



Hartranft Herald

The Newsletter of

Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15

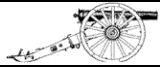
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

www.SuvcwHarrisburgPa.org/

Celebrating our 138th Year serving Harrisburg Area



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



Vol 22, No. 10 **Autumn Everywhere** October 2020



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!

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!

<p>2020 Hartranft Camp 15 Officers and Staff</p> 	<p>Commander Senior Vice Commander Junior Vice Commander Secretary Treasurer Council 01 Council 02. Council 03 Patriotic Instructor Chaplain Counselor. GAR Historian. Graves Registration Guide Color Bearer. Guard Eagle Scout Coordinator Webmaster ROTC Coordinator GAR Highway Officer Longevity Brother Honorary Brother</p>	<p>Logan Swanger 2020 Vernon Stout 2018 Scott Debo, PCC 2018 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-20 David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 07-20 Anthony Kline 16 - 21 Jeffery Smith, PCC 18-22 Scott Debo, PCC 15-20 Jeffery Smith, PCC 18 - 20 David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 00-20 Lee F. Walters, PCC since 2007 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2020 Logan Swanger 14-20 Vacant 2018 Vacant 2018 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-20 Vacant 2018 Dave W. Demmy, Jr. since 2011 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 08-20 Gregory E. Kline, PCC 11-20 Dave J. Klinepeter, PCC 1943 Late Joseph E. Long, Jr.</p>
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Camp 15 routinely meets at National Civil War Museum, at Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, PA, 2 pm, 3rd Sunday of most months. The Marshall A. Hope author award was bestowed upon *Hartranft Herald* for excellence of a camp newsletter by Brad Schall, Commander in Chief, 2010-2011.

Dept of PA: www.PAsuvcw.org National: <http://www.suvcw.org/>

October 2020 *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

Brothers and Sisters and readers of this Capital Region Camp 15 newsletter.

After a very long spring and summer under COVID orders, we had a very successful in-person camp meeting on Sunday, September 20, 2020. See minutes below for the number of discussions. Following the autumn kick off meeting, we adjourned to break bread together and had more discussions on our ancestors, cars and trucks, hobbies, and family; Please join us in October.

Our next Camp business meeting is scheduled for Sunday October 17, 2020 at 2 pm at National Civil War Museum Building upper level room 222.

Brothers and Sisters in Distress by Brother David W, Demmy, Sr., PCC, a Kentucky Colonel, Camp 15 Chaplain, CPA, and ARNG.

Camp 15 expressions our sincere condolences to the family of PCinC and Life Member Brother Richard Orr. Also, to Department Treasurer, Rob Koenigsberg and family upon death of young Mrs. Koenigsberg. Elsewhere; please include the following during your prayers:

- Blessings for Dave Klinepeter for recent ailment. Greg Kline, Tony Kline, Scott Debo. Mrs. Betz, Jim Crane of Ohio, PCinC Andy Johnson; with continued blessings for Mrs. Charlotte Walters PDP and Mrs. Dot Kline; Darlene Alcorn's son; and Lowell Alcorn, Mrs. Rosemary Martin, Mrs. Tom McKay!
- Mrs. Ellen Kowalski to care for Jerry!
- Chaplains Jerry Kowalski and Scott Teeters and Clark Brocht! PCinC Ed Krieser, PCinC Brad Schall, Mrs. Dick Williams of the department of Michigan among our prayer list too! God bless you and yours, and in all things, give thanx!
- If you have knowledge of our sisters and brothers in distress, drop us a line so we may pray for them! DoubleD@Demmy.cc

September Meeting Minutes

Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp # 15
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
National Civil War Museum, Harrisburg PA
Sunday, September 20, 2020
sunny fair weather!

Meeting called to order per our Ritual & Ceremonies, September 20, 2020 at 2:15 PM

Officers Present

Commander.....Logan Swanger
SVC..... Vernon Stout
JVC excused absence
Secretary.....excused absence
Treasurer/Chaplain.....David Demmy, Sr
Pat. Instructor/Historian.... Jeff Smith
Council..... excused absence

Officers Absent

Color Bearer.....Kelly Betz
Guide/Guard.....TBA

Members attending:

Wayne Blattner
Gene Mascioli, PCC
Dave Demmy, Jr.

Minutes of last Camp meeting
Plans were discussed for the last Civil war veteran of Perry County ceremony as well a possible battlefield clean-up again at Gettysburg this coming fall. Additional plans for Memorial Day were finalized. A trip to the Eisenhower farm was discussed as a joint venture with Camp 503.

Motion to approve last meetings minutes
1. Jeff Smith 2. Vern Stout. Motion passed!

Treasurer's Report

Brother Demmy stated there were no expenses since the last meeting and a working checkbook balance of \$497.00

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report

1. Vern Stout
2. Wayne Blattner Motion passed!

Brothers or sisters in distress:

Commander Logan wished to thank the Camp for their thoughts and prayers as he went through several surgeries this past Spring and Summer. Brother Wayne Blattner asked that we would keep his minister and friend Jim McIntyre in mind as he prepares for a double lung transplant, of Royersford UMC congregation!

Orders:

Several orders were read including one remembering Ed Bearss. Brothers Jeff and Vern remembered how happy Ed seemed at last year's Remembrance Day Parade. Brother Wayne shared several stories about meeting and spending time with Ed on various battlefield tours. He will be greatly missed.

Unfinished Business:

Commander Logan suggested we hold services for the last Civil War veteran of Perry County possibly this Spring. When we get closer to the date, he will contact the Perry County Historical Society as well as the soldier's descendants. Additionally, the camp will continue with Cumberland County after Perry County has been completed.

New Business:

Brother Jeff Smith suggested possibly holding our annual Holiday banquet on the west shore at JoJo's Italian Restaurant rather than the museum this year because of current COVID restrictions. Brother Jeff will research the possibility and share his findings with Camp Council.

The Camp website has been changed to InfoQuest from GoDaddy. Brother Dave Demmy, Jr., has kindly donated the website fees for the current year.

For the good of the order:

Brother Jeff shared an 1864 canteen with an added Corp badge. General Kearney first implemented a badge for his men, and General Hooker later adopted scheme for the entire Army of the Potomac.

Civil war slang was also discussed. Many expressions which are ancestors coined are still well known today including "bellyaching, AWOL, fit to be tied and blowhard." Brother Jeff closed with an excerpt from Wiley's book *The Life of Billy Yank*.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm. Members followed the meeting with dinner at Longhorn steakhouse on Rt. 22 aka Jonestown Road, Colonial Park.

From Out of Our Past - 2002

"In the past year I have had the pleasure to sign the charters for 11 new Camps and install the Officers of a new Department, the Department of Oklahoma who will receive their charter at this encampment. In spite of the efforts of many, many brothers to recruit new members our membership grows just fast enough to offset the number of brothers who leave our Order. We all need to work just as hard if not harder to retain our existing members. When a new brother joins we need to *get him involved in the activities of the Camp.* Find out what his interests are, why did he join? The way to keep a brother is to get him involved."

By **George Powell, CinC**, at 121st National Encampment, Springfield, IL 2002.

In Pennsylvania, 1935, young shoe shiners gather at the boots of a Civil War veteran to hear his tales:



Source: Reddit

Gone are the days of the shoe shine, when you could walk down the street and find any young man with a box and a rag who could make your shoes look as good as new. In the 1930s *boot blacks* were in most urban areas, [bus stations, and airports] and at that time there was also a confluence of the old-world meeting with the new world. Holdovers from the 19th century were still hanging out and telling stories about the last half of the 1800s.

It must have been an amazing time for a young boy to be earning a wage as a boot black. Not only were stories of the old world afoot, but the world was changing at a major rate!

God's Abraham Lincoln

By Wayne Blattner

Following our September meeting, I discovered the following bulletin insert that was included in a recent funeral service for a friend that was a Lincoln fan, named Skip Shaffer from Spring City, PA. Hope you enjoy it as much as my late friend cherished it:

GOD'S ABRAHAM LINCOLN



It has been said that after Christ, Abraham Lincoln was the greatest man that ever walked the earth. Lloyd George of England, said: "In his life he was a great American . . . in death, he belongs to the common people of every land."

When he addressed an audience it seemed as though a great organ was playing in the subdued light of an immense cathedral. The dignity, the purity and the profoundness of his speech held his listeners as in a trance. His Gettysburg address and his speech of acceptance at his second inaugural straightway passed into the list of classics in our language.

As a boy, the Bible and Pilgrim's Progress were

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among the first five books he owned and read. With a buzzard's quill for a pen and some poke-berry juice for ink, he copied many of their passages of wisdom and beauty into his note-book. He lived with these books and the effect of this association was apparent early in his young manhood. The story is told by his friend, Cap. Gilbert J. Greene that:

"One day, Mr. Lincoln said to me, 'Gilbert, there is a woman dangerously ill, fifteen miles in the country, who has sent for me to write her will. I should like to have you go with me.' I cheerfully accepted the invitation. When we arrived, the woman had but a few hours to live. After the will had been written, signed and witnessed, the dying woman said to Mr. Lincoln: "Now, I have my affairs of this world in order and I have also made preparation for the life to come. I do not fear death. I am glad that I am soon to meet those who have gone before.'

"Mr. Lincoln replied, 'Your faith is wise and strong. Your hope of a future life is blessed.' She asked him if he would read a few verses from the Bible. They offered him the Book, but he laid it aside and began reciting from memory the twenty-third psalm. Then he quoted the first part of the fourteenth chapter of John, **'In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. . .'** After he had given these and other quotations from the Scriptures, he recited several hymns, closing with 'Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me.'

"A little while later the woman passed to her reward. As we rode home in the buggy, I expressed surprise that he should have acted as pastor as well as attorney so perfectly, and he replied, 'God and eternity were very near me today.'"

One hardly need ask why this, then almost unknown, frontier lawyer rose to such a position of eminence; why the great leaders of his party, the most experienced and accomplished public men of the day, were made to stand aside while this man was led by unseen hands to the front and given the reins of power at such a critical time in our nation's history. One realizes that those unseen hands were the hands of God; for this man was God's man.

We see him in the White House during the dark days of the Civil war, the weight of grave problems almost too much to bear. He said of those times, "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seem insufficient for that day."

He sought prayers of others in behalf of himself and his nation. On one occasion he awoke his minister at half-past one in the morning and brought him to the White House, saying: "I need you!" The minister went and found the President's room strewn with maps, where he was marking out the movements of troops. He said to the minister: "There is your room, you go in there and pray, and I will stay here and watch." Three times during the night the President knelt beside the minister and prayed mightily to God to bless the boys about to die for the Republic, and to save the Republic.

Through his guidance the nation found, as he had hoped, a new birth of freedom under God; and like his beloved Saviour, he gave his life for the cause for which he was brought forth.

Chauncey Depew said, "I was one of the committee in charge of the funeral train which was bearing his body to his home . . . As we sped

Continued next page

over the rails at night the scene was the most pathetic ever witnessed. At every cross-road the glare of innumerable torches illuminated the whole population, from age to infancy, kneeling on the ground, and their clergymen leading in prayers and hymns."

So passed the greatest mortal man in history, God's Abraham Lincoln. The soil from which he came is our soil; the nation that he loved and served is our nation; the Book which guided him is our Book; the God whose hand he held is our God. With all this as our heritage, and with the example, the inspiration and the light of his life before us, we dare not fail. Let us look to God from whence came his strength, that no new Daniel shall arise to cry, **"Thou art weighed in the balance and art found wanting."** —From Ambassador Tracts.
First Mate Bob

Osterhus Pub. House, 4500 W. Broadway, Minneapolis, Minn. 55422
This tract costs 75c for 100; \$2.50 for 500; \$4.00 for 1000
Postage. Add 25 per cent (not only 25c)

Last Veteran Tribute – Perry County, Pennsylvania

More in future regarding this 2021 tribute by Camp 15.



In spite of COVID, Brother Wayne Blattner, PCC, visited General Hartranft for Memorial Day 2020 at Montgomery Cemetery.

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