



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/HartranftHerald.html](http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/HartranftHerald.html)



Volume 9, No. 8

August 2007



--- Summer Events Issue ---

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!

[Pennsylvania State Department encampment program](#)

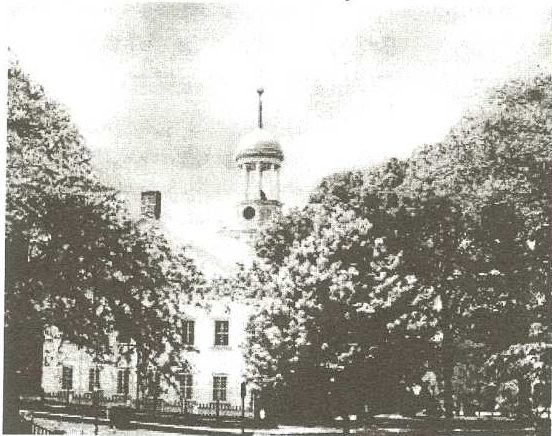
DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT
ALLIED ORDERS OF THE
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Moravian Church
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania



June 29th, 30th, and July 1st, 2007
Bethlehem, PA

Department of Pennsylvania
Memorial Service

June 29, 2007

Department Commander: Lee Walters

Department President: Margaret Shuttlesworth



Musicians: Brother Ivan Frantz, PDC
Sister Peggy Frantz, PDP

Chaplains: Brother David Acheson
Sister Margaret Atkinson, PMP

Memorial for Fallen Brothers

Camp #1
Herman L. Doehler

Camp # 8
Thomas Gaughan

Camp # 14
Ralph Michaels

Camp #15
Lt. Col. Harry Runkle
Gilbert E. Kyle

Camp #50
Robert M. Heckman
Kent M. Ruhl

Camp # 60
Lester Hildebrand
Charles Graft

Camp #112
John Crossen

Camp #141
Martin E. Smith

Memorial for Late Auxiliary Sisters

Auxiliary #1, Philadelphia
Shirlene Gjerer
Mae Mable Johnson, WMP
Claire Monahan, WMP

Auxiliary #10, Scranton
Barbara Mears

Auxiliary #19, Lancaster
Margaret Hall, WMP

Auxiliary #50, Carlisle
Alma Bass, WMP

JOINT BANQUET
Allied Orders of the
Grand Army of the Republic

Saturday, June 30, 2007
6:30 p.m.



Lee F. Walter
Commander S.U.V.C.W.



Margaret Shuttlesworth
President, Auxiliary S.U.V.C.W.



Dawn Roberts
President, Daughters U.V.C.W.



Elizabeth Sienerth
PA Representative
Women's Relief Corps

Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

[From the Civil War Traveler](#)

Harrisburg -

The National Civil War Museum, Lincoln Circle in Reservoir Park – New comprehensive museum uses a variety of interpretive tools to tell the entire story of the war. Exhibits with dioramas, first-rate artifacts and audiovisual presentations tell the stories of the battles, camp life, black soldiers, medicine, slavery, music and much more. Open Monday-Saturday 10 am–5 pm, Sunday noon-5 pm. (Closed Mondays and Tuesdays Labor Day–March 31.) \$8 adult admission, \$25 family pass. 717-260-1861 or toll-free 866-258-4729.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 North St., near the State Capitol – Fine Civil War exhibit features Peter Frederick Rothermel's famous mural of Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg. Open Tuesday-Saturday 9 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-5 pm. Free. 717-787-4979.

Gettysburg -

The visitor center features an excellent, well-organized museum, ranger help, a book store and an electronic map of the battlefield (\$4 adults for map). Also available at the visitor center is personal guide service, authorized by the park. Hire a guide for two hours for up to six people for \$45. Reservations (call 717-334-4474) are taken for the service, which is busy at times.

The Cyclorama is closed for restoration. It will reopen in the new park visitor center scheduled for 2008.

Free ranger-led walking tours from the visitor center are offered daily. Visitor center open 8 am-5 pm daily. Expanded hours during the summer season. Park open 6 am–10 pm daily (6 am–7 pm Nov 1–March 31). 717-334-1124.

Ranger Campbell created a podcast of a 53 minute walking tour of Little Round Top Gettysburg Battlefield. [Click here for it](http://www.civilwartraveler.com/audio/index.html)
<http://www.civilwartraveler.com/audio/index.html>.

[August Birthdays for Camp 15 personnel](#)

Barry Foster

Dave Sosnowski

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 August, please contact the *Hartranft Herald* with adds, deletes, or corrective information.

[Band of Brothers come to Pennsylvania](#)

The crowd in the lobby of the Lycoming College Academic Center stood in hushed silence, staring at the three aged men sitting at a long table. Had a person encountered these men sitting on a park bench somewhere, they might have seemed like any other elderly gentlemen. They were indeed gentlemen - and they were legends.

Buck Compton, Don Malarkey, and Clancy Lyall served in Easy Company, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, U.S. Army during World War II. The pen of the late historian Stephen E. Ambrose immortalized this unit in the landmark book, "Band of Brothers." The HBO adaptation of Ambrose's book turned the surviving veterans of Easy Company into cultural icons.



When I learned that these old soldiers were scheduled to appear in Williamsport, I decided to make the trip on a Saturday evening to see them. I took with me my hardcover S&S Classic Edition of Band of Brothers, already signed by the much beloved and admired commander of Easy Company, Major Dick Winters. I hoped to have Compton, Malarkey, and Lyall sign it as well.

When I first saw them, I noted the difference in their appearances. Malarkey's snow-white hair matched his white jacket adorned with the Screaming Eagle emblem of the 101st Airborne. Compton appeared slightly frail, but smilingly acknowledged all visitors and autograph seekers. Lyall, wearing a black baseball cap and with his lovely wife sitting nearby, joked and smiled as well. Lyall served in three wars - World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

I arrived fairly early, and fell into the line of visitors organized by the event coordinators. By the time I left, the line stretched around the lobby and nearly doubled back upon itself. Standing patiently in line were several active duty military personnel in their uniforms, as well as others who were clearly veterans of other conflicts, with caps and shirts emblazoned with unit insignias.

The long line did not allow for much interaction with the three men, but I shook each of their hands after they signed my book. I wondered what thoughts must go through their minds at events such as the one I attended at Williamsport. In 1944, these men were fighting for their lives in the harsh snows of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge - and now, in 2007, nearly 63 years later, they sign autographs and pose for pictures like

Hollywood superstars.

The event organizers sold numbered prints, glossy photographs, and other items to raise money for the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund, a worthy cause that, when the soldiers of Easy Company came home from their war, did not exist. A man and his son standing behind me in line bought one of the prints for the veterans to sign, and I secretly longed for some additional wall space at home to hang such a print myself.

My book now features the signatures of four Easy Company veterans, but the book itself is merely a keepsake of something more important. It is a remembrance of an encounter with history. I can look at the book and not only read the story of Easy Company, but recall the evening that I shook hands with Buck Compton, Don Malarkey, and Clancy Lyall. In years to come, I can tell my daughter about this special evening, and pass the book along to her.

*From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered-
We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother...*
- William Shakespeare, "Henry V"

PRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR, JOHN DEPPEN, JVC, AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN, AND MEMBER OF CAMP 15.

[Office of the Executive Director](#) of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War – 'Volunteer Room' #241 located at National Civil War Museum – Reservoir Park Harrisburg.



(1) Original volunteer space – a mere dead-end area near room 240, the Exec Director's office. This space held 3 file cabinets, 2 tall storage cabinets, table and folding chair and backlog – see photo (3) next column!



(2) Dead-end space begot this volunteer office space in room 241.



(3) Cabinets were, once-a-upon a time, squeezed into the dead-end space shown in photo (1) above. That area has reverted to the National Civil War Museum.

The Sons' volunteers greatly appreciate the Council on Administration for approving additional workspace.

[Camp 15 sales](#)

Camp 15 attempted to sell belt buckles at National Encampment; however a vendor was already selling them. Unknown where he obtained his supply! But, we did sell a license plate and belt buckle via ebay in early august.

[Camp 15's visit to Hartranft Gravesite](#)



Montgomery Cemetery on Hartranft Drive in Montgomery County Visited by Camp 15.



Greg Kline standing near wreath presented by Camp 15 – notice PA 28th Division symbol on this side of the Hartranft obelisk!



Commander Donnie Prye reviewing the overall site of the Hartranft Family area.



And



Notice middle initial vs. middle name.



This side of obelisk displays bust of the General revealing some rifle vandalism damage!



Camp 15 visitors to Hartranft gravesite, l to r are Greg Kline, Donnie Prye, David Demmy and Larry C. Sheibley



Camp 15 travelers enjoyed their visit to the Montgomery Historical Society building. Above is one of their displays of World War II items featuring Garland M-1 rifle and steel pot! See you should have tagged along with the travelers that day.



Camp 15 travelers with the old Sarge, Lou Zotti!



World War II guest speaker was Sgt Louis Zotti.

Camp 15, ask your Camp officers to plan another day trip to Montgomery County, the Hartranft gravesite, and perhaps we'll hear another talk by another World War II veteran before they are all gone!

Or we can invite one or two to a Camp meeting. Our own Floyd J. Demmy has written a short story on this reminiscences of crossing France and German on a half-track. His story and his other short stories eg: life in Harrisburg are generally too large to e-mail, but you can have a list of his books and choose from there. Cost is for postal fees only!

Write to *Hartranft Herald* or DoubleD@Demmy.cc for list of his short stories books.

Camp 15 Charters



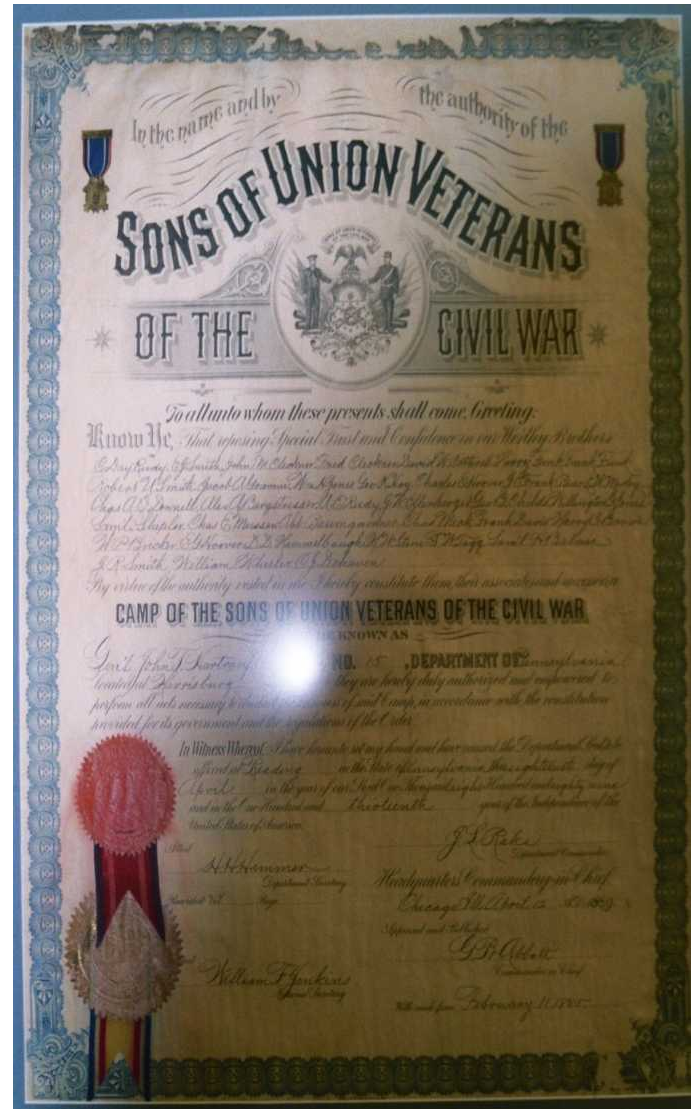
Name of Camp, General John F. Hartranft was not inscribed on this First charter bestowed upon Camp 15, Sons of Veterans of the Civil War.

Lower seal is black. Signatures affixed in February 1885, Erie Pennsylvania, The HQ - 2nd Grand Division of the SUV heir to GAR.

This second charter issued to Camp 15 also is without the name of General John F. Hartranft.

This SUV charter with gold seal was appropriately signed during July 1887 at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Notice the inscribed names of members of Camp 15. This charter is in better shape than charters #1 and #3.



Camp 15's 3rd charter displayed above. This charter has white edging with dark blue border.

This charter is inscribed to Gen General John F. Hartranft, Camp 15 of Department of Pennsylvania.

Signatures affixed April 1889 at Reading, Pennsylvania.

You may have seen this 4th Camp 15 charter on display at one of our annual Christmas gatherings. This charter has been issued to the Camp of the "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War".

This SONS charter was professionally restored and presented to Camp 15 by Mr. and Mrs. Lee F. Walters.

MAIL CALL

[An opinion!](#) From The Daily Item Sunbury – July 28, 2007 - **Wave the flag** by Phil Hartranft of Montgomery .

I normally read the letters to the editor and quickly move on to other areas of the paper.

But George Jenks' recent letter (Not Proud of Flag) got every bit of my retired USMC blood boiling to a fever pitch.

I am in no way challenging his right to express his negative feelings about the American flag because that is actually one of the freedoms we all enjoy while we are fortunate enough to still have it flying from our flag-poles.

We can say what we want without fear of any reprisals.

But in the same vein, I am not about to sit back and let his negative remarks about my flag and my country go unanswered.

The American flag is and has always been a symbol known throughout the world as standing for freedom.

I proudly served under the Stars and Stripes' for 20 years in the United States Marine Corps and never once did I ever see or hear any of those people we were trying to help bad-mouth' our flag or our great country.

That Flag, that he refers to as a piece of cloth deserving no reverence', has been carried from one end of the world to another to help those striving to enjoy the same freedoms we enjoy in this great country we call home.

To a mother, father, wife, son or daughter clutching the American Flag to their chest after seeing it removed from covering their loved ones' casket it is much, much more than a piece of cloth' as he refers to it.

I have no intention of entering into a political discussion of what our country should or shouldn't do in the world today.

But, I will tell you flat out that I am proud to be an American living in this great country of ours and that the American flag will always maintain its place of honor with my family and I.

I guess you can say I'm one of the "God fearing, flag-waving, proud to be an American" group who still get choked up when the American Flag makes its presence known or our National Anthem is being played.

And, do you know something else -- I wouldn't have it any other way! God Bless America: All of us!

Phil Hartranft – July 28, 2007

EDITOR'S NOTE: MR. HARTRANFT, 65, IS A DESCENDANT OF GEN. JOHN FREDERICK HARTRANFT, WHO RECEIVED THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR HIS ACTIONS IN THE FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND LATER WAS ELECTED GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

[Future planning Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War](#) - years 2011-2015.

The approaching Sesquicentennial of the Civil War offers the current generation of Americans a most important opportunity to know, discuss, and commemorate this country's greatest national crisis, while at the same time exploring its enduring relevance in the 21st century.

In preparation for the Sesquicentennial, the National Park Service-through the collective effort of the superintendents at Civil War-related parks-proposes to undertake a multi-faceted, multi-year integrated program that will simultaneously transform and improve interpretation of the Civil War in our national parks while providing a national forum for the observance of the Sesquicentennial of America's greatest national crisis.

During the preparatory period ((2005-2011), the web site below will present information on the events leading up to the Civil War, so that the Sesquicentennial can be experienced as the 150th anniversary of major military events, but also of social, political, economic and cultural transformations that have changed the nation forever. Please visit

<http://cwar.nps.gov/civilwar/abcivwarSesqInit.htm>

by DJK

[Camp 15's 45.70 Rifles](#)

Camp 15 sold three rifles and traded two 45.70s for 1861 models.

5 down 2 to go! Any interested parties out there contact Commander or raise concern at September meeting on **September 16!**

[Brothers, Sisters, Families and Allies in Distress](#)

Dear Hartranft Herald,

Mike Wagner, the reenactor with Company K of the 81st PA, is back in the hospital, fighting what appears to be a drug-resistant infection. Visitors have to "gown up" to see him. Prayers needed, for Mike and his family.

I hope that all is well with you and yours, John Deppen.

Prayers are requested for Mrs. Harry E. Smith and family, and Marilyn J. Demmy, [ELDEST DAUGHTER OF HARRY, AND WIFE OF DAVID W. DEMMY] Harry was undergoing his 2nd tour of radiation treatments for a 3rd bout with cancer. Harry an Army combat veteran of World War II, D-Day, and 3 other Battles, joined the Church Triumphant on Wednesday, August 15. He is the last of his family clan from Newport.

[Thank You Camp 15 of Harrisburg](#)

As reported in May 2007 issue of your *Hartranft Herald*, pages 2 and 3, The Pennsylvania Department of the SUVCW was represented at Salem Square Park, York Pa. Civil War Monument re-dedication on May 5.

Dear Camp 15,

"Thank you so much for your participation at Salem Square. I am very pleased that the SUVCW recognizes and appreciates the significant of these events.

It was a pleasure to meet you (Marilyn and David Demmy) and thank you for sharing additional photos of the event, which will help with the official documentation of the rededication ceremony".

Sincerely, Jane Eckenrode, Past Tent President, Mammy Ruggles Tent #50.

[Out of the Past](#)

President Franklin D. Roosevelt Speech and D-Day Prayer - June 6, 1944

If interested, the link below will take you to a very touching speech and prayer. You can read the entire thing. Or, you can click to hear the speech in his own words.


The World War II soldiers, known as the "Greatest Generation." There are very few left from that era. --- Lest We Forget !!

~~~~~  
This is the prayer originally entitled "Let Our Hearts Be Stout" written by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as Allied troops were invading German-occupied Europe during World War II. The prayer was read to the nation on radio on the evening of D-Day, June 6, 1944, while American, British and Canadian troops were fighting to establish beach heads on the coast of Normandy in France.

The previous night, June 5, the President had also been on the radio to announce that Allied troops had entered Rome. The spectacular news that Rome had been liberated was quickly surpassed by news of the gigantic D-Day invasion which began at 6:30 a.m. on June 6. By midnight about 57,000 American and 75,000 British and Canadian soldiers had gotten ashore. **Allied losses on D-Day included 2,500 killed and 8,500 wounded.**

<http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/fdr-prayer.htm>

This link has many great events from the past - [www.historyplace.com](http://www.historyplace.com). There is a section Presidents of the United States. Even listen to the voices of some of them. Under Special Topics, you will see a slide show from Egypt. This may be a good one to share with your kids and Grandkids. Doubt they will be getting this sort of History in the School system in 2007!

 Sending an Angel to watch over you !  
/\_\

Shared by a *Hartranft Herald* reader -- a Yankee Rebel and female veteran of the Korean War.

[PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN](#), by Dave Klinepeter

The week of (Aug 9-12, 2007) was the National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans in St. Louis. If everything goes as hoped, **Brother Charles Kuhn** will become National Commander-in Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He is a member of Hartranft Camp 15.

In 1949, at Indianapolis In., **John H. Runkle**, a member of Hartranft Camp 15 became National Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. that occasion was very special as it was the 83<sup>rd</sup> National encampment of the GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC. THIS WAS THE *FINAL* ENCAMPMENT OF THE GAR. The date was August 28-September 1, 1949.



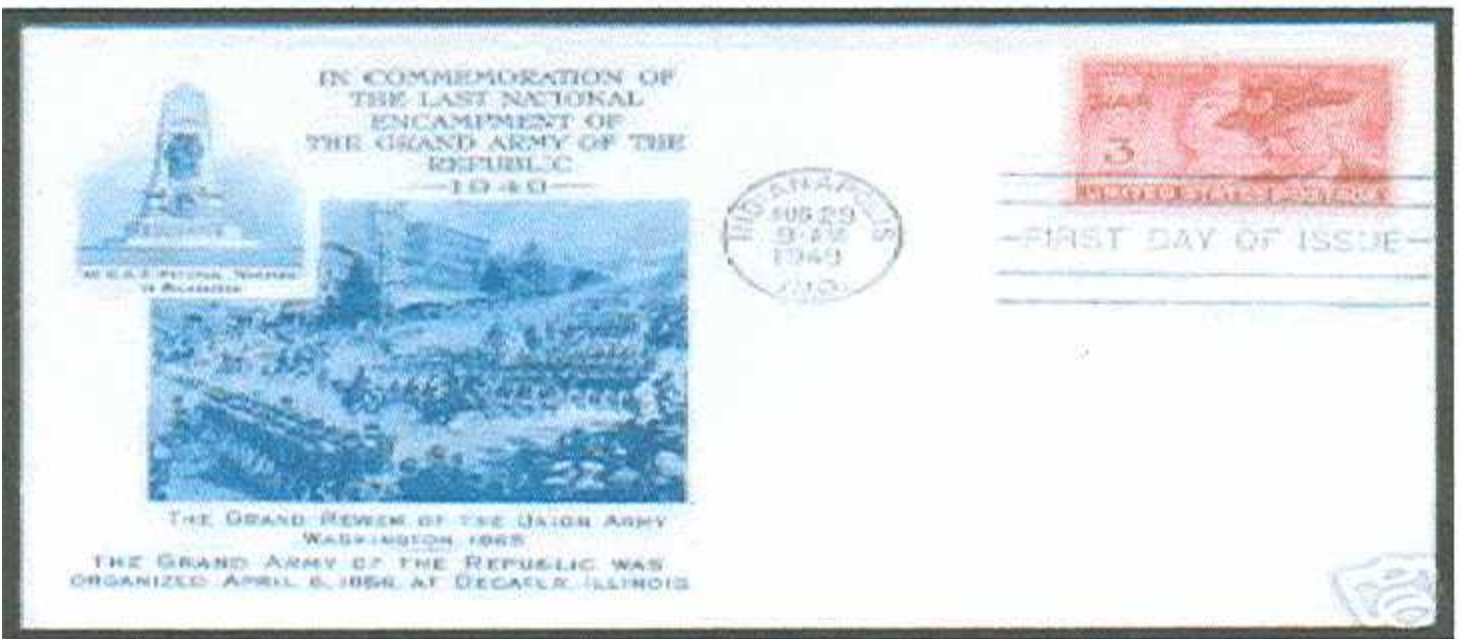
There were a number of Union Veterans of the Civil War living but were in poor health, most were over 100 years in age and unable to travel.

Yes, I was at Indianapolis. As long as I knew John Runkle, he never went to any National or State Encampment without the Fife and Drum Corp. There were about 12 members of the Drum Corp in attendance. Most of us were too young to be delegates at the Sons Encampment, so we did sightseeing! The one evening at supertime we went to the Claypool Hotel, (headquarters for the GAR boys), to play for them. Albert Woolson was the only one in the lobby. Major John H. Runkle took Harry Runkle's drum and placed it between Albert Woolson's legs than gave him a pair of drumsticks. It was a special privilege to have him play along with us. On August 29, 1949, the Post Office put out a first day issue stamp. There were many vendors selling special envelopes for the occasion. I did buy 27 different envelopes, went into the post office there, bought the stamps and LICKED every one (no peel off stamps during that era). Then they were handed to the clerk to be canceled.

Continued



This picture, taken, in front of the Indiana Soldier's and Sailor's Monument on the 1949 First Day issue of the GAR stamp. The vendors were on all four sides.



Continued

On Wed August 31, 1949 at 6:30 pm, the last parade for the Grand Army of the Republic stepped off with Commander-in-Chief Theodore Penland's car in the lead. Next in the line was the United States Marine Corp Band from Washington D.C. in full dress parade uniforms, followed by the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Field Music, Sons of Veterans Reserves from Harrisburg, Pa and led by Major John H. Runkle. This was the only time I remember that the Fife and Drum Corp did beat our drums. We enjoyed marching to the music of the Marine Band. As the parade was coming to an end, it started to thunder and lightning. The sound effects were likened to cannon firing in battle. It did rain a bit.

**Note**, As I write about John Runkle, the SUVCW, the SVR, the Drum Corp, and Camp 15, there is no way to separate them. They all interwoven. It is difficult to put things in proper sequence. As I write about items, it causes me to remember other things we did together. I also realize that to the older members [some of this is a repeat]; however, I wanted our newer members of Camp 15 to know about the older ones who made strong commitments over many years to keep the Sons of Union Veterans going and to keep alive the memories of all the Union Veterans as well as the Grand Army of the Republic, our father organization. --- DJK

### [Camp 15's Calendar of Events for 2007](#)

|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> | 126 <sup>th</sup> National Encampment (convention) held at St. Louis.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| September – Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>                          | General Meeting at National Civil War Museum.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| October – Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>                            | General Meeting at National Civil War Museum.<br>Selection of Camp officers for 2008.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| November                                                     | No general meeting scheduled at this time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Veterans' Day 11 <sup>th</sup>                               | Thank a Veteran today for your freedoms.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| November – Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup>                         | Annual Remembrance Day at Gettysburg.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| December – Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>                            | Annual Holiday Party at Doc Holliday's Restaurant, Limekiln Road, Exit 40A, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. Celebrate the Installation of Officers for 2008 at this annual event. TIME: social hour 11:30 to 12:30; 1 pm mealtime and fellowship into afternoon. |



## 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.

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### Looking Ahead into September:

- Photos of recent Camp activities as they become available.
- Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear in your 2007 *Hartranft Herald*.
- Keep a copy of your schedule of events and calendar handy for reference.

Bring a friend, nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather to a Camp meeting!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

--- End of August 2007 Hartranft Herald ---