

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

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by President Chance. Since there was not a complete Color Guard, the colors were posted and the invocation was given by COM Merrill in place of Chaplain Stuart who was not present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Raines and the SAR Pledge was led by COM Charles Lee.

There were 28 persons present: 17 members and 11 visitors. President Chance asked if there were any visitors of note and the only visitor of note was Gil Stone, the presenter, who would be introduced later. President Chance asked if there were any birthdays over the summer. Mrs. Coutts, Mrs. Lehenbauer and COM Alfred Jones stated they had birthdays. COM Jones said he turned 94 in June and the attendees gave him a round of applause.

President Chance asked if there were any ill members and COM Kerr stated that COM Woodward is having health issues associated with this hip, being in a great amount of pain and sleeping a lot as a result. COM Kerr stated he will be looking into visiting COM Woodward in the coming week.

At 8:40 am the group adjourned for breakfast.

**Reconvened:** The meeting reconvened at 9:03 am, whereupon President Chance introduced Gil Stone, the presenter of the program. Mr. Stone is a cousin of President Chance as they share a great grandfather in common. As a result, Mr. Stone is eligible for SAR membership and he intends to apply.

Mr. Stone's presentation was on the trip he and his wife, with four friends, made in May 2016 to scale up Mount Everest up to the base camp, which is 12,000 feet above sea level. Mr. Stone stated he had two passions as a youngster: flying and mountain climbing, and hiking up Mount Everest was a lifelong goal.

Mr. Stone shared an excellent slideshow of photos of the hike they made. He stated Mount Everest was named for Sir George Everest, who was the Surveyor General of India. Everest did not want the mountain to be named for him, but his successor Andrew Waugh did so anyway. He said that George Lee Mallory stated the reason to climb the mountain was because it was there. He actually had a much longer quote, but shortened it to this as time went on. He climbed Mount Everest in 1924 and got up to about 1,000 feet of the summit but it is not known for sure whether he made it as he died. His body was not found until 15 years ago. He had a camera but it was not located.

Mount Everest is in Nepal, which is sandwiched between India and China and is a pawn in the local geopolitical situation there. Half of Mount Everest is in Tibet and the other half is in Nepal. It is 100 miles from sea level, which is an indication of how steep the grade is to reach the summit.

The first two people to successfully make it up to and return from the summit of Mount Everest were Sir Edmund Hillary from New Zealand and his Sherpa guide Norgay in 1953. News of this success reached England on the day of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth.

The first American to successfully climb Mount Everest was a man named James Whitaker, who succeeded in 1963. An Italian named Reinhold Messner along with Peter Habeler were the first to make the climb without the aid of supplemental Oxygen, in 1980. After they did this they were going to write a book but could not agree on the facts so Messner decided to do it again, without supplemental oxygen, two years later.

During Mr. Stone's group climb to the base camp, they first had to fly to Katmandu, which is a 12 hour flight from Chicago and then there was a half-hour flight to an airport called the most dangerous airport in the world because it is so difficult to fly into and out of. He said the flight lands and the people and materials disembark and then the plane leaves, all in the span of 5 minutes. It is necessary to have such a quick turnaround because the weather is so unpredictable. Sir Edmund Hillary built this airport.

The entire trip took a month from landing to returning to this airport. It took 10 days to hike from this airport to the location of base camp. Along the way there was a shrine for the first Nepalese woman to climb Mount Everest. She died on the way down from the summit.

One other item along the way were swinging, suspension bridges. One was about 300 feet high and everyone—human and animal went across this bridge. Mr. Stone said his wife has a fear of heights so this was a challenge for her. One of the most difficult parts of the hike was in the days after this bridge, where the trail goes straight up the mountain. Mr. Stone said that this trail is a path, but is the I-70 for the country.

Mr. Stone showed a photo of their Sherpa guide, whose father was also a Sherpa guide. He said it took 12 Sherpa guides to assist the group of 6 Americans on this trip. They would set up the camps at the end of the day, and then tear down the camps while the Americans hiked, and the Sherpas would go past them and set up where they would eat so when the Americans got there they could eat. Then, after the noon meal, the Americans would hike and the Sherpas would tear down the area where they cook and then go ahead of the Americans and set up where they would sleep overnight.

All the loads were carried on the backs of people and donkeys. He showed a photo of a man carrying a large piece of wood that weighed about 200 pounds. Mr. Stone said his backpack was about 10 pounds and was about all he could handle under the circumstances of high elevation and thin air. The trails are steep, the ground is loose in several places and there were no handrails to steady you.

Along the way there were monasteries, and he showed a photo of one where there were stones that had prayers inscribed on them, prayer wheels and prayer flags. He said the two religions are Hindu and Buddhism and then people get along very well.

Health issues associated with this hike were essentially due to oxygen deprivation, including hypoxia. The key is to go slowly up the trail. There is a saying, "climb high; sleep low". What this means is you would climb higher than the area in which you would camp overnight. That way your body acclimates to the oxygen level bit by bit. This stimulates your red blood cells.

The signs of oxygen deprivation are you lose your hunger and thirst and you dehydrate. Then there is a risk for stroke.

When the group got to the glacier level, there were memorials to fallen climbers—about 30 of them. He said the religions there cremate the dead and they put the remains there because above that level the ground is constantly moving. There was a temporary village for climbers there which is only open 2-3 months in the summer and was 2-3 miles from base camp.

Once you get to base camp, the ground shifts so much you have to reset your tent every two to three days.

Some hazards associated with the area in addition to oxygen deprivation is cold, dry air and constantly falling rocks. Mr. Stone said 18 people died at base camp last year. Earthquakes are common in the area and the people shore up their buildings as opposed to rebuilding since resources are low.

The summit of Mount Everest is almost 30,000 feet above sea level. Mr. Stone said that at about 26,000 feet a person is literally dying and the final 4,000 feet is pretty much a sprint to make the summit and then to come back down as quickly as one can. Most people who die, do so on their way back down.

Mr. Stone said there was one woman die there when his group was on the hike. This was not a woman in his group.

Just about anyone has done this that wants to. The youngest person to successfully make the climb and return was a 14 year old boy. The oldest was an 80 year old man. There have been double amputees and blind people make the climb successfully as well.

In Q&A it was asked about the life span of the climbers. Mr. Stone said he did not know if there had been research on this, but it has been found that people who make the climb repeatedly can have traumatic brain injuries. One man made the climb 8 times and his MRI shows shrinkage in the brain.

This can be obsessive for some people as well.

One thing Mr. Stone said he took on the hike was a drug that changes the PH of the blood so a person wouldn't hyperventilate.

This presentation was very well received by the attendees.

After the program, President Chance stated the week of September 17-23 is National Constitution Week.

President Chance told the group the chapter was awarded a Participation Certificate for the Partners in Patriotism.

**Reports: Secretary Report:** President Chance then asked Secretary Kerr to give the Secretary Report. After review, this was approved as written.

**Treasurer Report:** President Chance then asked Treasurer Dietzel to give the Treasurer's Report. COM Dietzel reported that as of 17 September 2016, the account at Central Bank had \$1,274.63. He further stated the School Book Library Fund ("Books for Schools") presently has \$483.76. He further stated the M Graham Clark Endowment Fund has a balance of \$12,839.12, of which \$63.49 is in available funds. The report was approved as given

**Americanism/President General's Streamer Report:** President Chance then asked COM Kerr to give the Americanism/President General's Streamer Report. COM Kerr gave a handout that explains what activities go into these reports so that is anything they do is in these areas, please let him know so he can make the report. COM Kerr stated the FOGG report has several of the same items and the difference between these two areas is FOGG is Missouri SAR and the Americanism/President's Streamer in National SAR.

**Genealogy Report:** President Chance asked Nancy Thomas to give the Genealogy Report. She stated Alan Hiles's new application was approved 7-7-2016, Jerry Ransdell's new application was approved 9 September 2016. Jake Krause's new application is at National. Michael Breedlove's new application is at National 22 August 2016. COM Terrill Jones's Supplemental Application was approved 16 August 2016, COM Bartlett has a Supplemental at National 25 July 2-16, President Chance has 9 Supplemental Applications at National 17 August 2016. COM Strader has two Supplemental Applications at National and two at the State Genealogist. Bruce Hillis's new application is at the State Genealogist. Need one more document for Brad Harriman's new application.

**Books for Schools:** President Chance asked COM Reynolds to report on the Books for Schools. COM Reynolds stated he will get back into this soon. He took a sabbatical to work on some research he is doing.

**Good of the Chapter:** COM Coutts stated there will be a Grave Marking on Saturday, 1 July 2017 in a cemetery up by Armstrong, Missouri, in Howard County. The Patriot's name is William Harvey and the family will have a reunion in the Kansas City area and then come here for the marking. Eli Chandler is the family member that has been working with COM Coutts and COM Miller about this. This will definitely be a good thing to do!

**Speakers Bureau/Books for Schools:** Com Miller stated he had been contacted by a school about doing a presentation and possibly getting books through our Books for Schools programs. He said he will keep the chapter informed.

**Announcements:** COM Kerr mentioned that next weekend is the "Walk Through History at Mexico Missouri in case anyone is interested.

COM Kerr announced the Howard County Missouri Genealogical Society is finishing the work on a book commemorating the Bicentennial of Howard County, which is this year. The books will be out in late October and cost \$24.95 with \$5.00 for shipping if the people want them mailed. Checks can be made out to Howard County Genealogy Society and sent to the same at 201 South Main Street, Fayette MO 65248.

**50-50 Drawing:** The drawing was held and COM Coutts's number was drawn. The kitty had \$35.00 in it so COM Coutts won \$17.50.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business for the chapter, President Chance called on COM Coutts to lead the SAR Recessional and COM Merrill to give the Benediction.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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