



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

Celebrating our 134th Year serving Harrisburg Area

 @ [Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp#15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War](#)



Vol 18, No. 03

-- Think Spring --

March 2016



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!

Forthcoming Camp Meeting

To be held on Sunday March 20 at NCWM as usual, at 2pm upper level room 222.

Our national magazine, the winter issue of, *The Banner* has gone to press and will be mailed during the month of March. Delivery is based upon your local post office requirements to deliver such postal rated mail.

Brothers and Sisters in Distress

by Camp Chaplain, David Demmy Please add the following to your prayer list



Larry Sheibley-Beasom, PCC Camp 15 with great illness;

Mrs. Robert Treat; Jeffery Smith; Mrs. Robert Manning; Charlie Kuhn Jr, PCinC, Past Dept of PA Secretary; Joe Long Jr, PDC at Scranton Camp 8; and

Mrs. Rob Koenigsberg, spouse of PA Dept Secretary! Mrs. Bill Kuhn Jr and Floyd Demmy, and Tony Kline, with continued blessings for Mrs. Charlotte Walters and Mary Jane Bannan!

And as we go to press, an update on Brother Don Fry:

Don is thankful to get home and sleep in his own bed. Secondly, no one will wake him early for blood pressure check. YEA!!!

Home with a walker, back brace and physical therapy. He will need assistance in standing over the next week, as his muscle tone comes back. He is walking with good balance. We have an excellent home plan prepared by HealthSouth Rehab for daily exercises for arms and legs. Physical Therapy has set a goal for moving from walker to cane by end of the first month. Only pain he has is muscle pain and incision pain after the exercises - surgery was truly a miracle.

Don is a good Boy Scout and will stick to the exercise plan as he wants you all to see him better than ever. Thanks for your prayers and best wishes - have enjoyed all the cards.

Likewise, our sitting Commander in Chief, Gene Mortorff who had a mild stroke in early February is

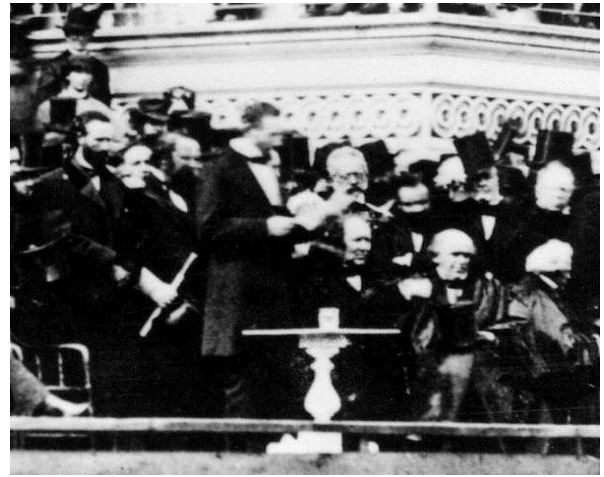
recovering nicely and back on the road with his duties as our big boss for the year!

If you have a need or desire a prayer in your name or family member, please share with *Hartranft Herald*. You do not need to express the actual problem or concern if you do not desire to indicate the subject. We'll be *happy and content* to pray for you and yours!

[Message from our Camp Commander](#)

Here we are in March of 2016 with winter nearly behind us and spring quickly approaching. I trust your 2015-2016 holiday season was happily shared and enjoyed in the company of family and friends. Now we find ourselves with nearly a quarter of the year passed. During our Camp's February meeting brother David Klinepeter, our camp historian, briefly touched on the fact President Lincoln had a firm belief that God's hand was in the war, God had his own purposes, and in times of great change and upheaval those purposes of God could be quite different than those of man. When Brother Klinepeter said that, I was reminded of President Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural address, given on March 4, 1864. Since this is the month of March, it seemed appropriate to give some reflection on the meaning Lincoln meant to convey during that eventful day.

The president said, that "on the occasion corresponding to this four years ago" (i.e. the beginning of his presidency in 1861) all thoughts were directed to the impending civil war. He said both sides dreaded it and all tried to avert it. One side (the South), however, would make war rather than let the nation live, the other (the North) would accept war rather than let the nation perish; "and the war came". The president went on to say that both sides read the same Bible and prayed to the same God, and invoked his aide against the other. Of course the prayers of both sides could not be answered, since God is both merciful and just.



Lincoln then went on to say something rather profound; after saying that the prayers of both could not be answered; he said with true humility, and with great insight that the "*prayers of neither has been answered fully*". In saying this, Lincoln recognized that his past understanding, and past purposes differed from those of God; consequently the events that had actually transpired were different from those that he had hoped for. When Lincoln gave this speech, his assassination and subsequent death were a mere 40 days away. Of course he could have not known this, but his work on this earth was nearly finished, and the important things he had needed to accomplish had been done. I believe at this point Lincoln could see that the war could not have ended until all purposes for the war had been realized. Nearly at the end of his own life, I believe he could see the key to those purposes as follows:

- From April 1861 till August of 1862 the North had been fighting for "Union"; a gallant, but not totally sufficient reason for all the death and loss; and probably not sufficient for God's purposes; *and so the war continued.*
- In September 1862, Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all slaves in those areas still in rebellion on January 1, 1863. With this Proclamation, the war reached a new moral level; the only problem was, that as a war measure, the Proclamation could not guarantee a return of slavery after the war in the rebellious states, and it certainly did nothing to remove slavery in states loyal to the

union (Kentucky, Delaware, Missouri, and Maryland). It also did not touch those areas of the South occupied by the Union army on January 1, 1863, as those areas were no longer in rebellion. To leave slavery in loyal states alone, and conquered parts of the South was like, as the Bible would say, Seeing the speck in your neighbors eye, but not seeing the log in one's own eye. Lincoln knew his bible very well, quoted extended passages from it during his 2nd inaugural, and I believe realized at this point of the war, the Proclamation only addressed God's purposes partially, and not completely, *and so the war continued.*

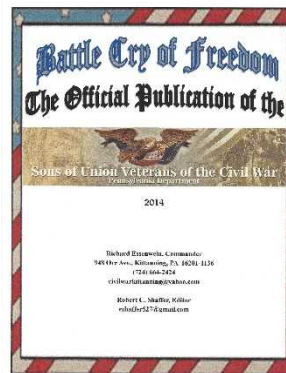
- Knowing the Emancipation Proclamation would be vulnerable after the war, Lincoln pushed very hard for the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, the complete and total abolishment of slavery in the United States. After winning the November 1864 elections, and having very solid Republican majorities in the House and Senate, he also knew that the Amendment would certainly pass after the new members took their seats in March of 1865. But this was not the way he wanted it; Lincoln wished that the current House and Senate would pass the Amendment; that both Democrats and Republicans would pass this historic measure together; with wise strategy, and a few twisted arms, Lincoln's wishes were realized and the Amendment was passed in December of 1864 with both Republicans and some Democrats giving the needed votes. After this, all the death and all the loss of the war had some higher purpose; freedom of all men, for all time. I believe Lincoln believed at this point, that God's purposes had been met, at least so far as "God gives us to see the right"; the Union had been saved, and all men everywhere in the United States would be free; *and so the war would soon end.*

I encourage you all to read Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural address; it is a document reflecting both great wisdom and humility. A lesson for us all, even today. I have enclosed a photograph of President Lincoln giving his speech, on that March morning of 1864. One last

historical footnote. It is said that the weather had been dark and raining for days before the speech. The ground was soggy and the skies were dark when the speech began; but then, while the President delivered his speech, the skies opened up brightly and the sun began to shine through. Perhaps, at that moment, this was heavens message, God's wink, that Man's and God's purposes were finally aligned.

Brother Jeffery J. Smith, Commander Camp #15 SUVCW, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Department's newsletter



The *Battle Cry of Freedom* will be available in February into March. Brothers with an e-mail address were issued an e-mail notice to open the news at the Pennsylvania website. If you do not have e-mail access, or did not receive the news by e-mail, or you want a hardcopy of the

Pennsylvania News, please David Demmy 717 232 7000 for a copy. *The Battle Cry* includes Camp 15's article indicating Camp activities during the immediate past year!

Membership Entitlements

As a member, you are entitled to the national quarterly SUVCW magazine, *The Banner*; unfortunately the new editor had difficulties producing the fall and winter Banners.



The Brother Editor decided to combine those 2 issues into the winter 2016 issue and he continued to have difficulties.

The winter issue went to press in February. If you do not receive your issue by end of March, let us know - contact Camp secretary, Greg Kline at (717) 571-6877 to assure we have

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[Awarding winning newsletter -- Marshall A. Hope award presented to Hartranft Camp 2010-2011](#)

your correct address on file and we can provide a copy from stock to you.

Harrisburg Auxiliary 7 sister deceased

We just learned this news upon her January Hartranft Herald being returned for undeliverable.

Jeanne Louise RUNKLE Blatt

Jeanne Louise Blatt, age 79, of Dumfries, VA, passed away on January 11, 2015.

Beloved wife of 54 years to Donald E. Blatt, (Sgt, 1st Class, USA, Ret.). Loving mother of Donald E. Blatt, Jr. (late Kathy C.), William P. Blatt, and Brian A. Blatt. Cherished grandmother of Jessica Plummer.

Jeanne was predeceased by her *siblings*, *Mary Smith* (late Wayne), *Harry M. Runkle* (late Mary), and her nieces, Cindy Runkle and Cheryl Barbier.

[The Runkle family is descendant from Camp 15's late Major John Runkle, PCinC.]

Auxiliary 7 to camp 15, current membership is now 9 living Sisters of this local Allied Order!

Dues and National Per Capita for 2016

If you have paid your dues and per capita for 2016, your 2016 membership card has been mailed to your address on file.

Final Dues Balance don't paid will subject you to being dropped from our rolls. If you have difficulty making payment, please contact us for assistance.

If you have not received your 2016 membership card to date, please contact us by e-mail with *your* current address. DoubleD@Demmy.cc

Likewise, if your e-mail has changed in the past year, please give us an update.

From Margaret Shuttlesworth

.....Thank you Hartranft Camp for the wonderful Christmas luncheon. The food is always good and Doug and I enjoyed it very much.

We always enjoy visiting with everyone and playing Bingo.

Also, thank you for the invitation to the Event at the Museum and PA Farm Show Building. I was not able to attend but it sounded great. Thanks again, Margaret!

And to you Margaret, best wishes and good luck in your next project in and around Harrisburg area.

Attention all Battery personnel:

Over Heard during the Civil War

A Quaker said to a gunner, "Friend, I counsel no **bloodshed**; but if it be thy design to hit the little **man over yonder**, point thine **cannon** three inches lower."

Extract from: *Grand Army of the Republic Almanac 1879*

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

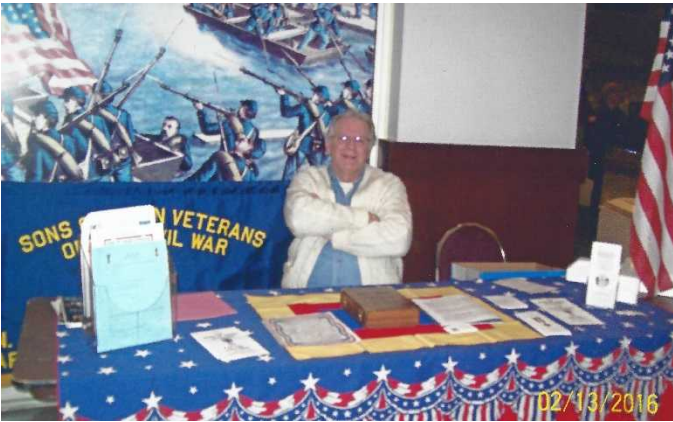
For great photos of our events and camp news, search for us on Facebook @

[Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp#15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War](#)

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN

By Dave Klinepeter

On February 13, 2016 the National Civil War Museum had a FREE day. Hartranft Camp 15 SUVCW was invited to set up a recruiting table.



Brothers David Demmy and Dave Klinepeter were on duty for the day trying to keep warm from coldness coming thru great doors of the rotunda.

February 20, 2016, at the Army Heritage Center in Carlisle was reenactors' day. The groups were from numerous periods of our history. The Department of Pennsylvania Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Axillary had a recruiting table.



Department Commander McMillin and family were there, also brothers Greg Kline and Scott Debo helped man the table. We need to get out and recruit as often as possible, but it does take some help from you our volunteers! Come out and help our camp grow!

On March 4-5-6, 2016 at Gettysburg there was a Reenactors appreciation week end. On Saturday March 5th, I participated in a special ribbon cutting ceremony at 33 York Street. The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association opened up a new office and museum.



This is the group that have the Daniel Lady farm out on route 116 coming into Gettysburg. It was a field hospital. The new museum contains numerous medical artifact.



We were entertained by the Venture Crew 1861 Fife and Drum Corps (1 Pa Vol Reserve Corps). This unit is made up of mostly **Boy Scouts**. What a way to teach history to young people. DJK

THE YOUNGEST GENERAL IN THE CIVIL WAR

NATIONAL HERO AT TWENTY TWO GALUSHA PENNYPACKER

He was born June 1, 1843 at Valley Forge, Pa in a house once occupied by General George Washington. At seventeen he joined the local Militia. In August 1861 he was in Company A, 97th Regiment Penna Volunteers. From then on until the close of the war the young soldier saw continuous service in the field except during the periods when recovering from his wounds. He was wounded in action fourteen times. Several of his wounds were quite serious. He was always at the forefront of his troops. His command was always "come" never "go".

General Pennypacker's career reached its peak on January 15, 1865 at the assault and capture of Fort Fisher in North Carolina. He was seriously wounded

there and was taken to Fort Fisher hospital. Because of his actions at Fort Fisher Congress awarded him the Congressional Medal of Honor. On February 18, 1865 Secretary of War Stanton appointed Pennypacker to the full rank of Brigadier General of Volunteers. He became the youngest officer in the Union or Confederate Army to attain that rank. On October 1, 1916 he bled to death from a wound received at Fort Fisher, fifty one years before. It had never properly healed. --- DJK

On the Road with Camp 15

Monthly Camp business meetings begin at 2 p.m. and are conducted the 3rd Sunday, at National Civil War Museum!

2016 schedule of Camp 15 business meetings: 3rd Sunday January thru May and then September, and October and 2nd Sunday in December, Camp 15s annual holiday banquet.

No meeting in November, we hope you may desire to visit Remembrance Day activities in Gettysburg.

Next Camp Meeting is scheduled for

Sunday March 20 Camp meeting Palm Sunday

Sunday April 17 Camp meeting

National officers gather in Springfield for annual Lincoln Tomb Event.

Sunday May 15 Camp meeting and on Saturday May 28, annual Camp outing. Breakfast first and then off to the historical Harrisburg Cemetery to place flags upon the sights of veterans.

Pennsylvania Department Encampment convention

June 23-25 see enclosed flyers

Please update your social calendar now. Mark us down first before you get invited out to lunch.

Camp 15 yearly calendar available upon request. Send e-mail to *Hartranft Herald* staff.

Be Proud - Wear the Badge



Come out to a meeting and engage with us!

The Allied Orders of the GAR

- Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary to GAR,
- Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic,
- Daughters of Union Veterans of Civil War,
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and
- The Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of 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 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!

Hartranft Camp 15 Established February 11, 1882
in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Your *Hartranft Herald* Staff