

Chapter 1 : Betsy Ross timeline | Timetoast timelines

An pamphlet enthusiastically not only credited Betsy Ross for designing the first U.S. flag, but for coming up with the name "United States of America" and writing a hymn that was the basis.

More flag resources Betsy Ross and the American Flag Betsy would often tell her children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends of a fateful day, late in May of 1776, when three members of a secret committee from the Continental Congress came to call upon her. George Washington was then the head of the Continental Army. Robert Morris, an owner of vast amounts of land, was perhaps the wealthiest citizen in the Colonies. Naturally, Betsy Ross already knew George Ross as she had married his nephew. Betsy was also acquainted with the great General Washington. Her daughter recalled, "That she was previously well acquainted with Washington, and that he had often been in her house in friendly visits, as well as on business. That she had embroidered ruffles for his shirt bosoms and cuffs, and that it was partly owing to his friendship for her that she was chosen to make the flag. In June 1776, brave Betsy was a widow struggling to run her own upholstery business. Upholsterers in colonial America not only worked on furniture but did all manner of sewing work, which for some included making flags. According to Betsy, General Washington showed her a rough design of the flag that included a six-pointed star. Betsy, a standout with the scissors, demonstrated how to cut a five-pointed star in a single snip. Until that time, colonies and militias used many different flags. The one shown here is the "Liberty Tree" flag. A picture of the "Grand Union" flag is shown here. This is not surprising. Many colonists considered themselves loyal subjects of Britain – many colonists came from Britain, and King George III ruled over the colonies. Washington ordered the Grand Union flag hoisted above his base at Prospect Hill "in compliment of the United Colonies. In fact, however, the Continentals knew nothing of the speech until later. Washington wrote in a letter dated January 4, 1776, "By this time, I presume, they begin to think it strange we have not made a formal surrender of our lines. She finished the flag either in late May or early June. Amid celebration, bells throughout the city tolled, heralding the birth of a new nation. Much suffering and loss of life would result, however, before the United States would completely sever ties with Britain. Betsy Ross herself lost two husbands to the Revolutionary War. During the conflict the British appropriated her house to lodge soldiers. Through it all she managed to run her own upholstery business which she continued operating for several decades after the war and after the soldiers left, she wove cloth pouches which were used to hold gunpowder for the Continentals. On June 14, 1776, the Continental Congress, seeking to promote national pride and unity, adopted the national flag.

Chapter 2 : Betsy McCall Mag. Paper Doll, Growing Up With Betsy McCall, April | eBay

If you grew up in the United States, chances are you've heard the story of Betsy Ross and the first American flag. It's a charming tale that's won its place in many hearts and imaginations, just like other stories about the nation's founding. However, much as we might want to believe it, some.

The first English settlement in North America had actually been established some 20 years before, in 1585, when a group of colonists 91 men, 17 women and nine children led by Sir Walter Raleigh settled on the island of Roanoke. Mysteriously, by the time the Roanoke colony had vanished entirely. Historians still do not know what became of its inhabitants. In 1607, just a few months after James I issued its charter, the London Company sent men to Virginia on three ships: They reached the Chesapeake Bay in the spring of 1607 and headed about 60 miles up the James River, where they built a settlement they called Jamestown. The Jamestown colonists had a rough time of it: They were so busy looking for gold and other exportable resources that they could barely feed themselves. The first African slaves arrived in Virginia in 1619. In 1632, the English crown granted about 12 million acres of land at the top of the Chesapeake Bay to Cecilius Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore. This colony, named Maryland after the queen, was similar to Virginia in many ways. Its landowners produced tobacco on large plantations that depended on the labor of indentured servants and later African slaves. Maryland became known for its policy of religious toleration for all. The New England Colonies The first English emigrants to what would become the New England colonies were a small group of Puritan separatists, later called the Pilgrims, who arrived in Plymouth in 1620. Ten years later, a wealthy syndicate known as the Massachusetts Bay Company sent a much larger and more liberal group of Puritans to establish another Massachusetts settlement. With the help of local natives, the colonists soon got the hang of farming, fishing and hunting, and Massachusetts prospered. As the Massachusetts settlements expanded, they generated new colonies in New England. Puritans who thought that Massachusetts was not pious enough formed the colonies of Connecticut and New Haven the two combined in 1636. This made New York one of the most diverse and prosperous colonies in the New World. In 1681, the king granted 45,000 square miles of land west of the Delaware River to William Penn, a Quaker who owned large swaths of land in Ireland. Lured by the fertile soil and the religious toleration that Penn promised, people migrated there from all over Europe. Like their Puritan counterparts in New England, most of these emigrants paid their own way to the colonies—they were not indentured servants—and had enough money to establish themselves when they arrived. As a result, Pennsylvania soon became a prosperous and relatively egalitarian place. The Southern Colonies By contrast, the Carolina colony, a territory that stretched south from Virginia to Florida and west to the Pacific Ocean, was much less cosmopolitan. In its northern half, hardscrabble farmers eked out a living. In its southern half, planters presided over vast estates that produced corn, lumber, beef and pork, and—starting in the 1690s—rice. These Carolinians had close ties to the English planter colony on the Caribbean island of Barbados, which relied heavily on African slave labor, and many were involved in the slave trade themselves. As a result, slavery played an important role in the development of the Carolina colony. It split into North Carolina and South Carolina in 1733. In 1733, inspired by the need to build a buffer between South Carolina and the Spanish settlements in Florida, the Englishman James Oglethorpe established the Georgia colony. By 1776, on the eve of revolution, there were nearly 20,000. These colonists did not have much in common, but they were able to band together and fight for their independence. Start your free trial today.

Chapter 3 : United States History : Unit 3: The English Colonies in North America

Betsy and her friends loved learning to sew and she tried to make her sewing better and better because someday when she grew up, sewing might be her job! Well, Betsy did grow up and she was a wonderful seamstress.

She was the eighth child of seventeen children. She grew up in a Quaker family and went to a school that was apprenticed by William Webster. This is the school that taught her how to sew. They both started their own upholstery shop together where they made items such as flags for people. Later on, John Ross joined the militia and died nearly two years after their marriage. Since money was tight and the other effects of war were in play, they could not find the fabrics that they needed in order to keep up their shop. Their business had less customers and orders. Jun 24, Summer of In the summer of , Betsy Ross was appointed by George Washington to design and to make a flag for the new nation. Betsy Ross finalized the design that the Continental Congress and George Washington had come up with the basic design with. This involved her making furniture and even flags. She showed Washington a rough design of the flag. The committee trusted Betsy to make the first flag. The Continental Congress later then adopted the national flag on June 14, This is the flag that becomes famous for becoming the first flag of the United States. The stars on the flag represents the 13 colonies, stars soon keep being added on to as states are added into the United States. This ceremony was the first of her marriages to be performed at Christ Church, which was her hometown church from the days of her childhood. Betsy convinced John Claypoole to stop sailing and to join her in the upholstery business. Feb 24, Betsy Ross Teaching her Children Betsy Ross taught her daughters how to sew, and they made many flags together in their shop. Over the next many years, Betsy made flags for many other companies. She made flags for forts, ships, and even the Indians with her daughters. Her eye sight was getting bad, and she knew it was time to stop. Her legacy of making the first American flag would not have been forgotten though. Betsy moved to Abington, Pennsylvania to live with her daughter Susannah for the rest of her days. She died peacefully in her home of old age.

Chapter 4 : Betsy Ross? Yes or no? - The Coastal Journal

The legend of Betsy Ross --Betsy's Quaker family life --Betsy and the colonies grow up --Betsy and the colonies rebel --War comes to Betsy and the colonies --Betsy and the Founding Fathers --Betsy's new nation --Betsy's Philadelphia is captured --War ends --Two different views.

Betsy had a Banker Pony named Black Bess. In the remote regions of those islands, wild ponies roam free. Banker Ponies are actually horses, but they are referred to as ponies because they are smaller than most horses, standing at about 14 hands. It is speculated that the herd of Banker Ponies, which currently numbers about 25 to 30, is descended from Spanish Mustangs. Often, when a ship ran aground, its crew would toss livestock and any other animals it may be transporting to the New World overboard in order to float the ship again. Many times, these animals were left behind. The herd ran wild on the island until the 1780s, when they were permanently penned to protect them from the local environment. They are now cared for by the National Park Service. He retreated south from the capital at Williamsburg and captured Portsmouth, then went on to take Norfolk, which was considered a nest of Tories. The harbor there was vital to British control over the colonies. Dunmore wanted to control all of the harbors, in order to stop the colonists from selling their goods. Washington wrote to the president of the Continental Congress from New England: He thought he was making headway against the rebellion by pillaging the plantations of Patriots, winning slaves over to his side, and seizing printing presses. After destroying five or six houses, he removed some of the planking, and barricaded Great Bridge on the North Carolina side. Finding resistance increasing, he built a ramshackle fort on the Norfolk side of the bridge "it was dubbed the pig pen by the Patriots" and installed two twelve-pound cannons. News of these atrocities was slow in reaching North Carolina, because the post road was cut off as well. It was a tense time for the Patriots of Eastern Carolina. On the night of December 6, 1781, the news reached the Dowdy family on Currituck Banks. A neighbor had gone to the mainland on business and brought back the news. Sixteen-year-old Betsy Dowdy overheard the story in all its awful detail, as it was being related to her father. The worst news was that Dunmore had captured Great Bridge. Betsy knew that trade goods "shingles, tar, potash, and turpentine" were transported from the Carolinas through Great Bridge and on to Norfolk for export. The closing of the bridge meant that their livelihood was now cut off. Dunmore is making sure we have no way to pull our wagons to market. But it was the opinion of Mr. Dowdy and his neighbor that it would take a great many more troops than Howe had available to defeat Dunmore. The only Revolutionary soldiers in the area strong enough to stop Dunmore were commanded by General William Skinner fifty miles south in Perquimans County. If someone could take the news to Skinner, maybe he could get to Great Bridge in time to help Howe. After going back to bed, Betsy tossed and turned. She had listened to her neighbor express his view that Dunmore would do just that "the ponies were potential remounts for the American militia; Dunmore would kill them all. Betsy loved the wild ponies that roamed the Outer Banks. Betsy finally made up her mind to go to General Skinner herself. She knew her pony was the fastest on the islands "if any pony could reach Perquimans by morning, it was her Black Bess. She crept downstairs and tiptoed out the door. Enduring the wintry conditions, Betsy swam across Currituck Sound, rode through the Great Dismal Swamp, Camden, and then Elizabeth City, and then galloped inland more than 50 miles to Perquimans County, before she finally reached the outskirts of Hertford, where General William Skinner and his army of one hundred men were encamped. The General called his men to arms, and they marched north to Great Bridge, and they were just in time for the Battle of Great Bridge "a little known but important battle of the Revolutionary War. Among the contingent from Culpeper County was a year-old lieutenant named John Marshall, who was destined to become the most influential Chief Justice in the history of the Supreme Court. A British captain led a force of 60 grenadiers and a corps of regulars and militia marching six abreast across the narrow bridge. Seeing no response from the Patriots, the British soldiers wondered if the entrenchments had been abandoned. On the opposite side, Patriot Lieutenant Travis ordered his men to hold their fire until the British force was within fifty yards. Some 80 patriots sprang up, took aim, and delivered a devastating volley at the approaching troops, quickly thinning their ranks. Their captain fell, only steps from the breastworks.

With their commander dead, the regulars ran, dragging the bodies of their dead and wounded back to the bridge. The British field pieces at the bridge continued to fire, but Patriot reinforcements at the breastwork and the crossfire from their flanking force discouraged any further advances by the British. The Battle of Great Bridge was one of the most one-sided contests in the Revolutionary War, with British soldiers killed or wounded, while just a single American suffered a slight wound to his thumb. Great Bridge was the first decisive battle in the South. Volunteer soldiers and militia had withstood an attack by some of the finest professional soldiers in the world, and virtually annihilated them. It was also a battle where riflemen played a very important role. It was a small but strategic victory. After the battle, Dunmore and his men retreated to Norfolk, but he was unable to gain any support from either those still loyal to the crown or the slaves he had tried to turn against the colony. The victory also secured the passage between the colonies of North Carolina and Virginia. Norfolk was captured by the American troops on January 1, 1776. The victory by the Continental Army was responsible for removing Lord Dunmore and any other vestige of British Government in the Colony of Virginia during the early days of the American Revolution, seven months before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The war would virtually come to an end some 50 miles away at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, when General Charles Cornwallis surrendered to General George Washington and his allied troops.

Chapter 5 : Betsy Dowdy | History of American Women

Betsy would often tell her children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends of a fateful day, late in May of 1776, when three members of a secret committee from the Continental Congress came to call upon her.

George Washington seated, left, Robert Morris and George Ross how she cut the revised five-pointed stars for the flag. Even though, this early version of an American flag is now commonly called the "Betsy Ross Flag," the claim by her descendants that Betsy Ross contributed to this design is not accepted by modern American scholars and vexillologists. Canby, presented a paper to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in which he claimed that his grandmother had "made with her hands the first flag" of the United States. Oral Tradition, Nationalism, and the Invention of History. Canby, in a paper presented to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The paper included stories he had heard from family members throughout the years. The "Ross question"[edit] This portrait of George Washington by painter Charles Willson Peale features a flag with stars arranged in a circle. It is generally regarded as being neither proven nor disproven, and any evidence that may have once existed has been lost. Although George Washington had been a member of the Continental Congress, he had assumed the position of commander-in-chief of the Continental Army in 1775, so it would be unlikely that he would have headed a congressional committee in 1776. There is no evidence to show that Betsy Ross and George Washington knew each other, or that George Washington was ever in her shop. However, George Ross and George Washington were both acquaintances of George Read in 1776, and he had frequent communication with both parties. In letters and diaries that have surfaced, neither George Washington, Col. Ross, Robert Morris, nor any other member of Congress mentioned anything about a national flag in 1776. Francis Hopkinson, a treasurer of loans and a consultant to the second congressional committee, has a naval design from which was clearly a derivative of earlier designs. The Flag Resolution of 1776 was the first documented meeting, discussion, or debate by Congress about a national flag. It is not unusual that Ross, an upholsterer, would have been paid to sew flags. There was a sudden and urgent need for them, and other Philadelphia upholsterers were also paid to sew flags in 1776 and years following. Supporters of the Ross story make the following arguments: He also had served with George Ross on the Marine Committee. There are at least 17 flag makers and upholsterers who worked in Philadelphia during the time the flag was made. Margaret Manny is thought to have made the first Continental Colors or Grand Union Flag in 1776, but there is no evidence to prove she also made the Stars and Stripes. According to Canby, there were other variations of the flag being made at the same time Ross was sewing the design that would carry her name. If true, there may not be one "first" flag, but many. As late as 1777, the War Board of Continental Congress had still not settled on what the Standard of the United States should look like. The committee sent a letter to General Washington asking his opinion, and submitting a design that included the serpent, as well as a number corresponding to the state which flew the flag. The Second Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution on June 14, 1776, establishing the first congressional standard for official United States ensigns. Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation. Even so, history researchers must accept that the United States flag evolved, and did not have one designer. To add to the mystery surrounding the first American flag, experts can only guess the reason Congress chose stripes, stars, and the colors red, white, and blue for the flag. Historians and experts discredit the common theory that the stripes and five-pointed stars derived from the Washington family coat of arms. Washington was aware that "most admire The use of red and blue in flags at this time in history may derive from the relative fastness of the dyes indigo and cochineal, providing blue and red colors respectively, as aniline dyes were unknown. The true meaning of the symbols of the flag may be tied to ancient history. The common metaphor "reaching for the stars" developed from this idea. Stars of various shapes were also important symbols in European heraldry, and stars appears in colonial flags as early as [24] Another possibility may come from Freemasonry. Benjamin Franklin, John Hancock, Robert Livingston, Paul Revere, and other important people of that period belonged to the fraternal order. Some may think they may have influenced the inclusion of stars in the American flag, however, stars of this type, although

sometimes used as a decorative device, like pyramids, were not an important icon in Freemasonry. Although early American flags featured stars with various numbers of points, the five-pointed star is the defining feature of the Betsy Ross design, and became the norm on Navy Ensigns. This may have been simply because five-pointed stars were more clearly defined from a distance. The circular arrangement of the "Betsy Ross" design was seen as early as at the surrender of General John Burgoyne at Saratoga. Eyewitness Alfred Street wrote: The stars were disposed in a circle, symbolizing the perpetuity of the Union; the ring, like the circling serpent of the Egyptians, signifying eternity. The thirteen stripes showed with the stars the number of the United Colonies, and denoted the subordination of the States to the Union, as well as equality among themselves. The most logical explanation for the colors of the American flag is that it was modeled after the first unofficial American flag, the Grand Union Flag. The colors of the Great Seal are the same as the colors in the American flag. To attribute meaning to these colors, Charles Thomson, who helped design the Great Seal, reported to Congress that "White signifies purity and innocence. Red hardiness and valor and Blue It is a painting in the Prado collection in Spain. Francis Hopkinson had spent time with a friend named Benjamin West , an American painter who had studied painting in Italy during the time when Giovanni Battista was a sensation both at home and abroad.

Chapter 6 : The 13 Colonies - HISTORY

Chapter 6, lesson 4 Betsy and Michelle slavery in the colonies study guide by michell___ includes 10 questions covering vocabulary, terms and more. Quizlet flashcards, activities and games help you improve your grades.

Studies from to Exploration through Reconstruction Unit 3: In the mids, a German schoolteacher named Gottlieb Mittelberger boarded a ship bound for the colony of Pennsylvania, in far-off North America. Mittelberger had borrowed the cost of his passage by signing on as an indentured servant. He would have to settle his debt by working for several years for the master who bought his services. The voyage across the Atlantic was horrible. Most passengers suffered from illness and hunger. One person receives a place of scarcely 2 feet width and 6 feet length. There is on board these ships terrible misery, stench, fumes, horror, vomiting, many kinds of seasickness, fever, dysentery, headache, heat, constipation, boils, scurvy, cancer, mouth-rot, and the like, all of which come from old and sharply salted food and meat, also from very bad and foul water. Many colonists came to North America for the chance to own land and start a new life. Others were seeking freedom to practice their religion. There were also some who did not have a choice. A number of convicts people in jail were forced to go to North America to work off their debts as indentured servants. Millions of Africans were kidnapped from their homelands and brought to the colonies as slaves. In this unit, you will learn about the people who settled the English colonies. You will study in detail about 8 of the 13 colonies. As you do, pay attention to similarities and differences among the colonies in such areas as geography, economy, religion, and government. Land was flat close to the coastline but became hilly and mountainous farther inland. Soil was generally rocky, making farming difficult. Cold winters reduced the spread of disease. Puritans followed strict rules and were intolerant of other religions, eventually absorbing the separatist Pilgrims in Massachusetts by Life in New England was dominated by church, and there were severe consequences for those who failed to attend, or, those who spoke out against the Puritan ways. Singing and celebrating holidays were among things prohibited in Puritan New England. Fishing especially codfish was most important to the New England economy, though whaling, trapping, shipbuilding, and logging were important also. Eventually, many New England shippers grew wealthy buying slaves from West Africa in return for rum, and selling the slaves to the West Indies in return for molasses. William Bradford Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. He was a signer of the Mayflower Compact and served as Plymouth Colony Governor five times covering about thirty years between and Williams came first and was banished. He went south and founded Rhode Island. Hutchinson came later and when she was banished, she joined Williams in Rhode Island. Roger Williams believed that the Massachusetts Colony needed to tolerate different religious beliefs and the church and government should be separate. Roger fled Massachusetts and found the settlement of Providence. Later, it became the colony of Rhode Island it was the first European colony to allow people to different religious beliefs Religious tolerance. Anne Hutchinson was brought to trial in Massachusetts because she believed people should pray directly to God rather than depend upon church teachings. She was forced to leave Massachusetts so she traveled to Rhode Island and started the settlement of Portsmouth. Thomas Hooker - Thomas Hooker was a prominent Puritan colonial leader, who founded the Colony of Connecticut after disagreeing with Puritan leaders in Massachusetts. He believed in government by the people, for the people. Connecticut ratified the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut which would be the first written constitution in America. It marked the beginnings of American democracy, and Thomas Hooker was a major influence on it. The government of the United States today is more similar to that of Connecticut than to that of any of the other thirteen colonies. Geography ranged from coastal plains along the coastline, piedmont rolling hills in the middle, and mountains farther inland. This area had good coastal harbors for shipping. Climate and land were ideal for agriculture. Religion " Religion in the Middle Colonies was varied as no single religion seemed to dominate the entire region. Religious tolerance attracted immigrants from a wide-range of foreign countries who practiced many different religions. Quakers, Catholics, Jews, Lutherans and Presbyterians were among those religious groups that had significant numbers in the middle colonies. Economy " The Middle Colonies enjoyed a successful and diverse economy. Largely agricultural, farms in this region grew numerous kinds of

crops, most notably grains and oats. Logging, shipbuilding, textiles production, and paper-making were also important in the Middle Colonies. Big cities such as Philadelphia and New York were major shipping hubs, and craftsmen such as blacksmiths, silversmiths, cobblers, wheelwrights, wigmakers, milliners, and others contributed to the economies of such cities. He was educated in theology and the law. In his twenties he converted to the Quaker religion and was jailed several times for his resistance to the Church of England. In , he received a royal charter to form a new colony in America, to be named Pennsylvania; he envisioned this territory as a peaceful refuge for members of all religious beliefs religious tolerance. Geography ranged from coastal plains in the east to piedmont farther inland. The westernmost regions were mountainous. The soil was perfect for farming and the growing season was longer than in any other region. Hot summers, however, propagated diseases such as malaria and yellow fever. Religion â€” Most people in the Southern Colonies were Anglican Baptist or Presbyterian , though most of the original settlers from the Maryland colony were Catholic, as Lord Baltimore founded it as a refuge for English Catholics. Religion did not have the same impact on communities as in the New England colonies or the Mid-Atlantic colonies because people lived on plantations that were often distant and spread out from one another. Economy â€” The Southern economy was almost entirely based on farming. Rice, indigo, tobacco, sugarcane, and cotton were cash crops. Crops were grown on large plantations where slaves and indentured servants worked the land. James Oglethorpe Georgia As visionary, social reformer, and military leader, James Oglethorpe conceived of and implemented his plan to establish the colony of Georgia as a haven for debtors. As a result, Oglethorpe began a campaign for prison reform. Prison reform did not, however, solve the larger plight of the large number of poor people in England. Oglethorpe and several colleagues from the jails committee began exploring the possibility of creating a new colony in America.

Chapter 7 : The Betsy Ross Story | The Character Network

Betsy Ross was born on January 1, in the colonial city of Philadelphia. She was the eighth child of seventeen children. She grew up in a Quaker family and went to a school that was apprenticed by William Webster.

Read Article Did you experience a feeling of sadness or disbelief when you learned there was a strong possibility that Betsy Ross did not make the first American Flag? I mean, there were books, plays, paintings and movies about her. To doubt this was like finding Santa Claus was fake and Thomas Edison did not invent the light bulb. Thus, I decided to dig around, and folks, the maybes and could bes and I think sos run throughout the written history of Betsy Ross. She is an icon! Did he really stop by her home and request she design and create the first American flag? Is all that true? I so want it to be. Ross was a serious seamstress for certain. I guess many women were back then. Elizabeth Betsy Griscom was born to Quaker parents in Philadelphia in , the eighth child of After attending a Quaker school, she was apprenticed to an upholsterer named William Webster who taught her to sew furniture covers, mattresses and window blinds. Eventually, at the age of 21, she crossed the river to New Jersey, to elope with John Ross, a fellow apprentice. Quakers did not look kindly on church members running off and eloping, so naturally, they expelled the young couple. So Betsy and John opened up their own upholstery shop and then John decided to join the militia. Alas he died within two years either from a gunpowder explosion or illness. No one knows for sure. It was around this time, or , that George Washington allegedly came to visit the young widow and asked her to design a new flag for a new nation. I guess, this is evidence of tabloids at work even in the s. Anyway, during the supposed chat with Gen. Washington, he asked for the 13 stars to have six points each. She appeared to be into time management, and evidently the good General knew not to mess with a smart young seamstress-upholsterer woman who knew her snips. So, the father of our country agreed on five points. Ross allegedly designed the first American flag with 13 stars on a sea of dark blue, and seven red and six white stripes representing the original 13 colonies in our very young country. White for purity and innocence; red for hardiness and valor and blue vigilance, perseverance and justice. A lot to live up to and a lot to be proud of. It is also recorded that one Francis Hopkinson from New Jersey, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, may have had a hand in the design of the flag. He designed seals for the U. Things get a little foggy from here on in. Well, at least for me. But somewhere along this confusing bit of American history, our flag was made, and in my opinion, it is beautiful, and quite thrilling to see it snapping in the wind anywhere. But folks, no matter who put our flag together, it still has enormous meaning for many. I know when I grew up my father demanded that our flag, put up on a very high flagpole in our back yard, never ever be permitted to touch the ground, and we paid attention. It stayed up there, lit up at night, until Hurricane Hazel in blew it to the ground. I recall my patriotic father roaring out into the storm to get Old Glory up out of the mud and to bring it tenderly into our home to dry. I understand all the controversy around our flag these days. There are those who are horrified about these issues, but after all, thousands of people died so that folks can have the right to peacefully protest things in our country. Happily, these issues did not exist when Betsy Ross did or did not sew the first American flag. Cohan pretty much summed up the feelings of lots of Americans when they see our flag flying. So thank you Betsy Ross or whomever it was that made our flag.

Chapter 8 : Did Betsy Ross really make the first American flag? | HowStuffWorks

Betsy: I made a 3-foot by 5-foot flag, which is the most common ratio for a rectangular flag for most countries. I used about 10 stitches per inch, and used double stitching to connect each stripe to the next, and to the blue square, so you can do the math!

A sister, Sarah , and brother, William , died before Elizabeth "Betsy" was born another sister, Sarah Griscom Donaldson , was named after the earlier deceased Sarah. Ross was just five years old when her sister Martha died, and another sister, Ann , only lived to the age of two. Two others, twins, brother Joseph and sister Abigail , died in one of the frequent smallpox epidemics in the autumn of . As a member of the local Pennsylvania Provincial Militia and its units from the city of Philadelphia , John Ross was assigned to guard munitions and, according to one legend, was killed by a gunpowder explosion, but family sources provide doubts about this claim. During this time, their first daughter, Zilla, died at the age of nine months and their second daughter, Eliza, was born. Post-war The couple had additionally five daughters: Clarissa, Susanna, Jane, Rachel, and Harriet who died in infancy. In , her mother, father, and sister Deborah Griscom Bolton all died in another severe yellow fever epidemic a disease unknowingly caused by infected mosquitoes that in those times ranged farther north from the subtropical zones of the southern U. After two decades of poor health, John Claypoole died in . Ross continued the upholstery business for 10 more years. Ross, by then completely blind, spent her last three years living with her middle Claypoole daughter, Jane , in rapidly growing and industrializing Philadelphia. She was survived by five daughters with John Claypoole: Eliza, Clarissa, Susanna, Jane, and Rachel, and one sister, Hannah Griscom Levering , who herself died about 11 months later. Twenty years later, her remains were moved to the Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Philadelphia. In , in preparation for the American Bicentennial , city leaders ordered the remains moved to the courtyard of the Betsy Ross House. However, cemetery workers found no remains beneath her tombstone. Bones found elsewhere in the family plot were deemed to be hers and were reinterred in the current grave visited by tourists at the Betsy Ross House. Post Office issued a commemorative postage stamp to honor the th anniversary of her birth. It shows her presenting the new striped, starred flag to George Washington , with Robert Morris , and George Ross present. The design was taken from a painting by Charles H. Weisberger, one of the founders and first custodian of the Memorial Association, who has cared for and operated the Ross House. This was issued when the Ross legend was still strong and accepted by many of the American public before additional historical and academic scrutiny had been enacted. Canby, presented a research paper to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in which he claimed that his grandmother had "made with her hands the first flag" of the United States. Oral Tradition, Nationalism, and the Invention of History". Occasionally over the decades, there has been some controversy and disagreement between the relative merits and historical accuracies of the two flag-making traditions and historical sites in Philadelphia and Baltimore. Hopkinson was the only person to make such a claim in the Revolutionary War era.

Chapter 9 : Struggle for a Continent: The French and Indian Wars: - Betsy Maestro - Google Books

Up until that point, North Carolinians didn't think much about the argument over taxes between the colonies and Britain, but Dunmore's actions were bringing the war close to home. On the night of December 6, , the news reached the Dowdy family on Currituck Banks.

September Tea Party Winners: Are you brave enough to try? It was strictly forbidden in the colony of Massachusetts in 1773 so much so that neighborhood committees were assigned to monitor private households to ensure that only coffee or herbal teas were served. Anyone caught drinking the banned brew of tea taxed by England would be deemed a Tory. But drinking coffee was akin to declaring independence for America. Coffee was the preferred drink of the patriotic cause although many still desired the black or green tea that they had been accustomed to. Some, like Anna, used black tea like Bohea for headaches, so it was a real sacrifice to make the change. And some just liked the milder taste of tea. But preferences aside, the popularity of coffee in America soared after the Boston Tea Party. In fact, the party itself was planned and the details plotted out in a coffee house called The Green Dragon. It was in December of that year over one hundred enraged patriots tossed cases of tea overboard from three ships into the murky Boston harbor. The tea boycott had begun. But while coffee was suddenly in high demand, it had actually arrived in the colonies in the late 17th century, at the same time as tea. Coffee originated in the Arab countries but live plants were transported to greenhouses in Holland in 1614. From there, the Dutch began to grow this popular bean in India and Java now called Indonesia. Within a few years, the Dutch were the main suppliers of coffee to Europe. The Holland connection brings up another interesting tidbit from my research. The emigrants onboard the Mayflower had resided in Holland for a time before leaving for the New World. Thus, the first coffee may have arrived with the first colonists arriving at Plymouth, although there was no record of the beans actually carried as cargo onboard. Crank coffee grinders began to be used in homes in the early part of the 19th century. The first literary reference to coffee consumption in North America is from 1773, when coffee houses were established in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and other cities. Often these coffee houses also served other beverages, such as tea, ale and cider. Some did not know how to cook coffee any more than tea, but boiled the whole coffee beans in water, ate them, and drank the liquid; and naturally this was not very good either to eat or drink. At the time of the Stamp Act, when patriotic Americans threw the tea into Boston Harbor, Americans were just as great tea drinkers as the English. Coffee-drinking, first acquired in the Revolution, has also descended from generation to generation, and we now drink more coffee than tea. This is one of the differences in our daily life caused by the Revolution. My favorite excerpt about coffee and the American Revolution was an incident recorded by Abigail Adams in 1773, and quoted in *Revolutionary Mothers* by Carol Berkin: A number of females, some say a hundred, some say more, assembled with a cart and trunks, marched down to the Warehouse and demanded the keys which he refused to deliver. Upon which one of them seized him by his neck and tossed him into the cart. Upon his finding no quarter, he delivered the keys when they tipped up the cart and discharged him; then opened the Warehouse, hoisted out the coffee themselves, put it into the trunks and drove off—a large concourse of men stood amazed silent spectators.