

## **M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR - Minutes of Meeting 20 May 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Paul Whatley at 8:30 a.m. at Park located at 4380 Nocona Parkway, Columbia, MO: <https://www.dineatpark.com>.

There were 39 members and guests present (See appended list).

The colors were posted prior to the meeting by COM Jim Lee.

Chaplain Bryan Bradford offered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Paul Whatley. The Pledge to the SAR was led by COM Raymond Miller.

Vice-President Whatley announced he was presiding in place of President Alan Hiles who was volunteering this weekend at the Museum of Missouri Military History in Jefferson City.

Vice-President Whatley announced that devoted member Edward W. "Eddie" Thomas died on May 21, 2023. After reading COM Thomas's obituary, the Charter was draped in his honor and memory by Vice-President Whatley and Chaplain Bradford.

Thereafter, several members shared their memories of COM Thomas. COM J. Y. Miller described him as a "reliable and faithful member" and welcomed to the meeting COM Thomas's widow, Nancy Thomas, and daughters Rachel Thomas, daughter Cynthia Harkey and her husband Dave, and Marissa Harkey and Martha Weisman. . COM Miller noted that COM Thomas served multiple terms as the Chapter's Genealogist and his wife is active as a genealogist and they had discussed establishing a Chapter in their hometown of Moberly, Missouri. COM John Coutts noted that Nancy Thomas is active in the DAR.COM Russ DeVenney recounted his warm relationship with the Thomas family and their contributions to patriot organizations.

COM J. Y. Miller reminded members and guests that, today, the third Saturday of May, is National Armed Forces Day honoring all active duty members of the armed forces. Upcoming Memorial Day honors the 1.5 million who died in service to their country. Veterans Day on November 11 is the third of three federal holidays honoring members of the armed forces.

Chaplain Bradford and COM Dave Bartlett discussed plans to lay a wreath on Memorial Day at the Boone County Courthouse. COM J. Y. Miller is scheduled to speak at the Howard County DAR's observation of Memorial Day in Howard County.

Sick call included Garland Lessley, Bryan Bradford, and Bob Bartlett's wife Priscilla

Summer birthdays and anniversaries were recognized, including the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of COM Sonny Raines and his wife Emma, COM Paul Whatley's 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, COM Robert Bartlett celebrates his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 18. COM J. Y. Miller's wife, Mary's birthday and the Miller's 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding Anniversary.

Members were reminded of the Book Table set up in the hall. COM Dale Roberts announced there will be a Car Show at the American Legion on June 3.

At 8:45, Vice-President Whatley announced a break for breakfast, served buffet-style.

Members reconvened at 9:22 and COM Jim Lee introduced the speaker, Marvin McKelvey who presented the program “How Chance Engineering Saved Skylab.”

Centralia-based AB Chance was called upon by NASA when the May 14, 1973, launch of Skylab, America’s first space station, lost a heat shield during takeoff and failed to deploy a critical solar energy panel thus threatening the entire project.

The AB Chance company, an electric lineman's tool manufacturer, was called upon to deliver, virtually overnight, specialized tools to fix the various problems on Skylab. Marvin McKelvey helped designed some of the tools used to accomplish the task and keep Skylab from failing.

The first crew to visit Skylab, several days after the launch of Skylab, performed two space walks focused solely on repairs. This team deployed a parasol sun shade and freed the stuck solar panel using the tools that were created by the AB Chance company.

Though initially troubled with damage during launch, the Skylab program was tremendously successful. Skylab served as the foundation for creating technology and techniques used throughout the Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs.

“Saving Skylab: America's First Space Station” is a short documentary telling the story of how an electric lineman's tool manufacturer in Centralia, Missouri helped save the first American space station from catastrophe. The film is being produced by Hubbell Utility Solutions, Power Systems Division and was released on Saturday, April 18, 2020. The very interesting video is viewable online at: <https://www.hubbell.com/hubbellpowersystems/en/savingskylab>

Mr. McKelvey answered members’ questions after the presentation and revealed the factoid that AB Chance was never paid for the tools because NASA was not in their customer base. They did, however, receive commendations and certificates of appreciation, and the like. AB Chance was later sold to the electrical company that invented the pull-chain light and the electrical plug, Hubbell, Inc. and “Chance” is one of their brands.

After multiple rounds of applause, Vice-President Whatley thanked Marvin McKelvey and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the M. Graham Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

COM Russ DeVenney was then called upon by Vice-President Whatley for the presentation of various awards to members and to the Chapter as follows:

Virgil “Sonny” Elwood Raines was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the M. Graham Clark Chapter for his Voluntary Service for the NSSAR-MOSSAR “**Operation Ancestry Search Program**” and he was recognized at the Annual Conference with a Certificate of Distinguished Service from MOSSAR for his work with the “**Operation Ancestry Search Program**.”

Also at the Annual Conference: M. Graham Clark Chapter received several certificates and awards as follows: Certificate of Appreciation-***Josiah Fogg Award***; Fourth place, (Large Chapters)-***Missouri Society of Americanism Award for 2022***; Participation Providing Genealogist Training to Wounded Warriors-***MOSSAR Operation Ancestry Search Program for 2022***

COM John Wayne Merrill received the MOSSAR Certificate of Distinguished Service ***Honorary Vice President*** for his years of work including 7 years as MOSSAR Chaplain, and state president from 2018-2019.

COM Russell Frederick DeVenney, Jr. received a MOSSAR Recognition Plaque as ***Recognition for his long and Distinguished Service to the Missouri Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.***

COM David Beem was presented with the SAR Veterans Certificate, recognizing his service as a veteran of the armed forces of the United States. His associated medal will be forthcoming.

Secretary Mitchell Moore announced the minutes of the last meeting were on the website and asked if there were any revisions to be made. Hearing no revisions, COM J. Y. Miller moved to accept the minutes, COM Bradford seconded. Motion passed.

The members were distributed a copy of the Treasurer's Report of May 20, 2023, and reported by Treasurer Russ DeVenney. COM Dale Roberts moved to accept the report. COM David Bartlett seconded. Motion passed.

Genealogist John Coutts gave a report regarding an approved supplemental for COM Whatley with more in the pipeline and two members ready for induction, Bob Ingraham and Jesse Smith. COM Coutts intends to travel this summer to Orange County, Virginia to retrieve a document for a pending application. He gave thanks to COM Fred Bianco for helping him find some new search resources lately. COM Mitchell Moore moved approval of the report. COM Russ DeVenney seconded. Motion passed.

Members are reminded that the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will be on Sunday, May 28, 2023, at 2 pm at Ste. Genevieve Catholic Church in Ste. Genevieve, MO, commemorating the Battle of Fort San Carlos. <http://www.battleoffortsancarlos.org/>

Although the only battle west of the Mississippi River was at St. Louis, it has been discovered that apparently 10 Frenchmen from St. Genevieve traveled to St. Louis to fight the British at the battle. Hence the celebration will be in St. Genevieve.

The 2024 MOSSAR State Convention will be April 26-27, 2024 in Columbia, at the Courtyard by Marriott, hosted by the M. Graham Clark Chapter.

COM DeVenney and COM Merrill presented a Time Line detailing a schedule to get ready for the rapidly approaching MOSSAR Convention. They further announced a planning meeting during the summer to be held at the Ameren Building in Columbia on June 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and all members are encouraged to attend and volunteer for various duties.

Vice-President Whatley reminded members that the Chapter has its own Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MGCSAR1776> and now a LinkedIn page, and also a video of highlights of this year.

Members are reminded about Youth Protection Certification and directed members to the website at: <https://www.sar.org/courses/youth-protection-training>

The online program is free and all members are encouraged to complete the program and be certified as soon as possible. Our chapter website is at: <http://www.mgcsar.org/>

The 50-50 drawing was held by COM J. Y. Miller with new member Rob Ingraham choosing the number and COM Raymond Miller winning \$23.

COM J.Y. Miller moved we have a summer hiatus, as usual, and meet again in September. COM Russ DeVenney seconded. Motion Passed.

Vice-President Whatley reminded members that the next meeting of the M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR will be September 16, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at Park at 4380 Nocona Parkway, Columbia, MO. The program will be presented by COM Paul Whatley. COM J. Y. Miller and Vice-President Whatley asked members to consider presenting a program for after the summer hiatus next year.

The SAR recessional was then led by COM Hank Hammons, followed by the closing prayer offered by COM Bryan Bradford.

Meeting was adjourned by Vice-President Whatley at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(s) Mitchell Moore

Secretary

NAME	INITIAL
Barber, Nicholas & Grovone	2
Bartlett, David	1
Beem, Dave	1
Bland, Dale & Cheryl	2
Bradford, Bryan	1
Chance, Buff	1
Coutts, John & Linda	2
DeVenney, Russ	1
Hammons, Hank & Val	2
Harkey, Dave & Cynthia & Marissa & Rachel Thomas	4
Ingram, Rob	1
Jones, Terril	1
Krause, William	1
Lee, Charlie	1
Lee, Jim	1
Lucas, Luke & Kathryn	2
McKelvey, Melvin PROGRAM	1
Merril, Wayne	1
Miller, J. Y. & Mary	2
Miller, Ray & Ruth	2
Minsky, Russell	1
Moore, Mitchell & Sharon	2
Raines, Sonny & Emma JO	2
Roberts, Dale	1
Thomas, Nancy & Martha Weisman	2
Whatley, Paul	1
	39

Genealogy Report May 20, 2023

**Approved:**

Paul Whatley – supplemental

Rob Ingram – application

Jeffery Smith - not inducted yet

**At National**

Paul Whatley – 2 supplementals

**At State**

none

**Working on: 3 applications**

Donny Bryson - 9 documents

Johnny Hendren – several documents

Supplement for Blake Frevert – one document reference

James Dixon – several documents

**Pended:**

Floyd Strader Sup for Sechler – pended 2021

John Coutts 2 supplement pended for White & White

Thank you Fred Bianco! He broke one of 3 brick walls. Allowed me to unpend 2 applications and add one more patriot with a trip to Orange County, VA and meaby Madison Co., KY.

*134<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Missouri Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
26 & 27 April 2024*

Hosted By:  
*M. Graham Clark Chapter*

**TIME LINE**

**16 Months prior: January-April 2023:**

**Establish Convention Committee**

**Key Members**

**Registration:**

- [1] Registration Form/Coordination with MOSSAR Webmaster  
**J.Y. Miller/Russ DeVenney**
  - (a) *Waiting for 'final' information from WCC & SSL Conferences.*
  - (b) *Waiting for Hotel Meal Pricing {Probably January 2024}*

- [2] Estimation of Registration Revenue & Expenses for Pricing  
**Russ DeVenney**
  - (a) *Waiting for 'final' information from WCC & SSL Conferences.*
  - (b) *Waiting for Hotel Meal Pricing {Probably January 2024}*

- [3] Friday & Saturday table worker assignments in future **(need commitments)**

**Programs:**

- [1] Formal Invitation for SAR National Officer  
(Future Secretary General) Dr. Darryl S. Addington (NC)  
**Russ DeVenney** (Treasurer)

- [2] Break-Out Sessions  
**J. Wayne Merrill**

- [3] Possible Friday greeting from the Columbia Mayor & Proclamation **(need commitments)**

**Meet & Greet:**

- [1] Receiving Darryl & Mary Addington  
**Russ & Laura DeVenney**

- [2] NAME Tags & PROGRAMS for Attendees & registration 'gift bags' **(need commitments)**

- [3] Friday & Saturday table worker assignments in future **(need commitments)**

## **Food**

**J. Wayne Merrill/Russ DeVenney**

*(a) Waiting for 'final' information from WCC & SSL Conferences.*

*(b) Waiting for Hotel Meal Pricing {Probably January 2024}*

## **Beverage (Hospitality Room)**

Friday & Saturday worker assignments in future **(need commitments)**

## **Room Arrangement**

*Same as in 2019 – We have that information, but will have input from President Shaul*

**J. Wayne Merrill/Russ DeVenney**

## **Hospitality Room / Beverage**

[1] *MO Society Auxiliary (Jerre Robertson, President) & M. Graham Clark Auxiliary*

[2] Friday & Saturday worker assignments in future **(need commitments)**

## **Decoration**

*M. Graham Clark Auxiliary*

## **SAR Set-Up**

**J. Wayne Merrill/Russ DeVenney** & *M. Graham Clark Auxiliary & input from President Shaul*

## **Displays**

*MOSSAR Officers & M. Graham Clark Chapter*

## **Photographer**

**Kirk Walker** (MOSSAR Registrar) {Free}

## **Medals & Awards**

**Gary Gift** (MOSSAR Medals & Awards Chairman)

## **Miscellaneous**

*Missouri Society  
Sons of the American Revolution  
26 & 27 April 2024*

Hosted By:  
*M. Graham Clark Chapter*

**TIME LINE**

**12 Months prior: April 2023:**

*Convention Committee members should be active participants in the planning and operation of the present convention*

**9 Months prior: May-July 2023:**

[1] Prior to the July MOSSAR Board Meeting, *MGC to provide to MOSSAR Chancellor the Hotel Convention Contract for Review.*

[2] At the July MOSSAR Board Meeting, *MGC Chapter President to present Contract for approval and signature.*

**9 Months prior: August-December 2023:**

[1] *Firm up Committee Assignments*

[2] *Contact Local Chamber of Commerce and Businesses for support of Conference.*

**4 Months prior: January-April 2024:**

[1] *Compose a Convention Application and provide to webmaster of Missouri SAR.*

[2] *Meet with site Staff for final arrangements of facility.*

[3] *Contact President and Medals and Award Chairman to confirm Agendas and Events.*