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## INDIANA SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



## HOOSIER PATRIOT



Volume XLI, No. 3 - December 2009

The Hoosier Patriot is a quarterly publication of the Indiana Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. While the editors and contributors strive to provide accurate and timely information, please consult local chapters and the Indiana Society web site for updated and additional information concerning specific meetings and events.

**Greetings from President Oberlin**

I just signed the 47th new membership certificate since becoming president. At this rate Indiana could experience about a 12% growth. Unfortunately, the renewal rate tends to offset these gains. Let's continue to welcome our new compatriots and encourage existing members to experience full membership in the SAR.

Thanks to the generous contributions of Chuck Peter's family and friends, individual compatriots and a \$1,000 grant from the George Washington Endowment Fund, we've secured the money necessary to erect a marker near the de la Balme massacre site. Roger Barnhart continues to work with Whitley County officials toward accomplishing this project in time for the event's 230th anniversary.

The Continental Chapter was a great host for the Summer meeting in Muncie. The venue was the fellowship hall at Hazelwood Christian Church. The luncheon was a delicious catered buffet. Compatriot Legler's presentation on Colonial money was very interesting. Regrettably, the attendance was not enough to constitute a quorum. A lot of work goes into hosting a state meeting, I encourage us all to make a greater effort to participate.

It isn't often a President General visits Indiana. Several of us, including Dixie and I, enjoyed spending time with Judge Butler a few weeks ago. He's a very personable man, with a genuine interest in our activities. I would encourage everyone to view his DVD presentation and support his programs.

The History Channel has a series entitled "[The People Speak](#)," the premise being that "democracy is not a spectator sport." Matt Damon's reading of the Declaration of Independence is an opportunity to become reacquainted with the real issues faced by the Colonists. This extraordinary document is available [online](#) and can be also be viewed on [YouTube](#).

This edition of the *Hoosier Patriot* is being distributed on the anniversary of General Washington's resignation. Washington could have been king, but instead, set the example for a government "of the people." The founders created the means for "we the people" to elect Washington, and every subsequent president. "A more perfect union" doesn't happen on its own.

In preparation for next year, please submit recommendations for awards to Vice President Robert Cunningham. There are many hard working compatriots who deserve recognition. We also continue to have opportunities to serve. I encourage those willing to serve in elected offices to contact nominating chair, Tom Schnuck. If not interested in an elected position, we have several active committees that could benefit from your talents.

We are in the that quiet time of year for the SAR, but certainly not for families. It's easy to get embroiled in the natural frenzy that can occur during Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Let's all be thankful for the blessings we have, as individuals and as Americans. We also need to remember the protectors of freedom, many of whom are in harm's way and away from home. My wish is that you all are enjoying the holidays and the coming year will be prosperous and joyful.

Libertas et Patria,  
Steven D. Oberlin  
President Indiana Society

## [Indiana Society Sons of the American Revolution](#)

### **President General Butler Visits Indianapolis**

(Indianapolis - 3 December 2009) NSSAR President General Ed "Judge" Butler met with several compatriots for dinner in Indianapolis. During the evening, PG Butler talked about the progress on the new headquarters and his vision for the SAR. A DVD is being distributed to all the chapters. We shared a video of the Indiana Color Guard performing at Conner Prairie, during which the PG was emotionally moved.

Pictured are Jack Carmichael, James Arnold, Martha Barnhart (Indiana DAR Regent), Roger Barnhart, Stuart Hart, Robert Howell, David Betzner, Dennis Babbitt, Earl Salisbury, PG Butler, Steve Oberlin, Dixie Oberlin (INSSAR Ladies Aux President) and Thomas Schnuck. Not pictured is Kay Schnuck who took the photo.



[President General Butler's DVD Message ...](#)

### **New Indiana Society Members**

**Alexis Coquillard** James Alan Mellott, Thomas Townley Tonge

**Alexander Hamilton:** Reid Alan Mellott, Barrett Walker Muir

**Clarence A. Cook:** Robert Clinton Patterson, David Paul Barrett, William Joseph Fife III

**John Hay** Gary Wayne Watson

**John Martin** Robert Walsh Burkett

**Daniel Guthrie:** William Floyd Fleetwood, Gerardo Raymond Kennett

**Ohio Valley:** Jacob Browning Hester, Vincent Clark Buckman

### **George Washington resigns as commander in chief**

23 December 1783, following the signing of the Treaty of Paris, General George Washington resigns as commander in chief of the Continental Army and retires to his home at Mount Vernon, Virginia.

Washington addressed the assembled Congress:

"Happy in the confirmation of our independence and sovereignty, and pleased with the opportunity afforded the United States of becoming a respectable nation, I resign with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with diffidence; a diffidence in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task; which however was superseded by a confidence in the rectitude of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven."

Washington's willingness to return to civilian life was an essential element in the transformation of the War for Independence into a true revolution. During the war, Congress had granted Washington powers equivalent to those of a dictator and he could have easily taken solitary control of the new nation. Indeed, some political factions wanted Washington to become the new nation's king. His modesty in declining the offer and resigning his military post at the end of the war fortified the republican foundations of the new nation.

Although he asked nothing for himself, Washington did enter a plea on behalf of his officers:

"While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge, in this place, the peculiar services and distinguished merits of the gentlemen who have been attached to my person during the war. It was impossible the choice of confidential officers to compose my family should have been more fortunate. Permit me, sir, to recommend in particular, those who have continued in the service to the present

moment, as worthy of the favorable notice and patronage of Congress.

The patronage Washington requested seemed most pressing as the army had narrowly survived several mutinies and a near-attempted coup the previous autumn. The veteran officers who had helped to keep the army intact desired western lands in thanks for their service. Their claims would constitute a major issue for the new American government as it attempted to organize the settlement of what had been the colonial backcountry.

Washington concluded:

"Having now finished the work assigned to me, I retire from the great theatre of action; and bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take any leave of all the employments of public life."

General Washington's respite proved extremely brief. He was unanimously elected to the first of two terms as president of the United States in 1788.

[The History Channel - This Day in History](#)

## Proposed Bylaw Change

### Constitution

[New Language]

#### Article IV – Officers

The officers of the Society shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar-Genealogist, Historian-Archivist, Chancellor, Chaplain and a District Director for each District within the State.

### By-Laws

[New Language]

#### By-Law 10 – Registrar-Genealogist

Section 1. Chapters shall forward all membership and supplemental applications, with fees and dues attached, to the Registrar-Genealogist.

Section 2. The Registrar-Genealogist shall examine all applications for accuracy and completeness. Should a question of eligibility arise, he shall make a decision thereon and take any necessary action.

Section 3. The Registrar-Genealogist shall provide assistance as required by applicants in preparation of new membership applications and supplemental applications.

Section 4. Upon approval by the Registrar-Genealogist, all applications, together with the fees and dues, shall be transmitted to the Secretary.

Section 5. The Registrar-Genealogist shall be responsible for the care and custody of the file of approved applications for members of the State Society.

**Delete By-Law 12.**

[Indiana Society Bylaws](#)

## Grand Union Flag



The Grand Union flag provides excellent opportunities to engage the public. It's unique, two-nation design provokes many questions, and requires explanations about the origins of the American Revolution. The Indiana Society recommends this flag as a part of displays featuring Revolutionary flags.

- Design from early in the American Revolution, while the colonies were rebelling against unjust laws, but were not yet independent from the King.
- The 13 stripes show the union of the 13 colonies, a feature we've kept on our flags until today.
- The canton shows the Union pattern of Great Britain- the red Cross of St. George (England), and the white Cross of St. Andrew (Scotland). This would be replaced with stars when the colonies declared

Independence.

- This design is very similar, perhaps identical, to the flag of the East India Trading Company.

INSSAR Protocol:

- The Grand Union is not a Congressionally authorized design. In a parade or display, it should follow all official flags.
- The Grand Union is a "national" flag in the sense that it represented all 13 colonies. General Washington hoisted it at his headquarters of the Continental Army during the seige of Boston. It was used as a Navy ensign and recognized by foreign nations. The Grand Union was the direct ancestor of the "Stripes and Stars" designs, so we recommend that it be placed at the head of other flags, nearest to the official flags.
- The Grand Union flag should not be used as the sole national flag unless your group is specifically portraying the American Revolution prior to the Declaration of Independence.

*Note: There are disagreements about the protocol for this flag, even among experts. This debate is healthy, but it should never be conducted by the Color Guard before the public. If you are given custody of a Grand Union flag, please follow the directions of the event commander.*

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

### 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 Winter Meeting - 16 January 2010](#)

Hosted by Benjamin Franklin Chapter

Indiana Masonic Home  
690 State Street

Franklin, IN 46131

Registration (coffee & pastries): 9:00 AM

Meeting: 10:00 AM

[Online Meeting Information ...](#)

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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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