



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 126th Year



Volume 11, No. 07

July 2009



Summer is here – Camp Picnic time!

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!

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

Bruce Baker	Millersburg, PA
Tom Bruner, Jr	Berrysburg, PA
Dave W. Demmy, Jr.	Paxtang, PA
Nathaniel Hall	Galena, OH
John-Paul Heil	Camp Hill, PA
D. Michael Klinepeter	Big Cove Tannery, PA
Bill Kuhn, Jr.	Hershey, PA
Lynn Kyle, Sr	Linden, PA
Lee Walters	Mechanicsburg, PA

Camp Minutes

Historically, Camp 15 does not meet during June because of Father's Day and the preparation for Pennsylvania Department's annual encampment convention each June.

Therefore, there are no minutes to be posted here. The next minutes will be posted in the October issue of the *Hartranft Herald* for the September meeting.

Camp Picnic

Next Camp Event will be our annual summer Camp picnic to be held on **Sunday, July 19**, beginning at noon, we expect to break bread together about 1 pm. Historically, our business meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of most months and therefore, the picnic is held on a Sunday in keeping with tradition.

[Brothers and Sisters too of Camp 15 and auxiliary 7 please come out and join us for this summer event. Families and children are always welcome; in fact we demand you accompany your Camp 15 member! Fairly new pavilion and established playground for youngsters; parking lot and sidewalk adjacent to pavilion; and fresh restrooms in air-conditioned building near picnic pavilion!](#)

If you normally cannot attend a general business meeting of Camp 15, now is the time for you to come out and join with us at our annual picnic, break bread, and fellowship with us in an informal setting! If the heat gets to anyone of us, or if it rains on the officers today, there is a fine air-conditioned church building next door to the picnic pavilion. As needed, following the meal, there may be a quick business discussion.

Later, upon request, a tour of the church will be conducted for any one interested in that subject.

Picnic to be held on Sunday, July 19 from noon til around 4-5 pm. Look for **American Flag** along Valley Road in Colonial Park, Lower Paxton Township.

We'll begin meal at about 1 pm. Your Camp will provide cooks, hamburgers, [tube steaks] and condiments, heavy duty plastic ware etc. **Please bring a dish or drinks, chips, salads, and/or desserts to share!** Please bring your own table coverings and/or place settings! Feel free to bring along you favorite Lawn chairs; and/or cushions for picnic table sitting.

Charcoal grill(s) available on site for our cook(s).

The *Hartranft Herald* will not only recycle your used soda cans, but will dispose of trash and burnt offerings after the gathering at CrossPoint United Methodist Church, 430 Colonial Road, Colonial Park, Lower Paxton Township – use Valley Road entrance to pavilion area. You may use the north side main entrance at Colonial Road turn onto Crums Mill Road and drive around the church facility to the pavilion on the southern side of the campus or use the southern entrance along Valley Road.

Valley Road is easily accessible from Progress Avenue in Susquehanna Township and Colonial Road in Lower Paxton Township. Valley Road runs east and west like Jonestown Road Route 22, and Linglestown Road Route 33.

See **July 2008** issue of the *Hartranft Herald* on Camp website at

<http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html> for driving directions and some photos of the area.

If you can't access the Camp website for directions or need assistance before the picnic or in route to the picnic, call David at 512 5226 for help. If you prefer to use GPS or computer driving directions, the address for the church's Colonial Park campus is 430 Colonial Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17109. The

church faces east on Colonial Road, but is surrounded by Crums Mill Road on the north and Valley Road on the south. Again, see July 2008 issue of the *Hartranft Herald* for directions.

[Report from our treasury](#) by David W. Demmy

After submitting over \$1300 in per capita to the Pennsylvania Department for annual state and National dues our treasury dropped below \$600. A big boost has occurred when our two remaining US Model 1873 Trapdoor Springfield .45-70 Caliber rifles were purchased!

At this time, according to our bylaws, Camp Council needs to make a motion to the fellowship present at an official gathering, how the Camp should best use these new funds, eg: purchase a CD or invest funds in new brass belt buckles for our on going fund raiser, or provide for our 130th anniversary celebration in 2013 during the **150th anniversary** events of 1861 – 1865 during Civil War Days throughout the years **2011 – 2015 better known as National Civil War Sesquicentennial activities!**

Free Day at National Civil War Museum bldg, father's day weekend:



Pennsylvania's departmental secretary treasurer, Doug McMillin with SUVVCW display near the great staircase of the National Museum at Reservoir Park.



Generals on Duty – that’s John Deppen, SVC, center! The free day at the museum was another recent success for the marvelous Civil War museum. Photos by David J. Klinepeter. [CLICK ON ANY PHOTO TO ENLARGE IT.](#)

[The 2009 Pennsylvania State Department Encampment convention at New Oxford.](#)



Left, David J. Klinepeter with **65+ years** as member of our grand organization, and Richard Partington. During the encampment, Brother Dick was bestowed with a specially crafted **75 year medal** with 4 diamonds, by the Department of Pennsylvania.



Members present at encampment earned the 2009 badge shown above, which was based upon the design of Brother Dick’s one-of-a-kind badge.



2008-2009 Commander-in-Chief Dave Medert visited the Pennsylvania encampment and presented awards to Lee Walters for his outstanding devotion to the Order during his tenure as National Executive Director. Charlotte Walters was awarded too for her dedication to the Order. Lee retired from National Headquarters at Reservoir Park, at end of third quarter of 2008.



Brother Dave presenting awards to the outstanding couple.



Ladies of the Allied Orders
Photos by David J. Klinepeter – Camp 15’s marvelous historian and a true Brother to all of us!



Past
Commander-in-
Chief Charlie
Kuhn and
enchanted wife
Joann at the
Saturday nite
banquet where
we all had great
fellowship and
wonderful meals
by the Cross-
Keys
establishment.
Camp 15 is
looking forward
to Joann and
Charlie's
attendance at the
annual Camp
holiday
gathering and
installation of
officers on
Sunday
December 13.

As additional photos arrive from personnel who attended the 2009 Pennsylvania Department encampment, they will be posted in the *Hartranft Herald*.

[A military Anecdote](#)

Ulysses S. Grant was often unkempt and shabbily dressed. Once upon entering a tavern on a wintry evening in Galena, Illinois, he came upon a large group of attorneys who were there for a court session. They were gathered around the hearth.

One attorney looked up and pronounced: "Here's a stranger gentleman and by the looks of him, he's been through hell itself to get here."

"That's right," Grant replied.

"And how did you find things down there?" asked the attorney.

"Just like here," replied Grant, "all the lawyers closest to the fire."

Sources and Citations

Fadiman, Clifton. *The Little Brown Book of Anecdotes*, 1985. Little Brown Books, Boston.

<http://civilianmilitaryintelligencegroup.com/?p=344>

[PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN](#)

By Dave Klinepeter

Another July "Battle of Gettysburg and 4th of July have come and gone. This year was considered as an off year so there were about 1500 troops involved. Last year was the 145th, so there were over 12,000 troops. The next large battle will be the 150th year (provided they can find a farm large enough to hold it on.) I was there Friday and Saturday portraying Governor Curtin one day and a Sheriff the other. There was a good crowd attending both days. Sunday the fifth was their biggest day "Pickett's Charge". At least this stimulates people's interest in the Civil War, seeing as the schools do not teach too much on the subject any more. I was glad to see the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War had a table of material set up in the artist tent. This is something we need to do more often at other events. Over the years the Sons of the Confederate Veterans have had a tent display at many of the reenactments.

I did manage to visit downtown Gettysburg for a while. Took in a number of shops and came away shaking my head! There must be a million T SHIRTS, thousands of mugs, cups knickknacks (JUNK) guess where the stuff is made. A few places had interesting items. As expected there were many American flags on display on the streets and also to buy, I saw very few flags in Harrisburg and surrounding areas. Some towns had 4th of July parades.

DID YOU KNOW?

After the Battle of Gettysburg the combined casualty total of dead, wounded, and missing for the two armies was set at 51,112

Gettysburg was costly to General Officers, according to some reports 32 were casualties. 16 Union and 16 Confederate of those 8 on each side died of mortal wounds inflicted at Gettysburg.

The First Minnesota suffered the highest casualties at Gettysburg, 82 percent

The Second Wisconsin also suffered 77 percent casualties

General John Reynolds was the highest ranking officer killed at Gettysburg

General Winfield Hancock badly wounded at Gettysburg, later ran for President against James Garfield.
DJK

Dear Sir: I'm seeking the opportunity to contact descendants of soldiers who served in **Union regiments manning the Petersburg line during the successful Federal Sixth Corps assault on April 2, 1865.**

The Breakthrough Battle took place on ground that is today substantially within Pamplin Historical Park, near P Petersburg, Virginia.

My website (<http://www.petersburgbreakthrough.org>) is a collection of descendant's association WebPages that feature regimental histories, notes on soldiers, and descendant's roll calls that list soldiers and descendants or family members. These web pages are intended to honor the patriots of both sides who served in this climatic and generally under-appreciated battle. As an example, here's the link to the 121st New York Infantry webpage: <http://www.petersburgbreakthrough.org/121stNY.htm> Which links to the 121st New York Descendants Roll

Call: <http://www.petersburgbreakthrough.org/121stNYroll.htm> I happen to descend from a soldier in the 6th Maryland Infantry, so this site is much more developed and a good model for what each regimental Descendants Association can become over time.

<http://www.6thmarylandinfantry.org/> The battle became a matter of great interest to me when I was researching and writing "Two Brothers: One North, One South." The novel tells the story of the Prentiss brothers of Baltimore and is very closely based on real people and events. Clifton Prentiss served in the US 6th Maryland Infantry and William Prentiss served in the 1st and 2nd CS Maryland Battalions. They actually met as the battle raged on the battlefield on April 2, 1865 and are buried side by side at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York. Walt Whitman wrote about William Prentiss in "Memoranda during the War." Other important characters include Hetty, Jenny, and Constance Cary, the reigning belles of wartime Richmond. Given its authenticity, the novel is available from the Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center & Museum bookstore, the Museum of the Confederacy bookstore, and the Pamplin Historical Park & National Museum of the Civil War Soldier bookstore. Please circulate among your membership the list shown below of the regiments, battalions, and batteries that served in the final battles of the Petersburg Campaign. If any of your members are descendants or family members of soldiers who served in these units at any time during the war, please ask them to contract me for inclusion on the Descendants Roll Call. There is no charge or obligation for the listing. Thank you.

Cordially, David H. Jones, Author of
Two Brothers: One North, One South
www.davidhjones.net <http://davidhjones.net/blog/>

[Mid-West Civil War Veteran Virtual Cemetery](#)

If you are looking for ancestors out of the Mid-West of the USA, the below data may be of service to you.

I have started a small project on my own. I know that you probably get a lot of junk mail on various things but please just look at the following site and I think it will be **s e l f e x p l a n a t o r y** :
http://www.flickr.com/photos/civilwar_veterans_tombstones/sets/

As you can see I have an unusual hobby. I go to cemeteries in Kansas and Missouri and photograph tombstones of Civil war Veterans and then hopefully I research the men that are buried beneath the tombstones that I photograph. I have put tags on each photo so as to aid people in their searches for their Civil war Veteran ancestors. I do all of this for free because I believe people shouldn't have to pay an arm and a leg to pay for information on their ancestors.

In the upper right hand corner of the Flickr (Yahoo photos) page there is a search box. In it you can type "Michigan" or another state to get the Civil war Veterans who fought with Michigan or another states unit. You can type "Confederate" or "Union" to get Confederate soldiers or Union soldiers. To get Civil war Veterans who I have a biography or obituary on, you type "Biography" or "Obituary".

I would appreciate any feedback that you can provide and any suggestions to improve my site for other people.
John A Jackson, KSGenWeb, Civil war Coordinator

"Living History" Slated at Civil War Museum

The Civil War Museum has announced its summer "Living History" schedule. The encampment schedule is:

- July 18-19, the 3rd New Jersey
- July 25-26, the 42nd Mississippi
- August 1-2, the 4th Texas, Company B
- Sept. 12-13, Purcell's Battery (artillery)

For more information, call 717-260-1861

or visit www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

[2009 Camp Meeting and Event Schedule](#)

Be Proud Wear The Badge

Please *update* your calendar accordingly.

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

Member's Profiles to appear in issues of our *Hartranft Herald* newsletter.

July 19, Sunday - Annual Camp picnic at Colonial Park Campus Pavilion of ☩ CrossPoint UM church at Corner of Colonial and Valley Roads Colonial Park – use Valley Road entrance.

[August 13, 14, 15 - National encampment convention, Louisville, KY.](#)

September 20, Sunday – Nominations for officers for 2010 at General Camp meeting.

October 18, Sunday - Elections for 2010 and *guest speaker Sue Boardman!*

November 15, Saturday – General Camp meeting

[November 21, Saturday - Remembrance Day parade and activities, Gettysburg, PA.](#)

December 13, Sunday - Annual Camp **Holiday Party** at Doc Holliday's, New Cumberland.



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 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!

- Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members.

- Worksheets were inserted in Camp 15's 125th Anniversary history book. If you prefer, and your *Hartranft Herald* wishes you would, complete an e-worksheet, please ask for one – send e-mail request to DoubleD@Demmy.cc

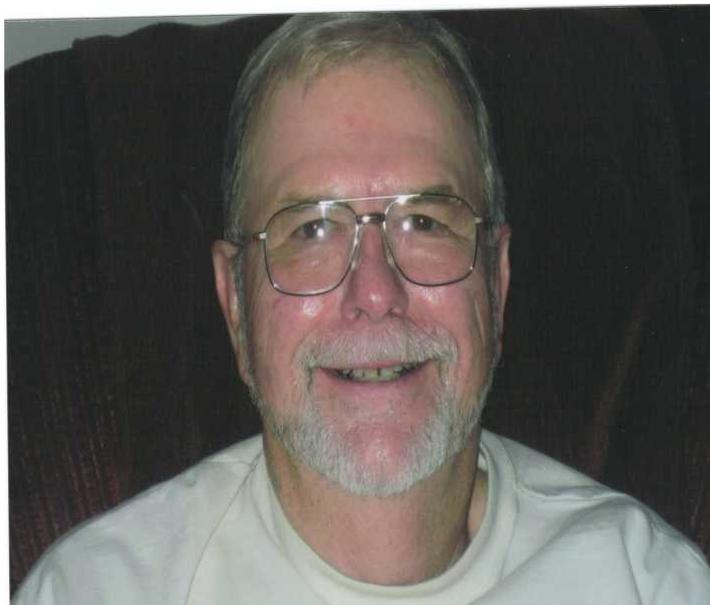
- Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!

Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!

And now another Member Profile for your review.

This month's member profile is about one of our most recent brothers to join Camp15:

Name	Donald M. Messersmith
Nickname	Don
Age	70
City	Danville, PA
E-mail	Susiepenn2@verizon.net my wife's email address
High School	Redlands Senior, Redlands, California Class of 1957
College	College night school classes for advancement of my job



Occupation(s)	Now retired. I was employed by the City of Redlands for 35 years. I operated a backhoe for a pipe-laying crew. I was a Foreman for service crews with the Water Department. The last 11 years of employment with the City I held the position of Water Quality Control Officer for the City Water Department, in Redlands, California.
Organizations	Montour County Genealogical Society (Treasurer) Susquehanna Civil War Roundtable Montour County Historical Society Serve on the Water Board for Cooper Township, Montour County Member of the Lincoln Shrine, Redlands, California Inland Empire Civil War Roundtable, Redlands, California
Hobbies	Photography, working outside in the garden and my 5 acres, Traveling the United States
Spouse's Name (or Parents)	Susan (Sue) Messersmith
My 4 Children	Cathi Messersmith Bell 49 (Hospital Administrator) Mark Messersmith 48 (Sixth grade teacher)

	Michael Messersmith 45 (Surgical Nurse)
	Timothy Messersmith 40 (High School History Teacher)
My 8 Grandchildren	Brianna Messersmith Toth (Mrs) 24 Ian Messersmith 21
	Gracie Elizabeth Messersmith 18
	Joseph Bell 23
	Paul Messersmith 22
	Andy Messersmith 19
	Klara Messersmith 8
	Taggart Messersmith 5
My Civil War Ancestor	
Relationship to me	Great-Grandfather (maternal side)
Name and Rank	William Miller, Private, Company C
Regiment or Unit	96 th PVI
Special Information on Your Veteran	He was a boatman on the Schuylkill Canal. He also worked for the railroad
Anything else you would like us to know about you	I am a “student” of the Civil War....not a scholar!
	Learning about the Civil War is an ongoing process for me...I am always learning something new every time I go to Gettysburg or hear a presentation on the different aspects of the Civil War.
My Relationship to other Members of Camp 15 or Auxiliary 7 SUVCW.	I consider John Deppen, Greg and Tony Kline as friends. I met these three gentlemen through the Susquehanna Civil War Roundtable in Sunbury and they encouraged me to join the Sons of the Union Veterans
	I met and talked with more members at the Fredericks, Maryland field trip and I enjoyed getting to know my fellow Civil War brothers.
How did you learn about our organization?	From John Deppen and Greg Kline

Brother Don, thank you for sharing your profile and family with us.

Brothers and Sisters and Families in Distress

Just prior to Pennsylvania encampment

DEAR FRIENDS.....TWO DAYS AGO DON FRY HAD TO HAVE OPEN HEART SURGERY....4 BY PASSES...CAME THRU IT LIKE A TROOPER. PAIN IS AT A MINIMUM...THE LAST OF THE TUBES ARE TO COME OUT TODAY...HAS BEEN SITTING UP A FEW HRS. EACH DAY AND STARTING TO HARASS THE NURSES.

P.T. VALUATION TODAY, THEY MAY WANT HIM TO ENTER A P.T. UNIT FOR A WEEK OR SO UNDER MONITORING CONDITIONS.

ALL PRAYERS GREATLY

APPRECIATED. FOND REGARDS, Dawn Fry

An update on Don Fry at press time: Don is home and a-okay. Thank you for your prayers and concerns. Don and Dawn Fry of Linglestown!

Hartranft Herald:

If you or your family has need for support and prayers, please contact *Hartranft Herald* with your concern!

The *Hartranft Herald* would appreciate updates on Mary Smith and other ladies of auxiliary 7.

If you would like addresses of any one of our distressed folks, please contact *Hartranft Herald* for discretionary names and addresses. We try not to publish addresses within the *Hartranft Herald* since it is posted to the Internet.

End of July *Hartranft Herald*