



Battle Lines



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

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Military Muster: We Return to Kings Landing!

The long-awaited Military Muster at Kings Landing was held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 17-19, following its postponement from June due concerns regarding Covid-19. By all accounts, it was a highly-successful return to that most perfect of locations. Participating, aside from Co. H, 5th New Hampshire, was Co. I, 20th Maine and members of DeLancey's Brigade. Co. H participants were Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel, Suzanne Guay, Nicolas Tétrault, Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus. Serving with Co. I were Jason Middleton, Colin Moore and Mitchell Noel. With Jason was his wife, Amanda, and daughter, Arya.

We were visited on Friday by 117 students and staff from Nackawic Middle School, who witnessed loading in nine times, crisp volleys and firing by file. While only four rifles were in the line at the time, the volleys were sharp, with the sound echoing off the barn behind them, making it sound more like 40 rifles.

Three musket-fire demonstrations were carried out each day on Saturday and Sunday, with good-sized crowds in attendance. The adjacent Civil War campsites had a steady flow of visitors throughout the weekend, with four or five people expressing interest in joining us.

Joined on Friday night by Co. I, 20th Maine, their arrival on-site was facilitated by the great after-hours effort shown by Co. H member and Kings Landing executive member, Evelyn Fidler, who returned after-hours to the gate to enable Colin Moore and the Middleton family to enter the site. On Saturday morning, the combined companies, led by 1st Sergeant Gavel, marched to the Grant General Store to obtain some vegetables for the troops. They also later went on marches to the print shop and to the Kings Head Inn (on a scouting mission, no doubt). Guards were posted on the nearby millstream bridge by both companies present. Saturday, especially, was a warm day, so some planned

drills did not materialize, the company commander being far too easy on the troops. The “boys”, however, did not seem to mind.

One couple on Saturday asked Captain Titus about the “skirmish” that was shown on the printed schedule. It was listed as being scheduled for 4:30. He explained that it was skirmish drill, and not a skirmish. They left the camp, only to return at about 4:30 to a relatively quiet camp. They were seen walking away again, so a quick conversation between Captain Titus and 1st Sergeant Gavel resulted in 1st Sgt. Gavel rescuing the situation. He called after the couple, who returned, and Leigh spent the next 40 minutes or so, putting the man in uniform, taking photographs, sharing information about the kit he was wearing, and allowing the man to fire his musket. Both the man and the woman became completely engaged in what Leigh was sharing with them.



Thank you, 1st Sgt. Gavel, for turning this into a positive experience for this couple. Instead of sending away disappointed visitors, we may have gained long-time enthusiasts for who we are. In a lesson learned, next year the only item on the public schedule will be the musket fire times. We’ll do drills and exercises as time and conditions allow throughout the day, but, except for musket-fire times, we won’t be bound by a public schedule, as we don’t want to be in a position to disappoint anyone.

Kings Landing provided a dinner at the Kings Head Inn on Saturday evening for all participating reenactors, with, we believe, 18 people in attendance. The dinner was excellent, offering ham, scalloped potatoes, baked beans and carrots, with pickles and cucumbers on the side. Drinks, including Kings Landing’s ice-cold lemonade were also available.

Sunday was another sunny day, and following breakfast, we met for our AGM prior to the opening of the Kings Landing gates. Before long, a good number of people began to visit the camp and later on, witness the musket firing. Following the final demonstration of the day at 3:30, the number of visitors dropped-off dramatically, and members began the long and laborious process of breaking camp. Captain Titus was the last to leave the site, moving his horse and wagon out at precisely 6:30.

Observations

- Nice volleys, boys!
- Evelyn Fidler, whom 1st Sgt. Gavel had concerns was a spy, truly went “above and beyond” to make our encampment a success. Not only did she make frequent visits to the campsite, but she returned after-hours to allow Co. I, 20th Maine entrance to the site. Through all of this she maintained her smile and gracious nature, Thank you, Evelyn!
- We thank Kings Landing CEO, Mary Baruth, for hosting the Military Muster. From the start she was open and receptive to the idea of reenactors setting up camp once again at Kings Landing. Members of Co. H held two meetings with her and both were productive, with lots of informal dialogue. Whenever we met, Co. H members (Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel and Lindsay Titus) went away feeling good about the meeting and about the possibilities of the event. We hope this is the start of a long and positive relationship with Kings Landing.
- The welcoming enthusiasm shown by the Kings Landing villagers was the best I’ve ever experienced. Many came by the camp to say hello and tell us how pleased they were to have us there.
- What an addition the Tétrault family has been to Co. H. Not only did we gain a corporal and a young private, but we gained “the boss” – the best cook in the entire Army of the Potomac! Who could ever complain of the morning chill, when you are greeted with hot coffee, sizzling bacon, toast, scones, jams and other delights?
- Our 1st sergeant, Leigh Gavel, demonstrated leadership throughout the weekend. He greeted visitors, maintained character, led the troops on marches (both authorized and unauthorized), led the musket-fire demonstrations and showed why he had earned his stripes. Hurrah!
- 1st Sergeant Gavel referred to the settlement as Kings Landing, Maryland. I like it!
- Camaraderie between Co. H and Co. I was evident throughout the weekend. Assistance was given in setting up the camps, meals, laughs and conversations were shared around the campfire and it was very much “as in the old days”. This bodes well for the future of the two groups.

- Company H members put up 8 of 9 tents and a fly on Friday evening, thus showing what working together can accomplish. A fire pit was also dug and a fire built; all, it seemed, within minutes. The 9th tent went up the next morning.
- Leigh Gavel donated to the company first aid kits and a storage haversack. Lindsay Titus donated a fire extinguisher, which was disguised in a barrel.
- Four or five visitors showed particular interest in joining Co. I and all were given printed materials that included a history of the Fifth, plus our contact information (email address, website and Facebook page).
- One potential recruit's last name is Chamberlain. Shhhh! Don't tell the 20th Maine boys!
- The washroom facilities are greatly improved over years past.
- The weather was perfect for this event. A predicted thunder shower never materialized and although Thursday night in particular was somewhat chilly, the warmth of the day on Friday more than made up for it.
- Participants are urged to submit to Captain Titus any ideas, thoughts, concerns or improvements that could further enhance or improve next year's event.
- Reserve the weekend of June 17-19, 2022, for our return to this beautiful, but rebel-infested community.
- Oh, yes, nice volleys, boys!

Report by 1st Sgt. Gavel on Recent Troubles at Kings Landing, Md.

1st Sgt report on the deployment to Kings Landing, Maryland, 16 to 19 September, 1862.

On 16 September our soldiers of Co. H. 5th NH entered the town of Kings Landing, Maryland for the purpose of obtaining supplies. Almost immediately some of our soldiers were met by a woman, it is believed her name was Evelyn Fidler, who began asking many questions about our Company. She wanted to know how many soldiers were in the area, if more would be deployed to the area, what time of day these soldiers would be deployed, even the names of these soldiers. This was very suspicious to us and we believe this woman may in fact be gathering intelligence to forward on to the Confederate government. This woman should be investigated to see if she has loyalties to the Southern cause.

The rest of the evening passed quietly as our soldiers got to work to set up the tents on our Company street, located on the outskirts of the town.

On the morning of the 17th our soldiers arose early, ate a wonderful breakfast prepared by a Mrs. Guay. The soldiers were very thankful to Mrs. Guay for being so kind to do this for them, so they asked her to stay for the duration of the deployment and cook for them for a small fee. She agreed to do this to the great joy of all.

At approximately 11 AM, a large group of young people descended on our camp, led by several adults who obviously held Southern sympathies. They began hurling indignities at our soldiers. This action continued for some time, resulting in Capt. Titus ordering me to form the Company. After forming the Company we faced the unruly crowd with fixed bayonets. The crowd continued to stand their ground and only dispersed after our Company fired several warning shots. In the afternoon we delivered requisition notices to local farms and merchants as per Capt. Titus's orders. Some hostility from the locals was expected. The men were kept busy with drill and patrols throughout the town for the rest of the day. A late supper, again cooked by Mrs. Guay, was eagerly consumed by the soldiers. Pickets were placed following supper as per your orders.

Early morning of the 18th, a detachment from Company I. 20th ME, led by 1st Sgt Moore, reported for duty. They had been ordered to report to our Company due to the hostility our Company was receiving from the locals. Their arrival was greatly appreciated.

At approximately 10 AM we dispatched several sections of men under arms to retrieve the provisions that were requisitioned the previous day. Some complaints were received from a few of the locals, however there was outright hostility from the local merchant and his wife. This hostility resulted in me informing them that they could face formal charges from the War Department if they continued to delay in providing the provisions. The wife continued to protest. However, my statement to them seemed to quiet the husband. A crowd had begun to gather by this time, resulting in me ordering the men to fix bayonets in case the crowd became violent. The provisions were eventually gathered, despite the continued hostility of the merchant's wife, and the items were taken to our encampment. An inventory of all provisions received was taken and it was discovered that some locals had not provided all the items requested.

During the afternoon, in an attempt to lessen the hostility from the locals, Capt. Titus gave the order that those men not on duty could go into town on their free time. Several of our men, myself included, along with several of the 20th ME boys, including 1st Sgt Moore, decided to stop into the local pub for a refreshment. We were shocked to find out that the prices had been drastically increased. 1st Sgt Moore and myself agreed that this was obviously

because Union troops were occupying the town. This should be investigated to discover if this is an attempt to profiteer, or if the owner has Southern sympathies. While at the pub we learned that the print shop owner had, or was printing, anti-Union material for distribution to the locals. I ordered the men to finish their refreshments and we made our way over to the print shop to investigate the intelligence we had gathered. I confronted the print shop owner and he contemptuously admitted to the fact that he had indeed printed anti-Union pamphlets for distribution. He made no attempt to hide his hostility to the Union, even stating that he was making lots of money by doing so. I informed him that this information would be given to my commanding officer and that you would forward it on to the War Department. I also informed him that, if so ordered, we would fire his print shop to prevent him from printing treasonous material.

We were pleasantly surprised when Capt. Titus informed us that some of the loyal townsfolk had prepared a special supper for us. This was greatly appreciated by all the men who chose to accept the invitation. It seems there are some very nice locals after all. On behalf of the men I would like to say thank you, Capt. Titus, for allowing the men to attend the dinner. To all these wonderful people who showed us such kindness, thank you. Be careful though, as the town of Kings Landing, Maryland is rife with Southern sympathies. After supper the men spent a quiet evening with much talking around the campfires.

Morning of the 19th came quickly. The men were up early preparing for the day's tasks. Mrs. Guay again prepared a wonderful breakfast. We have learned that she is a widow and has in fact taken quite the fancy to one of our Cpl's., even mending his uniform and sewing on a special button for him to remember her by. Cpl Tetrault, you're a lucky man.

Capt. Titus dispatched several men to track down the missing supplies and I was ordered to inform the local merchant that he was to present himself to the Capt. or face arrest. The merchant himself seemed quite frightened by the prospect of facing Capt. Titus, but his wife seemed more concerned in finding a new husband. We also spoke with the local blacksmith about missing supplies, to which he blamed his brother. He provided his brother's name, however, none of the locals have ever heard of anyone going by that name. Obviously the blacksmith is another rebel sympathiser and must be investigated. At least two young men volunteered to join our Company and were quickly sworn in and equipped with uniforms. At least two more attempts were made by some crowds of locals to cause trouble, but these were diffused when Capt. Titus ordered the Company to form up and fire warning shots. Late in the afternoon Capt. Titus received orders for the Company to rejoin the rest of the Regiment. The 20th ME boys also received orders to rejoin their Regiment. Capt. Titus formed the Company and we began the long march to rejoin the Regiment.

Kings Landing, Maryland is rife with rebel sympathisers and spies. General McClellan must be made aware of this. The Union army must return often to make sure these rebel traitors don't infect the surrounding countryside.

1st Sgt. Gavel; Co. H, 5th NH Vol. Inf.

Annual General Meeting 2021

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2021 was held at Kings Landing during the morning of Sunday, September 19, beginning at about 9:15, and prior to Kings Landing opening to the public. Six members were present, including five voting members. Present were Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel. Loran Gavel, Suzanne Guay (non-voting member), Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus. A number of items were on the agenda, but we were able to go through them with relative ease. A minimum of nine (9) voting members were required to be present for a quorum to be formed, so all votes, according to our by-laws, are considered "partial" votes until a consensus is reached within a quorum vote. Thus, we sought "Yea" or "Nay" votes by email from members who were not present at the AGM.

Due to the length of the AGM minutes, the meeting summary was sent to Co. H members in an "Extra Edition" of "Battle Lines" (No. 36 Ex) that was emailed out on Friday, September 24.

Help Our Cause! Visit Our Website!

During our AGM, held at Kings Landing on September 19, Leigh Gavel urged Co. H members to visit our website often. The more visits ("hits") to the website, the closer to the top of the list the website goes during a Google search. So, if we wish for our website – and Co. H – to be more visible to the public, a simple visit to our website (Leigh suggested daily) will boost our visibility. Our web address is www.5thnhcoh.weebly.com.

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

James Johnson was credited to Alexandria, but was born in Canada. He enlisted at age 18 as a substitute on August 17, 1864, and was mustered-in on the same day as a private. Just less than two months later, on October 10, 1864, Johnson deserted to the enemy near Petersburg, Virginia.

Cancelled: The Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom

In an email received September 14, Joe Gee announced that the organizing committee of the annual Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom has reached the difficult decision to cancel this year's event, originally scheduled for Saturday, October 2. The decision was made due to rising Covid-19 cases in that region of New Brunswick.

An offer was made for us to still go and drill on October 2, as there will be organizers present, working on the site, but we would have no public audience. While the offer is appreciated, discussions held at Kings Landing suggested that we return to the event with increased enthusiasm in 2022.

Tent Pegs from Nick Skinner of South Mountain Forge

A September 11 call for help from Capt. Titus for tent pegs resulted in three of replies; one from Private Adams, one from 1st Sergeant Gavel, and one from Private Skinner, the latter of whom offered to make use of his skills, expertise and equipment at South Mountain Forge to make us some tent pegs. Before arriving at a price, Nick would need to know the quantity of pegs required. So, if you are short some tent pegs, want a few extras, or you are planning to order a tent, but don't want to pay shipping and duty for heavy items sent from the United States, Nick may be your answer. Send your tent peg requests to Captain Titus, and he will compile them and send the number to Nick. Nick will, in turn, calculate the price per peg. So, you are under no obligation to buy until you agree to the price. Nick is a member of Co. H, so if we can assist one of our own, while also enhancing our camp, it seems like the perfect combination!

Invitation Received: Vimy Oak Tree Planting Ceremony

An email invitation was received on Monday, September 6 that read: "Please consider yourselves invited to the Vimy Oak seedling planting at St Peter's (2365 Woodstock Rd) on Sat., Sept 18 at 11 a.m. See the attached poster [not included here] for details and print it off and post it and utilize the info found thereon at your pleasure."

Sincerely, *(Rev Canon Dr Ross N Hebb)*

Captain Titus responded by email the following morning: "Dear Reverend Hebb:

Thank you for the invitation to the Vimy Oak Tree planting ceremony scheduled for St. Peter's on 18 September. Unfortunately Co. H, 5th Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers is scheduled to be at Kings Landing that same weekend for a Military Muster.

It would have been great to connect again with Bob Dallison, who was always very supportive of us in past years at Kings Landing, and to be a part of this very worthwhile event.

Again, thank you for the invitation, and do keep us in mind for future military-related ceremonies and events."

(Lindsay Titus, Capt., Co. H, 5th Reg't. New Hampshire Vol's.)

Cancelled: The Fredericton North Heritage Fair

In the evening of August 5, an email was received from organizers of the Fredericton North Heritage Fair, inviting us to return for the second time to this event. The Fredericton North Heritage Fair was to be held on Saturday, October 16, however, an email received on Thursday, September 30, stated that the event has again been cancelled, once again by worries around Covid-19.

Dave Adams, Steve Norman and Lindsay Titus represented Co. H there two years ago and were well-received. The fair had to be cancelled last year due to Covid-19 and prior to that due to area flooding.

An announcement of the invitation was emailed to the Co. H membership on August 6, and as of October 5, Dave Adams and Lindsay Titus had indicated their willingness to attend on behalf of the company.

Invitation Received from the Charlotte County Fall Fair

We received an email on August 5, inviting Co. H to return to the Charlotte County Fall Fair (CCFF) for 2021. The CCFF is held annually at the Ganong Nature Park, near St. Stephen, New Brunswick. It is not a typical fair in that there is no midway, but instead focuses on rural life in that part of New Brunswick. When the weather cooperates, it is a very-well attended event, thus offering us lots of exposure to the public. We have been very well treated and received there in the past. We have been participants in the CCFF for a few years, now, but this year it conflicts with the Military Muster at Kings Landing.

In a survey of Co. H members, conducted after the June Military Muster was postponed, it was decided that if such a conflict arose, we would go to Kings Landing. Of course, the Military Muster was originally scheduled for June, so normally there would be no conflict between these two events. At our meeting at the drill of July 31, Dave Adams pointed out that we don't want to lose the CCFF as an event, especially because we have begun to combine it with a visit to the grave of General John C. Caldwell, the brigade or division commander of the 5th New Hampshire for nearly two years. General Caldwell is buried in St. Stephen Rural Cemetery.

Regrets of our inability to participate this year were sent to CCFF organizers, with the request that we be remembered and considered for the Fall Fair in 2022.

Reenactor Trading on Facebook

There are a number of pages listed on Facebook for the purpose of buying, selling and trading items from all eras of historical reenacting, including, of course, the Civil War. A sampling of ten of those pages is listed below.

Please note that Facebook regulations prevent the advertising of firearms, black powder, ammunition or knives on their site, but members of Co. H might still be able to find a uniform or camp item or two. "Battle Lines" makes no claim as to the quality or authenticity of items purchased on any of these trading sites, nor to the reliability of the sellers. On Facebook, just search for these titles:

- Campaigner Quality Trade Blanket
- Civil War Reenactors Trade Blanket
- Civil War Reenactors Yard Sale
- Civil War Trader
- Military Books Marketplace
- Reenactor Buy and Sell
- Reenactor Trader
- Re-enactors Garage Sale
- Reenactors Trading Post
- Trading Authenticity



! News of the War in the East !

- **Beef Barley Soup** – Anyone else wishing for some more of Suzanne's beef barley soup?
- **Tales Around the Campfire** – Tales will be told around future campfires of red apples, flowered buttons, the qualities of crispy vs. oinking bacon, the continuing woes of a falling private, cold nights and warm camaraderie. Hurrah!
- **Antietam Anniversary** – Friday, September 17 – the student day at Kings Landing – marked the 159th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, where the 5th NH was heavily engaged, holding the left flank of the Union line at the sunken road, known forever after as the Bloody Lane.
- **Shots Heard** – Nice volleys, boys!



- Civilian and Infantry Encampments
- Civil War Battle – Field Hospital
- Historical Fashion & Costuming
- Field Music – Blacksmithing
- Historical Farm Scenarios
- Storytelling – Site Tours
- Exhibits – Crafts

SAVE THE DATE!

7th RALLY FOR NORLANDS Civil War Reenactment Weekend October 9th & 10th, 2021

A living history event organized by
The 3rd Maine Co. A & The 15th Alabama Co. G. at
Norlands Living History Center
290 Norlands Road, Livermore, Maine

Interested in participating?

Reenactors, Volunteers, Period Crafts, Exhibitors...

Call or Email:

(207) 897-4366 | norlands@norlands.org

For Event Updates: NORLANDS.org
facebook.com/rallyfornorlands