



# 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. 6

June 2007



--- Flag Day Issue ---

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!

Commander's Corner By Donnie Prye

Recommend you attend the annual Pennsylvania Department encampment conference end of this month in Bethlehem, PA. If you can't make the whole affair, try to attend on Saturday, June 30 when the business of the Department is conducted.

Please plan on attending our annual Camp picnic at Fort Hunter, just north of Harrisburg along the sparkling Susquehanna River.

If you need driving directions, check our Camp website indicated above; write to the *Hartranft Herald* at 881 Sunny Hill Lane, Hbg PA 17111; or e-mail [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc) – don't delay with snail mail if you want a timely reply.

Members, Auxiliary, families and friends

**PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH!**

**Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, soda, plates, cups, plastic ware will be provided.** For the picnic, please bring table covering for your family; please bring a dish or 2 to share; and you may desire to bring any special drinks or dietary items you need for your family!

Also, if you have Civil War items, books, photos, stories, artifacts or other items to share or to discuss during show and tell, please bring 'em along to the picnic!

And, you may desire to bring cushions and/or lawn chairs to relax upon!



From your Hartranft Herald

> Deadline for all articles for monthly issues of your **Hartranft Herald** is the first Friday of each month. This will allow your hard-at-work or hardly-working *Hartranft Herald* staff ample time to massage your submission and format it into the forthcoming *Hartranft Herald* newsletter. Send to

*Hartranft Herald*

881 Sunny Hill Lane

Hbg, PA 17111-4690

Personal photos are always returned to you.

or email: [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc)

> For better viewing of your *Hartranft Herald* online, or subsequent printing it, go to <http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html>

-- Within the Table of Contents, scroll down to "Monthly Newsletter"; you may select the current month's newsletter or select an old year issue for your reading enjoyment. Since October 2006, you have had the opportunity to read it from the screen or select the PDF version at the bottom on page 1, only. The PDF version will allow you print

whatever pages you choose or the whole issue if you desire to print it out.

Editor's Note: You may have noticed that Camp 15's website has been refurbished by my webmaster. All available newsletters are now WebPages! An improvement from Word Documents and multiple pages!!! If you have an old operating system or dial up connection, the first page of the issue should open almost immediately for your review. Subsequent pages of each issue will open as you select [next page](#) or [previous page](#).

You may even select an old issue as you review the current issue! As indicated above, you NOW have the option to open your newsletter in adobe!

The following is displayed at the bottom of the **first page** of the **current** issue only:

- [Click to View/Print entire newsletter as a single PDF document.](#)
- Right-click the link above and select "Save Target As" to save the document to your pc.

**Notice, if you have e-mail, it would behoove you and benefit the Camp if you no longer receive a hardcopy of the *Hartranft Herald* in the mail; especially with ever increasing operating costs.**

The Camp is not only attempting to save paper and ink and postage, and the editorial staff time and effort, but the webmaster has devoted numerous hours of personal [free time](#) to convert all available old issues of the *Hartranft Herald* from Word Document format to webpage format for your reading enjoy and historical search – future issues will be converted from Word Document into a webpage for your convenience.

> Also, for your full viewing satisfaction, you may need to make a quick adjustment to the website when it opens. You will or have noticed that our sponsor injects an advertisement over 1/3 of the screen blocking a good portion of our Camp 15 data. To view our data in a full screen venue, click on the



small grey object depicted here: [YAHOO! GEOCITIES](#). The advertisement will go away and you can enjoy the website data in full, across your screen, display.

> Furthermore, brothers and sisters, as appropriate, to assure that you continue to receive your deserved National Banner, State Battle Cry of Freedom, and your Camp *Hartranft Herald* newsletter, please submit

your postal address changes and E-mail address changes to our Camp secretary, Larry C. Sheibley  
523 South Fourth Street, Newport, PA 17074-1316  
or

[larrysheibley@earthlink.net](mailto:larrysheibley@earthlink.net) and/or your *Hartranft Herald* at above addresses, page 1, column 2.

[Secretary's Corner](#) – Larry C. Sheibley  
[SUVCW Camp 15 Minutes– Sunday, May 20, 2007](#)

[The National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg, PA](#)  
[Officers Present:](#)

[Don Prye, Larry Sheibley, David Demmy, Dave Klinepeter](#)

[Officers Absent:](#)

[Greg Kline, John Deppen, Frank Haley, Gene Mascioli, Kelly Betz](#)

[Members Present:](#)

[Floyd Demmy, Norm Houser, Bill Kuhn, Lee Walters](#)

Commander Prye called the SUVCW Camp 15 meeting to order at 2:05 pm. As reported by Treasurer David Demmy, the camp treasury contains \$2600 with several outstanding bills to be paid.

Chaplain Demmy gave health up-dates on two members. Both Arthur Longnaker and Frank Haley are improving quite well.

Some members will be representing Camp 15 in the Gettysburg Memorial Day parade. Patriotic Instructor Dave Klinepeter explained the difference between the Memorial Day and the Remembrance Day celebrations. The former was organized to honor the Civil War dead and the latter was established to honor the date of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. This second celebration is held the Saturday closest to November 19.

Included with the sale of each of the seven reproduction 45.70 rifles will be a cover-case, booklet, video, and 100 rounds of ammunition. The rifles will be sold to members for at original Camp price. Members have until June 30 to contact Commander Prye if interested in a rifle; after July 1, they go on sell to the general public.

The field trip to the Norristown Cemetery and the Montgomery County Historical Society scheduled for Saturday, June 9, was discussed.

An error was noted in the latest edition of The Banner. An incorrect address and price were given for the brass belt buckles which we are selling. They cost \$30 and can be ordered from the secretary who will contact the magazine staff about the mistake. One of our buckles sold for \$52 on E-bay. The camp will try to get involved with this method of sales.

Floyd Demmy said that the Assembly of God Church on North Progress Avenue (Harrisburg) is looking for speakers. Pastor Lamer may contact Camp 15 to make a presentation (to the A. G. congregation about the Sons).

Decorating the Harrisburg Cemetery for Memorial Day was discussed –breakfast at 7:00 and decorating at 9:00.

Patriotic Instructor Klinepeter donated money for advertisement space in the 2007 PA Department Encampment booklet. He spoke of past Harrisburg Memorial Day parades and read from the 1904, 38th GAR Encampment in Gettysburg.

From SUVCW PA Department Chaplain Dave Acheson, Camp 15 received a sympathy card for the death of Brother Harry Runkle.

The commander closed the camp at 3:10.  
Larry Sheibley, PCC, Camp 15 Secretary

Editor's Note: following the meeting, members were invited to view the SUVCW volunteer room maintained by the Order's Executive Director whose National office is located in the National Civil War Museum.

### June birthday(s)

Greg Kline  
Floyd Demmy  
Wesley Diemer

Please inform your *Hartranft Herald* if your birth date is missing during the appropriate month!

### PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN

by Dave Klinepeter

Memorial Day has come and gone again. Some area communities still have parades and services in remembrance of all Veterans. Harrisburg has an Artfest. Camp 15 had a number of members help put flags out at the Harrisburg, Pa cemetery. The members of American Legion Post 27 have taken care of cemetery for many years while Camp 15 was inactive. I do admire the one Veteran of World War 2

who has been placing flags there for over 50 years. Years ago the cemeteries had metal grave markers for the various wars. Some cemeteries have removed the markers for their convenience (rotary mowers). This makes it harder to find the Veteran graves. Many gravestones did not contain a Veterans unit number. Weeks after Memorial Day I drove through the Paxtang cemetery they still have the metal grave markers for all wars.

- July 1-2-3-1863 The Battle of Gettysburg, many activities are planned.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Vicksburg surrendered to General Grant
- Future planning Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War (2011-2015)

The approaching Sesquicentennial of the Civil War offers the current generation of Americans a most important opportunity to know, discuss, and commemorate this country's greatest national crisis, while at the same time exploring its enduring relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In preparation for the Sesquicentennial, the National Park Service-through the collective effort of the superintendents at Civil War-related parks-proposes to undertake a multi-faceted, multi-year integrated program that will simultaneously transform and improve interpretation of the Civil War in our national parks while providing a national forum for the observance of the Sesquicentennial of America's greatest national crisis.

During the preparatory period ((2005-2011), the web site below will present information on the events leading up to the Civil War, so that the Sesquicentennial can be experienced as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of major military events, but also of social, political, economic and cultural transformations that have changed the nation forever. Please visit

<http://cwar.nps.gov/civilwar/abcivwarSesqInit.htm>

by DJK



## Member's Corner –

Note from Brother Russ down in South Carolina - While at a re-enactment last weekend, I saw a reproduction flag that read "6th Regt. P.V.V." I thought to myself, "Shouldn't that be P.V.I. for Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry?" Just a while ago, I visited <http://www.pacivilwar.com/cwpaflags.html> and saw the same thing written on the flag of the 79th Pennsylvania.

Could P.V.V. stand for Pennsylvania Volunteer Volunteers or is it something else entirely? This just struck me as strange and I was hoping you might know more about it than I do.

By the way, the Battle we re-enacted Sunday was the Battle of Griswoldville which has special interest to me because my great great uncle Isaiah T. Enders took part in it while serving in the 9th PA Cavalry. Yours in F., C., and L, Russ Ottens.

The *Hartranft Herald* didn't know the answer to Russ' query, so the staff contacted the Pennsylvania State Commander's office and received a prompt reply:

P.V.V. represents **Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers (the Invalid Corps)**. And The Medical Corps designation was **M.S.** The P.V.M was the **Pennsylvania Vol. Militia**. The *Hartranft Herald* is grateful to Brother Commander Lee Walters for filling in the gap and thank for writing Bro Russ.

On the eve of the anniversary of the U. S. Army, brother Donald writes, "Just a piece of information for you -- my great grandfather 5 times removed, William Butler, served with the Continental Army from April 1776 until the end of the Revolutionary War. He fought in nearly every major battle of the war, including crossing the Delaware with Washington. He with 3 other men captured a Hessian Fort, and 180 plus Hessian soldiers, that after his Lt, and 16 other men were either killed or wounded seriously. William was a Sgt, and the second in command, but had to take command after the Lt. was killed. William was wounded twice in the war, once during the capture of the fort. It was due to men like him that we have such a great tradition in our Army. I have a book of his exploits if you are interested to read! Your Brother in Arms, Donald Butler back home in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Camp 15 honors Veterans for Memorial Day 2007 at historic Harrisburg Cemetery!

Brother David, I certainly wish I could be with y'all as you put flags on veterans' graves this Saturday. I hope you'll remember to place one on the grave of my great great uncle, Pvt. Isaiah T. Enders, whose stone

gives no indication of his service with the 9th PA Cavalry and the 36th Pennsylvania Infantry.

If at all possible, I'd greatly appreciate a photo of a Camp 15 member honoring any of the 8 Confederate soldiers with a battle flag. Thanks so much for what you and the **members of Camp 15 do!** Sincerely, Russ Ottens, S. C. Photos below from Harrisburg Cemetery of Camp 15's giving respect to those that helped save the Union during the war of the Rebellion:



Soldier's Row in the Sun!

Additional photos at Camp 15's website under Memorial Day 2007 at

<http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html> other photos on subsequent pages.



Soldier's Grove



Standing l to r Norm Houser, Don Fry, Lee Walters, Larry Sheibley, David Klinepeter and Greg Kline. Kneeling David Demmy and John Martin. Missing Frank Haley and Bill Kuhn.



An 1863 view in 2007

Flags supplied by local America Legion compliments of **Lester McClure** of American Legion Post 27, who has been placing flags at the cemetery to commemorate Memorial Day since 1946.

Photos supplied by Bill Kuhn; and your *Hartranft Herald*.

### Speaking engagements

Dear Brothers,

I am pleased to share with you that I had the honor of serving as guest speaker at the annual banquet of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7715 in Lewisburg, PA on Saturday evening, June 2. The banquet was attended by 77 veterans and guests, and I included in my remarks a reference to the GAR flag that hangs in the hall, as well as a reference to the GAR's heirs, the Sons of Union Veterans. My remarks were well received, and I was truly privileged to speak before a group of genuine American heroes.

On Friday, June 2, I appeared at Selinsgrove Intermediate School as General Hancock as part of the school's Pennsylvania History Day. I spoke to more than 200 fourth grade students during the course of the morning, and I was impressed with their respectfulness and knowledge.

Yours in F, C, and L. John Deppen, JVC



"My dear boy, I was just a bit older than you when I ran away from home and joined the Regiment at Camp Curtin, in Harrisburg".

### Afterimage with General John F. Hartranft



The General was featured upon this 1880 Blue Plate depicting Harrisburg.



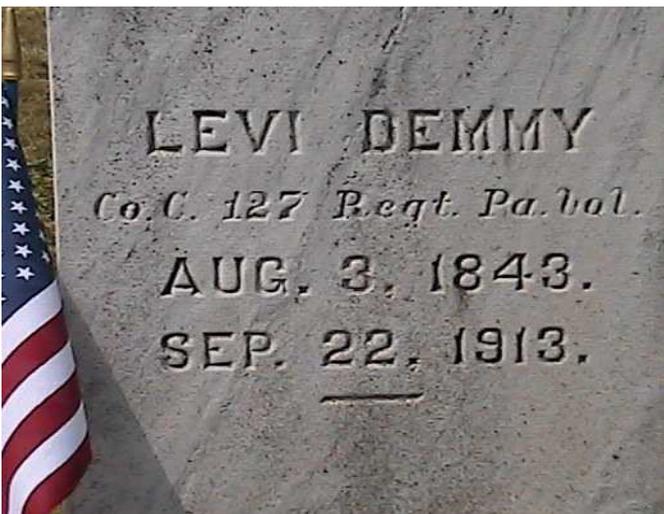
Brothers Greg and Norm pay tribute to fallen Confederate veterans.



This youngster joined the 127th Regiment Penna. Vols. - Infantry on his birthday in August 1862.



Brother Greg places flag upon Enders site for our Brother Russ way down in South Carolina!



Levi ran off the farm to catch up with big brother in Dauphin County's Regiment, the 127th Regiment Penna. Vols.



First Mayor of San Francisco and 8<sup>th</sup> Governor of Pennsylvania. Major General John W. Geary to be dedicated in Gettysburg later this summer, sponsored by Harrisburg Civil War Round Table.

[Back in time with Camp 15.](#)

It's 1950 and Camp 15 attends the 70<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Department Encampment held in Harrisburg. Stats:

72 camps across the Commonwealth; 2400 members; loss 200 during 1949-1950.

DC is Gilbert Brown; the Commander-in-Chief is John Runkle, (Mr. SUVCW from Camp 15).

Per Capita – National \$ .48; Pennsylvania \$ .72. Total Budget \$2800.

Commander-in-Chief John Runkle of Camp 15, indicated that air travel during his tenure made his travels across the USA much easier than by car.

Biggest Compliant at encampment – Camp secretaries not submitting membership changes-of-address to Department; therefore, many members are not receiving their BANNER(s). (SOUND FAMILIAR BROTHERS!)

The encampment resolution #12 resolved a heartily thanks upon Camp 15, the Home Camp, the city of Harrisburg, Chamber of Commerce, Press, and WHP Radio and VFW Post 710 for a joyous and successful encampment in Harrisburg for the third time in as many decades!

[Fast Forward to 2007](#)

*Hartranft Herald* reader, Bill R, writes:

(Camp 15) web page is WONDERFUL! Kudos to your webmaster! (Too bad the sponsor is blocking your opening page) . . . . . your young webmaster put all that free time, effort, and work into your Website . . .

. . . . .

The site is one of the best I've seen.. Great colors - Blues and Grays - in fact, I was wondering what the background was.. it's COOL!

NOT a member? HmMMM.. I say this makes him (Camp 15 webmaster) an honorary degree member at least!

Flag Day 230 years later

1777 - 2007



IMAGE 1861 STACKPOLE



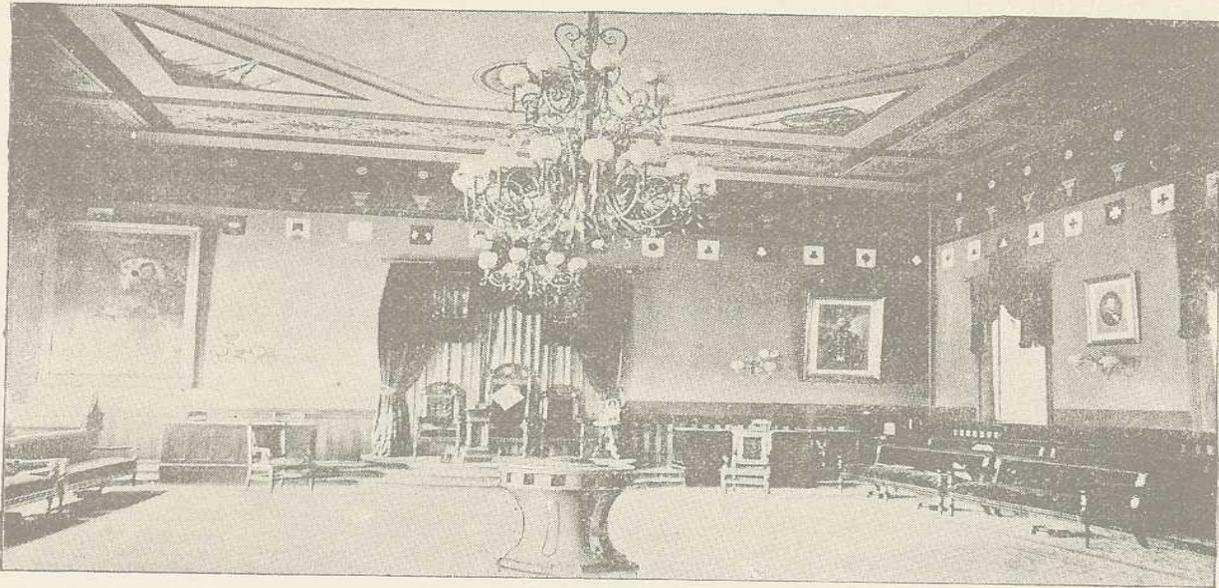
PHOTO BY BROTHER BILL KUHN,  
IN REMBERANCE OF MEMORIAL DAY 2007.

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

June 28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	127th Annual Pennsylvania State Department Encampment (convention) at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. <b>Business Day</b> is Saturday, June 30 <sup>th</sup> .
July – Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Annual <b>Camp Picnic</b> at Fort Hunter along Susquehanna River.
August 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	126 <sup>th</sup> National Encampment (convention)
September – Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting at National Civil War Museum.
October – Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	General Meeting at National Civil War Museum.
November	No general meeting.
Veterans' Day 11 <sup>th</sup>	Thank a Veteran today for your freedoms
November – Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Annual <b>Remembrance Day</b> at Gettysburg.
December – Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Annual <b>Holiday Party</b> at Doc Holliday's Restaurant, Limekiln Road, <b>Exit 40A</b> , New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Celebrate the Installation of Officers for 2008 at this annual event. 

[New for 2007, a year long Series on the GAR](#)

A continuation from the [New England Magazine](#), August 1890. Vol. II. No. 6. pages 603 to 633.



The Hall, General Lander Post.

**ILLINOIS.** The department was organized July 12, 1866. A brief report in 1869 gave the number of posts as 330. There is no record of another department session until 1872; the year previous, but one post, at Rockford, was alive; in 1872 a *per capita* tax was paid upon but 246 members, increased in 1874 to 682; four years later the number was but 805.

**INDIANA.** The first post was organized at South Bend in the summer of 1866; the department was constituted August 20, at which time the post at Indianapolis had nearly a thousand members; a few months later 300 posts were reported, every one, with a single exception, disappearing before 1870; the post at South Bend maintained its organization, and for a time after the dissolution of the Indiana department reported to Iowa. The department was reorganized October 3, 1879, the membership being then reported as 889.

**IOWA.** The first post was instituted at Davenport, July 12, 1866, and a department September 26; the following year 95 posts were reported; in 1870 the membership had been reduced to less than 500, and the following year the department was dissolved; only one post, that first instituted at Davenport, kept up its organization, with a membership at no time for a number of years reaching 100. The department was reorganized July 23, 1879, and at the close of the following year there were but 530 members in the state.

**WISCONSIN.** During the summer of 1866 a number of soldier associations were reorganized as posts of the Grand Army, and Post 4 of Berlin, instituted in September, is now the oldest with an unbroken existence in the order. The department was organized June 7, 1866, and although the number of posts was for several years reduced to three or four, 321 being the largest membership reported from 1871 to 1880, the form of a department organization was kept up.

**OHIO.** Posts were organized in the autumn of 1866, no records being in existence to show exact

dates; the department was constituted January 30, 1867; at the close of the following year 303 posts were reported; two years later the membership was reduced to 917, falling still further to 365, represented in eight posts in 1875, and reaching



Paul Van Der Voort.

only 675 at the close of 1878; the organization of the department was kept up, however, and reports made throughout.

**MINNESOTA.** The date of organization of first posts is not known; members were initiated early in August, 1866, and seven posts were in existence August 16, when the department was constituted.



Colonel Robert B. Beath.

The latter ceased to exist in 1879, only one post, at Stillwater, being alive; a year later new posts were organized, and on August 17 a new department was constituted.

**KANSAS.** The first posts were organized in November, 1866, by transfer of members of other soldier organizations; the department was constituted December 7; the latter had an existence of little more than two years, and while a few posts kept up a struggling sort of life, the reported membership was but 136 in 1876, and 232 in 1880. A new department was organized March 16 of the latter year.

**MICHIGAN.** A provisional department was organized October 1, 1867; the records furnish no

information as to the posts, and in little more than two years the department organization was lost to sight; in 1871 there was reported a membership of 179; no reports for the three succeeding years; in 1875 the number was given as 37; three years again with no reports; and 245 given as the total number for 1879. A provisional department was constituted November 19, 1875, and a permanent department January 22, 1879.

**MISSOURI.** But meagre records are to be had of the early days. Posts were organized in the latter part of 1866, and a department constituted May 7, 1867; the order grew rapidly and had a large membership; but a simoon seemed to strike it, and the reports ceased for eight years after 1871, when but 100 members were reported; in 1882 the membership was given as 129. A new department was created April 22, 1882.

**LOUISIANA.** There were ten posts in 1867, and a department was organized July 7; the latter disappeared altogether within two years; about 40 members remained in good standing through the years until 1881, when the number increased to 73 and two years later to 179; a new post was organized in April, 1872, and a department constituted in May, 1884.

**KENTUCKY.** A provisional department was organized in January, 1867. There is very little of record in existence to show the growth of the order, 124 members being reported in 1871, reduced to 68 in 1874; then comes a blank in the history, the department going out of existence. In 1882 a provisional department was organized, and at the close of the year 414 members were reported; a permanent department was constituted July 16, 1883.

**WEST VIRGINIA.** A provisional department was organized April 9, 1868; during that year the reports show the existence of 17 posts; the department lived only three years, and there were then no reports until 1880, when the organization of new posts was begun; the membership was then

Series continued in your next *Hartranft Herald*.

**Wear The Badge**



Looking Ahead into July:

- Annual Camp family picnic Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup> at Fort Hunter, Rockville, PA.
- Story and Photos of Camp 15's visit to General John F. Hartranft gravesite in Norristown on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> the travelers also were entertained at Montgomery County Historical Society and listened to World War II tales by one of the 101st Band of Brother's regimental sergeants, Louis Zotti. The old boy had great things to tell & share & many photos to show.



Band of Brothers

**LOUIS ZOTTI**

90 year old Sarge Lou

Soldiers were deep in the **Battle of the Bulge**, which took place 60 years ago in Belgium's winter weather.

That's when paratrooper Louis Zotti was dug into a foxhole phoning in artillery strikes on Nazi tanks that rumbled through the snow toward his unit.

Fog hovered above the freshly fallen snow that blanketed the Belgian countryside while the air temperature plummeted to zero as the Battle of the Bulge entered its 19th day.

The Germans had broken through Allied lines near Longchamps, a Belgian village about four miles north of Bastogne, Jan. 3, 1944, and the 101st Airborne Division's 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment was called in to help close the gap. . . . .

- Information from the Pennsylvania Encampment
- 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.
- If space available, the *Hartranft Herald* will begin a series on photocopies of Camp 15 charters!  
Bring a friend, nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather to a Camp meeting!

In F, C, and L,

**Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!**

--- End of June 2007 Hartranft Herald ---

