

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 126th Year



Volume 11, No. 06

June 2009



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!

No Camp meeting in June

Flag Day June 14

Happy Father's Day June 21

Pennsylvania Department Encampment Convention June 26 and 27 at New Oxford near Gettysburg.

Minutes from May 17, 2009 General Meeting Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War John F Hartranft Camp 15 Harrisburg PA

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM – Senior Vice Commander John Deppen presiding.

Officers answering the roll call:
Senior Vice Commander John Deppen
Junior Vice Commander Stan Zellers
Guide Tom Bruner, Jr.
Treasurer/Chaplain David Demmy, Sr.
GAR Historian and Camp Patriotic Instructor Dave
Klinepeter, PCC.
Officers absent:

Camp Commander Greg Kline Secretary Larry Sheibley, PCC Council Members Norm Houser, Donnie Prye, PCC, and Gene Mascioli, PCC Color Bearer Kelly Betz Members present

- 1 Bill Neumyer, Jr. of Wertzville
- 2 Floyd Demmy of Colonial Park
- 3 Dave Demmy, Jr of Lower Paxton Township
- 4 Don Fry of Linglestown
- 5 Lee Walters of Mechanicsburg, PDC
- 6 Jeff Smith of Mechanicsburg
- 7 Logan Swanger of Middletown

Guest Mrs. Charlotte Walters, PDP

The minutes from the March 15 meeting were presented by Sr Vice Commander Deppen and accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report was presented: Current Balance \$ 2190. No outstanding bills at the present.

Outstanding checks for expenditures:

- \$ 112 members' years of service numeral pins;
- \$ 136 purchased new membership badges, and

\$ 1353 – National and Departmental per capita fees for 2009 annual report. Low balance will be \$589 after checks clear.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

The camp extended prayers for recovery to Sr Vice Commander Deppen's mother and Mary Smith (daughter of Late John Runkle). Brother Klinepeter offered to follow up to discern Ms Smith's current health status.

No new candidates for membership were reported at this time

No camp committee reports were offered.

No new orders, committee reports or bills from state or national organizations were reported at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion was held regarding the situation at the Linglestown Cemetery. Nothing new to report. Brother Bill Neumyer of Wertzville, offered information on the American Pennsylvania & Military Flag Act of 2006 which states that while a church may restrict the size of flags placed on Veterans graves it cannot restrict the display of the flag (display is allowed 24 x 7 x 365). Brother Jeff Smith of Mechanicsburg offered to check with counsel regarding whether or not graves can be obliterated / moved to make way for construction.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sr Vice Commander Deppen extended an invitation to the camp to participate in the parade at Lewisburg Saturday June 27.

The camp picnic will be held July 19 at the pavilion at the Colonial Park Church (same site as last year) see July 2008 Hartranft Herald for directions a v a i l a b l e a t http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html

Two rifles [.45-70s] are still for sale – a potential buyer is 'undecided' regarding the 2006-07 established price of \$650!

Editor's Note: Camp Council or corps of officers should settle upon a price and unload the unused,

Sr Vice Commander Deppen reported the Sunbury City Council is attempting to revamp Cameron Park, thus altering the park's historical identity.

Discussion was held regarding upcoming events Memorial Day weekend: One group will be placing flags at the Harrisburg Cemetery; another group will be attending the event honoring General Hartranft, sponsored by the Montgomery County Historical Society at Norristown. Another group will be marching in the Memorial Day parade at Gettysburg.

Brother Don Fry made a donation for newsletter postage and purchase of book offered by Camp Historian. Funds accepted by Treasurer Demmy.

Following the business portion of the meeting Patriotic Instructor Dave Klinepeter gave a very informative review of the history of Camp 15 – a very well-received effort aimed at helping acquaint newer members with the history of the camp. He displayed and discussed Memorial Day photos of the Camp and fife and drum corps from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s – the early years of Camp 15. Editor's Note: for a review of some of the photos of past Memorial Days, go to Camp's website at http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html and review as desired.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:42 PM Respectfully Submitted May 18, 2009 Stan Zellers Junior Vice Commander (and Acting Secretary)

Happy Birthday to Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7 June birthday personnel: Floyd Demmy Greg Kline Wesley Diemer Frederick Till

- Colonial Park, PA
- Harrisburg, PA
- Wilmington, DE
- Lewiston, NY

<u>Credential Cards</u>

If you plan to attend any portion of the 2009 Pennsylvania Department Encampment at New Oxford, [Friday or Saturday business sessions], you will need a **Credential Card** to be accepted at the registration desk.

The Credential Card must be signed by our camp 15 secretary Brother Larry Sheibley.

Larry may be contacted at (717) 567-6303

Or email at larrysheibley@embarqmail.com

Or mail request to him at

Larry Sheibley, PCC 523 South Fourth Street Newport, PA 17074-1316

If you plan to attend the banquet Saturday evening, pull your copy of the March *Hartranft Herald* and review page 11 to complete your banquet meal request. You may review the March issue at

http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html; select the **Monthly Newsletter** from the Table of Contents and then, under 2009, select **MARCH**.

Encampment pre-registration is \$7.
Application available in the *Battle Cry of Freedom*. Hurry the deadline is June 10. Or you may pay at door on June 26 and 27.

Norristown Review by John Deppen, SVC

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who made our experience at Montgomery Cemetery a positive one!

Commander Kline provided a very nice wreath; JVC Zellers was kind enough to carry the wreath and help Mrs. [Helen] Shireman place it at Hartranft's grave; I gave a few remarks that seemed to be well-received; and Mr. Shireman and JVC Zellers both took photographs that will reflect our efforts (I look forward to seeing them!).

The crowd did not seem to be as big as last year, but we rendered honor where honor was due.

[Helen Shireman is great granddaughter of our namesake, General John F. Hartranft]. In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

John Deppen, SVC

From Karen at the Historical Society of Montgomery County –

John

It was my pleasure to meet you and General Hancock. You and General Hartranft Camp#15 will always be welcomed at our observance.

Best Regards! Karen

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 14th Flag Day
June 25th 1950 Korean War began
July 2nd 1926 U.S. Army Air Corps established
July 1-2-3 1863 BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG
July 4th 1863 VICKSBURG SURRENDERED
July 27th 1953 Korean War ended
July 28th 1914 World War 1 began

DID YOU KNOW Brig. General James Garfield, Major William McKinley, Col. Rutherford B. Hayes and Brig General U.S. Grant all became President of the United States?

Pennsylvania SUVCW shirts available

Brothers, Pennsylvania Department of SUVCW shirts are available. Use this form:

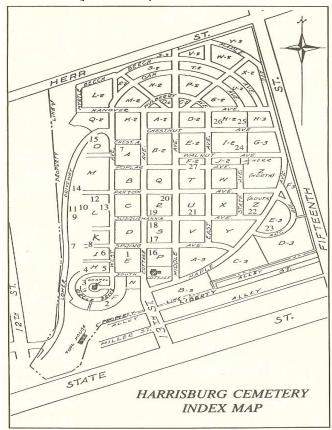


The two styles are still available. *Current* 2009 prices are: The golf shirt is 25 dollars and the denim is 30. Please complete the order form accordingly.

Memorial Day 2009 at Historic Harrisburg Cemetery

Five Brothers enjoyed breakfast nearby the historic Harrisburg Cemetery which holds four governors, countless movers and old shakers of Harrisburg, such as Simon Cameron, Daniel Boas and 15 others having Harrisburg streets named for them! Likewise, the cemetery is host to 52 veterans of the Revolutionary War; 43 from War of 1812; and, from the Civil War including the Regimental Commander, Colonel W. W. Jennings of the Dauphin County 127th Regiment Penna. Vols. – Infantry, 156 Civil War veterans including 15 Confederate prisoners of war. The Civil War

deceased are mostly in special part of **Z** Section of the cemetery. See map:



SECTION Z IS A VERY SHORT WALK FROM THE COTTAGE!



ABOVE, CIVIL WAR VETERANS' IN SECTION Z!



LEFT DAVID J. KLINEPETER GREETS LESTER McClure! EACH HAS BEEN HONORING VETERANS SINCE 1946. BOTH GENTS ARE PROUD VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II.



FROM LEFT GREG KLINE, HIS FATHER TONY KLINE, WWII VETERAN FLOYD DEMMY, AND GENE MASCIOLI, PCC.



DAVE DEMMY, JR, ONE OF OUR YOUNGEST MEMBERS, HONORING CIVIL WAR VETERANS. DAVE IS OLDEST SON OF OUR HARTRANFT HERALD STAFFER DAVID W. DEMMY. SR. DAVE ABOVE, IS CAMP 15'S WEBMASTER.



GREG KLINE, HONORS VETERAN ENDERS, ANCESTOR TO OUR BROTHER, RUSS OTTENS.



FOLLOWING OUR PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO PLACE FLAGS UPON VETERANS' GRAVESITES AT HARRISBURG CEMETERY; WE DIDN'T SEE ONE AMERICAN FLAG ON A RESIDENCE, UNTIL WE WERE WELL OUT OF THE CITY. THIS CIVIL WAR ERA-LIKE 35 STAR FLAG IS PROUDLY FLOWN AT DAVID W. DEMMY, SR'S HOME. HOW QUICKLY AMERICA HAS FORGOTTEN 9-11-01 WHEN FLAGS WERE EVERYWHERE AND NONE COULD READILY BE PURCHASED WELL INTO NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2001!

HOW MANY CELEBRATED THE REASON FOR THIS 2009 3-DAY WEEKEND? WHILE THE STORES AND SHOPS WERE BUSY, SOME BROTHERS OF CAMP VISITED FOUR CEMETERIES THIS WEEKEND!



VALENTINE QUENZLER, ANCESTOR TO AUDREY KYLE, MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER TO CAMP 15'S KYLE FAMILY.

Above photos provided by Hartranft Herald staff.

Additional photos will be posted to Camp website at http://www.geocities.com/hartranft15/index.html when time permits.

Purple Heart Stamp to be Reissued Military.com

Week of May 25, 2009

Tammy Duckworth, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) assistant secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, recently spoke at a U.S. Postal Service ceremony announcing the reissue of the **Purple Heart** stamp. This is the fifth issue of the **Purple Heart** definitive postage stamp. The **Purple Heart** stamp was first issued on May 20, 2003. The reissued stamp features a photograph by Ira Wexler of one of two Purple Hearts awarded to James Loftus Fowler of Alexandria, Va.,

FOLLOWING PHOTOS SHARED BY COMMANDER GREG KLINE AND DENNIS DEWALT. PHOTOS DEPICT CAMP 15 ACTIVITIES IN RECENT MONTHS, FROM GUARDING PRESIDENT TO MARCHING ON MEMORIAL DAY:

FIRST PHOTO REVEALS CAMP 15 MEMBERS AS HONOR GUARD TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN, PORTRAYED BY SUVCW MEMBER, JAMES GETTY ON MARCH 28. THE EVENT WAS A DINNER WITH PRESIDENT LINCOLN WITH PROCEEDS BENEFITING THE SLIFER HOUSE.



L TO R: LOCAL REENACTOR REV LEE, NORM HOUSER, JAMES GETTY SEATED, SCOTT DEBO BLENDING INTO MARVELOUS SLIFER HOUSE DÉCOR, STAN ZELLERS, LT. JACK RUSHOE AND CORPORAL GREG KLINE.

BELOW, ON MAY 9, THE EDGAR RUHL CAMP 33 OF YORK HELD A CEREMONY AT HANOVER JUNCTION TO REDEDICATE FOUR 3-INCH ORDNANCE RIFLES THAT WERE IN STORAGE FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS. THEY WERE ORIGINALLY THE PROPERTY OF THE LOCAL GAR AND OWNERSHIP TRANSFERRED TO THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR.



PENNA DEPT COMMANDER JOHN McNulty, SPEAKER, LOCAL VETERAN COUNCIL, GETTYSBURG BLUES, AND CAMP 15 WERE PRESENT FOR THE DEDICATION OF TUBES AT HANOVER JUNCTION.

VETERANS FROM WALTER REED MED CENTER ARRIVE.



BELOW CAMP 15 BANNER, HELD BY DENNIS DEWALT AND JEFF SMITH, LEAD CAMP IN GETTYSBURG MEMORIAL DAY PARADE.





CAMP 15 PRESENTS 'EYES-RIGHT' IN HONOR OF VETERANS FROM WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER.

MARCHERS ARE SCOTT DEBO, TOM BOWMAN, GENE KISTNER AND COMMANDER GREG KLINE.

Upcoming events

Jun 06, 2009 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM

Dressed in period clothing, Matthew Dodd takes listeners back in time using songs from the period and related stories to explain what it takes to be a soldier of the North or South.

"Leaves Driven Before the Storm" - A living history presentation by Stan Zellers

Jun 13, 2009

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM

A narrative describing the Civil War service of seven brothers from Union County, PA. – Brother Stan is a member of General John F. Hartranft Cam, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Members Only: Journey to the Centre of the Museum

Jun 13, 2009

01:30 PM - 04:00 PM

~For Your Eyes Only~ Join us for a MEMBERS ONLY guided tour deep into the underbelly of the Museum. Brett Kelley, Collections Curator, will answer your questions and bring light to many amazing treasures.

Free Family Fun Day & Camp Out

Jun 20, 2009 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM Camp out in the City! Spend the night on the grounds of The National civil War Museum. Deadline to register is June 16th.

Free admission to the Museum galleries for all visitors! Event featuring Major General Winfield Scott Hancock portrayed by John Deppen, SVC of General John F. Hartranft Camp 15, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Continued

"The Gettysburg Campaign to the Susquehanna River"

Jun 21, 2009 01:30 PM - 02:00 PM Presentation by Steve Runkle

Living History: 44th Georgia Volunteer Infantry Company C

Jun 27 - 28, 2009 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

Encampment: Saturday, 6/27/09 10am-5pm;

Sunday, 6/28/09 12pm-4pm

The Forgotten Civil War Battle of Franklin, Tennessee - November 30, 1864

Jun 27, 2009 01:30 PM - 02:00 PM

For the size of the forces engaged and the short duration of the fighting, this *forgotten* battle ranks as one of the worst blood baths of the Civil War.

Educator Presentation

Jun 28, 2009 01:30 PM - 02:00 PM

With our educator, James Brennan - Topic to be announced.

And Jul 04, 2009

01:30 PM - 02:00 PM

With our educator, James Brennan - Topic to be announced.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN by Dave Klinepeter

Another MEMORIAL DAY has come and gone. Being of an older generation and reading about the early years of "Decoration Day", I was disappointed with the over all response and respect shown this year. Some towns still have parades and cemetery services, thanks to VETERANS organizations, others have ARTFESTS, and chili cook offs with all sorts of fun and games. There seemed a lack of American Flags in people's yards or on their houses; too busy? I especially cringe when some one wishes me a "HAPPY HOLIDAY" I have signed a

number of paper's to return Memorial Day to May 30th, and get away from the GOVERNMENT 3 DAY HOLIDAY. No luck yet. On May 23rd I did manage to get to the Cemetery and meet with my old World War II buddy, Lester McClure, from American Legion Post 27 He furnishes the flags for us to put on Veterans graves.

On May 30th I stopped at the Paxtang Cemetery and strolled among the Veteran's grave plot from Col Simmons Post 116 Grand Army of the Republic. For many years Hartranft Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans (on Memorial Day afternoon) held a parade and services in Paxtang, Pa. The weather was beautiful and a nice breeze fluttered the many flags on the graves. This cemetery still retains the GAR metal grave markers, while most cemeteries have disposed of them for mowing convenience.

FROM THE FORTIETH NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT G R A N D A R M Y OF THE REPUBLIC MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA AUGUST 16-17- 1906
From JAMES TANNER, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S report

MEMORIAL DAY

Each year the 30th of May is more and more observed as a memorial day for the dead. The Grand Army of the Republic stands pre-eminent in its observation of the day, but year by year the custom has grown, until it embraces the length and breadth of the land, and the day is now a sacred one for multitudes of all nationalities in all walks of life.

Thus this custom, beautiful in its inception has been instrumental in weaving and blending the peoples of this country, obliterating their differences, and thus has been verified, the prediction of Lincoln, that "the mystic choirs of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all of this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angles of our nature"

Feeling the truth of these words of the Martyred Lincoln, when it became my duty to issue the order for MEMORIAL DAY, I told my comrades of an incident that happened thirty years ago, and said that I trusted when we went out to laurel the

graves of our UNION dead our common American manhood would prevent us passing by the graves of our former opponents without dropping thereon some floral remembrance. Not, I said, in honor of their cause, for that we opposed, fought and conquered, but because we who met them on the field of battle, knew that braver men or better soldiers have not been known since men were first marshaled in battle array..

Quite a number of touching, even loving, messages have come to me from mothers of the south whose sons are buried on northern soil, pouring out their appreciation of the spirit embodied in my Memorial Day Order recommendations regarding the graves of those confederates buried in northern soil. (NOTE Harrisburg Cemetery has a number of Confederates buried in the GAR Veterans plot, and every year a Confederate flag is placed on each one of those graves.)

There can be but one opinion throughout our whole country it seems to me regarding the continued DESECRATION OF OUR MEMORIAL DAY by ball games, circuses and other forms of popular amusement. I have faith enough in the American people to believe that where the matter is properly presented to the constituted authorities in the various communities in the land, that almost without exception proper action will be taken by them forbidding these desecrations.*****We owe it to the memory of our dead comrades and ourselves to make this protest in every instance, then if the outrage be permitted, the responsibility is not upon us in any degree whatever. . James Tanner CinC

FLAG DAY JUNE 14, 1914 HARRISBURG, PA

In a parade 300 Civil War Veterans, acting as color bearers, carried their old battle flags to the capital rotunda to be put in special display cases.

TAKE BACK THE TATTERED BANNERS

From the laughing light of day In the twilight and the silence Lay them tenderly away; You have blest them thro" the years, You have kissed them with your tears, You have rushed them to glory In a rhapsody of cheers.

Where their rainbow--beauty beckoned
You have followed, you have stood,
When the blood of brothers eddied
At your feet, a purple flood-In the dreadful days gone.
You have borne them on and on,
Till the night of carnage ended
In the splendor of the dawn.

Every star upon those banners
Is a blazing diadem,
Set there by Freedom's fingers
When she consecrated them
In a holocaust of strife,
As she panted for her life,
Midst the thunder and the tumult
Of the trumpet, drum, and fife.

Every broken battered staff
Over which our flags are furled,
Was a crutch the Nation leaned on
As she watched the doubting world.
Proud in all her queenly splendor,
Yet with loving heart and tender,
Waiting for each holy promise
Which the God of right might send her.

Take back the tattered banners-And let not a tear drop gleam
As you yield them to the ages
That are moving, like a dream,
Down the long and lighted way,
To the glad and golden day,
Which your valor purchase for them,
In the old historic fray.

Take back the tattered banners;
Let their sisterhood of stars
Light the inner shrines of Freedom,
Till Eternity unbars
The fields of Asphodel,
Where the martyred heroes dwell,
And the symphonies seraphic
In unending chorus swell.
(James Newton Matthews 1906)

Summary

Greetings Brothers!

Many thanks to those of you who helped make Camp 15's Memorial Day activities a big success

this year. On Saturday May 23, I was joined by Brothers David Demmy Sr, Dave Demmy Jr, Floyd Demmy, Dave Klinepeter, Frank Haley, Gene Mascioli and Tony Kline for Camp 15's annual flag decoration duty in the Harrisburg cemetery. On the same day, SVC Deppen led a group of Brothers at the annual Memorial Day observance at the Norristown cemetery. They were joined again this year by Brother Ron Shireman and his wife Helen, General Hartranft's great-granddaughter. JVC Stan Zellers assisted Mrs. Shireman in placing a wreath on behalf of Camp 15 at the General's gravesite and SVC Deppen offered appropriate remarks to those in attendance. John was on double duty that day, having been asked to speak at General Hancock's tomb as well.

On Memorial Day, Camp 15 once again marched in the Gettysburg Memorial Day parade. Our Camp banner was carried proudly by Brothers Dennis DeWalt and Jeff Smith. Marching behind them were Brothers Scott Debo. Tom Bowman, Jack Rushoe. soon-to-be-Camp-member Gene Kistner myself. Dennis, Scott, Tom, Jack and Gene were marching in their third (yes, third!) parade that day. Jeff was newly attired in an artillery uniform honoring his Civil War ancestor. Fantastic! All told, at least 16 members of Camp 15 participated in Memorial Day activities and these are just the ones that I know about. I'm very proud that Camp 15 answered the greatest call made by our GAR predecessors, to honor their memories and sacrifices on Memorial Day. Mission accomplished!

Looking forward, I would ask you all to mark your calendars for our annual Camp picnic on Sunday July 19 at noon. The meal will commence at 1:00. The Camp will provide the meats, condiments, plates, plastic-ware, etc. Please bring a covered dish to share and your own table covering. Please provide your own lawn chairs if you desire! A young children's playground is adjacent to the pavilion so bring your grandkids too. More data on the picnic will be posted in your July *Hartranft Herald*, including data from the Pennsylvania Department encampment at New Oxford.

Hope you're having a great spring!

In F, C & L,

Greg

Greg Kline
Camp Commander
Hartranft Camp # 15, Harrisburg
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Grand Army of the Republic grave marker!

2009 Camp Meeting and Event Schedule

Please update your calendar accordingly.

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

No Camp meeting in June.

Flag Day.

Fathers Day.

Members Profile to appear in July issue of our Hartranft Herald newsletter.

June 25, 26, 27 - Pennsylvania Department encampment convention New Oxford, PA.

July 19, Sunday - 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.

August 13, 14, 15 - National encampment convention, Louisville, KY.

September 20, Sunday – Nominations for officers for 2010 at General Camp meeting.

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

November 15, Saturday – General Camp meeting and installation of Camp officers for 2010.

November 21, Saturday - Remembrance Day parade and activities, Gettysburg, PA.

December 13, Sunday - Annual Camp Holiday Party at Doc Holliday's, New Cumberland.

Be Proud Wear The Badge



Come out to a meeting and join us! Allied Orders of the GAR

- <u>W</u>oman's <u>Relief Corps Auxiliary to Grand Army of the Republic,
 </u>
- 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!

- Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members.
- Worksheets were inserted in Camp 15's 125th Anniversary history book. If you prefer, and your Hartranft Herald wishes you would, complete an e-worksheet, please ask for one – send e-mail request to DoubleD@Demmy.cc
 - Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting!

Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!