



Battle Lines



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

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Report: Fall Encampment at Kings Landing

The long-anticipated fall encampment at Kings Landing was held on the weekend of September 23-24, with camp set-up possible on Friday, the 22nd. Here is an overview of the weekend's activities and observations:

- Just three members of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire participated in the fall encampment at Kings Landing. They were Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel and Lindsay Titus. At least five other Co. H members had expressed their intention of participating in the event, but family and work commitments, or illness prevented Dave Bottos, Steve Norman, Phil Macias, Isaak Steeves and Sylvain Tétrault from attending, as originally planned.
- Five members of Co. I, 20th Maine encamped with us, and their presence was greatly appreciated. Present all weekend were Troy Middleton and Dave Menton. Arriving as reinforcements on Sunday were Colin Moore, Jason Fillmore, and his son, Ethan.
- Jason is one of the original Canadian members of Co. B, 20th Maine (along with Colin Moore and Bruce Barber) and it was great to see him again, and welcome him back to reenacting after so many years away. Great work in recruiting, Colin!
- On Friday evening, Leigh Gavel reported by fireside that he has raised a total of \$818.00 through new fundraising efforts for Co. H. Hurrah! Well done, Leigh!
- Upon arrival in one of the Kings Landing staff stables, the Gavel steed refused to move any further, as it had been a long trail from Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia. Luckily, a little coaxing from Captain Titus' white stallion, Gladiator, got the Gavel horse moving again.
- Camp set-up on Friday evening was delayed by the refusal of the Gavel horse to budge, but headlights and flashlights (both disguised as lanterns, of course) allowed the job to be completed, more or less. Many thanks to both Gavel brothers for their leadership in getting the captain's tent set up, despite the fact that his ridge pole brackets were left behind in the wagon train. Thank you so much, gentlemen!
- We held an informal AGM around the campfire on Friday night, but with just three Co. H members present, email votes were required to complete the voting process.
- The weather was beautiful all weekend; cool at night, but no rain at all, and bright sunshine throughout Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- First Sergeant Gavel capably led the "boys" in musket demonstrations both days.
- Co. H set up three tents and a fly. Co. I set up two tents; overall, a small, but impressive campsite located closer to the campfire than in previous years.
- Thank you, Kings Landing staff, for the continuing hospitality shown to us. All reenactors have felt welcome to be a part of the events held there.
- Pies, cookies and cakes were delivered to our camp from both the Morehouse and Ingraham houses (and others). All were excellent, and greatly appreciated. Fresh, garden-picked potatoes and carrots were also delivered, and were happily taken home by Private Menton of Co. I.



*1st Sergeant Gavel meets with visitors
to our camp.*

Photo courtesy of Kings Landing

Kings Landing, *continued...*

- The youngest Civil War reenactor present on Sunday was Ethan Fillmore, age 9, who was attending his very first event. He did extremely well, and was eager to be a part of everything. He was also a great help during the break-up of camp. As Colin Moore said, “He is the future of the hobby.”
- The two Civil War reenacting groups blended together nicely once again, with both groups working well together. It was a joy to be a part of that.
- The French & Indian War camp had eleven participants: two from Danks’ Rangers, two civilian members of DeLancey’s Brigade, and seven from La Milice de Beaubassin, including three new members – a family from England. That is an excellent turnout for an event that had to come together quite quickly. Thank you, Paul Flowers, for taking the leadership role in putting it together on “that side” of the bridge.
- There was no photoshoot/musket shoot at the mill bridge this time, due to expected tour groups coming through during the day. These groups are on tight schedules, and our “blockade” of the bridge would have posed a timing problem. We’ll save that activity for June!
- To wake up on the Morehouse field and see a light fog over the river, a bald eagle in flight overhead and hear Canada Geese protesting in a nearby field – all with the sight, sound and smell of an early morning crackling fire, busy boiling water for coffee, is reenacting magic.
- All reenacting groups have already been invited to return to Kings Landing for the weekend of June 7-9, 2024, with the 7th (Friday) being a Student Day.

Annual General Meeting 2023 (sort-of)

On Friday evening, September 22, while enjoying the light and warmth of the campfire, Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel and Lindsay Titus held an informal meeting to share our thoughts on the agenda items for the 2023 Annual General Meeting. As no quorum was present, the voting that occurred represented just the beginning of the process for proposal ratification and the election of administrative and field positions.

We have a total of sixteen (16) members, fifteen (15) of whom are voting (dues-paying) members, with one being a family member. With just three members present at the campfire meeting, we were in need of a minimum of five (5) additional votes for the majority needed to ratify of the New England Brigade membership proposal and the elections of field leadership and administrative positions.

On September 30, an email was sent to members, outlining the campfire version of the AGM, and asking for additional votes to complete the voting process. Members could also nominate others as candidates for available positions. This process was successfully completed the same day, with no new candidates being nominated.

The results of the campfire meeting and the email votes were:

1. Returning to the 2024 Outdoor & Recreational Show in Halifax in March – *undetermined*.
 - This is a recruiting effort.
 - Our presence at the 2023 show resulted in no new recruits, but the show attracts thousands of people in the region’s largest city, so the potential for recruits is there.
 - Participation is costly, costing us over \$400.00 last year.
 - This was discussed at the campfire, but was not part of the email voting; results are inconclusive.
2. Continuing our membership in the New England Brigade – *unanimous votes in favour*.
 - Maintaining our contacts with other like-minded groups in the northeast is essential for our growth, both in numbers and in knowledge.
 - This is seen as an attraction, especially for younger members.
 - It is an excellent recruiting enhancement.
3. Nominations for Co. H Administration (two-year positions) –
 - For President: Lindsay Titus – *Acclaimed & approved unanimously*
 - For Vice-President: Leigh Gavel – *Acclaimed & approved unanimously*
 - For Treasurer: Lindsay Titus – *Acclaimed & approved unanimously*
 - For Member-at-Large: Sylvain Tétrault – *Acclaimed & approved unanimously*

Inspect your kit before storing it for the winter!

Annual General Meeting, *continued...*

4. Co. H Field Ranks (two-year positions) –
 - Captain: Lindsay Titus – *Acclaimed & approved unanimously*
 - 1st Sergeant: Leigh Gavel – *Acclaimed & approved unanimously*
 - Corporal – Dave Bottos – *Acclaimed & approved unanimously*
 - Corporal – Sylvain Tétrault – *Acclaimed & approved unanimously*

Note: Loran Gavel was originally among those nominated for the rank of corporal, but he declined the nomination by email to Captain Titus.

Originally on the agenda, but not discussed (with the exception of the Halifax Outdoor Show), is our Schedule of Events for 2024. Members' thoughts on adding, removing, or otherwise altering our schedule for next year should be submitted to Captain Titus well in advance of spring, as winter is when serious planning begins.

Thank you to all candidates who allowed their names to stand for elected positions. Thank you, too, Rick Jamer of Prince Edward Island, for your contributions and understanding. Rick served as corporal for the past several months, and has agreed to remain on as a private.

Emergency Prompts Assistance from Civil War Reenactors

During Saturday's encampment at Kings Landing, a visitor to our campsite collapsed alongside the fence by the road, as we were completing presentations to a tour group, and preparing for a musket firing demonstration. Radio calls were quickly made by nearby Kings Landing personnel, and Kings Landing staff rapidly assembled to assist the fallen man. Of note, three Civil War reenactors also sprang into action to assist in the situation. Dave Menton escorted a woman who was helping the fallen visitor, to the gate near the Kings Head Inn to enable her return to her tour bus. Leigh Gavel ran to the man to assist, and then twice went to a tent to get water and a facecloth to place on the man's forehead. Troy Middleton (Co. I) and Leigh also assisted in moving the man onto a gurney and then into the ambulance, which had been called to the scene. We have no way of knowing what led to the medical emergency, nor of the man's current condition, but it was heartening to see the way the reenactors quickly took on a variety of leadership roles in this health emergency. Hurrah to you all!

Camaraderie

Perhaps it is the magic of Kings Landing, with the mist of early autumn floating above the St. John River, the sight of a bald eagle gliding overhead, the coolness of the September morning air, and the echo of musket fire aimed out across the St. John River, but I was deeply touched by the camaraderie experienced during the recent weekend at Kings Landing. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- It was a pleasure to see the two Civil War groups blend so seamlessly, with a true sense of harmony.
- The long-distance hikes to the Civil War camp, undertaken by members of the French & Indian War groups, was a real pleasure. Civil War reenactors repaid the visits with one of their own.
- Tents went up, and were taken down, with apparent ease, as everyone "pitched in".
- The Titus Jeep – the conveyer of both personal and company items – was loaded and on the road in half-an-hour. Amazing!
- It was great to see Jason Fillmore's son, Ethan, take on the spirit of camaraderie at his very first event, by helping out in many ways, while also offering the occasional complaint – "Screw the law!" – He'll fit right in!
- The simple act of sharing hot water for coffee, or the offer of still-sizzling bacon and eggs, takes on a greater meaning during reenacting mornings anywhere, but especially, it seems, at Kings Landing.
- Captain Titus left his ridge pole connecting brackets at home, but coming to the rescue were the Gavel brothers, who quickly came up with an alternative plan, and raised the tent in record time. Thank you, Leigh and Loran!
- The sounds of talk and laughter around the tables at the Kings Head Inn are testaments to the joy of the time and the place. Bruce Barber has spoken of reenacting moments, and the sights and sounds associated with Kings Landing are full of those moments.
- "Colin was Colin." This is an expression I have said to my wife numerous times, and she understands its meaning. Colin has been a friend to reenacting, and a friend to us all, for all these many years. We all know what that means, so there is no need for a long explanation. Thank you, Colin, for being who you are.
- Troy Middleton deserves a lot of praise for the work he has done in Civil War research for our region. We lost an excellent researcher when Terry Middleton retired from reenacting, but Troy has capably picked up and carried on. Hurrah!

Camaraderie, continued...

- Company I is fortunate to have Dave Menton as a member. Quiet and unassuming, he does his job and is always so friendly. He traveled all the way from CFB Greenwood in Nova Scotia for this event, and we thank him for it!
- On both Saturday and Sunday, the Civil War camp was visited by several members of the French & Indian War camp. Thank you for that! Leigh Gavel returned the favour on Sunday, by hiking Civil War soldiers to the French & Indian War camp. Great fellowship shown by both camps!
- During our June encampments, a meeting of reenactors was scheduled for the Kings Head Inn. It will have to become a regular feature of our encampments. Having time for reenactors of all eras to gather and talk is important, while also being one of those lasting memories of our visits to Kings Landing.

We Return to Kings Landing in June 2024!

The year 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Kings Landing. Planning is already underway for special events for next year, and we are a part of that. All reenacting groups that participated in encampments in 2023 are invited to return to Kings Landing for the weekend of June 7-9, with Friday (the 7th) again being a student day, and camp set-up possible on Thursday, June 6.

We are seeking ideas to make the military encampments extra-special next year. Please submit your ideas to Captain Titus as soon as possible, as all ideas must be submitted to Kings Landing officials, and planning takes time. The bridge photo and musket shoot was a success last June, and I expect it will be repeated. Troy Middleton (Co. I, 20th Maine) has already submitted the idea of a live-shoot to be held on Sunday morning, prior to public hours, at the range located beside the Presbyterian Church, on-site. The Kings Landing staff have been fantastic in their interactions during the past three years, and Kings Landing officials are eager for such interactions to continue, and to be enhanced.

Cancelled: Co. H at the Charlotte County Fall Fair

Due to busy September and October schedules, no member of Co. H was available to participate in this year's Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom, to be held on Saturday, October 7, from 12 noon to 6 PM. Captain Titus and his wife had planned to drive to Perth-Andover on Saturday morning, but had to cancel, due to an eye procedure scheduled for the Moncton Hospital on October 6. Driving long-distance the next morning was just not going to happen.

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Members of Co. H who still wish to participate are welcome to do so, and an offer to participate was also extended to Co. I, 20th Maine. Please note that a new entrance is in use this year. It is at the Dunham Christmas Tree Farm, located on Miller Road. Watch for signs, beginning in Perth-Andover, or contact Joe Gee on Facebook.

October Events

Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom

- October 7 (*Saturday*); 12:00-6:00
- Miller Road; Dunlap Christmas Tree Farm (near Perth-Andover, NB)

Battle of Cedar Creek

- October 19-20 (*weekend*)
- Middletown, Virginia

Fredericton North Heritage Fair

- October 21 (*Saturday*); 10:00-3:00
- Kinsmen's Centre; School Street; Devon, NB
- Contact Captain Titus, if you are interested in participating.

Recruiting is a Year-round Activity!