



# 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 126<sup>th</sup> Year



**Volume 11, No. 01**

**January 2009**



--- Brrrrr a bit chilly – come to our meeting and warm up inside the Museum ---

## Happy New Years

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!

### Hartranft Biographer Dies

It is with deep regret that I write to inform you that Al Gambone died on December 22, 2008 at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach, SC. Al was a member and friend to the Civil War Round Table of Montgomery County and to the Civil War Community in general. He was most proud of his hometown of Norristown as evidenced by his writings. Speaking on behalf of our members, I can say that we will miss him. His obituary appeared in on December 24, 2008, Norristown Times Herald and is accessible at:

<http://www.timesherald.com/articles/2008/12/24/obituaries> and input the late Al Gambone's name.

Submitted by John Deppen, SVC

### 2009 National Encampment - Louisville, KY

Dates: 13-16 August 2009

Hotel: Crowne Plaza

830 Phillips Lane

Louisville, KY

Reservations: 800-626-2708

PDC Keith Karcher is the 2009 Encampment Committee Chairman...his e-mail is

[key4k@aol.com](mailto:key4k@aol.com).

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Don Palmer, PDC, National Secretary, SUVCW

### PA 2009 State Encampment Convention

**Allied Orders 2009 Encampment  
June 25, 26, and 27, 2009  
Cross Keys Motor Inn  
6110 York Road  
New Oxford PA 17350**

**@Routes 94 & 30, East of  
Gettysburg, phone 717-624-7778  
[www.crosskeysmotorinn.com](http://www.crosskeysmotorinn.com)**

**You must call on or before April 15  
to reserve your hotel room  
approximately \$68.00 a day - space  
may be limited.**

### Camp 15's .45-70 Rifles

Camp 15 has two black powder .45-70s for sale!  
Interested persons may contact CC Brother Greg Kline.

## Commander's Report

Greetings Brothers!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year season and that you are all weathering the cold as best as possible. This is the time of year when cabin fever starts to set in, so please join Camp 15 this Sunday, January 18 for our first meeting of the New Year and dust the cobwebs off the cabin!

Thanks to all of you who attended our annual Camp Christmas party. All had a great time. Special thanks to Brother David Demmy and his wife Marilyn for their efforts in organizing the party and to Brother Lee Walter and Charlotte for running the ever-popular bingo game. We had many nice prizes to choose from this year.

Once again, I would like to urge everyone to attend the first meeting of 2009 on January 18. We will be discussing upcoming field trip options and other events and it is important to have your voice heard. Feel free to bring a guest!

In F, C & L,

Greg

### PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/ GAR HISTORIAN

By Dave Klinepeter

For Christmas, I received, from my niece, a small book entitled "Pennsylvania Civil War Trails", a guide to Battle sites Monuments, Museums and Towns. It talks about seven itineraries that will help people discover the Civil War history of south central Pennsylvania. Down country roads through small towns, the armies moved. Some areas have hardly changes, while others have surrendered to the modern world, strip malls, gas stations, cars, parking lots, and highways. Even I learned small interesting facts about our area during the war. I recommend it.

Not every one spent Christmas celebrating, even in 1860. *Harper's Weekly*, Saturday January 5, 1861 the country is thrown into a state of great excitement by the intelligence that, on Christmas night, the gallant Major Anderson, commanding

the United States force at Fort Moultrie, abandoned that fort, and removed his command to Fort Sumter. The guns at Fort Moultrie have been spiked, the gun carriages burned. The movement reflects the greatest credit on, the judgment of Major Anderson, who it seems, acted exclusively on his own responsibility in, the matter, and without consultation with the Government or with General Scott. Note--South Carolina had already left the Union.

A few dates to recall:

Jan 17th 1991 Persian Gulf War began

Jan 19th 2009 National holiday Martin Luther King Day

Jan 20th 2009 Inauguration Day

Feb 1st 2009 National Freedom Day

Feb 2nd 2009 Ground Hog Day

Feb 8th 1910 Boy Scouts of America founded.

How many of you were a Scout?

Feb 12th 2009 Abraham Lincoln's 220th birthday.

There are, and will be many books and affairs honoring this date. The US Mint is putting out a Lincoln silver dollar and four new Lincoln pennies, each with a different back. These will be issued in four segments through the year.

Feb 16th 2009 Presidents Day National Holiday Thanks to Politian's.

Feb 22nd 2009 actual date of George Washington's Birthday

AS A VETTRAN IN OLD AGE

HE WAS LOYAL TO THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE,

WHICH PLACED HIS NAME ON THE PAGE

OF HEROES THE RECORDING ANGEL DREW.

There are No Civil War Veterans remaining; only one WWI Doughboy; and, WWII Veterans are diminishing at a fast rate. (One thousand a week).

Remember all Veterans of all wars. --- DJK

### [Looking for old death Certificates – so are we!](#)

Here is the link to the website about the cause to get the older state death certificates available online: <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm> .

Having vastly greater access to these, records would make it considerably easier to trace back to a Civil War ancestor or to help someone who wants to learn more about particular Civil War veterans. Please pass this

information onto your members and anyone you know who is into Pennsylvania history and genealogy.

The more people and organizations that support this effort the more likely it is to succeed.

### [The National Civil War Museum](#)

1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg,  
PA 17103 phone: 717.260.1861 x. 1108  
[www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org)

A Temporary Exhibition: January 15, 2009 - March  
14, 2009

#### *Personal History: Stories of the War*

The exhibit will highlight the personal story behind each of the artifacts on display, giving visitors a true glimpse into the lives of several individuals. The treasured possessions that remain resonate with stories of courage, the heartbreak of those left behind, and the pride for those who fought valiantly for their country. Drawing on the extensive collection of The National Civil War Museum, the exhibit will emphasize the deeper meaning that lies within artifacts, telling the story of the part they played in the lives of soldiers and civilians from the North and South.

Entrance to the temporary exhibit is included with the purchase of your museum admission ticket.

Mark your calendars - February 14, 2009

#### Community Free Day

**Free admission to all Museum visitors.** James Hayney will be portraying Abraham Lincoln, as part of the Lincoln Bicentennial celebration, with additional talks with Larry Clowers as Ulysses S. Grant and much more.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

This schedule is subject to change. Please contact The National Civil War Museum for fees, details and updates. Telephone: 717.260.1861 Toll Free: 866.258.4729

**Members Only:** *Journey to the Centre of the Museum:* Friday, March 6, 2009, 1:30pm

### **~ For Your Eyes Only ~**

From the mid-point of the giant compass on the spectacular rotunda floor, take ten paces south to the base of the grand staircase. Ascend to the peak with twenty-six careful steps, or take a quick ride in our beautifully paneled elevator, then turn again due south and follow the brass rail to the double wooden doors. Give the sentry the secret password and enter a world seldom seen... you have begun a *Journey to the Centre of the Museum.*

Your first stop will be the archives, which feature letters and diaries written by soldiers of the North and South, in camp and in the field, letters stained with homesick tears and smudged with dirt from the trenches. You will see battle maps, newspapers, Commissions signed by presidents and wartime governors and crystal clear photographs that will give you a close up look at the reality of war. Many of the thousands of documents are never see the light of day, but they will be seen by you.

Next, travel deep within the Museum walls to a place where only a select few are allowed to venture. Your journey will take you to the Collections Storage Room, where we keep, and care for the vast collection not currently on display in our galleries. You will see muskets, pistols, uniforms, drums, portraits, and artifacts too numerous to mention. We promise you will be amazed and inspired!

Your Journey Guide is our Collections Curator, Brett Kelley, who loves enthusiastic visitors, so bring lots of questions! *Journey to the Centre of the Museum* is for members only and requires advanced registration. Plan for a 3 to 4 hour journey... there is much to see & touch. The Journey is a popular membership privilege, so sign up early!

Reservations required. Call 717-260-1861, ext 1108 or Email: [Lynn Smolizer](mailto:Lynn.Smolizer)

Editor's Note: the Museum's Member Only Tours are well worth the membership fee on their own. Then you have the entire museum's other assets available too in one trip or other trips to the magnificent National Civil War Museum.

Beginning this spring, the museum will be open on additional holidays!

Later a special "bring a Friend Tour" will be available for members too.

## Brothers and Sisters in Distress

For a while, Commander-in-Chief Dave Medert's wife has been ill off and on. Also, Past CinC Bud Atkinson of the Phila area has undergone surgery.

Update on Mrs. Dianna Medert: She had her MRI on Monday and we visited the oncologist today. The MRI reveals that "at present" there is no tumor and "at present", he did not see any tumor cells. He will be putting her on a maintenance treatment which will be Temodor, 5 days on 23 days off for 18 months and MRI conducted every two months. Treatment will commence in approximately 3 months.

Her oncologist wants to chat with the surgeon that conducted her bowel surgery. He had stated that after 6 months free of steroids and chemo, he would be able to reconnect the bowel. The oncologist doesn't want to wait 6 months to start maintenance treatments so he is going to discuss different options with her surgeon and then let us know.

The last three days have been super for Dianna. She has made remarkable progress and recovery from the treatments and her surgery. She still wants assistance with the colostomy, which is no problem. She is more alert and staying awake longer, however, she is still weak. She has been making phone calls to family and will continue to do so as she feels up to it.  
Submitted by David V. Medert, Commander in Chief.

It must be the week for good news, Bud had a successful replacement of his Aortic Valve, and is recovering at a more rapid pace than the surgeon expected. As of today, Wednesday, he is still in ICU and in considerable pain, and just shakes his head when the doctors tell him how well he is doing. When discharged we will go to my daughter's home for a few days as her home is all on one floor. I will check the email from her home.

Thank you to all who have contacted him and expressed their good wishes. Submitted by Margaret Atkinson

An update on Bud follows: Latest news on Bud Atkinson is that the surgery was successful and the surgeon expects Bud to make a full recovery. The doctors confirmed that Bud does have emphysema that

will require treatment after he is recovered. A scan on Friday detected the beginning of pneumonia and Bud has also contracted C-Dif, and intestinal infection, so his release from the hospital will be delayed.

Much more serious news has come to my attention regarding Past Auxiliary Department President Mary R. Smith. Mary was admitted to the hospital for treatment of an aneurysm in her right leg. For some reason the treatment for the aneurysm started throwing off blot clots into Mary's blood stream and one of these clots lodged in her foot. The doctors felt that amputation was needed to save Mary's life and she agreed with them. Yesterday morning Mary's right leg was amputated above the knee. Only further information I have as of this morning is that Mary came through the operation and is in the CCU. As soon as I get further information I will pass it on.

Obviously, Mary is still in very serious condition and I ask all Brothers of the Pennsylvania Department to keep Mary and her family in your prayers. Mary's hospital address is as follows:

Mary R. Smith,  
Holy Spirit Hospital  
503 N. 21st. St.  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
Yours in F, C, & L,  
John M. McNulty, PCC,  
Commander, Pennsylvania Department S.U.V.C.W.

Editor's Note: Mary is the daughter of the late Major John Runkle, PCinC. John was instrumental in keeping Camp 15 and the Fife and Drum Corps active for many years.

Camp members, if you have photos or stories to share, e.g. the 2008 Christmas Party, please email to [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc) for inclusion into a future *Hartranft Herald*.

Note from our Brother Russell Ottens all the way from Tifton, GA: "I wish all the members of camp 15 a Merry Christmas and very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year". Brother Russ said it all to all of us. God Bless us one and all.

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; otherwise, we go to press without your item.

2009 Camp schedule of events - - - please *update* your calendar accordingly.

### Camp 15's Calendar of Events for 2009

General Camp Meetings are held at

National Civil War Museum unless otherwise, indicated!

January 18, Sunday	General Camp Meeting
January 31, Saturday	<b>World War II</b> - period re-enacting of 1944 Battle of the Bulge; and vehicles which have been magnificently preserved!
February 15, Sunday	General Camp meeting
March 15, Sunday	General Camp meeting – <i>guest speaker</i> <b>Donna Crone!</b>
April 19, Sunday	Meeting or bus trip to Civil War Medicine Museum area.
May 17, Sunday	General Camp meeting and preparation for Memorial Day activities
May 23, Saturday	<b>Decorate graves</b> at historic Harrisburg Cemetery at 13 <sup>th</sup> and State Sts.
May 25, Monday	<b>Memorial Day</b> parade participation
June 18, 19, 20	<b>Pennsylvania Department encampment convention</b> New Oxford
July 19, Sunday	Annual Camp picnic at Colonial Park campus Pavilion of XPoint church
August 13, 14, 15	<b>National encampment convention</b> , Louisville, KY
September 20, Sunday	General Camp meeting
October 18, Sunday	Elections for 2010 and <i>guest speaker</i> <b>Sue Boardman!</b>
November 21, Saturday	<b>Remembrance Day</b> parade and activities, Gettysburg, PA
December 13, Sunday	Annual Camp <b>Christmas Party</b> at Doc Hollidays, New Cumberland

### 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



Come out to a meeting and join us!

Looking Ahead into February 2009:

- 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)
- Keep a copy of your camp schedule of events and calendar handy for reference.
- Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!

Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

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

--- End of January 2009 *Hartranft Herald* ---

--- End ---

"Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people." -- Barbara Bush.