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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 133rd Year in Harrisburg Area



 @ [Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp#15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War](#)



Vol 17, No. 02

~~ Mid-Winter News ~~

February 2015



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 and Auxiliary 7.

Come One, Come All - Ladies and Brothers, and Family & Friends, all are welcome to our Camp meetings
at the National Civil War Museum and field trips at-large -- Bring your camera!

This February issue of Camp 15's newsletter, The *Hartranft Herald* is **draped** in memory of the late **Real Son** Luke Martin, Jr., of North Carolina. Also the late **Real Son** Hilbert Gramelspacher of Missouri. At present, only 6 known SUVCW Real Sons are living. National Special Orders and/or obituaries are available upon request.

Forthcoming Camp meeting

Sunday, February 15 is Camp 15's next business meeting at 2 pm at Reservoir Park upper level room 222. Readers, if you have photos, a story, or an article to share, please send data by e-mail or mail to your hard at work or hardly working *Hartranft Herald* staff.

Last minute 2015 dues now due

3rd newsletter notice!

Any Brother whose dues are in arrears in March will be dropped from annual report due the Department of Pennsylvania SUVCW. Please remit your 2015 accordingly. Details are indicated in last 2 issues of the *Hartranft Herald* which you may review on line at www.SUVCWHarrisburgPA.org.

January 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp # 15
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg PA

Sunday, January 18, 2015

Officers Present

Commander.....Jeff Smith
SVC.....Greg Kline, PCC
JVC.....Logan Swanger
Secretary.....Greg Kline, PCC

February 2015 Hartranft Herald Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Awarding winning newsletter -- Marshall A. Hope award presented to Hartranft Camp 2010-2011

Treasurer/Chaplain David Demmy, Sr
Pat. Inst./Hist....David Klinepeter
Council.....Scott Debo
Council.....Tom Bowman
Color Bearer.....Kelly Betz
Guide/Guard.....Tom Bowman

Officers
absent

— Council.....Lee Walters, PDC

Members attending:

Floyd Demmy, Tony Kline, Robert Treat, Kevin Williams, Russ Kratzer, Paul Drumm

Guests attending
Crystal Hess

The meeting was called to order by Camp Commander Jeff Smith at 2:02 PM

Past Camp Commander Scott Debo was formally relieved of command of Camp 15 by SVC Greg Kline.

The meeting minutes from October 19 2014, were read by Secretary Greg Kline. Motion to accept by Brother Tom Bowman second by Brother Robert Treat, motion approved.

Treasurer's report was read by Treasurer David Demmy, Sr. the checkbook has a working balance of \$602. Motion to accept by Brother Robert Treat, second by Brother Dave Klinepeter, motion approved.

Brother Robert Treat asked for prayers for his wife who has been battling a muscular and respiratory illness since 2002.

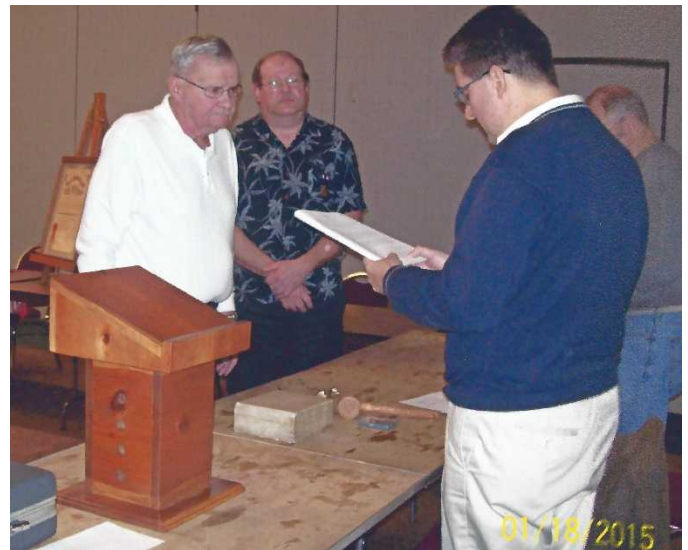
David Demmy asked for prayers for PC-in-C Charlie Kuhn who is undergoing chemo treatments in his battle with cancer.

Commander Smith read an email from Brother Lee Walters stating that he recently had a fall and is recovering.

Application for Membership:

Application received from Paul Drumm. Motion made by Brother David Demmy, seconded by Brother Dave Klinepeter to instruct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot in favor of accepting Mr. Drumm as a Member of Camp 15.

Approved by unanimous vote. Brother Drumm was initiated into the Order by Commander Smith.



NEW BROTHER PAUL DRUMM AT COMMANDER'S STATION. COMMANDER JEFF SMITH CONCLUDING MEMBERSHIP EVENT AS BROTHER TOM BOWMAN LOOKS ON.

Orders, Communications and Bills

Secretary Kline read correspondence from the Pennsylvania Department and the National Order in the form of Department Orders and National General Orders. These included the following:

Department Order # 7 regarding appointment to the Online Video Training Channel project
Department Order # 8 regarding Veteran's Day observance

Department Order # 9 which explained current difficulties with the Encampment Site

Committee and the return of the 2015 Department Encampment to Williamsport.
Special General Order # 2 regarding the passing of Real Son David Ordean Chase
General Order # 7 announcing the establishing of a National Government Headstone Application Committee
General Order # 9 adding Pacific Territories and Possessions of the U.S. to the Department of California and Pacific
General Order # 10 adding Caribbean territories and possessions to the Department of Florida
General Order # 11 regarding Veteran's Day
General Order # 14 regarding announcing ruling regarding prior indebtedness for former Member rejoining the SUVCW

Old Business:

Adopt-A-Position—Commander Smith checked out the 2 sites for Knap's Battery including Power's Hill which is difficult to access. Brother Dave Klinepeter suggested and it was agreed by the Camp to adopt the Culp's Hill position and consider adopting Power's Hill in the future.

New Business:

1) Brother Floyd Demmy mentioned to Commander Smith about getting more Member participation at meetings in the form of presentations about their ancestors, etc. and agreed to be the first to give a presentation.

FOLLOW-UP LATER IN THIS ISSUE OF CAMP NEWS.

2) Secretary Kline reminded the Members that 2015 dues of \$35 are now due for 2015 and asked for any address and email changes that Members may have had since last year.

3) Brother David Demmy brought discussion regarding a possible donation to Civil War widow Irene Triplett. A motion was made by Brother Floyd Demmy, seconded by Brother Kevin Williams to donate \$50 [plus any donations from the membership]. Motion approved.

4) Brother Russ Kratzer mentioned that the Zembo Shrine is forming a Civil War unit.

Patriotic Instructor:

Brother Klinepeter showed photos and discussed the capture of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865. He also discussed memories of Jim Getty and gave out some 2015 calendars.

Good of the Order:

Brother Floyd Demmy told some stories relating to his great-grandfather, David Demmy, and his unit during the Civil War, the 127th PA Volunteer Infantry including time spent at Camp Curtin and service at Fredericksburg. He made an interesting comparison between military service and "The Charge of the Light Brigade".

Brother Greg Kline mentioned that Camp 15 would be making its annual field trip the Battle of the Bulge reenactment at Fort Indiantown Gap. The date is January 31 and we will again meet for breakfast at the Farmer's Wife restaurant in Ono at 8AM.

The meeting was closed by Commander Smith at 3:48 PM

Faithfully submitted
In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Gregory E. Kline, PCC
Secretary
Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp# 15
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR/GAR HISTORIAN

by Dave Klinepeter

By February 1865 the UNION army, with overwhelming man power and supplies, was beginning to overwhelm the Confederates in most actions. The Harper's Weekly of February 15, 1865 had the following poem:

FREE AMERICA

A shout of joy is ringing through the land,
And men long bowed and broken rise and stand,
As if uplifted by God's bared right hand---

Our country shall be free.

The great decree enfolds the final deed:
No doubtful future closes round our need:
The blessed fruit hangs ripe within the seed--

Our country now is free!

Our mighty sacrifice has wafted sweet
Prevailing innocence to God's judgment-seat:
Our martyrs sitting by the angels' feet

Know their earth-home is free

God said, "Let Freedom be," as erst "Let Light,"
And burst a new creation on our sight,
Created in our hearts, and named aright
America is free.

By this we pass from pain to realms of balm,
Striking our lessoning tumult through with calm,
Harmonious holy, happy, with the psalm--

Our native land is free.

O'er lives warm heights within the luminous sky,
Through death's cold vales where endless shadows
lie,

Ring forth the psalm to all who live and die--

Our land---our land is free.

Almighty God! We swear by Thy high throne,
Through pain, blood, peril in our path be sown,
This glorious land we now call our own

Shall be forever free!

A few dates in
February

- 12, 1809 Abraham Lincoln's birthday
- 3, 1865 Peace talks in Virginia fail
- 7, 1865 Sherman starts through South Carolina
- 17, 1865 Columbia, S C surrenders
- 18, 1865 Charleston, S C falls
- 20, 1864 Battle of Olustee, Fla
- 1, 1862 Capture of Fort Henry, Tenn.
- 15, 1862 Stormed Fort Donelson, Tenn.
- 27, 1862 start of Andersonville prison
- 1, 1861 Texas seceded
- 22, 1861 Lincoln stopped in Harrisburg, Pa

There are a number of 150 anniv events coming up, including the surrender, the Grand Review in Washington, Ford's Theater, Lincoln's funeral train home etc.

2016 WILL BE THE 150TH OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC. (Our father organization) DJK

Pennsylvania Annual Farm Show for 2015

Event was conducted 2nd week of January. It was the 99th annual event. In celebration of the forthcoming 100th anniversary, a limited printing of a history book has been commissioned! To order 1 or more of the limited printings, select *100 Year History of the Farm Show at <http://pafarmshowbook.com/>* - total cost with s/h and tax is \$38.00 prepaid. Supposedly, the books will be shipped after August 2015.

Reservoir Park by David W. Demmy, Sr.

At Camp 15's holiday banquet on December 14, someone asked this author about the boarded-up building near State Street entrance of Reservoir Park!

At the time I could not recall what building may have been boarded up; finally I realized what building was in question.

It is the Park's Pavilion. Since it has no windows to be broken, I believe the park personnel attempt to board up the open spaces each winter to keep winter snows and freezing rain out of it to protect it to some degree!

Original Pavilion about 1905 is shown below



Last Civil War Pensioner

The veterans of the Civil War are gone and all the pensions have been paid except for one. Irene Triplett of North Carolina still receives compensation due to her disability based on her father, Moses Triplett's, service in the 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry.

Moses attended the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, 76 years ago and died 2 weeks later.

I am asking you if you would consider sending a small donation to her so that she can buy something that she could not necessarily purchase from her funds.

Submitted by Jerome Orton, PDC, Real Sons and Daughters National Committee, SUVCW.

Therefore brothers of Camp 15, if you should like to make a nominal donation for this last lady, please send your contribution payable to Hartranft Camp 15 SUVCW, to David W Demmy, Camp treasurer. Combined funds will be issued from Camp treasury, mail to:

881 Sunny Hill Ln, Harrisburg, PA 17111 or provide it at forthcoming Camp meeting on Sunday, February 15.

Deadline for contributions is end of February 2015.

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Notes from all over

Hello, thanx for the newsletters! – Don Fry, Florida.

From Bob Manning, Idaho, working for Vacation Park.

Thanx again for inviting us to Holiday banquet - J.



And another thing: Civil War Horse Soldier Artifacts Collection

One of our newest collections on Fold3 is The [Civil War Horse Soldier Artifacts Collection](#). Like the title suggests, this collection contains images of Civil War artifacts from the [Horse Solider antique store](#) in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Visit www.Fold3.com for more info.

Recently held - 70th WWII - Battle of the Bulge Living History Commemoration January 2015 the World War II Federation and Fort Indiantown Gap Presented the 70th WWII - Battle of the Bulge Living History Commemoration at Fort Indiantown Gap, Anville, PA.

Due to the bold cold weather, many annual visitors did not attend this year's 70th anniversary event; therefore we have no firsthand account nor photos for the 2015 event. Better luck in 2016.

Brothers and Sisters in Distress

Mrs. Robert Treat
Brother Charlie Kuhn, PCinC
Mrs. Robert Manning
Brother William Neumyer
Brother Lee Walters, PCC, PDC

As always, Camp 15 is grateful to our member volunteers and our Brothers that make donations of their time and effort and funds to the Camp and our cause to continue the memory of our ancestors and the boys in blue of 61 – 65.

Continued

Pvt. David Demmy
Company C, 127th Regiment
Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry,
Dauphin, Pennsylvania.

*Great-great-grandfather of Camp 15 Brother
David W. Demmy, Sr.*



David Demmy was born in South Hanover Township, perhaps near Union Deposit. The Union Deposit Cemetery contains a number of his ancestors. David had just turned 22 years of age on Monday, August 4, 1862. The next day he came a running, along with other young men of the region, and joined

forces with a Hummelstown physician, Dr. James Henderson. Perhaps it was a romantic notion to leave home and seek out a little adventure. Perhaps he was bored with working on the farm or perhaps he was already tired of the little pay he received! David was among the men who boarded a train for Harrisburg.

Upon arriving in Harrisburg, they walked up what is now Sixth Street to the entrance of Camp Curtin at what we know as Maclay Street. These men enlisted and became members of Company C, 127th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers. In those days, the men were allowed to elect their own officers from among themselves. Dr. Henderson was duly elected Captain of Company C. Two days after David's enlistment, his younger brother, Levi, who had just turned 19, also left home and joined Company C, of the 127th Regiment.

The 127th Regiment, usually known as the "Dauphin County Regiment" was formed with men mostly from Dauphin County, but others came from the counties of Adams, Lebanon

and Schuylkill. The men had drawn tents and rations and were drilled and drilled most of the week. On August 14th, they marched to downtown Harrisburg and each private was presented with a fifty dollar enlistment bounty that had been approved by the Dauphin County Commissioners. On August 16th, the Regiment drew uniforms and marched to Wallower's warehouse at the Pennsylvania Railroad and there they drew their gleaming *Springfield* rifle muskets. These citizen soldiers, uncertain of their near future, were proud of their new guns and blue clothing.

They departed Camp Curtin on August 17th and took the train to Baltimore and then Washington. Their first official duty was to guard the Chain Bridge to keep the Confederates from crossing over the Potomac River into the Capital. Later they became attached to the Army of the Potomac and in November 1862, the Regiment marched to Falmouth, Virginia, just across the Rappahannock River from Fredericksburg. Their first combat was at the Battle of Fredericksburg. They served in the Chancellorsville Campaign and the Operations at Franklin's Crossing, Maryes Heights, Fredericksburg, Salem Heights and Bank's Ford before returning to Camp Curtin to be mustered out on May 29, 1863.

Following the service, David married Lydia Staley in Palmyra in 1863. He was a farmer living in Linglestown and Grantville. Two of their children died at birth. Upon his retirement, he lived in a duplex home in Penbrook, with his son, William F. Demmy. His daughter, Mrs. Clara Ann Demmy Wagner, lived next door. His 1912 Civil War pension was \$24.00. He died in June 1922, at the age of 81. The burial expense was \$201.50. He was laid to rest in Shoop's Cemetery, along Route 22, Jonestown Road, Lower Paxton Township. His death benefit was \$100.00. His estate also received \$75.00 from the Dauphin County Commissioners for his Civil War Service.

Members of Camp15 are encouraged to submit the

*stories of their ancestors who served in the Civil War.
Send text and photos to DoubleD@Demmy.cc*

Greg Kline's Union Ancestor Remembered:

During Camp 15's February 15, 2015 meeting, Camp Secretary, Greg Kline, PCC will give a presentation on his ancestor, Fredrick D. Kline of the 188th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Company G. Fredrick was Greg's great-great grandfather, and first enlisted in the 3rd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery. In preparation for his spring 1864 Overland Campaign against the Army of Northern Virginia, General Grant converted many Heavy Artillery units around Washington DC into Infantry units to be used in the upcoming 1864 campaign. Over the course of the coming spring and summer months, these converted infantry units would suffer particularly high casualty rates.

Unfortunately, Fredrick Kline gave the ultimate sacrifice, and was killed in action, on June 30, 1864 during operations around Petersburg, Virginia. Greg will discuss Fredrick, and how he came to know the story of his honorable ancestor, and what effects his loss had on the family. In honor of Greg's ancestor, Brother Jeffery Smith will bring various authentic civil war artillery items to be displayed at the meeting, to include an artillery uniform jacket, shells, and artillery implements.

Each member of Camp 15 is highly encouraged to share with others in the camp the story of their civil war ancestor. Whether a member just wishes to speak a few minutes at the meeting and provide the name, unit and actions that his union ancestor fought in, or a more formal presentation, like that of Brother Kline's is not important. What is important is that we remember them, and honor them, and bring their names and service back into the world of the living, so that cause to which they gave so much sacrifice will not be forgotten. Please let Brothers Jeffery Smith or Greg Kline know if you may be interested in

sharing your ancestor's story in one of the upcoming meetings.

Submitted by Camp Commander, Jeffery Smith.

New Recruit, William Jackson of Hummelstown, a longtime friend of our Dave Klinepeter has submitted application for membership in Hartranft Camp 15. His application will be voted upon at February meeting. Bill's base for membership is upon his 'Bucktail' ancestor John H. Norris who served in 13th PA Reserves and later in the 190th PVI.

On the Road with Camp 15

Monthly Camp business meetings begin at 2 p.m. and are conducted the 3rd Sunday, at National Civil War Museum!

Next Camp meeting is scheduled for this Sunday, February Camp meeting – **Sunday February 15th**

Free Community Day at National Civil War Museum, Saturday February 14th stop by and see Camp 15 table in rotunda.

March Camp Meeting – **Sunday March 15th**

April 11th Lincoln Tomb ceremonies at Springfield, Illinois.

April Camp meeting - Sunday April 19th.

May Camp meeting – **Sunday May 17th**.

Hartranft Camp Memorial events:

Saturday May 24, breakfast followed with placing flags upon veterans' gravesites at Historic Harrisburg Cemetery!

May 27th Ephraim Slaughter Day at National Civil War Museum. More info in coming news.

Slaughter was the last living civil war veteran of Harrisburg.

No Camp meeting in June, instead we hope you may attend the 2015 annual Department of Pennsylvania encampment at Williamsport, PA.

Please update your social calendar now.

Camp 15 yearly calendar available upon request. Send e-mail or contact Hartranft Herald staff DoubleD@Demmy.cc.

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 of 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 they are submitted by members.

Worksheets were inserted in Camp 15's 125th 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

Bring a nephew, uncle, brother, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend to a Camp meeting! Family and our sisters of Auxiliary 7 are always welcome!

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

End of February *Hartranft Herald*!

February 2015 Hartranft Herald Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
[Awarding winning newsletter -- Marshall A. Hope award presented to Hartranft Camp 2010-2011](#)