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# Battle Lines



**Newsletter of Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> Reg't. New Hampshire Vol's.**

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## **“Those Days are Gone” • Kings Landing Meeting A Great Success!**

Three members of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire – Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel and Lindsay Titus – met with new Kings Landing Chief Executive Officer, Mary Baruth and two other Kings Landing representatives, Vicki Donald and Evelyn Fidler (a potential Co. H recruit) on Friday, October 2, beginning shortly after 1:00.

The meeting was held outdoors at the Kings Head Inn and lasted about an hour and forty-five minutes. It was a relaxed meeting, and one of mutual interest and enthusiasm. We left the meeting excited and enthused for our future at this terrific nineteenth century settlement.

Mary Baruth wants to put more of a theatrical atmosphere into life at Kings Landing, with greater interactions among reenactors, interpretive staff and the public. She also wants children to be a part of the settlement scene once again. With theatre in mind, Mary suggested possible scenarios that included us stealing a pig, commandeering a sack of flour from the general store, or recruiting a young man from the settlement. We suggested placing guards at the bridge, as we used to do, to stop wagons while we search for contraband, an idea she liked. She is very open to other ideas as well.

Mary Baruth is also open to our inviting other reenacting groups, including Co. I and Co. B of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, Delancey's Brigade and Danks' Rangers. Emails from Lt. Titus regarding Kings Landing have already been sent to Co. I, Delancey's Brigade and Danks' Rangers. She is a former reenactor (War of 1812, naval and Civil War), so understands who we are and what we do. She suggested that in the future (perhaps in 3-4 years), there is the possibility of inviting other Civil War groups to the site, to hold a skirmish for the public.

Although our focus at the meeting was on the future, when Lt. Titus informed her about some restrictions placed upon us in the past, she responded, "Those days are gone." The future indeed looks bright!

Mary's hope for 2021 is to host a **Military Muster** during the Father's Day weekend of June 18-20. The Friday, June 18, would be a day for school groups to attend, so we would "do what we do", with children as our audience. Saturday and Sunday would be open to the public as usual, and she encourages different ideas for each day, so that people will want to return. That is something we would be happy to do.

Regarding the June 18-20 Military Muster at Kings Landing:

- The Slipp House has been moved to a location near the site's public entrance. It would be available to us for sleeping, showers and washroom access. Thus, she may place us in that first field, where we have camped before.
- There will be no restrictions as to where we may march, drill or carry out our scenarios. The entire site is available to us, although we will have to work out times and locations for musket firing demonstrations.
- We can work out scenarios, drill and firing demonstrations with other groups as we get closer to the event.
- Kings Landing will provide a meal for reenactors on one of the evenings

We have in excess of eight months to plan our unit schedules, our personal schedules, and organize for what could be the start of a long, fresh and productive relationship between Kings Landing and ourselves..

Mary Baruth is already planning to release a schedule of next year's events on the Kings Landing website and Facebook page, so please think now about your interest in participating in this ground-breaking event. Start to arrange work and personal schedules, if you choose, and let Lt. Titus know as soon as possible of your interest in participating. It is understood that things can change in any of our lives, but presently we need to gauge membership interest and availability for that date so that Kings Landing may begin the important publicity process. We would be their first event of the 2021 season.

This is a **maximum-effort** event. We hope all will make plans to be in attendance. Questions and comments may be directed to Lt. Titus by the usual telegraph system (email).

Thank you to Dave Adams and Leigh Gavel for demonstrating your continuing support and leadership of Co. H. Your presence and ideas at the meeting, along with follow-up discussions, enriched a highly-successful day.

## **Invitation Sent to Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine**

Following a discussion with Joe Gee, and after consultation with Leigh Gavel and Dave Adams, Lt. Titus sent an email on September 14 to Colin Moore, inviting Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine to participate in the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom encampment, to be held on Saturday, October 3.

Sergeant Moore quickly responded that he would share the invitation with other Co. I members and on October 3, three members of Co. I helped fill the ranks on the field at Carlingford: Bruce Barber, Dave Menton and Colin Moore. Their presence, both in the line and in camp, made for a great day and it was good to renew “old” friendships. Thank you to Co. I. Huzzah!

## **After-Action Report • Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom**

On Saturday, October 3, six members of Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire, and three members of Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine met on the field at the entrance to the eighth annual Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom. Participating from the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire were Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel, Joe Gee (on detached duty), Rick Jamer, Ricky Jamer and Lindsay Titus. Joining us from the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine were Bruce Barber, Dave Menton and Colin Moore.

Sergeant Gavel led the troops in the manual of arms, inspection arms and basic marching. Following the initial drill, Sgt. Gavel provided extra drill for both members of the Jamer family.

Although the day was cool and at times drizzly, for the most part the weather cooperated, allowing both drill and the abundant camaraderie to flourish. In the afternoon, volley fire echoed across the hills along the Maine-New Brunswick border. It was a beautiful sound. The “boys” did well, and it was great to see white smoke from black powder once again. The only troubling moment of the day was at the wounding of Private David Adams while on the march on the road near the campsite. Private Adams suffered an injury to his wrist and hand, which dripped blood over his greatcoat and furniture. Fortunately, a surgeon (Ambulance NB) was nearby and was able to stop the profuse flow of blood without the need for amputation.

Although the number of visitors appeared to be down this year (due, no doubt, to Covid-19 and “iffy” weather), we had several people visit us, take photographs and ask questions. Co. H members Rick and Ricky Jamer walked the hike following drill.

Many thanks to all participants. It is a long drive to the site, especially, from Breadalbane, PEI and Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia, so special thanks to the Jamer’s and the Gavel’s for their extraordinary efforts to support the Company and the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom!

## **A Letter from the Army of the Potomac**

Dear Mrs. Adams: It is with great regret that I must inform you that your husband, Private David Adams of Company H, Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers was wounded in action (again) on Saturday, October 3, in the service of his country.

Your husband is well-liked by his comrades-in-arms and they are pleased to know that he appears to be making a slow, but steady recovery from his multiple wounds.

As his commanding officer, however, I wanted you to know that I had absolutely nothing to do with his wounds, and that it was I who located a surgeon, brought your husband safely off the field, and bore him swiftly home.

Your obedient servant, *Lt. L. M. Titus* Co. H, 5th NHV

## **A Reply from Home**

My Dearest Sir: I wholeheartedly wish to thank you and David’s comrades in arms for their swift attentiveness to the traumatic injuries my husband suffered during battle preparations on October 3. I wish to assure you that although he suffered injuries to his hand (discolouration and protuberance), his thumb (skin abrasion) and worst of all, his ammunition box (brass and leather scrapes), he is resting comfortably on our divan. My intentions are to continue with my nursing ministrations so he may return once more to the ranks of Co. H, Fifth NHV.

With a heart filled with gratitude, I remain a devoted servant to the Union cause. May God bless and protect you all. Sincerely, *Mrs. David J. Adams*

## **Welcome, Ricky Jamer, to the Ranks of the Fifth NH!**

In an email sent to Lt. Titus on September 22, 2020, Rick Jamer announced that his son, Ricky, is joining the ranks of the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire. Ricky is a recent graduate of UPEI with a degree in History. His youth is just what the company needs, so this is indeed excellent news! Ricky becomes the twenty-second member of Company H and is another rifle in the ranks, which is also just what the company needs. He joined us for his first event at the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom. Welcome, Ricky!

## **After-Action Report • Historic Sussex Drill**

A second highly successful drill was held on Saturday, September 12 in Sussex, NB. Seven members were in attendance: Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel, Rick Jamer, Nicolas Tétrault, Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus. Many thanks to all for their attendance, and a special thank-you to Loran Gavel for giving out samples of his first batch of homemade hardtack, and another special thank-you to Rick Jamer, who traveled across Confederation Bridge to join us in the ranks. It was indeed great to see Rick again, and his presence was very much appreciated.

This was an historic day, as this event marks the first time that Company H had representation from all three Maritime provinces. Huzzah! The weather, too, was perfect - a sunny day with a temperature of around 20 degrees. Included in the drill was a review from our August drill of the basics of the manual of arms, but added this time was some basic marching, loading in nine times, firing in two ranks, left and right oblique firing and stacking arms. We ventured onto our neighbour's paved driveway for some of the marching so as to hear the unified footsteps of men marching on a hard surface once again.

On Sunday, several emails were exchanged about the day, and some photographs were sent to Rick Jamer at his request. He also asked for Lt. Titus' contact information at the Charlottetown Armoury, which was also sent. Rick promised to make contact with other members in PEI and to seek out recruits. Loran Gavel asked for background information about the 5th New Hampshire, and a list of sources was sent to him.

The Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom was discussed, and a "Call to Arms" for that event (Saturday, October 3), was soon sent out to the membership. Co. H member Joe Gee is the driving force of this notable historic site and event, and is deserving of our support, so members are encouraged, even in this time of change caused by the pandemic, to participate in this worthwhile one-day event.

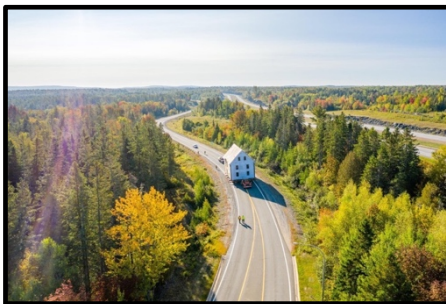
Nicolas and Sylvain Tétrault said after drill that they hoped to get their leather (and Nicolas, his uniform) by Christmas, which is very good news. Membership dues were received from Nicolas during the drill. Thank you, Nicolas! Nicolas only re-joined during our first drill about a month ago, and it is great to have him back.

Members in attendance got a chance to see the newly-purchased company tent, which Lindsay and Denise Titus put up in the backyard on Friday. It should serve our needs well.

We are developing a core group of members who are becoming quite proficient at drill. It is indeed a very satisfying sight! Leigh Gavel deserves much of the credit for this rapid development.

We are growing something good here, so keep recruiting!

## **Kings Landing's Slipp House Moved!**



In a Facebook posting of September 22, Kings Landing announced that the Slipp House had been moved! Veterans of Civil War reenacting and encampments at Kings Landing Historical Settlement are very familiar with the Slipp House, used by reenactors for years for sleeping, cooking, laughter and required late-night viewings of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail", "Zulu" and "Gettysburg". Those who were present will always remember Frank Cassidy of Co. B, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, being told that he wasn't needed to stand guard outside Colonel Chamberlain's tent in "Gettysburg", that they could have simply used a cardboard cutout instead!

Located for years among various administrative buildings away from the view of the public, the Slipp House has been moved on-site near the Visitors' Centre, between the former agricultural hall and the Hagerman House. It is to be restored and remodeled and will eventually be used, once again, to house summer campers and visitors such as ourselves. This will be a huge change to the "skyline" of that part of the site.

## **Danks' Rangers Disbands!**

In an email on October 5, we received word from Maurice La king that Danks' Rangers has disbanded. This is indeed sad news for the reenacting community in the Maritimes.

Danks portrayed rangers from the French & Indian War period. We have shared many fields with the boys of Benoni Danks. Maurice, Larry and Peter, in particular, in recent years, always put out a strong display and are considered good friends of Co. H. Maurice informs us that they may still participate in certain events as individuals, so we may yet see one or more of them on the field.

Thank you, Danks' Rangers, for your many years of hard work in sharing our region's history and your endless hospitality. You will truly be missed. Huzzah!

## George's Island: Dave Titus Reports

On Sunday, August 30, former 20<sup>th</sup> Maine member (and brother of Lindsay Titus), Dave Titus, and Claudette Scanlan of Pictou, Nova Scotia visited George's Island in Halifax harbour.



Long held by Parks Canada, the site was only recently opened to the public for visitation and tours. It is only accessible by boat. The island has a long and sometimes dark history involving the often-tragic stories of the Mi'kmaq and Acadian peoples, its use as a fortification, as a prison, and as a lighthouse station.

Dave reports that the grounds are still rough, with much of the grass uncut, and the hills on the island being surprisingly steep. Stairs to various store rooms are steep and wet, and there are "rodents" on the island, but it has great views of the surrounding city!

The history is rich on George's Island, and it is interpreted by tour guides and temporary placards that are to be replaced by permanent panels in time for next season.

Visiting the island became an instant hit with the public and island tours sold out quickly. The plans for next year include expanding the number of tours per week.

George's Island has witnessed Halifax's rich history first-hand, and it might just make an interesting future campsite for Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire!

## Antietam Burial Map Discovered!

In the spring of 2020, a member of the Adams County Historical Society (Gettysburg is located in Adams County) was searching through documents at the New York Public Library, where he discovered a map that had been forgotten and unseen for many years. It is the Antietam Burial Map, created in 1864 by S. G. Elliott, a cartographer who is known for creating a similar map following the Battle of Gettysburg. Scholars knew the accuracy of Elliott's Gettysburg map, and so became very excited about the discovery of the Antietam map.

It shows a total of 5800 battlefield burials, including 2644 Union graves. 3210 Confederate graves and the burial sites of 269 horses in ten locations. Union deaths are marked with a cross, Confederates by a straight line. It is, as is said in the movie, *Glory*, "a sight to see." Of the Union graves, 115 are single graves and 10 of them are named. One of these is of C. Woodford of the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire. His grave is shown to the east of the sunken road, or Bloody Lane, near the centre of the battlefield. Of the Confederate graves, 47 are single graves and 10 are named individuals.

Dave Adams brought the grave of C. Woodford to our attention. According to William Child's regimental roster, the grave is that of Private Charles B. Woodford, from Westbrook, Maine. He enlisted in Co. A of the Fifth New Hampshire at the age of 19 on August 8, 1862, and was mustered-in the next day, meaning that Private Woodford was in the army for just over a month before being killed on September 17, at Antietam.

You may view the Elliott map at the National Park website at [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov) or at the website of the New York Public Library at [digitalcollections.nypl.org](https://digitalcollections.nypl.org). There is also an excellent video about the map in the collection of the American Battlefield Trust, which is available for viewing on YouTube.

## Regimental History is Coming!

Lieutenant Titus is currently working on a detailed PowerPoint presentation of the history of the Fifth New Hampshire. While very much a work in progress, he hopes to share it with members at upcoming drills or meetings this spring.

## Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Nathaniel Walsh enlisted as a substitute and was mustered-in on September 1, 1864, as a private. Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Walsh served in Co. F and was listed as missing at Farmville, Virginia on April 7, 1865. He was returned, and mustered out with the regiment on June 28, 1865.

● *Annual General Meeting: November 2020!* ●

● *Kings Landing Military Muster: June 18-20, 2021!* ●