



# 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 138<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/Gen.JohnF.HartranftCamp15SonsOfUnionVeteransOfTheCivilWar)



Vol 22, No. 8 & 9 **Welcome Back** September 2020

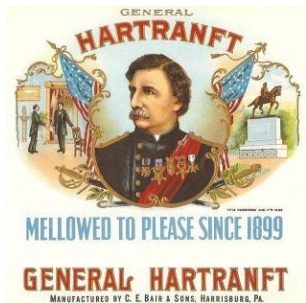


*Come to our general meetings and view central Pennsylvania from high atop Reservoir Park!*

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!

2020 Hartranft Camp 15 Officers and Staff	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 . . . . . Honorary Brother . . . . .	Logan Swanger 2020 Vernon Stout 2018 Scott Debo, PCC 2018 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-20 David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 07-20 Anthony Kline 16 - 21 Jeffery Smith, PCC 18-22 Scott Debo, PCC 15-20 Jeffery Smith, PCC 18 – 20 David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 00-20 Lee F. Walters, PCC since 2007 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2020 Logan Swanger 14-20 Vacant 2018 Vacant 2018 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-20 Vacant 2018 Dave W. Demmy, Jr. since 2011 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-20 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-20 Dave J. Klinepeter, PCC 1943 Late Joseph E. Long, Jr.
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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/>

August – September 2020 *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

**Welcome Back Brothers and Sisters and readers of this Capital Region Camp 15 newsletter.**

We have all been affected by COVID 19 which has been a real burden to many of us; and Commonwealth restrictions placed upon us, interrupted our lives, our employment, our enjoyment of life and closed down nearly all social activities.

We welcome you back to our in-person camp meeting this coming **Sunday, September 20, 2020** at the National Civil War Museum high atop Reservoir Park at 2 pm. Following this fall kick off meeting, we will adjourn to Longhorn Restaurant along route 22 in Colonial Park to break bread together. Wearing of a mask is required to enter and travel throughout the Museum building. Likewise, you will need a mask to enter and walk around within the restaurant too.

Over the summer, the Sons' lost long-time Life Member and Past Commander in Chief, Richard Orr. Brother Rich is missed by many of us!

In other news, our seated Commander in Chief, Ed Norris is still in charge working on his 13<sup>th</sup> month in office. He will be in office about 14 months pending election of new CinC at first ever and hopefully last virtual National Encampment on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at high noon. You need to be a qualified delegate or higher status to be invited to the virtual event. See Revised GO #37 for details.

National General Orders are posted to our national website at: [http://www.sucvw.org/?page\\_id=513](http://www.sucvw.org/?page_id=513). If you need a personal copy, write to: [DoubleD@Demmy . cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc)

**Fall time birthdays of Camp 15**

Jackson, William Spencer  
 Gearhart, John Gregory  
 Treat, Robert Francis  
 Smith, Jeffery Joseph  
 Betz, Kelly Wayne  
 Blattner, Wayne B  
 Motts, Wayne E  
 Kratzer III, Russell E

**Brothers and Sisters in Distress** by, Brother David W, Demmy, Sr., PCC, a Kentucky Colonel, Camp 15 Chaplain, CPA, and ARNG.

Camp 15 expressions our sincere condolences to the family of PCinC and Life Member Brother Richard Orr. Also, to Department Treasurer, Rob Koenigsberg and family upon death of young Mrs. Koenigsberg. Elsewhere; please include the following during your prayers:

- Blessings for Dave Klinepeter for recent ailment. Greg Kline, Tony Kline, Scott Debo. Mrs. Betz, Jim Crane of Ohio, PCinC Andy Johnson; with continued blessings for Mrs. Charlotte Walters PDP and Mrs. Dot Kline; Darlene Alcorn's son; and Lowell Alcorn, Mrs. Rosemary Martin, Mrs. Tom McKay!
- Mrs. Ellen Kowalski to care for Jerry!
- Chaplains Jerry Kowalski and Scott Teeters and Clark Brocht! PCinC Ed Krieser, PCinC Brad Schall, Mrs. Dick Williams of the department of Michigan among our prayer list too! God bless you and yours, and in all things, give thanx!
- If you have knowledge of our sisters and brothers in distress, drop us a line so we may pray for them! [DoubleD@Demmy . cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc)

## On the Road with Camp 15

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

<https://www.SUVCWHarrisburgPA.org>

We are all so grateful that we were able to conduct a jointly hosted testimonial luncheon for Pennsylvania Department Commander, Gregory Kline in early March, before governmental restrictions shutdown such activities.

At the present time, it appears due to continued Commonwealth restrictions and those of the National Civil War Museum, Camp 15 may not be eligible to conduct our annual holiday banquet on December 13 at the Museum! While restrictions on restaurants have lessened, social distancing continues for major events such as an indoor reception or banquet. Presently the restriction includes no more than 25 persons, including cater personnel, security, and other museum personnel! More data next month.

Follow us on Facebook at:

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

## 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 brothers and sisters of the Allied Orders are always welcome!**

Established February 11, 1882. 138 years and marching onward! Route Step March!

in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

Continued with other data below!

## On the Lighterside

A trapper fellow arrives in a western town and is in great need of a stiff drink, shave, hot bath, and clean clothes.

He visits the saloon and has a drink.

He visits the barber for a shave and makes arrangements for a hot bath.

He begins to walk across the street to the Chinese laundry to have his clothes cleaned and notices the marquee reads Big Bo Swenson's Chinese Laundry!

In puzzlement, he asks the operator how a Chinese laundry came by the name of a big Swedish fellow?

In broken English, the Chinese operator attempted to explain that when he entered this country and went thru immigrations, a big Swedish fellow was ahead of him in line. The big fellow's interview went very quickly – only a couple of questions.

When it was his turn to be interviewed, the government official asked him his name and he replied, "Same Sing!"

AND, THUS, "SAME SING", THE CHINAMAN, BECAME BO SWENSON!



## The Mule by our late brother Floyd Demmy



"An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up and flee to Egypt with the baby and his mother,' the angel said, 'and stay there until I tell you to return, for King Herod is going to try to kill the child.'" —Matthew 2:13. *The Living Bible*. (Painting by artists Richard and Frances Hooks illustrates the children's version of *The Living Bible*.)

—Religious News Service

## Consider the Mule . . .

by Floyd Demmy

THE MULE is an offspring from a male donkey and a female horse. They are sometimes referred to as jackasses because people think they do stupid things. However, after researching this animal, I think it would be an honor to be a mule.

The donkey and mule played an important role in Bible times and down through history into early American times and even today. I'm sure if you would write down everything the donkey or mule ever had a part in, or the stories you've heard, you could fill a book. Probably many important Americans rode on the back of a mule, as well as many in Bible times. I can almost see a long-legged man with a high hat in Illinois riding a mule seeking votes prior to the Civil War.

Mr. Floyd J. Demmy is a member and Sunday school teacher of the Green Street Church of God, Harrisburg.

6

Circa 1960's

Continued

About the first time we run across the donkey in the Bible, we find Abraham heading for Egypt, due to a famine in the land of Canaan. Being afraid that he would be killed and his wife Sarah taken from him because she was beautiful, Sarah posed as Abraham's sister. He was treated with dignity and honor, and showered with many gifts including donkeys.

A donkey ridden by Balaam turned from the road, tried to sneak by a vineyard and finally laid down on the road, because an angel was blocking the path. Balaam, not being able to see the angel as the donkey did, beat the donkey. Then the Lord caused the donkey to talk to Balaam.

David's son Absalom with his troops tried to overthrow his father. While fleeing from the king's men, he was caught by his long hair in the branches of an oak tree, and the mule he was riding ran out from under him.

The mule worked hard for the early settlers as they plowed their fields, cleared the land, pulled tree stumps, hauled timbers for their homes, barns, and schools. Mules helped General George Washington by pulling artillery and ammunition wagons in our struggle for freedom.

When King Solomon built the Temple in Jerusalem and the lumberjacks of King Hiram of Tyre cut the timbers from the forest of Lebanon, the massive cedar logs had to be hauled to the Mediterranean Sea, made into rafts, and floated on the water. They were then hauled overland to the waiting craftsmen of King Solomon. The donkey and mule did their part in the construction of the beautiful temple by hauling timbers and cut stone.

Here in America to obtain coal for homes and mills, the donkey and mule worked in the mines. They sometimes never saw daylight, working long hours far back in the mountains under ground. The saying was that mules pulled more coal than all the railroads together.

**A BEAST OF BURDEN?** It's an animal that was used to pull, haul or carry just about anything that had to be moved.

The donkey was the animal that the Good Samaritan used for the beaten, robbed, left-for-dead, abandoned Jew on the Jericho road. A donkey carried the man to an inn where he was given care. How many of us would do this for a stranger?

The donkey and mule were found in all parts of America, from the timber regions of the northwest to the cotton fields of the south, hauling logs to rivers and sawmills and pulling heavy bales of cotton to the docks. Mules pulled heavy barges along countless canals in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Illinois and other states.

Many a prospector, as a dust storm came upon him, would lay down behind his burro and wait out the storm. The burro was some-

times his only companion for months, between trips to town to sell a bag of gold dust for another grubstake (food and supplies).

A beast of burden? Why not? Didn't Jesus ride into Jerusalem on the back of a young donkey as the animal carried the Master over the strewn branches through cheering crowds?

Mary rode on the back of a donkey on the long trip to Bethlehem while she was heavy with the Christ child, as her husband Joseph led the way. And, didn't she hold tight to the baby Jesus as they fled to Egypt because the wicked King Herod threatened the child's life? A beast of burden? What an honor!

The horse was mostly used for the cavalry, pulling chariots, fine wagons, beautiful rigs, sleighs in the winter. But the mule received the honored position of doing mostly the dirty work.

I think how Jacob offered many animals (including male and female donkeys) as a peace offering to his brother Esau whom he cheated many years before. Remember how Namaan, stricken with leprosy, was told by Elisha to wash in the Jordan River and later asked for two mule loads of earth to take back to his home in Syria so he could worship the Lord on the ground from Samaria.

During World War II the mule was used in Italy. (They didn't know that the United States tanks could climb the mountains of the country.) I have been told that the vocal cords of the animals were severed to keep them from warning the Germans. For the rest of their lives they could not bray.

The donkey possesses great qualities—patience, bravery, wisdom, affection, service. He has a knack for finding water (needed for the life of the desert nomad whether it be Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or the prospector in southwestern United States).

**A STUBBORN ANIMAL?** I remember an old gent, Eddie Jacobs, a cousin to my father-in-law, who used to say you couldn't beat a matched pair of mules. When a farmer came in from the fields for dinner, he would unhitch the mules. After eating they would roll around like a couple of big dogs and be ready to return to the plow.

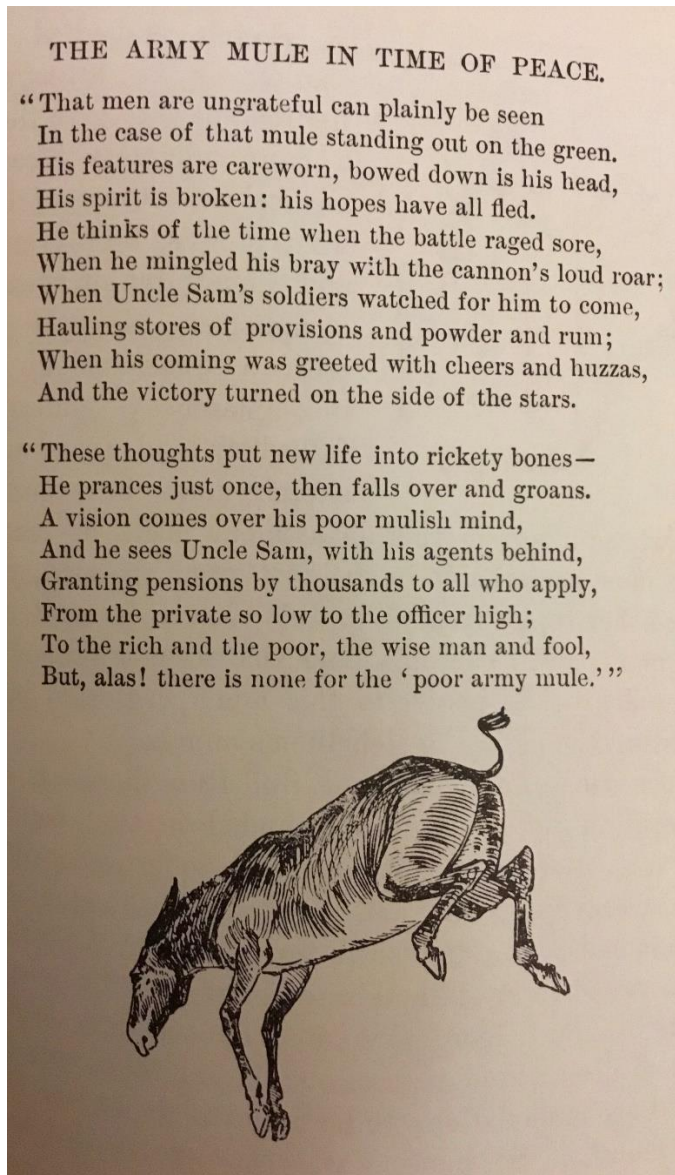
Many a horse would rupture himself by trying to pull too heavy a load. But a mule would refuse until the load was lightened. Stubborn?

I remember when we were kids we would pretend we were certain animals (mostly a handsome one) and would try to guess who each other was. We seldom picked a mule. If the choice were now, mine would be.

Just think of feeling the night air in your face on your way to Egypt, one step ahead of Herod's soldiers, or carrying the Master on your back stepping over palm branches and seeing the crowds of Jerusalem . . .

continued

Another Mule, this time a servant of war  
shared by brother Vern Stout



History on The Mule. The mule has been deliberately bred by man since ancient times. The breeding of a jackass (male donkey) with a female horse (mare) is the most common and oldest known hybrid.

In the 1840's, as Anglo-Saxon settlers from the east moved west, the mule was by far the favorite pack animal. Even during the years of Spanish influence in the Southwest, when horses, burros, llamas, dogs,

and even camels were used, the Mexican mule was preferred. The Mexican breed was soon replaced by the American variety - - most of which came from Missouri.

During the Civil War mules were depended upon to transport artillery and supplies. The Union Army used about one million mules - - which they purchased from dealers. Union Quartermasters purchased over 75,000 mules just for the forces at Chattanooga and Sherman’s Atlanta campaign. In 1864 alone, the Union Army purchased 87,791 mules. The South, on the other hand, used only half as many mules - - which the soldiers had to provide on their own. Mules, therefore, were taken from Southern farms for military use, making work at the farm much more difficult. Some historians have speculated that the shortage of mules might have contributed to the South’s ultimate defeat.

By the start of World War II the U.S. Army had become more mechanized, horses had lost their ranking as a mode of transportation, but the mule continued to be of great value - - because of the superior ability to negotiate areas inaccessible to tanks and other vehicles, such as the mountains of Italy and the jungles of Burma. Mobilization actually began in 1930, with an authorization for 3,500 mules. By 1944 and 1945, some 14,000 mules were used by the 10th Mountain Division in northern Italy.

In an Army Manual, “Special Forces Use of Pack Animals”, it states, “Animal transport systems can greatly increase mission success when hostile elements and conditions require the movement of combat troops and equipment by foot”. The Manual goes on to describe the characteristics of the mule as having intelligence, agility and stamina, which make them excellent and necessary pack animals.

Thus end this history lesson on the Mule.