

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

Opening

President J. Y. Miller II opened the M. Graham Clark Chapter meeting at 8:30 am at the Hy-Vee store located at Providence and Nifong in Columbia, Missouri. There were 30 attendees. The colors were posted by COM DeVenney, COM Merrill, and the color guard was augmented by Eagle Scout Charles Bridger Creed. Chaplain Merrill gave the opening prayer, COM Terrill Jones led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and COM Dietzel led the pledge to the SAR.

The Charter was draped in memory of COM Dr. Joy Eugene Whitener, who passed away on 7 February 2014. Chaplain Merrill led the group in prayer in the memory of COM Whitener.

President Miller asked if there were any visitors and those of note were: Prospective member Mike French and his wife, Bobbi, Eagle Scout Charles Bridger Creed and his parents, Jill and Rodney Creed, Debbie Jones, the wife of COM Terrill Jones, and Dr. Ron Walkenbach, the Director of Programs of the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation, and his wife, Deanna.

President Miller read a thank you card from the Quilts of Valor, which they sent in response to the \$500 donation the chapter gave the previous month. President Miller asked if there were any birthdays, and the following birthdays were noted: COM Coutts, President Miller, COM Lybarger, and COM Albright.

Breakfast being late, COM Cunningham gave an item of interest, in that COM DeVenney (a/k/a "Kilroy") was noted several times in the latest issue of the SAR Magazine—so many times it was a wonder he wasn't on the cover. COM Cunningham noted that one of the three surviving members of Doolittle's Raid, which did make the cover, lives in the Missoula Montana area and the next time he gets there to see his daughter who lives there he is hoping to see him. COM Cunningham's item of interest was both informative and entertaining.

Secretary's Report

President Miller then asked COM Harold Kerr to give the Secretary's Report, which was read and approved, with the needed addition of one item that did not make the minutes from the January 18, 2014 meeting: that the Howard County Missouri Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will have their 100th anniversary celebration on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the First Baptist Church in Fayette, Missouri, at 3:00 p.m. With that addition, the minutes were approved.

At this time the meeting was adjourned for breakfast.

Reconvened

President Miller brought the meeting back to order at 9:29 am.

At this time, President Miller asked COM Coutts to present the Treasurer's report. The ending balance of the Operations Account on January 31, 2014 was \$2,015.06. The M. Graham Clark Endowment balance on January 31, 2014 was \$13,121.66, of which \$349.98 are available funds. The treasurer's report was approved.

Announcements

COM DeVenney mentioned that COM George Holmes is present for the first time in a long while, since his being in the service and also working in distant areas makes it harder for him to attend. He asked if COM Merrill would speak a bit about COM Holmes and COM Holmes's father, Bill, who was also a member of SAR. COM Merrill mentioned that he has known COM Holmes's family for a very long time, that they are related through the Lucas family, and are fine people, and he was very glad to see COM Holmes here.

COM Kerr reminded the group of the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Howard County Missouri Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and their celebration will be held at 3:00 pm at the First Baptist Church in Fayette, Missouri on Saturday, March 22, 2014. COM DeVenney asked COM Kerr to email him with these particulars and he would get the word out to the honor guard about attending this. COM Kerr said he would do that.

COM Dietzel mentioned that, being the Commander of the local Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp, he has been trying to get a headstone for a Union veteran named Sgt. Wallace Lilly, but that the government wants these to be placed only when there is a next of kin to request this. This is exceedingly hard to accomplish and COM Dietzel asked that members contact their local representative and senators about this issue.

COM Foltz mentioned to the group that there is a program in place where the SAR, ancestry.com and the VA are working together so that veterans can do research on their family histories. He mentioned that he and his wife have access to ancestry.com, fold3 and also international ancestry.com so if anyone needs assistance, they can ask him.

President Miller presented COM Foltz his certificate for successfully completing a supplemental application.

Quilts of Valor

President Miller then asked Laura DeVenney to come forward to present a Quilt of Valor. This month a quilt was awarded to COM Terrill Jones. COM Cunningham came forward to assist with the presentation. President Miller read COM Terrill Jones's biography and COM Cunningham and Mrs. DeVenney then presented the quilt, entitled "Stars and Stripes" to COM Terrill Jones.

Eagle Scout Award

President Miller then asked COM DeVenney to come forward for the presentation of the Eagle Scout Award to Charles Richard Creed. Charles is a member of Troop 98 in Cairo, Missouri, and is very active in the community there. He is a senior in high school, a member of the National Honor Society, had 91 merit badges at the time of the application, is active in his church and in veteran's activities. He is on the school baseball team and is a drummer in the school band.

Charles gave an excellent presentation about "Revolutionary War Patriot Prisoners". In this presentation, he stated there were 250,000 men who fought, 4,300 who were killed in battle, and 13,000 who died on prison ships. These men died of typhoid fever, small pox, malaria and other terrible diseases, brought on by the rancid living conditions and the exposure to vermin and bugs. One especially notorious "Hospital Ship" was the Jersey, where several men died and the British did all they could to cover it up. A man named William Cunningham was in charge of these ships and was hung.

Charles was presented with a SAR badge, that can be put onto his Boy Scout uniform, a certificate of recognition, a SAR pin was pinned on his shirt by his mother, and also he received a \$50.00 check. When asked by President Miller what his plans are, Charles said he plans to go to college and major in political science.

Program

President Miller at this time introduced the program's speaker, Dr. Ron Walkenbach, who is the Director of Programs of the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation, which is now being called simply the "Saving Sight Program".

Dr. Walkenbach presented a short video on how the activities his organization performs can help the people. One person got a cornea transplant and was able to fish; another described how she felt, knowing that her deceased son's corneas were helping someone else live a more full life. A young mother described how thankful she was that her little girl, by getting a screening in day care, discovered she could act in time to save her girl's sight.

Dr. Walkenbach then told the group that the local eye bank, is the largest in the nation, takes in most of Kansas, most of Missouri, and central Illinois. They get 4500 donors a year, of which about 2500 corneas are usable for transplant. Of these 2500 transplant, about half are done in the region, a quarter are done in the rest of the United States (California and Texas being the states getting the higher numbers) and the other quarter goes to the world (Germany and Saudi Arabia getting the higher numbers).

In addition, they do approximately 45,000 screening of little kids' eyes, which is when it is most necessary to find the problem so it can be corrected.

He stated it is important to let your family know of your wishes if you want your corneas to be donated for transplant.

He then showed a short video of an actual eye surgery being done.

After the program, President Miller gave a short background on the Lions Club, and how Helen Keller was instrumental in getting that fine organization to take on the eyesight, and other, programs they now do.

Closing

With no further business to come before the chapter, President Miller proceeded to close the meeting. COM Reynolds led the SAR processional and Chaplain Merrill gave the benediction. President Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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