



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 126th Year



Volume 11, No. 08

August 2009



Volume 11, No. 09

September 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!

[What did you do this summer?](#)



Larry

Dave

“The Camp Curtin Historical Society had cannon firing demonstration scheduled at 3PM on Saturday, June 20, as part of its annual Civil War Days at Lemoyne’s Negley Park. As the hour approached, the rain increased and the demonstration had to be cancelled. It seemed unlikely that the evening dance and cannon firing would be held but almost miraculously, the rain stopped and the gray skies cleared and by 4PM, the sun came out. The dance was on!

Unfortunately, the bad weather during the day kept the crowd down but about thirty guests came out to dance, only about half the number as last year.

The evening began with a special presentation to our own **Dave Klinepeter**. Brother Larry Keener-Farley, in his role as president of the Camp Curtin Historical Society, presented the **Andrew Gregg Curtin Governor's Cup** to Dave in recognition of his years of service to the Society and the Civil War community. Dave has had a lifelong interest in the Civil War and has been a member of the Sons of Union Veterans since he was a boy. He attended the Final Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1949, the last time the Union veterans of the Civil War gathered in convention, served as Camp Commander of the Harrisburg chapter of the SUV and is presently its historian and patriotic instructor. He was a member of the North-South Skirmish Association and served with Knap's Battery. Dave has been active in numerous historical organizations and when the Camp Curtin Historical Society was formed he answered the call to portray Governor Curtin. Since then, he has done countless programs on Curtin's life and with President Lincoln/Jim Getty is a fixture at Dedication Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies. Dave is perhaps better known by more reenactors as "The Guv" than he is by his own name".

Story and photo provided by: *Chassez!* newsletter of the [Victorian Dance Ensemble](#)

[Next Camp Event](#)

Our next event will be our monthly meeting on **Sunday, September 20, at 2pm** at National Civil War Museum high atop Reservoir Park, Harrisburg. The street address is:
1 Lincoln Circle, at Reservoir Park, 17103.

[Happy Birthday to all concerned personnel for August:](#)

Barry Foster	Brush Valley, PA
Harry Readshaw	Pittsburgh, PA
Larry C. Sheibley	Newport, PA
Dave Sosnowski	Stewartstown, PA
Logan Swanger	Middletown, PA
Mrs. Dawn Fry	Linglestown, PA
Mrs. Charlotte Walters	Mechanicsburg, PA

[Happy Birthday to all concerned personnel for September.](#)

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

If your summer birthday is not indicated above, please contact the *Hartranft Herald* with your full birthday.

[Camp Picnic](#)

The annual picnic offered fine food and fellowship for those in attendance. The *Hartranft Herald* does not believe anyone took photos of the event; however, if you did, please share your pix with the *Hartranft Herald* staff for a future issue. Our guest cook was Brother Tony Kline!

Near the end of the event, we noticed a hawk on duty surveying the area! Perhaps he was mesmerized by the eating habits of the young

ground hogs on the church campus. About a week later while working on campus, this writer noticed the hawk again! This time he was not surveying, but was in flight trying to get away from 2 large crows that were dive-bombing him over and over. I thought he would fight them off, but he decided to escape and live another day.

[Families in Distress](#)

Ralph E. Britt, 92, of Harrisburg, died Friday, July 31, 2009. Mr Britt He is survived by his wife, Grace; two daughters, Marjorie and her husband John Martin of Harrisburg and Barbara and her husband Keith Winters of Lititz. Brother, John Martin is a member of Camp 15. The *Hartranft Herald* and Camp 15 extend their Christian sympathy to the family.

Other Brothers and sisters and their families too have special needs that some do not want made public. Please keep our *allied order* friends in your prayers and if you have a specific need for prayer, call upon us!

[PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN](#)

by Dave Klinepeter

Another July "Battle of Gettysburg and 4th of July have come and gone. This year was considered as an off year so there were about 1500 troops involved. Last year was the 145th, so there were over 12,000 troops. The next large battle will be the 150th year (provided they can find a farm large enough to hold it on.) I was there Friday and Saturday portraying Governor Curtin one day and a Sheriff the other. There was a good crowd attending both days. Sunday the fifth was their biggest day "Pickett's Charge" At least this stimulates people's interest in the Civil War, seeing as the schools do not teach too much on the subject any more. I was glad to see the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil

War had a table of material set up in the artist tent. This is something we need to do more often at other events.

Over the years the Sons of the Confederate Veterans have had a tent display at many of the reenactments.

I did manage to visit downtown Gettysburg for a while. Took in a number of shops and came away shaking my head! There must be a million T SHIRTS, thousands of mugs, cups knickknacks (JUNK) guess where the stuff is made. A few places had interesting items. As expected there were many American flags on display on the streets and also to buy, I saw very few flags in Harrisburg and surrounding areas. Some towns had 4th of July parades.

DID YOU KNOW?

After the Battle of Gettysburg the combined casualty total of dead, wounded, and missing for the two armies was set at 51,112

Gettysburg was costly to General Officers, according to some reports 32 were casualties. 16 Union and 16 Confederate of those 8 on each side died of mortal wounds inflicted at Gettysburg.

The First Minnesota suffered the highest casualties at Gettysburg, 82 percent The Second Wisconsin also suffered 77 percent casualties General John Reynolds was the highest ranking officer killed at Gettysburg General Winfield Hancock badly wounded at Gettysburg, later ran for President against James Garfield

DJK

More from Brother Dave:

(AN UNUSUAL EVENT AT THE 146TH BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG)

On July 3rd 2009, while portraying Governor Andrew Gregg Curtin, I was requested to

come to the mortar demonstration area. One unit to be firing was **KNAP's Pennsylvania Light Artillery Independent Battery E**. Members of the North-South Skirmish Association. [The original Knaps Battery E was organized August 1861 in the Pittsburg, Pa area by 1st Lieutenant Joseph M. Knap. He was than promoted to Captain.

This Independent Battery E served during the war with various Infantry units. At Gettysburg, during the battle, they were on Culps Hill and than Powers Hill.]

When I arrived at the Battery location, it was my pleasure to be introduced to JOSEPH KNAP, GREAT GRAND SON of CAPTAIN JOSEPH KNAP. The boys on the mortar crew had outfitted him with a uniform. He pulled the lanyard for 5 demo shots.

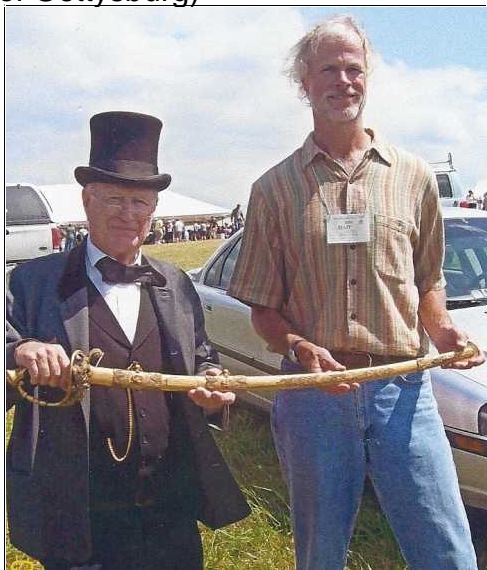
When the firing demonstration was over we all went to Joseph Knap's vehicle where he showed us his great grandfather's presentation cavalry saber.



L TO R: JOE KNAP, MIKE AND DAVE KLINEPETER

It was engraved to Captain Joseph Knap and presented by his Battery E men when he resigned in May 1863 to accept a partnership in the general superintendency of the Fort Pitt

Foundry at Pittsburg, Pa. (he was not at the Battle of Gettysburg)



Dave
I held the saber in my hands and had a feeling of being transported back to the day that it was presented to Captain Knap.

This event also reminded me of the organizing of Battery E back in 1960. I could be the last living member of the battery from when we first joined the North South Skirmish Association. They are writing a history for the upcoming 50th anniversary. So many memories of reenactments, parades, special events and buddies who are no longer with me.
DJK

[What did you do this summer](#), continues with a story by Brother Gene Mascioli:

Trip of a Life Time by Brother Gene Mascioli

During the summer of 2009, I toured North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia looking at a variety of civil war related places and sites. The first site I visited was the life-size model of the CSS Neuse.



THIS PHOTO SHOWS THE ORIGINAL HAUL OF THIS VESSEL.

Visited the coast of Fort Macon, North Carolina! It reminded me of Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD.

We headed north to Norfolk the home of the USS Monitor, which was retrieved from the watery depths in 2001. It is being soaked in chemicals to rid it of the decades of sea growth. Next, my companion, Jim Keebler and I viewed some battlefields in the Petersburg area, and then on to Richmond. Visited the Tredegar Iron Works, the largest iron works to provide armaments to the Confederate cause!



ONE OF THE MANY CANNONS ON DISPLAY AT TREDEGAR.

I was delighted to at last, visit the Confederate White House and the Hollywood Cemetery.

Heading northward again, we stopped at Stuart's Shrine where Jeb died in a small plantation house. I learned more about the civil war era and made the trip of a lifetime.

Gene Mascioli, PCC

What did you do this summer, carries-on with data about the Pennsylvania Department's 2009 Encampment at New Oxford near Gettysburg!



PENNSYLVANIA'S 2009 ENCAMPMENT BADGE PROVIDED TO ALL ENCAMPMENT PARTICIPANTS!



75TH YEAR COMMEMORATIVE BADGE FOR REV RICHARD PARTINGTON PROVIDED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS TOO.

National Encampment at Lou-a-ville:

Likewise, the 2009 National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held in Louisville, Kentucky. Great traveling, great food, great fellowship, and great new Brothers and friends; not so good convention in the convention hall next door!

A 'Horror Film Classics Convention' was being held next door to our encampment hall. There were outer-space zombies, the 60-foot woman, the swamp-thing, *long haired freaky people* (WITH APOLOGIES TO THE 'FIVE-MAN ELECTRIC BAND') tattooed participates, and other characters and visitors interested in the occult movie genre. *Looked like a 'CSI' crime scene!*

The Crowne Plaza had a wonderful pool, great restaurant and deluxe rooms for the encampment rate. We discovered more good food at 'Big Boy' and 'Steak and Shakes' - Neither is available at this time in central Pennsylvania!

We hadn't eaten at a Big Boy for decades. Applebys is now located where Harrisburg's Bob's Big Boy was on Jonestown Road.



2009 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT BADGE
PHOTOS OF THE ENCAMPMENT ARE AVAILABLE AT
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR 'S
NATIONAL WEBSITE AT
[HTTP://WWW.SUVCW.ORG/ID.HTM](http://www.suvcw.org/id.htm).

In the news, shared by Brother John Martin
AP Fri Sep 4, 9:51 pm ET

UNIONTOWN, Pa. – A Pennsylvania history buff who recreates firearms from old wars accidentally fired a 2-pound cannonball through the wall of his neighbor's home. William Maser, 54, fired a cannonball Wednesday evening outside his home in Georges Township that ricocheted and hit a house 400 yards away. The cannonball, about two inches in diameter, smashed through a window and a wall before landing in a closet. Authorities said nobody was hurt.

State police charged Maser with reckless endangerment, criminal mischief and disorderly conduct.

No one answered the phone Friday at Maser's home. He told WPXI-TV recreating 19th century cannons is a longtime hobby. He said he is sorry and he will stop shooting them on his property, about 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090905/ap_on_fe_st/us_odd_cannonball_through_house

Next –

[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!

Member's Profiles to appear in issues of our *Hartranft Herald* newsletter.

September 20, Sunday – Nominations for officers for 2010 at General Camp meeting.

October 18, Sunday - *guest speaker* **Sue Boardman!**

November 15, Saturday – General Camp meeting.

Note – this is the 2nd Sunday of November

The 3rd Sunday of November, **November 21, Saturday** – and Sunday 22, is **Remembrance Day Weekend** with parade and activities, Gettysburg, PA.

December 13, Sunday - Annual Camp Holiday Party at Doc Holliday's, New Cumberland.

Be Proud Wear The Badge



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 Army 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!

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worksheets were inserted in Camp 15's 125th Anniversary history book. |

<p>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 DoubleD@Demmy.cc</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!
<p>Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!</p>