



Battle Lines



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

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Two Members of Co. H Visit General Caldwell's Grave

Under a bright, clear sky, Hospital Steward Stephen Norman and Captain Lindsay Titus visited the grave of Brigadier General John Curtis Caldwell at the St. Stephen Rural Cemetery on Friday, September 16. General Caldwell was the brigade, and later the division, commander which included the 5th New Hampshire, for a period of about two years in 1862 and 1863. Caldwell led the First Brigade of the First Division of the Second Army Corps during part of the Peninsula Campaign, at Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville; and the First Division of the Second Corps at Gettysburg. He also commanded the Second Corps on an intermittent basis. Caldwell was named one of eight generals to form an honour guard that accompanied Abraham Lincoln's body by funeral train from Washington, DC for burial in Springfield, Illinois.



General Caldwell died in 1912 while living with his daughter in Calais, Maine, and was buried in the Murchie family plot in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, beside his wife, Martha, who had died two years earlier.

Report from the Charlotte County Fall Fair



L to R: Larry Thomas (Danks' Rangers), Paul & Ashley Flowers (Acadian Militia), Paul Menard (Acadian Militia) and Peter Annis (Danks' Rangers).

"All quiet along the banks of the St. Croix". There was no report of musket fire during the weekend on the grounds of the Ganong Nature Park, but Hospital Steward Stephen Norman was a busy man on Saturday, September 17, and so he predicted, as the day marked the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. He and Captain Titus (serving for the weekend as a first sergeant, so he could bring his Enfield) represented Company H at the Charlotte County Fall Fair, held near St. Stephen, New Brunswick during the weekend of September 17-18. Rain closed down the fair shortly after noon on Sunday, but Saturday was warm and sunny, with a bright blue sky overhead.

The crowd size this year seemed a bit lower Saturday morning, but picked up considerably in the afternoon. Our hospital steward was assigned the task of stamping the "passport" cards for children, and several were seen approaching the hospital display with hesitation, once they gained a glimpse of what lie ahead. Steve's display and presentation were, as usual, thorough and capably presented. Thank you, Stephen Norman, for the research and work you put into this aspect of what we do to educate the public.

Charlotte County Fall Fair, *continued...*

Although no new recruits seemed to present themselves during the weekend, many people were genuinely interested in what we have to share in describing Canada's many and varied roles in the Civil War. Sarah Edmonds' story was told several times during the weekend, as was the fear felt in New Brunswick of the Fenians and their role on the road to Confederation following the Civil War. Captain Titus was able to share information with one couple – the husband being from Grand Manan – about a soldier of the 5th New Hampshire (James Sprague of Co. K) who was also from Grand Manan.

Maurice La king of Danks' Rangers has always been our contact person for Danks' Rangers and for the CCFF, but, sadly, he was unable to attend this year's Charlotte County Fall Fair. Just two days prior to the event, Maurice fell down his front steps while out to retrieve his mail. He suffered no broken bones, but was hurt and sore enough to force him to miss the weekend event. I am sure each member of Co. H who knows Maurice will join me in wishing him a speedy and full recovery.

In his stead, Larry Thomas and Peter Annis were both in attendance to represent Danks, and were their usual selves: that is, great hosts. Their congeniality, storytelling and willingness to share all combine to make reenacting worthwhile. It is a joy to sit around the campfire with members of Danks' Rangers. Add to that, the fact that they know their Seven Years' War history, and you have an excellent combination.

A surprise this year was the discovery of another group of reenactors – also of the Seven Years' War (French & Indian War, if you like): three members of the Acadian Militia. We were first introduced to Paul Menard of Sussex (actually, of nearby Kierstead Mountain), and later, upon their arrival, to Paul and Ashley Flowers of Moncton. We were told that other members of the Acadian Militia live in Nova Scotia and in Maine.

Later discussion led to talk of our encampment at Kings Landing, and I said I would contact Kings Landing about their possible participation – and the return by Danks' Rangers – in the annual Military Muster. On Monday, September 19, Stephanie O'Donnell-Price at Kings Landing was contacted by Captain Titus about the Military Muster and possible participation by these groups. Her reply, received the same day, follows:

*I think this would be wonderful! And, of course, we always have room for another group!
I am hoping you will return for 2023! I will get back to you with the dates when I return on Weds.
I also have a war of 1812 plaque to lay that weekend, and would appreciate your assistance.*

Upon receipt of this response, I emailed Leigh Gavel, Paul & Ashley Flowers, Paul Menard, Larry Thomas and Maurice La king with the information. I also invited Paul Menard to fall-in with us, or at least view, a spring drill if it is held in Sussex. In an interesting turn, talk came around to the anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, and I was asked if General McClellan was in command there. Upon hearing this, Paul Menard asked if that was the same General McClellan who established the McClellan saddle as a standard, to which I answered "yes". He then stated that he has a McClellan saddle, which instantly got my attention! It turns out the saddle is attached to his horse of choice – his Harley! That is a saddle I need to see!

Many tales of reenactments past were told around the campfire on both Saturday morning and night, along with talk of local personalities and a variety of music on vinyl records. Also born was the legend of the Cat Lady, whose talk of coyotes in our tents, cats (3), cat food, pianos (5) and a mystery sword (1) had the makings of a new version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas". Food, too, was a topic at the top of the discussion list, with tales of Marshall Islands turkey fat, KFC gizzards, Chinese chicken fingers and red hotdogs at Fort Ticonderoga dominating the discussion. Stories of Louisbourg, Parks Canada, Gummie (Gummy?), and a variety of musket shoots spliced the conversations about feeding eggs and yogurt to cats.

It was great to renew "old" acquaintances and to make new friends at this event. An indication of the camaraderie was the fact that rain closed the Charlotte County Fall Fair at about 12:30 on Sunday, but, with breaking camp in between, we sat or stood to talk at some length before making preparations to depart.

We were not able to fire our muskets during the weekend, but the friendship shown among the reenactors throughout the weekend, alone, made the trip worthwhile. Now, if I just hadn't gotten locked out of the park for 2 1/2 hours on Saturday night! – *L. M. Titus, Capt., Co. H, 5th Reg't. NH Vol's.*

Fiona Forces Cancellation of Ross Farm Encampment

Hurricane Fiona "took the wind from the sails" of our planned encampment at Ross Farm, in New Ross, Nova Scotia, on the weekend of September 24-25. Hurricane-force and sustained winds, accompanied by heavy rain and a storm surge, brought much of Atlantic Canada to a standstill, as people coped, first with the storm, then with the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona. The storm's passing revealed loss of life (at least three); destruction; downed trees and power lines; a sustained loss of power; home, cellphone and internet

Ross Farm, *continued...*

services; and widespread travel disruptions.

A notice on the Ross Farm website, posted during the days leading up to the storm, announced that the site would be closed on Saturday, September 24, and remain closed until it was deemed safe to re-open. That left Sunday as a possibility, but power outages and blocked streets and roads made the trip to New Ross difficult or impossible. Thus, Co. H members stayed safe by staying home.

News was received on September 29 that a make-up date for this event will not be scheduled.

Co. H Members Report After Fiona

As Fiona passed, first into Labrador, then into history, some members of Co. H living in different regions of the Maritimes reported how they fared during this most recent storm. First Sergeant Leigh Gavel reported that he did not have power restored to his home in Eastern Passage until Sunday evening, and had already decided to forego the trip to Ross Farm on Saturday; Sunday, too, as it turned out. Sylvain Tétrault, in a telephone conversation with Lindsay Titus, reported on the strength of the storm around his home near Shediac, New Brunswick, but, although homes on either side of him suffered damage, his did not. Sylvain, Suzanne, Nicolas and Elodie are all safe. Lindsay Titus reports that Sussex received a lot of wind and rain (Environment Canada had predicted only 2-4 mm, but it was 10 to 20 times that amount) throughout the duration of the storm, but suffered no damage. In a later phone call, Steven Cochrane reported that his family in Halifax also fared well. No other members reported in. We hope and trust that all are safe and that damage or losses are minimal, or, better still, none at all.

Welcome to Dave Bottos: Our Newest Member!

The muster roll of Co. H increased by one, to 18 on October 2, and in a surprising way. An email from Dave Bottos informed Captain Titus that he was “posted back to NB” and was looking at getting back into reenacting. Dave is a former member of Co. I, 20th Maine and as a member of that group, participated in at least one major reenactment at Gettysburg. Dave reports that he left the 20th in 2003 when he “moved away”. What he did was to join the Canadian Army, and he informs us that he is presently an active member with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, and so is based at Gagetown. Dave was a young and enthusiastic reenactor “back in the day”, and thus will be an excellent addition to Co. H, 5th New Hampshire. Dave reports that it “will be nice to do the event at Kings Landing again.” Welcome, Dave!

Co. H Receives Donation from the Charlotte County Fall Fair!

On Sunday, October 2, Captain Titus received an e-transfer in the amount of \$200.00 from organizers of the Charlotte County Fall Fair, held at the Ganong Nature Park on the weekend of September 17-18. Stephen Norman and Lindsay Titus represented Company H. This is the largest donation we’ve received from this event, which typically has paid us \$50 or \$100. Our last encampment resulted in no donation with not even a “thank-you” note. Captain Titus brought this to the attention of organizers, stating that this was out of character for representatives of this event. It is speculated that the most recent, larger, donation is compensation for our last, unpaid, encampment. The donation brings our current credit union balance to approximately \$1286.00.

October Schedule of Events

Although it is getting late into the reenacting season for this part of the world, events remain on our schedule for the month of October. Here is what we know for this month:

- **Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom** – The Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom, originally scheduled for October 1, was cancelled by event organizers for 2022.

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

William Spencer was one of two of this name in the 5th New Hampshire, and both were Canadians. Spencer was born in Maitland [Nova Scotia or Ontario], Canada and was a resident of New York City at the time of his enlistment at age 19. He enlisted into the regiment and mustered-in on December 5, 1863, as a private in Co. H. His enlistment was credited to Greenland, New Hampshire. On April 23, 1864, Spencer transferred to the United States Navy as an ordinary seaman. He remained in that role only for a month when, on May 26, 1864, he deserted from USS *Commodore Read*.

October Schedule of Events, *continued...*

- **Halifax Citadel** – Just notified on September 29, we have been invited to participate in an encampment at the Halifax Citadel during the weekend of October 15-16. Members and recruits should notify Captain Titus of their intent to participate as soon as possible. A notice of this event was emailed to Co. H members on September 29.
- **Fredericton North Heritage Fair** – This annual event (and our second time in attendance) is scheduled for Saturday, October 15 in Fredericton North (Devon), NB. An email with details about this event was sent out to members on October 5.
- **Annual General Meeting** – No date has been set for our AGM. It should be in either October or November, prior to road conditions becoming a concern. The option remains for us to hold it by email, instead. (*See below.*)

The 2022 Co. H Annual General Meeting

Members of Co. H are asked to consider and submit by email any ideas or concerns for discussion during our upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM). Also, if you have proposals to be voted upon, these need to be submitted in writing (email) in advance for the membership to consider and have time to vote

We must also decide where, or how, and when the AGM should be held. This is not a voting year for positions of responsibility (field or administrative). Voting for those positions are scheduled to occur at the 2023 AGM, so an in-person meeting is not a necessity. At Kings Landing last June, members seemed interested in holding the AGM in Sussex in October or November; no specific date was chosen, but it was felt that getting together would be a good way to conclude the season – then gas prices continued on their upward track. So, please submit your ideas for holding this year’s AGM: should it be in-person or by email?

So far, there are seven issues for consideration and/or voting at the 2022 AGM. They are listed here to help you consider the issues; but are not ready to be voted upon at this time. The seven issues or proposals are:

1. **For Discussion & Vote** – The duties and responsibilities of those holding positions of responsibility in the field (NCO’s and officers) are being revised and require approval prior to them forming part of our Co. H *Regulations*. One change being considered is the inclusion of an attendance policy for those holding field rank. If approved, this would come into effect only following the vote at the 2023 AGM.
2. **For Discussion & Vote** – The Schedule of Events for 2023.
3. **For Discussion & Vote** – Should Co. H continue as a member of the New England Brigade in 2023?
4. **For Discussion & Vote** – If No. 3, *above*, is approved, should we commit to participation in at least one NEB event in 2023?
5. **For Discussion & Vote** – In light of Co. A, 3rd Maine’s consideration of coming to the Halifax Citadel in 2023, should we investigate the Citadel as a Co. H event for the upcoming season?
6. **For Discussion** – At the Military Muster at Kings Landing, improving our:
 - a. overall impression for the public;
 - b. event experience for the reenactor.
7. **For Discussion & Vote** – Our relationship with Co. I, 20th Maine.

! News of the War in the East !

- **Correction** – In Issue No. 48 of “Battle Lines” for September, potential member Tim Keith’s name was misspelled. Apologies for the error are extended to Sergeant Keith.
- **“Black Bird”** – A recent Apple TV+ series, “Black Bird” is a very dark story featuring a serial child killer, whose character wears Ambrose Burnside-style sideburns. Both he and his brother were Civil War reenactors. The police find photographs of the two of them at various events, and, overall, they look quite authentic in their uniforms. However, one photograph reveals a brass crossed-sabre cavalry badge on “Larry’s” kepi, while he is also holding an infantryman’s Enfield rifle-musket. Oh, well.
- **Anniversary of Antietam** – Saturday, September 17, 2022, marked the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam, still the single bloodiest day in American history. Members of the present-day Co. H were in attendance at the Charlotte County Fall Fair near St. Stephen, NB on the anniversary date – at least the second time we’ve been there on that historic anniversary. The 5th New Hampshire held the Union left flank at the sunken road that day, which came to be known as “Bloody Lane”.