



Battle Lines



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

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Merry Christmas to Co. H Members, Families & Friends!

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members of Co. H, Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers, to your families, and to friends of the Company! I hope the year just past has been a fulfilling and rewarding one for you all, and that the new year will be a year of peace and joy.

You, the members of Co. H, are the best! People who know me, often ask if (at my ever-advancing age) I am still involved in historical reenacting, and I tell them, "Yes", and you are the reasons why. How can I walk away from friends such as all of you, who put so much time and effort into making Co. H the success that we are? The inspiring talent, dedication and camaraderie we have within Co. H is top-notch, making it a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of it. Thank you all for all that you do.

Happy Holidays, too, to members of various groups with whom we work, or with whom we share correspondence. These include Co. I, 20th Maine; Co. B, 20th Maine; Co. A, 3rd Maine; Co. A, 5th New Hampshire; DeLancey's Brigade; Danks' Rangers; Les Milice de Beaubassin; the Atlantic Canadian Military History Association; and the Grays and Blues of Montreal.

I am already looking forward to seeing each of you at the various events this coming spring and summer. Have a Merry Christmas! – *Lindsay Titus*

Christmas in Camp

(Anonymous)

The wintry blast goes wailing by,
The snow is falling overhead;
I hear the lonely sentry's tread,
And distant watchfires light the sky.
Dim forms go flitting 'through the gloom;
The soldiers cluster 'round the blaze,
To talk of other Christmas days.
And softly speak of hearth and home.



Upcoming Events in 2024!



- **March 8-10 – Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show**
- **April 27 – Co. H Drill**
- **May 25 – Co. H Drill**
- **June 7-9 – Military Muster at Kings Landing**

Our Future at Kings Landing Looks Bright!

Evelyn Fidler is the Assistant Director of Heritage Resources at Kings Landing. She is also a member of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire, and how fortunate we are to have her!

In an email of September 25 to Lindsay Titus, Evelyn wrote, in part, “Thank you so much for all you do and thank you [the groups] for assisting with the visitor on Sunday. I wish I was around more, but had other volunteer commitments, unfortunately.”

Evelyn continued, “Kings Landing really wants to see a strengthened partnership with the reenacting community in New Brunswick. We are aware of past incidents where things didn't go well. We want to correct this. Thanks again, *(signed) Evelyn.*”

In the meantime, on September 26, Evelyn responded to an email from Troy Middleton (Co. I, 20th Maine), and copied to Lindsay Titus, after Troy wrote her about the possibility of holding a live-shoot at Kings Landing next June. In that email, Evelyn wrote, “Thanks, Troy, we love having you all back and Amanda's priority is to build that relationship. I will keep in touch regarding the range. We hope for many good years to come. Take care, *(signed) Evelyn.*”

Clearly, both from these comments by Evelyn Fidler, and those expressed at Kings Landing to Captain Titus by Amanda Stairs, the historical settlement enjoys having us there. Also, many in Co. H have expressed that our encampments at Kings Landing are the highlight of their year. Thus, the only conclusion is that our relationship with Kings Landing looks very bright indeed!

We Return to Halifax in March!

We will be returning to the Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show in Halifax in March for the second consecutive year. Thank you to 1st Sergeant Leigh Gavel for being our contact for this event. This is a recruiting event which generated a fair amount of interest in 2023. Although no new recruits were gained (as yet) from last year's show, contacts were made and more people in the region's largest city learned about us as a group, and that is only a good thing.

We won't need a large number of volunteers for this three-day event, but if you would like to participate, please let Captain Titus or 1st Sgt. Gavel know of your interest. Five Co. H members were present last year. The details for the Show are:

- **Event** – Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show (sportsandrshow.com)
- **Location** – Halifax Exhibition Centre; 200 Prospect Road
- **Date** – Three days: Friday, Saturday & Sunday; March 8-10, 2024
- **Set-up** – Set-up is possible on Thursday, March 7
- **Public Hours** – Friday & Saturday: 10 AM to 8 PM; Sunday: 10-5

Captain Titus Purchases Period-Correct Eyewear



Several months ago, Captain Titus purchased a pair of “1835-1880 Oval” glasses (spectacles) frames from the Historic Eyewear Company of Vail, Arizona (historiceyewear.com) in anticipation of getting new, updated prescription lenses. He's kept them in the engraved (“Capt. L.M. Titus 5th Reg't. NH Vol's.”) silver glasses case he also bought from Historic Eyewear, until now. On October 26, he obtained the prescription lenses at the nearby Sussex Vogue

Optical, so, now, he'll be better at seeing “what's happening to my boys!” (to quote General Pickett, or, at least, Stephen Lang) at upcoming events.

Flag Improvements Planned for This Winter

During a campfire discussion at Kings Landing on Friday night, September 22, Lindsay Titus discussed the possibility of spending some Co. H money on improvements to the flags we use at most events, including both encampments and indoor displays. This spending received approval from both Leigh and Loran Gavel, although no dollar amount was discussed. Information sharing with Co. H members will occur prior to any major expenditure on flags, staffs, finials or accessories. Currently, we have a 2nd Corps pennant (made by Dave Adams' wife, Lily) that is attached to a large diameter wooden dowel, and a National flag that is undersized, and has, as a finial, a period-correct eagle, except that it is plastic.

Flags, continued...

The flag, the finial and the dowel were all intended to be temporary measures to add colour to a camp or display, but they have now been used at many of our events over several years.

The hope is to replace the dowel with a period-correct flag staff and add a brass army spear-point finial to its top, along with a brass finial for the National flag staff. It is still to be determined if the National flag finial will be an eagle or a spear, but recent research into photographs of New Hampshire flags seems to reveal the widespread use of the army spear finial. Also requiring investigation will be the purchase of larger-diameter flagstuffs, needed to carry the weight of future full-size national and regimental colours. This may necessitate the purchase of more robust in-ground flag holders, with openings wide enough to accommodate the larger-diameter staffs.

Flags played a key role in Civil War armies. They were symbols of pride and morale among the soldiers, but they also guided regiments on the battlefield when noise, smoke and the confusion of battle prevented orders from being otherwise communicated. They also helped identify units from afar amid the smoke and confusion of battle. Many times over the years, we have had comments and questions from the public about the nature of our flags; they have become excellent teaching opportunities, and remain a source of unit pride.

A Response to the Mass-shooting in Maine

In response to the mass-shooting that occurred in late October in, and around, Lewiston, Maine, Captain Titus emailed Matt Bray, commanding officer of Co. A, Third Maine; and Paul Dudley, president of Co. B, Twentieth Maine, offering the support of the membership of Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire.

The email, sent on October 26, read, "Gentlemen: I wanted you both to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you, your respective companies, your families and, indeed, the people of Maine as you navigate through this tragedy that overtook your great state last night."

"Nova Scotia suffered its own mass-shooting a couple of years ago, so we, in this part of Canada, understand what impact such an occurrence has on families, communities and the entire state."

"Be safe, and know that your friends here in Atlantic Canada are thinking of you all." (*signed*) Lindsay Titus, Capt., Co. H, 5th Reg't. New Hampshire Vol's.

On Friday, October 27, Paul Dudley responded, "Thank you," and on October 30, Matt Bray replied, "Thanks, Lindsay. Fortunately, no direct impact on our membership, but an indirect impact on all of us. Be well, my friend." (*signed*) Matt.

Should Co. H Members Invest in Hardee Hats?

Upon seeing the Hardee hat that Dave Bottos brought in for display at the Atlantic Outdoor Sports Show in Halifax last March, some quick discussion brought about an informal decision that we should all get Hardee hats. This is not a company requirement, but seeing Dave's hat reminded us all that the Hardee hat is a fine-looking, and often-overlooked, part of the dress Civil War uniform.

Officially known as the Model 1858 Dress Hat, the Hardee hat gained its popular name after its creator, Lieutenant Colonel William J. Hardee, Superintendent of Cadets at West Point from 1856-1860. Hardee resigned his commission in 1861 to join the Confederate army, where he rose to the rank of lieutenant general, and corps command.

Although most soldiers, especially in the east, adopted the forage cap as the favoured headwear, soldiers from the west are often seen in period photographs wearing either Hardee or slouch hats. Most famously, men of the Iron Brigade from Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana were often referred to as the "Black Hats" for their choice of headwear while on the march.

Today, Hardee hats are available from a variety of sutlers, although some sutlers that have carried them in the past, now appear to be out of stock. Of course, price and quality vary, but they are often available either as a plain hat or fully furnished with brass eagle keeper, infantry horn, company letter, infantry (sky blue) hat cord and ostrich plumes.



Hardee, *continued...*

Through research of text and photographs by Dave Bottos, the fold of the brim for infantry enlisted men is made on the left side of the Hardee hat (*as shown on page 3*) (officers on the right). For dress occasions, such as graveside services, the Hardee hat is an excellent addition to our uniforms. Add white gloves to your kit (also available at many sutlers) and a frock coat, and you have before you a fine-looking soldier.

1st Sgt. Gavel Makes Donation

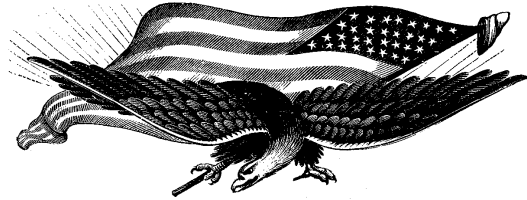
First Sergeant Leigh Gavel announced in a Facebook posting on November 12 that he has made an engraved leather-bound notebook that will be donated for use as a door prize by the Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show, to be held on March 8-10, in Halifax.

Leigh has made numerous notebook covers and knife sheaths that bear his excellent and intricate leather engravings (*see below*).

He donated a knife and engraved sheath for last year's Outdoor Show, and it was very much appreciated by event organizers. He has also donated a knife and sheath to Co. H for us to raffle-off as a fundraiser, although we have yet to set up a plan for this activity.

Leigh has also been busy raising several hundred dollars for Co. H at his workplace. His efforts and generosity are greatly appreciated, and are enabling Co. H to pursue the purchase of several items that will improve our company impression. **Hurrah!**

FIFTH REGIMENT NEW HAMPSHIRE VOL'S.



Company H

NOW RECRUITING!

Col. Edward E. Cross, Commanding.



Views (*left*) of the front and back covers of the beautiful, hand-engraved, leather-covered notebook being donated by 1st Sgt. Leigh Gavel as a door prize at the 2024 Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show in Halifax, on March 8-10, of the coming year.

Happy Holidays!

! News of the War in the East !

- **Leonard's Mills Encampment Cancelled**— In a year of event postponements and cancellations, Co. B, 20th Maine suffered the cancellation of a favourite annual event, the encampment at Leonard's Mills, located just north of Eddington, Maine. Once again the cause of the cancellation was weather, as post-tropical storm Philippe chose the weekend of October 7-8 to find its way to the coasts of Maine and New Brunswick. We know of at least one Co. I member (Dave Menton) who had been planning to participate in this event. Philippe joins Lee and other "extreme weather events" (those things we used to call "storms") that disrupted event schedules.
- **Regimental History Available** — Dr. William Child was a regimental surgeon in the 5th New Hampshire, and was also a historian of the regiment. In 1893, he published [A History of the Fifth Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers in the American Civil War, 1861-1865](#); now an excellent primary source for research of the regiment. It is available in print as a reprint from Amazon as a hardcover book (\$72.90 Cdn.) or as a paperback (\$29.24 Cdn.), but it is also available on-line at no cost by visiting the websites of either the University of New Hampshire at scholars.unh.edu, or the Antietam Institute at antietaminstitute.org.