

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



December, 2015

A Sign Of The Expedition In New Hampshire

The following article appeared in the Manchester Union Leader, Fall, 2015

The #197 sign is located at 15 Main St., Pittsfield, NH

What the sign says: "Jocky Fogg epitomizes the youth who suffered to defend our liberty during the Revolutionary War.

Hearing about the clash at Lexington and Concord while planting peas at this site, he

immediately marched to Cambridge and fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Fogg later survived the ill-fated winter march to Quebec under Benedict Arnold. Of the 1100 men who left, only half reached the city, cold and starved. Captured and imprisoned for nine months under deplorable conditions, Fogg returned to Pittsfield and married Sarah Cram, daughter of the town's founder."

The back story: In September of 1775, Col. Benedict Arnold led a force of 1,100 Continental Army troops from Cambridge, Mass., to the gates of Quebec City. As part of a two-pronged invasion, Arnold's expedition passed through what is now Maine. The other expedition, led by Richard Montgomery, invaded Quebec from Lake Champlain.

Problems beset Arnold's expedition almost from the beginning. The trip up the Kennebec River was grueling, as the boats frequently leaked, ruining gunpowder and spoiling food. More than a third of the men turned back before reaching land between the Kennebec and Chaudiere Rivers. The areas on both sides of the rivers were swampy, and travel was made more difficult by bad weather and inaccurate maps. Additionally, few of the troops had experience handling boats in white water and that led to the destruction of more boats and supplies, as well as drownings.

By the time Arnold reached the French settlements above the St. Lawrence River in November, his force was reduced to 600 tired, starving men. They had traveled about 350 miles through poorly charted wilderness, twice the distance they had expected to cover.

Assisted by Canadiens, Arnold crossed the St. Lawrence on Nov. 13 and 14 and attempted to take Quebec City. He failed, many of his men were captured, (cont. Page 2)

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- Jocky Fogg Article
- Annual Meeting Held
- Director's Meeting
- New Interpretive Signs
- Officers and Directors Elected
- The Colburn House's Future

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(...cont. from Page 1, Jocky Fogg)
and he withdrew to Point-aux-Trembles to await Montgomery's arrival. Together, they launched a second unsuccessful attack on the city.

Arnold's route through northern Maine is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Arnold Trail to Quebec, and some geographic features in the area bear names of participants in the expedition.

Submitted by Laura Stewart

Officers and Directors Elected

At the Sept. 19th meeting of the AEHS, new directors and officers were elected.

Following is a list of those elected.

Officers elected for a term of one year:

President: Fred Clark, Winslow, ME

V. Pres: John Robbins, Richmond, ME

Treasurer: Alan Burnell, Eustis, ME

Secretary: Stephen Clark, Scarborough, ME

Directors elected for a term of three years.

Fred Clark, Winslow, ME

Thomas Desjardin, Pittsfield, ME

Henry Dillenbeck, Winslow, ME

Clayton McLaughlin, Fairfield, ME

John (Jay) Robbins, Richmond, ME

New President

Fred Clark was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and was raised in Dayton, Ohio. His father was in the US Air Force, and his family had the opportunity to live in many parts of the country. In 1954 he started moving to AF bases in Denver, Colorado, Chicopee, Massachusetts, Bossier City, Louisiana, Natchitoches, Louisiana and abroad in Guam. There were, however, always ties to Maine. Fred's grandmother owned a summer camp in the Farmington area which Fred's mother, aunts, uncles, and cousins enjoyed regularly throughout the years.

Fred graduated from Northwestern

State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana with a B. S. in Industrial Arts.

Fred moved to Maine in 1967 where he taught Industrial Arts at Winslow High School for several years, before becoming the director of transportation and building maintenance for the Winslow School system. He later worked in local plumbing and heating businesses before retiring to build the house in Winslow that he and his wife have enjoyed for over 15 years.

Fred has four sons. Fred has a gift for fixing almost anything mechanical or electronic. He has many interests, including photography, the Wiscasset Waterville & Farmington Narrow Gauge Railroad in Alna, the Taconnett Genealogy Society of which he is the current president, and US history. He has a particular interest in American colonial history, and is particularly interested in the history of Maine.

Did You Know That?

There is much hidden under the waters along the route of the expedition! Impoundments have covered portions of the route the soldiers saw and followed. From the mouth of Carrying Place Stream, where the men camped as they began the Great Carrying Place Portage, the Savanna, Hurricane Falls, the campsite of Natanis (Flagstaff Village) and Arnold Falls, all lay under the waters of Wyman or Flagstaff Lakes. And the many dams along the way now cover other sites where the soldiers camped. Even portions of the Megantic Swamp are now under water. Some of these waters cover the bones of brave soldiers, at rest under these waters.

Annual Meeting Held

On Sept. 19th, our annual meeting was held at the historic Colburn House Barn. Both secretary, treasurer, and president's reports were given. A brief business meeting was held. Copies of the treasurer's interim report will be sent to any member requesting it.

A presentation for honorary membership was made by President Jay Robbins. These were two long time members Betty Wing and Bob Cunningham. The later was one of our founding members from 1968. Bob has been a Director, Treasurer and has served on many committees.

Other honorary memberships will be sent directly to four other members. They are Tom and Lori Desjardin, Henry Metivier, and Eleanor Everson.

Election of officers and directors was held (see related article).

Outgoing president John (Jay) Robins was given a strong hand for his fine work for the AEHS during the past few years. As will be noted, he will still be deeply involved in the AEHS as he has moved into the vice presidency's position because of his long time service and experience.

The meeting was adjourned. Jay Robbins introduced Richard C. Wiggin from Lincoln, MA. Interestingly Jay and Dick were boyhood close friends and both became deeply interested in history. Dick has written the recent book, *Embattled Farmers: Who Were Those Early Revolutionary Soldiers?* He delivered a most interesting lecture and slide show on who these brave men were.

In this extremely well researched 574 page book, Dick fully described the 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. Key ones were described during the presentation.

The presentation was well received by the audience.

New Interpretive Signs to be Installed.

The Maine Department of Transportation in cooperation with the AEHS is in the last stages of preparing three new Arnold Expedition interpretive signs along the Dead River portion of the Expedition's route. These will be large signs, in both French and English.

They will be installed at three sites, all on Maine Route 27. They will be located at the new turnout in Eustis, at Sarampus Falls, and at a turnout overlooking Natanis Pond on the Chain of Ponds. This will complete the chain of interpretive signs from the Kennebec to the Canadian border. That will leave seven remaining signs, all within the Kennebec Valley.

In the future, we will be encouraging new signs in Canada. One already has been installed in Lac Megantic.

Also, there should be at least two others, one in Cambridge, MA at the beginning of the Expedition, and another in Newburyport, on the waterfront, where the 1100 soldiers embarked on the transports to Maine.

Unique Interpretive Sign Installed

During the May trail weekend, a new Interpretive sign was installed along the Arnold Trail. This one was intended to be seen only by hikers along the National Appalachian Scenic Trail.

Between West and Middle Carry Ponds the Appalachian Trail was relocated over the old, preexisting Great Carrying Place Portage Trail. This was done in the early 1950's. Protective corridor land along this section has been established by the National Park Service as a part of the 2,100 mile long Appalachian Trail. As a consequence, the Arnold Trail route along this portion of the Great Carrying Place is also fully protected.

To inform the thousands of hikers who yearly pass along this section of the AT, it was decided to install a new interpretive sign to inform hikers of the historical nature of this section of trail. However, since the Appalachian Trail lands are owned by the National Park Service, permission had to be obtained first with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, then with the umbrella trail group, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and finally with the NPS. This was an involved process that took two years to accomplish. Finally, all the OK's were in hand. However, the sign had to conform to AT standards, and was beautifully manufactured by the MATC. The text was devised by Steve Clark of the AEHS. This was truly a cooperative effort.

On a bright, sunny day in mid-May, AEHS members Norm Kalloch, Don Howard and Steve Clark ventured out across West Carry Pond in Norm's boat to a point where the old Portage Trail reached the east shore of the pond. This was near Arnold Point. The AT joins the portage trail at this point. The heavy sign, tools and hardware were carried about 50 yards in from the pond's shore to a point where the land was relatively dry enough to install the sign. Two large cedar posts had already been carried to this site by Norm.

The digging by Don Howard was not easy, and water was seeping into the post holes as the winter snow in this area had just melted. Soon the two posts were aligned and the sign was ready to mount. In an hour, the sign was in place.

We had been informed by the NPS that this was the first historical Interpretive sign along the entire AT that related to the Revolutionary War. The roughly two miles of the Great Carrying Place is the only military route followed by Revolutionary forces.

AEHS 2015 In Pictures



A group of reenactors from the Savage Company dressed in Colonial uniforms, guests that attended the AEHS annual meeting in September.



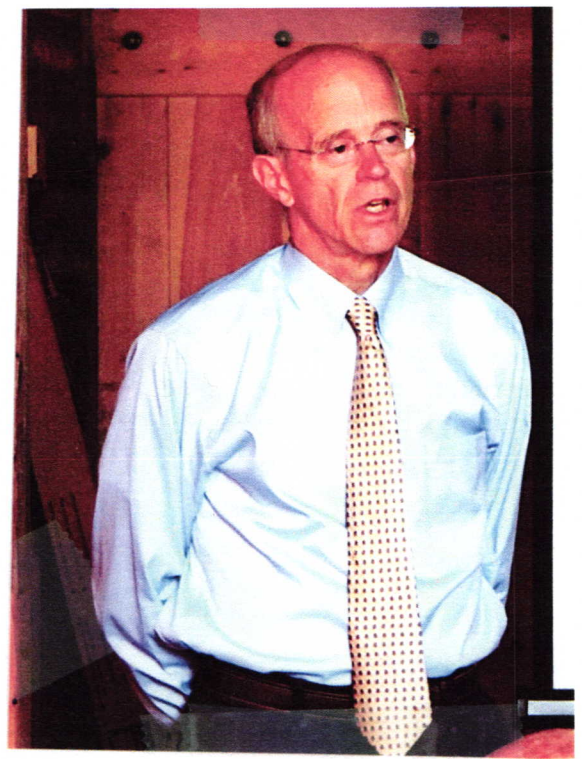
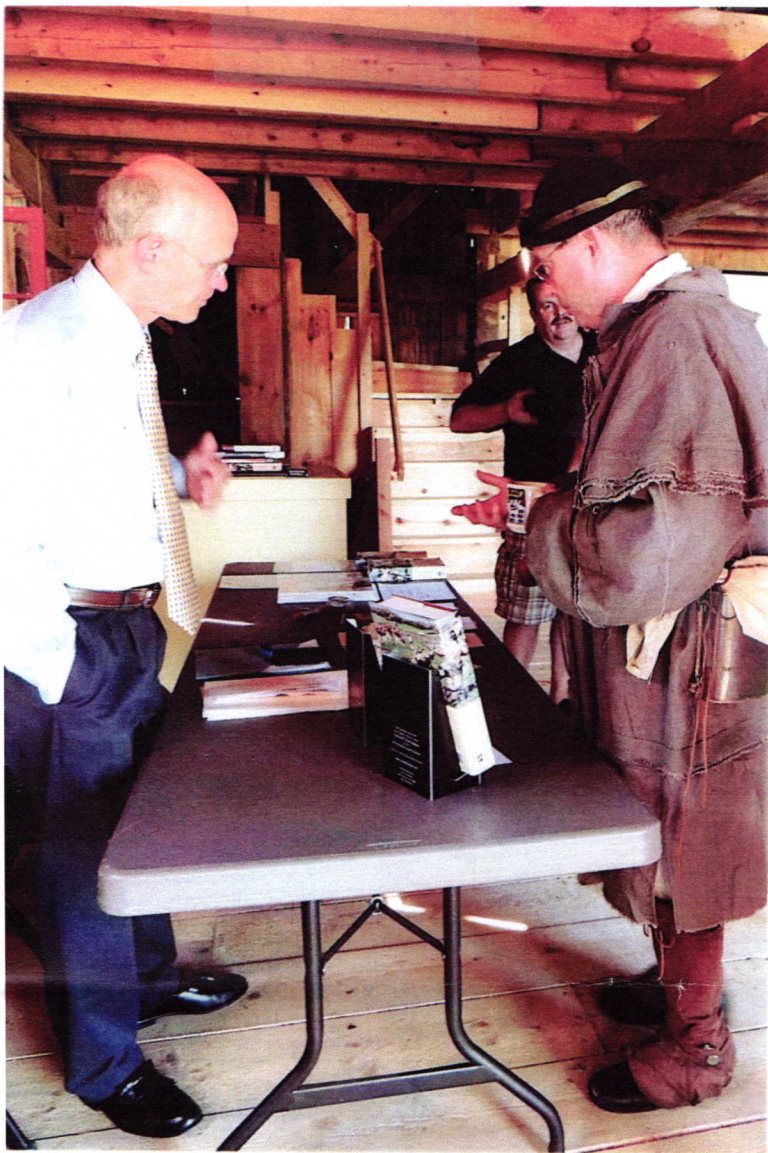


Members Betty Wing and Robert Cunningham receiving Honorary Membership Certificates from President Jay Robbins at the Annual Meeting.

19th Century carriage restored by Tom Desjardin, located in the Colburn House barn.

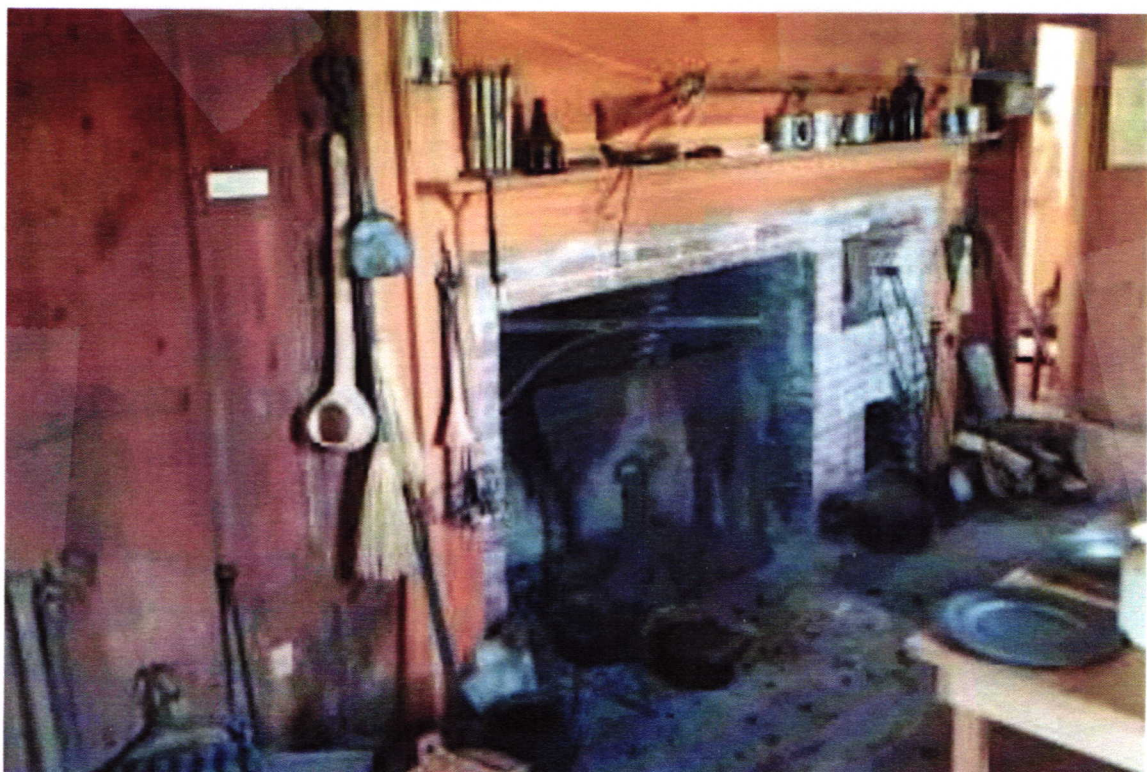


Annual Meeting held at the newly renovated Colburn House barn.

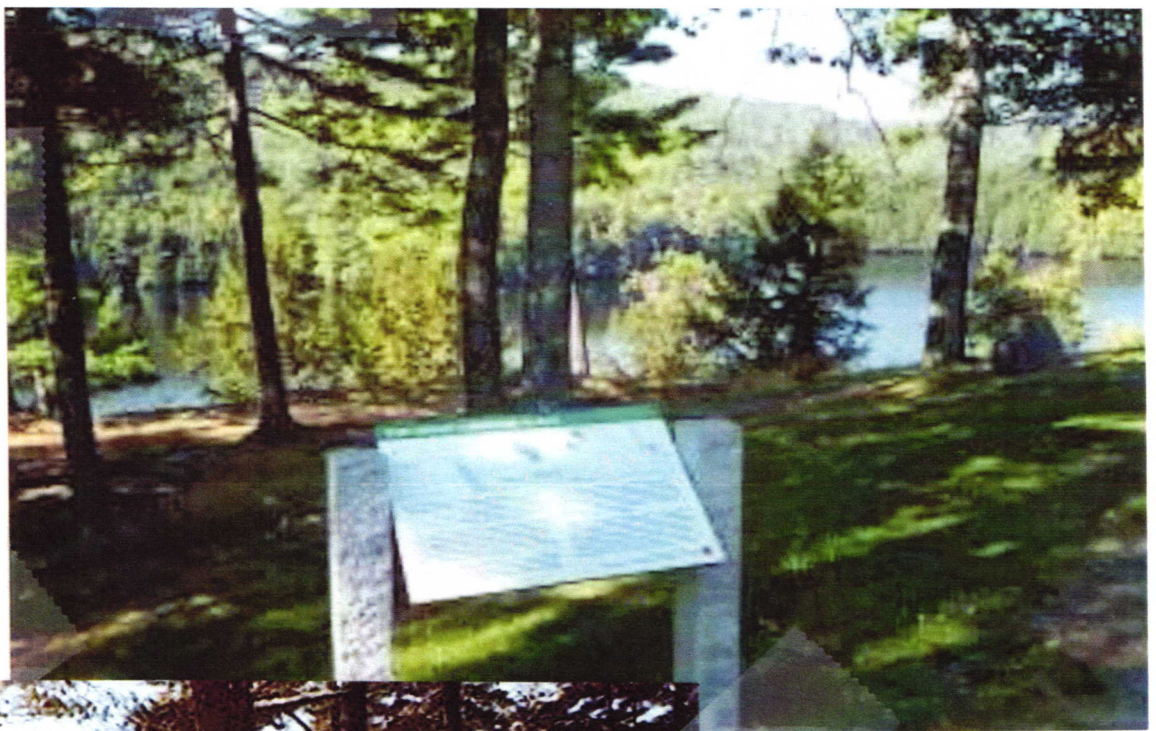


Guest Speaker Mr. Richard C. Wiggin from Lincoln MA discussed the more than two hundred soldiers from that town who participated in the Revolutionary War. It was both interesting and well received.

The classic fireplace at the Colburn House. It has recently been restored, including its Dutch oven and is now a workable fireplace. Wonderful meals once again are cooked here.



Right: One of the new attractive Interpretive signs designed by Tom Desjardin. This one is located on Highway US 201 in Caratunk, at the point the Expedition left the Kennebec to portage to the Dead River.



Above; The Nickols Cabin ,
Middle Carry Pond, in winter.

Right: The Father Ralse
Monument at the old Native
American village
in Norridgewock



Report of AEHS Directors Meeting, Sept. 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Jay Robbins at 9:45 AM. Present were J. Robbins, S. Clark, A. Burnell, K. Wing, F. Clark, H. Dillenbeck, C. McLaughlin, R. Cunningham, and N. Kalloch.

The President's report covered a number of items,

- A. Plum Creek permit for the Great Carrying Place Trail has not been renewed yet.
- B. The GCP Trail was cleared in May and is open to the public.
- C. Bayroot Company is contemplating the sale of their land between East Carry Pond and the Kennebec River. No news on this contemplated sale yet.
- D. The President attended a public hearing regarding a proposed wind power project (west Range) west of the Kennebec, near Bingham.
- E. The State's restoration of the Colburn House is continuing. The caretaker's apartment is nearly complete, except for some painting and interior trim work. Jim McMahon has volunteered to help do this work this fall and next spring. Jay indicated that docents (guides) will be needed next year to help visitors tour the Colburn House. Steve Clark mentioned that as secretary, he had received many calls and inquiries as to when the Colburn House would be open. He referred all such calls to the State.
The house was not open for the public during the past two summer seasons. This issue will be discussed with the State officials.
- F. We have been contacted by Linda Novak, Director of Old Fort Western Society. This will be discussed later in the meeting.
- G. Jay indicated that negotiations regarding the proposed preserve at Chain of Ponds was continuing. Our representative in this endeavor is the well known Trust for Public Lands. An appraisal is in the process of being concluded.
- H. Jay read a letter from the Town of Lac Megantic thanking us for our donation to help the Town recover from the terrible train and fire disaster which occurred in 2013

Secretary's report which had been submitted from the June Directors Meeting was moved to be accepted and approved. Steve had no further comments.

Treasurers Report Allan Burnell submitted a detailed interim financial report and balance sheet. The Society operates on a Calendar year. The Society is spending about the same that is being received. A Check for \$500 was sent to the Town of Lac Megantic to help with the terrible tragedy that occurred there in 2013. This was drawn from current funds. This report was accepted and is on file. If any member desires a copy, write to the Secretary for a copy.

Other Business.

Artifacts. There were a number of directors that voiced concerns regarding Expedition artifacts that had been either given or loaned to the Society for display at the Carriage House on the Colburn property. There is no written inventory, nor information on the artifacts, who gave them, and where they were discovered. Kenny Wing described a system he uses to do just that. He said that such an inventory needed to have a map showing where the artifacts (cont. Page 10)

were discovered. The security of the items was discussed at length and there was a general feeling that an in-depth discussion with the State needs to take place, regarding the security and safety of the artifacts.

Jay indicated that Old Fort Western may be a more secure place to house such artifacts. He explained that several other organizations are contemplating locating their artifacts at OFW in Augusta.

A motion was made by Alan Burnell to the effect that we conduct a detailed inventory. This was seconded by Kenny Wing. The motion was passed.

Chain Of Ponds Preserve.

A long discussion ensued regarding the proposed Chain of Ponds Preserve. Negotiations with the two land owners is progressing. The American Forestry Management, representing the Malone Trust interests, has proposed a preserve of approximately 1500 acres along the sides of the Chain of Ponds, within Chain of Ponds Township. Discussions being conducted by our representatives, the Trust for Public Lands are continuing. Negotiations with the second landowner in Coburn Gore, as far as Arnold Pond is also continuing.

There are issues with a man by the name of Larry Warren, who is working to construct a cross country ski and mountain bike trail from Kingfield to the US border at Coburn Gore. The problems are not yet resolved. They concern the location of this recreation trail which would cross the historic portage trail at least twice and involves construction of bridges over Horseshoe Stream which was the route of the Expedition. Questions were raised about whether Mr. Warren has obtained permits to cross the portage trail which is in a Maine Land Use Planning Commission "Protection-Unusual Area" Zone. It was agreed that we needed to meet with this State agency to determine if, A. Mr. Warren has received permission to cross the P-UA zone, B. Does he have the right to unilaterally cross the zone without notification by LUPC to the AEHS that there is an intent to do so. C. The process that is done to consider such issues.

Further, a motion was made to authorize the President to write a letter to both land owners about the issue of the recreational trail's location.

A second controversial issue was the possibility in the future of the trail being converted to motorized usage, such as snowmobiles in the winter and ATV's in the summer. At present, there is no way to ensure it would not happen.

A third issue is that the recreation trail may cross archeological sites. It was suggested that any construction should await a full archeological investigation before such trail construction was conducted. It was suggested that this be a part of our negotiations with both land owners. The motion authorizing the President to write to the two land owners regarding these issues was passed unanimously.

Interpretive Signs

Jay reported that the project to install Interpretive signs along the route of the Expedition is coming along well.

A. The Maine DOT is planning a series of three new signs, one at the new turn-out in Eustis, overlooking the lake and mountains, another at Sarampus Falls and a third at the turn-out overlooking Natanis Pond at the Chain of Ponds. All three are on Rt. 27. These are to be installed this fall or early spring of 2016. (Cont. On Page 11)

B. A new Interpretive sign has been located on the Appalachian Trail that overlays the Expedition portage trail near Arnold Point on West Carry Pond. This has been done with the cooperation of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and the National Park Service.

C. Other signs to complete the signs in Maine were also discussed. Most of these would be located along the Kennebec River starting at Ft. Popham.

Hilton Booklet.

The possible reprinting of the 1968 Hilton Booklet was discussed. Hank Dillenback and Rocky Freeman have looked into the cost of having this reprinted. Both have found it is quite expensive. Also, the sale of these may not cover the cost of printing as it has a narrow interest. Further possibilities will be examined, such as putting it on our website.

Bob Cunningham and Steve Clark pointed out that the video tape of the 1975 reenactment could be also reproduced. Mabelle Haynes has given a copy of this to the Society. Steve Clark said he would look into its possible reproduction for sale to AEHS members. It was pointed out that it can be reproduced less expensively on a DVD disk.

It was decided to discuss bylaw changes either at a separate meeting or at our next June meeting.

Submitted by Steve Clark, Sec.

Colburn House's Future

As most of you know, there are serious problems with the Colburn House management by the State Bureau of Parks and Lands. The bottom line of this problem is that for the past two years, the Colburn House has not been open to the public. And there are many needed projects to improve the public's availability to the property.

To express the issue to the members of the Society, the property is just too precious to allow it to slip into disuse and diminishment.

As far as the State is concerned, it is, as might be expected, a matter of money. However, it is more than that.

During this winter, the AEHS and another organization will be exploring with the BPL, different possibilities. It is too fluid to go deeper into the issue right now. We should know much more by our spring newsletter. In the meantime, we would like to hear from you as to your opinions on the matter. Your comments would be appreciated.

Comment by President regarding Progress of Society.

I just wanted to express my gratitude for all the fine help regarding the recent series of meetings for AEHS. For myself, there is a very large learning curve with all the different aspects associated on behalf of the Society. I believe we are moving forward with the aims of AEHS to protect the route of the expedition and to increase the possibility of discovery of more artifacts along the route within Maine.

Fred Clark

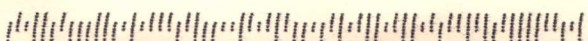
AEHS New Membership Form Note: membership fees change after Jan. 1, 2014

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
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member	\$ 30
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership	\$ 35
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Membership	\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.



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