

# EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ARNOLD EXPEDITION  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



May, 2013

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## A Busy 2013 Schedule

This year will see a very active year for the AEHS. Below is a synopsis of those events and each will be explained further within *The Messenger*.

May 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday Trail Maintenance, & archeological Exploration, Great Carrying Place.

June 22 Saturday, Summer meeting of the AEHS Directors, Richmond, ME.

August 2-4 Joint Outdoor Weekend of the AEHS and the Flagstaff Association, to

Celebrate the Passage of the Expedition through the Dead River country.

Sept. 21 Annual Meeting of the AEHS. Plans for this meeting will appear in early Sept. Newsletter.

## HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Major Bigelow Letter
- Directors to Meet
- AEHS Weekend at Eustis
- Trail Clearing and Archeological Trips
- Remembrances of Flagstaff Village
- Historical Analysis: Twas Elevation that Defeated the Expedition.

## Major Timothy Bigelow's Letter to his Wife

**Editor's Note:** Major Timothy Bigelow never wrote a journal of the Expedition, but we are fortunate to have access to a copy of his letter to his wife, Anna. The fact that it was dated Oct. 26 on the Dead River, indicates that he wrote this the same day that Arnold called a Council of War at Shatagee Falls. As a part of the decisions made there, it was decided to send back about 20 soldiers that were sick and could not proceed. They were sent back down the North Branch of the Dead River to join the rear division under Lt. Col. Enos. Undoubtedly, Major Bigelow sent this letter back with one of the sick men.

When these men reached Lt. Col. Enos's rear division, Enos and his officers had just made the decision to abandon the expedition and return to Cambridge. Therefore it is presumed that this letter went back with them.

The letter states some interesting observations as to the condition of the army at that time. Bigelow later in the war became a full colonel and is known in his home town as the "Patriot of Worcester. [MA]"

*"October 26th, 1775*

*On that part of the Kennybeck called the Dead river, 95 miles above Norridgewock*

*Dear Wife. I am at this time well, but in a dangerous situation, as is the whole detachment of the Continental Army with me. We are in a wilderness nearly one hundred*

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Bigelow letter, continued from page 1  
*miles from any inhabitants, either French or English, and but about five days provisions on an average for the whole. We are this day sending back the most feeble and some that are sick. If the French are our enemies it will go hard with us, for we have no retreat left. In that case there will be no alternative between the sword and famine. May God in his infinite mercy protect you, my more than ever dear wife, and my dear children, "Adieu, and ever believe me to be your most affectionate husband, "Timo. Bigelow."*

### **News Item, Printed 1951**

NEW FLAGSTAFF, ME October 5th 1951--

A Bronze marker honoring Col. Timothy Bigelow, Worcester Mass., Revolutionary War hero, originally set at the foot of Mount Bigelow will be re-dedicated here October 17.

The marker, a gift of Col. Timothy Bigelow Chapter Daughter of the American Revolution, of Worcester, was first erected in 1935 in the town of Flagstaff.

It was placed at the front of the Mountain in honor of Colonel Bigelow, believed to be the first man to climb Mount Bigelow.

Due to the recent flooding of the area by the Central Maine Power Company to make an artificial lake to insure hydro-electric power for the towns along the Kennebec river, the Worcester-donated marker was re-located in New Flagstaff [Eustis].

### **Directors To Meet**

On June 22 at 10:00 AM, the AEHS Directors will hold their summer meeting in Richmond, at Dinsmore Hall, the home of the Richmond Historical and Cultural Society. This is located near the center of town at 164 Pleasant Street. Any AEHS member is more than welcome to attend. A variety of programs are now underway, including a possible new trail addition on the Great Carrying Place, a preservation project in the Chain of Ponds area, and the erection of new interpretive signs will be discussed.

After the meeting is over, and a bag lunch enjoyed, President Jay Robbins will guide us to an active archeological site near the Kennebec River at old Fort Richmond.

### **New Interpretive Panels**

As most members know, the Society has embarked upon a program to cooperate with other entities to erect a new generation of Interpretive panels. These are long lasting ceramic panels that are mounted on a cross pipe which is embedded between two granite posts. It is presumed they will last much longer than those wooden panels installed in the 1970's. We have two completed and installed, one at the Colburn House and the other on busy US 201 just across from the point where the expedition left the Kennebec to cross the Great Carrying Place.

A new one is being prepared under the guidance of Director Tom Desjardin, for installation at a new DOT turn-out in Eustis, overlooking Flagstaff Lake and the Bigelow Range. This is scheduled to be installed this summer. Others are in the works.

There is also one planned for installation by the City of Lac Megantic, near the lake's outlet, the beginning of the Chaudiere River. It is the first to be installed on the Canadian portion of the expedition's route.