

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

Opening

President J. Y. Miller II opened the M. Graham Clark Chapter at 8:40 am at the Hy-Vee store located at Providence and Nifong in Columbia, Missouri. In attendance were 11 members and 9 visitors. The colors were posted and Chaplain Merrill gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance being led by COM Chance and the SAR Pledge led by CM Dietzel.

Visitors of note were as follows: Prospective member Harry Lehenbauer and his daughter Esther Rosner, who is a DAR member, and Linda Hogan, the presenter for the meeting. Birthdays for the last months were noted as follows: Nancy Thomas, DAR member and wife of COM Thomas, June; Sharon Naylor, DAR member and wife of COM Naylor, June; COM Dietzel, July and Alva Cunningham, DAR member and wife of COM Cunningham, August.

Special note was made that COM Naylor is heading to Afghanistan.

The Chapter adjourned at 8:45 am for breakfast.

Reconvened

The Chapter reconvened at 9:00 am. COM Kerr was called to give the minutes of the 17 May 2014 meeting. The minutes were read and the following changes were made: where the minutes read the "Draping of the Chapter" should say "Charter"; where the minutes read the upcoming Battle of Glasgow re-enactment is scheduled for "10-11 October" should say "11-12 October"; where the minutes read "SAR Processional" under the Closing section should say "SAR Recessional".

COM Coutts was called to give the Treasurer's Report. The M. Graham Clark Operations Account balance on 31 August 2014 was \$1,249.33. The M. Graham Clark Endowment Fund balance on 31 August 2014 was \$13,126.04, of which \$352.02 is in available funds. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Announcements

President Miller stated that COM Russell DeVenney has announced his candidacy for the position of Registrar General of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution and asked if the Chapter felt it appropriate to endorse this candidacy as a Chapter. COM Bradford made the motion that this be done and COM Cunningham seconded. The vote was unanimous and President Miller directed Secretary Kerr to compose the letter of endorsement to be sent to President General Dooley.

President Miller announced that there is no further news at this point regarding the grave marking, in Pilot Grove, discussed in previous meetings. He will ensure that the Chapter is kept informed of this.

President Miller also stated there will be a grave marking for Samuel Rhodes' grave, at Hillcrest Cemetery in Fulton Missouri at 10 am on Saturday, 27 September 2014. COM Merrill stated that one descendent of Patriot Rhoades is a present-day Judge on the Missouri Supreme Court. The color guard will be present for this.

President Miller announced that on 7 December 2014, there will be a Christmas Tree lighting at Rosalynn Heights, the State of Missouri DAR headquarters. The reception will be at 3 pm and the lighting will be at 5 pm.

President Miller stated that on 18-19 October Homestead Days Festival will take place at the Nathan Boone Homestead State Historic Site at Ash Grove, Missouri.

COM Chance told the Chapter that it appears that we will be able to meet at the Country Club of Missouri, where we met before, if we would like, as the remodeling is finished. DAR member Sharon Naylor said the price for meals there has gone up for DAR meetings from \$10 to \$12, in response to a question whether the prices would go up. COM Chance will check into this and let the Chapter know.

COM Bradford stated he is working with the area schools on the oration project. He stated the Ashland Elementary School is working on an Americanism Poster Project as a part of this. He also stated as Revolutionary War Veteran Grave Registrar he is starting on South Boone County to accomplish a list of these graves.

President Miller followed up this by stating the History Teacher and Oration Programs are MOSSAR priority items.

Program

Linda Hogan was introduced to the Chapter by Nancy Thomas. Her program was entitled "Escape from the Iron Curtain". This was an extremely moving program and, after hearing the story, made all attendees even more thankful for living in the United States of America.

Linda was born in Poland when it was a Communist country. Her father was killed in the last bombings of Poland by Nazi Germany, so she was very young and has little if any memory of her father. She was taught as a child that America was a bad country. When her father was killed, Linda's mother went to school and became a dietician.

In 2nd grade Linda was taken from her mother to be indoctrinated by the government and did not return to her mother until in the 6th grade. She was told there was no God, which was in direct contradiction to her Catholic upbringing.

In November 1958, her mother got permission for her and Linda to move to East Germany. Linda had a sister in East Germany and a sister in West Germany. Conditions were no better in Germany than they were in Poland—there were lines everywhere for food. She stated she was 16 when she ate her first banana. She had to learn a new language and that was very difficult. They stayed there until April of 1960.

Her mother then got permission to visit the sister in West Germany but Linda could not go with her, so she went to live with her sister in East Germany. Linda was not aware of it, but her mother was a part of the underground. Just before Easter, Linda was kidnapped by men who tied her up and taped her mouth shut. They drove quite a distance and then, before they took the tape off, told her not to scream. Once they did that they told them they were with the underground and were going to give her a shot which would render her unconscious so she could be put in a mailbag and be smuggled to West Germany in the mail. Linda was 16 at the time.

They did this and when she was in the bag at the border, East German soldiers used bayonets to try to find people in them. It was a miracle she wasn't killed in this manner. Once she came to from the effects of the medicine, she was reunited with her mother, and met the sister in West German whom she had never met. She was told they could never go back to East Germany, and they went to an immigration camp, stayed two weeks there and then they were processed to become West German citizens.

The sister in West Germany was 20 years older than Linda, and in 1958, the Red Cross told Linda's mother that she was living in Louisiana, in the United States and married to an US Army officer. This sister then moved to West Germany in 1960 and that is when they moved.

Linda and her mother became West German citizens and got a railroad pass to go to another immigration camp. Linda went to live with her sister and she worked as a nurse's aide. Her mother was working in the same place as dietician.

Communication was very hard when Linda met her sister and went to school to learn in English, which she said is the hardest language to learn. After a while, a neighbor came over and told Linda's sister he knew a young man from Missouri who might be interested in going to a movie with Linda. They went to the movie "Where the Boys Are" and she didn't understand a thing that was said. At one point the young man said something to Linda and she just agreed and so he left and came back with a box, which she held on her lap through the movie—it was popcorn and she had never seen it before! She took it home and told her sister she had a present. Once the sister saw what it was, she said it was popcorn and you ate it. So she tried it; it was cold and tasted like paper.

The young man's name was Roy, and they eventually married. She learned English. When he proposed, he put a box of popcorn in the glove box and told her to look in it. She opened the door, opened the box, and there was an engagement ring on top. At one point Roy took Linda to a party where the company he worked for was associating with the Army officers, and Linda's brother-in-law, introduced her to Lt Col Kowalski and she spent the evening talking to him—he spoke Polish! Roy didn't understand a word.

She took the Civil Service exam and passed and became a clerk typist. This showed how well she mastered the English language. In November 1961 they married and they had their first daughter in 1962. In February 1963 they came to the United States and Linda was extremely frightened. What if Roy's parents didn't accept her? Her fears were quickly proved to be unfounded. Her father-in-law opened the car door and helped her into the house in Paris, MO and when Roy's mother first saw Linda, she dropped the dust mop she was holding and hugged her. Linda said then she knew she had another mom.

Later, when Roy was in the service and went to Korea, Linda stayed with her in-laws and learned how to drive all the farm vehicles and they were very understanding of her many mistakes in this regard.

One last item she mentioned when asked to talk about a brother she had: When he was 9 years old he was separated from their mother at a train station. A woman saw him, and he had a too-thin coat so she gave him a thicker one. She did not realize it had the Star of David on it, so he ended up at Auschwitz and survived only because a gas chamber he was put in malfunctioned and an older man helped him escape through a sewage line. He lived, but was partially paralyzed due to the gas. Everyone thought he was dead, but they learned he was alive and she saw him in 1993 when she and Roy went to Poland.

Linda stated she speaks 7 languages now, and also said she is proud to say she has 5 West Point Graduates in her family. This was a tremendous program.

Closing

With no further business to come before the Chapter, President Miller proceeded to close the meeting. COM Cunningham led the SAR Recessional and Chaplain Merrill gave the Benediction. President Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

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