



Battle Lines



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

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Coming Right Up! The Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show

It's almost here – the first Co. H event of 2024! We won't need a high number of volunteers for this three-day event, but if you would like to participate, your presence is more than welcome. Please let Captain Titus or 1st Sgt. Gavel know of your interest as soon as possible, as the event is just days away. Leigh Gavel, Loran Gavel and Lindsay Titus have already committed to this event. Bob Keretschko may be returning to us, as well! The details for the show 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
- **Set-up** – Set-up is possible on Thursday, March 7
- **Public Hours** –
 - Friday & Saturday: 10 AM to 8 PM
 - Sunday: 10-5



Kings Landing Planning Meeting on April 13

It may be that we are currently stuck at the back edge of winter, but planning is already underway for our annual Military Muster at Kings Landing, to be held June 7-9. On January 25, Captain Titus emailed Amanda Stairs and Evelyn Fidler of Kings Landing about setting up a spring planning meeting for the 2024 event. The next day, January 26, Amanda replied and suggested April as a possible time for the meeting.

On Friday, January 26, emails were sent out to Co. I, 20th Maine president, Troy Middleton; Colin Moore (20th Maine and DeLancey's Brigade); Steve Fowler (DeLancey's Brigade); Maurice La king of Danks' Rangers and Paul Flowers of La Milice des Beaubassin, with the intent of choosing a date in April for the planning meeting. Following an exchange of emails, all agreed that Saturday, April 13, would work for reenactors and Kings Landing representatives. The meeting will begin at 11:00.

Company H members are welcome to attend the planning meeting, but it is not necessary. However, if you have thoughts about changes or improvements to the June encampment, or suggestions, ideas, questions or concerns, please email Captain Titus in advance of the meeting so that your thoughts may be shared at the meeting. So far, two ideas have been submitted, one by Paul Dudley of Co. B, 20th Maine; and one by Steve Norman.

The Military Muster at Kings Landing is scheduled for the weekend of June 7-9, with camp set-up possible after 5 o'clock on Thursday, June 6. Friday, June 7 is a student day, but it is also open to the public. During each of the past two years, we have had between 300-400 students present.

Along with the groups listed above, invitations have been sent to Co. B, 20th Maine; Co. A, 3rd Maine; Co. A, 5th New Hampshire; and the Grays & Blues of Montreal.

Upcoming Events!



- **March 8-10** – Atlantic Outdoor Sports & RV Show; Halifax, NS
- **April 13** – Planning Meeting at Kings Landing; Prince William, NB
- **April 27** – Company Drill (*weather, ground & travel conditions permitting*)
- **May 18-19** – School of the Soldier; Fort Knox; Prospect, Maine (*Co. B, 20th Maine*)
- **May 25** – Company Drill (*weather, ground & travel conditions permitting*)
- **June 7-9** – Military Muster at Kings Landing (*50th Anniversary Event*)

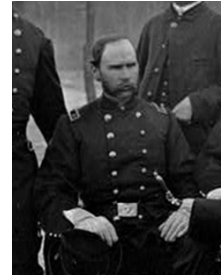
Company H Donates \$200 Toward NB Civil War Sword



On behalf of Company H members, and following email correspondence between Leigh Gavel and Lindsay Titus, Company H made two donations totaling \$200.00 toward the cause of bringing home to New Brunswick an engraved sword, once owned by Civil War surgeon, Dr. John F. Stevenson.

A donation of \$100.00 was made by Lindsay Titus on January 23 through Co. I, 20th Maine and a GoFundMe account set up on their Facebook page. A second donation of \$100.00 was made by Captain Titus through Canada Helps, which may be found on the website of the New Brunswick Historical Society. The NB Historical Society is seeking a total of \$7000 to cover the

cost of purchasing the sword and constructing a secure display case for the artefact.



Dr. Stevenson was born in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, and is buried there. He served in the 29th Connecticut Infantry, the state's only Black regiment. The 29th served from March 8, 1864, to November 25, 1865. Among its war record were battles in the siege of Petersburg and, on April 3, 1865, the 29th Connecticut became the first Union regiment to occupy the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia.

We wish the New Brunswick Historical Society well in its quest to purchase the sword and return it to New Brunswick for all Canadians to experience. We would also like to thank Troy Middleton of Co. I, 20th Maine (and the NBHS) for his efforts in making this project happen.

Aaron Bouma Establishes Carleton County Military Museum



Co. H member Aaron Bouma has built a museum on his property in Jacksontown, New Brunswick, near Woodstock. Aaron has named it the Carleton County Military Museum, and held his “soft opening” in the fall of 2023 to officials and invited guests. He is also making plans to hold a grand opening in 2024.

Military history, and especially the many rolls played through the years by citizens of Carleton County, is a passion of Aaron's. Aaron has long used his woodworking skills to build models of military vehicles, aircraft and weapons, and so now has a place to display his work, along with many donated artifacts (both inside and outside the museum building). The museum recently had its first visit from students from a local school, and if the pictures tell the tale, they certainly enjoyed their visit.

Many videos, photographs, information and comments about the museum are found on the museum's Facebook page, viewed simply by visiting “Carleton County Military Museum”.

Aside from his work in developing and building the CCMM, Aaron has given of his time and knowledge through military history presentations given to school classes, the Royal Canadian Legion and other civic organizations.

Aaron enlisted in Co. H, Fifth New Hampshire in October 2018, and was mustered-in in April 2019. He participated in the 2018 Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom, but transportation issues and scheduling conflicts have kept him away from other Co. H events, something we hope will soon change. Plus, as we can see in his work in creating the Carleton County Military Museum, he's been somewhat busy! Congratulations, Aaron, on your accomplishment, and for keeping military history alive in western New Brunswick!

Book for Sale: I Dread the Thought of the Place

By accident, Lindsay Titus purchased from Amazon two copies of Scott Hartwig's seminal account of the Battle of Antietam, I Dread the Thought of the Place, just published in 2023. It is the second of two volumes about the Antietam Campaign, the first book, To Antietam Creek (published in 2012) covered the campaign leading up to the battle; this second volume examines in great detail the battle of September 17, 1862.

The first volume was over 800 pages in length; the second volume is over 900 pages.

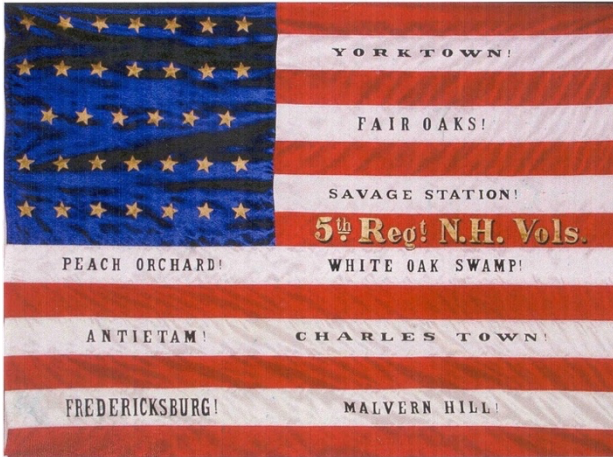
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I am selling the second volume, in new, unread condition, for \$60.00. I paid \$71.95 for each of my two copies. Amazon Canada is now selling the book for \$59.50. If you wish to buy my copy, I will bring it to your next event. You will have the book in-hand, avoid delay, and avoid having to pay shipping charges, taxes or duty.

Scott Hartwig is a noted historian, battlefield guide and lecturer. His work is detailed and thoroughly researched. If you are interested in expanding your knowledge of Antietam, I Dread the Thought of the Place is a must-have book. It can be understood without having read the first volume. Contact me by email if you are interested – first come, first served. – *Lindsay Titus*

New Co. H Colours Have Been Ordered!



All of us strive to put on an authentic and interesting display whenever we are encamped, or while presenting at an event, such as a heritage fair. One only needs to look at Steve Norman’s medical display to see the effort that goes into a proper display. One area in which we have been lacking, however, is in our display of flags – colours, both regimental and national. We have been using an undersized, inaccurate representation of national colours, but a good representation of the 1st Brigade pennant, made by Dave Adams’ wife, Lily, but we have no regimental colours, nor an authentically sized national flag. It has not been for a lack of interest, but historically accurate Civil War flags are expensive – as much as \$6500 (US), and so such a purchase takes time, and must be done properly and with care.

Despite these cautions, Captain Titus has been on the hunt to remedy our need for either authentic national colours, or regimental colours. Following email correspondence with 1st Sergeant Leigh Gavel in January and February, we decided to initially pursue a national flag for Company H. There are two main reasons for this: (1) We could purchase a national flag much sooner than a regimental, as the cost is much less; and (2) more research needs to be done on the precise pattern found on the earliest 5th New Hampshire regimental flag. It is not the typical flag carried by most volunteer regiments (a variation of the colours carried by U.S. regular army regiments. Instead, the 5th New Hampshire regimental is unique, and for us, more photographs need to be taken or studied to discover the many fine details of the flag.

When examining the national colours, it is not just a matter of buying an American flag. Decisions to be made include: the number of stars, 34 or 35 (for early war, 34 is appropriate); the colour of the stars – white, silver or gold. In what pattern were the stars arranged? Different flag makers used different patterns. Should it be in “new” condition or include battle honours? In this instance, we decided to rely on the colours carried by our “brothers” in Co. A, 5th New Hampshire. Photographs seem to reveal that they have two national colours – one unadorned, the other with battle honours. Leigh Gavel stated that he liked the look of the flag with the battle honours, and Lindsay Titus agreed. It provides us with an opportunity for lots of discussion with the public about the battles and campaigns painted upon the stripes.

Typically, a full-size Union, period-correct flag is 6’6” x 6’, and this is the direction we are going. Thus, Captain Titus, in consultation with 1st Sgt. Gavel, has been scouring the Internet for the best way forward in our search for new colours for Co. H, 5th New Hampshire, and we have found a source that will provide us a flag that matches the one carried by Co. A, 5th New Hampshire, with the battle honours of 1861-62 (*as pictured, above left*), except that a gold fringe will be added.

We are also looking into more robust, and longer (9-ft.), poles, with correct brass finials for this flag. We will still use our existing pole for our 1st Brigade pennant.

The flag was ordered on February 16, and we are told it will take about a month, once his materials arrive. We will keep you informed! It would be great to have it in time for Kings Landing!

Military Muster at Kings Landing – June 7-9

Adding to Our Company Mess

In mid-February, Lindsay Titus placed an order with Townsends, a quality, mainly eighteenth century sutler, for cooking utensils, and the order has arrived. No company money was used for this purchase, as Lindsay wanted to improve his cooking capabilities. However, his intention is to share the utensils with all Co. H members. The order consists of a fork, a spoon, a spatula, and a ladle; all of them are forged and are 19” in length. Also purchased was a forged stand to hold the utensils, along with a 33” iron blowpipe to help kindle our campfires. They’ll all be washed by the time of Kings Landing and ready for everyone’s use!

“My God! Shall we ever look like that?”

From *My Brave Boys*, p. 117 – Arlington Heights, Virginia; August 29, 1862 – “The march carried the Fifth near the camp of the Ninth New Hampshire, a fresh regiment just four days removed from Concord. The newcomers, resplendent in fresh uniforms and shiny gear, were astonished by the condition of the passing veterans of Bull Sumner’s Second Corps.”

“They looked weather-beaten, worn-out, and ragged,’ one diarist said. ‘Some are almost destitute of shoes. They are in the lightest marching order possible, not one in a hundred having a knapsack.’ To see the Fifth – ‘plodding along, bronzed, dirty, and grim,’ one onlooker wrote, and vastly reduced in numbers – was to glimpse the Ninth’s own uncertain future. The newcomers were struck by the self-reliant and determined attitude of the veterans, many of whom were derisive in return. The Ninth would be a hardened regiment, too, before long, but for the moment its members were left acutely aware of their subordinate status to the Fifth. One member of the Ninth would write: ‘My God! Shall we ever look like that?’”

From the Civil War Digital Digest!

In a Facebook posting in January 2024, the good people at the Civil War Digital Digest (see their excellent videos on YouTube) posted the following observation, with the comment, “Well, ain’t that the truth!”

*“I’m of the age where
my mind firmly believes I’m 29,
my humor suggests I’m 12,
and my body possibly died during the Civil War.”*

! News of the War in the East !

- **Happy Birthday!** – The year 2026 will be the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States (1776 – the *Declaration of Independence*). Expect numerous anniversary events to be held throughout the United States during that year, including parades and military displays. It won’t be limited to events commemorating the Revolutionary War, so be watchful, as plans are made known to the public.
- **Christmas Greetings from Kings Landing** – An email received from Kings Landing on December 18, 2023, read, “*Merry Christmas and happy holidays! Thank you for helping make 2023 an excellent year at Kings Landing. We look forward to seeing you again as we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2024!*”
- **Correction** – In the February issue of “Battle Lines” (and elsewhere, no doubt), I’ve been referring to Paul Flowers’ French & Indian War organization incorrectly as “Les” Milice de Beaubassin. The correct title of this fine group of living historians is La Milice de Beaubassin. Thank you, Paul, for the very kind correction. I knew I should have first checked with my wife! – *L. Titus*



KINGS LANDING