

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



September 2013

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AEHS and Flagstaff Chapel Association Celebrate Their Histories

On the weekend of August 2-4 the two groups combined their efforts and energy to conduct a joint weekend of activities. The weather was spotty but was good enough so as not to hinder the outdoor activities.

Most of the activities centered around the Cathedral Pines Campground and the nearby Flagstaff Chapel, in Eustis. It was well attended and a number of the attendees wore Colonial period costumes.

Saturday's activities included boat rides down Flagstaff Lake to the site of the now inundated Flagstaff Village, a guided bus ride along the expedition's route, from Eustis to the Canadian border. A delicious picnic supper was had, followed by an evening lecture regarding the Expedition's passage through the Upper Dead River Valley and Chain of Ponds, by noted author, Stephen Clark. More than 60 attended. On Sunday, a fine church service was conducted at the Chapel followed by a pot luck lunch.

Many thanks for the success of the events should go to Betty and Dude Wing, bus driver Kenny Wing, and several of the AEHS directors, including Guy Grant and wife Fran and Sherri Clark. Other directors attending were Laura Stewart, Norm Kalloch and Hank Dillinback.

During the same weekend, the Carry Ponds Association was having its annual meeting on West Carry Pond. AEHS president, Jay Robbins attended and gave a fine presentation about the expedition's passage across the Great Carrying Place. All in all, a fine weekend for the AEHS. Colored pictures of the event will appear in the December edition of the *Messenger*.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- AEHS Summer Celebration
- Election of Officers & Directors
- West Carry Pond Camps
- Annual Meeting and Speaker
- Trail Clearing Activities
- Arnold at Pownalborough
- June Directors Meeting

Disaster At Lac Megantic

Most AEHS members are aware of the tragic railroad disaster in the heart of the town of Lac Megantic, which lies on the route of the Expedition in Canada. The rail tank cars, filled with crude oil, exploded after being derailed and burned through the heart of the town, killing 47 citizens. It also poured heavy oil into both the lake and the Chaudiere River. We need to support the people suffering through this terrible tragedy. A special account has been set up at the TD Bank in Farmington, Maine. AEHS members who would like to donate towards this relief fund should send checks made out to: Lac Megantic Relief Fund, in care of TD Bank, P.O. Box 900, Farmington, ME 04938

Nominations of Officers and Directors

The nominating committee composed of Norm Kalloch and Steve Clark will present the following proposed list of officers and directors at the upcoming September 21 annual meeting of the AEHS. Further nominations from the floor may be presented at the meeting. The slate is:

For Officers, one year term:

President, John (Jay) Robbins

Vice President: vacant

Secretary: Stephen Clark

Treasurer: Alan Burnell

For Directors, three year terms:

Robert Cunningham

Norman Kalloch

John Parsons

Laura J. Stewart

Alan Burnell

Elected as Honorary Members

At the June 22, 2013 directors meeting, five members were elected as Honorary Members of the AEHS. They Robert Cunningham, Duluth Wing, Betty Wing, Tom Desjardin and Lori Desjardin.

Both Bob and Dude are original founding fathers of the Society and have been involved for more than forty years. Bob had served as Treasurer for many years as well as a director to the present. Dude has involved himself in many Society projects, but in particular, has been instrumental in the recovery of many key artifacts that have added important knowledge regarding the expedition.

Betty Wing has diligently supported the Society's goals for many years and has worked to involve many others in the Society. Duluth and Betty both are life members of the Flagstaff Chapel Association.

Tom and Lori Desjardin have been recognized because of the many years they have spent in restoring the historic Colburn house facilities in Pittston into one of the most significant historic sites in Maine. Much of this work was accomplished on their own, weekends and

evenings, not as a part of their employment. We hope the many Colburn heirs will have a chance to visit the facility and view the many changes and improvements that Lori and Tom have magically transformed. It has been an exceptional effort. Rueben and his wife must be very pleased with the changes their home, the Colburn House has received. Even meals can now be baked in the Keeping Room's huge fireplace-oven.

Congratulations to all five of these exceptional people who in their own ways, have made history come alive.

Nichols Cabin Repairs and Upgrades

The weekend of June 28-29, saw John and Ron Gamage make repairs to the cabin, accomplishing quite a lot.

They discovered an old yarding area and found some left over wood that they cut up with a chainsaw into firewood length. They then collected a pickup truck to replenish the firewood in our new firewood shed.

John had brought along a 20 ton jack and jacked up the SW corner of the cabin to bring it level. He thought it was lifted about two inches. That evidently did the trick as the window now slides quite well.

They also had brought a vacuum cleaner that works off a truck converter. They were able to clean out the mice droppings under the main camp bench-bed. They also removed an antler that the mice were feeding upon.

Thanks John and Ron for a job well done.

In August, Rocky Freeman and family members made several trips to the camp. The first task was to reduce some brush and alders blocking views of the lake. They then moved on to a major job of repainting the entire outside of the camp, with Colonial Red and White trim. This was a big job as it has not been done in several years. The camp looks almost new! Thanks Rocky and family for making the camp look as good as when Arnold slept in it!

A Brief History Of The West Carry Pond Camps

By Norman Kalloch

Early sporting camps in Maine had a long and colorful history dating from the 1800's and they attracted people far and wide seeking to enjoy the wilderness of an earlier time in Maine. West Carry Pond Camps located in Carrying Place Town Township in Somerset County was one of these traditional hunting and fishing sporting camps during the hay day of backwoods sporting camps.

West Carry Pond Camps was located on about a 50 acre parcel about midway down the west shore of West Carry Pond and was only accessible by boat. Despite its small size West Carry Pond Camps had a well-known reputation for large trout and big bucks and had loyal following through its 68 years of operation.

The sporting camps were last owned and operated by Adelaide and Elwyn Storey who catered to hunters and fisherman for 34 years. Compared to other sporting camps of the time theirs was a small operation



Main Lodge, Storey's West Carry Pond Camps, near Arnold Expedition route, circa 1930's

with only 4 rental cabins scattered about their property.

Other buildings included the main lodge located at the water's edge that housed the kitchen/dining room. Storey's personal cabin that was about 50 feet behind the dining room and an ice house to the north provided the refrigeration needed for the perishables.

Communications with the outside world was accomplished by a party phone line that was draped tree to tree from the Long Falls Dam Road and more than once it was hooked by the antlers of a wayward moose and broken by an errant tree.

All the buildings except 2 of the newer cabins were made from logs cut from nearby spruce trees while the other two were constructed of dimension lumber and sheathed with novelty pine siding. The cabins served as a place to sleep and relax with all meals served at the main dining room. They were supplied with a few chairs, a small table, beds and a wash bowl. Oil lamps provided the light and the nearby outhouse provided relief.

Cont. Page 4



Adelaide and Elwyn Storey

Elwyn would meet guests at the Long Falls Dam Road with his Farm hall Tractor and haul their tunnage in a wagon to West Carry while the "Sports" followed behind along the rough and often muddy woods road. The tote road Elwyn followed (and the present day camp road as well) was essentially the same route used by Arnold's Army in the fall of 1775 as their portage trail between West Carry Pond and Bog Brook and the Dead River.

In a small cove on the west shore of the pond several small fishing boats rested on a floating raft of logs. Camp supplies and guests were transported down the lake by boat to another floating platform in front of the dining room where the guests would check in and be shown to their cabin.

It was not until the mid -1960's that the old tote road was made drivable for vehicles but only as far as the pond where guests continued to take a boat to the sporting camps. Only after the Storey's sold their property in 1967 was an access road constructed from the landing to the camps a distance of about half mile.

Tom Dickson, Sr. of Rumford purchased the sporting camps in 1967 and the water frontage was subdivided into 18 camp lots although the Storey's retained a lot for their daughter Louise and her husband.

Prior to the sporting camps being sold the Appalachian Trail crossed the Storey's property and passed but a stone throw from the dining room where hikers would stop for refreshments or lunch before continuing their journey.

A short time after the sale of the property the AT was moved onto the new road Dickson had built to reach the former

sporting camps and eventually moved again to its current location safe within its own corridor on the slopes of Roundtop Mountain.

The lean-to that was once used by early AT hikers remains intact and is located south of the main body of buildings. It was originally built by Elwyn as a shelter for hikers most of whom did not have the money to rent a cabin for the night but might come over to the dining room for a meal. It is notable that Elwyn's lean-to as well as others in the area predated the official AT network of lean-to's that exist today.

The sporting camps faced northeast towards Pierce Pond Mountain and Bates Ridge and in the fore ground there was a view of Arnold Point and the cove where Arnold re-launched his bateaux to cross West Carry Pond in late October of 1775. What a treat it would be if we could rewind time and be silent observers sitting in the Storey's dining room and watch the flotilla of bateaux make their way across West Carry Pond!

Today, three of the Storey rental cabins remain on private camp lots and all are in good condition for their age. The fourth was dismantled log by log and reassembled on the shore of Fahi Pond in Embden where it looks as good as ever. Storey's private cabin still stands but is in serious disrepair and is basically home for porcupines and the occasional raccoon. The dining room was destroyed by fire in the late 1970's presumably from a lightning strike and the old ice house has long fallen with its remains defined by raspberries and shrubs.

There is one other structure that remains from the Storey era. That is a small rectangular building next to the pond that was specifically built by Elwyn as a play house for their daughter Louise.

The early history of the West Carry Pond Camps goes back to the turn of the century when the Harlow brothers of New Portland built the six original cabins situated in a single row and parallel with the pond.

The second owner of the sporting camps was Rufus Taylor who purchased them in 1912 and ran them for 18 years. Taylor eventually connected the cabins by a wooden boardwalk however; the original set of cabins accidentally

Cont. On Page 6...

Annual AEHS Meeting To Be Held

On Saturday, September 21, the Society will hold its annual meeting at the Colburn house in Pittston, Maine. It will be held in the newly renovated barn, and will feature tours of the main house. If you have not visited the major renovations completed in the past several years, under the direction of State historian, Tom Desjardin, by all means take this opportunity to visit.

Through the efforts of president Jay Robbins, we have a special surprise. He has been able to arrange a visit from the major historical speaker, Prof. Steven Eames. See notice below. So plan to join us for a great day of history and the celebration of the 1775 Expedition. Arnold visited the facility on Sept. 21st, 1775, 239 years ago. Good weather guaranteed. The schedule is shown below. See you there!

Schedule for Annual Meeting, September 21, 2013

9:00 AM Meeting of AEHS Directors and Officers, all members are invited.

11:30 AM Picnic lunch on the premises. Bring your own lunch.

12:30 PM Short business meeting of the Society and election of officers and directors.

1:00 PM Lecture by Prof. Steven Eames, entitled:

Warfare on the New England Frontier

Below is a description of Prof. Eames background

This year's Annual Meeting speaker will be Steven C. Eames, Professor of History at Mount Ida College in Newton, MA and Chair of the Department of History and Interdisciplinary Studies. His topic will be **Warfare on the New England Frontier**. Drawing from his wonderful book *Rustic Warriors: Warfare and the Provincial Soldier on the New England Frontier, 1689-1748*, Steve will discuss how New Englanders defended themselves in the early French and Indian wars, both defensively (patrols, garrisons, and forts) and offensively (raids and expeditions). It was these experiences and traditions that Arnold's men carried with them as they headed up the Kennebec toward Quebec.

Steven Eames lives in Maine. He has also authored the book *Sacrifice of Self: Nahant and the Civil War*, and was a participant in the 1975 re-enactment of Arnold's Expedition to Quebec.

Benedict Arnold at the Pownalborough Court House by Jay Robbins

Tradition has always had it that Benedict Arnold stopped at the Pownalborough Court House in what is now Dresden, ME, in order to pick up a map. Arnold was on his way to Fort Western and points north. The hard evidence however for such a visit has heretofore been lacking. None of the extant journals of the expedition confirm a landing. And then too, one might expect that the Major would call upon the Colonel, and not the other way around.

Samuel Goodwin was the organizer of the Kennebec Proprietors in 1749. He served as their surveyor and commanded their Fort at Frankfort, later renamed Fort Shirley, until it was made redundant by Forts Halifax and Western. Fort Shirley was converted into a civil landscape in 1761 with the opening of a new Court House within the old palisade. Major Goodwin and his wife kept the building for the Lincoln County Courts and operated a tavern and a small store therein. They lived in the two river-side rooms on the ground floor.

Now proof of tradition is at hand. In a letter To George Washington from Samuel Goodwin, 17 November 1789 [<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-04-02-0208>] we find the following: cont. on page 6, Pownalborough...

Cont. From Page 4... West Carry Pond Camps Report on Trail Clearing and Archeological Exploration
burned and was replaced with fewer cabins spaced out in a random fashion over the property.

In 1930 the sporting camps were sold to a lawyer named Marston from New York who restored the cabins and ran them until the Storey's took over in 1936.

The Storey's remained at the camps for several seasons after their sale to Dickson in 1967 spending their winters working at Judson's Motel and Restaurant in Jerusalem Township (now Carrabassett Valley) where they lived in a small trailer behind the restaurant.

It was Adelaide and Elwyn's plan to use the money they received for their West Carry property and buy a small comfortable home that they could enjoy in their retirement years. But it was not to be and both died in 1972 within 4 days of each other. Adelaide age 72 and Elwyn at age 80. Both are buried in Wilsons Mills in Lincoln Township, Maine where Elwyn was raised as a child.

Adelaide's memory lives on through the flowers she grew in her garden. Lupine, columbine, lungwort, ajuga, narcissus, lilacs and other flowers still flourish near her cabin and serve as a testimony to her and Elwyn's 34 years at West Carry Pond.

Pownalborough cont. from Page 4.

"...your Excellency was please to derict me by Mr Ayers to Copy A plan for the Then Colonal Bennedick Arnold Esqr. To whome Your Excellency Gave the Command of that Army; I went to work Areaditly in Obedience To your Excellency's Command; and did Compleat A large plan: (& also two Small plans, the two Small plans was by, Said Arnolds order) I delivered them to Said Arnold on Thuresday the 21st of Sepetember. The Great Plan I Delivered at my house: & on the 23rd the two Small Plans at Fort western...."

This founders.archives.gov website aims to make every bit of correspondence to and from Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton and Franklin available on line with every word searchable. Documents are now being loaded. A query for "Arnold, Benedict" currently yields 377 pieces of correspondence where he is mentioned. They appear in chronological order. E

The AEHS had a great turnout to clear and explore on a fine May weekend. It was the largest group we have ever assembled, 15 strong, met at nine on Saturday morning.

We divided into three groups: one began at the Carry Ponds Road and worked on the portage trail uphill out of the valley. Another group worked on the opposite direction from East Carry Pond, and the third group went to a site on East Carry Pond, at the Walters Camp, to look for artifacts.

Because two groups had independently worked on the trail earlier in the week, the clearing was light and the 2.5 mi. portage trails are now cleared of all blowdowns. The 0.9 mi. section between Middle and East Carry was cleared earlier in the week by Steve Clark and Don Howard.

Laura Stewart, AEHS director drove almost five hours to join us for the day. Dedication plus!

The various groups met at the Nichols Cabin in the afternoon to discuss the day and enjoy some comradery. The loons chorused us. A moose was seen swimming the pond earlier.

The artifact group was looking for artifacts on the east side of East Carry Pond to determine if we could verify the terminus of the portage trail that came up from the old Kennebec River starting point. The Walters family graciously let us hunt their land along side a small brook where we think the terminus of the portage trail might be. However, after careful checking with metal detectors, only metal remains of modern life were found. No artifacts yet. Dude Wing and Henry Metivier led this group.

Those that participated were; Dude Wing, Clayton McLaughlin, Henry Metivier, Kelvin Metivier, Bob Donovan, Sara Donovan, Laura Stewart, Fred Clark, Henry Dillinback, Steve Clark, Don Howard, Norm Kalloch, Jim Thomas, Rocky and Josh Freeman, Charlie and Steve Miller, John and Ron Gamage and Les Vigneault. All in all, a job well done by a great group!

Report on Director's Meeting of June 22, 2013

Present: Directors, Robbins, Wing, Burnell, Sherri Clark, Stephen Clark, Cunningham, Donovan, Dillenbeck, Kalloch, members Fred Clark and McLaughlin and guest, Diano Cero.

Secretary Clark reported the total current membership is 140. Categorized, 54 are life members and 86 are annual dues paying members.

Treasurer Burnell reported the Society's finances are in good shape for the half year.

A discussion ensued regarding the election of honorary members. President Robbins ruled that these could be elected by action of the AEHS directors. There were six members proposed. Each was voted upon and approved unanimously. They are as follows: Henry Metivier, Newport, Duluth Wing, Eustis, Betty Wing, Eustis, Thomas Desjardin, Pittsfield, Lori Anne Desjardin, Pittsfield and Robert Cunningham, Lincoln Center, MA.

Reports:

Possible new portage trail connection.

Norm Kalloch reported progress on the proposed by-pass trail near West Carry Pond. He has contacted both landowners (Plum Creek and Wagoner Woodlands) and they are now considering it within their management. It would be constructed between the Appalachian Trail and the Spring Road.

We are also conducting negotiations with the National Park Service in order to allow a connection to the Appalachian Trail. It is hoped that all approvals can be obtained so that we can begin construction in the spring of 2014.

Nichols Cabin: Alan reported that all expenses relating to the cabin have been paid. The driveway had many blowdowns that needed to be cleared. Additional projects are slated for the summer, including clearing brush, painting the cabin, and leveling the SW corner.

August 2-3-4 Weekend Dude Wing and Steve Clark discussed plans for the weekend events, which will jointly be conducted with the Flagstaff Chapel Association. Several directors have volunteered to help in this endeavor.

Interpretive Panels A discussion was held regarding the next steps in the erection of a series of panels. We already have completed signs installed at the Colburn House and near Caratunk on US 201. This year we are planning the installation of a new panel (bilingual) at the new turn-out near Flagstaff Lake on Route 27. Additional signs at Chain Of Ponds and Sarampus Falls were discussed. It has been estimated that between 12 and 14 such panels could be considered for installation along the route of the expedition in Maine. This implies a number of years to complete. It was noted that the City of Lac Megantic has already installed such a panel near the outlet of the lake, where the Chaudiere River begins.

An involved discussion took place after a presentation by Diano Cero from the Trust for Public Lands. This was in regard to future projects that may preserve land along the route of the expedition. Several possibilities were discussed and how the TPL might help us in this endeavor. These prospects will be discussed further by the directors of the AEHS.

The meeting adjourned near noon and we all had a fine lunch and socializing. After lunch Jay took us on a guided tour of the archaeological site of the old Fort Richmond, on the Kennebec River, very near the proposed new Richmond-Dresden Bridge. The approach will pass over a portion of this site, so the State has worked for two summer seasons to recover information and artifacts from the site before it is destroyed. Jay indicated that so far, they have recovered over 200,000 artifacts and have been able to map the three forts that were built at this site. It was a most interesting trip. Thanks Jay for a trip to a piece of Maine History.

Did you know that if Col. Benedick Arnold had become sick or disabled during the expedition, the second in command would have been either Lt. Col. Christopher Greene or Lt. Col. Roger Enos!

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**," on a no charge basis, Send order to Society at address below. This includes maps.

➡ 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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