

## **Minutes of Meeting 19 May 2026**

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

The meeting was called to order by President Hank Hammons at 9:00 a.m. in the Memorial Room of American Legion Post 202. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Steve Treasure The Pledge to the SAR was led COM Matthew Treasure. President Hammons offered the opening prayer.

There was 28 members and guests in attendee (see appended list) Guests were introduced and included Chapter First Lady Val Hammons, Ruth Miller, Linda Coutts, Carol Lee, Waylene Hiles, Karen Mershon and Cindy Voight. COM Rob Ingram and COM Mitchell Moore attended in uniform.

At 9:02, President Hammons announced a break for breakfast served in the ballroom by the ladies auxiliary of the DAR. The menu consisted of French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, and a fruit bowl and beverages for \$13, paid individually by members.

President Hammons reconvened the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

President Hammons reiterated to members that there is no dress code for meetings and casual dress to the meetings is perfectly acceptable. Some members wear a coat and tie, etc., but the main thing we want from members is their presence. As always, members with uniforms are encouraged to wear those to meetings.

Debby Jones, wife of COM Terrill Jones, passed away on April 28, 2026. COM J.Y. Miller and Com John Coutts attended her funeral. COM Terrill will undergo surgery in June. Pat Merrill, wife of COM Wayne Merrill, is on hospice care. COM Jim Koppenaar is pending bypass surgery which has been postponed. The members signed a sympathy card for COM Jones and Pat Merrill.

**July 4, 2026** is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence

The program for the day was a Power-Point presentation by COM Billy Voight on “The Quest for Religious Liberty in Colonial America.”

COM Voight focused on the area of North Carolina and Virginia where many religious groups were represented. He described the difference between some of them and how they reorganized themselves and changed. For example, Baptists did not baptize children. Presbyterians were mainly Scots who were reliably Patriots. Methodists tended to be Loyalists. Early on, the colonies taxed people to support the preachers and ministers.

COM Voight traced the evolution of thinking that would lead to Virginia’s Declaration of Rights and to the First Amendment and Freedom of Religion/Freedom from Religion. This thinking is evidenced in the writings and thinking of many of the founders such as Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and local religious leaders such as John Leland Elder and Philip Slaughter.

John Leland Elder supported separation of church and state and successfully met with and lobbied James Madison's support for the principle. By the time of the Revolution, most people were agreeable to that principle and being tolerant of those of different creeds.

President Hammons thanked COM Voight for his wonderful presentation.

Color Guard Commander William Voight reported on upcoming events including the planting of a Liberty Tree (a native elm tree) in Fayette, MO on May 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. and an event in Moberly on June 26, and on May 25, 2026 the CoMo Gold Star Memorial Day Parade at 10:00 a.m. immediately after the wreath-laying ceremony at the Boone County Courthouse.

COM J. Y. Miller gave some details RE the Marquis Lafayette and recommended that members read the Howard County Genealogy Society newsletter on the Liberty Tree Planting and General Lafayette. The newsletter can be viewed at: <https://jymiller.net/HCGSnews2026may.pdf> .

COM Moore moved for approval of the Color Guard report. COM Randy Palmer seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Paul Whatley submitted a report but was absent. COM Alan Hiles moved the report be approved. COM Palmer seconded. Motion carried.

The minutes were posted on the webpage. No corrections were suggested by members. COM J. Y. Miller moved the minutes be approved. COM Alan Hiles seconded. Motion carried.

Genealogist COM John Coutts updated membership on the progress of several applications and supplements. COM Alan Hiles moved the report be approved. COM Randy Palmer seconded. Motion carried.

COM J. Y. Miller moved that we should plan on our normal 3-month hiatus June through August and the next meeting will be on September 19, 2026.. COM Alan Hiles seconded and the motion passed.

The 50-50 drawing of \$16 was won by Junior COM Nicholas Barber.

**Matthew Treasure and Steve Treasure**, sponsored by John Coutts, and **Clark Mershon** were inducted as members of the Sons of the American Revolution. They were worn in by President Hammons.

COM Mershon, sponsored by his father, spoke of his grandmother's influence on his siblings and to be patriotic by enrolling them all as members in the Children of the American Revolution. His patriot ancestor, Aaron, died on August 27, 1776 at the Battle of Long Island.

Commander Voight received a thank you card from the Fayette City of the Liberty Tree celebration which is attached.

Vice-President Rob Ingram agreed to be the point man on the wreath-laying ceremony on May 25, 2026 at the Boone County Courthouse. Last year, four members of the Chapter attended the ceremony and our wreath was laid.

On July 4, 2026, in recognition of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the American Legion will open its doors to patriotic groups and their members to join together to celebrate. Several of our members including Randy Palmer, Nicholas Barber, and J. Y. Miller will participate.

The Program for September 19, 2026 will be by COM Scott Yost regarding the Whiskey Rebellion. COM J. Y. Miller is working on two programs. One on the Marquis de Lafayette for the October meeting and another on Christmas symbols during the time of the Revolution for the December meeting. COM Drayton Shepherd is preparing a program on his Southeast Asian experiences as a C-130 pilot.

COM Coutts and COM Palmer discussed the placement of flags on the known graves of patriots. Each has a good supply of flags at hand.

The next meeting of the M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR will be **September 19, 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>

COM Moore moved to adjourn the meeting. COM Hiles seconded. Motion carried.

The SAR recessional was led by COM Drayton Shepherd. The closing prayer was then offered by President Hammons. The meeting was adjourned by President Hammons at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Moore, Secretary

Voight, William & Cindy
Barber, Nicholas
Coutts, John & Linda
Hammons, Hank & Val
Hiles, Alan & Waylene
Inghram, Rob
Krause, William
Lawson, Ewell
Lee, Charles & Carol
Lee, Jim
Mershon, Clark & Karen
Miller, J. Y.
Miller, Ray & Ruth
Moore, Mitchell
Palmer, Randall
Riley, Charles
Shepherd, Dayton
Summers, Kevin. NO MEAL
Treasure, Matthew
Treasure, Steve
Yost, Scott

becki gallaway

Alanna Cooper

Brian DeTille

Denise Harbong

Michelle Shmal

[Signature]

[Signature]

Greg Strahan

Alanna Cooper

[Signature]

[Signature]

Sons of the American Revolution  
M. Graham Clark Chapter  
...and you deserve  
a great big  
thank you!

We can't thank you enough  
for choosing Fayette to  
receive the Princeton Elm,  
a Liberty Tree in honor of  
the Revolutionary War Hero  
LaFayette!

The City of Fayette  
cust and crew,