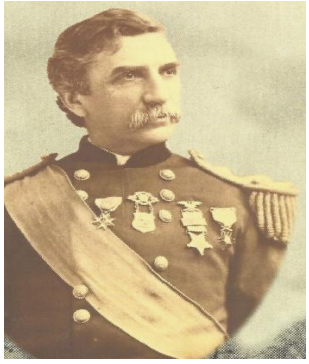


Hartranft Herald

The Newsletter of
Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
www.SuvcwHarrisburgPa.org
Celebrating our **144th** Year serving Harrisburg Area
@ Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

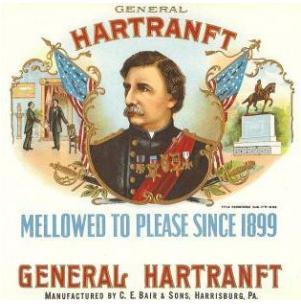
Vol 28 No. 03 March 2026

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!

2026 Hartranft Camp 15

Officers and your Staff



Commander ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Kyle Purchase 2025-2026
Senior Vice Commander ~~ ~~	Logan Swanger PCC 2021-2026
Junior Vice Commander ~~ ~~	Scott Debo, PCC 2021-2026
Secretary ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner, PCC 2025-2026
Treasurer ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 2007-2026
Council 01 ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2026
Council 02 ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2023-2026
Council 03 ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Charles Brackbill Jr 2026
Patriotic Instructor ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2026
Chaplain ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2026
Graves Registration ~~ ~~ ~~	Logan Swanger 2014-2026
GAR Historian ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2026
Counselor ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Charles Brackbill Jr 2026
Eagle Scout Coordinator ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2025-2026
GAR Highway Officer ~~ ~~	Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2008-2026
Guide ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2026
Color Bearer ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2026
Guard ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2022-2026
Webmaster ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 2011-2026
ROTC Coordinator ~~ ~~ ~~	Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2011-2026
Camp Historian ~~ ~~ ~~ ~~	Wayne Blattner PCC 2020 - 2026
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, 3rd Sunday of most months. PA Dept: 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!

Brothers, our March camp meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 15, 2026 2pm Reservoir Park within the National Civil War Museum building upper level.

Brothers and Sisters in distress

Sister Helen Shireman, great granddaughter to our camp namesake, John F Hartranft, is recovering from an ailment; likewise, Bill Jackson is recuperating.
The current list includes prayers for Brother David Demmy Sr. as he struggles with some health issues, [the VA is keeping him busy with appointments] Camp counselor Chuck Brackbill Jr, ailments; Brother Scott Debo's family, and Ann Ribblett, wife of Camp #15 member Terry Bibblett. Sister Ann McMillin recovering from recent surgery. And, Annette Keener-Farley. Please keep all these Brothers and Sisters and their families in your prayers.

Camp 15 Dues Collection for year 2026

Nearly all 2025 brothers of camp 15 remitted their 2026 dues and their 2026 membership card was handed to them or mailed to each brother.

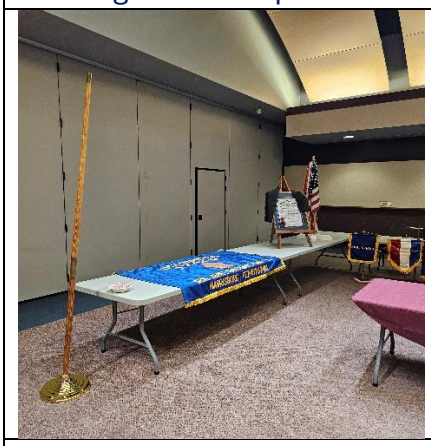
National Civil War Museum 2000 - 2026 celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a Community Free Day on Valentine ♥Day 2026 and

Pix here

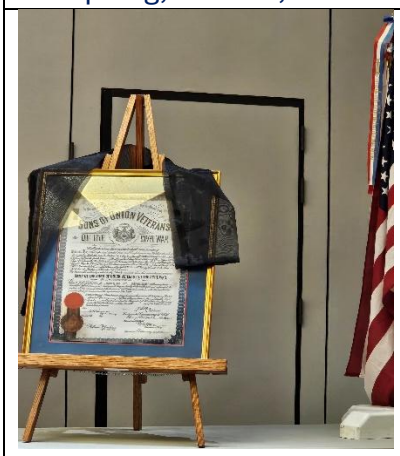
Camp 15 was there along with Harrisburg Civil War Round Table personnel and a headcount of over 500 visitors.

Camp 15's February Meeting saluted 3 new members into our brotherhood. We continue with these images:

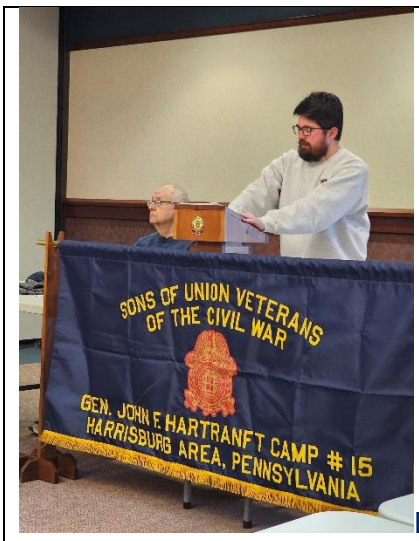
Meeting room setup



Camp flag, Charter, and station banners



camp charter draped in honor of our late PCC Larry Keener-Farley.



Brother Kyle Purchase, commanding, overseeing meeting.

new brothers L to r Bob Hollinger, Hank Beers and Ken Beers. Their pedigree is linked to Privates David and Levi Demmy, Co C 127th Regiment, PA Vol Infantry. [historically known as the Dauphin County Regiment]. Their homestead in 1862 was in South Hanover Township.

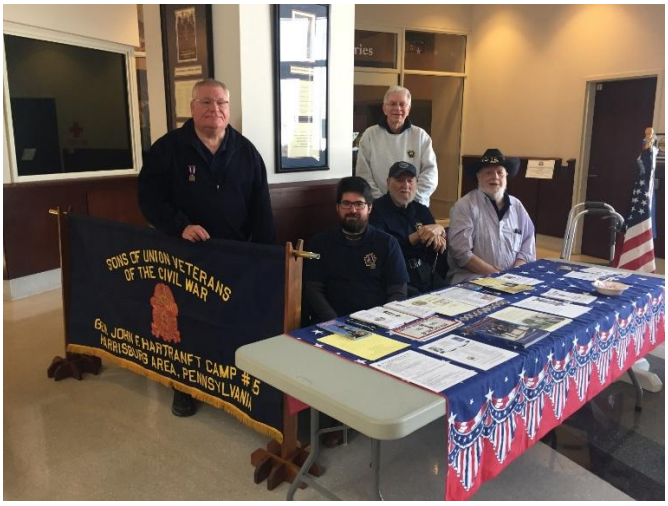
Greetings Brothers of Camp 15, by Camp Commander Kyle Purchase:

I hope 2026 is off to a great year for you all!

We recently received notice that PCC Larry Keener-Farley has passed away, and Camp 15 sends its' condolences to PCC Keener-Farley's family during this difficult time. A Camp Order has been published.

Copy available upon request!

On a lighter note and on Valentine's Day, Camp 15 participated in the National Civil War Museum's Free Community Day where we had brochures on display as well as our handsome banner. Brothers discussed the Camp's purpose and established connections with other Civil War groups! Well done brothers!



Brothers in attendance for the National Civil War Museum's Free Community Day included Secy Wayne Blattner, CC Kyle Purchase, PCC Gene Mascioli, and Treasurer David Demmy, Camp Counselor Chuck Brackbill; Hank Beers and Tom McKay (not pictured).

The following day after the Free Community Day event, Camp 15 held its' first meeting of the year and welcomed 3 brothers to our ranks — brothers Hank and Ken Beers and their nephew Bob Hollinger. Brother Bob was a camp member before but returned to our ranks. Welcome Brothers Hank and Ken and welcome back Brother Bob! Photos of the 3 new brothers are revealed above in this March *Hartranft Herald* Newsletter. The meeting included discussions on many topics including ideas

surrounding Memorial Day, the upcoming Department and National Encampments and a potential collaboration with the Harrisburg and Bucks County Civil War Round Tables for a future Harrisburg field trip.

An important project Camp 15 has taken on is the collection and digitization of burial records of Dauphin County Civil War veterans. Some records have been procured by Commander Purchase after a trip to the Dauphin County Office of Veterans Affairs and were scanned by both Commander Purchase and Brother Treasurer Demmy. If brothers are interested in viewing the records, please let Brother Demmy or Purchase know.

Cemeteries and other agencies scanned are:

American Legion Post 239
Baldwin Cemetery at Steelton
Halifax Cemetery
Hershey Cemetery
Hummelstown Cemetery
Hanoverdale Cemetery
Union Deposit Cemetery
Wenrich Cemetery Linglestown
some WWII Records

At this time, Not available:

Lincoln Cemetery Penbrook
Harrisburg Cemetery 13th and State Streets
Kirkpatrick Cemetery Paxtang
Wm Howard Day Cemetery
lotsa records still outstanding!

We hope to see you at our March meeting on the 15th! In F, C, & L, Commander Purchase

Above photographs courtesy of Kyle Purchase and David Demmy

Minutes of February 15th, 2026 Camp #15 Meeting

We met at the National Civil War Museum, upper level, Harrisburg, PA., Sunday February 15th, 2026. The weather was damp, cloudy, and 40-ish°.

Camp #15 Commander, Brother Kyle Purchase opened the meeting according to the SUVCW Ritual. The starting time was 2:06 P.M.

Roll Call – the following Brothers were present or excused/absent:

1. Kyle Purchase – Camp Commander
2. Logan Swanger – Senior Vice Commander
3. Scott Debo – Junior Vice Commander & Council, reported (absent).
4. Jeffrey Smith – Council & Patriotic Instructor
5. Wayne Blattner – Secretary and Council
6. David Demmy Sr. – Treasurer
7. Charles "Chuck" Brackbill – Camp Counselor and Council (absent).
8. Gene Mascioli PCC
9. Bill Ribblett
10. Guest Robert W. Hollinger
11. Guest Kenneth W. Beers
12. Guest Harold E. (Hank) Beers Jr.

Reading and Approval of Camp Meeting Minutes and miscellaneous notes.

The last "official" Camp #15 Minutes from October 2025 were published in the November 2025 *Hartranft Herald*. Camp #15 did not meet in November of 2025, therefore no Meeting Minutes. December 2025, no Meeting Minutes because of the Christmas Party. January 2026, we were clobbered twice by snow, therefore no January Meeting Minutes. But during this weather challenged period, Commander Kyle, and Brother David Demmey Sr., worked together and submitted an article covering past, current, and future Camp #15 activities It was published in the February 2026 *Hartranft Herald*! At the February 15th Camp #15 meeting, a motion was made to accept all the above written actions by

Brother David Demmy Sr. and seconded by Brother Jeff Smith.
Motion passed.
It is strongly encouraged that Camp #15 Brothers read the *Hartranft Herald* to keep them up to date on what is going on in our Camp. Commander Kyle explained the reason why the February *Hartranft Herald* is draped in black. Camp #15 has learned of a Past Camp #15 Commander, Brother Larry Keener-Farley, who passed away on February 5, 2026. Our prayers and condolences go to his wife Annette! Brother Larry throughout the years did many great things for Camp #15, and The Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, and other organizations he belonged to. He was our Camp Commander in 2001. Brother Larry will be missed. A *Camp Order* was published in honor of brother Larry.

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 web site for the SUVCW, and you can see them all! In review, the location and date of the PA Dept. SUVCW 2026 Encampment. It will be June 25th to 27th, 2026 in Carlisle, PA. The National Encampment will be July 30th to August 2nd, 2026 in Gettysburg PA.

Treasurer's Report:
Brother David Demmy Sr., shared with the Camp that there is about $1200 in the checking account. Most of those funds are dues collected to be paid to PA Dept SUVCW with form 27 later this spring. Also, Brother David reported that, at this time, 37% of our Brothers have not paid their dues for 2026. In response to this statement, Brother Wayne will send e-mail notices to these tardy Brothers, encouraging them to pay their dues. Brother David explained about the Ad Camp #15 usually places in the Department Encampment patron booklet for 2026. We advertise our SUVCW Belt Buckle and License Plate we sell. Brother Wayne made a motion to spend the required $65 for this Ad. Brother Gene seconded the motion. Motion passed. Motion to accept the complete Treasure's Report by Brother Jeff and seconded by Brother Bill. Motion passed.

The Report of a sick Brother or a Brother's family in distress:
As listed above, the addition of the Larry Keener-Farley family. At this time, there are no new additions to the list below. Brothers please refer to the latest Hartranft Herald for those who need our continuing prayers. The current list includes prayers for Brother David Demmy Sr. as he appears to be on the mend as he struggles with health issues, Brother Scott Debo's family, and Ann Ribblett, wife of Camp #15 member Terry Bibblett, and Brother Chuck Brackbill. Brother Tom McKay recuperating. Please keep all these Brothers and their families in your prayers.

Committee Reports:
The Visiting & Investigating Committee:
The three new applicants for our Camp were introduced. They handed in their proper application and fee. The three new brothers are Mr. Robert Hollinger, Mr. Harold E. ("Hank") Beers, and Mr. Kenneth W Beers. A vote was taken to approve the three new Brothers into Camp #15. Motion passed. Commander Kyle performed the "New Member Initiation Ceremony" per our Ritual. Brother David Demmy Sr. presented membership Badges to each new brother. Congratulations! Welcome aboard!

Recruitment Committee/Fund Raising Committee:
Camp #15 was present yesterday, February 14th, at the Civil War Museum's Community Free Day. We participated in promoting our Camp with a public Table event complete with various items on display. We had about six or so people stop by to inquire about our organization and gave out promotional items about the SUVCW & Camp #15. Five Brothers of Camp #15 were present to man the info table.

Good of the Order:

From yesterday's event there were some nice public comments about our Camp #15 shirts. There has been a renewed interest among our Camp members about possibly looking into having another shirt, sweatshirt, formal long sleeve shirt, etc., sale for our Camp Brothers. We had this project about a year ago and it was very successful due to the hard work of Brother's Chuck and David Sr. But our supply of clothing was quickly depleted due to brisk sales. What do you Brothers think?

Brother David shared the story of finally finding our Camp's Flag. We observed some small stitching modifications/repairs that need to be done. Brother Logan will check with his wife Pai to see if she can help with this challenge. Thank you in advance to the Swanger family for any repairs that can be done! During a visit by Commander Kyle to the Dauphin County Veterans Administration Office, he received a surprise. He met with Thomas Coreau, and he gave Brother Kyle a trove of Veteran's burial records from Dauphin County. Brother David and Brother Kyle will coordinate the scanning of the information before returning back to the VA. Also during this visit, Brother Kyle expressed his concern about the absence and availability of American Flag's at the Harrisburg Cemetery last Memorial Day. In return Mr. Coreau assured Brother Kyle that he, (Thomas), is the contact person for flag distribution for Memorial Day. Any problems/concerns contact him. Thanks Commander Kyle for doing this task. Commander Kyle hopes all Brother's will reserve May 23, 2026. That is the day that Camp #15 visits two cemeteries in Harrisburg area to place flags on Veterans Graves in commemoration of Memorial Day.

Grave Registration:

Commander Kyle explained to those present the workings of the National Grave Registration Data Base for documenting Civil War Veteran's graves. The procedure can be challenging. We have received information from PDC Bill Fischer on the latest guidelines for this program so duplication of work does not take place.

New Business:

Brother Jeff Smith shared with the group that The Gettysburg Foundation on April 17 and 18th will be holding their "Spring Muster". There are inside and outside programs. Also a Friday evening an inside program. View all the details by searching "online" this organization. Both Jeff and Wayne have attended events sponsored by this group in the past years.

Jeff also spoke to the need for our Camp Brothers to submit information to him for SUVCW Form #40. This Form #40 when completed reveals the hours spent promoting our organization to keep our 501.3c nonprofit rating. For your activities, use **calendar year 2025.** Visit https://suvcw.org/governance-forms/camp-patriotic-instructor-annual-report for the proper form to use. Complete it save it send copy to Jeff at jsmith@COPIC.COM He will crunch all the hours and activities into one Form #40, then he will submit it to the PA Department SUVCW Patriotic Instructor.

Patriotic Instructor Presentation:

Brother Jeff spoke on a book he read titled "Four Years In The War." It details the Civil War experiences of a soldier in the PA 53rd Regiment Company "K". Jeff said it was a great read revealing the trials and tribulations of a common Civil War soldier. The book may be available in the bookstore at the entrance of the Museum.

Adjournment:

Adjournment of Camp #15 took place at approximately 3:45 P.M., with Commander Kyle Purchase using the SUVCW Ritual. Next meeting is **March 15th, 2026**, at 2:00 P.M., in Harrisburg, PA. We will be meeting on the Upper Level of the Civil War Museum. Respectively submitted,

In F C & L

Wayne N. Blattner,

Camp Secretary

End

Camp 15 on the Road for 2026

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

The increase is based upon Approval at June 2025 PA Dept encampment to keep up with inflation!

If you are not renewing your 2026 membership, please inform us that you are resigning from SUVCW:

WBLATTNER1@comcast.net

DST March 8th.

March 14th: Brother Wayne Motts will be giving a presentation at the museum on General George S. Greene at **11am.**

March camp meeting is scheduled for Sunday 15th.

April camp meeting is scheduled for 19th.

May camp meeting is scheduled for Sunday 17th.

May 23rd . . . . . Camp 15 annual breakfast at 7:30ish a.m. at PeachTree Restaurant, prior to attending Memorial Day tribute to veterans of historical Harrisburg Cemetery. Guests are welcome . . . .

Memorial Day Monday May 25th.

June 25 thru 27 annual encampment of the PA Department at Carlisle.

Veterans Day Free Day Saturday, November 8, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, at the National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg.

Dates subject to the call of our Camp Commander.

please update your social calendars now !

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

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.

Camp stickers for sale

Prices:

1 sticker for $*1 in person* while supply lasts

1 sticker for $2 <u>via mail</u> while supply lasts

3 stickers for $5 <u>via mail</u> while supply lasts

Q You ask what can I do with them?

A affix them to your camp loose leaf binder

affix them to car rear side windows

affix them to your house window

Purchase stickers in person at March camp meeting on Sunday March 15th.

Mail your selection and payment payable to **Hartranft Camp 15**

David Demmy

881 Sunny Hill Ln

Harrisburg PA 17111-4690

Please include a self-addressed envelope for ease of fulfilling your request.

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

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