



# 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](http://www.SUVCWHarrisburgPA.org)

Celebrating our 133rd Year in Harrisburg Area

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



Vol 17, No. 04

~~ Spring has Sprung ~~

April 2015



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

**Next Camp meeting** Sunday April 19, 2015 at NCWM - Upper level room 222. Meeting begins at 2pm.

Members of the Central Pennsylvania WWII Round Table of Hummelstown and the Vietnam Veterans Round Table on Derry Street.

## New Brother joins Camp 15



William [Bill] Jackson, right, of Hummelstown was initiated by PCC and his good friend, Dave Klinepeter, at our March meeting. They are each



Left Greg Kline looks on as Commander Jeff Smith continues initiation with Bill Jackson, while Guide, Tom Bowman stands by. Continued ....

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Dave follows up with hearty congratulations to our new Brother, Bill.



From left Vermont War Governor Holbrook, Pennsylvania War Governor Curtin and Benjamin Franklin.

Also known as Dick Simpson, Dave Klinepeter and Bill Jackson!

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY DAVE KLINEPETER, PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR, AND DAVE DEMMY JR., CAMP WEBMASTER.

### **Heard on the commuter train**

Billy Graham is now 92 years-old with Parkinson's disease. In January, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina invited their favorite son, Billy Graham, to a luncheon in his honor. Billy initially hesitated to accept the invitation

because he struggles with Parkinson's disease. But the Charlotte leaders said, 'We don't expect a major address. Just come and let us honor you.' So he agreed.

After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the rostrum, looked at the crowd, and said, "I'm reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who this month has been honored by Time magazine as the Man of the 20th Century.

Einstein was once traveling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets for every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there. He looked in his briefcase but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn't find it.

"The conductor said, 'Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it.'

"Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket.

"The conductor rushed back and said, 'Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are; no problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one.'

Einstein looked at him and said, "Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going.

Having said that Billy Graham continued, "See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. My children, and my grandchildren are telling me I've gotten a little slovenly in my old age. I used to be a bit more fastidious. So I went out and bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion. You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to immediately remember the suit I'm wearing. I want you to remember this:

I not only know who I am. I also know where I'm going." May your troubles be less, your blessings more, and may nothing but happiness, come through your door. "Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point."

And may each of us have lived our lives so that when our ticket is punched we don't have to worry about where we are going.

**Camp 15 is proud of our 2 on active duty servicemen, Duke and his Brother Nathaniel Hall.**

Here is an update on them:

Duke is currently at Fort Benning attending an Advanced Leadership Course, which is a 6 week course for NCO's. He is serving as a recruiter in the Atlanta, GA area and living in nearby Conyers, GA after two deployments to Afghanistan. He is a SGT with the Infantry, and his deployments were with his Stryker Brigade.

**SGT Hall, Duke  
901 Carlton Dr SE  
Conyers, GA 30094-2809**

Nathaniel is stationed at Fort Carson, CO after his year at Fort Casey, Korea. He is a Specialist in the Infantry as a Mortor-man. He recently received his second Challenge Coin Award while at Fort Carson. While he trained on Tracks in Korea, he is now trained in using Stryker vehicles.

**SPC Hall, Nathaniel  
PO Box 12663  
Fort Carson  
Colorado Springs, CO 80902**

Submitted by proud mom Angela Hall and grandmother, Charlotte Walters PDP.

Brothers and Sisters, Please take some time out of your busy schedule and write a note of concern and encouragement to our

2, Camp 15 Brothers. God Bless our 2 active duty men,

Camp15 and Auxiliary 7 and God Bless the USA.

**PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN** by  
Dave Klinepeter

Harpers Weekly Saturday April 25, 1865

**A DIRGE**

Lower the starry flag  
Amid a sovereign people's flag  
For him the honored ruler of the nation;  
Lower the starry flag!  
Let the great bells be toll'd  
Slowly and mournfully in every steeple,  
Let them make known the sorrow of the people;  
Let the great bells be toll'd!  
Lower the starry flag,  
And let the solemn, sorrowing anthem, pealing,  
Sound from the carven choir to fretted ceiling;  
Lower the starry flag!  
Let the great bells be toll'd  
And let the mournful organ music, rolling  
Tune with the bells in every steeple tolling;  
Let the great bells toll'd!  
Lower the starry flag;  
The nation's honored chief in death is sleeping,  
And for our loss our eyes are wet and weeping;  
Lower the starry flag!  
His honest, manly heart has ceased its beating,  
His lips no more shall speak the kindly greeting;  
Let the great bells be toll'd!  
Lower the starry flag;  
No more shall sound his voice in scorn of error'  
Filling the traitor's heart with fear and terror;  
Lower the starry flag!  
Let the great bells toll'd;  
He revered the gift which God has given,  
Freedom to all, the priceless boon of Heaven,  
Let the great bells be toll'd!  
Lower the starry flag;  
His dearest hopes were wended with the nation'  
He valued more than all the land's salvation;  
Lower the starry flag!

Let the great bells be toll'd;

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His name shall live on History's brightest pages,  
His voice shall sound through Time's remotest pages,  
Let the great bells be toll'd!

Abraham Lincoln was shot on April 14, 1865 and died on April 15, 1865 just 6 days after General Lee surrendered. I spent several hours reading the account of Lincoln's funeral in several issues of the set of Harpers Weekly's I have. The sketches and articles are very detailed and quite interesting. One hundred and fifty years later they are still putting out books on Lincoln's life and death. Lincoln's Funeral train retraced the route they had taken 4 years earlier when he went to Washington D. C. to be sworn in. The returning train stopped in Harrisburg, Pa on the evening of April 21, 1865 and left Harrisburg on April 22, 1865 headed to Philadelphia, Pa.

[While in Philadelphia, Aaron Martin, father to our late real son of Camp 15, Martin Landis, was selected as one of the eight guards to stand around the body of the slain President Lincoln as his body lay in state in Independence Hall, Philadelphia].

On April 27, 1865 near Memphis, Tenn the S.S. Sultana exploded with over 2,427 passengers on board, over 1800 were lost. Most were prisoners of war and wounded soldiers returning home. There are a number of 150th events coming up for April and

May. Djk  
\*\*\*\*\*

**DID YOU KNOW**

When Abraham Lincoln's body was returned to Springfield, Ill. in 1865, it was accompanied by Maj. Gen. David Hunter, who as a Major in 1861 had accompanied Lincoln on his journey from Springfield to Washington.

The town of Winchester, Va. changed hands 76 times during the Civil War

Although many more are known to have worn them at least some of the time 583 Union generals, only five of them permitted themselves to be photographed wearing "spectacles".

The UNION's Casco class monitors were so badly designed that they could not be completed as intended, had their turrets been mounted they would have sunk.

**DJK**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp # 15  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg PA

Sunday, March 15, 2015

Officers Present

Commander.....Jeff Smith  
SVC.....Greg Kline, PCC  
JVC.....Logan Swanger  
Secretary.....Greg Kline, PCC  
Treasurer/Chaplain David Demmy, Sr  
Pat. Inst./Hist....David Klinepeter  
Council.....Tom Bowman  
Guide/Guard.....Tom Bowman

Officers Absent

Council.....Lee Walters  
Council.....Scott Debo  
Color Bearer....Kelly Betz

Members attending:

Tony Kline, Dave Demmy, Jr, Kevin Williams, Bill Kuhn, Paul Drumm, Dan Lute, Bill Jackson,

Guests attending

Dick Simpson, Dot Kline, Rosemary Jackson

The meeting was called to order by Camp Commander Jeff Smith at 2:05 PM

The meeting minutes from February 15 2015, were read by Secretary Greg Kline. Motion to accept by Brother Tom Bowman, second by Brother Bill Kuhn, motion approved.

Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer Dave Demmy, Sr. The checkbook has a working balance of \$410. Motion to accept by Brother Tony Kline, second by Brother Dan Lute, motion approved.

#### Applications for Membership:

William Spencer Jackson, who was voted in to Camp 15 by unanimous ballot at the February meeting was present at the March meeting. Secretary Kline read his lineage again for the benefit of those not present in February. Mr. (now Brother) Jackson was initiated in ritual manner by Commander Smith.

#### Orders, Communications and Bills

Secretary Kline read correspondence from the Pennsylvania Department in the form of Department Orders. These included the following:

Department Order# 12 which suspended 5 Camps for failure to submit Form# 22, Certification of Officer Elections by the February 15 deadline.

Department Order# 13 which reinstated Ruhl Camp# 33 with the apology of the Department Commander after an oversight was discovered showing that the Camp did file Form# 22 prior to the deadline.

Department Order# 14 regarding the project to restore the Soldier's Monument in the Soldier's National Cemetery in Gettysburg. The Department Commander is hoping to

raise an average of \$100 from each Camp in the PA Department toward this project.

#### Old Business:

Secretary Kline reminded the Camp again of upcoming Department events including the Appomattox Luncheon on April 25 and the Pennsylvania Department Encampment from June 18 to 21. Both events will be held at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport.

#### New Business:

Commander Jeff Smith announced that he will be doing a presentation on Appomattox at the April meeting. Commander Smith called on all Brothers to try to make a short presentation on his Civil War ancestor at an upcoming meeting.

#### Patriotic Instructor:

Brother Klinepeter discussed Civil War events which occurred in March including the naval battle between the Monitor & the Merrimac and the Battles of Pea Ridge, Gloriana Pass, Fort Stedman and Five Forks. He mentioned that the right lower corner of the most recent Banner features a photo of Camp 15's own Major John Runkle who became Commander-in-Chief in 1949 at the last Encampment of the G.A.R.

#### Good of the Order:

JVC Logan Swanger mentioned that, in his capacity as Camp 15 Eagle Scout Coordinator, he met with representatives of the New Birth of Freedom Boy Scout Council. There are two districts in Camp 15's jurisdiction. He is also submitting grave registrations at an impressive rate. 400 out of approximately 2000 local graves have now been registered.

The meeting was closed by Commander Smith at 3:48 PM

Faithfully submitted  
In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Gregory E. Kline, PCC  
Secretary  
Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp# 15  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



### Humor

A southern man had a flat tire, pulled off on the side of the road, and proceeded to put a bouquet of flowers in front of the car and one behind it. Then he got back in the car to wait.

A passerby studied the scene as he drove by, and was so curious he turned around and went back. He asked the fellow what the problem was.

The man replied, "I got a flat tahr."

The passerby asked, "But what's with the flowers?"

The man responded, "When you break down they tell you to put flares in the front and flares in the back. I never did understand it neither."

### Day Light Savings Time

At 2 a.m. on Day Light Savings Time Day, you lost an hour. If you have read this newsletter cover to cover you lost 7 more hours!

License plate seen on the hi-ways and by-ways:

NOT B4 10.

### Work and Sleep

I sleep 8 hours a day and

Work 8 hours and

I try to do both at the same time!

### **May events**

Mother's Day Sunday the 9<sup>th</sup>.

"My favorite Bubba story: I don't know what year this took place. I was an adult when Mother told me this story. A new neighbor (I'll call her Mrs.

Goldberg) moved in a door or two from Bubba in Steelton. She wanted to get milk home delivery and asked Bubba to recommend a company. The next time Mrs. Goldberg saw Bubba, she thanked her and said how nice the milkman was, adding that he gave her a free quart of milk. In those days, milk was delivered in the middle of the night and once a week the milkman came during the day to collect. When Bubba saw the milkman she said, "Mrs. Goldberg told me you gave her a free quart of milk for being your customer. You never gave me a free quart of milk." The milkman explained that it was something new and was only for new customers. Bubba pushed her case. Didn't he think she deserved something for being a customer all these years? The milkman insisted his hands were tied. It was for NEW customers only. Did bubba give up? SHE QUIT HOME DELIVERY! The next day the milkman came by and asked how come she quit him. She smiled and said I'm a NEW customer! SHE GOT HER FREE QUART OF MILK!

A year went by and Bubba thought she had earned another free quart of milk and asked the milkman about it. She got the same story as before – NEW CUSTOMERS

ONLY! Guess what! SHE QUIT AGAIN! [Memorial Day weekend for Camp 15](#)

Once more the milkman asked how come she quit. You got it – she was a NEW CUSTOMER AGAIN! The milkman threw up his hands in despair and said, “FROM NOW ON ONCE A YEAR YOU GET A FREE QUART OF MILK FROM ME!”

When we were growing up, Mother baked homemade bread twice a week. On occasion, she had hot buns waiting for us when we got home from school. Fresh homemade buns right from the oven.

They were so hot, when we broke them apart and spread butter on each piece, the butter melted clear through to the crust. Think about the timing that preparation took for her to have them ready for us when we came in the door! Making the bread dough from scratch, letting it rise, cutting and forming it into individual buns, rising again, and then baking them to have them done at a precise minute. Did any of us think to say, “THANK YOU?”

I have many fond memories of food from Mother’s and Bubba’s making. Every time I butter a piece of hot toast, I remember those hot buns right from the oven.

Formerly of Harrisburg  
Miriam Jacobs Fisher, Redding California



On Saturday May 23, camp members will be everywhere in the Susquehanna Valley honoring their civil war ancestors and veterans at large. A contingent of members will be present at cemeteries and parades this weekend and Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> too.

First, Brothers and friends will gather in Harrisburg for breakfast\* and then mosey over to historic Harrisburg Cemetery near 13<sup>th</sup> and State streets. Others will be on site at Northumberland county cemeteries and malls and on Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> several will be in parades in Sunbury area, Harrisburg and/or Gettysburg too.

Harrisburg, at 8 a.m. [shown this page] and then we’ll move onto historic Harrisburg cemetery, cross over 13<sup>th</sup> at State Street, a mere few blocks from [Diner](#). If the back room is open, we shall use that space due to the number of Brothers enjoying fully cooked breakfast of their choice! Pay as you go! If you borrowed a Camp 15 medal gizmo to make holes in the ground to insert flags, please return it.

Wear good walking shoes/boots for all activities!

Blessings to all Brothers who participate in these events to honor America’s veterans!

\* Breakfast at Harrisburg [American Dream](#) [DINER](#) on Herr

Street between 18<sup>th</sup> and 20th streets, near old **Herr Street Arsenal**,



Queries are invited. [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc)

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## On the Road with Camp 15

Monthly Camp business meetings begin at 2 p.m. and are conducted the 3rd Sunday, at National Civil War Museum!

April 11<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Tomb ceremonies at Springfield, Illinois.

April Camp meeting - **Sunday Aril 19<sup>th</sup>**.

May Camp meeting – **Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>**.

Hartranft Camp Memorial events:

**Saturday May 23**, breakfast followed with placing flags upon veterans' gravesites at Historic Harrisburg Cemetery!

No Camp meeting in June, instead we hope you may attend the 2015 annual Department of Pennsylvania encampment at Williamsport, PA.

National Encampment at Richmond VA August 21, 22, 23, 2015

Read in in your recent national quarterly *Banners*

First Fall Camp meeting on Sunday September 20 2015.

Please update your social calendar now.

Camp 15 yearly calendar available upon request. Send e-mail or contact Hartranft Herald staff [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc).

## Be Proud - Wear the Badge



Come out to a meeting and engage with us!

The Allied Orders of the GAR:

- Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary to GAR,
- Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic,
- Daughters of Union Veterans of Civil War,
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and
- The Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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!

Established February 11, 1882  
in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!