



# Battle Lines



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

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## **Air Show Atlantic 2022 – A Recruiting Success!**



*Photo: Courtesy of Bob MacEachern*

Captain Titus learned two things during the weekend of August 27-28: (1) There are, indeed, people in the Maritimes interested in Civil War re-enacting; and (2) CF-18's are loud!

Large crowds – especially on the bright and sunny Sunday – greeted the return of Air Show Atlantic, as people came from all three Maritime provinces (and probably further afield) to witness the return of this unique spectacle. Covid-19 had interrupted the shows for the past two years.

Three members of Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire were present to provide something different for the viewing public. The members, Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel and Lindsay Titus, set up five tents in a line beside our friends from the Maritime Military Living History Association (MMLHA), all

tents facing a runway used for static displays (and a bouncy castle), and the main entrance and exit point for spectators. In front of us, a bright blue and yellow banner snapped in the wind, proclaiming this as an area reserved for “Living History”. With the MMLHA on one side, the other side of us was occupied by a 3/4-scale model of a Spitfire – one that was built for the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo, and has since been seen by thousands in numerous parades and displays. It drew the attention of a lot of people, who were able to place their child in the pilot's seat for a once-in-a-lifetime photo opportunity. After that, many discovered us.

As usual, at such events, we have two main goals: First, to be visible to the public so that we may help educate them about Canada's many and varied roles during the Civil War, and the war's impact on Canada; and, second, to recruit. Both of these goals were reached during the weekend in Debert, Nova Scotia.

In what is surely a record for us, a total of six individuals came forward during the weekend to indicate their interest in joining Co. H, after speaking with Leigh, Loran or Lindsay, or all three. While it is true that we cannot count memberships until forms are completed and dues are paid, this is still a very strong first step toward adding to our ranks. Additionally, Steven Cochrane posted some photographs he took of the group, and these were seen by Bill Thompson, a friend of Leigh Gavel. Bill has since expressed interest to Leigh in joining us – that makes seven potential recruits resulting from a single weekend event! The six who visited us at the air show were Andrew Anglehart, Samuel Eelman, Doug Graham, Tim Kieth, Cody Senske and Stephen Smith. Of special interest is the enthusiasm shown about our group by Tim Kieth; the reenacting experience of Cody Senske and the unique photographic capabilities of Doug Graham.

Tim Kieth was very enthusiastic about joining our group; the sound of musket fire brought him our way. That's what a crisp, sharp volley will do! He was thrilled when 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Gavel offered to let him fire the

### **Air Show, continued...**

musket. Cody Senske is originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, where he reenacted with Co. I of the 4<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry, the "Liberty Hall Volunteers". Now married, they live in Moncton, New Brunswick.

Our final visitor on Sunday was Doug Graham. Unbelievably, he is a wet plate photographer based in Halifax. Wet plate photography is of a type used during the Civil War. Just find on YouTube, collodion wet plate photography, or Rob Gibson, if you want to see the complex steps required to complete the photographic process of the 1860's. Doug told us that his camera dates from the 1850's. He was interested in becoming our "official" regimental photographer, and we are most certainly anxious to have him join us in that capacity. How many reenacting groups can say they have a "real" Civil War photographer within their group?

In truth, we are honoured that all seven people have considered joining Co. H. Remember, too, that we welcome family members and friends!



*Photo: Courtesy of Stephen Cochrane*

The Gavel brothers performed three scheduled musket firings each day during the weekend, and together, we met and talked with many, many people, who all seemed interested in the knowledge we shared.

Upon his return home, Captain Titus sent an email letter of appreciation to Alex Himmelman (our Air Show Atlantic contact) on Monday, August 29. It read:

*Hello, Alex: On behalf of Co. H, 5th Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers, I thank you for allowing our Civil War living-history group to participate in Air Show Atlantic for 2022. I wish, also, to thank the air show for the many kindnesses expressed by volunteers, security and others, to our group. We hope that Air Show Atlantic found that we made a positive contribution to the event, and hope to return for the next Air Show Atlantic.*

*We had many visits from members of the public and all seemed appreciative of what we do and represent. Many commented that they did not know of Canada's many and varied roles before, during and after the American Civil War. We also had one of your volunteers stop his golf cart and comment that he noted the number of visitors and interactions we were having, and that what we were doing was "terrific". For our part, we had six people [later, seven] approach us about joining our organization, which was a big bonus.*

*I would ask you to please pass along our thanks to appropriate members of the organizing committee, and I hope the next time to have more of our members present.*

*Thank you, too, for the great weather on Saturday! (Lindsay Titus; Co. H, 5th Reg't. NH Vol's.)*

In an email response received later that same day (September 1), Captain Titus read:

*Hi, Lindsay. That is fantastic and I appreciate the message. We are very glad to hear that you had a good time and we look forward to hosting you again next year! Cheers, (Alex)*

Sincere thanks are extended to Leigh Gavel for suggesting Air Show Atlantic as an important recruiting event; to both Leigh and Loran for their help in setting-up, and breaking camp; for their tireless interactions with the public; to Leigh for the lunches on both Saturday and Sunday, to Leigh and Loran for the Saturday night pizza, to Stephen Cochrane for the Sunday morning coffee and for the photographs, but especially for the coffee, and to our friends of the Maritime Military Living History Association: Stephen, Alex, Bob and Sam, for their smiles, visits and many kindnesses.

Did I mention that CF-18's are loud?



## **Those Troublesome Gavel Brothers**

At Ross Farm this past spring, Private Gavel complained all weekend that he should be promoted to corporal after receiving a self-inflicted head wound. He claimed it was a glancing shot from an unseen (and unheard) rebel musket ball, but in reality, he forgot to duck under the fearsome mechanics of a ridgepole.

Now, at Air Show Atlantic, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Gavel is complaining because he was not permitted to cross the runway at our campsite to be allowed to jump in a beckoning bouncy castle! There is no telling the damage he would cause by his bouncing bayonet!

Oh, command is indeed a lonely place. – *L. Titus, Captain; Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> NHV*

## **September 16: Honouring General Caldwell**

General John Curtis Caldwell was the brigade or division commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire for nearly two years, and he may be the only Civil War general buried in Canada. A goal of Co. H is to visit his gravesite each year in St. Stephen Rural Cemetery, located just outside of St. Stephen, New Brunswick. It only makes sense that if we are in the area for the annual Charlotte County Fall Fair, we should stop at his grave on the Friday of our arrival of camp set-up day. In 2022, this would be on Friday, September 16. The last time we did this (pre-Covid), Dave Adams, Stephen Norman and Lindsay Titus met at the cemetery at 2 PM and made a quiet, informal tribute to General Caldwell. Will you join us this year?

## **September 17-18: The Charlotte County Fall Fair**

The Charlotte County Fall Fair (CCFF) is an annual event held at the Ganong Nature Park at the end of Todds Point Road, near St. Stephen, New Brunswick. This year it is being held the weekend of September 17-18 and, if the weather cooperates, is a potentially good recruiting event, drawing large crowds.

This is not a typical county fair. There are no mechanical rides or Ferris wheels, etc. It is, instead, about local crafts and organizations, heritage, pony rides and dog shows. The loudest noises at the fair will be our musket fire!

Stephen Norman and Lindsay Titus have already committed to participating in this event, although due to high fuel prices and a busy schedule in September and October, it is recognized that our numbers for this event may be low. Join us, if you can!

## **September 24-25: We Return to Ross Farm**

Ross Farm, in New Ross, Nova Scotia, will see a return of Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire during the weekend of September 24-25. In June, Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel, Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus were in uniform, representing the company. Also present, but serving in other capacities, were Co. H members Steven Cochrane and Bob Keretschko.

Described by 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Gavel as a “mini-Kings Landing”, Ross Farm is a perfect site for our purposes, as it is a nineteenth century farm established by a veteran of the War of 1812. It will be the pumpkin harvest weekend at Ross Farm, so a large turnout of the public is expected, and thus the event offers recruiting opportunities.

Members are urged to attend this fall event, located in a beautiful and appropriate setting. Recruiting, drilling and camping are more fun and are of greater value when larger numbers of reenactors are present.

## **Cancelled: The 2022 Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom**

Citing a busy personal schedule and illness within his extended family, Joe Gee reported on September 1 that he has had to cancel the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom for 2022. The hike, originally scheduled for October 1, has become an annual event for participation by Co. H. On the same day that the cancellation announcement was received, notices of the cancellation were sent by email to Co. H members and to Troy Middleton, president of Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, whom we had invited to the event during the Hike of 2021.

This is indeed sad that such a historic site is not to be celebrated this year, but the event has become bigger than just Joe and his small committee to organize. Captain Titus sent an email to Joe Gee on September 1, expressing the hope that the Hike to Freedom will return in 2023, and be bigger and stronger.

## **October 15: The Fredericton North Heritage Fair**

On August 15, an invitation from chairperson Jill Hargrove to return as a participant to the 2022 Fredericton North Heritage Fair was received by Lindsay Titus on behalf of Co. H. After contacting Stephen Norman

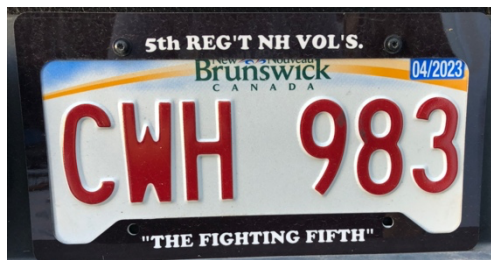
## Heritage Fair, *continued...*

about his interest in returning to the fair, Captain Titus sent out a notice of the event to the Co. H membership on August 16. Captain Titus then responded to the invitation from Jill Hargrove on August 18, stating that members of Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire would be present. Acknowledgment of our reply was received from Ms. Hargrove later the same day.

Dave Adams, Stephen Norman and Lindsay Titus represented the company previously, but since then the heritage fair has been stalled by local flooding and Covid-19. However, the fair is back on, and as of the publication of this newsletter, Stephen Norman and Lindsay Titus have indicated their ability to be in attendance to represent the company. Other members who wish to join us are very welcome. Please email Captain Titus of your intention. We have reserved two tables (one for Stephen) for our display. Here are the event details:

- Date: Saturday, October 15
- Address: Kinsman's Center; 141 School Street; Devon (Fredericton North), NB
- Type: Two indoor display tables; no drill or firing
- Set-up: Available, beginning at 8:00 AM
- Public Display Hours: 10:00–3:00
- Food: Canteen service was available for our last visit; to be paid by participants
- Sponsored by: Fredericton North Heritage Association
- Contact: Jill Hargrove, Heritage Fair Chair
- Note: This is our second year of participation

## 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire License Plate Frame



Late one night, several weeks ago, Captain Titus felt the tug and pull of a credit card, and went searching the internet for a customized license plate frame for his Jeep Gladiator. Following what seemed like minutes of painstaking research, a customized frame was selected, ordered, and delivered – about two weeks later. A photograph of the new frame is shown, *left*. – Always looking for new ways to recruit! He also likes to think that “CWH” on the license plate stands for “Civil War History” (or “Historian”) – at least it’s a good way to remember the plate number. Now, if he could just figure out what “983” could stand for!

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## ! News of the War in the East !

- **Condolences to Maurice La King** – In a telephone call to Lindsay Titus on August 11, Maurice La King of Danks' Rangers commented that it has been a difficult past few months for him, as he unexpectedly lost his wife this past winter. Maurice said that they had been married for 53 years. I'm sure members of Co. H will join Captain Titus in offering our sincere condolences to Maurice.
- **Four Years** – This issue of “Battle Lines” (No. 48) marks four years of publication of this newsletter – that’s 48 issues (plus a couple of “Extra Editions”) that have been sent to Co. H members, potential recruits and friends of the company, since the fall of 2018.
- **Springfield Rifle Muskets** – In an email received by Captain Titus on July 31, Regimental Quartermaster of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, reported that they have received a limited supply of Model 1861 Springfield rifle muskets from Pedersoli. Each musket sells for \$1695.00 (US). Yikes!

## Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

William Smith was born in Saint John, New Brunswick and, at age 27, enlisted as a substitute on August 16, 1864, being credited to Gilford. He was mustered-in on the same day as a private in Co. E. Smith was discharged from service on June 16, 1865, in Washington, DC.