

**M. Graham Clark Chapter
Missouri Society
The Sons of the American Revolution
19 March 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Opening: The meeting was called to order by President Chance at 8:39 am. The colors were posted by the color guard and Chaplain Stuart gave the Invocation. COM James Lee led the pledge of allegiance and COM Cook led the SAR Pledge. There were 23 members and 11 visitors present.

Visitors of note were: Rudi Keller, the speaker of the presentation, and new member Zachary Fletcher, his mother Amanda Fletcher and grandparents Bill and Irma Krause. Bill Krause introduced his wife – Winifred and the Fetters. He mentioned Zachary is an Eagle Scout and Irma Krause, his wife, is a member of DAR. He further mentioned Amanda was doing her paperwork for DSAR membership. Another visitor of note was Randy Meyer, an applicant for membership.

President Chance asked for birthdays for the month and COM DeVenney stated his birthday is coming up. When President Chance asked if there were any reports on absent members, COM DeVenney stated he has been in touch with COM Cunningham and he is doing better from his back surgery of a few months ago.

At 8:46 am the meeting adjourned for breakfast.

Reconvened:

Program: The meeting reconvened at 9:12 am. President Chance then introduced Rudi Keller, journalist the *Columbia Tribune*. President Chance mentioned the series Mr. Keller wrote about the Civil War, which was done from 2011-2015, to coincide with the sesquicentennial of that bloody war. President Chance also asked if anyone present knew how many votes Abraham Lincoln received from Boone County in the 1860 presidential election. The answer was 12.

Mr. Keller began with a brief discussion of the recent protests on the University of Missouri campus by the “Concerned Student 1950” group. He stated it is important to understand the history of the University in interpreting this movement. The University was formed to be the flagship educational institution of Missouri. The founders of Columbia had slaves yet worked as hard as the slaves did to make a success of their farms. Among these people was William Switzler.

Mr. Keller also mentioned the occurrence last fall where MU students called for the removal of the statue of Thomas Jefferson and placed “post-it” notes on this statue, which said, among other things “racist” and “rapist”. This was in reaction to Jefferson’s owning slaves and having children with Sally Hennings, one of his slaves. Mr. Keller stated it was possible this was due to the parties being in love, or it could have been rape. Mr. Keller stated he felt the removal of the Jefferson statue is a “ludicrous idea”.

Mr. Keller then brought up the movement to take the name of Nathan Bedford Forrest off a building at Middle Tennessee University. He stated that, while Forrest was started of the KKK, another reason for the removal of this name for the building is the perspective that this building was not named for him until after the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, outlawing segregation in educational institutions.

Another issue Mr. Keller discussed was the recent removal of the Confederate rock from the grounds of the Boone County courthouse. This rock was first placed on the University of Missouri campus in 1935 and was donated by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. At the placement of this rock, which contains the names of Boone Countians who were killed in the Civil War, Daughters of the Colonists and Daughters of the War of 1812 were present, as well as personnel from Higginsville Confederate Home, and Frank Harris, Lieutenant Governor of Missouri gave the address. The University of Missouri segregated at the time this memorial was placed there and Lt. Gov. Harris was a son of Robert H. Harris, who was from Centralia and involved in the Centralia massacre of September 1864.

In 1974, when MU was integrated, the rock was moved to where Nifong Park is presently and then later to the courthouse grounds. Mr. Keller stated that when the flag was removed from South Carolina's statehouse after the murders at the church at Charleston a MU student noticed what the rock had on it and wanted it removed. Hank Waters the Publisher Emeritus of the *Columbia Tribune* agreed with this in an editorial and it was eventually removed to the Centralia Battlefield.

Mr. Keller then told about how much easier it is now than even just 10-15 years ago to do his research. As an example, he found a poem about Manassas written by Florence Willesford Borron a woman Boonville and through doing a few hours research online, he found out the poet's mother wrote a book in 1839. He found out the poet was married to a man named William Douglas, who was in the Missouri State Convention in 1861. He found out Florence had an older sister who married John Ainsley who was in the Scottish Thin Red Line.

He summed up his talk by stating he looks for the best in historical figures, but also for truth.

There was a brief Q &A following the talk. COM Coutts ask about Mr. Keller finding the documentation where it proved the government of the State of Missouri voted to secede from the Union. Mr. Keller stated he did find the House of Representatives Journal but it had no Roll Call and so there is a question if there was a quorum present. He also mentioned it is possible the secession of Missouri was an illegal act because, while South Carolina and the other southern states who were a part of the original 13 colonies did so and that was possibly legal, Missouri was not a part of the original 13 colonies and so the state would have owed the Union money for their portion of what the country paid for the Louisiana Purchase.

At this point COM Reynolds asked if he heard Mr. Keller correctly. Mr. Keller stated there were so many actions on both sides of the war. As an example, he stated General Lyons' order to take the armory in St. Louis. He had no legal right to do so in this regard. COM Reynolds stated he had never heard the argument being used about Missouri's secession being illegal because Missouri was not a part of the original 13 colonies.

At the end of the presentation, Mr. Keller was given a Certificate of Appreciation for his presentation.

New Business:

Induction of New Member: At this point, President Chance asked for Zachary Fletcher to come forward for his induction. President Chance swore Mr. Fletcher in and then Amanda Fletcher, COM Fletcher's mother, attached the Rosette on COM Fletcher's lapel.

COM Miller read the history of the Sons of the American Revolution, the history of the M Graham Clark Chapter and a brief mention about Dr. Clark. He indicated this information is included in the new members' packet COM Fletcher received.

Certificates and Awards: President Chance then asked COM DeVenney to come forward and he was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for Chapter Trustee.

President Chance then announced that Elaine Olson was to receive a Martha Washington Medal and Certificate and that he would deliver this to her. He further announced that Ava Cunningham was to receive this as a Bronze Oakleaf as well and that COM DeVenney would deliver this to her.

President Chance then asked Linda Chance to come forward and she was awarded the same award and a Bronze Oakleaf.

These awards are presented to DAR members who help with getting new members into the Sons of the American Revolution.

President Chance also announced that COM Maring has received five Supplemental Certificates and President Chance has received 4.

Secretary Report: President Chance asked for COM Kerr to discuss the Minutes from the February 2016 meeting. These were reviewed by the members and the only change needed was the spelling of the Boy Scout Camp needed to be Hohn, per COM Charles Lee. Other than that the minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer Report: President Chance called for COM Dietzel to come forward and present the Treasurer's Report. COM Dietzel reported that as of 29 February 2016 the balance of the M. Graham Clark Operations Account was \$883.95. He further stated that as of 29 March 2016 the account balance of the M. Graham Carl Endowment Fund was \$13,135.87, of which \$360.46 is in available funds. This report was approved as read.

Books for Schools: COM President then asked for COM Reynolds to present a report on the Books for Schools program. COM Reynolds stated there have been about 90 books purchased for several schools and he presented a list to the members at the meeting. COM Reynolds also stated there would be a presentation given at the Huntsville school on Thursday, March 24 at 10 am. These two programs are doing a fine job getting the word to the youth about both our country's history and our organization. NOTE: It is very possible that this should be Higbee, not Huntsville.

Patriot of the Month: President Chance announced that COM Miller was awarded the State of Missouri Daughters of the American Revolution "Patriot of the Month" for March 2016.

Missouri SAR State Convention: President Chance reminded the attendees of the upcoming Missouri SAR State Convention to be held 29-30 April in Independence.

Genealogy Report: President Chance called on COM Kerr to give the Genealogy Report, in the absence of Com Thomas and his wife Nancy. COM Kerr reported COM Maring had 5 Supplemental applications approved and President Chance had 4 Supplemental applications approved. There are 5 more supplemental applications for President Chance at the State Genealogist level.

COM Kerr also stated that the Supplemental application for COM Bartlett is almost ready to be signed and sent in. The new application for Ken Anderson and Roger Fries are in COM Kerr's possession and these are making progress—especially Mr. Anderson's. The following applications are at the National level, awaiting decision: John McMurtry, Ian McMurtry, John Bates, and Brian Bevins. COM Coutts also has a Supplemental application at the National level.

Randy Meyer was to meet with COM Kerr so he can remind Mr. Meyer what is still needed and COM Terrill Jones gave COM Kerr paperwork COM Thomas and Nancy needed and COM Kerr will make sure they get it quickly.

Bylaws: President Chance asked for COM Miller to come forward to address the issue of the Bylaws for the Chapter and changes being proposed. COM Miller stated that recently, he, President Chance, COM Reynolds COM Kerr and COM DeVenney met to discuss the Bylaws and some other topics for the furtherment of the chapter. In reading the chapters, there were some discrepancies noted:

1. There were some typos, which were changed with no problem.
2. The election and installation of the chapter officers should take place a month earlier than what we have been doing and that was because sometime in the past there was a weather issue where a meeting did not happen, so we will follow what the bylaws say from now on.
3. There was an issue about the quorum being needed to make changes to the Bylaws. The Bylaws said in one place 2/3 of the membership and other 2/3 of the members present. This was felt to need to be 2/3 of the members present since we have members all throughout the country that cannot attend.
4. The nominating committee for officers did not state whom this committee was to be composed of, yet the practice has been to have the Past-Presidents in good standing and the current President to serve in this capacity, so that was added.
5. While all the other duties of the officers had the clause "and other duties as are assigned by the President", the Chaplain's duties did not have this clause, so it was added.
6. The Bylaws were changed to state that amendments would be approved "providing that they are not in conflict with any of the policies of either MOSSAR or NSSAR." In the past it said these would be approved by MOSSAR which COM DeVenney stated was not feasible.
7. Executive Committee: the Bylaws had no entry on the Executive Committee, who it was to be comprised of or how it would act, so this was added. COM Miller pointed out that the approval and adoption of the Bylaws in 2003 stated it was done by the "Chapter Executive Committee" yet there was no Executive Committee clause in the Bylaws as stated above.

The Executive Committee clause being added is perhaps the biggest issue to be discussed, according to COM Miller. He stated the Executive Committee is proposed to be comprised of the Chapter President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Secretary and Treasurer. COM Miller stated the minutes would be made by the Chapter Secretary and distributed to the members of the Executive Committee and not the whole membership, but would be available to members upon request.

Upon the completion of his presentation, COM Miller moved that the revised new by-laws be approved as E-mailed to the membership and explained today. COM DeVenney seconded. There was then time to discuss these changes and additions. COM Merrill asked about the naming of Missouri and National SAR. There is presently a “branding” movement by National SAR, wherein instead of using MOSSAR, it is Missouri SAR, since some confusion is in the populace as to what MOSSAR stands for, just like others states’. For the purpose of the Bylaws, this is not an issue, since this is an internal document, according to COM DeVenney.

Hearing no further discussion, President Chance asked for all members present who approved of these changes and additions to stand. Twenty-three members stood. President Chance asked any members who did not agree to stand and no members stood. The amended Bylaws were unanimously approved by the members present.

M. Graham Clark Grave Marking: COM Merrill stated he attended the Grave Marking of Dr. M. Graham Clark, for whom our chapter is named. COM Merrill said it was a rainy day but the clouds separated when the program started.

Closing: There being no further business, The SAR Recessional was led by COM Charles Lee, the Benediction was given by Chaplain Stuart and the Colors were retired.

The meeting was adjourned by President Chance at 10:49 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold H. Kerr II, Secretary
M Graham Clark Chapter,
Missouri Sons of the American Revolution