

Clarence A. Cook Chapter

Indiana Society - Sons of the American Revolution

Did you know?

John Whistler was a Revolutionary War soldier who served at Saratoga. He settled in Maryland after the war, but reenlisted and served on the Western Frontier. He was in the Harmar Campaign (1790), an early action of the United States Army that resulted in disaster near Kekionga- a large Miami village in Northern Indiana. John survived, but was severely wounded the next year in St. Clair's Defeat (1791), near the Ohio-Indiana border.

Whistler recovered and served in the new U.S. Legion under General Anthony Wayne. He was at the Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794), and helped build the new U.S. base at Kekionga: Fort Wayne.

John Whistler was stationed at Fort Wayne during the tough first year, when it was an ill-supplied frontier outpost, and the United States' first line of defense against the British at Detroit. He helped design and build a new Fort Wayne in 1798.

Because of his experience building frontier forts, Whistler was transferred to Detroit- recently vacated by the British. In 1803, he was promoted to Captain and crossed Lake Michigan to build Fort Dearborn. He was the first commandant of the fort that would become the City of Chicago.

During the War of 1812, Whistler was promoted to Major, and served in Kentucky and in Fort Wayne, where he served as commandant and built another new fort. Three of his sons became Army officers. One, George Washington Whistler, was born in Fort Wayne, and married Anna Matilda McNeill, who we know from the painting "Whistler's Mother."

John continued to serve on the westward-moving frontier, and died while stationed at St. Louis. John served in the Revolution, the Northwest Indian War, and the War of 1812, and literally helped build three major Midwestern cities. The SAR does not recognize his service, however, and with good reason: at Saratoga, he was a *British* soldier!

To submit news, call Wade Harshman at (317) 691-8436
Or visit <http://cook.inssar.org>

News:



19 November 2008: Indiana Society President Tom Schnuck (far right) swears in the Cook Chapter's 2009 officers : (L-R) President David Betzner, Historian Wade Harshman, Chaplain Graham Morey, Treasurer Bruce Oakley, Vice-President Michael Oberlin, Secretary Marcus Turner.

Upcoming Events:

- ❖ 18 February 2008 (Wednesday) – 7:00 PM
Quarterly Business Meeting
MCL Cafeteria
5520 Castleton Corner Ln, Indianapolis
- ❖ 18 April 2009 (Saturday) – 10:00 AM
Indiana Society SAR Annual Meeting
Propylaeum Mansion
1410 North Delaware St, Indianapolis
- ❖ 20 May 2009 (Wednesday) – 7:00 PM
Quarterly Business Meeting
- ❖ 25 July 2009 (Saturday)
Indiana Society SAR Summer Meeting
Indiana War Memorial Museum
- ❖ 19 August 2009 (Wednesday)
Quarterly Business Meeting
- ❖ 18 November 2009 (Wednesday)
Annual Business Meeting



21 November 2008: Cook chapter members (L-R) Ron Darrah, Earl Salisbury, and John Horton presented American flags to 260 new citizens at a Naturalization Court held at the Indianapolis International Festival.



2 January 2009: Cook chapter members (L-R) Earl Salisbury, Wade Harshman, and Ron Darrah discuss the American Revolution with 5th graders from Mary Bryan Elementary School in Indianapolis. Photo by Stuart Hart.

Sons of the American Revolution
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Never was a person more mortified... to see so fair an opportunity... lost for want of a few men."
- George Rogers Clark