

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

Opening

The meeting was called to order by President Chance at 8:34 am. Since there was no uniformed color guard present, the colors were not formally posted. The invocation was given by COM Cunningham, in the absence of Chaplain Merrill. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Coutts and the SAR Pledge was led by COM Kerr. There were 12 members and 24 visitors present.

President Chance presented information on the First Navy Flag, also known as the Union Jack. This flag has the statement "Don't Tread on Me" with 13 horizontal stripes alternating red and white, with a rattlesnake present. This flag was flown on all United States Navy ships until a few years ago, when it was deemed to be "too aggressive" and is not flown on ships any longer.

Visitors present were: Paul Whatley, a SAR member from Kansas who has applied to have his membership transferred to the M Graham Clark Chapter; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Pauley. Mr. Pauley is a prospective member. Matt Monte, a prospective member; Ethan Hale, the Eagle Scout Award winner, and his family; Charlie Lee and Jim Lee, applicants for membership; Allen Rowe, a prospective member; COM Bartlett's wife and sons Dave, Nathan, and Russ; Bryan Evans; and COM Dietzel's wife, Nora.

The following birthdays were recognized: COM Cunningham, Ethan Hale, COM Kerr, COM J. Y. Miller's wife Mary, and COM Bartlett who will be 90. COM Stuart informed the attendees that COM Cunningham also turned 90 on his recent birthday.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 am for breakfast.

Reconvened

The meeting was reconvened at 9:15 am. President Chance called on COM Kerr to give the minutes for the April 2015 meeting. The minutes were read and approved as read.

President Chance then called upon COM Coutts to give the Treasurer's report. COM Coutts reported that as of 30 April 2015 the M. Graham Clark Operations Account balance was \$1,397.63. He further stated that as of 30 April 2015 the M. Graham Clark Endowment Fund balance was \$13,130.38, of which \$356.09 is in available funds. The Treasurers Report was approved as read,

Old Business

At this point, President Chance called on COM Miller to update the chapter on the upcoming Marking of the John David Winn grave in Chariton County. COM Miller reported that a few weeks ago he, COM Coutts and COM Kerr went to the cemetery where this will be done and met with Barbara McKenzie, the local family member arranging this, as well as her husband. The stone has since been placed in the cemetery. The cemetery is quite a way from the gravel road it is located on and there is a hope that this can be accessed by 4 wheel drive vehicles if the owner will make the ditch next to the road built up. The property manager plans to transport guests to the cemetery by wagon. COM Miller stated that COM Coutts is coordinating with Mrs. McKenzie on this project. The date and time of this has been confirmed: the 4th of July, 2015 at 10:00 am. There will be DAR, SAR and CAR wreaths placed, taps will be played and the National Anthem and God Bless America will be sung. The plan also is to have the youngest descendants present to unveil the stone, as was done in the Sgt. Lemon marking performed some years back.

After these proceedings, lunch will be served for a nominal price at the VFW in Salisbury and the Chariton County Historical Society Museum in Salisbury will be open.

Eagle Scout Award

President Chance then called on COM Dietzel, the chapter's Eagle Scout Award coordinator, to come forward so that Ethan Hale, the winner of the Eagles Scout award, could be presented. COM Dietzel said he has been involved with Scouting for almost all his life and stated it takes 21 merit badges for a young man to be awarded the Eagle Scout rank, and that only 1% to 2% of Scouts attain this level.

COM Dietzel then asked Ethan Hale to come forward and he introduced him to the chapter. Ethan stated he is a member of Troop 708 in Columbia and he attends Christian Fellowship School. He then read his presentation about his Revolutionary War ancestor, Sgt. Martin Prewitt, who fought in the Battle of Kings Mountain in October 1780. He stated he had not been aware of this connection and he feels proud to know he has this lineage.

COM Dietzel then presented Ethan his medal, which Ethan's mother proudly pinned on her son.

MOSSAR Conference

President Chance then called on COM Miller to come forward. At the MOSSAR Conference in April, COM Miller was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his activities in SAR. President Chance also informed the chapter that we came in 3rd in the Josiah Fogg Award and gave the Certificate to Secretary Kerr to keep in the chapter's files. President Chance also told the chapter of Nancy Thomas's award of getting the Winona R. Yohe Award, which is for woman of the year. This was for her diligent work in assisting with genealogy work for the chapter this year.

Genealogy Report

President Chance then called on COM Kerr to give the genealogy report, as Nancy Thomas was not present. The application of Virgil "Sonny" Raines was approved on 7 May 2015. The following applications have been sent to the State Genealogist: Philip Krause, Zachary Fletcher, Jonathan Butler, Charles Lee, James Lee, Chris Montie, Hank Hammons, Buff Chance and Dave Harkey. The following Supplemental Applications have been sent to the State Genealogist: COM Miller (3); COM Coutts (1); and COM Strader (3). The following applications have been signed and are ready to mail: COM Terrill Jones's Supplemental Application and Robert Hill. Overall, we are making very good progress on this.

National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference

President Chance asked COM Kerr to report on the NGS conference he attended on 14-15 May, 2015 in St Charles, Missouri. COM Kerr stated he attended six sessions and will write summations of these and send to COM Miller to have this put on the website.

Missouri State Genealogical Association (MoSGA) Conference

President Chance asked COM Kerr to address this issue as well. COM Kerr stated that the first weekend of August of every year, MoSGA holds their annual conference and perhaps our chapter can be represented by having a table there in upcoming conferences. It is too late to decide on this for this year, but perhaps can be done in coming years. COM Stuart stated that the Jefferson City Chapter of SAR has been there in the past.

Books for Schools

President Chance asked COM Reynolds to report on this project. COM Reynolds stated he has been in touch with Columbia Public Schools, and they sent a list of possible books for the chapter to provide to CPS. Unfortunately, only a few have anything to do with the Revolutionary War era. COM Reynolds stated he gave COM Miller a packet which MOSSAR has for school and COM Miller will work on this. COM Reynolds stated that perhaps smaller school districts would be willing to get era-specific books that our chapter can get. COM Miller moved and COM Stuart seconded that COM Reynolds get appropriate books listed and then the executive officers of the chapter could develop a plan to fund and provide these to smaller schools. The motion passed. This will be worked on in the fall.

Graves

COM Reynolds also stated that he is working on developing a list of Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Boone and surrounding counties. He stated he needs more lists from people if at all possible. He stated he would like to institute a program of placing flags on these graves on Memorial Day, much like the Sons of Confederate Veterans already do. This is a project to be developed.

NSSAR Annual Convention

President Chance then reminded the chapter that the NSSAR annual convention would be 26 June 2015 to 1 July 2015 in Louisville, Kentucky. He further stated COM DeVenney is up for the position of Registrar General.

Program

COM Miller then introduced COM Bartlett, whose presentation was "The Road to Yorktown." COM Bartlett grew up a short distance from Yorktown and was present at the reenactment of the sesquicentennial of the battle in 1931. This battle was the climatic event of the American Revolution. Yorktown was and significant village and the road to it was long and complex.

The "players" in the story were as follows: King George III of England. He was 40 at the time and was monarch for 20 years. He advocated the use of force to suppress the rebellion. Then there was Lord North, who was the English Prime Minister since 1770; also was Secretary of the Treasury and was always worried about the cost of the war. He was not so sure the war was winnable.

Lord George Germain was the Cabinet Secretary of State for the American Colonies and was the main architect of the war. He felt Britain would cease to be a great power if it lost the war and King George was a firm supporter. General Sir Henry Clinton was appointed to succeed General Howe as Commander of the British army in America. He did not want the job but did his best to carry out the wishes of the king.

COM Bartlett then showed a map of the American Colonies in 1780, when the war was stalemated. In 1777 the British defeated American forces at Brandywine and took Philadelphia. The British attempted to cut the colonies in two by an invasion from Canada by General Burgoyne down Lake Champlain had been defeated at Battle of Saratoga. By 1778 this defeat and the renewal of was with France caused Britain to withdraw from Philadelphia. In October 1779 Clinton decided to withdraw from Newport, RI in order to reinforce his forces in New York against a combined French and American attack. Britain was concentrated in New York and not accomplishing much at all.

British intelligence learned that the southern colonies (SC, GA and NC) contained large numbers of Loyalists who would rise up and support British rule if they had military support. In December 1779 Clinton left for Charleston with 8700 troops, 5000 sailors and 396 horses.

After a 3-month siege Charleston finally surrendered and Clinton turned over command to General Charles, Earl Cornwallis, who came from an aristocratic family, was a dedicated soldier, a student of military tactic and a veteran of the European Wars. He disliked the war in America, but would do his best.

In the Map of Southern Theatre of Operations, COM Bartlett showed that Cornwallis set out from Charleston to destroy other areas of Continental Army in SC under General Horatio Gates, the hero of Saratoga. On August 16, 1780 Cornwallis confronted the Continental Army at Camden SC. The outnumbered British troops routed the Continentals. Gates lost 1500 men killed or captured. British losses were 68 killed. Gates fled the battlefield and Washington replaced him with General Nathaniel Greene. Greene's strategy was the same as Washington's: keep his army intact and avoid the main British Army. He knew his army was no match for the British. The Continental Army under Greene began to revive.

This brings us to Kings Mountain, which really isn't much of a mountain. The British under Major Patrick Ferguson, a Scot who began his military career at 14, camped his forces in a meadow at the top of King's Mountain. Rebel forces under Colonel William Campbell learned of this encampment and surrounded the hill and crept up through the woods. The rebel forces grew to 1790 men, and, firing from the woods, caused Ferguson to attempt an escape, in which he was killed. In all, Ferguson and 157 of his men were killed, 163 injured and 740 taken prisoner. The rebels lost 28 killed and 62 wounded.

This battle was a turning point. The British failed to find significant Loyalist support. Nevertheless, Cornwallis was not deterred. He became more desirous of destroying Greene's Continental Army, but Greene kept ahead of him. Cornwallis sent Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton, cavalry, in pursuit of Dan Morgan's forces. Morgan was Greene's second in command. At the Battle of Cowpens, SC, Morgan devised a clever trap and Tarleton lost 800 men (1/6 of Cornwallis's Army). Only 250 men escaped.

Cornwallis still chased the Continental Army, resulting in the Battle at Guilford Courthouse. Cornwallis technically won, but at a terrible price. In less than 10 weeks, his army of 5500 men had lost 4000 troops. He was forced to withdraw back to Wilmington, NC.

Clinton at this point realized the south was lost and decided to order Cornwallis to march his remaining army to Virginia and combine with fresh forces he had sent there under Benedict Arnold. He hoped this would swing the momentum of war back to the British. Cornwallis reached Virginia in May 1781 and assumed command of the British troops there. This brought the force to 7000 men. His forces took Williamsburg and Richmond. They took Charlottesville and nearly captured Governor Thomas Jefferson. Banastre Tarleton and his cavalry created fear and havoc statewide.

Meanwhile, events in Europe were beginning to move rapidly in favor of the Americans. Lafayette returned to France in January 1779 and, working with Benjamin Franklin, secured the promise of 6000 soldiers to be sent to America to be commanded by General Jean-Baptiste de Rochambeau, who arrived in July 1780 at Newport RI with 5000 fresh French troops. Lafayette served as liaison between Washington and Rochambeau.

On March 22, 1781 French Admiral de Grasse sailed with 26 ships of the line, 8 frigates, 150 transports and 2000 troops headed for Haiti. They also brought 6 million French livres to supply the needs and upkeep of the American Army.

Washington and Rochambeau debated the possibility of attacking New York and even sent messages to mislead the British that this was the plan. Clinton was convinced that New York was the target and told Cornwallis to get his army at Yorktown to prepare to ferry them to New York.

On July 8, 1781 Admiral de Grasse sent word to Rochambeau that the French fleet would go to the Chesapeake Bay and stay and blockade the entrance to the bay until October 15. Britain was unaware of this. By the time they became aware of this, it was too late. The British were surrounded at Yorktown and ran low on armaments and supplies. There were two redoubts (#9 and #10) which Alexander Hamilton led forces on to lay them under siege.

The situation for Cornwallis became intolerable. His 7100 men were starving. Cornwallis surrendered on October 19, 1781. British losses for this time were 156 killed and 236 wounded. The French lost 52 killed and 146 wounded. The Americans lost only 22 killed and 63 wounded. This was a stunning turn of events and ended any hope the British government had of retaining the American Colonies. Negotiations for peace then began.

Closing

There being no further business, President Chance called upon COM Dietzel to lead the SAR Recessional and COM Cunningham to give the benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

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