



# Battle Lines



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

• **Co. H Mustered-in September 9, 2018** •

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## **Kings Landing Military Muster Postponed Until September!**

The date for the Military Muster at Kings Landing has been changed from its original date in June to the weekend of September 17-19, 2021. This news was received by Lindsay Titus in an email from Tom Richards of Kings Landing on the morning of May 4. Also on that day, Company H members, Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, Delancey's Brigade and interested individuals were notified of the change.

This change came about as a result of worrying Covid-19 conditions, government decisions; concerns about reenactors' abilities to travel, and the overall logistical hurdles produced by the pandemic. In an email to Lindsay Titus on April 30, Kings Landing CEO, Mary Baruth, said, "We don't want to disappoint our guests, or have our first return of the military to Kings Landing to be less than we know it can be."

With that, members of Company H, and friends of the company were surveyed about the possibility of moving the event to September. Co. H members were also asked to closely monitor their emails in the coming days, as plans for the Military Muster at Kings Landing were evolving. By May 4, survey results had been received from Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire; Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine; and Delancey's Brigade, and these revealed that members of all three organizations showed a strong interest in holding the Military Muster in September, instead of June.

The survey results were sent to Mary Baruth on May 3, and on May 4, we received a reply from Tom Richards of Kings Landing: "From your research and our discussion here, it appears that the weekend of the 17th-19th of September is the best for all concerned, and takes into account the students' return to schools. Therefore we will switch the Military Muster event (18-20 June) with "Beyond the Secular World" (17-19 September) and offer the Military Muster Education Day to the students on the 17<sup>th</sup> [of September]."

Weather at that time of the year is unpredictable. We could have beautiful fall days, or it could be cold, wet and miserable. Long-serving members have experienced both. Perhaps by then the Slipp House will again be open and available to us. Please keep a close watch on your email in-box for news on this, and other events.

## **Covid-19 Cancels Our Role at Air Show Atlantic**

A check of the Air Show Atlantic website in mid-April revealed that, although the air show is still happening (at least of this date), there will be no static aircraft display, and no on-ground attractions or performers. That would include Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire. The precise wording by organizers reads: "In order to mitigate the COVID-19 risk associated with crowds congregating on the Air Show grounds, there will not be any public ground performers or attractions at this year's show." The air show is scheduled for August 28-29 in Debert, Nova Scotia, a short distance from Truro. With the will of the Co. H membership, we will apply to participate again in 2022.

## **Joe Gee: A Members-Only Facebook Page**

In an email received March 5, Joe Gee offered the suggestion of creating a "members-only" page as part of our Company H Facebook page. This is an excellent idea, and in a return email, Captain Titus thanked Joe and informed him that this would be done. Since then, the Company H membership was notified of the idea, also by email.

As fate would have it, at about the same time, Facebook on Lindsay's iPad "froze" and had to be deleted. Upon trying to re-load Facebook, a message appeared, saying that Facebook no longer supports this iPad – it is just too old! Captain Titus has tried to create the members-only page from both his cell phone and his computer, but so far, to no avail. Members are asked to be patient, as he tries to "figure out" the technical steps required to set it up. In the meantime, thank you, Joe, for your idea. We will endeavour!



***Annual Company dues to L. Titus by June 22<sup>nd</sup>!***

## **Borders Are Closed! All Drills Are Cancelled or Postponed!**

A news release from the website of CTV Atlantic on April 28, and revised April 29, states: *“The Atlantic travel bubble has officially been delayed again – this time due to recent counts of Covid-19 and variants of concern. All four premiers met to consider the reopening, which had already been delayed from April 19 until May 3. But, for now, it’s off the table until the threat of further outbreaks has been reduced. In a joint statement, the premiers said they remain optimistic that travel within Atlantic Canada will resume by summer, when most Atlantic Canadians have been vaccinated against Covid-19.”*

The recent or present Covid-19 restrictions established throughout Atlantic Canada have required us to cancel our planned company drill, originally scheduled for May 15 in Sussex, NB.

Emails sent to the Co. H membership in April offered the possibility of NCO’s holding provincial drills as an alternative to a drill of company strength. However, Nova Scotia now finds itself under a province-wide lockdown, making a local drill there either difficult or impossible. Travel into New Brunswick from neighbouring provinces is also currently greatly restricted, as illustrated by the press release, above.

So, for two reasons: First, and foremost, because of concerns for our health; and (2) to maintain a positive relationship with the public, Captain Titus is cancelling all drills, both company and local, until further notice.

This decision is not made lightly, and indeed will be a great disappointment to most members, but safety must come first. The very nature of Civil War formations and drill requires close contact (elbow touching elbow) when in the line, and 13-inch intervals while marching, and that close proximity, sadly, is just what we must all avoid.

Please monitor your email inbox for updates, and respond as needed. As you are aware, the Covid-19 situation and government responses to it change daily, and when we can hold a drill, whether it be local or company strength, we will. But until then, get your kit together, watch Civil War “how-to” videos on YouTube, and stay well.

## **Coming Soon! Membership Dues**

Membership dues for 2021-22 are due no later than June 22, 2021, and that’s coming right up! Membership dues pay for liability insurance through the National Firearms Association (NFA). The holding of liability insurance is required by our by-laws for each firearm-carrying member, and is often required by event organizers. Dues also contribute to the company’s savings account, with money being used for purchases to benefit the company. The purchase of Dave Adams’ tent for use by the company is an example of how company funds may be spent. In the future, purchases may include black powder, percussion caps, a “loaner” uniform and leather, perhaps a company musket, children’s wooden muskets, national and/or regimental colours, or a variety of other needs.

The NFA membership and insurance term for us ends each June 30, and begins again on July 1. Thus, dues payments fall each year right in the middle of our usual reenacting season. In order to allow time for the gathering of membership information, to do the required banking, and to mail our list of names and payment to the NFA in Edmonton, dues payments for the 2021-22 reenacting season must be in to Lindsay Titus no later than June 22.

Dues remain at \$25.00 per firearms-carrying member, or \$25.00 per family, when family members do not carry a firearm. Dues are payable by e-transfer or cheque. Cheques should be made out to Lindsay Titus, as, in order not to pay monthly banking fees (which typically amount to \$40.00 to \$50.00 per year), Captain Titus was required to set up a personal account, not a group account. Members wishing to maintain their membership, but for whom the deadline is a difficulty during this pandemic year, are asked to email Lindsay Titus (fifthnhvcoh@rogers.com) to make payment arrangements.

Thank you to those members who have already paid their dues. Those members are: Dave Adams, Steven Cochrane (family), Leigh Gavel, Stephen Norman, Nick Skinner, Nicholas Tétrault (family), Sylvain Tétrault (family), Lindsay Titus and Nathan Titus.

Keeping this part of Canadian history alive in our region is important. It is our plan to help this organization to continue to grow. It is sincerely hoped that all current members will “re-enlist” for 2021-22, as we also seek new members, even in the midst of these trying times.

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

Stephen L. Hicks was born in Canada and enlisted as a substitute in Co. D on August 11, 1863, mustering-in as a private on the same day. Hicks was 19 at the time of his enlistment, which was credited to Epping. He was transferred to Co. C on November 20, 1864, and appointed corporal on January 10, 1865. Hicks was captured at Farmville, Virginia on April 7, 1865, but was paroled nine days later, on April 16. He was discharged on June 14, 1865 at Annapolis, Maryland, and died on January 27, 1888.

## Leigh Gavel Creates Co. H Website

Great News! On Sunday, March 21, an email from 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Leigh Gavel announced that Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire has a website. This is a project that Leigh talked about several weeks before, and now our new website joins our Facebook page on the internet. The website may be found at [5thnhcoh.weebly.com](http://5thnhcoh.weebly.com), so add it to your "favourites" list for quick reference. Leigh informs us that it is still a work in progress (as good websites always are), but it is now up for public viewing. Newsletters and photographs are being added to the site. Let us hope for a successful 2021 season so that much more may be added to the website. "Huzzah" to Leigh! Thank you for your work with this important project!

## Titusville Property Made Available for Drill

Sarah (Titus) Morrison is the daughter of Lindsay Titus, and she has, on several occasions, offered her family's property for our use as a drill site. The land is property long-owned by her husband's family, the Morrison's of Titusville, located near Hampton, New Brunswick.

Their home is on the property, and the house immediately next door is the home of Shawn's (Sarah's husband) parents. Behind these two houses is a vast yard and rolling hills. A dirt road has been cut for marching up a large and scenic hill. There is a barn and rail fences on the site and the hillside is a mix of fields and trees.

Titusville (how appropriate!) is just east of Saint John and about 30 minutes west of Sussex.

We now have offers of four properties for use for drill. Besides the Morrison property, Dave Adams' sister-in-law has property near Amherst, NS, that she has offered for our use as a drill site. Dave Adams and Lindsay Titus investigated the property in November 2020 (see "Battle Lines" No. 27; December 5, 2020) and found it quite suitable. Aaron Bouma has offered his property near Woodstock, NB, for use as a drill site at least twice; the latest in December 2020 (see "Battle Lines" No. 28; January 5, 2021), and Barry Hippenstall offered his property, located near Cavendish Beach, PEI in January 2021 (see "Battle Lines" No. 29; February 5, 2021). Thank you to all for your generosity in making these sites available to us! Now, all we need is the ability to get there!

## In Command (5 of 6): The Fifth New Hampshire at Cold Harbor

- ♣ **June 3, 1864**
- ♣ **Army of the Potomac** – Major General George Meade
- ♣ **II Corps** – Major General Winfield Scott Hancock
- ♣ **1<sup>st</sup> Division** – Brigadier General Francis C. Barlow
- ♣ **1<sup>st</sup> Brigade** – Colonel Nelson A. Miles
- ♣ **5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire** – Colonel Charles E. Hapgood

## YouTube Videos Worth Watching

With Covid-19 wreaking havoc on our schedule, and travel being greatly restricted, you can appease your Civil War appetite somewhat by going to YouTube and watching videos produced by three fine organizations. Both Co. D, 2<sup>nd</sup> USSS and Civil War Digital Digest offer "how-to" videos on a variety of topics, including drill, food, carpentry, uniforms, camp life and life in the nineteenth century. The American Battlefield trust is a "go-to" source for battlefield property acquisition and restoration, and has many videos about their projects, battlefield tours and animated maps. Dave Adams and Lindsay Titus have met Garry Adelman and Tim Smith, who are featured in many of their videos.

- Videos produced by **Co. D 2<sup>nd</sup> USSS** (United States Sharpshooters)
- Videos produced by **Civil War Digital Digest**
- Videos produced by **American Battlefield Trust**

## Co. H Muster Roll as of March 5, 2021

Dave Adams  
Aaron Bouma  
Steven Cochrane – *Chaplain*  
Greg Fekner  
Leigh Gavel – *1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant*  
Loran Gavel  
Joe Gee  
Edmond Grenier

Suzanne Guay  
Barry Hippenstall  
Brannson Hippenstall  
Rick Jamer – *Corporal*  
Ricky Jamer  
Bob Keretschko  
Marie Keretschko  
Emilie McDonald

Stephen Norman – *Hosp. Steward*  
Nick Skinner  
Nicolas Tétrault  
Sylvain Tétrault – *Corporal*  
Lindsay Titus – *Captain*  
Nathan Titus  
Evelyn Fidler – *Recruit*  
David Neatby – *Recruit*

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## ! News of the War in the East !

- **“Ghosts of Girlfriends Past”** – One night awhile ago my wife and I found ourselves watching the 2009 movie, “Ghosts of Girlfriends Past” on Netflix, starring Matthew McConaughey. Like Ebenezer Scrooge, McConaughey’s character is visited by three ghosts. The first ghost shows him a scene from a middle school dance, in which the school’s star athlete slow-dances with McConaughey’s longtime friend and girlfriend, and gives her, her first kiss, all because the young McConaughey is too timid to do so. The ghost comments that the boy athlete is “gorge”, meaning gorgeous. McConaughey’s character, speaking from the point of view of the present, retorts, “No, now he’s bald and on the weekends does Civil War reenactments.” Although I am quite certain I have never been referred-to as “gorge”, I can certainly attest to the latter description. (*L. Titus*)
- **Co. B, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine Readies for the Season** – In an email sent out to their membership on March 20, Co. B president Paul Dudley sent news that looks very familiar to reenacting groups everywhere. In it, he reminded members of their dues payments, discussed Covid-19, set up a tentative date for a meeting, and shared news about their upcoming season. This sounds very much like us here, and is a sure sign of spring!
- **Halifax Photographer** – On April 8, Lindsay Titus received an email from Alex Korchanov, a Halifax-based photographer who wanted to do some Civil War-era portraiture. We believe he found our email address on our new website. Following an exchange of emails, Leigh Gavel agreed to be the contact for Mr. Korchanov, and to possibly set up a photography-shoot. No update on this venture is available at “press” time.
- **Leigh Gavel’s New Email Address** – As of April 10, Leigh Gavel has a new email address. It is leighgavel@gmail.com. This change was announced to the membership on April 10.
- **Keretschko Email Addresses** – We were informed on April 11 that the Keretschko’s of Halifax have two email addresses. The Co. H membership received word about this back on April 11. Bob’s email address is rkeretschko@hotmail.com. Marie’s email address is mariekeretschko@gmail.com.
- **Suzanne & Sylvain Tétrault Come to Call** – On April 9, Sylvain Tétrault and Suzanne Guay paid a visit to the home of Lindsay Titus. During the very pleasant visit, plans for Kings Landing were shared, regarding food and tents. Sylvain revealed that both he and their son, Nicolas, have purchased their leather, and that uniforms have either been purchased or made by Suzanne. A telephone call on April 26 added that Nicolas is interested in purchasing an 1861 Springfield for use in the company – all great news!
- **Another Tent in Camp** – Leigh Gavel reported by email on April 16 that he will soon be in receipt of a new tent and fly. In the email, Leigh noted: “Got word my wall tent and fly have been shipped. Expect it to arrive middle of next week. My plan is for us to use it as a headquarters tent if my wife doesn't come with me to events. I doubt she'll be attending any events any time soon, so it'll serve as the Co's tent, at least until the unit gets a proper HQ tent.” The more canvas showing, the better the impression!
- **Boxes Made** – Lindsay Titus had two boxes made by a local woodworker; one a cracker box, the other an ammunition box. The cost was \$100.00 for the two boxes. They were unpainted, but, although no ropes were supplied, the holes used for the ropes in the hardtack box were drilled. Cummings Cutting Corners, located near Sussex, also used cut nails supplied by Captain Titus. They would be happy to build other boxes, although you would most likely have to supply your own period-correct cut nails, unless you wanted modern ones.
- **Kings Landing Updates** – April saw numerous emails going back-and-forth among Kings Landing, Co. H, Co. I, Delancey’s Brigade and individuals regarding the Military Muster at Kings Landing.
- **Lonny Ryall** – Lonny Ryall of Saint John, a former member of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine and the Columbia Rifles, sent word on April 13 that he would be unable to fall-in with us at Kings Landing in June due to his work schedule. Now there is hope, at least, that he will be able to join us on the new date in September.
- **Captain’s Shoulder Straps** – Captain Titus ordered and received captain's shoulder straps from Stick & Stump Dry Goods in Minnesota. Highly recommended by members of the Authentic Campaigner website, they indeed proved to be of excellent quality. Thank you to Dave Adams for steering me in this direction. He found information about this business by questioning Authentic Campaigner members. Neither Dave nor Lindsay had heard of this sutler prior to this. They were friendly, and delivery was fast. (*L. Titus*)
- **The Good Lord Bird** – Members wishing to learn more about the key role played by abolitionist John Brown in leading up to the Civil War, may find “The Good Lord Bird” an interesting story. Written as historical fiction, it is an account of the life of John Brown, leading up to the raid on Harpers Ferry in 1859. It is available as a seven-part television series on Apple TV (and perhaps other services), from the book of the same title by James McBride.