



# Battle Lines



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

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## **Report: The Military Muster at Kings Landing!**

*“Best field trip ever!” • “Can they stay all year?”*

### **Saturday night at Kings Landing**

was, simply put, a miserable one. High wind, steady rain and unseasonable cold described the night. The wind was so strong, that a peg at the corner of Captain Titus' tent turned 180° in the soaked soil, causing the tent loop to free itself and allow the front left corner of the tent to flap wildly in the early-morning wind; when one corner went, the others could follow, so, at 2:30 AM, with flashlight in hand and rain swirling around, the cold and wet captain made a quick repair, tied the tent flaps closed, and climbed into his nearby Jeep to spend the rest of the night.



Unknown to the captain, at about the same time, Sergeant Colin Moore of Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine was awakened by the barn door swinging open where he, Sylvain Tétrault and Dave Bottos were sleeping. Colin, too, moved to the relative serenity and warmth of his vehicle, while also at about the same time, Steve Norman, already trying to sleep in his Jeep (as is his custom) was startled by the crash of his display table fly as it tossed and collapsed in the high wind and rain. He suffered no loss, except to rebuild his tent fly in the morning. All in all, it was a miserable, but story-worthy night.

That made our visit to the Ingraham House on Sunday morning all the more memorable. Word came from the house that we were all invited in for fresh, hot coffee. What we received, instead, was endless (and excellent) hot coffee, the warmth of a blazing fire and genuine Kings Landing hospitality. If it wasn't for our pending duties at the Morehouse graveside service, we would have been quite content to spend the rest of the morning there. Members of other households, too, particularly from the Morehouse house and the Perley house, were also welcoming and accommodating throughout the weekend, offering food, fresh water and hospitality. Corporal Tétrault even got a button sewn on at the Perley house. Thank you to all, and the treats were delicious!

However, for a weekend where the Environment Canada forecast was one of rain all three days, Saturday night was the only real time of wet and discomfort. In fact, Thursday and Friday were absolutely beautiful. On Thursday evening, Steve Norman and Lindsay Titus set up camp in sunshine, with no wind and no bugs. Later that evening they traveled for a quick visit to both the Seven Years' War camp and the camp of DeLancey's Brigade, before returning to the Civil War camp at the edge of darkness.

Friday, the student day, began bright and clear, and turned quickly to hot. Arriving prior to the opening of the gates were Corporal Sylvain Tétrault and Private Dave Bottos, bringing our total in the field to four.

Representatives of each reenactor group were asked to briefly meet with the Kings Landing staff that morning, where we were warned that the humidex reading was expected to reach 30 that day, a fairly high number; everyone was cautioned to stay hydrated. At 10 AM, some 400 students began arriving, and, due to washroom issues on Kings Landing's west side, they came straight to our side of the settlement, many by horse-drawn wagon. So, while Steve Norman launched into his excellent medical presentations, Captain Titus led Sylvain Tétrault and Dave Bottos in demonstrations of "Load in Nine Times", which culminated

### **Kings Landing, *continued...***

in the firing of their muskets for each arriving student group. Included with the students was a class from Rimouski, Quebec, which was a happy surprise. One New Brunswick student, upon watching and hearing the muskets fire, spontaneously announced, "Best field trip ever!"

Saturday dawned overcast and cool, and remained that way throughout the day, but with only about two minutes of morning drizzle. The day saw the arrival of Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine to Kings Landing. Participating members were Greg Fekner, Dave Menton, Jason Middleton, Troy Middleton and Colin Moore. Their very busy photographer/videographer was Taylor Carpenter. We thank her for her work in taking some 400 photographs and videos during the day!

Musket firing in the Morehouse field was accomplished before a small, but appreciative audience, but the men managed to find time to forage for pies and squares at various times during the day. By 3:00, nearly all troops on-site had marched to the millstream bridge for a musket shoot and photoshoot. Attending living history groups fired across the water, both independently and by battalion. All participants reported that this first-time activity went very well, and was appreciated by the viewing public. Many thanks to Colin Moore and Troy Middleton for making this a suggested activity. Captain Titus was not present, as he remained behind to guard the camp, although the only visitor during this time was a lone member of the Kings Landing staff. Thank you, too, to the woman from the Morehouse house, who watched over Steve Norman's medical display while the troops were at the bridge. These weekend events are truly a team effort!

On Saturday evening we all headed for the Kings Head Inn, where we were once again treated to Kings Landing hospitality and an excellent hot meal consisting of ham, scallop potatoes, baked beans and carrots. Dessert was also served and a merry time was had by all. Thank you to the Kings Head Inn staff for making this such a memorable experience once again.

Following the excellent meal, the 20<sup>th</sup> Maine was ordered to march off, presumably to rejoin the ranks of the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps, although Sergeant Moore remained to bolster the numbers of the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire for Sunday's graveside service.

Saturday night was long, cold, wet and windy, as detailed above, but Sunday morning, much like Saturday, dawned cool, overcast and damp, but, again, featured virtually no rain. We began our day in the nearby Ingraham house, where we received the hospitality mentioned previously. A little while later, while searching for Jeff Chamberlain (our guide to the Morehouse graveside service), we were summoned to the Morehouse house to give a talk about Canada and the American Civil War to a group of visiting cadets. While this visit had to be brief due to our scheduled departure for the graveside service, Jeff found us and we were soon heading away from Kings Landing and up the St. John River.

Although the weather remained cloudy and misty, the afternoon was dry enough to allow musket fire by both Co. H Enfields and DeLancey's Brigade flintlocks. Daniel Morehouse, whose house is located in Kings Landing, served in both the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. A group is attempting to identify War of 1812 veteran's graves across Canada, and place a commemorative plaque by the headstone of each veteran; thus the service on this day. Dave Bottos, Steve Norman, Sylvain Tétrault and Lindsay Titus were present representing Co. H. Colin Moore stayed for this event and represented Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine. Thank you, Colin, for participating in this important commemorative service.



Thus, another successful Military Muster at Kings Landing – our third annual – was held at this historic settlement during the weekend of June 16-18. With the support, guidance, decision-making and many kindnesses shown by Kings Landing staff members; and capably led by Amanda Stairs, Evelyn Fidler and Jeff Chamberlain, reenactors went home Saturday or Sunday evening with a feeling of accomplishment. Special thanks, too, to the households of the Morehouse house, the Ingraham house and the Perley house for their many kindnesses, and to Chelsey Gould for her video and photographic work on behalf of Kings Landing. Many thanks to the members of La Milice de Beaubassin, Danks' Rangers, DeLancey's Brigade and Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine for their participation in this event. Thanks, too, to the members of Co. H, 5<sup>th</sup> New

## **Kings Landing, *continued...***

Hampshire, who dared the weather forecast and remained on-site throughout the entire weekend, from student tsunami to graveside volley. Hurrah to one and all!

### **Fire! An Important Lesson for Us All!**

During the weekend of the Military Muster at Kings Landing, DeLancey's Brigade suffered tent and fly damage when an errant ember found its way to their tavern's tent fly. Quick-reacting Kings Landing staff, who witnessed the fire from the Welcome Centre, brought fire extinguishers to the scene and put the fire out. No one was hurt, but this rare incident serves as a reminder that we must all be safety officers all the time, be mindful of potential hazards and be proactive in accident avoidance.

We, of Co. H, are thankful that no one was hurt in this rare and unfortunate accident, and that property damage was held to a minimum. Steve Fowler, and indeed all members of DeLancey's Brigade, have deep and justified pride in their unit, and while this incident was alarming to us all, we are sure that this will only further their resolve to create both an authentic and safe campsite at future events. The incident must serve as a reminder to us all of the importance of safety. There, but for fortune....

### **Additional Encampments at Kings Landing a Possibility**

The past three years of our participation in the Military Muster at Kings Landing has seen the relationship between reenacting groups and Kings Landing officials and staff grow and flourish. In conversations this year with acting Kings Landing CEO, Amanda Stairs, she expressed a willingness to have reenactors return on additional dates during the year. No plans were established, but Colin Moore (Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine & DeLancey's Brigade) has always expressed a desire for a return to a fall event. One staff members apparently asked Amanda Stairs, "Can't they (reenactors) stay all year?" The possibility of us holding additional one, or two-day events at Kings Landing is there, and is certainly worth further discussion on our part.

### **Thank-you Note Received from Kings Landing**

While at the Military Muster at Kings Landing on June 16-18, Captain Titus was handed an envelope by Amanda Stairs, acting CEO of Kings Landing. In the envelope was a card, which read, "On behalf of Kings Landing, thank you for making the Military Muster a great success!" – *Amanda*

It is we, who thank Amanda, Evelyn Fidler, Jeff Chamberlain, Kings Landing photographer & videographer Chelsey Gould and all Kings Landing staff who made our stay such an enjoyable and memorable experience once again! Did I mention how good the Ingraham house coffee was?

### **Air Show Atlantic in Debert, Nova Scotia**

Co. H plans to return to Air Show Atlantic, again located in Debert, Nova Scotia, for 2023. The air show is scheduled for the weekend of August 26-27 at the Debert Airport, near Truro. Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel and Lindsay Titus were the Co. H representatives there last year. We received a lot of attention from the public in 2022, and seven people at this event provided their contact information for recruiting purposes. Sadly, none have stepped forward to join, but the event attracts thousands of visitors (most of whom are Maritimers), so it is certainly worthwhile attending.

We received a verbal invitation from organizers last year to return in 2023. An email was sent to organizers by Captain Titus in June of this year, and a second one in July, but no response has been received regarding our participation. We will continue to seek confirmation.

Our camp location, if it remains as it was last year, affords us lots of room to drill, march and demonstrate musket firing, so members are urged to add this event to their calendar. Plus, we are right on the main route that the public walks to get to the air show and other static displays. We also have a good view of the air show itself.

We have also been invited to participate in "August Thunder" a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event at the New Brunswick Military History Museum at CFB Gagetown on the same Saturday as the air show (August 26), so we will have to split Co. H according to members' choices. That is unfortunate, but enterprising members may be able to attend both events: Gagetown on Saturday and Air Show Atlantic on Sunday!

Watch emails and the August issue of "Battle Lines" for updates on this excellent event.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Gavel Recruits at Aviation Museum



On Saturday, June 24, First Sergeant Leigh Gavel participated in the annual Family Fun Day at the Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum, located along Nova Scotia's Highway 102, across from the Halifax Stanfield International Airport. This means that we had two recruiting tables set up in two different provinces (NS and NB) on the same day – a first, no doubt! Steve Cochrane reports that more than a thousand people visited the museum on Saturday, and that Leigh was there in uniform with a table displaying Civil War kit. He was there at the invitation of the Atlantic Canadian Military History Association, a group with whom we have worked at previous events.

Many thanks to Steve Cochrane, our Company H Chaplain, for first notifying “Battle Lines” of Leigh’s participation in the event, and also for sending photographs for our use. Although Steve reported that he was unsure if either group gained recruits, in a later email, 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Gavel stated that he met three young men who showed particular interest in joining Co. H. Of course, whether or not we gain recruits, it is always good to “show the colours” and to have the opportunity to educate the public about the military history of our region. Hurrah, Leigh and Steve!

## “August Thunder” at CFB Gagetown Museum

Troy Middleton, president of Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, has invited us (and all reenacting groups that participated in the Military Muster at Kings Landing) to a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the New Brunswick Military History Museum, located at CFB Gagetown, in Oromocto, New Brunswick. The day, known as “August Thunder”, will be held on Saturday, August 26.

We are also scheduled to participate in Air Show Atlantic, in Debert, Nova Scotia that same weekend (August 26-27), so Co. H members are urged to choose the event in which you wish to participate. Or, for the adventurous among us, participate in “August Thunder” on Saturday, and travel to Debert on Sunday!

Details as to times and activities are still to be released, but a strong turnout will help to further public recognition of Co. H, and boost the potential for recruiting, as press coverage and a good public turnout is expected.

Whatever your choice, a **Call to Arms** for each of Air Show Atlantic and “August Thunder” will be emailed to members as we approach the dates.

## Two New Members Boost Co. H Muster Roll

Company H, Fifth New Hampshire stands at fifteen members as of July 5, 2023. While down from last year’s total of 19, the number more truly reflects the number of active members. The addition of Isaak Steeves and Philippe Macias (father and son) at the Military Muster at Kings Landing was a great boost to our numbers. Welcome! Their addition shows what spending time with interested people and putting people into uniform can do. Thank you to Steve Norman and members of Co. I for their support of these recruits. Putting them into uniform and into the march helped so much in bringing them into our ranks.

Here is a list of our members, along with their ranks or roles in the Company:

Dave Adams – <i>Private</i>	Leigh Gavel – <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant</i>	Philippe Macias - <i>Private</i>
Dave Bottos – <i>Private</i>	Loran Gavel – <i>Private</i>	Stephen Norman – <i>Hosp. Steward</i>
Aaron Bouma – <i>Private</i>	Suzanne Guay – <i>Company Cook</i>	Isaak Steeves - <i>Private</i>
Steven Cochrane – <i>Chaplain</i>	Stephen Halliday – <i>Private</i>	Sylvain Tétrault – <i>Corporal</i>
Evelyn Fidler – <i>to be decided</i>	Rick Jamer – <i>Corporal</i>	Lindsay Titus – <i>Captain</i>

Sadly, we say goodbye to long-time and valued members Joe Gee, Barry Hippenstall, Bob Keretschko, Marie Keretschko, Elodie Tétrault and Nicolas Tétrault. With the exception of Nicolas and Elodie, none of these members responded to email or newsletter reminders about membership renewal. We hope that the day will come when they decide to return to the ranks of the Fifth New Hampshire. They will, of course, be welcomed back as the friends they are!

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Maine Hosts Fort Knox Encampment**

Through emails between Captain Titus and Captain Matthew Bray of Co. A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine, we have been invited to participate in this year's Civil War encampment organized by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine, at Fort Knox, in Prospect Maine. Prospect is located just across the Penobscot River from the town of Bucksport. It is a little more than a two-hour drive from St. Stephen, New Brunswick to Fort Knox. The encampment is scheduled for the weekend of July 21-23.

Many Co. H members have participated in events at Fort Knox over the years, as it is the usual home of Co. B, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine, the unit from which we trace our roots. It is expected to be a fairly sizeable event, with both Union and Confederate troops present. Field artillery from the 6<sup>th</sup> Maine Battery (1 or 2 guns) is also expected to attend.

Although we have not made a commitment to participate in this event as a unit, if you wish to take part as an individual, contact Captain Titus and he will, in turn, notify Matt Bray. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine will welcome your participation.

## **Common Drill with Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine**

On Saturday, June 17, on the Morehouse field at Kings Landing, Colin Moore (sergeant, Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine) met with Lindsay Titus of Co. H and began an informal discussion of the directions being taken by both living history groups. Colin suggested that drills that combined the two groups would be a way to both enhance our relationship and to improve the quality of our impressions.

This discussion was rather brief, since the logic of the suggestion seemed clear. Walking up to the campsite, Captain Titus approached Troy Middleton, president of Co. I, about the possibility. Troy was open to the idea and both Lindsay and Troy decided to take the idea to their respective members for discussion and a vote.

Within two days of returning home, Lindsay had emailed Co. H members about the idea and immediately, responses came in. Within two days after the initial email, all votes received were unanimous in supporting the idea of holding common drills.

There are at least four reasons why holding common drills is a positive step:

1. We can create stronger ties between the only two Civil War living history organizations in Atlantic Canada.
2. Each group can learn from the other. The nineteenth century writing style found in *Casey's* is sometimes difficult to interpret; different views will usually decipher the text's intended meaning.
3. When we join as a "battalion" at events such as Kings Landing, we will all be performing the numerous and various steps, turns, maneuvers, etc., in harmony as a unit.
4. With greater numbers in the ranks, we can perform activities that small groups simply do not allow, such as wheels, "on the right by file into line", "by company into line" and skirmish drill.

Although we await the decision of the Co. I membership on this matter, Co. I members, through Troy Middleton, have already been invited to participate in the Co. H drill scheduled for July 29. In the future, should the Co. I vote be "yes", we will work to establish common drill dates and locations.

## **Report: Sussex Gun Show**

The Sussex Gun Show was attended for the first time by two members of Co. H. While it may not have been a strong success in terms of gaining recruits, many new contacts were made and old ones renewed. Letting the public know we are here is always a good thing.

On Friday, June 23, Steve Norman and Lindsay Titus set up our 8-foot table in the crowded Sussex Lions Den. We returned on Saturday morning (the 24<sup>th</sup>) to a capacity crowd of onlookers, all searching, it seemed, for that one valued piece of hunting or sporting kit. Steve's medical display and Lindsay's Enfield drew the most attention from visitors to our table, with several enquiries about the prices of displayed items. We were probably the only table in the building that wasn't selling anything, so it seemed like a hard concept for some to grasp that we weren't sellers.

We met with "old" friends and former 20<sup>th</sup> Maine reenactors Terry Nolan and Allison Maynard, and it was good to catch up with them once again. Captain Titus purchased an "officer's box", as Al called it, complete with interesting contents; and an original bayonet. The box was the only item left from his once-vast Civil War reenacting collection.

### **Sussex Gun Show, *continued...***

Both Steve and Lindsay also met people from the area we knew personally, and that made the time even more enjoyable. The closest we came to gaining a recruit was on Sunday, when a tall, young man said what we were displaying was “cool” and that he wanted to get into reenacting. However, when asked where he lived, he replied, “Ontario”, so he was given some contact information, but together we calculated it was most likely too far a commute for him to join Co. H.

On Sunday, Steve Norman had a personal matter to attend to, so Captain Titus manned the table alone, but it was a much quieter day, so it was easy duty. Thank you, Steve, for your two trips to Sussex and for your continuing valued support of what we do in Co. H. We may not have gained recruits from this venture (although these things sometimes take time), we did “show the colours”, gained some more public support and taught some often-overlooked Canadian history, and those are always positive outcomes.

### **New Source for Black Powder & Percussion Caps Found**

One vendor at the recent Sussex Gun Show had, as most of his display, containers of various forms of Pyrodex, black powder, musket and revolver rounds, percussion caps, and lubes, etc. The company, Flint N Steel, is located in Debert, Nova Scotia, at 163 Upper Debert River Road. They do sell from their place of business, but ask that you telephone first, as they are not always at home (which doubles as their business location). You may telephone Sandy at (902) 890-1761, or Jennifer at (902) 899-4915.

They carry Schuetzen, Goex (old stock; more coming when available), and other black powder brands, with prices ranging from \$50 to \$60 per 1-pound can; pricey, but expensive black powder is better than no black powder. They also carry CCI four-wing musket percussion caps. On display, they had 1-Fg, 1.5-Fg (which was new to Captain Titus), 2-Fg, 3-Fg and 4-Fg, powders. 2-Fg is considered suitable for musket use.

Although Loyalist Arms will most likely remain our primary source of powder and caps, it is good to know that another Maritime-based source for muzzle-loading products exists.

### **! News of the War in the East !**

- **NFA Payment Mailed** – Our payment of \$215.40 for National Firearms Association group membership and liability insurance coverage for 2023-24 was mailed by Captain Titus to NFA headquarters in Edmonton on Friday, June 23. We await confirmation of our renewal. Group membership in the NFA is a requirement for the purchase of liability insurance.
- **CCFF Invitation Received** – On June 28, we received an email from Maurice La king, who is both a member of Danks’ Rangers and the organizing committee of the Charlotte County Fall Fair (CCFF), inviting us to participate in this year’s fall fair. The fair is held at the Ganong Nature Park, located about 10 km east of St. Stephen, New Brunswick. The fair is scheduled for the weekend of September 16-17. We have participated in the CCFF several times and, unlike last year, Maurice promises that this year we will be allowed to fire muskets. We have also made the effort to visit the grave of General John Curtis Caldwell during that same weekend. Caldwell’s grave is located in St. Stephen Rural Cemetery (along with five other Civil War graves), on the Friday of the fall fair. General Caldwell was the brigade and (later) the division commander, which included the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire, for about two years.

### **“Rally ‘Round the Flag, Boys!”**



- **July 15 – Co. I, 20<sup>th</sup> Maine Drill** – *St. Martins, NB*
- **July 21-23 – Fort Knox Encampment** – *Prospect, Maine*
- **July 29 – Battalion Drill** – *Sussex or Boudreau-Ouest, NB*
- **August 26 – “August Thunder”** – *NB Museum; CFB Gagetown*
- **August 26-27 – Air Show Atlantic** – *Debert, NS*
- **September 15 – Gen. Caldwell Graveside Visit** – *St. Stephen Rural Cem.*
- **September 16-17 – Charlotte County Fall Fair** – *St. Stephen, NB*
- **September (?) – Ross Farm** – *New Ross, NS*
- **October (?) – Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom**
- **October (?) Fredericton North Heritage Fair** – *Devon, NB*
- **November (?) – Annual General Meeting (AGM)**