



COLORADO RIVER RED, WHITE & BLUE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 4

February 2014

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 February 8th
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

At our December meeting in Lake Havasu City our Officers for 2014 were installed:



Your new Officers pictured left to right: Jimmie Bodenhamer -Registrar/Genealogist; Tim Keith - Secretary/Treasurer; Donald Reighard – President; and Michael Boop - Sergeant at Arms

Not pictured is Ray Lackey - Vice-President.

Your Officers look forward to supporting our Chapter in 2014!

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

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

Battles of Hog and Noodle Islands (Boston Campaign)

27-28 May 1775

In 1775, Hog Island and Noodle Island were located adjacent to each other in Boston Harbor. They were located geographically between Boston and Charlestown, with both islands extending into the harbor running basically northeast to southwest. Noodle Island was approximately three miles wide and six miles long, while Hog Island was only three miles wide and three miles long. Hog Island was also between Noodle Island and the mainland. Both islands by name are gone today and have been connected with a landfill and reshaped by urban growth and are now known as East Boston and Logan International Airport.

These islands landscape featured gently elevated knolls in their northeastern regions while the southwest regions sloped gently toward the shore and docking areas for ferry and boat landing. Both islands in the 18th century were used by local farmers as livestock pens and fields for grazing of sheep and cattle. Based on this usage they provided an important resource of food for the Patriot soldiers and the local residents of the Boston area.

Hog Island and Noodle Island were separated by less than one mile and the crossing between each was easily accomplished with the use of a small boat. Their connection to the mainland was on the north

side and required a short ferry ride which landed near the village of Winnesimit.

After the siege of Boston by the Patriot soldiers was in its fifth week the embattled 4,000 man British Army was starting to face severe shortages of food supplies, including meat. But while the early Patriot success in the war had taken the British by complete surprise they were equally surprised that the British Navy was able to move freely in and out of port Boston unopposed.

British spies operating in the Boston area had however, been watching the Americans movement in the Boston harbor area and had noticed that rebel soldiers frequented the islands within the harbor on a regular basis. This movement became of great interest to the British since it was know that local Bostonians grazed their livestock on the many islands within Boston harbor prior to the siege of Boston.

Because of this continual movement by American soldiers to these islands the British decided to raid several of these islands in hope of meeting the subsistence needs of their army. So in April the British had conducted successful raids against Governor's and Thompson's Islands which made significant food supplies available, but army requirements quickly outstripped these small additions to the British commissary. In addition, the British knew several large herds were grazing on Hog and Noodle Islands.

At the same time the largely green soldiers of the Colonial Army and Militia whose numbers had grown to around 7,000 men since the initial battles of the Revolutionary War, continued to press the British Army which they had driven into a restrictive enclave around Boston, creating a quasi-siege environment.

However, even after five weeks of this quasi-siege had elapsed since General Washington's men had forced the British Army retreat into the Boson area, there was still concern about how long his rebel army could sustain and complete their mammoth effort. This concern was fueled by the fact that the Americans had no real Navy and American rebels could not prevent supplies and reinforcements from reaching their enemy.

Additionally, General Washington's army faced their own subsistence issues and these logistical arrangements included much of the livestock grazing freely on the islands dotting Boston harbor.

The Americans had already been stunned in April when the British raided Governor's and Thompson's Islands, and these raids had prompted the Patriots to make arrangements for the defense of the remaining livestock herds. So when local citizen-spies provided information to the rebels of an impending British attack on Hog and Noodle Islands the Americans had to take this threat seriously.

American General Ward, based on this information, ordered Colonel Israel Putnam and 300 soldiers to go to Hog and Noodle Island and prepare to defend the precious livestock grazing there from any British attack.

So on 27 May 1775, British General Gage, who was in command of British army soldiers in the Boston area, decided to try and capture the livestock herds on Hog and Noodle Islands. He decided to dispatch just 100 British marines to conduct this raid, since opposition on Governor's and Thompson's Islands had been so light, and it appears he was unaware of the 300 Americans sent to the islands to protect this livestock. Supporting the British marines were one schooner, one sloop and eight barges which were all armed with cannon.

The British began the battle when they landed on Noodle Island and a detachment of 30 Patriots were there to meet them. This detachment had taken up defensive positions on the heights in northeast section of the island. As the marines disembarked from their barges which had transported them, the Patriots opened up a sharp musket fire against the surprised British marines.

In response to the Patriots attack the British landed in force and began brushing aside and chasing the retreating Americans back toward Hog Island. This British assault stopped when they came up against Colonel Putnam's main command. Putnam had deployed his men in a large ditch, from which they were able to pour effective musket fire on the advancing enemy.

The Americans also began firing two small 3-pounder field pieces with which they lobbed round in both the advancing British marines and their ships waiting below. This artillery destroyed one of the British barges, but British warships responded with an ineffective supporting fire. This fire from the ships was ineffective because the Americans' position was well protected, and naval guns could not get the right angle of fire which made them completely useless to battle.

This odd, small and unheard of battle continued for nearly seven hours. The Americans were too strong for the British to attack directly and could not be successfully flanked either. This battle ended late in the evening of 27 May, when the British marines finally gave up and returned to their barges.

However, at dawn on 28 May, the British attempted another attack from the sea of the Coast of Hog Island near the Winnesimit Ferry crossing. But once again the Americans were waiting for their enemy and had the advantage again of good terrain, and when the Patriot artillery destroyed another British barge, the battle quickly ended. The British retreated back to Boston and the Americans retained possession of the islands and their livestock.

The British had the most casualties from this battle having 20 men killed and 50 wounded, while the Americans had one killed and three men wounded.

This American victory allowed the Patriots to retain possession of at least 400 sheep, 30 cows and several horses. But also by keeping this livestock away from the British they effectively eliminated a large source of food the British Army desperately needed to continue operations.

This small battle became a big boost to the Patriots and many soldiers and civilians around Boston had witnessed this American victory, and within weeks of these small actions General Washington was appointed Commander of the American Army by the Continental Congress.

Colonel Putnam who had led his men so well at Hog and Noodle Islands, and would do so later at Bunker Hill would be promoted to Major General. In this

manner Putnam and his peers, Generals Ward, Lee and Schuyler became General Washington's primary early battlefield commanders.

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

NEXT: Battle of Bunker Hill (Boston Campaign), 17 June 1775.

Our Patriot Ancestors Special Edition

This is the second 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 Norman Landis Davis. I hope you enjoy this brief look at history and American hero!

Patriot Ancestor of Norman Landis Davis

Snead (Snead) Davis was born 31 Aug 1752 in Prince Edward County, Virginia, and it appears he was the son of John Davis and his wife Mary Snead.

Available records indicate that Snead was married at least twice but the name of his first wife is unknown (it is believed her first name was Mary or Polly) and his second wife was Sally Blanton. The children of Snead and his first wife were: McLin 1772, Mary 1790 and Catherine 1796. McLin (their first child) is the ancestor of Norman.

Sometime prior to 1779 Snead and his parents moved to Wilkes County, NC along the Yadkin River. Snead volunteered in Wilkes County for his first enlistment of six months in Captain Allen's Company, under Colonel Lytle's Regiment. Their regiment was assigned to General Lincoln who was operating near Charleston.

About three months after arriving in Charleston the British forced the Continental forces to retreat as

General Lincoln wanted to avoid a battle with the British Army which had superior forces. After this six month enlistment Snead returned home to Wilkes County. This was prior to 29 Mar 1780 when the Siege of Charleston began.

Sometime prior to April 1780, Captain McKenzie came through his neighborhood looking for recruits. Snead enlisted in Captain McKenzie's Company of Cavalry for ten months. This company was assigned to Colonel Hill's regiment under the command of General Sumter.

Snead's pension records indicate that McKenzie's Company of Cavalry and Hill's regiment were assigned to the Charleston area when he was at the Battle of Moncks Corner.

The Battle of Monck's Corner occurred on 14 Apr 1780, thirty two miles northwest of the city of Charleston which was under siege. Moncks Corner was a key road location for supply trains for Continental Army units in the Charleston area. Around 7 Apr 1780, British General Clinton decided to cut this key supply line after a regiment from Virginia arrived while the British were establishing their siege line around Charleston.

Clinton detached 1,400 men under Lieutenant Colonel Webster to go to Biggin's Bridge on the Cooper River near Moncks Corners to intercept the American supply train. To protect their own lines, the British needed to attack the Americans stationed at Moncks Corner. American General Huger's forces at Moncks Corner included a company of local South Carolina militia and elements of Pulaski's Legion from Maryland.

Lieutenant Colonel Webster sent Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton ahead of his column with the British Legion and a company of marksmen. On 12 April, still more than 15 miles from Monck's Corner, Tarleton stopped a slave carrying a letter from General Huger to General Lincoln. Tarleton learned from the letter and its carrier the nature and disposition of Huger's soldiers at Moncks Corners, and he decided to move forward and attack on 14 April.

The British attacked at 3 am on 14 April, surprising the Americans, and quickly pushing the sentries back into the main camp. What followed became a rout, defeating Huger's forces causing them to retreat north and east regrouping at Lenud's Ferry, where on 6 May, Tarleton again attacked caused them to scatter.

Casualties: Americans 20 soldiers killed or wounded, with 67 soldiers captured. The biggest loss for the Americans was 184 horses, 82 of which were trained cavalry mounts, which Tarleton desperately needed. British had 3 soldiers wounded.

While Snead's pension records give no details to his role at Moncks Corner, they do state that shortly thereafter he was part of a raiding party which boarded a vessel in the Cooper's River during the night, capturing it.

Around 15 Apr, Snead's unit moved west towards Orangeburg, SC which is between Charleston and Columbia, SC. While his unit was stationed at Orangeburg they were near the Edisto River, and Snead indicated that along with four other soldiers he was sent out to reconnoiter the area. While out these soldiers surprised a party of seven Tories who had taken over a farmer's house and were drinking and carousing. Snead's party began fighting with these Tories killing all seven and releasing the old farmer and his two daughters the Tories had held. In the fight Snead was wounded when one of the Tories hit him in the head with the butt of his musket.

By the time Snead's 10 month enlistment with Colonel Hill's regiment had ended, his wounds were healed and he moved to the high hills of South Carolina around Santee which is near Lake Marion. But his retirement there did not last long, and he enlisted for 5 months in Captain Thurman's Company of Cavalry which was assigned to Colonel Marion's Brigade. Snead's Company marched toward Wambaw Swamp which is northeast of Georgetown, SC, to join Marion's Brigade stationed there.

Shortly after Snead's Company arrived in camp, his cavalry company was given the mission to conduct a surprise attack on the British in Georgetown. Enemy soldiers stationed there consisted of regular British

army and Tories. Snead's Company rode all night arriving in Georgetown about day break. The British and Tories seeing the Americans broke and scattered, Patriot cavalry killed most of the enemy and one British officer was found hiding in the chimney of a house.

Snead remained in the Georgetown area until his five month enlistment ended, and he found out his father had moved from Wilkes County, to Burke County, NC. He asked General Marion for permission to leave which he was granted.

Once settled in Burke County, with his father he learned that volunteers were wanted in Wilkes County, to go fight British Major Ferguson at Gilbert Town (later became Rutherfordton) in Rutherford County, NC. Ferguson was there organizing Loyalist Tories' to help protect British soldier in Charlotte.

Snead volunteered for three months in Captain Bicknell's Company assigned to Colonel Cleveland's Regiment from Wilkes County, NC. Colonel Cleveland's men began the march south looking for the British sometime prior to 7 Oct 1780.

Ferguson had arrived in North Carolina in early Sept 1780 and was recruiting Loyalist militia to protect the left flank of Lord Cornwallis' army in Charlotte, NC. By 10 Sept, he had established a base camp at Gilbert Town, and issued a challenge to the Patriot leaders to lay down their arms or he would "lay waste to their country with fire and sword." After the challenge, Patriot leaders sent word to Virginia militia leaders, asking them to join them. Colonel Campbell called on Colonel Cleveland to bring his Wilkes County North Carolina militia to the rendezvous.

Two Patriot militia deserters reached Major Ferguson and informed him of the large body of militia advancing towards Gilbert Town. Ferguson waited three days before ordering a retreat towards the safety of British main forces in Charlotte. Ferguson, also sent a message to Cornwallis requesting reinforcements but as history would show the order did not reach Cornwallis until after the battle of King's Mountain too late for Ferguson and his Loyalists.

On 4 Oct, the Patriot militia reached Gilbert Town but Ferguson was already gone moving south. But Ferguson, rather than pushing on until he reached the safety of Charlotte, camped at Kings Mountain and sent Cornwallis another letter asking for reinforcements.

King's Mountain is one of many rocky forested hills in the upper Piedmont, near the border between North and South Carolina. It is shaped like a footprint with the highest point at the heel, a narrow instep, and a broad rounded toe. Ferguson and his Loyalists camped on a ridge west of Kings Pinnacle, the highest point on Kings Mountain.

Patriots, realizing the need to hurry if they were going to catch Ferguson, sent 900 militia soldiers on horseback towards Kings Mountain. Marching through rain that never stopped on the night of 6 Oct and morning of the 7 Oct, they arrived by sunrise. They forded the Broad River, fifteen miles from Kings Mountain, and by early afternoon they surrounded the ridge and British Loyalists.

The Battle of King's Mountain on 7 Oct 1780, was a decisive battle between the Patriot and Loyalists, just nine miles south of the present-day town of Kings Mountain, NC in rural York County, SC. Patriot militia soldiers decisively defeated the Loyalist militia commanded by British Major Ferguson of the British 71st Foot.

It would appear that Snead was probably part of the 900 Cavalry who chased Major Ferguson and he recalled in his pension application the battles complete Patriot victory. Ferguson was killed and some Tory officers and men were hung.

Casualties were: Patriots 29 soldiers killed and 58 wounded; and for British/Loyalists 290 soldiers killed, 163 wounded, and 668 captured.

Snead after the battle helped escort prisoners. Prisoners were taken to the Moravian town of King's Mountain and then farther to Salisbury, NC. While in Salisbury, prisoners continued to arrive from the Battle at Cowpens. Snead guarded these prisoners for about 3 months until escorting them north to Henry County, Virginia where they were turned over to Virginia militia, before his regiment returned south to Salisbury where they joined General Greene. They

continued with Greene until the battle of Guilford Court House.

The Battle of Guilford Court House was fought in Greensboro, the county seat of Guilford County, NC. A force of 1,900 British soldiers under command of General Cornwallis would defeat an American force of 4,000 troops, commanded by Major General Greene. Despite the relatively small numbers of soldiers involved in what was considered a Patriot defeat, this battle was pivotal to the American victory in the Revolution.

While encamped along the forks of Deep River, Cornwallis was informed General Greene was encamped at Guilford Court House. Greene's men included North Carolina militia including soldiers from Wilkes County, plus reinforcements from Virginia and Maryland Lines totaling about 4,000-5,000 men. Patriot advance guards from Lee's Dragoons at the Quaker, New Garden Meeting House, encountered, British Dragoons and Tarleton's British Legion, about 4 miles from Guilford Court House. As British reinforcements from the 23 Regiment of Foot arrived Lee withdrew to Greene's main body.

Cornwallis found Americans positioned on rising ground one and a half miles from the Court House. Greene had prepared his defense in three lines. North Carolina militia formed the first line, the second line was Virginia militia, and third line was regular Continental Army soldiers, about 400 yards further on, though placed at an angle to the west of the road. While these units resembled the successful deployment used at Cowpens, the lines were hundreds of yards apart and could not support one another.

Since the east side of the road was mostly open, Cornwallis opted to attack up the west side following a short barrage of cannon fire on cannon positions of the first line. Cornwallis moved his men forward, and when they were about 150 yards short of the first line, the Patriots fired a volley of cannon fire on the British who continued until they were within musket shot of the Americans' when they fired their own volley cannon in return. British soldiers then charged

forward, coming to a halt 50 paces from the American lines where North Carolina militia, with their rifles resting on the picket fence there were preparing to fire.

At the same time North Carolina Militia, to the west of the road, fired their muskets and then turned and fled back through the woods, discarding their personal equipment as they ran. The British advanced on the second line, but heavy resistance was shown, so the British pushed around the flank and on to the American 3rd line, but the woods were too dense to allow practical use of the bayonets, and even though the British forced its way they had significant losses.

The British continued to pursue the Continentals into the wood and were repulsed, abandoning the two guns they had just captured, even though two British three-pounders had just arrived and Cornwallis directed them to fire on the retreating Americans and British alike. While many British soldiers were killed from friendly fire, the Americans broke off and retreated from the field. Cornwallis ordered the 23rd and 71st regiments, with part of the cavalry, to pursue the Americans, though not for any great distance. Tarleton's cavalry and the remainder of the dragoons were sent off to the right flank to put an end to the action.

The battle had lasted only ninety minutes, and although the British technically defeated the American force, they lost over a quarter of their own men, and gave the Patriots a moral victory. Casualties were: Patriots 79 soldiers killed, 185 wounded, 75 wounded prisoners captured, and 26 missing; British 93 soldiers killed, 413 wounded, and 26 missing or captured.

After the battle Snead's company dispersed and he went home to Burke County, NC. Per his pension records, he was home four or five weeks before he enlisted again in Captain Wilburn and Colonel Clark's Regiment in the Georgia Line and went to Georgia near the Oconee River where he fought Indians and was a Ranger and Spy in the Indian frontier.

In all, it appears that Snead served a total of four or five years, and after his final enlistment in Georgia, he returned back to Burke's County.

After a few months back home Snead's father moved to Holston River area of east Tennessee and Snead went along. But after about three years when his father moved to Powell's Valley area in southwest Virginia, Snead decided to strike out on his own and he moved to Green River, Warren County, Kentucky.

On 8 Mar 1797, while living in Warren County, Snead married his wife Sally Blanton. Snead and Sally lived in Warren County for the next six years before moving west to Cumberland River area in Livingston County, KY.

On 21 Mar 1834 while living in Livingston County, Snead applied for a pension for his service in the Revolutionary War. He was granted a pension, and his application number is S32205, for \$92.50 per annum.

Sometime after 1837 Snead moved to Hamilton County, IL. In 1837/38 at the age of 86 Snead died in McLeansboro, Hamilton County, IL. His burial location is unknown.

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

Member Birthdays

February 2014

Ronald Smith – 25th

March 2014

James McConnell – 4th

J. Michael Jones – 5th

Ray Lackey – 24th

Norman Davis – 24th

Donald Reighard – 29th

Jimmie Bodenhamer – 29th

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.

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

March 5th – Ash Wednesday

March 8th – Chapter Meeting
Mohave Community College
Kingman

March 9th – Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17th – St Patrick's Day

April 1st – Chapter Newsletter Mailed

April 12th – Chapter Meeting
Mohave County Library
Lake Havasu City

April 13th – Palm Sunday

April 15th – Passover

April 18th – Good Friday

April 20th – Easter

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.