



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. 06

June 2008

Happy Trails to us!

Come to our meeting 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 and Friends, all are welcome to our Camp meetings at the National Civil War Museum and field trips at-large -- Bring your camera!

Happy Trails to Us by Hartranft Herald

Camp 15 has been and will continue to be on the move this summer. The Demmy family returned from their Mission Trip to Greensburg, Kansas – photos to be available at www.demmy.cc. Camp 15 will be departing for road trip to General John F. Hartranft gravesite on June 14, Flag Day. Later this month, the Pennsylvania State Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be conducting its annual State encampment convention at Ligonier, PA. Mid-July, Camp 15 will hold its yearly summer picnic at new surroundings this year as previously announced in our Schedule of Events section of our monthly *Hartranft Herald*. At the picnic, we expect to take in approximately 5 new brothers into the membership of Camp 15. Blessings to all, please plan to at least attend our picnic if you cannot participate in other events this summer. – Your *hardly working* or *hard-at-work* staff of the *Hartranft Herald*.

SUVCW Camp 15 Minutes - Sunday, 18 May 08



Pennsylvania Room
National Civil War Museum
By PCC Larry C. Sheibley,
secretary

Officers Present:

Larry Sheibley; Dave Klinepeter; Frank Haley; Kelly

Betz; Gene Mascioli

Officers Absent:

Greg Kline; John Deppen; Stan Zeller; Dave Demmy, Sr.; Don Prye

Members Present:

Floyd Demmy; Don Fry; Russ Kratzer; Lee Walters

Secretary Sheibley called the informal meeting to order at 1410 hours. The April minutes were read. The Hartranft Camp #15 treasury contains \$1514.10.

For the Saturday, 24 May, Memorial week-end grave flagging, Brother Sheibley set the following times:

8:00 Breakfast at the Peachtree Restaurant 251 North Progress Avenue.

9:00 Placing of flags on Civil War graves Harrisburg Cemetery.

Brother Fry spoke of the donation of a Congressional Medal of Honor to the National Civil War Museum. Brother Mascioli stated that it was on display in the museum gift shop.

Also, Brother Fry showed a framed 1938 neckerchief donated to the Boy Scout Museum at the Hidden Valley Camp.

For the remainder of our May meeting, Patriotic Instructor Klinepeter spoke of Memorial Days in the past. He spoke of Lester McClure who has flagged Harrisburg Cemetery graves since 1946, the Fife and Drum Corps' participation in holiday parades, past Memorial Day articles from the Patriot-News, and bronze grave markers from past wars.

The Secretary closed the meeting at 1518 hours.

Respectfully submitted with Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Larry Sheibley, PCC, Camp #15
Secretary

Hartranft Herald

"The **Herald**,, is one of the most beautifully and effectively done newsletters I've ever received!"

-Tom Bruner, new member 2008.

"I want to thank Larry and all who were involved in putting together the history of Camp 15 in book form. I appreciate all of the hard work to complete this task". --- Gene Mascioli, PCC.

Editor's Note: for new members, PCC stands for Past Camp Commander. If there are other abbreviations that we use and you are unfamiliar with them, please let us know! It is too easy on our part to use abbreviations and SUVCW (Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War) jargon.

Notice: All Members of Auxiliary 7 and Camp15, if you have not ordered or asked for your copy of the 125th history of Camp 15, now is the time to do it. Send an e-mail request to *Hartranft Herald* at DoubleD@Demmy.cc or snail mail to the address on your mailer. SEND QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS TO ABOVE ADDRESSES.

A list of the Allied Orders of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) from which are descended and are the rightful heirs established by Congress, are listed in each issue of your *Hartranft Herald*.

Happy Birthday to Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7 June birthday personnel:

Floyd Demmy	- Colonial Park, PA
Greg Kline	- Harrisburg, PA
Wesley Diemer	- Wilmington, DE

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.

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That Ragged old Flag



[Memorial Day Activities by Camp 15](#)

Report on Montgomery Cemetery at Norristown trip
By John Deppen, SVC

The Norristown visit was very special - Ron and Helen drove, and Greg Kline, CDR, (Camp Commander) and I, John Deppen, enjoyed the scenery along the Turnpike. Recent new Camp Brother, Russ Krazter, met us at the cemetery. During the observance - well-planned and well-executed by the Historical Society of Montgomery County - Greg carried the wreath in the procession while I escorted Helen. Then, at Hartranft's gravesite, Helen and I placed the wreath while Greg gave a summary of General John F. Hartranft's career.

The 28th PA reenactment group fired a salute after we placed the wreath, and Captain Tom Mance, a National Guard Training Officer, placed flowers in recognition of Hartranft's service as commander of the PA National Guard. A bugler played Taps (not a digital recording), but an actual rendering. Afterwards, we went out for a late lunch at a diner somewhere off the Reading exit of the Turnpike.

I was especially impressed with the improvements to the Montgomery Cemetery gate house. The first floor will be a gallery with artifacts, while the upstairs will be a caretaker's apartment. Participants in the observance were able to see the actual bullet extracted from General Hancock's leg after his wounding at Gettysburg, accompanied by a handwritten note from the surgeon.

Richard Partington, a brother from Camp #1 and a member of the Sons for some 70 years, attended the observance and was kind enough to talk with Greg and I. He was delighted to know that Camp 15 is resurgent after so many dormant years during the 60's and 70's.
Submitted by John Deppen, SVC



Saturday, May 24th 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
The Historical Society of Montgomery County's
MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE
Montgomery Cemetery
Admission is free

Wreath laying, speeches, military reenactors and more will be part of this day to honor the many veterans buried at Montgomery Cemetery. Over 400 veterans of wars from the 19th and 20th centuries are buried at this special place, including five Civil War generals. Visitors should meet at the gatehouse at 11:00 am to begin the day's festivities. Activities are held out-of-doors and include walking to the gravesites.



Stars and Stripes
Attention at General John F. Hartranft obelisk,
Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, May 24, 2008.
Source: [Norristown \(PA\) Times-Herald](#)

FOLLOWING PHOTOS OF THE DAY, SHARED BY CAMP 15
MEMBER, RON SHIREMAN.



PANG CAPTAIN TOM MANCE, LEFT, HELEN HARTRANFT SHIREMAN, CENTER, GREAT GRAND-DAUGHTER OF GENERAL HARTRANFT, AND JOHN DEPPEN, SVC SENIOR VICE COMMANDER CAMP 15 ON VIEWERS RIGHT.



l to r: JOHN DEPPEN, RON AND HELEN SHIREMAN, GREG KLINE, AND MAJOR RUSS KRATZER, III, USAR, RETIRED.



HELEN SHIREMAN PAYING TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JOHN F. HARTRANFT ALONG WITH GREG KLINE, CDR, AND JOHN DEPPEN, SVC.



HELEN SHIREMAN FLANKED BY GREG KLINE AND JOHN DEPPEN.



HARTRANFT FAMILY PLOT AT MONTGOMERY CEMETERY, NORRISTOWN PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY RON SHIREMAN.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE AT GETTYSBURG, PA SUBMITTED BY CAMP 15 MEMBER, FRANK HALEY.



ENTRANCE TO NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY AT
FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, ANNVILLE, PA
NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 26, 2008.



TRIBUTE TO FALLEN VETERANS OF THE
IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN WARS, DISPLAYED ALONG
ENTRANCE TO NATIONAL CEMETERY AT FORT
INDIANTOWN GAP, PA. TALLER FLAGS ON DISPLAY
THRU-OUT CEMETERY TO HONOR ALL VETERANS LAID
TO REST AT THE GAP.



JUNE 1906

June 2008 Hartranft Herald -- Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



FLAG DAY CELEBRATION A LONG TIME AGO.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN

by Dave Klinepeter

Another Memorial Day has come and gone. For me, many memories of how it used to be celebrated. To read some of my thoughts and see pictures of Memorial Days past please go to our Hartranft Herald web site and check out back issues of May and June each year. On May 24th 2008, I went to Harrisburg Cemetery to help place flags on the Veterans graves. Met with Lester McClure of Post 27 American Legion. He has been putting out flags since 1946. Lester is the person who receives the flags from the Dauphin County Commissioners each year. Several other members of Post 27 helped out. I am sorry to report that Hartranft Camp 15 was short on helpers. Eugene Mascioli and I were the only camp members I saw. We did have a loyal member of Auxiliary 7, Audrey Kyle helping. She and Lester McClure placed all the flags on the soldiers plot. It took a little longer this year, but mission accomplished. In traveling around the Harrisburg, Pa. area, the lack of American flags being displayed was very disappointing. Every so often a few building were decorated. I know a number of smaller communities put on quite a proud display of flags. Are people really SO BUSY they can't put out an American flag to show support for their country on Memorial Day?

In talking with a lady from the Paxtang Cemetery several weeks ago I found out something of interest to me. They take the flags off the Veterans graves after July 4th and then place them back on for Veterans Day November 11th. The flags are than left on till replaced the next Memorial Day. They also still use the GAR medal grave flag holders.

Editor's Note: someone mentioned that Brother Don Fry is home from Florida and was also on duty at Harrisburg Cemetery.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 1-2-3-1863

July 4th Surrender of Vicksburg, Va

July 4-5-6-2008 145th Reenactment of the Battle of Gettysburg. Over 14,000 troops involved.

--- DJK

Commanders Report by Greg Kline

Greetings Brothers!

I am pleased to report that the hot, sticky weather that we've been experiencing recently didn't deter Camp 15 from performing its Memorial Day duties in a grand way. We were involved in three separate activities over that sacred weekend and I would like to thank everyone who helped to turn the weekend into a success. We had the privilege of being the "main attraction" at General Hartranft's gravesite for the Montgomery County Historical Society's Memorial Day program. I, SVC John Deppen and Brothers Ron Shireman and Russ Kratzer were in attendance and participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the General's grave. I was proud to offer remarks on General Hartranft's service to our state and nation. We were especially honored to be accompanied by Helen Shireman who, with the assistance of SVC Deppen, laid a wreath in honor of her great-grandfather, General Hartranft.

Brothers Dave Klinepeter, PCC and Gene Mascioli, PCC were on hand at the Harrisburg Cemetery to decorate the graves of our local veterans at the GAR plot and throughout the cemetery. This activity is a Camp15 tradition and I'm happy to report that we are continuing our participation in this worthy activity.

There were six Brothers who participated in the Memorial Day activities at Gettysburg. Brother Lynne Kyle and his son, Junior Member Lynne Jr, Brother Kelly Betz and I represented Camp15 in the Memorial Day parade while Brothers Gene Mascioli, PCC and Frank Haley worked the crowd handing out flyers which reproduced General Logan's order and gave contact information for Camp 15 and the SUVCW in general. SVC John Deppen did a great job designing the flyers.

We followed up a successful Memorial Day weekend at Mifflinburg Buggy Days. Our Camp had a table at the Descendants area of the annual Mifflinburg festival and our Camp banner was

proudly displayed along with recruitment flyers for Camp 15. I was able to be present at the stand for a few hours, while juggling Battery B duties and SVC John Deppen was present dressed as General Hancock for much of the event. Special recognition goes to JVC Stan Zellers, who manned the stand in full infantry uniform (and with temperatures in the mid to upper 90s!!) for the duration of the event. Brother Zellers showcased information relating to his Civil War ancestors with a terrific display that I hope we can coax him to one day share at a Camp meeting!

Many thanks to the Brothers of Camp 15 for their participation in these wonderful activities.

We had discussed the possibility of a Camp visit to General Hartranft's grave, which I had previously wanted to do in June. This will not be feasible at this time due to the resignation of Michelle Harris as director of the Montgomery County Historical Society. She has accepted a position with another organization and I wish her well. Unfortunately, without her being available for a cemetery tour or to coordinate a cleanup effort, etc, the trip would not really be worthwhile. I will be focusing instead on an August visit to the Pennsylvania Flag Preservation Center on Market Street, Harrisburg as this seems to be the preference of most of our members versus attending a Senators baseball game. I'm hoping to do this on a day when the Senators are in town so that anyone choosing to make a long day of it can still see a game. I'll announce a date as soon as the details are firm.

Enjoy the month of June and let's hope we get a little bit of a reprieve from the heat!

In F, C & L, Greg

Flag Day 2008

[Lift Old Glory to her Proper Place](#)

by Floyd Demmy Circa 1973

Published in 'Letters to Editor' Patriot-News 1973!

"Having been to Baltimore this past July 4 weekend (1973), my wife and I had the opportunity to visit Fort McHenry, the place where Francis Scott Key wrote the "Star Spangled Banner" in 1814 on the morning following an all-night bombardment by the British Navy. We watched a short movie about the battle; as it ended a curtain was pulled back and outside waving in the breeze was Old Glory. I could feel the goose bumps rising, also something in my throat and my eyes welling up. It seemed every war we ever fought flashed across my vision as I watched that old flag.

I remember when I was small my mother would tell of a song written sometime after the Civil War. It seems our flag had fallen during a certain ballet and the captain called for a volunteer to retrieve the flag. A young lad brought the back but fell under the heavy enemy fire.

A general witnessed this act from a nearby ridge and sought out this courageous young man, only to find the dying man was his own son!

I don't believe we should condone this recent act of flag burning (circa 1972-1973), nor should we hate this young man for his actions, But because it took place, I believe more people will rally around her and lift Old Glory to her Proper Place, a place of honor where we call all look up to her".

Floyd J. Demmy, Harrisburg, Veteran, US Army, ETO World War II, Member Camp 15, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

History of the U.S. Flag

Source: Smithsonian Institution, Flag House Assoc.

1776	The Cambridge, or Grand Union flag preceded the Declaration of Independence and still bore the British Union Jack
1777	The first flag ordered by Congress, on June 14, 1777, had no official arrangement of its 13 stars. Several variations were used.
1795	The "Star Spangled Banner" inspired the national anthem, had 15 stars and 15 stripes for the original 13 states plus Vermont and Kentucky.
1818	Twenty stars represented the number of states in 1818. The number of stripes returned to the original 13 for the number of original states.
1859-1861	Prior to the Civil War, our flag had 33 stars.
1861-1863	During the Civil War, 1861 - 1865, our flag had 34 stars for all 34 states, including the Confederate States.
1863-1865	West Virginia joined the Union making 35 stars for 35 states.
1912	Stars for New Mexico and Arizona brought the number of stars to 48. This flag flown from 1912 to 1959, had the greatest longevity of any previous flag designed for the United States.
1959 - 2001	The addition of Alaska and Hawaii to the Union added the 49th and 50th stars to America's current national flag.

Obtained on Veterans Day November 11, 2001 by *Hartranft Herald*

Deadline for submission of stories, events, articles, 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

June 14	Flag Day – fly your flag proudly.
June –	No general meeting.
June 19-21	Annual Pennsylvania State Department Encampment (convention) at Ligonier.
July - Saturday 20th	Annual Camp Picnic – 11 am to 4 pm – begin eating about 1 pm CrossPoint Church 430 Colonial Road, Lower Paxton Township, Use Valley Road Entrance just off I-81 exit 69 for Cracker Barrel. Tour of building upon request! Original building was located at jct of I-83 and Rte 22. It was removed to make way for the cloverleaf junction!
August 7 – 10	Annual National Encampment (convention) – Peabody, Boston.
August – Saturday TBA	Visit ancestral flag display Harrisburg.
September – Sunday 21 st	General Camp Meeting
October – Sunday 19 th	General Camp Meeting
November	No general meeting – Camp to participate in Remembrance Day
November – Saturday 22 nd	Annual Remembrance Day at Gettysburg
December 7 th – Sunday	Annual Camp Holiday Dinner – Pearl Harbor Day 1941 Doc Holliday's Restaurant – New Cumberland, PA

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.

"Don't worry about things like keeping up appearances or what other people say about you. What's important is for you to believe in yourself and go your own way."

- Lt. Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi, commander of the Japanese garrison on Iwo Jima, to his wife Yoshii, September 4, 1944

Be Proud Wear The Badge



Looking Ahead into July 2008:

- Photos, as they become available, of recent Camp activities.
- 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!

Ladies welcome too!

- Camp annual picnic July 20. Meat provided by Camp, bring a dish to share; bring your family and kids too!

Driving directions to picnic will appear in July issue of your *Hartranft Herald*.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Contact *Hartranft Herald* at DoubleD@Demmy.cc

--- End of June 2008 Hartranft Herald ---