



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/HartranftHerald.html](http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/HartranftHerald.html)



Volume 9, No. two

February 2007



--- Happy Birthday Old Abe ---

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.

[News Corner](#) by David W. Demmy, Sr.



It was an overcast 24 degrees when we arrived for Camp 15's January meeting held in the ballroom of the National Civil War Museum. Near the end of the event, we noticed white stuff falling from the sky, something we had not seen in a while, here in south central Pennsylvania! It was Harrisburg's first potential snow that might break the 1890 record for January 23, 1890 as the latest winter date with no measurable snow in Harrisburg. Well folks, we barely broke that old record with 0.1 inch of fluff which was more of a nuisance than colorful ground-covering snow. But someone we know was on duty in a nice warm truck!

Camp 15's February general meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18, at 2 pm in the National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg. Room TBA. Please update your calendar accordingly with Camp 15 activities for 2007.

Your *Hartranft Herald* staff at
DoubleD@Demmy.cc.

[Commander's Corner](#) by Donnie Prye



Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders,
Greetings on this cold and blustery February morning! I am just coming off of a twelve hour shift keeping the roads safe for the motoring public, so please excuse any typos or nonsensical rambling!

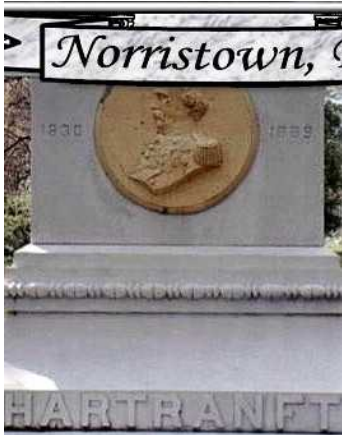
I would like to extend a hearty welcome to Camp 15 to our newest Brothers in blue and hope that they will enjoy a long and active membership with us. I must apologize for my absence at January's meeting, but duty called; apparently someone saw a snowflake and panicked, so I was "On the road again".

Now, more about activities to be added to our 2007 schedule. First, hopefully in May, I would like to get a group together and travel to the Pry House Field Hospital Museum located between Keedysville (shown) and Sharpsburg, Maryland.



As I understand, the Park Service has recently opened this museum in a house that was previously used as

Park Service office space. During an outing a few years ago, the wife and kids and I walked around the outside of the house and the grounds, but we couldn't gain access to the inside. During the Civil War, the house was occupied by Phillip Pry and it was actually used by General McClellan as his headquarters, immediately prior to the Battle of Antietam. My relationship with Phillip Pry has not been determined, but I'm hoping a trip to that area will help me answer some questions. It is very near the battlefield and Harpers Ferry too, so we can make some other stops the same day.



The second activity we want to schedule is another trip or pilgrimage (perhaps in June) to General John F. Hartranft's gravesite. Sources reveal that the General's gravesite is not in very good shape, due to neglect and vandalism like so many cemetery sites. I would like to see for

myself what the situation is and then we can make a decision on what we as members of Hartranft Camp 15 can do to alleviate the problem. Also, Brother Larry Sheibley said that while we are in that area of the Commonwealth, he will show us where to get the best Philadelphia cheese steaks! More details to come! I'll speak with my traveling companions, Brothers Kline and Sheibley to hammer out some dates and details. Stay tuned! Happy Valentines Day --- by Commander Donnie.

Editor's Note: if there are any typos in this *Hartranft Herald*, readers may blame the "working hard or hardly working" news staff; our Commander doesn't type!

Junior Vice Commander's Corner

by John Deppen



In the January 2007 edition of *The Civil War News*, Janice Mullin, Director of The National Civil War Museum, responded to a highly critical letter to the editor. In her response, Mullin acknowledged the stark realities with which the museum is coping, and issued a plea for support, "While the

museum does need to operate within a tightly controlled budget (like most museums), we at the museum are continuing to strive to offer our visitors and the community the most dynamic experience it is possible to give...neither the board nor I accept that the museum is 'destined to fail,' although we do accept that a lot of work and improvements still need to be made. The positive support of the Civil War community is key to the survival and success of the museum."

We are indeed privileged to be able to hold our Camp meetings at The National Civil War Museum. Even with its drawbacks (it is not the easiest building to locate in Harrisburg), the museum is a very impressive facility, and a significant asset to the greater Susquehanna Valley. The museum brings a variety of unique historical programs to our area, including numerous encampments and demonstrations by living historians, both Union and Confederate.

As a Camp, it may well be worth our consideration to join the museum as a group. There are various levels of membership (detailed at <http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.com/>)

Museum members enjoy*:

- Free Museum admission
- Subscription to the bi-annual newsletter
- 10% Discount on Museum Shop purchases
- \$10 off memorial brick purchases
- Advance notice to programs and special events
- Museum pen
- Complimentary admission to scheduled member-only archive tours

*All memberships are good for one year.

Basic Memberships

Individual	\$40
Student	\$25
Senior (age 55 & over)	\$25
Educator	\$30
Family (up to five**)	\$75
Grandparents (up to five**)	\$75
**Family & Grandparent designates 2 adults & 3 students/children.	

And we would need to discuss at what level it would be most appropriate and fiscally responsible for us to join. The benefits of museum membership are explained at the website, and many of the levels include free guest passes to the museum. These passes could be used as door prizes at a Camp picnic or banquet, or, depending on the quantity obtained, could be distributed to new Camp members.

Allow me to emphasize that this is a course of action we may want to pursue as a group. Individually, I know that we are all heavily involved in many different organizations, and I know that many of us already pay dues to dozens of groups. I myself am not a member of the museum, though I have participated in the museum's memorial brick program. As a Camp, however, it seems appropriate that we, the brothers who enjoy the prestige of holding our meetings at The National Civil War Museum, should consider what we might offer as a gesture of goodwill and thanks to this institution, particularly as it faces a time of need.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,
John Deppen, Junior Vice Commander

[Secretary's Corner](#) by Larry C. Sheibley
[Camp 15 Minutes – Sunday, January 21, 2007](#)
[the National Civil War Museum Harrisburg, PA.](#)

Officers Present:

Greg Kline, John Deppen, Larry Sheibley,
David Demmy, David Klinepeter, Gene
Mascioli, and Kelly Betz

Officers Absent:

Don Prye, Frank Haley

Members Present:

Floyd Demmy, William Kuhn, Stanley Zellers

Visitors Present:

Lewis Butts



Prior to the meeting, all members had their badges draped with black grosgrain by Brother Demmy in honor of the death of Former-President Gerald R. Ford.

Senior Vice-Commander Kline, acting as Commander, called Camp 15 meeting to

order at 2:05 pm. After the opening ceremony, the roll was called. The minutes as printed in the December [Hartranft Herald](#) were approved. The Camp treasury contains \$2400 as reported by Treasurer David W. Demmy.

Our chaplain, Brother David Demmy, discussed the recovery of Frank Haley and John Martin. Also, he reported the death of Robert Ramsey, husband of Martha Ramsey of Auxiliary 7 to the Camp. A sympathy card was sent to the family by the Camp.

Norman L. Houser; William Charles Kuhn, Jr.; and Stanley L. Zellers applied for membership. This was approved unanimously. The latter two were present and sworn-in. Brother Zellers will be an associate member until appropriate records arrive.

The secretary's report followed. Mary L. Wergley sent a flier discussing her new \$12 book, [Kilpatrick's Raid around Atlanta](#). The annual Lincoln Luncheon is in February. See the secretary for more information. General Order #2 from Lee Walters, Commander, PA Department, was read to all present at today's meeting.

Thank you notes were sent to Doctor Marlene Taraska and family for a donation in memory of her father, Gilbert Kyle, and to Mr. Thomas Bell, acting CEO of the National Civil War Museum, where we meet.

Discussion of the sale of the seven reproduction 45.70 rifles was postponed because of Commander Prye's absence. David Klinepeter did report that according to his son, Michael, they are the top-of-the-line firearms worth about \$800 each. The Camp is considering replacing them with three 1873 Springfield reproductions worth about \$500 each. (45.70's are not suitable for Civil War era use).

Brother David W. Demmy and committee are working on a flier about Camp #15 and the SUVCV for publicity distribution.

Lee and Charlotte Walters will no longer be organizing the Camp's holiday party. A room at Doc Holliday's has been reserved for our Sunday, December 9, 2007 annual party. Also, Memorial Day activities were mentioned and Gene Mascioli explained the Camp's grave decoration traditions to the two new members present.

Patriotic Instructor Dave Klinepeter discussed President Abraham Lincoln and the now, defunct, GAR Post #2 in Philadelphia.

Also, 8 members have not paid 2007 dues to date and were issued a second letter.

Our Commander closed the Camp at 3:16 pm.

Larry Sheibley, PCC, Camp 15 Secretary

Brothers or Sisters in distress or rejoicing:

From Brother Frank Haley: "Brothers – Well finally I have wonderful news to tell you. My tumor is in remission. Doctor doesn't want to see me for 6 weeks. I even shed a few tears on the way home from the hospital. I'm one happy camper. Take care, Frank".

And the **Hartranft Herald** says, "God Bless Frank and Mrs. Haley".

Correction

The dates for the 2007 Pennsylvania Department Encampment were listed incorrectly in the January **Hartranft Herald**.

The actual dates are June 28, 29, and 30.

Brothers, Saturday, the 30th is the busy day for the Department to handle its business. If you can't make the entire encampment, Saturday would be your day to visit and attend the actions and evening banquet; and we like to eat!

The schedule of Events and Camp Calendar has been updated at our Camp Website.

The 2007 Pennsylvania Department Encampment for the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic will be held at Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel & Conference Center at 300 Gateway Drive, Bethlehem, PA, the last weekend of June. Staytuned for more data on this event – applications and pre-registration data.

Patriotic Instructor and GAR Historian

By David J. Klinepeter

I REMEMBER WHEN



*By the time you get this newsletter Abraham Lincoln's birthday will probably be passed. Camp 112 Gettysburg, Pa Lincoln luncheon will be over. I remember during the 1940s General Hartranft Camp 15 SUVCW and Auxiliary 7 of Harrisburg, Pa held Lincoln Banquets. They were usually held the Saturday evening before February 12, Lincoln's Birthday. Most of the ones I attended were at the (former) **Penn Harris Hotel** (SEE PHOTO) located at 3rd and Walnut Street, in Harrisburg, Pa. In those days the hotels were large and grand. The banquet-ballroom was very beautiful. I do not know how many years John H. Runkle was on the Banquet committee, but I do know Major John H. Runkle always took a number of the Harrisburg Fife and Drum Corps (6th Infantry Field Music SVR) boys along to such affairs. While the guests arrived we would play for their entertainment.*



s e e p h o t o b e l o w



It was also our pleasure to escort the officers of the Sons of Union Veterans, Allied Organizations of the Grand Army of the Republic and honored guests to the head table. After the banquet and speeches were finished, the Drum Corps would take up their instruments and again entertain. Those present

never seemed to tire of listening to the old Civil War songs. Over the years Major Runkle took the Drum Corps to other Lincoln Banquets in Reading, Philadelphia, Lancaster, York, Gettysburg, and other places too.
--- DJK

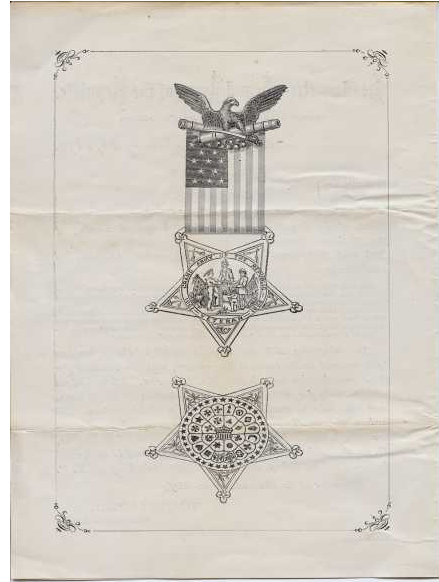
[Continuation on GAR series](#)

by David J. Klinepeter
HISTORY OF THE [GRAND](#) [ARMY](#) OF
THE [REPUBLIC](#), Part 2

The first official National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held at Indianapolis, Indiana on November 20, 1866. General Stephen A Hurlbut was the first actual Commander-in-chief-elected by the 288 delegates in attendance. There was no National Encampment held in 1867 but in 1868 General John A. Logan was elected Commander-in-chief and served 3 years. It was in 1868 General Logan issued general order number 11 establishing May 30th as Decoration Day, later known as Memorial Day, to remember the fallen comrades and strew their graves with flowers. The Grand Army floundered in the beginning years under the weight of politics. It contained members of both political parties of which "The Boys in Blue", (Republican party), dominated every Veterans meeting, the membership began to decline until a resolution was passed at the National Encampment in 1869 calling for the elimination of any political debate at any National, State and local Post function. The resolution was approved at all levels but it took almost ten years before politics was silenced. The GAR began to grow quite strong, welding an influence far beyond its true power. They were credited with swaying the balance of power over 50 years. Until 1901 (with the death of President McKinley) six of the seven U. S. Presidents elected were Civil War Veterans. Two slogans used against the Grand Army were, "The GAR saved the country, now they want to own it", and it was called, "The Grand Army of the Republicans". As powerful as the GAR was to become they would never

count more than thirty two per cent of the Union Veterans as members.

In 1869 the GAR membership badge was redesigned. (See below) Series to be continued. --- DJK.



1869 GAR membership badge!

[Members Corner](#)

For, about, and by our members.

In recent months the following personnel have expressed an interest or have submitted their applications for membership into Camp 15.

Andrew Crone – Mechanicsburg

Norman Houser – Halifax

Russell Kratzer, III – Harrisburg

William Kuhn, Jr. – Hershey

Richard Weaver – Hershey

Stanley Zellers – Lewisburg

Lewis Butts – Harrisburg

Brothers, bless you and welcome to Camp 15, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

- [Camp 15's general meetings](#), coming to a neighborhood drive-in near you! Invite and recruit your grandfather, father, and son; your brothers, your nephews, and cousins, your friends at your house of worship, your co-workers and neighbors too, to a Camp 15 meeting! It's too chilly to meet at a

drive-in, so we comfortably meet at the National Civil War Museum at Reservoir Park Harrisburg. The Museum has wonderfully provided us with sanctuary on a Sunday afternoon.

- During our January Camp meeting, the men, indicated below, participated in the ritual of initiation of membership with Camp 15, by taking Oath presented to them by Chaplain David W. Demmy.
- [William Kuhn, Jr.](#), and [Stanley Zellers](#). Upon the processing of the film, photos will be displayed in a future issue of your *Hartranft Herald*.
- Camp 15 expresses our heart-felt Christian sympathy to Auxiliary 7 member, Marcie Ramsey, upon the recent death of her beloved husband, Robert Ramsey.

Robert L. Ramsey, 74, of Enola, passed away Friday, January 12, 2007 at home. He was a retired employee of Raub Supply Company with 32 years of service. Robert was also employed by Goodwill Industries and the YWCA of Harrisburg. He was an Army Veteran of the Korean War.

Surviving are his wife, **Marcie J. Ramsey**; 2 daughters, Diana L. Nace and her fiancé William T. McLemore, Jr. of Frederick, MD, and Brenda L. Wolf and her husband, Eric of Loysville;
2 sisters, Thelma A. Blosser of New Cumberland and Mary A. Stepp of Harrisburg;
6 grandchildren, Erin L. Benjamin, Sabrina L. Nace, George W. Nace III, Jenifer M. Gauvin, Timothy P. Wolf, and Christopher A. Wolf;
3 great grandchildren, Sierra A. Benjamin, Haylee M. Gauvin, Lydia A. Gauvin, and one great grandchild on the way.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John L. and Carrie E. Ramsey; a great grandson, Edgar M. Abrams; and a brother and sister.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 17, 2007 in the Richardson Funeral Home, Enola. Burial will be in Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens, Lower Paxton Twp. Viewing will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home.

Editor's Note: Marcie's membership profile was showcased in the September 2005 issue of your Hartranft Herald.

And the *Hartranft Herald* says, "God Bless Marcie and family".

- New members - All previous issues of your *Hartranft Herald* are available for display at our website [Http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/HartranftHerald.html](http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/HartranftHerald.html).
- Also, new members may look forward to receiving and reading our National magazine, the Banner and the State Department news, the Battle Cry of Freedom. Each is published quarterly. Camp 15's newsletter the Hartranft Herald is published monthly.
- Camp 15's annual holiday party 2007: Doc Holliday's restaurant has been reserved for our annual gathering on Sunday, December 9, 2007.
- The Camp is looking for 2-4 members to oversee this activity. The Hartranft Herald has a list of duties and responsibilities of this committee. Contact the Hartranft Herald at DoubleD@Demmy.cc. More on this subject in future issues of your Hartranft Herald.
- [Visitations or other activities](#) – from Gene Mascioli

Having been a mild winter, I finally attended an event of my desire for years – The 51st Washington Crossing of the Delaware River re-enactment held on Christmas Day 2006. I enjoyed the event and hope to be able to attend the crossing again in '07.

The first photo below depicts Washington's crew in the National Park on Christmas Day.

The second photo reveals the reenactment Oarsmen for the event.

And then, take notice to FREE day at our local National Civil War Museum, Reservoir Park, Harrisburg.



Photos by Gene Mascioli, PCC.

Free Day At National Civil War Museum... Saturday, February 17

There will be a **community free day** at the National Civil War Museum on **Saturday, February 17**, which coincides with President's Day weekend.

Free admission to the Museum will be available to all Pennsylvania residents, (courtesy of M&T Bank).

• SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

• 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Barbara Barksdale, local historian, re-enactor and president of Friends of Midland Cemetery will be in period dress, giving a presentation at 10:30 a.m. on the African American women's experiences and contributions during the Civil War.*

• 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. *Mr. Scott Mingus, Sr., author of Human Interest Stories of the Gettysburg Campaign will be at the Museum for a book signing.*

• 11:00 a.m. - *Lecture with Mr. Larry Clowers as General Ulysses S. Grant*

• 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. *Artifact table and discussion with Mrs. Constance Clowers as Julia Grant*

• 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. *Long Hill String Band will be performing various Civil War era tunes at 12:00 p.m. and again at 2:30 p.m. They will also be discussing their music and instruments.*

• 1:30 p.m. *Lecture with Mr. James Hayney as Mr. Abraham Lincoln*

"This provides everyone the opportunity to tour The National Civil War Museum to learn more about our nation's history and to better understand the Museum's value as a cultural and economic asset in Harrisburg," said the Director, Janice Mullin.

The National Civil War Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5:00 p.m. Between April 1 and Labor Day, the Museum is open seven days a week. Admission to the Museum is normally \$8.00 for adults, with reduced rates for children, seniors and families. For more information about this event, please call **260-1861**, or visit the Museum's website at:

www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg's newspaper.

For more data, check out the Museum's website.

If you go, Saturday, please come back next day, on Sunday, for Camp 15's February meeting.

Enjoy, Gene Mascioli, PCC.

Announcement on Birthday parade.

Philadelphia: Monday, February 12, 2007
[Annual Lincoln Birthday Parade](#) and
 Memorial Service: sponsored by the Union League of Philadelphia. Civil War military units, civilians, and heritage groups are welcomed to march in the parade through Philadelphia to the Lincoln memorial on Kelly. Participants will gather in the Meade Room of the League House, 140 S. Broad. At 11AM. Color Guards, Firing Party, music, and wreaths appreciated. There will be a complimentary lunch for the participants at 12 noon. After the parade, all are invited to return to the League via bus for refreshments in the renovated Meredith Café. To register: Contact: Andy Waskie 215-204-5452

Andy.waskie@temple.edu

- Our Camp Secretary's secret life

Camp 15's very conscientious corresponding secretary, Larry C. Sheibley, PCC, a retired math teacher, spends a portion of his time at the local Literacy Council where he provides math assistance to students! Blessings to our Larry as he shares his life experience with those in need.

The *Hartranft Herald* asks its readers: What was it you learned in school besides your ABCs?

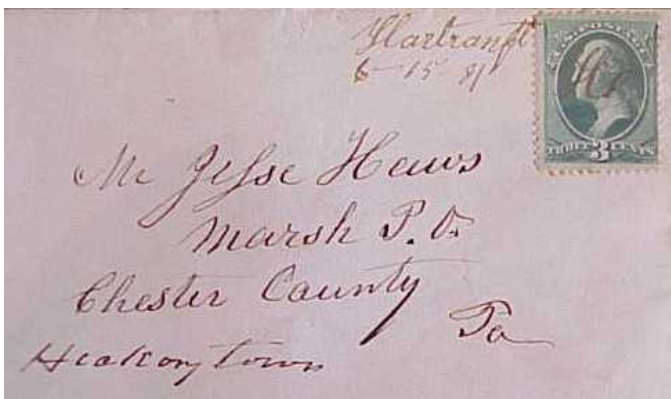
O T T E F S S E N T I ?

Hint: It's not a continent!

Write to *Hartranft Herald* editorial staff at DoubleD@Demmy.cc or come to the February meeting to learn the answer to this school quiz.

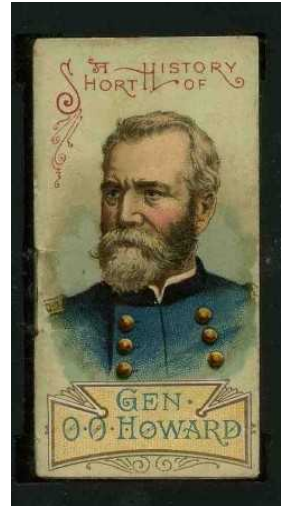
Afterimage with General John F. Hartranft

This envelope from John F. Hartranft appears to have been dated in June 1881.



Of local Interest

An image of a general




Major General O. O. Howard, U. S. A., Retired
 Gen. O. O. Howard, the brave hero and U.S. commander of the right wing of Sherman's Army during the March to the Sea will lecture in the
COURT HOUSE
Carlisle, Feb. 28.
SUBJECT
"Gen'l Thomas in Campaign and Battle."
 Gen. Howard has been a student as well as a soldier. He writes extensively for magazines and other periodicals and is the author of "Donald's School Days," "Life of Zach Taylor," and "Batavia of Castile." He is a lecturer of national repute and commands large audiences wherever he appears.
 With the exception of Gen. Schofield and Gen. Sheridan he is the only one of the serge commanders and is now the great authority on the results of the war. His lecture on the Campaign and Battle of 1862, Thomas will be full of interest to our people who know Thomas when he left Carlisle for the end of war.
Admission - - - 40 cts.
Reserved Seats - 50 cts.

General O. O. Howard appeared in Carlisle for a mere 40 cents general admission. . . .

Submitted to *Hartranft Herald* by David J. Klinepeter, GAR Historian.

[Camp 15's Calendar of Events for 2007](#)

February – Sunday 18 th	General Meeting.
March – Sunday 18 th	General Meeting.
April – Sunday 15 th	General Meeting.
May	Camp Field Trip. TBA
May – Sunday 20 th	General Meeting.
May – Saturday 26 th	Annual Memorial Day outing at historic Harrisburg Cemetery. Placing flags upon veterans' gravesites.
June	Camp Field Trip. TBA
June	No general meeting. Field trip under consideration!
June 28 th – 29 th – 30 th	127th Annual Pennsylvania State Department Encampment (convention) at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
July – Sunday 8 th	Annual Camp Picnic at Fort Hunter along Susquehanna River.
August 9 th – 10 th – 11 th	126 th National Encampment (convention).
September – Sunday 16 th	General Meeting.
October – Sunday 21 st	General Meeting.
November	No general meeting.
November – Saturday 17 th	Annual Remembrance Day at Gettysburg.
December – Sunday 9 th	Annual Holiday Party at Doc Holliday's Restaurant, Limekiln Road, Exit 40A, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Celebrate the Installation of Officers for 2008 at this annual event. 

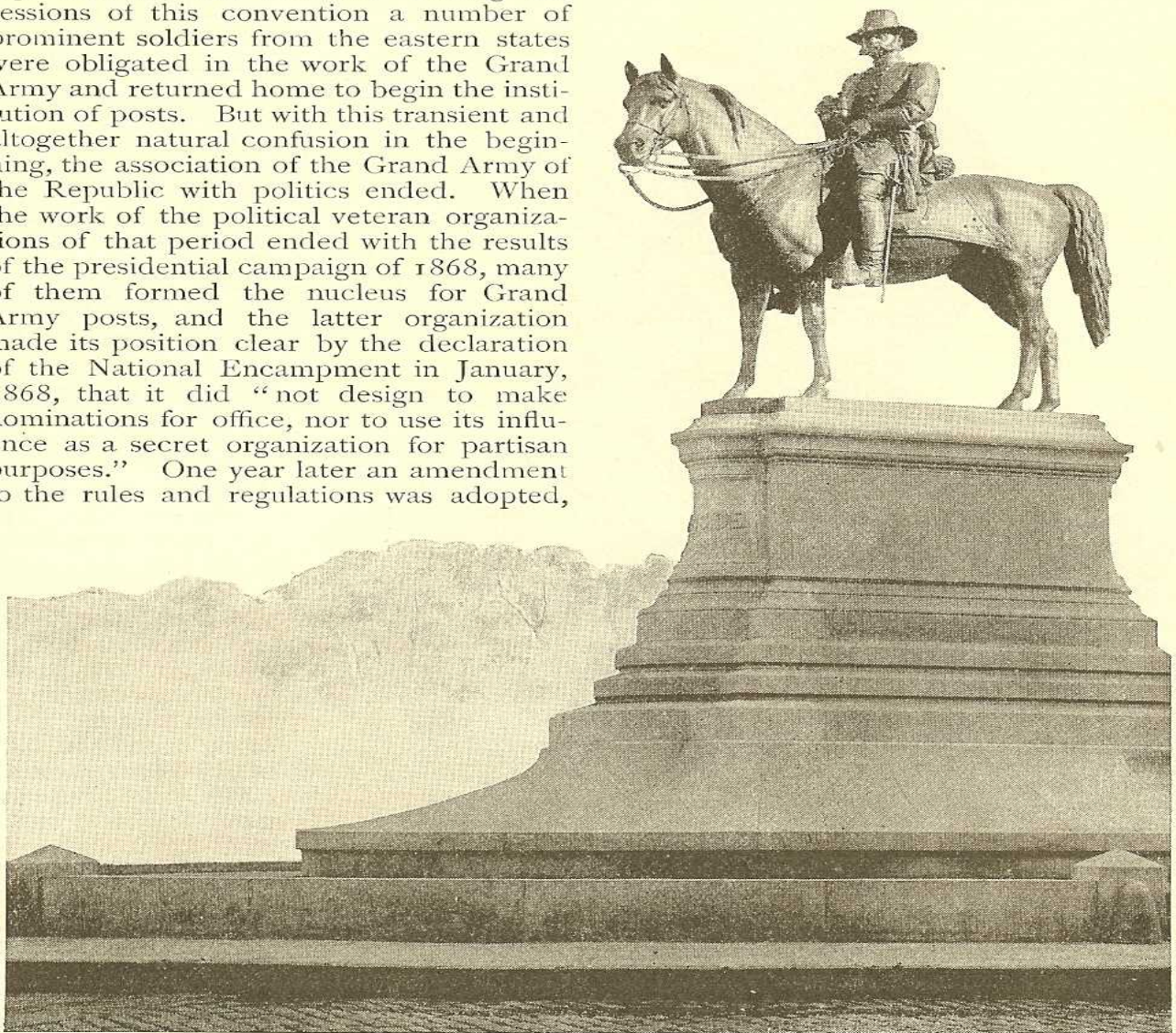
Allied Orders of the GAR

- ❑ 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.

republic, and that therefore in the early days the taint of partisanship which became attached to the association, particularly in the central West, led to the loss of power and practical dismemberment of the order. Indeed, so loosely was the line then drawn that at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Convention in Pittsburg, in September, 1866, the recently organized department of the Grand Army of the Republic in Indiana was distinctly represented, and when a committee was appointed to formulate a plan for a national political organization, the Grand Army was one of the bodies from which a representative was selected. During the sessions of this convention a number of prominent soldiers from the eastern states were obligated in the work of the Grand Army and returned home to begin the institution of posts. But with this transient and altogether natural confusion in the beginning, the association of the Grand Army of the Republic with politics ended. When the work of the political veteran organizations of that period ended with the results of the presidential campaign of 1868, many of them formed the nucleus for Grand Army posts, and the latter organization made its position clear by the declaration of the National Encampment in January, 1868, that it did "not design to make nominations for office, nor to use its influence as a secret organization for partisan purposes." One year later an amendment to the rules and regulations was adopted,

declaring that "no officer or comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic shall in any manner use this organization for partisan purposes, and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any of its meetings, nor shall any nominations for political office be made."

Among the men who during the days of their service gave much thought to the idea of perpetuating the associations of the war period, and providing mutual aid in the future by means of a general organization of the veterans, was Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, surgeon of the 14th



Statue of General A. E. Burnside, at Providence, R.I.

Illinois Infantry. In Chaplain W. J. Rutledge of the same regiment, Dr. Stephenson found a cordial sympathizer in the proposition, and early in the spring of 1866 the two met in Springfield, Illinois, for consultation as to plans for carrying out their cherished idea. Dr. Stephenson, who must be regarded as the father of the Grand Army of the Republic, was already entering upon the preliminary work with the zeal of an enthusiast. He endeavored to interest whoever of his former associates he met in his project; he procured copies of the ritual of soldier organizations already formed, and in the latter part of

ritual was taken to Decatur to be printed, for the reason that the office of the *Tribune* there was in the hands of veterans and it was thought that the desired secrecy might thereby be made more secure. This mechanical work attracted the attention of a number of Decatur soldiers, with the result of procuring a list of twelve, to whom, under date of April 6, 1866, a charter was granted, constituting Post 1 of Decatur, District of Macon, Department of Illinois, Grand Army of the Republic. The name of Dr. Stephenson is appended to this charter, and by a justifiable fiction he is designated as "Commander of Department."

Dr. Stephenson was a native of Illinois, born in 1822; he served as surgeon of the 14th Illinois from April 7, 1862, to June 24, 1864, the date of expiration of its three years term. He died at Rock Creek, August 30, 1871, his eyes not having beheld the later realization of his enthusiastic dream of an organization including the majority of that mighty host of freemen enlisted in defence of the unity of the republic. He had carefully planted good seed, had seen the springing into life of a magical growth, had mourned the desolating blast which swept the rising organization almost absolutely from the face of his own western states, but it was not given to him to watch



General Charles Devens.

1865 had outlined a form for use in the proposed new order; he invited several others to assist him in this work, and after much consultation a ritual was completed, and probably a dozen veterans were obligated therein, forming the group of original members. But chance carried the formal organization of the first post away from the actual birthplace of the order. The

and witness the splendid resurrection to strength and power which has come within the past decade.

The original plan of organization was cumbersome, including in addition to the present system of posts, departments (state and national), a district or county government, with a distinct list of officers, the latter having direct supervision of the posts.

Series to be continued in your March *Hartranft Herald*.
Next installment will include text on General John F. Hartranft.

From [Camp Curtin Historical Society & Civil War Round Table's The Bugle](#)

Gettysburg HACC Civil War Seminars Saturday, March 31, 2007

SCHEDULE

8:30-9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:30 a.m.	Keynote Speaker
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Session I
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Buffet Lunch
1:30-3:30 p.m.	Session II

Keynote Speaker:
Robert K. Krick:
“Some Reflections on
General James Longstreet’s Attitude”

Course Selections:

Culp’s Hill: The Fight on the Union Right

While the main attack on July 2, 1863, was against the Union left, some very significant action was also occurring on the Union right and resumed on the morning of July 3, with a definite impact on the outcome of the battle. Dr. Charles C. Fennell, Jr., Licensed Battlefield Guide

The Desecration of the Battlefield: The Gettysburg Electric Railway

From 1893 until 1917, an electric trolley operated across the Battlefield. This course will use old photos to retrace the route of the electric railroad and examine the remnants of the trolley line still visible today. We will also examine the history of the trolley and its role in the creation of the Gettysburg national Military Park. Richard Kohr, Licensed Battlefield Guide

The Slaughter Pen

Located along Plum Run at the western base of Big Round Top, the Slaughter Pen was given its name by those who witnessed the area immediately following the battle. The area attracted the attention of Civil War photographers, but it very quickly became grown over, and the focus of attention shifted onto the rocks of nearby Devil’s Den. The work of William A. Frassanito in the 1970s brought renewed attention to this area, and the National Park Service has extensively cleared the pen in an attempt to restore its war-time appearance. Timothy H. Smith, Licensed Battlefield Guide

First Day’s Battle—What Went Wrong

Learn how the Army of Northern Virginia decisively defeated the Army of the Potomac on July 1, 1863—and then lost the chance for a complete victory. We will review the campaign, learn why Lee invaded, and see a comprehensive overview of the first day with the events leading to the Battle of Gettysburg. Anthony Nicastro, Licensed Battlefield Guide

Lincoln and the Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg

Created to meet the need to bury the Union dead after the Battle of Gettysburg, the Soldiers National Cemetery today holds nearly 7,000 veterans up through the Vietnam War years, as well as interesting monuments and memorials. Hear about the development of the Cemetery, Lincoln’s role in its dedication, and stories of men buried there. Susan Boardman, Licensed Battlefield Guide

Cost: \$49.00 (Section 72709) includes drawing for Dale Gallon “The Day is Ours” Framed Print

Location: HACC Gettysburg Campus, 731 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, Pa.

Registration Information: Telephone Noncredit Division at 717-338-1010 (M-F 8:30am to 5:00pm)


Visit www.hacc.edu for more information on classes at all HACC campus locations

Other publications revealed that the registration deadline is March 23rd; therefore, register early.

[National Civil War Museum announces](#) a Black History Month presentation on Buffalo Soldiers

The theme of black cavalry veterans, nicknamed Buffalo Soldiers on the Western frontier after the Civil War, will be on exhibit at National Civil War Museum, Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, through March 10th. You can visit the museum before our Camp meeting. Note: If you do, you may desire to bring your lunch due to the timeframes away from home! (10 a.m. to 4 pm) The museum has a few snack vending machines, but none for a full lunch. Museum opens at 10; Camp 2 to 4!

During Black History month, Harrisburg celebrates the life of [Ephraim Slaughter](#) 1846 - 1943
A Slave, a Soldier, and a proud member of the GAR, Post 520 Harrisburg.

At 97, Ephraim died in Harrisburg in 1943 as the City's last Civil War veteran. His life began under the veil of slavery in North Carolina. He escaped to the North and fought for the union during the Civil War to end racial servitude. Harrisburg American Legion Post 733 is named in his honor. The Post is located at 620 Harris Street, uptown Harrisburg. Ephraim is buried in Lincoln Cemetery, Harrisburg. See photo to the right! 



Ephraim Slaughter was a former slave from North Carolina who joined the Union Army in 1863. When he died in 1943, he was Harrisburg's last Civil War veteran.



Wear The Badge



Looking Ahead into March:

- Next General Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 18, 2007.
- Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear in your 2007 *Hartranft Herald*.
- Have you submitted your BIO! (Member's profile) Why not begin work on it today!
- Keep a copy of your schedule of events and calendar handy for reference.
- More on Honest Abe in your April Issue of the *Hartranft Herald*.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

--- End of February 2007 Hartranft Herald ---

