



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/

Celebrating our 138th Year serving Harrisburg Area



f @ Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Vol 22, No. 5

Memorial Day USA

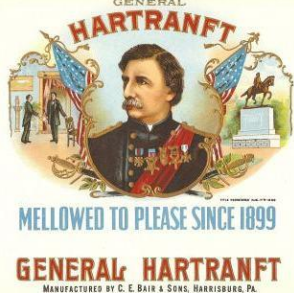
May 2020



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!

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!

2020 Hartranft Camp 15 Officers and Staff 	Commander Senior Vice Commander Junior Vice Commander Secretary Treasurer Council 01 Council 02 Council 03 Patriotic Instructor Chaplain Counselor GAR Historian Graves Registration Guide Color Bearer Guard Eagle Scout Coordinator Webmaster ROTC Coordinator GAR Highway Officer Longevity Brother	Logan Swanger 2019 Vernon Stout 2018 Scott Debo, PCC 2018 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-20 David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 07-20 Anthony Kline 16 - 20 Jeffery Smith, PCC 18-21 Scott Debo, PCC 15-20 Jeffery Smith, PCC 18 - 20 David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 00-20 Lee F. Walters, PCC since 2007 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2020 Logan Swanger 14-20 Vacant 2018 Vacant 2018 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-20 Vacant 2018 Dave W. Demmy, Jr. since 2011 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-20 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-20 Dave J. Klinepeter, PCC 1943
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Camp 15 routinely meets at National Civil War Museum, at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, PA, 2 pm,
3rd Sunday of most months. The Marshall A. Hope author award was bestowed upon *Hartranft Herald*
for excellence of a camp newsletter by Brad Schall, Commander in Chief, 2010-2011.

Dept of PA: www.PAsuvcw.org National: <http://www.suvcw.org/>

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The month of May Greetings, to our Brothers and Sisters of Camp 15, and the Allied Orders' readers!

Due to COVID-19 virus and quarantine thru-out major metropolitan areas of Pennsylvania, Camp 15's normal **May camp meeting was cancelled!** Since we don't meet during the summer months, we surely hope we are back in business after Labor Day and can once again meet in September. Stay tuned for details on a picnic with our sister camp 503 in Sunbury!

If we can get together for our annual Memorial Day weekend tribute to veterans within the historic Harrisburg Cemetery, we will notify you the next couple of weeks.

Brothers and Sisters in Distress

by David W, Demmy, Sr., PCC, a Kentucky Colonel, Camp 15 Chaplain, CPA, and ARNG.

Commander Logan Swanger's ongoing situation required surgery and he is recovering nicely. Blessings for Dave Klinepeter for recent ailment. Greg Kline, Tony Kline, Scott Debo. Mrs. Betz, PCinC Rich Orr, Jim Crane of Ohio, PCinC Andy Johnson; with continued blessings for Mrs. Charlotte Walters PDP and Mrs. Dot Kline Mrs. Rob Koenigsberg, spouse of PA Dept Secretary; and Rob too. Darlene Alcorn's son; and Lowell Alcorn, Mrs. Rosemary Martin, Mrs. Tom McKay and Mrs. Russ Kratz of camp 15!

Mrs. Ellen Kowalski to care for Jerry! Chaplains Jerry Kowalski and Scott Teeters and Clark Brocht! PCinC Ed Krieser, PCinC Brad Schall, Mrs. Dick Williams of the department of Michigan among our prayer list too! God bless you and yours, and in all things, give thanx!

We continue prayer for our good helath and protection during this COVID crisis. We honor all those on the front line: medical staff, your local postal worker, the grocery store personnel that provide normal food items for us to purchase, the pharmacy down the road that may be open 24 hours to serve your needs and all of the Police Officers we

have not seen since March. Guess they don't wanta deal with car to car people any more than necessary. Who knows who may be behind that mask!

If you have knowledge of our sisters and brothers in distress, drop us a line so we may pray for them!

DoubleD@Demmy.cc

[Website for all your needs for 2020 National Encampment at Atlanta, Georgia](#)



We Present to You -The City of Atlanta!

The Department of Georgia and South Carolina invites you to the 139th National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic taking place August 13-16, 2020 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Encampment will take place at the first-class Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel & Conference Center located in the heart of Buckhead, the shopping, dining and entertainment district of Atlanta.

A tour of the nearby Atlanta History center will be offered on Thursday, August 13th. The Atlanta History Center features one of the nation's largest Civil War exhibitions. It is also the home of the world-famous *Cyclorama: The Big Picture*, featuring the fully restored cyclorama painting, *The Battle of Atlanta*. At the centerpiece of this new multi-media experience is a 132-year-old hand-painted work of art that stands 49 feet tall, is longer than a football field, and weighs 10,000 pounds. This painting is one of only two cycloramas in the United States-the other being the *Battle of Gettysburg* cyclorama.

Please visit the 2020 National Encampment website regularly in order to stay abreast of Encampment happenings to include registration, medals, shirts, tours, banquet tickets, transportation and hotel information. Hotel accommodations are available now so get a head-start and book your room early. Once the hotel fills up, nearby hotels will have no rates that compare favorably with the Encampment hotel.

2020 National Encampment Website:
2020nationalencampment.org

Continued.

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So brothers of Camp 15, what have you been doing?

Share quik story and/or photos with captions and explanation with us for another Hartranft Herald news!
Send data to [DoubleD @ Demmy. cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc) note no spaces!

Happy birthday brothers for May, June and July

Lute, Daniel G
Keener-Farley, Lawrence E
Demmy Sr, PCC, David W
Mills, Terry A
McKay Jr, Thomas Edward
Hall, Nathaniel Allen
Stout, Vernon David
Demmy Jr, David William
Bruner, Thomas Gene
Baker, Bruce R
Kyle, Lynn E
Klinepeter, David Michael
Kuhn Jr, William Charles
Walters PDC, Lee Franklin
Kline, Gregory Edward
Proper, Michael Scott
Riegle, Charles William
Diemer Jr, Wesley E

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;

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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
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.)

On the Road with Camp 15

Monthly Camp business meetings begin at 2 p.m. and are conducted [*mostly*] on the 3rd Sunday, at National Civil War Museum [NCWM]!

May

Camp meeting scheduled for **May 17th**

Meeting cancelled!

Camp celebrates **Memorial Day** on **Saturday 23rd** with *breakfast* at Peachtree Restaurant, North Progress Avenue less than 3 miles for NCWM; and then the *placing of flags* upon veteran's graves at historic Harrisburg Cemetery!

And,

Camp 15 Parades on Monday 24th. Contact Greg Kline for details. **Mostly likely all cancelled!**

June

Harrisburg Civil War Days 2020 during weekend of **June 13th**. Stay tuned for updates; and things, Camp 15 the SUVCW can contribute to this weekend, like information and recruiting tables at NCWM Saturday. **Mostly likely will cancelled!**

Pennsylvania Department **Encampment Convention June 26-27-28** at Altoona, PA

As soon as we know more about this event, we'll pass it along to you.

National Encampment August 13 – 16 at Atlanta, Georgia, hosted by our Department of Georgia/South Carolina!

Enjoy your summer!

Please update your social calendar now.

Camp 15 annual calendar available upon request. Send e-mail or contact Hartranft Herald staff DoubleD@Demmy.cc.

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 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 125th 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

Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, cousins, your neighbor and all of your friends to a Camp meeting! Family and our sisters of the Auxiliaries are always welcome!

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

Continued

Memorial Day upon us

"To the memory of our patriot dead, who sleep in distant fields".

"Our land is glory's still, and theirs."

"The path of duty is the way to glory."

"Bright be the place of their souls."

"On fame's eternal camping ground

Their silent tents are spread,

And glory guards with solemn round

The bivouac of the dead!

The hopes, the fears, the blood, the tears

That marked the bitter strife,

Are now all crowned with victory

That saved the country's life."

Nor wreck, nor change, nor winter's blight,

Nor time's remorseless doom,

Shall mar one ray of glory's light

That gilds their sacred tomb."

"The fittest place where man can die

Is where he dies for man."

Taken from page 480, The National Memorial Day Book, 1870, Marshall, MI

And this

Memorial Day address given by Jerome Orton at the Short Tract Methodist Church, May 30, 1993.

The Woman's Relief Corps, The American Legion and members of the community would attend the service at the church. Afterwards all those who were able would walk up the country roads to the Short Tract Cemetery led by the American Legion Honor Guard. There the Memorial Day services would be conducted by the organizations.

"It is indeed a honor to have been asked to offer this address to the citizens of Short Tract on this very special day. Actually I am somewhat overwhelmed that a stranger to this community has the opportunity to give the customary tribute to our illustrious ancestors.

This is the day set aside by custom and law to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives so our nation may live.

A number of places claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. But the 1st organized Memorial Day was May 5, 1866 in Waterloo, NY. Col. John B. Murray of the 148th NYSV and Henry Wells were able to have a community wide observance. Col. Murray maintained until his dying day that he spoke to John A. Logan about this event and while no one can prove it, it seems strange that John Logan issued his famous order #11 proclaiming Memorial Day 2 years to the day of the Waterloo event.

At the first national Memorial Day in 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery General James A. Garfield said, "If silence is ever golden, it must be here besides the graves of fifteen thousand men who lives were more significant than speech and whose death was a poem the music of which can never be sung."

Interestingly, GAR post #2 in Buffalo did not have enough time to prepare for the 30th and held their observance on the 31st. As time when on the Grand Army of the Republic proclaimed that if the 30th fell on Sunday, the following day was to be the official observance.

Memorial Day was a special occasion for the GAR. There was the parade, flower tribute and the service program. The parade, as is the custom with veterans' organizations today was the only time that the GAR was seen in military uniform. These veterans would continue to march until their 90's, some into their centennial years. Only the infirmities of old age prevented them from marching and then they used wheelchairs.

Flowers were strewn upon the water or on graves in memory of those comrades or shipmates who slept beneath the seas.

The funeral service was the most important. It was here that the veterans were able to have a mystical communion or bonding with their former comrades and shipmates. Realizing that some day they would be the ones remembered and for whom the last tattoo would be played.

Some of the most moving observances will be in places like Arlington, Cathedral of the Pines and even Short Tract. Short Tract with its beautiful 25 foot obelisk is no less important than other great war memorials. Why? Because it is your personal heritage. This memorial is a silent sentinel to the

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honorable service of the veterans of the Civil War and the 37 heroes whose names are inscribed upon it. Men who would sacrifice so much so that we could enjoy the fruits of peace in a united country.

One citizen of Short Tract was John H. Crotty who enlisted in September 1861 in the 85th regiment. He was a prisoner at Andersonville for 9 months and fought in 17 battles. He died March 30, 1918. Some members of his regiment who died in Andersonville were William H. Abbey and Edgar Baker." (At this time the speaker held up a medal issued by NYS that was presented to veterans and guests attending the dedication of the New York State Andersonville Memorial on April 27, 1914, US Grant's birthday).

" After the war, the veterans saw fit to organize the Isaac and Aaron VanNostrand Post #603 on December 30, 1886 in Short Tract. This was one of 15 in Allegheny County.

The first post was #86 chartered May 6, 1879 in Belfast named after A.K. Throp who died in the Battle of Winchester, VA and is buried in Short Tract.

One cannot help but wonder if there had been a 38th name of a hero on the memorial if things would have been different. That name was Albert Dory. At age 20 on September 12, 1864 he was mustered into Co. A. 184th NYSV and discharged May 13, 1865. He returned home and 30 years later he and his wife Athelia Boss had a daughter, Fern Dory Bennett, who was born on the original Memorial Day. She was a 74 year member of the Woman's Relief Corps and died this year.

Some of us will have heavy hearts today but be mindful that a sunset in our land is a sunrise in another and it is with hope and faith that we shall return next year."

Jerome Orton
Onondaga County and 5th District Historian
The American Legion
NY Dept. Historian, Sons of Union Veterans
213 Dixon Dr.
Syracuse, NY 13219-2711

Editor's Note:

Brother Jerry is a National Life Member of the SUVCW, PDC of New York and the Historian, of course, of our New York Department.

Often Jerry shares words of wisdom and stories from LGAR or GAR era and other appropriate data out of our past.

If it didn't know better, I'd believe Jerry and our own camp 15 brother Dave Klinepeter, had the same history teacher in school and both have made their independent history teachers proud along with the brotherhood of their respective local camp.

Harrisburg Market Square



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DAUPHIN COUNTY



Editor's note: not quite 150 yrs.

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The Battle of McConnellsburg.

Shared by Dave Klinepeter, PCC.

There were many small battles fought, where men died defending the American flag. I live next to a small cemetery here where there are Rev war and C W veterans. There were four GAR Posts in Fulton County. They have a very active Historical Society also. And, Yes, "I joined it".

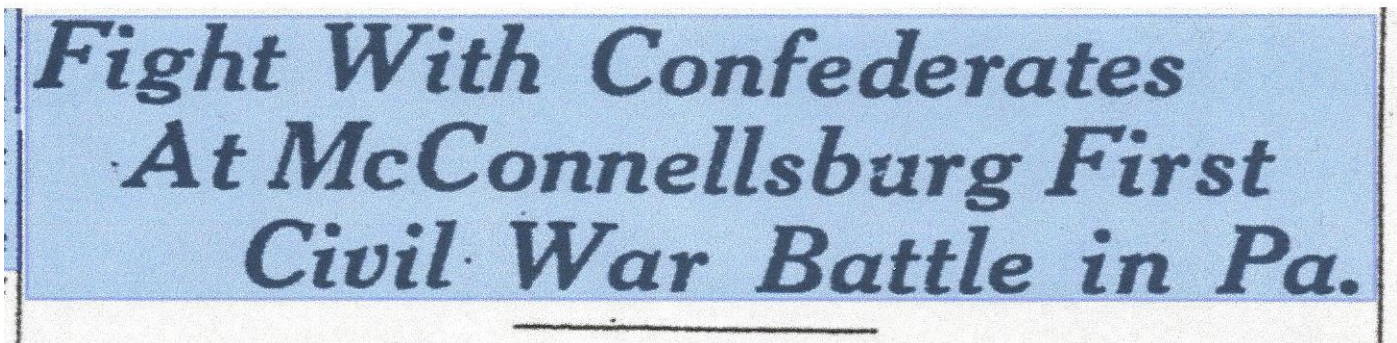
Weather Outlook
Showers Sunday; fair and slightly
Cooler Sunday night. Monday fair
Temperature, 2 a.m. 72. Cloudy.

THE READING EAGLE.

The sworn average Circulation
of the Daily Eagle for the
month of August was 43,914
copies a day.

READING, PA., SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1927.

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(By REV. WILLIAM LOWE, Pastor of McConnellsburg Reformed Church.)

To Gettysburg is generally given the honor of the first battle of the Civil War north of the Mason and Dixon line, but the first encounter between the troops of the North and the South on Pennsylvania soil in which there was loss of life took place on the Main street of McConnellsburg, on the morning of June 30, 1863.

The Cove had suffered a great deal at the hands of the Rebel forces, raiding parties taking what horses they could gather up, entering the stores and shops of McConnellsburg and Webster Mills and taking such things as they wanted, and in a few instances offering to pay in Confederate money. The whole lower end of the county had been scoured by Imboden's guerillas, who swept off the stock of the farmers, and in some instances entered the houses and carried off private property.

Early on the morning of June 30, 1863, a company of the First New York Cavalry, under command of Capt. Jones, and a company of newly-organized Militia Cavalry came into McConnellsburg, the New Yorkers coming from Bloody Run (Everett), and the militia from Mount Union. Capt. Jones and his men dismounted at the Stone Hotel (Fulton House), while the Militia stopped in the Court House square. Word was brought in that a body of Rebel cavalry was coming down the mountain from the direction of Mercersburg and the New York boys were speedily in the saddle.

REBELS RODE IN BOLDLY.

The Rebels rode boldly in at the upper end of the town, while Capt. Jones and his men retired slowly down the street. The Rebels stopped in front of the Stone Hotel (Fulton House), and the two forces stood facing each other at a distance of about two squares.

from North Carolina and the latter from Virginia.

One of the prisoners still having his pistol, shot his captor in the leg and Capt. Jones, enraged at the act, cut the Rebel over the neck with his sword, almost severing his head from his body.

The two dead soldiers were brought to town and their bodies lay at the Court House until boxes could be prepared in which to bury them.

Capt. Jones and his men started for Bloody Run (Everett), taking with them their prisoners, the wounded man who had been cut with the sword dying on the way. His body was buried by the road side.

As soon as the boxes were ready a number of citizens formed a funeral procession and the bodies of the two dead Confederates were buried where they had fallen by the side of the road on the Mercersburg Pike.

FLAG OF TRUCE RAISED.

While the burial was taking place, another Rebel force came down the Mercersburg Pike, having been informed of the fight by two who had escaped capture during the retreat. A flag of truce was raised by the citizens and the Rebels informed of what had taken place. Another body of Rebels having made a circuit below the town, filed out on the pike about a half mile west, and thus McConnellsburg was surrounded and in the hands of the enemy, who numbered about 300 in all and had with them two brass howitzers, their object being to capture any force that might be in the town.

Finding that the New Yorkers and the Militia had left McConnellsburg, the latter returning to Mount Union, the Rebels searched the houses for concealed soldiers and arms, and after about two hours left again, going back over the mountains in the direction of Mercersburg.

Those who were present at the burial of the two dead soldiers were called on to witness a sorrowful scene, when several brothers of the dead soldiers appeared at the graves

Just at this time an officer of the Militia Cavalry rode from Court House square to Main street and the Rebels, fearing that they were about to be surrounded, wheeled about and began to retreat. Capt. Jones ordered his men to charge, and they did so, most gallantly and fiercely, gaining on the enemy at every stride of the horses and opening fire on the Confederates, who began throwing away their sabres and firearms.

The result was the capturing of 32 men and horses and the killing of two of the Confederates: T. A. Shelton and W. B. Moore, the former

head soldiers appeared at the graves from among the Confederates who arrived during the burial.

Several years ago Mr. Elliott Patterson, of Philadelphia, formerly of the Cove, had a wooden marker erected at the site of the graves, which bears this inscription, "Confederate Graves, June 30, 1863."

Each year the citizens of the community include these graves in the Memorial Day program and decorate the graves with flags and flowers.—M. H. J. in the Harrisburg Telegraph.

Article originally published in the Reading Eagle, September 11, 1927.

Lowe, W. (n.d.). Fight with Confederates at McConnellsburg First Civil War Battle in Pa. *The Reading Eagle*. Retrieved from <https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=SpQhAAAAIBAJ&sjid=JZgFAAAAIBA&pg=3832,1889986&hl=en>

To read the full story in easier font, see link below

<https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=SpQhAAAAIBAJ&sjid=JZgFAAAAIBA&pg=3832,1889986&hl=en>