




*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](http://www.SUVCWHarrisburgPA.org)

Celebrating our 133rd Year in Harrisburg Area

 @ Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp#15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Vol 17, No. 03

~~ Dedicated to Sister Kate Sienerth ~~

March 2015



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!

**Elizabeth Kathryn "Kate" (Croft) Sienerth**

**Forthcoming Camp meeting**

1924 - 2015 | Obituary | [Condolences](#)

Sunday, March 15 is Camp 15's next business meeting at 2 pm at Reservoir Park upper level room 222. Readers, if you have photos, a story, or an article to share, please send data by e-mail or mail to your hard at work or hardly working *Hartranft Herald* staff. – [doubled@Demmy.cc](mailto:doubled@Demmy.cc)



Age 90, of New Cumberland, on Friday, February 20, 2015; She was born May 18, 1924 in log cabin in Churchill, PA to the late John W. Croft, Sr. and Ethel Marie (Mains). She was raised in Penn Hills, PA where we lived until she married and moved to Carnegie, to raise 2 stepsons, Bill (Pat) Sienerth and the late Tom Sienerth. She moved to Harrisburg where she lived with her sister Jinny. She enjoyed the Bavarian Festival and playing her Boomba and clacker and dancing to Polka music, attending State and National

This issue of the Hartranft Herald is draped in memory of our late sister Kate Sienerth:

Conventions of Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic and watching her Pittsburgh sports teams. She also loved to go to the beach at Cape May, NJ.

She was a past State President of Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. She was a member of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic where she was a past president and local President of Circle #20, the Women's Relief Corps Aux. to the GAR and local President of Comrade Gambrio Corps #136. She served on the Auxiliary #7 to Camp #15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and local office Chaplain, and retired in 2012 from State Encampment [sic] Site Committee after 22 years. She served on the board of Ladies GAR Home in Swissvale, now located in Turtle Creek. Kate was a life member with the 7th Degree of the State Grange #2005. She was a member of Pine Street Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg since 1972.

Kate always enjoyed spending time with her family from Pittsburgh. Sister of John (Dorothy) Croft, Jr., Mary Jane Bannan, Joanne (the late Donald) Swartzlander and the late William Croft and Ethel Marie Bowsman; also survived by many nieces and nephews. Friends received, Sunday, 2-4 & 6-9 pm at Soxman Funeral Homes, Ltd./Roth Chapel, 7450 Saltsburg Road (at Universal Road) Penn Hills, where a Service will be held, Monday, 11:00 am. Interment in Plum Creek Cemetery.

[www.pennlive.com/obits](http://www.pennlive.com/obits)

Published in Patriot-News on Feb. 24, 2015

You may share remarks with Sister Jinny at Mary Jane Bannan, PDP

222 Walnut Level Road

New Cumberland, PA 17070-2858

### **RED – Remember Everyone Deployed**

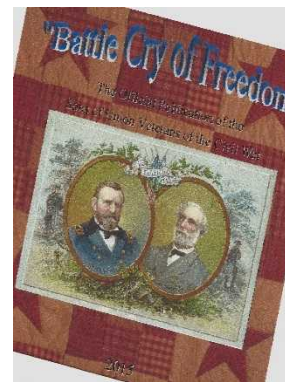
Individuals and organizations are encouraging the wearing of red on Fridays, in an experience known as Red Friday, to show their support for all members of the armed forces abroad, regardless of the circumstances under which they were deployed. It has nothing to do with how one believes in the war effort – it is all about the troops – so wear red each Friday til they all come home! Camp 15 has 2

brothers subject to deployment, the Hall brothers, Duke and Nathaniel, grandsons to one of our senior Brothers, Lee Walters. Presently they are stateside; but can be called up for a port call to be deployed anytime.



### **Membership entitlements**

If you have been a member prior to 2015, the quarterly national SUVCW magazine, *The Banner* and the annual Pennsylvania newsletter *the Battle Cry of Freedom* were issued late in February or early March. The *Battle cry of Freedom* is issued by e-mail only. If you have not received these 2 publications, please contact [execdir@suvchw.org](mailto:execdir@suvchw.org) for a copy or ask at next Camp meeting; Or contact our Camp secretary, Greg Kline at (717) 571-6877.



If your e-mail is not on file with the editor of the *Battle Cry of Freedom*, you are expected to ask your Camp for a hardcopy of the 2015 issue – so don't be bashful – ask away.

Likewise, if you are missing a copy of your *Hartranft Herald*, please contact personnel indicated just above.

### **Brothers and Sisters in Distress**

Please keep the following personnel in your prayers:

Mrs. Robert Treat, Charlie Kuhn PCinC,

Joe and Mary Jo Long, PDC & PNP

Lee Walters, PDC and Charlotte Walters, PNP

Mary Jane Bannan & John Croft

Dave Klinepeter and David Demmy, Sr.

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**Readers, here is a follow-up to the Hartranft Herald's December issue regarding the Robert Valentine Story:**

Update Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Hartranft Herald: I received the two hard copies of the January newsletter early last week and I thank you for sending them along to me. After receiving them from you I immediately mailed them off to Abria and Tiana Patterson and their mother Autumn, who are descendants of Robert Branyan Valentine whose Civil War service and life was referenced in the January newsletter. The response from Autumn is extremely heartwarming and I am certain it will strike the same cord with you. Your contribution to the effort was invaluable to say the least; and, it goes without saying, so very greatly appreciated. I thank you for your kind assistance.

Individual letters were written to Abria and Tiana to accompany the newsletters. The attachment to this email contains one of those letters...both were similar in content with slight variables on each girl.

It warms ones heart to read the following email as received from Autumn.

Warm Regards,  
Brother Mike Smith, Camp 15

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Hi Mike,  
I hope you are having a very blessed day!! We received the newsletters that you sent the girls today. I thank you so much and wish I had more than words to let you know how much the article as well as the letters meant to me. The girls very much appreciate them as well and the work you put into it all. Truthfully, I and my family became even extra blessed when you came into our lives. The article and letters both swelled our hearts with love, pride, and appreciation for our joint ancestor, as well as for you. Both the girls want to share their newsletters with their History teachers and friends. Thank you again!! I'm going to scan it into

the computer and put it in my tree on ancestry. You're amazing in so many ways!!  
May God richly bless you and your family,  
Love you all!! ~ Autumn

**PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN**

by Dave Klinepeter

**(BRINGING BACK A FEW MEMORIES OF CAMP 15s PAST)**

Go to your latest issue of our "BANNER", [the Winter 2015 issue] to the inside of the back cover. Look closely at the picture on the lower right corner. The man leading the color guard is Major John H. Runkle, PCinChief SUVCW, He lead the 6th Infantry Field Music, Penna Brigade, Sons of Veterans Reserves, (Hartranft Camp 15 Fife and Drum Corps for many, many years.) The rifleman is Kenneth Hemminger PDC of Penna and long time Camp 15 member. You may not believe this but the rifleman on the left side of Major Runkle is your Patriotic Instructor PCC David Klinepeter. I am sorry that I do not remember the name of bearer carrying the SUVCW flag. I do remember we were carrying the ole 1873 Springfield single shot 45-70 rifles. (They became quite heavy as we "present arms" each time other organizations placed wreaths at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.)

Thanks to Major Runkle, Camp 15 participated a number of years The SUVCW still carries on the tradition of participating in the services at the Lincoln Memorial each February, in honor of Lincoln's birthday.

If any of our newer members would like to know a bit more about Major Runkle, Kenneth Hemminger or your Patriotic Instructor read your history of Camp 15.

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A FEW DATES to recall:

**MARCH**

- 4th 1861 Abraham Lincoln's Inauguration
- 7th 1862 Battle of Pea Ridge Arkansas
- 9th 1862 Battle of the Monitor and the Virginia (Merrimac) VA

28th 1862 Battle of Gloriella Pass N M  
 3rd 1863 Congress passes conscription act war time draft  
 7th 1864 Grant elevated to supreme commander of Union troops.  
 3rd 1865 establishment of the Freedman's bureau for slaves  
 13th 1865 south decides to enlist slaves  
 25th 1865 Fort Stedman the Confederates lose  
 31st 1865 Battle of Five Forks, Sheridan's famous ride saves the day

APRIL

12-13 1861 Confederates fire on Fort Sumter S.C.  
 6th 1862 Battle of Shiloh TN  
 2nd 1865 Petersburg, Va. Falls  
 3rd 1865 Richmond Va. falls  
 7th 1865 Battle of Sayers Creek Va. Last large battle  
 9th 1865 Lee surrenders at Appomattox Court House, Va.  
 6th 1991 Persian Gulf War ends

djk

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

The 201st Infantry, an element of the West Virginia National Guard, has what is perhaps the most unique distinction of any military unit in history; because its ancestral Virginia militia regiment split at the start of the Civil War, it has battle streamers for both Union and Confederate service, each of which includes the second battle of Bull Run, at which in effect, the regiment fought itself.

The flag which Union Major General Robert Anderson hoisted over newly recaptured Fort Sumter on April 4, 1865 was that which he had been forced to lower on April 14, 1861.

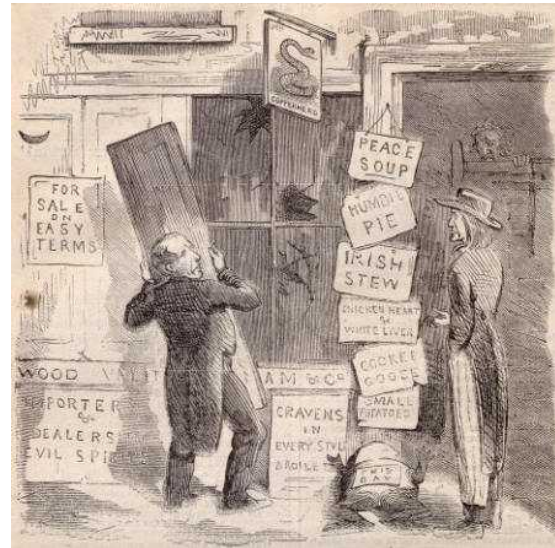
Of 1,804 Union sailors and marines who died as a result of combat during the Civil War, 342 were scalded to death by steam escaping from boilers which had been pierced by enemy fire. ---

DJK

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**Civil War Copperheads**

Copperheads were a vocal faction of Democrats located in Northern states like Pennsylvania. They opposed the American Civil War; and, wanted an immediate armistice settlement with the Southern Confederates. Republicans started calling those antiwar 'Dems' "Copperheads", likening them to the venomous serpent!



**SHUTTING UP SHOP.**

**UNCLE SAMUEL.** "What! shutting up shop, eh!"

**MANAGING MAN OF THE COPPERHEAD HOUSE.** "Yes! 'taint no use. Sence the news from Ohio and Pennsylvania, we haint seen a customer, and the boss says to shut up quickly before New York ruins us outright."

*Harper's Weekly, November 7, 1863 page 720*

**1965 remembered**

On March 8, 1965 U.S. Marines landed in Viet Nam to start "the War no one can forget." As some are learning about this war in history book for a few of us it was "Current Events. For those that came home we can never forget and to those that didn't you are forever young. In the words of George S. Patton

"It is foolish to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."

50 years ago, when we were young.  
 In F.C. & L, Don Darby, Ohio, PCinC,

## A Call for Troops!

Camp 15 has recently been asked to participate in a wreath laying ceremony at the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg to honor the memory of Ephraim Slaughter, the last Civil War veteran of Harrisburg to go on to his final reward. We've heard his name mentioned in our Camp meetings over the years, but what do we know of the man? Here's a little background information.



**Ephraim Slaughter was a former slave from North Carolina who joined the Union Army in 1863. When he died in 1943, he was Harrisburg's last Civil War veteran.**

Ephraim Slaughter was born into slavery in 1846 in North Carolina. He escaped in 1863 and on January 17, 1864 joined Company B of the 3<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina Colored Infantry which became the 37<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Troops. They were soon assigned to the 18<sup>th</sup> Corps, as was my great-great great grandfather Frederick Kline, and had a conspicuous role

during the Petersburg Campaign. A regimental history written shortly after the war describes one piece of their service as follows: "the regiment was ordered to the front of Petersburg, and took an active and conspicuous part in the siege of this city; it was then ordered to the forts at Wilson's and Harrison's Landings, on the James River, where it remained until the 25th of September, when it was ordered to Deep Bottom, Virginia, where it arrived on the 28th of September, 1864, was immediately put into action, and after three days hard fighting completed the reduction and capture of New Market Heights and Fort Harrison, and for distinguished bravery and soldierly conduct at this battle, was honorably mentioned by the Major-General commanding the right wing of the army. Although the regiment lost a great many men it remained upon the field it had won, and successfully resisted

the repeated attempts of the enemy to retake the ground."

Ephraim and his older brother moved to Harrisburg in 1880 where he met and married his first wife Carrie and was again married in 1935 to Georgianna Mitchell some years after Carrie's death. He was employed for many years at the Lochiel Hotel in Harrisburg and was very active in the Grand Army of the Republic, Stevens Post # 520 of Harrisburg and in his church on North Sixth St.

Ephraim Slaughter passed away on February 17, 1943 at the age of 95 and was Harrisburg's last surviving veteran of the Civil War. He was buried in Penbrook's Lincoln Cemetery with full honors. Among the groups attending were the Camp 15 Fife & Drum Corps including our own Brother Dave Klinepeter.

The upcoming memorial service for Ephraim will be held on Wednesday, May 27, most likely at 5 or 6PM, full details having not yet been given. I urge all Camp 15 Brothers who are able to participate in the color guard or simply just attend the ceremony to please do so. It will be a great way to kick off our Memorial Day observances and it will be a great honor to participate, as it was for us 72 years ago.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Brother Greg Kline, PCC

## Some Pix from Community Free Day at National Civil War Museum



Brothers Greg Kline, Jeff Smith and Scott Debo on recruiting duty during community free day at National Civil War museum in February 2015.

March 2015 Hartranft Herald Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

[Awarding winning newsletter -- Marshall A. Hope award presented to Hartranft Camp 2010-2011](#)



Typical display table presented by Dave Klinepeter for his monthly talk on patriotic duties.



Greg Kline making his presentation on his ancestor at February Camp meeting. Are you next! Contact Commander Jeff Smith.

## On the Road with Camp 15

Monthly Camp business meetings begin at 2 p.m. and are conducted the 3rd Sunday, at National Civil War Museum!

Next Camp meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **January 18, 2015**, in room 222 upper level of Museum building.

March Camp Meeting – **Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>**

April 11<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Tomb ceremonies at Springfield, Illinois.

April Camp meeting - Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>.

May Camp meeting – **Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>**.

Hartranft Camp Memorial events:

**Saturday May 24**, breakfast followed with placing flags upon veterans' gravesites at Historic Harrisburg Cemetery!

No Camp meeting in June, instead we hope you may attend the 2015 annual Department of Pennsylvania encampment at Williamsport, PA.

Please update your social calendar now.

Camp 15 yearly calendar available upon request. Send e-mail or contact Hartranft Herald staff [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc).

## Be Proud - Wear the Badge



Come out to a meeting and engage with us!

The Allied Orders of the GAR:

- Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary to GAR,
- Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic,
- Daughters of Union Veterans of Civil War,
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and
- The Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of 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*.

Membership Bio Profiles will continue to appear as they are submitted by members.

Worksheets were inserted in Camp 15's 125<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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!

Established February 11, 1882  
in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Continued



APPOMATTOX LUNCHEON

The annual Appomattox Luncheon will be held Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 1:00 P.M. at:

Genetti Hotel & Conference Center  
200 West Fourth Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
(570)326-6600 or (800)321-1388

The menu will consist of the following:

- Roast Vermont Turkey with Traditional Stuffing
- Whipped Potatoes and Gravy
- Corn O'Brien
- Cranberry Sauce
- Rolls and Butter
- Sherbert
- Coffee, Tea, or Iced Tea

The cost of the meal is \$24.00. Kindly make your reservations and remit payment no later than April 10, 2015 to:

Faye M. Carlisle-Thomas  
PO Box 23  
Cogan Station, PA 17728  
(570)998-2591

If you would like to stay overnight, room rates are \$99.95 plus applicable taxes. Full breakfast buffet is included. Please mention you will be attending the G.A.R. Appomattox Luncheon at the Hotel on April 25, 2015.

NOTE: There will be a brief meeting of the Pennsylvania Past Commanders and Past Presidents Group at noon. Please plan to attend.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Total money enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



PRE REGISTRATION FORM

Department of Pennsylvania  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Annual Encampment

Camp No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Brother: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member in good standing in this camp and  
my rank in the Order is:

\_\_\_\_\_ CinC      \_\_\_\_\_ PCinC      \_\_\_\_\_ DC  
\_\_\_\_\_ PDC      \_\_\_\_\_ CC      \_\_\_\_\_ PCC

Attending as \_\_\_\_\_ delegate \_\_\_\_\_ alternate

Pre-Registration fee is \$7.00 by 6/11/2015  
\$10.00 at Encampment

Make check payable to: PA Dept., SUVCW

And send to: Secretary/Treasurer:  
Charles Kuhn Jr., PCinC  
464 Lake Meade Dr.  
East Berlin, PA 17316  
717-259-6156  
[charlie\\_kuhn@comcast.net](mailto:charlie_kuhn@comcast.net)

Credential Cards

If your intention is to make either the Department Encampment in June 2015 or the National Encampment in August 2015, please make sure you obtain a signed card before making either event.

*The Credential Card for the Department Encampment can be obtained from your Camp Secretary and must be filled out fully so that you have the right to participate during the business meetings and vote.*

*The Credential Card for the National Encampment must be filled out fully and signed by the Department Secretary before you are able to participate. So please contact your Camp Secretary or Camp Commander and he can obtain these for you from the Department.*

The form for the Credential Card is located on the National web site under forms. This is a printable form right off of the site. --- The site is [www.sucvw.org](http://www.sucvw.org)

Please make every effort to have these filled out correctly as it makes it easier for those who do the registration to help you.....

Pennsylvania Department Encampment  
Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic  
June 18-21, 2015, Williamsport, PA

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861 – 1865  
Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic  
Woman's Relief Corp

Ad Information for the Encampment Memorial Book

We would ask that each and every one of the members of the Allied Orders support the Encampment by purchasing ads in our Memorial Program Book. Your support is necessary for the survival of the Encampment. Please send a check made out to:

PA Department – SUVCW  
c/o Ellen Higgins  
1731 Shore Road Unit 42  
Seaville, NJ 08230-1383

Deadline for receipt of ads and checks is May 22, 2015

Rates are as follows:

Full Page - \$50.00  
Half Page - \$30.00  
Quarter Page - \$20.00  
Eighth Page - \$10.00  
Patron - \$3.00

Ads can be sent via email as a digital file to [SquirrelOCNJ@aol.com](mailto:SquirrelOCNJ@aol.com)

OR

As a hard copy or hand written to Ellen at the above address.

The final copy of the Memorial Program Book for 2015 will be 5.5" by 8"

When submitting your ads (in any format) please include your name and contact information (phone or email address) in case there is a question about your ad.

If you would like a Program Book sent to you via USPS mail, please include an additional \$2.00 to cover the cost of mailing