



GREENEVILLE LODGE NO. 3 F. & A. M.

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Greeneville Lodge News

This is going to be a very busy month for Greeneville Lodge No. 3, and everyone's support and assistance is very much appreciated and needed.

Two main topics at the July 7 stated meeting will be our official visit and the annual Mountaintop Degree. Both are vitally important in terms of the perception of our lodge by others. We cannot afford to do things halfheartedly at either event. When visitors leave one of Greeneville Lodge No. 3's events, they should be saying, "What a great experience," rather than, "Those guys messed that up."

Our official visit, where Grand Lecturer Robert Reed grades our lodge on Masonic proficiency, is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14 starting at 7 p.m. Not only is it important for the officers to attend and do the work well, it is important to have as many members present as possible. Active membership is a sign of a strong lodge.

The Mountaintop Degree is Saturday, July 18. We will eat at 11 a.m., with the degree work starting about 1 p.m. This year's Mountaintop Degree is special because it will be conferred as a Civil War degree with all

active participants dressed in period clothing. Brother Billy White and a group from Kyle Lodge in Whitesburg will be conferring the degree, so our main focus must be on preparation. A lot of work is involved in getting all the necessary items to the top of Viking Mountain and setting them up for an open-air Master Mason's degree, so please check with one of the officers to see what you can do to help. We will have many visitors from across the state and out of state, and we want to make a positive, lasting impression.

If you have never seen a Civil War degree, you don't want to miss this. If you have never been to the Mountaintop Degree, come prepared. Bring a chair and a coat; the weather is unpredictable and can change in a matter of minutes up there.

Also this month, on Saturday the 11th, Greeneville will host the Chapter and Council Group Meeting. This will be a picnic-style event and is open to everyone. Please join us, and bring your family, even if you are not a member of the York Rite. If you are in the York Rite, this is your opportunity to meet and visit with your Grand Officers. We will

eat starting at noon. The dress for the event is casual.

That same day, the Greeneville Scottish Rite Club will hold its annual car show. The car show will be held in the parking lot of Big Lots. The event is a fund raiser to raise money to purchase shoes for the Shoes-for-Kids Mercy Fund.



A Brotherhood Undivided

by Joe Byrd (Past Master)

The War Between the States, fought bitterly from 1861-1865, was the single most divisive event in American history. Its name alone signifies a split, a division. Greenville itself was hotly divided in loyalties. Families fractured, and friends faltered. Loyalties were stretched to the limit.

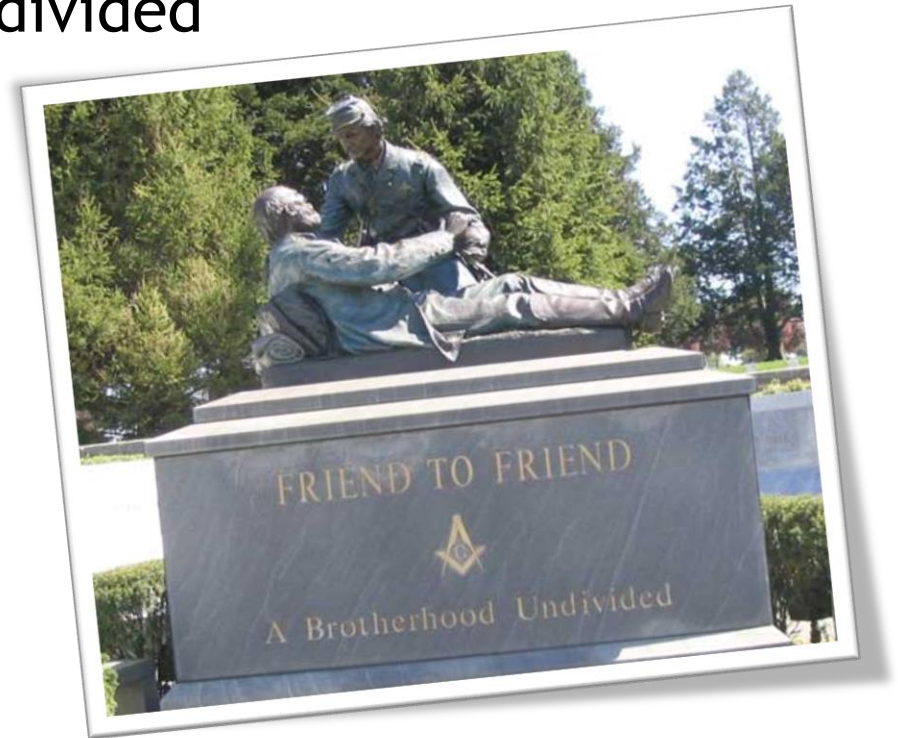
One thing seemingly immune to this maelstrom that ravaged the nation was Freemasonry.

Even as brother fought brother and hundreds of thousands took up arms in defense of their convictions, Masons remembered their obligations. The thought of Masons helping, aiding, and assisting their Brothers while all around them sought to destroy their fellow man is not Hollywood fantasy; it is a documented historical fact. There are dozens of recorded instances of Masonic relief overcoming political differences on the battlefields.

One of my favorite books is *Better Angels of our Nature*, and another great read on the subject of Freemasonry during the Civil War is *House Undivided*. Both are an excellent source of information and stories about actual cases where Brothers stood by their obligations during a time of great conflict.

There is evidence that on more than one occasion, Masons laid down their arms and put aside their differences to come together and confer a degree or give funeral rights in no-man's land between the two opposing armies. These men clad in gray and blue would be literally shooting at one another during the day, sitting side by side in the evening, offering prayers for one another's safety as they parted, and resuming armed conflict the very next morning.

In other instances, homes and farms were left untouched by the ravages of war because there was a Masonic symbol on the door. Prisoners of war on both sides, who were known to be Masons, just like their captors, mysteriously vanished in the night and found safe passage back to their lines. When the Confederate capital of Richmond fell, the local Masonic lodge building was placed under armed guard by the Union commander, who just happened to be a Mason, to prevent it from being looted or burned.

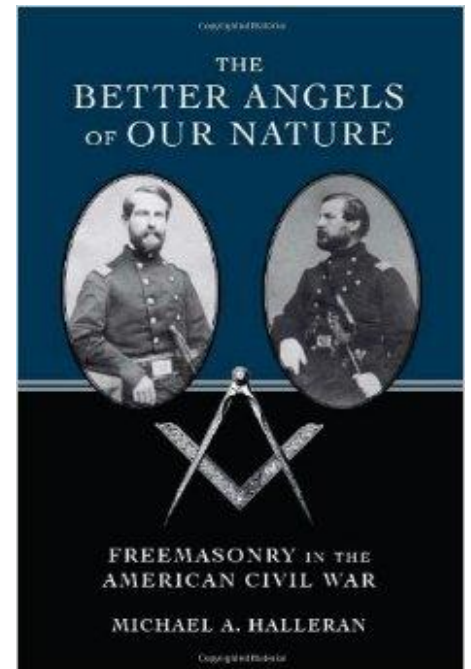


In short, Masonic fraternal ties transcended war.

If you want to see a living history performance of just what this Masonic relief might have looked like, you don't want to miss our annual Mountaintop Degree on Saturday, July 18. This year's degree will be special because it will be a Civil War degree where all the active participants, from all those involved in conferring the degree down to the candidate, will be dressed in period clothing. A special thanks goes out to the members of Kyle Lodge who will be handling the lion's share of the work. We expect Civil War re-enactors from across the state and from out of state as well to be on hand and in uniform. The group puts on a special skit before the degree work to show what it was probably like when armed men from Confederate and Union forces eased away from their respective lines to meet on the level. That part, in itself, is most impressive.

But to witness men with different beliefs and ideals, the beliefs and ideals that fractured an entire nation, sitting side by side in harmony while the world around them burned shows just how strong and great the bonds of friendship and brotherly love truly are.

Freemasonry is better than political and social turmoil. We, as Masons today, have an obligation to our fraternity and to our country, to live up to the standards of those who have gone before us.



Greenville Scottish Rite Club



SCOTTISH RITE SHOE PROGRAM

200

Monthly Report

200

Year to Date Report

LODGE OF SORROW
2015

Greenville York Rite



Greenville Chapter and Council will be hosting the Group Meeting Saturday July, 11th.

Chapter and Council are currently dark June – August.



The annual Greene County Scottish Rite Club car show is coming in July! We encourage all to attend. The car show raises money in support of the Mercy Fund – Shoes-for-Kids program. We hope to make 2015 the biggest year yet!

Car Show / Group Meeting

The Greene County Scottish Rite Club will be hosting the annual car show in the parking lot of Big Lots on Saturday July, 11th. This is the Club's biggest fund raiser in support of the Shoes-for-Kids Mercy Fund.

The Club expects this year's event to be the biggest year yet. There will be several fun activities with many door prizes. New this year will be a dunking booth.

Just up the street from the Scottish Rite car show at Greenville Lodge No. 3 will be the Chapter and Council Group Meeting. This will be a picnic style event with casual dress.

Please feel free to bring your family and friends. If you are interested in joining the York Rite, this is a great opportunity to truly see what York Rite Masonry is really about. It also provides a chance to meet the Grand Chapter and Grand Council officers.



Announcements

~ *Greeneville Lodge Stated Meeting –
July 7th @ 7:30 p.m.*

~ *Order of the Eastern Star Stated
Meeting – July 9th @ 7:30 p.m.*

~ *Scottish Rite Club Car Show –
July 11th*

~ *Chapter / Council Group Meeting –
July 11th @ 12:00 Noon*

~ *Greeneville Lodge Official Visit – July
14th @ 7:00 p.m.*

~ *Greene County Scottish Rite Club –
July 16th @ 6:30 p.m.*

~ *Mountain Top Degree –
July 18th @ 1:00 p.m.*

~ *O.E.S. Official Visit –
July 24th @ 7:00 p.m.*

~ *Commandery Stated Meeting –
July 27th @ 7:00 p.m.*

**Guiding
Light**

**July, 2015
Issue 16**

Please feel free to submit articles, pictures, news, favorite quotes, ect. This applies to all Bodies that meet at Greeneville Lodge No. 3 F. & A. M. Submissions can be sent to the Editor.

All submissions will be reviewed and approved by the Editor before publishing. Having a steady flow of content is crucial for the success of this newsletter. Thank you for your contribution and support.

John Sayne (Editor)

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