



Battle Lines



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

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

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Membership Dues in by June 22!

Despite Covid-19 causing us to greatly reduce our schedule of events in both 2020 and 2021, members of Company H stepped up in 2020 to renew their memberships and continue building this important living-history organization. This says so much about the members of this group! Let's keep the march going in 2021!

People, generally, know very little about the American Civil War. They know even less about the many and varied roles played by Canada and Canadians in this pivotal conflict. Nor do they know about the roles played by the Civil War in bringing about Canadian Confederation. We are tasked with bringing a glimpse of that history to the public. It is, without question, a noble cause. However, to be effective in that cause, we need to maintain our membership and work toward helping it grow.

This is a reminder that membership dues must be in to Lindsay Titus no later than Tuesday, June 22. Our membership and liability insurance with the National Firearms Association (NFA) expires on June 30, and a few days are required to gather all information and mail it, along with our payment, to NFA offices in Edmonton.

Dues are \$25.00 per firearm-carrying member, and the same for a family membership. The preferred form of payment is by e-transfer, but if paid by cheque, it should be made out to Lindsay Titus and mailed to 26 Jonah Court; Sussex, NB; E4E 2M1. Lindsay could not set up a group account without having to pay a monthly bank fee, which can add up to \$40.00 to \$50.00 per year, so an individual account was created – which brought with it no monthly fees! Cash is less-preferred, but acceptable, if we can gather in any form as a group prior to the deadline. Receipts for dues payments will be issued to all members.

A PDF copy of the Company H financial statement is available upon request at any time, and is also presented at the Annual General Meeting. Financial reports are also provided from time-to-time in newsletters or emails. Many thanks to those who have already paid their dues for 2021-22. They are: Dave Adams, Steve Cochrane (*family*), Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel, Joe Gee, Rick Jamer, Ricky Jamer, Bob Keretschko (*family*), Stephen Norman, Nick Skinner, Nicolas Tétrault (*family*), Sylvain Tétrault (*family*), Lindsay Titus and Nathan Titus.

“Huzzah!” or “Hurrah!”?

The Field Regulations of the Army of the Pacific (reenactors) says this about the use of the hearty Civil War cheer: “If cheering, please cheer ‘Hurrah!’ Research indicates ‘Hurrah’ was much more used than ‘Huzzah.’ (*“The Union forever! Hurrah, boys, Hurrah!”* – ‘Battle Cry of Freedom’).” Other sources recently viewed support this notion. It is not that “Huzzah” was finished as an expression of joy by the time of the Civil War, it is just that “Hurrah” was replacing it, as witnessed by the lyrics of George Frederick Root’s “Battle Cry of Freedom”, written in 1862.

Sources also say that related words – “Hooray” and “Hurroo” – evolved from “Hurrah”. (“Hurroo” may be heard in the movie “Gods and Generals” as the Confederate Irish Brigade cheers the valour of the Union Irish Brigade before the stone wall at Fredericksburg.)

Neither “Huzzah”, nor “Hurrah” are anachronistic for our Civil War portrayal, but it would appear that “Hurrah” was in more common use by the mid-nineteenth century. Even reenactors and historians of the Revolutionary War are found on-line debating the use of the terms during that period, or whether “Huzzah” was actually pronounced “Huzz-ay!”. The debate will no doubt continue, but it is something that we should ponder, and changing to “Hurrah!”, if appropriate, is a simple way to improve our impression.

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Frank Howard was a New Brunswicker who enlisted at age 28 on November 27, 1863. He was mustered-in to Co. B as a private on the same day. His enlistment lasted less than four months, however, as he deserted on March 18, 1864 while the regiment was posted to guard duty at Point Lookout, Maryland.

Why We Matter

CBC Radio recently aired a program about social interactions amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. That got me thinking about how many of us are looking forward to our own 5th New Hampshire events, like drill, displays and encampments. Why were members (based on emails and phone calls) and I, so looking forward to the upcoming season? Why do the events even matter? Why do we matter as a group? Aside from people like ourselves, who cares about the Civil War? Who even knows about it? Perhaps within these last two questions lies the heart of why we matter.

While it is undoubtedly true that we are all looking for a return to “normal” life – whatever that may be for each of us – getting excited about something as basic as a company drill is no doubt a way for us to put pandemic talk aside for awhile, by allowing us to concentrate on something besides disease and its sad consequences. But there is more to it than that.

We are building something good by building Company H; something worthwhile. We represent all three Maritime provinces. We share a love of history and, to varying degrees, a knowledge of that history. Beyond that, though, is our willingness and desire to share that knowledge with the general public. Such sharing may take the form of performing historically authentic drill. Even something as basic as a camp made up of canvas tents, or doing the manual of arms, is new to most of the public. Bayonet drill? Well, that’s a new public experience altogether!

We portray an era of American and Canadian history that is little-known or understood on this side of the border. Sharing this critical time in nation-building would be reason enough for our existence as a group, but there is more still. There are, for example, six Civil War graves in St. Stephen Rural Cemetery, including that of a Medal of Honor recipient, and that of Brigadier General (Brevet Major General) John Curtis Caldwell, who commanded the 11th Maine Regiment, and then led the Fifth New Hampshire as a brigade or division commander for about two years. Many of us have stood at his grave; some of us have fired volleys over it. The presence of these graves in that cemetery are also strong reasons for us to what we do, but there are Civil War graves throughout the Maritimes, dotted in rural cemeteries and in the midst of our largest cities. Most are of Union veterans, but some are those of Confederate veterans, some of whom left the United States, disheartened by the outcome of the war. They all deserve to be remembered.

Our harbours, including Saint John, Halifax and small ports along Nova Scotia’s southwest shore, saw Confederate flags flying from the masts of ships, and Union gunboats waiting offshore. Confederate intrigues were alive in the thriving port of Halifax, while at the same time, church pulpits throughout the region rang with hymns and sermons decrying the evils of slavery. And when news of Abraham Lincoln’s assassination reached Canadian cities, towns and settlements, people mourned his loss as if he were their own. All that, too, deserves to be recalled.

Further, and critically, it may be argued that the Civil War created Canada. It certainly played a large part. It is no coincidence that just two years passed between the peace established at Appomattox in 1865 and the signing of Canadian Confederation in 1867. Yet few people on either side of the border know this, or can explain the connections. Simply stated, that by doing what we do as an organization, we teach this history. If that means doing drill well, or discussing our uniforms, describing Civil War tactics, or by otherwise interacting with the public, then we matter because each of us is a teacher and a link to the past.

Then, there is personal growth. Each of us who has sat around a campfire with fellow-reenactors, or who has been part of an encampment or a major reenactment knows those special moments – reenacting moments, Bruce Barber has called them – when something special happens; something unexpected and sometimes simple, that catches your eye, like a column on the march through Kings Landing; or your ears, like the “clank” of tin cups against bayonet scabbards; or how smoke from black powder or campfires makes you want to just breathe it all in.

Several years ago, Dave Adams and I toured the battlefields of Antietam and Gettysburg. Near the infamous Gettysburg Wheatfield, we visited the monument of the 5th New Hampshire. There, Dave reached into his pocket and produced a Canadian penny, which he carefully tossed in amongst the huge boulders of this impressive reminder of the heroic deeds done by this regiment. I thought, “What a good idea!” and went to my car to also find a Canadian penny. I tossed it in as well, and now, for years to come, no doubt, there are at least two Canadian pennies within that monument, placed as a small gesture of appreciation for the roles and sacrifices of Canadians on what Lincoln called, “this hallowed ground.” It felt special to do that, and I’ve appreciated Dave’s thoughtfulness ever since. It is that sense of wonder, of joining with the past, that we as an organization can achieve by doing what we do.

Greg Fekner Leaves Co. H

In an email sent to Captain Titus on June 1, 2021, Greg Fekner announced, “Please remove me from your mailing list. I will not be renewing my membership.” No further information was provided. We thank Greg for his contributions to Co. H, and wish him well in his many historical pursuits. He remains a member of both Co. I, 20th Maine and DeLancey’s Brigade.

Late News! Tomlinson Lake: A Call to Arms on July 3

On June 4, Joe Gee sent emails and text messages with information about a one-day event at Tomlinson Lake, near Carlingford, New Brunswick. He received a telephone call from Ottawa, informing him that the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom has been selected to participate in Historic Places Days, organized by Parks Canada, to begin on July 3 and run through the month of August.

A video crew will be at the site of the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom on Saturday, July 3 with the idea of seeing a version of what the Hike to Freedom looks like when it is held at its usual time in October. This does not replace the October event; it is in addition to it.

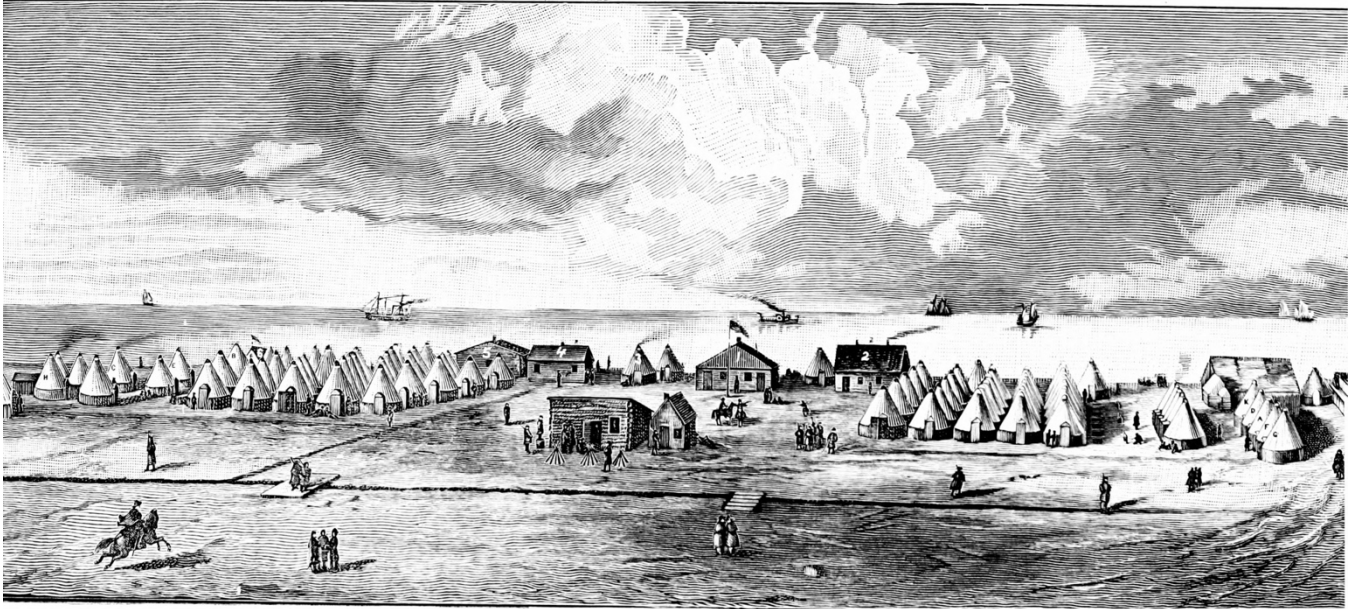
Joe would like the 5th New Hampshire there to set up camp, drill, and fire muskets, as we do in the fall.

Of course, the status of the provincial borders on July 3 is presently unknown, but we can rally a maximum of eight members from New Brunswick for the day. Potentially, they are Dave Adams, Aaron Bouma, Ricky Jamer, Steve Norman, Nicolas Tétrault, Sylvain Tétrault, Lindsay Titus and Nathan Titus. It is understood that both Aaron Bouma and Ricky Jamer would require uniforms and muskets. In addition, an invitation to participate in this event has been sent to Co. I, 20th Maine through Colin Moore. Family members are welcome to participate as well, either in period-dress, or as modern-day hikers.

Details about times and other specifics will be sent out by email, once known.

The Army Camp • Our Portrayal

“Hardcore” reenactors cringe at the sight of wall tents, tent flies and even the lowly wedge tent. Why, they might even quake in their Brogans (or bare feet) at the site of too many dog tents, preferring, instead, to “spoon” on the open ground through a chilly night. While it is true that an army on the march could not, and did not, set up neat army streets with rows of wedge tents lining each side, it is also true that such camps did exist. They could be found at training camps, recruiting depots, winter camps, and for a variety of reasons that an army might stay put for awhile.



CAMP CROSS, POINT LOOKOUT, MD., 1863-64.

Have a look at Camp Cross at Point Lookout, Maryland, for example, where the 5th New Hampshire served as guards over Confederate POW's from November 1863 to May 1864 – a period of about six months.

The Mission Statement of Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire includes the education of the public about the Civil War era. Are we educating the Canadian public appropriately if our encampments include wedge tents and wall tents? I would argue that the answer is “yes”, as long as it is explained that the camp of an army on the march would overwhelmingly consist of individual shelter halves, dog tents, a variety of “shebangs” and soldiers sleeping openly on the ground; perhaps wrapped up in a blanket or gum rubber ground cloth.

It should also be said, however, that our use of dog tents, wedge tents (or “A-frames”) and wall tents is also correct, and that we could also include tents with plank floors and woodstoves with chimneys, if we were portraying, for example, a winter camp.

All that being said, there are several ways to enhance the portrayal of nineteenth century army camp life, both for the reenactor experience and for the education of the public. Here are some suggestions:

- Be military in your comportment while the public is present.
- Observe period-correct military protocols.
- Post guards at each entrance to the camp and near stacked arms. Guards add to the realism of camp life and may also serve to greet visitors.
- Set up dog tents, even if you do not plan to use them. The more canvas, the better, and dog tents demonstrate what soldiers would have used while also enlarging the camp.
- Set up some dog tents as shebangs to demonstrate the versatility of shelter halves, rubber blankets and ponchos. *Thanks, Dave Adams, for this idea. (See also the YouTube videos, "Civil War Dog Tent Setups" and "Even More Dog Tent Setups" of Co. D 2nd USSS (United States Sharpshooters.)*
- Always show the Colours when the public is present.
- Stack arms when muskets are not otherwise in use. They draw public attention.
- Whenever possible, sound Assembly and other commands with bugle and/or drums.
- Call Assembly (with or without arms) and go through roll-call, Inspection Arms, etc.
- Learn and play period-correct card games and games like checkers, using period-correct cards, pieces, etc.
- Cracker, ammunition and other boxes add to the ambience of the camp. Barrels do the same thing. They also serve to "hide in plain sight" objects that we do not wish the public to see. They may also block entrance to tents. Cracker boxes also double as benches. Of course, all camp items should be placed where they do not pose a tripping hazard.
- Placing period-correct bottles, tin cups and other containers on tables or benches adds to the look of authenticity.
- Eat a piece of hardtack (if you can), or other period-correct food. Even something as basic as eating can be a great conversation starter.
- Drill on your own. Having two or three soldiers perfect some steps in the manual of arms or in marching adds to the sense of realism.
- Clean your musket.
- Attend to fatigue duties such as bringing water or firewood.
- Keep the campfire burning!

! News of the War in the East !

- **Spelling Correction** – Following the release of the May issue of "Battle Lines", I learned from Steve Fowler, one of our friends from the Revolutionary War era, that DeLancey's Brigade should be spelled with a capital "L", as I have been writing it as "Delancey's". My apologies to members of that group, and thank you, Steve, for helping me with my spelling. It is appreciated! (*L. Titus*)
- **Sussex Balloon Fiesta** – An article in the May 4 issue of "The Kings County Record" announced the cancellation of the Sussex International Balloon Fiesta for 2021, held annually in September the weekend after Labour Day; the Balloon Fiesta being another victim of the Covid-19 pandemic. The 20th Maine, which then included members of the current 5th New Hampshire, participated in the Balloon Fiesta a number of years ago, setting up an encampment on-site and marching in the parade down Main Street in Sussex.
- **Kings Landing Invitations** – On May 11, emails were sent to Paul Dudley of Co. B, 20th Maine, and Matt Bray of Co. A, 3rd Maine, inviting both groups to the Military Muster at Kings Landing on the new date in September. Both groups had been invited to participate in the Military Muster on the original date in June.
- **Fire Damages Fort LaTour** – A fire, discovered at around 2:30 AM on May 19, has badly damaged a building and walls of the newly-restored interpretation of Fort LaTour, located on the Saint John waterfront. The cause of the fire has been deemed suspicious. The National Historic Site in its interpretive form was set to open to the public for the first time in just a few weeks, following forty years of negotiation and planning. Although this is not a Civil War site, the news is sad nonetheless, perhaps serving as an example of the work that is before us as a group: the need to develop in people an interest and respect for history, and the many labours and sacrifices of the people who came before us. The original Fort LaTour dates back to 1631.



Annual Company dues to L. Titus by June 22nd!