

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



May 2010

Levitating Barns

Maine barns are an institution, separate from its accompanying house. And there is more than one kind of "barn raising." The barn at the Colburn House property in Pittston, Maine is undergoing a levitation of sorts. The accompanying photo will demonstrate that. This barn was built in the mid nineteenth century and like most barns built

they are susceptible to sill rot along its supporting foundations. Maine barns fail either at that point, or because the barn roof develops leaks. Obviously, the Colburn barn and its accompanying carriage house were not there in 1775, when Col. Benedict Arnold visited the property on Sept 21-23, 1775. But today the barn plays an important part of the history of the Expedition as it houses the so-called Bateau Museum, where the bateaux replicas and other historical craft are displayed for visitors. (Continued [page 2])

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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Up in the Air
Cribbing and I beams
raise the barn to build
a new foundation and
sill replacement.

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The extensive renovations being accomplished by the State Bureau of Parks and Lands, under the supervision of Thomas Desjardin has been underway for two years. Extensive repairs on the main house were done first. The Carriage House has also undergone extensive repairs including a new electrical system and a complete new foundation and sill. A new security system was also installed, but the barn was a final major obstacle to be overcome.

This year, the **Davis Family Foundation** of Maine, provided a generous grant to the AEHS, of \$25,000 to enable a continuing process to "fix" the barn. This has been funneled to the BPL to undertake this extensive project. At this time we would like to acknowledge and thank the generosity of this Foundation which has allowed the continuation of the important renovations to the property.

There is still a way to go, however. Once the barn settles back to earth, more work will be needed in the interior. A new heavy duty floor is to be installed and the whole first floor is to be restored to a time when the barn was used as a working building for cattle and horses. Also, it will be opened up for use as a meeting place and for other social events such as weddings. The bateau displays on the second floor will be more properly arranged and better interpretive signing will be displayed.

This "second phase" of the barn's renovation will have to await other grants to complete the work. Tight State budgets mean this will take time to complete. Other grants will be sought to supplement the work.

But the AEHS would like to acknowledge and thank the BPL in general and Tom Desjardin in particular for the extensive commitment to make this property a class act, one that we will all be proud to say is an important part of our Maine and Expedition heritage for many years to come.

We would urge the members of the AEHS, to visit the facility this coming summer,

to view the amazing changes that have taken place. Descendants of the Colburn family that are current members of the Society will especially enjoy seeing the wonderful renovations that have been accomplished already and see the additional progress that is underway.

Gene Lockyer

It is with regret that we report the death of long time AEHS member and director, Gene Lockyer, of Farmingdale. She died on Jan. 20, 2010 at age 89. She had served many years as AEHS director, and was an avid outdoors person. She spent many hours in the flower gardens around the Colburn House, renewing the wonderful flowers there. She spent many hours helping to guide visitors around the property. She also was an avid skier and maintained a summer cabin right on the edge of the Dead River in Eustis. She enjoyed fishing and bottle collecting.

She was a Wave during the Second World War and later a member of the Waves National and Maine Waves Unit #41. She was a member of the DAR. She was a member of many local outing organizations.

Professionally, she was a Medical Technologist and worked many years at the Togas Veterans Hospital.

A committal service will be held in the spring at the Upper Eustis (Maine) Cemetery.

We will miss her.

Test Your Knowledge!

How many separate companies made up the Expedition To Quebec? And of these companies, how many were not from New England. Answer on page 3

Mountain Wedding



On August 13, 2009, a most unusual but beautiful wedding took place. Bob Donovan and Sara Camenga were married on top of 4,000 foot Mt. Abraham, just west of Kingfield, Maine. It was not an easy trek to the top. It was 3 plus miles from the nearest road and a climb of 1700 feet to reach the summit. The wedding party all had to climb this peak.

Mt. Abraham is a beautiful place at any time. It is a long, ridge like peak, much of it above treeline and with alpine plants between the rocky ridge. The views are outstanding. The summit can be reached by two trails. One, a side trail from the nearby Appalachian Trail and a second, the old fire warden's Trail from the valley to the east. It was this latter trail that was used by the Donovan party.

Bob is an AEHS director and Sara has been long involved with conservation projects here in Maine. She also was one of the key people that worked on the Nichol's Cabin clean up during 2009. Bob is a fine outdoors man and is involved in forest and land management. They reside in

Emden, Maine.

It was a beautiful wedding for a beautiful couple on a beautiful mountain in Maine.

(
Answer to question on page 2)

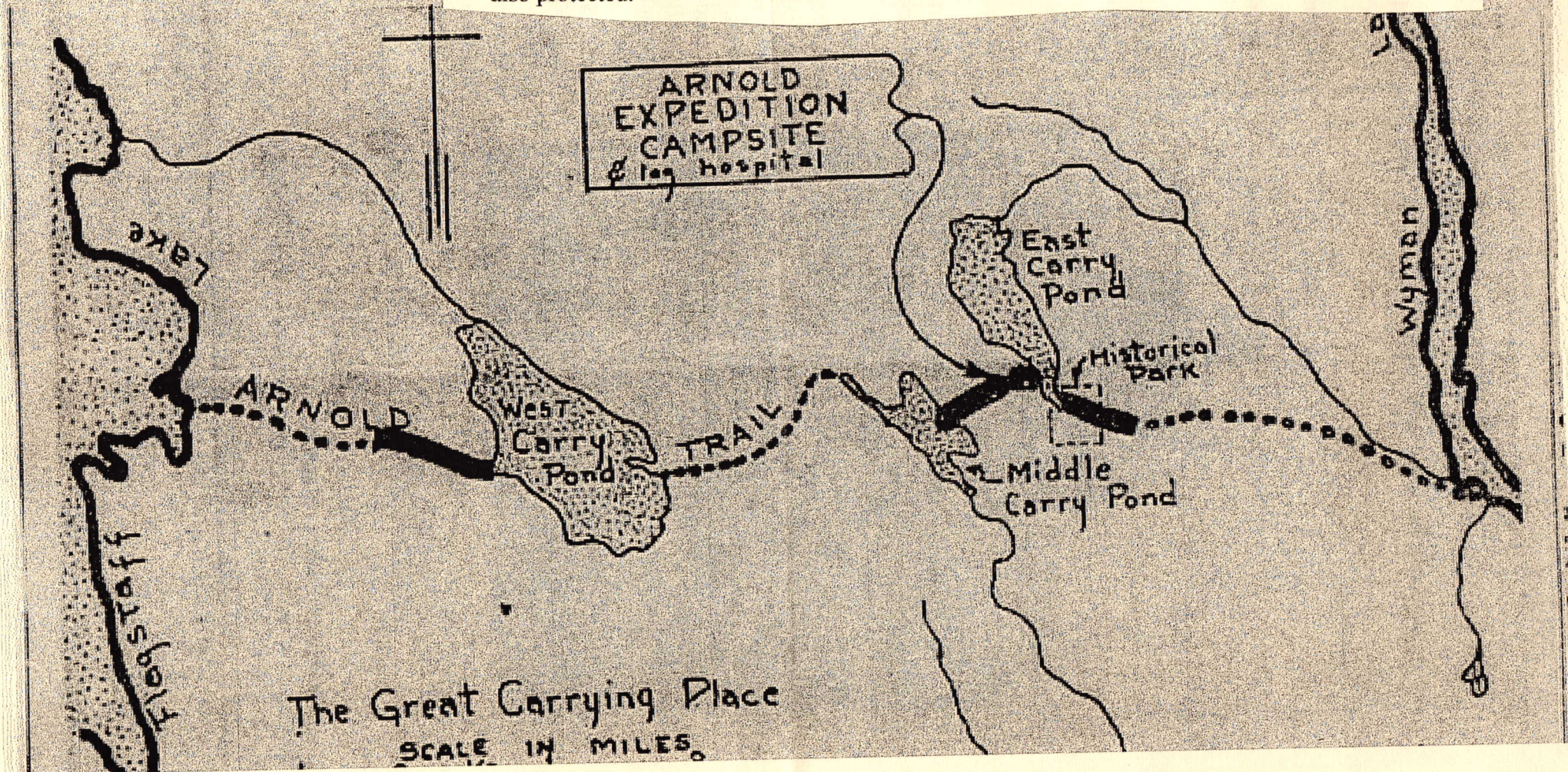
There were thirteen companies on the Expedition. Each company had approximately 85 men and officers.

Of these, there were three companies from outside New England. These were Morgan's Virginia Riflemen and two companies from Pennsylvania, Smith's and Hendricks.

Map of Carry Ponds area showing the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail and the portions of the trail which Thomas Dixon donated easements to protect the Arnold Trail. The Easements are shown in solid black lines. This was done in 1971.

Since that time, the two mile section of the trail shown between West Carry Pond and Middle Carry Pond (Sandy Stream) is now a part of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, which was superimposed over the Arnold Trail. It is now, therefore in Public ownership and is also protected.

Monday, January 25, 1971



(Editor's Note)

The following is a reprint of an article appearing in the Portland Press Herald on Jan. 25, 1971. It describes a significant gift to the Society from Thomas Dickson and his wife. Dickson owned a considerable parcel of land around the Carry Ponds area. He also loved the history of the area and decided to donate trail easements and two smaller parcels of land on Middle and East Carry Ponds. It was a very auspicious beginning of trail protection for the then fledgling AEHS.

Since that time, no further donations of land have been made to the AEHS. However, the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) has designated a narrow 100 foot corridor in the Carry Ponds area and west of the Chain of Ponds along the old Height of Land Portage Trail. These offer some degree of protection but long term, full protection is still needed.

In 1978-81 The National Park Service acquired a significant parcel of land between West and Middle Carry Ponds, a distance of two miles. This parcel contains the entire portage trail between these two ponds. The Appalachian Trail now follows the portage trail exactly. Therefore this section is also under permanent protection.

The article reprinted here is a dedication to the Dickson family and their generosity in helping to preserve the original portage trail used by the 1775 Expedition. Mr. Dickson and his wife have since passed away, but his son Thomas Jr. now lives in the Dixfield area and continues his family's support of the Arnold Trail.



AEHS President White Nichols, left is discussing the donation of trail lands With Thomas Dickson, right.

Article continues on next page.

Gift Dedicates Part Of Famed Arnold Route

By BOB CUMMINGS

AUGUSTA — Nearly two miles of Benedict Arnold's route through Maine in the Revolutionary War expedition to Quebec will be preserved under an agreement announced Sunday.

Disclosed at the semi-annual meeting of the Arnold Expedition Historical Society at the Augusta House was an agreement for a gift of land and easements from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Dickson of Rumford.

The Dicksons are giving the society nearly six acres on the shore of East Carry Pond and a perpetual easement to a 400-foot-wide strip between East Carry and Middle Carry ponds and a 66-foot section running for a mile toward Flagstaff Lake from West Carry Pond.

Dickson said he was donating the land in hopes it will serve as a base on which "a living monument to those intrepid revolutionists" might be built.

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Upcoming AEHS Events To Mark On Your Callander

June 5, AEHS Directors Meeting, Colburn House

June 12, Trail Clearing Trip To the Carry Ponds

Sept. Fall Edition of Newsletter

Oct. 2, AEHS Annual Meeting, Augusta

Oct. 9-10, reenactment at the Great Carrying
Place

"The design and execution of this monument involves not only the State of Maine, but also the Province of Quebec. The public spirited citizens on both sides of the line will be called on to give the special and close cooperation needed for the success of this venture," Dickson said.

The Arnold Expedition Historical Society was organized three years ago to acquire, restore and preserve historic sites and buildings associated with Arnold's march.

President White Nichols of Wiscasset said the gift will permit the area to revert to the wilderness character it had when Arnold and his 1,100 men made their ill-fated expedition in 1775.

UNDER THE TERMS OF the agreement the land and easements go to the Nature Conservancy, which in turn is expected to turn the area over to the Arnold expedition Historical Society.

Charles Bradford, New England field representative for the Nature Conservancy, said the gift has not been acted on by directors of the organization. But he cited several instances in which the national conservation group has assisted Maine organizations in acquiring land for scientific, scenic and historical purposes.

The group has conducted extensive field research in the area donated by the Dicksons. Several ancient fireplaces have been uncovered. Some contained relics and artifacts believed connected with Arnold and his men.

ARNOLD'S EPIC journey has been called one of the longest military expeditions in world history. It has been compared to Hannibal's expedition through the Alps and Xenophon's retreat from Mesopotamia in 401 B. C.

The 194-mile march through Maine began at Popham Beach at the mouth of the Kennebec River.

Arnold sailed up the river to Gardiner, where heavy wooden bateaux were constructed for the journey up the Kennebec to above what is now Bingham and across the "Great Carry" to Dead River, the Chain of Ponds and the height of land that now forms the Maine-Quebec border.

The Dickson gift is located midway through the 12-mile

carry between the Kennebec and Dead Rivers.

ARNOLD AND HIS MEN ran into a hurricane just as they started up Dead River, losing much of their provisions and contributing to the failure of the venture.

The land and easements being given to the historical society were used by generations of Indians, woodsmen and early settlers before and after Arnold's expedition.

Dickson is a former president of the Rumford Bank and Trust Co., now a part of the Maine National Bank. He has worked closely with the society since it was formed.

Artifacts collected by the society and others donated will be exhibited at the new State Museum and Archives Building in Augusta. The museum is scheduled to be opened in about three months.

ONE OF THE GOALS of the society is to locate and possibly rebuild a log hospital, Camp Meigs, built by Arnold and his men along the route of the Great Carry.

The easements permit any historical, archeological and conservation activities by the Nature Conservancy and the Arnold Expedition Society.

The 200-foot center section of the land between East Carry and Middle Carry Ponds will be left forever in its wilderness state, under the terms of the gift.

Selective cutting will be permitted in a 100-foot buffer zone on both sides of the center strip.

PART OF THE GIFT involves land used for the Appalachian Trail—the 2,000-mile foot path leading from Mount Katahdin in Maine to Georgia.

James Faulkner, president of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, said he welcomes the interest of the Arnold Society and expressed confidence the interests of the two groups will coincide.

Reenactment To Occur

On Columbus Day Weekend, Oct. 9-10, a group of reenactors from Northern Virginia and Pennsylvania will travel to Maine, for an reenactment. Specifically, they hope to march the entire 12 mile Great Carrying Place from Wyman Lake (the Kennebec River), by the three Carry Ponds, then on to the west end of the portage at Flagstaff Lake (formally the Dead River). They will camp at a site near Middle Carry Pond and accomplish the route in a two day march. They will be dressed in 1775 uniforms and will use tents similar to those used during the Expedition.

The group will be led by AEHS member, Mike Cacaos, who lives and teaches in Northern Virginia. They will be reenacting the parts of then Capt. Daniel Morgan's crack Riflemen. This company was used by Arnold as his lead company throughout the march to Quebec as they were armed with rifles, not muskets. It is expected that between 30-50 men will be in attendance, plus their support group. In the September edition of this newsletter, we will publish more information regarding this unique event. The AEHS members will be there to guide and support the marchers during their trek.

Trail Clearing Bee

On **June 12**, a Saturday, the AEHS under the leadership of Ron Gamage will conduct a trail clearing trip to the Carry Ponds Country. We will mainly concentrate on the section of the portage trail from the shore of Wyman Lake, up out of the valley to East Carry Pond. This is a distance of 3 1/4 miles through mostly hardwoods.

We will meet on the Carry Ponds Road, north of Pleasant Ridge Plantation, at 8:30 AM. This is at an AEHS sign post where the portage trail emerges onto the road from the nearby lake. Bring you lunch, water and of course some trail clearing tools. We hope to clear the entire distance. The section of trail from Middle to East Carry, 0.9 mi., will have been cleared days earlier by a crew under the leadership of Steve Clark.

This is our one planned trip and hopefully

we will have many hands. Ten were present last year.

For more details on where to meet and what to bring, please call the trip leader, Ron Gamage, at his home in Cornville. His number there is (207) 474-3530. Good weather is guaranteed by Ron.

William H. Richards, Passes On

Bill Richards, 81, a long time director of the AEHS died unexpectedly, but peacefully, at his home in Farmington. He was born In 1928 and died on Feb. 18, 2010. He graduated from Farmington High School and served in the US Army in Korea and was stationed in Hawaii. Bill was married to his wife, Dena who passed away in 1989.

He was a skilled outdoorsman and even built his own log home in the 1970's. This was a example of his seeking and learning new skills and experiences. He became a Master Registered Maine Guide and guided parties in Upper Franklin County, especially in the Chain of Ponds country. For that reason, he became familiar with the 1775 Arnold Expedition that passed through this wild country.

Billed learned to build his own wooden canoe, boiled sap into maple sugar each spring and worked for many years as a security guard at Sugarloaf Mountain. He also learned to pan for gold in Maine's streams.

With this background, it was natural that he should wish to learn about the Arnold Expedition. He studied maps, explored the Chain of Ponds country, and looked for and found artifacts, including musket balls and a knife blade. He became a member of the AEHS and late, one of its directors.

He is survived by a daughter, Kimberly, a son William, a sister, four grandchildren and one great grandson. We will miss his many contributions to the Society.

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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