

Minutes of Meeting 16 October 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 Color Guard posted the colors, led by COM John Coutts. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by COM Drayton Shepherd. The Pledge to the SAR was led by COM Kevin Summers. Chaplain Samuel Thomas offered the opening prayer.

There were 27 members and guests present, including 6 ladies. (See Appended List) Attending in uniform were COM Coutts and COM Mitchell Moore. Ladies were introduced and included Grovone Henderson, Ruanne Stamps, Ruth Miller, Stephanie Thomas, Waylene Hiles, and Carol Thomas.

At 9:05, President Hammons announced a break for breakfast served in the ballroom by the ladies' auxiliary of the American Legion. The menu consisted of scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, French toast, fruit yogurt, and beverages for \$13, paid individually by members.

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

The program for the day was a presentation by LTC John Clark recounting his 6-year experience as a POW in Vietnam.

A native of Boone County, Col. Clark was a Phantom II jet pilot during the Vietnam war who was shot down and was a prisoner of war for 6 years in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" as well as other prisons. He recounted his experience in his autobiography, "The Eagle Hunts-Phantom IIs-Death Defied-Hanoi's Hell-Lost Faith Found".

Published in 2022.all proceeds from the sale of the book go for the benefit of the College of the Ozarks. Many Chapter members purchased the book.

Col. Clark related that prisoners were forced to endure harsh conditions and torture and were prohibited from speaking with one another. Nevertheless, a "tapping code" was created and the prisoners developed educational programs which included French, Spanish, German, mathematics, and music. The tapping code developed further, and the prisoners used toilet paper to write on with improvised writing utensils using for ink substances such as their fungus medicine, ashes, and the like.

One humorous story Col. Clark had to tell was that after the POWs had learned of America's landing on the moon, they informed the guards that America would "threaten to turn off the moon."

Col. Clark answered questions and clearly had many more stories to tell and promised to come back to another meeting in the future.

Health concerns: COM J.Y. Miller has been diagnosed with skin cancer near his face.

COM Jim Koppenaal received a Supplemental Ancestor Certificate for his patriot ancestor, James Edwin Koppenaal.

The Charter was draped in honor of deceased COM Dr. George Wilson <https://mgcsar.org/bioGPW.html> ; and COM Bob Bartlett. COM David Bartlett read a eulogy for his father. <https://mgcsar.org/bioRLB.html>

Treasurer Paul Whatley reported on funds in the bank and money market account. It is time to pay dues. Dr. William Krause generously donated \$500 in honor of his son who was a member of the Chapter, the late Zackary Reed Fletcher. COM Whatley requested permission to deposit Dr. Krause's donation in the money market account. So moved by COM Alan Hiles and seconded by COM J. Y. Miller. Motion carried. COM Charlie Lee moved the treasurer's report be approved. COM Dayton Shepherd seconded. Motion carried.

The minutes of the prior meeting were posted on the webpage. No corrections were suggested by members. COM Charlie Lee moved the minutes be approved. COM Whatley seconded. Motion carried.

Genealogist COM John Coutts updated membership on the progress of several applications and supplements. COM Moore moved the report be approved. COM Ingram seconded. Motion carried. (Report is attached)

Color Guard Commander William Voight was absent, attending an event at Ft. Leonard Wood with COM Rob Ingram. COM Moore and COM Coutts reported on recent events including a presentation on October 10, 2026, to the local chapter of the DAR on the "uniforms of Revolutionary War soldiers" by COM Wayne Merrill, COM Ingram, and COM Moore who attended in uniform. Also attending were Chapter members and their wives who are DAR members. After the well-received presentation, DAR Regent Melissa Applegate expressed a desire for more interaction between the local DAR and SAR chapters.

On October 13, the Color Guard consisting of 4 Chapter members attended the internment of COM Bob Bartlett, who passed away recently at the age of 101.

Future events by the Color Guard include the Grave Marking of a War of 1813 veteran in McFall, Missouri on October 31 and the 250th Patriot Plaque Dedication at the State Capitol in Jefferson City at 1:00 p.m. on November 5.

On December 6, the MSSDAR Lights of Love tree lighting ceremony will take place at 5:00 p.m. in Boonville, MO at the State Headquarters of the MSSDAR, Roslyn Heights, 821 Main Street. Color Guard members from chapters across the state will participate.

More information regarding the Color Guard past and future activities are on the Chapter webpage at <https://mgcsar.org/color.html>

COM Moore gave a “250 years ago today” update on his patriot ancestor, Jeremiah Greenman, who served from 1775-1783 and kept a daily war journal.

On this month in 1776, Greenman was finally released, barefoot, and bought a pair of shoes as soon as he could.

Greenman made it home to his family and all were happy, especially after he was able to take a bath for the first time in 9 months. He was disturbed to hear rumors that the exchanged POWs could possibly be recalled and be in British custody under the terms of the prisoner exchange. That did not happen, however. In fact, 18-year-old Greenman joined Rhode Island’s contingent in the Continental Army as a sergeant in February, 1777.

Members are reminded that they need to complete the Youth Protection Training, which takes about 30 minutes to complete. A link to this training is on the Chapter webpage.

The 50-50 drawing of \$8 was picked by COM Moore and was won by COM Thomas.

COM Moore suggested the Chapter purchase another wreath as a “backup” for events. COM Moore also suggested the Chapter purchase a wireless microphone like that which the DAR has. COM Moore asked that the items be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.

The next meeting on 12 NOV will feature a visit from the MOSSAR President Ken Lawrence..COM J. Y. Miller is working on a program on Christmas symbols for 19 DEC. COM Scott Yost who is preparing a program on the Whiskey Rebellion on 16 JAN 2027. COM Drayton Shepherd is preparing a program on his Southeast Asian experiences as a C-130 pilot during the Vietnam War for 20 MAR 2027. COM Charlie Lee will present on military experiences on 17 APR 2027. COM Hank Hammons will present on 15 MAY 2027.

The next meeting of the M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR will be November 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>

The SAR recessional was led by President Hammons. The closing prayer was then offered by Chaplain Thomas.

Meeting adjourned by President Hammons at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Moore

Secretary

RSVP OCT MGC

Barber, Nichoas & Grovene	
Bartlett, David	
Clark, COL John	
Coutts, John	
Hammons, Hank	
Hiles, Alan & Waylene	
Hill, Robert	
Jones, Terrill.	NO MEAL
Koppenaal. Jim	
Lee, Charles & Carol	
Lucas, Luke Wilson	
Merrill, Wayne	
Miller, J. Y.	
Miller, Ray & Ruth	
MooRe, Michel	
Riley, Charles	
Shepherd, Drayton	
Stamps, Terrell & Ruanne	
Strubinger, Edwyn.	NO MEAL
Summers, Kevin.	NO MEAL
Thomas, Samuel & Stephanie	
Whatley, Paul	

Genealogy Report October 17, 2026

Approved:

At National

Scott Westhoff 9-14 2026 – last approved 7-27

At State

Working on several applications

John Spilman - out for signiture

Connor Thomas – Marshall 2 d/c, 1b/c

Bob Case – 1 b/c, 1 d/c

Matthew Treasure – 3 supumentals , Pennypacker , Henderen, Keyser - out for signiture

Timothy Slover – one family bible, 1 b/c and 2 d/c

Franz Kinkhorst no Patriot yet

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

Pended: