

Welcome to the M. Graham Clark Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Our organization has a long and proud history.

The SAR began on the one-hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, In 1876; a group of descendants of Revolutionary War Patriots met in San Francisco, California and formed a group called "Sons of Revolutionary Sires". Their object was to salute the men and women who pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the battle for Independence. We hear that phrase often; "lives, fortunes, and sacred honor", it was not just a pretty phrase - it was a real and dangerous pledge. Not only was the battle dangerous, the patriots who went to war against the greatest military force of the time, faced the loss of their property, being branded as a traitor, and almost certain death by hanging if they were unsuccessful.

On 30 April 1889, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of George Washington's inauguration, the name was changed to simply Sons of the American Revolution. An Act of Congress signed by President Theodore Roosevelt who was a member himself recognized the National Society on 9 JUN 1906.

That charter states that the SAR is a historical, educational, and patriotic organization, which seeks to maintain and extend:

the institutions of American freedom

an appreciation for true patriotism

a respect for our national symbols

the value of American Citizenship

the unifying force of E Pluribus Unum that has created from people of many nations, one nation and one people.

You can read all this and more on the national website: <http://www.sar.org/>

The M. Graham Clark Chapter was chartered by the National Organization on 22 April 1981. The name was chosen in honor of former President General Montague Graham Clark. Dr. Clark was a strong influence on the founding of the Chapter. He is well known as the long time president of the School of the Ozarks at Point Lookout, MO.

You can read more about Dr. Clark and our chapter on our chapter website at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~momgsar/>

One thing you will find there is a membership roster, which contains a photo and brief biographical sketch of our members. I'll ask you for that information soon.

You can also read of many of our projects, which include our regular meetings and programs, patriot grave markings, recognition of good citizenship in the community, and support of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veteran's Hospital.

We are proud to have a former State President who is now a National Officer, Russ DeVenney, as one of our members.

We are proud of our Patriot Ancestors, but we must remember that while we may have inherited their name, some DNA, and perhaps some property; we did not inherit their honor. They risked everything to earn that honor and it cannot be passed on. Instead we inherited an obligation to preserve our heritage and the memory of those patriots. We must do this in our daily lives, at the ballot box, and, if necessary: on the battlefield. One easy way to fulfill this obligation is through our association in the SAR. I can say that my association here has been a great personal pleasure. I hope your experience will be the same. Welcome and congratulations!

J. Y. Miller

Past President, M. Graham Clark Chapter of the SAR