



Battle Lines



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

- Co. H Mustered-in September 9, 2018 •
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Tomlinson Lake • After-Action Report



On Saturday, July 3, three members of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire traveled to Carlingford, New Brunswick to join fourth member Joe Gee, to participate in a one-time summer edition of the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom. This special event was part of Parks Canada's "Canada Historic Places Days", which runs this year from July 3-31. The participating members were Nicolas Tétrault, Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus. Joe Gee was busy on the trail and elsewhere, as host of the event.

Joe Gee had received a telephone call in early June, notifying him that the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom had been selected to be one of the participants in this year's Parks Canada event. The Tomlinson Lake Trail is the northernmost route on the famed Underground Railroad, which enabled escaping enslaved people to find freedom in Canada.

A small encampment, consisting of one wedge tent and two dog tents, was set up on Saturday morning as the result of the great teamwork shown by Sylvain and Nicolas, and by my wife, Denise, who helped unpack, set-up, and, later, break camp. She spent the day hiking the trail and meeting with interpreters there.

Co. H drilled on four different occasions during the day, and fired crisp, sharp volleys out over the tree line. We were told that the volleys could be heard out on the trail. Although public attendance was low, people seemed appreciative of our efforts during the day. We included marching as part of the drill, and Corporal Tétrault got an opportunity to practice some of the duties expected of his rank. Bayonet exercises were also practiced.

As evidenced by the photograph (*above*), both soldiers looked good in their new uniforms and leather. Suzanne Guay actually made the sack coat worn by Nicolas, using Sylvain's coat as a guide.

The weather was cool all day, with a grey sky and a temperature probably hovering at about 18 degrees, but there was no rain, which was helpful. Joe Gee was very appreciative of our appearance there, as was Conservative Member of Parliament, Richard Bragdon of the riding of Tobique-Mactaquac, who paid us a visit and who seemed very interested in what we do. He was given one of our information handbills. Two reporters were present, including Natalie Bull, the videographer for whom this event was established. Joe Gee said he would forward the finished video to us once it becomes available.

It was good to clear up some of the long-standing Covid cobwebs, and appreciation must be extended to the two members of the Tétrault family for the effort shown by them in being there and "pitching in" throughout the day. Their interest and enthusiasm for what we do makes it all worthwhile. A big thank-you to Denise, as well!

A reminder to all members that the "real" Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom will be held on Saturday, October 2, and all are encouraged to participate in this worthwhile event. Colin Moore has already said that at least three members of Co. I, 20th Maine are already making plans to be there.

Elodie Tétrault: Our Newest (and Youngest) Member

While at the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom on July 3, it was learned that a daughter, Elodie Tétrault, was born to Co. H members Emilie McDonald and Nicolas Tétrault, on Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day). Mother and daughter, who weighed-in at just under 6 pounds, are doing well. Nicolas describes his daughter as "quiet", and asked about a membership card for her, making Elodie an official member of Company H! A card will be made up and given to the proud parents. Congratulations to both parents, and welcome, Elodie, to the 5th New Hampshire! As of the publication date of this newsletter, they plan to bring their daughter to Kings Landing in September!

“The Fighting Fifth!”

Now Twenty-one Members in Co. H

Through emails exchanged on June 12 and 13, Evelyn Fidler joined Co. H on Sunday, June 13, becoming the fifteenth paid-member for the 2021-22 season. Welcome, Evelyn!

With the deadline for membership for 2021-22 now past, the muster roll of Co. H has been determined for 2021-22, at least until new recruits are received. We currently have seventeen (17) paid members and four (4) known family members. In 2020-21, we had eighteen (18) paid members, three (3) family members for a total of twenty-one (21) members, plus two (2) recruits – those who expressed an interest in joining the company.

As of the publication of this newsletter, our membership numbers stand this way: We have seventeen (17) paid members and four (4) known family members, for a total of twenty-one (21) members.

We lost three members by the NFA renewal date of June 22: Greg Fekner asked by email to have his name removed from our email list, and on June 1 informed Captain Titus that he would not be renewing his membership. Further, not renewing by the June 22 deadline were Edmond Grenier and Brannson Hippenstall. Of course, we wish them all well and hope that they maintain their interest in this critical period of history.

Last year (2020-21) the eighteen paid members were: Dave Adams, Aaron Bouma, Steve Cochrane, Greg Fekner, Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel, Joe Gee, Edmond Grenier, Barry Hippenstall, Brannson Hippenstall, Rick Jamer, Ricky Jamer, Bob Keretschko, Stephen Norman, Nicolas Tétrault, Sylvain Tétrault, Lindsay Titus & Nathan Titus. The three known family members were Suzanne Guay, Marie Keretschko & Emilie McDonald, and the two recruits were Evelyn Fidler and Dave Neatby.

Currently, in 2021-22, we have seventeen (17) paid members: Dave Adams, Aaron Bouma, Steve Cochrane, Evelyn Fidler, Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel, Joe Gee, Barry Hippenstall, Rick Jamer, Ricky Jamer, Bob Keretschko, Stephen Norman, Nick Skinner, Nicolas Tétrault, Sylvain Tétrault, Lindsay Titus and Nathan Titus. We lost three (3) members: Greg Fekner, Edmond Grenier and Brannson Hippenstall, but gained two (2) members: Evelyn Fidler and Nick Skinner. Our four (4) known family members now are: Suzanne Guay, Marie Keretschko, Emilie McDonald and young Elodie Tétrault. Our one remaining recruit is Dave Neatby of PEI, who has informed us that he will not be joining this year, but still maintains an interest in joining.

Gaining recruits and losing veterans is all a part of reenacting. Groups such as our across North America are finding that their numbers are dropping, so for us to nearly maintain our numbers from last year – especially during a global pandemic – and to see the growth from a couple of years ago, is highly encouraging. Let us hope that borders will truly and safely open as soon as “practicable,” and that events will allow us to once again be more visible and of interest to the public, and to potential members.

Membership & Insurance Application Sent to the NFA

On Wednesday, June 23, Captain Titus completed and gathered the documents necessary for group membership and liability insurance coverage offered by the National Firearms Association (NFA). On Thursday, June 24, these documents were mailed from the Sussex Post Office. Included in the envelope was a cover letter, a completed membership application form, a list of Co. H members who are to be covered by liability insurance, and a cheque in the amount of \$224.25 to cover the cost of membership and insurance.

The NFA requires that each person covered by liability insurance also be a member of the NFA. The cost of group membership is either \$50.00 for the group, or \$5.00 per person, whichever amount is greater. We have fifteen (15) musket-carrying members who will receive liability insurance coverage for 2021-22. Thus, $15 \times \$5.00 = \75.00 for membership. The cost of insurance remains at \$9.95 per member; thus, $15 \times \$9.95 = \149.25 . By adding the membership fee of \$75.00 to the insurance cost of \$149.25, we reach a total of \$224.25.

Members covered for 2021-22 by liability insurance from the NFA are: Dave Adams, Aaron Bouma, Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel, Joe Gee, Barry Hippenstall, Rick Jamer, Ricky Jamer, Bob Keretschko, Stephen Norman, Nick Skinner, Nicolas Tétrault, Sylvain Tétrault, Lindsay Titus and Nathan Titus. This leaves us a Credit Union balance of \$311.80 as of June 23, 2021.

Tomlinson Lake: A Letter to Joe Gee

On Sunday, July 4, following the special July 3 Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom, Captain Titus wrote and sent this email to fellow-member, and event organizer, Joe Gee:

“On behalf of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire, I wish to thank you for all you do to make the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom the event that it is. Further, keeping this important historical part of American, Canadian and New

Brunswick history alive is just so important, and I know that you are the driving force behind it all. Thank you for including us in the most recent event, held on July 3rd.”

“I hope that the efforts made by Co. H, 5th New Hampshire, both big and small, contribute in some way to making the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom a successful event.”

“I, for one, am very proud that Co. H is associated with this location that is so important to the history of two nations.”

“I lived in neighbouring Carleton County for eleven years, and yet, I am sad to say, never knew of this history so close by. You are the person responsible for bringing it to life. To you, I raise my cap and shout, ‘Hurrah!’” (*Lindsay Titus*)

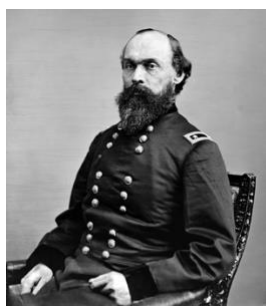
The Military Muster at Kings Landing

Kings Landing opened to the public for the 2021 season on Wednesday, June 9, and has weekend events planned throughout their operating season. One of these events, of course, is the Military Muster, originally scheduled for June, but postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. The event is now scheduled for the weekend of September 17-19, with Friday, the 17th, set as the new Student Day.

Invitations to the event remain in place for Co. I, 20th Maine and for DeLancey’s Brigade, the New Brunswick-based Revolutionary War group with whom we have worked many times. Renewed invitations were sent out by email to both Co. B, 20th Maine and Co. A, 3rd Maine. No response has been received from Co. B, but Matt Bray of the 3rd Maine responded enthusiastically, saying he would bring it up for discussion at their upcoming meeting.

There is no information about Covid-19 protocols at this time for September, as it is too early for that. As far as is presently known, most plans that were in place for the June event will be re-established for the September event; the one exception being that scenarios for the public are being reconsidered. Members are again asked to be diligent in reading and responding to emails about the Military Muster as we get closer to the date for that event.

“Juneteenth” Becomes U.S. National Holiday



On June 17, 2021, US President Joseph Biden signed into law the making of June 19 as an annual national holiday. June 19, often referred to as “Juneteenth” (and sometimes called Juneteenth National Independence Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day or Emancipation Day) marks the date when Union General George Granger (*left*) proclaimed to slaves in Galveston, Texas that they were free; that slavery in the United States had been abolished; news that had not yet reached slaves in Texas. June 19 is today considered the date when the last slaves learned they were free; that between Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, slavery in the United States had been relegated to the pages of history.

Commemoration of this date began in 1866 with church-based celebrations in Texas, but recent political and social events have elevated public awareness of Juneteenth as an important symbolic date in American history, and now, President Biden has turned it into a nation-wide holiday.

Rally for Norlands: A Change of Date

The Rally for Norlands, a Civil War encampment event held every second year, is now scheduled for the weekend of October 9-10, 2021, changed from its original and usual date in June. The change was made necessary by concerns generated by Covid-19. The event is organized by Co. A of the 3rd Maine Regiment, and the 15th Alabama, Co. G, in coordination with the historic site located in Livermore, Maine.

It has been advertised as the largest Civil War event in Maine, and for those Co. H members wishing to be involved in some North vs. South battle activity, this is your opportunity, without having to drive twenty hours to do so.

The Rally for Norlands is held at the Washburn-Norlands Living History Center, located at 290 Norlands Road; Livermore, Maine. Livermore is located about 40-minutes from the state capital of Augusta, and is about a 3½-hour drive from the border at St. Stephen, New Brunswick.

More information about the site and the event may be found at the Norlands website (norlands.org) or on Facebook at [rallyfornorlands](https://www.facebook.com/rallyfornorlands). In addition, reenactors may register by telephoning (207) 897-4366, or by email at norlands@norlands.org. This event may be something we’d like to do one day as a group, but in the meantime, interested individuals would be more than welcome to register!

Joshua H. Howe was born in Canada, but was a resident of Acworth at the time of his enlistment. Signing his enlistment papers at age 20 on September 1, 1861, Howe was among the original enlistees. He was mustered-into service on October 19 as a private and served until 1863. He re-enlisted from Claremont on January 1, 1864, but then transferred to the United States Navy on April 27, 1864, as an ordinary seaman. He served aboard USS *Thomas Freeborn* until after the war's end, and was discharged on July 17, 1865, from a receiving ship in Washington, DC.

Civil War Ordnance Found in Maryland

Numerous media sources reported on March 28 that a bomb squad safely disposed of Civil War-era ordnance found in Frederick County, Maryland. The technicians identified the unexploded ordnance as a live cannonball [shell or spherical case shot] used during the Civil War, and determined its fuse was still functional.

A resident had contacted the state fire marshal after receiving the ordnance from a family member who had found it while metal detecting near the Monocacy National Battlefield, the scene of fighting in 1864. The cannonball sat in the resident's home for several months before it was reported.

Technicians removed and transported the cannonball to a quarry in Hagerstown, where it was safely detonated. The cannonball was powerful enough to have caused significant damage and could have easily killed someone, or multiple people, if mishandled, the reports said.

! News of the War in the East !

- **Gettysburg** – July 1, 2 & 3, just past, marked the 158th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Should we all try to be there for Gettysburg 160, if not for a reenactment, but for a tour?
- **Air Show Atlantic is Cancelled** – In a notice released on May 28, organizers of Air Show Atlantic announced that the show has been cancelled outright for 2021. The show was originally scheduled for the weekend of August 28-29 in Debert, Nova Scotia. Earlier, it had been announced that both static aircraft displays and ground presentations (including that of the 5th New Hampshire) would not be a part of this year's show. Now, despite the province relaxing its Covid-19 restrictions, organizers did not have enough time to put their resources in place for this year. They plan to come back with Air Show Atlantic in 2022. No date or location for the next show has been announced.
- **Email Sent to Kings Landing** – An email was sent on June 3 on behalf of the members of Co. H to Mary Baruth, CEO of Kings Landing, wishing her and the Kings Landing staff well for the upcoming tourist season. Kings Landing opened to the public on Wednesday, June 9. The email was copied to Jenna Fitch, Thomas Richards and Evelyn Fidler (our newest Co. H member), all of whom are working with us in preparation for the Military Muster there in September.
- **Field Hospital** – The II Corps field hospital and hospital headquarters at Gettysburg were located at the Granite Schoolhouse (located behind today's monument to Father Corby and near the Pennsylvania Memorial), on the Granite Schoolhouse Lane, which runs between Taneytown Road and the Baltimore Pike. It was there until the Confederate bombardment preceding Picket's Charge on July 3 necessitated moving the hospital about two miles further to the rear of the Union line, near Rock Creek. Confederate artillery rounds often overshot the Union line on Cemetery Ridge on July 3, and thus fell in the vicinity of the schoolhouse.
- **Anniversary** – The planned Student Day at Kings Landing on September 17 falls on the 159th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, in which the 5th New Hampshire and Caldwell's Brigade played a key role in the brutal fight for the sunken road near Sharpsburg, Maryland, known forever-after as the Bloody Lane.
- **School of the Soldier Held** – Co. B, 20th Maine held a "very successful" School of the Soldier during the weekend of June 11-13 at Fort Knox, in Prospect, Maine, located across the Penobscot River from Bucksport. Co. B president Paul Dudley reported in a June 14 email that Co. B picked up five recruits during the weekend, with the possibility of a sixth. Co. H, 5th New Hampshire can trace its roots to Co. B, with several Canadians having earlier been members of that fine organization.
- **Sad Times** – Co. B, 20th Maine pulled out of the Fourth of July parade in Bangor this year because they could not get enough members to form a line of rifles and colour-bearers. Perhaps it can be attributed to Covid-19 and people's desire to enjoy newly-regained freedom, thus making other plans for the day. Let's hope so, as Co. B is an important entity in that region of Maine, and is a valued partner of Co. H.
- **Websites** – If you are interested in pre-made Minié balls or paper cartridges, or if you are looking for excellent, detailed instructions on the construction of paper cartridges for reenactors, there are two websites that will be of interest to you. One is "Authentic Paper Cartridges" (papercartridges.com) and the other is the "Jefferson

Arsenal” (thejeffersonarsenal.com). Both sell ammunition and paper cartridges, but their websites also feature videos and how-to sets of instructions. Both sites are run by serving or veterans of the US military. Excellent information may be found at both sites.

Wanted! Suggestions for a company drill date & location!