



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 129th Year



Volume 12, No. 06

June 2010



[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 Auxilliary 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!

[Five mountain ranges can be seen from Museum's magnificent USA flag.](#)

[Harrisburg Area Hartranft Camp](#)

[Sustaining Member of the 2010 Department of Pennsylvania Encampment Convention](#)

[No Camp meeting in June](#); however, it would behoove you to attend the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic 2010 Pennsylvania encampment. Details were presented in the March *Hartranft Herald* newsletter. For a review, go to www.suvcwHarrisburgPA.org.

Otherwise, you may go to the Pennsylvania Department newsletter at www.pasuvcw.org for forms and details.

As the host camp, Hartranft Camp will provide the reusable cloth registration bags, banquet tables and obtained entertainment for the Allied Orders Saturday evening banquet at Holliday Inn, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

[Another letter from our war zone member, Duke Hall](#)

Dear Camp 15 – early spring 2010 from somewhere in Afghanistan.

I am writing today to thank you for the newsletters, correspondence, and packages you have sent to myself and my buddies. I greatly enjoy the newsletters and I just received my membership card for the SUVCW.

My buddies and I often share our letters from home and I told a young man named Aaron Aamot that I had joined the SUVCW [after I returned to Afghanistan from leave]. He became very excited, as back in the states, he was civil war re-enactor and studied the history of the civil war quite extensively.

Just days after I delighted him with tales of my trip to Gettysburg with my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Walters, Specialist Aamot was killed in a firefight we were involved in, when the Stryker he was driving was struck by an IED. I share this story with you, because as a soldier, I ponder almost daily what the life of a

'grunt' [EDITOR'S NOTE: foot soldier] must have been like in the past. I believe one thing remains constant, and that is this: 'Warfare is a relentless constant, an insatiable beast, and those who take part in it learn, at one juncture or another, that she is an untamable mistress'. I am positive that our ancestors learnt this while fighting in the bloody conquest that was the War Between the States, and by remembering their sacrifices, we help our nation to understand the true meaning of freedom.

Unfortunately, I have to sign off now, as I've got a few more letters to write. Thank you again, Mr. Demmy, and I hope to get the chance to meet you when I return home!

Your friend, Duke Hall

Local News:

The Camp Curtin Church at Sixth and Woodbine Streets in uptown Harrisburg, now



FILE PHOTO

Known as Camp Curtin Memorial-Mitchell United Methodist Church was recently listed as a National historical site and landmark. The church was the first in America to be a memorial to America's Civil War. It is the third National historic site in the city of Harrisburg. With gratitude to Lewis Butts Jr. of

Harrisburg, who had campaigned for years to get the church designated a historic site and landmark!

April meeting minutes

Minutes of the April 2010 meeting of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, General John F. Hartranft Camp # 15 at National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg PA, Sunday, 18 April 2010.

Officers Present:

Commander.....John Deppen
Senior Vice Cmdr.....Stan Zellers
Junior Vice Cmdr.....Scott Debo
Council/Guard.....Greg Kline, PCC
Council.....Norm Houser

Officers Absent:

Secretary.....Larry Sheibley, PCC
Treasurer/Chaplain...David Demmy, Sr
Patriotic Inst/Hist.....David Klinepeter, PCC
Council.....Donald Prye, PCC
Guide.....Thomas Bruner
Color Bearer.....Kelly Betz

Members Present:

Logan Swanger
David Demmy, Jr
Alan Spigelmeyer
Floyd Demmy
Tony Kline
Dennis DeWalt
Bob Hollinger
Frank Haley
David Laman

Guests Present:

Diane Debo
Camp meeting was called to order at 14:05 by Commander Deppen. No Treasurer's Report due to the absence of Brother Dave Demmy, Sr. Brother Greg Kline, PCC was acting Secretary for the meeting and read the minutes from the March 2010 meeting. Commander Deppen thanked Camp 15 members for their thoughts and prayers regarding his parents' recent difficulties.

Continued

Correspondence:

Commander Deppen received a request from Timothy Gruber of Pa Historical Record Access requesting that letters of support for easier access to death records be sent to Governor Rendell and area state representatives and senators. Cmdr Deppen will instruct Secretary Sheibley to send a letter.

Commander Deppen summarized General Orders received from PA Department Commander John McNulty which included: 1) the recommendations on Junior Members and Junior Associates as discussed at the Department Mid-Year meeting and forwarded to the Encampment for attention 2) Camp reports need to be filed or Camps will be suspended 3) Appomattox Day luncheons were mentioned but dates were already past 4) announcement of the PA State Encampment in New Cumberland June 24-26

Brother Greg Kline read a letter from Brother Duke Hall, who is stationed in Afghanistan, thanking Cooper's Battery B for it's donation of 2 cases of beef sticks and expressing his thanks to Camp 15 for taking him in as a member.

Old Business:

Brother Greg Kline reminded the members of Camp 15's participation in the annual Gettysburg Memorial Day parade on May 31. The parade will form at 1:00 on Lefever St and steps off at 2:00

Continued

New Business:

Commander Deppen announced that he had credential cards available for any members planning to attend the PA Encampment. Those still needing a card can pick one up from Commander Deppen or Secretary Sheibley.

EDITOR'S NOTE: CARD MUST BE SIGNED BY LOCAL CAMP SECRETARY FOR ADMISSION TO ENCAMPMENT AT ENCAMPMENT REGISTRATION DESK! ASSURE YOUR CARD IS SIGNED BY BROTHER LARRY SHEIBLEY BEFORE YOU APPROACH THE DESK!

Camp 15's Memorial Day weekend activities for Saturday, May 29 were discussed. We will be

meeting for breakfast before decoration graves in the Harrisburg Cemetery. Brother Floyd Demmy suggested that we make a firm commitment as to a restaurant to meet at and the Peachtree Restaurant on Progress Ave was suggested. A final decision will be made at the May meeting. 9 members present stated their intention to help with decorating graves. Commander Deppen and SVC Stan Zellers will be in Norristown that day to honor General Hartranft at his gravesite.

Brother Greg Kline discussed progress made on the goody bags for the Dept Encampment. The stuffers will be ready a few days before we meet at the Harrisburg Cemetery and Brother Kline asked that any members available after decorating graves please join us at the museum to help stuff the bags.

Brother Greg Kline discussed ad prices and sizes for the Dept Encampment program. Brother Dave Demmy, Jr. is donating \$30 to run a ½ page ad to advertise our license plates and belt buckles.

Good of the Order:

Brother Norm Houser showed two post cards from 1909 showing the Hartranft statue and the old location of the city Civil War monument. He also discussed the massive amount of documentation needed by his ancestor to receive a military pension in 1903. After 34 years, he finally received a \$12.00 pension at the age of 77!

Patriotic Instructor:

Commander Deppen filled in for Patriotic Instructor Dave Klinepeter and did a Civil War 20 Questions contest. Brother Dennis DeWalt won the game and received as a prize a copy of "A Tribute to American Comrades in Arms" written by Brother Floyd Demmy.

The meeting was closed by Commander Deppen at 15:35.

Minutes submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty, Gregory Kline, PCC, acting Secretary.

Hartranft Herald continued



Jun 19, 2010
10:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Free admission to the Museum galleries for all visitors!

Sponsored by: Amtrak



[Living History Encampments of the North & South](#)



Jun 19 - 20, 2010
10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

Lee's Lieutenants and the Federal Generals Corp.

[The Gettysburg Campaign to the Susquehanna River](#)

Jun 20, 2010
02:00 PM - 03:00 PM

Presentation with Steve Runkle

[Department Historian](#)

Commander-elect, Howard Wolfe, SVC is looking for an individual to accept the nomination for Pennsylvania Department Historian. See job descriptions at National website at <http://www.sucwv.org/index.html>.

Contact [Hartranft Herald](#) at DoubleD@Demmy.cc if you desire to accept nomination for this important position with the Commandery of the Department of Pennsylvania.

MINUTES
Month of May 2010

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
General John F. Hartranft Camp #15
National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg, PA

Officers Present

Commander.....John Deppen
Sr.V.Command... Stanley Zellers
Secretary..... Larry Sheibley
Treasure./Chap....David Demmy
Pat.Ins./Hist.... .David Klinepeter
Council..... Norm Houser
Color Bearer..... Kelly Betz

Officers Absent

Jr.V.Command.....Scott Debo
Council/Guard.....Gregory Kline
Council..... Donald Prye
Guide..... Thomas Bruner

Brothers Present

Floyd Demmy
Bob Hollinger
Al Spigelmeyer
Frank Haley
Dave Laman
Donald Messersmith
A total of 13 Brothers were present.

Sunday 16 May 2010 - Camp meeting called to order at 2:08 p.m. by Commander Deppen.

Secretary Sheibley read the April minutes; and Treasurer Demmy stated his report was in the newsletter.

Under brothers in distress, Brother Klinepeter has a pinched nerve in his spine; Gloria, his wife, is in rehabilitation for respiratory infection; Brother Houser is doing pretty well with his heart problems; and Brother Messersmith and his wife are now fine.

Our commander regrets that there is seldom any news about any Pennsylvania camps in the national SUVCW magazine, [The Banner](#).

The four May activities were discussed:

Saturday 29 May - flag placement at the Harrisburg Cemetery,

Saturday 29 May - registration bag stuffing for the Harrisburg PA Encampment,

Saturday 29 May - Montgomery Cemetery ceremony for Gen. John Hartranft at Norristown, PA, and Monday 31 May - Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade.

God Bless Camp 15 volunteers and grant them safe travel as some Brothers will be participating in more than one event on any given day.

There was another reminder about the 2010 Department Encampment in New Cumberland, June 24 - 26. Each brother attending should obtain a credentials card from Secretary Sheibley, wear his SUVCW badge, and carry his Camp 15 membership card.

Patriotic Instructor Klinepeter discussed the changes at Gettysburg National Park and past Harrisburg Memorial Day parades. He invited members to make presentations of their Civil War memorabilia in a "Show and Tell" format. [More to come in September 2010].

The Camp 15 meeting closed at 3:33.

In fraternity, charity, and loyalty,
Larry Sheibley, PCC, Camp 15 Secretary

[Spot Light on Auxiliary #7 to camp 15.](#)

Recently, among others, the ladies of our auxiliary 7 provided camp 15 with a large cash donation. It was bestowed upon camp 15 for our good works during Memorial Day weekend, our charming newsletter and our willingness to carry on the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic. God bless the ladies of auxiliary 7 who now number 14. Since many of them, like Brothers of camp 15, live outside the Harrisburg area, we don't see them often.

But all are very welcome to attend our monthly meetings and of, our forthcoming annual picnic. See camp schedule of events later in this and every issue of your [Hartranft Herald](#).

[Brothers and Sisters in distress](#)

Don Messersmith continues to recuperate.

Larry Sheibley had recent surgery and hopes to attend the Pennsylvania Department Encampment at New Cumberland.

Mary Runkle Smith continues physical therapy at the Church of God in Carlisle.

Dave Klinepeter is undergoing physical therapy for a herniated disk. Mrs. Gloria Klinepeter continues to recuperate after being in the hospital.

John Deppen's mother, Betsy Mertz, was admitted to Evangelical Hospital in Lewisburg in early June.

Mrs. Floyd Demmy distressed over illness of one of her Brothers in California!

Others – please contact [Hartranft Herald](#) so that we may pray for you and yours.

The civil war in four minutes: <http://www.maniacworld.com/civil-war-in-four-minutes.html> shared by new brother to camp 15, all the way from Florida, Charles Riegle. Also a Brother of camp 300, Pennsylvania's Memorial Camp for Members at Large, transferred into camp 15. He has family ties to good old Pennsylvania and wanted to be a member of an active camp!

[PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR](#) by Dave Klinepeter

Another Memorial Day has come and gone -- I have numerous memories of Camp 15 activities on past Memorial Days. Again this year, I made it to Harrisburg Cemetery and put out a few flags; also met my ole buddy, Lester McClure of Post 27 American Legion. He is the WWII Veteran that has been putting flags on the graves since 1945. Post 27, via the Veterans Affairs, also furnish the flags for Camp 15 to put upon the graves. My thoughts were also on FRANK BUCKLES. In 1917 at 16

he fudged his age and enlisted in the U.S. Army, and ended up being sent to France. Now at age 109 he is America's last living veteran of World War I.

I wonder how many people remembered that June 6, 1944 was D-DAY, the Allied invasion of Europe. They should show "The Longest Day" or "Band of Brothers" in high school history classes, also the new CDs on the "Pacific War. It is hard to believe that was 66 years ago. Then there is the 60th anniv. of the start of the Korean War on June 25, 1950.

On June 4, 2010 I had a very interesting trip. My son Mike, a member of camp 15, took me to Reading, PA airport for the 20th annual World War II weekend: "A Gathering of Warbirds". It is an experience that will never be forgotten. Over 60 airplanes, a number were flying. Many reenactors (a number of them are CIVIL WAR reenactors also); many VETERANS of numerous wars and a number of different countries, even a few sailors.

I could not help but think of Brother Floyd Demmy while standing in the Armor unit camp along side several halftracks.



FILE PHOTO OF HALF-TRACK M-3 CROSSING OF SIENNA RIVER 1944. [Half truck – half tracks] BROTHER FLOYD WAS AN INFANTRYMAN MEMBER OF A HALF-TRACK SQUAD IN THE 54TH AIB WITH THE 10TH

ARMORED DIVISION (TIGERS). HE IS THE AUTHOR OF (My) Reflections on World War II Across Europe in a Half-track © 2002

I would recommend this event for any of you that are interested in WWII military history. DJK

**Re-enactment of the BATTLE OF THE BULGE
at FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, PA**

65th Commemoration is
Saturday, 30 January 2010

Friends of camp 15 enjoy this annual event.

[Memorial Day 2010](#)

At least three Brothers of camp 15 traveled to Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, PA to participate in events there:

If pictures arrive before press time, they will appear here; if not, hopefully, we will have them for the July issue of the [Hartranft Herald](#).

Likewise, nine Brothers and sisters had breakfast together Saturday mornin' and then headed for historic Harrisburg cemetery where they gathered with other Brothers and sisters of camp 15 and auxiliary 7 and placed flags upon numerous veteran's graves using our new 40" stainless steel hole makers provided by American Legion Post uptown Harrisburg. Flags were provided by American Legion Post of the west shore. Additional poles are on order for Veterans Day events.



THE BROTHERS SPIGELMEYER FROM LEFT, AL, CHARLES CENTER AND YOUNGER BROTHER DALE HOLDING FLAGS.

They are posing at the site of the replaced stone for their ancestor. Brother Al of Camp 15 reveals when the family had the stone replaced due to being damaged by a vehicle, the name was once again misspelled!

Brother Al, time to recruit your family and start a carpool from your area.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BROTHER DAVE KLINEPETER.



OLD TIME MEMORIAL PIN!

[Memorial Day continued](#)



Camp 15 on the move during Windy Gettysburg Memorial Day parade 2010.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BOB HOLLINGER OF EAST PETERSBURG. BOB ABOVE PORTRAYS A BRIGADIER.

[Days Gone Bye](#)

Auxiliary 7 and Camp 15 Picnic circa 1999!

Photos by Brother Joe Long, Jr, who was instrumental in revitalizing camp 15 during the late '90s!



LADIES AND FRIENDS OF AUXILIARY 7 AT FORT HUNTER.



BROTHERS AND FRIENDS OF CAMP 15 AT FORT HUNTER
NORTH OF HARRISBURG ALONG SUSQUEHANNA RIVER.

JOE LONG, CENTER, FRONT ROW

[Forthcoming 2011 Events in Pennsylvania](#)

Lincoln Day Luncheon with Camp#19
February in Lancaster

Appomattox Day Luncheon with Camp #8 &
Aux #10
April in Scranton

131st PA Dept Encampment with Camp# 8 &
Aux #10
June 23, 24, 25 in Scranton

[Forthcoming 2011 National Encampment](#)

August 11, 12, 13, 14 with Department of
Maryland in Reston, Virginia

Camp 15 2011 calendar now available
Pick one up at picnic or September meeting or
email *Hartranft Herald* at
DoubleD@Demmy.cc

[Camp Schedule of events for 2010](#)

Monthly Camp Meetings begin at 2 p.m. and
are held on Sunday, at National Civil War
Museum unless otherwise, indicated!

No general meeting in month of June!

June 14 – Flag Day USA

Fathers Day 20

June 25 - 26 - Pennsylvania Department
encampment convention New Cumberland.

July 18, Sunday – noontime Annual Camp
picnic at Colonial Park Campus Pavilion of \dagger
CrossPoint UM church at Corner of Colonial and
Valley Roads Colonial Park – use Valley Road
entrance – Lower Paxton Township.
430 Colonial Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109.

We will eat about 1pm depending on the
cooking staff!

August 12 - 15 - National encampment
convention, Overland Park, Kansas

September 19, Sunday – Nominations for
officers for 2011 at General Camp meeting.

October 17, Sunday - Elections for 2011

November 20, Saturday - Remembrance Day
parade and activities at Gettysburg, PA.

November – no Camp business meeting!

December 12, Sunday - Annual Camp
Holiday Banquet at Doc Holliday's, New
Cumberland. Social time 11:30 – 12:30
Meal approx 12:30 – 2:00.

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 & authors, the first Friday of each month is the Deadline for submission of stories, events, articles, and photos for *Hartranft Herald*.

<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. 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
<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>

GENERAL JOHN F HARTRANFT, CAMP 15 HARRISBURG, PA,
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 11, 1882
IN FRATERNITY, CHARITY, AND LOYALTY

[Continued](#)

[GAR HISTORIAN](#) by Dave Klinepeter

(Membership badges series -- continued)

Because of many complaints about the GAR membership badge looking similar to the Medal of Honor the GAR (below), it was finally modified it in 1877.

TYPE III (1869-1876) vs. MEDAL OF HONOR



The new eagle had sharp points on the ends of the wings and kept getting broken off. (I expect the points also drew blood on various occasions). By 1880 the wings were rounded off, also the backs were blank. In 1886 the GAR made the last change to its membership badge. The Eagle hanger was once again changed. This time a campfire scene was added to the back. The patent dates were also added and placed above the campfire scene. PAT. MAY 4, 1886 AND JUNE 25, 1886. Over the years there were other modifications to the GAR membership star badge but the basis shape stayed the same. See more images on subsequent pages.



Basic GAR membership Badge
Time table available on next page.
Submitted by Dave Klinepeter

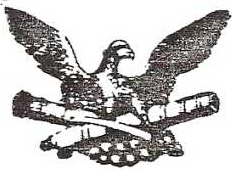
[Footnote](#) Launches Civil War Micro-site With New Content; go to www.footnote.com for more information.

[Treasurer's Report](#)

Since there are no meetings this summer, here is a brief report on our checkbook:
Balance after paying over \$1400 in per capita to Pennsylvania and National, is \$450, less ink and postage for the June *Hartranft Herald*.

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

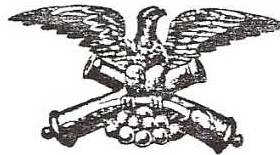
EAGLE CLASP (Narrow Shank)



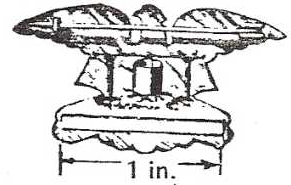
Medal of Honor Style
1869 - 1880



Tapered Style
Early use, approx. 1880-86

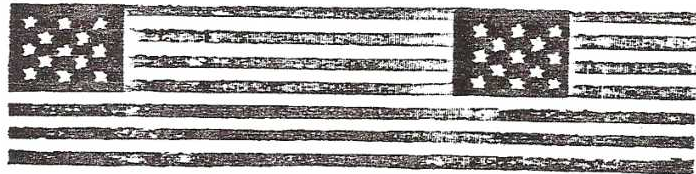


Standard Style
1880-1886 (approx. start) to 1949



Narrow Shank for Flag Ribbon
One inch in width

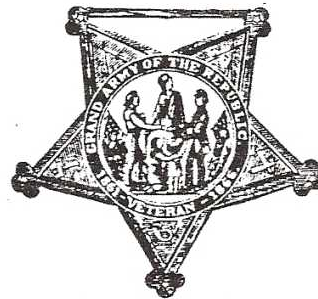
SILK FLAG RIBBON
(issued in 12 yd. length)



MEMBERSHIP STAR (Narrow Shank)



Medal of Honor Style
1869 - 1880



Standard Style
Used 1880-1949 with small die changes on reverse.