

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

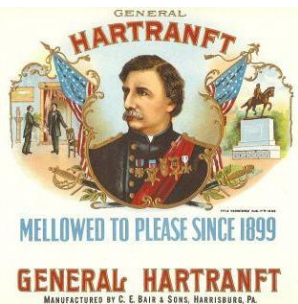


Vol 28 No. 05 **May Memorial Day Honors** 2026



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 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ 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 2025-2026 Logan Swanger PCC 2021-2026 Scott Debo, PCC 2021-2026 Wayne Blattner, PCC 2025-2026 David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 2007-2026 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2026 Wayne Blattner PCC 2023-2026 Charles Brackbill Jr 2026 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2026 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2026 Logan Swanger 2014-2026 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2026 Charles Brackbill Jr 2026 Wayne Blattner PCC 2025-2026 Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2008-2026 Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2026 Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2026 Wayne Blattner PCC 2022-2026 Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 2011-2026 Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2011-2026 Wayne Blattner PCC 2020 - 2026 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, Past Exec Dir.
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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!

May 2026 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, our May camp meeting is scheduled for Sunday May 17, 2026 at 2 pm 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, Maj Gen John F Hartranft, is recovering from an ailment; likewise, Bill Jackson, founder of the Central Penn World War II roundtable is recuperating.

This current list includes prayers for camp commander Kyle Purchase; Brother David Demmy Sr. as he struggles with some health issues; 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.

Nothing Tops a **Plain** Pizza.

What is the speed of **dark**?

~~~~ Minutes ~~~~

Minutes of April 19th, 2026 Camp 15 Meeting

We met at the National Civil War Museum, upper level, Harrisburg, PA., Sunday April 19th, 2026. The weather was cloudy with 53 degrees.

Camp 15 Commander, Brother Kyle Purchase opened the meeting according to the SUVCW Ritual. The starting time was 2:05 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 (reported absent).
4. Jeffrey Smith – Council 1 & Patriotic Instructor (reported absent).
5. Wayne Blattner – Secretary and Council 2
6. David Demmy Sr. – Treasurer
7. Charles "Chuck" Brackbill – Camp Counselor and Council 3.

Reading and Approval of Camp February Meeting, and miscellaneous notes from the *Non-Quorum, March meeting:

Brother Logan made a motion to address the stated above facts, and to approve them as published in the *Hartranft Herald*. Seconded by Brother David. Motion passed. [our meeting minutes published and/or corrected in this publication are our official camp minutes].

* "Non quorum" refers to a meeting or assembly where the minimum number of members required to make valid decisions is not present, rendering any decisions or votes invalid.

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 digest! Brothers check emails in your inbox to view! If you missed an order, go to the Pennsylvania Dept., SUVCW web page at <https://www.pasuvcw.org/orders-and-documents/> and also the National website for the SUVCW at <https://suvchw.org/general-orders-of-the-commander-in-chief>. You can see them all! In review, the location and date of the PA Dept. SUVCW 2026 Encampment 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. stated that Camp 15's Form 27 for the year 2026 was completed by Brother Kyle, Brother Wayne, and Brother David. All three Brothers provided their signatures. Brother David

will cut a check and gather other items and send everything to the Department Secy. Great news: 100 percent of our Brothers paid their dues for 2026. Thank you! Other Camp 15 expenses were paid such as the internet bill, Encampment patron book ads, etc. When all these item's checks "clear", we will have a potential balance of \$613. A motion was made by Brother Chuck to accept the Treasurer's report. Brother Wayne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Report of a sick Brother or a Brother's family in Distress:

Reported:

Camp Commander Kyle Purchase who is battling some digestive health issues. He said he is feeling better. Another concern is Brother Scott Debo is suffering with some back problems, which may involve surgery. Please keep in mind the Larry Keener-Farley family. Brother David Demmy Sr. as his issue has had a slight improvement; while he continues to be very cautious about traveling. Brother Scott Debo's family, and Ann Ribblett, wife of Camp 15 member Terry Bibblett, and Brother Chuck Brackbill. Please keep all these Brothers and their families in your prayers.

Committee Reports:

The Visiting & Investigating Committee:

Nothing to report at this time.

Recruitment Committee/Fund Raising Committee:

Nothing to report at this time.

Graves Registration:

Commander Kyle presented an update dealing with the information the Dauphin County VA has lent to our Camp [all such documents were scanned a few months ago]. Brother Kyle showed us samples of the lists that were on loan to Camp 15. Recently Brother Kyle visited the Harrisburg Cemetery and noticed many of the flag holders were not present. It appears that the Cemetery's ground crew removed them. Explanation: Brother Kyle found out the markers are removed in the Fall for safekeeping.

Brother Kyle requested a list from the cemetery on the location of where veterans are buried. The response was the caretaker would have to seek the approval of the "Cemetery Board" for a request like that. [same old story as we asked for the list many years ago] Camp 15 appreciates Brother Kyle's hard work involving this project. (Check out the March Newsletter, page 4 for a list of cemeteries, and their scanning status)

Patriotic Instructor Presentation:

Brother Jeff was not in attendance. We were wondering if he had a chance to organize and hand in Form 40 to the PA Department's P.I. [post meeting, Yes Brother Jeff completed his duty and submitted the annual report to the PA department Patriotic Instructor and thank you to all brothers of camp 15 that participated and submitted a worksheet of their patriotic duties].

Good of the Order:

"Pennsylvania Department Order 10" was issued on April 9th 2026. It concerns the JROTC SUVCW program. Brother Trevor Taylor from the Gettysburg Camp will be the PA Department coordinator. His email is Commander@GettysburgSUVCW.org

The Pennsylvania Volunteer Corps Historical Society is sponsoring a two-day head stone cleaning and setting event on May 2nd and 3rd at Ashland Cemetery in Carlisle, PA. Check out their Facebook page!

New/Old Business:

Memorial Day celebrations involving Camp 15

On Saturday May 23rd 2026, Camp 15's Commander, Kyle Purchase, and Secretary, Brother Wayne Blattner will be present in Norristown, PA at Montgomery Cemetery. They will participate in the Memorial Day Commemoration, sponsored by the Historical Society of Montgomery County. This is where General Hartranft is buried. Both Brother's will be participating in the festivities in reference to General Hartranft, and also to other Civil War Generals.

But before that happens, on Saturday May 16th 2026 we hope **all** the Brothers of Camp 15, (after breakfast), will assemble at Harrisburg Cemetery to place flags, and possibly flag holders at the veterans graves. We will be working with the Harrisburg High School's JROTC cadets, and also with Dauphin County's Veteran's Administration official, coordinating where to place flags at the appropriate grave sites. Later that day we will visit Lincoln Cemetery in Penbrook, placing a wreath at the grave of Private Ephraim Slaughter, an African American Civil War soldier, He lived from 1846 to 1943. [Slaughter is recognized as the last civil war veteran of Harrisburg; he was featured in the Sunday, March 7, 2004, Harrisburg 150 special presentation by *The Patriot News*, page 74]. Copy available by special request to *Hartranft Herald* staff.

Adjournment:

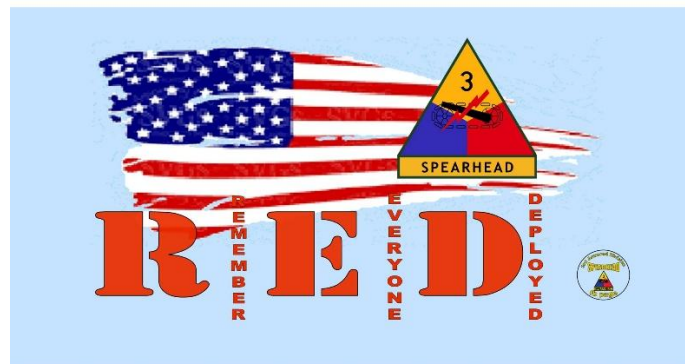
Adjournment of Camp 15 took place at approximately 3:40 P.M., with Commander Kyle Purchase using the SUVCW Ritual. Next camp activity is **Saturday May 16th**; next business meeting is on **May 17th, 2026**, at 2:00 P.M., in Harrisburg, PA. We will be meeting on the Upper Level of the Civil War Museum.

Respectively submitted,
In F C & L
Wayne N. Blattner,
Camp Secretary.

[National Civil War Museum News:](#)

Coming up soon, another Lessons in History book talk on the first Saturday of next month, **June 6th at 11am.** Author Jared Peatman will discuss his book, *A Hell of a Regiment*, which offers a fresh account of a regiment's transformation from inexperienced recruits into one of the Union Army's most legendary fighting units, the 20th Maine.

Every Friday is **Red Friday** in remembrance of all of our deployed brothers and sisters in uniform.



- Wear Red on Fridays. Currently within the SUVCW, we have 7 known brothers deployed in a combat area according to reports submitted to HQ from our 32 department secretaries, and 3 MAL camps.



Make them never be forgotten!

Camp 15 on the Road for 2026

Harrisburg Cemetery Memorial Day event:

Change of annual date: May 16th Camp 15 annual breakfast at 7:00ish a.m. at PeachTree Restaurant, prior to attending Memorial Day tribute to veterans of historical Harrisburg Cemetery. Otherwise, meet us at Harrisburg Cemetery at 13th and States at 8:45 a.m. Guests are welcome , *we need someone to take pix for us. . . .*

After paying tribute to veterans therein, we'll mosey over to Lincoln Cemetery in Penbrook, about 2 miles away and a stone's throw from the National Civil War Museum!

May camp meeting is scheduled for next day, Sunday 17th.

Memorial Day Monday May 25th.



June 25 thru 27 annual encampment of the **PA Department at Carlisle**. Carlisle is a mere 30-ish miles from the greater area served by camp 15. Enjoy fellowship, meals and voting on motions during the business meetings.

Summer break! Camp 15 does not meet during June – July – August!

2026 National Encampment begins July 31st at Gettysburg. Visit: <https://suvchw.org/national-encampment>

Veterans Day Free Day Saturday, November 7th, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, at the National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg. Brothers, please consider attending this weekend event to support Camp 15, and the PA Department too.

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

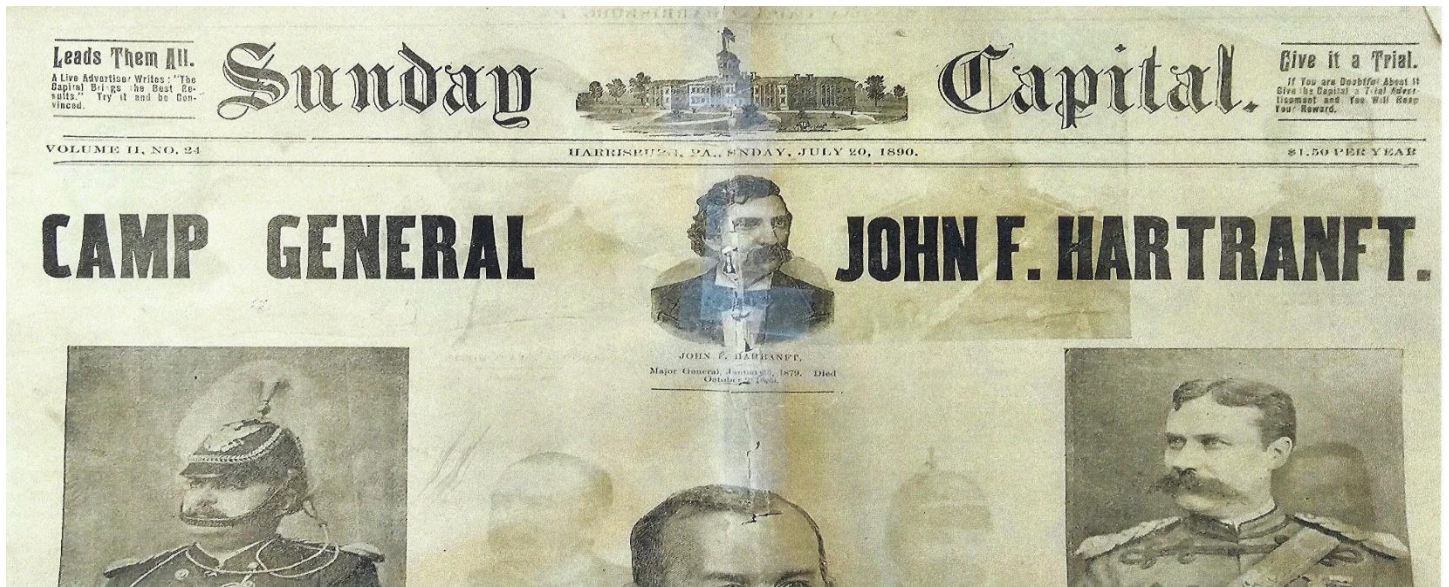
Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, cousin, your neighbor and all your friends to a Camp meeting! Family and our sisters of the Allied Orders are always welcome!

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

God bless you and yours and God bless the USA.



Camp General John F Hartranft 1890



Readers of the Major General John F Hartranft's *Hartranft Herald* the following is an extract from the 1890 Sunday Capital newspaper of Harrisburg PA regarding **Camp Hartranft** on duty at Mount Gretna.

Division of Pennsylvania at Mt. Gretna.

THE NATIONAL GUARD OF PA., UNDER CANVASS.

The Latest Orders and News From All the Regiments in the State.

THE DAILY PATRIOT
 The Earliest Morning Paper in Camp.
ALL THE MILITARY GOSSIP.
TWO CENTS PER COPY.
 WATCH FOR THE NEWS BOYS.

lively for the boys all around

Medal of Honor recipient, Major General John F Hartranft is known as the Father of the modern-day Pennsylvania National Guard consolidated into the 28th Division Pennsylvania National Guard.



Ads of the Era

WILLIAMS' GROVE
 CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA.,
 THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND HEALTHY CAMPING
 GROUNDS IN THE MIDDLE STATES.
AUGUST 25, 1890.

And continue in Session Six Days. THE GROUNDS GREATLY EXTENDED. New Buildings in course of construction, and many new features are being added for the benefit and comfort of Tent-holders, Exhibitors and Visitors. OVER THREE HUNDRED FAMILIES have engaged Cottages and Tents, and Two Hundred and Fifty Leading Manufacturers of the United States have secured Space for 1890. Admission to the Grounds, Auditorium, Lectures and Meetings—*FREE*. For full information, address,
 H. S. MOHLER, Sec'y. R. H. THOMAS, President,
 MECHANICSBURG, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA.

CARLISLE MUSIC STORE.

ORGANS.  **PIANOS.**

C. D. CAMERON,
 No. 48 West Main Street Main Store.
 No. 63 North Hanover street Branch Store.

Schomacher Gold String, Prescott, Mason & Hamlin, Decker Bros., Fisher, Steinway, Brown & Simpson Pianos.
 Mason & Hamlin's, Weaver, Wilcox & White, Taber, Worcester, Palace, Chicago Cottage, Farrand & Votey, Estey Organs. Organs \$22, \$35, \$50, \$60, \$75, \$100 up to \$500. Pipe Organs blown by electricity or water power from \$700 or up to \$1000. Pianos cased at \$10 per month until paid. Organs leased at \$3.00 to \$5.00 per month. Finest room; lowest prices; best goods; largest stock; easy terms; honest dealings. Car fare paid to customers from the Capital City when they come and purchase from us.

A. L. GOODYEAR, AGENT,
 Twenty-and-a-Half Street, Harrisburg, Pa.



Famous Williams Grove offered Summer-time lodging

Signs:

Do Not Enter – Entrance Only!

Do Not Post Signs on this Fence [really]

Do Not Exit – Exit Only!

Sidewalk Ends. [thank for the notice]

Lane Closed to Ease Congestion [another really]

Please Do Not Remove this Sign under any Circumstances!