

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 **143rd** Year serving Harrisburg Area

 @ [Gen. John F. Hartranft Camp 15 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War](https://www.facebook.com/GenJohnFHartranftCamp15)



Vol 27 No.02 **Come on Springtime** February 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 Officers and 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 Logan Swanger PCC 2021-2025 Scott Debo, PCC 2021-2025 Wayne Blattner 2025 David W. Demmy, Sr. PCC 2007-2025 Scott Debo, PCC 2015-2025 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2023-2025 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2018-2025 David W. Demmy, Sr., PCC 2000-2025 Logan Swanger 2014-2025 Jeffery Smith, PCC 2025 Charles Brackbill Jr 2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2025 Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2008-2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2021-2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2022-2025 Dave W. Demmy, Jr. 2011-2025 Gregory E. Kline, PDC 2011-2025 Wayne Blattner PCC 2020 - 2025 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, P 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!

February 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

Camp 15 expresses our sincere Christian sympathy to PCC brother Logan Swanger, SVC upon the recent death of his beloved mother.

Sunday February 16th the forthcoming Camp Meeting will be conducted at NCWM Bldg high atop Reservoir Park Harrisburg; potentially 2nd level ballroom, overlooking the 2 original municipal water reservoirs.

Camp officers for 2025 were very busy at the January camp meeting. Please read all about their endeavors and accomplishments under camp minutes below.

Camp 15 Dues time for year 2025

3rd & final 'announced' **notice**

To save postage you may bring your New Year 2025 Camp 15 dues of **\$50** to an early camp Meeting!

Life Members' dues are \$7.00 for the Pennsylvania Department collection, only!

Life Members are exempt from Camp 15 dues and National per capita! Camp 15 Life Members only need to remit \$7.00 dues for the PA Department! See text bottom of national [form 9](#) for specifics!

Camp treasurer prefers **\$50** check payable to **'Hartranft Camp 15, SUVCW'**.

Or mail your check to
David W. Demmy, Sr.
881 Sunny Hill Lane
Harrisburg PA 17111 – 4690

A *Check* protects both parties!

The above notice will be published in December, January, and February!

Deadline for 2025 dues is the end of February!
Donations appreciated for postage and office supplies!

CC&R Article II Membership

Section 3 (a). A Brother whose dues are not paid by **March 1 may be dropped for nonpayment of dues** by Camp. A Brother so dropped shall not be admitted to another Camp or membership-at-large unless having received the concurrence of the Camp which dropped him.

A Brother so dropped from the rolls of a Camp shall be issued a General Discharge for the Good of the Order.²⁴ ***A Brother may be reinstated by paying the current year's dues [camp and department national per capita] plus a [national] reinstatement fee of ten dollars (\$10.00)!***

For 2025 until any future increase in national per capita and/or PA Dept dues, the total reinstatement is **\$60.00** all-year-long and may not be prorated.

To become a National Life Member of our grand organization, visit national website www.suvcw.org choose forms, select form 9. Save it on your computer, open this newly saved form, complete it, save it, and attach your payment for your age bracket and mail directly to national headquarters!

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. Brother Vern Stout, PCC and Brother Ivan Frantz of York PA camp 33. Cher Petrovic, Ellen Kowalski to care for Jerry, our immediate past National Chaplain and our local chaplains too: Clark Brocht & Scott Teeters! PCinC Ed Krieser and PCinC Brad Schall. God bless you and yours, and in all things, give thanx! Blessings for Klinepeter family as they continue onward. And, Pai Swanger for recent concern; and, sister Ann McMillin!

If you have knowledge of our sisters and brothers in distress, drop us a line so we may pray for them!

DoubleD@Demmy.cc



Minutes of January 26, 2025 Camp #15 Meeting

Hold within the National Civil War Museum ballroom upper level, Harrisburg, PA.

Sunday January 26th 2025 clear and 40 degrees.

Camp Commander Brother Kyle Purchase opened the meeting according to the SUVCW Ritual. The time was 2:10 PM.

Roll Call – the following Brothers were present:

1. Kyle Purchase – Camp Commander
2. Logan Swanger – Senior Vice Commander
3. Wayne Blattner – Secretary & Council
4. David Demmy Sr. – Treasurer
5. Charles “Chuck” Brackbill – Brother
6. Jeff Smith - Patriotic Instructor & Council

Reading and Approval of Camp Meeting Minutes as printed in the *Hartranft Herald*:

The Minutes of the January meeting were read by Commander Kyle. A motion to accept the minutes as read by Brother Jeff and seconded by Brother Chuck. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report:

Brother David reviewed the status of the three banking accounts the Camp has. They are a checking account, a saving account, and a Supplemental account. At this time all three accounts have respectable balances. Brother David warned balances will change downward as the yearly expenses will need to be paid. Also members of Camp 15 need to pay their dues for 2025 by the end of February!

A motion by Brother Wayne and seconded by Brother Jeffrey to accept the treasurer’s report. Motion passed.

Brother David also thanked members of Camp #15 Council for arriving early this afternoon and doing the yearly audit of the Treasurer’s Books. Brother

Wayne and Brother Jeffery completed that task, and everything appeared to be in order.

The Report of a sick Brother or a Brother’s family in distress:

Commander Kyle referred Brothers to the latest Hartranft Herald for those who need our prayers.

From the Visiting Committee, and the Investigating Committee:

No activity at this time.

Reading and disposing of orders, communications, and bills:

All orders from the Pennsylvania Department, and the National Office SUVCW, are collected by Brother David and e-mailed to our members to view. Brothers check emails in your in box to view!

Today, Camp Commander Kyle has authored Camp 15, Order #1. It is in reference to Brother Charles “Chuck” Brackbill. Chuck has volunteered to become Camp #15 Counselor. Thank you and congratulations Chuck!

Old Business:

Brother Logan bought us up to date on the “Last Veteran’s “Program. He said there is a Civil War Veteran grave in Juniata County. Possibility of visiting his grave and conducting the Last Veteran ceremony in the fall of 2025.

Unfinished Business:

Brother Chuck reviewed with the “Camp 15 Hartranft” shirt project. The design looks great! The next step is for National to review and approve the design to get the ball rolling. More information to come. [post meeting note: Chuck will be meeting with local company in very near future to establish a deal for polo/golf shirts for camp brothers use and other style shirts for each brothers personal needs.

Brother Wayne is the Eagle Scout Coordinator. He asked where the local Boy Scout Council is located. Logan mentioned it is the “New Birth of Freedom

Council". Brother Wayne will go through the process of finding a contact person. The question was raised, what is the current status of the SUVCW certificate since there are no more Boy Scouts of America? Now it is "Scouts of America". National SUVCW office is supposedly modifying the current Eagle Scout certificate.

New Business:

Brother Jeff our Patriotic Instructor, explained he needs our Camp 15 brother's to fill out SUVCW form 40 which focuses on volunteer hours they did promoting the SUVCW. Once completed, please bring them to the Camp meeting in February, and return them to Brother Jeff.

Commander Kyle reported Camp 19 raising money for the repair of the General John F. Reynolds grave site in Lancaster County. A motion was made by Commander Kyle, and seconded by Brother Chuck, for Camp 15 to donate \$20 to the cause. All were in favor. This will take place after a review by Camp 15 Council. Motion passed.

Commander Kyle said he will establish 2 new committees. One titled "Grave Registration and Last Veteran Committee". The second one is titled Recruiting and Fund-Raising Committee. Brother Logan will head the Grave Registration Committee. The Recruiting and Fund-Raising Committee may be headed by Brother Scott Debo, with Commander Kyle and Brother Chuck assisting. Please see the latest issue of the January 2025 Hartranft Herald, page number three, right column for more details.

Brother David was asked to please check with the Civil War Museum when the next scheduled Public Open House is. Camp 15 would like to participate.

February 8th the Gobin Camp 503, will host the Lincoln Luncheon at 1:00 in Sunbury PA. The location is the Packer House. Make your reservation and meal choice now!

New Camp Commander Kyle Purchase received the Camp Commander Badge "pinned" by Brother Logan Swanger pictured below:



The installation of additional Officers for Camp 15 was completed performed by Commander Kyle. Brother Logan Swanger, for Graves Registration, and Brother Jeff Smith for Patriotic Instructor.

Good of the Order:

Brother David presented a copy of the 2008 Camp 15 official history to Commander Kyle. The book was the last known history book of camp 15.



A very large metal GAR star grave flag holder was donated to SUVCW. Camp 15 will place this item at the grave site of General Geary in the Harrisburg Cemetery on Saturday May 24th.

At the Harrisburg area holiday luncheon for camp 15 held on December 21st, one of the many conversations was about the WWII war years steel pennies. A sample display was pictured in the January newsletter and David handed out a steel [silver looking] penny to each brother present at the January meeting. Also, David recently acquired an 1890 newspaper, *The Sunday Capital* [of Harrisburg] which highlighted an article on General Hartranft. Brother Chuck hopes to extract text from this newspaper to produce snippets that can be used for Parts I and Part II articles in forthcoming *Hartranft Herald*s. Also

David shared an old photo that included former Camp Commander David J. Klinepeter, along with a cousin of our own David Demmy Sr., [Don Demmy Wagner], and last but not least a gentleman named Charlie Oellig. [all 3 were members of Knaps Battery]. Charlie lives in the Harrisburg area and has quite a collection of Civil War and military items. Charlie expressed he will open his home museum to a few camp 15 visitors weather permitting this spring.

Patriotic Instructor Presentation:

Brother Jeff presented a talk with a two-sheet handout titled "Major Events Occurring in January Civil War 1861-1865". Thank you Brother Jeff!

Adjournment:

Adjournment the Camp took place approximately 4:30 P.M., with Commander Kyle using the SUVCW Ritual. Next meeting is February 16, 2025.

Respectively submitted, Wayne N. Blattner, Camp Secretary.

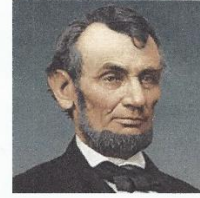
Brothers departed for home or local steak house to continue the day.

Items from the recent annual PA Dept Lincoln Luncheon held at

The Packer House, Sunbury PA

Magical events, custom menus, and a historic venue in the heart of the Central Susquehanna Valley.

[Home | The Packer House](#)



Pennsylvania Department Lincoln Luncheon
Packer House, Sunbury PA
Saturday, February 8, 2025

Opening Remarks

Greg Kline, Past Pennsylvania Department Commander

Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance

Fred Wertman, Camp Commander, Camp 503

Invocation

Scott Debo, PCC, Chaplain, Camp 503

Meal

Speaker

John Deppen, Civil War Historian
"Intolerable Slobber & Gush-Union Thoughts on Confederate Remembrance"

Benediction

Greg Kline, PDC, Secretary, Camp 503

Camp 15 on the Road for 2025

~~January Meeting 19th~~

~~February 8th Lincoln Luncheon hosted by Sunbury
Camp 503. For details visit:~~

~~<https://www.pasuvcw.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-Lincoln-Luncheon-Invite.pdf> RSVP Deadline February 1st.~~

February Meeting 16th

March Meeting 16th

April Meeting 6th [due to Easter on 3rd Sunday]

April 12th National Council Meeting at Springfield

May Meeting 18th

Memorial Day weekend 24th with Camp annual breakfast prior to visiting historical Harrisburg Cemetery and Lincoln Cemetery in Penbrook.

June 20 – 21 [Annual Pennsylvania Department Encampment](#).

July recess

August 7-10 [Annual National Encampment](#)

September Meeting 21st

October Meeting 19th

November 15th Remembrance Day Parade

November 16th National Council Meeting. Gettysburg.

December Holiday Event TBA

Dates subject to the call of our Camp Commander.

Copies of 2025 colorful word version camp calendar available upon request. submit email request to DoubleD@Demmy.cc.

Calendar is not pdf so you may save the file and update it to suit your schedule and personal needs.

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.

.....YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED.....



Testimonial Dinner

IN HONOR OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
WILLIAM FISCHER

*Coopers Seafood House
701 N. Washington Ave
Scranton, PA*

22 MARCH, 2025 | 3:00 PM -5:30 PM

Buffet Style Dinner
\$24.00 per person
RSVP to Bill Dixon at minerdixon@gmail.com
by March 14th, 2025

Anyone wanting to attend and form carpool from Museum Building at Harrisburg to Scranton, contact DoubleD@Demmy.cc

The trip from The Burg to Scranton will be 2 hour tour. Recommend departing Reservoir Park NLT 1230 pm; arrive 230 pm for check-in!

Return to The Burg about 830-ish.

~~~~ The End ~~~~