



COLORADO RIVER RED, WHITE & BLUE

NEWSLETTER

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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.

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

here in the Conference Room just off the Main Library area.

Chapter Meetings

Next Chapter Meeting September 14th MCC, Kingman

Colorado River Chapter rotates meetings between Kingman and Lake Havasu in hopes that one location will be more appealing to you than the other..

Our meeting location in Kingman has been the Mohave County 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.

Our meeting location in Lake Havasu has been the Mohave County Library in the K-Mart Plaza at 1770 North McCulloch Blvd, Lake Havasu City. We meet

Campaigns and Battles of the American Revolution (1775-1783)

This is the first in a new series on Battles of the American Revolution. I will attempt to cover each battle in the order that our Patriots fought them. I have noticed, and I am sure you are aware, that in some cases battles occurred on the same day; however I will cover only one battle in each issue. As an aid to this series, I will use information from the book "A Guide to the Battles of the American Revolution" written by Theodore P. Savas and J. David Damerson and published in 2006; and Wikipedia.

Battles of Lexington and Concord (Boston Campaign)

19 April 1775

This is where America's history and its fight for freedom began, in the Northern Colonies, Massachusetts. From 1763 to 1765 American colonists were hit with multiple taxes by Britain to pay for such things as French and Indian war. These taxes included the Sugar Tax, Currency Act, and Quartering Acts. In 1767 the Massachusetts legislature denounced the Townshend Act, another tax added to the colonist's burden. They called this series of taxes from England "taxation without representation".

In 1773, East India Trading Company was the primary importer of colonial tea and an official decree known as the Tea Act established a tax on tea. On 16 Dec 1773 colonists boarded an East Indian ship laden with tea and poured it into the harbor. It has become known as "The Boston Tea Party".

This rhetoric between England and America increased even more in May 1774 with the establishment of a Massachusetts Provincial Congress and had colonists waiting for a spark to start a revolution would come in the form of British troops marching from Boston to Concord.

The British military, attempted to keep their movement to Concord a secret; however colonial spies would alarm rebel militia. Paul Revere and William Dawes, colonial spies then slipped out of Boston into the countryside. Paul Revere placed lanterns in the Old North Church before his departure to alert rebels of the British troop movements. Dawes and Revere moved on different routes alerting the colonists of the British movement to Concord which would require travel through Lexington which was on the same road.

In Lexington Samuel Prescott, another colonist joined Revere and Dawes spreading the word to rebels of British troops on the march. British cavalry patrols captured Revere and forced Dawes to flee, but Prescott did make it to Concord to alert the colonists.

For those of you not familiar with this area of Massachusetts, the terrain from Boston to Lexington and Concord was gentle rolling farmland typical of much of New England. Lexington and Concord were both small towns and the fight in Lexington would occur on the town green. In Concord the fighting would start at North Bridge and continue along a rebel retreat route to Charlestown. This dirt road was lined with alternating forest and fields that would give the colonial militia an advantage and a place to pick off retreating British soldiers.

Weather would play no special role as the battles would occur in early morning both in Lexington and Concord and the British retreat to Boston would occur in the morning and early afternoon and the weather would be clear and pleasant.

A look at the American Colonial and British forces during the Battles of Lexington and Concord: American Colonial Forces were 70 militia soldiers in Lexington; and 200 militia soldiers in Concord. More militia soldiers from throughout the region would be added during the British retreat from Concord to Charlestown. British forces were 700 soldiers consisting of infantry, grenadiers, and Royal marines with a cavalry escort. These British soldiers were reinforced with 1,000 soldiers and two cannons during the British retreat to Charlestown.

The American Colonial Commanders for these battles were: Captain John Parker in Lexington, and Colonel James Barrett in Concord and along the road the British retreated on back to Charlestown and Boston. British Commanders were: Lieutenant Colonel Frances Smith, Major John Pitcairn, and Major (Lord) Hugh Percy.

The first clash of the Revolutionary War began shortly after Paul Revere was captured and rebels assembled on the Lexington Green, led by Militia Commander Captain John Parker. These "Minuteman" as they became known waited for the British troops rapidly marching toward Concord. As sunlight rose in the eastern

sky over Lexington and rebel scouts returned with word the British forces had arrived.

Fighting in the **Battle of Lexington** began after Captain Parker had organized his militia soldiers on the town green to interrupt the approaching British forces. The rebel force of 70 militia soldiers soon realized they were heavily outnumbered and defeat was inevitable. As a defensive measure, Captain Parker ordered his militia to disperse, but what happened next is unclear. It is known that as British soldiers reached the town green, someone fired at the British soldiers from behind a stone wall, and more shots rang out. Major Pitcairn ordered his soldiers to return fire and assault the outnumbered colonial soldiers. The battle ended quickly with eighteen Colonial Militia shot on the Lexington Green. This engagement resulted in eight killed, and ten wounded. There appeared to be no British casualties.

Next would be the **Battle of Concord** which lay six miles away as British soldiers began to move again after defeating the rebels in Lexington. News arrived in Concord at 2:00 a.m. that British soldiers were again marching toward Concord. Based on this news several companies of Minuteman turned out to meet the British arrival and local Militia Commander Colonel James Barrett took command. Barrett directed his men to remove munitions and military store from his property and conceal them elsewhere, while other Minutemen watched for the enemy from a ridge along the road leading to Concord. These men fell back to join Colonel Barrett when the Redcoats approached Concord between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m.

British Captain Lawrence Parsons took three companies of Redcoats to search Barrett's home and farm for hidden weapons and powder while three other Redcoat companies under Captain Walter Laurie secured the North Bridge. While approaching Concord the British set fire to several cannon mounts in the courthouse and Colonials were certain the enemy was torching the town.

By around 9:30 a.m. about 300 to 400 Militia soldiers had stationed themselves on high ground above the North Bridge. With fife and drum Militia Commander Major John Buttrick led a motley group of farmers and merchants toward Captain Laurie's companies who were securing the North Bridge. In seeing this move by the Colonials, Laurie ordered his men to fall back across the bridge and set up a defensive position which would allow one of his three companies the ability to fire on the approaching rebels. When the British opened fire Buttrick's men returned it. This exchange lasted several minutes the result being that Buttrick's rebels drove the British soldiers back in the direction of Concord. The British casualties were three killed and eight wounded while the Colonists suffered two killed and three wounded.

Following this engagement Buttrick's men made no attempt to pursue Laurie's men or cut off British soldiers searching Barrett's farm. After the engagement British Lieutenant Colonel Smith led his Redcoats out of Concord about noon, cognizant that the number of Colonial Militiamen resisting the British army was steadily growing.

Thus began the British retreat to Charlestown as the Redcoats passed through a hail of enemy bullets as they withdrew from Concord to Lexington. Just outside Lexington, Militia Commander Captain Parker who had led Colonial forces on Lexington Green earlier organized an ambush known today as "Parker's Revenge". Captain Parker's surprise attack on British soldiers inflicted many casualties and wounded key British Commanders, including Lieutenant Colonel Francis Smith.

A British relief force led by Major (Lord) Percy finally joined Smith's column at Lexington. Without Percy's soldiers, artillery, and leadership, the Colonials may have overwhelmed and destroyed Smith's entire force. Using his cannon, Percy dispersed the advancing Colonial Militia and regained control of the British withdrawal. While Percy managed to lead the British column back to the safety of

Charlestown, the Colonials fired on it from the woods along the road throughout the march inflicting hundreds of British casualties.

By the time the British reached the safety of Charlestown, 6,000 Colonial Militiamen had assembled on the outskirts of Boston.

Total casualties from the Battles of Lexington and Concord were: American Colonials 49 killed, 41 wounded and 5 missing; British 73 killed, 174 wounded, and 26 missing. Most of these losses occurred during the British retreat to Charlestown.

The Battles of Lexington and Concord became known as "The Shot Heard Round the World" and initiated the start of the American Revolution. This bloodshed was exactly what many Colonials were hoping for to raise support for an armed revolution. The British found early on that the Colonel fighting style was unconventional and disorganized, but this asymmetric form of warfare would have a tremendous impact upon the morale of British soldiers who suffered nearly 20 percent casualties. The previously believed invincible British army now found itself fighting an enemy whose tactics it did not understand.

After these battles, Colonial General William Heath organized the thousands of Militiamen milling outside Boston, establishing a quasi "siege" around Gage's shocked British command.

Sources: A Guide to the Battles of the American Revolution by Savas and Dameron, and Wikipedia.

NEXT: The Siege of Boston (Boston Campaign), 19 April 1775 to 17 March 1776.

Membership

This seems to have been a short summer here in Kingman with hot temperatures, a wildfire on

Dean Peak in the Hualapai Mountains to heavy rain and flash flooding in Kingman, and a tour bus off the road in Dolan Springs 35 miles north.

But I have been working with two prospective members and submittal of their SAR Applications. One application was submitted in late July for Robert Lee Murphy of Kingman and his Patriot ancestor Michael Shiverdecker who served as a Private in the Virginia Militia. Based on a note received today our National review process is taking four weeks so would expect Robert's approval in September.

Our other potential new member is Norman Landis Davis of Bullhead City whose Patriot ancestor is Snead Davis who served as a Private of Infantry and Cavalry with the North Carolina line. I am awaiting his signed application so official review can begin.

Member Birthdays

August 2013

None

September 2013

Chance Vallon – 25th

Congratulations and hope you have a Great Birthday!

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

Michael 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

September 14th – Chapter Meeting
First meeting of the season
MCC, Kingman

October 1st – Chapter Newsletter Mailed
New Battle Series Starts

October 2d – Labor Day Holiday

October 12th Chapter Meeting
Mohave County Library
Lake Havasu City

October 14th Columbus Day Holiday

October 31st Halloween

November 3d – Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 9th – Chapter Meeting
MCC, Kingman

November 11th – Veterans Day Holiday

November 28th – Thanksgiving Holiday

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.