



# 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](http://www.SUVCWHarrisburgPA.org)

Celebrating our 133rd Year in Harrisburg Area

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



Vol 17, No. 10

~~~~ Peaceful Autumn ~~~~

October 2015



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!

**Next Camp meeting** Sunday October 18, 2015 at NCWM - Upper level room 222. Meeting begins at 2pm.

**John F. Hartranft (1830 – 1889)** served as Governor of Pennsylvania, 1872-1879. Born in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania in 1830, having served local militia, he raised a regiment of Montgomery County militia in April of 1861 to serve in the Civil War.

Hartranft was later named Colonel of the 51st Regiment Volunteer Infantry, participating in several major battles, and rose to the rank of Brigadier General. Following the Civil War, Hartranft was appointed Special Provost Marshall, and given responsibility for the care and final execution of the conspirators convicted in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

Later, Hartranft became Auditor General of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1865 and, served two terms. Thereafter he was elected

Governor of Commonwealth in 1872. As Governor, he was involved in the ratification of a new state constitution, the Centennial of Pennsylvania, and such labor issues as railroad strikes and the trials of the Molly Maguires. Following his years as governor, Hartranft was active in various organizations, and was appointed Major General over the Pennsylvania National Guard. On October 17, 1889 he died.

### **FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**

For more great photos of our events, search for us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Gen-John-F-Hartranft-Camp15-Sons-of-Union-Veterans-of-the-Civil-War-201952393173310/timeline/>

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## PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN

By Dave Klinepeter – October 2015

Tribute to late James Getty, Life Member of the SUVCW and President Lincoln living historian for nearly 4 decades!



JAMES GETTY AND DAVE KLINEPETER AT NATIONAL CEMETERY, GETTYSBURG, NOVEMBER 19, 2002!

Photo from Klinepeter Collection.

On September 26, 2015 Our Civil War community lost a great supporter. James Getty of Gettysburg, Pa passed away. He portrayed Abraham Lincoln for over 38 years. His talks inspired many thousands of people as he traveled all over the country portraying Lincoln. I had the honor and privilege of working with President Lincoln at various events. I had met him over 30 years ago by attending his one-man Lincoln shows in Gettysburg where he began public life as Abe Lincoln.

I remember watching him standing in lines greeting people at numerous places and he always had one question as he shook hands "where are you from?" Then he would reply some tidbit of information of the 1860 period pertaining to a person or event that pertained to where the people were from. This also included people from foreign countries. One year we were on a special tour with a group of Civil War reenactors to Washington D.C. and meet a group of school students from Japan, at the National Capital, I believe every one of them took a picture home of them and President Lincoln. At the White House all the guards greeted President Lincoln. For years we paraded side by side in the Remembrance Day parades, till walking became a problem.



THE CIVIL WAR DUO ON REMEMBRANCE DAY NOVEMBER 19, 2011 photo by Regina Rukstelis.

He was then furnished a carriage, and invited me to ride with him. 2015 was our last ride together!

A number of years ago I had a very special event. The Abraham Lincoln Society had a convention in Gettysburg and I was invited to attend as Governor Curtin. I introduced Abraham Lincoln (James Getty) to 32 other Abraham Lincolns. Wow!

He was a strong influence on me when I started portraying Governor Andrew Curtin, 'stay in person when dressed that way', keep reading and learning. James Getty was a true gentleman and will long be remembered by anyone who met him. I (Governor Curtin) attended his funeral service on October 2, 2015 at Christ Chapel Gettysburg College. Many of us went to Evergreen Cemetery. Jim was a U.S. Navy Veteran of the Korean War so military services were conducted. Everyone was invited to the Wyndham for lunch and I was able to meet the family. In closing I would like to repeat Secretary of War Stanton's comment "now he belongs to the ages", this seems appropriate for *my* Abraham Lincoln.

James Getty may you rest in peace! --- DJK

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## November 11



Veterans and active-duty military are welcomed to free coffee, donuts, burgers, pizza, ice cream, and more on Veterans Day, November 11.

The following Starbucks, Hooters, Krispy Kreme, Olive Garden, Friendly's, Chili's, IHOP, and TGI Friday's are among the many national restaurant chains that *may be* celebrating Veterans Day with freebies for vets and active military!

Brother Dave and Floyd, make your list and we'll enjoy ourselves at Texas Road House again!

NOVEMBER 11, 1865 Hancock's 6th Regiment marched out of camp, down to the train depot and took the cars out of town. On that day Camp Curtin ceased to exist as a military post. This was with relief of the citizenry of the city of Harrisburg, Pa. So few troops were coming home by November, the Provost Guards were bored and caused problems down town for several months. Various troops came home after that date but there was no staff, no guards etc. The camp had officially opened on April 18, 1861 and served as a training camp, a hospital and prisoner of war camp. Over 300,000 men went through there on the way to preserve the UNION.

As the life of the camp drew to a close the man for whom it had been named offered the epitaph. In

1865 after the war had ended and while the army was being disbanded, Gov Curtin addressed a group of returning veterans at Camp Curtin. He spoke of the camp as one of the great sites of the war. "The fields upon which we stand will be known as classic ground, for here has been the great central point of the organization of our military forces. When my administration of public affairs will have been forgotten and the good and evil be known only to the investigation of the antiquarian, Camp Curtin with its memories and association will be immortal." So 150 years later we remember.

NOVEMBER 11, 1990 was the 100th anniversary of the closing of Camp Curtin. The newly organized Camp Curtin Historical Society and a number of other organizations plus the state, county and city of Harrisburg, Pa put on a special program. There was a parade with reenactors, speeches, special stamp cancellation, speeches; even a Governor Curtin. Your Patriotic Instructor was requested by Jim Schmick, president of the Camp Curtin Historical Society to portray the Governor. I was quite honored to do that.

NOVEMBER 11 2015 is the 150th anniversary of the closing of Camp Curtin at Harrisburg! There will be a special program **2pm Sunday NOVEMBER 15, 2015** at the Camp Curtin Memorial Mitchell United Methodist Church at 2221 North 6th Harrisburg, PA. Your Patriotic Instructor, David J. Klinepeter, will be portraying Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin which he has now done for 25 years.

NOVEMBER 19, 2015 Lincoln Gettysburg Address program National Cemetery Gettysburg, PA at 10 am. djk

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Brothers and Sisters in Distress by David Demmy  
Please add the following to your prayer list



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

Mrs. Robert Treat; Jeffery Smith;

Charlie Kuhn Jr, PCinC, Past Dept of PA Secretary;

Joe Long Jr, PDC at Scranton Camp 8; and

Mrs. Rob Koenigsberg, spouse of newly elected PA  
Dept Secretary; and Bill Kuhn Jr; with continued  
blessings for Mrs. Charlotte Walters and Mary Jane  
Bannan; and any of our shut-ins!

### The Train of Life

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents,  
and we believe they will always travel on our side.

However, at some station  
our parents will step down from the train,  
leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by,  
other people will board the train;  
and they will be significant  
i.e. our siblings, friends, children,  
and even the love of your life.

Many will step down  
and leave a permanent vacuum.

Others will go so unnoticed  
that we don't realize  
they vacated their seats.

This train ride will be full of joy,  
sorrow, fantasy, expectations,  
hellos, goodbyes, and farewells.

Success consists of having a good relationship  
with all passengers

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requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is:  
We do not know at which station  
we ourselves will step down.

So, we must live in the best way,  
love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are.  
It is important to do  
this because when the time comes for us to step down  
and leave our seat empty  
we should leave behind beautiful memories for  
those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life.  
Reap success and give lots of love.  
More importantly, thank God for the journey.  
Lastly, I thank you  
for being one of the passengers on my train.

(By the way, I am not planning to get off the train  
anytime soon, but if I do, just remember I am glad  
you were part of *my* journey.)

--- end ---

### Blue and Gray Gala held on October 1<sup>st</sup>



Camp 15 Brothers from left, Wayne Motts, David  
Demmy, Sr., and Jeffery Smith, Camp Commander,  
were among the hundreds of folks that flocked to

the annual Gala event at the National Civil War Museum. Good fellowship, tasty foods and drinks by a host of local caterers, rounded out the evening.

Please update your social calendar now.

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

### 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

Next Camp 15 business meeting to be held on Sunday, October 18 at Reservoir Park 2 pm.

Saturday October 17, 2015, Mid-year Pennsylvania Department of the SUVCW classic meeting at Hoss's of Carlisle, PA.

Camp 15 Clean day in Gettysburg to be announced!

Closing of Camp Curtin reenactment on Sunday, November 15 at 2pm at Camp Curtin Park, uptown Harrisburg.

Remembrance Day Parade is Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, downtown Gettysburg.

Camp 15 annual holiday banquet to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of December on 13<sup>th</sup> at reservoir Park!

2016 Battle of Bulge reenactment of 1944 actions! Most likely, the last Saturday of January 2016 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville PA.

### 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 125<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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!

Established February 11, 1882  
in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Continued

Grand Review November 13 and 14 at Harrisburg



The place to be on November 13-15, 2015 is Harrisburg, Pennsylvania for the 150th anniversary of the Grand Review. You can be part of these history-making events that will take place each day with the actual Grand Review procession on November 14. United States Colored Troops (USCT) re-enactors from several states will be part of the Grand Procession taking place and many of the other events connected to it. In fact, the USCT re-enactors are conducting their national annual meeting here in Harrisburg in conjunction with the Grand Review.

On Friday and Saturday Strawberry Square, the urban mall at Third and Market streets, will be transformed into a “Chautauqua showcase” where history buffs, educators, visitors, and

locals can enjoy the various displays from the USCT regiment re-enactors and living history actors. We encourage you to bring your children to this family event.

This part of the event is free and sure to pique your interest in the rich history of the African American story as it relates to the American Civil War.  
<http://2015grandreview.com/index.html>



SHARED BY PCC GENE MASCIOLI, CAMP15.  
Civil War Buff and Living History Clown

Commander's Corner by Jeff Smith

Brothers of Camp 15,

It is hard to believe, but we now find ourselves in mid-October and the year is nearing its end. I trust and hope it has been a good year for each of you and your families. As we approach the end of 2015, I wish to share some thoughts with you, and to remind you of Camp 15 events in the final stretch of 2015.

First, let us remember the month of October, and the events occurring in the month during our great Civil War. Many brave Union soldiers gave their all, and in some cases their health, their lives, and all future dreams for themselves and their families, all for the sake of our nation's perpetual existence

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and the destruction of slavery. Their sacrifices should never be forgotten. Civil War Events during October include:

October 1862:

Battle of Corinth, MS (US Victory)  
 Battle of Perryville, KY (US Victory)  
 Great Locomotive Chase, GA & TN (Resulting in Execution of US soldiers participating, Approved by Jefferson Davis)

October 1863:

Battle of Browns Ford, Chattanooga, TN (US Victory)  
 Lincoln's Call for a National Thanksgiving in November, to be perpetuated

October 1864:

Battle of Cedar Creek, VA (US Victory)  
 Battle of Hatcher's Run (Inconclusive)  
 Battle of Petersburg (Inconclusive)

Of all the above events, I would like to call special attention to President Lincoln's call for a National Thanksgiving. I know that personally, I am grateful for my friends, my family, the opportunity to live in this great country of ours, and I am grateful for Camp 15, and all our fine Brothers. I am sure that each of you also have many of these same blessings and more in your lives. What is important, and as Lincoln seemed to know very well, is that it is neither sufficient nor complete to have these many blessings, but rather, to comprehend, to appreciate, to acknowledge these many blessings is most important of all, and to express our gratitude to our father in heaven for these, while we are yet on this earth. The acknowledgment of our good fortunes and the many blessing bestowed brings greater happiness to our lives. I encourage you all to remember to do so. I am very happy that President Lincoln set aside such a day, and not just because of the day off from work, and that fine Turkey dinner my wife prepares every year.

In regard to upcoming events, here are the following highlights:

**Adoption of Gettysburg Monument:** Knaps Battery, 1<sup>st</sup> PA Light Artillery: During the latter part of October or early November, during a weekend, Brothers from Camp 15 will be doing some policing up of the area around Knaps battery, close to Culps Hill. Gettysburg National Park has an, adopt-a-monument program, and the camp has chosen to adopt the Knapp's Battery Monument. Please contact Brother Greg Kline if you are interested in joining other brothers during the clean-up. The exact day of the clean-up is still to be determined.

**Remembrance Day Gettysburg:** Consider joining some of our Camp 15 brothers during the Annual Gettysburg Remembrance Day Parade. Many SUVCW members from around the country march in the parade (civil war dress is required) and both participants and spectators number in the thousands. For anyone who has never been to a Gettysburg Remembrance Day, this is a must do, bucket list item. Please contact brothers Greg Kline, Scott Debo, or Jeffery Smith if you are interested in participating.

**Camp 15 Annual Christmas Party:** To wrap up the year in SUVCW Camp #15 fellowship, a delectable Holiday Dinner (Ham or Turkey with all the fixings), and some fun activities (bingo etc.) please consider joining many of your brothers at the Holiday Dinner Celebration 2015. This event is not just for the brothers, but your *families* are very welcome as well. If you come to this event, I guarantee you will not regret it, except if a blizzard develops during the festivities!! The event will be held at the National Civil War Museum. See invite in this issue of your Hartranft Herald!

***I hope to see each of you at one of the above events, or at least at the October Camp meeting, but should I not see you for the remainder of 2015, I wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday***

*Season 2015, and I will look forward to seeing you soon into the New Year 2016!! Bless you all and Bless Camp #15.*

Jeffery J. Smith  
Commander, Camp #15

In Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty,

PAST COMMANDERS AND PAST PRESIDENTS  
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS AND AUXILIARY

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.

We cordially extend to you, your family and friends a warm invitation to attend the 85th ANNUAL DEDICATION DAY DINNER of the Association, commemorating the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1863 by President Abraham Lincoln.

The dinner will be held Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at 6:30 PM at the HILTON GARDEN INN, 1061 York Road in Gettysburg. This is one mile west of the Wyndham (toward the town of Gettysburg), on US Route 30. This is only 3 minutes away from the Wyndham, and is still convenient for those who wish to attend the Military Ball after the dinner. Price for the banquet is \$33.00.

PLEASE NOTE - ALL members of the Sons of Union Veterans, Auxiliary, Daughters of Union Veterans, Ladies of the GAR, and Women's Relief Corps and their families are welcome to attend !!!!!!!!!!!!!

All reservations are to be sent to PAST COMMANDERS DINNER, 1126 HANOVER ROAD, YORK, PA. 17408 with checks made payable to PAST COMMANDERS.

*The final date for reservations to be received is November 13, 2015.*

The Committee

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Dinner Committee 2015

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for the 85th Annual Dinner to be held in Gettysburg on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Make check payable to PAST COMMANDERS and mail to PAST COMMANDERS, 1126 HANOVER ROAD, YORK, PA. 17408. Please list the names of persons making reservations.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If you desire confirmation of your reservation please provide the following:

Email - \_\_\_\_\_ phone - \_\_\_\_\_

### Holiday Season 2015

**You and *yours* are invited to break bread with General John F. Hartranft, Camp 15, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at our annual Christmas Banquet gathering.**

|                     |                                                                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| When                | Sunday, December 13, 2015                                                    |
| Where<br>Harrisburg | National Civil War Museum at Reservoir Park                                  |
| Cost                | still \$25.00 per person, prepaid<br>payable <u>Hartranft Camp 15, SUVCW</u> |
| Payment             | Please submit your check to camp Treasurer no later than <u>11/27/15</u>     |
| Fellowship hour     | 11:30 – 12:30 Mealtime approximately 1:00 pm.                                |
| Activities          | Good food and fellowship; appointment of officers for the New Year!          |
| Entertainment       | Holiday Bingo                                                                |



[Don't fall asleep, RSVP now](#)

Please RSVP by email to [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc) or call David W. Demmy, telephone 717 545 5174 leave your full name and *number of persons attending!* Please remit full payment no later than November 27 for a full accounting for preparation of our annual event.

**Continued!**

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All participants: please bring 2-4 *items for the gift table*. ITEMS SHOULD BE UNWRAPPED FOR VIEWING! Each time you win at Bingo, move to the gift table and select an item. Return to your seat and play again – good luck!

Items may be, e.g.: nice old book, new book, relic tree ornament, CD music, DVD, gift certificate, other ideas may be Civil War related or not, veteran related or not e.g.: candles, stationery, teddy bear, puzzles, games – *you may make it interesting* for all of us by making *unusual choices*!

Likewise, if you are interested, bring some cash to engage in the Camp's 50/50 opportunity! 50/50 Tickets are \$.50 each; or 12 for \$5.00 – that's two free.

## Driving Directions to National Civil War Museum

VISIT NATIONAL CIVIL WAR MUSEUM WEBSITE AT

[HTTP://WWW.NATIONALCIVILWAR MUSEUM.ORG/VISIT.ASPX](http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/visit.aspx)

SCROLL DOWNWARD FOR APPROPRIATE SET OF DIRECTIONS

To save postage you may bring your New Year 2016 Camp 15 dues of \$35 along!

Still \$35 and Camp treasurer prefers checks payable to 'Hartranft Camp 15, SUVCW'.



Circa 1955

God bless you and yours!

Have a safe trip!



*Time for Prayer Clock*

[Potential table centerpiece for 2015]

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