

# EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ARNOLD EXPEDITION  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



December 2010

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## President Clark Reviews Past Year

At the Society's annual meeting held on Oct. 2, 2010, Pres. Steve Clark reported on the many events and activities of the Society this past year.

The Society published three editions of the newsletter, *The Messenger*, on an eight-page format. It is hoped that this arrangement can continue to inform members of the Society.

Secretary Sherri Clark has reported that the current Society membership has increased slightly, even after the normal attrition. Eight new members were added from the trial gift membership program. The Carry Ponds Association has also become an organizational member of the Society.

Treasurer Bob Cunningham has reported that the Society is in good financial condition, with a cash balance of more than seven thousand dollars. This does not include the Society's endowment fund nor a recent bequest from a life member. Bob also mentioned that the IRS was in the process of reviewing the Society's tax exempt status and that they should continue to consider us to be a charitable entity.

Ron Gamage, Rusty Arsenault, and Bob Donovan, who make up the Nichols Cabin Committee, have overseen many improvements at the cabin. First, a brand new woodshed has been built and restocked with firewood. Second, the privy has been leveled and made more usable. Third, new fire extinguishers have been installed. Fourth, the old gas refrigerator has been removed as it had not been used in years. Fifth, a new insurance policy protecting against fire, wind and a liability rider has been added to protect the cabin. Other minor improvements has been added as well. Thanks should be given to the committee's fine work this year.

Major improvements to the Colburn House property continue to proceed. The barn is still "up in the air" awaiting more funding to finish the extensive work on the sills and lower walls of the barn, plus the addition of a new floor and renovation of the bateaux display. Tom Desjardin estimates that an additional \$35,000 will be needed. He said that because of the very tight State budget, donations to complete the work would be most welcome.

The work on the caretaker's apartment is nearly done and this will allow a new on sight caretaker for the facility this coming spring. If this is accomplished, then the hours and days that the property will be open to the public, will be greatly expanded.

Considerable time by the directors was spent this year in planning for the Columbus Day reenactment by a small group from Northern Virginia. Nine AEHS members assisted and guided the

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## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- 2010 President's Report
- Officers and Directors Elected
- Photo Essey, in Color
- AEHS Hosts Reenactment



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group across the Great Carrying Place. See accompanying article for the details of this unique endeavor.

The Society has spent considerable time in working with TransCanada Wind Power Co. to develop the possibility of land preservation along the Expedition's route in the Chain of Ponds area. This company is currently applying to the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) for an expansion of the nearby Kibby wind power development. It is undecided at this time if the development will be approved. If it is, the Society will be the recipient of a grant to begin the process of land acquisition. More will be explained when it becomes clearer about whether the project will proceed or not.

The directors have been in the process of evaluating a parcel of land to be acquired. More information will be needed to formulate a workable plan. This will be known by the spring of 2011 and will be discussed in the spring newsletter. However, if members have questions about this process, contact the president, Steve Clark.

The usual spring clearing trips were made to the Carry Ponds area. As of the end of June, all blowdowns had been removed and extensive clearing of brush had been done. The trails are all signed and marked with orange blazes.

An artifact field trip was run for the first time to West Carry Pond, near Arnold Point. Norm Kalloch of the Carry Ponds Association was kind enough to transport members Wing, Parsons, and Desjardin across the pond to the site. No artifacts were found near this Expedition campsite.

Our new map has been registered with the Library of Congress, to protect its copywrite. Map sales this year have been brisk.

The Society has mounted and framed two sets of the maps. One set has been delivered to the Carriage House at the Colburn property for display there. Also, the Society has donated a set of the mounted maps to the City of Lac Megantic for use in their visitor reception center at the old but refurbished railroad station near the center of town.

The only drawback here is that the maps are not in French.

The directors held two formal meetings, one in June and the other in October. Much of their work is done informally via email or by letter.

### **Officers and Directors Elected**

At the AEHS annual meeting on Oct. 2, 2010, directors and officers were officially elected.

Directors elected for a three year term ending in October of 2013 were, Robert Cunningham, Maybelle Hayes, and John Parsons. Cunningham is one of two original Society founding directors. Duluth Wing is the other.

Officers elected for a one year term were Stephen Clark, President; Jay Robbins, Vice president; Sherri Clark, Secretary; and Robert Cunningham, Treasurer.

### **Photo Essay**

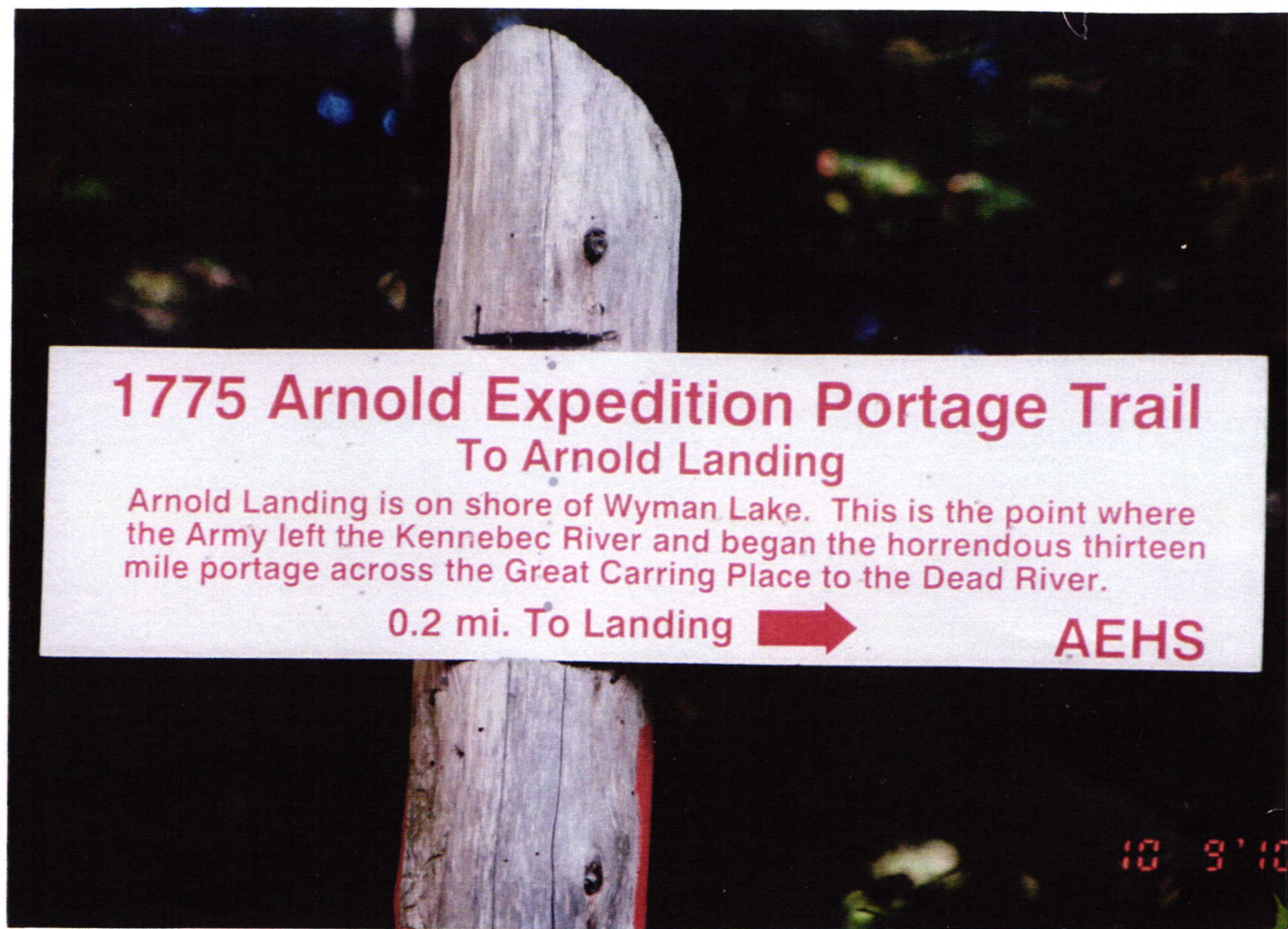
"A Picture is worth a Thousand Words." So in these following photos, there would be approximately 8,000 words.

On the following four pages is a photo essay taken during the recent reenactment of soldiers crossing the Great Carrying Place (see accompanying article). We are doing this in color, for the first time in an AEHS newsletter. It is expensive, but we feel our members will appreciate seeing the Great Carrying Place country close to what it was in 1775.

Also, included are two photos of the AEHS property on Middle Carry Pond. Many members have never seen the cabin, so we hope this will give you a better idea of what is there. The portage trail from East Carry Pond to Middle Carry Pond goes right in front of the cabin. We hope our members will like this change.

**Photo credits go to Dude and Betty Wing, and Sherri Clark.**





Above: One of the signs on the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail, maintained and marked by the AEHS.

Below: The reenactor's campsite on Middle Carry Pond. The tent is a typical design of those used during the expedition and were made from ship's canvas. Most of these were destroyed or lost by the time they reached the Height of Land at the Canadian border.







Above: Soldiers march along the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail.

Below: Soldiers reach the point where the portage trail disappears under Flagstaff Lake. Bigelow ("the forked mountain") is in the background. The end of old portage trail lies a half mile further under the impoundment at Bog Brook.







Left: Typical Revolutionary garb. Note the musket and bayonet used as arms during the period.

Most of the men of the expedition were not dressed this well early in the war. . Also note the type of shoes used. This is why many of the expedition's soldiers lost their shoes, after many days of trudging through mud, roots and swamps. Some shoes were literally sucked off their feet in the deep mud.



Right: AEHS member, Sarah Donovan, dressed as the character, Phoebe, from the novel *Arundel* by Kenneth Roberts. Sarah and husband Bob Donovan set up the reenactors campsite on Middle Carry Pond.





Above: The new woodshed at the AEHS property at Middle Carry Pond. Its reconstruction was overseen by AEHS directors, Rusty Arsenault and Ron Gamage.

Below: The AEHS Nichols Cabin at Middle Carry Pond. This allows AEHS crews a base camp for maintaining trails in the area. It can accommodate 3-4 people. Various renovation projects have been going on here during the last two years.





During Columbus Day weekend, the AEHS hosted a reenactment group from Northern Virginia. It was hoped that up to 30 reenactors in uniform would have participated, but the great distance from Virginia to Maine caused less people to show up.

The reenactors wished to hike the 12 mile Great Carrying Place from Wyman Lake (the old Kennebec River) to Flagstaff Lake (at a point near the old Dead River). This would require them to hike out of the Kennebec River, ascend about seven hundred feet, then pass the three Carry Ponds, then over a ridge to reach Flagstaff Lake.

We had made arrangements for them to camp at Middle Carry Pond, on the property of Dick Chandler of Strong. He was most gracious in allowing them to camp on the shoreline for two nights. It was very windy and white caps were on each pond.

AEHS members picked up reenactors in Skowhegan and led them north through the maze of roads to reach Middle Carry Pond. This was done twice to catch all the late arriving reenactors. This was done on Friday night.

Sarah and Bob Donovan did a wonderful job in preparing the campsite fireplace and constructed a rough privy, and cleared several tent sites. They were also responsible for the clean up on Sunday, after the group left. Sarah was dressed in period costume as the character Phoebe, from the novel by Kenneth Roberts, *Arundel*, even down to Phoebe's cats eye neckless. .

On Saturday, the first day of march, Tom Desjardin, AEHS director transported the group from Middle Carry Pond down to Wyman Lake where they began their march. The portage trail had been cleared earlier under the supervision of AEHS directors, Ron Gamage and Rusty Arsenault. So the going was easy, except for the climb out of the valley.

They hiked all the way to the East Carry Pond Camps where they were met by an owner who showed them the area. They also covered the one mile distance between East Carry and Middle Carry Ponds before the day was over.

The reenactors were dressed in Revolutionary uniforms and carried arms that were used during the period.

On Sunday, Tom and Dude Wing led a caravan of reenactors cars to the Long Falls Dam Road and then shuttled the drivers back to Middle Carry Pond to begin the day's march at Sandy Stream. They then hiked the two miles over the portage trail to West Carry Pond at Arnold Point, then followed the Appalachian Trail around the south end of the beautiful pond.

There they were met by Norm Kalach, president of the Carry Ponds Association and AEHS member. He guided the reenactors back to a camp road to resume the route of the march from West Carry Pond, westward to the Long Falls Dam Road and Flagstaff Lake. This required a stiff climb over a ridge near Round Top Mountain.

About 3 PM the reenactors marched out of the woods to a crowd of about twenty onlookers who greeted them. They then marched the final 1/4 mile along the portage trail down to the shore of Flagstaff Lake. It was very windy and huge whitecaps where coming ashore. Thus ended their march. They did this at the same time of year that the army marched in 1775, so they could see the highlands weather that the army had to contend with.

The reenactors then cleaned up after the hard march and headed home, so far away. All in all, the experience went off smoothly. A word of thanks goes out to AEHS members and directors who helped to ensure a quality experience. These were Dude and Betty Wing, Tom Desjardin, Sarah and Bob Donovan, Ron Gamage, Rusty Arsenault, Norm Kalich, Sherri and Steve Clark.

Thankfully, no hostile Native Americans or red-coated English soldiers were seen. Only one large moose was observed trying to figure out who these strange looking white-uniformed men were.



### 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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Member	\$ 20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family membership	\$ 25
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing member	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> 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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