



Battle Lines



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

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Company H Drill of May 28: Cancelled

Environment Canada's forecast was unchanging, with a 60% chance of showers as we approached the scheduled drill date of May 28. Because of this, and because only four members indicated their availability for drill, on May 26 Captain Titus cancelled the drill. Added to the weather forecast was the concern that Leigh Gavel would have to travel from Halifax to Sussex for an event that might not happen, and with extraordinarily high gas prices and a low expected turnout, cancellation seemed the prudent decision to make. So, it was reasoned that it would be more beneficial for all members to focus on two upcoming events: the Ross Farm encampment of June 4-5, and the Military Muster at Kings Landing on June 17-19. As it happened, there was no rain, but gas prices and the low expected turnout were reasons enough to cancel.

Report: Encampment at Ross Farm

Men of the 5th New Hampshire stand "at the Ready", as the stillness of Ross Farm is shattered by musket fire during the weekend of June 4-5, 2022. Located along Highway 12 near the village of New Ross, Nova Scotia, Ross Farm is about a thirty-minute drive from the Annapolis Valley town of Kentville.

New Ross and the Ross Farm were settled by Captain William Ross and veterans of the War of 1812. It is, as 1st Sergeant Gavel said, "a mini-Kings Landing." The site features scenic roads, horses, sheep, oxen, pigs and cats, and features a cooper, a blacksmith, a school, houses and barns. Interpreters in period-correct clothing are found throughout the site, and the staff was very cordial and inviting.



On both Saturday and Sunday, First Sergeant Gavel marched the men out of camp and up a hill to a position near the schoolhouse to fire out over the lowland below, the sound of which, drew the usual attention from the visitors on-site, and the usual covering of ears by surprised children.

Participatants from Co. H were Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel, Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus. We also met up with member Bob Kerretschko, who had set up a display of World War II items while dressed in a Second World War Ukrainian warrant officer's uniform. Bob informed Captain Titus that his wife, Marie, had just received the hoops required for making a period-correct dress, and that they are hoping to go to Kings Landing. That is great news, and it was good to meet up with Bob again after so many years. The last time Captain Titus met Bob was at a graveside ceremony at Cassidy Lake, New Brunswick – a 20th Maine event held many years ago. Also present on Sunday was our chaplain, Steven Cochrane and family, who were visiting the site "disguised" as modern-day civilians. It was good to finally meet Steven, who was previously known to Captain Titus only through emails and telephone conversations.

Bob Keretschko had brought his Civil War uniform, so he loaned it to a friend of his, Stan Snooks, who joined the 5th New Hampshire in marching and firing both days. It was good to have the additional man in our understrength ranks. Under the guidance of Leigh and Loran Gavel, two visitors to Ross Farm were put

into uniform and given the chance to fire a musket, giving them a taste of what we do. Both persons are considered as potential recruits, and were also given our hanbill that describes both the original 5th New Hampshire and our present-day Co. H. One recruit is a young man who is in Sea Cadets and didn't want to leave our encampment. In fact, he said he wanted to drill. The other potential recruit is serving in the Royal Canadian Navy in Halifax.

The weather on Saturday was perfect, but it was cooler on Sunday, the forecast calling for rain in the afternoon. In anticipation of rain, we broke camp early in order to pack ahead of storm clouds moving in. We had received some light rain on Saturday night – just enough to dampen the tents – but it did not dampen our morning activities.

Many thanks to members who made the trip to Ross Farm, and a special thank-you to both Leigh and Loran Gavel for their work in setting up, and breaking camp. Also, thanks to Leigh for foraging for firewood. Such teamwork is one of the great joys of reenacting. Many thanks, too, to Sylvain and Suzanne for making the drive from Memramcook, New Brunswick.

We are scheduled to return to Ross Farm on September 24-25. It is an event worth doing at a location that fits perfectly with our time period. Add it to your calendar and your reenacting “to do” list.

Captain Titus Makes a Donation to Co. H

At the time of our application to join the New England Brigade (NEB), a group membership dues payment of \$100.00 (USD) was required. At that time (January 15, 2022), as the person setting up our application, Captain Titus paid \$130.94 (Cdn) through PayPal to the NEB to pay for our group membership dues. PayPal deducts the payment from a pre-arranged credit card.

At the Co. H meeting held in Sussex on May 7, Captain Titus announced that he has decided not to be reimbursed by the company for this payment, and that it should be considered as a donation to the company.

C-SPAN: A Great Source of Civil War Videos

C-SPAN lists over 740 Civil War videos on its website; videos that may be watched free-of-charge on your computer or other screens. These are not movie clips, but are scholarly lectures and presentations about a wide-range of Civil War, or Civil War-related topics, presented by park rangers, authors and historians. Most of the videos are 45-60 minutes long; some are longer. One example of a C-SPAN video is presented by Kristopher White, an executive with the American Battlefield Trust, which investigates the fight for the Wheatfield at Gettysburg. Other videos look at Abraham Lincoln, various battles, civilian life, Civil War medicine, and biographies of numerous personalities.

C-SPAN (Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network) was founded in 1979 by the American cable television industry as a non-profit public service network. You can find their highly-worthwhile website at c-span.org. From the home page, find the grey bar near the top of the page and click “American History TV”. Next, click on the grey bar, again near the top, labelled “The Civil War”. A sampling of available videos will appear on the page. Near the bottom of the page, find the box labelled “View all the Civil War videos”. From there, you have a choice of hundreds of videos. Enjoy!

Nicolas Tétrault is “Out of Action”

In an email sent by his family to Captain Titus in May, we were informed that due to work commitments, Nicolas Tétrault felt he would be unable join members of the 5th New Hampshire for events during the upcoming 2022-23 season. Nicolas has paid his dues for this coming year, so he will be maintained on the active roster. We do hope that time will allow his participation in some events. His youth and reenacting experience are attributes needed by this, or any, reenacting organization. Hurry back, Nicolas!

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

Charles Sawyer was born in Canada and was living there, when, on October 22, 1863, he enlisted in the 5th New Hampshire as a substitute. He mustered-in on the same day, as a private in Co. E at the age of 24 years. Jefferson received credit for his enlistment. During the Battle of Cold Harbor on June 3, 1864, Sawyer went missing, but he was later regained. His discharge from the army was dated December 6, 1864. He gave his postal address as Bradford, Vermont.

We Lose Nick Skinner as a Member

In an email sent to Captain Titus on May 11, Nick Skinner announced that, due to time constraints and other pursuits, he would not be renewing his membership for 2022-23 in Co. H, 5th New Hampshire. Although Nick has not been actively involved with the unit, his knowledge and expertise of both edged and black powder weapons would have been invaluable to us. Nick's membership will expire on June 30, upcoming. We wish him the very best in his interests and in his work in making those excellent reproduction knives, so loved mostly by those troublesome rebels. You can check out his fine work at his South Mountain Forge website, at www.southmountainforge.ca. The tent flap is always open, Nick!

We Lose Nathan Titus as a Member

Nathan Titus informed Captain Titus this spring that he would not be renewing his membership with the 5th New Hampshire due to work and personal commitments, and other interests. Nathan is the son of Captain Lindsay Titus. Nathan became a member on June 8, 2020, but has never been active in the group. As a child, Nathan visited the battlefields of Gettysburg and Antietam, and although he maintains interests in camping and firearms, it did not manifest itself into a strong interest in reenacting. We wish Nathan well as he pursues other interests and hope that one day he may still see reenacting as a worthwhile endeavour.

GAR Posts in Canada

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was by far the most popular organization established for Civil War veterans following the war, with over 8000 meeting halls, called posts, established throughout the United States. In these posts would be found many thousands of Union veterans, all fighting for their rights as veterans, or sitting to share memories of the old days. Surprisingly, perhaps, eight GAR posts were established in Canada: four in Ontario, three in Quebec and one in Manitoba. Each Canadian GAR post was affiliated with an American state organization.

The William Winer Post No. 77 and the W.W. Cooke Post No. 472 of New York were both established in Hamilton, Ontario. William Winer Cooke was a Civil War veteran who gained fame as George Armstrong Custer's friend and adjutant during the Indian campaigns following the Civil War. He was killed with Custer and much of his command on June 25, 1876, at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana. Cooke is buried in Hamilton, Ontario.

The Hannibal Hamlin Post No. 652 of New York was established in London, Ontario, and the J.S. Knowlton Post No. 532 of New York was formed in Toronto.

In Quebec, the Joseph Bernard Post No. 77 of New Hampshire and the General Hancock Post No. 73 of Vermont were created in Montreal. In Quebec City could be found GAR Post No. 117 of Vermont.

Finally, out west in Winnipeg, GAR Post No. 592 of Pennsylvania was established.

Two more GAR posts could be found on foreign soil, one each in Mexico and Peru.

This information was accessed on the Internet on May 17, 2022. It was originally posted on February 11, 2012, at TheSlaveholdersWar.blogspot.com. It is subtitled, "The Musings of a Canadian studying the American Civil War and Other Historical Topics."

I Dread the Thought of the Place

Noted historian, author, lecturer and thirty-four-year veteran of the US National Park Service, D. Scott Hartwig, announced in a recent Facebook post that his latest book has been sent to the publisher. The book, entitled, I Dread the Thought of the Place, is a highly-detailed study of the Battle of Antietam. It is a companion to his earlier (2012) Antietam volume, To Antietam Creek. The title of the newest book comes from a quote by Rufus Dawes, an officer with the 6th Wisconsin (of the Iron Brigade) at Antietam.

Hartwig says that the book is somewhat larger than his first volume (which was nearly 800 pages in length). The first book was published by Johns Hopkins University Press. There is as yet no publication date for this second volume, but it is currently undergoing the detailed process of being read and proofread.

To Antietam Creek covered the Antietam campaign up to the time of the pivotal battle that occurred near Sharpsburg, Maryland, on September 17, 1862. Volume Two covers this bloodiest of battles and the follow-up events through to Lincoln's firing of George MacLellan. Both of these scholarly studies are landmark works that will be sought-after and read by Civil War historians for years to come.

! Kings Landing – June 17-19 !

The "Civil War News"

"The Civil War News" has been around a long time. It has always been a "go-to" publication for current news about the Civil War. Topics covered include reenacting, current events that involve Civil War history, parades, commemorations, preservation, battlefield news, discoveries, publication reviews and more. Its advertising is unique in that much of it is Civil War-related.

"The Civil War News" is published monthly in newspaper format. The original publisher sold its rights to a university several years ago, and it is now being published by Historical Publications, located in Charleston, South Carolina. Historical Publications prints three publications. They are:

- "The Civil War News" – a monthly newspaper
- "The Artilleryman" – a quarterly magazine
- "Military Antique Collector" – a bi-monthly magazine

A print edition of "The Civil War News" is available in the United States. For us in Canada (and globally), issues are available only as e-editions. The subscription cost for the e-edition is \$29.95 (US) per year, or \$49.95 for a two-year subscription. Visit their website at: <https://HistoricalPublicationsLLC.com> for more information or to subscribe. (Note that you must include "https://" in the address, as the "s" indicates that it is a secure website.

Air Show Atlantic



Our next event, after Kings Landing, is Air Show Atlantic, scheduled for August 27-28, in Debert, Nova Scotia. This will be a big event, with thousands of spectators, and most of them will be Maritimers – thus an excellent opportunity to recruit new members to Co. H. Plus, you will have an excellent view of all the activities. Lunch and supper will be provided in the VIP tent. Additional details are under discussion, and more information will be included in the July issue of "Battle Lines". As of now, we have no events scheduled for July, so make plans now to be a part of this exciting new (to us) event!

"Rally 'Round the Flag, Boys!"



- **Kings Landing Set-up Day** – Thursday, June 16
- **Kings Landing Student Day** – Friday, June 17
- **Kings Landing Military Muster** – Weekend of June 17-19
- **Company Drill (No. 3)** – Location TBA; Saturday, July 30
- **Air Show Atlantic** – Weekend of August 27-28
- **General Caldwell Graveside Visit** – St. Stephen, NB – September 16 (*tentative*)
- **Charlotte County Fall Fair** – St. Stephen, NB – September 17-18 (*tentative*)
- **Battle of Antietam 160th** – Gettysburg, Pa. – September 16-18
- **Ross Farm** – New Ross, NS – Weekend of September 24-25
- **Co. H Annual General Meeting** – Ross Farm; Sunday, September 25
- **Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom** – Carlingford, NB – Saturday, October 1
- **Kings Landing Pre-Muster Table** – *tentative*
- **The Halifax Citadel** – *tentative*
- **Prince Edward Island Drill** – *tentative*

! News of the War in the East !

- **Evelyn Fidler's Email** – Co. H member Evelyn Fidler has a new email address. If you haven't yet changed your contacts list to reflect the change, (as announced in emails of May 7 & 8), please change her email address to curarose2@gmail.com.
- **The Wheatfield** – The deadly fight in and around the Wheatfield at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, involved three Union Army Corps (II, III and V), and 13 brigades. One National Military Park ranger stated during a battlefield tour that the only Union officer who attempted to exert command and control on the Union left that day was General John Curtis Caldwell of the First Division of the Second Corps..
- **Grant's Revolvers** – A pair of cased, matching ivory-gripped Remington new model army revolvers that belonged to General U.S. Grant sold at auction in May for a near-record \$5.17 million. It is surmised that they were presented to Grant following his victory at Vicksburg in 1863.