



Battle Lines



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

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Successful Company Drill Held in Sussex

An email survey concerning holding two company drills was sent to Co. H members on July 5, revealing support for holding drill at the home of Captain Titus in Sussex, New Brunswick, on “any Saturday”. Five members responded that they wished drill to proceed on any Saturday in July, and two of these said they liked Sussex as the preferred location. Sadly, four members stated that work commitments prevented them from attending, but this is going to be the way of things, always. We all do what we can.

In the end, two dates were chosen for summer drills: Saturday, July 31; and Saturday, August 28 – the last Saturday of each month.

At the drill held on July 31, seven members attended: Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel, Stephen Norman, Nicolas Tétrault, Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus. Steven Cochrane, Evelyn Fidler, Rick Jamer and Ricky Jamer all sent word that they could not attend.

The Gavel brothers arrived early, as did Dave Adams, so we had a chance to talk for some time and watch parts of a couple of reenacting videos. Soon after, the Tétrault's arrived, as did Stephen Norman. Drill commenced at 12 noon as planned, and continued until a little after 4 o'clock that afternoon. Drill was split into two parts by a very productive Company H meeting. The weather was very cooperative, with lots of sun and periodic cloud cover, and perhaps a shorty-lived hint of a mist in the air.

Much of the time in the first half of drill was devoted to clearing the “cobwebs” of a long period of inactivity, although the “boys” did well, being put through their paces by 1st Sergeant Gavel. The manual of arms, inspection arms, facings and firing in two ranks occupied much of the time. Captain Titus led the squad in “To the Rear, Open Order”, a movement we had not done in some time, but it went well.

Following the meeting and a water break, the troops were marched at various paces and turns, including left and right wheels. After a period of time, 1st Sergeant Gavel turned over drill to Captain Titus, who implemented obliques on the march, and marched the men down the length of Jonah Court, almost to Main Street in Sussex. We then marched back to the side yard of the house, where Captain Titus drilled the men in some basics of McClellan's bayonet exercises. The drill concluded at about 4 PM, but visits continued until nearly 4:30.

At the meeting, a number of topics were discussed, and following is an overview of that discussion. Any member who was present, and sees an error or omission, please email Captain Titus with the corrections.

- **August Drill** – It was decided overwhelmingly that the drill scheduled for Saturday, August 28, will again be held in Sussex, although other possible sites were offered and discussed.
- **Kings Landing** – Captain Titus will begin in early August to get organized for the Kings Landing Military Muster. Questions were asked about meal arrangements and the time on Thursday when we may set-up. Because of pending work scheduling changes, we were asked to seek a date for Kings Landing in 2022 as early as possible. All these questions will be put forward to Kings Landing in the next few days, with responses being shared with Co. H members. It was also pointed out that we did not want to lose the Charlotte County Fall Fair as an event (it conflicts with Kings Landing this year), and did not want to lose what was to be an annual related event in nearby St. Stephen – the acknowledgment of General John C. Caldwell at his gravesite.
- **Tomlinson Lake** – The importance of Tomlinson Lake as an historical event was discussed, with Captain Titus urging members to attend, and to spread the word about the importance of the event.
- **Potential Events** – Other possible events and sites were shared, including the Halifax Citadel, MacDonald Farm, Point Pleasant Park, Ross Farm and the farmland near Amherst, owned by Dave Adams' sister-in-law. No decisions on these, or other possible events for this year or for future events, were made. The possibility of marching in the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Parade next spring was also discussed. It was recognized that high profile public events bring recruits.

- **Anniversary Events** – Major Civil War reenactments will most likely be held in the next few years as the 160th anniversaries of such battles as Antietam (2022) and Gettysburg (2023) will be held. The question was put to members present if we, as a group, want to pursue these larger, anniversary events. Discussion was brief, as the unanimous sentiment was “Yes”. It was recognized that drilling and planning for major events both attracts recruits and maintains present membership. Leigh Gavel urged members to view the YouTube video on the 135th anniversary reenactment of Gettysburg to get a sense of the scope of a large reenactment.
- **Co. I, 20th Maine** – Following discussion, it was decided that Co. H drills from now on will be open to Co. H members only. Additional information about the discussion regarding Co. I will be found in the email sent to Co. H members on Monday, August 2.
- **Recruiting** – This topic was discussed prior to drill even beginning, and was a theme through many of the other topics, so it was not discussed as a stand-alone topic. The importance of recruiting is recognized by all, but it was also recognized that Covid-19 hindered recruiting greatly this year. Leigh Gavel pointed out the kepi he has purchased that he wears daily to help in his personal recruiting drive. Hurrah!
- **Authenticity** – Captain Titus pointed to the importance of knowing our drill if we want to be perceived as a unit striving for ever-improving authenticity; this more-so than stitches around button holes. He also pointed out Steve Norman’s medical display and knowledge as another example of authenticity that truly grabs the attention and imagination of the public.
- **Our Annual General Meeting (AGM)** – It was suggested and decided to hold our AGM for 2021 at Kings Landing in September. Anticipating a strong turnout of members, including some of our civilians, this was deemed a good time and location for the AGM. It eliminates the need for travel in November, or the use of emails, as was done in 2020. This is an election year, so nominations for both field command and administrative positions are required and may be made by members at any time. At the July 31 meeting, Captain Titus nominated Leigh Gavel for 1st Sergeant, and both Sylvain Tétrault and Rick Jamer as corporals. Dave Adams nominated Lindsay Titus to continue as Captain. Other nominations or positions of rank may be submitted to Captain Titus by email. Administratively, it was decided that, for now, the position of president will remain linked with the position of field commander, as we have done in the past two years. It was recognized that this may need to change as the group gets larger. Captain Titus nominated Leigh Gavel as Vice-President and Dave Adams as Member-at-Large. All nominees present agreed to allow their names to stand for election. Leigh Gavel suggested that, although the present financial arrangement works for the group, we may have the future need to establish a bank account in the name of the company. This would be necessary if, for example, a sponsorship for the website was found. He is indeed correct, although this decision is presently “tabled”, as we currently cannot put the account in the name of the organization unless we want to begin paying monthly banking fees.
- **The New England Brigade** – Captain Titus introduced members to the New England Brigade, an “umbrella” organization consisting of numerous reenacting groups based in New England. The question is whether we should apply to join this organization. He urged all members to read the article in this, the August issue of “Battle Lines” and to respond to its content based on information found in this issue and in research. The initial reaction from members present at the meeting, however, was that membership in the NEB is something we should pursue. Members are asked to react and respond by email.
- **The New England Civil War Events Group** – The NECWE is a website bulletin board of Civil War events taking place in New England. The question was posed, whether we also should consider joining this group to place such events as Kings Landing and the Halifax Citadel on their calendar. Support was shown for this idea, although, again, members are urged to read the article in this, the August edition of “Battle Lines”.
- **New Business** – Leigh Gavel asked that “www” be placed on our correspondence when listing our website’s address. Doing so allows hypertext to link directly with the site. This will be done.



Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

William Hussey was a resident of Wolfeborough, but was born in Canada. He enlisted at age 21 as a private on September 7, 1861, and was mustered-in on October 19, 1861. He was assigned to Company H, but served only about two months, dying of disease near Alexandria, Virginia on December 13, 1861.

The NEB – Is This a Group We Should Try to Join?



The NEB – the New England Brigade – Is this a group we should try to join? Most reenacting groups such as ours establish connections with larger “umbrella” organizations, within which they participate in larger events. In fact, historically, large, national events such as Antietam or Gettysburg, required each company, battery, cavalry troop or other group or individual to belong to a larger, over-seeing “umbrella” organization.

In past years, when organizing for large, complex anniversary events, members of Co. I, 20th Maine and Co. H, 5th New Hampshire absorbed into Co. B, 20th Maine, who then, in turn, joined the umbrella organization known as Vincent’s Brigade. Vincent’s Brigade was home-based in the mid-Atlantic states (Maryland, Pennsylvania, etc.), and not in New England. While we continue to enjoy a working relationship with Co. B, 20th Maine, and so may wish to continue to be “absorbed” into their ranks for larger events, a recent Google search revealed an unclear status of Vincent’s Brigade as an umbrella reenacting organization. For example, no website for Vincent’s Brigade (as a reenacting organization) could be found. In fact, in 2008, a number of companies left Vincent’s Brigade to form their own mid-Atlantic organization known as the Federal Volunteer Brigade.

Back in 2002, when Dave Adams, Colin Lynch and Lindsay Titus first established Co. H, 5th New Hampshire, we were allowed to join the Mifflin Guard under the sponsorship of a kindly Pennsylvania company. The Mifflin Guard is another well-recognized umbrella group, but one that now represents so-called “hardcore” units.

Now, however, an umbrella group based in New England does exist. They are the New England Brigade, or NEB, home-based in Massachusetts. The NEB is an umbrella reenacting organization consisting of nearly twenty Civil War living-history organizations, all based in New England.

The New England Brigade has its own schedule of events, and thus offers to its member-units larger, battalion-size events located in New England. For 2021, for example, their website lists five NEB events, all in Massachusetts. Of course, member-groups also establish their own schedules. Additionally, member-groups have the opportunity to apply to add their own events to the NEB schedule. Thus, by becoming a member, Co. H could add an event such as Kings Landing or the Halifax Citadel to the NEB schedule at a future time and potentially draw greater numbers.

The New England Brigade features reenacting units from much of New England. There are three groups portraying Connecticut infantry companies; six groups portraying Massachusetts companies; one group portraying a New Hampshire company (6th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, Co. E) and two Rhode Island companies. There is one artillery battery; and two “Support” groups: the Northeast Topographical Engineers and the US Signal Corps. There is one civilian group: the New England Civilian League, and three “Friends of the Brigade”: the Liberty Grays (Confederates), the Big Bear Trading Company (a sutler) and the US Sanitary Commission. Further, according to a recent YouTube video (*see below*), three additional groups have recently joined the NEB, including Co. A of the 54th Massachusetts, of “Glory” fame.

Is the New England Brigade a group we should consider joining? Membership in the New England Brigade is not automatic. A new applicant must be sponsored by a group that is already a brigade member. The logical choice for us would be to approach Co. E, 6th New Hampshire. They are closest to us geographically, and, of course, we share the New Hampshire connection.

Following are some advantages and disadvantages of joining the New England Brigade:

Advantages of Membership include our ability to:

- be part of larger events held in New England, within a day's drive;
- learn from other groups;
- drill in battalion-sized groups;
- affiliate with the NEB for national events being organized for upcoming 160th Civil War anniversaries (i.e. Antietam 160th in 2022, and Gettysburg 160th in 2023);
- place an event of ours, such as Kings Landing or the Halifax Citadel, on the NEB schedule to attract greater numbers of reenactors;
- expand our contacts, while maintaining our present relationships with Co. A, 3rd Maine; Co. B, 20th Maine and Co. A, 5th New Hampshire;
- attract new recruits, upon learning that larger living-history opportunities are available, and;
- maintain present members with the attraction of participating in larger regional and national events.

Obstacles to Membership:

- There is an annual NEB membership fee of \$100.00 (USD) per organization.
- Acceptance is not automatic, but must go through a sponsorship process, which includes the sponsorship of a reenacting group presently a member of the NEB.
- Is there a willingness of our membership to travel to New England and beyond for NEB events?

Members of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire are urged to visit the website of the NEB. Read through their *By-laws* and *Regulations* and browse around their photo galleries. Also, visit the websites of some of the member-units. The NEB website is found at www.newenglandbrigade.org and their Facebook page is found by searching "The New England Brigade". Consider what it might mean for you if Co. H joined the New England Brigade.

A recent YouTube video of an NEB drill, held June 26, 2021, at the American Heritage Museum in Hudson, Massachusetts (about 30 miles west of Boston) may be found by searching on YouTube for "New England Brigade Drill Day 2021". It will give you a brief introduction to the New England Brigade, and provide a sense of who they are. Discussion on the question of Co. H attempting to join the NEB will be on our list of topics at our August 28 drill and meeting. In the meantime, discussions in the form of emails are not only welcome, but encouraged.

The NECWE – Is This a Group We Should Consider Joining?



The New England Civil War Events group (NECWE) is an on-line calendar of events as established by its numerous member reenactment groups that include Federal, Confederate and support organizations from throughout New England. Listed are both regional and national events. Included in their list of member-units are the New England Brigade; Co. A, 5th New Hampshire; Co. A, 3rd Maine and Co. B, 20th Maine. The latter three groups are organizations with which we have working relationships.

Becoming a member of the NECWE would greatly expand the possibilities of other groups attending some of our key events, such as Kings Landing or the Halifax Citadel. However, we, as a group, must first decide if this is an endeavour worth pursuing. Further, we would have to be admitted to the organization. Although no restrictions for membership could be found on their website, we are, of course, despite our portrayal, not based in New England.

Their website says this about who they are:

The website "New England Civil War Events" exists to share information on Civil War reenacting here in New England. Our goal is to provide information to both the novice and the experienced reenactor... and to those interested in getting started. Not only would we hope to reach out to the reenacting community, we'd like to reach out to civic organizations, municipalities, patriotic commissions, etc. to offer you guidance in bringing the history of the American Civil War to life!

Please never hesitate to contact us for recommendations on every aspect of engaging an individual living historian or a full unit in educating the public on the American Civil War. Whether for a living history event, a full battle reenactment, a parade or patriotic event, monument re-dedication or as a guest speaker, we are here to assist you.

Their website is found by doing a Google search for *New England Civil War Events* [the precise web address could not be located]. You may also find them on Facebook, also by searching for *New England Civil War Events*.

The possibility of joining this organization is another topic for discussion among members of Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire. Email discussion is also welcome and encouraged!

Company Drill Scheduled for Saturday, August 28

The next company drill, and the last one before Kings Landing, is scheduled for Saturday, August 28, beginning at 12 noon. The drill will again be held at the home of Captain Titus in Sussex, New Brunswick. The location of the drill was decided by members present at the drill held on July 31.

Tomlinson Lake Video Now on YouTube

The video created on July 3rd at Tomlinson Lake is now available for viewing on YouTube. Joe Gee included the link to the video in an email sent on July 9 to Lindsay Titus, who then forwarded it to the Co. H membership. The link is also given below, or you can go to YouTube and search for the video by its title, "Tour of Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom in New Brunswick". The video is 56:19 in length and is published by the National Trust for Canada. Congratulations to Joe and his team for putting this event together with such short notice, enabling the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom to take to the international stage.

The Video Link:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR07Bt2NGHMIu3BX4Rm8KWcu9mIE-ItyosraWqP1qLG_hgnfONGSi8oKFVc&v=RfY_x9xILZA&feature=youtu.beXXXyyyzzz

NFA Membership & Liability Insurance Confirmation

In mail received in Sussex on July 13, the National Firearms Association confirmed by letter our NFA group membership, and our liability insurance coverage. This is being kept on file for future reference, should it be needed. As is the usual practice, our NFA membership and insurance coverage is valid until June 30, 2022.

New Wallet-sized Membership Cards are Ready

Co. H membership cards for 2021-22 are now ready for distribution. They have been revised from last year's card to provide the NFA group membership number and the liability insurance policy number, where applicable. Members not covered by liability insurance will receive a membership card with a different reverse side. All cards are laminated for your use. Receipts are also ready to be issued to all those who paid membership dues.

"The 5th New Hampshire Project"

A website created in 2019, which should be of great interest to members of Co. H, is that of *The 5th New Hampshire Project – Using the Ordeal of One Regiment to Study the Civil War*. It was created by History Professor Hugh Dubrulle of Saint Anselm College, in Manchester, New Hampshire. The website is detailed, interesting and well-illustrated, and investigates a variety of period topics. You will find the website at: <https://5thnewhampshirevolunteerinfantry.home.blog>.

Little Round Top Closing for Renovation!

The National Park Service in the United States will be closing Little Round Top to public access, beginning in the fall of 2021. The closure is expected to last about a year-and-a-half, according to Gettysburg National Military Park officials. The purpose of the closure is to conduct extensive restoration to this most-visited site on the battlefield, which has been described as "fragile". Repairs and improvements will be made to pathways and stone walls, while new hiking trails will also be constructed. An attempt will be made to alleviate the parking congestion that sometimes develops on the hill, especially when bus traffic is heavy. However, the historical importance and integrity of the site will be maintained, say park officials.

Also, currently underway is the rehabilitation of 18 acres of land on Culp's Hill, on the north end of the "fishhook" that formed the Union line. Underbrush is being cleared and an "interpretive section" of breastworks are being built. All this will help return the site to its 1863 appearance, at a time when domestic animals roamed the woods and cleared the undergrowth. Interpretative signage will also be added.

In addition, also currently underway, is a major renovation to the Warfield House, restoring it to its 1863 appearance. Additions to the house made over the years, plus outbuildings, have been removed and extensive research into the appearance of the house as it was at the time of the battle has been done. In 1863, the house was owned by James and Eliza Warfield, who were free African-Americans. They fled their home upon the arrival of the Army of Northern Virginia, knowing that Blacks in the area were in danger of being captured, sent south, and forced into slavery. The Warfield house is located directly in the path of both the second, and third days' battles, between the Confederate line on Seminary Ridge and the Union line on Cemetery Ridge, and is close to the infamous Peach Orchard.

Caldwell's Brigade!

P.C.E. Leather Works: A Flag Source?

During their visit to the home of Lindsay Titus on April 9, Sylvain Tétrault and Suzanne Guay provided the name of a man in Toronto, who makes custom reproduction historical flags. His name is Philip Edwards. They knew him through their experience as War of 1812 reenactors. As a follow-up to this conversation, an internet search found P.C.E. Leather Works at www.pceleatherworks.webs.com. The website says he makes custom leather items for the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Although flags are not mentioned specifically on the website, many sewn uniform items, aside from leather, are illustrated in numerous photographs, and the site has a note for "costumers", which reads: "P.C.E. Leather Works are willing to take on any challenging task of custom military history replicas. We have researched and hand-crafted many British, American and French accoutrements." Thank you, Sylvain and Suzanne, for bringing this Canadian sutler to our attention.

! News of the War in the East !

- **Emancipation Day** – Sunday, August 1 was the first official Canadian Emancipation Day. On March 24, 2021, the House of Commons voted unanimously to officially designate August 1 as Emancipation Day, marking the actual day in 1834 that the *Slavery Abolition Act* of 1833 came into effect across the British Empire.
- **Kings Landing** – Steve Fowler, commanding officer of DeLancey's Brigade, contacted Lindsay Titus recently about inviting Nova Scotia-based Revolutionary War reenacting groups to the Kings Landing Military Muster, scheduled for September 17-19. The response was a resounding "yes". The plan was to invite these groups back in June, until Covid-19 disrupted all plans. Invitations have also been extended by Co. H to area Civil War groups and the Grays & Blues of Montreal; reminders of these invitations will be sent once again in early August.
- **International Border Opening** – The Government of Canada has announced that the international border with the United States will open on August 9 to American citizens and permanent residents. However, there are entrance requirements, including proof of two vaccinations completed two weeks prior, and a Covid-19 test done within 72 hours of arriving at the border. Detailed information may be found on the Government of Canada website at www.canada.gc.ca and by using the "ArriveCAN" app. However, the United States is not opening its border to Canadians at the same time, but is holding off until later in August. Among other things, the relaxation of border procedures opens the possibility of reenactors from the United States coming to the Military Muster at Kings Landing on September 17-19.
- **New Brunswick Covid-19 Restrictions Lifted!** – The Government of New Brunswick announced on Friday, July 23, that all Covid-19 restrictions would be lifted at midnight on Friday, July 30. The decision to move the province to the "Green" level was made despite the province not reaching its goal of 75% of the population receiving its first vaccination (It stands at 68%). To borrow from *Glory*, "Glory, Hallelujah!"
- **The Fifth New Hampshire at Gettysburg** – The Fifth New Hampshire suffered 44.7% casualties at Gettysburg. The regiment went into the battle with just 179 men, and lost 80 men killed or wounded. The grim totals were 27 men killed and 53 wounded (*Source: Gettysburg Campaign Atlas, p. 459*). Among those mortally wounded on July 2nd, was Colonel Edward Cross, who that day commanded the 1st Brigade of Caldwell's Division. With the regiment's strength now about the size of a regulation company, they were returned to New Hampshire to recover and regain strength by means of a draft rendezvous. The regiment would next serve on guard duty at Point Lookout, Maryland, before re-joining the Army of the Potomac just in time for Cold Harbor, the siege of Petersburg and the Appomattox campaign.
- **"School of the Soldier" DVD's** – Regimental Quartermaster in Gettysburg (www.regutm.com) has for sale DVD's of Program 1 and Program 2 of the School of the Soldier "how-to" videos released by the people who today have a series of excellent YouTube videos: the "Civil War Digital Digest". While the videos are well-done, new reenactors of Union units must be cautious about following the Hardee techniques shown by Confederate reenactors. Also, by their own admission, their method of stacking arms does not follow Casey, a correction they have made on one of their recent YouTube videos. The DVD's sell for \$19.95 each (plus shipping), with Program 1 having a SKU number of DVD-02, and Program 2 having a SKU number of DVD-03. Some of us have been around so long, that we even own these titles on their original VHS videotape format!
- **General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Described the 1865 Grand Review in his book, The Passing of the Armies** – "Heads uncover while passes what answers the earthly roll-call of the immortal

5th New Hampshire, famed on the stubborn Third Corps front at Gettysburg, where its high-hearted Colonel Cross fell leading the brigade – among the foremost in the sad glory of its losses, two hundred and ninety-five men having been killed in its ranks.”