



Hartranft Herald

**The Newsletter of
Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

<http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/>

Celebrating our 125th Anniversary



Volume 10, No. 04

April 2008



[Come to our meeting and view central Pennsylvania from high atop Reservoir Park!](#)

A newsletter for, about, and by the members of Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7.

Come One, Come All - Ladies and Brothers, and Family and Friends, all are welcome to our Camp meetings at the National Civil War Museum and field trips at-large -- Bring your camera!

[Commander's Report](#) by Greg Kline

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters!

It seems like Spring is beginning to peek through the dismal grey skies of the last few months! Even without any major snow storms, it seemed like this past winter would never end. It's finally time to finalize plans for Camp 15's Spring and Summer activities. We have already decided on the picnic, [July 20](#), but there are a few other activities that I would like to discuss at the April meeting next week. First is our annual trip to Gettysburg to march in the [Memorial Day](#) parade. We will have to send in our participation card after the April meeting so please let me know either at the meeting or via email or phone if you are able to participate. I am looking at the possibility of a trip to Norristown on [June 14 Flag Day](#) to visit General Hartranft's grave. I will be checking with the Montgomery County Historical Society to see if there is a program being offered that we can attend after the cemetery visit. We had a great time doing this last year.

I was originally planning to visit the state flag room and go to a Senator's baseball game on the same day in August. After checking into this, it seems that the scheduling would not work out to do both of these activities on the same day. I will be asking for your [input](#) at the April meeting to see which activity would be preferred by the most members. Once again, if you won't be able to attend the meeting but would like to voice an opinion on this, please [contact me by e-mail at gregsuvcw@earthlink.net](mailto:gregsuvcw@earthlink.net) or call me (717) 561-0575

I look forward to seeing you at the April meeting! Happy Spring!

Yours in F, C & L,

Greg

[SUVCW Camp #15 Minutes](#)
Sunday, 16 March 2008
Pennsylvania Room
National Civil War Museum

Officers Present:

Greg Kline; John Deppen; Stan Zeller; Larry Sheibley; David Demmy, Sr.; Dave Klinepeter; Frank Haley; Kelly Betz; Don Prye; Gene Mascioli (partially)

Members Present:

Dave Demmy, Jr.; Floyd Demmy; Norm Houser; Russ Kratzer

Guests Present:

Richard Brower of Sgt. Jones Bradbury Camp #149, Media-West Chester

Camp Commander Kline called the meeting to order at 1405 hours. Camp Secretary Sheibley read the February minutes which were approved. Camp Treasurer Demmy, Sr., reported \$3255 in the treasury.

The General John F. Hartranft Camp #15 125th Anniversary booklet was distributed. Brother Demmy, Jr., has spent \$737 plus \$111 in discount coupons thus far for printing. The cost will be about \$11 per member for printing and mailing.

Two brothers have not paid their 2008 dues. A third and final dues notice will be sent on Monday, 17 March. After the first of April 2008, any unpaid member will be dropped from the rolls.

The camp members welcomed back Brother Haley who underwent cancer surgery and treatment. Best wishes!

Frederick Andrew E. Till of Lewiston, NY, was voted-in as an associate member, becoming brother number 52. He was not present for the initiation ceremony. Welcome, Brother Till.

The camp received correspondence about participating in the Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade, 26 May. Please contact the Commander if you can march in the parade. A participation card will be mailed to the parade committee after the April meeting.

Brother Demmy, Sr., suggested that the 20 July camp picnic be moved from Fort Hunter to Cross Point United Methodist Church at exit 69 off I-81. More privacy than at Hunter; Modern indoor facilities and kitchen as needed; a new, fenced-in playground, new parking lot and fairly new pavilion exist on this site and the rental fee will be greatly reduced over the county operated Ft. Hunter. This was made into a motion and approved.

Brother Richard Brower of Sgt. Jones Bradbury Camp #149, Media-West Chester dropped by the meeting and invited our camp to the 100th Anniversary celebration of Camp #149 on Saturday, 5 April. This will be a memorial ceremony at Calvary Episcopal Church, Aston, at 1100 hours. Contact the Camp #149 secretary at sparsons@ctdi.com for more information.

Discussion of the Camp #15 history booklet followed. It was moved that the booklet be copyrighted. The Commander will check into the matter for the next meeting.

Brother Demmy, Sr., talked about E-Bay sales for our camp belt buckles and license plates. Because of new E-Bay rules, Brother Demmy's friend will not be selling items for us.

Brother Zellers discussed Mifflinburg Buggy Days, held the first week-end of June. Possibly, the camp can participate with a recruitment and merchandise table at the event.

Brother Houser passed around a canteen symbol like the one discussed in the March issue of this newsletter.

Our Patriotic Instructor, Brother Klinepeter, told of the [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#) article discussing headstones for Civil War colored troops buried on Hilton Head Island, SC. He spoke of his visit to the Baltimore Gun Show; noted the number of Irish troops that fought in the Civil War; talked about the 1936 Grand Army of the Republic Parade in Washington, DC. Brother Klinepeter gave each member present a copy of a photo of this parade and a military can opener – a P-38. Brother Prye could not open the item.

The Commander closed the meeting at 1522 hours.

Respectfully submitted with Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Larry Sheibley, PCC, Camp #15
Secretary

(Please note: This camp secretary will not be responsible for any mistakes of capitalization, grammar, punctuation, spelling, or vocabulary! Editor's Note: the minutes displayed in the March issue of the *Hartranft Herald* will be corrected on the website for March.

[Happy Birthday to Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7 April birthday personnel:](#)

- Donald Butler - Lititz, PA
- Jon Demmy - Enola, PA
- John Deppen - Northumberland, PA
- David Klinepeter - Colonial Park, PA

Ladies of the auxiliary, wanta share your birth month with us so you can be recognized in this publication!

If your name is missing from this birthday roster for this period, please contact the *Hartranft Herald* with corrective information.

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For all you southpaws, who are in your right mind, enjoy the full-page, left-handed, Civil War-era story later in this issue of your favorite SUCVW news, the *Hartranft Herald*.

Over the Back Fence

Dressed in ratty, filthy coveralls, my cousin Dennis, a man in his 50s, was ready to meet his future son-in-law, Mark.

Dennis had been a dental assistant in the U.S. Navy when he was a young man, and his job was to make dentures for other sailors (seems many of them lost teeth in fights). During this time, Dennis had made himself a special set of dentures that could scare children.

So, when Mark walked into the auto parts office to meet his new father-in-law, Dennis was ready. He turned around to greet his daughter Luonne's beau, saying, "I'm Dennis. Nice to meet you."

"I came to ask for your daughter's hand in marriage," Mark said.

"Oh, I don't know what to say about that. What ya do for work?" Dennis asked, smiling broadly to expose a realistic set of false teeth that stuck out of his mouth at all angles. [He knew Mark was a dental student.]

"I, I, I'm a dentist," Mark stuttered in his Texas twang. "Good! I've been looking for a dentist for a long time," Dennis said, smiling proudly.

"Welcome to the family, Mark. I'm sure all the family will want to meet you," Dennis continued grinning. "They all look just like me."

Source: *Reminise Xtra magazine March 2008*

Jack McNeilus
Knoxville, Tennessee



["A Gettysburg Experience"](#)
By John Deppen, SVC

I stepped onto the field where the First Minnesota Volunteers made their heroic but terribly costly charge on the afternoon of July 2, 1863, and I sank into the saturated soil with an alarming squishing sound. I looked around me, and much of this hallowed ground was covered with pools and ruts of standing water, the result of recent downpours in the Gettysburg area. I let the cold wind roar in my ears for a few moments, and then I returned to my car, revising my plans for my latest battlefield expedition.

I turned my attention to other locations in Gettysburg that I rarely visited anymore, mainly due to time constraints and schedule commitments that usually kept me rooted in one spot or another. Some of the places I visited were of no particular historic significance, but they possessed their own charm and poignancy. They were – and will always be – part of my 'Gettysburg experience'.

I stopped at a shop called The Turning Point. The shop is mainly for tourists, with shelves full of souvenirs and knickknacks. The lady behind the counter said that she was not usually open on a Wednesday in early March, but this was a special day. A busload of students from California was on a tour of the east coast, and they planned to stop at The Turning Point around midday. The woman's hospitality was obvious and heartwarming – not all stores opened their doors that day.

I stopped at Lord Nelson's Gallery, an art gallery with virtually no images of Civil War strife, but plenty of wildlife scenes and Native American

art. When I opened the door, I thought I saw my old friend Logan, a chunky black Labrador with his very own column in the gallery's newsletter. Alas, the proprietor informed me that the dog was not Logan – the dear old boy was now romping in Heaven. The new dog was Char, and he was making new friends among the gallery's clientele with his youthful energy and wagging tail.

I drove past the restaurant on the eastern side of Little Round Top, a restaurant that was once known as the Little Round Top Chuck Wagon. I discovered that the establishment bore a new name, Scoops and Scootz. I thought for a moment about whether the "scoops" in question gave visitors the "scootz," and wondered if perhaps the new owners might have benefited from consulting a marketing expert.

The sun was shining, and I stopped at my favorite restaurant, The Avenue, for lunch. The Avenue is an old-fashioned family restaurant near the base of Cemetery Hill within sight of the Jennie Wade House, and I can say with complete honesty that I've never eaten a bad meal within its walls. I ordered one of the specials, chicken pot pie, and was dumbstruck to receive a mountainous portion on a plate the size of a hubcap. The cook must have used the meat from an entire chicken in my dish alone, and I wondered if there would be enough left for the other patrons.

I returned to the battlefield after lunch, and I drove to the Wheatfield, where some of the most intense and confused fighting took place on July 2, 1863. The National Park Service continues to carefully remove trees in order to restore the battlefield to its 1863 appearance, and from where I stood in the Wheatfield, I could see new vistas that were previously obscured by acres of woods.

I walked across the soaked ground in the Wheatfield to the monument honoring the 81st Pennsylvania Volunteers, a regiment belonging to the Second Army Corps under the command of Major General Winfield Scott Hancock. I sat at the monument for awhile, saying a prayer for a friend battling inoperable cancer. The man is a reenactor with Company K of the 81st Pennsylvania, and I could think of no more appropriate place on earth to say my prayer.

After purchasing a few gifts – a book for my wife, a puzzle for my daughter, a painting for myself – I bid farewell to Gettysburg, and headed home. I plan to return – the new Visitors Center will be opening in April, the battle's 145th anniversary will be commemorated in July, and millions of visitors will come once again to, in the words of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, "see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them."

Editor's Note: The above story, by Camp 15 member, John Deppen, SVC, took place on Wednesday, March 12 when John spent the day alone in Gettysburg. It was the first time he gone to the hallowed grounds for a visit by himself in a long time, with no appearances or presentations scheduled anywhere.

This story is scheduled to appear in *The Daily Item* in late March or an early April edition.

- *Hartranft Herald*



[Texas Destroyed Diorama – an update](#)

The Civil War News ran a story on the diorama on Page Six of its April 2008 issue. For more on this subject, contact Brother John Deppen, SVC.

[PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN](#) by Dave Klinepeter

Some times as I sit and read my American Legion magazine my thoughts go back to the Civil War Veterans and their trials and tribulations compared with the modern Veterans. Many of them lost arms and legs and survived. With modern surgery and medicine the survival rate is much greater for our service personnel. Several articles discussed how an immigrant can enlist and serve in the military and earn the right to citizenship. During the Civil War many immigrants were enlisted in the army, especially Irish and German men.

The G.I. Bill has been mentioned in the Legion magazine as being improved upon. It was used by many service personnel after World War II. Some Veteran benefits can be traced back to the Grand Army of the Republic and other Veteran Organizations going to Congress and pushing for

pensions; also relief for widows and children of the war.

April was a very important month in the Civil War.
APRIL 12, 1861 The American Civil War began when Confederate shore batteries open fired on Fort Sumter in South Carolina's Charleston Bay, three days later President Lincoln called for 75,000 volunteer soldiers to quell the Southern rebellion.

APRIL 7, 1862 The Battle of Shiloh ended in a Union victory. Over 13,047 casualties on the Union side and 10,694 on the Confederate side.

APRIL 9, 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrendered to U. S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia. Although there were other Confederate Armies in the field this was considered the end of the war.

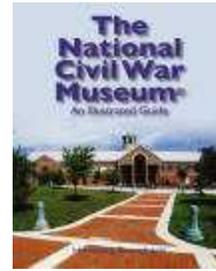
APRIL 15, 1865 Abraham Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth at Fords Theater in Washington D.C.

APRIL 26, 1865 Union Soldiers cornered John Wilkes Booth in a Virginia barn and shot him. He is buried in the floor of the old Penitentiary in Washington. --- DJK

Attention retirees and other personnel close to south central Pennsylvania. Your National organization and executive director could use your volunteer talents 2-6 hours a week at National HQ to sort and file membership applications, from around the country, housed here in Harrisburg. Contact [Executive Director Lee F. Walters](#) P.O. Box 1865, Harrisburg, PA 17105 Telephone: (717) 232-7000 execdir@sucwv.org

[National Civil War Museum - News](#)

Now available in our Museum Store: The official National Civil War Museum Guide Book



Order Now
Only \$7.95

Schedule of Events -

***Members Only Artifact Storage & Archive Tour:**

Friday, June 13, 2008, 1:30pm; and again

- **Saturday, June 21, 2008, 1:30pm**



Meet our Curator - Brett Kelley
Private Archive Tour

FREE TO MEMBERS!

Reservations required. Call 717-260-1861, ext 1108
or Email: Lynn Smolizer

Camp Out -



FREE Family Fun Day & Camp Out:
Saturday, July 12, 2008, 10am-5pm

Free admission will be available to all visitors!

Schedule of Events*:
Continued
Encampment of
Thompson's Independent
Battery C with artillery and
Civil War Period children's

games

12pm: Lecture by Joe Becton on "African American Soldiers in the Civil War"

More details to follow!

* Schedules and times are subject to change. Inclement weather will route activities indoors.

Camp Out* *

**Please note that the Museum closes at 5:00pm. Registration for the overnight camp out is required by July 3, 2008. Please contact the Museum for more information, 717-260-1861, ext 1108 or Email: [Lynn Smolizer](mailto:Lynn.Smolizer)

*** From Camp 15 Hartranft Herald:**

The Hartranft Herald staff had the opportunity and pleasure to partake of the National Civil War Museum's members only archive tour. The free tour, for members only, is well worth the annual membership dues fee to belong to one fine Civil War museum. Something for members of Camp 15 to think about!

[The Hartranft Herald On the Road](#)

Camp Curtin Historical Society and Civil War Round Table Inc., Harrisburg, recently conducted a round table meeting. Society President and PCC, Larry Keener-Farley of Camp 15, introduced key members of the audience who are members of a variety of Civil War organizations throughout the Harrisburg area [including the SONs]. Guest speaker, PCC Keith S. MacGregor, of Camp 112 Gettysburg,

spoke on the Grand Army of the Republic: the Loyal Boys in Blue and its influence on the administrations of five GAR Presidents of the United States of America. He had at least 8 tables displaying his vast collection of mostly Pennsylvania GAR ribbons, medals, relics and other artifacts. Six members of Camp 15 were in the audience – gee they almost could have conducted a meeting on their own! Following the meeting, one member of the audience professed his desire to join the SUVCW. The *Hartranft Herald* news reporter on duty, invited our forthcoming brother to Camp 15's April meeting and provided him with our Camp website to read the instructions on Becoming a Member! Brother Larry, thank you for making Brother Keith available for a memorable GAR afternoon!

More recently, the *Hartranft Herald* was on location for the Scranton held annual Appomattox Luncheon followed by the rededication of the Soldiers and Sailor's monument downtown Scranton. Another fine weekend and anniversary get-a-way too. Diesel at CITGO in Scranton was \$1 more than regular gas at \$3.48; but the temperature was pushing into the '70s before it rained overnite. The luncheon was hosted by Camp 8 and many local TV stations were present for the rededication ceremony in which Brother Lee Walters participated.

[Lastly from your Camp treasurer](#)
By David W. Demmy, Sr.

To all members who padded their dues, by making contributions to the Camp above their annual dues, to those of you who have made a donation to help defray the cost of our 125th history book, especially, the packaging and postage expenses, your Camp whole heartily appreciates your cash donations and your time to come out to our monthly meetings too.

If you have stories, photos etc to contribute to the Hartranft Herald, please send them to the Hartranft Herald via e-mail or post office at address on the mailing page of this newsletter.

And you are there - 1907

[Secured dates and sites FYI see Camp schedule of events later in this *Hartranft Herald*.](#)



- Camp annual picnic Sunday July 20 at CrossPoint Church pavilion and new playground and parking. Colonial Park, Lower Paxton Township, at Colonial and Valley Roads off I-81 exit 69. 50-50 opportunity again and a surprise prospect for a donated GAR item.
- Camp 15 annual holiday party, Sunday, December 7, Pearl Harbor Day, at Doc Holliday's at New Cumberland location near New Cumberland turnpike exchange I-83 just minutes from downtown Harrisburg.

EXHIBITION
OF
LEFT-HAND PENMANSHIP.

\$1,000 DOLLARS IN PRIZES.

[This collection of nearly three hundred Manuscripts, written by Soldiers and Sailors who lost their right arms during the late war, was made in response to an offer of prizes for the best specimen of Left-hand Penmanship, proposed by the Editor of the "SOLDIERS' FRIEND," New York.]

COMMITTEE OF AWARD.

His Excellency R. E. FENTON,
Governor of New York,
Rev. H. W. BELLOWS,
Pres. of the U. S. San. Com.,
WM. CULLEN BRYANT,

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS,
WILLIAM E. DODGE, Jr.,
HOWARD POTTER,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
WM. OLAND BOURNE.

LETTER OF MAJOR-GENERAL O. O. HOWARD.

WAR DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS, }
Washington, February 27th, 1866. }

REV. DR. H. W. BELLOWS—*My Dear Sir:* I am grateful to you for the kind letter just received from you, and hasten to reply. I was invited to write for the prize, but for two reasons I abstained. First, I was too deeply engrossed in my present peculiar work, and secondly, I was conscious of my inability to write a fair hand. However, my penmanship is quite as good as that formerly with the right hand.

I heard a lady in the cars lately detailing the sufferings, mortification and repinings of a young man who had lost his right arm in the service. He said at first everybody received him kindly, showed him sympathy, and gave him aid, but now it had come to be an old story, and he received no special attention and found it difficult to find a position where he could gain a livelihood.

I will say to you, my dear sir, that there are times when the deformity and inconvenience come across the mind, and disturb the equanimity of those who are full of ambition to make the best of whatever befalls. I do not believe that even the plaudits of a grateful people, or the conscious pride arising from the glorious rewards bestowed upon patriotic efforts, will be enough to sustain the one-armed man so as to make him cheerful, hopeful, and happy at all times, so as to enable him to forget all the nervous pains and sensitive feelings that constantly assail him.

My only prescription is a complete surrender of the heart to Christ.

Affectionately,

O. O. HOWARD, *Major-General.*

A fifth grade teacher in a school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in some way to communicate ideas about God.

Here are some of the results: scroll down.

God is like.

BAYER ASPIRIN

He works miracles.

God is like. a FORD

He's got a better idea.

God is like. COKE He's the real thing.

God is like. HALLMARK CARDS
He cares enough to send His very best.

God is like. TIDE
He gets the stains out that others leave behind.

God is like. GENERAL ELECTRIC *He brings good things to life.*

God is like. SEARS *He has everything.*

God is like. ALKA-SELTZER
Try Him, you'll like Him

God is like. SCOTCH TAPE
You can't see Him, but you know He's there.

God is like. DELTA
He's ready when you are.

God is like. ALLSTATE
You're in good hands with Him.

God is like. VO-5 Hair Spray
He holds through all kinds of weather.

God is like. DIAL SOAP
Aren't you glad you have Him? Don't you wish everybody did?

God is like. the U.S. POST OFFICE
Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor ice will keep Him from His appointed destination.

God is like Chevrolet *...the heart beat of America*



God is like Maxwell House. . .
Good to the very last drop

God is like. Bounty

He is the quicker picker upper. . . can handle the tough jobs. . .and He won't fall apart on you

BLESSINGS FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE—your Hartranft Herald staff

2008 Camp schedule of events below – please update your calendar accordingly.

[Camp 15's Calendar of Events for 2008](#)

April – Sunday 20 th	General Camp Meeting - Guest speaker today
May – Sunday 18 th	General Camp Meeting w/speaker
May – Saturday 24 th Annual Memorial Day	Old Decoration Day at Harrisburg Cemetery at 13 th & State streets Placing of flags upon veterans' gravesites
June – Saturday 14 th ?	No general meeting; Predicting road trip to Hartranft gravesite!
June 19-21	Annual Pennsylvania State Department Encampment (convention) at Ligonier.
July - Saturday 20 th	Annual Camp Picnic – 11 am to 4 pm – begin eating about 1 pm CrossPoint Church 430 Colonial Road Lower Paxton Township just off I-81 exit 69 for Cracker Barrel. Use Valley Road! Tour of building upon request! Original building was located at jct of I-83 and Rte 22. It was removed to make way for the cloverleaf junction!
August 7 – 10	Annual National Encampment (convention) – Boston
August – Saturday TBA	Visit ancestral flag display Harrisburg & a Senators ballgame!
September – Sunday 21 st	General Camp Meeting w/speaker
October – Sunday 19 th	General Camp Meeting w/speaker
November	No general meeting – Camp to participate in Remembrance Day
November – Saturday 22 nd	Annual Remembrance Day at Gettysburg
December 7 th – Sunday	Annual Camp Holiday Dinner – Pearl Harbor Day 1941 Doc Holliday's Restaurant – New Cumberland, PA

2008 Camp [calendar](#) available on our Camp Website

Allied Orders of the GAR

- ❑ Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary to Grand Army of the Republic,
- ❑ Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic,
- ❑ Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War,
- ❑ Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and
- ❑ Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

"Fellow citizens, we cannot escape history." - President Abraham Lincoln, December 1862

Be Proud Wear The Badge



Miniature badges [about 1 ½"] and hat stick pin [about 1"] size badges available from
National quartermaster
Each suitable for wear as a lapel pin!

Looking Ahead into May2008:

- Photos, as they become available, of recent Camp activities.
- Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members.
- Keep a copy of your 2008 schedule of events and calendar handy for reference.
- Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!

Ladies welcome too!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Contact *Hartranft Herald* at DoubleD@Demmy.cc

--- End of April 2008 Hartranft Herald ---

Father,
God bless all my friends and loved ones in whatever it is that You know they may
be needing this day! And may their life be full of your peace, prosperity and power
as he/she seeks to have a closer relationship with you. Amen.

Stay tuned for data on 'May' meeting guest speaker