



# Battle Lines



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

**• Mustered-in September 9, 2018 • Issue No. 28 • January 5, 2021 •**

## Happy New Year!



To all members, family and friends of Co. H, Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers, here's to a very happy New Year! As we embark on our third season as an organization, we have before us the opportunity for our best year yet. If we can get Covid-19 behind us and gather as once we did, we have events being planned that could put us in public view and create the opportunity for a strong recruiting year. Events, including Kings Landing, Air Show Atlantic and the Charlotte County Fall Fair allow us to "do what we do" before large crowds, and who knows what other events may present themselves during the next season or two? It is also great to see members like Rick Jamer and Leigh Gavel working hard to recruit new members in their respective areas of the Maritimes.

Winter is the perfect time to inspect muskets, leather, buttons, tents and other kit, or to begin purchasing or upgrading your uniform and accoutrements. Believe it or not, spring will be here before we know it, and the Military Muster in June at Kings Landing is beckoning! Thanks to all for your efforts in improving the Company!

### Annual General Meeting 2020

Due to restrictions caused by Covid-19, and because of a light agenda, our Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2020 was accomplished, a little awkwardly, by email.

The first Question to be voted upon was to approve the set of Company H *By-Laws*. The Question read, "Do you accept the Company H *By-Laws*?" Voting began on Monday, November 23, and continued until November 26. Although the opportunity was presented, there was no discussion on the by-laws. The final vote tally was eleven (11) *for*, and zero (0) *against*. Acceptance of the Company H *By-Laws* was thus approved on November 24.

The second Question, "Do you accept the Company H *Regulations*?" was the next order of business. The Question (and an attached copy of the *Regulations*) was sent to the membership by email on November 24. A majority "*yea*" vote was achieved on November 27, with a final tally of 12-0 in favour of accepting the motion. Thus, on November 24, the Company H *Regulations* were accepted by a majority of the voting membership.

Although forming part of the *Regulations*, the third Question, regarding acceptance of the *Safety Regulations* of Company H was submitted for membership consideration on November 27. The Question, "Do you accept the Company H *Safety Regulations*?" was passed by a vote of ten (10) to zero (0) in favour on November 29.

Voting was allowed to continue for those wishing to register their votes *for* or *against* each motion, but none was received.

A fourth question concerning the creation and funding of a "pop-up display" was withdrawn from member consideration following exchanges on *Messenger*.

The final issue to be considered was the setting of our Schedule of Events for the 2021 season, and, although this remains a work in progress, we have committed to the Military Muster at Kings Landing on June 18-20 and to the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom on October 2. Other events, such as Air Show Atlantic and the Charlotte County Fall Fair are in the planning stages.

Thank you to all members who submitted their opinions by email and who cast their votes during this somewhat unusual, but necessary, format for our 2020 AGM.

### Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Michael Eagin was born in Canada, and when he enlisted on October 5, 1861, he was a resident of Lancaster. He mustered-in on October 23 as a private in Co. B. However, he was discharged for disability on May 14, 1862.

## About Kings Landing

When Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel and Lindsay Titus returned to their cars in a Kings Landing parking lot following our meeting with CEO Mary Baruth, Vicki Donald and Evelyn Fidler on October 2, all three were very happy with the meeting's outcome. Why? The reasons are many.

Civil War reenacting groups – whether they be Co. B, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine; Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine; Co. H 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire; the 6<sup>th</sup> Maine Battery; or any combination of these groups – have been part of a long and successful story at Kings Landing. Delancey's Brigade and Danks' Rangers have also held many successful encampments there throughout the years. The relationship between reenacting groups and this beautiful historic settlement goes back more than thirty years.

Following a brief and unfortunate hiatus from the site, the opportunity is here for us to return to the meaningful and happy days at Kings Landing.

The sound of brogans stepping in unison on a gravel road, mixed with the unmistakable clank of tin cups banging against wooden musket stocks is timeless. So, too, is the sight of a column of blue marching past St. Mark's Church on a slight rise and bend in the road, muskets at right shoulder-shift and bayonets fixed, the colours leading the way. Bruce Barber of Co. I has described such sights and sounds as "reenacting moments". It's the little things. They catch you off-guard. They stick in your soul.

Kings Landing is perfect for us. Director Ron Maxwell thought so, filming *Copperhead* there in 2013. Some of our friends in Co. I were in it, and helped provide uniforms and equipment. The truth is, many American-based reenacting groups would love to have a Kings Landing within their reach, a period-correct place within which to march, to encamp, to drill and a place to be able to fire musket volleys out over the wide St. John River.

There is not a modern amenity in sight: no overhead wires, no street lights, no modern structures. The entire settlement says nineteenth century. And then there's the Kings Head Inn. With arms stacked and guarded in front of this impressive structure, the troops of past encampments have had a long tradition of enjoying a cold beer on a hot day and sharing tales with the public. Or, after a dusty march on a June afternoon, there's nothing better than a mug of Kings Landing's ice-cold lemon aid and the camaraderie that goes with it. Then it's back in line, "Take arms!" and march back down the road toward camp; toward the welcome sight of off-white canvas walls flapping mildly in the breeze off the river. The sights, sounds, smells and experiences will stay with you long after you leave.

The staff there have always treated us well, and we, in turn, have been respectful of what is being portrayed there: teaching a part of New Brunswick, and indeed Maritime history that is little known or understood by so many. But that respect is easy to give, for the people are fine and proud (though not boastful) of their individual skills and heritage, and the setting is beautiful, with well-kept fields surrounded by forest, dotted by original houses, mills, stores and barns, and always there, silently gliding by, the St. John River.

The opportunity to enhance the Kings Landing visitors' experience stands before us. So, too, does the opportunity to teach the public about the many and varied roles of Canadians in the Civil War. It is also a wonderful place in which to recruit, for it is here that we can be at our best, and look our best in this rich historic environment. It is also a place for you as a reenactor, to fully enjoy the experience of life in the nineteenth century, for it is all around you, and thus it is a place just perfect for those lasting, if unexpected, reenacting moments. Make plans to be there!

## Air Show Atlantic • August 28-29

A December 8 Facebook posting announced the dates of Air Show Atlantic and its return to the airport in Debert, Nova Scotia. The air show is scheduled for August 28-29, and Co. H will soon be re-applying for inclusion in the show (we had applied for the cancelled 2020 event). According to information released by air show organizers, the 2019 air show in Greenwood, Nova Scotia drew 30,000 spectators. This will be a "maximum effort" event for Co. H.

## Five-Board Benches Built by Dave Adams



Shortly following the reconnaissance trip to Amherst on November 17, to view the field owned by his sister-in-law as a potential drill site, Dave Adams announced that he planned to build a couple of period-correct five-board benches for camp use. Similar benches were also seen at Kings Landing in October while waiting for our meeting with Mary Baruth, and these may have "sparked" Dave's interest in the project. Dave modified plans supplied by Lindsay Titus to make six-board benches, with the addition of a centre brace. The original plans may be found in the excellent book, [Civil War Woodworking, Vol 1](#), by H. J. Hamler. Two identical benches were made, and one was given to Lt. Titus. Each bench is 36" in length. The photograph (*left*) was sent to Lindsay Titus by Dave Adams on November 21. Great work, Dave, and thank you for these fine and authentic additions to our camp!

## The Tragic Tale of the Donaldson's

While researching Canadians who served in the Fifth New Hampshire, the last name of Donaldson stood out on the page of the regimental muster-roll provided by Dr. William Child's regimental history. Listed there are Daniel Donaldson (killed), James Donaldson (wounded), and Samuel Donaldson (killed). More research is required as to the identity and relationships of these three volunteers, who were all born in Canada, although no province or community is given. Early evidence suggests, however, that they were all related.

All three were born in Canada, but were residents of Orford, New Hampshire (population of just 1406 in 1859) at the time of their enlistment. James, age 27, enlisted on August 26, 1861. Both Daniel, age 18, and Samuel, age 19, enlisted about a week later, on September 3, 1861, and all three were mustered into service on October 12, as privates in Company C.

Samuel was wounded on June 1, 1862, at the battle of Fair Oaks during the Peninsula Campaign, less than eight months after joining the army. He was wounded a second time on December 13, 1862, at Fredericksburg, and died from his wounds on Christmas eve in Washington, DC.

James was appointed corporal (no date specified) and on June 3, 1864 at the battle of Cold Harbor, was wounded, but survived to be mustered-out on October 29, 1864.

Daniel, meanwhile, served until his enlistment ran out, but re-enlisted on January 1, 1864. He was listed as missing on August 25, 1864 at Reams's Station, Virginia, but was returned. He was then captured on October 5, 1864, near Petersburg, but was paroled just three days later. As the war drew to a close in the spring of 1865, elements of the Army of the Potomac and Lee's Army of Northern Virginia clashed at Farmville, Virginia on April 7, 1865, where the Fifth New Hampshire lost 20 men killed, among them, Daniel Donaldson.

One can only wonder at the sadness and loss experienced by the Donaldson family, or families, back home in Orford, New Hampshire, and possibly by relatives somewhere in Canada.

---

### ! News of the War in the East !

- **Casey's Manual** – Sylvain Tétrault, in a telephone call made December 3, reported that he has copied all 192 pages of "Casey's Manual" for his winter reading in preparation for his role as corporal during the upcoming season. He noted that he used 1 ½ ink cartridges for the project. Well done, Sylvain!
- **The Election of 1864** – Several news commentators in the United States have made comparisons between the difficulties experienced in the 2020 presidential election and the presidential election of 1864, which took place in the midst of civil war, and in which Abraham Lincoln was re-elected for a second term as President over the bid by General George B. McClellan.
- **Book for Sale** – As of November 9, Co. H member Greg Fekner was selling a book entitled, Dixie & the Dominion - Canada, the Confederacy, and the War for the Union. Greg writes that he accidentally ordered two copies and so is selling one. He has put the price at \$30.00, shipping included. If you are interested, or if you have questions, contact Greg directly at his email address: fekner31@gmail.com.
- **"Pop!" goes the Atlantic Bubble** – That sound you heard in late November was the bursting of the so-called "Atlantic Bubble". Travel and other restrictions were reinstated during the week of November 23-27 among the four Atlantic provinces, casting a shadow over our plans for the next few months. Of course, while the loss of life, sickness, increasing pressures on healthcare workers, school closures and the decline of the economy are our greatest concerns, the increase in November and December in Covid-19 cases in our region has the potential to impact our schedule for the 2021 season.
- **Co. B, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine Loses a Member** – In an email dated November 24, 2020, Co. B, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine president Paul Dudley announced that a member and strong supporter of their group, K. Marie Hartsgrove, died on November 23. She was 60. Our condolences to the members and friends of Co. B for their loss.
- **Civil War Uniforms** – In November, Greg Fekner borrowed from the Saint John Free Public Library, the book, Uniforms of the Civil War, by Robin Smith and Ron Field. He shared some of his findings on *Messenger*, including a photograph of a New Hampshire soldier displaying the early war, state-issued forage cap as worn (as a reproduction) by Dave Adams. Thank you, Greg, for sharing your research results.
- **Potential Drill Site** – In response to the proposed Schedule of Events sent out to Co. H membership on December 9, member Aaron Bouma suggested the use of his residence near Woodstock, NB as a drill site at some time during the summer.

## **In Command (2 of 6): The Fifth New Hampshire at Antietam**

- ♣ **September 17, 1862**
- ♣ **Army of the Potomac** – Major General George B. McClellan
- ♣ **II Corps** – Major General Edwin Vose Sumner
- ♣ **1<sup>st</sup> Division** – Brigadier General Israel B. Richardson (m/w: 9/17/62); Brigadier General John C. Caldwell; Brigadier General Winfield Scott Hancock
- ♣ **1<sup>st</sup> Brigade** – Brigadier General John C. Caldwell
- ♣ **5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire** – Colonel Edward E. Cross (w: 9/17/62)

### **The Uniform – Part 1 – The Forage Cap**

The forage cap is the standard fatigue cap worn in the Union army, especially by armies in the east. This nearly shapeless cap literally tops off a quality historical impression. It is recommended that extra care be taken with the selection of a forage cap, as it makes an instant impression (good or bad) on fellow-reenactors, event organizers and members of the public.

Research suggests that no ornamentation be worn on forage caps. However, you may limit ornamentation to a single item, such as the brass-stamped company letter (H), a red felt trefoil or cloverleaf (the symbol of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps at Gettysburg and after), or the brass post horn (the infantry badge).

Do not add ornamentation such as feathers or fur; or modern symbols or emblems, such as Canadian flag pins.

If you plan to purchase only one forage cap, leave the crown empty. Doing so allows you to fall-in with another unit at larger events without compromising their authenticity (displaying 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire symbols while falling in with the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, for example – a different regiment in a different corps).

Having said that, early New Hampshire regiments were issued forage caps contracted by the state. They had a stitched brim, state chin strap buttons, a smaller brass post horn with faux embroidery, the Company letter and silver letters, “NHV”. (See *Echoes of Glory*, p. 176). Later, with wear, these were replaced by standard forage caps.

Using modern terminology, forage caps are often divided into two main types: Type 1 and Type 2. (There are other variations, such as the McDowell cap, but these should not be worn by members of the Fifth New Hampshire). Generally speaking, Type 1 refers to early-war caps; type 2, to late-war caps. Although many prefer the look of late war forage caps (higher crown, more forward rake), the early-war forage caps will serve you well, no matter what period of the war is being portrayed.

Please know that a kepi is different from a forage cap. Before purchasing a hat, be sure you understand the difference. Although research results vary, most infantry enlisted men wore forage caps (with the flat crown), while kepi’s (with the recessed crown and custom shape) may be worn more correctly by officers.

In order to present a standard appearance within Co. H, the forage cap is your headwear of choice. Slouch hats, Hardee hats and “private purchase” hats should not usually be worn. Appropriate hats of another design may be worn by officers, as officers were expected to purchase their own uniforms. While exceptions to this uniform appearance may be found, every enlisted man in Co. H should own a forage cap.

### ***“Rally ’round the flag, boys!”***



- ***School of the Soldier*** – Sussex, NB – May (*tentative*)
- ***Rally for Norlands*** – Livermore, Maine – June 5-6
- ***Military Muster*** – Kings Landing – June 18-20
- ***Air Show Atlantic*** – Debert, NS – August 28-29
- ***Honouring General Caldwell*** – St. Stephen, NB – Sept. 17
- ***Charlotte County Fall Fair*** – St. Stephen, NB – Sept. 18-19
- ***Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom*** – Carlingford, NB – Oct. 2
- ***Queen Charlotte Armoury*** – Charlottetown, PEI (*tentative*)
- ***Halifax Citadel*** – Halifax, NS – (*tentative*)
- ***ACMHA Events*** – *We’re invited!*
- ***20<sup>th</sup> Maine, Co. B Events*** – *We’re invited!*