
Battle Lines

The Newsletter of Co. H, 5th Reg't. New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry

• Mustered-in September 9, 2018 •

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“Stand Firm and Aim Low”

“Stand firm and fire low!” So said Colonel Edward E. Cross to the men of the Fifth New Hampshire. These were words of encouragement from their leader. It is certainly not my place to preach. Each member of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire is an adult who can make adult choices. Still, I feel the need to say a few words during these difficult, uncharted days. However, I won't pretend to be eloquent; to find the right words or select the finest of phrases.

As spring arrived, I expected to be in the middle of planning for our upcoming reenacting season. I had hoped to report to you by now on the meeting with Mary Baruth at Kings Landing, and to offer updates on the Atlantic Air Show and the Halifax Citadel. Instead, all is “on-hold”; all is still.

But please, take heart! Although our world is presently quite different than what we knew, and what we expected, this present situation will pass and we will once again be able to gather and drill and laugh and share stories. We will again meet the public and impress them with what we know, and what we do, and it will be all the sweeter because we have come through adversity.

Co. H, 5th New Hampshire is very important to me. I have a strong affinity, both for the historic regiment, and to our talented and growing Company H. We have very good people within this group; solid people, and I sincerely hope that all of us will continue with our membership, and continue to share with the public this little-known, yet greatly important part of American and Canadian history.

No, we cannot at this time drill or plan with any certainty any upcoming events. But we can read, study, research, watch YouTube videos, take stock of what we have for equipment, examine and repair equipment, ask questions of fellow-members, and perhaps even purchase a uniform item or two. There are many ways to stay active.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you on the field just as soon as conditions allow. Until that time, stay well! Take care of your own health and that of your family. Keep in contact with relatives, neighbours and friends. We will all have many tales to tell around the campfire when next we meet. Huzzah for the Fighting Fifth!

Notice! All Co. H Events Are “On-Hold”

Due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, all events scheduled for Company H, Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers are currently “on-hold”, meaning they are either postponed or cancelled outright. All three Maritime provinces are calling for people to stay home, where possible, not gather in groups and not even cross borders, expecting visitors to self-isolate for fourteen days upon their visit and/or return. Of course, there is no way to know when conditions will improve and life can return to normal.

Even once restrictions are eased, Company H members should not drive to in-province events without first reading emails or contacting Lindsay Titus to confirm if an event is still on as planned, or if it has been postponed or cancelled. As of this date (April 5), no events are planned.

However, Lt. Titus will continue to plan and organize our schedule in the hope that the situation will improve, so you may still expect to receive emails seeking your thoughts and plans for potential events. Good planning dictates that this should be done, but we must all realize that reality may interfere with our plans.

This is a disappointing and unprecedented time for us all, but the health of all members, family and friends must come first.

Kings Landing Meeting Postponed

In an email dated March 16, Mary Baruth, the new CEO of Kings Landing, informed Lt. Titus that the planned meeting concerning Company H on March 24, had to be cancelled. This is due to instructions by the Government of New Brunswick that employees are to work from home; a response, of course, to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mary did offer to meet at a later date, but no specific date has been determined.

“Cavalry crossing a ford”

– A Civil War poem by Walt Whitman, from Drum Taps –

*A line in long array where they wind betwixt green islands,
They take a serpentine course, their arms flash in the sun – hark to the musical clank,
Behold the silvery river, in it the splashing horses loitering stop to drink,
Behold the brown-faced men, each group, each person a picture, the negligent rest on the saddles,
Some emerge on the opposite bank, others are just entering the ford – while
Scarlet and blue and snowy white,
The guidon flags flutter gaily in the wind.*

No Drill in April

A company drill, tentatively planned for Saturday, April 18, is cancelled due to restrictions set by governments regarding the COVID-19 virus. This drill date was tentative to begin with, and was dependent upon weather and ground conditions. It is cancelled, not for ground conditions, but for reasons of safeguarding everyone’s health.

Company Dues for 2020-21

Company dues for most members expire on June 30 of 2020, with new insurance coverage beginning on July 1. Thus, since we are at the beginning of April, there is no immediate need to pay dues. Plus, the Sussex branch of the Bay View Credit Union, where we have our account, is currently closed, as there is concern that an employee may have had contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Still, anyone wanting to pay dues for 2021 may do so by sending an e-transfer to my home email address, which is fiddler1755@rogers.com. Dues are \$25.00 per member (or family, providing family members do not carry a firearm). About \$15.00 of your dues money pays for liability insurance; the remaining \$10.00 goes to Company H.

My bank, for the purpose of e-transfers, is the Sussex branch of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). Once the credit union re-opens, I will take any collected dues money from my Royal Bank account and transfer it to the Company H account at the credit union. This is the procedure I have followed since beginning Co. H. By using the credit union, we avoid monthly bank service charges, which can quickly drain a small account such as ours. Of course, any member wishing to view the company financial record may do so at any time.

Leigh Gavel, as well as Steven Cochrane, and Bob and Marie Keretschko (all through Leigh) have already paid their dues for 2020-21.

! News of the War in the East !

- **Civil War Surgeon** – Lt. Titus recently stumbled upon the name of a surgeon of the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac. He was Dr. Charles Fitz Henry Campbell. Dr. Campbell was born in England and lived in Pennsylvania, but died in Springhill, Nova Scotia on December 28, 1909. It is presently unknown if he is buried there. Surgeon Campbell served at Antietam, among other battles. His daughter, Grace Simpson, lived in Moncton and wrote for a time for the St. John (NB) newspaper, the “Progress”.
- **PowerPoint Presentation** – Lt. Titus is working on a PowerPoint presentation of the history of the 5th NH.
- **Communications** – From time-to-time requests are made of Co. H members to respond to surveys about potential events, company decisions or equipment. It is important that everyone responds, even if “no” or “none” or “does not apply” is the answer. Emailing a response is the only way, often times, that planning may proceed. Please help by reading all emails in a timely manner and responding when called upon.
- **St. Patrick’s Day Parade** – On Sunday, March 15, six members of Co. I, 20th Maine marched in the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade in St. Andrews, New Brunswick.
- **Fenians** – Reenactor registration is open for the commemoration of the 1866 Battle of Ridgeway and the Fenian invasion of Canada, scheduled for June 13-14 at Old Fort Erie, Ontario. Information may be found on Facebook at “Living History Muskoka” or on-line at: niagaraparks.com/visit-niagara-parks/heritage/reenactor-participant-registration/.

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Barnard Holland was born in Toronto, but was living in New York City when he enlisted at age 23 as a substitute on August 20, 1863. Mustered-in on the same day as a private in Company B, his enlistment was credited to Warner. On May 1, 1864 he transferred to Company I of the 12th New York Cavalry, where he served until mustered-out on July 19, 1865 in Raleigh, North Carolina.