

M. Graham Clark Chapter Meeting Minutes 16 November 2019

Opening: President Charles Lee called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. He called on Chaplain Hiles to give the Opening Prayer, followed by Compatriot Jack Chance to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Compatriot Russell Reith to lead the SAR Pledge. There were 17 members present with 13 visitors, making a total of 30 (See attached listing). Visitors of note were Joanne Meyer, a cousin of Compatriot J. Y. Miller, and Luke Lucas and wife, an applicant for membership into SAR.

The meeting then adjourned for breakfast at 8:45 am.

Program: At 9: 10 a.m. President Lee called the meeting back to order and asked Compatriot Harold Kerr to introduce the Program Speaker, Dr. Rhonda Chalfant. Compatriot Kerr read the following introduction: “Rhonda Chalfant has a BS in Education, and an MA from the University of Central Missouri, and a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Missouri.

She is a retired instructor from State Fair Community College in Sedalia, teaching there for over 35 years. She taught English Composition, several literature courses, American History, American Diversity, and Children's Literature. She was selected as Instructor of the Year at SFCC in 1998. She retired from SFCC in 2011

On a personal note, I had the privilege of having her as an instructor in Rhetorical Writing and American Literature while at SFCC.

Since 1996, as sole owner of Chalfant Consulting, she has been a historic preservation consultant, doing nominations of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, Section 106 Reviews, and recording historic properties prior to demolitions.

She has researched schools, homes, farmsteads, bridges, water towers, an opera house, a saloon, and a brothel.

She has written articles about Missouri history for the Sedalia Democrat, has written two books about the Missouri State fair and two books about local history, and speaks frequently about Central Missouri history. Her dissertation was a study of prostitution in Sedalia, Missouri, from 1867 to 1900.

Her topic was the Missouri State Fair during the World War.

Dr. Chalfant began by thanking the Chapter for the invitation to speak and that she has given presentations to the Sedalia Missouri DAR Chapter. She stated she has no lineal ancestors who were in the Revolutionary War but has several collateral ancestors.

Dr. Chalfant began her program by talking about the German population in Missouri. She mentioned the 1829 German Treatise by Duden *Report on a Journey in Western States in North America*, in which he studied the settlement of the German people in the state of Missouri. Some towns of note for this settlement are Hermann, Concordia, and Cole Camp.

Dr. Chalfant stated that in the 1910 census, 49.2% of the people were listed as having been born in German or German areas, or one or two of their parents were born in these areas.

The German people had a strong work ethic, did eco-friendly farming and knew much about rotating crops—things many of the other farmers did not do. German was spoken in homes, churches, and schools. Many children did not start speaking English until they went to school when their language skills transferred from German to English.

As a background to World War I, Dr. Chalfant pointed out that in the 1890s Germany started expanding their armament production and nations were bound together by political and geographical interests. World War I started in 1914 and President Wilson did not want the United States to become involved. One reason was due to the large German population as stated before and votes came from these people.

But, when the Lusitania was sunk and then the Zimmerman telegram was discovered by the English and shared with Wilson, Wilson perceived there was little choice but to get into the war. The Zimmerman telegram was a telegram sent by the German government to Mexico, encouraging them to attack the United States and promising that when the Germans won the war they would see to it that Mexico would be rewarded by getting the land which comprised the states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and most of California returned to them.

The United States declared war on 6 April 1917, but six United States Senators and 50 United States Representatives voted against the declaration of war. General John J. Pershing, a Missouri native, was given the Command of the American Expeditionary Forces.

World War I saw the “technology of killing” advance, yet the medical field did not advance in kind. There was widespread use of machine guns, tanks were introduced to war, yet penicillin had yet to be discovered.

Missouri began the draft on 18 May 1917 and there was what was called “Induction Days” where businesses and schools would close. Bands would play in the streets and in theaters. There was much pressure for young men to join and one man went to join even though he was suffering from Tuberculosis. He died 4 days after he went to join.

Posters were put up at several public places, bond drives were held. The Alien and Sedition acts were passed, making it illegal to talk against the war, to question the handling of the war and a soldier could even get in legal trouble by disparaging his sergeant in letters home. One poster said; “I Pledge Allegiance and Silence about the War.”

Messages also covered rationing, victory gardens, buy war bonds, and the American men were fighting to protect women and children.

Another poster said the Negroes were not slackers. Society felt the blacks were and the government was trying to dispel that belief. However, by stating this, the underlying message was the blacks were slackers so that was a mixed message to a lot of people.

Dr. Chalfant said the black soldiers fought just as well as the white, when they were allowed to do so which was not often. They felt they would come back to America with equal rights and this did not happen.

Teaching the German language was barred; preaching in German language was barred. There were two German churches in Sedalia that got in trouble—a German Methodist and a German Lutheran Church—for not abiding by this. People of German background were treated very negatively. The Amish, Mennonites and German Baptists were especially mistreated due to their anti-war beliefs.

At the Missouri State Fair in 1917 and 1918 these posters were shown everywhere. The propaganda made the Germans out to be brutes. They were depicted as carrying “virginal, blonde young American” women off with blood in the brutes’ teeth. The United States soldiers were shown as being doting men. There was a poster of American women depicted as being an Army of Support.

In addition to posters, there were displays of military equipment and also naval equipment. There were marches around the fairground track of much of this equipment. There was a mock battle in the center of the track where fireworks were used in place of bombs and ammunition.

Missouri Governor Frederick Garner saw a relationship between the State Fair and patriotic aspects in the increases of crops. In 1918 there were displays of food conservation; the YMCA had a hut dugout where they showed the work they did, as did the Red Cross.

Another way the Missouri State Fair was affected by the war: every single year surround restaurants and motels would hike their prices due to the increased demand for these services and the fact the supply was the same as before the fair. This practice was strongly discourage and called a “Hunnish Policy”, being a direct slap to the Germanic people in the area.

After the war, the boys came home but not immediately. The Armistice was not the end of the war—it was just a cease fire and the Versailles Treaty was not signed until mid-1919. The boys came home, often with amputations, gas injuries, shell shock and there were race riots in the 1920s when the disillusioned black soldiers came home to the same situation they left to fight in the war.

Dr. Chalfant said it was not long until Germany started to build up their arms again and the whole thing started again in World War II, on a much larger scale.

There was then a short Q&A.

Award: Once the Q&A ended, Compatriot Kerr and President Lee presented Dr. Chalfant with an Outstanding Citizenship Award Certificate and Pin. Compatriot Kerr stated he was especially pleased to help make this presentation as he feels it important to let our teachers know we appreciated what they did for us and this was one way he can do this for Dr. Chalfant.

Dr. Chalfant had copies of a book she wrote about the Missouri State Fair for sale and several copies were purchased, which she signed. She turned \$10 of the money she received for these book sales back to Treasurer Gil Stone for the chapter.

Awards: More awards were then presented by President Lee:

- 1) With the assistance of Compatriot J.Y. Miller, a Flag Certificate was awarded to Joanne Meyer, a cousin of his who flies 2 American flags in Glasgow every day.

- 2) Compatriot Russell DeVenny, Jr. was presented a NSSAR Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding personal service as Chairman of the GWEF Distribution Committee, 2018-2019; signed by President General Warren M. Alter. The GWEF is the George Washington Endowment Fund, which distributes monies to various SAR causes.
- 3) Compatriot Harold H. Kerr II was presented a MOSSAR Missouri State Society Bronze Certificate and Medal In recognition of outstanding personal service to the Missouri Society exemplifying the finest American ideals.

Reports: President Lee called on Compatriot Kerr to give the **Secretary Report (minutes)**. Kerr stated there is one mistake he and President Lee found in the October meeting minutes: the newspaper that covered the presentation of the Life Saving Award was the *Columbia Daily Tribune*, NOT the *Columbia Missourian*. Compatriot J. Y. Miller made the motion that the minutes be approved, with the correction noted by Kerr. Compatriot John Coutts second. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report: President Lee called on Compatriot Gil Stone to give the Treasurer report. Compatriot Stone reported that, as of 31 October 2019, the total cash assets of the chapter stands at **\$20,688.40**. This is comprised of: the Money Market Account balance was **\$12,859.46**. The Checking Account balance was **\$7,768.94**. The Cash on hand was **\$60.00**.

The period resulted in a gain of \$907.56 (Income/Revenue: \$1939.55 (dues rec'd, interest on endowment, breakfast charges, 50/50 drawing, donations to awardee and misc. minus Expenses \$831.99 (including September meeting charges, office supplies, lifesaving award to victim). President Lee set report aside for audit.

Genealogy Report: President Lee called on Compatriot Coutts to give the Genealogy Report. **Approved:** Compatriot Dalton's supplemental was approved allowing his father from Marshall to join the chapter.

At National: David Smarr (new application), Graham Jacobs (new application), Henry Jacobs, Floyd Strader (supplemental), John Coutts (supplemental).

At State: David Misner (new application), Bruce Hillis (supplemental)

Compatriot Coutts is working on 12 applications, several need 1-4 documents each, some he needs to get started on. Nancy Thomas is working on 3 supplementals for Compatriot Jack Chance.

Compatriot Kerr reported that the CAR application for Blake Frevert has been approved so he will get to work on the Regular SAR Membership for him. Compatriot DeVenney stated he has another grandson whose CAR application has been approved and he will work on his Jr. SAR membership application.

Eagle Scout: Compatriot Jim Lee stated he sent out 64 certificates to Eagle Scouts and only 1 has come back with a wrong address. Hopefully we will get some essays for the review team to go through at the end of the year.

ROTC/JROTC: President Lee stated he has the certificates and medals for MU ROTC and MMA and will get them distributed. Compatriot Kerr said Boonville technical school has a JROTC program and will be looking into starting a program with them.

Americanism/Fogg: The following activities were reported: 1) Compatriot Kerr did two genealogy training sessions in conjunction with the Cooper County Historical Society (25 points each). This also was in the Boonville newspaper (50 points); 2) Compatriot J. Y. Miller attended the Howard County DAR meeting (10 points); 3) President Lee attended the Columbian DAR Chapter meeting (10 points); 4) Compatriot Kerr presented his talk about Dr. Frances Woods to the Colonial Dames Mid-Missouri Chapter (25 points); 5) Compatriot J. Y. Miller participated in the Veterans Day Observance in Fayette (55 points). Compatriot Kerr stated every certificate we present gets points.

50/50: The 50/50 of \$22.00 was awarded to Compatriot Robert Bartlett!

History Teacher Award: Compatriot J. Y. Miller stated that he is the MOSSAR Chair for this award and we need to try to get a teacher in our area an award in this. It necessitates a 1000 word essay done by 1 January and in the past there have only been two chapters in MOSSAR who have had teachers in this program. There are now 3 categories for this: Elementary, Junior High and High School, so with 15 chapters in MOSSAR we should have 45 a year in the contest to get MOSSAR awards. The Chapter winners get to attend the Awards Luncheon in the State Convention and then the MOSSAR award winner goes to National where prizes are even better.

Dues: President Lee reminded everyone dues are being collected.

Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS) at Truman Hospital: Compatriot DeVenney is stepping down as the liaison for this at years end. He has had this for several years, taking over for Compatriot Al Jones. Compatriot Kerr asked what this entails and Compatriot DeVenney said there is a Volunteer Coordinator there who can help with this and DeVenney said he will help with the turn over as well. Laura DeVenney, a retired nurse from the hospital, stated these volunteers perform an important function and Compatriot Stone said he did this in the past and can attest to that.

Programs: President Lee reminded people that we are in need of programs in the coming months. Next month will be Dr. Larry Brown who will talk about “The real life story of Sacagawea and her son of Lewis and Clark fame.” President Lee said he has heard Dr. Brown at a DAR meeting and he is a very interesting speaker. [Since the meeting we have the following programs scheduled: 21 March 2020: Compatriot Robert Bartlett, “John Bartlett’s War”; 18 April 2020: Laura DeVenney, “Fisher House”]

Wreaths Across America: Compatriot Kerr mentioned that the Wreaths Across America program where wreaths are placed on veterans’ graves is on Saturday 14 December 2019 this year. In the past several years this has been on the same day as our Chapter meetings but this year it is the Saturday before. Kerr will place a wreath on his father’s grave and President Lee said he will do the same on his father’s and a grandson’s grave. Everyone is encouraged to participate if you can.

Roslyn House Christmas Tree Lighting: This will be on Saturday, December 7 at 5:00 pm. They are having soup lunches during the week days of December 7-14. Tours are available.

Adjournment: There being no further business The meeting adjourned. The SAR Recessional was led by Compatriot Mitchell Moore and the closing prayer was given by Compatriot J. Y. Miller, as Chaplain Hiles had to leave for an appointment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold H. Kerr II, Secretary

RSVP. 16 NOV 19

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| Mitchell Moore 1 |
| J. Wayne & Pat Merrill - 2 breakfasts |
| Stone, G - 1 |
| Russ & Laura DeVenney (2) |
| Ron Knudsen 1 |
| Jim Lee 1 |
| Edwyn T. Strubinger (1 Meal) |
| 2 - Chance |
| Hank and Valerie Hammons 2 |
| alan hiles 2 |
| John and Linda Coutts 2 |
| Rusty Reith 1 |
| Raymond Miller 2 |
| Bob Bartlett & Patricia 2 No RSVP |
| Luke Lucas 2 No RSVP |
| Speaker Rhonda Chafant 1 |
| Harold Kerr. 1 |

**Members = 17. Guests = 13 Guarantee = 28
Total Meals = 30**