



# 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 126<sup>th</sup> Year



Volume 11, No. 05

May 2009



[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!

## Memorial Day

Formerly known as Decoration Day - USA

**Decoration Day, [a day to honor our Civil War 1861 – 1865 dead], as it was most widely called, was a day for ceremonials and for carrying flowers to soldiers' graves. Our nation still marks this day by having the President lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery**

As new conflicts broke out and claimed more soldiers, marines, and sailor lives, the Decoration Day services were extended to include those war-dead as well. The parades and speeches devoted themselves not just to those fallen in the War-Between-the-States, but to include the lost lives from World War I, the War to End All Wars. When that proved untrue, the celebrations extended to the dead from World War II as well. Now we all recognize that the day is separate from the conflicts and honor all men and women who fell in the service of the country.

There is dispute about who started Memorial Day. Some say it was in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, and others point to the celebration in Richmond, Virginia. The U.S. Government has officially named Waterloo, New York as the starting place; that town celebrated a Decoration Day on May 5, 1865.

General John A. Logan, who served the Union during the civil war, was a Republican congressman from the State of Illinois. (He was the Republican candidate for vice president in 1884!) He also was active in many veterans' organizations.

In 1868, General Logan, then Commander-in-Chief of the **Grand Army of the Republic** (an organization of Union veterans), declared May 30<sup>th</sup> as the day to honor the fallen Union soldiers. Some people believe that date was chosen because it was "The Day of Ashes" in France, marking the day that Napoleon's remains were returned to France after his death on St. Helena. Read GO #11 later in this issue.

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

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| David Demmy, Sr.    | - Lower Paxton Twp, PA |
| Donald Fry          | - Linglestown, PA      |
| Josemaria Heil      | - Camp Hill, PA        |
| Larry Keener-Farley | - Camp Hill, PA        |
| Ralph McLean        | - Harrisburg, PA       |
| Larry Nace          | - Sunbury, PA          |
| Larry Fry           | - Wanship, UT          |

**Ladies of the auxiliary, please share your birth month with us so you can be recognized in this publication!**

If your name is missing from this birthday roster for this period, please contact the *Hartranft Herald* with corrective information...

Hartranft Herald [newsletter](#)

Postage rate has increased! Postage expense is now approximately \$22 a month to readers of the *Hartranft Herald* that receive a hardcopy version in the mail. That does not cover the cost of the paper nor the ink cartridges.

Camp members and readers, if you have email and internet access, it is expected by the camp that you receive your *Hartranft Herald* via an email announcement that the current issue is available at our camp website

<http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html>.

If you received a hardcopy of this newsletter via the postal service, and you can read the news from the website or print it yourself, please contact the *Hartranft Herald* at [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc) and inform the *Hartranft Herald* staff that you will read your news via the camp's website and that your name can be removed from the herald [ONLY] mailing list.

Also, volunteers are needed to fold, staple, affix mailing label and postage upon the *Hartranft Herald* each month for the approximate 50 copies that are mailed each month. If you can offer an hour or so, on or about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, DEPENDING ON HOW MANY FULL WEEKS THERE ARE BEFORE A CAMP MEETING ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, please contact [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc) or call David Demmy, Sr., at 717-545-5174 to volunteer.

Ideal location for collating the *Hartranft Herald* will be the SUVCW volunteer room #241, 2<sup>nd</sup> level of the National Civil War Museum at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg.

Recruiting materials need to be folded and processed too.

In addition, perhaps you may be willing to help with sorting and filing of National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Membership applications! Your National organization needs you too. God bless you and yours. – David

[Lincoln Days 1809 – 2009](#)  
[Springfield, Illinois](#)



Marching onto the Lincoln Tomb while ducking below low hanging tree limbs. The command given: Dip those flags men and hang onto your Kepi!



2008 - 2009 Commander-in-Chief, David V. Medert, addressing crowd at Lincoln Tomb, mere moments before the traditional annual rain began! Photos shared by CinC.



## PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Text by Dave Klinepeter - photos provided by Hartranft Herald staff



Never forget Pearl Harbor 12-07-1941

While some members of Camp 15 took a field trip to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, MD, on April 25th, I was on an Honor Bus of World War II Veterans going to Washington D.C. The Honor Bus is a non-profit program founded in 2007 at the Mechanicsburg Middle School, by students, school staff and other volunteers. This year Dauphin County Technical School joined MMS with support from both East and West Shore communities. The mission was dedicated to taking local World War II Veterans to visit their memorial in Wash D.C. for free. Many organizations and people contributed to this trip. We had three buses this year. Everyone had breakfast at a school than left Mechanicsburg Middle School with a motorcycle escort by Rolling Thunder, Patriot Guard Riders and others.



May 2009 Hartranft Herald -- Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Our first stop was at **Arlington National Cemetery** (above) where we had a guided tram tour. It was very inspiring to pass through the various areas, seeing the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War soldiers in the old section. We stopped at the Tomb of the Unknowns to watch the changing of the guard. After a bag lunch we headed to the **World War II Memorial** above on the Mall.



The memorial honors each state of the union and each theater of operation, the Atlantic and Pacific. We placed a wreath at the **Pennsylvania tower** (above). Though the 90 degree heat was a problem we all had an experience that can never be forgotten.



I was one of the youngest Veterans among the group! A number of the veterans were 93-94-95 years young, and several were in **the Battle of the Bulge**, indicated above by the ETO archway. Through all of the activities each of us had an assigned guardian at our side. On returning in the evening we were served a full course delicious meal at one of the local churches. All the Veterans wore a special T shirt and were given a special cap. I am sure none of us veterans will ever forget this trip and the many people who made it possible. Bless all those who rode with us that day.

--- DJK

### GAR HISTORIAN

Text by Dave Klinepeter – photos shared by *Hartranft Herald* staff

May 30, 2009 A Memorial Day Prayer

O God, Thou hast been the help of Thy people in ages, and Thou art also their hope for years to come. The experiences of life are sternly testing but Thou art all sustaining. We thank Thee for the days of sacred memories in our national life. As we recall the great price which has been paid for our nation's freedom and unity, may we resolve to be worthy of their sacrifice. Hear us, O God of the Nations, as we pray that the people may remember the way in which they have been led in deliverance Thou has wrought for them. May we cherish the spirit of patriotism, and learn the lesson of unselfishness and self control. Greatly comfort those whose hearts are sad this day. We pray in Jesus name Amen.

On May 5, 1868 in Washington D.C. General John A. Logan, Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic issued

#### **GENERAL ORDER NO.11 -**

The 30th day of May 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of Comrades who died in defence [sic] of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but Posts and Comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.\*\*\*\*\*I will have complete copies of this Order at the May meeting.

### **HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH MAY 30, 1923** **SACRIFICES OF WAR HEROES** **REMEMBERED BY GRATEFUL CITY** Flashing Volleys of Firing Squads Recall Civil War Veterans Battles of long ago

Flashing volleys as the rifles of the firing squads cracked over the graves of the soldier dead today, brought back vivid memories of three score years ago to when of the blue clad veterans who were then engaged in memorable struggle.

\*\*\*\*\*From early morning until late afternoon the services and ceremonies continued and not a single grave was neglected with a tiny flag and blossoms.\*\*\*\*\*Probably the most formal observation of the day was the grouping of the veterans for the march to the Harrisburg Cemetery.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE- 6th Inf Field Music SVR of Camp 15 marching to East Harrisburg Cemetery in the Penbrook Progress parade the Sunday before Memorial Day, 1945

At 2 o'clock the parade moved, headed by a platoon of police and followed by Chief Marshal A. J. Pigh and his chief of staff JOHN A. RUNKLE (Hartranft Post 58)\*\*\*\*\*Led by H. W. Newman and his aides the older veterans passed by in the third division of the march. The SONS OF VETERAN AND THEIR DRUM CORPS led off, followed by the Commonwealth Band and the three Grand Army of the Republic Posts 58, 116, 520. Riding in automobiles which moved two abreast through the line of march, the grey haired boys of '61-65 were given cheer after cheer when they passed in review before the two younger divisions standing at the salute at the entrance of the Harrisburg Cemetery.





MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES- Company G SVR firing the salute at Harrisburg, Pa Cemetery 1946

\*Special Note Brothers, for our May 17th meeting, I will have on display, FROM THE 1940-1950s, a number of large photos of Memorial Day activities of Hartranft Camp 15 and the Fife and Drum Corps. --- DJK



[The Historical Society of Montgomery County](#)

Contact: Karen McCurdy Wolfe  
 Executive Director  
[karenw@hsmcpa.org](mailto:karenw@hsmcpa.org)  
 Date: April 29, 2009

**MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE**  
**Montgomery Cemetery**

One Hartranft Avenue Norristown, PA  
 Saturday, May 23, 2009 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Norristown, Pennsylvania – On Saturday, May 23rd at 11:00 am, the Historical Society of Montgomery County will hold its annual Memorial Day Observance at the historic Montgomery Cemetery. Come and be part of the observance as we honor our patriotic sons and daughters, some of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. **There will be wreath laying ceremonies at various graves including those of General John F. Hartranft and General Winfield Scott Hancock and a special tribute at the GAR ( Grand Army of the Republic) plot.** *Representatives of General John F. Hartranft, Camp 15, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War of Harrisburg, will be present for these observances!* The ceremony will include members of the 53rd PA Volunteers, Civil Air Patrol, Montgomery Hose and Steam Engine Company, and local/county community officials. The color guard will be provided by members of the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office and a Boy Scout trumpeter.

Montgomery Cemetery, established in 1847, contains over 400 veterans. The earliest veteran buried at the site served in the War of 1812. Most of the veterans served during the Civil War including many members of Montgomery County units. The Spanish American, World War I and World War II veterans are also buried in the Cemetery.

**The Historical Society of Montgomery County is located at 1654 DeKalb Street in Norristown, PA 19401. For further information, please call 610-272-0297.**

[March Camp Meeting Minutes](#)

Paraphrased by John Deppen, SVC  
 Commander Kline and brothers will be placing flags in the Harrisburg cemetery for Memorial Day;

SVC Deppen and brothers will be attending the Memorial Day commemoration at Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown on May 23;

Commander Kline and brothers will be participating in Gettysburg's Memorial Day parade on May 25

We talked about the Armed Forces Day commemoration on City Island on Saturday, May 16, but I do not know if Camp #15 committed to having an information table at the event.

I reminded everyone that the next Free Day at the Harrisburg Museum will be Saturday, June 20, and that these days are excellent opportunities for us to set up a recruiting table. The museum experiences considerable traffic and Major General Winfield Scott Hancock himself will be on hand! Someone needs to coordinate this with the museum staff.

Commander Kline reported nothing new on the Linglestown cemetery issue.

Adds and CHANGES may be voiced at forthcoming meeting or send your comments to *Hartranft Herald*.

[Frederick Maryland Road Trip \\_ May 25, 2009.](#)

In more recent times, Camp 15 traveled to Frederick, Maryland and visited the Civil War Medicine Museum and after lunch we departed downtown for Monocacy Battlefield.



Displayed above and below are several pictures from the Monocacy trip. First photo above shows the tenant house at Thomas Farm. Second photo above is *some* of the 19 members of our convoy that day, including Ranger Barbara of the National Park Service. Photo below is the Best Farm House.



We really enjoyed our day with the tour of the Museum and the battlefield. It was a nice day with good people! Shared by Sue Messersmith.

[2009 Camp Meeting and Event Schedule](#)  
please *update* your calendar accordingly.

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

May 16, Saturday, Armed Forces Day  
celebration by City of Harrisburg at City Island  
grounds

May 17, Sunday - General Camp meeting and  
preparation for Memorial Day activities

May 23, Saturday – Group 1 - Decorate graves at  
historic Harrisburg Cemetery at 13<sup>th</sup> and State  
Sts.

Group 2 – Place wreath upon Hartranft gravesite  
at Norristown Cemetery

May 25, Monday - **Memorial Day** parade  
participation

June 25, 26, 27 - Pennsylvania Department  
encampment convention New Oxford, PA

July 19, Sunday - Annual Camp picnic at  
Colonial Park Campus Pavilion of ☩ CrossPoint  
UM church

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  
and installation of Camp officers for 2010  
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 Armey 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!

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|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worksheets were inserted in Camp 15's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history book.<br/>If you prefer, and your <i>Hartranft Herald</i> wishes you would, complete an e-worksheet, please ask for one – send e-mail request to <a href="mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc">DoubleD@Demmy.cc</a></li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!</p>   |









## [Memorial Day 2009 by Camp 15](#)

### Directions to our Memorial Day event on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Historic Harrisburg Cemetery

Any one wanting to *share breakfast time* first, some of us will be at American Dream Diner at 20<sup>th</sup> and Herr Streets at Arsenal Blvd see down ↓ arrow below.

#### 13<sup>th</sup> and State Streets, Harrisburg

☞ Directions from  or  or US   
from Newport, take 'Harrisburg'  for **Farm Show Complex**. [US 322 is Cameron Street]. Turn  at **Maclay Street** onto Arsenal Blvd. At top of hill, you'll see   
**Military Post** on your right. Turn immediately onto 15th Street. Go to **State St.** and turn right on **State**. Go couple blocks to 13<sup>th</sup> Street and turn right into Harrisburg Cemetery.

☞ From downtown Harrisburg or 7<sup>th</sup> Street area, you may cross the State Street Bridge but it is unlawful to turn left at 13<sup>th</sup> and State to arrive at Cemetery.

☞ From I-83, exit at 13<sup>th</sup>, go North on South 13<sup>th</sup> go past Sutliff, continue on 13<sup>th</sup>. Cross Derry and then Market. Continue on North 13<sup>th</sup> Street. Cross over State Street into the Cemetery.

#### *Historic Harrisburg Cemetery*



☞ From Colonial Park area:  
Take Route 22 West towards Harrisburg.  
Travel Walnut Street until it becomes State Street at the entrance of the National Civil War Museum building.  
Continue ahead on State - its just a few short blocks to 13<sup>th</sup> and State; turn right on 13<sup>th</sup> into Cemetery.