



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 125th Anniversary



Volume 10, No. 09 - **Encampment 2008** - September 2008



[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

Camp #15 and Auxiliary #7 birthdays

James Brown	Loysville, PA
Jack Rushoe	Muncy, PA
Bill Neumyer	Enola, PA
Arthur Longnaker	Harrisburg, PA

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 month, please contact the *Hartranft Herald* with corrective information.

Commander's Report by Greg Kline

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

I hope that all of you had a wonderful summer! Camp 15 continues to see a growth spurt in membership. We will be inducting 2 new members at the September meeting and at least 4 more at the October meeting. This is really exciting! We can really be proud to see such an active interest in our Order considering the difficulty that most civic organizations are having these days in attracting and retaining membership. I urge all of the members of Camp 15 to make an effort to attend these meetings to welcome our new Brothers.

On August 30, several of our current and new members paid a visit to the Civil War Flag Room in downtown Harrisburg and spent several enjoyable hours viewing our ancestor's regimental flags and learning the history of the



Capitol's flag preservation efforts. The staff was very accommodating and it was a great experience. See variety of photos later in this issue of your *Hartranft Herald*. I have had input from several members who have expressed an interest in making a trip to the Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Md.

I have visited the museum twice and it would be an excellent field trip to plan for the Spring. We can discuss this at the September meeting.

Many thanks to Brother John Martin for bringing to our attention the problems and condition of the Linglestown Church of God Cemetery. At my request, Brother David Demmy forwarded the article sent by Brother Martin on the cemetery's plight to the Camp's email list and for those of you who have not

seen this; I will bring copies and explain the situation in better detail at the next meeting. There are three Civil War veterans buried in this cemetery and I would like to get feedback from the membership as to what role Camp 15 can and should play in helping the church to preserve their memories. Several members have already given me their ideas and I will open this up for further discussion at the September meeting.

[An extract from news account appears next]

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty, Greg

[Out of options, Church to remove Stones](#)

An aging cemetery located in Linglestown, Dauphin County. Here are Extracts from the Friday, August 22, 2008 Patriot-News story by T. W. Burger.

"Not long ago, just south of Linglestown's village square, Lou Ritter was mowing at the Church of God Cemetery.

One of the tombstones was propped up by a two-by-four. Ritter's mower clipped the board. The tombstone fell, scraping his arm and damaging the mower.

Ritter's accident and the fear that others might happen have the church's property management committee trying to figure out what to do about the *dormant* cemetery.

'After months of floor-pacing and asking advice, the church is going to remove almost all of the stones. We worry about liability, said Carl Books, a member of the committee. We're running out of options.'

Barry Stahl, the church's pastor, indicated the congregation numbers about 140 - mostly middle-aged or older. We don't have any young studs to take care of the cemetery anymore, and we don't have the money or any revenue for upkeep.

Books said that, unlike most cemeteries, the grave sites were not sold to church members. The graves are all on church land, and there are no maintenance fees to be collected.

Complicating matters is the Linglestown bypass project, planned to get under way spring 2009. Part of that bypass will cut between the cemetery and the church, built in 1972. The road will not cut through cemetery ground, but it will make it more difficult for mowers to access the cemetery.

'There will be cuts in the curb so we can get over there, but that's going to be a busy road,' Books said. "They'll be putting in a sidewalk along Route 39. That will make it easier for people to access the cemetery'".

Many of the more than 200 men, women and children in the cemetery were buried when Linglestown, then called St. Thomas, was still the frontier, with a fort at both ends for protection against American Indian attacks.

The earliest grave is dated 1801. The last grave was dug in 1969, Books said, though he thinks it likely there are older graves whose stones have disappeared. Gaps in lines of stones suggest nameless dead. Acid rain and other environmental forces have defaced many stones. Books said the stones will be removed. One, which is the tallest and most massive, will be re-engraved to commemorate the cemetery and those who are buried there. Committee member Jack Colm has nearly finished photographing all the stones in case family members come looking for them and a list has been made of the stones that were still readable. That list will be kept in the church.

'Nobody ever comes to place flowers on the graves; somebody puts flags out Memorial Day, because there are three [Civil War veterans](#) buried here. We've tried to find relatives, but We've talked to lawyers and everybody we can think of about what to do, and nobody had any answers. So, this is what we're going to do*." The committee is not sure what to do with the stones. Ritter said *one possibility is to lay them flat and cover them with soil. The committee's efforts to find living relatives of the graveyard's residents have failed.

Comments or suggestions about the fate of the gravestones may be submitted until Sept. 30 in writing to: Linglestown Church of God, Attention: Property Management, 5834 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112. Include your contact information.

[Photos from the Past](#)

Visit this website to see the many photos of our Civil War ancestors!

<http://www.suvcw.org/photos.htm#d>

The *Photos from the Past* web page was initiated by Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Past Commander-in-Chief Keith G. Harrison, then National Webmaster, in February 1998, as a means for the members of the SUVCW and other Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, and the general public to honor and preserve the memory of the men who preserved the Union 1861 - 1865. Since then, the popularity of the page and the number of veterans listed has continued to grow.

Anyone who has photographs of their Civil War ancestor either during the Civil War or after, or photographs relating to the post Civil War veterans' organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, is welcomed to electronically submit them along with accompanying identification to the Backup National SUVCW Webmaster at pcinc@prodigy.net for inclusion on this page.
Source: www.suvcw.org.

[National Civil War Museum News](#)

>Wine & Cheese Opening Reception: September 16, 2008, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Sneak Preview of a Temporary Exhibition

News from Hell: Newspapers and Reporting the Civil War

Exclusive Featured Speaker: James Perry,
author of *A Bohemian Brigade: The Civil War Correspondents, Mostly Rough, Sometimes Ready*

Admission Price - \$5.00 per person
(One complimentary glass of wine is included)

Complimentary Admission for Museum Members

Reservations required. Call 717-260-1861, ext 1108
or Email: Lynn Smolizer

>**Living History: Saturday, September 20, 10am-5pm; Sunday, September 21, 12pm-5pm**

Encampment of a Confederate Civil War artillery unit - Purcell's Battery, the "Fauquier Artillery".

>[The Blue & Gray Gala](#)

A Fundraiser for
The National Civil War Museum

Friday, October 3, 2008

Featuring special guest: Mr. Stephen Lang!

Mr. Lang portrayed Gen Pickett in movie "Gettysburg".

Reception 6 pm – 7:30 pm Silent Auction Dinner 7:45

Tickets: \$125 per person

For reservations or sponsorship. Call 717-260-1861, ext 1108 or
Email: Lynn Smolizer

>**Members Only Artifact Storage & Archive Tour: Saturday, October 4, 2008, 1:30pm**

Meet our Curator - Brett Kelley

Private Archive Tour

FREE TO MEMBERS!

Reservations required. Call 717-260-1861, ext 1108
or Email: Lynn Smolizer

Source:

<http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org/Events.htm>
|

[For the best in Civil War Research contact:](#)



OR GO TO THE WEBSITE INDICATED BELOW

Carolyn S. Billups, The Research Muse

Contact our sister, Carolyn, for your research needs at the website below. Click on it or copy and paste it to your open Internet address box.

http://www.geocities.com/sothronbelle/Research_Services.html. If Carolyn can't find it – it's really hidden!

[2008 Nat'l Encampment at Peabody, Boston](#)

By David W. Demmy, Sr.

Peabody, pronounced P e-bah-d e by the locals, is an old town near Salem, Massachusetts. Perhaps witches of old escaped from Salem and dashed off to P e-bah-d e.

We had a little bit of rain on the way through New York to get to New England and one traffic tie-up; otherwise, the drive to the Boston region was fine. The weather was grand, the motel was *fine and dandy* according to the Late George Carlin! Our own Camp 15 dual member and Commander-in-Chief, Charlie Kuhn kept the business sessions moving. The Pennsylvania delegation met on Saturday for their annual Pennsylvania luncheon and departed with the "Pennsylvania Closing".

The guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet was a cousin from the Deep South, a member of the **Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Civil War**.

Lt. Commander-in-Chief, Robert Michael Givens, was an outstanding speaker, talking about southern living and among other topics, Pennsylvania Dutch foods too. See what you missed by not being there.

We experienced torrential rains upon our return trip to Harrisburg. Stopped for lunch along the way and upon returning to the expressway, the signs indicated this way to the next on-ramp. It was Route 6 in New York, the old GAR Highway. Twas a thrill to ride upon the old GAR road. The next on-ramp for Route 84 was about 14 miles down the road so we enjoyed the scenic route for a while.

Highlites of the Men's Encampment business:

Announcement of new Camps in Pennsylvania:

- Cooper's Camp 501 at Mt Jackson; and
- Mt Union Church Camp 502 in Somerset County.

Congratulations to the Camp organizers and members.

Fall issue of the National Banner is expected to be published on or about September 25.

Recommendation from GAR Highway officer that all available data on Highway be uploaded to National website: www.suvcw.org

Ninety-one Eagle Scout certificates were issued to Pennsylvania residents as of June.

Rank of Officers at Camp level shall be:

Commander, SVC, JVC, Secretary, Treasurer, Chair of Camp Council, Patriotic Instructor, Chaplain, Guide, Memorials Officer, Historian, Guard, current National Officer, current Department officer, past CinC, past Department Commander, past Camp Commander and lastly, the Brother with longest time as Brother of our order.

Records Retention Schedule

Grant records retained 3 years

Cash receipts retained 5 years after fiscal year ends

Accounts receivables retained 5 years ' '

Bank statements retained 7 years ' '

Ledgers, audits, contracts, IRS form 990, and minutes and proceedings retained permanently.

Develop National database to record ancestry data as indicated on membership applications.

Locations for Future National Encampments:

2009 Exec West Hotel Louisville, KY 08-13-09

2010 Marriott at Overland, a satellite city of Kansas City, Kansas 08-12-10

2011 State of Maryland or Rhode Island 08-14-11

2012 State of California 08-09-12

2013 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania anniversary or New York State

2014 no commitment to date

2015 no commitment to date

2016 potential Lincoln anniversary theme at Illinois

The next Department of Pennsylvania encampment convention will be held in 2009 at Cross Keys Motor Inn, New Oxford, PA on June 25, 26, 27, 2009. More data will be available after the Department of Pennsylvania mid-year meeting.

Brother David V. Medert elected as our 2008-2009 Commander-in-Chief.

Brother Charlie Kuhn joins the ranks of other Pennsylvania brothers who are Past Commanders-in-Chief.

Examples of number of brothers in attendance at the New England site:

California & Pacific – 9

Massachusetts – 12

New York – 11

Pennsylvania – 14

Texas – 1

Past CinC - 13

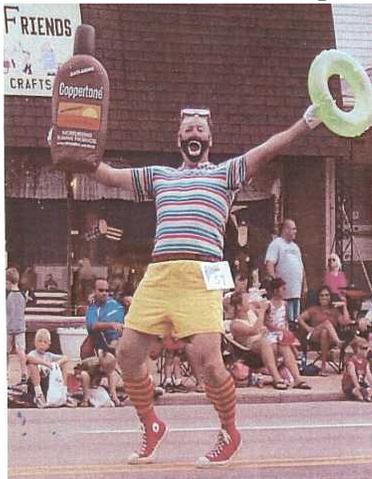
Average attendance at sessions 152.

--- Reported by David W. Demmy, Sr. at Peabody.

[My Circus Travels](#)

by Gene Mascioli, PCC

This past July I undertook a vacation to Indiana so I could participate in a Circus Parade. My friend, Jim Keebler from Lancaster and a circus fan, as well as a Civil War buff accompanied me. We visited the



Lycoming County Fair where the former Bentley Bros Circus was entertaining. That evening the Ryan Pelton show was scheduled. He portrays the King of Rock-n-Roll. When I went to purchase tickets, the show was sold out! But luck was on my side. I

bumped into a couple of Camp 15 Brothers, namely Lynn Kyle and his son, Linnie. Upon inquiring about my lack of tickets, Lynn said he had extra tickets for Jim and me.

Traveling on to Peru, Indiana, the former Circus winter quarters, during the 1930s, we arrived at the Circus City Festival, visited the Circus Hall of Fame, and I participated in the Circus Parade. It was a great week! On the way home, I visited the Seneca Caverns in Ohio – only go there if you are

physically fit – you need to use the natural stairways into the caverns and some areas only have a four foot ceiling – I did it and enjoyed it. --- Gene.

[Testimonial Luncheon in honor of Cheryl Kern Carrera](#), President of Pennsylvania Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held on Saturday, September 6, in Carlisle, PA. Entertainment was provided by Chapter 76 National Sojourners of Harrisburg Area. The Assembly closed with the 'Pennsylvania Closing' – *God be with you Till we meet again!*

[PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN](#)

by Dave Klinepeter

On Saturday, Sept 6, 2008 I attended the Testimonial Luncheon honoring Cheryl Carrera the new Department President of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans. David Demmy and I were the only members of Hartranft Camp 15 in attendance!



We Sons need to support our Auxiliary! If it had not been for their hard work a number of years ago, Camp 15 would not be in existence. It is also nice to go and meet the people that keep our Sons and Auxiliary operating [even during a heavy downpour]!

The Sons will be having a luncheon in Bethlehem on Saturday, Oct 11, 2008 for our new Department Commander, John M. McNulty. See last months Hartranft Herald for full info. – see August issue of *Hartranft Herald* at <http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html>

I encourage some of our Camp members to attend. SPECIAL NOTE The new National Park Center at Gettysburg has its official opening on Sept 26-28, 2008. A few dates to recall:

Sept 17, 1862 - The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest day of the war. Many historians were of the opinion that General Lee and the Confederate Army was heading to the Pennsylvania coal fields in an attempt to shut the war effort.

Sept 22, 1862 - President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, which would free the slaves in the Confederate controlled territory as of Jan 1, 1863.

Sept 20, 1863 - Battle of Chickamauga Creek, Ga. Although one of the bloodiest battles of the war, it had little impact on the military situation in the region.

Oct 2, 1864 - In a demonstration of what the war was all about, at Saltville, Va., Confederate troops murdered almost 100 black prisoners of war from the 5th and 6th United States cavalry.

Oct 19, 1864 - Battle of Cedar Creek, Va. Became know as "Sheridan's Ride" because of his fierce rallying gallop that saved the day.

Did you know the battle flag of a Confederate infantry regiment measures 48"X 48", while the Union regiment measured 72"X 78"?

So impressed was Union Col. John T. Wilder by the new Spencer repeating rifles, that when the War Department refused to issue them to his troops, he convinced the men of his command to pledge \$35 apiece, (while he) stood surely for a note to cover the costs, and went out and bought several thousand. his brigade became the first in history to be completely equipped with the repeaters, with devastating consequence upon the enemy! On a following page, see an old letter, I secured, written by our very own PCinC and Camp 15 Brother, John H. Runkle in 1950 to Camp 112.

--- DJK

[Auxiliary #7 to Hartranft Camp #15 news](#)

Congratulations to Mrs. Helen Shireman, the newest member of Auxiliary #7. Helen is the wife of Camp #15 Brother Ron Shireman and great, great granddaughter of our General John F. Hartranft.

Hip Hip Hooray - Hip Hip Hooray - Hip Hip Hooray

[An extract on Fort Indiantown Gap History](#)

Source of extracted data:

http://www.wwiifederation.org/p_index.html

. . . . A variety of guns were used near [Mt] Gretna for training. During the Civil War all guns were muzzle loading except later in the war, a few cartridge guns such as Burnside Sharps were developed that used cartridges. After the war, a lot of muzzle loading 1862-63-64-65 guns were converted to cartridge guns by cutting the breach and adding a so called trap door to put a cartridge in and taking out the empty. It wasn't until 1892 that a rifle with a magazine was developed. That was the 30-40 Krog. The Regular Army got the newer ones first and handed down the old one to the [PA] Guard, so when the Regular Army was fighting in Cuba, they had the Krog but the Reserves (Guard) still carried the old **.45-70** trapdoors. There were times when in a fight the Guard personnel were asked to stop firing the old smoky **.45-70s** so the Regulars could see the Cubans, the 30-40 being smokeless powder.

In 1903, the Springfield was adapted for use. It was used until World War II when the Gerand [sic] was adapted. There was some use of the Springfield in World War II as sniper rifles. spent bullets from all these guns, plus .38 and .45 pistol bullets at Gretna. In 1933, land was purchased in Indiantown Gap, and in 1934 they started moving back to the Gap but continued using the Gretna area for maneuvers until 1941.

[Address Changes](#)

Brothers and Sisters alike, please submit changes to Camp 15

Notice, when you have a mailing address change or change your e-mail address, please notify Camp 15; the *Hartranft Herald* and/or our Camp secretary.

It costs the Camp \$.50 to obtain your new mailing address and our bank interest is less than \$.40 a month. Likewise, your National *Banner* will be undeliverable and it is a costly burden to National Organization to mail another issue of *The Banner* to you.



HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
Past
JOHN H. RUNKLE, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
610 NORTH THIRD STREET
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

November 28, 1950

Paul A. Snyder, Secretary,
Gettysburg Camp No. 112,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,
Gettysburg, Pa.

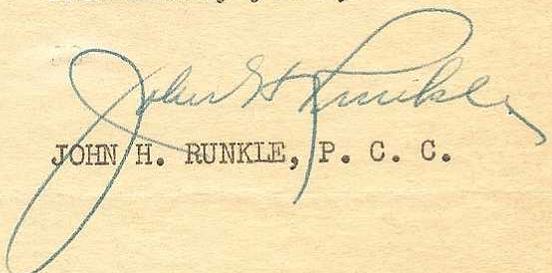
Dear Brother Snyder:

Please extend to Gettysburg Camp my sincere thanks and appreciation for the privilege of serving as presiding officer in the ceremonies at the National Cemetery Sunday, November 19.

It was a pleasure to be of service to your Camp and it was also a pleasure to bring the Drum Corps to Gettysburg and assist in the services which were very impressive.

With kindest personal regards and sincere best wishes to you and your Camp, I remain

Fraternally yours,

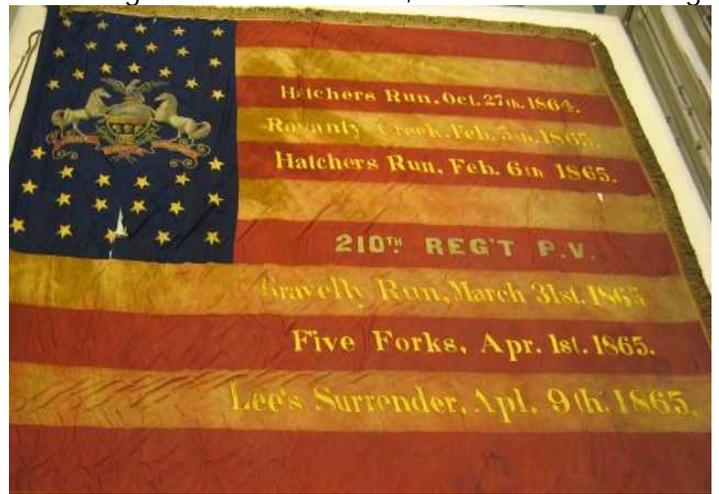

JOHN H. RUNKLE, P. C. C.

JHR*LS

Camp 15 members and guests visit the Pennsylvania Civil War Flag Preservation Center, downtown Harrisburg



L TO R: TONY KLINE, DENNIS DEWALT, DOT KLINE, GREG KLINE & NEW MEMBER BILL NEUMYER.



210TH REGIMENTAL FLAG



L TO R: DOT KLINE, BILL NEUMYER, LARRY C. SHEIBLEY, TONY KLINE AND WITH HIS BACK TO CAMERAMAN, DENNIS DEWALT, BATTERY FIRST SGT



43RD REGIMENTAL FLAG



188TH REGT, PVI FLAG APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN VICTIM TO VETERANS GRASPING FOR A SOUVENIR



ANOTHER DAMAGED FLAG –NOT MUCH SURVIVED 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.

2008 Camp schedule of events - - - please update your calendar accordingly.

Camp 15's Calendar of Events for 2008

September – Sunday 21 st 2pm	General Camp Meeting at National Civil War Museum
October – Sunday 19 th 2pm	General Camp Meeting at National Civil War Museum
November	No general meeting – Camp to participate in Remembrance Day
November – Saturday 22 nd	Annual Remembrance Day at Gettysburg
December 7 th – Sunday 11 am social hour	Annual Camp Holiday Dinner – Pearl Harbor Day 1941 Doc Holliday's Restaurant – New Cumberland, PA Installation of officers for 2009 and a Civil War holiday for you and yours – please plan to attend.
January – Sunday 18 th	General Camp Meeting at National Civil War Museum
January 31, 2009 Saturday	World War II - period re-enacting and vehicles*

***The World War II Federation and Fort Indiantown Gap presents the 64th Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge.**

January – Saturday 31, 2009.

http://www.wwiifederation.org/p_index.html

Interested personnel only – this is not a sanctioned Camp field trip!

You may Go as an individual, carpool and/or meet interested members for Breakfast; and then onto the re-enactment at the Gap.

2008 Camp calendar available on our Camp Website

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.

Be Proud Wear The Badge



Looking Ahead into October 2008:

- Photos, as they become available, of recent Camp activities, such as 2008 Pennsylvania National encampment at Peabody, Boston.
- Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members. Applications were inserted in Camp 15's 125th Anniversary history book.
- Keep a copy of your 2008 schedule of events and calendar handy for reference.
- Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!

Ladies welcome too!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Contact *Hartranft Herald* at DoubleD@Demmy.cc

--- End of September 2008 Hartranft Herald ---



"If forced to choose between the penitentiary and the White House for four years, I would say the penitentiary, thank you." - General William T. Sherman

--- End ---