



COLORADO RIVER RED, WHITE & BLUE NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Number 5

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 April 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

April 2015

in the Conference Room just off the Main Library area.

In Memoriam John Duane Large

Compatriot John Duane Large, passed away 14 January 2015, after a short but difficult battle with cancer. John was very proud and excited to become a member of the SAR and to pass that legacy down to his son Jerry and grandchildren. John is survived by his wife Nancy Viola Callahan and son Jerry William Large. John was the son of Raymond Albert Large and Louise Ringel and was born 18 April 1949 in Ogden, Utah. John became a member of the Colorado River Chapter in 2014. John's Patriot ancestor was Joseph Large a Private in Captain Kinsey's Company of North Carolina Militia under Colonel Brevard.

New Member Sworn In

On 14 February 2015 at our meeting in Kingman at Mohave Community College, the Chapter's newest

member, Paul Mauser, was sworn in. Paul's Patriot ancestor is Lovell Bryan of Hanover Parish, King George County, Virginia. Lovell provided Patriotic Service by furnishing supplies and horses to Virginia Militia.

Paul lives in Kingman, and his wife Robin is the Publisher/CEO of the Kingman Daily Miner.



Pictured left to right at Paul's induction: Mike Boop Sponsor/Secretary, Paul Mauser, and Donald Reighard, Chapter President

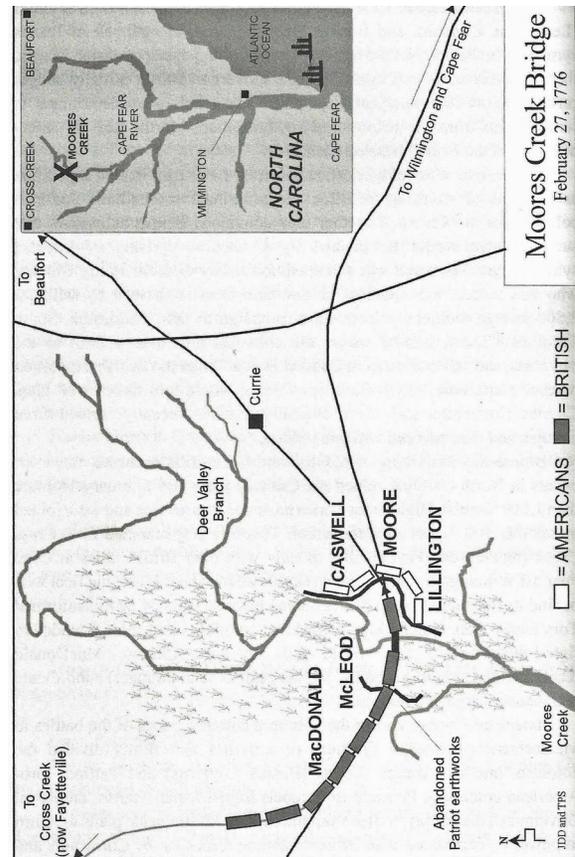
Campaigns and Battles of the American Revolution (1775-1783)

Our series on Battles of the American Revolution continues with this issue's installment – Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge (1st British Southern Expedition). I hope you find it interesting and informative!

Battle of Moores (Moore's) Creek Bridge (1st British Southern Expedition)

February 27, 1776

The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge occurred on a cold, damp day in North Carolina about 20 miles northwest of Wilmington, NC. The Moore's Creek area is generally flat coastal savannah with pine trees, brushy marshes and brackish waters. The creek is 35 feet wide at the bridge, which was bordered by swampy terrain that funnels all traffic across the bridge.



Early Patriot successes in Northern colonies at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill triggered an outbreak of Patriot sympathy in the Old North State (now known as the Tar Heel State) that led to the ouster of Josiah Martin, Royal Governor of North Carolina. Governor Martin initially sought British protection at Fort Johnston near Cape Fear, NC, but Patriot rebels were determined to remove him from the colony of North Carolina as so threatened, causing Martin to flee to safety offshore on the British warship Cruiser off the coast of NC.

Martin saw the British southern expedition as a means for his return to power and securing the rebellious Southern colonies for the Crown.

Together Martin and other officials convinced British authorities that such a move would be greeted by a massive uprising of British Loyalists in the Southern colonies.

At Martin's urging the British expedition was launched by General Clinton who was tasked with opening the Southern front of the Revolution when he sailed south with 2,500 British soldiers. The initial goal of this expedition was to take Charleston, SC.

Once Clinton had secured the colonies, he was to turn over control to the Loyalists and sail back north to join back up with General Howe. But when the British expedition reached Cape Fear, NC, Clinton would join forces with General Cornwallis and seven British regiments recently arrived from Britain and then proceed with his mission. However, before Clinton and Cornwallis could join forces, events in North Carolina changed their plans.

By 18 Feb 1776, more than 1,000 Scottish Highlander Tories mustered into service were joined by another 500 Tories. Soon afterward they marched to Cross Creek (modern-day Fayetteville, NC) to rally with their British allies at Cape Fear off Wilmington, NC.

The Tories were weeks ahead of schedule and the British fleet were behind schedule. As these Tories moved toward the coast, scouts informed the Tory leader General MacDonald that a sizable Patriot force intended to fight them before they could link up with Clinton. MacDonald preferred to avoid a battle with the Patriots rebels but his younger subordinates argued otherwise.

In the Southern colonies, news of battles in Massachusetts created a firestorm of activities that firmly divided the colonists into two camps: Tories (British Loyalists), and Patriots (pro-American colonists).

As stated above, pressure from rebel Patriots had forced Governor Martin to flee in search of British support. Martin had every intention of returning to power and felt that the combined seaborne British forces and the Tories could help him accomplish that goal.

With the ex-governor no longer in the colony, the Patriots established their own government and raised two regiments and several battalions of Patriot Militiamen.

In the Wilmington, NC area Patriots organized a defense force complete with redoubts to fight any approaching enemy. The Patriots in Wilmington had determined that a large Loyalist column made up primarily of Scottish Highlanders was moving in their direction.

These North Carolinians had organized under the Continental Line at New Bern, NC, and were under the command of Colonels Caswell, Moore and Lillington. The Patriots made the decision to move into a blocking position to delay, isolate, and if possible, destroy the approaching Tories. The place they selected to meet them was at a bridge spanning the narrow deep and swift Moore's Creek that, as you will recall, is about 20 miles outside Wilmington, NC.

When the Tory commanders realized the Patriots were intending to block their path of movement, the commanders decided to assault the Patriot force at the Moore's Creek Bridge crossing. It was obvious that neither had understood or appreciated the strength of their enemy.

Tory militia leaders decided to hold a council of war the night before their assault and decided to attack early the next morning hoping for the element of surprise. As luck would have it for the Tories, their leader General MacDonald was old and feeble and fell ill during the night. Command of the Tories then was passed to Lieutenant Colonel McLeod.

McLeod ordered the Tories to break camp at 1:00 a.m. on 27 Feb and marched for Moore's Creek. Tory Captain Campbell and 80 Tories held the advance.

When the Tories reached the Moore's Creek Bridge they found Patriot abandoned entrenchments on the near side of the creek. That, coupled with a bridge with missing planks, convinced McLeod and Campbell that the Patriots had withdrawn. There were reports from some sources that stringers had been smeared with grease, though the Tories would not know this until it was too late.

McLeod decided to send Campbell's 80 handpicked men wielding Scottish Claymore broadswords dashing across to secure the bridge for the Tories.

With Scottish pipes screeching and drums beating, Campbell and McLeod each led a column across the two main stringers. The Tories stormed across what was left of the bridge yelling "King George and broadswords!"

To their surprise 1,000 Patriot rebels were waiting on the far side behind recently dug entrenchments. At a range of about 30 yards the rebels opened fire with light artillery and muskets and, protected by the mounds of dirt, the Patriot fire devastated the small attacking force. The survivors of the initial volley of fire milled about confused as they tried to come to grips with the Patriot defenders.

McLeod, Campbell and 28 other Tories were mowed down, many killed outright, and the remainder fell in the few minutes of combat that followed. Many of the Tories were trampled in the melee, others were shot off or slipped from the greasy stringer and tumbled into the creek, where they drowned or were taken captive.

The Patriots executed a counterattack that surged over the bridge, pursuing fleeing Tories while a Patriot flanking maneuver across the nearby ford helped block part of the Tory retreat. A previous order given to other North Carolina Militia units to seize Cross Creek (Fayetteville, NC) led to the capture of hundreds of Tory soldiers.

These events ended the engagement quickly and decisively, and Tory General MacDonald was captured along with his men.

Moore's Creek was the first in several battles to pit Loyalists (Tories) against Patriot Militia. The immediate impact was the end of organized Loyalist activity in North Carolina for nearly two years.

British General Clinton was stunned by the tactics and annihilation of his Tory allies at the hand of local Patriot Militia, and afterward he declared the colony of North Carolina to be in rebellion, and within a few months North Carolina would become the first colony to become an independent state.

This battle stopped the British Southern front for England and kept British armies out of the Southern colonies for five years.

Casualties were: British (Tory) 30 killed, 40 wounded, and 850 taken prisoner. The Americans had 1 mortally wounded and 1 wounded.

As a side note – today Moore's Creek National Battlefield features a visitor's center, interpretive trails and living history programs.



Moore's Creek Bridge in Battlefield Park today.

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

NEXT: Battle of Nassau (Naval Campaign Caribbean), March 3, 1776.

Chapter Member Birthdays

April 2015

None

May 2015

None

Chapter 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.

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 1st

Chapter Newsletter Mailed

April 3d

Good Friday

April 4th

Passover

April 5th

Easter

April 11th

Chapter Meeting

Mohave Community College
Kingman

May 9th

Chapter Meeting

Mohave County Library
Lake Havasu City

(Last Meeting until September)

May 10th

Mother's Day

May 25th

Memorial Day

June 1st

Chapter Newsletter Mailed

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.