

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

Opening

The meeting was called to order by President J. Y. Miller at 8:39 a.m. The colors were posted by the Color Guard.

There were 13 members and 11 visitors present. Chaplain Merrill gave the invocation, COM Ed Thomas led the SAR Pledge and COM Alfred Jones led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Miller asked if there were any visitors of note, and there being none, he then asked for November birthdays. There were none.

The meeting was then adjourned at 8:43 a.m. for breakfast.

Reconvened

The meeting was reconvened at 9:06 a.m. and President Miller called on Secretary Kerr to give the minutes from the October 2014 meeting. These minutes were read and approved as read.

President Miller then called on Treasurer Coutts to give the Treasurer's report. COM Coutts reported that, as of 30 October 2014, the M. Graham Clark Operations Account balance was \$2,927.66. He further reported that, as of 30 October 2014, the balance of the K. Graham Clark Endowment Fund was \$13,127.16, of which \$353.91 are in available funds. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Announcements

President Miller acknowledged that COM Alfred Jones was in an article in the *Columbia Missourian*, for being awarded the Veterans Service Award for a lifetime of volunteering, including 15 years for Meals on Wheels, 15 years working with The Wardrobe, a social service agency, and for his over 13,000 hours of volunteering, over 25 years, at the Harry S Truman Veterans Administration Hospital. COM Jones was given a certificate of appreciation from Missouri Lt. Governor Peter Kinder and will be honored at a banquet at the state capital. The group gave COM Jones a round of applause for this prestigious honor.

Nancy Thomas asked who kept track of the volunteer hours, and was told by President Miller the VA keeps track of those hours. Mrs. Thomas asked about other volunteer hours, and COM DeVenney said if these hours are for other organizations (i.e. American Legion, VFW, etc), they cannot be counted for SAR hours.

President Miller reminded the chapter that the Daughters of the American Revolution will have their Christmas Party at Rosalyn Heights in Boonville, Missouri, on 7 December 2014. There will be an SAR Color Guard present for this.

President Miller informed the group that Vice-President Chance wanted to let the chapter know he was absent due to being on a family trip.

Genealogy Report

President Miller than gave the genealogy report, in the absence of Genealogist Foltz, who emailed President Miller, informing him he would not make the meeting due to the weather forecast for snow.

The report was: COM Kerr's supplemental has gone to the State Genealogist and has been forwarded to National; Prospective Member Nix's application still has a couple things needing to be cleared up; Prospective Member Lehenbauer's application is done and ready to send, per Nancy Thomas; Prospective member Reams' application was hand delivered to State Genealogist Sizemore by COM DeVenney; and Genealogist Foltz stated the Krause applications were about ready.

Further Discussion

After the Genealogy Report, President Miller mentioned that it has come to his attention that the chapter did not send in a donation to the SAR Foundation and asked COM DeVenney to address the chapter about what this is. COM DeVenney stated that the SAR Foundation is in charge of the new library and will be in charge of the new museum w=once it has been completed. They have contracted with a company named Solid Light, which is working on the concept for the museum and there will be two areas of concentration for funding the remaining \$10 million needed: 1) selling of square footage which was discussed in the October meeting, and 2) bequests. COM DeVenney suggested the chapter wait until after the first of the year before deciding whether to send a donation. This was agreed to by the chapter.

COM Reynolds stated that, while the library and museum are fine projects, his primary concern is membership, and, more specifically, getting new members. He stated that there needs to be more concentration at National in this regard. COM Reynolds said a good start would be to make the National website more user-friendly. COM DeVenney stated that there is work being done in this regard, and the problem here is probably a lack of communication from National to Chapters and States. He stated that within 6 months we should see an improvement in website, and that National has contracted with a company named Blackstone to do this work. COM Reynolds said National needs to communicate this to the chapters.

President Miller then told the group that, after the meeting, the Past Presidents were to meet to select a slate of possible officers for 2015.

President Miller also told the chapter that there are two areas of emphasis by National: 1) Rombaugh speakers, which are for high school level students to write and prepare information to present in a speech, about the Revolution; and 2) American History Teacher, which is for 2 sections: high school teachers, and teachers from 5th grade to high school. The state winners get a lunch at the State Conference plus a trophy and the high school winner is submitted to the National, and the National winner gets a \$1400 stipend.

Program

President Miller then called on COM Merrill to give the presentation. This was to be about the history of the Missouri Color Guard, but COM Merrill said he was unable to gather enough information for that, at this time, so instead he was going to present a program on Principal Routes to the West from 1795 to 1812. He said the first routes were waterways and then, as time went on, the routes were land based.

He handed out a map of these routes, and started with the northernmost, the Great Genesee Road. This connected Fort Schyler (now Ithaca) to Caledonia. In 1798 Congress authorized road to Buffalo and Niagara, then west to Cincinnati. Many of the people, who went on this, and other, routes, were men who got military warrants based on their service in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812.

The next road was the Catskill Roar, a/k/a the Catskill Turnpike or Susquehanna Turnpike. This went from New England into central New York. In 1744 it was about 100 miles long. It eventually covered from Springfield, Massachusetts to Catskill, New York, and parts became a toll road, which was to help with maintenance of the road. There were detours and side-trails, and over the span of 20 years, 300,000 people went through this route.

The next route was the Zane's Trace, which was named for Col. Ebenezer Zane. This covered the Northwest Territory (Ohio) and, like several other trails, was based on Native American trails of the time. After 1803, when Ohio became a state, there was a state transportation tax and from the period of 1825 to 1830, most of this became a part of the National Road.

The next roads covered were the Forbes and the Braddock roads. These started as being transportation routes for military campaigns during the French and Indian War. The Braddock Road was named for General Edwin Braddock; George Washington served as his Aide de camp. Braddock lost his life and was killed in the middle of the road and later his remain were moved. The Braddock Road also became part of the National Road and later part of Highway 40.

The Forbes Road was developed three years after the Braddock Road and went from Carlisle, PA to Ft. Pitt. It was 300 miles long and was built during the French Indian War; it was named for Brig Gen John Forbes.

The Wilderness Road was then discussed. This was cleared by Daniel Boone in 1775, and was steep, narrow and rough. It handled only foot or horseback traffic. In 1792 a new Kentucky leg was cleared and in 1796 an all-weather road was built. It was abandoned in 1840.

A motivation for all this movement west was two-fold: 1) people wanted to know what was there and, 2) with the heirs to land being the oldest sons of the families, other sons (and daughters) necessarily had to move on to have land, since the families were large.

The migration of these people in addition to being westward was also southward. People would come to America in Philadelphia and go west and then south through the Shenandoah Valley. Many of these people were Scots-Irish, and, when the Revolutionary War occurred, they were more than willing to fight the British. They didn't like the British to begin with; many came to America to get away from them; and they were good fighters.

This was a topic that could well have taken several days to thoroughly cover. COM Merrill did a fine job, given the time constraints. He covered a lot in a short period of time.

Closing

There being no further business, President Miller. Given the late time element, it was approved to retire the colors after the adjournment. COM Cunningham led the SAR Recessional and Chaplain Merrill gave the benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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