

# EXPEDITION MESSENGER

## NEWSLETTER OF THE ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

December 2016



### President's Report

We learned of the sad news that long time AEHS director Rocky Freeman lost his life to cancer on Oct 30, 2016. It is a great loss for all his family, friends, and the Arnold Society. A celebration of Rocky's life was held at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center on November 11, 2016, Veterans Day. A large group of friends and family attended the memorial gathering with old friends telling of many light moments with and about Rocky over the years. One comment I particularly liked compared Rocky to a loaf of French bread: hard and crusty on the outside and soft in the middle. We will miss his humor and help on many projects over the years.

As many of you know, the state Attorney General's office put a hold on the archeological survey this year in the Chain of Ponds area, because of new required contractual requirements. This matter apparently was not spelled out in the agreement with the Maine Historical Preservation Commission. We will be working on this in the coming months and try again for next year.

An AEHS land's committee is working on the possible sale of the approximately 4 ½ acre lot the Society owns on East Carry Pond. If we are successful, we hope to purchase a shore front lot on Middle Carry Pond, next to the Nichols Cabin. This would also protect a part of the original portage trail between East and Middle Carry Ponds.

This lot and other land around Middle Carry Pond has recently been put up for sale. Purchasing this lot would help to create a buffer and maybe expansion of the cabin area.

As you can see, we have many items on the agenda for the coming years.

Fred Clark

### HIGHLIGHTS THIS ISSUE

- President's Report
- Elections Held
- New Interpretive Signs
- Winter Lecture Schedule
- Directors Meeting Notes



## **New Interpretive Signs**

Kenny Wing of Eustis recently reported that the Maine Dept. Of Transportation has installed the first of three interpretive signs along Rt. 27. We have worked with them to ensure an accurate description on each sign. The first of these is at a new scenic turnout near the So. Branch Dead River in Eustis. The site overlooks the west end of the Bigelow Range and Flagstaff Lake. This is near the point where the expedition began their journey up the No. Branch of the Dead River.

There are to be two other interpretive signs along Rt. 27 at Sarampus Falls and the other at a turnout overlooking Natanis Pond near the Canadian border. Once these are completed, there will be a completed chain along the Dead River.

There are a number of signs left to be installed along the Kennebec River route to complete the entire route of the expedition in Maine. The citizens of Lac Megantic in Canada have also installed an interpretive sign on the route near the outlet of Lac Megantic and the beginning of the Chaudiere River.

In the early 1900's the Daughters of the American Revolution installed a series of bronze plaques mounted on large rocks along the route of the expedition. The last of these were installed in 1919. Most still exist today. However these plaques, while honoring the soldiers and marking their passage along the route of the expedition, provided only minimal information for the public.

The new series of interpretive signs, provided by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, the DOT and the AEHS, include much more information regarding the expedition's progress along the 350 mile route from Cambridge to Quebec.

These fine all weather interpretive signs are mounted on long-lasting granite posts, and are pictorial in nature. It will take several years to complete the chain in Maine. We contemplate having a complete series of 12 signs from the mouth of the Kennebec in Popham to the Canadian border at Coburn Gore.

This series of interpretive signs, once completed, will provide an outstanding way to

share information with the public in regard to the 1775 Quebec Expedition, fulfilling one of the prime goals of the Society.

## **Officers and Directors Elected.**

At our September 2016 Annual Meeting held at the Colburn House, the following slate of officers and directors were elected.

President: Fred Clark, Winslow

Vice Pres: Rocky Freeman

Treasurer: Alan Burnell, Eustis

Secretary: Lucas Freeman, Readfield

Directors: Stephen Clark, Scarborough, Robert Cunningham, Lincoln Ct. MA, Robert Donovan, Emden, Norman Kalloch, Carrying Place Township, Clayton McLaughlin, Fairfield, John Parsons, Sussex, NY, Laura Stewart, Manchester, NH.

All officers and directors were elected for a term of three years under our new bylaws. There is a vacancy of one directorship that will be addressed by the Board later. [A second vacancy for the position of VP has also occurred since the election].

## **Notes from the Directors Meeting of 9-17-16**

1. The Hilton book, mounting costs for the Carriage House would be, \$12.50 each for the 16 pages. No action was taken.
2. We reviewed the archeological study by Kenny Wing.
3. Reviewed the Colburn House potential agreement. It is due in draft form according to Gary Best, Bureau of Parks and Lands, by early December 2016. No action taken.
4. Betty Wing's birthday was celebrated by the Society.
5. The Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were given.
6. Sale of Land next to the Nichols Cabin, by Dirigo Land was discussed. They want \$80,000 for it. Norm Kalloch, Bob Donovan and Alan Burnell will check on the "parking lot" land value and if camp lots could be built on it for a possible sale.
7. Possibilities for storage of AEHS records was discussed. Two four draw files would be needed. Inquiries for storage with the Kennebec Historical Society In Augusta will be made.



Rocky Freeman of Rangeley. Here he is in full Revolutionary War garb on the shore of Flagstaff Lake along the old Great Carrying Place Portage Trail. Bigelow's "twin peaks" as Arnold's men called the mountain is in the mists to the left. Picture was taken by Helen Greffard of Lac Megantic.

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Photo by Helen Greffard, Lac Megantic, Canada

### **A Passing**

It is with great sadness that we inform our Society members of the passing of Rocky Freeman of Rangeley, Maine. He recently passed away after fighting a long illness.

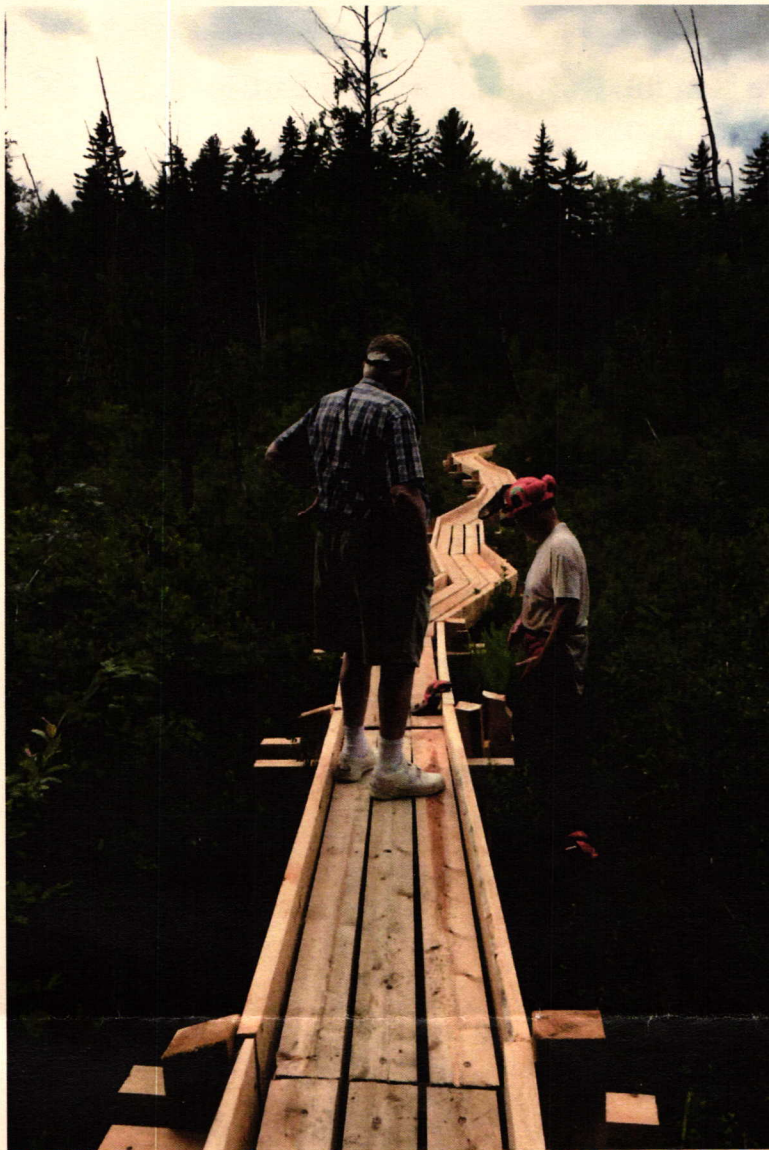
At his death, Rocky was the Society's Vice President and had been a long time director. He had, through diligent investigative field work, discovered the story of Private Kirk, who died on the march and was buried and reburied three times. This story was published in our newsletter several years ago. This was typical of his careful and diligent investigation of the history of the expedition.

Rocky participated in the celebration of the reopening of the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail. He also participated in the plan for future preservation of land along the expedition's route in the Chain of Ponds.

Rocky and his two sons, Lucas and Josh also accomplished a major upgrade of the Society's website in 2014. He was also very involved in the general history of the Maine north country as well.

He is survived by his wife Candy, two sons, Lucas and Josh and several grandchildren. You will be missed Rocky. May your spirit be with the brave soldiers of the Expedition.





To Left:  
 New 100 yd. bridge  
 across Arnold Bog near  
 Middle Carry Pond.  
 Built by Maine AT Club 2016.  
 This was built almost exactly  
 where the Expedition crossed  
 this bog 240 years ago.

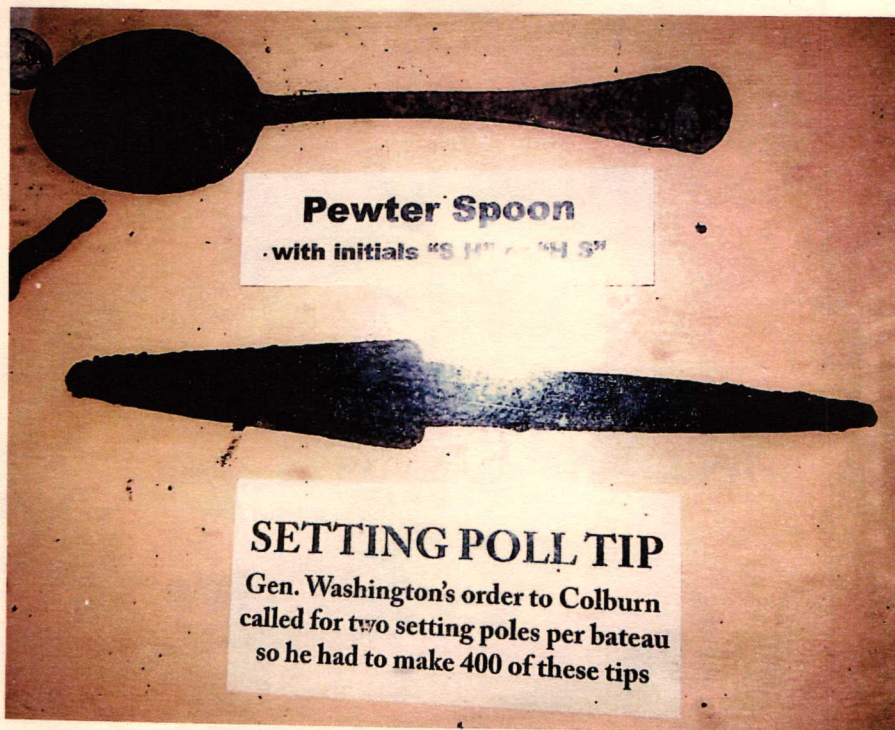
Below:  
 Steve Clark and son Chris  
 examine new interpretive sign  
 installed by Kenny Wing and  
 Alan Burnell at the Dead  
 River Historical Society  
 display in Stratton, Maine.







Part of the AEHS's historic artifact display located in the Carriage building, at the Colburn House, Pittston Maine. Many of these were found along the Dead River by Society members with metal detectors.



### Pewter Spoon

with initials "S M" & "H S"

### SETTING POLL TIP

Gen. Washington's order to Colburn called for two setting poles per bateau so he had to make 400 of these tips





Daughters of the American Revolution memorial bronze plaques along the route of the expedition. Above, located near Caratunk to mark the place where the Expedition left the Kennebec via the Great Carrying Place. Below, located in Skowhegan near the point where they portaged the falls.





## Old Fort Western Winter Lecture Series

OFW and the Arnold Expedition Historical Society announce the upcoming winter lecture series. These have become a major historical event to offset the long winter months.

The theme for the 2017 winter lectures will be:

### **Battles, Duty, and Heroism: Benedict Arnold, His Soldiers and the Northern Revolutionary War Campaign.**

The lectures will be held at the Augusta City Hall, 16 Cony Street in the Lecture Hall. The series will begin on February 5<sup>th</sup> and continue for six consecutive Sundays. The speakers will include some of the best historians and authors in the Northeast, particularly in regard to the secret Quebec Expedition undertaken in the fall of 1775.

Below is a list of the various lectures. All will begin at 2:00 PM.

Sunday, February 5: **Valcour Island: How Benedict Arnold Won the Revolution**

JAMES L. NELSON, Author & Historian, Harpswell, ME

Sunday, February 12: TO BE Announced

Sunday, February 19: **Following the 1775 Quebec Expedition's Footsteps Today**

STEVE CLARK, Author and past President and past Secretary of the Arnold Expedition Historical Society

Sunday, February 26: **Bateaux To Quebec: Life & Times of Ruben Colburn**

TOM DESJARDIN, Author & Director, Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands

Sunday, March 5: **Arnold's March To Quebec: Journals and Their Authors, Aaron Burr & External Influences**

STEPHEN DARLEY, Author & Revolutionary War Historian, North Haven, CT

Sunday, March 12: **In The Midst of a Frightful Wilderness: Navigating The Environment During The March To Quebec, 1775.**

DANIEL SOUCIER, Doctoral Candidate, UME & Editor of Maine History

Sunday, March 19: (Snow Date for any canceled lecture)

All lectures are free admission; however donations are gratefully accepted and used to benefit Old Fort Western educational programs. Refreshments will be provided. There will be book signings by the authors. For further information, contact Lorie Masterson, OFW (207) 626-2385.



## AEHS New Membership Form

Mail this form with your check to: AEHS

280 Winthrop Rd.

Readfield, ME 04355

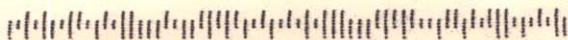
Include your phone number and email address if this is acceptable. Make check payable to AEHS.

Category:

_____ Individual Membership	\$ 30
_____ Family Membership	\$ 35
_____ Contributing Membership	\$ 75
_____ Life Membership	\$ 250 (one time payment)
Additional donation for Society programs	\$ _____ (tax deductible)

➡ To order the 16 page booklet-guide to **The Great Carrying Place Portage Trail**, 12 miles in length, send check for \$5.00 to AEHS. For non-members, add one additional dollar for postage.

➡ To order the AEHS 18 X 28 color, two sided map of **The 1775 Expedition's Route** from the Kennebec River to Lac Megantic, Canada, send check for \$ 5.95. 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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Seasons Greetings  
This is the Season  
of Giving