



Name: Joseph Louis Cook (Akiatonharónkwen)

Years: 1740 -1814

Residence: Fonda, NY

Biography: Cook was born to a black father and an Abenaki mother in Canada. As a child, all three were captured; Cook and his mother were saved by the Mohawk Nation. Cook and his mother lived in the Mohawk village, where he started to learn their culture and language, as well as French and English. During the French and Indian War, he fought on the side of the British with the other Mohawk peoples. Cook fought in several battles and was slightly injured in one. During the American Revolution, he fought on the side of the colonies. He collaborated with George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and Philip Schuyler. He participated in the Battle of Oriskany, the Saratoga Campaign, the Battle of Klock's Field, and the Battle of Johnstown. Cook eventually became a Lieutenant Colonel in the Continental Army, the highest rank awarded to any Native American during the Revolution. Later in life, he took part in Oneida land negotiations. He passed away following the Army into Canada during the Battle of Lundy's Lane.

Major Accomplishments: He was the highest ranking Native American in the American Revolution.

More Information: *The Life of Colonel Louis Cook* by Rev. Eleazer Williams

Resources: Dictionary of Canadian Biography, http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/atiatoharongwen_5E.html

By Elizabeth Wasserman