

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

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. There were 40 people in attendance: 17 members and 23 visitors. The Invocation was given by Chaplain Stuart, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Thomas and the SAR Pledge was led by COM Woodward.

Visitors of note were: Amy Schneider, the presenter of the program; new member John Bates's wife Tiffany, son Travis, daughter-in-law Stacy and grandson Colton; DAR Member Elaine Olson; prospective member Michael Breedlove; and Bill Krause, whose grandsons are members.

Birthdays for May were as follows: COM Cunningham, COM Bartlett, Mary Miller and COM Kerr.

President Chance asked if there were any members ill; none were noted. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 a.m. for breakfast.

Reconvened: The meeting reconvened at 9:07 a.m. President Chance asked the attendees to give recognition to the Country Club staff for the fine service provided and a round of applause was forthcoming.

Program: President Chance then introduced the presenter of the program, Amy Schneider of the Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Mrs. Schneider stated the Visitors Bureau provides public relations, sales and publicity for the City of Columbia as well as Boone County. She stated the goal for these services was to have economic growth for the area. She stated they have eight full-time employees who are all very dedicated to their work. They make sure there is advertising in Kansas City, St. Louis, the surrounding states, Texas, and as the University of Missouri switched to the SEC, they have been advertising in the southeastern states of the USA.

Mrs. Schneider stated there is a 12 member advisory board who are appointed by the City Council of Columbia and there is a liaison from the Boone County Commission as well.

Mrs. Schneider stated the funding they receive is from the 4% lodging tax. Of this 4%, ¼ goes to salaries; ½ goes to PR, Sales and Communication, and ¼ goes to the Tourism Development Program. She said this Program is "anything that has to do with heads in beds."

Some of the programs the Bureau is involved in are: Roots-n-Blues, Fall Festival, Boone County Historical Society, and Art in the Park. She said basically they are involved in anything that adds to Columbia's atmosphere.

She said tourism is the second largest industry in Missouri, following agriculture. There is a State Division of Tourism and every community has some sort of tourism department or board. She said tourism is defined as "People choosing to travel," meaning people make their choice on their destination and it is her Bureau's job to ensure they are pleased with their choice.

In fiscal year 2015, over 40 million visitors came to Missouri. This meant there are 297,000 employed in tourism in Missouri in some fashion. The state made \$15.9 million in Fiscal Year 2015. Boone County made \$359,000 in tourism. The industries that benefit from tourism include food, hotel, and anything else tourists do while visiting.

People come to Columbia for a variety of reasons. Among these are: education, health care, sports, Show Me State Games, arts, parks and trails, history research, and corporate tourism (i.e., training employees). Mrs. Schneider said there is just about something for everyone.

Another thing the Bureau provides is Nifong Village at the Boone County Historical Society.

A project that is in its second year is the Certified Tourism Ambassador Program, which is nationwide. This is a program where people interested in helping with the Bureau's activities get trained about such things as the history of Columbia and Boone County, city and county activities, ways to provide good customer service, community resources, and other topics. So far, Columbia City police, city administration personnel, hotel employees, and county employees and commissioners have completed this course. Classes are offered every month and Mrs. Schneider said she could see several people in attendance that could benefit from this program.

One example she gave on how her bureau is of great benefit to the community and to visitors is that when the Georgia Bulldog football team first came to Columbia as part of the SEC, the Georgia fans were everywhere and came into their offices, got information and reaction was very positive. She said they are already getting emails from their fans for the return visit Georgia will give this year.

The Visitors Guide is the publication the Bureau publishes every year and the updated one will be available in a few weeks. The website is www.gocolumbiamo.com. There is going to be more emphasis on the surrounding area of Columbia in the next guide.

The next festival is the Art in Park on June 4th and 5th at Stephens Park. It is free and is the oldest festival in Columbia. Another activity in Columbia is the We Always Swing Jazz series, which brings in Jazz musicians that usually are only on the east and west coasts.

All of these, and other, activities depend on the Bureau to assist with getting word out to the people.

Questions and answers were then taken:

Q: Has the City Council gone through the Ambassador program?

A: No, not yet. It has been offered but no council member has done it to date. With a new Mayor and some different council members, perhaps that will change. It will continue to be offered and can be scheduled to better fit the council's schedules.

Q: Does the Bureau have an App?

A: No. This was tried in the past and was not successful. The website is mobile friendly. The concept of an App has been brought back to the forefront and there is a new IT person so hopefully this will happen soon.

Mrs. Schneider mentioned that the approach the Bureau has been taking to publicize the area has gone from 60% paper and 40% digital to just the opposite through the years.

Q: Does the Bureau have the Driving Tour of Boone County that the Boone County Historical Society has available?

A: She didn't think so, but would check and if not, she would see they get this as it sounds like an excellent resource.

At the conclusion of the presentation, President Chance told Mrs. Schneider he would get a Certificate of Appreciation to her for this presentation. She said, "You know where I work."

New Members Inducted: At this point President Chance asked John Bates and Brian Bevins to come forward to be inducted. President Chance swore them in and COM Reynolds put the Rosette of COM Bates lapel and COM Bartlett put the rosette on COM Bevin's' lapel. COM Miller read the history of the Sons of the American Revolution and the history of the Chapter after they were sworn in.

COM Bates thanked COM Reynolds, his family, and Nancy Thomas for all their help in becoming a member.

Awards: At this point President Chance gave COM Miller the NSSAR Meritorious Service Medal and Certificate, which was awarded at the Missouri SAR Convention.

President Chance also gave Elaine Olson the Martha Washington Medal and Certificate for her fine assistance in SAR applications.

President Chance also gave COM Coutts his supplemental certificate.

President Chance gave Charles Lee, representing Boone County Historical Society, a flag certificate for properly flying of the American flag. The facility actually flies several American flags—from various eras of the country's history.

Charles Finnell Grave Marking: President Chance reminded the Chapter there will be a Grave Marking on June 11, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at the Hurt Cemetery in Randolph County. Directions to the cemetery were placed on the tables prior to the meeting. Information about the marking is as follows:

The ceremony will be June 11 at the Hurt Cemetery southwest of Huntsville at 4:00. A reception will be held at the home of Pam Fuemmeler 2196 S. Hwy 3, Huntsville following the ceremony. From Moberly take Hwy 24 west to Hwy 3. Turn south (left) on 3 to Hwy BB (Mt. Airy). Left on BB to the first gravel road (2410) to the right (about ¼ mile). Go down road 2410 about 1 mile. The cemetery is on the top of a hill on the right.

William Harvey Grave Marking: COM Coutts stated there will likely be a grave marking in a cemetery up by Armstrong Missouri in the fall or spring. A man from Florida named Eli Chandler has an ancestor buried there and he is getting the stone for the marking. Details are to follow.

Flag Day Picnic: President Chance reminded the Chapter there will be a Flag Day Picnic at the home of Esther Rosner, daughter of COM Lehenbauer. COM Lehenbauer stated the food will be provided; just bring yourselves.

Information about this is as follows:

It is being hosted by Steve and Esther Rosner and the Jane Randolph Jefferson DAR Chapter at the home of the Rosner's—900 Esther Lane, Jefferson City, MO. Bring a lawn chair if you have one. RSVP/Questions to jan.r.jefferson@gmail.com

The picnic starts at noon, rain or shine!

Chapter Business: There were three items to be decided on in the meeting:

1. As discussed originally at the April 2016 meeting, the increase of \$1 for breakfasts starting in September 2016. The reason was to reduce the losses incurred by paying for visitors' breakfasts.

MOTION: The amount charged for breakfast meals at regular Chapter meetings be set at \$1.00 more than the amount charged by the meal provider with the additional funds raised made available to cover Chapter expenses including meals provided Chapter guests.

Motion made by COM Miller; seconded by COM James Lee. No discussion. Unanimous vote in favor.

2. As discussed originally at the April 2016 meeting, the increase of Chapter dues from \$10 to \$14 a year, starting in September 2016.

MOTION: The local dues of the Chapter be increased from \$10.00 to \$14.00, effective with our next billing, with the increased funds being made available in the Chapter treasury for approved Chapter expenses.

Motion made by COM Miller; seconded by COM Charles Lee. Discussion: COM Kerr stated the present dues have been at the \$10.00 amount for several years, according to members. No further discussion. Unanimous vote in favor.

3. MOTION: The m. Graham Clark Chapter take its usual hiatus during the months of June, July and August 2016 with no regular meetings being held during this time. Committee Meetings or Special Meetings may be held as needed.

Motion made by COM Coutts; seconded by COM Woodward. No Discussion. Unanimous vote in favor.

50-50 Drawing: The tickets from the 50-50 drawing were placed in COM Lybarger's tri-cornered hat. COM Miller pulled out the winning number, which was held by Elaine Olson. Mrs. Olson graciously turned her \$27 winnings back over to the Chapter, so the Chapter gained \$54 from this.

Speakers Bureau: COM Miller stated he will give a talk on the Civil War Battle of Glasgow on the 26th of June to the Museum of Brunswick.

Treasurer's Report: COM Dietzel gave the Treasurer's Report. COM Dietzel reported that as of 21 May 2016, the M. Graham Clark Operations Account balance was \$886.63. The M Graham Clark Endowment Fund Account balance was \$12,836.96, of which \$61.34 is in funds available. The Books for Schools balance is \$1,340.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report was reviewed and motioned by COM Miller to approve; seconded by COM James Lee.

MOSSAR Convention: President Chance reported the Chapter received the following certificates at the MOSSAR Convention:

NSSAR Americanism Award Missouri Society Participation: Second Place

Josiah Fogg Award: Honorable Mention

Memorial Day: COM Dietzel reported the Memorial Day observation will be May 25 at the Boone County Courthouse at 4:00 pm. President Chance will place a wreath at this observation.

Genealogy Report: Nancy Thomas reported that the following application are still at National: 1) Alan Hiles's new application; 2) COM Terrill Jones's supplemental application; and 3) President Chance has 3 supplemental application that are pended. She stated she has sent in additional information to Dr. Sizemore on the pended applications and has heard nothing back on these.

She stated Randall Myer's new application is ready to send in, Dennis Grev's new application is almost ready, Ken Anderson's new application is still in process but he has not responded to emails from COM Kerr, who has been trying to help him, about this. She also stated that Elaine Olson will see what she can find on the Roger Fries application when she goes to Salt Lake City later this year.

She also stated the application of Kanoa Fujita to be a full member of SAR from being a Junior Member is ready to be signed and sent in.

There was some discussion of the time it takes to get these applications approved and this continues to be an issue within SAR at large.

Closing: There being no further business, President Chance called on COM Raines to lead the SAR Recessional, and Chaplain Stuart to give the Benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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