



Battle Lines



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

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Happy New Year to all members, families and friends of Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire! What will the new year bring? With just five days into the new year, we can only hope that it brings all of us love, peace, joy, good health and prosperity. My wishes for 2022 are simple, and include hearing the crack of an open fire on a calm, misty Kings Landing morning, accompanied by the taste of hot coffee in a tin cup; the smell of aviation fuel at Air Show Atlantic; the boom of a sharp volley as it rebounds off the walls of the Halifax Citadel; laughter in the ranks (at a time when there shouldn't be any); the cadenced crunch of brogans on the gravel of a red road in PEI; and the clank of a bayonet scabbard hitting against the side of a tin cup as we march on the otherwise quiet path to General Caldwell's gravesite. My wishes for 2022 aren't fancy, but they are the stuff that makes for lasting memories. Happy New Year!

NFA Liability Insurance Cost Increases by \$3.00 per Member

In a letter dated December 1, and received December 10, 2021, the National Firearms Association (NFA) announced a liability insurance cost increase, which will affect the amount we send to the NFA by our renewal date of July 1, 2022. In part, the letter stated: "Our rate of \$9.95 per insured person (\$14.95 including NFA associate membership) has not been adjusted for over a decade (2010). Unfortunately, just 5 days before our 2021 policy renewal date, our insurance premium was increased by \$2.50 per insured person effective December 1, 2021. The NFA must increase the cost per insured associate club member by \$3 effective immediately. The cost per insured member upon renewal is now \$17.95 (\$12.95 insurance plus \$5 NFA associate membership fee)." The letter goes on to say, "The NFA is continuing to negotiate with our insurance provider and will keep all clubs informed of our progress."

With our upcoming Co. H membership dues increasing to \$30.00, a total of \$17.95 per member will be going to the NFA, and the remaining \$12.05 will be placed in the Company H credit union account. Having investigated this type of insurance from other sources in the past, I can say that, despite the \$3.00 increase, it is still a reasonable cost to bear. (*L. Titus*)

Part 1: A First-Year Report by Colonel Cross

Chapter XIV (pp. 134-143) of Dr. William Child's regimental history of the 5th New Hampshire comprises a report of the history of the regiment up to that time, written by Colonel Cross to New Hampshire Governor Nathaniel S. Berry. Introducing the report, Dr. Child writes: "On October 26, 1862, Colonel Edward E. Cross writes in his personal journal, while in camp on Bolivar Heights [above Harpers Ferry, Virginia], as follows:"

One year ago to-day, at 9 o'clock in the morning, I was mustered into the service of the United States, and the Fifth became a regiment. It has been an arduous year for me – much hard labor, much anxiety, much hardship. The material for the regiment was good, but raw. Nearly all my commissioned officers were strangers to me, untried and inexperienced men. From first to last I had the regiment to make – officers and men. I found it far more difficult to make officers than soldiers. Volunteer officers do not have that sense of military responsibility felt by regulars, and they require constant watching to remind them of their duty to the regiment and the government. I had the advantage of being a stranger in the state, which circumstances aided me greatly.

I have made up and sent my yearly report to the war department, also a lengthy report to the governor of New Hampshire.

Child continues: *The report to the governor of the state is given in full. It is a splendid review of the doings of the Fifth Regiment, and is worthy of a place in the history, though it may be a partial repetition of much that has been written [by Child in his regimental history].*

Report by Colonel Cross

*Head-Quarters Fifth New Hampshire Volunteers,
Camp on Bolivar Heights, October 31, 1862.*

Governor Berry –

The Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers has now been in service one year, and it seems proper that I should present you a statement of the services of the regiment and its present condition.

The regiment completed its muster on the evening of October 26, 1861, and left Concord on the 28th, numbering one thousand and ten, officers and men. On the 31st we reached Bladensburg [Maryland], where we encamped. On the 3rd of November, in the midst of a rain and the roads in a very bad condition, we formed a portion of Howard's Brigade, ordered to Lower Marlborough, Md. The distance – about fifty miles – was made in two days. We marched back in two days, after remaining one. No more severe march has been made by any regiment of the Army of the Potomac. On the 27th of November the regiment marched across Long bridge into Virginia, and was assigned, with the remainder of Howard's Brigade to the division of General Sumner. A great deal of hard labor was here expended in rendering habitable a bad location for a camp; but we afterward had the satisfaction of having the neatest and most comfortable quarters in the division. The regiment soon commenced doing picket and outpost duty at the front, and established the first line of pickets on the line fronting the enemy at Fairfax Court House. In the intervals between picketing and scouting, whenever the weather would allow, the men were thoroughly drilled, not only in regimental but brigade tactics, also in the bayonet exercise. The commissioned officers were also drilled in the practical part of this duty. Schools were established by the colonel and lieutenant-colonel for the instruction of officers and sergeants during the winter evenings. A "common school," for such of the boys in the regiment as needed instruction in the elementary branches, was also put in operation, the necessary books being donated by the Sanitary Commission.

All through the winter my regiment furnished heavy details to build roads, repair bridges and cut timber. The pioneers were also instructed in making gabions, fascines, and other engineering work. The good effect of this drill and instruction has since been apparent to officers and men on many trying occasions.

Measles and mumps prevailed in my regiment to an extraordinary extent, but at no time up to the battle of Fair Oaks did the regiment fail to turn out more men for duty than any other in the entire division. All through the winter we averaged from six hundred and fifty to eight hundred men for duty daily. Several times while the regiment was out on duty at the front, it was exposed to severe storms of rain and snow, without tents, for five or six days at a time.

On the 1st day of March, while on picket, received orders to move up and join the remainder of Howard's Brigade, then on a scout to the front. While on this expedition, the regiment was called out in the night to meet the enemy. In less than seven minutes from the time the long roll commenced beating, the whole regiment was on the march.

On the 10th of March my regiment, under its commanding officer, formed the advance guard of Sumner's Division, when it marched from Camp California on Manassas, Major Cook commanding my skirmish line. On the march to Warrenton Junction the entire force were obliged to ford creeks and rivers, some waist deep – five of these fords in one day. Guard and picket duty were severe; the weather cold and rainy, the roads almost impassable, often the men could not build fires, often the ground was so wet and muddy that they could not lie down; no tents; no cooking utensils but tin cups; and no wagons; in this state for thirty-one days. Yet the men were cheerful, and we averaged seven hundred men for duty daily. [Part 2 continues in the February issue of "Battle Lines".]



- **Meeting at Kings Landing** – tentative; to be determined
- **Company Drill** – Sussex, NB – Sat., April 30, 2022
- **Company Drill** – Sussex, NB – Sat., May 28, 2022
- **Kings Landing Pre-Muster March** – tentative
- **Kings Landing Set-up Day** – June 16
- **Kings Landing Student Day** – June 17
- **Kings Landing Military Muster** – June 17-19
- **Air Show Atlantic** – August (?)
- **The Halifax Citadel** – tentative
- **Prince Edward Island Drill** – date & location to be determined
- **Battle of Antietam 160th** – September 17-18 in Gettysburg
- **General Caldwell Graveside Visit** – St. Stephen, NB – September
- **Charlotte County Fall Fair** – St. Stephen, NB – September
- **Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom** – Carlingford, NB – October



The Daniel Lady Farmhouse, at Gettysburg

Antietam 160th Reenactment at Gettysburg in 2022!

An Internet search in late November revealed that a 160th anniversary reenactment of the Battle of Antietam is being planned for a site located, not near Sharpsburg, Maryland, but in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Thus far, it is the only anniversary reenactment of Antietam found on the Internet.

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA) is sponsoring the event, which is scheduled for the weekend of September 17-18, 2022, with reenactors able to set up camp beginning at 12 noon on Friday, September 16. September 17 is, of course, the actual anniversary date of this, the bloodiest day in American history.

The early reenactor registration fee is \$15.00 (US) until April 4. The fee then goes up to \$20.00. Walk-on's will pay \$40.00. Spectators will pay \$25.00 per day, per adult, or \$40.00 for the two days.

Also offered to reenactors is a BBQ dinner platter of "savory pulled-pork, brown sugar baked beans, country green beans, creamy coleslaw and a biscuit." Pre-orders for the dinner are \$10.00 (non-refundable), with a limited number of meal orders taken on-site at \$12.00 per adult. The meal will be served from 5 PM until 6:15 PM on Saturday evening.

The reenactment is being held at the Daniel Lady Farm, a 146-1cre site, located at 1008 Hanover Road (Route 116), in Gettysburg (*See the photo, above.*). Other reenactments have been held here, including a 2020 Battle of Gettysburg reenactment. No details of the battle scenarios have been released as of this date.

The Daniel Lady Farm borders on the Gettysburg National Military Park at Benner Hill. The GBPA website (gbpa.org, then click on “Events”) states that “the farm was the site of artillery placements and infantry preparations for the Confederate attack on Culp’s Hill. The house and barn became a field hospital. Shell fragments and soldiers’ carved initials are preserved in the barn, and [there are] blood-stained floors in the house.”

Although we will continue to monitor the Internet for Antietam anniversary events being held closer to the actual battle site, as of now we, as a group, have three choices: (1) to register and participate as a group; (2) encourage members to register on their own as individuals; or (3) by-pass this event altogether. Of course, even if the decision is to register as a group, no member is obligated to go. Keep in mind, too, that Covid-19 protocols and restrictions may still be in place by next fall.

The 5th New Hampshire was heavily engaged at Antietam, forming the left flank of Caldwell’s Brigade at the sunken road, soon to be known as the “Bloody Lane”.

The Military Muster at Kings Landing • June 17-19, 2022!

The Importance of Our Newsletter

“Battle Lines”, the monthly newsletter of Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire, provides at least seven services that are important to the future of the group. They are:

- (1) The newsletter helps to hold the group together, especially during “down times”, making a rather diverse and widespread group into a more comprehensive one.
- (2) By informing members of the group’s accomplishments, and by providing history and biography of the original regiment and related topics, it helps build pride in being a part of Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire.
- (3) It informs members (as well as interested groups and individuals) of Company H news and activities, Civil War news in general, and of upcoming events.
- (4) The newsletter works as a teaching tool, providing information on regimental history, biography or "how-to's" on drill, military deportment, equipment, and so on.
- (5) It serves as a report and record of meetings, activities, events and accomplishments, and thus forms a key part of our company archives;
- (6) It serves as a recruiting tool, providing information that may help persuade a person to join our ranks.
- (7) It serves as a public relations tool, allowing organizations and the public to get a glimpse of what we do and what we stand for.

This January issue of “Battle Lines” marks the fortieth issue of the newsletter since the company again mustered-into service in September 2018. All back issues, in electronic (PDF) form are available upon request.

Of course, to be effective, the newsletter must be read and, ideally, preserved.

In Command (6 of 6): The Fifth New Hampshire at Appomattox

- ♣ **April 9, 1865**
- ♣ **Army of the Potomac** – Major General George Meade
- ♣ **II Corps** – Major General Andrew A. Humphreys
- ♣ **1st Division** – Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles
- ♣ **1st Brigade** – Brevet Brigadier General George A. Macy
- ♣ **5th New Hampshire** – Lieutenant Colonel Welcome A Crafts

! News of the War in the East !

- **Check Your PAL Expiration Date** – A valid Possession and Acquisition License (PAL) is required of all Co. H members who carry a firearm. The downtime of winter is a good time to check the expiration date of your PAL if you carry a firearm. It expires on your birthday, but be sure of the year of expiration. It is far easier to renew your PAL while the license is valid than it is to obtain a new one due to expiration, and less costly, too. Obtaining a new PAL may require the successful re-taking of the firearms safety course, or challenging it, as established periodically by your province.

- **DeLancey’s is Returning to Kings Landing** – In an email sent on December 5 to Evelyn Fidler and copied to Lindsay Titus, DeLancey’s Brigade president Steve Fowler stated that by a unanimous decision, his membership present at a Skype meeting, voted to return to Kings Landing for the Military Muster scheduled for June 2022.
- **Upgrade to Antietam Visitors’ Center** – According to the Antietam National Military Park website, the spring of 2021 will see “the National Park Service (NPS) begin a \$6.8 million project to rehabilitate and preserve the visitor center at Antietam National Battlefield. Through this rehabilitation, the NPS will bring the almost 60-year-old facility into the 21st century to preserve the building and provide improved visitor services.” The work is expected to be complete by the fall of 2022.
- **The New England Brigade on Facebook** – If you wish to “check out” the happenings of the New England Brigade, look up “The New England Brigade” on Facebook to read about their upcoming activities

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Eugene Lawson was born in Canada and at age 18 enlisted as a substitute on September 7, 1864. He was mustered-in on the same day as a private and was credited to Charlestown. Serving in Co. F, Lawson was wounded on April 7, 1865, at Farmville, Virginia and died the next day (April 8) at Burkesville, Virginia, just one day before Robert E. Lee’s surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia to U.S. Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9.