



## *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

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



Vol 27 No.05 **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND** May 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  | Commander ~ ~ ~ ~ ~            | Kyle Purchase 2025                       |
| Officers and your Staff | Senior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~    | Logan Swanger PCC 2021-2025              |
|                         | Junior Vice Commander ~ ~ ~    | Scott Debo, PCC 2021-2025                |
|                         | Secretary ~ ~ ~ ~ ~            | Wayne Blattner 2025                      |
|                         | Treasurer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~            | David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 2007-2025        |
|                         | Council 01 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~           | Scott Debo, PCC 2015-2025                |
|                         | Council 02 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~           | Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2025             |
|                         | Council 03 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~           | Wayne Blattner PCC 2023-2025             |
|                         | Patriotic Instructor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ | Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2025             |
|                         | Chaplain ~ ~ ~ ~ ~             | David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 2000-2025       |
|                         | Graves Registration ~ ~ ~ ~ ~  | Logan Swanger 2014-2025                  |
|                         | GAR Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~        | Jeffery Smith, PCC 2025                  |
|                         | Counselor ~ ~ ~ ~ ~            | Charles Brackbill Jr 2025                |
|                         | Eagle Scout Coordinator ~ ~ ~  | Wayne Blattner PCC 2025                  |
|                         | GAR Highway Officer ~ ~ ~      | Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2008-2025          |
|                         | Guide ~ ~ ~ ~ ~                | Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2025             |
|                         | Color Bearer ~ ~ ~ ~ ~         | Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2025             |
|                         | Guard ~ ~ ~ ~ ~                | Wayne Blattner PCC 2022-2025             |
|                         | Webmaster ~ ~ ~ ~ ~            | Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 2011-2025             |
|                         | ROTC Coordinator ~ ~ ~ ~ ~     | Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2011-2025          |
|                         | Camp Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~       | Wayne Blattner PCC 2020 - 2025           |
|                         | Longevity Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~    | Late Dave J. Klinepeter PCC 1943-2023    |
|                         | Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ | Late Floyd J. Demmy WWII Veteran         |
|                         | Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ | Late Joseph E. Long, Jr., PDC, Veteran   |
|                         | Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ | Late Lee F. Walters, PDC, Past 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!**

May 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  
SUVCW Legal heir of and representing the Grand Army of the Republic

**Month of May: our camp meeting is scheduled for Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>** at the National Civil War Museum bldg., 2pm upper-level ballroom.

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)

**Cemetery Duties and Privilege to honor veterans on Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>:**

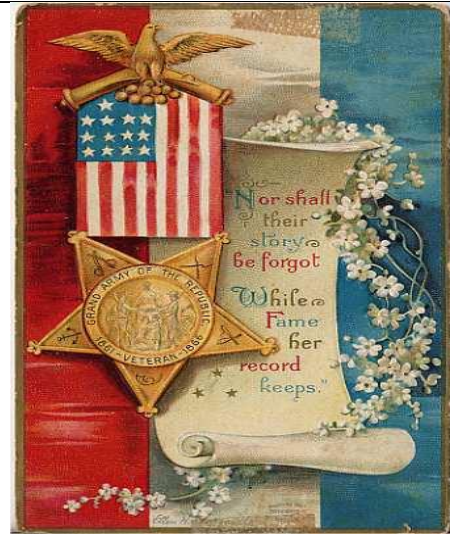
Annually on the Saturday before Memorial Day, camp 15 gathers for **7:15 a.m.** breakfast and then off to historic Harrisburg Cemetery to pay tribute to veterans therein; a short ceremony with floral arrangement will be conducted of reading the names of camp 15's deceased brothers; followed up with visit to Lincoln Cemetery in Penbrook just a mere couple of miles away. Penbrook is a small community next to Reservoir Park. Please RSVP to [execdir@suvcw.org](mailto:execdir@suvcw.org).

**Breakfast Details: 7:15 a.m.** at Peachtree Restaurant [HOME | Peachtree \(peachtree251.biz\)](http://HOME|Peachtree(peachtree251.biz)) or try [Online Menu of Peachtree Family Dining, Harrisburg, PA \(menupix.com\)](http://Online Menu of Peachtree Family Dining, Harrisburg, PA (menupix.com)) order & pay as you go.

**Brothers and Sisters who may be in Distress:**

Continued blessings for Diane Debo, Charlotte Walters PDP, Dot Kline, Jim Crane of the Dept of Ohio and Rosemary and Bill Jackson. PCC Brother Vern Stout. Ellen Kowalski to care for Jerry, our immediate past National Chaplain and our local chaplains too: Clark Brocht & Scott Teeters! PCinC Ed Krieser and PCinC Brad Schall. Pai Swanger for recent concern, sister Ann McMillin and Doug too; and former brother of Camp 15, Dave Sosnowski. Dave was instrumental in obtaining our meeting room space with the Steelton VFW many moons ago when Dave resided in PA. And, David Demmy, Sr., has procedures concerning several kidney stones! And 1 more, our Commander in Chief has an ailment!.

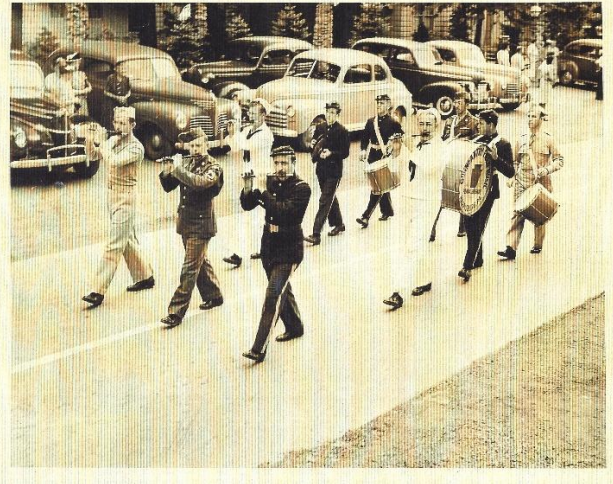
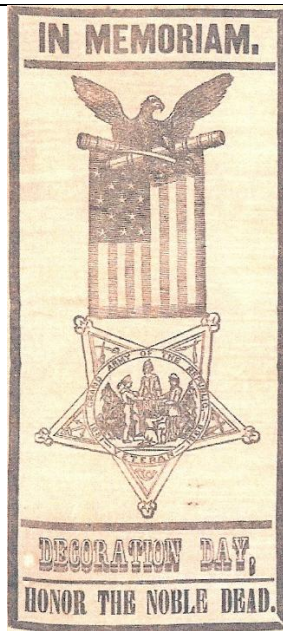
**~~~~~ Memorial Day ~~~~~**



Make them never be forgotten!

Congratulations to PDC Doug McMillin of Carlise. Brother Doug was elected by our National Council of Administration to fill the national position of Assistant Executive Director assigned to Headquarters at Harrisburg PA.

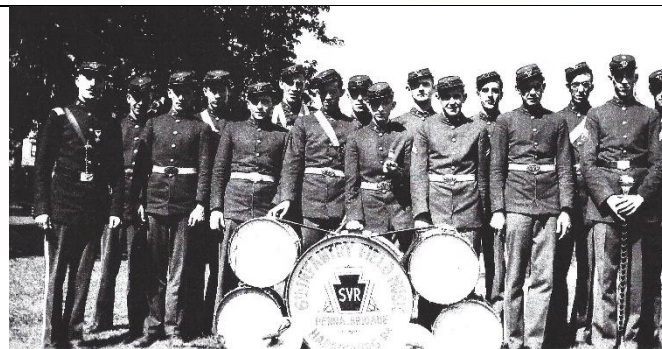




Runkle in SVR uniform; and Klinepeter in WWII Naval uniform circa 1949 Penbrook; notice pillars upon homes and businesses in background; gotta love those old Chevys and Plymouths too.

### Memorial Day out of our past:

#### Sons of Union Veterans Honor Lincoln



PCinC John Runkle of Camp 15 and SVR group.



Runkle at 2<sup>nd</sup> and State Streets





Veterans Obelisk at 2<sup>nd</sup> and State was removed by 1960.

Images above from our late brother Dave Klinepeter's collection which he bestowed to Camp 15.

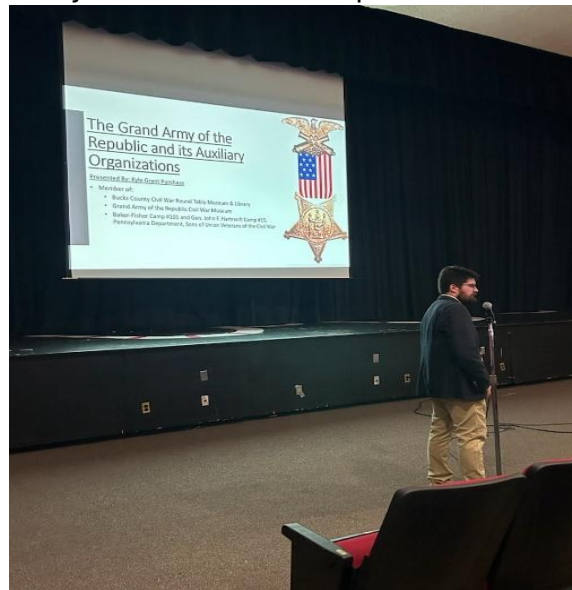
He was there!  
1943 - 2023

#### JR ROTC Cadet Program



Recently, Camp 15 Counselor, Chuck Brackbill presented award to Cadet Souders at Redland High School

CC Kyle Purchase made a presentation too,



at Crooked Billet on the History of the GAR/SUVCW and the auxiliaries!

[Camp 15 needs you.](#) At least one of you, to inventory camp 15s flags and accessories at camp 15 storage area:



We need a good inventory of our camp flags. You may make arrangements with David Demmy to visit camp storage area, open the containers, film each flag and accessory for our records.



# Headquarters Grand Army of the Republic

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

446 FOURTEENTH STREET.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5, 1868.

GENERAL ORDERS }  
No. 11. }

I. The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of Comrades who died in defence of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet church-yard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but Posts and Comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, Comrades, as our Regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors, and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead, who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes. Their soldier lives were the reville of freedom to a race in chains and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security, is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let

no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time testify to the present or to the coming generations, that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided Republic.

If other eyes grow dull, and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remain to us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them, with the choicest flowers of spring time; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us a sacred charge upon a nation's gratitude, the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

II. It is the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed Comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this Order, and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of Comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department Commanders will use every effort to make this Order effective.

By order of—

JOHN A. LOGAN,  
Commander-in-Chief.

N. P. CHIPMAN,  
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL :

A. A. G.

## Minutes of April 6, 2025 Camp #15 Meeting

At the National Civil War Museum, Lower floor, Educational Center, Harrisburg, PA. Sunday April 6, 2025. (There was no knowledge of what the weather was like).

Camp Commander Brother Kyle Purchase opened the meeting according to the SUVCW Ritual. The time was 2:00 P.M.

Roll Call – the following Brothers were present:

1. Kyle Purchase – Camp Commander
2. Logan Swanger – Senior Vice Commander
3. Wayne Blattner – Secretary and Council
4. David Demmy Sr. – Treasurer
5. Charles “Chuck” Brackbill – Camp Counselor
6. Gene Mascioli - PCC
7. William Kuhn - Member

### Reading and Approval of Camp Meeting Minutes as printed in the Hartranft Herald:

The Minutes from the last meeting were read by Commander Kyle. A motion to accept the minutes as read, and as printed in the Hartranft Herald, by Brother Chuck and seconded by Brother David. Motion passed.

### Treasurer’s Report:

Brother David reviewed Camp 15’s Members’ Dues Renewal Status for 2025. Those Brothers who did not pay, have been dropped from the Camp roster. In the future, if they wish to be reinstated to the SUVCW and Camp #15, it will cost them sixty dollars [including national fee of \$10.] All other treasury account balances basically remained the same. David stated that a check for about \$1100 will be sent to the PA Department with the completed Form #27. Dues break down in the following way. Ten dollars goes to Camp #15, seven dollars goes to the PA Department, and then the remaining thirty-three dollars goes to National SUVCW. David also reported that a twenty-dollar donation check from Camp #15 was sent towards the repair of the General John F.

Reynolds grave site in Lancaster County. A Motion to accept the Treasurer’s report was made by Brother Chuck and seconded by Brother Kuhn. Motion passed.

### The Report of a sick Brother or a Brother’s family in distress:

It is suggested that Brothers should refer to the latest Hartranft Herald for those who need our continuing prayers. Today, we focus on Brother David Demmy Sr. as he struggles with kidney stones. Also Brother Logan and his family dealing with recent family deaths, and the challenges that he brings to the surviving family members. Please keep these two Brothers in your prayers.

### Committee Reports:

The Visiting & Investigating Committee, and the Grave Registration & Last Veteran Committee.

The Recruiting Committee: Commander Kyle, reached out via email to the Historical Society of Dauphin County to see if they are interested in having someone from Camp #15 speak about the SUVCW. He has not received any response. Commander Kyle spoke about a date for the program “Last Civil War Veteran for Juniata County.” It will be sometime in the fall. Brother Logan stated that he is checking with Susquehanna Mennonite Church as a possible location for the program. He will keep us up to date. Brothers are to review their Fall 2025 calendar, (especially Saturdays), for good date(s) for these events. More discussion will take place at the May meeting.

### Reading and disposing of orders, communications, and bills:

In review, all orders from the Pennsylvania Department, and the National Office SUVCW, are collected by Brother David Demmy Sr. and e-mailed to our members to view. Brothers check emails in your inbox to view! But if you missed an order, go to the Pennsylvania Dept., SUVCW web page, and also the national site for the SUVCW, and you can see them all! Senior Vice Commander, Michael Peter



initiated a request for information & articles from the PA Camps for a shorten future issue of "The Battle Cry of Freedom" by April 19, 2025. Wayne will submit a one-page information paper on what is happening in our Camp to Brother Peter by that date.

There were a number of "Orders" reviewed. National had three of them, and the PA Department had one.

1. National Order #15 states the Theodore H. Howell Camp #48, of Pennsylvania, Charter has been revoked.
2. National Order #16 states the Darius N. Couch Camp #26, of Massachusetts, Charter has been revoked.
3. National Order that is titled "Special Message #3", is addressing "Brothers" to review the SUVCW stand on the subject of "Lobbying".
4. PA Department Order #18 addresses Department Commander Fischer who will be out of the country on vacation. Senior Vice Commander Michael Peter will be in charge until his return.

#### Old Business and or Unfinished Business:

The Camp #15 Bylaws refresh/review committee is now completed. Those involved in this task were Commander Kyle, Scott, Chuck, Jeff, David, and Wayne. They feel there is no need for any adjustments. Therefore the Bylaws will stand as is. Chuck and David gave a quick review of the Camp Polo-Shirt project. The next meeting with Shenk be coming up soon. Hopefully Camp #15 can receive some sort of rebate for each Hartranft item sold. Commander Kyle will check with Sr. Vice Commander Michael Peter, to find out more details on a request by the PA Department Commander Fischer for a Graves Registration Report from Camp #15. It is due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### New Business:

SUVCW Form 27 will be worked on by Brother's David and Wayne. It is due April 30<sup>th</sup> 2025, to the PA

Department Secretary/Treasurer. Currently we have 31 Brothers. We lost four members from the 2024 submission of Form 27.

Camp #15 has an opportunity to present SUVCW JROTC awards to two Cadets. Chuck hopes to present an award at Redland High School, in York County, on April 23, 2025. Brother Wayne hopes to present one at Boyertown High School, Berks County on May 15, 2025. Hopefully National will be able to send the proper awards to us for these two events to present to the Cadets. [see pictures in May *Hartranft Herald*].

#### Good of the Order:

Earlier in the Camp #15 meeting, David Demmy Sr. gave Secretary Wayne a pack of "Hallmark" cards and envelopes. Included were Sympathy cards, Birthday cards, Greeting cards, etc. They can be used as needed for comfort, celebrations, etc., for our Brothers and their families. Thank you David.

There was good representation from Camp #15 at the Testimonial Dinner held in honor of the PA Department Commander, Brother William Fischer. It was held on March 22, 2025 in Scranton PA. Those from Camp #15 attending were Camp Commander Kyle Purchase, and Brother's Wayne Blattner, Scott Debo. and Greg Kline. The food and program were very good at Cooper's Seafood House.

Brother Kyle will be doing a presentation at a History Fair sponsored by the "Crooked Billet Association" in Hatboro, PA on April 26, 2025.

There is still a need for an Assistant Executive Director for the SUVCW National Office, headed by our own Brother David Demmy Sr. The office is located in the National Civil War Museum, here in Harrisburg. David's email address is [execdir@suvchw.org](mailto:execdir@suvchw.org) if interested.

#### Patriotic Instructor Presentation:

Brother Jeff was not present today. He and his family are involved in a "charity run" in Philadelphia. Commander Kyle gave a short presentation that today, (April 6, 2025), is the 159 anniversary of the founding of the G.A.R.

Adjournment:

Adjournment of Camp #15 took place at approximately 3:20 PM., with Commander Kyle Purchase using the SUVCW Ritual. Next meeting is May 18, 2025, at 2:00 P.M., In Harrisburg, PA. We will be meeting on the Upper Level

Respectively submitted,

In F C & L

Wayne N. Blattner,  
Camp Secretary

Many brothers departed to a local restaurant for continued fellowship before returning to their respective homes.

End



and a marker like this image

May 24<sup>th</sup>, our day at local cemeteries

Where we will pay tribute to the veteran therein:

We will present this GAR Marker at the site of  
**General John Geary . . . .**

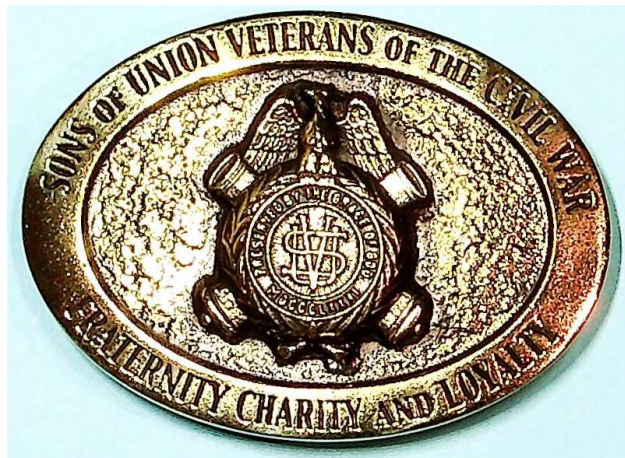


To another veteran in **section F**.

Each marker has been donated to the SUVCW for this purpose. [brother Logan your assistance please!]



Exclusive Opportunity and only licensed by  
Camp 15:



### Solid Brass 'Belt' Buckle

*Fits up to 1 - 3/4-inch Belt*

send \$50 payable to

**General John F. Hartranft Camp 15**

**Scott Debo**

**144 Race St, Sunbury, PA 17801**

**Or purchase at any camp meeting!**

*Licensed by national council for exclusive sales only by  
Hartranft Camp 15.*

2025

## S U V C W

### Aluminum Vehicle License Plate

FULL 'COLOR'  
DETAIL



Send \$15 payable to

**General John F. Hartranft Camp 15**

**Greg Kline**

**205 N. 40th St. Apt. 203, Harrisburg, PA  
17111-2271**

**Or purchase at any camp meeting or event!**

*Licensed by national council for exclusive sales only by  
Hartranft Camp 15.*

2025

## Camp 15 on the Road for 2025

May Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> followed by annual event on:

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

See breakfast details above.

June 20 – 21 [Annual Pennsylvania Department Encampment](#).

July recess

August 7-10 [Annual National Encampment](#)

September Meeting 21<sup>st</sup>

October Meeting 19<sup>th</sup>

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

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

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.

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.**