



Hartranft Herald

The Newsletter of Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

www.SUVCWHarrisburgPA.org

Celebrating our 130th Year



 @ Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp#15 Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War



Volume 14, No. 4

April 2012



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

This April issue of the *Hartranft Herald* is draped out of deep respect for our late sister Mary Runkle Smith, PDP and steadfast member of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, this issue is dedicated to Sister Mary for all she and her family have done to keep the memory alive of the boys in blue. As her family before her, she dedicated her life to preserving the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and our ancestors who fought to save the Union! Mary is missed by her sisters and brothers of auxiliary 7 and camp 15.

[Camp 15's next monthly general meeting](#) will be conducted on Sunday April 15, 2012 at National Civil War Museum high atop Reservoir Park, Harrisburg PA upper level room 222. Meeting begins at 2pm.



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

The Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic lost a strong supporter in March 2012 MARY (RUNKLE) SMITH passed away on March 11, 2012 at the Church of God Home in Carlisle, Pa. Born on July 28, 1931, Mary was the daughter of John H. and Kathleen Runkle. She was a long time member of Auxiliary 7, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Mary followed in the foot steps of her grandmother Mary Liddick and her mother Kathleen Runkle. She served a term as Penna Department

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Awarding Winning newsletter! Marshall A. Hope award presented to Hartranft Camp 2010-2011

President of the Auxiliary. Mary belonged to the Women's Relief Corp (Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic) also the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Circle 20, and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Tent 83.



She was the widow of Wayne Smith, who many years ago marched with Camp 15 Sons of Veterans Fife and Drum Corps. Mary's sister, Jeanne Blatt of

Dumfries, VA, is still a long time member of Auxiliary 7. Her brother, Harry Runkle, passed away a number of years ago, belonged to Camp 15 many years and also played in the SVR Fife and Drum Corps. Each one of the Allied Orders of the GAR was represented at the Funeral Home. I stood for Camp 15 as the Ladies performed a special ceremony with red, white and blue flowers. I remember Mary as a young teenager in the 1940s when the Fife and Drum Corps practiced in her dad's side yard.

I realize there are very few members that knew of Mary Smith. I recommend that you get out your History of Hartranft Camp 15 SUVCW and look for the name of RUNKLE. She helped me identify a number of the fellows in the Drum Corps pictures. To see other pictures of the 40s and 50s go to the early back issues of the Hartranft Herald on the internet at www.suvcwHarrisburgPA.org

I remember Mary telling me there was only once that a female marched with the Fife and Drum Corps. It was a Halloween parade in

Penbrook, Pa. John Runkle needed a cymbal player and the only person around was Mary. May she now rest in everlasting peace!

It is hard for me to believe that next year I will have belonged to the Sons for 70 years. So many memories! --- Dave Klinepeter 2012.

[On Sunday March 18, Cooper's Battery B](#) arrived on the museum grounds at Reservoir Park with overcast sky. We could not see the local mountains to the north or Chambers Hill to the south. Three Mile Island's exhaust was not visible on the southern horizon at this time. Weather was bit cool with slight dampness in the air. About 12:45 a red fox bolted along the edge of the plain containing the original reservoir wells.



Apparently the humans on site scared him into rushing far away as fast as possible! Shortly the sun broke thru and within minutes, the area was toasty warm!

At 1300 hours, the battery's personnel, some of who are members of camp 503 and others members of camp 15, proceeded to greet the crowd and prepare them for the coming cannon fire.



Conversation was forthcoming between the Captain Dennis DeWalt and the eager crowd of families, guests and brothers and sisters of camp 503 and camp 15; the spread-out crowd easily numbered 4 dozen.



Brother Dennis and others explained the safe routine of preparing to fire by the numbers and had each member of the firing battery pointed out and explained each individual's responsibilities as a member of a battery. See additional photos thru-out this issue of your [Hartranft Herald](#) newsletter.



Upon firing of the cannon, the [red fox](#) and other wild life living on the 88 acres of Reservoir Park may still be on the run! The rascally skunks, who call the park home, may keep running as far as the [Hartranft Herald](#) staff is concerned.



[New Brothers](#) taken into Camp 15 according to ritual! During latter portion of 2011, Chris Reed and his father Dan Reed, were elected as members of Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15 serving south central Pennsylvania with headquarters at Harrisburg. Today, Sunday March 18 was the first opportunity these men had to visit with us.



AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME OF THE MEETING, THEY

WERE INSTALLED AS BROTHERS OF HARTRANFT CAMP BY CHAPLAIN DAVID W. DEMMY, SR. AND COMMANDER STAN ZELLERS.



TOM BOWMAN, CENTER, CONGRATULATES THE REED MEN.

Camp 15 welcomes you into our patriotic fraternal brotherhood of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic. We look forward to reading your profiles in a future [Hartranft Herald](#). The Reed's membership is based upon their Pennsylvania ancestor William Hill who served with 50th Penn Vol Inf.

[Brothers Out and About](#)



Brother Jon Demmy of Linglestown welcomed his first newborn daughter, Aubree Lynne at 0250 hours on March 28. Baby Bree and Mom Melissa are doing well! Uncle Dave, Camp 15's webmaster, embarked on one of his many church missions on March 29th to Jonesville, VA, surrounded by the beautiful mountains of the Appalachian Chain. Dave

led the convoy of 28 volunteers to their campsite for a long weekend of providing

assistance to the less fortunate residents of that area. The Demmy's derive their membership upon their ancestor, great-great-great Grandfather David Demmy of South Hanover, and his baby Brother Levi, veterans of the 127th Penn Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Dauphin County, PA!

Our Brother Bob Manning and Mrs. Manning who are engaged with KOA, report that they have been transferred to West Memphis, Arkansas KOA Division and expect it to be long term assignment.

Bob's membership is derived upon his Pennsylvania ancestor, his Great-Grandfather Phillip Manning who served with 112th Penn Vol 2nd Artillery, Battery F.

Brothers and sisters, what have you been doing lately? Please send a short story and/or photos with captions to [Hartranft Herald](#) staff.

Another first person story continues next:

One day, back in the 1980's, Alberta Schuh (maiden name Alberta Sehl), mentioned to her grandson, Jeffery Smith: "Jeff, Did you know my grandpa was in the Civil War?" Her question was the seed of a journey that would not reach its end until the summer of 2012. Alberta had experienced a sad and tragic childhood, losing both her parents by the age of 15. Through the years, the family and Jeff had learned not to ask too many questions about the family history, as it seemed to bring a great sadness and reticence to Alberta. For this reason, Jeff, was reluctant to ask too many questions of his grandmother, except to learn the name of his great-great Grandpa, Martin Sehl. The years passed by, and Alberta had passed away with them, and Jeff realized, in retrospect, that he should have asked more questions of his grandmother, as her question was probably an invitation to learn more of

the family history. Jeff had many fond and cherished memories of his grandmother, but always regretted not showing more of a responsive interest to her question. The years passed, and then one day in 2001, opportunity again beckoned.

Jeff was working as an actuary at an insurance company in Fort Wayne Indiana, and a co-worker, Gerry Van Riper, had both an avid interest in history and a great grandfather in the Civil War. Gerry mentioned to Jeff a website named "Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System" of the National Park service. Standing over his shoulder, Gerry directed him to the website, and said: "Drop in the name George Burkhart and the state Ohio". With the click of the "Submit" button, and a two second delay, up came the name "George Burkhart" and the "10th Ohio Cavalry". This was Gerry's great grandfather. Then, Gerry said, "Do you know your ancestor's name? Drop him in!" Jeff then typed in "Martin Sehl", the state "Michigan" and the side "Union" into the entry fields. The submit button stood ready, with Jeff's pulse elevated slightly. The experience of those seconds, felt somewhat like a Christmas morning in childhood, the moments before opening a Christmas package, the contents of the gift package yet unknown.

With the click of the submit button, and the two second delay, to great joy, up came the name "Martin J. Sehl, 1st Michigan, Battery A." He was the only "Martin Sehl" from the state of Michigan, so there was no doubt, that this was the same Martin that Alberta had mentioned to Jeff two decades passed. Knowing what unit he had served in was thrilling, and then subsequently reading the unit's history and battle record gave a depth and soul to the name "Martin Sehl", that

had lain so obscure and dormant in Jeff's memory all those years. The seed that Alberta had planted now began its germination. Over the next months and years, Jeff obtained books of the battles the 1st Michigan had fought in, and this in turn, developed into a greater interest of the Civil War in general.



JAMES GETTY, LEFT, JEFF SMITH AND DAUGHTER ILSA

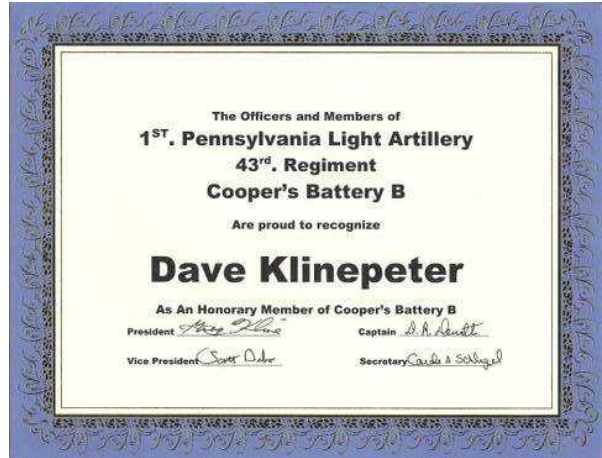
In 2009, Jeff proudly joined the Sons of Union Veterans, Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp #15 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It was through his application to the SUVCW, that the cause, place and date of Martin's death were confirmed.

In 2011, Jeff contacted Evergreen Cemetery in Vanderbilt Michigan, where Martin had died in 1910. Back came an e-mail response confirming that Martin was resting there in a specific lot and location. The attached picture, shows Martins resting place, to the left of the "Sehl" family stone marker, one can see the metal GAR marker, where Martin now rests. With this information, Jeff contacted Tom Jenkins, Graves Registration Officer, of the "Robert Finch" Camp 14, SUVCW in Traverse City, Michigan. Brother Jenkins has been extremely helpful in submitting the paper work to the Veterans' Administration so that Martin may have a granite Union army

marker placed over him. At the March 2012 meeting of the "Robert Finch", Camp #14, SUVCW, Brother Jenkins motioned that a GAR ceremony be performed on August 18 at Martin Sehl's grave site. The motion was approved. This summer Jeff, his daughter, Ilsa Smith (a member of the DUVCW) and many Sehl descendants will be at the grave site to be present at the ceremony on August 18. Through these activities, Jeff has reconnected with many of his cousins in Vanderbilt, Michigan, many of whom still retain the Sehl name. After the ceremony, the brothers of Camp #14, Jeff, his cousin Larry Sehl, and many Sehl descendants will assemble in the Vanderbilt American Legion, to share in a catered meal, drink, and a long overdue Sehl family reunion. The seed that Alberta Schuh Sehl had planted many years ago has come to its full and ripe fruition. It is with faith that we believe the spirits of Alberta Sehl, along with her Grandpa, Martin Sehl will be present to share in the repast and reunion of the Sehl family in the summer of 2012.

Shared by Brother Jeffery Smith, Camp 15, JVC.

[An honor by Cooper's Battery B](#)



BATTERY HONOR'S DAVE KLINEPETER FOR HIS LONG TIME BATTERY ASSOCIATION AND THE CIVIL WAR COMMUNITY.

[Minutes of Camp's February Meeting](#)

Gen. John F. Hartranft
National Civil War Museum
Sunday March 18, 2012

Officers Present - All

- Commander Stan Zellers
- SVC..... Scott Debo
- JVC and Council.....Jeffrey Smith
- Secretary.....Larry Sheibley-Beasom, PCC
- Treasure/ChaplainDavid Demmy, Sr
- Pat.Ins./Hist.....David Klinepeter, PCC
- Council/GuardGregoryKline, PCC
- CouncilLee Walters, PDC
- GuideThomas Bowman
- Color Bearer.....Kelly Betz

Officers Absent – None.

Members Present


Tony Kline; Bill Kuhn; Dave Laman; Bill Neumyer; Chris Reed; and Dan Reed.

Guests Present

Six guests, totaling 22 people present!

Commander Stanley Zellers began the

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Camp # 15
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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HARTRANFT RECRUITING CARD

meeting at 1403 hours with the opening ceremonies. Secretary Larry Sheibley read the February minutes and Treasurer David Demmy, Sr., reported about \$2000 in the camp account.

(THE MAJORITY OF THESE FUNDS ARE FOR 2012 PER CAPITA DUE TO DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA AND THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE SUVCW).

The secretary noted the passing of Mary Runkle Smith who was a member of all the Ladies Organizations and Past Department President of the Camp 15 Auxiliary. Our sympathy extends to family members and a card was sent to her daughter, Debbie Deremer.

Welcome, welcome, to our two newest members who were sworn-in and pinned: (Jacob) Daniel Reed and Christopher Reed, his son. Their Civil War ancestor is William Hill. Camp 15 now has 60 members.

Thirteen members of Harrisburg Camp 15 and Sunbury Camp 503 will be having a combined field trip Saturday 31 March to the Scranton GAR Post. Arranged by Joe Long of Scranton Lt. Ezra Griffin Camp #8, a luncheon will begin at 11:00 followed by a tour of the museum.

Our gun safe was sold to Brother Dave Klinepeter for \$150. Fortunately, Brother Walters brought the safe with him and possession was transferred after the meeting.

Brother Greg Kline spoke of the Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade and any camp Brother interested in marching should contact him at (717) 571-6877.

Motions were made and passed to purchase 2012 annual ads in the PA Department and SUVCW National Convention booklets.

One member still owes dues and will receive his final notice this week.

Secretary Sheibley is interesting in retiring at the end of this year from his seven years as secretary. Those interested members should contact Commander Zellers at (570) 523-0071. Elections are held in October with installation of officers at our annual December Christmas Party.

Patriotic Instructor Klinepeter offered three free pictures of artillerymen and had a display of additional pictures.

Following the closing procedures, of our ritual, the meeting ended at 1455 hours. All personnel proceeded out-of-doors for the 2nd firing of the day:



--- B O O M ---

our keynote presentation was made by reenactors of Coopers Batter B with explanations of a battery set-up, command orders, firing procedures, and the final blast of the cannon, twice. About 24 men, women, and children made up the second firing of the day group. Thanks to the battery!

Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Larry Sheibley-Beasom, PCC
Secretary, SUVCW Camp 15

Remarks from National Civil War Museum

Banners of the Fallen - Friday morning, March 30, staff and volunteers placed 3,477 flags in recognition of those KIA at Shiloh. *Banners of the Fallen* began in 2011 in recognition of major battles for the 150th Civil War Sesquicentennial.

SAVE THE DATE: June 6, 2012

We will be celebrating our new publication, *Joshua L. Chamberlain: A Life in Letters*. Editor Tom Desjardin will be joining us as speaker.

April 11, 6pm

A Season of Gloom: D. H. Hill and the Confederate Retreat from Northern Virginia. Living historian Doug Batson gives a first person account of this 12-day retreat. FREE - bring a friend!

April 18, 7pm

General Daniel Harvey Hill in the Maryland Campaign of 1862
with Doug Batson FREE - bring a friend!

April 21, 2pm

Civil War 150th Lecture Series Presents:
Bloody Shiloh - the War is On!
With Gettysburg Military Park Guide Matt Atkinson
FREE to members; included in admission price for non-members RSVP to [Lynn Smolizer](#) by 4.18.12.

April 21 - May 5

In Their Footsteps: Feeding the Army

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM join us for the third installment of curator Brett Kelley's fundraising and educational initiative and an experience of a lifetime!

For two weeks (April 21 - May 5), Curator Brett Kelley will live as a Union soldier on Commissary duty. Each day, Kelley and volunteers will bake loaves of bread using masonry bread ovens he is constructing on the Museum grounds to "feed the troops". In the summer of 1864 as the Union army prepared to lay siege to the city of Petersburg, Virginia, the need to supply bread to the thousands of troops in the Army of the Potomac was becoming critical. Lieutenant General U.S. Grant ordered that bread ovens be constructed at City Point, Virginia, the Union Army's main supply base on the James River. With new bread ovens in full production, over 100,000 loaves of bread were baked daily to meet the army's needs. The process of supplying the troops was so efficient that many troops on the front lines received their bread rations while they were still warm. "In Their Footsteps" was conceived by Kelley in 2010 as a way to raise money for the Museum's education department and increase visibility its visibility, as well as serve as an educational tool for schools and adults. In 2010, Kelley lived the life of a Union soldier in winter quarters for a two-week period behind the Museum. During this time, nearly four feet of snow fell on the region. He raised \$2,424 and made national news.

National Park Service Launches Civil War Website

WASHINGTON - As part of its commemoration of the Civil War Sesquicentennial and coinciding with events marking the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Shiloh, the National Park Service has launched a Civil War themed website at www.nps.gov/civilwar that provides an overview of the war, with special emphasis on the Civil War sites administered and preserved by the National Park Service.

Additional photos of Cooper's Battery visit continue:

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LADY DIANE DEBO POINTING OUT VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE BATTERY AS CAPTAIN DENNIS DEWALT EXPLAINS EACH MAN'S DUTIES TO THE CROWD.



--- BA BOOM---



PREPARING TO FIRE



FIRE


The Research Muse
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RESEARCH YOUR ANCESTOR!

SONS OF UNION VETERANS

1861  1865

OF THE CIVIL WAR

SUVCW ALUMINUM COLORED LICENSE PLATE
PURCHASE ONE TODAY, CONTACT CAMP 15

On the Road with Camp 15

Monthly Camp Meetings begin at 2 p.m. and are held on 3rd Sunday, at National Civil War Museum unless otherwise, indicated!

Sunday April 15, 2012 camp meeting at National Civil War Museum!

Weekend of April 13-15 - Annual Lincoln Ceremony at Lincoln Tomb, Springfield Illinois and National Council of Administration meeting!

Saturday April 21, 2012 Pennsylvania Appomattox Luncheon, 1 pm Genetti Hotel, Williamsport, PA!

Sunday May 20, 2012 camp meeting at National Civil War Museum!

Saturday May 26, 2012, Camp Memorial Day activities at variety of cemeteries!

May 28, 2011 Camp participates in central Pennsylvania parades!

Continued!

June 2012 - 132d annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Commandery of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War – June 22, 23, 24 at Four Points by Sheraton at Greensburg, PA!

Sunday, December 9, 2012 annual Camp 15 holiday party at Doc. Holliday's Restaurant, New Cumberland.

Plan to share good time with Hartranft camp today

Continued next month.

Be Proud Wear the Badge



Come out to a meeting and join us!
Allied Orders of the GAR

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

Camp Officers & authors, the first Friday of each month is the Deadline for submission of stories, events, articles, and photos for *Hartranft Herald*.

- Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members.
- Worksheets were inserted in Camp 15's 125th Anniversary history book.
If you prefer, [and your *Hartranft Herald* wishes you would], complete an e-worksheet, please ask for one – send e-mail request to DoubleD@Demmy.cc
- Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!

Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!

**GENERAL JOHN F HARTRANFT, CAMP 15
HARRISBURG, PA,**

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 11, 1882
IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY**

---THE END OF THIS ISSUE ---

