



Battle Lines



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

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Merry Christmas to All!

To all members of Company H, Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers and their families, we wish you a very merry Christmas! Merry Christmas, too, to our friends in Co. A, Fifth New Hampshire; Co. B, Twentieth Maine; Co. I, Twentieth Maine; Co. A, Third Maine; the Greys and Blues of Montreal; Delancey's Brigade and members of the Atlantic Canada Military History Association. Although many of us will be unable to be with family and friends this year, it is a good time for self-reflection, and to treasure those who are with you during this holiday season.

Report: Windsor Militaria Show & Sale

A Militaria Show & Sale was held on Saturday, November 14, in Windsor, Nova Scotia and members of the 5th New Hampshire were there. The event was held at the Hants County War Memorial Centre at 78 Thomas Street, and ran from 9:00 AM -1:00 PM. Covid-19 protocols were in force, including the wearing of masks throughout the day.

Representing the Fifth New Hampshire were Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel, Rick Jamer and Lindsay Titus. Thanks to all for their attendance, and a special thank-you to Rick Jamer for making the trip from PEI. This is how Company H gets visible to the public during this time of restricted public interaction. Leigh Gavel paid the \$15.00 table fee for Company H, which is so very much appreciated.

Public attendance was moderate, but we never know where exposure and contacts will lead. Contact was renewed with Greg Gallant of the Queen Charlotte Armoury in Charlottetown, who was in attendance. Rick Jamer knows him, and Lindsay Titus has made contact with Greg on several occasions, and had met him before while with the 20th Maine. Greg is anxious for us to do a drill and/or display there once Covid-19 restrictions at the Federal site are lifted. In conversation, first with Rick, then with Lindsay, Greg said that he and another PEI resident have identified nearly 500 Prince Edward Islanders who served in the American Civil War! This is an amazing total! Greg says he will pass the list along to us for our research use. Greg also photographed Lindsay's list of three Islanders who served in the 5th New Hampshire.

An event organizer took a photograph of the group and our table for use on their Facebook page; he was given some information flyers, as well.

On display, and for sale, was an original Sharps carbine. On it were markings from the manufacturer, from the Union army, and from the Confederate army, indicating that it was captured and used by both sides. On the stock was some mild wearing from where the cavalry D-ring rubbed against the wood, indicating use. His asking price was \$4500.00, but hinted that he might negotiate. He said he will send more information about the Sharps, and the hope is for this information to be shared in an upcoming newsletter.

Lindsay Titus discussed with Leigh Gavel a few topics that had been shared in emails: (1) Leigh had proposed that we ally with Loyalist Arms in Halifax as our primary source of black powder, percussion caps and perhaps other items (including muskets). They carry CCI caps in tins of 100 at about \$14.00 per can. Their black powder prices are the best in the region at about \$33.00 per 1-pound can of Goex powder. Leigh would be willing to pick up ordered items for anyone wanting them. (2) We also talked about buying these items as company purchases, which would ease the cost for each individual member carrying a musket. All this sounds good. Lindsay will make contact with Loyalist Arms soon to share our thoughts. (3) Leigh also suggested that perhaps Loyalist Arms would be interested

Windsor, continued...

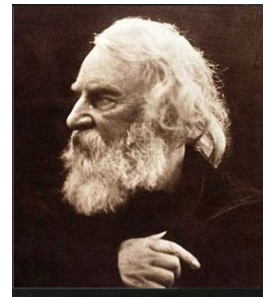
in coming to Kings Landing in June as a sutler. This, too, will be explored with them and with Kings Landing. (4) Lindsay also thanked Leigh for sending contact information of Revolutionary War and other groups located in Nova Scotia, with the idea that some of these groups may want to come to Kings Landing as part of the Military Muster. This information will be forwarded to Mary Baruth at Kings Landing for her consideration.

An organizer thanked us for coming, saying that we had "added colour" to the event.

Denise Titus and Lindsay were up at 4:30 AM to make the trip to Windsor, and were on the road shortly after 5:00 AM. They were back home in Sussex by 6:15 PM, so it was a long day, but well-worth it. Although the company may not have gained recruits (but one never knows), there was interest in what we do, and some contacts were made or strengthened. Plus, it was just good to be doing something again for Company H and to see some of the "boys" again!

"Christmas Bells" & the Civil War

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) is best-known in our region as the writer of the epic poem, "Evangeline", the sad story of Evangeline and Gabriel and the tragic expulsion of the Acadians from Grand Pre, Nova Scotia in 1755. However, Longfellow wrote many other works, including "Paul Revere's Ride" and the poem, "Christmas Bells", which was to become the timeless Christmas carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day".



What is not often known, however, is that "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" is firmly-rooted in the American Civil War and the tragedies faced by Longfellow during that time. In fact, careful reading of the fourth and fifth verses clearly relate to the Civil War, but those verses are often not part of the holiday musical line-up.

Longfellow was born in Portland, Maine (then part of Massachusetts), attended Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine (as did Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain of the 20th Maine), travelled to Europe, became a Harvard University professor, and lived most of his life in Massachusetts.

In 1831, he married Mary Storer Potter, and they settled down in Brunswick, Maine, where Henry was teaching at Bowdoin College. In December 1834, Longfellow was offered a professorship at Harvard, but he was first required to study for a period of time in Europe. During his time abroad, and after only four years of marriage, Mary died in October 1835, while suffering a miscarriage. She was just 22 years old.

Although deeply affected by the loss of his wife, Longfellow returned to the United States in 1836 to begin teaching at Harvard. In 1839, he started publishing his poetry, while at the same time becoming known as a supporter of the growing abolitionist movement. In 1842 he published a collection of poems about slavery.

Prior to this, while visiting Switzerland in 1836 he met Frances "Fannie" Elizabeth Appleton, and, although Longfellow wanted to marry her, she was hesitant. Finally, in 1843, she wrote him a letter, agreeing to marry him. They would have six children together.



Civil War erupted on April 12, 1861, in South Carolina with the firing on Fort Sumter. About three months later, on July 9, tragedy once again struck the Longfellow household when Fannie Longfellow's dress caught fire and she was badly burned. Henry was taking a nap at the time, but he awoke to place a rug around her in an attempt to smother the flames. While doing so, he, himself, suffered facial burns. Although a doctor was summoned, Frances died of her injuries the next morning. Henry was grief-stricken, but his injuries prevented him from attending her funeral. To hide his facial burns, he grew the heavy beard that is seen in so many photographs.

Charles Longfellow (*left*), born June 9, 1844, was the oldest of six children born to Fannie and Henry. Charles had a brother and three sisters; a second brother having died as an infant. As war spread across once-peaceful farmlands, "Charley", as he was called, left home to join the Union army. Attempting to enlist in the 1st Massachusetts Artillery, a captain wrote Henry, seeking permission to enlist his son, and permission was granted. Later, Henry wrote letters to a senator, to Massachusetts Governor Andrews and to the Sixth Corps Medical Inspector about Charles becoming an officer. However, his superiors had already seen leadership qualities in Charles, so on March 27, 1863, he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in Company G, 1st Massachusetts Cavalry.

Shortly after serving at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Charles fell ill with typhoid fever and was sent home to recover. He rejoined the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry in mid-August, 1863, having missed the Battle of Gettysburg.

“Christmas Bells”, continued...

Then, on December 1, 1863, while dining at home, Henry received a telegraph informing him that his son had been badly wounded four days earlier during the Mine Run campaign. Charles had been shot through the left shoulder and the bullet exited under his right shoulder blade, coming frighteningly close to paralyzing him. In his journal, Charles wrote that he had “got plugged” (*sic*). He was transported to Washington, DC, arriving there by train on December 5. Henry and Charles’ brother, Ernest, traveled to the capital city to find him in a hospital there. They were told that the wound was severe, and that it would take several months for Charles to recover. Despite his protests, Charles’ brief military career was over, being honorably discharged in 1864. He would live until 1893.

On Christmas day, 1863, Henry – a despairing 57-year-old, widowed father of five, the oldest of whom was severely wounded as his country fought a prolonged, bloody civil war – wrote a poem seeking to capture the misery that he found in the gloom around him. Instead, hearing bells and the singing of “peace on earth”, he observed that the world of injustice and violence that seemed to mock the truthfulness of such optimism was overpowered by the spirit of faith and hope. Written as a poem, “Christmas Bells” was put to music in 1872 and remains a timeless standard of the Christmas season.

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on Earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on Earth, good-will to men!*

*Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime,
Of peace on Earth, good-will to men!*

*Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on Earth, good-will to men!*

*It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on Earth,” I said;
“For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on Earth, good-will to men.”*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep.
“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With Peace on Earth, good-will to men.”*



Amherst: Exploring a Possible Drill Site



The sister-in-law of Co. H member Dave Adams owns a home and sizeable field near Amherst, Nova Scotia that Dave has long considered as a possible drill site. On Tuesday, November 17, Dave and Lindsay Titus met in Salisbury, NB, where Dave took over the driving for the two of them to tour the site. Dave had spoken with his sister-in-law about the field on a number of occasions and she is interested in having us come to drill there.

The ground is nearly perfect for our purposes, being several acres of rolling ground with gentle slopes. It is surrounded by trees on three sides, with a road on the

fourth. There are three or four neighbours, but from some locations on the field, the ground rises to render them invisible. The ground was a bit wet and uneven in places on the day of the visit, but it was November. At the top of the highest ground, the grass was cut short, the ground was flat, and it was dry – good for marching.

The location of this field is nearly ideal for our purposes, as it is central for most of our members from all three Maritime provinces.

However, there are logistics to work out: (1) The land is used as a hay field, so our access would be limited to the one or two times a year just after the hay is cut; (2) permission for firing would, as a courtesy, have to be obtained from the neighbours and from the Amherst RCMP; (3) there are no washroom facilities on-site – not a big issue for drill, perhaps, but still an issue to be considered. If these issues can be resolved, the ground would make for a beautiful location for drill. Thank you, Dave, for suggesting this location, and for his wife, Lily's help as well!

1861 • Timeline of the Fifth Reg't. New Hampshire Vol's. • 1861

- **August** – Organized at Concord, New Hampshire under the command of Colonel Edward E. Cross.
- **October 28** – The regiment is mustered-in.
- **October 29** – The regiment leaves New Hampshire by train for Washington, DC with about 1200 men in the ranks; it goes into camp at Bladensburg; serves in the defenses of Washington, DC, and is attached to Howard's Brigade, Sumner's Division, Army of the Potomac.
- **November 3-11** – The Fifth serves in an expedition to lower Maryland.
- **November 27** – The regiment is at Camp California, near Alexandria, Virginia.

"Rally 'round the flag, boys!"



- **School of the Soldier** - Sussex, NB - May 2021 (*tentative*)
- **Rally for Norlands** - Livermore, Maine - June 5-6, 2021
- **Military Muster** - Kings Landing - June 18-20, 2021
- **Air Show Atlantic** - Debert, NS - August 2021
- **Charlotte County Fall Fair** - St. Stephen, NB - September 2021
- **Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom** - Carlingford, NB - October 2021
- **Queen Charlotte Armoury** - Charlottetown, PEI (*tentative*)
- **Halifax Citadel** - Halifax, NS - (*tentative*)
- **ACMHA Events** - We're invited!
- **20th Maine, Co. B Events** - We're invited!

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Michael Hefferman, also known as Michael Ryan, was born in New Brunswick. He enlisted as a substitute at age 21 on September 21, 1864. He mustered-in as a private on the same day, and was credited to Lisbon. On March 31, 1865 he was wounded severely at Dinwiddie Court House, Virginia, and was discharged on July 15 in Washington, DC. His postal address was given as the Asylum for the Insane in Danvers, Massachusetts.