



# 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/>



Volume 9, No. 12

December 2007



--- Happy Holidays to you and yours ---

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!



**Merry Christmas from our house to your house.**

Consider sitting down with your loved ones and reminisce about holidays past. Tell them your favorite memories and what makes the season special for you. And in between the hustling and bustling, we hope you have time for quiet reflection and enjoy the season in ways that you and yours may enjoy the most. Best wishes for health and happiness to you and yours for the New Year.

[As 2007 draws to a close](#)

Gentlemen and Brothers of Camp 15, as year 2007 comes to a close, your Camp completes its 12<sup>th</sup> revitalized year! Congratulations!

[Dear Friends,](#)

The link below will lead you to an EXTRAORDINARY online photo album from Remembrance Day 2007 in Gettysburg. There are 225 images, so take your time and enjoy. . . . . for the Sons of Union Veterans, there are MANY images of the ceremony at the Woolson Monument.

Thanks to Allan Shikvarg, 'General Longstreet', for sharing this link.

<http://www.shutterfly.com/progal/slideshow.jsp?auto=0&aid=768a5498cf4218bf5f26>

Regards, John Deppen, Camp 15.

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

- John Croft - Pittsburgh
- Kelly Betz - Mechanicsburg
- Donnie Prye - Mifflintown
- John F. Hartranft - Norristown

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. . . . . for 2008.

**DUES DUE. DUES DUE.**  
**Camp dues for 2008 are now due.**

**If you have paid, your staff thanks you for your  
timely remittance; thus saving us stationery and  
postage!**

**February 11, 2008, is the 125th  
Anniversary of Camp #15.**

**Be part of the excitement,  
celebration, and surprises!**

**Please, pay your dues before the end  
of December.**

**DUES DUE. DUES DUE.**

Larry C. Sheibley, secretary.

Checks preferred – make 'em payable to  
**General John F. Hartranft Camp 15, SUVCW!**  
Please mail your remittance to  
David W. Demmy, Camp 15 Treasurer  
881 Sunny Hill Lane  
Harrisburg PA 17111-4690.

***Poem: The Spirit of Christmas***

*By Erik Braum  
Lafayette, Louisiana*

Merry Yuletide greetings  
To old friends and the new.

May the season bring much joy  
To every one of you.

Invite the Christmas spirit  
With holly on the door.

May the family gather 'round  
With love and peace once more.

If the chill of winter  
Brings a heavy snow,  
Keep the fireplace warm  
With its bright and cozy glow.

Decorate the tree  
With tinsel and soft light.  
Sing the carols of the years  
To make your season bright.

Share the joyful days  
Of this special time of year.  
Have good times and gifts for all  
With a bit of Christmas "cheer."

Give your love a gentle kiss  
Beneath the mistletoe.  
Remember those not present  
Who loved us long ago.

Merry Christmas to you all,  
A happy New Year, too.  
Give your best for those you love  
And Christ will be with you.

[PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN](#)

by Dave Klinepeter

I have been reading the book "We  
were Marching on Christmas Day" by  
Kevin Rawlings. It brings back  
memories from me as well as other  
veterans who were away from home  
and loved ones over Christmas.

Today many are serving in the  
military away from home, just as  
they did in 1861-1864. They will  
be fighting, attending religious  
services, resting, playing games,  
writing home, if fortunate a good  
meal and packages from home.

Here is a poem titled "By the  
Christmas Hearth" published in the  
Christmas edition in the Harper's  
Weekly in 1865. It was the first  
peaceful Christmas in five long  
years of war.

*Today at the home beside the hearth, Warm with  
ruddy ember's glow,  
We keep our Christmas, so unlike,  
The Christmas of a year ago,*

*When in the camp at earliest dawn  
The grimy throated cannon woke  
Our slumbers, and with the East  
The golden light of morning broke.*

*Ah! Than the smoke of battle hung  
its sulphurous cloud our land above,  
And bitter feud and hatred filled  
Brave hearts that should have warmed with love;*

*But now at home beside the hearth  
We keep the day with song and cheer,  
While from each spire the Christmas bells  
Ring out with voices sweet and clear.*

*Bring holly, rich with berries red,  
And bring the sacred mistle toe:  
Fill high the glass and let hearts  
With kindliest flow;*

*So sweet it seems at home once more  
To sit with those we hold most dear,  
And keep absence once again  
To keep the MERRY CHRISTMAS here.*

Let us keep those who are serving,  
in our hearts and prayers not just  
at the Holiday Season but always.

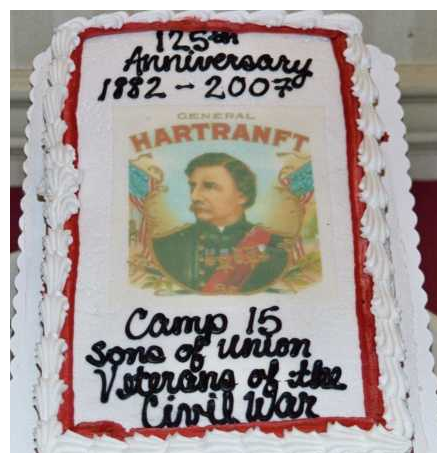
I am still working on the history  
of the Camp 15 SUV fife AND DRUM  
CORP. MY COMPUTER CRASHED AND NO,  
NOTHING WAS BACKED UP, SO AM  
SLOWLY

LEARNING HOW TO USE a new one with  
too many bells and whistles.  
I also have been going to the  
State Library and have found out  
the Drum Corp did exist in 1913,  
but need to go further back into  
history **DJK**

## [Camp 15's annual holiday event](#)

By your *Hartranft Herald* Staff

The week before our holiday party, weather forecast was for a crisp day and we were hopeful for a grand turn-out of members and their families; but the weather quickly went downhill as the weekend event approached. Our Commander was on-call with PennDot and other out-of-towners were concerned about arriving in cloudy skies in New Cumberland and having to return home upon sleet covered hi-ways and by-ways. One lady couldn't say enough good things about the dinner that evening! We broke bread together, fellowshiped, enjoyed great food, and 2 folks went home a little happier with cold cash. John McNulty and Charlotte Walters were the 2 winners of our drawing. Others won the table center pieces created by Marilyn Demmy and then everyone won something in the Christmas Bingo conducted by our Department Commander Lee Walters. The Camp presented our Commander-in-Chief and dual member of Camp 15, Charlie Kuhn, with his very own table center piece. Several rolls of film were exposed. Here is a sampling of the poses captured on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Doc Hollidays. All photos will be placed at our Camp website as soon as time permits:



OUR ANNIVERSARY IS OFFICIALLY ON FEBRUARY 11, 2008, BUT WE WANTED TO BEGIN EARLY.



LOOKS LIKE THE BOYS IN BLUE ARE WINNING AGAIN.



CAMP MEMBERS PRESENT TODAY.



DAVID J. KLINEPETER (C) PRESENTS CHARLIE KUHN, FAR LEFT WITH OUR LICENSE PLATE. LEE WALTERS SHARES IN THE PRESENTATION TO OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.



PAST CAMP 15 COMMANDERS PRESENT ALONG WITH COMMANDER-ELECT FOR 2008-09.



HELEN AND RON SHIREMAN. HELEN IS THE GREAT, GREAT, GRANDDAUGHTER OF OUR CAMP NAME SAKE, GENERAL JOHN F. HARTRANFT.



LADIES OF LGAR AND AUXILIARY, MARY SMITH, MARY JANE BANNAN AND KATE SIENERTH. IF YOU HAVE PHOTOS TO SHARE, PLEASE SEND THEM TO *HARTRANFT HERALD*.

Hartranft, John Frederick (1830-1889) — also known as John F. Hartranft — of Pennsylvania. Born in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County, Pa., **December 16, 1830**. Republican. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War; Was Pennsylvania state auditor general, 1866-72; Governor of Pennsylvania, 1873-79; candidate for Republican nomination for President, 1876. He received the Medal of Honor in 1886 for action at Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861. He died October 17, 1889; and, his Interment is at Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, Pa.

[World War II - period re-enacting and vehicles](#)

**The World War II Federation and Fort Indiantown Gap presents the 63d Commemoration of the Battle of the Bulge.**  
January – Saturday 26, 2008.

**Interested personnel only – this is not a sanctioned Camp field trip!** Go as an individual or meet interested members for Breakfast as indicated below.

Breakfast buffet at The Ono Farmer's Wife Family Restaurant 8:45 a.m., along Route 22 East at Ono, just east of the GAP exit. Buffet begins at 9!  
Farmer's Wife Family Restaurant  
10609 Allentown Blvd. Ono, PA 17077 Tel: 717-865-6517  
Map posted here:



10:00 AM – 2:00 PM dress appropriately to keep warm – tis winter time at the Gap. **Continued**

See World War II - period re-enacting and vehicles and the inside of the World War II – era barracks! Area 12 – Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville, PA. Many German and Allied re-enactors on hand and vendors too.

For more data on this annual re-enactment, go to:

<http://www.wwiifederation.org/> for week-long events leading up to battle re-enactment on Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, the week following our January Camp meeting.

You may carpool or go individually and come and go as you please!

Potential schedule of events:

Saturday January 26th

0900 (9AM) Troops move into battlefield

1000 (10AM) Scenario Begins

1030 (10:30AM) Veteran Tour of Battle Field Load Bus 12-15

**1030 (10:30AM) First Public Battle**

1100 (11AM) Flea Market Opens

1100 (11AM) Veteran Tour of Battle Field Depart for Battle Field 12-15

1300 (1PM) Veteran Tour of Battle Field Return from Battle Field

1300 (1PM) Veterans arrive at Barracks 12-15

**1330 (1:30PM) Second Public Battle**

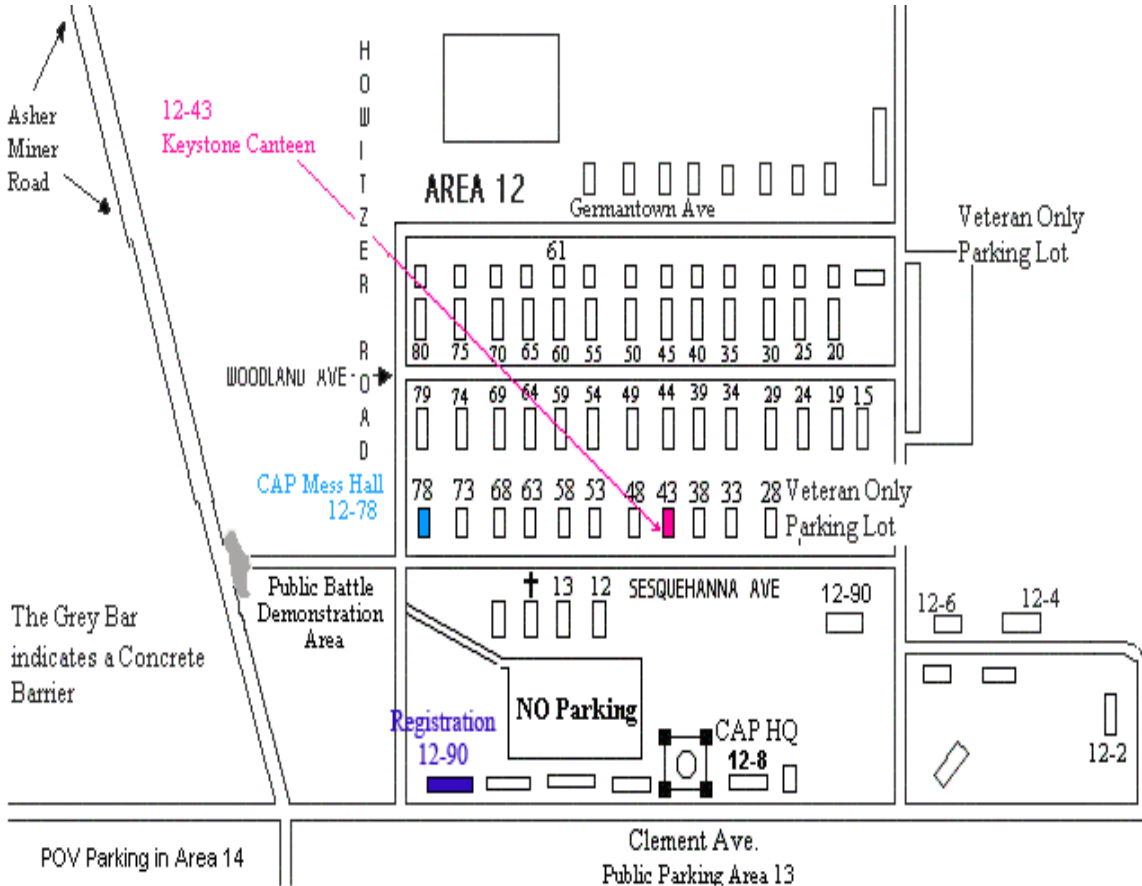
1500 (3PM) Scenario ends



WWII Veteran and Camp member, Floyd Demmy participated in Veterans Day events at his Harrisburg church 2007. SEE BROTHER FLOYD'S UNIFORM AT OUR JANUARY 2008 MEETING.

## Indiantown Gap Re-enactment event Map

**MESS HALLS:** For your convenience, there will be two pay-as-you-go Mess Halls in Area 12, open for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner. These mess hall are operated by the 28<sup>th</sup> Division Heritage Association and the Civil Air Patrol. See more below.



FROM I-81 AND/OR ROUTE 22, UPON ENTERING GAP, AND JUST PAST THE NATIONAL CEMETERY, TURN LEFT AT FIRST STREET - TRAVEL TO AREA 14 FOR PARKING. AREA 12 SHOULD NOT BE TOO FAR FOR MOST FOLKS TO WALK TO! IF YOU NEED WALKING ASSISTANCE, HAVE YOUR DRIVER DROP YOU OFF NEAR AREA 12 AND THEN PARK.

"Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us...the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory."  
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt, December 8, 1941

"If we ever forget that we're one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under". - Ronald Reagan

[Remembrance Day 2007](#)  
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
 with Abe Lincoln and War-Governor Andrew Curtin  
 Parade Review Station



PHOTO BY LARRY KEENER-FARLEY - Member Camp 15, Harrisburg, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

From center, left to right: James Getty as Abe Lincoln, David J. Klinepeter, Camp 15, as War Governor Andrew Curtin, and in tan coat, Charlie Kuhn, our Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

[Camp 15's Calendar of Events for 2008](#)

January – Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	General Camp Meeting – installation of officers – review 2008
February – Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	General Camp Meeting
March – Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	General Camp Meeting w/speaker
April – Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	General Camp Meeting w/speaker
May – Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	General Camp Meeting w/speaker
May – Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> Annual <a href="#">Memorial Day</a>	<b>Decoration</b> Day at Harrisburg Cemetery at 13 <sup>th</sup> & State streets Placing of flags upon veterans' gravesites
June	No general meeting; road trip to General John F. Hartranft.
June 19-21	Annual Pennsylvania State Department Encampment (convention) at Ligonier.
July - TBA	Annual Camp Picnic – 11 am to 4 pm – eat about 1 pm
August 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	National Encampment (convention) – Boston
August – Saturday TBA	Visit ancestral flag display Harrisburg & a Senators ballgame!
September – Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	General Camp Meeting w/speaker
October – Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	General Camp Meeting w/speaker
November	No general meeting – Camp to participate in Remembrance Day
November – Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Annual <a href="#">Remembrance Day</a> at Gettysburg
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Camp Holiday Dinner – Pearl Harbor Day 1941

## 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 January 2008:

- Installation of Officers for 2008 – reception of new Camp members.
- Photos of recent Camp activities as they become available.
- Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members.
- 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!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Contact *Hartranft Herald* at [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc)

--- End of December 2007 Hartranft Herald ---

See you next year

### ***A Thought to Remember***

Give your body everything it needs, but not everything it wants.

Murry Christmas