

# **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.07

Autumn Roundup

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 2022-2025
	Guard ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 2011-2025
	Webmaster ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2011-2025
	ROTC Coordinator ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2020 - 2025
	Camp Historian ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	Late Dave J. Klinepeter PCC 1943-2023
	Longevity 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.
	Praiseworthy Brother ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	

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!***

Autumn 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

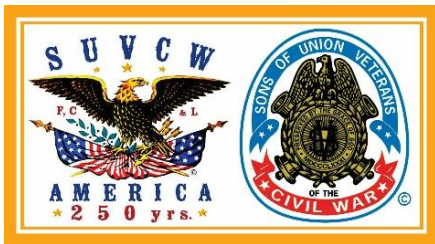
## **Brothers welcome back to our official camp meetings after long hot summer break.**

Our fall kick-off meeting will be held on Sunday, September 21, 2025 at 2pm at National Civil War Museum building at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg.

### **Camp Commanders Corner**

Greetings Brothers of Major General John F. Hartranft Camp #15,

I hope your summer has been going great! I want to welcome you all back for the Fall of 2025 when our camp is returning from summer break and hope to finish 2025 strong and to discuss plans for 2026, the



Semi-quincentennial for the United States of America.

Camp 15 is planning to host a Last Veteran Ceremony for Juniata County's last veteran, Pvt. Israel Kent of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Infantry. The date is scheduled to be **Saturday, October 11 at 11 am** at Nimonds Cemetery (1025 Lauver Valley Road, Richfield, PA) We hope you can join us. [Nimonds Cemetery \(Juniata County, PA\)](#)

Over the summer, the Pennsylvania Department held its' Encampment and Camp 15 extends its' congratulations to the newly elected Department Commander, Mike Peter, dual member of Anna M. Ross Camp #1 and Baker-Fisher Camp #101. We are confident he will excel in his role.

It was also announced at the Department Encampment that some brothers of Camp 15 were selected to serve for the Department, and they are as follows:

- Wayne Blattner – selected for Department Guide, Camp Revitalization and Development Committee, Long Range Planning Committee.
- Greg Kline – selected for Department Historian, Credentials Committee, Encampment Site Committee.
- Scott Debo – selected for Department Credentials Committee.
- David Demmy, Sr. – selected to be Secretary/Treasurer for Memorial Camp #300 at Colonial Park.
- Kyle Purchase – selected to Department Education Committee and National Parks Relations (East).

Best of luck to our brothers with their roles!

National Encampment was also held over the summer, and the Pennsylvania Department was honored with two national awards:

- **Augustus P. Davis-Conrad Linder Award** – Department with greatest number of new members
- **Under Forty Award** – Department with greatest number of new members under age forty

These awards are based upon data on Form 35 from the staff of our PA Department; and these awards go to show the diligent work the Department undertakes, and we shall assure you we continue to do so by bringing in more passionate brothers who care about the work we do.

Camp 15 also extends its' congratulations to the newly elected Commander-in-Chief, Brother Kevin Tucker of Wakefield, MA.

Lastly, Camp 15 extends its congratulations to Brother Wayne Motts for his return as the CEO of the

National Civil War Museum here in Harrisburg. The camp appreciates your enthusiasm as well as the museum for allowing us to conduct our meetings at the museum.

- Also, brother Jeff Smith has been assigned to the National Committee on Life Membership Investment! Congrats to all brothers!

I hope to see you all at the next camp meeting on **Sunday, September 21, at 2 pm!**

In Fraternity, Chairty & Loyalty,

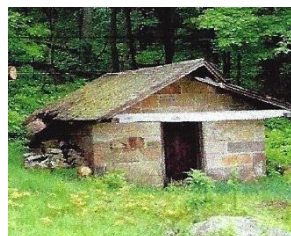
Commander Kyle Grant Purchase



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.

### **Extra Ice Please: A Cool History of the 19th Century Ice collections and delivery . . .**

How many of you grew up on a farm or visited a farm to know there was a body of water [perhaps only a small crick or creek or spring]



that supplied water to the farm; and the farm had an icehouse near the water supply! The icehouse or spring house was used to collect water and to store ice to serve the farm during hot weather. The blocks of ice were separated by saw dust or straw – yucky!

More from an extract from *newspapers.com*:

Nothing beats an ice-cold drink on a hot summer day, but during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, ice was a rare luxury. The ice trade transformed ice luxury into a booming global industry. Beginning in the 1800s and lasting into the early 1900s, it involved harvesting ice from frozen lakes and rivers, storing it in icehouses, and transporting it via ship, barge, or railroad to destinations worldwide.

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

Continued blessings for Diane Debo, Charlotte Walters PDP, Dot Kline, Scott Debo. Jim Crane of the Dept of Ohio and Rosemary Jackson. Ellen Kowalski to care for Jerry, our immediate past National Chaplain and our local chaplains too: Clark Brocht & Scott Teeters! God bless you and yours, and in all things, give thanx! and, sister Ann McMillin pending surgery! Also, Bill Jackson of Palmyra with some recent concerns. Bill was a dear friend of Late Maajor Dick Winters of Band of Brothers fame; founder of Hershey Civil War Round Table and founder of the Central Penna WWII Round Table at Hummelstown, among other organizations.

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)

**Camp 15 needs you.** At least one of you, to inventory camp 15s flags and accessories at camp 15 storage area:



*imagine  
keeping it all  
nice and cold  
during  
shipping....*

**America's Growing Appetite for Ice:**  
Though still a luxury item, ice became increasingly popular. Ice helped preserve food and enabled the shipment of perishables by rail or wagon. Chicago's meatpacking industry used ice to refrigerate rail cars, helping to distribute fresh meat nationwide. Americans were introduced to new foods and drinks that were not previously available.

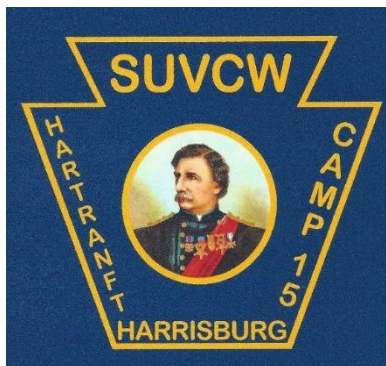
**The Record of January 4, 1870 Ice Comes Home:**

Once harvested, ice was stored in ice houses. Some wealthier families built their own; others bought ice from commercial vendors. A network of ice wagons delivered ice directly to homes, where it was used in iceboxes to preserve food. Children often chased after the wagons, hoping for a free sliver of ice to enjoy. *[This authors parents lived uptown Harrisburg and had ice box door in the front of their row homes for the delivery of ice . . . .*



*from a  
horse  
drawn  
wagon!*

Please attend the September camp meeting and wear your **navy-blue** polo shirt! We'll look great at dinner!



### *It Couldn't Be Done!*

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
But, he with a chuckle replied  
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;  
At least no one has done it";  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure;  
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle it in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "couldn't be done," and you'll do it.

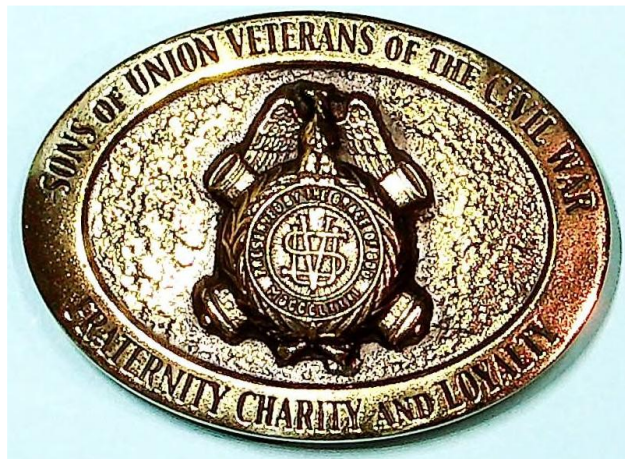
### **Edgar Albert Guest**

Edgar Albert Guest was born in Britain but grew up and spent most of his life in the U.S.A.

He was a product of "small town" America and the values!



Exclusive Opportunity and only licensed by  
Hartranft 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!**

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

2025

## Camp 15 on the Road for 2025

September Meeting 21<sup>st</sup>

Camp 15 is planning to host a *Last Veteran Ceremony* for Juniata County's last veteran, Pvt. Israel Kent of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Infantry. The date is scheduled to be **Saturday, October 11 at 11 am** at Nimonds Cemetery (1025 Lauver Valley Road, Richfield, PA) We hope you can join us. [Nimonds Cemetery \(Juniata County, PA\)](#)

Commander brother Kyle will be on the road:

- A presentation on the GAR/SUVCW on Monday, September 15 at 7:30pm for the Newtown Historic Association to their general membership ; and,
- at the Bucks County Civil War Round Table to Fredericksburg to get a tour of both Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville battlefields. I'll be with them from September 26-28.

October Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> [perhaps nominations for camp officers for 2026] if interested in a position, please contact camp commander

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

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

Winter, Camp 15 begins dues collection for 2026, new amount is **\$53.00** payable to Hartranft Camp 15.

December Holiday Event [unknown]

Dates subject to the call of our Camp Commander.

## 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.

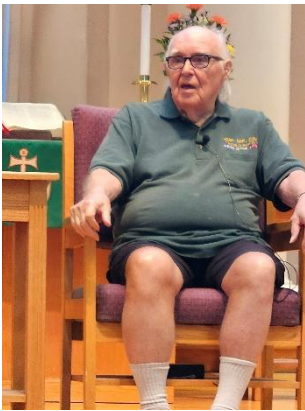
## **AN EDITORIAL FOLLOWS**

### It rained in Hummelstown last night!

Thursday, September 4, 2025 by David W. Demmy, Sr.

It rained in Hummelstown last night! Where were you? This camp newsletter editor was at the monthly meeting of the Central Pennsylvania World War II Round Table at Hummelstown PA, near Hershey PA.

The speaker of the evening was brother Bill Jackson of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Circa 1998 Brother Bill co-founded the Hershey Civil War Round Table.



In a few years, his interest in America's World War II began to flourish and during 2003 he founded the Central Pennsylvania World War II Round Table in Hummelstown.

Last night Bill had several pages of notes, but not once during his hour-long speech did he refer to those pages. He spoke nonstop about his youth; his WW II veteran father, William K Jackson; his early education in Texas; his continued education at Valley Forge Military Academy, PA; a few military heroes; and his purchase and operation of *The Sun*, Hummelstown's newspaper.

Bill noted that his father was the director of the civil defense in their hometown, Clearfield, PA, and rumors circulated that William *was not serving* in the military like so many of the men of America. Upon hearing the gossip, William at age 36, immediately enlisted, trained and was assigned to duty in the European Theater. Bill's father was killed in action.

Years later Bill himself would serve in the US Army in Germany and would travel to his father's gravesite with a military photography to capture the story which appeared on the front cover the *Stars and Stripes* – the US Army official newspaper.

During Bill's story, he mentioned a classmate named Norman, who went into the army and later was nicknamed General *Stormin Norman Schwarzkopf Jr.*, who led all coalition forces in the Gulf War against Ba'athist Iraq.

Bill continued with another Army hero who popped into his publishers' office once upon a time: WW II Major Richard Winters. Dick said to Bill, "You must know all the secrets of Hershey and Hummelstown! We need to do lunch"! Facetiously, Dick also revealed he was mentioned in a book named *Band of Brothers*. 2011 Bill would provide the eulogy for the late Dick Winters.

Bill and his wife Rosemary eventually sold *The Sun*, but Bill continues to author an article each week for the newspaper, "Where I sit." Most of his articles are about cars, the military and, of course, the local history of the Hummelstown/Hershey/Harrisburg area.

Happy Birthday William 'Bill' Jackson, member of Major General John F Hartranft Camp 15 serving the Harrisburg PA area since 1882. Bill became 91 yesterday, September 4, 2025.

You may view Bill's speech at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zmfBwnkwGg>.

In other news of Camp 15, The Harrisburg Civil War Round Table, Friday, September 15 [sic] will kick off their 67<sup>th</sup> campaign year with a presentation by Wayne E. Motts to celebrate his return as CEO of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. Brother Wayne is also a member of Hartranft Camp 15! Welcome home Wayne.

Regards in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty  
David W Demmy, Sr., Editor, *Hartranft Herald*, monthly newsletter of Camp 15, Harrisburg  
[www.SuvcwHarrisburgPa.org](http://www.SuvcwHarrisburgPa.org).

Contributor: Camp 15 Counselor Chuck Brackbill Jr.

~~~~ the end of Autumn News ~~~~