



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)



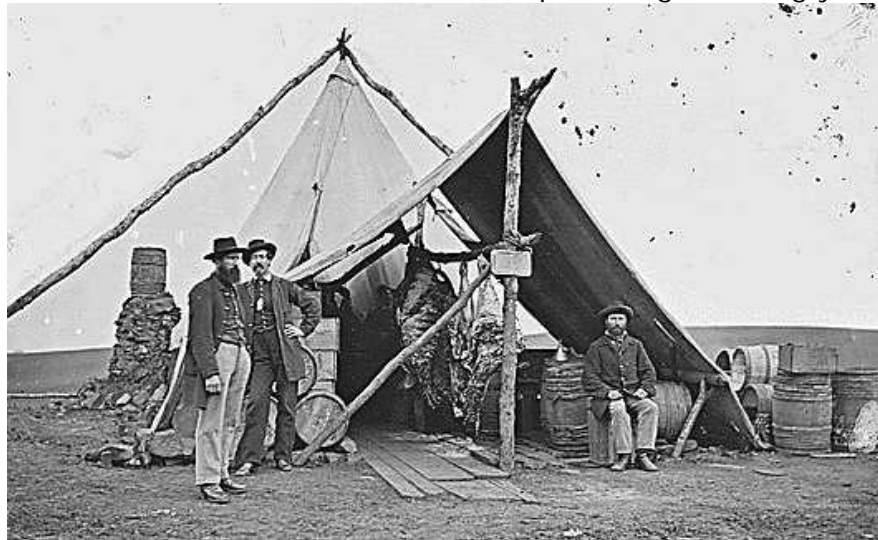
Volume 9, No. 11

November 2007



--- Thanksgiving 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!



A typical Commissary photo!

The Regiment was probably hoping for turkey, not beef!
"In war, there are no un-wounded soldiers." - José Narosky

The National Thanksgiving Proclamations

The first official Thanksgiving Proclamation made in America was issued by the Continental Congress in 1777. Six national Proclamations of Thanksgiving were issued in the first thirty years after the founding of the United States of America as an independent federation of States. President George Washington issued two, President John Adams issued two, President Thomas Jefferson made none and President James Madison issued two. In 1789 Washington designated a national thanksgiving holiday for the newly ratified Constitution, specifically so that that the people may thank God for "affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness" and for having "been enabled to establish constitutions of government

for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed..." After 1815 there were no more Thanksgiving Proclamations until the Presidency of Lincoln, who made two during the Civil War. He declared Thanksgiving a Federal holiday as a "prayerful day of Thanksgiving" on the last Thursday in November. Since then every U.S. President has always made an official Thanksgiving Proclamation on behalf of the nation. President Franklin D. Roosevelt set the date for Thanksgiving to the fourth Thursday of November in 1939 (approved by Congress in 1941).

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[Thanksgiving Day by Erma Bombeck](#)

“What we’re really talking about is a wonderful day set aside on the fourth Thursday of November when no one diets. I mean why else would they call it Thanksgiving Day”.

Dues due. Dues due. Dues due.

Dues for 2008 are due before the end of this year. Your dues remain at \$25. Follow the example of our Camp Commander, Donnie Prye, who paid his dues at last month’s camp meeting, Sunday, October 21, 2007. Pay early and have peace of mind. Camp #15 needs you to re-enlist for a mere \$25 dues remittance and a subscription to *Hartranft Herald* too!!!!!!
By Larry C. Sheibley, Camp secretary

Save yourself a stamp and hand-carry your 2008 dues to the Camp annual holiday party on Sunday, December 9th, or mail your remittance to David W. Demmy, Camp 15 Treasurer
881 Sunny Hill Lane
Harrisburg PA 17111 -- Checks preferred – make 'em payable to General John F. Hartranft Camp 15, SUVCW!

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[SUVCW Camp #15 Minutes](#)
[Sunday, 21 October 2007](#)
[National Civil War Museum](#)

Officers Present:
Don Prye, John Deppen, Larry Sheibley, David Demmy, Dave Klinepeter, Frank Haley, and Kelly Betz

Officers Absent:
Greg Kline and Gene Mascioli

Members Present:
Floyd Demmy, Don Fry, Norm Houser, Lee Walters, Stan Zellers, and William Kuhn.

Camp Commander Prye called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Camp Treasurer Demmy reported \$3057 in the treasury. PA Department Commander Walters stated that

there will be a recommendation for a new camp member category, “junior associate member”, for associate’s and member’s children including adopted children.



Camp Secretary Sheibley read a letter he had written to the National Committee about an Ohio member selling Camp #15’s belt buckles at the St. Louis National Encampment and he read the

response from a SUVCW National Committeeman. The Ohio seller contacted Sheibley and offered to sell to us or return, free of charge, the remaining 15 of 25 unsold buckles. The camp directed Sheibley to contact the Ohio seller and ask for the return of the buckles, free of charge!

EDITOR’S NOTE: DURING NOVEMBER, THE BUCKLES WERE MAILED TO THE CAMP!

Brother McLean, who bought two of Camp #15’s rifles, read that 100 rounds of ammunition were included with each rifle. This was an incorrect statement made by Sheibley in the newsletter since the camp never had more than 100 rounds total. Brother Walters was asked to contact Brother McLean. And, the discussion was tabled until the January meeting.

Commander Prye has contacted National Sojourners, a patriotic group which details the American flag, and they will provide entertainment for the December Christmas party.

Secretary Sheibley, along with Brothers Demmy and Klinepeter, is working on a booklet on the history of Camp #15. He found that Camp #15 was founded 11 February 1882, but went by the name Joseph Liness Camp #15 until 5 November 1889 when its name was changed to Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp #15. Therefore, Camp #15 can celebrate its 125th anniversary now and again in 7 years.

A discussion followed about the printing of Camp #15 history booklets, about 75 are needed. Sheibley will check printing costs.

Sheibley recommended that the camp purchase a \$100 brick for the walkway in front of our meeting place, The National Civil War Museum, [Harrisburg] in honor of our anniversaries.

Furthermore, he recommended that Camp #15 provide 10-year pins for members. Possibly, these pins will encourage members to attend a meeting to receive the pins. Brother Walters suggested that we check on 125th anniversary medals for sale to brothers.

Brother Demmy spoke about revising the web site.

Senior Vice-Commander Kline is on a 6-week training mission for his new job and was not present. Therefore, no slate of officers was presented to the camp. [Camp #15 will have a brief camp meeting before the December 9 Christmas Party to elect officers who will be sworn-in at the end of the party.](#)

[All brothers wishing to participate in the November 19 Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg should contact Camp Commander at \(717\) 436-6124.](#) At least two brothers are needed to carry our camp banner. Additional brothers will carry flags and/or rifles. Please help if you are able.

Patriotic Instructor Klinepeter spoke about Remembrance Day activities in Gettysburg and the Lee Mansion grounds being used for Arlington National Cemetery. [The Banner](#), the SUVCW national magazine, has the photos of all five commanders of the Allied Orders of the GAR on its cover. The WRC and the DUVCW split from the other three in 1947. The family has come together again!

Commander Prye closed the meeting at 4:00 p.m. – Larry C. Sheibley, Secretary

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[PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN](#)
by Dave Klinepeter

Today is November 11th--Veterans Day - I hope you flew your flag, and continue to

support those still serving. I went to the National Civil War Museum yesterday for a Veterans Day program. There were Pa. National Guard members there, a Civil War Cannon demonstration and our own Brother, John Deppen, gave a stirring talk while portraying General Winfield Hancock. There were quite a few school children in attendance. There were free tours of the galleries.

Dates to recall –

[November 23, 1946](#) General John F. Hartranft Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War had a Welcome Home Dinner in Harrisburg, Pa:

"To our members who served in the Armed Forces during World War II" Assembly was blown by Harry Runkle. 18 members served in the Army; 4 in the NAVY; 2 in the MARINES; and 5 still serving in the ARMY.

From the original program (in my collection):

While on this page the menu usually is placed, we know that the bill of fare is rarely looked at. We, therefore, take this page to welcome home our members who gave up civilian life to serve in the armed forces of our great nation. We bow our heads in humble thanks to Almighty God in keeping you all safe and we realize that many of our boys are now sleeping in far off lands, having paid the supreme sacrifice to again save from dishonor "Old Glory" as did our grandfathers in the war of the Rebellion. 1861-1865

Welcome Brothers and Comrades -- we are glad to again greet you in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty, the principals of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War... by the Officers and Members of Camp 15, Sec'y John H. Runkle (Yes I was in attendance – a veteran of the US Navy of course) [November 23, 1863](#) Battle of Chattanooga, Tenn. Some people forget there were numerous large and small battles after Gettysburg.

[December 7, 1941](#) Pearl Harbor (How can we forget) --- DJK

[Shirts for sale by your Pennsylvania State Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.](#)

Variety of sizes will be available in near future:
Golf shirts white or blue with SUVVCW symbol embroidered upon right side of wearer's chest.
Also, long sleeve demin shirt with logo above left side pocket. Golf shirts will be \$20 and demin will be \$25; plus S/H of \$5 for an order of up to 3 shirts.
More data to be forthcoming and an ad will appear in a future issue of the Pennsylvania Department's newsletter, the [Battle Cry of Freedom](#).

[The Shirt](#)

By John Deppen, circa 2006

My daughter Molly asked me a question as we were getting ready for bedtime. She pointed to a framed photograph on my bedroom wall, a photograph showing a group of men standing around a monument, and she said, "What are their names?"

I picked Molly up and held her closer to the picture. I told her the names of each man. I told Molly that, long ago, these men were soldiers, and now many of them were grandpas. They were wearing purple hats and purple ties in the picture because, as I said to Molly, they were heroes who shed their blood for our country.

One day I will tell Molly the stories of these men whom I have to come to know through the Military Order of the Purple Heart. When I tell her their stories, I will most likely spend a little extra time on Ray.

Of all the men in the photograph, Ray is the oldest. He is 97 now - "a big number," as Molly says - and he is doing remarkably well for a man of his age. When he entered the service during World War II, Ray was already in his thirties, and earned the nickname Pap or Pappy from his much younger comrades. Many still call him that today. Ray served in the 83rd Chemical Mortar Battalion, a unit not as famous as some others but a brave, proud, and accomplished unit nonetheless.

On January 26, 1944, Ray and three companies of his battalion were on board a British ship heading toward Anzio when a storm blew the vessel into a German minefield. The ship struck a mine and sank, taking with it 454 of Ray's brothers in arms, as well as 29 British sailors. Ray was seriously injured in the explosion and in fact was assumed to be dead for a short time. He survived and recovered, and ended the war with not only the Purple Heart, but the Silver Star as well.

Ray moves slowly, his hearing is rather poor, and he sometimes speaks bluntly, as if he does not wish to waste precious energy on unnecessary words. Once, on a blistering summer's day, when a friend asked him, "What have you been up to Ray?" he replied simply, "Not a damned thing - it's too hot."

At a ceremony in Lewisburg in 2002, Ray arrived in a car driven by a friend. The friend had to dash off to participate in the ceremony, while Ray stood for a moment in the parking lot with an uncertain look on his face. I approached him and asked, "Can I help you with anything, Ray?" expecting a gruff response or a quick, dismissive shake of the head.

Ray looked at me and said, "John, can you help me button my shirt?" "Why, sure" I said, and buttoned the top button of his white shirt. "And can you clip on this tie?" he asked, as he pulled his purple tie from his pocket, a tie emblazoned with the image of the Purple Heart for which he had nearly lost his life twenty-five years before I was born. Dressed and ready, Ray walked to the ceremony and took a seat on a folding chair, his hands resting on his cane.

As a writer, words are important to me. I have no words to express, however, how humbled and honored I am to spend time with our veterans, and to learn from them. Of all the lessons I have learned from them, the most important lesson perhaps is this - so many of us spend so much time waiting for the grand moment, the great spectacle, the time when the spotlight is on us and we are covered in gossamer robes of glory. The true splendor of life is to be

found in the quiet, simple moments, away from the crowds, such as clipping on an old soldier's tie, Or buttoning an old soldier's shirt.

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[Brothers and Sisters in Distress](#)

The Demmy ladies, Mrs. Gret Demmy and Mrs. Marilyn Demmy, express their thanksgiving to you and yours for your concerns, prayers, cards, and flowers during their recent bouts with illness and/or hospital tests.

Editor's Note: each is still under going medical care for their individual ailments.

Update on Mrs. Audrey Kyle - Audrey is now home after weeks at Hershey Med and additional time in rehab. Upon another 6-8 weeks of regaining her strength at home, she plans to spend a part of her winter with family in North Carolina.

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

- John Croft - Pittsburgh
- Kelly Betz – Mechanicsburg
- Donnie Prye – Mifflintown

Ladies of the auxiliary, wanta 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.....

[Ah, a 200th Birthday Celebration](#)

Millersburg, Dauphin County Pennsylvania
1807 – 2007

Brothers,

Since Millersburg just celebrated its 200th birthday, I thought the Camp might be interested in the history of the Civil War monument there, including the names of the veterans inscribed on its plaque. I'm somewhat biased, because one of these soldiers, William Henry Enders (1832-1903), is another one of my great, g r e a t -uncles.

For your reading enjoyment -- Russ Ottens, Camp 15. all the way from Ty Ty, Georgia.

The town of Millersburg in Dauphin County celebrated its 200th birthday this past summer. One of the town's prominent landmarks is the Civil War Monument that was dedicated on May 30, 1914. The six foot-tall, 900 pound soldier and his base were made from Italian marble. G.A.R. Post 212 and the Millersburg Sentinel raised \$740 to pay for the monument, as well as the \$55 required to ship it from Italy. The bronze plaque on its base bears the names of 126 Civil War veterans from Millersburg and vicinity. Maybe you're related to one or more of these brave men.



ERECTED TO THE MEMORY
OF THE
MILLERSBURG SOLDIERS OF
1861 TO 1865
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
KILPATRICK POST NO. 212, G. A. R.

Names as displayed upon monument in photo above:

ALLEMAN, JOSEPH	HAYERSTICK, MICHAEL	RATHVON, JOHN
AUCHMUTY, S. P.	HAWK, JEREMIAH	REINHART, S. W.
BASSLER, A. N.	HAWLEY, M. P.	RITZMAN, JACOB
BASSLER, J. F.	HECKERT, J. H.	RUTTER, ANTHONY
BELLER, JACOB	HENNINGER, JOSIAH	RUTTER, LEWIS
BENDER, W. H.	HESS, JOHN	ROWE, J. H.
BEISTLE, DAVID	HETRICK, WM.	SEAL, W. P.
BETTLEYON, E.	HOFFMAN, J. T.	SEEBOLD, J. L.
BILLMAN, HENRY	HUFF, BENJAMIN	SEILER, ABRAHAM
BOBB, MICHAEL	JOHNSON, J. M.	SITES, W. H.
BOWERS, M. W.	JURY, THEODORE	SHAFFNER, P. H.
BOWERS, J. H.	JURY, J. H.	SHAFFER, JOHN
BOWMAN, CHAS. S.	KAWEL, JOSEPH	SHEESLEY, GEORGE
BOWMAN, S. S.	KEEN, JOSEPH	SHEESLEY, W. H.
BOWMAN, J. F.	KEENER, JACOB	SHORTESS, S. I.
BROCK, BYRON	KLINE, JACOB	SMITH, B. F.
BROWN, G. W.	KNOUFF, HENRY	SNEEDER, J. W.
CAMPBELL, P. A.	KOPPENHAVER, U.	SNIVELY, C. H.
CLUCK, SIMON	KOPPENHAVER, J. P.	SNYDER, AARON
COLLIER, J. W.	KOPPENHAVER, I.	SNYDER, JOSEPH
CORDES, HENRY	LAMBERT, J. E.	SNYDER, J. S.
DEHAVEN, W. H.	LEHMAN, WM.	SPEECE, JOHN
DETRICH, T. E.	LEIB, E. H.	STARR, JEREMIAH
DITTY, D. D.	LENKER, D. Y.	STEEVER, J. J.
DITTY, J. B.	LENKER, J. Y.	STEEVER, W. L.
ENDERS, W. H.	LIGHT, S. E.	STEEVER, WESLEY
ETSWEILER, A.	MARTIN, HENRY	STITES, W. D.
FEIDT, GEORGE	MARTZ, C. C.	TOY, DANIEL
FEIDT, D. S.	MCDONALD, W. H.	WARD, MICHAEL
FRANK, B. M.	MECK, N. C.	WEAVER, JACOB
FOX, DAVID	MECK, MORRIS	WEAVER, HENRY
FOX, CHRISTIAN	MEETCH, W. B.	WILLIAMS, A. J.
FRECK, J. L.	MILLER, ISAAC	WILLIAMSON, I. M.
FREELAND, G. W.	MILLER, JOSEPH	WILVER, GEORGE
FREELAND, T. S.	MILLS, W. C.	WINGARD, G. F.
FURMAN, WM.	NEAGLEY, D. C.	WINGARD, W. C.
GEESEY, GEORGE	NEAGLEY, ISAAC	WISE, JAMES
GIFFEN, MAHLON	NORTON, THOMAS	WITMAN, J. M.
GRIFFIN, ARCHIBALD	NOVINGER, M	WITMAN, J. B.
HAIN, J. S.	OBERHOLTZER, DANIEL	WOODSIDE, WM.
HARWAN, H. H.	O'NEIL, THEODORE	ZEIGLER, BENJAMIN
HARTMAN, W. H.	PONTIUS, A. J.	ZEIGLER, DAVID

Readers, perhaps you recognized one or more of these veterans listed above?



1914 grouping of the GAR members within the Millersburg area.

THANK YOU BROTHER RUSS FOR SHARING WITH YOUR CAMP.

2008 Pennsylvania Department Encampment/convention notice

June 2008

June 19 - 20 - 21, 2008

PA Allied Orders Encampment Ramada Inn, Ligonier, PA 724-238-9545

216 West Loyal Hanna Street www.ramadainnligonier.com

Reservations under-"Grand Army of the Republic"

God determines who walks into your life....it's up to you to decide who you let walk away, who you let stay, and who you refuse to let go.

Father, God bless all my friends in whatever it is that You know they may be needing this day! And may their life be full of your peace, prosperity and power as they seek to have a closer relationship with you! Amen.

Do you like to do your own research? Check out this Civil War Website

<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html>



You can research by the short list of subjects listed above.

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[And, Camp 15's Website](http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html) <http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html> has been updated again!

Open the site and select the PHOTO page – it has been streamlined and hopefully, the mis-spelling etc as been corrected.

Under ENCAMPMENTS and MEMORIAL Day, (the overflow of photos, that space did not permit in our monthly *Hartranft Herald* newsletter), are posted on our website.

Also, 2 new subjects have been added to the Table of Contents. They are:

Photos from the Camp's 2006 participation in the State CAPITOL Building anniversary PARADE; and the overflow photos from the Camp's 2007 participation at the General JOHN GEARY MONUMENT DEDICATION, too. Note, some photos may look distorted; but they are condensed for the thumbnail image you see on the screen. Merely click on any photo and it will open in a sizeable view!

These updates have used up the previous free space allotted to us by Geocities. At this time, we have not located a corporate sponsor who will provide us, not only with free space, but of course, more space for our nonprofit group and host our [Website](#) too on their server for safe keeping.


We will have to engage Geocities for more space for a mere nominal monthly fee!

If you missed a soldier or veteran on Veterans Day,
It's not too late to extend your thanks.

Hug a veteran or shaken their hand the next time you come in contact
with a soldier, sailor, marine and other troopers too.

"If you can read this, thank a teacher
-and, since it's in English, thank a soldier"!

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

November	No general meeting scheduled at this time.
November – Saturday 17 th	Annual Remembrance Day at Gettysburg
December – Sunday 9 th	Annual Holiday Party at Doc Holliday's Restaurant, Limekiln Road, Exit 40A , New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Celebrate the Installation of Officers for 2008 at this annual event. TIME: social hour 11:30 to 12:30; 1 pm mealtime and fellowship into afternoon. 
	Next Year
January – Saturday 26, 2008 More about this road trip in a forthcoming issue of your <i>Hartranft Herald</i> . Breakfast buffet at The Ono Farmer's Wife Family Restaurant 8:30 a.m., along Route 22 East at Ono, just east of the GAP exit.	The World War II Federation and Fort Indiantown Gap Presents the 63d Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge, January 26 th , 2008 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Area 12 – Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA See WWW. period re-enacting and vehicles and the inside barracks! http://www.wwiifederation.org/
June 19 – 20	Pennsylvania Department Encampment, Ligonier, Pennsylvania

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 the Civil War,
- ❑ Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and
- ❑ Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

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This Living History lady will research your ancestor's records for you:



Be Proud Wear The Badge



Looking Ahead into December:

- Photos of recent Camp activities as they become available.
- Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted.
- Keep a copy of your schedule of events and calendar handy for reference.
- Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Contact *Hartranft Herald* at DoubleD@Demmy.cc

--- End of November 2007 Hartranft Herald ---