

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ARNOLD EXPEDITION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May, 2018



President's Message

The AEHS had a busy 2017 with numerous projects. One was the Archaeological Survey in the Chain of Ponds area during the fall. Then there was the adventurous Hodding Carter bateau trip from Pittston to Quebec. Members of the AEHS helped along the way across both the Great Carrying Place and the Height of Land portages to the border into Canada. In particular we would cite Norm Kalloch and Kenny Wing. We will have an article on this interesting trip later this year.

The new 65 foot bog bridge across a wet area between East and Middle Carry Ponds was well organized by Bob Donovan and finished in short order.

This past winter included the negotiations for the swap of the "parking lot" on East Carry Pond for a new addition to our lot on Middle Carry Pond containing the Nichols Cabin. We are still finalizing this transaction and will be marking the new boundaries later this season.

I would like to thank the many members for their ongoing support for the Society. We still have work to do on some of these projects started last year, but hopefully all will be completed during this season. Please review the upcoming 2018 Schedule found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Fred Clark

Reestablishing a Section of the GCP Trail

Through research accomplished by director, Norm Kalloch, a lost section of the old Great Carrying Place Portage Trail may be reestablished. President Fred Clark and VP Steve Clark recently made a presentation to the Executive Board of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club to gain permission to reopen a 0.3 mi. section of the old trail.

The board approved this effort, but before final approval is obtained, it must go through several steps before receive final approved by the National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Project Office.

This is required as the trail section in question is located on land owned by the NPS. The section of the trail is located from the shore of Middle Carry Pond and Sandy Stream to the Lane Pond Road. It goes from the pond's shore, through a wooded section and onto an esker before reaching the road and then on to West Carry Pond via the AT.

It may take some time to work through the NPS process. So its reopening is on hold for the time being.

• Newsletter Highlights

- president/s Letter
- 2018 Schedule of Events
- Land Swap in the Carry Ponds
- The 2017 Board & Annual Meetings
- Article, *Henry's Mistake*

2018 AE;HS Schedule of Events

President Fred Clark has announced the schedule of upcoming events during this summer season.

May 26th Trail Clearing Trip

This is our annual spring trip to the Carry Ponds area to clear and open up the Great Carrying Place Portage Trail. We have heard preliminary reports that the terrible wind storm in October of 2017 caused many blowdowns to hurt foot trails throughout Maine.

As we have to work on both ends of the route, those that wish to participate should check with Fred Clark for particulars as to where, when to meet, and what to bring. Please call Fred at (207) 872-9471.

June 9th Colburn House Cleanup

This will be our annual trip to do spring cleanup of the grounds at the House. This will be traditional yard work plus cleaning of the AEHS displays located within the Carriage House. As most know the historic House is located just off ME Rt. 27 in the town of Pittston. Bring your own lunch and gloves.

We will start about 9:00 AM and work until we run out of gas. It's a chance to meet other members and catch up on events. For particulars, please call Fred Clark at the above cited phone number. See you all there.

June 16th AEHS Board Meeting

This meeting will be held at the Colburn House in Pittston and will begin at 9:00 AM and will end about noon. All AEHS members and friends are invited to attend and discuss various issues. Some may choose to bring a bag lunch and eat it there. For an agenda and particulars, please call Fred Clark at the number cited above.

June 23rd Fort Halifax Celebration

Each year, the Town of Winslow and the Winslow Historical Society sponsor a public day for people to visit the park, partake in various events and visit the old blockhouse. Often there are some events but it is mainly there for people to visit the view of a very beautiful river side park at the confluence of the Kennebec and Sebasticook Rivers.

The event runs from Noon to 4:00 PM. This is located on US 201, Bay Street, in Winslow near the Sebasticook Bridge. Again, for more particulars, please call Fred Clark at the above cited phone number or call the Winslow Town Office.

Sept. 15th Annual AEHS Meeting

This will be held at the Colburn House in Pittston.

There will be a Board meeting held in the morning beginning at 9:00 AM and all members are invited to attend if they wish. The Annual Meeting will be held in the renovated barn and will begin at 1:00 PM. The agenda for the meeting and an announcement of a guest speaker will be included in the September Newsletter. We hope as many as possible can attend. There will be places to have a picnic lunch there as well. Bring your own drinks. Hopefully Betty Wing will bring one of her delicious deserts!

Land Swap on the Carry Ponds.

The Society has recently completed a land transfer, acquiring a new lot to enhance the protection of the portage trail on Middle Carry Pond.

The Dirigo Timberlands Co. recently acquired considerable land around the shores of Middle Carry Pond which they intend to develop in part as camp lots. The company became cognizant of the need to protect the historic 1775 Great Carrying Place Portage Trail and has graciously cooperated in protecting more of the lands adjacent to the portage trail.

The Society acquired a 4.5 acre lot located at the south end of East Carry Pond as a donation from the owner at that time, Thomas Dickson. This was transacted in the 1960's. This generous act was to ensure that the Society would have a legal access to East Carry Pond. When Dirigo acquired land around Middle Carry Pond, it was negotiated that a land swap of equal value and size would be mutually beneficial. So the Society agreed to give up the East Carry lot in swap of a similar lot of 4.5 acres on Middle Carry Pond.

These involved negotiations were carried out by President Fred Clark, director Norm Kalloch and director Bob Donovan.

The company has surveyed and located the corner pins for the new lot. The lot will include 377 feet along the north shore of the pond, and is directly adjacent to the lot owned by the Society. The present lot is the terminus of the portage trail between East and Middle Carry Ponds. The rectangular lot extends northerly across the nearby Middle Road. The Society's Nichols Cabin is also located next to the newly acquired lot.

This summer the Society will schedule a trip up to the new lot to mark and paint the new property's boundary lines. **See Map on Page 4**

We would also like to acknowledge the fine cooperation of Blain Miller of Dirigo Timberlands who worked both graciously and generously to conclude this transaction. We would all like to thank the Dirigo Company for its help in protecting a part of our heritage. They are truly a good "Maine neighbor."

What To Do About The Colburn House?

On a more sobering issue, it is apparent to the Society leadership that the Rubin Colburn House and property in Pittston, Maine will not be opened to the public for the fourth consecutive season. Plus the physical buildings are not being reasonably maintained. The property is owned and managed by the Maine Bureau of Public Lands, an agency within the Maine Dept. Of Conservation. It is also evident that it is an issue of the Bureau's limited resources and being required to favor other large parks that serve many, many more people.

Long term, it is apparent that the issue of limited resources will be a constant issue, thus limiting proper management of the Colburn House facility each budget year.

So if the State will be unable to ensure the property will be open to the public and properly managed, then what is to be done?

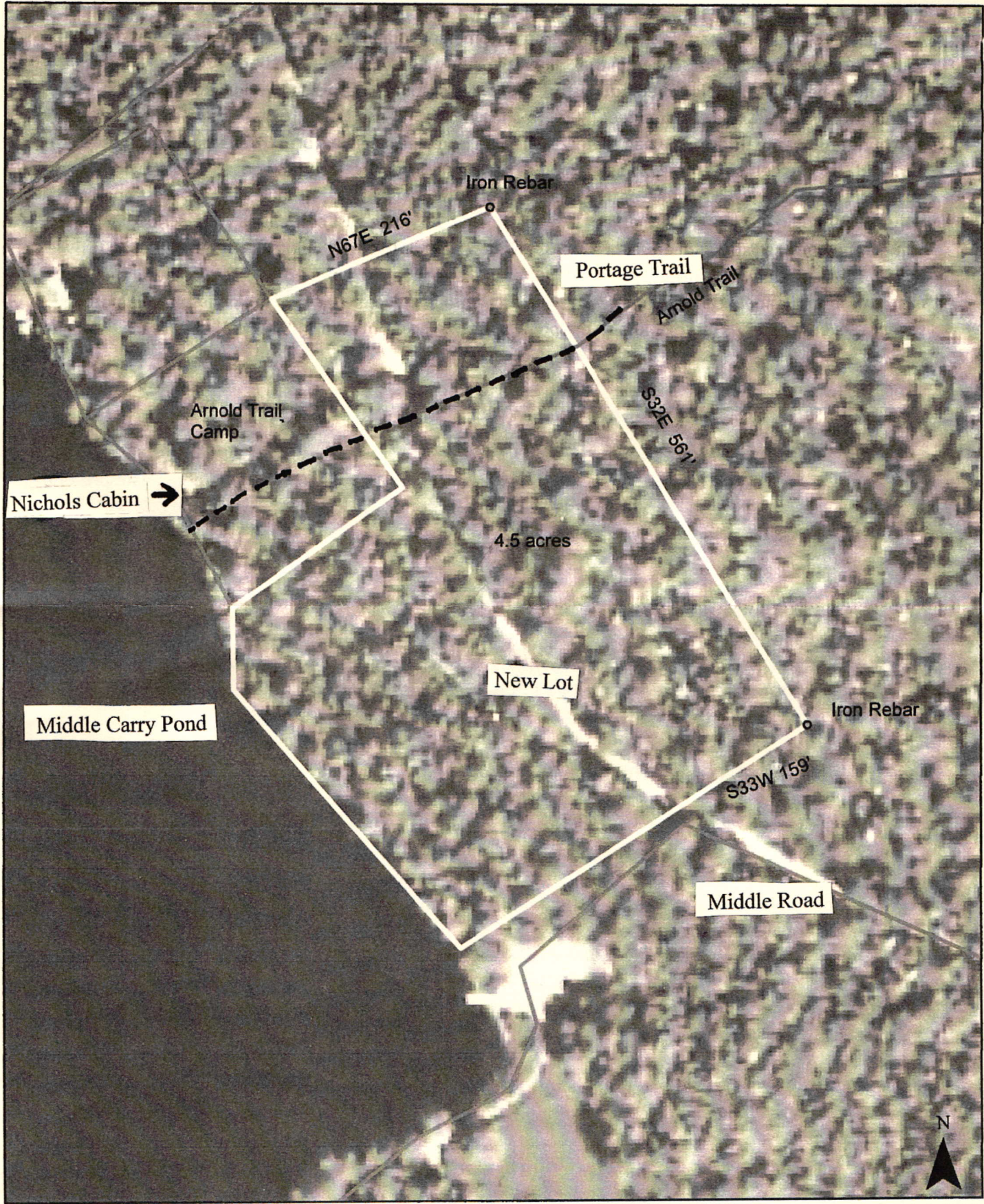
The Society does not have the funding to do that, nor is its structure and purposes such that they could successfully assume that responsibility of managing the facility long term.

We present this issue to our membership in the hope that some member (s) may make helpful suggestions on a solution. This is especially true with the several Colburn family members who have a vested interest in the House and property. We do not know at this time how much an alternative management would cost. It would probably be in the vicinity of \$10,000 per year.

Please contact our president, Fred Clark on possible ideas. His address is : 9 Randall Rd., Winslow, ME 04901 or email,

We look forward to your comments or suggestions.

Arnold Trail / Dirigo Trade



0 25 50 100 150 200 Feet

Created By Chris White
LPF# 3584
Not a Legal Survey
12/14/2017

Report of AEHS Board and Annual Meetings, Sept. 16, 2017

Ed. Note; Because there was a shortage of space in our December 2017 pictorial newsletter, this report is belatedly printed here, for members information.

The board meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM at the Colburn House by Fred Clark.

Present: Fred Clark, Freeman, Burnell, Steve Clark, Dillenbeck, Donovan, Kalloch, McLaughlin, Stewart, and Wing.

Alan Burnell, Treasurer gave his report and stated the Society was in good financial condition. But he mentioned that net revenue from annual membership dues was down by about a thousand dollars. This was due to the attrition of our annual membership and the fact that new membership did not offset this loss. Our checking account balance was \$14,831. This does not include our endowment fund which has a balance of \$18,545. These fund balances do not include other assets such as real estate. For those that wish a complete report, please contact our Treasurer.

He also reported that a check had been sent to Old Fort Western to sponsor an apprenticeship position for a summer intern. The report was approved by the Board.

The Secretary's Report was given by Lucas Freeman. He also confirmed the loss of annual membership. He also stated that he was working on a new data base system to better track our membership. Our current membership is about 125 members in all categories. The report was approved by the Board.

There was a motion to appoint Kenny Wing to fill the position of Director of the Board. He had previously resigned in the early spring. It was seconded and the vote was unanimous. He will now continue to fill out the position of director until 2019.

The Board discussed the vacancy of the position of Vice President. Steve Clark volunteered to serve in this capacity for the two year remainder of the term of office. This was moved, seconded and approved by the Board.

This decision meant that there would be a vacancy of one directorship. To fill this position, Mike Holt of Fairfield volunteered to serve. A motion to do this was made, seconded and approved. Under the new bylaws, approved last year, each position is for a three year term. So Mike Holt, as will all officers and directors, will serve out the remainder of these positions until the next elections are held in 2019.

The next issue was a long discussion about the August archeological study. The field work portion of the study has been completed in August with a long six day effort. The lab and written report are yet to be completed, but are underway by the Maine Historical Predication Comm. Kenny Wing participated in the field work and stated that significant "finds" had been made. This was accomplished along the route of the Height of Land portage trail leading from the Chain of Ponds over the Boundary Mountains. A full report of the findings and their significance will be made late this year or early next. Some of the artifacts recovered are currently being cleaned and preserved as a part of the study. We all will look forward to learning more of these discoveries.

Mr. Wing also reported on the new trail being constructed in this Chain of Ponds area by Mr. Larry Warren. This will be a groomed and wide trail in order to accommodate motorized ski trail groomers. He has applied to the State Land Use Planning Comm. for a permit to construct a bridge large enough to accommodate modernized vehicles over a narrow point in the Chain of Ponds, then construct a trail along the shore of the ponds. It will also cross, recross and follow portions of the historic portage trail between the Chain of Ponds and Arnold Pond. The trail is intended to be used for cross country skiing in the winter and mountain biking in the summer.

(Cont. page 6)

A discussion of our website took place. It was recognized that we needed a person to do updating as needed. As the discussion proceeded, Laura Stewart graciously volunteered to undertake this task. She will check with Josh Freeman who had previously done work on the site.

There has been no progress on the Colburn House management. The House has been closed for the past three years by the State. Old Fort Western has been unable to continue discussions with the State to manage the property. It was decided that the best course of action was to discuss this directly with the head of the State Bureau of Parks and Lands which has the responsibility for managing and caring for the House. This has been a discouraging set of events as the facility needs work and oversight in order to reopen. The interior of the main house is beginning to deteriorate .

Norm Kallock reported that the relocation and rezoning of the protection zone along the Spring Road from a point near West Carry Pond to the shore of Flagstaff Lake has been successfully completed. One Landowner requested that the protection zone not extend from the road onto their land, but that if harvesting operations were to occur along this road, we would be notified so that we could check the land for artifacts. This has been a very convoluted and difficult negotiation with at least four landowners and the Land Use Planning Commission involved. The latter recently passed a resolution approving the relocation of the P-UA protection zone along the Spring Road and from the Long Falls Dam Road to Flagstaff Lake. It has taken more than three years to accomplish this and Norm is to be commended for his diligence and hard work.

There was a discussion on the possible purchase and sale of land near Middle Carry Pond. We are currently looking into the possibility of a land swap using our ownership of the AEHS East Carry Pond lot. Both Bob Donovan and Norm Kallock will continue discussions with our real estate agent to explore this possibility. The land hopefully to be acquired is located adjacent to the Nichols Cabin lot.

The bog bridge replacement on the portage trail between Middle and East Carry Ponds is underway. The five cedar base logs have been cut and placed across the stream. Bob Donovan has ordered and will pick up the special cedar cross timbers which will form the walkway. Hank Dillenbeck will provide the spikes to mount this walkway to the base logs.

A trip up to the Camp has been scheduled for Sept. 30 to assemble the bridge. All who wish to participate are to meet at the point where the portage trail comes into the Carry Ponds Road at 8:00 AM.

Mike and Pat Holt have rebuilt the hand pump at the Nichols Cabin and now have it in operation. They will also close up the cabin for the upcoming winter.

The brothers also put on a wonderful fresh made donut cooking demonstration at the meeting to fend off starvation for the long meeting. Thanks so much!

The Annual Meeting

In the afternoon annual meeting, there was little new business that had not already been discussed at the morning meeting, so after brief introductions the featured speaker gave his presentation.

Paul Lessard, who lives in Belgrade, discussed one of his ancestors, Pt. Charles Bourget, who enlisted in the Quebec bound American Army when it reached Ft. Western. Here he was assigned to Capt. Dearborn's company and went all the way to Quebec. He was captured during the attack of Dec. 31st and imprisoned during the winter. In the following summer he was released and paroled. He found his way back to the American lines and reenlisted for the duration of the war and fought in many battles.

Paul described his research and how he was able to follow Bourget's life from his birth in Canada. It was a most fascinating story.

Reprinted from 2005 newsletter

HENRY'S MISTAKE THE MYSTERIOUS JEREMIAH By Frank A. Getchell

[editor's note: Frank Getchell is an AEHS member who is a lifelong resident of Vassalboro, Maine. He lives near Getchell's Corner in that town. He is a direct descendant of the Getchell men who participated in the Expedition]

There is a detail in the History of the Arnold expedition to Quebec that is in need of correction. John Joseph Henry stated that his two guides in Lt. Steel's party were John Horn and Jeremiah Getchell. I believe that Henry had a lapse in memory in this case. It probably was John Getchell and Jeremiah Horn. John Getchell did live in Vassalboro. There was a Jeremiah Horn in the next generation. He might have been a namesake of his father or uncle.

At 36 years after the fact [*Henry wrote his journal of the Expedition in 1811*] it is quite understandable for anyone to forget, especially names. I have done extensive genealogical research and John Horn or Jeremiah Getchell do not appear anywhere in that period. Church records, court, state archives, U.S. census of 1790, private or any other records do not show them. Henry was with Getchell on September 23 according to Henry and Kenneth Roberts. Arnold's secretary, Captain Oswald said it was the 24th but he probably included Lt. Steel's departure with Lt. Church's although Steel left Fort Western a day before Church.

Henry and Getchell parted on or about October 10 at Dead River. That was an acquaintance of only 17 days on an expedition that lasted more than three months.

Although some genealogists claim that there were four or five Getchell brothers on the expedition, there is record of only two, John and Nehemiah. Dennis, another brother, took part in the pre-march scouting trip two weeks before the Expedition left Fort Western. The question has been, which one was with Lt. Steel and which with Lt. Church. The record plainly shows, when carefully considered, that John was with Steel. When Steel, Henry and Getchell arrived at the Great Carry, Henry stated that Getchell said that he had never been across the carry before. That Getchell couldn't have been Nehemiah [*or Dennis*] because Nehemiah had been across to Dead River two weeks before on the pre-march reconnoiter. This latter fact is documented in Reuben Colburn's bill to The United States of America, dated July 3, 1786 [as stated in Justin Smith's, *Arnold's March from Cambridge to Quebec*, page 293]. Henry has been faulted for lapses of memory but no one has accused him of fabrication.

Arnold arrived at the Great Carry on October 11. Steel and John Getchell returned there from Dead River on the *same day*. Arnold paid John Getchell one month's wages, dated October 6 which was an erroneous date entry. Arnold made no entries from October 6 or before, to October 27, a period of three weeks or more which was unique in his entire pay record. He had to have made many entries from memory with evident error. It must have been on the 11th or 12th, when they were in the same place that the wages were paid. That is not to say that the wage payment date is critical to identification; only that it seems more likely.

On October 11, John Pierce recorded that he had been assigned to Steel's command, which explains why, when he speaks of Getchell, he speaks of him as Steel's guide. Pierce records that Steel and Getchell upset a canoe on October 20. Pierce records on October 22 that "Getchell, our guide returned home this day." That is consistent with the day he started, September 23 and Arnold's payment of one month's wages. Nehemiah, meanwhile was with Arnold or Major Meigs. Arnold, on October 26 recorded, "Sent back Nehemiah Petchell to pilot up the rear." Major Meigs reported payment of wages to Nehemiah on October 28. The Getchell who returned home from Steel's party had to be John.

It seems just and proper that the credit from Henry's praise of his Getchell guide should belong to John Getchell. History would be better served as well.

AEHS New Membership Form

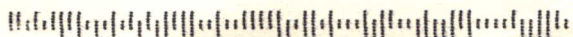
Mail this form with your check to: AEHS , C/o Lucas Freeman, Sec.
280 Winthrop Rd.
Readfield, ME 04355

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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SO. MAINE P&DC D-40

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