



Battle Lines



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

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Joe Gee: The Highs & Lows of Life

On a late-September day, while in the midst of dealing with the Covid-19 crisis both within his family and within his community, Joe Gee proposed to long-time partner, Tracey Connors, and she said "Yes". Congratulations to the couple on this cheerful news within what has been a difficult fall season. It is, as one news reporter defined it, a "silver lining" within Joe's family circle. Captain Titus sent out an email to Co. H members about this announcement on October 2, asking them to share their congratulations; several members responded.

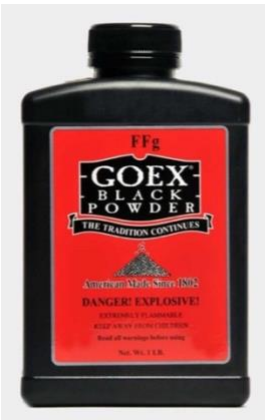
Just a few days later, however, in a Facebook posting from October 3, Joe Gee announced the loss of his father, who had been hospitalized at the Upper River Valley Hospital, in Waterville, across the St. John River from Hartland. Our deepest sympathies are extended to Joe, Tracey, and their extended family over the news of this loss. Mr. Gee had earlier been diagnosed with Covid-19.

Joe's father was at Tomlinson Lake on July 3 and offered to help Lindsay Titus unload his Jeep for the small encampment set up there on that day.

The Tétrault family also suffered a loss due to Covid-19 a few months ago, so this is now twice that Co. H has been touched by this pandemic.

Again, our sincere condolences to Joe Gee and his family, as well as to the Tétrault family.

Goex Black Powder Facility Has Closed



A telephone call from Sylvain Tétrault on September 29, alerted Lindsay Titus that Goex, the company that has been in business for 200 years, and has been a staple of black powder reenacting for many of those years, was closing the doors at its only manufacturing plant, located in Camp Minden, Louisiana. A news release dated September 28 from the National Rifle Association in the United States confirmed this news:

Hodgdon Powder Company announced it would cease manufacturing operations at the GOEX black powder manufacturing facility in Camp Minden, La., effective immediately. The closure eliminates the only domestic source of black powder in the United States. According to a company press release, Hodgdon will evaluate "strategic options for the black powder business," including a potential sale of the company.

Sylvain received this news from a friend of his, who lives in Vermont, and this friend said that there are stories that the Schuetzen Black Powder company of Germany may buy the Goex brand. Schuetzen has one Canadian distributor: Rayn'er Shine Gunworks in Lancer, Saskatchewan.

Notification of this news was sent out the same day (September 29) to Co. H members by email, and feedback was that, while individual members may want to locate and stock up on powder, that Company H should also investigate sources of black powder. Leigh Gavel said that he planned to visit Loyalist Arms in Halifax, although in an email reply to Leigh's enquiry, they said they were rationing powder to one 1-pound can per customer. Leigh was also going to investigate the quantity of percussion caps available from Loyalist Arms.

Schuetzen also makes four-wing percussion caps for muskets, although CCI-brand are available through Loyalist Arms and Cabela's/Bass Pro Shops.

Research into the availability and price of both black powder and percussion caps will continue on behalf of Co. H throughout the winter season.

Kings Landing Confirms Student Day for 2022!

In an email received on September 30, Evelyn Fidler said that Kings Landing is planning for a student day on June 17, 2022, as part of its second annual military muster. Co. H members are urged to join the fun, as we again gather at the Military Muster at Kings Landing, this time during the weekend of June 17-19 (Father's Day weekend).

Election & Voting Results

The election of officers, both administrative and field, is an important component of the structure of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire. Our *Regulations* call for a vote for these positions every two years, to be held at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and, if a quorum is not present, for the vote to continue by email once notification has been sent (usually by email) to all members. Other proposals, including those involving company funds, are also voted-upon during the AGM. The AGM for 2021 was held on Sunday, September 19, at the Military Muster at Kings Landing, with just five voting members present. Thus, voting by email was conducted in the days immediately after the AGM.

Those who cast their votes for the various nominations and proposals were: Dave Adams (at the AGM), Aaron Bouma (by email), Steve Cochrane (email), Evelyn Fidler (email), Leigh Gavel (AGM), Loran Gavel (AGM), Rick Jamer (email), Stephen Norman (email), Sylvain Tétrault (AGM), Lindsay Titus (AGM) and Nathan Titus (by voice). Thank you to all those who participated in this important part of company organization. Not all voters voted for all nominations or proposals. The voting results are as follows:

Vote No. 1 – Nominations for Administrative Positions

- For each position: Yes 10; No 0; Abstain 0
 - President – *Lindsay Titus*
 - Vice-President – *Leigh Gavel*
 - Member-at-Large – *Dave Adams*
 - Treasurer – *Lindsay Titus*

Vote No. 2 – Nominations for Field Positions

- For each position: Yes 10; No 0; Abstain 0
 - Captain – *Lindsay Titus*
 - 1st Sergeant – *Leigh Gavel*
 - 1st Corporal – *Sylvain Tétrault*
 - 2nd Corporal – *Rick Jamer*

Vote No. 3 – Proposal: Apply to join the New England Brigade

- Yes 9; No 0; Abstain 1

Vote No. 4 – Proposal: Apply to join the New England Civil War Events group

- Yes 9; No 0; Abstain 1

Vote No. 5 – Proposal: Increase individual membership dues to \$30.00 per year

- Yes 11; No 0; Abstain 0

Fifth New Hampshire Surgeon: Eyewitness to Assassination

Dr. William Child was the assistant surgeon and, later, the surgeon of the Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers, serving from the fall of 1862 until the regiment mustered-out on June 28, 1865. Aside from being repeatedly engaged first-hand in the horrors of war by following the regiment through many of its bloodiest battles, Child also wrote the definitive regimental history of the “Fighting Fifth”. The work includes a complete roster of soldiers and is thus an excellent first-person account of the regiment’s story.

Amazingly, while on sick leave, Dr. Child was at Ford’s Theater on 10th Street in Washington, DC on the evening of April 14, 1865. Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia had surrendered to General Grant five days prior and Child was out to enjoy the popular 3-act play, “Our American Cousin”, along with several hundred others, including President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln.

It was here that acclaimed actor and Southern sympathizer, John Wilkes Booth, carried out his part in an assassination plot to kill President Lincoln, Secretary of State William Seward and Vice-President Andrew Johnson. The attack on Johnson didn’t happen; Seward was badly injured; but Booth’s attack on Lincoln plunged the country into despair and doomed the former Confederacy to years of troubled and bitter “reconstruction”.

Despite the magnitude of the event, Surgeon Child makes little note of the night at Ford’s Theater in his history of the Fifth New Hampshire, stating simply, “Surgeon William Child was an eye witness of the assassination of the president, the only member of the Fifth New Hampshire Volunteers known to have been present during that awful tragedy.” But, then, William Child had been an eyewitness to many horrors during his time as the regiment’s surgeon, and he didn’t dwell on those sights much, either.

☸ Remembrance Day ● November 11 ☸

“Lest We Forget”

Your Soldier Line Number

The reenacting Company D, 2nd United States Sharpshooters (USSS) has a YouTube video entitled, “How to Defarb Your Canteen”. In the video, a soldier is shown sewing information on the jean-cloth covering of his canteen. According to the 1st sergeant narrating the video, the canteen is one of a number of items to be labeled with the regiment’s number, the company letter and the “line number” of the individual soldier; a reference, most likely, to the line number found on the enlistment record. These three numbers and letters are to be placed one above the other on one side of the canteen in the order of regiment number, company letter and line number. On the reverse side of the canteen are to be placed the initials of the individual soldier. Indeed the “1861 Uniform Regulations” refers to use of the “number of the soldier”.

Captain Titus has kept a list of all who have joined Co. H since its inception in 2002, noting their date of enlistment (sometimes the date they first paid their dues), or who otherwise indicated their desire to join. In some instances, where the date is the same for more than one person, the assigned number was established by using the time of day that the individual con-tacted Captain Titus about joining. In some instances, these notifications occurred by email only minutes apart.

All members, whether serving in the line, as a civilian, or in other capacities, are assigned a line number, as roles sometimes change and evolve. Those who have left the unit maintain their number in the event of their return, or as was done in original regiments, the numbers were retained even when the soldier became a casualty.

Below is a chart of all current and past members, their date of enlistment and the line number assigned to them. Watch the 2nd USSS video. Perhaps you’ll want to sew or paint your information on your canteen, or identify other equipment with your line number during the upcoming winter.

Name	Line No.	Orig. Enlist. Date	Initial Dues Pd.	Disposition
Titus, Lindsay	1	03/17/02	03/17/19	Active – Co. K; Co. H
Adams, Dave	2	03/17/02	03/17/02	Active – Co. K; Co. H
Lynch, Colin	3	03/17/02	03/17/02	Inactive – Co. K; Co. H
Titus, Eric	4	03/17/02	- -	Inactive – Family: Co. K; Co. H
Titus, Nathan	5	03/07/02	06/08/20	Active – Family: Co. K; Co. H
Eaton, Bryant	6	06/--/02	08/18/02	Inactive – Co. K; Co. H
Hippenstall, Barry	7	09/07/18	02/18/19	Active
Jamer, Rick	8	09/07/18	02/09/19	Active
Norman, Stephen	9	09/07/18	03/13/19	Active
Fekner, Greg	10	09/07/18	04/16/19	Resigned 10/13/19; re-enlisted 4/20/20; resigned 6/01/21.
Kiggins, Bernie	11	09/16/18	- -	Resigned 03/13/19
Gee, Joe	12	09/24/18	04/13/19	Active
Bouma, Aaron	13	10/03/18	04/13/19	Active
Hippenstall, Brannson	14	02/18/19	02/18/19	Resigned 6/30/21; did not renew membership.
Tétrault, Sylvain	15	06/07/19	08/27/19	Active
Tétrault, Nicolas	16	06/07/19	08/27/19	Active
Gavel, Leigh	17	08/14/19	08/26/19	Active
Keretschko, Bob	18	08/24/19	11/09/19	Active
Keretschko, Marie	19	08/24/19	11/09/19	Active
Cochrane, Steve	20	08/31/19	11/09/19	Active
Grenier, Edmond	21	02/26/20	06/05/20	Resigned 6/30/21; did not renew membership.
Guay, Suzanne	22	08/15/20	08/15/20	Active
Mcdonald, Emilie	23	08/15/20	09/12/20	Family Member; Resigned 9/08/21.
Gavel, Loran	24	08/17/20	08/22/20	Active
Jamer, Ricky	25	09/22/20	09/24/20	Active

Skinner, Nick	26	03/01/21	03/01/21	Active
Tétrault, Elodie	27	05/09/21	05/09/21	Active Infant; Family Member
Fidler, Evelyn	28	06/13/21	06/13/21	Active

No “Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show” for Co. H

Twice, including at the AGM, Leigh Gavel suggested that the Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show in Halifax (March 11-13, 2022) might be a good opportunity for us to recruit new members. Leigh promised to contact event organizers (*continued from page 3...*) about us setting up a table there. In an email on September 25, Leigh wrote the following: “I contacted the organizers of the Outdoor & RV show to ask about reserving a display space. They were eager for our involvement, stating that they would love to use some of our pictures on our web site to help promote the event. Bad news is they charge a rather large fee, \$450 plus tax, and that’s the half-price that associations are charged. Vendors pay \$900 plus tax. I had to decline, explaining to them that our unit does not charge a fee for us to attend events and our only revenue is through membership dues. Disappointing, as that would be a great place to recruit. Doesn't mean I can't go to the event wearing my kepi, though.” Thank you, Leigh, for the noble attempt!

Dave Adams Builds Signs for Company H



In the week following the Military Muster at Kings Landing, Dave Adams built three signs for Co. H. Taking a cue from the sign displayed by the 20th Maine at Kings Landing, and following discussions there about signage, Dave came home and went right to work. Co. I, 20th Maine owns two signs, both expertly built and painted by Sam Cormier, who is originally from Bouctouche, New Brunswick, but is now a long-time resident of Ellsworth, Maine. Sam is a carpenter by trade and used an actual sign from a New York cavalry recruiting office to pattern the signs he built for Co. I.

Two of the signs built by Dave are for camp display, and will feature eye-hooks for hanging. One sign measures 18.5” x 21”, and will become a “Recruiting Office” sign. The second one, slightly larger, measures 23” x 21”, and will announce to visitors who we are. Both signs are currently in the possession of Captain Titus, and both signs will require painting and lettering.

The third sign Dave built is for use at displays and presentations, as it is designed to stand on a tabletop or desktop. Dave has already varnished this sign, so it won’t require painting. It is a perfect size for poster display, as can be seen (*above*). Dave liked this one so much that he built a second stand-up sign for his own use at home.

Thank you, Dave, for your efforts and craftsmanship on behalf of the company. It must also be recognized that Dave purchased and donated the materials for these projects without thought of repayment. Your contribution for the good of the company is so very much appreciated, Dave! Hurrah!

! News of the War in the East !

- **Civil War Mentioned on CBC** – In a news broadcast of Saturday, October 2, CBC Radio reported that the United States had surpassed 700,000 deaths in that country from Covid-19. The report went on to say that this number is greater than the number of deaths in the American Civil War (which they placed at 655,000), then the deadliest period in American history.
- **Captain Titus Pays Dues (Already)** – Captain Titus sent an email notice to members on September 26, announcing that he paid his membership dues of \$30.00 for the 2022-23 season. It was paid by e-transfer.
- **Schuetzen Black Powder & Caps** – An email received in mid-October from The Regimental Quartermaster in Gettysburg, announced that they carry black powder and percussion caps from Schuetzen, the German company that seems to have stepped in upon the loss of Goex products.
- **Cobequid Pass Tolls to be Removed** – According to an article in the *Moncton Times & Transcript* on September 25, the Province of Nova Scotia is working to remove the tolls on the Cobequid Pass highway in 90-days’ time. The toll highway forms part of the main vehicle artery between Amherst and Truro. Company H members traveling this route will, once engineering studies determine how best to align the highway at the site of the current toll gates, save \$8.00 roundtrip if driving a regular two-axel passenger vehicle.

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Mitchell Lacours was born in Canada, but was a resident of Washington, New Hampshire when he enlisted on September 1, 1864 as a substitute at the age of 21. He was mustered-in on the same day as a private in Co. F. Lacours was counted among the missing at the Battle of Farmville, Virginia on April 7, 1865, but was returned from capture. He mustered out with the regiment on June 28, 1865. He gave his postal address as Stanstead Plain [now Stanstead], Quebec.