



COLORADO RIVER RED, WHITE & BLUE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 3

December 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.

in the Conference Room just off the Main Library area.

Chapter Meetings

Next Chapter Meeting December 14th 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 Jaegerson 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

Chapter Officers for 2014

The following Chapter members were elected officers for 2014 at the November meeting and will be installed at our 14 December meeting in Lake Havasu:

Donald Reighard – President
Ray Lackey - Vice-President
Tim Keith - Secretary/Treasurer
Jimmie Bodenhamer -Registrar/Genealogist
Michael Boop - Sergeant at Arms

The Chapter thanks you for your interest and support!

Ray Lackey – Chairman Nominating Committee

New Member

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

Norman Landis Davis

Norman lives in Bullhead City and his Patriot Ancestor is Snead Davis who served as a Private in the North Carolina Infantry and Cavalry of the North Carolina Line. Snead enlisted in Wilkes County, North Carolina on the Yadkin River. Snead fought in companies commanded by Captain's McKenzie, Thurman, Becknell, and Wilburn. Snead retired in Kentucky and received a pension on 21 March 1834.

Flag Certificate Presentation



President Don Reighard makes a Flag Certificate presentation to Rufus Perry and Mary Butler of Lake Havasu City

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

Our series on Battles of the American Revolution continues with this issue's installment – Battle of Fort Ticonderoga. I hope you find it interesting and informative!

Battle of Fort Ticonderoga (Canadian Campaign)

10 May 1775

For the 85 British soldiers under the command of Captain De La Place stationed in northern New York and Fort Ticonderoga the hostilities occurring in Massachusetts were far removed from the stone ramparts of Fort Ticonderoga, and even though the revolution had been underway for several weeks, most of the British outposts and garrisons in North America, including Fort Ticonderoga, remained undermanned and isolated.

Fort Ticonderoga was built by the French in 1755, and by 1775 the post was armed with 79 pieces of heavy artillery, but the garrison had continued to remain at only 85 soldiers. Based on these facts the British felt the fort was adequately defended.

From a geographic and strategic standpoint, Fort Ticonderoga is located in Essex County, New York, about 95 miles north of current day Albany, New York. The forts' name was derived from the Indian word *Cheonderoga*, or "Place between two waters". Fort Ticonderoga is located on high ground dominating the area between Lake Champlain and Lake George in the Hudson River Valley.

For the American Patriots, after the first battle of the Revolutionary War at Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress was convened in Philadelphia, and at this meeting the delegates called up a national standing army and named George Washington as its Commander. General Washington immediately began a siege against the British in Boston. Washington and his officers were short all the equipment of an army to include artillery and ammunition.

General Washington knew the British outpost at Fort Ticonderoga which was only 200 miles away was loaded with guns and powder which his forces could

use. If this fort could be taken its resources and strategic location would supply many of the needs of his young army.

Colonel Ethan Allen was tasked to organize a force of 100 men from Vermont militia who were known as the Green Mountain Boys to conduct this mission against Fort Ticonderoga. Allen and his Vermont militia were joined in this operation by Connecticut militia leader Captain Benedict Arnold just prior to launching the attack on the British fort.

Just before dawn on 10 May 1775, the Green Mountain Boys stealthily crossed Lake Champlain from Vermont into New York and were able to creep undetected up to the fort's stone walls. To their surprise, as they began their raid, they discovered an unmanned and unlocked entrance, through which they were able to quietly enter the bastion, and as they hoped, the garrison except for a single guard was fast asleep.

A brief fight broke out between the guard and the invading force during which the lone British guard and one Vermonter were wounded. This turned out to be the only casualties of this brief battle.

The Americans moved quickly to the commander's quarters. There British Captain De La Place were awaking slowly to the realization that his fortress had been captured by the enemy. Colonel Allen demanded his surrender, and the sleepy De La Place, still in his bedclothes, asked "To whom and why?" It was later reported in Colonel Allen's memoirs that he replied in a firm, loud voice, "In the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress!" The startled British commander ordered his men to stand down and surrender the fort to the Americans.

The capture of Fort Ticonderoga became important to the young American army since in addition to the vast supply of munitions and 79 artillery pieces captured, the fledgling Patriot army achieved a magnificent public relation victory.

The artillery pieces which could be moved were immediately hauled overland to Boston and emplaced in the siege works there. Fort Ticonderoga in addition to the artillery and ammunition became an important base for the Americans, and had it

remained in British hands, it would have posed a dangerous threat to future American operations in the Hudson River Valley.

In addition, on 11 May 1775, the day after the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, the Vermont raiders also captured the British fort at Crown Point which was several miles north the Ticonderoga. The embarrassment of the twin military failures humiliated the British army while being a moral boost for the Continental Army and the Patriot movement in the colonies.

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

NEXT: Battles of Hog and Noodle Islands (Boston Campaign), 27-28 May 1775.

Our Patriot Ancestors Special Edition

This is the first of two Special Editions of our Patriot Ancestors to highlight the Revolutionary War service of our newest member's Patriot ancestors. 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 Robert Murphy. I hope you enjoy this brief look at history and American hero!

Patriot Ancestor of Robert Murphy

Michael Shiverdecker was born around 1762 in Frederick County, Virginia. Michael it appears was the son of Jacob Shiverdecker and his wife Anna Catherine Koehler. Jacob Shiverdecker was born in Heidelberg, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany and came to Philadelphia in 1738, later settling in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania where he married Anna in 1755. Jacob moved to Stephens City in the southern part of Frederick County, Virginia, which had been a German Protestant settlement in 1762.

Michael married Anna (Gaust) Garrett on 13 December 1871, in Frederick County, Virginia.

Anna's parents are not known. The children of Michael and Anna were: Catherine 1788, Frances 1790, David 1794, Luke (Lucas) 1795, Mary 1798, Michael 1800, Rachael 1807, and Elizabeth 1807. Luke (their fourth child) is the ancestor of Robert.

Michael first served in the Revolutionary War when he was called up (probably in 1777) from his home in Frederick County, Virginia to serve in the militia. He was assigned to guard prisoners at Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia. This enlistment lasted for three months, and during this service he was not assigned to a company but was supervised by noncommissioned officers in charge of the prison camp.

Based on statements made in Michael's pension application, during his first enlistment, the British prisoners he was guarding were from the Battle of Saratoga in New York which occurred on 17 Oct 1777, where British General John Burgoyne had surrendered his army. General Burgoyne had been battling the Americans in New York as his army began to run short on supplies and was forced to put his men on rations and he awaited resupply from British General Clinton. This resupply never happened and so in an effort to obtain supplies he attacked American fortifications at Bemis Heights and was soundly defeated by the Americans. Burgoyne's armies then retreated to Saratoga where his forces were besieged by attacking American forces and unable to retreat he was forced to surrender his men to the American Patriots.

As a side note, the prison camp at Winchester by 1799, held so many prisoners that the decision was made to build a larger prison and a barracks was built four miles west of Winchester to hold British prisoners whose number increased to 1,600 by 1781.

In August 1781, Michael was again drafted into service in Frederick County and assigned to Captain Vance Bush's Company. Captain Bush was a resident of Stephens City and his company was used to guard British prisoners sent to Winchester. So this assignment would have found Michael guarding prisoners again most likely.

Later during his second enlistment, Michael was transferred to Captain George Bell's Company of Virginia Militia. George Bell's Company was from Hampshire County, Virginia (now West Virginia - west of Fredrick County), with the majority of men in Bell's Company from Hampshire County. Bell's Company was ordered to march to Yorktown, Virginia to join American forces under the command of General George Washington which were besieging British General Cornwallis' and his army holed up at Yorktown.

Captain Bell's Company (with Michael) fought under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Neville, and Brigadier General Weedon in defeating Cornwallis and Michael was present on 19 Oct 1781, at the surrender of Cornwallis' British Army at Yorktown which marked the turning point of the Revolutionary War.

The Siege of Yorktown, Battle of Yorktown, German Battle or Surrender at Yorktown, the latter taking place on 19 Oct, 1781, was a decisive victory by combined forces of American Continental Army troops led by General Washington and French Army troops led by the Comte de Rochambeau. The culmination of the Yorktown campaign, and the siege proved to be the last major land battle of the American Revolutionary War, as the surrender by General Cornwallis, and the capture of both him and his army, prompted the British government to negotiate an end to the conflict.

By 26 Sept, transports with artillery, siege tools, and some French infantry and shock troops from the Head of Elk, at the northern end of the Chesapeake Bay arrived, giving General Washington command of an Army of 7,800 Frenchmen, 3,100 American militia, and 8,000 Continental soldiers, so early on 28 Sept, Washington led the army out of Williamsburg to surround Yorktown

On 29 Sept, as General Washington moved his army closer to Yorktown, British gunners opened up on the infantry advancing toward their position, and throughout the day several British cannons fired on the Americans but there were few casualties. Shots were also exchanged between American riflemen and Hessian Jaegers.

French soldiers began attacking the British Fusiliers redoubt the following day, on 30 Sept. This skirmish lasted two hours, in which the French were repulsed suffering several casualties.

As the Americans began to put their artillery into place, the British kept up a steady fire to disrupt them and when British cannon fire increased on the 2nd of Oct, American/French soldiers suffered moderate casualties. British cannon fire did not stop as General Washington continued to make visits to the front despite concerns shown by several of his officers. On the night of 2 Oct, the British started a storm of cannon fire to cover up the movement of the British cavalry to Gloucester where they were to escort infantrymen on a foraging party for food and supplies. This effort to obtain supplies continued and on 3 Oct, the foraging party, led by Banister Telethon, went out on one of these foraging expeditions where they encountered Lauzun's Legion (a French Regiment) and John Mercer's Virginia Militia, led by the Marquis de Choisy. The outnumbered British cavalry quickly retreated back behind their defensive lines, losing 50 men in the encounter.

By 5 Oct, General Washington was almost ready to open the first parallel trench towards the British redoubts at Yorktown, and that night the American sappers and miners worked, putting strips of pine on the wet sand to mark the path of the trenches.

After nightfall on 6 Oct, American troops moved out in stormy weather to dig the first parallel trench: the heavily overcast sky negated the waning full moon, shielded the massive American digging operation from the eyes of British sentries. However, at day light on 7 Oct, British soldiers were able to see newly completed American trench which was just out of their musket-range. Construction continued and over the next two days when the gun emplacements were completed and the American artillery was dragged into place, British fire began to weaken when they saw the large number of guns the American and French had been able to put in place.

These exchanges of fire continued and on the night of 11 Oct, Washington ordered that the Americans dig a second parallel trench, which would be 400 yards closer to the British lines, but this new trench could not be extended to the river because the British number 9 and 10 redoubts (a redoubt is small usually temporary enclosed defensive work, defended position or protective barrier) were in the way.

During these nighttime digging operations, British fire continued to land in the old line; and Cornwallis never suspected that a new parallel trench was being dug. But by the morning of 12 Oct, the American soldiers were in position on the new line.

Work continued and by 14 Oct, the Americans had extended their trenches to within 150 yards of the key British redoubts #9 and #10. On Washington's order all the cannons within range of redoubts #9 and #10 began blasting the redoubts to weaken them for an assault that evening. Once again American and French forces planned to use the cover of another moonless night to gain the element of surprise in attacking the British redoubts.

At 6:30 pm on the 14th, as American and French soldiers moved forward, gunfire announced the diversionary attack on the Fusiliers redoubt. As a diversion at other places along the British line, movements were made as if preparing for an assault on Yorktown itself. This movement caused the British to panic, and with bayonets fixed, the Americans marched towards redoubt #10 somewhat unopposed. The American commanders sent soldiers around to the rear of the redoubt to prevent the British from escaping. American soldiers reached the redoubt and began chopping through the British wooden defenses with their axes. British sentries called a challenge to whoever was there, and when they received no response they fired at the advancing Americans. The Americans responded by charging with their bayonets towards the redoubt. They hacked through the abatis, crossed a ditch and climbed the parapet into the redoubt. The Americans forcing their way into the redoubt fell into giant shell holes from the bombardment of the redoubts. The British fire was heavy, but the Americans overwhelmed them, and the bayonet fight cleared the British out of the redoubt and almost the entire garrison was captured, including the British commander of the redoubt,

French soldiers began their assault on redoubt #9 at the same time as the Americans, but they were halted by the abatis, which was undamaged by the artillery fire. The French began to hack at the abatis and a Hessian sentry came out and asked who was there, and similar to the Americans experience, when there was no response, the sentry opened fire as did other Hessians soldiers guarding the parapet fortifications. French soldiers fired back, and then charged the redoubt. The Germans charged the Frenchmen climbing over the walls but the French fired a volley,

driving them back. The Hessians then took a defensive position behind some barrels but threw down their arms and surrendered when the French prepared a bayonet charge against them.

With the capture of redoubts #9 and #10, General Washington was able to have his artillery moved into position to shell the town from three directions as the allies continued to move some of their artillery into the redoubts. However, on 15 Oct, General Cornwallis ordered his cannon be turned toward the nearest American/French positions and open fire, as a British party of 350 British troops stormed forward to attack the enemy lines and spike the American and French cannons. French soldiers rallied and forced the British back to Yorktown.

The next morning on 16 Oct, found more American guns in place on the line and artillery fire intensified against Yorktown. In desperation, General Cornwallis attempted to evacuate British troops across the York River to Gloucester Point. Cornwallis felt that at Gloucester Point his soldiers might be able to break through the American lines and escape north and ultimately marching to New York and join other British forces. His first wave of boats made it across the river but a squall hit when they returned to take more soldiers across, making the continual evacuation impossible.

Surprising to all early in the morning of 17 Oct, a British drummer appeared followed by an officer waving a white handkerchief. The American bombardment of Yorktown ceased, and the officer was blindfolded and led behind the French and American lines. Surrender negotiations began at the Moore House on 18 Oct, between American, French and British officers, and Articles of Capitulation were signed 19 Oct 1781.

As you may recall, General Cornwallis refused to meet and surrender his soldiers to General Washington, claiming illness, but instead sent Brigadier General O'Hare to present General Cornwallis' sword. O'Hare offered it to General Washington who refused to accept it, and had his second in command, General Lincoln accept it instead.

With the Siege of Yorktown over, the Revolutionary War had reached a turning point that would lead to American victory.

Troop strengths and casualties during the Siege of Yorktown: American – 8,000 Continental soldiers,

3,100 militia, and French 7,000-8,000 regulars; combined casualties were 88 killed and 301 wounded. For the British 9,000 (including German Hessians); while casualties were 142-309 killed, and 326-595 wounded. However, British soldiers taken prisoner were 7,416 to 7,685.

While Michael's role in the Siege of Yorktown is unknown, he was one of the 3,100 militia who participated and were present for the British surrender. His role in handling British prisoners from Yorktown is however, documented in his pension application made in Ohio.

On 21 Oct 1781, Michael's Company marched British and German prisoners from Yorktown to prison camps in Winchester, Virginia, and Michael based on statements did participate in this movement of prisoners. After the prisoners were in camp Michael was assigned to guard duty, until his discharge two months later when his enlistment ended.

But this did not bring to an end to Michael's service in the Revolution, as he again entered service as a replacement for Phillip Miller. And as luck would have it, he was assigned to Captain Bush's Company from Frederick County, Virginia again. During the winter of 1782, Michael found himself tasked with guarding prisoners at Winchester, Virginia prison camp until this enlistment ended six months later when he was discharged for the last time.

So as dates reflect, Michael and Anna were married after the war on 13 Dec 1787 in Frederick County, Virginia and sometime after 1795, Michael and Anna moved to Kanawha County, Virginia near the Coal River where he became a farmer. Their son Luke (their third child and Robert's ancestor) was their first child born in Kanawha County.

Sometime after 1825, Michael and Anna moved to Twin Township, Preble County, Ohio (on the Ohio/Indiana line between Cincinnati and Dayton) to be near their eldest son David, living there until his death 3 Mar 1833.

At his pension hearing in Cincinnati, Ohio, even though military documents proving his service had been lost, Michael's pension was approved on 4 Mar 1831, based on his description of events and service, and he was given credit for six and one half months of service in the Virginia Militia in the Revolutionary

War. For this service as a Private in the Virginia Militia, Michael was awarded a pension of \$21.25 per annum. On 4 Mar 1843, after Michael's death, Anna was awarded a widows pension (W6039).

Anna's will, probated in Preble County, Ohio, verifies Michael's date of death, and indicates that Anna died 24 Aug 1845, but burial locations for both are unknown.

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

Member Birthdays

December 2013

Robert Murphy – 5th

January 2014

Craig Vallon – 9th

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 – 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, (928) 692-6636.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 1st – Chapter Newsletter Mailed

December 14th – Chapter Meeting
Mohave County Library
Lake Havasu City

December 25th – Christmas Holiday

December 31st – New Years Eve

January 1st – New Years Day

January 11th – Chapter Meeting
Mohave County Community College
Kingman

January 20th – Martin Luther King Holiday

February 1st – Chapter Newsletter Mailed

February 8th – Chapter Meeting
Mohave County Library
Lake Havasu City

February 14th - Valentine's Day

February 17th – Presidents Day Holiday

Newsletter Editor

Hope you enjoyed this newsletter and I look forward to any comments or suggestion. Jimmie Bodenhamer, Editor, jimmieb@frontiernet.net.

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