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INDIANA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



HOOSIER PATRIOT



Volume XII, No. 2 - October 2009

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Greetings from President Oberlin



Where has the Summer gone? Seems like just yesterday we were having our annual meeting, and we're now virtually half way through my term as president. To date, I've signed a new chapter charter and 34 new member certificates. That represents a greater than 5% growth in membership! There are at least a dozen new applications in process at National. Thank you sponsors. Let's all make an effort to welcome our new compatriots and help provide them the opportunity to realize the full experience of membership in the SAR.

Using the Chuck Peters memorial contributions as seed money, the House of Delegates approved funding for a historical marker to be erected near the de la Balme massacre site. The anticipated cost is approximately \$2,500. We've applied to the National Society's George Washington Endowment Fund for \$1,000. Much of the remaining amount has been pledged by individual contributions. My thanks to Roger Barnhart for volunteering to chair this worthwhile endeavor.

In June I had the opportunity to take Dixie, along with two of my sisters and their husbands, to visit the gravesite of my patriot ancestor, Adam Oberlin. In Stanwood Cemetery, near Massillon, Ohio, we found over 30 "OBERLIN" headstones, and countless names of associated families. While I had been to site previously, it was a profound experience being there with my wife and siblings. As I write this, I think of the many graves we stand over honoring patriots and what an impact that must have on their families. Grave dedications and the Patriot Graves Registry are good things that we do.

2009 was our Color Guard's seventh consecutive year performing with the Indianapolis Symphony at Conner Prairie. This increasingly popular event was another record breaking season. Thursday night we had 25 SAR participants. Over 13,500 people enjoyed the concert on Friday night. In addition to the usual cheers and tears this was a another super opportunity to expose the Sons of the American Revolution to the community. My personal thanks to all who made this another notable event.

Immediately following Conner Prairie, Dixie and I flew to Atlanta for the National Society Congress. One cannot help but be appreciative of the attention, and affection, given the Indiana Society delegates. Little doubt our reputation and the efforts of our previous leaders have made a positive impression. Despite the resident "surgeon" wanting to practice his art on me, it was a great opportunity for fellowship with the Indiana delegation and their wives. Next year's Congress is in Cleveland, which provides a great opportunity for Hoosiers to participate. Put 26-30 June 2010 on your calendars.

As descendants of the heroes of the American Revolution, we all share a common heritage and faith in the principles of freedom and patriotism. All Americans, past and present, have been and continue to be benefactors of our ancestors' courage and sacrifices. The "shot heard 'round the world" continues to reverberate. Let's keep it that way.

Libertas et Patria,
Steven D. Oberlin
President Indiana Society

Indiana Society Sons of the American Revolution

Partners in Patriotism

(Indianapolis - 25 May 2009) With Compatriot General Douglas McArthur apparently showing approval, several chapters and the Indiana Society were recognized by the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for their 2008 participation in the Partners in Patriotism program. At the Indiana Society's Summer House of Delegates meeting, chapters recognized were: Anthony Halberstad, Ohio Valley, Continental, Daniel Guthrie, Clarence A. Cook, David Benton and Thaddeus Kosciuszko.

The Indiana Society Partners in Patriotism program has become the "poster" example for the National Society. This is something we are good at, let's continue the momentum.

Participation in the program is simple. Conduct a joint program...any program that supports an SAR objective...with any veterans organization. Send your reports to INSSAR Chairman and he will put a cover letter on it and forward it to the NSSAR Chairman. Reports must be submitted to NSSAR by March 31. Each participating Chapters will receive a certificate of participation at the National Society Sons of the American Revolution Congress.



[INSSAR Partners in Patriotism Web Page](#)

New Indiana Society Members

Alexander Hamilton: Jeremy Daniel Ferris, Ronald Joe Kemper, George William Kemper, Michael Daniel Boone, Anthony Daniel Boone, Matthew Daniel Boone, John Carlin Boone, Robert Dennis Boone

Anthony Halberstadt: Jason Frederick Sauer, Jason Kurt Schmidt, Justin Kraig Schmidt

Clarence A. Cook: James F. Holzman, John Joseph Fife, Jeffrey Wayne Hornung

Continental: James Scott DeHaven, David Karl DeHaven

Daniel Guthrie: James Arthur Pershing, Gerald Lynn Spore, Cloyd Ricketts, Alexander McCahon Miller, David Greg Lemon

Ohio Valley: Mark DeWitt Browning, Ryan Gerard Browning, John DeWitt Browning, Sawyer Jace Douglas, Dakota Justice Douglas, David William Jenkins, Jeffrey Wade Jenkins, Mark Brian Messmer, Earnest Byford Payne

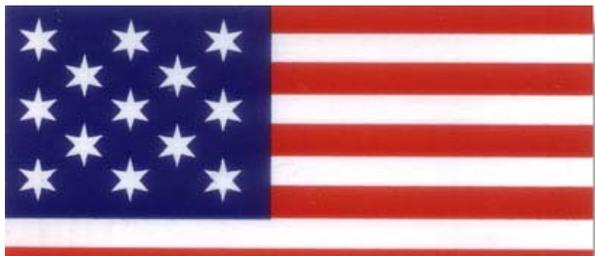
Thomas Posey: Roger William Ries, Anthony Frie Ries, Aleksandr Finn Ries

Attention At-Large Members

At the Annual Meeting, the Indiana Society House of Delegates choose to eliminate "at-large" membership within the Indiana Society. The primary reasons were to relieve some of the workload from the Society Secretary and provide greater opportunity for members to experience belonging to a local chapter.

All current at-large members are encouraged to contact a chapter and ask to be included among the chapter's membership. Current at-large members without a chapter preference, will be assigned to a nearby chapter during the dues renewal process.

Francis Hopkinson Flag



A popular story credits Betsy Ross for sewing the first flag from a pencil sketch by George Washington who personally commissioned her for the job. However, no evidence for this theory exists beyond Ross' descendants' much later recollections of what she told her family. Another woman, Rebecca Young, has also been credited as having made the first flag by later generations of her family. Rebecca Young's daughter was Mary Pickersgill, who made the Star Spangled Banner Flag.

Another popular theory is that the U.S. flag was designed by Francis Hopkinson. Hopkinson was the only person to have made such a claim during his own lifetime, when he sent a bill to Congress for his work. He asked for a "Quarter Cask of the Public Wine" as payment initially. The payment was not made, however, because it was determined he had already received a salary as a member of Congress. It should be noted that no one at the time contested his claim to have designed the flag, except the Treasury Board's response that he was not "the only person consulted... and therefore cannot claim the sole merit of them."

In 1917 a Hopkinson's biographer came across letters between Hopkinson and the Continental Congress which pointed to Hopkinson as the flag's creator. These letters are in the National Archives.

Scholars will likely continue to debate the exact appearance of our first national flag for years to come. No original example of the very first flag survives.

[Learn more about historic flags ...](#)

Patriot Jacob Young Grave Rededication

Twenty descendants of Patriot Jacob Young were among the 70 people who attended the grave marking on 20 June 2009 at Waskom Cemetery, near Tampico, IN. The event was hosted by the David Benton Chapter SAR, General Charles Scott Chapter DAR and the Richard Lord Jones Society CAR.

Patriot Young served as a trumpeter with the North Carolina Light Horse.

[Jacob Young's INSSAR Graves Project](#)



Overseas DoD JROTC Sponsorship

The Indiana Society has joined with the National Society in supporting Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corp (JROTC) programs at Department of Defense high schools overseas. Compatriot Jim Arnold has been working with Compatriot Ron Baker, NSSAR DOD JROTC Chairman in obtaining information on the schools that do not have SAR sponsorship (called "Adopting a JROTC"). To date, three Indiana chapters have adopted Cadet Corps. Continental - Osan, Korea AFJROTC; Clarence A. Cook - Naples, Italy NJROTC and Heidelberg, Germany AJROTC; Daniel Guthrie - Sasebo, Japan NJROTC.

Sponsorship is a long term program with an approximate \$25 annual cost, which includes a JROTC Medal, Certificate and Folder, plus mailing to the APO or FPO. Chapters have the option of including a savings bond, plaque, cash award or whatever the chapter deems appropriate.

This all started at the NSSAR Spring Conference, where Compatriot Arnold learned a number of JROTC in the DOD High Schools where not being sponsored by the SAR due to lack of State/Chapter participation. At the 2009 INSSAR Annual Meeting Compatriot Arnold introduced the program and invited Indiana chapters to become involved. In conclusion, the INSSAR is now International with the JROTC Program. Compatriot Baker has congratulated the INSSAR on stepping forward and embracing this program. All Indiana chapters are encouraged to become involved in this worthwhile program. Contact Jim Arnold for additional information.

The Indiana Society Ladies Auxiliary



The Indiana Ladies Auxiliary Sons of the American Revolution, assists Indiana Society with programs, fund raising, historical education and carrying out its mission of inspiring patriotism and informing others of the contributions of our patriot ancestors. Membership in the Auxiliary is open to the wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, nieces and other women relatives of members of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The Auxiliary meets quarterly during the INSSAR House of Delegates meetings. In addition to conducting business, the ladies often have their own programs and speakers.

Ladies Auxiliary Web Page

Indiana Society Color Guard

The Indiana Society Color Guard is probably best known for the color and pageantry their uniforms and flags bring to a parade, grave dedication or other community event. Emotions can range anywhere from children's questions and smiles to tears from a veteran's pride and memories. While all of this is true and important, one cannot overlook the wonderful side effect of fellowship with others who share common interests and passions.

New members are encouraged for local and statewide participation. There are loaner uniforms available and participation and travel is limited only by your own time and energy. Please consider serving in the Color Guard and experiencing the fellowship of your compatriots and the appreciation of your community.



[INSSAR Color Guard Web Page ...](#)

Upcoming Events

INSSAR Fall Meeting - 17 October 2009
Hosted by Continental Chapter

Hazelwood Christian Church, Cartwright Hall
1400 W. University Ave.
Muncie, IN 47303

Registration (coffee & pastries): 9:00 AM
Meeting: 10:00 AM

[de la Balme Massacre Commemoration](#)
Hosted by Anthony Halberstadt Chapter
31 October 2009 @ 2:00 PM

[Online Meeting Information ...](#)

The Hoosier Patriot is a publication by and for the compatriots of the Indiana Society. Contributions of original, previously unpublished, materials are welcomed and encouraged. Photos must have at least a paragraph describing the depicted event. Deadline for submitting material is 45 days prior to the upcoming quarterly house of Delegates meeting.

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