

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

Celebrating our 136th Year serving Harrisburg Area

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



Vol 20, No. 01



January 2018



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!

2018 Hartranft Camp 15
Officers and Staff



Commander	Logan Swanger 2018
Senior Vice Commander	Vernon Stout 2018
Junior Vice Commander	Scott Debo, PCC 2018
Secretary	Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-18
Treasurer	David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 07-18
Council 02.	Anthony Kline 16-18
Council 01	Scott Debo, PCC 15-18
Council 03	Jeffery Smith, PCC 18-21
Patriotic Instructor	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018
Chaplain	David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 00-18
Counselor	Lee F. Walters, PCC 07-08
GAR Historian	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018
Graves Registration	Logan Swanger 14-18
Guide	Vacant 2018
Color Bearer	Vacant 2018
Guard	Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-18
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Vacant 2018
Signal Webmaster	Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 05-18
ROTC Coordinator	Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-18
GAR Highway Officer.	Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-18
Longevity Brother	Dave J. Klinepeter, PCC 1965

Camp 15 routinely meets at National Civil War Museum, at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, PA, 2 pm 3rd Sunday of most months. The Marshall A. Hope author award was bestowed upon *Hartranft Herald* for excellence of a camp newsletter by Brad Schall, Commander in Chief, 2010-2011.

Dept of PA: www.PAsuvcw.org National: <http://www.suvcw.org/> See TMI from afar!

Have a safe and wonderful winter time Brothers and Sisters

A Word about God

When GOD solves our problems we have faith in HIS abilities.
When GOD doesn't solve our problems, HE has faith in our abilities.

One may observe God's accuracy in the hatching of eggs...
those of the Canary in 14 days;
those of the Barnyard Hen in 21 days;
Eggs of Ducks and Geese in 28 days;
those of the Mallard in 35 days;
Eggs of the Parrot and the Ostrich hatch in 42 days.

(Notice, they are all divisible by seven the number of days in a week!)

See God's Wisdom in the making of an Elephant...
The four legs of this great beast
all bend forward in the same direction.
No other quadruped is so made.
God planned that this animal would have a huge body...
too large to live on two legs.
For this reason He gave it four fulcrums
so that it can rise from the ground easily.
The Horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first.
A Cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first.

How wise the Lord is in all His works of Creation!

Each Watermelon has an even number of stripes on the Rind.
Each Orange has an even number of segments.
Each ear of Corn has an even number of rows.
Each stalk of Wheat has an even number of grains.
Every bunch of Bananas has on its lowest row
an even number of Bananas,
and each row decreases by one,
so that one row has an even number
and the next row an odd number.

Amazing! And, there's more...

The Waves of the Sea roll in on shore
Twenty-six to the Minute in all kinds of weather.
All Grains are found in even numbers on the stalks...
God has caused the Flowers to Blossom
at certain specified times during the day.

Linnaeus, the Great Botanist,
once said that if he had a Conservatory
containing the right kind of Soil, Moisture,
and Temperature,
he could tell the Time of Day or Night
by the Flowers that were Open
and those that were Closed.

The Lives of each of us
may be ordered by the Lord
in a Beautiful Way for His Glory,
if we will only Entrust Him with our Lives.
If we try to regulate our own Lives,
we will have only Mess and Failure.

Only God, who made our Brains and Hearts,
can Successfully Guide them to a Profitable End.
When you carry the Bible,
Satan has a Headache;
when you Open it,
he Collapses.

When he sees you Reading it, he loses his Strength,
and when you Stand on the Word of God, Satan can't Hurt you!

And did you also know...
that when you are about to share this item with others,
the Devil will probably try to Discourage you, but do it anyway.
Life without God is like an Unsharpened pencil - it has no Point.

Amen

2017, our 19th year of revitalization has ended; welcome brothers to our 20th year and another volume of our Camp news!

Due to family obligations, the December Issue of our Hartranft Herald was not published by David Demmy. It is blended into this 2018 January issue of our news!

Our Next Camp business meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at Nat'l Civil War Museum Building high atop Reservoir Park, Harrisburg's highest elevation. See the capital complex, see the west shore, see 5 mountains ranges north of the city and hear the daily trains from the east and west as they visit the hub of Harrisburg; and



see TMI from afar!

Brothers and Sisters in Distress

By Camp Chaplain, David W Demmy, Sr.

Please include the following during your daily prayer time:

- Mrs. Betz, PCinC Rich Orr, Jim Crane of Ohio, PCinC Andy Johnson; and the family of Charlie Kuhn Jr, PCinC and The Logan Swanger family; with continued blessings for Mrs. Charlotte Walters PDP and Mary Jane Bannan PDP and Mrs. Dot Kline, along with Mrs. Kevin Williams!
- Tony Kline, and Museum CEO Wayne Motts' mother; and the Demmy Family, upon the death

of Marilyn J Demmy on December 16, 2017. She lost her year-long battle with cancer! PCinC Gene Mortorff and Mrs. Linda Mortorff!

- Joe Long Jr, PDC and Mrs. Rob Koenigsberg, spouse of PA Dept Secretary! Mrs. Bill Kuhn Jr, Scott Debo PCC, David McReynolds, nat'l treasurer, Darlene Alcorn's son, Mrs. Rosemary Martin, Skip Whitlam; and Ellen Higgins! Brother Larry Keener-Farley, PCC
- Don Fry of Linglestown, Mrs. Robert Treat; Jeffery Smith CC; Mrs. Robert Manning.
- Chaplains Jerry Kowalski and Scott Teeters!
- PCinC Ed Krieser, PCinC Brad Schall, and PCinC Richard Partington; and now we add Mr and Mrs. Dick Williams of the department of Michigan to our prayer list too. Keep David Demmy, Sr, in your prayers too. He will have another CT Scan on January 11 and is scheduled for removal of tumor upon his pituitary gland on January 30. He will be on light duty for 6-8 weeks following the event.

God bless you and yours, and in all things, give thanx!



December 10th, Camp 15s annual holiday banquet.

A number of folks that had RSVP'd for the banquet were unable to attend due to snow, coldness, illness and infirmities!

C&J Catering, once again provided a marvelous and tasty variety of hot foods and desserts for our affair. PCC Greg Kline our fine MC conducted opening remarks and introductions, and later rode shotgun on Christmas Bingo!

Our good friend and buddy, Brother Scott Teeters, of the Scranton Camp, offered open prayer and later, benediction with short messages of the season, respectively.



And David W Demmy, Sr, left, was pinned with his PCC badge by friend and good buddy, Greg Kline.



PCinC Gene Mortorff above, conducted the installation of officers for 2018.

The Demmy Family and, brothers of Camp 15, David, Dave, and Jon, and daughter Jennifer, express our heart-felt thank you to those of you that sent sympathy cards, flowers, prayers and shared meals with the Demmys; and especially to those of you that traveled all the way to Harrisburg to attend Marilyn's good-bye church service and subsequent funeral service at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery and for supporting the Demmys! God bless you one and all. – David W Demmy Sr.



Mrs. Henny Smith, pinned Jeff with his newly earned and engraved PCC badge!

GOOD OF THE ORDER by Dave Klinepeter.

As most of our members know by now, I am the Past Patriotic Instructor of Camp 15. For many years I have enjoyed presenting information and *show and tell* programs for the camp. The main reason for giving up the position is that I will be leaving the Harrisburg area and will be unable to attend many future Camp meetings. I also believe it is time for some younger Brother, with new ideas to serve. Jeff Smith was installed at our Christmas party and I believe he will do a fine job for you and our Camp. I have been invited to submit articles of interest to the newsletter from time to time, thank you. -- DJK



Likewise, Mrs. Pai Swanger pinned Logan with his promotion to Commander Badge.

Photos from holiday banquet



Ellen Higgins, New Jersey



Fellowship with Tony, Vern, Dane & Gene



Gene, and Dianne and Scott



Jeff, Scott and Kim!



Ann, Doug and Pai



Margaret, Joanne, and Linda



Brothers present for installation of officer posts for 2018, David, Logan, Vern, Scott and Greg.



Pai and Logan having fun!



Other view with Jeff far left and Brother Gene, far right! Brother Tony among the missing for this image.



Gene, look at all the loot Ellen won and she only played one bingo card! wow, she must be lucky living near Atlantic City!!! Ellen enjoy the books and you may recycle them next year.



bingo table items!



Annual banquet table center pieces handcrafted by Dave Demmy Jr, Camp Webmaster!



Many items on bingo table!



Henny and Pai enjoying the annual festivities.



David and Ellen sharing moments with governor, Brothers Dick Simpson who has portrayed Vermont governor and Dave Klinepeter who has portrayed Pennsylvania governor for decades too.

Helen Shireman is a rose hidden between 2 thorns!



Dave sharing moment with Ellen and Margaret!



Camp round table 01

Camp 15 Dues time – year 2018

2nd notice

To save postage you may bring your New Year 2018
Camp 15 dues of **\$35** to January Camp Meeting!

Life Members' dues is \$8.00 for Pennsylvania
Department collection.

Life Members are exempt from Camp 15 dues and
National per capita!

Sunday January 21st.

Camp treasurer prefers checks payable to

'Hartranft Camp 15, SUVCW'.

Or mail your check to

David W. Demmy, Sr., 881 Sunny Hill Lane
Harrisburg PA 17111 – 4690

Check protects both parties!



Round table 02



Hot food on a cold day rounded out our annual
fellowship; please make plans to join us next time.

Mark your calendar for 2018 banquet on
Sunday December 9, 2018.

On the Road with Camp 15

Monthly Camp business meetings begin at 2 p.m. and are conducted [*mostly*] on the 3rd Sunday, at National Civil War Museum [NCWM]!

Pennsylvania Lincoln Luncheon on February 10, 2018. See flyer below.

Next Museum Community **free** day is Saturday February 17, the week following the Lincoln Luncheon event - Doors open to public 10 to 4. Any volunteers to work and man a table representing SUCVW and more importantly, Camp 15. We need *2-3 men over the hours* to cover the table and help put items away at 4 pm.

February 2018 Camp meeting on Sunday Feb 18th.
March 2018 Camp meeting on Sunday March 18th.

April 2018 Camp meeting on Sunday April 15th

Please update your social calendar now.

May 12 2018



75th Anniversary Banquet in Honor of Brother Dave Klinepeter's 75 years of service to SUCVW.

Saturday May 12 2018 at National Civil War Museum 11:30 a.m. social hour – meal time 1 pm very similar to our December Holiday banquet.

National Spring Time Council Meeting, **March 23 and 24, 2018** at Franklin TN.

Pennsylvania Department encampment convention at Genetti Hotel *Williamsport* PA **June 21-24, 2018.**

National encampment convention at Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center, about 20 miles from downtown Boston. The rate is \$109.00, for single or double rooms; **August 9 – 12, 2018.**

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 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 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!

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

The Financing and Costs of the American Civil War 1861-1865.



Union \$20 Green Back

The costs entailed from four years of the civil war, was very expensive undertaking. When I speak of cost, I am not referring to the 750,000 lives lost of both-sides, nor the uncountable suffering of millions of persons from the traumatic loss of a loved one or the terrible loss of limb, sight, or psychological stability of the soldiers who though not killed, was wounded physically or mentally. Those kinds of losses would echo through the years and decades following the war. Indeed, we still feel subtle essence of the human loss all these years later, 153 years after the fact. In this write up I will discuss the more mundane financial costs of the war, not because I lack compassion for those who died or suffered, but because the measure of dollars spent and the means of financing the war, is a more achievable task. Also, it is not something as commonly discussed, so perhaps some of you brothers might find the novelty of the subject of some interest to you.

In 1861 when the Civil War was suddenly thrust upon the nation, the financial foundations to support the nation's trial through the next four years was not up to

the task. There was no National Bank (Andrew Jackson had taken care of that) and no national currency, just a mass confusion of state bank notes in circulation, 7,000 variations in total, all of which had different value and discount rates. Something needed to be done, and soon, to rise to the financial challenges faced by the nation on the eve of the Civil War.

No one in 1861 could possibly have realized the extended duration of the war ahead, and the ever increasing financial tab that would accrue and demand by wars end, as the cost of each day kept piling up! Early in 1863 the union government estimate the cost of the war was \$2.5 million a day. And yes, that is \$2.5M a day in 1863 dollars! That \$2.5M would be a \$45 million a day, now in January of 2018.

Ultimately, by wars end, the financial costs, in terms of monies spent on the war are as follows:

	1863 Costs	2018 Costs
Union Costs:	\$6.2 Billion	\$112 Billion
Confederate Costs:	\$2.1 Billion	\$64.5 Billion
Pensions Costs	\$3.3 Billion	\$59.4 Billion
(through 1903)		

To a modern eye, the above costs may not seem as great as might be imagined. After all, when we think of the massive budget deficits of today, a modest \$250 billion does not see so much. Ah but wow to the modern creature who does not appreciate issues from a 19th century context. One cannot judge issues from the 19th century from a 21st century perspective. How can we compare the economy of the 1860's to that of 2018 in determining how much of a burden \$250 Billion is on the nation at that time? Remember our fore fathers had a much lower economic production level than what we have today. Their economy was horse and steam driven, roads were dirt, all the benefits of electricity and modern economic efficiencies, lay many decades yet ahead of them. They would have to work that \$250 Billion debt off with horses, the steam engine, and planting their crops by sowing the seeds from a hand held plow pulled by mule or horse. When one considers the limited economic power our country had in 1863 as compared today, then \$250 billion was, and is a tidy sum indeed!

As for the union in the summer of 1861, the aggregate 6.2 billion spent in the war was still stretched out before them 4 years ahead. How could the nation raise

so much money over the next four years in the meantime as it was needed? It would not be easy, to be sure. The task seemed nearly insurmountable in the early months of the war. There were three choices lying before the government to raise money needed to pay millions of soldiers and to equip with weapons and accrements and feed them. The three choices were the same for both the Union and Confederacy. The three choices were:

1. Taxation (a national income tax, a sales tax, and estate taxes).
2. Raise money through bond sells.
3. Print Money – Money that would be acceptable on a universal and national level.

Although the situation was very tenuous early in the war, and absolute ruin stocked the country from a nearby corner, the union successfully met the financial challenge, and did so by a wise strategy of using a combination of the three sources above. As a matter of fact, the union government was so successful, that many of the elements of its strategy remain with us today! Can we say Federal Income Tax?! Oucchhh!! But alas the income brackets in the civil war were 3%, 6%, and a 10% bracket for the ultra-wealthy; ah, how we might long for the “good ole’ days”, minus the bullets!

The union implemented a much wiser strategy than did their errant brothers, and a combination of the above three financing sources hit a successful stride. While the north combined taxation, bond sells, and printing money, the south primarily used the printing press. By the end of the war the inflation rates were:

	1861 Nominal Costs	1865 Nominal Costs
Confederate Price Level Inflation:	\$1.00	\$92.00
Union Price Level Inflation:	\$1.00	\$ 1.82

As can be seen, the south, greatly suffered inflation, on an unstainable scales, whereas then union, while having inflation, it was modest in comparison.

During this coming meeting, I will be discussing the Financing of the Civil War with additional detail, but based on this article. I will bring some items of

interest. A civil war union green back, coin tokens used in 1863, union fractional currency, and some confederate currency and bonds will be at the meeting for your perusal.

Until the meeting brothers of Camp 15, I will leave you with some pictures of union green backs and fractional currency:

Green Backs: in a one dollar and ten dollar example. Note that Abraham Lincoln was on the ten dollar bill, *while, he was president!*



Note: After the war, in the 1870's, the federal government started to pull back the green backs in circulation; Deflation and economic depression started setting in. Now, our ancestors of the 19th century were some pretty smart people, and the “coincidence” of the pull back and inflation did not escape them. The smarter of them, were the first economists that gave rise to the school of monetarists. To this day, the Federal Reserve (“The Fed”) uses economic tools of money supply to carefully manage our economy. Our predecessors in the 1870's were the first folks to realize the power of “Money Supply”

Continued

Fractional Currency – Union

10 cent fractional Currency – Note how it resembles the 10 cent postage stamp at that time - below



When we think of the Civil War we often think of the costs in terms of the deaths on the battlefields and hospitals, with modern scholars now estimating 750,000 lives lost (as compared to the more traditional estimate of 620,000 estimated in the 19th century).

And in terms of suffering, the costs of deaths was not the only statistic, but the hundreds of thousands of men who were wounded losing arms, legs, and suffering wounds of every conceivable kind and on every part of the body was even more widespread than the number of deaths. And what of the psychological suffering of the families? How does one measure the loss of a son to his mother and father, a brother to his sister, a husband from his wife, or a dear friend from dear friend?

It is not only difficult to measure such losses in quantitative terms, but it is well nigh impossible to measure it in qualitative terms such as the cost of suffering of the wounded and their families. So, we will not try to do so; rather we will choose the low road and quantify the costs of the civil war in a more tangible way in cost in dollars and describe how the financial challenges of the war were met. So what was the Cost of the Civil War? And we mean in this case, the mundane costs of financing the war to pay the soldiers, furnish them with equipment and weapons.

Have a Good January brothers, and I will see you this coming Sunday, January 15, 2018!

Brother Jeffery J. Smith
Patriotic Instructor and Historian.

LINCOLN LUNCHEON 2018

Our annual Lincoln Luncheon will be hosted by Joel Searfoss Camp #273 of Bangor and Auxiliary #10 of Scranton. The luncheon will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at the Williams Family Restaurant at 3630 William Penn Hwy in Easton. Directions can be found on their website. From RTEs 78, 22 and 80 exit onto Rte 33 and take the William Penn Hwy exit.

We will gather at 12:00 and will eat at 12:30. Our luncheon will be a buffet with a menu of Virginia Ham, Roast Turkey, Baked Penne Pasta with marinara sauce and mozzarella, Salad, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Bread and Butter, Soda, Coffee or Hot Tea and Dessert. The price will be \$26.00 per person.

Our lecture will be given by PDP Ann Mcmillin and is entitled, AN EXTRODINARY FRIENDSHIP: ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND EPHRAIM ELLSWORTH This seldom explored topic will add to our deeper understanding of President Lincoln.

The Past Camp Commanders and Past Presidents Association of Pennsylvania will hold a brief meeting after lunch.

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MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO JOEL SEARFOSS CAMP #273, SUVCW, AND SEND TO:

SUSAN MERTZ, 2721 JOHN ST. EASTON, PA 18045-2614

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

NUMBER OF GUESTS _____ X \$26.00 pp

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____