



COLORADO RIVER RED, WHITE & BLUE NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Number 2

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.

Chapter Meetings

**Next Chapter Meeting October 11th
Mohave Community College
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 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

October 2014

in the Conference Room just off the Main Library area.

It is that time again! Election of 2015 Officers

Your Colorado River Chapter is looking for Members to serve as our 2015 Officers. Chapter President Don Reighard will appoint our Nominating Committee for this year at our October meeting in Kingman.

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. Since we are a little behind schedule this year, Officer Candidates will be presented at our November meeting in Lake Havasu and voted on at

that time. Installation of Officers for 2015 will be at our December meeting in Kingman.

Be a part of your Chapter!

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 the Snow Campaign. I hope you find it interesting and informative!



Battles of the Snow Campaign (Ninety-Six and Great Cane Brake)

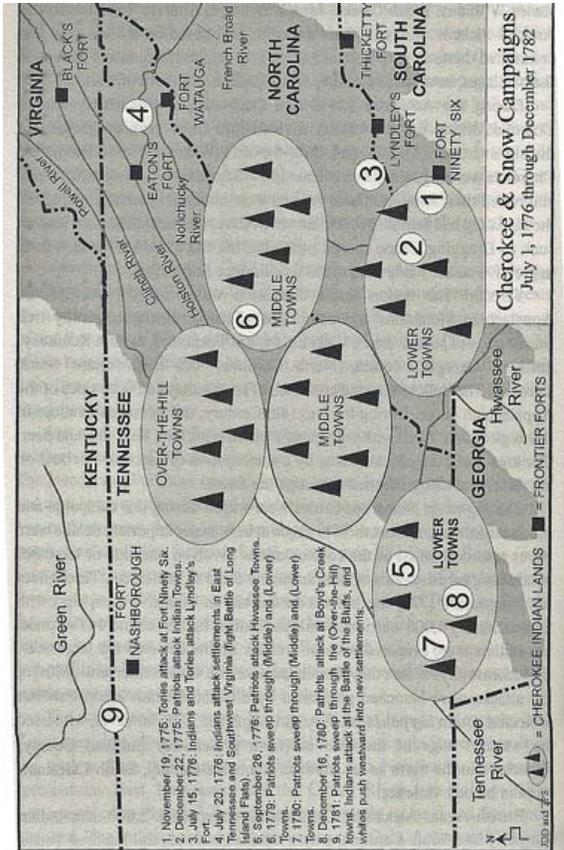
October - December 1775

The Battles of the Snow Campaign were conducted in the Southern Colonies, primarily in South Carolina, and involved British Tory Militia, and American Militia from North and South Carolina.

If you have never been in the northwestern corner of South Carolina the terrain as you move inland from the coast steadily rises in elevation from southeast to northwest as the terrain transcends from foothills to mountains. Rivers in this area drain the land from northwest to southeast, and lower areas along these rivers are filled with thick undergrowth. Temperatures in this region of South Carolina are usually hot and humid in the summer and chilly and wet in the winter. Local settlers carved out farms in the valleys where they grew cultivated flax, grains, and tobacco.

Battlefields during the Snow Campaign were in District Ninety-Six (shown in lower right corner of map below), which includes present-day counties of Edgefield, Abbeville, Greenville, Newberry, Spartanburg, Pickens, Union and Laurens.

The British believed that battles conducted during the 1775 Snow Campaign were all waged by American colonists living in what was considered a wild region of northwestern South Carolina known today as Upcountry.



The colonists within the Upcountry within these forested foothills had pushed the Indians westward and established settlements. From the beginning of the American Revolution these people had been divided into Loyalists (Tories) who supported the British Crown and English rule and the colonists known as Rebels or Patriots who wanted independence from England.

Loyalists in this backwoods region were led by a Tory Colonel Fletchall, who had organized a loose military type organization to counter pro-Patriot Militia who continued to operation in the area. The other fervent Loyalist leader in the backwoods was Tory Major Cunningham. These Upcountry Loyalists received little support from the British; however they continued to maintain a dogged

presence and engaged in brutal fighting at times against Patriot Militia throughout the American Revolution.

It was during October 1775 when 60 Tory soldiers lead by Cunningham seized a South Carolina colonial militia wagon train laden with 2,000 pounds of lead and 1,000 pounds of gunpowder. The supplies carried in this wagon train were intended for the Cherokee Indians from Charleston as a peace gesture.

While this raid provided the Loyalists a fat prize of needed supplies, it threatened to upset the delicate balance of peace the local settlers needed with their Indian neighbors. While this raid hurt the Colonists it did no favors for the Loyalists and their efforts to keep the Indians aligned with the Tories against the Patriots.

In addition, this seizure of the Patriot wagons prompted South Carolina Militia to organize in response and the Loyalists decided they would need to attack and destroy these Militia forces.

As indicated above, prior to 1775 Indians had occupied the Upcountry region of South Carolina and all the land northwest of it. But, as pioneers moved into the area in the mid-1750's, the settlers made close friends with the friendly Siouan Catawbas, but were forced to draw up a treaty with the more aggressive Cherokees.

This situation then resulted in a steady influx of white settlers who established outposts throughout the area during the next twenty years leading up to the American Revolution. Even with these agreements in place there was the occasional war party that attacked these white settlers whenever they encroached on favorite Indian hunting grounds.

The Upcountry region was a remote and dangerous area when the American Revolution started, to say the least. Over the years settlers had been in the area, to keep the peace, the colonial government had built a string of forts throughout the Ninety-Six District of South Carolina. These forts included Fort George, Fort Prince, Earle's Fort, Poole's Fort, Anderson's Block House, Nichol's Fort, and Thickety Fort.

After the war began, Patriot inhabitants had found themselves fighting Indians, British Regulars along with Tory Militia, and the Ninety-Six District became a heavily contested region after the attack in Oct 1775 on the wagon train mentioned above. The offshoot of this Tory attack was that Patriot Militia leader Major Williamson called up 562 Militia soldiers and established a hastily constructed fort near the settlement of Ninety-Six which was in the Ninety-Six Region.

The Snow Campaign began on 19 Nov 1775, when Loyalists attacked the Patriot fort at Ninety-Six. The Patriots over the next two day defended the 85' x 150' log palisade, reinforced with earthen berms on the north and northwestern walls. When the two-day siege ended the Tories had one man killed and four men wounded. This brief battle however, marked the beginning of a lengthy and bloody struggle.

This brief battle also showed that neither side was prepared for war in the Upcountry, especially a long one. Patriot commanders Colonel Richardson and Colonel Thomson rushed to assist Major Williamson and his Militia at Fort Ninety-Six. These combined reinforcements totaled 4,000 men, and after adequately manning and improving their defensive positions, they planned on launching an assault to Tory Militia in the area.

Meanwhile Tory commanders Major Cunningham and Colonel Fletcher combined their Tory Militia soldiers which caused their ranks to swell to between 600 and 2,000 men. But even with this larger force the Tories knew they were not as strong as the Patriots so they did not aggressively seek to fight the Patriot Militia and Ninety-Six.

Despite the cold winter weather, Dec 1775 Patriot Militia attempted to surprise the enemy by attacking Tory camps. To avoid this attack Loyalists moved deeper into the Upcountry forests. Patriot scouts were sent to find the Tory soldiers when they discovered a larger Tory encampment on Great Cane Brake, a tributary to the Reedy River. This area was located in Cherokee Territory.

On 22 Dec 1775, Colonel Thomson led his 3d Ranger Regiment on a surprise assault of this encampment,

and despite heavy rain, sleet, and frigid temperatures the Rangers moved stealthily through the dark hours of early morning and crept toward the enemy engagement.

By dawn the Rangers surrounded the Tories, but alert sentinels in the Tory camp detected the approaching Patriots. A brisk battle erupted, and the Tories had at least one eye focused on escape, and after a short running fight the combat ended with the Patriots in possession of the encampment.

After the battle ended Patriot Militia withdrew to safety of their forts and settlements, as shortly thereafter, a winter storm blanketed the area with two feet of snow, thus giving the Campaign its name.

While the Snow Campaign achieved little strategic importance, the effort forged the beginning of a long proud Patriot Militia in the Carolinas. The Snow Campaign was just the beginning of this bitter protracted struggle in what was then a wild and often lawless region.

Casualties were: British (Tory): seven killed, 12 wounded and 130 taken prisoner. The Americans had only three wounded.

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

NEXT: Battle of Great Bridge (1st British Southern Expedition), December 9th 1775.

Current Officers

Donald Reighard – President – (928) 680-4087

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

Mike Boop – Secretary – (928) 753-7968

Ray Lackey - Treasurer – (928) 754-1941

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.

Member Birthdays

October 2014

Michael Boop - 12th

November 2014

None

Calendar of Upcoming Events

October 1st
Chapter Newsletter Mailed

October 11th
Chapter Meeting
Mohave Community College
Kingman

October 13th
Columbus Day

October 31st
Halloween

November 2d
Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 8th
Chapter Meeting
Election of 2015 Officers
Mohave County Library
Lake Havasu City

November 11th
Veterans Day

November 27th
Thanksgiving Day

December 1st
Chapter Newsletter Mailed

December 13th
Chapter Meeting
Installation of 2015 Officers
Mohave Community College
Kingman

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.

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