

# BIRTH AND PART HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

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Striking and magnificent as our country is in its peculiar attitude and rapid growth, presenting at one view the combined ideas of ability to resist the strong, and power to defend the weak, it is scarcely less majestic than beautiful, and in attempting to convey to you in language befitting some of the important facts connected with its early history, and the birth of its flag, would seem little less absurd, than-

"to gild relined gold, to paint the lily,  
To throw a perfume o'er the violet,  
To smooth the lee, or add another hue  
Unto the rainbow, or with lantern light,  
To seek the beauteous eye of heaven to garnish."

I will try however to recite, as best I can, a story of facts, hoping it will prove both interesting and instructive.

The great problem has yet to be solved whether America was originally peopled from Asia, or Asia from America. How long the continent had been peopled before the advent of Columbus in 1492, is unknown, but the remains of ancient mounds in the Mississippi Valley, the prehistoric copper mines south of Lake Superior, the

shell mounds along the sea coasts, and other remarkable evidences, in other portions of the country, attest the fact, that an aboriginal people existed in what is now *the* United States, for a period, as yet beyond the power of man to even approximately estimate. What we do know is, that our ancestors from Europe, the pioneers of civilization, who first came from England and settled on the Atlantic coast of North America found the native Indians divided into numerous tribes, east of the Mississippi, totaling about 180,000, speaking different languages or dialects. This is as our ancestors found America in 1607, three hundred years ago.

On the 17th day of November, 1558, three hundred and forty nine years ago, the reign of Mary, Queen of England, terminated, and Elizabeth, the Queen who gave to Virginia, one of the thirteen original states of the North American Union, and, "the Mother of Presidents," its name, at the age of twenty-five years, succeeded Mary on the throne.

Among the brilliant figures that made the reign of Queen Elizabeth so glorious, was a courtier, scholar, statesman and soldier, named Sir Walter Ralieggh, who by reason of his many earnest attempts to found an American settlement, has by many been called the maker of the United States.

Through his persistent efforts was this great and powerful oak of enterprise planted in American soil, forty-nine years after Elizabeth became Queen of England, and agreed to aid Sir Walter Ralieggh in his desire to found an American settlement in that portion of this New World, (Virginia) then considered a dominion equal in wealth to the conquests already achieved by Spain.

On the 26th day of April, 1607, three ships from London, with 105 emigrants, under command of Newport, Gosnold and John Smith, entered Chesapeake Bay, and on the 14th day of May following, founded Jamestown. This was the first English colony in the United States.

Twelve years after the founding of Jamestown. on the 19th day of June, 1619, the first Colonial Assembly was convened, based on Universal suffrage. This was the first representative legislative body ever assembled in this country, and with the spirit that gave birth to this gathering, began the breaking of the early dawn of American Independence.

One hundred and fifty six years after the convening of this Assembly, on the 18th day of April, 1775, Paul Revere made his celebrated ride to Concord, and on the following day, April 19th, the first blood of the American Revolution was spilt at Lexington.

On May 10th, 1775, the second Continental Congress was convened in Philadelphia, with John Hancock as President, an army of 20,000 men was called for and Articles of Union and Confederation adopted; and on the 15th of the following June General Washington was elected Commander in Chief, and Artemus Ward, Charles Lee, Philip Schuyler and Israel Putnam, appointed Major Generals; Horatio Gates, Adjutant General, and Seth Pomeroy, Richard Montgomery, David Wooster, William heath, Joseph Spencer, John Thomas and Nathaniel Green. Brigadier Generals.

One year after this action on the part of the Continental Congress, on the 7th day of June, 1776, Richard Henry Lee presented his resolution which declared, that—"The United Colonies are, and ought to be,

free and independent states; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that their political connection with Great Britain is, and ought to be totally dissolved." Seven of the Thirteen Colonies voted in favor of this resolution; and Thomas Jefferson, of Virginia; John Adams, of Massachusetts; Benjamin Franklin, of Pennsylvania; Roger Sherman, of Connecticut, and Robert Livingston, of New York, were appointed a committee of five to prepare a declaration in harmony with it.

Thomas Jefferson was chosen Chairman of this committee, and the great, grand duty of preparing this now more than famous document, was assigned to him.

On the 2nd day of August, 1776, the names of all but two of the fifty six signers to the Declaration of our American Independence were affixed, and shortly after these two were added. The last of these fifty-six signers to pass away was Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Maryland, and he died in 1832.

On September 3rd, 1783, nine years after the Declaration of Independence, the last act of the revolution was consummated when David Hartley, on the part of Great Britain, and Dr. Franklin, John Adams, and John Jay on the part of the United States, signed the treaty that concluded the Independence of the American States.

Two months and twenty two days after the signing of this treaty, on the 25th day of November, 1783, the British army evacuated New York, and on the following 4th day of December, General George Washington, at his quarters on the corner of Broad and Pearl Streets, took farewell of his officers, and proceeded to Annapolis, Maryland, where the Continental Congress was in session, and rendering his account

of expenses as Commander in Chief, amounting to \$74,480, resigned his commission, and refusing all compensation for services, retired to his home at Mount Vernon.

On the 4th day of March, 1789, with the glorious rays of the golden sun of success shining full upon it, the old Continental Congress expired, and the new National Government went into full operation. The first session of its Congress was held in New York; its second in Philadelphia, where it remained until 1800, when it was moved to Washington City, its present home.

On April 6th, 1789, the first electoral vote was counted, and on the 14th of the same month, General Washington was notified at Mt. Vernon. that he had been unanimously elected the first President of the United States, and John Adams, of Massachusetts, Vice President. On the 23rd of April Washington reached New York, and on the 30th, with John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, Baron Steuben, Generals St. Clair and Knox, Roger Sherman and Chancellor Livingston, standing beside him, on the street balcony of Federal Hall, on the corner of Wall street. the oath of office was administered by Chancellor Livingston, and as Washington kissed the Bible, Chancellor Livingston exclaimed,—"It is done, long live George Washington, President of the United States."

Immediately following the inaugural address, which was delivered in the Senate Chamber, before both Houses of Congress, the ceremonies were concluded by a special service in St. Paul's Church.

At the beginning of Washington's administration the population of the United States was about 3,929,214, credited to Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky,

Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, and the Ohio south of the river.

From 1760 to 1770 inclusive, the average colonial imports were about \$8,817,045, and exports, \$5,222,975. At the close of Washington's second term in 1797, the national expenses for the year were \$8,626,012; the debt \$82,004,479; and imports \$75,379,400, and exports \$56,850,206

In one hundred and ten years from that time in 1907, we find the United States covering an area of 3,690,822 square miles with a population of nearly one hundred millions of people, with a foreign carrying trade imports and exports amounting to nearly three billions of dollars.

All this, and more, very much more than it is possible to mention at this time, is what we see, and as loyal Americans should reverence, in the Flag of our Country.

It has been well, and truly said, that "The security of the future of our Nation does not lie in its invincible navy, its far flung battle lines, its natural resources and its endless whirl of factory wheels; it lies in the little children who will some day be the controllers of its destinies." What then is the responsibility of each of us? Where does it begin? How far does it extend? Where does it stop? Are things done, and things left undone by us, responsible for the tragedies and imperfect understanding of a force, which is not being properly utilized, or entirely neglected? These are questions not alone of a local, but a national, and inter national character. They are problems for the parent, the statesman and the unselfish loyal American Citizen, desiring to perpetuate a

free and independent republic, to solve.

The history of our illustrious men, and the history of the birth of our Flag, are stories of liberty, virtue and glory. Such however, has been our culpable negligence of their fame that little other memorial is to be found of most of our illustrious men, than what has been incorporated in the public records of their times. All that is instructive in their private biography, all that is individual in their characters, is rapidly fading from memory; and there is danger, lest to the next generation the names of Green, Marion and Wayne, of Otis, Laurens, Rutledge, and Pendleton, of Dickinson, Sherman, Ellsworth, and Hamilton, and the birth and history of the Flag of our Country, will be mere names of history, calling up no associations, inculcating no example, kindling no emotion. Their memories will shine as from afar, like the stars of other systems, whose cheering warmth and useful light are lost in the distance.

It is not of men, however, we will now talk, but of our Flag, from whose birth, and life, the memories of our great men can never be effaced. That Flag in which, as the moon whose silver crescent was hung in the blue heavens when the first night shadowed the infant world with its mighty and mysterious wing, we see, the breaking through the clouds of tyranny and oppression, the mighty and mysterious wing of the early sunrise of American Independence, and that heaven born inspiration, which no earthly power could baffle or subdue, and rocked to success, the restless tide of hope, that shadowed this infant nation in its tempest tossed struggle for the blessings of freedom.

A place under the protecting care of that Flag, is good enough for us all, and

the first great duty of the parent, and the teachers of all institutions of learning, is to impress upon the minds of American boys and girls, a sincere reverence for their country, and their country's Flag, and the importance of never forgetting, that it is the only Flag in all the world, whose radiance fired the souls of the fathers of our country, who with their followers, sent statesmen, whose love of country was exalted and purified with feelings of gratitude, and whose reverence for virtue was warmed and animated, and brought home to their hearts by its union with pride and love of country, to represent, and make laws for them, in our then Halls of Legislation, and it was this Flag, this Starry Banner, that was the first single lamp glittering with the radiance of freedom that hung above our heads, and it is this single Flag that the youth of our land, must be taught to keep floating above their heads, wherever they make their homes.

Perhaps, as a matter of record, it may be well to remind you, for it all has to do with our Flag, that the outcome of the Committee of Correspondence suggested by Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, Richard Henry Lee, and other Virginians, was the first Continental Congress, which assembled in Philadelphia, September 5th, 1774, one hundred and thirty-three years ago, holding its session with fifty five delegates, representing all the Colonies, excepting Georgia, with Payton Randolph, of Virginia, as President. This was the Congress that passed the resolution commending Massachusetts in its conflict with the Ministers, and exhorted all to press on in the cause of liberty.

It was this Congress that prepared the bill of rights, and formulated and entered



into the agreement,—that all delegates, and all their constituents should cease all importations from Great Britian, and adopted measures for organizing committees in every town and city to see that this agreement was enforced by every species of popular influence.

It was this Congress that issued the address to the King, to the people of Great Britian, and to Canada, of which William Pitt, who in 1766 was created Lord Chatham, and in whom, for a time it was believed, rested the supremacy of the political world, said, in speaking of the petition to the King, entreating him to restore to the people of the colonies their violated rights. "For solidity of reason, force of sagacity, and wisdom of conclusion, under a complication of difficult circumstances, no nation or body of men can stand in preference to the General Congress at Philadelphia. The histories of Greece and Rome give us nothing equal to it, and all attempts to impose servitude upon such a mighty continental nation must be in vain." Is there enough of the iron that was in the red blood of the fathers of our country, left in the blood of the American boys and girls of today, for them to say as much as this for their country, and stand by it as the heroes of more than one hundred and thirty years ago did?

On the 4th day of July, 1776, one hundred and thirty years ago, the representatives of the Thirteen Colonies proclaimed liberty, and when the debates were ended and the result announced, "Old Liberty Bell", proclaimed liberty throughout all the land, by ringing out the joyful annunciation for more than two hours. It announced the proclamation of war in 1812; It announced the proclamation of peace in

1815; it rang for the reception of Lafayette in 1824; and it rang for the last time, and cracked tolling the sad news of the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, July 8th, 1835. On the 14th day of June, 1777, one hundred and thirty years ago, amidst war's alarm, the Stars and Stripes of the United States of North America was born. Congress on that day, having passed the following resolution:—

"That the Flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate, red and white, that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

It has never been known to what influence the country is indebted for the choice of the stars and stripes in "Old Glory."

Some suppose that the stripes were of Dutch origin, as they occur in Dutch armorial bearings, while others long considered the design was adopted out of courtesy to General Washington, on whose Coat of Arms the stars and stripes appear.

But neither idea is accepted now. General Washington is said to have been very proud of his blue blood, his ancestry, and his heraldic rights. Therefore it would seem, if he had been honored by the use of devices from his Coat of Arms, he would have spoken of it to his closest friends. Nothing, however, is in evidence of this, and no reference to such a possibility has been found in any of the writings of his contemporaries. Nevertheless, Washington was closely associated with the first stars and stripes flag that ever flew as the standard of the country. Its construction was under his personal direction, assisted by a committee authorized by Congress to design a suitable flag for the new Nation. This was at Philadelphia some time between May 23rd and June 7th, 1777, in

the house of Mrs. Elizabeth Ross, 239 Arch Street. This house is still standing. Mrs. Ross, who was Miss "Betsey" Griscom, was a relative of Col. Ross and kept an upholstering establishment.

When General Washington, the Hon. George Ross and other members of the flag committee called upon Mrs. Ross to inquire whether she could make a flag, from a rough sketch made by General Washington, her reply was that she "did not know whether she could or not, but she would try." The sketch called for thirteen red and white stripes, and thirteen six pointed stars, stars of that kind having embellished the early coinage of the country. Mrs. Ross suggested that five-pointed stars would be better, explaining how such stars could be cut from paper. Her suggestion was accepted, and Washington made the change in his sketch.

Mrs. Ross made a great success of the first flag, which was finished on the following day, and for many years afterward she was the manufacturer of flags for the government. Her children succeeded her in the business.

The flag of June 14th, 1777, was different from the one of today, having but thirteen stars in the blue field. So far as is known, the blue field was taken from the banner of the Scotch Covenanters, to signify, in the same manner, the league and covenant of the United Colonies against oppression. Also, symbolizing vigilance, perseverance and justice.

The arrangement of the stars in the circle, indicated the perpetuity of the Union. These with the thirteen stripes, declared the number of the United Colonies, and the stripes denoted the subordination of the States to the Union, and their dependence on them.

Before "Old Glory" was unfurled to the breeze, the Colonies had many and divers emblems and flags. The standard of Great Britain was used up to the time of the Revolution, but each Colony added to it some local distinguished design. The Colony of Massachusetts adopted the Pine Tree on its flags and Caine, and this emblem became famous. The armed ships of New York flew a white flag, on which was inscribed a black beaver, now to be seen on the Arms of the State.

The Stamp Act was passed March 22nd, 1765, and went into force the following November. It was repealed March 18th, 1766. When tidings of the repeal reached this country, the whole people arose in joy. and in honor of the event, a tall liberty pole was erected in "The Fields," in New York, bearing a flag emblazoned with the words, "The King, Pitt and Liberty." A statue of Pitt was ordered for Wall Street, and one of George the Third, for Bowling Green. It was not long before the soldiers cut down the liberty pole; a second one was erected, only to share the same fate in the spring of 1766. Flags with the word "Liberty" on them, were continually hoisted, and as continually cut down, notwithstanding the fact, that the poles were girt with iron, more than two thirds of the way up.

It is not probable that any colors were carried by the few Americans at the battle of Lexington, but soon after the staunch old Continentals chose a flag, on which was inscribed the Arms of Connecticut, bearing the motto, in latin, "God who transported us hither, will sustain us."

There are many and conflicting statements about the flags of that period, and no doubt many conflicts took place without the inspiring sight of a flag. At the

battle of Bunker Hill, June the 17th, 1775. it is supposed a red flag bearing the taunt, "Come if you dare," was carried by the patriots. This may be true, because, at that time flags were most desired that conveyed the sentiment of the people, rather than to serve as a poetic symbol of liberty and union.

The flag that was well known during the early days of the Revolution, was of blue, with a field of white quartered by a red St. George's Cross. In the upper inner quarter stood a Pine Tree. In Loosing's "Field Book of the American Revolution," he stated, that a Mrs. Manning claimed that this flag was carried at the battle of Bunker Hill. Her authority for the statement, was her father, who took part in the engagement.

On January 2nd, 1770, the "Grand Union Flag," the parent of the "Old Glory" of today, was hoisted. Its field was composed of the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, as they appeared on the British ensign, but the fly of the new flag was made up of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white. It was this flag that was raised on the American camp at Cambridge, Mass., and saluted with thirteen guns and thirteen cheers.

The design of the Grand Union Flag was the work of Dr. Franklin, Mr. Lynch and Mr. Harrison. The King's colors were retained in the jack to represent the still recognized sovereignty of the Mother Country, but in place of the red fly, the thirteen red and white bars were instituted, to symbolize the union of the colonies against tyrants.

This was the flag that flew from the mast head of the Constitution; also, the Constellation, before Tripoli, in her memorable encounter with L Vengeance, and

L'Insurgent. It was the flag that waved over the forts of Dern, and at Lake Erie and New Orleans, and was borne around the Cape of Good Hope in the Essex, the first United States war vessel to display pennant beyond either.

One hundred and seven years ago, in 1800, the Star Spangled Banner was first seen before the crescent beneath the walls of Constantinople, on the United States frigate, George Washington, commanded by Captain William Bainbridge. The occasion was the bearing of tribute from the Dey of Algiers to the Sultan. When the stars and stripes appeared at the Bosphorus, no one knew what the flag represented, and Captain Bainbridge had to resort to stratagem in order to pass the forts and castles. When nearing the fort, he shortened sail, and ordered the firing of a salute, which was quickly responded to by the forts, and when the dense smoke occasioned by the firing cleared away, the astonished Talks saw that the George Washington had glided through the narrow Straits, and was far on her way to Constantinople.

Twenty four years after the fifteen-barred flag had been adopted, a further change in the National Ensign became necessary, occasioned by the admission of five states to the Union, viz: Tennessee, Louisiana, Indiana, Ohio and Mississippi. The increased number of States must be represented on the flag, without destroying its distinctive character. The desire of the committee having the matter in charge, was to increase the stars and bars to twenty each, but were soon convinced that if the United States continued to grow, that such change would become unwieldy.

Captain S. C. Reid, the Commander of the celebrated privateer, General Arm-

strong, suggested that, the number of stripes be reduced to thirteen, and the blue field contain a number of stars to correspond with the number of States in the Union. This suggestion was adopted April 14th, 1818, just eighty-nine years ago this past April 14th, 1907. This first flag was made by Mrs. S. C. Reid, and had twenty four stars, arranged in the form of a large star. Captain S. C. Reid of the navy of the United States, was therefore the father of the flag. The gallant defence of his ship in Fayal Rhoads, against the attack of a British squadron in breach of the neutrality of that port, made his name historical. He died in Washington City, in 1861.

Two well known flags were much in use in Colonial days, viz: the Pine Tree Flag, and the Rattlesnake Flag. The Pine Tree was taken from the flag of Massachusetts, and the motto, "An Appeal to Heaven," added to it.

It was this design for a flag that Colonel Reid suggested as a National Emblem, and on October 20th, 1775, wrote to Colonels Glover and Moylan, asking them if they would decide upon some particular color for a flag by which the Continental vessels might know one another. And closed his letter by asking his fellow officers, what they thought of a white flag, with a Pine Tree in the center and the motto, "An Appeal to Heaven." His suggestion was soon after adopted, and the first six schooners commissioned by General Washington, and those commissioned by the Colonies, sailed under this flag.

But one of the most famous flags under which the Colonists took their stand, in defence of their rights, was the Rattlesnake Flag.

Far back in 1754, when Benjamin

Franklin was editor and proprietor of the Philadelphia "Gazette," an article appeared in that paper urging the Colonies to unite for the purpose of defending themselves from the attacks of the French. The article was warm and earnest, and closed with a wood cut of a snake divided into several parts, each part bearing the initials of one of the Colonies, the whole placed above the motto, "Join or Die," or "Unite or Die" in large letters.

This device came into great prominence in 1774 and 1776, when the union of the Colonies to secure their liberty was urged. The snake was divided into thirteen parts, and many newspapers of that day used the design as a headpiece.

On February 9th, 1776, Colonel Gadsden presented to Congress an elegant standard, such as was to be used by the Commander in Chief of the American navy. This flag was of bright yellow, the center bearing a lively representation of a rattlesnake in the attitude of striking. The motto below was, "Don't tread on me." Congress adopted this design, and in recognition of the attention, ordered the flag hung in the Congress room and carefully preserved.

Historians claim that the color of this flag was suggested by the quarantine flag of Great Britain, which was yellow with a black spot in the middle, intended to convey the idea of the plague spot. The two flags looked somewhat alike in the distance. The rattlesnake doubly indicated the deadly character of its venom, and the danger of treading on it.

There were very many variations of the rattlesnake flag. It was also used upon a field of thirteen red and white stripes. In the latter case, it was represented as undulating across the flag.

The first independent flag displayed in



South Carolina, was at the taking of Fort Jackson on James Island, September 13th, 1775. Colonel Moultrie, who had been requested by the Council of Safety to procure a flag, had a large blue one made with a white crescent in one corner. The Crescent was used in uniform with the dress of the troops who, besides wearing blue, had their caps adorned with crescents on which was inscribed the words, "Liberty or Death."

It was the crescent flag that sergeant Jasper so gallantly rescued at the battle of Fort Moultrie, June 28th, 1776.

The first legislation of the Continental Congress in the matter of the Federal Navy, was October 18th, 1775, when several cruisers were equipped and sent to sea for cruises of three months. These vessels flew the Pine Tree Flag. Before the year closed the Navy of the Colonies consisted of seventeen vessels. There were five first lieutenants, the senior being John Paul Jones. He was appointed to the command of the *Alfred*, December the 7th, 1775, but his commission was not issued until December 22nd, 1775.

This doughty commander records that his was the first Man of War to display the flag of our country, and that it was run aloft by his own hands.

This statement has been doubted, and more than this, nothing is known as to what kind of a flag Commander Jones flew at the masthead of his vessel. It may have been the Grand Union Flag. One historian has said, Cooper, who wrote the life of Jones, states that it was the Pine Tree Flag of the Massachusetts Cruisers, with a rattlesnake coiled about the trunk of the tree, and above the motto, "Don't Tread on Me."

Striped Flags were in use at that time,

because the sailing signalling direction of the ships that sailed from the Delaware Capes February 17th, 1776, did so by order; that for fleet attack, the standard should be hoisted to the maintop masthead, with the striped Jack and ensign in their proper place.

The Standard was probably the Yellow Rattlesnake Flag.

John Adams in a letter addressed to Elbridge Gerry, January 28th. 1813, disputes the claim of John Paul Jones, that he hoisted the first American Flag.

Mr. Adams states in his letter, "Philadelphia is boasting that Paul Jones has asserted in his journal that his hand hoisted the first American flag, and Captain Barry has asserted that the first British flag was struck to him. Now I assert that the first American Flag was hoisted by Captain John Manley, and the first British Flag was struck to him."

Manley was Captain of the Schooner Lee of four guns, ten swivels, and fifty men, which captured the British transport brig Nancy, early in the war.

The Nancy had, besides military stores, several brass guns, and a mortar, which afterwards was mounted on Dorchester Heights, and used in driving the British out of Boston, and her fleet from the harbor, November 29th, 1775. There is no account of what flag Manley hoisted. but it is thought to have been the Pine Tree Flag.

There have been several changes made, or suggested, in the United States Flag, adopted June 14th 1777. The first suggestion was that the thirteen white stars, in the blue field, should be grouped about a lyre, thus embodying the constellation Lyra. signifying harmony. This idea was not adopted.

Before any change was made in the flag, the thirteen stars, and thirteen stripes were unfurled at the battle of Brandywine, September 11th, 1777, eight days after the official promulgation of the flag at Philadelphia, and at Germantown, October 4th, 1777.

The starry banner witnessed the operations against Burgoyne, and his surrender after the battle of Saratoga, October 17th, 1777; the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, September 19th, 1781, and it waved triumphantly in the eyes of the English, and was made brighter and more glorious than ever, at the evacuation of New York, November 25th, 1783.

On the morning of the evacuation, General Knox marched to Bowery Lane, and waited there until one o'clock in the afternoon, when the British soldiers left their posts, and marched down to White Hall. The American troops followed them, and before three o'clock General Knox took formal possession of Fort George. The British troops claimed the right of possession until noon, and in consequence of this an amusing incident took place.

The keeper of a boarding house, who was overflowing with patriotism, ran out an American Flag, the first one in the city, early in the morning. His action so exasperated the British Marshall, Cunningham, that he promptly ordered it removed. Regardless of this order the flag remained flying, and seeing his order was not obeyed, he volunteered to take it down. He no sooner made the attempt, when the wife of the proprietor of the boarding house, appeared with a broom, which she plied so vigorously on the head of Marshall Cunningham that he was forced to retreat with all the powder beaten out of his wig.

The original flag hoisted at the evacuation

of New York was long preserved in the American Museums in that city. It was destroyed by fire when the Museum burned.

One of the first military incidents connected with the flag, took place August 2nd, 1777, when Lieutenants Bird and Brandt invested Fort Stanix, commanded by Colonel Peter Gainsvoort.

There was no flag in the garrison when the enemy appeared, but pride, patriotism, and ingenuity, soon overcame the matter. The design of the flag just adopted by Congress, was known, and a flag was quickly made. Sheets were cut up for stars, and white stripes. The red was supplied from bits of scarlet cloth collected from the soldiers, while the blue was obtained from a dutch cloak belonging to Colonel Abraham Swartwout of Dateless County. On August 22nd the siege was raised, but what became of the flag, is not known.

A decided change was made in the flag in 1794. On January 13th of that year, a law was passed, that after May 1st, 1795, the flag should be composed of fifteen red and white stripes, and fifteen stars in a blue field. This was the flag of the war of 1812. It was this flag that witnessed the treaty of peace with the Indians, on the 1st of January, 1795, at Greenville, and nearly, if not all the victories achieved by the only General, excepting Washington and Green, General Harrison, upon whom powers were conferred greater than had ever been exercised by any commander. The changing of the flag as described, was due to the admission to the Union of Vermont on March 4th, 1791, and Kentucky on June 1st, 1792, making fifteen states in the Union.

The Act originated in the Senate, and

when sent to the House, provoked great discussion. The bill however passed, and the flag was adopted March 27th, 1794. The Constitution, better known as "Old Ironsides," was the first ship to carry this flag to sea.

About the time of the return to the thirteen original stripes, many suggestions were made to change the style of the flag; among the most prominent designs suggested was that of a flag to be quartered, the upper staff square to be blue, and contain the thirteen white stars, with the Goddess of Liberty on a white field below the second quarter, and in the tipper quarter, an out-spread eagle, and in the quarter beneath, the thirteen red and white stripes. It was never adopted.

After the new flag, as we have it today was adopted, Illinois was the first State to add a star That State was admitted, December 14th, 1819. The last to be admitted was Utah January 14th, 1890.

On February 14th, 1778, the ship Ranger in command of Captain Paul Jones, entered Gruberon Bay, France, and the flag was saluted by Admiral La Motte, representing the French Government. This was the first time the American Flag was ever saluted by a foreign power.

The first American Flag flown in a foreign port was by the Brig Nancy, in command of Captain Hugh Montgomery, at St. Thomas, in 1770. And on April 27th, 1805, at Tripoli was the first time it was ever displayed on a fortress of the Old World, when the fifteen starred and striped flag, was raised in victory.

It was said to have been raised over Fort Nassau, New Providence, on the 28th day of January, 1778, when Captain John Rathburn took possession of the fort, and captured several prizes in the harbor.

This is also supposed to be one of the first occasions on which the American Flag was nailed to its staff in token of absolute defiance, as the people of the city gathered 500 strong, to demand the surrender of the fort.

The honor of having first hoisted the American Flag in an English port, after the treaty of 1783, belongs to the Bedford of Nantucket, commanded by Captain William Moores, and owned by William Botch of New Bedford. The Bedford arrived in the Downs, February 3rd, 1783, with 487 butts of whale oil, and the "Political Magazine" of that date says, "This is the first vessel which has displayed the thirteen rebellious stripes of America in any British Port."

It is said that the first American flag ever seen by George III was one painted by Copley, as a background for a picture of a ship bearing the news of the recognition of the United States.

The Ship Empress, commanded by Captain Green, carried the flag first in China, February, 1784. The Chinese called this ship, "Kaw-Kee-Cheum," or flag flower ship, in compliment to the beautiful colors of the flag. And the Ship Franklin, Captain Deveraux, December 11th, 1798, flew our colors first in Japan.

The first ship to carry the American flag around the world, was the Columbia, commanded by Captain John Kendrick. She was accompanied by the sloop Washington, commanded by Captain Robert Gray. These ships left Boston September 30th, 1787, doubled the Horn the following year, reaching home August 30th, 1790. On May 11th, 1792, one hundred and fifteen years ago, in command of Captain Robert Gray, the Columbia entered a great and beautiful river, whose

waters empty into the Pacific Ocean, and bestowed upon it the name of his vessel (The Columbia.) From the ship's mast head, floated the identical flag fashioned by the cunning hands of Betsy Ross, (the first American Flag ever made) floating defiance to all its foes, and tokened dominion over the Western World.

This first flag, on this good ship, was this new Republic's first messenger around the world. Its colors first graced the great land mark of American trade with the Kingdoms of the Orient. The great Oregon Country, made this Nation independent of Europe, and established the motto, firm in the hearts of all true Americans, that this Republic shall have no other boundaries than those described by the great Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

The Captain's sea chest, wherein was stored this flag when not at the mast head, is now the cherished property of the Historical Society of Oregon, and can be seen at any time in the rooms of the Association, on the third floor of Portland's magnificent City Hall, where with other highly prized patriotic relics; memories of the days that "tried men's souls," in so perfect a state of preservation, as though commissioned by Providence to preserve from extinction in the minds and hearts of all true Americans, a cherished and unconquerable love of country, whose past history is the pledge, the earnest and the type of its greater future.

The first American *Flag* made of American materials, was raised over the Capitol at Washington, February 24th, 1866. All previous flags were made of English bunting, but this was made of American product, and presented by General Benjamin F. Butler.

This land of ours, that was but yester-

day rescued from the ocean by human industry, is now filled with busy and crowded cities, so beautiful in the placid richness of high cultivation, that no sign of misery, oppression or disloyalty should ever darken its life.

It is the work of liberty, and it is your work, your sacred duty American men, American women, American boys and American girls, to stand in harmony, shoulder to shoulder, as the patriots of the American Revolution did, ever beholding with loving eyes the gorgeous ensign of this Republic, The Star Spangled Benner, now known and honored throughout the earth, its arms and trophies streaming in their original luster, not a stripe erased or polluted, not a single star obscured.

#### APPENDIX.

DONAHUE, HENNEBERRY & CO 'S.

Chronological History of the United States and the Encyclopedia Britannica, both say May 14th, 1607, was the date Jamestown was founded. The story runs:

"The Colonies which Sir Walter Ralieg had established at Roanoke and other islands off the American Coast bad all perished, mainly for want of a good harbor, so that really nothing was known of the Virginian Coast line when the first expedition left London, December 19th, 1606; therefore the attempt was bound to fail unless a convenient hither should be found."

The expedition that left London, December 19th, 1606, consisted of three ships, (the "Susan Constant," 100 tons, commanded by Captain C. Newport, the "God Speed," 40 toils, commanded by Captain B. Gosnold; and a pinnace of twenty tons, commanded by Captain J. Ratcliff.")



They first made for the West Indies, reached Dominica on the 24th of March, 1607. At Nevis, their next stopping place, they erected a gallows to hang Captain Smith; he escaped, and when afterwards the men who plotted to hang him were at his mercy, he spared them.

Sailing northward from the West Indies, not knowing where they were, the expedition was fortunate enough to encounter a severe gale, and this storm it was, and not superior navigation, that guided them into the Mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, and enabled them on the 26th day of April, 1607, to discover land. Anchoring, they found the James River, gave it its name, organized the Colony, with, J. B. Gosnold, E. M. Wingfield, C. Newport, J. Smith, J. Ratcliff, J. Martin, and J. G. Kendall as council. And on the 13th of May elected Winfield President, and on the 14th of May, 1607, landed and commenced the settlement.

It is hardly correct history to claim that either the 13th or 14th day of May, 1607, is to receive the credit of the actual establishment of the first English Colony in America, when in 1585, twenty-two years earlier, Sir Richard Granville, acting for Sir Walter Raleigh, left a colony on Roanoke Island, (N. C ) under Ralph Lane, and in 1586 explored the coast, and in June of same year were taken back to England by Drake. And again, during this same year, a second expedition under Grenville, representing Sir Walter Raleigh, reached Roanoke Island with a colony of fifteen. And again for the third time, (in 1587), a fleet was sent by Raleigh, under command of John White, who discovered that this second colony of fifteen had been destroyed by Indians. The third colony sent out by Raleigh under John

White consisted of 105 persons. This colony built a fort, and founded Raleigh, N. C., twenty years before Jamestown was established. And it was here, Virginia Dare was born, the first English child born in the United States, and it was this colony that Sir Walter Raleigh dispatched two vessels to aid, that were driven back by the Spaniards. And it was this colony that Raleigh, in 1590, sent White out to look after, and he found had disappeared, and are supposed to have joined some Indian tribe or tribes. The settlement at Jamestown proved a success, still it was not the first English settlement in America, nor was Jamestown the first point selected. In these efforts Raleigh was aided by Queen Elizabeth, and whether Raleigh's efforts were a success or not, still, to him must be given the honor of the first practical attempt to locate an English colony on these shores. The idea was his, even though captured by others, and carried to success by organized companies aided by a king. To the individual efforts of Sir Walter Raleigh, aided by a Queen, was attention first directed by the English mind, to the value of this then unknown wilderness. And through him was the first English settlements made in America in 1585, 1586, 1587 and 1590, when the relief vessels sent out by Raleigh discovered this last colony of 108 had disappeared.