

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 Arsenaull 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.