



Battle Lines



Newsletter of Co. H, 5th Reg't. New Hampshire Vol's.

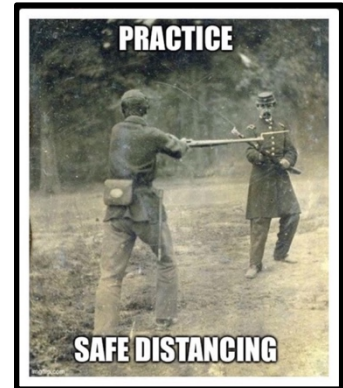
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Cancelled: The Charlotte County Fall Fair

In a Facebook posting dated April 30, 2020, representatives of the Charlotte County Fall Fair announced that “the St. Croix Estuary Project, Inc.; the Ganong Nature Park Board of Directors; Heather Estey, Chair of the Charlotte County Fall Fair; and Peter Heelis, Chair of the RCMP Musical Ride, are announcing that the events will not take place in 2020.” The announcement went on to say, “...the 10th anniversary of the Charlotte County Fall Fair and the RCMP Musical Ride will be postponed until 2021. Stay safe, stay healthy, and we will see you again in 2021.” A follow-up email confirmed the statement.

This, of course, was made necessary by federal and provincial regulations in the attempt to decrease the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Company H, 5th New Hampshire has been a regular attendee at the Fall Fair for the past few years, joining with Danks' Rangers, Delancey's Brigade and the 20th Maine for an annual weekend encampment.



Company Inventory

Several weeks ago members were asked to submit information regarding your personal and camp equipment, so we may get an idea of how we stand as a unit in terms of uniformed (or period-clothed) members and the types and number of tents we could potentially set-up. Thank you to those who responded to this survey. Some members, however, did not respond, so that our information remains incomplete. Even if your response is “no equipment”, that is more information than not responding.

Why is this information important? In one example, we were asked by organizers for an event how much space we required for our campsite. Lt. Titus had no way of accurately responding to that enquiry. We also do not have any clear number of muskets we can place in the line at any one time.

If you have not responded, or your situation has changed, please respond by sending an email to Lt. Titus. Please check your personal inventory for your uniform, which includes a forage cap, shirt, sack coat (or frock coat), trousers, canteen, cartridge box, cap pouch and belts. Also state whether you have a musket. Tent type is important (two shelter halves (dog), wedge, wall and/or tent fly), but not tent size, so there is no need to measure. If you portray a civilian or other role, please send information of what you have acquired.

Here is the information received as of March 6:

- Dave Adams – *Inventory is complete*
- Aaron Bouma – *Response needed*
- Steve Cochrane – *Any update?*
- Greg Fekner – *Do you have your musket yet; tent?*
- Leigh Gavel – *Any update?*
- Joe Gee – *Response needed*
- Edmond Grenier – *Any update?*
- B & B Hippenstall – *Response needed*
- Rick Jamer – *Any update on tents?*
- Bob Keretschko – *Info. given to me by Leigh Gavel*
- Marie Keretschko – *Response needed*
- Steve Norman – *Inventory is complete*
- N & S Tétrault – *Any update?*
- Lindsay Titus – *Inventory complete*

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Gilbert Roy enlisted at the age of 31 on November 24, 1863, and was mustered-in on the same day. He served as a private in Company A until he was killed on June 3, 1864 at Cold Harbor, Virginia. Born in Canada and credited to Lisbon, Roy was one of 69 soldiers of the 5th New Hampshire killed in that costly battle.

St. Stephen 150th Anniversary 2021: We're Invited!

An email received on May 4 from Maurice La King of Danks' Rangers invited the 5th New Hampshire to an event being planned for St. Stephen, NB. Maurice is on the organizing committee. It is the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of St. Stephen as a town (1871) and, as Maurice says, "the town is looking to have a military presence." The actual anniversary date is May 17, 2021 (a Monday), although activities will most likely be scheduled for the prior weekend and/or other surrounding days as well.

This might be an excellent opportunity for us to do something special at the six Civil War graves within the nearby St. Stephen Rural Cemetery, which, of course, includes the grave of Bvt. Major General John C. Caldwell, the brigade or division commander of the 5th New Hampshire for nearly two years. Consequently, I have emailed Maurice La King about the possibility of us firing commemorative volleys at each of the six Civil War graves. I also sought Maurice's permission to invite other organizations, thinking mainly of Co. B, 20th Maine; Co. I, 20th Maine, Co. A, 3rd Maine, branch 07-009 (Saint Croix) of the Royal Canadian Legion and Post 3 of the American Legion in Calais. Should this go ahead, we have one year to prepare!

A YouTube Video Worth Watching

On Facebook, along with postings from the American Battlefield Trust, The Authentic Campaigner and various Civil War photography organizations, Lt. Titus gets regular postings from a group called The Mainstream Reenactor. On April 15, a posting showed up on their page of a YouTube video by a Revolutionary War reenactor named Brandon Fisichella, entitled, "The stupidest questions reenactors get asked (and their value). Simply put, it is worth watching. We have all been asked questions such as whether we sleep in our tents, or if the fire is real, or if we are hot in our uniforms, but instead of being dismissive, it is how we respond to such "stupid" questions that reveals our merit as reenactors in an educational organization. Watch the video. It is a little over sixteen minutes in length, but it is worth viewing.

Go to YouTube and in the search box, type, "The stupidest questions reenactors get asked (and their value)". It is easy to find and, as said, well-worth watching, and watching again.

Update: Company Dues for 2020-21

Company dues for the 2020-21 season will be collected as usual. This decision follows email and telephone discussions with some Co. H members. The consensus seems to be that we should collect company dues for the 2020-21 reenacting season as usual, even though our event calendar has been largely emptied for the foreseeable future.

It was the feeling of surveyed members that collecting dues will (a) continue our liability insurance coverage with the National Firearms Association beginning on July 1 and continuing well into the 2021 season (June 30), and (b) add some much-needed revenue to our company bank account.

Company dues for most members expire on June 30, 2020, with new insurance coverage beginning on July 1. Although the Sussex branch of the Bay View Credit Union (where we have our account) is currently closed due to the current pandemic, anyone wanting to pay dues for 2020-21 may do so by sending an e-transfer to my home email address (fiddler1755@rogers.com). My bank, for the purpose of e-transfers, is the Sussex branch of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC).

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 into the Company H general account. 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 in the credit union. This is the procedure I have followed since the beginning of 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.

Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel, Steven Cochrane, and Bob and Marie Keretschko (the latter three through Leigh) have already paid their dues for 2021.

Upcoming Events –

- **August 29-30** – Air Show Atlantic: Debert, Nova Scotia
- **October 4** – Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom: Carlingford, New Brunswick



July 1st!
Annual Company H dues are \$25.00.

Steven Cochrane: An Invitation from the ACMHA

Steven Cochrane is a new member of Co. H, having signed-on to serve as our chaplain. In an email exchange and telephone call on February 11, Steven spoke of our participation in Air Show Atlantic, to be held August 29-30 in Debert, Nova Scotia.

He also stated that he was working with the Atlantic Canada Military History Association (ACMHA) to have them extend an invitation to Co. H members to participate in ACMHA events. This invitation has now been extended. On April 22, Lt. Titus received an email from Steven, stating, "I'd like to officially invite your association [Co. H, 5th New Hampshire] to join the Atlantic Canada Military History Association for our events this year. If you look at the 2020 schedule of events for the ACMHA, you'll get an idea of what our schedule looks like."

Both Steven Cochrane and Leigh Gavel are members of the ACMHA; Leigh spoke highly of their events (such as Ross Farm and the Fisheries Museum in Lunenburg) at our AGM last November.

The ACMHA schedule is shown in the May edition of the 5th New Hampshire schedule of events, which is emailed to members separately.

In his February email, Steven also stated that the ACMHA amended their by-laws to permit the use and firing of black powder. Thank you to Steven, to Leigh and to the ACMHA for your efforts in allowing us the privilege of participating in your events.

Have We Lost a Member?

On the 3rd of April, Lt. Titus received a telephone call from Sylvain Tétrault, asking about the proper placement of corporal's stripes. In that conversation, he mentioned that his son, Nicolas, may not be continuing in reenacting due to both work and relationship commitments. Although we all can understand that a commitment to reenacting is difficult at a young age, it would be a shame to lose him, as, despite his young age, Nicolas has a wealth of reenacting experience, having begun as a young boy. His youth and experience are just what we need to grow as a group. It is our hope that Nicolas will decide to stay with us, even if he feels the need to stay quiet for a while. He remains a member of Co. H at least until the end of June, and it is our hope that he will choose to remain with us well beyond that time. He is exactly the kind of member we need!

! News of the War in the East !

- **Andersonville** – According to New Hampshire historian Mike Pride, five members of the Fifth New Hampshire ended up in the prisoner of war camp at Andersonville. Four of these men were substitutes, and one was an original member of the regiment.
- **Uniform** – Some emails and an April 3rd telephone call revealed that Sylvain Tétrault has purchased a uniform and that it had arrived at his door. That, plus the purchase of Lt. Titus' musket, puts the company one step closer to having another uniformed member in the line. Congratulations, Sylvain!
- **Handbills** – There are now nearly 40 Company H handbills available to send out as PDF files to members. One of them is the handbill list. Check yours to see if you have any missing, and if you would like your files to be brought up-to-date. Contact Lt. Titus if you do. Please note that the handbill listed as "The Ambulance Corps" is a work in progress.
- **"Camp Courtesy" Video** – In a text message sent to Lt. Titus on May 2, Greg Fekner recommended the video, "Camp Courtesy", put out by Co. D, 2nd United States Sharpshooters (USSS). They have a series of quality videos on a variety of topics. This is one of their newest releases. It deals primarily with saluting in camp: how to do it, who should do it, and when. It is seen by Co. D members as a little-visited part of living history. Their numerous videos may be found on their website (2ndusss.com) or on YouTube by searching for Co. D 2nd USSS. Thank you, Greg, for this suggestion.

An Army on the march

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

*With its cloud of skirmishers in advance,
With now the sound of a single shot snapping like a whip,
and now, an irregular volley.
The swarming ranks press on and on, the dense brigades press on,
Glittering dimly, toiling under the sun – the dust-cover'd men
In columns rise and fall to the undulations of the ground,
With artillery interspers'd – the wheels rumble, the horses sweat,
As the army corps advances.*

From Casey's Manuals

In the past several issues of *Battle Lines*, from time-to-time, we have included excerpts from the various manuals of Silas Casey, to wit: *The School of the Soldier*, *The School of the Company* and *Instruction for Skirmishers*. Also printed have been excerpts from George B. McClellan's *Manual of Bayonet Exercise*. Due in part to the delay in starting the reenacting season caused by the present pandemic, and to give recruits, especially, some continuity to training, we will begin the process of presenting both Casey and McClellan more-or-less in the order prescribed in the manuals. Exceptions may occur, however, as discussions and occurrences develop during physical drill, but we will try to present material in a cohesive order, beginning below. Please note that some excerpts may be repeats of those printed previously.

According to Casey: Formation of Infantry in Order of battle

INFANTRY TACTICS.

ARTICLE I.

1. In the formation of Infantry, a Brigade of the line will constitute the unit, and in every line of battle composed of more than one of these brigades, they will be, posted from right to left, in the order of their numbers.
2. A similar disposition will be made of the regiments in a brigade.
3. In all exercises, maneuvers and evolutions, every regiment of ten companies will take the denomination of battalion, and all the battalions in the same brigade, will be designated, from right to left, first battalion, second battalion, &c., &c. By these designations they will be known in the evolutions.
4. The interval between every two contiguous battalions in the same brigade will be *twenty-two* paces, and the interval between every two contiguous brigades will habitually be *one hundred and fifty* paces.
5. A less number of battalions than four will habitually be formed in one line of battle, but when it is thought expedient to form the brigade in two lines, the third and fourth battalions will be respectively posted in the rear of the 1st and 2nd battalions. The battalions of the first line will either be deployed, or in column at half distance, or closed in mass. The battalions of the second line will always be drawn up in column, either simple or double, at half distance or closed in mass, and posted for tactical instruction, one *hundred and fifty* paces in rear of the first line, counting from the front rank of the first, to the front rank of the second line. The battalions of the second line will be posted so that a line passing through their colors and those of the battalions of the first line respectively (whether deployed or in column) shall always be perpendicular to the line of battle. In presence of the enemy the distance between the lines will depend upon circumstances; in general the 2nd line should not be much exposed to the enemy's fire.
6. In a regiment composed of ten companies, eight will habitually be posted from right to left in the following order: *first, fifth, fourth, eighth, third, seventh, sixth, second*, according to the rank of the captains. These will be called *battalion companies*.
7. With a less number of battalion companies, the same principle will be observed, viz.: the first captain will command the right company, the second captain the left company, the third captain the right centre company, and so on.
8. The companies thus posted will be designated from right to left, *first company, second company, &c.* This designation will be observed in the maneuvers.
9. The other two companies, to be designated from time to time by the colonel, will be called the *companies of skirmishers*. The first company will habitually be posted thirty paces in rear of the file closers of the first, and the second, thirty paces in rear of the file closers of the last battalion company.
10. Should the number of the regimental companies present, other than the companies of skirmishers, be less than eight, but one will be designated as skirmishers, to be in rear of the first or last battalion company, or divided into platoons, the first platoon in rear of the first, and the second in rear of the last battalion company, as the colonel may direct.
11. The first two battalion companies on the right, whatever their denomination, will form the *first division*; the next two companies the *second division*, and so on to the left.
12. Each company will be divided into two equal parts, which will be designated as the first and second platoon, counting from the right; and each platoon, in like manner, will be subdivided into two sections.
13. In all exercises and maneuvers, every regiment, or part of a regiment, composed of two or more companies, will be designated as a battalion.
14. The color, with a guard to be hereinafter designated, will be posted on the left of the right-centre battalion company. That company, and all on its right, will be denominated the *right wing* of the battalion; the remaining companies the *left wing*.

Continued in the June issue....