



Battle Lines



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

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Our Friends in the Field

– Some New Year's Reflections by Captain Titus –

Over the years, we have built many relationships with reenacting (or living history) organizations and other communities, both within our region, and beyond. While we always greet each other at events, and say our farewells upon departure, we should also take time to recognize the many contributions of these groups – often portraying a different era – to what we do in Company H, and thank them for their unwavering and, in most cases, many years, of friendship and support. Thus, here are some ramblings about our living history partners and what these groups mean to us within the Fifth New Hampshire. There is much more to say about each of them, but, hopefully, this will offer at least a glimpse into what each organization has meant, and continues to mean, to us. – *Lindsay Titus*

20th Maine Infantry, Co. B – (Civil War) All of us in the “Fighting Fifth” owe a debt of gratitude to Co. B, 20th Maine, for this is the group that gave us our start in historical reenacting. Those of us who have been around for some time, can trace our roots to the 20th Maine. They were “the only game in town” in our region for many years, and were quick to welcome the men, women and children who made their way across the international border to help swell the ranks of the “Boys from Maine”. Bruce Barber, Colin Moore and Jason Fillmore were the first Atlantic Canadians to join Co. B, and others soon followed. Many friendships were forged with the members of Co. B; some of which remain to this day. We have also mourned the loss of many friends from Co. B, people who were the “backbone” of the group in their day; certainly Frank Cassidy and Duane Wardwell quickly come to mind. We learned from them all, and it was only because of our own success in recruiting that a separate “Canadian platoon” was formed on this side of the border. We wanted to train and drill without the need for long travel, and so our own rank structure was established, and, eventually, Co. I evolved here in the Maritimes. It was immediately agreed that members of each group would automatically be invited to participate in each other's events, and that goodwill remains to this day through Co. B President, Paul Dudley. The 20th Maine has also been responsible for the creation of other branches of Civil War reenacting: civilians; a company sutler; the 6th Maine Battery; and Company A, 15th Alabama. They are a highly-valued organization in Maine, participating in events across the state each year. So, even new recruits of the 5th New Hampshire should note the great contributions of Co. B in the establishment, growth and success of Civil War reenacting in the northeast, on both sides of the border. Hurrah!

20th Maine Infantry, Co. I – (Civil War) Company I was first established as a “Canadian platoon” of Company B, and then briefly became Company H, until a chance encounter with reenactors from Pennsylvania revealed that they had just formed Co. H of the 20th Maine, so we deferred and instead formed Company I. Since then, the organization has had a long and colourful history here in Atlantic Canada, participating in numerous encampments, parades, presentations and displays in all three Maritime provinces, as well as events at Fort Knox in Maine, and at major anniversary reenactments of Antietam and Gettysburg in the United States. Under the leadership of such people as Bruce Barber, Terry Middleton and Troy Middleton, the organization can also boast numerous accomplishments, including its longevity (the oldest Civil War group in the Maritimes), its historical research into Civil War veterans from Atlantic Canada, locating and commemorating Civil War gravesites (with special mention of Dave Titus, Terry and Troy Middleton), and obtaining full-sized regimental colours. At one point in their history, the group added a Confederate branch, and became part of the Maritime Civil War Living History Association. Like with Company B, “veterans” in the 5th New Hampshire trace our roots through Company I, and we are pleased to maintain a working relationship with this historically-minded group of long-standing in our region.

Danks' Rangers – (French & Indian War) Who hasn't enjoyed the food, drink and storytelling while under the fly and beside the fire built by Peter, Larry and Maurice of Danks' Rangers? People talk about camaraderie in reenacting, and these members of Danks' Rangers are at the top of the list when it comes to friendship and offering a helping hand. Plus, they know their history, and are eager to share their knowledge with the public. What other group might be down to three active members, but still put up five or six tents to enlarge and enhance their camp for public view? Maurice has been our contact for the Charlotte County Fall Fair since we began attending this event,

and it is always good to see them there, or at Kings Landing. They established reenacting in Charlotte County and have a long history, attending events in the Maritimes and in the northeastern United States. I will always remember their uniforms, arms and equipment, but it is their friendship that I value the most.

DeLancey's Brigade – (American Revolutionary War) Another living history group of long-standing, DeLancey's Brigade was established in the City of Saint John, the community that remains as their hub. As the roots of a tree spread in many directions, the roots of Civil War reenacting in the Maritimes are also to be found in DeLancey's, as Bruce Barber was a member prior to creating the Civil War "Canadian platoon" with Colin and Jason. Although always a follower of military history, it was within DeLancey's that Bruce became "hooked" on reenacting. To this day, DeLancey's, under the leadership of Steve Fowler, prides itself on authenticity and knowledge of history, and it is always a pleasure to work with them on the fields of Charlotte County or on the roads of Kings Landing. Another important feature of DeLancey's Brigade is its emphasis on the civilian side of the American Revolution. Thus, women and children play an important role in the portrayal of DeLancey's Brigade and the days of revolution. DeLancey's has participated in numerous large, and small-scale events in their history, including many reenactments in the United States and in civic presentations. Their ranks include a brigade chaplain and at one time, an artillery portrayal. They may also be seen in the streets of Saint John, escorting "prisoners" to, or from, an uptown tavern – only too pleased to do their part to keep safe the streets of the "Loyalist City". Huzzah!

Les Milice de Beaubassin – (French & Indian War) Just a couple of years ago, at the Charlotte County Fall Fair, Steve Norman and Lindsay Titus, representing the 5th New Hampshire, were introduced to a new group – at least, new to us – portraying militia of the French & Indian War. They were the Acadian Militia, who soon changed their identity to Les Milice de Beaubassin. Although they are a small, New Brunswick-based group, they have ties with reenactors in Nova Scotia, and are friends with their historic enemies, Charlotte County's Danks' Rangers. They quickly became friends of ours, too, and immediately showed the camaraderie that reenactors are known for. The group's leader, Paul Flowers, of Moncton, accepted our invitation to come to Kings Landing in 2023, and by the end of the year, they had encamped there twice. They plan to return in 2024, as well. They put up an excellent camp display and we are pleased to count them among our reenacting friends. Bienvenue!

The Atlantic Canadian Military History Association – (20th Century Canadian) It pays to have contacts. Leigh Gavel suggested Steve Cochrane as our Company Chaplain, and when Steve joined, between Steve and Leigh, they brought with them invitations to participate in events held by the Atlantic Canadian Military History Association (ACMHA). This group honours Canada's involvement in wars and conflicts of the 20th century, and are primarily a display organization. We have participated with the ACMHA in an encampment at Ross Farm, in New Ross, Nova Scotia as a result of our connection with them, and shared the field with them at Air Show Atlantic. An organization that positively presents and shares Canada's military history with the public is a good one to have and to know. We look forward to a lasting friendship with this dedicated group.

3rd Maine Infantry, Co. A – (Civil War) Well do I recall, years ago, at Fort Knox, when I had the privilege of meeting up with members of the 3rd Maine Infantry. My son, Eric, was an aspiring drummer in Co. I at the time, and the leader of the 3rd Maine musicians quickly took Eric "under his wing" to teach him, and to encourage him to continue his drumming "career". I was impressed by this, and by the number of 3rd Maine members present at the event, and that they carried themselves with pride in their unit. Thus, when the opportunity arose to reach out to the present-day Co. A, 3rd Maine, we immediately established a rapport with them, and an agreement to invite members of each unit to participate in each other's events. Captain Matt Bray became our contact and, upon learning that each unit had joined the New England Brigade (us, for the first time; the 3rd Maine as returning members), Matt offered the 3rd to be our mentors to fulfill our probationary requirements with the NEB. Covid and scheduling conflicts frustrated our efforts to connect physically (although Co. H members, father and son, Phil Macias and Isaak Steeves did see the 3rd Maine in action as spectators at Fort Knox last summer), but the 3rd will be returning to Fort Knox on July 12-14, 2024, which may be a perfect time to "officially" meet with this outstanding organization, and to also attend our first-ever NEB event. The 3rd Maine fought valiantly as part of Sickles' III Corps at Gettysburg (and elsewhere), and the *Esprit de Corps* shown there remains with them still.

5th New Hampshire Infantry, Co. A – (Civil War) Upon the formation of Co. H, 5th New Hampshire, I reached out to the only other known organization portraying this legendary regiment – Co. A, based in the State of New Hampshire. Typical of the camaraderie shown by reenactors, without even knowing us, Chris Benedetto of Co. A replied that they were happy to discover another portrayal of the "Fighting Fifth". He also said that they were willing to assist us in any way, and offered to allow our members to fall-in with them at any time. Although our contacts have been limited to emails and issues of "Battle Lines", it is good to know that we have, as friends, a fellow-company of the Fifth down in New Hampshire. Company A is considered an Authentic unit, and a visit to their website will show their dedication to historic accuracy. Colonel Cross would be proud, I think!

The New England Brigade – (Civil War) A chance viewing of a YouTube video was quickly followed by an Internet search for their website. The result was an article in “Battle Lines” to inform Co. H members about the New England Brigade, a collective of some twenty-five Civil War living history organizations based throughout New England. A subsequent Company H meeting concluded with a vote to seek membership in the New England Brigade (NEB). The application documents were submitted and, despite our being from Atlantic Canada (not New England), and despite no one within the NEB knowing us, we were accepted into the organization, and are now beginning our third year of membership. Our contacts within the NEB were very helpful in setting up a mentorship program for us and since then, Matt Bray of the 3rd Maine has offered to serve in that capacity. Covid-19 travel restrictions and a busy local schedule have kept us away from NEB events, but perhaps this year, if the 3rd Maine’s offer to again host an encampment at Fort Knox is accepted by the Board, we can at last take advantage of the numerous connections we have available to us through our membership in the New England Brigade.

The Grays and Blues of Montreal – (Civil War) We have yet to meet our fellow-Canadians from Quebec and Ontario, although we certainly hope that will one day change. The GBM was introduced to us in 2017, when they were planning their dedication ceremony for a monument to Canadians who served in the Civil War. Co. I, 20th Maine members were invited to participate in the ceremonies, which were held on September 16, 2017, and one 20th Maine member did participate. When Co. H, 5th New Hampshire was formed, a correspondence relationship was formed between the two groups, a relationship that continues to this day. Robert MacLachlan has sent us invitations to participate in their events, and we have invited the GBM to encamp with us at Kings Landing. The GBM represents both sides in the Civil War, serving as Co. M, 27th Virginia, or portraying Co. K, 4th Vermont. We wish them every success as they spread the word about this little-known aspect of Canadian history in their region of the country.

Our Event Partners – Overwhelmingly, at the locations where we set up camp or put on displays, organizers have been friendly, helpful, generous, and supportive of our cause of bringing Civil War history to Canadians or Americans. What would we do without them? The site list is long, and there is always the danger of omitting someone, but, with that risk in mind, here are a few of the venues that have been most gracious over the years:

- Kings Landing Historical Settlement – Prince William, NB
- Charlotte County Fall Fair – Ganong Nature Park; St. Stephen, NB
- Alan deWinter and the residents of Jonah Court – Sussex, NB
- Halifax Citadel National Historic Site – Halifax, NS
- Air Show Atlantic
- Ross Farm Museum – New Ross, NS
- Fredericton North Heritage Fair – Devon, NB
- Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show – Halifax, NS
- Belleisle Elementary School – Belleisle, NB
- John Caldwell School – Grand Falls, NB
- Saint John Historical Society – Saint John, NB
- MacDonald Farm – Bartibog (Miramichi), NB
- Queen Charlotte Armoury – Charlottetown, PEI

New England Brigade Membership Dues Paid for 2024

Company H, Fifth New Hampshire has renewed its membership in the New England Brigade (NEB) for 2024. This marks our third year of membership in this living history organization. On Sunday, January 21, Lindsay Titus paid \$100.00 (US currency) to the NEB via a PayPal account. This translated to \$140.65 in Canadian funds. The dues were paid by a personal credit card in Captain Titus’ name, so he will require reimbursement at a future date.

The New England Brigade consists of nearly 25 military and civilian living history groups that portray a variety of regiments and organizations of the Civil War era. Membership grants us the possibility of participating in larger events, while also interacting with numerous like-minded organizations. Company H, 5th New Hampshire is the only member-group based outside of New England.

- **February** – Black History, *or* African Heritage Month
- **March 8-10** – Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show
- **April 13** – Planning Meeting at Kings Landing
- **April 27 & May 25** – Company Drills (weather, ground & travel conditions permitting)

Halifax Outdoor Show: First Event of 2024

We return to the Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show in Halifax on March 8-10, for the second consecutive year. Thanks to 1st Sergeant Leigh Gavel for being our contact for this key recruiting event. The show generated a fair amount of interest in 2023. Although no new recruits were gained from last year's show, important contacts were made and more people in the region's largest city learned about Civil War history and us as a group, and that is always a good thing.

If you would like to participate in this year's show, please let Captain Titus or 1st Sgt. Gavel know of your interest as soon as possible, as the event is just a little more than a month away. Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel and Lindsay Titus have already committed to this event. Event details are:

- **Event** – Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show
- **Website** – 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



NB Surgeon's Civil War Sword Sought

On January 10, Troy Middleton posted on the Co. I, 20th Maine Facebook page a very interesting story about a Civil War sword, and the on-going effort to bring the sword back to New Brunswick. Troy wrote, “[This is] a very worthwhile project that is very important to Co. I and the Loyalist House and New Brunswick Historical Society. If anyone would like to assist in bringing the doctor's sword back home to New Brunswick, please contact me.”

The sword belonged to Dr. John F. Stevenson, a surgeon who served with the 29th Connecticut, a black regiment that served from March 1864 to November 1865. As was the Civil War custom, black regiments were led by white officers, including surgeons. Dr. Stevenson was from St. Andrews, New Brunswick, and is buried there.

The sword's owner in Ontario is seeking several thousand dollars and, according to the Co. I Facebook posting, some of that total has been raised. However, there is still a long way to go, so contact Troy through the Co. I Facebook page, or by email at middleton@nb.sympatico.ca, if you wish to donate. Note that for email purposes, “Middleton” has only one “d”. Also, a “Go Fund Me” page has been set up on the Co. I Facebook page.

“Battle Lines” is not attempting to solicit funds, but only wishes to inform Co. H members and friends about what is happening in our region. However, we do wish Co. I, the Loyalist House and the New Brunswick Historical Society every success in their quest to obtain this sword for all Canadians to learn about, and to see.

Update: Following email correspondence in January between Captain Titus and 1st Sergeant Gavel, Co. H, 5th New Hampshire has donated \$200 to the cause of returning this sword home to New Brunswick. We wish Co. I and the New Brunswick Historical Society every success in their efforts to obtain this important Civil War artefact. Co. H member, Evelyn Fidler, is on the Board of the New Brunswick Historical Society.

“Glory” Actor Dies



Movie and television actor, and two-time Emmy award winner, Andre Braugher, died unexpectedly on December 11, 2023, of lung cancer. Braugher, a native of Chicago, played Corporal Thomas Searle, a life-long friend of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, in the 1989 movie, “Glory”. Considered by many to be among the best of Civil War movies, Braugher's role as the first volunteer of the newly formed 54th Massachusetts Regiment was outstanding. Add to that, the Oscar-winning performance of Denzel Washington as Private Trip, Morgan Freeman's role as Sergeant Major Rawlins and Matthew Broderick's performance as Colonel Shaw, among others, and you have compelling movie viewing about a previously little-known or appreciated chapter of Civil War history.

“If this man should fall, who will lift the flag and carry on?”