



# Battle Lines



Newsletter of Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> Reg't. New Hampshire Vol's.

- *Mustered-in March 17, 2002* •
- *Issue No. 44* • *May 5, 2022* •

! Hurrah !

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Gavel Raises \$630 for Co. H!

An astonishing donation of \$630.00 was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Leigh Gavel during the Co. H meeting on April 30, in Sussex, NB. First Sergeant Gavel had been fundraising at work (after hours) since November on behalf of the Company, raising the money through 25/75 draws. Leigh had kept this activity to himself, thus springing the surprise on the attending members. The money was handed over to Captain Titus just prior to the meeting in what must be called a “shocking”, but very pleasant surprise. Also received at the April 30 meeting were dues payments of \$30.00 each from Stephen Norman and Bob Keretschko (through Leigh), bringing our credit union account total to over \$1270.00! This, of course, is prior to our NFA membership and liability insurance payment, but it is the “healthiest” our financial status has ever been. On behalf of the membership of Company H, thank you, Leigh, for this overwhelming effort and gesture!

### Report: Company H Meeting of April 30

Although the weather largely cooperated on Saturday, April 30, the drill scheduled for that day developed, instead, into a meeting lasting over three hours, with drill being put off until May 28. Participants were Dave Adams, Leigh Gavel, Stephen Norman, Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus. Despite the absence of physical drill, the day was a good one, with lots of in-depth discussion on topics dear to Company H. Following is an overview of the day's discussions. Members who were present are encouraged to email Captain Titus with any corrections or omissions.

#### Overview –

- There was a recognition that this season's schedule has developed into a busy one. Members are reminded that each of us can do only what we can to participate in the various events.
- An attempt was made to accommodate more regional events than in past years.

#### Drill No. 2 –

- The next drill, scheduled for Saturday, May 28, will be held in Sussex, NB.

#### Ross Farm Encampment No. 1 –

- We are committed to this event in Nova Scotia on June 4-5.
- Discussion included the possibility of a future military timeline event at Ross Farm.
- Leigh Gavel noted that groups have received donations in past years.

#### Kings Landing Planning Meeting –

- Dave Adams and Lindsay Titus will represent the 5<sup>th</sup> NH at this meeting, scheduled for Saturday, May 7, at Kings Landing.
- Our new points of contact at Kings Landing were noted: Stephanie O'Donnell-Price (Special Events) and Cristina Furey (Education).
- Leigh Gavel asked if reenactors, especially those who traveled long distances, may be able to camp over on Sunday night. This will be brought to the meeting.
- It will be proposed that the only scheduled activities will be firing demonstrations; other activities will be as situations warrant.

- The situation with the security guard last year (Lindsay & Steve Fowler) will be brought up at the meeting.
- Leigh asked if a different water source might be available. It was noted that some members brought their own water.
- This discussion included the Military Muster itself, not just the upcoming planning meeting.
- Co. H wishes to keep its campsite, but would like to see the Rev War campsite moved closer, to facilitate coordinated activities (such as group firing).

#### **Drill No. 3 –**

- This drill is tentatively set for Saturday, July 30; it is presently the only event scheduled for July.
- It was offered that, in lieu of this drill, July might be a month to schedule an event on PEI. To that end, Captain Titus said he would email Barry Hippenstall and Rick Jamer about a date and location for a PEI event. [Note: The email was sent on Sunday, May 1.]
- It was determined to decide whether to hold this drill at our next event, scheduled for May 28 in Sussex.

#### **Air Show Atlantic –**

- The air show is scheduled for the weekend of August 27-28 in Debert, NS.
- We are committed to this event; it is viewed as a potentially great recruiting event.
- Leigh Gavel commented that it is unknown whether we would be allowed to sleep overnight in our tents, or whether we would be able to fire our muskets.

#### **Charlotte County Fall Fair (CCFF) –**

- This event is scheduled for September 17-18.
- We have received an invitation to participate.
- It was suggested that this, along with Ross Farm encampment No. 2, could be regional events; and that members should choose the event they wish to attend. This was noted, as the CCFF, Ross Farm and Tomlinson Lake, are, as Dave Adams pointed out, all scheduled for three weekends in a row.
- We combined the CCFF with a visit to General Caldwell's grave (on the Friday set-up day) in a past year, and would offer that event again on September 16.
- This has been a paid event in some past years.
- Leigh Gavel is unavailable for this event.

#### **Ross Farm Encampment No. 2 –**

- This event is scheduled for September 24-25.
- As this event is a long way down our calendar, discussion focused on a proposal to hold our AGM at this event, especially since this is a non-voting year for positions of responsibility.
- Dave Adams suggested that dual meetings could be held at both Ross Farm and Tomlinson Lake.
- Ultimately, it was put forward and agreed, that a stand-alone AGM should be scheduled for Sussex at a date to be determined in late October.

#### **The Halifax Citadel –**

- Due to our already heavy schedule, it was decided to put a Halifax Citadel event "on hold" for the present time.

#### **Black Powder & Percussion Caps –**

- Dave Adams related his recent visit to Loyalist Arms in Halifax.
- The powder and caps situation of Loyalist Arms was discussed; it appears that they have access to both, and thus are our best source for powder and caps, both in terms of quantity and price.

#### **New Business –**

- Stephen Norman asked about a return to the Saint John Heritage Fair. Captain Titus said he had not heard news about it, but would keep searching. He also said we were on the email list for the Fredericton North Heritage Fair. Both members agreed that they would support a return to these events.
- Captain Titus shared concern about the formatting issues he is seeing with PDF files, and how they are not true copies of the newsletters as written. He showed a copy of the latest newsletter to illustrate this. There was little concern about this expressed by the members present.
- A brief discussion was held regarding building our relationship with Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine.

- Some members expressed interest in attending New England Brigade events next year, but found that this year was too complex to consider, with confusing Covid border requirements and the high cost of gas. Dave Adams stated that he was still happy that we joined, and that it would especially benefit the younger members of Co. H. Leigh agreed that it was good to belong to a larger organization in the United States to participate in larger events.
- Captain Titus asked about becoming a non-profit, or not-for-profit organization, mentioning Leigh Gavel's knife donation as an example of possible need. It was decided that this is unnecessary at this time. Leigh Gavel thought there is a difference between non-profit and not-for-profit, and offered that Steven Cochrane would most-likely know about this, and the procedures for application.
- Leigh Gavel asked about setting up a bank account under the company name, as opposed to "Lindsay Titus". He offered that some potential donors might shy from donating if an individual name was "receiving" the money. This is a valid point. This option was unavailable to us at the credit union, but seemed to be the only institution that would not charge us a monthly fee. It was determined that the payment of a monthly fee and changing the account name, should be a topic for our AGM in the fall.

#### Adjournment –

- With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 PM.

### On the March: First Encampment at Ross Farm



During the weekend of June 4-5, Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire will be at Ross Farm, near New Ross, Nova Scotia. Camp set-up will be possible on the evening of Friday, June 3. This will be the first time that the 5<sup>th</sup> NH will encamp at Ross Farm, although Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine has been there, as have members of the Atlantic Canadian Military History Association (ACMHA), which includes some Co. H members.

Ross Farm is a nineteenth century farm, so is a perfect setting for Civil War "occupation". It is expected that members of the ACMHA will also be present at this event, setting up static displays. We are scheduled to return to Ross Farm on September 24-25, during their

annual Harvest Festival – a busy time there, with lots of members of the public in attendance, we are told. First Sergeant Gavel says that there is limited floorspace for sleeping indoors, should the weather be uncooperative.

Emails will be sent to members in May to provide additional information and to survey member participation at this event, so please watch for these, and respond promptly so that planning may be done. It is good to have events scheduled geographically closer for our members in Nova Scotia, so let's work for a strong turnout!

Ross Farm is located at 4568 Highway 12, near the community of New Ross, Nova Scotia. Route 12 runs from Kentville in the Annapolis Valley, to Chester Basin on the South Shore. Those traveling on Highway 101 from Halifax through the Annapolis Valley should take Exit 13 and turn left onto Route 12. Kentville is about one hour from Halifax, and it is about a five-hour drive from Amherst to Kentville, with another 20-30 minutes to Ross Farm. Except for the drive on Route 12, four-lane, divided highways are your means of travel. See you there!



- Drill! – Saturday, May 28 – 12 noon – Sussex, NB

- Ross Farm! – June 4-5 – New Ross, NS
- Kings Landing! – June 17-19 – Prince William, NB

**! Notice !**

**Soldiers sleeping on duty**

**will face**

**severe punishment!**

### Planning Meeting for Kings Landing on May 7

On Saturday, May 7, representatives of Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire; Co. I, Twentieth Maine; and DeLancey's Brigade will meet with representatives of Kings Landing to review last year's Military Muster, held in September 2021, and to plan for this year's encampment scheduled for the weekend of June 17-19. Dave Adams and Lindsay Titus will represent Co. H. Other reenactor representatives expected are Troy Middleton (20<sup>th</sup> Maine), and Steve Fowler and Colin Moore (DeLancey's Brigade). The meeting is scheduled for the board room of the Kings Landing administration building, beginning at 10 AM.

Company H members who have thoughts or ideas on improvements or changes to the 2022 encampment are asked to email Captain Titus with your concerns, questions, comments or recommendations by Friday, May 6. Emails asking for ideas were earlier sent to the Co. H membership, so this is a "last call".

A regular return to Kings Landing has long been sought-after by reenacting organizations. We were first to contact Kings Landing CEO Mary Baruth, and the Military Muster is a "signature event" on our calendar. Members are asked to make every effort to participate in this event. It is an excellent – and regional – way to experience military life in the nineteenth century. It may be said that reenacting groups across North America would be jealous of us for having such a nineteenth century gem right here in our region.

### Dues Received from Two More Members

Membership dues payments of \$30.00 each were received on April 30 from Stephen Norman, and Bob & Marie Keretschko. The Keretschko family membership was paid on their behalf by First Sergeant Leigh Gavel. That brings our membership roster total for 2022-23 to fourteen members overall; eleven of them paid (voting) members, with three being family members. Membership dues for the new season will be required by mid-June for renewal by July 1. Thank you to all who have already paid their dues!

### Company H Drill on Saturday, May 28

The second Company H drill of the season will be held at the home of Lindsay Titus in Sussex, NB (26 Jonah Court), on Saturday, May 28, beginning at 12 noon. At our meeting of June 30, the members present unanimously selected Sussex as the site of this second drill and meeting for 2022.

Drill is both essential to what we do in our military portrayal as reenactors, and fun for participants; it is considered by most to be an event in itself, and not just a means to improve for other events. Drill is necessary for an authentic portrayal and for reasons of safety, so members are strongly encouraged to turn out for drill.

### June Issue of "Battle Lines" to be Issued a Day Late

Due to Captain Titus' participation in the upcoming encampment at Ross Farm during the weekend of June 4-5, the June issue of "Battle Lines" will be sent to members and friends of Co. H a day late, on Monday, June 6, instead of the usual release date of the fifth of the month. This is both because Captain Titus will not have access to the printing press while away on campaign, plus wanting to include a report of the Ross Farm encampment in the June issue.

### Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Alvin Saunders was born in Canada and at the age of 22, enlisted as a substitute on August 29, 1864. He was mustered-in on the same day as a private and was assigned to Co. G. His enlistment was credited to Colebrook. On the mustering-out of the regiment on June 28, 1865, he was listed as "absent without leave since December 6, 1864." There was no further record of him at the office of the Attorney General.