



# 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 127<sup>th</sup> Year



Volume 12, No. 02

February 2010

**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!

**Pennsylvania Allied Orders of the GAR celebrate Lincoln Luncheon**

## Celebrating our 127th year!

Camp 15 hosted the 2010 Lincoln Luncheon for the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at Doc Holliday's Steakhouse and Saloon at New Cumberland, PA. Thirteen members of the Camp participated in this event! Photos may be available in March issue of your *Hartranft Herald*.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR by Dave Klinepeter  
FEBRUARY 12, 1809 - FEBRUARY 12, 2009 - 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY. There were many programs and also numerous items to mark the bi-centennial. The Mint struck four new PENNIES denoting periods of Lincoln's life. (WHERE HAVE ALL THE PENNIES GONE?) I have hunted and watched for the different pennies through the year but to no avail. The mint is out of the proof sets, they have some of the pennies in rolls at high prices, also the coin dealers have them for special prices but the banks do not have them. I have asked at many banks and other places but most did not receive them. I wanted to give each member attending our February meeting a small bag with 4 Lincoln pennies each; guess that will not happen! The

mint now has a new Lincoln Silver Dollar available. DATES:

We already went past Ground Hog day Feb 2nd and no one knows for sure if he did or did not see his shadow.

The Boy Scouts of America were founded on Feb 8th 1910 – century anniversary in progress! Lincoln's Birthday is on Feb 12th and George Washington's Birthday is on Feb 22nd but the government and commercial interests prefer to celebrate PRESIDENTS DAY on Feb 15th a nice long week end. It is hard to believe that the Vietnam War began on March 2nd 1965. The Girl Scouts of USA were founded on March 12th 1912.



--- DJK

[GAR HISTORIAN](#) by Dave Klinepeter

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC -- (THE FATHER ORGANIZATION OF THE SONS OF VETERANS):

*The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was founded on April 6, 1866 at Decatur, Illinois by Major Benjamin F. Stephen, a surgeon, who served with the 14th Illinois Infantry.*

The society was composed of men who were HONORABLY DISCHARGED UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, having served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865. As an organization the functions were to honor those who had died in the war, to provide for the orphan children and widows, to help the disabled and destitute veteran, to promote comradeship among veterans, and to uphold the Constitution and protect the American Flag at all cost. Their watchword was FRATERNITY, CHARITY AND LOYALTY. They were very strong in pension legislation for all veterans. A meeting was held on July 12, 1866 at Springfield, Illinois, which was attended by delegates from ten states, including Pennsylvania. A number of resolutions were presented and adopted, thus forming what would officially become known as the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

The first official encampment was held at Indianapolis, Indiana on November 20, 1866. General Stephen Hurlbut was elected the first Commander in Chief by 288 delegates attending. In 1868, under the leadership of the second Commander in Chief, General John A. Logan, the famous General Order #11 was issued establishing May 30th as *Decoration Day*, later renamed Memorial Day. From then on May 30th was a very special day for those who had worn the Blue, fought and died in defense of National unity. The GAR floundered in its maiden years under the weight of politics. They contained members of both political parties and they clashed within the

ranks at every meeting or veterans gathering. The membership kept declining until a resolution was passed at the National Encampment in 1869 called for the elimination of any political debate at any National, State or Post function. The resolution was approved but it took almost ten years before the politics was silenced. After that the organization began to grow again. The Grand Army wielded a very strong influence over the years. Up until 1901, with the death of President McKinley, six of the seven preceding presidents were veterans of the Civil War. In 1888 the Grand Army of the Republic recognized the Order of the Sons of Veterans (later renamed the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War). The report of 1889 gave a membership of 410,000 with 6711 Posts in 42 Departments. In June 1892 the membership peaked at 445,368 veterans. At the Silver Anniversary, the National Encampment was held in Washington D.C. Over 80,000 veterans marched in the Grand Parade, over the same route they did in the Grand Review in 1865. This period was undoubtedly the high mark of the Grand Army of the Republic with 7,568 Posts in existence. The GAR continued to hold encampments each year at different cities in various states, but by 1948 only 52 Union Veterans were living.

At the 83rd Encampment at Grand Rapids, Michigan it was decided the final encampment would be held at Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949. Fittingly they returned to the city where the first encampment was held in 1866. (Your Patriotic Instructor was in attendance at the final encampment of the GAR in 1949)! EDITOR'S NOTE: CAMP 15'S PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR WAS A VERY YOUNG WORLD WAR II NAVY VETERAN IN 1949. The GAR never opened its ranks to veterans of other wars, so it became a *last-man* club. The last member of the GAR was Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minnesota. He was also the last UNION VETERAN. Woolson was 109 years in age when he died on August 2, 1956. For over 90 years the GAR had been a reminder of the struggle to save the UNION. They never failed to remember Memorial Day. It is now up to us

to continue in their footsteps. This is a very brief history of the Grand Army of the Republic. For further information on the GAR, please contact your G A R Historian [heyoud2u2@verizon.net](mailto:heyoud2u2@verizon.net) -- DJK

EDITOR'S NOTE: AS ALWAYS, BROTHER DAVE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HISTORY LESSON, WORDS OF WISDOM, AND ALL THE HOUSEKEEPING THINGS YOU DO FOR YOUR LOCAL CAMP AND THE GOOD OF THE ORDER, MAY YOUR 65 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER 35 YEARS.

[The Hartranft Herald](#) and Camp secretary, Larry C. Sheibley, thanks each member who has paid their 2010 dues! Thanks are due to each member who remitted an extra amount with their dues, for Camp 15's general operating fund. Hoo-rah! Your gifts and donations are greatly appreciated for our monthly postage expenses and shipping gifts and goodies to our Brother in harms way, Duke Hall, serving with the U S Army somewhere in Afghanistan. Duke and his fellow band of brothers continue to seek items they cannot obtain far from civilization: such as small hygiene items, [NO LIQUIDS OR GELS – AGAINST POSTAL RULES] and pens and pads for the local native children! You may continue to bring items to Camp meeting for packaging to our Brother Duke. If you have mailed packages yourself to Duke, God Bless you and yours for sharing in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

#### [M I N U T E S of November 2009 meeting](#)

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
General John F. Hartranft Camp #15  
National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg, PA  
Sunday, 15 November 2009

#### Officers Present

Commander..... Gregory Kline  
Jr. V Commander.Stanley Zellers  
Secretary.....Larry Sheibley  
Treasure./Chap....David Demmy, Sr.  
Pat.Instr./Hist.....David Klinepeter  
Council.....Norman Houser  
Council.....Eugene Mascioli  
Guide.....Thomas Bruner

Color Bearer.....Kelly Betz  
Officers Absent  
Sr. Vice Commander... John Deppen  
Council.....Donald Prye

#### Members Present

Tom Bowman  
David Demmy, Jr.  
Floyd Demmy  
Scott Debo  
Frank Haley  
Robert Hollinger  
Anthony Kline  
William Koon  
Russell Kratzer  
David Laman  
Larry Nace  
John Rushoe  
Jeffrey Smith  
Allen Spigelmeyer  
Logan Swanger

Camp meeting called to order at 14:05 hours by Commander Kline. Treasurer Demmy reported \$981 in the camp treasury. Secretary Sheibley gave his report. Brother Houser stated that he will not undergo by-pass surgery because of the risks and Brother Debo stated his daughter will have surgery in December.

Also discussed were the October PA Department Mid-Year Encampment, the Gettysburg Remembrance Day parade, the 13 December Camp 15 Christmas party, the February Annual Lincoln Day Luncheon, and the 2010 PA State Encampment at the New Cumberland Holiday Inn, June 24-26, 2010.

Gettysburg Camp 112 is sponsoring a fund-raising night, Operation Ensuring Christmas, on Thursday evening 19 November, Remembrance Day. At the Gettysburg Friendly's, the restaurant is donating 20% of their proceeds to the cause.

Brother Floyd Demmy, dressed in his World War II uniform to celebrate Veterans Day, talked about the WWI doughboy Buddy Memorial at Front and Cumberland Streets in Harrisburg.



National Executive Director Demmy presented a plaque to the camp and certificate to Commander Kline to commemorate the Camp 15 membership increase in 2008. He offered for sale car magnets for \$10 and camp stickers for \$1. Camp 15 Christmas party invitations were distributed. He announced that an Afghanistan troop donation box will be set up at the party for our newest member SPC Duke A. Hall. Please read the article in the November Hartranft Herald, pages 8 and 9. Donations will be accepted through-out 2010.

Brother Demmy, Jr., announced that our website at Geocities has been taken over by Yahoo. The site will now cost \$7 per month or approx \$22 per quarter to maintain. By camp vote, the campsite will be named: [www.SUVCWHarrisburgPA.org](http://www.SUVCWHarrisburgPA.org).

Finally, our Patriotic Instructor Klinepeter gave a 40 minute presentation with a photo display about the former Camp 15 Fife and Drum Corps and the former Camp 15 Rifle Squad. This was excellent as always.



Thank you.



BROTHER DAVE'S HISTORICAL CAMP 15 DATA DISPLAY ACCOMPANIED ANOTHER ONE OF DAVE'S FINE STORIES. Photo by *Hartranft Herald* staff.

Minutes submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, Larry Sheibley, PCC, Camp 15 Secretary!

[Snow – too much snow](#) – do you feel the blues trapped inside your house during the recent blizzard of the northeast; well, read on:



Bad snowman! Thanx to Brother John Martin of Linglestown for sharing this image!

The National Civil War Museum curator is spending two weeks living as a soldier for educational fundraiser.

Sleeping in a tent in the freezing cold, pulling guard duty and mending fences might not be most people's idea of a vacation, but **for**

**National Civil War Museum curator Brett Kelley**, he hopes donating his two weeks a year will be worth it. *See the log-cabin style shanty he has built on the grounds of Reservoir Park for his two-week tour of duty as a Civil War era soldier in winter Camp.*



PHOTO BY PENNLIVE.COM

From Feb. 6-20, Kelley will live the life of a Civil War soldier, spending 24 hours a day on a picket line. Kelley will be clad in a reproduction Civil War uniform and use period equipment and food rations. Brother Brett is sponsored in part by Harrisburg Hartranft Camp 15.

[Brothers and Sisters in Distress](#) – prayers by Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7 of Harrisburg

Pray for our young Brother Duke Hall in harms way in Afghanistan and prayer for his family to relieve their stress while he is far from home.

Prayers for my mother are appreciated - I spent most of Saturday in the ER with her at Lewisburg. Her congestive heart failure was causing serious breathing difficulties, and she is now at home on oxygen. She is feeling overwhelmed and depressed. John Deppen.

Pray for Sister Mary Smith, daughter of the Late John Runkle, PCinC. Mary is in rehab following surgery last year.

PCC Brother Gene Mascioli, not only has lumbar difficulties, but during a recent MRI, it was discovered he has an aneurism in an artery leading to his Aorta! Surgery is scheduled for February 24.

Prayers for Gina Lusk pending surgery this week! Gina is cousin to Camp 15 Brothers Dave and Jon Demmy.

Continued prayers for Lyndsay Debo and family, of our Brother Scott Debo.

**PLEASE KEEP ALL OF THESE INDIVIDUALS UPON YOUR PRAYER LIST!**

### [M I N U T E S – January 2010 meeting](#)

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

#### Officers Present

Commander..... ..John Deppen  
Sr.V.Commander...Stanley Zellers  
Jr.V.Commander.....Scott Debo  
Secretary.....Larry Sheibley  
Pat.Ins./Hist.....David Klinepeter  
Council.....Norman Houser  
Council/Guard.....Gregory Kline  
Officers Absent  
Treasurer./Chap....David Demmy  
Council.....Donald Prye  
Guide.....Thomas Bruner  
Color Bearer.....Kelly Betz

Counting officers, there were 14 members present.

Sunday, 17 January 2010  
Camp meeting called to order at 2:04 p.m.

Since our new commander, John Deppen, was not present at the Christmas party to be sworn in as a 2010 officer, 2009 Commander Gregory Kline opened the meeting and presented the commander's badge and gavel to Brother Deppen and a Military Service

Medal to Brother Jack Rushoe who, also, missed the holiday party.

Secretary Sheibley read the minutes of the November meeting. There was no Treasurer's report. Commander Deppen spoke of the unfortunate 24 December 2009 passing of Brother Robert Shadle. He entered Camp #15 on 17 February 2008. The family will have a memorial service at a later date.

Two candidates, Charles Reigle and Michael Proper, presented applications for membership and were approved unanimously. They will be contacted by the secretary and sworn-in the next time each one is present at a meeting.

Brother Greg Kline spoke of the Lincoln Luncheon scheduled for 13 February at Doc Holliday's in New Cumberland.

A 65-year SUVCW pin was presented to Brother David Klinepeter and a ten-year pin to Brother Frank Haley.

"In Their Footsteps, Walking the Line" is a month-long, one-man Civil War encampment sponsored by the National Civil War Museum in order to raise money. Camp 15 donated \$100 to the cause.

A letter from Brother Mascioli stated that he was willing to arrange a field trip to the Pennsylvania Civil War Battle Flags at the Capitol Preservation Committee facility on Market Street in Harrisburg. Camp 15 has visited the building twice in the past and will schedule another trip this year.

Brother Floyd Demmy stated that the PA Farm Show is in its 94<sup>th</sup> year and is planning a centennial anniversary book. Anyone with stories about this event should contact the PA Agriculture Department.

Patriotic Instructor Klinepeter stated that he was ready to make a GAR presentation to the camp but postponed to next month, hoping for a larger audience. His "coming attractions" appeared very interesting as usual! He mentioned the 22 January Harrisburg Civil War Round Table presentation, "House Divided", the 30 January Indiantown Gap Battle of the Bulge, and the 150<sup>th</sup> Civil War Anniversary road show trailers which will visit every PA county between

2011 and 2015. Because Dave missed the Christmas party, he had drawings for six patriotic prizes which he donated to the camp.

All members having Civil War artifacts or presentations are welcomed to speak at a future meeting. Brother Houser stated that he had 51 Civil War letters and would be willing to make a presentation.

Twenty brothers were remiss in submitting their 2010 dues. Letters have been sent to them. Individuals with unpaid dues will be dropped from rolls in near future from camp 15. Please pay immediately!

The meeting closed at 3:18.  
Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Larry Sheibley, PCC, Camp 15 Secretary!

EDITOR'S NOTE: GOD BLESS YOU BROTHER LARRY FOR ALL OF THE CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND MEETING MINUTES YOU TAKE CARE OF FOR THE REST OF US IN CAMP 15 - IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY THE *HARTRANFT HERALD* STAFF.

INDIVIDUALS HAVING OUTSTANDING DUES DUE AND EXPERIENCING A WINTER HARDSHIP, MAY CONTACT COMMANDER FOR CONSIDERATION OF ASSISTANCE - ALL SUCH DISCUSSIONS WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL. SEE COMMANDER AT FEBRUARY 21 MEETING OR CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY.

[Battle of Bulge 2010 re-enactment](#) at Fort Indiantown Gap! This year at least 5 members of Camp 15 bit the bullet and the cold weather to enjoy, the annual reenactment of the famous World War II Battle of the Bulge.



YOUNGSTERS IN THE CROWD WATCH AS GERMAN GUN EMPLACEMENT FIRES UPON ADVANCING ALLIED FORCES.





WORLD WAR II REENACTORS ON THE MOVE FOR THE 2010 REENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE!  
 PHOTOS BY *HARTRANFT HERALD* STAFF – COME OUT AND JOIN US NEXT JANUARY IN 2011. SEE LIVING HISTORY BARRACKS AND MULTIPLE VENDORS DISPLAYING 1940 ERA ITEMS FROM BLACKJACK CHEWING GUM TO SEAMED NYLONS.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AT CAMP WEBSITE AT [www.suvcwHarrisburgPA.org](http://www.suvcwHarrisburgPA.org)

[In Recent Months](#), the family of Brother Donald Butler of Lititz participated in the 'York Buddy Walk' event:



ABOVE, DAUGHTER MARY.



Mary's big sister, ELIZABETH!

Camp 15, "just thinking about how I am so proud of my ancestors and what they contributed to this country. My great grandfather 5 times removed, William Butler served in both the Revolutionary War (8 years) and also the War of 1812. Then Caleb Butler joined the Union forces when he was 40 years old in order to help this country survive as a union. I thank all the members of our respective organizations for their family's ancestral history. They deserve our admiration and honor". Your Brother-n-arms, Donald.

Veterans, is your military form DD-214 soiled? Would you like a fresh copy of your military separation document? Go to following site for a new copy for your records:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>

If you can't, the *Hartranft Herald* staff will do it for you *when time permits*. Contact David Demmy, Sr.

## [Schedule of events for 2010](#)

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

February 21, Sunday general Camp meeting

March 21, Sunday general Camp meeting

April 17, The 54th Annual Lincoln Tomb event at Springfield Illinois

April 18, Sunday general Camp meeting

Mothers Day – 9

May 16, Sunday Camp Meeting preparation for May 29 Memorial Day events! Local activity at historic Harrisburg Cemetery @ 13<sup>th</sup> & State.

Fathers Day 20

June 24 - 26 - Pennsylvania Department encampment convention New Cumberland.

July 18, Sunday – noontime Annual Camp picnic at Colonial Park Campus Pavillion of † CrossPoint UM church at Corner of Colonial and Valley Roads Colonial Park – use Valley Road entrance – Lower Paxton Township.

August 12 - 15 - National encampment convention, Overland Park, Kansas

September 19, Sunday – Nominations for officers for 2011 at General Camp meeting.

October 17, Sunday - Elections for 2011

November 20, Saturday - Remembrance Day parade and activities, Gettysburg, PA.

December 12, Sunday - Annual Camp Holiday Banquet at Doc Holliday's, New Cumberland.

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 Army 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 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

- 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

End of February 2010 Hartranft Herald