

Chapter 1 : Peleg Dennis Harrison (Author of The Stars and Stripes and Other American Flags)

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Flag of the British East India Company , " At the time of the Declaration of Independence in July , the Continental Congress would not legally adopt flags with "stars, white in a blue field" for another year. The flag contemporaneously known as "the Continental Colors " has historically been referred to as the first national flag. However, an East India Company flag could have from nine to 13 stripes, and was not allowed to be flown outside the Indian Ocean. He said to George Washington , "While the field of your flag must be new in the details of its design, it need not be entirely new in its elements. There is already in use a flag, I refer to the flag of the East India Company. Some colonists also felt that the Company could be a powerful ally in the American War of Independence , as they shared similar aims and grievances against the British government tax policies. Mullets were comparatively rare in early modern heraldry, but an example of mullets representing territorial divisions predating the U. While scholars still argue about this, tradition holds that the new flag was first hoisted in June by the Continental Army at the Middlebrook encampment. Massachusetts reinforcements brought news of the adoption by Congress of the official flag to Fort Schuyler. A voucher is extant that Capt. Swartwout of Dutchess County was paid by Congress for his coat for the flag. Navy, featuring 13 six-pointed stars arranged in rows. In the late 18th century, the notion of a national flag did not yet exist, or was only nascent. The flag resolution appears between other resolutions from the Marine Committee. Each regiment was to carry the national standard in addition to its regimental standard. The national standard was not a reference to the national or naval flag. Experts have dated the earliest known example of this flag to be in a painting by John Trumbull. Most were individually crafted rather than mass-produced. While there are many examples of star arrangements, some of those flags included blue stripes [20] as well as red and white. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams , in a letter dated October 3, , to Ferdinand I of the Two Sicilies , described the American flag as consisting of "13 stripes, alternately red, white, and blue, a small square in the upper angle, next the flag staff, is a blue field, with 13 white stars, denoting a new Constellation. Navy ships including the well-documented flags of the Serapis and the Alliance. The Serapis flag had three rows of eight-pointed stars with stripes that were red, white, and blue. The flag for the Alliance, however, had five rows of eight-pointed stars with 13 red and white stripes, and the white stripes were on the outer edges. Hopkinson was the only person to have made such a claim during his own lifetime, when he sent a letter and several bills to Congress for his work. Hopkinson initially wrote a letter to Congress, via the Continental Board of Admiralty, on May 25, However, in three subsequent bills to Congress, Hopkinson asked to be paid in cash, but he did not list his U. Instead, he asked to be paid for designing the "great Naval Flag of the United States" in the first bill; the "Naval Flag of the United States" in the second bill; and "the Naval Flag of the States" in the third, along with the other items. The flag references were generic terms for the naval ensign that Hopkinson had designed, that is, a flag of seven red stripes and six white ones. The predominance of red stripes made the naval flag more visible against the sky on a ship at sea. His Admiralty Seal had seven red stripes; [28] whereas, his second U. Seal proposal had seven white ones. The apocryphal story credits Betsy Ross for sewing the first flag from a pencil sketch handed to her by George Washington. No evidence for this exists either in the diaries of George Washington nor in the records of the Continental Congress.

Chapter 2 : Flag of the United States - Wikipedia

The Stars And Stripes And Other American Flags: Including Their Origin And History, Army And Navy Regulations Concerning The National Standard And Flags, Flag Legislation, And Many.

Of these millions, 1. Half of these deaths occurred during combat, while disease and accident caused the rest. Death is not, however, the only risk faced on the battlefield. Over , Americans have been held as prisoners of war, including , during the Civil War. In World War II and subsequent wars, the American flag has been a symbol of hope and defiance for the men and women held captive by enemy nations. Japanese treatment of the POWs they held was brutal. Denny Landrum, a sailor on the submarine Grenadier, was captured in April after the submarine was damaged by an air attack. Held first in Malaysia, Landrum ended up spending time in two different camps in Japan. He was held in Omori camp from late until being liberated in Landrum was brutally beaten and tortured. He and his closest friends in the camp knew their best way of staying sane and focused was to win small victories over the Japanese. Even though they risked punishment or even death, the rewards far outweighed the risk. An example of Japanese P. Landrum and others made a flag using a sheet as the base. They took undistributed Red Cross supplies for the flag and sewed and colored it one small bit at a time. When Omori camp was liberated, the freed POWs proudly and jubilantly waved all three flags. During the liberation of the camps in Japan, many POWs made flags. Most of the material came from the parachutes used to drop supplies to the POWs after the Japanese surrender. Surrender of American troops at Corregidor, Philippine Islands. Some, however, were there throughout the period of captivity. Otto Eler was captured on Corregidor in While being transported, he found an abandoned flag and stowed it in his duffel bag. During the sea voyage, he was able, with permission, to use it during the burials at sea of several other POWs. Taken from him in one camp, he got it back when he was sent to work in a lead mine in early He was permitted to use it for burials only. When the Allied soldiers liberated him and the other POWs, however, he proudly raised the flag over the camp. The flag had bullet holes in it and had been with them during their entire captivity. Gray was transferred to a camp in Davao, in the southern Philippines. He and his comrades were ordered to burn an American flag but managed to cut out the 48 stars before they did. When they received word of the Japanese surrender, they marked their camp as a POW camp. American planes soon dropped supplies by parachuteâ€”red, white, and blue parachutes. They decided to make a flag, and brought the stars outâ€”all 48 had made it through the war. They raised the flag over the Toyama camp and helped those weakened by malnutrition and abuse to salute it. Hopkins, then an Army chaplain, was captured during the Battle of the Bulge in December The red dye for the stripes was mixed in part with blood. The burial was photographed, but POWs stole the photographs. Two British soldiers who had stood guard at the burial were shot in retaliation. He died after donating the flag to the 2nd Infantry Division Museum. Vietnam One story out of the Vietnam War was related by Sen. Daily, he and his fellow captives would hang the shirt on the wall and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. One day, a North Vietnamese guard discovered the flag. Christian was severely beaten for several hours. That evening, however, Christian began making another flag, even before the injuries caused by the beating had begun to heal. Conclusion Soldiers around the world place immense importance on their unit and national flags. They become, in many ways, part of their identity. Civil War regiments fought to defend their regimental flags, and the American flags they carried also were a source of pride and courage. Recently liberated American prisoners of war at Aomori camp near Yokohama, Japan, circa 29 August A brave and clever few can make or hide a flag for the comfort and support of their comrades. Its presence alone is a violation of the rules and can bring with it severe punishment or death, but that risk pales in the face of the strength and determination the flag brings in captivity.

Chapter 3 : Stars and Stripes: A Symbol of Hope for American POWs

The flag of the United States of America, often referred to as the American flag, is the national flag of the United States. It consists of thirteen equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white, with a blue rectangle in the canton (referred to specifically as the "union") bearing fifty small, white, five-pointed stars arranged in nine offset horizontal rows, where.

Surviving over years, the flag has both physically and symbolically grown and developed in times of both achievement and crisis. The American flag is a symbol known worldwide. It has been the inspiration for holidays, songs, poems, books, artwork and so much more. The flag has been used to display our nationalism, as well as our rebellion, and everything else in between. The flag is so important that its history tells the story of America itself. It represents the freedom, dignity, and true meaning of being an American. It has been with us through our war times, our sad times, but also in times of our greatest joys and triumphs. The flag went through many variations before becoming the flag we all know and love. In fact, it took from January 1, to August 21, 1776. It has also been shrouded in legend and mystery for many years. Did Betsy Ross truly design the first flag? Do the colors really stand for something significant? We will explore this and other myths. It did not start out as a movement for independence, but a movement to gain seats in Parliament. It evolved from a protest, to a full blown revolution into a move for independence and our flag reflected the various stages of this. So where did these designs come from? Starting after the stamp act in 1765, the Sons of Liberty began their protesting. They came up with a flag that looked similar to this only with less stripes. The pattern however was the same and it could be displayed either horizontally or vertically. This may have been the pattern that contributed for the stripes on our flag. In 1776, at the Beginning of the Revolution, Independence had not yet been declared. The Continental Congress was meeting in Philadelphia when a somewhat obscure militia Colonel from Virginia came forward in his uniform and volunteered to take command of the troops outside of Boston overlooking Boston Heights. That Colonel was George Washington. When he left Philadelphia, he took with him two flags. The Grand Union or The Continental as it was called was the first flag under which continental soldiers fought. It uses the alternating red and white stripe pattern similar to the Sons of Liberty Flag only there are 13 stripes signifying the 13 colonies. This flag had a very specific meaning. It meant that we were fighting as 13 united colonies but under British Rule. Remember, at this time we had not yet declared our Independence. As you can see, the entire field is BLUE. There are 13 stars arranged in a pattern known as the Grand Union pattern. However, you will also notice that they are 6 pointed stars. A slight difference from the 5 pointed star on the current flag. A year later, on July 4, 1776, congress declared its independence from Great Britain. From that moment on, we were fighting for our independence. Yet the continental congress still did not design a new American flag. That flag came about on June 14, 1777, when congress passed the first of three major flag acts. What it left out was the following: Were those stripes to be vertical or horizontal? Where was the blue field to be placed? What was the star pattern to be used? And how many points were to be on the star? So who designed the flag? Back then, flags were made in one of two ways. Since most flags had a naval use, you could go to a ship's chandlery - a store that outfitted ships - and the Chandler would contract with a sail maker or in many cases an upholsterer to make the flag. An upholsterer in colonial times had more functions than what we typically think of today. Besides working on furniture, they also made flags and other military equipment. This is where the legend of Betsy Ross comes in to play. We know that Betsy Ross was an upholsterer who made flags for the Pennsylvania Navy. There is a great deal of controversy about this. But did she design it or did Francis Hopkinson design it? Francis Hopkinson was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence from the state of New Jersey. The only evidence of who made the flag is a bill that was submitted to congress by Francis Hopkinson that said for designing the flag, you owe me two casks of ale. So, the mystery remains. The blue field on the flag also goes by three names - the field, the union, or the canton. Because congress did not set the specifics of where the field would be or how the star pattern should look like, or how many points the star would have, during this period, and up until 1790, the stars could be arranged in any manner that a flag maker would choose. Many people believe this may have been the flag that Francis

Hopkins designed, but once again this is only speculation. This pattern is known as the Cowpens pattern. Another well-known flag during this time was the Easton Flag. But remember, Congress did not specify where all of the elements should be placed. After the Revolutionary War ended, our country wrights a new constitution. We elect Geo Washington president and in we bring in two new states â€” Vermont and Kentucky. Because the original flag act called for 13 stripes and 13 stars to represent the 13 colonies, what do we do to signify the adding of two new states to the Union? At this time, Congress passes the 2nd flag act and it states that from now on we would add one stripe and one star for each new state. This new 15 star and 15 stripe flag is known as The Star Spangled Banner. After the War of we were adding more states again and as we incorporated more stars and stripes into the design, our flag was starting to look a little funny. So in , Congress passed the 3rd of the three major flag acts. It stated that the design was to go back to the original configuration of 13 alternating stripes of red on white, representing the 13 original colonies, but that we would add one star for each new state. However, once again, it did not specify what pattern the stars should be arranged in or the amount of points that were to be on the star. So we had many variations of flag design during this time. Finally, in President Taft established the pattern of stars that we know today. The 48 star, 49 star and 50 star flag all conform to this pattern. Our flag is an inspiring symbol that unites us all as American citizens. The unique history of the American flag follows the history of our country and reminds us of the triumphant beginning of the United States. As our country grew and developed, so did our flag. It has followed the fate of the country itself and, in the future, our flag may even change again. Today, our flag remains a vibrant symbol of the American principles of democracy, justice, and freedom, and of course the everlasting memory of those who have sacrificed their lives defending these intrinsic principles of the United States of America. Over two hundred years ago, the Second Continental Congress officially made the Stars and Stripes the symbol of America, going so far as to declare that the 13 stars gracing the original flag represented "a new constellation" with the ideal that America embodied a bright new hope and light for mankind. Today, our flag continues to carry the inspirational and fundamental convictions of our great nation, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Chapter 4 : The Stars and Stripes Forever Lyrics | USA Flag Site

Nicknames for the American flag are "Old Glory," the "Stars and Stripes," and the "Star-Spangled Banner." Vexilology is the study of the history of flags. A person engaged in this pursuit is called a vexilologist.

See Article History Alternative Titles: Old Glory, Star-Spangled Banner, Stars and Stripes national flag consisting of white stars 50 since July 4, on a blue canton with a field of 13 alternating stripes, 7 red and 6 white. The 50 stars stand for the 50 states of the union, and the 13 stripes stand for the original 13 states. After the American Revolution began, the first, unofficial national flag—known as the Continental Colours or, sometimes, as the Grand Union Flag, the Cambridge Flag, the Somerville Flag, or the Union Flag—was hoisted on a towering foot metre liberty pole at Prospect Hill in Charlestown now in Somerville, Massachusetts, on January 1, 1776; it was raised at the behest of Gen. George Washington, whose headquarters were nearby. The flag had 13 horizontal stripes probably of red and white or of red, white, and blue and, in the canton, the first version of the British Union Flag Union Jack. As the flag of the Continental Army, it flew at forts and on naval vessels. Another popular early flag, that of the Sons of Liberty, had only nine red and white stripes. The designer of the flag—most likely Congressman Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence from Philadelphia—may have had a ring of stars in mind to symbolize the new constellation. Rows of stars or were common, but many other variations also existed. The new Stars and Stripes formed part of the military colours carried on September 11, 1776, at the Battle of the Brandywine, perhaps its first such use. The Stars and Stripes changed on May 1, 1792, when Congress enacted the second Flag Resolution, which mandated that new stars and stripes be added to the flag when new states were admitted to the Union. The first two new states were Vermont and Kentucky. This has been the system ever since. In all, from 1776 to after the admission of Hawaii in 1900, there were 27 versions of the flag—25 involving changes in the stars only. An executive order signed by Pres. William Howard Taft on October 29, 1916, standardized for the first time the proportions and relative sizes of the elements of the flag; in the exact shades of colour were standardized. There is no official assignment of meaning or symbolism to the colours of the flag. However, Charles Thomson, secretary of the Continental Congress, in describing the proposed Great Seal of the United States, suggested the following symbolism: Since 1776, millions of children have recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at the start of each school day, and the lyrics of the national anthem are also concerned with the flag. Such legislation has been opposed on the grounds that it would infringe on the constitutionally guaranteed First Amendment freedom of expression. Soon after, the first Confederate Battle Flag was also flown. The design of the Stars and Bars varied over the following two years. On May 1, 1862, the Confederacy adopted its first official national flag, often called the Stainless Banner. A modification of that design was adopted on March 4, 1863, about a month before the end of the war. In the latter part of the 20th century, many groups in the South challenged the practice of flying the Confederate Battle Flag on public buildings, including some state capitols. Proponents of the tradition argued that the flag recalled Southern heritage and wartime sacrifice, whereas opponents saw it as a symbol of racism and slavery, inappropriate for official display.

Chapter 5 : Stars And Stripes Images Â· Pixabay Â· Download Free Pictures

Page 60 - 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. Appears in books from

American Flag Etiquette Flag-flying summers are packed with outdoor activities, barbecues and patriotic celebrations. While the American flag is often an important part of these celebrations, many of us have questions about how to properly care for and display it. The American Legion has played an important role in establishing the standards of flag etiquette since before the passing of the first national Flag Codes in and has worked diligently to uphold these historical standards. Today, much of flag etiquette can be found in the U. Flag Code, official national rules regarding the American flag. Hoisting and Lowering of the Flag: The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. The flag of the United States of America is saluted, or acknowledged by placing a hand over your heart, as it is hoisted and lowered. When lowered, the flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise. Manner of Displaying the Flag: Flag Code states it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open. When a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed. When displayed vertically in a window of a home or a place of business, the flag should be displayed in the same way; that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. The American Legion offers citizens the opportunity to receive text alerts when the president declares flags to be lowered to half-staff. Storing and Disposing of the Flag: Flag Code does not require any specific method of storage; however, over time it has become tradition to fold the flag into a triangular shape like that of a three-corner hat, with only the blue union showing. When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner. Most American Legion posts also have flag collection boxes where the public can drop off worn and tattered flags for proper disposal. Flag etiquette was established to honor and pay tribute to our nation and its history. As such, certain uses of the American flag are considered disrespectful. The flag should never be: Displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property. Used as a drapery or for any other decoration. Carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free. Used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything. The flag should never be used as apparel, bedding or drapery. Festooned, drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Standing tall as an emblem of justice, perseverance, valor and honor, the American flag is an intricate part of what makes citizens proud to be American. As summer rays shine again and the flag takes its spotlight, it is important to educate yourself and others to show respect for the deep history and sacrifices this national symbol represents.

Chapter 6 : The Stars and Stripes at why the American flag is uniquely powerful

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Messenger One Fourth of July, I was attending a minor league baseball game with friends. The evening was warm, the beer was cold, and the fireworks were spectacular. And then a stray rocket flew into the flag. The crowd turned angry and began shouting and jeering. One man nearby had tears in his eyes. As the Atlanta Braves famously discovered in a similar incident in , setting the Stars and Stripes on fire with fireworks is not a good idea. That the number of stars changes while the number of stripes remains fixed allows the flag to be both dynamic and instantly recognisable. The original design called for the number of stars and stripes both to equal the number of states, so the flag would now have fifty very narrow stripes! But even though the flag is two centuries old, its remarkable potency as a national symbol is in fact relatively recent. Anyone who has travelled to the US will know how ubiquitous the flag is. It festoons houses and front yards, flies from cars, and hangs from bridges; school children practise raising and lowering it. Federal law mandates that it must be flown from all public buildings – and the laws regulating its display are extensive. In 50 lengthy articles, it outlines everything from when, where and how the flag can be displayed to the methods for the correct disposal of old flags. And for many Americans, even this is not enough. For many years, Congress has attempted to pass laws outlawing its desecration, but these have run afoul of first amendment rights to freedom of speech. The US is not the only country to seek to outlaw the desecration of its flag, but these discussions have generated more heated debate than they ever would elsewhere. Americans care so much about the Stars and Stripes because it plays a unique and supreme role in their culture. The national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner, celebrates not the nation, but the flag. Old glory It was only at the turn of the 20th century that Americans began to view the flag as sacrosanct, and only then was the Flag Code itself drawn up. This was a period when a surge in mass immigration had many Americans worried that their national identity was under threat. With the shock of World War I, it became more pressing to create a symbol of national unity. Other nations have been able to build a sense of identity around ethnicity, religion, or culture – but for the US, that task was much more difficult. An ethnically diverse country since its founding, the US also has no monarch to symbolise its nationhood, and the president can be as much a figure of division as national unity. One moon, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. It feels rooted in the very origins of the country and even has its own creation myth – the story of its birth at the hand of seamstress Betsy Ross , for which the historical evidence is at best thin. The Stars and Stripes expresses the spirit, history and identity of an entire nation. When the fireworks display went wrong, it is perhaps no wonder that those baseball fans reacted in much the same manner as if a gang of teenagers had started torturing some helpless animal.

Chapter 7 : History of the American Flag & American Flag Facts | Drexel Online

The Stars and Stripes and Other American Flags: Including Their Origin and History, Army and Navy Regulations Concerning the National Standard and Ensign, Flag Making, Salutes, Improvised, Unique, and Combination Flags, Flag Legislation, and Many Associations of American Flags, Including Their Origin of the Name "Old Glory," with Songs and Their Origin.

By this it is meant that it is the manner in which they are used that determines what they are. For example, a peace flag reflects an aspiration and it only becomes a protest flag when used that way, otherwise, it remains just a peace flag. Often misunderstood by the American people, the war was fought between the forces of the United Nations and South Korea against the Communist North Koreans and Red Chinese between and The commemoration flag, authorized by Congress and issued by Department of Defense, was meant to thank and honor Korean War veterans and their families; especially those who lost loved ones. Over a four-year period, more than commemorative events were scheduled to show that a "grateful nation remembered" their service and sacrifice. The motto "Freedom is Not Free. It was on June 19, Juneteenth , that Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to deliver the news that the Civil War was over and the slaves were free. Since the Juneteenth Celebration has been an officially recognized Texas State holiday, and has now spread far beyond its Texas origins. Some cities sponsor week-long celebrations, culminating on June 19, while others hold shorter celebrations. It restored basic human rights to a group of Americans, who never should have been denied them in the first place. Its growing popularity acknowledges this period in our history, one that shaped and continues to influence our society today. The original flag was raising in Boston, Massachusetts, in Besides the flying of the original flag, in recent years several variant versions of the Stars and Stripes have become increasingly popular, called the "All American Flag Series," they replace the red white and blue national colors with various combinations of the colors of the African Heritage movement. The Middle Passage Flag Variant 1 is dedicated to the memory of all Africans who lost their lives during the Middle Passage, the horrible voyage faced by African slaves on their way to the Americas. Black stripes stand for their deaths and green ones for their youth, for most of them were young people. The black canton stands for African origins of the flag users and red stars are for the blood loss by their ancestors, not only during the Middle Passage, but also during the latter sufferings and struggles in America, this symbolism being common to all the three flags. The Mainlander Flag Variant 2 is meant to represent the North American people of African origin, which is why it resembles the original Stars and Stripes the most, with seven red and six green stripes. This set of flags thus represents the Afro-American population with all the complexities of its identity. A flag similar to the Islander Flag, but with the stars changed to green Variant 4 was first seen in Washington, D. While nothing else is currently known about this flag, its meaning is obviously similar to that of the All American Flags, which might have provided the inspiration to its designers. Also seen during the Juneteenth Parades and Celebrations are lots of the normal stars and stripes, but also other historical Afro-American flags variants. However, the USA was the first country to bring AIDS into the public consciousness and the American reaction undoubtedly contributed to the establishment of AIDS as one of the most politicized, feared and controversial diseases in the history of modern medicine. Taxation Without Representation Flag D. Unfortunately, there is very little political support in Congress for the proposal and since the proposal seems mostly abandoned. Another suggestion made for the District of Columbia is that they create a special government district just around the National Mall in downtown Washington to include only the Capitol, the White House, and the Supreme Court with no permanent residents , which would be under the direct control of Congress. The remainder of Washington could become a separate city, and once again be part of Maryland. In November of , the DC Department of Motor Vehicles began issuing license plates bearing the slogan "Taxation without representation. Bush, in one of his first official acts as president, had the plates removed. It stood for the "thin blue line" of police protection. It evolved into an auto sticker and finally into a flag. It was also used as a show of respect for the police officers killed on September 11 and was also seen as a variant with a red stripe instead of a blue one for fire fighters.

Chapter 8 : The Stars and Stripes and Other American Flags Peleg Harrison 3rd Ed Little | eBay

The American flag has 13 stripes since the very beginning except when the Vermont and Kentucky were being welcomed as the 14th and 15th state. Reverting to the original 13 colony stripes was the best decision to avoid adding the load.

Chapter 9 : Historical Flags of Our Ancestors - Modern American Protest and Message Flags

It is difficult to think of any other flag that's so heavily invested in meaning. The Stars and Stripes expresses the spirit, history and identity of an entire nation.