

Brothers,

For the third time in 2015, we broke bread together while working toward a successful year for our camp. In attendance on March 10th were George Lane, Steve Wallace, Lee Johnson, Mike Downs, Doug Fidler, Craig Brown, and David McReynolds. Plus, Mike brought along his "better half" which is an idea more of us should consider. Craig made it just in time (duty called) so he counts. And we welcomed back Lee Johnson to our camp as he reinstated his membership. Bob Wallace sent his regrets that he could not attend because of his wife's injury during the recent bad weather. And Sam Wilson sent his regrets that he could not attend because of his very recent surgery to repair a retinal detachment. So we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Chloe Wallace and to Brother Sam Wilson. Scott Alley sent his regrets due to being out of town on business but he plans to attend our quarterly meeting on March 23rd.

Brother Secretary Doug Fidler reminded everyone that if not already paid, dues for 2015 are delinquent. Dues are \$35 and if you haven't paid, please contact Doug and he will get you all fixed up in no time at all. (Doug's e-mail is dkfidler@charter.net.) Brother Fidler also presented two new member applications - one regular and one junior - which were passed around the table and reviewed by those members present. Upon a motion which was seconded, the members in attendance approved the applications unanimously without objection. Brother Fidler will now share these applications with the rest of our camp to complete the process. The junior member is a cub scout and we have invited his troop to participate in our camp's Sultana event on May 3rd. It is also planned, that with the approval of the camp, that we will initiate him into membership at that event. Brother McReynolds commented that in his conversation with Norman Shaw that he learned that Boy Scouts participated in the original dedication of the Sultana monument on July 4, 1916. Brother Fidler suggested that we might also consider inviting the Boy Scout Troop that is associated with the home school program in Blount County.

The next event on our calendar is our quarterly meeting on March 23rd at the Blount County Public Library in the Sharon Lawson Room starting at 6:30 pm. We will need some brothers to arrive early so that we can get the room set up properly for our meeting. This meeting is open to the public and especially open to any prospective new members for our camp. Brother Mike Downs will be presenting the educational program. We also invite the families of our brothers to attend. I think that it's also important that we get to know a little bit about each of our families in promoting the essence of our fraternal order. We want to have as many as possible attend. And those brothers with a uniform are encouraged to wear them. Brothers George Lane and Mike Downs will try to appropriately pass along information about the meeting at the Civil War Roundtable in Knoxville. I encourage all brothers to do everything possible to promote this meeting and to do everything possible in order to attend. It's an important step in the development of our camp.

On Saturday, April 18th, our camp will participate in the Civil War Encampment at the Thompson Brown House (which is across US 321 from Blount Memorial Hospital). Brother George Lane will set up and take down our tent although he has a business commitment that will not allow him to be there during the event. Brother Steve Wallace will be at the event but will also have other duties related to his volunteer work at the museum. Brother Lee Johnson offered to spend some time at our time as did Camp Commander David McReynolds and Brother Doug Fidler. I will be sending out a sign-up sheet for this event by the end of the month. We need as much help as possible so that too much is not on the shoulders of one or two.

We also discussed camp events for the Blue and Gray Reunion and Freedom Jubilee coming up April 30th - May 3rd in Knoxville, TN. There has been some problem in getting our major event - the Sultana monument rededication - on the official calendar at the right time and with a good description. Brother George Lane reported that this should be corrected this week. Brother David McReynolds also reported that he has provided information to the East Tennessee Historical Society to help in this endeavor and also reported on his telephone conversation with Norman Shaw, a renowned scholar on the disaster, who will be providing a 15-minute educational program at the event. Several brothers offered to check into the possibility of getting one or more funeral homes to provide a tent and chairs for the event or even if the church might provide some assistance. The Sultana Rededication will take place at 2 pm, May 3rd, at the Mount Olive Cemetery on Old Knoxville Highway. We will need brothers to help set up and to take part in

the ceremonies. A program of events for the ceremony is currently being prepared. Brother Steve Wallace reminded us that his brass group will be performing and he offered that they will play the National Anthem as well as a medley of Civil War era melodies at the appropriate point in the ceremony. As we discussed last month, Brother Fidler has invited the ROTC units in Blount County to participate with a color guard, rifle salute and bugler.

On May 1st, mid-morning, our camp will participate in a memorial ceremony commemorating the 75th anniversary of the death of Blount County's last Civil War Veteran, Private Benjamin Franklin of the 1st United States Colored Heavy Artillery. This event is to be held at the Maple Grove Cemetery which is just off Lamar Alexander Parkway behind the Lone Oak Baptist Church. We need as many brother as who can to participate. I leave the planning for this event in the fine hands of Brother Secretary Doug Fidler who I believe is already on top of the details. Doug - please let us know how we can help you make this a great event.

On the evening of May 1st at 6:30 pm will be the Blue and Gray Dinner and Ball at the Convention Center in downtown Knoxville. Tickets may be purchased online or through Brother George Lane. Should be a great event and one we can wear full uniform attire. As many of us as possible should try to attend.

On May 2nd, we will have our tent set up to participate in the Civil War Exposition in Krutch Park in downtown Knoxville. We will need brothers to man the tent over the course of the day. Because it may be hot and we will need our uniforms for the 3rd, we will likely only wear hats and perhaps partial uniforms for this event. But I leave that up to each person individually. I will send our a sign up sheet for this event as well as we get a little closer to its time.

If there is something I left out, please feel free to share it with everyone. Our next lunch meeting (Camp Mess) will be Tuesday, April 14th, at 12 Noon. Same place - Calhoun's on the Creek in Maryville, TN. I hope even more brothers will be able to attend.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

David McReynolds

Commander, Maj. Wm. A. McTeer Camp No. 39, SUVCW