



Battle Lines



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

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Report: Fredericton North Heritage Fair

The annual Fredericton North Heritage Fair was held on Saturday, October 21, at the Kinsmen Community Centre on School Street in Fredericton North (Devon), New Brunswick. Newly-promoted corporal, Dave Bottos, and Lindsay Titus represented Co. H. This was the third time that Company H has participated in this event, and completes our living history season for 2023. We have already been invited back to the Heritage Fair for 2024.

The Heritage Fair doors opened to the public at 10 AM, and remained open until 3 PM, and seemed to be well-attended. We had many visitors to our table, with one man remarking, "This is awesome." Late in the day, we also had a visit by event organizer Jill Hargrove, who told us that a visitor had said to her, what a good display the Civil War group has. Those comments alone make it worth the effort to participate, as it is critical to our success as an organization to have public support.

We also had a chance to talk, although briefly, with Co. H member Evelyn Fidler, who was present at the fair as the representative of Kings Landing. In addition, Lindsay Titus caught up with John Hildebrand, a friend and colleague from days of yore, who lives in Fredericton. Discussion revealed that both John and Lindsay had relatives who served in the British 15th Regiment of Foot, who were sent to Canada as a result of the *Trent* Affair of 1861.

Steve Norman was unable to attend this year's Heritage Fair (having attended the previous two), but Jill Hargrove asked about him and his display more than once, so, clearly, he was missed. Let's hope that Steve will be able to return to the Fredericton North Heritage Fair next year.

One visitor, Susan McCloskey, talked of a relative of hers, who served in the Civil War and is buried in Bathurst. Lindsay looked him up in his copy of Daniel F. Johnson's [The American Civil War: The Service Records of Atlantic Canadians With the State of Maine Volunteers](#), and found the listing of his record. The soldier, Francis McKenna, served in the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery. Susan then searched her phone, because she knew that she had previously received an email from someone, but could not recall the name. The name was found to be Larry Burden (Co. I, 20th Maine), who had contacted her regarding this veteran. I informed her that if there was anything we could do to assist her, if she wished further information, including contacting Co. I, to let us know. Later that evening, she emailed photographs of the Bathurst cemetery where Francis McKenna is buried, his headstone, and a copy of the photograph she took of our display table (*see above*). She was very appreciative of the conversation she had with us.

Captain Titus was also able to find the relative of a second visitor by searching Johnson's two-volume set. She took a photograph of the information found, and was also very appreciative.

It was really good to have Dave Bottos present at this event. He recently returned from a month-long deployment with the Canadian Army in Latvia (followed immediately by two weeks' field exercises in the rain at Gagetown). Corporal Bottos informed Captain Titus that he may have a couple of recruits for the Company. His son is showing some interest in what we do, and, of course, Dave was encouraged to bring him along to his next event.



Photograph courtesy of Susan McCloskey.

• Capt. Titus has purchased a campfire tripod! •

Heritage Fair, continued...

There is also a man Dave works with at Gagetown, who not only has an interest in history, but is a blacksmith and swordsmith! Dave showed a photograph of some presentation swords this potential recruit has made, and the quality appears to be outstanding. Dave says he can also make Civil War bayonets! Dave arrived a little late at the Heritage Fair, but he was told that if he brings in a recruit or two, all would be forgiven. Dave is already looking forward to Kings Landing in the spring (providing he's not deployed), and would be up for one more drill before the snow flies this fall.

Three days after the fair, on October 24, Lindsay Titus received an email from fair organizer, Jill Hargrove. It read, "On behalf of the Fredericton North Heritage Association, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to you (Co. H, 5th Regiment New Hampshire) for your continued support as a participant in the Heritage Fair. We hope you had a positive experience and welcome any feedback." Lindsay Titus responded by thanking Jill for the opportunity to participate, and hoped that we, in some small way, contributed to the success of the fair. Jill responded later that same day, "You most certainly did add to the fair, if the comments were any indication. We will let you know [about 2024] as soon as we choose the date. Thanks again, (*signed*) Jill."

Our presence at this year's Fredericton North Heritage Fair, then, would have to be considered an unqualified success. Thanks again, Dave, for your participation, and for taking time out of your busy schedule dreaming of building Lego castles!

Steve Norman's Surgical Table is Now Occupied!

An October 5 email from Steve Norman to Lindsay Titus announced that our Co. H Hospital Steward had acquired a body since we'd seen him last – well, a mannequin, actually. Steve wrote, "I have picked up a full-sized male mannequin – looks good on the table. [He is] complete with partial uniform and 'wounds'. He lost his kepi and sack coat on the field."

On October 8, Steve responded to an email seeking more information about the mannequin. Steve's response demonstrates how it pays (a) to be friendly to people, and (b) to know your history: "As I was going home from our last drill [July 29, in Sussex], there was a yard sale going on and I stopped to see if there were any old period bottles that I could use in my display. No bottles, but a male mannequin. The lady enquired as to why I would want it, as it had a hand missing....perfect, I thought. As I was still in uniform, I began telling her of the participation of people from the Maritimes, and specifically from New Brunswick, who served in the American Civil War. I told her [of] my great-grandfather from Rothesay, who went to fight in the war in 1864. I told her of my aid station display and my Hospital Steward impression. She said that I could have it...for free...and, 'best of luck' with my display."

Steve continues: "Now, for the wounded soldier...Brograms were kindly donated by you [Lindsay Titus]. Socks...my extra pair. Trousers...Milk Creek. Suspenders....my extra pair. Shirt...My extra one. He has no kepi or sack coat. I think very appropriate for being on an aid station table."

"The poor fellow has a severe head wound, lost his whole left hand, and his left foot is having to be amputated."

Steve writes, "I have a card from Sullivan Press called an "Identifier". It was tied around the neck of everyone wounded and requiring aid, no matter how slight. It was made by the U.S. Christian Commission, and has a place for address, Co., Regt., Brig., Div., Corps."

"I am quite anxious to get this soldier on my table [at the] next encampment. After dressing him, I put him on the table. All I can say is...very impressive...Just what the surgeon ordered!!"

This is a great addition to Steve's already impressive Civil War medical display. He has been searching for a male mannequin for a long time – in fact, ever since he joined the ranks of the hospital stewards. It may be recalled that there was even a call to members of Co. H in a long-ago issue of "Battle Lines" to be on the hunt for a mannequin, although none was ever found, until now. Hurrah, Steve!

For Sale! The Tetrault House in Boudreau-Ouest!

The home of Corporal Sylvain Tétrault and Company Cook, Suzanne Guay, is up for sale. If the sale goes according to plans, the family will be moving away from Shédiac Bay, inland to Irishtown, once a small suburban community near Moncton, but now a region within the city limits. This may mean that we have held our one and only drill on their property in Boudreau-Ouest, near Shédiac. If their plans work out according to their schedule, moving day will be January 8. We're relieved they are not moving out of province, (as someone on Facebook asked) and wish them the very best on their big move to the city.

Wanted! Lead for Kings Landing in June!

At the fall encampment at Kings Landing, held September 23-24, Troy Middleton (President, Co. I, 20th Maine) suggested that we hold a live-shoot at the Kings Landing range, located just above the Riverside Presbyterian Church (No. 32 on the Kings Landing map found on their official website). Please note that as of the publication date of this newsletter (November 5, 2023), this activity has not yet been approved by Kings Landing officials, but they are looking into it.

However, if the live-shoot does take place, organization for it must begin now. Troy Middleton has offered to mould Minié balls for Civil War reenactors, but he needs lead. If you have lead, or can get some, please contact Troy by email (middleton@nb.sympatico.ca), or contact Lindsay Titus (fiftnhvcoh@rogers.com) and he will forward your information on to Troy. Please note that for the purpose of his email address, "Middleton" is spelled with just one "d" ("Midleton"). Other ideas for this 50th anniversary encampment are welcome!

Major Changes Planned for Tomlinson Lake

Once they saw the lake, they knew they were free. Such is the legacy of the Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom, the terminus of the northernmost route of the Underground Railroad. Joe Gee, the founder and driving force behind the annual Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom, has worked tirelessly, and often in difficult conditions behind the scenes, to bring this historic location to the knowledge of people on both sides of the international border.

In a text message sent from Joe Gee to Lindsay Titus on October 12, 2023, Joe brought recent Tomlinson Lake activities up to date: "We had another successful annual hiking event. We didn't have a crowd like we did in 2019, but for 'starting over' and being post-pandemic, it was a good size."

Joe continued, "We all missed seeing the soldiers there this year, but, hopefully, next year."

Joe then shared news of planned major changes to the area around Tomlinson Lake: "We've started a project that will transform the lake into a season-long tourist destination. Tourists will eventually have the opportunity to visit the lake and hike the trails from spring until fall. We're working with the Department of Tourism to make this happen, and I'm hopeful that we'll soon see a nice park with trails, history storyboards, nature placards, benches, an interpretation centre and a picnic area."

Joe next shared some excellent news for Civil War reenactors, saying, "Graham [Nickerson] and I also thought it would be a great idea, once we get the green light, to include a marching/muster ground for Civil War groups." We love that idea!

The Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom is the location of the terminus of the northernmost route of the famed Underground Railroad that brought formerly enslaved people to freedom in Canada. The Hike commemorates that route. Joe Gee is not only the driving force behind identifying, preserving, and promoting Tomlinson Lake as a historic site, he is also a member of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire.

Watch for future issues of "Battle Lines" as updates to this location become known. All members of Co. H, and, indeed, all who love history, owe a debt of gratitude to Joe for the long and often-difficult work he has done to bring this site to the attention of citizens on both sides of the border.

The Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom will be held in 2024 on Saturday, October 5. Joe informs us that the new hiking arrangement will allow us to "set up at the lake and drive our equipment right to the spot."

Changes to the trail entrance were made necessary due to difficulties in gaining access to portions of the land that had been in use, but the new set-up appears to be even better, with access to different trails, including one that circles the lake. Tomlinson Lake is located in Victoria County, near Perth-Andover, New Brunswick.

Our 2024 Schedule of Events – Your Ideas Are Wanted!

Our annual schedule of events is key to how and where we present ourselves as a group, to recruiting, and to maintaining the interest of present members. Our schedule is something in which all members should have a say. With this in mind, please consider the following this winter, and respond by email with your ideas to improve our schedule:

1. What events that we presently do, should be maintained on our schedule?
2. What events should be deleted from our schedule?
3. What events would you like to see added to our schedule?
4. What events would you like to see us investigate, or pursue, for a future season?

2024 Schedule, *continued...*

5. Are we doing enough to keep the interest of members in each province?
6. Is there a type of event that is missing from our schedule?
7. Should we search for drill sites other than Sussex?
8. What do you consider to be our “signature” (maximum-effort) events?
9. Should we ask Kings Landing representatives to do two encampments again in 2024?
10. Are their events we have done that you haven’t attended because you need to learn more about them?
11. Should we be seeking mid-week publicity events (talks with service clubs, radio shows, etc.) that might enhance our profile in your area, or regionally?
12. We have voted to maintain our membership in the New England Brigade. Do you plan to (or hope, or would like to) attend at least one NEB event in 2024?
13. Should we make an effort to strengthen our ties with both local companies (Co. B & Co. I) of the 20th Maine, so we may add their events to our schedule? If so, how do we accomplish this?

Preliminary Schedule of Events for 2024

- **March 8-10** – Weekend – Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show; Halifax, NS
 - *Leigh Gavel was contacted by an event organizer; we have decided to attend!*
- **April 27** – Saturday – Co. H Drill
 - *depending on weather & ground conditions*
- **May 25** – Saturday – Co. H Drill
 - *depending on weather & ground conditions*
- **June 7** – Friday – Student Day at Kings Landing
 - *The site is also open to the public.*
- **June 8-9** – Weekend – 50th Anniversary Kings Landing Military Muster
- **July 27** – Saturday – Co. H Drill
 - *depending on our Schedule of Events for July*
- **August 31** – Saturday – Co. H Drill
 - *depending on our Schedule of Events for August*
- **October 5** – Saturday – Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom; Perth-Andover, NB
- **October** – Saturday – Fredericton North Heritage Fair

Thank-you, Amanda, Evelyn, Jeff, Chelsey & So Many Others!

A few years back, when representatives of Co. H approached Kings Landing Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mary Baruth about returning to Kings Landing for military encampments, we were welcomed warmly and enthusiastically. However, when Mary Baruth suddenly departed Kings Landing, we were left to wonder about our future at this favoured nineteenth century settlement. Reenacting groups visiting Kings Landing over the years had experienced many leadership changes, and many personalities, ideas and views of history; most of them positive, but some of them, not so much. So, we wondered of our future there, now that our friend of reenactors was gone.

We needn’t have worried. Amanda Stairs stepped in as acting CEO of Kings Landing, and the welcoming atmosphere not only continued, but has thrived during the past two or so years. Joining her as our points of contact are Evelyn Fidler (also a member of Company H) and Jeff Chamberlain, and it is a pleasure to say that each time we have had face-to-face meetings or emails with these representatives of Kings Landing, they are always cordial and constructive, and offer quick responses. We have also had positive meetings in the field with Chelsey Gould, the Communications & Marketing Specialist at Kings Landing, and hope, one day, to build on our positive relationships with Kings Landing personnel, when we meet new CEO, Travis Weber.

Amanda Stairs is listed on the Kings Landing website (<https://www.kingslanding.nb.ca>) as the Director of Visitor Experience. Evelyn Fidler, as the Assistant Director of Heritage Resources, and Jeff Chamberlain, as the Village Coordinator, but the truth is, all three “wear many hats” at Kings Landing, and their knowledge and tireless dedication to the site show themselves time, and time again.

At the recent Fredericton North Heritage Fair, a visitor asked if we had a favourite place to reenact. Although major events around Gettysburg or Sharpsburg quickly came to mind, the first response was “Kings Landing”. Given the nineteenth century quality of the place, the unrivaled scenery and the many and often behind-the-scenes efforts of the Kings Landing leadership and interpretive staff, it is no wonder that this was the name that first came to mind. Thank you, Amanda, Evelyn, Jeff and Chelsey (and many others) for your enthusiastic support of what we do!