

# 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 136<sup>th</sup> Year serving Harrisburg Area

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



 Vol 20, No. 04

Spring Flowers Think Summer

April 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.PAsuvcw.org) National: <http://www.suvcw.org/> See TMI from afar!

Have a safe and wonderful winter time Brothers and Sisters

Camp 15 next business meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at NCWM building high atop Reservoir Park



**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; 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, Mrs. John Martin, Skip Whitlam; and Ellen Higgins! Brother Larry Keener-Farley, PCC and Brother John Martin.
- 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. David Demmy continues on steroid therapy until the pituitary gland begins to do its intended services! David will see you at Pennsylvania Department

Encampment in June and later at National encampment in Boston area in August.

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

**Camp minutes from February Camp meeting**

John F. Hartranft Camp # 15

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg PA

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Officers Present

Commander.....Logan Swanger

SVC..... Vernon Stout

Secretary.....Greg Kline, PCC

Pat. Instructor/Historian....Jeff Smith

Council.....Tony Kline

Officers Absent

JVC.....Scott Debo

Treasurer/Chaplain.....Dave Demmy, Sr

Pat. Instructor/Historian....Jeff Smith

Color Bearer.....Kelly Betz

Guide/Guard.....TBA

Members attending:

David Demmy, Jr

David Klinepeter, PCC

Gene Mascioli, PCC

The meeting was called to order by Camp

Commander Logan Swanger at 2:03 PM

The meeting minutes from the January, 2018 meeting were read by Secretary Greg Kline. Motion to accept by Brother Gene Mascioli, 2<sup>nd</sup> by SVC Vern Stout, motion approved.

Treasurer's report: No report for February

#### Sick Brothers or Brothers in Distress

Brother Dave Demmy, Jr updated the Camp on his Dad's condition and recuperation. Please continue to keep Brother David Demmy, Sr PCC in your thoughts and prayers.

#### Orders, Communications and Bills

Secretary Kline read multiple Department and General Orders which included many housekeeping measures as well as an order issued by Commander-in-Chief Day regarding language that must be inserted in to Camp by-laws to facilitate our paperwork in obtaining 501c (3) status.

#### Unfinished Business:

Commander Swanger thanked everyone who participated in the "Community Free Day" in February at the National Civil War Museum and updated the Camp on the day's activities.

Brother Dave Demmy, Jr mentioned that the plaque announcing the National Civil War Museum as the National Headquarters of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has been installed and can be viewed just inside the main entrance to the museum.

Brother Dave Demmy, Jr announced that the new Camp website is online and he welcomes any corrections or suggestions for its content.

#### New Business:

None reported

#### Patriotic Instructor:

SVC Vern Stout filled in for Patriotic Instructor Jeff Smith. He presented some surprising history relating to Mount Vernon during the Civil War and then gave a very interesting and informative presentation on pocket watches. He discussed various models and technologies as well as the importance of pocket watch during the Civil War and the incredible rise in their price during the War. Vern showed a photo of the inside of President Lincoln's pocket watch which contained "graffiti" of sorts left behind by watch makers who had worked on it over the years and included both pro-Union and pro-Confederate sentiments carved there by the watchmakers unbeknownst to the President.

The meeting was closed by Commander Swanger at 3:20 PM

Faithfully submitted

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty

Gregory E. Kline, PCC

Secretary

Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp# 15

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Gregory E. Kline, PCC

Secretary

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

## Camp 15 welcomes new Brothers

Wayne Blattner, of Royersford, PA., recently transferred into Camp 15 from closed Camp 90. Wayne is former Camp Commander and previous Department of Pennsylvania Historian.

Also, Camp 15 voted upon application of 17 year old Andrew Adam of Mechanicsburg, PA. Andrew is the young man responsible for the Unity Park and monument dedication at Gettysburg near the school. The park was Andrew's Eagle Scout project. Well done Andrew!

Camp 15 salutes our newest Brothers.

## Veterans, Eagle Scouts and ROTC graduates.

The national database was recently upgraded and programmed to now track certain **achievements** by our brotherhood members of the SUVCW. If you are a US Veteran, an Eagle Scout or you are a ROTC graduate, please inform Camp 15 of your accomplishment so your profile can be updated and we can account for our veterans, eagle scouts, and former cadets of Camp 15.

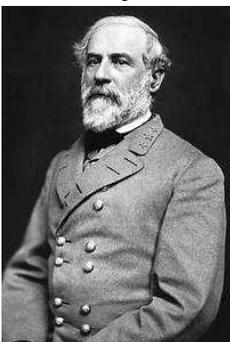
## Theme from our Patriotic Instructor Jeff Smith PCC.

Battle on the Union Right at Gettysburg Union Twelfth Corp. Lee's Intuition is right, Meade Blunders - Three Subordinates fight Lee, Fortune smiles on Meade

*General Lee - Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia*

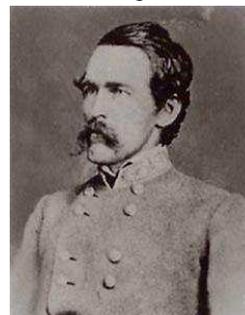
A missed opportunity on the late afternoon of July 1: Lee: *"Take those hills if practicable"*

Victory for the confederates on the late afternoon of July 1, 1863 had been achieved, but for the final decisive blow, union troops needed to be driven from cemetery hill and cemetery ridge. Union 11<sup>th</sup> Corp and 1<sup>st</sup> Corp were retreating through town to Cemetery Hill. Lee viewed

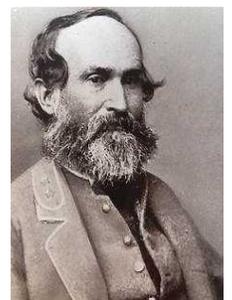


East Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill from afar and tells General Ewell, "Take those Hills if practicable." At first Ewell, asked Hill if he can assist with his Corp; Hill replied his troops were too exhausted and disorganized from their recent actions. Next Ewell turned to General Early, his division commander and asked if his division could take Cemetery Hill but Early also replied his troops were fatigued and disorganized. Early knew another of his division commanders, General Edward Johnson was approaching, and could perhaps take the heights with his fresh troops. Johnson believes his troops are too far away. The two confederate generals (Early and Johnson) argue; soon the matter is out of their hands; after a couple hours, General Hancock has reorganized 11<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Corp and they were strongly repositioned on Cemetery Hill and ridge, with several batteries facing the confederates dead - on. Hancock's leadership and confident bearing inspired the union troops. Culp's Hill was still another matter, another opportunity. It could still be taken as night fell, as it was only held by the 7<sup>th</sup> Indiana of Cutlers brigade. A small scouting party of confederates were driven off, with some captured by the 7<sup>th</sup> Indiana. The survivors report this to Ewell, and Ewell decides not to take Culp's Hill that night. Early says that evening to Ewell: *"If you do not go up there tonight, it will cost you 10,000 men to get up there tomorrow!"* Early's prediction of foreboding proved all too true for the confederates over the course of the next two days. *Three Generals Against Lee! Evening July 1, Ewell's HQ*

Lee rode to Ewell's HQ and met with Generals Ewell, Early, and Rhodes. Lee, knowing the high ground had not been taken, nevertheless, wanted to maintain the initiative and attack early in the morning.



General - Corp Richard Ewell Command Early - Division Command



General Jubal Gen. Robert Rhodes - Division command

During the meeting, General Ewell mostly allowed Early to speak for him. Early, not a man lacking for self-confidence, told Lee that the ground in their



front was bad for offensive operations (true). In reply Lee said: "Very well then, if you cannot make an attack there, then I had better draw you around to my right." Early again disagreed with Lee. Early, with Rhodes and Ewell in agreement, said it

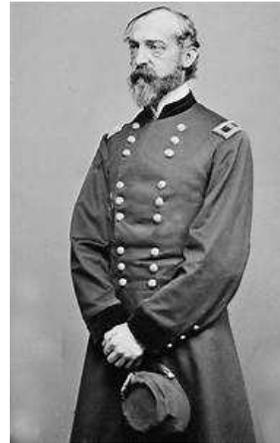
would be a bad idea to withdraw from their current position for three reasons: 1. Abandonment of our wounded 2. Withdrawing from town would hurt rebel morale 3. Many captured weapons lost by the enemy would be left behind.

Lee left the meeting frustrated. He returned to his HQ on seminary ridge. Without Ewell in action, 1/3 of the rebel army would be inactive, useless to current operations. This was unacceptable, Lee sent a staff officer back to Ewell, with orders for him to bring his Corp back aground to the Confederate right flank. General Ewell was upset by these orders, and rode to Lee's headquarters, and said that He and his division commanders were planning to take Culp's Hill, that very evening. Lee, now encouraged by Ewell's new found initiative and believed Culp's Hill would be the key to driving the Federals off East Cemetery Hill and Cemetery ridge. Lee approved, and allowed Ewell to stay in place on the confederate left.

As we know, the lone but fresh 7<sup>th</sup> Indiana persuaded Ewell not to attack Culp's Hill that night. As darkness grew, General Alpheus Williams Division of twelfth corps came up to supporting distance on union right. The Confederates captured a courier and then knew that 12<sup>th</sup> corps was now very close by to support 1<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> corps troops on the union right. All through the day of July 2<sup>nd</sup>, confederate troops could hear union soldiers building entrenchments on Culp's Hill and all the way to rock creek on the extreme union right. Many confederates were anxious to attack before the entrenchments were completed. Dread grew gradually; as the Rebs heard the constructions proceed.

Confederate Plan B: Await Longstreet's attack on July 2<sup>nd</sup> on the union left and then attack. Ewell will demonstrate and then make an attack in earnest, and seize ground if opportunity affords itself. This is Lees plan B, for Ewell's Corp. But first they must wait; and listen to the federals at earnest work.

*Actions, and Union Initiatives, Morning of July 2<sup>nd</sup>.*



After being ridiculed by his commander (General Geary), General "Pappy" Green, instructed his men to build entrenchments for the brigade. The construction of entrenchments caught fire, as union troops down the whole 12<sup>th</sup> corp. line enthusiastically build them!

General George Meade – Commander of the Army of the Potomac

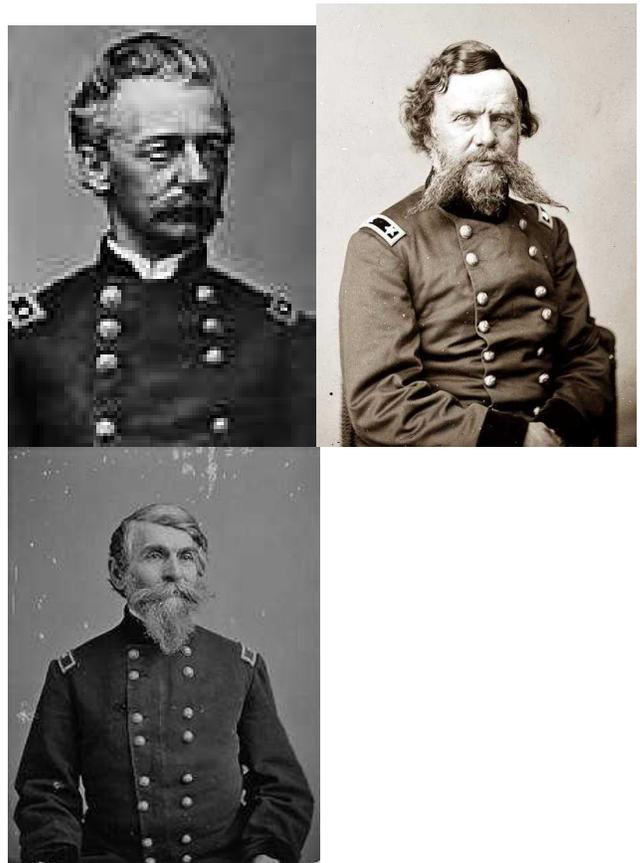
On the morning and afternoon of July 1<sup>st</sup>, General Meade became fixated on the Union Right flank. At first he wanted to make an attack on the confederates, and builds up 12<sup>th</sup> corps, and has arriving 5<sup>th</sup> corps and soon to arrive 6<sup>th</sup> corps to be posted nearby to support attack. Generals Slocum, General Williams, and General Warren (Meade's engineer) told Meade it would be a very bad idea to attack from the union right. The ground is defensive to both sides. Rugged and Rocky, with many trees and swampy ground in parts, the ground on the right flank was perfect for defense. Meade reluctantly agrees, but builds forces on right, as he believes it is on the right that the confederates will attack. Meade ignores Dan Sickles, and the Union Left. Dan Sickles is very concerned. Concerned for three reasons: 1. The Union Calvary, under Buford, had left (without a cavalry shield on the union left) 2. Sickles sent a probe out directly from his front to locate the confederates; 1st USS sharpshooters and 3<sup>rd</sup> Maine ran into several confederate Alabama regiments form General Marcellus Cadmus Wilcox's brigade. 3. Sickles position is in very low ground, with heavy tree cover directly in his front. Sickles requests for Meade to come out to view his position on the left. Meade refused him, and continues to put his attention on the Union right, where he expects the

rebels to hit. Meade replied to Sickles, "Oh Generals often think it is their position that will be attached!"

Meade called a staff meeting that afternoon. All corps commanders are in attendance but Dan Sickles, who is moving his 3<sup>rd</sup> Corp to the high ground of the Peach Orchard, and anchoring the ends in Devils Den on the left and near the Cordori buildings on the right, along the Emmittsburg road. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Corp line is now stretched 3 times further than the length of a front for which was designed to hold. After noting Sickles's absence, Meade orders him to the meeting, Sickles arrives as the meeting is breaking up, and Meade looks up to Sickles as he rides in, "Don't even get off! I will meet you at your Corps position". In the background, rebel artillery could be heard, slamming the union left. Finally, now the on the union left, and the confederate cannonade had gotten Meade's attention. Meade, his staff, along with General Gouvenear Warren rode toward the Peach Orchard. Meade seeing little round top in the distance, told General Warren to "Check out that Hill". General Warren rode out to Little Round Top and into everlasting fame.

Now the stage of historical fame was set. Just as was the case in the morning, when Meade was fixated with the Union Right; now, as he rode to the Peach orchard, he became fixated with the Union left, giving little thought to the Union right flank on Culp's Hill and its surroundings. Lee had not forgotten it. Indeed, it was part of Lee's plan B, for July 2nd. Put force on the union right flank, after Longstreet's offensive got going, and if a lodgment was made, convert the diversion into a genuine full scale attack.

On the union Right, Generals Henry Slocum, Alpheus Williams, and George Green (Pappy) find themselves and their position forgotten by Meade, just as Dan Sickles and the third Corp. were forgotten throughout the morning and afternoon. However Slocum, Williams, and Green are not men to set passively and dolefully by; they prepare to meet the enemy, and his onslaught they expect to come. They, like Sickles, were men of action, but unlike Sickles, they were professional soldiers, who not only were ready to act, but also had the skill to do so effectively.



General Henry Slocum – 12<sup>th</sup> Corp  
Williams

General Aldelphus  
Williams  
General George Green – "Pappy"

*Union 12<sup>th</sup> Corp Commanders: Solid Stalwarts on the Union Right, defenders of Culp's Hill and the Baltimore Pike:*

End of this theme for this month

Did you Know, if the *Amish* allowed bumper stickers on their buggies, some may read as:

- Elect an Amish for President and see how the oil companies like that!
- I brake for Barn Raising!
- What happens in Rumspringa stays in Rumspringa!

Source: *Plunges into Pennsylvania*, San Diego, CA., 2009.

Newsletter Continues on next page

[Brothers and sisters of Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7](#), you are cordially invited to attend the anniversary celebration for our beloved Brother [David Klinepeter](#).

Complete the reservation form later in this newsletter and send it with your remittance of \$25 for each person in your party to our treasurer as indicated.

If you need to stay overnite in the Harrisburg area, there are multiple hotels within 3 miles of the NCWM along or just off of Union Deposit Road e.g.

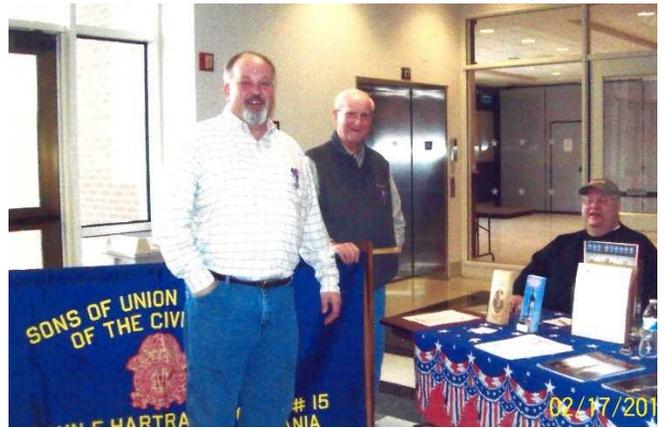
- Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Harrisburg/Hershey
- Hampton Inn Harrisburg-East Harrisburg/Hershey

And many more in that 3 mile range! The above are just samples, we offer no endorsement just that they are convenient for travel and within ½ of I83 to I81.

[Community Free Day at NCWM and Camp 15's recruiting table.](#)



Brothers Vern and Greg



Brothers Greg, Tony and Logan!



Brothers Vern, Greg, Tony, and Gene administering to interested public!



Close of Free Day: Brothers Greg and Tony standing; and, seated l to r Logan, Vern, and Gene!

[Images from recent past](#) – most photos shared by

PCC Gene Mascioli



Camp Officers installed for 2018 by PCinC Gene Mortoroff.



Sample table of PCC Dave Klinepeters farewell.



David Demmy earning his PCC badge presented by PCC Greg Kline of Camp 15, Harrisburg, and Camp 503 at Sunbury.

Our Brother Greg is one busy Brother; he currently serves the Department of Pennsylvania as SVC!



Remains of the PA 74<sup>th</sup> Regimental Flag !  
Thanx Brother Gene for sharing.

Readers, Do you have similar pix? Please share them via e-mail or slow mail and we'll return pix to you.

Note to new readers:

#### Abbreviations

- CC – Camp Commander
- JVC – Junior Vice Commander
- SVC – Senior Vice Commander
- PCC – Past Camp Commander
- PDC – Past Department Commander
- CnC - Commander in Chief
- PCinC – Past Commander in Chief

Many others are spelled out in our C&R *Constitution and Regulations*, available at [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org)

Check out our new Camp website and the national website for many interesting things you may not know about the SUVCW!

## 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]!

April 2018 Camp meeting on Sunday **April 15th**

Please update your social calendar now.

**May 12 2018**



**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet in Honor of Brother Dave Klinepeter's 75 years of service to SUVCW.**

**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.**

**Reservation notices will be mailed soon!**

May 2018 Camp meeting on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**May 26 2018, following annual group breakfast, will be Camp 15's yearly visit to Old Historic Harrisburg Cemetery:**



*Pennsylvania* Department encampment convention apparently 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 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!

# Celebrate Dave Klinepeter's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

of his service to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
and the Civil War Community!

You are invited to participate in the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Service to the SUVCW for David J. Klinepeter, AKA War Governor Andrew Curtin! Sponsored by his brothers and sisters of Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15 and Auxiliary 7 of Harrisburg region. This luncheon event will be held at National Civil War Museum, on Saturday, May 12, 2018, social time at 11:30 a.m. with meal beginning at 1:00 p.m. The meal will be a buffet of beef brisket and roast turkey with rosemary potatoes, mixed vegetables and garden salad. The price will be \$25.00 per person. Brother Dave, 92 years young, a past Camp Commander, will have on hand a variety of photos out of his past, and perhaps, some souvenirs from his journey with Knap's Battery E, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO Hartranft Camp 15 SUVCW AND SEND TO:  
(Treasurer) David Demmy, 881 Sunny Hill Ln, Harrisburg, PA 17111-4690.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF GUESTS \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00 .... Prepaid..

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Please rsvp prior to Wednesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> ..

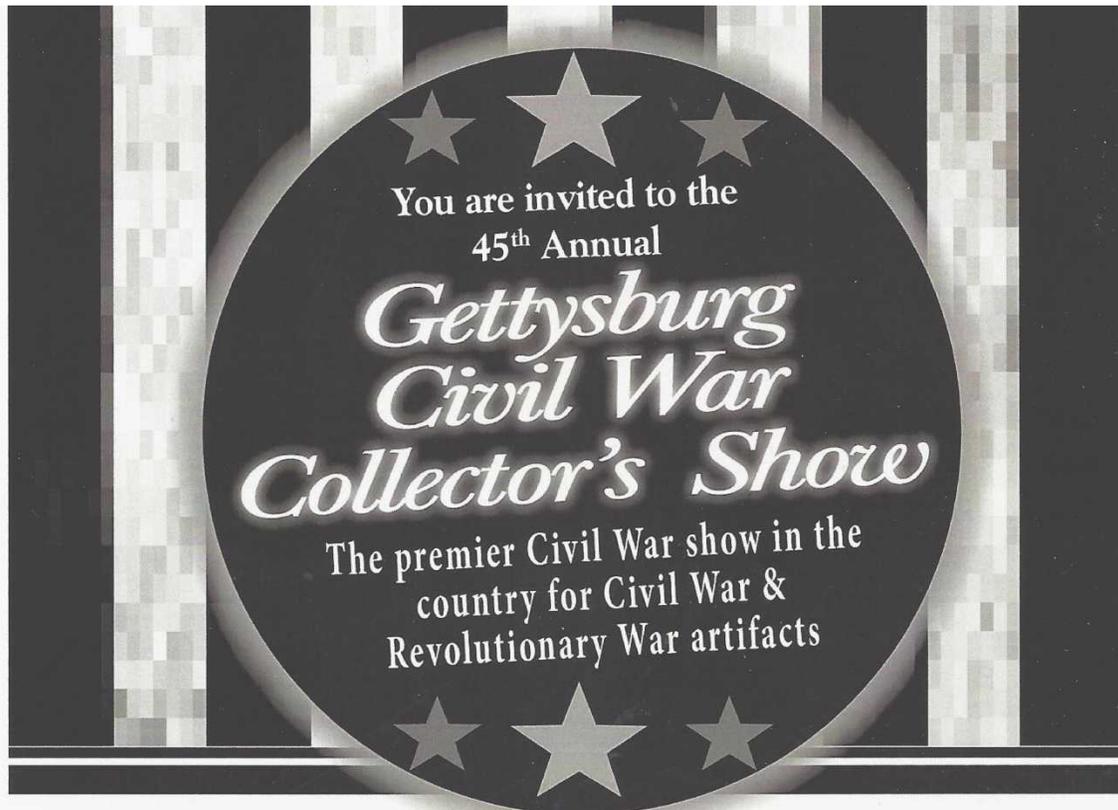
## Veterans

Brothers of Camp 15, if you are a veteran of US Armed Forces, we would like to acknowledge you and record a brief history of your service similar to sample below.

Name		Service	Years	Rank	Activity	Station
Floyd	Demmy	US Army	1944-1945	Cpl	Rifleman	ETO WWII
		WWII	reenlisted		Mustering out clerk	Fort Dix, NJ
b. 1926	d. 2016	Bronze Star	1945-1946		Regimental clerk	Fort Campbell, KY

Send text or *copy* of your separation form DD-214 to [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc) and we will add you to Camp 15's Veteran Roster!

Likewise if you were a ROTC Cadet and/or Eagle Scout awardee, send such data to David too!



June 29<sup>th</sup>,\* 30<sup>th</sup> & July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018

ALL-STAR SPORTS COMPLEX  
EISENHOWER INN & CONFERENCE CENTER

2634 Emmitsburg Rd, Gettysburg

717.334.8121 (3 mi south of Gettysburg on Rt 15)

The show will open to the public on:

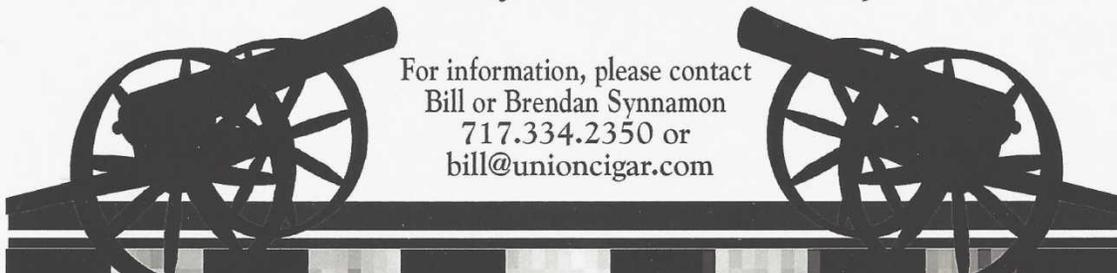
Saturday, June 30th 10AM to 5PM | Sunday, July 1st 9AM to 2PM

*\*Early admission (VIP Passes) will be available for \$100.00 from 12PM to 7PM on Friday, June 29th, as well as dealer entry time on both Saturday and Sunday*

General Admission is \$8.00

Children under 12 are FREE with parent or guardian

*Over 175 dealers from across the country!*



For information, please contact  
Bill or Brendan Synnamon  
717.334.2350 or  
bill@unioncigar.com