

Minutes of Meeting 17 January 2026 M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SA

The meeting this day was called to order by President Hank Hammons 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. A total of 31 members and guests were in attendance with 30 eatng. (see appended list).

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Nicholas Barber. The Pledge to the SAR was led COM Randy Palmer. COM J. Y. Miller offered the opening prayer.

At 9:03, President Hammons announced a break for breakfast served in the ballroom. The menu consisted of a cinnamon and blueberry roll bake, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, cinnamon rolls and Nordic pastry, and beverages for \$13.00 paid individually by members.

President Hammons reconvened the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

President announced that the Chapter will make a stronger attempt to follow parliamentary procedure especially as regards motions and seconds with members announcing their names and waiting to be recognized before speaking.

Charles Riley was inducted as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. Sworn in by President Hammons, COM Riley was sponsored by COM Wayne Merrill. COM John Coutts attended the ceremony for COM Merrill. COM Riley had formerly been a member of the **National Society of Children of the American Revolution** many years prior. The membership welcomed Compatriot Riley, the newest member of the **M. Graham Clark Chapter of the Missouri Sons of the American Revolution** with a hearty round of applause

Guests were introduced and included COM Nicholas Barber's grandmother, Grovone and wives Leslie Fowler, Karen Maershon, Ruanne Stamps, and Ruth Miller

COM Luke Lucas 80th birthday and COM Fred Bianca, COM Paul Whatley, and a host of others.

President Hammons' wife, Val, is still recovering and likewise regarding COM Paul Whatley's wife Donna. Alan Hiles has the flu.

COM Wayne Merrill and his wife Pat celebrated their GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY on December 26 and had a reception attended by many Chapter members.

Notable Dates: In January 1776, Thomas Paine published his influential pamphlet "Common Sense," which argued for American independence and helped sway public opinion. The Continental Congress officially authorized the creation of the Continental Navy on February 9, 1776,

The program was a presentation by COM Fred Bianco on his “Life aboard the USS Grant, a nuclear ballistic missile submarine.”

COM Bianco had joined the Navy and shipped out on his 18th birthday, 50 years to the day of today’s meeting. COM Bianco shared some personal history and submarine history. After basic training, COM Bianco served on the USS Grant, a nuclear-powered submarine with the Fleet Ballistic Missile Program. One of 41 such submarines, he was once underwater for 75 straight days.

The submarines were 400’ long, 33’ in diameter, and could travel 23 mph at a depth of 150’. They could safely dive to 400’ depth. They held 14 officers and 140 enlisted men and would typically cruise 105 days at a time.

COM Bianco described the 20-30 day preparation involved when relieving a crew...including the fact that fresh vegetables were gone after two weeks into the 105 day cruise. However, there was plenty of steak and lobster. He also described the process for creating sufficient water and oxygen in the submarine.

Unlike the subs of the 1940s and 1950s, the USS Grant did not have to surface to fire its 20,000-pound missiles. After the SALT Treaty limited the number of missiles, the missile tubes were transformed and served as a platform to insert Seal teams or fire Tomahawk missiles.

COM Bianco described the unique “Blue Nose Ceremony” that took place when a submariner crossed the Arctic Circle for the first time. COM Bianco shared some pictures to make the ceremony come alive. He also described “angles and dangles” that were associated with securing items and personnel when the submarine was at a very steep angle.

COM Bianco shared the url for some good Youtube videos of what he experienced at:
www.youtube.com/watch?o=4PAmEFrzQdK

If your browser does not support that...simply search “Polaris Nuclear Submarine”

Finally, COM Bianco answered members questions

Treasurer Paul Whatley reported that he was busy collecting dues and all save about 20 members have paid and he is going to mail them one more reminder to pay dues.

COM Whatley requested authorization to renew the Chapter’s Post Office box. So moved by COM J.Y. Miller, COM Robert Hall Seconded. Motion carried.

COM Whatley moved to accept the Treasurer’s report, COM J.Y. Miller seconded. Motion carried

In honor and recognition of COM Bob Bartlett who is 100 years of age, the Chapter agreed to pay the dues for him to become a Life Member. COM Whatley researched the cost to do that for State and National dues and retrieved the forms and moved for authorization to move forward. COM J.Y. Miller seconded his motion. Motion carried.

COM Mitchell Moore announced the bulk of the minutes of the previous meeting are on the webpage. The posting of the minutes was delayed for technical reasons. No corrections were suggested by members. COM Moore moved the minutes thus far posted be approved. COM J. Y. Miller seconded. Motion carried.

COM Moore passed out copies of Color Guard Reports for December 2025 and January 2026 and prepared by Color Guard Commander William Voight and attached hereto.

COM Randy Palmer completed the purchase of an SAR vertical banner for half the expected cost. COM Palmer did make sure to get permission from the SAR to avoid copyright issues.

The members liked the banner and discussed the purchase of a similar “250th Anniversary horizontal banner to carry in parades and post along tables. Some parades in Boone County restrict participants from marching in uniforms, except active members of the United States military. The restriction probably exists with some events to exclude participation by members of Confederate/CSA organizations. COM Moore volunteered to check with the different sponsors of the various parades and verify their policies and see if there are some that would permit our Color Guard to march their parade.

COM Whatley asked for authorization to purchase a “250th Anniversary” banner, together with a flag stand. COM Moore so moved and COM Gary Fowler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COM Moore also reported that on December 30, 2025 he staged a one-man “demonstration” in honor of his patriot ancestor and the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Quebec, which took place on December 31, 1775. Wearing his “wilderness uniform” in freezing weather for nearly 3 hours, COM Moore stood in front of Columbia’s City Hall building at 701 East Broadway holding a Betsy Ross flag in one hand, and a sign reading “Down With King George” in his other hand.

The demonstration was well-received by the public with several hundred supportive “honks” and waves and “thumbs up” from people either amused by the sign, or simply glad to see a demonstration featuring a patriotic flag. It also reinforces the idea that our uniforms are the SAR’s best public relations tool. People love them.

Because the action was so well-received, Color Guard members discussed doing similar activities spontaneously, or planned, during America’s 250th Anniversary.

COM John Coutts moved for approval of the Color Guard report. COM Ray Miller seconded. Motion carried.

COM J. Y. Miller read an invitation for color guard and other members to attend a recognition of the first amphibious assault by the U.S. Marines at Nassau in the Bahamas on 3 MarCH 1776. The Florida Society of the SAR is sponsoring this activity and they invite us all to attend on 14 MARCH 2026.

Genealogist COM John Coutts updated membership on the progress of several applications, with that of Craig Jones' application at National. COM Jim Koppenaar has two supplements. Applications for Michael Treasure and Stephen Treasure are ready for their signatures. A detailed Genealogy Report of Genealogy Report January 17, 2026 is attached. COM Robert Hill moved the Genealogist Report be approved. COM Lucas seconded. Motion carried.

COM Rob Ingram reported he was working on record-keeping for the FOGG Award.

COM Robert Hill is planning a visit to Louisville, Kentucky and asked for advice and feedback from members who had visited the SAR Headquarters regarding how to more access and enjoy the facilities and its treasures.

The 50-50 drawing of \$22 drawn by COM Hill and won by COM Terrell Stamps. A Second Amendment belt buckle donated by COM Randy Palmer, ticket drawn by COM Hill, was won by COM Terry Jones.

The program for the February 21, 2026 meeting will be election and induction of officers. The program for the April 18, 2026 meeting will be COM Whatley presenting on "Artificial Intelligence for Use in Genealogy Searches." The Program for May 16, 2026 will be COM William Voight giving a presentation on "Religious Tolerance during the Revolutionary War Era."

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 **February 21, 2026 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 Gary Fowler. The closing prayer was then offered by Vice-President Rob Ingram.

Meeting adjourned by President Hammons at 11:27 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Moore

Secretary

RSVP JAN 2026

Barber, Nicholas & Grovene	
Bianco, Fred	
Coutts, John	
Fowler, Gary & Leslie	
Hammons, Hank & Val	
Hill, Robert	
Inghram, Rob	
Jones, Terill	
Koppenaar, Jim	
Lee, Charlie	
LEE, JIM	
Lucas, Luke Wilson	
Mershon, Clark & Karen	
Miller, J. Y.	
Miller, Ray & ruth	
Moore, Mitchell	
Palmer, Randy	
Palmer, Randy	
Pickard, Blair	
RILEY, CHARLES	
Shepherd, Dayton	
Stamps, Terrell & Ruanne	
Strubinger, E. T.	
Summers, K. L. No Meal	
Whatley, Paul	

Genealogy Report January 17, 2026

Approved:

At National

Craig Jones by Justin Mutrux - Daniel Boone 29 Dec 2025

On Way to State

Clark Mershon - Mershon

Matthew Treasure - Yaden

Stephen Treasure – Yaden

James Koppenaal Supplement - Trull

James Koppenaal Supplement - Bailey Jr

Working on several applications

Briar McClain – need some primary documents

Travis Barnes – will send info

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

Supplement for Blake Frevert – one connection

Brad Funk – one connection brick wall

Pended:

M. Graham Clark Color Guard Report for January, 2026

1. We have received word from the State Color Guard Commander of a plan for all 50 states to read the Declaration of Independence on July 8, at 5 p.m. central time.
 - This is to be a public reading, publicized in advance. Readers are to lead in a climate of realism and authenticity; color guard members should be in color guard or colonial civilian attire.
 - Various State chapters are already beginning planning.
 - It is thought that MGC might want to do the reading at the Missouri state capitol steps. We will likely need sound amplification, which Billy Voight can provide.
 - This is in support of the 250th event across as many state and national chapters as possible.
 - Billy Voight will be coordinating Muster calls for MGC members for this event.
2. Work continues in pursuit of the possibility of M. Graham Clark sponsoring a Liberty Tree marker celebration in Columbia in 2026.
3. This concludes January report.