

# *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 **143rd** Year serving Harrisburg Area

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



Vol 27, No.01

**Happy New Years**

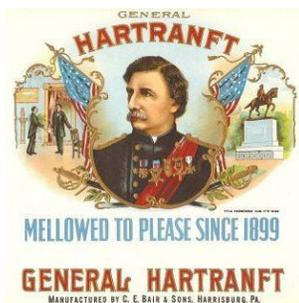
January 2025



***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!

2025 Hartranft Camp 15  Officers and Staff	Commander ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Senior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~ Junior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~ Secretary ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Treasurer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Council 01 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Council 02 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Council 03 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Patriotic Instructor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Chaplain ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Graves Registration ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ GAR Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Counselor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Eagle Scout Coordinator ~ ~ ~ GAR Highway Officer ~ ~ ~ Guide ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Color Bearer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Guard ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Webmaster ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ROTC Coordinator ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Camp Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Longevity Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Kyle Purchase 2025 Logan Swanger PCC 2021-2025 Scott Debo, PCC 2021-2025 Wayne Blattner 2025 David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 2007-2025 Scott Debo, PCC 2015-2025 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2023-2025 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2025 David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 2000-2025 Logan Swanger 2014-2025 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2025 Vacant Wayne Blattner PCC 2025 Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2008-2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2022-2025 Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 2011-2025 Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2011-2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2020 - 2025 Late Dave J. Klinepeter PCC 1943-2023 Late Floyd J Demmy WWII Veteran Late Joseph E. Long, Jr., PDC, Veteran Late Lee F. Walters, PDC, P Exec Dir.
--	--	---



Camp 15 routinely meets at the 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/>

In accordance with General Order #7, March 7, 2022: "Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the *Banner*, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material."

*Membership in our Order does not require a civil war ancestor nor is our Order a reenacting group!*

January 2025 *Hartranft Herald* Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Award winning newsletter -- Marshall A. Hope Award presented to Hartranft Camp 2010-2011  
Award winning website -- Horace Greeley Award presented to Hartranft Camp 2020-2022

Brothers, we welcome our elected 2025 brothers and appointed officers and staff!

Q did I miss the December newsletter?

A no! there was not sufficient data to produce the news last month.

Our Winter Kickoff **camp meeting** will be on **Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 2 p.m. at NCWM**, high atop Reservoir Park, Harrisburg! You are very welcome to join us for dinner and fellowship following the meeting.

Brothers and Sisters who may be in Distress:

Continued blessings for Mrs. Diane Debo, Mrs. Charlotte Walters PDP. Dot Kline, Scott Debo. Mrs. Betz, Jim Crane of Dept of Ohio; and Mrs. Rosemary Jackson. Brother Vern Stout, PCC and Brother Ivan Frantz of York PA camp 33. Mrs. Cher Petrovic. Mrs. Ellen Kowalski to care for Jerry, our immediate past National Chaplain and our local chaplains too: Clark Brocht & Scott Teeters! PCinC Ed Krieser & PCinC Brad Schall. God bless you and yours, and in all things, give thanx! Blessings for Klinepeter family as they continue onward. And, Mrs. Pai Swanger for recent concern!

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)

Query, what is the highest elevation in the City of Harrisburg?

A chat with our new camp Commander:

Brother Kyle, tell us where you grew up!

I first lived in Churchville in Bucks County then lived in Hatboro, Pennsylvania. Hatboro is in Montgomery County and is about 45 minutes outside of Philadelphia. I've lived in Hatboro for most of my life and got my K-12 schooling there. I recently moved out to Harrisburg

earlier this year for a new job. Before joining Camp 15, I've been a member of Baker-Fisher Camp 101.

What career path did you take?

Social studies and history were always my strongest subjects in school. I went to college at Widener University for political science and international relations and earned my master's in public policy at Temple University. I previously worked for a non-profit and state representative in Philadelphia and a background screening firm in Bucks County. I currently work as a legislative reporting analyst for a company that reports happenings at the Capitol. We cover press conferences, committee meetings, voting meetings and other events for clients who are in various fields who want to know what legislation is being discussed and voted on. My work is done in a non-partisan manner and my company does not favor one legislator or party over the other.

Sounds like you are one busy person helping folks in your community. What do you do when you have free time?

It depends on the weekend and time of the year. I usually work out at my local YMCA, some housekeeping and read books on most weekends. In the summer and fall I play in a slow-pitch softball league. I sometimes travel back home to the Hatboro area to help give tours at the Bucks County Civil War Round Table, which is only a half hour from my Hatboro home.

Please tell us about your qualifications as a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. ~~~~~your civil war ancestor(s):

To make a long story short, I only recently discovered my Civil War ancestors. I discovered them during the pandemic (around 2021) while on my Ancestry account and soon learned about the SUVCW. I have three ancestors (great-great uncles) on my father's side of the family. All three were brothers; Henry, Robert and George Bonfield. Henry and Robert served in the 90<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry, Co. D and eventually were transferred to the 11<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry. George served in multiple units throughout his Civil War career; 9<sup>th</sup> PA Infantry, 53<sup>rd</sup> PA Infantry, and the US Navy.

First, Henry was wounded in the elbow at Fredericksburg, fought at Gettysburg, and would be taken prisoner at

Weldon Railroad in 1864. He was a prisoner at Salisbury Prison in North Carolina at one point before being released. Henry was a member of George Gordon Meade Post #1 in Philadelphia after the war. He is buried with his family at Laurel Hill West Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd.

Second, Robert was wounded at the Wilderness and was the last surviving of the three, passing away in 1929 at the age of 88. He is buried in Philadelphia National Cemetery.

Lastly, George, the oldest of the three, was wounded as a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> PA in the battle of Falling Waters in 1861, briefly served with the 53<sup>rd</sup> PA, before being transferred to serve in the US Navy aboard the *USS Carondelet*. He was wounded a second time during his navy service. George is buried with members of the Bonfield, Purchase and Pole family on the Yeadon side of Mount Moriah Cemetery. As of this writing he does not have a headstone.

#### Brother Kyle, what is next on your agenda for Camp 15?

I plan to establish two committees for the camp which I believe will benefit the camp in the long run. One will focus on recruiting and fundraising and the other will focus on research/graves registration and the Last Veteran project.

#### Anything you want to add Kyle:

I just want to take the opportunity to thank my fellow camp brothers for entrusting me to be the next commander of Camp 15. I look forward to what 2025 will bring to the camp!

Camp: “thank you Commander.”

#### Commander's Corner

Warmest Greetings Fellow Brothers of Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15.

I am deeply honored to be the next commander of Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15 here in the capital of our great Commonwealth. Camp 15 has the distinct honor of being the oldest active camp in our department, in which our camp, along with many others, coincided with our G.A.R. comrades. Some of our G.A.R. comrades as you may know served in the “handsomest” capitol building,

not too far from our beautiful museum in Harrisburg, as legislators.

As commander, I want to emphasize not only the importance of our Order, but to encourage the younger generations to join our Order. It needs to be made clear that joining our Order does not require an ancestor nor is our Order a reenacting group. I also encourage those who have a passion for Civil War history and for the preservation thereof to join their local camp. Learning about the Civil War is more important now than ever in turbulent times such as now. We cannot forget the **boys in blue** and what they did to preserve the nation as one and to destroy the institution of slavery. It is vital to teach the lessons of Civil War history and to get the youth to participate in patriotic events such as Memorial Day and Last Veteran ceremonies and the Remembrance Day parade in Gettysburg.

I am also planning to establish two committees for the Camp: a Graves Registration and Last Veteran Committee, and a Recruiting Committee. The first committee will assist with researching, documenting and entering the graves of soldiers onto the National Graves Registration Database as well as plan Last Veteran ceremonies for the last surviving veteran in Pennsylvania counties. The second committee will focus on recruiting new members and generating fundraising for Camp #15 in which those funds will help with historic preservation. *I encourage those brothers who are interested in those committees to please reach out to me [kgpurchase95@gmail.com](mailto:kgpurchase95@gmail.com) or to Brothers Logan Garth Swanger or David Demmy Sr. for further information.*

For me personally, the Order gives me a sense of great pride and purpose. With my Civil War ancestry, it gives me the opportunity to learn something about myself and share it with brothers who feel the same about theirs. It provides a brotherhood that cannot be matched with any other organization. This Order binds us with our common love for history, patriotism, and brotherhood.

I encourage all brothers of Camp 15 to talk with the younger generations to discuss the critical importance of Civil War history and encourage them to join something greater than themselves. I implore the younger generations of this Commonwealth to read about the Civil War, research their ancestry and ultimately join our Order

of Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty! It is up to us to “keep green” the memory of the boys in blue who gave their *last full measure* to keep our nation together for generations to come. In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Kyle G. Purchase  
Commander, Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15,  
Pennsylvania Department, and,  
Council and Patriotic Instructor, Baker-Fisher Camp 101,  
Pennsylvania Department, SUVCW

## Camp 15 Dues time – year 2025

### 2nd ‘announced’ notice

To save postage you may bring your New Year  
2025 Camp 15 dues of **\$50** to an early camp  
Meeting!

Life Members’ dues are \$7.00 for the Pennsylvania  
Department collection, only!

Life Members are exempt from Camp 15 dues and  
National per capita! Camp 15 Life Members only  
need to remit \$7.00 dues for the PA Department!  
See text bottom of national [form 9](#) for specifics!

Camp treasurer prefers **\$50** 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 and February!**  
**Deadline for 2025 dues is the 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 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)!***

For 2025 until any future increase in national per capita and/or PA Dept dues, the total reinstatement is **\$60.00** all-year-long and *may not be prorated*.

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 on your computer, open this newly saved form, complete it, save it, and attach your payment for your age bracket and mail directly to national headquarters!

**2024 was a wonderful year!**

**I didn’t have to use Algebra once!**

[Photos of 2024 Holiday Event with Sunbury Camp 503](#)





Brother Scott...



DC Bill Fischer with camp 503 CC Fred Wertman.



Intallation begins:



January 2025 *Hartranft Herald* Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Award winning newsletter -- Marshall A. Hope Award presented to Hartranft Camp 2010-2011  
Award winning website -- Horace Greeley Award presented to Hartranft Camp 2020-2022



Dedication to our late brother Tony Kline!

Missing Man Table or Empty Chair display



year 2024

7 handmade wooden, table center pieces, annually prepared by camp webmaster.

Samples at [Uncle Dave's Woodshop – Uncle Dave's Woodshop](#)

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 personnel gathered at a local restaurant along Carlisle Pike for a holiday fellowship. This gathering was for brothers and sisters that could not attend the above event in Sunbury.

Whatcha think of civilization:

We bake a round pizza;

Package it in a square box and;

Cut it into triangles to enjoy! Hmmmmm!!!!

*Brothers and Sisters, you may expect notice of the Pennsylvania Department annual newsletter soon!*

Continued.....

## Camp 15 on the Road for 2025

January Meeting 19th

February 8<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Luncheon hosted by Sunbury Camp 503. For details visit:

<https://www.pasuvcw.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-Lincoln-Luncheon-Invite.pdf> RSVP Deadline February 1<sup>st</sup>.

February Meeting 16<sup>th</sup>

March Meeting 16<sup>th</sup>

April Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> [due to Easter on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday]

May Meeting 18<sup>th</sup>

Memorial Day weekend 24<sup>th</sup> with Camp annual breakfast prior to visiting historical Harrisburg Cemetery and Lincoln Cemetery in Penbrook.

June 20 – 21 Annual Pennsylvania Department Encampment.

July recess

August 7-10 Annual National Encampment

September Meeting 21<sup>st</sup>

October Meeting 19th

November 15<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Parade

November 16<sup>th</sup> National Council Meeting.

December Holiday Event TBA

Dates subject to the call of our Camp Commander.

Copies of 2025 colorful word version camp calendar available upon request. submit email request to [DoubleD@Demmy.cc](mailto:DoubleD@Demmy.cc).

Calendar is not pdf so you may save the file and update it to suit your schedule and personal needs.

## 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 members submit them.

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, your neighbor and all your friends to a Camp meeting! Family and our sisters of the Allied Orders are always welcome!**

Camp 15 Established February 11, 1882  
in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty!

God bless you and yours and God bless the USA.

~~~~ end ~~~~