



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. 05

May 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 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!

Harrisburg Area Hartranft Camp

Sustaining Member of the 2010 Department of Pennsylvania Encampment Convention

National - Military - Appreciation – Month

Happy Mother's Day

Camp 15's next scheduled general business meeting is Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 2pm at National Civil War Museum Building at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg.

Memorial Day activities on Saturday May 29 include breakfast at Peachtree, 251 North Progress Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17109, at 8 a.m. and then assemble at historical Harrisburg Cemetery to place flags upon veteran's gravesites at 9 a.m. Typically we accomplish our goal by 10:30 a.m. This year, upon completion of our patriotic activities at the Harrisburg Cemetery, we shall move-on to the National Civil War Museum bldg, room 222, to begin to fill the registration bags for the Department of Pennsylvania convention with variety of items for all personnel participating in the 2010 Encampment/ convention.

Camp 15 will participate in the annual Memorial Day parade, Monday, May 31 at Gettysburg, PA. If you desire to march with camp 15, please contact immediate PCC, Greg Kline at 717 571 6877.

Message from our Brother in the Field

From Duke Hall 11 Mar 2010

Brothers of the SUVCW, Ladies of the DUVCW, Members of the Auxiliary and Family and Friends.

Greetings! My name is Duke Hall, new brother to Camp 15, and the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Lee Walters. I am writing today for several reasons, but before I get into all of that, I'd like to tell you a little about myself.

First off, I'm 27 years old, and hail from the small village of Galena, Ohio, which is about 20 miles north of Columbus. I am a Specialist (E-4) in the United States Army Infantry, and am a member of the 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, which is part of the 2nd Infantry Division, out of Fort Lewis, Washington. I have been in the service for about four years now, and am currently serving in Southern Afghanistan.

I am engaged to a wonderful young lady by the name of Heidi and when I'm not "playing soldier" I enjoy playing guitar, reading, studying history and a stiff drink followed by a strong laugh with good friends.

Now that that's out of the way, I would first like to thank the Brothers of Camp 15 for accepting

my membership application. I am very honored to be associated with an organization with as much history and purpose as the SUVCW. I count myself truly blessed to have such an honor.

Next, I would like to extend a heart-felt "Thank You" on behalf of my fellow squad members, as well as myself, for all of the wonderful and much needed supplies you have sent to us. We use the water heaters daily, and the snacks and beef jerky are extremely welcome after a week of living off of MRE's!*

We hand out a lot of the pens and candies to the Afghan children we meet: as sad as it may sound, often these pens become their most cherished possession. One of the boxes contained a stick of Alligator jerky, and one of Kangaroo.... I split them 8 ways with my buddies, and we really enjoyed trying them... When you have so little in the way of entertainment, something like that is quite an experience! I also really enjoy reading the news letters you send. The pictures are amazing, and I even saw one of my platoon in there! (that picture was taken on Christmas, and that was also our last day off... we've been quite busy). Again, thank you so much for your generosity! As I'm sure you know (it was in one of the newsletters), the area we are in is right in the middle of the Taliban's back yard... we rarely have the chance to restock on essentials and when we do get to somewhere with a px, it's usually sold out.

Next in the order of business, I figure I'll tell you a little about what we've been doing over here. We deployed [assigned] to Afghanistan in July of 2009. Our mission was to push into the Argandah River Valley region of Khandahar, which is on the Afghan border of Pakistan. No sizable American or NATO force had been there in several years, and the Taliban had fortified Khandahar, as well as neighboring Helmond, so we knew we were in for a fight.

We are the first Stryker** unit to deploy to Afghanistan, so we had no real advice on tactics... we just had to learn the hard way. In the first 120 days of our tour, our unit engaged the enemy over 300 times. Our battalion lost 22 men, of which 12 were from my Company. Over 75 purple hearts*** have been awarded to our men.

The first several months were the hardest... we spent weeks living in mud huts, fields, hills, mountains, and open desert. Sometimes we'd go a few weeks without hot chow, let alone a shower. We had one phone for over 800 soldiers, so most of us went weeks without hearing from home. Mail

took forever to get here, because it was too dangerous to drive to our base... it had to be flown in.

We cleared through the valley, destroying countless IED's, weapons caches, and enemy personnel. Then we held our position until we were relieved by a much larger force from the 82nd Airborne Division. After that, our mission changed, and we moved North, to secure a major highway, allowing NATO forces and Afghan Nationals to move freely.

A typical day was us patrolling the area, pulling guard, visiting local villages, and/or over watching areas to deny the enemy terrain.

Though our Company has lost more than 20 men (killed or sent home due to serious injuries), our morale is usually high, though often we're too tired to notice. We are very proud of the fact that we regularly take on tasks that require five or even ten times as many men as we have, but we get the job done regardless.

Oh, on the terrain... where we are, terrain varies massively; mountains, forests, fields, orchards, hills, desert... often times, we're in the mountains one day, orchards and fields the next and desert the day after that. It rarely rains, but when it does, it rains non-stop for days. The longest "monsoon" lasted for over a week!

Well, I have to go for now. This is the 4th letter I've *almost* finished for all of you, but the other 3 got destroyed. I really need to stop carrying my stationary in my pack when we're wading through rivers, walking through storms (dust or rain), etc.

I hope to meet y'all soon! Your Friend and Brother, Duke Hall

P.S. – On my job... I spent the first half of my tour as a driver of one of our Strykers, now I'm a machine gunner. My lovely lady is working on getting some pictures for you all, of Afghanistan, and of our unit.

Note: Duke's original hand written letter has been typed here in the interest of space but without any changes or alterations.

Continued

Editor's Note:

The **Meal, Ready-to-Eat** — commonly known as the **MRE** — is a self-contained, individual field ration in lightweight packaging bought by the United States

military for its servicemembers for use in combat or other field conditions where organized food facilities are not available. The MRE replaced the canned MCI or Meal, Combat, Individual rations in 1981 and is the intended successor to the lighter LRP ration developed by the United States Army for Special Forces and Ranger patrol units in Vietnam. Prior to that, items were known as C-Rations!



The **IAV Stryker** is a family of eight-wheeled, 4+4-wheel-drive, armored combat vehicles produced by General Dynamics Land Systems, in use by the United States Army. The Stryker is the U.S. Army's first new armored vehicle since the M2/M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle in the 1980s.



The **Purple Heart** is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those who have been wounded or killed

while serving on or after April 5, 1917 with the U.S. military.

Memorial Day Message

Silver letters on a black sign spelled out a simple message – “Silence and Respect.” I saw the sign on a Good Friday walk through the Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg National Military Park.

While the sign is meant for the cemetery’s many visitors, I thought for a long while about its meaning for our nation. With Memorial Day coming up in a few weeks, I wondered if perhaps “Silence and Respect” was more than a gentle plea for a single cemetery, but an urgent mission statement for the whole country.

In 1968, when Congress removed Memorial Day from its traditional observance on May 30 and placed it on the last Monday in May, it placed the solemn day squarely in the path of a people anxious to relax, to frolic, to sunbathe and spend frivolously on a three-day weekend. The resulting stampede was inevitable.

As a participant in several Memorial Day observances, I’ve listened to dozens of anxious teenagers rush through the important words of The Gettysburg Address and General Logan’s Orders, as if they have someplace they’d rather be. I don’t blame them, really – they are merely reflecting the priorities of a society that wishes not to linger too long among sad reflections of the dead.

Two national organizations – The Veterans of Foreign Wars and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War – have long championed returning Memorial Day to its traditional date of May 30, to restore some of its significance and solemnity. In 2002, the VFW issued a statement that read, “Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed a lot to the general public’s nonchalant observance of Memorial Day.” Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, a combat-wounded Medal of Honor

hero of World War II, introduces legislation every year to change the date, but there is little political or public support for such a change.

There are faithful patriots who gather each year to commemorate Memorial Day, and the men and women whose lives give the day its meaning. I see them along the streets and on the front porches of our Valley's towns. They come to our cemeteries to pay their respects, and to remember loved ones whose memories fade with each passing year. All too often, however, the larger crowds are elsewhere – asleep in bed because the parade started too early; dashing around the shopping center because the sale is "one day only;" or simply staying at home because the day looks to be too hot or too rainy, or because the yard work just won't wait.

We are of course free to mark Memorial Day as we see fit. In 2001, I took my stepfather, a World War II Navy veteran, to the movies to see "Pearl Harbor" after participating in Sunbury's Memorial Day observance. The movie was long and loud, and not the best film about the events of December 7, 1941. It seemed an appropriate choice, however, given the essential meaning of Memorial Day.

We are free to choose our own course on Memorial Day because of the service and sacrifices of those whose graves we decorate with flags and flowers. We are free to sit, stand, march, or sleep because of those whose sleep is eternal. We are free to enjoy the smoke of backyard barbeques because of those who inhaled the smoke of battle with their last breath.

On Memorial Day 2010, we can choose to trumpet the unofficial beginning of summer, or, with the eyes of Heaven upon us, we can choose to pause, just for a moment, to render honor where honor is due – in silence and respect.

Shared by Commander John Deppen – April 2010.

[**PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**](#) by Dave Klinepeter
MEMORIAL DAY May 30th 1917 (*Harrisburg Telegraph*)

MEMORIAL DAY SOLEMN WITH NATION AT WAR

Even Greater Tribute Paid Those Who Died In Defense of the U. S.; G.A.R. Veterans Are Given Wonderful Ovation In Parade; City Mourns As Bells Are Tolled.

Never since the observance of Memorial Day began far back in 1868, has the day meant so much to both young and old in the United States, as this great country is rapidly completing its preparations for active participation in the war.

Today as the Veterans of the historic Civil War filed down the city streets to the cemeteries to pay tribute to their departed comrades, it was evident that the ceremonies were the most somber, yet the most impressive ever observed in the city. With a deeper and truer meaning a new vision came today to the younger generations as they saw before them, the Boys in Blue, living examples of Patriotism and Loyalty to the Flag. The eye and grayed-head, filled the young men and young women with a more pronounced and more sincere love of country and a greater patriotic devotion to the flag.

During the day circulars were handed out on the streets by the Grand Army of the Republic men, bearing this charge; **"young men, your country needs you. The boys of 1861-1865 present to you THE FLAG unsullied, keep it so. Don't be a slacker, but enlist in some branch of the service.. Compliments of the PATRIOT INSTRUCTOR of Hartranft Post 58, G.A.R."**

GO TO THE

CEMETERIES

Hartranft Post 58 members held brief ceremonies at the East Harrisburg Cemetery, Simmons Post 116 members went to Paxtang Cemetery. Sons of Veterans firing squads fired the salutes over the graves. The Parade this afternoon formed at 1:45 and moved at 2:00pm at 13th and State St the David Stevens colored Post 520 left for Lincoln Cemetery and Post 58 and Post 116 with the Sons of Veterans preceded to the Harrisburg Cemetery. *****After the ceremonies the Sons of Veterans fired a salute and Taps were played by Mrs. Roy Mikle.

THOUSANDS IN PARKS

With clear skies and moderate temperatures thousands of people spent the day on outings at parks. Crowded cars recreation resorts. Baseball games at Island Park, golf at Harrisburg and Colonial Country clubs and other sports featured the holiday part of the observance. (Things have not changed much, HAVE THEY?) DJK



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE- 6th Inf Field Music SVR of Camp 15 marching to East Harrisburg Cemetery in the Penbrook Progress parade the Sunday before Memorial Day. 1945

Editor's Note: Camp 15 Patriotic Instructor, Dave Klinepeter appears above and below in his WWII white sailor uniform, left side of these 1945 images.



Another view



Veterans Row at historical Harrisburg Cemetery!
We'll see you on camp 15 and friends on May 29, to place flags again in honor of veteran's thru-out the cemetery!

Please review past *Hartranft Herald* issues, namely the months of May and June for additional photos and stories on Memorial Day

activities Camp 15 has participated in! All known *Hartranft Herald* are available on camp website at www.suvcwHarrisburgPA.org.



Harrisburg, Pa. Soldiers Monument.

Soldiers Monument presented to veterans of area, formerly positioned at 2nd and State streets downtown Harrisburg, now located at 4th and Division Streets uptown Harrisburg near William Penn school campus.

Brothers and sisters

Deadline rapidly approaching for you to register for Department of Pennsylvania annual 2010 Encampment – convention at Holliday Inn, New Cumberland end of June. See April *Hartranft Herald* for registration forms, hotel contact, banquet request and credential card notice!

Please place your personal or business ad into the Encampment booklet. See April *Hartranft Herald* for details!

If you own and operate a PC and **Printer**, and you have no use for your used printer cartridges, you may provide them to camp 15 for recycling! Camp will receive a small bonus to recycle them at local office supply store.

Please insert your used cartridges into a plastic bag or small lunch style bag to protect yourself and the *Hartranft Herald* staff from ink stains.

Your camp appreciates your donations for recycling, goodies for our military Brother Duke Hall, and others for the general fund.

The rebate the camp receives for recycling used ink cartridges each month may offset the cost of stamps for dozens of *Hartranft Herald's* we mail monthly to brothers and sisters and other readers that do not have access to the internet to read our news on line.

Your *Hartranft Herald* staff!

March

M I N U T E S

Sunday 21 March 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
Secretary.....Larry Sheibley
Treasure./Chap....David Demmy
Council/Guard....Gregory Kline
Color Bearer.....Kelly Betz
Pat.Ins./Hist....David Klinepeter

Officers Absent

Sr.V.Command.....Stanley Zellers
Jr.V.Command.....Scott Debo
Council.....Norm Houser
Council.....Donald Prye
Guide.....Thomas Bruner
Camp meeting called to order at 14:03

The March meeting was opened by Commander Deppen; the February minutes were read by Secretary Sheibley; and a treasury report of \$1919 was given by

Treasurer Demmy. Both reports were approved by the camp.

Saturday 13 March, a few camp members participated in a flag placing ceremony at the grave of Civil War nurse Melinda Spigelmyer in Union County, PA, on Route 45.

There was another reminder about the 2010 Department Encampment in New Cumberland, June 24 - 26. Camp 15 members are needed to attend and assist in this event. Members who wish to purchase advertisements in the Encampment Bulletin should see Treasurer Demmy. Those brothers attending should obtain a credential cards from Secretary Sheibley and should wear the SUVCW badge and carry the Camp 15 membership card. Past Department Commander Walters discussed the Encampment activities.

Memorial Day activities are numerous. They are:

- Friday 28 May & Saturday 29 May - Anthracite Activities in Sunbury
- Saturday 29 May - flag placement at the historic Harrisburg Cemetery,
- Saturday 29 May - ceremonies at Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, at the gravesite of General John F. Hartranft,
- Monday 31 May - Gettysburg Memorial Day Parade (See Brother Greg Kline to participate in parade with Camp 15).

Brother Dave Klinepeter moved and Brother Lee Walters seconded that Camp 15 purchase a \$50 full-page advertisement in the Department Encampment Bulletin. This motion passed.

Brother Tony Kline thanked Brothers Dave Demmy, Sr.; Dave Demmy, Jr.; Dave Klinepeter; and Larry Sheibley for their work on the camp newsletter, the *Hartranft Herald*.

See the March newsletter about the Elks honoring Commander Deppen.

Patriotic Instructor Klinepeter related that Post 300 will have a speaker Sunday 11 April talking about the attempted assassination of Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Seward. Following the Civil War, there was a Grand Review of Colored Troops in Harrisburg. They marched from the railroad station to the Simon Cameron Mansion. This march will be a re-enactment this November. Dave gave a very interesting history of the colored troops in Pennsylvania.

Brother Floyd Demmy spoke of a Patriot News article on a Congressional ceremony to honor the Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WASPs).

Brother Lee Walters thanked the camp for the many supplies sent to his grandson, Brother Duke Hall, and his military attachment in Afghanistan. Please send no more items to Brother Duke, since he and his unit will be

Don Messersmith continues to recuperate
John Deppen Family concerns
David Klinepeter family concerns

Treasurer's Report

Following remittance of over \$1,400 for our Departmental and National Per Capita fees and dues to the Department of Pennsylvania SUVCW, our balance is \$540 with 3 outstanding checks to Pennsylvania for membership fees.

April Minutes not available at press time!

Brothers and Sisters in Distress:

rotating back to Fort Lewis for a period of rest and relaxation.

Brothers Dave Demmy and Dave Klinepeter offered freebies and purchase items of camp belt buckles, license plates, and magnets.

The Camp 15 meeting closed at 3:20.

Larry Sheibley, PCC
Camp 15 Secretary
March 2010

[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!

Mothers Day – 9

May 16, Sunday Camp Meeting preparation for **May 29 Memorial Day events!** Local activity at historic Harrisburg Cemetery @ 13th & State streets: 521 North 13th Street Harrisburg, PA 17101.

May 31 Annual Memorial Day parade at Gettysburg.

No general meeting in month of June!

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 † 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.

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, Gettysburg, PA.

November – no Camp business meeting!

December 12, Sunday - Annual Camp Holiday Banquet at Doc Holliday's, New Cumberland.

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*.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members. |
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<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
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting! |
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<p>Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!</p>
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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

The Victorian Dance Ensemble:

May 14, Friday
Civil War Program
Allen Middle School
Mechanicsburg, PA

May 15, Saturday
Dance Demonstration for Professional
Conference
Gettysburg, PA

May 23, Sunday
CWDF Rehearsal/Meeting

June 4, Friday
Dance for Guests of Gettysburg Campground
Gettysburg, PA
Music by Gilmore's Light Ensemble

June 5, Saturday
A B W A Anniversary Luncheon Dance
Demonstration
Harrisburg, PA

June 19, Saturday (*Public-Free*)
Camp Curtin Civil War Dance
L e m o y n e , P A
Website: www.CampCurtin.org

June 26, Saturday (*Public-Free*)
Gettysburg Foundation Dance Demonstration
GNMP Museum & Visitor Center
G e t t y s b u r g , P A
Website: www.GettysburgFoundation.org

Pennsylvania Army National Guard Museum at Fort Indiantown Gap, Annville PA:

The Pennsylvania National Guard Military Museum is concerned with the preservation of the history of the Pennsylvania National Guard and Fort Indiantown Gap.

Admission

Admission to the museum is FREE. However, if you wish to make a donation to the museum to help preserve our military heritage, we would be very thankful for your generosity and support.

PA National Guard
Military Museum
Bldg. T-8-57
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5003

E -mail: c-coellig@state.pa.us
Phone: (717) 861-2402
Fax: (717) 861-8211

[Search Our Archives](#)
[Photo Galleries](#)
[Become a Member](#)



Walk in the footsteps of the soldiers and citizens who forged a stronger nation. Discover the Civil War where it happened

<http://www.pngmilitarymuseum.org/>



When you visit an old cemetery Memorial Day weekend, you should see stars like above.

Continued

[National Civil War Museum:](#)



Install & use this tool bar and the Museum receives money for each search!

Upcoming Events

Now through September 6

"Spies Among Us: Espionage in the Civil War"
a new exhibit
"Spies Among Us" will largely focus on Confederate & Union attempts to formulate a spy network of formally trained individuals and private citizens

Pinkerton sponsor:



Belle Boyd sponsors



May 12
4–6:00pm

Grand Opening—Chocolate and Champagne Celebration

Come and help us toast to our new interactive permanent exhibit, "Meet Mr. Lincoln"! \$10 per person; free to members & donors



May 29–30

Living History Encampment: Midway Southern Guard; GAR Presentation & display

June 5–6

Living History Encampment: 42nd Mississippi, Company F

June 12

Presentation "Leaves Driven Before the Storm" with Stan Zellers

June 19

Community Free Day sponsored by Amtrak®



Free admission to the Museum galleries for all visitors! Living history encampments of the North & South with Lee's Lieutenants & the Federal Generals Corps and MORE!

June 20

2:00pm Educational Presentation with Steve Runkle: "The Gettysburg Campaign to the Susquehanna River"

June 26

Educational Presentations: Dick Simpson: "The 2nd Vermont Brigade: Gettysburg Heroes" & Dan Paterson on General Longstreet

June 30

6:00pm Humanities on the Road—Thaddeus Stevens: "The Politics of Freedom"



July 3–4

Musical Presentation with Steve Ball

July 10–11

Living History Encampment: 1st MD CSA Come experience camp life in the 1860's! Stan Zellers presentation on July 11

July 17–18

142nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Recruiting Tent

Become a part of history today! ALSO – Display of 1/2 scale working replicas of 18th & 19th century artifacts with Malcolm McPherson

July 24–25

Living History Encampments: 4th Maryland Light Artillery CSA & 42nd Mississippi



July 31–Aug. 1

Living History Encampment: 31st Virginia, Company C

August 7–8

Living History Encampment: Federal Generals Corp; Jim Schmick presentation on 8/8

August 14–15

Living History Encampment & Presentation: United States Colored Troops & Joe Bechtler's presentation on the African American soldier

Visit our website for more details and a complete listing of activities:
www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

end of May 2010 *Hartranft Herald*