



Battle Lines



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

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Potential Recruit Coming Home to Nova Scotia!

In a May 21 email, Leigh Gavel informed Lieutenant Titus that he was talking with Nick Skinner, an old friend who was a reenactor a few years ago, but had to give it up when he and his wife moved to Alberta. However, they're moving back to Nova Scotia in a couple months, so Leigh asked him about joining the 5th New Hampshire, and he said that he'd love to! Leigh adds that Nick would be a great addition to Company H because, among his many talents, he builds and repairs muskets! Leigh estimates that Nick should be back in Nova Scotia within the next two or three months. If Nick decides to join us, it would bring our muster-roll to seventeen members, thanks greatly to the recruiting efforts of Sergeant Gavel!

Nick is receiving a copy of this newsletter and has been added to our email list. We hope to welcome you soon, Nick, to "The Fighting Fifth"!

Company Dues by June 22

It's dues time again! Following email and telephone discussions among some members, we are collecting dues for the 2020-21 reenacting year as if we are experiencing no pandemic and no government-decreed restrictions. Dues are \$25.00 per firearms-carrying member, or \$25.00 per family, if no other family members carry firearms, This was the decision reached at last November's Annual General Meeting. Dues expire each year on the 30th of June, and commence again on July 1. Approximately \$15.00 of your dues payment goes to liability insurance purchased through the National Firearms association (NFA). The remaining \$10.00 goes into the Company H account for general purposes. Our account is held in the Sussex (NB) branch of the Bayview Credit Union, as they charge no monthly fees for holding our account.

As of this publication date, the following members have paid their dues: Dave Adams, Steven Cochrane, Leigh Gavel, Rick Jamer, Bob & Marie Keretschko, Stephen Norman, Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus. We have, potentially, seventeen members on our muster-roll, and we hope we will maintain that number, or see it grow. We are on the edge of something great here in Civil War living-history in the Maritimes. Who has seen a Civil War group as large as this in our region? However, what we have in "potential" members, or "on paper" may be different than our actual numbers.

It is understood that for many, money is difficult to earn, and choices must be made. We hope, however, that you find membership in Co. H, 5th New Hampshire to be both fun and rewarding, and that we are able to maintain this impressive number.

A due-date of Monday, June 22 has been chosen for dues to arrive at Lt. Titus' address in Sussex. That will allow about a week for the dues to be organized here, and mailed to the NFA in Edmonton, Alberta. A cheque may be made out to *Lindsay Titus* and mailed to *26 Jonah Court; Sussex, NB, E4E 2M1*. If you prefer, an e-transfer may be made to my account at the Sussex branch of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC). The email address to use for this is fiddler1755@rogers.com.

If payment of dues by June 22 is difficult for you, please send me an email (fifthnhvcoh@rogers.com) and we will work out a payment plan – but your name needs to be on the insurance list (to be mailed out on June 22) for you to continue membership, so please communicate with Lt. Titus about membership questions or concerns.

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

James Smith was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was residing in Boston when he enlisted as a substitute on October 6, 1863. Mustered-in as a private on the same day at age 18, his enlistment was credited to Canaan. He served in Company I until his discharge from the army on July 15, 1865, in Washington, DC.

An Opinion: Canadian Firearms Laws & Company H

Recent changes to Canada's firearms laws have generated much talk recently in both social, and mainstream media. It is only natural that such discussions will surface in a group such Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire, where our members are enthusiastic and law-abiding gun owners, and our historical impression as a group depends so much on the directions taken by existing and planned firearms laws.

Talk about the firearms laws will happen, and is fine while sitting around an after-hours campfire (as long as the conversation is respectful of all points-of-view), but when the public is present and members are in uniform, such discussion must be measured and cautious, and should not be initiated by us. Wearing the uniform changes things. To the public, one member wearing blue speaks for the group, and we must therefore recognize that we never truly know the background from which camp visitors speak; and for us to exist and to grow as an organization, public support (and positive press coverage) is vital. Plus, one cannot presume to speak for all.

This is not to suggest the avoidance of such conversation; that is not realistic. The topic will come up, but like all present-day political topics, we should not initiate that conversation. If you want to talk politics, speak of the war, about General McClellan's unwillingness to pursue Lee, or why you joined the Mr. Lincoln's army. But if the topic of firearms laws is raised by a member of the public, members need not avoid or "dodge" the topic, but should instead be measured, in that their words might be understood to be attacking certain ideologies, points-of-view, political parties or individuals. That is why the discussion of modern politics while in uniform forms a part of our by-laws. Again, our growth as a group, and indeed our very existence, depends on the support of the public, of government and event organizers, as well as on the maintenance of harmony within our group. Public support and group harmony are cornerstones upon which we have built a strong living-history organization over a number of years, and thus we must be mindful that our words and actions are not a cause of their erosion. – *L.M. Titus*

Father Corby Statue Returns to Notre Dame Campus

In a Facebook posting of May 8, the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana announced the return to its proper location, of the statue of Father William Corby in front of a newly-rebuilt Corby Hall. The statue was removed for safekeeping two years ago as construction began at the site.

On July 2, 1863, Father Corby was the chaplain of the 88th New York at Gettysburg and gained fame when he gave general absolution to soldiers of the Irish Brigade and others in Caldwell's Division as they marched toward the waiting whirlwind of the Wheatfield and the Rose Woods.

After the war, Corby twice served as president of Notre Dame (1866-72 and 1877-81). On campus, the statue is nicknamed "Fair Catch Corby" for its resemblance to the fair catch signal used in American football. The statue is duplicated on or near the presumed spot on Gettysburg's Cemetery Ridge where the absolution was given. There is a brief scene in the movie *Gettysburg* that depicts this event.



The Fifth New Hampshire was part of Caldwell's Division.

Provinces Begin to Ease Restrictions

With the approach of finer weather and the "flattening of the curve" in most of the Maritimes, provinces are beginning to ease some of the restrictions placed upon citizens caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Selected businesses and restaurants are re-opening, although with limitations and restrictions. What has not eased up, however, is that borders in the Maritimes essentially remain closed. Thus, any drills planned at this point would have to involve members only from the province in which the drill is held. Plus, we could have no more than ten members present, would have to "social-distance" and would most likely have to wear masks, so, sadly, it seems there are to be no battalion drills just yet!

! News of the War in the East !

- **Sincere Condolences** – The COVID-19 pandemic struck close to Co. H in mid-April, when Sylvain Tétrault lost his mother to the virus. This also means that Sylvain's son, Nicolas - also a Company H member - lost his grandmother. Although an email notification went out to Co. H membership at the time of her passing to share this sad news, we again offer our sincerest condolences to Sylvain, Nicolas and their family for their loss during this difficult period.

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- **Winter Woes** – Two members of Co. H suffered injury this past winter or spring, with each having to receive hospital treatment. A third member faced a health condition that also required hospital treatment. For reasons of confidentiality, we won't provide names or conditions, but suffice it to say that we wish all a speedy and full recovery. Please take care of yourselves, one and all. Your comrades in arms (and your families) rely on you!
- **Finding Drill Manuals Online** – Company H members wishing to find on-line copies of various Civil War drill manuals will do well to visit the website of Co. E, 64th Illinois Regiment (64thill.org). There, will be found Silas Casey's *Infantry Tactics*, George B. McClellan's *Manual of Bayonet Exercise* and August V. Kautz's *Customs of Service*, among other period-publications. To find them, go to the 64th Illinois website (shown above), then click on "Reenacting with the 64th Illinois", then click on "Military", then go to "On-line Drill and Military Manuals", and then, finally, scroll down to find Casey's or other manuals.
- **Firearms Regulations** – Questions have been raised by some Co. H members as to whether federal firearms regulations may yet reach into the level of historical reenacting. Certainly, even now, Lt. Titus as an officer, (legally) possesses a revolver that cannot be taken to Civil War events. Indeed, the idea of Co. H becoming a "mobile museum" to protect our firearms use was discussed in some recent text messages exchanged between Lindsay Titus and Greg Fekner. It may be an idea worth pursuing!
- **Twentieth Maine, Co. B Cancellations** – In a May 10 email, Co. B, 20th Maine president Paul Dudley notified members and friends that their School of the Soldier, originally scheduled for May 15-17 at Fort Knox, is cancelled. Also cancelled is their Memorial Day participation in Howland, Maine on May 25.
- **Company Dues Received** – Steve Norman, our hospital steward, sent a cheque for his dues for 2020-21 to Lt. Titus, arriving in his mailbox on May 11, 2020. Rick Jamer sent an e-transfer for his dues on May 25. Sylvain Tétrault sent an e-transfer for his dues on May 30. Aaron Bouma recently sent an email indicating that his dues will soon be sent. Thank you, gentlemen, one and all.
- **Kings Landing Opening Announced** – In a May 11 Facebook posting, Kings Landing Historical Settlement in Prince William, New Brunswick announced they are opening for the season on June 3. Their days of operation and hours are limited, however, to Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 am until 5 pm each day. Dave Adams' wife, Lily, also heard this news on the same day, and passed the information along.
- **Ammunition Boxes** – Dave Adams and Sylvain Tétrault each built an ammunition box during this past winter, which will add to our future campsites. Good, work, boys! Dave built other boxes, as well.
- **Memorial Day** – On Memorial Day, just past, members of Co. B, 20th Maine had to delay until next year their group presence at Memorial Day commemorative events due to the pandemic. However, that did not stop an initiative that saw individual members head out in uniform to local cemeteries to honour Civil War veterans in their communities. Some photographs of these events are posted on the Co. B Facebook page. Huzzah to Co. B for finding a solution to this ongoing dilemma!
- **Scabbard** – In a telephone conversation of May 30, Sylvain Tétrault said that he is going to use a seven-rivet (late war) scabbard as a pattern to make his own two-rivet (early war) scabbard. He has the leather, the blackener and the thread to make the scabbard and will use the brass tip from the seven-rivet scabbard for the new one. His only question is how to make and attach the rivets. Leigh, do you have thoughts on this?

Events Calendar Update

- **Kings Landing** – Meeting with Mary Baruth of Kings Landing – Postponed; a new date to be set.
- **Air Show Atlantic** – Dieppe, NS – August 29-30 – Pending; no announcement of cancellation or change.
- **Halifax Citadel Encampment** – Halifax, NS – Pending; plans remain for discussion.
- **Charlotte County Fall Fair** – September 18-20 – St. Stephen, NB - Cancelled.
- **Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom** – October 3 – Carlingford, NB – Still scheduled.
- **ACMHA Events** – Still scheduled – see separate calendar.



Annual Company dues to L. Titus by June 22nd!

"The Fighting Fifth!"

According to Casey: Formation of Infantry in Order of Battle

INFANTRY TACTICS.

ARTICLE I.

Continued from the May issue of "Battle Lines"...

15. The formation of a regiment is in two ranks; and each company will be formed into two ranks, in the following manner: the corporals will be posted in the front rank, and on the right and left of platoons, according to height; the tallest corporal and the tallest man will form the first file, the next two tallest men will form the second file, and so on to the last file, which will be composed of the shortest corporal and the shortest man.
16. The odd and even files, numbered as one, two, in the company, from right to left, will form groups of four men, who will be designated *comrades in battle*.
17. The distance from one rank to another will be thirteen inches, measured from the breasts of the rear rank men to the backs or knapsacks of the front rank men.
18. For maneuvers, the companies of a battalion will always be equalized, by transferring men from the strongest to the weakest companies.

POSTS OF COMPANY OFFICERS, SERGEANTS AND CORPORALS

19. The company officers and sergeants are nine in number, and will be posted in the following manner:
20. The *captain* on the right of the company, touching with the left elbow.
21. The first *sergeant* in the rear rank, touching with the left elbow, and covering the captain. In the maneuvers, he will be denominated covering *sergeant*, or *right guide* of the company.
22. The remaining officers and sergeants will be posted as file closers, and two paces behind the rear rank.
23. The first *lieutenant*, opposite the centre of the fourth section.
24. The second *lieutenant*, opposite the centre of the first platoon.
25. The third *lieutenant*, opposite the centre of the second platoon.
26. The second *sergeant*, opposite the second file from the left of the company. In the maneuvers, he will be designated *left guide* of the company.
27. The third *sergeant*, opposite the second file from the left of the first platoon.
28. The fourth *sergeant*, opposite the second file from the left of the first platoon.
29. The fifth *sergeant*, opposite the second file from the right of the first platoon.
30. In the left, or eighth company of the battalion, the 2d sergeant will be posted in the front rank, and on the left of the battalion.
31. The corporals will be posted in the front rank as prescribed, No. 15.
32. Absent officers and sergeants will be replaced – officers by sergeants, and sergeants by corporals. The colonel may detach a first lieutenant from one company to command another, of which both the captain and first lieutenant are absent; but this authority will give no right to a lieutenant to demand to be so detached.

POSTS OF FIELD OFFICERS AND REGIMENTAL STAFF

33. The field officers, colonel, lieutenant colonel and majors are supposed to be mounted, and on active service shall be on horseback. The adjutant, when the battalion is maneuvering, will be on foot.
34. The colonel will take post thirty-five paces in rear of the file closers, and opposite the centre of the battalion.
35. The lieutenant colonel and the senior major will be opposite the centres of the right and left wings, respectively, and twelve paces in rear of the file closers. The junior major will take post thirty paces in rear of the file closers, and five paces to the right of the centre of the battalion; and he will, under the direction of the colonel, have the command of the companies of skirmishers.
36. The adjutant and sergeant major will be opposite the right and left of the battalion respectively, and eight paces in rear of the file closers.
37. The adjutant and sergeant major will aid the lieutenant colonel and senior major, respectively, in the maneuvers.
38. The colonel, if absent, will be replaced by the lieutenant colonel, and the latter by one of the majors. If all the field officers be absent, the senior captain will command the battalion; but if either be present, he will not call the senior captain to act as field officer, except in case of evident necessity.
39. The quarter-master, surgeon and other staff officers, in one rank, on the left of the colonel, and three paces in his rear.
40. The quarter-master sergeant the commissary sergeant, and the hospital steward on a line with the front rank of the field music, and two paces on the right.

Continued in the July issue of "Battle Lines"...