

# The Ebensburg Alleghanian.

J. T. HUTCHINSON, } EDITORS.  
ED. JAMES.

I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT THAN PRESIDENT.—HENRY CLAY.

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**SAMUEL SINGLETON, Attorney at Law,** Ebensburg, Pa. Office on High street, west of Foster's Hotel. [aug 13]

**JAMES C. EASLY, Attorney at Law,** Carrolltown, Cambria county, Pa. Architectural Drawings and Specifications made. [aug 13]

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**SAMUEL BELFORD, D. D. S.** Will be at Ebensburg on the fourth Monday of each month, to stay one week. August 13, 1868.

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## GENERAL JOHN F. HARTRANFT.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR AUDITOR GENERAL.

Our candidate for Auditor General is too well known to require at this late day any extended newspaper mention. The name of General Hartranft is familiar to the whole country, and in Pennsylvania it has long since become a household word. As a slight recognition of his services during the rebellion, he was elected in 1865 by his fellow-citizens Auditor General of the State, a position of great responsibility and one requiring the exercise of a methodical mind like that possessed by General Hartranft. Having served the public in a civil capacity as faithfully and fearlessly as he served his country on the field of battle, his fellow-citizens have the second time placed him in nomination for this high and responsible position.

Major-General John Frederick Hartranft is a native of New Hanover township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, and was born December 16, 1830. He graduated at Union College, at Schenectady, New York, in 1853, and was employed as a civil engineer for some time. He assisted in running the line of the Match Chunk and White Haven Railroad, which has since been constructed, and had charge of the working party who surveyed the route of the proposed railroad from Chestnut Hill to Doylestown or New Hope.

In 1854, Sheriff Boyer, of Montgomery county, secured his services as Deputy, and he continued in the Sheriff's office in that capacity during the remainder of Mr. Boyer's term of office and the whole of that of Sheriff Rudy, who was elected in 1855, and continued till 1858. In this position he became acquainted with the people of his native county and acquired a general reputation among all who met him as a prompt, careful and efficient business man.

Having pursued the study of law the necessary length of time, he was admitted to practice at the bar of Montgomery county in the fall of 1860.

He was then elected Colonel of the First Regiment of Montgomery County Militia in 1859, having previously been Lieutenant Colonel and Captain.

The call to arms in April, 1861, when, after Sumpter was fired upon, President Lincoln issued his first appeal to the heroism and devotion of the people, found Col. Hartranft a Democrat, attached to the political principles in which he had been reared. But it made him none the less a patriot. From the day on which he took arms in defence of his country, he laid aside all ideas and theory of partisanship and became alone a heroic soldier, striving always to do his duty, wherever and whenever that might call him to action.

He lost no time in tendering the services of his militia regiment to Governor Curtin, having visited Harrisburg for that purpose, on Tuesday, the 16th of April. It was promptly accepted, and became the Fourth Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. Rendezvousing at Harrisburg on the 20th, it was speedily armed, equipped and sent forward to Perryville, thence to Annapolis, and finally to Washington.

The term of service of his regiment had expired, and it was on the homeward march when the battle of Bull Run took place. The forward movement of our army to meet the rebels in that first grand encounter attracted Hartranft's attention and he determined not to be left behind when, for the first time, his country needed his services in actual battle. He offered himself to General McDowell to serve in any capacity in the approaching struggle where he could be useful. The General remarked that it was scarcely "regular" to do so, but that his appreciation of Col. Hartranft's noble conduct was so high that he would assign him to duty on the staff of Col. Franklin, who commanded the brigade to which the Fourth Regiment had been attached. Col. Franklin, in his report, spoke with warm words of commendation, and General McDowell expressed regret afterwards that he had not done justice to his valuable exertions by especially mentioning him in his official report of the battle.

Gen. Cameron, then Secretary of War, also referred with high encomiums to his conduct on this occasion and it formed a gallant commencement for a grand career.

Colonel Hartranft had no intention of retiring from the service at the close of his three months' campaign. A week before the battle of Bull Run he had applied to, and obtained permission from the War Department to recruit a three year's regiment. He lost no time in commencing its organization, Governor Curtin having added his authority to do so, and on the 16th of November, it was mustered into service at Harrisburg, with Hartranft as Colonel, and became the Fifty-first regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.

This regiment was assigned to Burnside's army, which was then organizing at Annapolis for service on the coast of North Carolina. It became a part of Reno's brigade, and participated in the whole of Burnside's campaign. The expedition left Annapolis early in January, 1862, and on the 10th of the following month Colonel Hartranft led his men up through a swamp which the rebels had supposed impassible, to storm the Rebel works on

Ranoke Island. The rebels were nearly all captured, and the effects of so signal a success in the initial contest of the campaign were excellent.

The rebel fortifications at Newbern were attacked and carried on the 15th of March, and here again Colonel Hartranft bore a conspicuous part. The contest was a severe one, and the loss on both sides serious. The army of Burnside remained at Newbern until the conclusion of McClellan's disastrous campaign on the Peninsula, when a large portion of it was shipped to Newport News, to join the Army of the Potomac.

Early in August the force at Newport News was transferred by transports to Aquia Creek, and thence by railroad to Fredericksburg, where Reno's Division arrived on the 4th of that month. Here they joined the army under Pope, and thence participated in all the battles and skirmishes of his unfortunate campaign. The service during the three weeks of his command was arduous in the extreme. From Fredericksburg to the old battle ground of Bull Run the movement was almost a continuous struggle, and when the second battle on that renowned locality took place, Col. Hartranft found himself posted on almost the same ground that he had fought upon in July of the preceding year. His regiment was posted on the left of the Centerville road, protecting Graham's battery, till the retreat commenced. When the brigade left the field it was divided, one regiment only marching with Gen. Ferero, while the other two were ordered by another road under command of Col. Hartranft. On this, as on the former occasion, when everything was confusion, Col. Hartranft remained cool, collected and self-reliant. In this action his regiment lost eight killed and wounded and thirteen missing.

Again at Chantilly Hartranft met the enemy, and again added new laurels to his fame. But these struggles did not overcome the enemy. Tired, footsore and exhausted as our men were, they took up the line of march once more, on the 7th of September, and joined the march of the Grand Army again under McClellan, up through Maryland to South Mountain and Antietam. The engagement of South Mountain, though apparently but a prelude to the greater contest of Antietam, was distinct in its character. It was fought on Sunday, September 17th, and its result transferred the grand battle from the little mountain pass to the banks of the stream beyond.

Colonel Hartranft commanded his regiment as usual, leading it to the attack up the side of the mountain with his accustomed bravery. That night our men occupied the important position they had carried, sleeping on the summit of the hill, whence the ground sloped away to the valley of the Antietam.

Two days occupied in short movements, and the morning of Wednesday, September 17th, found our army confronting the rebel host. Soon the intrepid Hooker, on the right, was engaged. On the left Burnside waited orders till nearly noon, and then was directed to storm the enemy's position on the opposite bank of the stream, crossing his men over the narrow stone bridge that spanned the creek in his front.

The position occupied by the rebels was one of wonderful natural strength. The road on the East bank wound up near the stream for some distance before reaching the bridge, and troops marching on it at this point were exposed to a terrible flank fire. On crossing the bridge it met an abrupt steep bank, and deflected, nearly at right angles, up and down the West bank. The bridge was therefore entirely commanded by the rebels. They had had ample time for preparation, and their artillery was posted to sweep the causeway from end to end, while the riflemen, screened from view behind trees and rocks, or in well prepared rifle pits, waited the attack, to open a most destructive fire. Thus posted were the enemy.

But the orders came to "Take the Bridge." At about 11 o'clock Burnside ordered an attack. First two regiments essayed to cross this bridge of death. They struggled forward a little distance, terribly cut up by the fire in flank, paused, staggered, and came back. It seemed impossible that mortal men could cross by so terrible a path and live. Again the attempt was made by fresh troops, and again they were repulsed by the terrible fire. Still the bridge must be taken.

Then General Ferrero rode up to Hartranft, who lay with his regiment behind a knoll a short distance from the stream, and said to him, "General Burnside directs you to take your regiment and cross the bridge." Amid the cheers of his own regiment, and the shouts of those who witnessed the attempt, Hartranft led forward his regiment, alone, and unsupported. Avoiding the unsheltered road below the bridge, they reached the wing walls of the structure, and lay a few moments skirmishing, holding the ground thus gained. A regiment was hurried up to support them, but the situation was a terrible one. On all sides men and officers were falling. Hartranft led his men to the charge, and they dashed gallantly into the storm of leaden hail. The little stream of heroes were fearfully thinned as they struggled forward, but by words and example Hartranft urged them on, and—"The Bridge was Carried!"

That night, as his men lay on the ground they had won, Hartranft went through the regiment and took the names of all those who had followed him through the terrible path across the bridge. Of five hundred who were in the ranks in the morning, scarcely two hundred were on the hill at night. Most of that fearful deficiency were killed or wounded.

At Fredericksburg, when Burnside made his bold and nobly conceived, but disastrous attack in December, Colonel Hartranft once more led his regiment into battle. That there was no child's play where he fought will be testified by the survivors of that terrible fight. His regiment alone lost twelve killed and seventy-four wounded.

The regiment left Newport News on the 26th of March for central Kentucky, where they entered on a brief campaign.

Early in June the corps once more set out on its travels. It left Kentucky by railroad to Cairo, and thence passed down the Mississippi on steamers to Sherman's Landing, opposite Vicksburg, where they landed on the 14th of June. In a day or two they went up the Yazoo river to Haines' Bluff, and thence across the country, operating principally in the rear of Vicksburg to cover Grant's siege. The campaign was brief, but very severe, and the marches were frightful.

On the 4th of July, after the glorious consummation of Grant's operations by the surrender of Pemberton, the movement against Johnston at Jackson commenced. That town was captured after eight days' operations, and the campaign in Mississippi was at an end.

On the 9th of August the corps left Vicksburg for Cairo, and came from that city to Cincinnati. At the latter place, Colonel Hartranft received a sick leave, and returned home to recover his shattered energies. Having partially recovered, he left again for the field of action in October, and on the 16th of November found his regiment in Lenoir, in Tennessee, where they were just about being attacked by Longstreet. He at once, in the absence of senior officers, took command of the division, and led it during the whole of the battles constituting the defense of Knoxville.

The skirmish at Lenoir commenced the campaign. Hartranft was ordered to move forward to Campbell's Station, and hold the roads which cross there. He marched promptly, in the night, with his division and some artillery and cavalry, and occupied the important strategic point. Other troops were hurried up to his support, and at nine o'clock in the morning the action commenced, continuing for two hours, at the end of which time the discomfited rebels retired with terrible loss. Hartranft, during the engagement, had four brigades under him. It was a battle fought against terrible odds, for the Union army numbered only six thousand men, while Longstreet led at least three times that number.

Burnside's only effort was to hold out, and save Knoxville, till reinforcements could reach him. At length, however, about the 7th of December, Longstreet gave up the siege and withdrew.

Many regiments re-enlisted during the winter preceding the campaigns of 1864, and among them Colonel Hartranft's regiment. On the 4th of January they were mustered, and all but a few men agreed to re-enlist. The "veterans" received the usual furlough, and the regiment was ordered home to recruit.

The furlough having expired, Colonel Hartranft's regiment rendezvoused at Harrisburg, on the 10th of March, and remained at Camp Curtin till the 19th, when they were sent forward to Annapolis. Here the soldiers of Burnside's command were once more assembling, to embark, as was supposed, on some new expedition to the South.

Colonel Hartranft was made Acting Brigadier General and placed in command of the post. The remainder of March and most of April was spent in organizing, drilling, and disciplining the new men, embracing not only the new organizations, but the recruits in the old ones.

Soon after, Colonel Hartranft received his long merited promotion as Brigadier of Volunteers. He had fairly earned it at Antietam, and nothing but his modest determination not to urge his own claims had prevented him from receiving it long before. He was placed in command of the First Brigade, Third Division, Ninth Army Corps, consisting of six regiments, the 2d and 8th Michigan and 51st Pennsylvania, veteran regiments, and the 17th Michigan, 109th Pennsylvania, and 27th Michigan. His commission as Brigadier dated from May 10th, 1864.

On the 23d of April, Burnside's force moved from Annapolis, marching across the country to Washington and Alexandria, where they encamped on the 25th. They became a portion of Grant's army actually in the field about the 28th.

With Hartranft, active operations began on the 4th of May, when he broke camp near Warrenton Junction and took up the line of march, crossing the Rappahannock and encamping a mile beyond. The following day he crossed the Rapidan at German's Ford, and hurried forward with the rest of Burnside's forces to the support of the troops who had all day been engaged at the Wilderness.

The next day, Friday, May 6th, a movement was made to the left, and Hartranft's brigade was placed on the left of the Fifth corps. Farther still to the left was the Second corps. Here the enemy was soon encountered, and Burnside ordered Hartranft to carry the enemy's works in his front. They were very strong, and the rebels were in force. The advance was made at 10 o'clock, in fine style, and the works were carried and held for a moment, but a sudden panic seized the left of the line, and the whole brigade fell back.

On the 9th, Hartranft was again on the move with his corps. On the 12th, at daylight, our troops advanced beyond the river Ny, and here ensued a desperate engagement in the course of the day. The enemy opened on our troops with artillery, but were soon silenced. Pushing resolutely forward, the enemy continually gave way, and Hartranft won two small hills where they had attempted to stand. At two o'clock, orders were given to attack, and our troops moved gallantly forward. There ensued a most desperate hand-to-hand fight.

The first of June found our troops near Cold Harbor, and on that day and the 2d there was severe skirmishing with the enemy. On the following day Hartranft withdrew toward the left, and formed line near Bethesda Church, and once more engaged the enemy. Agreeably to orders, he assaulted the enemy in his front and retook a line which had been lost by our army the preceding evening. The enemy fled precipitately from their position, and Hartranft's men occupied the rifle pits.

The successive movements by the left flank brought the brigade of Hartranft across the Chickahominy on the 14th of June, and on the 15th the James was also crossed. On the 17th and 18th his command engaged the enemy with severe loss, the contest on the latter day being at the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad.

In the unfortunate action at Petersburg, on the 30th of July, after the explosion of the mine, Hartranft again took part.

During the movements upon the Weldon Railroad by General Grant, on the 19th, 20th and 21st of August, General Hartranft commanded his brigade, and did good service in the three days' fighting there. The brigade lost fifteen killed, seventy-nine wounded and twenty-three missing.

In the engagements near Poplar Springs Church, commencing on the 30th of September, and ending on the 8th of the following month, Gen. Hartranft had command of the second brigade, instead of the first, and participated.

At Hatcher's Run, on the 27th and 28th of October, Gen. Hartranft commanded the first brigade of the first division, 9th Corps, which contained several of the old regiments previously under him in the third division.

Late in March, 1865, the nation was waiting patiently for news of the surrender or capture of Richmond, when it was startled by the report that Lee had assumed the offensive, and had boldly attacked our lines. A few hours later, and the report was confirmed, but with the cheering and encouraging addition that our troops had most brilliantly repulsed the attack, in one of the hardest engagements, for its duration, of the war; that this magnificent feat had been performed by a Division composed of new regiments only recently recruited from Pennsylvania, but disciplined, trained, and led by a Pennsylvania General, now, for his skill and courage, named "The hero of Fort Steedman."

General Hartranft, at this time, was in command of the 3d Division of the 9th Corps. It was composed, as just stated, of Pennsylvania regiments, raised for one year, and just sent into the field. To organize and discipline them no better man could have been selected than Hartranft, and his choice for the position was most appropriate and fortunate.

At Fort Steedman Hartranft won his brevet of Major General, an honor well deserved.

In the final grand assault on Petersburg, when the "Confederacy" of traitors crumbled away at last, like a rotten shell, Gen. Hartranft bore once more a distinguished part.

Gen. Hartranft and his command saw no more fighting during the campaign. Subsequently, after Lee's surrender, Hartranft was specially detailed to take charge of the arrangements for guarding the Military Commission which sat for the trial of the assassins of the President, and to execute its mandates.

PETROLEUM, as fuel, is destined to be used very generally in this country. An experiment, testing its value in this respect, was made the other day at Detroit, on the propeller Congress. The inventors claim that at the present price of crude oil, which sells at from 60 to 80 cents a barrel at Sarnia, this fuel will be only half as expensive as wood, and will occupy but one-tenth the space. The Congress burned four and a half barrels in six hours, and with fifty pounds of steam made very good headway. The steamboat men who witnessed the experiment were well pleased with it.

The women, we are sure, will be glad to know that Eugenie's waist measures just seventeen inches.

## For the Best.

Whatever comes is for the best!  
These words give courage to the breast.  
The winds may blow, the tempests lower,  
We will defy their utmost power,  
And cry, amid their wild affright,  
"Whatever happens will be right!"

Whatever comes is for the best!  
This thought gives calm 'mid life's unrest.  
Though far away the shore may lie,  
And waves rise round us mountain high,  
Our destiny is in His hand,  
Who rules the sky, the sea, the land.

Whatever comes is well! What power  
Have words like these in sorrow's hour!  
They keep the heart forever warm,  
They charm away the power to harm.  
Despair can never be our guest  
When we can say, "All's for the best!"

Whatever comes is for the best!  
Then let us bow to Heaven's behest.  
Through health or sickness, weal or woe,  
God's love marks out our lot below:  
Thank Him for this sweet ark of rest—  
Whatever comes is for the best!

## Webster Matched by a Woman.

In the somewhat famous case of Mrs. Bodge's will, which was tried in the Supreme Court some years ago, Mr. Webster appeared as counsel for the appellant. Mrs. Greenough, wife of Rev. Wm. Greenough, late of Weston, a tall, straight, queenly-looking woman, with a keen black eye—a woman of great self-possession and decision of character—was called to the stand as a witness on the opposite side. Mr. Webster, at a glance, had the sagacity to foresee that her testimony, if it contained anything of importance, would have great weight with the court and jury. He, therefore, resolved if possible to break her up. And when she answered to the first question put to her, "I believe," Mr. Webster roared out:

"We don't want to hear what you believe; we want to hear what you know, madam!"

Mrs. Greenough replied: "That's just what I was about to say, sir," and went on with her testimony. And notwithstanding his repeated efforts to disconcert her, she pursued the even tenor of her way till Webster, quite fearful of the result, arose, apparently in great agitation, and drawing out his large snuff box, thrust his finger to the very bottom, and carrying the deep pinch to both nostrils, drew it up with a gusto; and then extracting from his pocket a very large handkerchief, which flowed to his feet as he brought it to the front, he blew his nose with a report that ran distinct and loud through the hall.

Webster.—"Mrs. Greenough, was Mrs. Bodge a neat woman?"

Mrs. G.—"I cannot give you very full information as to that, sir; she had one very dirty trick."

W.—"What was that, ma'am?"

Mrs. G.—"She took snuff!"

The roar in the court house was such that the defender of the Constitution subsided, and neither rose nor spoke again till Mrs. Greenough had vacated her chair for another witness, having ample time to reflect upon the inglorious history of the man who had a stone thrown on his head.

## Surrender of Vicksburg.

H. C. Deming, in his life of Grant, relates an incident connected with the meeting of Grant and Pemberton, which, although before narrated, was generally regarded as apocryphal. "While I was in Washington," says that writer, "I had the pleasure of hearing General Grant describe the meeting between Pemberton and himself on this memorable occasion. Immediately after listening to the account, I returned to my own room, committed it to paper, and sent it to my family at home. I transcribe his description from my own letter, now before me: 'While one of the Illinois regiments,' he said, 'was raising its flag upon the court house at Vicksburg, I deemed it but an act of courtesy to pay my respects to Pemberton, and went in search of his headquarters. I found him seated on the piazza of a house, surrounded by his officers and staff. No one advanced to receive me, or recognized my presence in any way. I dismounted my horse, and joined the party on the porch, when Pemberton acknowledged the acquaintance by a slight nod. He offered me no seat, and I remained standing, while he and his subordinates were sitting. A Mississippi General finally arose and pushed toward me his chair. The day was oppressively warm and dusty, and to relieve the constraint of the interview I asked for a glass of water. Pemberton pointed to the interior of the house, and I groped my way through it to the well in the rear, where I found a negro, who drew up a bucket and tendered me a drink from a gourd. I returned to the party on the piazza and found my chair reoccupied; and, although I remained standing for twenty minutes, I was not offered a seat again, and I left Pemberton and went on my way. Our sole conversation was about the supply of rations for his troops, and I learned then, for the first time, the number of men who had surrendered, having presumed all along that there were but fifteen to twenty thousand men in the garrison.'