



# COLORADO RIVER RED, WHITE & BLUE

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Number 1

October 2012

Welcome to this issue of your Colorado River Chapter, AZSSAR newsletter. The Colorado River, Red, White & Blue is an official publication of the Colorado River Chapter, AZSSAR.

1770 North McCulloch Blvd, Lake Havasu City. We meet here in the Conference Room just off the Main Library area.

We hope you enjoy this Newsletter and the updates and information it provides.

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### Election of Officers for 2013

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### Chapter Meetings

I am sure you remember, the Colorado River Chapter began the rotation of meetings between Kingman and Lake Havasu last year in hopes that one location would be more appealing to you than the other. While a few members took advantage of the alternate locations we hope more will do so this upcoming year.

Elections – have you thought about being nominated for one of our Officer positions for 2013? We hope you will. The following are the Officers we normally elect: **President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Registrar/Genealogist, and Chaplain.** The duties are in our by-laws and if you are interested come to a meeting and we will tell you what they are. Nominations are made at our October meeting, and election is at our November meeting. We hope you will consider one.

Our meeting location in Kingman has been the Mohave Community College, 1971 Jagerson Ave, Kingman which is about 4-5 miles north of I-40. The meeting room is in the Library Building in a really nice conference room across from the Library itself. A great place to talk about your Patriot Ancestor's contribution to our Freedom and Chapter future plans.

If you are interested in any of the above positions please contact Chairman of our Nominating Committee, Jimmie Bodenhamer, 928-692-6636 or [jimmieb@frontiernet.net](mailto:jimmieb@frontiernet.net).

Our meeting location in Lake Havasu has been the Mohave County Library in the K-Mart Plaza at

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### Member Birthdays

October

Michael Boop – 12th

## November

None

Congratulations and hope you have a Great Birthday!

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### Our Patriot Ancestors

This section provides a look at one of our chapter member's SAR Patriot ancestor's service to this country during the Revolutionary War. It will help us remember our Revolutionary War heroes and Patriots we honored when we joined the SAR.

This month's Patriot will be the ancestor of Michael Boop and Russell Allen. I hope you enjoy this brief look at an American hero!

#### **Patriot Ancestor of Michael Boop and Russell Allen**

George Bub (Boop) (probably son of Tobias Buoband his wife Barbara) was born about 1745 in Darmstadt, Hessen Germany and immigrated to America at age 7 with his parents aboard the ship "Betsy" arriving in Pennsylvania in 1766. George married Maria Margaret Landeberger (probably the daughter of Wilhelm William Apple and Anna Marie Salzgerber, born about 1749) 10 Jun 1768, Philadelphia, Philadelphia Co, PA. Per George's will from 1825, and other references, the children of George and Maria and Catherine were: Davidson 1772, George 1772, David 1776, John 1778, William 1779, Peter 1785, Catherine 1795, Conrad John 1798, and Michael 1805. John (their fourth child) is the ancestor of Michael and Russell.

GeorgeBub enlisted at Northumberland County, PA as a Private in Captain Patrick Watson's Company of Rangers.

Battles of frontier Rangers during the Revolution are sometimes less known than the other major battles of the war. Rangers from Pennsylvania served between the years 1778 and 1783 and most of their

engagements were with Indians who supported the Loyalists. I have been unable to determine his enlistment as with most militia type forces, Rangers served different tours of duty as needed.

In Pennsylvania, as with other areas that bordered Indian land, companies of Rangers were maintained to defend frontier settlements. During the French and Indian War, Rangers distinguished themselves as scouts and lethal adversaries.

At the beginning of the War for Independence, the Continental Congress formed ten companies of "expert rifleman" from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Many from these groups became known as the "Corps of Rangers" by General Washington. Records would indicate that George Bubs' Ranger unit from Northumberland County, PA would have served in this Corp of Rangers.

Most Pennsylvania Rangers dressed in homemade outfits and carried their own rifles, knives, and hatchets. It was the duty of these "Frontier Minutemen" to alert settlers of an attack and hasten together for a mission when an alarm had been given. They escorted women and children to safety and became highly skilled at night travel and distinguishing sounds of danger. They could endure lack of food and long marches, becoming exceptionally swift of foot and deadly with their tactics.

During the Revolution there were two major frontier areas in Pennsylvania which bore the brunt of Indian warfare: Northumberland and Westmoreland Counties. Northumberland settlers were subject to savage attacks from Iroquois especially from 1777-1779. Under orders from General Washington, expeditions against the Indians were made by various commanders which George Bubs' Ranger under Captain Patrick Watson would have been assigned to. Finally, General John Sullivan's expeditions into the Iroquois heartlands brought to a close some of the bloodiest warfare ever experienced during the war. Old Westmorland County, being the more populous area, was to see even more bloodshed. By 1782, Ranger Companies had taken over the entire frontier defense.

While specific battles that George Bubs was in are hard to determine based on Pennsylvania records, it is known that part of the troops called the "Corps of Rangers" by General Washington did include Rangers from Northumberland and they assisted in the eventual capture of English General Burgoyne at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777.

The Battles of Saratoga (19 Sept and 7 Oct 1777) conclusively decided the fate of British General Burgoyne's army in the American War of Independence and are generally regarded as a turning point in the war. The battles were fought eighteen days apart on the same ground, 9 miles south of Saratoga, NY. This was part of Burgoyne's campaign to divide New England from the southern colonies.

The first battle, on 19 Sept 1777, began when Burgoyne moved some of his troops in an attempt to flank the entrenched American position on Bemis Heights. Benedict Arnold, anticipating the maneuver, placed significant forces in his way. While Burgoyne succeeded in gaining control of Freeman's Farm, it came at the cost of significant casualties. Skirmishing continued in the days following the battle while Burgoyne waited in the hope that reinforcements would arrive from New York City. Militia forces continued to arrive, swelling the size of the American army.

The Continental Army had been in a slow steady state of retreat ever since Burgoyne's capture of Fort Ticonderoga early in July. By mid-August the army, then under the command of Major General Schuyler, was encamped south of Stillwater, NY. On 19 Aug, Major General Gates assumed command from Schuyler, whose political fortunes had fallen over the loss of Fort Ticonderoga and the ensuing retreat. Strategic decisions by the American commander in chief, Major General Washington, also improved the situation for Gates' army. Washington also sent some of the best forces from his own army: Colonel Morgan and the newly formed Provisional Rifle Corps, which comprised about 500 specially selected riflemen from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, chosen for their sharpshooting ability. These probably included George Bubs' Company of Rangers.

On 7 Sept, Gates ordered his army to march north. A site known as Bemis Heights, just north of Stillwater and about 10 miles south of Saratoga, was selected for its defensive potential, and the army spent about a week constructing defensive works designed by Polish engineer Thaddeus Kosciuszko. The heights had a commanding view of the area and commanded the only road to Albany.

Burgoyne forces moving cautiously, since the departure of his Indian support had deprived him of reliable reports on the American position, Burgoyne advanced to the south after crossing the Hudson. On 18 Sept the vanguard of his army had reached a position just north of Saratoga, about 4 miles from the American defensive line, and skirmishes occurred between American scouting parties and the leading elements of his army.

The battle began 19 Sept, when Colonel Morgan's men took very careful aim, and picked off virtually every single officer in the advance company, and then charged, unaware that they were headed directly for Burgoyne's main army. While they succeeded in driving back the advance company, Fraser's leading edge arrived just in time to attack Morgan's left, scattering his men back into the woods. James Wilkinson, who had ridden forward to observe the fire, returned to the American camp for reinforcements. As the British company fell back toward the main column, the leading edge of that column opened fire, killing a number of their own men.

The final stroke of the battle belonged to the British. Around 3 pm, Riedesel sent a messenger to Burgoyne for instructions. He returned two hours later with orders to guard the baggage train, but also to send as many men as he could spare toward the American right flank. In a calculated risk, Riedesel left 500 men to guard the vital supply train and marched off toward the action with the rest of his column. Two of his companies advanced on the double and opened vicious fire on the American right, and Fraser's force threatened to turn the American left flank. In response to the latter threat, Arnold requested more forces, and Gates allowed him to dispatch Ebenezer Learned's brigade (2nd, 8th and 9th Massachusetts). (If Arnold had been on the field, these forces might

have instead faced the larger danger posed by Riedesel's force.) Fortunately for the American right, darkness set in, bringing an end to the battle. The Americans retreated back to their defenses, leaving the British on the field.

Burgoyne had gained the field of battle, but suffered nearly 600 casualties. Most of these were to Hamilton's center column, where the 62nd was reduced to the size of a single company, and three quarters of the artillery men were killed or wounded. American losses were nearly 300 killed and seriously wounded.

Burgoyne's council discussed whether to attack the next day, and a decision was reached to delay further action at least one day, to 21 Sept. The army moved to consolidate the position closer to the American line while some men collected their dead. The attack on the 21st was called off when Burgoyne received a letter dated September 12 from General Clinton, who was commanding the British garrison in New York City. Clinton suggested that he could "make a push at Fort Montgomery in about ten days." (Fort Montgomery was an American post on the Hudson River, in the New York Highlands south of West Point). If Clinton left New York on 22 Sept, "about ten days" after he wrote the letter, he still could not hope to arrive in the vicinity of Saratoga before the end of the month. Burgoyne, running low on men and food, was still in a very difficult position, but he decided to wait in the hope that Clinton would arrive to save his army.

While Burgoyne's troop strength was nominally higher, he likely had only about 5,000 effective, battle-ready troops on 7 Oct, as losses from the earlier battles in the campaign and desertions following the 19 Sept battle had reduced his forces. General Riedesel advised that the army retreat. Burgoyne decided to reconnoiter the American left flank to see if an attack was possible. As escort the generals took Fraser's Advanced Corps, with light troops and the 24th Foot on the right and the combined British grenadiers on the left, and a force drawn from all the German regiments in the army in the center. There were 8 British cannon under Major

Williams and 2 Hesse-Hanau cannon under Captain Pausch.

Gates, following the removal of Arnold from the field command, assumed command of the American left and gave the right to General Lincoln. When American scouts brought news of Burgoyne's movement to Gates, he ordered Morgan's riflemen out to the far left, with Poor's men (1st, 2nd, and 3rd New Hampshire on the left; the 2nd and 4th New York Regiments) on the right, and Learned's (1st, 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian, 2nd, 8th and 9<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiments, plus militia companies) in the center. A force of 1,200 New York militia under Brigadier General Broeck was held in reserve behind Learned's line. In all, more than 8,000 Americans took the field that day, including about 1,400 men from Lincoln's command that were deployed when the action became particularly fierce.

The opening fire came between 2 and 2:30 pm from the British grenadiers. Poor's men held their fire, and the terrain made the British shooting largely ineffective. When Major Acland led the British grenadiers in a bayonet charge, the Americans finally began shooting at close range. Morgan's men swept aside the Canadians and Indians to engage Fraser's regulars. Although slightly outnumbered, Morgan managed to break up several British attempts to move west. During the battle General Fraser was mortally wounded in this phase of the battle, and General Burgoyne was also very nearly killed by one of Morgan's marksmen; three shots hit his horse, hat and waistcoat.

At this point, the Americans were joined by an unexpected participant. General Arnold, who was "betraying great agitation and wrath" in the American camp, and may have been drinking, rode out to join the action. Gates immediately sent Major Armstrong after him with orders to return; Armstrong did not catch up with Arnold until the action was effectively over.

The defenses on the right side of the British camp were anchored by two redoubts. The outermost one was defended by about 300 men under the command of the Hessian Heinrich von Breymann, while the

other was under the command of Lord Balsares. The capture of Breyman's redoubt exposed the British camp, but darkness was setting in. An attempt by some Germans to retake the redoubt ended in capture as darkness fell and an unreliable guide led them to the American line.

Burgoyne lost 1,000 men in the two battles, leaving him outnumbered by roughly 3 to 1; American losses came to about 500 killed and wounded. Burgoyne had lost several of his most effective leaders, his attempts to capture the American position had failed, and his forward line was now breached. That night he lit fires at his remaining forward positions and withdrew under the cover of darkness. On the morning of 8 Oct, he was back in the fortified positions he had held on 16 Sept 16. By 13 Oct he was surrounded at Saratoga, and on 17 Oct he surrendered his army. The remnants of his expedition retreated from Ticonderoga back to Quebec.

Once news of Burgoyne's surrender reached France, King Louis XVI decided to enter into negotiations with the Americans that resulted in a formal Franco-American alliance and French entry into the war

Troop strengths, casualties and losses: American forces were 9,000 (first battle), 12,000 (second battle) and over 15,000 at time of surrender. American losses 90 killed, 240 wounded. British forces were 7,200 (first battle), 6,600 (second battle). British losses 440 killed, 695 wounded, and 6,222 captured.

As an interesting side note Captain Patrick Watson the commander of Georgia's Ranger Company, was killed by Indians in May 1780 near White Springs, Limestone Township, Union County, PA along with his mother.

Of note, PA war records for Rangers on the Frontier also indicates that George also served in a Ranger Company from Northumberland County under the command of Captain Leonard Overmyer III, but no dates of this service are provided so potential battles he may have served in are unknown.

It would also appear that George did not receive a Revolutionary War pension as no records can be found. Many Soldiers were unaware that Congress had approved Revolutionary War pensions in 1818. Because of that fact, many soldiers died before pensions were offered and that is why you see pension applications made by widows.

George died after 12 Oct 1825 at age 80 in Hartley Township, Union County, PA, but his burial location is unknown. Maria Margaret, his wife died 1826 at age 70 in Union County, PA, but burial location is unknown.

Sources – Original SAR approved application, Pennsylvania Archives records, and Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, wikipedia.org, and Google searches.

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## Current Officers

Donald Reighard – President – (928) 680-4087

Ray Lackey – Vice President – (928) 754-1941

Tim Keith – Secretary/Treasurer – (928) 566-1132

Ron Smith – Chaplain – (928) 680-7924

Jimmie Bodenhamer – Registrar/Genealogist – (928) 692-6636

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## Membership

If you need assistance with a membership issue, or know someone interested in joining the NSSAR, please provide me the contact information and I will work the issue for you.

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 1<sup>st</sup> – Chapter Newsletter Mailed

October 8<sup>th</sup> – Columbus Day

October 13<sup>th</sup> – Chapter Meeting in Lake Havasu City  
Mohave County Library

Nomination of 2013 Officers  
November 3d –Veterans Day Parade  
Northern Avenue, Kingman

November 10<sup>th</sup> – Chapter Meeting in Kingman  
Mohave Community College  
Election of 2013 Officers

November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day

November 22d – Thanksgiving Day

December 1<sup>st</sup> – Chapter Newsletter Mailed

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Chapter Meeting in Lake Havasu  
City  
Mohave County Library  
Installation of 2013Officers

December 21<sup>st</sup> – First Day of Winter

December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day

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## **Newsletter Editor**

Hope you enjoyed this newsletter and I look forward to any comments or suggestion for future newsletters.  
Colorado River Chapter, AZSSAR: Jimmie Bodenhamer, Editor, [jimmieb@frontiernet.net](mailto:jimmieb@frontiernet.net).

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