

**M. Graham Clark Chapter
Missouri Society
The Sons of The American Revolution
21 November 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Opening: The meeting was called to order by President Chance at 8:38 am. The colors were posted with no color guard in attendance. The invocation was delivered by COM Stuart. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by DAR member Chris Maring, who is mother COM Michael Maring. The SAR Pledge was led by COM Montie.

There were 47 people present: 23 members and 24 visitors. Visitors of note were Hank Hammons, new member to be inducted; Valerie Hammons, wife of new member Hank Hammons; Jennifer Hammons, daughter of new member Hank Hammons; Jonathan Hammons, son of new member Hank Hammons and Jonathan's fiancée Emily Camp. Another visitor of note was Randy Meyer. Also present were DAR members Chris Maring, new member to be inducted Jonathan Butler and his wife Ellen Butler; Theresa Dale, and Marlene Willick. Brian Blevins, son of Priscilla Bevins, and a prospective member was also visiting.

Other visitors of note were Mrs. Sonny Rains, who is also a DAR member; Mrs. Stephen Foltz, also a DAR member; Mrs. Lee Woodward, also a DAR member; Mrs. Jack Chance, also a DAR member; Mrs. Harry Lehenbauer; Esther Rosner, daughter of COM Lehenbauer and DAR member; Priscilla Bevins, wife of COM Bartlett; Mrs. Russ Devenney; Mrs. Ed Thomas; Brice Imsland, COM Dietzel's nephew and prospective member; and new member to be inducted Charles Lee and his wife Carol.

Birthdays of note were COM Stuart's on November 17 and COM Foltz's on the day of the meeting. Mrs. Foltz also stated they were celebrating their Golden Anniversary soon.

COM DeVenney stated that Chaplain Merrill is ill and not able to attend so COM Stuart was capably filling in. COM Terrill thanked everyone for their thought, prayers and kind words during the past few weeks when her mother, and wife of COM Alfred Jones, was ill and ultimately passed away.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 a.m. for breakfast.

Reconvened: The meeting was reconvened by President Chance at 9:12 am. President Chance discussed briefly the events the DAR held in observance of Veterans Day. Dee Woodward, the Regent of the Howard County DAR Chapter stated there was a Veterans Day commemoration held at Fayette High School, attended by middle and high school students. This was held in conjunction with the American Legion and J. Y. Miller was the primary speaker, whose talk was "Service is not only for Vets." There were about 60 veterans and their families present and a photo was taken by all and was in the Fayette newspaper. The school Superintendent, Mayor of Fayette, and a Howard County Commissioner were also present and 4 Quilts of Valor were given to veterans.

Nancy Waller Thomas, Regent of the Columbia Chapter DAR stated her chapter honored veterans previous to Veterans Dar, and they are having Lights of Honor where a person can buy a light for \$5 in honor of a veteran and it will shine at the state headquarters in Boonville, Roslyn Heights.

Laura DeVenney stated there were 22 Quilts of Valor given out in Boone County on Veterans Day. One veteran who received a quilt is a friend of Nancy Thomas, wife of COM Ed Thomas, and he has 3 Bronze Stars, and served in Vietnam and Afghanistan as a pilot.

President Chance asked all the members of the Daughters of the American Revolution to stand to be recognized.

Program: President Chance then called upon Nancy Waller Thomas to give the program. The topic was DNA and Genealogy. Mrs. Thomas stated she has over 30 years' experience in genealogy, and has been a professional genealogist for 20 of those years. She is the Regent of the Columbia Chapter of the DAR.

She stated to do genetic genealogy, one needs to start with the traditional sources first—paper trail, such as documents, pedigree charts and family group sheets.

Reasons to do genetic testing were: it can help knock down brick walls; prove or disprove relationships; prove or disprove heritage; helps adoptees find birth parents; helps connect with cousins who may have family history information that can further the research; and narrows geographic areas in which to research.

Mrs. Thomas didn't go in depth about what DNA is, but stated it is the genetic code that makes us unique individuals. She said we get about 50% of our genetic makeup from each parent, and about 25% of our genetic makeup from each grandparent.

Mrs. Thomas discussed the three basic types of DNA testing. The first is Y-DNA, which is the male genetic testing. This goes from male to male to male, and so on through the generations. The second is mtDNA, mitochondrial DNA, which is the female testing. This goes from mother to mother to mother, and so on through the generations. The third is atDNA, autosomal DNA, which tests DNA one inherits from both parents' lines. She said this testing is good for only about 5 generations, since the amount of DNA received from that far back is very small.

Y-DNA is only good for surname studies. The only company that offers this testing is FamilyTreeDNA, and their webpage is <http://FamilyTreeDNA.com>. This company has Surname Projects, where a male can do this and find out how his DNA compares to others with similar surnames (Kerr is in Carr). She said they store the samples, which are taken by scraping the inner cheeks, for up to 25 years (frozen) so that one can do more markers with the same sample. They provide helpful tools online to learn more and better understand the results.

mtDNA testing is also only done by FamilyTreeDNA. The test would be used to determine the female line, but is difficult to sort out "matches" because of the constant change of surnames through the years. This test is helpful for finding cousins and also for adoptees to locate birth parents.

atDNA can confirm descent but becomes diluted the further back it goes due to the lessening of genetic input from distant generations. For this reason, if one wants to do this test, do it with the oldest living person as this is only good for about five generations. This test can be done by ancestryDNA, 23andMe and FamilyTreeDNA.

Mrs. Thomas warned that people need to be prepared for negative results. There could be a case where the father is not who they think it is, or the ethnic background may not be what one expected. She gave as an example her husband's Y-DNA test came up with a big number of the surname DAVIS, and his surname is THOMAS, so there needs to be more testing

by another related male, from a different ancestor in the family, to see what happens. And, Mrs. Thomas said, people may refuse to do this. It is our responsibility if it is done that the person asking for the test to pay for it.

She stated it is predicted that 20% of our ancestors are not what we expect.

In summation, she said the starting point is to go through the pedigree charts and family groups sheets that have been developed as a result of research; learn as much as you can about each DNA test; determine who can provide the sample based on which type of test to do; offer to pay for a relative's test results. Remember a relative has the right to refuse to give a sample.

atDNA results from ancestryDNA can be transferred to FamilyTreeDNA for a charge. COM Hill asked about National DNA testing that was done through National Geographic about 7 years ago and Mrs. Thomas said this testing was not good for genealogy.

After the presentation, President Chance awarded Mrs. Thomas the Outstanding Citizenship Award Certificate and Pin.

Supplemental Certificates: President Chance called COM Coutts and Dietzel forward and awarded them their respective Supplemental Certificates.

New Members Inducted: At this point, President Chance called for Jonathan Butler, Charles Lee and Hank Hammons to come forward, with their wives, for induction into the Sons of the American Revolution.

COM DeVenney, Registrar General of NSSAR, swore the new members in and their respective wives pinned the Rosette on their husband's left lapel. Each new member expressed their appreciation for gaining membership and stated they would work toward the betterment of the chapter.

President Chance also stated two new members, Brad ~~Graddis~~ ^{Grannis} and Nick ~~Graddis~~ ^{Grannis} would get their certificates when he and Mrs. Chance go to Phoenix in January, which is where the Graddis's live.

After the induction, COM DeVenney reminded everyone that Color Guard members are needed and this experience can be a rewarding one which can take one to several places in the world. He said it was this experience that interested him in doing National SAR work.

Reports: The **Secretary's Report**, of which several copies were placed on each table to members' review, was approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer COM Coutts reported, as of 30 October 2015 there was \$2,772.53 in the M. Graham Clark Operations Account. He further stated that as of 30 October 2015, there was \$13,132.69 in the M. Graham Clark Endowment Fund, of which \$358.74 is in available funds. The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

Genealogy Report: The Chapter presently has 19 new members for the year of 2015. There have been 3 Supplemental Applications approved as well. There are 2 more new applications at National and at least 4 Supplemental Applications at National as well. It is possible the chapter could have 24 new members by the end of 2015. COM DeVenney, who is Registrar General, stated that SAR has gained about 4000 new members, but there have been about that many who have let their membership lapsed.

FOGG Report: COM Kerr said we are doing very well in this report, having maxed out on the new member and having some supplementals as well. Our other activities have helped as well.

Eagle Scout: COM Dietzel stated there have been about 62 Eagle Scouts in Boone County added this year and this project is doing very well.

Books for Schools: COM Reynolds, the Chair of the Books for Schools Committee, put forth a motion, which he had distributed prior to the meeting that stated thus: "These books should not be textbooks but books that will supplement what they get in the classroom. Not books that are mandatory reading but ones that they pick themselves to read and that will stimulate a child's interest in reading and in particular interest in the American Revolution through the framing of the Constitution.

The committee will follow the guidelines as established below In regard to the selection of books, schools, ordering and other details.

1. Develop a list of books, fiction or historical (that represent the SAR viewpoint and that entertain and excite while teaching the history of the period.
2. Give the list to the schools with the understanding that these are suggestions and not cut in stone.
3. Ask the schools to pick from our list (and add ones of their own choosing).
4. Take each school list (composed of their desires and ours) then edit and finalize each individual school list.
5. After the schools receive their order each book will be marked Received on each school list and the lists be retained in case of reorder.
6. The total amount of each order will be determined by a formula based on the total number of students in each school.
7. We will produce a plate for the inside cover of each book showing that the *M. Graham Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution* donated the book. The plates would be distributed to the schools to be placed in the books.

Each school may have a particular desired ordering procedure and/or choice of binding. Type of binding and how order would determine the actual order.

Subject to Amendment"

This motion, being made by COM Reynolds, was seconded by COM Miller. The Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion then was held as to the amount to be spent on this project. COM Reynolds stated he was contributing \$100 towards this project. COM Kerr stated he is contributing \$50. COM Reynolds asked Treasurer how much he felt can be set aside for this project. The figure of \$500 was discussed.

Schools presently being contacted for this project are Fayette, which has already given a list of books and 2 books from their list are on our list; Harrisburg, which has provided a list to COM Dietzel; New Franklin, which COM Kerr contacted and the Superintendent has told COM Kerr he gave the information to the librarian, but nothing further has happened as yet; Glasgow public and St. Mary's Schools, which have been contacted by COM Miller and his wife.

COM DeVenney made the following motion:

“That the chapter approve up to \$100 per school to furnish books to the libraries of area schools approved by the M Graham Clark Chapter Books for Schools Committee and the school systems.”

This motion was seconded by COM Dietzel. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion. COM Butler volunteered to assist in this committee and this was done. The members are: Chairman COM Reynolds, COM Dietzel, COM Butler, and COM Kerr. Also members are COM Miller’s wife, Mary, and COM Harkey’s wife, Cynthia.

Closing: At this point, President Chance reminded everyone there would be a Books for Schools Committee meeting after the meeting.

There also is to be a Nominating Committee meeting after the meeting to come up with a slate of officers for 2016.

President Chance also mentioned there are some opening for State SAR officers so if anyone is interested in these to let him know, as he is on the nominating committee for this since he is chapter President.

The SAR Recessional was led by COM Terrill Jones. The Benediction was given by COM Stuart.

The meeting was adjourned 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold H. Kerr II, Secretary
M. Graham Clark Chapter
Missouri SAR
The Sons of the American Revolution