



# COLORADO RIVER RED, WHITE & BLUE

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 2

October 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.

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 October 12th Mohave County Library Lake Havasu City

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 Jaegeron 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

### It is that time again! Election of 2014 Officers

Your Colorado River Chapter is looking for Members to run as our 2014 Officers. At our 14 September meeting in Kingman, President Don Reighard appointed Vice-President Ray Lackey as head of our Nominating Committee for this year.

You will probably be getting a call from Ray to see if you would consider being one of our Officers for the 2014 year. The following Officer positions need to be filled:

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Registrar/Genealogist  
Chaplain  
Sergeant at Arms

We hope you will consider filling one of these positions. Ray will present the list of Officer Candidates at our October meeting in Lake Havasu and these Candidates will be voted on at our November meeting in Kingman. Installation of

Officers for 2014 will be at our December meeting in Lake Havasu.

Be a part of your Chapter!

---

## **New Member**

The Colorado River Chapter would like to welcome our newest member:

### **Robert Lee Murphy**

Robert lives in Kingman and his Patriot Ancestor is Michael Shiverdecker who served as a Private in the Virginia Militia. Michael enlisted in Fredrick County, Virginia and fought with Captains Bush and Bell.

Robert will be inducted at our 9 November meeting in Kingman.

---

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

Our series on Battles of the American Revolution continues with this issue's installment – The Siege of Boston. Hope you find interesting and informative!

---

### **Siege of Boston (Boston Campaign)**

#### **19 April 1775 – 17 March 1776**

A result of Colonial Militia soldiers driving British forces from Concord back to Boston against the sea, was that thousands of colonists rushed to join other Colonial Forces around Boston. These new Militia soldiers were placed under the command of Colonial General Artemas Ward, a prominent leader of

Massachusetts Militia. During this siege Ward would operate out of a headquarters he established in Cambridge (west of Boston).

In addition to Militia soldiers in the immediate Boston area, the number of Colonial Militia soldiers in the colonies continued to swell with troop concentrations at Charlestown, Roxbury, and Dorchester Heights, and within a short time the colonial army numbered 7,000 Militia Soldiers ready to confront the British Army in Boston.

The city of Boston at this time was a well developed and populated colonial city surrounded by several small towns like Charlestown, Roxbury, Cambridge, and Dorchester Heights. Boston was a flourishing port city, the harbor always being filled with sailing vessels of many types, merchant ships and fishing fleets.

At this early point in the American Revolution weather continued to play no special role during the eleven months of the siege of Boston.

A look at the American Colonial and British forces during the Siege of Boston: American Colonial Forces were approximately 7,000 soldiers in April and swelled to about 24,000 in March 1776. British forces were 4,000 in April and with reinforcements grew to 9,500 in March 1776.

The American Colonial Commander during the siege of Boston was General Artemas Ward, and the British Commander remained General Thomas Gage whose forces had marched on Lexington and Concord.

The **Siege of Boston** provided a time for Continental forces to assemble and train in preparation for the long struggle ahead. In reaction to events in Lexington and Concord and the siege of Boston which followed, the Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia on 14 June 1775, officially created the Continental Army and the following day named George Washington, its first Commander in Chief. General Ward remained in command in Boston as the Continental Congress met in Philadelphia, and continued to strengthen his lines around Boston. He drilled fresh troops that continued to arrive, and

maintained his loosely organized Patriots as the quasi-siege of Boston continued.

To help his position in Boston, Ward planned to strengthen the colonial works near Charlestown a somewhat failed effort which led to the Battle of Bunker Hill on 17 June 1775 (Bunker Hill will be covered in a later article). Even though the British won a costly victory at Bunker Hill, the area around Charlestown was retaken easily when General Washington arrived in Boston on 3 July 1775.

As Colonial forces continue to keep the British cornered in Boston during this siege, the new Continental Army continued a steady growth in strength and as a result its lines around Boston and the British were tightened.

The arrival of heavy siege artillery to support Continental Army forces, finally forced the British to evacuate the city via the sea. The British army sailed for Halifax, Nova Scotia, thus ending the Siege of Boston 17 March 1776. This move allowed General Washington to shift most of his Continental Army soldiers to reinforce of New York City.

The siege had remained somewhat uneventful and no casualties were inflicted on either army.

The Siege of Boston then became the first large scale operational phase of the American Revolution, and events in and around the city helped shape the character of the emerging nation and forced Great Britain to deal with the colonies threat to its authority. This siege then set the stage for the Revolutionary War to follow.

While the efforts to strengthen colonial forces with actions at Bunker Hill failed, it showed that local Militia soldiers properly handled could be used advantageously against the British Army. This Patriot stand at Bunker Hill confounded the British as it went against military doctrine of the day. British Army Commanders up until this time had perceived American Patriots and Militia forces as rustic rebels with no real military ability, but early battles and engagements and the Siege of Boston forced them to at least privately acknowledge their bravery.

The fighting during these early weeks of the Revolutionary War provided additional time for politicians and civilians to debate critical questions associated with independence, sovereignty, and ideals that ultimately forged the foundations of the United States.

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

NEXT: Battle of Fort Ticonderoga (Canadian Campaign), 10 May 1775.

---

## Member Birthdays

### October 2013

Michael Boop – 12th

### November 2013

None

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.

Jimmie Bodenhamer, Registrar/Genealogist,  
Colorado River Chapter AZSSAR, 5805 N Cedar  
Ridge Lane, Kingman, AZ 86409-9345,  
[jimmieb@frontiernet.net](mailto:jimmieb@frontiernet.net), (928) 692-6636.

---

## 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).

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

---

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

October 12<sup>th</sup> - Chapter Meeting  
Mohave County Library  
Lake Havasu City

October 14<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day Holiday

October 31<sup>st</sup> Halloween

November 3d – Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 9<sup>th</sup> – Chapter Meeting  
MCC. Kingman

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

November 28<sup>th</sup> –Thanksgiving Holiday

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

December 14<sup>th</sup> – Chapter Meeting  
Mohave County Library  
Lake Havasu City

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

---