



# 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 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Volume 10, No. 12

December 2008



## Happy Holidays to You and Yours

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!

**M**erry Christmas to all of us - God's visit to earth took place in an animal shelter with no attendants present and nowhere to lay the newborn king



but a feed trough. ... For just an instant the sky grew luminous with angels, yet who saw the spectacle?

Illiterate hirelings who watched the

flocks of others, and "nobodies" who failed to leave their names...--Philip Yancy ("The Glory of Humility" in *Christmas Stories for the Heart*).

"I stopped believing in Santa Claus when my mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph".

-- Shirley Temple

**N**ational Council Endorsement - Brothers, at the [2008] Mid-Year Meeting of the Department of Pennsylvania a motion was put forward by Charles Kuhn, PCinC, [dual member Camp 15] to endorse Brother **Eric Schmincke PDC** for the 3 year seat on the National Council of Administration with the intent that his name be placed in nomination for the office of Junior Vice Commander in Chief in 2011 in the state of Maryland [at National encampment]. This motion passed unanimously by the brothers assembled.

In so doing, we, the Brothers of the Department of Pennsylvania, ask you to please join us in endorsing Brother Eric Schmincke PDC for the 3 year CoA seat.

Respectfully submitted  
in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
Douglas McMillin,  
Sec/ Treas. Dept of PA SUVCW

**R**emembrance Day Parade 2008 - The following Camp members marched with Commander Greg Kline, on Saturday, November 22 in the annual Remembrance Day Parade at Gettysburg: Kelly Betz, Stan Zeller, Lee Walters, and from New York, our long distant Brother, Fred Till.



CENTER, CINC DAVID V. MEDERT, ACCEPTS OUR LICENSE PLATE FROM CAMP 15 PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR, DAVID J. KLINEPETER. LOOKING ON FROM RIGHT IS JOHN M. MCNULTY, PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT COMMANDER. PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID J. KLINEPETER.

**F**or those Brothers who need the popular 'SUV' Gold Metal Kepi Hat Badge or the Gold Threaded Blazer Pocket Patch, these may now be ordered using a downloadable order sheet available at the Department of Michigan web page, i.e. <http://www.suvcwmi.org/store/>.

Brian Shumway, Department Treasurer  
Department of Michigan, SUVCW

**O***regon SUVCW on 'you-tube'*  
Click the link below to view a short YouTube presentation of pictures of the Colonel Edward D. Baker Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War taken over the past few years.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch> - Oregon Dept.

**T**ime to Re-Enlist Boys! By Larry C. Sheibley, secretary. As our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year comes to an end and we prepare for New Year 2009, it means your camp dues for 2009 are now due. Dues for Gen. John F. Hartranft, Camp 15 of the capital city of Harrisburg remain at a mere \$25, while many camps across the nation require between \$30 and \$40 a year. ALSO MANY CAMPS CHARGE AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR REQUESTS TO HAVE NEWSLETTER MAILED TO BROTHER IN LIEU OF MAKING IT AVAILABLE VIA AN EMAIL MESSAGE TO READ IT AT THE LOCAL CAMP WEBSITE.

Please make your remittance payable to **Hartranft Camp 15 SUVCW** and mail it to our treasurer

David W. Demmy, Sr.

881 Sunny Hill Lane

Harrisburg PA 17111 – 4690

or bring your check to January meeting.  
*Payment deadline – January 31, 2009.*

If you have already paid, your Camp appreciates your promptness.

**H**artranft, John Frederick (1830-1889) -- of Pennsylvania. Born in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County, Pa., **December 16, 1830**. Republican.

He served in the Union Army during the Civil War; Was Pennsylvania state auditor general, 1866-72; Governor of Pennsylvania, 1873-79; candidate for Republican nomination for President, 1876. He received the Medal of Honor in 1886 for action at Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861.

He died October 17, 1889; and, his Interment is at Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, Pa.

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

Donnie Prye	Mifflintown, PA
Tom Bowman	Carlisle, PA
Russ Kratzer, III	Colonial Park, PA
Dennis DeWalt	Shamokin, PA

Ladies of the auxiliary, we want you to 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 month, please contact the *Hartranft Herald* with corrective information.

**A**nnual Camp Christmas Party opened with Commander, Greg Kline, welcoming everyone on a bitter, cold, windy day to the 2008 annual Christmas Party at Doc Hollidays, New Cumberland, PA.

### General John F. Hartranft

Camp 15 of Harrisburg  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

#### ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY



December 7, 2008  
Doc Holliday's at New Cumberland, PA



Doc Hollidays table setting above with Dot Kline's center pieces.



Greg, [above, with his parents Tony and Dot], expressed his appreciate and thanks to Larry C. Sheibley for handling the 50/50 tickets and the opportunity for those interested in obtaining an antique GAR Lapel Pin.



Brother Greg continued by thanking ladies, Dot Kline for preparing the table center pieces on display above and Marilyn Demmy, for the

individual Civil War Johnny Reb and Billy Yank grey and blue respective place setting angels shown below:



Once again, the blue out flanks the grey!

On this Pearl Harbor Day, and before Brother Floyd Demmy offered prayers, he told the party attendees a short story related to Pearl Harbor (World War II) and his last Army reunion in 2006 at Fort Knox, KY. - The 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, growing old, held their last reunion at Louisville and ventured to the General Patton museum at Fort Knox. Among others, Floyd was interviewed by Ray Moore, a TV personality and also a member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division! Moore asked Demmy for his opinion about America having dropped the Atomic bomb upon Japan in 1945. "I believe it was right to do it. *That action saved countless American lives* and brought the war to a quicker conclusion". "Otherwise, many US Troops and divisions would have had to invade the shores of Japan, similar to D-Day in Europe, and the war could have lingered for many more months with thousands more dead on each side".

Following another fine meal by the Doc Holliday staff, Department Commander, John M. McNulty prepared to install Camp 15 officers for 2009.



Greg welcomes Brother John.



Officers giving their attention to Brother John's instructions.



Officers for 2009 during installation.



Camp Banner displayed on bingo gift table.



Bingo grand prize prepared and donated by Charlotte and Lee Walters. Party goes played bingo until this Grand Prize was won.



Books available to bingo winners.

Brother John M. McNulty pulled winning 50/50 tickets for Larry C. Sheibley and Charlotte Walters. John's father, John T. McNulty was the winner of the GAR Lapel Pin. The Camp netted \$65 on the Lapel Pin offer and \$55 on the other drawing. No photos available at this time.

As the wind outside became more boisterous, attendees packed up and bundled up for trip homeward.

We'll see all of you at the January Camp meeting in 2009.



Additional bingo gifts for winners.

**A** Legend in his own Time by John Deppen, SVC - The legend of Private Sparky began with, well, a spark – or, more accurately, a smoldering bit of refuse from an artillery round stuffed into the pants pocket of an inexperienced Union reenactor. The ensuing frantic dance performed by the private as hot embers made their presence known generated quizzical looks and, shortly thereafter, knee-slapping laughter that still echoes to this day.

Private Sparky is more widely known as Mr. Gregory Edward Kline, Commander of General



John R. Hartranft Camp #15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Greg is also a member of Battery B,  
1<sup>st</sup>

Pennsylvania a Light

Artillery, the unit that blessed – or cursed – him with the nickname Sparky. Greg's love of history and his devotion to the memory of the boys in blue make him a true champion of our Civil War heritage.

Greg's connection to the Civil War extends back to an ancestor, Frederick Kline of the 188<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. Frederick Kline lost his life in June 1864 outside Petersburg, Virginia. Union forces struggled to break through Confederate defenses at Petersburg and move on Richmond. Their gallant efforts failed, and both sides were forced into a long and brutal siege. Frederick Kline is buried in the Sunbury city cemetery at Fourth and Spruce Streets.

Greg grew up in the Susquehanna Valley. We attended Drumheller Elementary School together, and fought some of our earliest cap gun battles wearing Civil War hats purchased at Gettysburg. If I recall correctly, Greg wore a Confederate kepi in those battles in Lenker's Field on Ninth Street, and even today will occasionally switch sides, or "galvanize," in order to provide some balance at living history events.

Now a resident of Harrisburg, Greg remains involved in the Valley's history, serving on the program committee of the Susquehanna Civil War Round Table. As a reenactor, Greg has participated in numerous local events, from Danville's Iron Heritage Festival parade to Sunbury's River Festival.

As Commander of Camp #15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, a proud organization now 125 years old, Greg looks for new opportunities to make a difference, and to render honor where honor is due. On Saturday, May 24, Greg and I joined Ron and Helen Shireman in laying a wreath at the grave of Major General John F. Hartranft in Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown. Mrs. Shireman is the great-granddaughter of General Hartranft, and, as I escorted her to the gravesite, Greg spoke eloquently of the general's accomplishments and impact on Pennsylvania history.

When Greg and the members of Battery B participated in Sunbury's River Festival in 2007, the unit set up its cannon in a position where its blast would echo across the Susquehanna River. I remember watching Greg work the gun with his comrades while fascinated spectators observed the action. When the command to fire sent a burst of smoke and flame out over the water, I could not help but smile in wonderment at the thought that we had both come a long way since our Drumheller Elementary days.

Greg is proud of his Sparky identity – he emblazoned the moniker on a red jacket. We can be proud of Greg Kline, and everything he does to preserve the memory of our Civil War heroes.

**A**nother Camp Author, Floyd J. Demmy was recently published in the February 2009 issue of *America in WWII*, Vol 4, number 5, pages 24-25, January-February 2009 issue. "Under Fire in Germany" is a short story of one day on patrol, during a risky walk through Germany 1945, with the 54<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Armored Division of the US Third Army. Demmy was a member of a half-track squad who mostly walked across Germany while the half-track carried their packs and attacked village after village and town and town, until they reached Garmish-Partenkirchen near the Swiss Alps.

To see a list of Demmy's other works, eg: "I Remember Growing in Harrisburg", go to <http://www.demmy.cc/FamilyStories.html> or ask the Hartranft Herald for a list.

**F**ind Pension Files On-line - According to a news article under, Civil War Today, on page 18 of the February 2009 edition of Civil War Times, now you can readily look up pension data at the National Archives and Records Administration – the Civil War Pension Files online, with gratitude to a joint effort between the NARA and Footnote.com, a website. Search for a specific Civil War soldier by name or browse a whole regiment! Wonderful news, indeed! But the catch is you need to pay a membership fee. For more on this subject, go to [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com). The fee may be worth it if you expect to do future research!

### **P**ATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR and GAR HISTORIAN By Dave Klinepeter

November 19, 1863 was a very important day in history. President Lincoln made a few remarks during the dedication of the National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pa. November 19, 2008 marked the One Hundred Forty-Fifth Anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. At 10:15 am memorial wreaths were laid at the Soldiers' National Monument by the Lincoln Fellowship of Pa, the Sons of Union

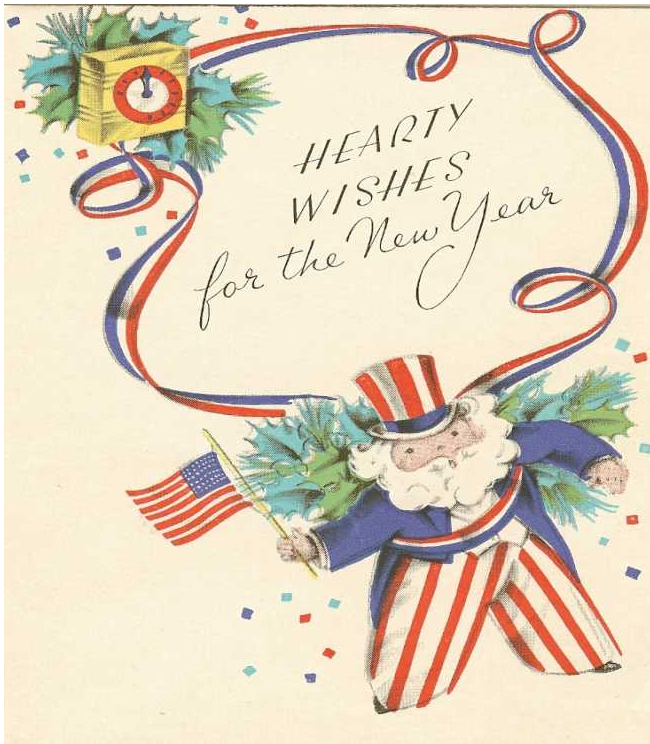
Veterans of the Civil War, the Gettysburg National Military Park. and the United States of America (placed by Ken Burns, the main speaker) followed by Taps. The Dedication Day Program began at 10:30 am on the Rostrum. This year's program included a member of the National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. The Deputy Director of the U. S. Mint unveiled the 2009 Abraham Lincoln Commemorative. They showed large pictures of the front and reverse of the coin. It is to be a silver dollar, to be released on Feb 9, 2009. The main speaker was Ken Burns. His talk was quite interesting. I noted his mentioning several times about the skinny president from Illinois in 1861 and a skinny lawyer from Illinois who will be President in 2009. There were several presentations and than Ward Hill Lamon (portrayed by your Patriotic Instructor David Klinepeter) introduced President Lincoln (James Getty) who gave a few appropriate remarks. The program was closed with Taps. In spite of bitter cold weather, there was quite a crowd of people in attendance.

November 22, 2008 was Remembrance Day. It was the coldest one I can remember in my many years. I was unable to make the wreath laying at Albert Woolson's Monument at 11 am. Each of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic places a wreath in memory of the Civil War Union men who served.

At 1:00 pm the big parade steps off. Those reviewing the parade were the Commander-in-Chief and other high ranking officers of the National and State Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Captain of the U.S.S Gettysburg,

Abraham Lincoln (James Getty), Governor Andrew Curtin (David Klinepeter) and other dignitaries. I was quite proud to see Hartranft Camp 15 banner coming up the street in all its full glory. There were a number of Camp 15 members in the parade. The cold did not seem to hold down the number of marchers including the ladies and children. The SUV banquet was in the evening. As we voted on, at one of our meetings, I did present the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans a Camp 15 License plate. It was greatly appreciated. The SUV Civil War Ball followed, with a good turnout. Camp 15 Brother Larry Keener-Farley was the Dance master, with the help of the Victorian Dance Ensemble. DJK

Happy New Year 2009 from 1944 to  
you



Greetings from one of his 1944 cards while he continued to serve in the US Army. . . . . shared by infantry veteran Floyd J. Demmy.

"American soldiers in battle don't fight for what some president says on T.V., they don't fight for mom, apple pie, the American flag...they fight for one another." - Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore, retired, US Army.



Anyone know where this photo was taken, when, and who is that adorable child?

Location Hint: Our Town

Send your photos with caption, news, and stories and particulars too to Hartranft Herald !



## Your are invited to Lincoln Luncheon – please complete this registration form

Please Join the Brothers and Sisters of the Pennsylvania Department as we Honor the Bicentennial of the birth of the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, with a Luncheon on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 12 O' Clock Noon at the Cannstatters Volksfest-Verein, 9130 Academy Rd., Phila. Pa 19114. As part of the luncheon Mr. Hugh Boyle, a local Civil War and Lincoln historian will speak to us on ***"President Lincoln, Defining Moments"***.

Tours of the GAR Civil War Museum and Library 4278 Griscom St. Phila., PA 19124 will be available both before and after the Luncheon.

The luncheon cost is \$22.00 per meal and will include your choice of either Turkey with Stuffing or Salmon.

Please complete the bottom of this form and enclose a check made out to the 'Pennsylvania Department, SUVCW' for the correct amount and send it to 'Lincoln Luncheon, 1222 Van Kirk St., Phila. PA 19149'

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### Lincoln Luncheon – February 7, 2009

Number of Turkey meals - \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Salmon meals - \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Names of people requesting Turkey \_\_\_\_\_

Names of people requesting Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address for reservation acknowledgement \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for all reservations is January 24, 2009

Camp Officers and other authors, The Deadline for submission of stories, events, articles, and photos to be published in our monthly Hartranft *Herald*, is the first Friday of each month; otherwise, we go to press without your item.

2009 Camp schedule of events - - - please update your calendar accordingly.

Camp 15's Calendar of Events for 2009  
 General Camp Meetings are held at  
 National Civil War Museum unless otherwise, indicated!

January 18 – Sunday	General Camp Meeting
January 31, Saturday	World War II - period re-enacting of 1944 Battle of the Bulge; and vehicles which have been magnificently preserved!
February 15, Sunday	General Camp meeting
March 15, Sunday	General Camp meeting – guest speaker Donna Crone
April 19, Sunday	Meeting or bus trip to Civil War Medicine Museum area.
May 17, Sunday	General Camp meeting and preparation for Memorial Day activities
May 23, Saturday	Decorate graves at historic Harrisburg Cemetery at 13 <sup>th</sup> and State Sts.
May 25, Monday	Memorial Day parade participation
June 18,19,20	Pennsylvania Department encampment convention New Oxford
July 19, Sunday	Annual Camp picnic at Colonial Park campus Pavilion of XPoint church
August 13,14,15	National encampment convention, Louisville, KY
September 20, Sunday	General Camp meeting
October 18, Sunday	Elections for 2010 and guest speaker Sue Boardman
November 21 <sup>st</sup> , Saturday	Remembrance Day parade and activities, Gettysburg, PA
December 13, Sunday	Annual Camp Christmas Party at Doc Hollidays, New Cumberland

### 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.

Be Proud Wear The Badge



Come out to a meeting and join us!

Looking Ahead into January 2009:

- 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)
- Keep a copy of your camp schedule of events and calendar handy for reference.
- Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!

Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Contact *Hartranft Herald* at [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc)

--- End of December 2008 Hartranft Herald ---

--- End ---