

**The M. Graham Clark Chapter
Missouri Society
The Sons of the American Revolution
20 December 2014 Meeting Minutes**

Opening

The meeting was called to order by President J. Y. Miller at 8:32 am. The colors were posted by the Color Guard. There were 14 members and 13 visitors present. Chaplain Merrill gave the invocation; COM Chance led the Pledge of Allegiance and COM Bryan Bradford led the SAR Pledge.

The following visitors were noted: Chris Maring of the DAR, Jonathan Butler, a prospective member, and Ellen, Jonathan's wife. Also, Michael Maring, a member of our chapter was present. He attends university in Minnesota, so his attendance was greatly appreciated.

December birthdays announced were Sonny Rains, and COM Merrill.

COM DeVenny announced that December 17th was his and Laura's 47th anniversary.

The chapter was then adjourned at 8:38 am for breakfast.

Reconvened

The meeting was reconvened at 9:06 am and President Miller called on Secretary Kerr to give the minutes from the November 2014 meeting. The following corrections were noted: in the minutes, Roslyn Heights was misspelled and also in the October program, General Braddock was listed as being "killed in the middle of the road" and it should have been "**buried**" instead of "killed". Other than that, the minutes were approved as read.

President Miller then called on Treasurer Coutts to give the Treasurer's report. COM Coutts reported that as of 20 November 2014, the M. Graham Clark Operations Account balance was \$1,983.66. He further stated that, as of 30 November 2014, the M. Graham Clark Endowment Fund balance was \$13,127.66, of which \$354.31 was in available funds. The report was approved as read.

Unfinished Business

President Miller then announced that prospective member Harry Lehenbauer's application was in need to being printed on SAR paper and that is in process.

COM Bradford reminded the chapter that COM DeVenney is presently running for the position of National Registrar and that he could use our support in the upcoming National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky this coming July.

New Business

President Miller announced the proposed slate of officers for the year 2015. The election of officers will be held in the January 2015 meeting and members can chose to elect others than are listed if they wish. The proposed slate of officers is as follows:

President: COM Jack Chance

Immediate Past president: COM J. Y. Miller

Vice-President COM Loren Wayne Reynolds

Secretary: COM Harold Kerr

Treasurer: COM John Coutts
Genealogist: COM Ed Thomas
Chaplain: COM J. Wayne Merrill
Historian: COM J. Wayne Merrill
Sergeant at Arms: COM Larry Dietzel
Trustees: COM Lee Woodward, COM Russ DeVenney and COM J. Y. Miller

President Miller also reminded the attendees that the cost of breakfast at the meetings will go up to \$12.00 starting with the January 2015 meeting.

Program

President Miller then introduced the program speaker, COM Col. James Coy. COM Coy's presentation was on the "ROOTS and the Eagle Series". COM Coy stated as background he has had several health issues, resulting in 5 biopsies, 4 major surgeries, two series of radiation and chemo for 30 days. He said he was a doctor and was in special ops in the United States Army, and, when he was commission, his two brothers who were noncommissioned officers, told him they hope he will not just be a doctor who is in the Army, but be the best Army officer and doctor he could be and that he took this to heart. He said he went through flight school and assault school as a part of his training. He stated that the total years served by his two brothers and himself is 93 years in the Army.

COM Coy mentioned his health issues as these experiences brought him to have a ministry of faith, and as a part of this, he has written and published books dealing with Faith, Adult men's education, Prisoners of War, Medal of Honor, and the Eagle Series. He said all the money he gets from the sale of these books go towards sending children to parochial schools, and also that he sends these books to troops stationed overseas. The earnings from these books have gotten to \$100,000 thus far.

COM Coy then related his family history, saying that it goes back to the 1650-era when the first COY family member who died in the service of his country, Cpl Richard Coy, was killed in the French & Colonial War. He had a great grandfather, Sgt. John Coy, from North Carolina, who was in the Revolutionary War. A couple of John Coy's cousins, Pvt Daniel Coy and Pvt Samuel Coy, were in the War of 1812 and were from Kentucky. Samuel was a POW for over two years.

He also had a great grandfather, James Coy, who was in the Union army during the Civil War. His unit was the 39th Missouri Infantry, and the company he was in was not present in Centralia at the time of the massacre there, but a couple of the companies from that engagement were present, and it is a testament that he was not present, or else COM Coy would not be here now.

COM Coy said that in 1978, when the TV show "Roots" was shown, he became interested in researching his family history and he knew his family came to Missouri from Hodgenville Kentucky, so he made a trip there to try to look up a Coy family member. He found one, and when he went to the door, the man there acknowledged his name was COY, but when COM Coy asked whether they might be related, the man looked COM Coy up and down, and the way he was dressed, and simply said, "nope", and shut the door. This was despite the fact that this man looked just like one of COM Coy's uncles.

COM Coy said that, given the fact that once a COY made up his mind about something, there was no way to change his mind so he just left at that point.

COM Coy said years later, he went back there and found people he was related to, but this man had died.

A way COM Coy said family history and spiritual aspects of life could come together is by the story of the brothers Jacob and Esau in the book of Genesis. In this story, Jacob, who was a “moma's boy” and Esau, who was favored by their father and was a hunter, had the occurrence where Esau went hunting, and came home empty handed but Jacob was cooking some soup with beans and lentils. Esau said he sure would like some of that soup and Jacob said he would give it to him if he gave up something: his family birthright, which Jacob did. COM Coy said we can separate ourselves from our human and spiritual families by the decisions we make.

COM Coy said this is summation: there is one thing we will all experience, sooner or later, and that is death from this world. He then made the following point: when we die, and go to the Heavenly gates, do we want the being who meets us there, and looks us over, and, when asked if we are related, have that being says, “Nope” based on the decisions we make?

He then said if we miss Heaven, we miss everything.

Further Announcements

President Miller then asked if there is anyone wishing to get a new photo taken, or information added to the website, please let him know.

COM DeVenney stated that there still is an award to be given to COM Keith Royce, and this has not happened yet as COM Royce is in ill health. COM DeVenney asked the attendees to remember COM Royce in their prayers.

COM Bradford asked if COM Merrill wanted to give a brief Color Guard Report. COM Merrill said that the Color Guard was at the activities at Roslyn Heights and also at the Wreaths for Heroes in Jefferson City, which was done in conjunction with participants of Sea Cadets.

Good of the Chapter

COM Cunningham mentioned again that the “Kilroy was here” award is alive and well. He said COM DeVenney is seen in all these publications, and he was in the SAR Magazine that came out recently. COM Cunningham distributed background information into “Kilroy was here” from World War II.

Closing

There being no further business, President Miller called for the colors to be retired. COM DeVenney led the SAR Recessional and the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold H. Kerr II, Secretary
M Graham Clark Chapter, SAR