

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



September 2012

Outstanding Speaker to Appear At AEHS Annual Meeting

The AEHS annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Sept. 23 at the Colburn House in Pittston. The Annual Meeting will begin with a short business meeting at 1:00 PM, then the main speaker will be introduced at 2:00 PM.

The star speaker will be author and lecturer, Arthur Lefkowitz of Piscataway, NJ.

Arthur has written numerous books pertaining to the Revolutionary War, including a comprehensive history of the 1775 Expedition to Quebec. Coming out this fall will be his newest history, *Benedict Arnold; In The Company Of Heros*. The lecture will be illustrated by selected slides of his visits to historical sites throughout the Northeast. After the lecture, he will be available to discuss issues relating to the Revolutionary War.

Another treat for AEHS members will be the opening of the newly renovated barn at the Colburn property. This has been three years in the making, in which the barn was jacked up on huge I beams, and a new foundation laid. The entire lower portion of the barn has been authentically reconstructed. A new floor has been installed during the restoration. It truly has been an amazing transformation accomplished under the guidance and supervision of Tom Desjardin, Bureau of Parks and Lands and AEHS director.

The Colburn House will also be open for inspection and tours to view the many renovations taking place there as well.

With Mr. Lefkowitz, giving us an outstanding glimpse into the era of the Quebec Expedient, and the many new changes to the historic Rueben Colburn property, we urge all members of the Society to attend. It will be one of the highlights of the Society's history. We are also inviting several other area historical organizations to attend this special lecture. There is no charge. Get there early to ensure seating. Mr. Lefkowitz's resume and details on his career are found elsewhere in this issue.

Directions to reach the Colburn House are also found in this newsletter. See you all there!

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- **Outstanding Annual Meeting planned**
- **Election of Officers and Directors**
- **Aaron Burr Commentary**
- **Feature Article**
Preserving The Route of the Expedition
- **Trail Clearing on the Portage Trails**

Schedule for Annual Meeting, Sunday, Sept. 23 At the Colburn House In Pittston, ME

9:30 AM Board of Directors Meeting (Members Invited)

11:30 Lunch Break, bring a bag lunch.

1:00 AEHS Business Meeting, Election of Officers and Directors.

2:00 Lecture by Author Arthur Lefkowitz,

Benedict Arnold: In The Company Of Heroes

Arthur S. Lefkowitz

RESUME

Books in print: *The Long Retreat* (Rutgers University Press); *George Washington's Indispensable Men* (Stackpole Books); *The American Turtle Submarine, The Best Kept Secret of the American Revolution* (Pelican Publishing) and *Benedict Arnold's Army, The 1775 American Invasion of Canada* ((Savas Beatie). My books have received numerous awards and *The American Turtle Submarine* was favorably reviewed in *The New York Times Book Section*.

I have a new book coming in September 2012 titled *Benedict Arnold in the Company of Heroes*. It is the story of the lives of the American patriots who served under Arnold and how he influenced them. My book about David Bushnell's submarine will be available in early 2012 with a new publisher (Pelican Publishing) and title; *The American Turtle Submarine*.

My lecture credits include numerous talks for *The New Jersey Council for the Humanities*, *The National Park Service* and *Fraunces Tavern Museum*. I was the keynote speaker at the 2006 meeting of *The Washington Association of New Jersey*.

I am a member of the Board of Governors of the American Revolution Round Table.

Education: BA from New York University, MBA from Long Island University

Current business activity: Owner of a sales-marketing and consulting firm specializing in architectural hardware.

Teaching Experience: Three semesters at Middlesex County College teaching American history.

Mr. Lefkowitz lives in Piscataway, NJJ

Officers and Directors To Be Elected

At the business meeting on Sept. 23, the following Officers and Directors have been nominated for consideration by the AEHS membership.

For Officers, a term of one year

President: John Robbins Richmond, ME

Vice President: to be announced

Treasurer: Alan Burnell, Eustis, ME

Secretary: Stephen Clark, Scarborough, ME

Director: For a term of one year

Norman Kalloch, West Carry Pond, ME

Directors: For a term of three years

Thomas Desjardin, Augusta, ME

Hank Dillenbeck, Winslow, ME

Ronald Gamage, Cornville, ME

John (Jay) Robbins, Richmond, ME

Duluth Wing, Eustis, ME

Directions to the Colburn House In Pittston, Maine

For those not familiar with the location of the Colburn House, below are the driving directions from both a north and south direction.

From the north:

Travel to Gardiner, then cross the one bridge over the Kennebec River. At the end of the bridge, turn south (right) onto ME Route 27, paralleling the river. Drive south on 27 for about 2 ½ miles. On the right will be a prominent State sign, indicating the Colburn House. Turn right, then immediately left. The House will be in sight. Park Cars in parking lot across from the church. Walk a short distance to the Colburn property.

From the south:

Reach ME Route 27 in Wiscasset, turning north on this route. Proceed north for approximately 15 miles. After coming out of a deep dip in the highway, there will be a cemetery on the left. Just after, there will be a prominent sign, indicating the Colburn House. Turn left, just beyond the sign, then immediately left again. The House will be in sight. Park cars in parking lot across from the church. Walk a short distance to the Colburn House. For further information, call AEHS sec. Steve Clark at (207) 510-1230.



Aaron Burr

Courtesy of and *Copyright by Arthur S. Lefkowitz Collection.*

Commentary by Arthur Lefkowitz

Aaron Burr as he looked as a 19 year old soldier on the 1775 Arnold Expedition. He was next invited to work at Washington's headquarters but was never appointed as an aide-de-camp. Later promoted to lieutenant colonel, Burr commanded Malcolm's Regiment at the Battle of Monmouth. Cont..... Page 4

...Burr Cont. From Page 3

Although Colonel Aaron Burr (1756-1836) is often associated with New York, he was born in Newark, New Jersey, raised in Elizabeth and graduated from what is today Princeton University.

This portrait shows Burr as he appeared in 1775 at the start of the Arnold Expedition, a secret mission organized by Gen. Washington to capture the British held city of Quebec. Burr was 19 years old at the time and a gentleman volunteer (an unpaid civilian who attached himself to the army in the hope of getting a commission as an officer). Burr wrote his sister a letter from Fort Western, Massachusetts (today's Augusta, Maine) at the outset of the campaign that included a detailed description of his clothing and weapons. This illustration is based on Burr's letter. Burr's face in the illustration is from his earliest known portrait which was painted by Gilbert Stuart in 1794.

Although Burr is frequently mentioned as having served on Gen. Washington's staff as an aide-de-camp, he only worked at headquarters on a trial basis for a few weeks before accepting a post as an aide to General Israel Putnam of Connecticut. Burr was subsequently appointed (1777) the youngest lieutenant colonel in the Continental Army. In his new position, Burr was second in command of a regiment led by an absentee merchant named William Malcolm. Burr took command of "Malcolm's Own" and under his spirited direction the regiment fought in several Revolutionary War engagements including the June 28, 1778, Battle of Monmouth Courthouse, New Jersey. Illness forced Burr to retire from active duty in 1779 following several years of laudable service.

Burr's meritorious wartime service in the cause of American independence is frequently overlooked amidst his later alleged scandals and political intrigues that included mortally wounding Colonel Alexander Hamilton in a duel in Weehawken, New Jersey in July 1804. Burr was the Vice-President of the United States at the time of the duel. He died in 1836 at the Port Richmond Hotel on Staten Island, New York.

Mabelle Haynes Steps Down

Mabelle Haynes, director and life member of the AEHS for more than 20 years, will be stepping down as a director at the end of her current term in September. She resides in East Boothbay, Maine and Naples, FL with her husband. She has long supported and contributed a great deal to the objectives of the society.

The entire Society would like to sincerely thank Mabelle, and wish her well in the years ahead.

Trail Clearing on the Great Carrying Place

The annual May trail clearing trip to the Carry Ponds country experienced great success this year. The largest group of trusty trail clearers in recent years mustered, no less than ten rugged men. Sara Donovan sent some survival rations, in the form of wonderful cookies!

On Thursday, May 17, Don Howard and Steve Clark cleared the section between East and Middle Carry Ponds. Blowdowns and clipping brought the trail up to standard.

On Saturday, the rest of the crew of eight men cleared the section from the Pleasant Ridge Road, to East Carry Pond. This was a distance of 2.4 mi. Because of the size of the crew, it made quick work of the clearing. All blowdowns were removed and additional brushing of small hardwoods was done.

Dude Wing and Clayton McLaughlin went over to the parcel owned by the AEHS on the south shore of East Carry Pond. This is a four acre lot. Dude had helped to lay out the lot's original boundary lines in the past, but they needed to be refreshed. They spent four hours re-cutting the lines, checking the corner posts and markers. Clayton will be going back later this summer to paint the lines. This was an important job, very well done.

Everyone gathered at the cabin in the afternoon for pictures and to just gab. The group broke up about four, after a hard, but rewarding day.

Those who participated were, Dude Wing, Clayton McLaughlin, Don Howard, Steve Clark, Bob Donovan, Ron Gamage, Rocky Freeman, Fred Clark, Hank Dillenbeck, and Sam Miller. Thanks to all of you for a job very well done. Sara's cookies did not last long!

Preserving The Route Of The Expedition

By Stephen Clark

Since 1775, the route of the expedition has undergone great changes, as might be expected. Many dams on the rivers, bridges galore, new towns and cities, roads everywhere and many other developments have transformed what the men of the expedition beheld. The rivers themselves have been used as highways, moving uncountable tons of saw logs, later pulp logs from the highlands of the Boundary Mountains, down both the Kennebec and Chaudiere watersheds to waiting mills.

Today, marking the route of the expedition are numerous bronze plaques and some informational panels. However, a more important observation is whether there are any sections still left, that the men of the expedition would recognize?

The answer is, a few! The stretch of the Kennebec River from Waterville down to Augusta is today, pretty much the same as it was in 1775, thanks to the removal of the dam at Augusta. This 17 mile section of the river has had an amazing recovery. The sea sturgeon and alewives have returned and heron, eagles, and hawks regularly patrol the river looking for a fishy meal. The six sets of rips and fast water that was submerged by the dam's pool, have now emerged. The men of the army had to laboriously mount these for two days.

Because the river valley here is deeply entrenched, there is only limited impacts from civilization. Canoers today see the beautiful river pretty much the same as it was in 1775.

This section makes a great day canoe trip, starting in Winslow at old Fort Halifax, and canoeing 18 miles downstream, just below old Fort Western in Augusta. Locally, it is called the "Fort to Fort trip."

A second stretch of the Kennebec that is more or less unchanged, starts at the Evergreens Campground, just below the Emden-Solon Bridge. It is nine miles downstream to the take-out at the junction with the Carrabassett River. Here the river moves swiftly, but gently, winding around the many pristine islands in this section. Most of them have been preserved by the Nature Conservancy. One sees only limited impact of civilization. Undisturbed, wildlife abounds here.

Then there are sections of the North Branch of the Dead River that are pretty much the same. From the outlet of the Chain of Ponds, over many small falls and rapids, the river has retained most of the characteristics experienced by the men of the army. Only Route 27 which closely parallels the river, reminds one that civilization is not far off. Remember too, the river here was in flood stage in 1775, so the river would have been quite different than today.

Further upstream, the Chain of Ponds are different from what the army saw, due to the dam that has raised the water level by 5-6 feet. But the magnificent surrounding mountains have not changed much. The men did not stop long here to admire the scenery, as snow squalls were blowing and the peaks were shrouded in clouds. Starving men do not admire scenery very much.

Beyond the Chain of Ponds was the terrible Height of Land Portage trail, winding around four ponds, then over the mountains into what is now Canada. Today, much of this trail is very similar to what the men saw and experienced in 1775.

When the army passed over the Boundary Mountains and into what is now Canada, they were being transformed into an army on foot. A few boats were carried across [about 20] but these were all lost while descending the ferocious, rock-filled rapids of the Upper Chaudiere River, below Lac Megantic. So from the Chain of Ponds, over the mountains, around Lac Megantic and down the Chaudiere, the army became one on foot.

Unfortunately, on the Height of Land portage trail and all the way to Quebec City, there are no markers, or signs of the expedition's passage. It is mostly wild lands from the Chain of Ponds to the Canadian border.

Once Canada is reached, most of the land along the expedition's route down the Chaudiere Valley has been fully developed as farm lands, towns or cities. This extends all the way northward to the St. Lawrence

In Canada there are few places that resemble anything like what it was when the starving, struggling army passed down the Chaudiere Valley. It is hoped that in the future, the Society and our Canadian brothers and sisters will be able to add many more markers and signs along the route all the way to Quebec City.

Preservation Of The Portage Trails

Along the Kennebec River portion of the expedition's route, most of the portage trails have been obliterated by human development. On all four of the Kennebec River portages, there is little left to preserve.

However, on the 12 mile Great Carrying Place, the Society and other organizations have made substantial progress towards preservation of the route. Currently, both ends of this portage trail are inundated by pools created by downstream dams. And there are several private gravel roads either crossing or constructed along sections of the old portage trail. There are also numerous cottages and camps on portions of the shorelines of all three of the Carry Ponds.

Allowing for these developments, there is still much of the route on the GCP still intact, and similar in appearance to what the men of the expedition experienced. Travelers along the GCP will experience not only its historical values, but great beauty as well. The society for more than four decades has been successful in preserving much of the original route.

First, through the generosity of Mr. Thomas Dixon, several easements have been given to the Society. One of the easements is 0.9 mi. in length between East and Middle Carry Ponds is four hundred feet wide and protects the entire portage trail between the two ponds. A second easement, of about 0.7 mi. has been established from West Carry Pond, westward, along a now gravel private road, to a high point in a gap between two high hills. Mr. Dixon is now deceased, but his son and the Dixon family still supports the objectives of these two easements.

The second protective effort is that when the National Appalachian Trail was relocated after the flooding of the Dead River Valley (1950), the relocation utilized the old Great Carrying Place trail between West Carry to a point near Middle Carry Pond, as it crosses the pond's inlet, Sandy Stream. This distance is about 1.8 mi. In the early 1980's when the National Park Service was quietly purchasing parcels of land along the Appalachian Trail in Maine, it acquired a corridor of land around the south and east shore line of West Carry Pond, including all of Arnold Point. Thus about a third of the pond's shoreline has been protected. A new protective corridor has also been established between the east shore of West Carry Pond and Middle Carry pond. Thus the portage trail for 1.8 mi. has been protected.

Further, the entire northern half of the shoreline of East Carry Pond has been acquired by the NPS to protect the AT which passes around the pond. Thus, large portions of both East and West Carry Ponds will remain, much as they were when the army passed.

The third effort to protect the Great Carrying Place portage trail occurred during the late 1970's when the newly established Maine Land Use Regulation Commission began the process of establishing protective zoned lands throughout the 13 million acres of the Unorganized Territories. This of course, included all of the land that encompassed the Great Carrying Place.

The entire portage trail was initially located and has been mapped out as a special protective zone. This was called a *Protection, Unusual Area* zone (P-UA). It is narrow, being only two hundred feet wide. But it does provide a continuous protection from Wyman Lake (the Kennebec River) to Flagstaff Lake (the Dead River). This encompasses the entire 12 miles of the Great Carrying Place.

The several land owners over which this P-UA zone was established, have, over the years, graciously and generously honored the zone and have been careful to provide a protective no-cut buffer in their adjoining wood harvesting operations.

So across the entire 12 miles of the Great Carrying Place, there is now a protective corridor of various types of protection. The Society has not accomplished this by itself. It has been very much a

What Is Left To Preserved Now?

Along the entire 350 mile route of the expedition in both the US and Canada, there is only **one** place left where the hand of Man has not materially altered the route of the expedition. It is located near the Canadian border and includes much of the old Height of Land portage trail.

This trail had been established centuries before by Native Americans. It connected the various Atlantic coast tribes through the headwaters of both the Kennebec and Chaudiere Rivers to their brethren along the St. Lawrence River. Thus a highway between the Atlantic coast and the St. Lawrence River had been established. It was this water highway that the 1775 expedition followed.

The Height of Land portage trail extended from Round Pond, the western most of the Chain of Ponds, over the Boundary Mountains into Canada, and terminated on the Arnold River. This flows into nearby Lac Megantic. The entire portage was a very rugged eight miles in length, most of which currently is located on the US side of the mountains. This western terminus was within what the men of the expedition named as the "Beautiful Meadow."

Along this eight mile trail are features of great interest to the Society. It begins at Round Pond, parallels Horseshoe Stream, and extends more than four miles to Arnold Pond, where it swings north and crosses Highway 27. The small village of Coburn Gore is nearby. This four mile section of the portage trail is intact, with minimal impacts from Man's work. Only one gravel logging road crosses it. Between Round and Arnold Ponds, it also touches three other small ponds, Lost, Horseshoe and Mud. All five of these ponds were utilized by the expedition. None of the three middle ponds currently have any camps or cottages on their shores. They are exactly as they were in 1775.

Round Pond, on the east end of this portage trail, does have a commercial campground established at Natanis Point. Round Pond's entire shoreline is already owned by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, as a part of their larger holdings on the Chain of Ponds.

Further west at Arnold Pond, the portage trail is still within the US. There are a few camps on the north and east shores of this pond. On the NW corner of the pond is nearby Coburn Gore Village. People canoeing this pond cannot see many signs of the village and only a few camps are seen. So, Arnold Pond is mostly free of observable development. It was at this point that most of the expedition's remaining bateaux were abandoned.

If this section of the Height of Land portage trail were to be preserved, it would include more than four miles of the original portage trail and all or most of five ponds that played a part in the expedition. The area also has considerable wetlands, and abounds in wildlife, including a number of deer yards. It also contains several interesting geologic features. It is surrounded by outstanding scenery and high mountains. Maine Highway 27 passes close to this area and would provide access for future visitors.

The AEHS is in the process of evaluating the possibility of providing protection to the trail and surrounding land in this area. It will be very complicated but the fact that it is the last area of original portage trail still intact and still unprotected, certainly warrants careful consideration.

This consideration has promise, but will take time and ingenuity to accomplish.

AEHS New 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.

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

➡ To order the Essay, "**Crisis in the Megantic Swamps**," This includes maps. Donations accepted. Send order to Society at address below.

➡ To order the AEHS map of the 1775 Expedition's route from the Kennebec River to Lac Megantic, Canada, 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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