

Republic Reporter

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History of the Flag of the United States Part 2

Betsy Ross's descendants claimed she made (not designed) the first U.S. flag, using a circular arrangement of five-pointed stars. Independence Hall Association has posted the evidence for Ross at the following site:
<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagpcp.html>

In 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes pattern for the national flag. This would follow almost one year after the Declaration of Independence and more than a decade before the U.S. Constitution was finalized.

After Vermont and Kentucky became states in 1795, two more stars were added. Two more stripes were also added. It became clear that adding stripes would make construction of a flag difficult, so the number of stripes for later flags was returned to the original thirteen.

During the War of 1812 the base commander of Fort McHenry (in Baltimore MD) paid to have a huge flag made for the fort to show defiance to the British and to keep American spirits up during an expected British attack. This flag is generally known as the Star-Spangled Banner from which Francis Scott Key was inspired to write our National Anthem.

Other sites provide interesting history facts on the Flag of the United States also:

The California Society, Sons of the Revolution shows many interesting items of the Revolutionary War and the United States Flag.
<http://www.srcalifornia.com/>

Historic flags that have symbolized our nation since 1776 are displayed by the
[University of Oklahoma](http://www.sar.org/history/flag/flaghistory.html)

Source: <http://www.sar.org/history/flag/flaghistory.html>

Important November dates up to 1776

Nov 1, 1765 The Stamp Act took effect; the Sons of Liberty (in New York) burned an effigy of NY Gov. Colden in protest.

Nov 2, 1776 Lt. William Demont deserts to the British with plans of Fort Washington.

Nov 2, 1776 Washington issues an order forbidding the burning of any building unless an officer orders the action.

Nov 3, 1775 United States Gen. Montgomery captures the fort at St. Johns, in Canada.

Nov 3, 1776 The British abandon Crown Point NY.

Nov 4, 1774 Declaration of Rights is issued by the Continental Congress.

Nov 4, 1775 Massachusetts prescribes brown as the color for the militia uniform. (Georgia had prescribed green.)

Nov 5, 1775 Capt. Esek Hopkins is appointed a Commodore and Commander-in-chief of the U.S. Navy.

Nov 6, 1775 Rhode Island passes a law to put to death any citizen assisting England.

Nov 7, 1775 Lord Dunmore proclaims martial law in Virginia.

Nov 7, 1776 Congress charges Washington to protect the stores at Fort Lee on the Hudson River (NY) at all costs.

Nov 8, 1776 Washington advises Gen. Greene to evacuate Ft. Washington in ample time, but he does not.

Nov 8, 1776 Fort Washington NY engages the British fleet.

Nov 9, 1775 Benedict Arnold's units complete their trek from the Maine coast, reach the St. Lawrence River, and see the citadel of Quebec, Canada.

Nov 9, 1775 Engagement at Phipps Farm in Sherborn MA.

Nov 10, 1775 Congress creates a Marine Corps with two battalions of troops.

Nov 11, 1776 Engagement at Fort George NY.

Nov 11, 1776 The American ship Alfred captures the British brig Active.

Nov 12, 1775 Abigail Adams writes her husband John for support for independence from England.

Nov 13, 1775 Troops under U.S. Gen. Montgomery capture Montreal.

Nov 13, 1775 Massachusetts authorizes its merchant vessels to engage in privateering.

Nov 13, 1776 Washington reaches Ft. Lee NY.

Nov 14, 1775 Engagement at Kemp's Landing VA

Nov 14, 1776 Congress considers holding a national lottery to raise money for the war effort.

Nov 15, 1776 British Gen. Howe calls for Col. MCGaw to surrender Ft. Lee in NY

Nov 16, 1776 Howe's British regulars and German mercenaries take Fort Washington near New York City. The Americans lose 3,000 men.

Nov 16, 1776 Engagement at Cock Hill Fort NY.

Nov 16, 1776 Battle at Fort Tryon NY.

Nov 16, 1776 Engagement at Harlem Cove NY.

Nov 16, 1776 Battle of Fort George on Manhattan Island.

Nov 17, 1776 Washington orders Gen. Charles Lee to take action in New Jersey.

Nov 18, 1776 Fort Lee NY is abandoned to the British.

Nov 20, 1726 Oliver Wolcott is born in Connecticut. He later signed the Declaration of Independence for Connecticut and was that state's Governor and a Major General.

Nov 20, 1776 Engagement at Fort Cumberland in Nova Scotia, Canada.

Nov 21, 1729 Josiah Bartlett is born in Massachusetts. He later signed the Declaration of Independence for New Hampshire.

Nov 22, 1776 Washington takes his army to Newark NJ.

Nov 22, 1776 Americans capture Fort George in upstate NY.

Nov 23, 1749 Edward Rutledge is born in South Carolina. He later signed the Declaration of Independence for South Carolina.

Nov 23, 1765 Court of Frederick MD decides stamped paper is unnecessary for its proceedings.

Nov 23, 1775 British capture the town of Norfolk VA.

Nov 28, 1775 Samuel Nicholas becomes the first officer commissioned in the Marines.

Nov 29, 1729 Charles Thompson is born in Ireland. He is later the secretary of the Continental Congress.

Included within the newsletter is a form to indicate what information you would like to have included about you for the State member directory. Please fill out the form and return to Compatriot Betterton or myself and we will make sure the forms are turned back into the State Directory Committee. At a minimum, the State directory will have a name and a Chapter affiliation for each member. Additional information that you provide will be included.

Editor Compatriot Alexander

The Republic Chapter of the National Sons of the American Revolution

Our meetings are generally the third Saturday of the month. We meet at the Sizzler Restaurant located at 1151 Lancaster Drive NE in Salem, OR. We start our meetings at Noon.

We have a variety of interesting speakers and our own members give presentations on their Patriot Ancestors.

Upcoming meetings:

November 21, 2009

December 19, 2009

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~orrcsar/>