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# Battle Lines



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

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## **Merry Christmas!**

Merry Christmas to all members of Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire, and to our friends of the company! Now is the time to count our blessings, but also to begin the work necessary to make 2023 a very successful year.

It has been a year of many positives for Company H: We joined the New England Brigade. We returned to Kings Landing, we had an introductory encampment at Ross Farm, and a successful encampment at Air Show Atlantic, where we picked up strong interest from several potential recruits. We gained Dave Bottos as a new member, and also gained, we hope, Stephen Halliday as a new member. We also met new (to us) reenactors from the Acadian Militia at the Charlotte County Fall Fair, and our bank account is in much better condition than in the past due in large part to the extraordinary efforts of Leigh Gavel and a payment to us of \$200 from the Charlotte County Fall Fair. Further, many plans are already underway for a busy and exciting season in 2023.

On the sad side, it appears we have lost Dave Adams as a member (although, especially during this holiday season, we remain hopeful). Hurricane Fiona prevented our planned fall return to Ross Farm, and it continues to be difficult to get some members out to events and into the ranks.

Still, this is not a time to lament, but is instead a time to celebrate! We bring to the public a strong group of living historians who possesses the ability, knowledge and passion to teach about this little-known part of Canadian history; a group with many talents and a cohesive desire to do things right. Thank you, one-and-all, for all you do for Company H. Have a safe and joyous holiday season, and I, for one, am already looking forward to meeting you on the field in 2023! – *Lindsay Titus, Capt., Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> Reg't. NH Vol's.*

## **Our Possible Schedule for 2023!**

One of the key agenda items of our Annual General Meeting, held on November 5, was the setting of our schedule for the coming year. Following votes cast at the meeting and that received afterward by email to ratify the in-person vote, our schedule for 2023 is largely set and is shown below. Event dates that are listed are known, and are taken from websites or from direct communication with event representatives. Some dates, however, remain unknown, partially known, or are best estimates.

While this is a busy calendar, it is always understood that each of us can only participate in what personal and employment schedules and interests allow, but leep in mind that larger turnouts are more fun for reenactors, and make a stronger positive impression on event organizers and the public, and thus are valuable for recruiting. So, we hope that all members will do their best to participate in as many events as possible!

Be sure to keep watching for upcoming emails and newsletters as additions, cancellations, date changes and greater event details become known as we progress through the calendar in 2023.

Here, then is our 2023 schedule of events for 2023, as known on December 5, 2022:

- **Atlantic Outdoor & RV Show – Halifax, NS – March 10-12**
  - This is a recruiting event.
  - We will need several participants, as this is a three-day event.
  - Leigh Gavel described the event as “wall-to-wall people”.
  - It is being held at the Halifax Exhibition Centre, located at 200 Prospect Road; Goodwood, NS.
  - It is advertised as “five great shows under one roof”: RV & Camping, Hunting & Fishing, Motorsports, Boats and Family Fun.
  - Website: sportsandrvshow.com
- **School of the Soldier – Shediac or Sussex, NB – April 29 or May 27**
  - This will be a “back to the basics” drill to introduce the manual of arms and drill to recruits, and to “clear the cobwebs of winter” for veterans.
  - The event will be held depending on both weather and ground conditions, in either April or May.
  - The location for the School of the Soldier will either be in Boudreau-Ouest (near Shediac) or Sussex; to be decided over the winter.
- **Company Drill(s) – Shediac or Sussex – May 27 and/or July 29**
  - A second drill, following the School of the Soldier, may be held either in May, or at the end of July, depending on our revised schedule and the will of the membership.
  - It is also possible that drills will be scheduled for both dates in May and in July.
- **Ross Farm – New Ross, NS – June**
  - Although we have yet to be invited, we anticipate a return to Ross Farm in June.
  - This is a nineteenth century farm museum, described by one reenactor as a “mini-Kings Landing”. It is a beautiful location for us.
  - We were well-received there in 2022 and largely free to drill, etc., as we choose.
  - The event date is as yet unknown.
- **Kings Landing – Prince William, NB – June 16-18 (June 16 is the Student Day)**
  - This has become a “signature event” for us, and thus a strong turnout of reenactors is beneficial to us, to the public and to Kings Landing.
  - Friday, June 16, is the Student Day. In 2022, about 500 middle school students visited the two campsites (Revolutionary War and Civil War).
  - Kings Landing is anxious for us to interact with the public and with staff, so ideas are welcome.
  - Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine and DeLancey’s Brigade have been invited as our guests.
  - Other reenacting groups from various eras have been, or will be, invited to participate.
  - A meal was provided by Kings Landing during each of the last two years.
  - The Kings Landing website is found at [kingslanding.nb.ca](http://kingslanding.nb.ca).
- **Halifax Citadel National Historic Site – Halifax, NS – the date is as yet unknown**
  - Many of us, while serving in Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine have encamped in the Halifax Citadel several times.
  - We have been very-well received by Parks Canada officials there.
  - Lindsay Titus received an email from Matt Bray, commanding officer of Co.; A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine Infantry, noting that he now has a sister living in Halifax and is interested in visiting her. Matt suggested he could join us at the Citadel and perhaps bring from 8 to 12 rifles with him.
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine has a reputation of being a strong unit, and we could learn a lot from them, as well as having the joy of drilling with a larger number of troops.
  - This event is tentative, as coordination among the 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine, the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire and the Citadel will have to be accomplished.
- **Air Show Atlantic – Location TBA – August (?)**
  - This was a highly successful recruiting event in 2022, with eight potential recruits coming from this event.
  - Despite having only three members present (plus two representing the ACMHA), we were well-received by both event officials and the public.
  - We have been invited to return in 2023.
  - Dates and location of Air Show Atlantic 2023 are, according to their Facebook page, “coming soon”.

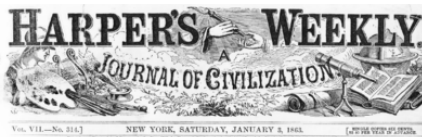
- **General Caldwell Graveside Visit – St. Stephen Rural Cemetery – September**
  - General John Curtis Caldwell was the Brigade or Division commander, which included the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire for two years. He may be the only Civil War general buried in Canada.
  - Stopping here on the Friday set-up day for the Charlotte County Fall Fair is an excellent way to begin the weekend’s activities.
- **Charlotte County Fall Fair (CCFF) – St. Stephen, NB – September**
  - The Charlotte County Fall Fair is held each year at the Ganong Nature Park, located about 10 km east of downtown St. Stephen.
  - This has been a paying event in past years, including in 2022.
  - Although it hasn’t been a strong recruiting event, it has the potential to be, and, weather permitting, it is well-attended.
  - We have partnered with Danks’ Rangers, the Acadian Militia and DeLancey’s Brigade for this event.
- **Ross Farm – New Ross, NS - September**
  - This is an optional event this year. Providing we are invited, members may opt for this event, but at the 2022 AGM, it was decided to attend the CCFF as a group effort.
- **Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom – October**
  - This historic location is the site of the terminus of the northernmost route of the Underground Railroad.
  - The site is located at 250 Glenburn Road, Carlingford, NB (near Perth Andover).
  - The event is founded and organized by Co. H member, Joe Gee.
  - It has been , for us, a one-day event (Saturday).
  - It was not held in 2022 due to scheduling conflicts and family illness.
  - This event often gets good press coverage and political visitations.
- **Fredericton North Heritage Fair – Devon, NB – October (?)**
  - This annual event is organized by the Fredericton North Heritage Association.
  - We have attended this event twice.
  - It is not a strong recruiting event, but is a good event to boost community relations.
  - It is a display-only event.
- **Events in Prince Edward Island**
  - A number of potential events in PEI were discussed at the 2022 AGM.
  - They include:
    - Drill at the Queen Charlotte Armoury in Charlottetown;
    - Marching in the Gold Cup Parade in Charlottetown;
    - Marching in the Fall Festival Parade in Kensington;
    - Drill on the property near Cavendish, owned by Co. H member Barry Hippenstall, is another possibility. Barry made this invitation previously.
  - Members present at the AGM are hoping for input from Co. H members residing in PEI.
  - Additional events would have to fit our schedule.
- **Events of the New England Brigade**
  - We are a member of the New England Brigade (NEB), a 25-unit (military and civilian) organization organized throughout the New England states.
  - As a member-unit of the New England Brigade, we are entitled to participate in any NEB events. Covid-19 restrictions and the high cost of fuel prevented any of our members from participating in NEB events in 2022.
  - The feeling at the 2022 AGM was to try and participate in at least one NEB event this year.
  - As of December 2022, however, we do not have the NEB schedule of events, and so we cannot make a firm commitment to attend any NEB events.
  - We may invite the NEB to Kings Landing.
- **Events Organized by Co. A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine – Rally for Norlands; Livermore, Maine – Date TBA**
  - We have maintained correspondence with Co. A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine since 2018. Matt Bray, their commanding officer, receives a copy of our monthly newsletter.
  - The “Rally for Norlands”, held every second year in Livermore, Maine, is organized by Co. A and often sees Co. B, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine and Confederate units as participants.

- **Events Organized by Co. A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine – *continued...***
  - Gettysburg 160<sup>th</sup> – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine has invited us to fall-in with them.
  - Co. A members come mainly from southern and central Maine.
  - Co. H members would be welcome guests to fall-in at any of their events.
- **Events Organized by Co. B, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine**
  - This is the organization that started it all for many Civil War reenactors in the Maritimes.
  - Co. B is home-based at Fort Knoz, in Prospect, Maine, across the Penobscot River from Bucksport.
  - Fort Knox is about a three-hour and fifteen-minute drive from Saint John, New Brunswick.
  - We have had an understanding with Co. B since 2018 that both organizations are invited to each other's events.
- **Events Organized by Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine**
  - At our AGM for 2022, it was unanimously decided to continue, and to try and build, our relationship with Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine.
  - We will invite Co. I to participate in some of our events (including Kings Landing), while hoping that we will receive invitations from Co. I.

### **A Loss in the Tétrault Family**

On November 26, Corporal Sylvain Tétrault telephoned Lindsay Titus to report the loss of Suzanne Guay's father, Andre Guay, on November 21. Sylvain, Suzanne, their son, Nicolas and their granddaughter, Elodie, are all valued members of Co. H. Suzanne's father had been living with them in their home in Boudreau-Ouest, near Shediac, New Brunswick. We are sure that members of Co. H send their deepest condolences to the Tétrault family during this time of loss.

### **"Santa Claus in Camp"**



"Harper's Weekly, A Journal of Civilization", was an important American journal offering readers foreign and domestic news, public opinion and entertainment from 1857 until 1916. Published in New York City, "Harper's Weekly" served as a critical political forum for views supporting the Union cause during the Civil War. It was well-illustrated and carried artwork from influential political cartoonist, Robert Nast.

One of Nast's cartoons, titled "Santa Claus in Camp", was featured in the January 3, 1863 issue. It is often described as illustrating the first modern Santa Claus, although Saint Nicolas is not yet wearing the familiar red and white suit we know today. Instead, in this wartime depiction, Santa is shown wearing a patriotic clothing choice, with (presumed) red, white and blue for his colours, prominent stars on his coat, and trousers of alternating red and white stripes.

Whatever his choice of wardrobe, the soldiers around him are happy to see him. There is even a camp decoration in the back-ground, announcing, "Welcome, Santa Claus". No doubt that Santa's visit – something that hasn't changed – is bringing a little joy into what must have otherwise been a dark, cold, dreary and lonely winter existence in an army camp far from home.

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

James Sprague was a native and resident of Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick when, at age 30, he enlisted on December 7, 1863. He was mustered-in on the same day as a private and assigned to Co. K, his enlistment being credited to Dover. Apparently displeased with life as a prison guard, Sprague deserted the army on April 18, 1864, at Point Lookout, Maryland. It would not be long after this that the regiment was re-assigned to the Army of the Potomac, but Sprague would not be among the men of the Fifth when they arrived on the bloody fields of Cold Harbor, Virginia in May 1864.