



Battle Lines



Newsletter of Co. H, 5th Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers

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We Return to Ross Farm!



Our second-ever encampment at Ross Farm is less than a month away! As shared in an email sent to members and potential recruits on April 2, we return to Ross Farm in New Ross, Nova Scotia for a second encampment during the weekend of June 3-4, with camp set-up is possible in the afternoon of Friday, June 2. Members should watch for an email “Call to Arms” about this event, asking whether you plan to participate. Your timely response, no matter what it is, will be appreciated.

First Sergeant Leigh Gavel once described Ross Farm as a “mini-Kings Landing”, and that is a good description. It is a quiet and scenic location, and we were treated well there in 2022 by both the staff and the visiting public. Fine gravel roads provide an excellent marching surface, and there are grassy areas for the manual of arms, various drills and musket firing. There are

several period-correct buildings on-site, adding greatly to the nineteenth century atmosphere.

For members new to the company, and to potential recruits wishing to fall-in with us, we have tent space to accommodate a number of people, including a large wall tent. We will also have our extra uniform items with us, so will be able to at least partially outfit some recruits. Let Captain Titus know in advance by email, if you plan to attend. Each person in attendance will need to bring food and sleeping supplies, including a sleeping bag, blankets, perhaps a cot, etc. A flashlight for the hike to the washrooms late at night is recommended. It can be cold at night in early June, so plan accordingly.

Ross Farm is located near New Ross, on Route 12 between Kentville in the Annapolis Valley, and Chester Basin on Nova Scotia’s South Shire. From Halifax, take Highway 101 to Kentville and then take Exit 13. Turn left onto Route 12. Travel about 45 km (35 minutes) to Ross Farm. It will be on the left side of the highway. Once you leave Kentville, services are limited, so be sure you have fuel and all the food supplies you’ll need for the weekend.

Although Kings Landing takes place just two weeks following the Ross Farm encampment, Ross Farm is an excellent way to get the reenacting season underway. If you go to Ross Farm, your visit to Kings Landing two weeks later will make you feel like a battle-tested veteran, and it will only be mid-June!

Dave Adams Remains, but as an Inactive Member

On Friday, April 14, Lindsay Titus received a visit at his home from Dave Adams, our first in-person talk since Kings Landing last June. Needless to say, it was great to see Dave again. The good news is that Dave paid his membership dues for 2023-24 during the visit because he “wants to support the unit” and see it continue for many years, and because he “wants to continue to receive the newsletters”. He said he would consider continuing his membership year-by-year, but stated clearly that he is done as an active member, which is, of course, the bad news. Dave cites health issues as his reason for discontinuing his active role. It goes without saying that he will be missed.

“Thank you” rings hollow as a show of appreciation for all that Dave Adams has done for the good of Company H – much of it accomplished quietly behind the scenes, but for now, it is what we must say, and it is said with the deepest respect for this founding member of Company H. Thank you, Dave!

• ***Kings Landing Planning Meeting: May 13*** •

Report: First School of the Soldier in Boudreau-Ouest



The first drill of 2023 was held on Saturday, April 29, at “Camp Tétrault” in Boudreau-Ouest, New Brunswick – the home of our corporal and his family. Sylvain’s wife, Suzanne Guay, their son, Nicolas, and Nicolas’ daughter, Elodie (age 2), are all members of Co. H.

We labelled this as a “School of the Soldier”, as its intent was to “clear the winter cobwebs” for veterans of the company and to introduce drill to newcomers and potential recruits. The weather was sunny, but windy and cool. Arriving in the Shediac area, the outside temperature reading in Captain Titus’ Jeep showed just 8 degrees. Wind is always present, says Corporal Tétrault, with Shediac Bay visible from his property. This marked the first time that drill was held at this location and it is an excellent one, with lots of space for drill and a dirt road that allowed for marching off into the low-rising hills beyond.

Drill got underway prior to our starting time of 12 noon, as originally planned, and concluded by 2:00 PM. Just four Co. H members were present for duty: Dave Bottos, Leigh Gavel, Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus. No potential recruits were present, nor did they respond to emails announcing the event.

Captain Titus and 1st Sergeant Gavel shared duties in leading the squad in the manual of arms; firing procedures, including “load in nine times”; basic marching maneuvers and stacking arms. First Sergeant Gavel also led the squad on a march up the dirt road that borders the Tétrault property, to a bridge located out of sight of the house (*see the photograph, above*). The first sergeant commented that there was nothing to teach these troops, as they know their drill well. Captain Titus shared that other maneuvers will be included in upcoming events, once numbers improve, including marching from a column of four’s to two’s and back to four’s; “by company into line”, skirmish drill and bayonet exercises.

A meeting was also held, with eleven topics shared and discussed. They were:

1. The Kings Landing Planning Meeting

- a. The meeting is Saturday, May 13 at 10 o’clock.
- b. If anyone wishes to join Captain Titus, let him know.
- c. If any member has ideas for changes of the Military Muster, please email Captain Titus.
 - i. Ideas presented at the meeting were:
 1. Making sure we have firewood.
 2. Ensure we are in the same location for the camp as last year.
 3. Coordinating musket fire with activities in the Ingraham Barn Theatre.

2. Company H Drill

- a. A Company drill is scheduled for Saturday, May 27.
- b. Question: Do we go ahead with it, even though Ross Farm is just a week later?
- c. Response: Keep the drill on the schedule, as some may wish to do both, or go to one event, if not the other.
- d. We will gauge interest in the drill through emails.
- e. The location for the drill has not been determined, although Corporal Tétrault has offered his place for use “any time”. Thank you, Sylvain!

3. Ross Farm

- a. The Ross Farm encampment in New Ross, Nova Scotia is scheduled for the weekend of June 3-4, with camp set-up possible in the evening of June 2.

4. The Military Muster at Lings Landing

- a. The three-day Military Muster at Kings Landing is set for June 16-18.
- b. Friday, June 16, is a Student Day, although the site is also open to the public.
- c. In 2022, over 500 middle school students visited our camp.
- d. Kings Landing will need to know: arrival & departure dates of reenactors (and times, if possible), who will be partaking in the Saturday meal at the Kings Head Inn, and if there are any food allergies they need to know about.
- e. A Call to Arms email will be sent out for this event.

5. Fort Knox

- a. Co. A, 3rd Maine Infantry is hosting a weekend at Fort Knox during the weekend of July 22-23, with camp set-up possible on July 21.
- b. We have been invited.
- c. Is anyone planning to participate? (*No responses*)
- d. This is also a New England Brigade event.
- e. It would be good to make contact with the 3rd Maine as a fellow-NEB member group.
- f. Of the members present at the meeting, only Leigh Gavel and Lindsay Titus have been to Fort Knox.

6. Dave Adams

- a. Dave Adams paid his membership dues on April 14 for 2023-24, although he will remain as an inactive member of Co. H.
- b. His inactive status is a loss to the company.
- c. He asked Captain Titus to convey his apologies to the group, and especially to Sylvain Tétrault, for the way things ended during last year's encampment at Kings Landing.
- d. Dave said he will take some time to evaluate what kit he might sell, when, and what the asking prices would be.
- e. Company H is interested in obtaining any personal or camp items he may wish to sell.

7. Member-at-Large

- a. Dave Adams had served as the Company H member-at-large, a position needed to offer a third executive vote on critical matters.
- b. Due to Dave Adams' inactive status, we were in need of a new member-at-large on our Company H executive.
- c. The position is an interim placement until our AGM in the fall.
- d. Leigh Gavel recommended Sylvain Tétrault, and this appointment was approved.
- e. Sylvain agreed to fulfil this role. Congratulations were extended to Sylvain for taking on this position within the Company H executive.

8. Email and Newsletter Stoppage to Potential Recruits

- a. Captain Titus stated that he has had not one response from anyone who approached us at Air Show Atlantic in Debert last August, regarding attending our events or joining Co. H; this despite numerous emails and eight newsletters sent out.
- b. The current newsletter may be the final one sent to this group, unless contact is made.
- c. Two Halifax-based people, a Canadian Forces recruiting sergeant and a wet plate photographer, had shown particular interest in joining us. Captain Tits said he would contact these individuals in the hope that they still have an interest in what we do.
- d. Captain Titus said he will maintain a file of all names and email addresses of potential recruits.

9. Liability Insurance

- a. At the Atlantic Outdoor Sports and RV Show in Halifax in March, discussion was held about changing our liability insurance provider from the National Firearms Association (NFA) to the Canadian Coalition for Firearms Rights (CCFR).
- b. Captain Titus said his initial reaction is that changing insurance providers would be more costly for our members, but that he needs to do more research.
- c. He asked that for this year, we maintain our current liability insurance arrangement through the NFA. There were no dissenting voices on this decision.

10. Our Relationships with the 20th Maine

- a. It was in a spirit of disappointment that Captain Titus relayed that there is virtually no correspondence from either Co. B or Co. I, 20th Maine, about their, or our, participation in upcoming events.
- b. The lack of communication from these two nearby regional groups is disappointing, but it was agreed unanimously that in the spirit of friendship, Co. H should continue to offer invitations to our events to both Company B and Company I.

• Ross Farm Encampment: June 3-4 •

11. Membership Dues

- a. Membership dues of \$30.00 for 2023-24 are required to be sent to Captain Titus no later than June 22, to allow time for processing and mailing.
- b. Four members have paid their dues for the 2023-24 season: Dave Adams, Dave Bottos, Leigh Gavel and Lindsay Titus.
- c. Captain Titus is personally still owed \$60.00 for payment of dues on behalf of two members who had promised payment at last year's membership deadline.

Planning Meeting at Kings Landing

In about a week's time, the planning meeting for the Military Muster at Kings Landing will be held in the administrative building just off-site at Kings Landing. The date for the meeting is set for Saturday, May 13, and the meeting will begin at 10 o'clock. Representatives of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire and DeLancey's Brigade will be in attendance. Representatives of Co. I, 20th Maine; Danks' Rangers and La Milice de Beaubassin have also been invited.

Members of Co. H who wish to attend the meeting are welcome to join Captain Titus, but you are asked to notify him, so that he, in turn, may notify Kings Landing representatives of the number of participants. Members of Co. H who wish to attend the meeting and travel with Captain Titus, are asked to inform him of this, also as soon as possible.

Members of Co. H who have ideas on how to improve the Kings Landing encampment, are asked to submit your ideas to Captain Titus prior to the meeting.

The administration building is at the site of the old tourist information centre, located across Route 102 from the historical settlement. To get there from Fredericton and further east, travel on the Trans-Canada Highway (Route 2) to Exit 253. Turn right on Prince William Road; from Woodstock, turn left. At the stop sign, turn right onto Route 102 (the old TCH) and make an immediate u-turn, right, into the driveway of the Kings Landing Administration Building. There is plenty of parking there, washrooms and our meeting room. A report of the meeting will be sent out by email, and included in the June issue of "Battle Lines".

Executive-at-Large Appointment Made

Dave Adams held the position of Member at-Large, a position on the Executive which was left untouched in the hope that Dave would return to active duty. Dave said during his April 14 visit with Captain Titus that the position should be filled by another member. At the April 29 drill and meeting, it was decided that this position will be held by Corporal Sylvain Tétrault on an interim basis until our fall AGM. An election will be called at the AGM for all Executive and Field two-year positions. The duties of the Executive at-Large are generally light, but in the interest of fairness to all, we require a three-person Executive in the event that an issue arises and a vote of the Executive becomes necessary. Thank you, Sylvain!

Two More Members Pay Membership Dues for 2023-24

Captain Lindsay Titus paid his membership dues on April 28 by cash, and deposited it, along with other company funds, into our Company H Brunswick Credit Union account. Brunswick Credit Union is the new name of Bayview Credit Union, arrived at following amalgamation of several credit unions in southern New Brunswick into a new organization.

On Saturday, April 29, upon our return to Sussex following the drill held in Boudreau-Ouest, Dave Bottos paid his membership dues to Captain Titus, bringing our membership to four paid members. Thank you, Dave, and thank you to all who have already paid. Dave Adams and Leigh Gavel had previously paid.

Membership dues expire on June 30 annually, and renew on July 1. Dues payments are required to be paid by June 22, to allow for processing time and mailing to the NFA in Edmonton, Alberta. Thank you!

Canadians in the Ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire

James Thomas was born in Saint John, New Brunswick, but was a resident of New York City when he enlisted at the age of 21 on December 5, 1863; his enlistment being credited to Newton. Thomas was mustered-in on the same day as a private in Co. H. He was captured on June 3, 1864, at the Battle of Cold Harbor, and remained a prisoner until May 5, 1865, nearly a month after Lee's surrender. He was discharged from the army in Concord on June 6, 1865. Records show that he gave his postal address at war's end as Fort Fairfield, Maine, just across from the New Brunswick border.