



Battle Lines



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

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! Drill • August 15 • Drill !

In an email survey sent out July 14, Co. H members were asked of their “level of comfort” concerning holding a drill in about a month’s time. The response was an overwhelming “yes”, but there were some questions about social distancing and the wearing of masks. Nevertheless, as of the publication date of this newsletter, we have replies from nearly all members, and confirmations of attendance from the following members: Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel, Barry Hippenstall, Brannon Hippenstall, Bob Keretschko, Stephen Norman, Sylvain Tétrault, Lindsay Titus and Nathan Titus. Both Steven Cochrane and Greg Fekner also said they would attend, providing their schedules permit. Joe Gee and Rick Jamer sent their regrets.

Drill will begin at 12 noon at “Camp Sussex” (26 Jonah Court; Sussex, NB). Driving directions to this location were sent out in a handbill many weeks ago, but if a member requires instructions again, please advise Lt. Titus by email.

We will be short of uniform items, leather and muskets, so if you have extra that may be borrowed for the day, please bring them along. Even if you have no uniform or equipment, please come to meet other members and drill just the same. There is still much that you can learn and do! Receipts and membership cards will be distributed to those in attendance. Here are the particulars:

- The date is Saturday, August 15, to commence at 12 noon.
- The address is 26 Jonah Court, Sussex, NB.
- We will drill and meet for about two, to two and one-half hours.
- Drivers from NS and PEI, please allow extra time for the border crossing. Nathan Titus traveled to and from Nova Scotia from New Brunswick about two weeks ago and said he was delayed about 20 minutes in each direction, but it depends on traffic.
- Pre-complete New Brunswick forms on-line at gnb.ca/TravelRegistration to speed up the process.
- We will need extra uniform items, leather and muskets, but “come as you are”, even if you have no equipment. There is much to learn.
- Bring water. It is important to be, and stay, hydrated. I will have some on-site.
- A bathroom and hand sanitizer will be available.
- Bring your own mask, if you choose to wear one.

Air Show Atlantic Announces Cancellation

A Facebook posting on June 29 announced that Air Show Atlantic for 2020 has been cancelled. A follow-up email from committee member Celine Hopkins confirmed this. The air show had been scheduled for August 29-30, and Co. H, 5th New Hampshire was planning to participate. The decision to cancel was caused by the uncertainties around Covid-19 rules and the difficulties of getting committee members together under pandemic restrictions. The recent tragic crash of one of Canada’s Snowbirds may also have been a contributing factor, as the investigation continues into the cause of the loss of that aircraft and crewmember Jenn Casey, a native of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Event organizers say they will use the extra time to prepare for a return of the air show to Debert in August 2021.

Joe Gee Meets with Officials at Tomlinson Lake

In a July 22 Facebook posting, Fifth New Hampshire member Joe Gee posted a photograph of himself, standing with Andrew Harvey, Mary Baruth and friend of Co. H, Graham Nickerson, at the entrance to the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom Trail. Above the photograph, Joe wrote, “I had a promising meeting yesterday with Kings Landing CEO, Mary Baruth, and Carleton-Victoria MLA, Andrew Harvey. We hiked the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom Trail while discussing ways of improving and developing North America’s northernmost route of the Underground Railroad into a New Brunswick tourist destination where thousands of visitors can experience our local history.” Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire set up camp, drilled, fired a few rounds and met with the public during the Hike to Freedom last October. Our plans are to make this an annual event located on this historic Maritime ground.

Almost No Feedback on By-Laws & Safety Regulations

On July 3, email attachments were sent to Co. H members with first drafts of Company H *By-Laws*, *Safety Regulations* and a *Misfire Plan* (part of the *Safety Regulations*). The emails were sent both to inform the membership of the progress of these documents, and to obtain membership feedback as to corrections, omissions conflicts, wording and suitability for our purposes. As of the publication date of this newsletter, almost no responses were received by Lt. Titus. Thus, the only conclusion can be that no issues were found with any of these documents.

Research Finds Two Canadian Officers in the 5th New Hampshire!

Close reading of Dr. William Child's Fifth New Hampshire regimental history has revealed that Canadian-born Charles H. Ellerbac (or Ellerback, as he is shown in other contemporary documents) served both as a private and as a first lieutenant in the Fifth New Hampshire. In addition, Benjamin Howe served as a second lieutenant in both companies E and H.

Ellerbac was born in "Kingston, Canada"; most likely a reference to the Ontario community where the Royal Military College will be established in 1876. At age 21, Ellerbac enlisted in Company E as a substitute and was mustered in as a private on October 2, 1863. The brief entry in the regiment's "Complete Roster" shows no appointment up the ranks to corporal or sergeant, and, although this may have happened, such appointments are usually listed in the roster entry. Instead, about one year following his enlistment, on October 28, 1864, Ellerbac was appointed first lieutenant, apparently not even first serving as a second lieutenant.

Lieutenant Ellerbac served until the mustering-out of the regiment on June 28, 1865.

Benjamin Howe, born in Canada, enlisted as a volunteer on August 23, 1862 as a private. He was later appointed 1st sergeant and then 2nd lieutenant. The latter appointment came into effect on December 11, 1864, when he was also transferred to Co. H. On May 1, 1865, Howe was appointed 1st lieutenant, although he was not mustered-in at this rank. Instead, the roster shows he was mustered-out as a 2nd lieutenant on June 28, 1865, upon the disbanding of the regiment. Benjamin Howe died April 7, 1887, in Hartford, Vermont.

It is clear that these two careers deserve further research, but the little we know already are indeed interesting discoveries.

Response from Chris Benedetto of Co. A, 5th New Hampshire

The following email was received from Chris Benedetto, Chairman of Co. A, Fifth New Hampshire, in response to the July 5 issue of "Battle Lines", sent out by email that same day. You are urged to have a look at the photograph of Colonel Cross. It is viewed best when enlarged on a computer screen. Chris wrote:

"Thanks, Lindsay, it's certainly one of the more 'interesting' July 4th holidays in my lifetime-no parades, really no events this year so far at all for obvious reasons. Here in NH the coronavirus crisis has been handled quite well but that's mostly because we have such a sparse and spread-out population, and most people are wearing masks and we have reopened very cautiously."

"We plan on meeting on the top of Mt. Washington in August where Colonel Cross was photographed while he was convalescing in the summer of 1862. Check this out:"

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tip_Top_House,_Mount_Washington,_N.._H,_by_White,_Franklin,_1813-1870.jpg

"This image appears in the 5th NH Regiment History [[My Brave Boys](#)]. The hi-resolution view is fantastic, as you can see the Tip-Top House in the background atop of Mt. Washington. Cross is with his parents as well as lifelong friend, Henry O. Kent (17th NH) seated over Cross' shoulder, holding a hat. This was taken while Cross was home recuperating from his Fair Oaks wounding. What's amazing is the structure behind them, the Tip Top House, is still there to visitors and has been restored to what it looked like in the 19th century."

Thank you, Chris for this response. The photograph is terrific!

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Joseph Smith was born in Canada, but was residing in Boston at the time of his enlistment as a substitute on August 14, 1863. Mustered-in on the same day as a private, his enlistment was credited to Rochester. While serving in Company C, Smith was wounded at Cold Harbor, Virginia on June 3, 1864. On October 23, 1864, Smith was appointed to the rank of corporal, and served in this role until he mustered-out with the regiment on June 28, 1865.

! News of the War in the East !

- **Sylvain Tétrault Moving to Memramcook** – In a telephone call to Lt. Titus on July 1, Sylvain Tétrault announced that he has sold his house near Centreville, NB, and is moving to Memramcook, New Brunswick. The move takes place on September 1.

Sylvain is happy with the move for a number of reasons, including that it puts him closer to Co. H events in southern New Brunswick and over three hours closer to events in Nova Scotia. He will also be only about twenty minutes from Moncton. Sylvain says the plans right now are for his email address to remain the same. Congratulations to the Tétrault family on this big event!

- **More Confederate Monuments Removed** – Confederate monuments continue to fall in the former Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia. On July 2, Richmond mayor Levar Stoney ordered the removal of the statue of Confederate naval officer Matthew Fontaine Maury from famed Monument Avenue. The removal of Maury's statue occurred one day following the removal of the statue of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson on Monument Avenue. A law passed by the Virginia legislature on July 1, 2020 allows cities and counties to decide on their own about the removal of statues and monuments.

- **Lee Statue Remains** – The imposing statue of Robert E. Lee in Richmond, Virginia that has become a focus of attention for protesters, was scheduled to be removed by authorities, but the decision has been challenged in court, so the statue remains. If the statue is removed, it would become the fifth statue honouring the Confederacy to be removed from the city's Monument Avenue.

- **Statue of Frederick Douglass Damaged** – Unknown vandals ripped from its pedestal and badly damaged a statue of famed Black abolitionist leader Frederick Douglass, on July 5 in Rochester, New York. The date marked the anniversary of a speech given by Douglas in that city in western New York in 1852. The statue was located in a park that was once on the route of the Underground Railroad. One scholar theorized that the statue's damage was done in retaliation for the damage and removal of Confederate statues elsewhere in the United States.



- **Monument Reaction "Spin-offs"** – As an extension of the recent removal of Confederate and slavery-related monuments throughout much of the South, on July 4 a statue of Christopher Columbus was toppled and thrown into Baltimore harbor. Canadian monuments have also been defaced, and the name of a Cape Breton street and a Coast Guard vessel are to be changed (from "Cornwallis"). One wonders if the Tallahassee Community School in Dartmouth (named for the Confederate raider), or the City of Moncton could be next.

- **Antifa Hoax in Gettysburg** – Heavily-armed police were seen in Gettysburg on July 4th, as Facebook postings, supposedly placed by the notorious group, Antifa, had claimed there would be a "peaceful" flag burning in the "Gettysburg Cemetery" (National Cemetery?), along with the defacing of monuments and gravestones. Also promised was a reading of the *Gettysburg Address* and face-painting for children! Such claims have happened before and also proved to be untrue. However, although authorities were ready, no such activity materialized. Still, it was enough to upset the celebrations of the day. Questions have also even been raised lately by special-interest groups about whether Confederate monuments and markers should be removed from the Gettysburg battlefield!

- **The New Brunswick Graham Nickerson?** – A July 5 Facebook posting by the group, "The Mainstream Reenactor", told a story about Black troops at New Market Heights, and John White, the man posting the article, stated that he had received a video about it from Graham Nickerson. We do not know if this is the New Brunswick Graham Nickerson, but the one we know had considered becoming a member of Co. H, is a friend of Joe Gee, has portrayed an abolitionist originally from New Brunswick, and is very much involved in the study of Black history in this province. We are ever-hopeful he may yet join us!

- **Russell, Ontario** – In early July the town of Russel, Ontario announced it is looking to be named for a Russell other than its original namesake, Peter Russell (1733-1808). Wikipedia describes Peter Russell as a "gambler, government official, politician and judge." He was also a slave owner, and thus the decision to find a different Russell to honour by the town's name; this, instead of changing the name of the town.

- **Indoor Display Flag Stand Purchased** – Lt. Titus has purchased (using personal funds) a resin flag stand for use in indoor displays and presentations. It is actually designed as an umbrella stand for use with picnic tables, but it adapts well to our purposes of displaying company colours. It is 17 1/2" in diameter, the pole socket is 12" in length and the stand weighs nearly 20 pounds. It will accept poles up to 1.75 inches in diameter.

Recruits Wanted! Recruits Wanted! Recruits Wanted!

Company H is indeed fortunate to have 16 active members on its muster-roll. With Nick Skinner coming in next year, that will give us 17 members – an impressive total, thanks very much to “recruiters” like Leigh Gavel, Greg Fekner, Barry Hippenstall, Rick Jamer and Joe Gee.

However, let us not miss other opportunities to grow the ranks. A number of people from all three Maritime provinces have, at one time or another, expressed interest in joining us. Current members who know of any potential recruits, either new or from the list below, please consider approaching them to talk about who we are and what we do. If there are Maritimers out there who share our love of history and want to learn more about Canada’s roles in the American Civil War, we are anxious to meet them!

Some people who have expressed interest in the past, or who were recommended to us as potential recruits, include Kevin Baker, Eric Currie, Loran Gavel, Bernie Kiggins, Colin Lynch, Graham Nickerson, Andrew Smith and Bill Thompson. We don’t wish to “hound”, but we don’t want to lose potential recruits due to inaction, either.

NFA Membership and Liability Insurance Confirmed

In a letter received July 20, we received confirmation of both our Group Membership in the National Firearms Association (NFA) and that we are covered by their liability insurance. Both the membership and the insurance are in effect for one year, from July 1, 2020 until June 31, 2021.

Fourteen members, all of whom may carry a musket, were enrolled in the liability insurance coverage. They are: Dave Adams, Aaron Bouma, Greg Fekner, Leigh Gavel, Joe Gee, Edmond Grenier, Barry Hippenstall, Brannson Hippenstall, Rick James, Bob Keretschko, Stephen Norman, Sylvain Tétrault, Lindsay Titus and Nathan Titus. If another member wishes to be added to the insurance coverage, please contact Lt. Titus by email as soon as possible.

Here are a few points of interest regarding our membership and insurance coverage:

- We are listed as Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire Vol’s.
- Our Group Membership number is NFA-00225677.
- Our liability insurance policy number is AL1289.
- Our membership and insurance expire on the same day: June 30, 2021.
- A new membership application form reads, for Club Membership, “please contact our office.” This may signal a change in cost formatting for next year. You will be kept informed as renewal time approaches.
- NFA members may purchase any Vault gun case for 20% off at caseplace.ca. Use the coupon code NFA-20 at the checkout. The offer is valid from July 1, 2020 until July 1, 2021.
- Most areas of coverage carry a \$500.00 deductible.
- Coverage applies anywhere in the world.
- Each insured individual and each individual member of each insured club is covered for:
 - Legal hunting activities
 - Legal archery activities
 - Legal shooting activities
 - Legal re-enactment activities
 - Legal fishing activities
 - Legal bowhunting activities
 - All Canada’s National Firearms Association sanctioned and/or fundraising activities

An Interesting Facebook Posting

In a July 24 Facebook posting on the “Mainstream Reenactor” page, a man asked about Union Civil War reenacting groups in Ontario. Paul Zook of Ohio, said he was moving to Oshawa and, as a reenactor with 25 years’ experience, was looking for a group in that area to join. Interestingly, both Greg Fekner and Lindsay Titus responded to Mr. Zook. Greg wrote kindly of some groups with which he has fallen-in, in Ontario, and Lt. Titus invited him to fall-in with us, should he find himself visiting the Maritimes one day. Noting the name, “Zook” Lt. Titus added information about the fight of Zook’s Brigade in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg, and noted that Zook’s division commander, Brigadier General John Curtis Caldwell, is buried in St. Stephen, New Brunswick. Alas, Paul Zook responded that he did not think they were related. Still, it would be fun to have a Zook in our ranks even for a day!

Events Calendar Update

- **Company Drill** – Sussex, NB – Saturday, August 15 – 12 noon.
- **Kings Landing** – Prince William, NB – Meeting with Mary Baruth – Postponed; new date required.
- **Halifax Citadel Encampment** – Halifax, NS – Status remains unknown.
- **Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom** – Carlingford, NB – Saturday, October 3.
- **ACMHA Events** – Still scheduled (?) – see separate calendar.