

Textel

After leaving his sinking ship, the *Bon Homme Richard*, John Paul Jones sailed on the Alliance to the sea port of Textel in the Netherlands October 3,

1779. The Dutch had an artist draw the flags of each ship. The first drawing shows the *Alliance* flying the Stars & Stripes. This flag, purportedly to be John Paul Jones rendition of the American flag, flew on the captured ship, the *Serapis*.

Washington Cruisers

Seamen on the six warships that General Washington fitted out in 1775 hoisted this ensign. Historians refer to this flag as Washington's Cruisers because he personally financed these vessels at his own expense.



Rhode Island Regiments

In Rhode Island, the anchor has been used as a state symbol ever since 1647. The anchor represents Rhode

Island's seafaring activities and the thirteen stars, the original thirteen colonies. The native Rhode Islanders were among the first to join the Minutemen outside Boston. The Rhode Island Regiments served at the Battles of Brandywine, Trenton and Yorktown. This flag is preserved today in the State House at Providence, Rhode Island.

Culpepper

The first Navy Jack, or Culpepper Flag, is believed to have flown aboard the *Alfred*, flagship of the newly commissioned Continental fleet, in January 1776. American ships used this flag, or one of its variations, throughout the Revolutionary War. This powerful American symbol was used by the Continental Navy in 1776 and is being used again by the U.S. Navy in the War on Terrorism.



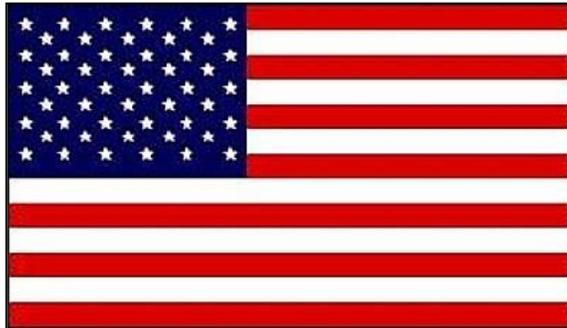
Fort Moultrie

The Fort Moultrie Flag, solid dark blue with a half-moon field and the word "Liberty" inscribed on it, was designed in 1775. It

flew over Fort Moultrie, then Fort Sullivan, in Charleston harbor. This was the flag of the South Carolina Minutemen.

Culpepper Minuteman

The Culpepper Minuteman Flag, containing a black rattlesnake on a flag of white with the words "Liberty or Death", was used by the Minutemen of Culpepper County, Virginia, part of Patrick Henry's First Virginia Regiment circa 1775



The American Flag Today

In 1818, Congress settled on the current design of the American Flag – 13 stripes and the number of stars equal to the number of states, 20 at that time. President Eisenhower, by executive order, officially adopted the current design with 50 stars in 1959 following the addition of Alaska and Hawaii. As of 2006, it has served as our national flag longer than any other U.S. flag, replacing the 46-year reign of the 48-star flag ordered by President Taft following the admission of New Mexico and Arizona in 1912.

For Information about Activities and Membership in the
Sons of the American Revolution



Flag Day June 14



On June 14, 1777,
the Continental Congress
passed the following resolution:

Be it "resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Compliments of the

Georgia Society
Sons of the American Revolution

FLAGS OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY



Taunton Flag

Patriots raised this flag in 1774, in the town of Taunton, Massachusetts as a protest against the "Intolerable Acts". The British Parliament, earlier

that year, passed Acts punishing Bostonians for their "Tea Party" in Boston Harbor. The colonial protesters simply took the British Red Ensign and added the defiant phrase, "Liberty and Union."

Grand Union

The Grand Union flag created about 1775 combined the British King's Colors and the thirteen stripes signifying Colonial unity. George Washington liked this design so well that he flew it to celebrate the formation of the Continental Army on New Years Day, 1776. On that day, the Continental army raised the Grand Union Flag on Prospect Hill in Somerville, near Washington's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Gadsden



Colonel Christopher Gadsden, South Carolina delegate, presented this flag to the Continental Congress in January 1776 for use by the Commander in Chief of the Continental Navy. The rattlesnake

symbolized resistance to British authority before and during the Revolutionary War. Patriots saw the flag as a symbol of virtue and vigilance because a rattlesnake never strikes until it has given fair warning to the enemy of the danger of treading on it. It never surrenders and its wounds, while seemingly small, are fatal. The rattlesnake is also indigenous to the North American Continent.

Guilford Courthouse



Historians believe that patriots used three Guilford Courthouse flags during the American Revolution. However, examinations by Textile experts strongly suggest that it is much younger. Someone tore off or cut off three stripes and two stars that were a part of the original design. A benefactor originally donated the flag to the North Carolina Museum of History. Preservationists now care for it at the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park in Guilford, North Carolina.

Hopkinson

Francis Hopkinson, a delegate to the Continental Congress from New Jersey and signer of the Declaration of Independence, urged fellow delegates to adopt a new flag for the new United States. As a member of the Marine Committee of the Continental Congress and the Navy Board, Hopkinson designed a new flag that would erase all connection to Great Britain. Congress adopted his design on June 14, 1777 with the resolution, "Resolved that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars white on a blue field representing a new Constellation."



Philadelphia Light Horse

The First Troop of the Philadelphia Light Horse used this flag as they escorted General Washington to Cambridge where he assumed command of the Continental Army.

Betsy Ross

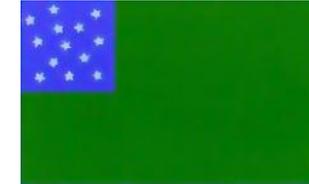
According to the popular story, Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, designed and sewed the first official Stars and Stripes flag in June of 1776 at the request of a select committee from the Continental Congress. Historians have raised many serious challenges to these claims. Although it is an unverified story, it is still one of American history's most enduring legends. This flag is probably the most widely recognized from the American Revolutionary era.



Valley Forge

This flag flew near Washington's headquarters when the Continental Army was camped at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777-1778.

The 13 stars represented the 13 colonies united in their struggle for independence. It is possible that this flag was either associated with the Continental Army's Artillery or with Washington personally.

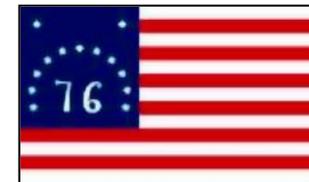
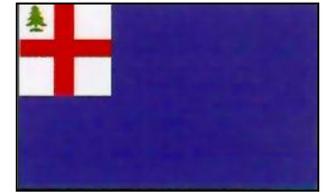


Green Mountain Boys

The Green Mountain Boys Flag, which was solid green with a constellation of stars on a light blue field, appeared at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777. It is named for the famous Green Mountain Boys led by Ethan Allen.

Bunker Hill

On the night of June 16-17, 1775, the Americans fortified Breed's and Bunker Hills overlooking Boston Harbor. Although they had not officially declared their independence, a fight was underway. When the British advanced up the slope the next day, they saw an early New England flag, possibly a red or blue banner. Many early Colonial flags were an alteration of the English flag and most still contained a reference to the mother country.



Bennington

Although a family tradition claims Patriots carried this flag at the battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777, recent textile analysis has discredited the theory. Someone probably made it in the 19th century, perhaps on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 1826. You can view the original flag at the Bennington Museum in Vermont. It is the oldest Stars & Stripes in existence.

Continental

Many people refer to this flag as "The Flag of New England" or "The Bunker Hill Flag". Some believe that a flag with a blue background, a Cross of St. George and a pine tree in the upper left corner is the true "Bunker Hill Flag". However, there is no historical evidence to support this claim. In fact, the famous painting by Colonel John Trumbull entitled, "The Death of Warren," depicts this version of the Continental Flag to be the standard of the Continental Army at the Battle of Bunker Hill in June of 1775.

