

Minutes of Meeting 20 September 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: <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.

At 9:09, 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, beverages for \$13.00, and paid individually by members.

President Hammons reconvened the meeting at 9:43 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Randy Palmer. The Pledge to the SAR was led by COM James Lee.

The Charter was draped in honor of COM Thomas Bruce Curtright who passed away on June 16, 2025. Chaplain Samuel Thomas read his obituary as follows: (Full Obit is on the Chapter webpage)

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Thomas Bruce Curtright of Columbia, Missouri, who passed away on June 16, 2025, at the age of 86, leaving to mourn family and friends.

He is survived by: his wife Diane Grizzell of Springfield; his sons, Thomas C. (Brenda) and Jonathan W. (Lori); COM Curtright was a retired bank president. His bank was located in Springfield, IL. He and his wife, Diane, were members of the Evangelical Free Church of Columbia, MO. They are the owners of a grain and livestock farm in Monroe County, MO. Diane is a DAR member.

COM Curtright's patriot ancestor is Samuel Curtright.

A total of 31 members and guests were in attendance. (See Appended List)

Guests were introduced and included wives Val Hammons, Ruth Miller, Stephanie Thomas, Waylene Hiles, Cheryl Bland, Linda Coutts, soon to be inducted as member John Yost, and recent applicants Craig James and Charles Riley, and Special Friend Dr. William Krause.

Health concerns: COM Terry Jones' wife, Debbie is recovering well from recent health battles and a bone marrow transplant and the Chapter passed around a get-well card wishing her well towards her status as being in remission.

COM Luke Lucas reported that COM Bob Bartlett, 100 years of age, together with his wife are faring well at Lenoire Woods, senior retirement facility.

COM Ray Miller had a pacemaker put in over the summer and was feeling much better.

COM Alan Hiles attended the meeting with a black eye and injured his shoulder and limbs fighting a sidewalk head-first at a parade in Bowling Green. COM Hiles claimed to have gotten the better of the altercation because the sidewalk still has blood on it.

Birthdays: COM J.Y. Miller III 26 September, Linda Coutts September, Carol Lee September 6, and COM a couple of Russ DeVenney's grandsons who are junior members.

Notable Dates: The American Revolutionary War after Lexington and Concord 250 years ago had weekly battles, including The Capture of Fort Ticonderoga (First) on 11 May 1775 and The Battle Bunker Hill, aka Breed's Hill on June 17, 1775

COM Charles Lee presented the program this day on "My experiences in the United States Army."

COM Lee is a native of Columbia and graduated from Columbia Hickman High School in 1959 and then attended MU. Late in the summer in 1960, he decided to enlist in the Army to learn a trade. He joined with a friend under the "buddy system" and they were almost immediately assigned to different platoons based on the spelling of their last names.

COM Lee went through basic training at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis. Thereafter, the excellent M1 Garand rifle assigned to him was destroyed in a transport accident and he was given a rifle made by International Harvester. The best thing about the International Harvester rifle, according to COM Lee, was: "it made noise."

Ordered to Fort Huachuca, Arizona, COM Lee recounted the train ride and the benefits of being senior to two other soldiers because he had enlisted mere days earlier than them.

COM Lee apparently impressed some unknown higher-up enough to get some special privileges, such as no KP or guard duty and a room with just one other soldier. That soldier became a life-long friend. COM Lee was in the Signal Corps.

The Berlin Wall went up in August 1961 and COM Lee's deployment to Europe was moved forward several months, and on October 6, 1961 he was stationed at a base in Hanover, Germany. The Russian did not dare attack the entire time that COM Lee was in the U. S. Army in West Germany.

For troop morale and entertainment, the Signal Corps rebroadcast sporting events like boxing matches, and football and baseball games. The troops quickly learned it was not a good idea to bet with COM Lee or other members of the Signal Corp...who knew the outcomes ahead of the rebroadcasts.

COM Lee's first son was born in March 1962, and thereafter COM Lee's wife, Carol, joined him in West Germany.

COM Lee purchased a 1954 Plymouth and during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962 was required to keep the gas tank at least half full and have the vehicle in well-maintained condition, with good fan belts and tires, etc., should an emergency arise.

COM Lee enjoyed traveling and went to Austria, Innsbrook, The Eagle's Nest, Paris, Holland and the tulip festival, Belgium, Luxembourg, and throughout German.

COM Lee especially enjoyed a visit to a castle in Wessel Germany run by two elderly sisters. It featured a suit of armor sized to fit a man shorter than 5 feet tall. The ladies explained that smaller, lighter-weight men in heavy armor were easier for the war horses to carry.

COM Lee and his wife, Carol had a babysitter whose husband was a grumpy man employed as a tool and die machinist, who especially enjoyed Beefeater Gin. A gift of several bottles of Beefeater Gin from Charlie resulted in the grumpy husband becoming much friendlier.

Likewise, COM Lee's duties included border patrols. The East Germans patrolled on the other side. The East German enlisted men would seek spots where they could not be seen by their superiors and were able to freely exchange conversation with American troops. The East Germans especially appreciated packs of cigarettes and bars of Dial soap.

Upon Carol's time to return to the United States, traveling out of Holland, it was discovered that Carol's passport was not to be found. COM Lee was able to contact a sympathetic official who spoke English and who then got in contact with the attendant guard and translated the situation. Charlie did not know exactly what had been said. But the guard mysteriously turned his back, and Carol then snuck out of Holland and returned to the United States. There was no known arrest warrant issued for Carol, and that is all Charlie would say about that.

COM Lee related that soldiers who were only a few months behind him had their service extended six months as Vietnam endured an assassination of its president and a coup in early November, 1963, and President Kennedy was killed on November 22, 1963.

The CIA may have been complicit in both assassinations, and we all have an idea what happened during the next 10-12 years in Vietnam.

COM Charlie Lee was discharged in September, 1963 after serving 2 years, 11 months, and 17 days. COM Lee concluded that enjoyed his time of service in the U.S. Army and he went on to use the skills he learned in his post-Army career. For 30 years, COM Charlie Lee worked in the plumbing, heating, and Air Conditioning business. He is retired from the University of Missouri Dept. of Construction and Maintenance.

In addition, COM Lee is a Past-President of the Columbia Kiwanis Club and a Past-President of the MGC Chapter. He and his wife, Carol, have three sons who are all Eagle Scouts. Carol is a DAR member. COM Lee's bio is on the Chapter website at: <https://mgcsar.org/bioCNL.html>.

Treasurer Paul Whatley reported on the amounts in the accounts and pending expenses. He is busy collecting dues and all members received an email for that. The total amount due for national, state, and chapter dues is \$80 and did not increase this year. COM J.Y. Miller moved the report by approved. COM Alan Hiles seconded. Motion passed.

Secretary Mitchell Moore attended the meeting in a uniform typical of those worn by American Revolutionary War soldiers 250 ago, featuring a "hunter's frock" which was commonly worn prior to delivery by the French of thousands of high-quality uniforms in 1778. In the future, COM Moore will report on sources of uniforms and accoutrements and pricing. Many Chapters encourage their members to wear their uniforms to Chapter meetings.

COM 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 Bianco's supplement was presented to him by COM Coutts.

At National awaiting approval are applications by Scott Yost and James Koppoenaal.

Two applications were recently approved: Mark Scheiderer and Matt Freihofer.

A detailed Genealogy Report of September 20, 2025 is attached.

COM Coutts further requested the Chapter consider contributing financial support to local DAR chapters for patriot grave marking ceremonies.

The 50-50 drawing was drawn by Chapter First Lady and DAR member Val Hammons, and \$13 was won by prospect Charles Riley.

A Winchester commemorative knife set, donated by COM Randy Palmer and, through a random number COM J. Y. Miller had generated by asking his cellphone's intelligent agent, was won by applicant Craig Jones.

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

COM Hiles informed members that the Audrain County Historical Society is this day sponsoring "Walk Back In Time" where everyone is invited to dress up as a historical figure or character.

President Hank Hammons, and Compatriots David Bartlett, Rob Ingram, and Mitchell Moore participated in the wreath-laying ceremony on Memorial Day at the Boone County Courthouse on May 26, 2025.

COM Wayne Merrill carried the flag in a Color Guard $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in August heat at the Missouri State Fair this summer.

COM Russ DeVenney presented a ribbon to be affixed to the Chapter flag, commemorating the Battle of San Carlos, the only battle of the American Revolutionary War fought in Missouri.

The program for the October 18, 2025 meeting will be a presentation by Beverly Rogers of the DAR on "Patriots of Cooper County".

The November 15, 2025 meeting will feature COM Randall Palmer and COM J. Y. Miller presenting the Youth Protection Program which will certify attendees' completion of this program as required by NSSAR..

Members are reminded that the Chapter has its own Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MGCSAR1776> and now a LinkedIn page.

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 **October 18, 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>

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 led by COM Fred Bianco. The closing prayer was then offered by Chaplain Samuel Thomas.

Meeting adjourned by President Hammons at 12:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Moore, Secretary

Bianco, Fred
Bland, Dale & Cheryl
Coutts, John & Linda
DeVenney, Russ
Fowler, Gary
Hammons, Hank & Val
Hiles, Alan & Waylene
Hill, Robert
Inghram, Rob
Jones, Craig
Jones, Terrill
Krause, William
Lawson, Ewell
Lee, Charles
Lee, James
Lucas, Luke
Merrill, John & Charles Riley
Miller, J. Y.
Miller, Ray & Ruth
Moore, Itchell
Palmer, Randy (No Meal)
Schiederer, Mark
Summers, K. L (no meal).
Thomas, Samuel & Stephanie
Whatley, Paul
Yost, Scott

Genealogy Report September 20, 2025

Approved:

Fred Bianco supplement 2-21-24 – May 2, 2025

Mark Scheiderer 4-11-25 – July 25, 2025

Matt Freihofer 4-11-25 – July 25, 2025

At National

John Coutts supplement 3-26-25

Scott Yost 7-31-25

James Koppenaal 8-11-25

At State

Dante Campbell – Junior member

Working on several applications

Craig Jones by Justin Mutrux

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: