

**QUARTERLY MEETING OF
MAJOR WILLIAM A. McTEER CAMP 39
DEPARTMENT OF TENNESSEE
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

Members of Major William A. McTeer Camp 39 met at the Blount County Library for its quarterly meeting on Monday, 22 June 2015. Commander David H. McReynolds called the meeting to order at 1840 hours.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David McReynolds (Commander), Mike Downs (SVC), Steve Wallace (JVC), Doug Fidler (Secretary, PDC, PCC), Craig Brown (PCC, PDC), George Lane (PCC), Eddie Evans, Mark Fortner, Charles Godfrey, Carter Holmes, Richard Holmes, A.B. McTeer, Jason McTeer, Norman Shaw, Sam Wilson.
REGRETS: David Duggan (illness), Bob Wallace (illness), Gary Woolf (prior commitment).

GUESTS/SPOUSES/PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT: Cindy McReynolds, Rachel McReynolds, Pamela Wilson, Nancy and Jack McEntee, Debbie Smithson, Janice and Christopher Veal, John Keeble, David Griffin, Chris Whitehead

1. Commander McReynolds began by expressing his appreciation for the large turnout of Brothers and guests. He introduced the educational speaker for the evening, Bro. Norman C. Shaw
2. Brother Shaw, recently elected as an associate member of the camp, presented a portion of a DVD entitled "The Sultana Documentary" that is in post-production editing. It is arguably one of the finest discussions of the Sultana Disaster that occurred north of Memphis on the Mississippi River on 27 April 1865. Over 1,800 prisoners-of-war returning to their homes were lost when the boiler blew up.
3. Commander McReynolds returned to the business of the Order after the completion of the presentation at 1910 hours.
 - a. The National Encampment will be held at Richmond, Virginia, 20-23 August. Five McTeer Brothers will be attending as delegates, but there are still openings for delegate positions should any wish to attend. Department Commander Mike Downs announced that the Annual Department Encampment will be in Memphis, Tennessee, on 20 February 2016.
 - b. The minutes of the previous meeting (23 March 2015) were approved after a call for a vote, first and second motion, and the unanimous vote of the brothers.
 - c. The commander reported that Treasurer Bob Wallace was at Fort Sanders Hospital with a suspected minor stroke. He was doing well. In his absence, the Commander gave a brief Treasurer's Report. The current bank balance is \$1,858.64.
 - d. PCC Lane suggested that the Brothers should use some of this money to purchase a large camp flag, U.S. flag, and poles and stands. The brothers supported the purchase but requested that there be research to determine the cost. [Secretary's Note: the Quartermaster's price for the camp flag with fringe is \$440.00; price without fringe is \$390.00. The other items would be \$150.00 to \$200.00 more.] The commander suggested that the expense be met, at least in part, with volunteer contributions from the brothers so that more treasury funds could be spent in the community do the business of the camp to preserve history, mark graves and protect memorials. He asked that all consider sending a "free will offering" by check to the Secretary who will return a receipt to the contributor for tax purposes. He stressed that Brothers should feel no pressure to contribute. A separate message will be sent by email soon with more specifics. If all brothers were to contribute \$10 to \$20, the cost of the camp flag could be met.

e. The commander announced that the Camp will petition the National Commandery of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for permission to form an auxiliary for McTeer Camp (see <http://www.asuvcw.org/mem.htm> and <http://www.asuvcw.org/org.htm>). Upon approval, a committee will be formed to move forward with its organization and charter.

f. The secretary informed the Brothers that the Veterans Affairs Office and a local committee have established a fund-raiser to pay for the rebuilding of the War Dead Memorial on the lawn of the Blount County Court House. They may purchase a brick for the Veterans Walk of Honor to memorialize any veteran who has served honorably in the Armed Forces, whether deceased, missing in action, still serving, or retired. The brick will cost \$150.00, and permit three lines, 18 characters per line. Checks should be made payable to "United Veterans of Blount County" and mailed to UVBC, 305 Court Street, Maryville, TN 37804. Contact the Veterans Affairs Office at the Court House at 865-273-5760 for more information.

g. The commander reminded the Brothers that the next McTeer Mess will occur on 14 July 2015 at Calhoun's in Maryville (near the Mall). The next public meeting will be on 21 September and will feature Dr. Aaron Astor of the Maryville College History Department. It will be at the Dead End BBQ, 527 W Broadway Ave, Maryville, TN (cattycorner to Maryville City Hall). The commander confirmed that the next Camp Encampment will be held at the East Tennessee Historical Museum on 7 November 2015. The details must be worked out because the Camp is coordinating a partial joint meeting with the sisters of the Lucinda Heatherly Tent No. 3, DUVCW. More details will follow when plans are completed.

4. The commander next expressed his thanks for the participation of several brothers at the Sultana Sesquicentennial event. He presented certificates of participation to the following brothers: Garrett Chapman, Patrick Chapman, Michael Downs, Doug Fidler, Paddy Fitzsimons (via Skype from Belfast, Northern Ireland), Roy Gamble, Lee Johnson, George Lane, Tim Massey, Joe McReynolds, Norman Shaw, Bob Wallace, and Steve Wallace.

5. Department Commander Michael Downs next administered the Oath of Membership to the following new members of the SUVCW: Mark Fortner, Carter Holmes, Richard Holmes, A.B. McTeer, Jason McTeer, and Norman Shaw.

The meeting concluded at 2020 hours.

FOR THE COMMANDER

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Douglas K. Fidler, PhD, PDC, PCC
Secretary, Maj Wm A. McTeer Camp 39
Department of Tennessee