

**M. GRAHAM CLARK CHAPTER**  
**MISSOURI SOCIETY**  
**THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

**December 16, 2017**

President Harold Kerr called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. The Colors were presented by Color Guardsmen John Coutts and J. Wayne Merrill. Chaplain Alan Hiles gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Com. Ray Miller, and the SAR Pledge being led by Com. Bruce Hillis. President Kerr then called for the posting of the colors. There were 16 members and 10 visitors present. There were two members recognized as having December birthdays. The meeting was recessed for breakfast.

President Kerr reconvened the meeting at 8:59 a.m. by introducing MOSSAR President Dennis Hahn. President Hahn said he was pleased to have the opportunity to visit the M. Graham Clark Chapter being one of the largest chapters among the 15 in the State. He said there were 744 SAR members, at last count, in Missouri. He then talked about the goals he had set at the beginning of his presidency and he has regretted not finding someone to be the editor of the Missouri Compatriot. He commented that if someone in our chapter was interested in that job, he would love to hear from them. He then talked about the History of the Missouri SAR that was published some 28 years ago and that he hoped that by 2019, MOSSAR could put out a 30 year revision to that history. He mentioned that MOSSAR would be dedicating a plaque for SAR Compatriots Sir Winston Churchill and President Harry S. Truman at the Churchill Memorial in Fulton, Missouri, on March 10, 2018, and hoped that many from our chapter could attend. President Hahn also complimented our Chapter on our webpage. He recognized Com J. Wayne Merrill, who will become the next MOSSAR President next year.

The program for the morning was given by our Chaplain, Alan Hiles, who spoke about Champ Clark, Missouri Statesman. President Kerr also introduced Com. Hiles' wife, Waylene, whom he noted was a DAR member. Com. Hiles, who is a jeweler at Melody's Jewelry in Mexico, Missouri, and who has been told that he looks a lot like Champ Clark, was dressed as Clark in a white suit and hat. He noted that Champ Clark started out under very poor circumstances as he was orphaned at an early age and was farmed out. Early on he saw the value of getting an education and became the youngest college president in the country. He eventually went to law school and moved to Louisiana, Missouri, where he became the Superintendent of Schools and then joined a law firm in Bowling Green, Missouri. He entered politics and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1892, becoming the Majority Leader in 1908. He then was elected as Speaker of the House with a 100% vote from the House membership, which was unheard of at the time and since. In 1912, Clark lost his chance to run for the U.S. Presidency, when William Jennings Bryan switched his allegiance to Woodrow Wilson at the Democratic Convention. The use of "You Got To Quit Kicking My Dog Around," as a campaign song was also discussed. Champ Clark died in 1921. There were lots of questions for Com. Hiles and he invited those interested to look at the pictures and memorabilia that he had on display.

Following the program, Com J. Y. Miller held the 50/50 drawing. President Kerr then called for the usual reports: Com. J. Y. Miller moved that the Secretary's minutes be accepted as printed on the website and Com. Bob Bartlett seconded and the motion passed. Treasurer Dietzel gave the treasurer's report and Com. J. Y. Miller moved that it be accepted for audit and Com. Jack Chance seconded and it was accepted. Genealogist Coutts reported that there were two applications at National and there were 14 being worked on. It was reported that Com Jim Lee had received three scholarship applications and expects to get at least one more for the Eagle Scout program.

Under Current Business, Com J. Y. Miller moved to amend the Chapter By-laws as posted on the website, emailed to the membership, and explained at two meetings for the purpose of creating the officer positions of Executive Secretary and Recording Secretary. Com Jack Chance seconded the motion and was passed.

Com Jack Chance, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, read the proposed slate of officers for the coming year: President, Harold Kerr; Vice President, Charles Lee; Immediate Past President, Jack Chance; Executive Secretary, Harold Kerr; Recording Secretary, Bruce Hillis; Treasurer, Gil Stone; Genealogist/Registrar, John Coutts; Historian, Michael Breedlove; Chaplain, Alan Hiles; Sergeant at Arms, Jim Lee; Trustee (1yr), Russ DeVenney; Trustee (2yrs), J. Y. Miller; Trustee (3yrs), Jack Chance. The second reading of the nominations will be made at the January meeting, followed by the election at the February meeting.

President Kerr reported that he, Com DeVenney, and Com J. Y. Miller had met with Lorie Jaegers at the Courtyard by Marriott, with Terra Crane of the Columbia Convention Bureau also present, to discuss contracting with that hotel for the MOSSAR 2019 Convention. He further reported that a contract has been received and that it will be reviewed before signing. In closing, it was again noted that dues are due.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m. following the SAR Recessional led by Com. Jack Chance and the benediction given by Chaplain Hiles and the retrieving of the Colors by the Color Guard.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Wayne Merrill, Secretary