



# Hartranft Herald

The Newsletter of  
**Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15**  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

<http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/>

Celebrating our 126<sup>th</sup> Year



Volume 11, No. 02



February 2009

**--- Oh, the weather outside may be frightful! ---**

**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!

## Abraham Lincoln



Born 1809  
Hardin County,  
Kentucky

Died 1865  
Washington DC

16<sup>th</sup> President of  
the United  
States of  
America

1861-1865  
during the War  
of the Rebellion

**“With Malice  
toward None;**

**With charity  
for all”.**

## Camp Annual Report

Presented by Larry Sheibley, PCC, Camp #15 Secretary

General John F. Hartranft Camp #15 of the capital city of Harrisburg published its camp history in February, 2008. The History of Camp #15: 1882-2008, One Hundred Twenty-Five Years of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty contains fifty-two pages of photographs, stories, and names.

The past year was a record year for increased membership with thirteen new brothers joining the local SUVCW camp. Welcome!

Camp #15 Brother Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., ended his term as Commander-in-Chief and Camp #15 Brother Lee F. Walters finished his term as Pennsylvania Department Commander and retired as National SUVCW Executive Director. In this latter position, he was replaced by Camp #15 Brother David W. Demmy, Sr.

On Memorial week-end, Camp Commander Gregory Kline, Senior Vice-Commander John Deppen, Brother Ronald Shireman and his wife Helen (great, great granddaughter of General John F. Hartranft) attended a wreath laying ceremony at

the General's grave in Montgomery Cemetery in Norristown, PA.

Camp officers continue in their second year term; and, the camp continues to sell SUVCW brass belt buckles for \$30 and colorful SUVCW aluminum license plates for \$15.

[Secretary's Report](#) by Larry C. Sheibley

Brothers of Camp #15, your 2008 enlistment ended 31 December! Please pay your 2009 dues to Brother Demmy immediately. The Union, the North, the SUVCW, and Camp #15 need you to re-enlist. Thanks! Please make your remittance check payable to Hartranft Camp 15 SUVCW & mail it to

David W. Demmy, Treasurer  
881 Sunny Hill Lane  
Harrisburg PA 17111-4690

[SUVCW Camp #15 Minutes - Sunday, 18 January 2009 at National Civil War Museum, Pennsylvania Room #222, Harrisburg, PA](#)

**Officers Present:** Stanley Zellers; Larry Sheibley; David Demmy, Sr.; David Klinepeter; & Frank Haley

**Officers Absent:** Gregory Kline; John Deppen; Kelly Betz; Eugene Mascioli; Donald Prye; & Norman Houser

**Members Present:** Thomas Bruner; David Demmy, Jr.; Floyd Demmy; William Kuhn; & William Neumyer

With the absence of the Commander and SVC, Junior Vice-Commander Zellers called the meeting to order at 1410 hours. The Hartranft Camp #15 treasury contains \$2180 as reported by Treasurer Demmy, Sr. Keep in mind a large percentage of these funds are *collected dues* which will be remitted to the Pennsylvania Department of the SUVCW in short order.

Secretary Sheibley reminded members of the Civil War Lincoln Luncheon in Philadelphia on 7 February 2009. Attendance forms were available.

Health conditions for Brother Don Fry and Sister Mary Smith were noted and get-well cards were sent to both.

The Camp Council is considering petitions for changes in the camp by-laws and the camp dues.

Patriotic Instructor Klinepeter drew four tickets for prizes which were won by Brothers Demmy, Jr.; Frank Haley; Floyd Demmy; and Tom Bruner. He showed photos of himself presenting license plates to the new Department Commander, the new Commander-in-Chief, and the past Commander-in-Chief.

This year is the start of the Lincoln Bicentennial, the 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Harrisburg Civil War Roundtable. He mentioned some activities involved with each of these celebrations. Four new Lincoln pennies and a silver dollar will be appearing this year. Brother Dave read a list of new Lincoln books.

Finally, he read a book review that appeared in the January Civil War News. Written by Brother Deppen, the negative review discussed the book, Lincoln Unmasked – What You Are Not Supposed to Know about Dishonest Abe by Thomas J. DiLorenzo.

In other business, the camp learned that Brother Haley has dropped his position of Camp Guide and his membership on the Camp Council. Brother Thomas Bruner volunteered to be guide and Brother Norman Houser will be a Camp Council member.

J.V. Commander Zellers closed the meeting at 1503 hours.

Twenty-eight members were sent dues notifications for non-payment as of mid-January.

Next meeting, Camp #15 will be voting on candidate Logan Garth Swanger of 239 Spruce Street, Middletown, PA 17057.

Respectfully submitted with Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Larry Sheibley, PCC, Camp #15 Secretary

## [PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/ GAR HISTORIAN](#)

by Dave Klinepeter

February 12th was the 200th anniversary of ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S birthday.

Somewhere I read there have been over 50,000 books written on Lincoln, and that is before his 200th birthday.

There are many up coming affairs dealing on the Lincoln. There are books, lectures, tours, balls etc. One such Ball took place in Washington D.C. in Jan 2009. It was in honor of Lincoln's second Inaugural in 1865. The location was at the American Art Museum in the Smithsonian complex. The entertainment was furnished by the Victorian Dance Ensemble with Dance Master Larry Keener-Farley leading. (He is a PCC in Hartranft Camp 15 SUVCW) Your Patriotic Instructor also participated in the dancing. What really made it so special for us, we were dancing in the same building were the original was held. I could feel the spirits of the past there, felling they were encouraging us to keep the memories of the past alive. To learn more information about Abraham Lincoln go to the internet and type in his name.

Did you know Lincoln was an inventor? His patent #6469, was granted on May 22, 1849, for a device for "Buoying Vessels Over Shoals", (I will have a handout on this at the Feb meeting).

#### **A FEW EARLY LINCOLN QUOTES**

"As a nation we began by declaring that all men are created equal. We now practically read it, all men are created equal except Negroes. (1855)

A house divided against it self cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved-- I do not expect the house to fall---but I do expect it will cease to be divided. (Lincoln Douglas debate June 1858)

This is essentially a People's contest. On the side of the Union, it is a struggle for maintaining in the world. That form. and substance of government, whose leading object is, to elevate the condition of men---to lift artificial weights from all shoulders---to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all---to afford all, an unfettered start, and a fair chance, in the race of life. (July 4th 1861)

I expect to maintain this contest until successful, or till I die, or am conquered, or my term expires, or Congress or country forsakes me. June 1862

Thank God I have lived to see this. It seems to me that I have been dreaming a horrid dream for four years, and now the nightmare is gone. April 3rd 1865".

On April 14th Abraham Lincoln was shot and on April 15th, 1865 he died. DJK

## [Members Page](#)

The *Hartranft Herald* asks its readers: What was it you learned in school besides your ABCs?

O T T F F S S E N T ?

Hint: It's not a continent!  
Feedback welcomed.

Brothers, please bring a notebook or loose-leaf binder to our meetings. While the Commander has his agenda, we do not handout an outline of the meetings topics to be discussed. Your loose-leaf binder should contain your copy of the program guide and opening and closing ceremonies. You may desire to purchase your own blue R & C book or other items from the National quartermaster, contact Camp Treasurer, David W. Demmy, Sr. DoubleD@Demmy.cc.

### Happy Birthday to Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7 Winter birthday personnel:

Tony Kline – Northumberland, PA  
Gene Mascioli – Steelton, PA  
Scott Debo – Sunbury, PA  
John Andrews – Mechanicsburg, PA  
Dennis Karle – Erie, PA  
Charlie Kuhn – East Berlin, PA  
John Martin – Linglestown, PA  
Don Messersmith – Danville, PA  
Russ Ottens – Tifton, GA  
Ron Shireman – New Oxford, PA  
Stan Zellers – Lewisburg, PA

Did you notice we are from all over the Commonwealth!

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. . . . . for 2008.

In response to announcement regarding the availability of the January issue of our *Hartranft Herald*:

Date: Friday, January 16, 2009, 11:05 AM

*Here's another man, [Hartranft Herald editor]  
w h o d o e s i t a l l!  
-- Brother Steve*

### [Grave Marker Dedication](#)

To: newsletter editor Source:  
[www.floridatoday.com](http://www.floridatoday.com)



An honor guard from the Sons of Confederate Veterans, JJ Dickison Camp 1387 fires a rifle salute while Sandra Natowich removed the cover from Capt. A.J. Whitlock's grave marker during Saturday's rededication ceremony at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Merritt Island. Natowich, a relative of the Confederate Army applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the unmarked grave of any eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. Note: There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense. There is no change in eligibility for veterans in unmarked graves: Regardless of

the date of death, VA will furnish, at no charge to the veteran, was doing research on her family's history when she discovered the original marker had been vandalized

Camp Grave Registration Committee go to:  
[http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm\\_hm.asp](http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm_hm.asp)

Submitted by Brother Don Fry, of Linglestown, on sabbatical in Florida for the winter of 2009.

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**\$25.00 Camp dues for 2009 are due.**

**Most of us have remitted our dues! A few of you are missing in action! Your staff thanks you for your timely remittance; thus saving us reminder stationery and postage!**

**Larry C. Sheibley, secretary.**

Checks preferred – make 'em **payable to:**  
**Hartranft Camp 15, SUVCW.** Please mail your remittance to  
David W. Demmy, Sr., Camp 15 Treasurer  
881 Sunny Hill Lane  
Harrisburg PA 17111-4690  
*Morning Reports* are so long and so boring and **so much** work. So please remit early and we'll be happier in 2009. Besides, if you drop out, you'll miss all the Camaraderie, with us, Hartranft Camp

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Gettysburg, PA, January 29, 2009: The national Abraham Lincoln "birthday card" initiative, conceived by Lincoln artist Wendy Allen, has been announced. Endorsed and facilitated by the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, and hosted in Pennsylvania by the PA Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Allen's project will begin February 2nd – 7th in the Main Rotunda of the State Capitol Building in Harrisburg PA.



Ms. Allen will be on-site 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day creating a unique portrait of Lincoln and helping visitors sign the accompanying birthday card panels. This event is free and open to the general public.

The card will remain in the Rotunda at the Capitol through February 11th when it will travel to Gettysburg, PA. The card will be in residence at the Historic Gettysburg Railroad Station, 35 Carlisle Street, February 12-16th and available to the public during regular hours

Further notices will be posted on the project website [www.happybirthdaylincoln.com](http://www.happybirthdaylincoln.com)

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission (PA ALBC) is to organize, arrange, and coordinate bicentennial tributes to Abraham Lincoln in Pennsylvania, and to coordinate those activities with the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission of the federal government and other interested parties.

*I thought you might be interested in signing his birthday card! I know the new president will want to sign it when it arrives in Washington, D.C. submitted by Brother John Martin*

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

#### [Camp 15 Junior Member performs well](#)



Lynn Kyle won 44 matches with only 5 losses.

Camp 15 congratulates young Lynn on his extra-curriculum activities.

PHOTO BY PROUD DAD, LYNN KYLE



### A Keeper

*Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their  
best friends lived barely a wave away.  
I can see them now, Dad in trousers, work shirt and a  
hat;  
And Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in one hand,  
and dish-towel in the other.  
It was the time for fixing things: a curtain rod,  
The kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem  
in a dress. Things we keep.  
It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy.  
All that re-fixing, re-heating leftovers, renewing;  
I wanted just once to be wasteful.  
Waste meant affluence.  
Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be  
more.  
But when my mother died, and  
Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up  
and goes away...  
Never to return. So... While we have it, it's best we love  
it... And care for it... And fix it when it's broken... And  
heal it when it's sick.*

*This is true: For marriage... And old cars... And children  
with bad report cards  
I was standing in that clear morning light in the warmth  
of the hospital room,  
I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes  
there isn't any more. ...  
Dogs and cats with bad hips... And aging parents... And  
grandparents.  
We keep them because they are worth it, because we are  
worth it.  
Some things we keep, like a best friend that moved away  
or a classmate we grew up with.  
There are just some things that make life important, like  
people we know who are special...  
And so we keep them close!  
I received this from someone who thinks I am a 'keeper,'  
So I've sent it to the people I think of in the same way...  
Now it's your turn to send this to those people that are  
'keepers' in your life.  
Good friends are like stars...  
You don't always see them, but you know they are always  
there!  
Submitted by Brother Don Fry*

[2009 Camp Meeting and Event Schedule](#)  
please *update* your calendar accordingly.

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

February 15, Sunday - General Camp meeting

March 15, Sunday - General Camp meeting  
**Guest speaker Donna Crone!**

April 19, Sunday - Meeting or bus trip to Civil War  
Medicine Museum area.

May 17, Sunday - General Camp meeting and  
preparation for Memorial Day activities  
**May 23, Saturday - Decorate graves at historic  
Harrisburg Cemetery at 13<sup>th</sup> and State Sts.**

May 25, Monday - **Memorial Day** parade  
participation

[June 25, 26, 27 - Pennsylvania Department  
encampment convention New Oxford, PA](#)

July 19, Sunday - Annual Camp picnic at Colonial  
Park campus Pavilion of XPoint church

[August 13, 14, 15 - National encampment  
convention, Louisville, KY](#)

September 20, Sunday - General Camp meeting

October 18, Sunday - Elections for 2010 and *guest  
speaker Sue Boardman!*

[November 21, Saturday - Remembrance Day  
parade and activities, Gettysburg, PA](#)

[December 13, Sunday - Annual Camp Christmas  
Party at Doc Hollidays, New Cumberland](#)

**Be Proud Wear The Badge**



Come out to a meeting and join us!

## CONFEDERATE HOLIDAY

. Wednesday, February 04, 2009  
HERE'S THE LATEST: A black state senator is pushing a bill that would require South Carolina cities and counties to give their workers a paid day off for Confederate Memorial Day or lose millions in state funds. Democratic Sen. Robert Ford's bill won initial approval from a Senate subcommittee Tuesday. It would force county and municipal governments to follow the schedule of holidays used by the state, which gives workers 12 paid days off, including May 10 to honor Confederate war dead. Mississippi and Alabama also recognize Confederate Memorial Day. BACKGROUND: Years ago, Ford said, he pushed a bill to make both that day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day paid holidays. He considered it an effort to help people understand the history of both the civil rights movement and the Confederacy in a state where the Orders of Secession are engraved in marble in the Statehouse lobby, portraits of Confederate generals look down on legislators in their chambers and the Confederate flag flies outside

## 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 and other authors, the Deadline for submission of stories, events, articles, and photos to be published in our monthly *Hartranft Herald*, is the first Friday of each month; otherwise, we go to press without the item.

### Looking Ahead into March 2009:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Worksheets were inserted in Camp 15's 125<sup>th</sup> 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 <a href="mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc">DoubleD@Demmy.cc</a></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guest speaker at meeting.</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!</li></ul>
Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, the end of February 2009 *Hartranft Herald*