



Battle Lines



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

• Mustered-in September 9, 2018 • Issue No. 22 • July 5, 2020 •

"Rally 'Round the Flag" • We Stand at Seventeen!



Now that the collection of dues is largely done and the membership list for insurance purposes has been mailed to the National Firearms Association, here is where we stand in terms of membership as we approach the long-awaited 2020-21 reenacting season, and it is indeed good news. We have seventeen current or planned members, with sixteen of seventeen "veterans" returning to the ranks. Additionally, we picked up one "fresh fish" in Nathan Titus, who joined the ranks on June 12. This gives us a solid foundation moving forward as a group.

The only person not returning is Nicolas Tétrault, Sylvain's son. Sylvain emailed Lt. Titus to confirm that Nicolas is moving to Moncton from Carleton County to attend New Brunswick Community College, and will begin carpentry courses in September.

Nicolas will be missed. He is young, yet has a wealth of reenacting experience dating back to boyhood; two qualities that any living-history group needs. Still, life has its priorities, and Co. H wishes Nicolas every success as he starts out in this new direction.

Lt. Titus maintains a list of potential members who have expressed some interest or were suggested as interested persons – his "Veterans Reserve Corps" – and will add Nicolas' name to that list in the hope that he may yet wish to re-join at some time in the near future, as time and commitments permit. In the meantime, Nicolas, if time allows, please come see us "in action" once our events get underway again.

A word of thanks goes out to all members for their responses regarding "enlistment". This is an amazing result, especially considering the diminished schedule we are facing due to pandemic-caused restrictions. Seventeen members as of July 2020: That's not a bad foundation! Keep recruiting, everyone! Let's aim for twenty!

Boxes: Hiding in Plain Sight



Company H members have been busy in their workshops this winter and spring, making a variety of boxes for their use in camp. Not only are they practical, but they enhance the look of the camp. Shown above are boxes made by Dave Adams and Sylvain Tétrault. On the left is a box that Dave designed to hold a cooler, using the principle of "hiding in plain sight", where modern objects are hidden out in the open, but within the illusion of a period-correct box. Co. D, 2nd US Sharpshooters have a YouTube video about this practice that is worth viewing. In the middle is shown a cartridge box, also made by Dave Adams. Not shown is a box built by Dave to carry cookware that he plans to bring to certain encampments, although, as he says, "I am not the company cook!" On the right is a cartridge box built by Sylvain Tétrault, constructed to put in time, he says, during the period of Covid-19 self-isolation. Congratulations, gentlemen, for jobs well done, and thank you for sending in the photographs!

Email from New Member, Nick Skinner

The following email was received by Lt. Titus from Nick Skinner, on Thursday, June 4. Nick is currently living in Calgary, Alberta: “Howdy boys. My intentions are to join for next season. At present I and my wife are re-locating back home to Dartmouth, Nova Scotia after 4 years away. We’ve been in Calgary four years straight, 5 if you include her internship year, and for her she’s spent nearly 8 years here off and on. I was a member of the Maritime Civil War Living History Association from 2003 (?) if I remember correctly, till our disbanding of the Nova Scotia end of things. I’ve been shooting with Leigh and his brother, Loran, since 1998. I was a member of the KOR in the Brigade of the American Revolution since 2002 to 2013 and a rendezvous goer since 1996. I was a traditional 18th-19th century knife-maker and gunmaker since age 16. At this point I’m a gunmaker gaining a reputation through the States for my art. Specializing in late-period 1810-1870 flintlock and percussion rifles of the southern states (Tennessee and North Carolina). [I have] hardly any gear left, come with my marksman’s rifle and a shirt. that’s about it. So anyone who has extras or old gear they’d sell, I’m interested. I was a 4th Texas light infantrymen before with the greys. Gonna feel weird wearing blue.” We think he’ll be fine. Welcome, Nick!

We Grow Again! Nathan Titus Joins the Ranks!

Nathan Titus, son of Lt. Lindsay Titus, returned home to Sussex, New Brunswick on June 5, following nine years away, living and working in Alberta. A week later he was “mustered-in” to the ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire. With the loss of Nicolas Tétrault from our rolls on July 1, Nathan becomes our seventeenth active member.

Nathan is no stranger to Civil War history and, although he was very young at the time, he has toured both Gettysburg and Antietam battlefields and attended a reenactment in Fairfield, Pennsylvania. In more recent years, while in Alberta, he took up shooting, fishing and camping, so firearms and living out of a tent are not new to him.

Prior to his arrival in Sussex, Nathan was hired by Stiles Plumbing & Heating in Sussex, so will have to juggle his new work commitments with setting up a home and scheduling in Civil War events. Welcome, Nathan!

! News of the War in the East !

- **Company B Schedule Changes** – In an email on June 1, Co. B, 20th Maine president Paul Dudley announced several changes to their upcoming summer and fall schedule due to Covid-19. Members of Co. H are invited to participate in Co. B events, but, like us, their schedule is “taking a hit” this year. Changes include:
 - June 26-28 – Waldoboro Days – *Cancelled*
 - July 10-12 – Newport – *Unsure*
 - July 17-19 – Bucksport Bay – *Cancelled*
 - August 1 – Howland – *Still Scheduled*
 - August 7-9 – Palermo – *Cancelled*
 - August 14-16 – Winter Harbor – *Unknown*
 - October 2-4 – Leonard’s Mills - *Unknown*
- **Musket Selection** – The musket of choice in Company H is the three-band Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle musket. This is the musket issued to the 5th New Hampshire. A second choice would be the 1861 Springfield rifle musket. By order of Colonel Cross, these were obtained from the battlefield by the regiment after the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862.
- **Leather Selection** – When Company H was started, we decided to portray the regiment as it was early in the war. Thus, when choosing equipment such as leather (cartridge box, cap pouch, scabbard, etc.), always choose “early war” items. In this way, it may be used to portray a time at any point during the war.
- **Canteen Selection** – Your canteen of choice should be an as-issued smooth-side canteen. Avoid bullseye canteens, as these were a later issue, and used in much fewer numbers than smooth-side canteens. Canteen covers may be sky blue, dark blue, or varying shades of grey or brown. Because of cloth shortages, they were issued in a variety of colours. There should be no tin or wooden “drum” canteens in the Company. Both tin and stainless steel canteens are available. Ask a “veteran” which is best for you.
- **Charlotte County Fall Fair** – In an email sent on June 1, Lt. Titus informed Paul Dudley of Co. B that the Charlotte County Fall Fair has been cancelled, and that Fair organizers plan to return in 2021.

Thank-you to the “Welcomers”

Each time an email or newsletter announces a new member for Company H, a number of current members send emails to welcome the new member to the Company. The names of these “welcomers” vary so that, overall, a number of you have welcomed new members to the group, some several times over. Such gestures mean a lot. No matter the setting, it is never easy to join an existing group; one where everyone already knows everyone. Your welcoming emails ease that unsettled feeling, and go a long way to making new members feel that they have joined a group that is something special, and I thank you for that. – L. Titus

● **Late News! Air Show Atlantic 2020 is Cancelled!** ●

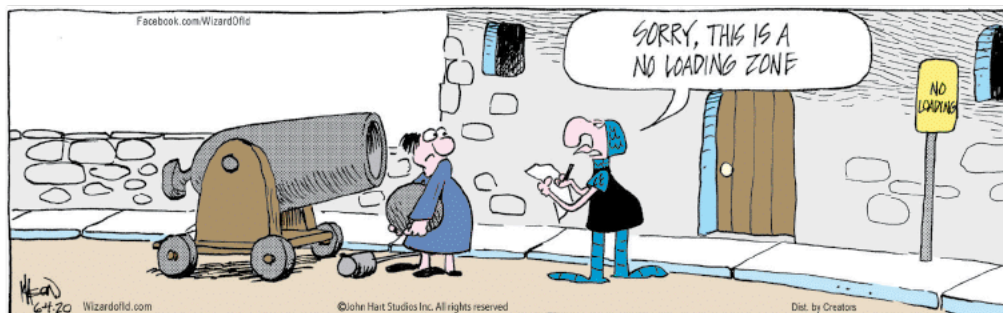
June 2020: The Fall of the Confederacy – Again!

- Plans are underway to remove an imposing statue of General Robert E. Lee in Richmond, Virginia, the former capital of the Confederacy. Only a court order has saved the statue from removal, at least for the present. The statue has become a rallying point for protesters following the death on May 25 of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The massive stone edifice upon which the statue rests has been defaced with a mix of anti-racism, anti-government and anti-police graffiti. This, however, is just one example of the dynamic changes happening to the visible legacy of the Civil War.
- Throughout the South, the times, or at least the views, are changing. Also in Richmond in early June, a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis was toppled by a mob of protesters.
- Statues of soldiers or leaders of the Confederacy located in several former Confederate states have been brought down, removed, or targeted for removal; some with state approval, others by protesters.
- In Washington, DC, proposals were made, or at least suggested, to examine the future of statues of men who were slave holders or supporters of the Confederacy, in the Capitol Building’s Statuary Hall.
- In Florida, a proposal was discussed to change the name of the city of Plantation, which is located near Miami.
- Another possible change may be the re-naming of as many as fifteen American military bases in the United States, including Fort Lee, Fort Bragg and Fort Hood – all named for Confederate generals. As of the printing of this newsletter, however, President Trump has said he will oppose any such change.
- In a surprising move, NASCAR announced that it is banning the use and display of Confederate flags at future racing events, the flag having been a mainstay at Southern racetracks for years.
- The National Football League commissioner announced that the league did not handle well the protests made by players who “took a knee” during the playing of the national anthem.
- On June 28, Mississippi voted to remove the Confederate battle flag from its state flag and create a new flag.
- Perplexingly, the statue of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts in Boston was vandalized by protesters in June. The monument commemorates the famed Black regiment featured in the movie, “Glory”, so in the context of the recent demonstrations, vigils and protests, the damaging of this monument makes no sense, but may, instead, be a strong commentary of some people’s knowledge of history.
- In another “head-scratching” move, the statue of Ulysses S. Grant – a man instrumental in saving the Union and thus ending slavery – was brought down by a mob of protesters in San Francisco.
- Country music group, Lady Antebellum, has changed its name to “Lady A”, a name often given to them by their fans. “Lady Antebellum”, the group says, reflects the pre-Civil War South and a time of slavery, and they have apologized if anyone has been offended by the name of the group.
- Similarly, the “Dixie Chicks” are no more. The group is now known simply as “The Chicks”.



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Parker & Hart



Atlantic “Bubble” Creates Opportunity for Drill!

The recent announcement by the premiers of the four Atlantic Provinces of the creation of an Atlantic “Bubble” may create an opportunity for a Company H drill, the first such-gathering in this abbreviated reenacting season. Crossing Atlantic provincial borders without a fourteen-day quarantine ended on July 3, and restrictions to residents of other provinces are coming later this month; all this providing there are no large flare-ups of the corona virus anywhere in the region.

An email survey will be sent out soon to ask Company H members of their comfort level in holding a drill, and also asking about a potential location and date, should it be decided to hold such an event. So, please be thinking about your level of concern when it comes to a gathering of our members. Any and all questions, comments and concerns about this idea may be emailed to Lt. Titus at fifthnhvcoh@rogers.com.

According to Casey: Formation of Infantry in Order of Battle

Continued from the June issue of “Battle Lines”...

INFANTRY TACTICS.

ARTICLE I.

POSTS OF FIELD MUSIC AND BAND

41. The buglers or musicians of the battalion companies will be drawn up in four ranks, and posted twelve paces in rear of the file closers, the left opposite the centre of the left centre company. The senior principle musician will be two paces in front of the field music, and the other two paces in the rear. In the companies of skirmishers, the buglers will be in one rank, in a line with the front rank of the company, and four paces from its right flank.
42. The regimental band, if there be one, will be drawn up in two or four ranks, according to its numbers, and posted five paces in rear of the field music, having one of the principle musicians at its head.

COLOR-GUARD

43. In each battalion the color-guard will be composed of eight corporals, and posted on the left of the right-centre company, of which company, for the time being, the guard will make a part.
44. The front rank will be composed of a sergeant to be selected by the colonel, who will be called, for the time, *color-bearer*, with the two ranking corporals, respectively, on his right and left; the rear rank will be composed of the three corporals next in rank; and the three remaining corporals will be posted in their rear, and on the line of file closers. The left guide of the color company, when these three last named corporals are in the rank of file closers, will be immediately on their left.
45. In battalions with less than five companies present, there will be no color-guard, and no display of colors, except it may be at reviews.
46. The corporals for the color-guard will be selected from those most distinguished for regularity and precision, as well as in their positions under arms as in their marching. The latter advantage, and a just carriage of the person, are to be more particularly sought for in the selection of the color-bearer.

GENERAL GUIDES

47. There will be two general guides in each battalion, selected, for the time, by the colonel, from among the sergeants (other than first sergeants) the most distinguished for carriage under arms, and accuracy in marching.
48. These sergeants will be respectively denominated, in the maneuvers, right general guide, and left general guide, and be posted in the line of file closers; the first in rear of the right, and the second in rear of the left flank of the battalion.

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

John Smith was one of eight “John Smith’s” who served in the ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire. Smith was from Prince Edward Island (listed as “Prince Edward’s Island”) and enlisted as a substitute at age 19 on September 12, 1864. He mustered-in on the same day as a private in Company C; his enlistment being credited to Portsmouth. Smith was later promoted to corporal, and he served until mustered-out with the regiment on June 28, 1865.