

Minutes of Meeting 16 March 2024

M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR

The meeting was called to order by President Alan Hiles at 8:57 a.m. at the Memorial Room of American Legion Post 202 located at 3669 Legion Lane, Columbia, MO 65201:

There was no color guard. The American Flag and SAR Flag is perpetually posted in the Memorial Room.

Chaplain Hank Hammons offered the opening prayer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Alan Hiles. The Pledge to the SAR was led by COM Mitchell Moore.

A total of 24 members and guests were in attendance (See appended list). President Hiles recognized guests in attendance which included many members' wives Waylene Hiles, Val Hammons, Ruth Miller, Sharon Campbell-Moore, and Mary Miller. Other guests included junior member Nicholas Barber and his mother, Sarah. Other guests included prospective member Gary Fowler and his wife Leslie, and prospective member Terrel Stamps and his wife Ruanne.

Birthdays this month included COM Russ DeVenney on March 30, COM Jim Lee on March 26. COM Jim Lee was not in attendance because he is on a trip to Denmark. And looking ahead, COM Robert Bartlett will celebrate his 99th birthday on May 18. Anniversaries included the 105th anniversary of the American Legion.

Other notable dates - March 5 was the 254th anniversary of the Boston Massacre. And April 19, the day before our next meeting, is the 249th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord which marked the beginning of the American Revolution.

A Flag Certificate was presented to the Commander of the American Legion Post 202, Dale Roberts.

At 9:09, President Hiles announced a break for breakfast which featured the VFW's "Pancake Day" fundraiser served in the ballroom. The menu was pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits, gravy, and beverages for \$13 paid individually by members. The VFW will have the same fundraiser at our next meeting and in May, we will have our regular breakfast for \$10. President Hiles reconvened the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

COM Hank Hammons presented the program entitled, “The Western Expansion After the Revolution.” COM Hammons made use of the American Legion’s innovative big screen television that allowed presentation of slides without the use of a projector.

COM Hammons compared America after the Revolution to the European Union in that the separate states were like separate countries with a common currency, ease of crossing of borders, and the like.

As America more closely united under the U. S. Constitution, Americans expanded westward and travel either on foot and horseback, or on boats via the highways of the period, which were the rivers.

Washington’s crossing of the Delaware on Christmas Day of 1776 was by a flatboat and not the rowboat depicted in the famous painting by Emanuel Leutz. The rowboats would not have been able to convey cannons and horses across the river.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington%27s_crossing_of_the_Delaware_River

Flatboats, as depicted in the paintings by Missourian George Caleb Bingham were the most common carriers of people and cargo on the inland waterways immediately after the Revolution. Flatboats’ average size was 14-20 feet wide and 40-100 feet long. They could carry at least one ton of cargo per linear foot. The flatboat could be any size, but essentially it was a large, sturdy tub with a hull and were easy to build. A flatboat was almost always a one-way (downstream) vessel, and was usually dismantled for lumber when it reached its destination. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flatboat#/media/File:Traveling-by-flatboat-engraving-by-Alfred-R-Waud.png>

The crew of the commercial flatboats were a diverse and tough bunch, but they also included French migrants escaping the carnage of the French Revolution and perhaps depicted in the famous Bingham painting, “The Jolly Boatman.” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flatboat#/media/File:George_Caleb_Bingham_-_Jolly_Flatboatmen_in_Port.jpg

The Mississippi River was an international border with America until the Louisiana Purchase of 1803.

Going upstream required a “keelboat” which was propelled upstream by men using long poles. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flatboat#/media/File:Keelboat_and_flatboat.jpg

Steamboats became ever more popular after Robert Fulton’s success in 1807 and sometimes worked in tandem with large rafts taking goods down a river. Steamboats not only conveyed cargo, but also passengers and became very popular prior to the Civil War.

One of the most famous steamboat pilots was Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain whose memoir *Life on the Mississippi*, described his years as a pilot traveling from St. Louis to New Orleans and back.

The powerful steam engines could be dangerous. On April 27, 1865 a commercial steamboat exploded and sank on the Mississippi River killing 1,167 people in what remains the worst maritime disaster in United States history. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultana_\(steamboat\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sultana_(steamboat))

The waterways have continued to be extremely important for transportation of cargo via barges. In the US, a typical barge size is 195 feet by 35 feet and can hold up to 1500 tons of cargo. Newer barges can be up to 209 feet by 50 feet and can hold twice as much cargo tonnage as traditional barges. A barge tow of 15-40 barges can hold as much cargo as up to 3000 semi-trucks hauling 40 tons of cargo.

President Hiles thanked COM Hammons for his presentation and COM Hammons was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Treasurer Russell DeVenney presented his treasurer's report dated March 16, 2024 and presented a proposed budget for the next year. COM Moore moved the budget be approved, COM J. Y. Miller seconded and motion carried.

COM DeVenney presented a Convention Report (see attached) which described the programs, schedules, speakers and more for the Convention to be held at the Courtyard by Marriott on April 26 & 27. Members who have not registered should do so as soon as possible. It is important that members try to attend the Convention because our Chapter is hosting it.

Members need to mail in their registration with payment immediately.

Treasurer DeVenney requests registration be sent so that they are received by April 10 so that he will have time to process them, name tags can be made, and food ordered, etc.

<https://mossar.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-State-Conf-Registration-Form-fillable.pdf>

OR The chapter webpage has a Convention Registration and hotel link on its first page: <http://www.mgcsar.org/> . M. Graham Clark will host the State SAR meeting on 26-27 April. Reservation form is [HERE](#) Hotel information is [HERE](#)

There will be volunteer opportunities for all members, auxiliary members, and supporters and all are needed to volunteer, even if only as a “greeter” to assist guests as we host this convention.

Please, **Send in your registration immediately.**

COM Paul Whatley reported on our points for the Americanism and Fogg Awards. It is clear we are ignoring reporting on programs that would count for points. Members were encouraged to report any potential point-generating activities and not worry about whether they truly qualify or not as he can sort those out.

COM Coutts announced that he was focused on 3 applications. Two new members may be ready for induction next month. Others are in the pipeline with the main holdup now being follow-through by applicants and communication issues. A report is attached.

COM Moore announced the minutes of the previous meeting are on the webpage. He asked members if they had any corrections. None heard. COM Russ DeVenney moved to accept the report as published. COM J. Y. Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Members are reminded 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 members can go 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. Those that work with youth in any capacity related to SAR are required to complete this training.

COM Moore informed members that Lorri Mayes, facilities manager of the American Legion, supplied pins honoring fallen veterans for distribution to interested members.

COM Moore also informed members that the SAR encourages all members to purchase from the SAR store a member’s badge to be worn at SAR meetings and certain special functions. <https://store.sar.org/sar-members-badge-p3.aspx>

Our Chapter website describes the significance of the emblem. <http://mgcsar.org/emblem.html>

COM Moore also reported that the SAR store has an SAR Podium Banner that he and COM Whatley believe would be appropriate to purchase and use at future meetings.

<https://store.sar.org/sar-podium-banner-p267.aspx> . Page 4

The cost is approximately \$100 with tax and shipping. COM DeVenney moved the Chapter buy a banner. COM Whatley seconded. Discussion centered on how this podium banner differs from a larger banner the Chapter has. Motion carried. COM Paul Whatley stated that he will bear the expense for this banner.

COM Moore also reported that his wife, Sharon, has applied to be a member of the DAR and her ancestry search is uncovering more patriot ancestors than she ever imagined. She attended last week’s DAR meeting in Columbia where Valerie Hammons and Laura DeVenney are DAR members.

COM Hiles recommended the Champ Clark VFW Post 5553 “History Day” in Bowling Green Mo on April 13, 2024. Information attached.

COM J. Y. Miller reported that next months’ program will be presented by Dr. Luke Lucas, entitled “Theater for the Troops at Valley Forge.” COM Paul Whatley will present a program in May.

The 50-50 drawing for \$18 was picked by COM Wayne Merrill and was won by Sharon Moore.

The next meeting of the M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR will be **April 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** at the American Legion Post 202 located at 3669 Legion Lane, Columbia, MO 65201: <http://mgcsar.org/legion.html> . Members are urged to RSVP by the Wednesday evening prior to the meeting if at all possible. COM J. Y. Miller briefly explained the best way to convey essential information in the RSVP message. He will repeat that information in the webpage update message.

There was no Color Guard; and the Stars and Stripes are permanently in place at the American Legion in each meeting room.

The SAR recessional was then led by COM J. Y. Miller, followed by the closing prayer offered by Chaplain Hank Hammons.

Meeting adjourned by President Hiles at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(s) Mitchell Moore, Secretary

RSVP - March 2024	
Barbeer, Nicholas & Sarah	2
Bianco, Fred	1
Coutts, John	1
DeVenney, Russ	1
Fowler, Gary & Leslie	2
Hammons, Hank & Val	2
Hiles, Alan	1
Hill, Robert	1
Krauss, William	1
Lee, Charlie	1
Lucas, Luke	0
Merrill, Wayne	1
Miller, J. Y. & Maray	2
Miller, Raymond & Ruth	2
Moore, Mitchell & Sharon	2
Stamps, Terrell & Ruanne	2
Tuttle, Jym	1
Whatley, Paul	1
	24

Genealogy Report March 16, 2024

Approved:

At National

Fred Bianco supplement

At State

Gary Fowler app

Working on: 3 applications

Jordan Shikles -out to be signed again

James Dixon – 2 b/c & 2 d/c will get soon 4

Melvin Gilbert – b/c & d/c contacted

Terrell Stamps – Primary documents

Tony Smee – connect 3 generations³ and one d/c

Matt Freihofer – 3 primary documents

Brad Funk – one connection

Johnny Hendren – one generational connection and one b/c

Christopher Mathis – working on

Charles Gilreath - have contacted

Will Sherman - have contacted

Craig Hosey - have contacted

Brian Philips – 2 emails Kohoka

Authur Dollins - waiting on lineage, not hopeful

Supplement for Blake Frevert – one document reference

Donny Bryson - 9 documents

Pended: