

**The M. Graham Clark Chapter
Missouri Society
The Sons of the American Revolution
17 January 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Opening

The meeting was called to order by President J. Y. Miller at 8:42 am. Since there was not a complete Color Guard present, the colors were not formally posted. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Merrill; the Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Dietzel; the SAR Pledge was led by COM Bullard.

There were no guests of note. The only birthday for January was that of COM Reynolds. There were 15 members and 7 visitors present.

The chapter was then adjourned at 8:45 am for breakfast.

Reconvened

The meeting was reconvened at 9:15 am and President Miller called on Secretary Kerr to give the minutes from the December 2014 meeting. In these minutes, the slate of candidates for 2015 were presented, and after the minutes COM Merrill asked if he was to remain as Chaplain, to which President Miller stated that was the case, due to the other person under consideration for that position not wishing to have it. The minutes were then approved as read.

President Miller then called on Treasurer Coutts to give the Treasurer's report. COM Coutts reported that as of 31 December 2014 the M. Graham Clark Operations Account was \$2,335.66. He further stated that as of 30 December 2014, the M. Graham Clark Endowment Fund balance was \$13,128.22, of which \$354.36 is in available funds. The Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

Eagle Scout Award

At this point, President Miller asked COM Dietzel, the chairman of the Eagle Scout Award program for the chapter, to report on this year's Eagle Scout Award winner. COM Dietzel started by thanking COM DeVenney, the previous chair, for his assistance in working on this vital program. COM Dietzel stated the winner's last name is Hale, and that the paperwork has been sent to the MOSSAR Chair for this award, and that Eagle Scout Hale has been sent an invitation to attend the February 2015 chapter meeting. COM Dietzel gave an excellent overview about the Boy Scouts of America. COM DeVenney pointed out that the winner of the Nation Eagle Scout Award will get a scholarship in the amount of \$8000; second place will get \$6000; third place will get \$4000. He further stated that in 2016 these amounts will be \$10,000, \$8000 and \$6000, respectively. COM Chance stated that the Boy Scouts of America was begun by a man from St. Louis, Missouri. President Miller provided information about how the Eagle Scout program in the BSA was very helpful to his son.

Genealogy Report

President Miller then asked if there was an update about applications. COM Thomas stated the applications for Mr. Lehehnbauer and Mr. Raines were submitted to the applicants for their respective signatures. Mr. Butler's application is in process. COM DeVenney stated he and COM Reynolds are working on the applications of Mr. Nix and Mr. Hammond. The supplemental application for COM Kerr remains at National, awaiting determination.

New Business

President Miller then asked if there was any new business. There being none, the chapter proceeded to the election and induction of officers for 2015.

New Officers

President Miller then read the following slate of proposed officers for 2015. After each name he asked if there was a nomination from the floor for another person for said office:

President: COM Jack Chance

Vice-President: COM Wayne Reynolds

Secretary: COM Harold Kerr

Treasurer: COM John Coutts

Genealogist/Registrar; COM Ed Thomas

Historian: COM J Wayne Merrill

Chaplain: COM J Wayne Merrill

Sargent at Arms: COM Larry Dietzel

Trustees: COM Lee Woodward, COM Russ DeVenney, COM J. Y. Miller

There being no nominations from the floor for any position, COM Woodward motioned for the slate of proposed officers to be elected unanimously by the chapter. COM DeVenney seconded said motion. The chapter voted and slate of proposed officers was elected.

Before calling for the installation of the new officers, President J. Y. Miller made some heartfelt comments about his three year tenure as chapter president. He stated that without the help of the chapter members, his tenure would not have been as successful as it was. He gave special thanks to COM DeVenney for his help and support, as well as the two secretaries who were in office during his tenure, COM Bradford and COM Kerr, for their support. He also singled out COM Reynolds, COM Cunningham and COM Chance as well. Among the items President Miller said he was most proud of were the setting up of the chapter webpage and mailing list, the Draping of the Charter procedure for deceased members, and the chapter's work in making the National Conference in Kansas City in 2013 a success. He then thanked the chapter for the privilege of getting to serve in this capacity. The text of Miller's remarks follows:

?I will admit that when I joined SAR, I never planned to serve in any office. I was surprised when I was asked to be the secretary and very complimented when I was asked to serve as president.

I hope my three terms as president have been reasonably satisfactory. I know that I have done my best. I wish it could have been better.

I have tried to make our meetings interesting and fun. I'm sure that you won't miss some of my corny jokes. I am proud of some of the things that I've done during my years as secretary and as president.

Our chapter web page is something I'm very proud of, along with the mailing list that we use to send meeting notices and other news. With our new president's approval, I will keep doing both of those.

The deceased member memorial page on the web page and the "Drape The Charter" ceremony is something else I'm proud of. I have attended the funerals of those deceased members while I was president.

I was very happy with our grave marking for Patriot Robert Lemon.

I represented our chapter at the Kansas City National Congress and at the regular MOSSAR meetings. I have been appointed as the MOSSAR State Auditor and as the Chairman of the Teacher Award program.

I think we have had good programs for our meetings and we now have programs scheduled for the rest of this meeting cycle. Next month will be an excellent one, I think.

With the possible exception of the Webpage, it would be very wrong for me to take most of the credit for any of these accomplishments or anything else during my terms.

If I start thanking people, I'll have to list the entire membership. But, I must credit Russ for his help, advice, and encouragement. My secretaries, Bryan and Harold were always supportive and invaluable. John, Jim, and certainly Loren. Loren's work on my application is what made it possible for me to be here at all. I should also thank my wife, Mary Miller, for her backing and help in getting me to all these meetings – even though she fussed at me this morning for putting on the wrong shoes.

I don't know why I never planned to hold office, because I belong to a lot of organizations and I either have served or still serve as an officer in almost all of them. However, I don't believe that I have enjoyed my service in any organization as much as I have enjoyed SAR and the association with my fellow members.

For that, I thank all of you and I thank you for the privilege of being able to serve."

After these comments, President Miller then asked the new officers to come forward and for COM DeVenney, a past president of MOSSAR, to perform the installation. This was done and then COM DeVenney swore in COM Chance as the new Chapter President of the M. Graham Clark Chapter.

The gavel was then given to President Chance, and he then took over the program. He thanked the chapter for having confidence in him and he will do his best to do a good job, knowing he has big shoes to fill. He stated that COM Coutts had brought a book purchased from National that lists all the SAR members and patriot information, and said people could look in the book and make sure the information in it is correct.

Closing

There being no further business, President Chance called for Chaplain Merrill to give the benediction and for COM Alfred Jones to lead the SAR Recessional. The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 am.

Respectfully submitted,

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