

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

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 8:40 am by President Chance. There were 18 members and 17 guests in attendance. The colors were posted by the color guard. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Lehenbauer. The SAR Pledge was led by COM Bullard. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Merrill.

President Chance asked if there were any visitors of note. They were introduced as follows: Cynthia and Marissa Harkey, wife and daughter of new member Dave Harkey, who is to be inducted; Robert Hill who is a new member to be inducted; Mary Ellen Kerr and Darren Totten, sister and brother-in-law of COM Kerr; and Merle Cook, who has applied for membership.

President Chance asked for health reports of members and COM Reynolds stated that COM Cunningham was at The Bluffs after having back surgery. COM Alfred Jones said his wife JoAnn, is making slow progress.

President Chance asked if there were any birthdays since the last meeting. Dee Woodward stated her birthday was October 11th.

At 8:50 am the meeting adjourned for breakfast.

Reconvened: At 9:15 am, President Chance reconvened the meeting. He stated the order of things in the meeting has been changed up and he called upon COM Kerr to give the presentation.

COM Kerr's presentation was about his 5th great-grandfather, Captain Henry Francis. Henry Francis was born about 1725 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. The name of his father is not known, but his mother's name is believed to be Mary. His father may have been named John because Captain Henry Francis's oldest son was named John, and a common naming pattern of the time was to name the first born son after the baby's father's father.

Frederick County, MD, Court record, dated March, 1749-50; Orlando Griffith petitioned the courts to bind children to him to repay him for taking them and their mother into his home. He stated that he had taken an old woman named Mary Francis and her 3 children into his home 5 years earlier. Mary had now died and he wanted the court to bind to him Henry, about 16, William, about 12, and Samuel, about 7, "for such a term of years as you will judge necessary . . . to make him satisfaction for the trouble and charges he has been at." He further stated that this is what Mary wanted.

The Justices of the Court granted the request and Henry was ordered to stay with the petitioner until the next court to prove his age, which was done in quick time.

Another indication that Captain Henry Francis's father's name may have been John was that another court record, dated November 1761, showed another petition by Dr. Orlando Griffith requesting reimbursement of charges he incurred while attending John Francis.

From these court records, it would appear that this is the family of our Henry Francis, that his mother's name was Mary, and that he had brothers John, William and Samuel.

The first record of Henry in VA is in the payroll records of Colonial Soldiers of VA. The July 13, 1756 roll of Capt. Christopher Gist's Company showed: Henry Francis, private, enlisted on Feb. 1, 1756, age 22 years, 5' 7" tall, dark. He was from MD and his trade was shoemaker. He enlisted at Fredericks, VA.

On October 4, 1757 record listed Henry in Capt. Robert Spotswood's Company as a corporal. His occupation was listed as Planter, from Prince Williams County. He was "24 years, 5" 7' tall, dark, well set and had black hair." Henry served in the VA Regiment for 6 1/2 years, obtaining the rank of Sgt., and was a loyal soldier before being discharged by Col. Adam Stephens.

Henry settled on a small creek...later called Cripple Creek... still known as "Francis Mill Creek."

In 1770, Henry was appointed Constable of Cripple Creek, in Botetourt County. In 1773 he is mentioned as being a member of the Grand Jury of Fincastle County. In January 1776, Henry was back on active duty with the Montgomery County, VA Militia, being appointed Ensign on January 10. He was promoted to Lieutenant on April 4, 1776 and he took the Oath of Allegiance in 1777

He was promoted to Captain of the Militia in April of 1778. He fought in several battles in VA and NC, often being sent to protect the Lead Mines in Virginia. Revolutionary War Pension Records indicate that Capt. Henry Francis and his sons, John and Henry, Jr., were in the Battle of Kings Mountains. When Henry, Jr., died it was noted that he was one of the last of the Kings Mountain Heroes

While still on patrol in NC, word was received that a large patrol of Tories were in route to cross the river at Shallow Ford. The two forces met at "Battle Branch," about one mile from Shallow Ford. At this battle, on October 14, 1780, Capt. Henry Francis was killed by a Tory. Henry's son, John, shot at the Tory, and it is reported that he killed him.

Henry was killed by being shot in the head, killing him instantly. This is verified by the affidavit of John Cock, who was in his militia. There were at least 11 men from his regiment that mentioned him by name, and four who stated that he was killed in the battle of Shallow Ford. Two of his sons were present when he was killed: Henry, Jr., and John. According to one Cock's affidavit, Henry was killed just a few feet from his son Henry, Jr., and the other son, John, killed the man who killed Henry.

The military fighting forces were composed of the local militias, the "State Lines," and the Continental Lines. Since the Militias and Lines couldn't afford to pay their volunteers, an inducement of free land was promised instead. Henry filed for his land in Montgomery County on October 6, 1779. He stated he was entitled to 200 acres for his time of service.

In May, 1780, A Bounty Land Certificate was issued to Henry, but since he was killed in Oct. of 1780, he didn't get a change to use it. His sons, John, Henry, Jr. and Samuel, are mentioned as settling on land in KY, probably obtained with his Bounty Certificate. Captain Henry Francis was never able to do anything with this since he was killed before he found out about it.

Captain Henry Francis's wife's first name was Leah. Her maiden name is not known, but could possibly have been Watson. On Nov. 7, 1780, Leah Francis became the Administrator of Henry's estate. It is believed she died in about 1782.

No complete list of children of Henry and Leah, but Henry Jr. and John stated they were his sons in their Rev War Pension applications. Other children they likely had were named Charles, Samuel and a daughter either named Catherine or Tabitha. These names were listed in various documents.

John was the oldest, born about 1753. Henry Jr. was the oldest, born 1 April 1755, and the following children are listed as being: Charles, born about 1765; Samuel, born about a year later; and Tabitha/Catherine, born about 1767.

Henry didn't leave a will, but there is an inventory of his estate, recorded in Montgomery County courts on November 10, 1780. He appeared prosperous for that time, owning several horses, cows, sheep, hogs and pigs. A Dutch oven and still with all the attachments were also listed.

Henry's estate listed 750 pounds. He was "one of only six farmers that seemed to be well prepared for all agricultural pursuits."

Of Captain Henry's children, COM Kerr's ancestor is John. The first documented notation of John Francis was when it was ordered that he be appointed Constable in Capt. Francis' Company, Montgomery County, VA. (Annals of Southwest VA) He is also shown on the tax list for that county in 1782. John was appointed "heir at law" after his father's death in 1780. At that time, he was still living in VA. In 1784, he gave a power of attorney to James Newall, Jr., in his father's estate matters. At that time, John's place of residence was given as Lincoln County, KY.

John's pension application, (applied for by his widow Nancy) which included pages from the Bible Record, had a notation that he killed the Tory that shot his father, Henry Francis, at the Battle of Shallowford, North Carolina

He moved to Kentucky in about 1783 and married Nancy Ann Mounts, on 12 May 1784, in Wayne County, Kentucky. He was listed in the 1789 Tax List of Madison County, KY, and in the 1799-1800 census of KY, compiled from tax lists, listed as living in Cumberland County, KY. On Dec. 24, 1798, John was granted 200 acres of land in Green County, on Beaver Creek.

His brothers Samuel and Henry were also granted 200 acres each, Samuel on Elk Spring Creek in Green County, and Henry on Fishing Creek, in Lincoln County.

In 1810, he invested in 1,000 acres of land in Wayne County, to include "salt lands". In the summer of 1817, John Francis and his business partner in the endeavor, Richard Slavey began trials for digging for salt. Well, instead of hitting salt, they hit a pocket of oil. John thought the investment was ruined and sold his share fast. They didn't know what to do with the oil at the time.

John died 9 October 1829 near Monticello, in Wayne County, Kentucky. He and Nancy had twelve children. Their 10th child, and 7th daughter, Jane "Janie" is my ancestor. She was born 8 February 1804 in Wayne County, Kentucky.

She married John Morris on 6 August 1823 in Wayne County, Kentucky. They are COM Kerr's 3rd great-grandparents. They moved to Cole County, Missouri, in 1831, then to Morgan County (in what is now Moniteau County) where they lived 16 years. They then moved to California, settling in the Sacramento area, in 1849 and then onto Sonoma County, California.

John Morris grew grapes to be made into wine, starting in 1853. The name of this wine is Snake Eyes. His youngest child, Nancy and her husband Leander Ellis took over that operation. As late as 2012 this wine, a dark red Zinfandel was produced by the Ellis family.

The family's involvement ended when Nancy Lee Ellis, a 2nd great-granddaughter of John Morris, died in 2012. Her obit her grapes "received the highest honor (Snake Eyes) from Murphy Goode Winery, and she won several blue ribbons at the Sonoma County fair for her Cabernet and Zinfandel".

John and Janie's' third child and second daughter is my ancestor, Leah Isabelle Morris and she married Goolsby Woods. This was her second marriage. Leah and Goolsby are COM Kerr's 2nd great-grandparents.

Leah and Goolsby's fifth child and fourth son James Madison Woods is COM Kerr's great-grandfather and he married Annie Clara Jacoby in San Diego County, California, where the family moved in the mid- 1880's up by Escondido.

Jim and Annie had five children, their fourth child and third daughter was COM Kerr's grandmother. Her name was Ines Leola Woods. She married Isaac Amasa Longmore, COM Kerr's grandfather. Isaac and Ines had five children: 4 boys and a girl. The girl was COM Kerr's mother Opal Leola Longmore.

She married COM Kerr's father, Harold Henry Kerr, and COM Kerr was born in 1962 and his sister, Mary Ellen, was born five years later.

During the presentation, the crowd had a wine tasting when COM Kerr was talking about John Morris. This wine received positive reviews from members.

Reports:

Minutes from September meeting: After the presentation, President Chance asked if there were any changes needed to be made on the Secretary's minutes from the September 2015 meeting. These minutes were distributed to the attendees prior to the start of the meeting. One change needed to be made was that COM Alfred Jones's wife's name is JoAnn, not JoEtta. Other than that, the minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: President Chance then called on COM Coutts to give the Treasurer's Report. COM Coutts reported that as of 30 September 2015, the balance of the M Graham Clark Operations Account was \$1,756.52. He further reported that as of 31 September 2015 the balance of the M Graham Clark Endowment Fund was \$13,133.14, of which \$358.30 is in available funds. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Heritage: President Chance mentioned that our heritage is under attack. This last week a group of students on the MU Campus defaced the statue of Thomas Jefferson by putting sticky notes on it with derogatory words. COM Kerr pointed out that this was done the very morning after the fine talk Pulitzer Prize winner David McCullough gave on the importance of educating our people about the sacrifices our Founding Father gave to ensure our freed.

Draping of the Charter: At this point President Chance and Chaplain Merrill draped the charter in memory of COM Arthur E. "Buck" Rikli, who passed on 20 May 2015. COM J Y Miller read his biography. Chaplain Merrill stated he remembers COM Dr. Rikli and his wife, Frances, coming to meeting when they were able and they will be missed. He had a very accomplished life and was a past president of our chapter.

Induction of New Members: President Chance then asked Robert Hill and Dave Harkey to come forward to be inducted into the chapter. After their induction, President Chance asked Chaplain Merrill to say a few words about being in the Color Guard and Chaplain Merrill stated it is a rewarding activity. He gave a summary of the activities the Color Guard has performed since May.

J Y Miller then gave a short background of the Sons of the American Revolution and the M. Graham Clark Chapter.

COM Hill stated that his patriot joined the militia in Connecticut before Bunker Hill and was possibly a Minute Man.

Genealogy Report: President Chance then called on COM Thomas and wife, Nancy, to give the Genealogy Report. Mrs. Thomas stated there are 11 new applications at National awaiting action: Philip Krause, Zachary Fletcher, Charles Lee, James Lee, Chris Montie, Nicholas Grannis, Bradley Grannis, Anthony Chance, Anthony Chance II, Garrison Chance, and Merle Cook. There are also three supplemental applications at National: COM Terrill Jones, COM Larry Dietzel, and COM John Coutts.

Mrs. Thomas also said Bill Stones' new application is ready to mail to the State Genealogist. COM Miller has three supplemental applications at the State Genealogist, as well as COM Strader.

There are two possible new members as well: David Bartlett; COM Bartlett's son; and Brian Bevins: COM Bartlett's stepson.

FOGG Report: COM Kerr stated he has a copy of the newspaper that covered the grave marking for documentation about our chapter doing this on 4 July 2015.

Books for Schools: COM Reynolds asked for the committee to meet for a short time after the meeting.

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COM Reynolds also stated he has been Name tags made for people and asked for those who have the name tags from National to put the name tags he made on the other side of the board so he will know they don't need these.

Closing: There being no further business, President Chance called for the colors to be retired. COM Woodward led the SAR Recessional and Chaplain Merrill gave the benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

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