

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



December 2014

Great Carrying Place Dedication

On October 11th, a group of AEHS members and friends gathered on the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail to celebrate the reopening of the historic route. The crossing of the Long Falls Dam Road, was chosen as the meeting place.

More than 50 people from all over the state drove the many miles to reach the location. Visitors could view the 1600 foot high ridge to the east that the expedition's soldiers had to laboriously ascend.

The weather was cooperative, with high clouds with the sun peeping through.

The ceremony commenced with a description by Steve Clark of the expedition's movements during the same weekend, 239 years ago. At that time different contingents of the army were portaging across the 13 mile portage. On that day, Arnold was camped at East Carry Pond, and Morgan's division was carrying their bateaux and equipment over the last segment of the portage to the Dead River.

Later, three readers, Norm Kalloch, Laura Stewart and Fred Clark read entries from Arnold's, Dearborn's and Senter's journals, describing in the soldier's own words, what they saw and experienced on the portage so long ago.

AEHS president Jay Robbins spoke about the opening of the portage trail.

A new 20 page booklet was introduced that describes in detail the route, and its history. It also includes maps and historic pictures. This will allow groups and individuals to hike the entire 11.8 mi. route from Wyman Lake, (the Kennebec end), to Flagstaff Lake (the Dead River end). It is a great way to learn our history by following the footsteps of the Quebec Expedition.

The actual dedication was signified by the unveiling of the final sign which was erected at the junction of the trail route and the Long Falls Dam Road. The sign was mounted on a cedar post.

As the event drew closer to lunch time, everyone hiked down the trail, 0.3 mi. to the shore of Flagstaff Lake where the trail disappears under the impoundment. The last 3/4 mile, including the infamous, muddy "Savanna" now lies under the Flagstaff impoundment.

On the shore of the huge lake, all enjoyed a picnic lunch, within the setting of a mild fall day and the spectacular colored fall foliage. The view westward was the magnificent Bigelow Range. The soldiers called it the "forked mountain" because of its twin 4000 foot peaks.

It was a fitting setting to commemorate and honor the accomplishments of the brave American soldiers who passed this way, so long ago.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Great Carrying Place Trail Reopened
- New GCP Booklet Printed
- Annual Meeting
- Directors Meeting Held
- Feature Article; *Died in the Wild*
- New Privy at the Nichols Cabin
- New Honorary Members
- Arnold's Leg

New Great Carrying Place Booklet Available

With the completion and reopening of the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail this fall, the AEHS has published and printed a new booklet describing the route. It is 20 pages in length and contains a brief history of the route. It does have two maps and pictures as well.

The route description is detailed, giving mileage at various points along the route. It is structured to describe the trail in both an east to west or a west to east direction. To purchase a booklet, the retail cost is \$ 5.00. AEHS members will pay no postage on the mailing. Non-members should include one additional dollar (total \$ 6.00) to cover the cost of postage and handling.

The order form is on the back of this newsletter.

New Privy For The Nichols Cabin

For some years now, the Nichols Cabin at Middle Carry Pond, has needed a new privy.

Directors Bob Donovan of Emden, and Rocky Freeman of Rangeley undertook the responsibility of rebuilding the privy this fall. After several trips, the two engineers designed and carried new materials to the site and began construction. The result is a fine new backhouse that is shown in the pictorial section of this newsletter. Many thanks also go to Al Fontaine of Rangeley who provided the collection drum.

The door was hung on the same weekend as the Trail dedication. In addition to the two above cited engineers, Kenny Wing, Josh Freeman and Betty Wing helped with the project. Josh cleared the area around the new structure and checked with a metal detector to assure that no artifacts would be destroyed. This should last for many years. Thanks to the whole crew who accomplished this down-to-earth project.

Membership Fees to Rise.

Because of the increased printing costs and postage, the directors, at their September meeting voted to increase fees in all categories. These will become effective as of Jan. 1, 2015. Any renewals received prior to that date will be honored at the old fee rates. The last membership increase occurred in 2006.

The new rates will be as follows:

Individual	\$ 30
Family	35
Contributing	75
Life	250

Honorary Memberships Coffered

At the AEHS Annual Meeting, held on Sept., 20, 2014, the membership voted unanimously to confer honorary membership status to

Rusty Arsenault and Ronald Gamage.

Both have been long time members of the Society. Ron becoming a member in the early 1970-s. They have been involved in maintaining the old Great Carrying Place Portage Trail, from Wyman Lake to Middle Carry Pond. They have also been involved in the maintenance of the Nichols Cabin at Middle Carry Pond.

In 2011-12 they oversaw the replacement and construction of a new woodshed near the cabin, replacing one that had been in serious disrepair for several years. They also participated in the discovery of the site of the so-called Arnold Hospital in the Carry Ponds area.

Both had been life long friends and directors of the Society since the 1980's. Ron's son John has also been active in going to the cabin in mid winter to shovel off the cabin roof.

Ron is a resident of Cornville, Maine, and Rusty of Skowhegan.

The Society owes much to both, Ron and Rusty. We wish them well in the future.

Died in the Wild By Rocky Freeman

Author Steven Darley in his book, 'Voices From A Wilderness Expedition' has listed 16 personnel who lost their lives in the Arnold Expedition while on The March between the Kennebec River and Quebec. All of these deaths were associated with accidents and starvation and they were listed as "Died in The Wild". The bodies of some of these men, unidentified, were discovered when several men from the Expedition were traveling back to the Colonies after affecting a break out from the City of Quebec in the early summer of 1776. Simon Forbes and his cell mates were traveling near the Chaudiere River when they stumbled onto human remains scattered about the woods. No one could identify the bodies because after a cold and brutal winter, and the results of animal molestation, the remains were but bones and shreds of clothing.

There were few exceptions to this identity dilemma especially in the Maine woods. If you weren't looking for lunch, you were lunch! There was one exception to this rule and his name was Private Joseph Kirk of Wards Company. He and his mess mates had reached the Great Carry on 10 October 1775 and began to move toward the first pond. On 11 October they were assigned to a tree clearing detail along the trail. The wind had been blowing hard all day and the lake (East Carry) was white with high seas. No boats passed that day and the Expedition was hulking down for the evening. Private Kirk was working his way up the trail cutting brush and trees as he went. Another detail of his mates were doing the same. With the wind and the poor timing, the private was hit with a falling tree. He was injured. Assistance was on the scene and his mess mates responded to his calls of agony. As history will prove, he was evacuated back down the Carry Trail to the Kennebec. The following day he succumbed to his wounds. (Note: there are about four different versions of this tale in the journals but all of those stories end at his demise. According to Private Greenman's journal, 'they buried him there'. 'There' was in an interval along the river.)

Eventually Joseph Kirk's grave became an inspiration for the settlers of Pleasant Ridge. They established their cemetery near his grave and named it after one of the first families who settled the area. Hunnewel Cemetery became the only established burying ground in Pleasant Ridge Plantation. The home sits a short distance down the dirt road toward Carrying Place Stream on a point of land that overlooks Wyman Lake.

In 1925 plans had been established to build Wyman Dam. The town of Moscow and Pleasant Ridge had cemeteries along the Interval of the River that would eventually be under water. All of the graves were exhumed and moved to Union Cemetery in Moscow. One cemetery belonged to Pleasant Ridge and two belonged to the town of Moscow. Now, this is where it gets a little funny. Kirk's grave was not officially part of Hunnewels Cemetery. He was a distance away, not by much but enough to separate his grave from the official part of Hunnewel. I only know this because the town manager of Moscow had a great grandfather who did the actual digging for the relocation.

There is one last twist to this tale. In Topsfield, Maine in the county of Washington there is another Hunnewel Cemetery. And you have probably guessed it; Joseph Kirk is buried there as well. The 'Daughters of the American Revolution' have that grave yard marked as his resting place. They just didn't know that the original Hunnewel burial ground is part of history and Washington County would have made for a much longer walk!

(Cont. Page 4)

Through my research I found numerous graves from the Revolution time frame in New Portland and North Anson, only two had marched with Arnold, Sam Briggs in North Anson and Eben Richardson in New Portland. Both were members of Enos's regiment. Judging by their year of death they settled in those areas after the war.

The best material I found on dates and names came from the DAR magazines from the early 1900's.

Annual Meeting Held

On Sept. 20, the annual meeting of the AEHS was held. It was held in the renovated barn at the Colburn House in Pittston. President Jay Robbins reviewed the progress of various programs conducted by the Society.

He reviewed several fund raising efforts, the program of installing interpretive panels along the expedition's route in Maine, the completion and opening of the Great Carrying Place Trail, the publication of a new descriptive booklet of the GCP, membership fee increases that will take effect as of Jan. 1, 2015, and meetings held with the Maine Land Planning Commission officials to review and make pertinent changes in zoning of the Arnold Trail.

Election of officers and directors was also conducted (see related article in newsletter).

After the business meeting, Sam Brakeley, a noted outdoorsman and canoer conducted a power point presentation of his exciting canoeing trip from Pittston to Quebec City last year. He accomplished it in a phenomenal two weeks. He used a lightweight canoe, with a unique head strap to carry the canoe over the many portages. He also encountered six oil collection booms and crews, attempting to retrieve oil descending down the Chaudiere River from the terrible Lac Megan disaster. He was able to cross the St.

Lawrence river at the same point crossed by the expedition. Luckily, no huge ships were on the river that day.

It was a most interesting program. Sam is also a member of the Society and lives in Vermont.

Quashing a Myth

Betty Wing, longtime member of the AEHS, recently was trolling through a north country museum and observed a cannonball, with a note of explanation. It said that this was recovered along the route of the 1775 Arnold Expedition and was from one of the expedition's cannons. An interesting find, but it's origins were not accurate.

To our best knowledge, the expedition did not take any cannon with them. Even a light field piece of the day, a six pounder, would have been a tremendous weight to try to transport in the light bateaux and over the many portages, along with its supporting cannon shot, black powder, and all its supporting equipment.

And what could a light six-pounder do against the massive walls and armaments of a fortified city like Quebec?

A friendly call to the museum and an explanation of the issue caused the display to be removed and a myth quashed. It is not unusual for such myths to spring up, and it is important to address them.

Member Helen Greffard once told us about a local author in the Lac Megantic area who wrote an article several years ago, about "Arnold's Lost Gold" near the route of the expedition as it passed through the Lac Megantic area.

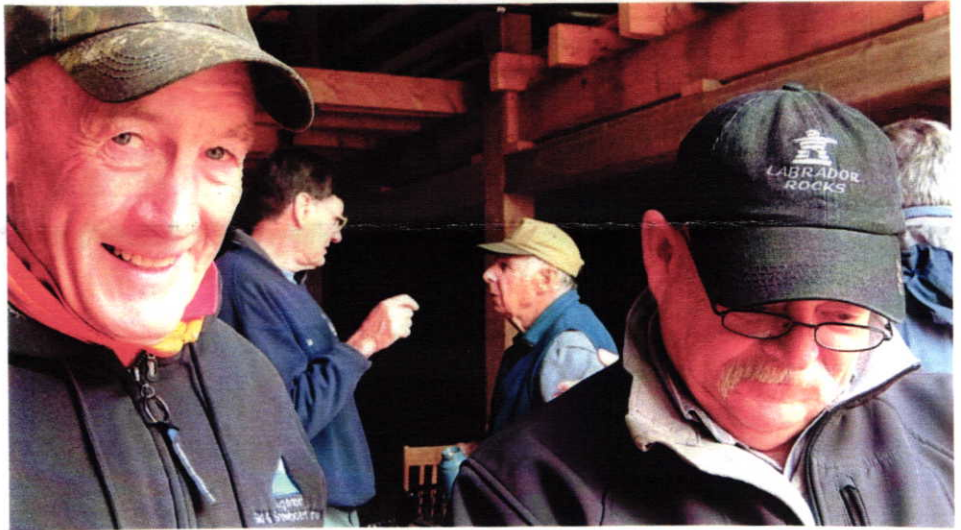
Thanks to sharp-eyed Betty Wing for setting history straight.

2014 AEHS Activities in Pictures



Above: Speaker Sam Brakely from Vermont at our Annual Meeting.

Right: AEHS Directors at the Annual Meeting, Colburn House Barn.

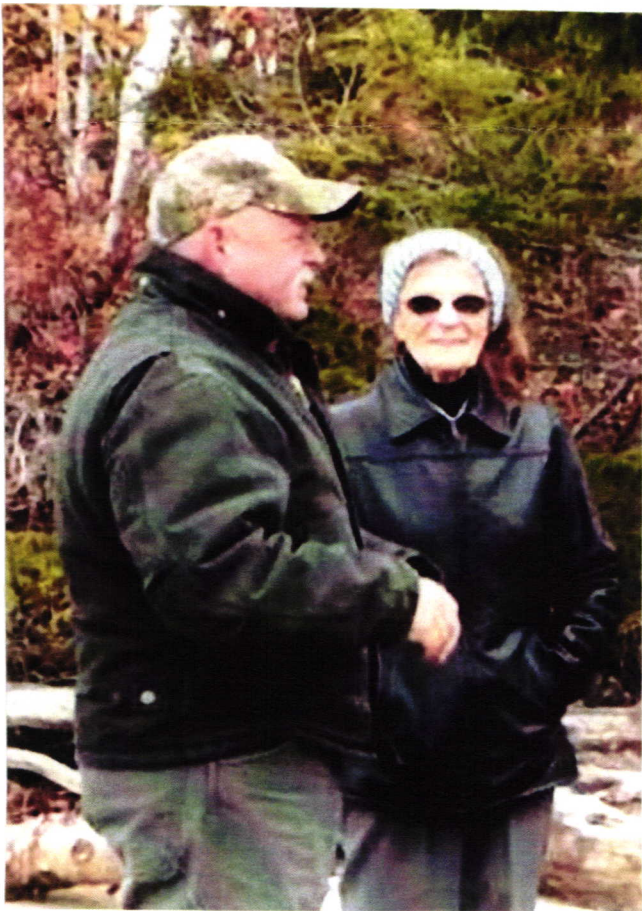


Bigelow Mountain which the expedition labeled as the "Forked Mountain".

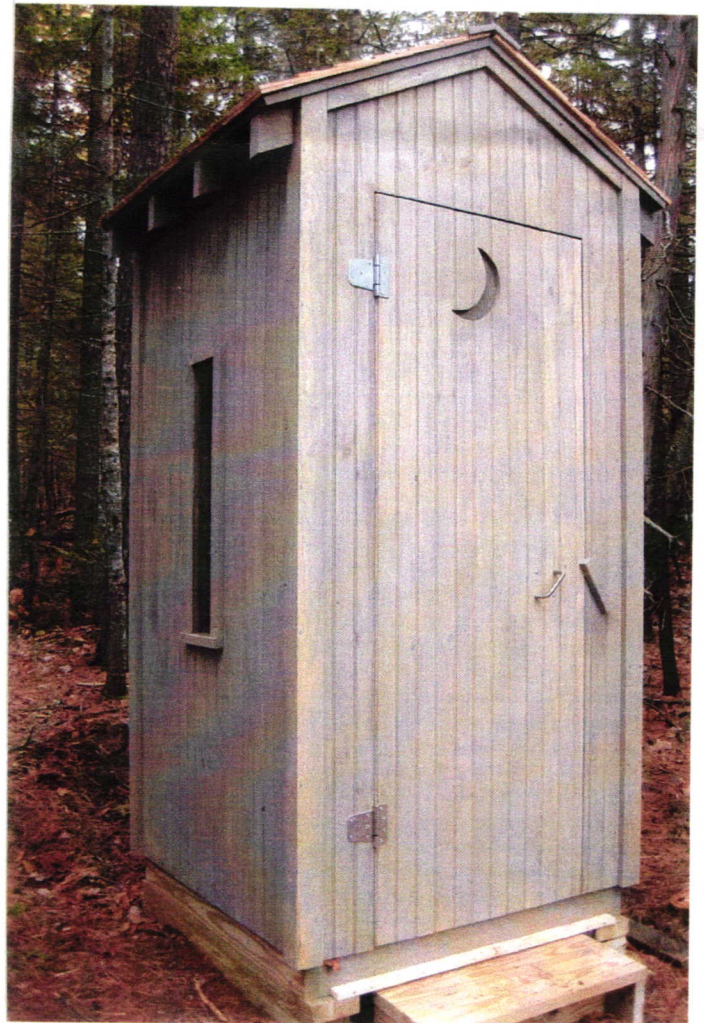




Grave site of Expedition soldier, Joseph Kirk, located in the Moscow, Maine Cemetery. Rocky Freeman stands by the site.

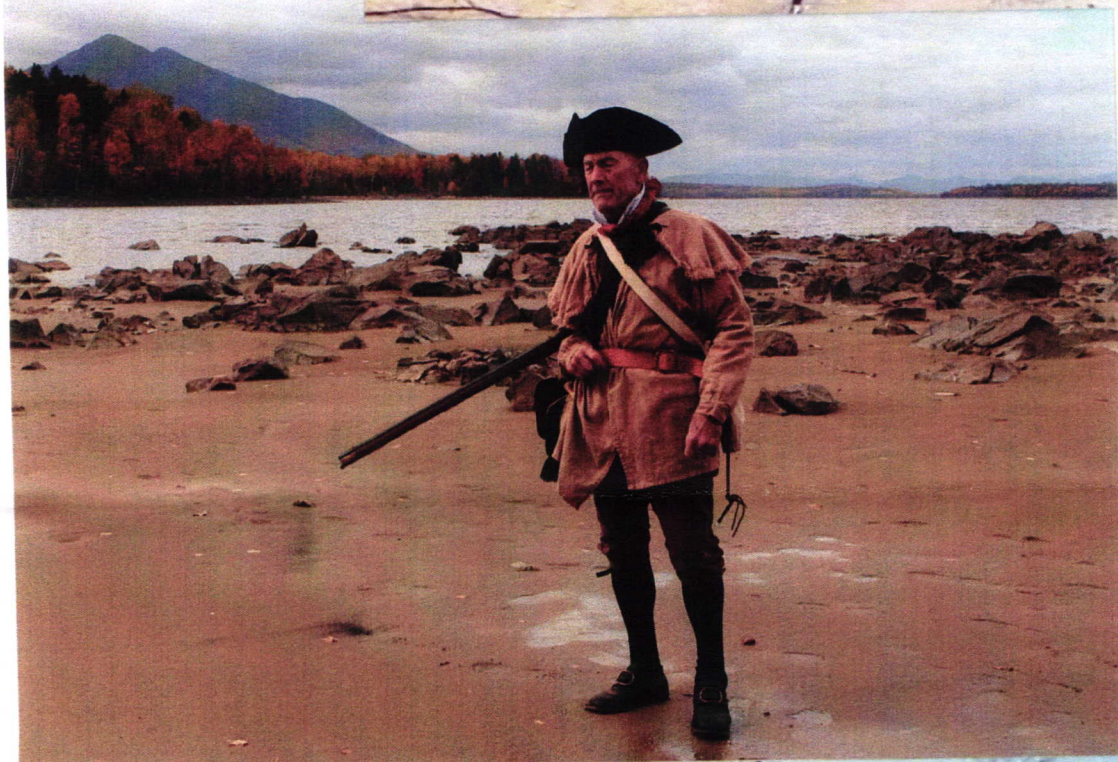


Kenny and Betty Wing at the Dedication

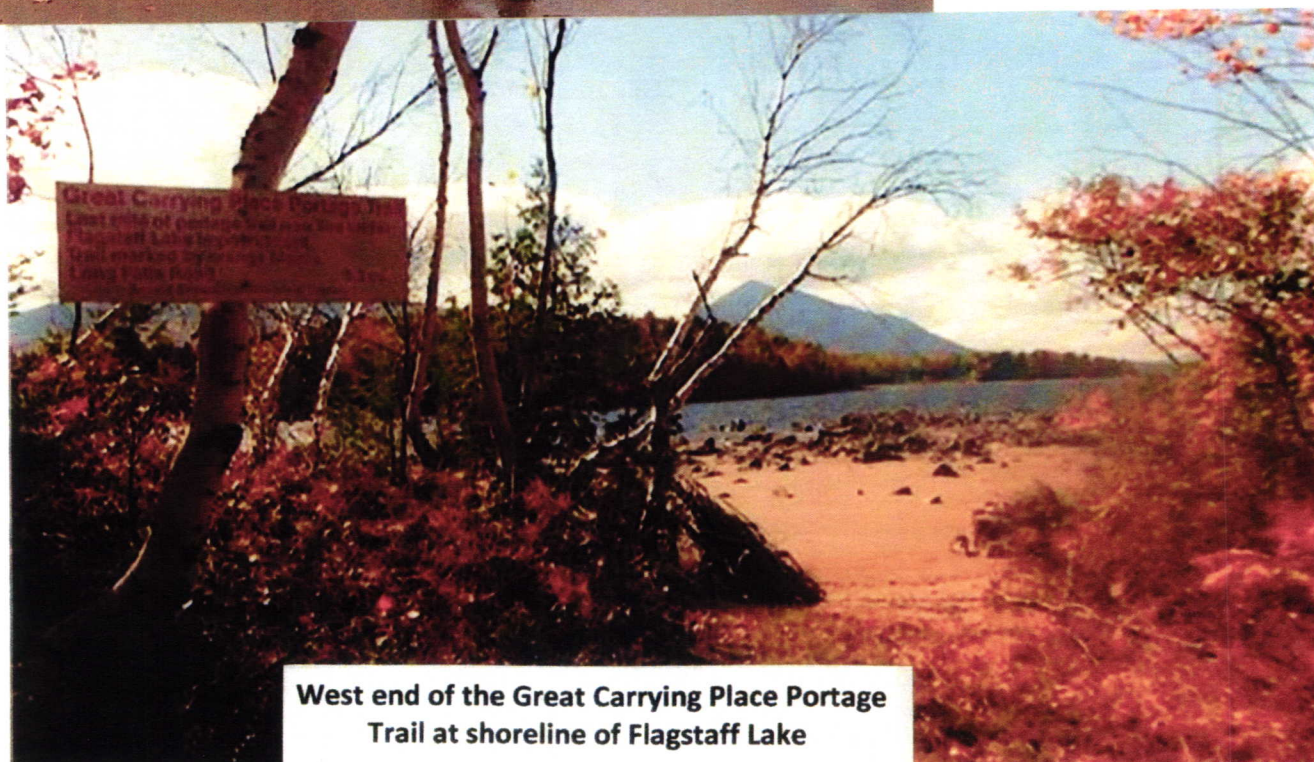


New privy at the Nichols Cabin (see accompanying article).

**Great Carrying Place Dedication
Picnic lunch on the shore of
Flagstaff Lake**



**Rocky Freeman, dressed
in period uniform.
Bigelow Mountain to the
left. Note flat area of
lake bed was approximate
location of the so-called
"savanna" (open plains
area).**



**West end of the Great Carrying Place Portage
Trail at shoreline of Flagstaff Lake**

Right: AEHS President, Jay Robbins, speaking at the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail Dedication



Above: AEHS Secretary, Steve Clark introducing noted Canadian members, Pierre and Helen Greffard of Lac Megantic.

Right: AEHS Director, Norm Kalloch, removes the covering of the final sign erected at the Long Falls Dam Road.

Great Carrying Place Portage Trail Route of the 1775 Arnold Expedition	
Flagstaff Lake, west end of Portage Trail	0.3 mi.
Junction with Connector Trail	1.5
Junction with Appalachian Trail	2.9
Arnold Point, West Carry Pond	4.3
Sandy Stream, Middle Carry Pond	6.2
Pleasant Ridge Road	10.7
Wyman Lake, east end of GCP Portage Trail	11.5

Arnold Expedition Historical Society



Members and visitors gathered at the dedication site. Arriving from throughout Maine, N.H., Mass., Vt., as well as Conn., and Canada.

AEHS Directors Meeting, Sept. 20, 2014 at the Colburn House Barn.

The meeting was called to order by President Jay Robbins at 9:30 AM.

Present were Robbins, Sherri Clark, Stephen Clark, Fred Clark, Donovan, Wing, Stewart, Cunningham, Dillenbeck, Grant, and Freeman. Absent were Desjardin, Parsons, Kalloch, and Burnell. Several guests were present including Betty Wing, Fran Grant, and John Cunningham.

President Robbins displayed a wonderful framed picture of Duluth Wing that had been donated to the Society by Larry Warren. All expressed their thanks for this kindness.

There was a motion to thank the three outgoing directors for their fine work over many years. These were Sherri Clark, Ron Gamage and Rusty Arsenault. Ron was one of our original Society members, joining in the early 1970's. Sherri has served as Secretary for several years. Ron and Rusty have helped for many years at the Nichols Cabin and helped to maintain the GCP Portage Trails. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was distributed to all present. This will be sent to members upon request.

The Secretary's report from the June meeting was accepted without modification.

The Secretary, distributed the new booklet, *The Great Carrying Place Portage Trail*, a twenty page booklet with four illustrations. There was an extended discussion regarding prices and distribution. The following prices were decided upon.

Retail,	\$5.00
Wholesale	3.00
AEHS Member	3.00

Sec. Clark stated that total membership was holding at about 130 in all categories.

A discussion ensued regarding membership fees. See accompanying article on this subject. A vote passing these new fees was passed unanimously.

A discussion followed regarding the Society's website and that it needed to be updated.

There was a motion to eventually include the entire text of the new GCP Booklet as a PDF file as a part of our web site. The motion passed unanimously.

Laura Stewart volunteered that she would be willing to help and will begin this process soon.

The issue of the Great Carrying Place route was discussed by President Robbins. He cited a recent meeting, held at the LUPC office (Dept. Of Conservation) to discuss possible changes in the protective P-UA zone on the GCP route. Changes will be done by the LUPC staff.

President Robins continued the discussion about protection of the trail in the Chain of Ponds area. He stated that the Society was working with both landowners and several other groups to define possible lands that may be protected to insure the integrity of the expedition's route. This will take several years to explore, but that the Society is actively working on this issue.

There was a short discussion about the fact that no caretaker has been yet hired for the Colburn House. It is hoped that one will be ready for the 2015 season. The new official contact for the Colburn House at the Bureau of Public Lands is Mr. Gary Best.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

AEHS Website To Be Updated

It has become obvious that our website needs a complete overhaul. This was noted at the September Directors Meeting. Directors Rocky Freeman and Laura Stewart volunteered to undertake this elaborate task.

This process will begin shortly, but most likely will take a good part of the winter to complete.

The Society would like to wholeheartedly thank Director Tom Desjardin who, since 2006 has worked very hard on the site. It was he who established the current site and has spent eight years in maintaining it.

The revamped site will contain information of current Society activities, archival material, a bibliography, past newsletters, pictures, maps, a section to "contact us," a history of the Society and other related information.

An email contact will be established to answer questions by members or visitors to the site.

A system to update the web site will be gradually established.

As we begin this process, if members have suggestions on improving the web site, by all means, contact secretary Steve Clark at <sclark60@live.com>. He will then forward these to the appropriate person. Via mail, send to AEHS address found elsewhere.

The current site's address is:

<arnoldsmarch.com>

The Question Of Delivering the Newsletter Electronically

For some time now, it has become more apparent that the costs of printing and mailing our three newsletters per year is becoming more expensive. The option of delivering it electronically is coming more to the forefront.

There has been no recent discussions among the Society's leaders to consider this possibility. Nor have we received any

suggestions by members to do so. But as we evolve more into the era of delivery of information via electronics, rather than paper, such considerations become more pertinent.

Many other organizations similar to ours, have already converted over to electronic delivery. Obviously the Society's prime consideration is the increasing costs of printing and mailing newsletters. But there are other reasons as well. One is that it would be much easier to send messages to members regarding current information. The time gap between newsletters (May, Sept. & Dec.) do not allow this advantage. Also, in recent years we have included a color pictorial section in the December edition. This has proved to be quite popular, but is limited to that one edition. Electronically, we could include more photos in each edition. This would improve the quality of information exchanged.

However, there is a serious drawback that must be considered, in that many of our older members are still not yet on the internet. It is not known precisely how many of our 140 members fall into this category.

To serve all our members and to overcome this situation, we would have to produce both print a newsletter and have an electronic version. This certainly constitutes a dilemma.

As we continue to address this issue, members may have suggestions or information on how to proceed. Your comments would be most welcome. Contact Secretary, Steve Clark to make suggestions. His contact is at the AEHS address or at <sclark60@live.com>.

A Word of Thanks!

For the past several years Lisa Robbins, Fran Grant, Laura Stewart and Betty Wing have provided delicious snacks at our Annual and Directors Meetings. Thanks ladies for keeping us going!

Arnold's Leg

Submitted by Michael Bell, AEHS Life Member

Boot Monument

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Boot Monument** is an American Revolutionary War memorial located in Saratoga National Historical Park, New York. It commemorates Major General Benedict Arnold's service at the Battles of Saratoga in the Continental Army, but contrives not to name him.

The monument commemorates Arnold's contribution to the Continental Army's victory over the British in the Battle of Saratoga. Arnold was wounded in the foot during the Battle of Quebec, and suffered further injury in the Battle of Ridgefield when his horse was shot out from under him. His last battle injury was at Saratoga, and it occurred near where this monument is located at *Tour Stop #7 - Breymann Redoubt*. The leg wound effectively ended his career as a fighting soldier.

The memorial was donated by John Watts de Peyster, a former Major General for the New York State Militia during the American Civil War who wrote several military histories about the Battle of Saratoga.

The dedication on the back reads:

"Erected 1887 By

JOHN WATTS de PEYSTER

Brev. Maj: Gen: S.N.Y.

2nd V. Pres't Saratoga Mon't Ass't'n:

In memory of

the "most brilliant soldier" of the
Continental Army

who was desperately wounded

on this spot the sally port of

BORGOYNES GREAT WESTERN REDOUBT

7th October, 1777

winning for his countrymen

the decisive battle of the

American Revolution

and for himself the rank of

Major General."

Several years after Saratoga, as the Revolutionary War continued, Arnold suffered what he considered a series of slights and insults by the Continental Congress. He also opposed treaties that brought French military assistance to the Americans. The wounded Arnold began negotiations with British agents that culminated in his changing sides in September 1780. As part of these negotiations, Arnold attempted unsuccessfully to hand over his American command, the key fortification of West Point, to the British. Although this attempt failed because of the capture of Major John André, Arnold escaped to the British lines, was given the rank of a British brigadier general, and the British exchequer paid him £6,000.

Though apocryphal, a story that has circulated in various versions states:



Monument to Benedict Arnold's injured foot at Saratoga National Historical Park

AEHS New Membership Form Note: membership fees change after Jan. 1, 2014

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:	New fees as of Jan. 1, 2015
_____ Individual Member	\$ 30
_____ Family Membership	\$ 35
_____ Contributing Membership	\$ 75
_____ Life Membership	\$ 250 (one time payment)
Additional donation for Society programs	\$ _____ (tax deductible)

➡ To order the Booklet, **The Great Carrying Place Portage Trail**, send check for \$5.00 to AEHS. For non-members, add one additional dollar for postage (\$ 6.00 total).

➡ 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 can be ordered unfolded, for framing or wall mounting for an additional \$ 6.00 to cover cost of shipping tube and postage.

To:
Mt. ROBERT ROTH
31 SOUTH ROAD
KINGSTON, NY 12401

Arnold Expedition Historical Society
60 Burnham Road
Scarborough, Maine 04074

