



OLD GLORY

A PHILATELIC TRIBUTE TO THE FLAG - PAST and PRESENT
"THE STARS IN THEIR COURSES."

AN HISTORIC COLLECTION
OF
UNITED STATES FLAG STAMPS
ISSUED JULY 4, 1968
TO HONOUR
THE AMERICAN FLAG - PAST & PRESENT

Details of Early American Flags Stamps

S T A M P S ☆ April 6, 1968

Flags that Americans carried as colonists and as citizens of a new nation will be reproduced as individual stamps on the same sheet. The series of 6-cent stamps will be issued with first day ceremonies July 4 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the Allegheny Trails Council, Boy Scouts of America, will dedicate its Flag Plaza and program and service center.

Some of the flags in the series exist today, faded and tattered. Others did not survive, and the stamp designs for these are based on descriptive documents and contemporary paintings. Some of the flags may be popularly known by another name. Included are flags with stars but no stripes, flags with stripes, flags with stripes but no stars and flags with neither. The geographical range of the local flags is from Vermont to South Carolina.

The series:

Ft. McHenry Flag (1795-1818). This flag, which has probably been seen by the most people, inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner. A large garrison flag, 30 x 42 feet, it hangs in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

It flew atop Ft. McHenry in 1814 as Key watched the rockets' red glare and bombs bursting in air during bombardment by the British fleet in Chesapeake Bay. This flag of fifteen stripes and fifteen stars was the national banner from 1795 until 1818.

First Stars and Stripes (1777). The Continental Congress resolved on June 14, 1777, that the flag of the 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."

The fact that Congress did not stipulate how the stars were to be arranged resulted in varieties. In one of these, the stars are arranged to form a circle.

Ft. Moultrie Flag (1776). This is said to be the first flag that Americans displayed in the South during the Revolutionary War. It flew above Ft. Sullivan in Charleston Harbor, when the seaport was attacked by the British fleet. During the ten-hour bombardment, the flag was shot away. Sergeant William Jasper left the defense, recovered the flag and raised it, for which brave act he was presented with Governor John Rutledge's sword. A 2000-man landing force was repulsed and the British

withdrew. The flag is blue with a crescent and the word "liberty" in white. The fort was later named Ft. Moultrie to honor its defender, Colonel (later general) William Moultrie.

Washington's Cruisers Flag (1775) Until the Grand Union Flag became the first navy ensign, Washington's six cruisers carried a white flag with a green pine tree, above which appeared the words "An Appeal to Heaven." This flag was later modified and adopted by the Massachusetts naval force.

One of the cruisers, the **Lee** captured the British brig, **Nancy**, which carried a cargo of 4,000 muskets, 31 tons of musket shot and other supplies the colonists needed desperately. The **Lady Washington**, in turn, was captured and its flag deposited in the British Admiralty, in London.

Bennington Flag (1777). Many authorities believe this flag is the first stars and stripes to be carried by ground forces and to be raised in victory. This flag is preserved by the Bennington Battle Monument and Historical Association of Bennington, Vermont. It has seven white, six red stripes. In the field, eleven stars form a semi-circle surrounding the figure "76." A star is also in both upper corners of the field.

Bennington militia carried the flag, possibly in the Battle of Bennington in which General John Stark defeated General John Burgoyne's forces.

Rhode Island Flag (1775). The First Rhode Island Regiment carried this flag in battles at Brandywine, Trenton and Yorktown as well as in numerous lesser engagements. At Red Bank, New Jersey, in 1777 Colonel Christopher Green and his 400 troops decisively defeated a force of 1,200 Hessians.

The flag has 13 white stars in a canton of blue. A blue anchor set on white, appears beneath the word "hope." This flag is in the State House at Providence.

Grand Union Flag (1776). This flag was raised in January 1776, by General George Washington near Cambridge, Massachusetts, as the Continental army came into being. It also served as the first navy ensign. It was the first national flag of the United States.

The flag contains seven red, six white stripes. In the canton, the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew are combined.

Bunker Hill Flag (1775). By tradition, and some evidence, the Colonial flag on Breed's Hill was blue, with a red cross set in a white canton and a pine tree in the upper left portion. Artist John Trumbull who witnessed the battle painted a different version — a red flag with a pine tree in a white canton. He was not always accurate. The first named version is preferred by historians.

The Americans lost the fierce battle which began June 17, 1775, but the British lost a thousand men, twice the American loss. One-eighth of all British officers that died in the Revolutionary War, did so at Bunker Hill.

First Navy Jack (1775). This rattlesnake flag with the ominous warning "don't tread on me" against a field of seven red and six white stripes was hoisted in 1775 to become the first navy jack. It is believed that Commodore Esek Hopkins, of Rhode Island, flew this jack when he captured the town of New Providence, in the Bahama Islands.

Until about 1795 American privateers and merchantmen flew a striped flag, sometimes without the rattlesnake. The South Carolina naval ensign was a rattlesnake flag, but the stripes were blue and red.

Philadelphia Light Horse Flag (1775). A highpoint for this colorful troop was at war's end when it presented to the Continental Congress captured flags from the surrendered British army at Yorktown.

When organized, the troop consisted of 28 young men from elite Philadelphia families. The troop often served as escort to General Washington. Members also carried dispatches, guarded prisoners and

spies. The Troop participated at the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine and Germantown.

The flag is preserved by the First City Troop in its Philadelphia armory. It is one of the first flags to contain thirteen stripes, these being blue and silver in the canton. Set in the field of yellow is a blue decorative device. Above it is a horse's head and at either side is an Indian and an angel. The scroll beneath contains the words: "for these we strive."

Each Flag stamp will be duplicated horizontally on the pane. On the upper panes, the Ft. Moultrie Flag will appear across the top, with the Flags following beneath in this sequence: Ft. McHenry, Washington's Cruisers, Bennington, Rhode Island, First Stars and Stripes, Bunker Hill, Grand Union, Philadelphia Light Horse and First Navy Jack.

On both lower panes the above sequence will be reversed. Thus the First Navy Jack will extend across the top of the lower panes and the Ft. Moultrie Flag will comprise the lowest horizontal row.

The selection of the flags for the series was made with the assistance of Dr. Elsie Lewis, Head of the History Department at Howard University in Washington, D. C.; Admiral W. R. Furlong, USN (Ret.), a recognized authority on early American Flags; and the Allegheny Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which has done extensive research in the development of the Flag Plaza and service center.

All of the flags selected played important roles in the American Revolutionary War period except the flag which flew over Ft. McHenry at the time the Star Spangled Banner was written during the War of 1812.

FLAG STAMPS DESIGNERS AND ENGRAVERS

The 6¢ Historic Flag Stamps, being placed on sale, first, in Pittsburgh, Penn'a., July 4th, 1968, were designed by Leonard C. Buckley, Robert J. Jones and Howard C. Mildner - all, of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Washington, D.C.

Following is the complete list of the Engravers:

FORT MOULTRIE, Robert G. Culin and Howard F. Sharpless.

FORT McHENRY, William R. Burnell and Howard F. Sharpless.

WASHINGTON'S CRUISERS, Kenneth C. Wiram and Howard F. Sharpless.

BENNINGTON, Edward T. Archer, Howard F. Sharpless & Robert G. Culin.

RHODE ISLAND, The same as Bennington.

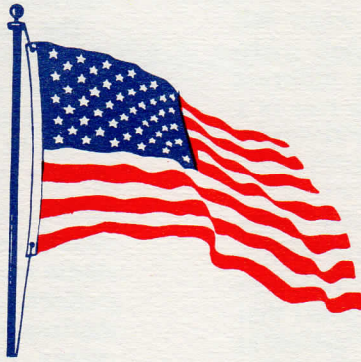
FIRST STARS & STRIPES, Edward R. Felver, H. F. Sharpless & Robert G. Culin.

BUNKER HILL, Howard F. Sharpless.

GRAND UNION, Joseph S. Creamer, Jr., H. F. Sharpless & Robert G. Culin.

PHILADELPHIA LIGHT HORSE, The same as Grand Union.

FIRST NAVY JACK, Edward P. Archer and Howard F. Sharpless.



The American's Creed

By William Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my Country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.



THE AMERICAN'S CREED This U.S. Patriotic Document was written in 1917 by William Tyler Page (1868-1942), who was at that time Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives. The document was adjudged to be the best brief summary of the political faith of the United States of America from among several thousand submitted to the Congress, in a National Citizen's Creed contest. On April 3, 1918, the U.S. Commissioner of Education read "The American's Creed" in public for the first time before a session of the House of Representatives, when it was formally accepted in the name of the U.S. Government.

THE TEN FLAG STAMPS

REPLICAS OF HISTORIC FLAGS CARRIED BY COLONISTS
AND CITIZENS OF A NEW NATION BORN JULY 4, 1776.
ISSUED AT PITTSBURGH, PENN'A., JULY 4, 1968.



FORT MOULTRIE FLAG, 1776



FORT McHENRY FLAG, 1795-1818



FIRST STARS and STRIPES, 1777



BUNKER HILL FLAG, 1775



WASHINGTON'S CRUISERS FLAG, 1775



GRAND UNION FLAG, 1776



BENNINGTON FLAG, 1777



PHILADELPHIA LIGHT HORSE FLAG, 1775

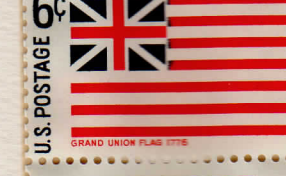
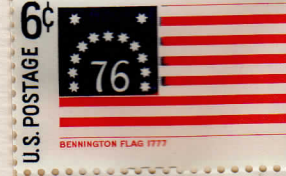
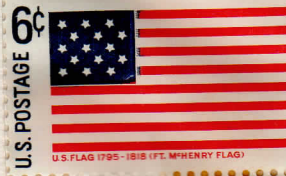


RHODE ISLAND FLAG, 1775



FIRST NAVY JACK, 1775

UPPER PANE

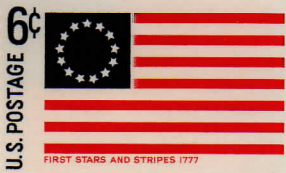


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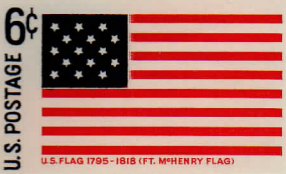
ISSUED AT PITTSBURGH, PENN'A.,
JULY 4, 1968.



LOWER PANE



MAIL EARLY
IN THE DAY

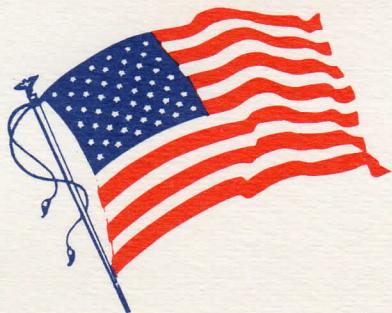


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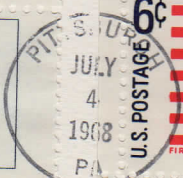
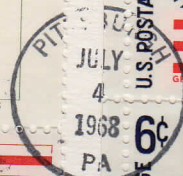
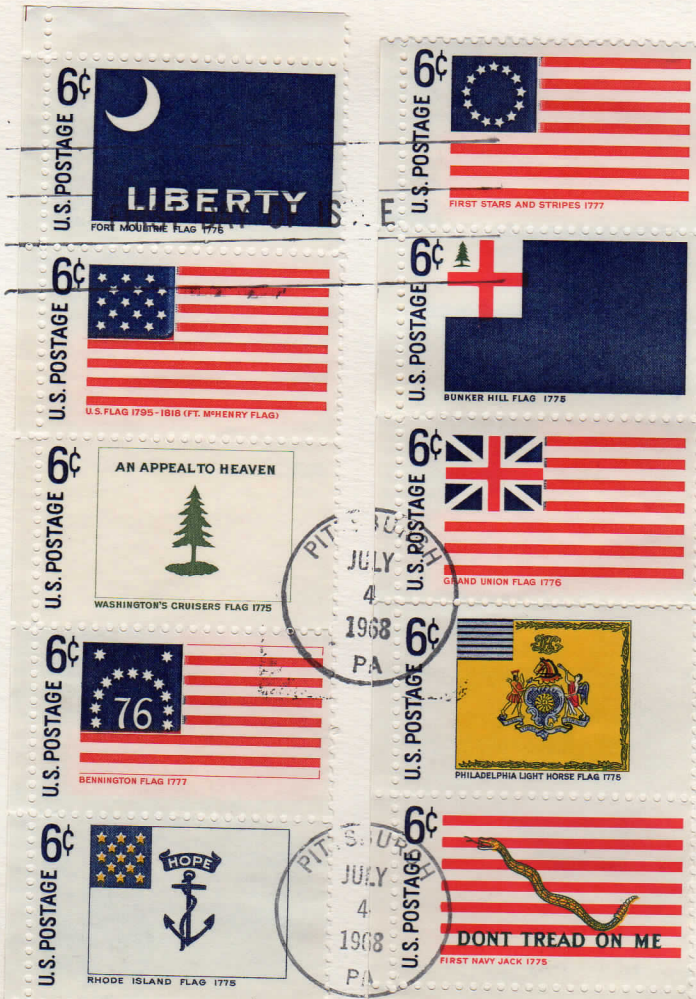
*An American Speaks
For Us All...*



"I know I still get a real hard-to-define feeling down inside when the Flag goes by—and I know that all of you do, too."

COLONEL JOHN H. GLENN JR.
IN HIS ADDRESS, FEBRUARY 26, 1962,
BEFORE THE JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS.

First Day of Issue





The American's Creed

By William C Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my Country to love it; to support its constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.



"This Flag which we honour, and under which we serve, is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and purpose as a nation. It has no other character than that which we give it from generation to generation. The choices are ours. It floats in majestic silence above the hosts that execute those choices, whether in peace or in war. And yet, though silent, it speaks to us of the past, of the men and women who went before us, and of the records they wrote upon it."

Woodrow Wilson.

OLD GLORY

THE FLAG

This truth is manifest. The perfect Symbol of American Unity and American Liberty is the Flag.

It is a sacred Symbol; held always in the highest esteem by all of our citizens. Not to the President, nor to the Congress, nor to the Supreme Court, but to the Stars and Stripes, does the American, naturally and devotedly, pay his most reverent respect.

In its own way the Flag is a History of the Country. Each star records the story of a great event; the entrance of a sovereign state into the Union. The thirteen red and white stripes represent the original Thirteen Colonies, recalling the long and bitter eight years struggle in which those Thirteen Colonies fought side by side for American Liberty.

The RED in our Flag proclaims the COURAGE that inspires men to face danger and do what is right.

The WHITE stands for LIBERTY, marking it the emblem of the Land of The Free.

The BLUE stands for LOYALTY—
the blue of the Heavens—The True Blue.

Washington once made these interesting observations: "We take the Stars from the Heavens, the Red from the Mother Country, separating it by White stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her. And the White stripes shall go down to posterity, representing Liberty."

The Flag of the United States was adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777.

*"Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"*