

# EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ARNOLD EXPEDITION  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



September, 2011

## Annual AEHS Meeting To Be Held

On Saturday, Oct. 1 our annual meeting will be held. The meeting will be in Augusta at Rooster's Restaurant in its function room. It will begin at **1:00 PM**.

To reach Rooster's it is just off ME Rt. 27 near the Augusta-Belgrade exit of I 95. At the first light, turn onto Civic Center Drive. Rooster's is about 100 yds. on the right. Some may elect to have lunch here.

The program will commence with a business meeting, a description of various programs, then election of officers and directors (see slate elsewhere in this newsletter). Then the program will continue with a presentation by **Robert Cunningham**, one of the founding members of the AEHS. He will discuss the famous 1975 Reenactment to Quebec, in which he participated. Members will find this most interesting. Hope to see you there!

A directors meeting will be held in the morning at the same location, commencing at 9:00 AM. All m are invited to attend and learn more details of the various projects being undertaken by the AEHS.

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- **Annual Meeting To Be Held**
- **Nominations, Officers & Directors**
- **New Flag and Pole at Nichols Cabin**
- **A Dedication At Lac Megantic**
- **Article Review, Valcour Island**
- **New Directors**
- **The Bronze Plaques, feature article**

## Nominating Committee Presents Slate

Chairman of the Nominating Committee, John Parsons has completed the committee's work and presents to the membership, a slate of officers and directors for the coming year. This slate will be presented to the membership present at the Annual Meeting in October.

John has submitted the following slate.

### Officers nominated for a one year term.:

President, Jay Robbins, Richmond, Maine  
Vice President, John Parsons, Monroe, NY  
Treasurer, Alan Burnell, Eustis, Maine  
Secretary, Steve Clark, Scarborough, Maine

### Directors, nominated for a term of three years

Rusty Arsenault, Skowhegan, Maine  
Sherri Clark, Scarborough, Maine  
Steve Clark, Scarborough, Maine  
Robert Donovan, Emden, Maine  
Guy Grant, Orono, Maine

### Directors, nominated for a term of two years

Alan Burnell, Eustis, Maine  
Laura Stewart, Manchester, NH.

At the annual meeting, additional nominations may be made from the floor.

We would like to thank **John Parsons** for a job well done.



Left to Right:  
Rusty Arsenault  
Ron Gamage  
Kenny Wing  
John Parsons  
Jim Thomas  
Steve Clark  
Vernon Voter  
Alan Burnell  
Guy Grant



The 1775 Expedition Flag at the AEHS Nichols Cabin  
( Photo, by Duluth Wing)

### The Flag Flies at Middle Carry Pond

One of the improvements that has been needed at the AEHS Nichols Cabin at Middle Carry Pond has been a new flag pole, and of course an appropriate flag.

Founding member Dude Wing of Eustis has generously taken care of this. In July of this year, he was able to purchase at his own expense, a fine new telescoping flag pole. He, along with director, Guy Grant went up to the cabin and installed a new concrete base for the pole.

What flag to fly there has been an issue, as early in the Revolutionary War, the traditional stars and stripes flag had not yet been christened. Director Tom Desjardin had indicated that most likely, the flag that was used, was a red flag with a corner of white and a green pine tree in the white field.

No evidence has been unearthed to determine exactly what flag was used by the expedition. However it is known that a flag was a part of the expedition. This is so because at the cabin of Natanis, the troops arriving there, did state that they raised a flag. This was at what later would become Flagstaff Village, on the Dead River.

So the flag that will be used on the new pole at Middle Carry will be the red flag of the early Revolutionary War. It would be interesting to know if this is the first time in 237 years that this flag has been raised along the route of the expedition!

Thanks from the AEHS go to directors, Dude Wing and Guy Grant.



### A Dedication at Lac Megantic

On June 11, 2011 a number of AEHS members crossed the Canadian border on the Arnold Trail at Coburn Gore and headed for the town of Lac Megantic. At the center of town, the historic Canadian Pacific Railroad Station has been rebuilt and refurbished into a cultural and information center.

One room was designated as a display room for historic exhibits. This room housed the Arnold Expedition. The displays included a replica of a bateau, manikins in period dress, a full sized print of Benedict Arnold, two cases of artifacts on loan from Duluth Wing, two donated framed copies of the AEHS map of the area (donated by the AEHS), an enlarged historic map of the area, and other informational panels. Great presentation. More than a hundred people attended, including 14 members of the AEHS from both Canada and the U.S. The mayor and several of the committee members that put the exhibit together spoke, including AEHS member and resident of the area, Helen Greffard. AEHS members attending the dedication besides Helen, were her husband, Pierre Greffard, Jean Cliche, Andre Blais, Steve and Sherri Clark, Dude and Betty Wing, son Kenney Wing, Guy and Fran Grant, David Green, Ed Kersey and son Jeff, and several others.

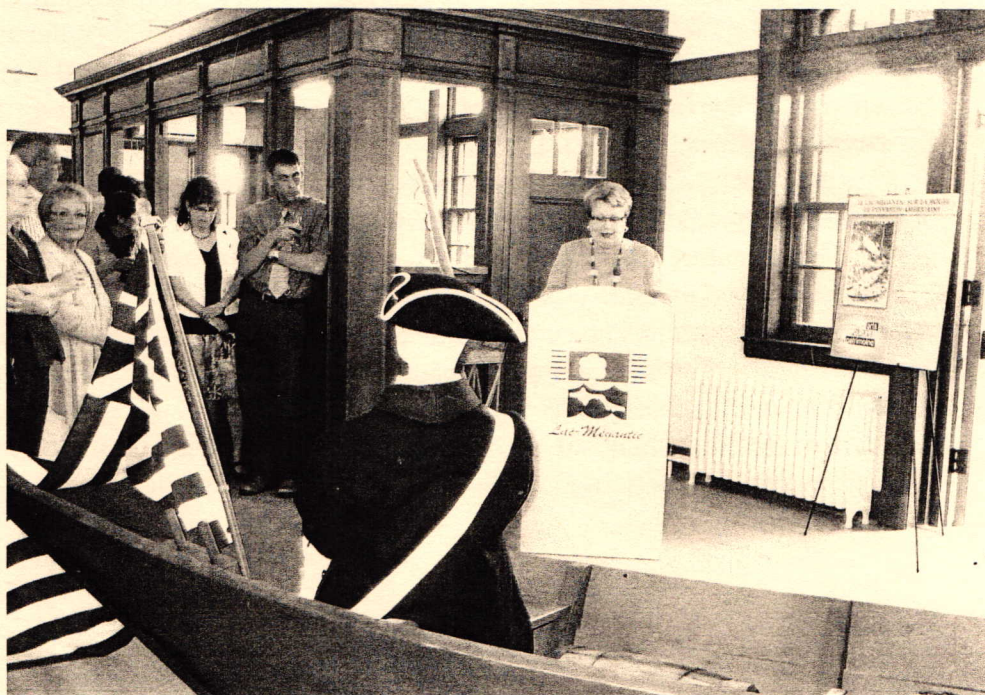
Further plans are being formulated to tear down the nearby old sports arena on the shore of the lake at the outlet. A park will be constructed and most likely the bateau and other informational displays regarding the Expedition will be placed within the park. This is the exact spot where the expedition stopped to repair the remaining bateaux for the trip down the wild Chaudiere River.

Soon both indoor and outdoor exhibits will be available to inform visitors at this strategic point. It will be an important addition to those following the route of the Expedition.

The AEHS officers present, congratulated the hard working local committee within the town's government that put together such a fine exhibit. The preparation took more than a year.

After the dedication, a gracious reception was held at the home of Helen and Pierre Greffard, beautifully located on the shore of Lac Megantic.

Display at  
Lac Megantic  
Cultural  
Center





## Article Review by John Parsons

Because I was reading the Nelson book, *Benedict Arnold's Navy*, I researched a neat article and noticed that George Quintal [AEHS Life Member] was quoted back in 2000 in the newsletter of the Lake Champlain Marine Museum. There is some great reading about the Battle of Valcour Island including the recovery of two cannons from the American ship, *Royal Savage*.

Again, it can't be said enough, Arnold was incredible. It is a shame that Arnold took the path that he did. He would have stood in history right along side Washington; no one would have been greater in military achievements, or valor. No doubt about it!

Have some fun reading, if you haven't done so already. Open the link below.

[http://www.lcmm.org/images/img\\_museum\\_intro/img\\_newsletters/fall01\\_winter02.pdf](http://www.lcmm.org/images/img_museum_intro/img_newsletters/fall01_winter02.pdf)

## Meet Your New Directors

### Laura Stewart

Laura is a veteran outdoors person, having climbed New England's 100 highest, Mt. Rainier, and attempted to climb Denali in Alaska, hiking experience in the Alps, Appalachian Trail, Long Trail, John Muir Trail and a section of the Continental Divide Trail in Wyoming's Wind River Wilderness and Haute Route in Switzerland. She also did many bicycle trips in the U.S., Ireland, England, Switzerland, Austria, France and Germany.

She graduated Magna Cum Laude with a BA in Modern Languages and a minor in Theology, from St. Bonaventure University, N.Y.

Laura is extremely interested in history, including reading many historical novels, and has read extensively on the Arnold Expedition.

She lives in Manchester, NH and is the vice president of the New Hampshire office of the investment firm, Morgan Stanley, Smith Barney.

## Alan Burnell

Alan has his masters from UMO in Forest Management and has worked many years as a consultant in preparing environmental permits, forestry, soils, and site evaluation. He has worked extensively in the Portland area but has resided since his retirement three years ago, in the Eustis area.

He has been married for more than 40 years and has two grown daughters living in the Boston area. He has co-authored the recent book, *The Lost Villages of Flagstaff Lake* (with Kenny Wing).

Alan is also a registered Maine Guide and knows where all the trout are located. He also is a builder, currently working on a hand-crafted 20' canoe. He is also interested in history and genealogy, and has read extensively on the 1775 Expedition.

## Restoration Continues at Colburn House

Tom Desjardin, Historian for the State Bureau of Parks and Lands has indicated that the work at the House will continue through the late summer and fall. More work needs to be done to complete the caretaker's quarters and much more work on the barn. As AEHS members are aware, the bottom of the barn was rotted and needed to be replaced. A new foundation was built after the barn was raised.

Now new timbers and sills can be constructed, then the barn can be lowered back onto its new foundation. After this is done, a new barn floor will be put into place which will allow various social functions and meetings to be conducted. Upstairs, extensive work will be accomplished on the bateaux displays for public viewing.

All of these upgrades, including extensive repairs already accomplished within the main house, restoration of the Carriage House, new, hidden electrical wiring and plumbing and many other improvements will continue the process of making this one of the finest 18<sup>th</sup> century home displays in the State.



## Feature article

## The Bronze Plaques

by Steve Clark

**Editor's Note:** In writing this article, the author would like to acknowledge the important help and research of AEHS member, Fran Grant. She was able to work with DAR representatives to gain insight into the history of the 1775 Expedition plaques. Thanks Fran!

Locating, marking and memorializing the route of the 1775 Arnold Expedition has occurred over more than a century. Justin Smith's 1903 classic book on the subject, *Arnold's March from Cambridge to Quebec*, has been by far the best documentation of the route. But marking and memorializing the route has been another matter. There have been several initiatives at doing this.

In the 1970's and 80's the Bureau of Parks and Lands erected a series of five wooden panels depicting events at each site. These were located in Hallowell, Solon, Eustis, Sarampus Falls and Chain of Ponds. They gradually fell into disrepair and finally were removed altogether.

Before this, in the early 1900's there were installed a series of longer lasting bronze plaques (sometimes termed tablets). Most were provided and installed by the Maine Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and their sub-chapters.

In 1909, at a State DAR meeting in Skowhegan, it was recommended, then voted upon to mark the route of the Arnold Expedition in Maine. Following is a listing of the markers they dedicated as well as others installed by other organizations within and outside Maine.

The known locations of all plaques are as follows:

1. On the East City Green in Newburyport, is a plaque marking the location of the campsite of Morgan's Riflemen during the three days they were there, Sept. 17-19, 1775.
2. At the Major Reuben Colburn House in Pittston, on August 28, 1913 the Samuel Grant Chapter, DAR (of Gardiner), placed a boulder on the lawn of the house and mounted a bronze plaque. This commemorated the fact that between Sept. 21-23, the house was used as Arnold's headquarters. Nearby was the ship yard where the bateaux were picked up for the journey up the Kennebec River.
3. At Old Fort Western, near the landing spot for the bateau on the Kennebec River's shore. It was dedicated by the "Connecticut Horse and Foot Company" (this was the reenactment company located near New Haven to honor Arnold, their former commander). No date for the dedication was recorded.
4. At a small park area in Winslow, on Lithgow Street, opposite the Congregational Church. It is on an intervale just south of Fort Halifax which is located at the confluence of the Kennebec and Sebasticook Rivers. This plaque indicates the campsite of several contingents as they approached the first portage at Ticonic Falls. It was dedicated by the Fort Halifax Chapter, DAR in November, 1919. This author's grandmother, Annie D. Clark was one of the leaders of this chapter at that time and undoubtedly attended the dedication.
5. At Waterville City Hall, in a small green between Main and Front Streets. This plaque is located on the route of the portage trail around Ticonic Falls. It was dedicated in the summer of 1917 by the Howard Hayden Chapter, DAR. It reads, "This boulder marks the course



of Arnold's troops on their expedition to Quebec in 1775, carrying around Ticonic Falls and entering the Kennebec again near this point."

6. In Fairfield, on Route US 201, at an intersection a half mile north of the town. This marks part of the route around the so-called "Five Mile Rips." It also was placed here by the Howard Hayden Chapter, DAR of Waterville in 1917. This was placed on a granite slab and has a fence around it.

7. In Skowhegan, in a small fenced in park on the island in the Kennebec River, just off US 201 and near a suspension walk bridge over one branch of the river. This marks the location of the portage trail around Skowhegan Falls. This marker was originally placed on the grounds of the former Skowhegan High School. It was placed there in 1912 by the Farnsworth Chapter, DAR. The boulder it is mounted upon came from the farm of Levi Weston, a descendant of Joseph Weston who with his oxen, helped Arnold's men portage around Norridgewock Falls in Anson.

8. In Norridgewock, at the entrance road leading to Oosoola Park, just south of the village on Route US 2. This plaque indicated the campsite of Major Meigs' division as they ascended the river.

9. At the Anson, ME postoffice there is a plaque placed on the front lawn. Next to it is Arnold's Way, a street marking the original 1 1/4 mile long portage route around Norridgewock Falls. This was placed and dedicated here in October, 1913 by the Margaret G. Moore Chapter, DAR of Madison.

10. In Solon, near Caratunk Falls, a tablet was dedicated in 1913. This marked the portage trail around the so-called Devil's Falls. The falls are now occupied by a dam and the William Power Station. This plaque was installed and dedicated in 1913 by the Abigail Whipple Chapter, DAR of Solon.

11. South of Caratunk Village at a turnout on US 201 overlooking the upper portion of Wyman Lake (inundating the Kennebec River at this point). There is a view across the lake of the mouth of Carrying Place Stream, and the beginning of the route of the Great Carrying Place.

This plaque was installed by the Kennebec Chapter, DAR from Bingham in 1916. It was originally located near the river but was moved to this location in 1936 with the flooding of the valley by the construction of the massive Wyman Dam down river in Moscow. It marked the point where the expedition left the Kennebec.

12. At Cathedral Pines on ME Highway 27 in Eustis. This plaque cites the possibility that Major Timothy Bigelow may have climbed the mountain which now bears his name. This was originally located at the Roy Parson's Farm on former Route 16 in Dead River Plantation. It was moved to Eustis before the flooding of Flagstaff Lake (1949). Duluth Wing has seen the original bolder with the four anchor holes in it (which now lies under the lake).

This plaque was dedicated on July 13, 1935 by the State DAR and its Kingfield chapter. The great-great granddaughter of Major (later Colonel) Bigelow, Miss Louise Bigelow of Worcester, MA attended the proceedings.

13. A second relocated marker has been placed at the Cathedral Pines area. This was a marker originally located near the North Branch of the Dead River, before its flooding in 1949. It was dedicated in September, 1914 by the Colonial Daughters Chapter, DAR of Farmington.



14. At the Flagstaff Memorial Chapel on Route 27 in Eustis. This plaque was originally located on the Flagstaff village green near the church. It was dedicated on Sept. 25, 1915 by a collaboration between Albert Dolbier and the Colonial Daughters Chapter, DAR from Farmington. It was moved before the flooding of Flagstaff Lake in 1949.

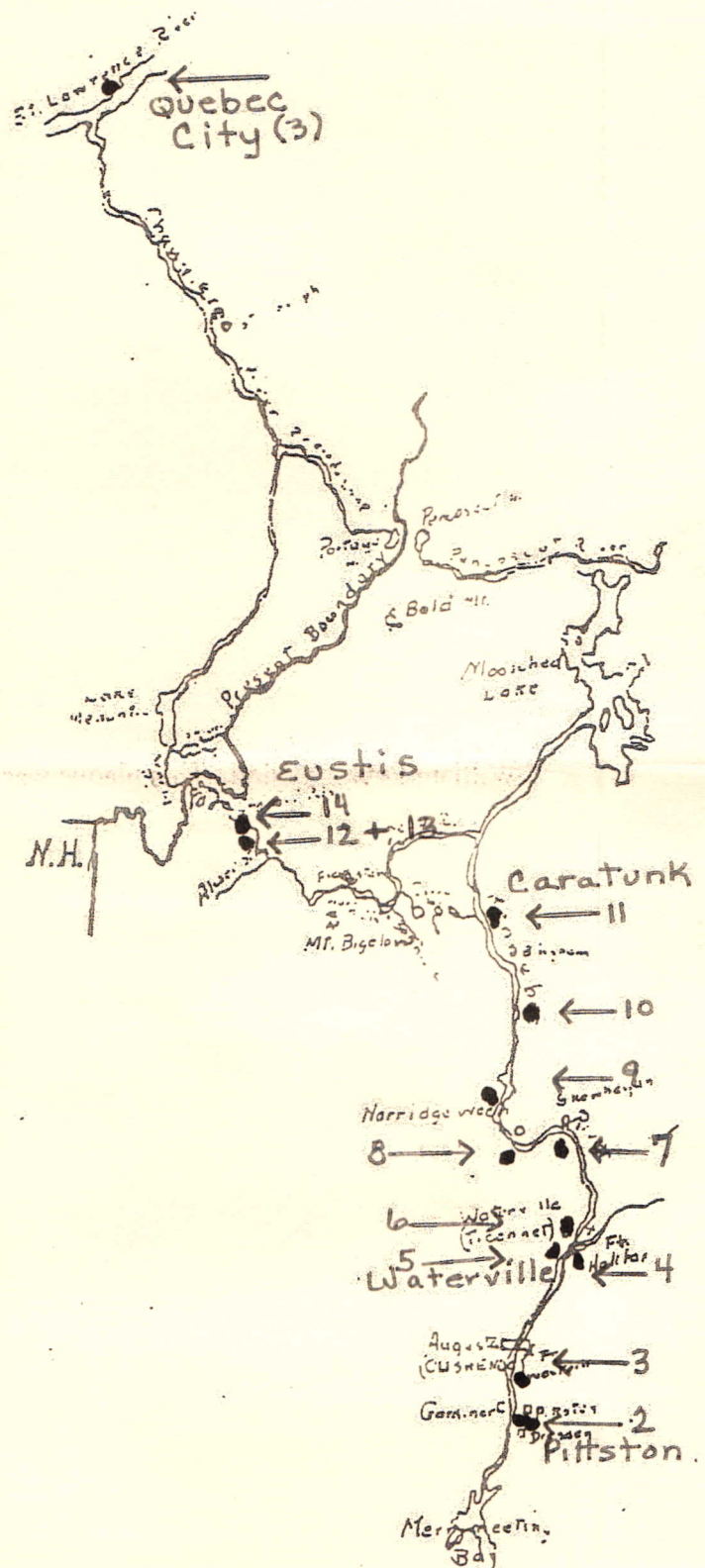
Here is the exact wording. "Near this spot Benedict Arnold's troops landed when on their expedition to Quebec in 1775. Here they erected a flag, and from this event the Town of Flagstaff received its name. This tablet is placed by Albert B. Dolbier in memory of his Mother, Mrs. Mary P. Dolbier, for Colonial Daughters Chapter."

There are no further plaques until one reaches Quebec City. Here there are three plaques, one at the site of the First Barrier in the Lower Town. A second one is located at the Second Barrier, also in the Lower Town. Both of these plaques commemorate the locations of the battles made during the attack on the Lower Town on the night of Dec. 31, 1776.

A third and related plaque is located along the river road (St. Lawrence) west of the Lower Town to mark the spot where General Richard Montgomery was killed during the attack.

The Arnold Expedition Historical Society would belatedly but gratefully thank the descendants of the Maine Daughters of the American Revolution and its chapters for this exemplary, patriotic project in marking the way of the brave American soldiers of the 1775 Expedition to Quebec.

**Map to the right shows the route of the 1775 Expedition. Location of various plaques are shown by dots along the river courses. They are numbered and keyed into related numbers of plaques described within the accompanying article.**



### 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 AEHS 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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