

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY



September, 2017

Annual Meeting To Be Held

President Fred Clark has announced the Annual Meeting of the AEHS to be held on **Saturday, September 16, at 1:00 pm.** This will be located at the Colburn House in Pittston, Maine. The meeting will feature various reports from officers and committees working on special projects. There will be no election of officers or directors this year as under our new bylaws, the next election will occur in the fall of 2019.

The speaker will be Mr. Paul Lessard of Winslow who will discuss his research on one of the Kennebec Valley residents who volunteered to join the Expedition in 1775. He was one Charles Burget. He was assigned to be in Capt. Dearborn's company and was captured during the attack on Quebec. It should be a most interesting talk. During the morning, the AEHS Board will meet at **9:30 AM** at the same location. All members and guests are welcome to join in.

There will be a bag lunch held between the two meetings and again, all are invited. Bring your own food and drink. It should be a fine, warm fall day.

At Old Fort Western in Augusta, that same day, there will be an Arnold reenactment held. After our meeting is completed, it might be interesting to swing by the Fort and join in the activities. They will be conducting various activities during the afternoon of the 16th. There also will be activities conducted at the Fort on the 17th.

We hope all members and guests will join us!

Did you know that:

Col. Benedict Arnold co-led with Ethan Allen, the capture of Ft. Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain. During the winter of 1776, the heavy cannon from the fort were laboriously hauled over the Berkshire Mountains by Gen. Henry Knox to Dorchester Heights just south of Boston. When they began to fire, this drove the British to evacuate Boston, thus ending the siege that had lasted for 11 months. Arnold's success at Ticonderoga was instrumental in Washington choosing Arnold to lead the expedition to capture Quebec.

Highlights

- Annual Meeting To Be Held
- Archeological Study Underway
- Hiking The Great Carrying Place
- Appalachian Trail Clubs Hold Conference
- Report on June Board Meeting
- Research Article: Middle Carry Portage Trail Restoration

Archeological Study to be Undertaken

The long awaited archeological study funded by the AEHS and Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) has finally worked out all its preplanning and began on August 14th of this year. The results of this undertaking will not be available for this edition of the newsletter, but will be published in the December newsletter.

The study is the first of its kind to be undertaken along the route of the 1775 Expedition. It will concentrate its efforts along portions of the Height of Land Portage Trail between Lost and Arnold Ponds. This is just west of the Chain of Ponds.

Its purpose is to identify areas where further more intensive exploration would be productive. In particular we are seeking not only to locate campsites, but the location of where many of the expedition's bateaux were abandoned. This will not be easy.

The AEHS was able to sponsor this study through the generosity of the Mabelle Haynes Family. Mabelle was a long time supporter of the AEHS for more than 29 years and served as one of its directors.

The project will be managed by the MHPC which has the knowledge and expertise to undertake such a study. A final report will be available later in the fall and will be published in the upcoming December edition of the newsletter.

Hike Over the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail

By Kevin Farmer

I contacted you [Steve Clark] back in May about your excellent work with the AEHS and your publications of the Arnold Expedition especially the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail pamphlet. I am pleased to tell you that Paul Norris and I hiked the trail on July 24 and benefitted immensely from the detailed knowledge you provided. I first want to

mention the Pine Grove Lodge about a mile from Carry Ponds Road. The owners, Bob and Andrea Howe, were very helpful and accommodating. We rented a cabin there for 3 nights and Andrea had informed us ahead of our arrival that she would be able to drop us off at the trail and leave our car at the other end. Although we had planned to hike the trail from east to west, it would have been quite inconvenient for the Howes and we agreed to hike west to east. The weather was a perfect 70 degrees for the entire day. I must say that we are not experienced hikers but in good physical shape (both in our mid-60s). Yet because of the mild weather and that we were hiking downhill, it was a pleasant and successful hike. It took quite a bit longer than we expected – 8 hours, and we realized it would have been quite a struggle if we had hiked east to west. It was an experience I will always cherish and to see the Maine wilderness where those brave patriots persevered was unforgettable.

Hikes on Great Carrying Place Trails Conducted by Appalachian Trail Conference

The ATC's large conference attended by more than 800 members was held at Colby College in Waterville on August 4-11. As a part of the meeting, several group hikes were scheduled and conducted over the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail in the Carry Ponds country. AEHS director Norm Kalloch who lives on West Carry Pond with his wife, Audrey, led several of the hikes.

It appears that the GCP Trail is becoming more well known and more frequented. The AEHS efforts to re-open this trail is beginning to pay off and will render not only a good first hand recreational experience, but a good experience in history as well. The last conference meeting was held in Maine during the summer of 1997.

Report of AEHS Board Meeting June 17, 2017, Colburn House, Pittston, ME

Present: President Fred Clark, Directors: Steve Clark, Hank Dillenbeck, Bob Donovan, Norm Kalloch, Clayton McLaughlin, Laura Stewart. Members: Sherri Clark, Pete Morrissey.

Meeting called to order at 9:40 AM.

There was no Secretarial or Treasurers reports as both were absent.

1. A discussion was led by Pete Morrissey as to a junior apprenticeship program being conducted at Old Fort Western. Its objective is to train young people in the history of the Fort and the area. The program is intended to prepare them to act as guides at the fort or prepare them to participate in various educational programs.

A motion to appropriate the sum of \$200 to sponsor two new interns (weekly programs) at OFW was made. It was seconded and approved unanimously. A further discussion was led by Norm Kalloch in regard to the possibility of organizing a field trip for interns to the Carry Ponds area. This would provide an appropriate real life experience for these young people. Norm, as a follow up will provide a possible time line and itinerary to do this. [He has subsequently circulated this among the Board members]. Contact him if you have further questions or comments on this interesting project.

2. Steve Clark brought up the point that our friends working with us on the Chain of Ponds acquisition have been rather dormant of late. This group is the Trust for Public Lands (TPL). They have had some personnel turnover last fall, but there has been little communication since then. Steve pointed out that this project requires constant attention so as not to "drop the ball." Fred indicated he would initiate a call to them to see where we are and possible subsequent steps.

3. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the installation of interpretive signs along the expedition's route. It is our understanding that the intended sign at the turn-out on Flagstaff Lake, Rt. 27 has been recently installed by the Department of Transportation. Two others are to be installed along Rt. 27 by the DOT. One is at Sarampus Falls, the other on a turn-out near Natanis Pond.

Other possible sign locations were discussed. One was at the "Head Of Falls" in Waterville at the end of the old portage trail around Ticonic Falls. Steve Clark indicated there was some interest by the Waterville City Counsel to install one there, near the so-called "Two Cent Footbridge." He will follow up on this.

Other locations were also discussed, such as one at Ft. Popham, another in Hallowell at a turn-out where at one time there was located one of the old Hilton wooden pictorial signs. This, deteriorated over time and has been removed. No conclusions were reached as to future sign installations.

4. Bob Donovan brought up the fact that the bog bridge crossing of a small brook on the Middle Carry Trail was about to go! It was decided to replace this. It will require that we purchase some cedar lumber to use as the new decking. Steve Clark will send Bob the materials list and construction plans for this. Bob stated that there is a small saw mill near him where we might obtain the decking for the project.

Bob will report back to the Board and see if we can organize a trip to replace the bog bridge this summer or fall. Hank Dillenbeck said that he has the 10 inch spikes that will be needed. We will need about 32 of these. Bob will report on the costs to the Board.

5. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding both overall Society communications with our members and our current printed newsletter. Steve Clark stated that we spend about \$800 per year to produce and mail our three newsletters. Many similar organizations have already completely abandoned printed newsletters in favor of an on-line newsletter. This is both less expensive and allows in-between communications and updates with members. It also fits well with our current website setup, revised by the Freeman family. There is some difficulty in doing this for some of our members as they do not use either email or internet interactions.

Submitted by Sherri and Steve Clark

Research: Locating and Reopening a Portion of the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail

By Norman Kalloch

[*Ed. Note.* This excellent research paper is most timely as the AEHS is contemplating the possibility of restoring about 0.3 mi. of the original portage trail to connect a known portion to the shore of Middle Carry Pond. This would be located on National Park Service lands and may take several years to obtain approvals. It is this kind of research that adds greatly to our knowledge of the Expedition and its route. It is to be commended!]

Over the years, historians and history buffs have been able to piece together most of the historic route followed by Col. Arnold and his men in 1775. The two significant sources that have helped pinpoint the location of their march to Quebec are the 27 diaries of the participants and the discovery of artifacts.

However, in some cases the lack of detailed documentation and physical evidence leaves us at a loss as to the exact location of the wilderness route. In cases of linear voids, we must rely solely on logic and common sense to justify the route's location and then take a leap of faith to splice it together with what we do know.

One blank needing to be filled is the location of the beginning of the portage trail leading from today's Sandy Stream, the inlet of Middle Carry Pond to West Carry Pond.

Arnold's diary, which presumably is the best of the 27 known dairies, provides some specifics, but plotted on a modern map, one still lacks confidence that it is accurate as to the trail's location. Arnold recorded that: "Our course over it [Middle Carry Pond] for about ½ mile was west, then stand N. B. W. about ¾ mile up a narrow creek or arm of the Lake. Our course over the third portage was West 10° North, 1 3/8 of a mile."

English Lt. John Montresor's Journal of his 1761 exploration of this wilderness route is more helpful as to the portage's beginning from Middle Carry Pond. He noted, "When we came to the other side [second pond- Middle Carry] we paddled through the rushes to the mouth of a large creek, into which we went. After carrying us about five hundred yards it took a second sweep to the right, inclining backwoods towards the lake. Here we landed and after a long search found the portage."

Distances found in other expeditions participant's diaries are to be taken for what they were--- estimates.

Example: Various journals give different estimates of the distance from the entrance of the stream to where they say the portage trail began:

(A) Melvin, ½ mile; (B) Squier, ½ mile; © Haskell, 3/5 mile, (D) Montresor, 1/4 mile ("500 yards") (E) Arnold, 3/4 mile. Cpt. Dearborn noted the distance as being 1.1 mile. This seems way out of line compared to the others. Several journals estimates include the distance across the pond to reach the point where the arm leading to Sandy Stream begins. In these cases, 0.4 mile was deducted for paddling across Middle Carry Pond before reaching the entrance to the stream.

Using Google's satellite imagery, the actual distance is **0.42 miles** from the inlet of the stream to its first eastward bend. With the exception of Arnold and Dearborn, Montresor's [a trained engineer] estimated distance was stated as 500 yds. This lines up fairly well with what was recorded by most other journals.

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The issue here is whether the beginning of the portage trail was located at the **first** or **second** "sweep" of Sandy Stream, on its SW shore.

Montresor's estimate of "about five hundred yards" falls short of the "second sweep to the right" by 0.16 mile. Most likely he made this estimate only to the "first sweep." He could have just mis-estimated or perhaps was confused by the fact that the beginning of the portage trail took a long time to find, as was stated by him.

Arnold's bearing of the portage route, "west 10° north," is confusing as to where the portage trail was located. Nor was the portage path a straight line from pond to pond. He may have started from the entrance to the portage trail using this bearing, but it likely varied as he followed the marked route to West Carry. Projecting his bearing from any point along Sandy Stream would completely miss West Carry Pond except as will be mentioned below.

Another factor in determining the beginning of the portage trail was **water levels**. It is only an educated guess as to the level of the stream during the time of the march. However, there is a clue in Capt. Simeon Thayer's journal. He notes that the only day of solid rain since leaving Fort Western was on October 8. "Hitherto we had fair weather." The days of very heavy rains from the later experienced hurricane did not begin until October 18, well after the army had passed over the Great Carrying Place.

Without evidence to the contrary, one can assume that Sandy Stream's flow was average for October, meaning once beyond the influence of Middle Carry Pond there was likely very shallow conditions, barely enough depth to float a canoe, let alone a heavily laden bateaux. The latter was most likely to be setting at least a foot or more into the water. Even in the much larger Kennebec River the men commented on the fact they were scraping bottom much of the time.

Even if the rains experienced on October 8th had slightly raised the stream's level, the reopening of the portage trail had already been marked by Lts. Church & Steele. Several hundred of the army would have already portaged their bateaux and tons of supplies out of the stream, leaving no doubt as to where the trail began. They would not have proceeded any further up stream. Now let us examine if we can determine a more precise takeout point on Sandy Stream.

Three Possible Takeout Points.

[Please Refer to the Google map]

Takeout #1

This is the plotted takeout using Arnold's distances and bearings. As previously discussed, the stream was likely to have been too shallow for either bateaux or canoe to reach this far upstream location. The West 10° North bearing given by Arnold would have led them well away from ever reaching the third pond (west Carry). [Noted Author Justin Smith writes; "In general, Arnold's bearings are often incorrect, if taken literally."]

Takeout #2

This is a possible takeout point using Arnold's bearing of West 10° North only. If one accepts that the bearing is accurate as to where he says his party left the stream. Then this would be a possible location. This route is also the shortest distance from the stream to reach the

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prominent esker which the portage trail would have utilized. The Appalachian Trail also uses this esker as it is the best place to run any type of a trail, avoiding the surround wet country.

Since Arnold traveled by canoe he might have arrived here to reach the esker and the portage trail leading to the third pond. However, the rest of the Army using deeply laden bateaux would have been stopped by the stream's shallow waters.

Takeout #3

This appears to be the most probable takeout point. Its location offers the best takeout opportunity if one accepts that the water depth in Sandy Stream beyond this point would have made the other two, too shallow to maneuver the heavily laden bateaux. The depth of water factor is the crucial factor, not only for the men of the expedition, but as well for the many Native Americans who established this route. The latter's crafts, usually birch bark canoes were very easily damaged on rocky, shallow streams, so they would have been avoided.

When Lt. Church & Steele's advance party started up the narrowing Sandy Stream to locate and mark the portage route for the following army, they were likely to have been using a copy of Montresor's journal and map. They most likely recognized the stream's twist to east stated in his journal. Like Montresor, they had to beach their canoes and search for the entrance to the portage. Once found, they could have improved the trail by swinging it slightly north to take advantage of a more gentle slope in order to reach and follow the smooth top of the esker.

The determining factor to locate the takeout and beginning of the portage route, would have been the presumed depth of water in the stream. This makes choice #3 the most likely of the three. Also the journal descriptions of the point as being near the "sweep of the stream to the east" provides more verification that this is the trail's takeout point. Further, this probable take out is well within the estimates given in several journals as noted above.

It is also worth noting, that the estimated distance from this potential take out point to the southwest cove of West Carry Pond along the portage route (computed by using Google Earth) is about 1.7 miles. This is significantly longer than the 1 3/8 mile Arnold recorded, but well within the range of a number of journals. These were Dearborn; 1.75 miles, Melvin; 1.50 miles, Haskell, 2 miles; and Stocking; 2 miles.

In conclusion, the first bend in the stream is the logical takeout for the army. In general, the distances given in various journals point to this location. Montresor's journal, although slightly short on distance, states the second bend to the right in the stream is where his party landed to look for the trail. The bend in the stream is at the end of the water deep enough to float the bateaux. All three possible takeout routes have been recently walked and examined. The route #3 seems to be as valid a route today as it was 241 years ago.

Key to Map on Opposite Page, Carry Ponds Country and Location of the Three Possible Takeout Points

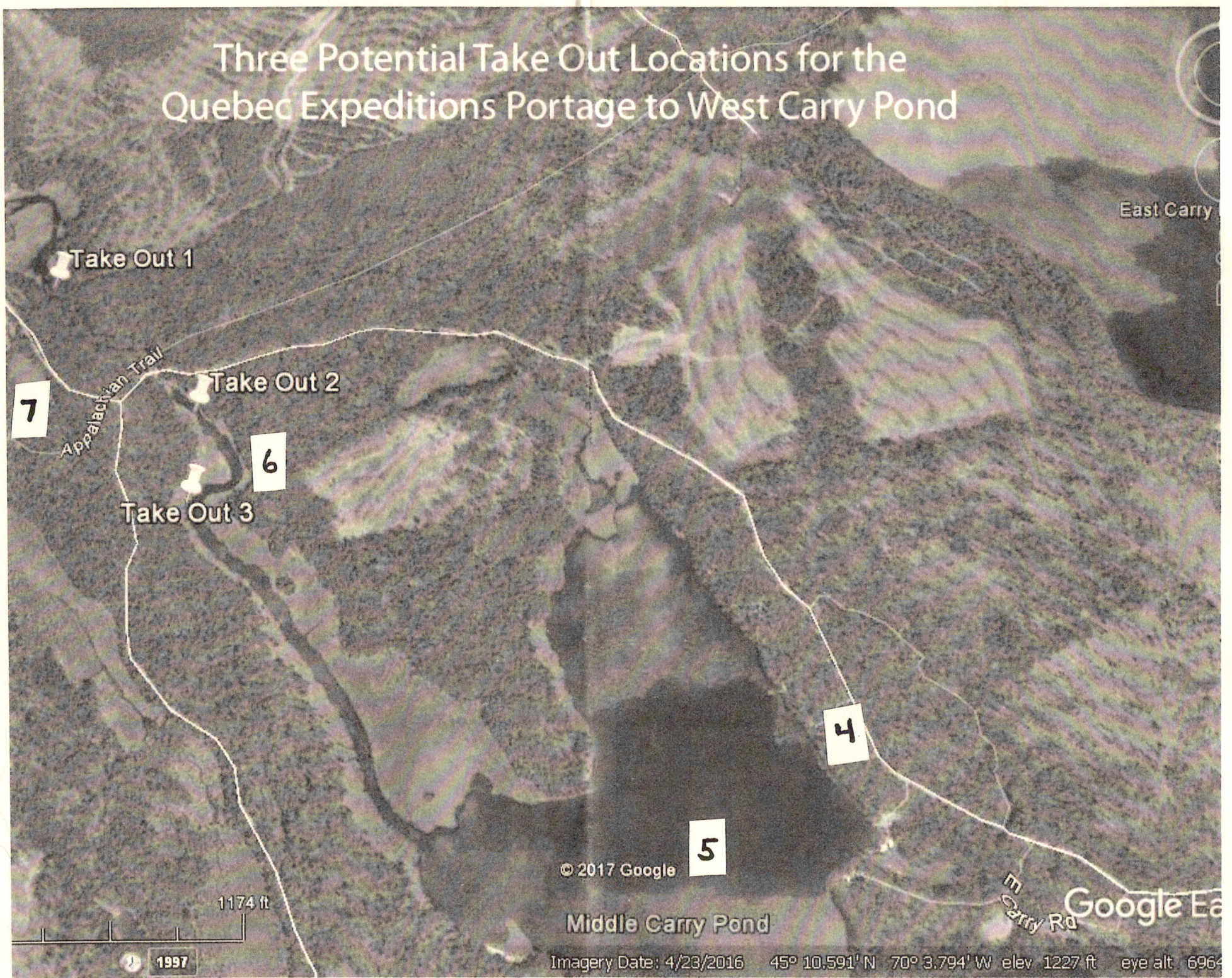
#4 Location of AEHS Nichols Cabin and end of portage trail from East Carry Pond

#5 Middle Carry Pond

#6 Sandy Stream, inlet to pond

#7 Location of esker and portage trail leading to West Carry Pond

Three Potential Take Out Locations for the Quebec Expeditions Portage to West Carry Pond



AEHS New Membership Form

Mail this form with your check to: AEHS, c/o Lucas Freeman, Sec.
280 Winthrop Rd.
Readfield, ME 04355

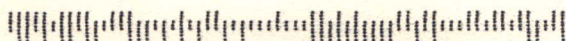
Include your phone number and email address if this is acceptable. Make check payable to AEHS.

Category:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 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)

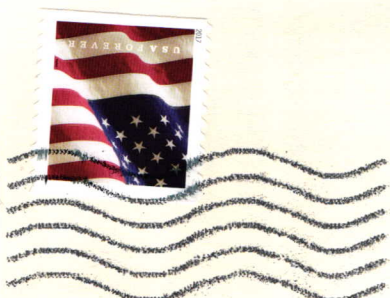
➡ To order the 16 page booklet-guide to **The Great Carrying Place Portage Trail**, 12 miles in length, send check for \$5.00 to AEHS. For non-members, add one additional dollar for postage.

➡ 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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