



COLORADO RIVER RED, WHITE & BLUE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Number 3

February 2013

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.

Important Meeting Coming

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.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our May 11th Chapter Meeting in Lake Havasu City.

Our State President Abraham Ruddell Byrd III M.D. will be visiting our chapter and making a presentation on Revolutionary War Medicine.

This should be an interesting presentation and will mark the first time a State President has ever visited our Chapter. We plan on inviting members of the Havasu Chapter DAR and may hold our event at a local restaurant.

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.

Watch your April Newsletter for update on location!

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

Officers for 2013

At our December 8th meeting in Lake Havasu City, our officers for 2013 were installed as follows:

President – Don Reighard

Vice-President – Ray Lackey

Secretary/Treasurer – Tim Keith

Registrar/Genealogist – Jimmie Bodenhamer

Chaplain - Jimmie Bodenhamer

Sergeant At Arms – Michael Boop

Board of Managers – J. Michael Jones



2013 Officers pictured left to right:
Mike Boop, Ray Lackey, Don Reighard, Tim Keith,
and Jimmie Bodenhamer

Member Birthdays

February 2013

Ronald Smith – 25th

March 2013

James McConnell – 4th

J. Michael Jones – 5th

Ray Lackey – 24th

Donald Reighard – 29th

Jimmie Bodenhamer - 29th

Congratulations and hope you have a Great Birthday!

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 Craig Vallon. I hope you enjoy this brief look at an American hero!

Patriot Ancestor of Craig Vallon

Gideon Ball was born 4 Aug 1762 in Granville, Massachusetts (it appears he is probably the son of Gideon Ball and Jane Sheldon since he also has a son named Gideon which seems to make Gideon a family name). However, there is some disagreement on Ancestry.com as to his parents and which state he was born in (some believe he was born in Canaan, CT). Craig's SAR approved application shows Granville as the location for his birth.

Gideon our Patriot married Lydia Brockway (possibly the daughter of Gideon Brockway and his wife Lois Houghton Beaman, born 17 Apr 1757, at Lyme, New London, CT. The children of Gideon and Lydia (not complete determined-there may have been other children) were: Sheldon 1784, Gideon Olin 1785 and Lucy 1790. Gideon (their third child) is the ancestor of Craig.

A letter from Winfield Scott, Commissioner of the Revolutionary War Section indicates that Gideon first enlisted at Grenville, MA, Jan 1776 serving as a Private in Captain Lebbeus Ball's Company which was assigned to Colonel Learned's, Massachusetts Regiment. Gideon's second enlistment was in Mar 1777 when he enlisted for three years as a Private and later a Corporal in Captain Caleb Keep and John Wright's Company, which was assigned to Colonel William Sheppard's, 3d Massachusetts Regiment of Continental Line.

Massachusetts Revolutionary War records show the following more detailed service – enlisted in Granville, MA, as a Private in Captain Caleb Keep's Company under Colonel William Sheppard's 3d Regiment, and Continental Army pay accounts show service period for this enlistment as 1 Mar 1777 to 31 Dec 1779. There is also an indication per Muster Rolls from Jul to Aug 1778 that Captain Keep's Company was commanded by Lieutenant John Wright. Gideon also shows up on Corporal Muster Rolls Oct to Nov 1778. Muster Rolls for Mar to Apr 1779 show Gideon reenlisted for three years as a Private in Lieutenant Colonel Ebenezer Sprout's Company again under Colonel Sheppard's 3d Regiment. He was reported to have been transferred to a Light Infantry unit and the Muster Roll for Mar to Apr 1779 shows his assignment as a Corporal in Captain John Wright's Company under Colonel Sheppard. A status report after this assignment indicated that he was on command at North Kingston, which is north of Plymouth, MA. On 1 Jan 1780 to 1 Apr 1780 Gideon was assigned to Captain George Webb's (Light Infantry) Company, now assigned to Colonel Sheppard's 4th Regiment Continental Army. While Gideon's unit above was on assignment until 1 Apr 1780 he was discharged 1 Mar 1780.

Official war records show that Gideon was present when British General John Burgoyne surrendered his army of 5,000 British regulars to American troops on 17 Oct 1777 during the Saratoga Campaign in New York. He also served in the Battle of Monmouth, at Monmouth Court House, NJ; Battle of Rhode Island, at Aquidneck Island, RI; and in East Chester, NY at the Battle of Pell's Point. His unit was the 3d Continental Regiment or the 4th Massachusetts Regiment.

The Battle of Pell's Point occurred 18 Oct 1776, at East Chester, NY. On 12 Oct, after being beaten at the Battle of Throgs Point, British General Howe had shifted his British and German force to Pell's Point, 3 miles north of Throgs Point. The majority of Howe's force was comprised of the German soldiers. Meanwhile, General Washington was evacuating his forces from Harlem Heights and moving north. Pell's Point was a peninsula on Pelham Bay and a more advantageous site from which to attack the Americans. From his position near Eastchester,

about a mile from Pell's Point, American Colonel John Glover was commanding a 750-man brigade with support from 3 cannon. Unknown to the Americans, British General Howe had some British ships take his troops and land them just north of Pell's Point.

On 18 Oct, looking out over Eastchester Bay early that day, Colonel Glover noticed that the British ships had come in during the night. He sent a 41-man detachment to move forward and delay the British advance. Meanwhile, Colonel Glover formed up the remainder of his brigade to bar the road that was along the expected British route. The delaying detachment met the British and exchanged fire with them before falling back to Glover's position.

Part of the American force on the left side of the road let the British to get within 100 feet of them before rising from behind a stone wall and opening fire. The British were driven back, taking about 1 1/2 hours to reform and organize an attack supported by 7 guns. The previous American position fired 7 volleys before withdrawing to the next regiment's position. When the British advanced to the new position, the Americans were able to fire 17 volleys into the British line. This caused the British to make several attacks before they could advance again. The Americans were forced to withdraw to a new position which the British did not attack. Both sides fired cannonades at each other until dark, when Colonel Glover withdrew his force back another 3 miles to Dobb's Ferry. There, he set up camp for the night.

This battle enabled General Washington, with the main American army, to withdraw safely from Harlem Heights to White Plains. The 4th Massachusetts Regiment had 240 Privates fit for duty during this battle and Giedon would have been one of them. During the battle their commander Colonel Sheppard was wounded.

Troop strengths, casualties, and losses for the Battle of Pell's Point (East Chester): American forces were 843 soldiers with 3 small guns, while American losses were 8 killed and 13 wounded. British forces were 4,000 with 6 guns while, British losses were 3 killed, 20 wounded and 200-1,000 Hessian casualties.

The Battles of Saratoga occurred from 19 Sep 1777 to 7 Oct 1777, and were fought in Saratoga County, NY. During that time the 4th Massachusetts Regiment was under the command of General Ebenezer Learned of Massachusetts.

These battles would conclusively decide the fate of British General John Burgoyne's army in the American Revolution 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.

Burgoyne's campaign had been designed to divide New England from the southern colonies and started well, but slowed due to logistical problems. He won a small tactical victory over American General Gates and the Continental Army in the 19 Sep 1777 at the Battle of Freeman's Farm at the cost of significant casualties. His gains were erased when he again attacked the Americans in the 7 Oct 1777 Battle of Bemis Heights and the Americans captured a portion of the British defenses. Burgoyne was therefore compelled to retreat, and his army was surrounded by the much larger American force at Saratoga, forcing him to surrender on 17 Oct 1777. News of Burgoyne's surrender was instrumental in formally bringing France into the war as an American ally, although it had previously given supplies, ammunition and guns, notably the de Valliere cannon, which played an important role in Saratoga.

The first battle of Saratoga, on 19 Sep 1777, began when Burgoyne moved some of his troops in an attempt to flank the entrenched American position on Bemis Heights. American General 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 General Burgoyne waited in the hope that reinforcements would arrive from New York City. American Militia forces continued to arrive, swelling the size of the American army. Disputes within the American led General Gates to strip Arnold of his command.

Concurrently with the first battle, American troops also attacked British positions in the area of Fort Ticonderoga, and bombarded the fort for a few days before withdrawing. British General Clinton in an attempt to divert American attention from Burgoyne, captured American forts in the Hudson River highlands on 6 Oct 1777, but his efforts were too late

to help Burgoyne. Burgoyne attacked Bemis Heights again on 7 Oct 1777; after it became apparent he would not receive relieving aid in time. In heavy fighting, marked by Arnold's spirited rallying of the American troops (in open defiance of orders to stay off the battlefield), Burgoyne's forces were thrown back to the positions they held before the 19 Sep battle and the Americans captured a portion of the entrenched British defenses.

The second battle at Bemis Heights began on 7 Oct 1777. While General Burgoyne's troop strength was nominally higher, he likely had only about 5,000 effective, battle-ready troops as losses from the earlier battles in the campaign and desertions following the 19 Sep 1777 battle had reduced his forces. General Riedesel advised that the army retreat. General 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. Leaving their camp between 10 and 11 a.m., they advanced about three quarters of a mile to Barber's wheat field on a rise above Mill Brook, where they stopped to observe the American position. While the field afforded some room for artillery to work, the flanks were dangerously close to the surrounding woods.

General 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, 2d, and 3d New Hampshire on the left; the 2d and 4th New York Regiments) on the right, and Learned's (1st New York, 1st Canadian, 2d, 8th and 9th 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.

General Burgoyne had lost several of his most effective leaders, when 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 Sep. By 13 Oct he was surrounded at Saratoga, and on 17 Oct General Burgoyne surrendered his army. The remnants of his expedition retreated from Ticonderoga back to Quebec.

While exact operations of Gideon's 4th Massachusetts Regiment are not outlined, it is clear that its commander General Learned and a variety of units were heavily engaged, and military records show he was present at the surrender.

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

The next battle for Gideon's 4th Regiment would be the Battle of Monmouth, at Monmouth Court House, NJ, on 28 Jun 1778. The Continental Army under General Washington attacked the rear of the British Army column commanded by General Clinton as they left Monmouth Court House (Freehold Borough). It is sometimes known as the Battle of Monmouth Courthouse.

Unsteady handling of lead Continental elements by General Lee had allowed British rearguard commander Lieutenant General Cornwallis to seize the initiative but Washington's timely arrival on the battlefield rallied the Americans along a hilltop hedgerow. Sensing the opportunity to smash the Continentals, Cornwallis pressed his attack and captured the hedgerow in stifling heat. Washington consolidated his troops in a new line on heights behind marshy ground, used his artillery to fix the British in their positions, and then brought up a four gun battery under American General Greene on nearby Combs Hill to enfilade the British line, requiring Cornwallis to withdraw. Finally, Washington tried to hit the exhausted British rear guard on both flanks, but darkness forced the end of the engagement. Both armies held the field, but the British commanding General Clinton withdrew undetected at midnight to resume his army's march to New York, City.

While Cornwallis protected the main British column from any further American attack, Washington had fought his opponent to a standstill after a pitched and prolonged engagement; the first time that Washington's army had achieved such a result. The battle demonstrated the growing effectiveness of the Continental Army after its six month encampment at Valley Forge, where constant drilling under officers such as Major General Wilhelm and Major General Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette greatly improved army discipline and morale. The battle improved the military reputation of General Washington, Lafayette and Anthony Wayne but ended the career of General Lee, who would face court martial at Englishtown for his failures on the day. According to some accounts, an American soldier's wife, Mary Hays, brought water to thirsty soldiers in the June heat, and became one of several women associated with the legend of Molly Pitcher.

Again while there are no detailed accounts of Gideon's Regiment, it is known that they participated in this battle under Colonel Shepard and General Learned.

Troop strengths, casualties, and losses for the Battle of Monmouth: American forces were 11,000 soldiers while American losses were 362-500 killed, wounded or captured. British forces were 14,000 to 15,000 soldiers while British losses were 65-304 killed, 170-770 wounded and 60 captured.

The last battle for Gedeon was the Battle of Rhode Island. The Battle of Rhode Island, also known as the Battle of Quaker Hill and the Siege of Newport, took place on 29 Aug 1778. Continental Army and militia forces under the command of General Sullivan were withdrawing to the northern part of Aquidneck Island after abandoning their siege of Newport Rhode Island, when the British forces in Newport, sortied, supported by recently arrived Royal Navy ships, and attacked the retreating Americans. The battle ended inconclusively, but the Continental forces afterward withdrew to the mainland, leaving Aquidneck Island in British hands.

The battle took place in the aftermath of the first attempt at cooperation between French and American forces following France's entry into the war as an American ally. The operations against Newport were to have been made in conjunction with a French fleet and troops; these were frustrated in part by difficult relations between the commanders, and a storm that damaged both French and British fleets shortly before joint operations were to begin.

The battle was also notable for the participation of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, a locally recruited segregated regiment of African Americans. It was the only major military action to include a racially segregated unit on the American side in the war.

Troop strengths, casualties, and losses for the Battle of Princeton: American forces were 10,100 soldiers while American losses were 30 killed, 137 wounded, and 44 missing. British forces were 6,700 soldiers while British losses were 38 killed, 210 wounded and 12 missing.

Records show Gideon and Lydia settled in western NY in 1809. He filed his pension request in 1819 while living in Seneca, Ontario County, NY. His pension application number was S. 44587, and at age 59 he was awarded a pension on 6 Jul 1819 in the amount of \$15.74 semi-annual.

Gideon died 27 Nov 1826 at age 66 in Seneca, Ontario County, NY, but his burial location is unknown. Lydia, his wife, died in 1836 at age 79 in Pleasant Lake, Steuben County, IN, but burial location is unknown.

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

Current Officers

Donald Reighard – President – (928) 680-4087

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

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

Jimmie Bodenhamer – Chaplain – (928) 692-6636

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

Michal Boop – Sergeant at Arms – (928) 753-7968

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

February 2d – Groundhog Day

February 8th – Chapter Newsletter Mailed

February 9th – Joint DAR/SAR Meeting
Kingman
No Regular Chapter Meeting

February 14th – Valentine's Day

February 18th – President's Day

March 9th – Chapter Meeting
Mohave Library, Lake Havasu City

March 10th – Daylight Savings Begins

March 17th – St. Patrick's Day

March 20th – Spring Begins

March 31st – Easter

April 1st – Chapter Newsletter Mailed

April 13th – Chapter Meeting
Mohave College, Kingman

May 11th – Chapter Meeting
Location TBD – Lake Havasu City

State President Abraham Byrd II MD
Visiting - Presentation on Revolutionary War
Medicine

May 12th – Mothers Day

May 27th – Memorial Day

June 1st – Chapter Newsletter Mailed

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.

Need another copy of this Newsletter? It is on our AZSSAR website link.