

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



September, 2015

Annual Meeting to be held

Our Annual Meeting this year will be at the Colburn House in Pittston as it has been for several years. It will be held at 1:00 PM in the renovated barn.

A directors meeting will also be held in the morning at 9:30 AM. All members are invited to attend this meeting as well.

We have a fine guest speaker.

Embattled Farmers: Who Were Those Early Revolutionary Soldiers? Our speaker is **Richard C. Wiggin** of Lincoln, MA, who will provide an answer to that question. As Historian and past Captain of the Lincoln Minute Men, Rick has spent many days and nights as a colonial living historian. He has also served as a volunteer at Minute Man National Historical Park (on the Battle Road).

He formerly served as Executive Director of The Bostonian Society (Boston's Old State House Museum). More recently, Wiggin authored and published *Embattled Farmers: Campaigns and Profiles of Revolutionary Soldiers from Lincoln, Massachusetts, 1775-1783*.

In his extremely well researched 574 page book, Rick fully documents 256 individuals associated with the War and the Town of Lincoln. Included in the book are slaves, free blacks and 4 men who stayed loyal to their King. This massive undertaking has resulted in making our speaker an expert, able to paint a composite picture of the typical Rev. War participant.

He will also share specific stories of those soldiers that he now knows so well. Many myths are proven to be just that. Community and kinship networks tell much. These Lincoln men connect to all of New England.

For purposes of full disclosure, it should be stated that Rick and Bob Cunningham (AEHS Director) are long time friends and kindred spirits. It also turns out that Rick was Senior Patrol Leader when Jay Robbins joined Boy Scout Troop 34 as a tenderfoot many years ago. We look forward to finding out from Rick if our Bob is the one and same Sgt. Robert Cunningham of Smith's Co. on Arnold's March?

The public is most certainly welcome.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Annual Meeting To Be Held
- Report of June Directors Meeting
- Directors and Officers Nominated.
- Interpretive signs Erected
- The Savanna , Article
- Directors Assist at Ft. Halifax
- Book Reviews

AEHS Directors Assist at Ft. Halifax

On a Saturday in May, several AEHS directors appeared at Fort Halifax in Winslow, Maine to assist the effort to undertake major renovations at the beautiful Ft. Halifax Park, operated by the Town of Winslow. This will require several years of effort to raise the needed funds. The planning has been completed, but funds to undertake the construction are still needed.

AEHS directors Clayton McLaughlin, Fred Clark, Hank Dillenbeck and Steve Clark manned a booth at the site. Unfortunately the crowd was not as large as had been hoped. Steve Clark also made a short historical presentation during the afternoon. Reenactors in period dress also provided several demonstrations. This may become an annual event. The weather was very fine and all that attended enjoyed themselves.

A bateaux replica was launched into the Kennebec River. The current there was quite swift, as the water level was high from spring runoff. A crew of reenactors manned the oars and struggled against the strong current and were not able to progress up the river even with all oars flying. They got a taste of what the men of the 1775 Expedition had to endure. The 1754 fort blockhouse was also open to the public.

New Interpretive Sign Installed

During the past winter, Kenny Wing, AEHS director, worked with the Dead River Area Historical Society in Stratton regarding a new interpretive bateaux sign.

Many Society members have stopped at their museum at the junction of Routes 16 and 27 in Stratton. Outside the building is a covered replica of an expedition bateaux. The old interpretive sign was beginning to weather and needed to be replaced.

Kenny, who is also a director of the DRAHS, was able to work with DRAHS officers to devise a

newly worded sign that would be used. After agreement on the text of the new sign, it was manufactured and then mounted by Kenny and AEHS director Alan Burnell in early June. This is an example of how the AEHS co-operates with other historical societies to better honor our country's history.

The sign was financed through the generosity of the AEHS's Duluth Wing Memorial Fund. Below is the text of the new sign.

"In 1775, a small American army of about 1100 brave soldiers struck northward from Cambridge, MA to attempt the capture of the fortified British stronghold of Quebec City. They utilized 220 bateaux of which this is a replica. They followed the Kennebec and Dead Rivers struggling against a swift current requiring many portages. Only 20 of these bateaux were carried over the Boundary Mountains into Canada."

Dead River Area Historical Society
Arnold Expedition Historical Society

Officers and Directors Elections

At the annual meeting to be held on Sept. 19, 2015, election of officers and directors will be held. The nominating committee will nominate the following directors for a three year term of office. Five of the fifteen directors are nominated each year on a rotating basis. Nominees for directors are:

Fred Clark, Winslow
Thomas Desjardin, Pittsfield
Henry Dillenbeck, Winslow
Clayton McLaughlin, Fairfield
John (Jay) Robbins, Richmond

Officers are elected for a term, of one year. Below are the nominees for the four officers.

President: Fred Clark
V. President: Jay Robbins
Treasurer: Alan Burnell, Eustis
Secretary: Stephen Clark, Scarboro