



# *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 139<sup>th</sup> Year serving Harrisburg Area

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



Vol 23, No. 12

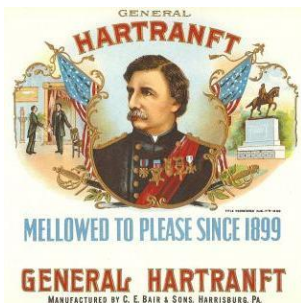
December 2021

Happy Holidays to you and yours



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!

2021 Hartranft Camp 15	Commander ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Vernon Stout 2021
Officers and Staff	Senior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~	Logan Swanger PCC 2021
	Junior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~	Scott Debo, PCC 2021
	Secretary ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-21
	Treasurer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 07-21
	Council 01 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Anthony Kline 16 - 21
	Council 02 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Scott Debo, PCC 15-21
	Council 03 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 18-21
	Patriotic Instructor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 18 - 21
	Chaplain ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 00-21
	Counselor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Lee F. Walters, PCC since 2007
	GAR Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2021
	Graves Registration ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Logan Swanger 14-21
	Guide ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner 2021
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	Eagle Scout Coordinator ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner 2021
	Webmaster ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Dave W. Demmy, Jr. since 2011
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	Longevity Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Dave J. Klinepeter, PCC since 1943
	Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Late Joseph E. Long, Jr., PDC



Camp 15 routinely meets at National Civil War Museum, at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, PA, 2 pm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of most months. PA Dept: [www.PAsuvcw.org](http://www.PAsuvcw.org) National: <http://www.suvcw.org/>

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The reason for the season is renewed in the New Testament! God bless one and all!



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS ART WORK BY OUR LATE BROTHER FLOYD DEMMY 2006!

### Christmas Wish

We wish all of you very Merriest of Christmas celebrations. We hope and pray that the Joy of Christ's birth penetrates deep in your heart and warms you with His love from the inside out.

God bless you and yours -- *the Hartranft Staff*

### Camp Birthdays thru end of year

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

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

Blessings especially for Dave Klinepeter and Lee Walters! Greg Kline, Tony Kline, Scott Debo. Mrs.

Betz, Jim Crane of Ohio, PCinC Andy Johnson; with continued blessings for Mrs. Charlotte Walters PDP. Also, Mrs. Dot Kline; and Lowell Alcorn, Mrs. Rosemary Martin; and Mrs. Rosemary Jackson.

Mrs. Ellen Kowalski to care for Jerry!  
Chaplains Jerry Kowalski, Scott Teeters, & 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!

Mrs Crystal Kratzer's condition continues to improve, as well for Brother Russell Kratzer!  
Commander Vern Stout has experienced another illness and Brother Jeff Smith has undergone a recent event too.

Prayers lifted upward for Scott Debo and family upon the recent death of his mother!.

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)

### 2021 October Camp 15 meeting minutes

Sunday, October 17 mostly sunny at cool 60°

#### *Officers Present:*

Logan Swanger JVC  
David Demmy Sr Treasurer

#### *Officers Absent:*

Vern Stout Commander  
Scott Debo SVC  
Jeff Smith Council  
Tony Kline Council  
Greg Kline PCC

#### *Brothers on Duty:*

Dan Lute  
Dave Demmy Jr  
Wayne Blattner  
Dave Morrison



At 2:01 pm, JVC brother Logan opened the meeting, following the official R&C.

1. Brothers and sisters in distress or illness were briefly discussed including Mrs. Bill Jackson, Vern Stout, Jeff Smith, Lee Walters and Dave Klinepeter!

2. Brother Treasurer offered September and October expenditures for annual Domain Name fee; monthly internet host fee; and postage for October newsletter providing a checkbook balance of \$630. Report accepted and approved.

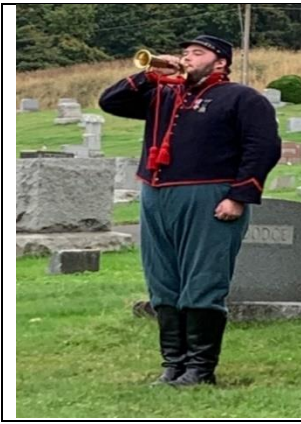
3. Minutes of September Meeting read and approved.

4. Camp welcomed new brother David Morrison, who transferred from Lancaster camp upon relocating to a retirement community at E-town. Brother Dave discussed his ancestors and his background prior to retirement! He also mentioned his desire to visit the Lincoln Cemetery on South 30<sup>th</sup> Street in Penbrook, just next door to Reservoir Park Harrisburg. Welcome to another brother *Dave* among our patriot brotherhood.

5. Beginning in 2003, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) embarked on the *Last Soldier Project*. The purpose of the project is to locate and appropriately mark the final resting place of the last Civil War Soldier buried in each county/parish and in each state of this great country.

Brother Logan discussed the very recent event by our sister camp 503 of Sunbury upon their recent tribute to the *Last Civil War Veteran* of Northumberland County. Camp 503 revealed they intend to pay tribute to other *last veterans* in adjacent counties!





6. Camp 15 welcomed brother Duke Hall, a US Army Veteran, home from his latest deployment. Duke is now assigned to Fort Irwin. Duke is grandson of PDC and brother of camp 15, Lee Walters. Brother Lee is also a retired SUVCW National Executive Director 2000 – 2008.

#### Patriotic Instructor hour:

Brother Wayne Blattner shared with Camp 15 recent Civil War two seminars he had attended in the past month.

The first one he attended was held in the Richmond Virginia area, and was headquartered at Homewood Suites Hotel near the Airport. The dates were from September 28 to October 2, 2021. Woodbury Historical Tours sponsored the seminar titled “Grant vs. Lee, The Overland Campaign of 1864” For the next five days noted author Mr. Gordon Rhea as our guide, we covered the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Yellow Tavern, North Anna River, Cold Harbor, and the opening of the Petersburg Campaign. Also included were visit to various “off the beaten path” locations such as local farms and homesteads that Mr. Rhea had made arrangements with the owners for our group to tour their buildings and lands. These were areas that the typical visitor could not gain access to. One location was Massaponax Church, where Grant, Meade, and Burnside halted briefly in route to Guinea Station and North Anna River, as the Union chased Lee south. Provided as part of the tour was a booklet of great color maps of troop movements at each

location we visited. Woodbury Tours rented a large tour bus, so with only around 24 of us, each person had their own seat with plenty of room! I had a great time, especially at the Spotsylvania Battlefield. Gordon took time to show where the sixth Corps was located both on May 10<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1864. My Great-Great Grandfather (95<sup>th</sup> PVI), was wounded on the 12<sup>th</sup> at the Bloody Angle being part of Upton’s Brigade. The lunch’s that were provided while we toured were great too!

Woodbury Historical Tours future tours for 2021 & 2022 can be reviewed on the following link:

<https://whtours.org/overland-campaign-of-1864.html>

The second seminar he attended was held near the Antietam battlefield sponsored by a brand-new organization titled “The Antietam Institute 1862”. The dates were from noon Friday October 15<sup>th</sup> to noon October 17, 2021. This organizations web site is [www.antietaminstitute.org](http://www.antietaminstitute.org) Check it out for the up incoming programs and merchandise. Their Facebook page has photos of this weekend. This event was headquartered at The Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center, located on 16869 Taylors Landing Road (Sharpsburg). They provided excellent meals and sufficient meeting rooms.

The goal as stated from their membership pamphlet is” The Antietam Institute sponsors conferences, symposiums, publications, leadership forums, and other activities facilitate collaborative learning and knowledge exchange, for discovery and inspire further historical research”. Quite a goal!

For their 2021 Fall Conference the subject was “New Perspectives on Antietam: Command Decisions. Friday afternoon there were three in house talks from various authors. This was followed by a fine dinner. The evening concluded with an open panel discussion.

The conference included three battlefield walks, and handouts with color maps. The first walk on Saturday morning focused on activity at the Middle Bridge dealing with the Fitz John Porter’s Fifth

Corps, and Alford Pleasonton's Cavalry operations in that area. The afternoon walk addressed activity at the Lower Bridge commonly called "Burnside's Bridge". Sunday morning's venture focused on the North Woods area and what happened here in the early morning of September 17, 1862 which was the start of the battle.

There was a Saturday evening dinner that included a Key Note Speaker, Mr. Dennis Frye. For nearly 50 years Dennis has been leading tours, lecturing, and writing about Antietam and Harpers Ferry. He had an excellent presentation.

This organization has already published two books. One is titled "Antietam Journal", and the other called "The Brigades of Antietam".

Shepherd's Spring Retreat Center. located on 16869 Taylors Landing Road (Sharpsburg).

Camp 15 annual holiday banquet update:

Venue has been secured – the NCWM ballroom and rent paid in full.

Cater has been secured – C&J with 25% down payment issued.

RSVPs to date – 9. We are on our way to a full house on Sunday December 12.

Invitation among our monthly newsletter and a few invitations have been mailed to designated friendships and associates outside of camp 15.

The slate of camp officers and appointed staff for 2022 were announced and elected by the assembly today:

Commander	Vernon Stout 2022
Senior Vice Commander	Logan Swanger PCC 2022
Junior Vice Commander	Scott Debo, PCC 2022
Secretary	Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-22
Treasurer	David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 07-22
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Brother Logan closed camp meeting in R&C fashion.

Following clean-up of the area, the brothers departed for Longhorn Restaurant on Jonestown Road and continued discussions on cemeteries and other things out of our past. Immediately following that event, David Demmy led Dave Morrison to Lincoln Cemetery for a short visit and then our newest brother was off to E-town.

Minutes shared by David W Demmy Sr.  
Camp Chaplain.

### Remembrance Day 2021 photos



PA Aux Ann McMillin



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Camp 15 Jeff Smith



Ellen Higgins and Barbard Indan far right



Camp 15 ↑ Vern Stout



Center, Camp 15 DPC Greg Kline



National Commander

Contingent of brothers from PA Department  
Scott Debo, Fred Wertman, Vern Stout, Gregg  
Kline, and NCWM board member Lee Miller.

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John Gipson, PA Dept Commander



Along with the award, the camp was bestowed a streamer which is attached to camp's USA flag.

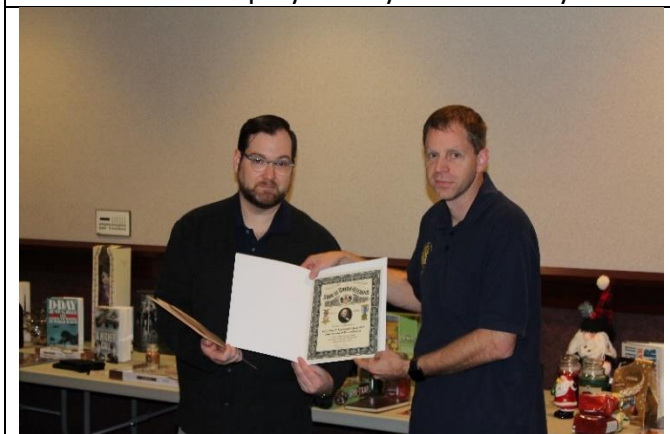
### Camp 15's holiday banquet



Presented to camp by Jeffery Smith Family!



The Camp was honored to have Brother Dave Klinepeter and family with us today!



Commander Vern presents national best 2021 camp website award to Brother Dave



PA Dept Commander brother John Gipson prepares to install camp 15's officers for 2022.

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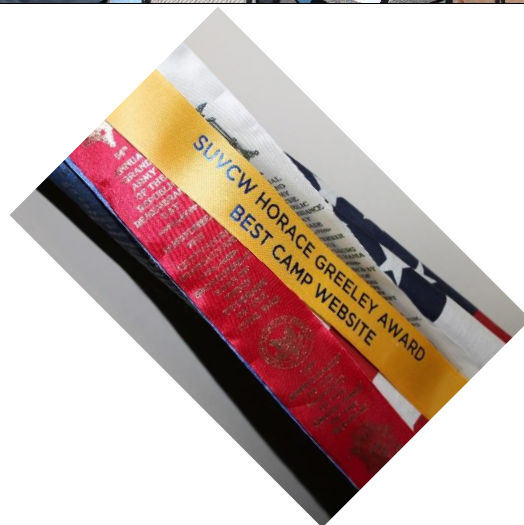
Grand time by all: brothers John, David, and Vern!



In the *Klinepeter* tradition of presenting a SUCVW license plate to PA Dept Commander, camp commander Vern Stout presents plate to John Gipson.



Brothers and sisters arrive for a good afternoon.



Streamer that accompanied 2021 award.

Blessings to you and yours during the holidays and into the new year!

[2022 what already]

### Life

"Life is our biggest gift, and it's more fragile than we know. In a second, everything can change," she wrote in the post. "There is no better time than NOW to take a leap of faith, and do all the things you've never taken the time or had the courage to do. To spend time with the people you love, to live, to love, to play, to laugh—may we live each unique moment of our lives with presence and gratitude." -

-- Supermodel Gisele Bündchen





this is one elevator to avoid!

I thought I was retired, but now I work for my Wife!

## Camp 15 Dues time – year 2021

### 1<sup>st</sup> ‘announced’ notice

To save postage you may bring your New Year  
2021 Camp 15 dues of **\$40** to January and  
February Camp Meetings!

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

Life Members are exempt from Camp 15 dues and  
National per capita! Camp 15 Life Members only  
need remit dues for PA Department!

See text bottom of national [form 9](#) for specifics!

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!*

notices will be issued in January!

Deadline for 2022 dues is end of February!

Donations appreciated for postage and office supplies!

## C&R Article II Membership

Section 3 (a). A Brother whose dues are not paid by **March 1 may be dropped for nonpayment of dues** by a vote of the Camp. A Brother so dropped shall not be admitted to another Camp or membership-at-large unless having received the concurrence of the Camp which dropped him.

A Brother so dropped from the rolls of a Camp shall be issued a General Discharge for the Good of the Order.<sup>24</sup> A Brother may be reinstated by paying the current year’s dues [camp and department] plus a [national] reinstatement fee of ten dollars (\$10.00)!

To become a National Life Member of our grand organization, visit national website [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org) choose [forms](#), select [form 9](#). Save it to your computer, open newly saved form, complete it, save it, and attach your payment for your age bracket and mail directly to national headquarters!

In Switzerland they say it in four official languages namely; German, French, Italian and Romantsch. Christmas is wished in German as ‘Frohe [Weihnachten](#), in French as ‘Joyeux Noël’, in Italian as ‘Buon Natale’ and in Romantsch as ‘Bella Festas daz [Nadal](#)’.

Camp 15 sincerely thanks brother Dave Klinepeter for sharing and presenting a number of photos and artifacts from his collection to Camp 15. As space permits, we will share images of those items in future issues of your *Hartranft Herald*!

Murphy Christmas and happy New Years to you and yours and we hope to see many of you at our January camp meeting on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>.