

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

**Opening**

President J. Y. Miller II opened the M. Graham Clark Chapter meeting at 8:37 am at the Hy-Vee store located at Providence and Nifong in Columbia, Missouri. In attendance were 12 members and 7 guests. The colors were posted and the invocation was given by Chaplain Merrill. The SAR Pledge was led by COM Cunningham.

A new member was then inducted, since his sponsor, COM Reynolds, needed to leave early. The new member is COM James Norvell Drane, whose patriot is William Short. President Miller led COM Drane in his Oath and COM Reynolds placed the SAR Rosette in COM Drane's lapel.

Visitors of note were then mentioned: William Nix, prospective member; Mike French, prospective member; and Gracie DeVenney, granddaughter of COM Russell and Laura DeVenney. Gracie is a member of the Children of the American Revolution, and has been doing research on a famous Missourian, Rose O'Neill, who is the lady who invented the Kewpie doll. She was from the Nixa, Missouri area. Gracie was to attend the CAR meeting later this day and was running for the Librarian position. We all wished her well.

There was one birthday mentioned, that of COM DeVenney.

At this point the group was released to eat breakfast.

During breakfast, Mrs. DeVenney mentioned that she has been elected the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the Ladies Auxiliary, and a large part of this job entails raising funds for the Headquarters in Louisville. So far there has been \$5000 raised this year and last year there was \$100,000 raised. As a part of this, Mrs. DeVenney was selling raffle tickets for a quilt and also selling cookbooks. The raffle tickets were 3 for \$5 and the cookbook price is \$17.50.

COM DeVenney mentioned that there is a new Education Building being built in Louisville and that a couple from South Carolina donated \$1.5 million in matching funds. The plan is for the final product of this building to be completed in 2015.

**Reconvened**

The meeting was reconvened at 9:10 am and COM Kerr was called to give the minutes of the 15 February 2014 meeting. He read the minutes and they were approved as read.

Treasurer COM Coutts was then called to give the Treasurer's report, which was as follows: The M. Graham Clark Operations Account of 1 February 2014 was \$2,015.06. He stated he did not get the deposit in for February until March. During February 1 check was cashed: to Hy-Vee for \$150.00 for the breakfasts for February 2014 meeting. The ending balance of the Operations Account on 28 February 2014 was \$1,865.06. The M. Graham Clark Endowment Fund on 1 February 2014 was \$13,122.25, of which \$350.33 is available funds. This account earned 50 cents in interest. The report was approved as read.

**Announcements**

COM Kerr announced to the chapter that on 22 March 2014, in Fayette Missouri there will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Howard County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

COM Kerr explained that the starting time was changed from 3:00 pm to 2:00 pm, because it was decided to have a Ceremonial wreath-laying program at the square of the courthouse in Fayette, and that the DAR had asked that we conduct that program. COM Kerr has been coordinating this and specifically thanked COM Merrill for his extensive help in this process. There will be a color guard and a musket guard at the program. COM DeVenney said he will see if there can be a War of 1812 color guard there as well. Since the monument where the wreaths are being laid also has War of 1812 soldiers listed on it, there will be a Society of the War of 1812 wreath laid. Altogether, there will be three wreaths: DAR, SAR and Society of the War of 1812. After this program, it will then continue at the First Baptist Church, which is about a block from where the monument is located, for the DAR portion. That will begin at 3:00 pm.

President Miller will not be able to attend due to previous engagements and COM DeVenney will be attending a grandson's birthday party. COM Kerr will be the coordinator of this at the program.

President Miller stated that there will be a grave marking in Pilot Grove, Missouri in the late summer or early fall. The timing of this is dependent on when the family, who lives in South Carolina, can attend. He will keep the chapter apprised of this as time goes on. COM Drane offered to assist in this program, since he lives fairly close to Pilot Grove, and President Miller thanked him for that.

### **Awards Presentation**

The following awards were presented at this time:

**MOSSAR Silver Medal**, which is to be presented by the Chapter President:

COM James S. Cunningham designated as medal #7;

COM Alfred H. Jones, who was not present, will be awarded in a later meeting, which is designated #8.

**Chapter Distinguished Service Medal:**

COM James S. Cunningham;

COM Russell F. DeVenney, Jr.;

COM Alfred H. Jones, who was not present, will be awarded in a later meeting;

COM J. Wayne Merrill;

COM Loren Wayne Reynolds, who was not present, will be awarded in a later meeting;

COM Keith Benjamin Roys, Sr., who was not present, will be awarded in a later meeting.

**Bronze Roger Sherman Medals:**

COM Bryan Patrick Bradford was not present, will be awarded in a later meeting;

COM John Herbert Coutts;

COM Stephen Ernest Foltz;

COM James Yates Miller, II;

COM John David Miller, was not present, will be awarded in a later meeting.

### **Program**

The presenter of the program, Keena Collick, granddaughter of COM and Mrs. Foltz, was ill, so Sharon Foltz, the wife of COM Foltz, made the presentation. The topic was "Elizabeth Brown Stiles-Union Spy".

Mrs. Foltz was introduced by COM Foltz.

Elizabeth Brown was born in 1810 in Ashtabula County, Ohio and died in 1898 in Ohio. By the age of 5 she was a sharpshooter and an expert horseman. She married Jacob Stiles in 1848 and they adopted her sister's children, Clara and George. Her mother taught her nursing. That helped her later in the Civil War to take care of injured soldiers.

They lived in Shawnee City, Kansas in 1859 and she was a teacher. When she taught, she hung the American flag at the school and she received threatening notes for doing that. In 1862, Quantrill's gang came through and they rounded up the men and asked all of them their political views. Jacob stated he was Union and he was shot on the spot. It was impossible to tell what to answer, as the gang was dressed like Union soldiers.

After he husband's death, Elizabeth was taking care of Confederate soldiers and then reported what she heard them saying to the Union officers. This was her way of making up for the killing of Jacob. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln found out about this woman spy and had her sign an Oath of Allegiance and her spying activities increased. She took Clara with her and they portrayed themselves to a southern lady that they were looking for their confederate soldier. Through all this she kept the oath of allegiance with her in case the Union caught her and didn't know she was a spy.

At one point she was captured by the confederates and Sterling Price, a confederate general from Keytseville, Missouri, interviewed her for several hours and he was dumbfounded a woman was a spy. He gave her a horse and gun and she went back to Ohio, where she died.

### **Additional Announcements**

COM Cunningham had an item of interest. COM Larry Dietzel and COM James Drane's names were in the latest SAR magazine, and there was a picture of several color guardsmen, in which COM DeVenney was included. As a result, "Kilroy was there"!

President Miller mentioned the article in the SAR about the ring that George Washington possibly owned was a very good article. He encouraged those who have not read the article already, to do so.

Mike French mentioned that he is involved in the project of videotaping military veterans to capture their experiences, and that these videotapes will be in the Library of Congress. He encouraged anyone who knows a veteran who can participate contact him.

COM Foltz mentioned how little actions can have huge impacts on people who have lost their loved ones. He used as an example the family of a cousin who died in Vietnam was able to get the deceased's dog tags and that was so much help to the families.

### **Closing**

With no further business to come before the chapter, President Miller proceeded to close the meeting. COM Woodward led the SAR processional and Chaplain Merrill gave the benediction. President Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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