

- **Minutes of Meeting 20 December 2025 M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR**

The meeting this day was called to order by President Hank Hammons at 9:03 a.m. in the Memorial Room of American Legion Post 202 located at 3669 Legion Lane, Columbia, MO 65201

There was no color guard. The American Flag is perpetually posted in the Memorial Room where we meet.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Fred Bianco. The Pledge to the SAR was led Scot Yost. Chaplain Samuel Thomas offered the opening prayer.

At 9:08, President Hammons announced a break for breakfast served in the ballroom. The menu was "Pancake Day" for the VFW and consisted of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, and beverages for \$16, paid individually by members.

President Hammons reconvened the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

A total of 33 members and guests were in attendance (see appended list)

Guests were introduced and included wives Stephanie Thomas, Leslie Fowler, Sharon Moore, Waylene Hiles, Karen Maershon, Ruanne Stamps and Linda Coutts, and Compatriot Ewell Lawson's son, Josiah and the Chapter's Special Friend, Dr. William Kraus.

Birthdays: COM Russ DeVenney's junior member grandson has his 11th birthday. COM Wayne Merrill has his birthday on December 26

- Health concerns: President Hammons' wife, Val, is recovering and she hopes to attend the next meeting. COM Paul Whatley's wife Donna is suffering from a pinched nerve in her neck. Charles Riley's wife is under the weather and he will attend next month to be inducted as a member. A card wishing Donna Whatley and Victor Duncan a speedy recovery was passed around and signed by attendees. A sympathy card was signed for the family of Bob Wiley, who dies recently and was a loyal supporter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

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Anniversaries: COM Wayne Merrill and his wife Pat will celebrate their GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY on December 26. COM DeVenney and his wife, Laura are celebrating their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 17.

- Notable Dates: On December 31, 1775 General Richard Montgomery and General Benedict Arnold The battle was the first major defeat of the war for the Americans, and it came with heavy losses. General Richard Montgomery was killed, Benedict Arnold was wounded, and Daniel Morgan and more than 400 men were taken prisoner, including Jeremiah Greenman, the patriot ancestor of COM Mitchell Moore.

COM John Coutts was presented with the Liberty Medal with oak leaf cluster for his work and success as a genealogist for the Chapter and for the SAR in general. The award is reflected by the recent growth in Chapter membership which could not happen without COM Coutts' hard work.

- The program for the December 20, 2025 meeting was a presentation by COM J. Y. Miller on “Christmas in the Colonies” before during and after the American Revolution. The “Celebration of Christmas” was far different 400 years ago. The Puritans of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania forbade celebrations. They slowly relented enough to allow celebrations in the privacy of one’s home. In contrast, Christmas was an important and festive holiday in the southern colony of Virginia. As Christmas evolved in England, it became more recognizable to what we now have. However, it was not the child-centered celebration we have now had for over 100 years. The religious roots of celebrating Christmas were influenced by myth as well as derived from real people such as a Bishop in Turkey from the 4th Century St. Nicholas of Myra, known for his piety, miracles, and generosity were legendary and became the basis in more recent times for Santa Claus.

Treasurer Paul Whatley reported that he was busy collecting dues and all save 21 members have paid.

- In honor and recognition of COM Bob Bartlett who is 100 years of age, COM Alan Hiles moved that the Chapter pay the dues for him to become a Life Member, both National and State. COM Ewell Lawson seconded. Motion passed.

COM Mitchell Moore announced the minutes of the previous meeting are on the webpage. No corrections were suggested by members. COM Miller moved the minutes be approved. COM Hiles seconded. Motion passed.

COM Moore reported that 4 members of the Chapter’s Color Guard participated in the 21st Annual Lights of Love Ceremony at Roslyn Heights, Boonville, Missouri on December 7 in honor of all Veterans and sponsored by the Missouri Daughters of the American Revolution. A total of 12 color guardsmen took part in the ceremony with our Chapter providing the most members of any chapter.

Roslyn Heights is a mansion on Main Street in Boonville, Missouri, purchased by the Missouri Daughters of the American Revolution decades ago. The event included an open house and each room in the house was decorated with a Christmas Tree. A copy of a Color Guard Report for December 2025 and prepared by Color Guard Commander William Voight is attached hereto.

Genealogist COM John Coutts updated membership on the progress of several applications, with that of Craig Jones leading the way. An application by Charles Riley is approved as are those of Jim Koppenaar and junior member Dante Campbell. COM Coutts had a new supplement approved.

COM Miller moved the Genealogist Report be approved. COM Whatley seconded. Motion carried.

COM Randy Palmer presented design ideas for a table runner that could double as a parade banner for the 250th anniversary celebrations. He asked for authority to proceed with the design and purchase of the banner and COM DeVenney so moved and COM J.Y. Miller seconded. Motion carried.

COM Palmer reported that 24 members are now certified with the Youth Protection Program.

Jim Koppenaal, Scot Yost, and Samuel Mark Scheiderer were inducted as members of the Sons of the American Revolution. Each were sworn in by President Hammons. Each was sponsored by COM John Coutts. Each new member gave brief remarks thereafter.

COM Koppenaal said his patriot ancestor is Sam Bailey Jr.

COM Yost said his patriot ancestor is Henry Casper Yost

COM Scheiderer said his patriot ancestor is Jacob Scheiderer from Virginia.

The membership welcomed both new Compatriots with a hearty round of applause.

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- The American Legion has offered to display our SAR flag with their other flags in the main room. By acclamation, the offer was accepted.
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- The 50-50 drawing of \$16.00 was won by COM Rob Inghram. A bottle of Honey Mead, donated by COM Randy Palmer was won by COM Gary Fowler.

The program for the January meeting will be COM Fred Bianco on his service on the USS Grant, a ballistic missile submarine.

The next meeting of the Chapter will be 17 January at 9:00 at the Legion Building. The Recessional was lead by COM Jm Koppenaal and the Prayer was offered by Chaplain Sam Thomas.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 by President Hamons.

Respectfully Submitted  
Mitchell Moore, Secretary

Bianco, Fred	
Coutts, John & Linda	
DeVenney, Russ	
Fowler, Gary & Leslie	
Hammons, Hank	
Hiles, Alan & Waylene	
Inghram, Rob	
Koppenaal, Jim	
Krause, William	
Lawson, Ewell + Josiah Lawson	
Lee, Jim	
Maershon Clark & Karen	
Merrill, Wayne	
Miller, J. Y.	
Miller, Ray & Ruth	
Moore, Mitchell & Sharon	
Palmer, Randy	
Schiederer, Mark	
Shepherd, Dayton	
Stamps, Terrell & Ruanne	
Summers, K. L. NO Meal	
Thomas, Samuel & Stephanie	
Whatley, Paul	
Yost, Scot	