

## **Minutes of Meeting 17 May 2025**

### **M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR**

The meeting this day was called to order by Vice-President Rob Ingram at 9:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room of American Legion Post 202 located at 3669 Legion Lane, Columbia, MO 65201: <http://americanlegionpost202.org/>

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

Chaplain Samuel Thomas offered the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Kevin Summers. The Pledge to the SAR was led by junior member COM Nicholas Barber

A total of 22 members and guests were in attendance (see appended list).

Guests were introduced and included wives Sharon Moore, Ruth Miller, Stephanie Thomas, Leslie Fowler, junior member COM Nicholas Barber and his grandmother, Grovone, to be-inducted as member Gary Fowler, and Special Friend Dr. William Krause.

Vice-President Ingram welcomed all guests and thanked COM Randall Palmer for bringing cookies.

At 9:02, Vice-President Ingram announced a break for breakfast served in the ballroom. The menu was French toast casserole, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, fruit and beverages for \$12, and paid individually by members.

Vice-President Ingram reconvened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

COM Fred Bianca's granddaughter, Margo, is being treated for leukemia. COM Terry Stamps' father-in-law, 92, is recovering from a fall.

COM Robert Bartlett will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday tomorrow, May 18. Sharon Moore celebrates a birthday on May 5, COM Gary Fowler's birthday is July 27, COM Nicholas Barber's birthday is July 29, and COM Mitchell Moore's birthday is August 29.

COM Raymond Miller and wife Mary expect a great-grandchild to be born this summer. COM Paul Whatley and his wife Donna expect their first grandchild to be born this summer.

COM Samuel Thomas and his wife, Stephanie will celebrate their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary May 2nd. COM Ewell Lawson and his wife celebrate their 32<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on July 31. COM Paul Whatley and his wife, Donna will celebrate more than 30 years of marriage on June 4. Memorial Day is May 26, 2025.

COM Mitchell Moore gave a PowerPoint-assisted presentation on the Constitution of the United States of America. All members and guests received a free pocket-sized copy of the Constitution, with Amendments and the Declaration of Independence.

During the Revolutionary War that ended in 1783, and shortly thereafter, the colonies were organized under the "Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union" which barely worked during the time of war and became increasingly inadequate after the war was won.

Each state was sovereign and independent leading one historian to refer to the country as the “Disunited States of America” and many countries in the world expected the new nation to fail.

On May 25, 1787, 55 men met as delegates in Philadelphia to amend the Articles of Confederation; although it became clear to the delegates that what they needed was a new Constitution. Thus, it became known as the Constitutional Convention.

The delegates were sworn to secrecy. The windows were shut. The shades were drawn, and the summer was hot as the delegates met at Independence Hall. <https://www.nps.gov/inde/planyourvisit/independencehall.htm>

The delegates toiled all summer to produce a draft of what would become the Constitution. The principal drafters were James Madison, John Jay, and Alexander Hamilton. George Washington left retirement at Mount Vernon to preside. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were representing the country in Europe, although their earlier writings and ideas were influential to the final product. Benjamin Franklin and other notable Founding Fathers were there.

Madison and other “Framers” of the Constitution had carefully studied other forms of government. None wanted a monarch, but the loose Articles of Confederation had proven inadequate. Mindful that men were not angels, a government was needed, but the Greek democracy and Roman republic needed to be improved upon because when they collapsed, they devolved into an oppressive central government, the framers had thought long and hard how to construction a Constitution that would last.

No one wanted a king, but while the Federalists wanted a stronger central government, the Anti-Federalists preferred a weaker central government with most of the power in the individual states.

James Madison, a Federalist, won Anti-Federalist support for the Constitution through the Bill of Rights he produced that assured Anti-Federalists that the power of the central government would be limited. It is why Madison is rightly known as the “Father of the Constitution”.

Other conflicts had to be dealt with, including: large states v. small states in Congress. The compromise was a two-house Congress with the House of Representatives giving the large states more members, while the Senate would give each state an equal number of members.

Likewise, with respect to the presidency the compromise was that the president would be selected by an Electoral College, in which each state would be represented, although not equally. And the president would have great power to provide executive leadership but would be checked by Congress and the Supreme Court. A system of checks and balances.

The structure of the Constitution is 3 Sections:

1) A Preamble 2) 7 Articles 3) 27 Amendments (the first 10 of which are the Bill of Rights)  
The most famous words in the Constitution are the first 3: **We the People**

Junior member COM Nicholas Barber was asked to read to the members the Preamble (written in cursive with a quill pen) and COM Barber did so as follows:

“We the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

The first three Articles of the Constitution create the three branches of government: The Legislative, Executive, and Judicial and set forth some of the powers and duties. Article 4 defined the relationships between the states and the state and the federal government (the Full Faith and Credit Clause and the Supremacy Clause) and guaranteed to each State a Republican Form of Government and that the United States shall protect each of them against Invasion and against domestic Violence. (Republican Guarantee Clause)

COM Moore used the last clause as an example of how different individuals can come to different interpretations regarding the meaning of the words in the Constitution. While some individuals believe the recent open borders allowing more than 10 million illegal aliens into the country is an invasion creating domestic violence so as to justify emergency action...supporters of the open borders say the millions who came across the border illegally do not constitute an invasion because an invasion means an invasion by a country.

Ultimately, it is the Supreme Court which decides the meaning of the Constitution.

In the past few decades, however, federal district courts have asserted powers they never asserted before. There are some 94 federal district courts in the United States and about 680 federal district court judges. Above them in the judicial system sits 12 Circuit Courts of Appeal and above them, the Supreme Court.

Single federal court judges in the past few decades, and especially the past few years, have asserted the power to issue injunctions prohibiting certain actions by people or even other branches of government and have proclaimed that their Order applies not just to their district...but nationwide.

**Secretary's addition not presented during the presentation:** This is another example of an issue that may ultimately be decided by the Supreme Court, but it may take many years to go through the appellate process. In the meantime, the delay may cause a Constitutional Crisis to fester or a badly decided case by the Supreme Court could have catastrophic consequences such as in the Dred Scott case. <https://www.history.com/articles/dred-scott-case> which many historians believe lead to America's Civil War

The remaining Articles of the Constitution include details as to how to amend the constitution and how to ratify the Constitution.

The Constitution was adopted and signed by the delegates on September 17, 1787. The framework was in place. Madison's Bill of Rights was presented to Congress in March of 1789. Congress approved the Amendments to the Constitution, which included the Bill of Rights, on September 25, 1789. The ratification process was completed on May 29, 1790 when the last of the 13 states ratified the Constitution.

The Constitution has been the law of the land in the United States ever since. A brief question and answer session followed the presentation.

On a more light-hearted note: COM Moore promised to share a Youtube link to the satirical website, The Babylon Bee for a 4-minute comedy piece on a make-believe delegate arguing with James Madison against the First Amendment:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6Bzo81TcrU>

**Gary Fowler** was inducted as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. COM Fowler was sworn in by Vice-President Rob Ingram and sponsored by COM Raymond Miller. COM Fowler gave brief remarks thereafter and was accompanied by his wife Leslie, a member of the DAR, whom he thanked and credited with getting him interested in the SAR.

Treasurer Paul Whatley reported on the amounts in the accounts and pending expenses. COM Watley moved the report by approved. Alan Hiles seconded. Motion passed.

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

Genealogist COM John Coutts updated membership on the progress of several applications. COM Fred Bianca's supplement was finally approved nearly 3 years after being submitted. At least one application is at National awaiting approval. A detailed Genealogy Report of May 19, 2025 is attached. COM Coutts also offered flags for honoring marked graves on Memorial Day.

COM Coutts also intends to post a list of patriots believed to be buried in Boone and Howard County, and most of them are in unknown graves and now marked as patriots..COM Moore moved to accept to Genealogist's report. J. Y. Miller seconded. Motion passed.

COM Paul Whatley reported that he had emailed the executive committee detailing leadership needs. The Fogg award is the state society's version of the national award for chapter participation in various activities.

COM Charlie Lee raised the issue of plans for laying a wreath on Memorial Day as COM David Bartlett and COM Paul Whatley did last year. COM Whatley welcomed members to join COM Bartlett and himself on the 26<sup>th</sup> to do that.

COM Randall Palmer reported on the number of members who had recently completed the program and members can go to the website at: [https://bredenfoerder.com/YPT\\_SAR\\_University\\_D/](https://bredenfoerder.com/YPT_SAR_University_D/). Anyone can take the training. All are asked to send a copy of there completion certificate to COM Palmer.

The online program is free and all members are encouraged to complete the program and be certified as soon as possible. It takes less than 20 minutes and you will need to have your membership number at hand so that proper credit can be given.

COM J. Y. Miller moved we go on hiatus until September's meeting, as we usually do. COM Alan Hiles seconded the motion. Motion carried. Our next meeting will be on September 20, 2025.

COM Moore passed around a sheet of first class forever stamps newly available at the Post Office commemorating "Battlefields of the American Revolution."

The 50-50 drawing, drawn by COM Alan Hiles and \$15 was won by COM Sammie Thompson

A gift set including a bottle of bourbon donated by COM Randy Palmer was won by COM Mitchell Moore.

COM J. Y. Miller informed the members that COM Palmer had donated other items to be raffled off at September's and later meetings including a bottle of mead, a bottle of peppermint schnapps, a Winchester commemorative knife set, and an additional commemorative knife, and a 2nd Amendment belt buckle.

COM J.Y. Miller informed the members that COM Randy Palmer had graciously proposed and offered to pay for a table runner/banner with the SAR logo for outreach activities including parades. The executive committee had approved the idea. COM Palmer moved the Chapter proceed with the plan. COM Moore seconded; motion carried.

COM Moore moved to delegate to the executive committee approval of the design of the table runner/banner and the task of getting approval of the use of the logo from National. COM J. Y. Miller seconded. Motion carried.

COM Hiles informed members that the Audrain County Historical Society will once again sponsor "Walk Back In Time" where everyone is invited to dress up as a historical figure or character. It will take place during the last week of September in Mexico, Missouri and more information will be available at: <https://www.audrain.org/>

COM Randy Palmer brought a new Brown Bess smoothbore flintlock musket for display and examination by members. The .70 caliber musket can shoot a .69 caliber musket ball and was the standard long gun for both sides during the American Revolutionary War.

The Brown Bess displayed was made in India and retails at approximately \$700 and is widely used by SAR Color Guard members. <http://www.middlesexvillagetrading.com/>

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.

A variety of online informational and orientation programs and courses are available via the SAR website at: <https://www.sar.org/courses/>

Of further interest may be the Official Handbook of the SAR, updated in 2022: <https://www.sar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/NSSAR-Handbook-Volume-IV-06-Feb-2022.pdf> Our Chapter website is at: <http://www.mgcsar.org/>

The next meeting of the M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR will be **September 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** at the American Legion Post 202 located at 3669 Legion Lane, Columbia, MO 65201: <http://mgcsar.org/legion.html> . The program will be a presentation by COM Charles Lee on his experiences in the military.

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

The closing prayer offered by Chaplain Samuel Thomas. The SAR recessional was then led by Vice-President Ingram.

COM Mitchell Moore moved for adjournment of the meeting. COM Kevin Summers seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by Vice-President Ingram at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Moore, Secretary

Barber, Nicholas & Grovene
Bianco, Fred
Coutts, John
Fowler, Gary & Leslie
Hiles, Alan
Inghrsm, Rob
Krause, William
Lawson, Ewell
Lee, Charles
Lee, Jim
Miller, J. Y.
Miller, Raymond, & Ruth
Moore, Mitchell & Sharon
Palmer, Randall
Summers, K. L.
Thomas, Samuel & Stephanie
Whatley, Paul

Genealogy Report May 19, 2025

**Approved:**

Fred Bianco supplement 2-21-24

**At National**

Mark Scheiderer 4-11-25

Matt Freihofer 4-11-25

John Coutts supplement 3-26-25

**At State**

**Working on several applications**

Johnny Hendren – 2 b/c & order one d/c

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

Tony Smee – connect 3 generations and one d/c

Christopher Mathis – 2 connections

Jim Clark new, have contacted, one reply

Chris Beckett new, have contacted, no reply

Christopher Overly-McDowell, one reply

Nick Richards, have contacted, no reply

Dennis Kidwell, contacted, no reply

Supplement for Blake Frevert – one connection

Brad Funk – one connection brick wall

**Pended:**