



# 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](https://www.facebook.com/GenJohnFHartranftCamp15SonsOfUnionVeteransOfTheCivilWar)



Vol 21 No 12

Happy Holidays

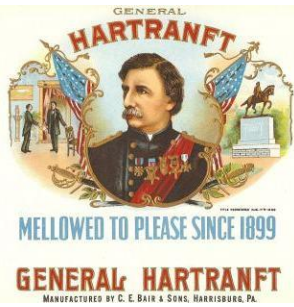
December 2019



*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!

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!

<p>2019 Hartranft Camp 15 Officers and Staff</p> 	<p>Commander . . . . . Senior Vice Commander . . . . . Junior Vice Commander . . . . . Secretary . . . . . Treasurer . . . . . Council 01 . . . . . Council 02. . . . . Council 03 . . . . . Patriotic Instructor . . . . . Chaplain . . . . . Counselor. . . . . GAR Historian. . . . . Graves Registration . . . . . Guide . . . . . Color Bearer. . . . . Guard . . . . . Eagle Scout Coordinator . . . . . Webmaster . . . . . ROTC Coordinator . . . . . GAR Highway Officer . . . . . Longevity Brother . . . . .</p>	<p>Logan Swanger 2019 Vernon Stout 2018 Scott Debo, PCC 2018 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-18 David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 07-18 Anthony Kline 16 - 18 Jeffery Smith, PCC 18-21 Scott Debo, PCC 15-18 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018 David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 00-18 Lee F. Walters, PCC 07-08 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018 Logan Swanger 14-18 Vacant 2018 Vacant 2018 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-18 Vacant 2018 Dave W. Demmy, Jr. since 2011 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-18 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-18 Dave J. Klinepeter, PCC 1943</p>
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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.

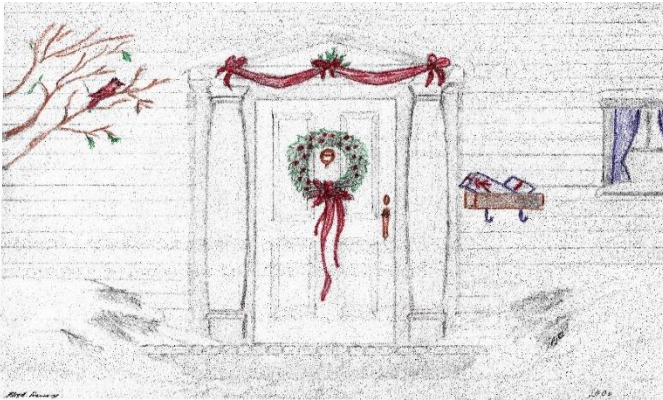
Dept of PA: [www.PAsuvcw.org](http://www.PAsuvcw.org) National: <http://www.suvcw.org/> See TMI from afar!

December 2019 *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

As we go to press, we learned that PCinC, Richard Partington, Rev, completed his last muster and died on December 8, 2019. See recent General Order by CinC Ed Norris!

And the brother that was most responsible for reviving Camp 15 out of a paper camp into an active brotherhood group of men that do their best to honor the memory of the boys in blue, Past Department Commander, Joseph E Long Jr, of Camp 8, Scranton, lost his battle with an ongoing illness on December 16, 2019.

Happy Holidays ~ Happy Holiday — Andy Williams 1963



Art work by our late brother Floyd J. Demmy 2006

Colorization by late Marilyn J. Demmy 2012

Cardinal is on guard duty for you and yours

Reminder, dues for 2020 was increased by motion of camp councilmen and approved by camp vote at November 17, 2019 camp meeting!

**Camp 15 Dues time – year 2020**

**1st notice**

To save postage you may bring your New Year 2020 Camp 15 dues of **\$40** to January Camp Meeting!

Life Members’ dues is \$7.00 for Pennsylvania Department collection, only.

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

Sunday January 20th

Camp treasurer prefers **\$40** check payable to **‘Hartranft Camp 15, SUVCW’**.

Or mail your check to

David W. Demmy, Sr.

881 Sunny Hill Lane

Harrisburg PA 17111 – 4690

A Check protects both parties!

Membership cards for 2020 will be issued in mass later this winter!

**Remembrance Day 2019 Images**

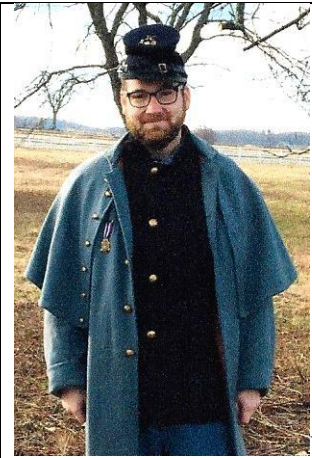


Pennsylvania Dept Commander Greg Kline laying wreath at Albert Woolson monument Gettysburg Remembrance Day November 23, 2019.

Background: Henry Shaw and Don Darby! Photo by Logan Swanger



Pennsylvania Dept Commander Greg Kline, center flanked by PCC Jeff Smith and Flag Bearer, Mark Schlegel. Commander Kline finally outranks himself!



Vern Stout, SVC, camp 15, on Duty. These 2 photos shared by brother Vern!

The slaughter of the Battle of Fredericksburg and the many dead Union Soldiers left many homesteads in the North with the loss of a father, son, grandson, nephew or young neighbor, for the Christmas season of 1862! Some generals were not ordained for leadership! Some generals had no concept of the lay of the land, the battle front, how to flank or maneuver! They just threw thousands of troops, over and over, against a platform held by the enemy with extremely poor result!

“A chicken could not live on that field when we open on it.” So reported Confederate Col. E. Porter Alexander to Gen. James Longstreet describing the position of his Confederate First Corps’ artillery on Marye’s Heights overlooking the town of Fredericksburg, Va. Six hundred yards of open field stretched between his position and the town, which was overflowing with Yankee soldiers. Gen. Robert E. Lee would like nothing better than for the Union Army of the Potomac to attack his Army of Northern Virginia in the position he had been strengthening for weeks.

The left side of Lee’s line was anchored on Marye’s Heights and on a 1,200-foot-long stone wall at the base of the heights. The retaining wall was built alongside the main road to Richmond, which had been cut away and sunken by years of use. Shoulder high, the stone wall was an ideal position to defend. Div. Comdr. Gen. Lafayette McLaws had stationed his Georgia Brigade, commanded by Gen. Thomas R. R. Cobb, in the sunken road. The Confederate soldiers were packed two ranks deep behind the wall and had a clear field of fire to their front.

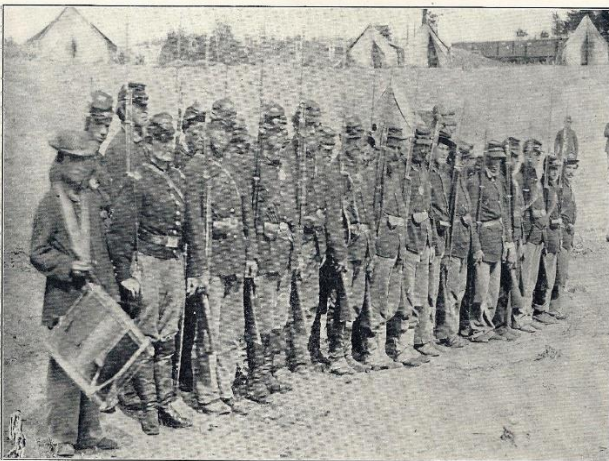
Continued next page

The Civil War - December 1862

• Battle of Fredericksburg •

A HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR

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PART OF COMPANY OF MAINE INFANTRY AFTER CHARGE AT MARYE’S HEIGHTS, FREDERICKSBURG



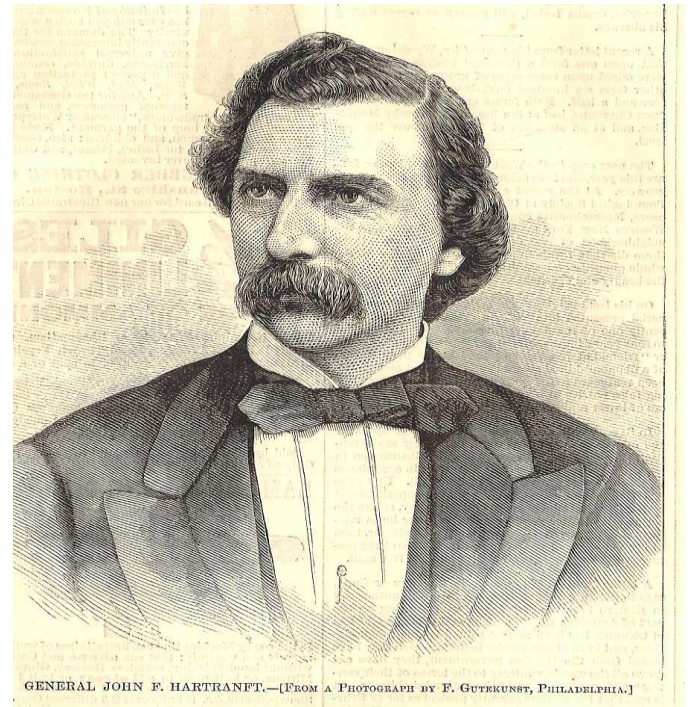
RUINS IN FREDERICKSBURG AFTER THE BATTLE

Around noon on December 13, 1862, a brigade of blue-coated men filed out of Fredericksburg, formed their battle lines, and charged toward the stone wall. They were cut to pieces by Confederate artillery and fell back before the Georgians behind the wall fired a single volley. Two more brigades charged in quick succession with the same result. McLaws ordered Gen. Joseph B. Kershaw's South Carolina Brigade to join Cobb's men behind the stone wall, making that line four ranks deep. Stepping back from the wall to reload and back up to the wall to fire, the Rebel defenders were able to lay down a rapid and continuous storm of lead. Throughout the afternoon, Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside sent wave after wave of his infantry to the slaughter. Darkness finally brought an end to the butchery, but not before seven Union divisions had dashed themselves against the wall in 14 charges. No Union soldier ever reached the stone wall; few got within 50 yards.

**Fascinating Fact:** Burnside lost 7,000 men attacking the stone wall and Marye's Heights; the Confederate defenders lost only 1,200 men.

### Hartranft Born in December - our camp namesake

**John Frederick Hartranft, (1830-1889)** — Born in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County, Pa., December 16, 1830. A Republican, he served in the Union Army during the Civil War; was Pennsylvania state auditor general, 1866-72; then Governor of Pennsylvania, 1873-79; and candidate for Republican nomination for President, 1876. He received the Medal of Honor in 1886 for action at Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861. The General died October 17, 1889. His Interment is at Montgomery Cemetery, Norristown, PA, which Camp 15 has visited. The General, of course, is our Camp's namesake!



GENERAL JOHN F. HARTRANFT.—[FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY F. GUTERKUNST, PHILADELPHIA.]

where he graduated in 1853. For some time thereafter he was employed as a civil engineer. In 1854 he became a deputy-sheriff of Montgomery County, holding that position, under two successive incumbents of the shrievalty, until 1858. He then turned his attention to the study of the law, and was admitted to the bar in 1860. The outbreak of the rebellion found him just entering upon the successful practice of his profession. Previous to the war he had been a Democrat, but on the first call for volunteers he proffered his services to Governor CURTIN. The regiment of which he was colonel followed his lead, and was at once equipped and armed and mustered into service as the Fourth Pennsylva-

nia Volunteers. He served with great gallantry and distinction through the entire war, rose from grade to grade, and when the war closed had attained the rank of Brevet Major-General of Volunteers.

Returning to civil life at the close of the struggle, General HARTRANFT, having abandoned his Democratic allegiance, in 1865 received the Republican nomination for Auditor-General of Pennsylvania, and was in that year elected by a majority of 22,660 over W. H. H. DAVIS, the Democratic nominee. In 1868 he was renominated for the same position, and was again successful by a majority of 9499, his Democratic competitor being CHARLES E. BOYLE. In 1871

NOVEMBER 27, 1876.]

HARPER'S WEEKLY.

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### GENERAL JOHN F. HARTRANFT.

JOHN F. HARTRANFT, who has just been re-elected Governor of Pennsylvania, was born in New Hanover township, in that State, on the 16th of December, 1830. He received his education at Union College, Schenectady, New York,

he was not a candidate for renomination, but on the death of Colonel DAVID STANTON, who had been elected his successor, he was continued in his office by special act of the Legislature. Three years ago General HARTRANFT was elected Governor of Pennsylvania by a large majority over his Democratic opponent. His majority this year was in the neighborhood of 12,000.



Photos of 2019 Holiday Banquet



Dave Klinepeter has historically presented an official SUVCW license plate to a national Commander and the PA Dept Commander too. 2019 has been no exception! Here Dave makes the presentation to Brother PCC Greg Kline who is the current Commander of the Pennsylvania Dept of SUVCW.



The seasonal setting. The assembly participated in abcTV's collection & tributes to Pledge of Allegiance by local organizations. Look for camp 15 at 11:59 a.m. on TV 27!



Annual Table-Center Gift, hand-crafted and presented, by Dave Demmy Jr., for each table!



Gift table.... Left view



Gift table .... Right view



Deacon Demmy providing spiritual message!



Guests enjoying a deep conversation



Guests enjoying meal



Guests preparing for holiday bingo



Guests enjoying fellowship



Officers about to be sworn-in!

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Officers for 2020 presented to the Assembly

A FEW DATES by Dave Klinepeter

DECEMBER

20, 1860 South Carolina secedes from the Union

03, 1861 Lincoln delivered the State of the Union to Congress

30, 1861 United States banks stopped payments in gold

25, 1862 40,000 watch Union troops play baseball at Hilton Head N.C.

31, 1862 In bad weather the Monitor sank off Cape Hatteras, NC

22, 1864 General Sherman offers President Lincoln Savannah, GA.

As a Christmas gift.

FROM THE HARPERS WEEKLY January 14, 1865

SHERMAN'S MARCH by a SOLDIER

Their lips are still as the lips of the dead,

The gaze of their eyes is straight ahead;

The tramp, tramp, tramp of ten thousand feet

Keep time to that muffled, monotonous beat—

Rub-a-dub-dub! rub-dub-dub!

Ten thousand more! And still they come

To fight a battle for Christendom!

With cannon and caissons, and flags unfurled,

The foremost men in all the world!

Rub-a-dub-dub! rub-a-dub-dub!

The foe is entrenched on the frowning hill—

A natural fortress, strengthened by skill;

But vain are the wails to those who face

The champions of the human race!

Rub-a-dub-dub! rub-a-dub-dub!

“By regiment! Forward into line!”

Then sabers, and guns, and bayonets shine

O ye who feel your fate at last

Repeat the old prayer as your hearts beat fast!

Rub-a-dub-dub! rub-a-dub-dub!

O ye who've waited and prayed so long

That Right might have a fair fight with Wrong

No more in fruitless marches shall plod.

But might smite the foe with the wrath of God!

Rub-a-dub-dub rub-a-dub-dub

O Death! What a charge that carried the hill!

That foe is broken and flying with fear,

While far on their route our drummers I hear—

Rub-a-dub-dub rub-a-dub-dub!

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**Yes, I have a lovely daughter; and,**

**I have a gun and a shovel and an alibi *already!***

[National Civil War Museum news](#)

**Saturday, January 25, 2020 -1:00 pm**

“New Acquisitions and Seldom Seen Treasures of the Museum ” -- Curator of The National Civil War Museum, Brett Kelley! Special member preview on January 25, 2020 at 1:00 p.m

The National Civil War Museum will be closed **Monday, February 10, 2019 through Friday, 14, 2020** for upgrades, maintenance, and repairs and will reopen on our **Community Free Day Saturday, February 15, 2020** at 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, February 22, 2020 -1:00 pm**

“From Gettysburg to Madison County, Kentucky and Back to Gettysburg: A Local Boy Comes to His Own Hometown to Fight in the Civil War’s Greatest Battle ” CEO of The National Civil War Museum, Wayne E. Motts

**Saturday, March 14, 2020 -1:00 pm**

“Civil War Myths and Mistakes ” -- Director of History and Education for The American Battlefield Trust, Garry Adelman

Exhibits too

Boots & Saddles: Horses in the Civil War” June 22, 2019-May 31, 2020

“Nicknames and Sobriquets of Commanders in the Civil War” January 25, 2020-December 2020 .

Contact Mary Beth, 717-260-1861 ext. 1108, or

[mbkerekes@nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](mailto:mbkerekes@nationalcivilwarmuseum.org)!



## On the Road with Camp 15

**New Readers**, for all of our past newsletters, visit

<https://www.SUVCWHarrisburgPA.org>

**January 19**, [2020 already] next camp meeting at 2pm.  
At NCWM.

The National Civil War Museum will be closed **Monday, February 10, 2019 through Friday, 14, 2020** for upgrades, maintenance, and repairs and will reopen on our **Community Free Day Saturday, February 15, 2020** at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday ,February 16, 2020 Camp meeting at NCWM  
2pm

Saturday March 7, 2020, Camps 503 and 15 will jointly host a testimonial luncheon for Pennsylvania Department Commander, Gregory Kline

This event is scheduled for ballroom at National Civil War Museum Harrisburg. Invitations to be available Spring time.

Sunday March 15, 2020 camp meeting at NCWM 2pm

Sunday April 19, 2020 camp meeting at NCWM 2 pm

## 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
- -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, cousin, 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 with other data below!

**END**