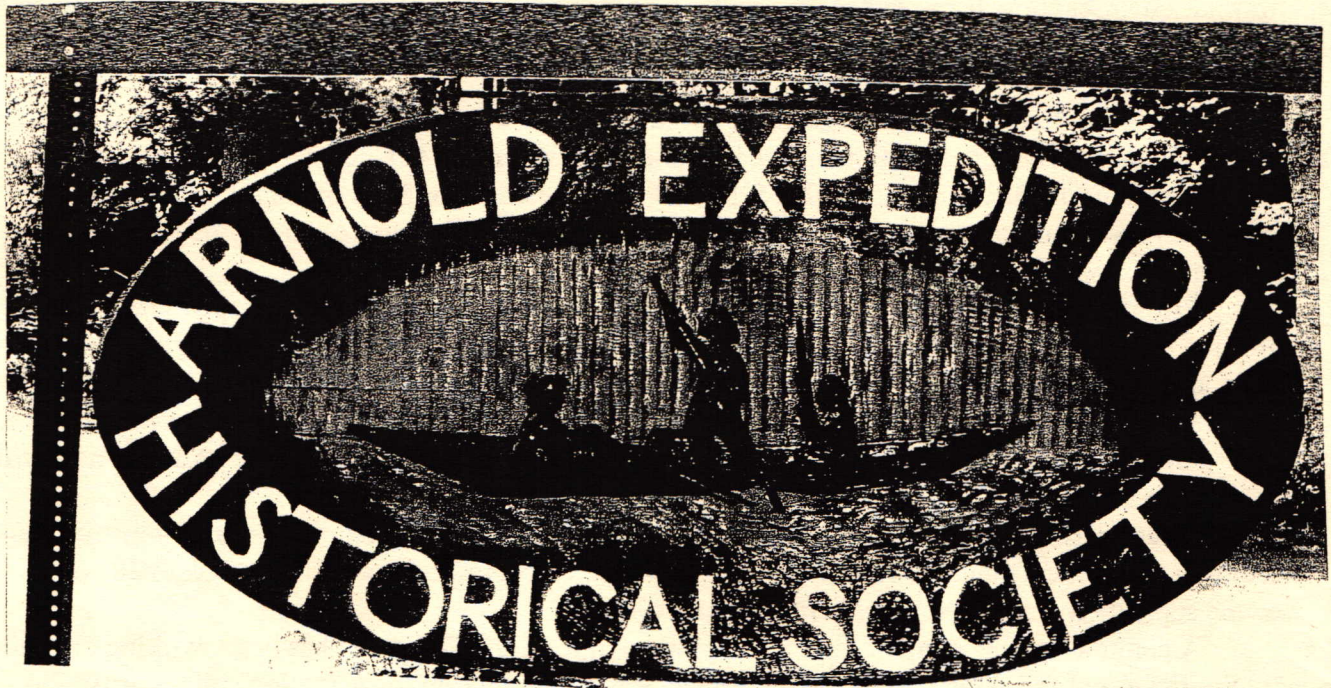
President Clark then reported that a contingent of reenactors from Northern Virginia was exploring the possibility of conducting a small weekend reenactment in October of 2010 across the Great Carrying Place. It was discussed that other reenactment groups may wish to participate as well. More on this will be reported in the spring edition of the newsletter.

The election of officers and directors was then conducted after a slate had been presented by Nomination chairman, Bob Cunningham. Officers that were reelected for a one year term were, President Stephen Clark, Vice President, Jay Robbins, Secretary Sherri Clark, and Treasurer Robert Cunningham. Directors elected for a three year term expiring in 2012 were Ron Gamage, Duluth Wing, Thomas Desjardin and John (Jay) Robbins.

It was announced that Ron Gamage and Rusty Arsenault would be assuming the joint management of the Nichols Cabin on Middle Carry Pond beginning immediately. See the article on the cabin's history elsewhere in this edition.

The meeting then closed and was followed by a fine presentation by Jay Adams, Executive Director of Old Fort Western on the Expedition's stay at that site. He made interesting comparisons between folk lore and actual first hand accounts by the expedition's members.

It was an excellent and informative presentation.



AEHS Sign at Colburn House, Restored by Artist Lisa Biasin of Wells.

About the Nichol's Cabin, Middle Carry Pond by Duluth Wing

To begin with I'd like to talk about my relationship with Tom Dixon. He came to Flagstaff with the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) about 1933. They established a huge lumber camp style set of buildings complete with rec. hall, dining rooms, mens quarters, etc..

This government sponsored unit worked closely with the Maine Forest Service who supervised their work programs which included constructing fire trails, stringing telephone lines, building roads, bridges, etc., and establishing campsites. I was told there were 180 young men in the Flagstaff Camp. Viles Wing, my cousin, was Chief Forest Ranger at the time of the CCC's and supervised a lot of their Forestry operations where young Tom Dixon, one of the CCC boys was recognized as a born leader.

My folks ran a hotel or boarding house in Flagstaff Village and a lot of the young CCC boys were around our place enjoying mother's cooking and sewing skills. I was 5 or 6 and remember sitting with Tom Dixon in our kitchen. He seemed a favorite by the town's people.

After the CCC's left (about 1935) Tom Dixon, being the progressive type he was, stayed in Maine and became a large landowner and investor in the Rumford Bank and Oxford Paper.

After I became Chief Warden in 1954, I worked closely with Tom on forest fires and his land holdings here on Spencer Stream, around Grand Falls and in Carry Ponds Township. I remember going with him in his big Chrysler car on one excursion, along with Viles Wing, to the Carry Ponds searching for the old Canada Road and looking over his new project of selling camp lots around the Ponds.

I remember I always carried a 2 ½ pound sharp spotting axe which Tom admired and which on departing, I gave him. After that I never went to a Forestry meeting or met Tom but what he spoke of his good axe. I remember helping Tom run or re-run the boundary lines with a good

friend and surveyor named Stanley Pease of New Portland.

In Flagstaff we had a man from New Portland by the name of Clayton Upton who was a trapper and regularly stayed at our boarding house. I'd guess this to be the 1940's. Tom sold Upton a lot on Middle Carry and another friend of mine named Virgil Starbird of Strong had perfected a cabin he could build and deliver on his truck for \$890.00. These were his standard 12 x 20 foot cabins with a porch which, when on his truck, extended over the cab. I bought a few of these when starting my Wing Community exactly like the Upton Cabin.

I remember the day we met in Augusta, on Weston Ave. at a University of Maine, Augusta, building to start the AEHS. Present were White Nichols, Cecil Pierce, another Pierce from Palermo, Fred Fossett and now my memory fails. I hope somewhere are the minutes of this meeting.

But in a few subsequent meetings we considered Tom's gift of the Right Of Way [between Middle and East Carry Ponds] and the Parking Lot [at the SE corner of East Carry Pond]. I believe about then Tom agreed to buy back the Upton lot and camp and deed it to us for \$7000.00. I don't remember how we raised the money but I'm pretty sure it was \$7000.00.



Benedict Arnold After the Revolution.

Ed. Note: Thanks go to AEHS members Lynn and Rob Jones (retired Lt. Col.) of Eastport, Maine for sending an excerpt concerning Captain John Shackford in *Life in Eastport*. This excerpt describes Capt. Shackford's thoughts regarding his former commander, then Col. Benedict Arnold.

At the time of the Expedition [1775] Shackford was listed as a private in Ward's Company. He is listed as being captured in the attack on Quebec on the night of Dec. 31, 1775. The fact that he is cited here as a captain, indicates he later was paroled and rose to the rank of captain during the Revolutionary War.

"Capt. John Shackford visited Eastport as early as 1768 and settled there about 1783 at the conclusion of the War. He was the first permanent settler in the town to which we have certain knowledge. In 1784 he had completed an establishment for taking and curing fish and built a log store near the water.

The first wife of Capt. Shackford was Esther, daughter of Mr. Gideon Woodwell, an extensive ship-builder of Newbury. [ed. note: remember that the Expedition spent three days at Newbury, MA on their way to Quebec. Did they meet at that time?] They were married on November 26, 1780 and had a family of 11 children."

"He was a soldier of the Revolution and marched under Arnold in Capt. Ward's Company through the wilds of Maine to the attack of Quebec, where he was taken prisoner on the assault on the city. He was confined for nine months in the prison, six of the weeks of this in irons. After his release he served under Washington at Kingsbridge.

After the Revolution Benedict Arnold became a merchant and a ship owner at St. Johns, NB and Capt. Shackford loaded a vessel for him at Campobello under Arnold's personal direction. In referring to this circumstance, he says. 'I did

not make myself known to him, but frequently as I sat upon the ship's deck I watched the movements of my old commander, who had carried us through everything, and for whose skill and courage I retain my former admiration, despite his treason. But when I thought of what he had been, and the despised man he now was, tears would now come and I could not help it."

[ed. note: This sentiment was expressed by most of the men who shared the hardships and death experience through the wilderness and up to the time of Saratoga in 1777. It is a sentiment that is shared by many today, to the point similar to Shackford's tears!]

AEHS Directors Needed

President Steve Clark recently noted that there are several vacancies in the Society's directorship. The Society's bylaws call for up to 15 directors. At this time, there are two vacancies

Any organization is strengthened by so-called "new blood!" And our Society is no exception. President Clark would request that any member, interested in the goals of the Society, contact him about the possibility of becoming such a director.

Being a director is not a time consuming task. We meet two times a year to discuss Society policy and plan various Society activities. There is enough variety of tasks to satisfy most everybody's interests. Some contribute interesting articles to the newsletter. Some participate in work trips. Some help at the Colburn House. Some organize special activities. Some help to maintain the trails or our camp on Middle Carry Pond. Some seek the elusive artifacts.

Some may have great ideas on how to make the Society better. So we ask that you join with us in helping the Society to be active, and interesting.

Contact the president for more info regarding becoming a Society director.

Call (207) 636-1769.

Arnold's Adversary by Stephen Clark
[ed. note: Much of the information within this article has been supplied from sources gathered by AEHS director, Guy C. Grant of Orono. We thank him for his fine contributions]

When Gen. Richard Montgomery and Col. Benedict Arnold confronted the British behind the walls of Quebec, the leader of the city's defenders within was no incompetent, arrogant amateur. He was Guy Carleton, then British Governor of all of what was then, Canada. Later, he was to be Knighted for his leadership in the defense of Canada, so that he is now usually referred to as Sir Guy Carleton.

On the night of Dec. 31, 1775, the American attack on Quebec City was repulsed, not only because of some real bad luck and poor planning by the American leadership, but by the resolute defense by the forces marshaled by Gov. Guy Carleton.

Darning the winter of 1776, he treated the many American "rebel" prisoners, mostly from Arnold's command, with compassion and allowed many of them to be paroled the following summer. Unfortunately for the British, this was not a good idea as both Capt's. Dearborn, Morgan and other parodied men made the British pay at Saratoga, in October of 1777.

Following is a condensed biography of Carleton which will trace his life as a British military and political leader. The fact that many sites in Canada, are now named in his honor, indicate he was a worthy leader of the fledgling British colony of Canada during the late 18th century.

Guy Carleton (1724 - 1808)

Born in Strabane, Co. Tyrone, Ireland

1st Barron of Dorchester, Governor of Quebec

Guy Carleton was born to a protestant military family that had lived in Ireland since the 17th century, and was one of four brothers who served in the British military. In 1742 at the age of 17, he was commissioned as an ensign.



In 1745, he was made a lieutenant. He saw action in the Austrian War of Succession, at which time he became friends with James Wolfe. In subsequent years of service he was promoted up to Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1758 Wolfe selected Carleton as his aide in the attract and successful capture of Louisburg in the Maritimes, his first experience in North America. Wolfe later in 1758 appointed Carleton to the important post of Quartermaster-General during the attack on Quebec. During the attack on Quebec in 1759, he received a head wound on the Plains of Abraham. He returned to England as a part of his recuperation.

In 1762 he continued to distinguish himself, now as a full colonel during the British attach on Cuba. He befriended one Richard Montgomery, who strangely would become his deadly enemy at Quebec in 1775.

In 1766 he was named as acting Lieutenant Governor and chief administrator of Quebec, the new colony of England under Gen. James Murray. This appointment as a public administrator was curious as Carleton at that time had no experience In civilian administration. However, he had many friends in high places. In

1768 after Murray's resignation, he assumed the acting governor's position but soon returned to England.

During his stay in England, he married into British aristocracy, marrying Maria Howard, daughter of the second Earl of Effingham who was 29 years his junior. This occurred on May 22, 1772.

Shortly after this, he was promoted to Major-General. His recommendations on the governance of the colony of Canada played a major role in the adoption of the very important Quebec Act of 1772 which defined the governance of the new province. This act was resented by the other 13 North American colonies as it gave special governance and trade advantage to only Quebec. It was one of the grievances later causing the Revolutionary War.

Carleton arrived back in Quebec on Sept. 18, 1774 and began implementation of the new Act. The act gave religious freedom to the predominantly Catholic French and angered local British traders as advantageous trade rules were given to the French traders in the Province.

This act, engineered by Carleton played a major role later, in keeping the majority French citizens neutral during the coming conflict with the other 13 colonies. When Arnold and Montgomery arrived in Canada in 1775, they expected the French to flock to their side. A few did, but not decisively.

The Revolutionary War and the American Invasion.

In May of 1775 (several weeks after Lexington and Concord) Carleton received notice that the rebels were at war. He also received word that Fort Ticonderoga, and Fort Crown Point had been captured, as well as the raid on St. Jean on the Richelieu River. Arnold had been a part or entirely in control of all three events. All these military installations were a part of his administration. It became obvious to Carleton that Invasion of Canada via the historic Champlain Valley route was imminent.

His attempts to raise both French and British companies met with limited success. And he had only a very few British regulars at his disposal. Most of these small contingents were moved to the Montreal and St. Jean areas, where the attack was expected.

In November of 1775 the American invasion commenced with an attack on Fort St. Jean. It soon fell and Carleton, who was directing operations from nearby Montreal was forced to flee. In heading for Quebec City, he was able to escape capture by disguising himself as a commoner. Arnold's bedraggled small army reached the south shore of the St. Lawrence, above Quebec, on Nov. 8-9, 1775. The British had control of the river at that point using a frigate and sloop to guard against an American crossing. Carleton who was descending the river via boat, was able to slip through the American patrols and reached the City in late November.

He then immediately assumed command of the defense of the City. He did this with skill, and ruthlessness, telling inhabitants of the walled city to fight or get out. He also cannibalized several British warships of its sailors to man the many canons along the walls. He also built barricades to ward off attack in the Lower Town.

On the night of December 31, 1775 in a blinding snowstorm, the American attack came. General Montgomery who was leading the attack on the Lower Town along the St. Lawrence River was killed instantly by a cannon blast. His New York troops, leaderless, retreated. Col. Arnold, attacking from the other side of the Lower Town, along the St. Charles River, was also unluckily seriously wounded in the leg. His men's attack also failed and was cut off in the rear, thus caused the cream of his command, nearly four hundred men and officers to surrender and be imprisoned.

The American siege of the city continued during the winter of 1776 until a huge relief force arrived in early May. Carleton utilized these new forces (over five thousand front-line British

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regulars) to drive the rag-tag American army back up the St. Lawrence.

An American counter attack ended in disaster at Trios-Riviere causing the rebels to flee further up the river. In June of 1776, because of his outstanding defense of Quebec, he was appointed as a Knight of the Bath. Thus he became Sir Guy Carleton.

The Americans were forced to abandon the fort at Sorol, at the mouth of the Richelieu River and Montreal was abandoned by the Americans under Arnold at the same time. The advancing British army, closely supported by the British navy continued there drive up th Richelieu and recaptured St. Jean.

Carleton then furiously built an entire navy to push south down Lake Champlain during the summer of 1776. This was because of the foresight of Col. Benedict Arnold, who had captured and sent south all shipping on the Lake. At that point, Carleton was quite familiar with his adversary, the competent and wily Arnold.

In October of 1776, under the command of Carleton, the much superior British Fleet met the American force of small ships under the command of now Gen. Arnold at Valcour Island on Lake Champlain. Most of the American fleet was destroyed or captured. But Arnold's vigorous defense of the lake forced the British to delay the invasion down the lake toward Ft. Ticonderoga and Albany until the following summer. Carleton was furious over this delay, but at least he had driven the Americans out of Canada.

Carleton then resigned on July 1, 1777. He did not participate in Gen. Burgoyne's invasion of the Colonies resulting in the capture of Ft. Ticonderoga or the later major defeat and surrender of his army at Saratoga in October of that year. It is curious why Carleton did not do so, as he was a very able and knowledgeable leader. Could it be that he did not see eye to eye with the arrogant Burgoyne? In any case, he had done his job by preserving Canada for the British and preventing it from becoming a part of the rebel

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effort.

His replacement did not arrive until 1778, when he returned to England. After the defeat and capitulation of Lord Cornwallis's army at Yorktown in 1781, Carleton was appointed as the controller of all forces in North America and took over command from the disgraced Henry Clinton in 1782 at New York.. He undertook the terrible task of evacuation of all British forces and many loyalists from New York and elsewhere in the fledgling United States in 1783. It must have been a most repugnant assignment for Sir Guy. He became the last British commander in what is now the United States.

In 1786 he was reappointed as Governor of all of Canada, including all of the Maritime Provinces. He was also raised to the peerage, with the title of Lord Dorchester.

In his later years, he took his place in the House of Lords and on Nov. 10. 1808 he died suddenly. He was a worthy British military and administrative leader, during the American Revolution,. He certainly was a most able adversary to the American forces under Arnold.

A Christmas Gift From the Expedition

As Christmas approaches, consider the gift to friends or relatives of our new map of the Expedition's Route. These can be purchased from AEHS for a reasonable \$ 5.95. Also, you can purchase them unfolded and mailed in a tube. This costs somewhat more as the cost of the tube and postage costs \$ 6.00 more. They will make a fine gift.

Contact us at the following address:

Sherri Clark

599 Shapleigh Corner Road

Shapleigh, Maine 04076

Make checks payable to AEHS. We will mail immediately.

New AEHS Membership Form

Mail this in with your check and membership info. Include your phone number and email address if this is acceptable to you. Make check payable to AEHS.

Category.

_____ Annual Member	\$ 20
_____ Family membership	\$ 25
_____ Contributing member	\$ 50
_____ Life Membership	\$ 200 (one time payment)
Additional donation for Society programs \$ _____	

To order the new map of the 1775 Expedition's route from the Kennebec River to Lac Megantic, send check for \$ 5.95 to AEHS. These make great gifts for birthdays and Christmas. These can be ordered unfolded suitable for framing or wall mounting for an additional \$ 6.00 to cover cost of shipping tube and postage.

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